

THE PATENT

Monthly newsletter of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

May 2023

Number 46

Upside Down

By Joseph Duke



In the beginning, it is the summer of 1951, and a 6-year-old boy is leaving the Kresge Department store at Main and Frederick Douglass in Brockton Massachusetts.

He is very excited to get home with his newly acquired “Adventurer Album” for World stamps and packets of stamps and hinges.

In a couple years he would learn of the 24¢ inverted Jenny issued in 1918

Only 1 sheet of 100 was purchased and each stamp quickly was of unspeakable value for the common collector.



The boy saw no hope to acquire such a rare stamp.

It was 10 years later when this young man saw a revenue stamp, Scott 135B with George Washington standing on his head for about \$10.00 at H.E. Harris.

He saved his paper route money and bought this stamp and was now the proud owner of a rare invert.



Several years later, now a grown man, he connected with the stamp dealer Martin Sellinger.

Sellinger specialized in inverted centers, and he found that there were many inverts from around the world and many in a reasonable price range.

One of his favorite stamps is Liberia 62a, 1905, 5¢ ultramarine & black, center inverted.



No one can speak better regarding this stamp than the late Kasimir Bileski.

The following is from an Advertisement in 1974 by Kasimir Bileski.

LIBERIA No. 62a

THE INVERTED ELEPHANT

All those who collect Liberian stamps will at once know what this number means. Merely to list it is enough to cause the heart to beat a little faster and the blood pressure to rise. This is the big error that has been, and is, on every Liberian want list, and it didn't matter how much money one commanded, the want lists have remained unfilled for almost the 70 years since this stamp first appeared. Colonel Rogers, in his authoritative "A Century of Liberian Philately" made note that Scott was the only catalog anywhere to list such a variety but that he had never seen it. He had plenty of company, for nowhere in the world was there a dealer who had it in stock, nor any collector who had a copy in his collection.

Just one exception. There was a collector who had the entire sheet of 60 of the error, all that were ever found. It is not known when it was discovered, very likely soon after it was printed in 1905 by the great English firm of Waterlow and Sons, but for certain it was a genuine printing error found in the postal stocks. The sheet still has the number 482 which means it was the 482nd sheet to be numbered. The renowned dealer, Philip Ward Jr. acquired and sold it intact to a specialist in Liberian stamps and the sheet has remained in this collection for very many years.

In a private treaty transaction through H. R. Harmer, I've recently acquired the sheet and have broken it up. 44 copies either have been sold or are reserved for my customers, 12 are offered in this advertisement at \$500.00 each. The unique corner number block is available at \$3000.00.

It is quite a stamp, this handsome engraved error, and very reasonable at \$500.00 a copy. It is about 4 times rarer than the Canadian Seaway Invert and almost twice as rare as the U.S.A. 24c airmail inverted centre. Liberian are not exactly on the same popularity basis as these two nations but one has only to look at the present day catalog to realize that the days when Liberian stamps were only considered juvenile collector material are gone forever. It's rather strange that there should have been any such ideas as most of the great collectors of the past had excellent specialized collections of Liberian stamps, and why not; most were the work of the world's foremost printers, a great number by Perkins Bacon, who back in 1840 and in the following years printed the world's first stamp and firsts for many nations.

K. BILESKE LTD., STATION "B", WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA.

The 1905 Liberia elephant has an inverted frame, based on the placement of the sheet number 482, but the result looks no different whether the frame or the center is inverted.

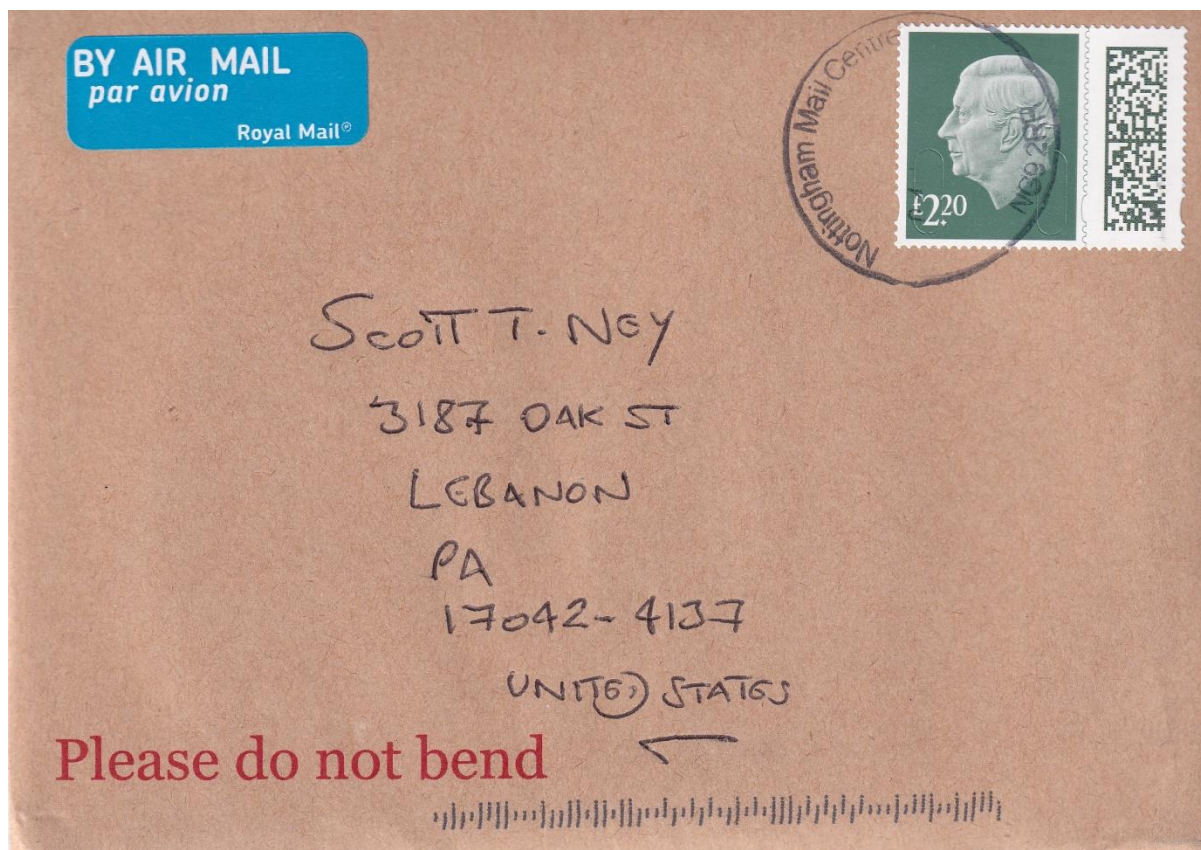
Over the many years, I have acquired more than 150 different Inverted center or inverted frame stamps.

The May meeting of the Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club

The LSCC will meet on Tuesday, May 16, at 6:30 PM at the Lebanon Community Library (125 N. 7th Street in Lebanon, 17046) for our monthly meeting. Our guest this month is Scott English, the Executive Director of the American Philatelic Society, who will be speaking on the future of our favorite hobby.

What is the future of the hobby? APS Executive Director Scott English believes we should be talking about the hobby today. The challenges, the opportunities and the need to make some changes. He will provide some thoughts and asks members to offer suggestions on how the APS can serve them and the hobby more effectively.

About Scott: Scott English became the 8th APS Executive Director in 2015, following a career ranging from Capitol Hill to the South Carolina Governor's Office. Two notable accomplishments from his time as Executive Director, recovering Position 76 of the McCoy Block of the Inverted Jenny in 2016 and retiring the \$5.4 million mortgage debt on the Match Factory in 2020, fifteen years ahead of schedule. Scott and his wife, Kendra, live in Bellefonte and are the proud parents of three adult children.



The editor's first "King Charles" cover, which arrived from Nottingham on May 11 carrying a picture card of Derby County footballer John Robson. Are these still called "Machins"?

Using Google to identify mystery stamps

By George D. Hauber Sr.

Philatelic Society of Lancaster County

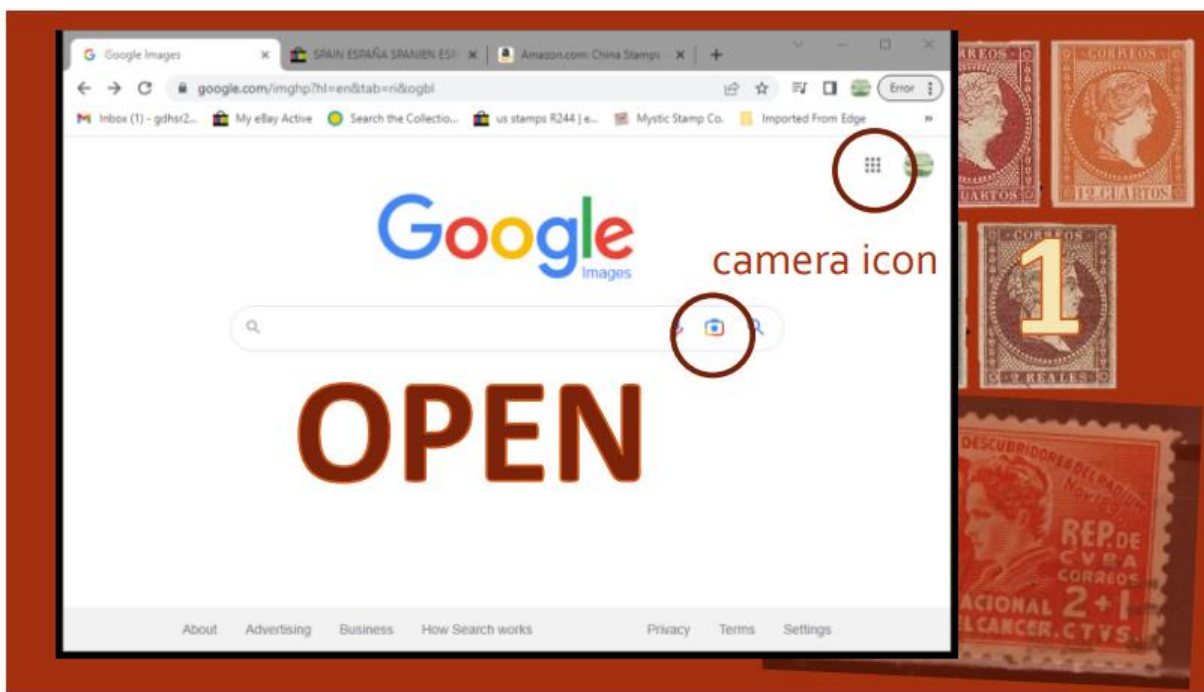
Recently, a friend came over with some notebooks that he had inherited, full of stamps from around the world. The stamps ranged from the late 1800's up to the mid 1960's, and the books were full of CTO's, but there were also older stamps in MH condition, hinged onto pages of re-purposed office paper.

Well, the long and short of it was that he pulled out his phone and asked if I would show him how to identify some of the "good" stamps. So, we got real close with his camera/phone and clicked on the icon in the Google Chrome browser which took us to Google search. Then we clicked on the camera icon on the right of the search bar, which opened the "Google Lens". We focused on one of the stamps, clicked the shutter button, and Google immediately took the image of just the stamp and searched the web for similar images.

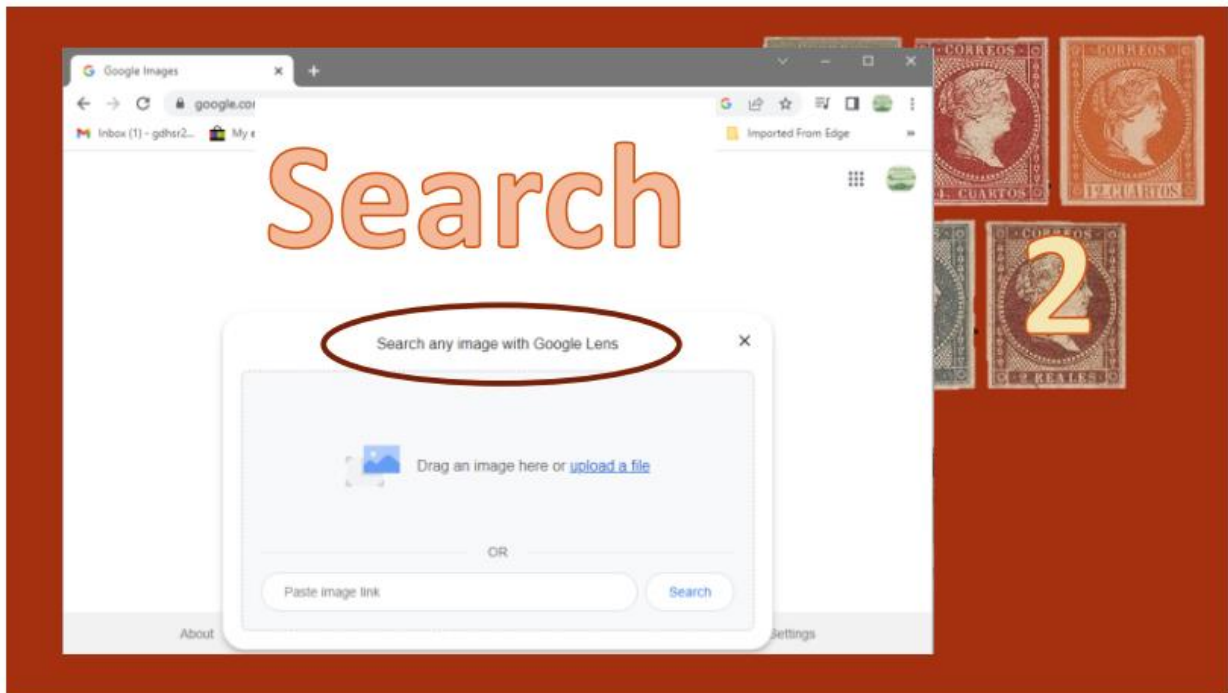
This resulted in dozens of items appearing, and if they were on eBay or Etsy or some other site with a sale price, that information showed up, too.

The following slides show how this process works on a desktop computer:

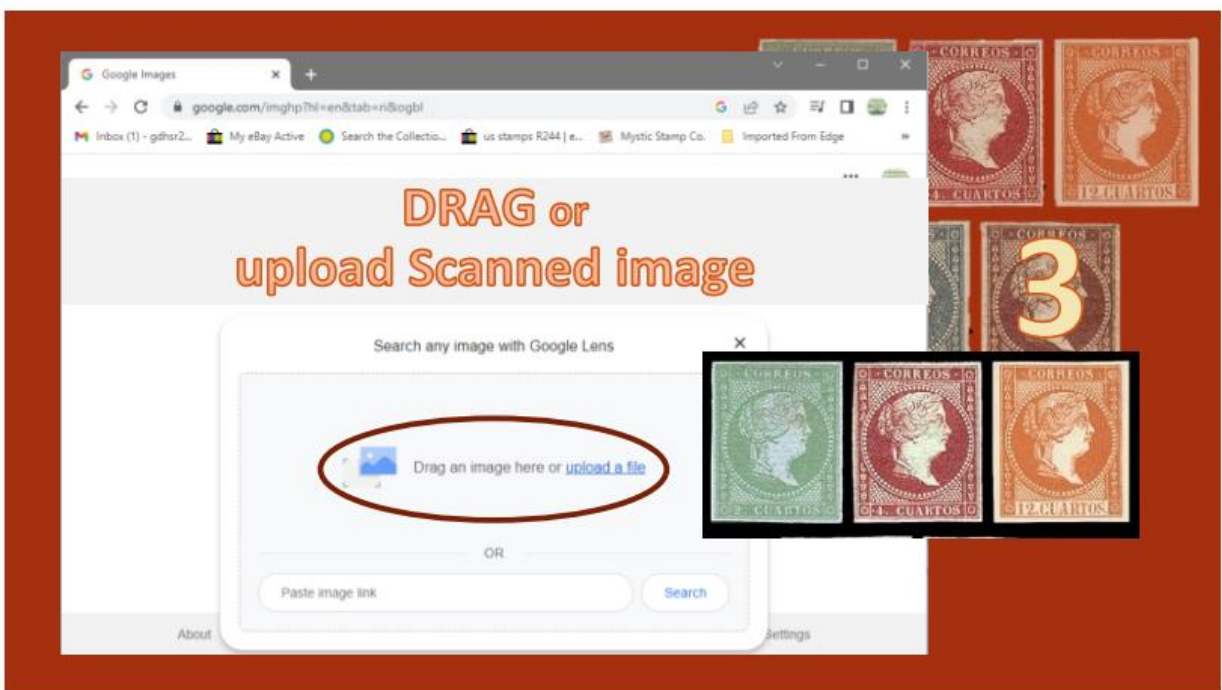
1. Open Google search, and select the camera icon next to the search bar



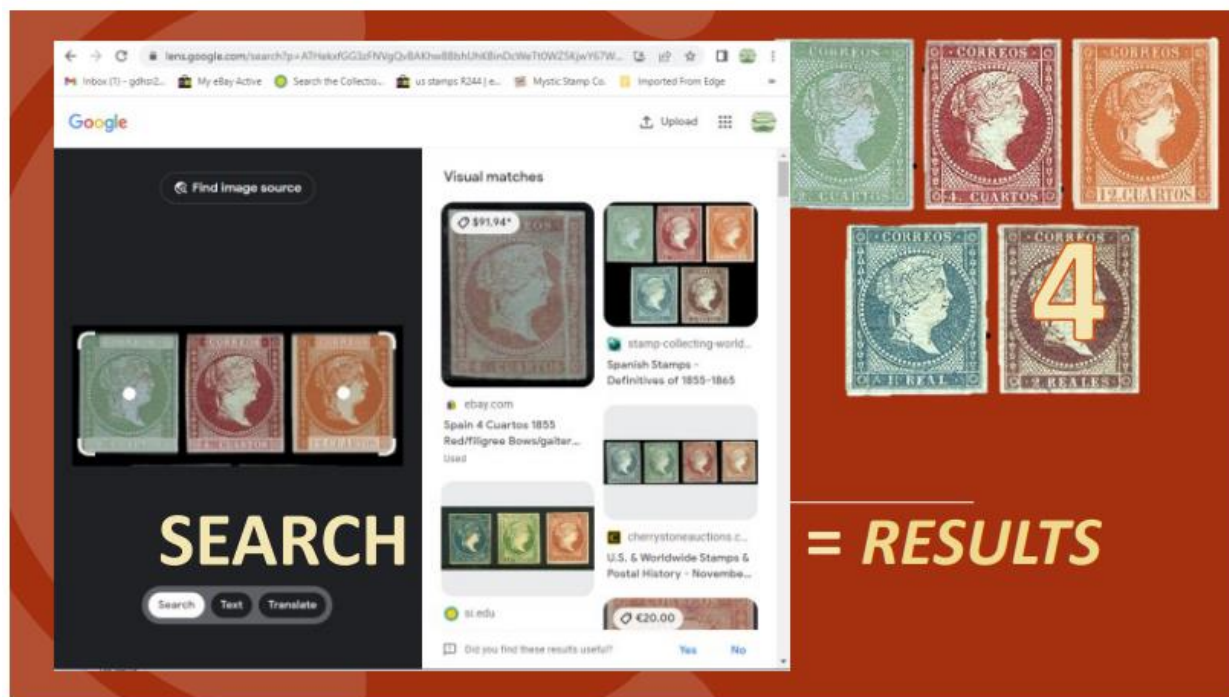
2. Clicking the camera icon opens the “Google Lens”.



3. Drag or upload the image you would like to search into the Google Lens.



- The Google Lens returns images from around the worldwide web that are similar to the one that was uploaded.



Calendar of Events

2023 Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club Meetings

Date	Presenter
May 16, 2023	Scott English – The Future of the Hobby
June 20, 2023	Mike Bach, Reading Stamp Collectors Club
July 18, 2023	LEBPEX show covers – a retrospective (Scott Ney)
August 15, 2023	Summertime Show and Tell
September 19, 2023	
October 17, 2023	
November 21, 2023	Scott Ney – A peek at the post-Great War Hyperinflation in Germany and Eastern Europe
December 19, 2023	Annual dinner, location TBD

The PSLC Events Calendar is located at the following link:

[Philatelic Society of Lancaster County – Award-winning, non-profit community organization dedicated to promoting stamp and postal history collecting as a hobby for education and fun. \(lcpss-stamps.org\)](https://lcpss-stamps.org)

The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club thanks the PSLC for hosting our affiliate page, which is accessible by clicking the following link:

[The Lebanon Stamp Collectors Club – Philatelic Society of Lancaster County \(lcps-stamps.org\)](http://lcps-stamps.org)

