



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association, Inc.

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November 2009

Volume 7 Issue 11

www.ipdaonline.org

NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2009

EDITORIAL WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Hello and welcome to the November Newsletter.

EDITORIAL WELCOME 1

I will start by offering an apology to the two directors shown but I do want to remind everyone of the Halloween chat we are having. Costumes are expected and there will be a nice prize for the best costume. Avatar maybe?? Use imagination and don't forget to come in with a disguised name :-)



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I will be there .. Somehow

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I thought my rantings in the previous issue might provoke someone to write in, but no suck luck. I will have to be more provocative !!! Would not be hard given some of the rubbish I have seen on eBay this past month. But not to harp on about the material .. It is the fact eBay allow a listing with no description of what is being sold. Now you may well say well what idiot would buy if there was no description. Well there is one big idiot (in my view) out there who bought some 20 lots of what is junk at best, fraudulent at worst, and plainly misrepresented to any intelligent being. However, that is all ok as long as the buyer is happy. Whether the buyer will be happy in the future when he / she finds out what they really have I do not know. But it is too late by then isn't it.

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Of course were the buyer smart enough to look for one sign or credibility from the seller — and I don't mean the number of sales or the percent success I mean is the seller an IPDA Member. This seller will never be an IPDA member. If more sellers were, or even a member of a respected philatelic association or body that would be a start, the buyer would have some higher degree of confidence that what they were looking to buy was in all probability being sold by someone with high moral and quality standards.

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So what are we all doing to promote the IPDA. Well the Halloween chat is being promoted around the boards and in the blog, and here, and perhaps by you telling your colleagues about the IPDA.

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If I had some better way to get this message out I would be so pleased. If each of you tell 2 people, who tell two people who tell two people, who tell two people we hit nearly 2000 people. Just imagine if we spread the word and the buyers start asking and talking among themselves. On one stamp board I read occasionally there are over 5000 registered members. Assume on 10% actually read the board occasionally. If they each tell only two friends that IPDA sellers are the best, or whatever words, that is some 60,000 people getting the message. And so it goes on. Lets all do something ? Ideas please?

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Finally, for aerophilately, I try to do my bit. In the last issue I showed me getting covers signed on the Singapore Melbourne A380 inaugural. This month I had to endure more hardship when I flew on the 2nd anniversary flight of the worlds first A380 commercial service :-) Singapore Sydney!!! Well someone has to do it!!!



.....Michael

STAMP OF THE MONTH another new Machin — first day of issue 17th November.

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



Image from SoGB — Royal Mail copyright image

PAYPAL — BAD FOR SELLERS?

Interesting thoughts this month from one of our members I thought worth passing on. His view is that Paypal is bad for sellers but good for buyers and cheats. Reason being, that if a purchase is mailed and the buyer says 'did not receive' Paypal reimburses the buyer, but the seller loses out. So our member always wants to send registered mail. That way there is tracking of the shipment. As you may know, Paypal asks for the seller to prove that they have sent by an online traceable shipment.

Seems like a good approach? Your views?

KILOWARE—GB COMMEMORATIVES

WANTED: GB Kiloware — GB commemoratives 2005 through 2009 on paper preferred. Will pay top price for top quality with no, or very few, Christmas issues and no, or very few, Machins.

Can anyone help? Write to me at michaelatipda@gmail.com

Want to ask another member a question or search for stamps etc — email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com and I'll place your request here

PIERRON'S ERROR CATALOGUE

Every GB stamp collector I know looks and hopes to find that elusive "error". Well now we have some serious help in the form of a publication dealing specifically with this subject.

Although not new to the philatelic bookshelf, Tom Pierron's Catalogue of GB Errors is a piece of kit that every serious dealer and collector should own. I own the early version of this masterpiece which includes a CD. At the time of the purchase (2005) the RRP of this book was normally £39.95 but as this book was updated and re printed (2005) I got it cheap from an eBay listing.

The 2003 publication shown was available on eBay (under the heading Philatelic Publications) at the rock bottom price of £4.99, (Buy it now). It is presumed that this was whilst stocks last.

The latest updated catalogue (2008) is priced at £49.95. The electronic version is also available on the web site, very very cheap at £19.95. These also list commonwealth missing colour errors as well as all the modern GB 1952 to date. The CD : Searching and sorting is faster, friendlier and more flexible. There are now options to show individual stamps or sets; sort by country, date of issue, date amended or most viewed; view results with images or just as text. Quick links have been added, enabling you to rapidly navigate to favourite sections of the site, find particular error types, and view all entries from specific countries.

This catalogue is respected and used by both collectors and dealers around the world to identify sort and price all Queen Elizabeth II postage stamp errors. This book contains over 10,000 high quality images of all known errors. Each stamp has a brief description and a catalogue value. It includes every Machin error known to date and even shows how many of each error are known to exist! It will also give you a realistic price of all the stamps listed.

Give [the website](#) a whirl, and add it to your list of favourites.

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AUCTION PRICES

What are you seeing at the auction houses these days? A recent thread on Stampboards.com included comments along the lines that people were cheesed off at loosing out at the last minute. One writer responded that the eBay bidding system allowed you to bid up at the last minute. Has anyone used this, or seen it used on material they are selling.? What is the impact on your sales? Are you seeing prices increase with this capability?

Thee seems to be a view that prices are too low, even for quality material. Has this been your experience? Especially now that any Tom, Dick and Henrietta who knows sweet nothing about stamps seems to be able to entice collectors money their way? Oh, did I hear someone say lets promote the value of being an IPDA member? Lets get buyers to want to deal with IPDA members. What a good idea!!!

MEMBERS PROFILES

 <p>Panzer Hut Hobbies</p>	<p>THE FELDPOST</p> <p>Maintained by: panzerhut (5206 ★)   </p> <p>PANZER HUT HOBBIES (EST 1979) specializes in German philatelic literature, stamps of Germany, WW II military books, WW II wargames. member of APS, G&CPS, CPS, IPDA, NSDA, GPS. SETS UNDER \$1.00 NOW LISTED ON MY WEBSITE. HTTP://SHOP.VENDIO.COM/PANZERHUT. ITEMS PICTURED MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU RECIEVE.</p>
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This month I am pleased to tell you about David Meyer. David has been a member since 2004 and while he has been collecting and dealing in stamps for many years he is now a full time dealer in philatelic literature and stamps of Germany. He specializes in German philatelic literature, sets and single stamps of Germany, states, colonies, allied German occupations, Third Reich, Bundespost, Berlin Postal stationery and covers. David's web site is at Panzer Hut Hobbies at <http://shop.vendio.com/panzerhut> and he has an eBay shop. David is based out of Ohio (USA) and has the largest selection of German Philatelic Literature in the USA. If you or your clients want a good site for Germany do have a look at it seems very comprehensive and easy to navigate around.

RIDICULOUS STAMP ISSUES

There seems to be no stopping postal authorities issuing "new issues", irrespective of the need for them or the relevance of the topics. We all know why they do this, issue pretty, and sometimes not so pretty, stickers. We all just accept it, roll over and whinge every now and again. And I guess we all cope somehow. How do the full time dealers cope. How can they afford to buy copies for potential onwards sale or use on FDCs for example. One comment I read, paraphrasing from a dealer (talking about GB issues and Royal mail issuing policy) was "the Royal Mail do not expect collectors to collect everything". Well ok, but surely the professional dealers do? Whatever country you are in how do you cope? Or don't you bother with all the new issues we are seeing. One of my favourites. Why would a dealer buy this, why would anyone (no please don't tell me you are a fan, we all are but lets face it I don't think they really have that much association with the place) have a look at <http://www.iompost.com/stamps/issue.aspx?productid=741&categoryid=186>

STAMP AUCTION SITES

I was going to do a piece just listing stamp auctions. Then I thought maybe you already know these, or maybe you are not interested, or maybe you don't want to know because you don't buy or sell through auction houses. So I thought I'd refocus the idea and write about some auction related websites that you might find interesting. A learning experience to read them if nothing else. Hope you enjoy looking at one or more of the following

The first is Stamp Auction Network at <http://www.stampauctionnetwork.com/> It has a very comprehensive listing of Stamp Auction Catalogues, Auction Calendars, images, prices realised, Auction company profiles and articles on the auction business. If nothing else you might find this page interesting <http://www.stampauctionnetwork.com/source/readme.htm> It is all about what they can do for you if you want to sell at auction. For example they say they will send listings to 16,000 "stamp auction bidders" Now that is not a bad starter and the price did not seem unreasonable!! Anyway might be worth looking at the web site.

Another site worth a few minutes browsing is postage stamps directory http://www.postagestampsdirectory.com/auction_sites_links/ This is exactly what it says it is, a directory listing. Maybe of use? Have a look. I randomly clicked e Stamp Auction – The Auction for Collectors and got to <http://www.stamps4collectors.co.uk/> I have seen this before but ages ago and had forgotten all about it to be honest. Another random click and I was looking at a GB Commemorative set for sale at a very reasonable price, nice quality and well described. A potential IPDA member I thought :-) anyway have a look.

And if you are selling more and more on these online sites please write to me with your experiences, views and recommendations. Lets share with other members so we can all benefit and improve our businesses.

Finally, I would like to table a question or thought maybe. Forget eBay, focus on specialised stamp Auction sites? What do you think?

CHICAGO PLEX

The Chicagoplex stamp show is taking place from November 20 to 22nd, in Chicago at the Sheraton Northwest. Do we have any members going I wonder? Continuing the theme of promoting the IPDA it would be good if we could have a presence in some small way. If you are going please write to me and I'll see if there is anything we can do to help you promote the IPDA. If you are interested in GB you will sure find the show interesting because the show is hosting three GB stamp societies; the GB Collectors Club; the GB Philatelic society and the Forschungsgemeinschaft Grossbritannien of Germany. There will be talks and presentations on various GB areas, and I understand there will be the recent Philbrick and Prussian finds on display courtesy of the Bonn Postal Museum.

The Philbrick collection was assembled in the 19th century and features essays and drafts from the period leading up to the first postage stamp. The collection was lost after WWII and was recently found in Bonn.

The Prussian find is a collection of material showing the development of the postage stamp and includes many specimen sheets of the earliest British stamps.

If anyone is going please send me a review of these interesting collections so I can share with everyone.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

I am sulking. There was no letter. :-)

CHRISTMAS ISLAND CHRISTMAS ISSUE 2009

Talking about ridiculous stamp issues here is another of my favourites. Each year some respectable illustrator is paid a few bob or more to demean himself and design another silly looking cartoon for use on a stamp. Highly amusing I am sure (not) but surely just a philatelic money spinner.

Rob Kiely is the illustrators name and once again, according to Australia Post he has designed a humorous illustration.... Well if you are 6 years old I guess it might be humorous..... But how many 6 year olds know about Christmas Island. Its not the North Pole now is it.

Anyway, in 2008 he turned his talent to "playfully animated some of the critters for which the Island is known, principally the Red Crab and Robber Crab"; in 2009 he has "turned his "brush" to the endemic fauna of the Indian Ocean island with the Christmas Island Frigatebird". Again I quote Australia Post " Wearing Santa's hat, the bird stands proudly with his stash of gifts, accompanied by a small coterie of marine friends" I mean you do have to laugh, don't you. Here we have a talented artist I am sure, wasting his time drawing caricatures of a bird. Representing a Christmas theme???? while Australia Post write a script that is on the one hand totally juvenile (where did the word critters come from to describe crabs?) yet on the other include words most people have never heard of, ie endemic and coterie. It gets worse. The publicity text goes on to say " Rob's frigatebird signals not so much the season of love but the season of giving, resembling a Christmas bauble". Like for real, the bloody bird uses its incredible throat to take food!! Not give, or maybe it does in vomit to its young :-). Need I say more, except I hope you enjoy the stamp.



A NEW MACHIN COLUMN

Roy Simpson, our webmaster, and IPDA Director in Europe (Spain), has been invited to write a Machin piece for Royal Mail. As some of you may know, Roy is a bit of an expert when it comes to Machins. He, along with some colleagues who are also well renowned in their own right for their Machin knowledge and contributions to philatelic related Machin circles, already writes some excellent material on Machins at [Machin Mania](#).

From what I understand from Roy, Royal Mail have invited him to write a "Machin watch" type column for them for a new publication they are working on. The column will have a round-up of the latest news, discoveries and auction values and be around 100-150 words long and on a monthly basis. This is great recognition and I am very pleased to be able to pass this news on to you. While the recognition is for Roy in his capacity as a Machin author it also gives the IPDA a focus as I am sure he can sign his byline with IPDA credentials.

Congratulations Roy. We are all very proud of you. Keep up the good work.

CLOSING REMARKS

I have enjoyed writing this Newsletter. It has amused me to do so yet I have found it educational while doing the research for a few pieces. I have also tried to focus on the need to promote the IPDA, and show you why the IPDA should be important to collectors. If it is important to them, then we have succeeded because collectors will be confident dealing with IPDA members and that will mean our sales will grow because collectors will come to us as a first choice rather than some two bit know nothing who provides no description and often dubious quality material. And after all, with auction houses including eBay offering no listing fees why would all these non philatelic people not list? Specialist philatelic online auctions? I hope to hear from you on that topic at least :-)

It will also mean membership will grow and those sellers that are not accredited to the IPDA or the many other very good and professional philatelic associations will have a limited market for their rubbish. Hard view? Maybe. But your sales are less because of the likes of them. My sales are less in a very specialised topic. Yes buyer beware. But is that good enough? I don't think so. Lets do something to promote the IPDA and the IPDA members to the buying collector market.

Next month is the December issue. I welcome all ideas and articles. I will try to publish before Christmas.... That was a joke.. :-)

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