

# L.C.C. PHILATELIC QUARTERLY

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## LUNDY COLLECTORS CLUB

*Affiliate Number 121 of the American Philatelic Society (APS)*  
*Affiliate Society Number 653 of the British Philatelic Federation (BPF)*  
*Member Organization in the Council of Philatelic Organizations (COPO)*  
*Member Club of the Aerophilatelic Federation of the Americas (AFA)*

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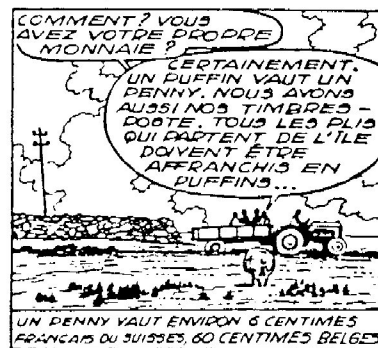
Membership in the Lundy Collectors Club is open to any person interested in the collecting and study of Lundy stamps, covers, and postal history. Dues of US\$10 per year (U.S., Canadian, and foreign surface rate) or of US\$15 per year (foreign airmail rate) include a subscription to the *Lundy Collectors Club Philatelic Quarterly*.

## Letters to the Editor

### "Un Royaume pour un Puffin" Comic Strip Explanation

"About the 'comic strips': in French they are called *bandes dessinées*, literally 'drawn strips,' so they can be either comic or serious! France and Belgium boast many weekly magazines for teenagers, each selling an average of 200,000 copies. The most famous are *Tintin* and *Spirou*. To the latter we owe 'Lucky Luke,' 'the Smurfs,' and many more. Needless to say, as a teenager, I was an avid reader of *Spirou* as well as a dedicated philatelist (since the age of seven)!

Sometime in 1964, a 43-page story, in full color, was published in *Spirou*. At the time I knew nothing about Lundy—had never even heard about it. The story was about balloonists who, after having lost control of their balloon, land near Rat Island in the 'Kingdom of Lundy whose 'King' is a Mr. Kermanagh. His daughter is kidnapped by mafiosi who want to force him into selling them his Kingdom for the sum of one puffin, and the safe return of his daughter. Hence the title ('Un Royaume pour un Puffin') which is a play on words meaning both 'a Kingdom for a puffin' (the bird) and 'a Kingdom for one puffin (Lundy's currency). There is one problem with this play on words. The French word for 'puffin' is *macareux*, while 'manx shearwater'



## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

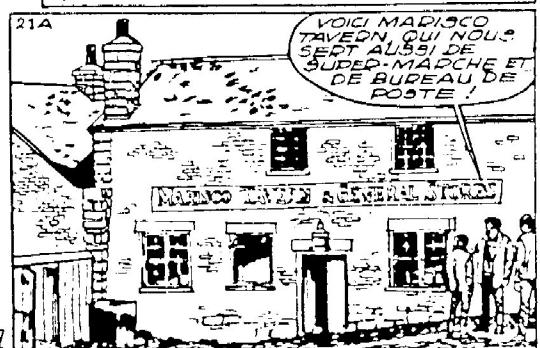
translates into *puffin* in French. Oh well! Now back to my story. All ends well—the King's daughter is returned to him unharmed, and the mafiosi are either killed or arrested.

When a story is fully published (at the rate of two pages a week), the publisher usually edits it under book form, with printing runs between 25,000 and 500,000 copies. But this story was not popular enough to warrant publication, and it fell into oblivion...almost. Then a small publisher based in Brussels bought the copyright for next to nothing, had a black-and-white 'amateur's edition' of 1500 copies printed, and then went bankrupt. This is where the story should end, but the authors wrote an article in *Spirou* magazine explaining their discovery of Lundy, telling how beautiful the Island was, and how colorful her stamps... Her stamps?! I thought I knew every single stamp-issuing territory in the world! One of my philatelic aims was to get at least one complete set from each stamp-issuing territory with a topic related to the issuing country. The stamps pictured in the *Spirou* article looked beautiful and mysterious. I took my pen, paper, and few English words I knew and wrote to the Postmaster! For the next ten years, I had a regular correspondence with Felix Gade and discovered the magic of Lundy.

I knew about the small edition of the book and from 1969 to 1989 left no stone unturned trying to locate a copy. Last summer while in Brussels, I unearthed a few copies, maybe 10 or 15, lying in the basement of a *bouquiniste* (used book shop). They might still be available for \$10 to \$15 a copy if anyone is interested.

I am enclosing a photocopy from the original (colored) version which you can compare to page 22 of the book version. [Note: The text and drawings are identical except the colored version appears shaded in the black-and-white photocopy provided. --RSC]

Lundy first appears on page 18, and as you go, you will see Rat Island, the *Lundy Queen*, Millcombe House,



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (Continued)

St. Helena's Church, Manor Farm Hotel, Marisco Tavern, The Old Light, Marisco Castle, the *Lundy Gannet*, an inside view of Marisco Tavern, and even a mafioso's dream of a casino-clad Lundy. *(Some of the illustrations from the book are reproduced in much reduced format on pages 1-2 and reflect the authors' knowledge of Lundy.)*

If you think readers might be interested, I will gladly accept orders and try to get copies from Brussels at cost. If the number warrants it, I might consider providing readers with a translated (into English), photocopied version. What do you think?"

--André Dufresne, Montreal, Quebec, Canada (July 16, 1990)

*André, what a fascinating account of how you began to collect Lundy stamps! Lundyphiles, here's your opportunity to obtain a limited book edition of a bandes dessinées about Lundy. Please write directly to André about your interest in purchasing the publisher's edition and/or André's proposed translated, photocopied version: André Dufresne, C.P. 118, Succ. K, Montreal, H1N 3L1, Quebec, Canada.*