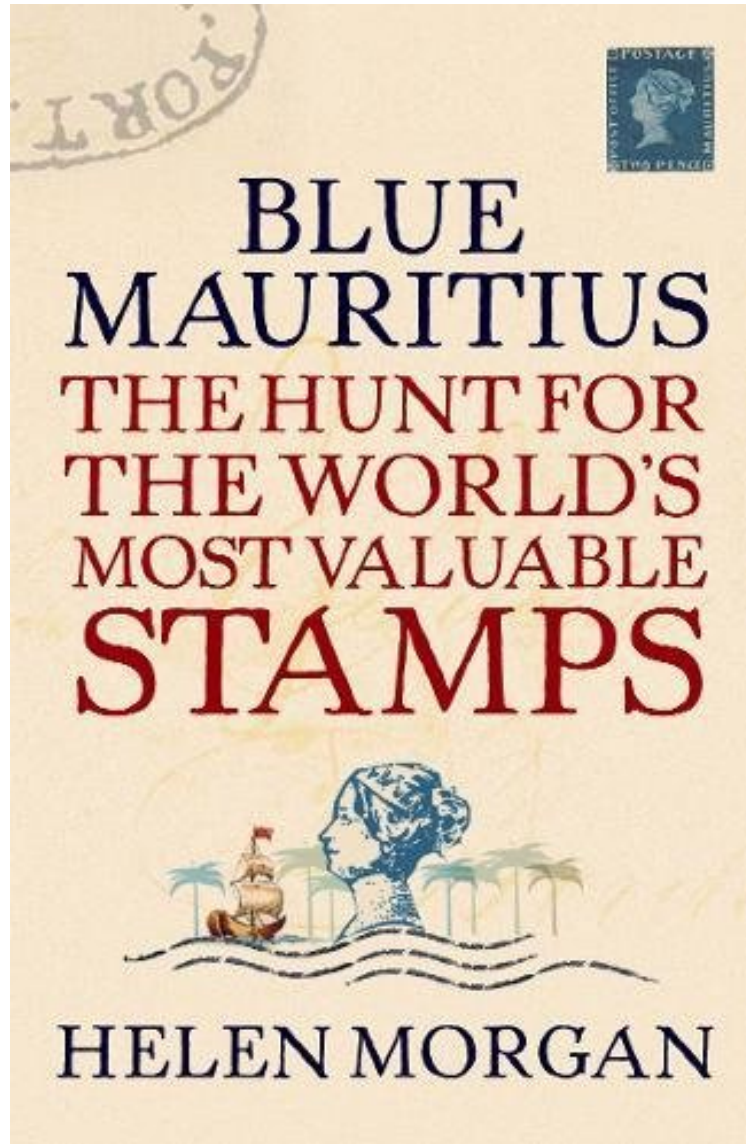


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Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Stamps

Helen Morgan

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Helen Morgan : Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Stamps before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Blue Mauritius: The Hunt for the World's Most Valuable Stamps:

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Facinating History of a Remote IslandBy Howard K Buhl IIIThis book is not just about stamps. It tells a lot about the history and culture of the island of Mauritius, far far away. The book talks about the beginning French presence and then the British culture in Mauritius. It also has a lot of

information about mail delivery in Mauritius and also in France and India where copies of the stamps were found after they had been used. There have been very, very few of these stamps found and the history of each known copy is given. These stamps have been owned and enjoyed by the most famous and eccentric stamp collectors in the last 150 years. 8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. a book to be admired as much as the valued stamp

By John E. Drury
A book of deep scholarship, exactitude and completeness; wonderfully written conveying a sense of the collector's passion and the excitement of discovery. In Helen Morgan's world, the search of, and affirmation for rarity and worth is contained in the history of the first issuance of the the Blue Mauritius in September 1847 and the story of the many collectors and philatelists who have owned or now own one of the treasured stamps called Blue Mauritius. Drawing on sources worldwide in many languages, Morgan's philately is more than the love of those "dirty little pieces of paper, " but the study of countries and their histories and the beauty of the art of the commonplace. Her concluding chapter of the return of two of the prized stamps to an honored place on the small island nation of Mauritius is a fitting coda to a story well told.

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. If you like stamps, you'll love this

By Timothy L. Howard
If you like stamps, you'll love this. Even if you don't collect, there's much fascinating history buried in this book. Morgan writes well. Who would have thought so many details could be wrung out of the design of a couple of stamps? Bravo!

Follow the adventures of the world's most sought-after postage stamps—from a tropical Indian Ocean island to the hushed atmosphere of the modern auction room—in this dramatic and passionate tale of the first stamp hunters. In September 1847 colored squares of paper were stuck on to envelopes and used to send out admission cards to a fancy-dress ball on the tropical island of Mauritius. No one at the party would have guessed that these stamps would one day be worth more than a million dollars. When a two-pence "Blue Mauritius" surfaced on the fledgling French stamp-collecting market in 1865 it gained instant celebrity. Soldiers, schoolboys, and the entire German nation became obsessed with finding one of these extremely rare examples. When in 1903 a perfect specimen, discovered in a childhood album, was bought at auction by the Prince of Wales, the Blue Mauritius gained superstar status. Even now, "Post Office Mauritius" stamps are synonymous with fame, wealth, and mystery. The most coveted scraps of paper in existence, this is their story—from their birth during days of sail, taking them from Port Louis to Bordeaux, India and Great Britain, Switzerland and Japan, into the hearts and imagination of collectors everywhere.

Will strike a chord with anyone who has ever felt the thrill of buying a little glassine packet of stamps, tipping them out, finding the longed-for Missing One and making the proud, complete set... the stories of these stamps are often extraordinary. -- Ann Wroe * Daily Telegraph * Fascinating... not just an entertaining and meticulously researched history of Mauritius and its stamps, but also an absorbing look at the early development of one of the world's most widespread hobbies. -- Kieron Wood * Sunday Business Post *

About the Author
Helen Morgan trained as an art historian and archivist. This is her first book.