



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

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Page 1
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NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

EDITORS COLUMN	1
WEBSITE BUILDING	2
NEW MEMBERS SITES	3
HONG KONG POSTAL HISTORY	4
ONE CENT MAGENTA	5
INTRO TO BRITISH POSTMARKS	6
ARTICLES OF DISTINCTION	8
CLOSING REMARKS	8

EDITORS COLUMN

Welcome to the May edition of the Newsletter.

Lets talk about the AGM. I was in Sydney for that and it was easy to join because it was a start time of 07:30. As some of you know we did not get a quorum. Ye gods you only had to complete the online proxy but it seems that was too much for most. So we rescheduled to the following week. Of course I was back in Hong Kong by that time and I had a 05:30 call for that meeting. Again no quorum. Oh well such is life. We had the meeting anyway as an ordinary Board meeting as per the Constitution and we got through the agenda thanks to the leadership of Bill Lehr and Allan Oliver and those present. We owe a big thanks to Bill for all he is doing and to Allan. Thanks guys. And to those who did attend or sent proxies, a big thank you. Minutes will be published soon, as I write, but for those of you who followed the agenda we published in previous Newsletters all motions were passed.

However, we still have Director positions vacant. We are still are looking for a Treasurer. Bill tells me he is coping with the additional (small) workload because there really is not much to do month to month. But, my view, and I think this is shared by others on the Board is that it would help us and have us look more professional if we had a full time Treasurer, to look after accounts and memberships payments. Have some spare time??? - ok no, a silly question, but want to help and get involved? Then please write to Bill or Allan or me, and volunteer.

You all know I hope, that we have been having a Membership drive. Bill writes to me with the news that we are welcoming new members Rodolfo Torres Vazquez (Mexico), Tony Corbisiero (Australia), Pat Palmer (Australia), and Dr. John Horsey (UK). Welcome to you all.

And on the Membership Drive, this recruitment contest has been extended until the 30th of May. Whoever gets the largest number of new Members to join will receive two years of free membership; second largest recruiter will receive one year of free membership. Tiny incentive I know, but hey, lets do it just because we can.

As for the new Members, I have taken the liberty to briefly introduce a two sites for you to have a look at.

A few more thoughts. One, and not one I have done before, because I do not know generally these member details, but I am aware that Member Sebastian Delcampe has a birthday today as I write. Happy birthday Seb. Great guy who I had the pleasure meeting in Melbourne and who runs Delcampe of course.

On the stamps scene I have tried to find some material to interest you. Thanks as always to those who send me material. If you want to send me material for the next issue I will be very happy. I say that because my next two months are fully booked. I have a trip to Manila and London in a few weeks, Then in June I am flying Asiana A380 inaugurals Seoul - Tokyo - Seoul - Hong Kong. Yes I know I am crazy. I will be carrying First flight covers, and will get flight deck and cabin crew signatures I expect. So if you have customers who collect first flight covers perhaps you can give me a plug.

And to end, What about this picture. Look carefully: an A380 and B737 landing in Los Angeles on parallel runways. Have a great month.. [Michael](#)



Stamps of the Month



Question for you.
One day someone will reply :-)

What is this? And no! the answer is not, a cross scrawled on a "stamp"

And just because I like this stamp





Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 2
May 2014
Volume 12 Issue 5

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

WEBSITE BUILDING BY LARRY BAILEY

The following from our Director in Australia. He researches, writes and publishes <http://australianstrampcatalogue.com>. This site is the Australian Online Stamp Catalogue, which currently has over 5,700 images in the data base that are already listed and that is the basic issues in 2008. If you have customers who collect Australia perhaps you could tell them about Larry's site. Larry sent the following article which you might get some useful pointer from.



Australian Online Stamp Catalogue

1/. Any website needs to be easy to navigate, easy to view, easy on the eyes and easy to read, if it is not enjoyable for the person perusing the site, they will not stay and will probably never return.

2/. Your website builder needs to be user friendly, the easier it is for you to create and/or modify the site, the more you will be prepared to put into the site, if it frustrates the hell out of you, you are doing yourself an injustice and not putting the time into the site which it needs, and remember if someone else creates the site, it needs to be created to suit your needs, not what they think will do the trick or what they normally do as what works for them will not necessarily work for you.

3/. The main point is to visualise your site, what you want it to do and say, then you need the site to be easy to read for most people, (but you cannot please everyone, someone will always complain), if you get one or two complaints no problems, but always look at the problems supplied or exposed, if fixable, great, go to it, if not advise them why, more than two complaints and you need to look at what you are doing, ask someone else (independent) to check the site and advise, sometimes just changing the text colour or font size will highlight a section and make it easier to read, I have a proof reader mate who aids me, I also find on my site (<http://australianstrampcatalogue.com>), different colours on successive lines breaks up the content and makes it easy for people to find what they are looking for, but be consistent with whatever you do on all and every page.

4/. Expanding on the above, an email notification system or links to an email address must be in place, in my case, on my site, I have a small number of dedicated email addresses, where I am notified by a user if a "link is not working", or if there is "something amiss" on the site or if someone "wants further information" on a particular subject or if someone "has information or images" I require for the site but do not possess at the moment, the sky's the limit as nothing is unachievable these days, your imagination is the only limiting factor and technology will achieve what you want in time if it can't be done now.

5/. Links should always be double checked by someone not using your PC or by you on another PC or laptop, you should always add links within the site for questions to be emailed directly to you, these questions should always be answered promptly, don't do tomorrow what you can do now or today, a quick answer keeps a potential customer, no answer and he is most probably lost, never to return and a negative comment loses multiple customers as people talk about bad sites and what does not work, but a positive comment gains a potential advertiser of your site, since my current site was set up, I have had one negative comment and that was from an antagonist of many years, so not unexpected.

6/. Lettering must be large enough for the average person to read without a magnifying glass, so at least 12 font for the smallest print (I use 14 for the smallest), looking at your site using another PC always gives you a better idea of what others are seeing and it is not always the same as what you are seeing on the PC you built the site on, trying different browsers can also change what you see. Currently I build with my website builder using FireFox, then publish with Chrome (as it works best with the builder I use) and I then view in IE (although I hate IE, many people use it), they all give me a different viewing aspect of the same site.



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 3
May 2014
Volume 12 Issue 5

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

WEBSITE BUILDINGCONT'D BY LARRY BAILEY

7/. I believe a guest book is a must have, many people don't bother writing you, but a large percentage send you little notes telling how much they are enjoying your site or what they liked about it, spam is dropped into these areas at times so make sure you have a notification process so if a message is posted you get an email advising of it so you can check the content and delete any links to other sites that are not the same subject or spam sites, no-one needs links to an attack or spam page on their site.

8/. The content needs to be easy to follow (laid out so it is easy on the eyes), and all the links need to work, a first time viewer will soon get sick of a site that has a number of links that do not work, or images or lettering that makes their eyes tired, remember the site is to either sell items for your business or to promote that same business so people will buy from you, you do not need anything negative on site and a positive time onsite will encourage someone to pass on a link to your site to a friend or friends.

9/. The images used NEED to be big enough to view without magnification, unless you have a program installed that increases the size of any images when they are scrolled over or clicked on, but never too large, but your bandwidth needs to be adequate to cover the site, which I have seen to be totally inadequate at a number of very high profile sites that for all intents and purposes should be a great site to view, but if an image takes all day to load (generally because it is much too big), people tend to surf elsewhere, so don't make the images too large.

10/. Give that little extra to your customers and you get three fold or better in return, as a honeyed tongue will always capture more ants than harsh words or emails, and remember you are dealing with the general public, like you they can have good days and bad days, can be happy or miffed, I always take a breath before writing someone infuriating, creating an email or making a phone call, being positive always goes further and brings home the bacon, although I know a couple of people who make an art of caustic words and it works for them, you just need to just take most people on face value and not take offence if they are negative.

Editors Note: Thanks Larry. Useful to many I am sure. Keep up the great work

NEW MEMEBRS SITES

County
Philatelic
Auctions
Home Page

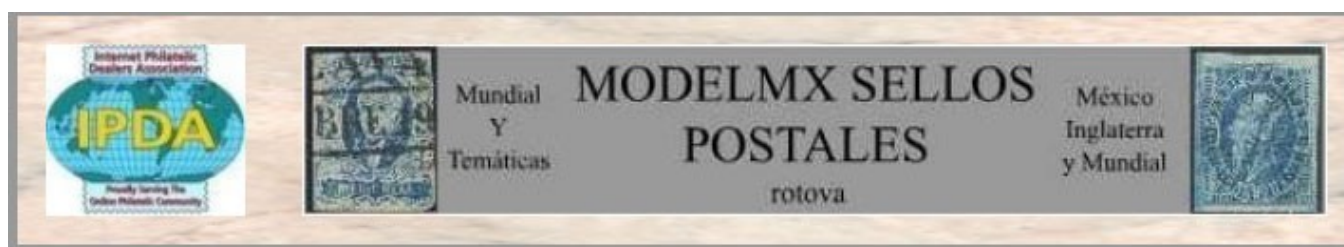


For range, depth, quality and sheer value for money,
click below on our offers lists and auction catalogues.
Over £300,000 in lots from just £5 to £5000+

5000 collectors
can't all be
wrong!

New Member Dr. John Horsey runs County Philatelic Auctions at <http://www.stampauctions.co.uk/> Lots to see here. I just realized I spent 30 minutes browsing his May auction. Welcome to the IPDA John.

County is a well established Stamp Auction house and has been holding mail bid sales for over 20 years. Their quality, accurate descriptions, efficient service and wide range of lots at realistic prices from just £2 to over £5,000 make stamp collecting through their postal auctions ideal for almost all stamp collectors.



Welcome also to new member Rodolfo Torres Vazquez from Mexico. His [website](#) store contains interesting information about Mexico stamps and other material. Nice to see the prominent use of the IPDA logo.



A JOURNEY THROUGH HONG KONG'S POSTAL HISTORY

An exhibition entitled "A Journey Through Hong Kong's Postal History – A Glimpse of Hong Kong's Postal History Through the Old General Post Office Building (1911 – 1976)" is held from 29 April to 26 August 2014 at the Hong Kong Heritage Discovery Centre. To commemorate this icon of local postal history, Hongkong Post issues a stamp sheetlet to mark the opening of the exhibition.



The construction of the Old General Post Office Building (the Old GPO building), situated at the corner of Pedder Street and Des Voeux Road, was completed by 1911. With four storeys and diminishing arches, the Old GPO building was in the English Renaissance style. Apart from the main walls, veranda pillars and arches, which were made of granite, all other walls were constructed of Canton red bricks and Amoy bricks. Unique as it was, the Victorian building was built with "constructional polychromy", which was a classic portrayal of Victorian architecture. The building had both gable roofs and a flat roof with steel framing that covered the portion of the main building adjoining the central courtyard. Inside, the main staircase, which was made of teak, had "richly decorated handrails and balusters" and was accompanied by subsidiary granite staircases.

The Old GPO building was the first multi-government office building in Hong Kong. The postal department occupied mainly the basement and the ground floor of the building while other Government Offices were housed on the first and second floors. From 1911, basic postal services were provided in the GPO building. From 1932 onwards, a counter was established for the sale of postage stamps. Various postal services, including money orders and postal orders, acceptance for registered mail and parcels, and the provision of P.O. boxes were subsequently made available.

Apart from interfacing with the public, the GPO was the main hub for the handling of international mail. Up to the 1930s, overseas mail was transported to and from the building and Queen's pier to be sent to the appropriate destinations by ferries. Sea transport sustained a major role in postal transportation before the popularisation of air transport and the opening of the cross-harbour tunnel in 1972. Since the transportation of mail at the GPO had relied heavily on sea transport, a conveyor belt was therefore built on the first floor of the building for the ease of transfer of mail to and from the pier.



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 5
May 2014
Volume 12 Issue 5

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

A JOURNEY THROUGH HONG KONG'S POSTAL HISTORY CONT'D

The GPO was regarded as the busiest post office in Hong Kong in the 1950s and constant congestion of the GPO was a prominent problem. To alleviate the congestion, the non-post office units were moved out and the vacated offices were in turn utilised for the expansion of the postal department.

After the establishment of the Kowloon Central Post Office (KCL) in 1967, there were constant transfers of mail between the GPO and the KCL, which were the main mail handling hubs. International surface mail was handled in the GPO whereas mail to the mainland was managed by KCL as it was situated in the vicinity of the Tsim Sha Tsui Train Station. In this respect, mail at the GPO intended for the mainland was transferred to KCL. Air mail was also first transferred to the Kowloon Central Post Office from the GPO and then to the airport for sorting and processing. The exchanges of mail between the two offices were conducted by cross-harbour vessels before the cross-harbour tunnel was opened in 1972.

The popularisation of postal services was closely related to the economic and commercial development of Hong Kong. Since the 1950s, the influx of immigrants to Hong Kong had contributed to the increasing demand for postal services as the volume of mail and parcels to the mainland had continually increased. In addition, the post-war economic boom in Hong Kong necessitated business correspondence between firms and factories. The GPO had always been the hub of cross-border exchange and communication between the local community and the rest of the world.

In view of the inadequate facilities of the Old GPO building and the growing needs of the public sector, a new GPO building was built at today's location and opened on 11 August 1976. The Old GPO building was then demolished in November 1976 for the construction of the Mass Transit Railway. The four pillars formerly situated at the main doorway of the building were kept at Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden, and the hard-wood arch formerly mounted on the wall at the centre of the Hall of the Old GPO was moved to the first floor of today's GPO building.

This stamp sheetlet highlights the functions of the Old GPO building by incorporating photos of different working environments in the old days into the cross-section of the architectural drawing. Used for the first time, a stamp with a rounded top calls to mind the unique arches of the Old GPO building.

Source: Hong Kong Post

ONE CENT MAGENTA - BRITISH GUIANA

Timely to tell you one to watch, just in case you have a spare 10 plus million US \$ sitting around and you are wondering what to do with it. This, the One-Cent Magenta from British Guiana, is being sold at Sotheby's in New York on June 14, where it will easily fetch a world record price if it sells within its estimate.

Allen Kane, director of the Smithsonian National Postal Museum, said: "You're probably not going to find anything rarer than this. It's a stamp the world of collectors has been dying to see for a long time."

I believe the stamp will go on display in London before its sale.

The current world auction best for a single stamp is £1.41million in 1996 – equivalent to £2.24million today – for the Swedish Treskilling Yellow.

When the Treskilling Yellow was sold, it was most expensive item in the world by weight





INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH POSTMARKS BY ALLAN OLIVER

I agreed to write this for the newsletter with less than a week to get it done, so I ask that the reader will give me a little leeway regarding the coverage and scope. As our membership is scattered across the globe, I thought I would start with the most commonly encountered type on the earlier material, and that is the numeral killer cancellations, those types that often cover so much of the stamp that often it can be tricky to see what the stamp is.

There are three basic types of the barred numerals as follows ...



Left, oval type used in England and Wales
Above, diamond type used in Ireland



Above, rectangular type used in Scotland

In addition to these three basic types, there are also some sub-types. In these cases, the central number is enclosed within either a diamond or a circle. Those within a diamond were used in the City of London Head Office and do not allow the item to be allocated to a specific operation, area, function etc. Those with the number in a circle are from the London District Posts, and in these cases they can be allocated to a specific office.



Left, number in diamond used at the City of London

Right, number in circle used at Brompton



NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH POSTMARKS BY ALLAN OLIVER



Items such as that shown to the left sometimes turn up and are often offered at high prices purporting to be a missing number error or a rare device without a number.

It has been proven from covers that this is due to inking variation along with wear from general use of the hand stamp. As interesting as these are, they are not errors.



Many of the types can be found with variations, such as shown with the 180 numeral of Chester above. Wear, damage, loss or increased workload would require replacement or additional stamps. In those illustrated shown, one has three bars above and below the numeral whilst the other has four. The shape of the cancellation is also different, one being square



As with all things philatelic, there are always exceptions to any general rules, such as those outlined above, and the most commonly encountered of these is the registered mark, which is shown. A large letter 'R' replaces the numeral part with a number below and this is enclosed within a central circle.

Once again the numeral identifies the hand stamp and although the central section is within a circle, these cannot be assigned to specific offices in the same way as the numbered types.

This type, (and I am aware of number up to at least 33), were issued to the East Central Head office and the Chief Office

There are again, variations in the size of the figures as well as with the number of bars

I hope that this gives a little insight into this wonderful area that is now becoming more popular with collectors, and as such, should be getting mentioned by dealers.

Editors Note: Many thanks to Allan for this excellent piece which I hope other members enjoyed reading as much as I did.



Internet Philatelic Dealers Association Inc ©

Established 23rd February 2002



Page 8
May 2014
Volume 12 Issue 5

NEWSLETTER MAY 2014

ANNUAL "ARTICLES OF DISTINCTION" AWARD YOUR AUTHORS AND PROMOTE YOUR GROUP

In 2012 the APS began honoring authors by creating a "Philatelic Articles of Distinction" archive on our website. To date we have had 22 entries, visit www.stamps.org/Articles-of-Distinction. If your affiliate/club has a newsletter or publication, we encourage you to submit an article annually to the "Articles of Distinction". This is a great opportunity to share these fabulous philatelic articles, award your authors, encourage more philatelic writing, and publicize your group.



How does it work? It's easy!

- **Hold an annual "best article" competition** – If your group produces a publication/newsletter simply advertise the competition and set some simple guidelines – all philatelic related articles published are eligible to win.
- **Submit the Article to the APS** – All current APS Affiliates and Chapters may submit an annual "best article" winner. The article must be accompanied with the submission form below in order to provide information as well as permission to post the article to our site. Submit electronically to bestarticle@stamps.org or via snail mail to the address below.
- **APS will post the article to the "Philatelic Articles of Distinction" archive and provide a certificate of achievement to the author.** Articles will be uploaded and archived on the APS website by topic with a link to your group.

Questions? Contact Wendy Masorti at (814) 933-3803 ext. 202 or Email bestarticle@stamps.org

CLOSING REMARKS

Just a few thoughts. First, thanks to all of you who actually read the Newsletter. I know some of you do because I receive emails from you. Same core group of about 5 readers if I am totally honest about it. Really quite depressing actually when many members spend time and effort writing the materials.

Second, I think the quality of articles has improved over the past year. Maybe you don't? Please tell me and if that is the case then please offer advice and even articles. I know we are all really busy and while I know I am with the travelling I do, and the work, I still enjoy making the time to write and compile what a few of you send me.

I am not a grumpy old man so please don't think that because of this comment. Look at the above and perhaps let me know what you think has been an article of distinction. I think we have had a few. Not ones I copy from other sources of course but material written by Members. I think you can tell the difference as I always quote the source.

Finally, please think about our Membership drive. We have excellent recruitment results from Roger West in the UK and Ian Boulton in Australia, Many of us are trying I know. Lets get the 100 members soon.

Best wishes Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com