

Chris, who is British, began collecting stamps at age 6 or 7. Though he collected everything, he recalls having had a decent number of Ireland's early overprinted issues of 1922, thanks to his Irish grandfather.

"I'm pretty sure I soon swapped away the best of them without realizing it," he recollects. His collecting eventually grew to encompass not only British areas including classic Ceylon and New Zealand, but Russian zemstvos, classic Peru and Nicaragua, classic United States, and the revenues of Grenada and Japan.

His interest in classic forgeries, of which he has a substantial collection, grew partly out of his work with the Royal Philatelic Society London expert committee and partly because studying forgeries is a great way to gain insights into the genuine originals.

As part of his effort to deepen the relationship between the RPSL and the Philatelic Foundation, Chris visited New York to study the Philatelic Foundation's reference collection of U.S. 19th-century grilled issues.

His contributions to literature include authoring *Great Britain: The Stamps of the Circular Delivery Companies and their Forgeries*; sections of the Stanley Gibbons *Great Britain Specialised Stamp Catalogue*, Volume I dealing with postal fiscals, college stamps and circular delivery stamps; and numerous articles and presentations.

"Once you've got a decent collection, writing and exhibiting is a way to give back," he said recently. "I like to entertain and educate." He added that storytelling should be the thrust of most philatelic writing.

"If someone is into plating Penny Reds, that's all right but they should keep it to themselves," he said with a laugh. "Flyspecking is fine but it's not a thing you should inflict on a general audience!"

When he's not collecting stamps, Chris likes to spend time fishing, in particular for trout and salmon in Scotland.