

Internet Philatelic Dealers Association, Inc.

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EDITORIAL WELCOME

Stamps have been part of my life for many years. Sometimes I have been very active, and able to spend my free time sorting and cataloguing and just enjoying studying the stamps I have accumulated from auctions or wherever. At other times, no doubt like many of us, work and family pursuits have taken all of my free time. This month, May as I write, I have had little time for stamps because of work commitments. Having said that of course I never forget my philatelic interest and in my case the opportunity to travel to other countries and see and even pick up something I would not normally have the chance to collect.

While like many of us I specialize, in my case in GB GV, I am always interested to see the designs and subject used on other countries stamps. This month I have been in India and Macau. Two very different places with very different stamp designs.

I have shown copies of my favourite stamps in recent editorials. Here is a stamp I found in India.

If you have any stamps you picked up on your travels that you think others would be interested in seeing, maybe from somewhere well known, or a place that is not a recognized tourist destination., Please send

me a scan and perhaps I'll be able to write an article on it and share it with others in the next issue.



Michael — as in cddstamps—and Publicity Director

A FRIENDS STAMPS

I had drinks with an old friend tonight. He remembered I collect stamps. He brought along some old envelopes full of stamps he collected as a kid. One never knows what hidden treasures one will find. I saw a GB predecimal inverted watermark which I know is not actually catalogued at any signifi-

cant value but all the same it was fun to show him the inverted watermark. I did see this block of 4. Quite nice. Very clean and full gum. I have no idea without checking if it is collectable but thought I'd show you. Anyone know anything about Canal Zone stamps.



AGM ... HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED

AGM – that wasn't !!!!!

Only 6 of us logged into the IPDA Board room for the AGM on 15th May. We had two apologies due no access to internet from where they were. That didn't give us a quorum so we had a short meeting. Nothing much to report to be honest. All very disappointing. The old (well some of us are) stalwarts are trying to get the Internet Philatelic Dealers Association a profile but I have to say it is hard going at times.

I believe in the principles and values of the Association and the more damaged stamps I see, (see this months eBay / Machin piece), the more I read about tampering with stamps that are

for sale on eBay and other e-auction sites, and the more I read about the silly prices that some people are paying for poor quality stamps offered with descriptions that are just so wrong, then the more I think we need to encourage buyers to be looking for sellers to have some accreditation.

So why did no one log in for the AGM? I wish I knew. We are re-scheduling for 29th May.

Please try to join us.

I know there are awkward time differences for many but I also know if you want to participate, where there is a will there is a way.

I don't want to sound clever but I

maybe was a role model ... (for once in my life eh!!) as I was in India and had a wake up call at 3am so I could log in to join the meeting. Short meeting though, so my bed was still warm when I crawled back.

Come on people.. join us on the 29th. Your Board members all look forward to your views and comments and participation.

Also, I have the 5th Anniversary covers, all nicely franked and ready to send out to all members. Please email me your mailing address, and perhaps encourage new members so I can send them one as well.

SPOTLIGHT ON IPDA MEMBER—GREATSTAMPS.CO.UK

With over 1000 positive eBay feedbacks GreatStamps.co.uk at <http://www.greatstamps.co.uk/default.asp>

must be doing something right. Well you would think so. I occasionally look at this site and the eBay lots. One never knows when something special will come along. In fact I have

become inclined to only look at the eBay sales of particular dealers. Of course it helps that many are IPDA members and it is always reassuring to see the IPDA logo prominently displayed on the website or auction listing.

If you want a write up drop me an email, maybe you have something to promote or are just proud of your web design.

This is one of GreatStamps current listings. Bidding is looking good as I write.. And so it should be.



RARE MACHIN FIND!



So what is new in the stamp world?.

To be honest I really don't know as I was overseas for three weeks during May. One of the emails I got while I was away was about a GB Machin that was for sale on eBay

Really quite remarkable offering. The stamp is shown.

What do you think. It was being offered at a starting price of US \$9.99. I think someone is on more drugs than me, and mine are only malaria tablets – honest.

Has to be something rare about it. One reader on the SoGB Board said they would tear the 400,000 of these they had and sell same. Well why not.

The stamp did not sell. But tell me, who is trying to sell this and who do they think they are kidding.

Or does this just go to prove that anyone can try to sell a stamp on eBay, or should I say try to con buyers.

The seller was not an IPDA member, needless to say.

SOME SCAMS TO WATCH OUT FOR

Some thoughts on scams from an email I received recently.

1.) **Re-Gummed Stamps** — I have been finding some excellent stamps that had been re gummed, especially German Air-mails, note the X10 price difference between gummed and un gummed. Re gummed stamps are very difficult to detect for me. The trick is to look for gum where the perforations were separated. Also look for signs of hinging under the new gum. That is what I saw on one of the German air-mails. *caveat de emptor*

2.) **Catalog Value Confusion.** Earlier this month I picked up a dealers stock of Portugal Europa stamps that the seller said had a

catalog value of greater than \$2000, he said it was from the current Michel catalog. The Scott catalog value turned out to be about \$1300 It will be hard to make any money on that purchase and I have tied up capital — an expensive mistake. The Michel catalog may be a "Fantasy Dream Value Catalog ". We have run into these in the US where dealers publish catalogs with a value indicated that has nothing to do with fair market value. These are kind of like the Suggested Retail Price SRP or the sticker price on a new car, if you pay that much for it you left money on the table. *caveat de emptor*

...**FYI** besides Scott I will list stamps from Spain with Edifil, Portugal with Afinsa and France with Yvert-Tellier

numbers. I do this as a service to the collector who may reside in the various countries that I specialize. I may mention the Catalog number and the Catalog value from both the Scott and the Countries native catalog. Then I price somewhere in the middle of the range. Scott does not differentiate between MH and MNH so the process does help me to determine what I think is a fair price. "

Editors Footnote: I think using different catalog references is a good idea and just what one would expect from a quality dealer and IPDA member. After all, I think we all believe that some catalog valuations are like car sticker prices, often unrealistically inflated.

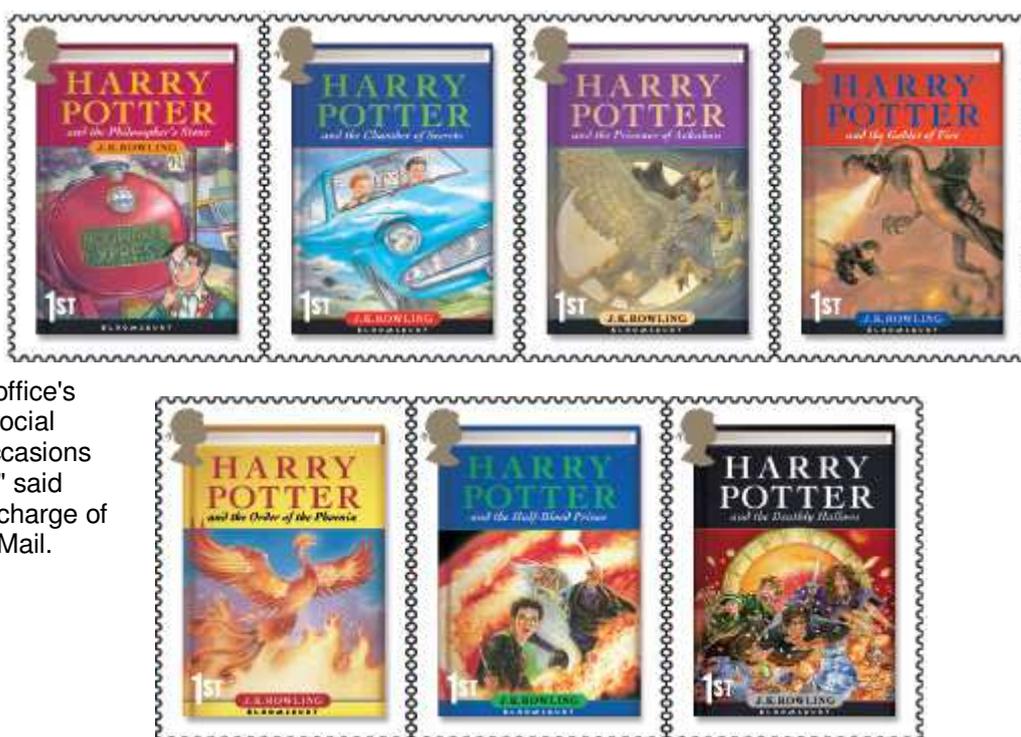
NEW ISSUE FROM ROYAL MAIL

I read this in a US paper. Word does spread on the Harry Potter subject. Yes Royal Mail in Great Britain) are issuing 7 stamps to commemorate the Harry Potter books and in particular the release of the seventh book. The stamps shown alongside and with many thanks for the image from Ian Novics' site I must add, depict the covers of the books. These stamps will be issued on 17th July just before the latest book is released on July 21st I believe.

The stamps will be issued as part of the post office's tradition of celebrating "social themes and important occasions central to our way of life," said Julietta Edgar, who is in charge of special stamps at Royal Mail.

Anyone brave enough to ask me to comment on that statement? I think I will let it go through to the keeper, and same goes for any comment about yet another issue from Royal Mail.

"Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows" goes on sale July 21. Enjoy, stamps and the book of course. For more details on the stamps have a look at Ian's website at <http://www.norvic-philatelics.co.uk/2007/07aa-harry-potter.htm>



STAMPBOARDS.COM

I know many people who say they don't have time to read my blog. I can understand that we are all often stretched for time. I myself would really enjoy being able to join a philatelic club and participate in activities and events. But work and home circumstances really don't give me the time to do that. I can write my blog on the train everyday, well most days, and I can write this newsletter on the train to and from work. In fact 95% of my three issues were conceived written and edited on the train. .

This is my lead up to telling you

about a new (well two months old now) philatelic group — a virtual group that is — that writes to each other on a bulletin board at

<http://www.stampboards.com>.

I have posted a few items and enjoyed the reading and participation. A growing band of people seem to be enjoying this.

There are many such groups of course, across Yahoo, Google and MSN.. All serving slightly different audiences with different collecting interests. This group has been set up by Glen Stephens who I have yet to convince to join the IPDA I might add.

Glen has structured the Board in an interesting way - by setting up discussion areas – Have a look if you have the time, you might enjoy the writing. I see IPDA members there as well. Which reminds me, I must see if we can get Glen into the IPDA as I know he writes about stamp quality and auction fraud and much more, all of which is what the IPDA stands for and is promoting. Come on Glen, get that application form in mate!!!!

Oh yes, online form available from <http://www.ipdaonline.org> for Glen or anyone else who is not a member.

SHAPED STAMPS

I received my latest copy of the Canada Post Stamp Bulletin. One thing I have noticed over the recent years, and maybe longer but I have not been paying attention is the number of new issues that come in different shapes and sizes. Some are actually quite attractive and if you are a 12 year old collecting labels I am sure they will appeal to you. Am I being contentious here or what!! Of course I am. How else can I provoke members to join in and contribute to the Newsletter. :-)

I once had many

different shaped stamps but sold them some years back. They seem to go well. Maybe the shapes and subjects, or the places they were from.

I recall Tonga as one issuing country with some real collectables for



a kid!!!!!!.

What do you think of all these different shapes and lets say concept stamps... a new era, colourful labels,

wallpaper or just another way for countries to express there individuality, encourage collecting and raise revenue?

READERS EMAIL

"Are you implying that there is a difference between "fine used and used fine"?"

This in response to a comment I made about a seller on eBay using the "used fine" term to describe his listing—in my view a deliberately misleading description as such has never existed .

The writer goes on to say

"I myself try to avoid making any such claim on condition, it is too subjective I think it is easier to let the collector call the condition himself. I always include a scan of the item. Terms like fine, good, average, extra fine especially if they are going to affect the sale price should not be included in a description. If a stamp is truly superb mention it and

price it accordingly.

We can learn from the coin collecting investment scams of the 1970-1990's a difference between Fine and Extra Fine has a large % affect on value. Unscrupulous dealers would sell to collectors or investors at the higher condition, and when the collector or investor went to sell the dealers would re evaluate the condition at the lower value"

After my first two issues of the Newsletter I thought I might get some commentary from Members. Very little I have to say. That could be good though. No news is good news, right!!

I am off to India again in June so a couple of letters would help me fill some space :-)

Email me;

Michaelatipda@gmail.com

Best wishes,

Michael