



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter December 2020

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You Can't Make This Stuff Up!

I'm always looking for nice sets of the 1937 New South Wales 150th Anniversary issue (SG193-5, Sc 163-5).

I clicked on the listing below, and yes, this is the only image on offer.



On the up side, they ARE discounted at the moment (20% off), but as I prefer the front of a stamp, I think I'll pass.

The seller proudly states that they have been in business for more than 60 years. There's hope for us all yet!

Editorial

Can any of us, in all honesty, be sad to see the end of 2020?

The unprecedented challenges the world has faced this year would have been unimaginable if they hadn't happened.

The impact that Covid-19 has had on society, family and business will be with us for an indefinite period as we try to find the "new normal".

It's my seasonal wish to you all that you are able to spend time with the people that really matter in your life, and celebrate the Festive Season.

I see that parents are being encouraged to foster the "Santa myth" for another year to children of a certain age, to help them get over 2020. Perhaps we can all believe in Santa and forget about Covid for at least a day?

Wherever you are, whatever your faith or creed, love your family, eat well and enjoy your drink of choice (in moderation of course!).

Hopefully 2021 will provide more joy than 2020.....



Cheers
Dave Sheridan
ipdaeditor@gmail.com



Membership

We now have 145 members from 30 countries, with two new members this month.

Abu Dhabi	1
Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	19
Belgium	2
Brazil	1
Canada	9
Croatia	2
France	3
Germany	4
Gibraltar	2
Hong Kong	1
Hungary	1
India	1
Indonesia	1
Israel	1
Italy	4
Latvia	1
Malta	2
Mexico	1
Netherlands	7
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	2
Philippines	2
Serbia	1
South Africa	3
Spain	3
Sweden	1
UK	25
USA	41
Total Paid Membership	145



New Members

Date: 11/30/20

Name: **David Eisenhauer**

Member Number: 401

Date became a member: 11/30/20

Business Name: BNA STAMP GEMS

Business Website: <https://www.ebay.com/str/BNASTAMPGEMS>

Specializes in: British North America

Email: dieisenhauer@gmail.com

Location: Beaverton, Oregon, USA

Referred By: On line Philately Group

Member Discounts: I am not familiar enough with the membership to feel comfortable in offering any discount at the present time. Perhaps in the future

Date: 11/12/20

Name: **Lorenzo Mantegna**

Member Number: 400

Date became a member: 11/12/20

Business Name: Lorman-Melita52

Business Website: <https://www.ebay.it/usr/melita52>


Specializes in: Philatelic item collected in over 50 years of collection in which I'm no longer interested in, Malta Stamps and postal history other than postcards and Coins, other stamps, coins postcards and some coins from Italy and Worldwide.

Email: l.mantegna@hotmail.it

Location: Milan, Italy

Referred By: Facebook Ad

Member Discounts: Will be done due to the amount of purchase.



**Promote your business
by being an accredited
internet stamp seller**

**so you don't want to pay a renewal fee in 2021
— no worry.....**

**Refer a friend, another internet seller you
recommend to join the IPDA**

**You get free 2021 membership if the referral
gets accepted before mid December**

And, here is the good news

**Your friend only has to pay the 2021 renewal fee
— saving the 2020 joining and membership fee.**

Now that is a win win



The APS Stamp Theft committee is alerting the collecting community about a theft in Walnut Creek, CA.

Merle E. Spencer reported a theft that occurred on Thursday, November 5 between 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm. from his store at 2678 N. Main St., Suites 1 & 2, Walnut Creek, CA 94597.

The items stolen were the three most expensive plastic binders of his material. Each of the three binders was about one inch thick and included 20-23 Hagner pages.

The most valuable volume, approximately \$150,000, consisted of United States material. A second volume was of Great Britain material beginning from number 1. The third volume was his second volume of British Commonwealth covering Hong Kong to Z.

Mr. Spencer has colored photocopies of most of the U.S. items stolen.

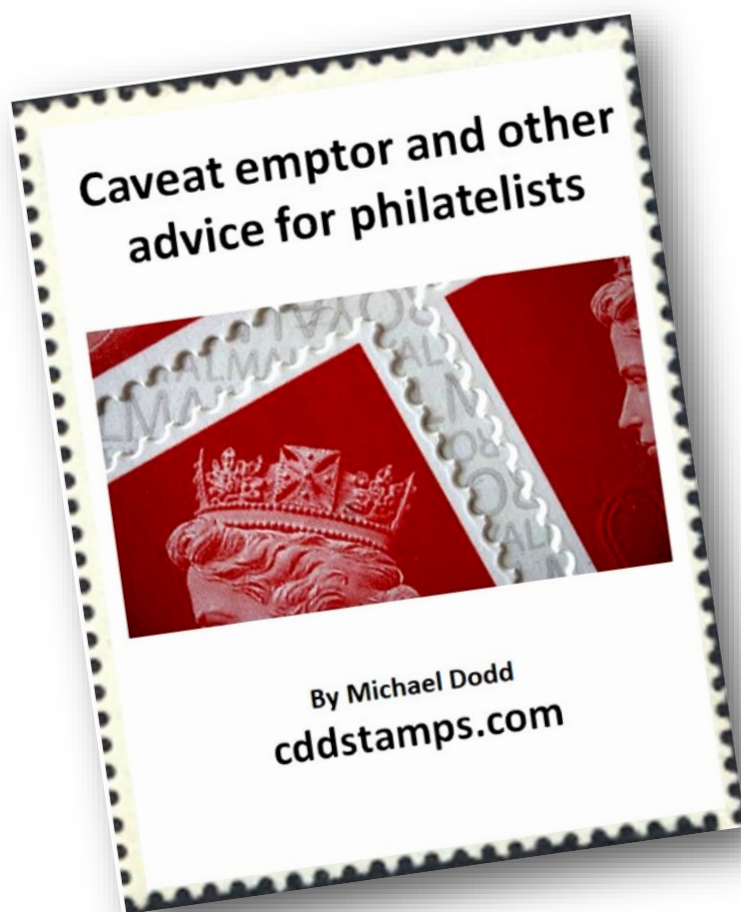
Officer Villa of the Walnut Creek Police Department took the report of the theft. The report number is 2027-743.

Should you come in contact with any of this material, please contact:

- Your local police department
- The Walnut Creek Police Department at 925-943-5844
- Mr. Spencer at 925-944-9111
- The APS Stamp Theft Committee at stamptheft@stamps.org

A New Book

Member, General Secretary, and owner of cddstamps.com, Michael Dodd, has published a book entitled "Caveat emptor and other advice for philatelists".



"Buyer beware and other advice for stamp collectors who buy on the internet and stamp sellers who have an internet store for selling their stamps. You will read about many do's and don'ts, what to look out for when buying and selling and some examples of the hidden meanings, perhaps, behind what you see in stamp listings on the internet"

- Michael Dodd



The 62-page book, illustrated in colour, is available as an eBook [here](#) and in softcover [here](#).

Rumour has it that Michael will autograph the softcover on request.

Congratulations to Michael for the publication, and I wish him well with sales to all of you!

By Dave Sheridan



What is Selling and What is Not

A piece just for this December issue of our Newsletter to end a horrible year.

Something to cheer us all up, perhaps! This is your competition. This is what you are up against in the online world of stamp selling. Sadly this is what collectors see and perhaps set some standards by. Let's hope not. Perhaps someone out there as an IPDA member can take on the task of helping promote why we are all IPDA Members and why we should be trying harder than ever to promote IPDA members as sellers that collectors can trust.

No other philatelic organization is doing anything to stamp out these sellers! I couldn't resist that pun.

No other philatelic organization seems to care about the quality of what is being sold online, or the credibility of sellers.

No online stamp portal does anything to control quality or set even the most basic of standards for listing stamps for sale or auction.

An unregulated world, free enterprise, is all very well, but is it acceptable in its present form? Is this what we all want to accept? That is not what the IPDA stands for is it? Can we make 2021 different?



Philately Around the World - O is for Orange Free State

My sincere thanks to Wikipedia and the Orange Free State Study Circle web site from which I found useful material to help write this short introduction to the stamps and history of the Orange Free State. I do recommend a visit the Study Circle [here](#) to read and see more. Any errors are mine and with apology.

The Orange Free State was an independent Boer sovereign republic under British suzerainty (in simplistic terms this means the right of a country to partly control another) in Southern Africa during the second half of the 19th century. It ceased to exist after it was defeated and surrendered to the British Empire at the end of the second Boer War in 1902.

The Orange Free State was annexed to the British Crown and renamed the Orange River Colony on 28 May 1900. In 1910 this colony along with Cape of Good Hope, Natal and Transvaal formed the Union of South Africa.

The first Orange Free State stamps were issued in 1868 (Fig 1) . The sole design used was an orange tree, with the inscription "Oranje Vrij Staat" in the margin.



Fig 1. SG7, 1868

The stamps were typographed by De La Rue and came in denominations from one penny to five shillings, in various colours.

Periodic shortages forced the use of overprints in 1877, 1881, 1882, 1888, 1890, 1892, 1896, and 1897.

The stamps of the republic are generally common today, but some of the overprints are scarce. Many kinds of overprint errors are known (inverted, double, etc.), and some of them command high prices.



Fig 2. SG36, 1882
Overprint surcharge

In 1900, the British occupied the O.F.S., the previous stamps being overprinted "V.R.I." (Victoria Regina Imperatrix, Latin for Victoria, Queens and Empress) and with the same value of the original stamps.

Collecting stamps from this period is challenging as I read it, as there were 17 separate printing operations.

Readers can find out more on the Orange Free State Study Circle website.

Collecting stamps from this period is challenging as I read it, as there were 17 separate printing operations. Readers can find out more on the Orange Free State Study Circle website.

An example of the first printing is shown in Fig3. This has the dots level with the letters, whereas on a later printing as in Fig 4 the dots were raised. There are many other differences to be studied which I will not try to explain here because the Study Circle does a very good job.



Fig 3. SG104, 1900



Fig 4. SG112, later

Philately Around the World - O is for Orange Free State.....cont'd

The colony was renamed in August 1900 and used Cape of Good Hope stamps overprinted with the new name "ORANGE/RIVER/COLONY." Fig 5.



Fig 5. SG133, 1900

In 1902 a 6d stamp was overprinted as the original occupation issues but with "E.R.I." (Edward Rex Imperator, for Edward VII) instead of "V.R.I.". (Fig 6)



Fig 6. SG137, 1902



Fig 7. SG144, 1903

In 1903 a set was issued portraying King Edward VII, a springbok and a gnu (Fig 7). This set was printed again in 1905-09, and is the last set of the colony.

As I mentioned you can learn more from a visit to the Orange Free State Study Circle. Well worth a visit. This from the home page. A lovely welcome I thought.

"The whole range of the many philatelic aspects of the country, from 1848 to 1910, is studied including the postage stamps with their postmarks and the rates of postage, the stationery, the revenue and telegraph stamps and the story of the Anglo Boer War with its effect on the Orange Free State and later, the Orange River Colony.

The links include a viewing of a few of the rarities to be found which add to the fascination of collecting this country.

To quote the late Robson Lowe: "The study of the stamps of the OFS is an excellent exercise for the brain and a complete panacea for the ills of this troubled world." This is as true now as it ever was!"

By Michael Dodd



We Should Offer This Dealer Free Membership!

In these days when the majority of dealers are charging exorbitant prices, and sending out torn, badly soiled and imperfect stamps, it is certainly exercising one's common-sense to trade with a dealer who makes it his prime object to sell only stamps in perfect condition, and at the **LOWEST POSSIBLE PRICES.**

What more disgusting sight can there be to the true collector than an unused stamp from which the corner is missing, or a used specimen so badly clipped, that it is doubtful just what stamp you are looking at. Yet it is a fact that there is not one dealer in fifty who is particular in these matters. Such a thing is certainly dishonest, if nothing more.

And again, what collector has not found several, if not one half, of the stamps in a packet he has purchased, torn or badly soiled. It is the favorite trick with the majority of dealers to "work off" their bad copies in packets.

The undersigned, appreciating the fact that intelligent collectors want good stamps for their money, makes it his specialty to sell only stamps which are in the best condition, and he solicits correspondence from all who would get an equivalent for their money.

In the matter of prices, mine will be found as low as those of any dealer, while in a large number of cases, they are very much lower. It is not my object to charge 25 cents for a stamp costing me 2 cents, neither do I wish to obtain \$10.00 for one costing 50 cents. This is the ratio of profit charged by more dealers than collectors are aware, and it is time we had a little old-fashioned honesty in the stamp business.

My new ten-page price-list, acknowledged to be one of the best and most complete in America, will be sent free to any collector forwarding his address, and I only ask that a comparison be made between my prices and those of other dealers. Address,

This dealer is aligned with our Code of Ethics, seems to be honourable, and serious about customer service. Free Life Membership maybe?

Unfortunately, that's not possible, as this clipping is from Volume 1, Number 1, of the "Quaker City Philatelist", published in January 1886. The dealer was F.L. Perry, of the marvellous address 114½ Exchange Street, Portland, Maine. I haven't found any further information on this seller as yet.

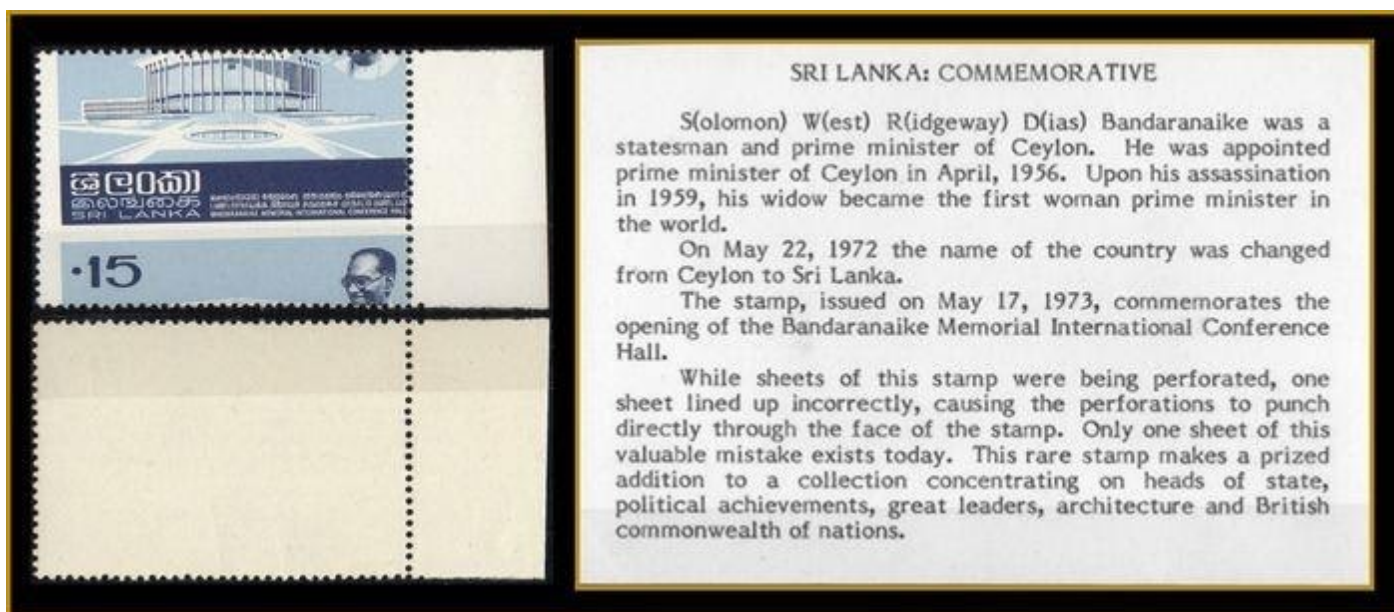
The more things change, the more they stay the same!

A Special Offer for Members Only



STANLEY GRIFFITHS STAMP CO

Sri Lanka 1973 Misperforation - only 100 pieces exist



Sri Lanka 1973 - Misperforation Unitrade catalogue value €450

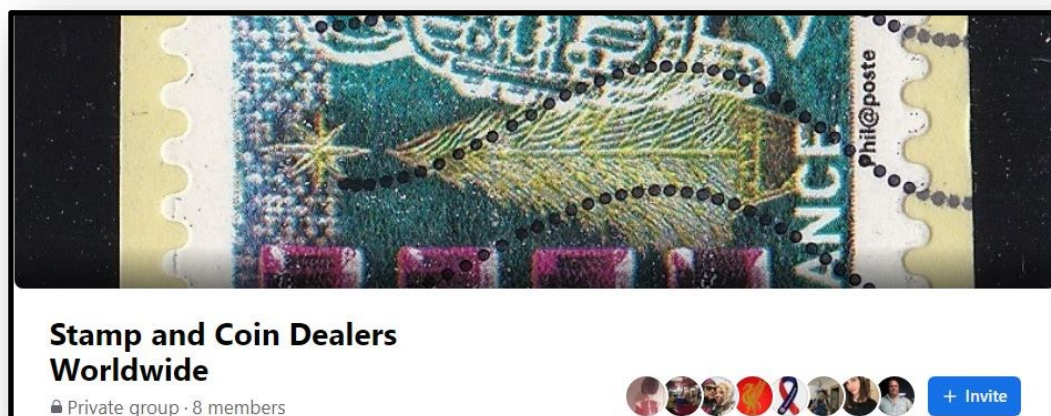
MNH (Mint never hinged)

Only 100 sheets were printed. **Only one sheet with misperforation.**
The stamp depicts the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall

Contact member [Jon Griffiths](#) for more information and a special price



A New Dealer-to-Dealer Platform



Member Kevin Morgan, owner of [21st Century Auctions](#) and publisher of [Stamp News Australasia](#), has created a new Facebook group to enable and encourage dealers to interact.

The group, [Stamp and Coin Dealers Worldwide](#), is designed to enable dealers to list requirements, sell/exchange trade lots, and share information about shows, auctions, thefts and so on.

Kevin says:

"We are always willing to do bulk trade deals. We have a wide range of collections and dealer stocks available, which includes Australia and Territories, Great Britain, plus most European Countries, including Germany, Russia, Finland, Switzerland, Sweden, Denmark, Faroes, Greenland, Norway, Italy, Vatican and San Marino. We also hold good stock of Burma and India, and Japan to 1960.

We also have a very good stocks of Australian States, Kangaroos, KGV Heads and general pre-decimal both mint, used and cto, worldwide Postal History and Postcards.

We also buy and sell coins to the trade. Currently we have a 1930 1d, several 1923 ½d's, and bulk quantity of 1937 Crowns ranging from EF to Choice Uncirculated.

Also certain dates of KGVI & QEII florins ex mint rolls. Let us know what you have to sell/trade or want to buy. We are always in need of Australian postage and modern Australia and World on paper"



I know from being in Kevin's premises and dealing with him that he has significant stocks, and I'm sure that many of us do. I think this new Facebook group is an excellent opportunity for us to replenish and refresh stock.

Why not join the group and help get the ball rolling?

STAMP NEWS
AUSTRALASIA

By Dave Sheridan

Conquering Mt Everest—By Air

Most people know that the first person to scale Mt Everest was Sir Edmund Hillary, along with his Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay, in 1953. However, I doubt that many people know anything about the first flight over the Holy Mountain, which took place twenty years previously.

Proposed by Lord Clydesdale and funded by Lady Houston, the venture became known as the Houston Expedition. Flying open-cockpit Westland Wallace aircraft (Fig 1), the goal was to make a photographic reconnaissance survey.



Fig 1: The aircraft over Mt Everest

The summit was crossed successfully on 3 April 1933. Fortunately for philatelists, a small bag of mail was carried, as was the case in almost every pioneering flight at that time.

Fig 2 shows Colonel P.T. Etherton handing a crewman the bag.

A total of 68 covers were flown, 60 on 3 April, and 8 on 19 April (this number has also been quoted as 87, which is believed to be incorrect).

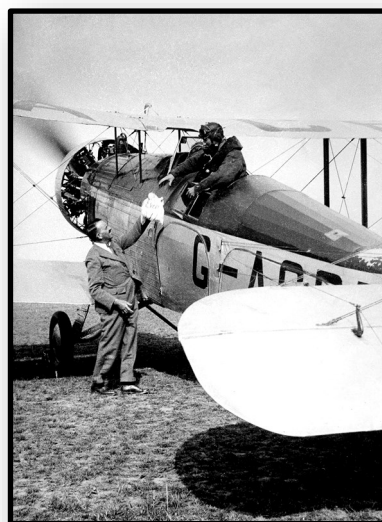


Fig 2: The bag of mail going aboard



Fig 3: Sold by Spinks for \$2,000

Although the covers are exceedingly scarce, they do appear on the market from time to time.

Fig 3 shows a plain cover that sold in Spink's auction 128 in 2010 for US\$2,000.

Surprisingly, some more aesthetically appealing covers have sold for much less.

Fig 4 is a cover showing the official cachet and etiquette. It went unsold in Grosvenor auction 89 in 2014.

Fig 4: Unsold at auction in 2014



Conquering Mt Everest....cont'd

The unfranked front in Fig 5 was in the same sale and sold for a low £95.

Two covers with humidity damage were sold in Sparks auction 32 in April 2020.

Despite the issue with condition they achieved C\$900. See Fig 6.

Both covers, along with the front in Fig 5, are signed by Stephen H Smith, who is considered the "Father of Aerophilately" in India, and was honoured with a stamp in 1992 (Fig 7).



Fig 5: Sold at auction for £95 in 2014



Fig 6: Sold at auction for C\$900 in 2020



Fig 7: India SG 1522

A superb [documentary](#) of the flight was made in 1934 and is well worth a look.

I hope you enjoyed this article as much as I enjoyed doing the research.

By Dave Sheridan



Selling Tip of the Month

Make Your Potential Customers Feel Like You Care About Them and Their Collecting

Isn't it common sense, and doesn't it make good business practice, to welcome your customers in friendly tone and manner? Even over the internet this can be done. "Welcome to our store". How simple is that?

It seems not for some sellers. Proud to be an APS member I am sure – and obviously the APS are real proud to have a member like this. Found below is a sellers listing details - exactly as typed by them.

It really made me want to buy from this seller, NOT! Maybe I was just brought up in an era where friendliness, politeness, respect and integrity mattered. It seems these things are unknown words to so many internet sellers these days. I welcome thoughts. Perhaps I am wrong!!

This lot offered on < name of portal omitted> by <name of seller omitted>. Some notes about how I do business....My objective in selling stamps online is to get good stamps to my customers at the lowest possible cost.--> My prices as a percentage of catalog value are lower than nearly any other online seller.-->Shipping is free for orders over \$20 (\$30 for overseas).--> Shipping is by regular first class mail, without tracking or protection against loss, unless the customer requests and pays for special handling. (See below for more information)--> A large majority of my listings are without scans; it's simply not practical to make scans for every item I list. Effective June 2017, I only provide scans for small items with prices \$10 or more. You are welcome to request scans of the items you are interested in if there are only a few. And any item you buy that you are not happy with can be returned for a full refund. So if you order a large number of items, then instead of asking me to make scans of all of them before ordering, simply place the order, and you can return any stamps you are not happy with. On the other hand, if you require that every stamp in your collection be superb, then go to a dealer, look at the stamp, and pay full catalog value or more for it. Although I occasionally overlook a fault with a stamp in making my listings, 99% of the stamps I list will be acceptable to 99% of collectors. Unless other arrangements are made between buyer and seller, all lots are shipped by regular first class mail, without tracking, and without protection against loss. I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR LOST SHIPMENTS SENT BY REGULAR FIRST CLASS MAIL. If you want your shipment protected against loss, you must request and pay for the special handling. I have made thousands of shipments of lots since 1998 with only a handful of complaints from customers about not receiving their lots; and it is VERY RARE for this to happen for shipments within the United States. Any lot consisting of a single stamp or a small group of stamps can be returned for a full refund if you feel they are not as described in the listing, or if the listing did not include a scan and you are not happy with what you got. Accumulations and other large lots can only be returned under extreme circumstances -- as, for example, if I send you the wrong lot. Please contact me at before returning any lots. Overseas customers are responsible for any customs fees that might be incurred on shipments to their countries. Note that small lots will be shipped in regular letter-size envelopes and will most likely not have to go through customs.<{name and APS member number omitted}>

By Michael Dodd

Stamp Club the Other Night

The other night at stamp club I gave a small presentation on one of my Persian stamps. I am proud of my Persian stamps and feel that I am an expert on identifying fakes from forgeries. And like most collectors/sellers if I don't know, then I don't know and will 'pass' on giving my opinion.

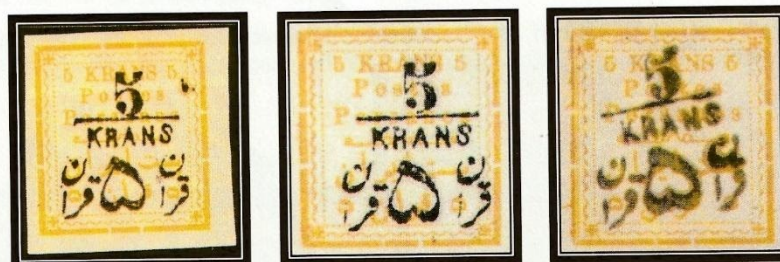
The stamp in question was/is Scott# 308 from 1902, the five Kran stamp. Below are two examples of this issue. One is certified real and the other, with a post mark, is a fake.



Certified genuine



Fake/suspect



Genuine

Forgery

Forgery



After showing the stamp club all this information, I still had one senior member question me with, 'how can you tell that's not ink transfer or the lack there of?'

Stamp Club the Other Night.....cont'd

The entire ZOOM meeting got deadly quiet. I replied with, "I just showed you the information from a reference manual from an expert. What part did you miss?".

I guess he missed this part of my shared information -



Page 75, IPCR with arrows

I hope **you** haven't missed the information. Keep an eye out for the large bar size on the left (see arrows). Also you do not want gum on the back of any stamp that has a post mark.

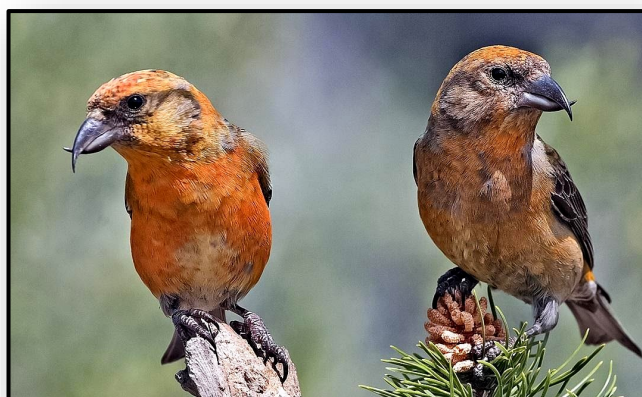
Well, there you have it. A \$50.00 stamp or a \$1.00 stamp all comes down to the horizontal bar in the center of the handstamp.

As always, need help with Persian stamps? Shoot me an email.

By Lee Coen

A Red Crossbill?

Not being a topical collector has definitely caused me to open my eyes about the possibilities of collecting interests that a collector can 'collect' if you will. One such area of popularity is Birds. Thousands and thousands of stamps have birds printed on them and I can see why they are collected by collectors, they are simply amazing.



Male Red Crossbills

And what brought this up? I was listing some filler CTO stamps into my Hipstamp store. One such stamp, (Scott 1838 see below), caused me to wonder if it was an error in printing. Was I ever wrong.



A quick check of Wikipedia and I have been enlightened. The bills are crossed so that the birds are able to eat certain fruit:

*....The red crossbill (*Loxia curvirostra*) is a small passerine bird in the finch family Fringillidae, also known as the common crossbill in Eurosiberia. Crossbills have distinctive mandibles, crossed at the tips, which enables them to extract seeds from conifer cones and other fruits....*

And once again, stamps have taught me just one more thing about the world I live in. The beaks on those birds are made that way. Pretty cool!

By Lee Coen

Sometimes, Things Just Don't Go Well

Stamp designers and engravers are, quite rightly, held in great esteem. The tiny works of art they produce are the reason we have businesses.

However, things don't always go well between the concept stage and the issue stage. With tongue firmly planted in cheek, these are a few of my personal favourite examples.



Canada 1953 (SG450-60). A lovely photo portrait by Yousuf Karsh was used for the first QEII definitives.

Between essay and issue, Her Majesty became pinch-faced and somewhat shrewish. Not a flattering stamp.



Chile, 1943 1p (SG348)

The engraver didn't include any lines of definition between the moustache and upper lip, thus creating a "Planet of the Apes"-like result.



Australia 1976 18c P. E. Warburton—Explorer (SG621). Meet an apparently new species of camel! If we can suggest that Warburton was of average height for the time, the camel's neck would be about 7 feet long, and its head around 4 feet. One of Australia's worst sets in my opinion.

And finally....

New Zealand 1971 5c+1c Health (SG962). This one always makes me smile. If you've seen any movies featuring "Chucky", you might agree.



By Dave Sheridan