

GAMBIA - RARE AND FAMOUS POSTAGE STAMPS

NO. 1 The British Guiana 1c magenta is regarded by many as the world's most famous stamp. It was issued in limited numbers in British Guiana (now Guyana) in 1856, and only one specimen is now known to exist. John E. du Pont bought it for \$935,000 in 1980. Today it is believed to be locked away in a bank vault, while its owner serves a 30-year sentence for murder.

NO. 2 The Penny Black, the world's first adhesive postage stamp of a public postal system, was issued by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland on 1 May 1840, for use from 6th May of that year. The idea of an adhesive stamp to indicate *prepayment* of postage was part of Rowland Hill's 1837 proposal to reform the British postal system; it was normal before then for the recipient to pay postage *on delivery*.



NO. 3 The Benjamin Franklin Z Grill, or simply Z Grill, is a 1-cent postage stamp issued by the U. S. Postal Service in 1868 depicting Benjamin Franklin. While stamps of this design were the common 1-cent stamps of the 1860s, the Z Grill is distinguished by having the so-called "Z" variety of a grill pressed into the stamp. The 1-cent Z Grill is generally considered the rarest and most valuable of all US postage stamps. In Oct. 2005, stamp dealer Sundman traded this Z Grill to financier Bill Gross for a block of four Inverted Jenny stamps worth nearly \$3 million.

NO. 4 The Inverted Jenny is a U. S. postage stamp first issued on May 10, 1918 in which the image of the Curtiss JN-4 airplane in the center of the design was accidentally printed upside-down; it is probably the most famous error in American philately. Only one pane of 100 of the invert stamps was ever found, making this error one of the most prized in all philately; an inverted Jenny was sold at a Robert A. Siegel auction in Nov. 2007 for US \$977,500.

NO. 5 The first stamp issue of the U.S. was offered for sale on July 1, 1847, in New York City. It consisted of an engraved 5-cent red brown stamp depicting Benjamin Franklin (the first postmaster of the U.S.A.). As for all U.S. stamps until 1857, they were imperforate.