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## NEWSLETTER JUNE 2011

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Welcome to June and another Newsletter. We have a Board meeting on 6th June and then we will be having the AGM soon after, actually on 4th July. Details will be mailed to you in due course and I do hope you can attend and provide input, ideas and your participation to the Association. **Put it in your diary now, IPDA AGM July 4th (USA time) probably about 5:30 pm start.**

We need active members and as you will have seen, I hope, from previous Newsletters and this one, we do get some good material from members. And on that topic, the APS are inviting contributions to an "Award your Authors and Promote your Group" promotion. They are asking Affiliates, like us, if we have a Newsletter and would we like to honour authors by creating a Philatelic Articles of Distinction" archive on the APS website. We can submit articles and also enter an annual "best article" competition. Anyone any views on this? Please write to me if you do.

In this issue is a very interesting text from Roger West of [Avion Thematics](#) and, might I add, he has a good website if you want to know what a good dealer site looks like.

#### Stamp of the Month

Also a piece published with the kind permission of Mark Topping. I always enjoy reading about GB QV and I hope you enjoy his piece.



Perhaps just one more topic from me. Readings??? what do you read related to philately? Just emails?, Blogs? Websites?, Twitter? Facebook? Stamp Board Groups? Anything else? Please write to me. I am trying to find ways to promote the IPDA rather than just in expensive stamp magazine adverts, and to be honest, my own auction listings. I do hope I hear from you. Also, if you have ideas for Newsletter articles, please write to me, [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) Michael

### GB LILAC & GREENS ISSUE OF 1883.

I often browse various auction sites as I am looking to build a collection of GB Victoria with corner letters JA Just an interest. Write to me if you any to sell. I digress! So much rubbish listed by some sellers. (not dealers, just amateur sellers!!)

Would you list this for \$15.99 CDN. Seller is not an IPDA member and never will be in my view. Thoughts? The stamp is clearly faded and creased, apart from being damaged!

The postage stamps of the United Kingdom issued in 1883 and 1884 are known as the "Lilac and Green" issue because they were only printed in those two colours; lilac being used for the 1½d, 2d, 2½d, 3d values and dull green for the 4d, 5d, 6d, 9d and 1s.

New stamps were required because The Customs and Inland Revenue Act of 1881 necessitated stamps that were also valid as revenue stamps. Therefore the Penny Lilac issued that year was inscribed "POSTAGE AND INLAND REVENUE" and the Lilac and Green stamps were inscribed "POSTAGE & REVENUE", whereas the previous 1880 stamps (known as the Provisional Issue) were only inscribed "POSTAGE". The colours were used because the authorities were concerned that the existing stamps were being soaked off envelopes and reused, and they wished to use fugitive inks that would wash away if immersed in water; the only fugitive ink colours available at the time were lilac and green. Hence the rather drab colours of this issue!

The first stamp to be introduced was the 9d on 1 August 1883, which was rushed into use because there was an urgent need for a stamp of that value; the others followed on 1 April 1884. The designs featured Queen Victoria's head in profile, with lettering in the corners. The 1½d, 3d, 4d, 5d and 1s stamps were in horizontal format and the 3d, 4d and 5d stamps were vertical. The dull stamps were not popular, and the 1884 Stamp Committee was formed to make decisions about improved replacements. In 1887 they were superseded by the Jubilee Issue, with their bright variety of designs and colours.

Many thanks to Mark for permission to republish this.



## **TAKING EBAY TO COURT**

A couple of years ago I was enjoying moderate success by selling various items in my ebay store. I am a thematic dealer and to this extent, I sell several types of collectables including Matchbox Labels, Postcards and Postmarks, and on the stamps side, I sell Locals, Cinderellas, Revenues and forgeries apart from the more traditional postage stamps. I mention all this as the ebay categories are such that the nearest you can get to list such items is under 'Stamps - Thematics'

All was fine for a few years until someone decided that Cinderellas, Revenues and Forgeries are not stamps. This is an argument I am happy to take up as the ebay heading of 'Stamps' must surely include all types of stamps apart from the postage type. Anyway, this person complained to ebay suggesting I was 'violating ebay policies' and the first I knew of it, 77 of my items had been removed from my store and this was followed by me being suspended.

Anyone who has ever tried to contact ebay will know how difficult it is to ask a simple question or to get a simple answer. I made several attempts to find out exactly what I had done that was so bad but all I could get was a standard answer that I had not conformed to ebay's practice and that some of my items were 'significantly misrepresented'.

Ebay's suspension process involves you being invisible for a minimum of 10 days, during which time you cannot sell or buy, give or receive feedback and bids previously made are cancelled. There is no telephone support or help line and you CANNOT RECEIVE PAYMENT FOR ITEMS YOU PREVIOUSLY SOLD.

Eventually, I managed to put my case forward and ebay reluctantly agreed that I had been suspended in error and that my items were not infringing their policies. They also invited me to relist the offending items but were not prepared to do this for me. To relist them myself would have taken several hours and as I wasn't in the best of moods with ebay, I decided not to bother, in fact, I closed my store.

During this 10 day period, several customers tried to pay me for items they'd bought but the ebay system would not allow this. Once I'd been reinstated however, I found that two clients who were unable to complete their purchases with me had bought similar items elsewhere and this represented a direct loss of over £450. Also, customers who had placed bids on my other auction lots had their bids cancelled and told that I was no longer a registered user.

During this suspension period, any communication to me is thwarted by ebay replying with 'Listing removed: item is significantly misrepresented'. This in essence is basically saying I'm a fraudster and you don't want to be dealing with me

The more I thought about this, the more I felt I had to stand up for my rights, so I filed a claim against ebay in the Small Claims Court for £4,900 - £2,900 for loss of business (a pro-rata computation from my last 12 months sales) and £2,000 for damage to my good name. The maximum claim you can make is £5,000 and I aimed towards the maximum as what ebay did was unforgivable. The cost for all this is a couple of hundred pounds, but win or lose, I felt my principles had to be defended.

When we went to court, the claim for damage to my good name was immediately thrown out as this could only be handled in a civil court. We then argued the main issue but try hard as I could, it seems I wasn't getting much sympathy from the court. Having gone in with a 'David and Goliath' attitude, it seems on this day, David didn't have any ammunition. The bottom line was if you use ebay, you abide by their rules. When I queried which rule allowed them to wipe me off the map, the answer was "in the terms and conditions when I signed up". So I lost my case!

I still use ebay and will do so until a better alternative comes along but this particular David did not receive an apology and no longer has an ebay Store.  
 Roger B West Avion Thematics

## **CLOSING REMARKS**

Thank you Roger for the extremely interesting article. I hope this was useful experience sharing for other members. What are your experiences? What is your most preferred auction site, and why? What are your tips for selling on auction sites? Please write to me so we can all share and learn. I hope your business and life in general is good and as always I look forward to hearing from you .  
 email me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)

Best Wishes .....**Michael**