



EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Let me start by saying Kung Hei Fat Choi, or to put it another way, Happy New Year (of the Rabbit) to everyone. Since I am in Hong Kong I am enjoying the Chinese New Year, Hong Kong style. And, I hope you like this MS. I have been able to collect a few of the Hong Kong Chinese New Year issues. Very nice selection including a lovely sheetlet of floke printed stamps.

As for the IPDA, we are seeing a few new member Sapplications, Slargely Sdue Sto Sthe advertisement we placed in the Philatelic Exporter it would seem. Our promotional work will continue over the coming months and with Sa Srecently Sdrafted Sinformation Sflyer perhaps we will see members request copies to have on display at stamp bourses they attend. These we also plan to send to prospective members.



Now my last editorial writing did attract some attention – not too favourable either, but that is ok because it means members are reading and responding. And all feedback is good to receive. Maybe I was a touch too frivolous in my commentary. And for that I apologise if anyone thinks I or the other members of the Board do not take our Association seriously, or the role we want the Association to play in the philatelic community.

I received the following comments from one member. Very constructive and certainly this will be useful input to the discussions we have at the next Board meeting.

"I feel I must put pen to paper and express my feelings about the way the IPDA is going or is about to go

Stamp of the Month

I joined the Association in the hope it would be supportive of me as a trader in the event if I should require some ,support ,in ,a ,legal ,or ,technical ,confrontation. , ,In ,this ,respect , ,I ,look ,upon ,it ,rather ,like ,insurance , - something we must have but hope we never have to make a claim. I would hope I never need to draw on your services ,but ,it ,would ,be ,nice ,to ,know ,the ,Association ,is ,there ,if ,the ,need ,arose. , ,I ,also ,appreciate ,the confidential list which I believe I can claim some credit for when I suggested it some time ago.

However, the following points DO NOT fit into my idea of a Trade Association.

- *Some kind of stamp giveaway - this I associate with approval dealers trying to attract new business from young kids.*
- *24 hour stamp marathon - I've no idea what this is but its sounds like a gimmick and I cannot associate gimmicks with professionalism*
- *Anniversary cover - will this attract new members?*
- *Dinner in Las Vegas - not an attractive idea as I live in the UK. If I wanted to meet and eat with my fellow dealers it would probably be cheaper for me to go to Stampex and invite all the traders out for a meal.*
- *Competitions - what would be the benefit for members?*

To my way of thinking, all our efforts should be directed to getting new members, maybe a mail shot (email would be cheapest) to all known dealers outline what we are about and comparing our fees with others (the PTS I believe is something like 70 pounds). The confidential list should be a big attraction particularly now with the Internet and all the scams and crooks that come with it. I'm not suggesting that the IPDA should look for trouble but we really need a worthwhile cause to get involved with, or maybe help a member who's having legal problems, that way, we'd have something to shout about.

All the very best for 2011 to you and the Association"

One of the set of 4 Rabbit stamps issued by Hong Kong Post on January 22nd.

Given space constraints I will not discuss each of these points here although I will say the Las Vegas dinner was my tonge in check idea – if only because selfishly I would like to go to Las Vegas again and it would, in my view, be great for me to meet up with one of our Directors who lives there.

More next month on IPDA activities. I look forward to any comments, idea and feedback. **Michael Michael**

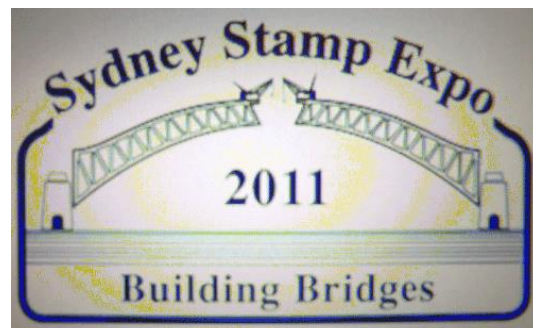




SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2011

The next Sydney Stamp Expo will be held from 31 March to 3 April 2011 in the HANNON ROOM at the Randwick Racecourse in Sydney, Australia.

This year's theme is "Building Bridges" aimed at developing lasting friendships and personal relationships in stamp collecting at the personal, club, association and international level. The Logo for 2011 will be displayed on all official documentation for the Expo. Some 40 plus stamp dealers will have stands at the Expo, including, I am pleased to say, three IPDA members – David Wood of Premier Postal Auctions, John Pearson of Pittwater Philatelic Services and Ian Boulton of Ace Stamp Auctions. Text copies of the Expo's Prospectus and Visitors information are available from the Sydney Stamp Expo website at <http://www.sydneystampexpo2011.org.au/index.html> S S Local Sand Overseas members planning to visit Sydney at the end of March to attend the Expo who wish more information may contact the Expo team direct or Alan Devine, IPDA Secretary at alan.devine@devalri.com It is expected that accommodation close to the Racecourse will fill quickly so will visiting members who plan coming to Sydney for the Expo please contact Alan as soon as possible so that accommodation reservations maybe made.



There is a probability that many IPDA Members will be attending the show and if people wanted to meet up please drop Alan an email alan.devine@devalri.com and he will gladly try to set up a meeting point and time.

CROOKED BEHAVIOUR???

Here is a piece about some behavior that you might want to be aware of. It is what might be considered suspicious behavior and as was experienced by a Member. If you experience anything like this please let us know. Fortunately no stamps were sent and the dealers diligence prevented what could otherwise have been a loss. Details will be provided to our Confidential Officer and reviewed, and as appropriate published in our Confidential List.

The events are basically as follows: A potential buyer registers with a dealer as Hadar Greenfield from NY, USA. The potential buyer orders 12 times over a three week period and asks for the orders to be grouped. In this instance the total order was about US \$700. They inform the dealer that another person will make the payment. Then another person enters the communication and both confirm they are buying for Hadar. The second person then informs the dealer that he is in fact Hader and that he is going to pay via Paypal. After the 12th order is placed the second potential buyer then informs the dealer that he cannot buy the US \$700 worth of stamps and asked only to keep only one part of the order, which is about US \$50 of the total order. The dealer asks for proof of ID from this supposedly Hadar buyer but gets no reply

The dealer informs Hadar that if they cannot issue a proof of ID they he will be reported to the International community about their workings. Reminders are sent requesting proof of ID and no responses are received. The stamps are therefore never sent and the potential fraudulent attempt to purchase is avoided

Whether this individual exists as a real buyer called Hader is unknown at this stage.

It goes without saying that material should not be sent before payment is made, but it is also worth having the presence of mind to recognize behaviour that appears suspicious until proof of ID is given, especially as the effort to organize the stamps, pack the stamps and then return the stamps to stock when the sale is not paid for is always a cost to the dealers business.

CLOSING REMARKS

One more stamp from the Hong Kong Issue. A Rabbit stamp, imperf in a MS. Are imperfs are becoming a popular addition to new issues. Maybe an investment, as with the Australia Post A380 imperf sheets? You tell me?

As for investments which I commented about in the Christmas issue I received news from another Board Member about the New Royal Mail definitive issues for the price increase in April. When NVIs first came about in GB they were valid for 14p second class and 19p 1st class. E rates were 30p Anyone collecting these in ordinary booklet form (from the beginning) has seen his/her investment grow by over 130%, and some of the rarer booklets have QUADRUPLED this!!!.

And of course, how can I finish without saying, keep writing to me and if you have articles or ideas I would be most pleased to hear from you – email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com ..Michael

