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Health and Safety Warning

This issue contains graphic images which some readers may find offensive. If you suffer from philatelic image health disorders we advise caution when viewing this issue or if you have a severe case of the philatelic image shock syndrome we recommend you do not view pages 4 and 5 of this issue.

Thank you, The Management

Chairman's Message

Hello everyone, Welcome to another issue. As we near the end of the year please don't forget the promotion we are running - no membership or joining fees for the remainder of the year to anyone who applies and is accepted as a member before the end of this calendar year.

As for my stamps, well, as a collector, I like stamps. And now as a stamp dealer I run into many 0.25usd stamps in collections I buy for resale. One such 0.25usd stamp is



this one from Ruanda-Urundi, Scott#137. Not the most sought-after stamp, but I like it. My stamp has a mountain Gorilla as the subject matter. The stamp is mint hinged and colorful.

As dealers we often stumble across stamps that are eye catchers but not money makers.

May I suggest that one quality stamp listing can and will lead to more sales. Having quality stamps offered for sale is what IPDA members abide by. Clear images and good prices should attract topical collectors as well as county specific collectors. Don't discard the cheap stamps, they might just bring you more sales. Good luck to all of you and list quality over quantity for the best sales.

Lee Coen
Chairman, 2022-2023
Military Veteran



Do you remember

Director Jon Griffiths offered a gift to the member who recruited five new members. Well no one has yet claimed the gift, so as we have two months of the year left we are adding a small additional incentive.

Whoever gets the most new members signed up will win the gift. Just remember to tell whoever you get to apply to mention your name as a referral.

There is a place on the application for that.

Current standings are - hey, a no brainer to win, right?

Come on, lets all try a bit harder to grow the IPDA membership - and remember, as the recruitment advert says =====>

There are no fees until 2023

Member Name	# of new Members signed up
Tony Tripi	3
Michael Dodd	2
Ian Lasok-Smith	1



Sc# Nr 26 dealer insignia on reverse

Recruitment of new members

TWO months to go to the calendar year end. In past years we have offered a membership fee reduction.

This year let's go one better.

FREE Membership for the rest of 2022

Help us grow the IPDA - please write to colleagues who you think qualify for membership and invite them to apply.

If they qualify there is **NO fee** to be paid until the 2023 \$25 membership fee is due.

Not sure what to say - send me an email - ipdasecretary1@gmail.com and I will send the text we have been using. You can edit as best suits your circumstances. PS: No one has yet qualified for the gift Jon Griffiths offered for our earlier membership drive.

Call for Submissions

Do you write?

Do you have an idea for an article?

Do you have a news tip to share?

Send any articles, ideas, or tips to me:

ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

(just while Ted is away on Holiday!)



eBay

No response from members so I cannot add anymore to this topic. If something crosses your mind please write to me at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

Collectors Corner

Some of you will know that at the AGM earlier this year the membership approved adding a menu item — Collectors Corner — to the IPDA website home page. The intent was to offer a source of learning for collectors, as well as more hints and tips that could be used by dealers.

The Menu selection is now there and some of the drop down sub menu items have been populated. We need volunteers to write more material. Please send texts (Word format please) and images to the General Secretary at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

Help promote the IPDA please.

Ever thought of helping to promote the IPDA through an advertising banner.

Here is a new one. It is available from the Members Area Downloads section. Use it as you wish. You might see it in a few places soon as we have it scheduled to appear in a few philatelic publications.



New Member Welcome

This month we welcome **Clark Frazier** from Hingham, Massachusetts. Clark owns

[Clark Philatelics](#) and also has a store on [Hipstamp](#)

If you enjoy browsing quality classic United States stamps, covers, and revenue stamps. do have a look.



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

Your Invite to Join the IPDA Brochure

Did you know that under the Members Only section of the IPDA website there is a **Downloads** section. This is now updated with some new advertising banners and an updated Invite to Join Brochure that you can print and take to shows as handouts

Help promote the IPDA please.

Promoting you as an IPDA Dealer - an idea for your feedback please

Would members welcome this idea.

We do a promotion for IPDA dealers - that being, anyone who purchases from a participating IPDA dealer at their store - website or marketplace store - gets a discount based on an agreed discount code for a limited time offer.

We are exploring a number of options including a page on the IPDA website for participating dealers, a promotion on Ted Tyszka's YouTube channel, Hipstamp sellers use a Hipstamp Promotion code, others.....?

Members feedback please?

ipdasecretary1@gmail.com and I will share with Ted and the other Directors



Raspberries for November

Something a bit different this month,.

I will write about two topics. One is clearly the Raspberry of the month award. And I will choose the winner from a few stamps I have seen over the past month — and I wonder if you agree with me?

This is for a new category — “The Real Disgrace Award” Here are the 5 nominees I thought should be considered for the award, but I decided — after much arguing with myself — to give the award to the £2 GB Machin on the following page.

Nominee 1



A remarkable example of filth and a rare crown crease.

Nominee 2



A rare Bath cancel on a lovely diagonal crease

Nominee 3



A rare shade variety with the top perf printing roller tear

Nominee 4



The seller remarks this is rare because of its 135 years of age plus it is still on part of the original envelope.

Nominee 5



A classic example of a printing colour bleed
..... cont'd page 5

Nominee 6 and the winner of “ The Real Disgrace Award”



Sometimes one is just lost for words on seeing a picture.

Rembrandt or Gauguin, or Picasso perhaps. This image surely falls in the category of “lost for words”.

I would so like to talk to the individual who listed this for sale and listen to them, explain their thinking, much as I would like to listen to Rembrandt or Gauguin or Picasso. So enlightening, surely!

My second topic concerns an Award I think should be nominated for colour. As we know the painters I mentioned had a remarkable ability to use colour to convey beauty.

It is no different in selling stamps, is it? Make the stamp you wish to sell look desirable to the potential buyer. Or as some might say the mug collector who is impressed by the colour they see .

Far be it for me to suggest such a thing. But here are two stamps I recently acquired. And people tell me sellers don't brighten or adjust the colour or brightness or whatever of the stamps they are listing for sale.

Too many do and every now and again it amuses me to buy one I know just cannot be for real – or it would be a colour / shade variety.

The seller of this British Guiana stamp, proudly states on the envelope the stamp came in, and on the business card they include with the stamp, that they are an APS member and have been for many years. Is it ok to change the colour of the stamp to perhaps make it show better because you are an APS member? Obviously one APS member thinks so.



Image from actual sale listing

Image of stamp received

This next one is one of my favourites because I collect Downey Heads. Words nearly fail me although I have to tell you this.

There was a little printed write up with the order about the fact the seller is selling their collection. All very entertaining if it wasn't so amateurish.

They end with the statement, and I quote exactly as written, “And for goodness sake, PLEASE order more than one 50 cent stamp”



Image from actual sale listing

Image of stamp received

I really must go back and order 2 stamps. Don't you think!

For a minute there I thought I had found a new shade variety!! I think these qualify for “**The Pigment Award**” What do you think?

Postal History Terezín souvenir sheet

There is much sad history around a place called the Theresienstadt Ghetto which was established during WWII in the Czech fortress town of Terezin but there is also some postal history to be found in the form of a souvenir sheet that was issued in 1943.

It was issued for a 1944 visit of a Red Cross delegation. The copy below cropped to best show the stamps, provided by member Jon Griffiths was numbered 899. It is not known how many pieces exist but in the Czech republic only 3 unused pieces are known.

Theresienstadt was established by the German SS both as a waystation to the extermination camps and a "retirement settlement" for elderly and prominent Jews to mislead their communities about conditions.

In February 1944, the SS embarked on a "beautification" campaign to prepare the ghetto for the Red Cross visit. The streets were renamed and cleaned; sham shops and a school were set up; the SS encouraged the prisoners to perform an increasing number of cultural activities. As part of the preparations, 7,503 people, who it were considered had no place in this ideal Jewish settlement were sent to the family camp at Auschwitz.

For the remaining prisoners conditions improved somewhat: according to one survivor, "The summer of 1944 was the best time we had in Terezín. Nobody thought of new transports." On 23 June 1944, the Red Cross visitors were led on a tour and they did not notice anything amiss. The Red Cross representative reported that no one was deported from Theresienstadt.



Fake USA Forever Stamps

Member Ken Sanford has advised there are many fakes examples of the USA Forever stamps circulating on various sites.

In past issues of this newsletter we have spoken about this and advised members to be careful if buying what seem like really cheap rolls of USA Stamps, most notable the Forever Stamps.

These are just a few of the stamps we understand are being sold - they are forged, fake stamps and being sold on philatelic marketplaces. Ken advises there are at least 66 different stamps being counterfeited.



Flag 2018 ROLL
\$37.9 \$60



Flag 2017 ROLL
\$37.9 \$60



Flag Fireworks 2.
\$37.9 \$60



LOVE
\$37.9 \$60



Love 2022
\$37.9 \$60



coffee
\$37.9 \$60



Happy Birthday
\$37.9 \$60



Hearts-Blossom.
\$37.9 \$60

What is a scammer - an Editorial Comment

Authors views and not necessarily those of the IPDA

"scammers are people that prey on people's good intentions"

Or perhaps these are just as applicable: gouger, grifter, fraudsters, swindler, con-artist.

Being a member of the IPDA means we do not do this. We do not scam, we do not gouge or act as a con-artist, whatever word suits your vocabulary. We do not do it.

Why am I stressing this? Because it is happening too often these days. There are too many sellers out there in this internet world, and often sellers with philatelic pedigree I might, who are acting in just this way. In my view.

Why else am I stressing this? Because over the past few weeks I have seen too much bad behaviour. I feel we must speak up in the interests of the credibility of dealers and philately.

If a collector wishes to spend their money paying "\$100 for a \$5" stamp because the seller has added a "self-made "certificate" that says the stamp is graded xyz because of its "centering" then that is the collectors right. And let me make this clear, I am not talking about genuine certificates of authentication which state a stamp really is a genuine stamp and not a fake, although where the centering "number" is used by the person making or asking for the certification then yes that may well be considered bad behaviour because it might be considered to be deliberately misleading to a collector. Look carefully at many so called "certificates", they might say the stamp is genuine but really they are focusing on the "centering".

So, if the collector is being conned, misled, scammed, or whatever you want to term it, into spending money, is that in the best interests of the hobby and honest dealers? I for one do not think it is. I think the collector is being, to put it kindly, cheated.

One may argue caveat emptor - buyer beware. I would argue that is a complete abdication of responsibility by the seller.

The buyer has to have some trust and faith in the system, and in the people in the system. Yes, that means the dealers in the system.

We know the online market places will never stamp out unethical behaviours but as dealers we have to take responsibility. In my view.

We need to show we as IPDA dealers can be trusted. As for the others? Well your guess is as good as mine.

You are an IPDA member because you believe that.

Please can you help flush out and remove the con artists, the crooks and the scammers from the internet philatelic market places?

Or how about helping grow the IPDA membership so collectors can know they are being treated with honesty and integrity when they buy from IPDA members.

It is time for change? Is this "grading centering" behaviour hurting the hobby, hurting the credibility and integrity of dealers?

We need buyers to understand the credibility of IPDA dealers. That is in all our best interests, isn't it?

See next page: What do you really think? which price goes with which stamp? are these ethical sellers asking some of these prices you will see? - send replies to me and I will send you, for free, my Microsoft Publisher Grading certificate template - yes, I am being sarcastic! Or write to me with your views.

A collector paid \$25 for this Canal Zone stamp, another paid \$20 for this Monticello because they had grading number certificates. Is that acceptable? How angry are they going to be when the time comes to move the collection on and they are told, or their relatives are told, their stamp is only worth catalogue value at best?



Scott 143 MNH cat \$0.65 Scott 1047a MNH cat \$0.50

Think about it. Now treat yourself to the quiz =====>

Michael Dodd ipdasecretary1@gmail.com

.....cont on page 8

(Continued from page 7)

Which stamp was listed for sale at which price? Cntl+ to see enlarged

Scott # (cat \$) Condition	Stamp A	Stamp B	Stamp C
Sc C13 (\$275) MNH \$3500; \$375; or \$350			
Sc 994 (\$0.25) MNH \$18.95; \$0.20; or \$0.15c			
Sc C39 (\$0.25) MNH \$30; \$0.99; or \$0.20c			
Sc C25 (\$0.25) MNH \$175; \$145; or \$1.50			
Sc 937 (\$0.25) MNH \$220; \$48.99; or \$0.99			
Sc 573 (\$180) MNH \$1100; \$279; or \$112.50			

Footnote : All image colours / shades / brightness are exactly as listed for sale. The sample is completely random from hundreds of examples to chose from although the sample was limited to USA issues as these are the most prolific in this "pricing by grading" behaviour. Caveat emptor.

TIP: To see enlarged images press Cntl+ or the + icon on your viewing screen.

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part II – Watermarks and Detection

A guide to Franklin-Washington Identification and Fake Detection

By Scott Payton – Classic Philatelist

With thanks and full credit to IPDA member Scott Payton for this material which will be presented in 7 parts. Comments, questions and requests to reproduce should be directed to Scott at scottvpayton@hotmail.com

Preface

This is Part II of this 7 part series which was first introduced in the October issue.

Please feel free to write to Scott and he will happily send you a copy of ID matrix and the accompanying tutorial.

In this installment of *Taming the Beast*, Scott examines what in many cases is the definitive ID between issues of Franklin-Washington era stamps. The next installment will be about perforations, and imperforate stamps.

Watermarks and Detection

In identifying the various types of Franklin-Washington issues, another differentiation is watermark.

For the novice, this can seem really daunting, especially on stamps that are unused, with original gum. There is a fear (and not unfounded) that putting a stamp into a liquid will result in damaging the gum.

However, stamp gum and "Watermark Fluid" are both non-polarized (neutrally charged) substances. Without getting deep into the chemistry of this (feel free to Google it), gum starts out as a non-polarized liquid when applied to paper. It then dries but the residual gum that solidifies on the paper remains a non-polarized substance. Any non-polarized liquid then is not a catalyst for changing the state of the non-polarized gum.

Liquids like H₂O (which have a net charge and are polarized) will activate the gum. So, substances that have water (or other polarized molecules) like saliva, orange juice, or beer applied to the gum will cause it to disintegrate (break down).

Lighter Fluid (Ronsonol, Zippo are all Heptane based) and other specially engineered watermark fluids like Clarity, Prinz, and G&K are all non-polarized liquids.

Yes, you can buy "Watermark Fluid" at a cost of about

\$14 - \$25 for a 3.5 oz (100ml), while Ronsonol is what most expertizers use, and have used for decades and a 12oz (355ml) bottle is available for \$4.20 for a LARGE bottle. That will last most collectors for years. In US issues that are not-self-adhesive (no reason you'd ever want to put one of those in fluid anyway), there are no issues with color alteration, or long-term impact to the stamp.

Specialty Fluids

Advantages: They are non-flammable, non-toxic, and odor free.

Disadvantages: Their downside, 10x the cost of heptane fluids.

Ronsonol (Heptane Fluids)

Advantages: Low cost, non-destructive, non-residual.

Disadvantages: Some have odor that range from near unnoticeable to quite strong. They are flammable, so must be used sensibly. Some people have an allergy to heptane and can't use it.

Personally, I use Ronsonol exclusively as a detection fluid. It's also a well-established detection fluid in the industry on a global basis. For this discussion, I'm only going to discuss watermarking, and not the other techniques or advantages of using fluid while examining stamps.

You'll also need a watermark tray and a stamp tong. For tray, it must be black. It's hard to find the glass trays these days. My largest complaint with the plastic trays that I've seen for sale in the last few years are very deep, and very small (fine for single stamp, regular issues, and commemoratives, but try putting a larger item, like large revenues, private die, blocks, etc. and they just don't work.

If you can find black glass, this is preferred, and big enough to at least hold a plate block is recommended. One alternative is porcelain black ashtray as a reasonable alternative. (One hint, is to look around antique shops for old shallow black-glass dish.)

When it comes to watermark detection of Franklin-Washington, we're looking for 3 possible outcomes:

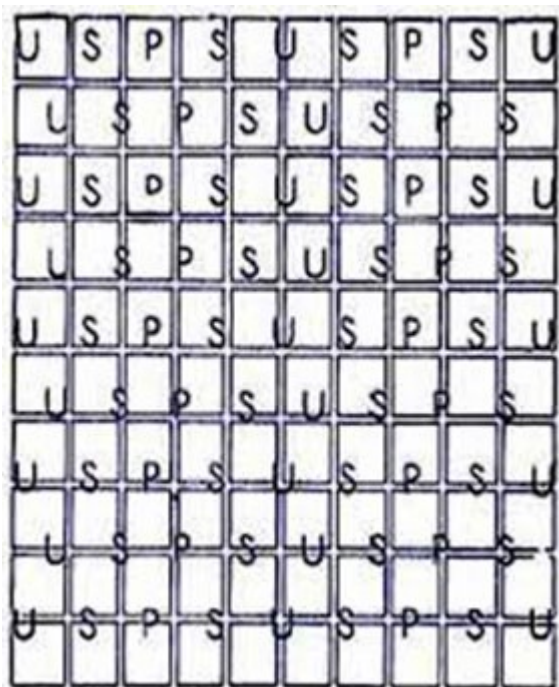
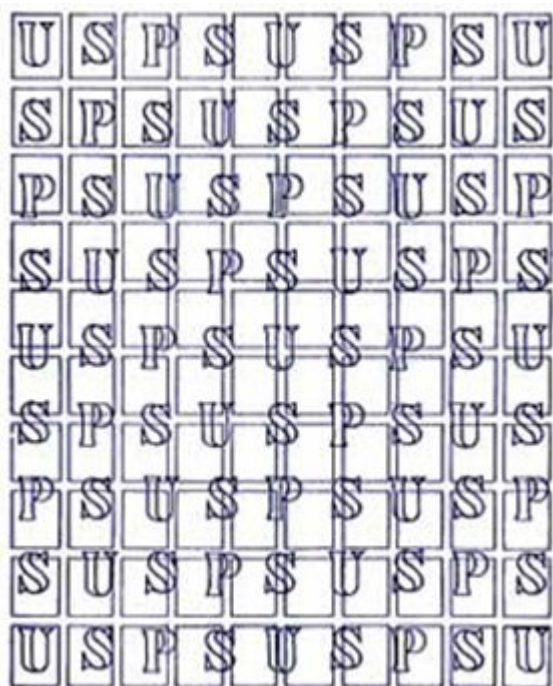
1. Double Line Watermark
2. Single Line Watermark
3. No Watermark

cont'd.....

Page 10

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part I I Watermarks and Detection cont'd

Watermark Layout Wmk 191 – Double Line



Wmk 190 – Single Line

To understand watermark detection is to understand the watermarks, and how they are applied to paper.

The images shown demonstrate watermark spacing of the Double- and Single-line varieties. There are a few things further to understand about them as well.

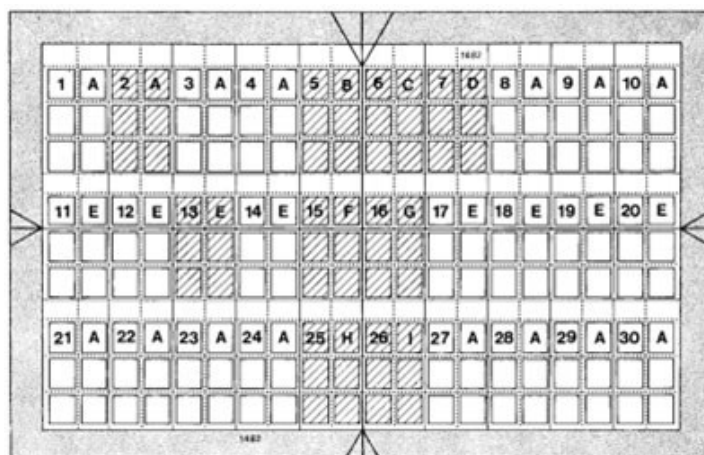
Watermarks can be normal, reversed, inverted, or inverted reversed in both horizontal and vertical orientations. There is a reasonably even distribution of orientation, and there is no premium for orientation.

Single line watermarks can be rather difficult to detect, especially when very small fragments of the watermark appear in the perforation of the stamp. (Note the lower right of the single line watermark layout where just the top tips of the U and a small amount of the bottom curve of the S, or less, may be present.) Note as well that the example is just that, one example, but the vertical position may be shifted, resulting in some issues being very close. When watermarks on FWs appear vertical (90 degree from the normal "upright" position as seen in the images above), these stamps are booklet panes.

Watermark Orientation

A key indicator in detecting fake coils is understanding the material they are made from. One way of doing that is to understand the orientation of watermarks in booklet panes versus sheets. The booklet panes are printed with the page turned 90 degrees to that of the regular sheet stamps. This results in the watermark appearing "vertically" (read up or down), instead of horizontally (read left or right).

The "perspective" of the examples above are from the face of the stamp. So when face down in fluid this will give them the appearance of being reversed. But the reality is, paper was loaded both face up and face down in the feeders (probably without realizing it, since the watermark could be hard to see).

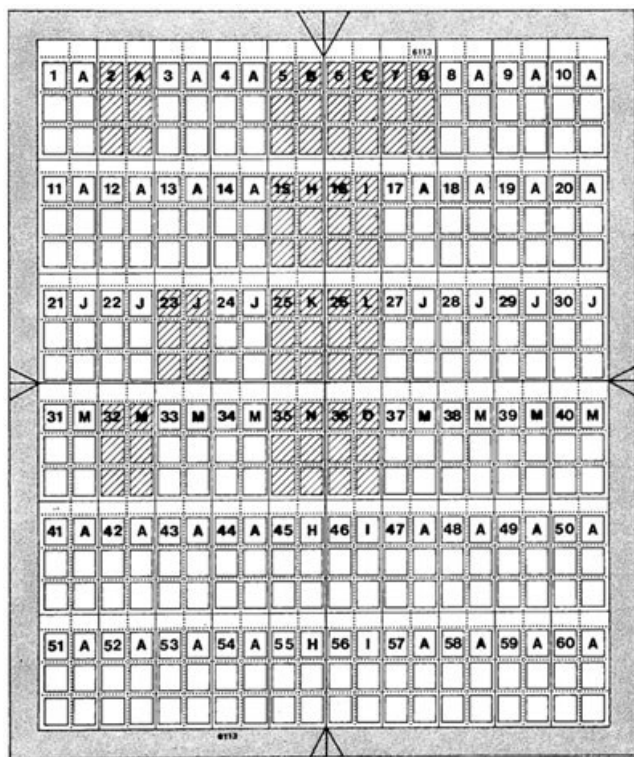


Example of the 180 subject sheet

Note that at the top of each stamp is the booklet selva that will make up part of the top binder (where they are stapled together) of the booklet. Watermarks also exist in these areas.

cont'd..... Page 11

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part I I Watermarks and Detection cont'd



Example of the 360 subject sheet

With booklet paper, the page was oriented perpendicular to that of the sheet stamps, resulting in the watermark being read up or down (vertically). The American Expeditionary Forces (AEF) panes were also made from the 360 subject sheets, with the booklet cut in a different orientation to the 6 pane booklets, but watermark orientation remains the same.



Horizontal, normal Single Line on 375



Vertical, normal Single Line on 374a

The stamp at left has a fully visible single line S watermark. This is the normal position for this watermark. The watermark at right is vertical, (turned 90 degrees) and is

also in the normal position for this issue.

This vertical watermark denotes a booklet single, as is noted by the natural straight edge at right on this stamp. From a 6-stamp pane. With the AEF singles, there are perforated singles on all sides. Vertical watermarks on these issues is the only way to determine them as booklet singles.

PRO TIP: Flat plate booklets have vertical watermarks. A flat plat coil found with vertical watermarks would therefore be a faked coil, as coils were made only from regular sheet stamps. However, it should be noted that horizontal rotary coils do have vertical watermarks, while vertical rotary coils have horizontal watermarks.

Detection Techniques

Without Fluid

You may be able to see the watermark without the need for any enhancement. The easiest generally to find is the double-line watermark, largely because they are sizeable, and even when a single letter doesn't align to fit exactly on the stamp, there are enough fragments of surrounding letters (USPS) that appear on a stamp. This is also due to the fact that they are spaced closer together than single line watermarks.

In many cases it is possible to see a double-line watermark without the need for fluid or other detection methods, simply by looking at the stamp from the back, placed against a black surface to help provide contrast for the mark.



In the image to the left the upper arm left arm of the U in USPS is visible. We can tell it is the U and not the lower leg of the P because the length is longer than where the curve of the P would attach at the lower point. (It's hard to capture this in a photo, so if you

don't see it straight away, look at the central area of the stamp, and slightly to the right, do you see it?).

(Editors Note: If you enlarge the screen viewing size you will see it.

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part I I Watermarks and Detection cont'd

But it's not always so easy to see a watermark without the use of fluid, especially in single line, where only small tips of the watermark may appear at the edges of the stamp. This can also be further compounded by image color. The yellow and orange varieties are particularly difficult.



The 381 (image left) - I have added red arrows to show the tips of the single - line U in USPS visible at the edge of this issue.

There are other tiny traces of watermark in the bottom perf, but that are so slight, it's nearly undetectable.

Note also how boldly the yellow image appears through the stamp in fluid, making it more difficult to see slight characteristics of the single-line watermark.

A third method of detection is the use of various light methods. One of the best known is the Signoscope. A well-known tool in the industry, it has varying degrees of usefulness in watermark detection/enhancement. It is sometimes controversial, depending on who you ask. On many US issues it is only moderately effective. Such as the single line 381 example, because the single line marks are so scant/trace, it makes it hard to differentiate them from other "surface noise" in a stamp. However, on the orange and yellow issues of the Franklin-Washington, it is one area that it does shine (no pun intended).

The Signoscope works by directing light through a thick prism, and passes the light horizontally through the paper, while pressure is applied (which enables the features to be viewed).

Newer versions of lights are available from the company that are LED and provide various colors. I have not tried them at this point, but the theory behind them is, the closer the color of the printed stamp to the LED makes it easier to see the details. (This stamp is shown using the default filament bulb).

The intensity of the light is adjustable, allowing for optimal clarity of the watermark by issue. (Similar to the way that changing the focus on a microscope improves clarity.)

The two images above are of the same stamp: a 338, double line watermark, the first as viewed in the Signoscope,



338 in Signoscope



338 In Fluid

and the second viewed in fluid.

You can see that the S is very clearly visible in the first image, almost dead center of the stamp. However, in the image in fluid, the watermark is entirely undetectable. I did find some conditions where I could see the watermark unaided, but interestingly this depended on the type of general lighting I had on in the room. And even then, only when placed on a black background, viewed at about 20 degrees and a foot (30cm) above the item. In some conditions I could see it.

It's crucial to become familiar with how the single- and double-line watermark distribution occurs on FW issues. For the largest part, this is not difficult, and a simple dip in fluid will reveal the watermark type. Some issues must be handled very carefully, however. Any time there is a possibility between a single line and no watermark, extreme care should be taken with close examination to properly identify if it is genuinely unwatermarked, or just has a slight trace of a watermark around the perf tips.

PRO TIP: This is where the matrix becomes extremely useful, because you can quickly see what the watermark possibilities are, for an issue. If you look and you see "No watermark" but the only options are "double" or "single" line, then you've missed something, and need to search again, especially on the light ink colors. I've used light ink examples because they are the most difficult to ID. If you can find the watermarks in these issues, then all other

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Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG

Spurious Stamp Schemes by SellerX

by IPDA Member Greg Doll

When we last left Johnny, he was busy seeking out some IDPA dealers online from whom he can confidently buy stamps to fill out his own collection. Additionally, Johnny wanted to find the perfect birthday gift for his father who got him started in stamp collecting.

During his search, he discovered a site that hosted literally thousands of online stamp stores. Knowing that his father loved the old 1892 US Columbians, he excitedly typed into the search box "United States Columbians" and hit the enter key.



Instantly, thousands of results popped up on his screen. "JACKPOT!", Johnny thought. I'll surely find the perfect stamp for dear old dad's birthday present here.

Scrolling through the potential candidates, he came across one that was offered by a store called "SellerX" that seemed too good to be true...a bit pricey he first thought but it is for my dad and he's worth it. The description read, "US Scott #2625c MNH OG \$4.00 Isabella/Columbus Egraded w/certificate GEM 100" and the asking price was only \$350.00 on sale from \$500.00.

The image of the stamp was beautiful and mesmerizing, bright color, never hinged, original gum, and with a graded certificate to boot!!!

He knew a little about the Columbians but had never seen one of these. He also knew they were usually very expensive to buy sometimes in the thousands of dollars. He wondered if this was too good to be true but thought, "well, if they have a store here, they must be honest and ethical otherwise they wouldn't be able to sell here (forgetting to check if this seller was an IPDA Dealer Member)".

Johnny had been saving money from his morning paper route for months to buy his dad something special and

had just enough to cover the cost of this stamp and shipping so he swallowed the curious lump in his throat and added it to his cart and purchased it.

A couple of weeks later, his dad's stamp arrived in the mail. He opened the package carefully and sure enough, a beautiful, fresh \$4.00 Columbian Isabella tumbled out of the glassine onto his desk along with a pristine certificate declaring his dad's gift to be the real deal....a GEM 100!!!!

He couldn't believe his good fortune! "Dad will be so happy and proud of me!", he thought.

Johnny could hardly contain his excitement as his dad's big day approached. Finally, his dad's birthday arrived. A big celebration had been planned with family and friends gathering to celebrate the big day. Eventually, it was Johnny's turn to present his gift.

Walking towards his father, Johnny felt a familiar tingle go down his spine. "Will dad like it? Will he think I spent too much?", he thought. Too late to turn back now, he proudly presented his gift to his father.

"Happy Birthday!", Johnny exclaimed. His dad proceeded to open the package revealing what he knew to be the \$4.00 single from the 1992 re-issued Columbian Souvenir Sheet. "How thoughtful! It's beautiful! Thank you!", Johnny's dad said and gave Johnny a huge hug and told him how much he loved him and how proud he was to be his dad.

Later that evening, after the guests had headed for home, Johnny had the opportunity to tell his dad the story of how and where he found this gem. Impressed, his father asked Johnny how much he had paid for it.

Johnny explained that when he found this beauty, he couldn't believe how low the asking price was and that it was even on sale! He told his father that he had been saving up all year from his paper route to afford something nice for him.

"It was only \$350.00!", he told his father. Now, Johnny's dad was an experienced philatelist and knew at that point that his son had been had. He also loved his son very much and decided to use this as a teaching moment. "Come with me Johnny", his dad beckoned.

..... cont'd page 15

Spurious Stamp Schemes by SellerX

by IPDA Member Greg Doll

.....cont'd from page 14

They met in the study and his dad promptly logged in to the store hosting site Johnny had used.

With a little digging, dad was able back-track the history of this stamp. His dad explained to Johnny that this exact same stamp was purchased **BY** SellerX one month prior from another online dealer for \$6.45 plus shipping.

Further, his dad demonstrated, SellerX had run the stamp through his copy of EzGrader, which he explained evaluates the centering of the stamp and outputs a kind of official looking "certificate" declaring, in this case, a grade of "GEM 100". SellerX then listed the stamp for \$500.00 then "discounted" it 30% to \$350.00 in some kind of perpetual "sale".



A bit confused, Johnny asked his dad, "what about the certificate? Isn't a GEM 100 grade a good thing?".

"Of course it is a good thing Johnny" his dad replied, "**IF** it comes from a recognized and reputable grading and expertizing authority but all this EzGrader software does is calculate how good the centering is.... nothing else about any other aspects about a stamp. Nothing about authenticity, color, gum condition, perforations, image quality, any defects whether they be minor or major, and many other things.

Johnny, my son, I'm afraid that you have been had. It is a beautiful specimen certainly and coming as a gift from my son, I'll treasure it of course but I hope this is a good learning experience for you.", Johnny's dad concluded. Heart fallen, Johnny got a great hug from his dad, told him happy birthday and that he loved him and went to bed for the night.

Waking the next morning, Johnny looked on the table next to his bed and found small envelope had been placed there sometime during the night.

He opened it and falling out of a folded card was a small glassine envelope and \$350 in cash. Inside the glassine was a beautiful US Scott 244.



It was used and hinged but it was stunning.

He looked inside the card and read what was written in it.

"Happy Birthday, Johnny! I love you!, Dad".

As it turns out, Johnny's own birthday came one day after his father's did.

Johnny made himself a promise going forward to always remember to seek out an IPDA Member Dealer going forward, knowing that they will never try and hoodwink him or anyone else.

Nealy the Back Page -IPDA Website

After seeing a few member questions this past month I thought it might be useful to remind members about the Members Only page on the IPDA website. ipdastamps.com

And especially to mention that perhaps members might like to use the Community Forum menu tab (see below in red) if they have topics they would like to discuss with other members.

Philatelic Market place have such forums and they can be informative and constructive place to discuss matters of interest, or just get answers to philatelic Questions.

I welcome feedback as I have not really spent enough time cleaning this up, so if you think of a topic heading just drop me an email at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com.

PS if you have forgotten your login user name drop me an email and I will send it to you.

MEMBERS ONLY ▾	
AGM Proxy	this will be activated in time for the AGM in March 2023
Book Reviews	
Change Request	if you have an idea for an improvement to the Website send it from here
Confidential List	where we advise of bad dealers / sellers / collectors
Community Forum	this is the Forum discussion site TRY IT LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK
Downloads	where members can get banners, logos adverting materials
Directors Chatroom	
Exhibits	where members can present their exhibition materials
Identify This Stamp	ask a members for help identifying a stamp
Library	
Internet Listing And Selling Guidelines	our guidelines for members and we now publish on the home page so collectors and non members can also read these
Members Chatroom	this is a chatroom for live chats between members if you like to use it
Members List	
Newsletters	All IPDA Newsletter going back to 2007 are available here

Request for Material for the December Issue; Just another reminder - please send ideas or material to me for the December issue.

I am overseas for two weeks in later November so any early submissions would be most welcomed.

Thank you Michael

THE BACK PAGE

New Issue GB. Released on 19th October.



Am I the only one who thinks this? but isn't this embarrassing? I have read some people really like them and for sure will be buying them. Apparently they are security adhesive gums as well.

Do you have customers that still collect GB new issues?

Hope they have lots of money - there are three more GB new issues planned for November alone.

No stamp No problem - perhaps I will write more on this in the next issue. An Post (Ireland) has announced the availability of a digital stamp.

More [here](#). How fast will this catch on? Thoughts? Look on the bright side. No more of the rubbish above or to the right!!

Congratulations Corinphila an IPDA Member



Corinphila was recognized at the Stampex winning the Best Dressed stand.

The award went to Corinphila & Heinrich Koehler for their partnership with the GBPS Great Britain Philatelic Society - it was reported - "the partnership gives space and advantage to both organisations, and they display impressive publications, friendly staff, a classy backdrop and free chocolates, what's not to like?"



Guernsey Post's new Christmas stamps celebrate the traditional British pantomime and are the first to carry the cypher of His Majesty King Charles III. The cypher is the Sovereign's monogram and comprises the initials of the monarch's name and title (Rex) which is Latin for King, alongside a representation of the Crown.

His Majesty's cypher appears on Guernsey Post's Christmas stamps for Guernsey and Alderney, which are subject to Royal Approval and will be released early in November 2022. Fortunately for you dear reader there is not enough space to show more than one of this stunningly awful issue, except of course the clarity of the cypher.

