



## L'histoire du One-Cent Black sur Magenta

La légende dit qu'en 1873 un écolier de douze ans trouve ce timbre dans les papiers de sa famille, qui habite Demerara. Le jeune Vernon Vaughan le vend pour **6 shillings** au collectionneur N.R. McKinnon, qui négocie un bas prix en raison de l'état très moyen du timbre. Le jeune garçon finance ainsi l'achat de timbres plus beaux et colorés.

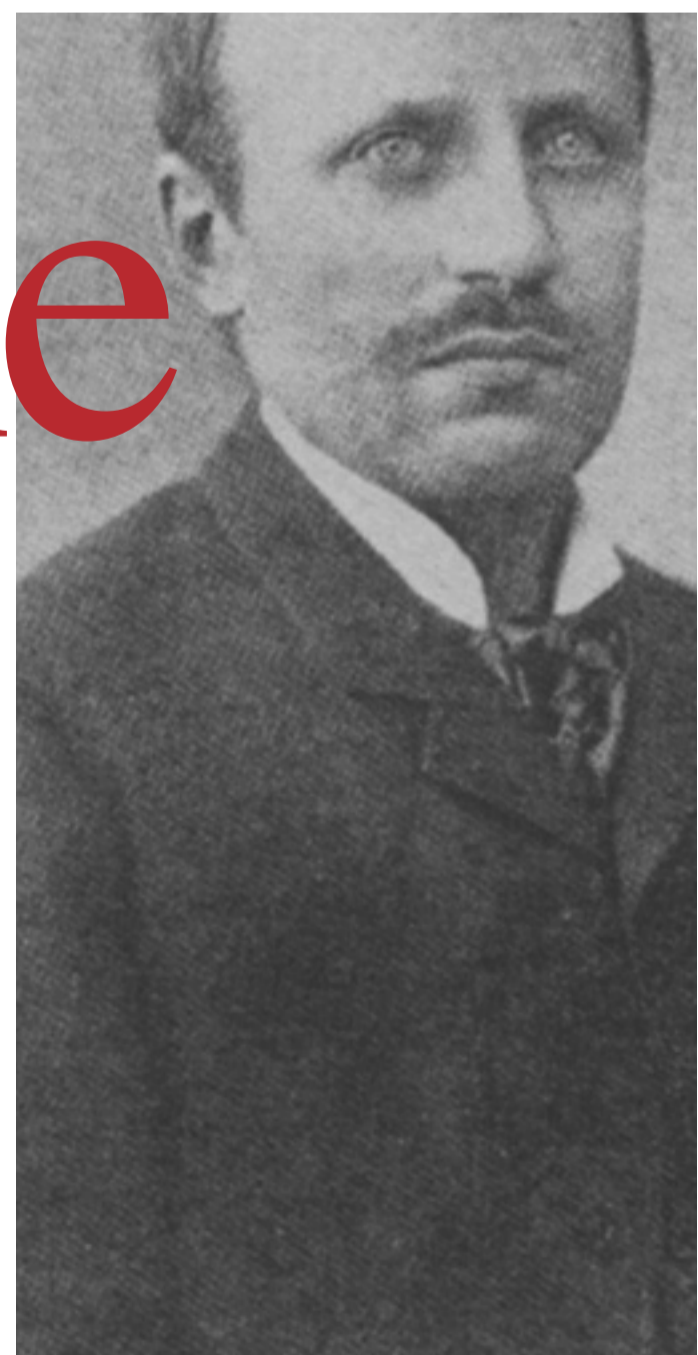
En 1877, le négociant Thomas Ridpath de Liverpool (Angleterre) achète la collection de McKinnon pour **120 livres**. Au début du XXème siècle, le célèbre collectionneur et milliardaire Philippe de la Renotière Von Ferrari l'achète pour **150 livres**. Il l'entrepose dans une pièce coffre-fort de son hôtel particulier à Paris (l'hôtel Matignon). D'origine autrichienne et italienne, le comte Philippe

Von Ferrari soutient pendant la 1ère guerre mondiale l'Allemagne. Il décède en 1917 et lègue sa collection de timbres-la plus belle ayant jamais existé-au Musée de Berlin. La France la confisque et la disperse dans une série de ventes aux enchères - au titre des dommages de guerre dus par l'Allemagne-entre 1921 et 1925.

L'Américain Arthur Hindqui doit sa fortune à l'automobile-achète ce timbre pour la somme record de **351,000 francs** à la session du 6 avril 1922. Il meurt en 1933, et 7 ans plus tard sa veuve le vend pour un montant resté secret -estimé à **40 000 dollars-** à Frederick Small, un homme d'affaire australien vivant en Floride. Le propriétaire ne sera connu qu'à la vente du timbre en 1969.

Un groupe d'investisseur l'achète en 1969, il sera revendu en 1970 dans une vente aux enchères diffusée à la télévision. Weinberg l'achète pour **280 000 dollars** pour une mise à prix de 100 000 dollars. Il présentera son achat dans les expositions internationales, le déplaçant dans un attaché-case blindé fixé à son poignet. John E. Du Pont l'achète-secrètement -en 1980 pour une somme de **935 000 dollars**. C'est un héritier de l'empire chimique DuPont de Nemours. La rumeur dit que Du Pont dormait avec le timbre sous son oreiller. En 1997, il est condamné pour assassinat, mais est envoyé dans un asile pour criminels au lieu de purger une peine de 30 ans de prison. Il reste à ce jour le propriétaire du One Cent Magenta de Guyane Britannique.

# The greatest collector of all time



Ferrari was born in 1848, the son of the Duke of Galliera, a rich Italian banker and shipbuilder. His mother, who had inherited vast Italian real estate holdings, was one of Europe's wealthiest women. Because the Duke and Duchess of Galliera were much sought after for financial and social favors, King Louis Philippe and Queen Marie Amelie of France gladly accepted the offer to be godparents of young Philippe when he was baptized. Philippe, named for the king, grew up to scorn his father, who was somewhat of an authoritarian. When the duke died and his widow for the first time entered his library, which had been forbidden her, she found 1,000-franc government bonds stuffed into 300 sumptuous book covers. Ferrari reportedly refused to accept any of his father's money, most of which was given to charity. Philippe was a highly intelligent but nervous and sickly child.

When he was about 10, to keep him from brooding, his mother introduced him to stamps. As he grew up he showed no interest in wine, women or the race track, the normal diversions of the day for a man of his means and social status. With trusted aides to look after the \$25 million estate inherited from his mother, Ferrari spent all his time and energies hunting stamps. He went around wearing

an old Basque beret, dirty pants full of holes and cheap, rope-soled shoes. While he was out searching for stamps, dozens of dealers would come hunting for him at his Paris home, where they would be interviewed by Ferrari's private stamp curator. Every Monday morning the count's treasurer would come into the curator's room and impale 50,000 francs in notes on a series of nails on the curator's desk. This was for the week's purchase of stamps.

But even for a man of the count's wealth and dedication, the quest for philatelic perfection was hopeless. For most countries he was able to ferret out one of almost every type of stamp issued, but when he came to the native Indian States and South Australia, which had issued almost 2,500 different stamps under the most obscure conditions, he was stumped. There was not enough time in a man's life to secure all these stamps. He was returning to a Lausanne hotel in a taxicab in 1917, after visiting a Swiss stamp dealer in the hope of finding at least one more missing item, when he suffered a heart attack and died. Though Ferrari's collection was willed to the Berlin Postmuseum, it was seized and sold by the French government as part of the war reparations. Collectors from all over the world flocked to Paris and bid fiercely. At that time they paid a total of \$ 1,632,524.