

Chairman's Message



Fearless Hombre

Hello to everyone and Happy Holidays!

Not a whole lot to share with you this month as this time of year, things tend to slow down a bit. At the very least I can say that I do not miss August and its 110 degree plus days.

The IPDA consists of a diverse and global group of dealers. I would like to invite our members to compose and submit some original articles for the IPDA newsletter. These can be published as well on our new website. 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 newsletter editor Ted Tyzka (ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com) for more details.

Just an update regarding our efforts to get badging in place for IPDA members on HipStamp. We are still working on this issue and do not plan on giving up the effort. I encourage our members and others who sup-

port this effort to send an email to support@hipecommerce.com asking for this to be implemented.

I am happy to report that our membership is growing and I would like to invite you to join us as a member of IPDA (<https://www.ipdastamps.com/qualifications/>) and if you are already an IPDA member, please think about 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. The more quality members we have in IPDA, the more positively we can affect the online marketplace. Our annual dues of \$25 (\$75 for 4 years) remain among the lowest of all the major philatelic organizations and are a great value.

I and my family wish you all the best for a happy and healthy holiday season. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at ipdachair@gmail.com.

BLITHER and BLATHER

I, like many dealers, have recently been working through breaking down some old collections for resale. I found myself wandering off in thought a bit as I was working on a particularly nice set of Scott Internationals the other day. This collector has almost assuredly passed on to a better life and I reflected upon the years...really decades of love and passion he or she put into this collection. The attention to detail....down to how the stamps were gently mounted and placed perfectly within the allotted space for each of them and the selective quality of the stamps themselves. Just a beautiful set of albums compiled over years with

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great love and patience. With this holiday season upon us, I can easily imagine this collector pulling out an album or two and sitting down with a child or grandchild in front of a nice fireplace and going through them telling stories of who this guy was on this stamp or what happened in this place or that from that stamp set or even what that critter is and where it lives or lived.

We, as stamp dealers, can often become so focused upon what we are doing business-wise and can sometimes miss the real treasures that we handle daily and the stories behind them. We are really the vessel through which the next treasured family is formed. Almost all of us are collectors of course and we should occasionally at least step back when we acquire that next great lot to break down to sell and be grateful for those collectors who took such great care and put so much love into their treasured stamp collection that it will, hopefully, provide as much enjoyment to the future owner as it clearly did for the previous one. Spend some time with your loved ones and proudly show off your own collections...it will pay dividends for sure. That little eight year old grandchild sitting in your lap may become the next great philatelist in time...with a little nudge from Grandma and Grandpa. On behalf of myself, my family, the IPDA Board of Directors and, of course, my lazy and indifferent cat Bentley, I want to wish all of you a happy and peaceful holiday season.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM

Directors' Meetings Scheduled Through Q1 2024

Directors Meeting

November 4th 2023 at 18:00 EST

Directors Meeting

December 16th 2023 at 18:00 EST

Directors Meeting

January 27th 2023 at 18:00 EST

Annual General Meeting

March 23rd 2023 at 18:00 EST



Ted Talks Stamps

by Ted the Talking Stamp Collector

Thailand's Garuda Airmails



This is a set of stamps I learned of only recently. I am not a Thailand collector, but while browsing aimlessly, these stamps caught my eye. What a stunning design.

The stamps feature a mythical creature called the Garuda, a Hindu deity usually depicted as the mount of Vishnu. The Garuda also figures into Buddhism and Jainism. Garuda has the power to swiftly travel anywhere and is the enemy of every serpent.

Besides Thailand, the Garuda appears in the mythology of other Asian countries, such as Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, and Mongolia. The Garuda is the main design element of the coat of arms of Indonesia (below),



and India utilizes it on the insignia of the Brigade of the Guards (below).



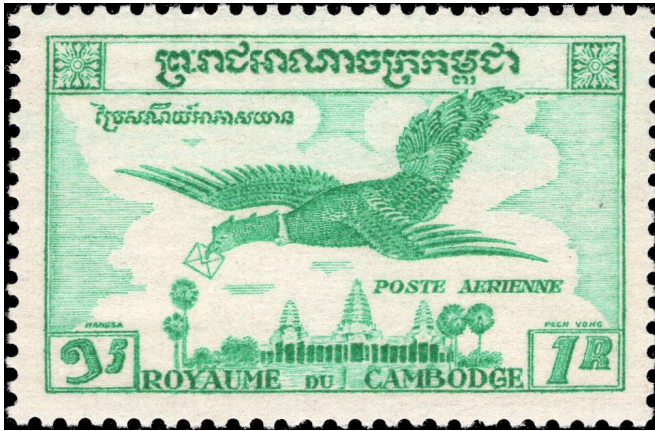
It has also been adopted, in more stylized designs, as commercial logos (below).



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These countries have also utilized the Garuda in the designs of some of their stamp issues.



Cambodia, Scott Nr C11 (1962)



Indonesia, Scott Nr E1H (1967)



Laos, Scott Nr C40 (1962)



Mongolia, Scott Nr 2745 (2012)

In Thailand, the Garuda has stood as the symbol of royalty for hundreds of years, and in 1911 was officially adopted as the national emblem.



National emblem of Thailand

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And, while Thailand is not unique in their adoption of Garuda for their postage stamps, they did create, I believe, the most spectacular design with it.

my 2017 and 2024 Scott Catalogues, values for the complete set have dropped by about 25%, with some individual stamps faring even worse, as seen here:

C1-8 complete Unused : 2017 \$192.50 – 2024 \$146.50



This was for their first airmail issue, released in 1925, when Thailand, as can be seen on the inscription, was still known as Siam.

It is an engraved stamp, which adds to the beauty of the design, and was printed by Waterlow and Sons, of Great Britain.

The set was reprinted and released again in 1930, though as a set of six, omitting the 3 satang brown and the 1 baht blue and brown. The design and colors are exactly the same, the only difference being that the new set came in perf gauge 12 ½ vs the 1st issue's perf 14.

While complete sets of C1-8 in used condition are easy to find, mint sets are another matter. A search of Hip-Stamp showed 9 complete sets available in Used condition, compared to only 3 for sets in Unused condition, and none in MNH. Partial sets and singles are plentiful. However, if you are looking to purchase any of these stamps, be careful you don't overpay. I'm not sure in which years the values changed, but between

C1 and C2 Unused: 2017 \$8.00 ea – 2024 \$2.25 ea

C7 Unused: 2017 \$60.00 – 2024 \$40.00

C5 was the only one that bucked the trend, increasing in catalogue value, from \$8.00 Unused to \$18.50.

The 1930 set of 6, Scott C9-14, suffered a similar fate. The complete set catalogues at about 1/3 the value of C1-6, though individual stamps can be higher or lower valued than their 1st issue counterparts.

This set is a perfect example of why it is impossible for me to specialize in one country or area. Beautiful sets, such as this one, will find their way into my collection, even if it ends up being the only example of that country in my album. But, that's one of the nice things about this hobby; there is always something new and exciting to discover.

Ted the Talking Stamp Collector is the "nom de tube" of Ted Tyszka, who is the owner/operator/chief bottle washer of the [YouTube channel, "Ted Talks Stamps."](#) He is also, allegedly, the editor of the newsletter you are, it is hoped, currently enjoying.

Ken Nieser Publicly Lauded by Customer

by Ted Tyszka

I was reading through some back issues of the British "Stamp Magazine," recently, when a Letter to the Editor caught my eye. A reader had written in to tell about a stamp order he had recently received.

The cover in which his order came was franked with a mix of older US stamps, as many dealers are wont to do. Many collectors enjoy receiving older stamps in this way to add to their collections.

The reader was particularly impressed with two of the stamps because of their age. One was the Project Mercury stamp issued in 1962, while the other was even

older. It was the 3c Palomar Observatory stamp issued in 1948.

The reader was obviously very pleased at this above-and-beyond" service by the dealer who, upon my examination of the accompanying image of the cover, was revealed to be none other than IPDA member Ken Nieser (see below).

Little things like this go a long way toward creating satisfied and loyal customers, and are at the heart of what the IPDA stands for. Kudos to Ken for his exemplary service.



What's the oldest stamp you've received on cover recently?

I recently purchased some stamps for my thematic collection from a dealer in Houston, Texas.

When the package arrived, I was intrigued to see a couple of extremely old United States stamps among the colourful selection used by the dealer to pay the postage. One was 60 years old, and another was 74 years old!

The Dedication of Palomar Observatory 3c blue was issued in August 1948, and the Project Mercury 4c in February 1962. Sadly neither of these received a 2022 postmark.

Have any *Stamp Magazine* readers received anything older than these in recent times?

Mark Ellis, via e-mail



World's Longest Postage Stamp

Kyrgyzstan has released what it claims to be the world's longest postage stamp, at 184 mm, or 7.2 inches. Released for the International Year of Sustainable Mountain Development, it features a panorama of the Chaar-Tash mountain range and the village of Kazarman.

Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

New Zealand - 1904 4d Lake Taupo Pictorial Invert



- Date of production : 1904
- Nature of rarity : Invert Error
- No. in existence : 1
- Face value : 4d
- Estimated value : NZ\$125,000

The 1904 Pictorial 4d Lake Taupo Invert is an invert error on a postage and revenue stamp issued by New Zealand which is considered to be the country's rarest stamp. The centre vignette is inverted in relation to the outer frame. The stamp was discovered in a schoolboy album in 1930 and no other copy has been found since then.

The 4d stamp depicts Lake Taupo in New Zealand's North Island. It was part of the first pictorial series originally issued in 1898 but reissued in different colours and sizes in 1899 and 1900. The same design was used for a 1d value issued in 1898.

The sole example is postally used, postmarked Picton 1904.

Reference : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/1904_Pictorial_4d_Lake_Taupo_invert

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.

Email: nisargsutaria78@gmail.com Mobile and WhatsApp Phone Number: +91-9924248850

Stamp Gallery

A collection of holiday-themed stamps.



Kenya, Scott Nr 392 (1986)



Israel, Scott Nr 504T (1972)



Fiji, Scott Nr 1427 (2019)



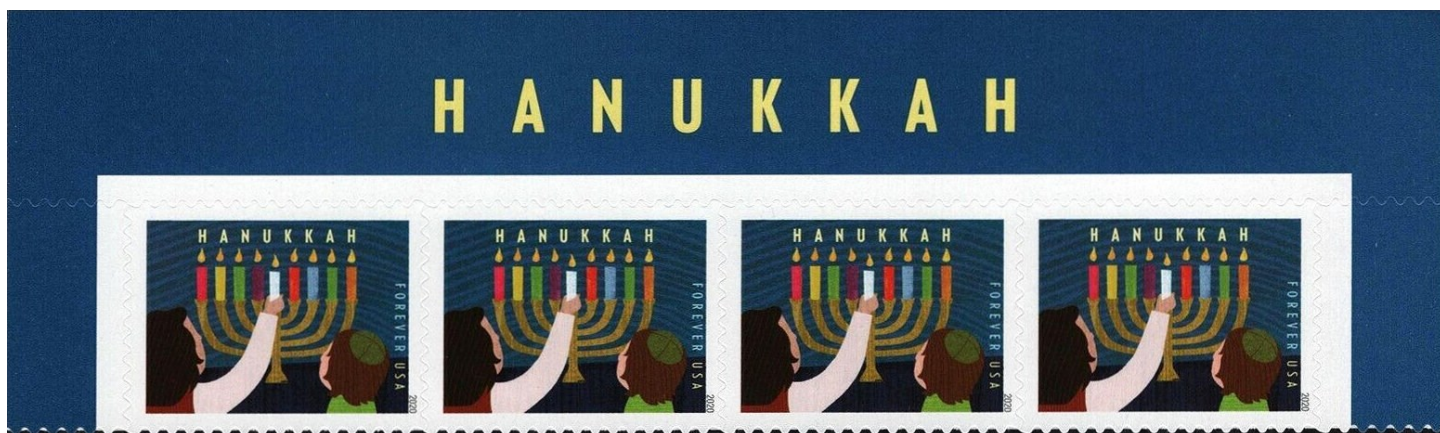
Canada, Scott Nr 3205 (2019)



Germany, Scott Nr B480 (1971)



USA, Scott Nr 1508 (1973)



USA, Scott Nr 5530 (2020)



Mexico, Scott Nr 2913-16 (2014)



Vatican, Scott Nr 447 (1966)



Greece, Scott Nr 1120 (1974)



New Zealand, Scott Nr 3017 (2022)

Papillon de Metz

What Is It?

by Mr. Enthusiastic on Monday, July 18, 2022

Stories Behind the Stamps

This is the story of two sisters, both deeply in love with one another, though once bitter enemies. Their names are Germany and France. Today they live at peace with one another and are leaders of the European Union alliance, but as late as WWII, they were bitter enemies. Their animosity to one another can be traced as far back as Roman times but here we will stick to one specific incident, the 1870 Franco Prussian war.

Before the unification of Germany in 1871, one of the states was the Kingdom of Prussia, led by Otto von Bismark, the same person who was responsible for the unification of Germany. In 1870 a coalition of German states led by Prussia went to war with France and eventually defeated them. The end result was the creation of a unified Germany. In this war, Paris and other areas of France were surrounded and were under siege by the coalition forces.

One such area was a fortress named Metz. The French Army of the Rhine was defeated by the Germans at the Battle of Gravelotte on 18th August 1870, and they retreated into the Metz fortress. It was promptly surrounded by German forces. The French thought that they had enough food for about five months but because there were about 170,000 soldiers trapped in the fortress, the provisions only lasted for 41 days. They needed food.

So now we have a surrounded fortress with people inside who need to send messages out to whoever, loved ones or request for reinforcements or whatever. So they took out their iPhones and loaded the WhatsApp app and immediately tapped in mes-



One of the Metz forts under German occupation after the French surrender.

By Beato, Felice A. - [Image Zeno.org](https://www.imagezeno.org/), ID number [2000185254X](https://www.imagezeno.org/2000185254X), Public Domain, [Link](#)

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sages. Oh wait, this is 1870. How do they get messages out? Some people did rely on smugglers to get messages in and out, but this was unreliable and of course unofficial and on the other hand, can you really trust a smuggler?

On September 1st, Major Doctor Papillon, medical assistant in the ambulance of the Guard, was talking to the military pharmacist, Julien François Jeannel, and he suggested the use of paper balloons to send messages out of the fortress. Actually this was the end of his contribution to the system. On September 2nd, Jeannel proposed this method to Chief of Staff, Marshal Bazaine. He scoffed at the idea but enabled Jeannel to build a few balloons for initial testing. He had no confidence in the idea and considered it to be kids' toys.

These initial balloons became known as the "**Pharmacists' balloons**". From September 5th to 15th, the pharmacists launched 14 hydrogen-filled balloons carrying around 3000 very small letters. They called these letters "butterflies", maybe because the idea came from Doctor Papillon which means butterfly. These letters were constructed of tracing paper coated on both sides with varnish to make them waterproof. Only 7 of the first 14 balloons managed to carry messages to their destination. Today less than 20 letters are currently known. How many balloons were sent on which dates? No one really knows as there were days in which it rained heavily, so it would make little sense to send out a paper balloon.

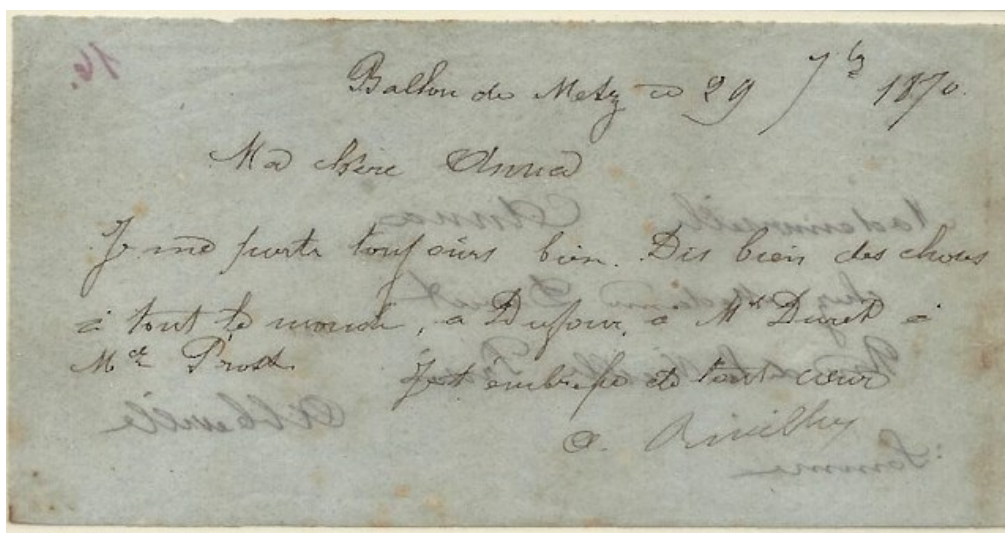


Julien François Jeannel

Although Marshal Bazaine felt that these were toys, they reached their destination and so the senior commander of the Metz Fortress, General de Coffinières, decided to take it under his wing. He approached the Artillery and Engineering Application School to develop a new system and making it available to all, civilians and soldiers. A post office was opened and the mayor of Metz was informed of the official creation of the balloon post. The letters were to be written on "onion skin" paper, and measure only 10 cm x 5 cm. These balloons became known as **The balloons of the School of Artillery and Engineering**. I wonder why?

Ten balloons were launched by the Engineers between September 16th and October 3rd, each containing several thousands of the butterflies. Marshal Bazaine claimed that a number of the balloons had been captured by the Prussians and discontinued their use as of October 3rd. According to Yvery and Telliers specialized catalog, the total number of letters transported in this way is estimated at 150,000 but less than 125 are currently known.

On 20th October, the food provisions of the fortress ran out and I will not write here about what the French Army ate instead. 27th October, Bazaine was forced to surrender his entire army, simply **because** they were starving.



This letter (left) was sent on the 9th balloon, on 29th September 1870. It was sent to Abbeville, Gateway to the Bay of Somme.

Bibliography: "**Le Siège de Metz**" ~
Yvert & Tellier Le Spécialisé p 487-489

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