

POSTAL NEWS

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1. German postal service tests "bring buddies" scheme

BERLIN | Wed Oct 20, 2010 8:59pm IST

(Reuters Life!) - Germany's postal service has announced plans to explore improved service and help protect the environment by getting "bring buddies" -- ordinary people travelling across cities -- to deliver parcels on their way.

It is hoped the initiative that will be tested in the months ahead might lessen traffic in inner cities and reduce CO2 emissions. This should help DHL, a division of the German postal service, reach its target of improving the company's carbon efficiency by 30 percent before 2020.

"As the world's biggest logistics provider, we recognise a special responsibility to use our core competencies to minimise the impact on the environment," said Frank Appel, Chief Executive Officer of Deutsche Post DHL, in a statement referring to a variety of measures being considered.

The amateurs find out online about parcels which need delivering to people who live or work along the route they are planning to travel through the city and then select the ones they want to take.

Retrieval codes sent to their mobile phones tell the bring buddies where to pick the packages up. Parcels can be taken part of the way or passed on to another buddy but all buddies need to have the right code on their mobile phone so the track and trace system can be updated.

Logistics companies will be responsible for overseeing the operation and supervising transactions to ensure that the privacy of post is not violated.

Initiators say this could be done using mobile phones but recognise that some security and liability issues remain to be resolved, DHL said.

(Reporting by Michelle Martin; Editing by Steve Addison)

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2. Postal history is covered

James Cockington

October 20, 2010

For those of us who started collecting stamps as children then abandoned the hobby after filling a quarter of the album, here's how it should be done.

On Saturday, November 27, Perth philatelist Dr Cecil Walkley will sell his unique collection of the Postal History of Western Australia through Prestige Philately, now in the Melbourne suburb of Boronia.

The total value of the 326 lots is \$368,000 although Prestige's Gary Watson says this is a conservative estimate.

Advertisement: Story continues below

"It won't surprise me if we top half a million," he says.

Dr Walkley started collecting stamps as a child in England but became interested again after moving to Western Australia. In 1972 he started collecting the postal history of his new state "because no one else was interested", he says.

They are certainly interested now.

He also collected the stamps of WA (these were successfully sold in 2005) but the postal history category remains his consuming passion, including "covers" (envelopes, sometimes containing the original letters) dating back to the period before Western Australia printed its own stamps.

One contains a letter sent to Adelaide by Eliza Mercer, probably carried aboard the Champion, which left Fremantle on February 18, 1847. Eliza writes "there are a great many people leaving hear for Adelaide ... there has been a great deal of iliness and deaths hear thease last two months ... all the crops on the Swan are very light (sic)."

The estimate for this cover is \$2500, a typical value for the pre-stamp period, although some are considerably higher.

Estimated at \$5000 is an 1856 "entire" (cover and contents) with the printed heading "Convict letter. 19.3.56. Establishment Westn. Australia". It was sent to Berlin in what was then Prussia by the convict, who signs himself Ludwik Konarzewski, although he was known as Francis Badoskie within the convict system.

In England, Badoskie was sentenced to 14 years' transportation for passing forged bank notes. He arrived here in 1854, was granted a conditional pardon in 1859, worked briefly as a jeweller then, in 1861, was convicted again of forgery and sentenced to three more years in prison.

The last page is a separate letter, which he asks to be forwarded to his uncle, a Polish nobleman, with the request "be sure and not tell him that I am transported". This is thought to be the only convict letter sent to any overseas address other than Britain.

Other remarkable lots include a "mourning cover" notable for the use of the "Saved from the wreck of the Colombo" on the envelope. The Colombo was wrecked off Minicoy Island in the Laccadives off the coast of southern India on November 19, 1862, but the mail was rescued and this item arrived in Southampton two years later. It is the first example of a wreck stamp used on Australian mail. The estimate is \$4000.

A similar item sent from Kalgoorlie in 1900 is addressed to Frank Parkes, 1 West Australian Contingent, South Africa, featuring the rare "Recovered from the Mails looted by the Boers on June 8" strike on the cover.

A Boer unit captured 2000 bags of mail at Roodewal Station and burnt most of the contents after the bags were used as barricades. This one survived and was forwarded to Frank Parkes. It is valued at \$2500. A cover with the same hand stamp sold for \$3024 in 2004.

For those who may be surprised by the prices anticipated for these items, their real value is in their rarity both as postal and social history.

A letter dated 1897 is given a top estimate of \$10,000 largely because it includes a fine example of the two shilling "Camel" stamp used by bicycle courier service Coolgardie Cycle Express Company. Only one other Camel cover is known.

A bidding frenzy is expected.

Adding to the appeal - and to the auction value - is that this collection has been exhibited internationally and has received several gold medals. Many items would be well known to fellow collectors and already on their wish lists.

Watson says the hard-bound catalogue is also destined to be a sell-out, even among those interested in other areas of philately. He describes it as the best reference on the postal history of WA. Details through prestigephilately.com.

MY COLLECTION

The remarkable Dr Cecil Walkley, now a supremely fit 81, collected stamps as a child in England, returning to the hobby in the 1950s while serving as a medical officer with the King's African Rifles Regiment in Kenya.

He and his wife moved to Perth in 1962, where he still works part-time as a specialist in rehabilitation medicine.

In 1972 he became fascinated by Western Australia's postal history. He developed the collection over the next 20 years, winning a swag of international gold medals at exhibitions, the latest in Beijing in 1996.

He maintained he would never sell this collection but changed his mind when he became involved in the world of Masters Athletics.

Walkley runs half and full marathons. Earlier this year he and three friends set a number of records for relay events in their age group, including a world record for the 4x800 metres. They beat the previous time by 83 seconds.

This new passion has led to him having little time left for stamp collecting.

"It's easier to win a gold medal in athletics than philately," he adds.

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3. More competition for postal market

There is to be more competition in Jersey's postal market.

The Jersey Competition Regulatory Authority has announced Citipost and Hub Europe are to get licences to provide a service in the island.

The licences will allow both companies to provide services to the fulfilment sector.

The decision follows a lengthy review of the postal market.

Both Citipost and Hub Europe will be able to convey parcels from next month (18th November) and large letters from 1st January next year.

John Curran, Executive Director at the JCRA, said: "We've been looking at the issue of licensing alternatives to Jersey Post for some time and we're of the view that some competition can be introduced in to the postal market in Jersey in a way that won't impact on the universal service that most people are used to and value. So we believe that this is

a decision that will benefit not just the fulfilment industry but also ordinary postal customers."

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