



The IPDA

Journal

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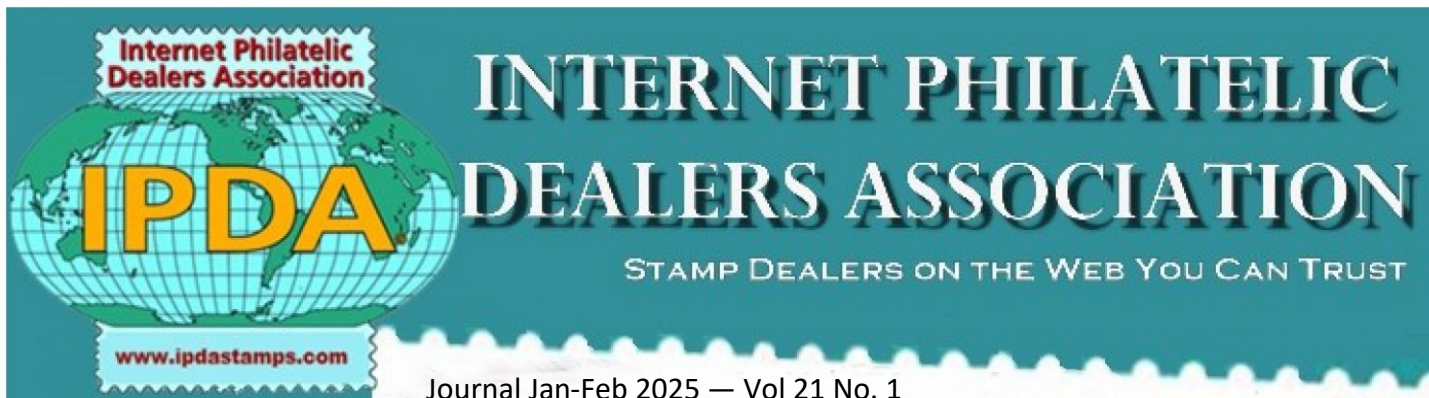
Philippines Sets New World Record In the Stamp-0-Lympics!



Story on Page 15

Plus:

*UPA's Digital Perforation Reader — Mystic Buys Apfelbaum
SG "Part 1" 2025 Reviewed — and More*



The IPDA Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Internet Philatelic Dealers Association. Opinions expressed in any articles are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the IPDA or any of its officers. To submit an article, contact the editor, Ted Tyszka, ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com.

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Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone and Happy New Year 2025!

First, I want to express my deep appreciation for all of our members' support through 2024. None of the things we accomplished could have happened without you. In review, your IPDA moved the needle in 2024 towards advocacy in the online philatelic marketplace by promoting the IPDA and our mission through several achievements. One was the execution of the deal with HipStamp, which included dealer badging for member stores on the HipStamp platform. This will help increase awareness of the importance of doing business with an accredited, ethical and honest online dealer.

Another effort was the IPDA's co-sponsoring, once again (with the APS), in 2024, of the Great American Stamp Show tote bags. This effort, again, increases visibility of the IPDA brand and values in the philatelic community.

A third major effort was completed in 2024, which was the modernization of the IPDA website. Essential to that effort was Michael Dodd, who is the IPDA General Secretary and oversees maintenance of our website. Thank you, Michael, I know it was a monumental effort and your work on this is greatly appreciated. This modernization of our site brings our own online presence into "the modern age" with new functions and capabilities the old site just did not allow.

Speaking of the updated IPDA website — I noticed, recently, that many members do not have up to date profiles. I want to encourage everyone to log into the IPDA website and update your own member profiles. If you have forgotten your login credentials, there is a contact link on the site to retrieve them.

Looking FORWARD (there's that word again!!!), your IPDA is planning to have a presence at the 2025 StampEx being held in London this coming Fall. We are also exploring promotional and advocacy efforts with Stamp Auction Network (SAN) in the new year. These, along with other opportunities that may present themselves during the

new year, will further the IPDA efforts to build upon brand recognition and the resulting relevancy and influence in the various online philatelic marketplaces.

The IPDA 2025 Annual General Meeting (AGM) is coming up in March. More detailed information on that will be forthcoming. I want to encourage everyone to consider attending the AGM this year. It is typically less than an hour of your time, but it is a great opportunity to participate in your IPDA and meet the members of your Board of Directors.

Membership renewals are upon us again. I truly hope that the IPDA has delivered good value and "bang for your buck" in 2024, so I encourage everyone to go ahead and renew your membership for 2025 (or beyond). Members must be current in order to vote on any AGM motions, so it is important to renew, in that respect. Let's get 100% renewal for this year and set a record!!!!

We are still looking for a new M&M Director to fill Luree's shoes. She has set a strong foundation for the position and the new director will have a very easy time stepping into the role. Please consider stepping up and offering your services to the IPDA.

Please consider putting your name in the hat to be highlighted in the coming months for our monthly Newsletter and website Dealer Spotlight. It is free advertising to you as an IPDA member as part of your membership benefits. Again, contact our newsletter editor Ted Tyzska (ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com) for more details.

I, along with my family and the IPDA Board of Directors, wish you all the very best in your 2025 endeavors. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at ipdachair@gmail.com.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM



New Members

This month, we welcome back into the IPDA family . . .



Lewis Burchett

Lewis Burchett

Member Number: 323

Date became a member: 12/14/24

Email: albjr48@outlook.com

Business Name: Burchett Enterprises

Business Websites: www.lewisburchett.com

Specializes in: U. S. issues — all areas including stamps, covers, souvenir pages/panels, postal history.

Location: Perryville, AR (Arkansas) USA

Referred by: Greg Doll

Member Discounts: 10%

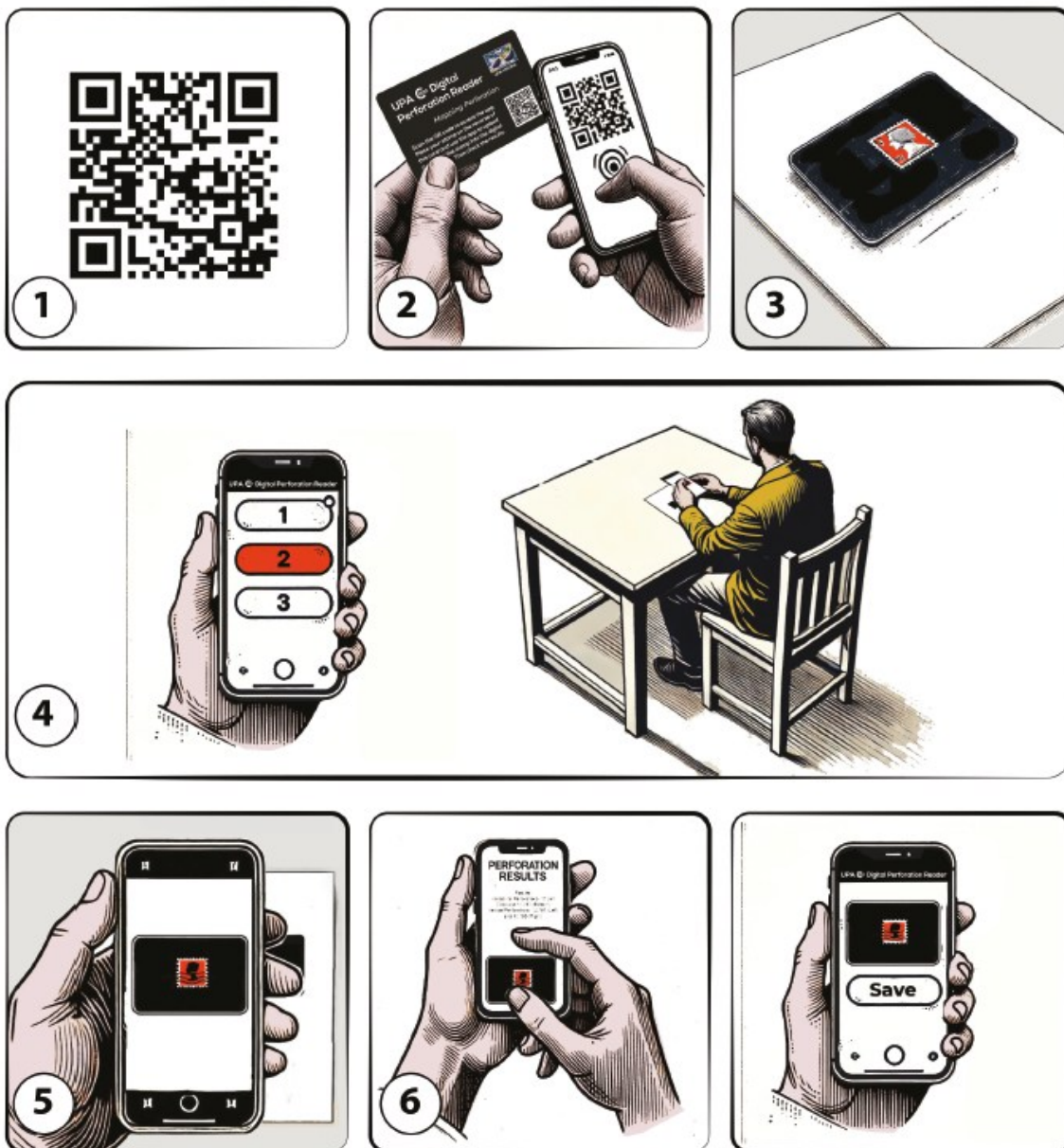
Societies: ASDA - United States Stamp Society — American First Day Cover Society — Souvenir Card Collectors Society — American Society for Philatelic Pages and Panels — American Plate Number Single Society

NEW PHILATELIC PRODUCT: Digital Perforation Reader (DPR)

Facial Recognition Technology (FRT) accessed by a smart-phone mobile friendly QR Code, has enabled the development of the world's first web-APP technology to read/measure stamp perforation from stamp pictures, images captured by your mobile phone camera and uploaded on your mobile / cellphone.

The Developer UPA (Universal Philatelic Auctions), over the course of the 6 years since the concept was conceived, has developed a fascinating real-time web-APP which Collectors can now download for the first time onto their mobile phone.

Accessed by Quick Response **QR** code the mobile smart-phone friendly DPR technology enables Collectors to take a picture using their mobile phone camera and upload the image into the DPR web-APP on their mobile/ cellphone which reads the perforation measurement **in real-time** over the industry standard 2 centimetres and gives the result to 3 decimal places.



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Industry veteran Managing Director (CEO) Andrew McGavin states that the 1st thing to understand is that new DPR technology offers collectors an intelligent tool in their armoury to identify the measurement of stamp perforation.

Andrew says: “for some collectors, even dealers – ‘Perfs’ can become a ‘Faff’ and as our eyesight/co-ordination changes over the years ‘perfin’ can become a real problem. Similar stamps with differing perforation can be the difference between a few £’s, \$ Dollars or Euros and £95,000, \$120,000, €110,000 stamps ... - so a moderate cost affordable mobile-friendly DPR webb-APP which collectors can use personally or later choose to share with other collectors internationally may make sense.”

Continues ... “it’s a wonder that we could afford to invest in Facial Recognition Technology and transfer that technology into Philately. Presently the webb-APP is default designed for collectors personal use/research and save results upon their own devices ... but UPA believes that continuing development with ‘machine-learning’ and ‘AI’ a bigger-picture for International Trans-Global Philatelic research by (opt-in) collector-sharing may pave the way for a bright philatelic future”.

You can access the APP here:



And/Or learn all about this exciting perforation development in UPA’s advertisements OR online at:

www.upastampauctions.co.uk go to **DPR**

<https://www.upastampauctions.co.uk/upa-stamp-perforation-gauge-user-guide/>

Give DPR technology a try – Andrew envisages a growing Global Collector Community sharing images, study, research information, building an accessible perforation images archive: Registration by secure card online is just £1, US\$1.30, €1.20 to join and for that UPA VIP/DPR will mail/airmail your Digital Perforation Reader card anywhere in the world (Russia, Belarus, N. Korea excluded). Upon receipt your no image limit stamp perforation reader use 30 day free trial starts. Continuation is just £2.49, US\$3.50, € 3.00 (per month used, or £24.95, US\$32, € 30 per annum (2 months free Exchange Rates Vary).



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association 2025 AGM March 22nd

AGM Meeting Invite

Time of Meeting: March 22rd, 2025, 18:00 USA Eastern Standard

Please check your local country time from the [IPDA Website](http://www.ipda.org).

Meeting Location: IPDA Zoom call – details will be provided

IMPORTANT NOTE: This invitation to join the AGM and vote on the Motions tables is being sent to all members as of 7th January 2025. However, members must have paid up membership on 22nd March to be eligible to vote on Motions presented.

Please ensure you have paid your 2025 membership renewal to the Membership Secretary at: IPDAMembershipSec@gmail.com

Proxy Voting: It is recommended you use the online Proxy Form, which will be available from the Members area of the IPDA website. More specific voting details will be included in the formal invite you will receive on January 7th 2025.



Dealer Spotlight

Fou du Timbre

**Abderrahmane
Yessad**

I began collecting in 1984, and since then this beautiful virus has never left me. I've started to build thematic collections such as the "Encyclopedia of the horse through the postage stamp"; Algeria from prehistory to the modern era; the olive and the olive tree around the Mediterranean basin, etc . . .

Then I began to specialize in stuff from my country: stamps, varieties, marcophily (postmarks & cancellations) and anything else closely or remotely related to Algeria (e.g. stamps issued by foreign countries on Algeria).

I started selling in 2009 on Delcampe, then on Stamporama in 2014, and Colnect since 2021 - mainly Algerian stamps from the beginning to the present day, but also French stamps, French colonies, and many others accumulated over the decades.

Here are the links to my selling platforms:

Colnect (sales listings): https://colnect.com/fr/market/list/seller/Foudutimbre/sort/by_issue_date

Stamporama (auctions):

https://stamporama.com/auction/auction_main.php?action=13&user=foudutimbre

Stamporama (approval books):

https://stamporama.com/approvals/approvals_main.php?action=102&usr=foudutimbre

Items from my collection:



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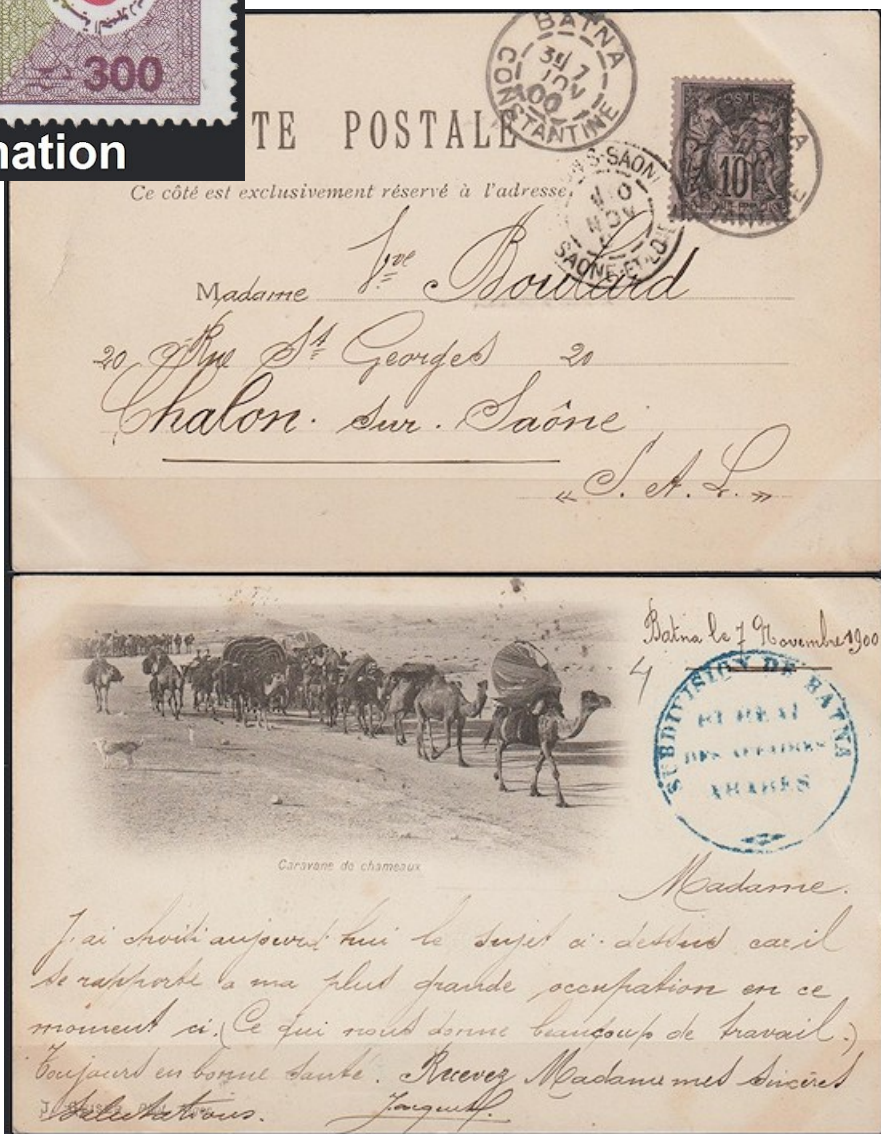


Normal

without legend



staggered perforation



Mystic Buys Apfelbaum, Inc.

by Ted Tyszka

In December, Apfelbaum, Inc. announced that the company was being purchased by Donald Sundman's Mystic Stamp Co. Mystic also put out a press release for the same announcement.



Founded in 1910, by Maurice Apfelbaum, the company was just a part-time sideline for him. His son Earl finally made the business a full-time operation

in 1930. Many of today's "old-timers" in the hobby will remember the name, Earl P. L. Apfelbaum, and "Apfelbaum's Corner," a feature which ran in "Linn's Stamp News" for over 20 years, starting in the mid-1960s, continuing well past Earl's retirement from the company, in August 1969.

The baton was then passed to Earl's son Martin. Today, the company is run by the 4th generation of Apfelbaums, John and Ken, along with wives, Missy and Susanne.



Mystic Stamp Company
America's Leading Stamp Dealer

Mystic Stamp Company was founded at nearly the same time as Apfelbaum, in 1923, by Larry Shaver. The company name was taken from Boston's Mystic River, after a suggestion by the legendary stamp dealer H. E. Harris.

In 1935, at the age of 20, Harris *protégé* Maynard Sundman started his own mail-order stamp business, Littleton Stamp Company. And in 1975, when Sundman purchased Mystic from Larry Shaver, Maynard's son Donald became the general manager of Mystic Stamp Co. By 1985, Mystic Stamp Company had become the leading stamp dealer in the United States.

Today, Mystic is still the largest and most well-known stamp dealer in the United States, and Donald Sundman has become a legend in the hobby, himself, with his notable stamp purchases of the Z-Grill and the Inverted Jenny block of four. Sundman is also known for his philanthropic work and his untiring efforts in promoting the hobby of stamp collecting.

The following is the full text of each announcement, as shown on the front page of the [Apfelbaum web site](#).

To all our customers & friends:

We are happy to announce that Apfelbaum, Inc. has found a new home with Mystic Stamp Company. While we will miss the day-to-day hustle & bustle of running our business, we are very much looking forward to retiring and spending more time with our families, and maybe even starting a new hobby or two. While we know John will miss writing his blog, which has over 1,000 postings on our site, you can still find all his insights here. You will also be able to find our grandfather Earl's book, Apfelbaum's Corner, in its entirety, on our site as well. While we are still deciding what we will do with our website, we will let you know in the near future.

Apfelbaum & Mystic have been friendly competitors for 100 years. We have grown the hobby together and worked with Don Sundman for over 50 years. We urge you to contact the friendly people at Mystic Stamp Company if you are interested in selling your stamp collection and, if you are looking to add to your collection, we can think of no better place than Mystic Stamps. You can reach them at Info@MysticStamp.com. We trust Don and so should you.

All of us in the stamp community have been working together for many decades and even though we have only met a relative handful of our customers in person, we feel as though we have been friends for years. We will miss you. We wish you all good luck, good health & good fortune. And we say "so long" feeling very grateful.

John, Ken, Missy & Susie Apfelbaum, Inc

A message from Don Sundman, Mystic Stamp Co

Dear Fellow Collector:

Hello! I'm excited that ApfelbaumInc.com will join and eventually be part of MysticStamp.com. I've known and respected the Apfelbaum family since the 1970s. I've been both been a customer of Apfelbaum and have sold stamps to them. Apfelbaum is a first-rate organization. Our computer folks are working on a plan for the Apfelbaum website. Stay tuned for updates. I'm looking forward to sharing with you everything about the world of stamps...

Happy Collecting, Don Sundman



The Freedom We Enjoy

by Daniel Golden

This article first appeared in "Stamping Around," the newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Texas), and is reprinted here with permission of the author and the "Stamping Around" editor.

Over the last decade or so, it would seem as if America is slowly pulling itself apart at the seams. Our last three presidential elections have been marked by controversy at best, and violence at worst. Sensationalist news outlets care more about clicks and views instead of quality content with honest journalism. Combined with algorithm-driven social media platforms, this has forced virtually every American into one camp or the other, either democrat or republican, forever pitted against one another with no middle ground. And the hatred and vitriol that has been spewed back and forth between our elected officials is disgraceful and only serves to divide us further.

But this is not limited to those in office. We are seeing it amongst ordinary people as well. My family, most of whom are democrats, has a family-wide group text chat. This year on the morning after the election, with Trump declared the winner, that group chat was sizzling with anger. Accusations of voter fraud, conspiracy theories of a stolen election, and even wishes of harm or death to the new president-elect were rampant in that group chat. Further comments included calling anyone who voted for Trump a "sexist, uneducated, fascist" (this was the cleanest comment I could find, use your imagination for some of the others).

I found the same atmosphere at the office when I went to work that morning, with some co-workers labeling Trump voters as "traitors" and others calling Harris voters "mentally unstable". Overall, there was gloating on one side and threats of violence from the other. I was ap-

palled, not at the election's results, but at the things being said and shared back and forth. Does this not resemble the same hateful speech seen four years ago when Biden defeated Trump, or even eight years ago when Trump defeated Hilary Clinton?

I cannot help but wonder, what happened to us? Have we not learned our lesson? Have we not figured out how to come back together, post-election, as Americans who love their country and their fellow countrymen? If we have not, how can we ever expect to heal and grow? How can we ever expect to be anything other than the house divided against itself that Lincoln so aptly warned us about?

With that in mind I would like to use this article to attempt the impossible: bridge the chasm that divides us and remind us of what we all share as Americans. I want to bring us all together in the best way I know how, by talking about stamps.



I recently came across the Norman Rockwell souvenir sheet, US #2840, which depicts a set of his paintings known as The Four Freedoms. Painted during World War II, each portrays an ideal for which ordinary Americans had gone overseas to defend abroad.

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At the time of their release, these paintings had an inspirational effect that galvanized the American people and focused their energy behind a singular cause: the war effort. We as a country all rallied around the flag as one united people. Black or white, man or woman, we all recognized one another first and foremost as Americans who were with us in the fight. Given the current climate of our country (and that I'm writing this on Veteran's Day) I think it would be wise to reflect on these ideas again and remember what it is that those men fought and died for.

There is the Freedom of Speech.



We have the freedom to share our viewpoints and communicate our ideas with others without the fear of condemnation. We have a press that is (ideally) free from censorship or added political agendas. When something bothers us we have every right to speak up and let our opinions be known without the fear of retribution. We are able to make our voices heard.

There is the Freedom of Worship.



We are free to worship according to whatever creed we choose to believe in. No one can tell us or force us to follow one faith over another. We all have a right to choose what we believe and worship whatever God in whatever manner we prefer. Not only do we expect such a personal choice to be accepted, but we expect that our right to choose our own faith protects us from religious persecution.

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There is the Freedom from Fear.



This stamp depicts two children being peacefully tucked in bed by their parents, while the father holds a newspaper with a headline describing the horrors of The Blitz. Despite the bombing and destruction across the pond, these two children are able to rest easy without fear because they know they will not wake up tomorrow with the war on their doorstep. They know they are safe and secure.

Before moving on, I would like to point out that in some ways it almost appears as if we have taken a step back as a society. Facebook puts certain individuals in “Facebook jail,” temporarily blocking their accounts for posting something that they do not approve of. More broadly we have seen the rise of “Cancel Culture” from social media in which people who act or speak in a manner deemed unacceptable by enough people are then silenced, boycotted, or otherwise shunned. People on one side of the aisle treat Jews and Muslims as though they are not fully human, while people on the other side of the aisle seem to view Christianity with disdain and wish to

destroy it. For example, I have personally been called a “far-right extremist” for the radical crime of being Catholic. And these days, politicians stir up the populace with not-so-subtle warnings about fascist or communist dictatorships that would result from voting for the other party.

Unfortunately, the more politicians say such things, the more people will believe them. As a result, I am more fearful than ever that another civil war is brewing around the corner. Not to mention ongoing conflicts across the world in Ukraine and Gaza, and further tense relations with Russia, Iran, China, and North Korea threaten to pull us into another war as well. Indeed, it seems as if each of these three heretofore mentioned freedoms is under attack in some way.

But allow me to move on to the fourth freedom:

The Freedom from Want.



Depicted on this stamp is a multi-generational family gathered around the table for what appears to be a Thanksgiving dinner. As Thanksgiving approaches in our own lives [This was written between the US election and Thanksgiving Day—Ed.], I believe we all ought to take a

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step back from the divisive political headlines, the fallout from the election, and instead take a moment to consider everything we have to be grateful for. We live in a free society. Despite how we may feel toward certain politicians from one party or another, we live in a country that values our opinion and gives us a means to seek and accomplish change. If you are among those who are upset by the results of this latest election, take a moment to be thankful that we live in a democratic society in which your voice can be heard and our politicians can be voted out of office!

The freedom we enjoy as Americans is something so few people throughout history have ever experienced. God has blessed us in ways that billions of people around the world can only dream of, and billions more throughout the centuries could never have imagined.

These freedoms that we fought for in World War II are just as pertinent to our lives today as they were back then. We owe it to the courage and sacrifice of good men who believed in what they fought for since 1776, through the Civil War, both World Wars, and even right up to the present day.

We enjoy the same freedoms today and share the same responsibilities to build a more perfect union, not let ourselves be divided into opposing camps led to believe those on the other side will destroy what we hold sacred. It is a union built of the people, by the people, and for the people. It is the people, everyday Americans like you and me, seeing each other as equals and respecting our differing yet equally valid viewpoints, who are essential to the survival of our union.

Name-calling does not help. Gloating does not help. Threatening violence does not help. The way we treat each other goes a long way toward our collective healing. I personally do not care who you voted for, and I hope you do not care who I voted for either. At the end of the day, regardless of our political leanings we must learn to respect each other and come back together after an election as divisive as these last three have been.

In the tense political atmosphere of our day, may we always remember that we are not democrats or republicans. We are first and foremost Americans who are tasked with respecting our shared freedoms. Let us never forget that.



Should I Check the Perfs On This 25-cent Stamp?

By Lee Coen

I often buy year sets at estate sales, garage sales, what have you. Many times, I come across stacks of year sets that were purchased years ago and put up for 'safe keeping'. Often the current owners are disappointed with my offer on their 'grandmas stamp collection'. I end up being the guy that has to tell them that millions and millions were printed and sold here in the US. I often have to tell them just because they are 'old' and grandma had them in the China hutch forever, the stamps are not worth 'thousands of dollars.'

However, one stamp, Scott#1789b, John Paul Jones, a 15-cent stamp is worth thousands of dollars, if found. Produced in 1979 by the American Bank note company, this should be an easy to find stamp. Heck, they printed millions and millions of them. Actually, 160,000,000 were printed in three separate perf gauges: 11x12, 11x11 and the holy grail, 12x12.



The holy Grail? How can one stamp, printed 160,000,000 times be a "money stamp?" During the printing process, the American Bank note Company was unaware that, due to machine change-outs, three separate perfs were produced. Finding one of the 12x12 perf stamps, would really make "grandma's" stamps worth all those years sitting in the China hutch.

For example:



mass-produced stamp. And to confirm the stamp what we are searching for, a quick check of the Scott catalogue provides year, make and model:



John Paul Jones, by Charles Willson Peale — A1178

PHOTOGRAVURE (Champlain)

1979, Sept. 23 Perf. 11x12
1789 A1178 15c multi .30 .25
 c. Vert. pair, imperf. horiz. 125.00

Imperforates on gummed stamp paper, including gutter pairs and blocks, are proofs from the ABNCo. archives. See No. 1789P in Proofs section of the Scott United States Specialized Catalogue.

Perf. 11
1789A A1178 15c multi .55 .25
 d. Vertical pair, imperf. horiz. 115.00

Perf. 12
1789B A1178 15c multi 3,000. 3,500.

I have seen many auction sales of plate blocks and sheets of 10 of this error, but not a First day cover. Have you seen one? Is it out there?

As you search for stamps, buy collections, attend yard sales or estate sales, as I do, keep an eye out for those mass-produced stamps. With the wrong perf, you could make grandma one happy grandparent.



Here we have a perf 12x12, mint hinged, certified stamp worth US \$3,959.00. Now we are talking good money for a common mass-produced United States stamp. The key factor would be the perf of 12x12, mint and certified.

So, what if I find a used 25 cent stamp of John Paul Jones? Is it worth “grandma” money? A quick check of the web brings up:



Searching the web, I found this sale of a used perf 12x12 for US \$3000.00. That is some serious money for a used

PHLPost Sets Stamp-O-Lympics Record for World's Longest Stamp

As first-class, or letter mail continues to decline in use, so too do postal services around the world continue to offer innovative stamps (or gimmicks, some would say) to spur sales and increase retention (that is, postal customers retaining the stamps they purchase and not using them for mail). To that end, collectors have been inundated with unusual stamps over that last how many years – from stamps incorporating crystals, granite particles, and even meteor dust in the designs, which, at least conceivably, can be used for postage, to crypto stamps, which perform no postal function I can determine.



Left: Austrian stamps from 2004 with Swarovsky crystals embedded in the paper.

Above: From Gibraltar, 2005, a stamp depicting HMS Victory has particles of wood, from the restoration of the ship, embedded in the design.

Another method of creating an unusual stamp that will appeal to collectors, and which does not entail any extra expense of producing special materials and machinery with which to produce stamps incorporating such, is to simply increase the size of the stamps produced, which entails the relatively miniscule extra expense of more paper.

The last several years has seen the release, by several countries, of extra-long stamps. Going back to 2011, Sri Lanka set the record, up to that time, for world's longest stamp with the release of a souvenir sheet containing one stamp commemorating the 25th anniversary of the Viceroy Special Steam Train. The stamp, while of normal height, had a width of



175mm.

As noted, that set the record for world's longest stamp – a record which stood for 11 years. In recent years, activity has heated up in this “sport,” with several countries leap-frogging each other in this new StampOlympics. In 2022, Kyrgyzstan claimed the Gold Medal, setting a new StampOlympics record in the “Long Stamp” event, with the release of this stamp showing a mountain panorama, measuring 184mm long.

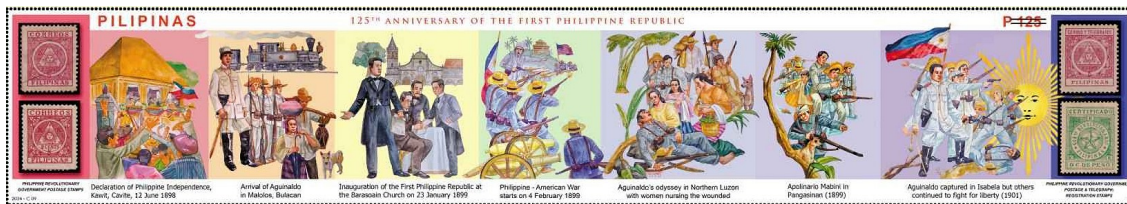


Two years later, in June 2024, that record fell, with the release, by the Philippines' PHLPost, of a stamp noting the

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125th anniversary of the First Philippine Republic. This stamp had a length of 200mm — a new world record!



But, that record lasted a mere 2 months. In August 2024, Sri Lanka regained the gold medal it had relinquished to Kyrgyzstan, with the release of a 205mm stamp, barely nosing out then-record-holder Philippines by less than 2/10 inch.



Again, though, that celebration was short-lived. Just 4 months later, in December 2024, PHLPost released a new Stamp-O-Lympics record-breaking stamp, with an issue 29mm longer than Sri Lanka's. This stamp measures a whopping 234mm long. For the metrically-challenged among us, that is a skosh over 9.2 inches.



Here is an image showing the comparative lengths of the world-record stamps since 2011.



Perhaps this marketing tactic is reaping dividends for the postal services involved, as Sri Lanka and Philippines have released multiple super-long issues recently. The high face values of the stamps appear not to be a deterrent to sales.

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The 500R face value (USD \$1.70) of Sri Lanka's 2024 stamp is 10 times the 50R face value of every other stamp released by Sri Lanka in 2024.

The Philippines also placed an absurdly high denomination of ₱200 (USD \$3.44) on their long Christmas stamp. That is over 11X the highest standard ₱18.00 letter rate.

Regardless of how one feels about postal systems releasing high-face-value novelty issues, meant only to fleece to please collectors, the sad fact is that most postal services around the world are losing money on regular letter mail. The United States Postal Service rang up a loss of 9.5 billion dollars in FY2024, versus a loss of 6.5 billion in 2023. Unless people suddenly develop a hankering to send Hallmark cards and utility companies stop accepting automatic bank debits for payment, there is no hope of that trend being reversed. Unless . . .

Perhaps the UNIX Year 2038 problem will succeed where Y2K failed, and will send civilization back to the pen-and-paper age.



From the Editor's Desk



You may have noticed a change in the title of this publication, to wit, the change of appellation from, "Newsletter," to, "Journal." We, that is, I and my trusted advisors, felt that this is less a news dispensing organ (though, it does disseminate a modicum of important IPDA information), and more of, as messieurs Merriam and Webster say, "a publication that appears at regular intervals."

All else remains the same. To remind you: We want to hear from you! Tell us your stamp stories. What's your favorite stamp? What's your greatest stamp find? Tell us a stamp joke or a riddle. Send it to yours truly, at: ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com, and you will be rewarded with my undying gratitude. — Ted Tyszka

IPDA Brochure Download

The IPDA brochure is a pdf document which dealers can download and print, and may be used as a handout to promote the IPDA at shows and stamp bourses. You can download it here . . . [IPDA Brochure](#).



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The Jewish Star

by Mr. Enthusiastic on Tuesday, December 15, 2020

Stories Behind the Stamps

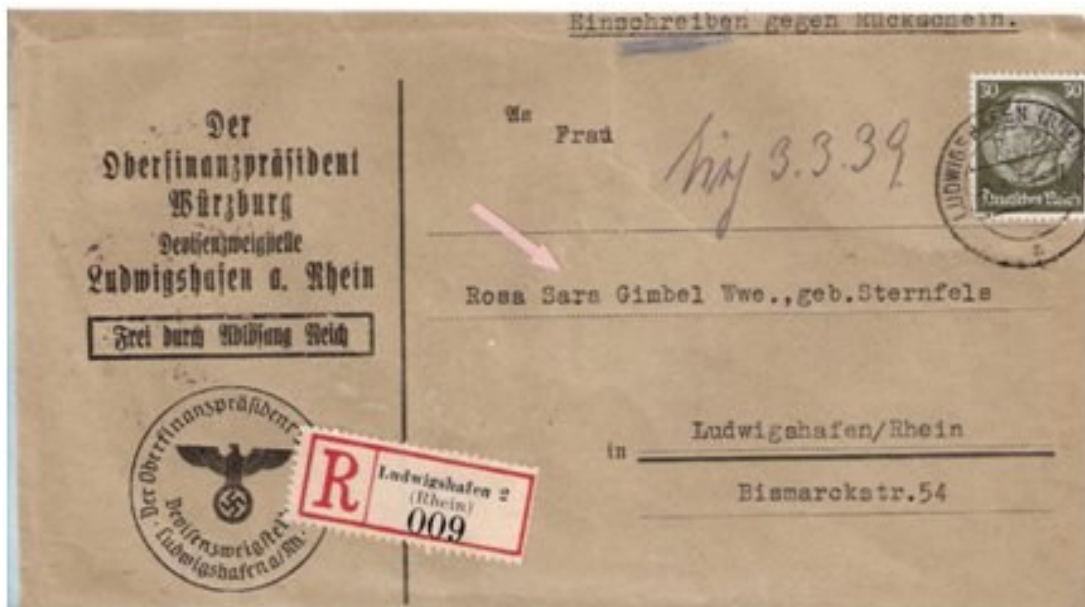
The world has just had the annual Holocaust Remembrance Day [*Ed. note: to be held January 27, 2025.*] and so it is a good time to reissue this newsletter, in English. International Holocaust Remembrance Day falls on a different date than the Israeli Holocaust Remembrance Day. The day selected by the UN, is the day of the liberation of the Auschwitz Concentration Camp on 27th January 1945.

Everyone who is not a Holocaust denier knows about the genocide of six million Jews as well as many other nations. Everyone remembers names like Auschwitz and everyone has heard about the Warsaw Ghetto and how Jews were pushed into a very small area where Corona would have a great time, a mask would not help and there would certainly be no place to practice social distancing. There is no need to remind everyone of Europe's dark past in the last century.

In 1933, the Nazis rose to power and immediately issued a series of laws against the Jews, and there were many. The first laws were intended to remove Jews from public office. Albert Einstein was not in Germany at the time, and decided he had nowhere to return to. One of the first events of 1933 was the burning of the books of Jewish writers, including the Bible. Jews were not allowed to be doctors, lawyers, bankers etc.

The Jews were an integral part of the German community, seeing themselves as secular Germans and their being Jews was secondary. All of a sudden a plethora of laws comes out against them, one of them being that a Jew

must be identified by his name and, therefore, was forced to add a middle name, Sarah for a woman and Israel for a man (there was a list of names). So, Hans now becomes Hans Israel.



But now there is a problem. An executive order was issued saying that a German could not buy from a Jew, so how can one know that someone is a Jew? By the yellow badge! By the way, in Germany today, there are many that accuse Israel of the Corona virus and attach a yellow badge to the image of the corona.

Continuing with our story, about two thousand years ago, a Jew named Joshua (Jesus) began to claim that he was the Son of God, and began to persuade people to walk another path. In those days, the area of Judea was controlled by a chief rabbi and a Roman governor. The chief Rabbi, Caiaphas, claimed it was blasphemy, and transferred judgment to the Roman governor, Pontius Pilatus, for trial. Pilatus condemned Jesus to death in the cruelest Roman method, crucifixion. Of course I've shortened the story, but Jesus became what is today called a martyr.

(Continued on page 19)

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However, that was when Christian anti-Semitism began. To this day, Jews are accused of murdering their God (savior). No, Jesus was not a Palestinian; this name was given to the Judean area only after the Bar Kochba revolt or the Second Judean War of Rome, and that was about a century after Jesus was executed.

Christianity grew and even Roman emperors converted, and we all know the history. But, around the year 1100, about the time of the First Crusade, due to demands from the Vatican, European kings from France, England, and others began to enact laws against Jews. The laws were quite reminiscent of Nazi laws, such as a ban on buying from Jews and a ban on mixed marriages, and so on. During the Crusades, the kings even confiscated land belonging to Jews (maybe we should ask for our land back or at least retroactive rent) and even, at some point, expelled them from those countries. In France, Jews were deported, allowed to return several times, until the final deportation at the end of the 14th century.



Dominica, Scott #22521 (2000)

So, now, the question arises again, how do you identify that he is a Jew?

Very simple, a yellow badge! [Also known as the yellow patch, the Jewish badge, or the yellow star. Ed.] But it was not a badge as we know it. The Pope instructed that Jews be required to wear a unique clothing item that will identify them as Jews. Each country could choose its own form. Even a piece of material as large as that of a Miss Universe sash, would have been acceptable, if it had been in the color required by the king.

But, what was the easiest way to identify a Jew, even from behind? A comical hat! Usually the hat was cone-shaped, but also had a spike of some kind. This method



Cook Islands, Scott #294 (1970)

was known for use in Central Europe, in countries such as Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Austria, and others. In a city called Judenburg, the Jewish hat is in the city emblem! According to the municipality, the name of the city has nothing to do with the Jews. Yeah, right.



Austria Scott #985 (1974)



Nisarg Sutaria Captures Bronze at Florex 2024

by Ted Tyszka



IPDA Journal contributor (Stamp of the Month), Nisarg Sutaria, won a Bronze Medal at the Florida State Stamp Show, FLOREX 2024. The show, held on December 6th and 7th, is a World Series of Philately event presented by the Florida Stamp Dealers' Association and the Central Florida Stamp Club.

Held at the Volusia County Fairgrounds in Deland, Florida, this was their 75th anniversary show.

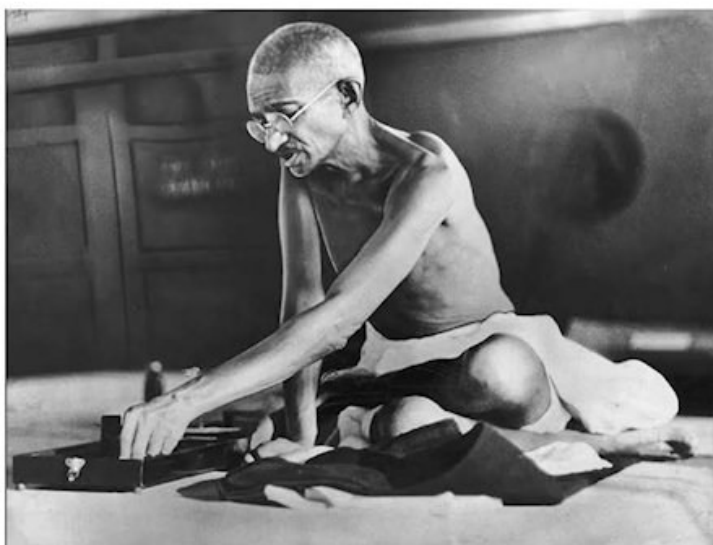
Mr. Sutaria was awarded the Bronze Medal for his postcard exhibit depicting, "Mahatma Gandhiji's Life Through Picture Postcards." (Note: the "ji" appended to the name is a Hindi honorific suffix used to show courtesy and respect.) Congratulations to Mr. Sutaria for his accomplishment.

Below are shown a couple of the pages from his exhibit. To view it in its entirety, click on this link to take you to [Mahatma Gandhiji's Life Through Picture Postcards](#).

Mahatma Gandhiji's Life Through Picture Postcards

#1/16

October 2 marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the father of our nation. Born in Porbander, Gujarat, on October 2, 1869, Gandhi trained as a lawyer in London. However, he returned to India and led the nationalist movement against the British, using tools of non-violence and non-cooperation, ultimately granting India her freedom on August 15, 1947. His beliefs and ideals are his legacy to the world in the present context. (Courtesy National Gandhi Museum)



Mahatma Gandhiji's Life Through Picture Postcards

#2/16

A young Mahatma (Mohandas) Gandhi (right) and his brother Laxmidas. Gandhi was a shy child and would return home as soon as school ended to avoid talking to anyone. After finishing school he trained in law in London. Returning from London as a trained barrister in 1891, Gandhi attended the Bombay High Court every day, walking 45 minutes to and from his home. (Courtesy National Gandhi Museum)



Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

Finland

5p Carmine-Brown tête-bêche Pair, 1866

Scott #12e, 2024 Scott Catalogue value \$17,500



The 5p carmine-brown tête-bêche pair (positions 21 and 22) with roulette III is a remarkable Finnish philatelic item that entered the postal system in 1866. This pair is extremely rare and one of the top objects in Finnish philately. Collectors believe that just seven copies of the iconic 5p carmine-brown tête-bêche pair remain today, one of which is on cover. In December 2017, David Feldman auctioned off such an item for \$23,207. The lot is without a doubt one of the top highlights of the Rouletted issues from 1866 to 1974, and it is a must-have for the most sophisticated show collection.

Reference : <https://findyourstampsvalue.com/rarest-stamps/most-valuable-finnish-stamps>

Review

by Michael Round

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840-1970, 127th edition 2025. xliii+52+712pp. ISBN-13 978-1-8051792-1-4. Weight 2.4kg. Price £94.95.



This article was first published in *Stamp Lover*, the journal of the National Philatelic Society (Great Britain). It is reprinted here with the kind permission of the author, Michael Round, who is solely responsible for the wonderfully comprehensive overview of this catalogue.

Someone far more poetic than me once compared the annual appearance of SG 'Part 1' (as we all call it) to "the sun that riseth upon a new day." Indefatigable Commonwealth catalogue editor Hugh Jefferies MBE would consider one sunrise a year (not day) quite enough. He resteth not on his laurels e'en now (the poetic stuff is getting to me) but is actively preparing Part 1 2026. Does the man never sleep?

Not dead yet

His Preface, as always, is pertinent, frank and backed by decades of unarguable experience. His assessment of the philatelic situation today makes for sobering reading — heading them "portents of doom," he lists, among current obstacles, "the declining number of younger collectors, the almost total disappearance of stamp shops, the fact that what little 'post' is delivered almost always arrives without stamps, the falling membership of philatelic societies, the declining number of stamp fairs . . . in fact, the only things which seem to be increasing are the ages of those who still attend society meetings and the volume and cost of new issues."

Before we all throw our collections off Tower Bridge in despair and jump after them into the River Thames, I hasten to add that the rest of the Preface is far more positive, and the extra scholarship flagged for many individual issues is a testament to the undying enthusiasm of current collectors and a strong incentive for intrigued new ones to join in and contribute to the impressive and ever-

growing total of philatelic expertise this catalogue now contains.

Scholarship, like buying on-line and so on, can be carried out in splendid isolation at home. But, again unarguably, Mr. Jefferies reminds us that the social advantages of the hobby "provide opportunities which the online world does not." See you all at the next meeting, then . . .

Winners and losers, pricewise

We all have ideas on stamp prices, but who better qualified than Mr. Jefferies to clarify and confirm them? Enough stocks to go round? Then prices will never move much. Rare and in fine condition? The sky's the limit. The middle ground, neither rare nor ultra-common and which occupies most of the listings in this catalogue, is peopled by "traditional" collectors still filling spaces in their albums. It's likely the same spaces need filling everywhere — we all know of definitive sets within which one or two values just never seem to turn up, and it's no surprise that prices for these will continue to edge upwards.

Here, I would mildly argue with the description of one component area, postage dues, as "traditionally less popular." In my experience, postage dues (used, anyway), have been highly sought after for years, if not decades, and I feel a distinct pain in the wallet every time I buy one.

A neglected area?

Here, I refer not to particular stamps but a specific listing, that of the Commonwealth Omnibus, literally at the back of the book. It starts, of course, with the 1935 silver Jubilee issue — its informative if hagiographic back story (stern, long-gone SG editor Stanley Phillips would have called it "space wasted on eulogy") has been here for years, now, but I wonder how many of us have read it?

Rightly, perhaps, it takes the lion's share of the attention, but I wonder what stories may exist behind the other, lower-profile, omnibus sets. The 1948 Royal Silver Wedding "scandal" is familiar enough, including Malaya's belated announcement that every component state would join in, adding a further £6 to everyone's new-issue bill. (And SG Part 1 for 1950 refused to list the high values at all.) But who decided that 12 territories were enough to represent the 1964 Shakespeare common-design omnibus, and who chose them?

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Then there's the 1951 BWI University issue. Component contributor Jamaica was using sterling at the time; most other territories issued 3c and 12c stamps except British Guiana (3c, 6c) and British Honduras (3c, 10c). Why was that? I did learn (elsewhere) that demand for this issue was grossly underestimated and supplies of certain values quickly ran out. (Prices have stabilised by now.) Maybe SG Part 1 is not the right repository for extensive back stories of this nature, but they'd make a fine article for some keen writer among us.

It's interesting how many across-the-board flaws and varieties exist in the 1935 Silver Jubilee omnibus compared to later issues. The very next, the 1937 KG6 Coronation, has remarkably few; one such leads me to a minor grumble.

The Mauritius set has "Line through sword" and "Line by sceptre" varieties (SG 251a/b), but the editorial go-to zoomed-in illustrations don't, for me, clearly show exactly which lines are the varieties. Here and elsewhere, highlights in a contrasted colour would help a lot. Glory be to God, however, not just for dappled things but for varieties illustrated at all. Without them, the "jibstay" (Ascension, a new flaw, sG 40fc) would have remained for most of us just a useful scrabble word.

The meat course

Serious readers will by now be impatiently wondering which are the new items. Well, some shades in Rhodesia are redescribed to more closely match the SG Colour Guide. Dies I and II of Australia's 3d 'Roo are now illustrated, as regular readers of Gibbons Stamp Monthly (GSM) will already have seen, and so are many Palestine varieties (affecting SG 16/89, no less).

"GB used in Ascension" now includes both shades of the KE7 1/2 d. More "damaged crown and frame" varieties appear — they're illustrated under British Honduras. "Cape of Good Hope used in Botswana" now offers 48 post offices to look for, though there's no guarantee yet that they all had their own postmark. Too esoteric?

There's a nice new shade on the Bechuanaland KG6 1/- (SG 125a), and another for nearby Basutoland, the QE2 2/6 (SG 51a, wrongly numbered 50a in the preamble pages). I like Hugh Jefferies' comment that new boxed background notes on India's first Officials have been included purely for interest. I'd say that anything in a box, in this or

any other sG catalogue, is of interest.

The constant addition of new material makes it no surprise that, say, Indian States (Convention and Feudatory) now fill 50 pages (thank goodness not all 600-odd states ever issued their own stamps!) and remarkable that this 'Part 1' neither costs nor weighs any more than last year's.

Order of proceedings

Indexers may argue that Southern Rhodesia, which falls alphabetically between South Arabian Federation and South West Africa, should instead follow them. Virgin Islands are under B for British, and so are the Solomons. I believe this depends on what the places were called in 1970, where this catalogue ends. Older collectors hard-wired into long-gone SG running-orders may still turn (wrongly) to L for Labuan, N for Newfoundland, and P for Papua New Guinea. (They're under Malaya, Canada and Australia respectively, as any fule now kno.) Southern Cameroons are under C for Cameroon.

Modern dealers switching between Part 1 and the Commonwealth "sectionals" may have fewer orientation problems, though discrepancies are bound to occur between Part 1 and Stamps of the World, whose remit is to guide new collectors to the most obvious alphabetical place as a first option. Nonspecialists among us will just have to memorise in what order within Part 1 the various components of Canada, Malaya and South Africa come.

Prix fixes

Yes, set prices — but in SG catalogue rather than restaurant terms. Prices for complete sets always offer some discount over their costs as singles, and quite often the set price matches that of its top value alone. Dealers tell us, "Take out the best item and the rest becomes unsaleable." They may be right, but take an extreme case: the Gilbert & Ellice 1912 definitives (sG 12/24) are priced at £1,600 U the set, the same as the top (£1) value alone. This would imply that the U residue (1/2 d to 5/-) is worth nothing, yet as singles they catalogue over £220. Is it worth quoting a set price for this residue too?

Take another example, where this is in fact done: Sierra

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Leone's mostly cheap 1964 "2nd Year of Independence" overprints (257/69) include a rare 11/- on £1 surcharge (sG 269), catalogued alone at £850M/ £250U. Here

the set price ignores the rarity, and supplies instead a "residue" total (probably more useful to most of us) of £11/ £6.

Sometimes a set price is missing. Guyana's 1968 Independence overprints came in two tranches, the first sharing three different watermarks (sG 376/407b), the second two (420/40). SG offer a set price for each watermark within tranche I, but only a combined one for Tranche II. Perhaps this could be adjusted. And for clarity, perhaps SG could also name that peculiar font used for Tranche II — Radiant Bold, is it?

Guessing the unguessable

Browse anywhere, and you'll come across some surprising prices before you've read half a page. Who would guess, for instance, that a carefully assembled used Zambia 1968 definitive set of 12 (SG 129/40) catalogues just £2.75? At, say, 20% of cat, that's just 55p — scarcely worth hingeing and mounting for sale in an exchange packet.

And Rhodesia, that 1965 2/6 Independence commem (SG 358), surely the UDI kerfuffle makes it a sought-after item? Nope: it's just 15p M, 25p U. But I'm glad to see Gibraltar's elusive 1931 3ds (sG 113/a) marked up — something I said last time, I wonder?

And how about Sierra Leone again? The first self-stickers (1964 New York World's Fair, 285/98) make just £3.75/ £4.75 the set, but the equally self-sticky Eagles (421/34a) make £65, M or U. Learn a few like this, snap them up amid estate clearances or hastily prepared stampfair album-page bundles, and the catalogue soon pays for itself.

For even more profitable browsing, scan those Omnibus commems again. Knowing which are the good 'uns could pay off handsomely. We all know that Hong Kong is the gov'nor of the 1948 Silver Wedding, even if its exact price might need looking up (£275/130). But, what's the next best, used? Northern Rhodesia, that's what, at £110, followed by Ascension (also £110) and Gold Coast (£85).

Yet Northern Rhodesia's 1935 Silver Jubilee set is among the cheapest U, at £19. And the cheapest U Jubilee of all? Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika (who knew?) at just £11.



Quiz time

Douglas Muir's reprinted seven-page article on monarchical portraits is a considerable bonus, and the front cover illustration is superb, reminding many of us why we collect Commonwealth in the first place. It's that beautiful 1902 St Lucia 400th Anniversary pictorial (SG 63), and without this splendid enlargement I doubt I'd have ever identified the border illustrations alone in a quiz. (That bird, that snake, that fruit . . .).

But remember last year, when I did challenge you to discover a modern low-value definitive variety with a slightly altered background colour, mostly found U on FDCs and cataloguing £1,000 rather than £1.75?

Answer: Botswana, the 1966 Republic overprint on Bechuanaland's 7 1/2 c Bird (sG 211/a). Apologies to anyone who only last week threw out their entire 'Unwanted FDCs' box possibly containing it.

Here's this year's question, easier but less profitable, I'm afraid:

Of all the countries issuing omnibus 1949 UPU sets, which one contained only two values instead of the usual four? Answer next year.

Oh, I nearly forgot. Hugely recommended, every word of it. Buy, enjoy, learn, profit. What more could any of us want, for Christmas, or any time?



Stamp Listing Tips: Understanding Dates

by Ted Tyszka

Many dealers are conscientious about providing as much information in the title of their sales listing as is practical and practicable (i.e. that fits within the 80-character limit). This includes providing the year of issue. (Aside: I really wish more dealers would see fit to add this information; there are many times I am searching for stamps of a particular year, not a catalogue number – for example, for Europa stamps.) Often, though, I find listings which, though they include the year of issue, it is in a manner which is just not right. I don't want to say it's at the level of a pet peeve, but it does make me wonder if the dealers really understand the Scott Catalogue and what other mistakes might be creeping into his listings for this lack of understanding.

What I'm talking about is the use of a date range to indicate the year of issue for a single stamp. Below is an example of a Scott Catalogue listing for a set of German stamps issued over a period of four calendar years, 1916-1919.

1916-19	Typo.			
96 A22 2pf lt gray ('18)	.30	3.75		
97 A22 2½pf lt gray	.25	1.90		
98 A22 7½pf red orange	.50	2.25		
99 A22 15pf yellow brown	3.00	2.25		
100 A22 15pf dk violet ('17)	.25	1.90		
101 A22 35pf red brn ('19)	.30	2.25		
Nos. 96-101 (6)	4.60	14.30		
Set, never hinged	17.00			



A22

issued in each of those years.

For each individual listing within the set, the Scott Catalogue indicates the year of issue in parentheses, for those stamps issued after the first year shown, or with no year given, indicating it was issued in the first year of the date range.

In the catalogue listing shown, then, #96 was issued in 1918; #97-99 were each issued in 1916; #100 was issued in 1917; and #101 was issued in 1919. Time and again, though, I see listings such as this one:

1905-19 Germany Sc 80 used 2pf Germania Cv2.60 Lot 3404

The dealer is selling Germany #80, the year of issue of which, he says, is 1905-19. Looking at the Scott Catalogue listing:

1905-19	Typo.	Wmk. 125	Perf. 14
80 A16 2pf gray ('05)	1.60	2.60	
81 A16 3pf brown ('15)	.60	1.50	
82 A16 5pf grn (shades)	.60	1.50	
b. Bklt. pane of 5 + label ('11)	250.00	500.00	
Never hinged	500.00		
c. Bklt. pane of 4 + 2 labels			

It is clearly stated in the line listing that the year of issue for #80 was 1905.

Here's another listing I saw, right below that one, from a different dealer.

Germany Deutsche Reich Danzig 1921-22 Sc# 80 MH VG - High Mark...

This listing is for Danzig, Scott #80, issued . . . 1921-22???

Again, let's look at the Scott Catalogue listing:

What the 1916-19 year range indicates is the period of time within which one or another of the stamps in this set was issued. In other words, not every stamp was

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(Continued from page 25)



Arms — A11

Coat of Arms — A12

Wmk. 108 (Upright or Sideways)

1921-22		<i>Perf. 14</i>	
63	A11 5(pf) orange	.25	.25
64	A11 10(pf) dark brown	.25	.25
65	A11 15(pf) green	.25	.25
66	A11 20(pf) slate	.25	.25
67	A11 25(pf) dark green	.25	.25
68	A11 30(pf) blue & car	.25	.25
	Never hinged	.85	
a.	Center inverted	75.00	150.00
	Never hinged	225.00	
69	A11 40pf green & car	.25	.25
	Never hinged	.85	
a.	Center inverted	75.00	150.00
	Never hinged	225.00	
70	A11 50pf dk grn & car	.25	.25
71	A11 60pf carmine	.45	.45
72	A11 80pf black & car	.35	.45

Paper With Faint Gray Network

73	A11 1m org & car	.50	.40
a.	Center inverted	75.00	150.00
	Never hinged	225.00	
74	A11 1.20m blue violet	1.25	1.25
75	A11 2m gray & car	3.25	4.25
76	A11 3m violet & car	9.00	10.00

Serrate Roulette 13½**Wmk. 108 Upright**

77	A12 5m grn, red & blk	1.25	3.00
78	A12 9m rose, red & org ('22)	3.00	8.50
79	A12 10m ultra, red & blk	1.25	3.00
80	A12 20m red & black	1.25	3.00
	Nos. 63-80 (18)	23.55	36.30
	Set, never hinged	85.00	

We see that #80 is part of an 18-stamp set issued from 1921 to 1922. But only one stamp, #78, was issued in 1922; all the rest were issued in 1921.

While it may seem to some that I am just picking nits, I do believe that learning the idiosyncrocies of whatever catalogue you are using, and paying attention to details such as the proper year of issue in your listings, can only help in building trust and confidence with stamp buyers.



This Month's Contributors



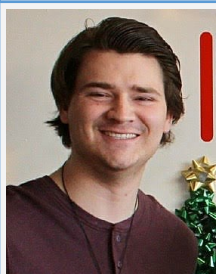
Michael Dodd: Michael Dodd is the owner/operator/chief cook and bottle washer of cddstamps — “commemorative definitive decimal stamps.” He has been selling since 2000 and has [a store on the Hip-stamp marketplace](#) where he has

43,00 listings and 82,000 feedbacks. His online presence is through his website at [cddstamps.com](#), his blogs, notably his aircraft on stamps blog at [cddstamps.wordpress.com](#) and various other social media feeds.



Lee Coen: A 25 year APS member and former Chairman of the IPDA, Lee is a collector [turned seller](#). Having traveled the world, due to his parents’ work, he wound up, in 1978, in Iran, which, no doubt, explains his love of and specialization in the stamps of Persia. He is a disabled vet who served in the Gulf war. He is married to Shelley, and loves his cats and dogs and all animals, and is especially known for his fondness for rattlesnakes (Okay, I made up that last part. – Ed.).

43,00 listings and 82,000 feedbacks. His online presence is through his website at [cddstamps.com](#), his blogs, notably his aircraft on stamps blog at [cddstamps.wordpress.com](#) and various other social media feeds.



Dan Golden: Arriving late to the philatelic game, Dan picked up the hobby at the age of 26 and fell in love with it immediately. A fan of mail from the day he was born, Dan has been collecting stamps since 2021. His collection includes stamps from the United States, Ireland, Germany, and Vatican City. His particular areas of philatelic interest include baseball, hockey, ships, maritime themes, maps, trains, architecture, and Christmas. Beyond stamps, he is a lover of sports, reading, and learning new things. Dan lives with his wife and daughter near Dallas, TX.

43,00 listings and 82,000 feedbacks. His online presence is through his website at [cddstamps.com](#), his blogs, notably his aircraft on stamps blog at [cddstamps.wordpress.com](#) and various other social media feeds.



Lawrence Fisher: Lawrence Fisher is an award-winning philatelic exhibitor, and the author of the non-philatelic non-fiction book, “Kill Me Now!” He publishes the blog, “Stories Behind the Stamps,” from where this month’s article first appeared, as well as the YouTube channel

of the same name. His “Stories Behind the Stamps” article first appeared on his blog of the same name and is reprinted here by permission. He also has a “Stories Behind the Stamps” YouTube channel. Visit his blog, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#) and see his YouTube channel here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#)



Nisarg Sutaria: Nisarg Sutaria hails from Ahmedabad, India. He has a BE in Mechanical Engineering from Nirma Institute of Technology, India (1999), and an MS in Manufacturing Engineering from Western Michigan University, USA (2001).

Philately is one of his hobbies, while horology (the study of the measurement of time) is another of his passions. You can contact him via email:

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Ted Tyszka: Ted Tyszka started collecting in 1974 and after moving to Portugal in 2024 has narrowed his collecting focus to Germany and area, and Portugal and area. He also has a few topical interests: Literature and Fiction Writers; Classical Music; and Stamp Design Errors. He has [a HipStamp store](#) which you can find by a store search for the name TATyszka or his user name “youpiao.” He also has a [YouTube channel](#) and a [Substack newsletter](#), both also under the name, “Ted Talks Stamps.”

43,00 listings and 82,000 feedbacks. His online presence is through his website at [cddstamps.com](#), his blogs, notably his aircraft on stamps blog at [cddstamps.wordpress.com](#) and various other social media feeds.

Michael Round: Michael Round makes his debut, this issue, as a contributor, with his comprehensive review of the Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Part 1. Michael is a regular contributor to *Stamp Lover*, the journal of the National Philatelic Society, in Great Britain. We hope to receive more submissions from Michael, in the future.

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