

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2008

EDITORIAL WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL WELCOME 1

WHAT IS OUT THERE PT II 2

SPAM MAIL 2

3C B GRILL 2

CHRISTMAS ISSUES 2008 3

IPDA VACANCIES 4

IPDA CONFIDENTIAL LIST 4

CLOSING REMARKS 4

Hello everyone.

December is a few days away as I write. I am amazed another month has flown by. Same for you maybe? For me it has literally flown by as I have spent a few hours on planes this past month and consequently done little on the stamp scene. What I am going to write about in the next few hours is quite beyond me at the moment but as my fingers warm up I hope my brain will as well, and some entertaining, informative and even interesting material will emerge.

I wonder if you are bored with my travels? One little story as I think it was quite amusing. A week ago I left Sydney for Kuala Lumpur, mid afternoon. Settled comfortably upstairs on a Malaysia Airlines 747. Chap next to me fell asleep soon after take off. We had been flying maybe 30 minutes or less when the captain announced we were returning to Sydney because of a technical problem. Anyway, as we are on Sydney approach this fellow passenger wakes up and looks at me and says are we there already. I had to break the sad new, yes, we were landing but in Sydney. Poor chap missed his connection in KL as by the time we eventually left Sydney again we were just over 4 hours late. At least there were staff awake in the hotel when I finally arrived at 2:30 in the morning. Pity I had a 7am breakfast meeting.

I am finally back in Seoul and re adjusting to the climate. KL and Singapore, where I have also been working over past few weeks, are hot, but here it is about 0 degrees C. Very fresh. No snow yet. Some of you no doubt already have snow. Best it stays with you :-) ha ha

Lots been happening at the IPDA. Been a busy year for us in many ways. From memory, new Chairman, new Board members, representations about eBay payment policies, new logo (still in the works), introduction of a Confidential List (more about that later), regular issue of Newsletter, Affiliation with the APS and surely lots more that has slipped my memory :-)

This December issue represents the 72nd issue of the Newsletter. Yes we have been writing a newsletter for 6 years. Quite an achievement really and a credit to our Secretary, who before me devoted much effort to the first 4 years, or thereabouts. Perhaps for the January issue we could have you, our members, write a piece on any philatelic topic? You all know far more than me about stamps and I'm sure have interesting and I'd suggest even educational things to write about. Here are three topics to get you thinking.

- 1) Thematic collections – how they have developed and where are they going;
- 2) Investing in stamps;
- 3) Setting up a 'model' internet based stamp dealership

How about it everyone? How can I motivate you. Ok, Free accommodation at my place in Seoul if you visit here :-) No that doesn't motivate you :- (ok. I'll think of something before I finish this Newsletter.

Lets see if you read all 4 pages :-)

For 2009, I do hope we all continue to support and promote the IPDA and all that the IPDA stands for, and that we all want to see from the philatelic dealer community.

For the next month, I wish everyone a wonderful Christmas and New Year season, wherever you are and whatever you do at this time of year, whether you celebrate Christmas as I do, or not. Peace and good will to you all and enjoy your philatelic interests and colleagues.
Best wishes, Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com



WHAT IS OUT THERE

I had no responses to my piece last month on "what is out there". Was it all that boring :-) No seriously, did you find it of any interest at all? I said I might tell you about a few more this month but since no one has suggested any good links I am wondering perhaps you don't spend time browsing different web sites. I know I don't really have the time so I am guessing you are in the same situation. However, there are a lot of very good sources of information out there.

Another reason I mention this is because I got an email from Linn's Stamp News during the month. I have signed up to their digital edition. It is \$9.99 for one year. Pretty good value I think, and from all that I have read it seems informative, well presented and pretty interesting. It certainly makes very good use of the document management technology around today.

Anyone any thoughts on this digital edition? Good to see they are doing it. A small fee but I guess they have many costs even if they have a lot of advertising. Anyway, if this is news to you have a look at <http://www.linns.com/>

Finally I should mention, just to show a balance from both sides of the Atlantic, perhaps, the Stanley Gibbons web site <http://www.stanleygibbons.com/> this would not be new to anyone I am sure but what do you think. I find it very correct in terms of design and layout etc but cold and uninviting. Do you know what I mean? Oh and if you are overseas and want to order a copy of the 2009 Collect GB stamps (list price £9.95) you will be asked to pay £30.00 in postage. Ha ha.

SPAM MAIL

All we recently had a complaint about spam mail being received by one of our members so I thought it appropriate, as a reminder, to tell you about one of the By Laws of our Association.

"BL007.00 By Law: Information Technology, Web and Internet Procedures - (iv) Unacceptable use:

Members must not use the IT for unlawful and/or unethical purposes or harmful to the Association.

Examples of unacceptable use are:-

- *sending or forwarding chain mail to or between members,
- *transmitting any content that is offensive, harassing, untruthful or fraudulent,

For the purpose of interpreting this By Law, the Board of Directors includes 'spam' as being covered by the words 'chain mail', 'offensive and harassing'." This really is common sense and good manners in many ways but lets remember that the use of spam is now illegal in many parts of the world, or at least considered as extremely unethical.

3 C B GRILL

Wish you had one? Even this copy - one of four known apparently and not exactly well centered or with full perfs for that matter, was auctioned October 28th at the Siegel Auction Galleries. An anonymous bidder bid 1.035million US Dollars for the 1868 stamp.

Grill refers to an embossed pattern in the paper; a small pattern (see picture) of indentations intended to discourage postage reuse. They were supposed to work by allowing the ink of the cancellation to be absorbed more readily by the fibers of the stamp paper making it harder to wash off the cancellation ink.



Grill example; not the reverse of the auctioned stamp



Now, apart from the stamp being rare it has me thinking, here we are, 140 years later, and seeing one postal administration that immediately comes to mind taking steps to stop the reuse of stamps.

Yes, the Royal Mail in the UK with their recent announcement they will be issuing new 1st and 2nd class machines in early 2009 with new security features. Future printings of basic and Large Letter stamps will be printed with iridescent ink in a security pattern in the dark area around the Queen's head, and four small semi-circular slits within the stamp which "will prevent the removal of stamps from envelopes". Ahhh.. No soaking for collectors? Lets see what they are when released.

The stamps will be printed by De La Rue in gravure in self-adhesive sheets of 50 instead of 200 (normal) or 100 (Large) stamps, the first modern definitive stamps to be printed in small sheets suitable for use at PO counters. The change will also affect booklets, business sheets and stamp rolls all of which will be self-adhesive except for the rolls.

CHRISTMAS ISSUES 2008

I thought I'd show a few — there are just so many. Lets start with Australia as there is something different here I think, in that an alternative stamp to the traditional religious theme has been produced. This alternative recognises the centuries old ritual of decorating the home for Christmas. The three traditional stamps celebrate the birth of Jesus through iconic figures from the Christmas story and Nativity. The design of the three stamps resembles a three-part alterpiece when shown together.



Lets look at a very different contrast, although from Australia, these are for Christmas Island. I guess you are all familiar with the style of the Christmas Island Christmas stamps. Been like this for many years I guess now. A humorous style I suppose you could say. All very nice for party games stickers perhaps :-)

Of course things can get a lot worse. How many of you have a worse example. Probably many of you. I've not seen too many Christmas issues for 2008 but here is one of my NOT favourites. There are 4 more in the set; Gibraltar Post say these depict their interpretation of the lyrics of Christmas carols sung by children. Pretty stickers :-)



Then there is an issue from the Isle of Man. 6 stamps in the set, of which I show 2. These are from drawings by the wife of Allan Ahlberg, associated with his book the Jolly Postman and issued in the year of his 70th birthday — a famous children's author. Something else of interest is that the Isle of Man actually reduced the cost of local mail for the month of December. Now surely a first!



Then there is Malta with a very classical issue — here is one of the set of 3 — featuring details from three nativity paintings from the National Museum of Fine Arts in Valletta. Lovely place.



And something very simple from Ireland. A clean design perhaps you would agree.

Finally, Something cute from Finland, something local from the Czech Republic and, something seasonal from Lithuania Post.



IPDA VACANCIES — STILL!!!!

PLEASE COULD YOU HELP



Would you like to become a member of the IPDA Committee

There are two positions available. Association Secretary, and Membership Secretary.

Both are Directors of the IPDA. You would have the opportunity to play a significant role and put forward your ideas for the IPDA.

The Association's procedures are all online and all contacts with fellow officers and members are conducted via the internet. If you are willing to help, or wish to learn more about these positions please contact Alan at secretary@ipdaonline.org I have had no response to these vacancies and really would ask you to think about putting yourself forward. Email for details or with questions. It really is not a burden on you but a rewarding contribution from you. michaelatipda@gmail.com

IPDA CONFIDENTIAL LIST

Our Secretary recently circulated to all members the first Notices issued under our Confidential List procedure. I hope you got this.

As you will realise the circulation is to a .bcc address to protect members email addresses from being used by unauthorised individuals. This means that all addresses will be hidden. Some members have previously requested that we not use the .bcc address bar because they believe they have not received messages sent by the Secretary to them. Please be reassured that whenever a message is not delivered for some reason, we are advised by the appropriate delivery authority that it could not be delivered. Also, please retain the List of Codes so you can interpret the codes allocated to people named in the list. If you have mislaid your code list you can get another from the Secretary.

As a suggestion, may I say, that to make sure that you receive all messages from the IPDA, please record in your Junk Mail system's "Safe Senders List" and the "Safe Recipients List" if using Microsoft Outlook, or the equivalent system in whatever operating system you are using the following secretary@ipdaonline.org treasurer@ipdaonline.org membershipsecretary@ipdaonline.org web-master@ipdaonline.org publicity@ipdaonline.org chairman@ipdaonline.org

CLOSING REMARKS

Merry Christmas to everyone and a Happy New Year. I'll be writing again around early January. I have a really busy schedule over Christmas, with two trip to Sydney and back and will try my best to write this newsletter as close to the start of January as possible

Any articles you want to send in will be gratefully received and will help me enormously. Maybe I can publish an expanded edition to kick off 2009. :-) Motivation - refer to Editorial Welcome — if you don't send me an article you have to send me a mint unhinged set of 2008 Christmas stamps of your choice, which I will auction as a lot on eBay with all funds going to a Children's Charity of my choice.

Ok so we don't want all those Christmas stamps do we. But some are nice I think. Here is one of my favourites. I show two copies. Who knows what the difference is? A two week stay in my apartment in Seoul to the winner — you are responsible for your own airfares. I will provide the booze for two weeks :-)

Enjoy your stamps, your stamp business and your stamp colleagues. Best wishes, Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com

