



# Internet Philatelic Dealers Association, Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2009

### EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello, I have been pondering what to write about in this editorial. In fact the reason the Newsletter is issued later than it usually is, is simply because I don't know what to write about. Lost for words. Not me surely :-) But yes that is the case. So many topics to write about and yet what has been happening in the stamp world that I find interesting enough to ramble on about.

Well the articles in this issue may provide some insight into that and my own collecting interests may provide another insight. I decided during the past month to have a look at my Fiji collection. Lots of spaces in my earlier, that is GV, GVI and early QEII, collection. So I went onto eBay. Actually bought a few lots at what I think were good prices. What I found interesting is the quality of what is being sold, the prices, and the knowledge of the sellers. In many ways as a buyer you are gambling in my view. There are some very good sellers out there. Many with large numbers (I means 1000's) of positive feedback. Often dealers in the UK and US. But there are many smaller sellers — like me I guess — but with a few significant differences. They either don't really know what they are selling, or they don't know how to accurately describe what they are selling, and why, because they are not stamp dealers. Full time or part time, it makes no difference, but if you are going to sell you should be able to accurately describe what you are selling.

If you read my blog <http://cddstamps.blogspot.com> (from 3rd June) you will see my piece on perforations. I bought some GVI Fiji and in the lot was a ½d 1938 issue. After careful checking I found it was a perf 14. Cat value £20.00 Nice addition considering I paid a few dollars for the total lot which included many high value Mint GVI that I wanted and the ½d was a “just there item” as far as I was concerned.

As for condition, I must say I have generally been very pleased with what I received. Some staining that was not accurately described but nothing that had me fuming with the seller. Also the packing was very good. I am impressed with that in general. It does seem people know how to package so stamps or envelopes wont get “bent” by the postal services. Of course most of the lots were in small enough size envelopes there would be no reason to bend the envelope. But who knows what the postal people will do or why.

Another observation is that the dealer sellers generally describe the stamps accurately, or as accurately as their knowledge level would allow them. On this I think it means when you are looking at buying you have to assess is the seller someone that knows what they are doing? Can I trust their judgment? I don't think for a minute there is (generally) an obvious intent to misrepresent when it comes to selling stamps, but there may well be a lack of knowledge, especially from the mum and dad, or left to the son or daughter when dad dies, type sellers. And often I have read.. “ I know nothing about stamps .. My father left me these and I am selling them. Hey, at least that is honest. And maybe a chance to pick up a bargain As it seems I, by chance, did. So my thinking is accurately describe and I think you will see a sale. Of course, add you are an IPDA member.

But look at certain lots and topics. My favourite soap box topic, A380 flight covers. A very different story. I sold a flown first flight cover this past month. Why? Because I wanted everyone reading the lots for sale to see my cover and see what was important when compared to other “A380” lots that were also for sale. Like, the date of arrival postal frank on the stamp on the cover. Derrggghh, one cover I saw being offered had the GB stamp postmarked 16th January. Like, hello people.. The aircraft didn't arrive until 17th January. Accurate description and clear facts about the cover rather than just a picture of an envelope with some A380 picture on it, which lets be honest, is ..... Well I wont go there :-)

Flown or genuinely produced first flight covers make up aerophilately, or a large part of the collecting interest. But, an A380 “first flight cover” or representation of a flight cover, with a stamp from Jersey, or Guernsey ..... I don't think so. I think the closest the A380 got to places like that was 30,000 feet. Oh and one more, Comores. Lovely — I think not — miniature sheets from there — supposedly — with A380 and also Concorde on the stamps for sale on eBay. Not sure that there is a postal administration there, let alone a reason for issuing A380 or Concorde commemoratives. (I've done some research and cannot print for confidentiality reason what I have found) Same goes for other places of course and even I weakened and bought some but at least I knew that they had UPU Postal authorities.



Current Australia issue — “Early Australia” theme depicting “QANTAS”

Anyway, back to Fiji, when are they going to issue A380 stamps? :-) not soon and anyway I like the design and subjects of the GV and GVI issues. Really interesting. Enjoy the rest of this issue. Well I hope you do. You know where to write if not....

*Michael* ([michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com))

### 1992 £2 HARRISON CASTLE WITH COMPLETE SET-OFF

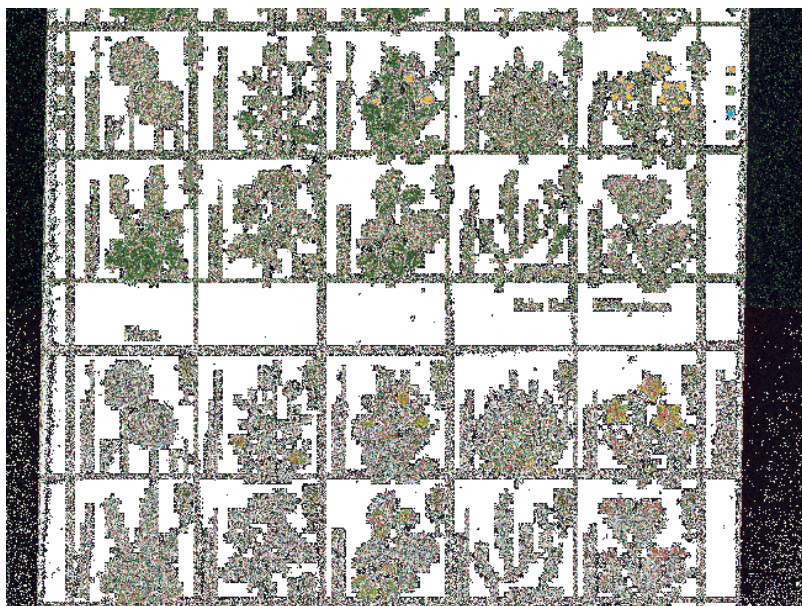
I'm grateful to Mike Holt for supplying scans of this probably unique sheet of the 1992 £2 Harrison Castle (SG 1613) with a complete set-off impression on the reverse.

The set-off is in register with the perforations and was probably caused by the press first operating without a sheet of paper, thus imparting an inked image of the plate on to the impression cylinder. When the next sheet was printed, the cylinder 'printed' its impression on the back of the sheet. The term 'set-off' (as opposed to 'offset', which is a form of printing) is usually used to describe the accidental transfer of a printed image from one sheet to the back of another, but is also applied to other unwanted, accidental, impressions, such as in this example. Partial set-offs caused by a corner of the previous sheet being folded over are relatively common; it is very unusual for a complete set-off impression of the plate to occur. You can find Mike at <http://www.mike-holt.com>



### RARE PLANTS, RARE ERROR!

The Production Team at Buckingham Covers were recently very surprised to find what could be a unique error sheet amongst their Royal Mail Endangered Plants stamps. (I am only showing a portion of the sheet due size constraints) The stamps were to be used on the Buckingham Endangered Plants First Day Covers and it was the eagle-eye of Production Manager Tracey Spratley who spotted the error. The double pane sheet had been mis-perforated, leaving one stamp completely without the Queen's head and 1<sup>st</sup> Class denomination. It has also resulted in most of the remaining stamps in the top pane having the Queen's head and denomination on the left side rather than the right. "This is very unusual," said Chairman Tony Buckingham. "We haven't heard of any others so far and believe this could be the only one. We'd certainly be very interested to hear if any more exist." The rare sheet will eventually be sold, however its value is still to be determined. If anyone knows of similar error sheets from this issue and would like to contact Tony, please call on 01303 278 137, email [betty@buckinghamcovers.com](mailto:betty@buckinghamcovers.com) or write to Buckingham Covers, Warren House, Shearway Road, FOLKESTONE, Kent, CT19 4BF



### GB CONCISE CATALOGUE 2009

The latest edition of the Stanley Gibbons GB Concise Catalogue has been published. This edition is in a larger format than previous editions, the binding has been improved so the book lays flat when open. Surely a nice feature, well as I see it. The catalogue is in full colour and includes priced listings for definitives, commemoratives, regionals, postage dues, departmental officials, postal fiscals, errors, first day covers, booklets, specimens, and the post office label sheets known as "smilers" Useful features are the Commemorative Design Index (which I have always found useful from the SG Australia catalogue I have), and the Decimal Machin Booklets Pane Guide—of which there are now so many!!





## CHICAGOPEX 2009

The Chicago Philatelic Society hosts Chicagopex every year in November.

This is the largest stamp show in Illinois and attracts dealers, exhibitors and stamp enthusiasts from all over the US and around the world.

It is being held this year from 20 to 22 November at the Sheraton Chicago Northwest.

In conjunction with the show a number of specialist societies are also invited to participate and hold their annual conventions. This year these include the American Revenue Association, the Great Britain Collectors Club, the State Revenue Society and the Eire Philatelic Association.

For more information have a look at the web site <http://www.chicagopex.com/id12.html>

The screenshot shows the website for CHICAGOPEX 2009. The header includes the Chicago Philatelic Society logo and the event title. The date is November 20-22, 2009. The location is Sheraton Chicago Northwest, 3400 West Euclid Av, Arlington Heights, IL 60005. A navigation menu on the left includes Home, Becoming a Member, Contact Us, Stamps for Kids, CHICAGOPEX 2009 Info, and CHICAGOPEX 2009-2013. The main content area contains a welcome message, exhibition details, and a list of participating societies. A sidebar on the right lists various application and prospectus links.

## LONDON 2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS

On the theme of stamp shows I thought I would mention the London 2010 Festival of Stamps show.

I doubt I will be able to get to the Chicago show but the London one is more likely.

It is being held from 8th to 15th May 2010 at the Business Design Centre in Islington.

I have been to a stamp show there a few years ago. It is convenient to get to on public transport and the facilities are very good in my humble opinion.

For more information have a look at <http://www.london2010.org.uk/>

The screenshot shows the website for the London 2010 Festival of Stamps. The header includes navigation links for International Stamp Exhibition, Exhibitions and Events, Contact us, About London 2010, and Home. The main content area features the event title, a logo, and a description of the festival. A sidebar on the right lists 'What's on' with details about the International Stamp Exhibition and Empire Mail. A postage stamp featuring King George V is also visible.

## AUDREY HEPBURN ON GERMAN STAMP

This article may interest you if you have any interest in the Audrey Hepburn stamp that surfaced in Germany back in 2005. see also [http://www.expatica.com/de/news/local\\_news/huge-price-for-audrey-hepburn-stamp-15478.html](http://www.expatica.com/de/news/local_news/huge-price-for-audrey-hepburn-stamp-15478.html)

I am thinking of this because a fellow collector in Germany wrote to me recently about attending the Essen Stamp Exhibition (held May 6th–10th) at which a copy of this stamp was auctioned. In 2001 the government printed 14 million Audrey Hepburn stamps as part of a series featuring movie stars including Charlie Chaplin, Marilyn Monroe and Greta Garbo. The print run was destroyed after Hepburn's son objected to the cigarette holder dangling from the actress' mouth and refused to grant copyright. This most recent copy (5 have been reported used on mail) fetched euro53,500. After adding commission and sales tax, the total came to euro67,000. The stamp was found in kiloware - how lucky was that person. Beats my perf 14!!!



**EBUSINESS MADE EASY – SEARCH ENGINE SUCCESS**

**Submitting Your Site – Part II of the Search Engine Success article.** Part I was published in the May issue. *Thanks to Roy Simpson our Webmaster and Board member in Spain. These are just a few option for Submitting your site.*

**Go to Altavista.com** or alternatively try the UK version (co.uk). Scroll down to the bottom of the page and click submit a site. If the content of their site has changed and this can not be seen type this into the help box "submit my site". When directed to the submit page ignore express services, with these you will have to pay, scroll and look for free submissions, follow the guides they give you. Once done you are a member of the Altavista club.

**Top sites to list your work.** Yahoo, Google, Alta vista, Dmoz, Hotboot, Turbo 10, Alltheweb, Metacrawler.

If you use site submission software or multiple site listing programs, always use a e-mail address that you do not use as a rule, if you do not have a spare one, get one. The reason is you will no doubt get tons of spam in your inbox for months to come. Now that you have done all the work, its no time to sit on your hands. There are lots of other things you can do to get more traffic coming to your site. One of the best ways is through other sites in a series of links. This also helps to boost your rankings with some search engines. Look for sites with a similar subject, if you are willing to put a link to them, e-mail the web master to ask if they will link to your site also.

**Wave your Banner** You are bound to have seen banners on other sites, so create one for yourself. Software such as Animation shop make it simple to create a professional looking banner. Animation attracts more attention than static banners, so its worth the effort to write "click here" on the add, new surfers will then know they have to click the banner to get to your home page. It may pay you to add the URL as some surfers may not want to leave at this point, but may make a note of the address and visit you later. Getting your banner into cyberspace does not have to cost a fortune. There are many resources to suit you – google and you will find something that is local for you.

**Summing up** - Remember with web sites its not a case of I have built it , they will come. You have to get your message across to people. It does not have to cost the earth, and registering is fairly easy.....so now its up to you. Roy.

**WHO DO YOU CALL**

Who do you contact to get answers or information from the IPDA

Secretary	Membership Secretary	Treasurer	Confidential List Office	Web Master	Editor Publicity/ Blog Officer
Secretary @ipdaonline.org	Membership secretary @ipdaonline.org	Treasurer @ipdaonline.org	Membershipsecretary @ipdaonline.org	Webmaster @ipdaonline.org	editor@ipdaonline.org
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meetings</li> <li>Notices &amp; Agendas</li> <li>Proxy voting</li> <li>Rules &amp; By Laws</li> <li>Code of Ethics</li> <li>Breaches of the code of Ethics</li> <li>Proposals to change the constitution</li> <li>General enquiries</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renewals of membership</li> <li>Membership No.</li> <li>Membership Card (see Receipts for money received)</li> <li>Overdue fees</li> <li>Have paid fee twice</li> <li>Contact addresses</li> <li>References</li> <li>Membership Logo</li> <li>Resignations</li> <li>Updating your email / postal address, Business name, etc in the Member's Records</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receives all income including membership fees</li> <li>Reimbursement of expenses</li> <li>Receipts for money received</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Receives reports and complaints of fraud, unethical behavior, cheating, etc in dealings with buyers &amp; sellers</li> <li>Registers all complaints / reports</li> <li>Advises members of courses of action open to them</li> <li>Calls for additional information if necessary</li> <li>Conveys the Board's decision to members and offenders.</li> <li>Issues Confidential Lists to members.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintains web site</li> <li>Deals with web site software problems/errors</li> <li>Explains how to use web site</li> <li>Receives contributions from members &amp; Directors to the 'on-line' reference library</li> <li>IPDA Logo</li> <li>Updating your details in the Members List</li> <li>How to get into the</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Articles for publication in the newsletter</li> <li>Provides a conduit between IPDA &amp; members concerning general IPDA news</li> <li>Designs &amp; places advertising and publicity material in selected media</li> <li>Acts as IPDA Blog Master/Editor &amp; deals with all blog messages</li> </ul>

**CLOSING REMARKS**

This is my stamp for the month. Well not only because it is an A380 but also because of the postal franking.. Hope you enjoy seeing this. As always, I look forward to your comments and feedback, articles or ideas for articles. Best wishes.. *Michael*

