



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 1  
October 2013  
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## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORS COLUMN	1
FREDDY THE Grog	2
CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE	2
RARE CANADIAN STAMP DISCOVERY	3
MONACOPHIL 2013	4
HONG KONG SINCE 1997	4
CONTROVERSY OVER PRIVATE GB OVERPRINTS	6
FINNISH STAMPS	8
NEW METHODS TO CHECK FOR AUTHENTICITY	8
NEW INVERTED JENNY	7
LONDON 2013	8
PAYPAL SANCTIONS	8
CLOSING REMARKS	8

### EDITORS COLUMN

It will soon be the end of September so I am starting to write a few pages early as I have a very busy month end and early October at work. Hello and welcome yet again to another Newsletter. I was astounded with the emails I got to the last issue. An 8 page spread. Thanks to the two people who wrote :-). Just teasing you!!! But seriously if you don't like my choice of articles please don't be shy, just send me something.

One item that I would like to mention right up front, in case you only read the first few lines is the **IPDA October Marathon Chat**. This, as many of you will know, is our Halloween get together and we again expect a good turn out. The chatroom is open 24 hours, with one or more of the Directors in attendance as moderators throughout.

This is our 13th marathon chat and if past events are anything to go by we should once again have fun and a good turn out. The chat starts at **10:AM GMT Wednesday 30th October**. I think you will find that time is 6am Wednesday 30th in New York for example, and if in Sydney Australia that is 8pm in the evening of the 30th, and, for those in UK that is 11am also on the Wednesday 30th. Since we have members across the globe I hope you can work out a suitable time, or just pop in when it suits you, someone will be there I am sure. I will be. The chat room is at <http://chatwing.com/ipdachat>. Of course there is nothing to stop you popping in at any time to say hello, or ask a question or just meet some philatelic minded people.

If anyone has a problem getting to the chat room — it really is very easy by the way — drop me an email and I'll make sure the right person gets to help you.

Here is a thought for you. I got a Neutral feedback to one of my Bidstart sales. Just one lot. And that was enough to see me lose my 100% rating. Very disappointing as I have no idea why the person did that. Certainly made no contact with me to say anything negative and I know what I sent was very nice quality. It goes with the territory I guess but very disappointing to know there are buyers out there with no manners. Anyone with any experiences they want to share, or advise etc on this theme?

I have had a busy month at work, but found time to visit the Mong Kong stamp arcade and enjoy wandering around. Difficult to talk to the local dealers as many do not speak any English. I did managed to pick up some excellent covers and various stamps just for the fun of it. I have an article in this issue which I hope you will enjoy. It was written by one of my blog readers and it includes a few of the related commemorative stamps that were issued here in Hong Kong over the past 15 years.

Little IPDA activity or IPDA related matters to report as things have just been business as usual. Our next Board meeting is set for October 7th/8th, depending on what time zone one is in. We do have one new member join us this month. Welcome to Paul Elmes from Tilbury Editions. Paul runs a new company producing commemorative covers for philatelists and collectors and he currently designs the Royal Mail's *British Philatelic Bulletin*. We wish him all the best and welcome him to the IPDA.

Finally, my stamp of the month. I had a few to chose from but this just inspired me. So much so I let it take a bigger spot than usual.

Of course, as usual, I have no idea yet what will be in this issue other than I hope something on the following pages is of interest, and as I always say, I will be delighted to get feedback and ideas or even articles for future issues. Best wishes.. [Michael](#)

### Stamp of the Month





Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

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Page 2  
October 2013  
Volume 11 Issue 10

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

### FREDDY THE FROG GOES TO THE FLEA MARKET

Freddy the philatelic phrog is a tadpole when it comes to being a dealer. In his quest to make the transition he decides to get his feet wet by going to a flea market.

On Thursday night he skipped rehearsal with his band The Fiddling Frog Quartet, his fellow players were not hoppy as it is not possible to have a quartet with three frogs.

He starts early to price his flea market offerings. 16 hours, 2 stamp catalogs, and 26 cups of coffee later he is ready. Well almost, all he has left to do is reserve his space, load the Frog utility van, and drive 50 miles to the nearest flea market.

After playing until 2:30 A.M at the Swamp about Lounge he is ready to go. A couple cans of Red Frog on the seat beside him. Excitement coursed through his cold blooded veins as he envisions his very first day as a dealer.

Only to be faced with the first customer who obviously wanted to be a comedian . (Ya all got any of them Upside down armadillo stamps.) Freddy to his credit simply looks calmly at his annoying guest and tells him. " How many do you want? I'm not breaking a full sheet for one stamp.

Score one for you Fred. 3 hours and 20 degrees later Freddy hits a milestone, he has made back his space rent in sales. And spent half of it on water, peanuts, and funnel cakes. Makes a mental note to bring lunch next time. By the end of the day a triumphant frog realizes a \$15.00 profit

He crawls back behind the wheel and goes home where his loving spouse informs him that those stamps can just go in the garage, they are not coming in the house. He tries bribing the tadpoles with pizza to help him unload but they are not buying. Freddy is thinking there has got to be a better way to become a dealer. Can you help him.? Send your ideas to Freddy's ghost writer [vonnabechtel@hotmail.com](mailto:vonnabechtel@hotmail.com) and help our Phroggy Philatelic Phriend. Till next time. Happy Tails to you.

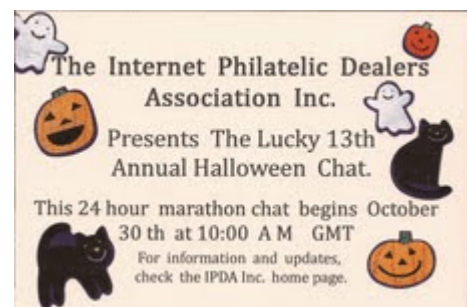
### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

I have had several people ask, "How can we be having a 13th annual Halloween Chat when the IPDA Inc. was established Feb. 23, 2002 ?". Here are the facts: a group of philatelic chatters began having regular meetings around mid 1999 in the old Glassine surfer chat room. Many thanks to Mike Mills for providing this chat room. Eventually, we discovered many of us were doing philatelic business on the internet. It didn't take long until the conversations got around to some of the unscrupulous stamp dealers operating on the internet and what could be done to stop them.

By the year 2000 we had decided to form a group to confront this situation and the ultimate name became Internet Philatelic Dealers Association. In the fall of 2000 we held our first Halloween Chat.

Over the next year the IPDA made slow but, steady progress. Then, through some major disagreement with board members, the IPDA nearly went out of existence.

Fortunately, by this time, Alan Devine had become a member and he helped reorganize the IPDA in 2002. Now you know why this is our 13th annual Halloween Chat and we can allow this information to return to the archives of the IPDA Inc. Thank you. Robert Bechtel IPDA Inc. Chairman





## **A RARE CANADIAN STAMP UNCOVERED BY A LUCKY U.S. COLLECTOR**

For nearly 80 years, there have been only two known examples of Canada's rarest stamp: the two-cent, 1868 "large queen" on laid paper, also called by collectors a "large-queen-on-laid".

The third example of every Canadian stamp collector's wildest dream was discovered in a circuit book (instead of just pictures and prices of products available for order, a circuit book contains actual stamps and other postal items and is passed between collectors, who can examine and purchase any of the artifacts). It was bought by an unnamed collector for roughly five dollars. When the hobbyist revealed his discovery, a serious stir among postage specialists across North America has been revealed.

The idea that a new "large-queen-on-laid" had been found was so startling to the Canadian stamp collecting community, that it prompted to the Vincent Graves Green Philatelic Research Foundation, a postal history research organization based in Toronto, which conducted an exhaustive probe. The 10-page report issued by the organization verified the artifact's authenticity.

The two-cent large queen from 1868 was part of the first series of Canadian stamps after Confederation in 1867, lending it special significance in the country's postal heritage. The green-hued stamp features a profile of Queen Victoria, and the rare, ultra-valuable versions were printed – almost certainly by mistake – on a heavier, rougher sheet of "laid" paper in contrast to the run-of-the-mill large queens that were reproduced on more common "wove" paper, examples of which are worth \$20 today.

The value of the new-found "large queen" is difficult to determine. Earlier this year, when it was announced Canadian stamp collector Ron Brigham would begin selling his set this fall, the value of the "large-queen-on-laid" in his possession – thought to be one of two in existence – was estimated at \$1 million.

Source: [www.wopa-stamps.com](http://www.wopa-stamps.com)



## **MONACOPHIL 2013**

The Principality of Monaco will be holding the prestigious international philatelic exhibition MonacoPhil 2013 from 5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> December 2013 under the High Patronage of H.S.H. Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Will any of our members be attending? Please do write if you are. This event will include stamps, coins and postcards and will surely attract traders as well as stamp, coin and postcard collectors as the Espace Leo Ferre (21<sup>st</sup> Grand Bourse International Stamp, Coin and Postcard Fair) will give pride of place to coins, postcards and stamps.

The Stamp Issuing Office will also be present with a stand and letter box; any post sent on the day of the event will be given a special "Bourse" postmark, pictorial cancellation and all-important stamp.



**MonacoPhil**  
**2013**



Continued next page



## HONG KONG SINCE 1997 ..... CON'T

So were there any poststamps published by a country to mark the Hong Kong handover. I search the internet and a lot of catalogues, and game up with the following countries, which issued at least one or more stamp(s), souvenir sheet, first day cover, booklet, presentation pack or any other kind of philatelic stuff. This list isn't properly by far complete, but I find it interesting that so many countries gave it "a little" attention. Of course this list contains a lot of British Overseas Territories. However, no Dutch stamps were published with this subject.

Hereby the countries with a few poststamps as an example:

Ascension Island, Bahamas, British Antarctic Territory, British Indian Ocean Territory, Central African Republic, China (of course), Dominica, Falkland Islands, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Isle of Man, Great Britain, Grenada, Grenadines, Guyana, Korea (several stamps), Namibia, Norfolk Island, Palestinian Authority, St. Helena, Samoa, Sierra Leone, South Georgia, Tanzania, Togo, Tristan Da Cunha, Tuvalu



2007 issue to mark the 10th Anniversary

*Editors Note: I learnt something as well. I did not know that the Isle of Man (Great Britain) had issued a commemorative set to mark the occasion.*





## CONTROVERSY OVER PRIVATE OVERPRINTS ON POST & GO

*Reproduced with full credit to Julia Lee from Stamp Magazine (UK) - Editors Note - Have any of our members seen these? Thoughts please for the benefit of our members?*

**Salisbury overprints are not official** — A dealer has sparked controversy by privately overprinting Post & Go stamps with a stamp show inscription, in much the same style as Royal Mail's official machine-printed inscriptions.



Rushstamps purchased 6,000 Post & Go 2nd class stamps at Stampex in February, then added the legend 'Salisbury Stamp Show 2013' using a 100-year-old letterpress before using them on its mailings in March.

One of Royal Mail's Post & Go machine operators was unamused: 'I think the commercial organisation responsible has overstepped the mark somewhat, and that should be stopped so as to not degrade the hobby. If anyone thinks they can just add their own overprints then that really does open the floodgates.'

Royal Mail's corporate response was: 'We will be reviewing processes to prevent this from happening again.' Allan Grant of Rushstamps said: 'We just wanted to use the stamps as a promotional issue for the show, and to give our customers something different.' He confirmed that the Post Office didn't know about the plan beforehand, and said that all the overprinted stamps were used up on the mailing, and no mint examples exist. Post & Go collector John McCallum said: 'I hope no other company will repeat this. I also hope that Rushstamps covered the postage by using stamps that weren't overprinted, otherwise Revenue Protection could be knocking on their door seeking redress.'

The use of private overprints and perforated initials was accepted in the mid-Victorian period, in Great Britain and in parts of the British Empire, primarily to allow companies to assert ownership over their supplies of stamps to prevent theft by their own staff.

Today, however, unauthorised overprints could be expected to be treated as cancellations, effectively invalidating postage stamps.

## FINNISH STAMP LICKS EUROPEAN

*Reproduced with full credit to Stamp News International.com.*

A Finnish postage stamp designed by Susanna Rummu and Ari Lakaniemi has been voted Europe's most beautiful postmark by a panel of judges. Issued in May, the stamp depicts postal workers standing with their 1933 Volvo postal van.

Finland Post's EUROPA Stamp entry was named the winner of the 2013 PostEurop EUROPA Jury Prize Competition which was held at the Headquarters of PostEurop, where an expert jury met and voted through closed ballot. PostEurop, the trade association of European postal services providers, said that the nine-member panel went through three rounds of voting before settling on the winner. The jury paid attention to three points: the originality of the design, the "technical" aspects – the quality of the graphics –, and the necessity of the stamp to "please" the average stamp user and the average philatelist. The Finnish stamp obtained a high score in all these three key factors.





## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

### NEW METHOD TO CHECK THE AUTHENTICITY OF RARE STAMPS

A team of researchers reporting in the journal *Analytical Chemistry* has developed an innovative complex method for verifying the authenticity of the most valuable postage stamps.

"Museums, archives and private stamp collectors have long been searching for better ways to confirm the authenticity of rare stamps, and details like cancellation marks that increase value," reported study senior author Dr Ludovico Valli from the University of Salento, Italy.

"But until now, those approaches have been limited to individual components of a stamp, like the ink, or have relied on expert inspections."

Dr Valli with colleagues looked for a better way. They describe successful use of a lab test called infrared spectroscopy to test all of the multiple components that make up a stamp – including paper fibers, fillers, inks, adhesives and coatings – to produce a portrait without damaging the stamp itself.

The scientists tested it successfully on more than 180 Italian stamps that span almost the entire history of Italy's stamp-making, which dates back to 1850. They detected two counterfeits, one of the rare Gronchi Rosa, which was issued in 1961 for then-president Giovanni Gronchi's trip to South America, and a 2-cent stamp from 1861.

According to the team, the new technology is "a really simple, precise, immediate, and nondestructive method for determining the authenticity of stamps."

Sourced and acknowledgement to [raghunandan\\_v@hotmail.com](mailto:raghunandan_v@hotmail.com) via [yahoogroups.com](http://yahoogroups.com)



### INVERTED JENNY REISSUED BY U.S. POST

This souvenir sheet features a new version of perhaps the most famous error in the history of U.S. stamps: the Inverted Jenny, a 1918 misprint that highlights the ways a single stamp can turn history upside down.

The sheet includes six **Inverted Jenny** stamps, reprinted with an updated denomination and surrounded by an illustration that includes the National Postal Museum in Washington, D.C.; the route of the first regularly scheduled airmail service between Washington, Philadelphia, and New York; and aviation pioneer Reuben H. Fleet, who was in charge of the first group of airmail pilots.

Originally issued on May 14, 1918, to commemorate the start of the first regular airmail service the following day, the original Jenny stamp was designed to show a Curtiss JN-4H, or "Jenny," the biplane used to deliver the mail. However, one sheet of 100 stamps that mistakenly showed the biplane upside down was sold on the first day of issue to a collector in Washington, D.C. — and one of the greatest philatelic treasures in U.S. history was released into the world.



The art director for this souvenir sheet was Antonio Alcala. The selva artwork was created by Steven Noble. The new **Inverted Jenny** stamp is being reprinted with a \$2 denomination to make it easily distinguishable from the 24-cent 1918 original.



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Page 8  
October 2013  
Volume 11 Issue 10

## NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2013

### LONDON 2015 EUROPHILEX



It might seem a long way off, but forward planning is essential for an Exhibition of this scale and importance in the Philatelic community. If any IPDA members are planning to attend please write to me and we can get a plug for you in future Newsletters.

If you reserve a stand now for London 2015 you will pay nothing until February 2014.

- Counters will be the same as STAMPEX.
- Stand price includes basic furniture and lighting.
- Members of PTS (Philatelic Traders' Society Limited) or ASDA (American Stamp Dealers Association) are entitled to a 10% discount.
- The recent show in Australia was very successful, particularly for traders.
- The aim is for London 2015 to attract many overseas visitors.

London 2015, now with Royal Patronage, is the only major European show in 2015 and is less than two years away.

The designated Traders' Liaison Officer is Martin Sands [martinsands2@hotmail.com](mailto:martinsands2@hotmail.com)

In addition:

- A set of 15 "Advertising Cards" celebrating international exhibitions in London since 1890 has been produced for distribution at upcoming exhibitions.
- Stamp & Coin Mart will produce the Show Guide.
- Heinrich Koehler and Corinphila will hold a special auction.
- As reported in Stamp Magazine public nominations are now being invited for a Court of Honour "20 philatelic items that changed the world."

For further details see the website [www.london2015.net](http://www.london2015.net) or to reserve a stand contact Deborah Gooch by telephone on 0044 (0)1892 613176 or at the website

### PAYPAL SANCTIONS – A GLIMMER OF HOPE BY ROGER WEST DIRECTOR UK & EUROPE

Earlier this year, I mentioned that my Paypal account had been suspended because I sold a set of stamps from Sudan. It turned out that the US Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) had imposed sanctions on Sudan and Paypal being a US company had to comply.

A great deal of correspondence followed but it was difficult to get exact answers to our many questions. Their basic idea was to prevent money going to countries involved in these sanctions but in my case, the Sudanese item was 70 years old and was produced when Sudan was included in the British Empire. Furthermore, the payment neither came from nor went to Sudan. I contacted Delcampe and suggested they might care to contact their sellers and warn them of Paypal's attitude, but they declined to do so.

Other countries currently included in the OFAC sanctions are Burma, Ivory Coast, Cuba, Iran, Congo, Lebanon, Libya, N Korea, Somalia, Syria, Yemen & Zimbabwe. So imagine my delight when I recently sold an Iranian item which was paid for through Paypal. The sale was through BidStart who used a bit of common sense and changed the country from IRAN to I—N. This enabled the sale and payment to go through without anyone getting involved in unnecessary politics – well done Stanley Gibbons!

### CLOSING REMARKS

Please do not forget the Halloween Chat. Hope to see you there sometime. I will be in the chat room and I look forward to seeing / hearing you.

All comments and feed back welcomed. Best wishes Michael

