

PRESS RELEASE

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Established 1856

STANLEY GIBBONS ACQUIRES JOHN LENNON'S STAMP ALBUM

In an acquisition that neatly covers its two main activities, Stanley Gibbons, the World's best known name in stamp collecting and Europe's leading autograph dealer, has acquired John Lennon's stamp album. This superb item is of great interest to Beatles historians, collectors and fans alike.

Lennon's hardcover 'Mercury Stamp Album' dates from about 1950, when he was 10 years old. It is inscribed on the flyleaf with his name and address 'John Lennon, 251 Menlove Avenue, Woolton, Liverpool' and signed again 'John Lennon' in blue ballpoint pen further down the page.

Intriguingly in the top left hand corner are three practice signatures in pencil - his Christian name written once and his surname twice, as Lennon appears to be working on the formation of what would become an iconic signature. The flyleaf is also annotated by him with the number of stamps in the album, which fluctuated from 500 to 800.

Extra interest to Beatles' historians is given by the additional inscription on the flyleaf by Stanley Parkes, Lennon's older cousin, of his name and address in Fleetwood. Stanley was seven years older than Lennon and acted as chaperone in his formative years. A reproduction black and white photograph of the young Lennon, aged 7, is also included with the item.

The album is on show at Fraser's Autograph Gallery at 399 Strand, London WC2R 0LX and can also be viewed at www.frasersautographs.com along with many other fascinating items.

2005 would have seen Lennon's 65th birthday and a number of celebrations are planned by fans worldwide to commemorate the event. Freddie Mercury of Queen was also a keen stamp collector. His first stamp album was purchased by the National Postal Museum after his death and exhibited both at the Museum and at exhibitions worldwide where it was seen by thousands of adoring fans.

For further information and illustrations of the album and signatures contact:
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Fraser's Autographs is a trading division of Stanley Gibbons. It is Europe's leading autograph and memorabilia dealer with over 60,000 signatures in stock.

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