

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2008

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone. Happy New Year to you all. I hope 2008 is a good year; health, wealth and happiness to you all, with lots of good times with our stamps, stamp friends and colleagues.

By now you will have made, and in some cases already broken, your new years resolutions. Here are my top 5, for your amusement:

- 1) I will not get angry with my telephone service provider when they are unable to fix my telephone line within 24 hours. I will be tolerant to their incompetence and the inconvenience they have caused me because I have not had internet access to check my stamp mail and favourite auction sites.
  - 2) I will not become agitated when I see parasites advertise material (on auction sites or elsewhere for that matter) claiming it to be of a postal nature when in fact it is nothing of the sort.
  - 3) I will continue to promote my Children's Corner and devote more time and effort to helping promote stamp collecting among children and younger people.
  - 4) I will discover the "law of participation" which I suspect will say something like, when I ask for participation I will receive it inverse to the extent that I ask for it" Hopefully I will have the fortitude to translate that into not asking for any contribution from readers of this newsletter or my blogs and therefore be inundated with ideas and letters and pictures and platitudes.
  - 5) I will travel on the first Qantas A380 flight from Sydney International airport
- I honestly think I have a chance of achieving 4 of the 5. Yes you guessed it. The fifth is going to be the hardest to do. I better start planning soon.

As for my Children's Corner, that has grown in terms of the number of requests I receive. Some weeks it is just a few letters, other weeks I can receive 10 letters or more. Often I find that once one child, say at a school, has found me and received stamps, I get more letters from children at the same school. I do have a few generous donors of stamps, people who occasionally send me odds and ends, and since I estimate I have sent out some 200,000 free stamps over the past 5 years I guess I do need them.

Now for the results of the Christmas Competition; I asked " What do stamp collectors give stamp collectors for Christmas"? Pretty obvious answer to that one, judging by the unanimous response I got!!! Nothing. Ha ha ha ha .....

Well it saved me having to get that Penny Black I thought at least someone might think of. I did see a lovely copy on eBay recently now I think of it, but I held off treating myself. I am going to start the year with my 6th New Years resolution still intact – I will be more financially responsible this year, and put greater effort into selling all the spare material I have, and in the process finally clean the study. Here's to a great 2008 **Michael**

### UPDATE FROM SPAIN

We received an email from Roy our webmaster recently. He moved to Spain as you may recall. He seems to be doing well and is getting settled and trying to get the broadband and his computer set up so he can take on the webmaster activities again in the new year. If you have any address or detail changes you want reflected on the IPDA website please send them to Dave or Alan who will do their best until Roy get back on line full time.

Thought I'd share a few of Roy's news items with you all.

Hello Fellow directors, Sorry its been a long time since my last progress report, but at long last here it is. We moved into our property on 29th October. But it was only for a short stay as my wife had flights booked for us to return to the UK .

Internet connection will be my first priority hopefully this should not be a problem as the community has its own Sky Satellite dishes and also a cable connection. I am assuming to back up and running as per normal by Christmas and trading online by January.

My old computers been stripped of its hard drive and I hope to take the drive and have all the data transferred to my new one (now that will be fun).

By the new year I should be back giving my full support and helping out a bit more with IPDA business (this will include a revamp of the website with some new content).

I am still receiving e-mails from members asking for updates to their details although there is a notice informing them that I am off line and no changes can be made until I return. Anyway Mateys, will catch you all soon,

### ANTARCTICA FLIGHT COVERS

I am producing two covers for this flight. One will use the Antarctic Territories Penguin stamp issue. The other features the 50c SG 33 stamp from 1973 which shows the Byrd's Ford Trimotor. I hope to get some covers signed by the Pilots and some by the Cabin Crew. Byrd was considered to be the first expedition leader to fly over both the North and South Poles although his North Pole flight was eventually accepted as being short of the actual pole I seem to recall. Also this is an interesting read <http://www.cddstamps.com/antarctic.htm>



### A380 CHARITY AUCTION RESULT

For those of you who followed my charity auction, even helped promote it, thank you, I thought you might like to know the result. The flight cover, flown on SQ380 Sydney to Singapore on 26th October, and signed by many of the cabin crew sold for USD \$610. The money has been paid to the Medicins sans Frontieres — Doctors without Borders charity. A pretty good result I thought.

### CAN YOU IDENTIFY THIS STAMP

A little challenge for you; Can you identify this Bulgarian stamp. Sent in by Alan our Secretary who thinks it is SG3 from 1881. It has no gum, and he thinks it was removed when soaked to remove a hinge. Anyone out there know the SG or Scott details? Email me please at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)



**LETTER TO THE EDITOR**

“To the Editor, Some time ago ( either in the newsletter or in blogspot?) you talked about stamp sellers (I use that term widely and not necessarily referring only to stamp dealers) who provide inadequate, misleading,, sometimes false information when describing stamps they are selling. One way of dealing with these problems as a service for IPDA members, is to set up what has been called a ‘Rogues Gallery’ or what I would rather just simply describe as ‘The Confidential List’.

This idea was originally discussed by a previous IPDA Board. The Directors decided at that time not to have one. A reason given for not adopting this idea was that it might infringe certain laws (?). Since then, on the few occasions a complaint or report from a Director or a non-member has been received, no action has been taken to warn other members that they should be aware of the person reported. The decision not to do anything was made despite my appeal that the members should be canvassed to find out what they want the Board to do. I still think we should officially be doing something about this problem.

Over the past month I have experienced two such problems. The first occurred when a buyer complained that he was dissatisfied with the stamps he had purchased from me but has not returned them nor has he paid for them and does not answer my emails. The second was a case of giving me a fictitious or ambiguous postal address. I am still waiting for the post office to return my letter. In both cases, because the IPDA has no procedure that I can use, I was fortunate in being able to turn to another stamp dealer’s association, of which I am a member, and use their process for dealing with rogue buyers and sellers. In my view the IPDA should be providing such a service for its members.

One of our UK competitors, of which I am a member, does have a policy and a procedure for dealing with this kind of problem. It produces a confidential list each month of persons who have been reported by its members. This list is only available to members. They keep a confidential master list which is used for reference purposes and to keep a track of offenders. They use a comprehensive coding method to the type of problem reported (it now has more than 200 names). Over the past twelve months 25 issues have been reported. Of these, all those (7 reports) to do with non-payment or slow payment or non-return of goods have been resolved. Another organisation I belong to ( Stamp-Board – a number of our members do belong to it ) has recently successfully caused more than 10 eBay customers/sellers to have their accounts and ID’s cancelled. This was reported on their blog pages and anyone can read them!

Because the IPDA is an internationally formed body of stamp dealers who operate using the internet it seems to me more imperative that we should have a policy and a procedure for dealing with bad buyers and sellers. We are more at risk than members of a national body because we use organisations like eBay which handle tens of thousands of customers who are so widely distributed around the world. Sellers in one country selling in another may feel freer to be not so correct with their business ethics because of the lack of control and distances involved. Only an organisation structured like the IPDA has the power to step in and fill that gap.

I should be grateful to receive feedback from the members about the problems described and an indication as to whether you believe we should set up a system like that suggested above or not.

**ANOTHER EBAY DEAL? ..... I THINK NOT**

eBay maybe a great place to get some stamps you need but it can also be a place where you can be, how shall I put it, ripped off!!!!!!!!!!!!!! I doubt this would happen to an IPDA member but all the same I thought you might like to see one auction lot. If only for the fun of it.. And maybe to tell your customers..... Is the seller an IPDA member? Well this person won’t ever become one will he? For even more fun read eBay lot 110208562547



## STAMP GROUPS

I discovered this interesting website (linked below), which has a rather lengthy list of almost every philatelic club in the world.

From a piece posted to the Stamboards site.. Great stamp board site in my view.. I'll try and get us some more exposure here, and maybe others of you can help as well. As for the link.. Well I think it has potential!!!!!!!!!! Have a look and you will see what I mean if you click a few links.....

## NEW GB STAMPS – JAMES BOND ISSUE

James Bond lovers.. Here is a chance to indulge. A new GB issue on January 8th. First go to <http://www.norphil.co.uk/> and click on the James Bond stamps and you will find what I can only describe as the most comprehensive set of James Bond stamp collectables. Amazing Ian. I don't know how you do it, let alone find the time. If you want a set, of all 8 items, and live outside the UK you will pay £63. Out of my league but I am sure there are many willing to have the complete offering, which by the way includes a Mint set of stamps, Miniature sheet, presentation pack, unused stamp card set, Prestige Stamp Book, a set on Norvic FDCs ( beautiful), miniature sheet on Norvic FDC, and a set of the 4 PSB panes on Norvic FDCs

Ian is an IPDA member and I know his work is brilliant. For details of the stamps have a look at [http://www.norphil.co.uk/2008/01a\\_james\\_bond\\_stamps.htm](http://www.norphil.co.uk/2008/01a_james_bond_stamps.htm)

The stamps will be commemorating the writer and the books, rather than the films. There will be a set of 6 stamps featuring 2 x 1st. class 'Casino Royale' and 'Doctor No' ; 2 x 54p 'Goldfinger' and 'Diamonds Are Forever' ; & 2 x 78p 'For Your Eyes Only' and 'From Russia With Love'. The Miniature Sheet contains one of each stamp and a Prestige Book entitled 'Ian Fleming's James Bond' will be issued. These stamps will be printed by De La Rue in Lithography and are an unusual size being 60 x 21mm. Here is a sample of what you can expect.



## READERS EMAILS

Michael, This article from the Money Manager would be of interest to our members I think.

What about reproducing it in the newsletter? Regards, Alan Devine [secretary@ipdaonline.org](mailto:secretary@ipdaonline.org)

Subject: A rare stamp of approval James Cockington November 14 2007

Find it at -

URL: <http://www.moneymanager.com.au/articles/2007/11/14/1194766741343.html>