

SPINK

WHERE HISTORY IS VALUED

ISSUE 38

WINTER 2020

INSIDER

STAMPS COINS BANKNOTES MEDALS BONDS & SHARES AUTOGRAPHS BOOKS WINES
COLLECTIONS ADVISORY SERVICES SPECIAL COMMISSIONS

Refreshed, Renewed Your Carriage Awaits



THE GREAT ESCAPIST | WATERLOO UNCOVERED | GIOVANNI DA CAVINO OF PADUA
THE TONY ABRAMSON COLLECTION OF DARK AGE COINAGE PART I | AN INTERVIEW
WITH JUDITH GRANT | VOICE OF A NEW GENERATION: CROSS-CATEGORY
COLLECTING WITH ALEXANDER HAIMANN | OLIVER CROMWELL'S WATCH



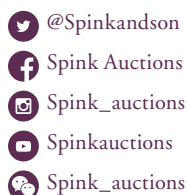
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Winter 2020

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A WORD FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends and Clients,

A strange and challenging year

Since I last wrote, and as I write, the UK and much of the rest of the world has gone back into versions of lockdown, meaning Spink is once again operating behind closed doors in some locations. But the lockdown will end soon, and I am sitting in our totally renovated offices in our historic location of Southampton Row. Therefore I am looking at the world from a different vantage point.

This year has left me and many of our staff exhausted, with a sense of a job done well and safely, but still so much to look forward to in the new year. 2021 will not see a total return to normality but at least the mood will change with the arrival of vaccines, and there are many, 200 of them including 50 in human trials now, which is great news. The mood is changing, hope is back, stock markets had an amazing run and are at record highs. Maybe it is the time to be a bit more prudent on the macro side as 2021 for sure is not going to be the walk in the park currently priced in the equities market.

In 2020 we have shown that we are well placed to serve our customers whatever the circumstance, as we move seamlessly between physical and virtual sales. In 2021, while we are going to continue to develop the digital side of the business, we hope to see many of you in our renovated showrooms for a totally different auction experience, and some good old-time social contact that we all miss so much. So the carriage on the cover of this magazine is an invitation to join us and enter with style a new era for collectables. Rest assured the Spink cellar is well stocked and we are all ready to welcome you “in the flesh” with a cup of tea, a glass of wine, or even better an old rum! I am thinking of bottling a few casks of 25-year-old British Guyana I kept for a great celebration of life.



A busy Autumn

Between the beginning of September and Christmas we will have held no less than 30 auctions both online and behind closed doors – an incredible achievement even under normal circumstances – finishing with the ‘Hermione’ Collection of France, 1849-1950, Parts VII and VIII on 10th December.

September saw the sale of the Stratos Sale of Spectacular Gold Coins, along with the Ennismore Collection of Anglo-Saxon and Viking Coins, both of which achieved surprisingly strong results.

The Stamp Department had an incredible number of sales throughout the autumn, from the Charles Freeland Collection of Three Islands right at the start of September, to Part 2 of the Gary Diffen Collection of Australian Colonies Errors at the beginning of October, loosely followed by part XIII of the ‘Lionheart’ Collection, the ‘Doyen’ Collection and Part 1 of the ‘Dubois’ Collection of Jamaica Postal History and Stamps in November, to name but a few. Prices continued to break records and show that collectors are as lively as ever whether bidding online or in the sale room.

Banknotes also achieved superb results this autumn, the Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes attracting keen interest and heated bidding throughout. Medals will complete their annual offering as we go to press, but we expect the trend to continue with fevered competition for some superb offerings including items from explorer Pen Hadow’s solo North Pole journey, which featured in our last edition.

Coming up

In this issue we hope there will be something for every collector to inspire and entertain over the much deserved Christmas holidays. We start with the article by seasoned collector Judith Grant about what first interested her in historical documents, and how being a woman in a ‘man’s world’ has affected her career and hobby.

Also included is Chelsea Pensioner John Humphreys’ account of his incredible escape from not one but two German POW camps – a truly inspirational tale of courage in the face of adversity, and a fitting story of overcoming the odds in these strange times.

Other highlights include our Coin and Banknotes NYINC auctions, taking place over what would have been the annual show, but being offered virtually this year due to the current Covid-19 travel restrictions. We very much hope that this will be a one off, and that we will all be back for the live auctions in New York in 2022!

Stamps will have barely recovered from their manic autumn before they head straight into our first Philatelic Collectors’ Series Sale of the new year, followed by The ‘Lionheart’ Collection of Great Britain and British Empire Part XIV, Stamps and Covers of Great Britain and the Guadalajara Collection, all before the end of January.

Our views on how Covid-19 is affecting the market

Today I wanted to focus on the question most vendors and buyers are asking me and our specialists, and share some observations. I sincerely hope this issue will fade away and disappear from our conversations as collectors! I have the feeling there is a high probability it will be the case, like it is now in mainland China – just a bad memory. In Shanghai masks have almost disappeared. Covid-19 might be out, but we will still have to deal with its aftermath, ie the economic and psychological ravages brought by the fight against the pandemic, and for those in the UK and Europe, Brexit, which almost completely disappeared from the headlines ...

Please allow me to put aside for a moment the human tragedies behind the pandemic, and to focus without emotion on the changes it brought to the collectables world.

Although at the time of writing none of our staff have been Covid-19 positive (we had our fair share of preventative self-isolations though), Spink, like most businesses, has been extremely affected as all our auctioneering centres – London, New York, Hong Kong, Singapore and Switzerland – have been among the most affected cities on the planet. In March 2020, it was in fact almost the “perfect storm” against us, with all our bases of operations grinding to a virtual stop due to stringent lockdowns and restrictions. Indeed in March, I was joking with clients working

THIS QUARTER'S
NUMBER

160

The number of days to carry out our major (seven digit cost) renovation for a totally different experience for our clients and staff

in the financial industry, and saying if listed Spink would have been the “perfect short”. But yet again a huge crisis would be turned by the smart and dedicated staff of Spink into a huge opportunity. We have kept a calm attitude as expressed in these columns in late March and August 2020, as we have seen a silver lining for collectables in this dreadful crisis. Indeed, Covid-19 has not yet brought anything new to the world, even if many commentators write about an “after” that will never be like before the crisis. Such statements are typical of any crisis, financial or otherwise, and the actual changes are often quite muted in the end. Humankind seems to have difficulty learning lessons from each crisis... but that’s another story.

Covid-19 is only an accelerator of pre-existing trends

Instead we believe the Covid-19 crisis has acted, and will continue to act, as an *accelerator*, of all pre-existing trends, like the move to digital communication (Zoom, Teams ...) and digital purchases (sharp increases in online sales for Amazon, Alibaba, of course, but also for all businesses with a user-friendly digital offering). It is also worth noting that one of the strongest bastions of resistance to online sales have also given in, as luxury brands previously hell-bent on the unique “in-store” experience as “the only one worthy of the brand” have now embraced online sales with many deals in the space, including the recent Farfetch deal with the luxury giant Richemont and Alibaba putting in US\$300mn each. It is a tipping point. We will see later we have also reached the same tipping point for collectables.

As far as our collectables industry is concerned, there is also a K-shaped recovery. We would argue that Covid-19 has improved the outlook for all businesses at the cutting edge of technology like Spink. For many dealers or small auction houses, without a real access to technology, it has been a really tough time, and we hope many spring back to action, even if in private conversation some longtime players make no secret of the fact that they might take this opportunity to retire.

With people working from home, or just spending more time at home if retired (typical of many of our clients), collectors have had more time to play with their collections and more importantly, with limited opportunities to buy in multiple collector channels and the virtual stop placed on going out to eat, entertain oneself, travel etc, pent-up money has been lavished on their collections. In France for example, in the nine months since the beginning of the crisis French households have saved an extra €110bn - a staggering amount. A similar trend can be observed in most developed nations.

Presented in a blunt way, people deprived of all their usual social connections have been able to demonstrate they were still active and well through bidding at auctions.

To paraphrase the “Cogito, ergo sum” of Rene Descartes, I would dare the more contemporary “I bid, therefore I am”. Actually a good start for a reflection on a life of collecting over the festive season.

The 10/10 rule

Hence we have seen in all categories, our selling rate increase by 10%; and the prices realised by average or even common items rise by 10% or more. These items are usually the most difficult to sell and we have seen this window as a unique opportunity for clients to sell their duplicates or less attractive items. If starting at an attractive price, the bidding frenzy would very often take the realisation beyond any logical pricing. Rare and important items are always easy to sell and sold no better or worse during the crisis, probably slightly better at the margin. Internally we called this new phenomena the “10%-10% rule”. We believe this rule will stay in force while movement of people is still restricted and then will slowly fade away, probably in the Spring or Summer of 2021.

I can accept that it is a bit counter-intuitive, but there has never been a better time in the last 20 years at least to sell collectables, especially items priced in the £100 to £10,000 range, where in collectables the audience is quite large, and hence the pool of bidders quite deep. We know that above £10,000 if we have a handful of determined bidders on an item we tend to

“One of the rare positive side effects of Covid-19 might be to have pushed our traditionally conservative customer base, led by me, into that bright new digital world where research, exchanges with like-minded collectors, and buying and selling are simpler”

be very pleased. As people spend more time at home, combined with a top notch searching and bidding system like SpinkLive, the consequence is that no item goes unnoticed and the underbidders, the unsung heroes of the auction world, are present en masse.

The move to digital is now irreversible... even if we don't welcome it, we have to accept it

Those of you who have met me know that I love human interaction, sharing a good meal, a good laugh, reuniting with old friends ... however I have always made sure Spink would be at the forefront of technology with the first live bidding system in the industry 15 years ago, and the massive revamp of SpinkLive in late 2018. My simple view is that if you walk in front of the pack you have a better view of the lay of the ground, and you can choose the path you prefer. But the journey is always faster and more exciting than we think.

For example the community of active SpinkLive bidders was a few dozen in January 2019, circa 1,500 in January 2020, and in October 2020 it was well over 10,000, a number we were not planning to reach before 2024 at the earliest. Every month we have had a sharp increase as all clients move online progressively, and at a much faster pace than they would have done without Covid-19, as acceptance of new technology has been traditionally slower in our more conservative client base of stamp collectors, for example. As we have all communicated digitally with our loved ones for the first time, the switch to digital for our hobby was more natural to make.

Evolution but no revolution

We had many great successes in stamp auctions recently, with a 100% selling rate at record prices for the Doyen and Lady Joyce auctions to name only two recent “white glove” sales (ie 100% sold). Who would have thought a year ago, that an auction of stamps with no viewing, in an empty room with only staff to man phones and internet systems would set such records?

To conclude, while we integrate Covid-19 and its ever-changing government regulations in all our global jurisdictions into all our plans, we see it more as an opportunity for our industry

and our clients.

We have always said that the future of our favourite hobbies is digital to some extent, or is bound to be lacklustre. Spink was the main sponsor of virtual Stampex and we were amazed at the level of engagement. The number of visitors to our virtual booth was probably ten times greater than during a traditional show.

One of the rare positive side effects of Covid-19 might be to have pushed our traditionally conservative customer base, led by me, into that bright new digital world where research, exchanges with like-minded collectors, and buying and selling are simpler.

Our grandchildren, at least those we have managed to bring to collecting, in a century's time may think that Covid-19 was the single most important factor to elevate our beloved hobbies to the next level. Do please encourage any new collectors into the hobby by buying one of our brand new Stamps of the World Colouring Books, the perfect Christmas gift for any aspiring young philatelist!

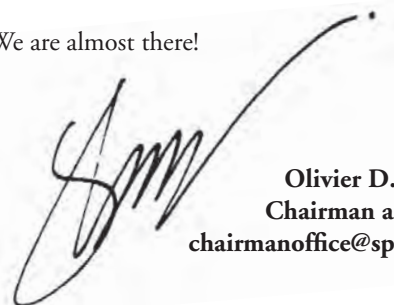
... hence the human connection will be more important than ever!

So we have “cabled” the new Spink HQ exactly for that. A space for efficient work with the help of technologies, but where human contact is still at the forefront of everything we do. We believe that technology is just a way to save time, and have longer and more fruitful human interactions.

We hope that in 2021 we can welcome you once again to our newly refurbished London premises, where you will be able to see for yourself our technologically enhanced workspace and enjoy our physical auctions in a more fun and intimate setting – where your health and safety will as always be our number one priority. But hopefully by then, we could say, and be politically correct, that this priority is now on a par with the enjoyment of Life!

Stay safe, stay happy and stay sane,

We are almost there!



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NEW YEAR, NEW SPINK!



As most of our customers will know, we have been undergoing a complete refurbishment over the past six months, and are delighted to welcome you to our new, enhanced office space once our doors are open to customers again. The new design is intended to give a feel of light and space, facilitate communication and reflect our move towards a more streamlined auction model. New concept, same level of service – you, our valued clients, will always come first. Do please come and visit us soon!



FORTHCOMING EVENT

BANKNOTES, BONDS & SHARES AND COINS OF CHINA AND HONG KONG

Hong Kong, 8th and 9th January 2021

Spink China's next numismatic auction will include many rarities, with the first day focusing on Chinese banknotes and coins and the second day on Hong Kong and world banknotes and coins.

The Chinese banknotes section is strong in the first series Renminbi, which includes specimens of rare denominations at high grades. The Hong Kong section contains many rare and choice vintage banknotes, including an exceedingly rare pattern note for the classic Chartered Bank \$50 colloquially known as the "Big Gourd". The world banknotes section will see an old time collection of Straits Settlements banknotes offered, consisting of various dates in the period of the 1900s to the 1930s and are largely in original condition.

Banknotes, Bonds & Shares and Coins of China and Hong Kong will be offered for sale in Hong Kong on 8th and 9th January 2021. For further information please contact Kelvin Cheung, kcheung@spink.com.



Yunnan Province, gold \$10, 1919, Tan Ji Yao on obverse, crossed flags on reverse, Chinese legend, (Y-482, LM-1057), PCGS UNC Detail (Scratch). A highly popular type coin and very rare



China, Republic, silver \$1, Year 21 (1932), Junk Dollar, 'Birds Over', (LM-108), very beautiful pinky toning, PCGS MS64, rare high grade.





0010



0010

People's Bank of China, 1st series renminbi, 1948-1949, 500 yuan, uniface obverse and reverse specimens, 'Zhan De Cheng', control number 0010, (Pick 857s), PMG 58 and 6. One of key notes of the series. Extremely rare and popular (1 pair)



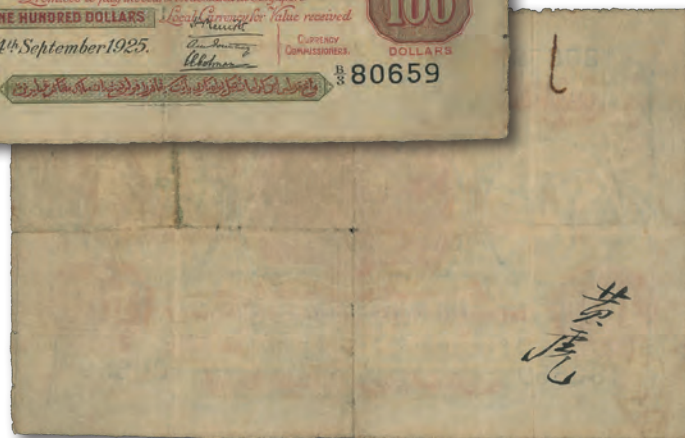
People's Bank of China, 1st series renminbi, 1950, 5000 yuan, 'Mongolian Yurt', serial number I II III 0428364, (Pick 857Ba), PMG 35NET Choice Very Fine (Repaired). One of the rarest notes in the series and with good initial eye appeal



The Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, \$50, pattern, no date but subtype of 1912, without serial numbers, printed signature of Dickson, brown, black and blue, vignette showing agricultural activities at centre, '50' at corners, reverse green and black, bank building at centre, hole punch cancellations, (Pick 43As), PMG 53 About Uncirculated. One of only two notes of this subtype graded by PMG and this one with the red 'SPECIMEN' overprint whilst a similar note that was sold by Spink China in January 2020 did not have the overprint. This note is therefore unique. All specimens of the 'Big Gourd' \$50 (so called because of the gourd like patterns at lower left and right) are rare and this is the second note the cataloguer has seen so far. A most attractive note with strong and vivid colours. Of the highest rarity



Straits Settlements, \$100, 24.9.1925, serial number B/3 80659, purple-red and green, George V at upper centre, denomination lower left and right, plain reverse, (Pick 13), PMG 25 Very Fine (Rust, Annotation). A decent original note and a highly desirable high denomination



The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation, \$5, 1.1.1923, serial number B374457, green and pale orange, value in orange low centre, arms at centre, junk at right, water carriers and street scene at left, manuscript signature low left, printed signature low right, value at centre and each corner, reverse green and brown, bank building at centre, value at left and right, (Pick 166), PMG 55 About Uncirculated. A superb original looking note with strong deep colours with only minor toning in the peripheries to prevent this from being awarded an EPQ status. One of two notes in this grade in the PMG population report. A marvellous note for the discerning Hong Kong banknote collector!



Straits Settlements, \$50, 24.9.1925, serial number B/5 20553, blue on white paper, George V at upper centre, prowling tiger below, elephant watermark at left and right, plain reverse, (Pick 12a), PMG 30 Very Fine (Annotations and Minor Repairs). An ever popular large denomination note!

FORTHCOMING EVENT

COIN SALES ROUNDUP

Spink London, December 2020 and January 2021

'Tis the season of festive treats and sharing gifts, and here in the Coin Department we have quite the Auction 'Advent Calendar' lined up for you!



WORLD GOLD COINS E-AUCTION

London, closing 14th December 2020

Following the 'Stratospheric' results of our 15th September sale, we are delighted to present Take Two! 450 lots of golden goodness that bring the world to your doorstep when the age of COVID has robbed us all of global travel. Whether your penchant is for staples of the English numismatic series, or you are minded more for the unusual – familiar historical Kings rubbing shoulders with the Kushan Empire and the forgotten principality of Katanga – follow the QR code for more information on this exciting month-long e-Sale and prepare to find the perfect stocking filler!



SPINK NUMISMATIC E-CIRCULAR 6 – HISTORICAL MEDALS AND TOKENS

London, closing 15th December 2020

The relaunch and re-imagination of our highly respected Numismatic Circular for the 21st Century auction audience has been one of the standout successes at Spink this year, undoubtedly providing comfort and entertainment for collectors new and old against a backdrop of gloom and lockdown. As the nights draw in, the SNeC returns with an offering of exciting Commemorative Medals and Tokens much like the original fixed price list offered the budding collector back in December 1892. From official Golden Jubilee medals of Queen Victoria to a fine series of Queen Anne, this small but exciting sale is a welcome tonic to stave off the chill of a winter night!



A LOOK AHEAD TO JANUARY AND NUMISMATIC E-CIRCULAR 7...

PART I: THE FRANK VILES COLLECTION OF SIXPENCES

London, closing 12th January 2021

As we shake off the remnants of festive cheer we can once more turn to SpinkLive for ample distraction with a highly specialised sale of Sixpences from Edward VI to Decimalisation in 1971. This fondly regarded coinage may once have been used to fill the Christmas pudding, but today graces the cabinet of Frank Viles, whose dedication to completing the series ensures both rarities and quality are open to all collectors no matter your budget.

PART II: A GENTLEMAN'S COLLECTION OF GUNMONEY

London, closing 13th January 2021 at 11am

There are only two occasions in British numismatic history when a month has appeared on a coin struck for circulation in the British Isles. The second instance occurred on 31st January 2020 when the so-called 'Brexit' 50 pence piece entered circulation (not including the two previous failed attempts!). At time of reading, Britain may well have 'Brexit-ed' or there may be yet more wrangling on the finer details, much like we all do with the arrival of the January credit card statement. The first time resulted from the Orange Revolution and the deposition of King James II. The bloody conflict spread to Ireland where James issued his troops with fiat money dated by month of issue with the proviso that interest could be backpaid to the recipient on cessation of hostilities. This fascinating series not only forms the basis of several recent in-depth, but by no means exhaustive, studies on the subject but also the backbone of this exciting auction

PART III: THE OKSANA BENNETT COLLECTION OF RUSSIAN COINS

London, closing 13th January 2021 at 1pm

As we gear up for the traditional NYINC sale period, we welcome the international community to the impressive cabinet of Oksana Bennett. Representing over three centuries of the Russian Empire, both currency and proof, and in gold, silver and copper. Unsurprisingly the cabinet contains both rarities and quality alike, carried through from past acquisitions from the Hesselgesser, Gund and Golden Horn collections to name a few.



FORTHCOMING EVENT

AN INTRODUCTION TO US MINING STOCK CERTIFICATES

London, starting 15th December and continuing throughout 2021

We are fortunate to have been given instructions to sell a collection of American mining stock certificates formed over the last few years. It contains some 1,000 different pieces dated from the 1840s to the start of the Great War in 1914.

Here is a brief illustrated introduction to the market to whet the appetite:

There have been strikes of precious metals in the Eastern states since Colonial times with gold being found in the Carolinas, Georgia and Virginia, but they were mostly operated by just a handful of ‘adventurers’. Companies issuing share certificates were rarely involved.

With the growth in Joint Stock Company formation and especially the California Gold Rush in 1849 we see many companies being formed to operate mining claims. In California, much of the investment came from France and Great Britain but also the Eastern States. The push inland from the East to open up the West, combined with prospectors and miners pushing eastwards when the California rush subsided, led to strikes being made in the Territories later to become Nevada, Colorado, Arizona, Idaho and the Dakotas to name a few.

The California gold rush started in 1849 following reports of gold being found the previous year; thousands of people travelled to the region, and California became a State in 1850.

Colorado opened up in the late 1850s with a gold strike made at Pikes Peak, silver at Leadville in the 1880s and the huge Cripple Creek rush of the 1890s.

Nevada saw a rush of companies formed in the 1860s which are some of the most desirable today, as they do not come to market too often. The gold strikes in Goldfield, Tonopah, Bullfrog and Manhattan in the early years of the 20th century has made Nevada one of the largest suppliers of gold in the world.

Tombstone, in Arizona, is well known to many from the ‘Gunfight at the OK Corral’, Wyatt Earp and Doc Holiday, but it grew from huge silver deposits being found in the region.

A rush to the Black Hills of South Dakota took place in 1874 following the Custer Expedition, leading to strikes at Deadwood a couple of years later.

Now we come to the certificates which history has left behind ...

“Nevada saw a rush of companies formed in the 1860s which are some of the most desirable today, as they do not come to market too often”



Mike Veissid

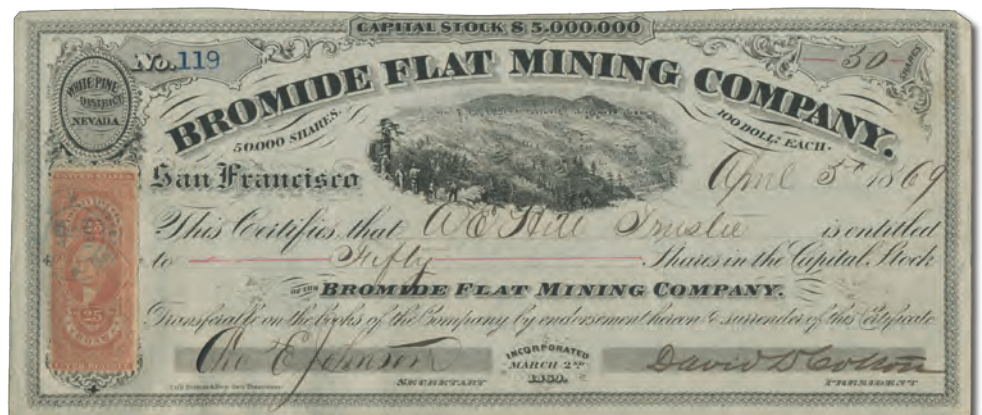
Le Nouveau Monde

An Anglo-French venture formed in 1851 to work the mines of California. Early shares were often to 'bearer' and passed freely between investors. Local laws regarding mining companies were soon to be made creating a more 'local' market. These fetch just £25 to £40 depending on type.



Bromide Flat

An early California company owning mines in the White Plains District of Nevada territory. Share values at this period were often quite high, in this case \$100 each. Value about £100 (\$130).



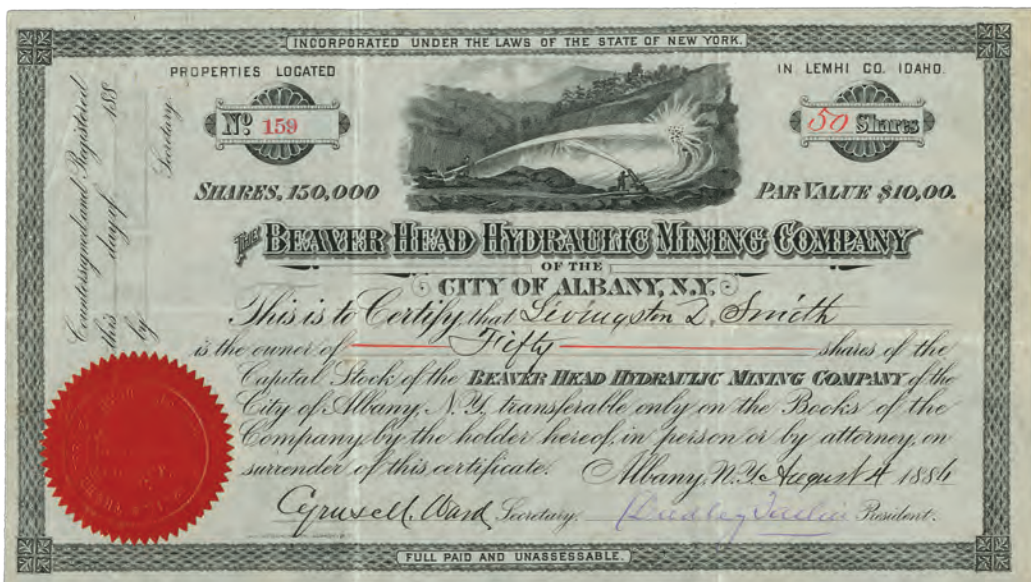


Atwill Gold & Silver Mining Company

A lovely Nevada Territory incorporation owning mines in the Flowery Mining District. Value about £150 (\$200).

Bannock Gold & Silver Mining Company

An early company operating in Boise County, Idaho Territory.



Beaver Head Hydraulic Mining Company

This New York company ran a hydraulic mining operation in Idaho. This involved using high pressure water hoses 'washing' the gold from the hills to be collected at the bottom.



Cataract & Wide West Gravel Mining Company

Another California piece which shows the destructive nature of hydraulic mining. You can see in the background the troughs carrying the water, often great distances, to give the maximum pressure at the hose end.

Small Hopes Consolidated Mining Company

A rather pessimistically-named company operating in Colorado. Many of the largest companies were formed in the East with easy access to wealthy investors.

Argonaut Mill & Mining Company AND Vanderbilt Consolidated Mining Company

Until the 1890s, certificates were individually designed and named to attract investors in what had become a very competitive market. The 'Argonaut' implied the quest to find the golden fleece; the 'Vanderbilt' implied the backing of the Vanderbilt family, but there is no connection between the two.





Cripple Creek

By the time of the Cripple Creek rush in the 1890s companies had become so numerous that large printers supplied blank forms, which just had to have the company details inserted by a small jobbing printer. For collectors this has made individually designed certificates even more desirable. It is estimated that well over 1,000 companies were formed to mines in the Cripple Creek District. Prices are generally between £30 (\$40) and £80 (\$100) each for ordinary pieces with considerably more being paid for rarities with interesting designs.



Example of individually designed certificates of companies.



A few years later in Nevada certificates continued to be printed on stock forms supplied by large stationers but individually designed items were still available. This example for some strange reason chose Canterbury Cathedral for its design. Maybe one of the promoters was from this part of England.



The nearby strike at Bullfrog produced many companies and several used the frog in their designs, eagerly sought after by collectors today.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE TONY ABRAMSON COLLECTION OF DARK AGE COINAGE – PART I

London, 12th January 2021

Tony's name will loom large amongst the numismatic fraternity, particularly amongst those for whom the Scaetta series is their collecting home. With Tony's long standing connection with Spink through its publication division, and to many more of our readership through his many familiar titles, it gives the Coin Department the rich and distinct pleasure to now bring Tony's astonishing cabinet of over 1,200 coins to market, and further inspire the next generation of connoisseurs, numismatists and investors throughout 2021.

One of only seven privately-owned collections to be awarded a dedicated Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles, Tony's collection is almost second nature to many of us, with scores of his own collection forming the plate illustrations in our annual standard catalogue and many more in his seminal 'Scaetta Lists'. The first auction will be dedicated to many of his highlights including a series of unique issues from across this broad period - a time still referred to as 'the Dark Ages' by many for whom this murky and largely anepigraphic epoch leaves much to the imagination.

This blending of early-Christian and Pagan symbolism creates an outstanding yet still neglected source of early Anglo-Saxon art. This pre-eminent and unparalleled cabinet therefore offers us all a rare glimpse into this overlooked age, with many





coins unlikely to surface again to collectors for at least another generation.

Respected for both its completeness and in its pedigree, this collection has featured in innumerable articles. To give just two examples, a number of these coins appeared in Anna Gannon's pioneering work *The Iconography of Early Anglo-Saxon Coinage* and a denier of Melle was illustrated in the ground-breaking *Alpine ice-core evidence for the transformation of the European monetary system, AD 640–670* by Chris Loveluck *et al.*

Since 2010, the collection has been housed at the Fitzwilliam Museum, Cambridge with subsequent addenda forming the basis of the complete collection that was deaccessioned in October 2020. The author and vendor wish to pass on their sincere thanks to Dr Adrian Popescu and Dr Martin Allen as well as the wider Museum team for their overwhelming assistance to Spink at the height of a pandemic.

To celebrate this important sale Spink Books are offering the last remaining copies of Tony's *Sceatta List* (second edition) at half price. Please visit www.spinkbooks.com to purchase your copy, while stocks last.

The Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage – Part I will be offered for sale by Spink London on 12th January 2021. For further information please contact Gregory Edmund, gedmund@spink.com

FORTHCOMING EVENT

WORLD BANKNOTES NYINC

London, 15th January 2021

Moving swiftly on from our series of autumn banknote auctions, preparation is now underway for the World Banknotes NYINC sale. Unfortunately, with the ongoing pandemic the annual convention held in New York has been cancelled and the auction will now be held in London.

At the time of writing, we are still accepting consignments. Here are just some of the highlights from items we have received so far:

Government of Sarawak, specimen 1, 5 and 10 cents from 1945. This was a proposed issue to address the shortage of coins during World War II, hence the small size and simple design. With the end of the Japanese occupation of Sarawak in 1945, and becoming a Crown Colony in 1946, there was

no use for these notes, hence they were never issued. They were completely unknown prior to 1995 and are missing in most major Malaysia, Sarawak or regional collections. This historically important set of notes directly came from the Brooke Trust and were from the personal collection of Antony Brooke HH Rajah Muda of Sarawak as he was overseeing the project during the time.

Moving onto Italian Somaliland, we have a trio of notes from the 1950 issue, 5, 10 and 20 Somali. After World War II, Italy was granted financial control from the UN and introduced the Somalo. The design of these notes incorporated traditional Italian ornate borders with Somali element seen in the fireplace of the obverse design. These notes are rarely seen in issued form and are even rarer in high grade.

By January, we hope the end of the pandemic will be in sight and we can once again see clients from around the world. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us for valuations or advice for your collection.





World Banknotes NYINC will take place at Spink London on 15th January 2021. For further information please contact Elaine Fung, efung@spink.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE NYINC NUMISMATIC COLLECTOR'S SERIES SALE

London, 17th January 2021

January - etymologically borrowed from the Roman God Janus - is traditionally a time for reflection of the year just past, as well as preparation for the year ahead. Few, we are sure, will look back on 2020 with much kindness, so it gives Spink great pleasure to offer important distraction for the short winter days ahead in the guise of our traditional NYINC sale on Sunday 17th January. The show itself may have been cancelled this year due to the ongoing fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic, but our enthusiasm, expertise and creativity for this sale surely have not!

For the first time in a decade, Spink's celebrated auction rooms will be graced with a full offering of an 1839 Proof Set, holding among its many revered accolades an especially fine example of the idolised 'Una and the Lion' Pattern Proof Five Pounds which has been further augmented by third-party encapsulation for heightened bidder confidence. Supporting this totemic offering is an equally fine run of early modern English gold and silver Proof sets, the likes of which performed memorably well at our 'Stratos spectacle' back in September.

Another standout performer from the start of the COVID pandemic at Spink came

“bringing to market perhaps the finest known examples of the 1700 ‘Plume below bust’ Sixpence, and the excessively rare James II ‘Plume’ Shilling”

from the highly-respected Triple Unite series of Charles I. So you can imagine our delight when MS61 graded example formerly in the Brooker, O'Hagan and Montagu collections was consigned! This handsome coin is uniformly struck up on an evidently carefully prepared flan. This coin has undoubtedly formed a centrepiece of many revered cabinets over the centuries. While our collecting habits may have shifted in 2021, any possessor of this coin is sure to revel in its beauty and intrinsic historical connections to the English Civil War.

Further highlights of the Roy Francis Collection of English Silver Rarities will also make an appearance, bringing to market perhaps the finest known examples of the 1700 'Plume below bust' Sixpence, and the excessively rare James II 'Plume' Shilling, the likes of which have not been seen in public or indeed at any auction room on the planet since the 1970s! Roy dedicated his collecting habits to the truly rare, but lost no time in ensuring the quality of his collection never suffered. Consequently his inclusions of an arresting Plain Edge Pattern Gothic Crown and a breathtaking 1831 Proof of Record Crown with the full W.WYON signature are sure to charm even the most discerning of buyers on auction day.



Unsurprisingly, given the ongoing travel restrictions, our usual offerings of world coinage are more noticeably limited this time round. However as you may already have read in our e-Circular round-up, selections of the Oksana Bennett collection of Russian coins are also destined to make an appearance, bringing with them a handsome series of Tsars

and Tsarinas beloved by many of our clients around the world.

The NYINC Numismatic Collector's Series Sale will take place at Spink London on 17th January 2021. For further information please contact Greg Edmund, gedmund@spink.com.

FORTHCOMING EVENT

THE SIR RODNEY SWEETNAM KCVO CBE COLLECTION OF ENGLISH GOLD COINS AND OTHER PROPERTIES

London, 17th January 2021

It goes without saying that the COVID-19 pandemic has upended our lives in truly unexpected and unpredictable ways. Our traditional NYINC roadshow is yet another casualty of the year which has just passed. However with this change also comes great opportunity, especially as we plan for our Premier sale to proceed in earnest from our London offices!

For the first time ever, we are able to present to our buying and selling clientele alike a very special morning of highlights from our London team as an opening gambit to an afternoon of thrills from our virtually relocated 'New York Office'. To helpfully distinguish this show-stopping duo, the morning sale will be conducted in Sterling (GBP), and our afternoon in Dollars (USD), but both will be live from our London offices. However for you the viewer, all you will see is uninterrupted coverage from dawn until dusk of exceptional numismatic items with which to treat yourself!

From the selection of delightful Five Guinea pieces to a striking example of an

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Elephant and Castle Guinea from the reign of Queen Anne, this short but impressive sale direct from a former orthopaedic surgeon to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1982-1992) and laterly President of the Royal College of Surgeons (1995-1998) is sure to rouse you from your Sunday slumber and make your bidding fingers itchy!

The Sir Rodney Sweetnam KCVO CBE Collection of English Gold Coins and Other Properties will be offered for sale at Spink London on 17th January 2021. For further information please contact Greg Edmund, gedmund@spink.com.



FORTHCOMING EVENT

JANUARY STAMP SALES

London, January 2021

We kick off our January auctions on the 19th with 'Important Stamps and Covers of the British Empire' which features a fine array of desirable items including rare Cape of Good Hope, Rhodesia and Southern Rhodesia including proofs, India with the 1948 Gandhi set in full sheets and Tasmania to name just a few. Following hot on its heels in the afternoon will be the Collectors' Series Sale. Once again, this will be a hybrid auction with live auctioneer; there will not be a printed catalogue, however the sale – a solid mix of postal history and stamp collections, sets and single items – will be fully illustrated on-line and (restrictions allowing) on view both at Spink and at the auction venue, the RPSL. The sale will be on SpinkLive and bidding online using this platform is a fun and easy way of getting the feel of the live auction room from wherever you are in the world.

The following day we will be holding part XIV of the 'Lionheart' collection of Great Britain and British Empire, a varied sale as usual but with even more rarities than ever. A few highlights include the elusive Cape of Good Hope 'black triangular', a 1928 Cyprus £5 mint block of four, an incredibly rare Gibraltar 10c Carmine with value omitted in a marginal block of four and KUT with 1922 £25, formerly part of the Lord Vestey collection; alongside these are some lovely one-country collections and groups and a range of popular sets and single items. As usual the sale will be live on our top-of-class SpinkLive platform, additionally bidders will be able to bid in person in the auction room (restrictions

*10ct Carmine with
value omitted*



*Board of Education
'specimen', one of 5
in private hands*



Prince Consort Essay

1928 £5 block of 4





Victoria Falls 2d proof



Imperf between, vertically

“This exceptionally fine item would crown even the finest of collections, rarely is such a fine block offered on the market”



1867 5/- Die Proof



A spectacular mint multiple of the 1840 1d Black

“The collection was formed over many years by a noted philatelist and comprises 90 wonderful lots, valued from under £100 to many thousands of pounds”



permitting), over the phone, by submitting pre-bids or via Stamp Auction Network. However you choose to bid, it promises to be an exciting sale with something for all collecting tastes and budgets.

Great Britain collectors are not left out this January, as on the 21st we will be offering 'Stamps and Covers of Great Britain'. There are many standout items within this sale, however special attention must be drawn to the magnificent mint block of six penny blacks with part inscription in the top margin. This exceptionally fine item would crown even the finest of collections, rarely is such a fine block offered on the market. Should the estimate of £100,000-£120,000 be a bit much for your pocket then fear not, we also have a very large selection of singles available from all plates. Sitting alongside these are a range of excellent 2d blues, including 3 mint (imperforate) 1858-69 adjoining blocks of 4, which surely represents the largest reconstruction of this rarity. From Prince Consort Essays, imperforate blocks of four of the Seahorse Issue, Postal History, Officials and modern QEII errors, this sale is an exciting offering of material that should be a firm date in your diary!

Later in the day on the 21st we are offering one of the finest ever assembled collections of Mexico, The Guadalajara Collection. Few countries offer a more interesting and varied postal history than Mexico, and the Guadalajara Collection is a marvellous assembly of the stamps and postal history from the provisional issues of



1866-68, towards the end of the struggle against the emperor Maximilian, made in a few areas under republican control.

The collection was formed over many years by a noted philatelist and comprises 90 wonderful lots, valued from under £100 to many thousands of pounds, most with impressive provenance such as the famous collections formed by Scott, Rodriguez and Bash, or with certificates of authenticity issued by noted experts.

Just a few highlights include an 1867 first printing entire letter to Leon with a three colour franking, with estimate of £15,000; an 1867 first printing entire letter to Zamora bearing three of the serrated roulette values, regarded

as one of the major items of Mexican philately, with estimate of £50,000; and an 1867 third printing serrated roulette issue including the 1 real blue (two recorded), estimate £5,000, and unique examples of the 2 real rose and 4 real blue, each estimated at £15,000.

A beautifully illustrated catalogue will be available a few weeks before the sale (or can be downloaded from the Spink website), and will be a valuable reference for collectors of these fascinating issues for many years to come.

For further details please contact Dominic Savastano dsavastano@spink.com or Iain Murphy imurphy@spink.com.



'Black Triangular'



1858-69 2d blue adjoining blocks of 4

SPINK

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STAMPS AND COVERS OF GREAT BRITAIN

21 JANUARY 2021

Spink London



Your Specialist:
Iain Murphy

+44(0)20 7563 4060

✉ imurphy@spink.com



Graham Barker

THE ENDURING WISH FOR A GOLDEN AGE AT CHRISTMAS TIME

The Roman poet Virgil wrote a mystical poem, which we know as the Fourth Eclogue, in around 42 BC. It is oracular in nature and describes a vision of a returning Golden Age through cyclical time. Almost from the beginning, it was used for political purposes. Although it was written before Octavian accepted the title Augustus, the poem seems to have greatly influenced Augustus' claim to legitimation through the arrival of a new *saeculum*. This new era was safely ushered in through the rituals of his *Ludi Saeculares* (Saecular Games) in 17 BC. Many later Roman emperors tried to emulate Augustus by claiming the return of a Golden Age. My book, *Imperial Legitimation*, uses numismatic evidence to show how emperors in the third century AD used the claim of a Golden Age for the purposes of legitimation. Even the usurper emperor, Carausius, who ruled Britannia in the late third century AD, seems to have used this claim. The majority of Carausian silver coinage includes the three letters RSR which, it is now generally accepted, stand for *Redeunt Saturnia Regna* (the Golden Age Returns), a quotation from the Fourth Eclogue.

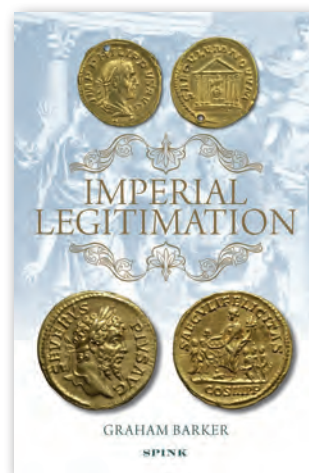
From the time of Lactantius, who was writing in the late third century AD, it was declared that the Fourth Eclogue foretold the birth of Christ. Without doubt, this increased the poem's profile in the Renaissance. Several Popes and great families like the Medicis used quotations from the Fourth Eclogue. In turn monarchs down the ages came to use Virgil's phrases at the start of a new reign. Even the fledgling United States in the late eighteenth

century employed Virgil's phrases to make claims for their new country. The words "**Novo Ordo Seclorum**" derive from the Fourth Eclogue and appear on the Great Seal of the United States of America.

When Edmund Sears wrote the Christmas Carol "It Came Upon the Midnight Clear" in America in 1849 he also employed the image of a returning Golden Age in the last verse:

For lo!, the days are hastening on,
By prophet bards foretold,
When with the ever-circling years
Comes round the Age of Gold!

Graham Barker's new book, *Imperial Legitimation*, is available from Spink Books, www.spinkbooks.com, or by emailing books@spink.com.





Axel Kendrick



Freddie Lawton



Harry Blackett-Ord



Emma Howard

MEET THE INTERNS

“I saw the offer of an Internship at Spink as a way to enter a more vital field with a better definition of success”

During this year of lockdown and social distancing, you may not have had the chance to visit us at Spink and meet our current crop of talented interns – we would therefore like to introduce you so that you know who’s who when we next welcome you at Southampton Row:

Freddie Lawton joined Spink on a part-time basis in July and has been a stalwart of the auction team since September, making sure you receive your lots on time and in good order:

‘I started working at Spink at the start of September this year after helping out over the summer with auction admin on a part-time basis. Now, my main roles are sending purchased lots to buyers, coordinating with the clients and operating Spink-Live on auction days. I have enjoyed getting to know all the staff here and the office dynamics. I graduated from The University of Exeter in 2018, where I studied Anthropology, which gave me an insight into the world of historical artefacts and collectables. My interests include playing the guitar, films and tennis.

Axel Kendrick joined the Stamp Department in August and has been a huge support in terms of providing backup to the rest of the team:

‘I recently graduated from Queen Mary, University of London with a degree in history, and began working with the stamp department in August. It’s been a great opportunity to learn so much in such a short period of time, and put my love of history to use in an area which was completely new to me. During my time here, I’ve taken part in some very exciting auctions,

handled rare and fascinating lots, and have begun to learn all about the wonderful world of stamp collecting.’

Harry Blackett-Ord joined the Medal Department in October, and has been helping the team to prepare the catalogue for their mammoth December sale:

‘I began my career, prior to auctioneering, in Museum Collections and it was while working in this field that I first encountered medals and began to develop a fascination for researching and studying them. Sadly, while at first glance a career in the Museum sector seemed like the perfect opportunity for me to indulge my love of history in a professional setting, I soon grew restless. I found myself craving a role which had greater purpose and provided more opportunities to work with the objects which really intrigued me. Anybody who has worked in Collections will be familiar with the cycle of remove object, catalogue object, then package and return object. The whole process is one of intentional inertia which provides very few opportunities for research. I saw the offer of an Internship at Spink as a way to enter a more vital field with a better definition of success, one in which working well meant facilitating a sale. Moreover I would be lucky enough to be working with medals, objects I found thoroughly absorbing. I am delighted to have joined the team at here Spink and look forward to working with many of you during my time here.’

Many thanks to all our interns for their hard work and invaluable contribution to the Spink effort through lockdown and beyond!

COLLECTOR'S CORNER



Etching by Queen Victoria of her daughter "Vicky" in the arms of her nurse



Emma Howard

AN INTERVIEW WITH JUDITH GRANT

As part of our series looking at what gives some people the “collecting bug” we spoke to Judith Grant, collector of historical documents and ephemera, who is also one very few women professionally involved in the hobby – though we are pleased to see more and more female collectors coming through our doors (please see *Voice of a New Generation* for young philatelist Katrin Raynor’s fascinating article on astronomy celebrated via philately).

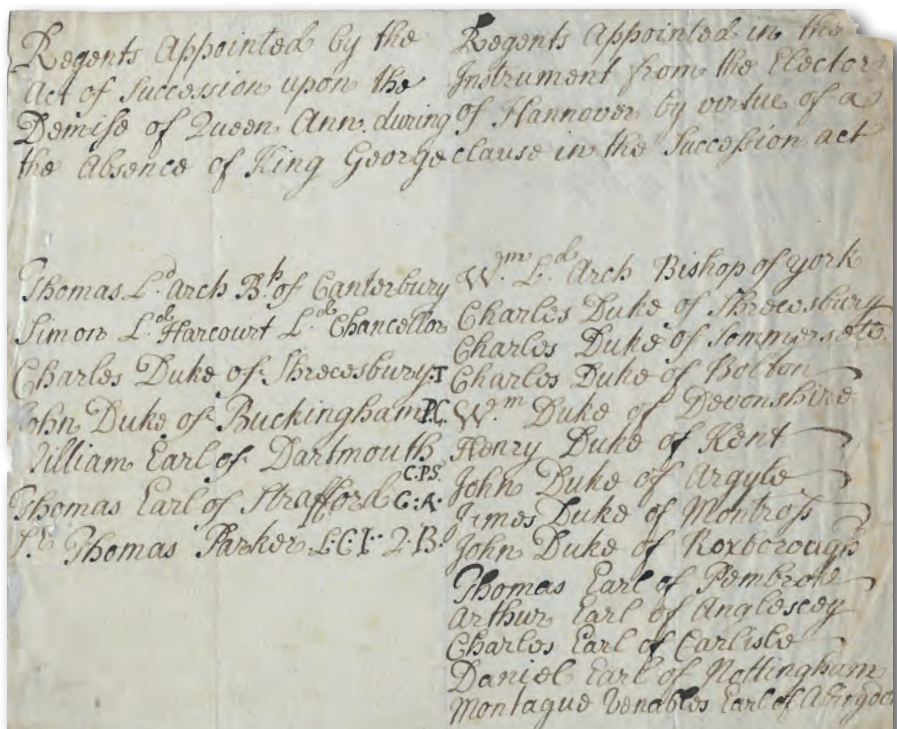
Judith says she always had a tendency towards collecting, of the more obvious things as a child – dolls, teddy bears, sewing things etc – but it was only when a dealer asked her to help him and look after his table at an

Ephemera Fair that she found the area she wanted to specialise in as a solo dealer, having flirted briefly with financial ephemera. As she puts it, “The minute I walked into the room I had a revelation!” It was here that she found an 18th Century engraved invoice with beautiful vignettes at the top, and the “combination of history and paper” had her hooked.

From here, Judith developed an interest in the Elizabethan Poor Law, and started collecting the paperwork of that era and up to 1834 – this formed the basis of her first collection.

She moved on from these, and her actual collection is now royalty – mostly unique and one-off documents, for example a gift given

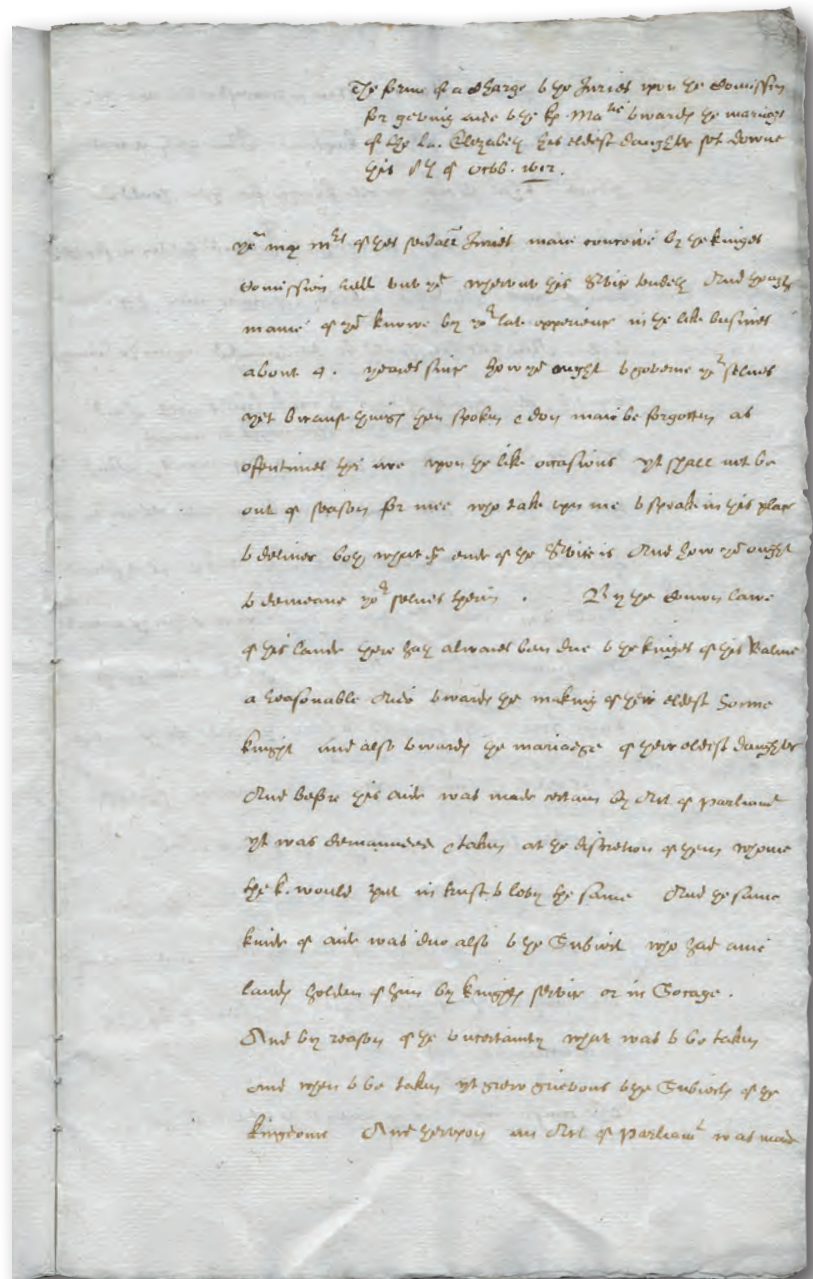
Members of the Regency Council appointed at the death of Queen Anne prior to the arrival of George I from Hanover as the new King.



by Queen Victoria to one of her children. Judith's collection is mainly paper, or paper-related (a picture on silk for example) as she says these items are "so much more meaningful – even though Queen Victoria wrote hundreds of letters, each one is unique."

Documents and ephemera, like other collectables, are literally Living History: "whatever you choose to collect, you are literally holding history in your hand." Judith buys pieces because they are meaningful – she mentions a tiny book of poetry dedicated by Queen Alexandra, wife of Edward VII and mother of George V, to her daughter Princess Louise as a birthday present, signed 'Mother Dear'.

When asked how modern technology has impacted on her business, she muses that the internet has ruined a lot of personal face to face dealing – sharing with fellow collectors, enjoying finds with them and seeing their pleasure – though acknowledges that it is a useful tool for cataloguing. However this can only ever be to a certain extent, as the nature of historical documents and ephemera is so diverse that



Arguments of the "Jury" to decide the dowry to be given to Princess Elizabeth - daughter of James I of England – on the occasion of her marriage (Later known as the Winter Queen, Queen of Bohemia)



even with her wealth of experience Judith is still seeing things she has never seen before.

She believes there is absolutely no advantage to being a woman in what might traditionally have been seen as a man's world, and quips "it's every man for himself"! Despite 99% of her customers still being men, Judith believes that collecting is an even playing field, as "we are all looking for the same thing – nothing beats the rush of adrenaline finding something spectacular for stock."

Judith is clearly a passionate and devoted collector, who "learns Russian for my relaxation", and we are grateful to her for her generosity in sharing some of these fascinating items with us.

Judith gave a talk on Royal Children at the Guildhall in October via Zoom, which may be screened again between January and April if live talks are still unable to go ahead. To check the full events schedule visit the Guildhall Library website, <https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/libraries/guildhall-library>.

Menu for the Coronation luncheon at the Kremlin for Nicholas II of Russia.

“A very remarkable people, the Zulu. They defeat our generals, they convert our bishops, and they have sealed the fate of a great European Dynasty.”

Benjamin Disraeli (1874-80)



South Africa Medal awarded to Captain Henry A. Harrison of the 1/24th



Alexander Haimann

VOICE OF A NEW GENERATIONV : CROSS-CATEGORY COLLECTING

Every collector has a moment that first connected them with their chosen area of interest. My passion for stamp collecting and philately is connected to a 20-minute geography lesson at school using worldwide postage stamps in the autumn of 1993. Holding so many different tiny, seemingly weightless pieces of other countries in the palm of my hand captivated me completely. That moment at age seven launched me on a collecting path which continues to this day. Over the years, I have collected and studied many different philatelic areas, attended hundreds of philatelic exhibitions large and small in over a dozen countries, worked on staff at the Smithsonian Institution's National Postal Museum, won election to the American Philatelic Society's Board of Directors, represented the Royal Philatelic Society London in the USA and most importantly developed many wonderful friendships along the way with fellow collectors. To say that a 20-minute geography lesson all those years ago changed my life would not be an understatement.

If the lightning of collecting inspiration had only struck me once, I would consider myself to be quite blessed but on 23rd August 1997, it struck me a second time. On that day, my family had just arrived in London for our very first trip overseas. As usual when coming from the US, we had taken an overnight flight and my younger siblings along with my parents were feeling the effects of jetlag. As we checked into our hotel for everyone to take a nap, I was bursting with excitement to explore this wonderful new city. After all, I had just arrived

in the birthplace of the postage stamp and so much more, how could I possibly now go to sleep! After pleading with my parents to let me go walk around, they relented and sent me to the front desk to get a map. We synchronised our watches and set a time for me to meet them back at the hotel. Looking back, I give my parents a lot of credit for the confidence and trust they had in their 11-year-old son to make his way around London by himself.

My first stop was Buckingham Palace as it was the closest major landmark to our hotel. After spending some time looking through the gates and around the Victoria Memorial, I started down Birdcage Walk towards the Palace of Westminster. Very soon I noticed a sign for the Guards Museum and their gift shop - The Guards Toy Soldier Centre. Since the shop was just a few metres off the road, I figured why not look inside? As I entered, I was stunned to see wall-to-wall displays filled with dioramas composed of thousands of hand-painted toy soldiers. They had a cavalry charge from the Battle of Waterloo, Allied forces from World War II fighting German troops through hedgerow country, Union and Confederate soldiers running across an open field in a scene from the American Civil War and a 10-foot long Trooping the Colour diorama with a 54mm-tall Queen Elizabeth II looking on. As I walked around the room in awe of the scenes around me, I came across one display that instantly captured my attention – the Anglo-Zulu War. I remember being instantly drawn to the bright red tunics of the British soldiers and the magnificent Zulu warriors with their



Display at the Guards Toy Soldier Shop Centre

large colourful shields and spears all positioned in the display in close contact fighting. After examining each figure in this display, I went to the front counter and asked for more information about the Anglo-Zulu War. Looking back I had clearly been deprived in my 11 years on this earth as I had never heard of the Battle of Rorke's Drift or seen the movie *Zulu* featuring Michael Caine and Stanley Baker, nor read anything about the Zulu victory at the Battle of iSandlwana! The gentleman at the counter walked over to the display with me and began weaving a dramatic story of the whole campaign. After he finished the story, I looked down at my watch and realised that I was on the edge of being late for my rendezvous back at the hotel with my family. I thanked my new teacher and promised I would return. For the following week, in the nooks and crannies of our busy touring schedule, I managed to return to that shop every single day for at least an hour. During my follow-on visits, I was trying to decide which military campaign interested



Movie theatre lobby promotion card for ZULU (1963)

me the most to both recreate with a toy soldier display of my own and begin collecting postal history items (remember I was a philatelist first!) connected to that campaign. Across the week I studied every single figure on display, but my interest kept returning to the Anglo-Zulu War display. I found it fascinating for many reasons – from my point of view it was obscure in comparison to the Battle of Waterloo or World War II. I wanted to become knowledgeable about something that most people did not know about. I liked the opportunity to explore something without a direct American connection as my fellow countrymen did not participate in the conflict. I had a great interest in the American Revolutionary War and immediately felt a connection with the Zulu side, fighting the British as my American ancestors had. As I would go on to learn, the two conflicts fought a century apart in very different parts of the world were not as analogous as I thought during that week of visits to the shop, but it was part of my entry point to that area of history. The shop owners basically adopted me during that week and were tremendously accommodating considering I was only able to buy four figures by the end of the trip – two British soldiers and two Zulu warriors. On the flight home as I admired

the four figures, I laid out my plan for diving deeper into the Anglo-Zulu War:

1. See the movie *Zulu*
2. Buy and read books about the conflict
3. Acquire more toy soldiers to build full representative diorama of the war
4. Find and begin collecting Anglo-Zulu War philately

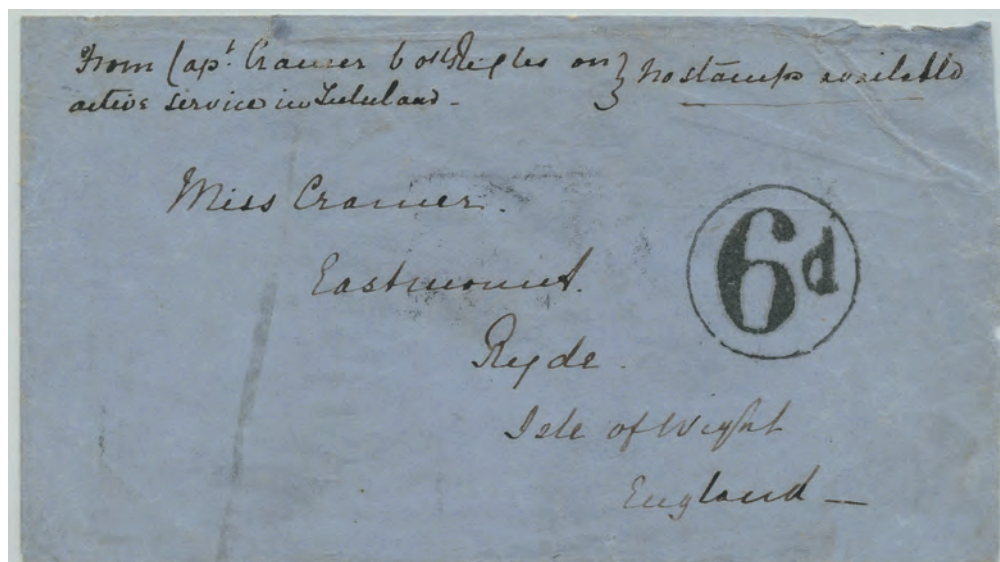
As I would learn over the next ten years, the first three items on my list would be considerably easier to accomplish than the fourth.

Within a week of my return to the States, I saw *Zulu* and began acquiring books to build up my knowledge. My library began, as many do, with *Washing of the Spears* by Donald Morris. Several Osprey titles by historian and author Ian Knight started to fill my shelves also, followed by his *Brave Men's Blood: The Epic of the Zulu War, 1879* and *Nothing Remains but to Fight: The Defense of Rorke's Drift, 1879*. My third goal, to build my own Anglo-Zulu War toy soldier collection and display, began to pick up steam with all my extra spending money plowed into buying additional figures, scenery elements and other accessories.

My fourth goal – the one most connected to my original collecting passion – proved instantly difficult. The realisation that I was living in the



Alex's toy soldier collection-display circa 2007



First postal history item added to the collection - sent by Captain Cramer of the 60th Rifles in September 1879, just two weeks after King Cetshwayo was captured.

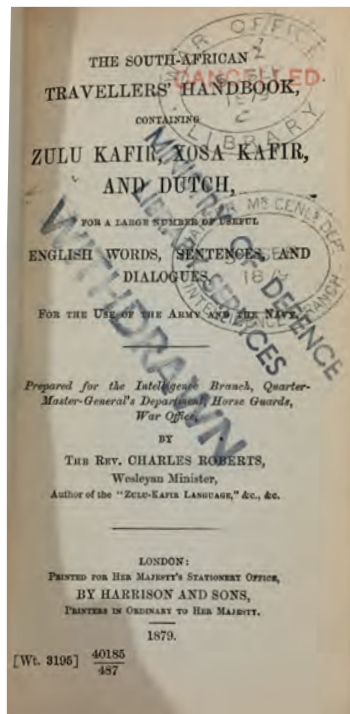
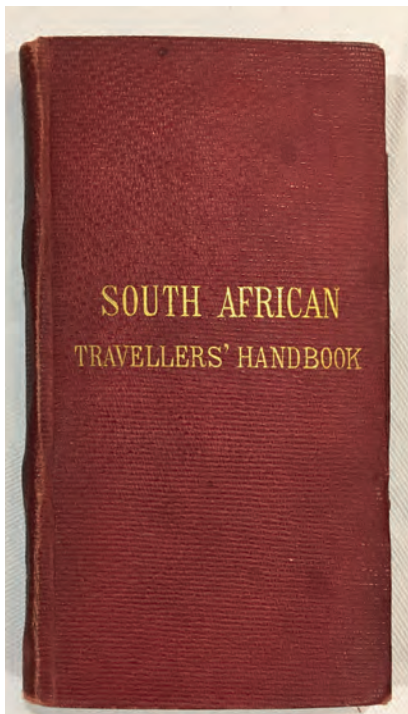
wrong country to begin a deep focus on Anglo-Zulu war philately probably began in mid-1998, as I encountered the nth dealer at the nth stamp show I attended since returning from London asking if I meant Boer War when I had asked for Zulu War material. Though I would keep searching, it would be ten years before I held a piece of mail sent by a British soldier during the war in my hands.

In 2005, while a first-year university student in Washington, DC, I was fortunate to be recruited to join the staff of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum. Over the next five years, I gained experience working with different departments at the museum and exploring a diverse range of artefacts, all related to the history of postal systems. Before then, like most philatelists, I viewed stamps, envelopes, and letters as the most important types of artefacts to illustrate this history. Seeing non-philatelic artefacts in the collection ranging from postal carrier uniforms, vehicles, photographs, flags, posters, newspapers, badges, paintings, furniture and weapons convinced me that the ideal way to illustrate a historical narrative is through a multi-category collection of artefacts. All of this led me to think that maybe one day I could collect British and Zulu weapons, uniforms, military medals, period newspapers and other significant artefacts that would showcase all aspects of the Anglo-Zulu War and its participants. Though fun to daydream about it at the time, as of 2007 I still had not even found a piece of Anglo-Zulu War postal history for sale to start my collection.

Everything changed in early 2008, when I

met a British dealer at a national exhibition in the United States. In his inventory were two envelopes sent by a British officer from Zululand during the 1879 campaign. Of course, I bought them and during the transaction I asked the dealer for advice on finding more. He explained that most collectors of this type of material live in the UK and South Africa, so he encouraged me to take a trip across the pond to explore further. I took the advice to heart and with university graduation just a few months away, I began planning my first solo Anglo-Zulu War collecting trip to the UK. I set my sights on a week in February 2009 where two different philatelic exhibitions would be taking place in London. On my very first day at Stampex, I had the good fortune to meet long-time dealer and auctioneer Ian Shapiro (now a Senior Specialist at Spink). Ian was born and reared in South Africa and shared my passion for the Anglo-Zulu War. My first collecting trip to the UK was a success on multiple fronts, including the purchase of more items for my postal history collection related to the war and the initiation of a series of new collector/dealer contacts.

Before the year was finished, I made two more trips back to the UK followed by additional visits in 2010. During these subsequent trips, I met other philatelic dealers and auction firms that specialised in related areas to my Anglo-Zulu interest. Additionally, during these follow-on visits, Ian made two significant contributions to my collecting journey. First, he introduced me to a wide range of other collecting events in the UK including ephemera fairs, book fairs, photograph collector events and art/antique exhibitions.



First non-philatelic artefact added to the collection – Zulu-English dictionary published in February 1879.



Charity program raising money for the widows and orphans of the soldiers killed at the Battle of iSandlwana

Though it seems obvious now, it was not clear how best to engage other collecting areas to learn about them and to begin finding the types of artefacts I was looking for. I had spent most of my life learning, experiencing, and engaging with the philatelic world; beginning to collect in totally different categories was far from intuitive. Ian proved to be the perfect teacher and guide. The second contribution Ian made was to give me that thoughtful push over the proverbial ledge so I would begin seriously collecting the Anglo-Zulu War outside of philately.

It all started with a book. On one of my trips, Ian offered me an 1879 pocket dictionary containing Zulu, Xhosa and Dutch “words, sentences and dialogues” translated to English and prepared by the Intelligence Branch of the War Office “For the use of the Army and the Navy.” The exact copy he offered me was the official War Office Library copy which had been deaccessioned in the 20th century. I initially could not comprehend the seemingly high price. It was many, many times more than I had ever paid for a book or anything outside of the philatelic arena. As I examined the book and simultaneously agonised over the cost, Ian said that in order to build a great collection for my area of interest it would be essential to seek out important items that illustrate other aspects of the history beyond what philatelic artefacts could. As to the cost, he pointed out that if this had been a piece of postal history related to the Anglo-Zulu War, I would have paid the price and not thought twice about it. He was right on both fronts and so I bought the dictionary.

With that purchase the floodgates had now truly been opened. Over the next five or so years, I began seeking out everything I could with a connection to the Anglo-Zulu War across as many different collecting areas as I could access. Through the ephemera fairs, I found 1879 charity pamphlets for events raising money to aid the “widows and orphans” of soldiers killed in the war. In the art and antiques world, I found original period chromolithograph prints and paintings executed by participants of the campaign. Additional antique items included a silver inkwell in the form of a Zulu warrior.

My engagement with the map-collecting world yielded a series of 1870s-1880s maps of Natal and Zululand including a map prepared for British officers headed to the campaign in mid-1879. The antique photograph arena included original period pictures of Zululand, Zulu homesteads and prominent Zulu figures. The military medals-collecting world helped me reunite the campaign medal of an officer of the 24th Regiment with his original journals and letters that I acquired from his descendants. Since the Anglo-Zulu War is a military history topic, the militaria collecting field has been particularly helpful from original British military uniforms and related kit to firearms related to the campaign.



Zulu warrior silver inkwell with "spear" pen



1881 Chromolithograph after Alphonse de Neuville's Lieutenants Melvill and Coghill saving the Colours at the Battle of iSandlwana.



Watercolour of Lord Chelmsford at the final battle of the Zulu War painted by Chelmsford's Military Secretary, John North Crealock.



"Wylde's Military Sketch Map of ZULU LAND" taken on campaign by an officer of the 2/4th King's Own Royal Regiment

"Wylde's Military Sketch Map of ZULU LAND"



Photograph of Zulu warriors circa 1880s



Photograph of King Cetshwayo kaMpande during his trip to London in 1882.



Photograph of King Cetshwayo kaMpande



Photograph of large Zulu Kraal circa 1880s

All the exploration of other collecting fields did not distract me from my original goal – to find postal history-related artefacts. To my surprise, the place I thought I would eventually find the most items – the traditional philatelic dealer and auction circuit – ended up being a minor source overall. Counterintuitively, by engaging a wide swath of other collecting areas outside of philately, I ended up finding and acquiring some of my best postal history artefacts through non-philatelic sources. Some highlights



South Africa Medal awarded to Private J Hill of the 1/13th



24th Regiment officer's waist belt clasp (1855-81)



Infantry officers' full-dress tunic, pre-1881



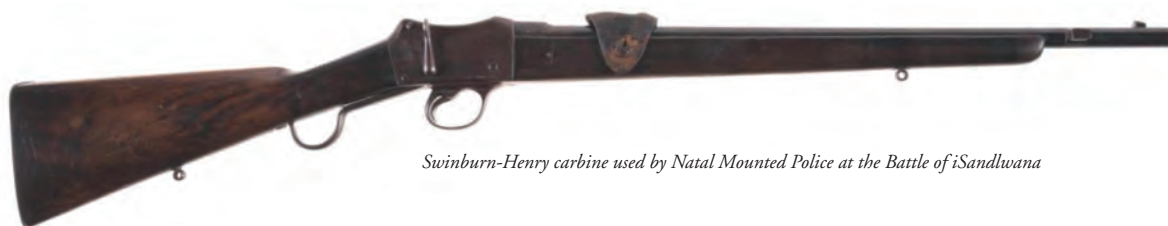
Royal Engineers' NCO undress frock pre-1881



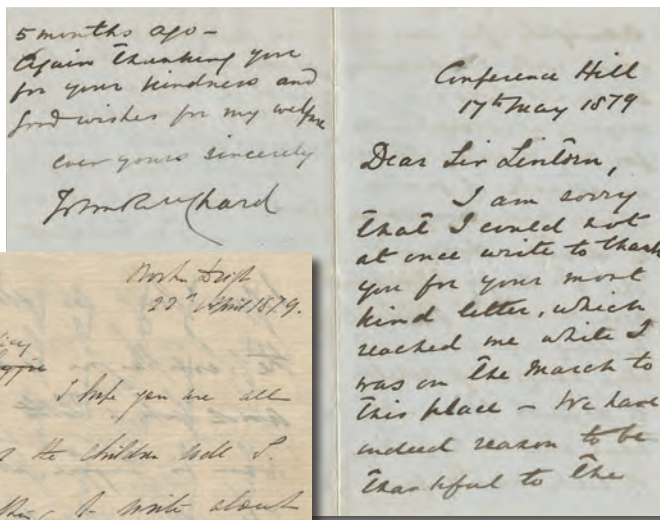
Standard issued British service rifle, the Martini-Henry Mark I



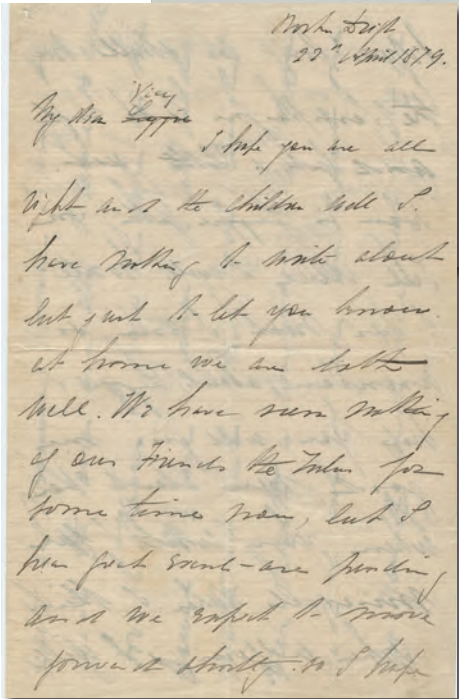
Webley revolver belonging to Captain Robert Frank Wrench of the Natal Native Contingent



Swinburn-Henry carbine used by Natal Mounted Police at the Battle of iSandlwana



Letter from Lt. John Chard sent in May 1879 while on campaign – commanded defense of Rorke's Drift, Jan 22



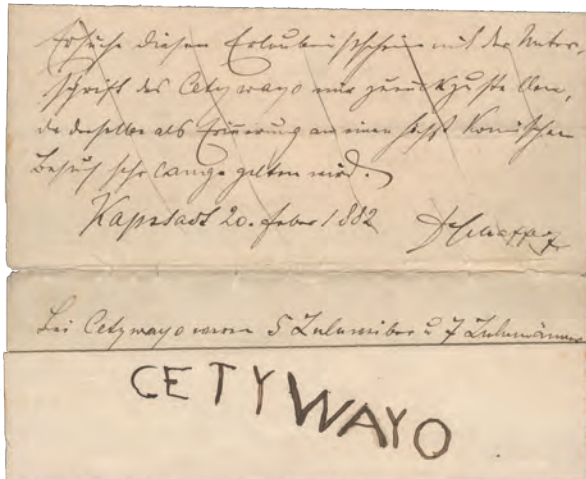
Letter from Lt. Gonville Bromhead sent from Rorke's Drift in April 1879 – senior role in the defense of Rorke's Drift, Jan 22

include letters sent during the campaign by Lieutenant John Chard, VC and Lieutenant Gonville Bromhead, VC - to be portrayed 84 years after their exploits at Rorke's Drift by Stanley Baker and Michael Caine in *ZULU*; a very rare letter signed by the Zulu King Cetshwayo in 1882; illustrated envelopes featuring Anglo-Zulu War themes; and a January 1879 Natal newspaper sent through the mails to Britain containing some of the earliest local reporting from the campaign's beginning stages.

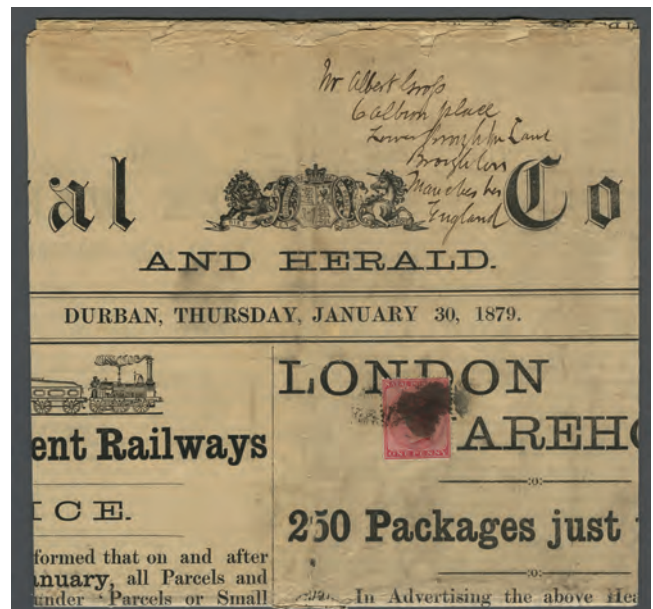
By 2015, after several years of successful collecting, I realised that the perspective most lacking in my collection was that of the Zulu. This realisation led me to finally meet the person who had shaped my knowledge of the Anglo-Zulu War the most since the age of 11, author and historian Ian Knight. In 2011, Ian published *Zulu Rising: The Epic Story of iSandlwana and Rorke's Drift* (still available in paperback and a must-read for anyone interested in this period of history). This book is easily the most in-depth and comprehensive



Illustrated envelope sent from Britain to Cape Town reacting to news from the war



Letter signed by King Cetshwayo kaMpande during his imprisonment after the Zulu War



January 30, 1879 Natal newspaper sent to Britain containing some of the earliest news of the war's starting phases



Alex on his first visit to Zululand in 2017

narrative of the people and events leading up to and through the Anglo-Zulu War. Most importantly, Ian goes beyond any book before it by incorporating the perspectives, records, and available oral histories of both the colonial and Zulu sides of the conflict. Meeting Ian irrevocably altered my journey for the better as he convinced me to finally come to South Africa and see Zululand with my own eyes. Ian has led battlefield and Zulu cultural tours for decades and in March 2017, almost 20 years after the start of my interest in this area of history began, I finally touched down in KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa.

My experience in Zululand changed my whole perspective from just being focused on the history of a brief few years in the 19th century to being fully interested in the history, heritage and culture of the Zulu people from before the 1870s and all the way to the present day. To date, I have made three trips to Zululand with a fourth trip unfortunately canceled in March 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic picked up. I am grateful for the people I have met and the perspectives they have shared with me during these trips, including battlefield tour guide Lindizwe Ngobese (affectionately known as Dalton). He is the great-grandson of Mehlokazulu, who led several companies of the Zulu Army's Ingobamakhosi Regiment, which

formed the left horn of the Zulu forces at the Battle of iSandlwana. In 2019, for the 140th Anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu War, I joined the British delegation (as their token American) to participate in the official commemoration events presided over by the current Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu (the great-great grandson of King Cetshwayo kaMpande). All these experiences dramatically shifted my knowledge acquisition and collecting priorities to Zulu history, culture, and artefacts from the past to present-day.

Collecting 19th century Zulu artefacts related to the war is most famously centred on Zulu weapons and shields. From a variety of sources including auctions, collectors, dealers and directly from Zulus living today in KwaZulu-Natal, I slowly began to assemble a collection of 19th century Zulu stabbing spears (Iklwa), throwing spears (Isijula) and knobkerry (Iwisa) clubs. Certainly, the first element that drew my attention in the Anglo-Zulu War toy soldier display all those years ago were the magnificent shields held by the Zulu warriors. The ultimate artefact representing the Zulu side of the war is the regimental war cowhide shield - either the great isihlangu or the slightly smaller umbhumbulozu. The range of Zulu cultural artefacts is vast, including beadwork, pottery, basketry, traditional clothing and more. It is a



140th anniversary of the Anglo-Zulu War commemoration event at iSandlwana



Zulu men in traditional dress escorting King Goodwill Zwelithini into the 140th anniversary commemoration ceremony at iSandlwana



Standard issued British service rifle, the Martini-Henry Mark I

collecting sphere that crosses into many different materials, mediums, and perspectives. I am still learning and collecting. Taking a cross-category collecting approach to my original passion for the Anglo-Zulu War has changed my life in more ways than I can count. David Beech MBE, the retired head curator of the British Library Philatelic Collections, always promotes the importance of *context* when writing, speaking, teaching, displaying, or collecting any subject. Mr Beech shared this view with me at our meeting during my first solo trip to the UK in 2009. Every new category of collecting that I ventured into provided context to what I already knew

1879 Zulu regimental war-shield, isiblangu



Examples of 1879-period Zulu regimental war shields



Present-day cattle maintained by the Zulu royal family





Example of traditional Zulu beadwork



Zulu woman in traditional dress with Zulu amaShaza earplugs (isiquaza)



Examples of 20th century Zulu amaShaza earplugs (isiquaza)

and collected, and with equal importance laid the groundwork for areas still undiscovered in my collecting journey. It is my wish that all collectors have success in their pursuit of knowledge, growing their collections and developing further context to their areas of interest.

So what's next? Good question. In collaboration with Ian Knight, Lindizwe Ngobese, Nicola Davies (Head of Collections for the Royal Philatelic Society London - RPSL), Chris King RDP, Hon FRPSL (RPSL Past President & Chairman of Philatelic Committee) and others, a public museum exhibition focused on the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War is in the planning stages. As with so many events, the exhibition (to be hosted by the Spear Museum of Philatelic History at the RPSL) has been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Now tentatively scheduled for mid-2022, the exhibition will be a unique opportunity to come and explore the rich history, heritage, and culture of both sides of the 1879 Anglo Zulu War as seen through hundreds of original artefacts. More information to follow in these pages as the time approaches, so stay tuned!

In-Depth Artefact Spotlight #1:

Letter with accompanying envelope written by Colonel Glyn, commanding officer of the Central Invasion column and sent from Rorke's Drift. Glyn's column lost half its force at the Battle of iSandlwana and more of his men fought at the Battle of Rorke's Drift later the same day. Glyn was with an advance force alongside the commanding general of the entire invasion, General Chelmsford, and was late to both battles. This letter was sent while Glyn commanded what remained of his original invasion force, in desperate straits camped at Rorke's Drift in the days following the battles. He is writing to a fellow officer of the 24th and describes both battles along with listing fellow officers who fell at iSandlwana. The cross-hatched writing on the small piece of paper emphasises the extreme lack of supplies available in the immediate aftermath of the two famous battles. The letter and accompanying envelope combine to represent one of the most important pieces of postal history related to the 1879 Anglo-Zulu War in a private collection.

A white canvas “housewife” folding roll for knife, fork, spoon, cleaning kit etc named in ink to Private W Beckett of the 24th Regiment. This item was given to Private Beckett by the army with his original equipment when he started training in 1874. He arrived in Southern Africa in 1877 with the 24th to fight in the final Frontier War and by 22nd January 1879, Beckett was in the hospital at Rorke’s Drift where he took up a defensive position inside. During the battle, Private Beckett was wounded and died the following morning. This “housewife” kit was sent home with his other personal effects to his next of kin. In July 1997, Beckett’s descendants sold the posthumously awarded campaign medal through Sotheby’s. For close to 120 years, Beckett’s family had stored his medal with this “housewife” kit.

Private Beckett never saw his campaign medal, but he made daily use of this “housewife” kit from his entrance into the 25th Brigade for training in 1874 until the Battle of Rorke’s Drift on 22nd January 1879. This artefact was actually present during the Battle of Rorke’s Drift. The story of Beckett, the provenance, and the elements of the artefact itself are the exact remarkable combination that makes this one of the most significant verifiable Anglo-Zulu War artefacts in private hands.

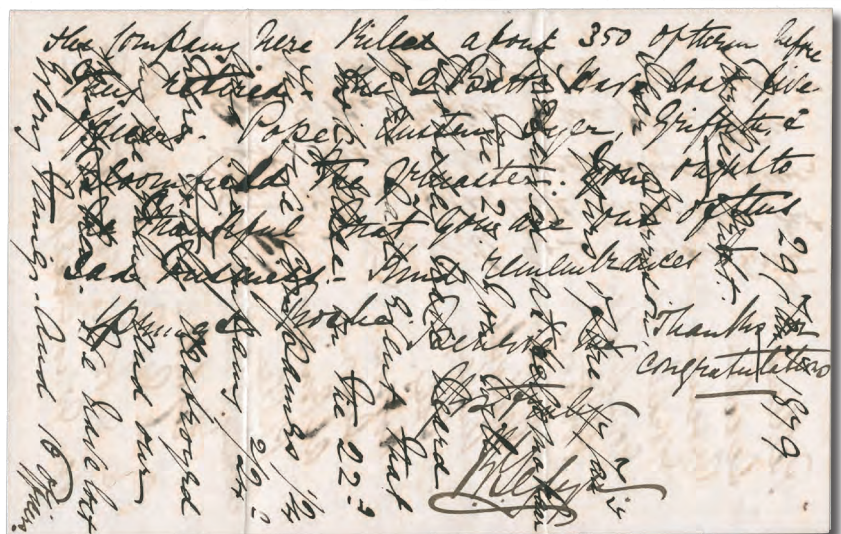
Private J Waters, also of the 1st Battalion, and a special orderly in the hospital, recounted the events of that night in *The Cambrian* (13th June, 1879):

OKST
YFEIC
79

O.W.M.S.

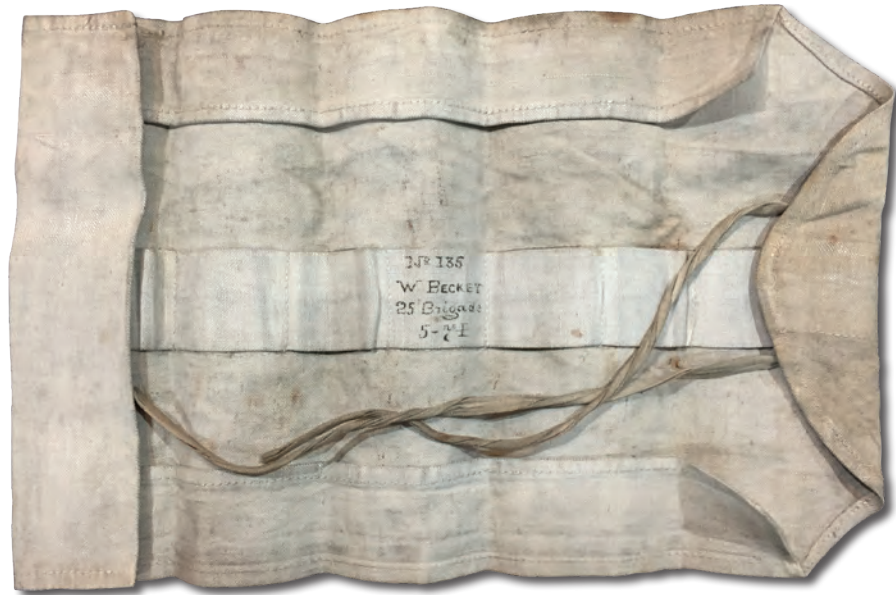
Captain A. A. Harrison
Command^r Detachment
118th Reg^t Inf.
S^t Johns. Fisher

Free
Weylyn 18th
Command^r 8th 18th



Envelope & letter sent on January 29th by Col. Glyn from Rorke's Drift

“He managed to get away and conceal himself in the ditch of the Garden, where we found him next morning. The poor fellow was so weak from loss of blood that he could not walk, and he died shortly thereafter.”



Zulus came over the hill and I saw about fifty of them form a line in skirmishing orders ... They came about twenty yards, and then opened fire on the hospital. Some of them came in and set fire to it. While I was there I took refuge in a cupboard, and Private Beckett, an invalid, came with me. As they were going out I killed many of them, and as I could not stay there long, the place being suffocating, I put on a black cloak which I found in the cupboard, and which must have belonged to Mr Witt (a Reverend who whose mission was based at Rorke's Drift), and ran out in the long grass and lay down. The Zulus must have thought I was one of their dead comrades, as they were all round about me, and some trod on me. Beckett had gone out half an hour before me, and he, poor fellow, was assegai'd right through his stomach, and went into laager the next morning. Dr Reynolds did all he could to save him, but did not succeed ... Poor Beckett was buried next morning properly. Round the hospital dead Zulus were piled high."

Major JRM Chard, VC, also described Beckett's fate in his account written at the request of Queen Victoria:

"Private Beckett ... was badly wounded with assegais in running through the enemy. He managed to get away and conceal himself in the ditch of the Garden, where we found him next morning. The poor fellow was so weak from loss of blood that he could not walk, and he died shortly thereafter."

Advice for successful cross-category collecting:

Go to the place(s) most connected to your area of interest. Want to collect artefacts related to British military history? Go to Britain to maximise the results of your efforts!

Looking for inspiration on what is available in other collecting categories related to your interest? Look through books on your topic and pay attention to the illustrations. Do you see medals, uniforms, artwork, or something else? These are all new collecting areas to explore further.

Find as many books as possible on your area of interest. Reach out to the books' authors and talk with them. You never know where the conversations will lead until you do it.

Ask questions. When you find someone through any channel who shares your chosen passion, ask them how they find material for their collection. If/when you encounter a new collecting category you are considering exploring, ask questions about simple details. Let each question and the answer help you build your own base of knowledge.

Reach out to auction firms and dealers that specialise in collecting fields outside of your category. Explain your focus and see if they have anything coming up. Often it takes an outsider's perspective to give you inspiration for a different way to approach and collect your area of interest. Auction firms that handle many different collecting categories like Spink are particularly useful in this effort.



“he began making imitations of some of the most splendid examples, the brass sesterces of the first and second centuries AD”



John Melville-Jones

GIOVANNI DA CAVINO OF PADUA: MASTER OF THE HONOURABLE FORGERY JOHN MELVILLE-JONES

In the 16th Century, imitations of Roman coins were created by the artist Giovanni da Cavino of Padua, after whom some imitations are called 'Paduans'. At the time da Cavino was living in Padua, working as a sculptor and jeweller, and making medallions of various kinds. His life, 1500-1570, almost exactly matched that of Benvenuto Cellini (1500-1571) and he was twenty-five years younger than Michelangelo Buonarroti; this was a time when Renaissance art was at its peak.

Some of his portrait medals were of contemporary persons – scholars, prominent lawyers, doctors or literary figures – who dwelt in Padua. But at some stage he began to associate with a contemporary antiquarian and humanist, Alessandro Bassano, who gave him a feeling for the coinage of the ancient Romans, and he began making imitations of some of the most splendid examples, the brass sesterces of the first and second centuries AD. Because of this, copies of Roman sesterces that might be dated to this period are often called 'Paduans', although they are not all by him (for instance, one that shows a head of Julius Caesar blown up from an ancient portrait on a *sestertius* with the legend VENI VIDI VICI on the reverse, is certainly not his work).

Their fine style has led many persons to fail to recognise his products as being not genuine Roman coins (the principal points of difference are the slightly exaggerated modelling of the faces and bodies, the care taken to centre the designs on the flans, and the rather broader serifs (like fish tails) that appear at the ends of some letters. It is not surprising therefore that in

the catalogue of a prestigious modern collection published some sixty years ago a *sestertius* of Titus was not recognised as being his work. Also, imitations actually produced by Cavino are almost impossible to find. The best place to see them is in the Museo Bottacin at Padua, where some are displayed that are struck on flans that are very like the flans of Roman sesterces of the early empire. He might even have used genuine ancient coins and restruck them. However, after his death his son Vincenzo, and perhaps others, used his dies (which are now held in the Cabinet des Médailles in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris) to strike more imitations, which are on larger, slightly thinner, flans, like the one that is illustrated here.

Cavino is sometimes described as a forger, but the truth is different. He lived at a time when, at the height of the Renaissance in Europe, many artists and architects and writers were fired with a desire to equal the works of the ancients, the Greeks and Romans who had provided a basis for so many things in European civilisation. If anyone still doubts his honourable intentions, they should go to the Basilica of Saint Antony in Padua, and look at his tombstone there. The writing on the tombstone includes this statement: 'In particular, by striking, he produced images of many of the early Caesars (*priscorum praesertim Caesarum multorum . . . imagines cudendo expressit*)'. This shows that he was not trying to hide what he was doing. Even when his coins travelled further they may have been mistaken for genuine ones, or sold as genuine by dealers who wanted to increase their profits.



Former Royal Marine Alastair Eager uncovers a coin on the battlefield



Find Officer Hillery Harrison working with veterans to sort through the archaeological finds.



Emma Howard

WATERLOO UNCOVERED

THE GROUNDBREAKING CHARITY THAT COMBINES WORLD-CLASS ARCHAEOLOGY WITH VETERAN CARE AND RECOVERY

“archaeology offers a real educational and vocational experience, a chance to be part of the civilian workplace under relaxed yet professional conditions”

Waterloo Uncovered founders Mark Evans and Charlie Foinette have a shared history, as well as a deep friendship. They studied archaeology together at University College London before joining the army. Both chose the Coldstream Guards, the British regiment that played a vital role in the allied victory at Waterloo and continues to see active service across the world today. In their military careers they led men in combat, saw war up close and personal, and felt its impact first-hand – on the battlefield and at home.

In 2010, returning from Afghanistan, Mark was diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and his friend Charlie was on hand to help. It was Charlie's powers of persuasion – “If you haven't seen a Doctor by Monday I'll bloody drag you there myself” – that set Mark on the way to recovery. It wasn't quick, and almost four years later when the MoD began a project to support veterans through archaeology, Charlie thought Mark would be an ideal candidate. They were both amazed by what they discovered - archaeology could help veterans recover and support their transition into civilian life.

This revelation got the friends thinking. Inspired by their shared past and the approaching bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, the notion struck them of combining the worlds they knew so well to create an entirely new kind of social enterprise – a bold new venture to involve serving personnel and veterans in unearthing the secrets of the world's most famous land battle - Waterloo Uncovered.

Turning Conflict into Collaboration

As they began to plan Charlie and Mark were amazed to find out how little archaeology had previously been carried out at the battlefield. It was incredible, as Charlie said, “like knowing where Pompeii was buried, but never lifting a trowel to excavate it.”

Eyewitness accounts are abundant but recounted through the fog of the battlefield – often some time after the event – they can be biased, patchy and confusing. Somewhere between the written record and the physical evidence provided by archaeology lies the truth about what happened, and what it might have been like for a soldier to fight and die there.

Even more shocking was that 200 years after the battle the archaeology was almost gone - looted by metal detectorists, disturbed by modern farming and eroded daily by the natural environment. What was left needed to be recorded now, or risk being lost forever.

Charlie and Mark acted fast and sought the help of some of Europe's top archaeologists and historians who readily joined the project. Universities, companies, governments, organisations and individuals all jumped on board, seizing the chance to be a part of such an ambitious plan.

So, armed with the best minds and latest technology (geophysics, smartphones, laptops, augmented reality, social media) they developed a plan: an international collaboration between the military, veterans and archaeologists to produce a world-class archaeological project.

While each team member has their own

motivation there is a common thread that binds them together: a desire to work alongside members of the modern military – themselves scarred by war – in the painstaking task of piecing together this extraordinary moment in history, to be a part of a project that is truly ground-breaking.

Discovery aiding recovery

Archaeology is proven to support recovery from injury. A multifaceted discipline, it offers opportunities to everyone – no matter their ability or injury. In particular, it is very helpful to those who suffer or have suffered from PTSD.

Waterloo Uncovered provides a twelve-month support programme to beneficiaries which facilitates the development of individual goals before signposting them to the next phase of their journey. Fundamentally, support is offered to Veterans and Serving Military Personnel in five key areas: recovery, wellbeing, transition, education and vocation.

The excavation not only provides interest and focus but is also meditative. Its outdoors and team-based nature is particularly appealing to soldiers, and the chance to do work that will be appreciated and seen by the public makes it even more rewarding.

What's more, archaeology offers a real educational and vocational experience, a chance to be part of the civilian workplace under relaxed yet professional conditions. A number of veterans who have taken part in the excavations have carried on with archaeology, or have been inspired into education.

Finding Peace from War

2019 saw Waterloo Uncovered's biggest and most diverse group of participants yet. Participants included both veterans and serving personnel, represented all branches of the military, and came from across Europe as far as America. Amongst these participants was Grace Lewis-Flanagan, who served in



Injured British veteran Shaun Stocker with metal detector supervisor Gary Craig



Veterans make a walking reconnaissance of the battlefield



Uncovering a French howitzer shell buried deep in the battlefield soil



Redcoats return to Waterloo: Chelsea Pensioner and Waterloo Uncovered participant Trevor Rafferty (centre) with Napoleonic Reenactors



A guardsman's button emerges from the buried battle debris at Hougomont Farm

the RAF for 23 years before being discharged due to injury. From having been in “a dark place,” she describes taking part in Waterloo Uncovered as “like being handed a lifeline.”

The educational and practical elements of the excavation were therapeutic for Grace, as were the extracurricular activities put on in the evenings for the participants, and the camaraderie of being part of a team made up of those with similar life experiences and struggles.

“From day one I felt like myself again,” she explains, “I was smiling and laughing with the feeling of being part of a team. The archaeology reignited my interest in history and I found a new love of model making and poetry.”

Since taking part in the project, Grace’s newfound interest in archaeology has continued, and she has built on the skills she learnt in Belgium: “I’ve also been metal detecting and have attended some excavations since returning. All in all, the experience was invaluable in helping in my recovery.”

One of her fellow 2019 participants, Oliver Horncastle, was one of the youngest serving



Archaeological supervisor Sam Wilson (left) examines a musket ball with Dutch, British and US veterans

soldiers to attend last year's excavation at only 22. Oliver is a serving Coldstream Guardsman who was injured in 2018, and joined the Waterloo Uncovered team the next summer as a way to aid in his rehabilitation and return to active service. Like Grace, he benefitted from the camaraderie of the dig, describing the team as "like a big family":

Although Oliver was already a keen metal detectorist, this was his first experience with archaeology, and he was lucky enough to uncover the first find of the 2019 season: a British musket ball. Oliver's luck continued over the next two weeks of digging, and he was responsible for two of the major finds of the season: an unexploded 6-inch howitzer shell that had to be seized by the Belgian bomb squad as it may have still been live, and a Coldstream Guards button found at the North Gate of Hougoumont which the regiment defended. The latter discovery was particularly poignant for Oliver. As a Coldstream Guardsman himself, Oliver was happy to find a button belonging to his regiment, describing it as "like solid gold" to him – but he also looked forward to finding objects which will tell the stories of soldiers beyond the Coldstream Guards:

"One Coldstream Guards button is excellent, but there was so much more at play here – so many people made so many sacrifices here, and there are other people to represent."

Summing up the impact of Waterloo Uncovered on its veteran participants, Oliver had this to say:

"Some people have had horrific accidents and horrific things happen to them. This project is doing them a huge amount of good, you can see it day on day, week on week. Some of these guys are coming out of their shells in ways they probably haven't done in a great many years."

You can find out more about Waterloo Uncovered, their work with veterans and serving military personnel, and about the archaeology and history of the Battle of Waterloo through their website (<http://www.waterloouncovered.com>) and their popular YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/c/WaterlooUncovered>), or find them on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Watch this space for more insight into Waterloo Uncovered's archaeological discoveries on the battlefield of Waterloo.

If you would like to hear more about the Waterloo Uncovered story, please contact Mike Greenwood by email, mike.g@waterloouncovered.com. If you'd like to support the work of the charity, go to: <https://waterloouncovered.com/donate/>

Photography by:
Chris van Houts,
Deborah M Bernstein,
Emily Glass

"When I got back from my last tour I got told I had PTSD. Some of my symptoms manifest in acute anxiety and hyper-vigilance which have a huge impact on my day to day life"



Oliver Horncastle



Grace Lewis-Flanagan



Jack West-Sherring

WATERLOO UNCOVERED LOCKDOWN CHALLENGE

Insider readers will of course remember our former colleague Jack West-Sherring, who did a project for Waterloo Uncovered during the first lockdown of 2020, to play the march of every regiment in the British Army on the fife wearing full Napoleonic uniform! Waterloo Uncovered will use his 'archive' of over 100 regimental tunes as an educational and fund-raising tool for its wounded veterans. He explains a little further:

I decided to use the coronavirus 'lockdown' of 2020 to set myself a challenge. An avid Napoleonic re-enactor since childhood, I enjoy performing Georgian military music on the Fife, a deceptively simple wooden instrument that punches far above its weight. A Fife's bright sound carries for miles across a battlefield, as was proved during the Waterloo Bicentenary re-enactment in 2015, when I stood on the ridge and played to raise morale among the Allied troops. Popular in the armies of Wellington, Napoleon and Blücher, the Fife provides an authentic soundtrack of the Waterloo campaign. Over the years I have expanded my repertoire to include French and Prussian music, but my cherished aim has always been to learn the march of every regiment in the British Army of 1815. Lockdown presented an opportunity to achieve this.

My 'lockdown challenge' involved researching over 100 regiments of Horse and Foot and learning both the names and melodies of their marches, so I could play them from memory. Striving for authenticity, I was able to cross-reference books and regimental records to arrive at accurate marches for the year 1815, many of which are different from the regimental marches adopted in 1881. I would



Jack's lockdown challenge

like to thank fellow musician Paul Edwards for his help in providing research. On 30 March, I recorded myself playing the marches of the first ten regiments of Line Infantry in my back garden, wearing the full uniform of a drummer of the 1st Foot Guards (my re-enactment group). The video went viral, gaining over 30,000 views on Facebook. In each subsequent week I added another instalment of ten tunes, working my way through the British Army. Veterans who served in various county regiments listened eagerly when I played 'their' tune, and I received generous comments from serving Army musicians. One viewer said my videos were 'the highlight of the lockdown', and it was very apparent that my music had cheered people up, just as it stirred the redcoats of 1815. I hope it continues to do so, while serving as a useful repository of historical research. I am delighted that Waterloo Uncovered have agreed to keep my videos for posterity.

Readers can listen to all the music in the 'Videos' section of Jack's re-enactment group's Facebook page, 'His Majesty's 1st Foot Guards 1815', which will soon be available on the Waterloo Uncovered website.

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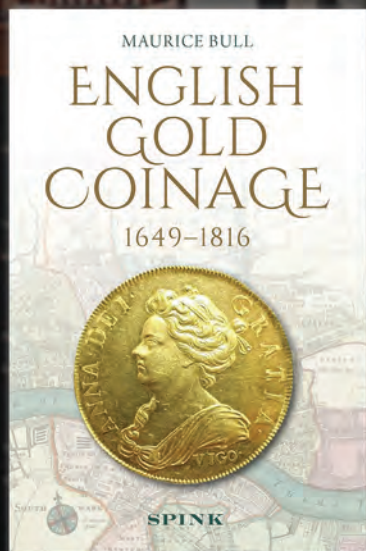
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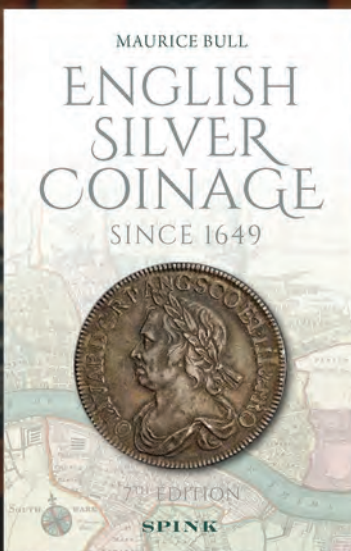
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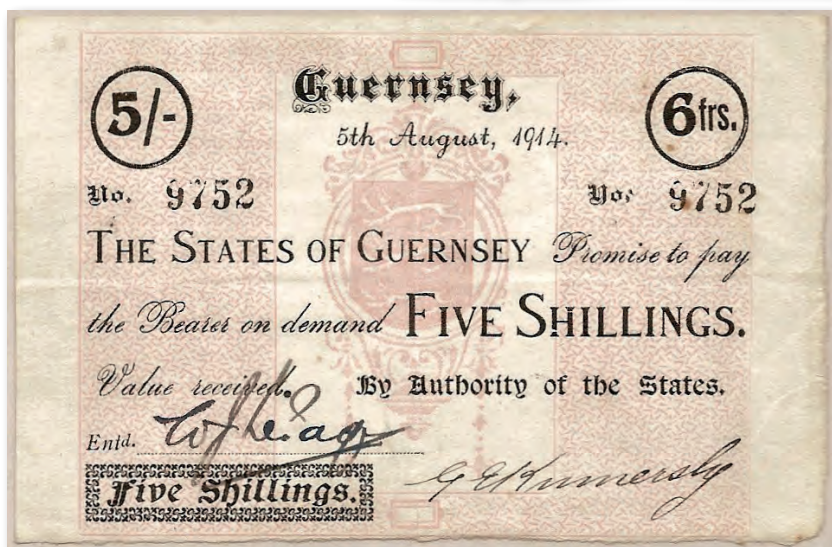
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States of Guernsey £1 1829

Guernsey Commercial Banking Co £1 1916



1914 5s emergency issue



Jonathan Callaway

GUERNSEY AND ITS BANKNOTES ISSUES

The peaceful and welcoming island of Guernsey has been inhabited since prehistory. The Romans settled on the island and named it *Sarnia*, hence the Latin name of the Guernsey Lily: *nerine sarniensis*. The island became part of the Duchy of Normandy in the 10th century and the Channel Islands as a whole came under the British crown when William, Duke of Normandy, successfully invaded England in 1066. They have remained loyal to the British Crown ever since and today the Bailiwick of Guernsey is a Crown Dependency, meaning that the Queen is the head of state while the island is self-governing and is neither a part of the UK nor the EU. The Queen's title on the island is the Duke of Normandy, so the local toast is, a little curiously, to 'The Queen, Our Duke'.

The island's parliament is known as The States of Guernsey. The population totalled around 20,000 in 1800 and had doubled to around 40,000 by 1939 when the Second World War broke out. Of this total, some 17,000 mainly women and children were evacuated to the British mainland ahead of German occupation in June 1940. The population is currently just over 67,000 so with such a small population it is hardly surprising that many of its banknotes, and not just the pre-war ones, are very scarce indeed. They are nonetheless avidly collected and the top rarities can command very high prices in auction.

The first paper money – private and commercial banks

Until the early 19th century, Guernsey mainly used French currency and French coins remained legal tender until 1834. Meanwhile, starting in 1808, the first paper money appeared

in the form of £1 notes issued by a few small private banks, none of which lasted more than a few years. These notes were either made payable in London or were exchangeable for a Bank of England £1 note.

There was a hiatus until 1827 and the establishment of the Guernsey Banking Company, followed in 1835 by the Guernsey Commercial Banking Company. Both banks issued £1 notes and while issued notes are rare some proofs of the attractive designs engraved on steel plate by Perkins Bacon & Co have survived. These two banks continued to issue notes until the early 1920s when their licences were finally withdrawn. There was also a brief issue in 1838 by the local branch of the Isle of Wight-based Southern District Banking Company.

The first States of Guernsey issues

In 1817 the States of Guernsey themselves decided to issue their own £1 notes, mainly as a way to raise funds for various building projects. The notes circulated alongside those of the two private banks and are equally hard to find. These issues continued throughout the 19th century and were also printed by Perkins Bacon & Co. All their notes were printed in black until 1895 when a blue design with green background appeared. This was replaced by a similar design but better-looking in black with a pink underlay. When the First World War broke out in 1914 the States felt it necessary to introduce an emergency issue of 5 Shillings (5s) and 10 Shillings (10s) notes, also denominated as 6 and 12 French Francs. The first 1914 issues were simple designs and were quickly replaced with better designed notes in red and blue. All these wartime issues are hard to find today. Throughout the 19th and 20th century Bank of England notes also circulated.

States issues between the Wars

In 1921 a provisional issue of States £1 notes were overprinted with the word 'BRITISH' to confirm the final abandonment of a separate Guernsey Pound (which had not been at par but valued at the rate 21 Guernsey Shillings to 20 British Shillings). Due to its rapid depreciation the use of the Franc also fell away. From 1924 until 1940 the States issued Sterling 10s and £1 notes, all printed by Perkins Bacon though no further 5s notes were issued. All these issues are scarce and are keenly fought over especially if good grade examples are offered.

Second World War issues

Probably the most interesting period for Guernsey paper money collectors came with the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939. After the fall of France in 1940 the only part of the British Isles to be invaded, the Channel Islands, were occupied by German forces. The Germans introduced their own currency, the hated *Reichskreditkassenscheine* military notes and coins, decreed them to be legal tender and insisted on their use. The existing Bank of England notes and locally issued £1 and 10s notes were initially allowed to continue in circulation but all Sterling notes and coins began rapidly to disappear into people's bottom drawers. As a result, an acute shortage of small change developed.

Therefore, in 1941, the States of Guernsey sought German permission to issue small notes to fill the gap. £5,000-worth was approved but only in exchange for depositing an equivalent amount of Guernsey notes with the Germans. The States selected the scruffiest of their own £1 and 10s notes, stamped them "WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION" and handed them over. With such an overprint they could not be re-used and were effectively worthless but the Germans nevertheless allowed the issue of small notes to go ahead.

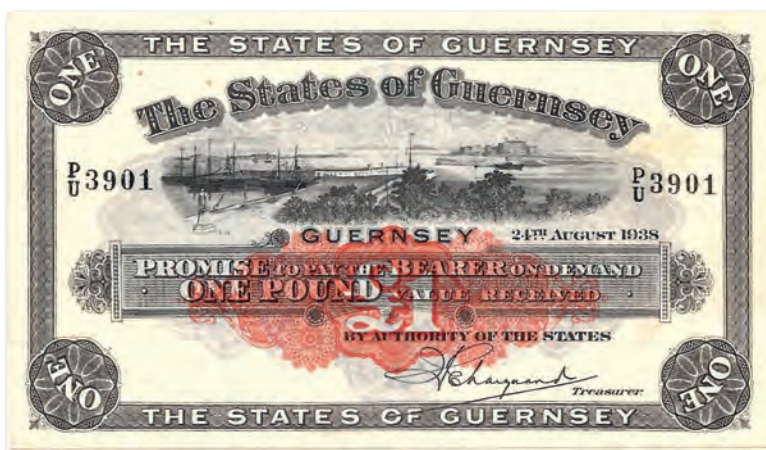
On 25th March 1941 Guernsey issued the first of their highly collectible fractional notes, comprising £2,500 worth each of 2s 6d and 5s notes. Competition for these notes amongst collectors is fierce because UK collectors have been joined by enthusiasts of World War II paper money and, because they were issued under



second 5s issue 1914.



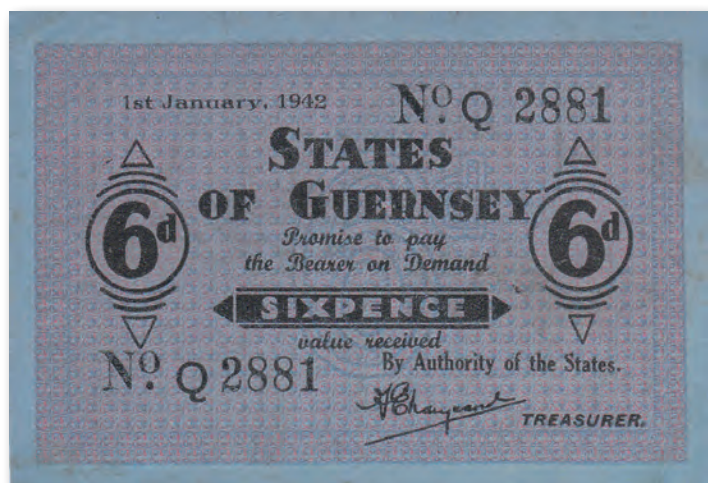
Provisional issue £1 1919 with BRITISH overprint



Pre-war £1 note 1938.



Scarce Bank of England overprint with Cattermole signature



Wartime fractional note for 6d on French blue paper



Wartime fractional note for 1s 3d on white paper.

German occupation, many German collectors. The notes are listed in standard German catalogues.

A second issue of £2,500 worth of 2s 6d notes followed on 17th May with an issue of 6d and 1s 3d notes in October. 1942 saw further issues and also the decision to replace the 1s 3d notes with notes for 1s. The 1s 3d denomination was found to be awkward to use so many of those Many of those already printed were overstamped accordingly. This created a scarce variety for the most committed enthusiasts who collect these notes by prefix as well as date: a mere 500 prefix G notes for 1s 3d dated 18th July 1942 were issued without the overprint with the rest of that prefix, 3,500 notes in all, being overprinted. The prefixes on all Guernsey notes changed every 4,000 notes so a hypothetical full collection would therefore comprise nearly 200 notes. To collect each of the dates and varieties is slightly less impossible and here you would need to acquire just 18 different notes, although as mentioned there are a few rarities which can fetch substantial sums in auction.

The original £5,000 authorised by the Germans was soon found not to be enough so permission was sought to issue a further £5,000-worth. This time the Germans demanded that they hand over an equivalent amount of Bank of England notes. These notes were also stamped "WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION" with one of two dates added, either September 18th 1941 or November 10th 1941. This again had the effect of making them worthless but the notes were accepted by the Germans and the States went ahead with a further issue of small notes. The total small note issue in 1941 slightly exceeded the agreed limit and reached £11,767.

Overprinted Bank of England notes

Of the £5,000-worth of overprinted Bank of England £1 notes some £3,000 survived and were rediscovered in the early 1980s in the personal effects of a deceased antique dealer on Jersey. Details of 2,950 of these notes were carefully recorded when the hoard came to light (50 of them had already been sold locally). The prefixes and serial numbers of each one are available

from leading dealers such as Pam West – well worth checking as forged over-prints are not unknown.

Both the green regular issue £1 notes and the blue wartime versions were overprinted and with two different overprint dates there are a total of nine varieties for collectors to aim for. These notes are also keenly collected with the scarcest varieties once again commanding high prices.

Liberation Issues

When Liberation came to Guernsey and the other Channel Islands on 9th May 1945 the States swiftly carried out a carefully prepared plan to withdraw all German notes and coins and replace them with new local notes. These had already been secretly printed and were ready for issue. They were used in part to redeem the earlier fractional issues, a few of which have survived with the stamp “WITHDRAWN FROM CIRCULATION”. The issue comprised 88,000 10s notes and 172,000 £1 notes. All the 10s notes and most of the £1s were dated 1st January 1943 and because most were redeemed they are increasingly hard to find today. Very much more elusive are the £1 and £5 notes on blue French paper dated 1st January 1945. A few 10s notes were also printed on blue paper.

Post war issues

Following the Liberation issues in May 1945 new notes printed by Perkins Bacon & Co were introduced and remained in circulation until 1969. Just three denominations were issued: 10s, £1 and £5. Those dated 1st July 1966 were the last Guernsey notes to carry a date of issue.

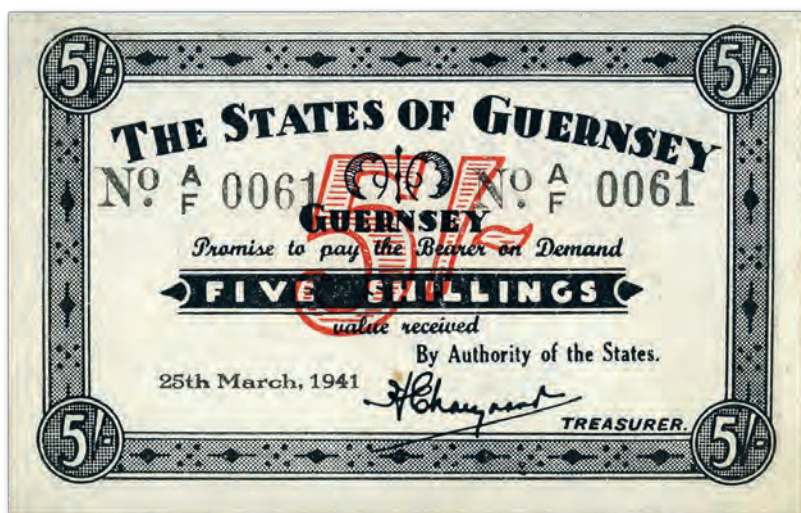
In 1969 an attractive new undated series prepared by Bradbury Wilkinson started to replace the post-war notes. There was no 10s note (this had been dropped and replaced by a 50 pence



Wartime fractional note for 1s 3d with 1s overprint



Wartime fractional note for 2s 6d on blue paper



Wartime fractional note for 5s



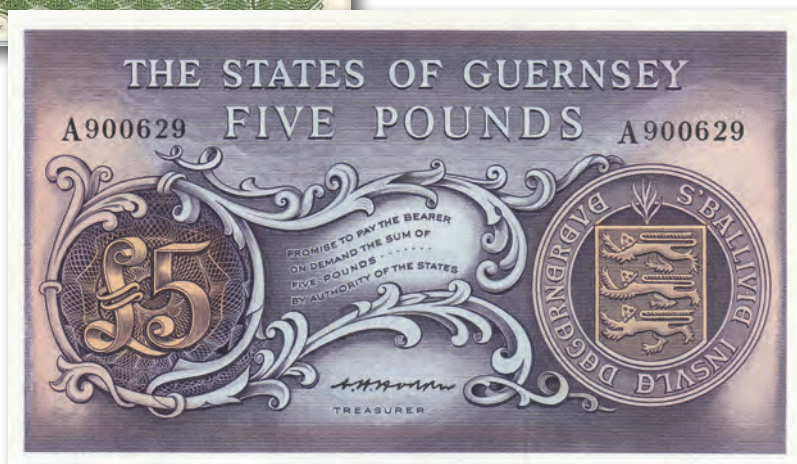
Liberation issue of 10s note, rarely seen blue paper example



Liberation issue of £5 note dated 1945



First postwar £5 issue



This £5 note was first issued in 1969

coin in the run up to decimalisation) but a beautiful £10 note was added in 1975. This delightful design featured a standing Britannia in a conscious throwback to one of the earliest States notes issued in 1826. The original Britannia vignette had been one of Perkins Bacon's stock engravings and thus appeared on a number of English provincial notes from that period. In Guernsey she was renamed *Sarnia* and taken as a female representation of the island, with her shield displaying the States' arms. The British lion remained at her feet.

In 1980 a new series was issued, in uniform designs comprising four denominations, prepared by Thomas De La Rue & Company. Sets of the notes were sold by the States Treasury with matching low numbers. The reverse of the £5 note featured Thomas de la Rue, the Guernsey-born founder of the famous security printers while the other denominations also featured famous local historical figures. In common with most De La Rue issues Z prefix replacement notes appeared for the first time. In 1991 the series was reduced in size but otherwise unchanged.

In 1994 the current series was issued and for the first time in Guernsey's history the notes carry the Queen's portrait. A £50 note was added but no new £1 notes were included. £1 notes of the previous design are however still being issued thanks to their enduring popularity and despite the competition offered by a local £1 coin. This series features historic Guernsey buildings as well scenes from island life. On the upper right hand corner of the reverse there are small vignettes of ships typically used in local waters.



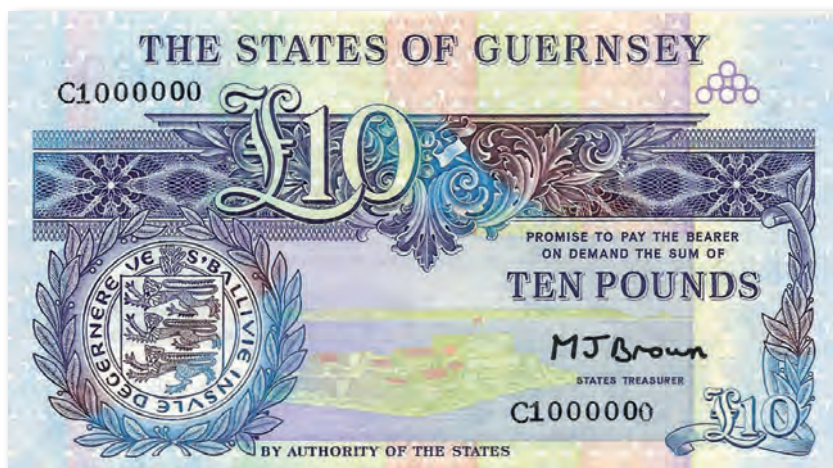
The beautiful £10 note first issued in 1975



Second issue £1 note with 1000000 serials



Current issue £5 note with 1000000 serials



Second issue £10 note with 1000000 serials



Current issue £20 replacement note



Reverse of the De La Rue Commemorative £1 note

Once again De La Rue produced the notes and once again there are Z prefix replacement notes for collectors to aim for.

In recent years a few commemorative notes have been issued, three based on the current issue designs, a £5 note to mark the Millennium and £20 notes to mark the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 2012 and the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War in 2018. Finally, there was a charming £1 commemorative was issued in 2013 to celebrate the 200th anniversary of Thomas De La Rue's first commercial venture on the island, before heading to England to found the firm which is today one of the world's leading security printers. The note is based on the 1980 series £1 but the image of De La Rue from the £5 note of that series was transferred for this special issue. The prefix on the 300,000 notes was inevitably TD/LR.

For anyone wanting to know more about the notes and coins of Guernsey, the best reference currently available is the Guernsey chapter of Owen Linzmayer's *The Banknote Book*, though Pam West is working on a comprehensive catalogue of Guernsey paper money. My thanks to Pam for supplying some of the illustrations used in this article.

“We had a little discussion about which way we were going! It was decided we would go South, where I thought we might eventually be able to steal a boat and try to sail across the Med”



John humphreys OBE DL



Emma Howard

JOHN HUMPHREYS OBE DL – THE GREAT ESCAPIST

Insider readers may remember that we promised to let you know more about the incredible Second World War escape stories of John Humphreys OBE DL, who featured in our Chelsea Pensioners article in Issue 37.

As you may remember, as a Sergeant he moved his section back from Derna to Tobruk during the Allied withdrawal in 1941, remaining there during the Siege of Tobruk. Tobruk was captured by the Germans the following year and the 35,000-strong garrison taken prisoner of war:

‘When the Germans broke through, I got injured and woke up surrounded by a couple of them who looked down on me and said: “For you, Tommy, the war is over.” I can still see them now if I close my eyes, two big fellas, looking down on me. They were very good to me and sent me to hospital, but once I was out, I was a Prisoner of War and they sent me to Italy.

‘The camp in Italy was a soul-destroying experience. You didn’t know when the war was going to end. You lived on a quarter pint of soup, and small pieces of bread and cheese. That was your daily ration. When it was gone you were starving. I stuck it for so long and decided that I was going to escape somehow ... so I got hold of a Hugo Italian Grammar book and I studied it until I had a large vocabulary. I realised I would have to practice, so I found a sentry who looked bored stiff in his box all day. I thought, “Oh, I’ll try my Italian out on him.” He was quite happy talking to me. We talked on and on and after about three months I acquired

his accent. I didn’t know it at the time but he spoke the Italian version of ‘Oxford English’. He obviously came from a wealthy family who had kept him out of the war by getting him a job as a sentry. Once I was fluent I decided to make a break. When I had been taken prisoner I was wearing shorts and a shirt – tropical uniform – but in the winter the Red Cross gave me a Greek army uniform, which looked very much like an Italian one. With a little bit of alteration I looked like an Italian soldier.

‘I had two very good friends in the camp and I said to them: “I’m going to make a break for it, do you want to come?” One day after roll call in the evening, I marched my friends in front of me, up to the corner and said to the sentry in the box: “I’m taking these two up for punishment.” He waved us forward and we made it through the wicker gate and on. It was as easy as that! We went up to the Italian army barracks and scrambled under the buildings and lay there until it was dark. We then made our way to the wall and climbed over and that was it – we were out!

‘We had a little discussion about which way we were going. It was decided we would go South, where I thought we might eventually be able to steal a boat and try to sail across the Med. We moved by night hiding whenever we saw or heard enemy troops. We lived off the land, pinching eggs and so on when we could. On one occasion we found a farmer who was willing to swap some of his civilian clothing with our military kit. What he gave us was practically rags but we did at least blend in better. The clothing meant we could now move during the day, as long

as we avoided roads. The incidents that come to mind of that time are the river crossings, which were hard because one of the others couldn't swim so we had to tow him between us, all the time wary of Germans potentially guarding the bridges. We also had two scares with enemy troops; once with the Italian military police, and the second time with the Germans. I was about to cross the autostrada when a column of German trucks came towards us, at the tail end of which were a lot of motorcycles and side-cars. They all went past me except the last one, which stopped right opposite me. I thought, "Oh no, surely not." To have come all this way and then be captured again would be devastating. However, the German soldier asked me in very bad Italian where he could get water, so – hoping the relief flooding into my face wasn't too readable – I told him there was a river about half a kilometre up the autostrada. He gave me a very odd look then buzzed off in his side-car. From now on we were doubly careful and kept well away from any road or track which might be used by the Germans, but we still got our meal in the evening from farmers wherever we could. Failing that it was back to tomatoes, figs and whatever else we could lay our hands on. We must have been eating fairly well by now as I felt fit and well and could walk all day quite happily.'

John eventually found his way back to Allied Forces where he reported in and was debriefed. We pick up his story again during Operation Market Garden in 1944, after four days of intense fighting for the Rhine Bridge. Operation Market Garden was the largest Allied airborne assault in the Second World War and had one simple aim: to secure three bridges along the main axis of advance to Berlin, outflanking the strong German defenses of the Siegfried line, thus accelerating a rapid armoured thrust towards Berlin. Over several days, from 17th September, Allied forces were dropped in to landing zones several miles away from the bridges, and tasked with capturing them from the enemy. The only ones who made it past enemy fire and reached the bridge at Arnhem were the 2nd Battalion of the Parachute

Regiment, and B Troop of the 1st Parachute Squadron, Royal Engineers, one of whom was Corporal John Humphreys:

'It was 1400 hours when we landed on Sunday the 17th. We waited for what seemed like a long time before starting to march on the bridge. The landing had been unopposed – we had caught Jerry having his Sunday lunch – but he was alert now and starting to show it. Bursts of machine gun fire came ripping through the woods, mortar bombs were falling, and men were dropping all over the place. It seemed all hell was let loose.

'We managed to secure one end of the bridge. From there we went into a school which overlooked the approach to the bridge and started to prepare it for defence. My first position was at a circular window overlooking a park, armed with a Bren machine gun. My friend Syd Gurran was my number two on the gun, passing me magazines when I needed them.

'It was not long before the Germans started attacking in earnest. They came across the park in armoured half-tracks, heading straight for us until they were stopped by the sheer volume of fire we directed at them. This fire-fight went on for what seemed a long time, but eventually they pulled back and there was time to reload the magazines and get ready for the next assault. I turned to Syd to ask him to help with loading the mags and saw that his head was down as though he had fallen asleep. It was Monday morning by this point and it had certainly been a long night, but I was surprised that he could fall asleep. I shook him and as his head turned towards me, blood poured out of his mouth onto my para smock. He had been shot in the head and chest and had died instantly.

'Tuesday saw the attacks grow stronger. We were up against two panzer divisions, the 9th and 10th. They had been regrouping in the woods north of Arnhem. The attacks they put in were of company strength but luckily for us they had to cover open ground to get an attacking position, so we let them get quite near before clobbering them with everything we had.

'During the afternoon they brought up a Tiger tank and positioned it straight at us. The



John Humphreys and his fellow escapees

gun slowly turned until it was pointing straight at the top floor of the school, so we nipped down to the second floor and waited, knowing the gun couldn't be depressed to aim any lower. As the shell tore through, the whole building shook and dust and brickwork flew everywhere. We survived. I had my one and only meal that night. A dehydrated meatblock boiled up in a mess tin with water. We had been told to hold the bridge for 36 hours, after which we would be relieved by the 2nd Army, but 48 hours had passed with no sign of them.

'Wednesday dawned wet with drizzling rain but that was the least of our worries. The town was in ruins, buildings were burning, and one of our resupply Dakotas had been shot down. The Germans had taken out most of our pockets of resistance around the north of the bridge and it looked as if we were the only ones left. We remained in the school where it was difficult for them to get close to us, so they began to target the building with a mixture of high explosive and incendiary mortar bombs, hoping to burn

us out. Our captain got us all together and said, "We will let them get very close before opening fire, and then, if they succeed in breaking in, we will go up to the first floor and fight from there, moving on up until we are on the top floor. From there we will fight to the last man and the last round."

'It occurred to me that he too must have read *Beau Geste* and I wondered who would tell Brenda [John's future wife] what had happened to me. She wasn't my official next of kin and as far as I knew she had no idea where I was. I had written a number of letters and asked one of the NAAFI girls to post them at intervals whilst we were away. I didn't want Brenda worrying about me.

A rifle grenade came through the window at this point, killing my mates Jock Gray, Twiggy Hazlewood and Joe Simpson. The numbers fit to fight were decreasing and ammunition was running out with no chance of resupply. At this point however, it appeared they had exhausted frontal attacks and would use mortars to bomb or burn us out instead.

'Mortar bombs began to drop non-stop and fires broke out everywhere. By late afternoon the whole building was on fire and it became obvious we would have to leave. Our captain ordered those of us who had automatic weapons and any rounds left, to go out first and hold off the enemy while the badly wounded were brought out and laid out in the ruins of the house next door. By now we were all filthy, not having washed for four days. I was unrecognisable - covered in dust, blood and soot. I lay on the patio outside the school with a Stengun and one almost empty magazine.

'In a short while everybody was out. The school was collapsing and fire raged through it, cremating all the dead it now contained. Mortar bombs began dropping around us and our now wounded captain said we had no choice but to surrender. I was determined not to give in and I managed to make a run for it with four others. One was hit almost instantly and another did not make it much further either. The remaining two and I crossed the road, dived into the cellar of a house and then proceeded to go over different garden walls towards a tram depot to take refuge. We hid under a tram, hoping to hold off until nightfall. I remember thinking, "All I need to do is jump this wall and I will be on the Rhine". My hopes were rising as the minutes ticked away, but then my heart sank as I heard the sound of enemy tank tracks nearing us and saw the barrel of a gun being lowered to point straight at us. A German voice shouted in English, "If you don't come out, I will blow you out." Well, there didn't seem to be any point arguing with that great big gun stuck in my belly and my back so I walked out, hands up, with my two comrades behind me, thinking "This is it".

'They were good to us, considering we had killed so many of their friends. However when one of them went to take my beret, I knocked his hand away and told him to leave it alone. It was at this point that I hid my big Jack knife down my trousers. By the next day we were in Germany somewhere and taken to a small transit POW camp near Emmerich. I knew we would not be there for long before they took us

"In a short while everybody was out. The school was collapsing and fire raged through it, cremating all the dead it now contained. Mortar bombs began dropping around us and our now wounded captain said we had no choice but to surrender"

to another camp further inland and I thought to myself, "I am not going to spend another year or another birthday in captivity," so I started thinking about how I could escape. Upon arrival I had noticed a small brick building near the camp boundaries, so I went over to investigate – it turned out to be a cookhouse. The best thing of all was there was a window with five bars in it, so I jammed the door shut and got to work picking all the cement out from underneath the bars with my Jack knife. Then I went to the stove, mixed some ash with water and smeared a paste over my handiwork.

Later that evening I recruited two officers and two soldiers and we escaped through the cookhouse window. We walked through the night until we were close to the Rhine, where we waited a day in a small hut until it was dark again, and as luck would have it a barge stopped and moored up just near our hut. When the crew came ashore, we jumped in to their rowboat, shoved off and drifted with the current all night – we spent at least 12 hours in the boat and ended up at Nijmegen bridge.

We were covered in blood and dirt, and when we made our presence known to the first British soldier we could find, I thought he was going to faint. Over the next few hours we were able to wash and eat, and were interviewed and photographed in front of Nijmegen bridge, which is almost identical to Arnhem bridge. We were forbidden to say anything about our escape.'

There are few escape stories to rival John's, who must surely be one of our greatest, and most humble, living escape artists.

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ROMAN COINS, MONEY, AND
SOCIETY
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SIR THOMAS SMITH'S
ON THE WAGES OF THE ROMAN FOOT SOLDIER



ANDREW BURNETT
RICHARD SIMPSON
DEBORAH THORPE

NUMISMATIC STUDIES
No. 36







Dominic Savastano

I REALLY MUST GET A PROPER JOB ONE OF THESE DAYS!

A little while ago Ian Hunter, a former colleague of mine, wrote an article which was published in the *Philatelic Exporter* about his impending retirement, detailing his time in the stamp auction business.

I had worked with Ian at HR Harmer in the 1980s and his retirement made me think.

How could Ian be retiring? He was in his early 20s when I last saw him (although we have spoken on the telephone from time to time). He is probably married with children, maybe his hair is greying, or he might even be bald! Perhaps he has tattoos? And all without even consulting me!

Anyway, Ian's article prompted me to share some of my experiences of 50 years in the stamp business – I hope you enjoy what follows but if you don't then you can blame Ian Hunter!

I was clearly destined to work in the stamp trade because in 1966 at the ripe old age of twelve England won the football World Cup and issued a special stamp to commemorate the event.

“England won the football World Cup and issued a special stamp to commemorate the event”

The stamp, with a face value of 4d (less than 2p in decimal money) caused something of a stir and was, for a time at least, quoted on the London Stock exchange. I managed to buy a block of four from a school friend for 10/- (50p in decimal money). Today, over 50 years later, that block of four is worth about 4p! Quite an investment! However, I have always felt it was good value because of the number of times I have told the story.

I joined Stanley Gibbons in 1971, straight from school, and was given a position in their approval department in Drury House. At this time the Covent Garden fruit and vegetable market was still open.

My father worked in the family restaurant in Fetter Lane, quite close to what was Holborn Viaduct railway station (now City Thameslink). For my first day at work I got the train from Orpington to Holborn; from the restaurant a taxi driver called Len, for the price of a breakfast, took me to Drury House. On arrival he leapt out of his taxi and opened the door for me and loudly proclaimed that there was no fare to pay, much to the consternation of the Doorman who must have wondered just who this new young member of staff was!

Five years at Stanley Gibbons taught me a lot about stamps and even more about people! But that perhaps is another story.

In 1976 I moved to HR Harmer, the famous auctioneers in New Bond Street. There I had the opportunity of working with great experts such as William (Bill) Keller and Fred Twinning; other colleagues included Andrew Norris, Graham Childs, David Beech, Richard Debney, James Skinner, David Wrigley and others including, of course Ian Hunter, all of whom have gone on to carve a name for themselves in the philatelic world.

The first few months at Harmers made me realise that I was completely out of my depth. The type of work that I was doing at Gibbons and that expected of me at Harmers were completely different.

I had meetings most afternoons with Ian Glassborow, managing director of Harmers at the time – he and the red pen with which he (entirely rightly) savaged my descriptions, all done on an old fashioned manual typewriter,

made me realise just how much I had to learn.

Bill Keller was my mentor and he must have picked up on my feelings, for one lunch time he invited me to the local Pub (Bill was a great drinker) and he spent the lunch hour and several large Bell's telling me how well I was doing. At the end of the hour I almost believed him! I should mention that when you went to the Pub with Bill you sat down at a table, glanced at the bar and large Bell's appeared at regular intervals.

It was Bill who gave me one of the most important and valuable pieces of advice that I have ever received:

Harmers had a fantastic reference collection of fakes and forgeries. One day I was looking through one of the volumes trying to check on an Iranian stamp. Bill looked over from his desk and said "What are you doing laddie?" I replied that I was attempting to check if the stamp was genuine or not. "Don't bother looking in there," he replied, "they are all forgeries! Get out and look at the real thing, look at other peoples' auction catalogues, go to shows, read the literature." What fabulous advice.

Sadly Bill, always a frail man, with an artificial leg, passed away far too soon; I remained close friends with his wife Mary (anyone remember Mary Card approvals?) and when my wife and I married in 1978 it was at Mary's house in Brighton that I changed into my suit for the wedding.

In 1980, shortly after my wife had fallen pregnant with our first child, Harmers were instructed to sell the fabulous Sandra Irene West Collection of Germany and I was sent, with my wife, to New York to describe it there. Sandra West was a San Franciscan "socialite" who was buried, in her negligee, at the seat of her Ferrari.

I do not know if Sandra West put the collection of Germany together herself, but imagine my wife and I, neither of us much out of our teens, transferred to New York for nearly three months. We were helped greatly by my friend Richard Debney who had moved to New York sometime earlier; he probably saved our sanity!

When we arrived in New York and checked into our hotel, the Barclay, I presented my

credit card as a guarantee of payment; the hotel must have at first keyed in the wrong numbers because at first my card was rejected; when they tried again it was fine. However, the incident must have left a black mark against our name because a couple of days later the manager, a Mister Crump, phoned our room very early one morning demanding to know how we would

**"Sandra West was a San Franciscan
"socialite" who was buried, in her
negligee, at the seat of her Ferrari"**

pay the bill. When I got to the Harmers Office I explained the situation the Allison Harmer. She very calmly put on her coat, her hat, picked up her umbrella and made it quite clear where the umbrella would end up if things were not sorted out with Mr. Crump. Fortunately (for Mr. Crump) it was.

A couple of days later we were moved into an apartment and Harmers arranged for me to have an American Express card to pay the bill. I was telling my friend Richard Debney the story and he told me that his company were getting him and AmEx card – the next day I had my card but the company that Richard worked for had been turned down as an unrecognised business!

Some years later I was sent to the old Soviet Union to value a collection, which, through the correct legal channels, we had been offered. I travelled to Moscow via Paris with the famous old French (although born in Russia) stamp dealer Paul Mourgoulis.

Paul knew Moscow well and had his hotel booked. I did not have a room arranged so Paul left me at the Aeroflot desk and assured me that they would organise a room for me. Eventually, after many calls, a room was found for me at the Cosmos hotel. I was told that my bill would be 100 Roubles a night. This is where it gets interesting.

At the time I did not have a credit card – I had had an argument with Barclaycard over a couple of pounds interest they were trying to charge me, and my letters went unanswered until I sent



them my card cut into pieces with a letter addressed to "Dear Computer". I did have some Sterling and travellers cheques so I went to a bank at the airport and changed most of my money into Roubles. Big mistake!

On arrival at the hotel I was told that they only accepted credit cards or hard (Western) currency; I asked where I could change my worthless roubles back into Sterling and was told, in no uncertain terms, that this could only be done back at the airport. Anyway, I managed to scrape up enough to pay for the first night and Paul used his card to pay for the remainder of my time.

So I had a wad of Roubles that I could not spend but found that I could pay for lunch with two packs of Marlboro cigarettes. On my last day, the business was concluded and I had time to stroll around the hotel; lo and behold, on the second floor there was a bank. Just for a laugh I asked if they could change my Roubles into Sterling: "No problem sir!" Roubles changed into proper money I found another restaurant, only to discover that they only took Roubles!

Back in those days I would not have considered myself any sort of expert on Great Britain stamps. However one afternoon a lady walked into the office with half a dozen Penny Black covers. To be honest they were rather tatty but one took my eye. A greyish shade and used in April 1841. I plated it and it was from the rare Plate 11. Anyway, we sold the covers for a good price, the lady was paid and everybody was happy (or so I thought). One afternoon I was walking around Bond Street having an afternoon cigarette, when all of a sudden I was confronted by most of the Phillips stamp department (Phillips and Harmers were situated

very close together those days) who proceeded to "beat me up" (without a finger being laid on me). It turned out that the lady with the Penny Black covers was a shareholder in Phillips and had gone there first, only to be told that they were not worth selling. She had made her feelings known to the Chairman of Phillips, who had, no doubt, passed his feelings onto the excellent David Boyd, who in turn had expressed himself, with no niggardly hand, to his stamp department.

Many years later I was handed the famous "Lanterna" collection of Great Britain to describe; the boss had already lotted it up and valued it. He showed me a strip of three mint Penny Blacks and said, "These are surely reprints." No, I said, this is a lovely strip of three from Plate Ia (the plate wear was so clear that they had to be Plate Ia, even at a distance; I cannot normally Plate Penny blacks just by looking at them from three metres). "OK," he said, "Make a lot of them and value them at £10,000." I actually valued them £20,000 and they realised £56,000!

In my 32 years with Harmers there were many highs and a few lows. One was in my early days. I had been given a fine lot of classic Greek stamps for sale by one of the biggest experts in the country at the time, sadly no longer with us. Unfortunately, taking the hinge off the back of one of the items I tore it in half! I confessed to the dealer who said, "Well, they are on very thin paper and I have torn one or two of these myself in the past." (Bless you Peter.)

Another low point was when I was given a mint block of six Penny Blacks to cut up (with the owner's permission); the plan was to make a fine block of four and have two not perfect, but still nice, singles. Unfortunately the block was creased, and almost as soon as I started to cut with a sharp scalpel one of the singles exploded into several pieces. Believe me when I say I had a very bad night's sleep that evening ...

However, one of my proudest moments came in 2006. Fred Twining, the noted British Commonwealth expert, was not in good health and had retired several years earlier. He could be a fierce task master – God help any of us youngsters who presented him with a proof to

“enquiring with the auction house he found that the vendor had given permission for one page to be sacrificed to assure a potential bidder that he would be able to rescue the stuck down stamps.”

edit if everything was not in apple pie order!

One afternoon he rang me up for a chat and told me that he had just seen a most interesting auction catalogue, with everything described in the way he liked. I asked whose sale it was, only to be told that it was the Roberto Sciaky collection of Ethiopian Postal History, which I had described myself. It had only taken 30 years to earn Fred's approval!

After 32 very happy (mostly!) years at Harmers I moved my tweezers and magnifying glass to Spink. It is a great joy to be working with such experts as David Parsons, Neill Granger and Nick Startup (arranged in order of age chaps!) and in a building bulging with experts in so many other areas.

I had known David Parsons for quite a long time and he and the others welcomed me warmly to Spink. Shortly after I arrived we were joined by the marvellous Mira Adusei-Poku, who was for some time my assistant at Harmers but is now the Chief Operating Officer at Spink!

In my twelve years at Spink I have travelled a lot, valued collections for two European Royal Households and handled many fabulous collections. Probably my most notable moment came at the Stampex Exhibition one Saturday a few years ago. Robin Gwyn, a noted collector of New Zealand stamps and Maritime disaster mail, walked up to the Spink stand with a stock card and asked me if I knew anything about the two items on it.

One, with a cut-out from a Russian Telegram, and was quite worthless. But the other – oh my gosh! Could it be? – am I right? – was an 1857 Tiflis local. I knew it was rare but did not realise at the time that there were only five recorded examples. I had seen photos in the famous Fabergé collection of Russia which was sold in November 1939. In our library I have a copy of the catalogue with Fabergé's own notes. He had THREE examples of the Tiflis local and wrote

“4 times as rare as the Post Office Mauritius” by them. Apparently Robin Gwyn had been attending an auction in Auckland and having viewed the lots he was interested in spotted an old printed German album in beautiful condition. Thinking that it was the oldest philatelic artefact he had ever seen in New Zealand, and after a brief inspection to ascertain the condition of the album (I don't think the stuck-down stamps in the album concerned him much), he bought it with the idea of showing it at local philatelic societies.

On getting the album home he was dismayed to find that one page had been mutilated; enquiring with the auction house he found that the vendor had given permission for one page to be sacrificed to assure a potential bidder that he would be able to rescue the stuck down stamps. As the lot was not as he had viewed, Robin was given the option of returning it – but I bet he is glad that he did not! Robin decided to remove the stuck down stamps himself, and in his own words, some fell to pieces on being soaked off and others were fine. Indeed, several were sent to the Royal Philatelic Society, obtaining certificates of authenticity. The Tiflis (unsurprisingly, as it is not listed in Gibbons) remained a mystery as he could not find anything about it. Eventually, after a bit of a battle Robin obtained a certificate of authenticity for the Tiflis and Spink sold it for him for a tidy sum.

So now, at 65 (soon to be 66) I find myself semi-retired and working on a week on/week off basis; I must say I am thoroughly enjoying it, and hope I can continue in this way for a few years at least. In nearly 50 years working with stamps there are many more stories I could tell, but it is probably best that I do not share them with you! It has been, and continues to be, fun.

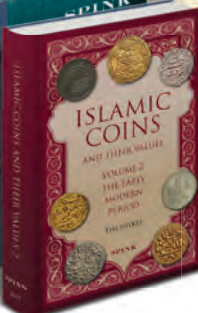
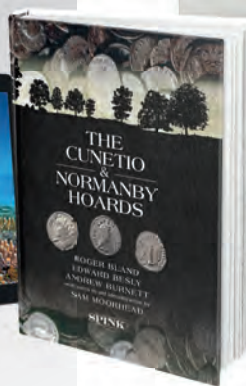
I really must get a proper job one of these days ...

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“These next-generation collectors see old timepieces not just as a subtly stylish way to dress up a T-shirt and jeans, but also as a hot new asset in their investment portfolios”



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Anuj Arora

TIME FOR THE NEXT GENERATION OF COLLECTORS

*Perrelet: Perrelet
Watch Turbine
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A1080/1 Limited
to 20 Pieces only,
priced at GBP
85000.00*



Since the creation of the first wristwatch in 1868 for Countess Koscowicz of Hungary, Swiss watch manufacturers like Patek Philippe, Omega and Vacheron Constantin have been creating unique watches to meet demand from the ever-growing market. Although the first timepiece designed was specifically for use on the wrist, it was designed primarily as decorative jewellery. Claims have been made that pocket watches were adapted to be worn on the wrist prior to 1868, perhaps even as early as the 1570s.

It will come as no surprise to discover that these early Swiss wrist watches are now regarded as vintage pieces and consequently highly collectable, but it is a common misconception that investing in watches is for the super-rich only. In fact, you do not have to be a big spender at all to make an entry into this market – it is not a question of how much you can invest, but rather how you formulate your investment choices. I believe it is important to always approach your investment by selecting a watch which is in very good condition and is authentic. As with all investment-grade material in tangible assets, the key to a successful investment is quality above everything else.

The high-end watch market has always been a strong investment vehicle for the wealthy. Tattooed rockers, tech business owners and Instagram influencers pile into the tweedy world of watch collecting, which has seen prices for sought-after classics from brands like

Rolex, Omega and Patek Philippe shooting up. In some cases, they have doubled in just a couple of years. These next-generation collectors see old timepieces not just as a subtly stylish way to dress up a T-shirt and jeans, but also as a hot new asset in their investment portfolios.

In a market where stocks, bonds and real estate seem unsteady, vintage watches & luxury watches (new) present a steady long-term growth opportunity. The jargon can be rather confusing when you start buying watches for the first time, but it is worth spending some time getting to understand what you are investing in. Whether it is a sports- or a dress watch, you need some knowledge of the mechanics and functionality of each when considering an investment.

Technical terms

Automatic Movement: an automatic watch has a mechanical movement and does not need to be regularly wound. Its power comes from the movement of your wrist as you wear it. Most automatic watches have a power reserve of up to 36 hours.

Chronograph: a watch with three sub-dials within the larger dial. It is used to display other functions of the watch, such as a stopwatch.

Chronometer: a Standard set by the Official Watch Institute of Switzerland (COSC). The watch has been rigorously tested for its accuracy at various temperatures and in different atmospheres, and is supplied with a certificate.

Cosmograph: as with a Chronograph, except that the Tachymeter function is found on the bezel of the watch.



Mechanical movement: a movement based on a mainspring which is wound by hand; when wound, it slowly unwinds the spring in an even motion. An automatic mechanical requires no winding because of the rotor, which winds the mainspring every time you move your body.

Tachymeter: often used in the motor industry to measure the speed of a car over a specific distance. It is measured via a scale on the bezel of a chronograph. Average speeds or hourly production rates can be calculated over a period of observation of less than 60 seconds.

Watch aficionados describe additional horological functions as a 'complication'. An example here would be a small window which displays the day of the week, date or other time zones. Then there are the different types of watches to consider: a chronometer which is a precision watch that usually comes with a certificate testifying to its accuracy; a chronograph which has stopwatch functions; and diver's or aviator's watches which are mainly used by professionals, but which are also collected by enthusiasts.

In such a vast and specialist industry where prices range from £1,000 into the millions, it is difficult for most would-be investors to know

where to start. A good beginning point would be to head over to Bonham's, Dreweatts & Bloomsbury or Christie's to find some of the most lucrative deals on luxury timepieces. Building a portfolio of watches can be as complex as one based on stocks and bonds, but with an access point like Spink it can be made very accessible.

So what would a wristwatch-based investment portfolio look like? Here is an example of the kind of portfolio which can be built for you:

1. Pre-1970s Cartier Tanks: with only a few thousand made and many of them different, these represent absurdly good value.
2. Vintage Vacheron Constantin complications: these are hugely undervalued compared to Patek Philippe watches and are extremely rare.
3. Vintage Tudor chronographs and military issue: prices are on the rise following a near-perfect relaunch of the brand.
4. Patek Philippe: 18 carat gold case on a bracelet, circa 1970, manual-wound movement. An absolute gem to include in your collection, these watches represent an interesting diversion in the history of the brand.

*Cyrus Klepcys
Vertical Tourbillon
Rose Gold
539.505.GG.A
Limited Edition
of 5 pieces only,
priced at GBP
126,500.00*



*Larcum Kendall
K5 Yellow Mother
Of Pearl K5.004
Limited production
British watch
maker priced at
GBP 4800.00*

When looking for a rare luxury watch, complexity and condition make all the difference. While there are major gains to be made, it takes a good eye to know the difference between a smart investment and a poor one. The brand name on the dial can make or break a watch's commercial value and collector viability. Patek Philippe, Vacheron Constantin, Audemars Piguet, Rolex, Breitling and Omega all perform strongly at auction. Raymond Weil, L Kendall, Perrelet and various other smaller manufacturers of chronographs have seen increased interest recently, though these are rare exceptions. Big, high performing luxury brands offer the best investment opportunities.

While the market is dominated by these highly regarded brands, you should not forget about the smaller retailers, as you never know what potential they may demonstrate further down the line. Exclusive watch manufactures such as Cyrus, L Kendall, Perrelet, Czapek and Manufacture Royal are already showing real potential to become classics of the future. Including one of their watches may prove to be a profitable and wise addition to your portfolio.

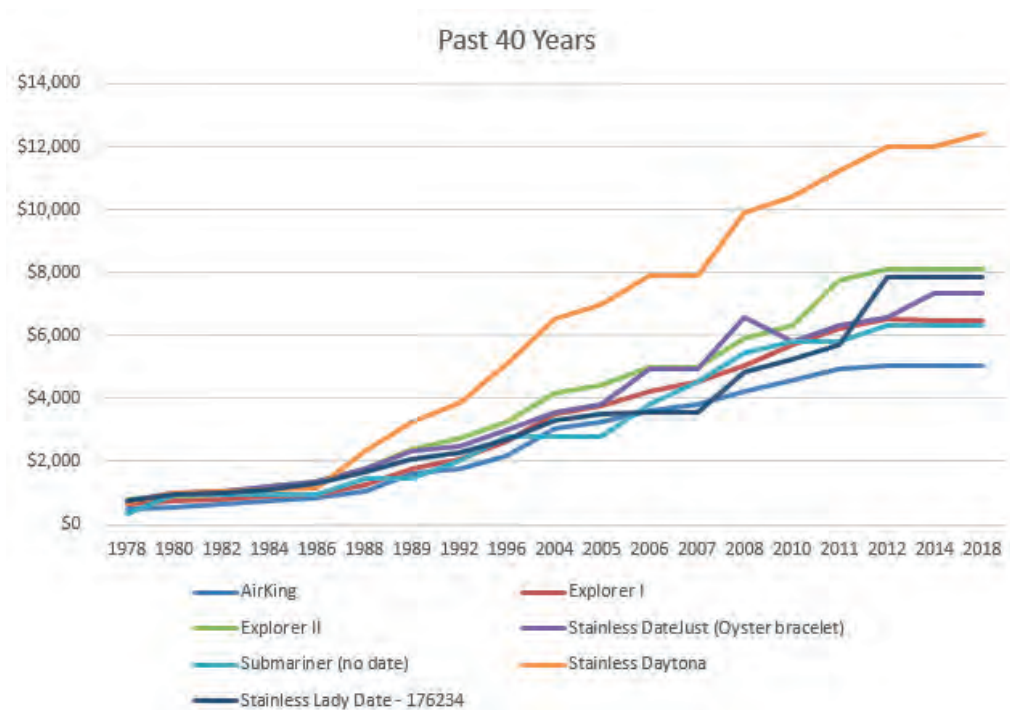
Alternative Investments

What if there was an investment that was in no way tied to how the stock market will perform in the next ten years? Irrespective of whether there is a decline or a recovery in operation within the stock market, alternative investments are capable of achieving independent returns. As with all investments they can reap great rewards or under-perform, but are not dependent on their performance on what is or is not happening within the stock market.

Here are a few benefits of Alternative Investments:

- a. Returns are independent of Stock Market Performance;
- b. Reduction of risk via portfolio diversification;
- c. Perform well historically during market crises;
- d. Uncorrelated to traditional investments such as stocks, real estate, and bonds.

This graph produced by "Atelier de Griff" would indicate that the price of the Rolex Daytona has shot up over the years compared to inflation. However, as they explain, it does not include changes in purchasing power, fluctuation in the cost of materials or advancements in the technology used in the watch.



*Source <https://latelierdegriff.com>

Looking at the chart, the prices for several Rolex models have grown steadily over 40 years, but towards the end have been keeping steady with no increase. Since 2012, prices have remained mostly the same across the listed Rolex models. That is more than five years now that we have not seen any significant price increase for these models. The Stainless-steel Rolex Daytona price, however, has gone up consistently.

DIVERSIFICATION

Diversification is a vital strategy for all investors. Generally speaking, particular investments or asset classes will perform better than others over a specific period depending on a range of factors. A portfolio within Alternative Investments could consist of rare stamps, coins, rare books, classic cars, watches and jewellery.

Wealthy individuals are putting passion into their investment portfolios – the days when they were only filled with shares, cash and bonds are long gone. Today, alternative assets such as the above play an increasingly vital role in contributing to the overall value of someone's wealth.

According to the Coutts Passion Index precious items include jewellery and classic

watches, which have both grown steadily since 2005. Both classifications lost value during the global recession, but their price return both before and after were extremely strong.

You would have more than doubled your money by buying a classic watch last year rather than sticking with the stock market, according to an index of how the wealthiest people in the world invest their cash. The sale price of some of the most sought-after timepieces auctioned by Sotheby's and Christie's in 2018 rose by an

Source: Coutts Passion Index 2019, Kidston 25, Sotheby's Mei Moses, Liv-Ex, Stanley Gibbons, Savills, Fathom calculations and Spin. All returns are cost-adjusted and in local currency.





“While there are major gains to be made, it takes a good eye to know the difference between a smart investment and a poor one”

The Rolex Daytona, for example, has been produced since 1963, but it was only after it was worn by Paul Newman in 1972 that collectors acknowledged its scarcity and unique aesthetics; since then it has become arguably the most collected watch on the market. You should look at the brand even with contemporary watches; a good, established name will always hold its value.

However, we urge our clients to buy alternative assets for the joy they bring, rather than as potential investments. A diversified portfolio of conventional investment assets will deliver a more reliable return, providing a sound foundation from which to enjoy the finer things in life. There are risks and rewards with every investment we make, but informed decision-making with some sound horological knowledge about the collector's market should put you in a strong position when investing.

Note: When investing, past performance should not be taken as a guide to future performance. The value of investments, and the income from them, can go down as well as up, and you may not recover the amount of your original investment.

average of 20% year-on-year, according to the Passion Index. This compares with an 8.7% fall for the FTSE 100 index over the same period and that is even with dividends reinvested. (source: *The Times*)

According to Peter Flavel, Chief Executive at Coutts, “Wealth isn’t usually a goal in itself. And what you do with your wealth can define you. Our clients are driven by passion – passion to succeed, passion to innovate, passion to preserve what is best in our world. Our aim is to help clients use their wealth to turn their passions into reality. These are the things we will remember and be remembered for.”

The investment market is full of opportunities if one knows what to look for. If you are buying as an investment, then as I have stressed, rarity and condition should be your top priority and I would encourage buyers to look for the best quality watch(es) within their price range.

Anuj Arora started Sales Extraordinaire Ltd in March 2015 with 20 years of experience in UHNW client relationship management, having worked for Investment groups, luxury Swiss watch and jewellery manufactures. He is based in London where he works closely with private investors, wealth managers and financial advisors. His in-depth knowledge of watches and jewellery allows him to provide a unique perspective on rare collectables; he can be reached through www.salesextraordinaire.co.uk or via email, info@salesextraordinaire.co.uk.

“It has been said that personalia with a robust provenance associated with Cromwell is so rare as to be virtually non-existent.”





Martyn Downer

OLIVER CROMWELL'S WATCH

Towards the end of 1647 and the first English civil war, Oliver Cromwell moved his family to King Street in Westminster to 'an old wooden house lying between the Blue Boar's Head Yard and Ram's Mews'.¹ This ancient street, overhung by timbered houses and gated at both ends, ran from Whitehall Palace to Westminster Abbey. It was a bustling thoroughfare between court and parliament and the move reflected Cromwell's political ascent after his distinguished military service in the war. The street was narrow and dirty but prosperous with a half a dozen taverns and 'houses [which] rose up three and four stories high; gabled all, with projecting fronts, story above story, the timbers of the fronts painted and gilt, some of them with escutcheons hung in front, the richly blazoned arms brightening the narrow way'.² The street's proximity to power had attracted many prestigious and celebrated residents, such as admiral Lord Howard of Effingham and poet Edmund Spencer, and luxury shops to cater for them. Among these from 1646—just a year before the Cromwells moved to this same street—was the workshop of watchmaker William Clay. Clay was never a member of the Clockworkers' Company—although it appears he became embroiled in a dispute at the Company in the 1650's—and little is known of his career except as a skilled maker of lantern clocks and watches. He was also commercially astute, moving with the tumultuous times he lived in. And so, a luxurious and vibrantly enamelled gold pendant watch he

produced for a wealthy customer in 1630, during the reign of Charles I,³ contrasted starkly with the 'Puritan' style silver verge watch which his neighbour Cromwell acquired from him during the interbellum. Cromwell wore the watch, which is unusually small, on his fob chain (such a chain, associated with Cromwell, is in the collection of the British Museum⁴). In 1649, Cromwell led the New Model Army on campaign in Ireland where he presented the watch—at the siege of Clonmel in 1650 according to family tradition—to John Blackwell, deputy treasurer-at-war and an officer in Cromwell's cavalry, known as the 'Ironsides'.

It has been said that 'Personalia with a robust



1 Walter Thornbury, 'Cross Country' (London, 1861), 101.

2 Sir William Besant, 'Westminster' (London 1907), 112.

3 Dr. Crott Auctioneers, Frankfurt. Lot 256, 10 November 2018, sold for 115,200 euros

4 British Museum Number 1874,0718.48.



Portrait of a Man with a Watch, 1657, Cornelis Jonson van Ceulen the Younger (Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York)

provenance associated with Cromwell is so rare as to be virtually non-existent'.⁵ Eleven watches have claimed ownership by Oliver Cromwell of which this example—and a near identical watch in gold by Robert Grinkin, circa 1640, gifted to the British Museum in 1786—are considered to have the best provenance to the Lord Protector. A survey of the watches in 2004 discussed the watch but noted that 'unfortunately its present whereabouts is unknown'.⁶

JOHN BLACKWELL (1624-1701), to whom Oliver Cromwell gifted his watch, was the eldest son of John Blackwell (1594-1658), a wealthy London merchant and grocer to King Charles I with strong puritanical ideals. In 1642, Blackwell senior was made captain in the fourth, or 'Blew'

regiment of the City Trained Bands for the defence of London, with his eighteen-year old son John as an ensign in same regiment. Within a year, Blackwell junior transferred to the cavalry as cornet in the City Horse, otherwise known as Colonel Harvey's regiment. In April 1644, to bring the regiment to a full strength of six troops, the parliamentary newspaper *Mercurius Civicus* announced that: "the well affected Maidens in and about the City of London . . . are now collecting what quantity of money they can amongst themselves for the raising and setting forth of a Regiment of Horse".⁷ Young Blackwell was given command of this "Mayden Troupe" adding to the sum raised by the women, which fell short, with eighty pounds of his own money for the purchase of pistols for his 47 troopers. The troop mustered in May 1644 beneath a standard emblazoned with the city walls and flaming silver hearts. It then joined the Earl of Essex's army for the summer

⁵ John Goldsmith, 'Does Cromwelliana Exist? A review of personalia associated with Oliver Cromwell' in Jane Mills, ed., 'Cromwell's legacy' (Manchester, 2012).

⁶ British Museum number 1786,0928.1. Jane A Mills, "Cromwell's Watch: Somewhere in 'Time'" in 'Cromwelliana, the Journal of the Cromwell Association', Series II, no.1 (2004), 100ff.

⁷ *Mercurius Civicus*, 11-18 April 1644. Thomason Tracts, British Library, E43(10).



*Cromwell's watch today,
superimposed on its illustration
in the Gentleman's Magazine
in 1808*

campaign in the south west of England suffering heavy losses at Lostwithiel and Plymouth. Although Blackwell narrowly escaped capture by Royalist forces, the Maiden Troop was disbanded and its survivors dispersed to other units.

Despite the loss of his troop, Blackwell remained a highly regarded officer who secured a new command in Cromwell's own regiment of horse, the 'Ironsides', following the death of Captain Bush at the Battle of Naseby on 14 June 1645 at which it appears he was also present. In a sign of further favour, Blackwell was appointed deputy treasurer-at-wars, a role he combined with his military career.

The Ironsides accompanied the New Model Army to Ireland in 1649 where Cromwell gifted Blackwell his watch at the siege of Clonmel in April-May 1650. Blackwell marriage in 1647 to Elizabeth Smithsby, a relative of his stepmother and a cousin of Cromwell's, had strengthened ties of kinship between the two men, giving reason for the gift.

Blackwell remained at the Treasury during the Protectorate rising to co-treasurer and sitting

as a very active member of the Military Party in parliament. In the letters patent issued by Oliver Cromwell confirming Blackwell's promotion, the Protector declared his "special trust and confidence in your fidelity and diligence and having good and sufficient experience of your abilities to discharge this great trust and service to which we have designed and appointed you".⁸ In 1653, as a judge in the High Court, Blackwell tried and sentenced to death the ringleaders of an attempt to assassinate Cromwell. Five years later, he followed the effigy of the Protector from Somerset House to Westminster Abbey during Cromwell's state funeral. Nevertheless, as a member of the republican faction, he was then instrumental in seeing Cromwell's son and successor Richard overthrown and the Commonwealth briefly restored.

⁸ National Archives Pipe Rolls E351/305 and 306. Quoted W. L. F. Nuttall and W. F. L. Nuttall, "Governor John Blackwell: His Life in England and Ireland" in The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography, Apr., 1964, Vol. 88, No. 2 (Apr., 1964), 121-141.

Despite his intimacy to Cromwell and his high-ranking status, Blackwell survived investigation after the Restoration but was permanently excluded from office, leaving for America in 1684 with his second wife, a daughter of the celebrated republican general John Lambert. They settled in Massachusetts Bay where he was offered the governorship of Pennsylvania by William Penn. Frustrated in this difficult post, Blackwell resigned and, in 1693 or 1694, returned to England where he died at Bethnal Green in 1701.

Blackwell and his father had both invested as adventurers in Ireland ahead of Cromwell's campaign and were rewarded by parliament with extensive lands in Dublin and Kildare. At the Restoration, his church and royal lands were forfeited but he retained estates at Ballyloughnane where his eldest son William settled, another son John having remained in London as a merchant. In Ireland, the Blackwells transmuted into the Bagwells whereas the English branch of the family retained the family's original spelling.⁹ Colonel John Bagwell (1751-1816), owner of Cromwell's watch by 1808, was the great grandson of William Bagwell of Ballyloughnane. In 1808, Colonel Bagwell showed the watch to Richard Gough (1735-1809), a respected antiquary and author of *A short genealogical view of the family of Oliver Cromwell. To which is prefixed, a copious pedigree* (London, 1785). Gough arranged for Cromwell's watch to be sketched, in three positions, before submitting the drawings, under the pseudonymous initials "P.Q." for publication in the *Gentleman's Magazine*.¹⁰

The watch then disappeared again from public view until December 1914 by which time it had descended to Colonel Bagwell's great great-granddaughter Elizabeth Langley (1864-1953), wife of Edward Theodore Alms of Taunton. In 1914, Mrs Alms lent the watch to Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for exhibition at Taunton Museum where it was

photographed and published by *The Connoisseur* magazine in 1919.¹¹ The watch remained in the family by direct descent until sold by auction in 2019.

For sale details please contact Tim Robson, trobson@spink.com, 0207 563 4007

Timeline:

- 1646:** Watchmaker William Clay establishes his workshop in King Street, Westminster
- 1647:** Oliver Cromwell moves his family from Holborn to King Street
He acquires the silver cased Puritan style fob watch from William Clay
- 1649:** Cromwell leads the New Model Army in the Parliamentary invasion of Ireland
- 1650:** At the siege of Clonmel, Cromwell gifts his watch to deputy treasurer-at-war John Blackwell
- 1653:** Cromwell made Lord Protector
- 1658:** Cromwell dies
- 1808:** Watch published in the *Gentleman's Magazine*
- 1914:** Watch exhibited at Taunton Museum
- 1919:** Watch published in *The Connoisseur*
- 2019:** Watch sold at the Laidlaw saleroom in Carlisle.

Object description:

A mid-17th Century Puritan silver fob watch by William Clay, circa 1645, verge movement with gut fusee and worm-and-wheel set up, the top plate with pierced balance cock engraved William Clay fecit, supported on truncated pyramidal Egyptian pillars, the circular face having a single steel beetle hand, Roman numerals and 15-minute chapter within an outer gilt-metal calendar ring, the date indicated by an engraved hand, in an oval silver single case with shuttered winding aperture verso.

Dimensions approximately 31mm x 25mm (1½ x 1 inch)

⁹ Sir Bernard Burke, 'A Genealogical and Heraldic Dictionary of the Landed Gentry of Great Britain and Ireland' part 1, (1862), 44.

¹⁰ *Gentleman's Magazine*, December 1808, 1072(illustration), 1074 (text).

¹¹ *Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society Proceedings*, volume 60 (1914), p. 101. *The Connoisseur*, volume 54 (1919), 39.



SPINK

FESTIVE SEASON & BEYOND

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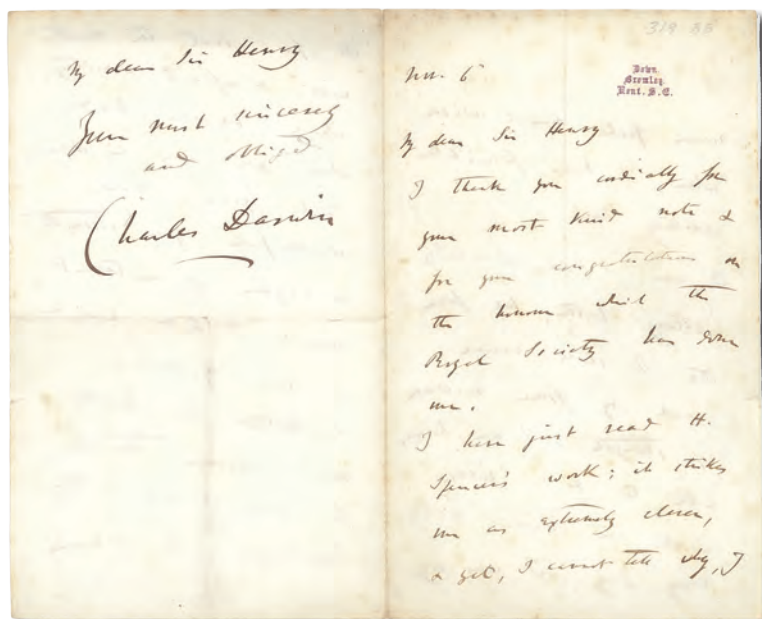
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LONDON NEWS

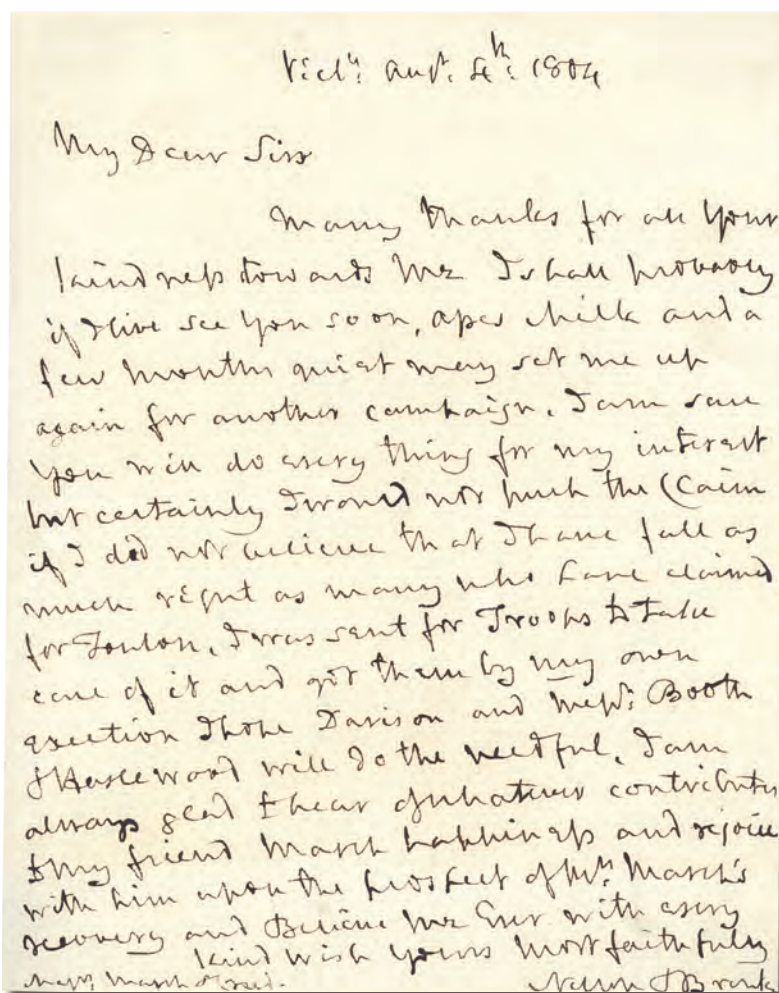
HISTORICAL DOCUMENTS, POSTAL HISTORY AND AUTOGRAPHS REVIEW

This year saw the great success of our July Historical Documents, Postal History and Autographs auction featuring the 'Eureka' collection. Perhaps the most successful of our Historical Documents auctions, the day saw heated bidding to equal the sweltering weather, with activity in the room, on the phone and of course on our Spink Live platform.

Highlights ranged from Oliver Cromwell and Samuel Pepys to Winston Churchill and included a superb George III signed letter with mention of Botany Bay, which sold for £3,500; a popular Napoleonic section, with two Nelson ALS selling for £3,200 and £4,800 respectively, indicating the strength of the current market for material with good content; and an 1864 Charles Darwin letter which sold for £4,500. The star of the show was a wonderful and exceptionally poignant World War II Dambuster group comprising the Flying Logbook and medals of Vernon Byers (RCAF) of the 617 Squadron. Byers, having only flown



Lot 630, the 1864 four page ALS from Charles Darwin



Lot 578, the 1804 left handed ALS signed "Nelson & Bronte" written from the Victory



Tom Fell

AIRCRAFT		PILOT, OR 1st PILOT	2ND PILOT, PUPIL OR PASSENGER	DUTY (INCLUDING RESULTS AND REMARKS)	SINGLE-ENGINE AIRCRAFT				MULTI-ENGINE AIRCRAFT			
Type	No.				DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT	DAY	NIGHT
					Dist.	Flts.	Dist.	Flts.	Dist.	Flts.	Dist.	Flts.
					(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)
TOTALS BROUGHT FORWARD					101-15	40-50			101-40	206-45	19-30	18-10
Can-Cat	D	JAC	CHAS.	Dash Landing							1-10	
"	"	"	"	X-County					4-15			
"	4	"	"	Spotted Red							1-10	
"	K	"	CHAS.	X-County					4-15			
"	D	"	"	Wingman Mustang					1-15			
"	"	"	"	Base								
"	"	"	"	Base					1-40			
"	"	"	"	X-County (Night Raid)							3-50	
"	"	"	"	Base							3-20	
"	"	"	"	Base					55			
"	"	"	"	Base								
GRAND TOTAL [Col. (1) to (10)]					101-15	40-50	101-40	206-45	19-30	18-10	10-10	18-10
TOTALS CARRIED FORWARD												

Lot 666, the Flying Logbook and medals of Dambuster Pilot, Vernon Byers (RCAF)

on three operations previously, was the first to be lost in the Dambuster raids along with his crew. The scarcity and emotive appeal of the group combined to bring a hammer price of £16,000 against an estimate of £8,000-10,000.

With the undeniable advent of the tangible collectible, especially in such uncertain times, this sale proved a success for both buyer and seller and exemplified the strength of the market.

We are currently preparing our sale for next year and would be eager to hear from anyone thinking of consigning to auction. To discuss this further please contact Thomas Fell, tfell@spink.com.

Windsor May 9th 1789.
m
3⁵ pt. 6. P.M.

Friday is a day that will suit me very well for holding a Council on the remaining Irish Bills, and for the convenience of the Lord President will be that day at New. I should it may be fixed at half hour past One.

I had seen the Secretary of War's proposals for raising the Corps to relieve the Marines at Botany Bay; I believe it is as economical as the Service will permit, therefore Lord Sydney may forward it.

J. P.

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Elaine Fung

LONDON BANKNOTE AUTUMN SALES

We cannot help but feel this autumn's banknote auctions were a little different to normal, mainly with the absence of the Maastricht Paper Money Fair. Nevertheless, we were able to offer the Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes and a World Banknotes auction, as well as two e-auctions.

On 8th October, we welcomed clients once again into 69 Southampton Row for a socially distanced banknote affair. Some impressive results were achieved in over 800 lots offered in The Mark T Ray Collection of English Banknotes with fierce bidding in the room, on SpinkLive and by telephone, with a lovely Bank of England Horace Bowen £5 of 1901 graded PMG 40 achieving £9,500. Possibly one of the most spectacular notes in the collection in terms of appearance is this Bank of England Error £5 from 1990, with most of the banknote missing sans the Queen's portrait and the printing guide present at the lower margin. After some rapid back and forths between the room and a SpinkLive bidder, in the end the hammer came down at £1,700, well over 10 times the estimate. As well as its appearance, the note now comes with a spectacular hammer price!

After achieving strong results from both e-auctions in the two days prior we felt optimistic going into our World Banknotes sale on 4th November, held at the Royal Philatelic Society. Another strong showing for India, with a Bank of Hindostan 250 Sicca Rupees from 1823 which sold for £50,000. We also saw a Bank of England prototype £10 go under the hammer for £18,000. This example was used for public consultation during the switch from paper to polymer banknotes, and is quite possibly unique in private hands.

It was a pleasure seeing our friends and clients again after the first lockdown. Preparation now is underway for the NYINC World Banknote sale, to be held in London on 15th January. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us for valuations or advice on your items for our January and April auctions.



LONDON NEWS

SPINK GOES STRATOSPHERIC! THE STRATOS SALE OF SPECTACULAR ENGLISH GOLD COINS

Spink London, 15th September 2020

Spink is revered for its headline sales, but with Stratos even we were astonished at the spectacle we ultimately created. In the seemingly unending backdrop of Coronavirus gloom, and nestled tightly between the first and second UK national lockdowns, clients and staff alike gathered (in a socially distanced fashion) to enjoy an afternoon of electrifying drama and furious tête-a-tête bidding – all the hallmarks of a classic sale of Spink yesteryear.

288 lots would be offered on the block, and 288 lots would be sold – the total purchase price (£2,585,346) dwarfing both our pre-sale estimations and indeed any London coin auction since the hallowed Slaney cabinet passed through our rooms over five years ago.

The market forces exposed by the economic, humanitarian and social crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic have served to turbocharge an already acutely engaged client base to – dare we say it! – ‘stratospheric’ levels of interest. As you will see from our auction realisations, including many new world record prices, Five Guinea pieces are now consistently creeping into the territory of the ever-admired ‘Una and the Lion’ Five Pound coins that trended our salerooms back in 2018-19, resulting in now phenomenal prices for ordinary currency issues.

As suggested back in the Spring Insider, the interest in ‘Anniversary Commemoratives’ came to the fore on auction day, with the result for a Pattern 1820 Two Pound coin, offered in its Bicentennial year, selling for



Lot 183 – Charles II, Five-Guineas, 1678 over 7 (Realised: £108,000)



Lot 194 – Anne, Five-Guineas, 1705 (Realised: £264,000)



Lot 170 – George III, Pattern Two-Pounds, 1820 (Realised: £69,200)



Lot 183 – Charles II, Five-Guineas, 1678 over 7 (Realised: £108,000)



Gregory Edmund



Lot 194 – Anne, Five-Guineas, 1705 (Realised: £264,000)



Lot 170 – George III, Pattern Two-Pounds, 1820 (Realised: £69,200)

an incredible £69,600. This result is even more spectacular when one realises that an identically-graded example failed to reach its £45,000 reserve only twelve months ago. If you are perhaps now rueing the ‘might have been’ opportunities of yesterday, you will be heartened to know that there are still plenty of future anniversaries to come that will undoubtedly inspire the numismatists of tomorrow. From the 200th Anniversary of the first Two Pound coin in circulation to come in 2023, and a similar celebration of the first Five Pound coin in 2026, there are potential targets both near and far within the reach of savvy investors and collectors of all budgets.

Therefore, with the likely prolonged economic uncertainty wrought by Presidential elections and global pandemics, it is heartening to pass on such reassuring stability and welcome joy from our Spink saleroom. This will no doubt serve us all in good stead for the exciting series of headline auctions planned as part of our virtual NYINC calendar in January 2021.



CAPTION COMPETITION

During the course of our refurb we saw some weird and wonderful sights at Spink! Most recently, intrepid Coin Specialist Greg was spotted lurking outside the front door with a giant air cooler ... Please send your suggestions for a caption to ehoward@spink.com - the winning caption will be printed in our next issue.

LONDON NEWS

THE ENNISMORE COLLECTION OF ANGLO- SAXON AND VIKING COINS

Spink London, 15th September 2020

The blockbuster that was the Stratos sale was fittingly accompanied that evening by an exemplary cabinet of carefully selected Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Hiberno-Norse rarities that charted the arrival of Christianity in Britain to the ascendancy of Norman rule.

Advised by a Spink alumnus, this choice collection, formed over the past decade, proved strongest in the issues of Wessex during the reign of Alfred the Great. Known to history for his famous last stand at Ellandun in AD 878, it seemed only appropriate that his influential life should be brought into sharp focus at Spink on the eve of the 1,150th Anniversary of his Coronation in 2021.

In recent years his iconic and forward-thinking 'London Monogram' coinage has proved a firm favourite in the Spink saleroom, with the examples herein offered proving particularly desirable on account of their exceptional pedigrees. From the example recovered from an 1872 hoard lost near the present site of the Bank of England, to the surprising Danelaw contemporary imitations unearthed as part of the famous Cuerdale Trove of 1840, all sold comfortably above estimate.

To many, Alfred offers a limited beacon of light into a very 'dark' age, the protagonists and players of whom seem mostly lost to the annals of time and certainly our collective consciousness. However, the Ennismore collector further enriched that evening through equally specialised focus on the Hiberno-Norse Kings of Northumbria. These striking issues, centred around Jorvik [York], provide some of England's most striking numismatic designs. From the Raven Pennies of *Anlaf Guthfrithsson* to the Sword and Mjólnir (Thor's Hammer) of the St Peter Memorial issues, their designs are iconic, even if their names are not. Take for instance Sihtric 'The One-Eyed', whose Viking epithet alone leaves a lot to the imagination, not just in the mind of the fortunate buyer!

Realised: £477,240 (including BP - 97% Sold)



Lot 4 – East Anglia, Aethelberht II (died 794), Penny (Realised: £66,000 - including BP)



Lot 9 – Alfred the Great (871-899), Penny, 'London Monogram' type (Realised: £12,000 – including BP)



Lot 20 - Sibthric 'The One-Eyed' (921-27), Penny (Realised: £20,400 – including BP)



Lot 9 – Alfred the Great (871-899), Penny, 'London Monogram' type (Realised: £12,000 – including BP)



Lot 20 - Sibthric 'The One-Eyed' (921-27), Penny (Realised: £20,400 – including BP)



Lot 4 – East Anglia, Aethelberht II (died 794), Penny (Realised: £66,000 - including BP)

SPINK IN THE AIR

It has always been at the back of my mind to organise something exciting and inspiring for me and my colleagues, and what could be better than a jump from a plane? After all, it is on most people's bucket list ...!

I did not expect to get more than two or three adrenaline-seekers to join me - I have tried to convince my wife for years - but you never really know until you try, and I was fortunate enough to have six companions on our joint adventure. The jump was on 17th October; the early morning mood was of excitement coupled with slightly nervous laughter.

The instructors on the field were very supportive, always trying to make jokes to put us at our ease. A few memories are still as vivid in my mind as if the jump happened just yesterday. First of all, that there was no time to think and dwell on whether you still wanted to do it; everything on the field happens so quickly – you arrive at the aerodrome, get a short briefing, then off you go to the plane, suddenly realising that it is climbing to 10,000 feet and you are preparing for a jump. Another particular moment in the briefing was as frightening as it can get; while the instructor was briefing us with his full on charm, someone asked, "What is this?" pointing to the red label with a picket at the back of the harness. With no hesitation the instructor responded, "It's where the knife is!" I am sure I was not the only one thinking "A knife? For what?!"

However, the most memorable moment was the look on Dora's face when she saw Axel's father, Mark, aged 60, who was the first jumper, disappear from the plane. If that look had been captured, I am sure it would have summarised perfectly what is it like to jump from a plane.





Arnas Savickas



“I was so blown away by the immense view that I almost forgot I needed to jump!”



Here are some personal experiences from the courageous jumpers:

Alzbeta Lanova

I would never think of myself as someone who would be keen to jump off a plane, so when Arnas asked us to join him for a skydive I was very reluctant. However, after giving it some thought I signed up for something that must be one of the most adventurous moments in my life. The free fall is something that words cannot describe. I can only say: wonderful. Sitting on the edge of the plane, I was so blown away by the immense view that I almost forgot I needed to jump!

Axel Kendrick

By nature I'm not much of a risk-taker, which, coupled with a fear of flying, makes me rather ill-suited to jumping out of planes. As the rather rickety old plane crawled its way up into the heavens, I felt a creeping sense of worry. This worsened as I saw my dad, grinning like a maniac, drop out of the doorway and into the freezing skies below, followed by the much

more dignified Arnas. Finally, as I waddled up to the exit myself, I suddenly had second thoughts. Thankfully, by this stage, it was out of my hands. My instructor threw us both out, and we hurtled towards earth and saw the sun shine above the clouds. Truly a bizarre, exhilarating experience, and a wonderful episode to look back on and to share with the team - and my father!

Dora Szigeti

Parachuting was definitely on my bucket list, since my sister did it when she was a teen. If she could do it, then so could I! It was also a milestone for me as I proved to myself that I can overcome my greatest fear (of falling) and that I can do anything if I set my mind to it, the sky is the limit – literally. It was a really fun day that I was happy to share with colleagues and friends, and I am grateful to the instructors who made us feel safe during this far-from-safe experience. It all went in a blur, but the video put together by Michael brings back the good and scary moments ... To close this special day in style, after the jump we were treated to a delicious lunch in the local pub – thank you Olivier for that!

Elaine Fung

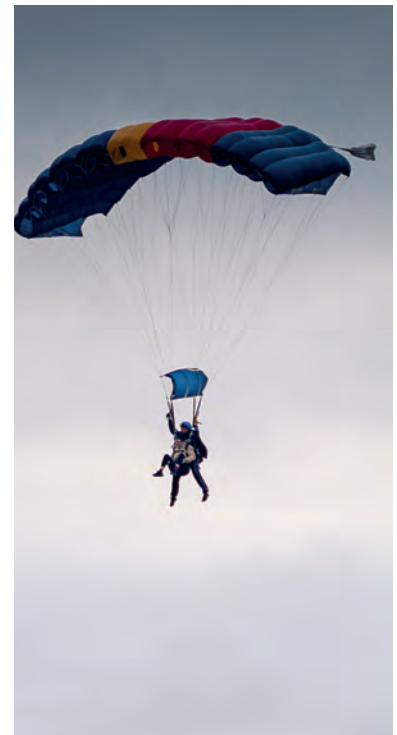
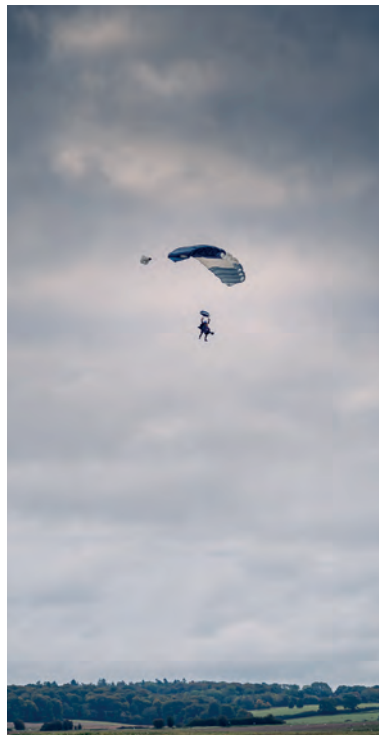
When Arnas first approached me about going skydiving, I immediately said yes and did not think much of it. Three months flew by, and suddenly it was the day of the dive! As I sat with my legs dangling out of the plane door, it finally hit me that I was doing this! Then the parachute opened, and I couldn't believe the amazing view I was seeing and the exhilaration I felt. I cannot recommend the entire experience enough!

Mark Kendrick

It was a brilliant experience and I could not have chosen better people with whom to experience it. The flight up to the designated height was tense but exciting, as we all braced ourselves and saw the earth disappear below a bed of clouds. Suddenly we were there, guided out to plunge to earth



“As I sat with my legs dangling out of the plane door, it finally hit me that I was doing this!”





with our instructors, dropping like stones, hitting the cold air and making my face wobble. In next to no time the chute was released and we slowly and calmly sailed down to earth - fantastic! For hours and days you keep reliving it in your mind's eye – it is a truly incredible experience.

Michael Lewis

Simply put - unreal. Followed by lots of expletives. Worth every penny though!

Everyone in the company was very supportive, and some of our colleagues have redefined the most famous banknote term 'EPQ' as 'Excellent Parachute Quality' – I am just glad that the quality of the Parachute was Excellent!

After the jump we went for a meal to reflect on our experiences; I am sure that everyone who jumped realised that their limits are way further away than they thought before.

The challenge brought out the best of us and made as much stronger as a unit; the experience was challenging, but after all, what binds people better than a challenge? Now I can proudly say that Spink has even more tools in its arsenal – in my eyes this is just the beginning of our adventures, as only a few minutes after we touched the ground we had some hands raised for jump number two! I hope it comes sometime soon!



**INSIDER TRAVEL:
THE AFRICAN SAFARI
AN EXPERIENCE LIKE NO OTHER**





Tim Robson

Do you feel the pull of relaxing after a day out watching animals in their natural habitat; from the tiny shy Dik Dik to the lazy male Lion? Of sitting around a camp fire on a canvas chair, the majesty of the Southern Sky from horizon to horizon, dark no light pollution, covered in sparkling stars, with the sound of a leopard coughing stalking shrieking baboons through the trees. If you do then go before it is too late; in the twenty-five years I have been going it has changed dramatically, but it is still an experience like no other. Whether you stay in a luxury lodge or in a camp in the bush.

The story and evolution of the simple Swahili word *Safari*, which means to travel, has devolved and come to mean an expedition or a journey (normally with reference to watching wild animals). Its specific origins are lost in time but the first reference purports to be from the expedition of the African explorer Richard Francis Burton in the 1850s.

“Frederick Selous became a famous hunter and explorer being perhaps the first recognised paid safari guide in 1887, taking three English guests lion hunting”

Our context here is to look at the history and the actuality of “going on safari”, principally in Africa, where the romance and love of safari began. Whilst the Raj had hunted tigers and explored India for years most of the interior of Africa was a mystery. The first explorers followed by hunters and settlers were staggered by the sheer numbers of animals, the dramatic scenery and the thundering waterfalls.

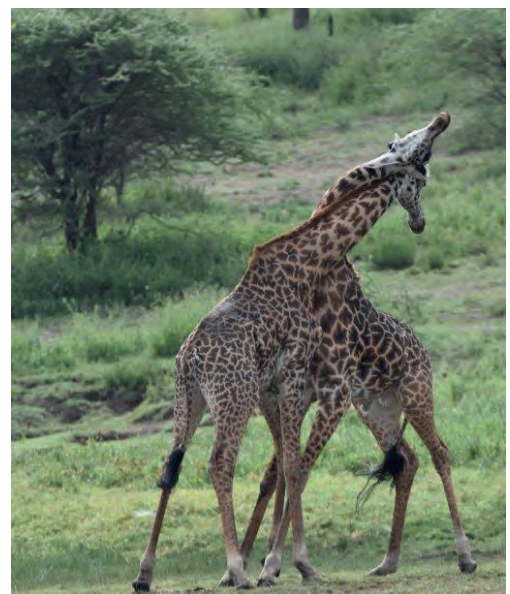
Major Sir William Cornwallis set out in 1836 on what was perhaps the first organised safari. Recently arrived from India he was keen to push into the hinterland of the British Colony and Boer enclaves in South Africa. He was both a keen hunter and artist of wildlife and his watercolours and sketches of what he saw are accurate, published in 1840 as a folio

of 31 coloured engravings, entitled, *Portraits of the Game and Wild Animals of Southern Africa*. Expeditions and his reputation grew and he was knighted in 1844 by Queen Victoria, sadly dying four years later, but his lecturers and drawings inspired others to visit the Dark Continent.

Throughout the 1850s and 1860s hunters arrived, the first of the White Hunters, men like Captain Henry Butler, Gordon Cumming (who published *a Hunter's Life in South Africa*), Baldwin and Thomas Baines added to the romance.

In East Africa the Arab traders and black hunters now armed with muzzle-loading rifles had by 1880 killed on average 60,000 elephants annually for ivory. The herds of hundreds of elephant seen by the early explorers now found their ivory in billiard balls and numerous other objects of Victorian England.

Frederick Selous became a famous hunter and explorer being perhaps the first recognised paid safari guide in 1887, taking three English guests lion hunting. Whilst he travelled extensively hunting he did at the same time have a love of the wildlife he shot as did many of the great hunters at the time. With the advent of the breech-loading rifle making it easier for the average shot to bring down game the number of early safari clients increased. Selous's exploits and adventures





inspired the writer H. Rider Haggard, to base his hero Allan Quartermain on him; the book *King Solomon's Mines* being the most well know. Selous was not just a hunter he was an observer both of the tribes and animals he encountered. Trusted by President Roosevelt, himself to become a noted hunter, his *African Nature Notes*, became a standard work. It was to Selous that Roosevelt turned to organise his great safari in 1909, which became the precursor to the booming trade in safaris from US clients. He could be called the father of the present day safari. During WW1 he was awarded the DSO for gallantry during the murderous campaign against the German General von Lettow-Vorbeck, sadly on the Rufiji River in January 1917 he was shot by a sniper. There is a large reserve in modern day Tanzania named after him.

Before Roosevelt transformed the safari market another figure desperate to restore his reputation organised a well -publicized expedition to Africa. Lord Randolph Churchill landed in Cape Town in 1892 and proceeded on a lavish safari, written up in the newspaper the *Daily Graphic*, earning him £100 an article

a record at the time. The new breed of safariists were visiting hunters on sporting holidays, including for the first time women. Mary Kingsley, a spinster visited West Africa in 1893 travelling through the jungles, seeing gorillas and making zoological observations as she went. Two adventurous women, Cecily and Agnes Herbert, were the first women to go on a shooting safari, afterwards lamenting the death of so many animals. Already in Kenya restrictions were being put in place to limit the desecration of wildlife. More and more hunters were beginning to see the need for preservation otherwise there would be nothing much left.

The first photographic safari, which is now the mainstay rather than hunting, was in 1903, organised by the German C.G. Shiilings, his images are quite remarkable bearing in mind the camera, lack of any telephoto lenses and the difficulties in processing. He was to remark:

"We may take English ideals of sport as our example, as well as the regulations drawn up by English authorities for the protection of the animal world"

Conservation efforts grew mainly from the



“This period, captured in films such as *Out of Africa*, based on Karen Blixen’s book, are filled with the romance of Africa”

great hunters themselves, but others carried on regardless and with new rifles the pace of killing increased. The last of the large safari events was that organised by Selous for his patron Theodore Roosevelt. A slight paradox hangs over him as in public and public policy he was a conservationist but at the same time an active hunter. The safari was a huge enterprise underwritten by Roosevelt’s friend Andrew Carnegie and the Smithsonian (for the collection of specimens and skins) to the tune of \$75,000 (around a million \$ today). For Roosevelt and many others who have experienced the African bush today the highlight was the evening, as he describes:

“... the red sunset paled to amber and opal and all the vast, mysterious African landscape grew to a wonderful beauty in the twilight”

Roosevelt passed through Nairobi then a frontier wild town on the railway into Uganda from the coast at Mombasa. From the veranda of the Norfolk Hotel you could still take pot shots at the odd lion in 1904, when it opened. Into this new country came Hugh Cholmondeley, third Baron Delamere, a hunter from Somaliland, who when he wandered into the lushness of Kenya decided to make it his home. He settled in the Rift Valley, built a relationship with the local Masai and set about establishing a farm. Followed by other settlers in particular Lord Cranworth, who was to set up the first motorised safari, became a part owner of Newland & Tarlton, the famous safari outfitters; these early pioneers balanced farming with organising safaris and were instrumental in establishing the colony in Kenya.

This period, captured in films such as *Out of Africa*, based on Karen Blixen’s book, are filled with the romance of Africa; the Muthaiga Club founded by Berkeley Cole so he could have his drinks properly served and the Norfolk Hotel became centres for the new elite in Kenya. Horse racing was held through the offices of the

East African Turf Club. Nairobi now became the safari capital in Africa. Lord Cranworth wrote:

“... princes, peers, and American Magnates poured in one continual stream”

The early safaris cost around £500 including license fees, specifically for elephant, buffalo, rhino, hippo zebra and various antelopes; lions and leopard were regarded as vermin and could be shot on sight. The outfitters and the local newspaper warned visitors of sunstroke in particular as the elevations are so high so seek they recorded, *“the shady side of Pall Mall”*. Perhaps not recorded were the evident dangers, typical of which was Gerald Longden’s wife who returned to Nairobi leaving her husband behind. After bringing down a huge elephant he was subsequently gored to death by a cow elephant, whose tusk passed through his back and intestines. Such instances are very rare now! The romantic love affair of Denys Finch Hatton, who bought a farm at Eldoret with Karen Blixen, immortalised in the film *Out of Africa* and their safaris together as well as her exploits during WW1 typify the spirit of the age. Following the war the age of safari entered its golden years until the outbreak of WW2. The new visitor wanted luxury and night life as well as the romance of the bush, the dawn of the Happy Valley set. Maharajahs, the Rothschilds and numerous members of the British aristocracy were joined by American moghuls. In 1928 the ultimate safari guest arrived in Kenya, the Prince of Wales, complete with gun and camera. Finch Hatton and Bror Blixen led his safari whilst his younger brother, the Duke of Gloucester carried on an affair with the married aviatrix Beryl Markham.

Naturally Hollywood took an interest both in Haggard’s and Hemingway’s books and tales from Africa; *King Solomon’s Mines* opened in 1950 and was a huge success, winning Academy awards, some 60% of the film was shot on safari, giving audiences worldwide a taste of the continent.

Conservation History

Nowadays most African countries maintain a ban on unrestricted hunting, although many have hunting blocks within park areas or just outside. The biggest problem is poaching, which is not new, but endemic. Perhaps the greatest threat to wildlife is human encroachment and the need for food from agriculture.





Conservation calls grew from both hunters and early conservationists alike; the first private group, the Natal Game Protection Association was formed in 1883. In 1900 the first International Conference for the Protection of Wild Animals took place in London and of familiar resonance to us today – forbade the export of elephant tusks weighing less than 10 lbs. One of the leading early conservationists was Harry Johnston, High Commissioner for Uganda, who stated:

“... the ravages of European and American sportsmen to be one of the greatest blots on our twentieth century civilisation”

His vision of the future was hunting animals behind a camera lens.

The idea of game parks protected or with restrictions on hunting began in the United States with the establishment of the world's first National Park at Mackinac in 1875. Africa's first park was set up by the Belgian King Albert I in what is now the Congo in the Virunga Mountains. The Kruger National Park followed a year later, based on a reserve set up by the President of South Africa, Paul Kruger.

Following World War I parks were established all over the world; in Africa now there are over 50 of them.

Where to go, what to see hunting with a camera

With the exception of safaris elsewhere in the world, in Africa there are two large areas; East Africa (Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Malawi) and Southern Africa (South Africa, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Zambia and Namibia). Each country and area offers very different landscapes and experiences. They also have different climates and rainy/dry seasons. Broadly speaking if you enjoy birds and bird watching the rainy seasons are best, for game viewing the dry seasons see animals collect at water holes and rivers so they are easier to see. Having said that I like to go just before or at the start of the short rains to the Nudtu area in Tanzania. It is much quieter and the area borders the plains of the Serengeti, which is a majestic place and normally at that time of year they are full of migrating wildebeest, literally thousands of them and their attendant predators. Don't forget in many African safari countries the seasons are reversed from northern hemisphere.

My selection of highlight parks for anyone wanting to see, smell and experience Africa;

Ngorongoro Conservation area, Tanzania – the African experience in an extinct volcano crater.

Serengeti National Park (Tanzania) and Masai Mara (Kenya) – this is a huge expanse of grasslands, woodlands, kopjes (extinct volcano tops), containing the huge herds of migrating wildebeest and attendant predators.

Okavango Delta, Botswana – wonderful series of water channels dissecting the desert surroundings. A beautiful place.

Skeleton Coast, Namibia – wild coastline, dunes.

Etosha National Park, Namibia.

You have a choice of walking and camping out in the bush or staying in luxury camps or lodges. Walking in the wild is an unforgettable experience but it takes time to spot the animals, land rovers twice a day covers far more ground and you can get very close to the animals. You can choose to mix both experiences.

What not to do – don't book an add on to a stay on the coast as you will end up in a huge bus tearing around the parks and might as well go in the UK to a "safari" park.

What to take - general

- Good binoculars.
- If a photographer then at least a 300mm lens or zoom, wide angle useful.
- Plenty of batteries and charger (most places have solar power).
- Medical kit.
- Sunscreen – high factor.

Clothing depends on where you are going and the season. As elevations generally can be quite high, or in desert environment it can get very cold at night and early mornings (when you are likely to be leaving before or at sun up), take a jacket or fleece. A hat to keep off the strong sun at midday and sunglasses. Check to see if your area is a malarial one, even if not check that the airport you are going through is not either.





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SALE CALENDAR 2020-21

NOVEMBER

19 Nov-14 December	World Gold Coins e-Auction	London	20105
24 Nov-11 December	Stamps and Covers of France and French Colonies e-Auction	London	20160
24 Nov-11 December	Stamps of the World e-Auction	London	20141
26 Nov-15 December	Bonds and Share Certificates of the World e-Auction	London	20130
27 Nov-7 December	Spink Festive Season e-Auction	London	20166

DECEMBER

3-14 December	Estates & Collections e-Auction	New York	365
4-17 December	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 6: Historical and Commemorative Medals	London	20126
8/9 December	Orders, Decorations and Medals	London	20003
10 December	The 'Hermione' Collection of France, 1849-1950, parts VII and VIII	London	20054
14 December	The 'E Pluribus Unum' Auction	London	20555
22 Dec-12 January	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 6 Part I: The Frank Viles Collection of Sixpences	London	21118
22 Dec-13 January	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 6 Part II: The Gentleman Collection of Gunmoney	London	21119
23 Dec-13 January	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 6 Part III: Russian Coins	London	21120
29 Dec-10 January	The Numismatic e-Auction	Hong Kong	CSS58

JANUARY

7-27 January	William Hallatt Rhodesia Covers and Cancellations, Part 2 e-Auction	London	21110
8/9 January	Banknotes, Bonds & Shares and Coins of China and Hong Kong	Hong Kong	CSS57
11-26 January	English and World Crown Sized Silver	London	21117
12 January	The Tony Abramson Collection of Dark Age Coinage	London	21000
15 January	World Banknotes NYINC	London	366
17 January	The Sir Rodney Sweetnam KCV OBE Collection of English Gold Coins and Other Properties	London	21004
17 January	The Numismatic Collector's Series Sale at NYINC	London	367
19 January	Important Stamps of the British Commonwealth	London	21013
19/20 January	The Philatelic Collectors' Series Sale	London	21010
19-29 January	The Numismatic Collector's Series e-Auction	New York	368
20 January	The 'Lionheart' Collection of Great Britain and British Empire - Part XIV	London	21011
21 January	Stamps & Covers of Great Britain, including the Windsor Collection	London	21012
21 January	The Guadalajara Collection	London	21043
21 Jan-4 February	Autographs & Documents e-Auction featuring the Mike Roth Aviation Collection Part II	New York	369
27 January	The Philatelic Collectors' Series e-Auction	New York	176

FEBRUARY

2-16 February	Bonds and Share Certificates of the World e-Auction	London	21141
18 Feb-18 March	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 7: The Eccles Collection of English Coins	London	21121
23 February	Stamps and Covers of South East Asia	London	21014

MARCH

31 March	Coins and Commemorative Medals: Spring Auction	London	21005
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APRIL

1 April-5 May	Spink Numismatic e-Circular 8: English and World Gold Coins	London	21122
7-27 April	Bonds and Share Certificates of the World e-Auction	London	21142
14/15 April	Orders, Decorations and Medals	London	21001
21/22 April	World Banknotes	London	21008

The above sale dates are subject to change.

Spink offers the following services:

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Sales on a commission basis either of individual pieces or whole collections.

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