



**INSIDE THIS  
ISSUE:**

<b>EDITORS COLUMN</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>CHAIRMAN'S REPORT</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>APS NEWS</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>IPDA BOARD NOMINA- TIONS</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>DIGITAL MICRO- SCOPES</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>PHILAKOREA 2014</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>PAYPAL CORNER</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>THANKS TO STAMPS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SPOOF EMAILS</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>INTERASIA AUCTION</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>NO RACISM IN PHILATELY</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>	<b>8</b>

**EDITORS COLUMN**

Hello, and welcome to another Newsletter. It doesn't seem 5 minutes ago I was writing the January issue. And now here I am again. And, wishing you Happy New Year, Kung Hei Fat Choy from Hong Kong. We celebrate the Chinese New Year this weekend.

I'll start by showing these two stunning Miniature Sheets

I managed to get a few copies of the \$100 sheetlet before they sold out. In fact I saw a copy for sale in a dealers a week ago at nearly twice face. I've not seen a HK \$100 Miniature Sheet before and I think it is rather special. The dark shape of the Horse and the dark edging around the Horse on the right hand stamp in the pair is actually a gold screen. It is really quite stunning. Sorry cannot get that colour to show clearly in the scan.

The \$50 Miniature sheet comes with a Certificate of Authenticity from the printer, Cartor, stating that the "Year of the Horse" silk stamp sheetlet has been produced with 100% genuine silk made in Italy.

I mentioned the Interasia auction in the January issue and true to my word I attended and have a short write up on that for you.

Finally to IPDA matters. We are seeing some new members. Welcome to you all. We are seeing more publicity thanks to some excellent work from the Directors and some members, with special thanks for his achievements to Dave Sheridan, and, we have a Board meeting in early February where we will be discussing various matters including advertising and how to further grow membership and promote the IPDA and also on later pages information about nominations for Board members.

Ok, enough from me. Kung Hei Fat Choy. Hope there is something in this Newsletter you enjoy reading. Michael [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)



**Stamp of the Month**



1060

What is special about this. Anyone know? See Interasia auction write up for answer





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Page 2  
February 2014  
Volume 12 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

### CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The IPDA is starting 2014 with a positive outlook. I would like to welcome all the new members we have gained in the last few weeks. Our chat room use is not only growing but now has a group from Australia / New Zealand giving us more hours of activity to greet potential new members dropping in.

There are a number of new projects on the drawing board for 2014 but, for the present let's consider these things: Keep the articles and information going to our PR man Michael for the Newsletter. Check the members list on our website and update your information if needed. If you do not have a message in "About Me", consider placing one there. This may be the first thing a potential new customer reads about you.

Wishing everyone a happy and productive February. Bob Bechtel, Chairman IPDA Inc

### APS NEWS

As I am sure you recall the IPDA is affiliated with the APS. Plenty of news from them recently in regards to various organisation changes. The following is the beginning of a two page letter issued a week ago. You can read the rest [here](#) One point I noted was that over the last 5 years they have lost 1000 members and there was a comment that they did not develop member services. Prompts me to think what member services can the IPDA provide and what volunteers can we get to help make things happen. All idea most welcome to me or any of the Board, or, to be discussed in the Chat room Bob mention in his comments above.



## AMERICAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY

P.O. Box 110 • Mineola, NY 11501 • E-mail: [sreinhard1@optonline.net](mailto:sreinhard1@optonline.net)

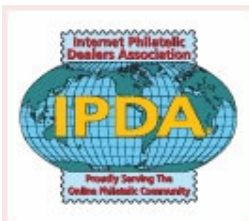
Stephen Reinhard  
President

January 2014

Dear Fellow APS Member,

This past week, following the recommendation to the APS Board<sup>1</sup> by a unanimous Secure The Future Committee<sup>2</sup> (introduced to the membership in my November *American Philatelist* President's Column) and a subsequent unanimous vote by your APS Board, I met with APS Executive Director Ken Martin to let him know that the APS will soon begin a search for a new Executive Director. The APS Board, unanimous in their opinion, has offered Ken the position of Chief Operating Officer, at no reduction of salary or benefits. I am very pleased to report that subject to a mutually agreeable job description and selection of the Executive Director, Ken intends to accept the position. Ken will begin in this role as soon as the new Executive Director is hired.

I would like to take this opportunity to explain the process leading to this important decision by the APS Board. Following the economic turbulence of the 2008-2009 period, the APS was in dire financial straits. The fiscal situation of the APS was the result of shrinking revenues while costs in many areas stayed the same or were increasing. The APS has been for many years, and continues to be, slow to react to changing conditions in the stamp collecting hobby at-large. The economic downturn in the U.S. economy simply added to this already stressed situation.



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Established 23rd February 2002



Page 3  
February 2014  
Volume 12 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

### IPDA NOMINATIONS

#### IPDA Notice - nominations for Regional Directors and for Membership Secretary.

We have 4 regional directors whose term expires or require re-confirmation at the AGM. We have an opening for Regional Director, Canada. The position of Membership Secretary is also up for election as noted below

The following board members are required to step down at the AGM but may run for re-election:

Vonna Bechtel, as a regional director.  
Michael Dodd, as a regional director, Australia.  
Bill Lehr, as a regional director.  
Dave Sheridan, as a regional director, Australia.

The following office is due for re-election: Membership Secretary

The following additional director position is open: Regional Director, Canada

**Please advise nominations to the General Secretary at [jobi@collector.org](mailto:jobi@collector.org)**

Bill Lehr General Secretary, IPDA, Inc

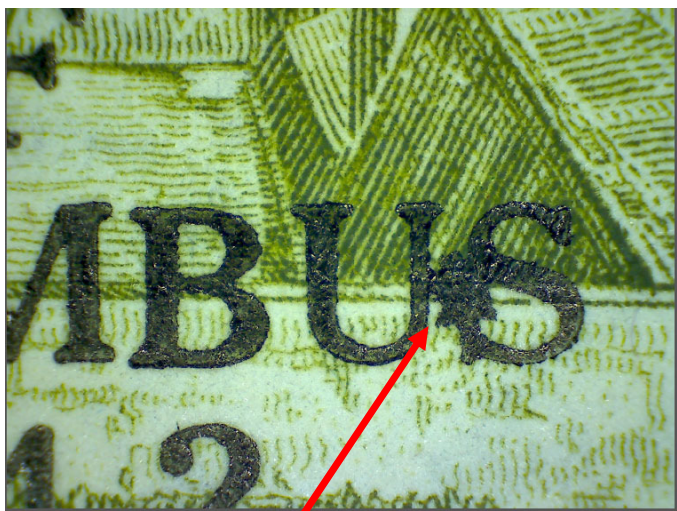
### DIGITAL MICROSCOPES

You may remember I wrote a short piece in the November 2013 Newsletter on Digital Microscopes. Here is a useful additional piece thanks to Roger West

I was recently asked to write a chapter on the 1942 Landfall Overprints which Peter Fernbank will be including in his Bahamas handbook due to be published at the end of the year. I felt that to do it justice I would need to provide detailed images of each variety and for this I decided I needed a Digital Microscope.

I was aware of a Gibbons product but it wasn't suitable for my needs as it only supports Windows and I use a Mac. So for me the obvious starting place was eBay. When you search for digital Microscope you get something like 1200 to choose from. My Mac preference however enabled me to reduce that down to just 14 from which I chose the GMM at £69 (eBay user gmm-uk). This model has a x200 magnification and on paper seems to be comparable with the Gibbons item at nearly four times the price.

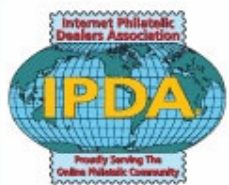
My scope arrived within a week having traveled from Singapore and happily I didn't have to pay any import duty. The software supplied comes on a 8cm CD which my Mac can't read but the supplier sent me a download which works fine. Within an hour I was producing high quality scans more than adequate for the job in hand. Attached is a typical scan at x60 but the resolution is clear enough to enlarge to A5 size.



Apart from being able to illustrate my article, I will also be able to include blow-up images of the many varieties I have listed on my web site. So all in all, it was £69 very well spent.

Roger West, Regional Director UK & Europe





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**Established 23rd February 2002**



Page 4  
February 2014  
Volume 12 Issue 2

**NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014**

**PHILAKOREA 2014**



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**To: Postmaster Generals of Postal Authorities**  
**All Dealers and Philatelic Auction Companies**

January 17, 2014

Dear Sir/Madam;

I have the pleasure to extend my sincere invitation to you on the occasion of PHILAKOREA 2014 WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION which will take place at the Convention & Exhibition Center (COEX) during August 7-12, 2014.

PHILAKOREA 2014 will be organized by Korea Post and the Philatelic Federation of Korea under the patronage of the Fédération de Internationale Philatélie (FIP) and the auspices of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP).

In celebration of the 130th anniversary of postal service in Korea, 'PHILAKOREA 2014' WORLD STAMP EXHIBITION will be held under the theme of "love, harmony, and peace" to promote peace and friendship through exchanges of philately around the world.

'PHILAKOREA 2014' is significant in the sense that it offers an opportunity to cherish humanity and harmony and, furthermore, to wish for world peace through interactions with stamps from around the world.

I kindly ask you all to take interest and participate in 'PHILAKOREA 2014' that it may further the development of philately even in the digital information era of the 21st century.

It is thus a great pleasure for me to cordially invite you to attend this philately festival. PHILAKOREA 2014 will be a great chance to promote your stamps and philatelic products. I enclose booth application form and information, please kindly fill in the application form and send it back to the Organizing Committee by fax or e-mail or mail. I hope to see you in PHILAKOREA 2014.

**KIM Joonho, President of PHILAKOREA 2014 Organizing Committee President of Korea Post**

*Editors' Note: I plan to attend. If you do, please let me know. If you have never been to Seoul you will really enjoy it.*



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Established 23rd February 2002



Page 5  
February 2014  
Volume 12 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

### PAYPAL CORNER BY ROGER WEST REGIONAL DIRECTOR UK & EUROPE

Regular readers of the Newsletter may remember an article I wrote back in May last year concerning Paypal suspending my account. This happened because I accepted a Paypal payment for a sale of Sudanese stamps – Sudan being one of the countries where the US have imposed sanctions administered by the Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Asset Control (OFAC). At the time I was damned annoyed as the Sudan item was issued 70 years ago and I am not resident in the US.

During the Christmas period my Paypal account was initially 'limited' but later that day it was CLOSED. Paypal's reasoning was that I had again violated their terms and they could no longer have me as a customer.

So what did I do wrong? Was I selling arms to the Terrorists? Was I trading in illegal substances? Was I trying to promote pornographic literature? Or maybe I was trying to launder Mafia money? The answer was simply that I had sold a North Korean stamp valued at less than 6 pounds to a collector in China.

In the early days I used to transfer money from my Paypal account to my main bank account once the funds reach £1,000 but more recently I allowed it to reach £5,000 before transferring. On this occasion my account was at £3,500 but being 'limited' I could not withdraw my money. When I contacted them, I was told it would remain frozen for a month. When I questioned the legality of this I was told that I had agreed to their terms and conditions when I first signed up.

Just to add insult to injury, I later received an email from Paypal who were conducting a survey and wanted to know how I rated my customer satisfaction!

So as a seasoned campaigner, albeit wounded, I offer the following advice:

- Offer as many other ways as possible of accepting online payments
- Promote Skrill who do not seem to be controlled by the US
- Do not allow your Paypal account to get too large
- Think twice before listing stamps from Cuba, Sudan, N Korea, Burma, Iran etc etc

At the time of writing, eBay is currently showing 3,070 items from N Korea, 5,330 from Sudan, 12,660 from Iran and 29,900 from Cuba. Delcampe are doing better with 14,900 items from N Korea, 5670 from Sudan, 30,010 from Iran and 69,460 from Cuba. That's 50,000 items on eBay and 120,000 items on Delcampe all potentially likely to violate Paypal's policy if payment is made that way.

If you have a Paypal experience to share please send details to our editor. Roger West

### THANKS TO STAMPS CONTRIBUTOR LARRY BAILEY

This taken from a link Larry sent to me. Interesting pages you can find [here](#)

Especially the "Special Delivery" piece on the right hand side - if difficult to read as normal just increase the font size % from the menu bar at the top of click the + button.

**STAMPS**  
**You've got mail & more**

**SPECIAL DELIVERY**  
On Feb. 4, 1914, The New York Times reported, "MRS. E. H. STALEY of Wellington, Kansas received her two-year-old nephew by parcel post today from his grandmother in Stratford, Okla."

Tag showed postage paid: 18 cents.

**WELLINGTON KANSAS**  
**205 miles**  
**OKLAHOMA**  
**Stratford**

**CANCELED POSTAGE**  
On June 14, 1920, First Assistant Postmaster General John C. Koons ruled that children could not be sent by parcel post.

**PENNY STAMP: NEARLY EVERYONE COULD AFFORD TO MAIL A LETTER**

**SIR ROWLAND HILL (1795 - 1879)**  
English teacher  
Invented the modern postage stamp  
Prior to Hill's concept, postage was paid by the recipient.

**THE PENNY BLACK** was the first stamp produced in the U.K. More than 60 million were issued in less than one year.

**THE PENNY RED** replaced the PENNY BLACK to allow the black ink of a cancellation mark to show up on the red stamp.

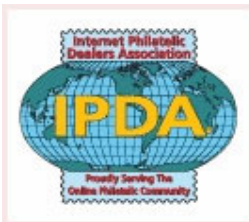
**THE FIRST U.S. POSTAGE STAMP** featured BEN FRANKLIN and cost 5 cents.

By 1851, the U.S. Post Office had become so efficient that Congress lowered the price to 3 cents.

**By 1864**, the word "philately" had been coined to mean stamp collecting.

**STAMP COLLECTOR: PHILATELIST**  
Thousands of them showed up last weekend in Anaheim for the 39TH ORCOEXPO STAMP SHOW AND AUCTION.





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Established 23rd February 2002



Page 6

February 2014

Volume 12 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

### UNIVERSAL PHILATELIC AUCTIONS

I mentioned in the January Newsletter about Universal Philatelic Auctions.

Just a follow up because I did bid (not on SG 456a, the 1935 Silver Jubilee 2 1/2d Prussian Blue I might add) and was very pleased with the outcome. In fact I got the one item I really wanted which was the 1911 Downey Head 1d carmine pair, MM, from SE corner with Imperial Crown wmk and Control 11 with white scratch on left of Lion's face.

Excellent organization and follow up from them I have to say. And to make things even better we now have Andrew McGavin, the Managing Director, as a member. Welcome Andrew. I for one am looking forward to the next auction.



### SPOOF EMAILS - WARNING BY WAYNE WIDES

There are some steps users can follow to greatly reduce their chances of being fooled by a spoof/'phishing' email from a scammer with regards to eBay.

The first one is to never click on hyperlinks (e.g. the Respond button in eBay emails) within emails received but to rather open your web browser and then type in [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com) into your browser address field directly, even if it is more laborious to get to the supposed message.

If you do click on such hyperlink then always look at the web address of the site you are taken to in order to verify it is the legitimate site - this can include when surfing too. If it does not say either [www.ebay.com](http://www.ebay.com), [my.ebay.com](http://my.ebay.com) or something similar in the first 12 or 11 characters of the address but rather has some strange website address then it is a spoof site.

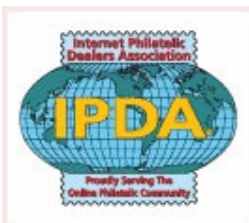
Additionally check the email received more astutely. Often, but not always, there are odd inconsistencies in them like spelling mistakes, wrong descriptions and vague phrases that, for example, state one has a message but does not describe who it is from - which genuine eBay emails will provide - or references a strange user name or transactions that does not sound familiar. This defensive step is not foolproof by itself as there are clinical scammers who will try pay attention to such details - but it helps as it teaches one's intuition to be sceptical when sent an alarmist email.

Watch out especially for emails that demand you quickly change your password, provide confidential details or rectify an urgent matter to avoid suspension/loss/bad reputation as these are tactics using social engineering, which preys on peoples fears and panic.

Also look at the return email address as sometimes these are from email addresses that appear odd, although some cases scammers are astute enough to mask their real email address with a false eBay address to fool you. The more technically competent users however can sometimes still unmask the hidden return email address.

Don't forget to keep your anti-virus application up to date with a reputable vendor too. Although it cannot protect you against phishing directly it can prevent potential trojans that steal your eBay - or more - details.

I hope that helps you and other members. In South Africa there have been several waves of phishing emails that targeted and fooled many online banking users into giving their own personal banking login details and resulted in some unfortunate cases of individuals losing tens of thousands of dollars from their personal accounts to scammers. Taking the above preventative steps may help a user protect not just their eBay account but one day their own bank account from a fraudster and thus avoid potentially much bigger losses if such fraud schemes targeting their local banks have not yet reached them.



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 7

February 2014

Volume 12 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

### INTERASIA AUCTION JANUARY 11-14

This Hong Kong auction took place as I mentioned in the January Newsletter and I had a very enjoyable time there on Sunday 11th January I was fortunate to meet Jeffrey Schneider, the Director of Interasia Auction. A lovely guy and it was a pleasure talking to him and hearing some insights about the auction and the stamp scene in Hong Kong and China.

The auction was over 4 days and in total it realized HK \$81.8 million. Yes, million dollars, including buyers 15% premium.

I have seen various reviews of the sale on stamp group boards so will not write too much about the sales. I will obviously answer the question from the Stamp of the Week picture. If you look very carefully you might see the



1060

cancel date is JA 21 91. This was the day before the issue date. This lovely (very fine) copy with a very nice centrally cancelled Hong Kong / A mark and a short 'J' in Jubilee (which you can see quite clearly) fetched \$23,000 HK including buyers premium.

The auction had a good attendance of room bidders, some 50 people, while I was there.

Jeffrey told me he didn't expect more than that as so many potential bidders use postal bids (and I heard a lot of them, telephone bidding (there were 10 desks manned and pretty active at times) and internet bidding, which kept one of Jeffrey's colleague pretty busy as well. I have to say, how he managed all that with such a calm and professional style was remarkable. Very impressive organization, discipline and management of the various logistics. Well done Jeffrey.

As for my bidding. I got two of the three lots I was after. One will surely be of interest to one of our members. It was Lot 1220 a 1953 metered aerogram from Hong Kong to England from the "Comet" crash, showing violet "Salvaged Mail/Comet Crash near Calcutta/2nd May 1953" in very fine condition (considering it was from a plane crash of course). This crash was the first commercial flight Comet crash but was the second in which there were fatalities. The first being on 3 March 1953, when a new Canadian Pacific Airlines Comet 1A failed to get airborne while attempting a night takeoff from Karachi, Pakistan, on a delivery flight to Australia.

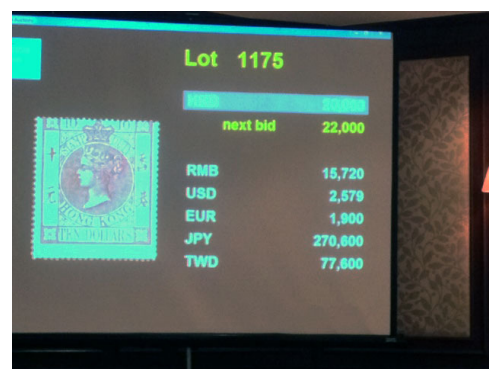
All in all a good time for me. On the day I was there it seemed that most of the lots were knocked down for estimate or more with what seemed to me very few going for less than estimate. Looking forward to the next Interasia auction as I will surely be there.



Jeffrey Schneider and your Editor



Above, Auction stage; Internet bidding managed by gentleman behind right hand side laptop. Below Auction status; note bid prices updated in Taiwan, Japan, Euro, USD, RMB ( China) and HK currencies)







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Established 23rd February 2002



Page 8  
February 2014  
Volume 12 Issue 2

## NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2014

### THERE'S NO RACISM IN PHILATELY - BUT THERE'S SNOBBERY APLENTY!

One of the beauties of our hobby is the ability for collectors the world over to share one language. The language of stamps. Stamp collecting brings the same level of engagement and joy to young and old, rich and poor, regardless of geographic location, race, creed or colour.

However, there's a disturbing trend towards snobbery, manifested in the phrase "serious collector". I don't know if the phrase has just become trendy, or if it's been used for many years and I've just never noticed, or been offended by it, before.

It's a phrase that immediately brings to mind cashed-up philatelists with bank security boxes and albums full of classic stamps, and I think that's *precisely* the market most dealers are interested in today.

But what exactly *is* a "serious collector"?

Well, I suppose I am! I collect a specific period, and am interested in watermarks, shades and perforations. I also look for known (and unknown) varieties on the stamps of my chosen period. Sadly, I'm anything but cashed-up!

This is where my confusion, and irritation, starts.

I have a number of side collections, that I spend time with when I need a break from the "heavy" stuff. I have thematic collections of Rowland Hill, Penny Black anniversaries, birds, British military aircraft, military uniforms, postal history of the SS Bremen, paquebot and TPO postmarks, and too many more to remember.

I recall quite fondly the reaction of the chap behind the counter in one of the few remaining stamp shops in Melbourne, when I walked up to him with a handful of Rowland Hill miniature sheets from the likes of the Central African Republic, Liberia and Guyana. If he could have tilted his head back further to look down his nose at me, I'm sure he would have.

Of course, his demeanour changed fairly promptly when I asked if he had any holdings of mint KGV British Africa. I went from a collector of jam labels to a "serious collector" in 10 seconds. That's the snobbery in our hobby in action.

Our hobby is in decline. A recent survey suggested that 90% of people under the age of 18 had never touched a stamp, which is hardly surprising.

The collector base is getting older and, hopefully, wiser. Perhaps we should all be pulling in the same direction and respecting the entire hobby, regardless of whether we're searching for a particular Cape Triangle on cover or the last Mickey Mouse stamp to complete a Disney collection.

I voiced this opinion on both Facebook and Twitter, and received little feedback. This suggests one of two things. Either collectors are apathetic, or I'm alone in feeling that the philatelic community treats the cashed-up specialist and the collector differently.

Surely we should all be treated as "serious collectors" in the pursuit of our hobby, regardless of what we collect?

Remember, there was a time when you couldn't give Chinese stamps away!

(oh, about those mint KGV British Africa? No, he didn't have any!)

### CLOSING REMARKS

I would like to thank Roger, Bill, Larry, Wayne and Dave for their contributions this month. Their material has made my compiling this issue that much easier, and, I think, made it far more interesting for you. As I always say, please send ideas or articles, with images if possible. If I didn't publish something you sent, I guess you realize by now I had a wealth of material this month and it is no negative reflection on what you sent.

Have a great month. Michael [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com)