APOLOGIES

My apologies for all the correspondence, in trying to get the August Newsletter out to you all. I find computers very temperamental! – and my knowledge using them, is very limited.
For those of you that received it in the form of an e-mail – I was very disappointed with the outcome, as I noticed it all printed out underlined. – I can assure you that I did not intentionally type it out this way. – Computers have a mind of their own!

THE MYSTERY CONTINUES.

Still had no response to the question of whether Austrian stamp designer Michael Rosenfeld, should be included in a Judaica stamp collection.
Meanwhile he has designed another Austrian stamp.
This time it is the stamp commemorating Austrian’s Post listing on the Vienna stock exchange.
This stamp was issued on 8th. June 2006.

U.S.A. BASEBALL STAR

Legendary baseball player Hank Greenberg, has appeared on a set of 4 Baseball stamps that were issued on the 15th. July 2006 by the United States Of America.
Henry Benjamin Greenberg, known as “Hammerin Hank” was born on 1st. January 1911, in New York City.
Publicity information about the issue, mentions that Hank Greenberg was born into an “Orthodox Jewish family” – But I cannot understand why this has to be stated in that way, in the publicity blurb to the issue.
Because of his religion, he was the subject of constant vicious anti-semitic taunting during his career.
He became the first Jewish player, in 1956 to be elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.
NEW MEMBERS

This month, we welcome our first non-stamp collector member. Although he does not collect stamps (yet!!) – He does have a strong interest in judaica collecting in general. – and is amazed at the amount of judaica that appears on stamps.

013C
MICHAEL GREEN.
LIVERPOOL.

*****************************************************************************

SHORTAGE OF STAMPS FROM IRAN AND IRAQ….AND JORDAN TOO)!!

A number of stamps from Iran and Iraq appear in my Judaica collection. Although their catalogue description of some of their issue may be vague -

Once you see the illustrations of the stamps, you then realise, that they belong in a Judaica collection.

Illustrations of the Star of David with red blood dripping from the star. – Or a map of Israel, with a knife or dagger ripped through the map. These illustrations make you realise, that despite whatever title they may give to these stamp issues, that they are certainly “anti-Israel”.

There are a number of these issues that I am constantly on the look out for my collection.

The other week, I was in a stamp dealers in Glasgow, who usually has a fair stock from these countries – and he had no stock at all from Iran and Iraq. He said that a gentleman had been in a week earlier and bought all his complete stock from these countries. The same applied to Saudi Arabia too.

Another U.K. dealer that specialises in Middle-East stamps, that sells via the internet. Apologises for having very little Iran stock, due to a recent high demand, whilst his Iraq stock is low, and certain Saudi Arabia issues have drastically increased in price.

On August Bank Holiday Monday, I went to a stamp fair in Southport – There was very little Middle Eastern stamps. (Actually, there was very little of anything, as the stall holders present, had very poor stocks in general of anything.) One dealer had a little anti-Israel of Jordan, but his prices were expensive. When I asked him to check his price on a specific set. – He said that there is very little of Jordan around at present!.

Surely that this is not a reason, to inflate your selling prices, (above catalogue). This is pure greed.

No wonder, there were no youngsters at the fair – If this is the dealers way of thinking
and their attitude, then we are not going to encourage youngsters to the hobby.

Stamp publications in the U.K. have not yet mentioned in print anything about the recent demand in stamps from these countries. After all, this is current news – and the stamp publications are usually 6 to 8 weeks behind.

Unfortunately, Israel stamps are not in short supply, and are plentiful. I say “unfortunately” as I have stocks of Tabbed sets, Plate blocks of 4, and general blocks of 4 of Israel, that I would love to sell on, - but nobody is interested....Any offers?!

JUDAICA STAMPS IN RECENT AUCTIONS
(The following was supplied by a Judaica Thematic Society member that wishes to remain anonymous. – This person will be referred to as “The Buyer”.)

American auctioneers Harmer-Schau, in their June 2006 auction in California, U.S.A. had a very interesting and unusual Judaica related item. The 1986 American issue of a $1 stamp depicted Rabbi Bernard Revel (Scott Number 2193) – He was the Dean of the Yeshiva University in the U.S.A. In the auction was a full unfolded sheet of these stamps with colour missing errors, and ink starvation. Basically, the stamp appears in the top-left hand corner of the sheet, but as you go along row by row, the stamp appears to fade and disappear. (thus ink starvation), - and at the same time there is also a missing colour; no trace of dark Prussian green. Therefore, 59 of the 100 stamps in the pane are colour-missing errors. The other 41 stamps are inking freaks caused by progressive ink starvation during printing. In the 20 years since the post-office issued this stamp, no other error of this kind on this issue has ever come to light, making this error sheet unique, and a stunning show piece. The estimate in the auction was $6,000 – $8,000.

The buyer thought that this was a very good price, after all a perfect mint sheet of the normal stamp would be in the region of £350. – So a sheet like this with an error, and the only one in existence, was a very good buy. The buyer was thrilled to be told that they had won the auction with a bid of $7,500. They quickly wired over the payment, and waited for the sheet of stamps to arrive. However, when it arrived, the buyer was very disappointed. It had arrived by Registered mail, mounted to a flimsy thin stock sheet. (Not even the thickness of a “Hagner” stock sheet), and folded around it was a very thin flimsy A4
card folder, plus one small piece of thin card, similar to what you find in a Man’s shirt packet!

This resulted in the sheet having a damaged creased corner, as it had moved in the envelope, and also, there was a mark/impression on the outer envelope, which as a result of the thin flimsy packaging, this mark/impression, had gone through to one of the stamps on the sheet.

Straight away, the buyer, quickly got into contact with Harmer-Schau. They apologised for what had happened, and explained, that they use an outside firm, to pack their goods. Without hesitation, the auction house, refunded all the money, and postage costs, once the goods had been returned to them. Unfortunately, the buyer was disappointed as he would have liked to have received perfect goods.

This item now remains a mystery. Will it be repaired, and the crease mark and indent be taken out – or will it appear in another auction, with the crease marks. – And at what price?.

We will have to wait and see.

In another auction recently, at Harmers, in London on 26th. July 2006 – appeared another Judaica item.
This time, it was the 1987 40c Bible Society stamp from South Africa. (S.G. 628) – depicting “The Word of G-d” in Hebrew.

It should be explained, that the Hebrew word of G-d is a very holy word, and when written should not be destroyed, on the paper it is written on. Because of this, many religious leaders, and communities objected when they heard that this issue was to be released.

Because of all the protests, and objections, it was decided not to issue this stamp for sale, even though it had already been prepared for use. However, by mistake, a few of these stamps were released.

A few copies of mint and used stamps very rarely appear in auction.

Harmers in this auction had one, - in fine used condition - which although catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at £550, had an estimate of £180. The buyer won this item with a bid of £280. – And is pleased it arrived in perfect condition.

In general, it is quite rare to see modern Judaica mint stamps appear in Stamp Auctions, certainly here in the U.K., and even in the U.S.A. it is not that common. Yet two items in two months, is certainly something of a rare thing.
If any other members, has any information, articles etc, then I would be most grateful – and delighted to include it, in a forthcoming newsletter.

If you know of anyone that that may be interested in joining The Judaica Thematic Society – Please pass on my details on to them.

ADVERTS:-

WANTED:-
JUDAICA THEMED STAMPS FROM ALL COUNTRIES REQUIRED IN QUANTITY –
OR INFORMATION AS TO WHERE I CAN OBTAIN THEM FROM.
FURTHER DETAILS – GARY – 07957-160339 / 0151-722-4920

Don’t forget your adverts, for sale, wanted etc. They are free – and there are no restrictions to the number of adverts or to the length of words.