

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2008

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone. Before I get into the message I want to share with you let me give you a quick update on progress to keep my new years resolutions.

- 1 √ I have not got angry with my telephone service provider. I have not spoken to them ha ha ha ha.
- 2 √ I have been real cool when reading auction listings from shonky parasitic sellers.
- 3 I have to do more to achieve the promotion of my Children’s Corner
- 4 I have yet to discover the “law of participation”.
- 5 The Qantas A380 flight is a way off so watch this space, but I am booked on the first Singapore Airlines A380 flight from Singapore to London Heathrow on March 18th. Look out for more A380 first flight covers.

That is not bad, two out of a possible 4, How are you doing ? I know for sure if you said you’d participate you have all failed so far, except , Dave Arthur, Larry, Ken and Alan who have made contributions to this issue. Thank guys.

Now to my Editorial. I am a member of a number of groups, associations, societies, call then what you will. Often the subject of participation is written about. I realize just looking at my schedule that I don’t have the free time for stamp related activities that I would like. I expect this is the same for us all to some degree or other, whether we are part time sellers or full time large dealers. Philately is a hobby to many of us, and even where it is a full time business to others, I think we all find ourselves time challenged. I am lucky in some ways because I can use what I call dead time to write this newsletter, and my blogs. I could be reading a book, or watching a film but I use the time when I am on planes or trains to write. Like right now, I am on a 10 hour flight from Sydney To Seoul. Lots of time to write :-)

So with that in mind, I read the other day an email from our Chairman, Dave Ramsey who has advised us he will not be able to stand for re-election to the Board at the next AGM. I am saddened in many ways because he has been a guiding light for many years and yet I am happy for him because his reasons relate to work and family successes which are going to consume what little spare time he has.

I know he cannot be convinced to reconsider his decision, so may I be the first to say, “Thanks Dave, you have been an inspiration to me, (for those of you that don’t know, it was Dave that finally convinced me to apply for a Board position some years back), a positive influencer of IPDA activities, and a voice of wisdom to us on the Board when it was needed. I know you will stay a member of the IPDA and hopefully there will be a time when you feel you can give some of your time to the IPDA again in Director capacity”.

So everyone, please join me in thanking Dave, and at the same time thinking about the way forward for the IPDA.

As I have written on the later on, “visibility leads to creditability”. We will need participation at the IPDA AGM later this year, so please start thinking how you can be visible and how you can contribute to the credibility and growth of the IPDA in 2008.

Michael

COMMUNICATION — IPDA CHAT ROOM

As the words "Philatelic Dealers" in our name implies, we are all operating a business. It is also common knowledge that the most important thing for a successful business is advertising. I would consider the second most important thing to be communication.

Whether this is with a customer or with another dealer, we need good communication.

We have various forms of communication we can use but, we have to consider two factors. Time and cost. Emails take time, snail mail much longer and just think of the cost of a phone call to another country.

As an Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc. member you have instant COMMUNICATION world wide and the cost is very reasonable, FREE. Your IPDA chat room is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Since the chat room is open to both dealers and collectors, there is no need for the person you are contacting to be an IPDA member. All you would have to do is co-ordinate the time to be on with this person due to difference in time zones. Then give the person the URL for the chat room. (www.ipdaonline.org)

By going through the IPDA home page, if this person is not a member it will give them the opportunity to look over our site and you may have just recruited a new member. For a private chat just click on the persons name and bring up a private chat box. You will have one on one contact and instant response. With the cost of long distance calling you may save more on just one contact than your annual IPDA dues. If you haven't tried your IPDA chat room yet, drop in some time. A good time to find people there is around 7 PM, U.S. Eastern time.

Hope to see you there. Robert Bechtel, Packets Plus, IPDA Founding / Board member

MEMBER NEWS

Avion Thematics announces that they are now Agents for selling the OFFICIAL ISSUES from the following territories: Angola, Congo, Guinea - Bissau, Guinea - Conakry, Mozambique, St Thomas & Prince, Tanzania

They have already listed several hundred items from some of the above but during the next few weeks, this will be dramatically increased. Have a look at <http://www.avionstamps.com> Maybe you have a customer you cannot help but Avion can. IPDA Member - Roger B West



Avion Thematics over 50 years experience in Philately

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And welcome to some new members. Mike Owsian (mike@meostamps.com) and Melinda Poso (sisleap@hotmail.com)

IPDA GETS PUBLICITY

Well, the month of February is already upon us and it appears that we are still getting some nice free plugs about the IPDA chat room. Here is a url giving us a nice plug. <http://groups.msn.com/AllNationsStampClub/monthlystampexhibit.msnw>
On the average, we have about 2 to 5 people in the afternoon hours, but, in the evenings, we have been averaging 7 - 9 people on a regular basis and sometimes more. Just thought I would keep you all up to date on the topic
Chimo Larry Matthews (Board member Canada) Editors Note: So everyone, there are two places you can find IPDA members to chat to, both or own Chat room and this one on msn groups. Thanks for the update Larry.

PHISHING

Always on the look out for things that can hurt you or your computer.

- 1) emails supposedly from Paypal telling you your account has been blocked.. WARNING WARNING WARNING do not click the link to Paypal. You will be asked for personal details that will be going to a nasty person.
- 2) A very official looking letter from some supposedly authentic sounding organization offering the renewal of your internet URL, just fill in the very official looking form and provide credit card detail as payment. WARNING WARNING WARNING you are being scammed. Don't believe me.. go check your URL expiry date and it wont be the same as the official looking record you just received in the mail. Or look at <http://www.networksolutions.com/whois/index.jsp> to find out how they got your details in the first place.
- 3) Emails telling you a friend — but not using their name — has sent you a card. Click **here** to open WARNING WARNING WARNING If you click you will potentially download a virus to your computer, well you will if your firewall or virus protection software is not installed and properly working.

Got any stories or advice you want to pass on to members. Please email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD... ..

The start of a famous quote if I recall Can you tell me who first wrote this Was it Julius Caesar, George Washington or Winston Churchill? Or someone else? No cheating. But from memory OK Keep reading this and I'll give you an interesting link.....

I think of that now because your Board of Directors is challenged at this time with the resignation, for family and work reasons, of the Chairman, and also with the resignation of Alan Devine who has been carrying the two portfolios of Treasurer and Secretary.

Alan has to resign on doctors orders and I know you will all join me in sending a big thank you for all he has done for the IPDA over the past 4 years, and, more importantly, best wishes to him for many healthy years ahead.

The Annual General Meeting is coming up in May, date to be decided at the next Board meeting on 19th February. I encourage you now to think about your availability to contribute to the IPDA.

Can you take on the Treasurer role? Can you take on the Secretary role? Two Board members are supporting Alan at the moment but we do need to formally appoint a new Secretary and a new Treasurer.

Interested in joining the Board — What are you joining you may well ask - We are a real boring bunch of people. Never having any fun, always serious or self indulgent. Often thinking of the next exotic location for a Board meeting. We've done Hawaii, Ball, Tobago, and Mikinos in the Greek Island This is the boat that took us to the island for the September Board meeting!



We often pass the time talking about US IRS tax laws. Often unable to even attend a Board meeting because we one or more of us is stranded without internet access skiing in Switzerland, walking in Finland, sun bathing in Spain, working in India, or just battling the snow storms in some out of the way small town like Toronto in Canada!

Come join us and bring new ideas, motivate us to start enjoying life, give us the ideas and creativity to grow the IPDA and make it the organization we all believe is needed out there in the philatelic community.

Seriously, Please think seriously about getting involved. Feel free to email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com and of course look at the IPDA website and see who your Directors really are. And what we really do for a living, or not as the case may be!!!!!!!.

OK. You got here.. So have a look at <http://www.bartleby.com/73/1388.html>

EBAY PRICE CHANGES

Michael,

Here is some very important news about eBay's latest round of price changes which I have gleaned from StampWants latest Newsletter. (Editors Note: I can send the one page attachment to anyone that wants it but basically it explains price increases and restrictions on listings that will impact sellers, and ability to give negative feedback will be removed, so I am told)

I think this matter needs to be brought to the attention of all members through the Newsletter. I do not know what the IPDA could do about this announcement by eBay except protest. It is possible that the reasons why eBay have done this might be quite reasonable. It is a pity that eBay do not seem to tell us why they do these things. If they did and we understand, the changes would be more acceptable.

It looks as if we shall soon, and many have already done so, start switching to other auction sites that are a lot cheaper than eBay and in some cases free!

It might also be worth drawing attention to the service that <Auctiva.com> offers. If I have correctly understood their terms and conditions this may offer sellers a cheaper and better way of selling stamps on eBay. Auctiva offers a free eBay auction management service; free image hosting; free templates; free scheduling, free One Page Listing; all for an annual fee of US\$6.95. That gives you an eBay Store to enhance your items for auction.

Regards, Alan Devine

Editors Note: Thanks Alan. Do other members have view on this eBay pricing situation, or advice, guidance or experiences to share with other members. Email me please at michaelatipda@gmail.com

STAMPBOARDS.COM

I wrote about this group last month. Did you visit the Board?

I think we got some useful exposure from the piece I wrote. From my reading we had 177 viewers of my posting and 9 responses including a few saying how good the IPDA was. I think we got a few new members as well although I cannot be 100% sure these came from the exposure on the Board.

One point of view that was expressed in some correspondence I received was that IPDA members, whenever they are selling on an auction site (or anywhere else for that matter) should clearly say they are IPDA members. We do not mandate this, and actually won't. We are not a dictatorial group, however we hope all members will be proud of being IPDA member and thus always mention they are IPDA members. I have to admit that I listed a few stamps recently and actually forgot to say I was an IPDA member. Pure oversight on my part I might add.

As one of our wise Directors says, "visibility leads to credibility". How good a line is that. We should all remember this. Any ideas you have for getting visibility, and for establishing credibility, to help us earn the respect of the philatelic community, please email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com. Lets make something happen in 2008.

IPDA LOGO FOR 2008 AND IPDA CHAT ROOM

Alan, writes, just a reminder to members to use the new IPDA 2008 logo. Same logo of course but with 2008 on it.

The logo should be used on all items placed online which are to do with your philatelic business, including on sites like Stamp Wants and eBay. As Tony Kassel, Director stated to me "visibility leads to credibility and we, the IPDA, do need this. It will help the IPDA earn the respect of the philatelic community".

As advised by Ken I have managed at last to get into the IPDA Private Chat Room.

The following solution is for members who are using the same programs as I am (those using IE6 should not have any problem if they have the Java programs listed below on their computer).

Programs:

My Operating System is Windows XP Pro SP2 + Internet Explorer 7 + Microsoft Office Outlook 2007 SP1, and I have Java Runtime Environment Version 6.0_03 and Java™ Platform Standard Edition loaded. Configure IE7 as follows: (Needed to get into all areas of the web site)

- Open Internet Explorer home page,
- Click 'Tools' and then click 'Internet Options' followed by clicking the 'Security' tab.
- At the bottom of the Security page, see the heading 'Security Level for this Zone' and move the Allowed Level to 'MEDIUM' in the bar.
- Click 'Apply", click 'OK' and Restart Windows.

Instructions to enter the IPDA Web Site Member's Area (applies to both IE6 and IE7):

- Go to <http://www.ipdaonline.org> and click 'Enter Site' in the L/H menu bar.
- On the next page click "Member's Area LOG IN".
- On the next page follow instructions and in the 'Explorer User Prompt' box type 'revenue' and click 'OK'

Hope you find this useful..... Thanks for sharing it with us Alan.



ROYAL MAIL NEW ISSUE

Dogs.. I show these because I know some people like dogs. And there was a rather amusing thread on the Stampboards.com chatboard.

Personally I prefer horses :-)

Michael

