



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



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Volume 12 Issue 11

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2014

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EDITORS COLUMN

I don't know about you but I am still wondering where the last month went. Maybe even the last 10 months. Apart from too much travel, 6 flights in the last 8 days, and too much work and too little time for philately, the month has, literally, just flown by. And the next two months leading up to Christmas are looking to be no different.

But to stamps and the IPDA. I just have to show this to get you to appreciate why it is important to be a member of the IPDA and why we need to promote the Association to buyers.

This listed on one of the major online auction sites. Described as "Ascension 1948 Royal Silver Wedding Unused FDC"

Awesome, don't you agree :-)
Surely no one will bid



Stamp of the Month



There is obviously a serious side to this and other stamps commemorating the WWI celebrations and I respect that, but buy a stamp and plant it! Well I guess the flowers the following year will be enjoyable. I just don't like the idea of damaging my stamps

As for IPDA News. Well it is great to see a few new members. Welcome to you all. A short introduction is on the next page.

I have used what I think is some interesting material from two excellent organizations in this issue. One from Graham Warburton from www.GBStamp.co.uk writing about signed Philatelic covers and another from Ian Norvic at Norvic Philatelics at <http://www.norphil.co.uk/index.htm> Great material, Thank you.

Finally, I received a parcel a week ago from Andrew McGavin, Managing Director at UPA (Universal Philatelic Auctions).

Andrew is also an IPDA Member I should add.

If you have not visited his site or seen his auctions I highly recommend the UPA, which you can [visit here](#)

The parcel had a lovely clean and hand franked block of 4 SG 1614 (cat £3 as single). Perhaps I will find a buyer in my Store to help offset my postage costs.

Well done Andrew for great service once again.

I do hope there is something in this issue you enjoy. Have a great November and don't forget to write to me with ideas and articles. Best wishes.. Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com



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IPDA NEWS—NEW MEMBERS

This past month we had a few new members who I would like to welcome to the IPDA.

First is Mike Girard of Riverside Stamps from the USA. You might enjoy looking at his excellent and extremely informative website,. Especially [this link](#) which provides an incredible amount of detail on one of Mike's areas of specialty - that being, Altered and Faked USA stamps. Welcome Mike.

Also joining us are Anthony Wilson from the UK and Anthony Tripi from the USA. Welcome.

NEW CATALOGUE MACHIN SECURITY DEFINITIVE STAMPS

I am reprinting this from Ian Norvics blog – without permission but I hope that is ok Ian because I think it is worth sharing. An excellent work - the new Norvic Checklist of Machin Security Definitive Stamps - which is now available free of charge to all collectors and dealers. Your Editor has his copy and it really is excellent. Well done Ian and team.

Designed to fit the gap between the Stanley Gibbons GB Concise Catalogue and the extreme detail of some other lists, this identifies all the values with all the source and year codes, cross-referenced to SG numbers and Royal Mail product codes. Source booklet numbers are also included to assist in precise identification.

Table showing 2nd class counter sheet listing

Norvic Philatelics List of Machin Definitives with Security Codes v 1.1.2 October 2014 Page 7

	Source code	Year code	Issue Date or EKD§	RM Product code	SG GB Concise 2014	Norvic Number	SG Booklet/ MS No	Comment (incl first printing date) ▲ = out of stock
2 nd Large blue – counter sheet								
2009	MAIL	MAIL	17/02/09	DS421	U2943	2913		PD: 10/12/08
2010		MA10	Feb 2011§		U2959	2913.0		PD: 17/09/10 only (Cat date 26.1.11)
2011		MA11	April 2011§			2913.1		PD: 24/11/10
2012		MA12	01/07/12§			2913.2		PD: 29/02/12
2013		MA13	21/06/13§			2913.3		No PD, then 07/05/13
2014		M14L	16/05/14§			2913.4		PD: 20/03/14

Dates of issue or earliest known dates (EKD) of appearance are shown. Over the summer the list has been checked by a number of customers and dealers, and many corrections made, but more information is waiting to be discovered, especially on dates. Checking stamps on ordinary mail may yet reveal that stamps were actually in post offices or other retail outlets earlier than previously thought so the list is always subject to change. But it is totally up to date with the latest discovery, the 2p M14L.

Some collectors (and dealers) record these stamps in greater detail than we do, for instance according to the size of the gap in the security slits, according to the shape of the perforation, or the direction of printing. This doesn't claim to be a complete list of Security Machins according to those criteria, but it does list all the basic stamps - and a few extras.

To download a copy of the checklist [visit this page on their website](#) - where you can see more tables from the Catalogue - and enter your email address.



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NEW ISSUES — CHRISTMAS IN HONG KONG

I guess you could expect this from me as these are so close to home. Hope you enjoy reading this and seeing the stamps, courtesy of Hong Kong Post.

Christmas often conjures up images of dancing snowflakes, a blanket of white snow, a snowman with a scarf and Santa Claus riding on his sleigh ready to deliver presents to children. Whilst it doesn't snow in Hong Kong, the festive atmosphere nonetheless fills every corner of the city when Christmas is approaching. The waterfront of Victoria Harbour is ablaze with holiday light displays, shopping malls are adorned with colourfully themed decorations, and Christmas carols are heard everywhere.

To celebrate the joyous season, Hongkong Post again releases a set of Christmas Stamps, following the first and second issues in 2002 and 2007 respectively. The four distinctive stamps in the issue not only depict an adorable Santa Claus, a reindeer, a snowman and a little angel, but each stamp also blends in local elements like a junk, the golden bauhinia sculpture, dim sum and the Clock Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui.

\$1.70 Donning a red hat decorated with patterns of a junk and Chinese white dolphins symbolising Hong Kong, Santa Claus is in town to give us his best wishes.

\$2.90 The reindeer playfully hides an outline of the golden bauhinia sculpture in its antlers, which are festooned with Christmas ornaments. Are your eyes good enough to spot the sculpture?

\$3.70 The snowman's funky beanie suggests that perhaps he would like to have an offbeat Christmas walking his caged bird and enjoying dim sum in a traditional Chinese teahouse.

\$5 The little angel carries a lyre under the night sky aglow with fireworks, and joins the snowmen musicians at the Clock Tower in Tsim Sha Tsui for carol singing.

Using a light blue background decorated with a snowy landscape, Christmas trees and skating snowmen, the simply-designed souvenir sheet conveys the feeling of comfort and joy associated with the season.

Hongkong Post will issue a self-adhesive stamp sheetlet in a set of four, delineating the Lion Rock (\$1.70), a Chinese knot (\$2.90), panda snowmen (\$3.70) and a statue of the goddess from the Hong Kong Film Awards (\$5), to highlight a Christmas with Hong Kong characteristics.



Mint Stamps



Special Postmark



Colour Postmark



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SOAKING NON SOLUBLE GUMMED STAMPS,

This is a topic your editor has written about many times on his blog and to various stamp group boards.

Do not do it I say, yet still there are many people who write the question to the groups asking what material to use to soak the stamps from the envelope, so they can look pretty in their collection. By look pretty they mean they do not like the stamp to be on piece.

Dumb and dumber comes to mind for me.

What about you? What advice do you give to your customers? Do write to me.

I would be most interested to hear.

Do you ever get asked this question? Do you, like me, sell stamps on piece, for example GB Security Machins, and add a footnote with the order advising the customer not to try to remove the stamps from the paper.

The following are two comments I read on various groups.

What are your thoughts. If I get a few responses I will consolidate and maybe write a reply to the various group boards and say this is the advice from IPDA members. All to promote us and this hobby where we do not like to damage stamps!

Quote ... "I have been using Isopropenol Alcohol for easily forty years, or longer to check watermarks. So I tried using it on self sticks. Generally it separates the stamp from the paper quite well with a few exceptions. In the States it is sold as "Rubbing Alcohol." Last week I bought a fresh pint at the local supermarket for \$1.29 which is considerably less expensive than other brand name chemical de-stickers. Some adhesives remain on the back of some stamps and I neutralize that with a very light sprinkle of Baby Powder. Others come off clean as possible. A few issues do not react easily but not many"

Another reader wrote: Quote.. "I'm with Michael. I just clip the surplus envelope, leaving about 2mm round the edges and mount them. This after damaging many many self adhesives in warm water and other solvents. The security tabs make it nigh impossible. And besides no one would dream of lifting a Victorian stamp "on piece" off it's backing, would they?"

All I want now is a miracle treatment to turn biro scribble into a real cancellation, but the pig airforce has yet to be commissioned."

I love the last sentence!

Another material you will find, as I am sure many IPDA members already know, is the fluid SG sells on their web site under Supplies and Accessories - it is a "gum removing fluid" There seems to be no other detail except it is dangerous to your eyes, respiratory system and skin (their words not mine) and at £17.50 plus postage, that is about USD \$28, seems a deal to me. NOT!

Seems like an expensive way to damage some stamps. But what do I know, I don't try to remove non soluble gummed stamps from the envelope.

Finally, I found this, and thought I would share with you. How to separate self-adhesive US stamps, a very helpful video from <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nWMcVYqIZjM>



Concorde on non soluble gummed stamp



GB signed for with Security slits - non soluble gummed



And of course a typical unfranked stamps—which is why they introduced the non soluble gum in the first place



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THE POPULARITY OF SIGNED PHILATELIC COVERS

I don't know about you but I read a lot on the web. I have my favourites and I trawl. This is one of my favourite sites - <http://www.gbstamp.co.uk/> Worth a read if you have not found it. FDCs, especially aviation covers as many of you know, interest me and when I saw the following piece I thought it would be worth sharing. Especially as you can get FDC so cheap these days and, as many might say, collecting them is a complete waste of money. But signed covers is a different matter. Anyway, everyone to their interest and enjoyment from stamps. I hope you enjoy this piece. Many thanks to Graham Warburton from www.GBStamp.co.uk Keep up the excellent writing Graham and great to see the excellent covers you have on display. If members are interested in seeing some please look at [View Signed Covers Currently Available](#) . I show one below which I really like and one more on the following page.

During recent years it appears many collectors have lost interest in the traditional First Day Cover like those issued by Royal Mail and switched their attention to the more limited productions of special event and anniversary covers - especially celebrity signed covers.

I first noticed this change during the rush for Concorde memorabilia when the iconic aircraft retired back in 2003. The demand for Concorde covers signed by pilots at that time was astounding - particularly covers signed by the main test pilots. Since then I have seen many celebrity signed, limited edition covers covering a wide range of events sell out quickly while sales of the more traditional - some may say run of the mill - first day covers often seem to struggle.

Before you think I'm trying to somehow rubbish traditional First Day Covers and devalue thousands of beautiful cover collections, rest assured I'm not. In fact I would point out that, when a specific area of collecting experiences a dip in popularity, that is often the shrewdest time to start buying!

My aim is to highlight the growth in demand for famous signatures on covers which has piggy backed on the hype that drives today's celebrity culture. Just as shrewd people buy items during a period of low popularity, the trick with items that come in to fashion is to spot the potential "greats" from the likely "also runs".

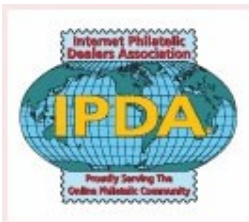
So what should you look for if you want to tuck away a few signed covers to hopefully appreciate in value? I've offered a few suggestions of actual signatures I think could be good in the final paragraph but, for now, let me suggest what you should think about avoiding.

Fakes and forgeries are an obvious trap for an inexperienced buyer. Research your vendors as best you can. Even well established, reputable dealers can get caught out by a good fake so be extra careful when bidding online for covers that seem "too cheap". If it seems too good to be true, it probably is. While prices at the reputable dealers may be higher, you can feel more confident in the authenticity of signatures and have more confidence in any guarantees they offer for the signed items they sell.

So how do you go about spotting the future legends and avoiding the dogs? Relevance, well deserved fame and future rarity are the key three tests I would apply.



This cover flown in Nimrod MR2P XV241 of No 206 Squadron of the RAF Kinloss. Happy memories as I worked at Sumburgh Lerwick in my early years in aviation.



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THE POPULARITY OF SIGNED PHILATELIC COVERS..... CONT'D

Relevance is key on many smaller cover issues.

Wartime event covers might be signed by less well known names but, if they were an active participant in a truly historic event, their autograph should maintain its value well.

However, the relevance test can often get tested and stretched when it comes to modern celebrity signatures on philatelic items.

The late, great Bobby Moore is a valuable signature to acquire but it is likely to generate more interest (thus command more value) if it was applied on a footballing item that features one of the clubs he played for (e.g. West Ham United) or the England football team which he captained to victory in the 1966 World Cup. If it was a signed restaurant menu the autograph would become less appealing (thus command less value) because it fails the relevance test. So when it comes to philatelic covers, I would want any celebrity autograph it bears to be highly relevant to the theme of the stamps, postmark and any cachet.

Judging whether a celebrity's fame is well deserved and likely to last for decades to come is somewhat more subjective.

How many reality TV stars are remembered a few years down the line? Soap actors and actresses? TV presenters?

But now think about politicians, film stars, sporting heroes and explorers. A very rare signature is that of the first man ever to walk on the Moon, Neil Armstrong, as he largely refused to sign anything for many years before he died. His fame is guaranteed to last in the global memory for centuries to come because of the historical significance of the Apollo 11 mission he commanded. His fame can be compared to that of early Antarctic explorers and aviators. Their names are etched in history and their signatures will likely always be in demand for generations to come. Similarly, a sporting great has to ACHIEVE greatness to carve their name in the stone of sporting history or else their fame will fade within a few years.

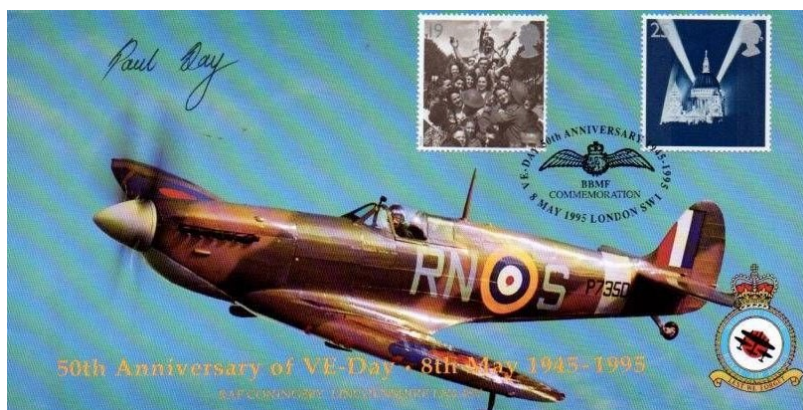
During his playing days Paul Gascoigne was probably talked about in the media far more than Bobby Moore but which one of them IS considered the real footballing hero because of what he ACHIEVED and which signature will prove best to collect?

When you look at the signatures that command a great value today the common thread is almost always because the person really achieved something significant that stands out. Ask yourself which of these signatures you would want; Paul McCartney or Justin Bieber? Gordon Brown or Margaret Thatcher?

The third test, future rarity, is far less easily predicted or calculated.

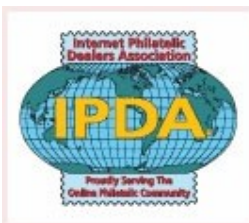
Neil Armstrong is a rare signature because he largely and deliberately stopped signing autographs. Bobby Moore is much rarer than it might have been because of his premature passing. Obviously a premature death can create future rarity but, as Neil Armstrong shows, an unwillingness to seek the celebrity spotlight is equally significant.

If investment is your primary aim then all you can do to be confident of future rarity is buy covers bearing signatures of famous people who are no longer with us.



To indulge in my love of aircraft, A Spitfire cover signed by the pilot

I will sign off by putting up some suggestions for signatures that could prove a worthy investment. Arnold Machin, designer of the iconic Queen's effigy used on so many GB postage stamps (passed away in 1999). Margaret Thatcher, the UK's first female Prime Minister. The Red Arrows - the RAF's aerobatic display team - went last forever and, while they're relatively cheap, covers bearing team signatures from seasons past could do well if and when the team are disbanded. Tim Berners-Lee, inventor of the World Wide Web.



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SCENTED STAMPS

The first time your Editor came across scented stamps was during a trip to the post office in Hyderabad when I was working there some years ago. I was surprised to find them and so bought a few.

They are somewhere in my study back in Sydney. I think there were some scented with sandalwood, and some of roses.

I was reminded of this recently when Philippe Poppe, one of our Members, and one of my readers, thanks Philippe, wrote to me about new issues from the Philippines, which were also scented.

Thanks to Philippe for sending me the image shown to the right.

There have been many issues over past years of scented stamps.

A rather interesting thematic topic I would think. You might enjoy reading [this link](#) for more.

Flowers, woods, chocolate, and coffee are just some of the scents I have read about.

There is one more scented stamp that rather amazes me, and this is from China - a stamp with the aroma of sweet and sour pork on it. China issued the stamp in celebration of 2007 as the Year of the Pig.

While India seems to have more issues of scented stamps than most other countries there are many, like Thailand, Argentina, the USA, Israel, South Africa, The Netherlands, Poland, and Australia, to name a few, who have issued these over recent years.



EBAY MESSAGE

A message your Editor got when trying to bid on an item on eBay. I wonder if anyone has ever experienced this?

I was watching a lot one evening and decided to bid just before the close of the auction. There had been two bids before me and since the price was extremely low for what were some very high catalogue value stamps I thought it would be worth a bid. I bid pretty high in the expectation of winning and this message came back. Sadly for the seller the item sold some \$20 US below my bid. Any thoughts? And no, I could not be blocked by the seller.



Place Bid



Sorry, the seller isn't accepting bids or offers from you at this time.

- This may occur for various reasons. For example, the seller might have a limit for the amount of items that can be purchased within a given time. [Learn more.](#)

[<Go To Item Details](#)



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IPDA AND APS NEWS

Our Webmaster Allan Oliver has done more good work on the IPDA website, including adding a page to help you find out who best to contact on any given topic. If you want to contact any of us [perhaps this link](#) will be useful for you.

There is a link to the page from the main page [here](#) as well as from the committee page. Also for your information the Confidential List has been updated and can be viewed from within the members only area of the website.

From the APS I thought I would share this News item about some missing stamps. One never knows if or who might come across them.

Attention APS Dealer Members:

During November 2013 a registered package sent from France to the U.S. containing six stamps from the French office in Zanzibar went missing. The USPS has recently declared the package officially "lost in the mail." The following are the six stamps and a scan of them is attached:

Scott	Yvert & Tellier	# printed
30	33l (Type XII)	6
31	34g (Type VIII)	8
31	34h (Type IX)	24
31	34i (Type X)	24
32	35e (Type VI)	48
33	36f (Type VII)	6

Should you encounter any of these, please contact Steve Kleene via [e-mail](#) or Nick Lombardi of the APS Stamp Theft Committee, via [e-mail](#).

CLOSING REMARKS

Thank you as always for your emails, The next issue will be the December issue and perhaps some of you will send me ideas for philatelic Christmas presents?

I will be showing you my Customer Christmas gift. Bet you can't wait to find out what it is, 😊 although if you read my blogs you will already know I guess Have a great month

Best wishes.. Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com