

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2008

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone.

Another month just shot past. I said that last month and yet this past month of May seems to have gone even faster. Is that possible? No, surely not.

I have so many topics to write about. Where to start? Well how about the highlight of my day. I finally found the stamp dealer arcade here in Seoul. What a wonderful time I had browsing through some 8 dealers shops (and a few others were closed). Tiny shops I might add, no bigger than my study here in the apartment but crammed full of stock albums. Interesting attempt at conversation with some dealers as little English was spoken but in the end the language of philately is universal and I had a wonderful time meeting some new collectors I guess you could call them. I even managed to buy a stamp or two plus some accessories that I had not brought over from Australia. Yes I am getting my Asia Pac operation established here in Seoul :-)

Of the stamps I bought here are two. I like these and as some of you may know by now I am interested in aviation on stamps. Well generally aviation but specifically the A380, more on that brilliant aircraft later.

Also, I have been reading about the closure of rural post offices in the UK. Sad times it would seem for many people who make

their living running the local post office in remote country areas. Seems the Royal Mail is losing some \$5.8 million a week. (US \$ I presume since I am reading a piece from a US paper). There are some 14,376 post offices in the UK. Awesome number and some 2500 are planned to be closed. Apparently there was a petition to the opposition of the closures and it got 4 million names. Some petition. Of course Royal Mail, according to some, are only interested in the bottom line. Well after all, they are a business. You know where I am going don't you :-)

Stamp issues. So many from the Royal Mail. Yet more and more, and recently including some more of the worst pretty stickers I have seen in a long time, about two months ago !!! :-)

yes the 50th anniversary of classic film from the UK. Or some such title. I am writing from memory. Yes I know I should get correct details but time is precious :-)

And finally on the subject of GB. I have written to my blog many times about the use of GB Commemoratives on letters. Yes actual letters. I keep saying collect commemorative GB used as they will be worth a few bob or dollars in time. I received an office collection recently from a friend of mine who collects the stamps off the letters received at her office. One commemorative issue, 4 overseas, and some 190 1st and 2nd class definitives. Random sample but I think it is telling a pretty strong story. Same in other countries I wonder? You tell me.



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

Michael

A380 COVERS, AGAIN....

I wrote on these a few times before but hey since I have editorial control I thought I'd write again.

As I said on the front page this is a brilliant aircraft in my humble view, well as a passenger, but then I talk to the crew and they say the same – you could say they would say that but all I read substantiates that. Anyway, another reason May flew by – excuse pun – was that I went to Singapore on 19th May to join the party at departure gate A9 / A10 in Changi's Terminal 3 (fantastic terminal if you have not been there) for the inaugural Singapore Airlines A380 to Tokyo Narita. Good flight I might add and yes we did get to Narita, but only after diverting to Nagoya due some rather rough weather around Narita.

Crew were brilliant – yes you can see that :-) as we have come to expect from SQ crew – and I don't have to say that just because they sign my first flight covers – they really are very good. I am flying them again in a few days to Singapore from Seoul then on to Sydney. Great way to travel if you have to fly :-) Anyway, I did get some covers signed by cabin crew and a couple of covers signed by the two pilots. Some pictures you might enjoy. One of these covers I carried for a friend from the UK. Brilliant cover design I thought. Also note I got the covers franked 20th May for the Singapore departure and backstamped on arrival in Narita with the special handstamp produced to commemorate the 30th



Anniversary of Narita airport. Took some doing I can tell you, but patience and good looks helped!!!!!! :-)

Next flight? Beijing is scheduled for August 3rd from Singapore. Can I make it I wonder. Time will tell. Watch this space :-)

Michael



Above and to right – my cddstamps Cabin Crew signed cover – front and back – the Narita commemorative frank in red over the local Japanese stamp



Left – My friends cover. Very nice don't you think.

Backstamped as above



PRETTY PICTURES ON STAMPS

Well actually not that pretty if you ask me. But I thought I would show them anyway.

Someone will surely like them and no doubt they have made a mint for the Royal Mail.

I am not really anti Royal Mail as I think they do produce some lovely stamps

— see the Christopher Wren issue below and the recent images of St Pauls Cathedral.



Very nice design and presentation I thought. But some of these “modern day” designs are just too much for me.

You can see both issues, so you tell me email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com with your views

And what from your country? Same story? Or not ?

Do send me some scans and I'll discuss this further.

AGM NEWS

Sort of left to the bottom because there is no AGM news. Many attended but not a quorum. In fact I have to admit, with head hanging low I did not attend. Sad excuse .. I slept in. Been working long hours and basically did not get up early enough. The Board did meet as a regular meeting and a few resolutions were passed. One which might interest you was to pursue the idea of managing and maintaining a bad dealers / sellers / customer type list.

The details and specifics are being documented by the Board under the very capable leadership of Alan Devine the Secretary. You will hear more on this in the future. The rescheduled AGM meeting is on June 3rd. Please do try to attend. I think details will be issued, or have been issued. Even I am a bit behind with my email. I have such an exciting and somewhat long hours demanding role here in Seoul it is hard to keep up, and I assume it is same for us all these days.

KOREA RECENT ISSUE

Since I am in Korea I thought it only timely to show you a recent issue.

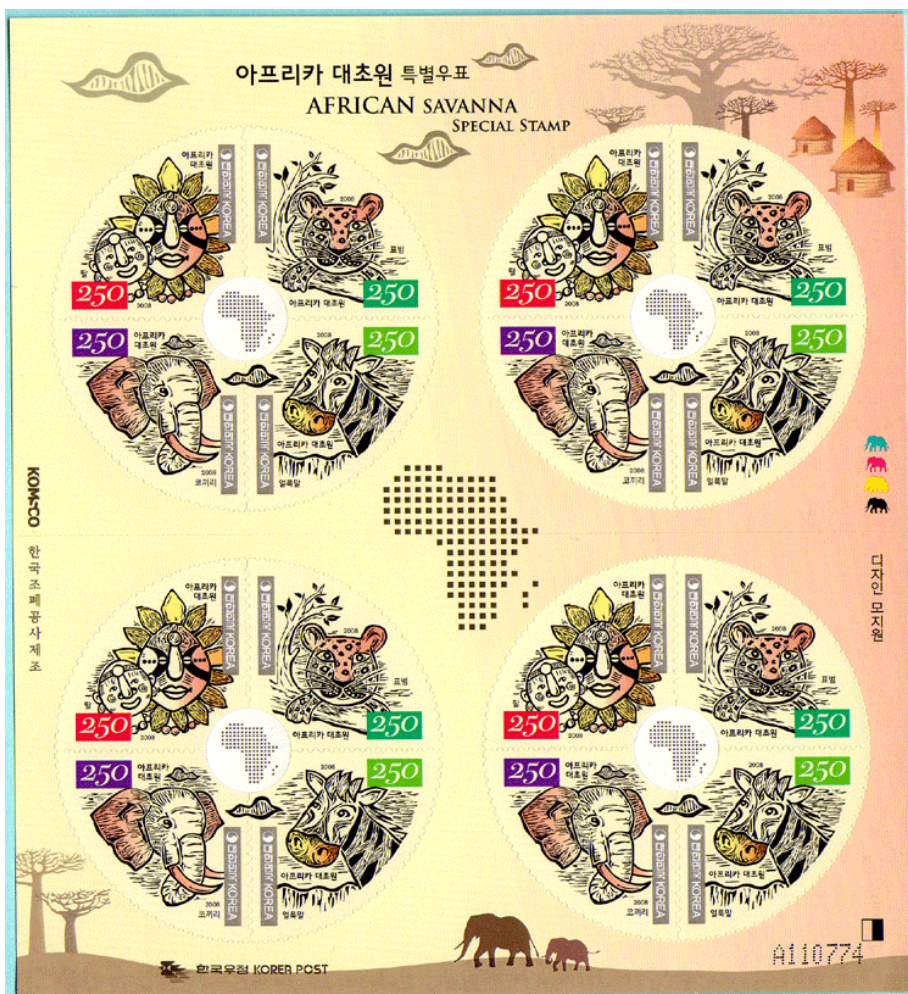
I rather like these. Not available in the post office any more I am led to believe but at one of the stamp dealers I found today - see opening page - I was able to pick up a copy.

Printed in a block - M/S - of four sets.

Issued March 26th and as you can see se-tenant.

I am not really sure why they were issued as - believe it or not - I cannot read the Korean write up in the Korean Post mailing I have :-)

Anyway, that should not take away from



your enjoyment of them I hope.

BOOK REVIEW

The Invention of Stamps: Essays and Printing Trials from the FA Philbrick Collection - The famous collection of the British judge and philatelist Fredrick Adolphus Philbrick was considered lost. His collection contained essays and drafts which I understand lead to the first stamp, the Penny Black. This collection was rediscovered in the Archive of Philately at the Museumsstiftung Post and Telekommunikation in Bonn. The book describes his collection. Among other items in the collection the book shows the unique Specimen sheets of the earliest British Stamps, the so called "Prussian Find" and describes the development of the first stamps. It covers the Postal Reforms leading to the development and introduction of the first perforations on stamps. The book is available from Heinz-Willi Beckers, An der Feuerwache 7, D-41836 Huckelhoven, Germany. I may well order a copy as it sounds like a really interesting read and a wonderful edition for my library.



CLOSING REMARKS

Most of this has been me writing and rambling about me and stamps. Much as I enjoy doing this I do hope it is not boring for you to read. I think I should be doing more to talk about the stamp scene from a broader perspective. I know I am not and partly that is due to my time constraints, but more so it is because I get no feedback, ideas or contributions to this newsletter. I don't mind that if you are happy to read what I write. But if you want more please tell me. I'll do my best to make time to do some research and write on what you want to read about.

Enjoy your stamps, your stamps business and your stamp colleagues. Best wishes..... Michael