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Hello everyone. December is here already and I guess we are thinking of philatelic presents to buy ourselves. Well I am LOL. Before I start rambling let me say on behalf of the Chairman and Board Directors, our very best wishes to you and your families for the Christmas Season. Not everyone celebrates, or celebrates in the same way, I realize, but whatever you do, have a safe and happy time, and of course, I hope you get some lovely philatelic presents, or maybe give a few as well. I am giving away a First Flight Cover - read more later.

The month of November shot by, once again with me spending little time on philatelic matters. I did complete and submit my entry for the Great Britain Philatelic Society Exhibition in January 2012, so I suppose I did achieve something philatelic. I have prepared one frame on the topic of the Great Britain Security Machins — the security pattern lettering issues from 2009. For many I realize these issues are the most boring stamps ever issued, but if you start to read and study I think you will find there is a lot more to these than might at first be expected. If I could show you my presentation I hope you would agree. Certainly not a task for the feint hearted, and certainly not one to undertake if you are compulsive enough to want to complete a collection. I think that is close to financially impossible even for me with my millions here in Hong Kong. (only joking people).

I have nothing to report on IPDA matters except to say we are discussing various topics including the 10 year anniversary, which will be in February next year. We have a Board meeting in a weeks time and I expect to see us agree on some activities to help us celebrate that pretty significant milestone. Do you have any views about the 10 year anniversary? I guess not :-)) that is ok. We will try to do something as we think it is worth a few moments of reflection about what the IPDA was formed to achieve, how difficult it has been and how we can move forward. You all know my views by now. The more I see of the materials listed on some of the more well known auction sites the more I believe membership of the IPDA and recognition of IPDA membership by the buying public is important.

Christmas stamps are in abundance everywhere now of course and once again we see issues that are brilliant, non descript and just plain awful. So a challenge to you all, to get you thinking. And perhaps to get you to send me some material I can use in my Christmas Special issue which I plan to issue around 25th December. Send me a scan of what you think is the best or worst Christmas stamp or Christmas Issue for 2011. No past years ok.

Stamp of the Month



Guernsey issued a set of seven stamps for their Christmas issue. Actually I rather like them, except for this one. Where is the Christmas theme here?

On the topic of Christmas stamps. You might find this webpage of some passing interest. <http://www.aalmeyer.com/Website%205.html> whether Austria is due credit for the first Christmas stamp I do not know, but this following vignette I did find interesting.

In 1898 Canada issued a stamp that bears the inscription "Xmas 1898", but it was really intended to mark the inauguration of the "Imperial Penny Postage" rate. It was the product of quick thinking. William Mulack (Postmaster General) who was proposing, that it should be issued on November 9, to honour the Prince (meaning the Prince of Wales), but when Queen Victoria asked in a displeased manner: "What Prince ?", he realised the danger and quick as a flash said: "Why the Prince of Peace, ma'am".



That's it for now. Merry Christmas

Best wishes Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com

1939 ROYAL VISIT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES – PART I **BY LARRY MATTHEWS—IPDA DIRECTOR CANADA**

The year of 1939 was an eventful year worldwide. Granted, this was the year when WW II started, but, there were also more pleasant events as well. One major event was the Royal couples` worldwide tour. In this article, I am mainly focusing with their visit to Canada, and the United States. The Royal couple also visited Newfoundland but the author does not have a schedule of their visit there at this time.

For those dealers who sell postal history, like myself, it might be an important thing for you to know the itinerary dates across North America where the Royal couple made various stops and visits. Most of the dealer`s boxes will have covers with the May 15th FDC cancellation and as a rule, these are not expensive. However, there were many cachets produced, most officially and some done privately and this of course can determine the price range of any given cover as well.

There was a set of three stamps issued in Canada to celebrate the royal couples visit and the issue date was May 15, 1939. Covers with this date are common for both FDCs and for privately created covers as well. However, itinerary dates are more of a challenge and this is understandable when you realize that in some places, the royal couple made stops that lasted for as little as ten minutes! For some towns it will be almost impossible to get cancels that fit exactly into their time frame but most of these itinerary cancellations are within a few hours.

It should also be noted that the Royal couple visited the major cities and some smaller towns and some towns the Royal Train did stop but, just for very brief intervals. A lot of these smaller towns were not part of the Royal Visit itinerary. In some instances, it is known that the Royal couple did make the odd stop at a very small town or hamlet only long enough to literally stretch their legs and then carry on with their journey.

Below is a listing of the places the Royal couple visited with the closest approximate times for their arrivals: EST = Eastern Standard Time, CST = Central Standard Time, MST = Mountain Standard Time, PST – Pacific Standard Time and AST = Atlantic Standard Time.

May 15

Arrive in Quebec at 9:30 AM - EST

May 16

Leave Quebec at 8:30 AM – total time in Quebec 13 hours

Arrive in Trois Rivieres at 10:45 AM, leave Trois Rivieres at 11:00 AM – total time there 15 minutes.

Arrive in Montreal at 1:15 PM, leave Montreal 10:00 PM – total time in Montreal 8 hours and 45 minutes

May 17

Arrive in Ottawa at 10AM EST



The dater hub for this Royal Train cancellation is dated May 17th and this would place the Royal couple in Ottawa

May 20 – Leave Ottawa at 6 PM EST, total time in Ottawa 80 hours (3 1/3 days)

Arrive in Cornwall at 8:40 PM EST, leave Cornwall at 8:50 PM – total time in Cornwall 10 minutes!

Arrive in Brockville at 10:00 PM EST, leave Brockville at 10:10 PM – total time in Brockville 10 minutes!

May 21 – Arrive in Kingston at 9:30 AM EST, leave Kingston at 7:00 PM – total time in Kingston 9 ½ hours

May 22 – Arrive in Toronto at 9:30 AM EST, leave Toronto at 6:00 PM – total time in Toronto 8 ½ hours

1939 ROYAL VISIT TO CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES - PART I

BY LARRY MATTHEWS—IPDA DIRECTOR CANADA CONT'D

May 23 – Arrive in Schreiber at 1:25 PM EST, leave Schreiber at 1:35 PM – total time in Schreiber 10 minutes!
Arrive in Port Arthur at 5:00 PM and motor to Fort William, leave Fort William at 5:30 PM (CST) – total time here is unknown because time of arrival here is unknown.



The two covers above show the two basic ways of determining the location of the Royal couple. The Royal Train cancellation and the Winnipeg cancellation are both dated May 24, which would place the Royal couple in Winnipeg at this time.

May 24 – Arrive in Winnipeg at 10:30 AM CST, leave Winnipeg at 7 PM CST – total time in Winnipeg 8 ½ hours
Arrive in Brandon at 10:10 PM CST, leave Brandon 10:30 PM CST – total time in Brandon 20 minutes

May 25 – Arrive in Regina at 12:30 PM MST, leave Regina at 8:00 PM MST – total time in Regina 8 ½ hours
Arrive in Moose Jaw at 9:15 PM MST, leave Moose Jaw at 9:45 PM MST – total time in Moose Jaw 30 minutes

May 26 – Arrive in Medicine Hat at 10:10 AM MST, leave Medicine Hat at 10:25 AM MST – total time in Medicine Hat 15 minutes!
Arrive in Calgary at 3:00 PM MST, leave Calgary at 5:00 PM MST – total time in Calgary 2 hours
Arrive in Banff at 7:30 PM MST

May 27 – Rest Day

May 28 - Leave Banff at 10:30 AM MST – total time in Banff 10:30 AM – total time in Banff 39 hours
Arrive in Kamloops at 9:35 PM PST, leave Kamloops at 9:50 PM PST – total time in Kamloops 15 minutes !

Part II will be published in the January Issue of the Newsletter.

BOOK REVIEW BY KEN SANFORD IPDA TREASURER AND DIRECTOR USA

**MAIL ROBBERIES BY BUSHRANGERS IN AUSTRALIA 1833 - 1908:
 BRIAN R PEACE FRPSL**

This is a study of how bushrangers, and their armed attacks on the Mails, impacted the social and economic health of Australia, and of the struggle by the authorities to deal with the issue over several decades. It demonstrates how all layers of society were affected by these attacks, and how trade and commerce with the interior were almost brought to a standstill in certain areas. Extracts from Proceedings in Parliament, Post Office Returns, editorials and letters to editors of newspapers indicate how parliamentarians, the judiciary, the police, successive Colonial Secretaries and Postmasters-General were apparently incapable of solving the problem.

Incensed settlers, tradesmen, merchants, bankers, coach operators and anyone who needed to travel, were constantly writing irate letters to newspapers demanding something be done. There was impassioned lobbying for guards on mail coaches, but Parliament repeatedly refused to sanction them due to the considerable expense. A relatively small number of criminals, generically described as bushrangers, were, for a period, holding a country to ransom

In the 75-year period from 1833 to 1908, 430 armed attacks on the Mail have been identified. There are no reliable official figures for the number of mail robberies during this period and so contemporary reports in newspapers and Police and Government Gazettes have been examined, with over 90,000 references checked. There are comprehensive lists of all attacks on the Mails with the names of the mail carriers and perpetrators, where known. The fate of the mails and references for every incident are included.

Containing 209 pages, soft cover, A4 size, with 82 illustrations, many in colour, this book gives a fascinating insight into the chaos which followed the regular disruption of mail services and the protracted battle between bushrangers and the authorities. Maps showing the locations of the attacks are included and the only recorded items of recovered mail are illustrated. There are eight appendices containing lots of additional information, such as dates & places of attacks on the mail by armed bushrangers, fate of the mail, names of bushrangers with aliases, place where attacks occurred, names of mailmen/drivers, etc.

This is a very well done book and should be of interest to anyone interested in Australian postal history
 Price UK£30 (US\$48, AU\$48) plus Postage & Packing (UK£3.25; Europe £5.45; Rest of World £10.00)

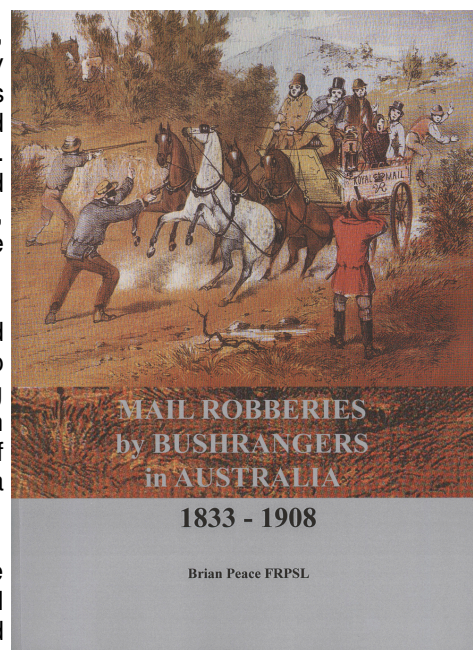
Order from Brian Peace brpeace@ntlworld.com Preferably pay using Paypal. Or send a sterling cheque to Brian Peace mailed to: 3 The Elms, Church Lane, Chapel Allerton, Leeds, England LS7 4LY

After printing costs all receipts from the sale of this book will be donated to Children of the Forest, a Child Protection Centre on the Thai/Burma border (UK Charity Number 1109763) www.childrenoftheforest.org

Children of the Forest provide abused, neglected, orphaned or otherwise exploited stateless children and mothers with protection from human trafficking or other forms of abuse. They also provide education, medical care and vocational

CLOSING REMARKS

I had more material for this issue so thank you to others that sent me ideas and texts. I really do appreciate your efforts and will use in future issues. There is lots to read in this issue and I hope you enjoy the content. Having got this far I realise there is little room left for my Christmas present giveaway. It is a flown FFC (as opposed to those fakes on eBay). 1 of 6 produced. This from Hong Kong to Sydney on Qantas 91st birthday signed by Flight Deck crew on the front and the cabin crew who served me, on the back. Sorry no room to show it but I think you will like the design. Email me, with your mailing address, at michaelatipda@gmail.com with the answer to this. What was my seat number? I will send the cover to whoever is closest. With my proof!!!! I look forward to hearing from you :-)



..... **Michael**