

Nostalgia – from an old stamp album

By Michael Dodd

Do you remember your first stamp album? I will be honest and say I do not, but having this album (Fig 1) beside me sort of brings back memories. Not that my first album would be dated as old as this one. I suspect this is from the 1930s or around then. It was given to me by a friend on the condition I shared the profits on anything I sold from the album. So far I think he has about 10 pence owing to him.



Fig 1 - Front Cover

Edwin Healey & Co was a stamp dealer who started his business in around 1892, the current web site says 1885 but I have also read 1892.

At the front of the Album is an a Introduction page (Fig 2) I do like the “Cheap Edition” notation.

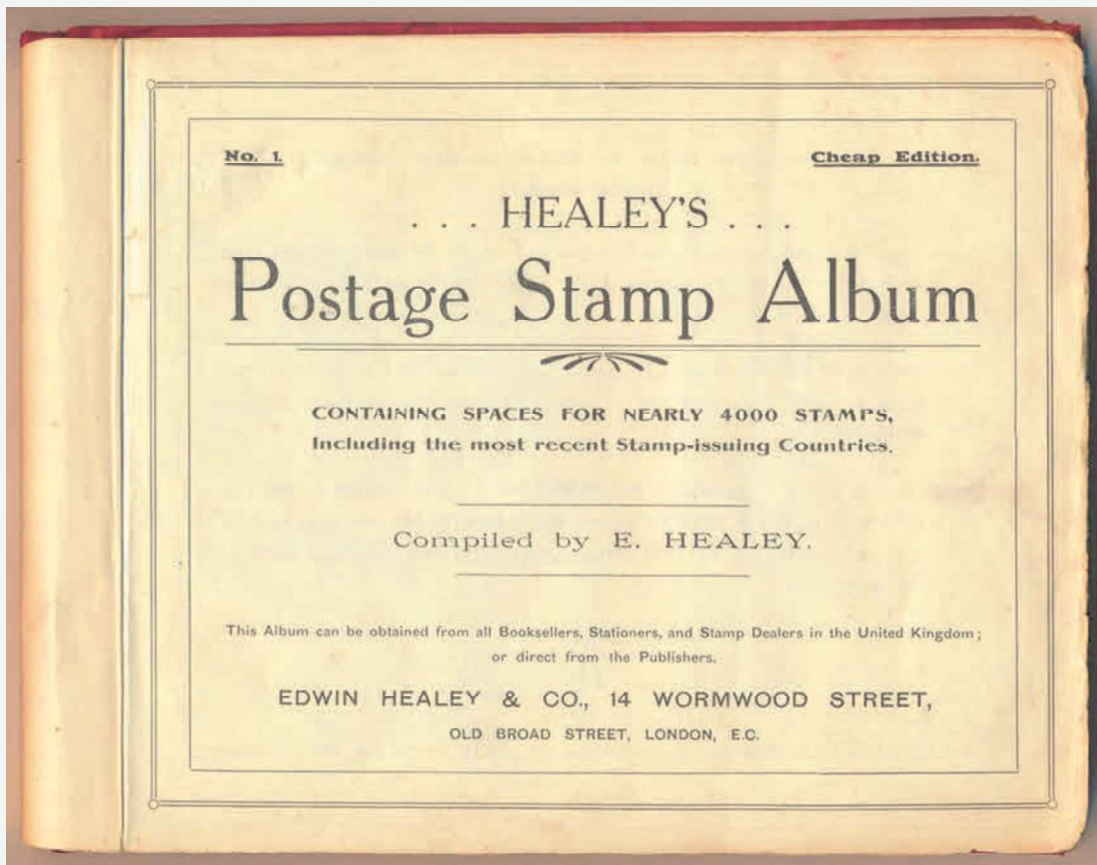


Fig 2 - Introduction Page

There is then an Index listing by Europe, Asia, Africa, America, and Australasia. Of course no modern country names, obviously missing all the countries which have achieved Independence from the Commonwealth over the past 70 years.

I think it makes for interesting reading.

At the back of the album is the Advertising (Fig 3) which states established over 30 Years, so this gives me the idea it is from the 1930s.



Fig 3 - Advertising the Company

Then there are some pages of stamps for sale, "cheap sets" as per Fig 4 and Fig 4.2. Look carefully and you will see you could have picked up a penny black and a twopenny blue for 4 shillings the pair when this album was first sold, that is around 20 pence in today's currency.

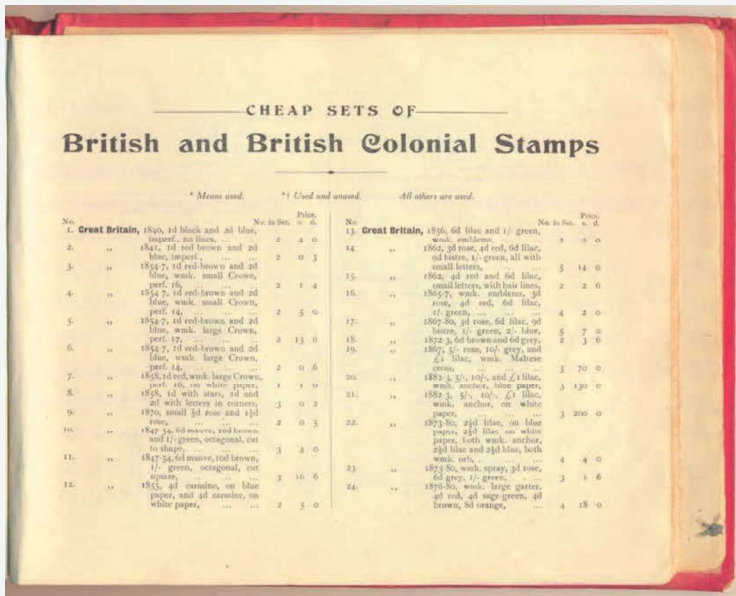


Fig 4 - Price List

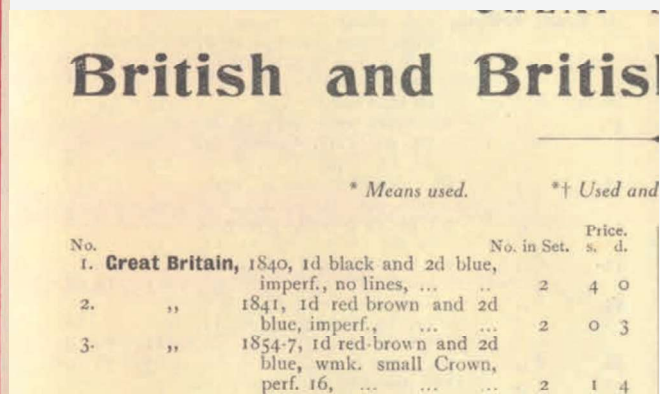


Fig 4.2 - Price List Penny Black & Twopenny

There are also some interesting for sale advertisements on the following pages. Including this (Fig 5 and Fig 5.2) "STAMPS BOUGHT FOR CASH TO ANY AMOUNT Edwin Healey are open to buy for cash to any amount Collections of Stamps, Loose Stamps, Collector's Duplicates, Unused old Colonials specially wanted and for good things really handsome prices will be offered."

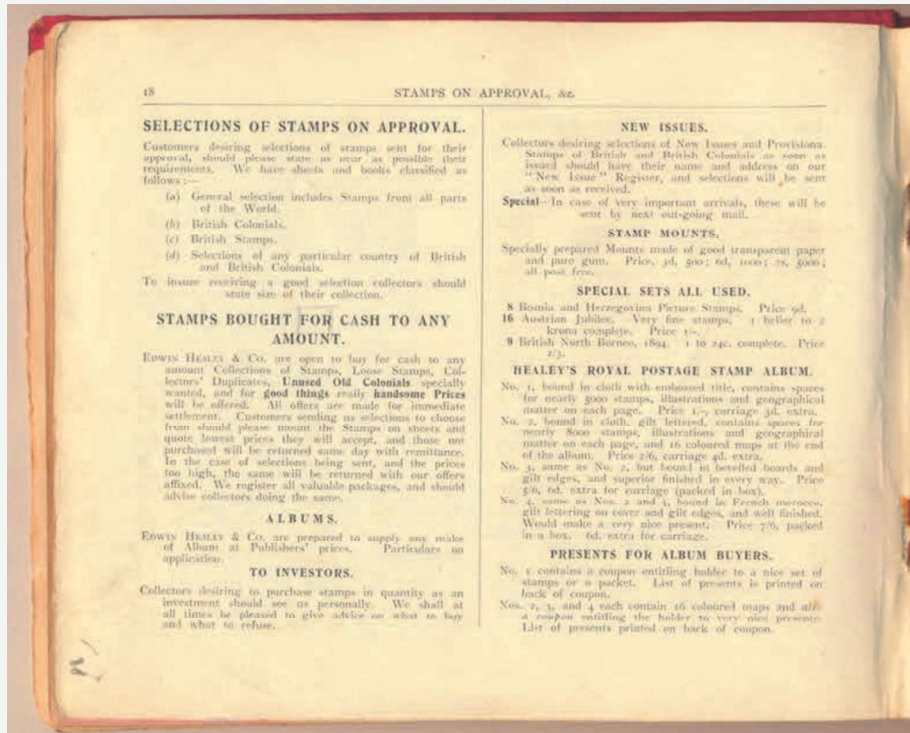


Fig 5 - Advertising examples

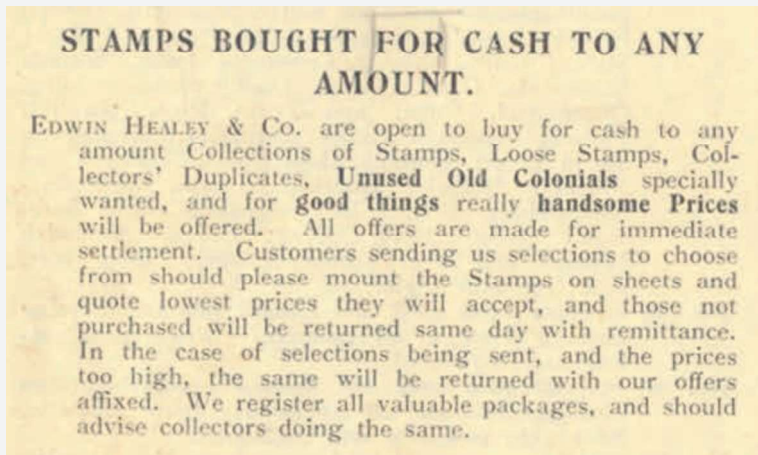


Fig 5.2 - Advertising examples

Today the company is named Healey & Wise and they are based in Tunbridge Wells just outside London. They specialise in Olympics, Sports and Scouts and hold postal auctions four times a year.

There are a few hundred stamps stuck down or some on hinges and generally the condition, let's be kind, and call it "mixed".

It was well used by its owner and the variety of countries that were collected makes interesting reading and study. Here are a few for just out of interest.

I noticed a few stamps from Indo China, not the sort of thing one sees every day, including a copy of SG 58 from the 1907 definitive issue (Fig 6), and one from Mong-Tseu (Fig 7), a copy of the 1908 native woman issue, SG 36 with the surcharge in Chinese and the inscription MONGTSEU. This was an Indo Chinese Post office in YUNNAN Province in China in the early 1900s.



Fig 6 - Indo China
SG 58



Fig 7 - Mong-Tseu
SG 36

Also I noticed a copy of SG 195A showing Franz Joseph on Horseback (Fig 8); one of the set issued in 1908 to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Emperor's accession. Not a valuable stamp and in rather poor condition but an interesting cancel. Quite a few from Egypt including these two (Fig 9) which I cannot correctly identify by SG but they are from the 1911 issue I believe.



Fig 8 - Austria
SG 195A



Fig 9 - Egypt circa 1911

And one final stamp, just because it is a lovely image, pity about the short perfs though; this is SG 304 showing the liner Umbria from the 1899 issue (Fig10).



Fig 10 - Cuba
SG 304

As I say none of any value and as you can see “mixed condition”, even the 1899 Cuba, issued 120 years ago is only catalogued at 15 pence I think.

There may not always be money in old stamps or old stamp albums, but there will always be lots of pleasure. from browsing and reading the albums and about the stamps.