

NEWSLETTER APRIL 2008

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone. First an apology for late issue, Why? you may ask. Well sorry but been awfully busy with this new role in Korea, also with various business trips out of the country, occasionally going home to Sydney to see family and once even going to London on the inaugural Singapore Airlines Singapore – London A380 flight. Did I mention stamps? No, sadly I have had no time for them. Which is a great pity as I find working with them so relaxing. Even my blog and the IPDA blog have suffered.

But there is one thing I want you to join me in; that being, this is the first anniversary issue of me writing the Newsletter. How fast a year has gone by..

Hope you have enjoyed some of my writings and thoughts over the past year. I know this is a short issue and I hope to get some time in the coming month to get some articles written as the month goes by. I had expected to write on the flights I have been taking, but work and sleep seem to have taken a priority.

Anyway, to stamps. In this issue I have a piece about the new GB booklet issue and coincidentally it was in the first issue that I also wrote about the stamp you will see over the page.

I also wrote about the A380 aircraft on stamps. And here I am one year later with 4 inaugural flights under my belt. Am going for the fifth inaugural in May, that being the Singapore Tokyo route.

My covers for the Singapore Sydney flight sold well. My covers for the Singapore London have not sold at all – because I haven't advertised them to anyone, being I am in Seoul and the covers are back in Sydney, after being franked by Royal Mail on arrival at Heathrow. If you want to tell people about them I will be very pleased. I have 8 signed by 23 cabin crew and 4 signed by all four pilots. Pretty scarce me thinks.

I wish I had some spare time because while in the UK I picked up a rather large kiloware mix of GB which had been sent to my UK address. So I am not short of stamp here in Seoul. Just short of free time

Finally a few comments about IPDA matters. The Board met last month and had some good discussion about where we see the Association going and what we want to do to encourage membership. We are getting new members although usually only one or two a month. We had a marathon chat a few weeks back, over the Easter weekend in fact, and had an excellent turnout. I logged in from my apartment in Seoul and was thrilled to see 17 people in the chat room.

Last matter; we do have our Chairman standing down at the next AGM, in May. We have to appoint a new Chairman. Any ideas? And we also have a vacancy for the Secretary. Any volunteers please? It doesn't matter that you don't know us personally. When I took on the Publicity / Newsletter Editor role I did not know anyone. But we will welcome you. Please don't be shy. Help us make this the Association we believe it is and can be.

Best wishes, Oh, and don't feel shy about writing to me with ideas or articles for the Newsletter

Michael

MEMBERS VIEW.....

The following is from Alan Devine, the IPDA Secretary, who writes some views after reading an article in the MAC-CHAT Gazette which I believe is published by Andrew McEachern, one of our members from Brisbane Australia.

I noticed the article on Page 1 headed "A Dealer Dilemma" about the IFSDA's estimate of the total number of dealers worldwide.

Personally, I doubt the accuracy of this figure UNLESS you include all those sellers on eBay and other sites who do regularly sell lots of items but who do not classify themselves as dealers. I wonder where IFSDA get their figures from. I also noticed the bit about the APTA and other trader associations who only allow full-time dealers as members. This presents an opportunity for the IPDA to gain a lot of new members who are part-time dealers. It is interesting to note that about 65% of the IPDA memberships are part-time dealers. Over time a number eventually progress to become full-time dealers.

Your article also reminded me of the IPDA's unsuccessful attempt to affiliate with the IFSDA. I wrote twice to them but each time I received no reply. Then I thought I would contact their Australian Representative, Mr Max Stern. I sent him two emails and again received no reply. Amongst the rules on the IFSDA's website I discovered they only recognize one society of dealers from each country and that society must be the national one. God knows how you work out which one that is.

The point I am making is that the IPDA does not wish to become affiliated with someone like the APTA, or indeed any other dealer's society, because our aims and objectives and emphasis on using the internet as our primary means of dealing, are different from theirs.

We would probably not be considered for those reasons anyway.. So how does an international association of stamp dealers who work primarily but not solely with the internet and which has a membership in 15 countries across the world, is steadily growing year by year (we started with four), has a worldwide distribution of Director/Representatives, receives many visitors to its web site and to its Chat Rooms, become a member of that Association? I get the impression that the IFSDA is running a 'closed shop' of so called national dealer's societies. If so, it is doing a disservice to philately generally and all the people it represents because it is ignoring them and their needs. Well I got that off my chest. You can print my comments if you want to.

NEW GB BOOKLET

On May 13th the Royal Mail will issue a new retail book. They say to support stamp retailers, but I think it is to get more money from collectors :-). The booklet will include two 1st class 'Ice Cream' stamps from the 2007 Seaside issue and four 1st class gold Definitives. All stamps in the retail book will be self-adhesive. There are more jokes on this than are deserved. Think about it!!!!!!
For more information read another members great site (Norvic Philatelics) at <http://www.norphil.co.uk/2008/05b-summerbooklet.htm>



Image is copied from Norvic site. It is a mock up of the booklet.

A380 COVERS

And this I couldn't resist showing you.

My A380 covers being signed on the flight to London.



FACE CHANGES OF THE HOBBY

Like anything else in life, we all undergo changes in our lives. The hobby of stamp collecting is not exempt from this either.

I have subscriptions to different magazine and papers within the philatelic realm, plus the different journals and bulletins of the different clubs and societies I belong to and I have been seeing a lot of articles lately about the possible demise of stamps and stamp collecting in general.

To be honest, I for one do not think we will see the demise of the hobby any time shortly, but, it may be inevitable in the future.

Dealers and collectors alike have seen dramatic changes within the stamp collecting / selling community. I think the biggest and most obvious change was the introduction of the internet. Dealers no longer have to rent a store or building to carry on their business as it can all be done from the comforts of their homes. This was a plus because of rental fees etc. Collectors as well have benefited from this as well because we can see the item(s) we want for our collection with the click of a mouse. Gone are the days of ordering a catalogue and waiting one to two weeks for it to arrive by snail mail. The items are before us at a glance.

Collectors and dealers alike have seen regular postage stamps with the traditional glue take a back seat for the 'self stick' items of today. Some collectors frown at these and some do not. I am sure these will be the stamps for various study groups in the future.

Cancellations and postal markings have changed too. Rarely does one receive a cover in the mail that is neatly cancelled with a 'socked-on-the-nose' (SON) cancellation any more. We see a lot of 'spray-on' or 'ink-jet' cancellations. Again, these will be a study for the specialist in the future I am sure. There are already collectors that specialize in these cancellations today. Some slogan cancellation handbooks/ catalogues already list these cancels.

Even trends pertaining to what we collect have changed too.

It wasn't that long ago that judges at the different shows would reject an exhibit of 'Cinderella' stamps, locals, phantoms etc. Today that are a very respectable aspect of our hobby. More people are into this type of collecting than ever before. They also collect meters, bulk mailings and 'chevron mail. The list goes on really.

One area doing really well today is the 'perfins' scene. I have a philatelic reference book published in the early 1950s that states, 'perfins are nothing but junk or damaged stamps and should be treated as such, and tossed into the waste paper basket'. Boy, have we come a long way there too. Now we have societies solely devoted to perfins.

Speaking of 'philatelic reference' material, that has changed too. Again, in this day of the internet, we have 'e-books' on every topic under the sun.

If any dealer or collector goes by the auctions figures recently, we can conclude that the hobby is still in good shape, and should be for some time to come.

Part of my hobbies consists of philatelic clippings from the different magazines and papers dating back well over 50 years. Just recently, I came across an article dated January, 1983 that was titled, "The Doom of Postage Stamps". The article mentioned the countries of Germany and Austria changing to 'automated' stamps. While these 'automated' stamps are still with us, so too are postage stamps and this article is 25 years old! We still see stamps from Germany and Austria plus from all over the world.

So, to sum up, I think that we will still be seeing postage stamps for awhile yet. It would appear that some articles tend to leave a 'doom and gloom' atmosphere for the hobby, but I am inclined to think that the hobby is still alive and well.

What will we see in another 25 years? Well time will tell that and I am sure there will be new innovations regarding the transportation of the mails, but the postage stamps will still be with us. Let's face it. If the postage stamp issuing entities stop producing stamps altogether, which I doubt, at least collectors and dealers alike will have a 'cut-off' date to guide us by.

Happy collecting

Larry Matthews

If it is full of holes, keep it, it might be a perfin.

Editors Note. Thanks Larry, interesting thoughts. Anyone else have views they want to share ?

email me: michaelatipda@gmail.com

AGM MAY 13TH



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with Rule 10.9 of the Constitution I give notice that the 2008 Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at 5.30pm on Tuesday, 13th. May 2008.

The Meeting will take place in the IPDA Open Chat Meeting Room at www.ipdaonline.org
(click the "Chat Now" box).

Alan Devine
Secretary.
8 March 2008.

AGENDA

1. Verification of members present and of Proxies received.
2. Meeting will open at 5.45pm sharp with a Welcome Message from the Chair.
3. Confirmation of a Quorum.
4. To adopt the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 13th. June 2007.
5. To adopt the Chairman and the Secretarial Reports for 2007/08.
6. To adopt the Treasurer's Report, Audited Accounts & Balance Sheet for 2007/08.
7. To adopt, amend or reject proposals to change the Constitution of the Association
8. Election of members to fill vacant Director and Officer positions.
9. To adopt, amend or reject the Annual Business Plan and Financial Budget for 2008/09.
10. To Appoint an Honorary Auditor for 2008/09
11. Close of Meeting.

Please note: An information 'pack' containing all reports, motions and proposals will be circulated at least one week before the AGM.

INVITATION

Members and guests are invited to stay on and participate in a general discussion about the IPDA, Inc and the philatelic industry. The Directors would like to hear your views and comments and will consider all suggestions and ideas that members and guests may wish to make.