

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2007

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone. Apology for issuing this November issue a bit late. Been a busy October and I just had no time to write on the train to and from work. Partly because I have been on planes and not trains for some of October, on the world first commercial flights of the A380. I've penned a short piece on page 2 of this issue and show some of the stamps associated with the event. I hope this is of interest to you.

As for events on the stamp scene I have to admit I have been living under a rock, so to speak. I read a few journals when I get a few minutes but don't want to just repeat what I read as I am sure many of you read the same journals.

From an IPDA perspective it seems all the Directors are extremely busy and finding it difficult to devote the time we would like to the Association. This is not good but since we are all juggling so many thing, as I am sure you are, I cannot see anyway to change this quickly.

We want to see more activity from the membership, that is for sure, but I am thinking you all are in the same fast lane. Does anyone have any ideas of things we could do to make the Association more vocal and with a greater presence in the many stamp collecting communities that are around?

One community that goes from strength to strength is the StampBoards website—a Board where members write and discuss a wide variety of topics. Occasionally I have made a few minutes late in the evening to contribute and I must say I enjoy the discussions I read. I had the pleasure of meeting two of the members, Glen Stephens— who is one of the driving forces and contributors, and MargoZ. I had a very pleasant time talking to them while at a small party held at the Sydney Hilton to welcome the A380 into service.

So how can we, the membership of the IPDA, gain a great presence in the philatelic community? Your Board of Directors welcome your views. We believe the Association has a place to play, and with your support we believe the value, standards and professional ethics we promote represent something the wider stamp collection community will benefit from , dealers and sellers alike.

My next issue of this Newsletter will be issued in time for Christmas. I am planning something special, including some Christmas presents for our readers, and I hope some articles and views from you including your thoughts on how we can spread the IPDA word.

Enjoy the rest of this issue. ....Michael

**A380 ON STAMPS**

October was a memorable month for me as I was one of those people fortunate enough to fly on the inaugural commercial flights of the Airbus A380 aircraft. Singapore to Sydney and then back again to Singapore. A wonderful experience because the flights and everything before and after were so good, so well organized, so pleasing an experience from the check-in, to the receptions, the crew, the food, the seats, the quietness of the aircraft. Everything was excellent..

And when one adds the stamps as well, then everything was as close to perfect as it can get. I carried my own designed first flight covers on the Singapore Sydney flight, I



managed to get a few signatures from the Pilot and the cabin crew. I did the same on the return flight from Sydney to Singapore. In fact on that flight I met up with many of the cabin crew in the departure lounge and was able to get some 20 of the crew together and willing to sign some covers. I also managed to buy some of the Singapore Post commemorative FDCs, that I have to say sold out at the airport on the second day of issue, and some of the A380 Mystamp miniature sheets. The later are selling on eBay for a nice premium I notice. My Singapore Post FDCs have been carried on both flights and have back stamped postmarks at Sydney Kingsford Smith Airport and Singapore's Changi Airport.

Hope you like the scans I have chosen to show. More of course have been posted on my blog.

**POSITION VACANT—IPDA TREASURER - REWARD NEGOTIABLE**

The IPDA is managed and administered by volunteers. We are in need of someone to look after the finances of the Association. Our Treasurer needs to take a break from the role he stepped into for a few months... three years ago... Are there any whiz finance members out there? Well if you know what an income and expenditure statement is, can do a balance sheet, pay some bills, receive some monies and keep the accounts up to date that qualifies you as a whiz. Seriously though, we do need someone. Anyone want to join the Board in this role and in their own way make a contribution to the Association and what we are trying to do for the internet stamp collecting community? Reward is negotiable with yourself. You get out what you put in, and you get to enjoy some of the banter and chat that goes on amongst the Directors occasionally. :-).

Write to Dave , our Chairman at [chairman@ipdaonline.org](mailto:chairman@ipdaonline.org)

**PENGUINS ON STAMPS**



With so many issues these days from so many countries and commemorating many diverse and often obtuse events one can be forgiven for missing a new issue or two.

One I missed was this Australian Antarctic Territories issue back in July. I came across it because I am designing covers to be flown on a Qantas Airways flight. A flight that will be the longest domestic sector anywhere in the world I am told and a sector which finishes where it starts. Have you guessed the route?

The flight departs from the Qantas Domestic Terminal at Sydney airport in late December and returns to the same terminal after 14 hours of flying.. Having flown south to

the Antarctic and back to Sydney. I'll have more details for the next newsletter and with details of the actual covers to be flown on the aircraft and signed by the Pilots and hopefully some of the crew.

## AUSTRALIA SPACE ISSUE AND AUCTION FEES

October 4th was the 50th anniversary of the launch of Sputnik 1, a space probe launched by Russia, which made both history and, according to many observers, motivated the USA to embark seriously on their space program.

Australia, among many other countries, issued a set of stamps to commemorate this event. Albeit they issued the stamps on 2nd October. I thought this odd, but I am sure there was a good reason. Since the Australia Post FDC did not have a 4th October post mark I thought why not design my own cover. Yes something I am finding



interesting to do these days. So I did. I was also motivate to do this because a stamp friend in Portugal who collects stamps with a space theme asked me about the issue. I know he also collects covers so I made one for him and a few other friends. I then decided to see what I could do with a couple of the covers on eBay. I sold the two extras I made. No profit I should add, after eBay and Paypal expenses, but I enjoyed making them none the less, and contributing something to a few peoples collection. I mention the expenses because it did bring home to me how one does have to sell with a good markup just to break even at times. Last months article on the economics of selling on various auction sites certainly rang true to me. I am trying one of the no listing fees sites for some other material I am selling but do not think I have the potential customer audience and so far have had the listing expire once with no bids. I want to support this new auction site but find I am facing the dilemma if I don't support new sites they wont grow, and if they don't grow we don't get the value offered. Anyone with views on this? What is your thinking about where you list your material?

Sputnik made  
history on  
October 4th  
1957

## HOW UP-TO-DATE IS YOUR WEBSITE

Reading some websites recently I was reminded how important it is to refresh our sites occasionally and check that the links are working. I had a quick look at some of our members sites and did in fact find a few links that did not work. I also think it useful to have a date "last updated" on the home page. I think it is a courtesy to readers, and relevant for readers to know. It means a bit of work every now and again updating the page but I find it forces me to think of showing new items and passing on current thinking and news. My view is that if someone does visit your web site and sees it updated they will come back. If they come back a few times and it has not changed I am of the opinion they may well not come back again. People like to see change in this context. Your thoughts?

## KILOWARE

A few thoughts on this topic. I was reading a piece in a stamp magazine some months back about a kiloware lot that was shipped from New Zealand to the UK. You may have heard about this shipment. Quite a world record it would seem. Some 160 boxes contained an estimated 11.5 million thousand stamps sent by Mowbrays in New Zealand to UK dealer Apex Philatelics.

Reading about this shipment had me wondering, who is going to get these?, or rather how many collectors are going to get them. Lets assume 1000 stamps a lot, that is 11,500 collectors. I didn't know there were that many collectors of NZ stamps, let alone in the UK.. :-) ha ha only joking.

Seriously though, on the subject of kiloware I thought I would mention that I am always on the lookout for GB commemorative kiloware. With so many new issues from Royal Mail over past years I stopped collecting them through purchases quite a few years ago. I was going broke — ok so I exaggerate, but I chose to put what funds I had for purchases towards pre 1950 GB and ideally my GB GV Downey Head collection. Anyway I get mail from the UK and occasionally get the new commemoratives, but never the complete set. So I think if I could lay my hands on some good quality GB commemorative bulk I could have some fun sorting; looking for the past few years issues and get some extra material for my Children's Corner. Maybe I dream because as I write this I wonder where I will find the time :-). Anyway, I have not found the kiloware so I guess I don't have the challenge of finding the time. But do you have good sources of kiloware? Could we share this information with each other so we could share with our customers? Maybe something we could show in the IPDA website, for those collectors who visit.?

At the very least, if you know of a good GB kiloware source I would be very pleased if you would let me know.

## WORLD POST DAY

October 9th was, as you may well know, World Post Day. This is the day the Universal Postal Union uses to promote itself and the work it does to ensure postal service access to people around the world, particularly people in less developed countries. I wrote a piece on this on my blog some weeks back and asked my readers how many member countries the UPU had. I even got some correct answers. 191 is the answer by the way and from these countries there are quoted to be more than 660,000 post offices around the world with probably around 5 million employees processing mail. Pretty amazing really. Also, this organization was found in 1874 and when you think about it that was a progressive step in those days.



## READERS EMAILS

I wrote similar words a few issues ago. I have had none, readers emails that is.

No one has even written to tell me off for not writing the IPDA blog and I know from my visitor stats that we do get a small readership. No articles because of a dearth of ideas of late. That is my only excuse.

Will try harder in November and December.

One thing we missed in October, or at least I did, was the Halloween chat. I guess (as I have said a few times) everyone was just so busy we didn't round to organizing and promoting it. I know some of the Directors do chat in the IPDA chatroom with other members and I believe non members. All welcome of course.

But back to emails, well sort of. I am going to post a poll type survey on the blog. I hope you get time to have a look. Lets see if I can get an opinion on some stamp related questions. Have a look at <http://ipdanews.blogspot.com>