

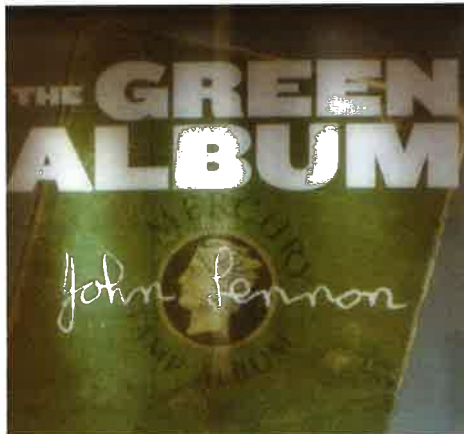
THE BEATLES *NOT* FOR SALE

The Beatles NOT For Sale is a series looking at Beatles items in museums and private collections. We are encouraging our members to search out Beatles goodies in their local museums and contribute that information to this series.

Friday 7 September 2018 saw the unveiling of a new John Lennon stamp by the US Postal Service as part of its musical icon series. Other stars to receive the honour include Elvis Presley, Ray Charles, Marvin Gaye and Johnny Cash.



Lennon's widow Yoko Ono and son Sean attended the ceremony to commemorate the launch. The following Friday saw John's stamp collection from his childhood go on display in the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington D.C. The Exhibition was titled "John Lennon: The Green Album".



The museum obtained the Mercury album in 2005 having purchased it for reportedly £29,950 from UK stamp dealer Stanley Gibbons. It had previously been on display at The World Stamp Show in New York City in 2016.

His cousin Stanley Parks originally gave Lennon the album in the early 1950s. John added his own name and address to the album and started collecting stamps himself from countries across the world, including New Zealand. John's father had planned to emigrate to New Zealand with John during the famous meeting in Blackpool with John's mother Julia in 1945. John chose to stay with his mother in Liverpool. John amassed a large collection of stamps from New Zealand due to his many relatives living there in the 1950s.

John's name and address in the album (right)



John's collection of stamps from New Zealand.

There are over 550 stamps in the collection across 150 pages. Some stamps feature King George VI and Queen Victoria, some of which have beards and glasses added reportedly by John.

UK stamp complete with Lennon doodles

The Curator of Philately at the museum W. Wilson Hume states, "There are people who think stamp collecting isn't cool and maybe this exhibition will make them think twice about that. It just doesn't get any cooler than John Lennon".



Museum archives hold invaluable background information on the objects in their collections. For advice on how to research museum collections, please email membership@britishbeatlesfanclub.co.uk

Ernie Sutton