



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23rd February 2002

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February 2016
Volume 14 Issue 2

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2016

EDITORS COLUMN

Welcome to the February 2016 Newsletter. Lots to write about and thanks to a few for contributions and emails. I am keeping to 4 pages because I am convinced the readership is in single digits and I don't want to bore you all.

The focus of this page for this issue will be letters to the Editor style because the comments I got address some of the topics I have written about over past issues. Thanks for your emails.

Talking Sales: Recently I had an enquiry about sales on Bidstart. The writer commented that he had seen sales drop off close to zero recently. I wonder if other members have seen this trend? I will honestly say I have. Perhaps that is because of the SG Marketplace and the very heavy marketing SG have done and still continue to do to promote Marketplace. However, I must say that overall, sales have actually increased through Marketplace. What are other members experiences? Anyone care to share? I can keep your comments private if you wish.

Talking Discounts; this is in response to a piece I wrote in the January issue about discounting. Very valid points in my book. "For me I do not discount very often instead preferring to just offer good prices all the time with discount offers generally only for end of financial year (June) and Boxing Day as these are the main discounting times for most retailers in Australia. I think that retailers in any sector who frequently discount do themselves no favors as savvy customers know that if they just wait a little while there will be another sale, it can also appear desperate and can make it appear incorrectly or otherwise that your business is in a bad way which could potentially discourage customers."

Talking Fraud: one member tipped me to a situation that might be worth other members knowing about. The following might be worth thinking about. "I received an order for 20x Set of 2001 Australian International Post Stamps. I didn't have that quantity available however was able to fill the order over a period of 2 months. I advised the buyer early in that time of this and received a response that this was ok. I sent the complete order Registered and the tracking shows it delivered 24th Dec, yesterday 29th I received notification of chargeback. On a similar vein I received another similar order last week which thanks to my new payment provider showed 3 unsuccessful payment attempts for the one order all using different cards from different banks, one coming up as stolen. The 4th transaction was successful. I'm not sending anything to this person.

The key with both of these seems to be ordering quantity of Australian International Post stamps.

Talking Auctions; County Auctions is run by member John Horsey in the UK, The next [Mail Bid Sale](#) is on February 26th. So I thought I would share the following with you. Note also a rather unique pricing model for some lots and the IPDA gets a membership plug. I hope everyone is promoting they are an IPDA member on the sales channels. 3600 lots of fine material from £5 to £10,000 including many clearance lots marked ‡ scattered throughout. On ‡ lots, **YOU** chose the price – any *reasonable* bid could succeed – happy hunting.

The catalogue text, photo plates and bidding guidance are [here](#) - now 'mobile friendly'. [Photo plates](#) In addition to our usual photo plates in the printed catalogue, there over 3000 extra images on our website – for these just click on '{photo}' in the online catalogue. Enjoy looking.

IPDA Website refresh: After many hours of very constructive feedback and ideas from Dave Sheridan and effort from Allan Oliver, our web master, our website is refreshed. Content is basically the same but the presentation is much better, I hope you will agree. And finally, thanks member Philippe Poppe who noticed I had changed the Newsletter Banner. I wanted to try to freshen up the image. He has very generously helped improve it further.

Enjoy your stamps and perhaps the rest of this Newsletter [Michael](#)

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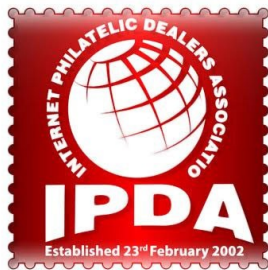
Stamp of the Month

If Candlemas be fair and bright,

Winter has another flight.

If Candlemas brings clouds and rain,

Winter will not come again



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CANADA YEAR OF THE MONKEY ISSUE

Editors Note: Little bit of Canada nostalgia for me, thinking of Canada, my second home I guess Hope you enjoy seeing these. Something different for the CNY issue. Nice write up from Canada Post. The Domestic rate stamp was issued on January 11th. The international rate will be issued on February 1st.

The stamps are inspired by the legend of the Monkey King, also known as Sun Wukong, one of the main characters from the 16th century classic Chinese novel, Journey to the West.

Also transformed into a famous Chinese opera, the story tells of how the sovereign accompanied the monk Xuanzang on a journey to India to retrieve sacred Buddhist texts known as sutras.



Designed by Albert Ng and Linna Xu, the domestic stamp depicts a golden figure that is vibrant and alive against a rich red background that provides a stark and striking contrast. It depicts a leaping monkey brandishing his powerful staff as puffs of smoke rise beneath him, extending beyond the stamp's borders. In the upper left corner is the Chinese character hou, meaning monkey. The character is written in gold, one of the Monkey's lucky colours.

The international-rate stamp features a stylized Monkey King mask with red and gold accents. It features a stylized portrait of Sun Wukong, whose colourful crown and headband extend beyond the stamp's upper border. In the lower right corner is the Chinese character hou, and the character is again written in gold.

KELLEHER JOURNAL

Issue No. 1 • Sept-Oct 2015
Kelleher's Collectors Connection
Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions
Kelleher & Rogers
The NEWS Magazine of Daniel F. Kelleher Auctions and Kelleher & Rogers Ltd. Hong Kong
AUCTION Advisor
By David Google
Introducing our exciting **NEW** journal exploring the world of stamp and postal history collecting and its marketplace!

This new online journal might be of interest to some of you. You can find it [here](#). Very professionally produced with what looks like interesting and informative articles. Two issues are available online which you can also download as a pdf. In the second issue I noted articles on the Franklin D Roosevelt collection, Confederate Postal History and The Royal Philatelic Society of London, and more.

I'm sure many of you are very familiar with this auction house. Daniel F Keller Auction is regarded as the oldest philatelic Auction house in the USA having been established in 1885.



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HONG KONG - SPINK JANUARY 2016 AUCTION HIGHLIGHT

Editors Note: Sadly, I could not get to the auction nor did I have the financial prowess to bid! It was unsold with a reserve it seems of \$6.5million HKD.

Hong Kong, 17 January 2016: At the Spink Auction lot 2413 was the 1865 olive bistre right margin block of 4 with full original gum, superb centering and exceptionally fresh colour. This block is considered by many to be the outstanding treasure of Hong Kong Philately.

The [auction catalogue](#) further described the stamps: "the block show the original streaky gum which is associated with stamps printed at this time. There are two pencil letters in the margin which have been on for a long time and are of unknown origin. There are some typical hinge remainders on the reverse and the fourth stamp has a natural paper inclusion, mentioned only for accuracy. The block is from the right pane [47/54]. The block also shows the variety error of watermark, which is centered unusually low, the letter "C C" appearing above the Crown at the top of the stamps." The estimate for the lot was HKD 6.5 million.

Some provenance was also quoted in the catalogue:

In March 1864 a new printing of 52 sheets of the 96c. was dispatched to Hong Kong. Initially the Hong Kong Post Office failed to notice that this new supply of stamps was printed in an olive-bistre colour. There was no reason for this change and it is believed that it was simply a mistake on the part of De la Rue. The fact that this stamp is not known overprinted "specimen" also indicates that it is a genuine error of colour. Specimen stamps of all new designs and colour changes were supplied to the Post Offices of the Crown Agents. Records were kept by these agencies as well as in the printer's archive.

The mistake was discovered when the stamps were needed by the Post Office, but it was too late to prevent this incorrect colour being used. The order for a supply of stamps in the correct colour took about six weeks to reach the printers with a further six weeks necessary for the new stamps to arrive in Hong Kong, plus the time required for printing.

The 96c. olive-bistre has a very short life. They were released as the Post Office around January or February 1865 and were withdrawn when the correct brownish grey stamps arrived during late July or August 1865.

Only forty eight unused examples have been recorded, including this block of four. This is the only unused multiple of this stamp. In fact, it is thought that the only other multiples are a used pair and a used re-joined pair.

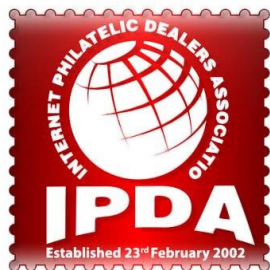
PHILATELIC LIBRARY SOURCES

Another source of philatelic research I thought you might find useful to know about, if you do not already, is the British North America Philatelic Society (BNAPS) Library which is now available online. The [BNAPS library](#) and the [American Philatelic Research Library](#) (APRL) are two of many libraries available to stamp collectors. For the benefit of stamp collectors and stamp collecting, the APRL brings together several of the world's greatest philatelic libraries in its [Philatelic Union Catalog](#). The catalog provides collectors the opportunity to access the "card catalogs" of these libraries with a single search.

Members of the APS or APRL can enter requests to borrow books or obtain scans or photocopies directly from the online Philatelic Union Catalog.

Simply select the book or article desired, and click Add to Cart. You can review the cart and enter any special instructions, including whether you prefer scans or photocopies of journal articles.





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THE NEW BACK PAGE

Editors Note: Many Thanks to member Jorge Oliveira from Kollectbox for the following: interesting piece and the views he has collected on the topic. Perhaps you will agree? Or write with your thoughts?

"Is philately a dying hobby" is one of the first questions I came across while exploring [Quora](#) to learn about stamps and philately. "Will stamp collecting die as a hobby now that people grow up without using mail and postage stamps?"

Chris McFetridge president of Brixton-Chrome Inc, a company that provides stamps and postal history from Canada and British West Africa says that "this (the perception that philately is a dying hobby) has been a widely perception since the 1940's!" There are even some issues of the American Philatelists lamenting the future of the hobby. "Most people who hold this point of to the lack of interest by today's youth. however, youth have never been the cornerstone of serious philately - the kind that involves forming specialized collections, acquiring rarities or exhibiting at the competitive level.

" This is a hobby that requires both time and money - and these are two things young people almost never have Chris says. "The fact that price records continue to be set in auctions for rare stamps tells me that this hobby is far from dying. " As it was said by Mark Twain we can confidently say that the report of philately's death is an exaggeration"

Kevin Carothers a software engineer just thinks philately is evolving to a different level and becoming more like collecting antiquities and Joe Geronimo Martinez, although he used to love collection stamps, agrees that philately is dying because "Sales of First Day Covers (FDC) have nose-dived".

[Varun Agrawal](#), a birdwatcher, also agrees with Joe Geronimo Martinez because, as he says "In stamp shows and in stamp museums I hardly see anyone younger than me", and he's now 31 years old. [António Rubiera](#) has a different opinion and says that "stamp collecting will not die as a hobby because anything can be collected even after it is no longer in use. Even after the last stamp is issued, stamp collecting will be a great hobby". Quinn Willa says that "collectors will always come back to stamps because they are so perfect for collecting."

[Sharmilli Priyadarsini](#), an Indian software developer believes philately is not a dying hobby. Although email has reduced drastically the usage of postal stamps, the postal system is still alive. Also, and maybe for me this is the most important, for stamp collectors, stamps are a "representation of culture, pride and history and there is much more to learn from stamps than seeing them as mere pictures."

For [Shashank Bhasker](#), a philatelist for the past 11 years believes that"even though the number of people taking up the hobby may decline in the coming years, those who pursue it, will definitely have a greater Return On Investment (ROI)." He answers this question with a great motivational sentence "Don't quit something that seems to be waning in interest for the rest of the world! Go with the times, probably by building your own blog and flaunting your collection and maybe build a digital library of your stamps!

THE LAST WORD

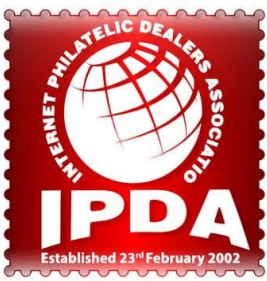
Two comments here, first I hear from member Alan Devine that Renicks will allow stamp dealers to become registered commercial customers and receive a 20% discount on all purchases. Do have a look, you may already know this but thought I would pass that along.

Second, our Secretary has asked me to promote the upcoming AGM and the fact we have Directors up for renewal, yes, me being one of them, so think carefully. Now is your chance to get a new Newsletter Editor, no complaints from me if you do, and by the way, I will not be offended if you do as I am a great believer in new ideas and new blood so to speak. I have been doing this for some 8+ years now so it really is time for a new perspective. Please think about that.

Anyway I added an addendum page on this topic so please read one more page. **Nominations close 29th February and AGM will be held 16th March, 2016, at 5:30 PM US Eastern time**

So that concludes the February edition. I do hope you found something of interest in it. If not, then write to tell me, and perhaps help with ideas or articles. My thanks as always to those who do contribute.

Best wishes, Have a great leap year month. One extra days sales perhaps! email me at michaelatipda@gmail.com



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IPDA, Inc. Call for Nominations

1) Regional directors:

A) The following Regional Directors terms expire with the fiscal 2015 AGM

- a) Michael Dodd
- b) Bill Lehr
- c) Ken Sanford

B) There are five additional vacant positions for Regional Director

2) Elected offices:

- A) Membership Secretary
- B) Honorary Auditor

Notes: Regional Directors serve for two years as do officers. Sitting Regional Directors are required to stand down at the end of their term but may run for re-election. Nominations, including notice of intent to run for re-election, must be submitted, in writing (email is acceptable) to the General Secretary, Bill Lehr, secretary@ipdastamps.org.

Deadline for nominations is midnight on the 29th of February, 2016, US Eastern time.

The AGM will be held 16th March, 2016, at 5:30 PM US Eastern time, in the [IPDA Public Chat Room](#).

When attending the AGM, please sign in with your first name and your membership number.

Forgot your membership number? Check the [Members](#) page on the IPDA website. While you are there, verify that your information is up to date.

Prepared by

, 24th January, 2016