

## **Newport Philatelic Society**

### **Newsletter Spring Ninth Release: Number 69 May 2020**

#### **Introduction:**

Dear members, thanks to our contributors who make this possible, this is our ninth release. There are many who have not yet taken the plunge by writing a few words or submitting a single page display. Please have a go, send a single page display, or a few bullets points of interest or your collecting story in a few lines and I can add any pictures as required, please do not worry about the technology, we can work with most things! As before, I have put all previous issues on our website.

<https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/>

Some members have responded by saying that they do not always get the latest newsletter. They can get to be quite large files and some email programmes limit the message size that can be received. So please go to our website as we have created an archive of all our newsletters including all of the more recent ones. Here is a link to help you get to the right page.

<https://newportgwentphilatelic.weebly.com/newsletter.html>

In this edition we have an article curtesy of the “All\_About\_Stamps” website from the Stamp Collector Magazine on Revenue stamps. We also have three more single page entries to show you this time from Bev, Robert and Martyn. These are on Berlin, Scottish Postmarks and Fiji postmarks respectively.

## **What is a Revenue Stamp?:**

A revenue stamp is used to collect taxes or fees. Revenue stamps are added to products or relevant documents to signify payment of a fee and they often very similar in appearance to postage stamps. Just like postage stamps they are popular with collectors.

Revenue stamps have been produced and used in relation to the tax of many different products, including:

Tobacco, Hats, Newspapers, Medicine, Alcoholic drinks, Playing cards, Hunting licenses, Vinyl records.



The stamps, also known as tax stamps, duty stamps or fiscal stamps, are often affixed to the individual product (such as a box of cigarettes or a bottle of whisky). They have been issued by a wide range of countries around the world.

What are the similarities between postage and revenue stamps?

Just like postage stamps, revenue stamps are often gummed, allowing users to affix them to the relevant product, and perforated, so sheets of the stamps can be easily separated.

Indeed, some stamps have been issued for both postage and revenue purposes, allowing the user to choose how the stamp will be used. This explains the high value stamps that are sometimes seen at stamp auctions. Such stamps, many of which were issued by Britain or for use within the British Commonwealth, often include the words 'Postage & Revenue' on them to signify their intended dual use.

The designs of revenue stamps are often similar to postage stamps, and whilst many revenue stamps were created for use on a range of different products, some were issued for specific goods and taxes and so feature designs relating to the particular product.

## Are revenue stamps collectable?

In the early days of stamp collecting (or 'philately'), revenue stamps were just as popular as postage stamps and collectors pursued both. However, the rising number of postage stamps being issued meant that the popularity of revenue stamps waned, as some collectors and philatelic publishers encouraged the two different types of stamp to be treated differently.

Today the study and collection of revenue stamps is regarded as an important part of the overall hobby of philately. The American Revenue Association website states:

'Revenues are endlessly fascinating. Most are quite affordable. Yet some are as rare as an Inverted Jenny, but cost much less. Many are still waiting to be discovered and recorded.'

The international organisation Federation Internationale de Philatelie (FIP) include 'Revenues' as a recognised exhibition class, allowing collectors to competitively exhibit revenue stamps. The FIP regulations state:

'A revenue exhibit comprises embossed, imprinted or adhesive tax, fee or credit stamps issued by or under the origination authority of a state or municipal or intermediate governmental authority. Such exhibits will display one or more such type of stamp, and where appropriate will explain, and in any event will make suitable reference to, the reasons for and where necessary the regulations relating to the services, transactions of other matter being considered.'

## Where can I find out more about revenue stamps?

Based in the UK, the Revenue Society promotes the research and display of revenue stamps and associated documents and has over 350 members from forty countries. Find out more on the Society website. The American Revenue Association serves 'fiscal philatelists' and was founded in 1947. The British Library Philatelic Collections has a wide range of stamps for collecting tax.

There are a number of revenue stamp catalogues, giving collectors comprehensive listings and valuations of stamps. In Britain, the Barefoot catalogues are one of the most well known series of revenues catalogues.



## Through the Berlin Wall



In 1981 I visited East Berlin whilst studying in West Germany. I crossed the border at Checkpoint Charlie, and it was like stepping back in time - ruins, rundown buildings with bullet holes and bricked windows, quiet streets with few people and little traffic, 'sewing machine' cars, small old-fashioned shops and armed soldiers on guard and parading. The main avenue, Unter den Linden was lined with impressive Prussian architecture – the Brandenburg Gate, State Library, Opera House, Guardhouse, Town Hall, museums, Cathedral and National Gallery. Then modern East German 'showcases' – Palace of the Republic, Television Tower, Zoo and the Berlin Wall with its armed watchtowers, barbed wire and mined no man's land. I was shocked by how drab, bleak and oppressive it felt and relieved to return to the bustle of the West. However, it was a memorable experience.





# Postmarks of Scotland -



Distributed by  
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IH250



Posted in Haroldswick  
on the island of Unst  
28.6.87

MR D SALTER  
126 H20L LEWIS  
RHINBINA  
CARDIFF  
S GLAM CF4 6QE

MOST NORTHERLY HOUSE IN BRITAIN,  
SKAW, UNST, SHETLAND ISLES

PLX37546

Colourmaster Limited, Kelvin Way, Crawley, Sussex

- Haroldswick - Shetland -  
- 1987 -



- Papa Westray -



- Isle of Barra -



- Collonsay -



- Isle of Skye -



### Post Office Cancellations Of Fiji

In June and July of 1993 we went on holiday to Fiji, whilst there I met John Gardner a Scott working in Fiji dealing in Scrap Metal. I explained to him I was a stamp collector and wanted to collect Post Office cancellations of Fiji, he offered help and agreed to send me some on his travels

#### KIOA POST OFFICE

Rare box cancellation 19<sup>th</sup> October 1993.



#### RAKIRAKI POST OFFICE Cancelled 5<sup>th</sup> August 1993.



Each of the letters mailed out to the various post offices contained a self addressed envelope and a note as above detailing what he wanted. This one was cancelled and signed by Postmaster RAKIRAKA 9<sup>th</sup> August 1993

**Final Notes:**

Dear members, my simple final message is the same, please look after yourselves and keep safe and well. My thanks as always to all of the contributors, Bev, Robert and Martyn who made this issue possible and could everyone please consider also making a contribution to a future newsletter to keep the other members entertained.

Keep reaching out and make contact with your fellow society members.

Any mistakes and errors are all down to me, so as before, my genuine apologies for every one of them!

If anyone is receiving the newsletter in error or no longer wishes to receive it please let me know and I will remove you from the circulation list.

Les Ashton-Smith