



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association, Inc.

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Page 1
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EDITORIAL WELCOME

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORIAL WELCOME	1
ST HELENA	2
CLOSING REMARKS	2

I am astounded at how fast this past month has gone by. Hello everyone. Apology for late issue of this Newsletter and again an apology for what will be a short issue. Time and a very bad internet connection has not been on my side this past month.

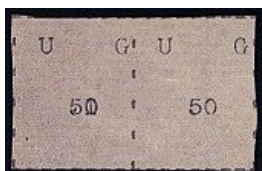
From a philatelic perspective my trip to the UK was worth while as I was able to pick up a 5kg box of GB Commemoratives. Am having a treasure hunt going through those now. I also was able to pick up a few new GB new commemorative issues and mail them to myself so I could get used copies. Of course Royal Mail failed to cancel one letter so I will have to find a way to self cancel hahahahah. My other philatelic activity during October was to start my study of the 100's of Machin non denomination definitives I have acquired through a friend of mine who works in an office and who collects the stamps off incoming mail for me. Interesting observation is that for every 100 or more definitives I get 1 commemorative. So I repeat my mantra. Used GB commemoratives will fetch sky high prices in years to come.

I did find this though. I have never seen one before, maybe common I do not know, but I like it and this is full size if you print the newsletter.

Enough of my ramblings. So what about the IPDA you may be thinking. Well very little news to report. It was a quiet month. A few applications for membership, we lost our Chat Room, somehow it got taken down but we have a new one at <http://www.liveharmony.org/chat.html?channel=StampChat&source=chatweb-lhcv> No password is required. Many thanks to Larry for getting this set up. Also we published a Confidential List – Dealer Alert. Anyone else having problems with the person, please contact Alan Devine.



Stamp of the Month



One News piece I saw this past month for you wine drinkers.

How about a bottle of Marlborough vineyard's Walnut Block. This Pinot Noir is an award winner and you can still keep your thoughts on philately while enjoying a drop. Have a look at <http://www.walnutblock.co.nz/Collectables.htm>



How about this from last months issue. Thanks for the answer to this. It is of course the 1895 type-written first issue from Uganda - very valuable, but sadly I do not have a copy! Thanks Roger for writing to me.



Thought I would close by showing you this MS. The stamps show 5 surviving pre-war lighthouses around Hong Kong. Issue date is 29th December. Anyone have customers who collect lighthouses as a thematic. Let me know I can easily get these for you.

Have a great month and please send me some articles or ideas.

Best wishes.... Michael

ST HELENA BY MARK TOPPING



I hope you find this interesting. It is from Mark Topping, a dealer in the UK. This from a recent newsletter he issued. Reproduced with his permission. Mark is at <http://stores.ebay.co.uk/Mark-Topping-Auctions> and <http://uk.ebid.net/stores/mt99999ebid-GB-Stamp-Shop> and I hope he becomes a member soon!

St. Helena – a tiny island in the South Atlantic – was discovered on May 21, 1502, by the Portuguese navigator Joao da Nova. The date was the festival of St. Helena, the mother of Emperor Constantine the Great, hence the name given to the island. St. Helena was strategically placed for the ships of the East India Company who plied the silk and spice trade routes to replenish their provisions. At one time some 1,000 ships a year would call, ensuring the prosperity of the islanders. Today, just one vessel, the RMS St. Helena, calls regularly en route between Cardiff and Cape Town, carrying mail and other goods, plus tourists.

The Tercentenary of Settlement was marked by three stamps in 1959. In 1667 settlers arrived following the Great Fire of London (four stamps were issued on the 300th anniversary). For a short time the Dutch invaded, landing on New Year's Eve 1672, but a little over four months later St. Helena was back in English hands, whereupon King Charles II granted the English East India Company a charter making them Lord's proprietors of the island.

After the English East India Company withdrew in 1833, St. Helena was made a Crown Colony, on April 22, 1834. The centenary of British colonisation was commemorated by a set of 10 stamps in 1934, while for the 150th anniversary in 1984 these 10 designs were reproduced as 'stamps-on-stamps' together with an eleventh value showing the Colony Arms. In 1856 the island issued its first stamp – a 6d in blue with the portrait of Queen Victoria. The first local post was introduced on January 4, 1965 – to commemorate this four definitives were overprinted.

St. Helena has had famous visitors – Captain Cook landed in 1775, recalled by two stamps in 1975 – but probably the most famous was Napoleon, who, after his defeat by The Duke of Wellington, arrived on October 15, 1815. There he remained, living mainly at Longwood House, until his death on May 5, 1821. His death anniversary was marked by two stamps in 1971, while Longwood House featured on both the 1953 definitives (10s) and the 1976 definitives (15p). The Duke of Wellington also visited – the 175th anniversary was recorded by two stamps in 1980. There have been a number of Royal visits, the most recent being by Prince Andrew in 1984. In fact St. Helena chose the Cecil Beaton portrait of The Queen with Prince Andrew in her arms for the £1 value of its 1961 definitive. For a time the island's livelihood rested in the flax plant, and its biggest customer was the British Post Office – until 1965 when it was decided to use synthetic fibre to replace the string made from St. Helena hemp. Several designs of the 1953 definitives relate to the flax industry.

The island of Tristan da Cunha is a dependency of St. Helena. The traumatic volcanic eruption in 1961 led to one of the most famous Commonwealth QEII stamp issues. As stocks of Tristan stamps were held on St. Helena, the Governor decided to overprint four values for a 'Tristan Relief' fund, raising money from a surcharge on the stamps. Having not obtained prior permission for such an overprint from London, he was asked to suspend sales pending a decision. This was interpreted as an order to withdraw and destroy the overprints. Permission for their sale was granted, but by then it was too late. They were on sale for one week in October 1961, during which time 434 sets were sold.

Over the past seven years there has been an annual set of four stamps which taken together provide a potted history of the island. In 2002 a set of stamps to celebrate the 500th anniversary featured four prominent personalities from St. Helena's past – Sir William Webber Doveton (1753-1843), the only St. Helenian to be knighted; Canon Lawrence Chase Walcott (1880-1951), who came to St. Helena in 1909 as Vicar of Jamestown; Governor Hudson Ralph Janisch (1824-1884), the only St. Helenian to have held the post of Governor since the island became a Crown Colony; and Dr. Wilberforce John James Arnold (1867-1925), who over a period of 20 years was the island's physician, surgeon, dentist, health officer, Justice of the Peace, and, on three occasions, Acting Governor.



CLOSING REMARKS

From the The British Postal Museum & Archive at www.postalheritage.org.uk/podcast is a recent talk given by the Curator of Philately, Douglas Muir, on the stamps, medals and coins of Bertram Mackennal. Bertram Mackennal was an Australian sculptor who, amongst other things, worked on all definitive stamps issued during the reign of King George V. Douglas Muir's talk gives an in-depth insight into the design and production process for these issues, and also looks at Mackennal's work on coins and medals. Excellent, have a listen.

Next Issue is the Christmas Issue for December. I would be so pleased if you could send me an article. What interests you, or what you think will interest other members. Certainly not what I write each month eh!!!! So now is the chance to correct that
I look forward to hearing from you..... Best wishes..... Michael