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Page 1
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NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2011

EDITORIAL WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL WELCOME	1
HOW MANY NEW ISSUES IN 2011	2
CLOSING REMARKS	2

Happy New Year to you all. Christmas and New Year holidays have gone so fast. I am shocked and now realize it was all a blur and I had no time to write the January Newsletter. My apology for that, and this late, and yes, short, issue.

I'll start by giving you a review of IPDA activities over past month. Your Board met in December and had a very good meeting. Constructive ideas and with new member Jim Biehl our Membership Secretary offering lots of ideas and doing a lot in the background for the Association already, I think we are seeing a renewed enthusiasm to growing the IPDA and getting the Associations name more out there, so to speak. Some of the key topics discussed were as follows:

We have agreed to start more advertising and through the initiative of Jim we will be placing free ads in various online sites.

We have some ideas for the 10 year anniversary in 2012. Seems like a long way off but planning is needed if we want to be successful in executing any plans. Some ideas included

- Some kind of stamp giveaway? Would members be prepared to make a donation?
- 24 hour stamp marathon?
- an anniversary cover? - would anyone like to suggest a design - we thought about a competition for the design and a prize of a free years membership. What are your views?
- dinner in Las Vegas (I think this is a great idea but there seems no support to it. Is there any location a group of us could meet?
- Competition(s) with Stamps for prizes, or other prizes maybe?

What are your ideas? If you have an idea please write to me at michaelatipda@gmail.com

We discussed the IPDA chat room - which is up and running (you can get to the Chat room from the IPDA web-site of course) and we hope members find the occasional time to pop in for a chat. Larry (our Director from Canada) looks after this in many ways and will be most pleased to see any of you.

Going back to the advertising topic. We will be looking to advertise the IPDA in the GPS (German Philatelic Society) & USSS (United States Stamp Society) monthly publications. We can place free advertisements for the IPDA in their magazines. Each advert in the GPS will run for 2 issues. In fact each IPDA member, as I understand it, is entitled to one free 15-word Advert per calendar year to run in two consecutive issues.

Also, through Jim's contact with Mark Rosenberg, who is the Founder, President & CEO of bidStart.com we have been advised the IPDA can place a posting on the bidStart.com Community Forum aimed at the sellers on their site to join the IPDA. Placing a posting on their website will be a good recruiting tool to encourage philatelic sellers to join the IPDA, and I would like to think get the message to buyers that they should be looking to see if a seller has some accreditation.

Stamp of the Month

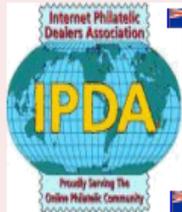


Is this damaged?
Received in my parcel of office kiloware from my wonderful friend in the UK. Views please?

Let me say I try to sell on bidStart and have over the years had some success but I should try harder I know. Anyway the quality of the material I see there has improved over the years and I do like the site. However, there is always room for improvement, from the sellers I think. This was listed as F_VF used. I don't think so. Is the seller an IPDA member. I don't think so! My same old rant I know but we have to educate the buyers to look for the seller having IPDA (or some other maybe) accreditation. Sad thing is, if this seller did apply to IPDA we would probably let him / her in because of their history and we would no doubt miss they were advertising this item as such. Another reason, if you will forgive me for mentioning this topic at least one a year (laughing!!!), I hope none of us would make this description error (personally I would not even list it for sale) now that we are IPDA members and have all agreed to abide by IPDA rules and code of practice.



And finally, to help you help the IPDA, we are working on a brochure "Information for Prospective Members" A brochure maybe you could print some copies and have around at your bourse days perhaps. Alan Devine has done a great job getting this started and it is now waiting for me to find the time to finish it. Best wishes for 2011, I hope to hear from you, good or bad news, either is ok with me. Michael



HOW MANY ISSUES IN 2011

The UPU Philatelic Code of Ethics, Clause 8 states : “ Issuing postal authorities shall not produce postage stamps or philatelic products that are intended to exploit customers”

With that in mind, does anyone know how many stamps and stamp related products were issued by the country they live in, during 2010?

Lets ask UK members? I do not know, I had no time to count and doubt I could count as the number and variations of product is just huge. Stamps alone must be an awesome number. But as for products, when I returned home to Sydney for Christmas I found a Royal Mail brochure waiting for me. Have you seen it I wonder. It contains everything from T-Shirts, Mugs, Hanging wall carpets I think it looked like, an apron with the Machin design all over it, post boxes, DVD collections, notebooks, pins and labels, greeting cards. Yes oven gloves and aprons and cushions even. Valentines day is coming up people. Will you or your partner like a Machin logo covered Apron. Wow darling, Thanks! I always wanted one. As for the oven gloves, well we are all getting our hands burnt if we collect mint GB so we may as well have a pair of gloves as well!



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But seriously, I think the UPU clause was contravened long ago don't you?

What about Australia. David Mallen who produces an excellent web site and book see <http://www.asv.net.au/> and who is an authority on Australia new issues, writes that between 22nd January 2010 and 20 December Australia Post issued a new 55c / 60c definitive stamp, on average, every 33 hours. Yes hours. That is taking into consideration all the variations of the stamps issued. How anyone has the wherewithal to even know these are being issued is beyond me. How anyone has the spare cash to accumulate these even if they did have the time is also beyond me. How much cash you ask? How about AUS \$5279.90. Oh yes, and the albums to catalogue and store the 593 stamps in!!!!!!!



Of course it is not only Royal Mail that is selling products other than stamps. Australia Post have a selection of T-shirts and a magnetic double sided picture frame, WOW!!!, for example.

Oh well it all makes the world go round and keeps the revenue stream alive and well, but what ever happened to the UPU code of ethics I wonder.



So what do we have to look forward to in 2011? Lots more new issues that is for sure. Are you finding your buyers are not interested in new issues? Do write to share you experiences with other members. I am sure there is a lot we can share and from that we can help each other. I look forward to hearing from you.

CLOSING REMARKS

I do not really have anything interesting to add to this section. I feel writers block today and know I must finish this so it is not too late and I give you time to think of something to write to me about. Something for the next issue which is only 20 days away. Do write please.

Oh one topic. I got a wonderful present for Christmas. My best present is usually the one I buy myself for myself. This was an iPhone. I had a look through the Apps the other day. And searched on “stamps”. Have you ever looked if you have an iPhone. Lots of apps there, many free I might add but nothing yet struck me as useful. I did see one about stamp valuations. I read that if you have a penny black you have a stamp worth \$10,000. I am sure that is what I read. Couldn't have dreamed it. Another example, I thought, of the uninitiated writing about stamps with little to no knowledge. Where do people get these ideas from.

Did you notice I changed the header? Hope you like it. Look forward to hearing from you and if you have a neat iPhone app please share with me so I can share with others. Best wishes**Michael**