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An Acerbic Editor

No, not me! These gems come from the 1880's. The last one is a sight to behold!

"Thanks for your letter. The irregularity in the perforation of the stamps you mention is now accepted as an accomplished fact—and a bore"

"Declined with thanks. We could have cribbed your contribution ourselves from the same source that you did."

"Yes, we received your letter, which, being anonymous, was forthwith destroyed"

*"Mr C of Hull, calls upon us to expose the nefarious practices of a Mr C Killick, who dates his letters from Tollington House, Farringdon, Berks. This sinful youth sent, unsolicited, to Mr C a parcel of forty three stamps, of which only four are genuine. The remainder, which have been sent to us for inspection, are low-class forgeries. If Mr Killick is cognizant of the nature of his wares, **hanging** is too good for him. If he is not able to recognize a palpable forgery when he sees one, he ought still to be hanged to warn him and others against dealing in what they know nothing about"*

Editorial

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank the many members who participated in the Annual General Meeting. It was a very healthy quorum, albeit mainly by proxy.

I would also like to thank Alan Devine for his dedication to the IPDA and good luck for the future (see the AGM report on pages 2-3 for more information on Alan's contribution to the Association).

Accordingly, we have a new Chairman, Lee Coen from Arizona, USA. Lee is a military veteran, motor-bike riding, expert on the stamps of Persia/Iran. An interesting combination!

As you know, Lee has contributed numerous articles to the Newsletter and is an active contributor to our [Facebook](#) page. Please offer him your full support in the promotion of the IPDA.

The Association has lost a number of members after renewal time, no doubt reflecting the difficult trading conditions faced by everyone at this very difficult time. I can only urge you to promote the IPDA on your sites, listings and correspondence.

The more relevant we can become, the sooner we can attract new membership.

Have you noticed the brighter, more attractive, banner at the top of this page? I've always thought that black wasn't the most appropriate colour. I've also tried to improve image quality in this edition.

Member's suggestions for further design improvements are more than welcome.



Cheers
Dave Sheridan
ipdaeditor@gmail.com



Annual General Meeting Report

Attendance – 69 members either in person or by Proxy - In attendance Michael Dodd, Ken Sanford, James Capelle.

Opening remarks: Michael Dodd, the General Secretary, opened the meeting in the absence of the Chairman who had sent his apology because he was in hospital.

As you know Alan is stepping down as Chairman. I would like to say thank you to Alan, on behalf of the Committee and Members of the IPDA, for his contribution to the IPDA over the years.

It is because of him and some other colleagues the IPDA was formed. A visionary move nearly 20 years ago as we are an Association that is needed now even more than it was back then. Also the reason the IPDA is still around was Alan's commitment back in 2018 when we held an EGM to revitalize the Association. His contribution to the IPDA has been enormous. Thank you Alan.

Ken Sandford agreed with this recognition.

Item 1 on the Agenda: Verification of Members present and proxies. Total Paid up Membership as of 24th March is 127. (for the record, 21 members had not renewed since the Membership number published in the March IPDA Newsletter).

The total voting count including Proxy Votes is 69 votes or 54% of the membership.

A quorum is 10% of the financial membership as per Constitution clause 10.2 A quorum was therefore present.

The following are the voting records for each Motion:

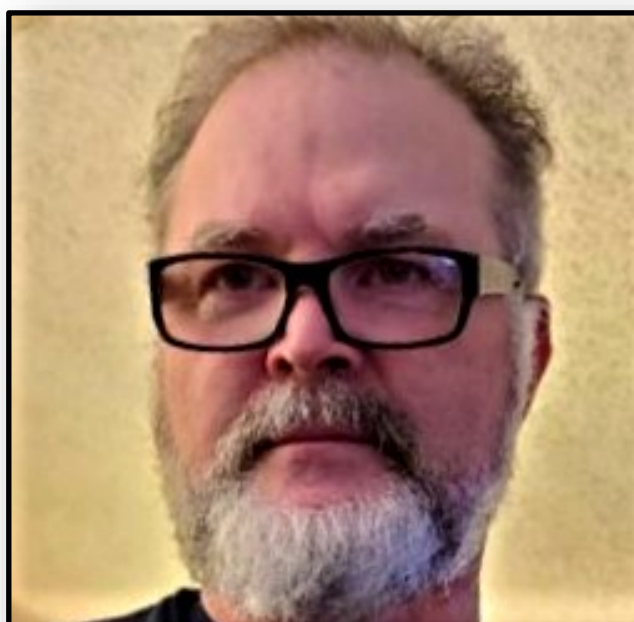
AGENDA #	Item Topic—Motions to vote as follows:	Yes	No	Abstain
2	Accept minutes of 2020 meeting	66	0	3
3	Accept Annual Report and Directors Statements	65	1	3
4.1	For the election of Lee Coen as Chairman	65	0	4
4.2.1	for the re-election of Lee Coen as Director USA (see item 4.1)	65	0	4
4.2.2	for the re-election of Dave Sheridan Director Australia	62	0	7
4.3.1	Approve appointing Advertising & Marketing Director member	65	0	4
4.3.2	Approve \$2320 for promotional activities – social media	63	0	6
4.3.3	Approve \$2350 for promotional activities – exhibitions	60	4	5
4.3.4	Approve the 2021 Operating Budget	63	0	6
4.4	Nominate and accept < nominee > to be Director Advertising and Marketing – Board appointment Motion Passed in	-	-	-

Annual General Meeting Report....cont'd

AGENDA #	Item Topic—Motions to vote as follows:	Yes	No	Abstain
4.5.1	Nominate and accept < nominee> to be Confidential List Office – Non Board appointment Motion Passed in No Nominee	-	-	-
4.5.2	Nominate and accept < nominee> to be Internal Auditor –	-	-	-
5.1	To introduce a new membership category of Associate Member	43	2	24

Congratulations Lee I am confident you will excel in the role as Chairman.

Minutes written by Michael Dodd IPDA General Secretary 25th March 2021, Philippines.



Lee Coen, the new Chairman of the IPDA

Lee, based in Arizona, is an expert in the stamps of Persia/Iran. His website can be found at bluecollarwrench.net.

(editor's note—I hope Lee doesn't mind me appropriating this portrait, I rather like it!)



Membership

Membership currently stands at 128 from 23 countries.

Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	19
Belgium	1
Brazil	1
Canada	7
Croatia	2
France	3
Germany	3
Gibraltar	2
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Israel	1
Italy	4
Mexico	1
Netherlands	6
New Zealand	1
Philippines	2
South Africa	3
Spain	2
Sweden	1
UK	26
USA	38
Total Paid Membership	128

One new (returning) member this month:

Date: 3/18/2021

Name: Paul Neidig

Member Number: (returning member) 197

Date became a member: 3/18/2021

Business Name: Bayside Stamp Company

Business Website: <https://BaysideStamps.com>

Specializes in: US and Worldwide Stamps and Supplies

Email: paulneidig@outlook.com

Location: Middletown, PA USA

Referred By: An IPDA member

Member Discounts: 15% - Email for coupon code

20 members have not renewed since the Membership number published in the March Newsletter.

Of these, 5 have advised they are not renewing their membership and 15 have not replied to renewal request emails.

As at the March Newsletter the 148 members were from 30 countries. This has now reduced to 23 countries with the 20 members who have not renewed as at 25th March.





The Philatelic Register

Promotional Issue Vol. 1 No.1 (1) v2

THE PHILATELIC REGISTER

FREE
Subscription only

Click banner on any
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A fortnightly resource promoting and connecting all aspects of philately

In This Issue.

Featured Society

Cape & Natal
Study Circle

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Natal: The 1877 ½ HALF
Surcharges

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CGH: Postcards circa
1900-1906

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From the "Lost"
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Censorship and the
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The £5 Stamp of
Great Britain and it's
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Through The Lens

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Great Britain Focus

1976 Social Reformers
8½p value

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Collector's Conundrums

[Page 50](#)

It is the creation of IPDA Member, Ian Lasok-Smith and is a very good, high quality, production.

The first two issues have been filled with interesting articles and, knowing Ian, that will be a trend that will continue in the months ahead.

Rather than say anymore myself let me give you Ian's opening comments and here is a link to subscribe - [The Philatelic Register](#)

Philatelic Register. Inspiration, Aims and Objectives

I have been dealing in stamps since 1999, and I was a collector for over 20 years. I remain a collector at heart. My interest in philately began in an era when there were weekly and fortnightly philatelic publications. These as well keeping all with an interest in matters philatelic more regularly up to date with developments, undoubtedly generated an enthusiasm and sense of anticipation among collectors and dealers alike.

Over the years I have spent many rewarding hours browsing through philatelic publications going back 70 years or more. In addition to the "learned" articles in these publications, many at risk of being permanently lost, the reader's letters and some of the advertisements give testimony to the enthusiasm of collectors of the time, and as such are as much worth preserving as the articles themselves.

In more recent times, with the technology now available, I have in similar fashion browsed the digital media. I have become more aware of how wide the philatelic "umbrella" is and have realised how easy it is to become completely absorbed in just one narrow field.

In many instances I am finding new philatelic fields e.g. Polar Postal History, by accident rather than being directed towards them. It is my hope that The Philatelic Register will, with the aid of today's technology help to recreate the enthusiasm and anticipation of past years and hopefully prove that in truth it never really disappeared.



The Philatelic Register.....cont'd

Philatelic Register will, with the aid of today's technology help to recreate the enthusiasm and anticipation of past years and hopefully prove that in truth it never really disappeared.

The intention is to appeal to all collectors whatever their field of interest, be they specialist or more general in their approach.

It is hoped that as the Journal evolves it will become a reliable, valuable and, by virtue of its fortnightly publication, an up to date source of information for collectors, and fair organisers, local and specialist philatelic societies who wish to promote events.

For those societies that wish to utilise the resource, it will hopefully provide a showcase and help to shine a light on those that do not normally get much exposure.

Above all, through highlighting what is happening in the philatelic world today, be it at the fairs and shows or local and specialist societies, and by taking a look back at what was happening in decades gone by, I would like not only to keep alive the spirit of the collectors of those days, but also infuse the collectors of today with their enthusiasm.

By broadening horizons hopefully those already engaged with philately, if only as yet in a small or token manner, will see and consider the myriad opportunities it offers, and perhaps also be converted from collector to philatelist.

Ian Lasok-Smith Owner, editor and publisher of The Philatelic Register.

(editor's note—Ian operates a number of websites, www.gbspecialiststamps.co.uk, www.elizabethanstamps.co.uk, www.machinstamps.co.uk and www.gbkingstamps.co.uk. Please visit and support the Philatelic Register.)



The Ram Tank

As someone that spent many years and hours of his life in the US Military, anything having to do with militaria will catch my attention, especially on stamps. While searching for and listing Canadian stamps I found this stamp listed as 'Ram Tank'.



Canada Scott #259 1942

I searched the web and learned that this Ram Tank weighed 25 tons and had a top speed of about the same in miles per hour on the battlefield. From my research I also gleaned that three separate engravers had their hands on the design of this stamp. One engraver produced the image while another produced the background work, and a third completed the frame work around this stamp.

What has me scratching my head is that the 14c stamp had a postal run of 14,878,362 stamps. That is a lot of stamps to produce and sell in 1942 when money became really scarce. Further research has led me to the 13c Ram Tank stamp of the same series.



Canada Scott #258 1942

This 13c stamp was produced only 4 million times during the same time period. I am lost as to why? Times were tough in the 40's. I would think the cheaper stamp would have sold more.

The catalogue also lists some imperforated pairs of both the 13c as well as the 14c stamps. I have been unable to locate any examples to post here.

By Lee Coen

(editor's note—as the 13c was issued first, I imagine that an increase in postage rate would be responsible for the 14c replacing it. I can't find anything to back that up, but I'm sure someone will!)

The Gronchi Rosa Forgeries



THE GRONCHI ROSA FORGERIES

Paolo Vaccari
(From the article published in "Vaccari Magazine" 19/98)

Rose Gronchi L. 205
issued on 3 April 1961



Grey Gronchi L. 205
issued on 6 April 1961

In the years we have read a bit of everything about the forgeries of the rose Gronchi. In some foreign magazines or booklets from philatelic associations, the forged stamps have also been described as forgeries of the time, that is to say those stamps put into circulation to defraud the Post Administration! This was impossible in the specific case, because the "rose" stamp was officially sold only on 3 April 1961 (Easter Monday). Moreover, in order not to cause any diplomatic incident with Peru, due to the wrong geographic borders printed on the stamp, it was withdrawn the very following day and reproduced with the right borders and the colour changed into grey on 6 April, thanks to the great industriousness and abnegation to work shown by the staff of the State Printing Works and Stationery Office in Rome. The 6 April was in fact the day when President Gronchi left for an official visit to Argentina, Uruguay (commemorated with the L. 170 and 185 values) and Peru (L. 205). The new grey printing, revised and corrected, was stuck - at the expenses of the Post Administration - on most special air letters and/or first day of issue covers, so that to hide the "rose" specimen with the wrong borders. Perhaps, the person who wrote about the forgeries of the time meant to refer to those covers that have a forged "rose" instead of the original postage stamp covered with the "grey" one, but this is another matter!



Fig. 1 - Original

The first forgeries of the "rose" were announced by the Italian philatelic magazines in 1964/1965. They

were typographic reproductions, printed on San Marino Olympic Games miniature sheets of 1960, previously faded. This forgery can be easily detected because of its rough print, its line perforation and its larger size (Fig. 2).



Fig. 2 - Forgery "S. Marino"

Later on many other imitations were performed, but they can be all easily detected for (Fig. 3):

- 1) the difference in colour, which goes from rose to old rose, to bright lilac rose and yellowish rose;
- 2) the type of print, which is typographic; sometimes there is a screen which is, however, very different from the original one;
- 3) the size, which is not always the same;



Fig. 3

The Gronchi Rosa Forgeries.....cont'd

- 4) the watermark in the paper, which is sometimes printed;
- 5) the perforation, which is often irregular;
- 6) the gum which is not the same as the original one.

A new type of forgery has also appeared on the market. It is named "starry" as the watermark "stars" are very evident also on the front (the printed side). This is also a feature of the original postage stamps, even though not so evident. The new techniques of reproduction carried out with the computer and the scanner and, in some cases, with laser printers, have given the forgers the chance to improve the "quality" of their product. The "starry" forged stamp is known, up to now, in three different types.



Fig. 4 - Original



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
without screen

1st type: (Figs. 4 and 5)

- a) the print is lined, therefore there is no screen;
- b) Africa and Asia appear joined as the Suez Channel is not printed;
- c) Italy's "heel" is attached to Greece;
- d) Corsica is barely visible and is linked to Liguria and Tuscany;
- e) Peru's borders are larger than the ones in the original postage stamp, so they are similar to the borders of the grey L. 205;
- f) the inscription "I.P.S. Off. Cart. Val. - Roma/1961/R. Mura" is very confused and in many cases quite unreadable;
- g) as the screen is lacking, all the inscriptions on the stamp appear more kneaded and, therefore, more distinguished;
- h) the colour is dark violet instead of lilac rose;
- i) the gum is less bright than the one in the original so we could also suppose that the whole sheet has been regummed;
- l) there are numerous small spots of colour in the background in the "ocean" parts that seem small islands (their position is not fixed).

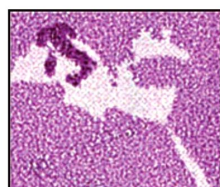


Fig. 4 - Original
details b), c), d)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
details b), c), d)



Fig. 4 - Original
detail e)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
detail e)



Fig. 4 - Original
details f), g)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st, 2nd, 3rd type
details f), g)



Fig. 4 - Original
detail of the inscription
greatly enlarged



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st, 2nd, 3rd type
detail of the inscription
greatly enlarged



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
detail l)

The Gronchi Rosa Forgeries.....cont'd



Fig. 4 - Original



Fig. 6 - Forgery 2nd type
without screen

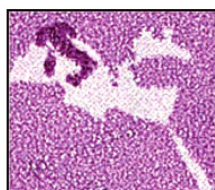


Fig. 4 - Original
details b), c), d)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
details b), c), d)

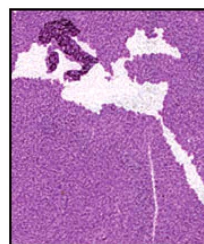


Fig. 6 - Forgery 2nd type
details b), c), d)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
detail e)



Fig. 4 - Original
detail e)



Fig. 6 - Forgery 2nd type
detail e)



Fig. 6 - Forgery 2nd type
detail m)

2nd type: (Figs. 4 and 6)

The printing process is the same as the one in the first type with the following modifications:

- b) the Suez Channel is visible and next to the Red Sea there is a white line which is not always present in all the exemplars of this type;
- e) Peru's borders are a little reduced;
- h) the colour is violet (a little clearer than in the first type);
- m) some small light haloes with a spot of colour in the middle are visible in the "land" parts (their position is not fixed).

As in the first type, all the other features are unchanged.

3rd tipo: (Figs. 4 and 7)

The printing process is the same as the one in the first and second type with the following modifications:

- c) Italy's heel is detached from Greece;
- d) Corsica is visible and detached from Liguria and Tuscany;
- e) Peru's borders are the same as in the original;
- h) the colour is lilac rose, very similar to the original;
- i) the gum, slightly brighter, but not as in the original, presents tiny and widespread crackings (visible at at least ten enlargements);
- m) the small light haloes with a spot of colour in the middle are much more widespread;
- n) a curious detail, but not decisive for the comparison, is that it is nearly always not well centred.

As in the first type, all the other features are unchanged.



Fig. 4 - Original



Fig. 7 - Forgery 3rd type
without screen

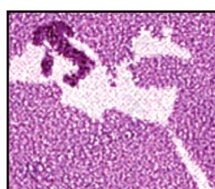


Fig. 4 - Original
details b), c), d)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
details b), c), d)



Fig. 6 - Forgery 2nd type
details b), c), d)



Fig. 7 - Forgery 3rd type
details b), c), d)

The Gronchi Rosa Forgeries.....cont'd



Fig. 4 - Original
detail e)



Fig. 6 - Forgery 2nd type
detail e)



Fig. 5 - Forgery 1st type
detail e)



Fig. 7 - Forgery 3rd type
detail e)

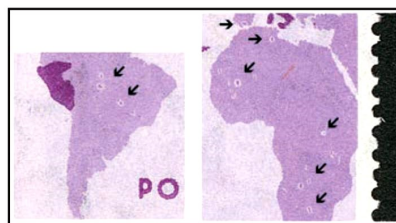




Fig. 7 - Forgery 3rd type
detail m)

The three types of the forged “starry” stamp, the only ones that could deceive at first sight, were inked twice; the first time with the background colour and the second time only with the darker parts: the inscriptions, Italia, Peru’ and some parts of the plane. In the first and second type the darker parts of Italy, Peru and of the plane are not perfectly placed on the background colour, so that the so called “misplacement” is clearly visible, even without a magnifying glass.

The print of these forged stamps has been carried out on sheets of original paper, conveniently bleached by the print of other stamps with “stars” watermark of the first type showing the same graded slope as the one of the rose Gronchi. This difficult process that can be performed through different methods, some of them apt not to alter the gum on the back, has, however, made more evident the watermark on the front; from this specific characteristic comes the name “stellato” (“starry”).


I have not deliberately pointed out other small details of identification in the three types, which should also be taken into close consideration, because I think that those already listed are more than enough for an easy identification of the forged stamps even by people who are not experts. Everybody - in good faith - can distinguish them from the originals, even though the latest “production”, the third type, has improved compared to the first and second type, still maintaining unchanged the method of printing pointed out at letter “a”, which is fundamental. But in order to reassure collectors, we can claim that even with the most sophisticated digital systems available to forgers, it will never be possible to equalize the originals; there will be always some details that cannot be reproduced exactly the same because the reproduction technology is not the same as the one used in 1961. As a matter of fact, the history of all the philatelic forgeries - and not only - teaches that even when it was possible to reproduce the stamps with the same equipment used to print the originals, the forged stamps have always been discovered. It is in fact unthinkable that the forgers, who want to obtain more and better products, are able to print with the same procedures and raw materials used in 1961: the machines for the reproduction of the engravings and for the printing, paper, glue, inks, perforators and all the instruments used at that time are not available with the same features any longer.






Gronchi rosa is 60!


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R is for Ross Dependency

There were quite a few choices available to me for the letter R but rather than do something on a country people may already know a fair bit about because they are generally speaking popular collecting/selling countries I chose Ross Dependency.

Ross Dependency is a region of Antarctica around the South Pole. It is claimed by New Zealand. The Dependency takes its name from Sir James Clark Ross who discovered the Ross Sea and includes part of Victoria Land and most of the Ross Ice Shelf. Ross Island, Balleny islands and the small Scott Island also form part of the Dependency, as does the ice-covered Roosevelt Island.

The actual amount of land mass claimed is not large; most of the area defined as being in the Ross Dependency is either in the Ross Sea or the Antarctic Ocean.

For those of us with some aviation interest we may well know Ross Island because of Mount Erebus where, in 1979, there was a fatal crash of Air New Zealand flight 901. The flight was a scheduled sightseeing service from Auckland to Antarctica and return by Air New Zealand. It crashed into Mount Erebus killing all 257 people aboard.



The first stamps inscribed Ross Dependency were issued on January 11, 1957, in conjunction with the New Zealand Antarctic Expedition, led by Sir Edmund Hillary (part of the Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic Expedition).

The initial issue consisted of four stamps, in the denominations 3d, 4d, 8d, and 1s 6d. The stamps were for use by members of the expedition but also helped support New Zealand's claim to sovereignty over the Dependency. The two higher value stamps in the set were included for use by the British members of the party in sending letters back to the UK.

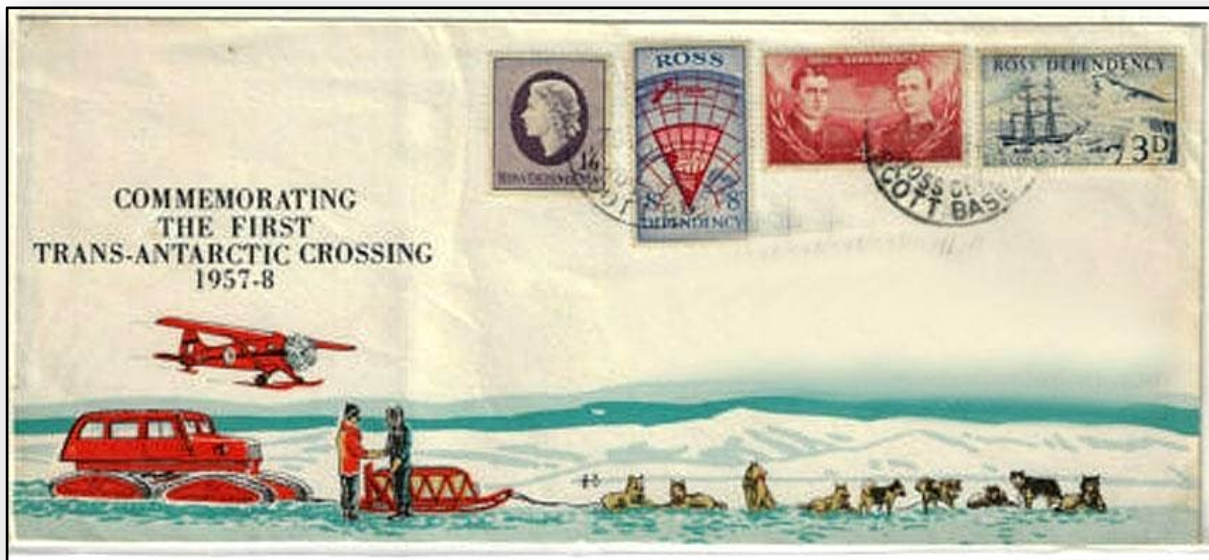
It had been an Antarctic expedition custom that Post Offices be opened as soon as a base site was chosen, however finding a location for the site of Scott Base proved difficult. Once a decision had been made to locate the base at Pram Point on Ross Island, no time was lost in opening a tent post office. Sir Edmund Hillary had been appointed postmaster on 23 November 1956, he in turn had appointed A S Helm as assistant postmaster to attend to all post-al matters during the first summer Scott Base was open.



R is for Ross Dependency.....cont'd

When New Zealand adopted a decimal currency in 1967, the four stamps were reissued in denominations of 2c, 3c, 7c, and 15c. Yes, that one pre decimal issue was valid for 10 years – well there was not exactly a lot of mail was there!

A rather attractive commemorative cover was issued in 1958 to celebrate the First Trans-Antarctic Crossing.



A new definitive set, consisting of six stamps denominated 3c, 4c, 5c, 8c, 10c and 18c was issued in 1972.



R is for Ross Dependency.....cont'd

The next set again issued again 10 years later in 1982 was issued to mark the 25th anniversary of Scott Base.

It consisted of 5c, 10c, 20c, 30c, 40c and 50c stamps.



The post office at Scott Base was closed in 1987 as part of the rationalisation of New Zealand Post. Mail from the base was handled in Christchurch, and the issuing of “Ross Dependency” stamps ceased.

However, New Zealand Post resumed the issue of stamps inscribed “Ross Dependency” in 1994, “due to local and international demand.”

A definitive set was issued in 1994, and pictorial sets of five or six stamps have been issued annually since then.

The denominations match those of contemporary New Zealand stamps. However, the stamps aren’t generally valid on New Zealand mail. Mail from the Ross Dependency is processed by the “Ross Dependency Agency”, located at a post office in Christchurch. Members of the public (mostly philatelists and stamp dealers) are able to post items bearing Ross Dependency stamps at this office. (Authors Comment: Not sure about this – how does “posting” a Ross Dependency stamp from Christchurch in New Zealand have any relevancy to appropriate philatelic use?)

Mail is cancelled with the inscription “Ross Dependency Agency, Christchurch.”

Generally speaking the past issues are not that commonly found across a search I did of philatelic portals (eg eBay around 600 listings) and yet the selling prices were not that high in my thinking, compared to say the SG catalogue values.

R is for Ross Dependency.....cont'd

It was harder to find some issues than others and I suspect that the Polar and Antarctica thematic collectors, of which there are a few specialist groups, do make up the larger audience for this material.

I did eventually find an image of this cover – there are a few covers in this issue I might add. I always enjoy seeing aviation on stamps although from a quick search I could not find any for sale, only the mint stamps sets.

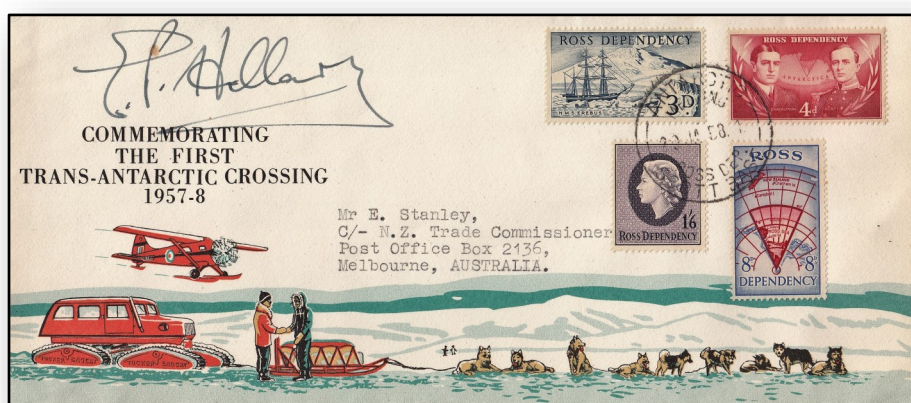


It is all about enjoying stamps and [this site](#) just might be worth a visit, especially for the reader who enjoys Aircraft on stamps.

In conclusion, perhaps as a dealer, if you have this material in stock but not listed for sale yet you may be sitting on some useful and sellable stock?

I welcome comments. Michael Dodd—Member 039.

(editor's note—I'm sure Michael won't mind me adding a copy of the 1958 cover, signed by Sir Edmund Hillary, the conqueror of Everest, and expedition leader)



Listing Standards and Guidelines - Part II - Packing Your Sales

Here at cddstamps we listed some more stock to the online store today. As we always do, we try to find something to differentiate us from other sellers. Something to show the collector who might buy our stamps that we offer more than just a stamp. Afterall, many stamps have tens if not hundreds of copies available for sale across the many online portals one might visit. As IPDA sellers we all face this challenge don't we?



As we were listing the stock, and as we always do these days, we spend a fair time placing all mint and higher catalogue valued stamps in mounts. The black ones usually (Fig 1) although we do use clear ones on occasions. These are used to protect the stamps while in our stock boxes and especially when being shipped through the various postal services around the world.

Nothing new or special you might say. Nothing has changed in the philatelic world for us.

We still do this of course, as we believe it is a quality aspect of the service we provide to our customers. The thing is this: A potential customer does not know we do this until they get their first order, do they?

I will mention also that I buy for my own private collection, and you know what? Yes, I never have had mint stamps packed like we do. Some are very well packed, and acceptably packed from professional dealers I will admit - but I still think the mount is just that little bit extra from us as a small dealer.

Anyway, perhaps you think I am rambling now ☹ Not to worry. Here is where I get to add that feature that I think a potential customer will see and maybe it will differentiate us and get them to buy from us and, then they will see how we pack our stamps and they will become a repeat customer.

What have we started doing more and more? Well it is to show a scan of the reverse of the stamp. Not all stamps, certainly not lower valued used stamps but for nearly all newly listed Mint stamps and certainly for higher catalogue valued used stamps.

It takes some extra time to list but we think it shows we care about what we are selling and that we want the customer to be able to see what they are potentially buying.

Mint Never Hinged can be pretty straightforward you might be thinking. But have you received a MNH stamp from a seller and the reverse had a pencil mark that was not included in the listing description? or a minor bend perhaps? or yellowed gum? or toning even? No of course not, yellowed gum or toning, who would not describe that. Hard to believe; yes I am being cheeky but I think you get the message.

Listing Standards and Guidelines - Part II - Packing Your Sales.....cont'd



Fig 2



Fig 3

We have found there is another benefit to us from scanning the reverse. Look at Fig 2 and then Fig 3.

Quite a collectible stamp I think you might agree. It is MH, that is Mint Hinged with a trace of a hinge remnant which we could easily explain in the description but when scanning the reverse we saw clearly on the screen that the bottom right hand perforation had some toning. We did not pick that up from a quick look at the stamp. Sadly that can happen, but for mint stamps we are now much better prepared to see such quality aspects, and of course give that detail in the listing description to our potential customers.

I am reminded of an occasion last year when a customer told me this story. They saw a stamp for sale that was cheaper than our listing. They asked why we were more expensive. That is not easy to explain without seeing the other stamp is it? They also explained that they wrote to the seller and asked to see an image of the reverse of the stamp. It was of a reasonable catalogue value and listed as "Mint" - Mint what? was not further described. The seller replied - and I quote:

"Scan attached.... But can you tell me what you can see from this? I always wonder why customers ask for scans of the backs of stamps, since I can rarely get any information from them"

The customer bought from us! Perhaps not surprising. And when they got their stamp it was carefully placed in a black mount, in a glassine type sleeve and in a clear plastic envelope that was sealed. But there is more! Actually there is a lot more but I will just give one more example. One more reason for showing the reverse that might be worth thinking about in advance of purchasing that more expensive stamp. I think this is useful for the collector to know in advance in some circumstance. It is certainly helping us we think.

Listing Standards and Guidelines - Part II - Packing Your Sales.....cont'd

When you show a copy of the reverse of the stamp there is a chance you can show the customer the watermark. Why is this relevant? Because sometimes a stamp is listed with all good intentions and the seller has not correctly identified the watermark. I will be up front here and admit we have made this mistake. It can be easily done with some watermarks. And it can mean a big difference in the catalogue value listing value of a stamp.

We have started to add another image to some listings – we show an image of the reverse of the stamp AND an image of the reverse of the stamp with the shadowing, lighting, brightness and contrast enhanced to bring out the watermark which is then annotated for clarity. Perhaps this example explains.



GB Scott 326, CV \$47.50, watermark St Edwards Crown—shown, but the same front impression on Scott 301 with Tudor Crown, has a CV \$8.50

There is so much we can all enjoy from our stamps and so much we have to learn. We are learning all the time and, as I started this article by saying, trying to find ways to differentiate our sales to our potential customers.

As an IPDA member has this been of interest? As a buyer perhaps, I hope this has been of interest.

I am sharing something we at cddstamps do, being that we are an IPDA member. Lets all let our customers know and then we can proudly say we are IPDA members who they can trust when buying from us. And just perhaps we can all help promote the IPDA brand, and ourselves as IPDA Members.

Michael owns cddstamps.com. He has collected Great Britain and British Commonwealth stamps for more than fifty years. He writes about stamps at cddstamps.blogspot.com and aerophilately at cddstamps.wordpress.com. He can be reached on cddstamps@gmail.com and welcomes comments.

Philately From the Past

It's easy to look at the past in shades of black and white. There's a craze for colourising old photos and film, and some of the results are amazing. What year do you think the plates below were released? Perhaps the 1910's or 1920's? Incredibly, these are reproduced from The Philatelic Register from 1881! The magazine was produced in England and was ahead of it's time.



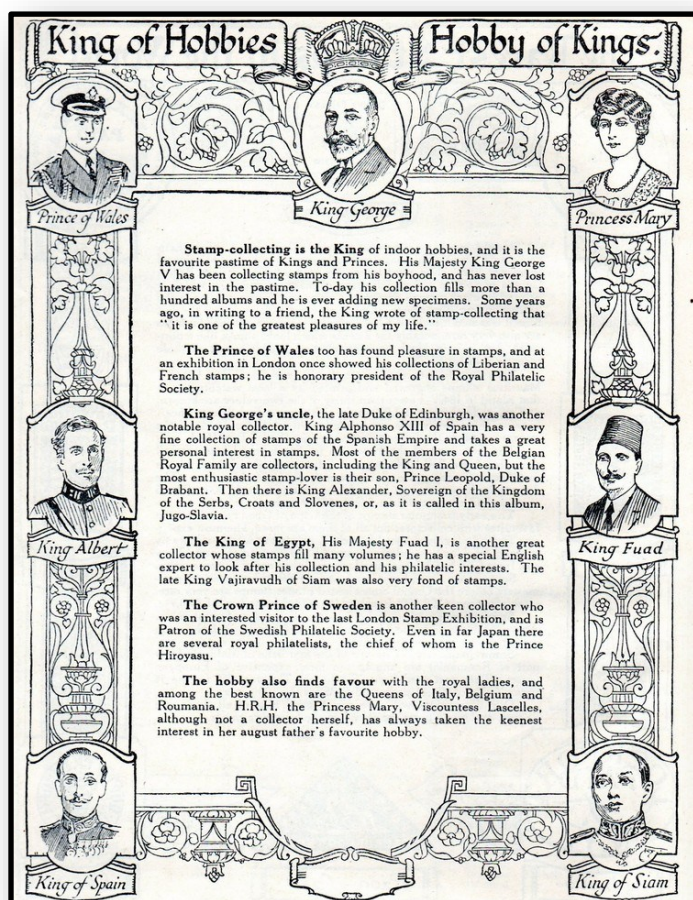
PIRATES are SISSIES

when it comes to adventure, thrills and romance with America's greatest hobby! It takes you around the world in a twinkling, gives you a look-in on the secrets of the East, the fashions and politics of the West, the stories of the world when it was young, as it is today and as it hopes to be tomorrow. Ten Million American men and women follow stamp collecting, from the President down to men and women like ourselves. Drop a postal card in the mail box NOW for our free pocket size book "Stories and Adventures with Postage Stamps." You'll like it! and you'll know why it's America's greatest hobby!

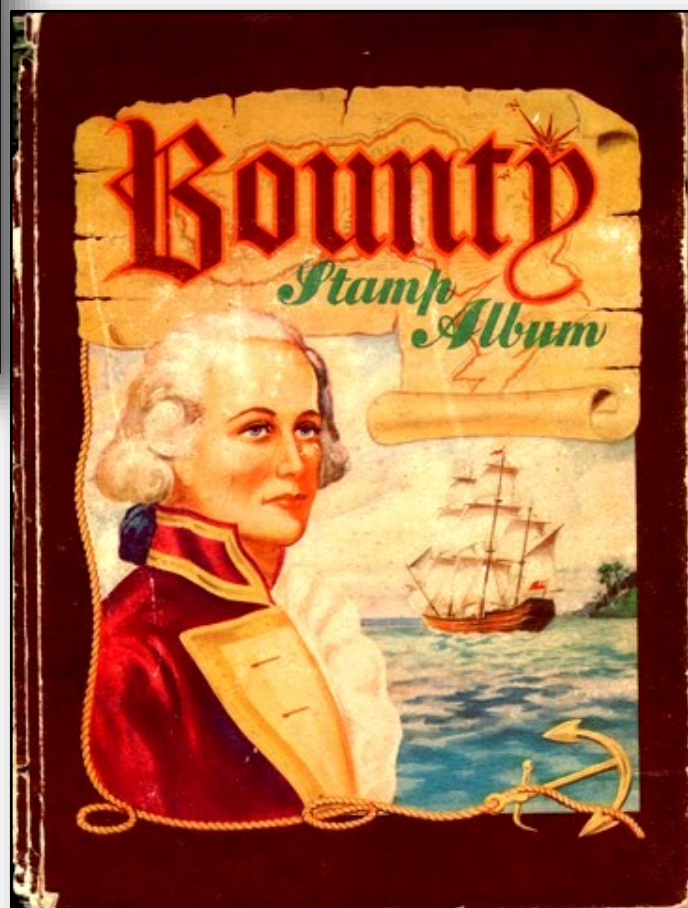
FRASEK COMPANY
Dept. 530, White Plains, New York.

An interesting, if a little odd, advert by Frasek Company of New York

Philately From the Past.....cont'd



In my opinion, this is the most beautiful frontispiece of any album that I've seen. It came from a Lincoln album.



A family keepsake from the 1950's, with a perhaps a less-than-masculine-looking Captain Bligh!