



NEWSLETTER MAY 2012

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone, welcome to another Newsletter. Where shall I start? Perhaps on the subject of the recent, and forthcoming, IPDA sponsored chats with various internet auctions houses.

We have been inviting Internet auction house representatives to speak about their auction sites in the chat room — an Open House with a guest speaker. I don't know if you have participated (afraid I have not because it is on at 2:30AM my time here in Hong Kong and I really need beauty sleep).

Anyway we have had Delcampe, Wensy, and Bidstart I think and on 13th May we have the webmaster from Stamps2Go booked. Anyone joining the Chat room can ask questions and from what I have heard they have been useful Open Houses. Just one way in which I think the IPDA can get the right people together for useful and informative dialogue. And, with there being a number of well respected online auction houses these days, especially with a strong focus on Philatelic materials, this certainly is a topic both buyers and sellers are interested in. I'm told we are trying to get eBay as well to speak and answer questions. Might be interesting!

I have dedicated page 2 to more on this (I have a touch of writers block for this issue).

All feedback and comments or articles, or ideas for articles, are, as always, welcomed.

Best Wishes .**Michael** michaelatipda@gmail.com

MUSEUPOSTAL-FILATELICO

Our member in Portugal, Mrs Rosalina Carrdoso sent me (Editor) a lovely card and thank you note for the 10th Anniversary cover. Thank you.

This is her shop in Lisbon. This got me to thinking (sorry!!) how many members have shops now. I know of one. Maybe others.

I have shown a few members web sites over the past years as we all have them these days, or we just have an auction based shop. But does anyone still have a stamp shop?

Please write to me and send a picture. My favourite is in a little alley in Sydney's CBD, and of course that famous one on the Strand.



Stamp of the Month



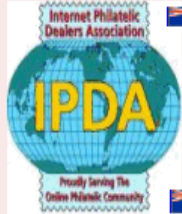
Why, just because I can.

Found in an old album I was sorting and I just like it. The colour is superb, pity it is not well centered and the perms are not too clean. I have no catalogue to look up details. I just like it.

SCAMS CONS FAKES AND CROOKS

Given the theme around auction houses, and the following on page two I thought I would add this for you all, if you are not aware of it.

For all the latest scams, cons, fakes and rorts detected on ebay stamp selling – bookmark this ever updated page -tinyurl.com/BunniesEbay many thanks and all credits to Glen Stephen and Stampboards.com



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IPDA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**It is that time of year again, well it will be in a few months.
The IPDA AGM will be held on 16th July (17th in southern hemisphere). Please make a
note in your diary. Plenty of time to schedule your time to attend.**

EBAY BIDDING BUNNIES!!!!!!!

With the recent auction house guests speaking to us and whoever joins the open house chat sessions I mentioned in the opening remarks, I thought it would be relevant to repeat some of what Glen Stephens writes about in his monthly Newsletter. All text and the two images are sourced from him and all credit goes to him, and, I encourage you to be a member of StampBoards.com if you are not. Awesome achievement from Glen to grow this brilliant site from nothing to many thousand of members in 5 years. My only claim is I was member number 70 something having joined early April 2007 and I do occasionally plug the IPDA on the Board.

Anyway, Glen writes, and how can you not agree; The IQ's of many of the bidders on ebay really must be countable in single digits. Bidding slightly over the odds for standard material is no great crime, indeed human nature in the heat of the moment. However some of the quite insane prices paid really should have these folks seeking psychiatric help! Stampboards has several long threads such as "Mad bidders on worthless eBay lots" – which has about 460 messages, as it is always being added to.

We all know the 1856 1c British Guiana is unique, and worth several millions. That is a fact, but \$US510 for this piece of junk. On March 29 Leading USA ebay Seller "philiph58" offered the absurdly crude laser printed, or photocopied piece of junk. He used the apparently obligatory ebay Pidgin English/gibberish type heading of - "British Guiana Guyana Ver old stamp my#4499" That was the sole description. I kid you not. No other detail. So what did it sell for? A few cents as a curio fake? No, this ridiculous fake reached \$US510 after 23 bids.



An even sillier result occurred the same week, on March 30. An equally laughable fake of the GB 1840 1d Black "VR" was offered by a high feedback UK ebay seller "hayday30". It would not fool a 10 year old as being anything other than one of the very common counterfeit replicas of this issue. A few dollars nett on a good day from a real dealer, as a curio or spacefiller. Not on ebay. The Bunnies went nuts over this, pushing it up to £510 – at the time that was \$A785. It looks like a crude hand drawn effort, with all detail being totally wrong, with an absurd attempt at a fake Maltese Cross cancel.



Glen writes, (and I think this is very good advice and something we should be telling our customers perhaps, if we have face to face dealings, and something we should remember ourselves, although I hope no IPDA Members do this,) beware of ebay "Private" Auctions.

Glen comments further that; "I suggest the seller knew full well some mad bidding would take place, so he deliberately made this a "Private Auction" so the buyer could not be later ID'd and warned via the feedback system. In his case he did not claim it was genuine, but the deliberate "Private Auction" tactic points to him predicting some Bunny Bidding". You can read more from Glen at <http://www.glenstephens.com/>

I'll add a point of my own here, how many times have you heard me rant and rave about a seller that NEVER provides details about his supposed flight covers. Yes many I know. Why is this allowed I ask myself and why would a potential bidder even bother bidding on undescribed lots. Beyond me. So finally, sorry I could not join the chat room conversations. I wonder if any of this theme was discussed and what are the auction houses doing about such situations. Or your views and experiences to share with other members? That's it from me this month. Best wishes