

## **Why This Book?**

I first collected stamps at eight years of age when at school in London in 1948. Moving to Vienna two years later I soon got involved with stamp collecting again, only now it was stamps of Austria, Germany and Switzerland – the German-speaking world. Spending six years at Vienna's Graphic Arts College learning all about printing, I quickly got interested in the different methods of printing postage stamps.

Coming to Bermuda in 1961, I was immediately attracted to the line-engraved Definitive Stamps in use at the time. The biggest surprise, however, was the £1 stamp, printed by two different printing methods – something unheard of in Europe. If the 1953 Definitives were interesting, the 1962 Buildings Definitives were absolutely fascinating. To print stamps in multi-color photogravure had to not only be expensive, but potentially lead to a variety of flaws associated with that printing method. I knew, having struggled with a single-color photogravure machine only a few years before!

The 1960s were an extremely busy time in my professional life, but collecting stamps was one way of 'switching off' from the deadlines and problems of commercial printing and newspaper production. My collection was growing, and the variations and flaws of the Building's Issue became an obsession. By the early 1970s I wrote up my first philatelic exhibit and that meant researching and documenting everything – something all collectors should do with their material.

The 1970s were an exciting time for Bermuda Philately. Sir Henry Tucker won several awards for his exhibits at 'London 70' and two years later the Bermuda Stamp Club held its first public 'Philatelic Exhibition' which developed into the international 'Bermupex' exhibitions. For me personally it was an amazing time. Meeting collectors like Morris Ludington and George Ulrich and seeing their exhibits was an eye-opening experience and changed my primary collecting interest from stamps to postal history. I also stopped cutting stamps off envelopes!

Apart from my QEII exhibit of Bermuda, I wrote up exhibits of Bermuda Airmail, Censorship and Military Mail, but my collecting interests continued to grow and soon included the Bermuda Railway, Hotel Stationery, Missent Mail, Postmarks and Miscellaneous Marks used by the Bermuda Office, etc. It also involved frequent visits to the Bermuda Library and Archives which led to my recording every flying boat arrival and departure in Bermuda for example.

For more than 40 years I was also a member of Bermuda's Stamp Design Advisory Committee, many of them as Chairman. My main concern in that regard was the continuation of Bermuda's conservative stamp issuing policy and making sure that only stamps with a connection to Bermuda are issued.

Having been in the printing and publishing business all my life, I started to write several monographs during Bermuda's strict Corona quarantine lockdowns, documenting my philatelic collections. Since then, it has become obvious that the digital age is changing the printing and publishing business totally and I feel that it may be a better idea to make my philatelic writings available electronically to fellow collectors who are interested.

The result is a 700-page book which I hope will be another resource for collectors with an interest in Bermuda. It covers many of the subjects that have interested me for the last 60 years or so and I hope that other collectors will expand on some of the stories in the future.