

## 2 and 6 Pence

By Howard Grenzebach

These are expensive stamps yet most of us have 2 or 3 copies. The problem isn't having them, it's telling them apart, then it's wondering why they're so expensive.



The first stamp on the left is easy. It's the least expensive and simplest to identify. Its number Scott 222 with a value of \$45.00. Look at the medallion. The background has both horizontal and diagonal lines forming a mesh. The other two have horizontal lines only.

Scott 173 and 179 are the real problem. Scott 173 is expensive (\$190.00) and the way to separate it from the lesser Scott 179 (\$75.00) is to figure out which stamp's frameline is wider (vertically) than the other. To do that I sliced the end off a stamp I hoped was the lesser of the two and laid it over the hopefully more expensive one. You can see the result below by enlarging the page.....whew, got it right.



Don't worry. The stamp is alright. I cut it electronically. The shorter frame is the more expensive stamp.

Now, back to why they are so expensive. It's a matter of how they are collected. In Great Britain (and probably the rest of Europe) the cancel is important. They want to see where it was mailed from and when. That requires a well centered and clear cancel.

The stamp on the right was mailed from Saint (St.) Andrews, Scotland on May 29, 1894. The cancel is clear and well centered on the stamp but is diminished somewhat because part of it falls off the left side of the stamp. Stamps with unclear or smudged cancels have little or no value to collectors on the continent.



**Howard Grenzebach** collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.