

NEWSLETTER JULY 2008

EDITORIAL WELCOME

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Hello everyone.

A busy month for me and yet I made time to sort some stamps. Soaked even more and am now ready to send to children and others who write to me for stamps from my Children's Corner.

I have only wondered if the letters are genuine on a couple of occasions over the past 5 years I have been sending free stamps to people. I say this because it leads me into the first of two topics I want to write about in this editorial. The first is the honesty of stamp people. This because after careful consideration the Board is introducing a page on the web site that will deal with, lets just say, less than 100% honest people involved in the philatelic business, be that a seller or a buyer, a dealer on an auction site or web site or just someone selling from a chat board or club board or wherever. I coined the following but this is just me playing with words, "suspect sellers, doubtful dealers and bogus buyers". I use sellers and dealers because a seller does not have to be a dealer in the fullest use of the word. I have been lucky in all the time I have been selling, even if I have low eBay, blog and auction site sales, but I can honestly say I do not feel I have been cheated. Not the same for many who are more like full time dealers from things I read. However, back to the IPDA web site and the page for informing the membership of who these people are. This is being worked on. We are trying to get the words right so as to handle complaints that may come through to us and make sure we don't defame someone accidentally. Difficult things to handle I think you will agree. Anyway watch out for more and as things develop we will keep you advised.

Mentioning auction sites, you may have read my previous article on eBay's plan to introduce payment only through PayPal or cash on delivery, well in Australia to start with, but who knows what would happen elsewhere if it got accepted. I have more on this in the rest of the newsletter. However, quick update here. On 12 June 2008 the ACCC of Australia issued a Notice Revoking the original permission given to eBay to implement its proposed changes. All interested bodies and individuals may make further submissions in reply to the Notice issued by the ACCC.

The IPDA is happy to make a further submission to the ACCC and would like members to help by supplying some information to support our submission. Whatever information you give will be treated confidentially, that is, the source of our information will not be divulged except to say that it represents the views of our members. Our Secretary has sent a questionnaire to members and I hope you have the time and inclination to reply. We have had quite a good response, but more would be helpful I am sure.

Finally the ACCC will hold a pre-decision conference on 30th June in Sydney — this is a meeting for interested parties to hear more. We will be updating you on the outcome as soon as we hear more.

Some stamps — the top line from a lovely sheet issued this month, here in Korea



AIR DISPLAYS — ROYAL MAIL NEW ISSUE

On 17th July Royal Mail (Great Britain) will issue what I think is a rather interesting set of stamps. These are to commemorate 100 years of powered flight from Britain.



In 1908, Farnborough was the site of the United Kingdom's first powered flight by the American, Samuel Franklin Cody.



Some good aviation themes especially if you are interested in aviation I guess, including the RAF Falcons which are based at RAF Brize Norton, and the Avro Vulcan, the British delta wing subsonic bomber that was operated by the Royal Air Force from 1953 until 1984.

Also issued by Royal Mail is a Smilers Sheet, which contains 20 x 1st class Red Arrows stamps, showing archive photography taken at air displays over the past 100 years, including Samuel F Cody, the Bristol Bulldog, the Cierva autogyro, English Electric Lightning, Sikorsky R-4, Airbus A380, Eurofighter Typhoon, Supermarine Spitfire, and I noticed an Airbus A380. I have placed my order with Ian Billings — an IPDA member — at <http://www.norphil.co.uk/index.htm>.

IPDA NOW AN AFFILIATE OF THE APS

In a previous Newsletter I wrote about the Board pursuing the opportunity to affiliate with the APS (American Philatelic Society). An update for you. We have received acceptance and are now an Affiliate Chapter. This offers us at no cost a free booth at APS stamp shows to promote the IPDA, although not to sell stamps, and a hot link to the IPDA website.

Your Board feel this is a good opportunity for us to see some free advertising of both the IPDA and, perhaps more importantly for you, access to your own websites.

If you are already a member of the APS and do attend shows please try to use the opportunity to promote the IPDA and therefore yourselves and your business.

NEWS FROM THE IPDA BOARD

As I briefly mentioned in the Editorial, your Board have been discussing the subject of undesirable individuals and undesirable behaviour. We have been doing this because for some time there has been questions raised as to whether the IPDA should take a more proactive position on such individuals by setting up a "Confidential List" of names of buyers and sellers who should be avoided or treated with extreme caution because of their unethical, fraudulent or illegal practices. A motion to adopt this position was passed at the last Board meeting and work has made very good progress, thanks to our Secretary, Alan Devine, who has drafted the rules and codes to be followed in identifying such individuals and any action that may subsequently be taken.



Affiliate Member

Certificate

Internet Philatelic Dealers Association
Is duly authorized as
Affiliate Number 261
granted
May 2008

Wayne L. Youngblood
Wayne L. Youngblood
Secretary

Nicholas G. Carter
Nicholas G. Carter
President

ACCC THWARTS EBAY PAYPAL PLAN

This from the Sydney Morning Herald.

Stephen Hutcheon, June 12, 2008 - 4:59PM.

The competition watchdog has flagged its intention to scuttle a plan by online auctioneer eBay to force its Australian users on to a PayPal-only payments system.

Citing concerns about the "anti-competitive effect" of the proposal, the chairman of the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission, Graeme Samuel, has issued a statement calling on eBay to delay implementation of the plan, which was supposed to take effect from next Tuesday.

eBay's proposal would have required items bought and sold on the site to be paid for using PayPal, which eBay owns.

Although cash on delivery or pick-up would still be acceptable, direct bank deposits, cheques and money orders would all be barred.

The move would have lumbered sellers with extra costs as PayPal charges a fee to accept payments via the service. This would be in addition to auction charges.

Many eBay users are unhappy about the proposal and have been venting their opposition to the move on the eBay discussion boards.

In addition, the ACCC has received a number of objections to the proposal from rivals, other providers of payment services, merchants and users.

eBay, which claims to have more than 5 million registered customers in Australia, argues that acceptance of the plan would diminish the incidence of fraud.

"The ACCC is concerned that the [PayPal proposal] will allow eBay to use its market power in the supply of online market places to substantially lessen competition in the market in which PayPal operates," Mr Samuel said in the statement.

"Given eBay's position as Australia's leading online market place, the [PayPal proposal] will substantially reduce competition to supply online payment services to users of online market places more generally."

The ACCC has issued a draft notice proposing to revoke eBay's request for immunity from prosecution, which the company lodged in April.

Interested parties can now submit responses to the ACCC's draft notice before the commission issues a final ruling.

In his statement, Mr Samuel said the ACCC acknowledged that there were, in some circumstances, benefits to the PayPal-only plan.

However, he said the ACCC believed that consumers were best placed to choose the most suitable payments system.

"The [PayPal proposal] denies them that choice. Accordingly, the ACCC considers that these benefits do not outweigh the anti-competitive effects of the conduct," Mr Samuel said.

eBay has issued a statement saying it would be "assessing the ACCC draft notice and will make further comment following the review process".

Footnote: from our Secretary: During the week ending 12 June Alan, contacted the Adjudication Branch of the ACCC. He wrote to us but I repeat here for completeness.

"From the information I received I wish to warn all members that whilst eBay has been advised to halt the implementation of their new rules, they and all other bodies with an interest in this matter have been asked to submit their response to the Commission's announcement.

The news that we did get was very encouraging but the battle is not yet over. eBay has said it is reviewing the announcement made by the Commission and will not doubt be replying with fresh arguments. Concerned organisations and individuals must submit their response to the Commission's announcement as soon as possible. The Commission has not set a time limit but I think we can assume that all responses must be delivered within four weeks from the date of their announcement. "

There will be more to this I am sure.

GIBRALTER NEW ISSUE

I enjoyed reading about these new stamps from Gibraltar. I hope you do.

A popularity poll was organized by the private New 7 Wonders Foundation, with winners to be announced on July 7, 2007 in Lisbon, Portugal.

The origin of the idea of seven wonders of the world dates back to Herodotus (484 BC - 425 BC) and Callimachus (305 BC - 240 BC), who made lists which included the Great Pyramid of Giza, Hanging Gardens of Babylon, Statue of Zeus at Olympia, Temple of Artemis at Ephesus, Mausoleum of Mausollos at Halicarnassus, Colossus of Rhodes and Lighthouse of Alexandria. Only the Great Pyramid of Giza is still standing. The other six were destroyed by earthquake, fire or other reasons.

The 7 New Wonders, as depicted on these stamps, are..... well you tell me. I little competition for you. And a prize for the winner – to be drawn at random – I will send a flight cover. One of my covers flown to the Antarctic last December / January, signed by the senior Captain, on the only commercial site seeing flight there by Qantas last year.



PROTECTING PC FILES

Roy, our webmaster is back on line and kindly sends this. Always worth reminding ourselves is my view (Michael)

Memory sticks have come a long way since the first external hard drives came on the market. Now there are new products with finger-print recognition and secure password encryption. There are sticks designed to boost the performance of Windows Vista and funky looking pen sticks that are more about fashion than mere function.

Hitachi have stated that by 2009 they will be releasing the first commercially available 4 terabyte (4TB) hard discs, and the market is clearly one in which growth even outstrips demand, as the average computer user already has more storage options than they can shake a stick at - what with iPod, or MP3 players or digital cameras all having a dual function as storage of data, let alone, for example, Gmail, Hotmail or Facebook accounts with their storage capacity.

While HD DVD and Blue-ray fight to become the next generation disc storage format, yet another new technology has been unveiled that promises to eclipse them both. Israeli company Mempile has announced a technology for storing up to a terabyte of data on a standard size 12cm clear polymer disc, that's more than a double layer Blue-ray disc and 300GB more than even the most optimistic estimates for blue laser technologies.

So why would you want or need this enormous capacity? More home users than ever before are mastering the technology to make back up copies of films, music and digital images, all of which take great gulps out of the space left on their PCs. Rather than limit the ability of your laptop to perform well, or even topple it completely if you are using Vista, it makes sense to store your data externally, and keep it safe.

Perhaps even off-site if your data is particularly precious. Maybe you have not just recorded a potential number one hit on your your music software, but even your favourite photos of the kids would be safer stored somewhere else, where you can not accidentally erase them. Back up copies of my website files and images are one medium I wished I had stored externally, as the year before last I made a mistake and deleted all my website files (including those of the IPDA). This created a lot of work to restore. Having learned my lesson I now have several backups, in fact three different ones. I know, both belt and braces to hold my trousers up is a bit drastic, but they wont fall down in public again will they? Roy.

CLOSING REMARKS

This month I am issuing the Newsletter earlier than usual because I am off to Singapore for meetings the first week of July, Then back in Sydney for a few days before flying to Tokyo for more meetings later the following week. Exciting eh? Not really :-). Stamps will be something I won't have time for, for a week or two, but I hope to hear from you all the same. Write me, tell me what you are finding in the stamp world. Tell me of new issues, anything that you think others might like to know about. Enjoy your stamps, your stamp business and your stamp colleagues. Best wishes..... Michael michaelatipda@gmail.com