



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



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Volume 11 Issue 12

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013

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EDITORS COLUMN

Hello, and welcome to the December Newsletter. Since this is the Christmas issue I have tried to get a few Christmas stamps for you to see. Ran out of space pretty quickly so no big write ups on them I am afraid. Here is a lovely stamp in my view, very simple. No need to say much else is there.



What news for you? Well quite a bit I guess. We had the Halloween Chat and saw a good turn out with many regular faces chatting from late night into early morning and then into the night again. I spent a very enjoyable few hours online and it was good to meet a few new collectors and dealers. Many thanks to Bob, our Chairman, for all the work he put into organising the event, and to all the Directors for giving their time to moderate over the 24 plus hours, and I cannot forget my good friend in Australia, Larry, who was online for over 8 hours I think it was.

I wrote last month asking for ideas for philatelic Christmas presents. No one wrote to me. Of course I was devastated with the response but I was otherwise rewarded with a wonderful present, in person I might add, from Philippe Poppe of Poppe Stamps, who I met recently in Cebu. More on that on the following pages.

In our last issue I wrote about the Smithsonian. Surprised no follow up on that. Very technical philatelic material but I do hope some of you enjoyed reading it.

In this issue I seem to have consumed 8 pages rather quickly with a few articles from magazines which I hope you find informative.

This month we have a few new members and we would like to welcome Peter Calleja of Malta Stamps from Malta, Steve Hill of Steve Hill Stamps from Great Britain, Geoff Belshaw from Australia, and Alex Green from Tasmania. Welcome and I hope to hear from you over the coming months.

My own best wishes to you and your families for the festive season. I hope you have time for stamps and your philatelic interest. See you in January, and if you have anything you want to send me for the next issue I will as always be very grateful.

..... Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Fellow IPDA members, we are approaching January 1st once again. The month of January always reminds me of the mythical Roman god Janus that it derives its name from. The two faced god Janus was believed to be the guardian of gates and doorways. January gives us the opportunity to look back and reflect on the activities of the IPDA in 2013 and to look forward to future progress for the IPDA

The year 2013 saw a number of changes in the IPDA. New faces on the board of directors, a new IPDA chat room and a major upgrade of our IPDA website. Now, with 2014 coming soon, we have the opportunity to make further progress. We would be happy to hear any ideas or suggestions a member may have.

Wishing everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a prosperous New Year,
Robert Bechtel, IPDA Inc. Chairman

Stamp of the Month



This show by a collector on a FB stamp site. I can only assume because owner thinks it ok.

Another reason why we need the IPDA, to promote quality standards.





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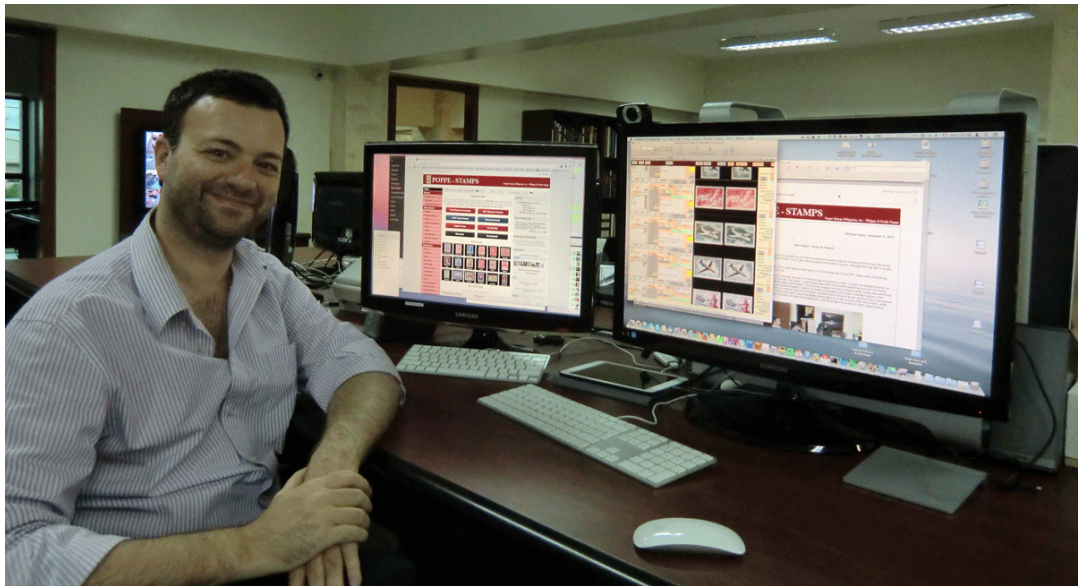
NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2013

POPPE STAMPS — PHILIPPINES



POPPE - STAMPS

Poppe Stamps Philippines, Inc. - Philippe & Guido Poppe



Over the past few years I have had the pleasure of visiting a few of our members and have followed those visits with articles on them, their business and their interests. In the following I am very pleased to write up my recent meeting with Philippe Poppe (above) and tell you about my trip to The Philippines to meet him. I should add I first met Philippe in Hong Kong some 18 or so months back over a very enjoyable dinner. This time, I finally managed to get to Cebu and meet him at his office and, fortunately for me over dinner later that day, with his father and family.

Before I start, let me set the scene for this visit. I have had a long standing invitation to visit Cebu and when I finally made my travel plans I was pretty excited to be honest. Due to depart Hong Kong Friday 8th November. Sadly though, as I guess you must know from reading the news, the typhoon Yolanda hit that very day. Three times the force of Hurricane Katrina and such that my flight was delayed 20 hours. No problem for me but so sad for all the families in the Philippines as you will surely know. Fortunately Mactan, where Philippe lives in Cebu, while badly hit was not closed down and did not suffer the severe damage that some other parts of Cebu did. Added to this situation was the fact that only six week prior, the area had also been affected by a pretty significant earthquake. All this to set the scene since I saw the impact of both, the earthquake and the typhoon.

Philippe and his father Guido run [Poppe stamps](#) (have a look at a great website) from a really stunning office in Mactan Cebu. On arrival at Cebu, Philippe and his wife met us at the airport and drove us to their office.

Set in a modern and sprawling industrial park they have 1000 sq ft of space. A sizeable operation but not all for stamps as you will read later.

Picture on arrival in Cebu - We flew Cathay Pacific but I couldn't resist showing you this lovely aircraft.





POPPE STAMPS – PHILIPPINES ... CON'T

The tour started in the main office area. See picture to right. A spacious set up with state of the art computers and work spaces and a library to dream off, both for stamp catalogues and books on [conchology](#). Do visit their web-site.

Yes conchology is their other business and it was this aspect of the office and storage that Impressed me even more than the philatelic side..

We toured other rooms and to be honest it was like visiting a museum with beautiful shell displays. Many rare and all so beautiful.

In addition we saw display cases of model ships all made by Philippe. Stunning models.

Every now and then Philippe would point out some slight damage to a ship or a shell. The reason being the earthquake as I mentioned early.

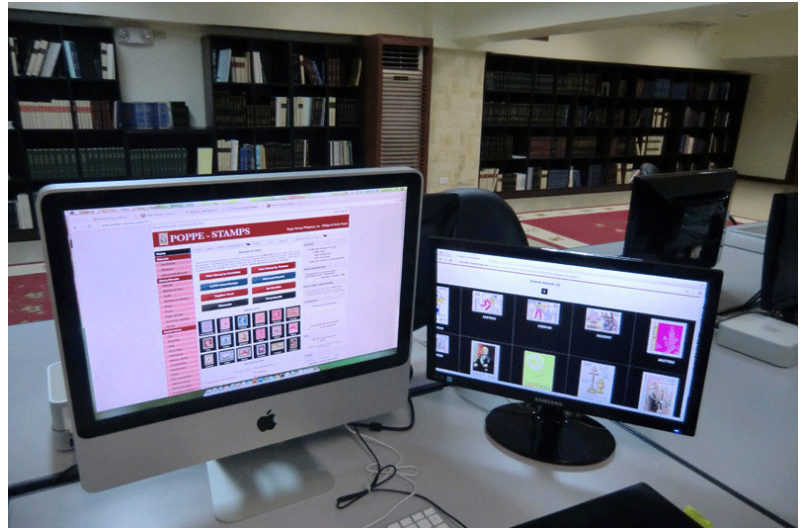
Some walls of the office also had cracks in them but generally the building was sound and the damage, fortunately, was minimal.

Then to the stamps. Philippe has over 2 million stamp lots listed on his website. How do you store that quantity. In fact how do you catalogue and scan that number?

With wonderful staff, efficient systems, top of the line computers and peripherals, and an organisation that is brilliantly managed. The picture perhaps gives a perspective of the filing cabinets. A very, very long line of drawers packed with all of those 2 million stamps, all very clearly catalogued.

Later that evening we joined Philippe, his wife and his father and partner for a wonderful dinner at the Shangri La Hotel. What excellent company, interesting conversation, excellent food and great service from the hotel staff, who were serving us in a private dining room. I cannot write about what we discussed. Lots of talk of stamps and stamp dealers and the stamp market, pricing, marketing opportunities, sales numbers, quality, collecting interest, IPDA member participation, etc etc, but, as I am sure you understand, what plays in Las Vegas, stays in Las Vegas. or should I say, in the Shangri La in Cebu !!

Sadly we did not take a picture of us all at dinner. So busy chatting we just didn't think of it, so I show one of Philippe his staff and us. And on the next page a few pictures and something about Cebu City and some sightseeing we did.



Editor and Philippe (the tall young good looking guy) and his filing cabinets of 2 million stamps.





POPPE STAMPS — PHILIPPINESCONT'D

Although our trip to Cebu was short we still managed to do a few hours of sightseeing on the Sunday before the flight back to Hong Kong. I mentioned the typhoon earlier and I must admit that while some of the damage was pretty severe it was insignificant compared to what had happened in Tacloban and other parts of northern Cebu.



A few pictures which I would like to share with you.

There is a fair amount of interesting history and architecture there in Cebu City as the Spanish were there from around the early 1500's and left their mark so to speak.

This tree fell away from the Cross of Magellan — so fortunate that this was not destroyed. Magellan's Cross is a Christian cross planted by Portuguese, and Spanish explorers as ordered by Ferdinand Magellan upon arriving in Cebu in the Philippines on April 21, 1521



The frames around the arches were erected before the typhoon to protect it



This is Fort san Pedro — Fuerza de San Pedro is a military defence structure, built by Spanish and indigenous Cebuano labourers under the command of Spanish conquistador, Miguel López de Legazpi and the Spanish Government in Cebu in 1738 I believe, although a plaque on the entrance shows the date 1539



And to finish, I could have stayed on the beach forever!!! It was so lovely, the sun was just so warm and the water so inviting.





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NSDA - NATIONAL STAMP DEALERS ASSOCIATION (USA)

I came across this magazine thanks to one of our Directors. Maybe you see it. I saw the Featured article mentioned on the Contents page. Thought I would share this with you because maybe some of our members would be interested in reading it. If so just email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com and I will email to you.

National Stamp Dealers Association

"Dealers Helping Dealers"

NSDA News

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NSDA News is a quarterly publication of the National Stamp Dealers Association (NSDA). Normal publication months are February, May, August, and November. All submissions for publication must be received no later than the last day of the month preceding the publication date to ensure consideration for inclusion in the newsletter.

News Highlights

Turn to page 7 for news and announcements and page 8 for a list of upcoming NSDA-sponsored stamp shows.

Featured Article

This quarter's featured article discusses the type of person it takes to become a successful stamp dealer. The article by Richard Pederson discusses the personal qualities required to keep a philatelic business going, even when the financial rewards are not always commensurate with the work that is required. If you are a collector who always wanted to be a stamp dealer, read the article and see how your perception of what it takes to be a dealer corresponds with reality.

National Stamp Dealers Association

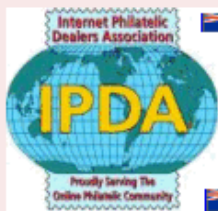
NSDA

BAHAMAS CHRISTMAS ISSUE

The Bahamas Post Office has released a set of six stamps, each a portrayal of a familiar scene from the story of the Nativity.

Each of the six stamps has been illustrated in ink. This is an unusual medium for stamp artworks but was chosen because of the especially bright and vibrant colours that can be achieved and which reflect the Christmas spirit of hope and celebration. .





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USA WOLF TRAP STAMP

I am showing this for two reasons: First because it was a stamp I found recently and which I could not find in a catalogue. I wrote to the board at Mystampworld and got some informative and interesting responses, including this link, which is the second reason I show it. Nice site and interesting if you have the time to browse it.

 PEOPLE, POSTAGE & THE POST

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Philately / ... / 1972-1973 / National Parks Centennial... / 6-cent Wolf Trap Farm

 **6-cent Wolf Trap Farm**

The United States Postal Service released the 6-cent Wolf Trap Farm Park commemorative stamp on June 26, 1972, in Vienna, Virginia. This stamp covered the mail rate for postcards mailed within the United States to Canada and Mexico. Howard Koslow designed the stamp, of which 104 million were issued.

In 1966, the National Park Service established Wolf Trap Farm Park – now the National Park for the Performing Arts – in Vienna, Virginia, on land donated by Catherine Filene Shouse. Ms. Shouse had owned the property since 1930, having used it for decades as a retreat from the hectic life she lived in the Washington, DC, area. In 1982, fire destroyed the Filene Center, Wolf Trap's outdoor venue, which the USPS featured on the 1972 stamp.

As early as 1632, according to manuscript records, wolves caused much damage in this region, and settlers offered rewards of tobacco to those who could trap wolves. An official land survey dated 1739 referred to the area as "Wolf Trap," the name used to this day.



ADDITIONAL RECORDS

OVERVIEW



CONTINUE >>

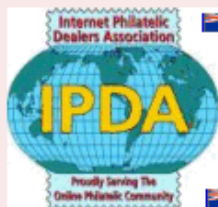
CANADA 1851 12D STAMP TOPS SIEGEL AUCTION

I have written twice now on rare Canada stamps and here again is another. Something I read during the week. I must look at my old stock. I can dream can't I.

A good example of the Canada 1851 12d black has seen the highest bids in Robert A Siegel Auction Galleries' Worldwide Stamps and Postal History sale, held on November 13-14 in New York.

The stamp is a used example, bearing a target cancel with four full to large margins, a small repair and other faults. Despite the defects, it made \$32,500, having not appeared on the market since 1963.





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USA INTERNET SALES TAX DEBATE

For our US readers and members. Sounds like a challenging situation. Any reader with more news please let me know if you think this is a topic we should keep our members informed of through this Newsletter

Get Involved in the Internet Sales Tax Debate

SEND A LETTER 

Earlier this year we alerted Main Street members to a sales tax bill called the "Marketplace Fairness Act" which was considered by Congress. In May of this year the Senate passed this ill-advised bill and it is now being considered by the House of Representatives. If you want to help us protect the American public from new tax burdens, please [get involved now](#) and help us fight this potentially harmful legislation.

If the Marketplace Fairness Act is allowed to become law, it could require small, internet-enabled businesses to collect sales taxes nationwide from the more than 9,600 tax jurisdictions. These same small businesses could face the prospect of being audited by tax collectors from other states. On behalf of our eBay Inc. community, we are pushing Congress to include meaningful protections for small businesses.

The good news is that hundreds of thousands of consumers and small business owners have contacted Capitol Hill to express their concerns. Despite this positive development, the bill's supporters and their Washington lobbyists still want to get the bill through Congress by attaching it to important pieces of legislation that Congress must pass, such as a federal budget bill. Congress must fix the Senate bill by significantly increasing the small business exemption. That is why we need your help.

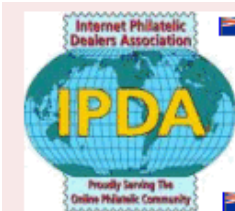
If you oppose attempts to force an unfair Internet sales tax bill into law, [raise your voice](#) and let your representatives in Congress know.

ASCENSION CHRISTMAS ISSUE



The Ascension Island Post Office has chosen to release a set of stamps showing both Anglican and Catholic worship on the Island.

Interestingly perhaps there is only one church, St. Mary The Virgin, based in Georgetown which is an Anglican Church.



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR - UK POSTAL CHARGES

A new applicant was recently criticised by a member as he felt his postal charges were on the high side, quoting two pounds to send an order from UK to North America. I immediately came to the applicant's defense as my postal charges are actually higher than this at two pounds fifty (\$4.00 US). This has prompted me to write the following.

I am a thematic dealer and my stock includes large sheetlets, artworks, covers and presentation packs apart from individual sets and singles. These largish items determined that I should rationalize and try to use a uniform envelope size and C4 and C5 seemed to fit the bill.

I have a website but many of my sales come from eBay, Delcampe, BidStart and Specialist Auction and to promote my site, I had cards printed displaying my web address - these cards serve admirably as an envelope stiffener. So my average order will go out with a C5 envelope, a stiffener card, an invoice (which I regard as essential if you're professional) plus of course the ordered stamps. To keep my customers happy I always use Commemorative stamps for postage and these in themselves can weigh several grams. The bottom line is a postal packet which usually exceeds 40g in weight for which the Royal Mail charge is 2.48 GBP (\$3.97). If the packet exceeds 60g then it's 3.08 GBP (\$4.93) and if it's over 80g then it's a massive 3.50 GBP (\$5.60). If the contents have a value above 100 pounds then my insurers insist I send it registered so the minimum charge now becomes 7.50 GBP (\$12.00).

UK addresses aren't quite so expensive but here we have the added problem of thickness. Royal Mail regard anything thicker than 5mm as 'large' for which they charge a premium. My C5 envelope, card, invoice and stamps are borderline but I dare not use the lower rate for fear my customer would be hit with a surcharge which works out to the difference in charge plus a one pound fee. So I charge my UK customers 95p which just covers the Royal Mail current charge of 90p.

I know postal costs are a big issue with some people – but not all! My website requires a minimum order which is tacked on to the postage fee until that minimum is reached. Nevertheless, I occasionally get orders for a cheap item (say one pound) but the customer seems quite happy to pay the minimum price of 7.50 GBP.

I wonder if other members have any thoughts on this issue?
Roger West, Avion Thematics, Director IPDA for GB & Europe,

DR SEUSS AND CHRISTMAS

Dear Friends, and members of the IPDA I want to take the time to wish each and every one of you a blessed holiday season. May all of your most cherished desires become realities in this forth coming year. I leave you with this quote from Dr. Seuss's how the Grinch stole Christmas.

It came without ribbons! It came without tags! It came without packages, boxes or bags!" Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before! "Maybe Christmas," he thought, "doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas perhaps means a little bit more!" ~Dr. Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*

Remember this year my friends and make Christmas, that little bit more.

CLOSING REMARKS

My best wishes to you and your families. If you get a great philatelic Christmas present please think about sending me an email, maybe something you'd like to share with our members. Time to think about a last advertising push for Christmas sales maybe? I must make the time but just do seem to be able to. A good finish to the year for the IPDA with many new members, lets all do our little bit to see this Association prosper in 2014. see you then.

Merry Christmas, Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com

