



INTERNET PHILATELIC DEALERS ASSOCIATION

Established 23 February 2002

Newsletter October 2018

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Stamp of the Month



Release date: 20 September 2018

Severe drought is having a devastating impact on farmers and communities in New South Wales, Queensland, north-western Victoria and eastern South Australia.

Australia Post is a critical part of the Australian community with a large presence and commitment in rural and regional Australia and a long history of supporting the Australian community at times of crisis.

For each \$5 Drought Relief stamp booklet sold, Australia Post will donate \$2 to Rural Aid Limited providing support and assistance directly to affected farmers and communities.



Welcome to the October Issue

Hello everyone. September rushed past, especially since I have been overseas in the UK for most of the month. A holiday with time free to attend the London Stampex at the Islington Design Center.

I have not been able to attend Stampex for a few years so it was interesting to go again. I certainly noticed some things have stayed the same but some things changed. Many of the same dealers in attendance but what a change to see so few attendees. I was rather surprised at how quiet the hall was and how easy it was to walk around, talk to dealers and view the exhibition frames.

Times are changing and I think it is sad to see - at least on the Saturday when I was there - such a poor turnout to the show. I do not think it is a sign there is less interest in philately, more a reflection on peoples interest in attending shows. But why I wonder. I spoke to many dealers and no one had any really convincing thoughts as to why this is.

As some members will know we did have a dinner on the Saturday with a few other IPDA members. A very pleasant evening and many thanks to Ken Sanford, one of our USA Directors, for arranging an excellent restaurant.



I certainly enjoyed meeting Ken and also Tony Tripi our Treasurer / Membership Secretary as well as member David Wood and his wife from Australia. Tony in light blue shirt, Ken at back in pink, David opposite Ken and me in black shirt at front.



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Once again we have had a good number of new members join us this past month. A very big welcome to you all. As you can see from the table below, 13 new members from 10 countries. This is a credit to the work of the Directors, many I know who are using the "IPDA Invite to Join Brochure" and handing them out at the various shows they attend. I heard one of our USA Directors gave out 50 at the Baltimore Show last month. We can only spread the spread the word I think. Anyway. Welcome to the following.....

Joe Overstreet , USA	Alexandre Lollini , France	Silvia De Carlo , Italy
Christoph Gärtner , Germany	Peter Darabanth , Hungary	Parveen Mukhtar , USA
Gamir Adelshin , Russia	Rich. T Lehmann , USA	Lindsay Jane , Australia
Volker Jansen , South Africa	Lukša Živaljić , Croatia	Robert Fulton , Australia
	Dirk Sluis , The Netherlands	

Spitfire Women by Roger West, Director UK and Europe

I recently saw a television programme called 'Spitfire Women'. It was about the brave women pilots who in World War 2 flew aircraft from the factories to the airfields where they were required. These women formed the ATA (Air Transport Authority). Of particular interest to me was the name of Lettice Curtis who was a fellow member of the Wokingham Philatelic Society - Lettice had a passion for the GB KG5 1.5d brown.



The ATA was set up at a time when pilots were in very short supply. 164 women with flying experience were invited to join and became known to their male counterparts as 'atagirls'. Several of these girls acquired fame such as Maureen Dunlop who was a cover girl for Picture Post, Helen Kerly who received a commendation, Amy Johnson, already a household name for her solo flight from Britain to Australia and Lettice Curtis.

Lettice got her name in the record books by becoming the first woman to fly solo in a four-engined aircraft - the Halifax. During her ATA term, she made nearly 1,500 flights in dozens of different aircraft including The Stirling, Lancasters, Liberators, a B-17 Flying Fortress and of course, the Spitfire.

When the war ended, Lettice was still a flyer and in 1992 aged 77 she achieved her Helicopter Pilot's Licence, the oldest British women to do so. Lettice passed away in 2014 aged 99 years. She was, a remarkable women and whenever I see the humble KG5 1.5d brown I think of Lettice.

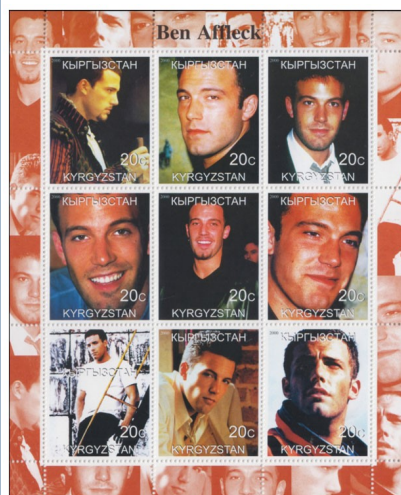


Illegal Stamps

The following is based on material from member Peter de Jong, who wrote to the Newsletter saying he came into contact with IPDA member John Lowe and was impressed by John's research on illegal stamps and felt something should be written on this topic.

Everyone is free to collect what they want. There is no argument to that. However, it is fraudulent to produce and knowingly sell illegal stamps when the material presented is not correctly described. I thought it worth showing some examples for information purposes.

According to the UPU, "an illegal stamp is one that carries the name of a legitimate country or territory but was not produced or printed by the postal administration of that country, and is not valid for postage anywhere in the world."



Why would anyone want a stamp, let alone a Miniature Sheet of stamps, showing Ben Affleck?

The majority of illegal stamps on the market today are modern topical issues. The images show some examples for readers understanding. The major production of these started to be seen in the mid 90's. This material is commonly found on eBay, Delcampe, eBid, Amazon and so forth, even though the UPU has posted many circulars denouncing them. The UPU circulars describe many of the issues but their policy has been, until now, not to post images of the illegals.

For further information readers can review this link from the UPU which shows an overview on philatelic circulars reporting illegal issues <https://www.wnsstamps.post/en/circulars>.

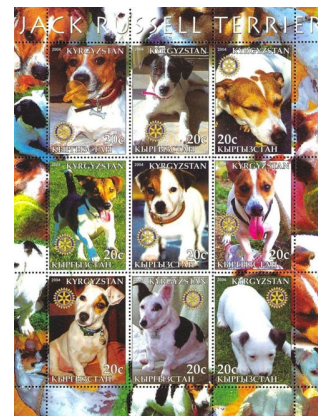
The following are a typical examples. Commonly a thematic theme is used to promote this type of material.



Djibouti 2007 Mushrooms Miniature sheet is not a postally valid issue



Djibouti 2014 Butterflies Miniature sheet is not a postally valid issue



Kyrgyzstan 2004 Jack Russell Dogs Miniature Sheet is not postally valid



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Describing stamps for sale

The following is from member Michael Dodd . Michael is also the IPDA General Secretary. One of his passions about stamp selling is the accurate description of the stamps being offered for sale. The following show some recent examples he has seen and believes worthy of comment to remind all members what we, as IPDA members, should and should not aspire to.

I have written on this topic frequently over the years, in IPDA Newsletters, on my Blogs and on my Website. If there is one thing about selling stamps that I am passionate about more than anything else it is the correct description of the stamps being offered by sale. I am not going to comment on the price other than to give it for context.

As a Director of the IPDA I am asked to review new member applications. Over the past three months we have had over 50 new member applications. How refreshing it has been to see very high standards from the dealers we have seen apply. I have not seen one application where I could question the quality description of the stamps being offered for sale, or in fact the actual quality of the stamps themselves.

Of course, this is not always the case. As dealers, whether we be full time or part time, we are faced with incredible competition in this internet day and age. This competition comes from so many sellers who have, in my opinion, no experience, knowledge or respect for collectors in this wonderful hobby.



I was motivated to write this because I saw this stamp offered for sale. I could have chosen any one of hundreds of different stamps I might add, but this is a stamp we would all like in our collections if we collect GB, and lets face it, it does stand out, doesn't it! It is of course Scott 124 (SG 212) the 1891 issue. Guess the price before you read on. Ok, it was being offered at \$724 USD with free shipping and described as Used. That is it, Used.



Described as Used Very Fine with no faults or imperfections on the gum side at \$495 USD with shipping of \$15.



Described as Used and offered at \$325 USD also with Free Shipping.



Described as Used and offered at \$350 plus \$3.85 shipping.

I leave you to draw your own conclusions. Lets make sure we uphold the standards we all aspire to as members of the IPDA. You might say, well a collector would never consider buying the first example, but then again how could a seller ever consider pricing it at USD \$724? Let's just say they are not an IPDA member, and, to date, one of the others is.

Michael can be reached at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com.



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London Stampex 2018

Alan opened this Newsletter with a few comments about Stampex in London. Here are a few more of his comments and some pictures with additional annotation.

The pictures were taken around midday on the Saturday, so, as you can see, I think it would be a fair to say that the attendance was sparse.



Above: Member Mark Bloxham talking to a customer. Alan Devine, Michael Dodd and Director Roger West individually spent time talking to Mark during their visit. Mark has been very supportive in promoting the IPDA because, as he says, there is a greater need today for an organization recognizing internet dealers.



Above: Bill Barrell at his stand. Alan Devine spent time with Bill. Bill has received IPDA invites to join but told Alan he does not see great benefit to his company from IPDA Membership. Bill told Alan he thought one of the most important factors facing our industry was the serious lack of correct descriptions and values of stamps that was being used today. He felt that this was pulling the industry down and he said he was pleased that the IPDA was making ethical practice one of our strongest and compulsive dealership requirements from all members.



Left: Another view of the hall and dealer stands. Alan advised he also got to meet new member, in fact our 100th member, Andrew Vaughan. Again in conversation, Alan reports the comment was made by Andrew that the future is with the internet and so our association is rightly placed to play an important role in the philatelic community.



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London Stampex 2018 Cont'd



Lunch in London? What else is there to do but go to the Pub.

Fortunately Ken Sanford knows his way around the pubs of Islington and he found us the Steam Passage.

Very nice food, great ales, English beer that was nice and warm :-)) - and of course the company was excellent.

Bottom left moving anti-clockwise: Roger West, Director UK and Europe, Ken Sanford Director USA and APS Liaison, Michael Dodd, General Secretary, and Tony Tripi, Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

The Macao 2018 Asian International Stamp Exhibition by Michael Dodd

Our General Secretary, Michael Dodd arranged his flights back to the Philippines so he could spend time in Hong Kong and Macau so as to visit the 2018 Macau Asian Stamp exhibition. Again some pictures, and commentary from Michael.



One of the prominent signs announcing the Show, which was held in the Venetian Palace Hotel, a brilliant location both because it is the Venetian, and because it really is so spacious and a pleasure to be in.



The first thing we saw as we approached the Exhibition Hall was a queue to get into the show. Ok a small queue, but none the less there were people waiting to get in.



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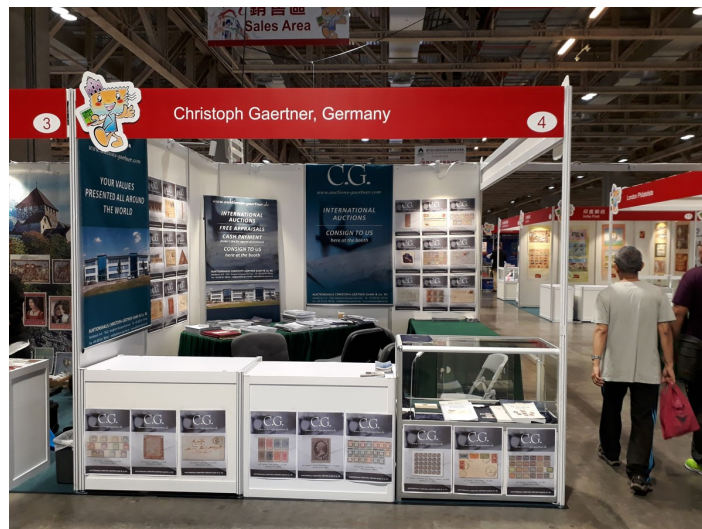
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The Macao 2018 Asian International Stamp Exhibition *cont'd*



The presence of a group of school children was a welcome site. This picture was taken very early in the day and with the group being escorted by teachers and guides explaining about the stands and the exhibit Frames. This is surely one excellent way to encourage and develop young peoples' interest in philately. Do we see that in the UK or other countries? It is something I have seen many times at the Asian shows I have attended over the past years.

And what was most interesting? Well it was the excitement and interest we could see in the childrens' faces as they moved from stand to stand and in fact spoke to the representatives on the stands.



Although his stand was empty for this picture I had a very pleasant conversation with Christoph both welcoming him to the IPDA as a new member and hearing his views about the importance of the internet in todays philatelic world. As he said, and others have also said, the internet is the dealing medium of today and we have to embrace it and support organisations like the IPDA. It was a pleasure to meet you Christoph and rewarding to hear you endorse the IPDA and what we stand for in todays philatelic world..



I cannot take credit for this picture above; that goes to Mrs Dodd. What I can say, is how impressive the exhibition frames were. I thought the London Stampex exhibits were very good but these were just that much more impressive. We have visited many Asian shows over the past few years, living in Hong Kong made it easy, but this show was extremely well presented. I encourage anyone to attend an Asian show if ever the opportunity arises. Michael ipdasecretary1@gmail.com



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Chairman's Chatter

A few items I hope you will find interesting this month. First, I heard that from October 1, VPEV -VP will move offices and open a new office for their expertise business at "Brandes & Schulz - Stamp House 1907" Bismarckstrasse 93 / corner Karlstrasse, in Dusseldorf. VPEV are VP Verband philatelistischer Prüfer e. V. the German association of philatelic experts and their "Head of Office" is a IPDA member Axel Dörrenbach.

Christmas 2018 - Christmas? It is only October why are we talking Christmas you ask. Well, how about a little competition. We would like to send out an IPDA Christmas Card. An electronic one - so as to save paper etc - although it does also stop the usage of postage stamps doesn't it..... anyway. How about a competition for the design of an IPDA e-card. Please send a design to the General Secretary at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com Entries can be in any electronic form you like and should be received by November 30th. The IPDA Board of Directors will review entries, vote on them and a winner or winners will be chosen. At the time of writing I have no idea what the prize, or prizes, will be - ok that is not a big motivator to enter is it :-) but I am sure we will come up with something that will interest or reward the winner(s). In fact we will announce the prizes in the December issue. So get your thinking caps on, get your design caps on and start typing, or whatever one does when one designs an e-card.

Membership Drive and Joining Fee for 2019 - As many of you will know we had a special joining fee for 2018 of USD \$10. The Board have agreed that this offer will continue until the end of November and from 1st December the joining fee / renewal for existing members will be back to the original rate of USD \$20 . Obviously it will make sense to wait to December 1st to join. So just mentioning this if you are promoting the IPDA to colleague dealers.

Website Enhancement for 2019 - surely there is more content that can be added to the IPDA website. The focus these past few months has been to promote the IPDA to the philatelic community and with good results as we have grown from 57 members in April to 126 at the end of September. The focus over the coming few months is to think of new content that can be added to the web site. Content that will be of interest and value to general visitors, and content that we can add to the Members only area. The Board are thinking this though but as members perhaps you have ideas. If you do, please share with us. You can write to any of the Directors, their email contacts are available on the website [here](#), or you can send suggestions to the General Secretary at ipdasecretary1@gmail.com and he will share with the other Directors.

Welcome to James Minn - at the September Board meeting the Directors voted to accept James as a Director for the UK. James volunteered to help the Board and it is rewarding for us to see a volunteer come forward. As a collector James specialised in GB for far too many years he says, and as a dealer he has over 21,000 items in his online store. James says he looks forward to getting involved in whatever ways he can to help promote the IPDA and provide a contribution to IPDA activities and events.

Saying Thank You to Peter de Jong - Peter has been very busy over the past months promoting the IPDA throughout Europe and to many philatelic colleagues in other parts of the world as well. For personal reasons he has decided to step down from the Board and his role as an IPDA Committee member for the time being. The Board thanks him for his commitment, hard work and great results in helping us grow the IPDA. All the very best to you Peter.