

Buried Treasure

by Pinkney Gage

Bit of Old World History Is Connected With Stamps

Mr. Wyndham's office consists of two small rooms, but the business he does importing spices and exporting various other commodities gives him a substantial income.

"Our oldest account in the Far East is with a firm in Goa. As a matter of fact, I have the first order they sent my father, one he got way back in 1876," Wyndham said.

From a small drawer in the back of his roll-top desk he removed an old envelope. Inside it was another containing a letter written in flowing script with a black ink that had been dusted with sand. It advised of a shipment of spices, some tea that had been recently received from Zanzibar, and a couple of other items. In return, it asked that a sizable consignment of lamps be sent as soon as possible.

A COIN'S VALUE ISN'T THE ONE SET BY MINT

If you have one of the various commemorative half dollars our government has issued, take good care of it because its value is increasing very fast. In fact, if the present rate of increase continues, the commemorative coin market will take on many of the aspects of Wall Street in 1928, and with a big advantage—the number of coins of this class being fixed while the amount of stock in the boom period was not.

An illustration of the swift rise in value is that of the Hawaiian Sesquicentennial half dollar issued in 1928. This coin, with a bust of Captain Cook, discoverer of Hawaii, on one side, and a Hawaiian chief in full regalia on the other, had a catalogue value of only \$10 to \$30 three years ago.

Today, however, it is listed at \$65 as a result of the prices it has brought at auctions and sales over the counter.

Of course, there are some commemorative coins that have not risen comparably, but since it is virtually a sure thing that all commemorative coins issued will experience something of the upswing, it is smart to buy any of the underpriced ones now, or at least to keep those that you have.

An example of one of the most dramatically underpriced halves is the Oregon Trail Memorial issue. On the reverse it shows a covered wagon moving into the sun with the words OREGON TRAIL MEMORIAL and the date below. There are several dates for this issue, but the most underpriced is that of 1939.

The reason is that only 3,004 of these were minted at Denver, a like amount at Philadelphia and 3,005 at San Francisco. They were sold in sets of three, one from each mint.

The value for a set of three of this date is today catalogued at \$37.50.

If one contrasts this with the 1928 Hawaiian commemorative, mentioned above, and of which 10,008 were struck off, it is obvious that any one of the three Oregon 1939 items is very much scarcer and hence certain to have much more value.

Nonetheless, it was a fortunate move. When I looked it up in the auction records at home, I was happy to learn that second edition copies of the novel, which tells of the hunting adventures of a sporting cockney grocer, often sell for considerably more than some copies of the first edition.

The reason why was not too difficult to find. Because this work had such an immediate popularity, most copies of the first edition are found in poor condition. As a result, the price they generally command is from \$5 to \$15.

The second edition, however, has brought up to \$160—in that case largely because of the splendid binding—and even the first American edition, published at Philadelphia in 1838, has brought \$50 in recent years.

After reading the book I decided to sell my copy since I knew I would never reread it. There was no difficulty in getting \$35 for it.

"This is a second or third edition and simply won't do," said a young man as he put down an old book with a soiled green cover.

While the clerk apologized and said that he would be glad to run an advertisement for the first edition, I looked at the title of the rejected volume.

It was JORROCK'S JAUNTS AND JOLLITIES, written by the famous British sports novelist Robert Smith Surtees and first published anonymously at London in 1838.

The date of the volume in my hand was 1843. The price, penciled on the fly leaf, was \$8.50. Acting on a sudden impulse, I added the book to the three others I had already selected. As a general rule I am about as likely to intentionally buy a second edition of an old book, which I do not particularly care to read, as I would be to whack my thumb with a hammer.

Land Buyer May Rely on Tax Roll

Salem—(U.P.)—A purchaser of land may rely upon the entries on the tax roll at the time of buying property and under Oregon law cannot be compelled to pay additional taxes which had been accidentally omitted from the tax roll, Attorney General Robert Y. Thornton has ruled.

The opinion involved property in Garthwick addition in Clackamas county adjacent to Portland.

Through oversight, certain property in Garthwick addition was not included on the tax roll for bonded indebtedness and interest due in the Milwaukie grade school district and in the Milwaukie high school district. Several persons sold their properties to innocent purchasers before the error was discovered.

Thornton ruled that if entries had been made on the tax rolls charging the new purchasers with the added taxes, under Oregon law such entries should be removed from the rolls as to properties of new purchasers who acquired their property in good faith and without notice of the additional taxes.

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Irish Industrialists To Seek Capital and Know-How

Dublin—(U.P.)—Irish industrial delegations will fan out into western Europe and the United States within the next few months to seek foreign capital and technical know-how as part of a big drive to cut imports and slow down emigration.

William Norton, minister of industry and commerce, told this correspondent in an interview that teams from the government-sponsored Industrial Development Authority would travel to Holland, Belgium, West Germany and the United States. A delegation has already been to Sweden.

"Because we do not have the requisite know-how in many technical skills here we import far too much in many categories," he said. "My answer to this problem is to invite foreign firms to set up branches over here to manufacture for the domestic market goods which are now imported."

"The establishment of such branches would serve a two-fold purpose. Apart from supplying the home market it would keep young Irishmen kept employed in Ireland rather than to see them driven to immigration by the nation's inability to provide employment for them at home."

To Ease Restrictions
"What's left over after the domestic market has been supplied would be available for export and in this field we can offer any manufacturers interested very favorable inducements."

The minister said restrictions on the amount of shares which a foreign firm can hold over here will be eased. At present 51 per cent of all shares must be held here.

"We are willing to give these firms special licenses to keep much of the control in their hands," he said. "In many cases we have already relaxed our restrictions. These firms would have considerable ownership."

"Irish factories can export more favorably than in most other countries. Land for building is cheap here—very cheap if they would build their factories in the more neglected areas on the west coast from Donegal to Limerick where I would like to see much more industrial development and employment. Transport and shipping is cheaper than in most countries and we have many excellent ports within easy distance of all parts of Ireland."

Figures released this month of imports for January-June, 1955, showed that Ireland spent nearly 11,000,000 pounds sterling on machinery and electrical goods—by far the highest import figure.

New Whiskey Blend
"We want to see the establishment of industries manufacturing washing machines, refrigerators, household and farm machines, sanitary ware, lead and copper piping, plumbing requisites of many kinds and mineral development," Norton said.

He added that the United States is a primary problem. The republic, in the six months ended June 30, brought in \$2,779,000 worth (\$23,181,200) worth of U. S. goods but exported to the same market only 1,333,000 pounds (\$3,732,000) worth.

Norton suggested an easy remedy to bridge the balance—every American with Irish background to buy one pound's (\$2.80) worth of Irish goods every St. Patrick's day. This, he claimed, would theoretically help the Irish exchequer to the tune of about \$55,000,000 a year.

Failing that, he said, exports must be increased and the whiskey industry was setting a good example. A new company had been set up to market a special blended brew and the first order alone was equal to the total exports for a year of the traditional "pot still" Irish brew.

"But we want more, more and still more foreign firms to come here, Norton said. "They only have to write or get in touch with our local embassies, consulates or representatives and the wheel will start rolling."

Norton said there was an "abundance of money" here for any worthwhile local industries and their interests would be fully safeguarded.

"I do not intend to permit outside industrialists to establish industries here that would be in cut-throat competition with existing industrialists who are supplying the home market efficiently and satisfactorily," he concluded.

There are more than 40,000 Christians in Israel, served by about 1,000 religious functionaries. Christians in the little country have more than 160 places of worship, plus about 50 religious schools.

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Aircraft Design Gives U.S. Lead

Reading, Pa.—(U.P.)—Charles Cordery, veteran aviation writer of the United Press Washington staff, reports the United States took a three-year lead in aircraft design with the development of the "Marilyn Monroe" shape for supersonic airplanes.

Cordery told a National Newspaper week dinner that the indented fuselage design gives the plane a 25 per cent boost in speed without the need of a corresponding increase in power.

"It will hasten the day of the supersonic bomber and could bring the supersonic passenger plane within 15 to 25 years whereas it was considered not long ago a wild-eyed dream," the U.P.'s chief Defense department correspondent said.

Cordery also discussed the new AGE system designed to tie together the nation's northern air defense installations. It "should boost the air defense system's chances of destroying attacking bomber fleets to as much as 90 per cent when completed in three to five years," he said. "That compares with a one-time hope of 30 per cent."

He also quoted competent authorities as rating the United States "quite a bit ahead" in the progress on long-range ballistic

Oregon Warned To Expect Spotted Alfalfa Aphid

Sacramento—(U.P.)—The State Bureau of Entomology reports it considered the entire state infested by the spotted alfalfa aphid and warns Oregon to expect the destructive pest there.

The bureau made the announcement with the finding of the pest in Sacramento county. The finding filled in the last gap in the central valleys, with known infestations stretching from the Tehachapis to Red Bluff.

First Found in 1954
The pest, first found in California in 1954 has infested fields in all southern California counties and has been found up the coast as far as Santa Clara county, the bureau said.

Target of the insect is the state's alfalfa crop, valued at \$121,000,000 last year. The insect can kill young stands and excretes a honey-like substance on older alfalfa which attracts a black fungus and also makes harvest difficult.

H. M. Armitage, chief of the bureau, said the only answer to the problem is biological control. He said natural enemies of the pest were being sought throughout the world. Some likely ones have been found and are now being experimentally released, he said.

Bulbs which already are established in beds can be fertilized by adding two pounds of ammonium sulphate or five pounds of a complete fertilizer to each 100 square feet of area. The winter rains will carry this down so the bulbs can use it in growing next year.

The narcissus bulb fly in the principal pest causing damage in narcissus but now can be controlled for one year by the use of Aldrin at planting time. Soak the bulbs for 20 minutes in a solution made up of one tablespoon of 20 per cent Aldrin emulsion in a gallon of water.

Where the bulbs are already planted and where the bulb fly is a pest, it can be controlled by soaking the soil with this same solution. This would require three to five gallons of solution to each 100 square feet. However, this should not be applied until the last week in May and a second application should be made 10 days later.

The first known zoo in history was collected by the Chinese king Wen in the early part of the 12th century. B. C., with animals captured from all parts of ancient China.

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