



Printers at Perkins Bacon & Co. Perkins Bacon & Co. produced the first line-engraved stamps ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d. from 1840 to 1880



Thomas De La Rue De La Rue & Co., London produced all surface-printed stamps over 2d. from 1855 to 1910



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GREAT BRITAIN 1840 – 1910

The 'BESANÇON' Collection

This wonderful collection – built over the last 45 years – will be auctioned by Corinphila in 2019-2023

The 'BESANÇON' collection is a marvellous 'traditional' collection of this popular area, with Essays, Proofs, issued stamps, large multiples and interspersed throughout with 'philatelic gems' chosen by the collector both for their rarity and aesthetic appeal.

The collection boasts items from all the great collections previously formed, from the Earl of Crawford (1913), Philipp von Ferrary (1921/1924), Louis Oram Trivett (1924), H.P. Manus (1932), Arthur Hind (1934), Colonel Arthur M. Bates (1934), Baron Anthony de Worms (1938), Bertram McGowan (1950), J.B. Seymour (1951/1953), Alfred H. Caspary (1956), Per Gjerding (1956), Maurice Burrus (1963), Kenneth M. Beaumont (1965), 'MAXIMUS' (Ronald A.G. Lee, 1970), Joseph Silkin (1971), Alfred F. Lichtenstein & Louise Boyd-Dale (1989), to the more recently formed 'pseudonym' collections and the outstanding Surface printed issues collection of Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)

Like the Classic France, Australian States and Cape of Good Hope collections also sold by Corinphila, quality was of paramount importance to 'BESANÇON' and the following pages provide just a small extract from this outstanding collection.





1840, Early Postal Stationery



Richard Cobden MP (1805-1865)



1840, Parliamentary Envelope 'Houses of Parliament - Two pence, addressed to Richard Cobden MP, the leading advocate of the Anti Corn Law League. Just twelve Two pence' Houses of Parliament' envelopes recorded!

Provenance:

ex Bertram McGowan (1950) ex Trapnell (1995)



1840, Mulready Envelope 1d. black used on the First Day: 6 May 1840. Provenance:

ex G.B.Horton (1965)



1840 (6 MAY), One Penny Black & Two Pence blue

The Word's First Postage Stamps, printed by Perkins Bacon & Petch of 69 Fleet Street, London.



1840, One Penny Black, plate 1B. Provenance: R. Lowe Diamond Jubilee auction (1980) ex 'TES' (1995)



1840, One Penny Black, plate 1A, Imprimatur

Provenance:

ex Board of Inland Revenue (1975) Christies 'London 1990 Rarities Sale' Dr. Pichai Buranasombati (2001)





1840, One Penny Black, plate 7 Provenance: ex Philipp La Renotière von Ferrary (1924) ex Kennedy-Kisch (1966)

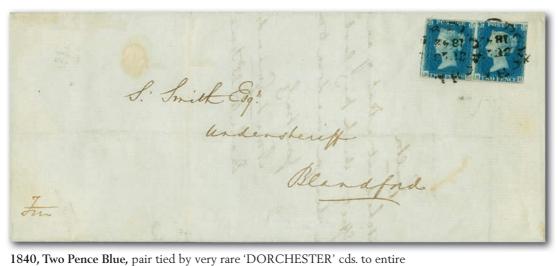


King Carol II of Romania



1840, Two Pence Blue, plate 1, the 'King Carol II' mint strip. **Provenance:**

Corinphila Auction (1930) ex H.M. King Carol II of Romania (1951) Corinphila Auction (1999)



1840, Two Pence Blue, pair tied by very rare 'DORCHESTER' cds. to entire **Provenance:**

R.Lowe auction (1969)

ex Cooley (1995)

GREAT BRITAIN - THE 'BESANÇON' COLLECTION

1840/41, One Penny & Two Pence 'small printing plates'

One Penny & Two Pence 'small printing plates of 12' were used for the 'Rainbow Trials' experiments to test various combinations of printing ink and cancellation ink for the 1d. and the announcement of the new type 2d. adhesives 'with white lines' on Postal Notices.



Phillips Auction (1992)



New colours and design: 1841, One Penny Red & Two Pence Blue

It was decided by the Post Office to modify the colour of the 1d. stamp from black to red to prevent removal of cancellations without destroying the design. The design of the 2d. was altered to enable easier recognition from the 1d. in dim natural or oil lighting.



1841, One Penny Red, printed from 'Black plate 10'. Provenance:

ex Louis O. Trivett (1924) ex Baron Anthony de Worms (1938)



Baron de Worms



1841, Two Pence Blue, plate 3. Provenance: Stanley Gibbons Auction (1974) Corinphila Auction (1985)



The finest WOLSINGHAM undated cancellation on 1841, One Penny Red on cover. Offered for the first time in auction since the original find in 1989!



Earl of Crawford

1848/53, Experimental forms of separations by Henry Archer

The idea of a quick and easy method of separating stamps without knives or scissors was proposed by the Irish businessman and inventor Henry Archer in 1848. He first constructed two rouletting machines but it soon turned out to be a failure. Finally he constructed a third machine based on the principle of perforation.



Archer Roulette 1848, One Penny Red, plate 70, mint pair. Provenance: ex H.P.Manus (1932) R.Lowe Auctions (1972 & 1975) ex 'TES' (1995)



Archer Trial Perforation 1850, One Penny Red, plate 96. Provenance: ex Earl of Crawford (1913) ex Anthony de Worms (1938)



1854, One Penny & Two Pence 'Stars', perforated

After the Post Office purchased a patent for 'Perforation Machines' invented by the Irish born businessmen Henry Archer in 1853, new Perforation Machines were constructed by David Napier & Son. The machines began their work from January 1854.



1855, One Penny red-brown, watermark 'Small Crown', perf.16, plate 13, the largest recorded mint block from this plate.

Provenance:

Christies, Manson & Wood "Red Cross & St. John Fund" Auction (1944)



View of Melbourne



1855, One Penny Red, die II, plate 2, variety imperforated, on cover to Australia. Provenance:

Found by Robson Lowe in 1947 Described in 'The British Philatelist' (Oct. 1947) Illustrated in Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia (1952) on page 160: "....possibly the rarest piece known in line-engraved Great Britain...."



1855, Two Pence blue, watermark 'Large Crown', perf.14, plate 5, a pair and a block originally forming a mint block of six.

Provenance:

Stanley Gibbons Auction (1997)



1855, 1d. red-brown Trial Printing of plate 22 on Neales Steam Press.

Provenance:

Harmers Auction (1957)



Robson Lowe



1858/79, One Penny & Two Pence with letters in all four corners

Starting with the 2d. plate 7 in 1858 and the 1d. plate 71 in 1864 the design was modified by having Letters in all four corners (instead of Stars in the upper corners) and the plate numbers incorporated in the design. It was felt that repeating the lower corner letters in the upper corners but in reverse would discourage the practice of cutting up used stamps and re-using the uncancelled halves as a 're-united' unused postage stamp to defraud the Post Office. New values of ½d. and 1½d. were issued in 1870 for postcards and printed matter rates.



1858, Two Pence Blue, plate 9.

Provenance:

ex J.B.Seymour (1952 - as an irregular block of ten from which TD was later separated)



1870, ½d. rose-red, plate 1, variety: imperforate mint pair. **Provenance:**

ex Arthur Hind (1934)



1860, Prepared but not issued, 1½d. rosy-mauve, mint pair. Provenance:

Ernest Hunt (1966)



Arthur Hind



1864, One Penny Red, the very rare 'last' plate 225, mint block and adjoining single.

Provenance:

ex Michael Stephens (1937 – as a block of six) ex Cyril E.D. Enoch (1978 - for the single) R.Lowe London Auction (1990 – for the block fo 4)





1870, 1½d. rose-red, plate 3. Provenance: ex Sir John Dodd (1962)



1870, 1½d. rose-red, plate 1, Error of Lettering OP-PC, mint. Provenance:

Habsburg-Feldman Auction (1989)



1870, ½d. rose-red. The largest mint block from the very rare plate 9 in private hands (the only larger block recorded is in the Royal Collection).

Provenance:

R.Lowe Auction (1940 – as an irregular block of 13)



1847/54, The Embossed Values

Due to an increasing number of letters going abroad, it was decided to issue higher denominations of 1s. (1847 – mainly for mail to the United States), 10d. (1848 – mainly for mail to France) and 6d. (mainly to pay 6d. Registration Fee). Special printing dies were produced with 'raised portions' of the design ("Embossing") to prevent counterfeiting the new high value stamps. A further measure against counterfeiting was the use of Dickinson silk tread paper for the 10d. and 1s. adhesives. The 'Embossed' stamps were printed 'one by one' at Somerset House.



1847, 1s. pale-green, colour trial from the unfinished die 'without pendant curl'.

Provenance:

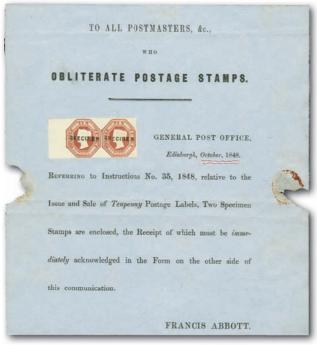
R.Lowe Auctions (1951 & 1952) ex Dale (1969) ex John O. Griffiths (1982) ex Wade (1997)



1847, 1s. brown, colour trial from the unfinished die 'without pendant curl'.

Provenance:

Harmers Auction (1937) R.Lowe Auction (1975)



1848, 10d. SPECIMEN overprinted pair on 1848, 'Postal Notice' to all Postmasters. The only 1848, 10d. Postal Notice recorded! Provenance:

ex 'VICTORIANA' collection (2007)



1848, 10d. brown overprinted 'SPECIMEN' mint block.

Provenance:

Illustrated in: The British Philatelist 1911/12, page 86 (incorporated *in a pane of 24 which was later split up)* ex 'KOH-I-NOOR' collection (2003)



1848, 10d. brown, mint block. Only two mint blocks of eight in private hands exist, this one is much finer than the 'Burrus-Block'. A third existing block of eight is in the Royal Collection, a fourth block from the 'Mayfair Find' (1925) has since been cut up.

Provenance:

Christies Auction (1995)



1855/83, Surface Printed Issues

1855/57, 'No Corner Letters' and 1862, 'Small Corner Letters'

Since the 1847/54 'Embossed Issues' were found to be too expensive to print and inappropriate to perforating it was decided to print new adhesive stamps by Surface printing. Thomas De La Rue & Co. of London, the then leading printers in Surface printing technology, were chosen to print all values above 2d. during the reign of Queen Victoria, while Perkins, Bacon & Co. continued to print the Line engraved ½d., 1d., 1½d. and 2d values. until 1880. Corner Letters for new plates of the Surface printed values were approved in 1860 and issued from 1862.



1856, 1s. green, mint block. Provenance: ex Gerald E. Wellburn (1976)



1862, 4d. plate 4, variety imperforate, the largest multiple surviving from the unique half sheet cut up circa 1900.



ex Kennedy-Kisch (1966) ex Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)



1862, 9d., plate 2, Imprimatur. Provenance: ex 'Royal Collection'

1855, 4d. Imprimatur

Provenance: ex Heinz Reck (1994)





Baron de Worms



1862, 3d. 'abnormal' plate 3 'with secret dots', line perforated. Provenance:

Harmers Auction (1984)

1862, 9d. bistre, the famous 'Mayfair-Find' block of twelve. Largest multiple in private hands.

Provenance:

ex Mayfair Find (1925) ex Baron Anthony de Worms (1938) Illustrated in British Philatelist (August 1938) ex Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)



1855/83, Surface Printed Issues

1865/80, 'Large white Corner Letters'

A decision was made in February 1864 to enlarge the Corner Letters on all new plates of the Surface printed

values 3d., 4d., 6d., 9d. and 1s.



1864, 4d. vermilion, mint corner block with plate number '11'.

Provenance:

ex H.O. Fraser (2001)



1873, 6d. grey, mint 'plate number 12' corner block.

Provenance:

Phillips Auction (1989 – as a block of eight SA-TD) Christies Auction (1990 – as block of four)



1869, 3d. rose, plate 6, mint marginal block. **Provenance:** *ex Harold W. Fisher (1983)*



1867, 6d. 'abnormal' plate 10, Imprimatur. Provenance:

ex Earl of Crawford (1913) ex Col. Arthur M. Bates (1934)



Earl of Crawford



1867, 2s., 'abnormal' plate '3', Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex Earl of Crawford (1913) ex Col. Arthur M. Bates (1934) R.Lowe Auction (1940)



1867, 10d. 'abnormal' plate 2, Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex Earl of Crawford (1913) ex Col. Arthur M. Bates (1934)



1864, 9d. 'abnormal' plate 5, Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex 'Royal Collection (2001)



1867, 10d. 'abnormal' plate 2, Imprimatur with 'current number' of the De La Rue Register.

Provenance:

ex Harmers Auction (1945) ex Kenneth M. Beaumont (1965) ex Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)



1855/83, Surface Printed Issues

1873/81, 'Large Coloured Corner Letters'

In 1873 Messrs. De La Rue, the printers, made a proposal to faciliate a quicker method of producing the printing plates by changing from uncoloured to coloured Corner Letters. The new printing plates with coloured corner letterings commenced in 1873.



Earl of Crawford



1873, 6d. pale buff 'abnormal' plate 13, Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex Earl of Crawford (1913) Illustrated in The British Philatelist (1914/15)



1876, 4d. vermilion 'abnormal' plate 16, Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex Earl of Crawford (1913) Illustrated in The British Philatelist (1914/15) ex Col. A. M. Bates (1934)



1877, 4d. olive 'abnormal' plate 17, Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex Laycock (1953) R.Lowe Auction (1975)



1873, 3d. rose, the unique 'plate number' marginal multiple from plate 14.

Provenance:

R.Lowe Auction (1981)



1873, 1s. 'abnormal' plate 14, Imprimatur.



1875, UPU 2½d., unique 'plate number' marginal pair from plate 15.



1875, 2½d. handpainted Essay for a new stamp issue matching Universal Postal Union (UPU) unified postage letter rate to foreign destinations.

Provenance:

ex Bailey (1955) ex Stothert (1975)



1874, 6d. plate 15.

Provenance:

ex Charles Nissen Stock (1978)



1876, Unissued 8d. purplebrown, Imprimatur from plate 1 with with 'current number' of the De La Rue Register.

Provenance:

Harmer Rooke & Co. Auction (1951)



1882, Unissued 1s. purple, plate 13 overprinted 'SPECIMEN', from the unique pane of 20.

Provenance:

ex The Post Office Treasure Trove' (1947) Harmers (1955) ex Beresford (1987)



1877, 4d. sage-green, the largest 'surviving' multiple from plate 16, originating from the Earl of Crawford part sheet split by Charles Nissen.

Provenance:

incorporated in a larger multiple: ex Earl of Crawford (1913) ex J.B.Seymour (1951)

as the present block of 18: R.Lowe (1953)



1867/83, High Values

The first 'High Value' postage stamp was a 5 Shillings stamp in 1867, larger in size than the 'Low Values' from $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. to 2s. In 1878, two 'High Value' stamps of 10s. and £1 followed. In 1882 printing plates were reduced from four panes of 20 (= 80 stamps) to one plate of 56 stamps. With the introduction of the new printing plates the watermark was changed from 'Maltese Cross' to 'Large Anchor'. Mint 5s., 10s. and £1 stamps are among the rarest stamps not only in GB philately, but also in traditional Classic Philately of any European or Overseas country!



1867, 5s. 'abnormal' plate 4 Imprimatur, watermark 'Maltese Cross'.

Provenance:

ex Laycock (1953) R.Lowe Auction (1958) ex Dr. & Mme. Serval (1976)



1878, 10s. Imprimatur, watermark 'Maltese Cross'.

Provenance:

ex Bailey (1955) ex Ernest Hunt (1966)



1878, 10s. watermark 'Maltese Cross', mint. Provenance:

Christies Auction (1993)



1878, £1 watermark 'Maltese Cross', mint. Provenance: ex L. Praportchetovitch (1933)



1882, 10s. Imprimatur, watermark 'Large Anchor'. Provenance:

ex Per Gjerding (1956)



1882, £5 Imprimatur.

Provenance:

ex Joseph Silkin (1971)



Baron de Worms



1882, 5s. plate 4, watermark 'Large Anchor', mint.



1882, 10s. watermark 'Large Anchor', mint. Provenance: ex Wane (1941)



1882, £1 watermark 'Large Anchor', mint. Only 25 mint examples recorded, therof 3 in institutional collections and unavailable for collectors!

Provenance:

ex Baron Anthony de Worms (1938) ex Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)



1883/91, High Values

In December 1882 De La Rue submitted new designs for the 'High Values' with new inscription 'POSTAGE – REVENUE' (instead 'POSTAGE' only). Although the use of Corner Letters as part of the design added considerably to the expense of printing plate production, the system of individual Corner Letters for each stamp remained unchanged as a measure for security to avoid use of uncancelled re-joined left and right half stamps to defraud the Post Post Office.



5s.: ex Dr. Douglas Latto (1992)

1883, 2s.6d., 5s. and 10s. die proofs to check the work of the engraver, taken from soft steel before hardening.

Provenance:

Provenance:

2s.6d.: ex Sir Gawaine Baillie (2004)



1885, £1 watermark 'Crowns', TA, plate 2, variety 'broken frame', mint. Only two corner marginal examples recorded!



1891, £1 green, TA, plate 2, variety 'broken frame' . **Provenance:**

Spink Auction (1997)



Alfred Caspary



1888, £1 watermark 'Orbs', mint. Provenance:

ex Alfred Caspary (1958)



1884, 10s. cobalt on white paper, mint. Provenance:

ex William H. Crocker (1938) ex Lloyd (1959) H.R. Harmer Auction (1972)



10s.: Harmers Auction (1965) ex Heinz Reck (1994)

1887, 10s. ultramarine on whité paper. **Provenance:**

Harmer Auction (1984) ex Howard O. Fraser (2001)



1883/1884, 'Lilac and Green' Unified Issue

The 1884 'Lilac & Green' Issue provoked a public outcry of disdain for this new issue of stamps, more or less ignored by the Government. When it was pointed out that the Revenue might suffer from inability to check correct value of stamps due to uniform green or lilac colours, reaction came immediately! The Post Office had the task of checking frankings under difficult artificial lighting conditions not aided by different values in identical colours.



1883, cut down die proofs Provenance: Phillips Auction (1989)



R. G. Lee



1884, 3d. lilac, variety imperforate. Just six imperforate 3d. recorded, a single, a pair and this strip, all from the T-row! Provenance:

Phillips Auction (1994)

1884, Unissued 5d. 'with line under d'. Only 12 examples recorded!

Provenance:

ex The Post Office Treasure Trove (1947) ex Ronald G. Lee (1970 'MAXIMUS')



1884, Unissued 5d. 'with line under d', overprinted SPECIMEN. Just 7 examples recorded!

Provenance:

R.Lowe (1946) ex Kenneth M. Beaumont (1965)

1887/1901, Jubilee Issue

Following the public relations disaster of the 1884 'Lilac & Green' issue, the Post Office issued newly designed bicoloured stamps on white paper and one colour stamps on colour-tinted paper. The new issue appeared in 1887 when Queen Victoria celebrated her 50th Anniversary on the Throne, the issue became known as the 'Jubilee Issue' .

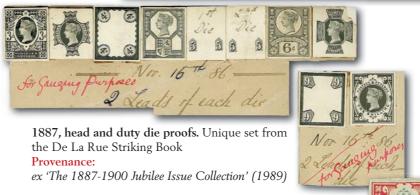




1887, 2½d. variety imperforate between stamp and sheet margin, strip of three postions 4-6. The adjoining strip to the 'MAXIMUS' (R.A.G.Lee) strip position 7-9! Only one row of twelve originally existed which was split into four strips of three.

Provenance:

ex Joseph Silkin (1971)



1900, 1s. green and carmine, Imprimatur, only two examples cut from the Imprimatur sheet, the rarest of all Victorian Imprimaturs! **Provenance:**

ex 'The 1887-1900 Jubilee Issue Collection' (1989) ex Jeffrey K. Weiss (1996)



Edward VII

Following the death of Queen Victoria her eldest son Edward ascended to the throne on 22 January 1901. Most Designs of the 1887 Jubilee Issue remained unchanged with the head of Edward VII incorporated.



HOWER HOLDS

1902, 1s. major plate flaw 'Full Beard' . The only pair we know of with a 'normal stamp'.

1901, Die Proof without value Provenance:
Phillips Auction 1997



King Edward VII



1902, Booklet pane of six, inverted watermark



1902, 1d. imperf. between stamp and margin. Just one row of 12 was recorded.



1901, 10s. die proof Provenance: ex Joseph Silkin (1971)



1901, £1 die proof Provenance: ex Sir John Dodd (1956)



Official Stamps

In order to prevent the misuse of postage stamps provided for Government correspondence it was decided in 1882 to overprint them with the initials of the various State Departments. A general 'Official Stamp' prepared for use in 1840 was never issued.





Earl of Crawford



1882, OFFICIAL I.R., ld. overprint essay, less than a dozen examples recorded!

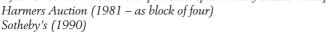
Provenance: Harmers Auction (1965) ex A.Gilbert (1997)



1897, GOVt PARCELS, 1d. variety 'Overprint inverted', mint. One of the most popular Victorian overprint varieties.

1840, Unissued 'VR' One Penny Black, mint block of four Provenance:

ex 'Dublin Find' part sheet (1899)
Exhibited London International Exhibition (1906)
Illustrated in Gibbons Monthly Journal (1906)
ex Earl of Crawford (1913)
Acquired by R.B.Sparrow (1913)
Acquired by Charles Nissen (1913)
After 1913: The 'Dublin Find' part sheet split in many smaller multiples
Harmers Auction (1981 – as block of four)





1890, I.R.OFFICIAL, £1 brown-lilac with watermark 'Orbs', mint Provenance:

Harmer Rooke Auction (1959)



1892, I.R.OFFICIAL, £1 green, TA, variety 'frame break', the only corner marginal stamp recorded!

Provenance:

Gilbert & Köhler Auction (1909) ex Lloyd (1959)



1885, I.R.OFFICIAL, £1 brownlilac with watermark 'Crowns', mint Provenance: Sotheby's Auction (1990)





1902, BOARD OF EDUCATION, 5d. and 1s. mint pairs.



ADDED VALUE BY PROOF OF PROVENANCE

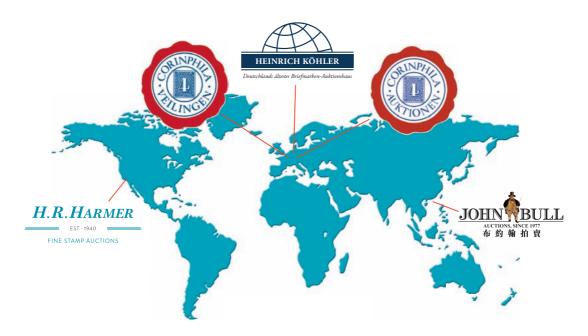
The Karl Louis "Card Index Register"

Describing Philatelic rarities calls for more than just quoting catalogue numbers and values. Provenance is a philatelic pedigree of former owners from the inception of philately until the present day. Those collections held in the highest esteem by their contemporaries and containing the great rarities, the modern day "Large Gold" exhibits, can be traced back to the collectors who once owned the particular rarity and the auctions where they were sold and changed hands. Frequently, the further back a philatelic pedigree goes, the more coveted the rarity becomes. Provenance is a quality seal. As in Art, Provenance is an indispensible attribute: in this case, of valuable Great Britain stamps and covers.

« Provenance is a quality seal. As in Art, Provenance is an indispensible attribute. » The most comprehensive Provenance files of rare Great Britain has been meticulously maintained by Karl Louis AIEP, FRPSL, Corinphila's Managing Director. Karl started his Great Britain "Card Index Register" more than 35 years ago. Today it is – to the best of our knowledge – by far the most comprehensive and important census of British Stamps in the philatelic world.

All Provenances given for items offered in the "BESANÇON" Great Britain 1840 – 1910 collection are based on information from the "Karl Louis Card Index Register" and we will provide as much information on previous owners and sales as possible. We believe that this will benefit both potential buyers and future collectors in the "BESANÇON" series of auctions to be held at Corinphila. For further details, especially of what kind of items can be found in the "Card Index Register" see: www.corinphila.ch





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