

# PHILATELY



**The wonderful world of stamp collecting**



# The first postage stamps

- Before postage stamps, the recipient would pay!
- Sir Rowland Hill introduced pre-payment, and an adhesive stamp, the 1 penny black on 1 May 1840



1d black  
Over 68 million printed  
\$5,800 unused; \$225 used



Sir Rowland Hill (1795–1879)



# The first postage stamps

- Brazil followed on 1 March 1843
- Switzerland on 1 March 1843 (Zürich), 30 September 1843 (Geneva), 1 July 1845 (Basel)



**Brazil 30 réis black**  
**"Bull's Eye"**  
\$3,900 unused  
\$670 used



**Zürich 4 rappen**  
**black**  
\$13,500 unused  
or used



**Geneva 5 + 5 cents black on yellow-green paper, aka "Double Geneva"**  
\$56,500 unused, \$33,800 used



**Basel 2½ rappen**  
**(first multicolored!)**  
\$11,300 in any  
condition



# The first US postage stamps

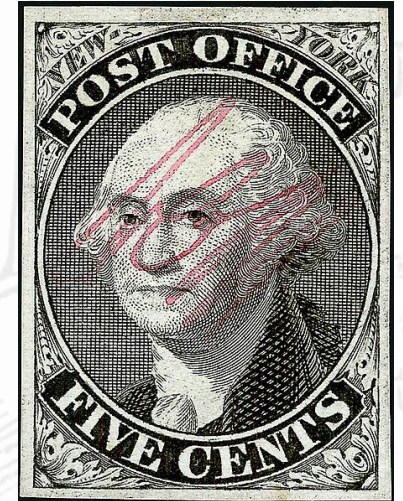
- Private issues from 1 Feb 1842 (City Despatch Post, NYC)
- 3 March 1845 Act of Congress established uniform postage rates, but no stamps!
- First US postage stamps, 1 July 1847:



**5c red-brown**  
3.6M printed  
\$6,800 mint  
\$2,800 unused  
\$340 used



**10c black**  
864,000 printed  
\$33,800 mint  
\$16,900 unused  
\$677 used



**NYC provisional**  
**5c black**  
\$1,355 unused  
\$560 used

# The UPU: reciprocity between nations

- Countries had to negotiate postal treaty with each other
- Example: US had no postal treaty with France as late as 1870!
- German Reichspost Postmaster-General Heinrich von Stephan's proposals agreed at International Postal Congress in Switzerland
- Treaty of Bern signed 9 October 1874, establishing the UPU
- Became UN agency in 1948; currently 192 members



UPU

UNIVERSAL  
POSTAL  
UNION



# Commemorating the events of the day



**Peru, 1870**

5c red, 20th anniversary of  
1st railway in S. America



**USA, 1893**

\$5 black (from set of 16), World's  
Columbian Exposition, Chicago



**Great Britain, 1924**

1d red (from set of 2), British  
Empire Exhibition

- 1895: Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps (S.S.S.S.) tried to ban commemoratives due to increased cost of collecting!



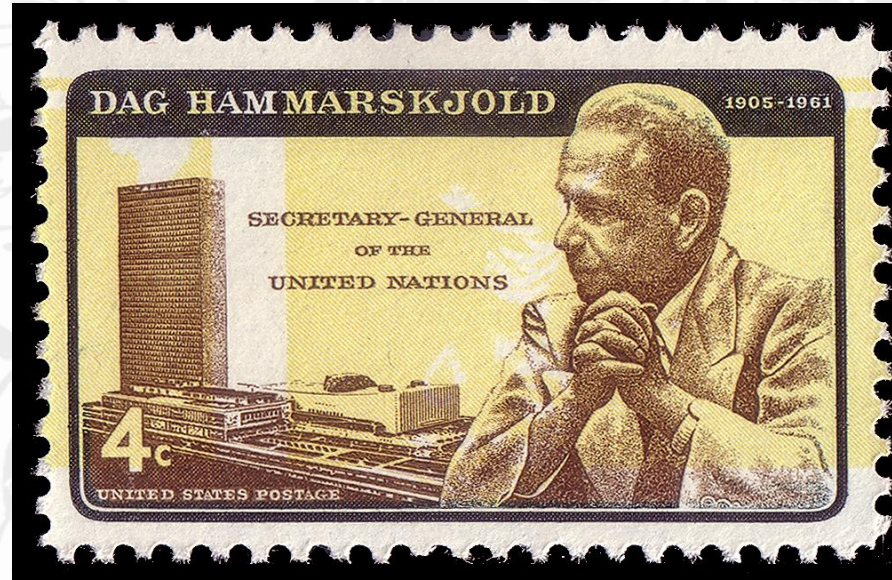
# The errors



## “Inverted Jenny”

10 May 1918

Only 100 errors exist  
(2 million regular)  
\$1.6 million



## “Dag Hammarskjöld Invert”

23 October 1962

Over 40 million errors exist  
(over 121 million regular)  
\$0.50 error, \$0.25 regular



## “Statue of Liberty Forever”

1 December 2010

1.5 billion exist  
\$0.50



# The rarities



**“British Guiana 1c magenta”**

1856

Only 1 known to exist

\$9.5 million (2014)



**“Benjamin Franklin Z Grill”**

US 1c blue with “Z” grill

1856

Only 2 known to exist

\$3 million (2007)



**“Treskilling Yellow”**

Sweden 3 skilling color error,  
should be blue-green, 1855

Only 1 known to exist

\$2.3 million (2010)



# Little Pieces of History!

- Want to collect stamps?
- Pick a country, or a theme: global events, or animals (even dinosaurs), or sport, famous people, paintings...
- You name it, a country somewhere issued stamps for it!



- See my website: <https://dicksstamps.online>
- Email me at [dick.eassom@smawins.com](mailto:dick.eassom@smawins.com) for more info!

