



David Feldman
INTERNATIONAL AUCTIONEERS



Mauritius Post Office: The Printing Plate

The Greatest Philatelic Treasure Existing – A.J. Sefi, 1912

Feldman Galleries, Geneva – December 1, 2016

Mauritius Post Office: The Printing Plate

The Greatest Philatelic Treasure Existing

A.J. Sefi, 1912

December 1, 2016

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18:00

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Lot 7 (Catalogue: Mauritius Post Office: The Bombay Cover)

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Viewing in Geneva

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Introduction

*by Marcus Orsi,
Chief Philatelist, David Feldman SA*



Dear Collectors and friends,

As a young stamp collector at the age of eight years old, I would leaf through the Stanley Gibbons All World catalogue and look at the first stamps of every country, dreaming that one day I may have the opportunity to simply see or, even better, hold one of these great rarities, never conceiving that I would be one day handling them on a daily basis.

The last thirty-five years working at David Feldman SA have truly made this dream come true. Ever since my first auction in 1981, through to 2016, I have handled some—if not practically all—of the world rarest stamps. Some of my favourites being the Brazil Pack strip, the Fabergé Cover of Finland, the Inverted Jenny of the United States, the Bordeaux and Bombay Covers of Mauritius—as well as the fabulous “Post Office” stamps themselves—and some more esoteric items like the Russian post offices in Mongolia with the Kobdo Cover.

With all of these rarities passing through my hands, I was beginning to think that I had seen everything and that there were no more unique treasures yet to be discovered. That was until last year, when I learned of the discovery of the Mauritius “Post Office” printing plate.

Maurice Burrus was undoubtedly my philatelic hero, and when I heard that the Burrus family had unearthed the plate, probably Maurice’s most prized item, I was delighted. Having been able to see and touch the plate, I can now unreservedly state that this is without doubt the most significant philatelic item that I have ever handled!

All those who have been fortunate enough to examine the plate in person describe feeling an almost magical connection back to the Island of Mauritius in 1847 and the workshop of Joseph Barnard as he sat engraving a young Queen Victoria’s head, alongside the now immortal words “Post Office”.

The Mauritius “Post Office” stamps are, no doubt, among the most prized and sought-after stamps in the world. The reappearance of the unique copper plate that created them, and the subsequent possibility to acquire it represent “a once in a lifetime” opportunity either for a philatelist looking to own what would be the pinnacle of any collection, an investor searching for a truly iconic emotional asset, or indeed a museum seeking to exhibit a unique item that represents the very start of democratised written communications, and to preserve it for generations to come.



Geneva, September 2016

Foreword

*by Helen Morgan
(Author of "The Blue Mauritius, the Hunt for
the World's most Valuable Stamps")*



I am sure that for many philatelists, at whichever end of the collecting spectrum they sit, puzzling out the story of their particular postal interests provides enjoyment equal to possessing the items themselves. Nothing so perfectly balances these aspects of philately as the story of the Post Office Mauritius.

The identification of the Post Office stamps as the first issue of colonial Mauritius coincided with the rise in the 1860s of serious research into stamps and their production. It took the plating of the Post Paid to realise that the Post Office wasn't simply an error of that issue. Bringing together the few Post Office specimens known in 1870 helped the French philatelist Dr Jacques Amable Legrand to determine that there was probably only one engraving of each value. These discoveries set the fledgling stamp collecting world alight. There was a frisson of mystery about Mauritius.

The extraordinary discovery in 1912 of the actual printing plate answered one question—why so few stamps were issued, there being only one engraving of each value. Dr Legrand was proved right. But another question immediately took its place. How did the plate find its way from Mauritius to London?

I was (and still am) attracted to the Post Office story because of such mystery, and the sense of being one in a line of researchers who can yet, at such a distance, find in it something new and thrilling to ponder. 'Philately', in the prosaic words of one long ago observer, 'is the collection and study of any one of more countries or issues whereby definite conclusions are arrived at, in spite of the absence of official records'. This is the challenge that drives the philatelist, to piece together a history from a wide range of sources, written and oral, alongside the visual testimony of the items themselves.

In my trawling through the philatelic literature going back to the earliest days of the hobby I scribbled down sentences that encapsulated the essence of stamp collecting generally and the Post Office story particularly. Some of these ended up as epigraphs for the chapters in my book *Blue Mauritius*—indeed, the maxim from Georges Brunel, that one must never despair in philately because happy surprises surely lie ahead, prefaced the book. The philatelist Edward Evans spent time in Mauritius in the late 1870s, making interesting discoveries in the archives relating to the history of the island's first stamps, as well as returning with a specimen on cover. He later wrote that he'd not been hopeful of turning up much information when he began his research and was astonished at the amount of fresh information he obtained. One of Brunel's happy surprises.

After being exhibited and sold several times since its discovery, the Post Office plate disappeared from public view in the 1930s. When first reported in the philatelic press the plate was rated 'undoubtedly the most magnificent "Item" of Philatelic interest that can possibly exist'. By 1930 Nevile Lacy Stocken, who had announced the first discovery, was pronouncing it 'the most valuable Piece of Copper in the World'.

Reviewing the history of the lost plate in *The London Philatelist* in 2012, the centenary of its discovery, philatelist David Beech related a story told to him by H.R. Harmer's son. Harmer the elder had sold

the plate around 1930, it was thought, to Maurice Burrus, but it was not amongst Burrus's Mauritius collection when auctioned in 1963, four years after his death. H.R. Hamer believed it had been kept as a souvenir by a nephew. The fear was that it had been lost, perhaps during the preparation for auction. In the months following the publication of this article David Beech's determined sleuthing in the archives of the Royal Philatelic Society London uncovered written proof (a letter from Burrus) that Burrus had owned the plate in 1935.

I was thrilled early in 2015 when contacted by David Feldman SA letting me know that the plate had been rediscovered; not lost, but in the possession of Maurice Burrus's late niece, Odile. H.R. Harmer, as conveyed by his son to David Beech, had, essentially, been correct. The plate had stayed in the family, kept it seems as a souvenir of their uncle. I could not travel to London on the plate's exhibition there at Europhilex, and was most envious of David Beech having travelled to Geneva to inspect the plate in person, to actually hold the object he'd been researching and wondering about for so long! He told me later that it was just as he'd imagined it—'it looked the part and was just right'.

The tiny plate was found wrapped in ordinary white paper, touchingly inscribed in everyday biro, 'Plaque Oncle Maurice'. The small O pencilled in the upper right corner signified that the plate had been set aside for, or claimed by, Odile Burrus. It must have meant a lot to her uncle, even more than the stamp collection he'd been preparing for sale when he died. Perhaps when he held it, Burrus' mind was swept back a hundred years, imagining what it was like to be the engraver of the new fangled letter labels, carefully printing them one by one, and even experiencing the novelty of receiving a local letter bearing his own work in the form of the one penny. The connection to the past is so tangible in this plate. Despite not having seen it, I sense it through the magnificent colour reproductions in this catalogue. So small and light, its survival seems miraculous.

The mystery of its whereabouts for the last eighty years now solved, the plate still tantalises with the unknown story of its journey from Mauritius, perhaps from a government vault, into the possession of someone who knew nothing of its history and cared less. The plate surfaced in 1912 through the agency of one Colonel Henry Colnaghi. It wasn't long before the Mauritius government took an interest in the plate and the Colonial Office set up a Commission of enquiry. The findings of the enquiry were inconclusive and consisted mostly of hearsay from various Mauritius postal employees who appeared to have no idea what they were talking about.

Despite this, what we do have from the enquiry are Henry Colnaghi's own considered words to the Commissioners:

As a boy when visiting an aunt one day she said to me "I have been looking through a box of old clothes etc belonging to my late aunt and have put some curios on one side for you" Among the things was this plate... It was many years ago... I did not know what it was and took no care of it—and eventually forgot about it.

The Colonel, born in 1866, was a middle aged man in 1914 when this was written, remembering something from before he had joined the

Royal Engineers nearly thirty years previously. Considering him a boy from about the age of 8 till 16 could mean that he was given the plate between 1874 and 1882. The plate had long been considered lost at the time I was researching it for my book. The results of the Commission of enquiry were inconclusive and I had left it at that. I didn't track back through the Colnaghi family tree and indeed also overlooked this issue of aunts—an aunt and an aunt's aunt—two aunts! Who might these aunts have been? Henry Colnaghi was the son of Sir Dominic Ellis Colnaghi (1838-1908). Dominic Ellis had one brother, the probable supplier of a paternal aunt, a more likely candidate than a maternal aunt, given the Colnaghi family connections to engraving and printing through the firm of P & D Colnaghi. Dominic Ellis and his brother had two Colnaghi aunts, one of whom, Caroline, was for a time (1829-39) a partner in P & D Colnaghi, succeeded by her son John Anthony Scott, who died in 1864. Caroline died in 1874, when Henry Colnaghi was a boy. It is feasible that in the years following Caroline's death, sadly having outlived both her husband and son, that it would fall to a niece (or niece-in-law) to go through her things. The curious little plate is something the niece might well have passed on to young Henry Colnaghi, whose 1914 letter makes clear collected stamps in his youth.

This has a ring of truth, yet we stumble again upon the question of how Caroline might have acquired the plate. By pointing to a female family member Henry may have been deflecting attention from a more probable source, his late father Dominic Ellis, who in his youth had been a collector and supplier of Greek artefacts to the British Museum and later went on to consular roles in Cyprus and Florence. After considering the Colnaghi family tree and Dominic Ellis's career, Daniel Flesher, CEO of David Feldman SA, suggested to me that with Colnaghi senior's excellent political and museum contacts, he may well have been the original source of the plate. I agree, this has as much probability as the alternative.

Henry Colnaghi's letter to the Commission, in the Commissioners' own words, threw 'no additional light on the question'. The Colonial Office communicated to the Royal Philatelic Society of London later in 1915 that 'after carefully considering the case, and consulting the Law Officers of the Crown upon it, he [the Under Secretary] does not consider it desirable in the circumstances to proceed further with the matter'. Desirable in the circumstances is an intriguing turn of phrase.

In the end, why pursue it? It is unlikely that the plate was stolen, and probable that it was gifted. There is a precedent for that in Edward Evans having returned from Mauritius with what is believed to be Joseph Barnard's original estimate for engraving the plate, which Evans eventually gifted to the British Museum. The Governor of Mauritius himself, Sir Cavendish Boyle, had returned in 1911 from his time in the island with the 1859 Post Paid plates, 'rescued from destruction' as a gift for George V!

For now, the story of the plate's early movements requires weighing up the balance of probabilities. We marvel that it has been rediscovered, and wish we could share the news with those gone before us. Up for sale for the first time in eighty years, the plate is about to make another journey. I hope the new owner keeps it safe.

Description

The 1847 Mauritius "Post Office" Issue Printing Plate

Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 18:00 CET

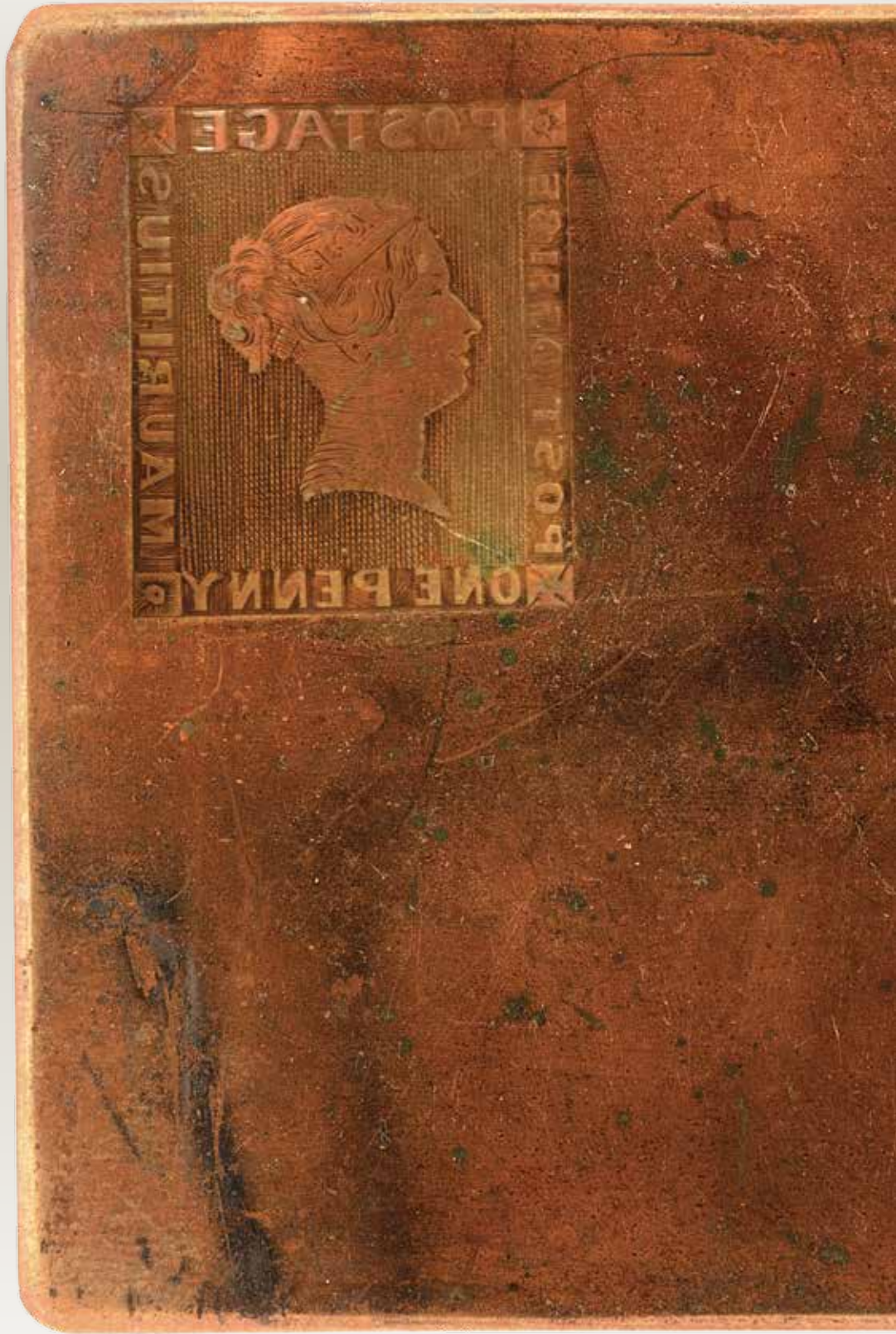


Lot 1

Mauritius "Post Office" issue printing plate: intaglio (as opposite to relief) printing plate in copper; width 81.05 mm x height 60.6 mm, with a weight of 46 grams, showing a single cliché of the 1d and 2d values each measuring width 20.4 mm x height 23.6 mm, with a separation of 31 mm between the engravings; both values showing the inscription "POST OFFICE" "POSTAGE" "MAURITIUS" and either "ONE PENNY" or "TWO PENCE" bordering a portrait of Queen Victoria, with background shading of vertical and diagonal lines (approx. 50 degrees CCW or CW respectively.)

Estimate: € 2'000'000 – € 3'000'000

Auction Start Price: € 1'000'000





Features, Provenance Exhibitions and Expertise



The plate in its actual dimensions (hi-definition scan)

TECHNICAL DETAILS

Name	The Mauritius "Post Office" issue printing plate
Engraver	Joseph Osmond Barnard (1816-65)
Date of engraving	August-September 1847
Usage	1847 (struck 500 times), 1912 and 1930s (unknown number of strikings)
Measures	Width: 81.05 mm Height: 60.6 mm Thickness: 1.1 mm (7/64")
Weight	46 grams
Material	Copper
Clichés	2 (1d and 2d)
Plate type	Intaglio
Design	Queen Victoria's profile, inspired by the Wyon/Corbauld/Heath "penny black"
Condition	It is said to have been bent at one time and thought to have been straightened (as it is currently) in the 1880s. The plate shows some oxidisation and ink remainders (likely from the later reprints.)
	Notable marks made (whether intentionally or by accident) since its use in 1847 include the following:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1d: Small dot in the lower right corner ornament (probably from 1912) • 2d: Vertical scratch through "POST OFFICE" (occurred before the first reprints) • 2d: Horizontal score in the lower right corner ornament from 1912









PROVENANCE

1847	Colonial Government of Mauritius – Mauritius Postmaster General
Between 1874 and 1882	Dominic Henry Colnaghi (according to his own statement to the Commission of enquiry set up in 1914 by the Colonial Office on request of the government of Mauritius, he got it as a gift from an aunt)
1912	Neville Stocken (bought it in London from Colnaghi for a “consideration in cash”
1912	David Field (unknown price)
1912	Sydney Loder (unknown price)
1930 (?)	Maurice Burrus (unknown price)
1959 (?)	Odile Burrus (bequeathed from his uncle, Maurice Burrus)
2013	Burrus Family (Heirs of Odile Burrus)

EXHIBITIONS (Court of Honour)


1912, Oct 14-19	Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition, London
1913, Oct 27 - Nov 1	New York Philatelic International Exhibition
1930, Sept 12-21	Berlin Philatelic Exhibition (IPOSTA)
1935, May 6 -11	Royal Jubilee Exhibition of British Empire Stamps of the Victorian Era
2015, May 13-16	Europhilex London 2015
2015, Aug 14-19	Singapore World Stamp Exhibition
2015, Dec 2-5	Monacophil 2015
2016, May 28 - June 4	New York International Stamp Show

EXPERTISE

2016	RPSL Certificate The plate has been certified as being authentic by the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London.
2015-16	David Feldman SA has made comparative studies between the plate and some of the original (certified) stamps printed with it in 1847 and reprints made 1912 through digital imagery analysis, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ultra-high definition scanning • Macro photography • Precision digital measurement and sectioning • Semi-transparent foregrounds and superimposition <p>These analysis have proven that the stamps tested (Nos. 1, 6, 7, 8, 13, 21, 23 and 24*—as per L.N. & M. Williams numbering system), were undoubtedly printed with the plate. The tests also helped to corroborate that the plate was marked after its original use (probably in 1912).</p>

* David Feldman SA has handled these stamps at one time throughout its history and has developed an exhaustive hi-resolution (analogue and digital) imagery archive, which has allowed to perform these tests. No other stamps were tested.

No. 223752



RPSL Ltd

Perme Her Majesty The Queen

41 Devonshire Place
London W1G 6JY

Meeting of 26 JUL 2016

In the OPINION of The **EXPERT COMMITTEE** the item described as

Mauritius 1847 Printing plate for
S.G. No. 1 and 2

Original engraved copper printing plate bearing impressions of the 1847 1d and 2d "Post Office" issue of Mauritius, engraved by J.O. Barnard circa August - September 1847. Measurements of plate: nominally 82mm x 61mm — is Genuine.

[Signature]
On behalf of the Committee

Submitted by David Feldman SA

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The Royal Philatelic Society London

RPSL Certificate, 2016

EXPERTISE / MACRO PHOTOGRAPHY

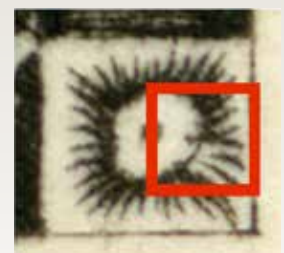
Lower right-hand corner of the (a) 1d used stamp (No. 6 – "Bombay" cover), (b) the 1d cliché and (c) a black reprint from 1912. A horizontal mark (never before recorded) can be seen on both (b) and (c).



a



b



c

EXPERTISE / SUPERIMPOSITION ANALYSIS



Foreground Cut Sections

By erasing parts of the stamps (Nos. 1 & 13) on the foreground, it is possible to see that the backgrounds (mirrored images of the clichés) correspond exactly to the printed image on the stamps.

EXPERTISE / SEMI-TRANSPARENCY



Semi-transparent Foreground

The images show semi-transparent mirrored ultra-high resolution images of the 1d and 2d stamps (Nos. 1 and 13) placed on top of a close-up image of the plate's corresponding clichés. Every single detail of both cliché and stamp corresponds to its counterpart.

Valuation

Alex Porter, ed.



After the “Post Office” printing plate was first discovered, Alexander J. Sefi, the renowned English philatelist, dealer and scholar, editor of the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, *Philatelic World* and *The West-End Philatelist*, and signer of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists wrote “... it is difficult to calculate its exact value; a used copy of either of the actual stamps is worth from £1,000 to £1,300, and an unused one anything from £1,500 to £2,000. If these stamps, of which about 26 copies are known, and for which it would be possible for further copies to turn up, are worth such large sums of money, what then is worth this plate, the only possible one of its kind in the world, and the plate from which each and every one of these great rarities was printed? It is impossible exactly to calculate, but it must, at a conservative estimate, be at least £5,000.” Sefi also called the plate “the greatest philatelic treasure existing”.

Nevile Stocken, to whom the discovery of the plate is attributed, after Dominic Henry Colnaghi—its only known owner subsequent to the Government of Mauritius—found the plate and decided to sell it, paid, in his own words, “a consideration in cash”. He never disclosed the exact amount, but called it “the most expensive piece of copper in the world”. Undisclosed remain the sums as well, to our days, paid by David Field, who bought the plate from Stocken, and Sydney Loder, but it is known that an offer made by the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin of £2,500 was turned down¹. All of this happened in 1912.

1. A few years earlier, Ferrary was rumoured to have declined an offer of £3,000 for his British Guiana 1c Black on Magenta, which situates the “Post Office” issue printing plate in similar territory at the time. In 2014, Sotheby’s sold the B.G. 1c for \$US 9,500,000 in New York.

We should also recall that in 1904 (eight years earlier) the then Prince of Wales, later to become King George V, acquired an unused 2d “Post Office” stamp (No. 14) for £1,450.

Having been exhibited, also in 1912, at the Jubilee International Stamp Exhibition in London, the plate was taken the following year to be shown to the American public at the first International Philatelic Exhibition ever held in the United States. On October 28, 1913, the New York Times published an article headlined “\$2,000,000 in Stamps Seen in Big Show [...] Plate here worth \$50,000”. There, it was declared that “D. Field of London made the interesting announcement that he had brought to this country the original plate from which the first Mauritius stamps were printed, and which is estimated to be worth \$50,000.² It is owned by Sydney Loder, whose intention is to present it to the British Museum, on condition that a reprint of this

2. Equivalent to £10,000 at the time!



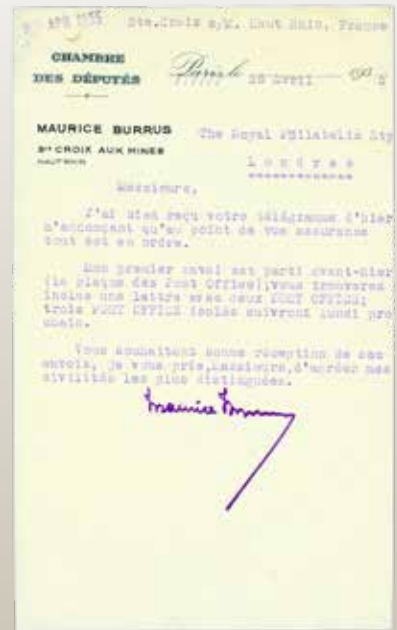
The Engineering Societies Building (in c. 1913), located at 25 East 39th Street, venue of the 1913 New York APEX

stamp [sic] shall never be made from the plate.”³ The day before, on October 27, the same newspaper, announcing the opening of the show that afternoon revealed: “... Mr. Duveen will show the two most valuable stamps in the entire exhibition. They are unused copies of the one penny and twopence “Post Office” stamps of Mauritius. Their market value is about \$18,000.”⁴

The legendary plate, from its discovery in 1912 to its disappearance around 1935, always mingled, philatelically speaking, with the greatest rarities in the world. At the Berlin Philatelic Exhibition, IPOSTA 1930 it was exhibited in a heavily secured safe accompanied by the Treskilling Yellow (for many years the most expensive stamp in the world), the Bombay Cover (once the most valuable philatelic item in the world), the Baden Error, the “Post Office” 2d single on a letter fragment, and a pair of Romanian Bull’s Heads.

Having acquired the plate by private treaty around 1930, Maurice Burrus exhibited it at the Royal Jubilee Exhibition of British Empire Stamps of the Victorian Era, in May 1935, together with the Bordeaux Cover and three “Post Office” stamps (one 1d red and two 2d blue). He insured the plate for half the value of the Bordeaux Cover, which was estimated at the same price as the three stamps (two unused and one used) together, placing the value of the plate well above that of an unused “Post Office” stamp.

The “Post Office” issue items find themselves, indeed, amongst the most valuable, desired and sought after in the world. For most of them, their value history has been carefully recorded, which has not been the case for the printing plate, where there is not enough quantitative price information available, but there is certitude of its superlativeness. It reaches the market for the first time in about 85 years, and there being very few opportunities in a lifetime to acquire a collectible item recognised as the “most valuable” in its field, this auction now represents such an occasion, and the opportunity for its future owner to earn spontaneous fame both within and beyond the philatelic world.



Letter from Maurice Burrus to the RPSL informing the shipment of the plate and the Bordeaux Cover to the 1935 Royal Jubilee exhibition in London (Photo: The Royal Philatelic Society London: Archives, Honorary Secretary’s Correspondence. 1935 Jubilee Exhibition)

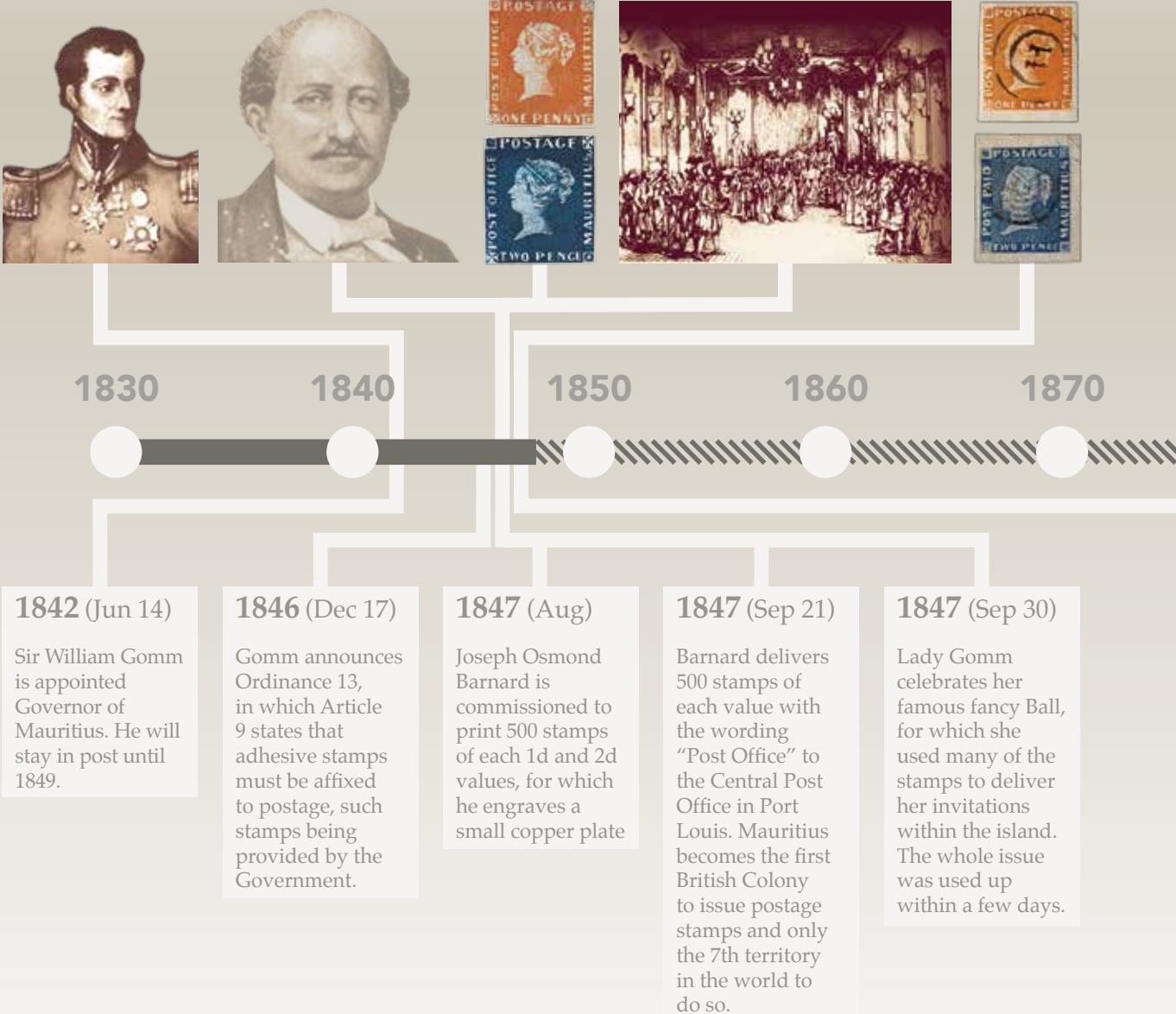
3. New York Times, October 28, 1913

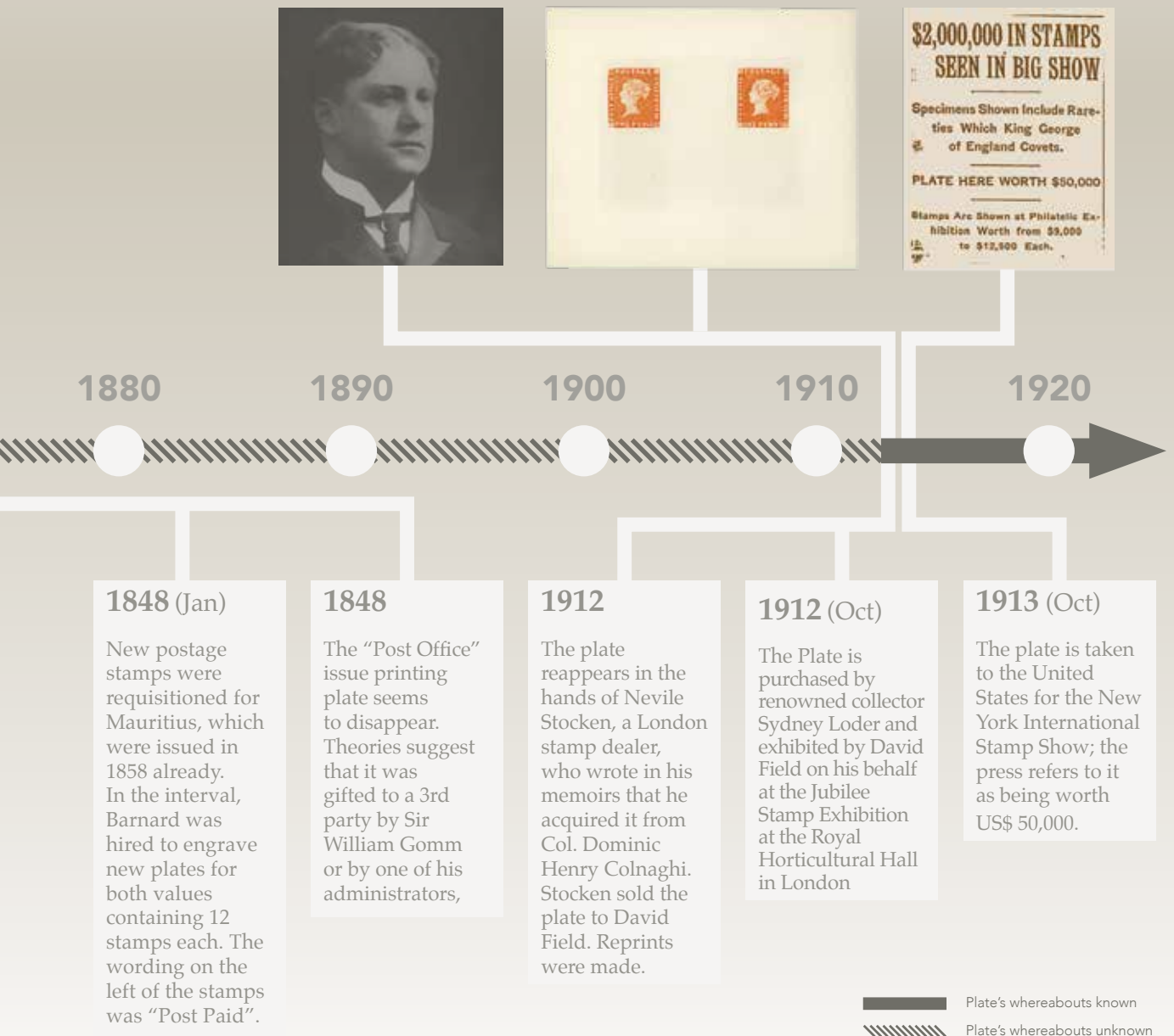
4. New Yor Times, October 27, 1913

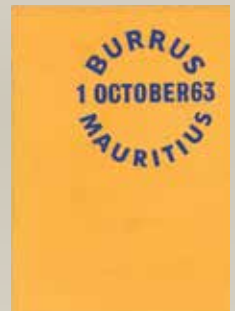
The Bordeaux and the Bombay covers have remained amongst the most valuable philatelic items in the world



Timeline







1930

1940

1950

1960

1970

1930

The plate is exhibited at the Berlin philatelic exhibition IPOSTA, where it was shown in a special safe together with six other major items (including the "Bombay" cover.) At about the same time it is purchased by Maurice Burrus through H. R. Harmer, London.

1935 (May)

The plate is last shown to the public at the Royal Jubilee Exhibition of British Empire Stamps of the Victorian Era, organised by the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

1959 (Dec 5)

Maurice Burrus dies, leaving behind one of the most important philatelic collections ever formed.

1963 (Oct 1)

Maurice Burrus' Mauritius Collection is sold at auction by Robson Lowe, Ltd. in London. The plate was not part of it, thus thought by many to be lost.



1980

1990

2000

2010

2020

2013 (Nov 29)

Odile Burrus, one of Maurice's nieces, dies in Alsace. Family members find the plate among her belongings; it was given to her by her uncle as a present.

2015 (Feb)


Jean-Paul Burrus, Maurice's grand-nephew and godson, approaches David Feldman SA in Geneva searching for guidance and expertise. It is then decided to exhibit the plate around the world.

2015 (May 13)

The Mauritius "Post Office" issue printing plate is shown to the public for the first time in 80 years at the Europhilex London 2015 exhibition.

2016

Maurice Burrus' heirs decide to offer the plate for auction through David Feldman SA on December 1st

 Plate's whereabouts known
 Plate's whereabouts unknown

The Printing Plate of the Mauritius 1847 “Post Office” Issue*

by David R. Beech, MBE, FRPSL

* Revised text reflecting new information (2016)





Grand Ball given by Lady Governor at Government House, on the 20th September 1767.

The introduction of postage stamps in Mauritius in 1847 was in some ways a rather unusual event. Why should it be Mauritius that was to become the first British Colonial territory to introduce them? Following the pioneering lead of Great Britain and Ireland in 1840, those beginning to use them were Zurich, Brazil and Geneva in 1843, Basel in 1845 and the United States of America and Mauritius in 1847. In communication terms Mauritius was the most remote (albeit that at the time it was on the shipping route to India from Britain, before the opening of the Suez Canal in 1869) and it would appear, had at the time the least operational need for them. Was it that Mauritius was advanced in postal innovation or was the 1847 "Post Office" issue made for the invitations or admittance cards for a Ball at Government House? The simple answer is that the postal service on the island was being put on a new footing.

The decision to issue postage stamps was announced by Government Ordinance dated 17th December 1846¹ with a theoretical introduction date of 1st January 1847. This gave the postal rates 1d per ounce for local town delivery, 2d per half ounce for country delivery and stated "Every letter, newspaper or packet of any kind liable to postage under this ordinance, if posted within the colony and its dependencies and having a stamp or stamps fixed thereto and appearing on the outside, such stamps being provided by the Government, and being of the value or amount required in each case according to the preceding



Sir William Gomm (1784-1875),
Governor of Mauritius (1842-49)

tariff, and not having been used before, shall pass by the post free of postage” While a noble aim this was easier said than done for nearly all good security printing (for bank notes or paper money and stamps both postage and revenue) was centred in Europe, Canada and the United States. Bermuda had introduced postage stamps in 1848, the “Perot’s”, and used impressions of handstamps with manuscript endorsements for security, British Guiana had used printers type at the Royal Gazette newspaper in Georgetown to produce the “Cotton reel” issue in 1850-51, the Kingdom of Hawaii had also used printers type at the Government Printing Office in Honolulu to produce the “Missionary” issue of 1851-52, and Reunion also used printers type for the 1852 issue printed by M. Lahuppe of Saint-Denis. Mauritius not only was earlier than these but had its postage stamps locally engraved and printed from a copper plate!

Joseph Osmond Barnard (1816-65), the engraver and printer of the “Post Office” issue of stamps, was born in Portsmouth and travelled to Mauritius as a stowaway arriving in 1838. Such engraving skills were rare in Mauritius at this time and it was not surprising that he should be asked to provide an estimate for the engraving and printing of postage stamps. His estimate² is dated 12th November 1846 and was clearly part of the planning of the new postal organisation. Barnard’s estimate gives a price of 10 shillings per thousand for printing the stamps and £10 for engraving the plate.

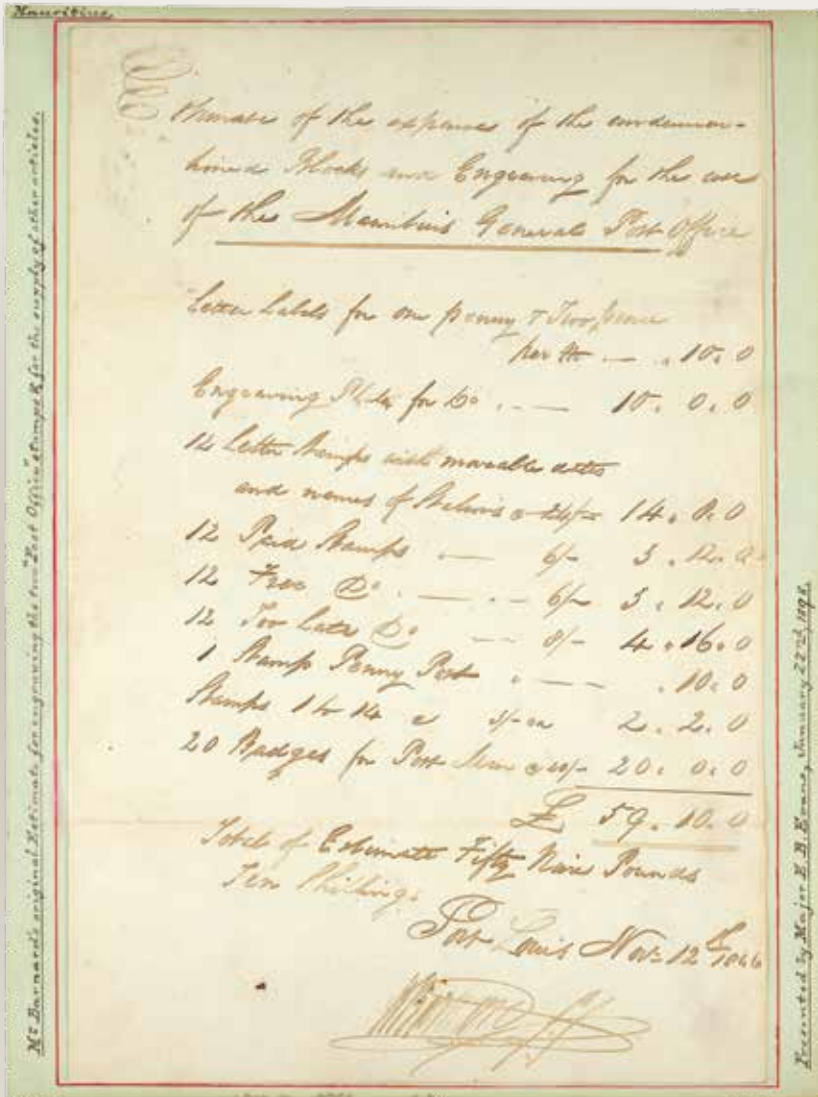
As the resulting stamps were the first British colonial issue it is not at all surprising that the design and colours were modelled on the 1d red and 2d blue then in use in Great Britain and Ireland with the William Wyon (1795-1851) portrait of Queen Victoria taken from the 1837 City Medal. The question of the engraving of the words POST OFFICE requires comment for it is still stated quite frequently that this was an error by Barnard who had forgotten his instructions. A study of the postal markings used on the island at this time clearly shows a number known or introduced from 1826 with the words MAURITIUS POST OFFICE. The engraving of these words onto the plate clearly follows the precedent of the wording on the postal markings.

The technology available to Barnard was limited to engraving on a soft copper plate. He had no way of reproducing an image or stamp in the way used at this time by the security printers from Perkins, Bacon in London for intaglio or line-engraved printing, that is by the use of a transfer roller or die. This would have required a steel die, a steel transfer roller or die, a steel plate, a transfer press together with a method of case hardening the steel. Thus Barnard engraved just one image of the 1d and one image of the 2d stamps on a piece of copper, one ounce nine and a half pennyweights Troy or forty-six grams in weight and measuring three and one quarter inches by two and a half inches or 82mm by 61mm. The plate has not been engraved on its reverse. It may be unique in philately that the “Post Office” issue of postage stamps is printed in “sheets” of just one?

In all just 500 stamps were printed of both values, 350 of each value by 20th September as reported by the James Stuart Brownrigg (circa 1807-?) Colonial Post Master from 1843 to 1853, and these were first used the following day to post invitations, or more probably admittance cards, for a Ball at



Joseph Osmond Barnard (1816-65)
Image taken from a 1991 Mauritius
6R stamp



Barnard's estimate, the Tapling Collection. Courtesy of the British Library

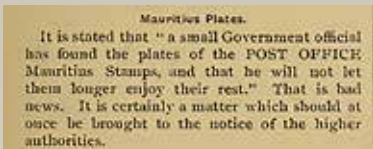
Government House to be held on 30th September. The stamps were available for sale and use to the public on 22nd September. It follows that for just one day these were official stamps for Government use only? It is worth mentioning that when the expert engraver, Inga Madlé of Enschedé, the security printers in The Netherlands, was shown an example of the stamps she immediately said that Barnard was left handed!³

Clearly the volume of mail requiring stamps was in excess of the numbers available and the capacity to print them one at a time by the intaglio method, as stampless items of mail are far more common than those bearing stamps.⁴ Thus it was that in January 1848 the Agent General for Crown Colonies in London requisitioned new postage stamps for Mauritius from Perkins, Bacon. These London printed stamps were eventually issued in 1858 and in the interval locally printed stamps were engraved individually, again by Barnard, in sheets of twelve these being the 1848 "Post Paid" issue. These issues are outside the scope of this article.



The 1847 1d and 2d (unused) Mauritius "Post Office" stamps

The Mauritius 1d and 2d “Post Paid” issue printing plates engraved by Barnard. Courtesy of the Royal Philatelic Society London



The London Philatelist announced in 1893 the apparent discovery of the “plates of the ‘Post Office’ Mauritius stamps. It turned out they were the plates for the “Post Paid” issue.

Following the introduction of Barnard’s plate of twelve stamps for the 1848 “Post Paid” issue, the “Post Office” plate apparently disappeared from view. Clearly the plate had been in the possession of Barnard as the engraver and printer, and (see below) in the hands of the Mauritius Post Office, and or the Mauritius Treasury or Receiver General’s Office. A report in *The London Philatelist* in 1893⁵ that the “Post Office” plates had been found, caused an enquiry to be made the outcome of which was that these plates were for the 1848 “Post Paid” issue.⁶ Its confirmed appearance in London in 1912 caused much philatelic and Mauritius Government interest. It had apparently been in the possession of Colonel Dominic Henry Colnaghi (1866-1950) of the Royal Engineers, (who was the son of Sir Dominic Ellis Colnaghi (1834-1908) diplomat), said⁷ to be (but apparently not) a grandson of the Mauritius Governor Sir William Maynard Gomm (1784-1875) who acted from 1842 to 1949, and was stored, no doubt with other papers etc., in Drummond’s Bank, Charing Cross, London. Drummond’s Bank is now known to have been the bankers to Sir Dominic Henry Ellis Colnaghi (and probably his son, Colonel Colnaghi too?) as bank statements of account are held in an archive.⁸ Thus a statement, in addition that of Stocken’s and Peter Ibbotson’s enquiry (see below), establishes a connection between the Colnaghi family and Drummond’s Bank.



Neville Lacy Stocken (1871-1943).
Courtesy of the Royal Philatelic Society London

The story of the plate’s purchase is related by Neville Lacy Stocken (1871-1943)⁹ who was associated with the philatelic auctioneers Puttick and Simpson, Leicester Square, London. He tells of being alerted to its “discovery” by a (unnamed) philatelic intimate, who came to his office during the summer of 1912 and travelling by taxi to Drummond’s Bank to meet Colonel Colnaghi and its purchase for a “...consideration in cash”. The transaction was by both Stocken and his philatelic informant.⁹ Apparently Colnaghi had taken the plate to the Army and Navy Stores (then a major department store) of Victoria Street, London to seek information. The unnamed intimate, who was a member of that institution, learned of the plate and alerted Stocken.

Stocken attempted to sell the plate and showed it to Henry Joseph Duveen (1857-1919) and the 26th Earl of Crawford (1847-1913) then President of The Royal Philatelic Society London, who showed it to His Majesty The King, George V (1865-1936). None expressed an interest in its purchase.⁹ Perhaps this was not surprising as Stocken tells us that the Colonial Office had taken an interest in the matter and claimed it by means of "...a portentous and peremptory mandate..." as Government property demanding its return, which Stocken successfully resisted.⁹ The Government of Mauritius had taken an interest (in conjunction with the Colonial Office in London) and in a Government Notice number 255 of 1913, dated 31st December 1913 announced a Commission set up by the then Governor Sir John Chancellor (1870-1952) to look into "...the theft of the engraved plate Mauritius Stamps 1847".¹⁰ Peter Ibbotson (1918-2005) tells us¹¹ that searches in the Mauritius Archive have revealed no report of the Commission but copies of papers sent to The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) for its views on the matter are to be found in its Archive.¹² These take the form of an Interim Report of the Commission appointed to make enquiries regarding the plate on which the Mauritius stamps of 1847



were engraved. The Commission had met on six occasions and had statements from twelve witnesses being officials or former officials of the Mauritius Post Office, and Treasury or of Receiver General's office. Helen Morgan in her book¹³ discusses the Commission's Interim Report of 1915 held at RPSL and I agree with her that its findings are inconclusive, the witnesses making contradictory statements or statements that were at odds with the known facts. We do learn that it was Colonel Colnaghi (in a written statement) who had discovered the plate among a box of clothes belonging to his great-aunt. Apparently the plate was bent and he attempted to straighten it, this being in the 1880s. The plate in 2015 shows no sign of being bent. It was around 1909-10 that he looked at the box again and showed the plate to staff at the Army and Navy Stores. One could speculate that, as Sir Dominic Ellis Colnaghi had died in 1908, it was Colonel Colnaghi who was looking in a box of possessions belonging to his late father stored at the London bank? The late Peter Ibbotson made some enquires of the successors of Drummond's Bank and discovered that "...no packages

Henry J. Duveen, James Ludovic Lindsay (26th Earl of Crawford) and King Georges V.

were withdrawn during 1912".¹⁴ This casts a shadow over the discovery of the plate as related by Stocken and certainly the evidence that we have today leaves some unanswered, and perhaps difficult, questions pending. I tend to agree with Helen Morgan that Stocken is unreliable in his evidence. Sir John Chancellor was Governor from 1911 to 1916 and with his departure, and the 1914-18 World War, the authorities probably had other more pressing matters to consider in both Port Louis and London. The final decision had been made in London by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, Andrew Bonar Law (1858-1923), who had held the post from May 1915 to September 1916. The text of a letter of 16th September 1915 to The Royal Philatelic Society London is:

Downing Street
16 September 1915

Ref. 40989

Sir,

I am directed by Mr Secretary Bonar Law to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of 27th July regarding the plate from which the Mauritius stamps of 1847 were printed, and to inform you that after carefully considering the case, and consulting the Law Officers of the Crown upon it, he does not consider it desirable in the circumstances to proceed further with the matter.

I am.

Sir,

Your obedient servant

[Signed] H J Reed [?]

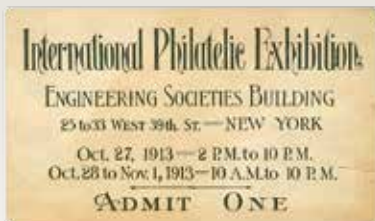
For the Under Secretary of State

Honorary Secretary

Royal Philatelic Society

No copy of the letter of 27th July (or any other correspondence) from the Society to the Colonial Office has survived. A folder that might have contained the final report of the Commission is empty.

News of the plate's discovery is reported by Alexander J Sefi (1889-1934) in the October and December numbers of *The West-End Philatelist*¹⁵ published by David Field. He tells us that it had been purchased by David Field (1871-1926) (presumably from Stocken (?)) and by October 1912 sold to the wealthy Captain Sydney Loder (1867-1944), a younger son of Sir Robert Loder, Baronet (1823-1888). Apparently the Imperial Postal Museum in Berlin had offered £2,500 for the plate, but this was declined. Searches of the postal archive in Berlin have yet to reveal any papers. It was exhibited on the David Field stand at the International Jubilee Philatelic Exhibition held in London from 12th to 19th October 1912 and again on the David Field stand at the International Philatelic



Admission ticket to the 1913 New York International Philatelic Exhibition. Image IPEX NY 2016



Exhibition, New York, 27th October to 1st November 1913. Loder is said to have donated it to the British Museum's Philatelic Collections (now the British Library Philatelic Collections) but this did not occur.¹⁶ Loder is reported to have sold his collections about 1925.¹⁷ L Norman Williams (1914-1999) tells us that "In 1928 Sidney [sic] Loder parted with the plate to a new owner who exhibited it anonymously at IPOSTA 1930 in Berlin" but does not give a reference¹⁸ but he is reporting what Stocken says in his 1930 article.⁹ It was indeed exhibited at the Berlin philatelic exhibition IPOSTA 12th to 21st September 1930, where it was shown in a special safe together with six other major items.

At about the same time as its exhibition in Berlin it was sold via H R Harmer (London, philatelic auctioneers) by private treaty¹⁹ directly or indirectly to the Alsace philatelist Maurice Burrus (1882-1959). The plate was exhibited by Burrus at the Royal Jubilee Exhibition of British Empire Stamps of the Victorian Era organised by and held at The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) in May 1935. Correspondence²⁰ between the Society and Burrus still exists concerning the 1935 exhibition, and in Burrus's letter of 4th April 1935 he says "In reply to your favour of the 27th March, I hasten to confirm that I agree to exhibit in London next month: 1. The plate which was used for printing the 'Post Office'. 2. A pair of 'Post Office' on a letter. 3. two blue 'Post Office' and one red". He gives the insurance values as: "1. Fr. Fcs, 250,000, 2. Fr. Fcs. 500,000, 3. Fr. Fcs. 500,000" The pound equivalent being marked (by the RPSL) on this letter as: 1. £3,425, 2. £6,850, 3. £6,850.

The heavily secured safe where the "Post Office" printing plate was exhibited at IPOSTA Berlin 1930



The catalogue of the 1935 Royal Jubilee philatelic exhibition. Courtesy of the Royal Philatelic Society London



Maurice Burrus (1882-1959). Photo courtesy of Fonds Burrus

Apparently when Maurice Burrus died in 1959 his philatelic collections were sold to the Amhelca Trust and the Mauritius section was sold by auction on 1st October 1963.²¹ The plate was not included in the sale catalogue. In correspondence with Bernard B D Harmer (1914-2011, son of H R Harmer), he told me "I have talked with Norman Williams who tells me that the plate did not pass to the Amhelca Trust (buyers of the collection) but was retained by a nephew who wanted to 'keep as a souvenir'"²² We now know that on Maurice Burrus's death the plate passed to Odile Burrus (1917-2013)²³ a niece, and on her death was re-discovered by the Burrus family. It is now owned by the heirs of Odile Burrus. David Feldman SA of Geneva, Switzerland has been entrusted by the Burrus family to display the plate in public, the London 2015 Europhilex exhibition (May 13th to 16th) being the first opportunity. On the 5th and 6th March 2015 the author together with Mr E W L "Bill" Hedley (Chairman of

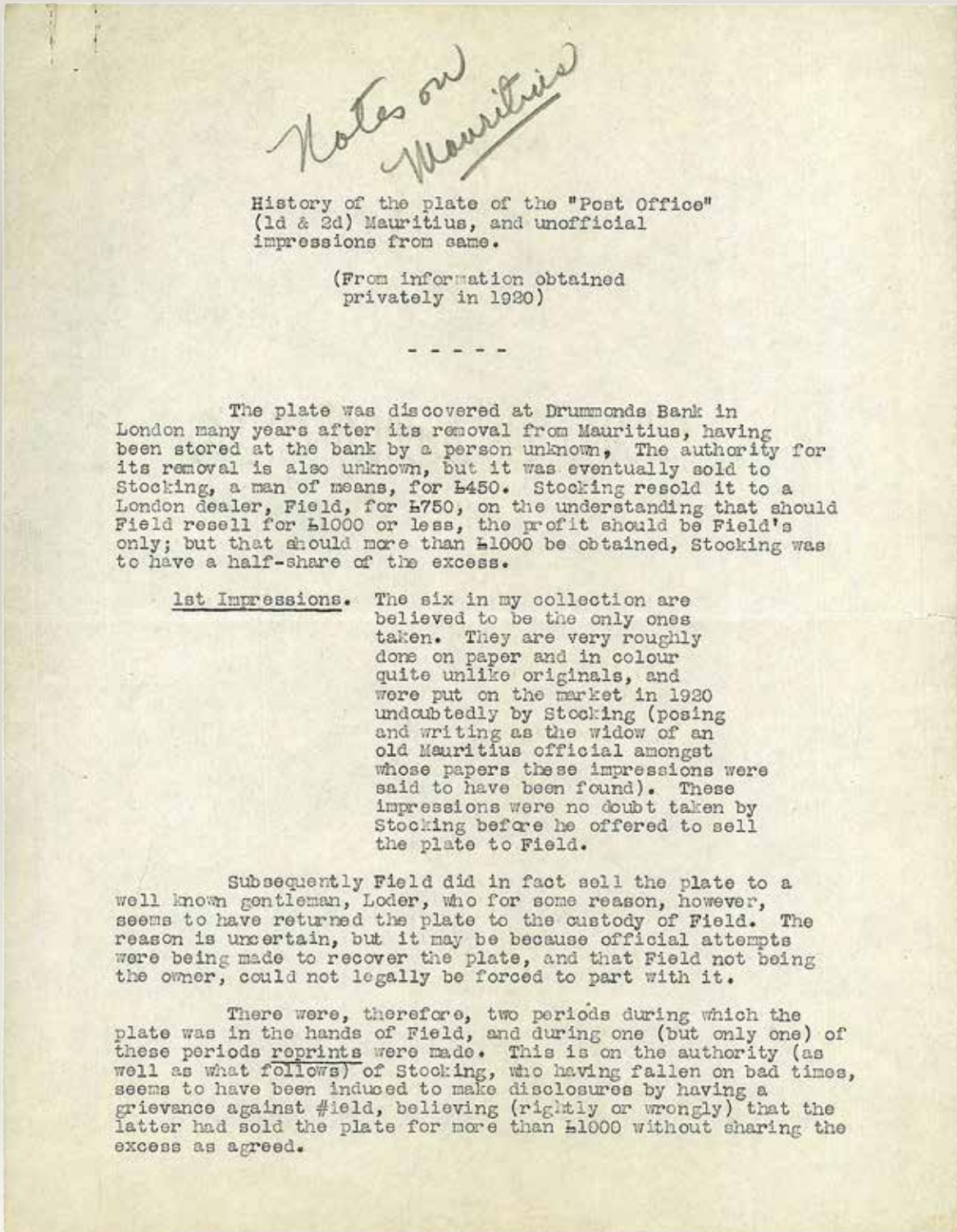
London 2015 Europhilex) visited the offices of David Feldman SA to examine the plate and to make arrangements for its exhibition. Later it was exhibited at the Singapore World Stamp Exhibition (August 14th to 19th) and Monacophil 2015 (December 2nd to 5th). In 2016 it was exhibited at the New York World Stamp Show (28th May to 4th June). The plate is to be sold by David Feldman SA on 1st December 2016 in Geneva with an estimate of 2 to 3 million euros.

Reprints were apparently made from the plate in Paris in 1912. These were of both values in red, blue and black, with only twenty impressions in black printed.²⁴ On the reverse of the stamp impressions the word REPRINT appears in the same colour as the stamp in the red and blue colours only; the black impressions are unmarked. Stocken records²⁵ that "...one of these [black printed reprints] shewing the two stamps tête-bêche". This item, now in the collection of Christopher Harman, may perhaps be more easily understood using the description, printed twice one inverted. That Stocken mentions the tête-bêche reprint in black supports the notion that he was involved in the reprinting. Norman Williams²⁶ tells of the story told to him by H R Harmer (1870-1966) in 1956 when the plate was sold or lent to an English stamp dealer named Healey who took it to Paris to have reprints made. (It has been suggested by Norman Williams²⁷ that the person might have been an employee of David Field named Cohen, but I regard this as unreliable information). This was probably Edwin Healey (1866/67-1921) who became a stamp dealer in 1882 and founded Edwin Healey & Company in 1885, later to become Healey & Wise Limited. He went to a firm of printers, but refused to leave the plate - no doubt wanting to make sure that no 'extra' impressions were made. The printer became suspicious and alerted the police who arrested Healey and he was detained. A message was sent to the well-respected Paris dealer Theodore Champion (1873-1954) who intervened and satisfied the police that nothing improper was in hand. It is interesting to speculate why Paris was chosen rather than London, and this may have been because of the interest that the Colonial Office had taken in the plate and it was feared that in London they might try to seize it?

Reprints in red and blue from 1912 made with the original "Post Office" printing plate



In April 2016 some new information came to light about the events of 1912 and later, together with the reprinting from the plate. The new information comes in a typed document (pictured below and on the opposite page). For identification I refer to this as the "anonymous document" as it is unsigned. Of significance is the wording "(From information obtained privately in 1920). It runs thus:



*Notes on
Mauritius*

History of the plate of the "Post Office"
(1d & 2d) Mauritius, and unofficial
impressions from same.

(From information obtained
privately in 1920)

- - - - -

The plate was discovered at Drummonds Bank in London many years after its removal from Mauritius, having been stored at the bank by a person unknown. The authority for its removal is also unknown, but it was eventually sold to Stocking, a man of means, for £450. Stocking resold it to a London dealer, Field, for £750, on the understanding that should Field resell for £1000 or less, the profit should be Field's only; but that should more than £1000 be obtained, Stocking was to have a half-share of the excess.

1st Impressions. The six in my collection are believed to be the only ones taken. They are very roughly done on paper and in colour quite unlike originals, and were put on the market in 1920 undoubtedly by Stocking (posing and writing as the widow of an old Mauritius official amongst whose papers these impressions were said to have been found). These impressions were no doubt taken by Stocking before he offered to sell the plate to Field.

Subsequently Field did in fact sell the plate to a well known gentleman, Loder, who for some reason, however, seems to have returned the plate to the custody of Field. The reason is uncertain, but it may be because official attempts were being made to recover the plate, and that Field not being the owner, could not legally be forced to part with it.

There were, therefore, two periods during which the plate was in the hands of Field, and during one (but only one) of these periods reprints were made. This is on the authority (as well as what follows) of Stocking, who having fallen on bad times, seems to have been induced to make disclosures by having a grievance against Field, believing (rightly or wrongly) that the latter had sold the plate for more than £1000 without sharing the excess as agreed.

The two pages of the "anonymous document" presented to David Feldman SA by Mr Till Newmann in 2016.

2.

According to Stocking then, he and Field had agreed to have 100 reprints made of each value; that they had approached, through an intermediary, Loder, a leading firm of French printers; and that the Reprints were, in fact, made on paper and in colours exactly resembling originals. Further, that either before, or after these were made, a small mark was made on each value on the plate so that later impressions could be identified.

End Impressions. From that day to this (1920) no such reprints, with one exception, have ever appeared. If the story is true they may be still in existence; or they may have been destroyed (which would seem the more likely) owing to apprehension caused by the official enquiries being made for the recovery of the plate. Before giving particulars of the one exception, it must be noted that, in consideration of Loder's services in introducing Stocking and Field to the printers in France, Loder was to have six reprints (or possibly 6 of each value). Whether these were to be additional to, or whether part of the 100 sets is not known.

The exception referred to was the offer of one reprint (no doubt of above) of each value to a well known young London dealer in the year (F. Godden). The price was £100 each or £100 the two; it was declined and it is not known that those or others have ever been offered elsewhere. There is every reason to believe that these two impressions were part of the six (or 12) which belonged to the intermediary, Loder.

Autotypes. These also were made in France by process (photographic) reproduction from the reprints, or possibly by a gelatine-photo process from the plate. If from the Reprints, no doubt from those owned by Loder.

This “anonymous document”, which certainly muddies the water, seen by the author in April 2016, came into the hands of David Feldman SA from Mr Till Newmann of Bremen, Germany. It has a manuscript note at the top reading “Notes on Mauritius” and after careful examination and with comparison with a similarly inscribed document is shown to be in the hand of Norman Williams. He seems not to have appreciated its significance for its text apparently has not been used in his last writing on the subject published in 1993.²⁸ It is almost certainly a copy by typewriting of some text published or much more likely unpublished, as yet another document, in what appears to be the same typewriter, has come to light at the same time, it being the text of the Sefi article of 1912.¹⁵ As far as is known this document is published here for the first time.

The “anonymous document” includes the wording “(From information obtained privately in 1920)”. The text and its punctuation, not to mention its style, indicate to the author that it dates from about this time or not very much later. It has clearly been written by an interested and educated person, but who could this be? As it has the name “Stocking” instead of the correct Stocken such a person could not have been close to him, or it is an error made by the typist? The writer’s guess is that Alexander J Sefi is probably the author. If taken at face value we learn the price paid by Stocken to Colonel Colnaghi of £450 and the price paid by Field to Stocken of £750.

All reprints from the plate during and after 1912 show two small alterations re-discovered by the late Arnold J “John” B Rudge, made to show that the impressions are indeed reprints. On the 2d value this takes the form of a small line from the centre of the lower-right corner ornament (as printed) to the margin. Alexander J Sefi’s October 1912 article¹⁵ gives the first illustration of the plate and on the 2d the small line, described above, can be seen clearly.



The famous “tête bêche” reprint in black
(Christopher Harman Collection)

Some work during March 2015, by Alex Porter of David Feldman SA, on the 1d value indicates that a similar mark was made to the equivalent corner, this is less clear and sometimes is completely missing on the printed item.

The “anonymous document” refers to “1st Impressions” of a reprint and these despite being “...put on the market in 1920” are today unknown or unrecognised, but we do learn that they are supposed to have been made between the purchase by Stocken and sale to Field in 1912. It also tells us that Stocken and Field with the help of Loder arranged for a printer in France to make the “2nd Impressions” reprints. The numbers printed being 100 of each value in red and blue seem to accord with the numbers known today. Mention is made of “...a small mark...” to slightly deface the plate, as mentioned above, and if true dates these to sometime before October 1912 when Sefi’s article is published.¹⁵

Reprints were apparently made again in about 1930 possibly in association with the sale via H R Harmer at this time. The difference between the 1912 and 1930 reprints is unknown—the author has never knowingly seen the latter. The evidence for this is to be found in the auction description of lot 1004 in the H R Harmer Limited sale of the A J Stevens collection of Mauritius which says “Reprinted impressions of the 1847, Post Office 1d and 2d, made from the original copper plate circa 1930, in orange-red and deep blue”.²⁰ A similar statement is made in the Burrus Robson Lowe Limited auction catalogue.²¹

As this research and its resulting text has developed over more than thirty years, one question about the reprints has become more significant and that is how were the reprints marketed or sold? The author has not seen, from the original instigator of the reprint, any advertisement or similar announcement offering them for sale at the time. How do we know that the reprints were made in 1912 given the content of the “anonymous document”?

In thanking Burrus for the loan of the plate to the 1935 London exhibition, in a letter²⁰ dated 14th May 1935, Sir John Wilson, Bart. (1898-1975), the President of RPSL says as his second paragraph:

“His Majesty the King visited the Exhibition last Sunday [a private visit 12th May] and after admiring your stamps he commanded me to write to you suggesting that you would do a great service to philately in general if you could consider, in some way however slight, marking the copper plate so as to ensure for all time that no reprints could possibly be taken from it which might deceive collectors or depreciate the value of the originals. His Majesty is not suggesting anything to you for which he has not already created a precedent. I believe you know that he owned the plates of the [1848] Post Paid Mauritius in their re-engraved state [1859 issue re-engraved by Robert Sherwin] and when he presented them to the Society [1911], in whose custody they now rest, they were defaced in order to give a complete feeling of security to all collectors”.

Burrus replied to Wilson on 21st May 1935 to which Sir John replied on 6th June 1935:



The reprint or proof offered originally as part of the 1969 Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F Lichtenstein Collections auction, by H.R. Harmer

"This is to acknowledge, with many thanks, receipt of your letter and to tell you how pleased I was to hear that you had anticipated the King's wish which I delivered to you in my first letter, [14th May 1935] and had the plate of the Post Office stamps marked in some small but definite manner. I communicated the contents of your letter to Sir Edward D Bacon [(1860-1938) Curator of the Royal Philatelic Collection 1913-1938] who informed his Majesty of your action.

"In writing to me about it, he hoped that you would indicate to the Expert Committee of the Society for their private information, a note as to the exact position of the marks which you had put upon the plates.

"I note what you say about the first series of reprints taken from the plate [1912] before it reached your safe hands. We have all been interested in trying to discover what quantities of the red, blue and black prints had actually been pulled from the plate, and I should be very interested to know if your estimate of the quantity, viz, 2,400, is supported by any official or documentary evidence. I expect you knew that even before the first reprints, a damage had occurred to the die of the 2d value and that a small scratch in the left corner appears upon the reprint of this value, the 2d being therefore, at any rate, distinguishable from originals"

As no additional differences to the plate have been detected to date, it is doubtful that Burrus did make any alterations to the plate. No reply to Wilson's letter of 6th June 1935 from Burrus is to be found in the correspondence. It is interesting to note that the correspondence refers to the first reprints, the inference being that subsequent reprints were made. The tone of Wilson's question about the number of the first [1912] reprints at 2,400 and the asking for some evidence, indicates that Wilson doubts such a high number. This rings true with the author and the numbers seen on the market and in collections and accords with the details given in the "anonymous document" quoted above.



In 1947, Stamp Collecting Magazine published a commemorative book by Michael Harrison for the 100th anniversary of the "Post Office" issue. It included the souvenir sheet shown in the opposite page

Another singular reprint or proof was offered for sale by H R Harmer Inc. of New York in The Louise Boyd Dale and Alfred F Lichtenstein Collections auction in 1969³⁰ and by David Feldman SA of Geneva in 1993.³¹ The impressions printed on carton paper are smudged and under inked, but printed in the issued colours, and it has been suggested in the later Feldman sale "...that this item can be dated closer to the issue time" than 1912, while in the earlier Harmer sale were "...apparently produced in a Court of Law as evidence" When looking into this, Norman Williams (himself a law reporting barrister) has suggested³² that the law case may have been that of *Lek v. Mathews*³³ (an insurance claim for a philatelic collection stolen in Berlin in 1924) which took place in London in 1926 at the King's Bench Division and subsequently the Court of Appeal in 1926, and at the highest British Court, the House of Lords, in 1927.

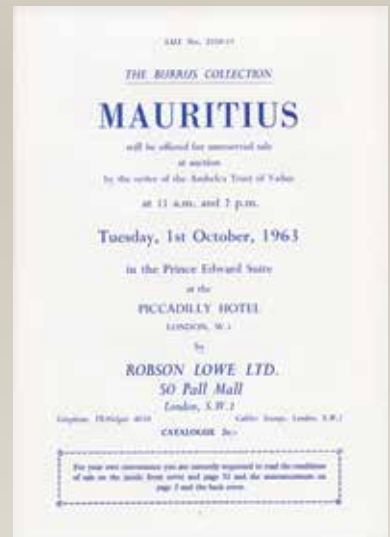
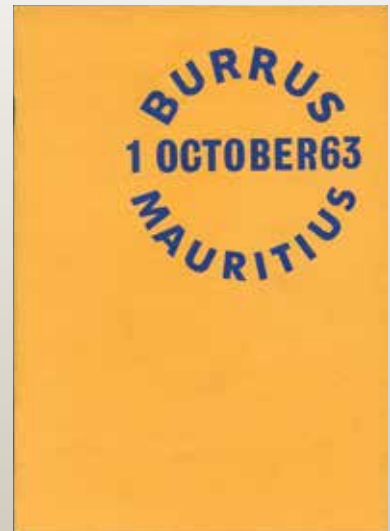
On 31st August 2011 during the installation of the exhibits for the exhibition The Blue Mauritius. The Meeting of the Queens in Berlin, held at the Museum for Communication Berlin, (2nd to 25th September 2011) the author with David

Feldman and Dr Veit Didczuneit of the Museum, examined the item to see if it exhibited any signs of the small alteration to the lower right corner ornament of the 2d value, but as the impression is under inked it was impossible, on that occasion, to say that it does or does not. With the re-discovery of the plate in 2015 it was possible with current technology to superimpose a reversed image of the plate over the partly printed proof. Careful manipulation of the images by Alex Porter reveals that the 2d impression does show the small alteration of 1912. Another possible test is that of Raman microscopy where³⁴ the issued stamps are shown to be printed in inks that, in the case of the 1d contain the pigment lead oxide, and in the case of the 2d contain the pigment Prussian blue. Similar tests on this item may or may not give other results. Other scientific or visual tests are available. The item, if a proof, remains a mystery, but is it of value to speculate when proofs might have been taken, that is when a printing was expected from the plate. These times would seem to have been in 1847 before the printing of the issued stamps, in 1912 before the printing of the reprints, in 1926 in association with the *Lek v. Mathews* Court case, or in 1930 before the printing of the 1930 reprints, if such a reprinting took place.

The “anonymous document” refers to “Autotypes” and these are understood to be those for which plates were made for, and printing arranged from, by Victor Perron, the philatelic dealer of Paris.

On 26th July 2016 RPSL Limited the Expert Committee, wholly owned by The Royal Philatelic Society London, issued a certificate of opinion number 223752 stating “Mauritius 1847 Printing plate for SG 1 and 2. Original engraved copper printing plate bearing impressions of the 1847 1d and 2d “Post Office” issue of Mauritius, engraved by J.O. Barnard circa August-September 1847. Measurements of plate: nominally 82mm x 61mm – is Genuine”.

The ‘Post Office’ Mauritius issue of postage stamps is among the best known of all stamps in the minds of the general public. Perhaps Britain’s 1d black or the United States inverted Jenny aircraft may be better known in those countries but even these lack the standing and romance of the few ‘Post Office’ stamps that have survived. The disappearance of the printing plate in 1935 was a great loss to philately but its re-discovery and exhibition in 2015 and 2016 offered for the first time in three generations, an opportunity to see the oldest Government postage stamp printing plate still existing, and as Nevile Stocken put it, “...the most valuable Piece of Copper in the World” and as Alexander Sefi described the plate “...the Greatest Philatelic Treasure existing”.



Robson Lowe’s Burrus Mauritius auction catalogue



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[* = a member of the staff of David Feldman SA]

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"The Printing Plate of the Mauritius 1847 Post Office Issue", *The London Philatelist*, Volume 121, pages 2 to 9, 2012

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"Mauritius Rediscovered. The "Post Office" Mauritius 1847 Printing Plate", *The American Philatelist*, Volume 129, pages 436 to 443, 2015

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"Mauritius 1847 Post Office Issue Printing Plate New Information", in *The Re-discovery of the Mauritius "Post Office" Issue Printing Plate. The Greatest Philatelic Treasure Existing*, Geneva: David Feldman SA, 2015

The Re-Discovery of the Plate*

Alex Porter, ed.

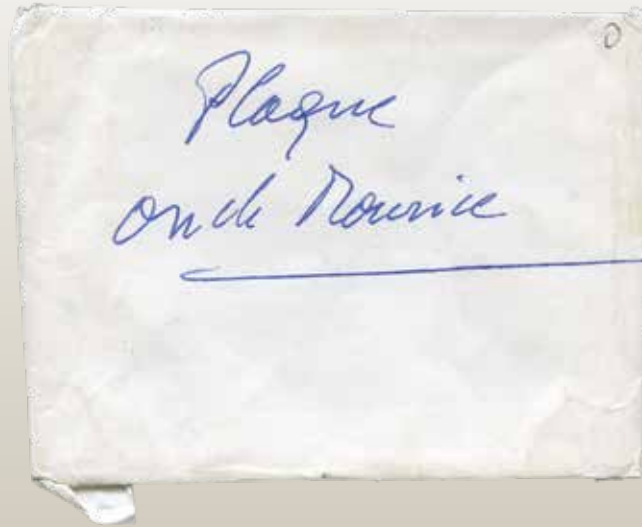
The following text contains extracts from Maassen, Wolfgang, The Mauritius "Post Office" Stamps – of Reproductions, Reprints and All Manner of Dubious Things, in *Die Blaue Mauritius. Das Treffen der Königinnen in Berlin*, Museumstiftung Post und Telekommunikation, Berlin 2001; Williams, N.L. & M, *Stamps of Fame*, Blandford Press Ltd., London, 1949; *Burrus Mauritius 1 October 1963* auction catalogue, Robson Lowe Ltd., London, 1963; video, The Mauritius "Post Office" Printing Plate, David Feldman SA, Geneva 2015 (www.davidfeldman.com/the-mauritius-post-office-plate/the-movie/) Part of this text was originally published in *The Re-discovery of the Mauritius "Post Office" Printing Plate. The Greatest Philatelic Treasure Existing*, David Feldman SA, Geneva, 2015



Top of the page, from left to right: E.W.L. Hedley, Chairman of the Europhilex Stamp Exhibition London 2015, Marcus Orsi, Chief Philatelist at David Feldman SA (holding the “Post Office” printing plate) and David R. Beech, MBE, FRPSL during the visit, in March 2015, to DFSA’s headquarters in Geneva to examine the plate

Following its original use in 1847, the whereabouts of the “Post Office” issue printing plate remained unknown. When the rumour spread in London in 1912 of a supposedly original plate, it was a near sensation. If the word “rumour” is used here, it is because the dealer first involved in the affair “embroidered” certain elements in the story, and, as became apparent, not everything stood up to critical examination—even to the point of questioning the authenticity of the plate. The dealer, as previously mentioned, was Nevile Stocken. After the plate had been exhibited at the IPOSTA 1930 in Berlin, he published his memories, which gave rise to yet another story surrounded by mystery and uncertainty—mentioned by David Beech in the preceding section, and of which, following, another example is presented.

In *Stamps of Fame* (1949), the Williams brothers wrote: “In 1912 the philatelic world was astounded by the discovery of the plate from which the ‘Post Office’ stamps had been printed. It was found by Colonel Colnaghi, a grandson of Lady Gomm, among some other family papers in a vault at Drummond’s Bank, Charing Cross, London. The Governor of Mauritius had



The folded sheet of paper in which Paul Burrus found the plate

prized the small rectangular piece of copper as an interesting relic of the island's postal history and of his term of office. When he died the plate had been transferred, with his papers, to the bank.

"Colonel Colnaghi did not know the value of the plate and, through a friend was put in touch with Mr N. L. Stocken who was astonished at the discovery. He bought the plate from Colonel Colnaghi, and a few months later it was sold, through the agency of Mr David Field, to Mr Sidney Loder, a noted collector. It remained in his possession until about 1930, when it was bought by Mr Maurice Burrus."

This fragment was reproduced in the catalogue printed by Robson Lowe Ltd. for the Burrus "Mauritius" auction of 1963, which took place at the Piccadilly Hotel, London, on 1st October. Burrus had achieved a magnificent collection of all of the island's classic stamps containing, among other philatelic treasures, the Bordeaux Cover (stamps 23 and 24), plus stamps 21, 25, 26 (as per N.L. & M. Williams nomenclature system), a set of 1912 reprints in all three colours, and a spectacular array of the "Post Paid" issue stamps and covers.

The plate was thought to be in Burrus' possession until this auction came about: other than the Williams brothers' story—and a little note in the description of lot 4 (the 1912 reprints) in the aforementioned catalogue—no mention of it is made, thus the philatelic world started wondering—and as is always the case, speculating—if it might had got lost at some point after Burrus' death. Philately experts, writers and collectors could not do other than hope for an eventual reappearance—or resign themselves to a permanent loss.



Alain Von der Weid

On November 3, 1993, David Feldman SA offered the Kanai Mauritius Collection for auction in Zurich, attracting collectors and dealers from all the world. One such dealer, Alain Von der Weid had always thought that one of Maurice Burrus's nieces may have had the Plate, but had to wait until Odile's death, on November 29, 2013 to get the answer he had been seeking. After contacting Paul Burrus, Bernardette and Odile's brother and main heir to



The Mauritius “Post Office” printing plate in its actual dimensions

Maurice Burrus’ fortune, he received confirmation of his suspicions: Odile had had the plate all along. It was given to her by her uncle and found by family members between her affairs, wrapped in a folded piece of regular white paper with the inscription “Plaque oncle Maurice” handwritten on it with a ballpoint pen*, and a small “O” (for Odile) written with pencil on the right-hand top corner.

Reckoning that they might have an important philatelic item in their hands, but without an actual awareness of the true worth of the little piece of copper—the hobby of philately within the family faded away with Maurice’s death—the Burrus family, through Paul Burrus and his son Jean-Paul, approached David Feldman SA in Geneva for guidance and expertise. David R. Beech, one of the leading experts and most knowledgeable scholars on the Mauritius “Post Office” issue and E.W.L. Hedley, Chairman of the Europhilex Stamp Exhibition London 2015, were invited to Geneva to see it. In an interview, visibly moved, Beech said “... and there it is, you are holding it in your hands, what a privilege! [...] to see it, to examine it, to handle it, to look at it through a magnifying glass and say, yes! this is the real thing [...] this will always be for me one of the highlights of a philatelic lifetime.”

It was then decided to exhibit it for the benefit of philately, for such a significant item in the history of stamp making should be shared with the world. The plate was unveiled at the 2015 Europhilex London on 13 May 2015, attracting philatelists and the specialised press. It then started a tour which took it to Singapore, Monaco and New York. Since then, the Burrus family has decided that it should be offered for sale at auction.

* According to Jean-Paul Burrus, interviewed in Rolle, Switzerland in March 2015, it was his father himself, Paul Burrus, who wrote the legend “Plaque oncle Maurice” on the folded paper, and the “O” in pencil was probably written by Maurice Burrus before presenting the plate as a gift to Odile.



Jean-Paul Burrus, Paul’s son and Maurice’s great nephew



Lot 2

Rejoined composite proof of the 2d in deep indigo blue and the 1d in red-orange on light card drawn from the original plate prior to printing the 1912 London reprints.

The status of this item had always been a mystery, thought by many that it could have been the original proof by Barnard prior to the 1847 original printing, as a result of new tests performed, we can now confirm its status as described.

The proof is accompanied by a small card bearing a sample swatch of both inks which, surprisingly, is not rejoined, and may give us a better clue as to how the original stamps in 1847 were printed.

This very unique pair of items is a fascinating part of the printing story and a key addition for the most important Mauritius Post Office collection.

Exhibited in the Court of Honour at many international exhibitions 1998-2014

Ex. Dale-Liechtenstein, Kanai This very unique pair of items is a vital part of the printing story.

Estimate: € 30'000 – € 50'000

Auction Start Price: € 20'000



Lot 3

1912 Paris Reprints of the 1847 "POST OFFICE" 1d and 2d from the original plate in sheetlets, complete set of three, one in blue, one in orange-red, and the very scarce example in black, very fine

Estimate: € 2'000



Lot 4

"Post Office" 1d and 2d later reprint in blue and orange-red in sheet. some creasing at corners, fine

Estimate: € 300



Lot 5

1912 Paris Reprints of the 1847 "POST OFFICE" 1d and 2d from the original plate in sheetlets, one in blue and one in orange-red, small "REPRINT" handstamps on reverse, very fine

Estimate: € 600



Lot 6

"Post Office" 1d and 2d reprints in sheetlets, one in blue and one in orange-red, not the 1912 reprints, but certainly from the original plate, some minor handling bends, fine

Estimate: € 400

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€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 5'000 - 10'000	€ 500
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 10'000 - 20'000	€ 1'000
€ 500 - 1'000	€ 50	€ 20'000 - 50'000	€ 2'000
€ 1'000 - 2'000	€ 100	€ 50'000 - 100'000	€ 5'000

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1. Les lots sont mis en vente

1.1 Sur la base de leur présentation dans le catalogue et/ou sur le site internet: 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: avant et pendant la vente, les acheteurs ou agents peuvent examiner tous les lots dans nos bureaux ou à l'endroit de la vente, aux horaires indiqués dans le catalogue de vente ou sur notre site Internet, doit confirmer leur invitation. Les acheteurs ayant examiné les lots avant la vente et/ou y 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'enchères

2.1 Chaque offre d'enchère doit être supérieure à celle formulée précédemment selon l'échelle suivante: (la monnaie peut changer selon la vente aux enchères)

€ 50 - 100	€ 5	€ 2000 - 5000	€ 200
€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 5000 - 10000	€ 500
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 10000 - 20000	€ 1000
€ 500 - 1000	€ 50	€ 20000 - 50000	€ 2000
€ 1000 - 2000	€ 100	€ 50000 - 100000	€ 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. a le droit de refuser des enchères, de séparer, joindre ou retirer n'importe quel lot, cela à son entière discrétion. La vente a lieu en français mais les enchères pourront être répétées en anglais. 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 le vendeur fixe des prix de réserve pour certains de ses lots, il sera alors considéré comme acheteur et la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. enchérira pour le compte de celui-ci jusqu'à concurrence des prix de réserve fixés. Lorsque le prix fixé par le vendeur n'est pas atteint, il sera passé à la criée du lot suivant par un simple coup de marteau.

2.3 Seuls les clients enregistrés auprès de DAVID FELDMAN S.A. ou/et des sociétés affiliées pourront enregistrer des enchères. Les clients en salle doivent confirmer leur invitation pour obtenir leur numéro d'enchérisseur.

2.4 Les offres d'enchères écrites reçues par David Feldman SA ou sur le site Internet 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 atteindre jusqu'à 10 fois la valeur de l'estimation imprimée dans le catalogue. Les enchères doivent être faites en Euros. Les offres d'enchères libellées en d'autres monnaies seront converties en Euros au cours du jour de leur réception par la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Toute offre écrite d'enchères est considérée comme liant 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 enchères

3.1 A moins que ce ne soit explicitement indiqué, la monnaie de la vente aux enchères est franc suisse. L'accès à la salle des ventes est exclusivement réservé aux clients invités et/ou leurs agents.

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 desdits 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 Enchères gagnantes: Chaque lot est adjugé au plus offrant pour le compte de son vendeur respectif. Des frais de 20% sont facturés en sus de l'enchère la plus haute par David Feldman SA couvrant la commission, frais par lot, assurance, emballage, frais d'exportation etc. et ceci dans tous les cas, tous frais encourus ou pas. Les frais de port sont facturés en sus et seront facturés séparément. 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 (prix marteau plus les frais).

TVA (Taxe à la vente) - Note indicative concernant les ventes aux enchères dont les lots se trouvent en Suisse: 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 dûment 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 8% sur le prix d'achat en francs suisses.

3.5 Paiement: Les adjudicataires présents sont tenus de payer comptant en Euros le prix d'achat et la commission contre remise de la marchandise acquise. Le paiement en d'autres monnaies 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'acquitter 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 gagnés qui ne seront remis à leurs acheteurs qu'à réception par 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 ou autre société d'expédition, la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. assure, de manière usuelle, la marchandise pour le transit. Les lots, délivrés ou non, conservent titre de propriété de la Maison DAVID FELDMAN S.A. pour le compte du vendeur jusqu'au paiement intégral de la facture.

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 mensuel 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 débité chaque mois au compte du client. En cas d'octroi 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. Le délai d'extension expirera 3 mois après la date de la vente aux enchères. Les résultats de l'expertise pour laquelle un délai a été accepté doivent parvenir à DAVID FELDMAN S.A. dans ce délai. 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 parvenues 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 ou de contre-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 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 agréée 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. Les lots qui ont été examinés par l'acheteur ou son agent, ainsi que les lots qui sont décrits comme ayant des défauts ne peuvent faire l'objet d'aucune réclamation par rapport à ceux-ci. Tout lot illustré ne peut faire l'objet d'aucune réclamation au sujet de la perforation, du centrage, des marges ou tout autre élément visible dans l'illustration.

4.4 Paiement tardif: Si le paiement du prix marteau 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, 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 les paiements en souffrance plus un intérêt d'au moins 5% dès le premier mois et 2% par mois supplémentaire. De plus, les dépenses encourues seront perçues sur toutes les sommes dues par l'acheteur 30 jours après la date de la vente aux enchères. Le débiteur défaillant perd en outre tout droit de réclamation.

4.5 Le prix marteau pourra, exceptionnellement, être ramené à la mise gagnante la plus basse s'il est établi que le même enchérisseur a augmenté le prix par inadvertance en utilisant plus d'un moyen de miser.

5. Droit applicable et juridiction

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, 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.

6. Toute transaction:

Ces conditions sont applicables à toute transaction même en dehors des ventes aux enchères, avec David Feldman SA.

Note: Les présentes Conditions de vente ont été rédigées en anglais et sont accompagnées d'une traduction française. En cas de divergence entre la version anglaise et la version française, le texte anglais prévaudra.

Versteigerungsbedingungen

Die Wahrung fur diese Versteigerung ist EUR (€)

Die Versteigerung erfolgt privatrechtlich. Beteiligung setzt die vollstandige Annahme nachstehender Bedingungen sowie der sich daraus ergebenden Rechte und Pflichten voraus. Diese Bedingungen gelten auch bei Geschaften, die ausserhalb der Versteigerung mit Auktionslosen abgeschlossen werden. Der Versteigerer, DAVID FELDMAN S.A., handelt nur als Beauftragter und haftet fur keinerlei Verzug seitens der Kaufer und/oder Einlieferer.

1. Angebot der Lose

1.1 Wie im Katalog und/oder im Internet dargestellt: Losbeschreibungen werden mit grosster Sorgfalt und nach bestem Wissen und Gewissen vorgenommen, jedoch ohne Verbindlichkeit. Fotografien sind Bestandteil der Beschreibungen, wobei die Abbildungen fur Rand, Zahnung, Zentrierung, Stempel und anderer sichtbarer Eigenschaften massgebend sind. Prufzeichen und/oder Atteste anerkannter Prufer sind in der Losbeschreibung erwahnt.

1.2 Wie besichtigt: Alle im Katalog erwahnten Lose konnen vor und wahrend der Versteigerung sowie auf dem Internet besichtigt werden. Bei Auktionsteilnehmern und/oder Personen, die Lose vor der Versteigerung besichtigen, und/oder vom Bieter bevollmachtigte Personen und Agenten, wird die Besichtigung aller gekauften Lose vorausgesetzt; die Lose werden in dem Zustand, in dem sie sich beim Zuschlag befinden, angenommen und nicht unbedingt wie beschrieben.

2. Kaufgebote

2.1 Folgende Steigerungsstufen haben Gultigkeit (einige Versteigerungen konnen in Fremdwahrungen abgehalten werden):

€ 50 - 100	€ 5	€ 2'000 - 5'000	€ 200
€ 100 - 200	€ 10	€ 5'000 - 10'000	€ 500
€ 200 - 500	€ 20	€ 10'000 - 20'000	€ 1'000
€ 500 - 1'000	€ 50	€ 20'000 - 50'000	€ 2'000
€ 1'000 - 2'000	€ 100	€ 50'000 - 100'000	€ 5'000

Gebote, die zwischen diesen Stufen liegen, werden der nachst hoheren Steigerungsstufe zugeordnet. Bieter sind bis zur Annahme eines hoheren Gebotes an ihr Gebot gebunden.

2.2 DAVID FELDMAN S.A. ist ermachtigt, gemass erfolgten Anweisungen, fur Kunden zu bieten. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. ist ebenfalls ermachtigt, gegebenenfalls fur Einlieferer zu bieten, sofern diese Reservepreise festgesetzt haben. Einlieferer werden somit als Kaufer betrachtet, und der Versteigerer steigert fur sie bis zum Betrag der Reservepreise mit. Wird der vom Einlieferer festgesetzte Reservepreis nicht erreicht, geht der Auktionator durch einen einfachen Hammerschlag zum nachsten Los uber.

2.3 Gebotsauftrage werden nur von Kunden der David Feldman S.A. und/oder dazugehorender Unternehmen angenommen. Um eine Bieternummer zu erhalten, mussen «Live Room» Bieter vorgangig ihre Einladung vorweisen.

2.4 Vor der Versteigerung bei DFSA oder auf deren Internet Site eingegangene schriftlichen Gebote haben absoluten Vorrang vor Saalgeboten bei einer «Live» Auktion. Kunden, die der DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Kaufauftrage gegeben haben, konnen Alternativgebote abgeben und/oder die Auftragssumme im voraus begrenzen. «Buy» («Zum Kauf») Gebote werden bis zum Zehnfachen des gedruckten Schatzwertes mitgesteuert. Gebote sind in Euro abzugeben. Sollten diese jedoch in anderen Wahrungen erfolgen, so werden die Betrage bei Empfang zum Tageskurs in Euro umgerechnet. Gebote haben bis zu mindestens 60 Tagen nach Versteigerungsdatum Gultigkeit. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. behalt es sich vor, Bietern Lose bis zum Ablauf dieser Frist in Rechnung zu stellen, wobei sofortige Zahlung fallig ist.

3. Die Versteigerung

3.1 Sofern nicht ausdrucklich anders erwahnt, ist die Auktionswahrung Euro. Die Teilnahme an der Live Room Auktion ist nur eingeladenen Kunden und/oder deren Agenten vorbehalten.

3.2 Vorrechte der David Feldman S.A.: DAVID FELDMAN S.A. hat das Recht, Lose zuruckzuziehen, umzugruppieren, zu trennen oder den Zuschlag zu verweigern. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. behalt es sich ebenfalls vor, Kaufauftrage abzulehnen und/oder Personen den Zugang zum Auktionsraum zu verweigern. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. kann fur Unfalle, die in den Versteigerungsraumen erfolgen, nicht haftbar gemacht werden.

3.3 Bevollmachtigte und Agenten: Wer fur Dritte bietet, haftet fur alle sich aus dieser Versteigerung ergebenden Verpflichtungen als Solidarschuldner. Diese Verbindlichkeit betrifft hauptsachlich die Qualitatsprufung und Bezahlung gekaufter Lose.

3.4 Zuschlage: Jedes Los wird dem Meistbietenden zu Gunsten des Einlieferers, zur nachst hoheren Steigerungsstufe zugeschlagen. Zur Zuschlagssumme, welche abhangig von der Auktion ist, wird in jedem Fall

ein Aufgeld von 20% Kommission und Verpackung aber ohne Versand und Versicherung. Beim Zuschlag geht das Risiko der ersteigerten Lose auf den Bieter uber, dessen Gebote angenommen wurden. Die Lose werden ihm jedoch erst bei voller Begleichung des Kaufpreises und Aufgelds ausgehandigt.

MWST (Mehrwertsteuer) - Anmerkung zur Orientierung betreffend Versteigerungen, deren Lose sich in der Schweiz befinden:

Kaufer, mit Wohnsitz im Ausland sind nicht steuerpflichtig, wenn die Ware ins Ausland exportiert wird.

Selbstverstandlich ist DAVID FELDMAN S.A. immer bereit Ihnen mit den Zollformalitaten zu helfen. Sollten unsere Kunden diese Formalitaten selbst erledigen, werden wir vom Schweizer Zoll eine Kopie Ihrer Ausfuhrpapiere erhalten.

Falls unsere Kunden wunschen ihre Kaufe in der Schweiz zu behalten, wird ihnen MWST von 8% auf den Kaufpreis aufgeschlagen.

3.5 Zahlung: Kaufpreis, Aufgeld und eventuell anfallende Zusatzkosten sind in bei Versteigerungsteilnehmern sofort am Kauftag gegen Aushandigung der Lose fallig. Zahlungen in anderen Wahrungen werden zum Tageskurs gemass Abrechnung einer Schweizer Grossbank angenommen. Erfolgreiche schriftliche Bieter und Versteigerungsteilnehmer, deren Zahlung nach dem Verkauf ausdrucklich zugestanden wurde, haben Kaufpreis und Aufgeld unverzuglich bei Erhalt der Auktionsrechnung zu zahlen. DAVID FELDMAN S.A. halt die ersteigerten Lose bis zur vollstandigen Bezahlung des Rechnungsbetrages zuruck. Zustellung der Lose durch die Post oder auf einem anderen Weg, sofern vom Kaufer gewunscht, sowie Transportversicherungskosten, gehen auf Rechnung des Kaufers. Die Lose ob ausgeliefert oder nicht, bleiben bis zur vollstandigen Bezahlung Eigentum der DAVID FELDMAN S.A., stellvertretend fur den Einlieferer.

3.6 Erweiterte Zahlungsmoglichkeiten: DAVID FELDMAN S.A. ist gegebenenfalls bereit, Kaufern erweiterte Zahlungsmoglichkeiten zu gewahren. Der betreffende Kaufer zahlt mindestens 25% des Gesamtrechnungsbetrages bei Erhalt der Rechnung und den Saldo in gleichen Monatsraten uber maximal 6 Monate. Der dem Kaufer am Ende jedes Monats, vom Auktionsdatum, berechnete Zins betragt 1%. Bei Gewahrung erweiterter Zahlungsmoglichkeiten halt DAVID FELDMAN S.A. die ersteigerten Lose gegebenenfalls bis zur vollen Begleichung des Rechnungsbetrages zuruck. Es versteht sich, dass der Kaufer die Lose bis zur Auslieferung jederzeit bei DAVID FELDMAN S.A. besichtigen kann. Reklamationen bezuglich der ersteigerten Lose mussen jedoch innerhalb von 30 Tagen nach dem Versteigerungsdatum eingehen.

3.7 Pfandrecht: Bis zur vollstandigen Bezahlung der ausstehenden Schuld burgt der Kunde gegenuber DAVID FELDMAN S.A. mit seinem durch die DAVID FELDMAN S.A. aufbewahrten Material, welches ihm vor, wahrend und/oder nach dem jeweiligen Verkauf zugesprochen wurde. Dieses Pfand garantiert die Ruckzahlung des Forderungsbetrages, der Zinsen, Kommissionen und anderer moglicher Unkosten.

DAVID FELDMAN S.A. ist berechtigt, aber nicht verpflichtet, die verpfandete Ware formlos und ohne Vorankundigung zu verussern, sollte der Kunde in Zahlungsverzug kommen oder seinen sonstigen Verpflichtungen nicht nachkommen. In diesem Falle ist DAVID FELDMAN S.A. nicht verpflichtet, den Vorschriften des Bundesgesetzes uber Schuldbetreibung und Konkurs zu folgen. Im ubrigen hat DAVID FELDMAN S.A. die Wahl, ein Verfahren einzuleiten oder gegebenenfalls weiterzufuhren, ohne die Ware vorher zu verkaufen und ohne sein Anrecht auf das betreffende Material zu verlieren.

4. Garantie

4.1 Umfang: Unter Vorbehalt des nachstehenden Paragraphs 4.3, ist die Echtheit aller bei Versteigerungen verkauften philatelistischen Artikel wahrend 30 Tagen nach dem Versteigerungsdatum garantiert. Jegliche andere Garantie oder Garantie fur Fehler ist ausdrucklich ausgeschlossen. Jegliche Reklamation bezuglich Echtheit muss unverzuglich nach Erhalt der Lose an DAVID FELDMAN S.A. gerichtet werden, spatestens jedoch innerhalb 30 Tagen nach Versteigerungsdatum. Vor der Zustellung, die nach der 30-Tage-Frist erfolgen kann, konnen die erstandenen philatelistischen Artikel bei DAVID FELDMAN S.A. besichtigt werden. Ein Kaufer, dessen Reklamation nach der Frist von 30 Tagen ab Versteigerungsdatum bei DAVID FELDMAN S.A. eintrifft, verliert jegliches Anrecht auf die Garantie. In diesem Fall wird die Reklamation von DAVID FELDMAN S.A. nicht anerkannt.

Wird im Falle einer Reklamation bezuglich der Echtheit eines philatelistischen Artikels eine Fristverlangerung benotigt, muss diese innerhalb 30 Tagen nach Versteigerungsdatum bei DAVID FELDMAN S.A. beantragt werden. Kein solcher Antrag, welcher nach dieser 30-Tage-Frist bei DAVID FELDMAN S.A. eintrifft, wird in Betracht gezogen. Die Prufersultate, fur deren Einholung eine Fristverlangerung gewahrt wurde, mussen bei DAVID FELDMAN S.A. innerhalb von 3 Monaten nach dem Versteigerungsdatum vorliegen. Eine weitere Fristverlangerung kann nur mit schriftlicher Einwilligung von DAVID FELDMAN S.A. gewahrt werden. Nur diejenigen Reklamationen, Prufersultate sowie andere Mitteilungen, die innerhalb der vorgeschriebenen Fristen eintreffen, werden von DAVID FELDMAN S.A. in Betracht gezogen.

4.2 Atteste und Gegenatteste: Bei Echtheitszweifeln obliegt es dem Kaufer, als Rechtfertigung seiner Reklamation ein Attest oder Gegenattest von einem fur das betreffende Sammelgebiet anerkannten Prufer beizulegen. Wird eine Marke von einem anerkannten und fur Irrtumer haftenden Prufer als falsch erkannt, kann er sie entsprechend kennzeichnen. Das Zeichen FALSCH gilt dabei nicht als Veranderung. Bei derartigen Reklamationen behalt DAVID FELDMAN S.A. es sich vor, nach eigenem Ermessen ein oder mehrere Atteste anzufordern. Alle Prufkosten und diesbezugliche Ausgaben fallen bei gerechtfertigter Beanstandung zu Lasten des Einlieferers, anderenfalls jedoch zu Lasten des Kaufers. Bei gerechtfertigter Beanstandung wird das Los zuruckgenommen und die Zuschlagssumme sowie Aufgeld an den Kaufer zuruckersetzt. Falls infolge einer Expertise, mit Uebereinstimmung der DAVID FELDMAN S.A. Zahlungsverzogerungen entstehen, werden 50% der ublicherweise belasteten Zinsen auf jedes Los, dessen Echtheit einwandfrei bewiesen ist erhoben. Ansonsten werden die Standartzinsen berechnet.

4.3 Begrenzung: Lose, die als Sammlungen, Sammellose, Dublettenposten oder Anhaufungen beschrieben sind, haben keinerlei Anrecht auf Reklamation. Beanstandungen von Losen, die als Serien oder Gruppen von Serien aus mehr als einer Briefmarke bestehend beschrieben sind, werden in Grenzen des obigen Punktes 4.1. nur in Betracht gezogen, wenn sie mehr als ein Drittel des Gesamtkaufwerts des entsprechenden Loses darstellen. Fur Lose die vom Kaufer oder dessen Agenten besichtigt wurden oder mit Fehlern beschrieben sind konnen deshalb nicht beanstandet werden. Abgebildete Lose konnen nicht beanstandet werden wenn es sich um Zahnungsfehler, Zentrierung, Rand oder andere im Bild ersichtliche Fehler handelt.

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