

The Kelly Collection

Issue Date: 8th May 2012



Many people are discovering the fascination of collecting little bits of yesteryear and the Isle of Man Post Office is pleased to present this eye-catching set of stamps.

In the Isle of Man the range of collectables is enormous: from postage stamps, coins, books and postcards to china, prints, maps, jewellery - even scent and liquor bottles, old pipes, amusingly decorated handkerchiefs and brass buttons. Many date back to the late Victorian and Edwardian tourist boom when quality tourist souvenirs and “fairings” - prizes at fun fair competitions, even Tynwald Fair - were produced in large numbers. Manx “fairings” include a model of Laxey Wheel which lifts to reveal a pin tray underneath.

In 40 years of collecting, Manx couple, Robert and Linda Kelly, have amassed a wide range of Manx memorabilia. We asked them to share with us some of their favourites:

The Manx Cottage IOM 38p Value

This stamp depicts a Goss china Manx cottage. When a night light is inserted through a hole in the back and is lit, the cottage glows.

The Manx Racing Car UK 41p Value

This stamp shows a Crown Devon model of an early Manx racing car of no specific manufacture. The three legs emblem acts as its starting handle. The model commemorates the “Manx International Motorcar Race” - probably the 1914 Car TT which attracted entries from Britain, Germany, Belgium and France.

The Postman at Maughold 58p Value

This stamp depicts a Royal Doulton spittoon decorated with Manx scenes including the Maughold Cross and delivery of mail at Maughold by a rural postman. Plates and other items are decorated with similar views. Twenty years ago Royal Doulton had no record of having produced the range. Some years after being approached by Mr and Mrs Kelly, however, an archivist found a set of transfers.

The Manx Dog - Prince Toby Orry 68p Value

This stamp portrays a model by Willow Art China, Staffordshire, of the famous three-legged Manx dog, Prince Toby Orry. Born in Douglas on 25th July 1907, he was promoted for many years among gullible tourists as the last of a breed of three- legged dogs which inspired the Island’s three legs emblem.

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Ginger - The Manx Cat £1.10 Value

This stamp depicts a commemorative plate, produced in 1962 by Kettlesprings Kilns Alliance, Ohio, USA; designed by Mrs Alexander Elsin (nee Dorothy Mylrea) for sale as a fund-raiser for the 1963 North American Manx Association Convention in Chicago. It features the International champion Manx cat "Ginger-Manx of Glen Orry" (a Chicago cattery) playing Ellan Vannin on a piano. Ginger founded a line of champion Manx cats.

Archibald Knox Jewel £1.82 Value

This stamp features an enamelled silver Founder's Jewel designed by Archibald Knox for the Conister Lodge of Freemasons. The illustration is of the Tower of Refuge on Conister Rock in Douglas Bay. Mr Kelly acquired the jewel in 1979, the year his biography of Sir William Hillary, founder of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and instigator of the construction, was published. Believing it to be a women's item, he gave it to his wife as a memento of the book's publication. Only later did he discover the jewel's Masonic origins.

About The Kellys...

For Douglas teenagers Robert and Linda Kelly the collecting of Manx memorabilia began in the 1950s when they acquired a giant Victorian calendar with a view of Douglas Bay. This re-awakened childhood awareness of how transitory were some of life's commonest things - like the once collected waxed-cardboard milk bottle tops of Robert's youth which were used in children's street games then were discarded and lost - so the couple began collecting anything Manx which aroused their curiosity.

It was sometimes a rescue mission: saving bits of yesteryear which were being thrown out as supposed rubbish. No one knew what there was to collect as no one knew what had been produced - not even in respect of some of the finest china. Collecting it, therefore, was like an exciting voyage of discovery: never knowing what was to be encountered next... like the day Robert and Linda went to a church bazaar whilst on a motoring holiday on England's south coast and found a rare piece of Manx china confronting them on a bri-a-brac stall.

What is being produced now that will be collectable in future - other than the obvious postage stamps, coins and decorative phone cards? Mr and Mrs Kelly suggest Manx Christmas cards - designed, printed and published locally, many for the benefit of local charities.

● *The Isle of Man Post Office would like to thank Robert and Linda Kelly for their very kind assistance during the preparation of this stamp issue. This fascinating set also serves as an affectionate tribute to Linda Kelly who passed away last year – we respectfully dedicate it to her with our gratitude.*

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TECHNICAL DETAILS

| | |
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| Design | The Agency Ltd |
| Text | Robert Kelly |
| Printer | BDT |
| Photography | John Hall |
| Process | Offset Lithography |
| Colours | 4 |
| Paper | 110 gms |
| Perforations | 14 per 2cm |
| Set Format | 6 stamps |
| Stamp Size | 29.79 x 40.64mm |
| Sheet Size | 25 |
| Date of Issue | 8 th May 2012 |

PRODUCTS AVAILABLE

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| Mint or CTO (Postmarked) Set | £4.97 |
| Presentation Pack | £5.72 |
| Sheet Set | £124.25 |
| First Day Cover | £5.67 |

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