

## 2012 Royal Household Mail corrections to statements made by "XYL" on a Bulletin Board

He states: *"If she sends a letter she does not have to put a stamp on the envelope."* If by this he means Her Majesty's Household does not pay postage, then this is erroneous. It does. Until 31 March 2001, the Court Post Office's postal and telegraph services were provided free of charge by the Post Office, but from 1 April 2001 the Household, at its suggestion, has paid.

It is wrong to state that Her Majesty does not pay for a single stamp that enters her private collection. She does. OK, only those issues that are determined by the Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection to be of significant importance, for as with many collectors there is an annual budget set aside for such purchases.

Yes, she does receive many stamp issues free of charge when issued by some Commonwealth postal administrations. As royal.gov.uk states: *"Today the Collection continues to grow. It receives stamps of the UK and many Commonwealth countries in mint blocks of four or six. Occasional purchases of rare historical items are also made to enhance the Collection further."*

As for Her Majesty owning several full mint sheets, including Penny Blacks, I am sure that she would love to. However, as far as the Penny Black goes, the only sheets in the world are owned by The British Postal Museum & Archive here in London. As the museum states: *"In our collections at The British Postal Museum & Archive we hold unique treasures illustrating the history of postal reform and the design and production of the [Penny Black] stamps. These include proofs, the Old Original die from which all the printing plates were made, and the only sheets of Penny Blacks in existence."*

Royal.gov.uk goes on to state: *"The Royal Philatelic Collection contains many examples of these first stamps, including 1d stamps printed in black ink (penny blacks) and 2d stamps printed in blue (two pence blues)."* No mention of full sheets anywhere.

In May 2001 Her Majesty sold some duplicate material to pay for two lovely additions to her collection (a block of ten Penny Blacks as she possessed no larger multiple, and a 6 May 1840 FDC). In 2008 she put up for auction 13 duplicates, including two single mint penny blacks. There is nothing that I have ever found on record to indicate that she sold philatelic material to a US businessman in 2011 - or ever - and certainly not for \$66million. There is nothing on the internet, nor has it appeared in any of the dozens of philatelic magazines that I have access to. Trust me, if it were true I would have read about it, as this would be a major headline in the British stamp press. Until documentary evidence is provided, it is simply hearsay and as TV's Judge Judy would say "I don't listen to hearsay in my court".

The above is all common knowledge in England.

**Glenn H Morgan**