

Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone and Happy June 2024!

Short and sweet this month . . .

Two big things to announce!

The first **BIG THING**, starting today June 1st, our Membership recruitment contest has started. This will run through the last day of 2024 and the top three winners will put some solid cash in their pockets, especially if we can meet our goal of doubling our membership by the end of the year. See the details in the graphic below for rules.

In addition, we have already had some IPDA members step in to offer some great runner up “door” prizes in the form of some nice covers and stamps (more details on that to follow). Let’s wear out our new IPDA Membership Sub-Committee with new applications. It is time...no...it is **OUR TIME** to move this organization forward (remember that word from a year ago?), and there is no better time than the present!

The other **BIG THING** is that the IPDA/HipStamp Marketing and Promotional agreement has been finalized...finally! IPDA members who have HipStamp

stores should see IPDA badging implemented on the site in fairly short order. In addition, you can look forward to seeing some promoted IPDA Auctions and IPDA Dedicated Sale Weekends on the HipStamp platform coming soon.

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 for you as an IPDA member, as part of your membership benefits. Again, contact our newsletter editor Ted Tyzska (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

No Blither and Blather this month, but I promise to have a good one for July. Just a bit tired from the recent tornadoes and our first ever “derecho” the SE Texas area. Never knew what that was, but now that I know, I don’t ever want to see one again. I hope everyone is well and safe and that your business is booming. All our best regards.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

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IPDA Membership Contest 2024

Contest will run from 8/1/2024 to 12/31/2024

Membership in the IPDA tells your customers you believe in the IPDA values and confirms their expectations that you are a stamp dealer they can trust.

Our 2024 Membership Contest participation is for

- 1) Existing IPDA members,
- 2) To recruit new IPDA members and to help build strength in numbers. Our goal for this year is to double membership numbers and if each member recruited only one new member, we can achieve that goal easily.



Existing IPDA members recruiting one or more **approved** new members will receive their 2025 membership renewal for free.

The IPDA member recruiting the most **approved** new members will win the first-place prize, second most-second place, and third most-third place. (Anyties will be decided by a drawing between those tied)

1st Place Prize: \$200 USD

2nd Place Prize: \$100 USD

3rd Place Prize: \$50 USD

CHAIRMAN'S CHALLENGE BONUS! If we achieve the goal of doubling membership numbers by 12/31/2024, the chairman will pledge to double the prize money for the contest winners.

The IPDA benefits and services and online application form can be found at ipdastamps.com
We look forward to welcoming you as an IPDA member

For Sale: Z-Grill, Used Once



United States collectors have a rare opportunity coming up to fill that last hole in their collection — an opportunity almost as rare as the stamp itself. After 19 years of ownership, and with no more philatelic mountains to climb, Bill Gross, the renowned bond trader, is selling his 1865 1c Franklin Z-Grill along with his complete US stamp collection.

On June 14, 2024, Robert A. Siegel Auction Galleries will auction off this stamp as well as 99 others of the top stamps in the Gross collection. The next day, the rest of the collection will go under the hammer. The Z-Grill is estimated to sell for between 4 and 5 million dollars.

The Z-Grill, the most valuable US stamp, was last sold at auction in 1998, when Donald Sundman was the high bidder at \$850,000 (\$915,000 after buyer's commission). Sundman had come prepared to pay up to \$1.5 million for it. Ironically enough, the last bidder to drop out before the hammer went down was Bill Gross, himself (through his bidding agent Charles Shreve).

Gross later (in 2005) obtained the stamp, the final piece needed for his complete US collection, by purchasing an Inverted Jenny block of four for \$3 million and then trading it to Sundman for the Z-Grill. With his US collection now complete, Gross ventured into

worldwide rarities. However the hobby lost its sheen for him, and he gave up interest in stamps. He began selling off his non-US stamps in 2007, and in 2017 he let Shreve know that he was ready to dispose of his US. The entire US collection has an estimated value of 15 to 20 million dollars.

The last auction of a major rarity, for the 1c magenta British Guiana, in June 2021, saw a final price, \$8.3 million, that fell far short of the pre-sale estimate of \$10-15 million, and even failed to reach the stamp's previous auction selling price of \$9.4 million.

It will be interesting to see who becomes the new owner of this holy grail of United States stamps.



GREAT BRITAIN CONCISE 2024, 39th EDITION

Stanley Gibbons have announced the availability for pre-order of the 2024, 39th Edition of their *Great Britain Concise* stamp catalogue. The catalogue is an intermediate one, with coverage that falls between the simplified *Collect British Stamps* and the highly detailed coverage of the *Specialised*, which fills five volumes.

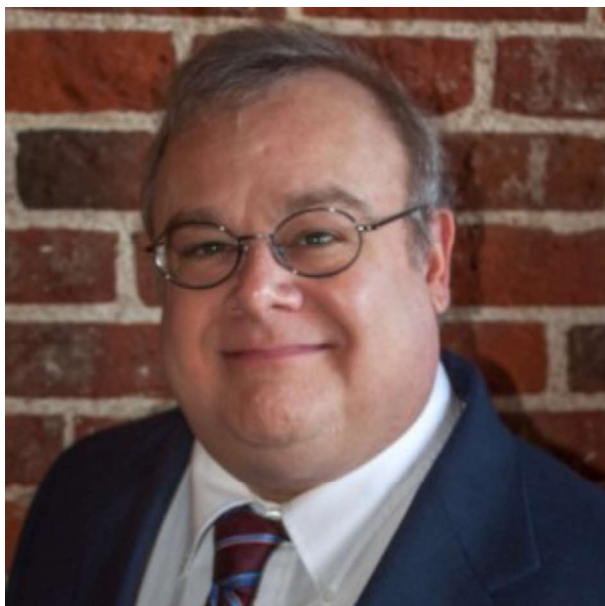


The listings are complete up to April 2024. The cover price is £39.95, with free shipping to UK addresses.



Jerry Derr in the Running for ASDA Director

ISDA member and director Jerry Derr has announced that he is a candidate to fill one of the three open spots on the American Stamp Dealers Association Board of Directors. Jerry currently serves as a USA Director on the IPDA Board of Directors.



Voting by ASDA members commenced in early May, and will continue until June 30. While there were, initially, four candidates announced vying for the three open positions, one has since withdrawn his nomination. So, barring any unusual circumstances, Jerry would appear to have a lock on one of the positions.

In his candidate's statement, Jerry said, "I want to work with the board in helping the hobby and our profession to move forward and grow." In his statement, Jerry also mentioned his IPDA experience, saying, "I then joined the IPDA, where I refined what I already knew about stamps and stamp dealing, and where I currently serve as a director."

Jerry was concerned that one or the other board, of either the ASDA or IPDA, might object to his serving on the boards of both organizations. However, he has not been notified by either one of any problems.

Results won't be known until July. Good luck, Jerry.



MICHEL Katalog Prices Reduced

Last month, after announcing two new 2024 volumes, MICHEL reduced prices on their corresponding 2023 regional catalogue editions. Apennine Peninsula 2023 (E5) & Western Balkans 2023 (E6) can now be purchased at €45 each, reduced from €72 each.



Published 5 May, 2023, each volume covers new issues up to April 2023.

The Apennine Peninsula catalogue covers: Fiume, Italy, San Marino, Vatican City, and Trieste – Zone A.

The Western Balkans volume covers: Croatia, Kosovo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Slovenia, Yugoslavia, and Trieste – Zone B.

These new prices follow previous reductions on 2023 editions, such as for the Central Europe volume, which was also marked down to €45, from €72.

View the entire lineup of MICHEL catalogues, including other marked down 2023 volumes by clicking . . . [HERE](#)



New Additions to the Philatelic Register Archives

The latest additions to the main archive on *The Philatelic Register* are listed below. Clicking on the links will take you to the archive where the articles can be downloaded and read, saved or printed if you have already registered on the *The Philatelic Register*. If not already registered the links will take you to the registration page. Registration as with subscription to this newsletter is FREE.

[The Philatelic Register registration page](#)

In addition to the new additions to The Philatelic Register archive there are a selection of articles in this post (Newsletter Archive) that may be downloaded directly from the links in this newsletter.



[Letters in All Four Corners](#)

Why are there letters in all four corners of the stamp?

I include this article in the archive not so much due to its “enlightening” content but more so to illustrate the enthusiasm and participation that was evident amongst collectors in past years, and which is a core aim of *The Philatelic Register*.



[GB ½d Vermilion: Junk and Non-Junk](#)

From its issue on 1st January 1887 up until 1900 a total of 56,225,900 sheets each of 240 stamps of the ½d vermil-

ion of the Victoria “Jubilee” issue were printed. This providing a total of 13,494,216,700 stamps.

The enormous number produced provides a clue to the “Junk” part of the title of an article on the issue, written by *Frank Walsham and published in the August 21st 1975 issue of Stamp Collecting Weekly*. However the article seeks to provide inspiration (and encouragement for those on a budget) for those looking for an area of interest to develop. Mr Walsham outlines a number of the opportunities provided by the issue, the “Non-Junk” part of the title. These include; Marginal rules, plate flaws, controls, cancellations, underprints, overprints, used abroad and Perfins.



[Mauritius Packet Services](#)

Mauritius was seized from France by Britain in 1810. The early postal history of the island group in the southern Indian Ocean has an almost mythological status. A couple of articles providing details about early Packet Services are available to download.



[Part-Perforated Southern Rhodesian “Admirals”](#)

Due to the method of perforating (line-perforated) the first issue of Southern Rhodesia (“Admirals”), partially perforated varieties occur. The complexity of part perforation results in many if not the majority of part perforation types not being listed by Stanley Gibbons. Many of the scarcest of these varieties are those not listed.

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In an article published in **Stamp Collecting Weekly**, **February 6th 1975**, author C. W. R. Wheatley describes the process that resulted in these perforation varieties, provides a grouping for the rarer varieties and a checklist of varieties known (at time of article publication) with an indication of numbers known to exist.



Aspects of Colonial Pricing: Edward VII

In a series of articles published in **Stamp Collecting Weekly** in **February and March 1975**, **Geoffrey Toy** provided a personal commentary on aspects of British Colonial Postage Stamp Collecting. He emphasised that his comments as well as being personal were written from the viewpoint of a collector and not from that of investment **or speculation**. That said, he also indicates that he was aiming to restore an element “of philatelic balance” by concentrating on the pricing of *less* popular issues. Perhaps also trying to redress the focus there was in the philatelic press at the time on the investment potential of QEII Great Britain stamps.

The first of his articles focused on the reign of Edward VII and can be down loaded from The Philatelic Register archive.



Newsletter Archive. [The Wild Men from Borneo](#)



New Zealand: King George VI Head Types

Between the **June 5th and July 31st issues of Stamp Collecting Weekly 1975**, a comprehensive article by **A. B. Johnstone**, concerning the George VI definitive issue that commenced in 1938 was serialised. In this article the author discusses printers, papers, watermarks, perforations, plate flaws, imprints, erratic issue dates and more.

The complete series of articles (that can be downloaded from those who have subscribed to [The Philatelic Register](#) archive), demonstrate the opportunities that the issue provides for study by one or all of the values.



“N. W. Pacific Islands” Overprints

Australian stamps overprinted “N. W. Pacific Islands” were used in New Guinea and Nauru. In Nauru they were succeeded by overprinted Great Britain Stamps in December 1916 but continued to be used in New Guinea until 1925.

There were numerous settings of the overprint and when combined with the many varieties to be found on the stamps they can be the source of in depth study.

W. G. Colbran in an article published in **Stamp Collecting Weekly July 24th 1975** describes the various settings of the overprint and makes note of many of the more prominent items of interest to be found.

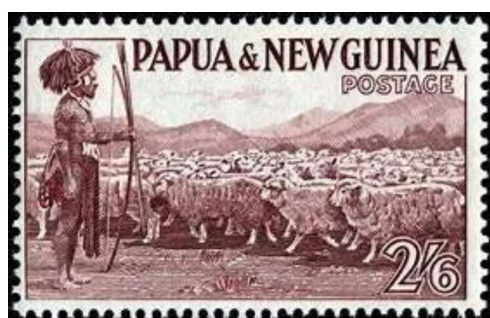
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Newsletter Archive:

[Baines: The Englishman Who Pictured South Africa](#)



[Papua & New Guinea 1942-1973](#)

Prior to 1942 Papua was a British Territory and New Guinea an Australian administered one. Both issued their own postage stamps and had their own postal systems. With the impending Japanese invasion there was a build up of Australian, New Zealand and United States military forces and consequently military control of all the postal services including civilian.

With transfer back to civilian administration after the war the two separate Territories became one "Papua and New Guinea". In an article published in *Stamp Collecting Weekly* July 24th 1975, **J. A. Stephens** describes the military period 1942-1945 and the transition back to civilian administration and the immediate post war developments 1945-1952.

In a separate article published in the *July 31st Stamp Collecting Weekly* in 1975, **Michael J. Garwood** describes the postage stamps, cancellations and postal stationery from 1952 up to the time that self government came to the country of Papua New Guinea.



[The South Georgia Definitives 1963-1978](#)

With numerous printings and several overprints, the simple but attractive designs of the South Georgia definitives designed by Michael Goaman and first issued in 1963 provide an attractive issue for study.

In an article published in the March 27th issue of *Stamp Collecting Weekly* in 1980, the author, Malcolm Barton, provides details of the various printings and information relating to quantities issued.



[The "Castles" High Values by R. F. Allen](#)

It was over 2 years after the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II that the first of the "Castles" series of high values appeared.

They have become a "classic" issue and with numerous different printers and watermarks being employed they have become a rich source for study.

In 1979 a very comprehensive work on the issue by R.F. Allen was serialised in *Stamp Collecting Weekly*. At the time it was the most comprehensive review of the issue yet published. Covering everything from production (printers, papers, inks, perforation....) to errors and varieties, it is a work of interest and importance to any serious GB QEII specialist. The complete series can be downloaded from this link . . . [HERE](#)

(Continued on page 8)

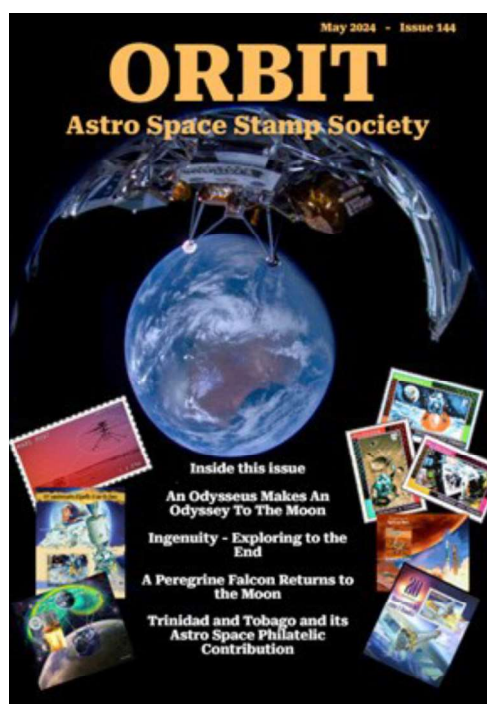
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Featured Specialist Society



THE ASTRO SPACE STAMP SOCIETY

Journey to New Horizons – Collect Space Stamps, Patches, Postcards and Covers. Dedicated to everyone who collects space stamps, postcards, patches, covers, signed autographs from astronauts to astrophilatelic memorabilia or just enthusiasts of the Space hobby. Membership is FREE



Download The May issue of [ORBIT](#)

Orbit is the official magazine of The Astro Space Stamp Society. The first issue was published in January 1988 and each year six issues of Orbit Magazine are sent to members. The Orbit magazine regularly has 40 A4 pages and keeps members updated on space stamps, covers, patches, and all space-related collectibles.

Members also get six issues of our newsletter a year which comes out in between issues of Orbit and is 1-4 pages.

IPDA Newsletter June 2024

All Aboard! Touring Union Terminal

by Dan Golden



Every May, railroad enthusiasts around the country celebrate National Train Day, on the Saturday closest to May 10th, the anniversary of the completion of the Transcontinental Railroad with the hammering of the Golden Spike (US #5379, left). So, to celebrate, I decided to write an article about a railroad-themed stamp, and one of my favorite stamps of all-time.

In 2023, USPS released the set of stamps entitled "Historic Railroad Stations of the United States," amongst which was US #5762 (below), which features Union Terminal in Cincinnati, OH.



Other than being a beautiful example of Art Deco architecture, featuring the largest half-dome in the Western Hemisphere, Union Terminal also reminds me of three of my childhood passions: trains, dinosaurs, and baseball. All three of these are "represented" indirectly in this stamp and connect me to other stamps as well. Allow me to explain.

Let us start with the most obvious topic represented: trains. As part of the Railroad Stations set, it should come as no surprise that Union Terminal was a major train station, once upon a time. Nicknamed the "Temple of Transportation," it opened to the general public in 1933 and saw its greatest number of travelers

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during VVWII, as young men were transported across the country on their way to war.

For decades, one of the rail lines that served as the station's lifeblood was the Baltimore & Ohio Railroad, beautifully featured in US #1006 (below).



Union Terminal continues to operate as a train station to this day, albeit at a much lower capacity. With a decline in rail travel, Union Terminal went through several redevelopments, among which was a short-lived shopping mall. Eventually, the Cincinnati Historical Society acquired the property, to turn it into the Cincinnati Museum Center, which brings us to our next topic: dinosaurs.

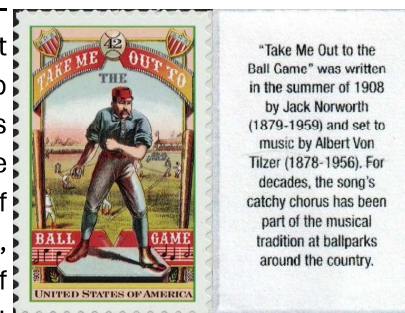
There are three museums now residing at Union Terminal: the Cincinnati History Museum, the Cincinnati Children's Museum, and the Cincinnati Museum of Natural History & Science. And it is in the natural history museum where one can find fossilized bones and enormous skeletons of dinosaurs, like those seen in US #2425 (below)!



Finally, we come to our last topic of discussion: baseball. Most baseball fans will know that the first openly profes-

sional baseball team was the Cincinnati Red Stockings, founded in 1869. What the average fan does not know is where the Red Stockings played their games. Turns out, that the land that once housed Union Grounds, the home field for the Red Stockings in 1869, can be seen in the Union Terminal stamp shown at left! Home plate was fixed very close to where the fountain, seen in the center of the stamp, is currently located!

Professional baseball had its start right here, where men dressed similarly to the ballplayer shown in US #4341 (right), and first played what would one day be called "America's pastime," for a salary. It was they who proved to prospective owners and players alike the financial viability of professional baseball, spurring the growth of organized leagues that would one day lead to what we now know as Major League Baseball. And to think that it all started on the same land that would become Union Terminal a little over six decades later.



I spent a year living in Cincinnati, during which time I had a membership to the Cincinnati Museum Center. I used to spend my Saturdays taking in the beauty of Union Terminal and enjoying what the museums had to offer. And, for all my glowing remarks about this historic railroad station, I have barely scratched the surface of what could be talked about. There is so much more history connected to this building, from the famed artist John James Audubon's brief connection with the museum as a taxidermist, to the priceless mosaics decorating the inside of the dome, to the murals that tell the history of Cincinnati, to multiple presidential visits, and so much more.

I am certain that part of my love for this stamp is due to the fond memories I have of my time visiting the museum. And isn't that the point of stamp collecting? It reminds us of what we love and inspires us to make connections to learn about and explore the world!

If anyone finds themselves in Cincinnati, I highly recommend taking a bit of time to go and check out this incredible gem. You will not be disappointed.



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Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)

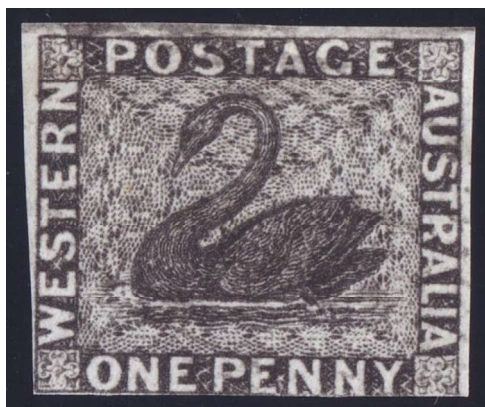
6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG

Stamp of the Month

by Nisarg Sutaria

Australia - British Colony of Western Australia Black Swan

Scott Nr 1, SG Nr 1, Mi N1b6x



The British colony of Western Australia published its first postage stamp, the Black Swan, in 1854. It depicts a black swan, a common Australian species at the time, and was the sole image featured on Western Australian stamps until 1902.

In 1854, the one-cent stamp was produced imperforate. Perkins Bacon printed it in London in 1854, after William Humphrys engraved it. Horace Samson of Perth manufactured the latter values in the series using lithography.

Western Australia solely produced swan stamps until the Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1912, with the exception of a few Queen Victoria stamps released in 1902. The reprints were also lithographed in the colony. In 1912, the series' main value was overprinted to One Penny, making it legal throughout Australia.

Until 1862, the swan figure was used as the watermark on all of the colony's stamps.

In thematic philately, the Black Swan is the first stamp on the bird theme.

The 1855 4 penny blue (4d) stamp from Western Aus-

tralia's Swan series was the first invert mistake, which occurs when the frame and center are inverted in relation to one another.

Alfred Hillman took the printing plates from the archives in January 1855, one year after the original series was released, to create new 4 penny stamps. Two of the plates were damaged and replaced, but when reassembled, one of the cliches was flipped on the plate.

Until the problem was discovered, 97 sheets of 60 inverted stamps were created before Hillmann repaired it.

Fourteen of fifteen copies of this error are recorded, and all are cancelled. One is in the Royal Philatelic Collection.

Australia Post has issued 2 stamps depicting the Black Swan stamp. The first was issued in 1929 to commemorate the centenary of the colony of Western Australia, and the second in 1954 to commemorate the centenary of the first Western Australian stamp.

Reference: [Wikipedia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Black_Swan_stamp)

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

A.I.

Astronomical Inaccuracies

By Dan Golden

This article first appeared in *Stamping Around*, the newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club (Texas), and is reprinted here with permission. It is a response to (MCSC member) Rick Howell's article, *Will Artificial Intelligence Influence Philately?* that was published in the January 2024 edition of *Stamping Around*.

At 29 years old, it's no secret that I am among the younger segment of our club's members. Somebody my age ought to enjoy looking out for the latest greatest gadget and be very technologically inclined. However, I still find myself struggling to adapt to the latest changes in the tech world.

Often times, the next big thing can feel needlessly complex or have a poorly designed user experience, rendering it a burden to learn or cumbersome to use. And it seems each time that I , grow comfortable with one • system or gadget, the manufacturer comes out with an update that

changes everything and confuses me. I finally understand why my dad used to say that it was like a company hired a brand new college grad and told him: "Kid, this ain't broken, but we need you to fix it." We as consumers are stuck with the effects of such "fixes" and "updates".

But after reading Rick Howell's article about A.I. and the future of philately, I was inspired! As someone who enjoys DYing his own album pages to feature a short write-up for each stamp mounted on the page, I was excited about how A.I. could help make stamp collect-ing more enjoyable for me by speeding up the identification and write-up process. Rather than getting bogged down in researching each individual stamp among the thousands I have, I could simply ask A.I. to write a short blurb for any stamp as long as I provided the correct Scott Catalogue number.

I do not have Microsoft Copilot, which Rick referenced in his article. But I do have another A.I. program, ChatGPT. So I decided to give A.I. a try by asking it to tell me about three space-themed stamps, pictured here. Below are the directly-quoted commands and responses given by ChatGPT. I must confess, the results were a little disappointing. (Note: the stamp images were not included in the prompts given to ChatGPT.)

1. Tell me about the stamp US #1529



ChatGPT response:

United States stamp #1529 was issued on February 26, 1974, as part of the American Arts series. It features a portrait of composer and pianist George Gershwin, known for his contributions to both classical and popular music.

While A.I. has the year of issue correct, it has confused a 1973 George Gershwin stamp with this Skylab stamp.

2. Tell me about the stamp US #1569



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ChatGPT response:

United States stamp #1569 is part of the "Legends of the West" series issued on October 18, 1974. It features a portrait of Wild Bill Hickok, a legendary figure from the American Old West known for his skills as a gun-fighter and gambler.

This time A.I. got both the year of issue and the subject wrong. Unless Wild Bill Hickok took a trip to space almost a full century after his death, I struggle to see his possible involvement with the Apollo-Soyuz mission, as depicted on this stamp.

3. Tell me about the stamp US #5399



ChatGPT response:

United States stamp #5399 is part of the "Star Wars" series issued on May 25, 2020 to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the film saga. This stamp features the iconic droid character, R2-D2, from the "Star Wars" universe."

Lastly, while A.I. gets both the year and subject wrong, it at least picked up on the space theme in this stamp celebrating the 50th anniversary of the moon landing. However, Buzz Aldrin landing on the moon doesn't look terribly like R2-D2 to me.

My dad, when encountering any difficulty in using the latest greatest technology, always used to remark: "It's a good thing the Apollo astronauts never had to use this technology, otherwise they'd still be up there trying to get to the Moon!"

While A.I. certainly has the potential to do some amazing things, my experiment indicates that it won't be taking us to the moon on our stamps anytime soon.

About the author: Arriving late to the philatelic game, Dan picked up the hobby at the age of 26 and fell in love with it immediately. A fan of mail from the day he was born, Dan has been collecting stamps since 2021. His collection includes stamps from the United States, Ireland, Germany, and Vatican City. His particular areas of philatelic interest include baseball, hockey, ships, maritime themes, maps, trains, architecture, and Christmas. Beyond stamps, he is a lover of sports, reading, and learning new things. Dan lives with his wife and daughter near Dallas, TX.

New American Philatelist and StampEd Issues

The June issue of *The American Philatelist*, published by the American Philatelic Society, has been released and is available online to members of the APS. The theme of this issue is "Philatelic Forgeries and Scams," and inside you will find articles covering the propaganda forgeries of the 1950s, created to disrupt the East German regime; British-forged German *Luftfeldpost* labels during World War II; and philatelic fraudster Charles Carion. In addition, you will find the story of a philatelic scam that duped not only cachet maker John Coulthard and hundreds of his customers, but also victimized Edna Christian, a direct descendant of Fletchers Christian, who was trying to go back, along with her 10-year-old diabetic son, to Pitcairn Island. You can find the APS website . . . [HERE](#)

Also released this month is issue #2 of the new APS publication, *StampEd*, which is a free online magazine directed toward the beginning and/or young collector. This issue features an interview with the designer of the Bluegrass stamp issued by the US, Heather Moulder. She is also a bluegrass musician herself. The issue also has an introduction to US private die proprietary medicine revenue stamps.

Read the issue for free . . . [HERE](#)



A Concentration Camp in the Heart of Tel Aviv?

by Mr. Enthusiastic on Sunday, May 26, 2024



Did you know that there was a concentration camp in the heart of Tel Aviv during World War I?

In the mid-19th century, a small but devout group of German Protestants, known as the Templars, felt a calling. They believed that, to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ, they needed to live in the Holy Land, close to the sacred sites of their faith. Led by Christoph Hoffmann and others, they left their homeland, carrying with them hopes and dreams of establishing a new, pious life in Palestine.

Their journey led them to the rolling plains near the ancient port city of Jaffa, where they founded the settlement of Sarona in 1871. Over the years, Sarona blossomed. The Templars were industrious and innovative, introducing advanced agricultural techniques and modern machinery that turned the arid land into a thriving agricultural community. Their neat, red-roofed houses and well-tended gardens stood as a testament to their dedication and hard work.

Sarona wasn't the only Templar settlement; they also established colonies in Haifa, Jaffa, and Jerusalem.

These communities were marked by their unique blend of German efficiency and Christian faith, and they significantly contributed to the development of the region. Life in Sarona was peaceful and productive. The Templars, though living far from their homeland, created a slice of Germany in the heart of Palestine, complete with schools, churches, and communal halls.

As decades passed, the Templars maintained their simple, industrious lifestyle. However, the winds of change were blowing across Europe, and soon, they would feel its chilling effects. By the late 1930s, as the world edged closer to war, the Templars found themselves in a precarious position. Their German nationality now cast a shadow over their communities.

In the 1930s, the rise of the Nazi Party in Germany began to influence the Templars in Palestine. Some members of the Templar community developed affiliations with the Nazi Party, displaying swastikas and engaging in activities that aligned with Nazi ideology. This connection increased the scrutiny and suspicion they faced from the British authorities.

When World War II erupted, the British, who controlled Palestine under a mandate, viewed the German Templars with even greater suspicion. The peaceful, hardworking settlers of Sarona were suddenly seen as potential threats, their loyalty questioned because of their nationality and political affiliations. In 1940, the British authorities made a drastic decision. They converted Sarona into an internment camp, rounding up the Templars and other German nationals. The letter shown (left) was sent from Berlin in late

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1939, not long after the breakout of World War II and was sent to Mrs Lotte Fischer of the Germany Colony in Haifa. It was sent via the CID or Criminal Investigation Department and they forwarded it to the "Sarona Concentration Camp near Jaffa". The letter was actually opened by both the German and British censors (the back is not shown here).

The transformation of Sarona from a peaceful agricultural settlement into a barbed-wire internment camp was swift and harsh. Families who had lived there for generations found themselves behind fences, watched over by guards. Life in the camp was a stark contrast to the freedom and prosperity they had enjoyed. The internment disrupted their lives, bringing hardship and uncertainty.

As the war dragged on, the situation for the Templars worsened. In 1941, the British authorities decided to deport many of the Templars to Australia. They were put on ships and sent across the vast ocean, far from the land they had tilled and nurtured for decades. The deportation was a traumatic experience, separating families and uprooting lives.

After the war ended in 1945, the British authorities continued to deport Templars who had not yet been expelled. The Templar properties in Palestine were confiscated, and the once-thriving community of Sarona was scattered to the winds. The Templars who were sent to Australia faced the challenge of rebuilding their lives in a new and unfamiliar land.

Yet, the legacy of the German Templars endures. The buildings they constructed, with their distinctive architecture, still stand in modern-day Tel Aviv, reminders of a unique chapter in the region's history. The story of Sarona and the Templars is a tale of faith, resilience, and the inexorable tides of history that swept over a devoted community, leaving an indelible mark on the land they once called home.

Based on material and study by Dr. Josef Wallach - Rehovot, Israel. The cover displayed belongs to him.

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