

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone.

How has your stamp business and various philatelic activities been this past month?

Successful and enjoyable I hope. Not for me though. Well I cannot say it has been unsuccessful as I really haven't done much with stamps at all. My only success was getting my First Flight Covers on the Qantas inaugural A380 flight from Melbourne to Los Angeles, and my only disappointment was not getting them on the inaugural Sydney Los Angeles. Long story and one I probably should not publically say why I didn't get them carried but lets say I was let down by persons unknown to you all. Such is life. I still have the covers as Souvenir First Day covers. If I had any with me I would show you a scan but I don't so maybe next Newsletter.

Talking about flying, I have again been doing my fair share to help various airlines bottom lines and in the coming month I will be doing even more it seems. I'll be spending a few weeks in Kuala Lumpur and then a week in Sydney before returning to Seoul. I expect I will have even less time for stamps and philatelic thoughts and activities. Travel also precluded me for joining the October Board meeting I am sad to say. I was on a plane to Seoul at the time and sleeping like a baby I think :-)

Keeping with the aviation theme for a minute, I did receive a cancelled set of the Air Display GB stamps issued a few months ago by Royal Mail, parcel cancelled but still quite collectable. I think getting a complete used set of any GB new issues is becoming more and more difficult as there are so many news issues these days and it seems so many stamps in a set. How many are really used on postage I often wonder. You all probably know my thoughts on this and I think the same applies in many countries. Just remember, my view is that prices will sky rocket eventually for modern fine used commemoratives. I am looking forward to seeing the SG 2009 catalogues which will no doubt be out soon.

Anyway, inside the envelope I received was a lovely card. Rather nice I think. This was issued at the Autumn Stampex 2008 in London. It features an unadopted presentation visual by Collis Clements for the 1986 RAF issue and was reproduced by kind permission of the British Postal Museum and Archives. It was one of a limited edition of 7,500 only available at Stampex 2008 and is number 15 of a series. I don't know how many in the series. Would be nice to collect the others. Anyone have access to these?

Hope you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and if you get time and want to write something for future Newsletters, or want to give me feedback — good or bad both happily received — I would be most pleased to hear from you.

Best wishes, Michael

michaelatipda@gmail.com



1d Black, Plate 2 HK, Almost complete red Maltese Cross SG 2 Spec AS15, from Peter Mollet, Philatelist, UK, listed in his most recent catalogue at £325. Lovely stamp.



WHAT IS OUT THERE

I do spend some spare time browsing the web. My relaxation time. There are so many stamp related sites, it quite amazes me. When I started my own stamp website there were so few and even many of the big dealers didn't have a web presence. There were no blogs for stamp collectors back then either, and now there are more than one could ever find the time to read.

So what stamp sites do you read? What stamp blogs do you read, apart from mine that is <http://cddstamps.blogspot.com> what do you mean you don't read my blog. Shame on you ha ha ha ha. There are even some useful links from my blog, well I think so. You tell me. Perhaps you have a blog I don't know about. Drop me an email and I'll link your blog to mine if you would like.

I also get quite a bit of philatelic email. From various sources. Some subscriptions, some from just people who read my blog.

Here are a just a few sites you might like to have a look at. All in the interests of broadening your knowledge of what is available out there. All choices are entirely my own and with no reason to show them other than I want to.

<http://www.prestigephilately.com> I expect everyone is familiar with Gary Watson. His web site is, in my view, very nicely designed and with a wealth of choices, from his excellent auctions to books, articles and general philatelic resources.

<http://www.gbstamps.co.uk/> one of my favourite GB sites, for buying and for reference.

<http://www.asdaonline.com/> not a site I read much but a quality site I think you will agree

<http://machinmania.blogspot.com> This blog is one you have to read if you are interested in Machins. Truly excellent stable of writers

<http://www.norphil.co.uk/> another of my all time favourites. Always current on GB and for the postmark collector an excellent site

<http://www.europe-stamps.com/blog/> you might like this site if your interest is Europe. Very comprehensive.

<http://www.philatel2.com/jubilee/> a very informative and very well presented blog all about the 1935 Silver Jubilee omnibus stamps of King George V of Great Britain . This site will have you reading for hours I think.

<http://www.stampboards.com/> I just wish I had more spare time to contribute and participate — well worth a read but not if you only have 5 minutes !!! And if it — whatever it is— is not here it doesn't exist.

<http://www.philatelicdatabase.com/> quite interesting and you can read this in 11 languages. The translation feature is quite amazing.

<http://aerophilately.net/> I just have to show this one don't I :-) really interesting site and with pages of philatelic aviation related links to keep you busy for weeks. Have a look and scroll down the home page.

Well, just a few as I say. Hope you find something of interest in these. Write me with some of your favourites and maybe I'll do another piece next month. Michael

TAGGING ON USA STAMPS

An email from one of our members came to me this month. Jim Biehl asks if any of the members has any experience with tagging on United States stamps.

Jim is looking to make contact with someone to help him check a small lot of stamps to see if they have tagging or not.

He has some US Air Mail stamps that are questionable and needs a second opinion.

The light (I assume the UV lamp) he is using is not that good so he would like the second opinion before he places them up for sale. Jim will pay postage both ways for the items and would even be willing to pay a small fee for anyones time.

If anyone can help Jim please could you email him at jbstamps@gmail.com mentioning "tagging" in the email title.

And do we all know what tagging is I wonder? This is a simple explanation: Most countries use some sort of coating, underprinting, or paper that glows when subjected to UV light. Stamps that exhibit this behavior are called tagged. Tagged stamps are used in automated sorting equipment by the various postal authorities. If you want to learn more you might like to read this link. <http://www.avbstamps.com/Specials/tagging.html>

MURDER FOR STAMPS

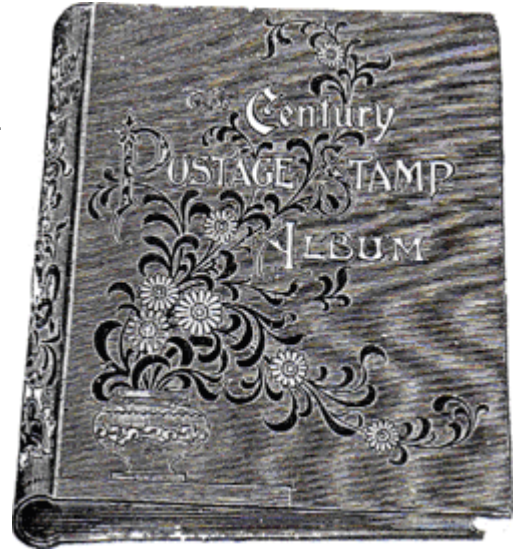
Do you know that people have allegedly been murdered for their stamps? Perhaps the most well known of these murders surrounded a rare stamp, the 2c Hawaiian 'Missionary' of 1851. Only one has ever been found in unused condition.

In 1852 the stamp was in the possession of the French collector Gaston Leroux. One day he was found murdered - the crime apparently being motiveless as no valuables or money had been taken.

At first detectives were baffled by the crime, But one, who had some knowledge of philately, discovered Leroux's collection of Hawaiian stamps. After checking it against a catalogue. He discovered that the 2c stamp was missing. Even a visit to the local dealers failed to locate his missing stamp. Eventually, however, suspicion fell on Hector Giroux, an ardent philatelist and close friend of the murdered man.

The detective posed as a collector, made Giroux's acquaintance and eventually tricked him into boasting of owning a 2c 'Missionary'. Giroux was arrested the next day and questioned over the manner in which he had come by the stamp, Eventually he broke down and confessed to the murder of Leroux, who had refused all offers to part with the stamp. Giroux is said to have been convicted and in due course to have paid the supreme penalty for his crime on the guillotine.

Thanks to our Secretary, Alan Devine, for sharing this with us.



SPECIALISTAUCTIONS.COM

One of the items discussed at the October Board meeting concerned the following letter received from Bob Clements from SpecialistAuctions
<http://www.specialistauctions.com/>

“ You may have noticed when looking at SpecialistAuctions, that our model differs slightly from other sites in the online auction market in that sitting between buyers and sellers we have subject specialists known as Moderators.

The duties of our moderators is to help keep the site free of fakes and forgeries (we recognize that some stamp forgeries are collectable and worth more than the original though, these are exempt) by removing the item, advise sellers on descriptions, give valuations via the forums, help develop the categories and sub categories and generally help to build the site by driving traffic to it.

We don't ask our moderators to do this for nothing, they receive 10% of the fees we receive. I guess what was going through my mind was, that with the spread of knowledge the IPDA members have, we could provide the opportunity to them of becoming involved in helping to create a safe place to trade that they would benefit from.

They might choose to donate their SA commissions to the IPDA to assist funding the association. We in turn would promote the IPDA by providing a banner at the top of every page an IPDA member moderates which would link to your association website. With 2.5 to 3 million page views a week, this would obviously enhance your position.

Overall we are offering your members the opportunity to move away from a platform that is attempting to legislate changes that both buyers and sellers dislike and to join a platform that supports the needs of collectors everywhere”.

So, I am providing this for your information and if you wanted to take up the offer please feel free to contact Bob at 197jdm@talktalk.net and mention that you are an IPDA member.

And finally, again for your information I thought I'd let you know we are working on a new logo for the IPDA. We had the very kind offer from one member, who has graphic art and marketing logo design experience, to help redesign the IPDA Logo. Many thanks to Don O'Neal for his work for us to date. I hope to show you the finished logo in the next issue of this Newsletter



specialistauctions.com
specialistauctions.com

IPDA VACANCIES

PLEASE COULD YOU HELP



Would you like to become a member of the IPDA Committee

There are two positions available. Association Secretary, and Membership Secretary.

Both are Directors of the IPDA. You would have the opportunity to play a significant role and put forward your ideas for the IPDA.

The Association's procedures are all online and all contacts with fellow officers and members are conducted via the internet. If you are willing to help, or wish to learn more about these positions please contact Alan at secretary@ipdaonline.org

I have had no response to these vacancies and really would ask you to think about putting yourself forward. Email for details or with questions. It really is not a burden on you but a rewarding contribution from you. michaelatipda@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERS

Hello and welcome to two new Members of the IPDA; Antonio Augusta Ferreira and Rosalina Jesus Matos Cardoso from Portugal. Antonio is the Founder of ACOFIL- Portuguese Philatelic Dealers Association. Interesting web site at <http://www.stampsbythemes.eu>

Be honest how many of you have an office as tidy as theirs? :-)

And just a reminder for existing Members,

The association is organised into 4 World Regions, which may increase in the future. Each region has at least one Regional Representative/Director. Their names and email addresses are shown in the Visitors Section of the web site. We have a number of Directors and members available to answer questions and give assistance across a range of subjects from the management and operation of a stamp dealership to the functions and operation of the IPDA, Inc. To obtain advice and/or assistance please contact your Regional Representative or the Association Secretary. You may find the online reference library a useful source of information as well. The IPDA's members are at present spread across 14 countries, making up 4 regions - North America; UK & W. Europe; Australasia & S. W. Pacific (including New Zealand, Indonesia & the Pacific Islands) and Asia (including India, China, Japan, N & S Korea, Philippines, etc).

And, as a Member you are entitled to place a Free Banner and to be listed in the Member's Directory on the association's web site (contact the Web Master at webmaster@ipdaonline.org to do this). Other benefits are described on the web site, including a small but growing online reference library.

CLOSING REMARKS

I started by saying I did not do much in the way of stamps this past month but I do recall seeing a dealers catalogue or two. I still get hard copies sent to me occasionally. Some stunning material is available. On page 1 I showed SG2 from Peter Mollet from the UK. A very reputable dealer who I have bought from in the past. This from Elstree Stamps <http://www.elstrestamps.com>. SG 403 £1 Green with centering just off to the right and a few short perfs in my view but still a nice copy. Listed at £525 against a SG 2007 Concise catalogue price of £1250 Seems quite reasonable. What do you think?



As I always say, I hope to hear from you. Write me, tell me what you are finding in the stamp world. Tell me of new issues, anything that you think others might like to know about. Enjoy your stamps, your stamp business and your stamp colleagues.

Oh, and no one wrote to me about the stamp I showed in last months Closing Remarks.. And I even forgot what it was about myself now :-) Seemed interesting at the time :-)

Best wishes, Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com