



# INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23 February 2002

Newsletter September 2019

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## Stamp of the Month



Fond memories of living and working in Lerwick (Sumburgh) for a while. This from the Royal Mail Curious Customs recent issue.

On the last Tuesday in January Shetland people celebrate their Viking heritage, culminating in a spectacular torchlight procession and the burning of a full-sized replica of a galley.

## Editorial

Welcome to the September Newsletter. Seems like only 5 minutes ago I was writing the August editorial.

To start with let me tell you of one significant change at the IPDA. We have a new Webmaster. Please welcome Russ Romei. You can read more on page 2. And with a new Webmaster we now have the website hosted in the USA. None of you noticed the change of servers did you? That was how smooth the migration went and a big thank you to our previous Webmaster and to Russ for making that happen. Also, and this is something I know many of you will be extremely pleased to read, we now have the site with SSL active.

SSL, the Secure Sockets Layer, is the standard security technology for establishing an encrypted link between a web server and a browser. This link ensures that all data passed between the web server and browsers remain private. So we now have it active. Check out the website and you will see a little "lock;" symbol next to the URL <https://www.ipdastamps.com/> in your browsers address bar. Yes there is also an "s" after http!

What else is new, well we had a Directors meeting a few weeks ago and we have decided now is the time to restart our membership drive. As I wrote in the August Back Page - "If each of us recruited just one new member in August we would reach 250 members." We got one new member in August. Please can we try harder? **As an incentive, a small one I know, if you recruit a new member, get that member to write your name as a referral and you will get free membership for 2020.** Tony, our Membership Secretary is all ready to process those applications and has a tracking system already in place to ensure you, as the member who got the new member, will get free renewal in 2020. You won't have to do a thing. And, we have reviewed the Membership fee for 2020 and the renewal will increase from USD \$20 to USD \$25. New members will pay a USD \$50 joining fee for the first year. So it will be good to join in the next 4 months. Hey and you save yourself 25 bucks!

Why else join? Well because we are starting to enhance the website with Russ on board, we will be working to deliver some new features. And also we will be promoting the IPDA in various journals, online forums and media channels to sell us "as dealers that stamp collectors should be looking to buy from". Last month I wrote that there were 962 sellers on Hipstamp. There are now 991 as I write. Lets get our brand name well known so buyers look for the IPDA logo. Your help will surely help your business. Can you help, please?

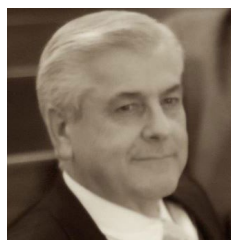
Michael IPDA General Secretary [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)



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## Introducing the new IPDA Webmaster

Please join me in welcoming Russ Romei to the IPDA as our new webmaster. We are extremely fortunate to have Russ with us. Many of you, maybe all of you, will know of Russ because he has been, as we say in Australia, a “well known identity” in philatelic circles for many many years.

I recall him way back from StampFair.com. Yes! that was a while ago. Russ was the owner of StampFair.com StampFair was the oldest stamps only, and at the time in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the largest online stamp auction site. It was a leader in its ideas and delivery of stamp collecting to sellers and collectors around the world. It is now [Stampden.com](https://stampden.com) as it was rebranded with a new selling platform, a new look fixed price, multi seller shopping cart model for both buyers and sellers. You might find it useful and interesting to read more about Stampden [here](#) In fact quite a few IPDA members are already players in the Stampden marketplace.



**Stampden**  
.com

And it goes without saying that Russ is a large part of the technical talent behind the site. He is now sharing that technical expertise with the IPDA as our webmaster and site administrator.

As you know, one thing the IPDA Committee is looking to do is add value to members. You know that because we say it often but finding that value is, lets be honest, difficult in the existing internet and philatelic world. With Russ on board we hope things will change. In fact we already have a few ideas and you will be hearing about these in the coming months. And, if you have features, or just the outline of an idea, that you think will be a value add to IPDA members please write to me at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)

Just a little more background on Russ to better introduce him. He has 35 years in the IT industry. I am guessing with that longevity and experience he was a UNIX nerd at one time but he will not admit it to me. (joking!!.) Well weren't we all, those of us who were in IT that long 😊

His lifetime interest has been in buying and selling stamps and it was that interest that drove him to creating StampFair back in the mid 1990s.

Russ has a passion now to see stamp brokering become a major trend and he is doing all he can through the Stampden platform to help dealers sell their stamps using the technologies we now have available to us on the internet. One theme that may prove interesting to sellers is the affiliate program. This can be for both buyers and sellers. It allows buyers, sellers and even unregistered stamp enthusiasts to act as stamp brokers by allowing them to sell their own stamps, as well connecting buyers to other sellers stamps. I think we may hear more of this in the future but to find out more for yourself just [visit this page](#).

Welcome Russ, Thank you for becoming part of the IPDA. We look forward to working with you. Michael





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## How to bring disrepute to internet sellers and why you should want to promote the IPDA



Where do I start? Sometimes I am lost for words. So perhaps best to paraphrase from someone else. Something I have had said to me; that we internet dealers are “rip-off artists”, Not my words or feeling but it is said. Why? because of sellers like this one. Why sell this at auction? Yes, and to the unsuspecting, not very experienced, or more likely a very very inexperienced collector I would think. It was not even advertised as a spacefiller. Yes it said “Has a corner crease and a slight tear “ but seriously look at it. Anyone worth their reputation as a dealer would not be selling this, would they? Sadly it fetched \$6.60 after 6 bids.

I despair, because it is exactly sales like this that bring disrepute to sellers and online / internet sellers of course. Can you image a bricks and mortar dealer selling this in their store? Of course not. So, when the owner of this “stamp” passes it on or tries to resell their collection they will be told this stamp has no value. None at all. And they will think exactly what I have heard others say, that dealers are rip-off artists. And, in this case this seller certainly was in my humble view.

Why am I ranting, even though I know the seller is not an IPDA Member, well because this is why we are IPDA Members. We would not try to sell this as it was listed. In fact I would hope we wouldn't try to sell it at all.

We want to promote the IPDA to collectors so they will buy with confidence that they are not getting “ripped off”.

We all agree on that I hope. Please write with ideas about how we can do that. What forums can we use to promote the IPDA and IPDA Members? What media channels can we advertise on and how should we advertise ourselves as IPDA Members? What promotional copy should we use?

I am confident we have enormous creative talent among our members. What will it take to get that creativity working and get ideas to us on the IPDA Committee so we can action them for you?

Write to me at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com) Michael Now see next page for even more fun!!

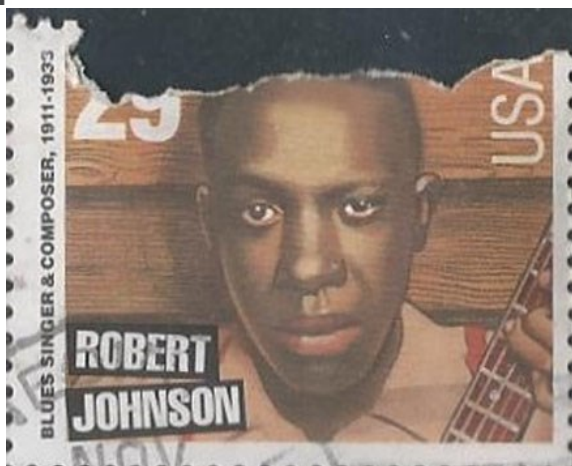




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## Sweet Home Chicago .....

Someone sends you an image and you think, this has to be fake. It cannot possibly be true. Can it? Well this is for real. Listed for sale on a well known site as a "filler", I kid you not. But let's enjoy it none the less.

Musician Robert Johnson is best known as one of the greatest blues performers of all time, a recognition that came largely after his death at age 27. Two things, one, let me tell you more about him. A talent if ever there was one. He wrote and recorded Sweet Home Chicago, and let's face it that is up there as one of the best blues songs. His music has been recorded by the likes of Clapton, the

Stones, Muddy Waters and Elmore James. And secondly let's look more closely at the stamp, or what is left of it.

First about the man. He was born on May 8, 1911, in Hazlehurst, Mississippi. He is considered to be one of the greatest blues performers of all time. He came to the attention of many musicians and won over new fans with a reissue of his work in the 1960s. Another retrospective collection of his recordings released in the 1990s sold millions of copies. But much of Johnson's life is shrouded in mystery. Part of the lasting mythology around him is a story of how he gained his musical talents by making a bargain with the devil.

Son House, a famed blues musician and a contemporary of Johnson, claimed after Johnson achieved fame that the musician had previously been a decent harmonica player, but a terrible guitarist - that is, until Johnson disappeared for a few weeks in Clarksdale, Mississippi. Legend has it that Johnson took his guitar to the crossroads of Highways 49 and 61, where he made a deal with the devil, who retuned his guitar in exchange for his soul.

Strangely enough, Johnson returned with an impressive technique and, eventually, gained renown as a master of the blues. While his reported "deal with the devil" may be unlikely, it is true that Johnson died at an early age. Only 27, Johnson died on August 16, 1938, as the suspected victim of a deliberate poisoning. Several movies and documentaries have tried to shed light on this enigmatic blues legend, including *Can't You Hear the Wind Howl?* (1997) and *Hellhounds on my Trail* (2000).

Now the stamp. Look carefully and you will see his life is stated as 1911 - 1933. I am not seeing that wrongly am I? The actual stamp issued had his correct dates, 1911- 1938.

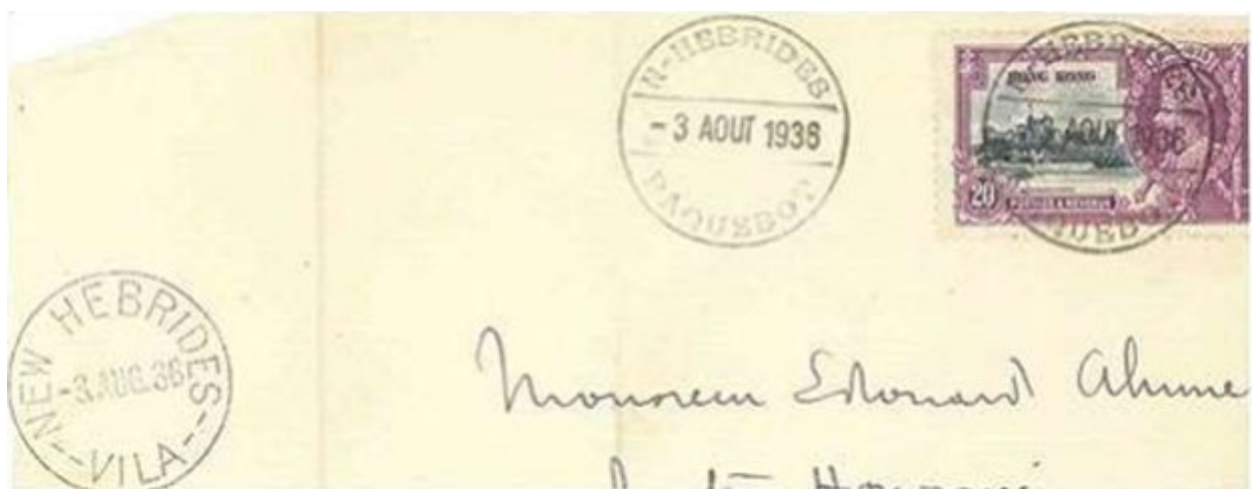
I cannot find this recorded as an error. Does anyone know? And one more piece of trivia, when the stamp was issued in 1994 there was some sort of "uproar" from the pro-smoking lobby because the image was from one of only two pictures that were apparently known of him and he had a cigarette in his mouth in both. The cigarette had been removed in this picture recreation! Always someone got something to moan about eh!!!





## The Hong Kong / New Hebrides Paquebot Cover by Gary W Loew

If covers could tell stories, not all of them would be about their initial journeys. In some cases, perhaps, their most interesting stories might be about the people who created the covers or even the journeys represented by transfers among subsequent philatelist owners. Gary W Loew writes about this cover. In republishing it we hope you enjoy his reflections.



One such cover that caught my eye was shown on the home page of this website ([www.silverjubileestamps.com](http://www.silverjubileestamps.com)) in July of 2015. It depicts the 20¢ Hong Kong Silver Jubilee with a New Hebrides Paquebot. This cover was of particular interest to me as I am the present owner of this charming little philatelic creation. I had purchased it for several reasons. Of course, the combined origin/destination was unusual. And, since I'm a Silver Jubilee collector, the use of the SJ stamp added to its allure. Moreover, the Paquebot mark is known to be rather scarce. But it also appears that this is a Leralle cover and outside of this cover (and its 3 siblings), I'm not aware of any other Leralle SJ covers. My research into this cover led me in a few interesting directions.



Figure 1

The obverse of the cover (Figure 1) has a single example of the 20¢ Hong Kong Silver Jubilee (SG136).

The stamp is cancelled SON by a sharp example of a New Hebrides Paquebot and there is a non-tying second impression to the left.



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## *The Hong Kong / New Hebrides Paquebot Cover .... cont'd*

The Paquebot mark ("N-HEBRIDES / -3 AOUT 1936 / PAQUEBOT") is identified as 1804 in the Dovey/Morris 4th edition of Hosking's work (it was 851 in the earlier editions). The reverse has a single strike of the receiver, "NEW HEBRIDES / -3 AUG.36 / --VILA—". The cover is addressed to "Messrs Wa Hing & Co. / Island Traders / Erromango". The envelope has been opened and the contents removed. One thing that stands out is the date of the cancellation, 3-AUG-1936.

The Hong Kong SJs were removed from counter sale on 31-DEC-1935. So someone had to have held onto the stamp for over seven months before it was used, placing this stamp at the extreme end of its "normal" usage period. The delayed use notwithstanding, 20¢ pays the correct surface foreign letter rate in 1936.

Of perhaps greater interest is the circumstances under which a Hong Kong stamp could have been properly used on a Paquebot to New Hebrides. Two usage possibilities were identified by Mike Dovey :

Option 1. If the ship was HK registered and the crew posted using the correct stamps then the ship could well belong to CHINA NAVIGATION (John Swire) who traded for years around the Pacific and were based in HK. The only downside to this is that their ships were GB registered but as the crew would never be able to get GB stamps then HK stamps could well have been used.

Option 2. If the ship was trading out of HK and was the last port of call before Vila then the letter could have been posted using what they call "third nation posting" i.e., the ship could use stamps of the last port of call. In this case if it was HK then the crew would use HK stamps but if this is the case then the ship could be registered anywhere and could be any shipping line.

As we shall discuss momentarily, the second option is the more likely. But regardless of the explanation, our ability to identify a ship or an exact route is very constrained. Few shipping records likely survive from the mid-1930s for this region and I've not been able to locate any helpful records. This is certainly a very pretty envelope and, the commercial addressee notwithstanding, has the appearance of a philatelic cover. When researching New Hebrides philately, a wonderful place to start is Roland Klinger's robust and richly illustrated website .

Searching that site uncovers an interesting surprise: not only is a scan of my cover to be found, but two nearly identical SJ siblings as well! Both sport the same 20¢ SJ and the same Paquebot CDS.

On the following page Figure 2, reproduced from Klinger's website, is addressed to Vila and appears to be in the same handwriting as my cover. (Notice, for example, the shape of the initial capital M in the address.)

Figure 3 shows a cover addressed to Malikolo (today the island is called Malekula), but again in the same handwriting. Figure 4, not from the Klinger website, shows a 4th example from the collection of Rob Schneider of PhilaGallery – this one addressed to Vate (the island of Efate).



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## *The Hong Kong / New Hebrides Paquebot Cover..... cont'd*

While it is always possible that these are strictly commercial covers, additional evidence points to a shared philatelic origin.



Figure 2



Figure 3

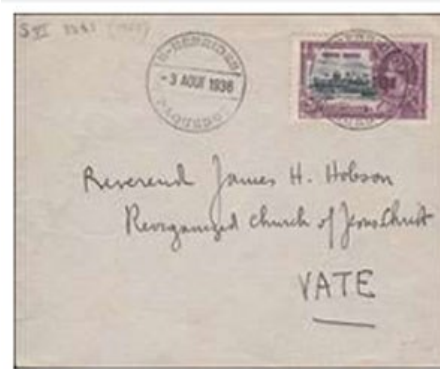


Figure 4

Four pretty philatelic covers merit some research about their creator. It was suggested by New Hebrides collector Alain Millet that my Paquebot might be a Leralle cover. If so, then based on handwriting all 4 would have emanated from the same creator.

Some of Millet's research is included in the Leralle webpage on the Klinger website . This is an extensive discussion of Leralle and worth viewing. There is no need to duplicate that work here. Let's revisit the conundrum of these covers' usage. Considering the late usage of the Hong Kong SJ, the unusual origin/destination combination, and the diverse addressees in the same handwriting, it seems highly unlikely that a ship's crewman was the source of the covers (Dovey's Option 1). Far more likely is that Masseur Leralle created these confections and then had a philatelic "agent" aboard a commercial vessel arrange for the Paquebot handling.

Philatelist Leralle seems to have accomplished similar tasks around the globe. The Klinger website documents 177 such items. I would be interested in learning about any similar Paquebots with SJs or about other Leralle covers that include SJs from other colonies. More perplexing is the actual route taken by these covers. Many ships plied the waters between Asia and the South Pacific in the years before World War II. Can any reader assist in documenting the ship or route taken by these covers?

*Acknowledgements Author's Note: I am most appreciative for the research assistance I've received from Mike Dovey, Neil Donen, Ed Grabowski, Alain Millet and Tony Ainscough. I am indebted, as well, to Dr. Doris Benardete, John W. Bristow and James Fenner.*  
1. Dovey, Mike & Morris, Keith, *Paquebot Cancellations of the World and more...* 4th Edition. (Gorsley [UK]: TPO & Seapost Society, 2010). Pg. 120. 2. Email conversation between Mike Dovey and the author dated 1-AUG-2015. 3. <http://www.ro-klinger.de/NH/index.htm>. Accessed on 16-SEP-2015. 4. See Millet's powerful New Hebrides exhibit, found at <http://issuu.com/codaxa/docs/nouvelleshebrides> 5. <http://www.ro-klinger.de/NH/1-phleral2.htm>





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## *One final comment on the eBay / IPDA logo topic*

On behalf of the IPDA Directors I have written to all members on this topic a number of times. This to say once more we will not be able to get the IPDA logo to automatically be applied to members eBay listings. It will not happen.

I have explained the reasons in various emails. In fact I know many members have responded by saying they have corrected listings they were not aware were an issue. However, there are likely to still be examples in members inventories which are classified as “illegal” stamps and which have not been reclassified.

Our members have tens of thousands of stamps, or more even, listed in their online stores and it is probably impossible to find every one stamp that has, over a long period of time most likely, been listed in complete innocence.

Everyone agreed to abide by the IPDA Code of Ethics when they joined. The Directors are confident our members are all legitimate and honest sellers. We have also done everything we can to encourage all members to take this matter seriously. If you have the time and think it might be worth a quick check given the scale and scope of your inventory that is up to you of course. I already published a comprehensive list of countries that you might use as a guide.

Going forward, new applications will be reviewed more stringently and we will be reminding applicants of the illegal stamp listing matter very clearly in our joining material.

However, as I am sure you will agree we cannot search tens of thousands of a new applicants listed stamps looking for the one or 2 or more illegals. It is just not feasible, and moreover, it does not in our view make a seller an illegal stamp dealer whose intent is to deliberately defraud postal authorities if, by oversight and accident they do have a few thematics listed, which are in the “illegal” category. We are confident we can identify legitimate seller and dealers from anyone that is deliberately embarking on illegal activities.

As for eBay and anyone advising eBay, we cannot influence that situation any more than we have tried. We cannot convince other parties that our members are honest and legitimate dealers who have no intent to maliciously or with criminal intent defraud the postal authorities.

We suggest, if you really must have the IPDA logo on your eBay listings, you follow the easy paths explained in previous Newsletters; either a) add an image of the IPDA logo to the images you load, or b) add a text with the IPDA logo to any details you write about your store shipping, return and refund policies as a standard page or text comment as is so commonly seen in eBay store listings.

To close let me say, this topic has caused unpleasant outcomes to many people over the past year. We cannot change that, we cannot regain those peoples trust and respect but we can close this matter down so others are not treated with the disrespect that it seems is so easily and unjustifiably thrown around those days.

Michael IPDA General Secretary.





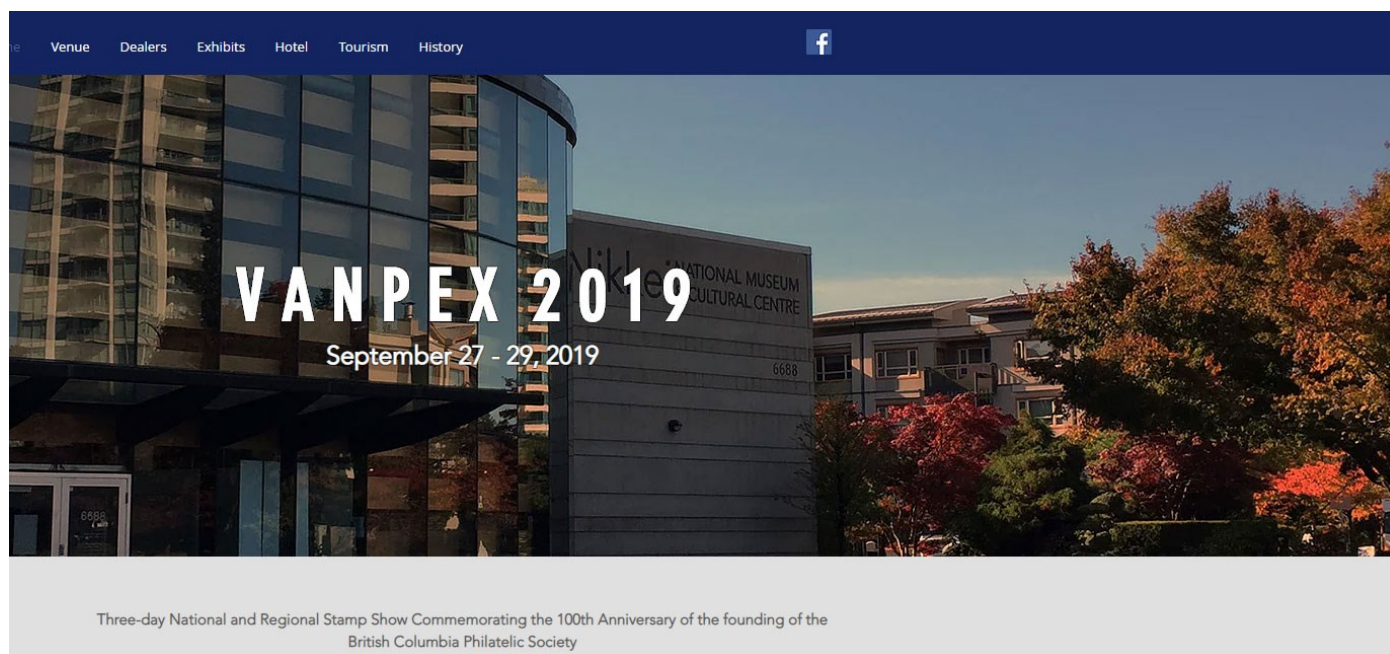
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## VANPEX 2019

I have not been to Vancouver for many years and reading about this reminded me of that. If I had the time I would visit especially for this show. If any members are going please write to me at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com). Perhaps we can find a way of getting the IPDA name and brand there.



This from the organising committee: 2019 is a very special year for the British Columbia Philatelic Society as we celebrate our 100th anniversary as an organised philatelic group. To mark this special occasion the society is staging a National level show to be held at the Nikkei Museum and Cultural Centre in Burnaby, British Columbia on 27th, 28th & 29th September. This will be the first time in 12 years that a local Vancouver club has staged an exhibition at National level and we anticipate entertaining philatelists from far and wide, many of whom will not have visited a philatelic event in the Vancouver area for over a decade.

We are pleased to be able to offer a special souvenir cover at the show on the theme of the 100th anniversary of the BC Phil as well as a unique, official Canada Post "Picture Post" stamp and cancellation, available only from Vanpex 2019. We have a few bourse tables still available, applications are available for download from the Vanpex 2019 website. We are also accepting exhibits at both regional and national levels (Rates are on the prospectus). To this effect we will have a distinguished panel of four nationally accredited judges from the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada.

Visit their website at [vanpex2019.com](http://vanpex2019.com) for more details.



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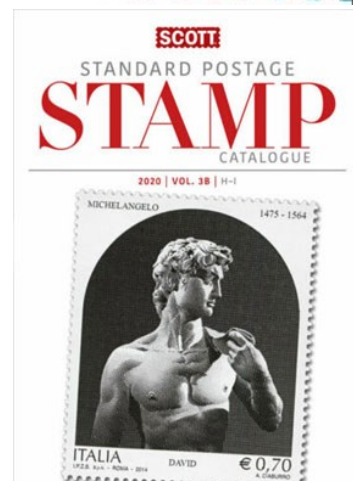


## Saturday Morning Treasure Find

*With thanks to member Lee Coen for this piece*

After three cups of coffee and a zillion emails to delete I checked the stamp store on the APS website – StampStore.ORG. I try to visit this site weekly. A quick search of my area of interest/specialty is Persia.

I think I was on page 5 or 6 of the website and noticed this item was being offered for sale at \$48.00 USD to members of the APS. I am pretty sure I knocked over my coffee as I flipped through the 2020 Scott Cat. On page 431 is the listing for this entire set of stamps.



Complete set, Scott# 357-363, mint hinged, offered for \$48.00usd on APS STAMPSTORE.ORG.

I read the Scott Cat twice just to make sure it was sugar I put in my coffee and not some alcoholic beverage by mistake. This set, as mint hinged has a catalogue value of \$245.00 USD in the 2020 Scott. What I like most about this set is the last stamp has a cat value of \$70.00USD, by itself. Always an attractive stamp to find in mint condition and while a hard sale at times on the web, it is a solid money stamp.

While not the best at math these days, I think I paid 20% for just these stamps. Now to find Scott#363 (\$550.00 CV in mint) to complete this set. Keep an eye out for those catalogue price changes, many sellers might be using older catalogues to price their items.

There's good deals out there, now go find one. Good Luck Lee



Persia, Scott# 362, mint hinged, \$70.00usd in 2020 Scott.



## Smokey With thanks to member Lee Coen for this piece

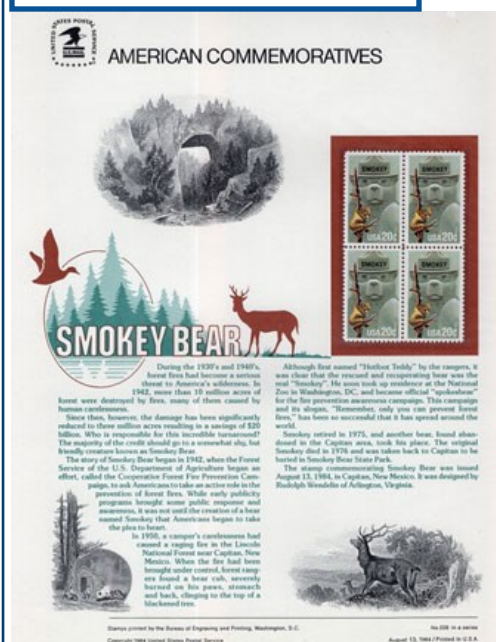
On August 9<sup>th</sup>, 1944 a gentleman by the name of Albert Staehle created an American icon and many happy memories. 75 years of memories for almost every American that has ever gone camping. We all know him as Smokey (the) Bear. Well I do at least.

The correct name is Smokey Bear. My entire life I have been saying Smokey 'the' Bear and that's a mistake. Heck, I'm only 52 and have been saying it wrong my entire life? Let's look at some very nice Smokey Bear stamp mistakes.

While searching the web for photos and information on Smokey Bear, not Smokey the Bear, I was amazed at the asking prices for these 'mistakes' or misperfs.

The block seen to the right has an asking price of \$499.00. For some reason I never noticed them in any of the stamp magazines I subscribe to. Being times are tough right now for all of us no matter where you live, I searched for something a little less expensive and found this one shown left.

Scott# 2096b, US, 1984, horizontal misperf, Asking price \$150.00.



Once again, this 'mistake' is serious money. Scott # 2096b, 1984, horizontal misperf.

After searching the web for this article, I have learned that common stamps with errors, misperfs, what have you, can and will bring some serious money, no matter what country you collect.

In searching for more information on Smokey I also found this commemorative panel shown to the left. It was offered for sale on the web. Very Nice I think you will agree.

I wish you all a happy summer. Lee



Scott# 2096(?) US, 1984, misperf vertical on a block of four. Asking price, \$499





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## The First Series of Vatican Stamps

*Reprinted with the kind permission of Héloïse Dautricourt the author of this piece and also the Chief Editor of the Delcampe Blog. Sebastien Delcampe is a member of the IPDA and it is a pleasure to reproduce this and in the future other articles from the Delcampe Blog that some readers might not otherwise have the opportunity to read. You can read more at the [Delampe Blog](#)*



Vatican philately is closely linked to the history of the smallest country in the world. If the Christian religion has existed for more than 1800 years before the philately of the country linked to it, the Christian state as we know it today dates back to 1929.

While in the middle of the 19th century, the papal states (which can themselves make a good philatelic topic) included a large part of Italy, they were gradually overthrown by Victor-Emmanuel's armies in 1860. 10 years later, Victor-Emmanuel II and his armies took the city of Rome, which they designated as the capital of Italy. Pope Pius IX contested these acts and took refuge in the Vatican.

The following popes tried to strengthen the Church's position in a Europe that was increasingly pushing for secularism. Diplomatic relations between states and the clergy became increasingly tense.



Pope Pius XI

**The Lateran Agreements:** It was in 1929, on the occasion of the Lateran agreements, that the "Roman question" was settled. On February 11, 1929, an agreement was signed between Benito Mussolini for the Italian government and Cardinal Pietro Gasparri for the Holy See. The agreements limit papal sovereignty to the Vatican City State. These agreements included three conventions:

- The political treaty mentioned above
- A financial agreement that offered the new state 750 million lire and 5% shares on a nominal value of one billion lire.
- A concordat that decided on the position of the Church in Italy. The Italian state confirmed Catholicism as the only state religion and Catholic religious education was made compulsory. Moreover, the Italian state could in no way interfere in the appointment of bishops.

The Vatican was then under the direction of Pope Pius XI. An Italian pope, originally from Veneto Lombardy, who was Archbishop of Milan. He became Pope in 1922. Resolutely progressive, he made the first appearances at the outer loggia of St. Peter's Basilica to bless Christians. He also wanted the gathering of Christians, whether Catholic or not, and encouraged the participation of the laity in the life of the Church.

The Vatican, as a new state, developed its own public services. Thus, the 44 hectare territory had a station, its own currency, its own media (press, radio, television) and of course, its own postal service.



## The First Series of Vatican Stamps ..... cont'd



Figure  
1

The first series of Vatican stamps dates back to 1929. It contains 15 values ranging from 5 cents to 10 Lire. The small values bear the pontifical coat of arms (see Figure 1) while the values above 80c are in the effigy of Pope Pius XI. At the top of the stamps, the inscription "Vatican Post" indicates their origin.

The 30c stamp received in 1931 a c.25 surcharge reducing its value.

In 1933, on the occasion of the Holy Year, four surcharged stamps bearing a cross in a medallion were issued.

Their value ranges from 25c+10c to 1L25+25c. Later that same year, a more complete series was issued with a watermark of the Vatican coat of arms.

This has 16 values ranging from 5c to 20L. The stamps bear 6 different images, several of which are directly related to St. Peter's Basilica and are printed in two colours.



The following year, some of the 1929 stamps were put back on sale with a surcharge of 40c to 3L70 as shown above.



## The First Series of Vatican Stamps ..... cont'd

In 1935, following the International Legal Congress in Rome, 6 stamps with two different representations were issued. On the one hand, the values of 5c, 10c and 25c were made on the basis of a representation of Tribonian handing over the Pandects to the Emperor Justinian. On the other hand, the values of 75c, 80c and 1L25 represent Gregory IX handing over the Decrees to the lawyers.

The following year, the Vatican paid tribute to the World Exhibition of the Catholic Press in Rome by issuing 8 values (5c to 5l) in the effigy of Saint John Bosco, Saint Francis de Sales, the Sacred Book and the Bell and Dove.



The last series to be issued under the reign of Pius XI pays tribute to the 4th International Congress of Christian Archaeology in Rome.

It contains 6 values from 5c to 1L25 based on two different representations: the Crypt of the Basilica of St. Cecilia (5c, 10c and 25c) and the former basilica of Saints Nereus and Achilles (75c, 80c and 1L25).

Pope Pius XI died in 1939 on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the Lateran Agreements.

At the age of 82, he suffered a cardiac arrest. It must be said that he had a difficult reign confronted with the rise of communism, to which he was fiercely opposed, and with that of fascism, which he condemned just as much. At his death, before Pius XII succeeded him, 7 values of the 1929 stamps, as shown above, were surcharged with "Sede Vacante".







# INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23 February 2002

Newsletter September 2019

## News Flashes

**Virgin Island new find:** Interesting piece from member Stuart Chandler - Thanks for writing Stuart - moral, as noted in one of Lee Coen's pieces, make sure you have the latest catalogue.

Hi Michael, I recently found a British Virgin Is 1887-89 6d Dull Violet SG38 with Wmk Reversed, see attached scans  
I contacted Hugh Jefferies at Gibbons, for a entry into Part 1, his reply below:

*"Thanks Stuart, Looks pretty convincing to me. I think we just have time to get it into the 2020 edition.*

*All the best, Hugh" So, something for members to keep a lookout for. Regards Stuart*



**American Stamp Grading Madness** We have an open permission to reprint Glen Stephens material so this one, in his inimitable style, I thought would be provocative enough to show you! Not passing judgement (Caj we love you mate!) just sharing. This from his Market Matters Stamp News September 2019 issue at <https://glenstephens.com/snseptember19.html>

"The Americans often take Wacko Pills over their **GRAYDEENG NUMBAHS**, and pretty common stamps worth dollars to the rest of the sane stamp world, sell for \$50,000 or so, to the tiny handful of cultists who cannot see this is all a Ponzi scheme type FAD, that like all fads will crash and burn. [tinyurl.com/GRAYDEENG](https://tinyurl.com/GRAYDEENG) is a recent discussion where a US company PSE, shows a "Perfect 100J" centred 4¢ stamp they were drooling over. As stampboards members clearly showed via precise diagrams, the stamp was not "perfect" centred at all - not even close. Some American paid near \$A50,000 at Siegel Auctions for a stamp cat \$170, that I'd gladly sell for \$100.



Two corners are about to fall off as is obvious to all, and it is not perfect centred, but hey the PSE Voodoo GRADOUGHMEETAH says "100J" (impossible to improve on allegedly!) and the rich Texans come flocking like lemmings trusting this nonsense. They should read stampboards and save their \$50,000!

It is all a giant Ponzi type scheme in my view, and millions will be lost as prices fall and fall. Exceedingly common USA stamps worth less than face value in the real word, these Numbah Cultists madly pay 4 figures for, as shown in that discussion.

Folks can spend their money how they choose of course. Build collections of pet rocks, or Hula Hoops, or Beanie Babies etc. But when the music stops, you own a box of hyped up material that no-one else will buy for anything like what YOU paid. You can buy 20 or 30 fresh mint sets of 3 USA Zeppelins for that money, that WILL always be saleable"



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## The Back Page - Thinking out Loud

There is so much to read these days about stamps and the world of philately. Surely a positive sign about the health of the hobby. How good is that for us all. I certainly get hours of enjoyment reading various magazines and web sites, and even some smiles from some of the forums that proliferate these days. 2 fingers and a keyboard and everyone becomes a William Saffire or Stephen Fry, or whoever you can think of!

Not everything is to my liking though. I stumbled across this piece the other day. "How to sell stamps on eBay".

Remember I said in our editorial that there are now 991 Stores on Hipstamp. Up from the August Newsletter number of 962. Probably more by the time you read this. Obviously the eBay view is right..... I quote.." *"Online auction services, especially eBay, have made it possible for any collector to become a stamp dealer. Get a catalog of your area, determine the catalog number, decide on a price of the item you're selling, list your item. Simple. In fact you don't even need a catalog. Just search for the item on eBay and compare prices, and list it at what you believe your stamp or cover is worth based on comparison to similar items."*

They do go on to say it is not that simple but who reads the second and third paragraphs!

So this has me thinking once again; it might pay to be an IPDA member and to promote your IPDA membership on any listings you have. We all started out once upon a time as newbies, we should be encouraging new dealers to be professional and abide by, for example, the IPDA Code of Ethics. Another reason to promote the IPDA I think.

But lets be positive in our thinking. Surely it demonstrates that philately is thriving. The number of sellers means there must be some buyers even if there is potentially a lot of competition and maybe even price erosion. But, maybe not that much competition when you see the feedback number some of these 991 have. The look at the Auction houses, 197 auctions listed in 2019 to mid August on [Auction Network](#). Count them for yourself. Someone has to be buying. Don't they? Business is good, am I right?

The key question now is, what are you doing to promote the IPDA to your potential buyers?

We are trying to develop new adverts and will be placing more in online channels very soon. You might see this or something similar. Any feedback on this will be gratefully received.

Lets promote the IPDA together, for you and for all of us internet dealers, especially those of us with catalogues!

Until next month .....





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Want to write an article for the Newsletter? Please send it to Michael at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)