

Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone and Happy New Year!

It is that time of year again! Time to renew our memberships in IPDA. If you have not already renewed, please do as soon as you can. For the very low annual dues of \$25 (or \$75 for four years). You can continue to be part of and support the only organization solely focused on promoting ethical and responsible selling in the online philatelic marketplace.

Also, consider adding a donation over and above your dues this year as this will go to assist IPDA in building our presence and influence in the online marketplace realm. As a not-for-profit organization, none of your directors take any kind of salary or compensation so beyond normal expenses like website maintenance and other small obligations, all your dues go directly to activities that move the IPDA cause forward.

A great example of this was last year's IPDA sponsorship of the tote bags at the Great American Stamp Show (GASS) which we plan on doing again this year. Other lobbying and promotional efforts for 2024 are in the works as well. So please take a few minutes to renew your membership in IPDA for 2024 and hopefully beyond.

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.

For 2024, we will continue to expand those efforts and add a focus on building membership. To that end, your board of directors are planning to roll out a membership referral competition in the coming weeks. Details have not been finalized but I can say that the incentives will be worth the effort. And as to that effort, it takes very little to refer someone you know for IPDA membership. As dealers, we all know one or more folks who are not yet IPDA members but should be. Please reach out to them and spread the word. It will be worth your time.

Your IPDA will have a lot of positive things accomplished in 2023. Heading that being in the form and function of the new website. But inroads were also made with some of the management of some of the online philatelic markets like HipStamp for example. We intend to continue efforts to work with them and others to drive the importance of having honest and ethical sellers in their markets.

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 schol-

(Continued on page 2)

Inside this Issue

Chairman's Message <i>by Greg Doll, IPDA Chairman</i>	1
IPDA Calendar Updated <i>by Ted Tyszka</i>	3
Membership Dues Notice <i>by Tony Tripi</i>	4
Roald Hoffmann: Around the World in 80 Years <i>by Daniel Rabinovich</i>	5
H.T.Putney Closeout Sale <i>by Ted Tyszka</i>	8
A Recent Stamp of Ukraine <i>by Roald Hoffmann</i>	9
Stamp of the Month <i>by Nisarg Sutaria</i>	13
Stories Behind the Stamps: 330 Is Going Down! <i>by Lawrence Fisher</i>	14
The Philatelic Register <i>by Ian Lasok-Smith</i>	16
Dealer Spotlight: Art Lafionatis	17

(Continued from page 1)

arly work. Contact our fine newsletter editor Ted Tyszka (ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com) for more details.

We at IPDA are very pleased to present Trish Kaufman in our January Dealer Spotlight. Trish is certainly known to most of us as the leading expert in Confederate postal concerns. Do yourselves a favor and spend a few minutes to visit her website and you may find a whole new collecting opportunity and learn more about Confederate stamps and postal history. Please consider putting your name in the hat to be highlighted in the coming months. It is free advertising to you as an IPDA member as part of your membership benefits.

I, along with my family and the IPDA Board of Directors wish you all the very best for a happy and healthy 2024. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at ipdachair@gmail.com .

BLITHER and BLATHER

For this month, I actually have both a blither AND a blather! How about them apples!!!!

First for the blither....

Recently I have had the necessity to purchase some stamps from some of the current online marketplace sellers for reasons that do not matter for this blither. One of the most striking things I noticed was receiving the ordered items. Not the fact that I received them, more in how the items were packaged. We, as dealers especially online dealers, need to remember that Mr. John Q. Customer is likely not buying stamps exclu-

sively from us. He is likely buying from many different dealers on possibly several different platforms. As such, Mr. Customer could, in theory, receive many shipments each day from many different vendors. We have all heard of the customer stories saying, "Mr. Dealer, I never received that US #245 I ordered xxx weeks ago!". Some of this can be minimized by always including a statement (or a copy of the invoice) for the transaction. Several of my recent orders, though small, were packaged in a small envelope. The stamps were in a card and protected well enough but simply folded in paper with nothing else to indicate WHO I bought it from, WHEN I bought it, WHAT it was that I purchased, HOW MUCH did I pay for the item and for shipping (and any taxes as well if applicable). The only thing I had going for me was that one, I was expecting it and two, the seller put his return address on the envelope. If I had received 50 or 100 orders that day from all over the place, the odds of me losing that one order go way up. So.... ALWAYS include a statement or invoice with your orders that include the WHO, WHEN,WHAT, and HOW MUCH so your customer does not have to figure all that out on their own. It is certainly a risk reducer when it comes to avoiding the dreaded..." Hey Mr. Dealer, I never received those stamps I ordered from you!!!!"

And now for the blather!!!! Good stuff...bear with me!

Every dealer has the secret sauce for acquiring material for their store inventory. One of mine is via a few favorite auction houses. My own experience has shown, at least for my business model, is that the right lot bought at the right price can deliver large multiples of its purchase price in a relatively short amount of time.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

An interesting thing that I have observed though is that while the lot describer surely has a giant job to do in preparation for the day of the auction, they will sometimes misdescribe a few items. Most often it seems these will be perforation and watermark varieties. Sometimes these errors are to my benefit and sometimes they are to the house's benefit. But the point of blither I want to make here (both for dealers and customers) is to never, ever take someone else's word for what a particular stamp might be just from their description. This is especially true for those issues with perf and watermark varieties that may be large multiples of the normal issue CV. ALWAYS check your perfs and watermarks on incoming material you plan on listing. You might just find that over-worked auction lot describer missed a few to your benefit.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM

Directors' Meetings Scheduled Through Q1 2024

Directors Meeting

November 4th 2023 at 18:00 EST

~~(Leftover popcorn available; 1st come, 1st served.)~~

(Sorry, there is no more popcorn available.)

Directors Meeting

January 6th 2024 at 18:00 EST

(Pushed back from December 16th 2023)

(A lovely meeting; Bentley ate all the popcorn.)

Directors Meeting

January 27th 2024 at 18:00 EST

(Cancelled, due to lack of popcorn.)

Annual General Meeting

March 23rd 2024 at 18:00 EST

(BYOP*)

(*Bring your own popcorn.)

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](http://www.ipdastamps.com).



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



Date: January, 2024

Attention All IPDA Members,

The IPDA thanks you for your prior membership and requests prompt payment of the membership dues, now due, for calendar year 2024.

Please remember that you may only vote in the upcoming AGM (Annual General Meeting in March) if your dues have been paid by the meeting date.

This year we are sending letters to all current IPDA members, via the postal system(s) of the various countries making up our membership list. This method is being used so that you, as IPDA Members, know we are concerned that communication by email, while fast and easy, is many times not the correct solution to the problem of collecting yearly dues.

Implementing this new method (for us) will need some wrinkles smoothed out, but we plan to mail the letters by early January, so that you have time to reply and pay your dues before the AGM. We will follow up with emails to those members who have not paid by the beginning of February.

Please note, we will not be sending letters to those who have already paid for 2024 by paying for multiple years ahead of time, for example. So if you are already paid up for 2024, you will not see the letter, nor hopefully reminder emails from us.

The letter will outline 3 methods (in detail) by which you may pay your dues:

By using PayPal to our IPDA account (payIPDA@earthlink.com) (This is the Preferred method),

By bank check payable in U.S. funds, mailed by postal system to the Membership Director

By requesting an invoice to be sent to your email, which you may respond to, whether or not you have a PayPal account.

Unfortunately, we cannot accept credit cards for payment of dues.

Thank you for your continued support of the IPDA, and if there is anything we can do for you to help your internet sales, please do not hesitate to ask and, if we can, we will try our hardest to make it happen.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Tripi
IPDA Treasurer,
Membership Secretary
IPDAMembershipSec@gmail.com

An Important Reminder

Dear IPDA Member,

You will have received the IPDA AGM Invite and noted that the voting can be done by proxy. Thank you to all who have already sent email proxies. Your support is very much appreciated by the Directors.

But, you can also vote online giving your Yes, No, or Abstain vote to each Agenda motion, using the Proxy Voting form found on the IPDA website. Just visit ipdastamps.com; you will see a menu button for Proxy Voting. Or, click this link : [Proxy Vote - Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc \(ipdastamps.com\)](http://ipdastamps.com)

Please support the IPDA by voting at the AGM. Thank you

Roald Hoffmann: Around the World in Eighty Years

Daniel Rabinovich

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E-mail: Dan.Rabinovich@uncg.edu

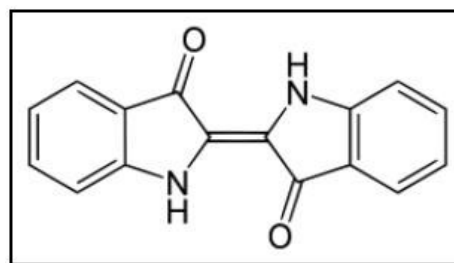
On 18 July 2017, the postal service of Ukraine issued a stamp [1] to mark the 80th birthday of Roald Hoffmann, the beloved Cornell University professor who has been at the forefront of what he describes with pride as “applied theoretical chemistry” and has taught chemistry to multiple generations of students for more than five decades.



[1]

Much has been written about –and much there is to admire in– the life and work of Roald Hoffmann (RH). His early childhood in a small town in Poland that is now part of Ukraine and his emigration to the United States in 1949. His indefatigable optimism for humankind, despite the tragedy of losing close relatives, including his father and three grandparents, in the Holocaust. His seminal work at Harvard University with William N. Lipscomb and Robert B. Woodward, which crossed many bridges and opened many doors of chemical knowledge. The countless honors and awards, including the 1981 Nobel Prize in Chemistry he shared with Kenichi Fukui “for their theories, developed independently, concerning the course of chemical reactions”. His expressive and fertile mind and the meticulous writing of more than 600 research papers and several poetry books and plays, including “Oxygen” (co-authored with Carl Djerassi, another prolific writer). His interest in philosophy, history, ethics, and the visual arts, reflected in a myriad of engaging short articles written for magazines such as American Scientist, which I have truly enjoyed reading and collecting. His dedication to mentor dozens of undergraduate and graduate students, and to collaborate with more than 200 senior visitors and postdoctoral fellows... much to admire, indeed!

In any event, the stamp [1] features a recent headshot of RH, drawings of a couple of molecular orbitals of butadiene towards the lower left corner, and partial views of two molecules of indigo [2], a fortuitous choice by the stamp designers at Ukrposhta, since the famous blue dye is among his favorite molecules.



[2]



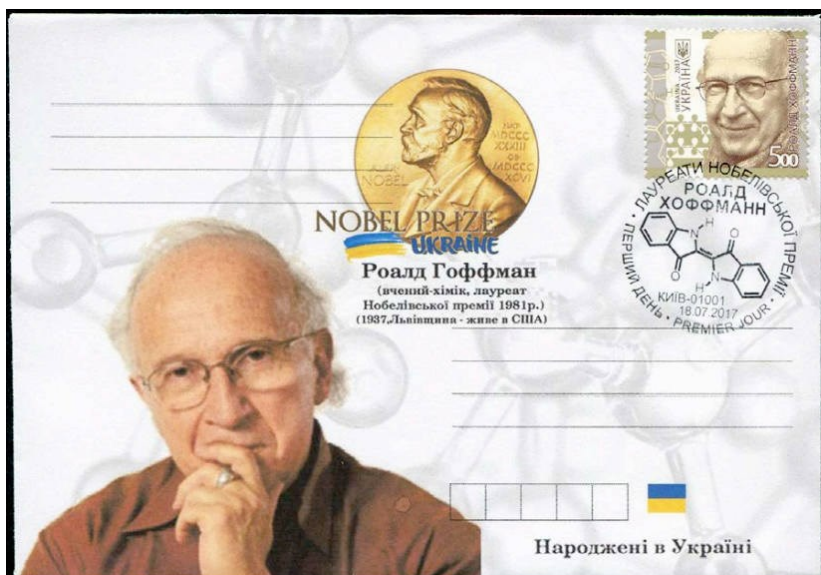
[3]

The commemorative issue was printed in sheets of 12 stamps that measure 155 x 125 mm [3].

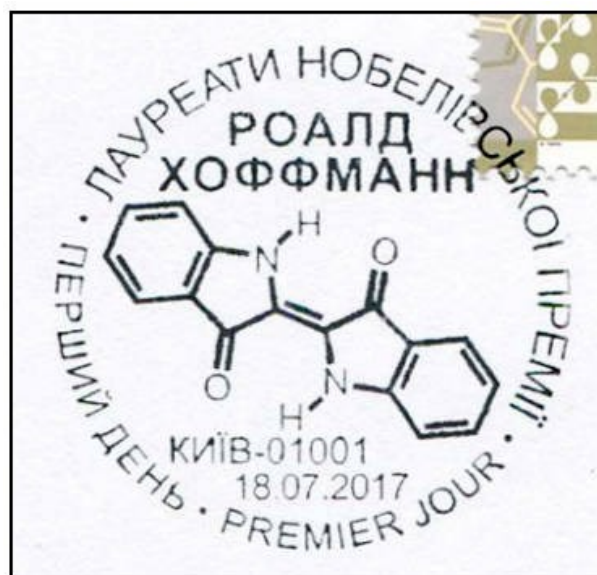
The marginal inscription towards the upper right corner (in Ukrainian) says “Nobel Prize Laureates” and RH’s name and the year he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1981) are shown on the lower left corner of the sheet.

Decorative elements on both the left and right margins of the sheet, much like on the stamp itself, include molecular orbitals of butadiene and structural diagrams of indigo. Last but not least, the smaller but longer caption on the lower right corner of the sheet can be translated approximately to:

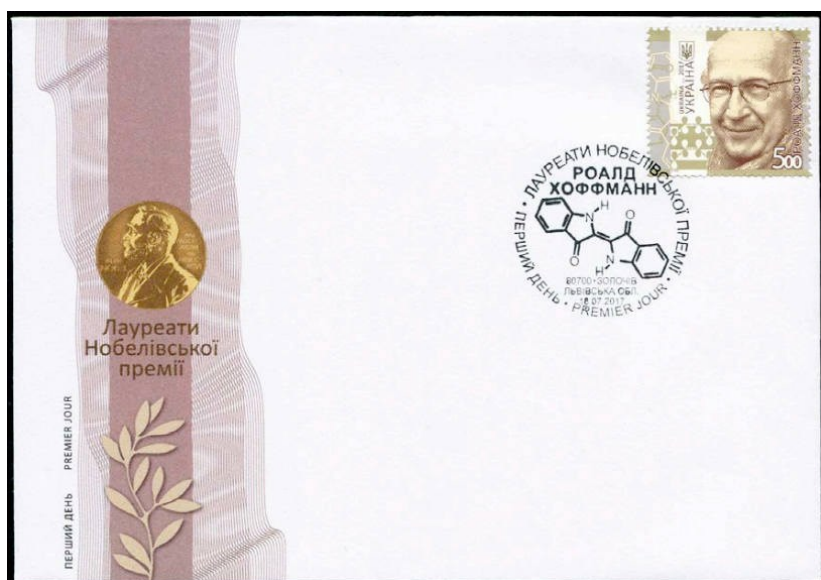
“Main scientific achievements of Roald Hoffmann involve the use of quantum mechanics for studying the mechanisms of chemical reactions. Nobel Prize winner for the development of theories concerning the course of chemical reactions.”



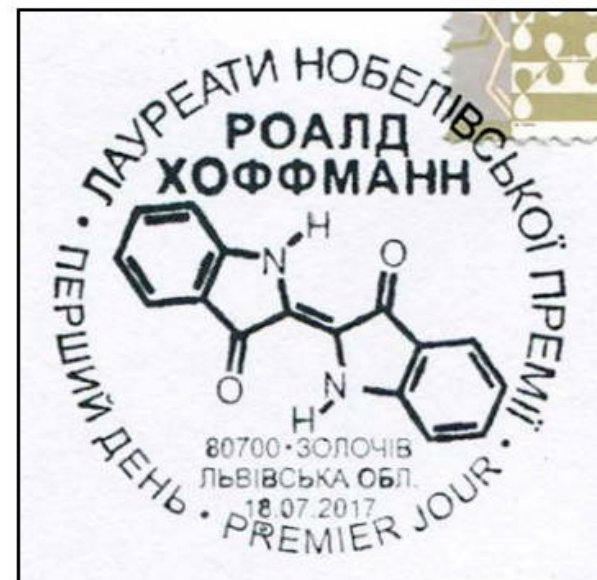
[4]



[5]



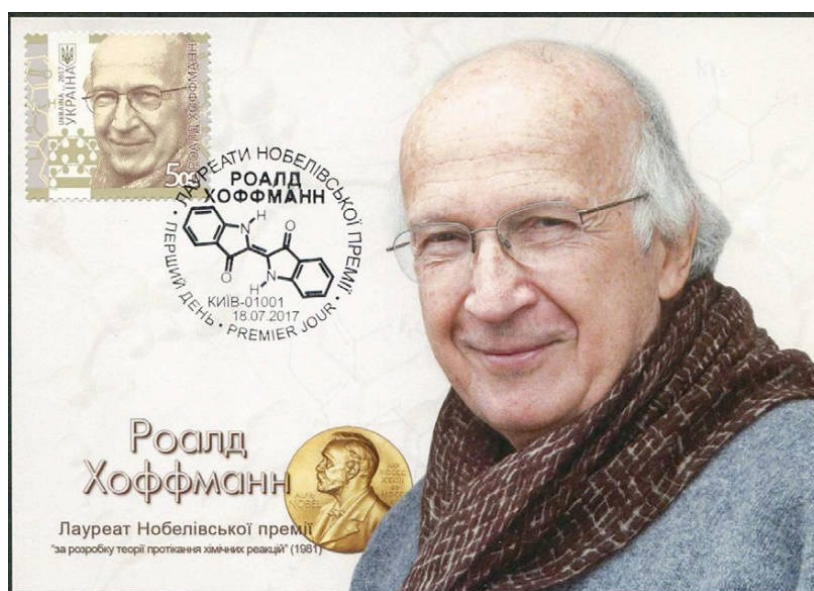
[6]



[7]

Two different First Day cancellations were made available to the public when the stamp was released, one from Kiev (Київ) [4,5], the capital and largest city of Ukraine (population ca. 2.9 million), and the other from RH's "original" hometown of Zolochiv (Золочів) [6,7], which even today has a population of only ~25,000.

Incidentally, I suspect the cancellation from Zolochiv is more rare but I have not been able to find any data pertaining to the number of First Day Covers prepared. Both circular post-



[8]

marks include the date of issue (18.07.2017) and a structural diagram of indigo, a nice touch that RH certainly appreciates.

A maximum card [8] was also prepared for the occasion and features the same photograph of RH used on the stamp as the main illustration, plus the circular postmark from Kiev dated 18 July 2017.

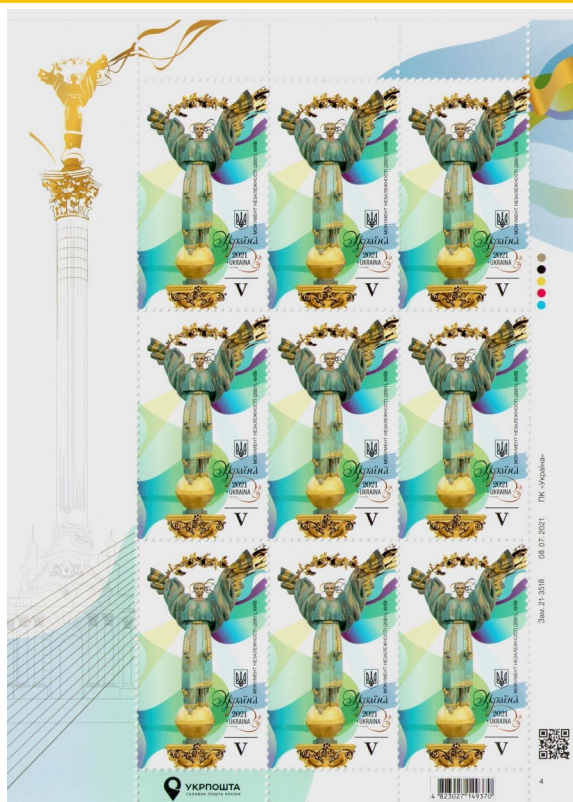
Note

A previous stamp in the “Nobel Prize Laureates” series from Ukraine, with a similar overall design (Scott No. 1010), was issued on 13 February 2015 to pay tribute to Ilya Mechnikov (1845-1916), the Russian zoologist who shared the 1908 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine with Paul Ehrlich “in recognition of their work on immunity”

Acknowledgement

The author thanks Prof. Anna Larsen (Dept. of Chemistry, Ithaca College) and Dr. Ilia Guzei (University of Wisconsin-Madison) for their help with the translation of Ukrainian text into English.

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H. T. Putney Clearing Out Lots

IPDA member H. T. Putney has put together some closeout lots and is blowing them out at liquidation prices, in his HipStamp store:

[Putney Stamps: Quality for Collectors](#)

Here are examples of the items he has for sale:
(Click on the image, to go to that item in his store.)



Alexandretta - CLOSE OUT LOT #C1-
#C8, VF OG, + VF NH, + #J1-#J6 VF...
\$129.85



US #548-#690 Close OUT LOT - VF,
Vf-Xf, XF, Mostly MNH OG. 10696
\$303.97

Check out more of his closeout deals by clicking on this link: [Putney Stamps: Quality for Collectors](#).



A Recent Stamp of Ukraine

Roald Hoffmann

Department of Chemistry and Chemical Biology, Baker Laboratory

Cornell University

Ithaca, NY 14853-1301

rh34@cornell.edu

I was born in Złoczów, Poland, now Zolochiv = Золочів, Ukraine. This small town of some 12,000 people in 1937, actually has been in five countries in the last one hundred years: it was Austria-Hungary when my mother was born there, Poland in my time, the *Generalgouvernement* of Germany during World War II, part of the Soviet Union from the end of World War II, and independent Ukraine since 1990. I know that your natural inclination is to think of postal history, but that was not what the people living there, my people, had on their mind –it was survival. Of the four changes in government (and I am not counting occupations of less than two years) only the last was peaceful. For a Jewish child to be born in Złoczów in 1937 was not a good thing.

We survived, at least my mother and I did, not my father. In time we came to the USA, I became a theoretical chemist. And Ukraine decided to issue a stamp in my honor, for my 80th birthday, July 18, 2017. Actually, the suggestion to produce such a stamp was made by Yuri Kovalkov from Ter-nopil over the preceding years. Once it was approved in 2016, *Ukrposhta*, the Ukrainian Postal Service, was highly professional and responsive in its interactions with me. Antonina Siryk of *Ukrposhta*'s Philately Center was my main contact there. On Nov. 24, 2016, they asked me for some photographs and I sent them several possibilities. The first suggestion of a stamp design came in a letter of Jan. 12, 2017, in the following form:



I did not give any design suggestions to *Ukrposhta*. But one of the pictorial elements in the offset design would be familiar to many –the buckminsterfullerene molecule. Less familiar, but in the background, recognizable to chemists at least, are pieces of two chemical structures of one and the same molecule, indigo. This is an ancient dye, derived from a number of species of snails around the world, and from plants of several families. Indigo is the main dye in Tyrian or Royal purple, and also in a biblically sanctioned pigment called *tekhelet*.

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

As beautiful as buckminsterfullerene, colloquially called fullerene or buckyball, is, I had nothing to do with its discovery, and published only one paper, a minor one, on its chemistry. It seemed clear that the buckyball was chosen for its aesthetic appeal (I never was a good soccer player). Indigo is another story. While I have also not worked on the chemistry of indigo, I have written much about its cultural history, as a molecule straddling craft, religion, science, and history. I give a lecture on indigo.

I told *Ukrposhta* that the indigo structure was fine (somehow they themselves came across the connection with me), but not buckminsterfullerene. To be specific, I gave them the following advice on cosmetics, subject, and text (I speak Russian, and with the help of a friend could make comments in Ukrainian):

I have two comments on the stamp design and a correction to the text for the sheet. On the stamp design:

1. Blue arrow on attached image. Maybe just a little less hair on that side of my face.

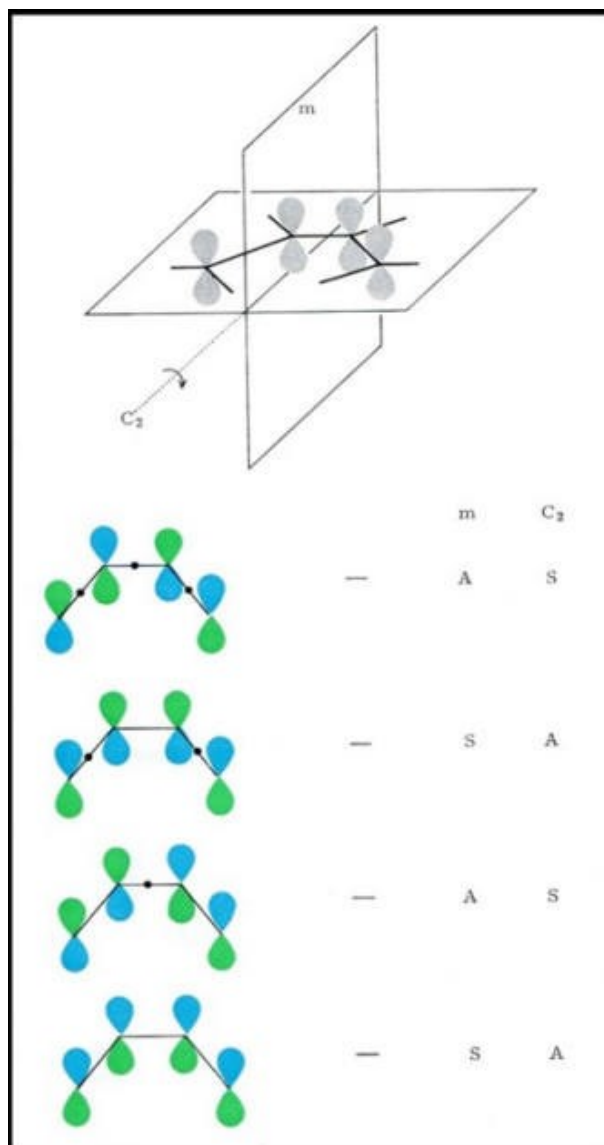
2. Red arrow on image: the graphic element chosen is a ball-shaped molecule, called buckminsterfullerene or a "buckyball". It is certainly beautiful, and I like what the artist has done with it, "reversing" the dark/light in half. But it happens that this molecule is not connected to my work. I send along 7 images that show molecules more connected to me. 1 and 2 (the figure-8 shapes are called "orbitals") are closest to my work, 3-7 less close but still related. It is understood, of course, that the whole graphic cannot be reproduced –these are sent just to give the artist a set of graphic elements to choose from. In 3,5, 6,7 I have looked for roughly spherical molecular structures, which I agree echo graphically the face shape. If the artist were to choose a graphic element from 1 and 2, the orbitals, one color could be rendered in gray, the other in white.

On text for sheet: It needs improvement in several words and phrases. Please use this text:

Основні наукові досягнення Роалда Хоффманна стосуються застосування квантової механіки для вивчення механізмів хімічних реакцій. Лауреат Нобелівської премії –«за розробку теорії перебігу хімічних реакцій»

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)



Note from the Editor

This picture depicting the molecular orbitals of butadiene was also shown on page 7 of *"The Conservation of Orbital Symmetry,"* by R. B. Woodward and R. Hoffmann (Academic Press, Inc., 1970). In the figure, A = antisymmetric, S = symmetric, m = mirror plane, C₂ = two-fold rotation axis.

Above (right) is my second suggestion, and any organic chemist will recognize it as speaking of my work. These are the molecular orbitals of butadiene, central to a body of work by R. B. Woodward and me, recognized by the Nobel prize to Kenichi Fukui and myself in 1981.

A few days later Ukrposhta sent to me a second draft (above right), editing my hair, and substituting two orbitals for the buckyball, based on my suggestion:

The *Ukrposhta* artist gave me my orbitals. But... among the four orbitals supplied by me, he or she chose two, a choice obviously dictated by the space available, and the color by the white plus two colors scheme of the offset process. And of the two orbitals chosen, only the lower one was crucial to the reaction (they are, respectively, the first and the third from bottom in my blue and green image). The dark on light or light on dark constraint was a serious one, and you can see that it dictated the artist's choice of orbitals and their ordering in space. I thought hard about this, tried some mockups (readers will know that the graphic sense of illustrations in my papers matters to me), and decided to go with the artist's suggestion.

I was happy enough to get a molecular orbital, or two, on a stamp. It is, as far as I know, the first

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)



[1]

spelling of my family name. On the latter I was consulted, and we had some back and forth.

We are dealing here with languages and transliteration conventions. My family name is Hoffmann (that was not my last name at birth, but that is another story). And that presents several problems to a translator into Ukrainian (or Russian). The first, perhaps trivial, is whether to double the f and n in Ukrainian. People have gone in both ways (I wonder if there is an analogue to the Chicago Manual of Style in Ukrainian...). More serious is the first letter of Hoffmann. The point is that there is no H in Ukrainian, but the letter G (Г) is pronounced as an H in Ukrainian (but not in some Russian words). What to do? There is another Cyrillic letter X, which is usually transliterated as Kh, but sometimes is voiced and transliterated close to European H. We opted for that.

Two more points on the agonies of transliteration: (1) ethnic Germans or Jews in Russia named Hoffmann often wind up as ГОФМАН in Cyrillic. And that name would be transliterated into Latin script as Gofman. (2) If you think Hoffmann gives people trouble, think about what one might do with Hughes.

All in all, this was a really good interaction between a person portrayed on a stamp and the philatelic design agency of the state involved. Am I a Polish, or a Ukrainian, or a Jewish, or an American chemist? All of these.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Yuri Kovalkov for his advocacy of “my stamp,” Nataliia Shymanska, Larisa Vygran, and Boris Simkin for their help in translating text for the sheet and advice on transliteration, and especially Antonina Siryk and her colleagues at *Ukrposhta* for guiding the stamp to reality.

philatelic portrayal of this important concept of theory in chemistry. There is a Swedish stamp [1] (found for me by Dan Rabinovich; Scott catalogue No. 1426) which is a superb rendition of an atomic orbital. But not a molecular orbital.

The careful viewer will see more differences between the final stamp (below) and the two proofs/drafts: The denomination has changed (nothing that was in my hands), and so has the



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Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

Switzerland - Zürich 4r and 6r

(Scott Nr 1L1, 1L2; SG Z1, Z2; MiNr ZR 1I/I, 2I/I)



- Country of production : Switzerland
- Location of production : Zürich
- Date of production : 1 March 1843
- Nature of rarity : Extremely rare
- No. in existence : Unknown
- Face value : 4 and 6 rappen
- Estimated value : CHF 48,000 and above

The Zürich 4 and 6 were the first postage stamps issued in continental Europe, on 1 March 1843. Both were inscribed "Zürich" at the top.

The 4-rappen stamp was also inscribed "Local-Taxe" at the bottom, since it was intended to pay for letters mailed within the city, while the 6-rappen, inscribed "Cantonal-Taxe", was for use on letters going anywhere in the canton.

Reference : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Zurich_4_and_6

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

"330 Is Going Down!"

An Explosion In Mid –Air

Mr. Enthusiastic on Saturday, August 07, 2021

Stories Behind the Stamps

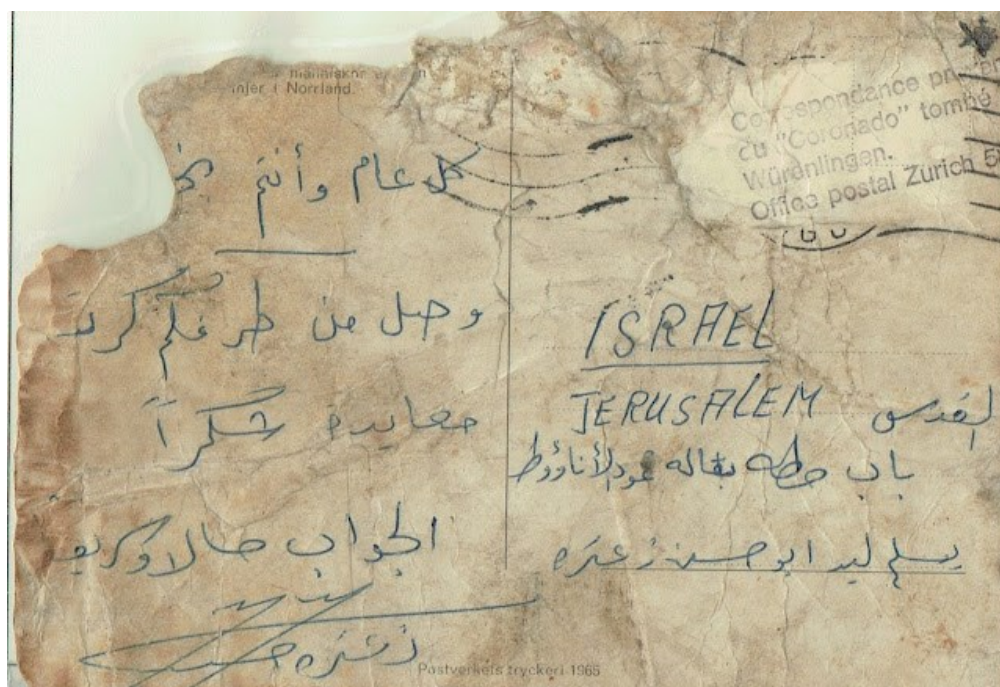
February 21, 1970, a cold and wet Saturday, Switzerland was shaken when Swissair 330, bound for Tel Aviv, Israel, crashed shortly after take-off from Zurich. Swissair Flight 330 was a regularly scheduled flight from Zurich International Airport in Kloten, Switzerland, to Hong Kong with a planned stopover in Tel Aviv.

About nine minutes after take-off, during the ascent on a southerly course, a bomb detonated in the aft cargo compartment of the aircraft. The bomb was triggered by a change in atmospheric pressure. The crew desperately tried to turn the plane around and attempt an emergency landing at Zürich but had difficulty seeing the instruments due to smoke in the cockpit. The aircraft deviated more and more to the west. **"330 is going down,"** co-pilot Armand Etienne told the control tower in German and added **"Goodbye everybody"** in English. The flight crashed a short time later due to a loss of power, killing everyone on board: 38 passengers and nine crew.

Let us look for a moment at the co pilot Armand Etienne. He was actually born in Odessa, Russia in 1918, but his family came from Lausanne, Switzerland. Armand moved to Australia and joined the RAAF in 1939 when war broke out.

Completing his training, he was then assigned to a Squadron operating American-built PB-Y "Catalina" Flying-Boats. One of his fellow crews was forced into the sea, and he promptly set out on a rescue mission to pick them up. He took off to fly the mission in broad daylight, and, after flying low over Japanese-held territory, he soon located his stranded comrades and then safely brought them home.

For this remarkable rescue under the eyes of the Japanese, he was decorated for his outstanding courage and grim determination with the Distinguished Flying Cross (D.F.C.).



A black instructional marking in French was applied to any mail, which translated reads: Correspondence is from "Coronado" that fell at Würenlingen. Zürich 58 Post Office

He joined Swissair in 1953. Armand is often referred to as a Captain but on the fateful flight 330, he was the co-pilot. RIP and thank you for your service.

Continuing with our story, the PFLP-GC (Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command) initially claimed responsibility, out of their HQ in Beirut Lebanon, but they retracted it a few days later. One possible motive was revenge against Switzerland for three Palestinians who had been sentenced to 12 years imprisonment by a Swiss court.

The [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command](#) (PFLP-GC) was established in April 1968 by Ahmed Jibril. Jibril recently passed away, on July 7th, 2021. At the time, being of Syrian descent, he was a member of the PFLP,

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

the PLO, and a captain in the Syrian Army. He wanted to focus more on terrorism and less on politics. The PFLP-GC is not to be confused with PFLP of George Habash. (Monty Python "Life of Brian" anyone?)

Now here we have an interesting side to the story. Within a few days the main suspect was named as a Jordanian who had intended blowing up an Israeli plane. As a result of a flight diversion, it ended up on a Swissair plane. Yet no suspects were ever taken to court, despite arrest warrants, and despite this being defined as the worst terrorist attack in Swiss history. The Swiss investigator handed his report to the federal attorney-general but complained later that the Swiss authorities seemed to throw a "cloak of silence" over the case.

In September of the same year, a Swissair flight which was on its way to New York, was hijacked and ended up at Dawson's Field, a disused airstrip in Jordanian desert.

its diplomatic offices to push for international recognition of the PLO. The agreement was apparently designed to prevent terrorist attacks on Swiss territory.

Strangely, Reuters reported that, apparently, a Swiss investigation found no evidence that a government minister struck a secret deal with the Palestine Liberation Organization. In my opinion, there must have been something, as there were no more terror attacks in Switzerland. This does show that terror works.

The Swissair bombing also had an understandable effect on mail including letters and parcels. After the bombing, many international carriers suspended mail and cargo services to Israel, claiming that the measure was temporary. One captain of a Swissair flight refused to take outgoing mail — of course he was scared — but agreed when he was informed that he was acting contrary to his company's instructions.

Of course, Israel approached the Universal Postal Union to act



Hebrew inscription "Arrived via surface mail" via the sea

In 2016, the Swiss newspaper *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* (NZZ) reported that, while Switzerland was desperately trying to negotiate to get their hostages released, Swiss Foreign Minister Pierre Graber allegedly secretly contacted the PLO. Using a member of the Swiss parliament as an intermediary, but without informing his fellow government ministers, apparently Graber had come to an agreement under which those charged for the attack on the Swissair plane would be released in return for freeing the hostages. The allegations emerged in a book entitled, "Swiss Terror Years."

In addition, the investigation into the bombing of the Swissair flight would be quietly shelved; no wonder no one was charged and everything was hushed up. Switzerland also agreed to use

against any delays in foreign mail deliveries, but this did not help. As a result, mail sent or routed to Israel through the UK, Italy, and the USA was required to be sent only by surface mail in the immediate future. Airmail to Israel was no longer permitted.

Once again terrorism wins the day.

Check out my blog about the Munich massacre at the [Olympics](#).

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](#)

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Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)

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The Back Page

**Dealer
Spotlight**

Art Lafionatis



Chevy Chase Collectibles

I am originally from Haverhill, MA and have lived in Chevy Chase, Maryland for nearly 40 years. I have been a collector since the mid-1960s when I inherited my last grandmother's stamp collection

[My HipStamp store.](#)

[My Ebay store.](#)

I became a member of the APS in 1981 after I graduated from law school. I continue to practice law alongside my philatelic endeavors. I am also a member of the ASDA, IPDA and United States Stamp Society.

I started selling stamps on approval in the 1980's under the name Commonwealth Stamps. In the mid-1990's, I shifted from stamps to become a co-owner and the Publisher of The Audio Adventure, a magazine devoted to the enjoyment of affordable high end audio equipment and recording.

With the advent of the internet and online sales, I resumed selling on an online basis several years ago, with my own website, along with stores on HipStamp and Ebay.

I offer United States and Worldwide Stamps focused on pre-1990 US, British Commonwealth, Greece (the country of my heritage) and other European countries.

I like to provide a source for affordable and quality sets and singles for collectors to fill empty spaces in their collections. I break down quality lots to offer individual items.

While my emphasis is on stamps, I also sell US Coins, along with vinyl records and CDs, DVDs, and other collectibles.

My personal collecting interests are US, BCW, Greece through the end of the 20th century, along with Ships and Space on stamps