

## PUBLICATION REVIEWS

Volume 18 of the *Essential Guide to the Great Britain Line Engraved 1d and 2d stars 1840 to 1864* has become available. It covers the Two Pence value – Die 1 Plates 1 to 6 Addenda and Corrigenda to the whole series and includes photographic reproductions as complete reconstructed sheets from the late C F Denby Marshall collection.

The late Kenneth William Statham was the compiler and the 224 pages and over 745 diagrams illustrating each recorded variety make this an essential purchase for those with an interest in this subject. It is priced at £100, plus postage and packing.

Enquiries: For a sample in the form of Black Plate 3 (from volume 2) and a page from the Plating Summary contact Eric Paul Ltd., P O Box 44, Marple SK6 7EE, telephone 0161 427 2101, email [ericpyrett@ericpaultd.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:ericpyrett@ericpaultd.fsnet.co.uk) or go to [www.ericpaul.co.uk](http://www.ericpaul.co.uk)

### ***THE DUBLIN FIND: The Most Important Stamp Find in GB Philately***

Written jointly by Don Madden and Karl Louis, this is a tale of intrigue and secret stamp dealing by the Post Office at the very beginning of the 20th century; and a modern investigation into where the stamps may have ended up.

The first part of this publication was written by Don Madden and examines the background to the Dublin Find, describing how in 1899 various stamps and postal stationery dating from the 1840s were apparently found at the Dublin and Edinburgh post offices, and possibly London as well. Leading officials in the Post Office decided to try to obtain as much money for these as they could on the philatelic market, but instead of openly admitting who was actually selling the material, they arranged for Post Office employees to sell the stamps at auction under their own names. It is a story of cover-ups, undercover agents, death under ‘extra-ordinary circumstances’, ‘...a rather slippery person...’, incarceration, in fact many of the requirements of a good novel, but this is a factual work, not fiction.

This first section includes some 34 photographs, memorandums, letters and the like, together with tables, references and acknowledgements that all help to explain the story and the characters involved.

Part two of the book was written by Karl Louis and investigates what has happened to the philatelic items since their discovery. There are 76 separate pieces illustrated (mostly pairs or blocks), together with eight diagrams of where these singles or blocks of stamps came from in each sheet and who has owned, or now owns, them (i.e. their attribution, such

as the 1841 Penny Red, plate 9, top left block of 18 '1938: de Worms. Now: BPMA').

Several original source files held at BPMA were consulted and these were considered to be the most important for research as they provided 'hard facts'. Photographic illustrations from the Earl of Crawford's collection and photographs held by RPSL's Expert Committee also helped to piece together the jigsaw. Karl's Card Index Register of multiples was also of immense use, and his reconstruction of the 1840 line-engraved Crawford sheets saw the award of the Tapling Medal following publication of the results of his study in *The London Philatelist* for January 2005.

Douglas N Muir, Curator, Philately, British Postal Museum & Archive states in his Foreword: *'I am a great believer in documents contemporary to the events being described . . . This can be clearly seen here in Don Madden's account of the history of the 'find' . . . An excellent study based on very extensive research . . . Karl Louis's reconstructions of the material from subsequent sales of broken down sheets is a remarkable achievement.'*

This is a valuable addition to the philately of Great Britain and a truly great read, dispelling any non-collectors' doubts about the hobby being boring! We therefore heartily recommend that *Stamp Lover* readers purchase a copy while they are still available.

Enquiries: Available from Mike Jackson Publications, 3 Cottesmore Avenue, Melton Mowbray LE13 0HY, or visit [www.mjpublications.com](http://www.mjpublications.com) It is A4, has full-colour soft covers, vi+45 illustrated pages + 15 pages of relevant advertising and bears a retail price of £15, plus postage & packing: Inland £2.00; Europe (air) £3; Rest of world (air) £5, (surface) £3.

**Pierron's Publications** There are three excellent reference works available to collectors of modern British and Commonwealth errors and trial material.

*Pierron's Online Catalogue* This catalogue contains images, quantities and values of all recorded modern GB and Commonwealth missing colour errors. Updates are made constantly (almost daily) to reflect dealer and auction prices, new finds, additional error and variety types and the latest research. There are already over 1400 varieties, 3000 images and 74,000 words on the site and it is a valuable new addition to the collectors' arsenal of available information about the errors scene.

Enquiries: visit [www.errors.info](http://www.errors.info) from where new users must register. Enter your email address, choose a password and click to register. You'll

have 30 days of unrestricted access and thereafter viewable information relating to errors will be limited. Full access can be restored by purchasing a year's subscription for a modest £9.95 (€15, USD \$18).

*Pierron's Modern Great Britain Errors & Varieties* is an electronic book (e-book) available for browsing on your computer and sold as a CD. It features everything covered in the *2005 Catalogue of Great Britain Stamp Errors and Varieties*, plus the very latest finds, quantities and values, benefiting from over 600 updates.

Like the 2005 printed catalogue, the digital version features more than 550 pages, 13 colour-coded sections and detailed descriptions and market valuations of over 2,800 modern GB errors and varieties presented as PDF pages. Due to smart use of bookmarks and links, it is possible to navigate to areas of interest rapidly. Furthermore, pages can be magnified to 400% without any loss of image detail and pages can be printed-out in high resolution.

Enquiries: The CD is priced at £14.95 (€22, US\$28), while the printed book is £49.95 (€72, US\$96). There is free postage if residing within the UK. Orders for the CD or book can be placed via [orders@bacchic.com](mailto:orders@bacchic.com) and PayPal is an accepted means of payment making it especially easy for overseas collectors.

The first ever postal guide published in 1562 has been reprinted in the British Virgin Islands by Dr. Giorgio Migliavacca, who states in his press release: "This modern reprint of the 1562 postal guide makes this important book in the history of travel and communications easily available to 21st century readers and scholars".

Enquiries: No price is given, but copies are available from Dr Giorgio Migliavacca, P O Box 7007, St Thomas VI, 00801-0007 USA.

***Blue Mauritius*** by Helen Morgan (Published by Atlantic Books. ISBN 184354 435 0. Published at £17.99. Hardback. xii+320 pages and 22 illustrations.)

Sub-titled 'The hunt for the world's most valuable stamps', *Blue Mauritius* is the biography of the world's most famous and expensive stamps - the 1847 'Post Office' stamps of Mauritius. The story of how these stamps came about is well-known to most collectors and dates back to September 1847 when admission cards to a fancy-dress ball hosted by

the Governor's wife were despatched. Three of the envelopes survive and each is now worth in excess of a million dollars.

This book tells the full fascinating story behind the stamps in 234 pages and then goes on to include a postscript, glossaries, biographies, notes and sources, bibliography, acknowledgements and an extensive index amounting to another 100 pages.

The author trained as an art historian and archivist and lives in Australia with her Mauritian husband. This is her first book, which she wrote because she was intrigued by the story of the French schoolboy and the Bordeaux letter and imagined his delight after reading of the stamps' rarity and value, astutely searching through the archived correspondence of the French wine importing firm and discovering the 'Post Office' stamps.

Helen does not consider herself to be a stamp collector, but there is hope as she intends collecting Mauritius and Botswana one day!

Enquiries: visit [www.helenmorgan.net](http://www.helenmorgan.net) and [www.groveatlantic.co.uk](http://www.groveatlantic.co.uk) for details about the author and its publisher respectively. There is a Blue Mauritius Research Companion website at [www.helenmorgan.net/bm/home.html](http://www.helenmorgan.net/bm/home.html) where biographical and bibliographical information about the Post Office Mauritius stamps and subjects related to them can be found.

**Guernsey Year Book 2006** It is several years since we have seen a copy of the Guernsey Year Book and it has developed into a most attractive publication. Case bound with a dust jacket, it contains all Guernsey issues from 2006, including those of Alderney, interspersed with interesting stories behind each issue and with relevant photographs and paintings to spice-up the book.

Priced at £49.31 it is an easy way to collect these well-designed issues. The book contains 95 stamps in total. 75 stamps have been torn from counter sheets and a further 20 stamps are contained within four miniature sheets. Copies are also still available of the 2004 Year Book (£33.13) and 2005 (£34.64).

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