

# Tutorial - WebStamp2Excel

This tool is designed to create a collection in Excel from websites that do not offer this option, and optionally to retrieve stamp images to build your albums.

The advantage of maintaining a collection in an Excel file, besides its evaluation, is its independence from proprietary databases and its portability; it can be viewed on all spreadsheet software.

The software integrates assistance in the form of a central text field and information bubbles when hovering over fields.

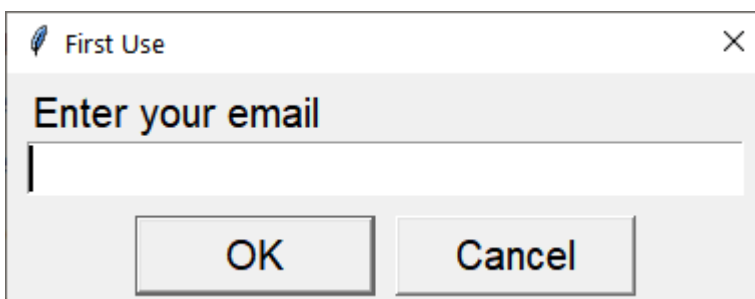
The generated Excel files are editable; if columns are deleted, as long as the column titles are preserved, they will remain compatible with this software.

This software is a Python program, and the executable is provided for PC; it will be possible to produce it for MAC.

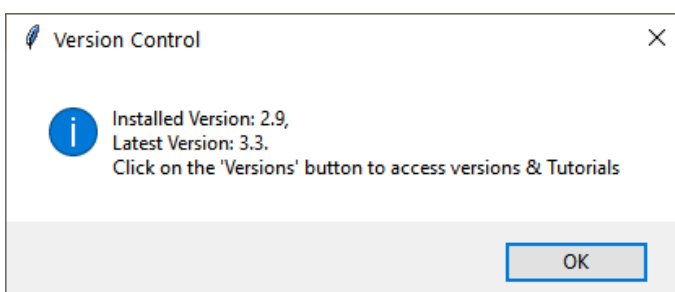
The provided executable is "safe"; it has been checked by antivirus software, it does not write to the disk under its installation tree, and it of course requires access to the Internet. It is signed with a self-signed certificate, however, it may generate a warning for restrictive antivirus programs that only allow published certificates; in this case, simply bypass the warning to use it.

## Startup Screen


An email will be requested upon the first startup, it will only be used to register you to keep you informed of product updates, and it will not be requested again afterwards.




If you already have a previous version, you will receive a warning at startup:



## Main screen



WebStamp2Excel v4.0

[Versions](#)

Country

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort

Load all countries

Site 1 URL

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\_Kingdom\_of\_Great\_Britain\_Northern\_Ireland/year/

Site 2 URL

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/

Excel File

MyCollection{country}.xlsx

Browse

☐ Use Cache

This software allows exporting entire stamp collections by country to an Excel file, extracted from the Colnect website and whose quotations are taken from the StampWorld website by matching images because the 2 sites use different catalog references.

The Excel file thus produced can then be updated for quotations, as it contains the catalog references of the 2 sites.

>>> Hover over fields to understand their use and for keyboard shortcut. <<<

Reminder: the use of this software must remain confidential and its use reasonable, as if too many of us use it the managers of the Colnect and StampWorld sites will make it difficult for us by blocking this robot, in case of intensive use, prioritize the use of site caches.

Generate Excel File

Excel File Management

Exit

Quotation Update

Image Extraction

[Contribute to WebStamp2Excel](#)

To load a new version, click on the blue link "[Versions](#)" to go to the download page where you will find the version history and a contact link. If you know of any websites or have ideas that would enhance this software, please feel free to communicate them through the contact link.

Download webpage

# WebStamp2Excel



manage your stamp collections in Excel files

[Download the latest version V 3.3](#)

[Access the Tutorial](#)

[Send an email to webstamp2excel@free.fr to report errors or suggest improvements](mailto:webstamp2excel@free.fr)

## History

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### • [V3.3](#)

- # installation on an old directory possible without affecting the data
- # no more Zip, standardized installation, default directory on C:\WS2E
- # Excel file management, filter improvement

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### • [V3.2](#)

- # added a convenient filter on Type in Excel file management

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### [V3.1](#)

- # Version link fix on Web page
- # fix on French quotation in market value which was not working anymore

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### • [V3.0](#)

- # digitally signed executable since 5/09/2023
- # version control and access to the download page
- # added Menu for managing the Mancoliste
- # added "Market Value" option for French collection, no image matching in this case
- # reduced window height
- # improved country loading
- # improved window movement
- # simplified input, pages removed

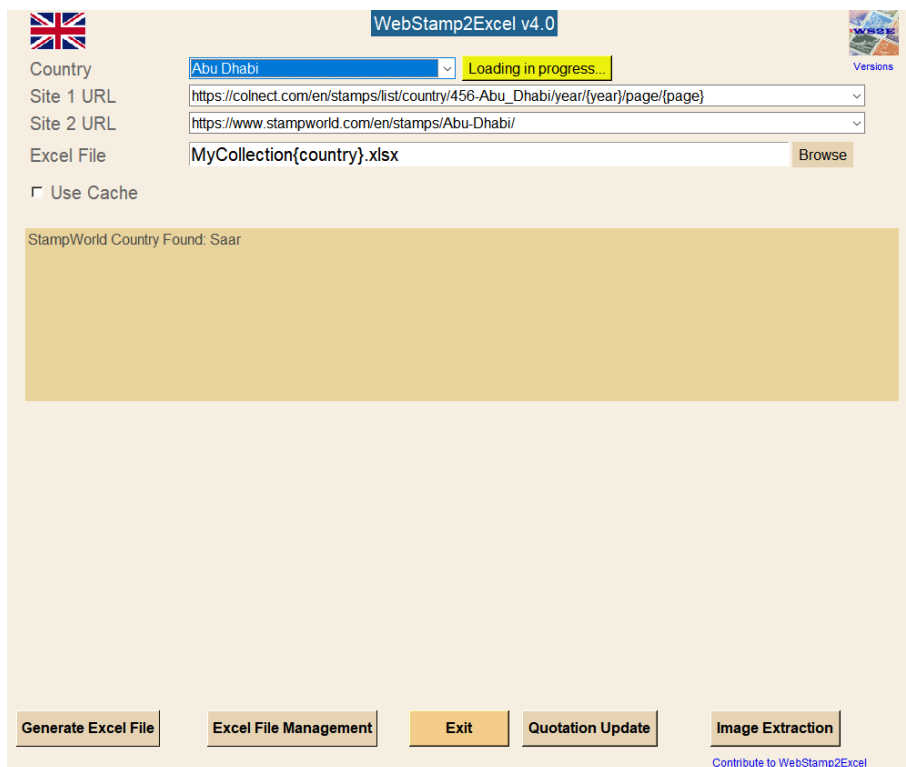
---

### • [V2.3](#)

- # fix to complete the list of countries
- # added Menu for editing the Excel file

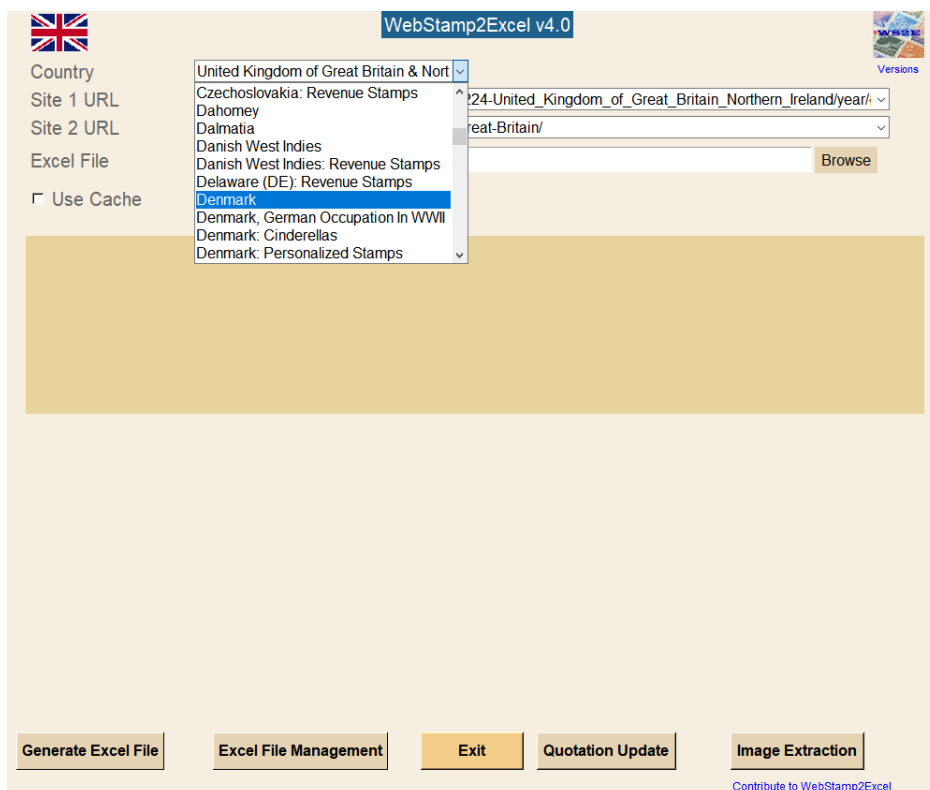
**000382** Visits

To start, if you collect stamps from countries other than France, **load the list of countries.**



The screenshot shows the WebStamp2Excel v4.0 web application. The 'Country' dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of countries including 'United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland', 'Czechoslovakia: Revenue Stamps', 'Dahomey', 'Dalmatia', 'Danish West Indies', 'Danish West Indies: Revenue Stamps', 'Delaware (DE): Revenue Stamps', 'Denmark', 'Denmark, German Occupation In WWII', 'Denmark: Cinderellas', and 'Denmark: Personalized Stamps'. The 'Abu Dhabi' option is highlighted. The 'Loading in progress...' status is visible next to the dropdown. The 'Generate Excel File' button is visible at the bottom left.

Dropdown list of countries: country names are also accessible by typing the first 3 letters of the country when in the [Country] field.



The screenshot shows the WebStamp2Excel v4.0 web application. The 'Country' dropdown menu is open, displaying a list of countries including 'United Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland', 'Czechoslovakia: Revenue Stamps', 'Dahomey', 'Dalmatia', 'Danish West Indies', 'Danish West Indies: Revenue Stamps', 'Delaware (DE): Revenue Stamps', 'Denmark', 'Denmark, German Occupation In WWII', 'Denmark: Cinderellas', and 'Denmark: Personalized Stamps'. The 'Denmark' option is highlighted. The 'Generate Excel File' button is visible at the bottom left.

Once loaded, it will be stored in memory in the "config.ini" file along with most common options.

Now, we can proceed to generate Excel files.

In any case, it is recommended to create a cache of the websites on your machine to avoid saturating the used sites with repeated requests, which may render these sites inaccessible.


The caches are organized by site and country. If you want to build a collection from a particular country, create its cache by specifying a year interval that completely covers your collection.

Subsequently, you can generate your Excel files at your leisure without needing to connect, allowing for quick generation and easier adjustment of parameters according to the final output.


Furthermore, if you wish to use the images to build your own albums, you won't need to go through the image extraction process, as you will find them all in the "**cache**" directory.

### Caching a country:

Select [Generate Excel File], then [Cache sites before generation], choose your year interval, and then [Validate {year}].



WebStamp2Excel v4.0

  
Versions

Country

France

Load all countries

Site 1 URL

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/74-France/year/{year}/page/{page}

Site 2 URL

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/France/

Excel File

MyCollection{country}.xlsx

Browse

☐ Use Cache

☒ Market value quotation

This software allows exporting entire stamp collections by country to an Excel file, extracted from the Colnect website and whose quotations are taken from the StampWorld website by matching images because the 2 sites use different catalog references.

The Excel file thus produced can then be updated for quotations, as it contains the catalog references of the 2 sites.

>>> Hover over fields to understand their use and for keyboard shortcut. <<<

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Generate Excel File

Excel File Management

Exit

Quotation Update


Image Extraction

Excel without Quotation


Excel with Quotation

Caching sites before generation

Contribute to WebStamp2Excel



WebStamp2Excel v4.0



Versions

Country

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort

Load all countries

Site 1 URL

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\_Kingdom\_of\_Great\_Britain\_Northern\_Ireland/year/

Site 2 URL

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/

Excel File

MyCollection{country}.xlsx

Browse

☐ Use Cache
 {year} from
 

1900

 up to
 

1960

Validate {year}

Site 1: Year browsing 1900 : 21 stamps

Generate Excel File

Excel File Management

Stop

Quotation Update

Image Extraction

Contribute to WebStamp2Excel

## Preview of the cache directory

cache

Fichier

Accueil

Partage

Affichage

Épingler à Accès rapide

Copier

Coller

Couper

Copier le chemin d'accès

Coller le raccourci

Presse-papiers

Déplacer vers

Copier vers

Supprimer

Renommer

Organiser

Nouvel élément

Accès rapide

Nouveau dossier

Nouveau

Propriétés

Ouvrir

Modifier

Historique

Sélectionner tout

Aucun

Inverser la sélection

Sélectionner

← → ↶ ↷

Ce PC

WORK (E:)

HtoDev

python

WS2E

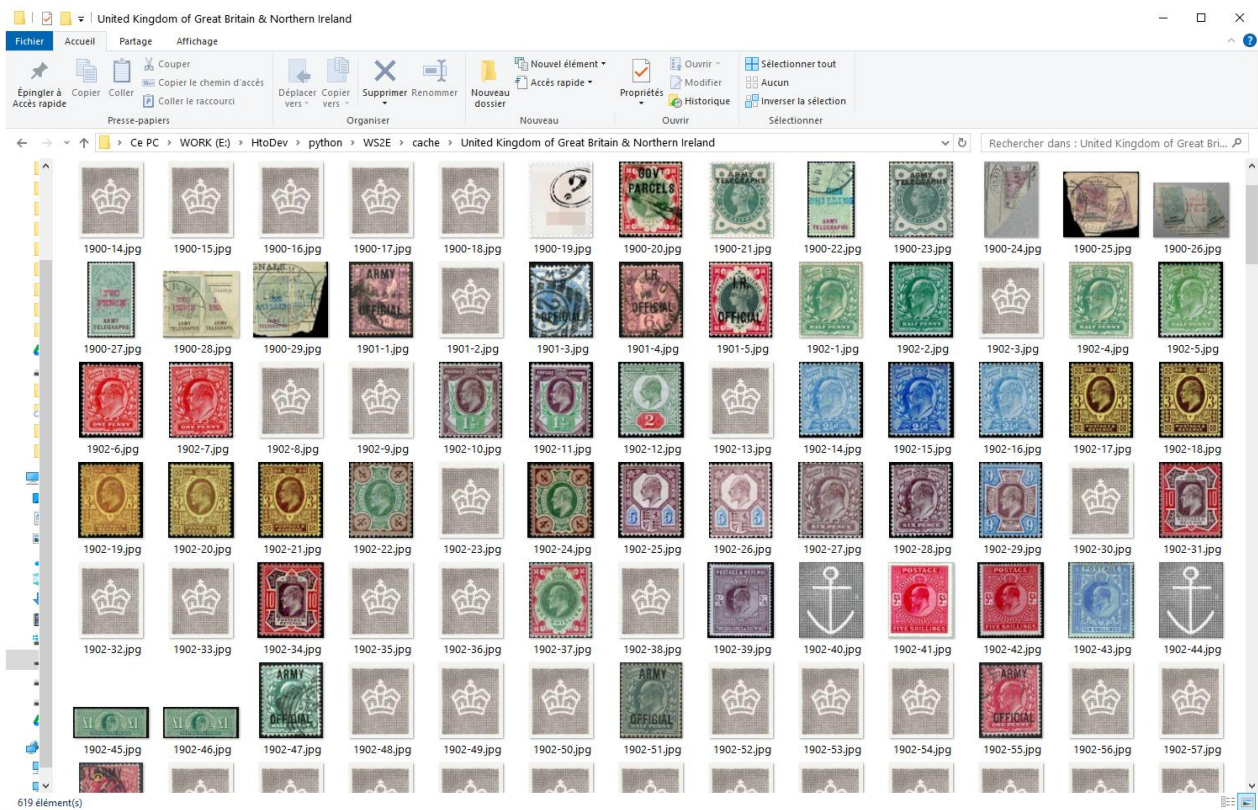
cache

Rechercher dans : cache

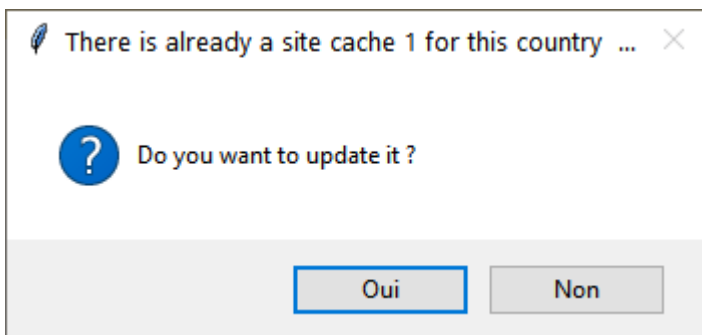
Nom	Modifié le	Type	Taille
Belgique	28/06/2023 21:22	Dossier de fichier...	
Espagne	20/07/2023 14:16	Dossier de fichier...	
France	23/06/2023 20:59	Dossier de fichier...	
Italie	23/07/2023 19:09	Dossier de fichier...	
cacheColBelgique.ini	28/06/2023 22:09	Paramètres de c...	2 383 Ko
cacheColBelgique.ini.bak	27/06/2023 23:29	Fichier BAK	2 257 Ko
cacheColEspagne.ini	20/07/2023 14:16	Paramètres de c...	352 Ko
cacheColFrance.ini	23/06/2023 23:27	Paramètres de c...	2 973 Ko
cacheColItalie.ini	23/07/2023 19:09	Paramètres de c...	514 Ko
cacheSWBelgique.ini	28/06/2023 22:09	Paramètres de c...	1 058 Ko
cacheSWEspagne.ini	20/07/2023 14:16	Paramètres de c...	253 Ko
cacheSWItalie.ini	23/07/2023 19:09	Paramètres de c...	239 Ko
cacheTFFrance - Copie.ini	24/06/2023 13:00	Paramètres de c...	3 919 Ko
cacheTFFrance.ini	26/06/2023 23:43	Paramètres de c...	3 927 Ko
MaCollectionFrance.xlsx	25/06/2023 20:13	Feuille de calcul ...	41 664 Ko

15 élément(s)





Note that the cache is scalable; if you regenerate it, a dialog box will prompt you to evolve it instead of overwriting it, in case you want to add years.

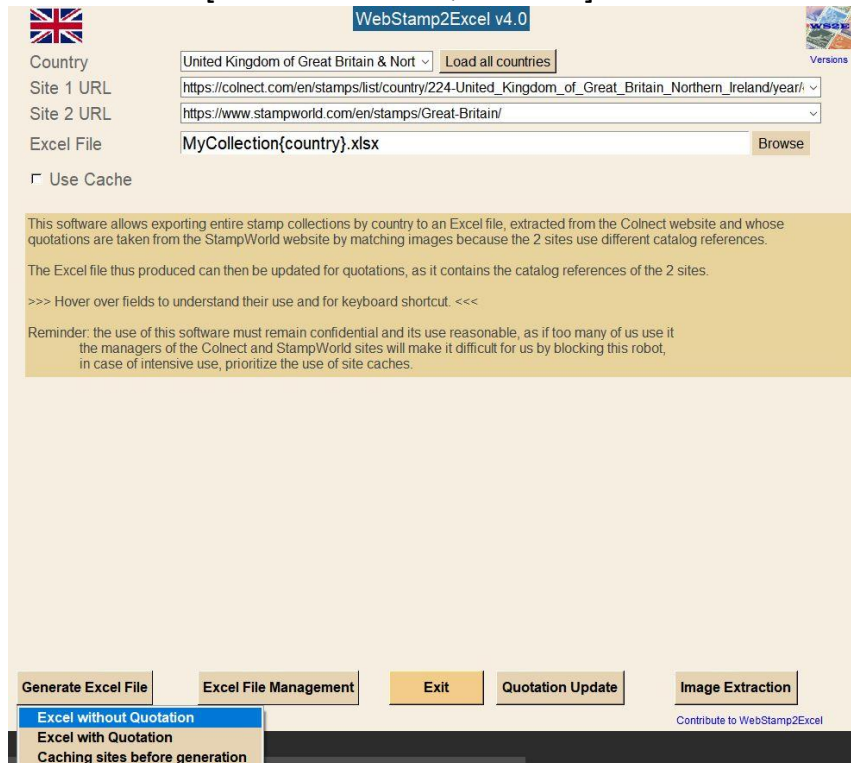


## Generating an Excel file without quotation from the cache

The generation process is the same without using the cache; the only difference will be the speed of generation, which will be slower!

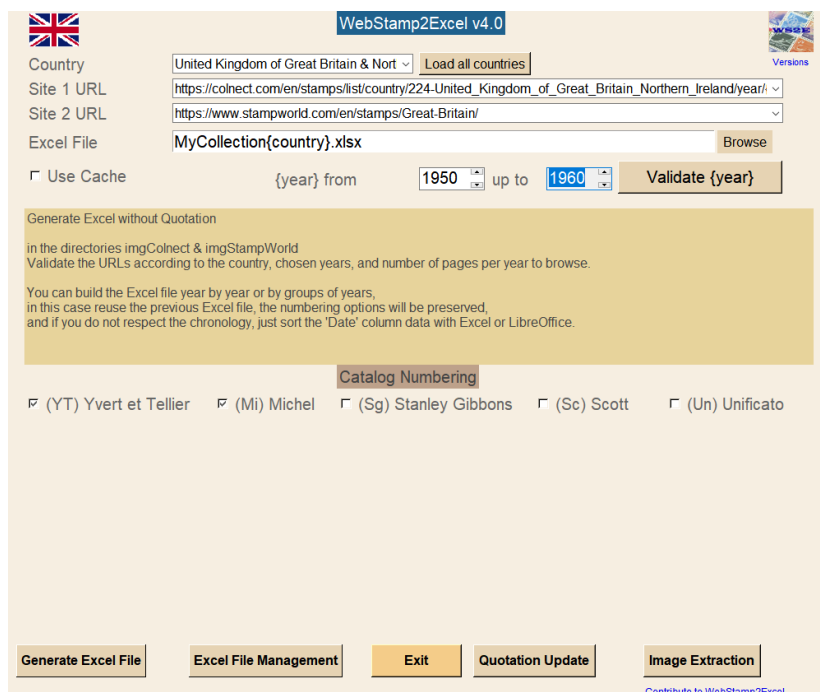
Generation occurs by year intervals, but you can revisit the same Excel file; in this case, a window will prompt you to overwrite the old file or enrich it with a new interval. In this case, the Excel file will remain sortable in Excel in case the chronological order of the years is not respected.

### Select menu [Excel without Quotation]



The screenshot shows the WebStamp2Excel v4.0 interface. At the top, there is a UK flag and the title 'WebStamp2Excel v4.0'. Below this, there are input fields for 'Country' (set to 'United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort'), 'Site 1 URL' (set to 'https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\_Kingdom\_of\_Great\_Britain\_Northern\_Ireland/year/'), and 'Site 2 URL' (set to 'https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/'). There is also an 'Excel File' field with the text 'MyCollection{country}.xlsx' and a 'Browse' button. A checkbox labeled 'Use Cache' is present. Below these fields, there is a text box explaining the software's purpose: 'This software allows exporting entire stamp collections by country to an Excel file, extracted from the Colnect website and whose quotations are taken from the StampWorld website by matching images because the 2 sites use different catalog references. The Excel file thus produced can then be updated for quotations, as it contains the catalog references of the 2 sites. >>> Hover over fields to understand their use and for keyboard shortcut. <<< Reminder: the use of this software must remain confidential and its use reasonable, as if too many of us use it the managers of the Colnect and StampWorld sites will make it difficult for us by blocking this robot, in case of intensive use, prioritize the use of site caches.' At the bottom, there are several buttons: 'Generate Excel File', 'Excel File Management', 'Exit', 'Quotation Update', and 'Image Extraction'. A dropdown menu is open under 'Generate Excel File', showing three options: 'Excel without Quotation' (highlighted in blue), 'Excel with Quotation', and 'Caching sites before generation'. A link 'Contribute to WebStamp2Excel' is visible at the bottom right.


Validation of the years to be produced, then [Validate {year}].




The screenshot shows the WebStamp2Excel v4.0 interface with the 'Validate {year}' button highlighted. The interface is similar to the previous one, but with additional fields for year validation. Below the 'Excel File' field, there is a checkbox 'Use Cache' and a section for year validation: '{year} from 1950 up to 1960 Validate {year}'. Below this, there is a text box explaining the validation process: 'Generate Excel without Quotation in the directories imgColnect & imgStampWorld Validate the URLs according to the country, chosen years, and number of pages per year to browse. You can build the Excel file year by year or by groups of years, in this case reuse the previous Excel file, the numbering options will be preserved, and if you do not respect the chronology, just sort the 'Date' column data with Excel or LibreOffice.' Below the text box, there is a 'Catalog Numbering' section with several checkboxes: '(YT) Yvert et Tellier', '(Mi) Michel', '(Sg) Stanley Gibbons', '(Sc) Scott', and '(Un) Unificato'. At the bottom, there are the same buttons as in the previous screenshot: 'Generate Excel File', 'Excel File Management', 'Exit', 'Quotation Update', and 'Image Extraction'. A link 'Contribute to WebStamp2Excel' is visible at the bottom right.



The process remains interruptible during generation by [Stop].



WebStamp2Excel v4.0



Versions

Country

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort 

Load all countries

Site 1 URL

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\_Kingdom\_of\_Great\_Britain\_Northern\_Ireland/year/

Site 2 URL

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/

Excel File

MyCollection{country}.xlsx 

Browse

☐ Use Cache

{year} from

1950

up to

1960

Validate {year}

657 stamps from Site 1 cached from:1900 to 1960  
294 stamps from Site 2 cached from:1900 to 1960

Catalog Numbering

☒ (YT) Yvert et Tellier ☒ (Mi) Michel ☐ (Sg) Stanley Gibbons ☒ (Sc) Scott ☐ (Un) Unificato

Generate Excel File

Excel File Management


Stop

Quotation Update


Image Extraction

Contribute to WebStamp2Excel

At the end of the generation, you will be informed in the central field.



WebStamp2Excel v4.0



Versions

Country

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort 

Load all countries

Site 1 URL

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\_Kingdom\_of\_Great\_Britain\_Northern\_Ireland/year/

Site 2 URL

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/

Excel File

MyCollection{country}.xlsx 

Browse

☐ Use Cache

{year} from

1950

up to

1960

Validate {year}

File MyCollectionUnited Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland.xlsx generated.

Catalog Numbering

☒ (YT) Yvert et Tellier ☒ (Mi) Michel ☐ (Sg) Stanley Gibbons ☒ (Sc) Scott ☐ (Un) Unificato

Generate Excel File

Excel File Management

Exit

Quotation Update

Image Extraction

Contribute to WebStamp2Excel

## Generated Excel File

Image	Title	YT No.	Mi No.	Sc No.	Num. SW	Date	Type	Qty	Mint	Qty	Hinge	Qty	Used	Value	Collectible Value
	King George VI	251	246X	280		1951-05-03	Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0,00 €	0,00 €
	King George VI - Definitives		246X			1951-05-03	Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0,00 €	
	King George VI - Definitives		246Z			1951-05-03	Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0,00 €	
	King George VI - Definitives	251a	246Z			1951-05-03	Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0,00 €	
	King George VI - Definitives	252	247IX	281		1951-05-03	Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0,00 €	
	King George VI - Definitives	252a	247IX	281a		1951-05-03	Other	0	0,0	0	0,0	0	0,0	0,00 €	

Calculation formulas for the collection value are integrated into the Excel file; simply enter the quantity (Qty) owned for each condition (Mint/Hinged/Used).

## Modifying the Excel file

Select [Excel File Management], then [Edit Excel File].

WebStamp2Excel v4.0

Versions

Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort [Load all countries](#)

Site 1 URL: [https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\\_Kingdom\\_of\\_Great\\_Britain\\_Northern\\_Ireland/year/](https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United_Kingdom_of_Great_Britain_Northern_Ireland/year/)

Site 2 URL: <https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/>

Excel File: MyCollection{country}.xlsx [Browse](#)

☐ Use Cache {year} from 1950 up to 1960 [Validate {year}](#)

Editing the Excel file, validate the years to be edited

[Generate Excel File](#) [Excel File Management](#) [Exit](#) [Quotation Update](#) [Image Extraction](#)

[Edit Excel file](#) [Mancolist](#) [Contribute to WebStamp2Excel](#)

## Screen for Excel File Modification after Loading

File ModificationMyCollectionUnited Kingdom of Great Britain & Northern Ireland.xlsx



Title: Festival of Britain  
King George VI - Festival of Britain

Date: 1951-05-03

Type: Other

YT No.: 261

Mi No.: 256

Sc No.: 291

Qty Mint: 0

Qty Hinged: 0

Qty Used: 0

Coas: 0.0

☐ protected quotations

☐ To be deleted manually in Excel

Filtered Type:

Search on:

You can navigate through the collection using the scroll bar, mouse wheel, page up/down arrows, or by searching for a field.

All fields are editable during navigation while preserving focus on the current field; saving occurs at the end of input.

After each modification of the file, a dated copy of the previous file is generated in the following format: MyCollectionItaly\_copyOf20230727\_19h28m29.xlsx

### Checkbox "Protected Valuations":

If this box is checked, the valuations for this stamp cannot be updated by the "Update Valuation" button, but they can still be manually modified. Hovering over the cell in the Excel file will display: Protected Valuations.

### Checkbox "Manually Delete in Excel":

If this box is checked, the stamp will be marked for deletion by highlighting the corresponding Excel rows in red. Deletion is not performed in the software because the Python library used does not allow automatic updating of formulas associated with cells; therefore, you will need to delete these rows in your spreadsheet.


## Generation of the Mancolist (Wantlist)

The Mancolist allows you to establish a list of missing stamps in a collection. Two methods are proposed:


=> Mark with a specific color the missing stamps in the current Excel file according to their condition (Mint/Hinged/Used) if [Detailed Mancolist] is checked, or simply mark missing stamps with a color regardless of their condition if unchecked. In this case, it will be possible to remove the Mancolist markings by decolorizing the Excel file.

=> Create a Mancolist Excel file with only the missing stamps marked with a specific color according to their condition (Mint/Hinged/Used) if [Detailed Mancolist] is checked. If [Detailed Mancolist] is unchecked, the Mancolist Excel file will include the missing stamps without colorization. Note that creating the Mancolist file takes longer than coloring the file.

Select [Excel File Management] then [Mancolist].



WebStamp2Excel v4.0

  
Versions

Country

United Kingdom of Great Britain & Nort

Load all countries

Site 1 URL

https://colnect.com/en/stamps/list/country/224-United\_Kingdom\_of\_Great\_Britain\_Northern\_Ireland/year/

Site 2 URL

https://www.stampworld.com/en/stamps/Great-Britain/

Excel File

MyCollection{country}.xlsx

Browse

☒ Use Cache

This software allows exporting entire stamp collections by country to an Excel file, extracted from the Colnect website and whose quotations are taken from the StampWorld website by matching images because the 2 sites use different catalog references.

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>>> Hover over fields to understand their use and for keyboard shortcut. <<<

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Generate Excel File

Excel File Management

Exit

Quotation Update

Image Extraction

Edit Excel file

Mancolist

Contribute to WebStamp2Excel

Mancolist Management for MyCollectionUnited Kingdom .xlsx

- Coloring the current file to update the Mancolist
- Decolorization of the current file to erase the Mancolist
- Creating a Mancolist file
- ☒ Detailed Mancolist

Mancolist Colors

Mint

Hinge






Used

Generate







## Result [Colorization of the current file...] with Detailed Mancoliste Option

MyCollectionUnited Kingdom.xlsx - Microsoft Excel													
Outils Image													
Format													
Renvoyer à la ligne automatiquement													
Fusionner et centrer													
Standard													
%													
Mise en forme conditionnelle													
Mettre sous forme de tableau													
Styles de cellules													
Insérer Supprimer Format													
Cellules													
Somme automatique													
Remplissage													
Effacer													
Trier et filtrer													
Rechercher et sélectionner													
Édition													
Image 12													
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R													
Image Title YT No. Sc No. SG No. Num. SW Date Type Qty Mint Qty Hinge Qty Used Value Collectible Value													
King George VI													
King George VI - Definitives 251 280 250 1951-05-03 Other 2 0 0 0 0 0,00 € 0,00 €													
King George VI													
King George VI - Definitives 0 0 1 0 0 0 0,00 €													
King George VI													
King George VI - Definitives 255a 284a 254c 1951-05 Other 1 0 1 0 0 0 0,00 €													
King George VI													
King George VI - Definitives 252 281 251 1951-05-03 Other 0 0 0 0 1 0 0,00 €													
King George VI													
King George VI - Definitives 252a 281a 251c 1951-05 Other 0 0 0 0 0 0 0,00 €													
Moyenne : 0,28574286 Nb (non vides) : 13 Somme : 2													







## Result [Colorization of the current file...] without Detailed Mancoliste Option

MyCollectionUnited Kingdom.xlsx - Microsoft Excel																		
Fichier Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage Équipe																		
TbICroisDynamique Tableau Image Images Formes SmartArt Capture Colonne Ligne Secteurs Barres Aires Nuage Autres Courbes Histogramme Positif/Négatif Segment Lien Zone En-tête/Pied WordArt Signature Objet Equation Symbole																		
Tableaux Illustrations Graphiques Graphiques sparkline Filtre Liens Texte Symboles																		
A2	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
1	Image	Title	YT No.	Sc No.	SG No.	Num. SW	Date	Type	Qty Mint	Qty Hinge	Qty Used	Value	Collectible Value					
2		King George VI King George VI - Definitives	251	280	250		1951-05-03	Other	2	0	0	0	0	0,00 €	0,00 €			
3		King George VI King George VI - Definitives					1951-05-03	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0,00 €				
4		King George VI King George VI - Definitives	255a	284a	254c		1951-05	Other	1	0	1	0	0	0,00 €				
5		King George VI King George VI - Definitives	252	281	251		1951-05-03	Other	0	0	0	0	1	0,00 €				
6		King George VI King George VI - Definitives	252a	281a	251c		1951-05	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0,00 €				

Result [Creation of a Mancoliste file] **with** Detailed Mancoliste Option

MyCollectionUnited Kingdom_Mancolist_20240418_14h52m16.xlsx - Microsoft Excel																
Fichier Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage Équipe																
Calibri 11 A A Renvoyer à la ligne automatiquement Standard Mise en forme conditionnelle Mettre sous forme de tableau Styles de cellules Insérer Supprimer Format Remplissage Effacer Trier et Rechercher et sélectionner																
Police Alignement Nombre Style Cellules Édition																
A1	Image	Title	YT No.	Sc No.	SG No.	Date	Type	Qty Mint	Qty Hinge	Qty	Used					
1		King George VI														
2		King George VI - Definitives	251	280	250	1951-05-03	Other	2	0	0	0	0	0			
3		King George VI				1951-05-03	Other	0	0	1	0	0	0			
4		King George VI				1951-05	Other	1	0	1	0	0	0			
5		King George VI - Definitives	252	281	251	1951-05-03	Other	0	0	0	0	1	0			
6		King George VI				1951-05	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0			

Result [Creation of a Mancoliste file] **without** Detailed Mancoliste Option

MyCollectionUnited Kingdom_Mancolist_20240418_14h55m35.xlsx - Microsoft Excel																
Fichier Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage Équipe																
Calibri 11 A A Renvoyer à la ligne automatiquement Standard Mise en forme conditionnelle Mettre sous forme de tableau Styles de cellules Insérer Supprimer Format Remplissage Effacer Trier et Rechercher et sélectionner																
Police Alignement Nombre Style Cellules Édition																
A1	Image	Title	YT No.	Sc No.	SG No.	Date	Type	Qh Mint	Qh Hinge	Qty	Used					
1		King George VI														
2		King George VI - Definitives	252a	281a	251c	1951-05	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0			
3		King George VI				1951-09	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0			
4		King George VI - Definitives	253a	282a	252c	1951-05	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0			
5		King George VI				1951-05	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0			
6		King George VI - Definitives	254b		253r	1951-05	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0			



## Excel File Generation on the Side

The generation is done by year interval, but you can return to the same Excel file. In this case, a window will prompt you to either overwrite the old file or enrich it with a new interval. In this case, the Excel file will remain sortable under Excel in case the chronological order of the years is not respected.

### ⇒ **For France**

Generating a file on the side for France does not require image recognition if the "Market Value" option (default for France) is checked. However, if you uncheck this option, you will opt for a StampWorld catalogue value, and you will need to follow the same procedure as for other countries.

### ⇒ **For countries other than France**

This is where things get a little complicated, but it's also somewhat unique to this software because to find a catalogue value on the StampWorld site, you'll need to use image recognition. This site only references stamps by a numbering system unique to it.

## **3 validation methods for stamps are proposed:**

- ⇒ **For the diligent:** manual validation offers you a screen that allows you to visually validate the link between 2 stamps on each site. This screen facilitates your task with keyboard shortcuts, but it requires a bit of patience.
- ⇒ **For the pragmatic:** interactive validation is the most recommended method. It suggests using image recognition, but in a restrictive manner when the thresholds set for each image recognition algorithm are not met. Only stamps that fall below these thresholds will be offered for manual validation, which limits the number of manual interventions. Moreover, this input will attempt to propose the stamp with the best similarity as a first option to shorten this phase.
- ⇒ **For the daring:** validation can be done completely automatically, but you will need to adjust the image recognition criteria for each country with insight, or risk recognition errors. In this case, the resulting Excel file will help you adjust your settings as it includes a column for close images and a criterion column that specifies the criteria for image matching that validated the image matching.

## Image Matching Guide

Automatic image matching relies on 3 algorithms configurable by threshold, which can be combined into one condition.

A list of conditions can be established by country, accessed via the [Image Matching Criteria] button.

For each Colnect stamp to be compared, the list of conditions is compared to a batch of StampWorld stamps whose size varies according to [StampWorld Batch Interval...] and according to the [StampWorld Batch Selection Condition].

The list is traversed sequentially, and as soon as a condition is met, the matching is validated. However, if none are met, the image is not matched, and this stamp will not have a valuation except through manual validation.

A condition is considered met when the comparison thresholds of the selected algorithms are all reached.

### Selection condition for the StampWorld lot to compare

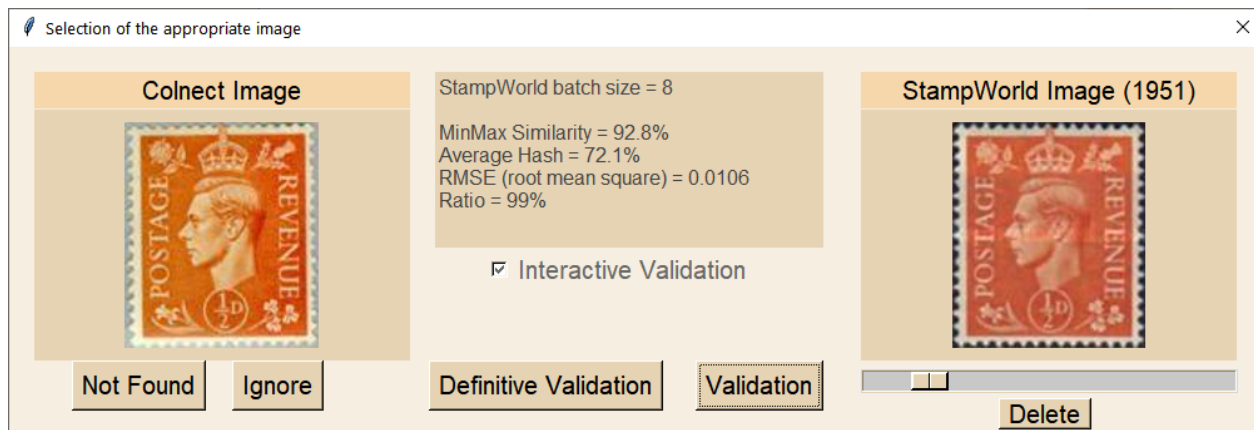
The screenshot shows a configuration interface for image matching. At the top, there is a label 'Interval of StampWorld batch relative to a year' followed by two input fields, both containing the value '0'. Below this, there are four checkboxes: 'Manual Validation' (unchecked), 'Ignore uncatalogued' (unchecked), 'Allow duplicates' (unchecked), and 'Interactive Validation' (checked). To the right of these is a checkbox for 'Validation without conditions' which is also unchecked. A section header 'Selection condition of the StampWorld batch to compare' is highlighted. Below this header are four rows, each with a label and a corresponding input field: 'Minimum MinMax Similarity %' with a value of '70', 'Minimum Hash Similarity in %' with a value of '40', 'Maximum Root Mean Square Error' with a value of '0.02', and 'Minimum Image Ratio in %' with a value of '70'. Each input field has up and down arrow buttons for adjustment.

Stamp comparisons are made by year batches for a specific Colnect stamp year. The entire StampWorld stamp batch for the corresponding year is compared, enriched by the potential [StampWorld batch interval...].

If the [Validation without Condition] option is checked, the StampWorld lot to compare will be complete.

If the [Validation without Condition] option is not checked, the StampWorld lot to compare will be restricted to the threshold set for each comparison criterion. The more restrictive these criteria are, the smaller the lot will be, which will improve processing speed. However, there will be a higher risk of missing an association if the criteria are too restrictive. The default values aim to be broad enough to simply eliminate stamps with no similarity.

## Interactive Validation Screen



At this stage, you can visually validate the equivalence of a stamp between the 2 sites. Navigation within the batch is done through the scrollbar, arrows, or mouse wheel. The underlined letters in the buttons are their shortcuts.

[Validate]: the equivalence is retained

[Final Validation]: the equivalence is retained **and** the stamp is removed from the batch

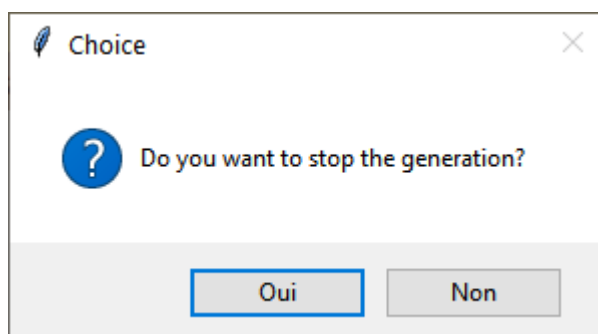
[Delete]: the equivalence is not retained **and** the stamp is removed from the batch

[Ignore]: this stamp will not be in the collection

[Not Found]: This stamp is retained in the collection without equivalence and therefore without valuation

[Interactive Validation]: Interactive validation can be interrupted after data entry if the checkbox is unchecked.

If this window is closed by X in the upper right corner, the generation can be interrupted.



## Image Similarity Algorithms

Image similarity algorithms (MinMax, Hash, Rmse) have been chosen based on a compromise related to their processing speed, typically on the order of hundredths of a second for a comparison. By combining them judiciously, we achieve a satisfactory recognition rate but not excluding manual validation.

More discriminating algorithms do exist but are costly in terms of processing time; some take over a minute for a comparison!

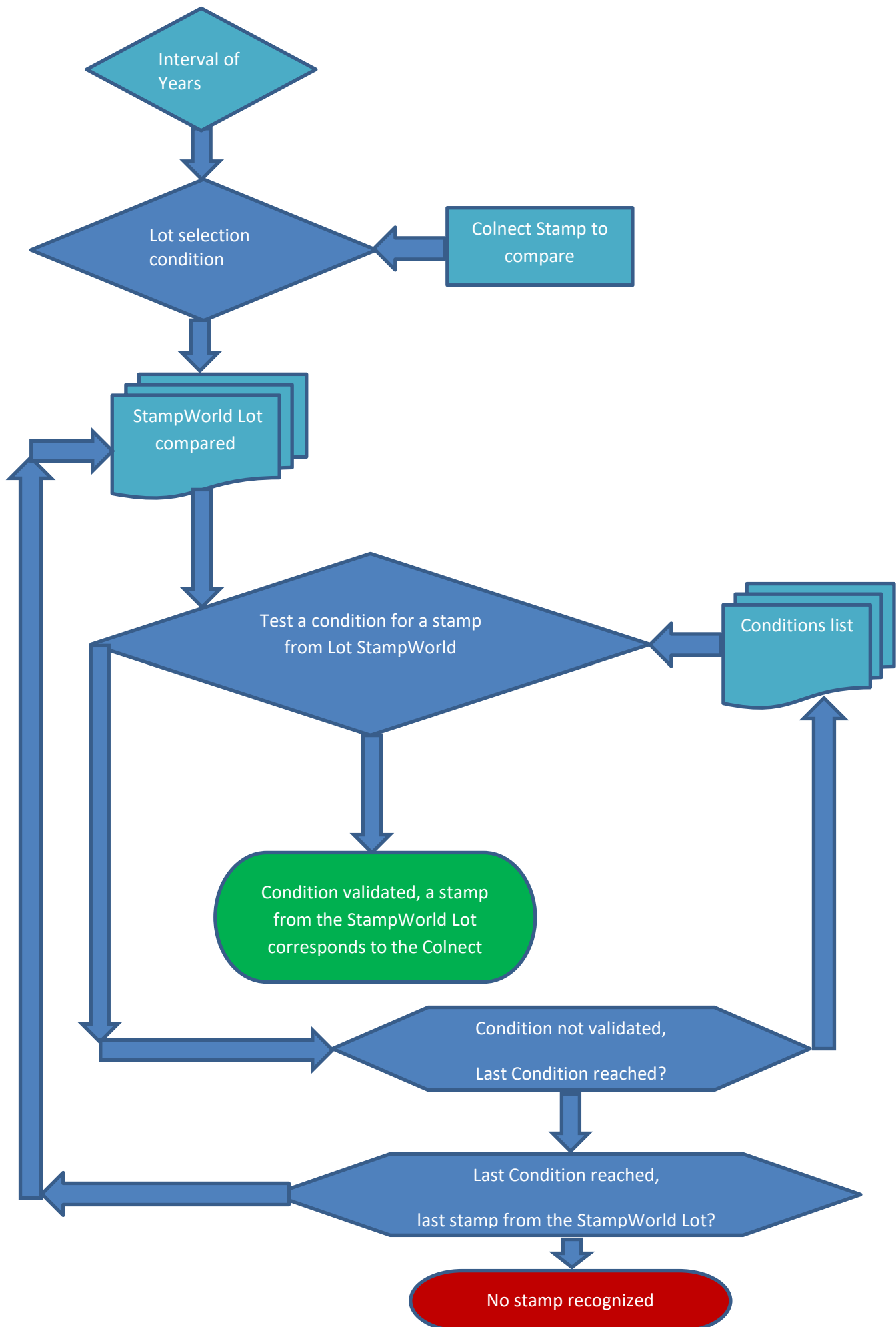
The MinMax similarity is 100% when the images are identical; it is relatively reliable from 92%. At 0%, this similarity will not be tested!

Hash similarity is 100% when the images are identical; it is relatively reliable from 60%. At 0%, this similarity will not be tested!

Rmse similarity gives a rate of differences between images. Be careful, the threshold is inverted! It is 0 for identical images and relatively reliable below 0.015. At 1, this similarity will not be tested!

The Ratio is not a criterion for image recognition but a selective criterion that allows the elimination of stamps that do not have the same proportions. It is 100% for stamps of the same proportion. However, one must always accept a margin because the images from the two sites are different for the same stamp, and also because in some countries, the stamp has an attached TAB that radically changes its proportion!

## Stamp validation process according to validation criteria.



## Configuration screen for the list of conditions

Setting the criteria for matching an image by country

Condition	Best	Best	Best	MinMax %	Hash %	Rmse	Ratio %
1	Minmax	None	None	93	65	0.012	90
2	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
3	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
4	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
5	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
6	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
7	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
8	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
9	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90
10	None	None	None	0	0	1.0	90

The algorithms (Minmax, Hash, Rmse) were selected on a compromise linked to their processing speed of the order of a hundredth for a comparison, by combining them judiciously we achieve a satisfactory recognition rate but not excluding manual validation. More discriminating algorithms exist but are costly in terms of processing time, some take up to a minute for a comparison!

The first condition satisfied will be sufficient to validate the similarity of an image conditions are tested sequentially if none are satisfied the image is not similar.

The test of conditions stops at first condition without any 'Best', 'Best' means the best similarity value of a batch exceeding the set threshold. When several 'Best' are active the similarities must be the best of the lot for all the similarities chosen before testing the respective threshold.

For example:  
 (MinMax | Hash | None | 92 | 70 | 0.02 | 90%)  
 => selection of the Best Minmax and Hash of the lot with a Minmax >= 92% and a Hash >= 70% and an Rmse <= 0.02 and a ratio >= 90%  
 (Hash | None | None | 0 | 70 | 0.02 | 90%)  
 => selection of the Best Hash of the lot without comparison of the Minmax with a Hash >= 70% and an Rmse <= 0.02 and a ratio >= 90%

Save

Cancel

Example of conditions:

**(MinMax | Hash | None | 92 | 70 | 0.02 | 90%):**

This condition is satisfied if the stamp from the StampWorld lot has:  
 the best Minmax and Best Hash of the lot with  
 Minmax >= 92% and Hash >= 70% and Rmse <= 0.02 and a ratio >= 90%

**(Hash | None | None | 0 | 70 | 0.02 | 90%):**

This condition is satisfied if the stamp from the StampWorld lot has:  
 the best Hash of the lot with  
 Hash >= 70% and Rmse <= 0.02 and a ratio >= 90%  
 !!! Note no comparison of Minmax because it is 0 !!!

**(None | None | None | - | - | - | -):**

This condition marks the end of the list of conditions



## Generation of an Excel File for France

MaCollectionFrance.xlsx - Microsoft Excel

Fichier Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage Équipe

Calibri 11 A+

Standard








Mise en forme Mise sous forme de tableau Styles de cellules Insérer Supprimer Format

Somme automatique Remplissage Effacer

Trier et Rechercher et filtrer - sélectionner -

Édition

Police Alignement Nombre Style Cellules

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T
	Image	Titre	Num. YT	Num. Mi	Num. Sc	Date	Type	Nb Neuf	Nb Charnière	Nb Obitérée	Valeur	Valeur Collection								
1		Armoiries de Lille (Nord) 5 c brun noir et rouge phosphore : Sans 14 x 13½ 20 x 24 mm (vignette 18x22 bords externes des filets)	1230	1274	938	1960-01-02	Poste	0 0,94	0 0,0	0 0,15	0,00 €	0,00 €								
2		5 c polychrome phosphore : Sans 14 x 13½ 20 x 24 mm (vignette 18x22 bords externes des filets)	1230A	1321	973	1960-10-15	Poste	0 0,05	0 0,0	0 0,03	0,00 €									
3		10 c vert phosphore : Sans 14 x 13½ 20 x 24 mm (vignette 18x22 bords externes des filets)	1231	1275	939	1960-01-02	Poste	0 0,09	1 0,0	0 0,03	0,00 €									
4		Armoiries d'Alger 15 c polychrome phosphore : Sans 14 x 13½ 20 x 24 mm (vignette 18x22 bords externes des filets)	1232	1276	940	1960-01-02	Poste	0 0,19	0 0,0	0 0,05	0,00 €									
5		La semaille de pivi d'après Nioty 20 c triquoise et rose phosphore : Sans 14 x 13½ 20 x 24 mm (vignette 18x22 bords externes des filets)	1233	1277	941	1960-01-02	Poste	0 0,06	0 0,0	0 0,03	0,00 €									
6		Manne à la net 25 c bleu et rouge phosphore : Sans 14 x 13½ 20 x 24 mm (vignette 18x22 bords externes des filets)	1234	1278	942	1960-01-02	Poste	0 0,55	0 0,0	0 0,03	0,00 €									
7		La semaille de pivi d'après Nioty																		

Prêt Sheet

# Generation of an Excel File for Italy

MaCollectionItalie.xlsx - Microsoft Excel																
Fichier Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage Équipe																
Calibri 11 A A Renvoyer à la ligne automatiquement Standard Mise en forme conditionnelle Mettre sous forme de tableau Styles de cellules Insérer Supprimer Format Remplissage Effacer Trier et Rechercher et filtrer sélectionner Édition																
A1 Image																
1	Image	Image Rapprochée	Critère	Titre	Num. YT	Num. MI	Num. Sc	Num. SG	Num. Un	Num. SW	Date	Type	Nb Neuf	Nb Charnières	Nb Obitérés	Valeur
18			Meilleur Minmax(94.7) >= 93.0% Hash(75.6) >= 65.0% Rmse(0.0101) <=	Coat of Arms of the Academy of Fine Arts 2nd Century of Academy of Fine Arts, Venice	571	805	547	633		779	1950-09-16	Autre	0 8,00	0 0,0	0 2,50	0,00 €
19			Validation Manuelle	Centenary of the Birth of Augusto Righi (1850-1920) Centenary of the birth of Augusto Righi (1850-1920)	570	806	548	632		780	1950-09-16	Autre	0 6,00	0 0,0	0 2,00	0,00 €
20			Validation Manuelle	Blacksmith, Bard Castle (Aosta Valley) Regional Occupations	572	807	549	634		781	1950-10-20	Poste	0 0,25	0 0,0	0 0,25	0,00 €
21			Validation Manuelle	Car Mechanic, San Michele (Piedmont) Regional Occupations	573	808	550	635		782	1950-10-20	Poste	0 0,25	0 0,0	0 0,25	0,00 €
22			Validation Manuelle	Stonemason and Cathedral of Milan (Lombardy) Regional Occupations	574	809	551	636		783	1950-10-20	Poste	0 0,25	0 0,0	0 0,25	0,00 €

# The same after entering the owned stamps

MaCollectionItalie.xlsx - Microsoft Excel																
Fichier Accueil Insertion Mise en page Formules Données Révision Affichage Équipe																
Calibri 11 A A Renvoyer à la ligne automatiquement Standard Mise en forme conditionnelle Mettre sous forme de tableau Styles de cellules Insérer Supprimer Format Remplissage Effacer Trier et Rechercher et filtrer sélectionner Édition																
Q6 1																
1	Image	Image Rapprochée	Critère	Titre	Num. YT	Num. MI	Num. Sc	Num. SG	Num. Un	Num. SW	Date	Type	Nb Neuf	Nb Charnières	Nb Obitérés	Valeur
2			Validation Manuelle	28th, Fountain of the Four Seasons at the Fair Milan Trade Fair	554	789	531	616		763	1950-04-12	Autre	1 5,00	0 0,0	0 2,00	5,00 €
3			Meilleur Minmax(94.7) >= 93.0% Hash(78.8) >= 65.0% Rmse(0.0104) <=	Car and Flags 32nd Turin Motor Show	555	790	532	617		764	1950-04-29	Autre	0 15,00	2 0,0	0 2,00	0,00 €
4			Meilleur Minmax(93.4) >= 93.0% Hash(74.5) >= 65.0% Rmse(0.0111) <=	Palace Pitti in Florence General U.N.E.S.C.O. Conference	556	791	533	618		765	1950-05-22	Autre	0 10,00	0 0,0	3 3,00	9,00 €
5			Meilleur Minmax(95.9) >= 93.0% Hash(72.1) >= 65.0% Rmse(0.0088) <=	Perseus, Cellini General U.N.E.S.C.O. Conference	557	792	534	619		766	1950-05-22	Autre	0 80,00	0 0,0	1 12,00	12,00 €
6			Validation Manuelle	Dome of St. Peter's and Italian Churches Holy Year 1950	558	793	535	620		767	1950-05-29	Autre	0 8,00	0 0,0	0 0,75	0,75 €

## Update of valuations

Updating valuations allows updating valuations in an Excel file already generated with valuations. After each modification of the file, a dated copy of the previous file is generated.

The "protected valuations" by the modification of the file will not be changed.

## Image extraction

Extraction only of stamp images from the respective 2 sites per country into the directories imgColnect and imgStampWorld according to the specified year interval.

Extractions are cumulative as indexing is done by year.

