

Newsletter October 2023 — Vol 19 Issue 10

## Chairman's Message



The Good



The Bad



\_\_\_\_\_ (fill in the blank)

as the IPDA, can work with HipStamp to help them improve their services to their customers to things that HipStamp can do to support and promote the IPDA. My understanding is that Hip is currently working to fill the GM role and I look forward to meeting and working with Anna's successor at some point soon. Best of luck and happiness, Anna, to you and yours in your future endeavors.

This month's "**Dealer Spotlight**" on the new website highlights one of longtime IPDA members, Mr. Don Lee whose store "**The Stamp Nut**", (<https://thestampnut.com/>) is a fantastic and easy to use philatelic e-commerce platform with a ton of high quality material available and new listings coming online all the time. Take a few minutes to visit Don's store. If you would like to submit yourself and your business for this feature, please reach out to me at [ipdachair@gmail.com](mailto:ipdachair@gmail.com) and we can get you on the schedule. This **FREE ADVERTISING** is available to IPDA members only as a member benefit so make sure to consider taking advantage of it.

The IPDA consists of a diverse and global group of dealers. I would like to invite our members to put together and submit some original articles for the IPDA newsletter. Pick a favorite stamp or issue that you would like to discuss...pick a story about something that happened with your business....pick a funny story or a heartwarming one. It does not necessarily have to be scholarly work. Contact our fine Bohemian newsletter editor Ted Tyzka ([ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com)) for more details.

Dealers, consider joining us as a member of IPDA (<https://www.ipdastamps.com/qualifications/>) and if you are already an IPDA member, please think about

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Hello to everyone!

Short and sweet this month folks. Finally coming out of the living "hell" that was our Houston summer this year with some much-needed rain as I write this and cooler temperatures in the forecast. FINALLY!!!!

I was recently informed that our friend, and a friend of the IPDA, Mrs. Anna Taylor is stepping down as the General Manager of HipStamp. With a new baby in their house, she is taking the time to focus on their family. Over the past year or so, we have had numerous discussions with Anna on everything from how we,

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referring a colleague for membership. When a member refers an applicant and they are accepted for membership, the referring member will earn one year of free IPDA dues so there is a nice incentive there.

I am very happy with the progress we have made so far and in a short period of time and look **FORWARD** to building on the success we have had so far. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at [ipdachair@gmail.com](mailto:ipdachair@gmail.com).

### **BLITHER and BLATHER**

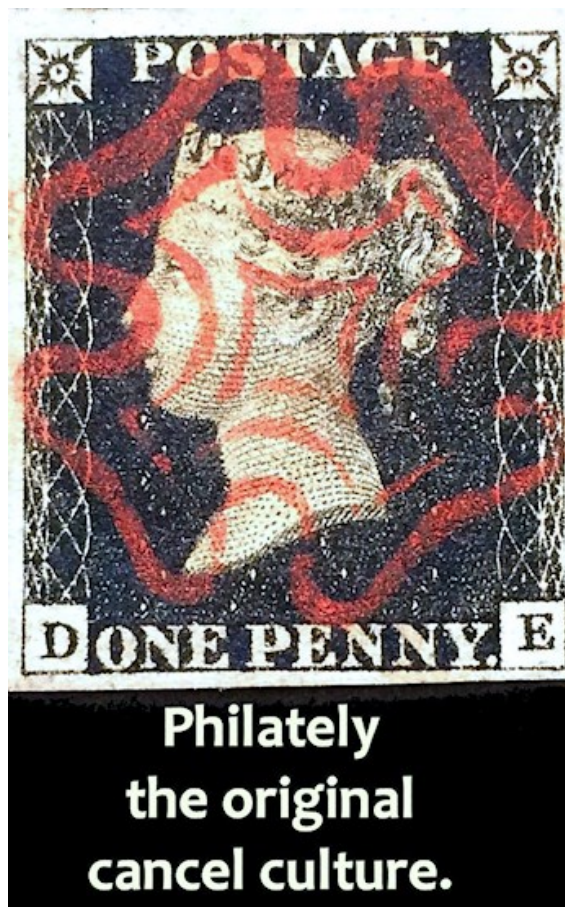
"The devil is in the details" as they say. I'm not quite sure who the ubiquitous "they" are but most assuredly, "they" are out there. How to effectively describe a stamp is the topic for this month. There really is no right or wrong way to describe a stamp, or anything else for that matter. But there are effective and less than effective ways to do it. The differences being less of HOW you say it and more of WHAT you say. At the extreme, one could describe a given stamp as "a colored, square-ish piece of paper with a picture on it and toothy edges all around it". Nothing wrong with that description, right? Nothing there to argue about. All true!!! But is that an effective description, especially when you know your audience (your customers)? Probably not. What does your customer need to know about that stamp you have for sale? Where it is from....when it is from...what it is...in what condition is it? Country....year of issue....catalog number....mint/used/any damage or notable details? This stamp is a "United States Scott 716, Used and Hinged 1932 Winter Olympics Issue with a small pre-printing paper fold at the upper right". Now we know the where/when/what/

condition. This is so very easy to do and will give your customers a very good idea of what you are offering without necessarily even seeing the stamp image. Be concise...be consistent... and define any acronyms you might use in your descriptions, and you will find that new customer will become a repeat customer in no time at all.

**Greg Doll**

**Chairman, IPDA**

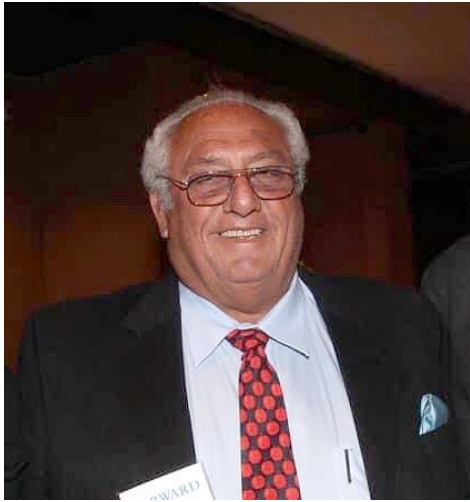
**IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM**





# Arthur H. Morowitz

AUGUST 24, 1943 – SEPTEMBER 11, 2023



Arthur Morowitz, owner of Champion Stamp Company, the last brick-and-mortar stamp shop in New York City, passed away on September 11, 2023, at the age of 80.

Though an avid stamp collector since childhood, Morowitz's earliest entrepreneurial activities included producing and acting in adult films (1966-67). In the 1970s, he became a pioneer in the home video industry, founding the video rental chain, Video Shack, and was a founding member of the Video Software Dealers Association.

In the 1980s, he turned to producing wrestling videos, creating the WWF Coliseum Video label, and releasing such unforgettable titles as, ["Wrestling's Country Boys,"](#) and ["The British Bulldogs."](#)

Beginning in 1988, Christie's auction house began auctioning off the entire archive of the American Bank Note Company. Morowitz was right there, parlaying his profits from the video industry into over 100,00 rare and valuable items of historical numismatic and philatelic importance, which included drawings, essays, dies, plates, correspondence – everything to do with the production of stamps and bank notes.

In 1992, he opened Champion Stamp Company in midtown Manhattan, dealing in stamps and coins. It is believed that he amassed one of, if not "the" largest inventory of stamps in the United States.

In 2003, he scored another scoop, when he was the sole winner in the auction of the United Nations Postal Authority archives, by David Feldman, S.A. in Geneva, Switzerland. The winning bid was The reason Morowitz was able to purchase the entire collection was due to provision of Swiss law that first allowed them to offer the archive in smaller lots first, then add up the winning bids, tack on an additional 10 percent, and ask bidders to beat that price on a winner-take-all basis. Morowitz had the winning bid, at \$3,068,000.

The sound of the gavel had barely died away when Morowitz had already flipped his purchase over the phone to Greg Manning, of Greg Manning Auctions, for an undisclosed amount. This purchase and resale later became a key event in the \$1 Billion UNPA archive auction scandal. This, however, is another story best left



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for a full treatment at a later time. It is important to note, however, that Arthur Morowitz was never implicated in the UNPA scandal.

In addition to his activities as a stamp and coin dealer, Morowitz was also a past president and secretary of the American Stamp Dealers Association and remained on their board for many years. He also donated to the American Philatelic Society, thousands of files, primarily correspondence to and from the ABNC, of many countries (though, not the USA), regarding the engraving, designing and printing of postage stamps.

Morowitz was known as a friendly and amiable person, and a great conversationalist. A post on a stamp forum, from a man identifying himself as a former employee at Champion Stamp Co, wrote that Morowitz was “one of the most generous employers that I have ever encountered in the trade.”

A note on the home page of Champion Stamp Co informs visitors that the store is temporarily closed, and will reopen on Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup>. Visit the website at <https://championstamp.com/>



## Stamp Story: Büyük Han

By Roger Davie

Büyük Han, which translates to “Great Inn,” is a historic inn located in the walled city of Nicosia, Cyprus. It was built during the Ottoman period in the 16th century and is considered to be one of the finest examples of Ottoman architecture on the island.

The inn was built by the first Ottoman governor of Cyprus, Muzaffer Pasha, in 1572. It was originally used as a caravanserai, a type of inn that provided accommodation for travellers and their animals. The inn was built around a central courtyard and featured 68 rooms on two floors, as well as a mosque, a bathhouse, and a kitchen.

Over the centuries, Büyük Han has played many roles

in the history of Cyprus. During the British colonial period, it was used as a prison and a courthouse.

In the 1990s, Büyük Han was restored and was converted into a cultural centre. Today, it features a number of shops, cafes, and art galleries, as well as a museum that showcases the history of the inn and the surrounding area.

Visitors to Büyük Han can explore the historic building and its courtyard, which is often used for cultural events and concerts. They can also enjoy traditional Cypriot food and drink at one of the many cafes and restaurants that are located within the inn.



Cyprus: Scott Nr 152, Mi 151a, YT 143, SG 160

Overall, Büyük Han is a significant part of the history and culture of Cyprus, and it continues to attract visitors from around the world who are interested in the island’s rich heritage.

Roger Davie, IPDA member number 449, has been an avid stamp collector since the 1980s. Based in the UK, he has a store on [Ebay](#) and a blog called [The Stamp Book](#), from which this article was reprinted. His personal collecting interests concentrate mostly on early GB & Empire and Commonwealth, particularly the KGVI issues. He also maintains a Facebook page which you can find . . . [here](#).



# Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

## Soviet Union - "Limonka" 1925



"Limonka" is one of the most famous Russian postage stamps. Such a name the stamp has got due to its bright yellow color. It was issued in 1925. No more than hundreds of copies exist today. Almost all specimens of "Limonka" stamps are used, but the most precious specimens are in a mint condition. There is a history behind this unique philatelic item: when printing the stamps, the perforating machine was broken, while the other denominations were printed without problems. In order not to disrupt the supply of postage stamps, Goznak management decided to send this part of stamps on time. One of the finest examples of the "Limonka" Stamp (shown above) was auctioned by David Feldman in September 2012. It managed to fetch USD 13,100. 1924 "Limonka" typographed, in a mint condition, well centered and extremely rare, appeared at David Feldman auction in June 2021. This valuable collectible achieved EUR 8,500 or roughly USD 10,050. (Exchange Rate at the time of Auction)

**Reference** :Image : [https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a2/The\\_Soviet\\_Union\\_1925\\_CPA\\_136\\_stamp\\_%281st\\_standard\\_issue\\_of\\_Soviet\\_Union.\\_3rd\\_issue.\\_Peasant%29.jpg](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/a/a2/The_Soviet_Union_1925_CPA_136_stamp_%281st_standard_issue_of_Soviet_Union._3rd_issue._Peasant%29.jpg)

Article : <https://findyourstampsvalue.com/rarest-stamps/most-valuable-russian-and-soviet-stamps>

About the author Mr. Nisarg Sutaria is from Ahmedabad, India. He is BE Mechanical Engineering from Nirma Institute of Technology, India in Graduation Year July 1999 and MS Manufacturing Engineering from Western Michigan University, USA in Graduation Year April 2001. Philately is one of his hobbies, while Horology (the study of the measurement of time) is another of his passions.

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# SS NORMANDIE

## The Ship and the Stamp

By Jon Griffiths



France, 1.50fr S.S. Normandie, Scott Nr 300c (1936)

The SS Normandie, pride of France, sailed the oceans from 1935 until 1942. Many historians claim that the ship was the greatest and most elegant ocean liner ever. Sailing the transatlantic route during the mid-late 1930's, the SS Normandie competed against the SS Rex of Italy, RMS Queen Mary of Great Britain, and the SS Bremen and SS Europa of Germany.

Sailing during the golden age of ocean liners, the SS Normandie showcased the pinnacle of steam ship design, accommodations, and service. Using a hydrodynamic hull design, as well as a streamlined deck design, the ship contended for the Blue Riband throughout her career, capturing the prize multiple times.



As WWII broke out, the Normandie was claimed by the United States Navy in NYC and renamed the USS Lafayette. During a refitting to become a troop ship, the Normandie caught fire and capsized, another casualty of war.

Utilizing several design tactics, the ship layout was unlike any other. The interior spaces were on a majestic scale. The main dining hall, longest room afloat at the time, highlights this with the incredible size due to the unique routing of the mechanical systems - split exhaust ducts staggered to the

to the unique routing of the mechanical systems - split exhaust ducts staggered to the exterior hull allowing for open space to run between them.

Designed in an art-deco theme throughout, the SS Normandie showcased opulence in a new fashion. Most of the ship was focused on first class, including the pool, winter garden, dining hall, and theater.

All over the ship, grand artwork adorned the walls and intricate lights, especially the two chandeliers in the main dining hall gave the ship the nickname "Ship of Light."

After the final voyage as a passenger liner, the Normandie was seized by the US Navy to be converted into a troop transport to help the allied forces during World War II. Renamed the SS Lafayette to commemorate Marquis de la Lafayette, the French general who fought with the American Continental Army, the ship underwent extensive modifications.

On February 9th, while all of the opulent interior accommodations were being removed for new spartan furnishings, a spark from a torch started a fire. Although the ship had a modern fire suppression system, it was deactivated during construction. Fire spread rapidly throughout the ship and was ultimately contained by surrounding port fire ships pouring tons of water in the process. Unfortunately, the ship would not survive the evening and by morning, rest peacefully on its side. A casualty of war without ever fighting, the Normandie was a ship passed before her time.



## IPDA Brochure Download

The IPDA brochure is a pdf document which dealers can download and print, and may be used as a handout to promote the IPDA at shows and stamp bourses. You can download it . . . [here](#)



### AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE IPDA

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# Online Protractor

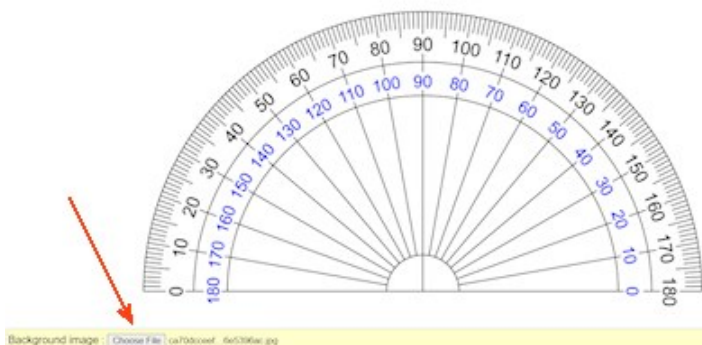
See your stamps from a new angle.

by Ted Tyszka

A free online protractor available at [https://www.ginifab.com/feeds/angle\\_measurement/](https://www.ginifab.com/feeds/angle_measurement/) makes it easy for you to measure the angles of overprints on your stamps, ensuring positive identification among otherwise similar stamps having different overprint angles, and helping to weed out stamps with forged overprints at the wrong angle. Operation of the protractor is simplicity itself, as will be seen in the following steps.

1. When you open the page you are presented with a large image of a protractor and a “Choose File” button (arrow) which you use to select the stamp image on your computer which you would like to measure.

Online Protractor

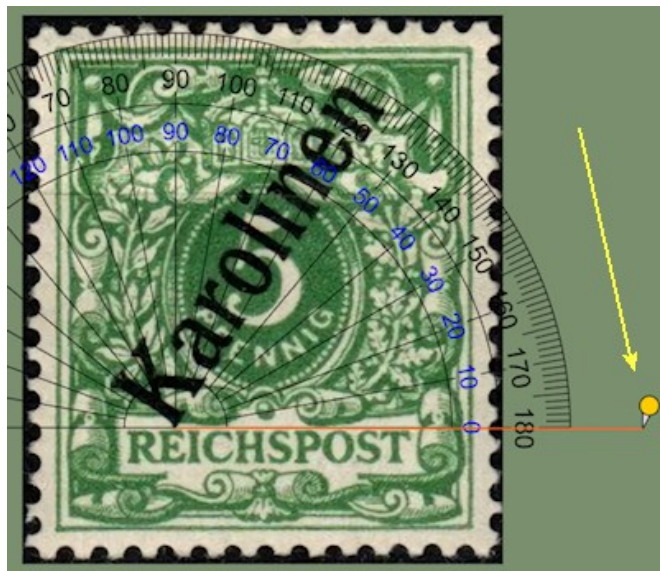


2. Your stamp image will open in the window, with the protractor overlaying it. Use your mouse pointer to grab the center of the bottom edge of the protractor and place it at the vertex of the angle to be measured — in this case, at the left serif on the left foot of the K.

Online Protractor



3. Click your mouse in the green margin outside of the protractor and a line segment will appear with an orange ball at the end which you can grab with your mouse and place at 0 degrees (on the blue scale).



4. Click in the green margin a second time to create another moveable line segment which you place in the position of the angle you wish to measure — in this case, the baseline of the Karolinen overprint.



5. An orange ball will appear at the vertex displaying the angle of the overprint. This one is at a 56 degree angle, which distinguishes it from the more valuable stamp with a 48 degree overprint angle.

Specialists who like to go deep will love that, with their new-found measurements, they will also be able to calculate sines, cosines, tangents, and secants, among other vital philatelic measurements.





# The Inverted Jenny

by Mr. Enthusiastic, on Tuesday, July 06, 2021

## Stories Behind the Stamps

The Inverted Jenny is one of the most famous postage stamps and one of the most famous stamp errors. It is also one of the most valuable stamps in the world. Whenever this particular error is up for sale, it gets a lot of media hype, worldwide. It has appeared in movies, such as the 1985 movie, *Brewster's Millions*, in which Montgomery Brewster (Richard Pryor) learns that his great-uncle has left him \$300 million but to inherit it, he must spend \$30 million in less than 30 days without donating to me, charity or assets when the period is up. No chance this will happen to me, so don't worry.



It also appeared in an episode of the Simpsons, Homer's Barbershop Quartet, but on the other hand, what hasn't?



But what is the story behind it?

The issue itself is important because it is tied to the important issue of the introduction of airmail stamps and to the best of my knowledge, is considered to be one of the first postage stamps to feature a plane. In 1918, the US Post inaugurated a scheduled mail service between New York and Washington DC via Philadelphia. Of course this pioneering service would require a special stamp. The operation was a joint effort between the US Post and the U.S. Army, giving the postal department immediate access to experienced pilots while providing the U.S. Army with additional training opportunities.

An order was placed with the Curtiss Airplane and Motor Company for planes to be used as air mail carriers. The company was an American aircraft manufacturer formed in 1916 by Glenn Hammond Curtiss and this was a great opportunity for them. The order was for several Curtiss JN-4 planes and it was requested that they modify the plane to carry mail. The front seat would hold the mailbags.

A new mail rate was authorized. The formal request for the 24¢ airmail stamp reached the Bureau of Engraving and Printing (BEP) less than two weeks before the first scheduled flight.

Using a War Department photo, the new stamp was designed and featured the Curtiss JN-4 model. The stamp was patriotic, using the colors of the American flag, red white and blue. The Jenny got its name from JN. Because the image was designed from a War Department photo, the image was an unmodified version of the Jenny, one that wasn't made to carry air-mail.

The 24¢ rate was a significant increase from the regu-

*(Continued on page 10)*

lar postage that was 3¢ at the time, someone had to pay for the plane, right? This rate lasted for two months and then was lowered to 16¢ and then again to 6¢ and each time the stamp was modified and reprinted accordingly.



This one belongs to me :)

So how did they print the stamps? The idea was to print one color on one machine and then insert the paper and print the rest on another machine.

First the sheets were printed with the red frames and then the printing plate was prepared with the blue planes that were then printed within the red frames. What could go wrong? Well, the alignment needs to be perfect and if not you get variations of the Jenny lovingly called the Fast plane, the Slow plane, the Low flying plane, as displayed on the right, the Landing plane and the Grounded plane. These are all positions of the plane on the stamp itself.

Murphy, the eternal optimist, once said that "Anything that can go wrong will go wrong" and this is what happened with the inverted Jenny. The second stage was probably inserted upside down. No one noticed! They also didn't do a very good job of quality control but on the other hand, they were rushed. Two weeks from design to issue!

Now we have a wise stamp collector, William T. Robey, who went to the post office to buy some stamps and noticed that they were inverted. He purchased the whole sheet of 100 Inverted Jenny stamps. He paid \$24

for them, a fortune at that time, but he had a feeling that it was the only sheet. Robey asked if he had more sheets just like it. The clerk smelled a rat and asked William to return the sheet. William said, "Yeah right?"

He was visited by postal inspectors who tried to intimidate him into giving the stamps back but Robey refused and managed to keep his cool but he knew that time was not on his side.

William shortly sold the sheet to a Philadelphia dealer, Eugene Klein, for US\$15,000. Mr. Klein immediately re-sold the sheet to Colonel H. R. Green for US\$20,000 and advised him to split a sheet into blocks and individual stamps because he'll earn more that way.

Back at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, inspectors went through their stock and found eight unsold sheets of inverted Jennies and destroyed them, making this the only known sheet.

Personally, I have not heard of any forgeries of this issue, but if you find one that is not a forgery, I will offer you \$24!



This article is reprinted by kind permission of Lawrence Fisher, who publishes the blog, "Stories Behind the Stamp, as well as the YouTube channel of the same name.

Visit his blog, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#)

And see his YouTube channel, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#)



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**Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)**

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG

# The Back Page

## Dealer Spotlight



**H T Putney**

HT is from Kyle Texas and has been a stamp collector for 60 years . He started selling on HipStamp back in 2021 and now has close to 1000 listings. His store [Putney Stamps: Quality for Collectors](#) offers a quality range of mostly US stamps with a focus on US airmails.

His collecting interest is mainly in US Franklin-Washington issues, including Imperf Centerline Blocks of 4, Imperf Margin Arrow Blocks of 4 and Imperf Plate Blocks of 6.



He is currently improving his US Airmail collection for issue up to the 1960s .

As well as being an IPDA member he is a member of the APS, USSS, and the ATA.