

Top of the Colonies

Which British colony is the most popular – in the philatelic sense, that is? At this point, before scrolling down the page, you might want to hazard a guess at the answer for those British possessions that issued the Windsor Castle stamps for the 1935 Silver Jubilee.

Perhaps the album publishers could tell us the answer but what can we learn from the catalogues? We assume a catalogue value reflects the supply as well as the demand but perhaps there is a way of removing the supply variable.

While specimen stamps are not necessarily a “must have” for all collectors, they do have an advantage for our purposes, namely: that the same quantity was produced for each territory. Hence, the catalogue value of specimens should reflect solely the demand level. On this basis, the table below gives the current popularity according to the Gibbons Part 1 for 2015.

In the past eleven years, when this exercise was last carried out, Hong Kong has knocked Falkland Islands into second place. Bermuda and Straits Settlements have overtaken Gibraltar. Gilbert & Ellice went up four places and Malta and K.U.T. down four. Moving over a dozen places are Barbados, (up), Fiji and St. Lucia, (both down).

Place	Crown Agents Territory	SG c/v £	Change since 2004
1	Hong Kong	500	n/c
2	Falkland Islands	450	-1
3	Ascension	425	n/c
4	Bermuda	225	+1
	Straits Settlements	225	+2
6	Gibraltar	200	-2
	Cyprus	200	+1
	Gilbert & Ellice Islands	200	+4

9	Newfoundland	190	n/c
	Northern Rhodesia	190	+1
	St. Helena	190	+1
12	Malta	180	-4
13	Seychelles	170	-3
14	Cayman Islands	160	-4
	Kenya Uganda Tanganyika	160	-4
16	Basutoland	150	+10
17	Nyasaland	140	-1
	Ceylon	140	n/c
	Bahamas	140	+2
	Swaziland	140	+2
	Virgin Islands	140	+2
	Bechuanaland	140	+9
	Leeward Islands	140	+9
	Sierra Leone	140	+9
	Barbados	140	+13
26	British Solomon Islands	130	-7
	Gambia	130	-7
	Mauritius	130	-7
	British Guiana	130	+4
30	Fiji	120	-13
	Gold Coast	120	-11
	British Honduras	120	n/c
33	Dominica	110	-3
	Jamaica	110	-3
	Montserrat	110	-3
	Trinidad & Tobago	110	-3
	Antigua	110	+6
	Nigeria	110	+6
	Somaliland Protectorate	110	+6
40	St. Christopher & Nevis	100	-10
	Grenada	100	-1
	St. Vincent	100	-1
	Turks & Caicos Islands	100	-1
44	St. Lucia	95	-14