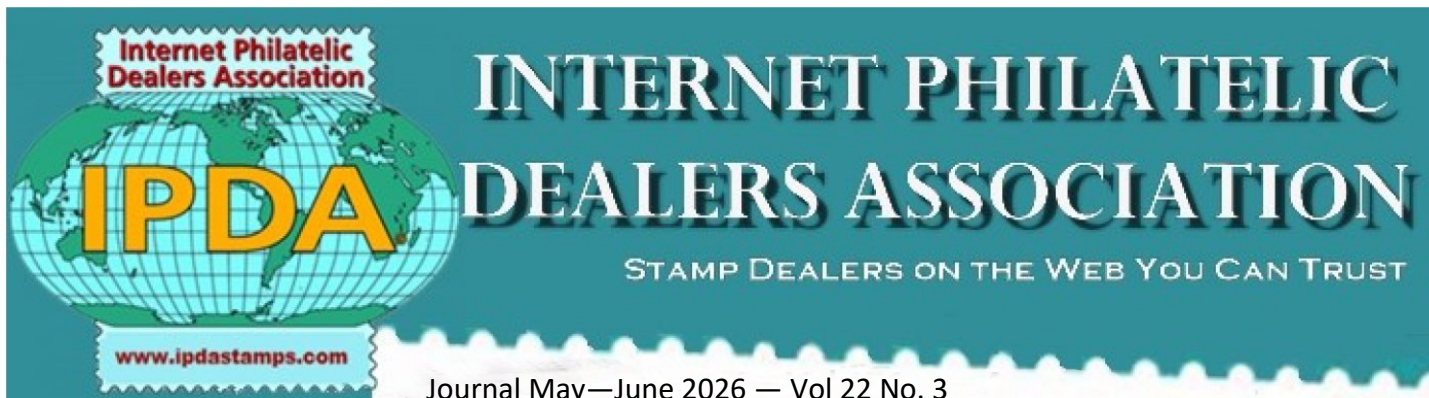


# Journal

Vol 22 Nr 3



**LOWRIDERS.....Forever !!!!!**



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.

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# Chairman's Message



Hello, 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 important and appreciated. Also, remember that your referral of a new accepted member will 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.

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.

And, something else new this month, we have added a Blog to the website. This as one small step in our ramp up of marketing and advertising efforts. If you want material posted to showcase any philatelic activities or to promote yourself please send material to Michael at [ipdashsecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdashsecretary1@gmail.com)

I, along with my family and the IPDA Board of Directors wish you all the very best for the Summer/Winter of 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**

## Messages from the General Secretary

Just a courtesy news update to let everyone know the AGM was successfully held on 14<sup>th</sup> March. Including the Directors present there were 33 votes cast – which gave us a quorum - for each of the 8 motions. All Motions were approved with the exception of the motion for a Marketing and Advertising Director which was passed in as there was no nomination. (see page 24 for an update post the AGM )

The membership at the time of writing this is 99 paid up members. 31 members were unpaid as of 14<sup>th</sup> March.

So, as an added comment, please can you renew your membership if you are one of the 31 unpaid. After this issue you will no longer be sent a copy of the IPDA Journal.

Membership can be paid online by logging in to the Members area on the IPDA website. It is very easy to do.

Any issues or questions please do not hesitate to email me at <mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com>

Thank you for being an IPDA member and for supporting and promoting the IPDA.

### And one more.....

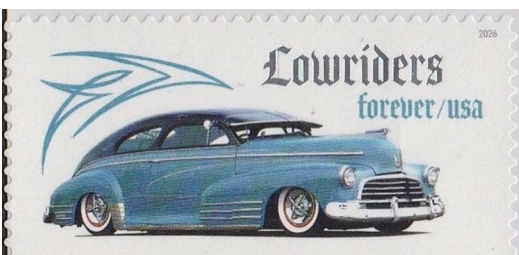
As some may know Ted is unable to compile, write and edit this issue of the Journal. I have tried my best to do it. OK, not up to his amazing standard I will admit and I am using an old template and old software — I don't have or even know how to use the software Ted uses— so my sincere apology for not being at his level.

All the same, I hope you find something of interest and of course ideas and contributions for the next issue, which I may be writing, - time will tell—, will be very gratefully received. You can contact me at <mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com>

Thank you for your patience and understanding. ...Michael

### Ok, just one more .....

Do you like the Journal cover? Only 3 of the 5 in the issue shown, I know, sorry, could not suitable fit all on the page. Lowriders, What amazing cars. So nice to see these. Well I think so. Well done to the USPS. Just the sort of stamps to get collectors and non collectors buying stamps. What is your favourite car? and a story line to go with it? Drop me a line and we can share in the July — August issue perhaps for others to enjoy.



[Let the Good Times Roll, Soy/Como Soy !!!!!](#)

Click the link, ENJOY.....

A few months back we gave a report from member Thomas Humfrey about his work on his philatelic toolbox software suite. He tells me this is now complete. The suite comprises various applications:

**PhilaQuery** - capable of philatelic analysis at a level that has to be experienced to be believe. He has added user prompts for encouraging the system to focus on specific areas. It now can plate stamps including the 1d Blacks and Reds, carry out complex assessment of postal history items, often throwing up contextual information. An advanced watermark detection detection system has been added as a user option since it can take up to 2 minutes to compete, but it is now, probably, the best watermark detection system available.

**PhilaShade** - is becoming very accurate and now performs as intended.

**PerfGauge** and **Album PageMaker** are stable and complete applications.

Thomas is looking at if and how he can offer this suite to IPDA members. He would like to offer members a starter introduction with 30 minutes of access time to PhilaQuery – this will allow up to 300 queries. For the other application he can offer 1 months subscription access codes.

For more information please contact Thomas at [redacted] and have a look at the website at The Philatelic Toolbox at <https://www.boitedetimbres.fr/philatelic-toolbox/> and <https://philatelic-toolbox.com/>

The Philatelic Toolbox

Home Album PageMaker PerfGauge PhilaShade PhilaQuery News Research Chat Contact

Your Philatelic Command Center

## Welcome to the Philatelic Toolbox

Your central destination connecting premium stamp album creation tools, perforation measurement, shade checking and curated philatelic marketplace treasures

IP

**PhilaQuery**  
AI-powered philatelic knowledge base. Search specialist literature, analyse stamp and postal history cover images, and

**Album PageMaker**  
Create beautiful, professional stamp albums with our specialised design tool at

**PerfGauge**  
Precision perforation measurement tool for accurate stamp identification at PerfGauge.fr

**PhilaShade**  
Professional colour shade identification and matching tool for philatelists at philashade.fr  
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**Boîte de Timbres**  
Browse our complete collection of unique stamps and philatelic treasures on

## A members thoughts - by Andrew McGavin UPA

Perhaps you saw the news recently saying that Denmark is to cease all letter deliveries. *Effectively stopping the issuing of stamps altogether.* Iceland, of course, has already gone down that road. And I suppose, if one is being practical about it, the stock answer is obvious enough: **You can't stop progress. Fair enough.**

But then again... who's to say it's progress? That, I think, is the more interesting question. **Because historical things are rather nice to hold on to, aren't they?**

And stamp collectors, if you ask me, are slightly unusual people (in the best possible sense), because they don't merely look forwards like everyone else seems compelled to do nowadays. They look backwards as well. *Back to what they knew. Back to what interested them as teenagers, or young adults.*

Some collect all the way through life, for 60 or 70 years, which is extraordinary when you think about it. Others stop after marriage, children, work, life, (*the usual interruptions*) and then return to it later, when the world has quietened down a bit and the old interests start to call again. And what always strikes me is this: **Collectors know things. A phenomenal number of things.**

Odd things. Obscure things. Useful things. Sometimes completely unnecessary things. The sort of things no one would ever *deliberately* set out to learn, and yet through stamps they somehow do.

The other day my wife asked me about Somalia. *"Isn't that Eritrea?"* she said. And I found myself replying, *"Well... yes, but not exactly,"* because in stamp terms there are issues for Somalia and issues for Eritrea, and **once you've spent enough years peering at bits of paper from around the world, your brain becomes cluttered with these distinctions whether you intended it or not.** We looked it up afterwards, by the way and, hands up, I may not have had every detail *perfectly* right, but the point stands.

You learn. Or take the Sydney Harbour Bridge. I know for a fact it opened in 1932. *Now who on earth would know that, except a nerd like me?* **And yet thousands of collectors know such things, because stamps lead you there.** Into history, geography, empire, politics, war, peace, changing borders, vanished colonies, kings, queens, catastrophes, jubilees, and all the rest of it. You don't simply acquire a stamp. You acquire the story attached to it.

And that, if I may say so, is no small thing in a world where so many people seem to get their information from staring into a glowing rectangle and scrolling until their thumbs go numb. I'm not trying to be snide. *Well, perhaps only a little.*

But I do think there is something tremendously valuable in a hobby that keeps the mind sharp and gently drags you into places, dates and facts you'd never otherwise know.

## Most Valuable Canadian Stamps By Nisarg Sutaria

A very interesting website **Most Valuable Canadian Stamps** and one that might give you some pleasure from reading. The introduction includes the following “From definitive stamps, commemorative issues and covers, Canada’s postal service presents an interesting multitude of philatelic items. As up until World War II the items presented were all engraved and they are considered to be very quisit and beautiful in the philatelic citrcle “ Two examples for you to enjoy seeing is you are not familiar with them.

### Canada - 6 pence HRH Prince Albert Stamp, 1855



HRH Prince Albert 6 pence was issued in March 1855 and is an imperforate stamp featuring the portrait of (HRH) His Royal Highness Prince Albert. This stamp was produced on woven paper. About 250,000 stamps were ordered. They were printed in colors of slate grey, brownish grey, and greenish grey. The 6d was a portrait of Prince Albert based on a sketch by William Drummond Esq. On January 30, 2014, Spink New York sold a reddish-purple HRH Prince Albert 6 cent printed on soft woven paper that was in outstanding condition for \$42,500 USD

### Canada London to London Semi Official airmail label 1927



The 1927 London to London Flight stamp is a 25 cent stamp printed in green and yellow. This is a semi-official airmail label created for a planned, failed flight from London, Ontario, to London, England, by pilots Terrence Tully and James Medcalf. The flight was to promote a prize offered by Carling Breweries for a transatlantic flight between the two Londons. The plane flown was named *Sir John Carling*, and it set off in September 1927. After stopovers, it vanished over the Atlantic on September 7, 1927, making any surviving mail with these stamps exceedingly scarce. The market has seen both genuine and [rare examples](#) and modern reproductions/fantasies.

Only 100 copies of the stamp were printed and the major part of them was destroyed when being transported by a plane that crashed into the Atlatic Ocean sometime in August of 1927. Nowadays 13 singles are known to exist. The rarity of these stamps is manifested in their value with the mint stamps amounting to about \$50,000 to \$100,000 per piece. Its Unitradde Catalogue Value os \$100,000. The stamps is a key item in Canadian Airmail history.

Reference Sources: <https://findyourstampsvalue.com/rarest-stamps/most-valuable-canadian-stamps> and <https://sparksauctions.com/2013/02/08/mint-canada-clp6-1927-semi-official-airmail/>

## A World Refugee Year casualty By Lawrence Fisher

I've recently decided to take my philately in a slightly new direction. I'm starting a collection focused specifically on "invalid" mail - items that were, for one reason or another, deemed unacceptable in the postal system. For my own purposes, I have divided such material into three categories: Political, Technical and Jurisdictional, although naturally the scope of the collection will depend on what I can actually afford.

This cover belongs to the Political section, and to my mind it neatly shows just how absurd postal policy can become when ideology takes over.



The background is the "World Refugee Year" campaign, proclaimed by the United Nations from July 1959 to June 1960. Its purpose was humanitarian enough: to raise awareness of, and funds for, the millions of displaced people still living in camps after the Second World War.

More than 70 countries took part by issuing commemorative stamps. Yet what should have been an uncontroversial international effort quickly became entangled in Cold War politics.

Because the campaign often drew attention to refugees who had fled Communist regimes, several Eastern Bloc countries reacted angrily. They treated the entire issue as a political provocation rather than a humanitarian appeal. As

a result, Poland, Czechoslovakia, the Soviet Union and Romania declared stamps issued for World Refugee Year invalid for postal use within their territories.

Israel's contribution to the campaign was a particularly striking one. Rather than depicting a European refugee problem, it chose to commemorate Operation Magic Carpet, also known as "On Wings of Eagles" or Kanfei Nesharim, the 1949-1950 airlift that brought roughly 49,000 Yemenite Jews to the new State of Israel.

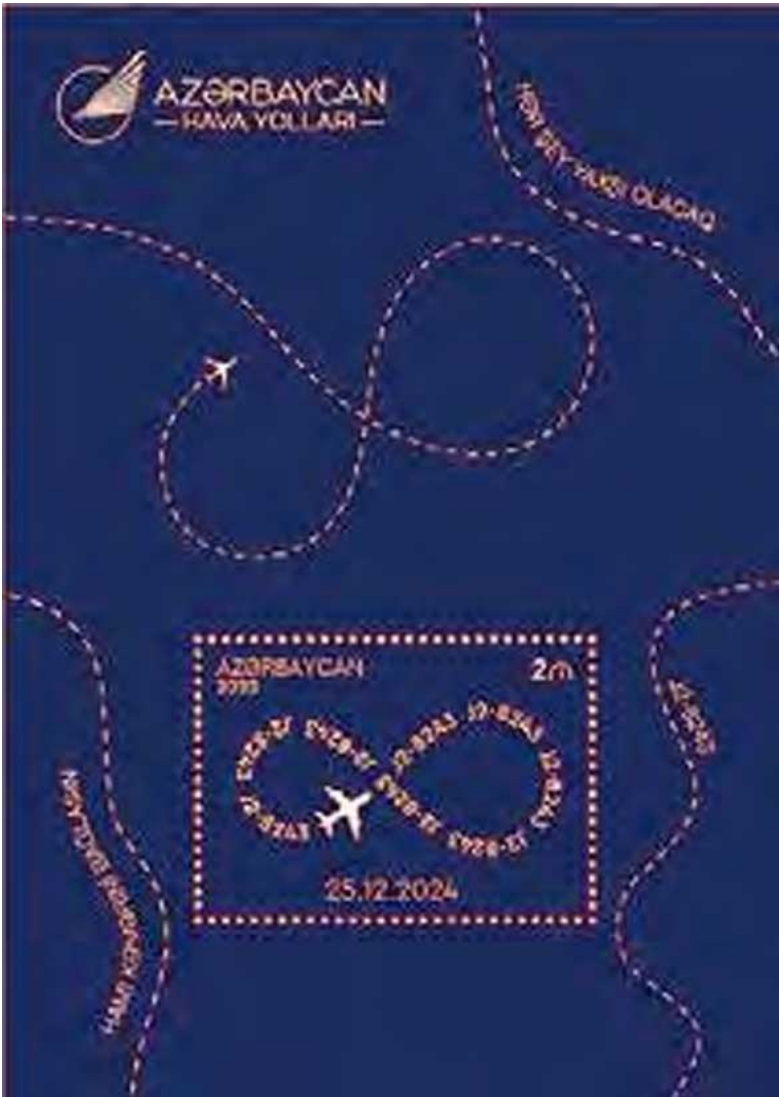
It was a deeply humanitarian subject and, on the face of it, had nothing at all to do with Romanian internal politics or with refugees from the Soviet sphere.

There is also something rather fitting in the address itself, with its reference to "r. Stalin" in Bucharest. Even before one notices the handstamp, the cover already sits squarely in the landscape of the Cold War. Once the cachet is added, it becomes more than just an airmail cover to Romania. It becomes a small but very telling document of a postal war, one in which a humanitarian stamp was treated as contraband simply because the wrong government had issued it.

For an "invalid mail" collection, this is exactly the sort of item I hoped to find: not merely a cover that was returned, but one that shows how international politics could override common sense, postal utility and even the humanitarian message on the stamp itself.

In other words, the stamp commemorated refugees, and the letter itself became a casualty.

## New Issues Azerbaijan by Michael Dodd



Since I have an interest in aviation and aircraft on stamps I thought I might share this new issue with you. Not a stamp one wants to see issued but, well it has been issued and if the sales go some way towards helping some people all well and good.

As you can see, this stamp, in a miniature sheet, was issued by Azerbaijan. It was issued on 13 February 2026 to honor the victims of Azerbaijan Airlines Flight J2 8243, which crashed on 25 December 2024. Azerbaijan Airlines Flight J2 8243, an Embraer 190, registration 4K AZ65) was flying from Baku in Azerbaijan to Grozny in Russia when it was hit by fragments of a Russian air defense missile during military activity in the region.

Apparently due to problems with the Russian air traffic control system, the plane was misidentified by the Russians and was severely damaged by a Russian air defense missile during the aircraft's approach to Grozny.

The pilots attempted to divert to Aktau International Airport in Aktau, Kazakhstan, but were unable to keep control of the plane, and it crashed with 62 passengers and 5 crew on

board. Of those 67 people, 38 died in the accident, including both of the pilots and a flight attendant, while 29 people survived with injuries. Eventually Russian President Vladimir Putin apologized to the President of Azerbaijan, Ilham Aliyev, for the "tragic incident" involving the aircraft in Russian airspace.

The stamp was created as a joint initiative between Azerbaijan Airlines (AZAL) and Azerpost, and unveiled at the Azerbaijan National Museum of History. Its design centers on the infinity symbol, chosen to represent the memory of the victims and the lasting impact of the crew's bravery.

Proceeds from the sale of the stamp will be donated to the YAŞAT Foundation, which was established to assist the families of heroes who sacrificed their lives for the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan, as well as to wounded veterans.

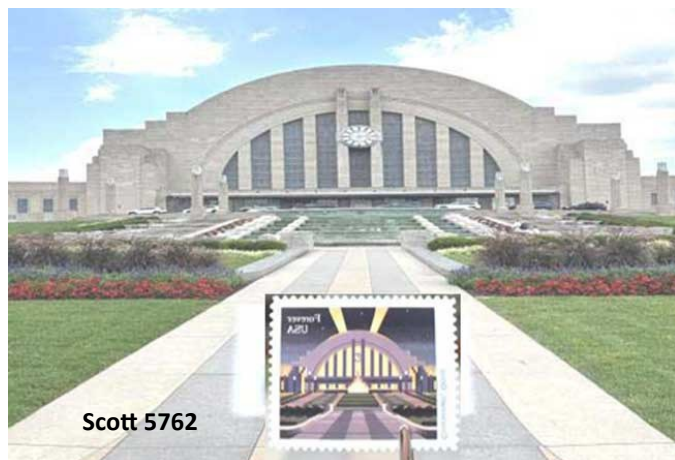
This is one of the earliest philatelic memorials of a modern aviation incident involving cross border military activity. If interested you can [buy a copy here](#)

## The First Opening Day by Dan Golden

The following is kindly contributed by Dan Golden and was originally published in **Stamping Around**, the April edition of the **Newsletter of the Mid-Cities Stamp Club**, <https://www.mid-citiesstampclub.com>

Growing up in a colder climate like Chicago, there were always a handful of things that seemed to announce that Spring was in the air. More birds would be singing as they returned from down south, squirrels and chipmunks would end their wintry hibernations and begin foraging for food, and the trees would develop small green buds from which leaves would soon fill out the branches. March and April always felt like the months when the ground would thaw and the world would come back to life. As beautiful as the natural signs of Spring are, none of it mattered to me as a kid. Instead, the sounds my friends and I always associated with Spring were the crack of a bat or the pop of a ball in a mitt. That's right, baseball season!

"But Dan," I can hear you say, "baseball season starts with Spring Training in February, not in March or April!" While that may be technically true, Spring Training is always down south in the warmer areas of the country. Meanwhile up north where I grew up, we would still be dealing with blizzards and freezing weather, even while pitchers and catchers are reporting to training camps in Arizona or Florida. It's hard to feel like Spring is in the air when you're shoveling snow and feeling the brisk winter winds freeze your nose hairs. And so, rather than Spring Training being the signpost we looked for, it was always Opening Day, an unofficial holiday among my circle of friends, that heralded the beginning of Spring. As much as we treated the start of the baseball season as a holy day of obligation — the obligation here being to watch baseball of course — there is one city in America that seems to share that obsession. That land of kindred spirits is none other than Cincinnati, Ohio. Every year the city of Cincinnati shuts down for Opening Day. Those unfamiliar with the city may think that is an exaggeration, but it is most certainly not.



In a tradition not seen anywhere else, crowds of over 100,000 people fill the streets going in and out of sports bars, sharing music at small concerts dotting the city, playing tailgate games like corn hole in the middle of the streets, and excitedly gathering for a celebratory parade that begins at historic Findlay Market and snakes through downtown all the way to the ballpark. Everyone who is out and about is obligated to be wearing red clothing. How else are people to show their pride in the Reds? All of these festivities lead up to the grand event: the Cincinnati Reds taking the field for the first time in the new baseball season! Those lucky thousands who

have tickets to the main event are spoken of by others as if they have gold in their pockets. The city-wide obsession with Opening Day really is something else. Having personally experienced the occasion first hand, to say the atmosphere is festive does not do it justice.

In Cincinnati, it really does feel as though Opening Day is treated as a high holy day. And they have every right to treat it with such a dignifying tradition! After all, Cincinnati is the birthplace of professional baseball! The first openly all-professional baseball team, the Cincinnati Red Stockings, first took the field on May 4, 1869. Those first professionals, referred to by some as the Nifty Nine, took the field at a location known alternately as Lincoln Park Grounds or Union Grounds. Regardless of the name you prefer to call it, much of the site is now occupied by Cincinnati's famous Union Terminal. There are just so many interesting things about this landmark deserving of an article. That being said, the last time I was in Cincinnati, I decided to get an Extreme Philately photo of this famous train station with its matching stamp, US Scott 5762 .... cont'd

[The First Opening Day](#) ....cont'd by Dan Golden

But that's not the point of this article, it's just a side comment that I could not help bringing up since this is my favorite stamp.



Returning our discussion to baseball, there is one stamp that reminds me of Opening Day every time I look at it, US Scott 4341. Issued in 2008, this stamp honors the 100th anniversary of Jack Norworth and Albert Von Tilzer's composition of that famous song that is synonymous with the 7th Inning Stretch, "Take Me Out To The Ballgame". While that song itself is sung hundreds of thousands of times every year at various baseball games of every level, I'm going to gloss

over that for now and instead focus on the ballplayer depicted on the stamp itself.

His stance resembles the finishing pose of a pitcher who just threw an underhanded pitch — underhanded pitching being the norm in the early days of baseball — toward home plate, near where our perspective is.

A batter that we cannot see is taking part in the result of that pitch, accomplishing an outcome that we do not know. But one other detail of this stamp sticks out to me: the ballplayer's red hat. Such a red hat would almost certainly have been part of the uniform for the original Cincinnati Red Stockings that took the field in 1869. Given that this player has a mustache and appears to be a pitcher, he calls to mind Asa Brainard, the mustachioed pitcher on that first professional team.

With this knowledge, I decided as part of my Extreme Philately hobby, to try to locate where the original home plate and pitcher's mound of the old Union Grounds would have been. While there is not enough space in this article to go into detail on the research side of things, suffice to say that based on my findings and a little bit of guesswork, I believe I got close enough to take a photo that shows a point of view worth sharing. Seen here is a photo taken in the parking lot of the Cincinnati Union Terminal. Where I am standing is roughly where I believe the original home plate was located, and the stamp is shown at a distance where, when lined up with the horizon, the ballplayer appears to be standing roughly 60 feet away from me. That 60 feet measurement is important because that's where the pitchers mound would have been.

Looking at this image, and using our imagination a little, we can see the pitcher has just delivered his pitch. We can visualize to the left and right of him there is the shortstop and second baseman both standing at the ready, and a green outfield behind them all. Where the baseball itself is I can only guess. Is it still hurtling through the air making its way toward me, or has it already landed in the catcher's glove for a strike? Who knows? You be the judge.

.....cont'd

## The First Opening Day ....cont'd by Dan Golden

There are diehard baseball fans across the country who will go to old ballparks, stand at home plate, and envision an opposing pitcher staring them down in the biggest moment of the game. I too shared that feeling while I stood there for this photo. In that moment I was briefly transported to 1869, to the first professional baseball team, standing where they stood, eyeing a pitcher like Asa Brainard who would do everything in his power to get me out. It all happened right here, within feet of where I was standing. As a diehard baseball fan myself, it was a magical experience.

Cincinnati is often overlooked when it comes to large American cities. It's not known as a hub of culture that wields influence on an international stage, nor is it a center of technology that propels society into the future. Even in the world of sports, only two of the four major American sports leagues have a professional franchise that calls the city home, though that number increases to three if you include Major League Soccer.

Cincinnati is often overshadowed by its larger eastern and Midwest neighbors like New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and Chicago. But in the baseball world, Cincinnati has a claim to fame that no other city can match, and it wears that claim like a badge of honor.

With such a strong connection to the early days of America's pastime, it's no wonder Cincinnati takes such pride in their baseball heritage. And the festive attitude in the air on Opening Day really is infectious. It is an optimistic joy that looks ahead to the new season with the belief that anything can happen. After all, every team is in first place when the season starts!

I've noticed that I only feel this sense of overwhelming optimism from watching the start of two seasons, baseball and college football. At the risk of sounding like a Cubs fan, there is a genuine belief every time that maybe this could be our year! Especially in terms of college football, if Indiana can go all the way then how about my beloved Fighting Illini? (Ed Note: Illini - the athletic teams of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign) Maybe they can make a run too!.

Or maybe when it comes to baseball, the two teams I cheer for, the White Sox and the Orioles, will manage to stay in the playoff picture late into the season for once! Wouldn't that be something! One can't help but get excited for the impending first pitch!

*Editors Note: have to show this cover to close — rather nice tribute to these great players.*

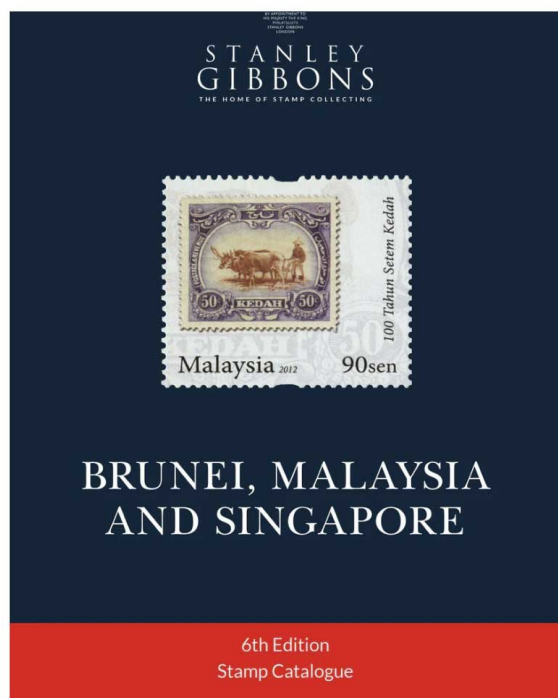


## Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue: Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore 6th edition

...Reviewed by Len Stanway and Michael Round

*Editors Note: First published in the National Philatelic Society (NPS) Journal, Stamp Lover, April 2026, Vol 118 No 2. Acknowledgement and Thanks: This is reproduced with the very kind permission of Michael Round, Associate Editor of Stamp Lover and Michael Goodman Stamp Lover Editor. They both make a significant contribution to the NPS Journal and Michael Round also through his writings and research, notably on GB Queen Elizabeth II pictorials.*

*We all know how important it is to have good catalogues and this one, in my humble view, is an essential one to have. I hope you find this review as worthy of a read as I did. MD*



The long-awaited new SG sectional catalogue covering Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore (BMS) has recently been published, containing over 300 pages in full colour with the usual soft cover.

As would be expected after a gap of eight years since the previous edition (2017, reviewed here in February 2018), there are many changes. SG has wisely worked closely with members of the Malaya Study Group and the Borneo Philatelic Society to ensure that it reflects the latest expert knowledge of all periods of these territories.

As well as a lot of new issues, many newly discovered items are to be found in the earlier entries and prices have generally increased to reflect recent market realisations, particularly for scarcer issues. The new issues are correct up to mid-2025 for Singapore and Malaysia, and up to 2024 for Brunei.

This publication will be needed by all serious collectors of these countries. Modern issues are by no means easy to collect, with many rarities to search for (and yet more, doubtless, to find). There is now a 56-year gap between the end of the Part 1 catalogue (1970) and the present day, so just having Part 1 will be of little use. (BMS is also smaller and lighter than Part 1, if you want to carry it around stamp fairs, etc.!)

The new volume covers not only the issues of Straits Settlements, Bangkok, Federated Malay States, Japanese Occupation, Thai Occupation, BMA Malaya, Malayan Postal Union, Federation of Malaya, Malaysia, Johore, Kedah, Kelantan, Malacca, Negri Sembilan, Pahang, Penang, Perak, Perlis, Selangor, Trengganu, Brunei, North Borneo/Sabah, Sarawak and Singapore, but also the use of stamps of other postal administrations in these territories, starting with East India Company issues used in the Straits Settlements.

Like any publication, it is inevitable that some errors will slip in (notably reference to the wrong regional study groups\*), but these do not detract from the value of the book as a vital reference tool.

It can be obtained from [www.stanleygibbons.com](http://www.stanleygibbons.com) or your usual supplier. \*Here are the correct contact details: Malaysia and Singapore (all periods): Malaya Study Group: <https://www.malayastudygroup.com/> Brunei, Labuan, North Borneo, Sarawak (all periods): Borneo Philatelic Society: <https://b-p-s.org.uk/> Len Stanway

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue: Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore 6th edition

...Reviewed by Len Stanway and Michael Round ...cont'd

My grateful thanks to Len Stanway for so ably preparing the ground for the rest of us. SG welcomes us further via the now customary reprinted article: this one, by Michael Waugh, FRPSL, first appeared in *GSM* for January 2021 and features stamps of the Federated Malay States that we may all have handled in the past and probably collected quite eagerly ourselves. (Pity about its very first word, the incorrect apostrophe in "it's [complex history]...")

**British PO in Siam.** I suspect most of us turn this unexciting-looking page without reading it. Prices are interesting nevertheless. SG Z5/8 (Straits Settlements stamps with oval Bangkok postmarks) all rise; among the actual 'B' overprints, mint Crown-CC watermarked (1/11) rise (especially the 30c, SG 10, from £45,000 in 2017 to £65,000 now) while used - the Crown CA's too (SG 14/23) - are largely unchanged. *Now* turn the page!

Of this catalogue's three main countries, **Brunei** is possibly the least popular. Even so, SG applies all its usual care: there's now, for instance, a newly illustrated "weak entry" variety among the 1924-37 definitives (SG 60b) and an enticing boxed note on the unissued 1972 'Ports and Harbours' set of four, priced at £1500! Prices pre-1947 all rise both M and U; thereafter 'local' commems (1949 Jubilee, 1958 Mosque) do well while the omnibuses - and practically all the moderns - keep still. Any Japanese Occupation items previously priced at £300 or more now rise further; lower-priced items stay put. Brunei's 2024 definitives (912/8) run to \$100 but the top two values are just footnoted, not listed or priced. Why, I wonder?

**Labuan** might be more popular if you could find it. As part of North Borneo, SG put L for Labuan after, not before, M for Malaysia - and not under N for **North Borneo** either, but S for Sabah! Hence page 193's clumsy header 'Labuan, Sabah (formerly North Borneo) MALAYSIA'. Whatever the headings, the listings here (Sarawak too) mostly duplicate those in SG Part 1 (boosted in the 2026 edition by Jon Higgins's mouthwatering introductory article) and need no nit-picking from me. I'm very tempted by this area, though prices mount up: even the long-maligned 1947 Cypher set (320/54) is now £275/ £170. Top dog among **Sabah's** unwatermarked Orchids is the 20c (457) at - wow! - £150M (but only £2 U). **Sarawak's** 1934 Brooke definitives to \$1 (SG 106/20, all I have) make a splendid 21- value page but deduct the missing high values (\$2-\$10, 121/5) from the total set price and what's it worth? Not much, darn it. Similar "short-set" disappointments await you (or your heirs) throughout the Commonwealth.

Now for **Malaysia** itself, still preceding (rather than following) the individual States. Among the precursors (India used in Straits Settlements), the 1866-7 ½ a pale blue Official (Z54) is now priced, at £1100. Elsewhere, rises are small, except for, astonishingly, the 1854 2c green, bisected and U in Singapore (Z64a), formerly £250,000, now (can this be a typo?) £750,000! Gramme for gramme of paper, that's dearer than a Post Office Mauritius! Most of the other bisects make six-figure sums too. Among familiar and far more down-to-earth issues (e.g, Straits from 1867 onwards) we expect prices to remain unchanged for basic stamps, while flaws and varieties rise. The opposite seems to apply here.

Again, this is catalogue territory already covered in Part 1, but I can't resist a look at those popular 1957 pictorials for each **Malaysian State**. Those of us who managed to complete them long ago will be pleasantly surprised at what they're worth now - Kedah, for example (SG 92/102) makes £120/£160. Snappers-up of scarce low values (including 2c shades, where applicable) will enjoy their rewards - with one exception. Practically any U 8c value is scarce, *except* for Perlis and Trengganu. Here the 8c values are priced at barely more than the other low values they accompany.

Stanley Gibbons Commonwealth Stamp Catalogue: Brunei, Malaysia and Singapore 6th edition

....Reviewed by Len Stanway and Michael Round ....cont'd

**Malayan Federation** issues start with four values designed to supplement each of those 1957-60 States pictorials. (Their face-values don't duplicate them.) They make an informative album-page if correctly interspersed - easy M but trickier U if relevant postmarks are your aim. Alone, the listed shades would stretch these four values to nine: and I still think adding a word to the variant-perf footnote ("The top five *vertical* perforation holes...") would reassure readers exactly which perfs are being referred to.

Malayan Federation segues seamlessly into **Malaysia** proper. I'm glad (because I own them, hooray!) that the 1965 Birds 'Inscription' and 'Egg' flaws (SG 23a, 25a) are now priced U (£20 and £45, since you ask). Post-1970, SG have been busy. Every "info-box" is worth attention, whether on Personalised Stamps (see after SG 1737, 1789 and 2214) or, fascinatingly, the installation of the 15th king (see after 2249). Forgive me for not examining the remaining 80 pages of commems more closely. Life is too short.

**Malaysian States:** the 1971-85 Butterflies contain some astonishing prices among the later photogravure printings, like the Kedah 2c (SG 130a, £20/£25) or Perlis (the three values 54a/ 55a, out of sight at £1750 M/ £170 U). Trengganu 116a/7a shows a new but wrong set price (£9 M: separately, £59!). In Perlis (again) the later Orchid 20c sticks out (71, £225/£18, formerly £140/£9). Check elsewhere, memorise, and raid those stamp-fair album pages! - likewise with the late unwatermarked **Federal Territory** Orchids (SG K10/14), which reach up to £28 M/ £7 U. Most copies will of course be used in Kuala Lumpur: Labuan postmarks are theoretically possible, but they must be rare.

Later Malaysian States could be navigated more easily if their watermark descriptions ("**W** 138") could add "*of Malaysian National Issues*" or "*(Multiple SPM)*". The relevant watermark illustration is pages and pages distant. Maybe it doesn't matter, since every stamp is probably identifiable some other way. A field well worth exploring, nonetheless, if only you can find stocks. One nit-pick: the note on perforation varieties (between **Johore** SG 208 and 209) is out of order. The table of perforations should come at the end.



*Personal favourites - Singapore's Chinese New Year issues of 1996-2007*

**Singapore**, a collectors' favourite, is closely monitored by devotees and needs little comment from me. There's a reference to 19th-century usage in Christmas Island, but nothing on more recent usage. I once owned a splendid cover bearing Singapore KG6 definitives with Christmas Island cancels, and I'm now sorry I sold it. Among even more recent issues, Nicodemus Loh's Chinese New Year designs for 1996- 2007 are among my personal favourites: less so effusions like the 2005 National Day issue (1482/562), occupying

no less than - ouch! - four 20-value sheetlets plus a miniature sheet. I've no plans to leave album space for this. I'll stick to definitives: the 2007-10 Flora and Fauna (1692/760da) come with different imprint dates and could usefully be relisted in short sets (as in SG's Hong Kong cat) so we can easily see what exists.

Singapore's Machine Labels listing has dropped out, probably in error. In compensation, and in order to end positively, let me quote the very last "info box" in the whole book (below SB101). "*A booklet containing 10 '1st Local' Goldfish stamps,*" we are told, "*was distributed free of charge to every household in Singapore to compensate for the increase in the '1st Local' rate to 51c in October 2023.*" Catch that happening here!

**Michael Round**

# AI and Philately (Part I) An Introduction by Michael Dodd

What does it mean to you when you read about or hear about AI and philately? It could mean many things, ranging from the sublime to the ridiculous, to the good, the bad and the ugly.

The expression linking “ridiculous” and “sublime” originated with Tom Paine in *The Age of Reason in 1794* and in today's world, the age of reason might be an even more appropriate expression. We need reason for what we are doing with AI in philately. We have jumped from the French Revolution to the digital revolution and AI is here whether we like it or not, and whether we embrace it or not.

And so we come to the good, the bad and the ugly. Yes it can be good for us if we know how to use it, and not so good if bad actors misuse it, and ugly if very bad actors completely misuse it, for fraud and unethical practices. And yes, that is already happening!

So what does AI and philately mean to you, what is good, how can AI used in philately be used for good and what can we do to bring about positive change and intelligent use of AI.

I have started thinking about this and working with another IPDA Director to try to answer these and other related questions.

I am thinking the IPDA could and in fact should take a positive step with this topic and develop, for example, some guidelines for the appropriate use of AI in philately, for example, something along the lines of an Ethics & Standards Framework for Philately and AI.

In many areas AI is already changing how dealers and collectors research, authenticate, catalogue, and share philatelic material.

Is something along the lines of an ethics and standards framework what we need? I think so.



This framework might include and set down ethical principles, standards, and practical guidelines to ensure AI enhances rather than undermines the integrity, accessibility, and value of philately for both us as dealers and our collector customers.

I welcome your thoughts. Please email me, at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com). I value your thinking on what I think is a very relevant topic in philately today.

And if you want to read just a little bit more try this <https://www.stampidentifierapp.com/blog/ai-stamp-identification-technology> or go to Part II on the following pages.

Thank you, Michael Dodd IPDA General Secretary and cddstamps

## AI and Philately (Part II) An Example by Michael Dodd

On the previous page you read - I hope :-)) - my introduction piece to AI and Philately . Here is my follow up. There is so much to say on this topic and as I wrote in my other piece I welcome comments but the reason for this follow up is to give an example of how I recently used AI.

I was studying and cataloging early 1900 Belgian Congo issues and had a question. I don't have a wealth of hard copy reference books at my disposal but I do have CoPilot.

The following is unedited - just to show an example of what we can get from an AI request for information. Yes, we need, I needed, to read and assess carefully but I think it is a rather good summary to my question: "for Belgian Congo stamp issues in 1908 how do you tell the difference between postal cancelled and hand cancelled stamps?"

And hopefully as well as demonstrating the power of AI this is an interesting topic to read about. The following is CoPilot's response:

For Belgian Congo 1908 issues, it matters a lot because huge numbers of "used" stamps on the market were never postally used, especially the overprints. Many were cancelled in sheets, cancelled-to-order, or hand-cancelled by collectors and dealers.

Below is a clear, structured way to tell the difference between genuine postal cancellations and hand/favor cancellations on the 1908 Belgian Congo issues.

What a genuine postal cancellation from Belgian Congo (1908 era) typically looks like. These characteristics reflect how mail was actually processed in Congo post offices.

### 1. Ink quality

- Usually oily, dense black or violet ink that soaks into the paper.
- Often slightly uneven because of humid climate and rough handling.

Sometimes shows pressure embossing on the back from the handstamp.

### 2. Strike quality

- Rarely perfect. Expect:
- Partial strikes
- Off-center strikes
- Double strikes from slipping
- Smudging from tropical humidity
- A perfect circular cancel is *possible*, but uncommon.



### 3. Placement

- Often hits the design, not neatly in the corner. Frequently overlaps perforations because stamps were cancelled after being affixed to envelopes.

### 4. Date and town names

- Belgian Congo had many small offices with distinctive types:
  - o BANANA
  - o MATADI
  - o STANLEYVILLE
  - o LEOPOLDVILLE
  - o LUKUNGA
  - o BOMA

Dates are often incomplete or blurred.

### 5. Back of stamp

- You may see:
  - Ink bleed-through
  - Paper compression

Traces of envelope fibers

These are strong signs of genuine postal use.

What a hand-cancelled / favor-cancelled / CTO Belgian Congo stamp looks like

These were extremely common, especially for the 1908 overprints.

### 1. Ink appearance

- Cleaner, more even ink.
- Often dry, matte black that sits *on top* of the paper rather than soaking in.

No embossing or pressure marks.

Strike quality

- Perfectly centered, full circular strikes.
- Often identical strikes across multiple stamps.

Sometimes the same date appears on many stamps (a giveaway).

### 3. Placement

- Neatly placed in the corner or perfectly centered.
- Does *not* overlap perforations.

Looks “too good to be true.”

### 4. Gum

- If gum is present on a “used” stamp → not postal.

Many Congo 1908 stamps exist with full gum and perfect cancels.

### 5. Dates

- Sometimes show impossible dates:
  - Dates before the post office opened
  - Dates after the stamp was withdrawn

Same date repeated across a whole set

Special notes for the 1908 Belgian Congo overprints

These issues are notorious because:

- Many were cancelled in bulk for collectors.
- Some were hand-cancelled by postal clerks as favors.

Some were forgeries of cancels added later to increase value.

A genuine postal cancel on a 1908 overprint is worth more and is much scarcer than a favor cancel.

## From the Editor's Desk



We want to hear from you! Tell us your stamp stories. What's your favorite stamp? What's your greatest stamp find? Tell us a stamp joke or a riddle. Send it to yours truly, Ted Tyszka, at:

[ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com)

and you will be rewarded with my undying gratitude.

Practical tests you can do immediately

## 1. Check the gum

Gum present → almost certainly *not* postal.

## 2. Look at the cancel under magnification

- Postal: ink fibers penetrate the paper.

Hand cancel: ink sits on top, edges look sharp.

## 3. Compare with known Congo postmarks

If you want, you can send me:

- A scan of the stamp

A close-up of the cancel

I can identify the cancel type and the post office.

## 4. Look for “too perfect”

Belgian Congo postal history is messy. Perfect cancels are suspicious.

If you'd like, you can show me a specific stamp or cancel and I'll help you determine which type it is.

A couple of extra nuances you might find useful as you continue working with these:

Subtle tells that often separate genuine postal use from favor cancels

- Humidity distortion: Congo postal material often shows slight paper waviness or tone changes from the tropical climate. Favor cancels done in Belgium or Europe lack this.
- Mixed-ink impressions: Some small Congo offices re-inked their cancellers inconsistently, so you sometimes see faint-to-dark gradients within a single strike — a very good sign of authenticity.

Overprint interaction: On the 1908 overprints, genuine cancels often *break* slightly over the raised ink of the overprint. Favor cancels tend to glide smoothly across it.

When in doubt, the “three-point test” rarely fails

- Does the cancel look *too good*?
- Does the stamp still have gum or a pristine back?

Does the cancel match known postal behavior for that office?

If two of those lean “yes,” it's almost always a favor or CTO.

Why this matters so much for Congo collectors. *And especially us dealers.* You already know this, but it's worth saying plainly: genuinely used Belgian Congo stamps from this era are significantly scarcer than mint, and the market is slowly catching up to that reality. Being able to distinguish the real postal material gives you a huge edge when evaluating collections or writing about the period.

So, what do you think? Is this a comprehensive AI reply to my question? I think so. Do you have any comments having read this? Have you done similar research? I welcome your thoughts and if you agree we can share and all learn a little perhaps.

Michael Dodd IPDA General Secretary and cddstamps

## World War II Propaganda French Forgeries by Jon Griffiths

During World War II the PWE printed a series of French stamps. The PWE was the Political Warfare Executive a British clandestine organization established in 1941 to conduct psychological warfare against Nazi Germany and its allies. Its primary goal was to damage enemy morale, sustain the morale of occupied nations, and spread both "white" (official) and "black" (covert/propaganda) messages through radio broadcasts and printed materials



The Mercury vignette

The stamps comprised eleven forged denominations in all, although there are just four actual vignettes; Mercury, Iris, Petain bare-headed and Petain with cap.

All but the scarlet 30 centimes Mercury are printed in perforated sheets of 20 (5 x 4); the Mercury is printed in a sheet of 16, with four blocks of four separated by gutters. (shown on next page)

The genuine stamps are perforated 14:13 1/2, as are the forgeries with the exception of the 30 centimes Mercury, the 1 franc 50 centimes Iris and the 1 franc Petain with cap, which is perforated 15:14. Imperforate sheets exist for all values.

Each item is identifiable by a "secret mark" or its perforation. Whereas the secret marks may have been intentionally introduced for an espionage purpose, it is more likely that they are unintentional. These forgeries were initially produced in 1942; some "H-numbers" are known. H-numbers are identifiers for PWE forged propaganda stamps, for example, **PWE No. H. 156** for the 25 centimes green Mercury forgery

A "Most Secret" memo from Dr. Beck (head of PWE's French desk) to Rex Leeper (head of SOE's SO1 propaganda unit— Special Operations Executive— Operations 1) reports on black propaganda to France for the week ending 23 May: about 1000 letters per week containing *LA France Libre* and *Weekly Times* are being distributed in France. The memo further states that: *... "We are now adopting the method of using fake business envelopes to avoid the internal censorship. (Specimens attached for information.) Stamps are manufactured by ourselves"*.

This almost certainly refers to the forgeries of French stamps. The specimen business envelopes are from "Compagnie Generale des Tabacs, Marseille (H.69)," "La Voix de France," and "La Nationale, Paris (Ixe)." The covers were intended to be inserted into the French mail system, where they would be postmarked by French postal service. It seems that none of these covers survived the war, but this memo provides evidence that the forged stamps were actually used in France. The "Most Secret" memo was discovered in the British National Archives.

In further research in the British National Archives evidence was found that over a thousand propaganda envelopes a week were sent into France, and one of the regular enclosures seems to have been the propaganda leaflet *Lettre d'Angleterre*. There were requests for additional envelopes (9,000 in three different colours) and even requests for additional stamps:

1.20 franc brown Pétain (2nd type with Képi), 70 centimes same type (orange or dark blue - which one has yet to be decided) - engraving of first type - used for values under 40 centimes - has also been ordered.

## World War II Propaganda French Forgeries .....cont'd



The Mercury Vignetter sheet

The postage stamps were forged for the French section of SO1, and their job was propaganda, not agent-running or intelligence-gathering.

The letter-writing unit was distributing thousands of envelopes inside Vichy France and Northern France. The letter-writing unit was shut down in 1942; the forged French postage stamps ceased being produced soon afterwards.

There are two British forgeries bearing the image of Mercury. The 25 centimes green Mercury of 1938-42 is PWE No. H.156.

10,000 copies were delivered to the French Section on 12 October 1942.

There is also a 30 centimes scarlet Mercury 1938-42. The 30 centimes Mercury is printed in a sheet of 16, (shown opposite) with four blocks of four separated by gutters. This is one of the more exotic sheets with gutters all around



The 1 franc 50 centimes red-brown Petain bare-headed 1941-43 is PWE No. H.191. (image left) 10,000 copies delivered to the French Section 21 October 1942.

The 2 francs green Petain bareheaded 1941-43 is PWE No. H.271 (November 1942); retouched and re-printed as PWE No. H.355B in April/May 1943.

10,000 copies of H.271 were delivered to the French Section on 30 November 1942. The 2 francs above is one of the rarer denominations.



*Reference and acknowledgement: Most of this information was taken from the research of Bob Baltzell and was presented to the British Empire Study Group in 2022*



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## Gibraltar Europa 2026 Imperforate Proofs



The Gibraltar Philatelic Bureau is pleased to unveil new imperforate proofs for the Set and Miniature Sheet of the Europa 2026 – 70th Anniversary collection.

Imperforate proofs are early trial printings of a stamp design, produced before the final perforated sheets are created. Printers use them to check colour accuracy, registration and overall print quality, which is why they are issued without perforations. As they represent a pre-issue stage of production, imperforate proofs are highly valued by collectors for both their rarity and the unique insight they provide into the development of a stamp.

Produced by Cartor Security Printers, these imperforate proofs from the Europa 2026 – 70th Anniversary are presented in mint condition, not hinged, and with original flawless gum. Each product is a genuine production item and is supplied with a Certificate of Authenticity, individually numbered and signed.

Imperforate material occupies a special position within advanced philatelic collections, appealing to those who seek more than the

finished stamp. Whether completing a Europa collection or acquiring a scarce production-stage variant, this set represents a significant addition. Demand for imperforate proofs consistently exceeds supply, and once sold out, no further quantities will be made available.

For philatelists and Europhiles alike these products are now available to purchase on [www.gibraltar-stamps.com](http://www.gibraltar-stamps.com).

Thank you, Stefano Blanca Sciacaluga, General Manager Philatelic Bureau, IPDA member #357

## Marketing and Advertising Announcement

As many members will know we have been searching for a new Director Marketing and Advertising for some time. We have been very fortunate to have a volunteer, Nisarg Sutaria, has come forward to take on this role. Many will also know Nisarg as a regular contributor to the IPDA Journal.

Nisarg will be responsibility for promoting the IPDA name and everything we stand for in philately across, for example, social media channels, including

- Facebook      - X (previously known as Twitter)      - LinkedIn      - Instagram      - YouTube
- Spotify          - Live Journal      -      - Tumblr          - Bluesky          - Pinterest

and other channels including our own Blog, various magazines, philatelic internet sites, and even perhaps shows and exhibitions, as opportunities and financial circumstances permit.

If you have ideas for where we can promote the IPDA please first send me an email to [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com) and working with our Chairman and Treasurer we will see what we can do with Nisarg to get the IPDA name better known across global, regional and local philatelic circles.

This marketing and advertising initiative supports our efforts to grow the IPDA membership and support all IPDA members by getting the IPDA name better known to collectors so they learn that we as IPDA members are dealers and philatelic organisations they can trust, work with and buy from with confidence.

Any comments please send them to me at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com) Thank You.

Michael Dodd IPDA General Secretary and on behalf of the IPDA Directors.

## The IPDA Blog

As many might recall we had an IPDA blog in the previous version of the IPDA website. Some years back now. With no one to write material on a regular basis it sort of faded out of sight. Well it is back and with Nisarg now looking after Marketing and Advertising we will be adding content on a regular basis again.

Nisarg already has shared content ideas and I think there will be useful material not only for us as IPDA members but also for collectors who we hope will visit the IPDA website to learn about IPDA members and learn more about many aspects of philately. As you know we have a Collectors Corner menu choice on the IPDA website and perhaps this IPDA Blog menu item now added will be another step in promoting the IPDA .

Ideas for content is most welcome and can be sent direct to Nisarg at [nisargsutaria78@gmail.com](mailto:nisargsutaria78@gmail.com) with please a copy to me at [ipdasecretary1@gmail.com](mailto:ipdasecretary1@gmail.com)

Go on, take a minute and have a look <https://www.ipdastamps.com/blog/>





Welcome John Dunn - This month we welcome John Dunn as a new member. John is from Merrimack, New Hampshire, USA and has been involved in philately for over 30 years. You may be more familiar with his name as it is synonymous with philatelic magazines most notably with Mekeel's & Stamps magazine and StampNewsNow. John can be contacted at [jd@stampnewsnow.com](mailto:jd@stampnewsnow.com) Perhaps another way to introduce John is to show this:



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A little more on John: Starting as a part-time stamp dealer in 1969, John's adventure in our hobby has included being the founder of the monthly Meriden, Connecticut, Second Sunday Stamp Shows that he ran for more than 400 shows, Director of Education of the Philatelic Foundation, and Editor of the New York Times Stamps Column.

In 1988 he purchased Mekeel's Weekly (founded in 1891), he purchased Stamps Magazine in 1995 (founded in 1932), he founded U.S. Stamp News in 1995, and in 2008, published two websites, the free access [www.stampnewsnow.com](http://www.stampnewsnow.com) and the subscription-based [www.stampnewsnowonline.net](http://www.stampnewsnowonline.net).

Throughout his career he has championed stamp dealers large and small as the most vital segment of our hobby and intends to continue to do so as a member of the IPDA and will continue to do so through the IPDA— his advert is on [Page 22](#).

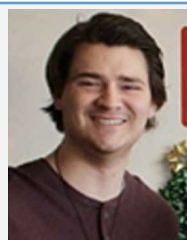
# This Month's Contributors



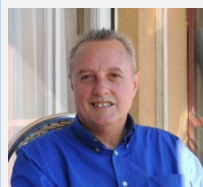
**Michael Dodd:** Michael Dodd is the owner/operator/chief cook and bottle washer of cddstamps — “commemorative definitive decimal stamps.” He has been selling since 2000 and has [a store on the Hipstamp marketplace](#) where he has 50,00+ listings and 98,000+ feedbacks. His online presence is through his website at [cddstamps.online](#), his blogs, notably his aircraft on stamps blog at [cddstamps.wordpress.com](#) and various other social media feeds.



**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 world, 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, focusing mainly on stamps from the United States, Ireland, Germany, and Vatican City. His particular areas of philatelic interest include baseball, ships, maps, trains, architecture, space, and Christmas. Beyond stamps, he is a lover of sports, reading, and learning new things. Dan runs a Substack called “[Stamping For Gold](#),” and lives with his wife and daughter near Dallas, TX.”



**Jon Griffiths** IPDA Director Europe and owner of Stanley Griffiths and Co at <https://www.hipstamp.com/store/stanley-griffiths-stamp-co> specializing in Europe, worldwide and scarce and rare stamps.



**Nisarg Sutaria:** Nisarg Sutaria hails 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. Nisarg is also now the IPDA Marketing and Advertising Director. An Honorary role he has volunteered to take on to support the IPDA . You can contact him via email:



**Ted Tyszka:** Ted Tyszka 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.” Contact the editor: [ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com](mailto:ted.talks.stamps@gmail.com)

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