

## Aniline Ink

By Howard Grenzebach



Example is a 1d Universal from New Zealand, which shows the tell-tale reverse im-

It was a while ago somebody was asking me how to determine if a stamp was printed with "aniline ink." It's a good question that not a lot of people can answer. I was quite unable to tell him myself. I've heard of the ink as it's mentioned in the Scott as one of those sub-varieties that are worth a small fortune (a very small fortune) should you have it but they fail to let you know how to tell aniline ink from the Inkspots unless you read the section about inks that gives you all you need to know about stamps. They don't often give examples that you can compare your stamp with.

I was busy researching the subject of Swedish stamp types of the 1930s when I happened to notice the appearance of "aniline inks" and how to tell somewhere among the pictures of Swedish stamps of the thirties. It wasn't related to what I was looking for but it did jog my memory of the question about that ink, so I looked. The site was the "Stamp Community" an online, ongoing site of collectors talking to each other. Someone had asked if this was a stamp printed with aniline ink?

Yes, came the answer, it is. "Aniline ink was an ink with a coal-tar base, that was designed to "bleed" to prevent re-use of a stamp.

The stamp was posted by a collector called "jubilee." You can find it at this address:  
[https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC\\_ID=8208&whichpage=1](https://www.stampcommunity.org/topic.asp?TOPIC_ID=8208&whichpage=1)

Under the question is an article by B. Shippen, M. D. called "Something About Coal-Tar." While you're there, check out the article.

**Howard Grenzebach** is currently a Director of NSSS and collects Worldwide pre-1950, early Grenada, and Swiss standing Helvetia.