



**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012**

**INSIDE THIS ISSUE:**

<b>EDITORS COLUMN</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>IDENTIFYING PERFORATIONS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>HOW TO DESCRIBE A COVER</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>SG BUYS BIDSTART</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>CHRISTMAS STAMPS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>IFSDA</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>A MEMBERS WEBSITE</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>SECURITY FOR DEALERS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>AUCTION BULK LOADERS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>WANTED !!!</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SCANDANAVIAN STAMPS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	<b>6</b>

**EDITORS COLUMN**

Hello everyone, Welcome to the December Newsletter. As I start to write this I am not sure how many pages we will see. I am keeping myself for the Christmas Issue :-). Oh this is the Christmas issue! Merry Christmas in advance to all our readers.



Over the past month your Board met and discussed many topics. We had the Treasurer's Report, The Secretary's report, the Membership Report (we are growing, slowly and with the efforts of many we do see new memberships application each month), and reports on various activities to promote the IPDA in the stamp collecting / philatelic communities around the world.

**One such activity is the Facebook page**, which now has some 20 members participating. Another forum for us all to keep in touch, share experiences and be informed. If you want to join please email me and I will pass on to the administrators. The site is private, so to speak for IPDA members. We feel this is best at this time.

Another topic of interest, which many of us think important, is the Confidentiality List. This is a sensitive topic because publication of a person whose trading practices are deemed less than ethical is potentially open to litigation. But the list is confidential to members and our coding system is pretty good in my view, so should see us keep to the right side of the law, so to speak.

Debate centers around who and how we include. This debate continues and we are working on drafting more guidelines. If you have views on this topic please write to me and I will share with other Board Members.

I would like to comment on eBay, versus other auction sites. A sensitive topic, but hey lets be agreeable to disagree and / or hear other points of view. Some months ago we invited the key auction players to speak to us in the Chat Room. You may have joined it. All very useful and educational and informative. I seem to recall many saying they won't use eBay, and another view I even recall publishing earlier this year on sound justification for using eBay. I guess there is no one definitive (philatelic pun!!!) answer or position is there.

**How design ideas change**



Over the past month I had material listed on eBay, Bidstart and Delcampe. eBay sales have been somewhere in the region of 65% of material listed sold. Good viewing rate and prices ok I guess. The other two, very low viewing and no sales. I have to say I am sticking with eBay. Why, because they get the viewers and the sales it seems to me.

Not a statistically valid sample I agree, but I finished with many happy customers and much overstocked material removed to a better home. Surely that is a good reason for me to be happy with eBay, and the transactions were, with one exception, very good. And that one, the buyer who I asked you all about a few weeks back, well he has now paid. I guess he was busy and just didn't get round to fast payment like the other 99% of buyers.



Ok enough of my chatter. Here are some more Christmas stamps, and even more on the following pages. Have a wonderful December season. We have a heat wave coming here in Sydney over next few days. Oh how I miss the snows of Canada, and the rains of UK, not!!!. Hope you all safe through whatever season you are in.



Best Wishes .**Michael** [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)



## IDENTIFYING PERFORATION

SoftPro has released some new software that will electronically measure perforations along with overprints, cancellations, and can even help determine the difference between rotary and flat press printings

According to a write up on their [website](#), "If you are like most collectors, using a traditional plastic perf gauge is difficult and error prone. Most of us can barely see the tiny lines on the plastic gauges, let alone trying to align them with the stamp. EzPerf solves that problem."

It goes on to say, "Finding that rare perf is much easier with EzPerf's batch option. Lets say you had 40 copies of a very common stamp, but there is a rare perf variety you are looking for. Measuring each one individually can be tedious and difficult at best. With EzPerf, simply scan the stamps & place them into a folder on your hard drive. Then run EzPerf in batch mode & it will measure each one and give you a report of the perforations of each stamp. A quick glance will let you instantly see if any perf varieties are in your batch."

Cost is \$39.95.



## HOW TO DESCRIBE A COVER

Last month we included a page explaining how to describe the condition of a stamp using the SG catalogue definitions and grading. One suggestion I received to this, was write a piece on how to describe a Cover. I guess the first thing to say is I have only seen guidelines once (on Buckingham Covers website) on this so rather than repeat those I will present my thoughts. Happy to be corrected or have additional thoughts emailed to me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)

First point is the cover should be stated to be clean and free of rust, toning, damage marks, tears, folds and creases. Or these should be described clearly. When displaying a cover I usually show front and back even if the back is plain and clean. It does reassure the potential buyer in my view.

The condition of the stamp should of course be described, but also, so should the franking (chop) and other cachet images. If the cover is unopened, opened cleanly or just sealed closed it should be stated. If there is material inside the cover this should be stated as best it can be ascertained.

In some cases, for example aerophilatelic covers, it may also be possible to state the number of covers flown / issued. For example I always state the number of covers flown when selling my A380 First Flight Covers.

And finally, it should be stated if there is any accompanying material with the cover. Often there is not of course but using myself as an example I provide Certificates of Authenticity, as does Tony Buckingham of Buckingham Covers and I come back to where I started, by suggesting it is worth reading Tony's page at <http://www.buckinghamcovers.com/covers/condition.php> I really don't think you can get any better than Tony's covers and advice. There is of course the best example of what not to do, readily available on eBay most days of the week from a gentleman from Germany, who I notice has recently changed his ID. :- ) who never, and I mean NEVER, describes his "covers" Such is life, Caveat emptor!!!

## STANLEY GIBBONS BUYS BIDSTART

I guess you have already about this news. Any one any thoughts on what it might mean to sellers and buyers? Any thoughts I would be pleased to hear from you at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) and I will use in the next Newsletter.



**NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012**

**CHRISTMAS STAMPS**

To celebrate Christmas 2012 the Brazilian Post has issued several colorful stamps:

1) Box with gifts: This stamp refers to the tradition of exchanging gifts at Christmas time. It features an open postal container branded with Brazilian postal service with gifts inside.

2) Coral: the stamp features a choir made up of children from various ethnic groups, singing happily with Santa Claus as conductor of major orchestras. The children, representing the future and hope, are united in a circle adorned with typical Christmas elements like holly leaves and musical notes.

3) The block of stamps is a graphical representation of the mosaic art. Rich in technique and color, this art consolidates the essence of the form and spirit over matter. Mary and Joseph are crouched contemplating Jesus, sent to give the humanity his teachings of Love, Peace and Brotherhood. The halo of baby Jesus shines with golden rays spreading throughout the block. The arrangement of Joseph and Mary, supported on the lower base of the block, forming a triangular shaped graphic composition, refers to stability and balance.



Another Christmas stamp. This, as you can see, is from Monaco. And yes just the one in this Christmas issue. A sensible stamp issuing policy perhaps? Now I know statistics can be used to prove or disprove anything, but did you the know the population of Monaco (approx 30,000) is close to that of Gibraltar (approx 29,000) Somehow Monaco justified issuing just one Christmas stamp, compared to the 5 for Gibraltar (see below) Sensible stamp issuing policy surely???? :-)

Anyway to me there is more to stamps than just the stamps themselves. It is often what the stamp has to tell us. This lovely stamp is based on a painting by Giotto di Bondone, better known simply as Giotto. He was an Italian painter and architect from Florence and is generally considered the first in a line of artists who contributed to the Italian Renaissance. This painting, completed around the year 1305, is from Giotto's masterwork 'The Arena Chapel Frescoes', which decorate the Scrovegni Chapel in Padua (Northern Italy)





Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

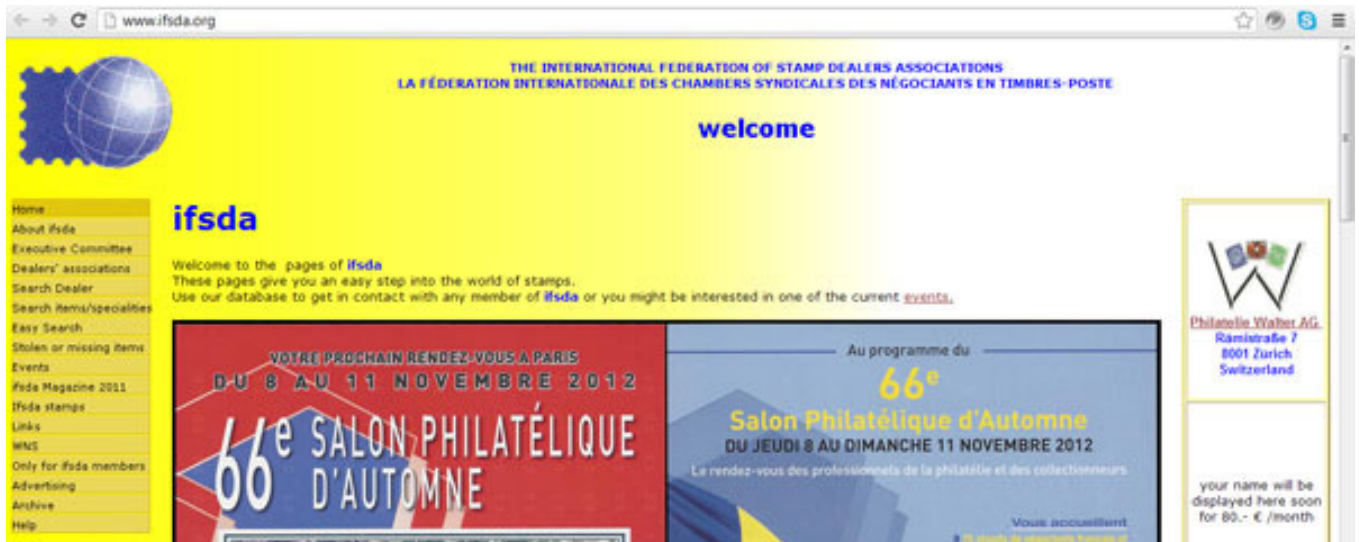
Established 23rd February 2002



Page 4  
December 2012  
Volume 10 Issue 12

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012

### INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION



How many of us are aware of this organisation? Thought it might be useful to show this. Similar to IPDA in many ways. The objectives of [IFSDA](http://www.ifsda.org/) are:

- To promote and maintain a high standard of professional integrity among Philatelic dealers throughout the world.
  - To promote the exchange among the member organizations of information and literature likely to be of service to the philatelic trade.
  - To try in all ways to reduce the barriers in international Philatelic trade.
  - To promote the exchange of information regarding the marketing of stolen, forged, faked and repaired stamps.
- To promote and help promoting stamp collecting throughout the world.

One really useful page on their website covers Events — have a look at <http://www.ifsda.org/l/event.php> for details of shows in many countries around the world. Maybe your country? Certainly good European coverage. If you open the home page ([IFSDA](http://www.ifsda.org/)) scroll down to see a special, rare or most favourite item from one of their members :-)  
Hey, why not send me your favourite item?

### A MEMBERS WEBSITE [HTTP://WWW.COVERCORNER.COM/](http://www.covercorner.com/)

I am rather biased here I will admit upfront but some of you will no doubt agree with me. A great website by one of our members, Bob Friedman. If you are interested in First Flight Covers, and Postal Stationery, or have customers who you want to help if you cannot supply what they want, have a look at Bob's site. Good coverage from Europe, to Africa, Middle East, Asia and Australia, and of course, the US. Certainly some interesting First Flight Covers.





## SECURITY FOR DEALERS

Last month I included a piece about Security for dealers and referenced the Delcampe requirement for us to provide a mailing address which is not a PO Box when we register. Thanks to Sebastian for some commentary on this. "On the website, you can use PO Box, there's no issue about this. We only ask for a "real" home address (so anything but a PO Box or general delivery address) when it comes to have your account verified or be part of the Club+ (our subscriptions) which automatically includes a postal verification. The postal verification is a payable service which clearly states that your address will be verified (you pay \$7.50 and we send you a code to your postal address. Once received, you added to a particular section of the website and this proves that the address you have given is your address). Therefore, legally speaking we need to know for sure that the address added corresponds to your home address (this cannot be verified with a PO Box of course)".

## AUCTION BULK LOADERS

Over the coming months I will try to give a view on Auction Bulk Loading. There is plenty of material on respective Auction sites about their Bulk Loader, how to use it etc. Since I have never attempted a bulk load I am not qualified to comment or past judgment on the various sites tools. Perhaps you have experience and would like to share with me so I can publish something on this topic to other members. I looked at Bidstart to see how they presented their information and guides to Bulk Loading. Seemed very well presented to me. This from Bidstart at [http://www.bidstart.com/wiki/SWHelp:Bulk\\_Uploader\\_v3.0](http://www.bidstart.com/wiki/SWHelp:Bulk_Uploader_v3.0)

The Bidstart Bulk Uploader (v3.0) is a simple yet powerful feature that you can use to easily create listings in bulk. With our newly redesigned Bulk Uploader (v3.0), listing items on Bidstart has never been easier. To list items, all you need to do is enter a few fields (using the simplest format; this is title, description, price, category and image) into a spreadsheet, upload your file, set default fields if needed, and then activate your listings. It's fast and easy, and anyone can do it. The format of the file you need to upload is called a 'comma separated value file,' or csv file for short. If you don't know what this means, don't worry about it. If you use a program such as Microsoft Excel, Microsoft Works Spreadsheet or LibreOffice's Calc (a free program you can download here: <http://www.libreoffice.org>) (formerly OpenOffice), you can easily save your file in the correct format.

The key new feature in the Bulk Uploader (v3.0) is Field Mapping. Previously, only files with the exact fields specified on the [Bulk Uploader Fields List](#) page could be uploaded. However, Field Mapping makes it possible to upload any spreadsheet file at all, as long as it's saved as a csv file. This is possible because once you upload your csv file, the Bulk Uploader will show you which fields were found in your csv file, and you can manually drag and drop your fields to match them up with our fields. This means that if you are able to export a spreadsheet containing your inventory from any program, database or website, you can directly upload that file to the Bulk Uploader (as long as you first ensure it is saved as a csv file)! Write to me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) with your views and experiences? I look forward to hearing from you.

## WANTED!!!!!!

Here is an idea that was passed to me. How about we place ads for stamps or philatelic items we want but cannot find, or don't have time to search for. For example. I will start the ball rolling

**WANTED - Aviation related stamps, prefer them to be postally used I (ie not CTO) in fine to very fine condition, and preferably with aircraft image on the stamp. Will pay postage but unless catalogue is of any significance would like then to be 'donated' (but will pay if reasonable cost) so I can add to, and maybe one day complete, my aviation on stamps thematic collection, where I have at least one 'aircraft on stamps' stamp from every country around the world.**

**Wanted A full set of SG catalogues — even 10 years old will do. Can anyone advise a source or provide? Contact Harry Buehne at [hebuehne@yahoo.com](mailto:hebuehne@yahoo.com)**

If you want to place an ad (for free !!!) for anything philatelic in this newsletter just email it to me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) ..... Or if you want to send me some 'aircraft on stamps' stamps for my Christmas present just mail them to cddstamps, PO Box 3482, Dural, NSW, Australia. :-) Thanks :-)



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 6

December 2012

Volume 10 Issue 12

## NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2012

### SCANDINAVIAN STAMPS

One of our members suggested a broader perspective on the philatelic scene in this Newsletter. I agree with that and am reprinting (abridged) the following in an attempt to meet that idea. While the following refers to one dealer- Jay Smith & Associates, Scandinavian specialist - it might be useful.

<http://www.JaySmith.com/Lists/Denmark/Denmark-New-Arrivals-Stamps.html>

DENMARK: A range of nice items and there are many other pages worth a read covering scarce classic booklets, Christmas Seal Oddities and errors, the 2012 Stamps issues, Danish West Indies Christmas Seals, and, a range of DWI stamps, varieties, bisects on piece, and bisects on full covers.

FINLAND early issues, including nice cancellations: A wide range of attractive early issues If you include early Finland in your collection, there will probably be something for you

GREENLAND Parcel Post Stamps ((Q-numbers): From Superb to bargains. A strong selection of Pakke-Porto stamps ranging from NH Superb to attractive with hidden faults. Greenland Danish Christmas Seals with Greenlandic design : The Danish 1921 Christmas Seal utilized a Greenlandic design, resulting in a very attractive seal sought by collectors of both areas

NORWAY early issues in excellent quality early Norwegian stamps in nice quality are very challenging to locate.

SWEDEN Booklet with triple markings: Most Swedish booklets have, since 1938, had the possibility of bearing "marginal markings". The possible markings consist of: Cylinder Numbers (either a 1 OR a 2; sometimes split between two booklets), a Counting Number (control or serial number, usually 5 or 6 digits; sometimes split between two booklets), and a Spine Print. Typically one of these three types of markings might appear every roughly 8 to 15 booklets; Spine Prints only appear every 50th booklet. To have a combination of a Cylinder Number and a Counting Number on the same booklet is usually a somewhat unusual occurrence. The combination of a Spine Print and one of the other markings is even less often seen. However, having all three present on one booklet is a rare occurrence!

SWEDEN early covers: A nice range of early covers. There is also a total of 36 pages of covers sorted into sections based on stamp issue, type of use, etc

And Finally, 2013 Facit Scandinavian Specialized Catalog. This year's edition has proven to be quite popular. The big news for the 2013 Facit is a major special article in English on the Iceland "IGildi" Overprinted stamps with a great deal of new information . The article, titled "An Expert's Guide to the Iceland I GILDI `02-`03 Overprints" covers 17 solid pages of text and useful illustrations. It discusses the background of the stamps, their overprinting, the different overprint types and the eight overprint plate settings, major overprint errors, wrong color overprints and missing overprints, the overprints on single & double postal stationery cards, the 1904 Berne reprints, and used stamps and cards. There is a tremendous amount of never-before-published information. Even the information that has been previously published has mostly not been available in English. The information about the postal cards also includes significant new research. If you have an old Facit that is not in color, you owe it to yourself to upgrade to a new one. If you only get a copy every couple/few years, this is the year to do it.

### CLOSING REMARKS

Well we have our third 6 pager. Thank you to all who contributed ideas. I hope you found something of interest. As I always say, please send me ideas or articles. Christmas will be here in 25 days or thereabouts depending on when I get this out to you. Sadly I received no articles from you as my Christmas present :- ( oh you are holding off to send me 'aircraft on stamps' stamp ...cool !!! And a once again a reminder that the Webring is up and running. IPDA members can join it by going to:<http://clsc.webring.org/hub/internetphilatel> Go down to the green button "JOIN - Add your site" and following the instructions.



If you don't hear from me again before Christmas, I hope you and your families have a healthy, peaceful and enjoyable time over the season, if it is your season, and if it is not, have a great time anyway. Best wishes, and Merry Christmas ..... Michael [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)