

Internet Philatelic  
Dealers Association



Established 2002  
www.IPDastamps.com

Vol. 22, Nr. 2

The IPDA

# Journal

120 ANOS

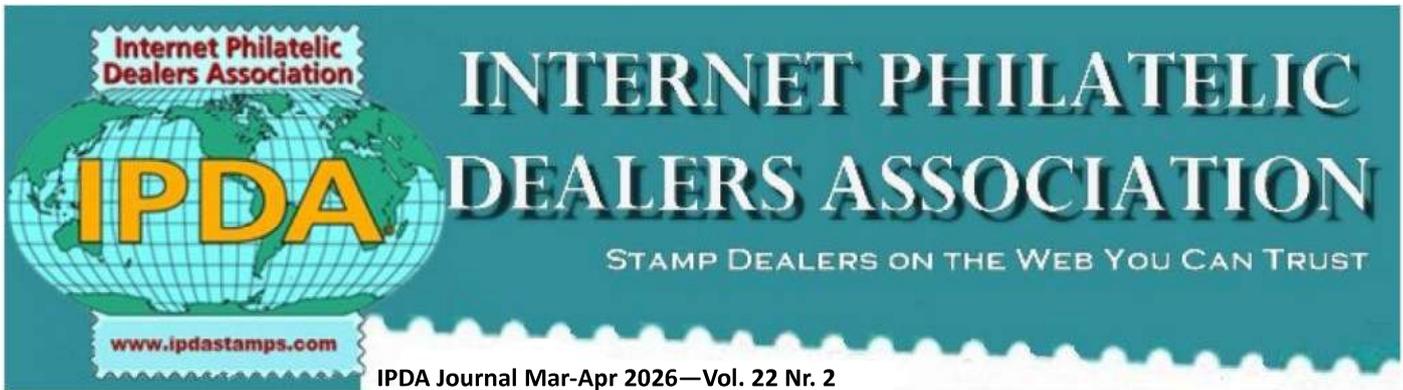
LIVRARIA  LELLO

PORTO



PORTUGAL 120g  
CORREIOS

BPOST26 STUDIO EDUARDO AIRES



The IPDA Newsletter is published bi-monthly by the Internet Philatelic Dealers Association. Opinions expressed in any articles are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily reflect the official views of the IPDA or any of its officers. To submit an article, contact the editor, Ted Tyszka, [ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com).

## In This Issue

*Please note that each article in the table of contents can be accessed directly from the bookmark bar in your pdf reader.*

Chairman's Message <i>by Greg Doll</i> . . . . .	3
2026 AGM . . . . .	4
New Member – Richard Walker . . . . .	5
Philatelic Big Year – Final Report <i>by Dan Golden</i> . . . . .	6
The Talented Mr. Lilley <i>by Gerard McCulloch</i> . . . . .	9
Stamp of the Month <i>by Nisarg Sutaria</i> . . . . .	19
Ben Franklin, PMG <i>by Ted Tyszka</i> . . . . .	20
IPDA Brochure Download . . . . .	23
Stories Behind the Stamps <i>by Lawrence Fisher</i> . . . . .	24
Forging Culture With Books <i>by Ted Tyszka</i> . . . . .	27
This Issue's Contributors . . . . .	29
The Philatelic Register <i>by Ian Lasok-Smith</i> . . . . .	30

### IPDA Directors:

Chairman—Greg Doll, [ipdachair@gmail.com](mailto:ipdachair@gmail.com)

General Secretary—Michael Dodd, [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)

Membership Secretary & Treasurer—Tony Tripi, [IPDAmembershipsec@gmail.com](mailto:IPDAmembershipsec@gmail.com)

IPDA Director USA—Sanford Weiss, [sandmannyusa@verizon.net](mailto:sandmannyusa@verizon.net)

IPDA Director USA—Jerry Derr, [jerryderrstamps@yahoo.com](mailto:jerryderrstamps@yahoo.com)

IPDA Director USA—Ken Sanford, [kaerophil@gmail.com](mailto:kaerophil@gmail.com)

IPDA Director Europe—Ted Tyszka, [ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com)

IPDA Director UK/Europe—Jon Griffiths, [jongriffiths33@hotmail.com](mailto:jongriffiths33@hotmail.com)

Director of Marketing and Advertising—YOUR NAME HERE

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

# Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone!

I hope everyone has been off to a fast start to 2026 and that everyone is happy, healthy, and busy with your philatelic endeavors.

A big thank you to all who have renewed your memberships for 2026 and if you have not as yet renewed it would be greatly appreciated as your continued support of IPDA and our mission is very earn you one year of paid membership so think about who you may know in your own circle who would be a great new member of IPDA.

Just a little reminder if you have done so already to visit the IPDA website and get your proxy votes entered for the upcoming Annual General Meeting. It is very easy to do (even I had no trouble with it!!!) and it does make the meeting run much more smoothly.

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

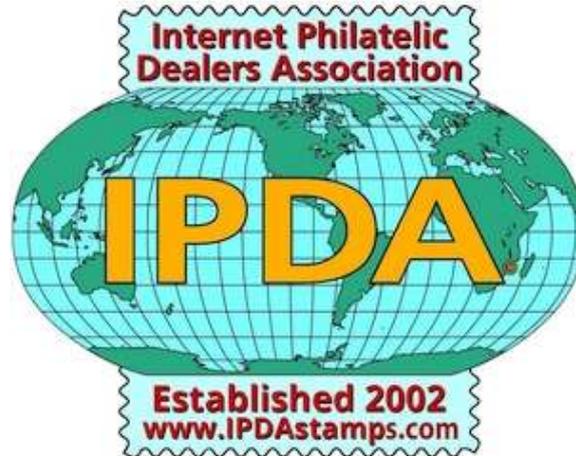
We have recently added a page on the IPDA website called "Testimonials". This is a place where our members can share feedback from their customers which demonstrate why customers should do business with an IPDA member-dealer. A few examples are already posted and if you have any you would like to share, take a screenshot of it and send it to Michael Dodd and he will get it listed on the page.

I, along with my family and the IPDA Board of Directors wish you all the very best for the 2026. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at [ipdachair@gmail.com](mailto:ipdachair@gmail.com).

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

[IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM](mailto:IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM)



## **!!! FINAL NOTICE !!!**

### **2026 IPDA AGM**

This is the final notice and invitation for the 2026 IPDA Annual General Meeting (AGM).

**The meeting will take place on March 14th, 2026,  
at 18:00 US Eastern Daylight Time (EDT)**

You can check your local country time on the IPDA Website Calendar:

<https://www.ipdastamps.com/ipda-calendar/> or from the link provided on the website.

**Members must be paid up members on 13th March to be eligible to vote on the Motions presented.**

**Please renew your membership, if you have not already done so, using the online membership renewal feature in the members area of the IPDA website. Write, if you have questions, to the Membership Secretary at [IPDAMembershipSec@gmail.com](mailto:IPDAMembershipSec@gmail.com)**

**Proxy Voting - if you are unable to join the meeting you can send a Proxy vote. And, again, we provide an online proxy voting capability in the Members area of the IPDA website. Any questions, please write to the General Secretary. [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)**



## New Member Announcement



This month, we welcome back Richard Walker, a former member who took a hiatus from the IPDA in 2025. Doing business as “1<sup>st</sup> 4 Stamps,” and based in Derby, East Midlands, England, the family-run business specializes in Great Britain and Commonwealth 1840-1970 and deals in stamps via their online store and, through eBay, to a worldwide customer base.

### **IPDA NEW MEMBER DETAILS**

**Date:** February 27, 2026

**Name:** Richard Walker

**Member Number:** 322

**Date became a member:** 2/26/2026

**Email:** [rjwalker183@hotmail.com](mailto:rjwalker183@hotmail.com)

**Business Name:** 1<sup>st</sup>4stamps Ltd

**Business Website:** <http://www.1st4stamps1840.co.uk>

**Specializes in:** GB and Commonwealth 1840-1970

**Location:** UK

**Referred By:** Michael Dodd

**Member Discounts:** 10%

**Societies:**

**Social Media Accounts:** N/A

## Philatelic Big Year—Final Report

By Dan Golden

*This article first appeared in “Stamping Around,” the newsletter of the [Mid-Cities Stamp Club](#), in Texas, and is reprinted here courtesy of the author and newsletter editor.*

At the beginning of last year I wrote an article entitled “A New Challenge and a Big Year”, in which I described my intention to combine two hobbies into one, philately and birding. The goal was to see every bird depicted on a US postage stamp and then collect a stamp corresponding to each of those bird species seen. I intended to write quarterly updates on the progress of that challenge, but then I changed jobs, became short on time, and life generally got in the way. As such, I only have this one update to share, and it may be considered a final report on the success of my mission.

Put simply, I bit off more than I could chew and I utterly failed at my challenge. As it turns out, birding is a lot harder than I anticipated. I only saw 27 out of the 142 birds on my list, about a 19% success rate. And it was not from a lack of effort. My father-in-law and I went out to nature preserves, on birding hikes, and even traveled to other states in pursuit of this endeavor. And yet I was unable to achieve what I had set out to do.

The biggest issue was an inability to identify which bird species I was looking at. You see, even when I would catch sight of a bird from a distance and be certain that it was probably a bird on my list, I would be without any sources to immediately help identify it. Seeing a bird is the easy part, determining what I was looking at was much harder. This situation of seeing a bird while being unable to identify it occurred countless times, enough so that I almost dropped the project entirely around mid-summer. In October I still only had seen about 25 birds and I felt like a failure.

So I did what many students in high schools across the country do when faced with likely failure: I cheated. Or more specifically, I

amended the rules and allowed myself to use other sources to view birds, namely natural history museums where stuffed specimens would be on display. The Perot Museum in Dallas and the Field Museum in Chicago proved invaluable in expanding the number of birds seen, and when counting these species seen in-person but not alive, the number of birds seen increased to 78, raising my success rate to about a 55%. To use the school analogy again, this meant that I had gone from an F at 19% to... still an F at 55%. Hopefully my imaginary professor is willing to grade on a curve!

An added difficulty was the need to acquire the corresponding stamps out in the “wild,” i.e.: stamp shows, club or APS sales book and regular old trading with collectors. Even when making it “easy” on myself and only counting the bird species I had seen, I only managed to acquire 24/78, a 31% (rounded up) success rate. Again, this can be described as a failure. The biggest issues with this step in the process was that every dealer booth I sat down at in any given show always seemed to have all of the stamps around the one I was looking for, but not the one I needed. Furthermore, the APS and club booklets rarely had anything I needed or had seen yet, making those avenues fruitless as well.

As such, my year-long project can be considered a flop. However, there is a bit of silver lining. This challenge, while a failure, gave me a sense of purpose that, when two hobbies were aligned into one activity, facilitated a greater enjoyment of them both. In fact, it gave me an idea for the future.

Sure, I failed at this year-long challenge. But who says that the challenge should have only been limited to a single calendar year? Dan Golden? That guy’s a clown and you can’t trust anything he says! Dan Golden says that I can remove that restriction and change a year-long challenge into a years-long project, essentially building out a topical collection while going

birding at the same time. I'd rather listen to that version of myself any day of the week.

Now that I have justified my failure and encouraged myself to continue the pursuit anyway, I'd like to take the rest of this article to highlight four bird species and/or their stamps that I encountered, or wished to encounter, while on this journey.

**The one I fell in love with:** the Red-Bellied Woodpecker (USA #3611c).



Other than blue jays, robins, and cardinals, I must have seen the red-bellied woodpecker more than any other bird depicted on an American postage stamp during this challenge. It's unique in the sense that it is not an overly common bird like the cardinal or blue jay, nor is it dull or plain in appearance. The orange above the beak, flash of red on the back of its head, and the white and black pattern on the wings makes the red-bellied woodpecker quite pretty to look at. Plus the sound of it pecking against the wood was a pleasing noise to hear, always alerting me to the bird's presence nearby. My one regret with this bird is that I was never able to acquire its stamp.



**The one that got away:** the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher (USA #5799m). This bird is extinct in the wild, but still exists in a handful of zoos around the country aiming to recover the population. While neither the Fort Worth Zoo nor the Dallas Zoo have any of these birds in their collection, the Brookfield Zoo near where I grew up in Chicago does! We tried to see it while visiting my family for Thanksgiving, but by the time we got there the bird exhibit was closed for the night.

However, I did have one other chance, earlier in the year, to see the Guam Kingfisher at the Cincinnati Zoo while I was in town for a wedding. Unfortunately, prior commitments, i.e. going to the wedding and spending time with old friends, prevented me from making a trip to the zoo. This makes me 0 for 2 in prime opportunities to see a bird that is extinct in the wild and difficult even to see in captivity. Therefore, the Guam Micronesian Kingfisher sticks out in my mind as the one that got away.

**The one most deserving of a stamp:** the Belted Kingfisher, seen here, is a photo that my father-in-law took.



It's a beautiful bird, characterized by its orange, blue and white feathers, a color scheme matching that of my alma mater, the University of Illinois (I-LL!!), closely enough that there is even a student movement to make the belted kingfisher the new mascot for the university's sports teams. Considering how popular this bird is and how prevalent it is in the northern US, I'm amazed that there is not a stamp depicting it!



Yet we have 17 different stamps that show a cardinal, including USA #6036 (seen above), released just last fall for the 2025 holiday season. The cardinal is a pretty bird and I like it as much as anyone else, but did we really need to honor it 17 times? Couldn't it have given up one of its philatelic spots to the belted kingfisher?

**The one not meant to be: Emperor Penguin (USA #4989).**



Here is a stamp showing an emperor penguin. I was unable to see this bird in the wild during

this year, the most obvious reason for which is because I live in Texas and the emperor penguin, well, does not. I could not justify the expense, nor do I think my wife would have appreciated it had I attempted to convince her of a trip to Antarctica. However, there is actually one zoo in the United States that houses emperor penguins: the San Diego Zoo.

That being said, a trip to San Diego, while significantly less expensive than going to Antarctica, was equally out of the question. Still, though, as can be seen in the photo, below, the Field Museum does, in fact, have a specimen on display that appeared to bow to me as I passed it.



However, this was among the birds whereby I "cheated" in order to see it, since it was seen in a museum, rather than alive in the wild or in captivity.

Alas, perhaps someday I will get to pay my respects to such fowl royalty; but, for now, the emperor penguin and I will have to meet another day. Luckily, the continued pursuit of this project in the future may very well lead me to one day visit this flightless ruler's imperial court.



# The Talented Mr. Lilley (and his friends)

By Gerard McCulloch

*Many thanks to Gerard McCulloch for permission to reprint this post, which appeared January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026, on his [Punk Philatelist blog](#).*

I've just finished watching the Netflix drama series *Ripley*, an adaptation of Patricia Highsmith's novel *The Talented Mr Ripley*. I'll leave the full reviews to the pros, but I particularly loved how the show evoked the early-60s era: messages left at hotel desks, language courses on vinyl records, and how, if you wanted to track someone down, you couldn't just stalk them on social media like we do now; you had to hire a private detective. *Ripley's* pacing, wardrobes and sumptuous black-and-white cinematography only added to the sense of being transported back in time.



*Dakota Fanning, as Marge Sherwood in 'Ripley', fires off a letter. / Netflix*



And how can I not mention the *actual writing of letters* for communication? There was even a scene in which the main character Tom Ripley, played by Andrew Scott, was seen to buy a stamp and stick it on an envelope!

It's a real credit to the show that I was enjoying it so much, I didn't even pause it to check that they were using period-accurate stamps and postage rates. Try it sometime! People watching won't be annoyed at all, in fact they will thank you for your devotion to accuracy.

*Andrew Scott, as Tom Ripley in "Ripley", licks a stamp. Mrs Punk and I both find this image hot, but for different reasons. / Netflix*

Fortunately, fans of postal history don't need production designers to transport us into the past. Real-life mail is a window into lives, attitudes and actions from another era.

I love poking around an old envelope or, if I'm really lucky, the letter inside, and researching the individuals involved. Every item is a time capsule of its age, and all the more intriguing because it was there. You're holding a letter that once passed through the actual hands of the people whose lives you can now explore.

This tangible connection with history is highly valued by many collectors, but sadly, it's little appreciated by those outside the craft. It's very easy to explain, when you get the chance – who doesn't like reading other people's mail? – but the world still thinks of us as list-checkers and box-tickers instead of the cultural archivists/historical stickybeaks that we really are.

Recently I took time out from hardly ever updating this blog to do some actual collecting. One moment I was sifting through some stray items in a box of junk; the next, I was enmeshed in the political, artistic and literary circles of early 20th-century Australia.

I'd picked up the small, flat box at a club auction for next to nothing because it contained a few stamp booklets of interest, and some fresh sticky notes that would have cost more in a shop than what I had paid. There's a win already!

But the real fun often comes from the stuff we don't want, and this box was mostly postcards. Postcards are so hot right now, I'm surprised I didn't have more competition at the auction. Perhaps it was because most of them were modern, and a little dull.

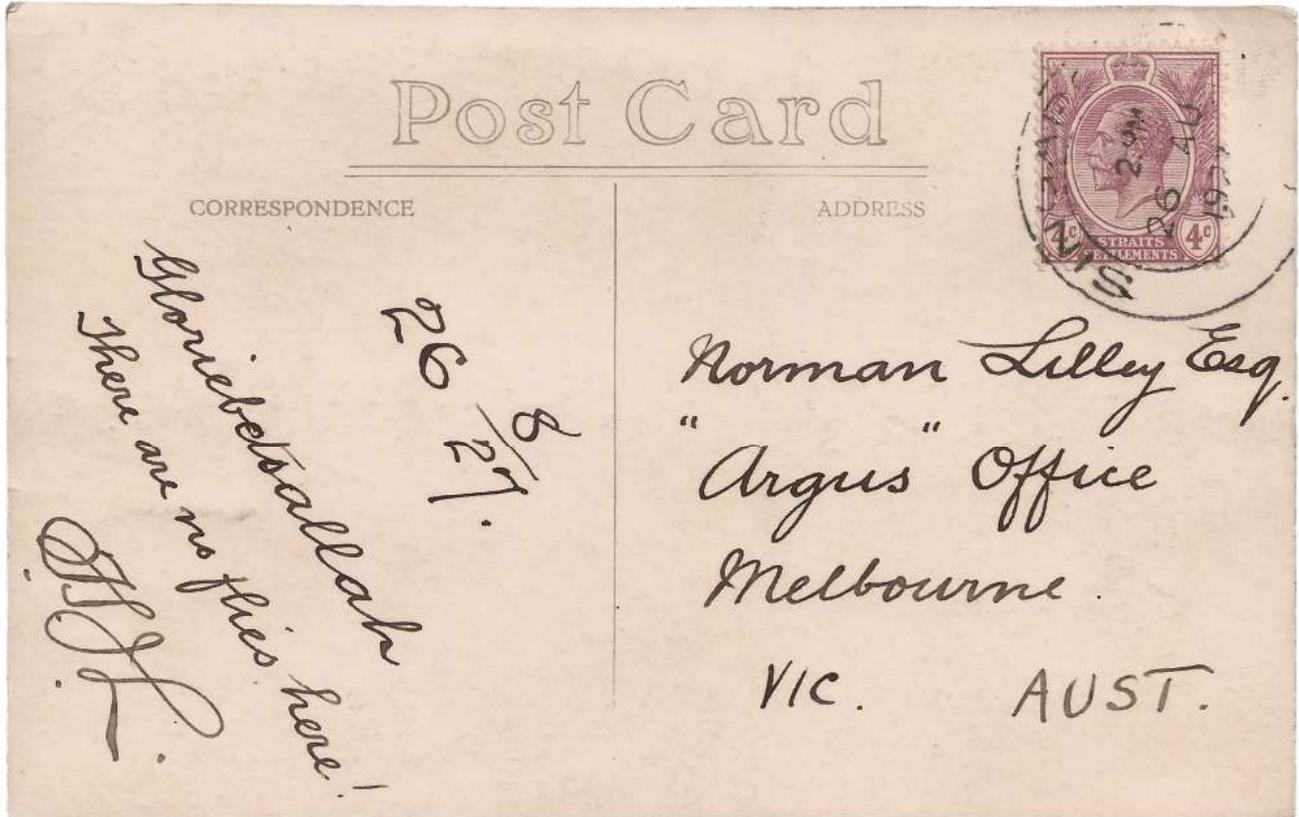
...But not all of them. I picked up one postcard that called for a little research, and while some answers were quick to come by, I found that each discovery triggered more curiosity. The result was a fascinating wander through a bygone era. I got to bed that night much later than I'd meant to.

### **To Norman, from Singapore**



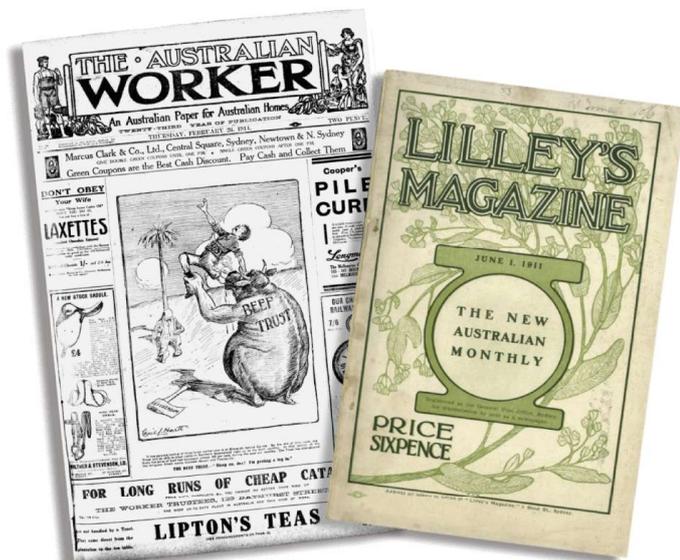
The postcard that caught my eye was sent to Melbourne from Singapore in August 1927, when the island colony was still one of Britain's 'Straits Settlements'. In the centre of the photo, two cars have just driven across the Singapore River via the Anderson Bridge. Boats sit at anchor in the background, and if you look closely at the foreground, you can see passengers being hauled over the Cavenagh Bridge on rickshaws.

The postcard was addressed to 'Norman Lilley Esq.', care of the office of the *Argus*.



The *Argus* was a big Melbourne newspaper in those days, so naturally I wondered who Norman Lilley was. Luckily, Norman left a big enough cultural footprint that I was quickly able to trace him, despite his complete lack of a Facebook page. Norman was a newspaper typesetter at the *Argus* who made his way from the compositing room into journalism. He moved to Sydney, where his passion for literature saw him editing the literary page for a union newspaper, the *Australian Worker*. He also founded *Lilley's Magazine* in 1911 to showcase Australian writing.

It seems the magazine didn't last long, and in 1916 Norman returned to an editorial job back at the *Argus*.



He died in 1941, and there's a whole collection of his papers at the State Library of New South Wales that this postcard seems to have evaded. Norman himself seems to have evaded cameras, because this was the only image I could find of him on the entire internet:

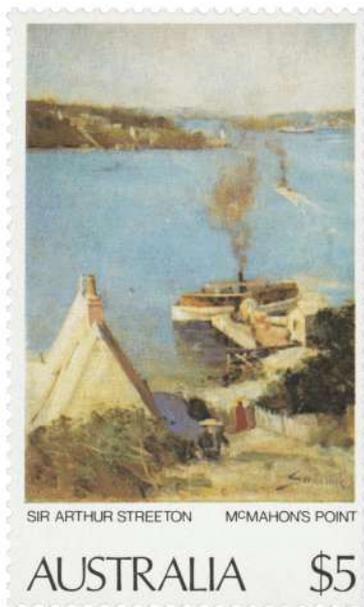


But the benefit of hanging out with writers is that even if there are no decent photographs of you, someone will at least have written some nice words. As Norman departed the *Worker* to return to Melbourne, poet R. J. Cassidy's tribute read, in part:

*"He can see the filth of the earth in the delicate tints and textures of the butterfly's wing; he can see beauty beyond compare in the foetid slime of the gutter wherein the worms and maggots crawl."*

My new ambition in life is to ensure that whoever gives the eulogy at my funeral, they will feel obliged to mention the foetid slime of the gutter.

Norman Lillie's name turned up in some quite modern Internet hits: his review of a 1932 exhibition by the artist Sir Arthur Streeton is still cited at auctions of Streeton's paintings today. You might have some Streeton works in your own collection. Not your *art* collection. Your stamp collection.



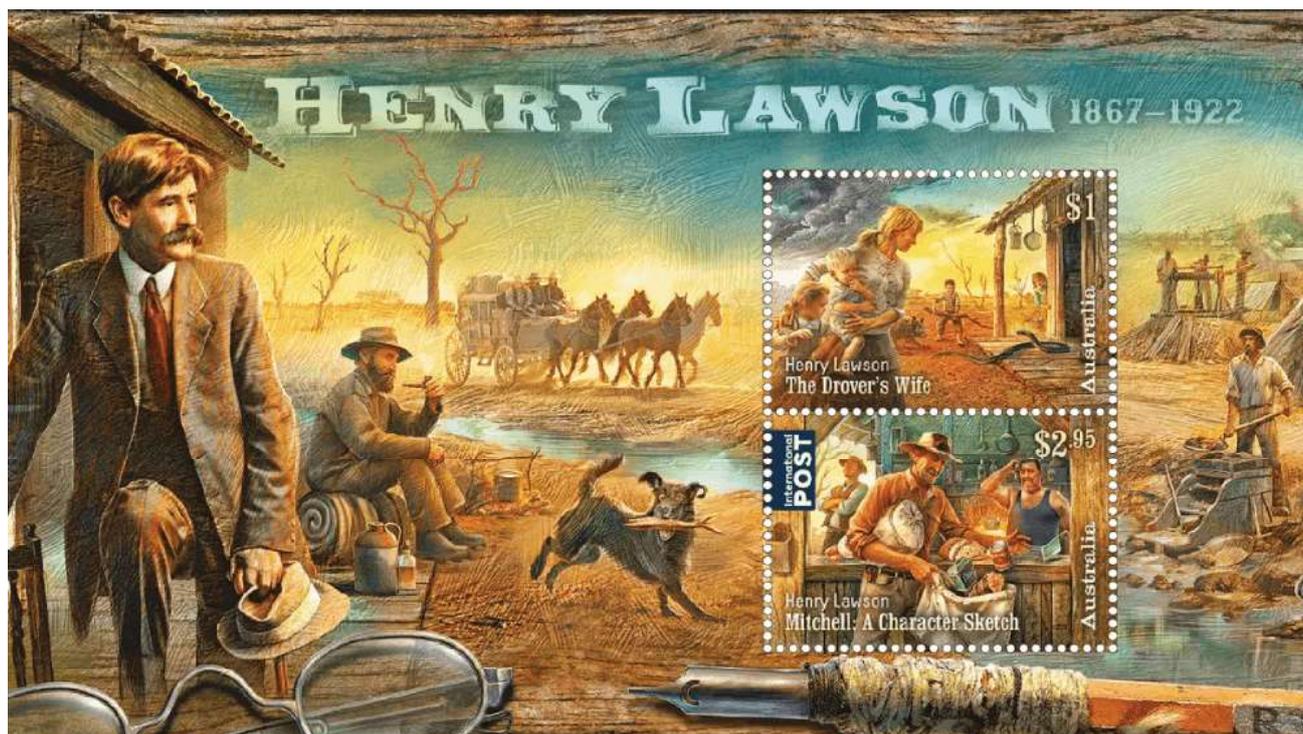
OK, so now I knew who *got* the postcard. But who *sent* it? This was going to require some real research.

### In Search of HJL

The brevity and informality of the message suggests a close friend or relative:

*Gloriebetoallah [sic]  
There are no flies here!  
HJL*

I had to wonder: knowing Norman Lilley's literary circles, could 'HJL' have been the much-admired Australian poet Henry Lawson? I knew a bit about Lawson's life, but I didn't remember a visit to Singapore being depicted on the 2017 minisheet.



Alas, I soon found out that Lawson's initials were HABL, for 'Henry Archibald Hertzberg Lawson'. You learn something every day. And making it even more unlikely that Lawson would be sending a postcard from Singapore in 1927 was the fact that he had died in 1922. (Source: the top of the minisheet.)

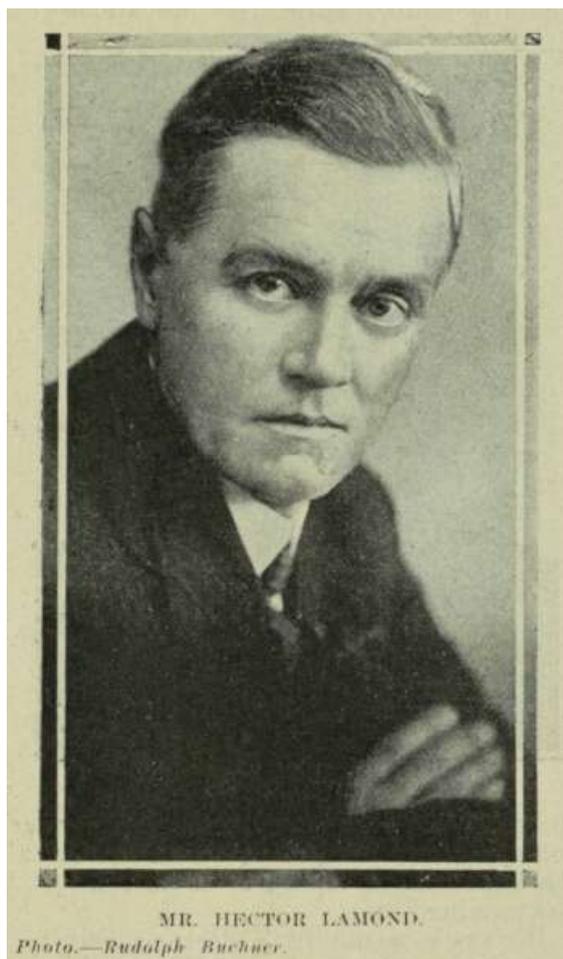
Failing to find any other candidates, I nervously embarked on a first for my philatelic research career: I asked ChatGPT for help. You may know ChatGPT, it's one of those artificial intelligence chatbots that are currently assisting society almost as rapidly as they are destroying it.

I asked ChatGPT to suggest Australian literary figures of the era with the initials 'HJL', and didn't I feel smug when its first suggestion was 'Henry Lawson'? Nice to know that billions of investment dollars and zillions of algorithmic calculations led an AI giant to the same incorrect answer that my brain came up with all on its own.

(Of course ChatGPT suggested a bloke with the wrong initials. If ChatGPT doesn't know something, it just goes ahead and draws entirely incorrect conclusions, and declares its findings as fact. I once asked it what my best work was, and it said very nice things about my writing on a TV show that I had nothing to do with.)

ChatGPT's next suggestion was "Hector Julius Lamond." 'Julius' was probably just ChatGPT taking guesses again... but could there have been a 'Hector Lamond'? It turns out, yes; Hector Lamond was another journalist and literary figure of the day – and the editor of the *Australian Worker* at the time of Norman Lilley's employment there.

## BINGO!!!



Hector Lamond

*The Lone Hand* magazine, June 1914

Well OK, I can't say for *certain* that 'HJL' from the postcard was Hector Lamond, but he's got to be our prime suspect (more circumstantial evidence to come).

I also doubt that his middle name was 'Julius'; he worked with a guy called 'Harry Julius' at one stage, and that's probably enough evidence for ChatGPT to smooch them together and decide they were one person. I haven't actually been able to unearth *any* middle name for Hector: from the registration of his birth to the location of his scattered ashes, he only ever shows up as Hector "One-Given-Name" Lamond.

### The Gang's All Here

Even if the postcard writer *wasn't* our Hector, by this point I was just enjoying the journey. The tangents kept luring me away. For example, it was during Lamond's tenure at the *Worker* that the writer and social activist Mary Gilmore requested a women's column; Lamond suggested she edit it, so she did, from 1908 until 1931. It became the paper's best-known column.

Mary campaigned for a wide range of reforms – the vote for women, relief from poverty old-age pensions, fair treatment for Aboriginal Australians – that are taken for granted now. That would be why she got a stamp in 1973, and why she's on the Australian ten-dollar note these days.



At Mary Gilmore's death in 1962, she was given the first state funeral since that of another Australian writer with whom she had once had something of an all-fated relationship: none other than... Henry "not that guy" Lawson!



Back to Hector Lamond, and he left the *Worker* in 1916 during a bitter debate over World War I conscription among the political left. He wound up in Australia's Federal Parliament, where he served as a minister, and was involved with the development of the new national capital at Canberra.

At this point, my investigations took an unexpected detour. I learned that during his Parliamentary career, Hector was caricatured by David Low, a cartoonist from New Zealand who eventually went to the UK, where he came to be considered one of the greatest political cartoonists ever. He created the pompous Colonel Blimp; you might not know the Colonel himself, but he influenced satirical depictions of pompous British army officers ever since.

Blimp; you might not know the Colonel himself, but he influenced satirical depictions of pompous British army officers ever since.



Not just one to draw literal pictures, David Low drew quite a verbal image of Hector Lamond in his autobiography:

*"Hector, pink of face and wild of eye, was a fanatic with the tenacity of a bulldog with a mouthful of trouser-leg when his passions were aroused. Yet tears would start down his cheek when he sat on our sofa, full of my mother's soup, listening to my sister mournfully singing a saccharine ditty like 'Little Grey Home in the West'."*

*Hector Lamond MHR by David Low, National Library of Australia*

After the voters ended Hector's parliamentary career in 1922, he purchased four regional newspapers, running them from the town of Bowral in New South Wales. I'm yet to find any evidence he was travelling abroad in 1927. Yet there's one more piece of circumstantial evidence in favour of our postcard writer being Hector Lamond. Cue a dramatic sting!

### Dung Dung Dung!!!

Let's read the postcard again:

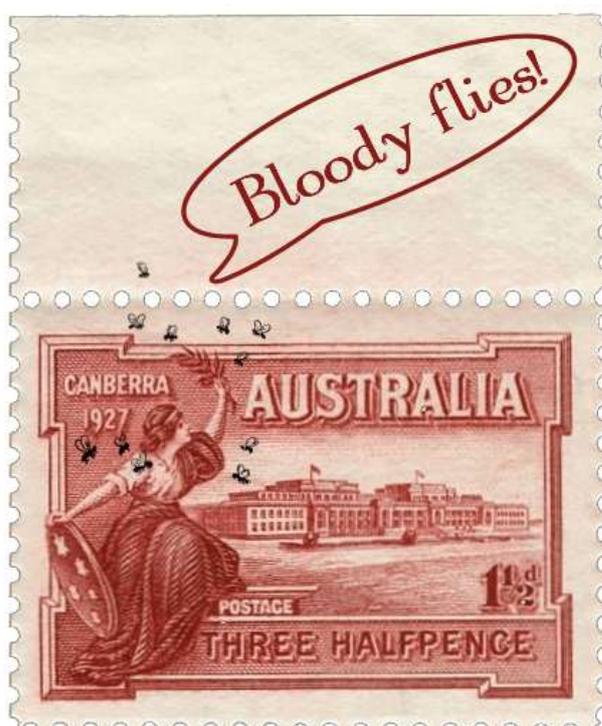
*Gloriebetsallah*  
*There are no flies here!*

The expansion of European agricultural practices across the Australian continent involved poo. Lots of poo, dropped by lots of sheep and cattle. Stay with me, I'm going somewhere with this.

All over the world, dung beetles process animal dung and return its nutrients to the soil, but Australia's native dung beetles only worked with the native animal poo. They flat-out refused to touch the imported European livestock dung. It sat around fouling up the land, and became the perfect breeding ground for blowflies. They hung thick in the air; Australia's proud new capital, Canberra, was surrounded by farmland, and was notoriously flyblown.

It wasn't until the 1960s that imported dung beetles were very carefully released to deal with the poo problem. That program, thankfully, has been a remarkable success, and while flies still exist, they're just not the problem they used to be. Given that history, it makes a LOT of sense to me that, if someone – let's say perhaps the owner of some newspapers in regional New South Wales who had been heavily involved in establishing a notoriously fly-blown national capital – travelled to Singapore in 1927, and discovered that it had no flies, well... I can understand why they would have *absolutely* felt that it was something worth writing home about.

*The 1927 Opening of Parliament House, Canberra: the unique 'Bloody flies!' error.*



(Then again, from what we learned about Norman Lilley, he might not have been impressed by Singapore's pest-free environs. He LIKES the foetid slime of the gutter wherein the worms and maggots crawl!)

Back in Australia – if he ever left, that is – Hector Lamond popped up again in 1934, suggesting that the spelling of Canberra be changed to 'Kanbra', which he argued would be a more accurate phonetic representation. Apparently 'Canberra' was being pronounced in many different ways, which is a strange thing to read in 2025 when you've grown up never hearing it pronounced in any other way.

Wrote Hector:

*"... There is a dignity and certainty about the phonetic spelling, Kanbra, that can never be attained by a word commencing with C and, moreover, a saving of a fourth of the letters in a word that will be used many millions of times in future years."*

Having been forced to type 'Canberra' six times so far in this article alone, I salute Hector's vision. He could have saved me twelve keystrokes. My gift to you for reading this far down is that I didn't learn this in any biographical source about the man. I discovered it myself in an archived newspaper. It's a Punk Philatelist exclusive! You read it here first! (Unless you've *also* read the letters to the editor of the *Sydney Morning Herald* in 1934.)

Hector Lamond carried on editing his newspapers until his death in 1947. Canberra remains spelled 'Canberra' to this day. I didn't come across any biographical book covering Hector's life, though I saw him pop up very regularly in the biography of another writer. Would you like to take a guess who? That's right, Henry 'Whack-A-Mole' Lawson! A man who died five years before this postcard was sent, but has somehow now earned himself three mentions in this write-up.

So there you have it: how my exploration of a brief exchange between two largely forgotten historical figures roamed through literature and politics, pulling in one of this nation's greatest artists and one of her greatest social reformers, with a guest cameo by one of the world's greatest cartoonists, with drive-by facts learned about Canberra, Henry Lawson, and cow poo. And it all started with a barely one-line postcard from a century ago.

But guess what? My night was not yet over! There was a *second* intriguing postcard in the box. It didn't lead me on quite such a ride, but once again, it drew me into a literary world of the past, and left me with a mystery that I'm hoping someone out there might be able to help solve! You can read all about it my next post. Make sure to hit Subscribe if you haven't already.

If you have enjoyed this deep dive into social philately, check out [@Stampden](#) (aka Peter) on X (aka Twitter). He researches the backgrounds of the people connected to postal articles and it's fascinating. I also like the account 'Postcard from the Past' (found at [@PastPostcard](#)) which does virtually no deep-diving into senders' or recipients' backgrounds; it's sometimes just hilarious to read selected quotes from historical postcards without any context.

I'll be back again soon!



*Follow me on Bluesky, Facebook, Instagram, and Threads.  
Despite my recommendations above, I'm no longer regularly active on 'X'.*

REFERENCES:

- Norman Lilley, 'Mr. Streeton's Mastery: Bush, Sea and Flowers. Work of Charm Exhibited.', *The Argus*, Melbourne, 31 March 1932, p8
- Arthur Streeton (1867-1943), *Ramparts Face the Ocean* (1932), Leonard Joel Auctions, August 25, 2025
- Arthur Streeton (1867-1943), *Romance in Blue and Gold* (1932), Smith & Singer, 16 November 2022
- R. J. Cassidy, 'Norman Lilley', *The Australian Worker*, Sydney, 6 Jul 1916, p19
- 'Obituary: Mr Norman Lilley', *The Argus*, Melbourne, 12 August 1941, p3
- The Australian Worker*, National Library of Australia
- Lilley's Magazine*, National Library of Australia
- Clem Gorman (ed.), *The Larrikin Streak: Australian Writers Look at the Legend*, Pan Macmillan Publishers Australia (1990), p89
- The Australian Worker*, Wikipedia
- Coral Lansbury, *Hector Lamond (1865–1947)*, Australian Dictionary of Biography
- The Early Years of the Worker*, AWU
- Mary Gilmore*, Australian Schools Portrait Project
- Dame Mary Gilmore*, Reserve Bank of Australia
- Hector Lamond, M.H.R., Illawarra, N.S.W.* / David Low, National Library of Australia, PIC Drawer 8958 #R8431
- David Low, *Low's Autobiography*, Simon and Schuster, New York, 1957
- The Lone Hand*, New Series Vol. 2 No. 7, June 1914
- Dung Beetle Program*, CSIRO
- Hector Lamond, 'The Name of Canberra', *The Sydney Morning Herald*, 15 February 1934, p5
- © Philatelic product images remain the copyright of issuing postal administrations and successor authorities

# Stamp of the Month

By Nisarg Sutaria

## Newfoundland 1927 60 cent Air Mail Overprint



The 1927 60 cent Air Mail stamp is among the rarest Canadian and air post stamps, as well as one of the most valuable philatelic objects. Only 300 stamps were issued, and there are currently 33 mint copies known to exist.

The overprint, which reads

Trans-Atlantic/AIR MAIL/By B. M./"Columbia"/September/1930/Fifty Cents

indicates that the stamps were to be used on letters to be flown by the renowned Italian pilot Francesco de Pinedo. He is said to have carried 225 mails, about 60 of which were franked with the 1927 60 cent Air Mail stamps with Holbein's picture of King Henry VII overprinted in red.

On January 30, 2014, Spink New York sold one of these unusual stamps for \$45,000.

Reference : <https://findyourstampsvalue.com/rarest-stamps/most-valuable-canadian-stamps>

# PMG Benjamin Franklin

America's 1<sup>st</sup> Postmaster General

by Ted Tyszka



Almost anyone can tell you that Benjamin Franklin was the first Postmaster General of the United States, but you rarely, if ever, hear about his accomplishments and innovations beyond simply holding the title. The fact is, Benjamin Franklin didn't simply run the colonial postal system; he modernized it in ways that feel surprisingly... contemporary. But, before digging into all that, let's look at a timeline of his years as postmaster and postmaster general –

**1737-1753, Postmaster of Philadelphia:** In 1737, Franklin, aged 31, was appointed as Postmaster of Philadelphia by Alexander Spotswood, the British Deputy Postmaster General for the colonies. He was granted the position after his predecessor, Andrew Bradford, was deemed inept. For his own part, Franklin found the position useful because it allowed him to control the distribution of his newspaper, the *Pennsylvania Gazette*. During this period, he also took on the role of Comptroller with financial oversight of nearby offices. The British Crown Post didn't have a formal "Office of the Comptroller" in the colonies yet; the comptroller job was simply one of the duties of the Deputy Postmaster General, Elliot Benger. But, as Benger's health deteriorated, he didn't want to travel to inspect other offices, and he "deputized" Franklin to do the dirty work of

auditing the books of other postmasters in neighboring regions because Franklin was the only one who had actually figured out a functional accounting system.

**1753-1774, Joint Postmaster General for British North America:** On August 10, 1753, he was appointed Joint Postmaster General of British North America (with William Hunter and later, John Foxcroft), serving as "Deputy Postmasters General" for the British Crown. On January 31, 1774, he was fired by the British government because of his growing sympathies for the American revolutionary cause and, in particular, the "Hutchinson Letters" scandal.

**1775-1776, Postmaster General of the "United Colonies of North America,"** renamed in 1776 the United States of America. The Second Continental Congress established an independent "Constitutional Post" to bypass the British system. Franklin was the unanimous choice to lead it. He left the position on November 7, 1776, to serve as a diplomat in France. He turned the office over to his son-in-law, Richard Bache, who became the second United States Postmaster General.

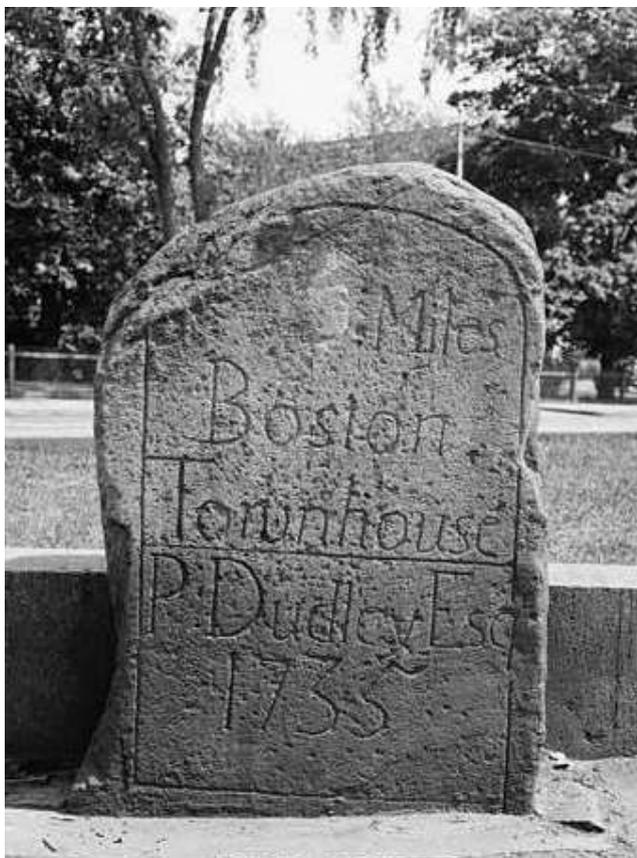
All told, he spent nearly 40 years, starting at the age of 31, in postmaster and postmaster general positions—quite a feat, considering all of his other accomplishments (which I'll visit later). Now let's look at some of his accomplishments as postmaster general.

## Standardized Routes and Faster Delivery

Before Franklin, mail routes were inconsistent and slow. Franklin implemented a number of improvements:

- He surveyed and mapped postal routes himself. He installed milestones (literal stone markers, not signposts) along major postal roads and famously traveled 1,600 miles surveying post roads with an odometer attached to his carriage to measure distances accurately.
- He calculated postage based on actual delivery distance, not guesswork—a big step toward fairness and predictability in postal pricing.

- He introduced more direct routes, eliminating unnecessary detours.
- He established regular schedules, including fixed departure times.
- He implemented “night riding” for mail carriers between major cities.



*A postal route milestone.*

**The Result:** Delivery times between cities like Philadelphia and New York were cut nearly in half—an enormous improvement in the 18th century.



**Fun Fact:** Franklin had noticed that, with overseas mail, British packet ships to the colonies took notoriously longer times to arrive than did ships going from the colonies to Great Britain. While colonial seamen knew about the Gulf Stream—a warm, fast-moving “river” of water in the Atlantic—they did not know its route. Collaborating with his cousin Timothy Folger, a Nantucket sea captain and experienced whaler, Franklin was the first to map the Gulf Stream. His first Gulf Stream Map, published in 1769, advised westbound ships to stay out of the current and eastbound ships to “ride it home.”

**The Result:** Faster crossings. Lower costs. Better scheduling. Neat, huh? (By the way, British naval officers initially dismissed Franklin’s map—as they had earlier dismissed colonial seamen’s “folk wisdom” about a fast-moving stream of water in the ocean—because, 1) it came from \*cough-cough\* colonists, and, 2) because it came from sailors, not academics.)

### **The First Postal Accounting System**

Franklin also brought order to postal finances by creating standardized bookkeeping methods. He required postmasters to submit regular financial reports, and he tracked the profitability of individual routes and made adjustments to routes, rates, and schedules as necessary. This transformed the post office from a money-losing patronage system into a self-sustaining enterprise, and for the first time, under Benjamin Franklin, the colonial post turned a profit.

### **Improved Service for Newspapers**

As a printer himself, Franklin understood the power of information:

- He lowered or eliminated postage rates for newspapers. Newspaper delivery to customers was just 1c. Newspaper publishers could mail copies of their newspaper (for purposes of sharing news) to any and all other newspaper publishers for free. (Later, as newspapers proliferated, this free service had to be rescinded.)

- He prioritized newspaper delivery alongside letters.
- He encouraged wide distribution to remote towns.

**The Result:** Newspapers became a shared colonial experience—crucial for public debate and, later, for revolutionary ideas.



### Professionalizing Postal Workers

In an era dominated by patronage and politics, Franklin quietly but radically raised standards by evaluating postmasters on performance, not by any political pull they might have. He removed incompetent and dishonest officials and expected reliability, punctuality, and accurate accounting from his postal workers.

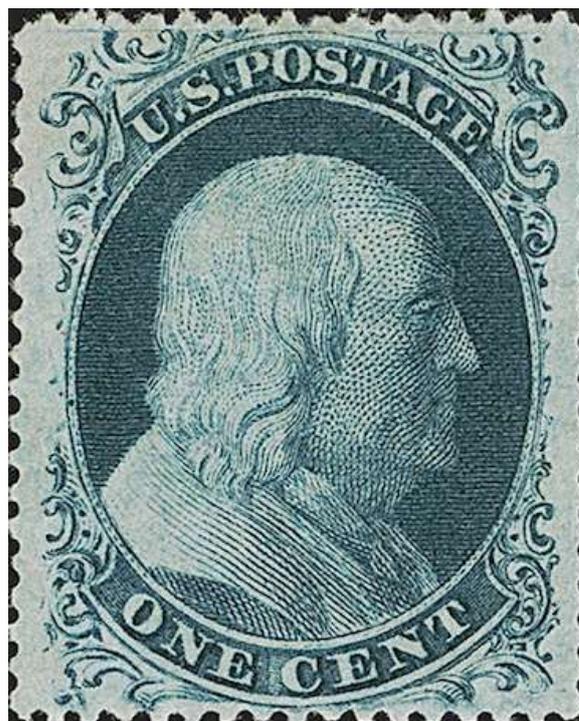
### Expanding the Postal Network

Franklin was a deep believer in disseminating and democratizing information. Under his tenure, the postal service expanded to rural towns and frontier settlements. Southern colonies, which had previously been underserved, were given much more attention. And he developed cross-colony routes that encouraged economic and social unity. Under Franklin's leadership, the postal system helped transform thirteen separate colonies into something closer to a connected society.

### Laying the Groundwork for the U.S. Post Office

Even though Franklin was dismissed by the British in 1774 for his political sympathies, his system endured. When the Continental

Congress created the United States Post Office in 1775, Franklin was the obvious choice as its first Postmaster General, and they largely kept his system intact.



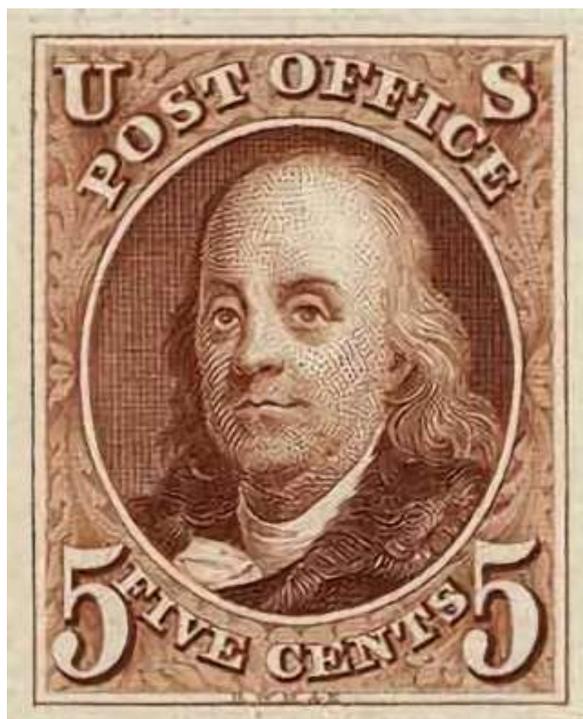
### A Legacy That Endures

Franklin's postal reforms improved and accelerated communication. This, in turn, encouraged literacy and political awareness. It also helped unify the colonies and provided a blueprint for modern public infrastructure. It would not be hyperbole to say he turned mail into a nation-building tool.

And today, Franklin's fingerprints are still all over modern postal systems—especially the USPS, but also globally. Franklin's idea that mail should reach everyone, not just profitable locations, survives today as the U.S. Postal Service's "Universal Service Obligation." Delivery to remote rural areas is charged the same basic rates as anyplace else within the country. Worldwide postal services have similar mandates. Franklin's logistical calculations—tracking route profitability, measuring delivery times, and adjusting routes based on performance—all carry over into today's modern postal service. Quite amazing, really, when you consider all of the other things he accomplished in those years apart from his postal duties:

- Discovered the electrical properties of lightning
- Invented bi-focals
- Invented the Franklin stove
- Wrote and published Poor Richard's Almanack annually during his first 21 years of postal service
- Organized the colonies' first volunteer fire company
- Helped establish fire insurance
- Founded the American Philosophical Society, America's first major scientific society
- Founded, and was the first president of, the Academy and Charitable School, later named the College of Philadelphia, then University of Pennsylvania
- et cetera, et cetera, et cetera

No wonder, then, that when the U.S. issued its first postage stamps, on July 1st, 1847, Franklin should be the chosen subject alongside George Washington. Unlike the stamps of most countries at the time, depicting monarchs and symbols of fealty to a sovereign, Franklin represented intellect in service of the public good—a life devoted not to power or privilege but to usefulness.



## 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 courses.

You can download it here . . . [IPDA Brochure](#).

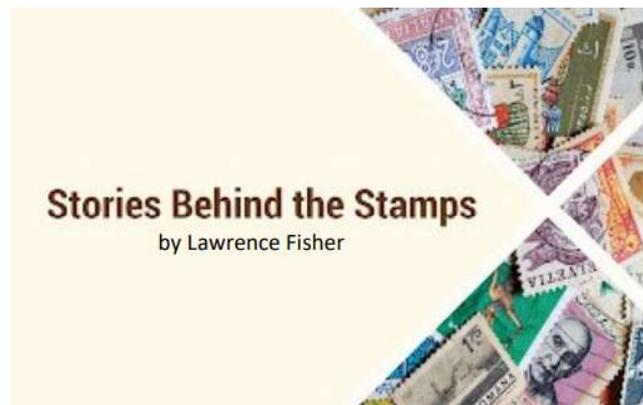


## AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE IPDA

WELCOME TO THE  
INTERNET PHILATELIC  
DEALERS ASSOCIATION,  
INC

Please visit us at  
[www.ipdastamps.com](http://www.ipdastamps.com)

Serving the philatelic  
community since 2002



## Superman: The Immigrant Story Behind the Cape

by Mr. Enthusiastic on Monday, January 19, 2026 in Hope, Newsletter, Superman

*This article first appeared on Lawrence Fisher's blog, "Stories Behind the Stamps," and appears by permission of the author.*



Everyone knows Superman has a secret identity, but here is the one nobody talks about: Superman is Jewish. In 1938, Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster—two Jewish kids from Cleveland whose families fled Eastern Europe—created Superman.

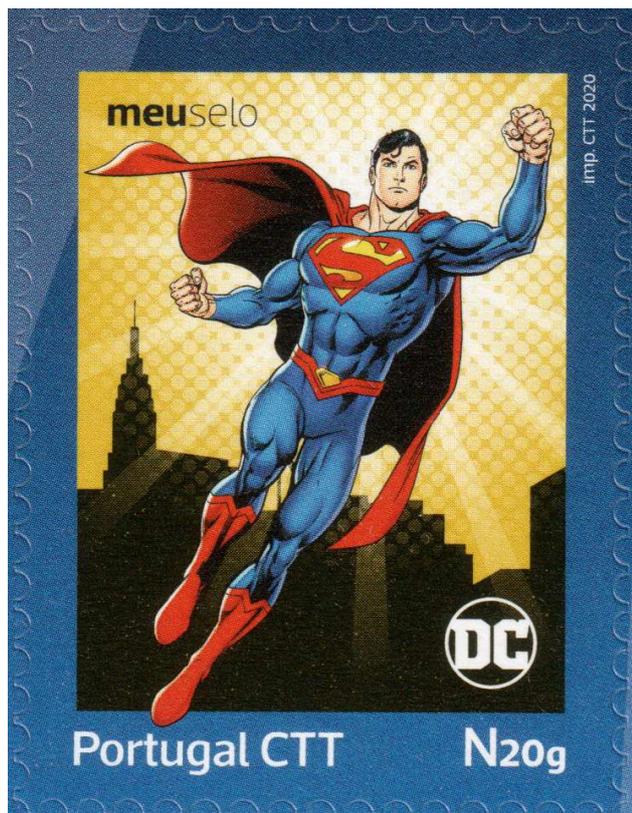
The timing matters. Depression-era America. News from Europe getting darker. And suddenly a character appears who is not just strong, but stubbornly decent.

Superman's origin is the giveaway. It is not a neat "chosen one" story. It is closer to Moses. A child sent away from a dying homeland in a vessel. A last desperate act by parents who know what is coming. He grows up in a new place, safe, loved, and slightly out of place.

Clark Kent isn't Superman hiding among humans. Clark Kent is a Jewish kid passing for white. Nervous, intellectual. Thick glasses. Bumbling. That is Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster: two kids who got picked on and dreamed of

being strong. Change your name. Change your clothes. No one suspects what you really are.

Superman's Kryptonian name pulls people into an argument. Kal-El. "El" is a real Hebrew word meaning God, found in many Hebrew names. The "Kal" part is where the internet gets overconfident. Some people insist it means "swift" or even "voice" in Hebrew. But in Hebrew, "kal" (קל) commonly means "light" (not heavy) or "easy". So I treat the Hebrew-ness as a strong echo, not a courtroom translation.



For Superman, Krypton does not stay in the past. He keeps it. Not as a flag, but as a bruise. The Fortress of Solitude is basically a private museum of a lost world. He studies it, preserves it, mourns it. That is the immigrant story in one sentence: you cannot go back, but you also cannot let go.

The Nazis noticed, too. Their reaction to Superman was not casual irritation, it was ideological hostility. The character was created by two Jewish artists, and the Nazis knew exactly what they were looking at.

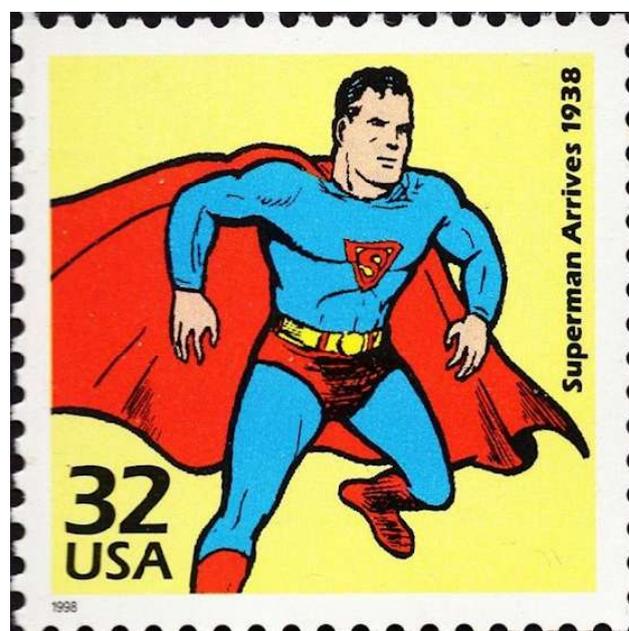
After a 1940 comic strip showed Superman ending the war by arresting Hitler, things escalated fast. In February 1940, Look magazine

published a two-page feature by Siegel and Shuster. In it, Superman smashes Germany's Westwall, flies to Berchtesgaden, grabs a protesting Hitler by the collar, scoops up Joseph Stalin from Moscow, and delivers both "power-mad scoundrels" to the League of Nations in Geneva to stand trial for "unprovoked aggression against defenseless countries."

The Nazi response was swift and vicious. On April 25, 1940, Das Schwarze Korps, the official newspaper of the SS, published a full-page tirade titled "Jerry Siegel greift ein!" ("Jerry Siegel Intervenes!"). The author repeatedly targeted Siegel's Jewish heritage, calling him "intellectually and physically circumcised" and an "inventive Israelite." They even turned his name into a slur, calling him "Jerry Siegellack" (sealing wax), implying his work was a stinking mess that should be ignored.

So yes, it is funny in a bitter way: the most "American" superhero became so successfully American that many people forgot he was an immigrant story. The Man of Steel was forged in the shtetl.

And yet, here we are again.



Antisemitism is no longer something you have to hunt for in dusty newspapers. It is back in daylight. On campuses. In city streets. On social feeds. In the language people pretend is "just criticism." The old tropes never died. They just changed fonts.

The immigrant story that Superman carried into the 20th century has become part of our 21st-century reality for too many Jewish families—looking over their shoulders, explaining their identity, pushing back against lies and hatred.

What does Superman mean now, when Jews are threatened not just in far-off lands but in broad daylight on social feeds and city streets?

Superman was invented in 1938 because two Jewish kids understood something before the world did: that Jews could not count on being protected when things turned ugly. So they imagined a man who would not wait for permission to stop annihilation.

Today, that fantasy is no longer imaginary.

There is no cape. No perfect morality. No clean victories.

Just young men and women doing something their grandparents were never allowed to do.

The Israeli Defense Forces exist for the same reason Superman was invented—because Jews learned the hard way what happens when no one else comes.

Superman was the dream of “never again.”

The IDF is what “never again” looks like when you mean it.

So when Superman appears on a stamp today, he is no longer just a nostalgic immigrant story.

He is a reminder of the moment Jews stopped waiting to be rescued and started taking responsibility for their own existence.

#### FAQ

*Is Kal-El “voice of God” in Hebrew?*

“El” is a genuine Hebrew element meaning God, but “kal” is commonly “light” (not heavy) or “easy” in Hebrew. So it is better to treat the name as a strong echo, not a literal translation.

*Why mention antisemitism today in a story about a superhero?*

Because Superman was created at a moment when Jews were watching the world darken, and the themes still resonate when hatred returns in public.

*Why end with the IDF?*

Because the essay’s point is the movement from fantasy to responsibility: a 1938 dream of protection and a modern reality of defense.



## Forging Culture With Books

Portugal's Livraria Lello bookstore commemorated on recent postage stamps.

By Ted Tyszka

I ordered a selection of new issues off of Portugal's CTT online shop recently. Among the various designs was this one, shown below, commemorating the 120th anniversary of the Livraria Lello bookstore, in Porto.



Bookstore logo as it appears in the stained-glass window (right), and 5 graphic variations of it, designed by Studio Eduardo Aires.

In 2023, the website 1000 Libraries, in a poll which drew over 200,000 votes from around the world, declared Livrario Lello “The Most Beautiful Bookstore in the World.” The 2-story interior—seen on the booklet pane, below—features ornate woodwork, a stunning forked central staircase, and a 26 ft × 11 ft stained-glass window on the ceiling.



The staircase inside Livraria Lello, as depicted on the back of the stamp pane.

The staircase inside Livraria Lello, as depicted on the back of the stamp pane.

Because J. K. Rowling lived in Porto for several years in the early 1990s, and drafted the first 3 chapters of the first Harry Potter book there, before she left, the urban legend developed that the Flourish and Blotts magical bookshop and the magical staircase at the Hogwarts School were inspired by Livraria Lello. Rowling, however, has denied even knowing about the existence of the bookstore at the time.



For instance, I never visited this bookshop in Oporto. Never even knew of its existence! It's beautiful and I wish I "had" visited it, but it has nothing to do with Hogwarts!

"I solemnly swear that I am up to no good" • Harry Potter Library • Oporto, Portugal 🇵🇹



10:37 · 31/05/2018 from Oporto, Portugal · Twitter for iPhone

8:55 AM · May 21, 2020

314 3.3K 6.3K 267

My wife and I were in Porto 3 years ago, and I made a point of visiting the bookstore. It is not just a tourist attraction but also an operating retail bookstore (the price of your entry ticket is applicable toward any purchase), and I was keen on finding a book to purchase as a souvenir. When I got there I quickly changed my mind. The size of the crowd awaiting entrance convinced me I should try again another time.

But the Harry Potter (non)connection is not what led me to write about this stamp issue. Instead, it was the design, depicting a blacksmith working at his anvil that made me wonder about the significance of that image to the bookstore. It turns out the blacksmith holds

very deep symbolic significance. For the figure is not just any blacksmith; he represents the Greek god Hephaestus (perhaps more familiar to you by the Roman name Vulcan), the god of fire, metalworking, and craftsmanship—known as the blacksmith of the gods. As described on the Livraria Lello website:

*“the blacksmith symbolizes the dignity of creation and the work that shapes culture. At Livraria Lello, this metaphor takes on a particular significance: the ‘weapons’ that this house produces—books—are instruments of freedom, resistance and intellectual transformation.”*

culture—it is culture. By choosing this motto, and placing Vulcan at the center of the bookstore, they are making a clear statement: Books are forged. They do not appear by magic; they are written, revised, printed, bound, distributed, sold, and read. They are the result of labor.

I could not help but notice how this statement on the dignity of cultural labor stands in stark and ironic contrast to some current-day contradictions. Consider a certain newspaper whose motto boldly proclaims, “Democracy Dies in Darkness.” Then consider that this same newspaper has now eliminated the stand-alone



The stained-glass window in the ceiling of Livraria Lello.

Along with the image of Vulcan is a Latin motto *Decus in Labore*—Dignity in Labor. This represents a departure from many institutions of knowledge and learning that choose such familiar terms as *Veritas* (Truth—Harvard University), *Lux* (Light—Yale’s *Lux et Veritas*), and *Sapientia* (Wisdom), used by various institutions such as Belgium’s University of Louvain—*Veritas et Sapientia*—Truth and Wisdom. The University mottos frame knowledge as revelation or possession, as something that is illuminated or grasped.

*Decus in Labore* does something much different. The phrase tells you that work itself is ennobling, that creation does not merely lead to

book review section. To be equitable, others have also eliminated their book sections. But it is difficult to ignore the irony in the fact that this dimming of their commitment to books occurs under the ownership of Jeff Bezos, the man who, quite literally, earned his initial fortune through books.

Books endure not because they are enchanted, but because someone took the time to create them and shape them, and someone else took the time to pass them along. That belief stands in stained glass over a bookstore staircase, and now it circulates quietly on a humble postage stamp.

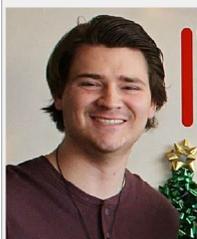


This Month's  

 Contributors



**Lawrence Fisher:** Lawrence Fisher is an award-winning philatelic exhibitor, and the author of the non-philatelic non-fiction book, ""Kill Me Now!" He publishes the blog, "Stories Behind the Stamps," from where this month's article first appeared, as well as the YouTube channel of the same name. His "Stories Behind the Stamps" article first appeared on his blog of the same name and is reprinted here by permission. He also has a "Stories Behind the Stamps" YouTube channel. Visit his blog, here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#) and see his YouTube channel here: [Stories Behind the Stamps](#).



**Dan Golden:** 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.



**Gerard McCulloch,** aka the Punk Philatelist, is out to prove that stamps and other philatelic stuff are not just dusty things for old people to collect before they die, but a fascinating and vibrant expression of pop culture.



**Nisarg Sutaria:** Nisarg Sutaria is from Ahmedabad, India. He has a BE in Mechanical Engineering from Nirma Institute of Technology, India (1999), and an MS in Manufacturing Engineering from Western Michigan University, USA (2001). Philately is one of his hobbies, while horology (the study of the measurement of time) is another of his passions. You can contact him via email: [nisargsutaria78@gmail.com](mailto:nisargsutaria78@gmail.com) Mobile and WhatsApp Phone Number: +91-9924248850



**Ted Tyszka:** Ted started collecting in 1974 and after moving to Portugal in 2024 has narrowed his collecting focus to Germany and area, and Portugal and area. He also has a few topical interests: Literature and Fiction Writers; Classical Music; and Stamp Design Errors. He has a HipStamp store which you can find by a store search for the name TATyszka or his user name "youpiao." He also has a YouTube channel and a Substack newsletter, both also under the name, "Ted Talks Stamps."

New Innovative Resource. Due Soon

FREE  
Subscription only

# THE PHILATELIC REGISTER

A fortnightly resource promoting and connecting all aspects of philately



## A "Dynamic" New Innovative Resource

For those with an interest in **ANY & ALL** matters philatelic. Twice fortnightly publication to commence September this year with promotional issues now available and updated at intervals up until regular publications commence.

A miscellany of:

Opinion, Informed Comment, Light Hearted Musings, articles with Historical, Cultural and Academic interest, Nostalgia, Current Philatelic Affairs, the most up to date auction catalogues and retail lists from the trade

downloadable directly from

**THE PHILATELIC REGISTER**

Delivered in pdf and **FREE** to Subscribers

Designed to bring an awareness of the breadth and depth of interests philately has to offer, to provide an effective platform for **Specialist Societies and Study Groups** to promote themselves and instill today's collector with the excitement, anticipation and enthusiasm demonstrated by their predecessors.

Email **PhilatelicRegister@gmail.com** to receive your copy.

**Specialist Societies and Study Groups** please contact me or request promotional issue for details of how your society can be promoted and rewarded

**Fair & Show organisers** please contact me

**Ian Lasok-Smith (Philatelist)**

6 Hough Green, Chester, CH4 8JG