

Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone and Happy New Year!

The IPDA consists of a diverse and global group of dealers. I would like to invite our members to compose and submit some original articles for the IPDA newsletter. These can be published as well on our new website. Pick a favorite stamp or issue that you would like to discuss...pick a story about something that happened with your business....pick a funny story or a heartwarming one. It does not necessarily have to be scholarly work. Contact our fine newsletter editor Ted Tyzka (ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com) for more details.

We at IPDA are very pleased to present Trish Kaufman in our January Dealer Spotlight. Trish is certainly known to most of us as the leading expert in Confederate postal concerns. Do yourselves a favor and spend a few minutes to visit her website and you may find a whole new collecting opportunity and learn more about Confederate stamps and postal history. Please consider putting your name in the hat to be highlighted in the coming months. It is free advertising to you as an IPDA member as part of your membership benefits.

I am happy to report that our membership is growing

and I would like to invite you to join us as a member of IPDA (<https://www.ipdastamps.com/qualifications/>) and if you are already an IPDA member, please think about referring a colleague for membership. When a member refers an applicant and they are accepted for membership, the referring member will earn one year of free IPDA dues so there is a nice incentive there. The more quality members we have in IPDA, the more positively we can affect the online marketplace. Our annual dues of \$25 (\$75 for 4 years) remain among the lowest of all the major philatelic organizations and are a great value.

I, along with my family and the IPDA Board of Directors wish you all the very best for a happy and healthy 2024. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at ipdachair@gmail.com.

BLITHER and BLATHER

I have recently been working with an individual (I will call him John for these purposes) who recently lost a loved one and inherited a rather large collection/accumulation. Not being a collector himself, he contacted me with a request for advice on what to do with this material. My first response to John was "Send me some photos of what he thinks is interesting to him in this accumulation?". He initially sent me some cell phone photos of some piles of very common US stamps on paper. My response was direct and honest in that there was really nothing there that wasn't of minimum value in the current marketplace and might be rather difficult to move. My initial advice was that he had several options. One, he could keep the collection as a family heirloom and even build upon it. A second option was to donate it to a local stamp club. Another option was that he could attempt to sell the en-

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tire lot to a local dealer, cautioning him that there may not be the value in it to a dealer that he might have thought.

More conversation ensued along with more photographs of material until he provided some photos of many very neatly organized and catalogued US mint plate number blocks in great condition. He must have thousands of them in glassines and safely stored in boxes. A bit of a game changer one might say. During our conversations, he seemed more and more interested in not only the hobby but also in the marketplace and how it works (or doesn't) these days. I suggested that whether he planned on keeping the collection or trying to market it, he would be well advised to learn as much as he could about what he had. A recommendation to acquire a Scott US Specialized ensued and he did just that. A further suggestion was to read and understand the introduction in the Scott catalog before even looking at the listings. That is where we are now but don't be surprised that soon, a new store pops up specializing in fine US plate blocks.

John knows that whatever he ends up doing with his loved one's collection, it will not be life-changing money, but it could be life changing for him as he will have at least a new hobby to enjoy and possibly even a new business to run.

The moral of the story here for dealers is to spend a little time with these kinds of requests, answer their questions honestly, and exercise patience with them. We can never know where we may make a new friend-

ship, create a new collector, or maybe even create some new competition for ourselves. A little bit of attention and encouragement can go a long way. Happy 2024 everyone!!!!!!

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM

Directors' Meetings Scheduled Through Q1 2024

Directors Meeting

November 4th 2023 at 18:00 EST

(Leftover popcorn available; 1st come, 1st served.)

Directors Meeting

January 6th 2024 at 18:00 EST

(Pushed back from December 16th 2023)

Directors Meeting

January 27th 2024 at 18:00 EST

Annual General Meeting

March 23rd 2024 at 18:00 EST





Date: January, 2024

Attention All IPDA Members,

The IPDA thanks you for your prior membership and requests prompt payment of the membership dues, now due, for calendar year 2024.

Please remember that you may only vote in the upcoming AGM (Annual General Meeting in March) if your dues have been paid by the meeting date.

This year we are sending letters to all current IPDA members, via the postal system(s) of the various countries making up our membership list. This method is being used so that you, as IPDA Members, know we are concerned that communication by email, while fast and easy, is many times not the correct solution to the problem of collecting yearly dues.

Implementing this new method (for us) will need some wrinkles smoothed out, but we plan to mail the letters by early January, so that you have time to reply and pay your dues before the AGM. We will follow up with emails to those members who have not paid by the beginning of February.

Please note, we will not be sending letters to those who have already paid for 2024 by paying for multiple years ahead of time, for example. So if you are already paid up for 2024, you will not see the letter, nor hopefully reminder emails from us.

The letter will outline 3 methods (in detail) by which you may pay your dues:

By using PayPal to our IPDA account (payIPDA@earthlink.com) (This is the Preferred method),

By bank check payable in U.S. funds, mailed by postal system to the Membership Director

By requesting an invoice to be sent to your email, which you may respond to, whether or not you have a PayPal account.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit cards for payment of dues.

Thank you for your continued support of the IPDA, and if there is anything we can do for you to help your internet sales, please do not hesitate to ask and, if we can, we will try our hardest to make it happen.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Tripi
IPDA Treasurer,
Membership Secretary
IPDAMembershipSec@gmail.com

Stanley Gibbons Ltd Sold to Castelnau Group

Name Changed to Strand Collectibles Group



STANLEY
GIBBONS
THE HOME OF STAMP COLLECTING

In a move that has the philatelic community buzzing, Stanley Gibbons Ltd has been bought out by an investment firm and the name changed to Strand Collectibles Group. This follows a chain of events that began years ago.

In April 2021, SG revealed they were open to takeover offers, and were soliciting buyers for the group.

On 7 September 2022, after a special general meeting called by the majority shareholder, Phoenix Asset Management, Stanley Gibbons Ltd was delisted from the London Stock Exchange, and all outstanding shares were cancelled.

On 22 December 2023, SG fell into administration (or in American terms, reorganization, or Chapter 11 bankruptcy), and the company was immediately purchased by Strand Collectibles Group, a company formed by Castelnau Group which, in turn, is owned by Phoenix Asset Management).

The primary objective of administration is to help a company regain its footing and work out a debt repayment plan, while continuing operations as usual. The accounting firm of PricewaterhouseCoopers was named as the administrator.

The company was delisted from the London Stock Exchange's AIM (junior market) after the 58% majority shareholder, Phoenix Asset Management (PAM), called for an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders and a vote on delisting the company. Shareholders were given the opportunity to sell their shares to PAM for 1.5p per share. PAM also warned of the possibility of withdrawing their financial support of the company, if the resolution did not pass. The resolution did, in

fact, pass, and on 7 September 2022, the company was delisted, and all of the company shares cancelled.

PAM arranged for what is called a pre-packaged, or pre-pack administration, under which PAM, through their subsidiary Castelnau Group, would immediately repurchase Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Castelnau Group is a company which was formed by PAM to be their vehicle for acquiring and running the businesses in which they invest.

Castelnau has transferred all of the previous Stanley Gibbons assets, inventory, employees, and brands – Stanley Gibbons Ltd and their coins and medals branch A. H. Baldwin & Sons – to a new company called Strand Collectibles Group. A new website has been created to host the numismatic and trading card business, as well as the Stanley Gibbons curated stamp auctions – www.baldwins.co (not .co.uk and not .com). SG's traditional philatelic business remains at the website www.stanleygibbons.com (not .co).

Phoenix Asset Management is known as a turnaround specialist, buying distressed companies, installing new management, and bringing them back to profitability. They are also already entrenched in the hobby industry, being the majority shareholder in Hornby, maker of model railroads. Through that company, they also own Airfix, a plastic airplane model kit manufacturer, as well as die-cast car maker Corgi.

At the time of its delisting from the stock exchange, the market value of Stanley Gibbons (that is, the cost to purchase 100% of the shares) was less than 5 million pounds, less than the value of their single largest asset, the Guiana 1c Magenta stamp. In the last two fiscal years, however, SG rang up annual losses of £2.9 million and £2.6 million.

Phoenix Asset Management has a very good investment record. Since its inception in 1988, investors have realized an average annual return of 9.5%, more than double the annual 4.5% return for the FTSE All Shares Index, which tracks the performance of around 572 companies traded on the London Stock Exchange.

Only time will tell if they will be able to perform their magic on Stanley Gibbons.





Ted Talks Stamps

by Ted the Talking Stamp Collector

Marianne of the Future

The face that launched a thousand revolutions has received a new iteration for 2023 (she is on a 5-year facelift cycle, these days).

On 13 November 2023, the new "Marianne of the Future" stamp was released.



Designed by Olivier Balez, with engraving by Pierre Bara, "Marianne of the Future" replaces "Marianne the Committed" (below), who has held sway as the face of the nation since 2018.



Three denominations of stamps, in various formats, are currently available from La Poste. You can order directly from La Poste; here's the link: [Spend Money Here](#)

If you are concerned about shipping fees making it uneconomical to order from abroad, perish the thought: postage is free, even to overseas addresses, and they accept PayPal.

Vive Marianne!

Ken Sanford on YouTube Talking About Crash Covers

I recently chatted with IPDA member Ken Sanford, over Zoom, to talk about Collecting Air Crash Covers. The chat was recorded on video and uploaded to my YouTube channel, Ted Talks Stamps, where it became episode number 105 on my channel.



Collecting Air Crash Covers - A Chat With the Expert . . . #philately [Ep....]

512 views • 9 days ago

Ken talked about the history of air crash covers, and the various ways one can go about collecting them, from collecting by country, or by particular stamps franking the crash cover, and collecting covers autographed by the pilots of the planes which crashed.

The program was well received and got many complimentary comments from viewers. To see this episode, click on the following link: [Collecting Crash Covers](#)

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Design Error on Australian Stamp?

A fairly common mistake, not just in postage stamps, but everywhere, is the use of the caduceus as the symbol for medical practitioners. The caduceus was a staff borne by the Greek god Hermes, or Roman god Mercury, the messenger of the gods, and represents trades and occupations. The caduceus was most notably adopted by the printing industry, symbolizing their role as “messengers of the printed word.”



Australia, Scott Nr 305 (1957)

While the improper use of the caduceus has been noted before the 20th century, it was in 1902 when it became normalized, when the US Army Medical Service adopted it as their symbol.



Caduceus — US Army Medical Service

In fact, Australia’s Royal Flying Doctor Service also uses the caduceus in their logo, probably because of the wings. So, technically, I guess, the stamp design is not an error, since it uses the RFDS’s own symbology.



Asclepius, on the other hand, was the Greek god of medicine, and his symbol was a staff with a single snake entwined about it.



The rod of Asclepius — the proper symbol of medicine, as seen on the flag of the World Health Organization.

Confusion and misuse of the caduceus is commonplace these days and has become normalized. And, while it may seem pedantic to nit-pick over its use, it seems to me things like postage stamps, which stand as representatives of their countries, should be subject to a higher standard of accuracy in their imagery.

Ted the Talking Stamp Collector is the “*nom de tube*” of Ted Tyszka, who is the owner/operator/chief bottle washer of the [YouTube channel, “Ted Talks Stamps.”](#) He is also, allegedly, the editor of the newsletter you are, it is hoped, currently enjoying.

To be or not to be . . .

A soliloquy by Michael Dodd



I always enjoyed Shakespeare, don't know why; perhaps, the way we were taught it at school; perhaps, the visits to theatres to see the plays; perhaps, because it was just an enjoyable read, or the films that have been made just added to the experience. Captivating, one might say.

There was always a position to take, don't you think? And here I am listing some stamps into the online store. Some lovely condition stamps and some not so good, but not commonly found for sale.

The expression, "to be or not to be," just crossed my mind as I was looking at what other sellers were offering and the prices that were being asked. Well, let's be honest, here, and not fool or delude ourselves. There is more rubbish being listed on these online marketplaces than decent quality; but, even worse than that, there are more sellers dumping whatever rubbish or even reasonably decent condition stamps that they have, not correctly describing their stamps. No! Let me add to that; not even describing their stamp, and just as many dumping at prices that are, simply put, at giveaway prices.

So, to be or not to be. Does one join the crowd, or try to stand out as a seller of quality — quality stamps, with quality service in all aspects of what service might mean to a collector, and quality listings of course?

There is only one answer in my book. After many years, and having established a loyal and repeat collector following, I am forced to join the crowd and offer stamps at, what are simply put, silly cheap prices. Where and when I have to add to stock, I know I have to buy at 10% of cat or less to be able to do this. After all, I am not a collector just dumping.

The collectors are there for us sellers — or should I say dealers? There is no doubt in my mind the hobby is alive and well. I am quite convinced of that, and the search for quality continues unabated — just look at the prices for well centered USA stamps. But, I won't go there today!

Perhaps 2024 will be a good year for sellers if they offer quality stamps, if they fully describe the stamps they are listing for sale, and, if they show the front and the reverse of the stamps they are selling. That is my way of creating a differentiator for cddstamps. Show, both, a front scan and a reverse scan, so the collector knows exactly what they are buying. Of course, I still have to meet the stupidly low prices the dumpsters are asking, but hopefully, every now and again, a collector will realise we at cddstamps are worth maybe a few bucks more!

We here at cddstamps are an IPDA member. You are an IPDA member, aren't you? We might have to join the crowd occasionally, but, let's hope if we promote the IPDA brand then collectors will recognise we offer quality at fair prices and that we are not just collectors dumping stamps.

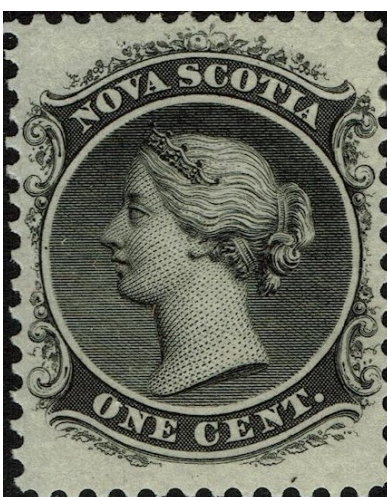
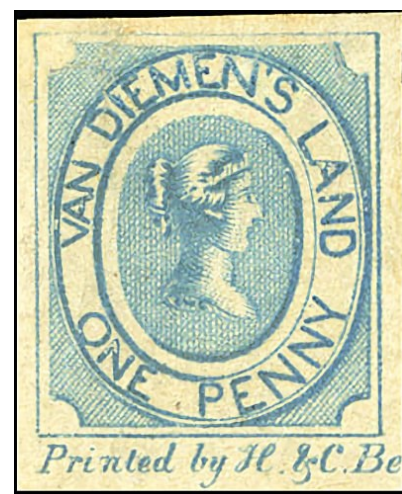
One last comment: One way I measure the success of cddstamps is not by sales numbers, dollars, or listings sold, although that is important, but by the number of questions we get from collectors asking for information about a stamp — printings, or perfs, or watermarks, or phosphors, or chalky versus ordinary paper, and so on. That is where the reward comes in, and the sales come after. And, then, we get more repeat customers.

To be, or not to be . . . an IPDA member. Make our membership have some value. Let's recruit some real dealers in 2024.



Stamp Gallery

A collection of classic Queen Victoria stamps.



Row 1: GB, Scott Nr 1 (1840)
Row 2: Ceylon, Scott Nr 58 (1863)
Row 3: GB, Scott Nr 116 (1887)

Victoria, Scott Nr 143 (1883)
Canada, Scott Nr 61 (1897)
Nova Scotia, Scott Nr 8 (1860)

Van Diemens Land, Scott Nr 1 (1853)
Niger Coast Prot., Scott Nr 45 (1894)
GB, Scott Nr 37 (1862)



Row 1:

Bahamas, Scott Nr 1 (1860)

GB, Scott Nr 7d (1854)

Labuan, Scott Nr 45 (1894)

Row 2:

GB, Scott Nr 112 (1887)

Canada, Scott Nr 21 (1868)

Gambia, Scott Nr 13 (1887)

Row 3:

Prince Edward Is., Scott Nr 10 (1870)

Ceylon, 2sh Foreign Bill Revenue (1862)

Row 4:

Trinidad, Scott Nr 57 (1894)

Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

Soviet Union - Levanevsky with Inverted Overprint



- Date of production : 1935
- Nature of rarity : Invert Error, lower-case "f"
- No. in existence : 40 inverts with upper case "F"; 10 inverted overprints with lower-case "f"
- Face value : 1rub on 10kop
- Estimated value :

Inverted ovpt & capital "F" — \$90,000

Inverted ovpt & small "f" — \$600,000

In 1935 a Sigismund Levanevsky stamp with commemorative red overprint, 'Moscow- San Francisco Flight via the north pole' was issued (Scott Nr C68). Two sheets, totalling 50 stamps, were printed with an inverted surcharge. Of these, 40 were with regular overprint and 10 with a lower-case Cyrillic 'f' (the lower-case f appears on the normally printed overprints, also).

According to accounts, this inverted surcharge was not an error of typography, but was printed by special instructions from Henry Yagoda, a director of the NKVD, the Soviet Union's security and intelligence agency. It was said that Mr. Yagoda was fond of philately and wanted to have a real collection of rare philatelic stamps including error stamps.

In 2008, one of the Levanevsky inverted surcharge overprint stamps was sold for \$525,000 at a Cherrystone auction.

References:

Image: https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/3/31/Stamp_of_USSR_514%28t%29.jpg

Article: <https://www.mintageworld.com/media/detail/11355-1935-soviet-union-levanevsky-stamp/>

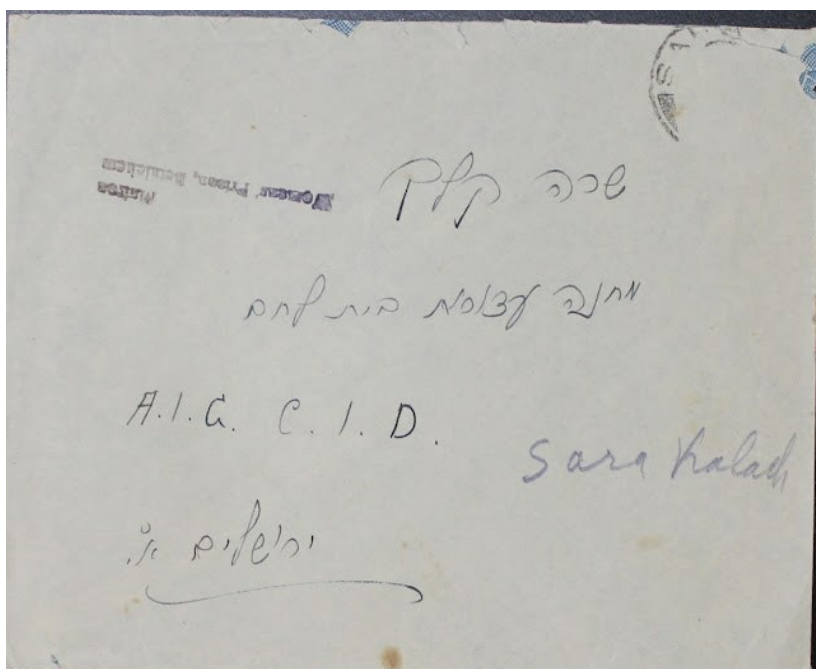
About the author Mr. Nisarg Sutaria is from Ahmedabad, India. He is BE Mechanical Engineering from Nirma Institute of Technology, India in Graduation Year July 1999 and MS Manufacturing Engineering from Western Michigan University, USA in Graduation Year April 2001. Philately is one of his hobbies, while Horology (the study of the measurement of time) is another of his passions.
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Throw Away or Keep?

by Mr. Enthusiastic on Sunday, June 25, 2023

Stories Behind the Stamps

We as stamp collectors deal with stamps, that is why we are known as stamp collectors. As children and many adults, when we get a letter, we tend to remove the stamp from the envelope and put the stamp in our albums and that's it. So what happens when we find a letter like this? As a stamp collector, this letter seemingly has no value. It's missing a stamp. But wait, is it really worthless or should we look into it further?



This letter was written to a woman by the name of Sarah Kalach. Sarah was born in 1928 in Safed and she belonged to a very, very, very old Safed family. They probably got to Safed after the Arab massacre of the Jews of Safed in 1834 which began on June 15th — yes, 189 years ago.

As a child, Sarah joined the Etzel movement. Etzel stands for "Irgun Tzvai Leumi" (IZL) which translates to "The National Military Organization in the Land of Israel". As we all know, the British were in control of what was then called the British Mandate for Palestine and the the IZL organization was labeled a terrorist organization by them. That means

“Guerrilla warfare are actions taken against basically military targets, while terrorism is practiced against civilian targets.”

that Sarah basically belonged to a terrorist organization, as far as the British were concerned, so her days as a free person were numbered.

Sarah was living in Haifa and she got word that the British authorities were looking for her. So, she moved to Tel Aviv and, after about the year, she moved back to Haifa to take care of the branch, since many of her colleagues had already been taken prisoner.

In June of 1946 the IZL took part in the King David hotel bombing. The British obviously saw that as a terrorist act, but the IZL group claimed that it was a legitimate target because that was the the British Army Headquarters. Now after this, the British started to crack down big time on the IZL members. As as I said before, Sarah was living in Haifa and somebody spilled the beans and informed the British CID, the Criminal Investigation Department. Heinz Reinhold snitched on her to the CID and he actually told them exactly where to find Sa-

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rah. On the 29th of October 1946, the British authorities raided the apartment and took her and her brother Shlomo into captivity. Shlomo was actually expelled to Africa, to a detention camp in Kenya. He remained there until after Israeli independence had been declared.

Sarah was sent to the Woman's Detention Camp in Bethlehem and this letter was sent while she was imprisoned there. She was released in March of 1948, along with other woman prisoners, not long before the British left Palestine. Don't worry about her. She got married in 1952 and now has children and grandchildren.

Back to the letter. It was written to Sarah in 1947 when she was in the detention camp, and it was written to her, by her father, Yakov, or they also called him Yankele. The British CID removed the stamp. Why? Because they suspected that messages were written on the back of the stamp. This practice had been in use by the British themselves during the Second World War, So they were aware of the system and they were making sure that messages sent to Sarah didn't bypass the censor of the censor.

And that's the story. Take a simple letter, which you know nothing about, that most people would throw away. I would have, if I didn't know history. This is a lovely case of social postal history.



Sara Kalach, on the left.

Image of Sarah Kalach taken from: <https://www.daat.ac.il/daat/history/hayom/4a-2.htm>

This article is reprinted by kind permission of Lawrence Fisher, who publishes the blog, "Stories Behind the Stamp, as well as the YouTube channel of the same name. Visit his blog, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#)
And see his YouTube channel, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#)

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](#).



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The Grading Confidence Trick is Alive and Well

by Michael Dodd

So now we have Charles Epting on the grading is centering band wagon. It sickens me to think this con trick is being promoted by the likes of Siegel.

“Get real, get honest,” is my mantra for dealers. There is so much con artistry going on in philately today it is downright – what word should I use – is deceitful good enough?

And collectors, please think very carefully before parting with your cash. If you want to spend your money that way, so be it, but know you are being conned, tricked, swindled, cheated, duped, fleeced, deceived, defrauded. There is no other way to put it. These people, whoever they are, that keep promoting stamp market values are creating this myth, and for years they have worked it, so that by telling it a million times it must be true, right? No, wrong. Yes, I agree there is and should be a premium for quality, however that quality may be described, but . . .

Take the recent Charle Epting video. <https://twitter.com/i/status/1716459116657340762>

This lovely Scott 511 – which by the way he does not say is a 511 – that would be opening up the door for people to check, oh and the \$17 he quotes is for a Mint Never Hinged copy; most available are mint hinged with a Scott Specialised cat/retail of \$7.50 and that is, using the Scott words, for a stamp that is very fine with no faults. Well, that might sound reasonable if only 1,107 million were printed!

Yes, for this Scott 511 Benjamin Franklin 1,107,750,00 were printed and the price he is saying the stamp is quoted at is \$1100. Yes, eleven hundred US dollars. Get real, is all I can say – 64 times MNH price in Very fine condition.

Shall I write that again? 1,107,750,000. How many are around today? No one knows. But surely an asking price of \$1100 is a con. Pure and simple, a con. (For the record, a con, or confidence game, is a swindle — when you take advantage of someone's trust. And please don't use the argument, “buyer beware,” or, “the stamp was accurately described;” those arguments just don't stand a credibility and ethics test.)

Of course, you could always look around. When I am buying for my collection, I always look around.

Note: All images are unedited for colour – I do not know the actual stamp colour of the examples shown, and I am certainly not buying any to find out.



Lists for sale somewhere at \$15.



Lists for sale somewhere at \$100.



Quoted with value of \$1100.

I mean, get real. IPDA members are dealers collectors can trust. Right!



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Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG

The Back Page

Dealer Spotlight

Patricia A. (Trish) Kaufmann



To her own astonishment, Trish has been a professional philatelist since 1973, 50 years since she joined forces with John W. Kaufmann as his first employee and, two years later, became his wife. Confederate States postal history is what brought them together, although no auction can subsist on Confederates alone. Although they mostly specialized in U.S. and Confederates, they handled the world until John's unexpected death in 1988. Trish closed the auction house nine months later in 1989 and struck out on her own.

Trish was first introduced to philately in 1965, joined the American Philatelic Society (APS), the Confederate Stamp Alliance (CSA) and other organizations in 1969. She immediately became heavily involved in organized philately. She became the editor of the Confederate Philatelist in 1970, which she did for a record 17 ½ years and even today serves as contributing editor to the successor Civil War Philatelist. Over the years, she has served on a variety of society boards. She was Chairman of the APS Board of Vice Presidents from 2016-2022 and the first woman to serve on the board of the American Philatelic Research Library 1983-1989. She has served on the board of the Philatelic Foundation since 2021.

Trish's first philatelic website was launched in 1996, thus she

has developed a strong online following offering exclusively Confederate States stamps and postal history, as well as being a strong resource for original articles, exhibits, and other philatelic information. She has written hundreds of articles on Confederates and was editor-in-chief of the award-winning 2012 Confederate States of America Catalog and Handbook of Stamps and Postal History, acknowledged as the "bible" of Confederate collecting.

Trish's most recent Philatelic Honors and Awards:

- 2023 – Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (RDP), Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, acknowledged as the most prestigious award in all of philately. The RDP was established in 1921 and King George V was its first signatory.
- 2023 – Alfred F. Lichtenstein Memorial Award for distinguished service to philately, the sixth woman to be so honored since 1952.
- 2023 – Luff Award for Meritorious Contributions to Philately for Outstanding Service to APS
- 2023 – Charles J. Peterson Philatelic Literature Life Achievement Award
- 2023 – John Walter Scott Dealer Award for efforts contributed to APS and the hobby