



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association, Inc.

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EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello again. Apology for late issue this month. Usual excuses :-)

News from IPDA to start with I think. Your Board met on 7th September. 8 Directors present; so that was a very good attendance and shows there is a strong commitment to the running of the IPDA.

We discussed various matters, sadly including the fact that some members have not renewed their membership. We don't know why as they have not responded to emails. Hope they are ok of course but it is sad to lose members. However, lets think in the positive and what can we do to get new members? I for one am keen to see the values of the IPDA promoted around philatelic circles. Much as other Associations and Societies promote their values, often the same or similar to ours I will agree. But, above all else we stand for ethical dealing over the internet. And as you all know I am one unhappy bunny at some of what I see on eBay in one particular thematic area. More on that in my closing remarks.

I know there is nothing I can do about it yet I think if the people that buy on auction sites and stamp dealer web sites were to be asking, is this dealer, this person selling stamps, a member of the IPDA? it would be so good for us. I for one do not buy much these days, but when I do I check out the seller and usually only buy from people I know or have had a long standing relationship with. And I do look at member sites for material I want. I look at these sites now more and more. And when I sell, which occasionally I do, I promote the fact I am an IPDA member. To me that says two things: One, I have the standards and values of the IPDA reflected in my material, and two, perhaps debatable, but I think it means I can ask a price that reflects that. And so can you.

So we agreed at the Board meeting to work to increasing membership during the remaining months of 2009. How can you help? Well I am sure you can and I welcome any ideas and contributions. You will be hearing more on this over the coming weeks and months.

We also talked about the website and how we can improve that for all of us. I notice a couple of members site links are not working. So check yours if you have made changes. People do visit our site and, as I said above, it is one door for you to the buying collectors who look to you and me as members of the IPDA as dealers who offer value and quality. And don't forget you get a free web page so write something and send it to us (me or the webmaster) so we can help you promote your business.

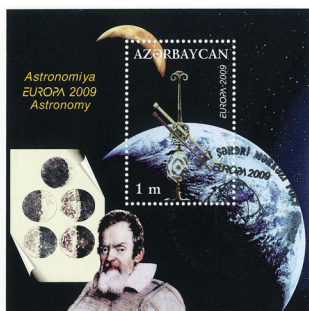
Michael

Best wishes, I look forward to hearing from you. Enjoy your stamps and stamp colleagues

michaelatipda@gmail.com

STAMP OF THE MONTH

... because I am reading Galileo's Dream. Excellent reading by the way.....



NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

HELP us Promote the IPDA and grow our membership so both you and collectors who buy stamps, buy more from you.

Please send ideas to me at michaelatipda@gmail.com and I will share with the Directors

ROYAL MAIL NEW ISSUE FOR OLYMPICS 2012

I showed new issues from Canada a month or two ago – issues to celebrate the winter Olympics. I read this press release, which I thought I would share with you, from Royal Mail on the GB issues for the 2012 Olympics. All pictures copyright of the Royal Mail of course.

Press Release 24/08/2009

Royal Mail launches major series of Olympic Stamps for London 2012

Royal Mail has commissioned some of Britain’s most exciting artists and illustrators to create three sets of stamps to be issued in the run up to the London 2012 Olympic Games.

A total of 30 1st Class stamps will be issued in the Olympic and Paralympic Games series, with the first ten going on sale on 22 October 2009.

Royal Mail is working with illustrators and fine artists to create the stamps which will highlight both the sporting and cultural significance of this incredible event



2012 London Olympic & Paralympic Games—22 October 2009

Each stamp will champion an Olympic or Paralympic sport and they will be issued in three sets in 2009, 2010 and 2011.

Among the sports featured on the first set of stamps is diving, with a distinctive illustration by the leading contemporary artist Julian Opie, alongside the lesser known Paralympic sport of boccia.

Julietta Edgar, Head of Special Stamps, Royal Mail said: "Royal Mail has always been there to celebrate and commemorate significant moments in our history and the London 2012 Olympic Games is one of the greatest events on the planet.

"We hope these stamps play their part in the countdown to the Games, but also to highlight both the sporting and cultural legacy of this wonderful event."

The 30 stamps mark the 30th Olympiad and London 2012 Paralympic Games and are official products of the London 2012 Olympics. Each stamp will feature either the London 2012 Olympic Games or Paralympic Games logo.

London 2012 Chairman Sebastian Coe welcomed the announcement: "I'm thrilled and proud that London 2012 is going to be working with Royal Mail to produce these stamps. It is a huge honour to have stamps created in celebration of the Games and we look forward to working with Royal Mail over the next three years. These stamps will be a wonderful way to celebrate the London 2012 Games and means that the whole country can get involved in this fantastic festival of sport between now and 2012."

POSTMARKS

Many people collect postal frankings. Here is one I was lucky enough to get. I mailed this letter to myself - 6pm, 7th day, 8th month, of 2009. Over franked, as often with Australia Post, with a clear 07/08/09, do you have any interesting postal franks? Send me a scan and I'll share with others.

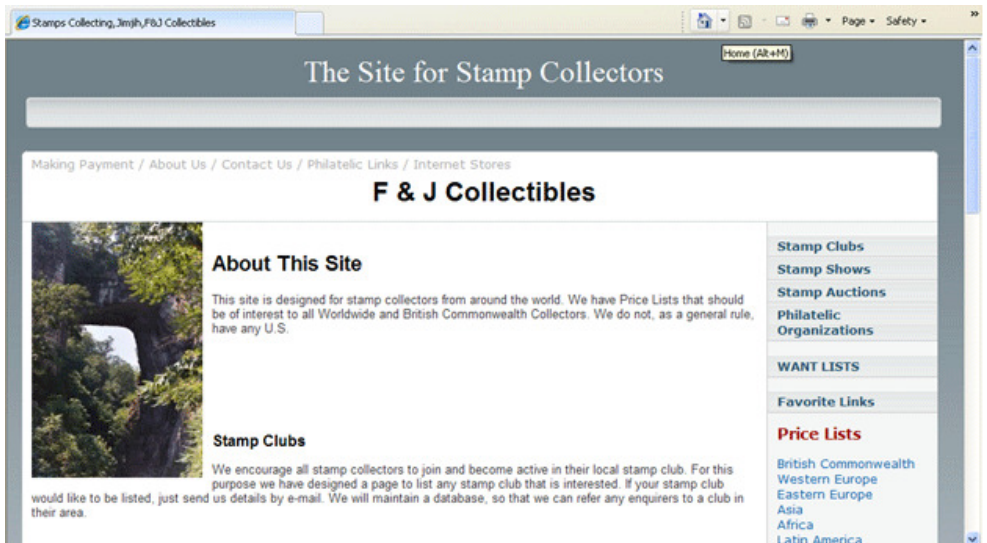


MEMBERS PROFILES

Continuing my look at member sites I thought I'd show you this one. F & J Collectibles are based out of Richmond Virginia. Jim has been a part-time stamp dealer for 35 plus years. He has collected stamps even longer. He is a long time member of the APS and has depth of experience working stamps shows from Philadelphia to Atlanta.

Jim carries a good selection of British Commonwealth, Western and Eastern Europe, Asia, Africa and Latin America in all periods. He has a free listing which can be sent by US mail within the US or email to the rest of the world, and it can also be downloaded from the website.

I like the fact also that there is a strong focus on supporting children taking up stamp collecting, and links to clubs.



Stamps are not Jim's only interest of course, he likes the radio – in fact the old radio shows - and if you visit his web site at <http://www.iimjih.com/index.htm> you can find your way back to the classic radio shows of the 40's, 60's and 60's, and more no doubt.

SINKING OF THE TIRPITZ STAMP SHEET

The 65th Anniversary of the Sinking of the Tirpitz

On 12th November 1944, 617 Squadron, otherwise known as The Dambusters, set off from Lossiemouth. The target was the *Tirpitz*, the German battleship menacing British shipping and cutting off food supplies.

None of the men who were flying that day expected to return home. Even with extra fuel tanks, the *Tirpitz* was only just in range and close by was a crack squadron of German fighters who could easily shoot Lancasters out of the sky, before they even reached their target. It was a suicide mission.

But luck was with them that night. They sighted *Tirpitz* 14,000ft below them. The Lancasters lined up over the target and the Tallboy bombs rained down. The first two direct hits pierced the decks then her magazine blew up with a tremendous explosion. *Tirpitz* was sunk.

It took incredible marksmanship to hit such a tiny target and the men who thought never to see their families again came back home after all.

This sheet is available from Buckingham Covers – A limited edition of 617 to honour the 617 Squadron. Details available from http://www.buckinghamcovers.com/shop/productdisplay.lasso?product_id=995



CLOSING REMARKS

I recall some feedback I received some months back, in my survey, saying the newsletter was somewhat autobiographical. I hope I have corrected that but in this case please indulge me just one more time. While the topic is mine the principle applies to us all, whatever our area of interest.

You might recall my closing piece last month.

I wrote about collecting A380 aerophilatelic material and the material that is on eBay by a particular seller.

I decided to bid on one of his items — listed as a FFC — I think that means First Flight Cover — well it used to mean that :-) and it means “cover” I believe, and “flight” as in flown cover unless noted as commemorative cover not flown. I was on the flight and I can assure you there was no one carrying this material. Surely something like this would have got a signature or two. The crew know me and I am very sure I would have heard something.

I said last month how so much material was “dubious” Thankfully when I received the item I bid on I had my view confirmed.

I don't mind wasting a few dollars to prove my point. I would have had to eat humble pie had I been wrong. But I was not.

This is not a cover (is it?) and it has not been flown. Sadly I have to admit here that I arranged to have material cancelled for him years back; How I regret my ignorance of his business model at the time but that is another story, and I was just starting with A380 material.

So, if you have a collector who comes to you for A380 FFC material, or A380 related material please think carefully. This is what I purchased. I am not embarrassed to say I was conned. In fact as I said above I paid for this to prove to myself I was not wrong. But what about others out there? Maybe they are happy in their ignorance. One day they will get a shock if they ever try to sell, thinking they have a FFC.

As I have said before, two messages here — one, if you have customers who collect A380 covers and collectables please help educate them; two, help us all promote the value of membership in the IPDA. If we can get buyers to ask, are you an IPDA member? we have made great strides. Sellers like this eBay seller will not be able to sell such material unless accurately described. And don't think this only applies to A380 material. I would guess it could be affecting you and your business whatever your specialty and interest is. So let's learn from what I have seen and keep promoting what membership of the IPDA is all about.

Enjoy your stamps and stamp colleagues —
Best wishes, *Michael*



Werner Ebert, poste restante
c/o London SHC Royal Mail
Mount Pleasant Farringdon Rd.
LONDON EC1A 1BB
United Kingdom

Above: Top — what I purchased on eBay — A piece of card not even a post card. Just a piece of card. It was not described in any way what so ever, so any buyer would not know what he or she was buying, or appreciate the medium and size. Bottom My flown First Flight Cover. For comparison and perspective. An envelope. **Below:** - Reverse of the above

