



A GDPS NEWSLETTER

Once again, sending you all warm wishes at this time of continuing lockdown. It looks as if we may need to wear face masks when we meet again in September.

As a change from de-hinging, and re-mounting I entered the Stanley Gibbons Blue Competition. Do visit their website to view all of the entries – some of them are really interesting. One of my entries is included in the newsletter. Charles has again provided an interesting article about poster stamps.

Mike Gibson asks if anyone else sells on eBay. Here is his link

<https://www.ebay.co.uk/sch/mikeg2506/m.html?nkw=&armrs=1&ipg=&from=>

for continuing extraordinary times, May 2020. No 23



Diary of a would-be philatelist, 3 May 2020

Well as you can see in the photograph, excellent progress is being made! Antigua, Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica and Grenada all have new homes...and work has begun on St Lucia. To give you some idea of the job in hand here are the before and after photos for one of the St Lucia pages – as you can see Dad sometimes shopped at Stanley Gibbons. The albums on the right are Jamaica etc – yet to be done.



The third page is from Grenada. Dad's stamps go to SG546. Thank goodness! In the following 42 years to the end of 2014 Grenada produced a further 5102 stamps. The stamps are huge, and were clearly ordered in excessive quantities, so used in further issues with overprints, as demonstrated by these moon stamps, issued in September 1969, overprinted in March 1970 with surcharges, and then used at Philymphia in September 1970 (Yes! For those of you with very good eyesight – that is one of the 300 sheets only overprinted for the occasion).

The Art Nouveau Thread in Poster Stamps

Now we come to the Brussels International Exhibition of 1897. In Belgium, Privat Livemont was the fashionable artist in the Art Nouveau style, an obvious candidate for Exhibition poster and poster stamps. And here is an example.



The original Gismonda poster for Bernhardt

Here is a little story. Alphonse Mucha was asked by actress Sarah Bernhardt to design a poster advertising her new play *Gismonda*. The place, Paris, the date 1894 - and everything had to be done in a hurry because the play had already opened. Mucha created a poster which was more than life size - and it instantly became famous throughout Paris - indeed the posters were torn off the walls by the citizens. Its fame spread across Europe.



We move on to 1905 and the Liège Universal Exhibition and artist Emile Dupuis. And, Oh dear, another copy of the *Gismonda*, head and shoulders almost copied, and the palm included



Are we shocked by all this plagiarism? We should be! But perhaps both artists were shown the *Gismonda* by their Commissioning Boards and firmly told 'something like that' - and work is work.

The poster stamps were highly prized by the visitors to these exhibitions who bought them in their thousands - thanks to Alphonse Mucha.

Neil Armstrong (5 August 1930 – 24 August 2012) – First Man on the Moon



Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin landed the Lunar Module "Eagle" on the lunar surface on 20 July 1969. Armstrong was first out of the craft and made the famous statement "one small step for (a) man, one giant leap for mankind" as he left the first footprints on the moon. The two astronauts collected lunar materials whilst their colleague Michael Collins circled the moon in the Command Module "Tranquillity Base". Armstrong and Aldwin left a plaque at the landing site that read "Here men from the planet Earth first set foot upon the moon in July 1969 AD. We came in peace for all mankind" The men also planted an American flag.

Their landing excited the imaginations and aspirations of people across the globe. Many countries, other than America, marked the occasion with a special edition of stamps – as is the case with the below set from Dominica.

After his return Armstrong was awarded many honours including the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the NASA Distinguished Service Medal and the Congressional Gold Medal. He was a modest man, often described as a reluctant American Hero.

When once asked what it felt like to have his footprints remain on the moon's surface for thousands of years Armstrong said " I kind of hope that somebody goes up there one of these days and cleans them up".

