



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23 February 2002

Newsletter July 2020

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Should I Name Them?

An auction company in Framingham, MA, is still salting cheap auction lots with forged China stamps. Can you spot the problem in this pic?



From past experience with this business, I made a report on them to the US Better Business Bureau as fraudsters. I think that our Code of Ethics empowers us to call out these shysters for the blight that they are.

If you want me to name them next month, send an email to ipdaeditor@gmail.com

Editorial

Welcome to a bumper edition of the IPDA Newsletter. At twenty-five pages, it may be the largest edition yet, and I hope there is something for everyone.

Articles have been flying in from all quarters, but a special mention must go to Michael Dodd, who submitted multiple, excellent articles. Thanks Michael.

We all have at least one area of expertise, so don't imagine that what you submit won't be interesting to others. For example, I had no idea that I would be curious about Persia until Lee Coen started sharing his knowledge.

If you have something interesting to share, don't be shy. Write an article and email it to me. If your spelling or grammar worry you, I'll fix it. If you don't have the images to add to the article, that's fine, I'll take care of that as well. If English isn't your first language, don't worry about that either. I think I have enough contacts to get almost anything translated!



I look forward to receiving a swag of new articles soon.

Meanwhile, sit back and enjoy what I hope is a good read.



Cheers

Dave Sheridan

ipdaeditor@gmail.com



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New Member Welcomes

Date: 6/2/20

Name: **Eugene Michaelovich**

Member Number: 387

Date became a member: 6/2/20

Business Name: Kiloglobe

Business Website: https://www.webstore.com/store,pgr,169223,user_id,8775,parent_id,shop

Specializes in: Worldwide stamps, singles, sets, kiloware

Email: exmicha@verizon.net

Location: Canton, Maryland USA

Referred By: Jim Holbrook

Member Discounts?: TBD

Date: 6/1/20

Name: **Thomas Larsson**

Member Number: 388

Date became a member: 6/1/20

Business Name: Samlartorget Sverige AB

Business Website: <http://www.samlartorget.se>

Specializes in: World wide stamps, covers, coins, collecting cards. Focus on the Nordic countries. Also accessories.

Email: info@samlartorget.se

Location: Karlshamn, Sweden

Referred By: Peter de Jong

Member Discounts?: TBD

Date: 6/29/20

Name: **Maxine Cannon**

Member Number: 386

Date became a member: 6/29/20

Business Name: Isle of Man Stamps and Coins

Business Website: <https://www.iompost.com/stamps-coins/>

Specializes in: Isle of Man Stamps and Coins sells a broad range of philatelic and coin products. We offer Mint and CTO stamps, Presentation Packs, First Day Covers and Special Covers. In addition to this we also sell binders, albums and Lindner pages. Our broad range of products are enjoyed by collectors all over the world. We ship free of charge internationally.

Email: Maxine.Cannon@iompost.com

Location: Isle of Man

Referred By: John Chapman #321

Member Discounts: To be negotiated upon enquiry



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Train Your "Philatelic Eye"

Understanding Quality—How Do You Recognise and Understand Quality?

Editors Note: The following text is provided courtesy of member Andrew McGavin, Managing Director at Universal Philatelic Auctions (UPA). We are grateful to Andrew for giving us permission to reprint his writings and especially on this subject, one which is likely to ring a bell with many of us. Surely a topic we as dealers should really understand just as much as the collectors should. Images are added by the editor and were not provided by Andrew. Andrew's [next Universal Philatelic Auction](#) is July 7th. Just don't bid on the lots I am looking at!



Of course the easy answer is 'experience', but how do you gain experience when you have not physically handled a particular type of stamp?

There is no substitute for seeing or handling a stamp 'in the flesh', but stamps possess an unusual quality that makes them so suitable for sale upon the internet and for posting and trading throughout the world - they are basically flat. Over the past 10 years I have bumped into a reasonable number of antique dealers who blame the internet, and eBay in particular, for the demise of the 'antique shop'.

Apparently the 'transparency' of information and values upon the internet has 'finished' off the high street 'antique shop' as many remember it. Certainly I know this to be true of certain types of antiques in the U.K. - dealers could 'hide' in their own mystique of knowledge gained over many years of trading, visiting auctions, even museums, that many collectors would be unable to access during normal working hours.

Additionally most collectors had an unreasonable 'fear' of attending and purchasing at 'public auction' - citing all manner of 'old-witch' tales - where they might 'touch their nose' and end up winning a lot they could not afford!

Those days of the 'old boys club' of dealers are gone, and the transparency of the internet, apparently, is the reason. But, something different happened along the way with stamps - stamp values were always that bit more transparent in the first place due to their being so well catalogued by Stanley Gibbons and other publishers. In 1980 there were an estimated 300 stamp shops in the UK - today there may be just 30. Stamp collecting and stamp dealing went 'underground' long before the internet took hold. Antique dealers average price of an item might well be £100's - whereas most stamp shops average price might be pence or a few £'s.

So most stamp dealers were forced to adjust to their market conditions of selling by low-overhead methods - from home or office, by mail or at fairs/exhibitions - which is why stamps have uniquely adapted and transferred themselves so well to sale by postal auctions and upon the internet.



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The internet is the key starting point to how to learn about stamps and assess quality. Stanley Gibbons makes a start at the front of their 'physical' catalogues by giving an illustration by appearance of good, fine, very fine, and superb quality of an imperforate stamp based upon appearance only. But it is so easy now being on-line - to compare quality by image against description. Put a little quality time aside and start by visiting the websites of the more 'expensive' dealers who retail on-line. Look for high quality and see the high prices requested.



Quality image and presentation from an IPDA members' store

Now, open another 'browser window' and go to eBay. Start searching for similar, even the same catalogue number stamps in differing conditions. Read the descriptions - compare the starting prices, and put some of these items in your 'watch' category. Be prepared for a shock. You are going to see the most horrendous variances between descriptions, prices and realisations.

Unless you are 'watching' items from the most respected 'main-stream' dealers on eBay - pay absolutely NO attention to sellers with 100% eBay ratings. Yes, your purchases will be delivered - but on the face of it - what you see on the front of the stamp is what you get. There are thousands of eBay sellers with little or no knowledge of what they are selling and thousands with knowledge who know that what they are selling is not what it is 'cracked-up' to be.

I see dealers with 1,000+ feedback 100% ratings offering items described as fine used which are merely average. Be aware that the oldest 'trick in the game' is to describe 'good' as 'fine', 'very fine' as 'superb', and so on. Stamps easily trap the unwary in this respect.

Have you been horrified at what you have seen? Certainly we are - regularly. We don't profess to be perfect - and with over 14,000 lot quarterly auctions we are always going to make our share of errors too - but never deliberately and always guaranteed by prompt full refund or credit if required.

But, over the years, one of the most important and overlooked aspects of 'understanding quality' that I have noticed - is **amazingly**, that many collectors do not carefully examine their purchases - but more than that - they don't appear to know 'how' - and that is perhaps because nobody has ever explained 'how to train your philatelic eye'.



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How have I reached this rather fundamental conclusion? I have lost count of the times that I have handed over a x10 magnifying glass to collectors, inviting them to look at the stamp we are examining together. Most collectors do not realise that the focussing distance of the most practical magnifying glass is actually having their eye and the 'glass' approximately **one to two inches from the stamp**. That is how close you need to get in to examine the detail of a stamp.

Understanding this opens so many doors to what you are actually looking at and what you may start looking for.

Now that you are perhaps thinking of examining stamps 'closer up' than before - start by consciously selecting a point that you will consistently start from - say the top left north west (NW) corner ... then actually work your way 'clockwise' around the stamp. What you are now doing is 'disciplining' your eye to work to a pattern - you'll be conscious of this to begin with - but soon it will become an unconscious efficient process which will prove invaluable when looking for varieties.



Offered for sale on a well-known online portal. Hard to believe, but true.

1. Start by examining the perforations all of the way round the stamp, are any too short, 'pulled' or missing? Don't forget to look for 'closed tears' - or even scissor cuts. Closed tears are easily missed - but easily detected if you look for fine lines emanating from the perforations and running into the design. (Tip - flex the stamp gently, but not with your fingers! - a good time is when filing the stamp into a mount or stockcard).

Depending upon scarcity of the stamp, one pulled out/missing perforation - upon a commonly available stamp is not acceptable when you can so easily have a perfect example. The scarcer and older the more 'forgiving' you can become.

2. Now examine the margins/centering of the design to the perforations or the width of margins of an imperforate stamp. How off-center a stamp are you prepared to have in your collection? This can have a big impact upon price in classic issues, and in modern issues - do you need it - when you may relatively easily obtain better.

3. Next, look for thins or pinholes - not just upon the reverse - but also for facial abrasions. Thinning has one of the heaviest impacts upon price. Hold the stamp against good quality background light - preferably a 'daylight' type bulb. Invest in a good quality desklight - seldom seen when we visit collectors to value their collections.



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4. Now, check the colours of the stamp - are they 'true' - how do they compare with other stamps in your collection. Beware of faded stamps; consider the period of stamp you are working with - for example Queen Victoria GB often have crayon marks (from registered envelopes) - stamp 'improvers' often 'reduce' such marks in an attempt to reduce their overall impact upon the stamps appearance.

5. Is the stamp 'toned' - if mint - is the gum creamier than it should be. In this area - everything is 'relative' - toning on a modern stamp within the last 50 years is pretty unacceptable as it is unnecessary to accept it. Earlier stamps - a degree of overall toning becomes more acceptable and in some cases virtually the only quality available. But, beware of tone/rust spots - these can be severe. As with everything the degree of severity affects the price. Remember that some stamps the gum was always brownish, creamy or off-white. In the British Empire KGV1 'key types' high values, for example, a brownish streaked gum often indicates an early printing which actually went to the colonies.

6. Toning in used stamps - this can often be minimised - even eradicated with careful repeated application of a once difficult to obtain product called 'fox-it'. Try 'Googling' for 'fox-it + stamps' or <http://www.michaelkay.co.uk/index.htm> - go to 'useful stamp accessories' page - (we have no affiliation with this supplier). Be careful - 'fox-it' type products are a bleaching anti-fungal - apply from the reverse in numerous applications - dried in between each application - watch for fugitive facial colour 'leaching'.

7. Creasing - look for creases - minor bends/ When you think gum bends are common in classic issues and in some cases hard to purchase the stamp without such. In used stamps - particularly the 'top' end a pressed out crease can as much as halve the value of the stamp, sometimes more. Look for a crease as you would look for a phosphor band - let the light from your desk lamp glance across the surface of the stamp. Remember that all creases are not vertical - diagonal, even horizontal are common. Victorian/classic stamps are likely to have the highest chance of bearing a crease.



A crease can convert an 'exhibition' appearance stamp to an 'also-ran' worth 50% or less. Be aware that heavy creases are often 'pressed out' - so the crease could be a 'finer' line. 'Improvers' use 'hydraulic presses' these days to eradicate creases.

When you think there is nothing this bad, but there is! From an online philatelic portal



Supposedly Scott 42 (Great Britain) for sale, listed as "Fine used, in good original used condition, Plate 1 letters J-G". It really is embarrassing to see this listed as Fine Used



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8. Look at the postmark - is it a beauty? The Americans have a philatelic phrase which has 'travelled' - SON - otherwise 'socked on the nose' - probably the finest quality of a used stamp is a full crisp clear cancel beautifully positioned and with perfect balance/harmony between adhesive and postmark. However there are many who term a contemporary part CDS (circular date stamp) cancel as the finest quality sought - particularly clear of profile is highly desirable in typically heavily cancelled Queen Victoria line engraved issues such as the 2d blue. No matter how 'sound' the stamp, the heavier the cancellation - the lower the resale price.

Finally consider that a combination of defects - whilst acceptable in the unique British Guiana (which would probably realise £10 million in auction if offered today) - are less and less acceptable in lesser high-flying stamps. When you are considering the value of a stamp - it helps not to think of 'how many £'s or \$'s to deduct for this or that' - a sure-fire way to confuse oneself - think in terms of ... is this a super-fine stamp - in which case you may think to yourself it's an X % of catalogue value example, incrementing down to it's a 'space-filler' with multiple faults worth say 5% to 10% of catalogue value to you - or no value at all to you - if it lowers the tone of your collection too much.

By adopting a systematic approach to examining stamps you will soon 'train your philatelic eye' so that all of what I have written automatically, effortlessly and enjoyably becomes second nature to you. If you start to think how faults relate to value this will stand you in good stead when understanding quality.

Happy collecting from us all, Andrew



Click the logo to visit UPA



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Member Survey—Interim Feedback

As I write, in the middle of June, we have had 32 members provide feedback to the Committee via the 2020 Member Survey. Thank you for that. We will keep the Survey open for a few more days as you read this in the July Newsletter. Just click [here](#) if you wish to send your views to the 5 Questions in the Survey.

The ideas and views expressed have been useful and informative and at this early stage give us something to think about and how we can address some of the points made. A couple are perhaps easily addressed and so a few words here for all members.

IPDA Services: To know what services the IPDA offers please read the IPDA website. When a new member joins they receive a welcome letter which does include information about many of the services but for more details please read the “Services” drop down menu on the website home page and also Log in to the Members Only area of the website home page.

Expertising Services: One service requested in the survey responses was that of Expertising. A year or so ago we promoted this through our relationship with member Axel Dörrenbach. Axel is the Head of VP Verband philatelistischer Prüfer e. V. (German association of philatelic experts, registered mark “VP”, trade name Verified Philately). For details of countries and philatelic areas of expertise and services they offer to you as a member you can contact him though the web site at www.vpev.de or by email to info@vpev.de

In addition we have member Luksa Zivaljic from Croatia who would be pleased to provide advice and guidance on the stamps of Fiume. Luksa can be contacted at info@fiumestamps.com

There are two more services available to Members which help in this area. These can be found from the Members log in area. One is the “identify this Stamp” feature. A member can post images and ask questions and usually someone replies quite quickly. Also there is a Community Forum feature also from the Members drop down menu, with topic areas where you can post questions on stamps or other matters of interest.

Catalogues: A topic that often gets people attention, especially when it comes to specialist catalogues. In the February 2019 Newsletter we did a reasonably comprehensive write up on various catalogues from around the world. By the way, all Newsletters (back to 2007 – A wealth of information and knowledge) can be accessed from the online library from the Members Only area. We do not have a detailed search facility – if anyone has the database skills to write that we would be really pleased to have such a service – but it doesn’t take too long to search through the more issues by looking at the Inside this Issue Table of Contents page.

Under the Members area we also have a “Book Reviews” area where there are a number of specialized catalogue reviews. If you know of a good review of a specialized catalogue please send the review of relevant details to the General Secretary at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com and he will get that published in the Book Review section.



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Member Survey—Interim Feedback

Membership Card: The Committee have recently been working on this. A design is complete and we can expect one to be issued to Members in the coming months.

IPDA Logo on eBay: We were so close on this one, so very close, then one individual stopped it from happening. It is a very emotive topic, one that caused serious interruptions to the smooth running of the IPDA and conflict between people that should never have happened. Many long time members will no doubt recall some of the troubles. The Committee decided it was a battle not worth the anguish or fallout. There are options of course and we see many members display their IPDA logo on their listings. In various IPDA Newsletter we have published ideas how to display your IPDA logo on eBay listings. One example was given by a member in the June 2019 Newsletter.

Spending Advertising Dollars: There have been many views on this topic. A common theme is yes more social media advertising and more IPDA promotional copy in philatelic publications. Your committee have a working budget and plan and have started to place a few adverts. One the biggest challenges is the absence of a person to take on the work of an advertising and marketing manager. It takes a fair effort and creativity to write to Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram every day or few days, and to get copy to magazines and publishers and keep that copy fresh and updated. A volunteer is welcomed. Just write to the General Secretary at <mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com>

IPDA Dealer Shop: This is mentioned in the IPDA Welcome letter and details can be found on the top Menu bar of the IPDA Website. This is the direct web link – IPDA STAMPS SHOPS – click the link – You will see eteh “Sign up” button at the top of the page, and if you scroll down you will see menu choices for fees and Help. And of course, you can contact Admin for more. We have done a few write up in the IPDA Newsletters about the Shop – perhaps have a browse of Page 3 of the January Newsletter for a concise summary of information about the Service.

I hope this interim feedback was of use. In the August Issue we will have more, especially regarding any action plans we will be taking because of your feedback.



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Mailing Babies—Yes, it Really Was a Thing!



It's hard to believe it, for a brief period of 6 years, it was possible to mail a baby or small child through the U.S. Postal Service. Yeah, you heard it right, it was legal to mail a baby in the United States and it happened more than once and by all accounts.

In 1913, The United States Postal Service introduced parcel posts. Before then, packages sent by mail had to weigh 4 pounds (1.8 kg) or under. With the commencement of the parcel service, people could now ship anything below 50 pounds (23 kg). But, almost immediately, it had some unintended consequences as some parents tried to send their children through the mail.

According to National Postal Museum historian Nancy Pope, the first known case of a mailed baby was in 1913 when Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Beauge of Glen Este, Ohio, shipped their 10-pound infant son to his grandmother's home about a mile away, paying 15 cents in postage and springing for \$50 in insurance (just in case something bad happened). Records do not indicate whether Grandmother Beauge received her mail in a mailbox or through a letter slot. The quirky story soon made newspapers, and for the next several years, similar stories would occasionally surface as other parents followed suit.

One child did make the trip in a railway mail car: 5-year-old May Pierstorff (left) was sent from Grangeville to Lewiston, Idaho, to visit her grandmother on February 19, 1914. May



was just under the weight limit at 48.5 pounds, and her parents realized that sending her by mail would be cheaper than buying her a train ticket. They attached the postage - 53 cents in parcel post stamps - to May's coat, and she rode in the mail compartment of the train all the way to Lewiston. She was personally delivered to her grandmother's home by Leonard Mochel, the mail clerk on duty.





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Over the years, these stories continued to pop up from time to time as parents occasionally managed to slip their children through the mail thanks to rural workers willing to let it slide. Some children were shipped quite far.

PARCEL POST BABY MAKES TRIP UPON L. & E. RAILROAD

CLERK ACCEPTS CHILD DESPITE DOUBT AS TO LEGALITY OF ACT.

Jackson, Ky., Aug. 21.—(Special).—"Anything can happen in Jackson," said a traveling man to-day as he watched a great crowd follow the mail wagon from the L. & E. depot as mail carrier James Haddix carried a parcel post baby to the Jackson post-office. The child was seated on a pack of mail sacks between the mail carrier's knees and was busily eating away at some candy it carried in a bag. In the other hand it carried a big red apple and it smiled when the curious folks waved their hands and called to her. The child wore a pink dress to which was sewed a shipping tag, covered on one side with thirty-three cents in stamps and on the other side had the following words: "To Mrs. Celina Smith, care Jim Haddix, Jackson, Ky., from R. K. Madden, Caney, Ky."

The child was put on the O. & K. train at Caney, Morgan county, and arrived at Jackson at 11 o'clock. On her dress the mail clerk had pinned the following letter: "To Postmaster Hadden, Aug. 21, 1915, Postmaster Jackson, Ky., Dear Sir—Baby received 8:15, Caney Ky., by postmaster in person. I doubt the legality of the sending, but it was put on train and I must deliver and report. Respectfully, J. T. Sebastian, R. P. Clerk."

The girl weighed thirty pounds, was three years old and her name was Maude Smith.

Edna Neff, 6, was sent 720 miles from Pensacola, Florida to Christiansburg, Virginia, where her father lived. Finally, on June 14, 1913, several newspapers including the Washington Post, the New York Times, and the Los Angeles Times all ran stories stating that the postmaster had officially decreed that children could no longer be sent through the mail.



WANTS BABY SENT BY MAIL.

Pathetic Inquiry as to Parcel Post Worries Postmaster General.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16.—The mailing of babies by parcel post is a real infant industry which Postmaster General Hitchcock is asked to foster.

In the circumstances of his bachelorhood Mr. Hitchcock is considering seriously the calling into consultation of experts in the transportation of babies, as a letter which he received to-day presents to him a mail problem with which he is quite unfamiliar. To add to his embarrassment the letter contains a note of genuine pathos, which appeals strongly to the Postmaster General. This is the letter, identically as it was phrased and punctuated:

Fort McPherson, Ga.

Postmaster General,

Washington, D. C.—Sir: I have been corresponding with a party in Pa about getting a baby to raise (our home being without one.) May I ask you what specifications to use in wrapping so it (baby) would comply with regulations and be allowed shipment by parcel post as the express co are to rough in handling Yours

The name signed to the letter is withheld at the request of Mr. Hitchcock.

As babies, in the opinion of the Postmaster General, do not fall within the category of bees and bugs—the only live things that may be transported by mail—he is apprehensive that he may not be of assistance to his correspondent.

While the odd practice of mailing out kids might be seen as incompetence or even negligence on the part of the mail carriers, it was more as an example of just how much rural communities relied on and trusted local postal workers. Mail carriers were trusted servants. As shown here, these are real stories of rural carriers delivering babies and taking care of the sick.

Reproduced with permission from <https://rarehistoricalphotos.com/mailling-babies-postal-service/>



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There Comes a Time.....

Surely there comes a time when the reason someone wants to join the IPDA and is proud of being a member of the IPDA is because they can say; I am a member of the IPDA and I abide by their code of ethics.

I'm a member with integrity because I abide by their code of ethics includes the following :

"To always purchase and sell philatelic material at reasonable and fair prices, giving due consideration to prevailing market conditions and factors and any risk that may be involved in buying philatelic material"

The more I read our code of ethics the more I realise it is sadly missing something that is needed in todays internet market place. Perhaps our code of ethics needs something else; for example a clause or two maybe that read something like this:

- *To refrain from trying to con collectors into buying a stamp or stamps by using wording which could by a reasonable person be considered to be misrepresentation, is deliberately written with the intent of conning unsuspecting collectors, especially new collectors, or inexperienced collectors, to part with their money.*
- *To refrain from altering the colour quality and presentation of an image of the stamp or stamps being offered for sale.*

You think I am joking, well look at these, and these are just two of many, in fact hundreds and counting - that you can find on one online market place, which, I suspect, laughs all the way to the bank as well when such material sells, as sadly I suspect it does.



SG302/Scott167 available for \$60 from an online marketplace. With write up stating "Grading XF 90 XXF, comes with EZGrader Certificate Graded XF90". Listed as NH OG



SG302/Scott167 available for \$0.75 from an online marketplace. With write up stating "one perf with tone spot". Listed as MVLH spacefiller small mark top left perf



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There Comes a Time.....cont'd

Are we just fools in the scheme of things, abiding by the IPDA code of ethics, or are we proud that we do not belong to this group of con artists?

For added information, the SG cat of SG 302 MNH is £3.75 (at current exchange rates - mid June 2020 - that is about USD \$4.75).

But it gets worse, this below is a lovely stamp from Fiji issued in 1956 making up one of the then Definitive series.



SG290/Scott157 available for \$200 from an online marketplace, with write up stating "Grading XF 90 XXF, comes with EZGrader Certificate Graded XF 90" Listed as NH OG



SG290/Scott157 available for \$5.99 from an online marketplace. With write up stating MNH

Both centerings look good to me and the colour of the right hand stamp certainly reflects the correct colour of the stamp as issued. So I ask you, is this really acceptable? Are the two left hand stamps being misrepresented? Is this integrity? It baffles me if I am honest. I know, I know, Buyer Beware. We have grown up learning that. Caveat Emptor rules we are told. But should it be that way?

Surely there must be some honesty and integrity, some belief that new collectors, and inexperienced collectors can enjoy this hobby without being confused when they see this type of offering. Something that tells collectors if they pay \$200 for a stamp as in the Sugar Cane train example above, that in years to come they will find it is only worth the catalogue value at best? After all we are not talking about rare stamps are we? There are plenty to choose from across multiple web sites and philatelic portals.

Or am I completely wrong in my thinking and assessment? You tell us. Write to the Editor at ipdaeditor@gmail.com

Michael Dodd



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Philately Around the World - J is for Jubaland

Ok, let me start by asking you, and be honest as you answer to yourself, how many of you think I am making this country up? Jubaland? Where is it? It is still an autonomous region. I know one of our members has some of these in stock. Perhaps others do and can write to me with more detail and correct any errors I have made.

Choosing a country to write about for the letter J posed a challenge. There are not that many countries or territories starting with J once Japan and Japanese-occupied territories and then Indian territories are excluded. Jersey, how boring, Jamaica, interesting but so much to write about I thought I would do something shorter for this piece. Something to tease and have you look for material you might never have realized was out there.

Jubaland was a district in East Africa formerly part of Kenya ceded by Great Britain to Italy in 1925 and incorporated into Italian Somaliland. It was ceded to Italy as a reward for the Italians having joined the Allies in World War I and had a brief existence as the Italian Colony of Oltre Giuba also known as Trans Juba.

Italy issued its first postage stamps for the territory on 29 July 1925, consisting of contemporary Italian stamps overprinted Oltre Giuba (Trans-Juba). The stamps are listed as SG 1 through SG 43 and some examples are shown in Fig 1 through Fig 5.



Fig 1—SG1



Fig 2—SG2



Fig 3—SG4



Fig 4—SG14

If you do come across these don't ignore them. There are some very good catalogue values for these, especially in fine used condition for all values, and even more so for the higher values in Mint condition.



Fig 5—SG45b

The second issue appeared in 1926. A set of three to commemorate the Italian Royal Jubilee, using the Italian Victor Emmanuel III stamps, Fig 5 and again overprinted Oltre Giuba. In 1926 there were two more issues, again using Italian stamps with the overprint.

The St Francis of Assisi issue used 5 stamps Italian stamps, SG 47 – SG 51. A set worth looking out for as it has a very good catalogue value for fine used stamps. In my opinion an absolutely stunning set. Beautiful engraving and the designs are impressive.

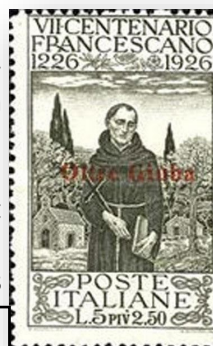


Fig 6—SG51

Philately Around the World - J is for Jubaland cont'd

A set of postage due stamps were issued in 1925, again overprinted on Italian stamps.



Fig 7—SGD30, 32-4

The First Anniversary of the acquisition of Jubaland was commemorated with an issue on April 21st 1926. This issue of 7 stamps might be better known to dealers as the stamps were specifically printed for the region and show the map of Oltre Giuba and its geographical position relative to Somalia and Kenya and is the only issue – as far as I know – that specifically recognizes the region.



Fig 8—SG189b

Jubaland was incorporated into neighbouring Italian Somaliland on 30 June 1926.

An interesting area to know about and look out for perhaps? And for a remote colony with a brief (1 year) existence perhaps this makes it one where genuine used stamps, especially on cover, might be a good find and investment as I suspect they are not that easy to find.

Michael Dodd

My Cup of Tea Persia Scott #419



Fig. 1—Certified Fake



Fig. 2—Certified Fake



Fig. 3—Certified Genuine

After living in the middle east in the 1970's, I learnt a few words in Farsi. Farsi is the language spoken in Teheran, Iran. One word that stuck out with me was 'chai'. It is the Farsi word for 'Tea'. Many years later as a specialist in Persian stamps, this word, 'CHAI', grabbed my attention.

The stamps seen above are the 1906 TABRIZ POSTMASTER PROVISIONAL ISSUE. From my research I have gleaned that these stamps were available for about two weeks. The handstamps were later sold to a dealer in Europe that hand-stamped many more stamps for collectors.*

To make life easy for all collectors think of Forrest Gump in that awesome movie, Forrest Gump.

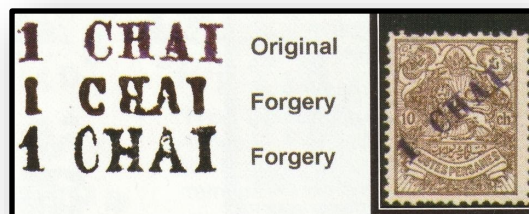
From left to right:

Fig 1—'there was FAT 'OLE RAIN'. The number '1' is way too fat and wrong shape (certified fake).

Fig 2—'there was skinny rain', too many letters (certified fake).

Fig 3—then remember when Forrest said, 'and one day, just like that the rain stopped' (certified genuine, US\$150.00).

If you ask me, keep an eye out for those \$150.00 cups of 'CHAI'. I would!



*Page 101, ICPR. M. Sadri, 2007



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter July 2020

How to Collect Penny Reds



The status of the Penny Black as ‘the stamp which changed the world’ is beyond doubt – but it did have one serious failing. Prior to its issue, Rowland Hill and his colleagues at the Post Office and at the printers, Perkins Bacon, had built a substantial number of features into the stamp, specifically to prevent forgery.

However, one potential difficulty seems to have been ignored until a late stage in the run-up to the issue of the first stamps; the possibility that the red cancellation might be cleaned off the black stamp, allowing it to be reused – on the face of it a much easier way of defrauding the Post Office than going to the trouble of printing our own stamps!

Accordingly, in the same month that the Penny Black was issued, trials began to determine how easy it might be to clean stamps which had already been used and whether there was a better combination of stamp and cancellation colours than black stamps cancelled by a red postmark. The end result of these trials was the decision to swap the colours around and introduce a red stamp which would be cancelled in black. So, in February 1841, just nine months after the issue of the Penny Black, it was replaced by the Penny Red.

The imperforate Penny Red then covered the standard letter rate in the United Kingdom until the arrival of the first officially perforated stamps in 1854 and is the subject of this article.

The poor man's Penny Black? There is a widely held view that the Penny Red is the poor man's Penny Black and on the face of it there is some logic to this, after all, a fine single Penny Red will cost you a fraction of the price of an equivalent Penny Black. This is not at all surprising as the black stamp was on sale for only nine months, while its red equivalent lasted for 13 years, and in a period when literacy and therefore letter-writing was growing fast.

This, of course, is the main appeal of the Penny Red over the Penny Black; to build up a substantial collection of Blacks, you cannot avoid spending a lot of money, while a similar-sized collection of Reds is within reach of most of us – although that is not to say that there are not some quite expensive items which you could include in your Penny Red collection, should you choose to.



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How to Collect Penny Reds cont'd

The Rainbow Trials. This is the series of trials to determine the best combination of stamp and cancellation colour. Special plates of three and 12 stamps were produced for the process, the individual stamps being characterized by a 'void' upper right corner.

Stamps were printed in black and shades of red, blue and green and may be found cancelled in a variety of ways and subjected to experiments carried out to remove those cancellations, sometimes virtually destroying the stamp in the process – perhaps one of the few occasions when it is acceptable to have a stamp in poor condition in your collection! Complete sheets of 'Rainbow trial' stamps are particularly desirable and even single stamps from them are not cheap, but they constitute an important part of the Penny Red story.

Plating. When the first Penny Reds were put on sale on 10 February 1841, they were printed from plates which had been previously used to print Penny Blacks and these 'black plate' stamps have special appeal to collectors, especially 'matched pairs' of black and red stamps from the same plate with the same corner letters.

In all, there were 173 different plates used to print the imperforate Penny Red, many of them existing in more than one 'state', (after repairs and renovations had been carried out) so plating Penny Reds can be a very considerable challenge, but 'reconstructing' plates from single used stamps can be done and will provide considerable satisfaction when achieved.

When a new plate was introduced, an 'imprimatur' sheet was provided to Somerset House for approval. Some stamps from these imprimatur sheets are now in private hands and offer another desirable aspect of Penny Red collecting – especially examples from the corner of the sheet showing the plate number in the margin.

Varieties and Errors. Printing plates were expensive to produce, so it was important that their usable life should be prolonged as much as possible and repairs were undertaken from time to time. Such repairs can be identified and are highly collectable, as, of course, are flaws in the original plate, which manifest themselves as scratches, guide lines, 'double letters' and other listed varieties.

The most famous of these is the BA stamp from plate 77, which originally omitted the letter 'A' from the bottom right corner, to produce the 'B-blank error'. This was eventually noticed and the 'A' inserted – creating another collectable variety, albeit much less desirable than the 'B-blank'.

Another star item is the 'Union Jack re-entry' on stamp LK from plate 75, where the upper corner squares, particularly the one on the right, show a cross over the usual 'star', resembling the national flag. This and the 'B-blank' are the two most famous Penny Red varieties, but there are many more, possibly including some which are yet to be documented.



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How to Collect Penny Reds cont'd

Cancellations. Postmarks can be a considerable aid to the plating enthusiast as they can be divided into three main groups, which coincide to some extent with the plates in use at the time. Initially, the Maltese cross remained in use, but this began to be replaced in 1844 by a numeral obliterator, known as the '1844 type'. Then, from 1853 the plain numerals were replaced by a single handstamp combining the numeral with the office name and date of posting – the 'Duplex'. Stamps cancelled by a Maltese cross are most likely to come from plates 1 to 36, although plates up to 45 can be found with them. The 1844-type cancel is then the most commonly found, with the duplex arriving in the last year of the imperforate Penny Red, the earliest date I am aware of being 24 February 1853.



Just as in the Penny Black period, locally produced or 'doctored' Maltese crosses can be found – the 'distinctive' types – and, while most crosses are black; blue, green, violet and red examples exist. From March 1843 a series of crosses with numbers 1 to 12 were brought into use at London Head Office and these numbered crosses are also desirable, especially No. 4.

Other possibilities include stamps cancelled by postal markings which should have been applied elsewhere on the cover, such as 'Penny Post' markings or dated 'Town' cancels. The 1844 types can also be found in a variety of colours, including blue, green, red, violet and yellow-brown. All of these can be found on-cover, although these will be at the expensive end of a Penny Red collection, along with large multiples, especially unused ones incorporating marginal markings, major errors and the 'Rainbow' trials.

However, the joy of collecting Penny Reds is that it does not have to be expensive. You can set the parameters of your collection to suit your own budget and still have all the pleasures enjoyed by the collector of Penny Blacks – and as your knowledge and experience grow, you will be able to identify scarce items which may have been overlooked previously – surely one of the great delights of philately.



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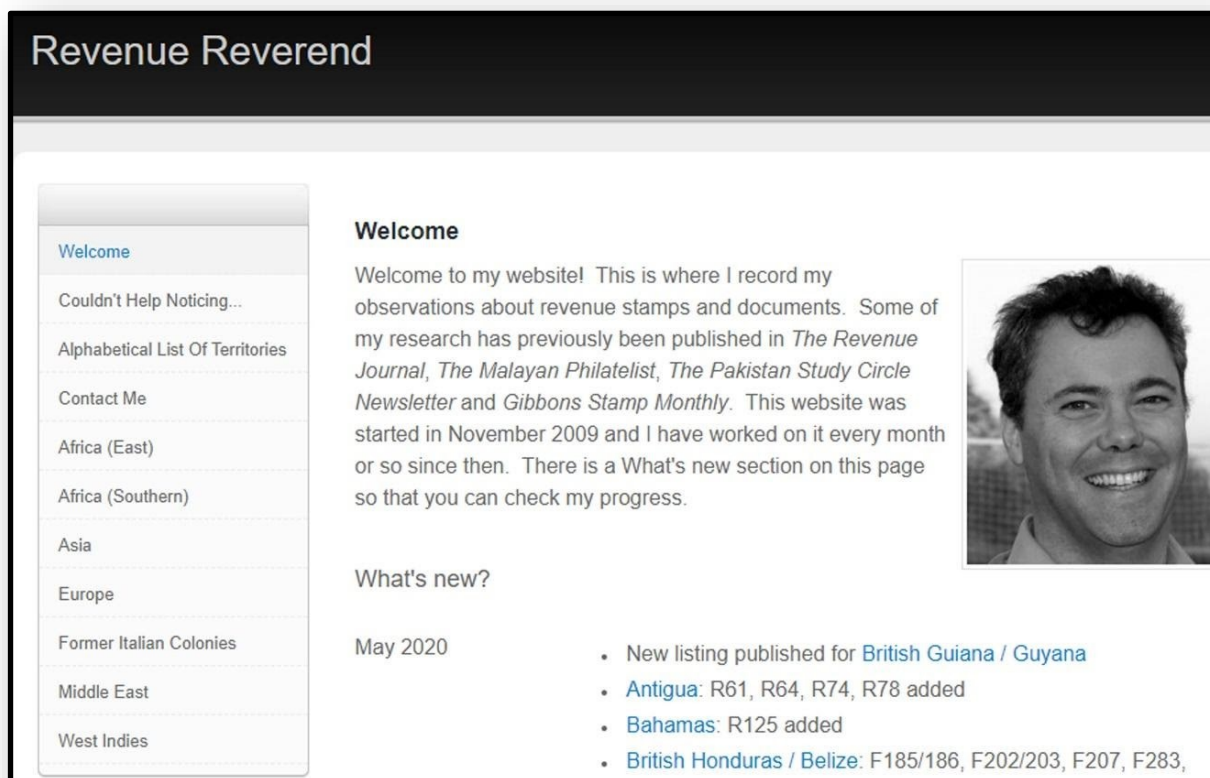
Newsletter July 2020

Revenues—A Very Useful Website

Every now and again I find a website that I cannot resist reading and then reading some more. This is one of them <https://www.revrevd.com/>

It is all about Revenue stamps and since I know close to nothing about them yet have a few from many countries in my stock albums it seems just the site to bookmark and keep going back to. It is interesting and informative reading, it is easy to read because it is extremely well laid out, and it is very comprehensive in its coverage of the material from over 125 countries and territories. Now if that is not comprehensive I don't know what is.

My thanks go to Andrew McClellan who has helped me and kindly given permission for me to write about his site and reproduce some of his text and images. Any errors or omissions are mine and mine alone.



The Home page. Simple and clear.



Revenues—A Very Useful Website.....cont'd

Let me give two examples to show you the scope of the contents and the presentation. You can explore more of the site yourself choosing a country or territory of interest to you.

The first is from Malta. I was researching some Malta stamps and this is how I came across this website.

Figure 1 shows the scope of the revenue stamps covered. Revenues can be of many uses and here we see a very comprehensive scope indeed.

Malta

Chapter overview

- Airport Charge (catalogue numbers prefixed A)
- Applications (catalogue numbers prefixed B)
- Contracts (catalogue numbers prefixed C)
- Entertainment Tax (catalogue numbers prefixed E)
- Impressed revenue stamps (catalogue numbers prefixed Z)
- Labels (catalogue numbers prefixed L)
- National Insurance (catalogue numbers prefixed N)
- Passport (catalogue numbers prefixed P)
- Postal Order poundage (catalogue numbers prefixed O)
- Ration Coupons (catalogue numbers prefixed K)
- Registers (catalogue numbers prefixed Q)
- Revenue (catalogue numbers prefixed R)
- Revenue usage of dual-purpose Postage and Revenue stamps (catalogue numbers prefixed F)
- Stocks and Shares (catalogue numbers prefixed S)
- Tobacco and Alcohol Excise (catalogue numbers prefixed X)
- Vehicle Licensing (catalogue numbers prefixed V)
- Workmen's Compensation (catalogue numbers prefixed W)

Issues for the **Anglo-Maltese League**, **Malta Relief Fund**, **MMDNA** (Malta Memorial District Nursing Association) and **Singer Sewing Machine Co** are listed under Labels.

Acknowledgments for the Malta section can be found at the foot of this page.

Fig. 1



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Revenues—A Very Useful Website.....cont'd



A very common usage is Contract Revenues and this image is taken from that section

The following is the detail supplied for each stamp and printing: 1925-26. Unappropriated key types as Revenue R41ff, but overprinted CONTRACTS at foot. Perf 14. Wmk Multiple Script CA. Printed (typo) by De La Rue in sheets of 240 (penny values), 168 (shilling values) or 120 (pound values).

- C1. ½d violet and black (1926)
- C2. 1d green and black (1926)
- C3. 3d red and black (1926)
- C4. 6d blue and black
- C5. 1s purple and black
- C6. 2s purple and black
- C8. 5s purple and black
- C9. 7s6d purple and black on yellow (1926)
- C10. 10s purple and black
- C11. £1 purple and black
- C12. £1 purple and black on green (1926)
- C13. £5 purple and black

Note: the existence of a 2s on yellow paper is known from the Crown Agents Requisition books and archival proof material but this has not been recorded as an issued stamp, and Wood (2009) suggests that it was perhaps never issued.

Printings:

- Req 5315 (sent to Malta 27th August 1925): 6d, 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s, £1, £5
- Req 5649 (sent to Malta 26th August 1926): ½d, 1d, 3d, 6d, 1s, 2s on yellow, £1 on green, £5
- Req 5610 (sent to Malta 30th October 1926): 7s6d



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Revenues—A Very Useful Website.....cont'd

Another country I am particularly interested in is Jamaica. Again we find a very comprehensive coverage of the following as described in the Chapter Overview.

- Coffee Industry Board (catalogue numbers prefixed B)
- Judicial (catalogue numbers prefixed J)
- Labels (catalogue numbers prefixed L)
- Revenue stamps excluding adhesive embossed (catalogue numbers prefixed R)
- Revenue usage of Postage stamps (catalogue numbers prefixed F)
- Social Security (catalogue numbers prefixed S)
- Telegraph (catalogue numbers prefixed T)

Impressed / embossed revenues:

- Adhesive embossed (catalogue numbers prefixed Y)
- Direct embossed (catalogue numbers prefixed Z)

Judicial

Printers: all issues to 1969 were printed (typo) by De La Rue, London

J1/5

1898 (according to Morley). Queen Victoria types as F16ff, overprinted **JUDICIAL** in bold sans-serif capitals 16 x 2½ mm. Perf 14. Wmk Crown CA.

J1. 3d sage-green
J2. 6d deep yellow
J3. 1s brown
 a. \$ for S in *SHILLING*
J4. 2s Venetian red
J5. 5s lilac

Note: J3a occurs on R2/2, UL pane.
Earliest recorded usage for this issue: 1899 (J4).

J3a enlarged to show variety

I particularly like the excellent images; In this case I have chosen just one example for you. This is the beginning of the Judicial stamps. There are a few pages more, all with clear detail and high quality images.

I hope this short introduction to this Revenue web site has been useful and has whet your appetite to read more.

Michael Dodd with thanks to Andrew McClellan



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Membership Numbers

We now have 133 members from 28 countries, and we're experiencing renewed interest from the trade, which is very gratifying.

Don't forget that the referral program is in place. Perhaps you could encourage a colleague to join us?

Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	18
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Canada	9
Croatia	2
France	3
Germany	4
Gibraltar	2
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Israel	1
Italy	3
Latvia	1
Malta	2
Mexico	1
Netherlands	8
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	2
Philippines	2
South Africa	3
Spain	3
Sweden	1
UK	22
USA	36
Total Paid Membership	133



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The Last Word

Remember this from last month's newsletter? People's Republic of China 1980 8f Year of the Monkey, in a full sheet of 80. The auctioneer, Zurich Asia, had an opening estimate of HK\$950,000-1,000,000 (£100,000, or US\$122,000) on the sheet. Interestingly, it sold below estimate at HK\$860,000 (£92,500 or US\$115,000), plus 15% commission. I would have expected it to sell at closer to HK\$1,200,000. You can't read too much into one result, but does this indicate a softening of the Chinese market?

