



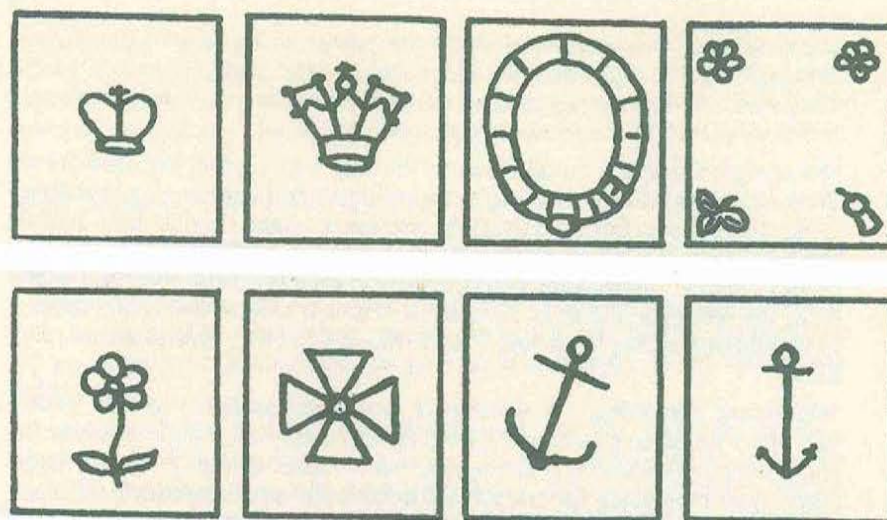
Above are three stamps with the issuing agency identified as “Ultramar.” What does the word “ultramar” mean and how were the Ultramar stamps meant to be used?

- A. The word means “high seas.” The Ultramar stamps were franchise stamps issued by Spain for use on mail sent by passengers on ships of Spanish registry.
- B. The word means “great sea.” The Ultramar stamps were issued by a Spanish land development company, Compañía Ultramar, Ltda., for use in communities they developed in the New World. Their venture failed and the stamps were never placed in use.
- C. The word means “beyond the sea.” Stamps issued with the Ultramar designation were for use in the Spanish colonies of Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- D. The word means “beneath the sea.” The Ultramar stamps were semi-postals issued by Spain to raise funds for the aid and benefit of widows and orphans of Spanish sailors who drowned while serving at sea. The stamps could be used on mail at any time but were required on mail posted on December 6th, the feast day of Saint Nicholas, the patron saint of children and sailors.

Here are some designs widely seen in philatelic catalogues and other philatelic literature.

Trivia Question

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What do these designs show?

- A. Issuing agency identifying symbols. They appear in the margins (selvage) of sheets of stamps.
- B. Watermark designs. They are a security measure and are usually seen as thins in the paper used to print stamps.
- C. Overprint designs used on some British Commonwealth stamps to indicate a change in the status of the issuing agency.
- D. Symbol essays for French Colonial common design issues.

Trivia Question

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Here is a World War II patriotic cover.



This cover was created by one of the most famous figures in American philately. His work on this cover included publishing the cacheted envelope, sending the envelope off to Guantanamo Bay for cancellation, and then offering the cover for sale. Name that famous philatelist.

- A. George Linn
- B. Harold G. Waldsworth
- C. Jacques Minkus
- D. George Scott

The folded and perforated card below is an example of a postal stationery piece conceived by a Hungarian named Akin Karoly. They were introduced in Belgium in 1882. They proved popular and were adopted by many nations but not the United States. It consists of a folded card, glue around the edges, and perforations around three sides of the card to allow the recipient to tear open the card and read the message on the inside.

What is the name of this type of postal stationery?

- A. Perforated cards or, more slangily, perf cards.
- B. Sealed cards.
- C. Lettercards or letter cards.
- D. Folded cards.

Trivia Question

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Above are stamps issued for use in Greenland. Which of the following statements about this stamp issuing agency is/are true?

- A. The post office in Greenland did not charge users for mail delivered to other residents of Greenland until 1958.
- B. Prior to 1938, the only stamps issued by Greenland postal authorities (the Royal Greenland Commerce Co.) were for parcel post.
- C. Stamps issued for use in Greenland starting on February 1, 1945 were engraved by the American Banknote Company.
- D. All of the above.



Above are stamps from Tristan da Cunha. Where are these islands located?

- A. In the south Atlantic Ocean west of South Africa.
- B. West of Chile and south of Easter Island
- C. South of Madagascar
- D. East of Sri Lanka



In 1973, the Isle of Man took control of its postal service from the British. As one of its first acts, the now locally controlled Isle of Man post office issued stamps that incorporated the shield of the island. The shield uses a symbol resembling three running legs joined at the hip. This is a larger version of the Isle of Man shield.



The three-legged symbol has a special name. That name is:

- A. Triskelion
- B. Trifecta
- C. Tritoma
- D. Triumvirate

This stamp was issued by Romania in 1959.



The person shown on this stamp is identified as Vlad Tepes. He is better known by another name. What is that name and why is he shown on this stamp?

- A. Vlad the Calligrapher. He founded the Bucharest Society of Calligraphers and Scribes in 1459.
- B. Vlad the Releaser. In 1459, he signed a Royal Decree (shown on the stamp) releasing political prisoners from the castles of Bucha and Krest. Not wishing to leave Vlad's realm, the former prisoners founded the city known today as Bucharest.
- C. Vlad the Impaler. He earned this unfortunate sobriquet by impaling his dinner guests on poles outside his castle. He is on this stamp because he also (in a more humane moment) founded the city of Bucharest.
- D. Vlad the Prisoner. In 1459, he was held prisoner by enemies in a castle on the Dimbovija River. During his imprisonment, he persuaded fellow prisoners to work with him to found a city, a city known today as Bucharest.

Here are four stamps. Look at them carefully.

Trivia Question

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What do these stamps have in common?

- A. They are all examples of engraved stamps.
- B. They are all valued in a currency no longer in use.
- C. They were all in use for less than six months.
- D. They were all used to pay a surcharge required for rural delivery.

Above is a used example of a Mulready letter sheet. The ornate design was used for not only the letter sheets but also for envelopes. The British public did not welcome William Mulready's stationery. They made fun of it. Stationers published parodies of it. Postal authorities soon realized they would have to come up with a more dignified design. Below is an example of their new design for envelopes. It's a design that stayed in use for over 60 years. By what name (or, nickname) are the replacements known?

- A. Vickies
- B. Brits
- C. Victorian postal envelopes
- D. Penny Pinks



In 1931, Italy issued a set of stamps commemorating the seventh centenary of the death of Saint Anthony of Padua. Below is one of the stamps from this set.

Trivia Question

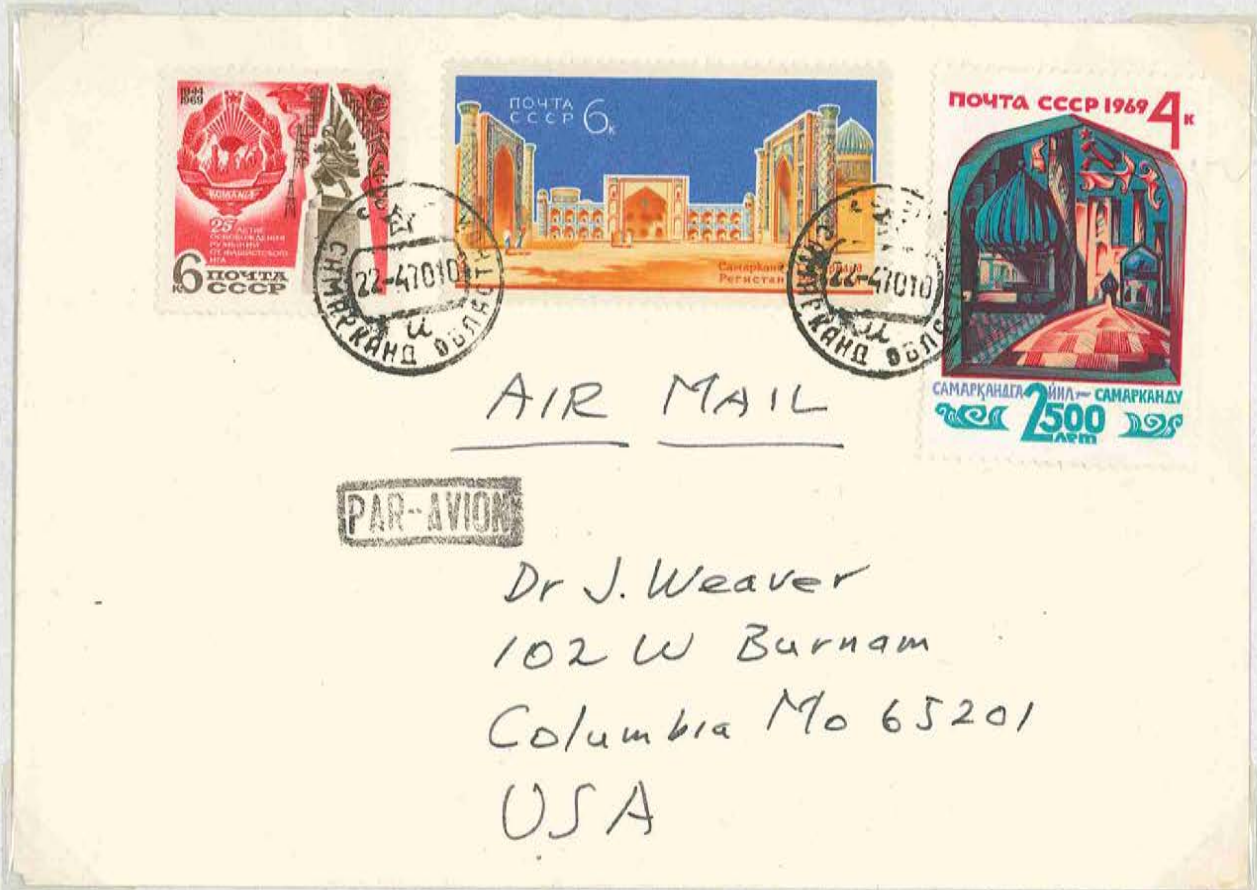
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On the stamp, the saint is shown standing next to a river and fish are seen sticking their heads out of the water. What is Saint Anthony doing?

- A. Preaching to the fish. Saint Anthony was in the habit of (fixated on? addicted to?) preaching to any audience he could find, even an audience consisting entirely of fish.
- B. Blessing the fish. The Saint did this each year during the annual festival in honor of the community's fishermen.
- C. Accepting the gratitude of the fish. An environmental activist centuries ahead of his time, Anthony had led a community effort to reduce the pollution in the river. In an incident—possibly apocryphal—included in the story of the Saint's life, the fish in the river rose up in gratitude for the improvement of the river ecology.
- D. Feeding the fish. Saint Anthony was noted for his kindness to animals of all kinds and he had a habit of sharing his bread with the fish during his daily walks along the river bank.

National borders can change. Cities are tied to the land. Below is a cover mailed in the legendary Silk Road city of Samargand (also Samarkand). At the time this cover was mailed, the city was in the Soviet Union. Today, the city is a part of one of the former republics.



What former Soviet republic can now claim Samargand?

- A. Ukraine
- B. Tajikistan
- C. Armenia
- D. Uzbekistan

Here is a stamp, originally designed for use in Germany. Note, however, that, in addition to the Danzig overprint, there is a network of lines behind the design of the stamp.



What is the philatelic term for the network of lines behind the stamp design?

- A. Burélage
- B. Netting
- C. Fencing
- D. Sieving

Here is a stamp with the issuing agency name given as Togo.



Which of the following statements about this stamp is true?

- A. This stamp is one of many created by a French philatelic forger to defraud stamp collectors.
- B. This is an example of a scarce philatelic error created when the printer accidentally omitted the identifying initials "RF."
- C. In a spectacular but little known French Resistance raid on the Vichy printing office in early 1943, millions of stamps prepared by the Nazi-controlled government for use in the colonies—including the one seen above—were stolen and secretly transported to a Portuguese warehouse where they remained for the rest of World War II. In 1946, the warehouse sold many of the stamps—including this one—on the philatelic market to recover their storage fees.
- D. This stamp was printed by the Nazi-controlled Vichy government for use in the French African colony of Togo but for a variety of political and practical reasons, it was never placed on sale in the colony. Copies of this and many other Vichy issues were eventually sold on the philatelic market.

Below are two copies of a Belgian semi-postal stamp. Note that the stamps are identical except for the extra tab on the bottom of the one on the left.



Why does the stamp on the left have the extra tab?

- A. The tab is called a dominical label. At the time Belgium provided Sunday delivery of mail. This was opposed by various religious groups. So Belgium let the users decide if they wanted Sunday delivery or not. The label instructed postal authorities to not deliver the letter on Sunday. If Sunday delivery was okay, the label was removed.
- B. The tab was a promotional effort by the Belgian post office. Known as a discount label, they appeared only on the first stamps in a sheet. Stamps with this label were sold at a discount of ten percent to users who purchased nine other stamps of the same design.
- C. The tab was a reminder for users to properly address their mail. There is no special name for the labels.
- D. Known as a lottery label, recipients who received mail with the extra label could enter the used envelope (or post card) into a drawing at their local post office. Drawings had cash prizes, often fairly large.

Charles Linbergh was an internationally known advocate of air transportation as well as the heroic pilot who flew from New York to Paris in 1927. This Spanish stamp (1930, C56) honors Linbergh for his flight across the Atlantic.



Oddly enough this stamp includes a cat watching the plane take off. Why?

- A. The designer of the stamp was a dedicated cat lover and included them in many of his designs, including this one.
- B. Linbergh had a cat named Patsy who often rode in the planes he flew (though not on the Spirit of St. Louis during his flight to Paris). Thus the inclusion of the watching cat in the frame.
- C. The Spanish postal official in charge of stamp design selection was a fan of cats but not a fan of Linbergh. The cat was included in the design to placate this official.
- D. The design was inspired by a New York Times photo of Linbergh's departure for Paris showing not only the plane but a stray cat that wandered into the picture ("photobombed" it).

On May 10, 1948, Great Britain issued a pair of stamps commemorating the third anniversary of the liberation of the Channel Islands from the German Army. These stamps are below.



Which of the following statements about these stamps is/are true?

- A. The stamps show the gathering of seaweed (vraicking) on the islands.
- B. The stamps were sold only at post offices on the Channel Islands.
- ☒ C. The stamps were postally valid throughout Great Britain.
- ☒ D. All of the above.

Here are four examples of semi-postals issued by Spain.



On December 23, 1928, Spain issued two sets (16 stamps each) of semi-postal stamps, one set in Santiago and one set in Toledo. They depict Pope Pius XI on the left and King Alfonso XIII of Spain on the right. The stamps replaced regular issues on all mail sent from December 23, 1928 through January 6, 1929, a strategy designed to raise the maximum amount possible for the designated cause. For what purpose was the surtax designated?

- A. To restore catacombs in Toledo and Santiago. The Pope had scheduled a visit to Spain in the summer of 1929 and would visit both cities and their catacombs. Unfortunately for both communities, rats had invaded the underground burial places and the nation desperately wanted to drive out the rats and restore the catacombs before the Pope's visit.
- B. To complete the restoration work on religious sites related to the defeat of the Moors. The effort was in preparation for the national celebration of the 500th anniversary of Spain's final victory over the Moors.
- C. To help restore the catacombs of St. Damasus and St. Praetextatus in Rome.
- D. To help restore Spanish religious sites in or near Santiago and Toledo. Over the centuries, the sacred sites had become worn and dirty due to the huge number of pilgrims and other visitors. A visit by the Pope was scheduled to celebrate the restorations.

Below is a stamp issued by Hungary on February 5, 1946. It was initially intended as the high value in a postwar definitive set. It was, however, issued only after a delay of several months.



Which of the following statements about this stamp is true?

- A. The government that issued the stamp was overthrown and the stamp was not recognized as valid by the new government.
- B. It was actually a reissue of a stamp first issued by the prewar Hungarian government.
- C. Due to the Hungarian hyperinflation after World War II, when the stamp was finally issued it was essentially worthless (the pengo had dropped to the equivalent of about 300-trillion to a U.S. cent).
- D. When the stamp was finally issued, it was discovered that the image on the stamp was a taken from British a copyrighted image and the copyright holder sued the Hungarian government for fraudulent use.

Below are two 19th century stamps from Mexico. Like many other Mexican stamps of the period, both of these stamps depict Father Miguel Hidalgo y Costilla, the man usually considered to be the father of Mexican independence.



Born in the Guanajuato state of Mexico in 1752, he became a priest in 1778 and was assigned to the village of Dolores in 1803. Unconventional in the performance of his priestly duties, he was a member of a secret society that favored independence from Spain. The authorities did not trust the Father—with justification. On September 16, 1810, he famously rang the Dolores church bells while shouting anti-government slogans. This event is now considered to be the beginning of the Mexican Revolution and the date is celebrated each year as Mexico's Independence Day. Hidalgo became the leader of an untrained ragtag revolutionary army of up to 80,000. Initially, this group had its successes. However, Spanish troops defeated the revolutionaries in January of 1811. Hidalgo fled northward evading capture until becoming caught in a narrow ravine, and betrayed by a traitor, was turned over to the Spanish authorities. On July 30, 1811 he was executed by firing squad. Like other popular leaders of a revolutionary bent, he became widely known by a nickname. What was that nickname?

- A. El Padre de Mestizos
- B. El Toro Astuto (The Sly Bull)
- C. El Zorro or Zorro (The Fox)
- D. Padre Pénjamo

Mystery

Stamp

Here are some facts about this mystery stamp.

It was sold by the issuing agency for only 10 months.

It was replaced by one of the same design printed in another color.

The ink change was required to prevent postal patrons from “washing” the stamps and reusing them.

The replacement stamps were the first to be printed with fugitive ink.

Name this famous stamp.

- A. ' The Penny Black
- B. The 13-cent Missionary
- C. The 1d Post Office Mauritius
- D. The Sydney view

The world's oldest parliament serves the people of Iceland. This parliament was founded in 930. The nation issued the stamp below to mark the millenary (1000th anniversary) of the institution.



What is the name of Iceland's parliament?

- A. The Vestmannaeyjar.
- B. The Drangajökull.
- C. The Althing.
- D. The Congree.

Below is a stamp from French Indochina. Which of the following statements about this stamp are accurate?



- A. It has the world's lowest postally valid face value.
- B. It is the only stamp from Indochina printed in two colors.
- C. It was issued but never sold at post offices.
- D. The woman depicted on the stamp never gave her permission to use her image and sued the issuing agency for their use of her picture. (She particularly objected to the idea that Indochinese of post offices would deface her image with postal cancels.)

Trivia Question

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Here are some stamps from several nations.



The American Bank Note Co. is one of the world's most famous printing firms. Which of the stamps shown above was printed by the American Bank Note Co.?

- A. The Martinique issue
- B. The Franz Josef Jubilee issue definitive
- C. The USA Win the War issue
- D. The Greenland issue

This cover mailed on the first U.S.S. Ortolan, a Lapwind-class minesweeper later converted to a submarine rescue ship. She helped with the salvage job in the aftermath of the Japanese attack on Hawaii. Earlier, she spent time in Pearl Harbor. It was during this earlier period that this cover was provided with a rubber stamped cachet and mailed from the ship. At the time, the Pearl Harbor name was followed by the initials "T. H." What do these initials stand for?



- A. In Training at Hickam
- B. Territory of Hawaii
- C. Transit Harbor
- D. Third Harbor

Mystery Stamp

The first **named** Native American to be depicted on a United States stamp was:

- A. Chief Red Cloud
- B. Pocahontas
- C. Sitting Bull
- D. Crazy Horse

Here is a stamp issued by Poland.



Who is the man shown on this stamp? And, why did Polish postal authorities place his picture on this stamp?

- A. The Polish artist Victor Yedvobnick. He was honored as the winner of the Paderewski Medal for his bravery in continuing work on his stunning frescoes on the ceiling of the Paulis Co-Cathedral in Oberammergau even as Allied and Nazi troops fought a fierce tank battle in the nave below his scaffolding.
- B. The Polish-born Gypsy violinist Casimir Ravdevski for winning the Chopin prize in Warsaw in 1921.
- C. The world-famous pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski. A patriot as well as a composer and pianist, he served for a time, starting in 1919, as Prime Minister of the newly independent nation of Poland.
- D. Ignacy Adalbert Paderewski, son of the famous pianist Ignacy Jan Paderewski. He was honored for his role in founding the International Federation of Hair Stylists. That was part of his futile attempt to end his father's very long string of really BAD hair days.

Here are examples of stamps from Oubangui-Chari.



Today, this former French colony is known by another name. That name is:

- A. Zimbabwe
- B. Niger
- C. Central African Republic
- D. Chad

Below is a stamp from Newfoundland. The stamp says it depicts a young Princess Elizabeth (now Queen Elizabeth II).



Queen Elizabeth has been depicted on more stamps than any other person (including Christopher Columbus). What is unique about this stamp?

- A. It was Elizabeth's debut on stamps.
- B. It was the first Canadian stamp to depict a member of the royal household.
- C. The Canadian post office goofed—BIG time—and even though the stamp identifies the image as showing Princess Elizabeth the picture is actually of Princess Margaret.
- D. It was her last appearance on a Canadian stamp until after her coronation as Queen.

The following stamps are all showing aspects of one activity.



What activity are the depicted individuals engaged in?

- A. Transportation of goods.
- B. Travel before railroads or cars.
- C. Pre-19th Century races to win delivery contracts.
- D. Delivery of mail.

Stamp issuing agencies have used many types of machines and tools to perforate stamps. Some can quickly and easily provide the needed lines of openings over the multitudes of sheets printed by a major press operation. In other cases, especially in times of turmoil or when a powered perforating machine breaks down or a provisional issued may be required, more labor intensive methods may be used or perforations omitted altogether.

Here is a list of stamp issuing agencies.

Estonia Columbia Syria Bussahir

When it comes to perforating stamps, what do all these agencies have in common?

- A. At one time or another, sewing machines were used—officially or privately—to perforate issued stamps.
- B. Workers carefully used ivory combs with the teeth sharpened to points. Rubber mallets were used to pound in the combs to create the perforations.
- C. They employed workers using straight edges and rouletting rollers with sharp points to pierce the stamp sheets. This was like using specialized pizza cutters.
- D. Hand operated printing presses were adapted to use plates with sharp points instead of design plates. The printers used the special plates after carefully positioning the sheets of stamps.

Below are three German colonial stamps for use in Kiautschou. The stamps include an illustration of a ship.



What is the identity of the ship shown on these stamps?

- A. It's not a particular ship, just a ship drawing that the printer of the stamps had in his inventory of images.
- B. A famous German sailing ship that made highly publicized 19th Century trips between Bremen and New York City.
- C. A late 19th century German naval vessel that commonly visited colonial areas of the German empire.
- D. Kaiser Wilhelm's yacht.

The world's first post card was issued on October 1, 1869. Technically, it was a postal card since the franking was printed on the piece. Below is an example.



Which of the following statements about the first post[al] card is/are true?

- A. The post card was the brain child of Emmanuel Herrmann, an economist with the Military Institute of Vienna.
- B. The card was issued by Austria not only in Austria itself but also in Hungary and other areas Austria controlled at that time. Thus, there are versions of the first post card in several different languages, some of them little known to the rest of the world.
- C. Austria issued the cards reluctantly. Postal officials were so worried that users would complain about a lack of privacy that the first cards included on the message side a warning that the post office was not responsible for the contents of the message.
- D. All of the above.

The Comoros Islands is an independent nation that issues its own stamps. With a land area of only 719 square miles and a population of only just over half a million. Where is this nation?



- A. West of Angola.
- B. In the Indian Ocean northwest of Madagascar.
- C. South of Chad.
- D. In the Mediterranean east of Tunisia.

Following are some very messy-looking Venezuelan stamps.



Why were these stamps issued when they look so horrible?

- A. There was a problem at the printing plant and, because the issuing postal service was short on money, the printer offered the stamps at a bargain price. The Venezuelan postal service felt it could not afford to turn down this offer and the stamps were issued as printed.
- B. For security reasons (to prevent forgeries), the stamps were printed on Winchester paper, a paper with a background of heavy semi-circular burélage. Many Venezuelan stamps issued between 1932 and 1938 were printed on such paper.
- C. The stamp designer had a vision problem and he thought his design looked pretty good. Since the visually impaired designer was a nephew of the head of the post office, the issuing agency went ahead and used the stamps even though many postal clerks had trouble determining the value of the individual stamps.
- D. None of the above.

Here is a scan of a copy of a slogan postmark.



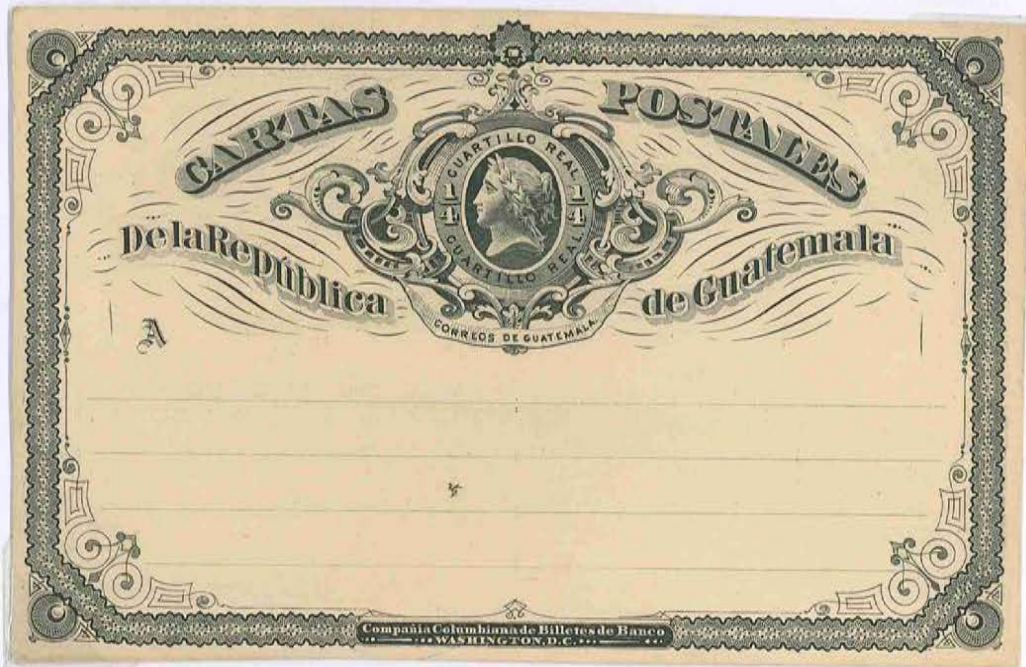
Trivia Question

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Which of the following statements about this postmark is true?

- A. It was applied to ship mail arriving in Dover, England.
- B. It was used only on mail sent from the London household of the Duke of Kent.
- C. It is the earliest known slogan postmark (London, 1661).
- D. It was an 18th century London postmark used only on mail addressed to the Kentish towns of Dover, Canterbury, Maidstone, Tunbridge Wells, Shrewsbury, and Swale.

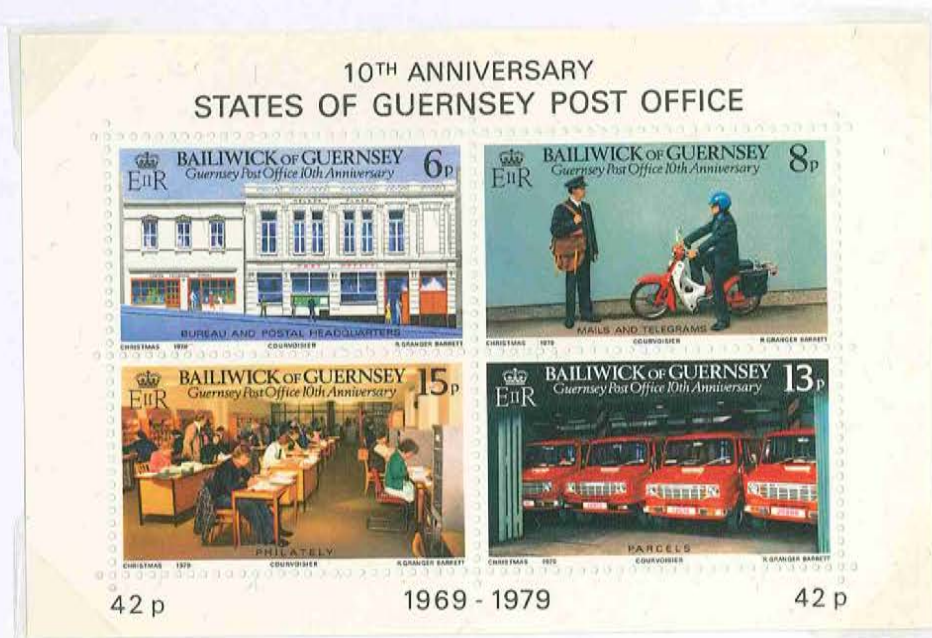
This is a franked postcard issued by Guatemala. If you look carefully at the card, you see that on the bottom of the front of the card there is the inclusion of the city name of Washington, D. C.



Why is the name of Washington, D. C. included on the card?

- A. This is a card prepared for a special event and Washington is there because that's the location of the event for which it was printed.
- B. This card was a gift from the United States government to the postal service of Guatemala.
- C. It was there because Guatemala wanted to honor the United States on these cards that were printed for an international postal convention.
- ☒ D. E. That is where it was printed.

The sheetlet below contains four stamps marking the 10th anniversary of Guernsey's post office.



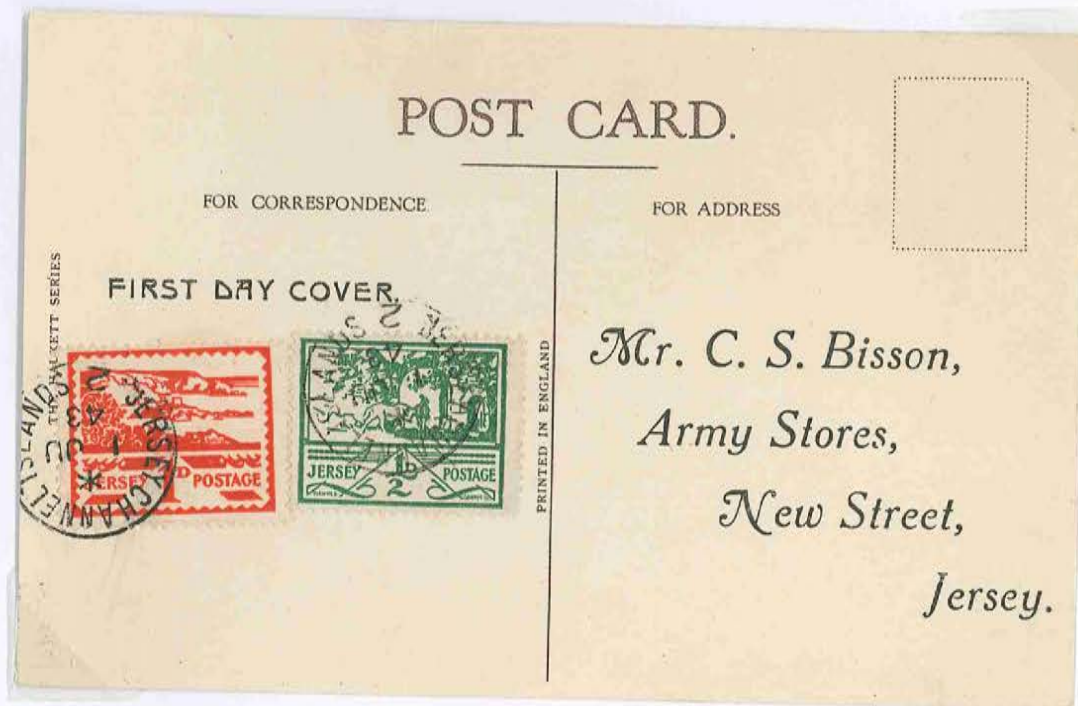
On the stamps, Guernsey is identified as a “bailiwick.” What is a bailiwick?

- A. Another term for a county.
- B. A special domain of a political ruler.
- C. A land area that is normally considered to be the same as “greater” when used to describe a population center.
- D. An outdated British term for an island.

BONUS
Trivia Question

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Until 1941, the island of Jersey used regular British postage stamps.



Starting in April of 1941, this island area of Great Britain began to use stamps identified as being from Jersey. Why?

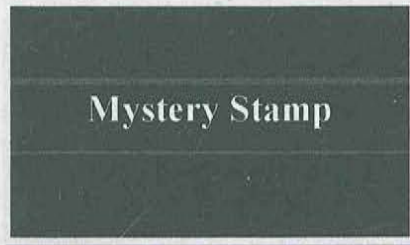
- A. The local political leaders no longer wanted to use British stamps.
- B. This was part of an effort by the Royal Mail to honor local areas.
- C. The island was occupied by German troops.
- D. Britain wanted a way to honor Jersey artist Edmund Blampied.

Trivia Question

26

BONUS

Following is a mystery stamp.



This is the first stamp issued by any nation to depict an airplane.

- A. The 1924 10p issue from Liechtenstein.
- B. A 1921 commemorative issue from Italy promoting air travel.
- C. The first air mail issue of France which showed an airplane in the overprint.
- D. The 20-cent parcel post issue of the United States.