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More details on the back page. This new coloured (purple) Machin will no doubt be a very popular issue.

I will be in the UK as you read this and hopefully will be able to get some nice used examples. Three different Source codes as well. Royal Mail know how to make a collectible don't they.

NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

EDITORS COLUMN

Welcome to the October edition of the IPDA Newsletter. While it is not yet due for publication I have just about finished this issue as I write. Thank you, for your ideas and material. Somehow I have managed to fill 7 pages and now this page left for some editorial comments.

No major news from or about the IPDA itself. One thing about having a global association with members who are very busy with their own lives and businesses is that there is rarely time to chat or correspond. I myself do not join in the IPDA chatroom, for example, not because I don't want to but because I really do not make the time and the time zone I am in makes it difficult.

In previous newsletters I have been updating you on a new website I have been using - the **Stanley Gibbons Marketplace.**

The site launched a few months ago, and like many new websites after launch there are improvements and fixes made based on feedback from users of the site.

They are in the midst of an improvement plan and we are seeing regular enhancements made every couple of weeks or so. Many sellers told them that they did not like the length of time payments were held for until sellers could release the funds. This has now been changed from a ten day hold to releasing funds as soon as soon as they clear: after three days

Of course some of you will ask, "Why any hold at all?" It's simply a result of the payment processing business. It takes up to three business days for funds to clear for card-based transactions.

There has also been a number of other changes made to improve the search facility on the site. These changes are making it easier and faster to find a subset of items. If you have not tried it yet do pay it a visit and see for yourself. You can send any feedback to sup-port@stanleygibbons.com, they are listening.

I have not had one email on this topic. Why? I am sure many of you are now on the site. I really would like to hear your thoughts. And, I will gladly pass on feedback, with no names mentioned. I have a good relationship with them, for myself and us at the IPDA. So don't hold back if you have thoughts you think worth sharing and which could help SG add value to the Marketplace site.

So many additional little snippets come to mind but in the interests of space and boring you. How about the latest update from lan Billings from Norvic Philatelics. Ian has just published another excellent update to the Long to Reign Over us issue. In summary, as with the Diamond Jubilee issue, the counter sheet was not distributed to Standing Order customers because it would duplicate the one in the miniature sheet (even though it is different in so many ways). And, if you are looking for source codes on the self-adhesive stamps, they are well-hidden under the upper right security cut. You will enjoy his blog for details or if you or your customers are interested in new Machins. Ian's Machin checklist has been brought right up to date including SG numbers for the Long To Reign Over Us stamps and is available for download, here or, just read the back page.

And finally, from the APS; Two years ago a stamp theft occurred in the Dominican Republic. Recent information indicates that the material may be offered in the United States in the near future. Please alert APS Stamp Theft Chairman Nick Lombardi if you are offered material such as India Flora and Fauna, 2005, majority were error stamps. stamps from Japan, Indonesia, and Ivory Coast that bore plant images representing carnivorous plants.

I am off to the UK in a few days. Apology for early issue. Maybe it gives you more time to write to me with ideas and articles for the November issue :-)

Have a great month. And please promote the IPDA whenever or wherever you can, It is for all our benefit. Best wishes.. Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com





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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

UP FOR DISCUSSION

Welcome to new member Dennis Jorgensen trading as West Nissouri Stamp Co. from London Ontario, Canada. Dennis has excellent feedback on eBaby and Bidstart and from what I saw on his <u>web site</u> he has a good stock selection from the Baltic States, Canada & the British Commonwealth, Scandinavia, & Western Europe. Welcome Dennis.

Editors Note: This from a Yahoo Stamp group: some of you may find it interesting to read.

After some 30 years as a stamp dealer I am forced, for health reasons, to retire. My entire stock, more than cv \$500,000, has been assigned to David Feldman in Geneva for lotting and to put to auction. If you are an advanced or specialized collector, or an exhibitor seeking material, there are surprises and bargains to be had. A limited printing of the auction catalogue will be out in November, but you can reserve your copy now by accessing the **David Feldman web site** and requesting one. Best wishes to all, Allan Singer

And now for something completely different I am not offering any further comment.

Wine buff, gardener, DJ, beekeeper, musician? Philatelist, yes this image is actually from their web site at http://www.creativecoffins.com/coffins/stamps/ "Whether it was as a pastime or a career, the things we spend our time can define who we are. For those who want their final farewell to reflect what they enjoyed doing most, we offer a wide selection of both stylish and quirky designs."



The unique block of six unissued 2-penny King Edward VIII stamps of Australia has been broken up.

The block had lain in the Vestey family's possession ever since it was fresh off the presses in 1936, when the 1st Baron Vestey received it as a memento from an Australian politician. After Edward VIII's abdication, the entire press run of the new 2d definitive and all the design materials pertaining to it were destroyed, making the block sent to Vestey the sole surviving vestige of the abandoned issue.

It resurfaced as part of the Lord Vestey collection of British Empire stamps offered in a series of auctions over several months by Spink in London. Last October 16, the block sold for £240,000 (about \$387,000 at the time), including the 20 percent buyer's premium, setting a record for an Australian philatelic item.



On July 17, Phoenix Auctions, a Melbourne-based firm, offered a single from the block. It realized \$172,913 Australian dollars (including the 19.25 percent buyer's premium Phoenix adds to all lots), or about \$123,600 in United States dollars

The scarlet stamp, perforated gauge 13½ by 14, is from the top-left corner of the block. The design is centered somewhat to the left, and the perfs on the left side appear to have been cut with scissors, most likely at the time the block was removed from the original sheet. The stamp has never been hinged.





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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

US POSTAL STATIONERY 10C NESBIT GREEN BY BILL LEHR

Editor Note: many thanks to Bill for again sending us some of his very informative writings on early US philatelic material. This time on the 10c Nesbit Green. Some of this material fetches a nice price at auction I understand. You never know what you have until you learn more about it. Thanks Bill.

Die 17, 3rd Nesbitt 10¢ green



The 10¢ rate continued in use during the 3^{rd} Nesbitt envelope contract. The stamp impression continued to be printed in green but with a new, wide oval design still featuring George Washington. Die 17 was printed in green on white, Scott U40/UPSS 90 and in green on buff, Scott U41/UPSS 94. Five shades of green are recognized on Die 17 printings. Branches have seven leaves; a small dent in the back of Washington's head is common throughout all of the high valve designs for this series; queue points to the "E" of "POSTAGE"; front of the bust is broad; period after "POSTAGE"; the "1" and the "0" of both numerals are about the same size. Measures $27 \frac{1}{2} \times 25 \text{ mm}$.

Forgeries of Die 17 are first mentioned in the literature by Sloane and later by Kinabrew. The forgery described by Sloane is pictured on the S. Allan Taylor "calling card." The Philatelic Foundation exhibit assembled by Bill Crowe depicts the forgery described by Kinabrew.



Die 17FGT1: Crude head and lettering; tall, narrow "C" in "CENTS"; both "1"s are taller than the "0"s; there is a colon after the "U" of "U.S."; "N" of "TEN" is warped; tip of the nose is blunt; front of the bust points at the "S" of "U.S."; head is pointed; circle around the right "10" is broken; inner oval is somewhat diamond shaped; there is a period after "POSTAGE". Examined printed in green on buff. Item was trimmed too close for accurate measurement



Die 17FGT2: Crude but thinner lettering than in FGT1; the "1" of the right "10" is taller than the "0"; top bar of the "E" of "POSTAGE" is the longest bar; large had is tipped forward; tip of the nose is pointed; base of the left "1" touches the circle; branches have 8 leaves; white "bar" extends between the "G" and "E" of "POSTAGE" into the branch at lower right; no period after "POSTAGE". Examined printed in green on white. Item was trimmed too close for accurate measurement.

The T1 and T2 forgeries are sufficiently similar to suggest that they were produced in the same shop. Insufficient quantities have been observed of both to guarantee that all identifying features, other than the variations in the numerals, are always present.





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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

UPA - AUCTION CLOSING OCTOBER 13

Editors Note: A few months ago Andrew McGavin, the CEO of Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA), and one of our UK Members, kindly gave permission for me to use his open remarks. The next UPA catalogue is now published and again I have his permission to reprint his writing. I hope you enjoy it. Some interesting insights and useful tips in my view. Also some really nice material in this upcoming auction.

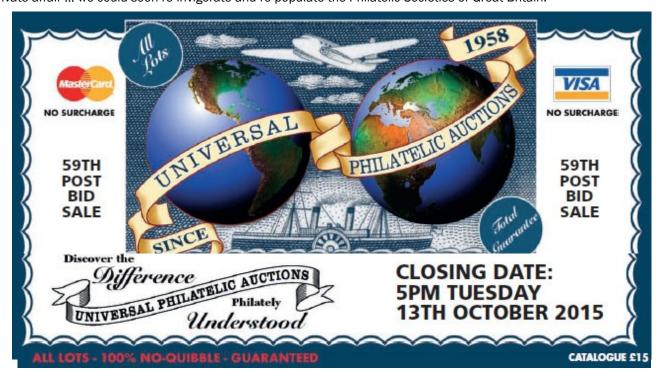
Dear Colleague, There's never a dull moment in stamps; three weeks ago I was honoured to be invited to give the Kay Goodman Lecture at the Great Britain Philatelic Congress (GBPC) in the Queens (Art-Deco) hotel in central Leeds. You would be hard put to find a better location with its private entrance from the Central Railway Station concourse – quite 'Agatha Christie'.

A really good attendance to this 3 day 'residential' philatelic jaunt of 100+ serious collectors – nay Philatelists rubbing friendly shoulders with 'normal' Collectors (if ever a collector could be described as normal).

If you place bids in this U P A auction we will have nigh on 2,000 bidders (90% successful) participating in a single auction – the majority of whom are UK located. It begs the question of why are there only a few thousand participating Collector members of stamp clubs in the whole of the UK?...

Yet, I should not be too surprised ... so great is our 'secret' obsession that, (and I know this from personal experience), a high percentage of you do not insure your stamp collections – even though specialist (not house-hold) philatelic insurance is so inexpensive - £40+/-p.a. for a £10,000 collection – that's £3.50 a month – less than the cost of a monthly stamp magazine ... and to put this even further into perspective ... not that many of you actually subscribe to monthly stamp magazines – the circulation of this 'free to serious bidders' U P A #59 auction catalogue approaches the circulation of the UK's smallest stamp magazine... ... and to throw more coal on the fire ... why is it that I'm viewing a stamp collection worth £100,000+ (and that's real value – not catalogue value) and the owner's most recent catalogue is more than 5 years old? Just a 2% uplift in value would pay for an appropriate new catalogue 30x to 40x over ...

So, it follows that in the 'Q & A' at Leeds, which was rather long because as you know I don't actually collect stamps - when I was being asked about the future of stamp collecting - really if we did not all of 'us' make our collecting such a private affair ... we could soon re-invigorate and re-populate the Philatelic Societies of Great Britain.







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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

UPA - AUCTION CLOSING OCTOBER 13 CONT'D

However we'll never do it if we're all like one 70 year old collector whose collection I was valuing – I asked when he started collecting? "At the age of 7" ... "So you've been collecting for 63 years – in that time how many people have you shown your collection to?" ... "You're the 1st Andrew and I'm selling the collection to you!" came the reply ... Make of it what you want – as we all know – stamp collecting is not for 'mackintosh' wearers – though that is the general perception (although the Queen seems to escape this tag) ... it is the most delightful hobby ... and unlike many pastimes there is actually a financial return at the end of it ... not just based on the more money you put in ... but in the more knowledge, effort and research expended which brings us, in a roundabout sort of way to this U P A catalogue.

But first – what happened in your previous auction U P A #58? 1,959 of you submitted bid forms – not far short of our record although I need your help this time to break the 2,000 different bidders' barrier once again ... BUT, slightly fewer of you actually financially expended more than ever before ... and we received wonderful plaudits recognising our policy of 'onward and upwards' combined with NO BUYER'S PREMIUM in terms of increasing the calibre and average value per lot offered ... (in fact one of the questions fielded at the PCGB was 'how do we manage to obtain so much stock to populate such huge catalogues) – the answer was somewhat longer than "it isn't easy" ...

Whilst it is in my mind – I visited a UK client yesterday. It is almost certainly one of the most valuable collections I've ever been granted the pleasure to view and is certainly a £500,000+ real value collection.

This is an enormous labour of love with beautiful black script written up on every page. Now almost all of the stamps were housed in those gripping 'up and over' secure mounts. Certainly the stamps were secure – they're not going anywhere for the time being BUT some of those mounts were starting to 'warp / undulate' so that the stamps inside are starting to adopt a slight list or bend. Considering that some stamps were worth at least £6,000 upwards each ... I suggested some re-mounting might be worth considering ... (incidentally – have you noticed that Prinz hinges may be clearer than some others ... certainly we've noticed this and Diana and the Team now use Prinz mounts to create the photo- plates that so many of you kindly comment upon.

Perhaps worth revisiting earlier parts of your collection to check your collection is 'stable'.

So what does U P A #59 offer you? Almost more value than ever before in slightly fewer (23,121) lots! It's a gorgeous catalogue including outright rarities.

A client from NZ phoned to say where was his catalogue? – he cannot find the stamps he wants anywhere else \dots that was very generous \dots and on that note I commend this catalogue U P A #59 to you.

Please bear in mind that there are many 100's of items / covers we've been unable to capture within catalogue restraints – please ask us for scans / copies – our Team are here to help.

The Team, my wife and I, hope you will enjoy participating as much as we have enjoyed creating it. Happy Hunting to a brighter philatelic future.

And just one lot I chose to show. Be interesting to see what this sells for.

Lot 22781—SG 2039/40b - 1998 Die cut Walsall 'Dagger Perf' 1st & 2nd class pair. In 17 years since 1st issued and supplied by the Philatelic Bureau Edinburgh to collectors requiring single stamps this is only the second pair of these we have handled in the past 5 years.

Already 'under-catalogued' by latest GB 'Concise'. Unmounted Mint. Cat. £500 Opening bid is expected at £475







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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

STAR WARS - THE FORCE AWAKEN 20 OCTOBER 2015

Royal Mail will publish a stamp issue of 18 stamps on 20 October 2015 to mark the release of the latest installment in the Star Wars series of films.

























December 2015 will herald a massive global phenomenon with the much anticipated release of Star Wars Episode VII – The Force Awakens due for release in Britain on 17th December 2015 followed by the USA one day later on the 18th December.

The series has strong British connections, with the franchise starting with Star Wars itself which was filmed at Elstree Studios, near London. Many of the other films were also filmed in Britain and Episode VII – the Force Awakens is no exception having been filmed at Pinewood Studios, London and on location at the Forest of Dean in Gloucester.

The stamps celebrate some of the most iconic characters from the franchise and were chosen following insight from Disney and LucasFilm regarding the fans favourite characters. Darth Vader, Yoda, Obi-Wan Kanobi, Stormtrooper, Han Solo, Rey, Princess Leia, The Emperor (Palpatine), Luke Skywalker, Boba Fett, Finn, & Kylo Ren. All the 12 stamps will be 1st. class.

There will also be a Miniature sheet issued which will focus on the vehicles in Star Wars as follows: Resistance X-Wing Starfighter, Millennium Falcon, Tie Fighter, X-Wing Starfighter, First Order Special Forces Tie Fighter & At-At Walkers.







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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

STAR WARS - THE FORCE AWAKEN 20 OCTOBER 2015 CONT'D

In addition a Generic Smilers Sheet entitled "Heroes & Villians" will be issued consisting of 20 x 1st class stamps as follows: 6 x Yoda, 6 x Darth Vader, 4x Han Solo & 4 x Stormtrooper with labels showing film stills from the Lucasfilm archives.

From the very beginning British talent has featured strongly among both the acting and production talent including David Prowse, Darth Vadar; Alec Guiness and Ewan McGregor, Obi Wan Kenobi; Anthony Daniels, C3PO; Kenny Baker, R2D2; Iain McDairmid, Emperor Palpatine; Christopher Lee, Count Doku; Peter Mayhew, Chewbacca; and many others including Liam Neeson, Peter Cushing and Terence Stamp.

The 35mm square stamps are printed in lithography on ordinary gummed paper by International Security Printers in two sheets of 60 stamps.

The 192×74 mm miniature sheet is printed in lithography on self-adhesive paper by International Security Printers.

The stamps are illustrated by British artist Malcolm Tween. The font used to indicate the value, for example 1st, will replicate that of the iconic typeface used for the films For further information see www.royalmail.com/starwars

Editors Note, Special Thanks to Larry for suggesting this, and especially lan Norvic for agreeing to let me use his images and text, the Stamps of Great Britain yahoo group for some further information, and the Royal Mail whose images are reproduced thanks to lan. May the force be with you all.

Addendum: Royal Mail have provided this information.

The series began in 1977 and so far there have been two trilogies of movies. December 2015 will see the theatrical release of the Episode 7 - The Force Awakens, which has been filmed at Pinewood Studios, Buckinghamshire, using British expertise in cast and crew, and the two further episodes in this final trilogy will be filmed in the UK.

The producers of the new movies decided to return to a British studio and crew whose expertise and professionalism contributed to the success of the earlier films. The new film, The Force Awakens, will reunite the three US principle actors from the original trilogy, reprising their iconic roles, as well as the robots R2-D2 and C-3PO and the alien Chewbacca. New characters will be introduced, many of which are played by British actors and include Daisy Ridley and John Boyega (both cast as leads).

From the very beginning British talent has featured strongly among both the acting and production talent including David Prowse, Darth Vadar; Alec Guiness and Ewan McGregor, Obi Wan Kenobi; Anthony Daniels, C3PO; Kenny Baker, R2D2; Iain McDairmid, Emperor Palpatine; Christopher Lee, Count Doku; Peter Mayhew, Chewbacca; and many others including Liam Neeson, Peter Cushing and Terence Stamp. The British connection also extends behind the camera with world leading British talent and from Costume to Special Effects.

Disney's decision to base production in the UK is a major contributor to the British Film Industry. Not only is it providing employment and exposure for British acting talent, it also employs the British technical expertise of Pinewood studios from set design and cinematography to costume design. In the field of digital special effects, London is already a world centre, and the effects for the new Star Wars film have been created by the London office of Industrial Light and Magic (Lucasfilm's effects company).

The UK is the third largest market in the world for the Star Wars films, and the new stamps both reflect the passion of the British public for the movies, and celebrate the major British contribution to the film series and the global success of the British film industry.





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NEWSLETTER OCTOBER 2015

LONG TO REIGN OVER US GB ISSUE

Editors Note: with the kind permission from Ian Billings of Norvic Philatelics I though readers might like to see these and read the details. Sorry if this is something you have seen already but given we have a global audience perhaps not everyone gets to see or read the details of this not very well kept secret new issue. For more details please read Ian's excellent blog here, or from his website here. Always brilliant materials.



Royal Mail issued a Miniature Sheet on Wednesday, 9th September to commemorate the historic landmark of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II becoming the longest reigning UK monarch, with Queen Victoria's reign of 63 years and 216 days being exceeded by The Queen on that day. Whilst there is some debate about whether the actual date on which this milestone is reached is the 9th or 10th it is worth noting that Royal Mail chose the 9th as the issue date after consultation with the Palace

The Miniature Sheet (above) comprises five stamps including a specially created purple coloured First Class Definitive which will also appear in a Retail Stamp Book of six. In accordance with our policy and as a tribute to this extraordinary and historic achievement, the Amethyst Purple stamp will also be included in the Retail Stamp Books of six stamps being issued from September 2015 to April 2016.

The stamps in the sheet have the wording LONG TO REIGN OVER US repeated in an iridescent layer of printing not only on the 1st class Machin definitive but also on the other four stamps. This makes them the first commemorative stamps to have an iridescent security printing.

The source code on the miniature sheet stamp, to the right of The Queen's hair, shows **GM** instead of GN (see illustration at right). The year code below The Queen's chin, shows **Q15R** instead of OVER.

In mid-August PO branches received supplies of a new Machin definitive stamp in counter sheets, printed in 'Amethyst Purple'.

CLOSING REMARKS

By the time you read this I should be on my way or in the UK. Apology for early issue but that was the only way to get it to you without it being too late. Hope you enjoy something in the issue, and thanks for all who contributed and made it possible. All material for future issues always welcomed.

