

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009

### EDITORIAL WELCOME

#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

**EDITORIAL  
WELCOME** 1

**BOOK REVIEW** 2

**GB DECIMAL  
SPECIALISED**

**BUCKINGHAM  
COVERS** 2

**IPDA  
VACANCIES** 3

**EBAY** 3

**QUALITY  
DESCRIPTION** 3

**USA NEW  
ISSUES** 4

**NEW CHAT  
ROOM** 4

**CLOSING STUFF** 4

Hello everyone. Happy New Year to you all. 2008 has had to have been the fastest year of my life. 11 months in Seoul, South Korea have just shot by. A wonderful experience I might add and one that has occasionally left me with a few free hours to write the Newsletter each month, do some stamp related activities including soaking 1000s of Machins, and reading various stamp web sites. Some very good ones out there, some I have commented on during the year and a couple I will tell you about in this issue.

Anyway, I hope 2009 is good for you, good for your families and good for your stamp business and philatelic interests, whatever they maybe.

Now do you remember my New Years resolutions from last January? I thought not. Well I do. I managed to partially achieve them. I could have done more to promote of my Children's corner but have at least supported some children's activities, particularly here in Korea, which has been rewarding for me.

Two failures really. One was I did not discover the law of participation. I asked for participation and got well, some I guess. You will have to read last January's issue if you have forgotten what that was about.

The other failure was that I did not travel on the first Qantas A380 from Sydney. At the time I set the resolution of course, I did not know I would be working in Seoul. So I think I have a reasonable excuse. For 2009 I have a resolution to travel on the Qantas inaugural A380 Sydney - Singapore - London flight (January 16th to be exact). Lets see if I can get off to a good start for the year. My A380 First Flight Covers for the flight are printed and should be in Sydney when I get back in a few weeks.

I am currently clearing out my Seoul apartment, as the first phase of the program over here has been successful and I am moving back to Sydney. I'll be focusing on activities in Malaysia and China and maybe Taiwan. More opportunity to travel I think and maybe find time to look at stamps from some other countries.

Over the past 11 months I have managed to show some of the issues from Korea. Some nice issues and certainly not overwhelming in terms of the number of issues or number of stamps in an issue, or even the number of variations in an issue. I think collectors over here are very lucky from that perspective. If you have been reading my blog or the IPDA blog you may well have read some of the pieces I have written on this topic. I'll say no more on it other than — who is collecting new issues from the likes of Great Britain, the USA, Canada, Australia for example, and who is even using the stamps on real postal mail?

So, 2009 is the year of the Ox. The Ox is seen to represent positive characteristics such as responsibility, industriousness, intelligence and practicality, as well as negative traits like stubbornness and intolerance. Ye gods it must be my year !!!!

Enjoy the rest of this issue and have a great 2009.

Michael



## BOOK REVIEW GB DECIMAL SPECIALISED

This might be of interest. Although the catalogue was released 9 months ago I think Roy (our Webmaster) who sent me this make some good points. The catalogue is the Gibbons GB Decimal Specialised Catalogue Volume 4. Roy discovered after getting it months after its release that SG had decided to split the former volume 4 into two separate volumes, 4 & 5 fast bound, to match Volumes 1- 3 in this series. He may have got Volume 5 for Christmas. I have yet to hear.

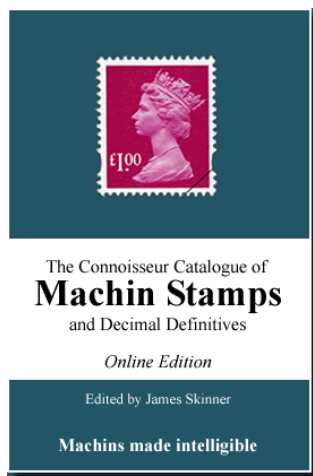
Roy says the new volume 4 includes all sheet and booklet stamps showing the Machin head, apart from the non-value indicator stamps (NVI's) and self-adhesives, which will be covered in the new Volume 5, along with regionals, postage dues, greeting stamps and other sections of the previous volume 4.

The new volume 4 lists all the Machin definitives issued between 1970 and the end of 2007 (except those mentioned above), with booklet panes and complete booklets in the comprehensive detail which collectors have come to expect from Stanley Gibbons.

Roy points out that he seems to be spending more money on catalogues these days than he does on the actual stamps. He goes on to tell me he feels it is a must to have the latest information at hand if you deal in the modern Machin errors.

I'd like to add a footnote to this because I recently got notification of the an update to a very good web site see <http://www.connoisseurcatalogue.net/> This is the online edition of the Connoisseur Catalogue of Machin Stamps and Decimal definitives. An excellent reference source in my humble opinion.

Do have a look. Even if you don't collect or deal you may want to refer this to your customers.



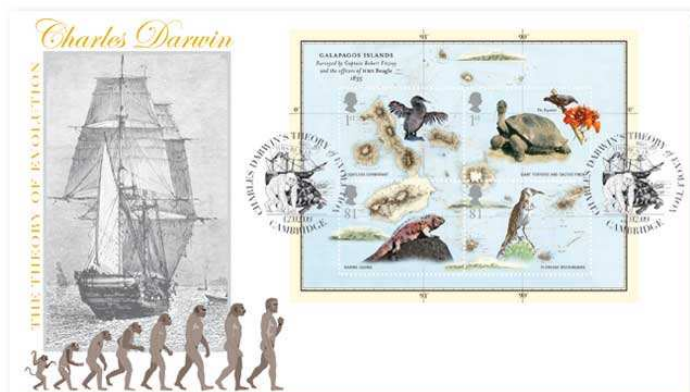
## BUCKINGHAM COVERS

Collectors, and many people for that matter, all over the world are interested in and participate in the birthday event of Robert Burns, fondly known as Scotland's favourite son. My good friend Tony Buckingham has some interesting new covers for release soon.

The first is a pair of covers to mark the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the birth of Robert Burns.

The covers are available signed or unsigned and the main signature will be Alexander McCall Smith CBE, one of the world's most prolific and popular authors, who was also Professor of Medical Law at Edinburgh University for many years.

Another new cover is a tribute to the father of evolution, Charles Darwin. Buckingham Covers are working officially with The HMS Beagle Project to produce a pair of First Day covers which will mark Darwin's bicentenary and the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the publication of "The Origin of Species."



The covers will feature the stamps and miniature sheet issued on 12<sup>th</sup> February and are available signed or unsigned. The signatures are Sir Robin Knox Johnson, Patron of the Beagle Project, and Round the World Yachtswoman Dame Ellen Macarthur.

"The charity is creating a working replica of Darwin's original ship and we're delighted to be working with them" says Tony.

If you or your customers would like more details call 01303 278 137, go online at [www.buckinghamcovers.com](http://www.buckinghamcovers.com) or write to Buckingham Covers, Warren House, Shearway Road, FOLKESTONE, Kent. CT19 4BF.

## IPDA VACANCIES

For the past few months I have been telling you that we have vacancies on the Board. 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](mailto:secretary@ipdaonline.org)

Anyone interested? Lets start the year with participation please? Write to me [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) or Alan, for details. Don't be shy.

## EBAY

This is a bit late on my part but something I thought you might be interested in reading. Sent in by Tony Kassel. Thanks Tony.

"My father used to say "One mans Trash is another mans Treasure" that is so true on eBay. I think it is good to great technique to list things on eBay that you cannot find in stamp catalogues. It has happened to me more than once where I listed things for 99 cents that sold at auction for over \$500 My economics professor in college defined Value as; that which someone will pay for something.

Catalog values are a reference, when you find things that are not in the catalog, the sky is the limit on the Value. So list away, a cheap stamp with a great cancel may be just what some collector is looking for. Just thought I would share my thoughts on the subject"

New Item, eBay Turbolister bulk uploader. Your listing will be available in all of eBay if you select worldwide as shipping location.

Please advise the members that they can list directly on other eBay country sites. For example there is eBay.au eBay.es eBay.fr eBay.ge eBay.uk Each of these are independent business groups of the eBay organization. As such they can and do set their own fee structure and listing duration. You can use turbolister to upload items for sale in these different countries. To do so, when you download and install turbolister they select which countries you would like to list in. Here is the link. [http://pages.ebay.com/turbo\\_lister/](http://pages.ebay.com/turbo_lister/) Again I think it is good technique, I have listed in France and Spain, it gets a little tricky with the language and the shipping, but for UK and Australia, why not take advantage of the different fees and listing durations.

## QUALITY DESCRIPTIONS

I am adding this short piece here because; 1) for Christmas I got the SG Commonwealth and British Empire Catalogue 1840—1970 and in it I saw a rather excellent piece describing stamp quality with pictures, excellent catalogue I might add, and, 2) on eBay recently I have been seeing some stamps for sale which are just so not correctly described. You all know this is one of my pet peeves and one I think we all have a responsibility to collectors, to get right.

Being a member of the IPDA means you know and give accurate and correct quality descriptions, among other things of course. Being a member of the IPDA should enhance your standing. I know the buyer can see the quality him / herself from a scan but many buyers are not as experienced as us and will no doubt trust the description they read. Maybe they shouldn't and maybe if they see the IPDA logo it will give that bit more credibility to us the seller. Here is one example. Listed as F/Used. And, from what I can tell by a very successful seller.

I hope you see my point and you will encourage fellow reputable dealers and sellers to join the IPDA during 2009. That should be one of our New Years resolutions. If each of us just got one new member? Let's go for it.





## USA NEW ISSUES

Maybe I have spent too much time and text on GB in this issue. To try to address that I thought I'd show you this stamp from the USA. To be released January 16th 2009 to celebrate the author's birth bicentennial. I guess we have all read some of Poe's works over the years. The deep and dark and mysterious and macabre part of us all has to come out somehow, and I guess his writings were his release. His writings were certainly regarded as popular culture I think it fair to say.

The stamp is issued in a pane of 20 and is similar in design layout to the stamps issued in the Legend of Hollywood commemorative series. 30 million stamps will be issued. They are gravure printed on nonphosphored paper and with self adhesive gum.



Another very current topic of course from the US is the inauguration of the next President. To celebrate this historic event, the inauguration of Barack Obama as America's 44th President of the United States, the US Postal Service is issuing a souvenir cover with a digital colour postmark.

The issue will be a limited edition and goes on sale on 20th January.

It comes in a presentation pack. You can order online at the USPS web site <http://shop.usps.com>

## NEW CHAT ROOM

You may have read this from Larry Matthews but I thought it might be useful to tell you again, or if you missed it.

One of our members, Allan Oliver, has created another chat room for us. The old chat room was apparently giving some chatters a real problem. In some cases, the entire page was 'refreshing' all the time and would not give people a chance to type in whatever they wanted to say. Others had pop-ups left and right which, in some cases, kicked chatters out of the room.

While these things did not affect me personally, I did have a 'porn' site crop up on our screen when in the old chat room on at least 3 occasions. I have the feeling that we have been hacked (?)

The new chat room still has a few things to be ironed out on it but does work quite well. Also in this room, we have the ability to kick / ban abusive people who come into the chats. Sorry to say, this ability had to be used 2 times already but at least now we can do this.

For those of you who would like to give the new room a try, you can access it at:

<http://philatelics.org/~allan/shrop/chat/ipdachat/index.html> Hope to see you there and if you have feedback, maybe you can tell us the pros and cons?

## JUST SOME CLOSING STUFF

Some closing remarks for this issue. I hope you have enjoyed it. And if not then please write to me or better still send me some material you think others would like to read about. I was reading Linn's News digital edition the other day and came across an interesting piece about the UPU ( Universal Postal Union). A proposition to get the world's postal agencies ( 191 of them) under a single internet suffix (that is with a dot post suffix) is moving ahead — albeit slowly it seems. Big benefit from this would be that collectors could buy from an immediately recognized and valid postal service. As many of us know there are many not legitimate issuers of "stamps", by that I mean stamps that are not from legitimate postal authorities. Lets hope it happens.

I also came across this web site. <http://www.philatelicexporter.com> Many of us will no doubt have read the hard copy magazine but this was new to me ( ok so I am slow) and I thought I'd share with you.,

Happy New Year to everyone. Michael

Email me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) I'd be pleased to hear from you

