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Page 1
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EDITORIAL WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- EDITORIAL WELCOME** 1
- NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE** 1
- WHAT IS POPULAR IN AUSTRALIA?** 2
- MACHIN CATALOGUE UPDATE** 2
- MEMBERS PROFILE** 3
- THE BLÉRIOT CENTENARY CELEBRATION - 2009** 3
- LETTER TO THE EDITOR** 4
- MEMBERS AREA ON THE IPDA WEBSITE** 4
- CLOSING REMARKS** 4

Hello again. Time be writing another Newsletter. I hope this finds everyone well.

I will start by saying the next Board meeting is next week and I have been deliberating whether to hold off this issue until then. I decided not to since I seem to have plenty of material for this issue. On item re access to members page on page 4 you should read. We will no doubt discuss the Membership drive I mentioned last month but unless you want to hear about some of the administrative stuff we discuss, which I am pretty sure you don't I will pass on that topic for now. So to one of my favourite topics for this welcome piece.

I just got back from Singapore, which you might think is not overly exciting unless like me, you really enjoy the city. And, the reason for being there in the first place was to fly on the most recent A380 inaugural service. This one by Singapore Airlines from Singapore to Melbourne. What a great aircraft the A380 is. I so enjoy flying on it. Of course it helps that, in my humble view, the crew are the best. The very best. All this so far has nothing to do with stamps although there is a stamp theme to my madness as I guess you know by now!!! . Namely, the carriage of my (and two colleagues) A380 First Flight Covers.

Signatures from Cabin Crew on some, and the pilots on a few others. I will enjoy adding these to my collection and hopefully sell a few to help towards my airfares. No apology for this blatant plug but since I am still paying off the Singapore London inaugural from well over a year ago please tell any of your customers about cddstamps if they might have an interest in flight covers, and A380 covers in particular.

But to the IPDA, I do want to comment on one matter. The membership drive. In the past I have done a few surveys and had excellent responses. Is it time for another? What can we do to increase our membership and promote what we have, and perhaps more importantly the potential we have to offer? Your thoughts? Please email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com or should I write a survey? I'll dwell on it.

STAMP OF THE MONTH

... because I finally got a GB commemorative on mail this week – from my mother, bless her – see Closing Remarks to explain more



Enjoy your business and philatelic related activities and colleagues. We should be in this together and promoting this wonderful hobby and working towards a better future for stamp collectors and dealers. Shouldn't we?

Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com

NEW MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

I wrote the following item last month. Any ideas? I look forward to hearing from you, as always .

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



Stunningly good looking, oh yes, and the covers and the crew!!!



WHAT IS POPULAR IN AUSTRALIA?

The following was previously published in the Australasian Stamp News magazine. I reprint it here with permission of the author. I hope you find it interesting and useful.

Over the past few months I have noticed a change in what my Australian customers are looking for. This is not based on any survey, just on my own observations. Probably the most sought after stamps are the Ozzie KGV 1d red and others belonging to the Australia King George V issues of 1913 to 1931.

The 1d red is the stamp most customers are interested in. The demand has been so big that I now have difficulty in supplying them. Interestingly, the next stamp most sought after is the GB 1d. Red-brown. Why the Ozzie KGV 1d is so popular is due to a number of reasons. One important reason is the amount of publicity that has recently been given to the KGV 1d Red's faults and varieties, and the high prices being fetched at auctions. Everyone is now busy searching for more with faults and varieties and hoping they will strike it lucky.

Australia's Pre Stamped Envelopes (PSE's) have also received a lot of new attention. They are an attractive series and obtainable at a low cost. But what makes them more interesting is the over-printing and the many special postmarks that have been used. Many have found that these form a good small side collection. The PSE's are not so popular in used condition because of rough handling and opening. Never-the-less a well looked after used PSA is collectable.

I have noticed that USA and Canadian stamps are in more demand and the Pacific Islands at low prices are being eagerly sort by a particular group of Australian vendors. Israel is of more interest than it has been for some time. The Vatican City and United Nations which are capable of forming almost complete collections with very little effort and small outlay are enjoying renewed attention.

Australia still has strong support amongst the average collectors, but not FDC's, unless they belong to the pre-1940 era. FDC's are mainly sought in used condition.

The demand for classical stamps of high value is still very strong and prices at auction continue to climb. Most people cannot afford these stamps anymore and hence they are switching attention to cheaper stamps.



Andrew McEachern is a collector first, part time dealer second; he is founder & President of Collectors Club Queensland, was national President of the APF fore-runner Australian Stamp Promotion Council, and belongs to various Australian and overseas societies. He also conducts the only course in the world for wannabe stamp dealers. Contact him at (postal) Suite 333, 236 Hyperdome, Loganholme, 4129 or by email to stampman5@bigpond.com

MACHIN UPDATE



The Connoisseur Catalogue online has undergone a major overhaul recently, in an attempt to bring it up to date with the latest issues. As those of you who actively follow the Machin scene will appreciate, this is no small task, given the number and variation of stamps issued. Look at the online index and it will surely have you in awe of the complexity and the Machin issues. There have been extensive updates to several chapters. If this is an area of interest to you or your customers I think you will find the new information interesting and valuable.

The following is from the website. This may be useful for you and your customers, if you do not already know it. Since the publication of the 10th Edition of the Connoisseur Catalogue and it's subsequent supplement a huge amount has happened in the Machin world. The rate of development continues unabated, making it impossible for a Machin catalogue to be produced that is not out of date as soon as it is published.

The online edition is published in chapters, as soon as they are completed, making them instantly available online. It is also the intention to update the catalogue on a much more frequent basis, a godsend to collectors in this rapidly moving field. Illustrations will also be in colour, a significant upgrade to the black and white images in previous print editions.

For more, about access and costs please have a look at the website <http://www.connoisseurcatalogue.net/> it really is brilliant what they have achieved. This is the link direct to the online version <http://www.connoisseurcatalogue.net/catalogue.htm>



The Connoisseur Catalogue of
Machin Stamps
and Decimal Definitives
Online Edition
Edited by James Skinner The Connoisseur
Machins made intelligible
First Chapters NOW ONLINE

MEMBERS PROFILES



I hope you have some time to read this web site. <http://www.sturstamps.com/index.htm> From member Martin Jenkinson of the UK. Apart from a very nice design, well laid and easy to read, it has, in my view, an excellent stock of quality material. If you have a customer wanting this material and you cannot provide it perhaps a referral to Martin would be much appreciated.

Martin has collected stamps for over 50 years, concentrating for most of that time on the early British Line-Engraved issues, more recently exclusively from Plate 5 of the 1d Black (and the 1d Reds printed from the plate). He is making progress with a complete reconstruction of the plate in all states. He was largely responsible for redrafting the section on Plate 5 in the 12th (2001) Edition of the SG Specialised Catalogue, Part 1 and he has completed a major review of the plate.

Martin has been in business as a dealer in these issues since early 2001. You can read more on his web site, click the  button. Also do look at the Stamps and the Covers pages. Enjoyable just to read.

THE BLÉRIOT CENTENARY CELEBRATION – 2009

A few issues back I wrote a piece on Bleriot. This is a follow up, with thanks to our Chairman who attended the celebrations in France back in July and his colleague Bill Robertson. This report is an extract from a report Bill wrote.

On 25 July 1909 Louis Blériot became the first person to fly from France to England in a piston engined aircraft. A flight of symbolic significance which, in the light of the astonishing development of aviation in the intervening years, fully warranted the national celebration in France, in July this year: nowhere more so than in the Pas de Calais, with the focus on the villages of Blériot Plage and Sangatte to the west of Calais itself

The celebrations were worthy of the occasion. The focus was on aviation, with exhibitions, concerts, conferences, fly-pasts, and re-enactments of the first flight. As an integral part of all of this activity the *Cercle Aérophilatélique Française* (CAF, the French equivalent of BAMS) supported by local and national organisations put on a superb three-day display of philatelic material in the spacious *Jules Boulart* sports hall at Blériot Plage on 24, 25 and 26 July.

35 contributors (including 14 from outside France) put on 53 displays, in total 236 twelve-sheet frames of superb material. Significantly this was a non-competitive event: no judges, very few rules, no medals: just a friendly camaraderie of collectors showing their best material with no hang-ups or inhibitions. Indeed, the first 48 frames consisted mainly of original postcards from the early Twentieth Century, illustrating the birth of aviation at first hand. Blériot and his Blériot XI-2 aircraft featured strongly among these.

No commemoration of the first Trans-Manche flight would be complete without a re-enactment of the first flight, and this proved to be the case in 2009. Two rebuilt models of the original plane were on the scene, one from Sweden the other from Belgium. The original Blériot flight took place very early in the morning; the re-enactment was scheduled for around 6 am on the 25th from Calais airfield at Merc but due to wind conditions the actual flights took place around 9 am, and relatively few people seem to have witnessed them



Ken and colleague Bill Robertson from Scotland, in France at the celebrations.



From Ken's Exhibit in France — an air crash cover of Imperial Airways. This cover is from a De Havilland DH-4A which crashed at Eltham, UK on 22 August 1920 operating the London to Paris route. This is the only recorded cover.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

In the April Newsletter there was an article on CTOs. I received a letter about this article and I a) forget about the letter in all my emails given everything that was happening to me at the time and b) them couldn't find the email after hours of searching. So I offer my sincerest apology to the writer. But I have found the letter at last and even though it is dated here it is. Other comments on this interesting topic?

The Ever Popular CTO by Roger B West (UK based Avion Thematics)

Robert Bechtel's article on CTO's prompted this reply as I rather felt, among other things, he's trying to teach his Grandmother to suck eggs but might I suggest, ended up with egg on his face.

First off, what's the big problem with CTO anyway? As he says, they're almost as old as stamps themselves, they're cheap, they mainly appear on thematic issues attracting the young into the hobby, and in the main, they don't obliterate the design like so many commercial cancellations do.

I have an issue against anyone trying to tell me what I should and shouldn't sell and a similar repulse for those telling a collector what he should and shouldn't collect. This is a hobby and I believe it should be up to the individual to make his own rules. I guess my main concern was that this was written by a director of the IPDA - I just hope he does not convince his fellow directors that selling CTO is underhanded as he implied by 'facing yourself in the mirror'.

For the record Bob, I sell CTO's and I can face myself in the mirror, albeit not a pretty site. I also sell Forgeries, Gulf States, British Locals and what has popularly been referred to as 'illegals'. Each of these have received bad press - frequently being referred to as undesirables, drugs on the market, plague items and so on, but I firmly believe they all have an important place in philately, and my ever growing customer base is proof of this. If we are going to be negative lets consider the British Millennium series which was probably responsible for putting more people off collecting than any other issue, or First Day Covers which in most cases have never been anywhere outside of the country where they were printed, or mint new issues which today are flooding the market way beyond normal postal requirements. Even these mint stamps are regarded by some as not being postage stamps as they've not been used.

As for the 'good feeling to know you have removed some more CTO's from the market that will not end up in some unsuspecting beginners collection', would you feel better knowing you sold more expensive stamps that this beginner might stick in his collection with cello tape or carry around in his trouser pocket to show his mates? CTO's are here to stay and long may they do so.

MEMBERS AREA ON THE WEBSITE

Please be aware that from October 3rd a new password will be needed to enter the members enclosure on the IPDA website. I will send a separate email to you all with the password. Also, our webmaster is working on a new java script which will allow each member to have their own password. This will no doubt make life a lot easier for you. It has been tested already by me and it works nicely. Watch out for more news on this in the coming weeks.

CLOSING REMARKS

Collecting stamps has been a hobby for children for years and years, and I for one continue to send free stamps from my Children's Corner to encourage children and promote the hobby.

Two things I would like to comment on. The first is I am very low on material so if anyone wants to donate used stamps, any stamps will do as long as they are not torn, I would be most grateful, as will the many children I send them to every month. Email me at oddstamps@gmail.com if you wish to donate and I will send you my mailing address.

The second thing is to do with new issues and the ability of children to enjoy stamps by collecting new issues, especially the commemorative issues we see from many countries, like the UK, Australia, Canada, the US and across Europe.

How many of these commemoratives are actually used on letters. Judging by the stamp boards I read, not many. So, how do get children interested in the hobby? I think they would like to be collecting new and modern stamps, wouldn't you? But it seems the new issue commemoratives are just not seen that often on letters. I have people in the UK collect from office mail for me and I see very few commemoratives. I have someone here in Sydney collect from their office mail. I get thousands of stamps every few months and they are 90%, I can honestly say, the basic rate postage, peel and stick stamps. In their own right pretty near impossible to soak anyway so not much use for me to make up Children's Corner packets. Back to the auction house here in Sydney in a few weeks to see what I can pick up cheap. Unless I hear from you of course!

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