



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23 February 2002

Newsletter August 2019

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Stamp of the Month

Not from an IPDA member of course! One of two stamps - the other in worse condition - advertised as, **"Excellent VENEZUELA Nos. 262 & 265 SPECIMENS. An excellent addition to your collection or investment portfolio!"**

Reduced from
USD \$30 to
\$19.50.

At least any
buyer has some
very clear
images to see.



As a benchmark - you can get a Mint never hinged OG set of 6 on one auction site for USD \$50

August 2019 Editorial

Here I am with a few days until the end of the month of July wondering what to say in this Editorial. Actually I have a lot to write about but I think I need to keep it simple.

What are Members thinking about re the IPDA? Probably nothing is my guess if I am honest. Although one subject that has come up a few times while I have been away these past few months is the placement of the IPDA logo on members' eBay listings. There are three solutions to this. 1) use the logo as an additional image to your listing. 2) follow the idea we wrote about in the June issue, a very creative idea from one member and one I like, 3) get eBay to show the IPDA logo on IPDA members' listings. You would think that three would be easy wouldn't you. Well sorry it is not. And, if I am blunt and honest with you we are having no luck getting it to happen.

That is hard to stomach isn't it. But sadly a reality. And if you are an ASDA member or an NSDA member the same holds true for you, no matter how honest and respected you are. Sadly there are forces stopping this happening. I give up. I rarely have admitted that in my whole life and business career but on this occasion I admit defeat. It doesn't matter how honest you are, how credible you are, how brilliant your reputation, how legitimate all your listings are, or how well respected you are in every philatelic circle you can name, as an IPDA member given where we are now I cannot see us getting the IPDA logo to be shown on your eBay listings. So please, try an alternative method like options 1) or 2) or, 4) maybe, 4 being you tell me how you can help change the situation.

And finally, what is eBay really all about? Do you really understand what is happening, or potentially going to happen in the internet selling world? What are certain players doing to the hobby of philately? how are they influencing the buying and selling of stamps? are their influences in the best interests of the hobby and more importantly, of dealers like you and me? I do not mean to be dramatic but perhaps some reading in the quiet of your study would not go amiss. I welcome feedback to get this topic understood by us all. More in coming issues.

GERMAN NEW GUINEA'S POSTAL HISTORY by Alan Devine

The Germans annexed the northern coast of the eastern half of Guinea as German New Guinea just prior to World War 1 and installed themselves as the colonial power in that region. In 1883 the Queensland police took possession of the unclaimed part of Guinea. However, the British Home Secretary refused to annex this area on behalf of Britain at that time. On the 6th. November 1884 Britain fearing that Germany might occupy the remaining unclaimed area, annexed it and named it the Mandated Territory of New Guinea. On 4th. September 1988 the annexation of the south eastern part of Guinea together with several adjacent islands was named British New Guinea.

In 1905 another part of New Guinea was officially named the "Territory of Papua". From 1905 until 1953 these areas were administered by the British and then by Australia. In 1972 the areas were combined and became known as Papua New Guinea. Thus, the ground was laid for the various areas to issue their own postal services over the previous period of nearly 160 years.



As shown above: The first stamps used in German New Guinea were ordinary German postal stamps but in 1897 a series of the German Empire stamps were overprinted with the words "DEUTSCH-NEU-GUINEA" with face values of 3, 5, 10, 20, 25 and 50 pf (from 1888 to 1901-SG Nos. Z1 to Z13) .
..... cont'd

GERMAN NEW GUINEA's POSTAL HISTORY by Alan Devinecont'd

The variations in shades and overprints on these stamps attracted a lot of attention and became popular and valuable collectibles.

Later the German Government introduced the "Kaiser Yacht" series of German Neu Guinea stamps. Some of these issues were named "DEUTSCH-NEU-GUINEA" and others were named DEUTSCH-NEUGUINEA. The series comprised 13 stamps with face values of 3,5,10,25,30,40,50 pf and one 50pf stamp - as shown below - in a deep pink mono colour, plus 4 large stamps with face values of 1,2,3 and 5 Marks (from 1897 to 1914-SG Nos.1 to 5 and SG 1 to 23).



During World War I large quantities of German New Guinea stamps were hidden to avoid being seized by Britain and Australia. After the end of the war many of these stamps were found and were initially used with GRI overprints. Some of these stamps became extremely difficult to find and are valuable and possibly out of reach of many collectors. In this period Queensland stamps were also used and these too are hard to find as well. From 1914 the same German Empire stamps were used (SG No. 1 to 43).

In my next article on New Guinea I shall describe the use of Registration Labels, the GRI and HM Pacific Islands over prints and the stamps issued in the Marshal Islands used in New Guinea

Alan Devine



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The Shanghai Overprints

This is one really interesting area of philately. Having lived in Hong Kong for a number of years I started to get interested in various aspects of Chinese philately. My knowledge is close to zero but what I have read only encourages me to read and learn more. I hope this piece is of interest to you as it is to me. Michael IPDA General Secretary.

Many collectors and perhaps especially US collectors are aware of the U.S. stamps which were overprinted as shown to the right. Scott lists these as K1-K18. The history of these Shanghai Agency stamps is quite interesting.

**Shanghai
2¢
China**

China was an important trading destination at the time of the American evolution. Trade was centered around the port of Canton under the control of the British East India Company. In 1784-85 the American ship *Empress of Asia* made the first round trip in the China trade. The adventure was highly successful. Interestingly, the first American consul anywhere was appointed to Canton in 1786.

After the Opium War of 1840, the British won, through the Treaty of Nanking, the island of Hong Kong and forced the opening of Amoy, Foochow, Ningpo, and Shanghai, in addition to Canton, to foreign trade. An American consul was appointed to Amoy in 1844. Aggressive American traders became important in the China trade with their clipper ships.

Another provision of the treaty was a concession of 5,362 acres to the British in Shanghai. In 1847, the French won by treaty a concession of 356 acres in Shanghai. An American settlement (not really a concession) grew up around the American consulate established in Shanghai in 1847. The American settlement had commercial advantage since it was downstream and beside the first anchorage encountered by arriving vessels. Trade flourished.

Mail remained under British control with mail from the United States passing through the post office in Hong Kong. Mail was both expensive and unreliable. It was not until 1865 that the United States Post Office was authorized to provide mail services to the Orient. A contract was awarded the Pacific Mail Steamship Company on August 28, 1865. The company was to build four steamships to meet Post Office specifications and to be in operation by January 1, 1867. The route was to run from San Francisco to Shanghai via Kanagawa (Yokohama), Japan. Postal agents were appointed in both Kanagawa and Shanghai. This mail route provides another interesting era of mail transport and markings.

A 10¢ rate was established for mail from the United States to the orient. In 1878, U.P.U. rates were applied and the rate to the orient became 5¢. In 1903, United States domestic mail rates were made applicable to mail to or from the postal agency in Shanghai. While other nations had overprinted their stamps for use in their post offices abroad, it wasn't until 1919 that the United States took the step for reasons unknown. The definitive stamps of 1917-1919 were used with overprints at twice the value of the stamp being overprinted. Overprint values ranged from 2¢ to \$2. A special delivery stamp was overprinted but not put into use.

cont'd



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The Shanghai Overprintscont'd

The stamps were short lived. The U.S. Postal Agency in Shanghai was closed on December 31, 1922, and was declared discontinued after it had completely closed its affairs on January 31, 1924.

The stamps were on sale at the Philatelic Agency for a short time after the closure in 1922.

As for the stamps, the 18 Shanghai Overprint stamps are, apparently, a big challenge for collectors.

Very few were issued and they were only sold in three Chinese cities.

These stamps are treasured due to their scarcity and the history they represent.

Editor's Note: This text comes from "United States Postal Agency Shanghai, China" by Harvey Bounds included in The Stamp Specialist Mahogany Book published in 1947 by H. L. Lindquist. Images are courtesy of Golden Valley Minnesota Stamp Co.





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The 1935 Tristan da Cunha overprints: New discoveries and a suspected forgery by Neil Donen and Gary Wayne Loew. Re printed with kind permission.

For the past 30 years the Tristan da Cunha (Tristan) overprints on the 1935 Great Britain Silver Jubilee stamps have both fascinated and attracted collectors (Figures 1 and 2). They have been labelled bogus by some as they were not legal tender, yet they have commanded increasingly higher prices when coming to auction. The reason for this interest is not clear, but one suspects it has something to do with the mystique of Tristan. In this last of three articles about Tristan da Cunha and the 1935 Silver Jubilee issue, we provide some background history to their production and sales. Finally, we will discuss the finding of a forged overprint which has come on to the market in the past two years Harold Wilde served as chaplain, administrator and postmaster on Tristan between 1934 and 1940. Aware of the increasing interest by philatelists in receiving covers from Tristan, Wilde tried, unsuccessfully, to interest both the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts (SPG), who appointed him to his position on Tristan, and the British Post Office in producing stamps for the island.

In 1937 Wilde returned to England. Prior to his departure back to Tristan in November, he arranged to have over-



Figure 1: Tristan Overprint - 1/2d value



Figure 1: Tristan Overprint - 1d value

prints reading 'Tristan / da Cunha' made which were applied to the Great Britain 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps. In August 1940 Wilde left Tristan for the last time and subsequently served as chaplain at HMS Royal Arthur, a naval shore base established near Skegness in Lincolnshire, England. It was during this period that, according to Brian Cartwright, he gave the overprinted

stamps to selected friends as gifts.¹ We are not aware of any of these overprints being used by Wilde whilst he was on Tristan.

The Tristan da Cunha overprints The first formal awareness of the existence of these overprints by philatelists occurred with the publication of George Crabb's book on the postal history of Tristan.² In the book Crabb notes 'Some years ago it was reported that two 1935 Silver Jubilee stamps had been seen overprinted "Tristan da Cunha", this was carried out "properly" and not by "hand". I have not seen these items'. It is possible he was referring to an as yet unidentified September 1978 auction, where two overprints (Nos. 19 and 20) on 1d stamps were offered for sale. This was also referenced by Alastair Hackett in his 1982 book on the 1935 Great Britain Silver Jubilee issue.³ Subsequently Ward described an overprint on cover three years later with Williams adding to the list the following year^{4,5}. In 1991 Brian Cartwright published the first of his four articles providing a list of known overprints.^{1, 6-8} Cartwright's articles also detailed part of the background story provided above. Tony Ainscough subsequently summarised the sales of the various overprints in the *Flagstaff* in 1992.⁹ A 1999 article in a Stanley Gibbons newsletter identified overprint number "36" appearing on a 1/2d stamp suggesting this to be the highest number of the series.¹⁰ Over the intervening years more overprints have been identified or come to auction. A 2016 article by Ray Lloyd provided an updated listing.¹¹

The 1935 Tristan da Cunha overprints: New discoveries and a suspected forgery cont'd

All have confirmed Cartwright's three major premises i.e.

- The overprints occurred only on the ½d and 1d Great Britain 1935 Silver Jubilee issue stamps;
- The highest overprint number identified in both values was 36; and
- Each overprint number was unique within each value.



Table 1 is a listing of the known numbers identified to date that have been associated with both values.

Only three stamps (½d – Nos. 9 and 16; 1d – No.4) are known on cover. All three are cancelled with the Tristan da Cunha type V cachet which Wilde had taken with him when he left the Island in 1940 (Figure 3). No other used stamps are known. Additionally, two vertical pairs have been identified, both ½d values (Nos. 5 & 6; Nos. 17 & 18) (Figure 4). None of the overprint stamps identified to date include a selvage. Thus, there is no information on which cylinders the stamps came from. Unfortunately, there is no documentation either with whom Wilde contracted to produce the overprints or the nature of the work. With this limitation and only access to scans of most of the images a review of the overprints was undertaken to see if some basic questions could be answered. These included the quality of the overprints; an assessment if the numerical numbering order was horizontal or vertical; whether a single handstamp was used versus a type set block for the overprints was made and the alignment of the overprints to one another. Based on the findings we postulate the following possible methods of producing the overprints



Figure 3: Tristan overprinted stamp on cover. Note the Tristan Type V cachet.

Table 1
Tristan da Cunha 1935 Silver Jubilee Overprints
Numbers noted and listed

½d	Number	1d
		
	1	
	2	
	3	
	4	X
X	5	
X	6	X
	7	
X	8	
X	9	
	10	
	11	
	12	
	13	
	14	
	15	
X	16	X
X	17	X
X	18	X
X	19	X
X	20	X
	21	
	22	
X	23	X
X	24	X
X	25	X
X	26	X
	27	X
	28	X
	29	X
	30	
X	31	
X	32	
X	33	
X	34	
X	35	
X	36	X

List up to date as of 1 May 2018

The 1935 Tristan da Cunha overprints: New discoveries and a suspected forgery cont'd



Figure 4: Vertical pair of Great Britain 1/2d stamps with numbers 5 and 6 Tristan Da Cunha overprints.

The overprints are very clean suggesting they were printed from metal rather than rubber (Figure 5).



Figure 5: The Overprint with outline of underlying stamp included for perspective

This is in agreement with Crabb's comments noted above. The numbers below the wording Tristan da Cunha vary in their vertical alignment to the top letters, but the vertical distance between the letters and numbers is constant. There are subtle differences in the character of some of the letters, most notably the last "a" of Cunha implying that more than one version of the letter was used in the printing. When comparing the

vertical alignment of the words "Tristan da Cunha" to fixed points on the stamps (the back tip of the ear and the left side of the descending limb of the letter "d" of da) were chosen, a consistent relationship was noted. This consistency in the positioning of the overprint strongly suggests a mechanical positioning rather than the use of a single handstamp. There

were a number of stamps where the letters did not align as expected. However, this difference affected alignment between two rows of stamps and not the majority. The horizontal alignment varied between stamps but there did not seem to be a consistent pattern. When comparing the overprint positions of the two stamp values i.e. 1/2d and 1d, the vertical alignment and position of the overprints was the same for a given number with both values. These findings and conclusions are summarised below:

1. Metal numbers and letters were used for the overprints.
2. The numbering of stamps was vertical in sequence, rather than horizontal.
3. The overprints were printed onto groups of stamps at the same time, rather than hand-stamped on individual stamps.
4. A type set block of the letters and numbers was used. Whilst speculative the potential options are square blocks made up of either 2x2; 3x3 or 6x6 sets. Reviewing all the layouts and positioning of overprints does not provide any obvious answers. However, of the three listed options, the largest is the most unlikely.
5. The same block of type set was used to overprint the 1/2d and 1d stamps.

Discovery of a Forged Tristan Overprint In late 2017 one of the authors (ND) was asked by a fellow collector to comment on a 1d Great Britain 1935 Silver Jubilee stamp overprinted Tristan No. 6 the collector was contemplating purchasing. The presence of a partial cancel on the stamp was noted and felt to be unusual. Originally the item had been sold by Spink in London (Auction 16027, 26 April 2016, Lot #631) and was offered for sale, again by Spink, at the Caerynn sale in November 2017 (Lot #810).

The 1935 Tristan da Cunha overprints: New discoveries and a suspected forgery cont'd



Figure 6: 1d stamp over-printed with No. 6 offered for sale at Phillips auction.



Figure 7: Used 1d stamp with forged Tristan da Cunha No. 6 overprint.

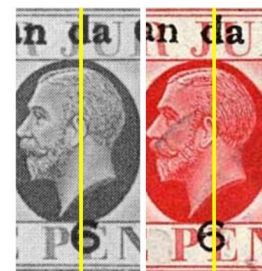


Figure 8: Vertical alignment of the original No.6 overprint (L)

Comparing the above listed stamp with that of the originally offered overprinted Tristan No.6 item (Phillips sale of 19 September 1991 Lot #786), a number of differences were noted. The more obvious differences are highlighted in Table 2. The images of the items offered at the two sales are also included (Figures 6 and 7).

Table 2 - highlighting the differences between the Phillips and Spink Auction items

	Phillips Sept. 1991 (Lot #786)	Spink Nov. 2017 (Lot #810)
Centering of stamp:	Offset to Right	Well centred
Perforations:	The shapes of the various horizontal and vertical perforations are different	
Inclination:	The words are almost aligned horizontally	The words are angled slightly downwards
Left edge of "T" of Tristan:	The left edge touches the left border of the "L" of Silver	The left edge is located in the middle of the "L" of Silver
Position of number "6":	Clear space between number "6" and "P" of Pence	The number "6" overlaps the edge of the "P" of Pence
Presence of cancellation mark:	Absent	Present

There is also the issue of alignment. As can be seen in Figure 8, the number "6" at the bottom of the "Spink overprint" is both different in appearance and shifted to the right compared to the original item from the 1991 Phillips sale (Black & White image). It is obvious that the two overprints are quite different.

The final analysis involved using retroReveal (<http://retroReveal.org>) to look at the underlying cancel. This program, provided by the J. William Marriott Library at the University of Utah, uses a series of mathematical algorithms to break the colours into separate layers or spaces. Multiple black and white images are presented allowing one to choose the clearest image (Figure 9, next page). The scan shows a wide rimmed datestamp.



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A few letters are visible in the centre, notably the letters 'ne' and 'pm' below it. The features are highly suggestive of a rubber handstamp. None of the three known covers with cancels have any wording or suggestion of a date in the centre of the cancel. Finally, the retroReveal image shows that the number "6" is clearly seen and clean (See also Figure 6). It also appears to be above, rather than partially obliterated (i.e. below) by the datestamp.



Figure 9: Used 1d Tristan da Cunha No.6 overprint with cancel highlighted using retroReveal. See text for details.

At the time of the 1991 sale these overprints had received passing notice and only came to the public's attention with the widespread publication of Cartwright's articles. Since then, their prices have risen steadily selling for as much as £1,300.

Based on all the accumulated information we believe there is no other conclusion than that the overprinted item recently offered through Spink was not part of the original printing i.e. it is most likely a forgery.

To confirm our suspicions we would recommend subjecting both number "6" 1d overprints and at least two other overprints to analysis by a Video Spectral Comparator.¹² This would permit comparison and identification

of ink from the same era. Until such time the used 1d stamp with the Tristan da Cunha No. 6 overprint should be treated with suspicion.

Acknowledgements: Thanks to Gary W Loew for his kind permission to reprint this work. He in turn acknowledges and thanks Andrew Lajer (Figure 1), Brian Cartwright (Figure 6), 'Caerynn' (Figure 7) and Grosvenor Auctions (Figures 2-4) for their permission to reproduce the various images. And to acknowledge the assistance of Roger Gilbert in helping to evaluate the used cancel on the forged overprint.

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Close the front door!

With thanks to member Lee Coen for this piece

Most of my young life I can remember my father yelling, 'Close the front door, geeze!' 'But dad, it just a door'. While on the subject of the 'door', are you aware of the open door error on US stamp, Scott#C-11, Air mail stamp from 1926-1930?



Today the wife and I went gallivanting around Arizona at 110 degrees. We had a stuffing breakfast and hit a few antique stores. We have been to many of these stores over the years and collector/sellers of stamps all know that 99% of the envelopes and stamps you find in them are of low value.

For some reason I still look and scan every bundle of postcards I can find. Today I stumbled across this air mail cover and thought what a great low value error could be in my hands.

I purchased the envelope for a few bucks along with some other items and we headed home. After a quick nap and some 'www' searching for examples of this stamp and error, I found the following article: <http://psestamp.com/articles/article2678.html> and you can see the an excellent example of the 'open door' printing error a Scott# C-11 in the above image.

Even though I didn't find one today, the hunt is still on

Good luck Lee.



Left is the error Right is correct.



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The Back Page - Thinking out Loud

There is a lot happening in the philatelic world as I read things. Lots of planning for many large exhibitions in 2020. I counted about 20 in the USA alone next year just from the APS website, and of course there are many large international shows including London 2020, Canberra, Dubai, Auckland, Essen, Ottawa, Jakarta, Bulgaria, Taipei and Kuala Lumpur. Why this trivia? Well because the IPDA needs to have a presence at some of these if we are to have our name recognized by collectors, so collectors can identify with buying from an IPDA Member.

I know I am dreaming when I write that, but isn't that what we want. Isn't it the objective of every philatelic group to have their members recognised? If you read the objectives of say the NSDA or the ASDA or the CSDA, or the PTS or whatever one you can think of in your country, you will find all our objectives are very similar in content and theme. The only difference is we have the word *internet* in our title and objective statements. And, let's face it, that is where collectors are buying their material now. Yes, the internet, though eBay, Delcampe, Hipstamp and so many others. Just one simple example; Hipstamp now has 962 (at time of writing) stamp sellers. 962 Yep! that is right. Ok lots of collectors selling duplicates maybe (50% of sellers have less than 1000 items in their stores but many of them are fledgling sellers who will grow - including some excellent ones who are IPDA members I might add. However we look at it that is one large selling population on just one portal.

So don't sellers want to be recognized by being a member of a respected Association, like the IPDA? because we represent first and foremost internet sellers.

We have a dilemma don't we? If we grow our membership we have more competition from sellers promoting themselves as IPDA members. Perhaps we should not grow our membership at all. Let's be selfish and be protectionist of our small group.

No! that won't work because we all have different specialties and strengths and stock and even if we double our membership overnight I doubt we will be threat to each other. Let's attract more members then and grow the presence and reputation of the IPDA in philatelic circles. Wouldn't that be a constructive approach? You tell me.

If each of us recruited just one new member in August we would reach 250 members. We could spend some of the general revenue monies we have on more advertising, get more presence at exhibitions so that in 2020 when collectors read about the IPDA in magazines and on the web they will think, "buy from an IPDA member", AND, we might get more internet based sellers applying to join because they see the link of their business with our values, and the promotion our name gives them.

You tell me. Please write to me with ideas, please promote the IPDA, please get one new member during August. The Directors have updated the advertising plan and we will be doing more advertising in coming months to both attract new members and to promote the IPDA brand in the philatelic community. Michel [IPDA General Secretary](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)

Want to write an article for the Newsletter? Please send it to Michael at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com