

## Impact of COVID-19 on the Philatelic Marketplace

Some views from various players.

**Forbes**, Richard Lehmann Contributor, Investing

Richard Lehmann blogs on Income Investing and Philately

The strong reaction of the US Government to the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in the self-isolation and self-quarantining of millions of Americans as well as people worldwide. [While this is having a devastating effect on the economy, it has been a real boost to the stamp market.](#) Stamp collectors around the world suddenly have many hours of time to fill since they cannot go out, go to work or watch sporting events. Hence, they spend time buying stamps. The dealers I spoke with all report a surge in orders, many from customers they have never had before.

While this new may not seem particularly helpful, there is another reason for buyers to focus on stamps today. Since the beginning of the year, the U.S. Dollar has appreciated significantly against a variety of currencies detailed below. While these changes will not help stamp buyers using a site such as eBay which is based in dollars, it can benefit you by accessing foreign dealers with their own websites selling in local currency. Also, eBay has sales sites in local currency in the UK ([www.ebay.co.uk](http://www.ebay.co.uk)), Germany ([www.ebay.de](http://www.ebay.de)), France ([www.ebay.fr](http://www.ebay.fr)), Italy ([www.ebay.it](http://www.ebay.it)), Spain ([www.ebay.es](http://www.ebay.es)) and Australia ([www.ebay.com.au](http://www.ebay.com.au)).

**Linn's**, International mail disruptions multiply with COVID-19 impact, Extract of portions of this article.

The United States Postal Service released advisories on the state of international mail over the course of three bulletins published March 16-19. Each release addressed the specific situations for countries around the world in response to the coronavirus COVID-19 outbreak.

Some nations have suspended some or all mail services, while others are anticipating or reporting delays for specific mail services.

**Canada.** Canada Post has advised that it is experiencing significant disruption to its daily operations owing to the temporary closure of many institutions, airlines, and transportation providers. Customers should expect delays for all letter post, parcel post and EMS items. Additionally, Canada Post will no longer request a signature for any deliveries. Instead, mail carriers will apply "safe drop" procedures whenever it is possible to do so. If such procedures are not possible, the mail carrier will leave a delivery notice card indicating the retail location from which the item can be collected. A delivery notice card will be left for the addressee for all registered items and items requiring the payment of duties and taxes.

**Germany.** Deutsche Post has announced changes for all letter post, parcel post and EMS items requiring signature on delivery. Beginning March 13, items that would ordinarily require the addressee's signature can now be deposited in the addressee's mailbox or in a secure location on their premises, with signature by the mail carrier on their portable device. In cases where

items are delivered to the recipient in person, the mail carrier will likewise sign on the recipient's behalf.

**United Kingdom.** Royal Mail Group has advised that it will make changes for all letter post, parcel post and EMS items requiring signature on delivery. Effective March 13, items requiring a signature on delivery will not always be signed for by the recipient. Instead, if the recipient is unable to sign for the item but has duly received it, a code (XP1) will be entered into the handheld device, and this will constitute evidence of receipt. Additionally, Royal Mail Group has advised that customers should expect delivery delays for all types of mail. For other countries, check Linn's Mar 20, 2020

**USPS.** The United States Postal Service is proud of the work our more than 600,000 employees play in processing, transporting, and delivering mail and packages for the American public. We provide a vital public service that is a part of this nation's critical infrastructure. The Postal Service has a dedicated Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Command Response leadership team that is focusing on employee and customer safety in conjunction with operational and business continuity during this unprecedented epidemic. We continue to follow the strategies and measures recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and public health departments. To reduce health risks for our employees and customers and to safeguard our operational and business continuity, the Postal Service is doing the following: Ensuring millions of face coverings, including masks, gloves and cleaning and sanitizing products are available and distributed to more than 30,000 locations every day through our Postal Service supply chain. We also have opened local purchasing authorities and sourcing options so that our employees can access additional supplies within the communities they serve. We have expanded our national sourcing of supplies and services to ensure that increasing demands are met. Read the complete article at his web page: <https://about.usps.com/newsroom/statements/usps-statement-on-coronavirus.htm>

**DelCampe Sales.** What is the information regarding to the shipment of collectables? According to the World Health Organization, the risk of contamination by mail is extremely low, as the virus only lasts a few hours on an inanimate medium. Therefore, there are no contraindications to make transactions on DelCampe.

### **Coronavirus forces shift in the way auction houses operate**

Philatelic Foreword by Jay Bigalke

The stamp industry and the way business are conducted are changing because of the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. Some of these changes were predictable, but this situation has accelerated them. With all of this in mind, I reached out to several stamp auction houses [Cherrystone, Dutch Country Auctions, H.R. Harmer, Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions, Rasdale Stamp Co., and Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries, Inc.] in the United States that have operated with traditional floor bidding for years and asked them the following two questions.

1. In the short term, how is your auction house handling current auctions and auctions that are scheduled during the next few months?

2. For a more long-term view, how do you think the implications of this social-distancing situation because of the coronavirus pandemic will affect the future of the stamp auction industry in the United States?

Check the Linn's Article for a review of how the large auction houses are now operating.

<https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/coronavirus-forces-shift-in-the-way-auction-houses-operate>