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**Where should the IPDA
advertise to get the biggest
bang for our advertising dollar?**

What do members think?

How can we promote the IPDA

**Where can we promote the
IPDA?**

**Help your Association help you
and help collectors.**

Your 2022 Challenge. Write to
us at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

Chairman's Message

Happy New year to all our members!

Let's make 2022 a great year for our club.

Looking at the attached stamp, Vietnam, Scott #311, 1967, perf 12 we see a potter working on a vase. Taking this image, I would like to ask all members to 'work on our club'.

I ask that if you can assist in making this club bigger and better in 2022, we need you!

Can you assist us in the newsletter or advertising?

Do you know another stamp collector that sells? Bring them in the fold of our fine club.

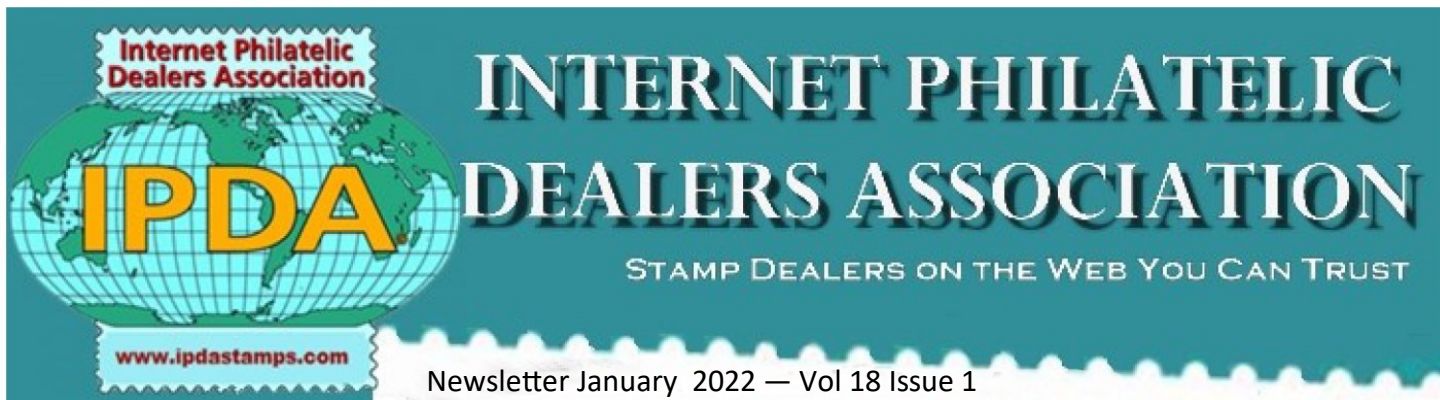
The more the merrier and I wish all of you a very prosperous New Year.

Let's make 2022 a better year with more members for the IPDA!



Lee Coen
Chairman, 2021/2022. IPDA





Welcome to New Members

There were no new members joining the Association during December. Everyone concentrating on Christmas and the New year I expect. This next milestone for us all is membership renewal for 2022. We will be announcing more about that in the coming weeks. Many members took advantage of our pay for 3 years and get the 4th year at no cost but for others please can I remind you the annual membership fee is USD \$25, or you can pay \$75 for 4 years.

IPDA Committee Positions ...still.... Vacant

Now if only we could get a **Marketing and Advertising Director and a Newsletter Editor.** Drop me a line if you are interested in supporting the Association ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

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AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE IPDA

WELCOME TO THE
INTERNET PHILATELIC
DEALERS ASSOCIATION,
INC

Please visit us at
www.ipdastamps.com

Serving the philatelic
community since 2002

IPDA Advertising - Invitation to Join Brochure

The IPDA brochure has been updated and is available for members to download from the Members Only area of the IPDA website - from the Downloads menu selection which you get to after you LOGIN.

This is available for members to use, perhaps when you go to a show — you can place copies at your booth, or use as handouts at stamp club meetings for example.

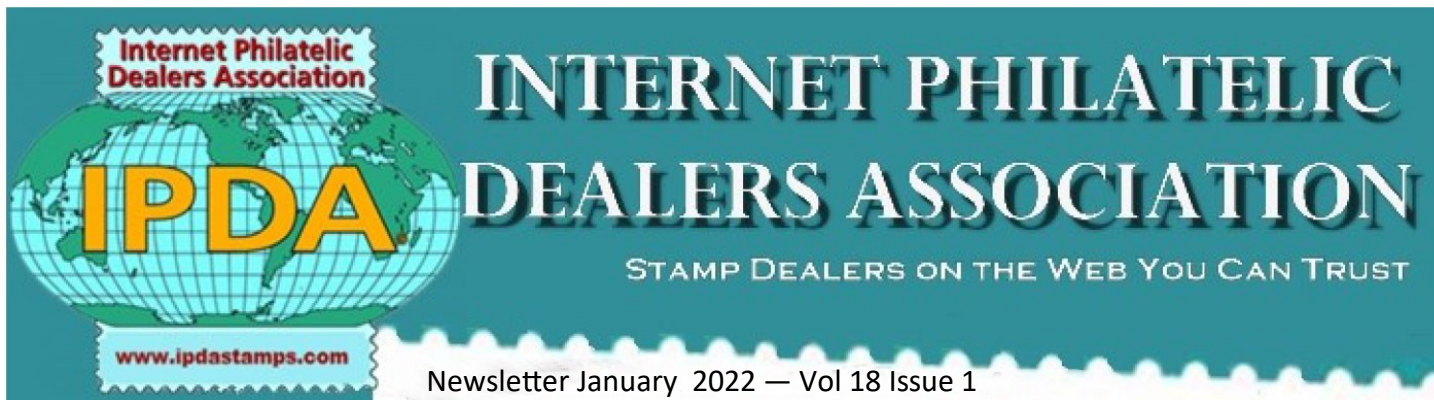
We welcome feedback.

please email ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

Members by Country

As at 30th December 2021

Algeria	1
Argentina	2
Australia	20
Belgium	2
Brazil	1
Canada	8
Croatia	2
France	3
Germany	4
Gibraltar	2
Hong Kong	1
India	1
Israel	1
Italy	4
Japan	1
Mexico	1
Netherlands	6
New Zealand	1
Pakistan	1
Philippines	2
Poland	1
South Africa	3
Spain	2
Sweden	1
UK	28
USA	48
Total Paid Membership	147



And more IPDA News

Coming soon, very soon we hope, you will be able to pay your 2022 Membership Dues online from the Members area of the IPDA Website. We will be sending details when the feature is activated later in December.

New IPDA Director for the USA - We are very pleased to announce we have a new Director for the USA, Greg Doll who owns [The Bentley Collection](#). Greg is based in Houston, Texas. This is a very positive step forward for the IPDA as we have now strengthened our Committee to better represent the growing US market. As per the Constitution rules Greg will be tabled for the membership vote at the AGM in March (see preliminary details below). He has been accepted unanimously by the existing Committee.

The 2022 AGM is now booked for March 17th 2022 (USA EST time zone)

If you have a topic you wish to submit for consideration by the Committee for the Agenda please let us know.

Email the Chairman at leejcoen@gmail.com or the General Secretary at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com or any Director, as you wish.

Please take note of the following. You will receive a formal invitation during January with attendance details and the Agenda with the motions — However, we realise it is physically challenging for many members to attend given world time differences so we again will have an online voting process — for those who were members last year you will recall that a member could log in to the Members Only area of the IPDA web site and click **AGM Proxy Voting** and make their voting choices. For new members you will find this extremely easy to do.

You can cast your own vote by Agenda item / Motion or you can delegate your vote to the Chairman or a Director you wish to name to vote on your behalf. Simple steps that take no more than a few minutes.

It is important to the Committee that we get your votes. Thank you in advance

The date is the 17th March, but if in a month or so time you forget just you can always check the IPDA website; IPDA Calendar, under the About Us drop down menu - [here](#) and use the link provided to check the time in your own country / city.

Please watch out for further updates, and please vote when we announce the voting process is open, and perhaps most importantly of all, please renew your 2022 membership, as only fully paid members votes will be counted.

My First Invert by Lee Coen (IPDA Chairman)

Recently I bid on a stamp I wanted. A real deal, certified real inverted stamp. As long as I have been collecting stamps, inverts will always grab my attention. And as a seller, any invert you offer is sure get you some interest in your wares.



Scott#484var, invert center, certified

For me, I just wanted one. I never had one but always seem to see them offered every now and then.

The value of my invert is \$200.00us dollars. I paid 50%. I am sure my fellow dealers are saying, 'too much Lee, too much'.

Well, my friends I wanted it and now I have one.

This series of Persian stamps were made for collectors and they sell quite well.

As you can see my stamp is in pristine condition and sure to gain value over the years, I hope.

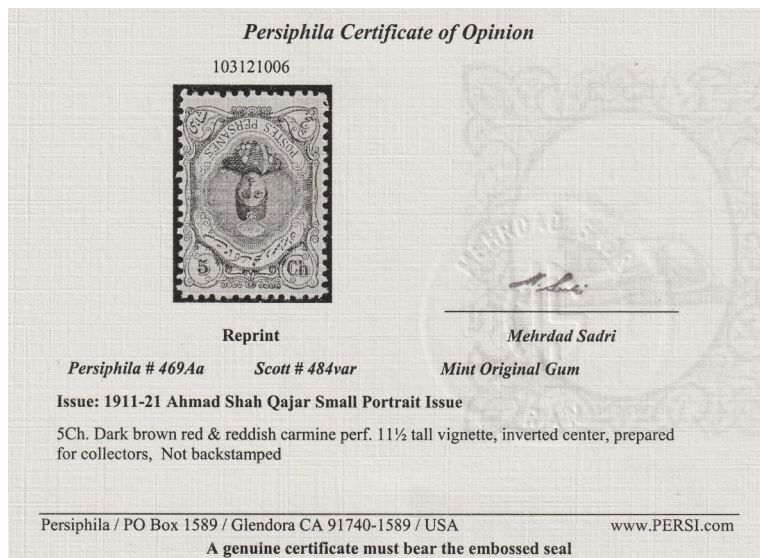
Persiphila

PO Box 1589, Glendora, CA 91740-1589, USA

103121006

Lot# 21054

1911-21 Ahmad Shah Qajar Small Portrait Issue - 5Ch. Dark brown red & reddish carmine perf. 11½ tall vignette, inverted center, prepared for collectors (Persiphila# 469Aa / Scott# 484var) mint, original gum, lightly hinged, F-VF. (Certificate) (Item# 103121006) Estimated value: \$200.



JEAN DE SPERATI: MASTER FORGER



The name "Jean de Sperati" is one of the most famous and infamous in the history of philately. Few legitimate philatelists have gained such notoriety as this master forger. But even his name, like his famous creations, was a forgery, at least partially so.

Sperati was born Giovanni Sperati in Pistoia, Italy in 1884. His father was a retired army officer who went into business. The collapse of this venture threw the family into poverty. One of his brothers joined the army, the second took up photography and the third became a stamp dealer. The young Giovanni learned stamps from his brother Mariano as well as about chemistry from the experiments his brother Massimo conducted in photographic and developing techniques. Their mother had taken up printing and forgery and the major formative influences on his future were almost complete. To make matters even more convenient for his future profession of

postage stamp forger, his cousins owned a nearby paper mill. His interest in his studies in Accounting at the Institute Technique de Bologna waned as his fascination with chemistry and printing techniques increased.

As a young man Giovanni Sperati started collecting postage stamps. With his family now financially struggling, filling the blank spaces in his album became more and more difficult. The lad determined to save up his money in order to purchase a better item, and finally obtained a valuable French Colonial stamp which became the pride of his collection. Unfortunately, sometime later he discovered that his "rare item" was actually a forgery and a crude one at that. This is the incident that Sperati claimed would galvanize his energies and eventually lead to his vocation of stamp forger. The desire for revenge on stamp dealers became first a vendetta and then an obsession. The young Sperati dreamt of "getting even with the dealers." He vowed that he would someday create his own "philatelic works of art" that would deceive and make fools of every dealer and expert in Europe. As Giovanni grew out of his teens, his interest in stamps seemed to infect the whole family.

In the April of 1909 issue of the Berliner Briefmarken-Zeitung, a lengthy article appeared about a family of forgers operating out of Italy. The head of this ring was identified as Mariano Sperati (the stamp dealer), age 27. Also identified were Madame Sperati as well as Massimo (the former photographer), aged 31, and the future master forger, Giovanni Sperati, aged 24. The article exposed the modus operandi of this "family business." Mariano sent out letters like the following to known stamp collectors:

Dear Sir, I hear that you are a stamp collector and I have a proposition to make to you. I intend selling my collection . . . and if you wish I can send to you on approval a collection of rare stamps at an enormous discount from the catalogue price.

cont'd

..... cont'd

JEAN DE SPERATI: MASTER FORGER cont'd

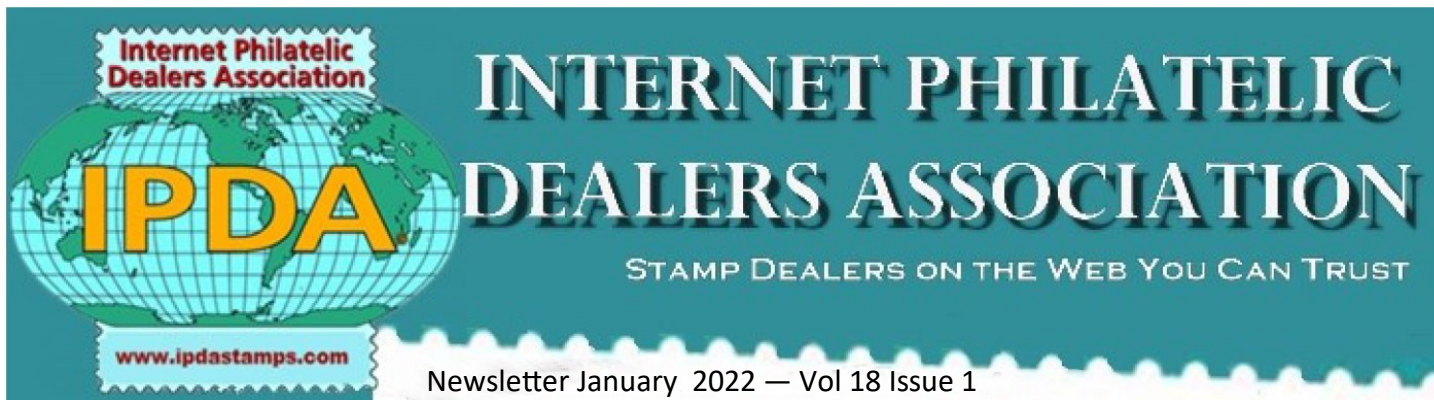


The infamous approval card (above) that defied the experts. The 18 stamps, if genuine, would have a Scott catalogue value well in excess of \$50,000. If the collector responded with interest, an approval selection of choice rare stamps at 35% of the current Yvert & Tellier Catalogue followed. Occasionally, a collector found one or more items a little suspicious. The unabashed Miriano would respond to such charges with an indignant letter:

Your expert is not quite right about the 80c Tuscany. I can guarantee its genuineness. The 80c Tuscany exists in various shades which are printed from different plates,

Not only the stamps, but even the approval sheets themselves were forgeries the stamps were mounted on what appeared to be the official approval sheets of "Le Timbre," a stamp Society centered in Liege.

cont'd



JEAN DE SPERATI: MASTER FORGER cont'd

The original expose of the Sperati operation considered only one group of stamps to be of extreme danger to the advanced collector - a group of imitations of the stamps of San Marino. These stamps were the work of the youngest member of the forgery ring, Giovanni (i.e. Jean de Sperati). The authorities made no arrests, but they sized printing presses, chemicals and inks, large sheets of paper and hundreds of printing dies.

The young Giovanni sought refuge in Paris, changed his name to Jean, married in 1914 and worked as a labourer at various factories in different parts of France. At night he continued his study of chemistry and printing while pursuing his new "hobby"- the production of what he termed "philatelic works of art." By 1930 this hobby was producing enough income for him to become a full-time professional stamp forger.

He had a most original way of filling want lists, producing choice examples of any stamp requested. He sold large numbers of stamps to many dealers in-Europe and started another personal stamp collection, which he called the "livre d'or" (Gold Book). These were his own forgeries that were guaranteed genuine by dealers or experts. Some stamps in his famous album contained as many-as six different signatures or guarantees of authenticity. The livre d'or would eventually contain 125 different expertized stamps -quite an impressive collection indeed!

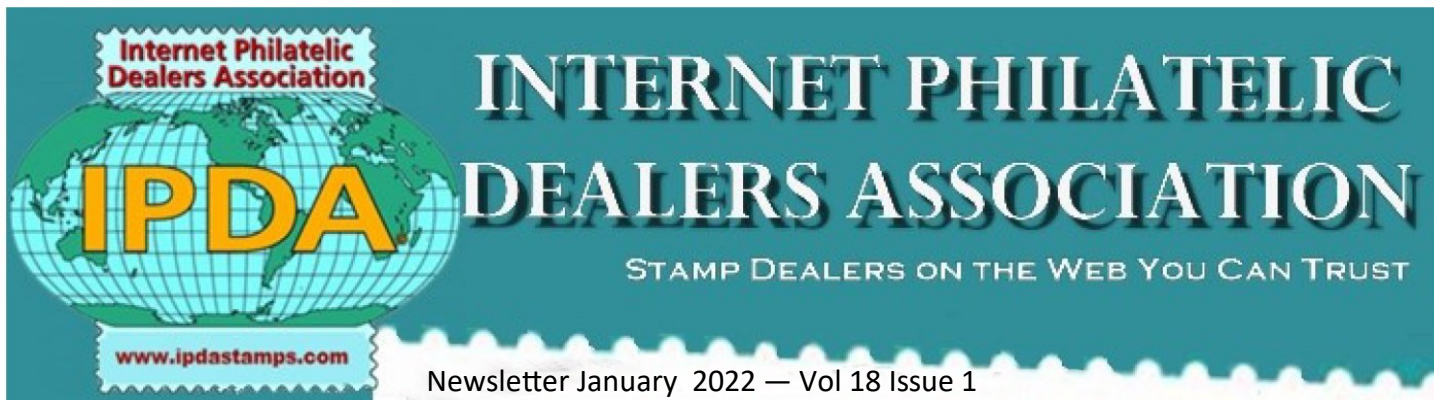
The most interesting thing about Sperati is perhaps the care with which he took towards his forgery. He loved his work and approached it with dedication that few philatelists will ever be able to match. He regularly worked 16 hours' day, 7 days a week. His knowledge of paper, chemistry and photography helped him to avoid the mistakes of earlier philatelic forgers.

Some of his techniques were so advanced that even the experts who knew a stamp to be fake were baffled. As he became the centre of international publicity in the 1940's, he became an almost mythical figure with reputed superhuman abilities that seemed almost incomprehensible. For example, even into the early 1950's, experts believed that he had somehow devised a way to produce fake watermarks undistinguishable from the real ones. We now know that Sperati faked no watermarks instead he always started with a genuine watermarked stamp when he wished to "imitate" a stamp with a watermark.

In 1942 Sperati sent an approval selection to a dealer in Lisbon. Custom agents opened the package and discovering what appeared to be valuable rare postage stamps, Sperati was charged and brought to trial for violation of a law forbidding export of substantial sums of capital from France. It was at this time that Sperati would reach the height of his notoriety and also get his greatest revenge on the stamp dealers and philatelic authorities of his age.

The court turned the stamps over to the local Philatelic Society for an estimation of their worth, and they were assessed to be worth between 60,500 and 78,000 francs. Sperati appealed these findings as inaccurate, claiming that the items were not stamps but "artistic works."

cont'd



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JEAN DE SPERATI: MASTER FORGER cont'd

In 1943 the court of Appeal submitted the stamps to a recognized authority, Dr. Edmond Locard, for expertization. He meticulously studied each stamp and submitted an official report to the Court which included a complete inventory of the stamps, along with catalogue number, catalogue value and actual retail value. The current Yvert catalogue value of the 18 stamps was 274,500 francs. However, Dr. Locard felt that the stamps had an actual retail value of 303,200 francs because "a classic stamp in first-class condition is rare and worth considerably more than catalogue value." His report to the Court scoffed at Speiati's claim that the stamps were "artistic copies" and he closed with the insistence that:

" with all certainty and evidence, all stamps mentioned above are NOT imitations. (signed) Edmond Locard Lyons, 4th January, 1944."

Perhaps even Sperati himself was astounded with these developments as he found himself in a Court of Law insisting that his stamps were not real and trying to prove that they were forgeries. Sperati kept appealing the convictions with the assertion that he did not sell real stamps, and the litigation dragged on for a decade. At one of the trials, he produced three identical sets of the supposed rare stamps from the approval card. Finally, the famous French philatelist M. Leon Dubus, heading a Court-appointed Expert Committee declared that:



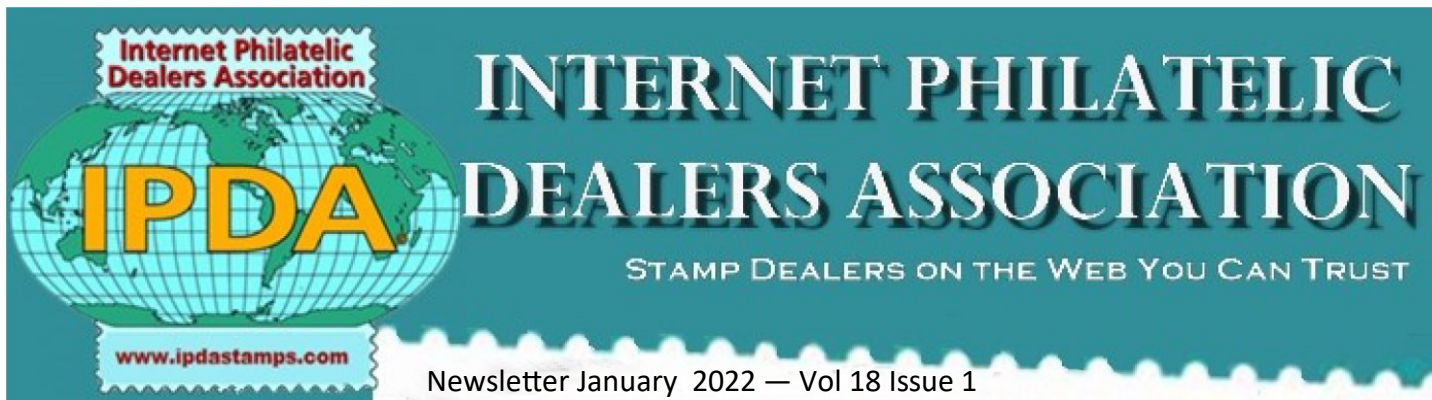
These stamps are all reproductions of valuable stamps and that these reproductions are such as would deceive even an advanced collector who has not available the material means to compare such pieces and, if he has not a pro-found knowledge and the necessary tests for the examination, then he may believe these imitations to be genuine stamps.

Since neither the creation of tiny works of art or the artistic imitation of postage stamps was against the law, Sperati was convicted of a very minor charge and given a token fine. The international fame caused by the much-publicized trial meant that business was better than ever.

His work became so famous that he was swamped with orders for reprints of his forgeries. By the early 1950's, with failing eyesight, his new output slowed even further. In 1952-53, he was contacted by representatives of the British Philatelic Association who offered to buy outright all his stamps, dies and records.

cont'd

The title page of the first edition of Sperati's "Philately Without Experts."



JEAN DE SPERATI: MASTER FORGER cont'd

The B.P.A. had first become aware of Sperati's work in 1932, but did not publish their findings due to fears of causing a crisis in the philatelic world. They bought Sperati's entire stock and collection in 1954 for a large sum. They mounted an exhibit of his forgeries and published a detailed series of catalogues and books detailing the forgeries. In his last years Sperati made his "artistic philatelic works" only to please himself. At the time of his death in 1957 he was producing a new counterfeit of the Basel Dove of Switzerland. Sperati wrote two philatelic works, *La Philatelic sans experts* and *La Technique complete de la "Philatelic d'Art"*, parts of which have been translated and published by the B.P.A. His autobiography, *"Mon Autobiographie Technique"*, was also translated and published by the B.P.A.

With thanks to member Jon Griffiths for sharing this for the IPDA Newsletter. Jon owns [Stanley Griffiths Stamp Co](#) and is located in Brittany, France.

For USA Members - IRS Tax changes

In the December issue we reported on the news about the US IRS tax changes — "Payment app providers (for example PayPal) will have to start reporting to the IRS a user's business transactions if, in aggregate, they total \$600 (USD) or more for the year. A business transaction is defined as payment for a good or service."

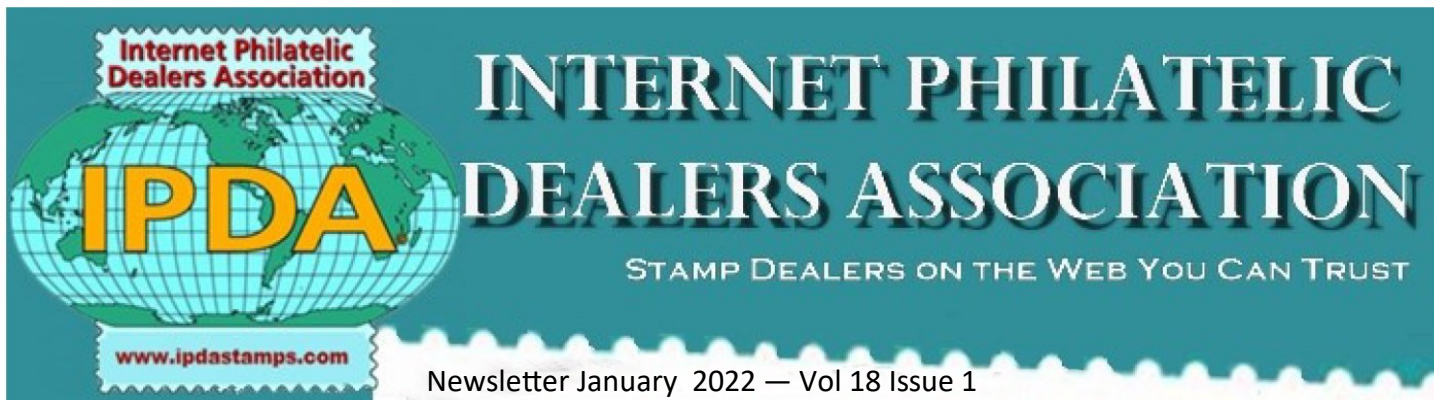
To add to this I have read that the federal threshold for issuing the 1099-K will drop to \$600 with no minimum transaction level, due to a provision in the recently enacted American Rescue Plan Act. (Some states already have lower minimums.) The no minimum transaction level might also interest US reader.

There has been some dialogue on Hipstamp Forum for example, on this topic although the best advice from one of our members is to speak to your accountant.

Also, the \$600 limit of itself does not mean that amount is taxable, but that amount must be shown on the Form 1040. The taxability comes in when you then determine the "NET" income (Income minus expenses). If you are not operating as a Corporation, Partnership, LLC or another type of business and it is just operated by you, you will usually file a Schedule "C" with your return. This is a business schedule that is used to determine your net income.

If you do not have tax experience or training, it is not recommended you complete Schedule "C" by yourself because there are things you might consider deductible as an expense which may not be and just the opposite. Somethings you might not think of may be deductible.

As reported last month this might be useful reading <https://newsroom.paypal-corp.com/2021-11-04-New-US-Tax-Reporting-Requirements-Your-Questions-Answered>



"How and Why You Decided to Become a Stamp Dealer"

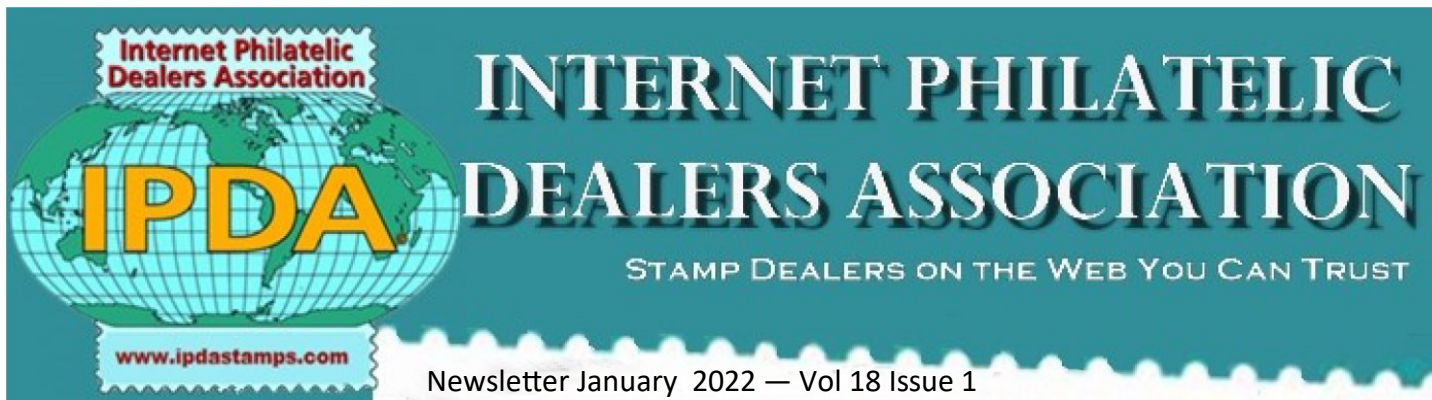
This topic was suggest to members and friends of the IPDA Facebook group and here are a few replies:

This from member Dan Ard who owns [Blackheath Stamps](#) in the UK. - As a kid, I've always loved making a deal, making money and playing business! In school I was nicknamed del boy. I used to collect pokemon cards when the craze was at its peak in 1999, then it fizzled out and someone told me about stamps. I walked into an old second hand shop that used to be a pub called the Sun Inn and bought a little card with 2 old stamps on them for £1. I can't remember the exact stamps but they were imperf Mauritius blue stamps. I the went down to the market and showed a stall owner all excited and he told me of a stamp shop round corner. I took it there and showed them and they said we have ones like this for sale for £60. And right there and then I became a dealer.

I offered it to them for £15 😊 £14 profit in 30 mins. I gorged on so many sweets that day!! I used the rest to buy more stamps from the old shop and I began to sell on eBay in around 2002. I was 12!! I began to grow my knowledge bought catalogues and developed a love for these little bits of old paper. I've collected and dealt on and off for 20 years now, but in the last 5 I have done it full time and I would happily do this till the day I drop dead 😊

Another member Karl Neilsen who owns [Kardor Stamps](#) wrote - I started collecting Stamps when I was about 10 years old, after my father showed me his collection, he gave me a small album to start on my own. A couple of years later, he sold his complete collection and bought his house cash. that is when I realised that there was money in stamps. I started dealing GB Stamps in the early 90's buying and trading on eBay. Sold most of my collection in the early 2000's but kept my GB stamps collection. I moved several times in the 90's, and my collection on stock cards was forgotten about until last year, when I opened an old box that was in storage. And there to my delight I found my old GB stamps. Amongst them a Penny black SG1 Plate AA.

My partner encouraged me to put them into an album and in doing that I regained my enthusiasm for stamps. I started buying and selling to build up my personal collection. I am now in possession of over 100 albums from all over the world. My specialty has always been GB stamps 1884 onwards to 2006, and I have expanded that into Germany pre 1948 , Danzig, China Pre 1960, Bulgaria from 1880 and Russia pre 1950's. I love to buy the old Albums and search through them for that lovely and not always rare stamp. To my delight, my partner has also gained an interest in stamps, and helps me sort them and catalogue them. She specialises in French stamps (her personal favourite), China and Russia, which is a great help as she can read Russian.



A Comment from a Member

Every now and again I read something that rings true to me and I think is worth sharing. This from member Andrew McGavin of UPA - Universal Philatelic Auctions. Andrew has kindly agreed to let me reprint his sentiments from his UPA 84 auction catalogue. Thanks Andrew.

Dear Very Important Philatelist,

As the world turns, amidst the incessant turmoil and challenges to our way of life, isn't there still one relatively harmless passion that one can lose oneself in? - and that, of course, is *Philately*. Naturally there may be many others, equally rewarding, but few 'passions' that may be flexible enough to demand as little or as much as one would wish, without placing undue demand upon our health, or relative wealth.

Fortunately, there is a constant stream of collections arriving, that each quarter we process into our auction 'machine'. Unlike others, stamps are conveyed / 'supported' through our selling system until they find their price. Study of the selling price realisations, compounded by subsequent transparent price-drops, gives priceless awareness / clues to the health of the philatelic market itself.

Overridingly, given free access to the internet, it is obvious that the age old supply / demand equation becomes increasingly transparent, although the weight of useless information results serve to confuse.

In our day-today work, one of the things we are most frequently asked about is how to find / access stamp information. The information may be there to be found, but how to find it, and possibly how to interpret ... that's the problem.

I have mentioned this before, but it is well worth repeating, - we used to search for prices / results / information by using eBay 'advanced search' and selecting 'completed', then refine results by 'lowest price first', for example.

Nowadays we find that using Google Images is more market encompassing / effective, perhaps because this includes 'top-end' material not always offered upon eBay, or possibly including material available upon other 'platforms'.

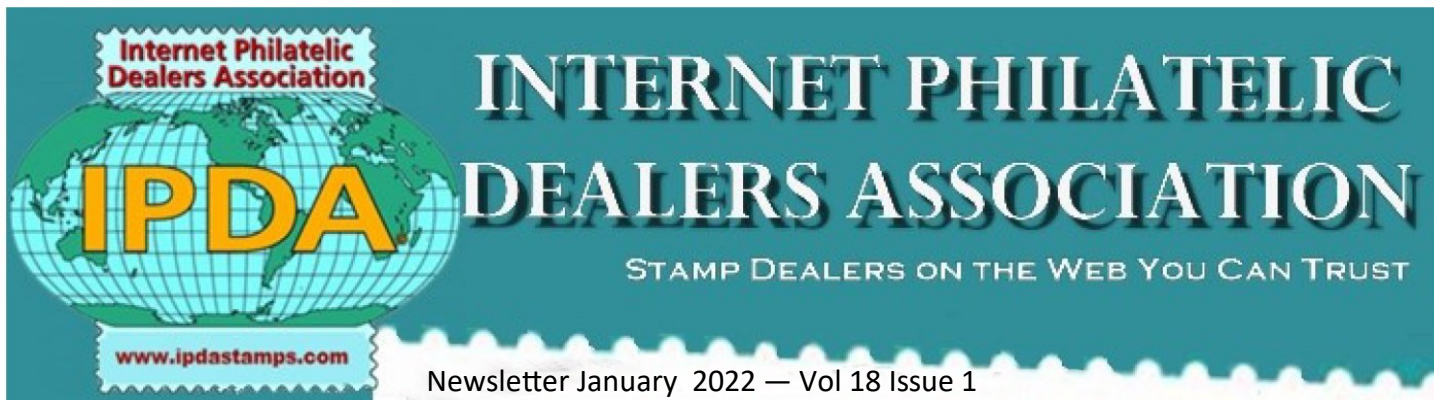
Interesting searches that you may not have considered making are for colours / shades. For example, try typing 'GB 10s cobalt stamp' into Google Images and search ...

... Yes, there is an interesting array of apparently all different colour 'cobalt' blues, but spend a few minutes and look beyond this for a colour common denominator ... soon you may see a common colour / shade emerging from the medley of some 25 different 'cobalt' blues.



Andrew McGavin
Managing Director, Universal Philatelic Auctions 5

cont'd.....



A Comment from a Member cont'd

Next look for the 'bigger' recognised names to the website links below the images. It doesn't take long – but even if your computer monitor is not that accurately colour calibrated (equally the original scan image), BUT – now you may have an idea of what a true 'cobalt' in the GB QV market looks like. Simple / effective searches like this may save collectors literally £1,000's each year, spent upon stamps, rather than certificates from Philatelic Experts frequently advising you that your stamp is not the rare shade.

Remember, that shades were originally allocated as stamps were issued / catalogued. That means we are talking colours allocated 170+ years ago. Bear in mind that an 'ultramarine' upon a Gambia Queen Victoria stamp may not be similar to a British KG VI 1942 10s ultramarine. Perhaps, in philately some things are relative.

Throughout 'covid', collectors (and dealers) demonstrated their commitment to our hobby. Rather than diminish, sales have held firm, and in some areas even escalated. I therefore commend UPA 84 to you. ([click the image](#)) Hopefully, you may even have received your catalogue a little earlier this time? This is because the UPA Team has reorganized production and dispatch, thereby trying to get physical catalogues airmailed to deepest Australia and New Zealand, delivered in good time for collectors there to bid!

Best wishes Andrew

Canada Commercial Airways Ltd

This short piece was provided by member Jon Griffiths. I hope you enjoy seeing the stamps. There is a lot more interesting detail available in [this article](#) from Canada's History - the Early Northern Air Mails.

Formed by famed pilot W.R Wop May in August 1928. By May 1929, the company was able to issue their own stamp for the Edmonton to Grande Prairie route and by 1931 the company had a number of flights inside Alberta spreading northward into the north west territories.

1929 was the first occasion on which the flight had been routed through Athabasca, consequently the mail carried special cachets denoting the various legs and the company's stamps where applied to the reverse side of each envelope.

However, not long after receiving the contract to carry the mail the company was in difficulties and was sold to Canadian Airways Ltd, a scarce sort after airmail stamp from Canada.



Short moustache? - by Lee Coen (IPDA Chairman)

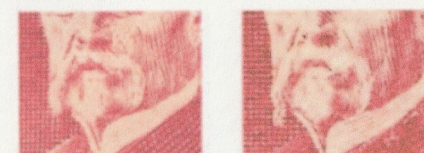
As a long time, Persian collector and seller, I have been schooled on the stamps of Czechoslovakia. For most dealers, this country printed stamps by the millions for sale to the novice stamp collector to take their money.

With all the kids and grandkids in faraway places, I spent the day scanning and listing stamps. Today, I chose Czechoslovakia. I am pretty sure I spent more money in 102 cards than potential profit, but it was a great day. Why? Because I learned about moustaches. As a male that sports a fine moustache himself, this grabbed my attention. In 1927-1937, President Masaryk was pictured on a few stamps. Scott 126-136 peaked my interest. On page 993 of the 2021 Scott catalogue, I learned about moustaches.

As you can see in Fig 1 . A long moustache and a short moustache means money. And how much money? I am not really sure. Again, back to the catalogue as in Fig 2.

No. 130 exists in two types. The one with longer mustache at right sells for several times as much as that with the short mustache.

Fig 2 - also from page 993 of Scott 2021



Short Mustache

Long, Wavy
Mustache

1927-31	Unwmk.	Perf. 10
126 A13 30h gray green	.25	.25
127 A14 40h deep brown	.70	.25
128 A15 50h deep green	.25	.25
129 A15 60h red violet	.70	.25
130 A10 1k carmine rose	1.10	.25
131 A15 1k deep red	.75	.25
132 A16 1.20k red violet	.40	.25
133 A11 1.50k carmine ('29)	.55	.25
134 A13 2k dp grn ('29)	.50	.25
135 A11 2.50k dark blue	5.50	.30
136 A14 3k red brown ('31)	.60	.25
Nos. 126-136 (11)	11.30	2.80

No. 130 exists in two types. The one with longer mustache at right sells for several times as much as that with the short mustache.

Fig 1 - from page 993 of Scott 2021

And now for my Scott# 130 (Fig 3) in used condition. Sure it has some issues, but look at that moustache! My only real question is: If standard catalogue value is 0.25usd, what does a 'long' moustache sell for?



Fig 3 - my Scott 130



Scott 119, long moustache

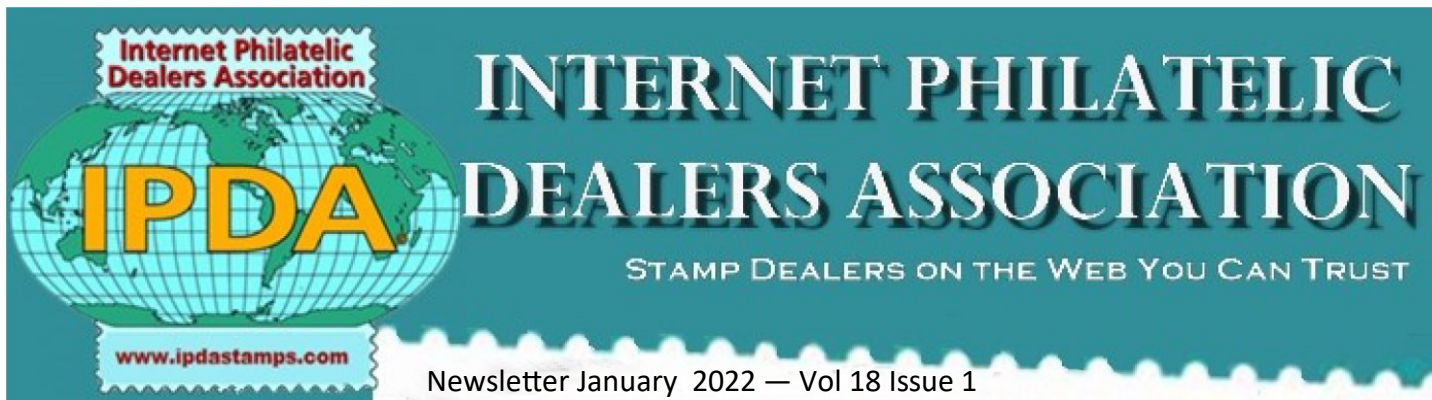


Scott 117, long moustache



Scott 136, long moustache

In closing, I hope they sell for at least double of catalogue value. I could use the money for soda pop at work.



The Philatelic Register

Ian tells me he is getting more subscribers from IPDA members. Well done.

Please support this brilliant publication and the marketplace opportunity.

And for those with stores you can now load lower priced stamps as long as the quality is good - that is, no damaged junk as you might find on some portals.

And this might be news to you - any item listed with a sale price of 1p to £2.50 will have a zero sales fee.

This is a marketplace where collectors can be confident they are buying from dealers they can trust - 100% guaranteed.

What a brilliant and unique concept!

Let's support this brilliant initiative

New Innovative Resource. Due Soon

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A miscellany of:

- Opinion, Informed Comment, Light Hearted Musings, articles with Historical, Cultural and Academic interest, Nostalgia, Current Philatelic Affairs, the most up to date auction catalogues and retail lists from the trade

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THE PHILATELIC REGISTER

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Designed to bring an awareness of the breadth and depth of interests philately has to offer, to provide an effective platform for **Specialist Societies and Study Groups** to promote themselves and instill today's collector with the excitement, anticipation and enthusiasm demonstrated by their predecessors.

Email **PhilatelicRegister@gmail.com** to receive your copy.

Specialist Societies and Study Groups please contact me or request promotional issue for details of how your society can be promoted and rewarded

Fair & Show organisers please contact me

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Where has it been? This is the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth. Went to my local Post Office here in San Nicolas, Northern Luzon, Philippines on 9th December (yes 2021) Some mail for me. How exciting. Perhaps not - one was an order I mailed to a customer in Sweden on 26th May 2020. Yes 2020 That is not a typo. Yes returned "unable to deliver to country due covid" Where was the letter for the past 18 months? Answers on a postcard to me please. Winner will receive the stamps :-)



The Year of the Tiger

In Chinese culture, tigers rule the mountains as the king of all animals and embody courage and strength. Tigers have prestige, are honourable and respected and people born in the year of Renyin tiger are born leaders, full of strength and confidence.

Now surely that describes all IPDA Members

The stamp design depicts the Renyin tiger in gold metallic ink, symbolising courage and strength. With its head raised upwards, the tiger represents a leader full of power and confidence who protects the weak and is respected. The pattern on the head of the tiger is a Chinese word meaning 'the king'. In the background of the stamp on the upper right corner is the Chinese character for 'tiger' in the style of calligraphy launched by the First Emperor of Qin around 222 BC. The Chinese seal which appears on the left of the illustration denotes renyin, Year of the Tiger.



2022 is coming. Are you ready?

IPDA Director Ted Tyszka is and he is doing a brilliant job to help promote the IPDA, as you can see from the tag line on a recent Ted Talks Stamps episode. **"Help make the internet safe for stamp collectors"** How well put is that! Thanks Ted.

