



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23 February 2002

Newsletter October 2020

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The Laziness of Some Folk!

These are real images from an auction site. We bang the drum to stop these abominations from even being displayed for sale. Clearly we have more work to do!



Editorial

Due to unforeseen circumstances, I've spent the last six weeks moving house. In the middle of a harsh Covid lockdown, I couldn't enlist anyone to help. The results from this are many and varied. I have a very, very, very, sore back. On the upside, I now have biceps again!

In both of our last two moves, I've ended up in hospital with chest pains, but this time I didn't, so things must be looking up.

I gleefully cleared six years of rubbish from my office, which made an enormous difference to my surrounds, and I found a pristine example of Australia's rarest decimal booklet that I didn't know I had.

I've now re-organized my shelves, and everything is in order. No piles of stockbooks over there, no unfilled purchases over here. I now feel that I can lay my hands on anything I need to find.

Most importantly, the move gave me the opportunity to view my stock and remind myself of the huge range I have on hand. This, in turn, has given me motivation to start listing in bulk to get my items out there.

If that's not turning a negative into a positive, I don't know what is!

We have **nine** new members this month. Their details are on pages 3-5. Please take the time to welcome them to the IPDA.



Cheers

Dave Sheridan

ipdaeditor@gmail.com



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Membership Numbers

We now have 142 members from 30 countries, an increase of 9 members in a month. It's pleasing to see the hard work bearing fruit.

Don't forget that the referral program is in place. Perhaps you could encourage a colleague to join us?

Abu Dhabi	1
Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	19
Belgium	2
Brazil	1
Canada	9
Croatia	2
France	3
Germany	4
Gibraltar	2
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Israel	1
Italy	3
Latvia	1
Malta	2
Mexico	1
Netherlands	7
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	2
Philippines	2
Serbia	1
South Africa	3
Spain	3
Sweden	1
UK	25
USA	39
Total Paid Membership	142



**Promote your business
by being an accredited
internet stamp seller**

**so you don't want to pay a renewal fee in 2021
– no worry.....**

**Refer a friend, another internet seller you
recommend to join the IPDA**

**You get free 2021 membership if the referral
gets accepted before mid December**

And, here is the good news

**Your friend only has to pay the 2021 renewal fee
– saving the 2020 joining and membership fee.**

Now that is a win win



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New Members

Date: 9/22/20

Name: **Mohammed Seif**

Member Number: 390

Date became a member: 9/22/20

Business Name: Stamp of The British Arabia

Business Website: <https://www.ebay.com/usr/britisharabiastamps>

Specializes in: British Commonwealth stamps of British Arabia and Persian/Arab Gulf States.

Email: stampsofarabia@gmail.com

Location: Abu Dhabi

Referred By: Facebook Ad

Member Discounts: Joining Offer

Date: 9/22/20

Name: **Daniel Ardley**

Member Number: 391

Date became a member: 9/22/20

Business Name: Blackheath Stamps

Business Website: <https://www.ebay.co.uk/str/blackheathstamps>

Specializes in: Primarily GB. Mainly qv and pre decimal

Email: ardley@hotmail.co.uk

Location: Welney Norfolk, UK

Referred By: Facebook Ad

Member Discounts: (none)

Date: 9/23/20

Name: **Jasmina Rakic**

Member Number: 392

Date became a member: 9/23/20

Business Name: Jasminas Stamps

Business Website: <https://www.ebay.com/usr/jaca.rakic>

Specializes in: Stamps for many countries such as Yugoslavia, Serbia, France, Germany, Italy, Sweden also I sell post-cards from many countries

Email: jasmina.rakic@yahoo.com

Location: Belgrade, Serbia

Referred By: Jon Griffiths

Member Discounts: I offer discounts depending on the catalog values of the stamps and depending on the quality of the stamps, whether used or not used. And I offer a discount of 10 percent.



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New Members.....cont'd

Date: 9/25/20

Name: **Larry Phillips**

Member Number: 395

Date became a member: 9/25/20

Business Name: Long Beach Philatelics, Inc.

Business Website: <http://www.4stampsales.com>

Specializes in: US and Worldwide Stamp. Specialize in US Sheets and Topical stamps

Email: sales@4stampsales.com

Location: Wilmington, Delaware USA

Referred By: Dealer Resource List

Member Discounts: 25%

Date: 9/25/20

Name: **Jay Lewis**

Member Number: 394

Date became a member: 9/25/20

Business Name: The William Henry Stamp Company

Business Website: <https://www.allunstamps.com>

Specializes in: The stamps of the United Nations and related philatelic material.

Email: wmhenry@msn.com

Location: Kew Gardens, NY USA

Referred By: Dealer Resource List

Member Discounts: 15%

Date: 9/25/20

Name: **David Moir**

Member Number: 393

Date became a member: 9/25/20

Business Name: Moir Stamps and Postal History

Business Website: <https://www.ebay.com/str/moirpostalhistory>

Specializes in: Worldwide postal history, stamps, revenues and cinderella's with an emphasis on the Br. Commonwealth

Email: moirpostalhistory@yahoo.com

Location: NSW Australia

Referred By: Dealer Resource List

Member Discounts: 10% cashback after internet purchase



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New Members.....cont'd

Date: 10/2/20

Name: **Richard Muller**

Member Number: 398

Date became a member: 10/2/20

Business Name: richardsstamps

Business Website: www.richardsstamps.com

Specializes in: Great Britain, Australia -- China

Email: richard@richardsstamps.com

Location: Tigard, OR USA

Referred By: Tony Tripi

Member Discounts: 15%

Date: 10/1/20

Name: **Danny Van den Brande**

Member Number: 396

Date became a member: 10/1/20

Business Name: Postzegelhandel Datastamps

Business Website: <https://datastamps.com/>

Specializes in: Worldwide stamps, mostly Europe and accessories

Email: danny@datastamps.com

Location: Belgium

Referred By: Jon Griffiths

Member Discounts: 10% on priced items

Date: 10/1/20

Name: **Joseph Jones**

Member Number: 397

Date became a member: 10/1/20

Business Name: Foothills Stamps

Business Website: <https://www.hipstamp.com/store/foothills-stamps>

Specializes in: United States & Worldwide Stamps, coins & paper money

Email: foothillsstamps@gmail.com

Location: Maryville, TN, USA

Referred By: Tony Tripi

Member Discounts: 10%



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Selling Presentation Tip of the Month

We all sell and we all want our customers and potential customers to buy from us rather than some other dealer or seller, especially when that seller is someone who knows little about stamps and cares even less about the collector.

As IPDA sellers, we care about our customers and collectors and we want them to be respected and in turn respect our integrity.

Those were the opening lines from the September issue. I hope you found the idea of a selling tip useful. This month I have another for you, and it concerns displaying and packing Mint stamps.

Personally I think it is just good manners and professionalism to show and handle your mint stamps in what I consider to be the correct way. But it seems it is not that way for so many sellers on many selling portals. The image I show in Fig. 1 is one I created for this article. But if you browse philatelic portals you will see this is quite a common way to present mint stamps. To me it speaks volumes about the seller.



Fig. 1

It says, I do not care about clearly presenting my stamps for the collector to judge if this is what they want.

It says, I do not have time to think about the collector because I make no time to carefully present the stamps for viewing.

It says, I am hiding whatever minor blemish might exist and expecting the wording description to satisfy the collector so don't be so fussy, trust me!

It says, I am an amateur who is selling a few stamps I found and thought I could make some quick cash.

And worse still, because these stamps are mint full gum, It says the seller is subconsciously communicating, in my view anyway, I don't really appreciate the fact they are mint with full gum.

Why do I say that? Well, as you know, the issues with gums can be many but the most obvious one is that with the slightest moisture the gum side might stick to the face side of the touching stamp. Many will have experienced the gums on some Malta, Rhodesia or Papua New Guinea issues from around the 1970s? There are many others of course, Eastern Europe comes to mind. Gums stick very easily.

By the time the stamps reach the buyer, if they are packed like this, as in Fig 1, as they often are when displayed like this, there could be a problem.



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Selling Presentation Tip of the Month.....cont'd

If you are selling Mint stamps I recommend you present them so they are not touching and when you mail them you pack them in mounts. Fig 2. Yes with a set of so many stamps they need to overlap but with each stamp in a black mount you can be confident there will be no gum sticking to other stamps, and your customer will be impressed and have confidence in you as a professional seller.



Fig. 2

If you have a selling tip you would like to share, please write to me at ipdasecretary2@gmail.com and of course if you have other thoughts or feedback please don't hesitate to write to me or the Editor.

(Editor's note—it's not hard to find examples of this. It took me less than five minutes to find these ones!)





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The Burn Pile



Recently I was listing some stamps to sell. Nothing special, just filler stamps. Speaking of 'filler' stamps the stamp seen above, Scott# 150 is one such filler. Instead of listing this stamp, I threw it out. I spent the time to scan, crop and center the front of this fine stamp. Carefully using my tongs, I flip the stamp over and sink into my chair at my desk. Junk! Pure junk...



- Huge thin on the top center
- Serious repair tape across the dead center
- And someone even wrote a price on this stamp for me

We are all to collect/sell how we chose, but if we as members are to raise the standards of all dealers to follow, then junk is junk.

I know of one collector in another club I belong to where the reverse of the stamp is not important to him. He 'collects' for the front of the stamp. I say do you drive your car and hope there is an engine under the hood? Do you hope to get good gas mileage? In closing, quality sells and junk is junk. As much as I would like to keep this stamp, in the burn pile it goes.

By Lee Coen

Philately Around the World - M is for Maldives

We are up to the letter M for our stamp issuing country this month. There are plenty of choices but I have decided to do a short piece on the Maldiv Islands, a stamp issuing country we probably do not think a lot about in a philatelic sense, more in a tourist destination sense.

So perhaps this will be different and interesting for that reason alone.

First, where are the Maldiv Islands? Well, they are in the Indian Ocean. They are found in the Laccadive Sea about seven 700 kilometers south-west of Sri Lanka.

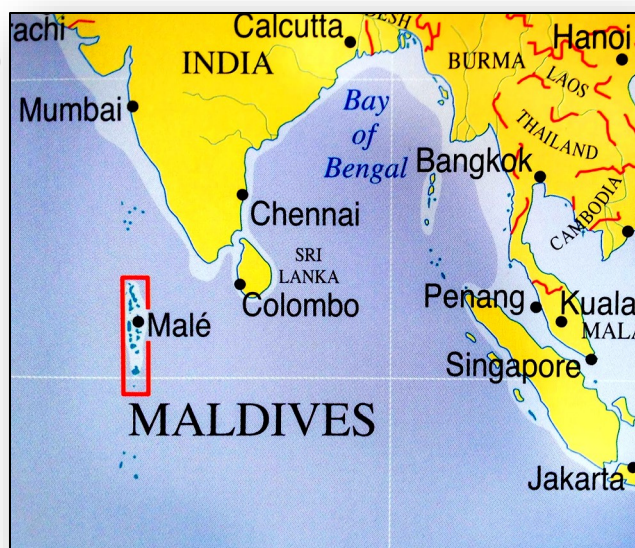
That context is relevant as their first stamps, issued in 1906, were the 1904-05 Edward VII stamps from Ceylon overprinted Maldives (Fig 1)



Fig.1 SG2, Scott 2



Fig.2 SG10, Scott 10



In 1909 a new issue appeared, showing the Minirat Juma Mosque (Fig.2). These were the first stamps to be inscribed Maldives. Incredibly, these stamps met the postal needs of the islands through to 1950, when a new definitive issue was released. This issue of 9 stamps showed a palm tree and dhow (Fig 3). Personally I find this such a peaceful stamp. One to look at and relax.



Fig.3 SG22, Scott 21



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Philately Around the World - M is for Maldives.....cont'd

During the 1950's there were two more issues comprising 13 stamps. I suppose one might think a stamp issuing policy to meet postal needs. In fact stamps were often in short supply I believe and so much so that the 1909 mosque issue was approved for use into the 1950s.

One stamp design I think particularly stands out is the view of Male Harbour as seen on 8 of the 1956 definitive issue (Fig 4). I think it is a rather different view today!



One thing that I found surprising as I read about the early issues relates to the catalogue prices and the number available for sale. The catalogue prices appear to me to be extremely low, in the pennies generally, while there were very few that I could find for sale.

The history of the Maldives is reflected in the presence of the Portuguese, the Dutch, then the British, who from 1796 included the Maldives as a British protected area when they expelled the Dutch from Ceylon.

Fig.4 SG39, Scott 38

The status of the islands was similar to other British protectorates in the Indian Ocean region, including Zanzibar and the Trucial States. The Maldives remained a British protectorate until 1953, when the first Republic was declared under the short-lived presidency of Muhammad Amin Didi. The British authority formally ended in 1965 and by 1968 the Maldives formally became a Republic.

Philatelically speaking, things started to change in the early 1960s when international customers started to be able to buy Maldives postage stamps and an agreement was signed with an international company to print stamps. During the 1960s there were some 40 issues, many with the same topics we are familiar with around the world, including malaria eradication, world Scout jamboree, Red Cross, International Co-operation Year, UNESCO, Churchill, England World Cup victory and WHO to name a few. In 1967 the Maldives became a member of the UPU adding credibility to its postal administration.

Perhaps the most major change apart from the Republic was the development of tourism from the early 1970s. The first resort in the Maldives was Kurumba Maldives which saw its first guests in October 1972.

The first accurate census was held in December 1977 and showed approximately 140,000 people on the islands. Now there are some 500,000 people living there and certainly not enough to support their current stamp issuing policy.



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Philately Around the World - M is for Maldives....cont'd

If we do think of the Maldives we maybe think of tourism first, but from a philatelic perspective we are likely to think of thematic issues these days, a stamp issuing policy in its own right. A quick viewing of the stamps of the Republic of the Maldives, as it is known today, shows thematic stamps for every interest.

Thematics on miniature sheets until you are swamped in paper it seems and thematic miniature sheets to accompany issues of up to 24 stamps in an issue. Stamps showing cars, fish, birds, The Louvre, Walt Disney themes, whales, butterflies, seashells, world wildlife, aircraft, Cats and the list goes on and on.

There is a 1997 issue commemorating UNESCO with 46 stamps plus 4 miniature sheets and, the most beautiful set of 36 stamps from the Spain 2000 International Stamp Exhibition with 6 additional miniature sheets. The stamps all show a painting from the Prado. If you have not been to the Prado (a must in my view as it so amazing) just buy this issue and enjoy the art! It is difficult to appreciate these miniature sheets in a copy here but I am showing one anyway in Fig 5.

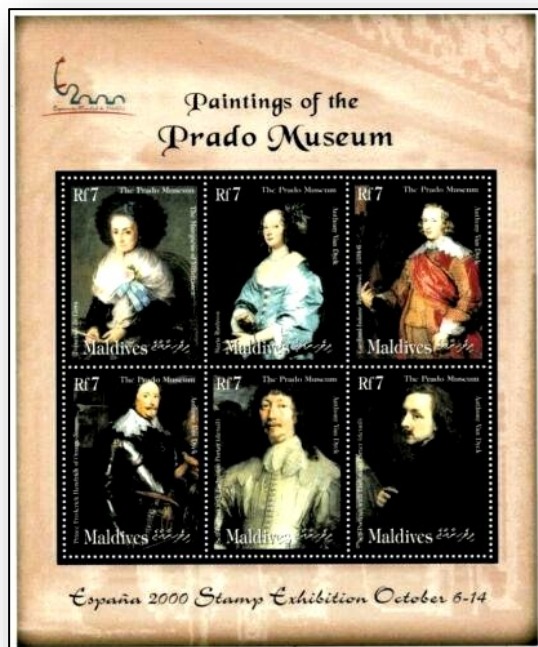


Fig.5 SGMS3412, Scott 2508-2513

And, if you have a customer who collects Elvis stamps they will be spending hours looking through all the Elvis issues.

So that is The Maldives. I hope you found it interesting. Any ideas for the letter N?

I look forward to hearing from you and it goes without saying that feedback is always welcomed.

By Michael Dodd



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The 1919 Ross-Smith England-to-Australia First Aerial Post Issue A Wonderful Air Post Rarity



There were many important flow-on effects from the first successful flight from England to Australia, by Captain Ross Smith and crew, in 1919. This epic flight half-way around the world provided the stimulus for regular international air travel and for new air routes for transport, communication and defence, and was the catalyst for the development of domestic air routes across northern Australia. A survey of the race route had even led to the first transcontinental flight by Captain Henry Wrigley and Sergeant Arthur Murphy. The epic flight also stimulated civil aviation in Australia more generally, including the establishment of Qantas in November 1920, by (among others) decorated aviator Lieutenant Hudson Fysh, who had greeted Ross Smith and his crew when they landed in Fannie Bay, Darwin, on 10 December 1919. The flight also helped to bridge the “tyranny of distance” between the new nation of Australia and the rest of the world.

This was also the first occasion that mail had reached Australia by overseas air. When the Vickers Vimy left England, on board was a bag of mail for delivery in Australia. Mail was also handed in at points along the route including Egypt, Syria, Iraq, Persia, Pakistan, India, Burma, Singapore and Indonesia.





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The 1919 Ross-Smith England-to-Australia First Aerial Post Issue A Wonderful Air Post Rarity.....cont'd

Once in Darwin, Ross Smith was in contact with then prime minister William “Billy” Hughes, requesting a special stamp to be applied to each letter, in honour of the historic nature of the flight and the mail carried on board. Hughes was keen to facilitate a permanent reminder of the event and sent a telegram to the Prime Minister’s Department in Melbourne:

Captain Ross Smith bearing letters (stop) Desires arrange for special stamp (stop) Communicate with right authorities and arrange. Hughes.

At the time, a Universal Postal Union rule prohibited the use of commemorative stamps of “limited postal validity” in the international mail system. It was apparently on this basis that the Postmaster General’s Department refused to issue such a stamp. The solution was a stamp that was not a postage stamp, so essentially a stamp-like design but without a denomination.

The design of the Ross Smith label was by Lieutenant George Benson (1887–1960), an official war artist at Gallipoli and the Western Front. His design featured the Vickers Vimy aircraft flying over an Olympic torch, and maps of Great Britain and Australia, with a blue background.

The airmail was received in Melbourne on 26 February 1920. A label was affixed to each cover, and a date stamp was applied to both the envelope and the label.

There were 576 labels printed by lithography from a copper half-tone block. Of the 576, at least 364 were affixed to the airmail covers – this number being those recorded in official government documents. Of the remaining supply, 125 stamps were held in reserve at the Note Printing Branch. These were destroyed on 6 September 1921, leaving 87 stamps to be accounted for. It is recorded that about 20 of these had the selvedge removed in readiness for affixing to covers, but they were not needed. Several unused examples were presented at the time to the four airmen and various officials, but otherwise the labels were held in a government department for several years.

The Ross Smith label didn’t really pique the interest of stamp collectors at the time (particularly as it wasn’t actually a stamp), although when word of its development broke, many collectors wrote in to the newspapers suggesting how it should be designed.

Just under two decades later, a collection of 22 mint Ross Smith stamps (with intact selvedge) appeared on the market without any explanation, advertised for sale in London for £65 each. It was later discovered that the unused labels may have been acquired by a public servant at the time of the 1919 Air Race and put up for sale all those years later.



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The 1919 Ross-Smith England-to-Australia First Aerial Post Issue A Wonderful Air Post Rarity.....cont'd

The huge level of interest in aerophilately in the 1930s had ensured the Ross Smith label had become a highly-prized item – hence the term that eventually applied to it, “blue cinderella”.

Today, a mint label with selvedge intact can sell for tens of thousands Australian dollars. As Australian aerophilately expert Nelson Eustis once wrote, “Even if the Ross Smith remains a label it surely must be the most valuable two square inches of non-stamp paper in the world.”

The printing block of the Ross Smith label was destroyed by government officials in 1948.

By Jon Griffiths

(Editor's note: I hope Jon doesn't mind me adding these newspaper clips regarding this item!)

£96 for Ross Smith Stamp

London, Monday.—A special stamp, a relic of the late Sir Ross Smith's flight in 1919, realised £96, the highest price of the day, at a sale of air stamps.—“Sun” Special.

26 February 1929

ROSS SMITH STAMP BRINGS £60

The Herald Cable Service
LONDON, Monday.—A Ross Smith stamp of his Australian flight in 1920 brought £60 at Harmer's auction of air mail stamps.

16 January 1934

ROSS SMITH STAMP £131

LONDON, Tuesday (A.A.P.).—A 1920 stamp commemorating Sir Ross Smith's first air mail post from England to Australia 43 years ago was sold in London today for £131.

Also on the envelope are two Netherlands Indies stamps dated February 26, 1920.

The commemoration stamp shows maps of England and Australia separated by a burning torch, and with the inscription “12 Nov.-10 Dec. 1919.”

It was sold at Harmer's of Bond Street to an unidentified buyer.

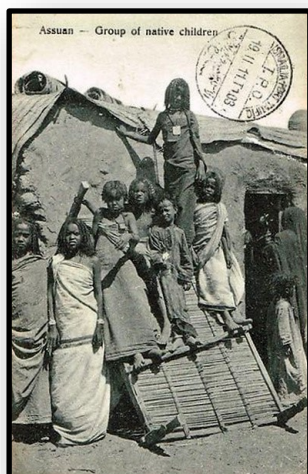
28 February 1962

Ethnographic Postcards A Glimpse of Other Worlds

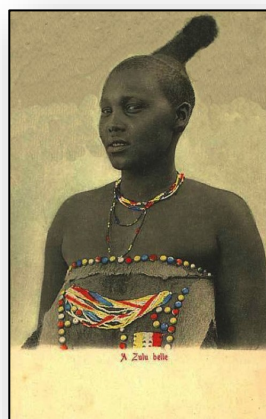
Ethnographic—relating to the scientific description of peoples and cultures with their customs, habits, and mutual differences

At a time when travel was for the wealthy, and the term “exotic” seemed to describe everywhere outside one’s own country, postcards showing glimpses of other cultures became extremely popular. There is a strong market for these cards, and it’s well worth pulling them from postcard accumulations. Australian cards showing photos of Aborigines often sell for \$100-\$200.

The cards were often colonialistic, exploitative and condescending and, needless to say, some are culturally insensitive by today’s standards, which needs to be borne in mind when viewing them.



“Assuan—Group of Native Children”



“A Zulu Belle”



“The First Perambulator”



“African Coach and 4”



“A Group of Coolie Emmigrants”

By Dave Sheridan



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A Recommended Website

One of my side-projects is an Australian Varieties website (shameless plug! acsvid.com), however that's not the site I'm recommending.

World Stamps Project (worldstampsproject.org) is a wiki for stamp varieties on a grand scale. This is from their site:

"The purpose of this site is to create a knowledge base about varieties of postage stamps. This site is dedicated to philatelic studies, to broadening boundaries of collecting and to serve as a source of reliable, in-depth information to collectors, sellers and specialists all over the World."

Whether you want to check for a variety from Albania or the US, Fiume or New Zealand, this is the site for you. With 11,700+ images uploaded at the time of writing, this will prove to be an invaluable resource as it continues to grow.

As a variety hunter, I both check the site and contribute to it regularly.

Union of South Africa: varieties of postage stamps				
A. Constant varieties				
1932: Definitive issue, scenery of South Africa			Pane & field	
1 s.				
I SG48b		Twisted horn.	R 1/15	
II		Dart in back.	?	
1937/40: Definitive issue			Pane & field	
1½ d.				
I		Tick flaw in white and spot on nose.	R 3/4 or 3/1	

By Dave Sheridan