

# INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23rd February 2002

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Volume 14 Issue 3

## NEWSLETTER MARCH 2016

### EDITORS COLUMN

Welcome to the March 2016 Newsletter. I say welcome every month and feel I am now so boring I should think of a new welcoming line. Should I? You tell me. What is your idea for an opening line?

I receive a few Newsletters from various philatelic organisations and I usually read most. Many are far more pages than this, now 4 page, effort, because a) I only ever have the same 4 people write to me, and b) I expect the other 98% of you never read it anyway. I am being provocative ok! Anyway what was I saying, oh yes I usually read most of the Newsletters I receive but I must admit I rarely write back and provide comment. I do write for permission to use material I might add. And in this issue I have a piece from Interasia Auctions, while an Auction house ad it is, in my view, an opportunity to watch the Asia / China / Hong Kong scene, and will be even moreso when the auction has closed and the numbers are published.

On the IPDA front you will think me very bad as I did not attend the last Board meeting. I was sunning myself in Laoag in the Philippines because it was a 5 day break for me here in Hong Kong because of the Chinese New Year holiday. So I flew away. I had no computer access for 5 days. iPhone when I had wifi I will admit, but that doesn't count does it.

We do have a new member this past month. A big welcome to Gregory Todd who Trades as Stamps Are Friends on Bidstart and Stampworld.com. Actually Gregory is a returning member who took a break and is now back with us. He is from Tennessee in the USA (some lovely places there I been fortunate enough to visit) and he specializes in Birds and other topicals. Welcome back Gregory.



Something one of our members shared with me. The creative team at the British Philatelic Bulletin have a poll to decide your favourite Royal Mail stamps from 2015. 153 stamps included. Rather too many don't you think? If interested in seeing them all, and even voting visit [here](#)

And, while on the subject of Royal Mail I have been reading plenty about the Post and Go labels, although I suppose they are now called stamps!. Seems they are becoming more and more a complicated collectible line. The following with thanks to Ian Norvic from his excellent blog and website.

Post & Go stamps are sold from Post Office Self-Service Kiosks (SSK), which allow customers to weigh their letters and packets, pay for and print postage stamps and stationery supplies, often without the need to visit the counter. The first Post & Go machine was trialed in The Galleries Post Office® in Bristol in 2008. The labels will be used in Post & Go machines at Post Offices around the country, and from Royal Mail machines at Enquiry Offices, Museums and Spring Stampex. The labels can be obtained with 6 different service indicators: 1st class up to 100g & 1st class Large up to 100g, a dual-value Europe up to 20g/World up to 10g, Europe 60g, Worldwide 20g, and Worldwide 60g. From SSKs other stamps can be printed with monetary values for a variety of services including Special Delivery and parcels.



Here is one that is part of the 6 issued for the Royal Mail Heritage Transport issue The issue shows the movement of mail via methods of transport; namely by foot, by horse-drawn carts, and then vans for road transport, as well as the early adoption of railways, sailing ships and air.

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

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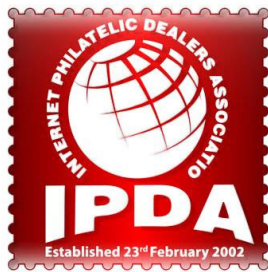
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### Stamp of the Month

The Penfold Pillar Box. Perhaps the most popular type of pillar box ever introduced. It was named after its designer, J W Penfold who was an architect.

The first one was erected in 1866, it was hexagonal in shape with the top decorated by acanthus leaves and balls.



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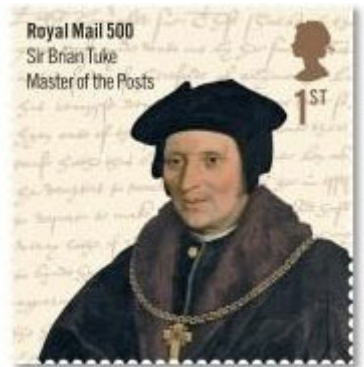
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## 500 YEARS OF ROYAL MAIL

*Editors Note: Whether you are a dealer or a collector, or both I thought the following might make interesting reading. Perhaps we only think of philately in terms of 1840 onwards but the history of Royal Mail goes back much further as you will read.*

On February 17<sup>th</sup> Royal Mail issued a set of 6 stamps to commemorate 500 years of Royal Mail history by featuring Sir Brian Tuke, Master of the Posts; a Packet ship; a Penfold pillar box; River post; Mail coach and Medway Mail Centre.

The first stamp shows a Holbein painting of Tuke and the following is my compilation of some history sourced from the Royal Mail website; Denton, W. (2013). pp. 194-5. *England in the Fifteenth Century*. London: Forgotten Books. (Original work published 1888) and the *State Papers of the Feign of Hetiry VIII.*, vol. i., p. 405. In the *Wardrobe Accountts of Edward I.*, published expense of messengers (*expensis nunciatoruvi*) in that reign.



The earliest mention of *Master of the Posts* is in the *King's Book of Payments* where a payment of £100 was authorised for Tuke as master of the posts in February 1512. Belatedly, in 1517, he was officially appointed to the office of *Governor of the King's Posts*, a precursor to the office of Postmaster General of the United Kingdom, by Henry VIII. Tuke had the influence and authority to establish key post towns across the country and build a formal postal network. One important aspect of the roles was no doubt the responsibility for the system of diplomatic couriers across the country.

A Postal Service, if one can use that term has existed for some 200 years before.

The introduction in England of the post for letters has been traced by some to an ordinance of Edward IV., who during the war with Scotland in 1481, stationed men on horseback along the northern road to forward despatches. These messengers were posted at an interval of twenty miles, with directions to ride at their utmost speed to the limits of their beat, and hand on any letters with which they were charged to the man who occupied the next station, so that by this means a despatch might be conveyed one hundred miles in a day. This plan, which possessed little if any originality, was it is thought borrowed by Edward IV. from an institution which Louis XL, King of France.

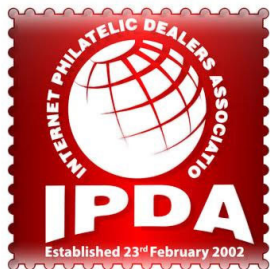
In the wardrobe accounts of Edward I. we have a notice of messengers who took charge of the correspondence of the great officers of state, the sheriffs of counties, the constables of the royal castles, and other important officials, and delivered the letters as addressed. The same document tells us that these letters were placed in a bag. For the performance of his duty the messenger was entitled to a payment according to the distance he had carried the letters; and in the record from which this is quoted we learn that the expense of letters from Newcastle to Carlisle was eighteen pence, and from York to Dover three shillings and sixpence.



Holbein's portrait of Sir Brian Tuke

The messenger who carried letters from London to York charged one shilling a day for the sixteen days employed in going and returning between those cities. It had long been among the regular services due from some manorial tenants that they should convey the lord's letters, provided that the distance was not great; thus, in 1340, at Castle Combe in Wiltshire, we find that eleven of the tenants held their land, in part, on this tenure. Among other services they were expected to carry letters when required to do so, provided that the distance permitted of their going and returning on the same day." Long, however, before this time the conveyance of the king's letters was one of the services rendered by the tenants of the crown who held their land in grand serjeantry, In the middle of the fifteenth century it was among the official duties of the Venetian consuls at Bruges and at London to make up a bag of letters once a month and send them in one of the galleys sailing to Venice. These were not despatches of officials to the government, but of merchants to their agents or correspondents.





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## 500 YEARS OF ROYAL MAIL ..... CONT'D

The postman in the beginning of the sixteenth century made his presence known by blowing a horn whenever he delivered letters from the court. If his letters were not official, he seems to have marked the distinction by delivering them in silence. The horn marked the royal missive.

Though the postage of a letter was too costly to allow of any except the wealthy maintaining a regular correspondence, the post at the end of the fifteenth century already gave promise of its future importance in the social and political economy of the nation, and at the beginning of the reign of Henry VIII., though the post office was yet in its infancy, it was so far established as to be a recognized institution in England.

The carriage of letters was by this time entrusted to a department of the government, and was placed under the direction of an officer who was styled " Master of the Posts," and had charge of the roads of chief political importance, namely that leading to the frontiers of Scotland and that between the court and the garrison at Calais.

To these two roads were added, when the state of the revenue permitted, the western road running to Bristol. Messengers were stationed here in order chiefly to maintain the intercourse with Ireland. The towns which lay near these roads were invited to pay the costs of local posts, which would ensure a safe and regular intercourse between them and London, Various towns lying on the road to the capital availed themselves of this invitation, and placed their interests in the hands of the Postmaster General.

The proportion of the cost of delivering these letters in the towns between London and the termination of the postal despatch was distinguished from that of their carriage over the main road. This latter was borne by the crown; the former, or local post, was to be paid for by the towns which had obtained the privilege of having a delivery of letters. Letters, however, were so few, and the payment of the postmen so small, that the messenger generally kept no horse; and when it was necessary to hasten a despatch, or when two letters arrived at the same time and had to be forwarded over different roads, constables were sent forward to seize horses " from ploughs and carts, wherein," as a post-master of the early part of the sixteenth century complains, "there can be no extreme diligence" The post office in this country was declared to be inferior '

The names of the early masters of the post is an evidence of the importance of the office which they filled. Sir Brian Tuke, who held this post in the reign of Henry VIII., and Sir John Mason, who was postmaster in the time of Edward VI., were both men of mark and position " men, as we should now say, of cabinet rank.

## COMBET THE FRENCH LETTER ENGRAVER

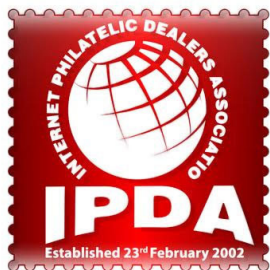
*Editor Note: one of my favourite philatelic writers, as many of you will know, is Adrian Keppel. This I wanted to share with you from his blog. Aviation theme as well, so I could not resist. I wish I knew what it went under the hammer for.*

I was leafing through the latest auction catalogue from Christoph Gärtner, on the lookout for anything special, interesting or out of the ordinary, when I bumped into a couple of lots of die proofs which caught my eye. Among those lots were a few progressive die proofs that I always find intriguing. But these ones were even better because they were signed. And not by the engraver!

We're talking about the 500fr value from the 1955-1959 definitive set issued in St. Pierre et Miquelon: a stamp depicting a Douglas DC-3 over St Pierre Port. Now that stamp was designed and engraved by Albert Decaris. But the die proofs in the auction are signed by Jacques Combet! Just as well he clarified the situation himself by adding 'gravure lettre'.

This is the first time to my knowledge that we have different engravers working on either the vignette or the lettering on a French stamp! Quite fascinating





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## THE NEW BACK PAGE

*Editors Note: this time an upcoming Auction here in Hong Kong Again. Something to look at to once again to get a feel for the Asia / China / Hong Kong Market scene. I will try to go if I am in Hong Kong that weekend. Jeffrey, the Director, is always nice to meet. And I do enjoy attending his auctions. I should add, I already have flights and hotel booked for the Taipei exhibition. I hope Jeffrey got the month wrong as I am booked for October! Republished with the kind permission of Jeffrey Schneider, Director Interasia Auctions.*

The next **Interasia Auctions** auction will take place on April 30 – May 1. The market for Chinese and Hong Kong stamps and postal history remains strong, with particularly keen interest in better material. With the international exhibitions in New York in May and Taipei in November, and the FIAP Asian exhibition in Nanning in December, exhibitors have a particular need to add to their exhibits.

The auction already includes a very fine array of China, People's Republic, Hong Kong and Asia, and will be another important auction from the leading stamp auction house for China and Hong Kong. China encompasses exciting Ching Dynasty and features the T.S. Yang collection of the 1878-97 issues with a fascinating array of cancellations throughout, as well as interesting postal history. Among the many China highlights from other vendors is the unique 1879 Large Dragon cover from the Hancock correspondence used from the Customs Post in Tamsui. The "Nostalgia" Collection of French Mail to and from the Far East, a comprehensive study of this exciting area, includes many rare items and will be an important provenance for collectors of this field in future years.

We are also pleased to be offering the final and most substantial part of the outstanding collection of Manchuria formed by the late Robert W. Farquhar, which comprises Manchukuo, North East Provinces and the Liberated Area issues, with important postal history throughout.

The People's Republic of China features a number of rarities and includes the two 1964 unissued Peking Opera Masks examples pictured in the Yang catalogue as well as mint and used examples of the "Whole Country is Red". There will also be our usual strong offering of the popular sets and miniature sheets, as well as Liberated Areas.

Hong Kong stamps are highlighted by a major group of varieties and errors with particular strength in the QEII commemoratives, including the 1961 Hong Kong University gold omitted on first day cover. The postal history includes the outstanding Hong Kong and Treaty Ports collection of Mick Goldsmith, the Chairman of the Hong Kong Study Circle, which contains many elusive and interesting covers that have never before been seen on the public market.

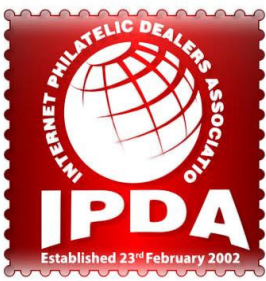
## THE LAST WORD

I have again added an addendum page to remind us all of the **Nominations for the IPDA Directors and other positions. Nominations close on 29th February and the AGM will be held 16th March, 2016, at 5:30 PM US Eastern time. See ==>**

**PLEASE Take a minute to nominate yourself – get involved – help this small but trying hard to grow organisation. Perhaps you even feel the Newsletter should change – Now is the time. You can nominate yourself I will not be offended in any way but will welcome the change and the opportunity to move things forward.**

Best wishes, email me at [michaelatipda@gmail.com](mailto:michaelatipda@gmail.com) if you have anything to chat about or ideas / materials for articles.  
**Michael**





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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](mailto:secretary@ipdastamps.org).


**Deadline for nominations is midnight on the 29<sup>th</sup> of February, 2016, US Eastern time.**

The AGM will be held 16<sup>th</sup> 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

 , 24<sup>th</sup> January, 2016