

Sep-Oct 2026

Internet Philatelic
Dealers Association

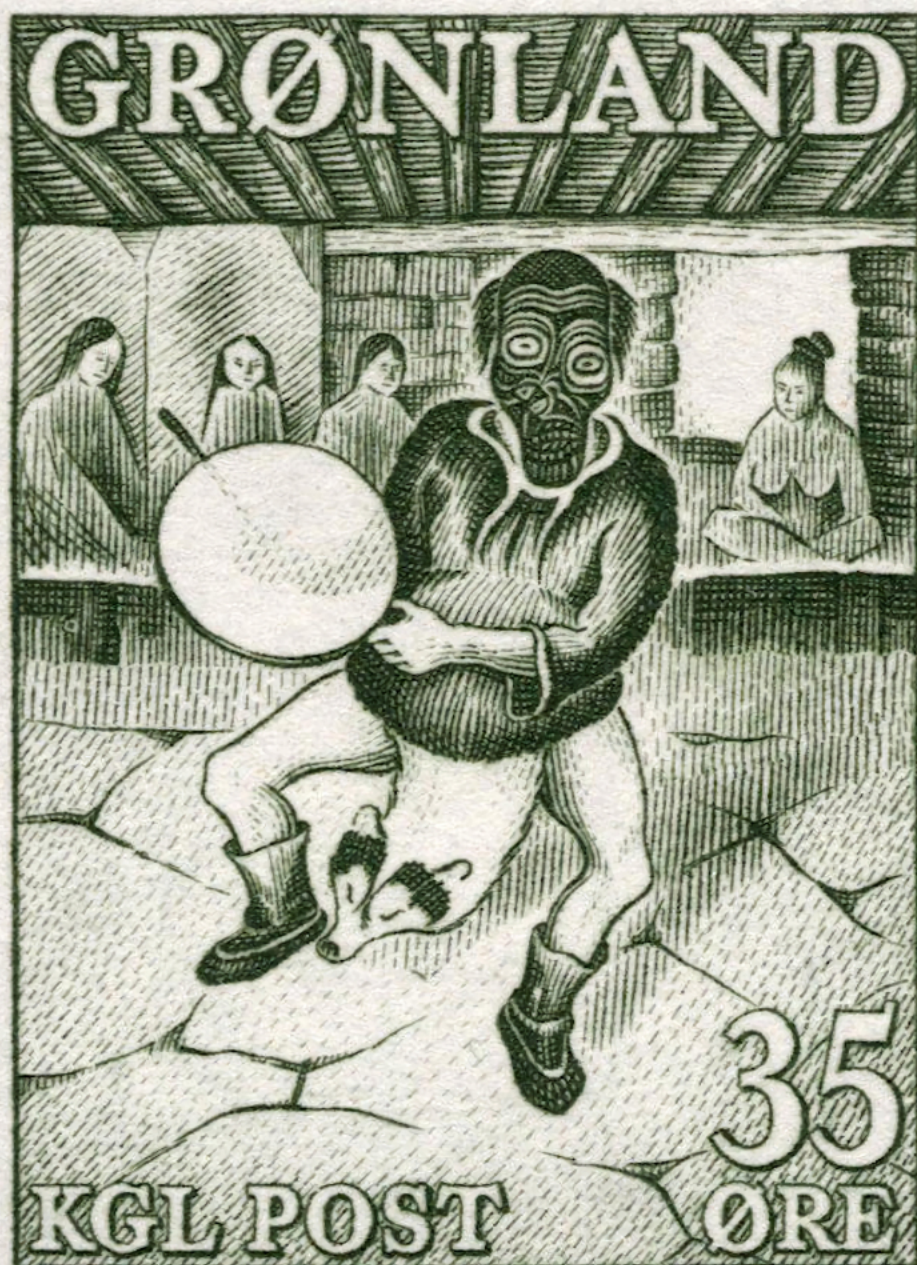


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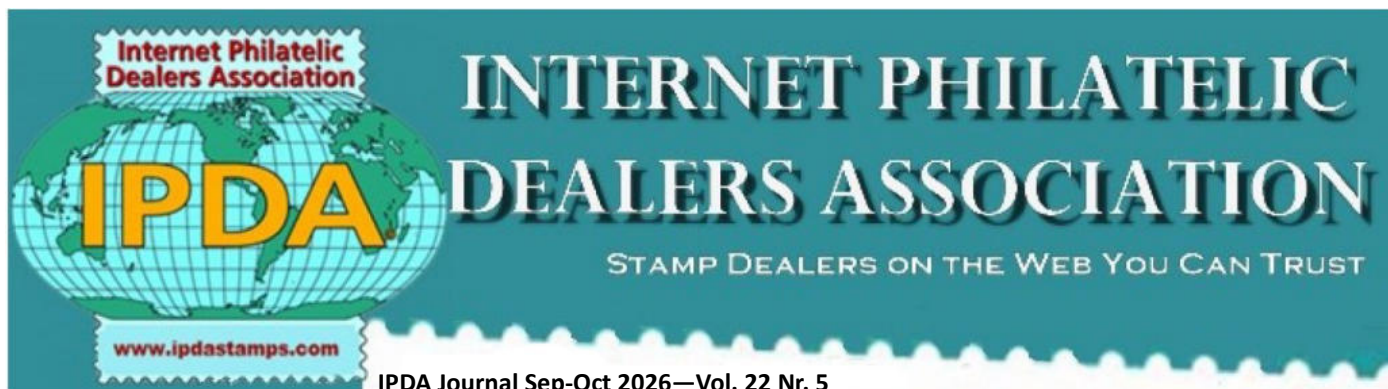
The IPDA Journal

Story: Page 15



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Chairman's Message



Hello to everyone!

I hope everyone is happy, healthy, and busy with your philatelic endeavors.

Just a couple quick things to announce.

For those IPDA members who have stores hosted by HipStamp, we have locked in the dates for the IPDA Weekend Sale Event: September 25 to 27, 2026. The event is exclusive to IPDA members selling on HipStamp, and participating stores will be featured in HipStamp newsletters and on their website over the weekend. We have done several of these in the past and results have usually been good. It makes for a great opportunity to move some stale stock and get a bump in promotion from HipStamp.

To participate, members just need to confirm by September 18 with their discount and sale details. Please send your details to Minaz Shaikh at HipStamp at minaz@hipecommerce.com.

I would also like to ask our members to put a little time into thinking about recruiting new IPDA members. Consider your dealer friends who have an internet presence or maybe your favorite wholesaler or auction house. It is easy to ask and we can only get the second-best answer there is which is "no".

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.

Finally, I want to give a big "shout-out" to Ted Tyszka for the great work he has done on the Journal. Outstanding stuff! It is very much appreciated.

I, along with my family and the all the very best for the rest of 2026. As always, if you have any questions or comments, my "door" is always open at ipdachair@gmail.com.

Greg Doll

Chairman, IPDA

IPDACHAIR@GMAIL.COM





New Members

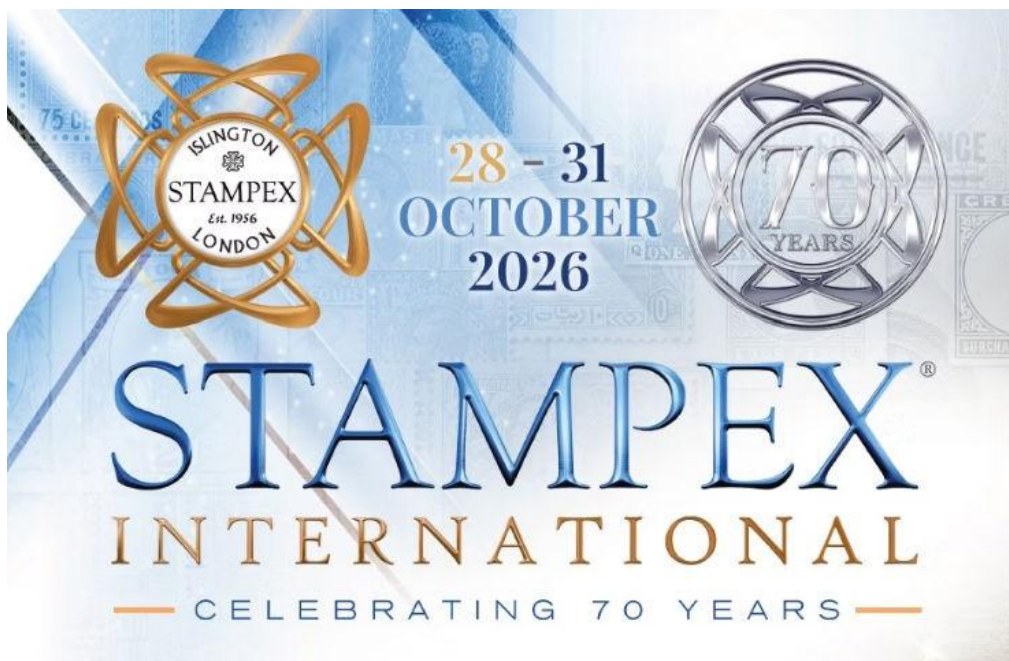
Russell Eggert



Dutch Country Auctions offers public auctions in-person and online, and a complimentary appraisal service and retail store in Delaware. The company specializes in U.S. & Worldwide:

History

The Stamp Center officially opened its doors on August 4, 1979, and has since experienced significant growth and expansion, including the acquisition of Dutch Country Auctions in 1983. This acquisition, along with Dutch Country's legacy dating back to the 1950s, has enabled us to offer a comprehensive range of services across the entire philatelic, numismatic, and related fields to a global clientele.



Mark your calendar for October 28-31, 2026; Stampex International is upon us again. Organised by The Philatelic Traders' Society, Stampex International is the largest philatelic collectibles fair in the UK with International exposure.

65 PTS (Philatelic Traders Society) will be in attendance, including IPDA member Richard Walker, of 1st4Stamps, at stand T3.

Held at the Business Design Centre, Islington London, admission is free to the public.

One of the features of the show is the interactive Display Your Way attraction. Here, electronic exhibits submitted by collectors of all levels of experience are displayed on large monitors.



It is rumored that a certain IPDA member with the initials Michael Dodd will have a display included. It is uncertain what the subject of his display will be, but the smart money in the prediction markets is betting it will have something to do with aircraft.



The WNS App

and the Future of Stamp Identification

By Dan Golden

When I was in Boston for the World Stamp Expo, I had the pleasure of meeting Benjamin Combes, a representative of the Universal Postal Union (UPU) who was helping to run their booth.

In our conversation, he gave me a personal demonstration of an app called WNS. What does WNS stand for? It stands for the WADP Numbering System, WADP itself referring to the World Association for the Development of Philately.

While WNS was created in 2002, the app has led to a massive transformation in recent years, giving it the potential to be of tremendous use to stamp collectors and dealers everywhere.

Intrigued by the app (and wanting the chance to work with someone on the international philatelic stage, I asked Mr. Combes if I could interview him and write an article about the app, to which he kindly agreed.

This article is written in partnership with Mr. Combes, and our interview is below. Please note, this article is a review of a mobile phone app; all photos contained here are screenshots from my phone that have been combined into a larger image for convenience.

Question: What's the name of the app, and where is it available for download?

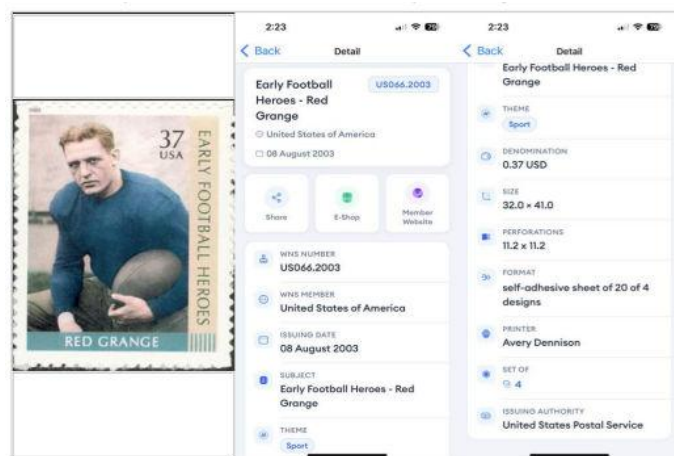
Answer: The app is called WNS. On the Apple App Store, it is listed as WNS – WADP Numbering System, while on Google Play it is listed simply as WNS. Both are the same official app developed by the World Association for the Development of Philately (WADP) under the framework of the Universal Postal Union (UPU).

Question: What is its purpose, and who is this app made for?

Answer: Originally, the WNS was created to combat counterfeit and illegal stamp issues by providing customs authorities, law enforcement agencies and postal inspectors with a simple and reliable verification tool. The value for collectors naturally grew from that foundation of making official philatelic information freely accessible.

Today, it serves as the world's official reference for postage stamps issued by designated postal operators of UPU member countries, providing authentic and reliable information supplied directly by the postal operators that issue the stamps.

By making this information available to all, the WNS promotes access to knowledge, supports education and research, contributes to preserving the world's philatelic heritage, strengthens confidence in postage stamps by helping combat counterfeit and illegal stamp issues, and gives official stamp issues unprecedented international visibility.



US #3811, honoring one of the early legends of American football, features Harold "Red" Grange, member of both the College Football Hall of Fame and the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

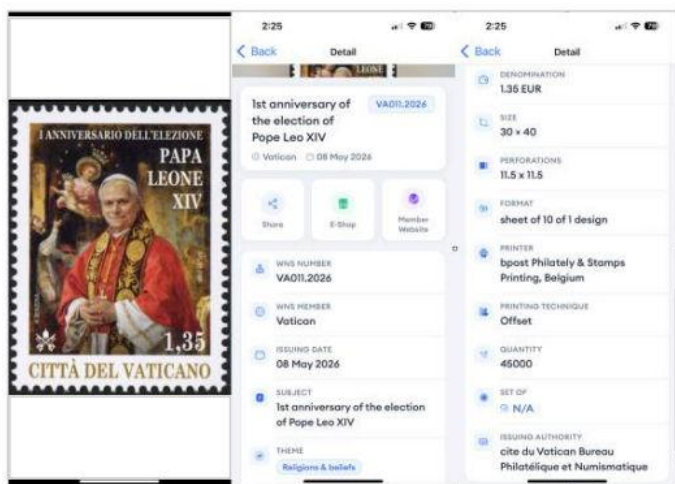
Originally developed for postal operators, the WNS is now designed for everyone with an interest in stamps: collectors, dealers, auction houses, researchers, museums, journalists, customs authorities and, more broadly, anyone wishing to

identify a stamp, verify its authenticity or simply learn more about its story and significance.

Question: What problem does this solve for philatelists?

Answer: One of the biggest challenges for philatelists is finding official, reliable and comprehensive information about a stamp. The WNS addresses this by providing a single trusted source, with all information supplied directly by the postal operators that issue the stamps. It also serves as a global cross-reference between the world's leading stamp catalogues, making it easy to match the different catalogue numbers used for the same stamp.

Let me reiterate that: the WNS does not simply provide reliable information, it publishes the official information supplied directly by the issuing postal operators themselves. Unlike commercial databases, this data is not open to interpretation or debate. They constitute the official reference published by the issuing authority, which gives the WNS a level of accuracy and authority that is difficult to match.



As the first American-born pope, hailing from my hometown of Chicago, and a fellow White Sox fan, I found it impossible to not include this stamp honoring the anniversary of Pope Leo XIV's election to the papacy. I cannot find the Scott Catalogue number, as WNS does not currently include that information.

In practical terms, collectors can perform instant multicriteria searches across the official stamp issues of participating countries, access high-resolution scans of stamps in their original condition (before cancellation), consult detailed technical specifications and rely on official information. Unlike many other databases, every image in the WNS is a genuine high-resolution scan of an authentic stamp

provided by the issuing postal operator, not a digitally created or retouched illustration. This significantly improves the reliability of the information, supports the detection of counterfeit and illegal stamp issues, and enhances the performance of the app's AI-powered image recognition. Simply photograph a stamp with your smartphone and, if it is registered in the WNS, the app identifies it within seconds and displays its official record.

The WNS also helps make philately more accessible to younger generations by transforming the smartphone into a genuine learning and discovery tool. More than just a database, it gives collectors something invaluable: confidence.

The confidence that the information they are consulting comes directly from the official source, while helping protect the integrity of philately worldwide.

Question: Can the app be used by dealers?

Answer: Absolutely. One of the fundamental principles of the WNS is that official philatelic information should be freely accessible to everyone.

The app is completely free to use and is designed for the entire philatelic community, from beginners discovering their first stamps, to experienced collectors, dealers, auction houses, expertizers, catalogue publishers, researchers, museums and postal operators. Everyone benefits from the same trusted information, supplied directly by the postal operators that issue the stamps.

The WNS is not intended to replace commercial catalogues or existing philatelic services, but to complement them by providing something only the issuing postal operator can offer: official, authentic and up-to-date information.

For dealers and other professionals, it provides an authoritative source to verify official issues, consult technical specifications, access high-resolution reference scans and easily cross-reference the world's leading stamp catalogues.

Looking ahead, expanding interoperability is an integral part of the WNS development roadmap. We are currently exploring the development of APIs [Application Programming Interfaces] that will enable dealers, auction houses, catalogue publishers, online marketplaces and other philatelic websites to integrate official WNS data directly into their own platforms.

Our objective is simple: make trusted official information available wherever collectors and professionals need it, while strengthening the global philatelic ecosystem.

Question: How does this app compare with other similar apps?

Answer: Rather than comparing the WNS with other apps, I would say that each serves different purposes.

What fundamentally sets the WNS apart is its role as the world's official reference database for postage stamps. Every piece of information it contains (including images, technical specifications, issue dates, face values and descriptions) is supplied directly by the postal operators that issued the stamps.

The WNS is therefore much more than a digital catalogue or a mobile app. It is a trusted global reference that collectors, dealers, researchers and postal operators can rely on with confidence. This direct relationship with the issuing postal operators ensures a level of authenticity and reliability that is unique.

Combined with free access, powerful search capabilities, AI-powered stamp recognition and the ongoing integration of historical stamp collections, the WNS offers a modern digital gateway to the world's official philatelic heritage.

Question: How many stamps are listed in the database?

Answer: As of July 9, 2026, the WNS contains 124,294 officially registered postage stamps from designated postal operators worldwide. This number is constantly increasing as new stamp issues are

registered and, increasingly, as postal operators contribute their historical collections.

[I can confirm that the database is growing every single day. As of August 3, 2026, the date I am writing this article, there are now 124,518 officially registered stamps on the WNS app, 224 more than when Mr. Combes responded to this question].

New stamp issues are continuously registered by participating postal operators, while historical collections are progressively being digitized and added to the WNS. As a result, the database is constantly growing.

In fact, I have recently strengthened the team dedicated to this work in order to further accelerate the integration of historical stamp collections. Building the world's official philatelic memory is one of the WNS's key strategic priorities for the years ahead. Our long-term ambition is to build the world's most comprehensive official philatelic database, preserving and making accessible the complete philatelic heritage of UPU member countries.

Question: How many countries have their stamps included in the database?

Answer: As of 9 July 2026, the WNS includes the official stamp issues of 204 countries and territories, making it the world's largest official database of postage stamps. The database continues to grow as participating postal operators register new stamp issues and progressively integrate their historical collections.

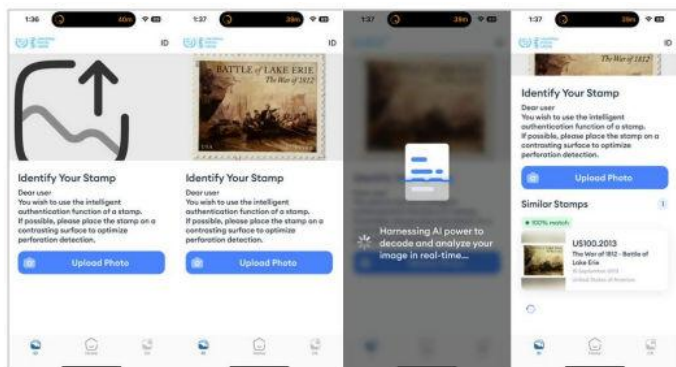
In the spirit of transparency, up-to-date statistics on the WNS - including the number of registered stamps, participating countries and territories, designated postal operators and other key indicators are publicly available at:

<https://www.wnsstamps.post/Home/Statistics?lang=en>

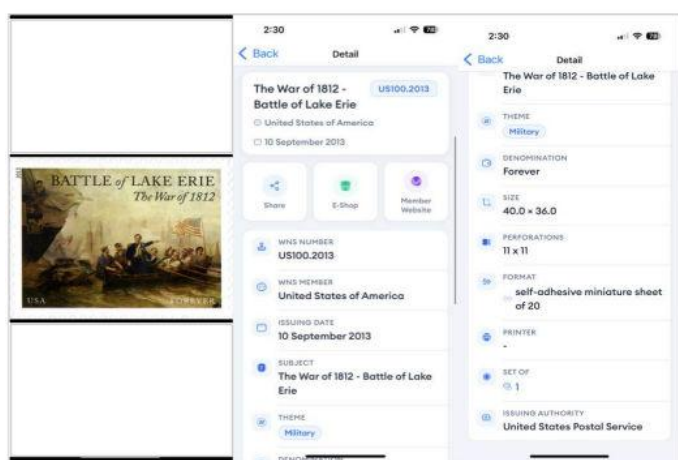
Question: Is the app available in any other languages, and if so, which ones?

Answer: Yes. The WNS is currently available in 12 languages [it was only eight at the time of our original interview]: English, French, German,

Spanish, Portuguese, Russian, Japanese, Chinese, Romanian, Azerbaijani and Arabic.



I tried out app's stamp identification feature, which allows you to either take or upload a photo of a stamp, on US #4805, which commemorates the Battle of Lake Erie.



And it worked! The app correctly identified the stamp and brought up all the information about it delivered straight from the USPS! I even discovered that this stamp was issued 200 years to the day of the famous battle!

Over the coming days, following the completion of final testing and linguistic reviews, we also expect to add Italian, Turkish, Slovenian and Hindi. Beyond these, additional language versions are already in preparation, with more to follow.

More broadly, I estimate that around 53 different languages are spoken across the 192 member countries of the Universal Postal Union. Our long-term ambition is therefore to progressively remove language barriers and strengthen the truly universal nature of the WNS by making it available in as many of those languages as possible.

Question: How easy is it to use?

Answer: Very easy. One of our design principles has always been that technology should never be a barrier to philately. Whether you are an experienced collector or simply curious about a stamp you've just

found, the WNS is designed to provide official information in just a few taps. No account, no subscription and no advertising—just open the app and start exploring.

From searching by country or keyword to instantly identifying a stamp using AI-powered image recognition, everything has been designed to be as simple and intuitive as possible.

If you know how to use a smartphone, you already know how to use the WNS.

Question: Are there different ways to look up stamps or find what you're looking for?

Answer: Yes. The WNS offers several ways to find a stamp, depending on what information you have. Users can browse by country or territory, year of issue, theme, keyword, WNS number, face value, or other technical criteria.

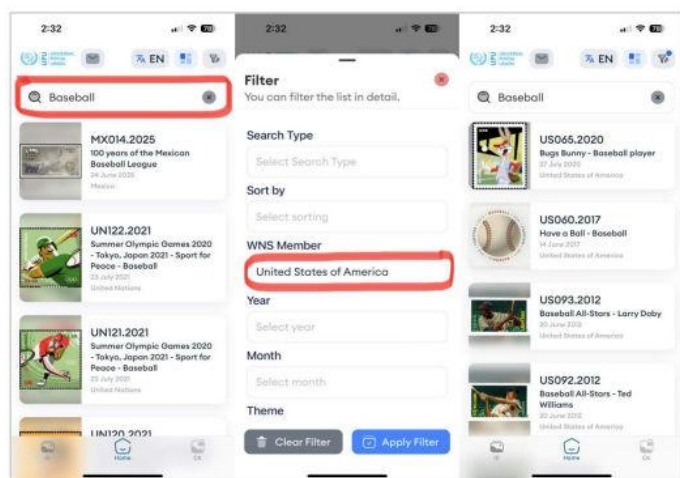
Advanced multi-criteria searches make it possible to quickly narrow down results across the entire database. Furthermore, users can search by the name of an artist or engraver and instantly retrieve every stamp on which that person has worked. For example, entering Elsa Catelin or Pierre Bara, two internationally renowned French engravers, immediately displays every stamp they have engraved that is registered in the WNS. This is a feature that is proving particularly popular among thematic collectors.

One of the app's most popular features is its AI-powered image recognition. Simply take a photograph of a stamp and, if it is registered in the WNS, the app will identify it within seconds and display its official record.

For those who enjoy discovering rather than searching, the WNS also highlights the latest stamp issues released around the world, making it easy to explore new designs, themes and postal administrations.

Another relatively new feature allows postal operators to indicate the official number of stamps printed. For example, with a single click, users can see that the French stamp honoring Jean-François

Millet, issued in 2025, had an official print run of 610,200 copies. This type of information has traditionally been difficult to access internationally, yet it is of considerable interest to collectors and researchers alike.



When searching “baseball,” I was initially greeted by stamps from Mexico and the United Nations, which was a bit unexpected. So I filtered down the search results to be only American stamps, and voila! There was Bugs Bunny on US #5502 looking back at me! Certainly a very userfriendly app!

Question: Does it cost anything?

Answer: For the public, absolutely nothing. The WNS is completely free to use. In line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the UPU's mission to make official knowledge accessible to everyone, the app contains no advertising, requires no subscription, no user account, and collects no personal data whatsoever.

Our philosophy is simple: official philatelic information is a public good and should be freely accessible to everyone, everywhere. Whether you use the WNS every day, only occasionally, or simply to identify a single stamp, you will always have free, unrestricted and privacy-respecting access to the world's official philatelic database.

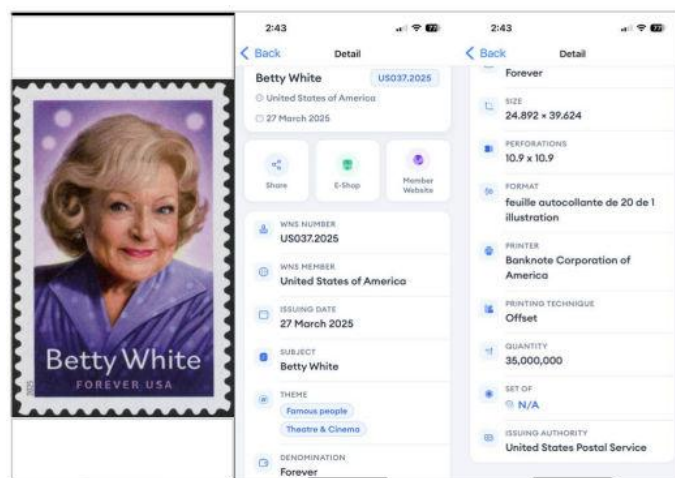
The success of the WNS is not measured by subscriptions, advertising revenue or the amount of personal data it collects. Its success is measured by how many people it helps discover, understand and enjoy the fascinating world of philately.

Question: Why doesn't everyone know about this already?

Answer: That's a very good question! The current version of the WNS mobile app was launched just 1 year ago. While the platform itself has existed for many years, it has recently been completely redesigned to offer a modern, multilingual and user-friendly experience for collectors around the world.

Since then, the International Bureau of the UPU and I have been actively promoting the WNS through international events, conferences, exhibitions, social media and our communication channels. However, the real ambassadors of the WNS are the designated postal operators themselves. Nothing can replace official communication at the national level, and we encourage every postal operator participating in the WNS to actively promote it through their own websites, social media, philatelic bureaus and collector communities.

The more postal operators promote the WNS, the more collectors discover it and the stronger the entire global philatelic community becomes.



Hollywood legend Betty White, seen here on her page for US #5976, seemed to be everywhere in the world of television. It only makes sense to find her in another medium, philately, as well.

Question: Tell me about the numbering system. Looking at the USA's Betty White stamp as an example, what does the catalogue number used by WNS, in this case "US037.2025," mean?

Answer: Seeing a stamp with the code US037.2025 means that it is the 37th stamp registered in the WNS for USPS in 2025.

The challenge is that we process submissions exactly as they are received from each designated operator. We always make every effort to follow their official

philatelic issuance calendar whenever it is shared with us, but ultimately we can only register stamps in the order in which they are submitted.

If an operator does not send us all of its stamps, or submits them in the wrong order, there is unfortunately no way for us to know. As a result, the numbering may not perfectly reflect the actual chronological order of issue. Once a WNS number has been assigned, however, it is permanent and cannot be changed.

Question: WNS does not currently list the catalogue numbers from Scott or Stanley Gibbons. Does WNS plan to include that information in the future?

Answer: Indeed, as you quite rightly point out, every stamp dealer and catalogue publisher currently operates with its own numbering system, and only its own.

This is actually one of the key areas on which I intend to build bridges with them, through a partnership proposal that is currently being discussed. But for those who choose to work alongside us, we could integrate their respective numbering systems into the WNS, which would then become the single reference key linking them all together.

Question: Ireland and Germany are two countries that I have a focused collecting interest in, but neither seems to have any stamps listed in the database. Why is that?

Answer: As for Germany and Ireland, they have so far chosen not to participate in the WNS. We continue to encourage them to join, but ultimately the decision rests with each designated operator.

If you would like to help, the best way is to help increase the visibility and recognition of the WNS. The more widely it is used and consulted, the more compelling and valuable participation becomes for every designated operator.

Question: How can we help?

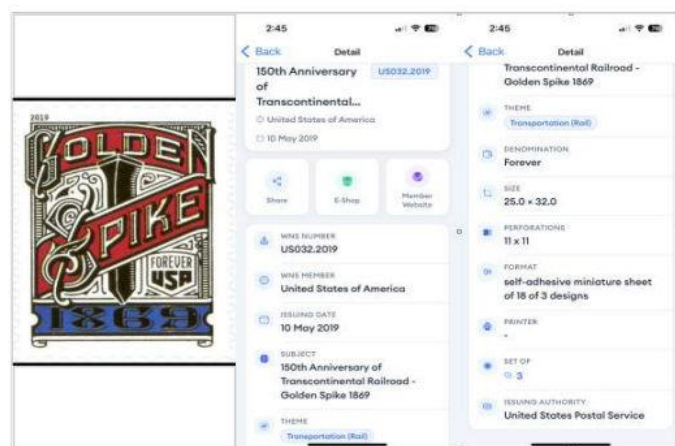
Answer: Simply help us spread the word. If you enjoy using the WNS, tell other collectors about it, recommend it to your stamp club, mention it on social media, or share it with friends and fellow philatelists. Every new user helps make official philatelic information more visible and accessible around the world.

We also encourage collectors to engage with their own postal operators. Ask them to regularly register their new stamp issues in the WNS, to progressively

digitize and integrate their historical collections, and to actively promote the WNS through their national communication channels. While the International Bureau of the UPU and I regularly promote the WNS internationally, nothing is more effective than official communication from the postal operators themselves within their own countries.

Finally, keep sharing your ideas and feedback with us. The WNS is continuously evolving, and many of its recent improvements have been inspired by suggestions from collectors, postal operators and philatelic professionals around the world.

We truly see the WNS as a collaborative project, built by the global philatelic community, for the global philatelic community. Together, we can build and preserve the world's official philatelic memory, one stamp at a time.



Much like how the Golden Spike and the Transcontinental Railroad helped to connect the far-flung and rural territories of the United States to the more developed areas of the country in the east, the WNS app has the potential to connect beginning collectors with the knowledge and expertise of the greater philatelic world!

Question: Any final thoughts to leave us with?

Answer: I would like to stress one important point. From the very beginning, I designed the WNS to be an evolving platform rather than a finished product. What you see today is only the beginning. Our ambition is to continuously enrich the WNS with new services that create value for collectors, postal operators and the wider philatelic community.

Among the ideas we are currently exploring are features that could help reconnect the public with postal operators by making philately more interactive and useful in everyday collecting. For example, we are looking at providing real-time access to second-market valuations, enabling collectors to manage their personal collections

directly within the WNS, and developing many other innovative services built around trusted official data.

Our vision is not simply to build the world's official philatelic database, but to create the world's leading digital ecosystem for philately—one that combines trust, innovation and accessibility while bringing collectors and postal operators closer together.

The following is not part of the interview, only my own review of the app.

From my exploration of the app and the in-depth responses from Mr. Combes, the key takeaway is that the WNS is an ongoing initiative working slowly backward in time with stamps. A couple of the app's core strengths are the accuracy of information provided and the fact that an already very large database continues to grow by the day!

Furthermore the AI-powered stamp identifier has the potential to be extremely useful to collectors everywhere who find new or unrecognized stamps and want to learn more about them, which they can do with a quick scan and search!

However, it does still have some shortcomings, namely the absence of catalogue numbers from Scott or Stanley Gibbons to help identify stamps in your collection.

Additionally there is currently a shortage of stamps on the older side listed in the database. While I could not find an exact cutoff year for when listings become sparse, users may struggle to find stamps that are older than around 50 years. Mr. Combes assures me though that those stamps are coming to the app soon. We just need to be patient and do our part to spread the word.

All in all, I would give this app 4.5 / 5 stars because it is very good at providing what it can provide now, and I can only assume it will get better with time!

Thank you again to Benjamin Combes of the UPU for his contributions to this article. I also want to commend him and his team for the work they have done to make the WNS app as good as it currently is, and their continued dedication to improving the app for future users. I encourage you all to give the app a try and see how it can be an aid in your philatelic pursuits.



IPDA Brochure Download

The IPDA brochure is a pdf document which dealers can download and print, and may be used as a handout to promote the IPDA at shows and stamp bourses. You can download it here . . . [IPDA Brochure](#)

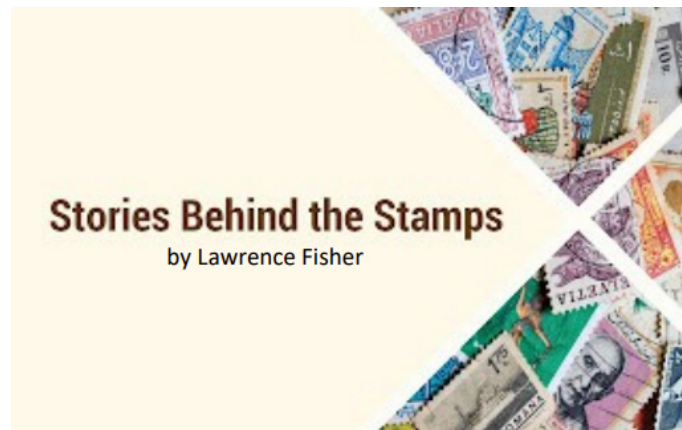


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The “Hidden Hitler Head” On the 1964 Ellwangen Stamp



On 15 December 1964 the Deutsche Bundespost and the West Berlin postal administration each issued a 50 Pfennig stamp in the long-running definitive series “Deutsche Bauwerke aus zwölf Jahrhunderten”. The value shows Ellwangen, with the castle gate filling the center of the design and a stylized tree growing alongside the building. For most postal customers it was just another new building stamp, slightly rustic in its woodcut style but otherwise unremarkable.

With a little imagination, however, the tree on the right-hand side can be read quite differently. Some observers saw in the branches a small “head with hat”, and those inclined to see politics everywhere quickly interpreted this as a “Hitler head” hidden in the foliage.

On its own this would probably have remained a collector’s curiosity, the sort of pattern our brains like to discover in clouds and wallpaper.

In East Germany, though, this perceived image did not remain a harmless joke. Postal-war literature reports that the East German postal authorities “discovered” on this 50 Pfennig Ellwangen stamp a Hitler head with bowler hat concealed in the treetops and used the story for propaganda purposes. It suited the official narrative of latent fascism in the Federal Republic and provided a convenient example that could be shown in philatelic circles and internal briefings.



Interestingly, this interpretation did not lead to a general ban on the stamp. Mail franked with the Ellwangen/Jagst value was, as a rule, accepted in the GDR, even when it appeared on the same cover as the politically sensitive “20 Jahre Vertreibung” stamp of 1965, which was routinely blacked out by the East German post. In most districts the supposed Hitler head remained untouched, which makes the surviving covers all the more instructive.



The notable exception was the Oberpostdirektion Potsdam. In its area the postal staff sometimes took the accusation literally and blacked out only the alleged head in the tree, while leaving the rest of the stamp perfectly readable. On some covers, where the Expulsion stamp had already been obliterated, the “Hitler head” in the Ellwangen tree was also covered. This treatment is recorded in postal-war catalogues under the entry “1964.3-E Hitler Kopf geschwärzt”.

No official order has yet come to light that would explain this practice. It is therefore unclear whether the blackening was an unofficial initiative by over-zealous postal workers, or whether there was an internal directive that never reached the public record. What we can say is that the measure appears to have been restricted to this one regional administration; elsewhere in the GDR the Ellwangen stamp, Hitler head or not, passed unmolested through the postal system.

From a postal-historical point of view this turns an otherwise ordinary building definitive into a neat little Cold War document. The stamp itself was not withdrawn or surcharged, yet a tiny detail in its design was enough to provoke localised censorship in one East German district. Covers showing the carefully placed black or grey patch in the treetop – especially when they also bear an obliterated Vertreibung stamp – nicely illustrate how political interpretation, propaganda and day-to-day postal practice could intersect in the divided Germany of the 1960s.



Jens Rosing: Fifty Years of Greenlandic Stamps

By Ted Tyszka

July 28, 2025 marked the 100th anniversary of the birth of Greenland's foremost stamp designer. Greenland Post, or Tusass, marked the occasion by issuing not just a commemorative stamp, but also a souvenir sheet, a black print, a souvenir folder, and a prestige booklet—a lineup befitting the man whom collectors and postal historians call the Grand Old Man of Greenlandic stamps, and a fitting tribute to an artist who, over half a century, put more of Greenland's soul onto these tiny gummed canvases than anyone before or since.



100-året for Jens Rosings fødsel 28. juli 1925

The 100th anniversary of
Jens Rosing's birth, 28th July 1925



Between 1957 and 2007, Rosing's illustrations appeared on more than 100 stamps—by some counts over 150—roughly a third of all stamps Greenland Post issued in that span. But reducing Jens Rosing to a stamp artist, however prolific, misses the scale of the man. He was also a reindeer herder, filmmaker, museum director, folklorist, and the designer of Greenland's national coat of arms (below).



Rosing was born on July 28, 1925, in Jakobshavn (today's Ilulissat) on Greenland's west coast, the son of Otto Pavia Jørgen Rosing, a Lutheran pastor, writer, and painter, and Sara Gertrud Vilhelmine Birgitte Siegstad. His father's clerical postings took the family east to the Ammassalik (Tasiilaq) region, where young Jens absorbed the oral traditions of a part of Greenland still relatively isolated from Danish colonial life. This wasn't incidental exposure: Otto Rosing, along with his brother Peter, had spent years recording East Greenlandic legends, continuing work their own father Christian Rosing had begun as a missionary-ethnographer at the turn of the century. Jens grew up, in other words, inside a multi-generational project of listening to and preserving Inuit stories long before he ever picked up a brush professionally.



He finished secondary school in Denmark in 1944 and, after spending two years working for Kongelige Grønlandske Handel, the Danish state company that held the trade monopoly over Greenland, moved into formal art training: a year at the Akademiet for Fri og Merkantil Kunst, studying design and illustration, followed by two years at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, studying painting under Kristen Iversen.

What happened next is one of the odder turns in the biography of any stamp designer. Rather than heading straight into an artistic career, Rosing spent the early 1950s learning reindeer husbandry from Sámi communities in Norwegian, Swedish, and Finnish Lapland. In 1952 he brought several hundred reindeer back to Greenland from Norway's Finnmark region and spent the next seven years running a reindeer station in the Godthåbsfjorden area (today's Nuup Kangerlua), near Nuuk—introducing a practice that had no real precedent on the island. That same year, 1952, he married Dagny Nielsen, a Danish woman, and the couple raised their four children partly on the remote fjord station, including their eldest son Minik, who would go on to become a geologist, and their youngest, daughter Ina, who became a visual artist and continues her father's legacy as a stamp designer for Greenland.

In 1959 the family relocated to a Copenhagen suburb, mainly so the children could get a proper education—a decision that says something about how Rosing balanced a deep Greenlandic identity with the practical demands of raising a Danish-Greenlandic family.

Rosing's first stamp appeared in 1957: a 60-øre blue design (right) illustrating the legend of the Mother of the Sea, Sedna, the figure in Inuit cosmology who governs marine life and whom hunters and shamans appealed to for good fortune



while at sea. It was Greenland's first commemorative stamp and set the template for everything that followed—mythology and daily life rendered in a distinctive ethnographic style.

Over the following five decades his designs moved through kayak hunts, sled dogs, drum dances, and legendary figures like the boy and the fox—a tale later engraved by the celebrated Czesław Ślania (below).

His technique shifted too, from the tight, single-color engraving style of his early work toward looser watercolors and drawings later on, giving his later stamps a softer, more painterly feel (below).



His final stamp design (below), issued in 2007, showed a sled-dog team crossing the ice—a quiet, fitting closing image for a career built almost entirely around Arctic motion and survival.



Alongside the stamps, Rosing designed Greenland's national coat of arms in 1989: a silver polar bear on a blue shield, adopted by the Greenland Parliament that May and still in use today (seen at top).

Rosing's output outside the stamp world was just as substantial. He wrote and illustrated a string of books—memoirs, folklore collections, and family sagas, many translated into English or French. His 1963

collection *Sagn og Saga fra Angmassalik*, drawn from recordings by himself, his father, and his uncle, is considered one of the more important primary sources for East Greenlandic oral literature. His 1979 book *Himlen er lav* (translated as “The Sky Hangs Low”) documented one of Greenland’s most significant archaeological discoveries: the 15th-century Qilakitsoq mummies, unearthed during his own tenure as director of the Greenland National Museum in Nuuk from 1976 to 1978. It was Rosing who recognized the cultural importance of the find and pushed for its formal excavation and study.



He also made five short ethnographic films between 1966 and 1972—among them *Den sidste konebådsrejse* and *Umialik*—documenting traditional umiak voyages and coastal hunting practices that were already fading by the time he filmed them.

Rosing was awarded many honors for his work, including Greenland’s *Fortjenstmedalje* in 1997—a medal Rosing himself had designed eight years earlier.

What makes Rosing worth remembering a century after his birth isn’t just the volume of work — a third of an entire nation’s

stamp output is no small feat — but the consistency of purpose behind it. Whether he was herding reindeer, excavating mummies, filming umiak crews, or engraving a 60-øre stamp, the through-line was the same, a lifelong effort to keep Greenlandic and East Greenlandic oral culture from disappearing and to instead put it, quite literally, into circulation.

For collectors, that 2025 centennial issue is more than a nice design, it’s Greenland Post honoring the person most responsible for making its stamps a genuine visual record of Inuit life, rather than generic Nordic scenery with a postal value printed on top.



Stamp of the Month

By Nisarg Sutaria

Great Britain 1904, 6p dull violet Official Stamp Scott Cat. Nr. O22, SG Nr. O23



In the early 1900s a scandal broke at Somerset House in London. A clerk named Walter Richards, who worked in Inland Revenue, and a very prominent philatelist, Anthony Creeke, co-author of *The Adhesive Stamps of the British Isles*, were charged with "liberating" Official stamps from official stocks, replacing them with normal un-overprinted stamps, and selling the Officials to dealers including Stanley Gibbons.

Several philatelists were prosecuted and convicted, one receiving a prison sentence. To stop the embarrassment and the black market entirely, the Post Office and Inland Revenue decided to abolish the whole system of Official overprints. An official order withdrawing all Official stamps from use was issued in May 1904.

The new 6d pale dull purple I.R. Official had just been put on sale at Somerset House on March 14, 1904. Its life was therefore only about two months. The official withdrawal date was May 13-14, 1904.

It was barely ever used. When it was used inside the department, clerks were instructed to cancel it so heavily that it would be worthless to collectors.

How many survived?

It's believed only 19 sheets—2,280 stamps—were ever printed, and all were ordered to be destroyed.

The destruction was almost complete: One sheet of 234 stamps—a complete sheet of 240 less six—is housed in the British Postal Museum & Archive heritage collections. The Royal Collection at Buckingham Palace has an example.

Outside of these institutions, only about six to eight mint examples are known. Virtually all are of very poor quality except for a couple of fine ones.

That's why Gibbons lists it at £475,000 mint and why it is described as the last Great Britain Official ever printed.

Stanley Gibbons sold a superb mint example for £400,000 in 2010. The 2024 Scott Catalogue lists it at \$575,000 Mint and \$345,000 Used. Other fine examples have sold for well over £100,000.

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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, he's been collecting stamps since 2021. His collection includes stamps from the United States, Ireland, Germany, and Vatican City. Particular areas of philatelic interest include baseball, hockey, ships, maritime themes, maps, trains, architecture, and Christmas. Beyond stamps, he loves sports, reading, and learning new things. Dan lives with his wife and daughter near Dallas.



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 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."

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