

Wednesday, February 17, 1999 at 12h00

Offer for Sale by Public Auction
at the Swissôtel, Zurich-Oerlikon



The First Cover

May 1, 1840

Acknowledgements and Bibliography

The Royal Philatelic Society London

Certificate N° 169,274 14 May 1997

.....
B.P.A. Expertising Ltd London

Certificate N° 37,834 31 July 1992

.....
Peter Holcombe Luzern, Switzerland

Certificate N° 5816/92 19 March 1992

.....
Michael George Hall Sollihull, England

Certificate 28 May 1991

.....
"1 May 1840 : The Story of an Investigation" by P.C. Pearson

(pub. Fakes, Forgeries, Experts, October `98)

.....
"The Famous First Day of Use" by James A. Mackay

(pub. The Stamp Magazine, January `92)

.....
The World`s First ...

"The earliest recorded cover todate bearing an adhesive stamp" Peter Holcombe

.....
"A genuine 1st May usage" Robson Lowe

.....
"One of the greatest philatelic items in existence" D N Jatia F.I.P. President



Introduction



The World's First Cover

Philately is one of those fields where knowledge, academy and just plain experience has a long tradition in validating its greatest items and thus its most valuable ones also. Hence, no great surprise when in 1978 a cover dated May 1, 1840 bearing a penny black stamp appeared and was immediately the subject of great speculation.

It would be, if found genuine, the very first item in the world ever to bear a stamp, since, until this time the very earliest date for a postal item bearing a stamp (also a penny black) was May 2, 1840. Passionate collectors were excited, experts held their breath awaiting confirmation.

The world's very first postage stamp introduced by Rowland Hill had been printed and delivered to Post Offices for official sale to the public on May 1, 1840 but not for valid postage use until May 6, 1840, known universally as the First Day of Issue.

Returning to the story of our May 1st cover: the experts did not agree: some believed back in 1978 that the stamp did not originate on the cover, while others were convinced it was absolutely genuine including Robson Lowe who published an article about it in The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain in 1981. For almost a decade, little was heard about the item. However, renewed interest in postal history and cover collecting and the importance of having "earliest dates" as "starting point items" in exhibit collections raised demand and prices for this area in philately. In a 1991 public auction, a Penny Black used on cover dated May 2, 1840 was adjudicated at almost £2 million, an astronomical figure!

Publicity about this auction result encouraged the owner of the May "First" Cover to represent it for expertisation. An expert at the Government Forensic Laboratory confirmed the genuineness of the item and that the stamp originated on the cover. This expertise was further confirmed and validated by Peter Holcombe and soon after by The British Philatelic Association, Robson Lowe being one of the signatures on the certificate.

The most important validation was still to be done: that of the Royal Philatelic Society who had already examined the item on previous occasions. This time however, and thanks to the dedication of Patrick Pearson, Chairman of the Expert Committee, their study and research was to leave no question unanswered. Mr. Pearson documents the episode in a special article "1 May 1840 - The Story of an Investigation" which we have the pleasure to reprint in this catalogue.

The conclusion of the Royal Philatelic Society Expert Committee this time was categoric: the item genuine in every respect and the stamp not only originating on the cover but states at the end **"The 1d Black is obliterated by a Maltese Cross in red a small portion extending on to the cover tying it"** - obviously the very first time the Maltese Cross was used to cancel a stamp or a cover and the very first time in the world a stamp was ever cancelled.

So there is no doubt anymore. What is on offer in this auction is an item loaded with palmares:

The very first usage of a stamp in the world
The very first usage of a cancellation
The very first postal use of the Penny Black and of the Maltese Cross
The very first stamped item of Great Britain and the World

It is the only known. It is the first time it is offered for public sale.

Illustrated and described in its properly deserved place in the Guinness Book of World Records, it is now acknowledged to be one of the most important philatelic items in the world.

David Feldman RDP(I)
Geneva, September 1998



P.C. Pearson 1 May, 1840 : The Story of an Investigation



Patrick Pearson RDP
Signed Roll of Distinguished
Philatelists in 1974.
Chairman of Expert Committee of
the Royal Philatelic Society since
1993 and a member since 1965.
President of the Royal Philatelic
Society 1988-1990. Vice President of
FIP since 1991. Member of AIEP.
Membre Correspondent of
L'Academie de Philatelie and Member
Correspondent Etranger of the
Academie de Philatelie de Belgique.
President of the Postal History
Society 1975-1977.

A small number of lettersheets are known with the One Penny Black attached dated during the period immediately prior to their issue on 6 May 1840.

The earliest of these may well be the one now described. It is dated 1 May and is sent from London to Mrs Andrew Smith at Mauchline in Ayrshire.

Illustration of cover (see figure 1)

Although correctly charged '2' pence, the One Penny stamp not being valid for postage at that date, it is unusual in that the stamp itself is obliterated by the Maltese Cross.

It was first submitted to the Expert Committee of the Royal in 1978, again in 1992 and finally again in 1997. On the first two occasions it was given a 'bad' certificate as the stamp was believed not to have originated on the lettersheet.

It has also been studied by BPA Expertising in 1992 and by Peter Holcombe in the same year; both were of the opinion that the cover was genuine.

The ink on the stamp and the trace on the lettersheet were independently examined by a forensic expert, Mr Michael Hall of the Document Section of the Government Forensic Laboratory, on behalf of the owner who had originally submitted the lettersheet to the Expert Committee in 1978. Mr Hall considered that the ink on the lettersheet and along the foot of the stamp were the same.

Since 1978, when the lettersheet was first examined, an article in *The Scotsman* had been identified which might provide a provenance for the item. Also computer based imaging equipment was available which had not been developed in the 1970's. In view of this a detailed investigation of both the lettersheet itself and the circumstances surrounding the sale of the Penny Black in May 1840 was carried out.

The lettersheet had been submitted by a member of the Society who wrote

I wish to submit the attached cover and one penny Black for your judgement as to whether it is authentic.

I purchased it thinking that it must be a forgery, and after much deliberation carefully took the stamp off the cover. Upon examination after this, I found the stamp was tied to the cover in two places; firstly by a very small piece of the Maltese Cross on the left hand side, and secondly by the manuscript along the edge of the base of the stamp.

This proves the stamp was on the cover before the manuscript 2 was written.

The one penny Black being issued on 1st May 1840, but not officially useable until the 6th May 1840, I can only surmise that the stamp was purchased on the day of release, placed on cover, cancelled by Cross and despatched.

The journey to Glasgow starting February 1st took 42 hours, and thence to its destination, say another day, probably arriving Monday/Tuesday 4th or 5th May 1840, in which case 2d, unpaid post would be charged.

*The letter weighs 4.2 grams (.1622 ozs).
The stamp is from Plate 2.*

I have spent a great deal of time on researching this letter, and am very intrigued by it, for I realise it could be one of the earliest covers known stamped, or indeed the earliest.

When first examined the lettersheet, in a very fragile state, was reinforced with cellotape both on the inside and outside, the gum from which was causing the folds to deteriorate even further. This had been removed by 1992; however fortunately no additional cleaning has been attempted which could have made it difficult to examine and compare the markings on the lettersheet and stamp. Examination in 1979 had proved that the stamp was from an early impression from Plate 1A not 2 as suggested by the submitter.



P.C. Pearson Story continued ...

When submitted in 1997 it was supported by copies of the BPA and Holcombe opinions, the opinion of the forensic expert, and copies of articles by Robson Lowe and by James Mackay. The latter referred to an article in *The Scotsman* dated 5 September 1959 describing a correspondence from the Smith family of Mauchline who were the creators of the famous Tartan Wares of the Victorian period. A copy of the article was obtained from the Edinburgh City Library.

The key points in this article was that the letters had been 'charred by a fire which in 1933 destroyed the Boxworks' at which the Tartan Ware was produced and that 'The first letter (in the series) was a personal one, written from London to his wife Nanny in Mauchlyne. Its only interest is that it is dated May 1840 and bears the new 1d black stamp.' The article was written by Edward and Eva Pinto who were interested in the Tartan Ware and the Smith family but were primarily interested in correspondence referring to the ware's manufacture. The Pintos were not without philatelic knowledge. They lived at Pretty Corner near Watford, and they knew that two miles away was the Mill where sacks of Stock Exchange forgeries were found. Many of the items they collected were 'stamp boxes' and had 'Penny Blacks' worked into the design. At that date they owned the Smith correspondence including the May 1840 lettersheet.

The lettersheet is dated internally London 1st May 1840, it refers to Andrew Smith having received a letter from his wife the previous day and that he had hoped to set out on the return journey the same day but had been prevented and would not be leaving until the following morning. The state of the cover, although not actually charred, is in a condition where it could well have been affected by the fire which burnt down the 'Boxworks' in 1933.

While it has not been possible to confirm that this letter is the one referred to, the inference is that it

is likely to be: there is no reference to Smith having visited London again in May 1840.

Thus there is at last a probable provenance earlier than the first submission to the Expert Committee of the Royal in 1978.

Next the circumstances surrounding the issue, and possible purchase by Andrew Smith, of a Penny Black on 1st May.

That these were available can be deduced from Wright & Creeke *History of the Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles*, supported by Sir Edward Bacon in *The Line-Engraved postage stamps of Great Britain* and from recent articles in the *GB Journal*. Printing from plate 1 had started on 11 April and the first deliveries were made by Perkins Bacon on 15 April when one sheet each of the penny postage and VR stamps were sent to Charles Pressly, Secretary of the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes, and Rowland Hill respectively. This is recorded in the Perkins Bacon 'Postage Day' book which was then in private hands.

Illustration of page from book (Figure 3)

800 sheets were delivered to the Stamp Office on 21 April and further supplies on most days thereafter including additional sheets to Mr Pressly, including 13 sheets of the VR stamp to the Post Office and one sheet to make up a shortfall. The first delivery to the Post Office was made on 27 April when 13 sheets were sent to the General Post Office by the Stamp Office.

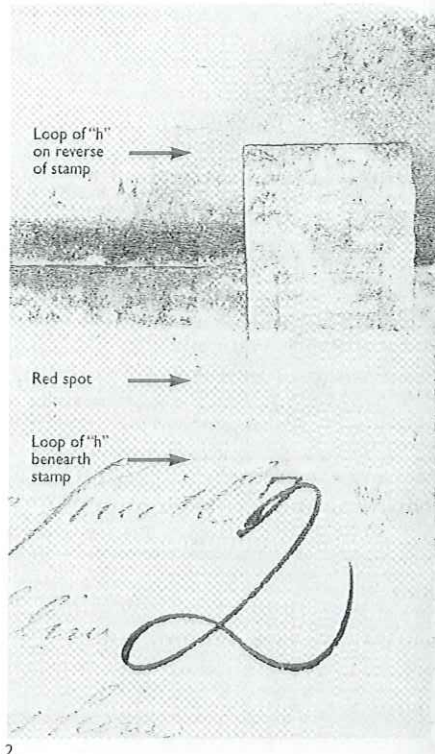
These and the five sheets supplied on the 29th were almost certainly used on the Post Office Circular of the latter date. On the 29th also 1950 sheets were supplied by Perkins Bacon each to Somerset House and to the Sea Policy Office in the City. On the following day Wright & Creek in an extract from the *original issue book of the Storekeeper of Stamps at Somerset House* show a further 1799 sheets of the one penny as being sent to 88 office within England: however care must be taken of these figures as they almost certainly include Mulreadies and the figure of 286 sheets for the Two Pence, if

P.C. Pearson Story continued ...

correctly interpreted, could only be sheets of the Two Pence Mulready (Ref. Samuel & Huggins *Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain*). In our opinion the records in the *original issue book of the Storekeeper of Stamps at Somerset House* almost certainly refer to the warrants the storekeeper received for delivery and not the date when the warrants were executed.

A supply of the Penny Black was certainly available to the public on 1st May. Care must however be taken in interpreting Rowland Hill's comment in his Journal 'May 1 Stamps issued to the public today for the first time. Great bustle at the Stamp Office.' While this will have included the Penny Black a proportion and perhaps the greater amount were the one penny Mulready which Hill and the Commissioners of Stamps and Taxes also called 'stamps' and which were bought by firms and for resale through licenced outlets. The comment on May 2 '£2500 worth of stamps sold yesterday' was more than the number of sheets of the Penny Black at the Stamp Office. However Smith would have been able to buy a Penny Black on May 1 when he found he could not travel home that day.

At this time there is a prima facie case that the stamp could have originated on the cover and not be a later addition, even added a comparatively short time after the letter had been delivered to Nanny Smith. In the past an opinion that the Maltese Cross was not used prior to May 6th has been held by some authorities. The Committee believe this to be a misinterpretation of the instruction in the Post Office notice of 25 April which gave instructions for application of the new cancelling device and instructed postmasters on the preparation of ink for its use. There is no statement that it should not be used prior to May 6, rather that it was to be used then when the stamps became valid for prepayment of postage; before that date the covers were to be marked paid (1d if paid in cash) or unpaid (collect 2d). Most examples of the Penny Black or Mulready posted before May 6th have either the tombstone Paid mark or are endorsed '2' if the postage was to be collected, the stamp being uncancelled or just tied by the Paid marking. On May 1st the post office window clerk may have thought that he should cancel the stamp although it did not pay the postage. At the same time the figure '2' was added.



2. Area of lettersheet inter stamp hinge back showing top of figure 2 and "h" of Smith and corresponding loop of "h" on reverse of stamp (top left)

At this stage recourse was made to technical inspection using the Foster & Freeman VSC I imaging analysis system at the British Library by courtesy of their Manuscript Department. This allows comparison of ink colour and composition (fluorescence, etc) under a range of UV and Infra Red lighting conditions and also suprapositioning of stored images.

Three specific points were examined in detail as well as confirmation that the dates on the lettersheet were as appeared. First the date written inside the lettersheet had not had a figure removed (i.e. it had not been sent on 11th May), nor had the date stamp on the reverse been similarly tampered with. It was also agreed that the lettersheet did not show any sign of cleaning or other manipulation other than where the cellotape had been removed. The three points of particular interest were the

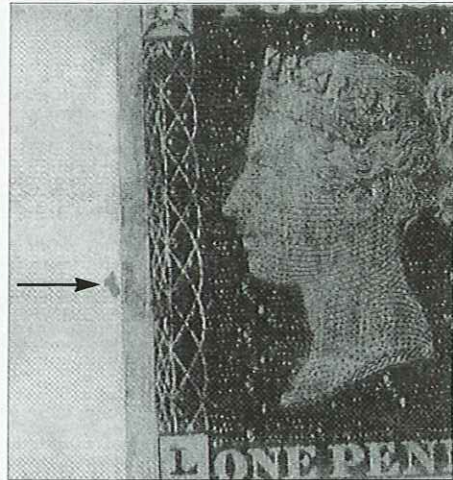
P.C. Pearson Story continued ...

Fig. 3

No. of Cumbars.	No. of Sheets.	No. of Divisions	PAPER RECEIVED FROM STAMP OFFICE.			Total.	Date.	QUANTITY OF WORK DELIVERED.			Spilt.	Total.	QUANTITY OF WORK ON HAND.			PAPER ON HAND.			Whole
			PUBLIC.	OFFICIAL.	Total.			PUBLIC.	OFFICIAL.	Total.			PUBLIC.	OFFICIAL.	Total.	Wet.	Dry.	Total.	
1	1000	2000	1500	1500	1500	April 15	1	1	1	1	1								
2	2000	6000	1500		1500		20	800											
							22	1											
							23	700											
							24	500											
							25	1000											
							27	500											
							28	300											
							29	1500											
							30	1000											
							May 1	1000											
							4	1000											
							5	1000											
							6	1000											
							7	500											
							8	2000											
							9	1000											
							11	1											
							12	1000											
							13	1000											



P.C. Pearson Story continued.



The stamp is "tied" to the cover by Red Maltese Cross.

4

minute speck of red ink to the left of the stamp which could have come from the Maltese Cross, the top of the figure '2' where it touched the stamp and on the reverse of the bottom left corner of the stamp the offset of the loop of the letter H of Smith on the back of the stamp where this overlapped the writing. The speck of red appeared to have the same characteristics as the Maltese Cross, however the amount showing would not have been enough to confirm that the stamp originated on the cover. This however agreed with the opinion of the forensic expert. There was no removal of ink from above the flattened top of the figure '2' where it touched the stamp thus indicating that the stamp was on the lettersheet when the figure was written and finally the offset on the back of the stamp had the same characteristics (i.e. that it faded at the same rate under different lighting conditions) as the top loop of the letter H on the cover.

The opinion of all who witnessed the examination was that the lettersheet was genuine. One concern was how the figure 2, which is very unusual, was written, and as this was the key recognition feature it was closely examined. It consists of two halves with a break below the top twirl. It was suggested that the bottom half may have been written first starting at the toploop; then the top section, which touched the stamp, written starting at the bottom at the end of the top of the lower figure. The figure appears to have been written with a steel pen and both halves show the same light reaction.

Subsequent research has identified a one penny Mulready wrapper used on May 5 from London to Jersey with a similarly styled '2' (Grünin sale lot 61). This would support the suggestion that the figure 2 was applied in London.

The opinion of the Committee is now that the cover is genuine and that the Penny Black originated on it

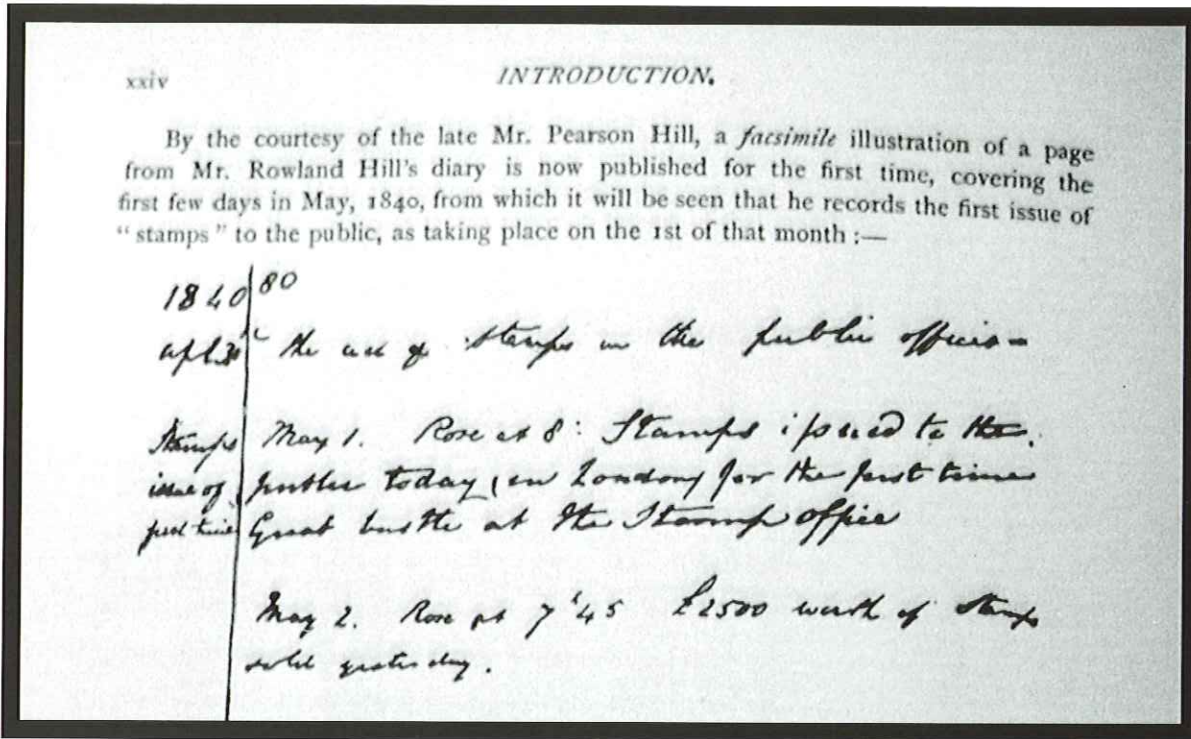
although did not pay the postage. There still remain a few questions to answer, perhaps the most surprising is why a canny Scot should pay One Penny for what did not pay the postage. This can almost certainly be explained by his need to send a letter urgently to tell his wife that he would not arrive when she expected and his ignorance of the date the stamps became valid for postage. The letter would have preceded him to Mauchline.

It is probable that Smith wrote the letter in the morning; he writes *we intended to have left London this afternoon* rather than *we had intended to leave*. The datestamp on the reverse is the Morning Duty type with 1840 in a straight line.

Perhaps neither Smith nor the Morning Duty window clerk realised that the stamp was not yet valid. The Afternoon Duty clerks, who were used to handling outgoing mail, would have been aware of this.

The next question is where the Maltese Cross was applied. It is suggested by Robson Lowe and also on Holcombe's certificate that it was applied in transit in Glasgow due to its colour. However the colour is not the watery Glasgow purple which is recorded from later in 1840. Glasgow used a purple colour for its handstamped Paid markings early in 1840 but by April was using a standard orange red. There is no Glasgow transit datestamp (none would be expected as can be confirmed by the celebrated May 6 cover from London to Kirkcudbright with a block of ten of the penny black) and it seems to the Committee highly unlikely that the obliteration was applied in Glasgow. In its opinion it was applied by one of the Afternoon duty clerks in London at the same time as the figure 2 was written. No supply of the new stamps would have been received or seen in Mauchline; they were not despatched to Edinburgh for distribution in Scotland until May 5th and would not have been received until May 7th at earliest.

Rowland Hill's Diary



Transcript

May 1. Rose at 8 : Stamps issued to the public today in London for the first time.
Great bustle at the stamp office.

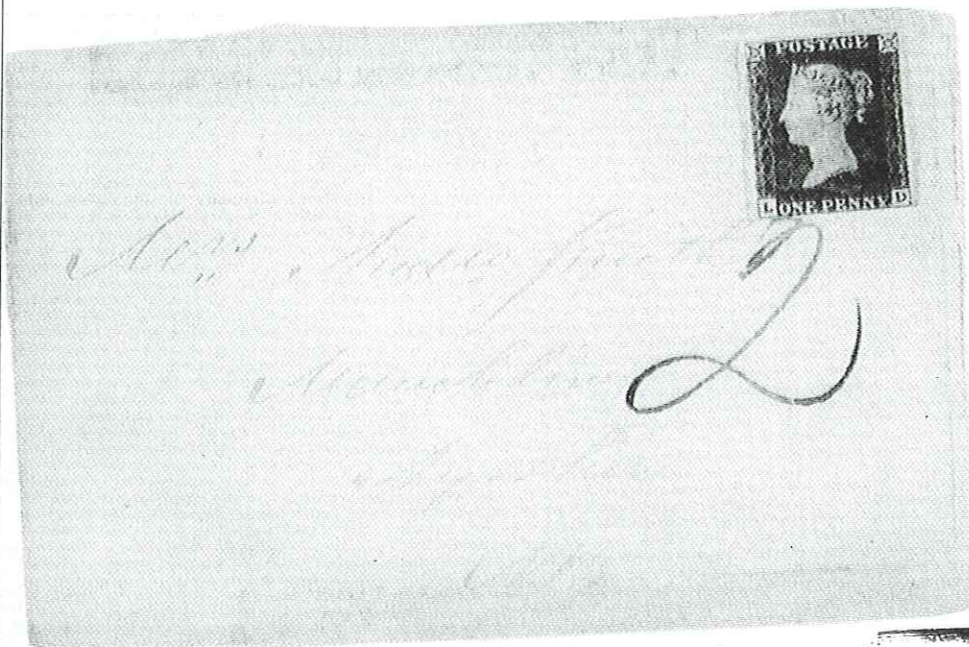
May 2. Rose at 7.45 £2500 worth of stamps sold yesterday.

.....

The above remarks verify the sale of the Penny Black Stamps to the public from May 1, 1840. The sales value would have also included the One Penny Mulready which Rowland Hill also called 'stamps'.

THE FAMOUS

First Day of Use



The cover which shows use of the Penny Black on May 1, 1840.

The marking on the rear of the cover.

Readers will doubtless recall the record-breaking sale at Harmers in Lugano, Switzerland on May 2 when a Penny Black on cover fetched the equivalent of £1,350,000, the successful bidder being a Japanese collector. The cover was widely described as being the earliest usage of the Penny Black; but was it?

First of all, it is necessary to clear up one or two misconceptions. Although the Penny Black was a postage stamp its production and distribution were masterminded by the Board of Stamps and Taxes (the forerunner of today's Inland Revenue). They took on this responsibility because they were the only government department up to that time which had had any experience in the handling of stamps, albeit for fiscal purposes. The incontrovertible facts are that the Penny Black became valid for postage on May 6, 1840, but was on sale at Stamp Offices and at the General Post Office, London from May 1. Sale at other major post offices in the capital began shortly thereafter, as soon as the requisite licences from the Board of Stamps and Taxes had been issued.

It was an argument over who should pay for the licences

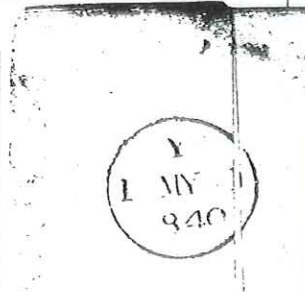
required by the windowmen at the General Post Offices in Edinburgh and Dublin, and the deputy postmasters at the major branch post offices which delayed the issue of the new-fangled stamps, especially outside the London area. In the early days, therefore, sales were virtually confined to the Stamp Offices which were completely separate from post offices. The labels were sold mainly by one government department, but were intended for use by another. This little known or appreciated fact may explain the confusion which arose over the correct procedure to be adopted in the cancelling or processing of the adhesive postage stamps, especially in the days prior to May 6 itself. The same remark, of course, applies to the Mulready envelopes and letter sheets.

The world record price was paid for a Mulready 1d letter sheet which had been turned inside out and used as a blank wrapper. To this was affixed a Penny Black. The letter was posted in London on May 2 to an address in Bedlington, Northumberland. The recipient then refolded the sheet and used the Mulready wrapper for a letter which was sent on May 4 — still two days earlier

than the official date.

It has been stated that on neither occasion was the 'stamp' accepted for prepayment. Unfortunately, I have not seen an illustration of the Mulready side of the sheet, so cannot say how it was actually treated; but the evidence of the inner side, used on May 2, points to the contrary.

The cover bears the manuscript endorsement 'prepaid' in the bottom left-hand corner and the Penny Black has been cancelled with the Paid 'tombstone' handstamp of May 2 of the afternoon (A) duty. This datestamp, applied in red ink, was normally used on letters prepaid in cash, the actual amount being denoted by a red '1', either handstruck or in manuscript, in red ink or crayon to indicate that no further postage was required from the addressee. The Penny Black in this instance was additionally cancelled by a handstruck '1' in red, and because this was irregular — the clerk obviously being unsure of how to treat this item — the '1' was struck a second time at the side, well clear of the adhesive. This does not indicate, as some experts have averred, that the cover was treated as unpaid and that the 1+1 = 2 meant that twopence



was to be recovered from the recipient. In my view this is utter nonsense. Had the cover been treated as unpaid, a '2' in black ink, either handstruck or written in manuscript, would have been applied, to indicate the deficient postage plus a fine of the same amount. It seems to me, therefore, that this cover of May 2 was treated as prepaid, if prematurely so, and hand-stamped in such a manner as to indicate the fact to the staff at the delivery office in Morpeth.

I mention all this because there is actually an earlier cover, of May 1, 1840, which shows that the adhesive was treated as invalid, and a charge of twopence was properly raised. The entire letter was written by Andrew Smith at London on May 1, 1840 and addressed to his wife Nancy in



THE FAMOUS

Mauchline, Ayrshire. The letter is fortunately intact so we can see that it was properly dated inside.

It merely informed Mrs Smith that her husband had been delayed in London and would be setting out for Scotland by coach the following day, so that he would see her on Tuesday night or Wednesday morning. To the wrapper, Andrew Smith affixed a Penny Black of Plate 1, lettered L-D, and popped it into the box at the London Chief Office. The sorting office staff ignored the adhesive, which they made no attempt to cancel, and treated the letter as unpaid by endorsing the front with a large manuscript '2' in black ink. The datestamp of the Chief Office (code Y) was applied on the back, slightly overlapping the flap.

The letter was then sent on its way. It would have reached Glasgow on the morning of May 4 and then been sorted into the bag for Mauchline. It was at Glasgow head office that a postal clerk noted that the Penny Black had not been cancelled and now applied the Maltese Cross. Regrettably, no corresponding datestamp was applied as a transit mark to the back of the wrapper before it was sent on to Mauchline where, no doubt, Mrs Smith had to stump up twopence for the letter.

This cover has been known of for over 30 years and is currently in the possession of a prominent Midlands collector. Some years ago he tried to obtain a 'Royal certificate for it but the Expert Committee refused to pronounce on its genuineness. The reasons for caution are fairly obvious. At some point the adhesive was removed from the cover to examine its back and then replaced. The Penny Black bears a genuine cancellation — there can be no doubt about that — but unfortunately the clerk who applied it did so very neatly. Too neatly, for it has socked the stamp on the nose without tying it to the cover. Secondly, the manuscript '2', as will be seen from the illustration, does not tie the adhesive to the cover either.

The owner, however, submitted the cover to a forensic scientist specialising in handwritten documents and letters. He was asked to determine whether or not the stamp was attached to the envelope when the figure '2' was written on the wrapper and the adhesive was stamped with the Maltese Cross. His findings were as follows:

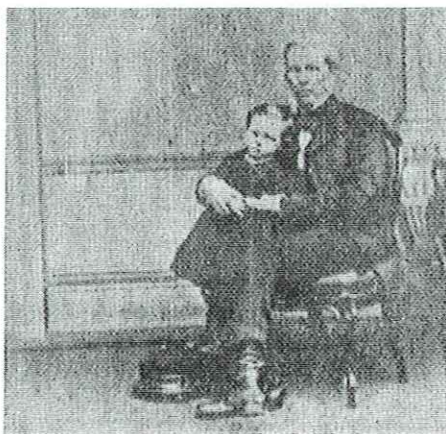
1. There is the outline of a stamp on the envelope. This outline matches the shape of

the Penny Black stamp.

2. The letter 'h' of Smith runs into the stamp outline on the envelope and is copied on the back of the stamp.

3. The top of the figure '2' on the envelope has a straight edge to it. Clearly there was a raised surface with a straight edge at the top of the envelope when the '2' was written. There is an ink mark on the edge of the stamp of a similar colour to the ink of the figure '2'.

4. The Maltese Cross mark goes over the left hand edge of the stamp. There is a small trace of material in the envelope similar in colour and appearance to the ink of the frank mark (*sic*) on the stamp.



Andrew Smith with his grandson.

5. When the mark on the envelope is lined up with the edge of the Maltese Cross on the stamp, the top of the figure '2' on the envelope lines up with the ink mark on the stamp.

6. I have compared the ink of the mark on the envelope with the ink of the franking mark on the stamp and the ink of the figure '2' with the ink on the bottom of the stamp with infra red and ultra violet light. I have not been able to distinguish between them.

I conclude from the above that the Penny Black stamp was at some stage stuck to the envelope and that it was on this envelope when the figure '2' was written. Whilst the evidence regarding the franking stamp is by no means conclusive I also consider it possible that the stamp was on the envelope when it was franked with the Maltese Cross.

The cover was also submitted to Douglas Muir, Curator, Philately at the National Postal Museum. Douglas was of the opinion that the Maltese Cross had been applied in London, 'as the Post Office gave strict instructions that all mail had to be cancelled at source'. This rule was certainly enforced

from May 6 onwards, but I do not think that one could be so sure about what happened prior to that date. Certainly other instances of premature usage from May 2 onwards show the use of the tombstone Paid hand-stamp, so I suspect that a decision on what to do with those who 'jumped the gun' must have been taken on that date. But covers posted on May 1 may have been a different matter. Neither Mr Muir nor the forensic expert took note of the colour of the cancelling ink used. This was a distinctive magenta shade — a far cry from the vermilion red which was the standard, prescribed colour. As Glasgow, for some inexplicable

sive. In my opinion, therefore, the omission of any reference to the stamp in the letter is inconclusive.

The postal routing at the time would have been conveyance from London to Birmingham by rail and thence by mailcoach via Preston and Carlisle to Glasgow. From there a feeder service went by coach to Kilmarnock and then a foot post conveyed mail to Mauchline. By an odd coincidence, I have recently completed a history of Kilmarnock, which was commissioned by the district council to celebrate the quarter-century of the burgh next year, so I am fairly familiar with the procedure at that time.

Furthermore, I can actually tell you quite a bit about the writer of the letter. Andrew Smith and his brother William started business as manufacturers of hones for sharpening razors. In 1825 they set up a factory in Mauchline to make the wooden cases for these stones. Soon afterwards they began diversifying into the manufacture of small boxes and cases of all kinds. The Smith Brothers, in fact, invented that form of popular Victorian souvenir known as Mauchline ware.

By the late 1830s the firm had agents in Birmingham and London and Andrew Smith frequently travelled thither. The Smith Boxworks was destroyed by fire in 1933 and the firm then went out of business. Some of the firm's papers, including private correspondence of the Smith family, were salvaged at that time and eventually came into the hands of Edward and Eva Pinto of Birmingham, the renowned authorities on Mauchline ware. An article in *The Scotsman* of September 5, 1959 by the Pintos mentions this correspondence. The first letter was a personal one written from London to his wife Nancy in Mauchline. Its only interest is that it is dated May 1840 and bears the new 1d black stamp. The full significance of the stamp, and its exceptionally early use, were not appreciated by the Pintos when they disposed of the cover to a Birmingham dealer, whence it eventually came into the possession of the present owner.

In view of the provenance, the circumstantial evidence and the opinion of a forensic expert, I feel that there can be no doubt whatsoever that the Smith cover of May 1, 1840 is perfectly genuine, and must therefore be regarded as the first ever use of the Penny Black. No doubt other May 1 covers did exist and may yet survive, waiting — like De Villayer's *Billets à Port Payé* — to be rediscovered.

JAMES A. MACKAY

Michael George Hall's Certificate

Michael George Hall BSc
Forensic Handwriting Expert
Examiner of Questioned Documents

33 Lindhurst Drive
Hockley Heath
Solihull
B94 6QD
Tel: 0564 783477

I am a Forensic Handwriting Expert and an Examiner of Questioned Documents. This has been my sole occupation for nearly 27 years.

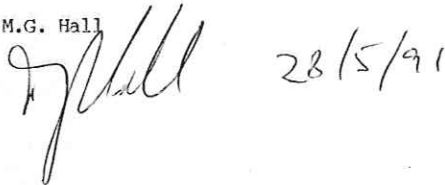
I have examined a letter addressed to Mrs. Smith and a penny black stamp attached to it by a stamp hinge on the instruction of Mr. W.C. Earl. The object of my examination was to determine whether or not the stamp was attached to the envelope when the figure '2' was written on the envelope and the stamp was franked with the "maltese cross".

I have noted the following:-

1. There is the outline of a stamp on the envelope. This outline matches the shape of the penny black stamp.
2. The letter 'h' of Smith runs into the stamp outline on the envelope and is copied on the back of the stamp.
3. The top of the figure '2' on the envelope has a straight edge to it. Clearly, there was a raised surface with a straight edge at the top of the envelope when the '2' was written. There is an ink mark on the edge of the stamp of a similar colour to the ink of the figure '2'.
4. The "maltese cross" frank mark goes over the left hand edged of the stamp. There is a small trace of material in the envelope similar in colour and appearance to the ink of the frank mark on the stamp.
5. When the mark on the envelope is lined up with the edge of the "maltese cross" frank mark on the stamp, the top of the figure '2' on the envelope lines up with the ink mark on the stamp.
6. I have compared the ink of the mark on the envelope with the ink of the franking mark on the stamp and the ink of the figure '2' with the ink on the bottom of the stamp with infra red and ultra violet light. I have not been able to distinguish between them.

I conclude from the above that the Penny Black stamp was at some stage stuck to the envelope and that it was on this envelope when the figure '2' was written. Whilst the evidence regarding the franking stamp is by no means conclusive I also consider it possible that the stamp was on the envelope when it was franked with the "maltese cross".

M.G. Hall



Peter Holcombe's Certificate

PETER HOLCOMBE
PHILATELIC EXPERT
LUZERN, SWITZERLAND.

Certificate No. 5816/92

March, 19th 1992

GREAT BRITAIN.

A lettersheet written from London on May, 1st. 1840, bearing an 1840, 1d. black, lettered LD, watermark small Crown, imperf., S.G.Spec. A1(2), Scott 1, addressed to Mrs. Andrew Smith, Mauchlin, Ayrshire, North Britain.

The 1d. black was not accepted by the Post Office as pre-payment of the postage and a manuscript charge of "2"(d) was written on the cover below the adhesive just tying the stamp to the cover at the extreme top curve of the figure (1d. postage plus 1d. fine). It was then backstamped across the flap 1. May 1840; it is known that postage stamps were already distributed to some of the main Post Office's from May, 1., they were not officially supposed to be used for the prepayment of postage until May, 6. The letter would have been sent via Glasgow where the stamp was almost certainly cancelled by a Maltese Cross in a very deep ruby red shade (a colour peculiar to that Office), just fractionally tying it to the cover. It was then forwarded to Mauchlin, Ayrshire and the recipient was required to pay the 2d. postage due.

The cover is rather age stained and soiled and has been re-inforced at its folds by sticky tape. The 1d. stamp has been roughly taken off the cover at some time and has been re-hinged, leaving traces of the original lettersheet on the back of the stamp which can be matched up with the original. As such it is in my opinion genuine.

A very unusual use of a 1d. black intended by the sender to pre-pay postage which was however not accepted by the Post Office although cancelled by a postal clerk somewhere in transit. The earliest recorded cover to date bearing an adhesive stamp.



British Philatelic Association Certificate

No. 37, 834

B. P. A. Expertising Limited

London - England

EXPERT COMMITTEE

31st July, 1992

The Committee is of the opinion that the

...GREAT BRITAIN: 1840 (May 1st) entire letter, from London to Ayrshire, backstamped London 1st May 1840, bearing 1840 1d black, Wmk Small Crown, Imperf, Plate 1a, lettered L-D (SG2), which has been removed for examination and replaced, tied by manuscript '2', denoting 2d due and non-acceptance for postage of the 1d black, and cancelled with Maltese Cross, applied in transit at Glasgow. A genuine 1st May usage.



[Handwritten signature]

[Handwritten signature]

Robson Lowe

Neither the Company nor the members of the Expert Committee can accept any liability, either collective or individual, for any opinion expressed



Royal Philatelic Society Certificate

N^o 169 274

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY LONDON



41, Devonshire Place,
London, W1N 1PE

Meeting of 14 MAY 1997

In the OPINION of The EXPERT COMMITTEE the item
submitted as

Great Britain 1840 S.G. No. A51 (SG N^o 2)

Lettersheet with a 1^d Black, plate 1a lettered LD,
hinged to top right corner, was sent through the
post on 1 May 1840. The 1^d Black was not accepted
for prepayment of postage and the lettersheet was
charged 2 (pence) as an unpaid item. *Genuine*

Observations
The lettersheet is stained and the folds had been
repaired by cellulose which has now been removed

The 1^d Black is obliterated
by a Maltese Cross in
red, a small portion
extending onto the
lower fixing it.

Chairman

Submitted by DAVID FELDMAN SA



Inside of the Cover

London 1st May 1840

My Dear Neph

I rec^d your letter yesterday letting
me ^{know} of the happy termination of the Portland
Courtship. He intended to have left London
this afternoon but finds now that it will
be to morrow morning before we can get off
This will not I hope prevent me from meeting
with you on Tuesday night or Wednesday next
tell them adieu

My Dear Nanny

Yours Truly
Mary Anne



Auction Offer



May 1, 1840 : Entire Lettersheet bearing 1840 Penny Black Plate 1A lettered LD, cancelled and tied to the entire by red Maltese Cross. For full technical details refer to the following documents fully reproduced in this catalogue :

- Certificates : The Royal Philatelic Society, The British Philatelic Association,
Peter Holcombe, Michael George Hall.
- Articles : "1 May 1840 : The Story of an Investigation" by Patrick Pearson
(pub. Fakes, Forgeries, Experts, October '98)
"The Famous First Day of Use" (pub. The Stamp Magazine, January '92)

The first known item in the world bearing a stamp, considered by many as the most important cover in all of postal history.

(Exhibited many times at Court of Honour, International Exhibitions 1994-97)

Note : The cover is invited as star of the Court of Honour at PhilexFrance July 2-11, 1999 and it is expected that the new owner will accept this honour.

Estimate : SFr. 400'000 - 800'000 (GB£ 170'000 - 340'000)



Conditions of Sale English

BIDDERS - VERY IMPORTANT

1. "OFFER" indicates that the estimation is left to the discretion of bidders in view of the quantity, special character or quality of a lot.
2. Bids should be, in most cases, above the estimate to have a good chance of success.
3. If you cannot attend the auction personally, please send us your bids as early as possible. All bids are treated with the greatest discretion and in your best interest, as if you were in the auction room. The knocking down of a lot will be done at the lowest possible price, and not necessarily at your highest bid. For example, on a lot EST-SF 200, you bid SF 400, and the best bid beneath yours is SF 300, you will obtain the lot at the next bid which is, in this case, SF 320.
4. The auction takes place in many languages, depending on the attendance of the room.

CONDITIONS OF SALE

This auction takes place publicly. Participation means acceptance in full of the following conditions as well as any rights and obligations arising therefrom. These same conditions also apply to all transactions in auction lots taking place outside the sale. DAVID FELDMAN S.A., organiser of the auction, acts as an agent only and is not liable for any default(s) of purchaser(s) and/or vendor(s).

1. THE AUCTION LOTS ARE OFFERED

1.1 As presented in the auction catalogue: Lots are meticulously described and with the greatest care, however without responsibility. Photographs count as part of the description with regard to the margins, perforation, centring, postmarks and all other visible attributes. The description of the lots mentions if the items are signed by recognised experts and/or accompanied by expert certificates.

1.2 As viewed: Before and during the auction sale, all lots may be examined as scheduled in the auction catalogue. Persons attending the auction and/or who have viewed any lots before the auction and/or bidders' representatives and auction agents are understood to have examined all lots which they purchase and accept them as they are at the moment of the knocking-down and not necessarily as described.

2. AUCTION BIDS

2.1 The auction bidding steps are as follows:

SFr. 50 - 100	SFr. 5	SFr. 2000 - 5000	SFr. 200
SFr. 100 - 200	SFr. 10	SFr. 5000 - 10000	SFr. 500
SFr. 200 - 500	SFr. 20	SFr. 10000 - 20000	SFr. 1000
SFr. 500 - 1000	SFr. 50	SFr. 20000 - 50000	SFr. 2000
SFr. 1000 - 2000	SFr. 100	SFr. 50000 - 100000	SFr. 5000

Bids in-between these steps will be adjusted accordingly to the next highest bid step. The bidder is bound by his offer until a higher bid has been validly accepted.

2.2 DAVID FELDMAN S.A. is authorised to bid for clients in accordance with their bidding instructions. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may also bid on behalf of vendors in cases where reserve prices have been fixed. In these cases, the vendor is treated as a buyer and the auctioneer shall bid on his behalf up to reserve prices.

2.3 Written bid orders received by DAVID FELDMAN S.A. before the auction sale have priority over room bids in every case. Clients giving bidding instructions to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may make alternative offers and/or limit the total of their expenditure in advance. Bids marked "BUY" are considered as up to ten times the printed estimate price. Bids must be in Swiss francs. Bids made in other currencies will be converted into Swiss francs at the market rate of the day of receipt by DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Bids are standing and hold good for at least 60 days from the auction period. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to invoice bidders up to the end of the 60 day period, payment being due immediately.

3. THE AUCTION

3.1 The auction will be held under the control of the relative city council as supervising authority. The participating head of council, the council and the county refuse any liability.

3.2 Prerogatives of David Feldman S.A.: DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may withdraw, group differently, divide or refuse to knock down any lot of this sale. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to refuse any bid orders and/or to refuse admittance to the auction room, at its discretion, to anybody whatsoever. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. cannot be held responsible for any physical accident that may occur on the premises of the auction.

3.3 Bidders' representatives and auction agents: Any person bidding for the account of a third party is fully liable for any obligation arising from this auction. This responsibility is notably applicable for the verification of the condition and for the payment of bought lots.

3.4 Adjudication: Each lot is sold on behalf of the respective owner to the highest bidder. In addition to the sale price, the buyer pays a commission of 15%. On the fall of the gavel, liability for the knocked-down lots passes to the bidder whose bids have been accepted. The lots are given to the buyer when the sale price and commission are paid in full.

TVA (Sales Tax) - Notes for guidance:

Buyers domiciled abroad are not liable for this tax once the goods are duly exported from Switzerland. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. are pleased to arrange this export, alternatively, clients may make their own arrangements and furnish DAVID FELDMAN S.A. with proof of export, stamped by Swiss customs. Any purchases by buyers who wish to keep their purchases in Switzerland will be liable to TVA at 6.5% of the purchase price.

3.5 Payment: In the case of buyers attending in person, sale price plus commission are due for immediate payment in Swiss francs against delivery of the lots. Payment in foreign currencies is accepted at the rates of exchange of the day as quoted by one of the principal banks. The most bidders who were successful and the buyers attending the auction in person with whom it has been expressly agreed that they pay after the sale, are due to pay the sale price and the commission on receipt of the auction invoice. In these cases, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. keeps the adjudicated lots which are delivered to the buyers on full settlement of their account. Delivery of the purchased lots by post or any other means if instructed by the buyer including cost of normal transit insurance cover is at the expense of the buyer.

3.6 Special credit facility: DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may offer a special credit facility for buyers. In these cases, the buyer may choose to pay a minimum of 25% of the total invoice on receipt, and the balance over a maximum period of 6 months, paying an equal instalment at the end of each month. Interest plus charges of 1% is debited to the buyer's account at the end of each month from the auction date. When the special credit facility has been granted, the buyer understands that any claims regarding his purchases must be made within 30 days of the auction sale date, even though the lots may be held by DAVID FELDMAN S.A. awaiting full settlement of the account. Until delivery, all lots may be examined by their respective buyers at the offices of DAVID FELDMAN S.A.

3.7 Pledge: Until full settlement of the account, the buyer grants to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. a pledge on any and all properties held by DAVID FELDMAN S.A., acquired prior to, during and/or after this auction. This pledge secures the repayment of any amount due in principal, interests, commissions, costs and other possible fees. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. is entitled, but not obliged, to realise freely the pledge assets without further formalities and without previous notice if the buyer is in default with the payment of his debts or with the fulfilment of any other obligation hereunder. For this purpose, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. is not bound to comply with the formalities of the Federal Law dealing with actions for debt and bankruptcy proceedings; in addition, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. may choose to institute or go on with the usual proceedings without having beforehand sold the pledged goods and without having moreover given them up.

4. GUARANTEE

4.1 Extent of the guarantee: Subject to paragraph 4.3 below, the authenticity of all philatelic items sold in the auction is guaranteed for a period of 30 days from the auction date, with the express exclusion of any other fault(s). Any reclamation regarding authenticity must come to the notice of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. on the delivery of the lots but at the latest within 30 days from the auction date. Before delivery, which may take place after the 30 days period, the lots purchased may be examined at the Geneva offices of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. The buyer whose reclamation is made after 30 days from the auction date loses all rights to the guarantee. Such reclamation will not be valid. If an extension of the period is required in order to substantiate the claim with an expertise, a request for such extension must be made to DAVID FELDMAN S.A. within 30 days of the auction date. No request for extension will be considered beyond this 30 days period. The results of the expertise for which an extension was agreed must come to the notice of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. within 3 months of the auction date. No further extension of the period will be considered without the express agreement in writing of DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Only claims, expertise results or other details which are made within the agreed periods will be valid.

4.2 Expertise and counter-expertise: Should the authenticity of a lot be questioned, the buyer is obliged to provide an expertise or counter-expertise from a prominent expert in the field, justifying the claim. If a stamp is found by a recognised expert taking financial responsibility for errors to have been forged, he may mark it accordingly. Consequently, the marking "FALSCH" (forged) is not considered an alteration. In the case of such reclamation, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to request, at its own discretion, one or more further expertises. All expertise and relative charges accrue to the vendor's account in the case of a justified claim, or to the buyer's account if the claim is not justified. In the case of a justified claim, the lot is taken back and the adjudication price plus the commission are refunded to the buyer. In the case of delayed payment due to expertise agreed by David Feldman S.A., interest is charged at 50% the standard rate for all cleared lots. If David Feldman S.A. has not agreed then full interest is due.

4.3 Exclusions: Lots described as collections, accumulations, selections, groups and those containing duplicates, cannot be the subject of any claim. Claims concerning lots described as a set or groups of sets containing more than one stamp, can only be considered under the terms of paragraph 4.1 above if they relate to more than one third of the total value of the lot.

4.4 Late Payment: If the payment of the adjudicated price plus commission due by the buyer is not made within 30 days of the date of the auction, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. reserves the right to cancel the sale and dispose of the lot(s) elsewhere and/or to make a recourse to any legal proceedings in order to obtain payment of the amounts due as well as for any incurred damages and losses. An annual charge on overdue payment of at least 18% plus expenses incurred is chargeable on any outstanding amount after 30 days of the date of the auction. The buyer who is in default in any way whatsoever has no right of claim under any circumstances.

5. APPLICABLE LAW AND JURISDICTION

This auction as well as any rights and obligations arising therefrom shall be governed exclusively by Swiss law. Any legal action or proceeding with respect to this auction shall be submitted to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of Geneva, subject to appeal to the Swiss Federal Court in Lausanne. In every case, DAVID FELDMAN S.A. shall also be entitled, at its discretion, to sue any buyer in default at his place of residence; in such case, Swiss law shall remain applicable.



Conditions of Sale French

INFORMATIONS IMPORTANTES A L'INTENTION DES ENCHERISSEURS

1. La mention "OFFRE" indique que l'estimation est laissée à la discrétion des enchérisseurs en raison de la quantité des timbres regroupés dans le lot ou du caractère exceptionnel de ceux-ci.
2. Dans la plupart des cas, les offres devraient être supérieures à l'estimation pour avoir de bonnes chances de succès.
3. Si vous ne pouvez pas participer à la vente personnellement, veuillez nous faire parvenir vos offres par écrit le plus rapidement possible. Nous nous occupons de toutes les enchères avec la plus grande discrétion et veillons à la sauvegarde de vos intérêts, comme si vous étiez dans la salle de vente. L'adjudication se fait au prix le plus bas possible et non pas nécessairement au maximum de votre offre écrite. Par exemple, vous faites une offre de Sfr. 400 pour un lot dont l'estimation est de Sfr. 200 et pour lequel la meilleure offre que nous ayons, à part la vôtre, s'élève à Sfr. 300, ainsi vous obtiendrez le lot au prix de la surenchère suivante, c'est-à-dire au prix de Sfr. 320.
4. La vente se déroule dans diverses langues, en fonction des exigences des enchérisseurs.

CONDITIONS GENERALES APPLICABLES A LA VENTE AUX ENCHERES

La présente vente aux enchères est publique et la participation à celle-ci implique une adhésion totale aux conditions décrites ci-dessous ainsi qu'aux droits et obligations qui en découlent. Ces mêmes conditions sont applicables à toute transaction en relation à des pièces ou des lots faisant partie de la vente aux enchères et conclue en dehors de celle-ci. La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A., organisatrice de la présente vente aux enchères, agit exclusivement comme mandataire et n'assume donc aucune responsabilité quelconque en cas de manquement(s) des acheteurs et/ou vendeurs.

1. LES LOTS SONT MIS EN VENTE

1.1 Sur la base de leur présentation dans le catalogue. Les lots sont décrits avec le plus grand soin sans toutefois engager la responsabilité de la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Les photographies font partie intégrante des descriptions pour ce qui est des marges, de la dentelure, du centrage, des oblitérations et de toute autre qualité apparente. La description des lots mentionne si les pièces sont signées par des experts et/ou sont accompagnées de certificats d'expertise.

1.2 Sur la base de leur examen sur place. Tous les lots peuvent être examinés, avant et pendant la vente, aux horaires indiqués dans le catalogue de vente. Les acheteurs ayant examiné les lots avant la vente et/ou participant personnellement et/ou y étant représentés, sont censés avoir examiné tous les lots achetés et les accepter dans l'état où ils se trouvent lors de l'adjudication, indépendamment de la description figurant dans le catalogue.

2. LES OFFRES D'ENCHERES

2.1 Chaque offre d'enchère doit être supérieure à celle formulée précédemment selon l'échelle suivante:

Sfr. 50 - 100	Sfr. 5	Sfr. 2000 - 5000	Sfr. 200
Sfr. 100 - 200	Sfr. 10	Sfr. 5000 - 10000	Sfr. 400
Sfr. 200 - 500	Sfr. 20	Sfr. 10000 - 20000	Sfr. 1000
Sfr. 500 - 1000	Sfr. 50	Sfr. 20000 - 50000	Sfr. 2000
Sfr. 1000 - 2000	Sfr. 100	Sfr. 50000 - 100000	Sfr. 5000

Les offres se situant entre ces montants seront arrondies à la surenchère supérieure. L'enchérisseur est lié par son offre tant qu'une nouvelle surenchère n'a pas été valablement formulée par un autre enchérisseur.

2.2 DAVID FELDMAN S.A. est autorisée à enchérir pour le compte d'acheteurs qui lui font parvenir des offres d'enchères écrites. La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. est également autorisée à enchérir pour le compte de vendeurs lorsque des prix de réserve ont été fixés. Si un vendeur fixe des prix de réserve pour certains de ses lots, il sera alors considéré comme un acheteur et la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. enchérira pour le compte de celui-ci jusqu'à concurrence des prix de réserve fixés.

2.3 Les offres d'enchères écrites reçues par DAVID FELDMAN S.A. avant la vente, sont dans tous les cas prioritaires sur les offres d'enchères faites dans la salle de vente. L'enchérisseur donnant un ordre d'enchères écrit peut faire des offres alternatives et/ou limiter le montant global de ses offres. Les offres d'enchères données "à acheter" sont considérées comme pouvant attendre jusqu'à 10 fois la valeur de l'estimation imprimée dans le catalogue. Les enchères doivent être faites en francs suisses. Les offres d'enchères libellées en d'autres monnaies seront converties en francs suisses au cours du jour de leur réception par la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Toute offre écrite d'enchères est considérée comme l'ant son auteur pendant 60 jours après la date de la vente aux enchères. La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. est donc en droit de facturer la marchandise à l'enchérisseur jusqu'à l'expiration de ce délai. Toute facture reçue par celui-ci est de ce fait valable et doit être payée immédiatement.

3. LA VENTE AUX ENCHERES

3.1 La vente aux enchères se déroule sous le contrôle de l'autorité compétente qui n'assume cependant aucune responsabilité quelconque de ce chef.

3.2 Prérogatives de David Feldman S.A.: La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. est en droit selon sa libre appréciation de retirer, de diviser ou de grouper les lots faisant partie de la présente vente ainsi que de refuser l'adjudication de n'importe lequel des lots. La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. se réserve le droit de refuser selon sa libre appréciation toute offre d'enchères et/ou l'entrée de la salle de vente à n'importe quelle personne quelle qu'elle soit. La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. n'assume aucune responsabilité quelconque en cas de dommage corporel survenu sur les lieux de la vente.

3.3 Représentants et Agents de Vente aux Enchères: L'enchérisseur qui agit pour le compte d'un tiers engage son entière responsabilité personnelle en particulier en ce qui concerne toutes les obligations contractées dans le cadre de la présente vente. Cette responsabilité s'étend notamment à la vérification de la qualité des lots achetés ainsi qu'au règlement ultérieur de la facture des lots acquis.

3.4 L'adjudication: Chaque lot est adjugé au plus offrant pour le compte de son vendeur respectif. Une commission de 15% est facturée en sus du prix d'adjudication par la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. A la tombée du marteau, les profits et risques des lots ainsi adjugés passent à l'enchérisseur dont l'offre a été acceptée. La marchandise ne sera cependant remise à l'acquéreur qu'au moment du règlement intégral du prix d'achat et de la commission due.

TVA (Taxe à la vente) - Note indicative:

Les acheteurs domiciliés à l'étranger ne sont pas soumis à cette taxe, à condition que les marchandises soient exportées hors de Suisse. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. se fera un plaisir de s'occuper de l'exportation de ces marchandises. Les clients peuvent aussi faire cette exportation par leurs propres moyens, dans ce cas, ils doivent fournir à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. une attestation d'importation signée et timbrée par les douanes suisses. Toute acquisition par des acheteurs désirant garder la marchandise en Suisse est soumise à la taxe TVA de 6.5% sur le prix d'achat.

3.5 Paiement: Les adjudicataires présents sont tenus de payer comptant en francs suisses le prix d'achat et la commission contre remise de la marchandise acquise. Le paiement en monnaies étrangères est accepté au cours du jour tel qu'établi par une des grandes banques suisses. Les enchérisseurs par correspondance auxquels un lot est adjugé ainsi que les adjudicataires présents auxquels la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. accorde l'autorisation expresse d'acquiescer les montants dus après la vente, sont tenus de payer le prix d'achat et la commission due à réception de la facture de la vente aux enchères. Dans ce cas, la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. conserve les lots adjugés qui ne seront remis à leurs acheteurs qu'à réception par la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. du paiement intégral des montants dus. Sauf instructions spéciales de l'acheteur, l'envoi des lots s'effectue par la poste, dans tous les cas à ses frais; la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. assure, de manière usuelle, la marchandise pour le transit, les frais d'assurance étant également à la charge de l'acheteur.

3.6 Facilités de paiement: La Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. accorde, selon sa libre appréciation, des facilités de paiement aux acheteurs. L'acheteur au bénéfice de telles facilités paie un montant minimum de 25% du montant total de la facture dès réception de celle-ci puis acquitte le solde encore dû en mensualités égales sur une période de 6 mois maximum. Un intérêt annuel plus les frais encourus au taux de 1% sont perçus, à partir de la date de la vente, par la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. L'intérêt est déduit chaque mois au compte du client. En cas d'obtention de facilités de paiement, la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. garde les lots adjugés jusqu'au paiement intégral des montants dus par l'acheteur, étant précisé que l'acheteur peut, en tout temps avant livraison, examiner la marchandise acquise auprès de la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Par ailleurs, l'acheteur perd tout droit de réclamation tel que prévu sous chiffre 4 ci-dessous, 30 jours après la date de la vente aux enchères.

3.7 Droit de gage: Jusqu'au paiement intégral du montant dû, l'acheteur confère à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. un droit de gage sur la totalité des lots gardés par DAVID FELDMAN S.A. acquis avant, pendant et/ou après la présente vente aux enchères. Ce gage garantit le remboursement de tout montant dû en capital, intérêts, commissions et frais éventuels. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. est autorisée, mais non obligée, à réaliser les gages sans autres formalités et sans préavis si l'acquéreur est en demeure pour le paiement de sa dette ou l'exécution d'une obligation quelconque. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. pourra dans tous les cas réaliser les gages de gré à gré. A cet effet, elle n'est pas tenue d'observer les formalités prévues par la Loi fédérale sur la poursuite pour dette et faillite; DAVID FELDMAN S.A. est libre en outre d'introduire ou de continuer une poursuite ordinaire, sans avoir préalablement réalisé les gages et sans renoncer pour autant à ceux-ci.

4. GARANTIE

4.1 Etendue de la garantie: Sous réserve de l'article 4.3 ci-après, l'authenticité de toutes les pièces philatéliques vendues aux enchères est garantie pendant 30 jours à compter de la date de la vente aux enchères. Toute garantie de défaut ou autre garantie de quelque nature qu'elle soit est expressément exclue. Toute réclamation concernant l'authenticité doit être transmise à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. dès réception des lots, mais au plus tard dans les 30 jours à compter de la date de la vente aux enchères. Avant la livraison, qui peut intervenir après ce délai de 30 jours, les pièces philatéliques acquises peuvent être examinées auprès de DAVID FELDMAN S.A. L'acheteur dont la réclamation parvient à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. après ce délai de 30 jours à compter de la date de la vente aux enchères perd tout droit à la garantie. Sa réclamation ne sera pas prise en considération par DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Si un délai supplémentaire pour formuler une réclamation liée à l'authenticité d'une pièce philatélique s'avère nécessaire, la demande doit en être faite à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. dans le délai de 30 jours à compter de la date de la vente aux enchères. Aucune demande parvenue après ce délai de 30 jours à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. ne sera prise en considération. Les résultats de l'expertise pour laquelle un délai a été accordé doivent parvenir à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. dans les trois mois à compter de la date de la vente aux enchères. Un délai supplémentaire ne peut être accordé qu'avec l'accord écrit de DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Seules les réclamations, résultats d'expertise ou autres notifications parvenus dans les délais seront pris en considération par DAVID FELDMAN S.A.

4.2 Expertise ou contre-expertise: Lorsque l'authenticité d'un lot est contestée l'acheteur est tenu de produire un certificat d'expertise émanant d'un expert qualifié justifiant sa réclamation. Si l'expert reconnu, assumant toute responsabilité en cas d'erreur, juge que le timbre a été falsifié, il peut le marquer en conséquence, les signes "FAUX" ou "FALSIFIE" ne constituent pas alors une altération du lot. En présence d'une telle réclamation la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. se réserve le droit de demander selon la libre appréciation une ou plusieurs expertises subséquentes dont les frais seront mis à charge du vendeur dans l'hypothèse où la réclamation de l'acheteur est fondée. Dans le cas contraire l'acheteur supportera tous les frais d'expertise encourus. Lorsque la réclamation est fondée, le lot est repris et le prix d'adjudication ainsi que la commission sont intégralement remboursés à l'acheteur. Dans le cas d'un paiement retardé dû à une expertise agréer par David Feldman S.A., des intérêts sont payables à 50% du taux habituel pour tout lot dont l'authenticité est confirmée. Si David Feldman S.A. n'est pas d'accord tous les intérêts seront dus.

4.3 Limites de la garantie: Les lots décrits comme collections, sélections ou groupes, ceux formés de doubles et d'accumulations, ne peuvent faire l'objet d'une réclamation quelconque. Les réclamations concernant les lots décrits comme série ou groupes de séries contenant plus d'un timbre, ne sont prises en considération dans les limites de l'article 4.1 ci-dessus que si elles portent sur plus d'un tiers de la valeur totale d'acquisition du lot.

4.4 Paiement tardif: Si le paiement du prix d'achat et de la commission due par l'acheteur n'intervient pas dans les 30 jours à compter de la date de la vente aux enchères, la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. se réserve le droit d'annuler la vente et de disposer du(des) lot(s) concerné(s) et/ou d'agir par toute voie de droit utile contre l'acquéreur afin d'obtenir le paiement des montants dus et/ou d'éventuels dommages-intérêts. Un intérêt + frais moratoire de 16% l'en sera perçu sur toute somme due par l'acheteur 30 jours après la date de la vente aux enchères. Le débiteur défaillant perd en outre tout droit de réclamation tel que prévu sous chiffre 4 ci-dessus.

5. DROIT APPLICABLE ET FOR COMPETENT

La présente vente aux enchères ainsi que tous les rapports juridiques qui en découlent seront soumis au Droit suisse exclusivement. Toute action légale ou procédure concernant la vente aux enchères ainsi que les rapports juridiques qui en découlent seront soumis à la juridiction exclusive des tribunaux de Genève, sous réserve d'appel au Tribunal fédéral suisse à Lausanne. Dans tous les cas, la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. se réserve le droit de poursuivre tout acheteur défaillant à son lieu de résidence, auquel cas le Droit Suisse reste applicable.



David Feldman SA and representatives

David Feldman Chairman
Lydia Stocker Assistant

Philatelists

Marcus Orsi Managing Director
Anders Thorell Philatelist

Accounts

Alexandra Calzolari Head of Department
Virginie Perrier Accounts Assistant

Administration

Lydia Stocker Head of Department
Nghia Tran Administration Assistant
Leigh Merchant Graphic Artist

External assistants & contributors

David MacDonnell, Daniel Mirecki, Ingvar Pettersson, Michael Tseriotis, Michael Vojta

Acknowledgements

Printed by Atar Roto Presse, Photography by Maurice Aeschlimann, Photolitho by Scan Graphic

Our representatives

Argentina

Marcelo Loeb
Maipu 466, Locales 19
1006 Buenos Aires
Tel.: (0055-541) 393 94 64
Fax: (0055-541) 393 94 64

Austria

Michael Vojta
Nikolsdorferg. 3-5/1
1050 Wien
Tel.: (0043-1) 548 41 30
Fax: (0043-1) 545 07 01

Canada

Stanley Feldman
133 Lake Promenade
Toronto, Ont. M8W 1A6
Tel.: (001-416) 251 00 93
Fax: (001-416) 253 54 04

China

Prof. Michael J. Leyden
Chairman Studies & Computer
College of the Marshall Island
P.O. Box 1258
Majuro, MH 96960, Marshall Island
Tel.: (0086-625) 3394
Fax: (0086-625) 7203

Ireland

David MacDonnell
MacDonnell Ltd.
102 Leinster Road
Dublin 6
Tel.: (00353-1) 497 74 49
Fax: (00353-1) 497 74 40

Israel

Richard Stein
P. O. Box 917
Raanana 43104
Tel.: (00972-9) 771 32 19
Fax: (00972-9) 771 92 70
Email: dorsatal@mail.netvision.net.il

Germany

Claudia Marchart
Moselstrasse 1/1
71679 Asperg
Tel.: (0049-7141) 26 08 61
Fax: (0049-7141) 26 08 62

Greece

Costas Marsellos
10 Kondili & 6 Diakou St
Glyfada 16675
Tel.: (0030-1) 894 45 81
Fax: (0030-1) 898 09 13

Norway

Tom Komnaes
Bryggen 4
Postboks 1140
5001 Bergen
Tel.: (0047-55) 54 91 00
Fax: (0047-55) 32 80 06

Sweden

Sven Sandstedt
Norbyvägen 37
752 39 Uppsala
Tel.: (0046-18) 500 262
Fax: (0046-18) 519 672

California, U.S.A.

Leopold B. Teacher
Consortium Int. Corp.
P. O. Box 9098
La Jolla, CA 92038-9098
Tel.: (001-619) 459 00 68
Fax: (001-619) 454 77 52

North Carolina, U.S.A.

Ed Bohannon
P.O. Box 472113
Charlotte, NC 28247-2113
Tel.: (001-800) 458 03 19
Fax: (001-704) 844 07 13
Email: Ed.Bohannon@perigee.net

New Jersey, U.S.A

Malcolm MacDonald
691 Ridgedale Avenue
East Hanover, NJ 07936
Tel.: (001-973) 386 12 49
Fax: (001-973) 386 18 82
Email: MarkMacd@AOL.com

Maine, U.S.A.

Daryl Pelletier
2 Oak Knoll Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107
Tel.: (001-207) 799 92 78
Fax: (001-207) 799 58 16

New York, U.S.A.

Stanley Salmen
Interbook Inc.
Brooklyn Navy Yard
Building 3, No. 1005
Brooklyn, NY 11205
Tel.: (001-718) 722 74 30
Fax: (001-718) 722 74 32



Official sponsors of the F.I.P

David Feldman

Swissôtel, Zurich

Am Marktplatz, Zürich-Oerlikon
 Tel (01) 311 43 41 - Fax (01) 312 44 68
 Direct line to auction: Tel. (01) 317 30 36 - Fax (01) 317 30 37



Auction Programme

Monday 15 February

15.00 h Egypt & Sudan

Cat. No.

1

Tuesday 16 February

09.30 h Bosnia, Montenegro, Turkey, Middle East
 and Greece

2

16.00 h The Americas

3

Wednesday 17 February

09.00 h Asia

3

10.00 h Great Britain

3

12.00 h The First Cover, May 1, 1840

7

13.00 h British Commonwealth

3

17.00 h Western Europe & Scandinavia

4

Thursday 18 February

09.00 h Eastern Europe

4

12.00 h Austria & Levant, Germany & Switzerland

4

18.00 h Collections

5

Friday 19 February

09.00 h Airmails

5

11.00 h Olympics

6

Viewing Arrangements

January 20 - February 9 GENEVA offices (175, route de Chancy)
 by appointment

February 14 - 19 ZURICH, SWISSÔTEL
 (Feb. 14 12.00 h-20.00 h; Feb. 15-18 08.00 h-20.00 h; Feb. 19 08.00 h-12.00 h)

David Feldman SA

PHILATELISTS - AUCTIONEERS

175, route de Chancy - P. O. Box 81 - 1213 Onex / Geneva, Switzerland - Tel. 0041 22-727 0777 - Fax 0041 22-727 0778 - Email : admin@davidfeldman.com



Specialised Catalogues

David Feldman

(With prices realised)

	Price SFr.
Altdeutschland und Deutschland, November 1986 (mit Bayern Sammlung von Dr. Gene Scott) (No. of Lots: 520)	50
Antarctica, May 1990 The "Discovery" Collection (also important Arctic & Spitzbergen) (No. of lots: 215)	50
Australia, November 1987 (including the Grand Prix Victoria Collection) (No. of lots: 1,422)	50
Barbados, April 1986 The Joseph Hackmey Award-Winning Collection (No. of lots: 338)	50
Brazil, November 1987 The Amazon Collection (No. of lots: 337)	50
France, November 1986 La Collection Gallia 1849-52 (No. of lots: 205)	50
Greece, June 1992 The "Hellas" Collection (No. of lots: 433)	50
Latin America, November 1993 (including Grand Prix Collections of Brazil, Uruguay & Venezuela plus Large Gold Medal Collection of Paraguay) (No. of lots: 1,201)	50
Mauritius, November 1993 The Kanai Mauritius Collection, clothbound, luxury presentation case, with supplement by A. J. Rudge (No. of lots: 452)	100
Mauritius, November 1997 The Ball Invitation Envelope (clothbound 24 pages)	50
Middle East, November 1987 (including the Dr. A. Kaczmarczyk Collection of Saudi Arabia) (No. of lots: 927)	50
Norway, June 1992 The Konsortium 1 Collection, hardbound (No. of lots: 234)	50
Palestine, November 1985 The Manuela Grand Prix (No. of lots: 9)	20
Scandinavia, May 1990 (including the John Ahlstrom Sweden & the 1855 3 Skilling Error of Colour (No. of lots: 560))	50
Scandinavia, November 1992 (including Norway Konsortium 2) (No. of lots: 888)	50
Serbia, November 1986 The Alexander Gold Medal Collection (No. of lots: 311)	50
Spain, May 1989 The Isabella Grand Prix Collection (No. of lots: 369)	50

Price SFr.

Straits Settlements, November 1986 The P. H. Tay Grand Prix Collection (No. of lots: 285)	50
Switzerland, Helveticus 1, November 1991 Hardbound, Switzerland Cantons (No. of lots: 83)	50
Switzerland, Helveticus 2, November 1992 Hardbound, Switzerland Cantons (No. of lots: 77)	50
The "Treskilling" Yellow, November 1996 Hardbound, the Swedish 3sk yellow (No. of lots: 1)	50
Rarities of the World, Ameripex, May 1986 (No. of lots: 571)	50
Rarities of the World, November 1991 Hardbound (No. of lots: 69)	50
Rarities of the World, November 1992 Hardbound (No. of lots: 61)	50

Burrus (Price each SFr. 30 / \$25 / £12)

* (Without prices realised)

British Empire , 3.4.63	
British Empire , 23/24.7.63	
British Empire , 27.11.63	
British Empire , 29.11.62	
Levant, Turkey, Morocco , 20.5.64	
Portugal & Philippines , 5.5.64	
Austria , 15.4.64	
Cape of Good Hope , 27.11.62	
* B.N.A., 2.4.63 British Guiana , 26.11.63	
Hawaii (Harmers) , 27.5.63	
* Mexico, Nicaragua, Liberia , 7.6.64	
Mauritius , 1.10.63	
Brazil , 4.4.63	
* French Colonies & Rumania (Balasse) , 20.10.62	
* Belgium & Belgian Congo (Balasse) , 2.3.63	
Europe , 8.4.64	
* Netherlands , 10.12.63	
Australia, Tasmania , 28.11.62	
Switzerland , 16/18.4.64	
* Greece & Egypt , 30.11.62	
* Sweden, Hungary, etc. (Mohrmann) , 13/16.11.62	

Exhibition

Rare Stamps/Collections of the World

Claridge's London, 1995	(hardbound 148 pages)	50
Claridge's London, 1997	(hardbound 160 pages)	50
Anphilex, New York, 1996	(hardbound 148 pages)	50
Monaco, 1997	(clothbound 128 pages)	50

(Please enclose SFr. 5 (\$4) for surface mail or SFr. 10 (\$8) for airmail postage for each book)



Map and directions for Swissôtel Zurich

Swissôtel Zurich

International Congress Centre
Am Marktplatz, Zurich-Oerlikon

Telephone: 01/311 43 41 - Fax: 01/312 44 68
Direct line to auction: Telephone 01/317 30 36 - Fax: 01/317 30 37

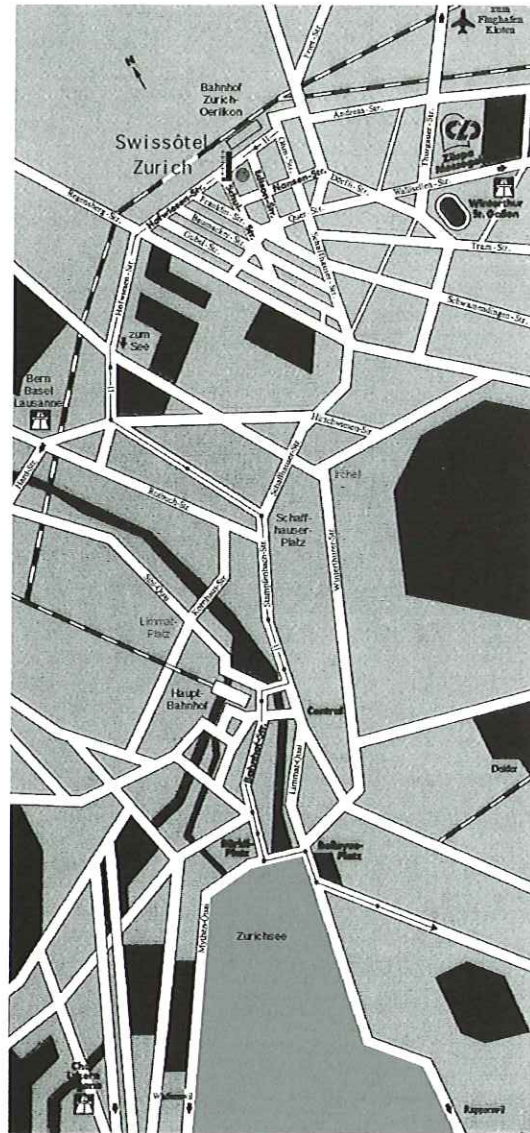
The hotel is well located, next to the Zurich-Oerlikon Station, only 15 minutes from the Main Station by tram 7 or 11. By car, the hotel is only 5 minutes away from Zurich-Kloten Airport. It has its own bus service which runs frequently between the hotel and the airport. The 700-bed first class hotel has parking space for 200 cars. It also offers a Swissair office, Hertz car rental, a Bucherer jewellery and watch shop, restaurants (Panorama Grill 31st floor and snack restaurant Marmite), bars, nightclub and a rooftop swimming pool and sauna.

Reservations may be made through David Feldman S.A.

Das Hotel liegt beim Bahnhof Zürich-Oerlikon. Ab Zürich Hauptbahnhof erreichen Sie es mit Tramlinie 7 oder 11. Vom Flughafen Zürich-Kloten gelangen Sie mit dem Hotel-Bus-Service in fünf Autominuten zum Hotel. Wenn Sie mit Ihrem Privatwagen kommen, fahren Sie direkt in die Hotel-Tiefgarage. Im 700-Betten-Erstklasshotel stehen zu Ihren Diensten: Swissair - Büro, Autovermietung Hertz, Restaurants, Bars und im 31. Stock ein Hallenbad mit Sauna.

Die Reservierungen können durch David Feldman S.A. erfolgen.

L'hôtel est situé en face de la gare Zurich-Oerlikon, à 15 minutes de la gare centrale de Zurich (tram 7 ou 11), et à 5 minutes de l'aéroport de Zurich-Kloten où l'autobus de l'hôtel vous attendra. Si vous arrivez en voiture, un garage souterrain de 200 places est à votre disposition. Vous trouverez aussi dans cet établissement première classe de 700 lits, une agence Swissair, un service location-auto Hertz, le célèbre horloger - bijoutier Bucherer, des restaurants (Panorama Grill au 31^e étage et le snack - bar Marmite), des bars et un night - club. Enfin, au sommet, la piscine et le sauna.



Vous pouvez adresser vos demandes de réservation à David Feldman S.A.

PAYMENT BY CREDIT CARD

Please contact us in advance if you wish to make payment by means of any of the following Credit Cards:
VISA, MASTERCARD, EUROCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS and DINERS CLUB



