

Dear Members

We are still hoping to be able to recommence gatherings on Wednesday 8 September, following on with 13 October and 10 November.

However, the Quakers have written recently expressing concerns about protocols and advising we may have to produce a Risk Assessment document before being cleared to meet. We are waiting for them to forward a draft of the document they require.

Meanwhile please do gather together any items you may have for the Bring and Buy we plan in September. Barry Stevens has been busy putting together paperwork for our overdue AGM. Fingers crossed that the meeting will be able to take place.

I'll continue to produce a newsletter until we are able to get together.

Many thanks to Rob Cooke for this month's article about Rhodesia Double Heads (see overleaf).

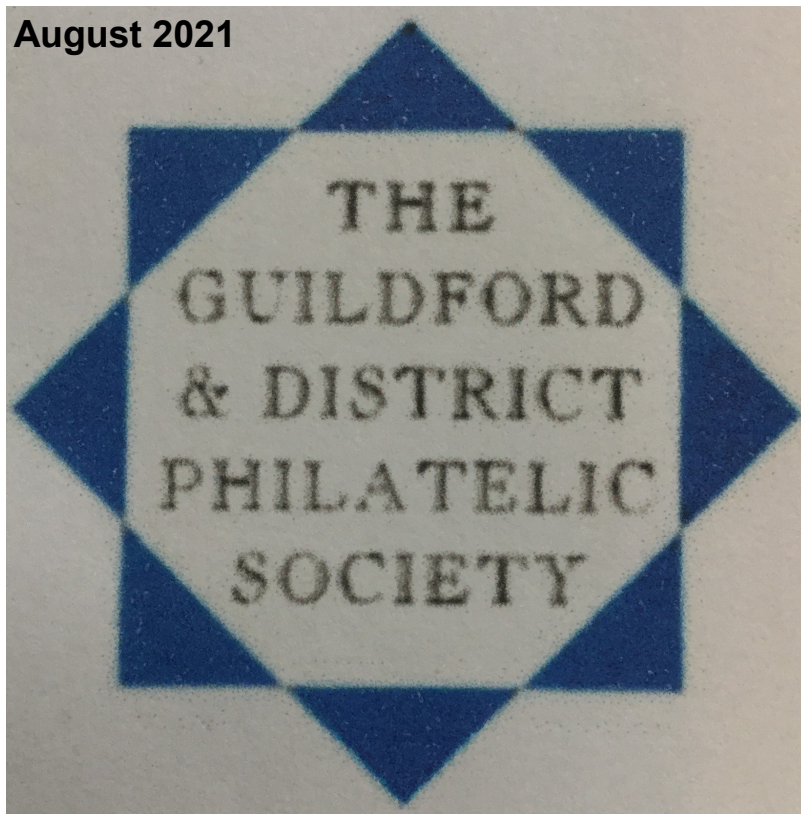
Having found a number of philatelic forgeries in my father's collection I have put together some guidance notes and details of famous forgers in this month's news sheet.

Take care and please keep in touch.

Kindest regards

Susan Taylor

August 2021



### ***Fake or Fortune for Philatelists***

*Ever since early postage stamps in the 1840's people have attempted to produce fakes. Initially this was for counterfeit purposes, and these stamps became a nuisance for postal services which introduced special papers, watermarks, inks that changed colour when wetted, special engraving techniques, and even silk thread linings in an effort to prevent the practise. Later, as it became fashionable to collect stamps and rarities became valuable, forgers became even more adept ...they considered their craft an art.*

*Jean De Sperati, the Italian born Frenchman, is considered the most technically competent forger of the 1910 – 1950 period. In 1953 the British Philatelic Association paid De Sperati*

*\$40,000 for his collection in an effort to get his forgeries off the market. He agreed not to make any further replicas...but later broke this agreement making a few more “just for fun”. Today De Sperati’s expertly crafted forgeries have become collectors’ items. He produced over 566 varieties of forgeries for over 100 countries.*

*At a later stage some forgers switched their focus to that of postage marks. Rare postage marks could multiply the value of a previously unused stamp. Madame Joseph was an expert in fake cancellations. ‘Cancellations’ include postmarks, overprints and surcharges. Madame Joseph was never identified, although Ted Proud believed her to have been living in Charing Cross Road, others think she was French, or Belgian. She operated from during the First and Second World Wars up until about 1949, producing forged British Commonwealth stamps.*

*The American Philatelic Society has an interesting article asking “Forged or Genuine?” On the below link:*

*<https://stamps.org/learn/forged-or-genuine>*

*So how can a collector protect themselves?*

- 1. Always use respected dealers*
- 2. Wherever possible do business in person*
- 3. Share knowledge about good and questionable dealers*
- 4. Know your watermarks and postmarks*
- 5. Look out for evidence of re-gumming on ‘Mint’ stamps*
- 6. Look out for perforation modifications*
- 7. Always look for quality, postal organisations have high standards. A poor quality stamp is likely to be a fake.*

*Example of New Zealand forged overprints.*





## Rhodesia Double Heads

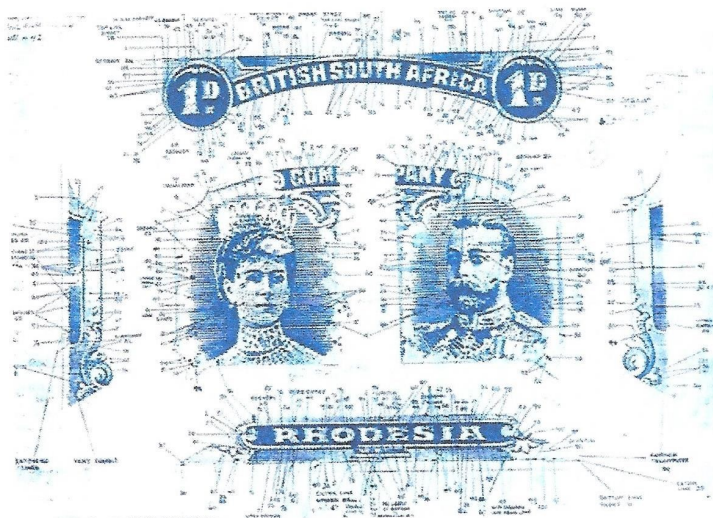
## Rob Cooke

The Rhodesia Double Heads are works of art and some of my favourite stamps. All the values have the same design, comprising side-by-side portraits of Queen Mary and George V, and were issued from 11 Nov 1911 to 1913. They were printed by Waterlow. in four groups with perfs. P14, P15, P14x15/P15x14 & P13<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>. The <sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d, 1d, 2d & 2<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d values are monochrome, while the values from 3d to £1 are printed in two colours and most exist in several shades, as indicated below for the 1d.



1d bright carmine (SG123), 1d carmine-lake (SG124) & 1d rose-red (SG125)

The numerous flaws for each Double Head, e.g. “hook”, “long gash” and “thick ear”, are the subject of many detailed studies. The complexity of the subject is illustrated in the diagram below just for the 1d stamp (Rhodesia Study Circle Journal, Vol.70 p270). Coincidentally, Dr Ian Hamilton was a biology teacher at my senior school.



*One of Ian Hamilton's Guides to the Penny Double Head*

I am very much an amateur in this area, concentrating on those stamps listed by Stanley Gibbons, some of which are shown below. I will have to wait for a significant lottery win to fill the numerous gaps in my collection.



2/6 black & rose carmine (SG157), 5/- scarlet & pale yellow-green (SG160) and  
10/- deep myrtle & orange (SG163)