SALE CALENDAR 2020

APRIL
26 March–6 April
World Banknotes e-Auction
London 20108
2–9 April
Luxury Handbags and Accessories e-Auction
Hong Kong 80906
7 April
Prof Yih-Tzong Hu Collection of World Banknotes
London 20022
7–8 April
World Banknotes
London 20008
8 April
Charity Auction of Bank of England Notes
London 20056
14–15 April
The Philatelic Collectors’ Series Sale
London 20020
16 April
British Bornco Stamps and Covers
London 20027
22–23 April
Orders, Decorations and Medals
London 20001
29 April
The Gary Diffen Collection of Australian Colonies Errors Part 1 – New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia
London 20030
29 April
The Lugano Collection of Venezuela
London 20038

MAY
16 April–5 May
Bonds and Share Certificates of the World e-Auction
London 20118
5 June
British Banknotes
London 20015
10–11 May
The Numismatic Collectors’ Series sale
Hong Kong 83400
4–19 May
Stamps and Covers of Great Britain e-Auction
London 20135
5–20 May
Spink Numismatic e-Circulars Toy Money, Tokens and Tickets
London 20122
15 May
Great Britain Stamps and Postal History
London 20052
15 May
The ‘Libra’ Collection of the 1961 Decimal Surcharge of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland
London 20043
18–28 May
The Philatelic Collector’s Series e-Auction
New York 174

JUNE
9 June
The Numismatic Collector’s Series Sale
New York 360
10–17 June
The Numismatic Collector’s Series e-Auction
New York 361
11–30 June
Stocks and Bonds of the United States e-Auction
London 20119

JULY
2–13 July
Stamps and Covers of the World e-Auction
London 20146
14 July
The Philatelic Collector's Series Sale
London 20016
15 July
Specialised Stamps of the British Empire
London 20012
15 July
Historical Documents, Postal History and Autographs
London 20025
16 July
Stamps and Covers of South East Asia
London 20035

The above sale dates are subject to change
All auctions are held online on spink live and behind closed doors

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SPINK INSIDER ISSUE 36
SPRING 2020
WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED
STAMPS | COINS | BANKNOTES
WINE & SPIRITS | HARRIDS | COLLECTIONS
MEDALS | BONDS & SHARES | AUTOGRAPHS | BOOKS
ADVISORY SERVICES | SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

NO VIRUS HAS EVER DEFEATED HUMAN KIND AND THIS ONE WILL BE NO DIFFERENT.
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Forget Yesterday,

Today is postponed,

Tomorrow might never be the same for the world and for collectables

Dear Friends and Clients,

In my last introduction for our Winter Insider, I was talking about “greenshoots” and wondering if “the capitalist system was starting a crisis”. The greenshoots are still there and have even survived a late spring blizzard! Collectables, being mostly unchanged or slightly up in many areas, are doing massively better than any other asset class where the going rate seems to be, at the time of writing, 30% down. And when all the Snow Whites we are emerging from confinement, we will live in a very different world where the ultra-liberal pro-globalisation rule-book might have been thrown out of the window in many places. More on that later and what it could mean for collectables.

Honestly, this is probably the toughest time to put your thoughts down as the situation is so fluid that it changes every day. At the time of writing almost four billion people on the planet are confined at home. Who could have imagined that, even a month ago? Of course as a CEO, despair is not a feeling I can afford to indulge in for more than a few moments daily, when I watch the wave of people isolated from their families in need of resuscitation beds.

I have decided in the end to try to be forward-looking, thought-provoking, and share some of these thoughts. Hence the cover of the Insider you have in your hands which is visually striking and delivers the only message audible today:

this virus will be defeated like all others before it.

This cover is made by a very talented Spanish artist, Guillermo Ariete, who has captured very well the journey of Spink through three and a half centuries. I also contacted my friend Professor Guy Dutau, to write a fascinating article which is a perfect bridge between the medical world and the collectables world. In addition, as Spink was forged by both the black plague and the great fire of London in...
1666, we had to give you transcripts of the royal edict of the time. Then, the confinement was harsher. Suspected patients were locked up for 40 days in a wooden shed outside the city with a white cross on the door and the compulsory inscription “Lord have mercy upon us” which by Royal Decree had to be in capital letters. Don’t ask me why the capital letters requirement! It is my strongest belief that the new technologically driven Spink will be forged by this pandemic if we are allowed to continue to operate online. As our Chinese friends know very well, as transcribed in the two characters to write the word ‘crisis’, one means danger, the other opportunity.

Yes the cost in human lives, especially those of the generation who built this world for us, will be dreadfully high. This is well covered in the news and I do not wish to dwell on the sanitary crisis, even if it affects me very much. We need to look for the day after. Beyond Covid-19 I am very worried by the economic victims who will struggle to find again employment, the people whose isolation has been overwhelming and created psychological problems, the marriages and families put under the test of close and permanent proximity. As one friend of mine put it, tongue in cheek, the miracle vaccine or antibodies test, enabling us to leave home again, will not be found by a doctor but almost certainly by an exhausted parent who wants the kids back to school!

At Spink we have strived to operate (whenever feasible) remotely and bring auctions to you even if it was obviously behind closed doors, but we will always try to have an auctioneer on the rostrum even if bidding can only be online, because it provides the much needed distraction in these dire times. And my promise to staff at the outset of the crisis is that I will do everything in my power to ensure no job is lost in this crisis, no one is left behind or alone. So if I paraphrase the 17th century royal decree, may the Lord have mercy on us so I can deliver on that promise.

In the end we must remember, and Spink after all is “where History is valued”, that previous generations had to do extraordinary things to defeat adversity; our generation is only asked to Stay Home and follow the social distancing rules. Maybe not worthy of a Victoria Cross just yet.

Activity round up
It is difficult to know how to sum up the first three months of 2020 – as always we had a hectic start to the year with NY INC and our Numismatic Collector’s Series sales there, ably handled by our London team, plus the York Stamp and Coin show.

Our sale of Banknotes, Bonds & Shares and Coins of China and Hong Kong went ahead at the start of January, despite news of the new coronavirus filtering through. However I am pleased to say that our office there is still going strong, and sales will resume on 10th–11th May with The Numismatic Collectors’ Series sale (barring a second wave of Covid-19 in Hong Kong) which you can read more about in the following section.

January also saw our extraordinarily successful sale of Early Cutlery Sets, Veterinary and Medical Implements, Scales and other Measuring Instruments, Objets of Vertu and Scientific Instruments – a testament to the value of the e-auction, and an interesting new area for us to explore. The ‘Freshwater’ Collection and Philatelic Collector’s Series sale in New York, and the ‘Lionheart’ Collection of Great Britain and British Empire Part XI, plus the London Philatelic Collectors’ Series Sale, all took place at the end of January, alongside our very interesting Stamps and Covers of the World e-auction.

We then had a short hiatus before the “Dubois” British Commonwealth Collection of Stamps and Covers sale, held at the RPSL London on 18th March, which went ahead as planned despite the Covid-19 uncertainty. We had several exchanges with the vendor, and recommended to proceed, which he agreed, and was rewarded for his decision in the end by great realisations. It was a resounding success, seeing some lots double or triple their estimates, and demonstrates the value of having access to SpinkLive from wherever you are in the world. These challenging times mean that we must react with agility and ensure that our beloved hobbies are safe from economic threat – hence our best in class SpinkLive platform will ensure that our realisations stay strong during these turbulent times. If you don’t have it yet, please put this magazine on the side, and download it free from the apple or android app stores so as not to be at a disadvantage to other collectors.

We hope that this new issue of the Insider will provide plenty of distraction for those of you in
isolation or locked down for any length of time. As mentioned above, we are delighted to include an article by Professor Guy Dutau, probably the most knowledgeable collector of disinfected mail in the world, on Quarantines: plague, cholera and coronavirus Covid-19. Truly fascinating stuff, and very timely with the current state of medical emergency worldwide.

You may remember that our last edition focused on the golden age of Polar exploration, and further to our ground-breaking exhibition and the articles accompanying it we are proud to include a piece by triple cancer survivor Patrick McIntosh, about his trek across the Antarctic to the South Pole.

We also include in this issue an interview with esteemed Spink author David Sear, whose long-awaited new Introductory Guide to Ancient Greek and Roman Coins (Part One of Three) will shortly be available to purchase from Spink Books – a very exciting new addition to our list, and surely the perfect time to start encouraging new collectors to take up the hobby? This seminal guide will give an excellent background to the coinage, and hopefully enable beginners to take part in our SpinkLive and e-auctions if they are unable to leave their homes.

Other features include a piece on the history of the incredible Shah Jahan diamond and Spink’s role in finding it a worthy home, and a piece on the silver cup belonging to Prince Charles Edward Stuart, which will be exhibited at Spink from 4th May 2020. We also feature a piece on the Port Royal Earthquake of June 1692, featuring a letter written by James Wales, the first British appointed Deputy Postmaster of Jamaica, which forms part of the “Dubois” Collection of Jamaica Stamps and Postal History (to be offered for sale by Spink London in September).

Other highlights over the next few weeks begin with our charity auction of Bank of England notes in April, along with the Prof Yih-Tzong Hsu Collection of World Banknotes and our World Banknotes sale. This is hotly followed by the Philatelic Collectors’ Series Sale; British Borneo Stamps and Covers; Bonds and Share Certificates of the World (e-Auction); Orders, Decorations and Medals; The Gary Diffen Collection of Australian Colonies Errors Part 1 - New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia; and The Lugano Collection of Venezuela – and that’s just in April! As you can see, we hope you will enjoy bidding from the safety of your own home if necessary on our best in class platform. With all staff working frantically from home in most locations, we intend to bring some distraction to you through the confinement period. The Spink staff has been remarkable throughout and is still there to serve you.

An extraordinary resilient collectables market
The greenshoots previously observed have weathered magnificently a spring blizzard. Indeed, while most asset classes were hammered by the Covid-19 repricing (and also coming off unsustainable levels where absolutely every possible single piece of good news was reflected in the prices). The going rate was a drop of 30% or 40%. Even Gold went from US$1,700 an ounce to US$1,400 in a few days. Maybe a first sign of capitulation? Or at least capitulation for the first leg down. At least I saw it that way, and yours truly, who had been cautious for a long time, got burnt trying to time a return to the stock market.

We were told after the 2008 Lehman crisis, that things would never be the same. Of course, it was a drunk sailor promise, as the next day all was forgotten and all market players, doped by cheap money and central banks put options, started speculating again as if Lehman had never existed!

This time, to put it simply, the central banks reacted ten times faster with ten times more money than in 2008 to prevent the system going into meltdown. So somebody out there is more worried than in 2008.

This one is expected to be so violent, Goldman Sachs is predicting Q1 US GDP at -9%, Q2 at a dismal -34% and Q3 +19%. With the worst quarter ever, followed by the best “remontada” ever. Maybe Snow White will awaken in a different world indeed.

So, I believe this time it might be different (my god, I hate to write this … probably a certainty to be wrong) and I would agree with BlackRock’s Chief Executive Officer Larry Fink predicting “the economy will eventually recover from the coronavirus outbreak, though the crisis will reshape investor psychology, business practices and consumer habits”. I believe De-globalisation, end of Just-in-time management, higher public spending, state interventions for strategic industries in healthcare and beyond, more social protection for all will dominate the
agenda of many politicians globally, even those nobody can suspect of any socialist inclination – the end of ultra-liberal capitalism?

I am dwelling on the macro environment, because I believe our collectables do not behave in a vacuum and these durable, almost tectonic, changes will affect deeply and positively our collectables world.

First, collectables since the crisis have done amazingly well. All our auctions and private treaties point to better results than pre-Covid-19. Most collectors in the world are confined at home, and probably get tired of their incessant video calls or being on a Netflix binge. A small British coin auction attracted 500 bidders, probably a record at Spink for a relatively modest and very specialised auction. We have more time to spend with our collections and are not too sure what to do with our spare cash, and there is quite a bit of it, as most cannot travel, go to restaurants or anything. Apart from the occasional run to the supermarket and a few online purchases, my March credit card statements show nothing else.

In collectables also, things will never be the same. Online auctions will dominate going forward, even if to keep some fun and excitement we have an auctioneer on the rostrum. The technology will take over the process of bidding, the auctioneer will have to be more an entertainer than an increment machine. Printed catalogues might finally start to disappear following this crisis which is just accelerating an already existing trend. Viewing at trusted auctioneers will also be on the decline, except for collections.

Collectables have proven to be a very resilient asset class. If you are a seller and have spent time sorting out your collections in the last few weeks, sell now, and I mean now, your duplicates or non-core items. The prices are good, due to lack of IT capabilities many auction houses have postponed their auctions until after the summer, so there is a window of opportunity. But it will close soon, as prices might come down a bit as more sellers emerge to buy other assets. I believe this will be a short term consolidation before a continuation of the uptrend, as the massive public spending announced everywhere in the world must push inflation up at some point. Also collectables present all the benefits of ultimate discretion and flexible valuation previously described in these columns. They will also benefit from what the luxury industry experts call “revenge spending”, after months of frustration many of us will want to buy this trophy coin, banknote, stamp, or medal we always wanted, as soon as we feel we are out of the woods.

Auction houses are the liquidity provider of this market. Liquidity sometimes badly needed for people who need to pay bills in these difficult times. As nobody thought of closing the stock or bond market, they should be allowed to stay open, and operate online. They safely provide the much needed liquidity and distraction so desperately required in the current environment.

So look with a smile at all your 2019 auction purchases and think you have done much better than in any other asset class, but don’t be complacent. Sell very quickly what you do not really need and build the best collections possible in your area of predilection as those are always sought after. Focus on the exceptional and only keep the average stuff when it is needed in your main collection. The common and mediocre will never ever be a good investment for the long run.

I don’t wish you a happy Easter or Passover break with your family, as we are all most likely to stay home alone.

So stay safe, and call your loved ones as much as you can, before you can hug them again at the sunny terrasse of your favourite little café or restaurant! And remember, “Everything will be OK in the end, if it is not OK, it is not the end …!”

Yours truly,

Olivier D. Stocker
Chairman and CEO
chairmanoffice@spink.com

“Focus on the exceptional and only keep the average stuff when it is needed in your main collection. The common and mediocre will never ever be a good investment for the long run.”"
SPRING BANKNOTE SALES

London, April 2020

As we were all recovering from the excitement of our October World Banknotes auction, with the group of East African and Lebanese discoveries, preparation for the spring auctions started once again. In January, as we were all busily cataloguing, we thought of our colleagues in HK as they were battling Covid-19. Around the same time the UK officially left the European Union, so there were many things on our minds. By the end of March we were hit with the nationwide lockdown, but seeing the success of the philatelic and numismatic auctions held behind closed doors showed us that collectors still welcome the opportunity to participate in the hobbies they love.

Therefore we are excited to present our April sales, which will be taking place as this magazine lands on your doormats! Starting off on 7th April is the Professor Yih-Tzong Hsu Collection of World Banknotes. Many collectors will know Professor Hsu for his various literatures on Chinese banknotes and his collection, which Spink Hong Kong has had the honour of selling a part of in January 2020. Professor Hsu has always been fascinated with various features and symbolism on banknotes and he collected by categories: ‘General’, ‘Women’, ‘Famous Figures’, ‘Animals’ and ‘Flowers’. Through offering his collection in these five parts, he hopes he can interest collectors to appreciate the lesser known stories behind these banknotes.

Some of the highlights from the auction include a group of specimen Netherlands New Guinea guildens with Queen Juliana. Also a group of the ever popular ‘Javanese Dancer’ series from Netherlands Indies is in this collection.

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De Javaeche Bank, Netherland Indies, 100 gulden, 1939

Netherlands New Guinea, specimen 500 gulden, 1954

Government of India, pattern essay 5 rupees, 1920
Elaine Fung

Bank of Hindostan, India, 8 sicca rupees, 1830-32

Isles de France et de Bourbon, Compagnie des Indes, 1 piastre, 1759

Saudi Arabia, 10 riyals, 1983, serial number 1/000001
Staying true to the name ‘World Banknotes’, we have items from all corners of the world, from Afghanistan to Zanzibar. As always with our banknote auctions, there is a strong India showing with two rare essays and an unknown Hindustan 8 sicca rupees. Bank of Hindustan was the first modern bank India; prior to this, during the Mughal Empire, there were only smaller indigenous banks. Bank of Hindustan was the first bank in India to issue banknotes, and this 8 sicca rupees note was likely to have been printed just before the collapse of the bank. With the rich history behind this note, it should attract great interest from collectors.

Another discovery note from this auction is the Isles de France et du Bourbon, Compagnie des Indes 1 piastre from 1759 which is now Mauritius. Previously only parts of ¼ and ½ piastres were known. This is possibly the only example of the 1 piastre that exists and there are no records of this note in both the Kolsky or GHC references.

We are also offering a part of the Shadi Samhan collection of Iraq, Jordan and Saudi Arabia materials. One of the highlights from the collection is the Saudi Arabia number one 10 riyals from 1983. Generally the number one note is presented to the King; it is highly unusual to have this appear on the market. Continuing with a strong Iraq section from the October auction, we have a beautiful colour trial 5 dinars featuring young King Faisal II in the Samhan collection. A ‘hidden gem’ from the Iraq other properties is the Government of Iraq, ¼ dinar from 1948 with King Faisal II in a white jacket. This portrait of the King looking upwards was only used on this issue of the ¼ dinar and the subsequent ½ dinar.

At 5pm on the 8th April, we are finishing off two days of auction marathon with the Charity Auction of Bank of England £20 polymer notes featuring JMW Turner. Apart from the number 10 note as mentioned in a previous article, the auction also includes a sheet of 45 £20 which is possibly the only example available to a private collector. We expect bidding to be lively, with all proceeds to be donated equally between three charities chosen by Bank staff: YoungMinds, Pancreatic Cancer UK and Alzheimer’s Research UK – thank you to everyone who participates, thereby giving to these worthy causes.

Last but not least, we will be having a British Banknotes auction on 6th May featuring the Laurence B Butters Family Collection of Provincial Banknotes and Bank of England issues and Part two of the Alexander Gray Collection of Scottish Banknotes. The auction features two historically important Scottish banknotes: the Royal Bank of Scotland 1750 £12 Scot featuring George II is said to be the earliest ‘Royal note’ available to private collectors, and this example is in excellent condition for such an early note. Another is the Bank of Scotland £1 from 1833 printed by Perkins Bacon, featuring the beautiful crowned vignette of Scotia.

With the large range of material we have for our April/May auctions, we hope there will be something for all banknote collectors to enjoy during these tough times.
WORLD BANKNOTE AUCTION

Spink London, conducted behind closed doors, 7th-8th April 2020

A Personal Introduction from Director of Banknotes Barnaby Faull

I thought I would add a few personal words to Arnas’s introduction to the Angola collection. When Arnas called me to look at some scans that had been sent to Spink, my immediate reaction was to ask him to get the notes by any means possible and if necessary to fly out and collect them as soon as today if needed. I am not a collector (you can’t be in my job), but I have however been fortunate enough to handle the most wonderful collections over the last few decades, which is the next best thing, and about twice a year I see something that makes me wish I did collect.

Last October, for example, we had a magnificent collection of Lebanese and Syrian banknotes; the Angola gave me the same buzz. The notes are beautiful and the fact that they were scheduled for destruction makes the discovery even more thrilling. I personally love essays, they are in my opinion the zenith of the banknote designer’s art – intricate, colourful and historical, what more could you ask? Speaking on a personal level, they were a pleasure to catalogue and I am sure that whoever is fortunate enough to purchase them will treasure them, as I would have done.

Barnaby

The Angola Collection

I am sure that many collectors wondered aloud, “what a magnificent collection!” having seen the illustrated catalogue featuring composite essays, specimens, and issued notes of the highest scarcity. The collection started when a private collector, attempting to raise money for his daughter’s wedding, arrived at his local stamp dealer’s shop in Lisbon, bringing along nine big blue envelopes containing archival material and the banknotes. He offered it to the store owner to purchase but the owner, not knowing much about banknotes nor having much interest in them, politely declined the offer. Luckily, at the same time a friend of the shop owner and passionate stamp collector Elder Correia was present in the shop. Glancing through the material, Elder quickly realised that it was of the highest rarity, and has for many years enjoyed it.

I would like to mention here just a few, starting with my personal favourite which is the (1946-47) series 10 Angolares featuring Padre António José de Sousa Barroso, a missionary in Angola and Mozambique. In this series, you can find anything from gorgeous vignettes to issued banknotes, and everything in between. The note that particularly captures my attention is lot 670, with three framed vignettes all in different colours, at lower left of the frame is a hand stamp CONSEHO DO GOVERNO DO BANCO DO ANGOLA 17/5/45 and manuscript ‘Aprovado’ and signature below.

Arnas
Another particularly impressive lot is 687. Framed composite essays on board for a 100 Angolares featuring obverse and reverse parts of the banknote separately, in our opinion this was a final design presentation that had been sent to the bank for approval. An interesting feature on the reverse part of this essay that makes it so special is a paper overlay which on the lower right is annotated “NOTE: KINDLY MAKE ALL ALTERATIONS OR ADDITIONS TO SKETCH ON THIS SHEET ONLY” Barnaby has never previously seen this type of paper overlay (neither have I).

We hope that our April sales will prove a welcome distraction from the troubling times that the world is going through at present. Most importantly we trust that all our collectors’ friends and families will stay safe and well until this horrible situation comes to an end. Good luck.
PHILATELIC COLLECTORS’ SERIES

Spink London, to be conducted behind closed doors, 14th and 15th April 2020

The spring edition includes a fine section of Barbados KG VI issues with many plate varieties, Basutoland includes some fine early letters starting in 1843 with a letter from a French Missionary. In Bechuanaland there are interesting letters from the Warren Expedition, the Langeberg Campaign and the Anglo-Boer War. Ceylon has an offering of Pence issue covers and in Hong Kong there is a nice run of issued stamps plus two lovely postal stationery envelope hand-painted essays from the De La Rue archives.

Natal has an important offering of early letters, starting in 1851, and a good range of mail going to the United Kingdom and other overseas destinations. In New Zealand good sections of the 1935-36 and 1936-42 Pictorials will be found, plus much else. Rhodesia has a very nice group of the 1905 Victoria Falls issue with proofs, issued stamps and covers, while in Southern Rhodesia there is a delightful group of the 1935 Silver Jubilee, including a set of coloured die proofs from the Waterlow archives.

The Australian state of Victoria has a splendid offering of the Queen on Throne issue including a Ham 2d unused block of eight, a Woodblock 2/- printed essay by Samuel Calvert and a most interesting run of covers including a range of registered frankings with many addressed to Switzerland. The sale concludes with the usual run of Great Britain issues.

The Philatelic Collectors’ Series sale will take place at Spink London, behind closed doors, on 14th and 15th April 2020. For further information please contact Josh Barber, jbarber@spink.com.
BRITISH BORNEO STAMPS AND COVERS

Spink London, to be conducted behind closed doors, 16th April 2020

This sale comprises the territories of Brunei, Labuan, North Borneo and Sarawak. Of particular note throughout, and in particular the sections of North Borneo and Sarawak, is the strength of the essay and proof material on offer, much of which has not been on the market for nearly thirty years. In North Borneo the highlight is the 1931 50th Anniversary issue with some delightful hand-painted essays and a wonderful range of progressive die proofs. Again, in Sarawak most issues are represented with a range of wonderful essays and associated proof items.

British Borneo Stamps and Covers will be offered for sale at Spink London, behind closed doors, on 16th April 2020. For further information please contact Nick Startup, nstartup@spink.com.
FORTHCOMING EVENT

ORDERS, DECORATIONS AND MEDALS

Spink London, conducted behind closed doors, 22nd-23rd April 2020

Our April Auction follows on from the three well-supported sales held last year. Many of you will also have greatly enjoyed our exhibitions, with our November Exhibition charting ‘200 Years of Polar Exploration’ breaking all records of those held previously. A full report was published in the previous edition of the Insider while a few exhibition catalogues, sold to benefit the Endeavour Fund, are still available (£25 plus P&P – please visit www.spinkbooks.com to order).

Our April Auction will of course be adapted in line with Government current health advice in light of the COVID-19 outbreak. At the time of going to print we will be holding the auction behind closed doors. Online, commission and telephone bidding will of course be available and the Department and the Auction Team are available at any time to talk you through these methods should we be able to assist. I cannot recommend the SpinkLIVE online bidding platform highly enough, taking you to the auction room via your computer or mobile phone through the App.

The sale itself is once again full of simply quite remarkable stories and offers something for collectors of almost every field. It is also notably the largest sale offered in the history of the department - we held our first Auction of Medals in 1983 - with over 1,400 Lots offered from 22nd to 23rd April.

Our catalogue back cover is Lot 738, the quite superb immediate Second War 1944 CGM group of five awarded to Flight Sergeant SW Walters, No 44 (Rhodesia) Squadron, Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. A gallant Lancaster Bomb Aimer Walters was decorated for his valour on a hair-raising raid to the Ruhr Valley. When twenty miles from their target the Pilot was killed outright after being hit by accurate flak...
that left the ‘entire cockpit shattered’ - it was at this point Walters entered the stage, removing the Pilot and taking the controls, in spite of the fact that he had never flown a heavy bomber. Having somehow gained control of the stricken kite, he nursed it back to Blighty and ordered the crew to bale out as it was impossible to land, ignoring the easy option of taking to his parachute immediately for it risked the Lancaster smashing into a populated part of Kent. He instead remained at the controls, which were by that point ‘almost useless,’ rounded the crippled plane and headed for the sea, stunningly baling out at the last moment and gaining his membership of the Caterpillar Club. His next Op would come just a few weeks later and would be his last; again shot down during a raid on Heilbron, Walters spent the final months of the war behind the wire as a Prisoner of War.

The morning session begins with a good offering of Single Campaign Medals, including some notable early campaign awards. The later campaign awards also include a number of General Service Medals 1918-62 and 1962-2007, which feature a number of unusual awards to the Royal Air Force and servicemen who were wounded during the Second World War. The Afternoon Session continues with Long Service, Coronation and Jubilee Awards, including Lot 477, the most unusual Army Long Service and Good Conduct Medal awarded to Colour-Sergeant J Hazlewood, Grenadier Guards, who served as Military Tutor to the future King Edward VII.

Particular attention should be drawn to Lots 586-630, which form An Important and Well-Documented Collection of Modern Campaign Awards. This collection has been formed over the past three decades and features perhaps the most complete group of awards for recent campaigns offered to date. Almost every group includes photographs and additional documentation related to the serviceman or servicewoman, which offers a unique opportunity for insight into the soldier of today. The collection includes a number of casualties from the Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts, specialist operators, and boasts two dog handlers, while my personal highlight has to be Lot 624, the historic campaign group of three awarded to Rifleman DA ‘Dan’ Meally, The Rifles. Meally witnessed his fair share of action in Iraq and
Afghanistan - including being on patrol when his close friend and mentor Colour-Sergeant K Fortuna was killed in action, and serving alongside Sergeant D Cutterham the very next day, when he won a CGC. Meally’s image went global when it was captured by Alison Baskerville during Operation ‘Zangal Haf’, the daring commando mission deep behind enemy lines which resulted in the destruction of a number of bomb factories; the shot of him firing his LMG at the enemy made the front page of *The Sun*. Returned from the front, Meally wanted a further taste of action, and having seen the scourge of the Islamic State (ISIS/ISIL) he made his way to link up with the Kurdish People’s Protection Unit in Syria, fighting on the front line as a ‘Lion of Rojava’ together with Canadian poster-boy Brandon Glossop. The group includes a plethora of photographs and a number of ‘trophies’ from his campaign in Syria in 2015. It is understood to be the first group known to come for sale for a confirmed combatant against ISIS.

The section of Awards for Gallant or Distinguished Service is once again packed with rare and important groups and singles. Particular attention should be drawn to Lot 643, the rare and outstanding Second World War ‘Sinking of the Bismarck’ DSM group of twelve, awarded to Chief Petty Officer B Lassa, Free Polish Navy, who served aboard the ORP *Piorun* which ‘wanted to take on the battleship single-handed’ in a David vs Goliath encounter of monumental proportions. Twice sunk by Luftwaffe bombs and GNAT torpedo - which included surviving the sinking of the *Grom* at Narvik - Lassa served as Gunner aboard the *Piorun* during the Clydeside Blitz and valiantly fought off the attention of repeated armadas of enemy aircraft, winning the fond affection and respect of the people of Glasgow. The Lot is offered on behalf of Lassa’s family and is accompanied by a fine archive, including the Free Polish Navy Battle Ensign reputedly flown above his ship for the legendary action.

The Auction offers a number of exceptional awards to pioneering airmen, including the awards of the legendary Air Vice-Marshal Sir Matthew Brown ‘Bunty’ Frew, Royal Flying
Corps and Royal Air Force, late Highland Light Infantry (Lot 733). Frew ended the Great War with a confirmed tally of 23 victories, but his real tally was surely far higher, since he often encouraged junior Pilots in his Squadron by giving them the credit for victories which were really his own.

The story of Group Captain TB Bruce, Royal Flying Corps (Lot 735) is also notable. Having been shot down he produced 'one of the greatest stories of the War'; his autobiography Missing recalled his thirteen weeks masquerading as a peasant in Belgium and subsequent times when he avoided being handed over from neutral Holland to Germany - which would most likely have ended in him being shot as a spy, having previously despatched an enemy sentry on crossing the border. Bruce also impressed upon the fairer sex in order that he might secrete himself at certain times.

The preceding group, Lot 734, comprises the awards of Great War 'balloonic' Lieutenant AV Burbury, Royal Air Force. Having won himself a Military Cross escaping his stricken balloon, Burbury was wounded on active
service and finished the war at Archangel assisting
the White Russians. A quite remarkable man -
he took it upon himself post-War to adopt the
attitude of Don Juan, “To bring love and physical
satisfaction into the lives of as many women as
possible who might otherwise be deprived.” It
was clearly mission accomplished for, “At his
funeral, the church was full of women of all ages,
dating back to his youth and coming right up to
the newest loves of his last year.” There was just
one man in the congregation. Hats off!

The Auction is also rich in stories of gallant
Second World War airmen, including Lot 742,
the poignant fighter ace’s DFC group of six
awarded to Squadron Leader KG ‘Kenny’ Hart,
Royal Air Force, a distinguished veteran of the
Battle of Britain who was killed in action in
December 1944. He opened his account as a
19-year-old Spitfire pilot in No 65 Squadron on
26th May 1940, downing a Me 109 over France
before himself being compelled to undertake a
forced-landing on the beaches of Dunkirk. In a
storyline and scene reminiscent of Christopher
Nolan’s recent and acclaimed film of that name,
he ‘torched’ his shot-up aircraft and managed
to get home. Another 109 having fallen to his
guns in late June, he remained much engaged
throughout the Battle of Britain, claiming yet
another 109 and a probable He 111 in August;
his Spitfire was once again hit by return fire on
the 20th, leading to his second forced-landing,
on this occasion on Havengore Island, Foulness.
Next seeing action in Tomahawks of No 250
Squadron, he added to his score in numerous
engagements over Tobruk and Gazala in the
period December 1941 to January 1942. He
was awarded the DFC, the recommendation
crediting him with eight confirmed ‘kills’. The
gallant Hart embarked on his third - and final
- tour of operations in No 18 Squadron in
February 1944. Having flown over 30 missions
in the unit’s Bostons, latterly as a 23-year-old
Squadron Leader, he was killed in action on an
intruder sortie over Italy that December.

Lot 752 is the rare Battle of Britain Veterans
AFM group of five awarded to Flight Lieutenant
C Beveridge, Royal Air Force. Having flown a
tour of night operations as an Observer / Air
Gunner in Blenheims of No 219 Squadron
in August-September 1940, he converted
to Beaufighters as a newly qualified Radar /
Navigator and undertook numerous sorties
out of Tangmere in the period leading up to
November 1941. He subsequently became a
highly skilled - and much in demand - Flight
Engineer in Liberators and Yorks of No 511
Squadron, undertaking one of the first direct
flights to Egypt and back; nor were such flights
of an ordinary nature, his squadron often being
charged with the safe delivery of a string of VIPs to overseas conferences. He was thus employed in conveying such notables as Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur Tedder to the Cairo conference attended by Churchill, Roosevelt and Chiang Kai-shek in November 1943. He also conveyed Air Chief Marshal Sir Charles Portal, General Sir Alan Brooke, Admiral Sir Andrew Cunningham, General Sir John Dill and General Sir Hastings Ismay from Habbaniyah to the famous Teheran conference later in the same month. Awarded the AFM - one of just two such distinctions granted to ex-Battle of Britain aircrew - and commissioned in August 1943, Beveridge ended the war on like duties in No 24 Squadron, and added a mention in despatches to his accolades.

Day 2 dawns with the Campaign Groups and Pairs. Lot 764 is the Irwin family group, sold by a direct descendant, including the award of Sergeant H Irwin, Royal Marines, who served on Captain Edward Parry’s expedition to the North West Passage aboard HMS Hecla, 1824-25.

Lot 772 is the superb and well-documented Light Brigade Charger’s Crimea Medal to Sergeant HG Wickham, 13th Light Dragoons; despite receiving a lance-wound, Wickham bravely helped a wounded comrade to safety, an act immortalised in Lady Butler’s painting ‘The Return’.

Moving forward to the Great War, focus should be given to a number of truly moving stories. These include Lot 831, the fascinating and deeply moving Great War trio awarded to Lieutenant A Johnston, King’s Shropshire Light Infantry, whose witty and candid accounts of life in the Ypres Salient earned him universal esteem; with courage equal to his intellect, Johnston’s career as a Punch journalist was cut short in April 1916, when he was killed by a sniper while leading a successful attack.

Following is Lot 832, the Great War trio and Memorial Plaque awarded to Captain AG Kirby, London Rifle Brigade; as Captain of the Leander eight at the 1912 Stockholm Olympics, Kirby led the British rowing team to a Gold Medal victory, only to die of sickness on the Western Front in 1917.

Further mention should be made of Lot
839, the remarkable Great War trio to Captain AL ‘Brains’ Attwater, Royal Welch Fusiliers, a prize-winning Cambridge classicist who served alongside Siegfried Sassoon and Robert Graves, convalescing with them at Craiglockhart Hospital after a severe gunshot wound to the hip. Mentioned repeatedly in *Goodbye To All That*, Attwater went on to become a renowned Cambridge professor, bequeathing a vast library to Pembroke College and founding its English scholarships.

Finally, I would implore you to study Lot 841, the important and highly emotive ‘War Poet’s’ 1914-15 trio to awarded to Captain WSS Lyon, Royal Scots, whose haunting lines encapsulate the horrors of the Ypres Salient; killed in action at Potijze Wood on 8th May 1915, Lyon lives on through his war poetry. *Lines Written in a Fire-Trench* offer a small insight to his boundless talents;

‘Tis midnight, and above the hollow trench, Seen through a gaunt wood’s battle-blasted trunks And the stark rafters of a shattered grange, The quiet sky hangs huge and thick with stars. And through the vast gloom, murdering its peace Guns bellow and their shells rush swishing ere They burst in death and thunder, or they fling Wild jangling spirals round the screaming air.’

The Campaign Groups and Pairs continue with a number of well-illustrated Second World War items and a number of later flying items which offer good research potential.

It would be improper not to divert attention towards Lot 1023, the well-documented and poignant Hurricane ace’s ‘Fall of France’ campaign group of three awarded to Flying Officer HP Dixon, Auxiliary Air Force. A pre-war Cambridge graduate who additionally served in the University Air Squadron, Dixon was commissioned in No 607 Squadron of the Auxiliary Air Force in 1936. Called-up in August 1939 - and having seen action over the North Sea in 607’s antiquated Gladiators - he converted to Hurricanes after joining the Advanced Air Striking Force in France. The subject of a royal visit and a press call - from which emerged some memorable *Daily Sketch* images of Dixon - 607 shared in the costly air
battles marking the advent of the Blitzkrieg. His own part in those operations in May 1940 was exemplary, five enemy aircraft falling to his guns in as many days but, on being re-assigned to No 145 Squadron, he was shot down off Dunkirk on 1st June 1940. His brother, John, witnessed the incident, standing on the Mole, but had no idea of the unfortunate airman’s identity. Recently released Air Ministry casualty records poignantly document the protracted and painful journey endured by his family in securing the truth about his fate: it finally emerged that Dixon - suffering from extensive burns - had been plucked from the sea and died in a coma at a Casualty Clearing Station two days later.

The section comes to a close with Lot 1065A, the outstanding Falklands ‘Sinking of HMS Coventry’ campaign pair to Marine PK ‘Tug’ Wilson, Royal Marines, who was mentioned in dispatches for gallantly rescuing thirty crewmen off Falkland Sound on 25th May 1982.

Given the importance of the food supplies we all require at this moment, Lot 1073 should draw attention, being the Royal Warrant Holders Association Medal awarded to Wallace Wyndham Waite, one of the founders of Waitrose. In a turn of fate, we also offer the awards of Private W Morford, himself a pre-War employee at Waitrose (Lot 872).

A strong section of Single British Orders and Decorations includes a number of gems in this field, including an Order of Merit (Lot 1101), Companion of Honour (Lot 1102) and examples of high grades of the Order of St Michael & St George, Order of the Bath, including a diamond-enhanced GCB Star (Lot 1117) and the Order of the Indian Empire. The Auction concludes with the Miniature Dress Medals (British & Foreign) and the Foreign Orders, Decorations and Medals, which includes a good run of Austrian and Hungarian Orders, besides a very rare Egyptian (Monarchy in Exile) Order of Muhammed Ali. Unusual items from Haiti, Hawaii and Brunei are also offered.

2019 was overall a strong year for the field. Offering the most Lots for sale in many a year, we saw quite exceptional prices with unusual and well-researched items finding good homes at high prices almost across the board. The trend for the Zulu War continues whilst flickers last year might suggest that awards for Waterloo and the Crimean Wars, which peaked perhaps ten years ago, are starting to make a revival. Awards for gallantry have an enduring attraction, while it might be observed that awards for the Second World War have the potential to move forward this year as new insights, illustrations and sources become available. It will be interesting to follow trends as we move into a digital era in which so much can be added to the interest surrounding an item by simply scouring online sources. The new generation of collectors who are mainly participating online are also placing a high premium upon items which offer the story of the ‘person behind the Medal’ in forming their collections. It would also be unfair to suggest that traditional ‘type’ collections have gone out of fashion - I have had the privilege numerous times each year in finding that ‘missing puzzle piece’ for collectors near and far. Should we be able to advise on how best to focus, rationalise or build your collection - now or in the future - please do not hesitate to contact myself or my colleagues in the coming days, we are at your disposal. Do enjoy the catalogue, which is available online via www.spink.com

Orders, Decorations and Medals will be offered for sale by Spink London, behind closed doors, on 22nd-23rd April 2020. For further information please contact Marcus Budgen, Head of Medal Department, mbudgen@spink.com, +44 (0)20 7563 4061.
THE “LUGANO” COLLECTION OF VENEZUELA

Spink London, conducted behind closed doors, 29th April 2020

The first issue of Venezuela has, for over a century, been the target for the famous collectors of South American countries. Ferrari and Hubbarb are just two of the names that come immediately to mind. Spink is proud to have been trusted to offer the magnificent “Lugano” collection, its 47 lots containing the great rarities of this country.

Each item is fully illustrated in the catalogue, with the reverse sides of covers available from our website. Almost all lots are also offered with certificates of authenticity, mostly from the noted expert of South American Philately, the late Brian Moorehouse.

In the “Lugano” collection the owner has managed to unite the three major rarities of the country, the two errors of colour and the tête-bêche block of six. These three are offered together with the 44 other selected lots, each one a rarity in its own right.

Here is a unique opportunity for even the most advanced collector of Venezuela to add to their collection; for a collector looking to form a new collection the possibilities are endless. In the current climate we predict an even stronger surge of interest in this area, making it an excellent choice for both the collector and investor alike.

The “Lugano” Collection of Venezuela will be offered for sale by Spink London, behind closed doors, on 29th April 2020. For further information please contact Dominic Savastano, dsavastano@spink.com.
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THE GARY DIFFEN COLLECTION OF AUSTRALIAN COLONIES ERRORS

PART I (NEW SOUTH WALES, QUEENSLAND AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA)

Spink London, to be conducted behind closed doors, 29th April 2020

The printing of millions of stamps has been an exact process since the issue of the first postage stamp, the Penny Black by Great Britain in 1840. However, occasionally printers make mistakes. The collecting of stamp printing errors have been enthusiastically hunted by generations of connoisseurs. Stamps printed double, missing perforations creating imperforate between errors, inverted overprints — all of these and more have been the focus of eagle-eyed collectors for over 150 years.

The Gary Diffen collection of the Errors of the Australian Colonies from 1850 to 1913 is the most comprehensive collection of these printing flaws ever assembled and will be auctioned by Spink over two sales in 2020.

The New South Wales holding is the most complete collection of errors of this colony ever assembled. For the first time, all the major watermark errors of the classic era will be offered in the one sale, with the two stamps featured below of special significance.

The imperforate Diadem series of 1856 comprise two of the rarest errors of New South Wales. The Diadem series was issued on paper with the watermark numerals aligning with their relevant values. The 1d vermillion was first recorded with Watermark “2” instead of Watermark “1” in 1935 when discovered in 1856 Diadem 1d with watermark error “2”

1869 4d pair imperf vertically

1872 3d on 4d with surcharge omitted
by the old London stamp dealer Tommy Allen. He retained it and sold it privately to another leading dealer, William Frazer. For over 80 years, this unique error, being the only example recorded, has been well held.

In addition, the 2d value of the series was discovered in 1892 with the error of watermark numeral “1” instead of “2”. This discovery example was purchased by King George V for the Royal Collection who highly prized Australian Colonial stamp errors. The Gary Diffen example was originally owned by another great collector in Charles Lathrop Pack, and has only been available to collectors on four occasions since his sale in 1944. Again, this is the only example recorded in private hands.

Although the 1871 De La Rue issues being offered for auction are small, with this collection being retained by Gary for his collection of this series, there are still some significant items for sale. The major piece is the 1882 3d Diadem perforation 11 imperforate between block of four. It is one of two blocks still in private hands.

The Centennial, Federal period and Official issues are the most comprehensive to come to auction, with many unique items not recorded in contemporary literature. Some of these are available at only £100, providing opportunities for collectors of more modest means to obtain errors of great rarity.

The Queensland collection is dominated by the imperforate between errors of the Chalon and Sideface issues. More than any other colony, these errors have been distributed amongst many major collections, resulting in no one collection dominating the errors of Queensland. This sale contains the largest holding of these popular errors ever to come to auction with many notable examples.

One of the most popular items in the collection came to market by chance in 1925 in what became known as the Mayfair Find. In 1863-64, a young gentleman from Mayfair sent British Colonial postmasters £1 or £2 each and in return was sent large blocks of mint postage stamps. They lay dormant in the Mayfair attic until being discovered in a clear out in 1925. One of the superb mint blocks from Queensland contained twelve examples of the 2d value imperforate between. This block was quickly divided up after the 1923 sale, and over the years, collectors have mishandled some of these examples, resulting in some being faulty, and one pair unable to be traced. The block of eight comprising two pairs in the Diffen collection is the finest known and the largest multiple recorded of this error.

The 1880 Queensland Sideface imperforate between errors are exceptionally rare, with most examples being unique. All recorded values and shades are represented in the collection, with the 4d value being of particular rarity. This mint pair was first recorded in 1917 and has only rarely been available to collectors ever since.

The later issues of Queensland are virtually complete, with many outstanding rarities. Of particular note are the Queensland Postal Fiscals...

“The Centennial, Federal period and Official issues are the most comprehensive to come to auction, with many unique items not recorded in contemporary literature”
with all the imperforate between errors recorded offered in this sale.

Finally, the colony of South Australia showcases the broad range of errors available in these primitive colonial issues through the postage, Departmental and Official stamps. The government of South Australia kept printing waste to a minimum with each printed sheet having to be accounted for. When mistakes were made during the printing process, each sheet was reused or re-purposed, creating an abundance of errors, more than any other colony.

Many of the major errors are featured in the Diffen collection, and such a range of rarities has not been offered to the auction market since the Harry Napier sales of the mid-1970s. The provenance of many of the pieces can be traced to the Collins; Fryar; Mursell; Frenckle and Napier holdings ... doyens of South Australian philately.

The Perkins Bacon issues are well represented with many unique items. Of particular note is the 1858 imperforate 2d blood-red printed on both sides, with only two examples in private hands, and last coming to market in 1958. Other notable rarities of the Perkins Bacon issue include the 1860 2d red printed both sides in a used block of six and the unique 6d grey-ultramarine imperforate between pair. Later perforated issues comprise many of the major watermarks; imperforate between and printed both sides errors. Included in this series is the most famous error from South Australia, the finest used example of the 1868 4d ultramarine with the “3-Pence” surcharge omitted. This dramatic error was first reported in the “Philatelic Record” in October 1879 and to date only eleven examples have been discovered, with four in institution collections. This is one of the highlights of the collection.

The middle period De La Rue issues from 1868 – 1903 are often neglected by collectors, however there are many outstanding rarities in this series. The Diffen collection comprises the most complete holding of the imperforate between errors ever formed, providing the astute collector the opportunity to possess many of these unique items for very modest prices.

The Federal period contains most of the imperforate between errors from the popular Long Stamps series. Of particular note is the 1902 3d, comprising two stamps with “POSTAGE” omitted in a superb marginal mint block of four. Another rarity is the 1906 9d imperforate vertically in a horizontal strip of three.
The South Australian Departmental stamps have long been popular with collectors. Many of the errors have been well held over the past decades since the sale of the Napier collection by Robson Lowe in the 1970s. This small but important holding has many of the imperforate between and printed both sides errors. Of particular note is the 1868 Colonial Secretary 4d value overprinted “CS” in black printed on both sides. Recorded by Colonel Napier in the 1920s, only three examples have been recorded. The imperforate between errors of the Departmental stamps are very rare, with the 1868 2d overprinted “P” in black for the Police imperforate between. The finer of one of only two recorded examples.

The sale is rounded out with a comprehensive selection of “OS” overprint errors, including overprints double, inverted, sideways and other combinations. Given their modest catalogue prices, traditionally these errors have been lumped and auctioned in to collection lots, with very few offered individually. Their rarity is being reassessed by collectors, and Spink are offering collectors the opportunity to acquire many of these rarities in mint and used condition very inexpensively. This will be the first time any auction house has marketed such a comprehensive holding of these issues, and it is expected to generate considerable interest from new collectors entering a virtually untouched field to seasoned collectors looking to add to their holdings.

With many of the major errors of the Australian Colonies contained in the Diffen collection, collectors have an unusual opportunity to acquire pieces that have not been to market, in some cases, for over twenty years. Part II of the errors collection, featuring Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australian will be offered in the Autumn of 2020.

**The Gary Diffen Collection of Australian Colonies Errors Part I** will be offered for sale at Spink London, behind closed doors, on 29th April 2020. For further information please contact Nick Startup, nstartup@spink.com.

“With many of the major errors of the Australian Colonies contained in the Diffen collection, collectors have an unusual opportunity to acquire pieces that have not been to market, in some cases, for over twenty years”
THE NUMISMATIC COLLECTORS’ SERIES SALE

Spink China, To be conducted behind closed doors, 10th–11th May 2020

Spink China’s next auction contains many rarities and choice items from Hong Kong and China which will attract the attention of the most discerning collectors. These include an issued 1905 Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China $10 for Hong Kong, a 1912 $500 specimen from the same bank and a 1904 Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation $100 specimen. These notes are exceedingly rare and will be fiercely contested. For China, star lots include two gold pattern dollars bearing the portraits of Xu Shi Chang and Duan Qi Rui, a 1907 Kwangtung Currency Bureau $5 Mexican Dollars and a 1951 People’s Bank of China ‘Mongolian Yurt’ 5000 yuan.

The Numismatic Collectors’ Series sale will take place in Hong Kong, behind closed doors, on 10th–11th May 2020. For further information please contact Kelvin Cheung, kcheung@spink.com.

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, $10, 1.1.1905, serial number G/T 38369, brown borders on deep pink, bank coat of arms at upper centre, ‘$10’ at each side, ‘TEN’ in blue underprint, handsigned at lower left and printed black manuscript signature at lower right, reverse green, bank title and denomination in English, (Pick 35), PMG 20 Very Fine (Ink).

People’s Bank of China, 1st series renminbi, 1948-1949, 5000 yuan, ‘Mongolian Yurt’, serial number <I II III> 0191105, (Pick 857Ba), PMG 30NET Very Fine (Restoration). One of the key notes of the series and in decent grade. Rare and an ever popular type.

A superb note of the highest rarity. One of the two notes see to date. It is interesting to see that the date is overprinted rather than handwritten as suggested by the partially printed year ‘190_’. Last sold by Spink in 2000 and it will be a long time before it reappears in a public auction.
Republic of China, $1 specimen struck in gold, 1921, obverse: President Xu Shi Chang, reverse: Chinese legend 'Republic of China, Commemorative Coin', Huai Ren Hall at centre with the characters 'Ren Shou Tong Deng', struck to commemorate the inauguration of Xu to the Presidency, (KM-Pn62, Kann-1570 and LM-1093), PCGS MS61 small hairlines in the fields that do not spoil the superb eye appeal of this rare coin.

Republic of China, $1 specimen struck in gold, 1924, obverse: President Duan Qi Rui, Chinese legend 'Republic of China Governance Commemorative Coin, reverse: 'He Ping' (Peace) in old Chinese script within wreath, (KM-Pn73, LM-1097, Kann-1577) PCGS MS61 small hairlines in the fields and small areas of toning. Extremely rare

Tibet, Anonymous (c. 1928-30), 1-Tam Srang pattern, 5.83g, undated, standing snow lion facing left within a circular border, an emblem referred to in Tibet as nor bu dga’ kyil (“whorling jewel of joy”) above the lion, surrounded by four small jewels and streamers, below the lion the same device in a simpler version, the eight Buddhist auspicious emblems between this inside outer beaded circle, rev. flower shaped wheel with eight spokes and norbu dga’ kyil (“whirling jewel of joy”) in centre, surrounded by eight arches and a circle, the legend: dga’ ldan pho brang phyogs las rnam rgyal tam srang 1 (“the Gaden Palace, victorious in all directions 1 Tam Srang”) around, within a beaded circular border (YZM 498; KM Pn 10), graded PCGS SP45, extremely rare

People’s Republic of China, 2000 yuan, gold, 2004, commemorating the Centenary of Deng Xiao Ping’s Birth, containing 5 oz. gold, serial number 0163, Deng Xiao Ping (1904–1997) was one of the greatest leaders of modern China from 1978 to 1992. NGC PF 69 Ultra Cameo, certificate number 000163 and with the original box and packaging of issue. A very low mintage of 600 pieces only and a historically important coin
Kwangtung Currency Bureau, $5 Mexican Dollars, 1907, serial number 331, black, facing dragons and fireball at upper centre, Kwangtung silver coin at left and right, house at lower centre, Chinese characters stating 'Shanghai Mexican Dollar', reverse black Chinese text on light green, official red stamp/chop marks on both sides, (Pick S2390), PMG 15 Choice Fine. One of the rarest and most iconic Qing era notes in nice original condition with strong colours. According to a well respected expert in Chinese currency only three notes are known to date. Ultra rare

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, $50, specimen, 1.5.1924, without serial numbers, orange, black and multicolour, bank coat of arms upper centre, vignette of a farming scene below, denomination in Chinese and English text left and right, 4 small hole punch cancellations, reverse green and black, bank building at centre, (Pick 44s), PMG 64 Choice Uncirculated. Only 3 notes graded so far and this is the single highest graded note. Lovely fresh original colours and of the highest rarity

The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, $10, specimen, partially printed date '190', brown borders on pink, bank coat of arms at upper centre, '$10' to its left and right, 'TEN' in blue underprint at centre, black printed manuscript at lower right, 4 hole punch cancellations, a rare W.W. Sprague and Co. printing, (Pick 35 for type), PMG 35 Choice Very Fine (Punch Hole Cancelled). Possibly unique as a specimen and certainly the only note in the PMG population report to date. A fabulous offering together with the issued note in the next lot. A once in a lifetime opportunity.
The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, $500, specimen, 1.3.1912, without serial numbers, purple-red, black and dark yellow, supported arms at upper centre, denomination at each corner and within left and right borders, central vignette of sailing sampans and junk boat against fortress walls and pagoda, reverse blue and black, bank building at centre, ‘SPECIMEN’ printed in red diagonally on the obverse, 6 hole punch cancellations, (Pick 46as), PMG 40 Extremely Fine. An extremely rare specimen bearing the first date of issue Colloquially known as the ‘Spider Web’ because of the geometric design at centre, this type is one of the most iconic and coveted Hong Kong banknotes. Ultra rare in any form and will be fiercely contested for.

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, $10, 1.5.1904, serial number 507109, blue on light orange and multicolour, bank coat of arms at upper centre, ‘10’ at each corner, hand signed manuscript signature at lower left and printed at lower right, reverse red, allegorical figures of Mercury and Minerva at centre, profile of Minerva at left and right, (Pick 157), PMG 30 Very Fine. Ex. Northern Collection. An extremely rare type note that was only issued for two years in 1904 and 1905. Only 3 notes notes of this type graded in the PMG population report and this is by far the highest grade. An original note without any repairs or graffiti that will increase its desirability and will be hotly contested. A magnificent note.

Chi Tung Bank, 100 Yuan specimen, ND (1937), control number 00165, dark blue on multicolour, Chinese-style building at right, reverse blue, blue, guilloche pattern, ‘Specimen’ and ‘Yang Ben’ overprint on both sides, hole punch cancelled, (Pick J117s1), PMG 53 About Uncirculated (Rust Lightened). Extremely rare, a classic note.

Chi Tung Bank, 100 Yuan specimen, ND (1937), control number 00165, dark blue on multicolour, Chinese-style building at right, reverse blue, blue, guilloche pattern, ‘Specimen’ and ‘Yang Ben’ overprint on both sides, hole punch cancelled, (Pick J117s1), PMG 53 About Uncirculated (Rust Lightened). Extremely rare, a classic note.
THE “LIBRA” COLLECTION OF THE 1961 DECIMAL SURCHARGES OF BASUTOLAND, BECHUANALAND AND SWAZILAND

Spink London, conducted behind closed doors, 13th May 2020

This small specialised sale includes all the known varieties from these three colonies including trial, double, inverted and misplaced surcharges plus a large number of lesser errors. Of particular note is that all six known examples of the Basutoland 2½c Type II on 3d with inverted surcharge are being offered as a single lot – a unique opportunity for the specialist.

The “Libra” Collection of the 1961 Decimal Surcharges of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland will be offered for sale by Spink London behind closed doors on 13th May 2020. For further information please contact Nick Startup, nstartup@spink.com.
GREAT BRITAIN
STAMPS AND
POSTAL HISTORY

Spink London, to be conducted behind closed doors, 13th May

This is an interesting and compact auction with an emphasis on the stamps of Queen Victoria and King George V Seahorses. There are many lower value lots to appeal to a wider audience.

There are also some exceptional Mulready covers including the charismatic Wotton-under-Edge Maltese Cross as well as superb examples of numbers 1 and 7 in Maltese Cross.

With over 90 Penny Black lots there is a strong showing of unused, with some exceptional examples, concluding with several groups and ranges.

The 1840 Two Pence offering features a stunning unused block of four in a very rich blue shade; used multiples with blocks of four, inverted watermark and cancelled by a blue Maltese Cross.

Included also is an unusually strong representation of the 1841 Two Pence with an exceptional unused block of six with sheet margin, an unused block of four and an extensive and duplicated collection of nearly 2,000 stamps, arranged by sheet order, of the two plates (plus 2d Stars issue) which includes unused, multiples and some superb used.

There is a good variety of Surface Printed both in used and unused as well as covers. The high values include two very fine mint copies of the £5 orange, one with corner sheet margins. Later issue highlights include a marginal Jubilee £1 green lettered TA showing the rare broken frame variety.

The magnificent section of the Seahorse high values has the Waterlow values to £1 (10), however the focus here is on the shades of the De la Rue 10/- where all shades are represented with singles and blocks of four, including some which are either stunning or desirable.

Also on offer is a fine example of the 1935 Silver Jubilee 2½d Prussian blue error of colour, a few officials and concludes with the usual Collections and Ranges.

Don't forget to look out for our online auction in May. This features another powerful selection of Great Britain lots with the focus on the stamps of Queen Victoria, and we expect bidding to be fierce.

Great Britain Stamps and Postal History will be offered for sale by Spink London, behind closed doors, on 13th May 2020. For further information please contact Neill Granger, ngranger@spink.com, or Iain Murphy, imurphy@spink.com
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, POSTAL HISTORY AND AUTOGRAPHS

Spink London, to be conducted behind closed doors, 15th July 2020

A wonderful offering of scarce and fascinating historical documents from Great Britain and Europe will be offered on 15th July; among many others, the following two documents aptly illustrate the depth of interest to be found within this year’s sale.

1555 (12th February) letter signed ‘Yo el Rey’ by King Philip II of Spain regarding unpaid amounts owing to Stefano Dorio, the Royal Messenger, from his pension granted by Charles V. Ostensibly this is as one would expect – simply an administrative letter signed by the Spanish King. It is when you realise that the letter is signed ‘Yo el Rey’ as ‘King of England’ that interest might pique, as following King Philip’s marriage to Queen Mary I, the King could claim the title of King of England as well as the Kingdom of Naples. Throughout March 1554 English Protestants rebelled Mary’s marriage, but King Philip held this title for four years between 1554 and 1558, to be removed on the death of Mary. So attached was King Philip to his title that when Queen Elizabeth I came to the throne, he sent his marriage proposal to her.

This document is the physical incarnation of a fascinating period in British and European history.

A long format document signed “George R” by George IV and titled “The Word for July 1826” listing alongside every day of the month the name of a County or City to be used as a password. It is not clear for which part of the Royal household these passwords were to be used but its concept and practical use conjure amusing images of household staff desperately trying to remember which home county was required to enter the restroom. In fact, in all likelihood this could have been the list of passwords to be used to gain access to the Tower of London in the month of July 1826 and is a charming relic of Georgian security measures. Part of the document is illustrated here.
“This document is the physical incarnation of a fascinating period in British and European history”
STAMPS AND COVERS OF SOUTH EAST ASIA

Spink London, to be conducted behind closed doors, 16th July 2020

This sale primarily comprises items from the Straits Settlements and Malayan States. Throughout there are numerous hand-painted essays, die and plate proofs from all the states plus a good range of issued stamps with many rarities.

The sale concludes with a wonderful collection of Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees from Singapore and Thailand, the latter with mail from the Burma – Thailand Railway.

Stamps and Covers of South East Asia will be offered for sale by Spink London, behind closed doors, on 16th July 2020. For further information please contact Nick Startup, nstartup@spink.com.
Straits Settlements 1935 Silver Jubilee 12c die proof

Johore 1903 $1 on $2 pair, one with “e” of “One” inverted

Johore 1876 Star and Crescent 2c mint

Straits Settlements 1883 2s on 8c with surcharge double

Selangor 1955 unissued 6c essay

Mail from the Prisoners of War

Card from a Gurkha

Little is known of the mail sent by the Indian and Gurkha POW’s, since very few cards are known. This is the only example of a card from a Gurkha known. It is the only card from Malaya or Singapore with preprinted messages.

No Name

Seal of Hayashi or Bogashi in orange

Preprinted messages

Card dated 27th June 1943 from Haki Lal Thapa, 2/2 Cattkha Bholo, to Nepal.

The card has two Indian censors marks applied in Bombay, and has a Kathmandu Exchange PO arrival stamp, although the date is illegible. From there the card was forwarded to Nepal. The datostamp top left is “Naruvil West No 4” (Nepal No 4 being the district), not far from Palpa. The date is 8th day of 8th month, Bikram Sambat year 2000. This translates to 21st November 1943.
THE “DUBOIS” COLLECTION OF JAMAICA POSTAL HISTORY AND STAMPS PART I

CONSIDERED TO BE THE GREATEST COLLECTION OF JAMAICA EVER FORMED

London, September 2020

The “Dubois” collection of Jamaica postal history and stamps has been formed over almost forty years by a most discerning collector and features some items of great historical importance and rarity. Right from the 1692 first-hand account of the Port Royal earthquake, the sale features a remarkable range of the pre-stamp postal handstamps and markings through to unique hand-painted essays, outstanding proofs and printing errors. A further highlight is an outstanding section of Great Britain used in Jamaica. The strength and depth of this quality A to Z collection is remarkable, and covers a wide number of British colonies with the main emphasis of those in the West Indies. Among the issued stamps, there are a number of great rarities from all the reigns, varieties of all sorts plus many King George VI sets in imprint blocks of four or larger.

The “Dubois” collection of Jamaica Postal History and Stamps will be offered in two parts in 2020-21. Part I will be offered for sale in London in September 2020. For further information please contact Nick Startup, nstartup@spink.com, or David Parsons, dparsons@spink.com.
1858 6d. GB abroad

1692 letter documenting the catastrophic earthquake which struck Port Royal on 7th June of that year
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or visit our showroom to view the full selection of Abafil products on offer, many customised with the Spink logo.
THE REMARKABLE
1857-1861 ISSUE COVER ADDRESSED TO QUEEN VICTORIA
FROM THE DR EDWARD AND JOANNE DAUER COLLECTION

We are pleased to offer for sale in 2020 this beautiful 1860 (27 Aug) envelope from Concord in New Hampshire, America to “Victoria Queen, Great Britain” bearing 1857-1861 issue two 1c type V, two 3c type II and 10c type V pair + two single; a wonderful three colour franking. A quite exceptional combination of history and philatelic rarity, making this piece highly desirable.

During 1860 Queen Victoria was represented by Albert Edward, the Prince of Wales, in the undertaking of a royal tour of Canada. The Queen herself remained in the United Kingdom to attend to domestic affairs, this being a long voyage. From his arrival in St John’s, Newfoundland on 2th July, on to New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, and finally the Province of Canada in August, the Prince was treated to gifts such as a Newfoundland dog and thrown grand balls, the likes of which constituted what would now be termed a true ‘royal reception’. In fact, the Prince’s tour would set the tone and format for all royal visits to come. The Prince of Wales would also go on to visit America at points on his visit.

This extraordinary cover addressed to Queen Victoria harkens back to this important royal visit. It is possible that the contents, no longer present, reported details of the Prince of Wales’ progress to the Queen.

This remarkable item will be offered for sale by Spink London during the latter half of 2020. For further information please contact Tom Fell, tfell@spink.com.
“A quite exceptional combination of history and philatelic rarity, making this piece highly desirable”
THE STORY BEHIND THE MEDAL

The Medals of Sir John Astley Bt. (l-r) British Crimea Medal (clasps 'Alma' and 'Sebastopol'); Order of the Medjidie IV Class; Turkish Crimea Medal (Sardinian Issue)

Sir John Astley, 3rd Baronet Everley
‘THE MATE’ AND HIS CLUB: THE MEDALS OF SIR JOHN DUGDALE ASTLEY

The East India Club stands at 16 St James’s Square London, as it has done since 1849. Over the years since then several clubs have merged with the East India (usually for financial reasons) to give it its full title today of The East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club. With these mergers have come and gone many characters and individuals associated with London ‘clubland’, and one particular character whose life recently came to the attention of Spink medal specialists was Sir John Dugdale Astley Bt.

Readers across all collecting areas will know that Spink likes its sale items to find the very best of homes. The Medal Department therefore contacted the East India Club to advise the Secretary that, as the Club owns a magnificent portrait of Sir John, seeing his medals join the portrait would in effect be seeing them ‘go home’. The Club, with support from several members with an interest in military history, duly placed a bid but alas, it was beaten. Happily, however, the winning bidder decided that the EIC really was the best place for the medals to be and, generously, sold them to the Club at no profit.

The Medal Services Department had Sir John’s medals cased for display at the EIC, where they now hang proudly in a setting and atmosphere that Sir John would have known, loved, and thoroughly approved of.

But what of Sir John himself?

Born in 1828 and educated at Eton, he went up to Christ Church College Oxford where it seems he did very little actual work and spent much of his time gambling, horse racing and living the high-life with fellow members of the Bullingdon Club. Unsurprisingly, after a mere four months, he was ‘sent down’.

After a period of continental travel, in 1848 at the age of twenty the young Honourable John (he succeeded to the Baronetcy in 1873) was commissioned into the eminently fashionable Scots Fusilier Guards – the third of the three Foot Guards regiments, which was to be renamed simply the now-familiar ‘Scots Guards’ in 1877.

After several years of home service (during which time a highlight of his career involved participating in the guard of honour which stood over the body of the Duke of Wellington as it lay in state at the Royal Hospital Chelsea, on 13th November 1852), Astley’s regiment was mobilised for service in the Crimean War.

Notwithstanding their status as a regiment of Guards (derisively called the ‘Queen’s Favourites’ by other regiments) the 1st Battalion were very much in the thick of things, their first action being the Battle of the Alma on 20th September 1854. The Alma was a very bloody first battle for the regiment involving much unexpected engagement in hand-to-hand fighting with Russian soldiers and which resulted in no less than four awards of the newly instituted Victoria Cross being made to members of the Scots...
Portrait and Medals reunited

“The Colours of the Scots Guards at the Battle of the Alma – 20th September 1854” by Elizabeth Southerden Thompson, Lady Butler

The Scots Fusilier Guards giving three cheers to Queen Victoria before departing for the Crimea: The Honourable John Astley out in front?

Sir John Astley in later life, wearing his medals
Fusilier Guards. Astley, dangerously wounded in action whilst rallying his men, later called this battle ‘the most exciting day of my life’!

Less than two months later, on 5th November 1854, the regiment participated in the Battle of Inkerman – another terribly bloody affair which quickly became known as the ‘Soldier’s Battle’ due to the great numbers of officers killed and wounded, the ordinary rank-and-file having to carry on as best they could without their incapacitated leaders. The Guards played a significant part in defending the crucial Sandbag Battery position against vast numbers of Russians who had advanced under cover of a thick mist. Astley, however, recovering from his dangerous wound (a musket ball through the neck) was not present at Inkerman: instead, he spent some time recovering at home before heading back out to the Crimea to see service again in the trenches before the walls of Sebastopol.

The young Astley clearly saw a great deal of action with his regiment, his rewards being a British Crimea medal (clasps ‘Alma’ and ‘Sebastopol’); Turkish Crimea Medal (Sardinian issue); and Order of the Medjidie 5th Class. It is interesting to note that he always wore the slightly higher grade (4th Class), the insignia of which is part of his medal group today. An accidental bestowal during the investiture perhaps? History does not relate.

Upon retirement from the army he returned to his true lifelong passion – sport. He became a fixture of the Newmarket racing fraternity where his good humour, friendly bearing and bushy sailor-like beard earned him the soubriquet ‘The Mate’. A year before his death, in 1893, he founded the Sports Club – this merged with the East India Club in 1938 and, along with a number of members, the Sports Club brought with it the portrait we can still see today.

Researching the man behind the medal does not really get better than this: a story is uncovered which tells us of bravery, hardship and a colourful character living life to the full. ‘The Mate’ may be long gone but, through his medals, his story has been kept alive for generations to come.

Grateful thanks are due to medal specialists Marcus Budgen and Jack West-Sherring for their assistance with this article and ensuring Sir John’s medals are now ‘home’.
MEET THE SPECIALIST

Parachute training: waiting to board

1. Cross of Military Valour, Mention-in-Despatches bronze star
2. Combatant's Cross
3. Overseas Medal, claps ‘Central African Republic;’ ‘Middle-East’
4. National Defence Medal, claps ‘Foreign Legion;’ Airborne Troops; Foreign Assistance Missions’
5. Medal of the Nation’s Gratitude, clasp ‘Foreign Operations’
6. Medal for the Military Protection of Territory, clasp ‘Sentinelle’
It is not often that banknotes and medals have something in common – apart from the occasional stylised battle scene – but this article aims to highlight a particularly interesting crossover!

Banknote collectors will be familiar with specialist Arnas Savickas, part of the team comprising our Banknote Department, but many people will not know that Arnas is a former Corporal of the French Foreign Legion (FFL). Decorated for gallantry over the course of his five-year career with the Croix de la Valeur Militaire, in addition to the Croix du combattant and several other campaign medals, Arnas kindly agreed to a short article outlining his military career.

“"I remember the excitement, the adventure, and the adrenaline: training was hard but very rewarding and cohesion and esprit-de-corps was incredibly strong within every section, platoon and company due to the challenges we faced together.”"

Born and raised in Lithuania, but with a yearning to travel and see the world, at the age of 18 Arnas found himself in Lille and decided to apply to Servir la France. After a basic fitness test he was sent to Fort de Nogent (a fortification on the north-eastern edge of Paris, which saw significant action during both the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 and the Second World War) which houses an FFL recruitment centre. Here, Arnas and fellow potential recruits were subjected to rigorous rounds of interviews; those who passed were then sent on to the commune of Aubagne – the Headquarters of Foreign Legion Command and 1st Foreign Regiment.

Interestingly, Aubagne is also the location of the French Foreign Legion Museum: the latter’s most unusual exhibit being the wooden hand of Captain Jean Danjou. Danjou is famous throughout the Legion for the Battle of Camaron in April 1863, where 65 officers and men fought a heroic last-stand action against an overwhelming force of 3,000 Mexican soldiers and of which there were only five survivors – Danjou not being one of them. The Legion celebrates ‘Camerone Day’ on 30th April every year, during which Captain Danjou’s wooden hand is proudly carried on parade by a highly-honoured Legionnaire.

Aubagne is also infamous in the Legion for the high-intensity tests and exercises set to potential recruits – indeed, the permanent staff non-commissioned officers conducted what were quickly nicknamed ‘Gestapo’ interviews due to their fearsome nature. It was these NCOs who further whittled-down the selection process: those who passed went on to the next stage – four months of basic training. This involved attachment to 4e Régiment Étranger Castelnau-dary learning all the initial military skills: weapons-handling, words of command, tactics and, of course, the French language. Those who finished top of their classes were able to select their regiment of choice within the FFL, with Arnas joining 2eme Régiment Étranger de Parachutistes (REP). The 2eme specialised in deploying on operations by parachute and so, in addition to familiarisation and assessments on many different types of weapon systems (including scoped rifles, explosives and guided missiles); after seven successful jumps, all those
who passed were awarded their ‘wings’ and were able to select their preference for one of four Companies within the regiment: Arnas joined 4th Company, the aptly-named ‘Destructeurs-Snipers’.

After nearly eighteen months of service and at the age of 19, in 2014 he embarked on his first Operation – the destination being the Central African Republic – which, like most standard deployments, lasted six months. It was during this operation that Arnas was awarded two military crosses (Croix de Valeur Militaire and the Croix du combattant), in addition to the Medaille de Outre Mer.

Here Arnas takes up the story:

Experiences in my first operation were extremely intense and very eye-opening; one of the most important things I quickly learned was how distant real human limits are, in the perspective of normal activity.

One experience that led to this observation was when our team was stationed on the border between the Central African Republic and Cameroon. As there were only three small groups of us (comprised of 5-7 men each) and we had to protect the area by day, at night one group would stay to guard the border and the remaining two would embark on infiltration to the nearest village where, according to reconnaissance reports, local revolutionary militias had their arms caches. To minimise the chances of being spotted by day, we would travel with armoured vehicles at night for around 5km, then disembark and start a 2km infiltration on foot, with at least 25-30kg of equipment each. We were doing this two out of three days, non-stop for two and a half weeks, which on average left us only 1-2 hours of sleep per day. To keep going in those conditions and carrying equipment of that weight, on perhaps two hours sleep in 24, really tested my endurance - both physically and mentally - to the limit. Two particular memories still remain strong with me:

On one occasion we were ordered to assault the residence of a local gun-dealer, our objective being to confiscate all the illegal weapons which all of them were most certainly were! This mission - as with every other - started with the usual infiltration, after which one group secured the perimeter and one went in on the assault.

With my task being to knock the front gate off its hinges as we went in, I remember looking at this gate and thinking that it was clearly too strong for one person, so with time being of the
essence I asked for reinforcements: in the end three of us just kicked the gate out and En Avant. The rest is history …

Another significant experience took place up in the northern part of the country, much closer to Chad. After a confrontation with hostile militias equipped with Soviet-era Kalashnikovs, KPVT 14.5 heavy machine guns (particularly dangerous weapons which go through two inches of iron like a knife through butter) and PMG7 rocket-propelled grenade launchers, subsequent to a quick briefing my team was ‘on point’ (leading) to explore enemy-occupied territory, the goal being to establish liaison with leaders of the opposition so that our own leaders could start negotiations.

While moving along a forest road, my role was to look through night/thermal vision binoculars and report any movement in front. I shall never forget the first thing I saw: two groups of militiamen (with numbers quickly multiplying) all armed with AK47s and some with RPG7s. Due to previous confrontations tensions were extremely high, though it was certainly reassuring to see a well-equipped and heavily armed helicopter circling above us, loaded with commandos, ready to provide support ‘just in case’. We knew more support would not be far behind as the helicopter contained a General overseeing the bigger picture – if things got bad, he could get us out.

Continuing our advance, after establishing our perimeter positions and commencing negotiation with the local militia, I suddenly realised that we had walked straight into their camp, and consequently were entirely surrounded. I hoped that our leaders knew this and took it into account while negotiating… After a couple of hours of negotiation, we withdrew 500m where the remainder of our Company were waiting to spend a night securing the area and encouraging the enemy to agree with our terms, which were all or nothing!

Although my regiment had offered me good prospects, after five years of service I met a girl in London and decided very quickly that I would like to marry her, but only upon leaving the Legion … so I departed and we were married three months later!

When I think back to my time in the French Foreign Legion I remember the excitement, the adventure, and the adrenaline: training was hard but very rewarding and cohesion and esprit-de-corps was incredibly strong within every section, platoon and company due to the challenges we faced together. ‘Doing battle’ for the Spink Banknote Department in pursuit of rare banknotes and collections is not quite like serving in Africa – but it still has elements of adventure, and certainly provides that familiar adrenaline rush on auction day!
Right: Saint-Aubin
Far Right: Schoenfeld

The Bank of Mauritius Museum
Right: Choisy Estate
Far Right: Domaine Anna
The Importance of Currency during the Indentureship System in Mauritius

Currency has played a vital role in demarcating the concept of indentured labour from that of slavery. In Mauritius, the process was initiated by the British with the goal of underlining the ethical and moral superiority of 'free' labour over slave labour. It was a unique occurrence, the more so that indentureship was primarily regulated by the terms of employment which encompassed wages rate, working hours, type of work, rations, housing and medical attendance.

The domain currency
The domain currency was essentially a geographically localised money. It was destined to be used solely within the boundaries of a particular estate and nowhere else. As such, the indentured worker, unable to use this means of payment outside the estate where he worked, was confined to spending it there itself. The domain currency also helped estate owners control the movement of indentured labourers and even discouraged them from evading their estate.

The Indenture system, although a contractual agreement between the employer and labourer, was regulated by different Acts too. In 1867, the new Labour Act stipulated that each immigrant should carry a ‘pass’ in order to show the authority upon verification their occupation and district they were working for. Failing to present the pass for verification led to imprisonment at the Vagrant Depot. The specific domain currency created on the estate even acted as a pass for the worker.

These unique coins are on permanent exhibition at The Bank of Mauritius Museum which was established with the support of The Mauritius Commercial Bank Group Ltd, The HongKong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited, Thomas De La Rue and The Royal Mint in 2017. The Museum showcases the rich and unique history of the monetary system of Mauritius since the early days of the Dutch settlement.

Domain currencies are today extremely rare by the very fact that their use was restricted both in terms of time and geography.

All domain currencies illustrated have a major historical significance. Photo Sources: The Bank of Mauritius Museum/MCB Group Ltd

“The domain currency also helped estate owners control the movement of indentured labourers and even discouraged them from evading their estate”
Portrait of Charles Selby (1702-1789) titled on reverse Charles Selby of Earl with Cup presented to him by Prince Charlie, oil on canvas, English provincial school, circa 1760. Private Collection, courtesy Koopman Rare Art Ltd
THE ENGLISHMAN WHO SAVED THE JACOBITES’ GOLD

While describing how Robert Strange prepared etching plates to print paper money for Prince Charles Edward Stuart to pay his troops as the Jacobite rebellion collapsed in 1746 (Insider, Winter 2019), Jonathan Callaway recalled the mysterious fate of a cache of French gold, landed too late to save the rising but ‘the subject of much entertaining speculation ever since’. The re-discovery of a silver cup has now solved a riddle which has obsessed treasure hunters for centuries. It also sheds important new light on the chaotic aftermath of Culloden when the defeated Jacobites, in hiding across Scotland, were riven by betrayals, suspicions and bitter jealousies.

On 29th April 1746, two weeks after the Battle of Culloden, the French privateer ships Mars and Bellone anchored in Loch nan Uamh at Arisaig on the west coast of Scotland to offload six casks of Louis d’Ors worth about £35,000 (£5 million today). The coins had been shipped by Louis XV of France in support of the Jacobite rebellion. As the rebellion had since collapsed, the casks were buried in several secret locations near Loch Arkaig. The whereabouts of the gold, its safekeeping and distribution, when necessary, to sustain or revive the Jacobite cause, was entrusted to Euan Macpherson of Cluny, chief of the Macpherson Clan, who had served as a colonel in the Jacobite army.

In April 1748, Prince Charles Edward Stuart, now impoverished and facing expulsion from exile in France, sent coded orders that Cluny should cooperate with Jacobite secret agent ‘Thomas Newton’—identified as Major Kennedy, an Irish officer in French service who had been in the prince’s bodyguard at Culloden—and recover the gold before sending it south to London. From his ‘cage’, a cleverly constructed Highlands hideout, Cluny promised to “raise so many of the cattle (sic) and drive you all I can…Let me know the place of delivery.” Unable to return to Scotland himself for fear of capture, Kennedy travelled to Newcastle where he enlisted the help, possibly through Jacobite Freemason connections, of Northumbrian farmer Charles Selby of Yarl (now Earle) near Wooler. Charles’s name, taken from two recent Stuart monarchs, betrayed his family’s Jacobite sympathies. A kinsman of the Selbys of Biddlestone, a Catholic family with strong Jacobite ties, his father William Selby (1668-1723) had been ‘out’ in the earlier 1715 rebellion. William Selby’s imprisonment may have caused his early death and radicalised his son as Charles seized this chance to serve the exiled prince, telling Kennedy that “I am sincerely yours to command at any time, & particularly when there is question of anything that regards our Dear friend, whom I should always serve at the expense of my life & fortune.”

Visiting Yarl, Kennedy was introduced to Cluny’s brother-in-law Donald Macpherson of Breachachie with whom Selby was acquainted. Breachachie and Cluny had both been on the shore of Loch nan Uamh on 19 September 1746 when Prince Charles Edward Stuart, after months on the run, often in disguise, had finally escaped Scotland in a French warship. Identified as ‘D’ in the secret correspondence, Breachachie volunteered to act as the go-between with Cluny and to carry the gold as far as the Scottish border where he would meet Selby. Selby would then stash the gold at his Northumbrian farmhouse.

“William Selby’s imprisonment may have caused his early death and radicalised his son as Charles seized this chance to serve the exiled prince”
before it could be safely delivered to Jacobite agents in London either by Kennedy or, more likely, by Selby himself, as the major had already been arrested once at Newcastle and feared he was being watched. Breachachie would be paid £600 (out of the gold) for his services but Selby refused all payment for risking his life in the prince’s cause.5

Satisfied, Kennedy now replied to Cluny’s request for delivery instructions telling him that the “safest & best place of delivery that I can find out is Yearl, a farm house belonging to a thorough gent, a friend of mine & which is less than a small mile to Wooller which is eight miles to the Southward of Kelso. This gent himself will go twenty miles on the Edinburgh road to meet D. who he knows.”6

In December 1748, Kennedy reported success in securing some, but not all of the ‘horses’ (no longer ‘cattle’) requested by the prince.7 Almost a century later, in 1835, it was reported that “an old man, lately deceased” recalled seeing the Highlanders return across the Scottish border after delivering the gold to Yearl.8 Selby then rode the gold down to London himself, accompanied only by a trusted servant.

In this way, Selby and Breachachie managed to smuggle £6,000 of the Jacobite gold out of Scotland and down to London in two runs. Kennedy promised another expedition to Scotland in 1749 as: “the jockey I deal with [Selby] is determined to take a tour to that country as soon as he has finished certain affairs”.9 In fact, it appears no further gold was secured for the prince as Kennedy was arrested in London soon afterwards. After interrogation he managed to escape to France and disappeared.10

Although the secret plan to transport the gold over five hundred miles from its hiding place in the Highlands via Yearl in Northumberland and into the hands of Jacobite bankers in London was successful, the treasure had already caused ill-will and resentment among the Jacobites and Highland clans. Both Cluny and Kennedy were accused of misappropriation by rival factions. The prince harboured his own doubts about Cluny and summoned him to France to account for the rest of the treasure, as well as his royal equipage abandoned during the flight from Culloden. Late to the action, Cluny had discovered the prince’s baggage in a deserted wagon near the battlefield. Many belongings had been looted, including the prince’s silver canteen (now Collection of National Museums Scotland)11; but several items of valuable silver survived, remnants of the courtly lifestyle the prince had tried to project during the rebellion.

Safeguarding these precious possessions caused Cluny further anxiety despite the prince’s initial suggestion, when they met after the battle, that, like the French gold, his silver should be used to sustain the Jacobite cause.

Writing from France in 1755, Cluny recalled that “these effects were removed to avoid danger at least fifty different times, and often by different hands in the dark of night, sometimes thrown into falls of water, sometimes into marshes, and sometimes into pits dug on purpose in the ground.”12 The prince claimed that his equipage had included a casket of jewels but Cluny denied all knowledge of this, further fuelling mistrust between the two men.

13 Meanwhile, the royal silver remained hidden in Scotland and, following Cluny’s death in 1763, it was entrusted to Donald Macpherson of Breachachie who had acted with Charles Selby in smuggling out the ‘Loch Arkaig Treasure’. After repeated requests from the prince in Rome, the remnants of the silver were eventually shipped from Edinburgh in 1765. Pressed by the prince to account for the many missing items, Cluny’s widow and daughter retorted that “they could answer for the plate with their heads” suggesting that, like the French gold, much of the prince’s silver had been distributed to support the Jacobite movement, as Cluny believed he had been instructed after Culloden.14 It seems a silver cup presented to Charles Selby was one of those items given away by Cluny, possibly on the
prince’s order, as Selby had refused all payment for risking his life smuggling the Jacobite gold.

The cup itself was made in 1743 by Paul Crespin (1694-1770), a highly regarded London silversmith of Huguenot ancestry with workshops in Soho. About ten inches high, it is of typical period form with a pedestal foot, two leaf-capped handles and a domed cover with baluster finial. The body of the cup is applied with banding and profusely flat chased with roses, scrolls and roccaille. The use of roses, nationalist symbols of Jacobite re-birth, which also decorated the prince’s silver canteen, suggest that the cup, a traditional object of loyalty, was a bespoke gift to the prince, possibly from a wealthy English sympathiser. It was important for the prince, and his followers, that he should display all the trappings of a court in waiting during the rebellion, and cups had the highest status of all silver objects. Practical and prized, they were used for ceremony and shared as courtly gifts and in diplomatic exchanges.

Amidst the decoration on the front of the cup is a cartouche engraved with the feathers and coronet of the Jacobite prince of Wales; again this closely matches the same royal device on the prince’s canteen captured at Culloden. A cartouche on the reverse has the later inscription:

From
Prince Charles Edwd Stuart
To
Chas Selby Esqr of Earle
in Remembrance of His Many Services in 1745 & 1746

By its styling, it appears this inscription was applied to the cup in the early nineteenth century, probably by Charles Selby’s son Thomas Selby (1756-1846). For reasons of his own security, Charles Selby’s role in smuggling the Jacobite gold, for which he would undoubtedly have been executed if caught, was kept secret during his lifetime. Nor did Selby mention the silver cup in his will, a legal and therefore public document, although he did have himself painted with his cup in a portrait which displays his obvious pride in his risky venture.

**Timeline...**

1743: Silver cup made by Paul Crespin for Prince Charles Edward Stuart, Jacobite Prince of Wales.

16th April 1746: Battle of Culloden

29th April 1746: Gold landed by Mars and Bellone at Loch nan Uamh and hidden at Loch Arkaig.

19th September 1746: Prince Charles Edward Stuart escapes to France.

April 1748: In exile, Prince Charles Edward Stuart asks Major Kennedy to recover hidden gold.

Major Kennedy, Donald Macpherson of Brearachie and Charles Selby meet at Yeurl in Northumberland.

By December 1748: Gold valued at £6000 smuggled to London by Charles Selby and a servant.

22nd April 1749: Major Kennedy arrested in London and interrogated about the gold.

June 1749: Major Kennedy escapes to France.


1789: Charles Selby dies.

1835: Story of the cup published for the first time by Thomas Selby.

1970s: Cup and portrait of Charles Selby seen in Edinburgh.

1998: Cup sold at Christie’s, Glasgow.

23rd October 2000: Cup sold at Christies, New York: Lot 462 ‘A George II Silver Two-Handled Cup and Cover’.

Collection of Barbara Wainscott (1947-2018)

31st October 2018: Cup sold at Doyle Auctions, New York: Lot 252, ‘George II Silver Covered Two Handle Cup’
Only in 1837 was Charles Selby’s remarkable role in the ‘45 finally revealed. With the Jacobite threat long since passed, and the rebellion now seen in romantic terms, the story of the smuggled treasure was published by John Burke in *A Genealogical and Heraldic History of the Commoners of Great Britain*. In his entry for the Selbys of Earle, submitted by the family, Burke revealed that:

*Mr. Selby, in the rising of 1745, sent a man and horse to aid Prince Charles, and himself and servant assisted in conveying a sum of money, in Louis d’or’s from the Highlands to London, in the following year, but for this service, refusing to accept any remuneration, he was complimented with a piece of plate, from the prince then in France. Mr Selby’s youngest, but only surviving, son is the present THOMAS SELBY, esq. of Earle.*

The cup then disappeared again until the 1970s when, still in possession of an unnamed member of the Selby family, it was mentioned by author Nancy Ridley (1911-1986) in *A Northumbrian*...
At Large (London, 1975). Ridley had been shown the cup in Edinburgh, together with the portrait of Charles Selby. Separated by a family sale in the 1990s, the cup travelled to America uncoupled from its portrait, with its meaning lost. Sold again in 2018, the cup has since returned to Britain with its history now fully restored. After lengthy research, the portrait of Charles Selby was traced to a family member and is published here for the first time. Together the cup and portrait tell an extraordinary story, and pay tribute to the exceptional bravery and resourcefulness of Northumbrian farmer Charles Selby.

The silver cup belonging to Prince Charles Edward Stuart will be exhibited from 4th May 2020. For further details about its sale and exhibition please contact Tim Robson, trobson@spink.com, 0207 563 4007.

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1. Athens, silver tetradrachm, second half of 5th cent. BC. Obv.
2. Italy, Rhegium, silver tetradrachm, second half of 5th cent. BC.
3. Thrace, Mesembria, bronze tetrachalkon, 2nd-1st cent BC. Obv.
4. Athens, silver tetradrachm, second half of 5th cent. BC. Rev.
5. Thrace, Mesembria, bronze tetrachalkon, 2nd-1st cent BC. Rev.
6. Thraco-Macedonian tribes, the Bualiti, first half of 5th cent. BC.
7. Celtic Britain, the Trinovantes, gold stater of ‘Whaddon Chase’ type, mid-1st cent. BC. Obv.
8. Macedon, Philippi, gold stater, mid-4th cent. BC. Obv.
9. Celtic Britain, the Trinovantes, gold stater of ‘Whaddon Chase’ type, mid-1st cent. BC. Obv.
AN INTERVIEW WITH DAVID R. SEAR

Ahead of David Sear’s much anticipated new release, *An Introductory Guide to Ancient Greek and Roman Coins*, Olivia Marshall from our book department asked the author to provide *Insider* readers with an insight into why the ancient coin-collecting community is still so prolific, and how we can encourage the next generation of numismatists. He began the interview by discussing what sparked his own affinity with coin collecting from a young age, and provided some context about the new publication:

“Growing up in England in the 1940s and 1950s my interest in classical history was initially stimulated by a school visit to the Roman city of Verulamium (present-day St Albans in Hertfordshire). I well remember being fascinated by the fragmentary remains of a civilisation that had existed almost two millennia ago in what was now a peaceful parkland setting with trees, fields and a lake. This visit had a profound effect on my imagination and inspired me to seek further information concerning our Graeco-Roman past.”

The subsequent gift of a late Roman bronze coin of the family of Constantine from an archaeologist friend of our family spurred a fascination for ancient coinage, though I had already been attracted by the display of Roman coinage in the Verulamium Museum. I considered the possibility of pursuing an academic career, but at the of sixteen the opportunity arose to join the numismatic firm of BA Seaby Ltd in London’s West End as an assistant in the Ancient Coin Department. This seemed too good an opportunity to miss so I joined the company as a junior to the eminent Polish numismatist, Lt Col Juliusz Kozolubski. Our association lasted for six years until his death in 1964, after which I ran the Department for the following nine years before retiring to East Anglia to devote my time to writing.

My interest in books had begun at BA Seaby Ltd, which in addition to being a dealer in coins and medals was also a numismatic publishing house. In 1962/3 I took it upon myself to rewrite HA Seaby’s *Roman Coins and Their Values* and this was published the following year as my first book. A decade later I realised that I was more drawn to writing than buying and selling coins and between 1974 and 2014 I authored an extensive series of publications focusing on the coinages of ancient Greece, Rome, and Christian Byzantium. This new *Introductory Guide to the Collection and Study of ancient Greek and Roman Coins* is the latest in this series of numismatic publications and is the first in what will be a three-volume set. It covers the issues of the Greek cities and peripheral tribes from the late seventh to the late first centuries BC. The other two volumes will be devoted to the regal coins of the Hellenistic monarchies, successors to the vast conquests of Alexander the Great (late fourth to late first centuries BC) and to the coins of Republican and Imperial Rome (early third century BC to late fifth century AD).

The study of these miniature works of art provides the collector with an insight into the classical world of ancient Europe, the Near

“I would wholeheartedly encourage those individuals, young and old, with an inquiring mind to consider ancient numismatics as a worthwhile field of endeavour.”

East, and North Africa. Increased fascination with these places and eras has resulted from the comparative ease and affordability of modern tourism and has stimulated an appetite for the acquisition of classical coins and antiquities. As demand grows the value of highly collectable pieces predictably increases and inevitably this has attracted a growing investor market to this field.

Although the majority of new publications on subjects related to ancient numismatics are of a specialised nature it has been my feeling that a more general introduction to the subject as a whole is needed to help the novice collector become better acquainted with what may appear to be a very complex and intimidating field of study. This is certainly a good time to enter this rewarding hobby as our knowledge of many aspects of ancient coinage has increased enormously over recent decades due in part to the discovery and publication of hoards in many parts of the Mediterranean world and northern Europe. Enthusiastic beginners in the twenty-first century are thus better equipped than earlier generations to gain a good basic knowledge of the subject in a comparatively short span of time. This is not to say that the acquisition of knowledge will not continue throughout his/her lifetime. Even after more than 60 years of constant involvement in the field it is still no great matter of surprise to me when I come across some fact of which I had not previously been aware. Such is the extraordinary depth of this subject.

I would wholeheartedly encourage those individuals, young and old, with an inquiring mind to consider ancient numismatics as a worthwhile field of endeavour. Not only is it a gateway into the broader subject of ancient civilisations but it also may lead us to a better understanding of our past and, perhaps, our future.”

As David Sear suggests, the guide aims to offer an accessible entry into the world of ancient coins for new enthusiasts, to encourage new collectors of all ages.

An Introductory Guide to Ancient Greek and Roman Coins (Volume I) will be available from Spink Books in late Spring – for further information or to purchase a copy please visit our website, www.spinkbooks.com, or email books@spink.com.
Since 1858, the ANS has played an important role in the numismatic community, housing a world-class collection and library, publishing award-winning books and online resources, and providing educational programs for the next generation. Members receive our highly praised quarterly magazine, access to our resources, and a discount on all publications. Please visit our website at NUMISMATICS.ORG to learn more and to view our collection and library catalogue.

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Figure 1. 1677. Letter from Seyde (Sayde), written by Anthoine Broquery, Chancellor of the French nation on the Scale of Seyde on August 14th to Marseilles trader François Ferrenc. Manuscript mention of carrier “reçue par la barque du patron Sauvy” (received by the bark of captain Sauvy). Arrowhead closing strip and strong marks of white vinegar disinfection, performed either during a quarantine at Pomègue island or at the end of this quarantine at the harbour Consign, which from 1670 to 1722 was a simple floating pontoon (A et B). (Coll. Guy Dutau).
Guy Dutau, RDP, FRPSL

QUARANTINES FROM PLAGUE AND CHOLERA TO CORONAVIRUS COVID-19

January 2020: it is over a century since such an event last occurred. Almost 120 years after the so called ‘Spanish flu’ epidemic, French citizens dwelling in the Chinese province of Hubei, where an epidemic of respiratory infections caused by a new coronavirus, Covid-19 (now SARS-CoV-2), raged for several weeks, were brought back to France and assigned to a “quarantine period” of two weeks. The virus, apparently spotted for the first time in November/December 2019 in Wuhan market (which was subsequently closed from 1st January 2020), can be responsible for simple rhinitis, or even for clinically silent infections (like many coronaviruses), but also for severe pneumonias. The death rate from these pneumonias is estimated to be 2-3% of infected individuals, but is it still too early to provide precise figures. The WHO rapidly issued an international alert, and declared the pandemic state on 12th March 2020 due to the rapid spread of the virus worldwide – in China and other Asian countries (Korea, Iran) first, then in Europe where Italy, Spain and France are most severely hit, and lately in the Americas and Africa. As of 5th March 2020, the number of cases reported worldwide amounted to 154,471, and 5,871 deaths; by 21st March these figures had risen to respectively 255,000 reported infections and over 11,000 deaths.

The experience derived from over 30 years of research into the consequences of major historical epidemics (plague, cholera morbus, yellow fever) on communication between individuals – particularly through letters and other mailed items (Dutau, 2017) – offers food for thought on the reactions of human individuals or groups when faced with a catastrophic disease, and to consider possible parallels between ancient epidemics and the one we are currently living through.

2. Individual and group protection

In France, quarantines have been stopped since the beginning of the Twentieth Century, and several decennia before in Great Britain. They were justified by the need to isolate patients suspected of being affected by some ‘pestilent disease’3, or showing the symptoms of one of


2 These figures are to be taken with caution, as they overlook most ‘silent’ infections, but also count as a Covid-19 victim every infected person dying – a number of whom had other health problems as well.

3 During the 18th and 19th centuries, ‘pestilent disease’ was not the equivalent of ‘plague’, but included other affections (cholera, diarrhoea, fever). Plague was usually
these, from the rest of the population. The fear of epidemics was actually extended to ship cargoes, as fabrics, furs and wool had previously been considered 'susceptible items', as well as paper.

This is why not only ships and their cargoes, but also the letters they carried, were disinfected (figures 1A & B, 2A & B). “Susceptible items” included any object “able to transmit plague” or other “pestilent diseases”. Over time, paper and books were also deemed “susceptible”, because paper was made from fabrics considered highly susceptible, such as wool, fur or thread. Consequently, letters as well as parcels and books were regarded as able to transmit those very serious diseases4.

Today, armed with our scientific knowledge — which still proves insufficient to treat and to prevent new outbreaks— we should not look ironically at the practices used in former times. Indeed, so-called 'modern times' have demonstrated how easy it is to transmit very severe, and sometimes lethal, infections by simply putting spores of the anthrax agent Bacillus anthracis in envelopes and mailing them. This major case of bioterrorism surfaced a week after the attack against the World Trade Centre Twin Towers on 11th September 2001). On this occasion suspect letters, mainly sent to official organisations, were sterilised through irradiation in specialised centers in Lima (Ohio) and Bridgeport (New Jersey), as requested by the White House and the US Postmaster General. Mail was centralised in Washington DC, where measures were taken to remove the smell consistent with 'letter disinfection'. This explains the late distribution of irradiated mail, which bore the supposedly reassuring stamps MAIL SANITIZED or IRRADIATED5 (figure 3).

At the beginning of the 19th century, plague was no longer the only disease justifying quarantine and mail disinfection. Several yellow fever epidemics hit Spain between 1800 and 1821, first in Cadix (1800-1801 and 1803-1805), and later in several towns of Andalucia as well as in Barcelona (1821) (Hoffmann, 1964). These epidemics were due to the importation of infected mosquitoes by ships coming from Central America, particularly Cuba (Havana) and Colombia (Carragena). The current spread of the tiger mosquito (Aedes albopictus) could similarly lead to dengue fever outbreaks in southern Europe.

The last quarantine at the Marseilles lazaretto, transferred in 1828 from Saint Martin d’Arenc to the new ‘Hospital Caroline’ built on the Frioul islands, was that of the Messageries Maritimes packet Sénégal, set for a cruise to

4 Smugglers (who imported fabrics and furs, and possibly with them fleas infected by Yersinia pestis), vagrants, foreigners to the city or country, and some members of the local communities were also suspected.

5 The rays used disrupted the bacterial DNA.

6 So called “Barcelona plague”, which prompted the creation of a sanitary barrier over the whole French/ Spanish border, from Cerbère to Hendaye.
Holy Land in 1902. This cruise was interrupted close to the Lipari Islands in Sicily, due to a case of plague affecting a crew member. The ship thus sailed back to Port-Dieudonné, where passengers and crew members were submitted to a full quarantine (Bertot, 1902). Among those passengers were several persons of fame, such as Charles Diehl (corresponding member of the Institute of France), Professor Bucquoy (of the Academy of Medicine) and Raymond Poincaré, who was later President of the French Republic.

3. Isolation and lazarettos
The history of cholera and plague tells us that, whenever an epidemic outbreak occurred, the first reaction of inhabitants of the city concerned was to flee, either by sea or by land. During the Great Plague of Marseilles, which ravaged Provence and neighbouring regions of the South of France (1720-1722), most city inhabitants left the infected city to isolate themselves in countryside houses, even before the city blockade was enforced. Others also sailed to La Ciotat, and foremost Toulon. According to the information available to date, this was also the case during the current Covid-19 pandemic, in particular in Wuhan, where a number of the city’s inhabitants took to the road before the total lockdown was activated. Similarly, many inhabitants migrated from the Paris area, where a major disease focus was detected early on, towards southern France.

This type of behaviour is not specific to a particular disease. As an example, a striking parallel can be made when reading the text of a letter sent from Paris on 26th April 1832 during the second cholera pandemic (1826-1841). It illustrates the (individual) fears linked to a severe epidemic, and the (collective) risks when willing to escape: “Every day, new and many victims of cholera can be numbered. Our neighbourhood was the first one hit; this is why we have seen from our windows manual burials, with carriages (…) In the midst of this evil, doctors maintain that it would be unsafe to get away (…) I had formed the project to leave Paris with my wife and children to spend some months in the south of France, but my wife was soon ill, then my son; we were thus forced to stay” (author’s own collection). This is how cholera spread from Paris (end of March 1832) to the rest of the Paris area, then to the rest of France and finally to southern Europe.

Jean-Noël Biraben wrote about plague: “Even more than that of the dead, the contact with infected persons is particularly feared” (Biraben, 1976, vol II, page 169). The most ancient means of isolating infected patients was to lock them in their own barricaded houses, and signal these houses with a cross (figure 4). In Reggio Emilia, Bernabò Visconti expelled patients from the city, whereas in Avignon, in 1348, pope Clement VI bought a piece of land, surrounded by fortified
walls, where wooden cabins were built to host and take care of patients. These wooden buildings, called depending upon regions ‘cabins’, ‘lodges’ or ‘barracks’, were burned down once the epidemic was over.

The authorities from major harbour cities (Leghorn, Ancona, Genoa, Naples, Venice, Trieste, Marseilles, etc) who traded mainly with the Near East, where plague was endemic, were well aware of the sanitary risks and built hospitals for plague patients which became lazarettos (isolation hospitals) (Panzac, 1986). Many discussions were held as to the advantages and drawbacks of their location, within the city or away from it, and if at all possible on a nearby island. Indeed, it is often on islands (or remote peninsulas) that lazarettos were built, for example the lazarettos of Venice (Lazzaretto Santa Maria di Nazareth, on Poveglia island), Marseilles (Hospital Caroline, on Ratonneau island), Bordeaux (lazaretto Marie-Thérèse, Trompeloup) and Lorient (Saint-Michel island).

An epidemiology professor, Léon Colin, insisted on the importance of building the lazarettos away from main cities, so as to “lower the pressure of commercial interests” (Colin, 1875) (figures 4 and 5).

During the current Covid-19 pandemic, the God Mountain hospital was built within 10 days, in early February 2020, in Wuhan, China – the place where the epidemic started. As of 15th March, a ‘pre-built’ hospital able to host 500 patients was installed about 60 km from Moscow. In Mulhouse, on 20th March 2020, a temporary military hospital with 30 resuscitation beds, served by military and paramilitary staff, was erected by the French Army. The US Federal Government decided to send the medical ship USNS Comfort to New York harbour, which has 1,000 rooms, surgical blocks and resuscitation equipment (figure 6). Again, the history of ancient epidemics shows that such provisional and floating lazarettos are nothing new. Among notable examples are

the history of ancient epidemics shows that such provisional and floating lazarettos are nothing new

i) L’Anne-Marie, sailing back from Havana and converted into a floating lazaretto together with two other frigates from Lorient, L’Alcibiade and La Pénélope, during the yellow fever epidemic of Saint-Nazaire (summer 1861); ii) the provisional lazaretto Château-Vieux (captain Ambroise-Jean Lejard), established in September 1885, during the fifth cholera pandemic, at some distance of the embankment of the (now Vietnamese) island of Poulo-Condor (Dutau, 2017). Such lazarettos could be established under the terms of the International Sanitary Convention dated

Figure 4. Plague of Rouen (1522). Infected houses are marked with a cross. Postcard, Girieud, edit., Rouen. Coll. Guy Dutau.

The move of the soldiers pinching their nose “to escape the smell of the contagion” will be later depicted again in the painting by Antoine-Jean Gros (1771-1835) “Bonaparte visiting plague patients in Jaffa”.
Figure 5. Bonaparte visiting plague patients in Jaffa, after the painting by Antoine-Jean Gros (1804). Drawn by Boudon, etched by Quéverdo, finished by Pigent. Behind Bonaparte, who, without protecting himself, touches the bubo of a patient, the general Jean-Baptiste Bessières (1878-1813), at that time “commandant de la compagnie des guides à cheval”, wears a cloth (handkerchief) in front of his nose. Between Bonaparte and the patient is René-Nicolas Dufriche, Baron Desgenettes (1762-1837), chief physician of the French forces in Egypt (Coll. Guy Dutau).

Figure 6. The quarantine buildings in New York City (Ellis Island). Engraving on wood. L’Univers Illustré, fourth year, August 29th, 1861, page 307.
27th May 1853, which allowed ship captains to enforce exceptional measures in case of sanitary emergency.

The system of isolation through lazarettos and quarantine was officially abandoned during the second half of the 19th century. However, as we wrote in 2017 in a postal history book about mail disinfection, the quarantine system “is still very present today in the collective memory”, and that the appearance or resurgence of some infectious epidemic diseases could “awaken passionate reactions and fears”. Now, early in 2020, these predictions come true. In the case of Covid-19, the resurgence of a known disease is not involved, but, much worse, the appearance of a new virus, and hence a new infectious disease, driving fear and leading to inadequate individual or collective behaviours. Current medicine seems at first helpless, but probably only temporarily, as, in a very short period of time, the identification of the virus, and shared knowledge of its nucleic acid sequences, have enabled international testing of known antiviral treatments and the start of vaccine preparation.

Nowadays, fighting infectious peril is no longer the business of one city or one region, as it was at the time of the plague epidemics or cholera pandemics. Quarantine isolation methods have been reactivated, and it seemed logical that when the French inhabitants of Wuhan province were brought back to their homeland, they were at first isolated as a precautionary measure in a holiday centre away from major cities, and strictly guarded, in Carry-le-Rouet – only a few nautical miles from the ancient quarantine hospitals of Marseilles … (figure 7). “History always repeats itself twice”, to quote the title of an essay by Dimitri Casali and Olivier Gracia (2017). Or is it often more than twice?

The persons admitted in those strict isolation

8 Captain Lejard, “missioned to the transportation of a number of patients, almost dying in Tourane” could not safely disembark them at the Singapore lazaretto “already occupied by 900 Indians suspect (of disease) and coming from Madras”.

Figure 7. Seafront of Marseilles. Geographical map drawn 1764 by Joseph Roux (1725-1793) 17 x 22 cm. It shows the city of Marseilles, the new quarantine building (Arenc lazaretto), the Frioul islands where ships had to stop to comply with the prescriptions of the city Health regulations. To the left are “le Vallon du Roy” et “Cary” (Carry-le-Rouet), where the persons brought back from Wuhan at the beginning of the Covid-19 epidemic were stationed. (Coll. Guy Dutau).
conditions, quite different from those that our ancestors ‘from lazaretos times’ had to face, were strictly held in custody during a ‘quarantine of 14 days’, the time needed to make sure they were free from any Covid-19 infection. Such a ‘preventive isolation’ is again nothing new. First prescribed by Bernabo Visconti in Reggio Emilia, then in ancient Ragusa (now Dubrovnik), newcomers had to spend a month on Mercano island before being allowed to enter the harbour (Maffart & Perret, 1998). After this Venice, Marseilles, the main Italian harbours, Barcelona and other cities imposed an isolation of 40 days (hence the “Quarantina” denomination), following ‘Hippocrates recommendations’9. Later on, the quarantine duration was modulated according to the incubation period of the disease and the duration of the journey in. Regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, the French media thought it correct to use the neologism “quatorzaine” to designate a 14 day quarantine. In law, this term refers to “a period of 14 days to be observed legally between each step of a judiciary seizing procedure”10.

During the current pandemic, many governments have enforced ‘containment’ measures, with diverse durations and modalities according to epidemic progress. The choice between partial and total containment is a matter for much discussion which, when one considers the very fast contagion progress, can lose precious time and ground to the virus. Complying with measures restrictive to individuals but absolutely needed collectively is sometimes poorly understood, and often poorly executed, which legitimates strict control procedures, such as the use of downloadable ‘derogatory displacement authorisation’ and police controls – before possibly even more severe decisions. These measures mirror those used during ancient great epidemics: I) ‘derogatory displacement authorisations’ are the new ‘bill of health’ (figure 8); II) non observance of the displacement restrictions leads to fines, the value of which have rapidly increased, and soon to more coercive sanctions (jail); in the time of plague and cholera, infringements of circulation bans were punished by fines, prison, forced labor, despatch to penal colonies, or even death in the worst cases11.

4. Transmission modes and risks

The French ministry for Health issued a list of Frequently Asked Questions, to be “regularly updated according to available knowledge”.

It is now established that: i) Covid-19 is a new virus; ii) the most likely hypothesis is that of an initial transmission from animals to humans, without any more precise detail at the moment; iii) transmission between humans is certainly by respiratory inhalation (Pflügge droplets); iv) the virus killed by heat, hence possible transmission risk via raw or poorly cooked meat and/or fish.

After a period of uncertainty and even downscaling (the severity of Covid-19 infection is in no way comparable to that of seasonal flu), it is now obvious that this new virus is highly contagious. Its incubation duration does not seem to exceed 14 days, which corresponds to the quarantine duration enforced by the French

9 According to Hippocrates, 40 days was the ‘pivotal duration’ separating acute diseases (lasting less than 40 days) from chronic ones (in which symptoms persist for more than 40 days).

10 https://www.cordial.fr/dictionnaire/definition/quatorzaine.php (consulted on 22nd March 2020). Even more precisely a quatorzaine is defined as "a time space of 14 days to be observed between each of the four legal declarations about goods seized. These declarations were made on four Sundays, each two weeks apart" - https://www.cnrtl.fr/definition/quatorzaine (consulted on 22nd March 2020).

11 Bulletin des Lois n°508. Loi relative à la Police Sanitaire (Sanitary Police Bill), 3rd March 1822, Titre II. On the sentences, offences and contraventions in sanitary matters. “The death penalty will be sentenced in case of ‘patente brute’ (yellow fever epidemic, known as ‘Barcelona plague’).
sanitary authorities for the French citizens isolated in Carry-le-Rouet.

The Ministry documents specify that "coronavirus Covid-19 persists up to three hours on dry inert surfaces, and up to six days in wet conditions". Therefore, "to clean and disinfect housing occupied by persons affected by Covid-19, it is recommended to use classic cleaning and disinfection products: detergents on wet surfaces (notably sinks, showers, bathtubs and water-closets), followed by disinfection with diluted bleach solutions as prescribed by the manufacturer". It is best to use "single-use gloves, which should then be disposed of". For the Health Ministry officials, "given the time and transportation conditions from China, the infection risk by Covid-19 after touching objects imported from China is considered extremely low".

At the time of plague the disinfection of people and places, most often carried out by 'Disinfectors’ appointed by the city officers, was based on the use of several "perfumes" assumed to eliminate responsible "miasmas": a "healthy odour" was associated with successful disinfection (Roucaud, 1919). The medical doctors from the Health Office in Marseilles wore beak-shaped masks and protective coats, images of which are well known (figure 9). While Asian populations are culturally used to wearing masks, as a sign of individual and collective protection, this is not the case in Europe – possibly because they are not widely available. In many countries, like France, masks are rightfully dedicated to nursing staff (doctors, nurses, etc) only, although not all of them have such masks handy … And, oddly,
we now see televised images, mainly from China, of big tank trucks – the modern ‘disinfectors’ – spraying disinfecting liquids in the streets. Disinfection through liquid projection and vaporisation surfaces again (figure 10). But do we currently know all transmission pathways of the Covid-19 virus? A recent paper published in the New England Journal of Medicine shows that the virus can persist up to four hours on a copper surface, up to 24 hours on cardboard, and up to two to three days on plastic and steel. It can stay up to three hours in aerosols. Therefore, the transmission through aerosols is of major concern for the nursing staff in direct contact with infected patients. This laboratory data does not mean that ‘persistence’ equates to ‘contamination’, but the precaution principle can reasonably be applied to the general population (van Doremalen et al., 2020).

5. Current or foreseeable consequences

The texts of the letters we know, written during the 18th and 19th centuries and coming from traders from Marseilles (with the Near East) or Bordeaux (with the West Indies) illustrate the severe losses caused by plague or yellow fever epidemics (Dutau, 2017).

With Covid-19, history stutters again: the new viruses came from Asia or the Middle East, and global trade is sharply hit. Economists and political scientists are unanimous in stating that this epidemic will have very strong consequences on tourism and trade. They estimate that Covid-19 could decrease China’s Gross Domestic Product by 2%, and the global GDP by over 1,000 billions of US$ or even much more! In a globalised economy, losses will certainly be multilateral, as a consequence of trade reduction by air and by sea. One immediate consequence is the crash of Chinese tourist travel to Europe and the rest of the world, and then of global tourist travel, so that activity losses are snowballing in many countries. However, history shows that after such a catastrophic collapse caused by an epidemic or a war, life rather rapidly gets back to normal, so that these losses might only be temporary. This rebound phenomenon was seen on multiple occasions, including in the years that followed the Great Plague of Marseilles or the so-
Figure 10. Precautions against cholera at the Serbian border in the form of sprays of a disinfecting solution. This measure is inefficient against a disease affecting the digestive tract, transmitted through dirty hands and water and caused by Vibrio cholerae. Le Petit Journal, 1911, n° 1050 (Coll. Guy Dutau).
called Spanish flu epidemics, the latter of which killed 30 to 50 million people (that is, 3 to 5 times more than WW1 itself).

Held by the famous ‘precaution principle’, populations now worry, for good or bad reasons, about the safety of Chinese products and goods, and wonder for instance whether it is safe to “eat Chinese” or to use drugs manufactured in China. They also ask themselves can we kill this virus? The French Higher Health Authority provided answers to all these questions, including a ‘yes’ regarding the use of imported drugs (which might be needed in the longer run); however, some of these answers might change as knowledge progresses …

One pending question relates to the handling of mail from China to France, which normally takes from six to ten days. The time needed for parcels is longer and more varied, ranging from a few days to several days12. To date, we have ignored the question of how mail from China to France should be treated – or if by any specific means. Only the future will tell …

6. Conclusion
The Covid-19 epidemic has awoken passions and fears, and the memory of great epidemics of a distant (plague, cholera, the Spanish Flu of 1918) and more recent past (SARS and MERS-CoV) show that the concepts of preventive isolation and quarantine are still very much alive – and working. Recalling historical facts, and putting them in parallel to the current epidemic, can be useful to understand some individual and group reactions, and to shed light on the actions of public political and sanitary authorities. The big question is: will we be wise enough to draw all useful teachings, sanitary or not, from this pandemic?

Guy Dutau is the author of Mail Disinfection in France and occupied territories: History, regulations, lazarettos, methods. For further information, or to contact the author, please email him at guy.dutau@wanadoo.fr, or via books@spink.com.

7. Thanks to…
Didier Andrivon for his advice and for the translation of the text; ii) Bernard Jimenez and Reginald Sorbara for their opinions and careful reading of the French text.

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FOLLOWING ON FROM OUR GROUND-BREAKING POLAR EXHIBITION IN NOVEMBER LAST YEAR, WE ASKED DAVID ROSE TO TALK TO THREE TIMES CANCER SURVIVOR PATRICK McINTOSH ABOUT HIS TREK ACROSS THE ANTARCTIC TO THE SOUTH POLE.

WHEN PATRICK McINTOSH FIRST CYCLED AROUND THE WORLD, IT DIDN'T TAKE HIM LONG. THE CHARTERED FINANCIAL ADVISER FROM SURREY BORROWED A BIKE, AIMED THE HANDLEBARS TO THE LEFT, AND IN JUST A FEW PEDAL STROKES, HE HAD CIRCUMNAVIGATED THE GLOBE.

OF COURSE, IT HELPED THAT PATRICK WAS AT THE GEOGRAPHIC SOUTH POLE, HAVING WALKED THERE WITH THE RENOWNED POLAR EXPLORER CONRAD DICKINSON.

ACCORDING TO PATRICK, THE 138-MILE (222KM) JOURNEY ACROSS THE ANTARCTIC WAS “THE TOUGHEST THING I’VE EVER DONE”. AND THIS WAS NO SMALL BOAST, COMING FROM A MAN WHO HAS Sailed ACROSS THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, CLIMBED MOUNT KILIMANJARO, AND HAS ALSO BATTLED THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF CANCER.

THE 63-YEAR-OLD IS NOW DETERMINED TO CYCLE AROUND THE WORLD AGAIN, ALTHOUGH THIS TIME THE JOURNEY WILL TAKE A LOT LONGER - AND INVOLVES A LOT MORE PEDALLING.

LAST SEPTEMBER HE COMPLETED THE FIRST LEG OF HIS TRIP BY CYCLING MORE THAN 7,200 MILES FROM HIS HOME IN SMALLFIELD, NEAR GATWICK, ALL THE WAY TO TOKYO, JAPAN.

THE REGULAR BLOOD DONOR AND PHILOSOPHER HAS CERTAINLY COME A LONG WAY SINCE DISCOVERING HE HAD BOWEL, PROSTATE AND SKIN CANCER AFTER HE WENT TO GIVE BLOOD IN 2012.

“The doctors looked at the blood test results and told me I shouldn’t be able to stand up,” he said. “My iron levels had fallen off a cliff, and I was told something must be seriously wrong.”

Patrick says he owes his life to that early diagnosis: his low iron levels were caused by internal bleeding and he had surgery almost immediately, removing stomach muscles, five lymph nodes and seventeen inches of his bowel.

“Fortunately, the disease was caught early, and I was able to have that operation,” he said.

Having kept active all his life, Patrick did not want to let his ordeal slow him down. He adopted a vegan diet and started his own charity, the KMG Foundation, with the aim of raising awareness and contributing to good causes.

He also decided to climb Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania and just seven months after his diagnosis and surgery, he was standing atop the summit after a three-day ascent.

Sadly, though, his journey with cancer was not over. Shortly after returning from Africa, Patrick was told he had prostate cancer, and then skin cancer. He had further surgery to remove his prostate, along with more muscles and further lymph nodes, and he still requires regular check-ups to manage his skin, several years later.

None of this diminished Patrick’s appetite for a challenge, however.

In 2015, while still undergoing treatment, he trekked to the South Pole, pulling a 45kg sled in temperatures as low as -50°C, with much of the journey in high altitudes, 13,000ft above sea level.

“It had recently been the centenary of Robert Falcon Scott’s expedition and I thought, ‘why not’?,” he said. “Having had not one, but three cancers, I considered myself very fortunate to have survived, and I wanted to do something that would also get people thinking and talking about their own health.”

Patrick had previously sailed across the Atlantic with a friend who wasn’t so lucky.
“Cancer affects so many people,” he added. “A good friend of mine had bowel cancer diagnosed at the same time as me. We were the same age, the same level of fitness; the difference was I was diagnosed with stage 2 cancer, whereas he had more advanced stage 3 cancer.

“Sadly, my friend died a year after diagnosis. This made me even more determined to encourage people to get tested early, eat better food, exercise and stay positive.”

For his South Pole trek, he recruited Conrad Dickinson from Hexham, a former soldier who had previously joined Prince Harry’s “Walking With The Wounded” Antarctic expedition. The pair completed the gruelling trip to the Pole in 11 days, carrying all their supplies and equipment.

Patrick said he was relieved “to have had absolutely no malfunctions in my body whatsoever”, despite his previous illness and surgery.

“It was an extreme physical test but also a mental one,” he added. “The hardest part was just to get up each morning and keep going. But Conrad told me: ‘Either we carry on, or we die.’ and that helped focus my efforts!”

Upon arriving at the South Pole, Patrick celebrated with a cup of tea. He then borrowed a bicycle from the American Research Station and rode “around the world in 30 seconds”.

His trek raised more than £250,000 for charities and on his return to England, Patrick became a popular public speaker, giving talks about his adventures.

“The two most common questions I’d get asked were: ‘how do you go to the loo at -50 degrees?’ Answer: ‘Not easily!’

“Then, ‘What is your next challenge going to be?’

After telling audiences he’d like to cycle around the world again, “the long way around”, Patrick set off in May last year, with support from Dame Judi Dench and the England Rugby Team.

He then cycled through Southern England, Holland, Germany, Denmark and Sweden, before cycling across the whole of Russia from St Petersburg to Vladivostok.
“It may seem crazy to be doing all these mad things, but I am serious about raising awareness to help everyone reduce their risk of getting cancer in the first place.”

It wasn’t all smooth riding: Patrick had his bike stolen, battled extreme weather conditions including severe flooding and Siberian forest fires, and suffered from gout due to dehydration.

After more than four months of cycling, Patrick reached Tokyo safely on 20th September 2019, and by his efforts raised a further £125,000 for the World Cancer Research Fund and St Catherine’s Hospice, West Sussex.

But Patrick is not yet finished with his global bike ride. Fitting in time for work and family, in 2020 he will continue his journey in stages, starting with the UK home nations before cycling across America and Iceland.

“It may seem crazy to be doing all these mad things, but I am serious about raising awareness to help everyone reduce their risk of getting cancer in the first place,” he says.

To find out more or donate to Patrick McIntosh’s Life Cycle: A Global Ride to Fight Cancer, please visit: www.kmgfoundation.co.uk
Isle of Man Tyvek £1 note from 1983

In 2015 Clydesdale Bank became the first bank in Great Britain to issue a polymer note

The reverse of the Royal Bank’s Ryder Cup note features the trophy itself with Gleneagles in the background

The Northern Bank £5 note also appeared as a Millennium commemorative

The Royal Bank’s Ryder Cup commemorative note was a hybrid with a window in the polymer strip
THE STORY OF POLYMER NOTES IN THE UK

With the release by the Bank of England of the new £20 polymer note this February, and to celebrate our charity auction of Bank of England Notes on 8th April, Jonathan Callaway takes a look at the history of polymer notes in the UK and their steady progress towards replacing traditional paper notes.

Where it all started – the Isle of Man
Some people may be surprised to learn that the story of polymer notes in the British Isles starts as far back as 1983. In November of that year the Government of the Isle of Man decided to issue polymer £1 notes, a first for our islands if not technically for the United Kingdom itself, the Isle of Man being a self-governing Crown Dependency.

The material used on the notes was Tyvek 919, dubbed Bradvek by the manufacturers Bradbury Wilkinson & Co, and although 2½ million notes were issued over the next four years, the government decided to revert to paper notes thereafter. The problem appeared to be that the notes were not as long-lasting as expected and when well circulated tended to lose their ink. The notes are not rare and low numbered ones can also be found from time to time. They can be distinguished from the regular issues by colour – they were all printed in green rather than the purple of the paper pound they replaced – and which in turn replaced them.

Northern Ireland follows suit
Polymer notes were not seen again until 1999 when Northern Ireland’s Northern Bank decided to issue a new £5 note using a polymer substrate which was technically very similar to that used on current issues. The notes were printed by the Canadian Banknote Company on a polymer substrate manufactured by Securency, the Australian forerunner of Innovia (now CCL Secure), who are one of the main suppliers of the substrate to the Bank of England.

The Northern Bank notes were dated 8th October 1999 but not issued until 21st December 1999, just before the Millennium. They represented another first – the first vertical format notes to be issued in the United Kingdom while the design, a futuristic one featuring a globe and the Space Shuttle, seemed eminently suited to this format.

A total of 1.95 million notes were issued with the MM prefix (including replacements using the prefix letter N). Another 50,000 were issued as Millennium commemoratives dated 1st January 2000 with the prefix Y2K and sold in special presentation packs. This was the last £5 note to be issued by the Northern Bank and it stayed in circulation for several years. The notes are still easy enough to find though replacements in better than circulated condition are scarce.

The Bank of England decides to go polymer
It was another twelve years before the first press reports appeared in December 2012 about the Bank of England’s possible plans to issue polymer notes. The Bank did not confirm it for some time, declining in their press release in April 2013 announcing the new Churchill £5 note to confirm whether it would be printed on paper or polymer.

The announcement did however trigger a response which took them completely by surprise – the start of a well-organised campaign about the absence of women on the notes (the Queen excepted of course). The problem was that Churchill, a popular choice though he clearly was, would be replacing the only female on the Bank’s then current range of notes, the prison reformer Elizabeth Fry.
Perhaps fortunately, the Bank was already near to a decision on who would feature on the next generation of £10 notes – and this turned out to be Jane Austen who was to replace Charles Darwin. When they confirmed this in July 2013 they did so in the presence of Caroline Criado-Perez, who had led the campaign for female representation on the nation’s banknotes. This campaign had, incidentally, overlooked the fact that two females had already appeared on Scottish notes – Mary Slessor on the 1997 Clydesdale Bank £10 note (the very first non-royal female on a British banknote) and Elsie Inglis on their 2009 £50 note.

The Bank of England proceeded with a public consultation during which they used some polymer test notes based on the paper £5 and £10 note designs (sadly, none of these has ever come on to the market – perhaps something a future charity auction could address?). The public was broadly receptive and the Bank finally confirmed in December 2013 that both the Churchill fiver and the Austen tenner would be polymer. Innovia (now CCL Secure) were confirmed as the suppliers of the polymer substrate in March 2014 and in October De La Rue were confirmed as the printers.

Scotland moves quickly

North of the border, however, things moved more quickly. After some initial doubts as to whether the Scottish banks would go polymer, the Clydesdale Bank chose to issue 2,000,000 commemorative polymer £5 notes celebrating the nomination of the Forth Bridge as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This took place on 23rd March 2015 and the issue must therefore be recorded as the first polymer note issue in Great Britain (although not in the UK as a whole, thanks to the Northern Bank’s issue in 1999). The Clydesdale note was printed by De La Rue on their own Safeguard® substrate. 18 months later the bank issued a further 15,000,000 polymer fivers with the text amended to record the confirmation of the Forth Bridge as a World Heritage Site. The front of the note featured a portrait of Sir William Arroll, the engineer who designed the Bridge.
Not to be overlooked was the September 2014 release of a £5 Ryder Cup (golf) commemorative by the Royal Bank of Scotland. 500,000 notes were produced by the German firm of Gieseke & Devrient in their first and so far only foray into the UK market. The substrate they used was not pure polymer though, it was a hybrid of cotton paper and ‘polyester plastic’ material. Nevertheless, this enabled them to include a window in the note which was a first for the UK. The notes did not, however, sell well at £20 each in a presentation pack, and while spectators at the competition at Gleneagles were able to acquire one note each at face value, many still remain in the Royal Bank’s vaults.

The Charity Auction Phenomenon

The Clydesdale Bank was the first to arrange a charity auction of polymer notes with low and special numbers. This took place on 6th May 2015 with an impressive top price of £5,200 achieved by the no 1 note (FB/1 000001). There were few indications in the prices achieved that the polymer market was about to be transformed by subsequent charity auctions. 100% of the lots were, however, sold, perhaps an indicator of things to come, and this success rate was repeated at nearly all subsequent such auctions.

The idea of a charity auction was not new – the Bank of England held its first one as long ago as January 2003, co-ordinated by Spink, when the then Governor Eddie George oversaw the sale of notes with low or special numbers. The highest price paid for the lowest numbered note on offer was a now decidedly modest-looking £1,150 and the Governor was quick to remind purchasers that the notes would always be redeemable – at face value of course!

But when the Bank of Scotland decided to create a limited run of fifty polymer £5 notes to support the BBC’s Children in Need fundraising campaign, and then auction most of them off at Spink (a few were also sold over the internet), a new phenomenon hit the market. In previous sales most English and Scottish notes had gone to traditional collectors, but the limited edition of notes featuring Pudsey Bear took the market by storm: the no 1 note fetched £6,500 while the few reserved for buyers who could add the...
prefix and serial numbers of their choice – a new innovation – fetched an average of almost £3,500 each. The 12-year old Scottish schoolgirl Kayla Robson won the design competition for the Pudsey Bear figure to go on the note and was rewarded by having her name inscribed on the note (unfortunately for her she was not given one of them).

The sale, which took place on 8th December 2015, was part of a larger offering of Scottish notes whose prices remained unaffected by the unexpected mania for the Pudsey notes. A further four Pudsey notes were later auctioned in October 2016 with one fetching an astonishing £15,500, a record for a Scottish note. At the same time a selection of low and special numbers of the Bank of Scotland’s standard issue polymer £5 notes were also offered; this time the no 1 note (AA 000001) went for £12,500.

The bidding war for these notes squeezed out most of the traditional Scottish collectors and set the tone for future charity auction sales of low and specially numbered polymer notes. Who were these new purchasers? Almost all, it seems, were from the Far East, in particular Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. Many had not previously collected banknotes at all, let alone Scottish ones, but somehow their enthusiasm had been stirred by the distinctive design and instant rarity value. The opportunity to put their own prefix and serials on a few of the notes also proved irresistible and the higher prices achieved by any note with the no 8 in it was a reminder that this is a lucky number in Chinese culture.

**The Bank of England launches its Polymer £5 note**

The Bank of England finally launched its first polymer banknote on 13th September 2016, an event well covered in the media but briefly marred by a controversy over the presence of traces of tallow (animal fat) in the polymer substrate which certain religious groups (and strict vegans) objected to. The Bank undertook a review but decided that an alternative using palm oil would be environmentally unacceptable and this managed to take the sting out of the issue.

Online sellers were quick to cash in on the new notes, offering prefix AA01 notes at substantial premiums, not to mention confected ‘rarities’ such as those with prefix AK47. Also
seen for the first time were ‘false fakes’, where somebody had carefully removed specific printed elements of the note, or in a few cases even the entire printed reverse, in the hope of selling a “rare error” for inflated sums. There were not many takers as word got around the collecting community that “genuine” errors of this type would be an impossibility due to the complexity of the manufacturing and printing process (not to mention the Bank’s strict quality control procedures).

Bank of England Charity Auction
The Bank of England oversaw its first polymer note charity auction at Spink on 3rd October 2016, just a few weeks after the £5 notes were issued. It was a great success despite the highest price for a new low numbered fiver reaching ‘only’ £4,150 (AA01 000017). Some low numbered paper notes were also included in the 232-lot auction, starting with the first £10 note (LH01 000001), the first £20 (JH41 000001) and the first £50 (AJ36 000001) to carry the signature of Victoria Cleland. All achieved high prices with the £50 hammering at £8,500. One again, every lot sold.

Polymer £10 notes arrive
It was another year before the next note release, this being the Jane Austen polymer £10 note in September 2017. When the much-anticipated charity auction took place it was an astounding success with Far Eastern buyers again featuring strongly. A total of £269,338 was raised for the Bank of England’s chosen charities in a sale of just 140 lots, with the highest hammer price of £7,200 achieved by the no 10 note (AA01 000010). An uncut sheet of 54 specimen notes reached £13,500.

Not to be outdone, the three Scottish banks – the Bank of Scotland, the Clydesdale and the Royal Bank – held a joint charity auction a few days later offering a selection of their polymer £5 and £10 notes. As before, high prices were achieved for the three banks’ chosen charities. The no 1 Bank of Scotland £10 note (AA 000001) went for £6,000 while a pair of Clydesdale no 1 £5 and £10 notes (both W/HS 000001) went for £5,500. The selection offered by the Royal Bank of their beautiful new £5 and £10 polymer notes included ‘solid’ numbers such as AA 888888 which achieved £2,000 for the £5 and £1,700 for the £10 note.
Northern Ireland banks go polymer
In Northern Ireland, the move to polymer lagged behind the rest of the UK. It also prompted one of the four note issuers, the First Trust Bank, to give up its note-issuing licence after 194 years. (Until 1981 its predecessor bank, the Provincial Bank of Ireland, had been the issuer, but from 1982 to 1993 notes had been issued in the name of the Allied Irish Banks before they adopted their current name.) In its February 2019 statement the bank confirmed that the profitability of banknote issuance (much eroded by the low interest rate environment and the 2009 Banking Act which brought in tougher note issue backing regulations) no longer justified the investment in the new technology. The other three banks, Bank of Ireland, Danske Bank (who had acquired Northern Bank some years previously), and Ulster Bank, waited until 27th February 2019 to simultaneously issue their new polymer £5 and £10 notes. The Danske Bank did not issue a £5 note while the Ulster Bank was the only one to redesign their notes, to widespread praise at the innovative new designs.

Polymer £20 notes
The new Bank of England polymer £20 note was launched on the neatly auspicious date of 20th February 2020 and the Scottish banks followed within a week or so. All the designs were well received, with the Bank of Scotland choosing to issue a limited edition of 1,000,000 notes commemorating the new Queensferry Crossing, made available alongside the regular notes with the Forth Bridge on the reverse (and the two road bridges in the background). As with their £5 and £10 notes, the Royal Bank brought in an entirely new design, the £20 featuring Kate Cranston, the famous owner of the Willow Tearooms in Glasgow (forever associated with Charles Rennie Mackintosh, who still features on the Clydesdale Bank £100 note). The banks in Northern Ireland are expected to release their polymer £20 notes later in 2020, with the Ulster Bank having announced another new design to join their existing range. The charity auction of the Scottish banks’ new £20 notes on 12th February 2020 was actually
held ahead of the official launch dates of their notes into circulation, and indeed ahead of the Bank of England’s own launch date. It was another major success with 100% of the lots sold and a top price of £6,000 being paid for the Bank of Scotland no 1 note (AA 000001). The best price for a Clydesdale note was their no 1 note W/HS 000001 which fetched £2,800, while the Royal Bank’s AA 888888 reached £1,900. The Bank of England’s own charity auction will take place at Spink on 8th April 2020, and they are confident that it will be just as successful as their previous ones.

Future Developments – the Polymer £50 note
When the Bank of England formally confirmed that it intended to switch its £50 note to polymer in 2021, it also confirmed that the new note would feature the brilliant computer scientist and wartime code-breaker, Alan Turing. It has since been confirmed that the three Scottish banks will follow suit, though whether they will create new designs remains to be seen. There is also no news yet on whether they will do the same for their £100 notes, a denomination not issued by the Bank of England since the early 1940s.

In Northern Ireland we await to hear if the Bank of Ireland, the only local issuer of a £50 note in the last decade, will go polymer. The other two banks already seem to have given up not only on this denomination but also on the £100 note. It seems rising costs and falling profits may reduce the opportunities for the growing army of polymer collectors to add further notes to their collections of UK notes.

Given the evident success of the charity auctions above, all conducted by Spink, the chances are that they will remain a permanent feature of the UK paper money market. Perhaps the only surprise is that other issuing authorities have not tried the same approach.

Acknowledgements
My thanks go to Barnaby Faull and Pam West for information and words of advice. All images of Bank of England notes are courtesy the Governor & Company of the Bank of England.
“Within a matter of seconds, houses and buildings began to fall. As the earthquake passed the indescribable horror of the tragedy was revealed”
Port Royal was captured by the English in 1655 during the invasion of Jamaica. It grew very rapidly both in trade and in notoriety. Treasure from the sacked Spanish cities and goods from many hundreds of ships found a ready market here. It was fear of the men responsible for the acts, the Buccaneers, rather than the military, that deterred any Spanish attempt to recapture Jamaica.

With the signing of the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, most of the buccaneers accepted a free pardon on the promise of a more peaceful calling, but the rest turned pirate. Port Royal continued to grow both in wealth and wickedness. In 1680, the Custos of Port Royal was Henry Morgan, and by 1692 there were 2,000 very substantial brick built houses, each of several stories, in the town.

What treaties had been unable to do was soon accomplished by nature on 6th June 1692, when after a hot, sultry and overcast morning, the earth began to tremble. Within a matter of seconds, houses and buildings began to fall. As the earthquake passed the indescribable horror of the tragedy was revealed. What was left of the town was in ruins; thousands of people perished.

The above letter was written by James Wales, the first British appointed Deputy Postmaster of Jamaica, at Port Morant to his cousin at “the signe of the Star in Blazing Lane, London”.

The letter reads in part:

The 7th day of June last hapned a most terrible and unheard of Earthquake by which was destroyed by Computation 3000 souls and the Towne of Port Royall did fall, in less than a minutes tyme and then sunk into ye earth, but ye water being on both sides of ye town did force the earth to Vomitt up both ye Living and ye Dead, of the latter was my Deare bro Ruding and his wife.

The “Dubois” Collection of Jamaica Stamps and Postal History will be offered for sale by Spink London in September 2020 – please see Forthcoming Events for further information.

“With the signing of the Treaty of Madrid in 1670, most of the buccaneers accepted a free pardon on the promise of a more peaceful calling, but the rest turned pirate”
Parthian bronze belt plaque with a rider and his horse. His dagger is prominently shown at his side.

Roman denarius of Mark Antony, 40BC

Parthian tetradrachm of Orodes II, c. 40BC

Gold necklace probably from Dailaman, north-west Iran, 1st-3rd century AD. The outer discs show birds of prey holding a ring in their beaks.
Equal to Rome in power and military might, the horse-riding Parthians were crucial to trade on the Silk Road.

The term “Parthian” comes from the name of the satrapy of Parthava (Parthia), a province that was once part of the empire of the Hellenistic Seleucids, and before that of the Achaemenid Persians. In around 247 BC, the East Iranian Parni clan under the leadership of a certain Arsaces conquered this region in north eastern Iran/south-western modern Turkmenistan. Andragoras, the Seleucid satrap of Parthava, was killed in the city of Nisa and Arsaces and his followers established control over the highlands of eastern Iran. From here, they continued their advance into northern and western Iran, subjecting territories that had traditionally been inhabited by Parthian and Median peoples. As a result of these conquests and movements, the descendants of Arsaces (the Arsacids) became assimilated with the peoples of western Iran, and consequently abandoned their East Iranian language in favour of the west Iranian Parthian language. By 141 BC, the Parthian state had been extended into Mesopotamia (modern Iraq). From now on the term “Parthia” became associated with the entire state of the Arsacid dynasty, and classical sources referred to the Arsacids as Parthians.

The Arsacid Parthians are one of the three important ancient Iranian dynasties who ruled for almost five hundred years over a vast region stretching from the River Euphrates (in modern Syria and Iraq) to the River Sind (in present day Pakistan and India). From the early 1st century BC, the Parthians became Rome’s most powerful opponents in the East. By now, they had established a substantial empire and subjected various local kings to their rule. Their encounters and engagements with Rome were often related to the annexation of territories that lay between them and provided access to important trade routes. Armenia was particularly affected, especially as its kings were often related to the Arsacid King of Kings, but at times Roman sympathisers were put on the throne. Nevertheless, times of war were complemented by peaceful periods. It is interesting that throughout the centuries of rivalry, we also hear of political exchanges between the two superpowers and visits to their respective courts.

Despite the collapse of the Arsacid Parthian Empire in AD 224 and the subsequent rise of the Persian Sasanians, Parthian influence endured in the art and culture of Sasanian Iran. Characteristic features of Parthian art that continued into later centuries and even into the Islamic period are numerous. They include the use of frontality rather than profile in figural representations, and the costume of jackets, tunics and trousers, as well as the long-sleeved overcoat, which were all part of the heritage of the Iranian riding peoples. In architecture, the four-eyvan plan consisting of four facing vaulted structures opening into a large open courtyard is known, for example, from the 1st-2nd centuries AD from the cities of Hatra and Assur in Mesopotamia. This feature continued into the Sasanian period. The eyvan, together with the elaborate stucco decorations of palaces, were also adopted in Iran for mosque architecture and the decoration of the mihrab (or prayer niche) in the Islamic period. In addition, the Parthian concept of chivalry and heroism has echoed throughout Persian literature and today resonates in the modern Iranian athletic tradition of the zurkhaneh (“House of Strength”).

Despite the importance of the Parthian Empire and its lasting influence in the art and culture of the ancient Near East, very little attention has
We are sad that the exhibition Rivalling Rome: Parthian coins and culture in Room 69A at the British Museum, planned from 2nd April – 6th September 2020, has had to temporarily postponed due to the Museum’s closure, but are delighted to announce that the accompanying book by exhibition curators Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis and Alexandra Magub is now available from Spink Books, and will provide a fascinating preview of the exhibition for all clients interested in this fascinating area. Do please read the article in this issue by our authors for a taster; copies can be ordered from www.spinkbooks.com, or by emailing books@spink.com.

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Gold aureus of Lucius Verus. On the reverse the emperor galloping on a horse brandishing a javelin. A prostrating enemy appears under the horse’s hooves.

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Article is extracted from Rivalling Rome: Parthian Coins and Culture by Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis and Alexandra Magub, published by Spink Books in association with the British Museum in April 2020. It was created to accompany an exhibition of the same name in the Coins and Medals Department at the British Museum, now sadly postponed, and explores the interaction and confrontation between two superpowers of the ancient world. The book provides a fascinating preview of the exhibition until such time as the Museum reopens.

For more information please visit www.britishmuseum.org. To order a copy of the book please visit www.spinkbooks.com or email us at books@spink.com. RRP £20.

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For more information please visit www.britishmuseum.org. To order a copy of the book please visit www.spinkbooks.com or email us at books@spink.com. RRP £20.

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We are sad that the exhibition Rivalling Rome: Parthian coins and culture in Room 69A at the British Museum, planned from 2nd April – 6th September 2020, has had to temporarily postponed due to the Museum’s closure, but are delighted to announce that the accompanying book by exhibition curators Vesta Sarkhosh Curtis and Alexandra Magub is now available from Spink Books, and will provide a fascinating preview of the exhibition for all clients interested in this fascinating area. Do please read the article in this issue by our authors for a taster; copies can be ordered from www.spinkbooks.com, or by emailing books@spink.com.

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“The diamond is attributed to the emperor as far back as 1860, after French jeweller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier claimed in 1642 that it formed part of the Great Table diamond which studded the Shah’s throne during his reign”
Readers may recall mention of the ‘Shah Jahan’ Diamond during our interview with Anthony Spink in issue 34 of the Insider last year. The diamond in question, which appeared in a 1985 Christie’s sale in Geneva, is a pink-toned 56-carat table cut of a ‘spectacular’ nature. The head of the Indian family who brought the diamond to auction, who was by then very elderly, had once been a senior advisor to the Aga Khan, a spiritual leader of the Ismaili branch of Shiite Islam. This man had inherited the magnificent stone from his own father, and it is assumed the stone was passed down through many generations of the family, appearing to have departed India with the Persian invasion in the mid-eighteenth century; when the diamond failed to sell at the auction, it was privately sold to a European family. It is clear from many years of research into the stone that it is a strikingly unique specimen which covers an immense history – but what makes the Shah Jahan diamond so special?

Shahab-ud-din Muhammad Khurram, who went by the shortened name of Shah Jahan, was the fifth Mughal emperor, notably known for his contribution to Mughal architecture – including the commission of the spectacular Taj Mahal, which was commissioned in 1632 to house the tomb of his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal (and also the tomb of Shah Jahan himself). The diamond is attributed to the emperor as far back as 1860, after French jeweller Jean-Baptiste Tavernier claimed in 1642 that it formed part of the Great Table diamond which studded the Shah’s throne during his reign (from 1628 to 1658).

Although people long accepted this story, it has since been proven otherwise. In the late 1960s leading Canadian gemmologists discovered that the infamous Great Table diamond had in fact been cut into two gems, the Darya-I Nur and the Nur ul-Ain, proving that the pink diamond in question could not have formed part of the Great Table and dispelling the long-believed myth.

However, the diamond was found to have an equally interesting history of its own – and one not altogether different from that which was once assumed. After being examined by specialists at the Institute of Geological Sciences, the diamond was linked to a painting which is displayed in a the Freer Gallery in Washington, which depicts Jahangir Shah (fourth Mughal emperor and father of Shah Jahan) wearing a bracelet which contained a similar stone, of a table cut. Furthermore, a corresponding miniature was found in the collection of the Victoria and Albert Museum which illustrates Shah Jahan holding a turban ornament called a sarpech, made of gold and bejewelled with a cushion-shaped emerald and, below it, a familiar octagonal diamond. Despite the naturally ‘miniature’ dimensions of the piece, when examined closely it has been found to almost perfectly resemble the diamond under discussion – in fact, the resemblance is uncanny. Could this be our stone?

This is no ordinary diamond, and could not easily be mistaken with another. Jobbins and Harding, who examined it at the Institute of Geological Sciences, wrote in The Journal of Gemmology in 1984 that it is of a distinctly pink colour, which may be graded as ‘fancy light pink’, despite the conditions under which
it was examined not being ideal. An excerpt from the journal, entitled ‘A Brief Description of a Spectacular 56.71 carats Tabular Diamond’, gives the following analysis:

‘The upper surface is step-cut, and the very large table facet (approx. 27.5 x 19mm) extraordinarily smooth and well-polished with an adamantine lustre. However, it is not plane, but slightly curved as shown by the slightly distorted reflections of window frames … the cutting of the rear facets especially may appear crude, but when the stone is viewed in subdued lighting it displays an extraordinary ability to pick up any available light and reflect it brilliantly.’

It was also noted that the corners next to the drill holes appear to have been ground away, and that there was evidence of earlier drill holes due to marks along the edge of the diamond, suggesting that these attempts had failed, possibly due to fracturing. So the stone may have weighed more before the holes were drilled – for context, at the time of the 1985 Christie’s sale in Geneva, the unmounted table cut weighed 56.71 (metric) carats. These drill holes may have been added to allow a piece of wire or cord to be passed through, so that the jewel could be worn as a pendant. It is also possible that the drill holes originally allowed the diamond to be sewn into a turban or piece of clothing - what a statement that would make in the local pub!

It was towards the end of the 1990s that the then owners of the Shah Jahan diamond entrusted it to Spink to find a suitable buyer. Spink explored possible purchasers for this rare and extraordinary diamond carefully and discreetly, and arranged a private transaction. Shortly after that, the diamond appeared in the exhibition “Treasury of the World” at the British Museum, which exhibited the Al-Sabbah collection of jewelled arts of India of the Kuwait National Museum. The Shah Jahan diamond had therefore found a home worthy of it, in arguably the most important collection of Indian Jewellery in the World, thanks to Spink.

This fascinating background to one of the world’s great gemstones is yet another part of Spink’s rich archival history, and one which may still have further secrets to be uncovered.

‘The Shah Jahan diamond had therefore found a home worthy of it, in arguably the most important collection of Indian Jewellery in the World, thanks to Spink.’

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... if any House be Infected, the sick person or persons be forthwith removed to the said pest-house, sheds, or huts, for the preservation of the rest of the Family
Most of you will know of Spink’s long and rich history, founded in the year of the Great Fire of London – a city which was only just recovering from the Great Plague. Charles II had been criticised for leaving London to escape the plague in 1665, having given orders to be observed by all Justices of Peace, Mayors, Bailiffs and other Officers for “prevention of the spreading of the Infection of the Plague.”

Published by “His Majesties Special Command”, Orders 1-5 state that no stranger was allowed to enter a town unless they had a certificate of health. No furniture was to be removed from an infected house. There were to be no public gatherings such as funerals, and all houses were to be kept clean.

The National Archives’ transcript of Rules and Orders 6-15 is as follows:

6. That Fires in moveable Pans, or otherwise, be made in all necessary publice [public] Meetings in Churches, &c. and convenient Fumes to correct the Air be burnt thereon.

7. That care be taken that no unwholsom Meats, stinking Fish, Flesh, musty Corn, or any other unwholesome Food be exposed to sale in any Shops or Markets.

8. That no Swine, Dogs, Cats or tame Pigeons be permitted to pass up and down in Streets, or from house to house, in places Infected.

9. That the Laws against Inn-Mates be forthwith put in strict execution, and that no more Alehouses be Licensed then are absolutely necessary in each City or place, especially during the continuance of this present Contagion.

10. That each City and Town forthwith provide some convenient place remote from the same, where a pest-house, huts, or sheds may be erected, to be in readiness in case any Infection should break out; which if it shall happen to do, That able and faithful Searchers and Examiners be forthwith provided and Sworn to Search all suspected bodies, for the usual signs of the plague, viz. Swellings or Risings under the Ears or Arm-pits, or upon the Groynes [groin]; Blains, Carbuncles, or little Spots, either on the Breast or back, commonly called Tokens.

11. That if any House be Infected, the sick person or persons be forthwith removed to the said pest-house, sheds, or huts, for the preservation of the rest of the Family: And that such house
(though none be dead therein) be shut up for forty days, and have a Red Cross, and Lord have mercy upon us, in Capital Letters affixed on the door, and Warders appointed, as well to find them necessaries, as to keep them from conversing with the sound.

12. That at the opening of each Infected house (after the expiration of the said Fourty Days) a White Cross be affixed on the said door, there to remain Twenty days more; during which time, or at least before any stranger be suffered to lodge therein, That the said house be well Fumed, Washed and Whited all over within with Lime; And that no Clothes, or Householdstuff be removed out of the said house into any other house, for at least Three months after, unless the persons so Infected have occasion to change their habitation.

13. That none dying of the Plague be buried in Churches, or Church-yards (unless they be large, and then to have a place assigned for that use (where other bodies are not usually buried) Boarded or Paled in Ten foot high) but in some other convenient places, and that a good quantity of unslakt Lime be put into the Graves with such bodies, and that such Graves be not after opened within the space of a year or more, less they infect others.

14. That in case any City, Burrough, Town or Village be so visited and Infected, that it is not able to maintain its own poor, That then a Rate be forthwith made by the adjoining Justices of the Peace, and confirmed at the very next Quarter Sessions, for that use, upon the neighbouring Parishes, according to the Statute 1 Jacobi [James 1], so that such visited poor may have sufficient Relief; want and nastiness being great occasions of the Infection.

15. That you your selves use your utmost endeavours, not only to see these Directions punctually observed, and be in a readiness to render an Account as often as you shall be required, but that you strictly enjoy all high Constables, petty Constables, Headburroughs and other Officers, to execute their respective Duties according to their places; and if any shall fail herein, to use the utmost severity against them according to Law.

What relates to Physitians, Chysurgeons, and such other persons as are necessary for the preservation and help of such who shall be Infected, the same is left to your particular care and direction.

Lastly, That you take special care, that not only the Monethly Fasts, but that the publique prayers on Wednesdays and Fridays also, be strictly and constantly observed according to his Majesties Proclamation; And that such Collections as shall be then made, be strictly applied to the relief and necessities of the poor in Infected places, by which means God may be inclined to remove his severe hand both from amongst you and us.

It seems strange that in 2020, over 350 years later, many of these same methods are being employed to slow down and suppress the spread of the Covid 19 coronavirus. Indeed King Charles’s method of fighting the Great Fire of London by creating fire breaks – knocking down perfectly good buildings to starve the fire of the wood it needed to burn – can also be compared to the way in which governments worldwide are trying to break the chains of human contact which allowed Covid 19 to spread so rapidly. History yet again repeating itself – but yet again humankind will triumph over the horrendous hold it currently has on our world.
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LONDON NEWS

THE “DUBOIS” BRITISH COMMONWEALTH COLLECTION OF STAMPS AND COVERS

RPSL London, 18th March 2020

With the dark shadow of Covid-19 leaving some uncertainty on quite what to expect from this sale, the “Dubois” British Commonwealth Collection of Stamps and Covers went ahead as planned at the Royal Philatelic Society London on 18th March.

You would have been forgiven for thinking the timing of the Auction would result in subdued bidding, but in fact the opposite was true. Bidders not able to attend in person logged in to Spink Live and followed the sale throughout. In a situation like this we are reassured to have a sophisticated bidding platform, and with the current situation set to continue for some months ahead we can reassure vendors and buyers alike that thanks to Spink Live and our presence on other online bidding platforms we do not expect a dramatic downturn in the number of bidders at our auctions.

The sale itself consisted of just over 900 lots and was a broad A-Z collection from across the British Commonwealth, comprised of some rarities among more standard items, though of very high quality.

Strong competition was seen throughout for Multiples, particularly Plate numbers and Imprint blocks, with a huge amount of interest being shown in Lot 561, a Leeward Islands Key Plate Collection resulting in a £6,000 realisation, including premium, against a £600-£800 estimate, demonstrating that collectors are willing to pay a premium for scarce and attractive material.
“You would have been forgiven for thinking the timing of the Auction would result in subdued bidding, but in fact the opposite was true”
Bahamas, Cyprus, Leeward Islands, Rhodesia and Tobago each sold particularly well. British West Indies did well generally showing a little growth in these areas and holds promise for the subsequent “Dubois” Jamaica sale to be held later in the year.

The sale generated an 80% selling rate and sold 81% by value, selling a little under £500k.

This demonstrates the value of having access to SpinkLive from wherever you are in the world – a widely acclaimed bestin- class live auction platform, ensuring that our realisations stay strong during these turbulent times.

“The sale was very solid and in many cases prices were 10% above what I would have expected four weeks prior to the auction. Areas that performed well above my expectation were BWI, with Bahamas in particular having been soft for some time. KG VI was also very strong, fetching 20% above my expectation.”

Tim Hirsch,
Spink Managing Director
CHARITY AUCTION OF BANK OF ENGLAND NOTES

London, 8th April 2020

The new polymer £20 note featuring artist JMW Turner entered circulation for the first time on 20th February. To celebrate the issue of its most secure banknote yet, the Bank of England partnered with Spink to hold a charity auction of low numbered polymer £20 banknotes behind closed doors on 8th April 2020. The auction proceeds will be donated equally between three charities chosen by Bank staff: YoungMinds, Pancreatic Cancer UK and Alzheimer’s Research UK.

Key pieces within the auction included AA01 000010 as the lowest serial number banknote and a complete sheet of notes.

The new £20 includes two see-through windows and a two-colour foil which make it very difficult to counterfeit. Design features include JMW Turner’s self-portrait and his masterpiece The Fighting Temeraire. The new £20 note is also the first banknote to feature the signature of Sarah John, the Bank’s current Chief Cashier. Further details about the new £20 note are available at www.thenew20.co.uk

Caption Competition!

The winner of our Caption Competition in issue 35 is Simon Burke from Guildford:

“Some of our bidders are really camera shy!”

Many thanks for all your amusing suggestions.
BRITISH COINS AND COMMEMORATIVE MEDALS: SPRING AUCTION

Spink London, 24th March 2020

At 20:30 on Monday 23rd March, life in the United Kingdom changed. At a stroke, the Prime Minister approved some of the most stringent restrictions on civil liberties in the peacetime history of this nation. Ordinarily this would have provoked mass rioting and civil disobedience. However, as the world has watched horror-stricken at the rapid spread of this novel coronavirus from East to West, government-sanctioned public lockdowns following hotly in step, we knew it was not a case of ‘if’ it might happen in London, but ‘when’.

Therefore before Boris Johnson had even appeared to the nation on that historic night, Spink had already implemented various contingency measures to ensure their Spring Coin auction could proceed in almost any circumstance. Aided by our industry-leading SpinkLive platform and associated App (well worth downloading if you have not already!), the following morning we managed to connect over five hundred bidders around the globe in an auction that had evolved in mere hours from our traditional public showcase spectacle, to a ‘behind closed doors’ e-Auction with hugely enthusiastic intervention from a dozen telephones. We at Spink are well-versed in our auction battles, but given the unprecedented climate, one could sense the palpable upsurge in demand amongst collectors, desperate to escape the depressing news displayed across their TV screens and also, sadly, now on their doorsteps too.

Staffing a skeleton crew to stringently adhere to the last-minute update to Government public health and business guidelines and obviously to maximise the safety of our colleagues, the auction came to be testament of a true team effort. Not only did representatives of every London department man the busy telephones, but the New York Office assisted in ‘remote clerking’ and our Hong Kong office forwarded on their own local bidders as well as providing helpful insight into the health crisis that has now gripped their own offices for two months already. The results were astonishing: the pre-sale low estimate of £431,620 being all but eclipsed with a 95% selling rate and final hammer price of over £667,000. A result that we are sure you will agree is a much needed tonic of optimism in the current gloom.

How is it then, in a time of global crisis that the collectables market has so far remained so emphatically stable and strong? For it is fair to say that private doubts had been raised prior to our sale about its prospects during this current crisis. However our complete trust in our online bidding platform, further opened to enable ‘pre-bidding’ in the weeks running up to...
Here are some illustrative examples from the sale to explore this interesting evolution in the market dynamic.

For those less familiar with the numismatic market, the demand for Five Guineas in recent years is a classic case study for the wider growing interest in coin collecting, and the current prevailing trend for high-grade ‘showpiece’ coins. Such a state of affairs has been fuelled in recent years by such spectacular sales as the Slaney collection through this house in May 2015. Interest for these impressive coins was further turbocharged by new benchmark prices set by a 1679 example of Charles II (£180,000) again in our saleroom in March 2017. Since then six figure sums for exceptional examples have become the new standard, with lesser specimens rising accordingly to sit considerably above their ‘intrinsic plus’ valuations of only a decade or so ago. As seen in this sale, even these inferior or ‘type’ coins are now considered key market players in their own right. As our 1713 issue testifies, the once punchy estimate of £10,000-12,000 for this coin in 2008 (the last ‘great crisis’) is now entirely dwarfed by today’s final hammer price of £26,000 (+ Buyer’s Premium).

Their allure to collectors is simple; they are the largest denomination of coin struck in gold for general circulation in England and latterly the United Kingdom from 1660 to 1760. Their impressive size and weight is matched only by the opportunity for collectors to acquire almost annual dates of issue that remains neither too extensive a task, nor too limited a scope as to keep one entertained.

Another such example of the ‘prestige coin’ would be the Charles I Triple-Unite or gold Three-Pound coin of which two were featured in this sale. It is also the largest denomination coin struck for its period of use during the looming crisis of the English Civil War. Its appeal, and indeed the equally impressive price realisation, is not so much as a result of the collection ‘challenge’, for the coin only had a truncated three year-period of production, but as a result of the enchanting iconography and symbolism, medallistic method of production, and emphatic propaganda message from a most-troubled...
King. Both of these coin types however provide immense pleasure and entertainment to their lucky possessors, but as mentioned for inherently different reasons. Nevertheless it is on the basis of these collector curiosities, undoubtedly magnified in us all by the prospect of enforced isolation for the coming weeks and months that the results of 24th March may end up moving you too. Perhaps you should allow yourself over the coming days to reawaken that childhood interest you had in coin collecting, or perhaps simply your general interest in history and the feelings that go with holding the tangible artefacts. In any case you will find the Spink Coin Department on hand to provide regular ‘Numismatic e-Circular’ (eAuctions) offerings to keep you stimulated through this interlude and beyond.

If however the aspect of provenance behind a coin intrigues you as much as the physical object itself, it too is evident from the results of that day that such an asset is here to stay and will indeed grow further in times to come. Price realisations from that day once more show that such information is highly prized by the current market, being a key distinguisher between the relative desirability of a coin. While few of us have the spare room for our own numismatic reference library to check for provenances, the development of online numismatic libraries, such as that being developed by our Book department, has refreshed this increasingly outdated, inaccessible and largely inconsequential information source to once again become a talking point among the next generation of collectors, as they transition from purely amateur investors to discerning veteran purchasers of the best material their money can buy. Fortunately for our readership, you will be delighted to know that Spink has always recognised the importance of provenance in the market place, and will continue to do so in every sale it brings to market. It is how our name was forged in the field over the centuries, and how we believe we will continue to provide the best offerings in the market place long after this present crisis has ended.
For those similarly minded about the ‘longer term’ collectable, the recent trend by the Royal Mint to reimagine, re-explore and reproduce artistic models of famous coins is having a wider impact on the market. These ‘anniversary collectables’, being those coins struck in commemoration of a national or numismatic event, have gained traction amongst the wider population more generally, but have also seen ripples within the discerning collector pool, as again witnessed on 24th March. In 2017, the Royal Mint sought to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Sovereign, first struck in its recognisable format in 1817 and ever since loved the world over by bullion dealers and coin collectors alike. As a result of this issue, the original 1817 Sovereign saw a surge in market price, initially driven when buyers realised a ‘type’ example of the original coin was available for less than the cost of the new issue! Soon however demand overtook supply and this once fairly oft seen date is now hard to acquire at public auction or even privately. The two examples on offer were graded ‘very fine’ and ‘fine’, but still fetched £1,700 and £1,200 respectively – both tripling initial estimate. While the classic auction ‘tunnel-vision’ may account for this unabated optimism and collector hunger for ‘that next purchase’, it is also evident that the ‘anniversary collectable’ is coming to be an influential force in the present and indeed future market. With an eye for this, and given that the largest denomination of coin currently circulating in Britain is the Two-Pound coin, amongst which there is currently a huge collector base, it will be intriguing to watch the price of the original gold coin evolve in the coming months and years. It has not gone unnoticed that the first ‘Two-Pounds’ was specially struck in 1820, with the Bicentenary of its first appearance in circulation coming in 2023. Currently examples sell for a very reasonable £1,300 (+BP), but who knows how the market will evolve in the coming years?

George IV, Two-Pounds, 1823. The next market mover?

“One contented vendor!”
BEHIND THE SCENES AT NY INC

Behind the Scenes at NY INC with Nik von Uexkull

Wednesday 15th January 2020
Arriving at Heathrow Terminal 5 with four hours to spare I allow myself a little chuckle – what a leisurely morning this will be. Two hours later, having checked in my own bag (soon airlines will be asking passengers to fly the plane as well), navigated a circuitous trip through security and then waited an hour at the customs desk, I am almost in danger of missing my flight. Happily it is delayed, so your intrepid narrator can feast on a fine grilled English brekkie and a piping hot cappuccino.

Michael is shaking his head as we step onto 55th – I cannot tell if this is the exorbitant taxi fare or the crumbling wreck of a hotel where we are staying. We appear to have walked into a Wes Anderson movie, but Bill Murray is nowhere to be seen. Rolling my suitcase over the fusty seventies carpet I step into a lift, uncertain of whether it will reach the 23rd floor. Happily it does. Stomach rumbling I return to the lobby only for the fire alarm to go off. I smile at the receptionist – “it’s like Fawlty Towers” – she looks flummoxed and calls for Manuel.

Thursday 16th January 2020
Hmm. What time is it? Must be 05.00 surely. The clock reads 02.10. Ah jetlag, my old adversary. Unable to recover from the memory of ‘dinner’ I venture out past a bemused doorman into the icy chill of Manhattan before dawn. The hunt for oatmeal takes me past a couple of insalubrious remnants of the night but tread on I must, for what is life without oatmeal and black coffee? Elaine shoots me a quizzical look as we walk down 7th towards Times Square shrouded in plumes of rising fog. The Grand Hyatt is sleepy, not yet awake, as we set up the Morosco room for viewing – World Banknotes and the Numismatic Collector’s Series posters posturing proudly in the sumptuous corridor.

Jumping into a yellow taxi, trolley in tow, I head for the office. It’s not yet 8 but the traffic is building rapidly. As Mike wires up the tech I act as hunter gatherer: show materials, catalogues, brochures, books, lots, bids as all the while my phone goes ping. Rita on the phone – the show is about to begin! Taxi! Honking horns hail our arrival, Hyatt now wide-eyed and lithe. Three FedEx boxes to deliver and drop off, phone ringing,
back downstairs to hand over medals and stamps, escalator and elevators, up down, up down. Ballroom abuzz with a warm golden glow, phone pinging, room spinning – late lunch of grits, not sure what it is, no matter, time for bids. It’s late, around 8, racing down 6th frostbitten and drained and all the while my phone goes ping, ping, ping.

Friday 17th January 2020
05.30 hours. Sleepwalking into a lukewarm shower I find my oatmeal haven closed. Dozily I hail a taxi and drift to Lexington Avenue, emails scrolling past in a whirring blur. Stopping off at Grand Central for what I think is a pastrami and cream cheese bagel I slide through the silent corridors of the Grand Hyatt to the Morosco room. Opening up my laptop I finally manage to log in on the fifth attempt, spilling coffee on my trousers as I do so. Dear oh dear. At least the bagel will offer some sustenance. I open the bag and shower the table in sesame seeds – more concerning is the cheese, which appears to be tickled salmon pink. Where’s the pastrami? I glance at the receipt. Strawberry Cream Cheese. “How do you get those confused?” Elaine asks as we unload the lots for viewing. “We will never speak of this again, Elaine,” I murmur. Bids on the book, emails checked and only half 8 – time to print the auctioneer’s book. Nothing. Olivier enters the room asking how things are going. I’m not sure how to answer. Fifteen minutes. Olivier is calling for a team briefing and the book is still not printing. Ten minutes. “Where’s the book?” Charles asks. Good question. I stare imploringly at the printer and suddenly it begins to whirr. Resisting the urge to do a jig around the room I rush upstairs to the auction room where Elaine is busy registering clients in the vast chandeliered chamber. Two hours in and we are crawling through Portuguese India: a lone yoghurt and granola is sitting by Elaine at the other side of the room – so near yet so far.

As the auction closes with a very respectable result the cavalry arrives in the form of Sam, Greg and Barbara. Elaine hands over the precious pot and with a spoonful of sugar I am rejuvenated and restored. As Rita, Greg and Olivier handle the hustle and bustle of the ballroom, Sam, Elaine, Barbara and I manage the Morosco.
tapdancing, phones buzzing like honeybees, viewers streaming in engaged and enthused – a seamless whirlwind of activity. Unable to face eating alone in the sickly yellow prism of our rooms Elaine, Greg and I head out in search of sustenance. Head bowed into the icy gale, Greg has inexplicably forgotten his coat and proceeds to become hypothermic by the time we reach Times Square, laughing so maniacally I fear we may end up in A&E. Darting into a Korean restaurant we order Tonkatsu ramen and sake, waiting for Greg to thaw from his eskimo state.

Saturday 18th January 2020
Mission Oatmeal sees my loyal comrades Elaine and Greg join me at Brooklyn Diner for the most important time of the day. With all eyes set on the Numismatic Collector’s Series sale, the enchanting gold Crab Mohur and imperious Albrecht Durer-designed City of Nuremberg medal take centre stage with glamour and adulation for both alike. As the Morosco brims with excitement a blizzard batters the streets outside – speaking of snow, flurries of bids tumble in after lunch (Nachos and Tacos) and what a pleasure it is to greet so many friends old and new, bringing so much warmth and gusto to the room.

Buffeted by the wintry chill we head for the taxi bay, slipping and sliding in the slurry and sludge. The taxi driver is Russian and aside from his errant driving believes we are going to make his fortune, asking Greg how much a children’s story book signed by Stalin would fetch at auction. Greg’s estimate of $300 seems to dampen his spirits and we spend the remainder of the journey discussing how we can export this item out of Moscow. I fear he will be disappointed.

Sunday 19th January 2020
05.45 hours. Look sharp soldier! Starbucks is up with the lark – the barista does a double-take when I ask for oatmeal as if he has never been asked for it before. It’s a strange world. Charles is pacing when I arrive – his newborn has kept him awake all night. Sam takes this in stride and whizzes off in a hunt for Red Bull and black coffee. I think she may have done this before. By the time 9am comes round Charles resembles a Duracell bunny plugged into the mains, hammering the gavel down so hard the whole stage shakes. Spink Live is well and truly awake. Feverish bidding propels us on to the first ‘marquee’ lot, the splendid Durer medal selling for a magnificent $325,000. An avalanche of bidders parachute in for a fine selection of sovereigns and proof gold coins causing Charles to resort to the drastic measure of Red Bull shots on the rostrum. As we sell the glorious gold Crab Mohur for $300,000 we both allow ourselves a breather and prepare for the home straight. No respite as the Ancient section pushes up past the three-hour mark, and with our supplies of taurine dwindling will we make it? Flourishing the gavel like his life depends on it Charles battles on, concluding the sale with gusto and a defiant smile.

Closing the show with the news that the mighty Reds have seen off United, we pack up and bid a fond farewell to the Grand Hyatt and NY INC 2020 – see you all in 2021!
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JORDAN
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If you enjoy mixing film locations with history then a stay at Aqaba will offer you opportunities to enjoy both: from Lawrence of Arabia to Star Wars to Indiana Jones, with a dash of the ancient kingdom of the Nabataeans.

Staying at Aqaba gives you easy access to Wadi Rum, the setting for many films and a taste of the desert, as well as visiting Petra, which is the quite wonderful capital of the Nabataeans. Aqaba is strategically placed at the head of the Red Sea and has been continually inhabited for around 4,000 years. It is the only port in modern day Jordan and has its neighbours only a few miles apart; Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Israel – in fact you can see each country’s coastline from Aqaba.

The Arab Kingdom of the Nabataeans was placed across the incense route and derived its wealth from taxes on spices passing through its territory. Founded in the 4th century BC, it remained independent and immensely wealthy until annexed by Emperor Trajan in 106 AD. The capital city of Raqmu (current day Petra) is perhaps the reason many people visit Jordan.

The scene of Indiana Jones riding down the gulley comes to life as you walk or ride down the long path

The Treasury building is familiar to many people, but even so nothing really prepares you for your first sight of it as you walk down the narrow, age-old, worn, high rock chasm and you see the first image. It was designed apparently to create awe and a feeling of power to the merchants and others coming to pay their taxes. It certainly does that, and the scene of Indiana Jones riding down the gulley comes to life as you walk or ride down the long path.

Unexpectedly Petra is an enormous complex and although partly destroyed in an earthquake many of the buildings carved from the rock are clearly visible; you do feel as if you are within a very rich and powerful kingdom.

“Rum the Magnificent. Vast, echoing and God-like.”
TE Lawrence, *The Seven Pillars of Wisdom*

Wadi Rum is a complete contrast, no buildings to speak of, a landscape of weathered rocks, shifting sands of a rich colour from the reddish rock. Lawrence of Arabia led a raiding party through the desert and there is the memorable scene in the film where they charge on camel back at the Turkish lines at Aqaba; the main defences pointed out to sea as militarily the desert approach was regarded as highly unlikely. This is a mystical place where you can stand in absolute silence surrounded by age old rock as the sun goes down over the mountains.

Aqaba itself is a fairly uninteresting place, but the diving and snorkelling is excellent along the coast, with most sites easily accessible from the coast road.
INSIDER TRAVEL: JORDAN

How to get there:
Aqaba has Jordan’s only commercial airport, King Hussein International Airport, outside Amman. Royal Jordanian (www.rj.com) flies twice daily between the two cities.

For travellers flying in to Queen Alia International Airport, located 30 minutes from Amman, you can reach Petra in approximately three hours by car. If you opt for public transport, you can catch a JETT bus straight to Petra.

To travel the 65 miles (104 km) between Petra and Wadi Rum, private transfer is the most popular option. The drive south to Wadi Rum is a mix of the scenic but windy Kings Highway and the modern Desert Highway. Renting a car offers flexibility, is largely safe and hassle-free; signs have English translations and the roads are in good condition. Taxis are ubiquitous – a yellow cab guarantees a licensed driver with a functioning meter – but taxi drivers often want to take a full car, so you may have to share with other passengers. Duration: 1.5-2 hours

Where to stay:
Mövenpick Resort & Residences is central and within walking distance of the key sites, shops, bars and restaurants, with a private beach.

The Al Manara Hotel offers a blend of modern amenities, Arabic charm, Jordanian hospitality and five-star service.

For a more budget-friendly stay in the heart of the city, book a room at four-star Lacosta Hotel.
Spink’s Chief Financial Officer, Alison Bennet, has fond memories of a year spent doing voluntary work in Amman, Jordan in 1982-83. Organised by Project Trust, www.projecttrust.org.uk, her placement was at a Special Education Centre for children with a variety of physical and learning difficulties. Alison helped around the school and took over the art room, encouraging the children to express themselves creatively. The teachers took Alison and her fellow volunteer under their wings, welcoming them into their families and giving them a taste of warm Jordanian hospitality.

She also had the opportunity to travel widely in the area, visiting the stunning Roman remains at Jerash, swimming in the Dead Sea, snorkelling at Aquaba and marvelling at the treasures of Petra.
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26 March–6 April World Banknotes e-Auction
London 20108
2–9 April Luxury Handbags and Accessories e-Auction
Hong Kong 58008
7 April Prof Yih-Tzong Hu Collection of World Banknotes
London 20022
7–8 April World Banknotes
London 20008
8 April Charity Auction of Bank of England Notes
London 20056
14–15 April The Philatelic Collectors’ Series Sale
London 20020
16 April British Boromeo Stamps and Covers
London 20027
22–23 April Orders, Decorations and Medals
London 20001
29 April The Gary Diffen Collection of Australian Colonies Errors Part 1 - New South Wales, Queensland, South Australia
London
29 April The Lugano Collection of Venezuela
London 20038
26 March–6 April World Banknotes e-Auction
London 20108

MAY
16 April–5 May Bonds and Share Certificates of the World e-Auction
London 20118
6 May British Banknotes
London 20015
10–11 May The Numismatic Collectors’ Series sale
Hong Kong CS440
4–19 May Stamps and Covers of Great Britain e-Auction
London 20135
9–20 May Spink Numismatic e-Circulars Toy Money, Tokens and Tickets
London 20122
15 May Great Britain Stamps and Postal History
London 20052
15 May The ‘Libre’ Collection of the 1961 Decimal Surcharges of Basutoland, Bechuanaland and Swaziland
London 20043
18–28 May The Philatelic Collector’s Series e-Auction
New York 174
9 June The Numismatic Collector’s Series Sale
New York 360
10–17 June The Numismatic Collector’s Series e-Auction
New York 361
11–30 June Stocks and Bonds of the United States e-Auction
London 20119

JUNE
2–13 July Stamps and Covers of the World e-Auction
London 20146
14 July The Philatelic Collector’s Series Sale
London 20055
15 July Specialised Stamps of the British Empire
London 20012
15 July Historical Documents, Postal History and Autographs
London 20025
16 July Stamps and Covers of South East Asia
London 20035

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