



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



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Volume 11 Issue 1

## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013

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### EDITORS COLUMN

Hello everyone, Welcome to 2013. Another exciting year ahead no doubt. Certainly plenty to read about in the philatelic world with more collectors and dealers taking to social media sites, more material available in digital form and what seems to me more and more shows and fairs and major exhibitions around the world. Some of the material in this January 2013 issue attempts to cover these topics.

Lets start by mentioning social media. I remember when I first started my blog there were one or two other philatelic blogs that I could find on the net. There are many thousands now so the word has spread and hopefully the hobby really is alive and well, if one judges it by the amount written on philatelic matters.

What about Twitter? I started that a year ago was it? I have 140 followers now to my short stamp related rambles and I follow many other collectors and dealers. I think it keeps me informed and hopefully up to date on various topics that interest me.

In addition I use Facebook, Google+, Yahoo, and of course Stampboards as media outlets to promote what I am thinking, collecting and selling. I am not in the 3rd division, let alone the big league by any stretch of the imagination but I have got an audience and I do use the channels available.

Of course we have to get an audience who wants what we have. Whether is be interesting articles, or ramblings on philatelic matters or stamps to sell.

I have asked in the past what do you as members do to promote your business, your sales and your credibility. The above are my activities. Please write and lets share with others. Some of you must have some good ideas.

Knowledge is power as we all know. Having access to the right catalogue is one way to have knowledge. A month before Christmas one of my children asked what I wanted for Christmas. I said the SG Stamps of the World catalogues

What a lovely surprise I got on Christmas Day. And, how nice is it to read both the very informative and interesting front pieces but also search and find these foreign stamps I have had boxed away, Great to have grown up children who have finally got good careers :-)

Finally, I thought I would share this with you. How many of you managed to get a 12.12.12 franking I wonder?



### Doctor Who



To celebrate the 50th anniversary of The Doctor Who TV shows, the Royal Mail will issue a set of 11 stamps in Spring 2013.



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



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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — AN EXPERIENCE WITH DELCAMPE

A few months ago I was invited to list my stock items on the Delcampe web site. They explained how easy it was to use their API code, that you can list all your items and have access to all their members.

First off, the API code is very complicated, way over my head, so I gave it to my webmaster. He too found it difficult to follow using codings he was unfamiliar with and he actually gave up on two occasions. One problem was their Tech Support is only available by joining a Google group.

Eventually all the basics were sorted out and we started uploading my stock – initially we tried a random batch of about 20,000 items and within minutes (literally) the first orders came in. Unfortunately, the Delcampe system sends you an email for each listing so my webmaster received 20,000 emails within an hour or so. This created such a problem that it overloaded his server and caused a shut-down. Mine and several hundred other clients' emails were dead for something like 12 hours while the problem was addressed. With no way of knowing who had bought what, or who had paid, I felt the only thing I could do was remove everything from my store. This relatively simple exercise took me all afternoon to do.

I should explain at this point that I am a Thematic Dealer and my stock includes all items of a topical nature including non-postage stamps, Revenues, Forgeries, Locals, Fantasies, Stationery cards, postmarks, so-called illegals as well as match box labels, Telephone cards and Postcards.

Once the email program had been recovered we started listing again thinking we had overcome all conceivable problems ... not so. The moderator started removing items which they said were unsuitable. Initially, I didn't have a problem with this and I gave my webmaster a list of items not to be included (over 280 countries). However the uploads continued as did the removals, but with them came warnings that unless I cleaned my act up, I'd get suspended. They also required certain items to be prefixed with the word 'LABEL' and listed in particular categories.

I wrote to several of their moderators to explain the situation of how much work was involved and at this point, I too was wondering if it was worth all the effort. I got very little sympathy from this and was told that their terms and conditions had been in force since February and that I've had more than enough time to do things their way.

I was beginning to get annoyed now – Delcampe had invited me to list my stock but there was no mention that I'd have to jump through hoops to keep their moderators happy. What is more, their list of Dos and Don'ts consisted of many pages of unacceptable items, written in pigeon English and littered with spelling mistakes etc.

My webmaster was given a revised list, more items were uploaded, and more were being removed by the moderator. The next thing I knew, I had been suspended for seven days. During this time anybody trying to make contact with me could not do so and being suspended, they probably got the impression I had broken the law or done something equally serious.

The problem was mainly caused by the Delcampe list of unsuitable items being littered with spelling mistake. On this list for example was Berin which didn't prevent my Benin items from being uploaded. The same thing happened with Abkhazia (Spelt by Delcampe as Abkhazia) Central African Republic (spelt as Afican), Mauritania is spelt Mauretania, Kyrgyzstan is spelt Kirgistan etc. All this makes it difficult to fall in line with their requirements. In addition, to get my Locals listed I had to add the word LABEL to the beginning of nearly 10,000 items.

To try and work within their guide lines I decided to send their moderator a mail outlining our proposals to upload about 30,000 items and asked them to check I was putting them in the correct categories. I received a mail from another moderator saying they do not operate a 'service for removing 'illegal' stamps you may have uploaded with or without better knowledge'. Makes you think that you give someone a bit of power and they become dictatorial.

..... Cont'd





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### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — AN EXPERIENCE WITH DELCAMPE ...CONT'D

Despite these setbacks, I went ahead and uploaded the part of my stock I considered would not upset my hosts. The upload is very slow so it was done by my webmaster during the early hours and each day I came into the office to see several new orders waiting for my attention.

The Delcampe system of sales progress looks on the face of it to be quite efficient with little icons identifying at what stage the sales are but unfortunately they aren't always in sync with what has actually happened. Several times it would tell me I'm waiting for a payment while another part of the page tells me I've been paid, the customer has received the goods and we've exchanged feedbacks. This confusion is okay if your sales are modest but with a busy workload could easily lead to sending unnecessary payment reminders and upsetting your customers.

Another little problem is on the same Delcampe sales page – Sometimes it won't let you send an invoice or a reminder, you just get an error message. Also once a transaction has been completed you can move it to an archive page but this again only works once in a while – so frustrating. Even more frustrating is when you send a mail to the Delcampe Help line, it tells you your message was not sent because it was empty.

Well that just about tells the story to date. So if you get an invitation to list your material on Delcampe or are thinking of doing so, be prepared for a lot of hard work with virtually zero support and a system that is far from perfect. It's a shame really, we desperately need a viable alternative to eBay and while Delcampe is free to list, it certainly presents a high cost in terms of effort. ... Roger West IPDA Director GB and Europe.

### STAMP MAGAZINES

Something different. How many subscribe to a Stamp magazine in hard copy format? Certainly there are a few to choose from.

This offer from Stamp and Coin Magazine from the UK sounds interesting, if you are in the UK I would expect more so than if overseas.

But having said that what about the digital edition.

I have just downloaded the latest copy of this onto my iPad, no waiting for it to be delivered in the mail. The quality of the articles is very good and the display quality is truly superb.

Easy to read on the plane!!!

I also subscribe to them on Twitter. Social Media is the big thing

And yes, what about the Doctor who issue in the Spring. Surely a must for the Doctor Who fan.



#### Exclusive New Year subscription offer!

Treat yourself to a 2013 Stamp & Coin Mart subscription and receive your first three months FREE! Every issue of the UK's favourite collecting magazine will be sent straight to your home so you can enjoy the latest collecting news before the magazine is on sale in the shops. See more of our exclusive offers at the bottom of the newsletter...

BUY NOW



#### Download the digital edition today



#### Bureaux reveal 2013 stamps

A host of philatelic bureaux have revealed their stamp plans for the coming year, giving thematic collectors the chance to target specific issues in 2013.





## NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2013

### NEW ISSUES

#### 100 Years of the Serbian Military Air Forces stamps This for our aerophilately friends.

The Serbian Post under expert cooperation of Serbian Ministry of Defence, Command of Air Force and Air Defence of the Army of Serbia issued a set of stamps to celebrate the 100 years of creation and development of the Serbian Military Air Force, the century of the heroic life of the airmen in the fight for freedom of the people and the homeland.

Since the Balkan wars, through the First and Second World War, post-war time, bombing in 1999 and continuing to this day, generations of pilots, air defenders, technicians and specialists of different aviation profiles have given their youth, knowledge, enthusiasm and most valuable - their lives in the rich history of aviation. Their heroic deeds are never-ending inspiration and an example for present and future generations of pilots how to defend the honour of the profession and how to love and defend their homeland. Today, the Serbian Military Air Force is organized on the model of the world's leading air forces.

The stamps illustrate: balloon "Srbija", airplane Fizir FN, airplane Rogožarski IK-3, airplane Ikarus S-49, airplane Soko Jastreb and airplane Lasta 95.



#### 240 Years of the Postal Services in Mauritius stamps

The Post of Mauritius has commemorated the 240th anniversary of its Postal services by issuing four special stamps and a First Day Cover.

The Mauritius Post is one of the oldest postal services in the world. It started from overseas mail by sea with a coach distribution inland, until it reaches to-day with air mail, courier and a quicker islandwide dispatch.

Source: [International Stamp News.com](http://InternationalStampNews.com) a wealth of information about world wide new issues.



#### A MEMBERS WEBSITE

[HTTP://STORES.EBAY.CO.UK/DEAL-STAMP-SHOP](http://stores.ebay.co.uk/deal-stamp-shop)



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Deal Stamp Shop

**Deal Stamp Shop**

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Welcome to our eBay shop. Member of IPDA. We specialise in British Stamps and aim to post orders within 24 hours of payment. Please add us to your favourite sellers, thank you for your business, and looking at our stamp shop. And above all - enjoy stamp collecting!

This is member David Cook's Shop on eBay. Nice listings and well described. I thought it worth a plug that not everyone has a web site with 1000's of stamps for sale. There are many of us smaller sellers so if you know colleagues in this league so to speak please remind them of the IPDA and help promote us. Note David gets in a prominent plug about membership of the IPDA Well done David. Hope business is good.



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### AFDCS MAKES DIGITAL EDITION OF JOURNAL AVAILABLE TO ALL

The December 2012 issue of First Days, the award-winning journal of the American First Day Cover Society, can be downloaded free of charge from the society's website, [www.afdcs.org](http://www.afdcs.org).

Ordinarily, the online edition is available for Gold, Silver, Life and Internet-Only members about two weeks before the hard-copy edition is mailed. However, a production scheduling glitch is delaying the mailing of the print edition.

The printer is closed for vacation during Christmas, and won't be able to mail the magazine until January 8. The online edition is already available, "and rather than make print subscribers wait, we thought we'd make it available to all our members now, as well as anyone else who'd like to read it," said AFDCS president Lloyd de Vries.

"I think after reading this issue, non-members will realize how much they're missing, and decide to join the AFDCS," he added. Annual memberships, which include a subscription to First Days, start at \$24 for "Online-Only."

The AFDCS is the largest not-for-profit organization in the world specifically for FDC collectors. Besides First Days, it publishes handbooks and presentation programs, produces special FDCs and generic cachets, and operates Americover, a World Series of Philately stamp show dedicated to first day covers. This year's Americover is being held Aug. 16-18 near Cleveland in Independence, Ohio.

### WANTED!!!!!!

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 New Years present just mail them to cddstamps, PO Box 3482, Dural, NSW, Australia. :-) Thanks :-)

**WANTED - Aviation related stamps, prefer them to be postally used (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 them 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. Contact the Editor for details [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)**

**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)**

**Fiji - Mint Unhinged: SG 279, 283, 285a, 292, 294, 295, 303, 305, 306, 307, 309, 310. Contact the Editor for details [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)**

### STAMP EXHIBITIONS

Is it my imagination or are there just so many Stamp Shows, Fairs and major exhibitions in 2013. Two I would really like to attend. The first is really quite close by, down the road in Melbourne in May (see next page for details), the second a bit further away, in Bangkok, for Thailand 2013 World Stamp, from 2<sup>nd</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August.

There are many sites which provide details of shows, fairs and exhibitions but here are three worth a look I think. For details on exhibitions in England, France, Germany, Italy, Czech Republic and more in 2013 I suggest a look at <http://www.ifsda.org/!/event.php> and more US based have a look at [http://www.stampparaphernalia.com/stamp\\_shows.htm](http://www.stampparaphernalia.com/stamp_shows.htm) and of course the APS site at <http://stamps.org/Show-Calendar>





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### WORLD STAMP EXPO—MELBOURNE AUSTRALIA 10—15 MAY 2013

Anyone planning a visit to Australia in May 2013? If you are, how about a few days in Melbourne!! From 4th February Day Passes will be available for sale. The cost is just AUS \$10, available from Australia Post [www.shop.auspost.com.au](http://www.shop.auspost.com.au) Surely a very good price. Make those plans early is my suggestion. And, lets think about arranging how IPDA members can get together, especially for those of us in Australia.

Visit the website for more details at <http://www.australia2013.com/>



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Centenary of Kangaroo Stamps • 10 - 15 May 2013 • Royal Exhibition Building Melbourne Australia



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KANGAROO STAMPS

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Southbank, Melbourne

##### New York 2016

Jacob Javits Convention Center,  
NY. 28 May - 4 June 2016

### CLOSING REMARKS

What has 2013 in store for you? Any predictions? What about the IPDA? Can we do more to grow the membership and our presence in the market place and get more buyers aware of the value of sellers being members of an organisation like ours. It is the Year of the snake. Auspicious maybe and time to strengthen the IPDA brand maybe.

Best wishes to everyone for a healthy, happy and successful 2013. As always, I welcome ideas and materials for inclusion in the Newsletter.

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

