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# A stiletto, Weitzman and the 1856 British Guiana 1¢ Magenta

THE \$9.5 MILLION BRITISH GUIANA 1¢ MAGENTA STAMP HAS A NEW MARKING ON THE REVERSE, CONTINUING A TRADITION STARTED IN THE 1870S BY PHILIPP VON FERRARY.

Stuart Weitzman, the renowned shoe designer and philanthropist, made philatelic history when he purchased the unique British Guiana 1¢ Magenta stamp for almost \$9.5 million in 2014.

In January 1856, British Guiana issued a small number of 1¢ and 4¢ stamps for provisional use while the postmaster waited on a shipment of postage stamps from England. Multiple examples of the 4¢ stamp have survived, but the 1¢ stamp Weitzman bought is the only one of its kind in the world.

Since June 2015 (with a few exceptions), this stamp, considered the world's rarest and most valuable, has been on display at the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C., thanks to Weitzman's generosity.

The stamp has also toured a bit and was on display at World Stamp Show-NY 2016 in New York City and in Monaco at the Monacophil 2017 exhibition.

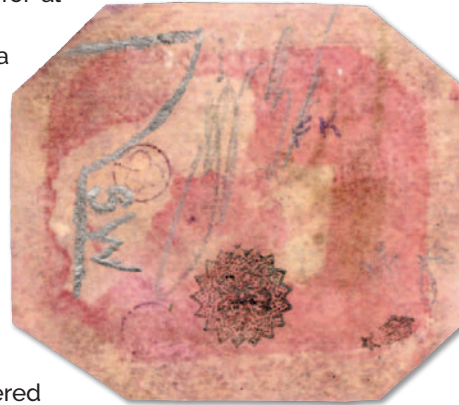
On Oct. 19, Weitzman continued the tradition of previous owners of the British Guiana 1¢ Magenta by adding his initials "SW" to the reverse of the stamp. He also added a line drawing of a stiletto shoe.

The other markings on the back of this famous stamp were made by Count Philipp von Ferrary, Arthur Hind and his wife Ann "to obscure her husband's mark," Frederick T. Small, Finbar Kenny (manager of Macy's stamp department who brokered the stamp's sale to Small), Irwin Weinberg and associates, and John E. du Pont, according to information from the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.

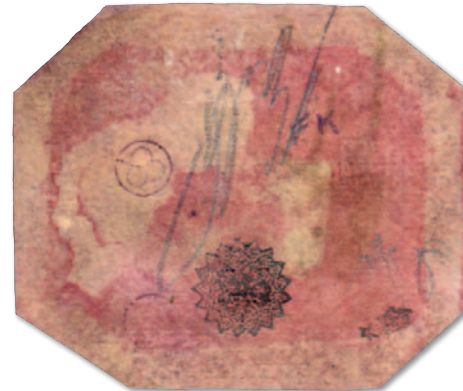
I think it is safe to say the stamp hobby greatly appreciates the support Weitzman has for it.

For more details about the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum and the display of

the British Guiana 1¢ Magenta in the museum's William H. Gross Stamp Gallery, visit the website [www.postalmuseum.si.edu](http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu). □



Before and after scans of the back of the British Guiana 1¢ Magenta stamp. The after image at left includes the initials of the current owner, shoe designer and entrepreneur Stuart Weitzman, and a line drawing of a stiletto shoe along the left side. Images courtesy of the Smithsonian's National Postal Museum.



The front of the British Guiana 1¢ Magenta stamp.