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Having difficulty reading the text size ? You can use **Cntl +** to enlarge the image / text size. This is especially useful for some of the details shown in the Franklin Washington article.

Or Use the **+** button you will find on the top pdf menu bar - go to 150% everything will be so clear.

Chairman's Message

Hello everyone, Welcome to another issue. And believe it or not it is the Christmas issue. December is here already. What a fast year it has been and I hope it was a happy, healthy and successful year for you all, and especially for your stamp sales. As I was driving home from work tonight, I was racking my brain for what to write in this month's message. A recent stamp purchase has made it some what easy.



As seen, the image shows the planting of a tree/seedling. As members, maybe each of us could try to plant the stamp 'seed' in a young family member/friend to dive into stamps. Maybe we could ask a fellow stamp associate to join us. If we are to keep this wonderful hobby moving forward, and the IPDA, we need more members.

If you are traveling this Winter season, please travel safe. As someone who has circled the globe twice, take a train! Enjoy the views and the time on the rails - it's worth it! Speaking of trains.....



I found this Insured letter stamp of Mexico from 1951. This image just shows classic forward movement in my view. And with movement, I hope we move in the new year

with the most speed and growth for our stores, sales and the IPDA. Please keep up the hard work!

In closing, I would like to thank each and every one of you. Your membership counts. I wish each of you the best year ahead and many sales.

Happy New year and much success!

Lee Coen, Chairman, 2022-2023



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
Greg Doll	1



Sc# Nr 26 dealer insignia on reverse

Recruitment of new members

One 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!)





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.



Royal Mail UK

C-3PO was designed as a protocol droid (a droid is a robot possessing some degree of artificial intelligence – we have them in the airline industry for example in the reservations function – very clever software actually) anyway C-3PO was intended to assist in etiquette, customs and translation among other good service behaviors - quite amazing now that Royal Mail is to be renamed to 'Charles III Post Office'. C3PO for short. One wonders if the etiquette, customs and general service will improve?



New Member Welcome

This month we welcome **Louis Campanara** from Hatboro, PA, USA Louis has a store [here on Hipstamp](#) where there is an excellent presentation of his stock.



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 December

This will be the last month of the Raspberries. Only because after a while it depresses me to keep seeing the absolute rubbish that so many sellers list. I don't go looking for these I might add. They just crop up when I am doing research or somehow Hipstamp is proud to promote them! Oops did I say Hipstamp! The marketplace that tells me they have a Trust and Safety team. Seriously! I don't think so, or shall I say not one that cares for the collector, for the serious dealers or for the professionalism of their own marketplace - more on Page 7 .

So here are a final three raspberries. You gotta believe it, there are some morons out there folks!!!

I find it hard to believe these sellers have the audacity to list these.

Nominee 1 The Dumber and Dumber Award



On one marketplace alone there are 26 of this stamp listed - nice copies as well - at a price lower than the person selling this is asking. What mindset says lets waste our time scanning what should be in the garbage and asking more than other sellers, especially when there are at least 50+ copies for sale and the cat for VFU is 25c

Nominee 2 The More Fool You award this goes to a professional con artist for this example - just one of hundreds they have listed I might add - which has a beautifully produced "certificate" for this 1938 Scott 836.

Yours for only US \$119, (reduced to sell from \$170) The classic "A Landing of Swedes & Finns" issue is one of a kind - current (2022 Scott Specialised) is 35c (that is USD \$0.35) - offered at only 340 times cat and remember Scott cat is for quality Mint Never Hinged stamps.

Wonderful bargain ,... NOT a beautiful plate block of 6, well centered, would set a collector back US \$2.80 and there are a few hundred to chose from .

Oh! I didn't mention the little black spot on the gum.... Perhaps that adds value.



Nominee 3, and the Winner, is.....

Trust me I am a big name stamp dealer - Burma 1940 Stamp Centenary addressed cover with unmentioned central crease. Listed at US \$199.99 (was \$249.99). Best market price is around say \$15 to \$20, without the crease and without the toning but this con artist is offering it to the unsuspecting and perhaps not so knowledgeable collector at US \$199. Of course it could and does get worse. Another copy of [this same Burma Cover](#) by the same seller is \$249 and the toning is even "worse", obviously why they are asking more!!!!!! Caveat emptor. Collectors beware!



A Fraud to Rival the Stock Exchange Forgery

By Dr John Horsey

Fifty Shades of Orange would have been a catchy title for my book on the £5 Orange but it might imply a rather colourful novel. While it does contain many sexy items such as elusive essays, proofs, trials and other gorgeous rarities, the closest it comes to inflicted pain was the painstaking analysis of over 3,500 £5 Oranges. Instead, the book is simply entitled "The £5 Orange" but nevertheless has many exciting revelations like the massive fraud outlined below. It is 312 pages, profusely illustrated in full colour. While based around the £5, the techniques and principles used apply to almost any stamp of the era and are not even limited to the stamps of Great Britain.

It is the first comprehensive study of the £5 Orange, both Telegraphs and Postage, which has revealed much hitherto undiscovered knowledge and will necessitate changes to the catalogues. For the first time a definitive, rather than subjective, test has been developed to identify blued paper. Whether you already own a £5 Orange, or are thinking of buying one, the book guides on what to look for.

Some cancels are common: others exceptionally rare. The same applies to the various specimen overprints. Knowing how scarce a particular cancel or specimen type is, can prove very rewarding. Your stamp may be worth more than you think! The same applies to the plate varieties, some of which are better than the well-known TA and JC frame breaks of the £1 value. These are fully tabulated and illustrated, as are the sections on forgeries and Cinderella items.



Figure 1: A genuine specimen and two with fake cancels

Throughout the research upon which the book is based, there have been many surprises. Often things were not what they first seem to be. Here is just one of the surprises in the book:

The £5 on blued paper overprinted specimen type 9 is relatively common. Years ago, they were cheap, especially without gum. In contrast, a fine used £5 on blued is worth far more and there is a temptation to convert one into the other. Figure 1 (above) shows a typical example of specimen type 9 alongside an effort to make one 'fine used' by adding a crude Glasgow cancel. The cancel is an obvious fake. The letters of GLASGOW are masking the area from which the specimen overprint has been partly erased. Greater care has been taken with the adjacent Edinburgh cancel. It is more realistic but still with a specimen overprint masked by the lettering. The '3' of '83' has a rounded top whereas in genuine Edinburgh cancels of the period, the top of the '3' is flat.

Some examples are outstanding as in Figure 2. Believe it or not, this is a forged cancel over an erased specimen. The book proves why. The erasure is almost perfect and indeed the item has an erroneous certificate stating 'SG133 is genuine on blued paper'.

There are many examples of cancels on specimen stamps so it was not surprising to find the group shown in Figure 3 on the following page.



Figure 2: Almost perfect erasure

cont'd.... Page 6

A Fraud to Rival the Stock Exchange Forgery

By Dr John Horsey

All three have a London Chief Office registered oval dated 9th December 1899 and timed at 1.30pm. In each case, the cancel has been heavily inked and deliberately placed to mask a partly erased specimen. The centre example has an RPS certificate stating 'faked cancel over specimen overprint'. At the far right is a very poor example with major defects but the cancel shows the same characteristic over-inking where the specimen would be. All three have been cleverly done and mask the specimen well.



Figure 3: Three examples of the London Chief Office cancel dated 9 DEC 99

Even under magnification, the letters of SPECIMEN are often difficult to see, but there is sufficient to show it is there. The enlarged inset in Figure 3 shows SPECIMEN extracted from another stamp and placed just below the partly erased specimen covered by the inverted DON CHIEF of the cancel. The curves of the S are apparent in the F; the N is seen as a darker shadow in the outline arc of the cancel, as is the first E of specimen buried within the H. With careful study, the other letters can be seen sufficiently to show that the specimen overprint is there. The book shows a further technique to identify these disguised specimens even if heavily masked.

Now we come to the surprise: it might be thought that someone had forged a canceller dated 9 DEC 99 and applied it to a few specimens to deceive collectors. **This is not the case: the cancels are genuine!**

Figure 4 shows a stamp with the same cancel but this time clearly **not** covering a Specimen. It is normal internal accounting usage on a normal stamp. The cancel is light and clear. The image comparison techniques discussed in a previous article, *Technology and Philately*, GSM July 2012 pp74-75, were used to show that all four 9 DEC 99 cancels originate from the same device. If the cancel in figure 4 is genuine, then so are the other three. The only rational explanation is that they are examples of fraudulent use.



Figure 4: Same cancel on a normal stamp

We must assume that a clerk at London Chief Office had acquired some £5 Specimen stamps, made some effort to reduce the overprint, and then used them instead of new ones from his stock. If the stamps were used for internal accounting (as most were), once the dockets they were on had served their purpose, they would have been consigned to security waste and destroyed. This meant that there was little risk of discovery.

These obscured specimens are difficult enough to see today, let alone in the dim gaslight of an 1899 post office. These four stamps clearly escaped destruction, but even so, it has taken 113 years to uncover the fraud. That day the clerk made £15, the equivalent of 300 Stock Exchange 1s forgeries. It was a huge sum in those days - maybe around £3,000 today



Figure 5: Almost certainly a specimen

cont'd.... Page 7

A Fraud to Rival the Stock Exchange Forgery

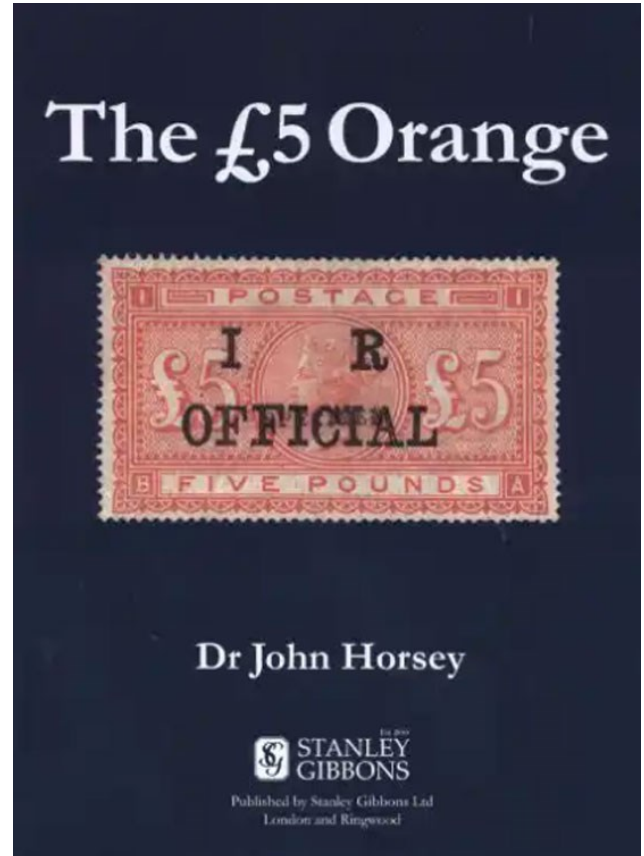
By Dr John Horsey

These obscured specimens are difficult enough to see today, let alone in the dim gaslight of an 1899 post office. These four stamps clearly escaped destruction, but even so, it has taken 113 years to uncover the fraud. That day the clerk made £15, the equivalent of 300 Stock Exchange 1s forgeries. It was a huge sum in those days - maybe around £3,000 today.

The extent of this fraud is provably large and may be massive. A similar example dated 1st December 1899 is shown in Figure 5. This is almost certainly a further specimen fraudulently used; the deeper shade of the letters of Postage confirms it is blued paper, which finished 10 years before. It is the same canceller and its different date indicates the cancel is not forged. A forger would be satisfied with one date - there would be no need to create another device with a different date. With this evidence of £20 defrauded in just over a week, there is the potential for this fraud to eclipse the revenue lost with the Stock Exchange forgeries.

All of these £5 values came onto the market from 'liberations' of forms and dockets intended for destruction. If these five examples survived from London Chief Office, based on average survival rates, there may have been a few hundred destroyed. The proportion of Specimens among these is a matter of speculation. There was probably a ready supply: if any post offices held Specimens, it was likely to be a section within London Chief Office.

We may never know the full extent of this fraud. It might be a case for the *New Tricks* team? This and three further potentially massive frauds are discussed in *The £5 Orange* book.



With Thanks to member Dr. John Horsey. Some of this material was presented to the The Royal Philatelic Society, London. John can be contacted on county@stampauctions.co.uk

IPDA taking a stand for the benefit of Collectors

Recently your IPDA Committee discussed the unethical practices of far too many sellers on the Hipstamp marketplace - a practice discussed in an article published in the November issue on the topic of scammers - sellers who list and price stamps with ridiculously exaggerated prices, prices that are determined solely on the basis of the stamp having a "Grade" for its centering, and notably when that stamp is common and 100s or more are available at sensible prices. A practice that is in breach of the Hipstamp terms and Conditions.

Your General Secretary wrote to advise Hipstamp with categorical examples but no action has been taken and then on behalf of the Committee he wrote proposing IPDA support Hipstamp Trust and Safety team and help improve the credibility of the marketplace. This to advise you the IPDA has tried to provide an opportunity to improve philately in the marketplace for the benefit of collectors but the IPDA opportunity has been rejected by the CEO of Hipstamp.

AIR CRASH MAIL OF THE WORLD

Member Ken Sanford writes to let us know that the Air Crash Mail of the World book is soon to be published and he is taking orders. The book will be available ONLY on a flash drive, the size of a credit card, and will be compatible with any computer. It will be in Word for Windows or PDF format and because it will be over 2000 pages it will not be in a printed book format.

Orders can be placed using the order form below (or equivalent details by email) and sending it to Ken at kaerophil@gmail.com, or as per the direction on the form.



AIR CRASH MAIL OF THE WORLD, Edited by Ken Sanford

A complete revision and update of "Recovered Mail" by Henri Nierinck, and the American Air Mail Catalogue, Sixth Edition, Vol. 1, Interrupted Flights section. Covers all known air crashes from which mail has been recovered and is recorded in collectors' hands. Over 2,000 pages and 1600 illustrations of cachets, labels, post office memos, and crash markings, many in full color. Pricing has been brought up to date, to reflect the current market. Available on a flash drive. Order from: Ken Sanford, 613 Championship Dr., Oxford, CT – USA 06478-3128. Make checks payable to American Air Mail Society, or PayPal to kaerophil@gmail.com and add \$1.60.

Price: to USA - US\$32.00 To all other countries – US\$34.00 (postage included)

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Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part III – Perforations and Imperfs

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. Comments, questions and requests to reproduce should be directed to Scott at scottvpayton@hotmail.com

Preface This is Part III 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.

If you're still reading this series, then you're seriously committed to understanding the Franklin-Washington issues. Diving into this section is one of the most important for identifying fakes as well. There will be another installment on this topic specifically, but understanding the perforations, how to accurately measure and identify them, use the specialist gauge will all be even more important in the installment for fakery. The next install however, will cover 2-cent type Identifiers.

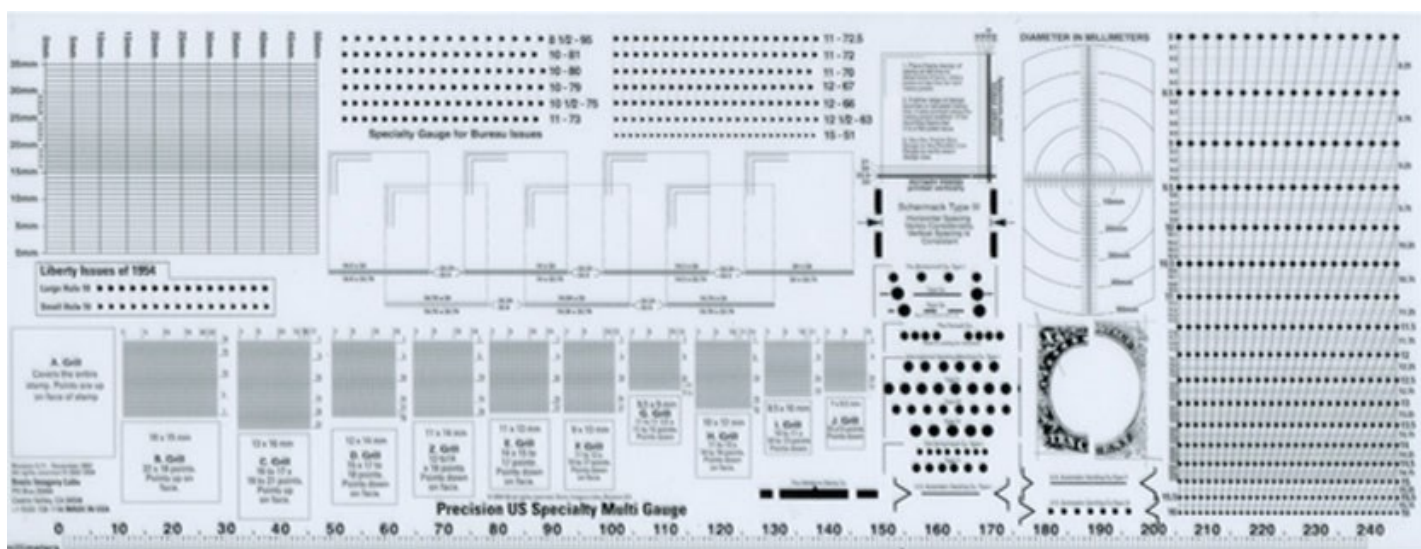
For a copy of our Franklin-Washington Identification Matrix please email us at scottvpayton@hotmail.com and we'll send the matrix, and the tutorial on how to use it.

Perforations (Or Not) Perforation is an excellent way to narrow down the identification of what the Franklin-Washington under examination is.

While most are familiar with a perforation gauge, some are not. And those that are, may not be familiar with the specialty gauge.

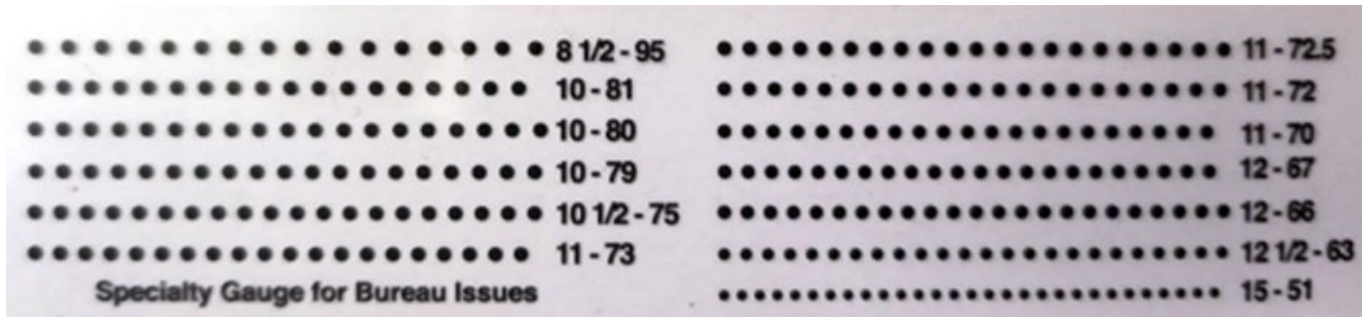
While the specialty gauge has many purposes, it is the FWs that it is most often used with in US philatelics, particularly because not only does it cover the "usual suspects" of perforation, it enables precision measurement of perforations (which is extremely valuable for fake detection). It also covers private perforations - The "Vending and Affixing" machine perfs, and in addition is invaluable in determining coil authenticity.

Specialist Gauge



A quick rundown on the gauge above: (NOTE- if difficult to read as I realise there is a lot of fine detail to display please try Cntl + to enlarge the image)

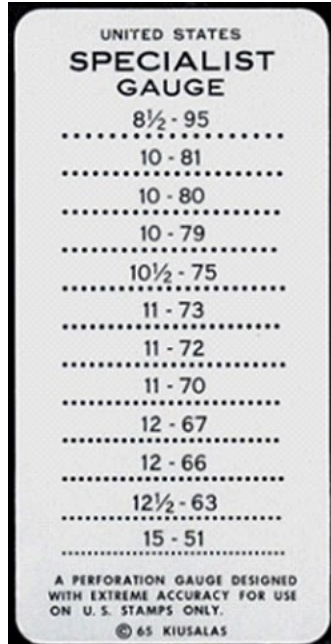
Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part III – Perforations and Imperfs



Steven Unkrich has changed my mind on the approach to the specialty gauge. Previously I have used precision measure from the diagonal gauge, however for hole size and position, the Bureau gauge is the definitive authority in expertizing FWs particularly coils.

Perforations are noted with two values: first, the perforation (the number of holes present in a 20mm space) and the second the space between the holes in thousands of an inch. Also, there are several versions, and there are some known issues with the gauge, so ensure that you're using either the original Kiusalas metal gauge, or Sonic Imagery Labs Revision 5.1 gauge.

At the risk of being parochial, I will explain how to use a perf gauge correctly. I have seen many people use a standard pocket gauge by "aligning" the perf tip to the tip of the gauge. This does NOT give you an accurate measure of the perf. The proper way is to align the bottom of the perforation with the perforation well. For FW issues, it is critical to ensure you are using the right perforation and hole spacing. So first, consult with this table for which measure to use:



Kiusalas Gauge

Spacing Inches	Actual Perf	Specialist System	Scott Listing
.095	8.29	8½-95	8½
.081	9.72	10-81	10
.080	9.84	10-80	10
.079	9.97	10-79	10
.075	10.50	10½-75	10½
.073	10.79	11-73	11
.072	10.94	11-72	11
.070	11.25	11-70	11
.067	11.75	12-67	12
.066	11.92	12-66	12
.063	12.49	12½-63	12½
.051	15.44	15-51	15

Comparison of Listed Perf to Specialist Gauge to Actual Perf

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part III – Perforations and Imperfs

Bureau Gauge	Issues by SCOTT #
12 ½ – 63	536
12 – 66	331 – 342, 348 – 366, 374 – 382, 385 – 389, 405 – 407, 414 – 423
12 – 66 x 10 – 79	423A – 423C
10 – 79 x 12 – 66	423D – 423E
11 – 72	461, 498 – 519, 525 – 530, 545 – 546
11 – 72 x 10 – 80	538 – 541
11 – 72 or 11 – 73 at top or bottom or both x 11 – 72	544
11 – 72 x 10 – 80 (Left Side Only)	546a
10 – 79	424 – 447, 460, 462 – 478
10 – 80	448 – 458, 486 – 497, 543
10 – 80 x 11 – 73	542
8.5 – 95	390 – 396, 410 – 413

List of FWs by Perforation Gauge:

The image and tables on the previous page and above are invaluable in understanding how to examine the various FWs. You can use either the Kiusalas gauge in metal (preferred, if you can get one), or the Bureau Perforations (replication of the Kiusalas gauge) on the Sonic Imagery Labs Precision Gauge. But do be aware, that over time, that gauge can “drift” due to variation in the plastic (shrink, stretch, warp). Keep it protected and well stored and check it from time to time to ensure it retains its calibration.

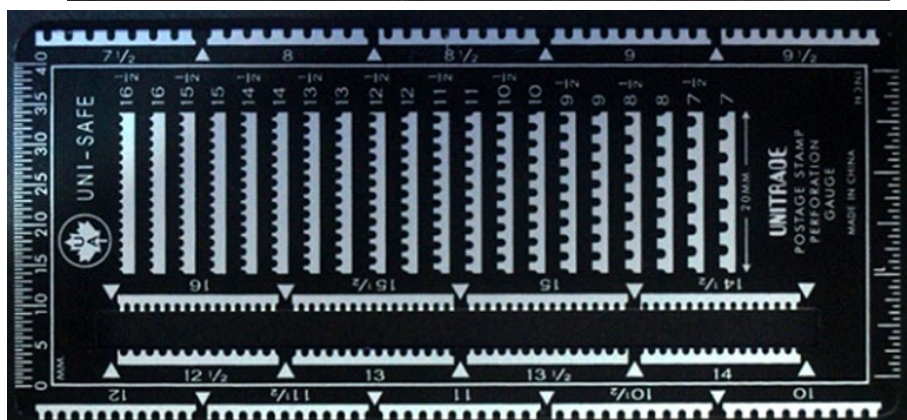
The table above lists the various FWs by SCOTT #, and which gauge should be used in validating them.

For clarity, the comparison table is provided to demonstrate the variation between what is listed in SCOTT and what the actual perforation is, which is why “standard” perforation gauges are not suitable for perfect checking Bureau issues.

Right 413 Candidate coil pair with 8½ perforation.

Standard Pocket Gauge: At this stage I want to introduce why you need the precision gauge as opposed to typical “pocket” gauges — a typical example is shown to the right.

For many issues, this gauge is fine. But if you have concern about fakery, then this gauge isn't accurate enough. The image on the following page demonstrates why.



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Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part III – Perforations and Imperfs



Let's start by examining a 2c Washington coil "candidate" (they are candidates until we prove them to be authentic, or fraudulent). We'll first use a standard gauge and examine the stamp perforation. We place the well of the perforation against the perf gauge. It looks like an $8\frac{1}{2}$ perforation is a match to the outer edge of the stamp pair.

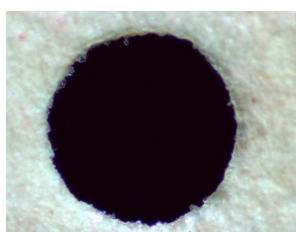


Don't use this gauge this way. The problem is perforations "separate" at different points, and it's not possible to predict where/how. Perf is defined at the bottom of the perf, not from perf tips. **I'm demonstrating this to show how inaccurate this method is**, and why you should never use any gauge this way. These examples all use the SAME stamp. Note how much more clarity the specialist gauge provides. Use the pocket gauge when you're at a stamp show for most issues, but not for validation of FWs.

If we just stop here, we would think, "Great, this is a 413 Coil Pair", which has a 2022 CV of \$260! But let's look closer, as we always should with coils.

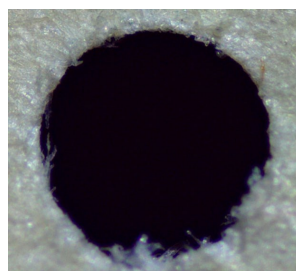
Going back to the Bureau gauge, let's examine this same candidate, and see what we find. Remember, that the Kiusalas gauge conversion indicates that the true measure of the $8\frac{1}{2}$ coil is more accurately described as 8.29 perf. Matching to a perfect 8.5 in the standard gauge is cause for concern.

When placed over the Kiusalas gauge we see that these perfs aren't matching as expected. It periodically seems to align, but not fully. Let's take a closer look at the perforation hole itself.



Left: Perforation closeup of hole from 413 Candidate.

This perforation is at a magnification of around 75x. It appears almost perfectly circular. There does not appear to be any motion (elongation or paper mounding) from the perforation wheel.



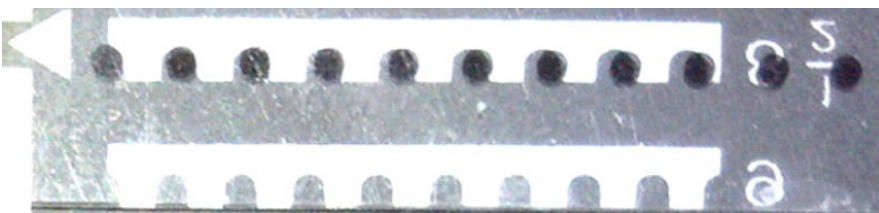
Left: Perforation closeup of hole from 390 verified coil

Compared to the above image, we see signs of elongation and pressure from the movement of the paper passing through the perforation machine.

cont'd..... Page 13

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part III – Perforations and Imperfs

We now have a strong reason (if not definitive) to believe that the perforations are fraudulent. How could the standard gauge have gotten it so wrong? Let's examine the Bureau Gauge placed over the standard gauge.



The image (above) indicates the problem with the standard gauge versus the Bureau gauge. First, the perforation size in the standard gauge is too wide (perf hole size). Note that from the first perforation, we can see that the perf hole in the Bureau gauge is smaller (fits inside) the black area that is the perf gauge of the standard gauge.

The result is, the area that represents the perforation in the standard gauge being wider than the hole, creates the illusion that the whole matches (it is in fact just filling the full space). In addition, we see the perf indicator of the specialist gauge slowly appearing to drift right (this is the difference between the 8.29 actual perforation versus the $8\frac{1}{2}$ described in SCOTT). The standard gauge is designed for "short side" measurement, which is less effective than a long side measure, because the drifting doesn't really start to become obvious until the last hole.

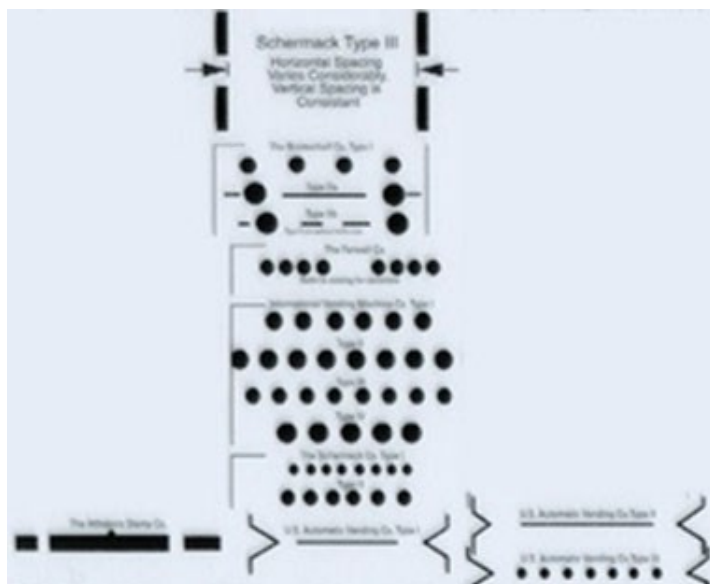
There is an additional clue there too. This pair (image right) is from a flat plate printing. When we align the perforation on a straight edge, as in the image blow, we see that the perforations are almost directly across from each other.



With flat plate coils, perforations are almost always offset to some degree to each other. (Contrary to Rotary Coils, where perf holes are almost always exactly across from each other). While not definitive for flat plate coils, it is a strong indicator to take a deeper look. One further clue, just to round the full examination of this 413 candidate out, is that the parallel lines check does not pass (more on this later in identifying fakes). However, it was clearly an imperforate. From this we know it was not faked from an imperf coil, instead it was faked from an imperforate pair. So the ID is in fact, a 409 faked to appear as a 413. The motivation: A 409 pair is worth around \$5, while a 413 pair carries a CV of \$260, representing a 52x multiplier in perceived value.

Private Perforations:

This demonstrates why and how you want to use the specialist gauge for standard perf.



I'll now go into the other parts of the specialty gauge for IDing FWs. As we look at the specialist gauge looking to the left, past the "Target" and vignette of the 10c, you will encounter the "Private perforation" gauge area. This area (imager left) indicates the measures for private perf.

Used in the same way as the perforation gauge, you align the private perforation with the specialty gauge. One advantage of this transparent gauge is that the stamp may be positioned on top of the gauge, or UNDER the gauge. For private perfs this can be particularly useful.

cont'd pagepage 14

Franklin-Washington's – Taming the Beast – Part III – Perforations and Imperfs

Finally, to close out this topic, the following are Private Perforations.

One of these is fraudulent, can you tell which one?

And a closing comment about private perforations, if the gauge doesn't match up *exactly*, then the perforation is a fake.

In Part IV, in the January issue, I will discuss the 2-Cent Type Identifiers. Look forward to seeing you then

Best wishes and Merry Christmas Scott.



Members Only — IPDA Website.

I showed this last month and thought it might be useful to include it again, in case you missed it, or perhaps for new members. The Members Only page at ipdastamps.com Forgotten your User Name login? just send me an email and I will send it to you ipdasecretary1@gmail.com.

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

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Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG

The Little Red Caboose

by IPDA Member Greg Doll

With the Christmas season approaching, Johnny had been trying to come up with something to do over the break from school for the holidays. He knew that he wanted to spend some time with his stamp collection but didn't want to stay cooped up in his house the entire time. So he went and asked his mom and dad if he could go out with them when they go shopping this upcoming weekend. They said yes of course, so they all made plans to go out on the town on Saturday afternoon. A nice lunch then some power shopping.

Now Johnny's dad had been doing business with a great little stamp dealer in town for many years so he thought a quick trip there would be a good opportunity to introduce his son to his longtime friends.

After a pleasant lunch of good Texas barbeque, Johnny, along with his mom and dad, set off to their first stop. As the car pulled up to an old, dilapidated building, Johnny wondered what was going on and asked his dad, "What is going on dad? There isn't anything here anymore.". His father glared at him knowingly and said, "sure there is Johnny. You just have to know where to look!". They all piled out of the car and followed dad around to the side of the old building where an old red train caboose sat on a set of old rails. A sign on the car read "The Little Red Caboose". Johnny thought to himself, "Great! I am not really interested in trains but maybe mom is. I'll just play along...".



The family climbed the stairs to the side door entrance to the old train car. Dad opened the door and peered inside. He shouted, "Is anyone here???". A quick response came from within. "I've been here for forty years! You know that!". Johnny's dad chuckled and ambled into the old caboose followed by his wife and son. Johnny closed the door behind him and upon turning around to see what the big deal was, he quickly realized that this old caboose had been converted into...a stamp store!!! Johnny's mom

was not impressed and muttered something about the place looking like the wand shop from the Harry Potter movies. Piles of dusty boxes were strewn about the room. Stacks and stacks of old binders and albums were everywhere. Mom, feeling she had been hood-winked again, quickly resigned herself to time she will never get back and sat down with a sigh on one of the old office chairs present near an even older desk.

Johnny's dad had been doing business with Bob for years and had planned to sit down with him for a bit to discuss some Zeppelin plate blocks he had been working to pry out of Bob's grip for some time. Meanwhile, Johnny was introduced to Karl who had been working for Bob for as long as anyone could remember.

Karl was a jokester...a bad one...but a jokester nevertheless. He had served his country in the war and had a ton of stories to tell. Johnny had other plans though. He asked Karl if he could check out some of the old boxes and binders and permission was quickly granted.

Karl went back to his business of sorting and describing consignments for the upcoming Little Red Caboose stamp auction. Johnny dove head first into a giant pile of boxes like an Olympic high diver. Dust flew. Mom sneezed. Karl laughed.

Johnny went through every box and binder he could until his dad reappeared from his back office negotiations with Ol' Bob. He proudly proclaimed that he was able to pry that Zeppelin set of plate blocks out of Bob's hands for a very fair price. Dad looked around the room and saw his wife slumped in the chair, asleep. Dad chuckled to himself, "That will work for now. Where is Johnny though?".

Karl nodded towards the pile of boxes in the other corner of the room. Johnny's head popped up from behind an old box that read "Dill Pickles" on it. "Dad!" Johnny exclaimed. "I can't believe what a great place this is! Karl tells hilarious jokes. There is more fun stuff to do here than anywhere I have ever been! I found this little wooden box with a bunch of cool, old covers in it. I asked Karl what the price was for the box and it was more than I could afford but that's ok. Maybe it will still be here next time we visit." With their business at the Little Red Caboose completed, Mom was gently woken from her slumber and they all staggered back out to the car and headed home.

....cont'd page 17

The Little Red Caboosecont'd

by IPDA Member Greg Doll

Over the next several weeks, Johnny tried to shake the thought of that treasure box of covers from his thoughts. He tried but failed. Christmas Day came and after a light breakfast, the family gathered to exchange gifts.

After all the gifts were exchanged, Johnny's mom and dad said, "There is one more thing under the tree for you Johnny. It's way in the back." Johnny crawled under the tree, reaching around until he felt a wrapped box.



Pulling it out and unwrapping it, he could not believe his eyes. There sat before him was the old wooden box full of covers he had wanted from The Little Red Caboose stamp shop.

After thanking and hugging his mom and dad, Johnny hurried off to file through his new treasure. About halfway through the box, Johnny pulled out a cover with some odd looking markings on it. After a bit of research, he

quickly realized he was holding in his own hands a genuine cover from a Graf Zeppelin flight.



"Jackpot!", Johnny thought and rushed out to show his dad what he had found. Dad laughed and nodded towards Johnny's mom, who was sitting comfortably in her rocker. Johnny noticed a wry smile on her face and briefly wondered what the word "wry" meant.

Mom spoke up and said, "Johnny, you thought I was just sitting in that chair in The Little Red Caboose and taking a nap. I notice everything though and I could tell you were disappointed that you couldn't take that box home with you that day. I called Karl the next day and made sure that he would sell it to me. He did and the smile on your face this morning was worth every penny I spent on it! Merry Christmas, Johnny!"

Footnote: Not much of an IPDA lesson in this story this month but please spread the word to everyone you know about the great things IPDA is doing to advocate for a fair and safe online stamp buying experience.

As for the story, I can personally vouch for it as it is based upon a true story, a true stamp shop located in an old caboose, a couple of guys named Bob and Karl, and Johnny's pet dog who is not mentioned in story but does, in fact, exist.

And that box of old covers; well my wife bought it FOR ME one Christmas, not knowing what was inside nor having much knowledge about stamps, but she knew I was interested in it and wanted to surprise me. Surprise me she did!! RIP my old friend Karl. You are missed.

Have a Merry Christmas everyone!

It's just one perf

by IPDA Chairman Lee Coen

As you all probably know by now, I am still going through this large collection I purchased. Like most of us stamp dealers, it's scan list and scan list over and over again.

As IPDA members, we need to check ourselves from time to time. Quality stamps with correct pricing should be at our forefront.

The other day after work, I was scanning and listing a few stamps. While cropping this stamp, I caught myself, again. see below.



Postage due, New Zealand.

As you all can see, right there at the top, smacked dabbed in the middle is a missing perf.

Sure I like postage due stamps, of all countries, and this has a catalogue value of \$1.00usd, but the stamp is flawed as I call it. At best, this stamp would have been listed as a 'filler' for 0.25usd.

With thousands of stamps still to go through, I am going to donate this one to the local stamp club.

As members always be on the lookout for substandard stamps that aren't high in resale value. Sure we all want sales and money, but quality is what IPDA dealers/members are about.

Let's all raise the standards of selling online and together, with lots of effort, we just might make a difference in the online selling platforms.

I wish you all many sales wherever you are in this world.

Lee Coen
IPDA Chairman

After all these years is it worth it?

By IPDA Chairman Lee Coen

For as long as I can remember, as a stamp collector and now a stamp dealer, I have always hoped to find that million-dollar stamp. That one stamp we all read about and hear about that has to be out there somewhere in the world. (Just not in my neighborhood). Who wouldn't want to find that one stamp that has been skipped over in the 0.25 cent bin at the local stamp club. Speaking of 'skipped over', I found this stamp in the collection I bought.



Most of the stamps that I have encountered in this collection are of your average re-sale value that we buy. But for some reason, Spain attracted my attention from the design to the catalogue values.

After I identified this as valid and sent in to Certification, I couldn't be happier. Current Catalogue value is \$1,200.00 USD. I paid \$300.00 USD for the 10+ volumes I am listing daily.

And how did I stumble upon my 'million' dollar stamp? In the back of a broke down truck in the middle of the desert, simple. That's me pointing at the truck, in the middle of the desert, where my 'million' dollar stamp was found.



My point is, for as long as I can remember, that searching, digging and finding that 'million' dollar stamp has paid off. Can I retire? Buy my own island? Buy that Rolex that I have always wanted? No, I can't, but I can smile. Thanks to my wife who saw the advertisement on the web about a stamp collection for sale, I have been smiling for the better part of a year now. Thanks to her, I can mark, 'find big money stamp' off of my bucket list.

Was it worth it after all these years? Yes, it was, thanks to my wife, you rock!

Keep up the hunt - Lee Coen IPDA Chairman

Keeping up to date

by IPDA Member Jim Capelle

Ok, you, I, and just about everyone who goes to a stamp club meeting looks for information, whether it's a young person, a beginner, or even someone from the older generation who has attended many stamp club meetings.

Everyone is there to meet others with the same interests as theirs, collecting stamps.

Some stamp clubs use newsletters as another resource to disseminate information among to their members who cannot for example make it to the meetings.

Our newsletter editor is always looking for articles. They don't have to be well-written; if you ask for some help, I am sure someone will help you. So consider sharing your knowledge - I will share some with you today.

If you buy or sell and ship your products or if anyone in your home has a cottage industry and ships packages, if you have plans or dream of dealing on any of the online markets like eBay, Etsy, Amazon, Hipstamp, or even Stamps2Go, you may want to subscribe to a site that tracks all those sites, as well as PayPal, UPS, FedEx, and the U.S. Post Office.

It is Ecommerce Bytes-News Flash at <https://www.ecommercebytes.com/>. It is a local (Natick, Mass.) company that tracks information and news of upcoming events or problematic issues that it has gathered on its own or from subscribers who have reported on any aspect of online retailing or the Post Office.



You can click the image to read more [ABOUT](#) the site

For example, it will inform the reader about upcoming changes to an online site or changes in rules or fees from the Postal Service. For example, the last issue reported changes happening to Amazon and eBay.

Did you know about the changes in US postage rates

coming in early January? This is widespread across most postage, including some fees.

Unlike the last increase of just the US first-class stamps, this is across the board for almost everything, like the fee for the Postal Service's Stamp Fulfillment Service Center in Kansas City, MO.

People using the center in the past will see an increase. We'll have to wait to see how the Postal Regulatory Commission (PRC) handles the request for the rate increase.

When PRC decides on the proposal, Ecommerce Bytes-News Flash will cover it at the URL above. Take a few moments to look at the site. It has a column on the right side of the home page with lists of years; you can then read all its past newsletters.

Now, at last, an ending. This is from an article I read on 10/1/2022 in the Personal Finance section of The New York Times. The author, Ann Carrns, outlined some of the changes that might apply to us effective for 2022 US tax returns.

We should see an increase on the forms in 2023. Two changes may affect US based IPDA members. The first: There was a selling threshold of \$20,000 with a minimum of 200 transactions a year in the past. Now the threshold has dropped to \$600; there is no minimum for transactions.

The second: under the new rules, individuals who sell goods or services on major third-party platforms like eBay, Etsy, Hipstamp, Stamp2Go, and Uber, will receive tax form 1099-K, which calls for an extensive amount of information. Casual sellers may or may not owe taxes on the sales, but that's not always clear and the forms need careful reading and completion.

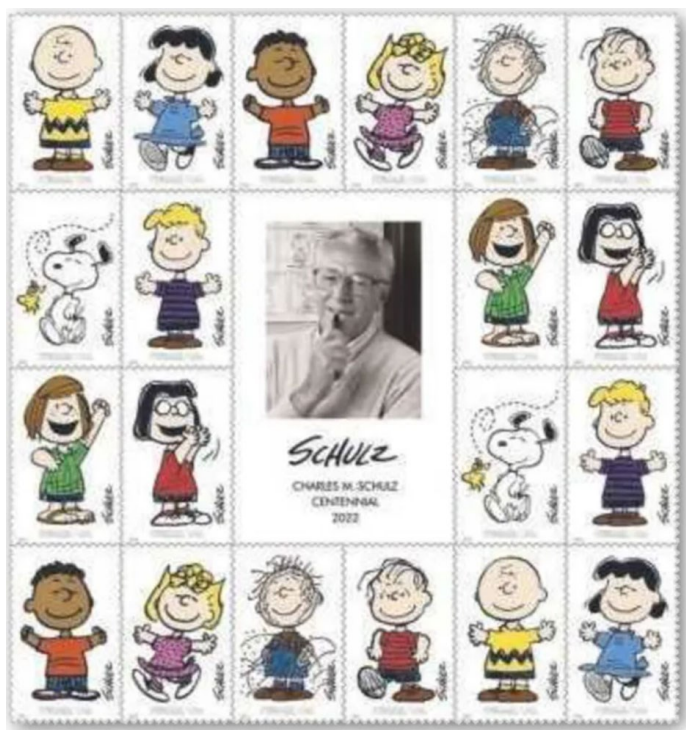
What can you do if you get a 1099-K? I recommend using a professional tax preparer for a year or two. To look at the IRS site on this topic, go to <https://www.irs.gov/businesses/understanding-your-form-1099-k>

Remember, every US State has its own laws dealing with selling hobby items or how much one can make selling part-time, like that once-a-year yard sale. So, did I save the best for last? :-) ThanksJim. Member 407

THE BACK PAGE

Last month I showed a few of the new issues from the UK. Thought you might like to see this one from the US.

Issued to mark the 100 anniversary of the birth of Charles Schulz. I wonder how they do a First Day Cover for this sheet?



It is Christmas soon so perhaps we will enjoy seeing a few Christmas stamps. I will be honest and say so many I saw during my research just didn't pass the "wow these will be nice to show our readers" test. Here are a few that I hope you will enjoy seeing.



Royal Mail doesn't have a monopoly on the use of barcodes as I guess you know, but I still like this stamp.



And from a few months ago now did you ever see this Bowie stamp issue from the Isle of Man. Issued to celebrate his acting career and justified it seems because a few of the films he was in were partly shot on the Isle of Man. Rather interesting change of design in that the value is spelled out. Perhaps Isle of Man are expecting to change currency?



From all of us on the IPDA Committee to all of you, please have a safe and healthy and happy Christmas and New Year. See you in 2023.

