



# Internet Philatelic Dealers Association, Inc.

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## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2010

### EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello again everyone. Did anyone see January? I said that last month and am still wondering. I guess not as I had no reply. February seems to be passing just as quickly. :-)

Activity has been slow as far as IPDA matters have been concerned. Various dialogues with and between Directors on what we do, how we do things to promote the Association, get members involved, not only day to day participation but promotional and membership drive type activities. I know we are all busy. I am not even working and every day is a blur so how I coped when I was full time at work, and overseas, I have no idea. Somehow we do.

But a few comments. First an apology, as this issue is very much me writing. I know some of you don't like that but this month has seen a shortage of the quality materials I have been able to get from you all in the past. As I write this final page I now think of a few other things I could have written about but having got this far I will make a mental note of those for next issue. Also an apology for what I see as a bias towards GB related topics and commentary. But how can I not when I see what is happening over there with Royal Mail. Of course I leave it open for you to comment, critical is best as I welcome the opportunity to use the feedback, and, surely you will have commentary to my Closing Remarks page — yes a whole rambling page of entertainment and provocation for you :-)

I have tried to present the matters I address from a dealers perspective and I truly value your views and experiences. I am sure there is so much you think and so much you could say given your experiences but you just don't have the time to write that elusive email to me. Treat yourself. Get it off your chest and share with everyone. I think we need to sometimes reassess where this wonderful hobby is going, and if we can do that we can be successful and continue to enjoy it both as collectors and dealers.

For example I am selling more older material these days. Not much by any stretch of the imagination compared with many of you, but I have been able to list material on auction and I see pre 1960 sell but anything more recent than that is rarely sold. Too general a statement I know and maybe not statistically representative but it tells me what I have to do if I want to cover some costs.

On a different topic, I cannot help myself but tell you about a new web site I have published. If I don't tell you how will you know to tell customers you have who might have an interest in aviation and aerophilately. It is [www.flyingcovers.com](http://www.flyingcovers.com) Neat domain name don't you think. And imagine my surprise when in the middle of the night when I couldn't sleep and my brain was going 100mph with ideas and I crept downstairs to see if the domain name was available - yes there it was.. So I signed for it. Flyingcovers.com You cannot forget that in a hurry, now can you. :-)

One final comment. I write occasionally to the IPDA blog. Recently we have been getting between 50 to 100 hits a day. I do not know why or if people reading are really interested in stamps but I will start promoting members web sites over the coming weeks. If you want a plug please send me an email with your web address. I will use what is on our IPDA website but I think some are dated or not even there from the last time I looked. Anyway, lets promote each other as best we can and promote the value of being an IPDA member. I still see some amazing rubbish being sold at auction, that, if the buyer had the awareness to ask, is this an IPDA dealer? they would not have bought, but, they might have bought from you or me. Help us all promote us all !!!

I do hope you enjoy this issue, even with it being me doing most of the talking :-) .....*Michael*

#### Stamp of the month



I think not! But surely we all remembered Valentines day this month .....and that was time for some heart space :-) LOL

### MEMBERS CORNER

We welcome a new member, Kevin Drake from New Zealand who runs Drake Stamps and Coins. Kevin has been a stamp dealer for a long time selling mostly through mail bid auctions, at fairs and mailing lists. He is long time member of the NZSDAA, New Zealand's stamp dealers society. Last year he established a web site, and a very cleanly designed site it is, as a start towards becoming an internet based dealer. He is currently selling online on eBay, TradeMe and BidX (the last two are NZ sites) and Xtion in Australia. You can find his site at <http://www.stampsandcoins.co.nz/>

Kevin J. Drake Stamps & Coins



Welcome Kevin.

**VERY TRICKY INDEED**

Those of us who collect stamps, I am sure, have other hobbies as well. One of my other hobbies is old movies and tv series. Every now and then, there is a movie that might show a stamp or at least make mention to a stamp or one who collects them. While these movies are very entertaining, there is generally a flaw here and there because the producers in a lot of instances have not done their research. I have heard that some of the movie companies will on occasion purposely use 'dummy' stamps that are not intended to look like any real stamp. This is ok because this article aims at those instances that are 'supposed' to be correct.

I remember an episode from an old mystery series, the title escapes me now but the theme of the story was about a man who had his "Wellington Black" stolen from his collection. Now we all know what that was but the movie producers thought it safer to refer to a stamp that does not exist. Too bad there wasn't something shown on the screen.

How many of us remember the western series "The Rifleman"? Well, you have to remember that this is set in the 1880s. In one episode Lucas McCain, played by Chuck Connors, was expecting mail from a relative living in a large US city. When the mail arrived, the camera zoomed in on the envelope he was holding in his hand and plainly in view was a 2 cents carmine Thomas Jefferson stamp issued in 1954!! - Very tricky indeed

There is a Canadian mystery series called "Murdoch Murders" which I personally call a Canadian parallel to the Sherlock Holmes series from the UK. It is about a detective in the city of Toronto set in the Queen Victoria era. Now remember that <G>. In one of the episode, detective Murdoch retrieves a piece of evidence in the form of an envelope. Plainly seen on the envelope was a 2 cents green King George V by itself, issued in 1930 - very tricky indeed

Since I mentioned Sherlock Holmes, only last weekend, I was watching one of the series' episodes that stars Jeremy Brett as Sherlock Holmes. During the course of the episode, Holmes stumbles across an envelope franked with 3 old British stamps and the year date so clearly visible, the type of clarity we all wish for <G>, and dated 1900. There are 2 of the stamps that are genuine, one appeared to be the 1 1/2 Pence QV lilac (Gibbons # 188) and the 1/2 Pence vermilion (Gibbons # 197); however, the third stamp was a King George V stamp that appeared to be the 2 Pence orange-yellow issued in 1920 (Gibbons # 366). Now remember, the date was a beautifully clear 1900 - - very tricky indeed. Now, last but not least, we see a weekly series of a lady known affectionately as Hyacinthe Bucket (pronounced Boo-Kay) from the British hit series "Keeping Up Appearances" who is very carefully putting a 1st Class "Machin" on her envelope with the help of a ruler to strategically have it properly placed on the right section of the envelope. Very precise, but - - very tricky indeed. I hope you all had a laugh at this article and it was solely intended for that purpose . Larry Mathews, Director, Canada

**2010 FESTIVAL OF STAMPS— LONDON UK**

2010 Festival of Stamps is a year long program of exhibitions, events and activities that aim to showcase, celebrate and raise public awareness of stamps, stamp design and postal heritage.

The Festival marks the centenary of the accession of King George V, who was known, amongst other things, as the philatelist King. A major international stamp exhibition will take place at the Business Design Centre, Islington. Our chairman will be there as well no doubt other members. On that topic please write to me if you plan to attend. Maybe we can all meet up. The following are some events there are lots more. If you plan to be at one or some, perhaps you could write a piece for the Newsletter about the event. Perspectives from a dealers point of view and how you see the philatelic market place shaping up in the UK. Maybe some useful insights for others of us to share in other parts of the world.

<b>27 March</b> Westbex10 — Thames Valley and District Philatelic Federation - <a href="http://www.tvpf.org">www.tvpf.org</a>	<b>22 May</b> Federation of south Wales Philatelic Societies
<b>16— 17 April</b> Association of Scottish Philatelic societies <a href="http://www.scottishphilately.co.uk">www.scottishphilately.co.uk</a>	<b>5 June</b> Association of Essex Philatelic Societies <a href="http://www.aeps.org.uk">www.aeps.org.uk</a>
<b>24 April</b> Midlands Philatelic Federation	<b>12 June</b> Yorkshire Philatelic Association <a href="http://www.y-p-a.org.uk">www.y-p-a.org.uk</a>
<b>6—7 May</b> Displays by the Royal Philatelic societies of London, Canada, Cape Town, New Zealand, Sydney and Victoria. A free exhibition open to the public on 6th May <a href="http://www.rpsl.org.uk">www.rpsl.org.uk</a>	<b>3 July</b> SWIPEX wessex Philatelic Federation, Cornwall Philatelic Federation and Somerset and Dorset Philatelic Federation <a href="http://www.wessexpf.org.uk">www.wessexpf.org.uk</a>



Top row from MS of 4 stamps — Copyright Royal Mail. This will be the second miniature sheet, on sale on 8 May, opening day of the London 2010 exhibition. It will have stamps featuring the British Empire Exhibition stamps of 1924, ( the first GB commemoratives ) plus the 10s and £1 'Seahorse' high values.

## MEMBERS LETTERS

Micheal, I have come across a number comprehensive freeware and shareware programs that are available at [www.faststone.org](http://www.faststone.org) These programs deal with various aspects of producing and changing images, capturing files, documents etc and resizing them that we may wish to use in connection with producing a web site/page. As they are either free or available for a small sum and all work very well they might be well worth passing onto our members.

Regards, A Devine, Membership Secretary,

PAYPAL SUSPENDS SOME OPERATIONS IN INDIA - from "Stamps of India" online newsletter

PayPal has suspended local bank transfers and personal payments to and from India with effect from February 6, 2010 to respond to enquiries from the Indian regulators, specifically questions on whether personal payments constitute remittances into India. The regulators recently let PayPal know about revised licensing rules that PayPal are now actively engaged in securing. Personal payments to and from India will be suspended for at least a few months until the matter is fully resolve the questions from the Indian regulators. During this time, customers can still make commercial payments to India but merchants cannot withdraw funds in Rupees to local Indian banks.

PayPal assures that the customers should be able to withdraw their funds to a local bank within the next few days. In the meantime, they are going to restore the amount of recent attempted withdrawal back into PayPal balance so that customers can know that their money is safe in their account. The balance is being restored within 24 hours. In addition, customers will see another reimbursement of any withdrawal fees charged. PayPal will also ensure that customers are not adversely affected by currency fluctuations during the last week. This additional reimbursement(s) should cover the difference between the attempted withdrawal-amount and the amount restored by PayPal into the accounts .

Regards, Ken Sanford, Chairman

## PRESTIGE PHILATELY MARCH 8TH AUCTION

Prestige Philately has announced that one of the firm's English clients has decided to sell his collection of British Empire Stamps of the reign of King Edward VII in Melbourne, on Saturday 6th March.

This impressive holding was formed over a period of 30 years by John Williams of Fulham (London). A very private collector, John Williams had never exhibited his material, even at club level. That changed dramatically when he was persuaded to fill the frames for the January 2009 meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, where the dazzling display of Edwardian stamps in their original vibrant colours was greeted with acclamation.

The collection includes numerous listed plate varieties, including many examples of the "Dented Frame", otherwise known as the "Glover Flaw", common to a number of Colonies.

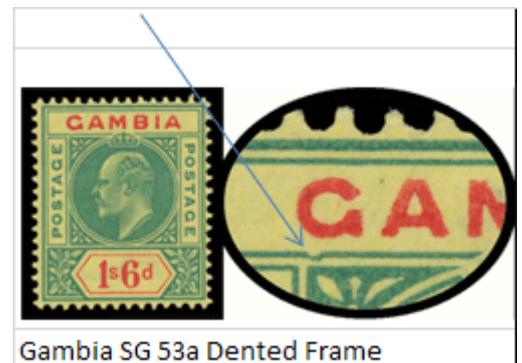
One of the attractions of collecting Edwardian stamps is that the period is limited to just 10 or so years. Being restricted to a single decade offers new entrants to the field some hope of attaining an unusual level of "completeness".

King Edward VII was already 60 years old when he succeeded his mother, Queen Victoria, in January 1901. For the first time ever, the stamps of all those Colonies that utilised the monarch's portrait had to be replaced. It was a huge job, accomplished in record time, principally by Messrs Thomas De La Rue & Sons.

The website - <http://www.johnwilliamscollection.com> - will include a "virtual" catalogue identical to the printed version, biographical notes on John Williams and King Edward VII, media releases, prices realised and a review of the auction, and links to other relevant websites. The deluxe catalogue will be posted in a special mailing box and is available on request for \$A40, \$US40, £20 or 24 euro payable in cash, cheque (\$A or pounds only) or by credit card. Contact Prestige Philately at PO Box 126, Belgrave 3160, AUSTRALIA, by email to [info@prestigephilately.com](mailto:info@prestigephilately.com) or by phone on +61 3 9754 7666, or fax to +61 3 9754 7677 or Visit <http://www.prestigephilately.com/>

## CANADA POST – OLYMPIC GOLD– STAMP ISSUE

The Canada Olympic stamp issues were written about many months back courtesy of our past Chairman Dave Ramsay and I think how proud he must be to see this new issue. Canada Post commemorated Canada's first Olympic gold medal on Canadian soil in history by issuing a special stamp featuring the medal. This is the first time in Canada Post's history that the company commemorates an event the day it occurs. Well done Canada!



Gambia SG 53a Dented Frame





**CLOSING REMARKS—EDITORS RAMBLINGS SINCE I HAVE A PAGE ..OR.... STAMPS FOR PHILATELIC USE OR JUST FOR THE MONEY!**

The Isle of Man Post Office celebrates the Centenary of Guiding with this set of eight stamps which also includes the Europa theme of Children's Books. The Girl Guides Association was officially formed in 1910 with Agnes Baden-Powell (Robert's sister) as President. A worthy organization there is no doubt about it, and it has served a tremendous purpose. But that aside what about this stamp issue. You could no doubt come up with a similar example from your country or any other for that matter. I am not picking on the Isle of Man, wonderful place that it is and wonderful memories I have of being there.



But 8 stamps, with philatelic reason for being, or what!!! Same with GB. Did you know there will be 59 commemorative stamps issued by Royal Mail by mid April (excluding Prestige Booklet, Booklet, Smiler and any other MS sheet issues which have "commemorative" stamps in them, different from the general commemorative release issues.

So what is my point? Well as dealers are you stocking these new issues? How can you afford to? What are your clients looking for? Is there a trend away from new issues.? And so on.

I see the amazing work some UK dealers do to keep us informed of Royal Mail new issues and I wonder how they cope. Same for US, Canada (maybe not so bad?), European countries??? Australia, practically impossible to keep up with issues and varieties within the issues.

Example: I am interested in Aviation as you may know and Australia is issuing a wonderful set in March. Cost for basic set is AUS \$ 4.10. Hey I can



manage that. But when I add self adhesive and sheet stamps (only available in gutter blocks it would appear from Australia Post New Issue order form), FDC, Chequebook, well, the cost mounts to a lot more than \$4.10. Having said that I don't think I can get a Royal Mail issue for that little! 10 stamps in a commemorative issue these days, now is that stamp issuing for philatelic purposes or revenue raising? Pretty obvious to me. Sooner or later the collector funds will dry up.

I wrote about 2010 Festival of Stamps in the UK and while I understand the desire to release a commemorative issue for such an occasion (same could be said for Girl Guides and I do not disagree, but 8 stamps!!!! for IOM Girl Guides) is Royal Mail really justified in issuing: 6th May MS and 1st Class counter sheets, 8th May MS, Prestige Book, 13th May a further Prestige Book I believe, or something along those lines. Impressive looking stamps as they are, there do seem rather a lot and at the same time as a commemorative issue of 8 stamps for Britain Alone and with a MS and Prestige Book. Phew!!!!!!!!!!!!!!



So are you focusing on developing your business by encouraging and promoting older issues? If so how and what is motivating your buyers to collect the periods they do. What about those of you who have been dealing in new issues, new issue postmarks even!! What trends are you seeing? Surely you have something to write to me about now :-)

Collecting new issues..... its like raining cats and dogs did I hear someone say!!!!!

Best wishes..... *Michael*