

Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone and Happy April 2024!

The IPDA Annual General Meeting was held on March 23, 2024, and all went well. Budgets were approved and director elections were held. It was noted that there are a few members who have not yet renewed for 2024 and I encourage those who have not renewed to do so at your earliest convenience.

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 is 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.

We are continuing efforts to get IPDA members "badged" on the HipStamp platform and I can report that recent efforts engaging new management at HipStamp have caused me to be more optimistic that this will be done. Your board of directors and I believe that this will be a valuable tool to recognize IPDA as the only and the premier organization focused on promoting ethical and quality stamp dealers in the internet realm. Stay tuned.....

Please consider putting your name in the hat to be highlighted in the coming months for our monthly Newsletter and website Dealer Spotlight. It is free advertising to you as an IPDA member as part of your membership benefits. Again, contact our newsletter editor Ted Tyzka (ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com) for more details.

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

BLITHER and BLATHER

My blither and blather for this month comes from an experience I had with a potential customer in March. A bit of an odd and somewhat uncomfortable situation for me. A bit of background . . . a customer made some offers on some stamps in my store which I accepted. Now, the customer resides in Canada, a country to which I do ship. Before the customer finalized the

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transaction, he reached out to me and asked why my shipping costs were so high to ship from the US to Canada. I explained to him that, due to recent changes in postal regulations, shippers were no longer allowed to use regular USPS First Class Mail to ship “purchased goods” internationally and that my least costly method was to ship to Canada legally via USPS First Class Package service at \$15.00 (which is basically break even for me using a third-party forwarding service). It is worth noting that the HipStamp platform allows a customer to review shipping costs from any store prior to even placing any bids or making any offers, so there is nothing to hide there. Those costs can be known up front. Anyway, the customer explained that most US shippers to Canada, to paraphrase, “just ship orders by regular mail”. Ok, I replied, that might be ok for them, and those stores may have other ways to account for being able or willing to ship purchased items in that manner, but they are risking discovery by the postal service and confiscation of the contents (their stamps). I explained that I am not willing to risk not only the loss of the order but also an infraction of the postal regulations.

Keep in mind the interaction with this customer was always cordial but, in the end, he decided that he was not willing to pay for my shipping and bowed out of the deal. All fine and good, so far, and I told him that I completely understood and processed the order cancellation promptly.

Several days later, I received some new (neutral) feedback in my store from this customer which basically stated that the order was “cancelled for non-

shipment.” I haven’t received a neutral or much less negative feedback since I first opened a store on HipStamp years ago. Feeling that this response appeared to be a bit disingenuous, I requested the support staff at HipStamp to review the transaction and asked to have the feedback removed. Their staff agreed and did just that. (As a side note, the HipStamp policy does not allow for any modification of feedback, only a petition for removal on a case-by-case basis.)

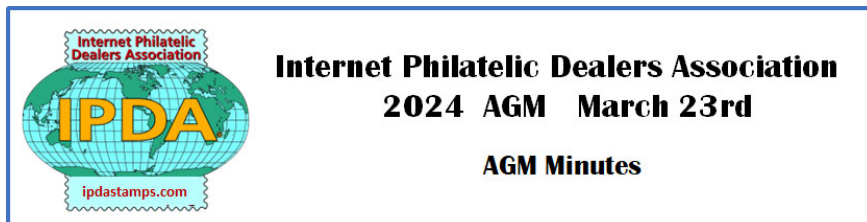
A couple of takeaways from this experience: One, never get angry about having to deal with unusual situations. Always be cordial, communicative, and understanding of the situation. Two, know the rules you, and your customers, must both play by and don’t be willing to break them for the sake of a sale. Always document any communications that can support your position. And, finally, understand how to deal with feedback that is not totally accurate and how to contact those who can potentially correct it.

Now, I realize that this situation applied to a HipStamp store and that many of us run our own sites or maybe sell on eBay, so this might not apply to you, but the basic premise is still there — always treat every customer with respect and dignity, but always know the rules and processes that apply and be willing to defend them in any situation.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

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Attendees Present: Greg Doll Chairman, Tony Tripi Membership Secretary & Treasurer, Michael Dodd General Secretary, Luree Hughes Marketing & Media, Jon Griffiths Director Europe & UK.

Apologies received and proxies received from: Ken Sanford Director USA, Lee Coen Director USA, Jerry Derr Director USA, Ted Tyszka Director Europe,

The Chairman opened the meeting and thanked all for attending with special mention to Luree for her work especially with the 2024 GASS tote bags which was shown to attendees.

The Chairman asked the General Secretary to report.

The General Secretary advised that he had confirmed with the Membership Secretary that the current paid up membership stood at 119 members, with 16 still unpaid. There were no Proxy votes included from the 69 Paid up members. This gave a response of 60% and we had a Quorum to proceed. The voting results are as follows

Agenda #	Item Topic -- Motions to Vote as follows:	Yes	No	Abstain
2	Accept minutes of 2023 meeting	67	-	2
3	Accept Annual Report and Directors Statements	67	-	2
4.1	for the re-election of Michael Dodd General Secretary	66	1	2
4.2	for the re-election of Tony Tripi Membership Secretary & Treasurer	65	-	4
4.3	for the re-election of Ken Sanford, Director USA	66	-	3
4.4	for the re-election of Jerry Derr Director USA	64	-	5
4.5	for the re-election of Ted Tyszka Director USA (to be named to Europe)	67	-	2
4.6	For the formal election of Luree Hughes as Media and Marketing Director	69	-	
5.1	Approve \$3500 for promotional activities – social media	66	-	3
5.2	Approve \$2000 for promotional activities – exhibitions	64	1	4
5.3	Approve initiating Funding Drives	66	-	3
5.4	Approve the 2024 Operating Budget	68	-	1
6.1	Nominate and accept < nominee> to be Confidential List Office – Non Board appointment	Motion Passed in – No Nominations		
6.2	Nominate and accept < nominee> to be Internal Auditor – Non Board appointment	Motion Passed in – No Nominations		

The meeting concluded at 18:30 EST.

Michael Dodd General Secretary, 24th March 2024, Laoag Philippines.



Ted Talks Stamps

by Ted the Talking Stamp Collector

Some Recent Happenings in the Philatelic Community

What happens when one has a couple of pages of a newsletter to fill with one's philatelic mental meanderings, but time and circumstances conspire to stifle one's words from pouring forth? In this case, one (okay, "I"), to borrow a phrase, rob from Peter to pay Paul — that is to say, I compile, within this space, several smaller filler pieces into a full-size column I can call my very own, and, absent any nefarious ne'er-do-well spilling my chili beans, none shall be the wiser. My thanks be to Michael Dodd, of cddstamps, for bringing a couple of these to my attention.

there), and "one of the 'crown jewels' of Canadian philately," was hammered down at \$625,000, not including the buyer's premium (which bumped the final cost to \$740,625).

The sale was conducted by Eastern Auctions, who announced the auction result on their Facebook page. The stamp was an erstwhile component of Ron Brigham's Pence and Cents collection. *Canadian Stamp News* will be providing more details on the results of the Brigham sale in their next issue.

Canada 12d Black Sets Auction Record



Of course, there are auction records, and then there are auctions records, and the displayed headline can be held suspect without a bit of context. Such context, in this case, is, "for a Canadian stamp."

The esteemed philatelic journal, *Canadian Stamp News*, reported, in their March 14, 2024 issue, that the above-shown imperforate pair, one of three such known, and described as "superlative" (no argument

Museum of Philately Now An NPO

As of January 2024, the Museum of Philately (see here: <https://www.museumofphilately.com/>), has transitioned from being a private enterprise co-founded by and sponsored by David Feldman SA International Organization (and not to give him short-shrift, the other co-founder was Martin Orsi), into a Non-Profit Organization, registered in Geneva Switzerland, freed from management by any commercial operation.

Selected to serve as president of the organization was Simon Martin-Redman FRPSL (Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of London). Mr. Martin-Redman has an impressive array of philatelic credentials, including —

- Current Vice President of the Royal Philatelic Society London
- Past President of the Sarawak Specialists Society
- Boardmember of the Club de Monte Carlo
- Member of the Grand Prix Club (winning the International Grand Prix at Helvetia 2022 in Lugano)
- Inaugural winner of the Rowland Hill Medal , in 2022

For those not familiar with the Museum of Philately, it is, to quote from David Feldman's press release:

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. . . a digital platform, which presents online many of the most important philatelic exhibits and collections belonging to private collectors. It stores images of collections, which are then available to be viewed, even when it is no longer in the possession of the collector. It allows users and their previous owners to see these prestigious collections in totality and also to learn more about the owners, highlighted pieces, philatelic experts as well as the awards and palmarès attributed to individual collections.

To read the full press release, and to see what the Museum of Philately is all about, visit the site at:

<https://www.museumofphilately.com/>

Scott Catalog Backtracks

The Scott Catalog is no stranger to controversy. The company has made many decisions over the years which have caused consternation among collectors, from divorcing the British Commonwealth countries from it's bonds with the USA and the rest of Volume 1, to conducting a full-scale reduction of all catalog values while, at the same time, declaring those new lower values as being for stamps in VF condition, instead of the previous F/VF.

More recently, they kicked up a firestorm when they decided that customers buying a digital catalog which they could continue to use from one year to the next (you know, just as you are able to do with a printed catalog?) was a philatelic financial bridge too far, and they changed their subscription model to charging full price for a new digital edition Each. And. Every. Year, while also pulling the plug on access to the one you purchased, after said year.

Collectors who opted to go with a print version of the U.S. Specialized Catalog were also victimized by an editorial change (lest they become too complacent about receiving full value for their purchase). Scott also emasculated their print version of the U.S. Specialized Catalog by removing several sections, among these the Identifier of Definitive Stamp Issues, the

Stamp Values by Grade section, and the United Nations listings, while retaining them in the digital version of the catalog.

While the UN listings were retained (in basic form) in Volume 1A of the print catalog, the Identifier and the Values by Grade section were published as separate volumes to be purchased at additional cost (\$19.99 and \$24.99, respectively). It is not hard to imagine the outcry from collectors over this change.

Now, it seems, Amos Publishing has relented, at least in part, and is backtracking on two changes. In the latest (April) edition of Scott Stamp Monthly, Jay Bigalke reports that the Identifier and the Graded Guide will return to the print edition. Besides the UN listings, other sections will remain out of the printed U.S. Specialized, but included in the digital version. These are: the Essays, 1861 First Design Essays and Trial Proofs, and the Trial Color, Die and Plate Proofs sections.

While it is understandable that print catalogues grow larger with each year that requires the inclusion of 100s of new listings, it is irksome to see how the publisher fumbles the ball with their dubious decisions. The editors always seem to crow about how, "We listened to you, and made the improvements you asked for." (Can you say "gaslighting?")

I feel there is no reason on earth why a digital subscription to the worldwide 6-Volume Scott Catalog should cost a collector a full-priced \$549.00 each and every year, or else you lose it all. That is over \$45 a month, for what benefit — because you automatically get the new edition when it is released (their words)? Spare me.

As some of you may know, I recently moved from Texas to Portugal. My wife and I sold virtually everything, in order to start anew, light and fresh. I sold many things I would never have gotten rid of except under those circumstances — thousands of books, my run of Action Comics back to 1960, my bass guitar and amp. I gave many philatelic items away — stamps, books, stock books and stock sheets. One book I gave away was a Scott Worldwide Classic Catalog, which I reluctantly let go, to save room and weight in my baggage. Instead, I decided to subscribe to Scott's digital Worldwide Classic. At "only" \$124 a year, I thought it might be an affordable solution.

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I regret that decision now. Whether or not I can afford it is beside the point. The point is, why should I have to pay another ransom to access the information for which I already paid? There is precious little new editorial matter (if any) to justify the cost, and any value changes they make in the listings are meaningless in the light of real-world market values. Scott could just as well strip its catalogs of all stamp values, and their usefulness (and accuracy) would barely be diminished.

This piece was only supposed to be a simple announcement of the Identifier and Graded Values being reinstated in the print catalog. It seems, though, any discussion of the Scott Catalog invariably leads to my, let us say, frustration and disappointment, welling up.

Maybe I'm just an old man yelling at clouds, but with all the hand-wringing over the alleged "death" of the hobby and the declining collector base, Scott could do just a little bit better in making it more affordable and reasonable for collectors to participate.

My New Substack Newsletter

One more small item, then I must put this (admittedly abbreviated) edition to bed.

For those of you with blogs or newsletters, or are contemplating writing one or the other, you might want to give Substack a look. Substack is an online platform created for writers to send out newsletters to their social and professional following. Founded in 2017, it has evolved in that time to be more of an all around social platform, where writers create not just email newsletters, but longer form essays (Posts), complete with comment sections, short form Twitter-like announcements (Notes), and even podcasts and videos.

Originally (I believe) created for novelists and other book writers, the spectrum of current writers include journalists, essayists, comics creators, and, yes, even philatelists. I am currently subscribed to Wayne Youngblood's Substack.

Many of the Substack publications (including Youngblood's) have paid subscriptions attached to them, although they also have free subscriptions

which may limit you to reading certain posts available to free subscribers. Each writer can set the subscription terms for their publications.

While I've known about Substack for quite some time, it is only recently that I decided to explore it and see what it's all about. After just one afternoon of exploring and reading (and subscribing to) several Substacks, I knew this was the place to be. All of the writers, and the readers who leave comments, appear interested only in reasoned and rational discourse, with no tribal politics. And I think it's telling, that after Substack introduced Notes (short-form Twitter-like posts) Elon Musk began blocking all Substack links posted on X.

This brings me to my own Substack.

Last year, I had started a blog on WordPress. But after four posts I let it fall by the wayside. I just was not satisfied with that platform and the work involved in creating posts. I created my own Substack and started off by republishing my previous WordPress blog posts onto it.

I did not set it up for, nor do I intend to ever have, paid subscriptions. I see Substack as a good vehicle for posting my own philatelic musings, and, in the spirit of the original idea, creating newsletters for my HipStamp store. When newsletters arrive in subscribers' email, they can be read from within their email app; it is not necessary to go to the Substack website or use the app. However the site and app allow you to explore other writers and to follow them, if not subscribe.

I have found other familiar philatelic names with Substack accounts who have not yet started posting any writing. I hope more will join as time goes on.

So far Wayne Youngblood is the only other person, besides myself, writing on philatelic topics. You can find it here: <https://wayneyoungblood.substack.com/>

My Substack publication is called (surprise!) Ted Talks Stamps, and you can find it here:

<https://tedtalksstamps.substack.com/>

For anyone considering writing a blog or newsletter, I recommend you check out Substack. And I hope you will drop by my Substack and leave a comment, or follow, or subscribe.

Until then . . .

Happy stamping.

Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

Canada - 12d Black - 1851

Scott Nr 3, SG Nr 4, Mi Nr 6x



Canada 12d black or The Black Empress of Canada is the rarest Canadian postage stamp, issued in 1851. The 12-pence stamp shows the portrait of Queen Victoria and is the third stamp issued by the province.

In 1851, the Province of Canada issued the stamps of Queen Victoria. For the stamp image, the Queen's portrait by Alfred Edward Chalon (1780–1860) was used. This design is called the Chalon head. The stamps were printed in New York.

In fine and unused condition, these stamps are very expensive. In February 2006, a Twelve Penny Black was sold £116,000.

The first issue of stamps for the colony of Canada was made in 1851 and comprised three pence, six pence, and 12 pence values. One shilling was not used as the face value because in local currency it had more than one meaning of value. In New England one shilling meant 16 and two-thirds cents, which was equal to 10 pence. In New York shilling meant 12 and a half cents equalling seven pence halfpenny. Therefore 12 pence offered no misunderstanding. Out of 51,000 of the 12 pence black that were printed, about 130 copies of this philatelic item are believed to exist today. There are only five unused pairs.

Article Reference : https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Canada_12d_black

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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A Double Crash - say no more

Mr. Enthusiastic, on Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Stories Behind the Stamps

In the golden age of aviation, flying was an exhilarating and daring affair, reserved for the privileged few. Taking to the skies was a thrilling experience, and even something as mundane as sending mail by air sparked wonder and amusement among onlookers, like the residents of Tiberius in the 1930s, who marveled at the flying boats landing gracefully on Lake Kinneret.

But, today, we're not here to talk about the spectacle of early air travel. Instead, we're going to unravel the intriguing tale behind an unassuming cover that most would dismiss as ordinary. Little do they know, this innocuous envelope has a story of daring adventure and calamity that would make even the most seasoned traveler's heart race.



On the 27th of January, 1932, Imperial Airways inaugurated the first regular weekly flight from Cape Town to London, and this cover was a passenger on that maiden voyage. The journey began in Cape Town, with a stopover in Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. But on the 29th, as the "City of Basra," a mighty Hercules DH.66 flying boat, prepared to take off from Salisbury, disaster struck.

While taxiing on the runway, the aircraft encountered a treacherous patch of soft earth, the remnant of a previously removed anthill. The impact was severe, leaving the majestic flying boat battered and unable to continue its journey. Thus, our unassuming cover earned its first battle scar, a "crash cover" in the parlance of aviation enthusiasts.

Undeterred, the passengers and mail, including our intrepid envelope, were hastily transferred to another flying boat, the "City of Delhi." With hopes high, the flight took off without incident. But the skies had other plans. A violent storm descended upon the aircraft, forcing an emergency landing in a swamp 50 miles from Broken Hill, Northern Rhodesia. Can you believe the misfortune? Two crashes in as many days!

As if the ordeal wasn't harrowing enough, the crew and pas-

sengers found themselves marooned in the swamp, their only salvation the prospect of being spotted by another passing flight. Two search planes scoured the area, but the relentless rain hampered their efforts. Finally, the "City of Baghdad" took to the skies, and its crew's sharp eyes located the stranded travelers.

With relief and resilience, the mail, including our indomitable cover, was carried by native bearers to Broken Hill, arriving on the 4th of February. From there, it was carried onto the "City of Baghdad" for the final leg of its journey to London, bearing the scars of its remarkable odyssey.

So, the next time you come across an ordinary-looking envelope, pause and consider the extraordinary tales it might hide. This cover, which most would dismiss as unremarkable, has a story of daring, calamity, and perseverance that would make even the most seasoned adventurer's heart swell with admiration.

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](#)

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Fair & Show organisers please contact me

Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG



The Retail and Auction Dealer That Cares About the Hobby

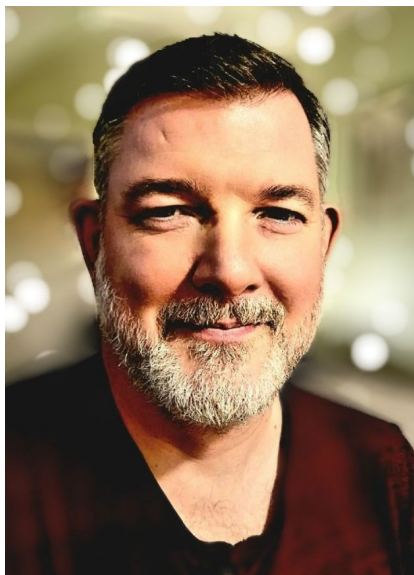
Brixton-Chrome Inc. is a boutique stamp dealer that operates a weekly online auction that closes every Wednesday at 11:30pm Atlantic time. The auctions regularly feature between 400-500 lots that all start at \$1 and progress in \$1 increments. There are no reserves, and every lot that has a bid sells to the highest bidder. What sets our auctions apart is our focus: our auctions always follow two or three themes, which can be either general, or specialized in nature.

We maintain a schedule of auctions that usually extends out several months, so that you can see what is coming up and when. You can access that schedule at: <https://brixtonchrome.com/pages/tentative-auction-schedule-for-2021>

Our customers come back week after week and many speak of how much fun they have bidding in the auction and filling holes. Our consignors comment that we get them far better prices for specialized material than many of the larger auction houses.

But we offer far more than just the auction. Our blogs contain, between them, over 400 informative, in-depth posts on a wide variety of specialized topics, and our stamp school contains pages which deal with a variety of general topics for the beginner, intermediate and advanced collector alike. We are also starting to add retail listings, as well as collections that can be purchased intact.

The company was started in 2010 by Chris McFetridge, a CPA with over 45 years of philatelic experience, who saw



a large unmet need in the philatelic marketplace, where collectors of limited means were essentially locked out of most larger auctions, due to the minimum lot sizes being very large, but who also could not count on the accuracy of many online stamp descriptions on platforms like Hipstamp and E-bay. After operating part time for several years, Mr. McFetridge made the bold decision to step down from his partnership position to take the business full time in 2015.

Mr. McFetridge accepted an appointment to the Board of the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, where he is working with other board members to expand the reach of the organization and make the hobby more inclusive for all demographic groups.

Our over-arching goal is to expand the hobby, particularly in the area of modern material. Unlike a lot of our competitors, we do not believe in using old stamps for postage, opting instead to study and preserve them. Along the way we have made many discoveries and more importantly have inspired collectors to go back and take another look at their stamps with fresh eyes. This has allowed many collectors who thought they had hit a dead end, to continue to enjoy their collecting area and to continue to add material to it. We achieve this mission both through our auction offerings, which highlight the existence of newly discovered varieties, and then by our blog articles, which synthesize our experience and observations and the information available in the established literature.