

Postcard Traders Association



*an Introduction
and
Application for Membership*

History

The Postcard Traders Association was formed in 1975 by a group of pioneering dealers who felt that the rapidly expanding hobby required a more professional approach with regard to its organization, regulation and direction. It was decided fairly soon after the inception to organize an annual exhibition and show to help promote the hobby, the Association and its aims.

The British International Postcard Exhibition or BIPEX as it came to be known, was first staged in 1976 and has been a regular event in the Postcard calendar ever since, although the name has now been amended to include THE Picture Postcard Show. It has grown in size and importance with each succeeding year and is now widely regarded as the premier show of the Postcard year, without doubt setting a standard for all other Postcard Events.

With our ever-increasing wide spread international membership the Show is now the largest International Show in the World and attracts both dealers and collectors from every corner of the globe.

The Badge of Fair Trading

The Association aims to encourage and promote fair trading within the Postcard hobby and, as such, has agreed a code of ethics to which all members are required to adhere. This includes stipulations such as presentation of stock and mandatory pricing of all cards offered for sale, accepting cheques, 'making fair offers' for material offered to buy, giving refunds in reasonable circumstances, not knowingly buying stolen goods and a requirement to prosecute anyone caught stealing from their stock. Members are expected to maintain the highest standards of fair trading at all times and to do all that they can to promote, encourage and advance the hobby of collecting Picture Postcards.

The Committee of the Association will investigate any written complaints made against a member acting as arbitrator if necessary, and any adjudication made is final and binding.

The Committee has the power to terminate the membership of anyone who fails to maintain required standards. It is, in effect, a guarantee or badge of fair trading, known by collectors and other dealers, and to the benefit of the members and the general public with whom they deal.

Membership

Membership of the Association is open to anyone over the age of eighteen for whom picture postcards, postcard accessories or other activities related to postcards constitute an important part of their business. Where applicants also deal in items other than postcards or related accessories these are expected to constitute a major percentage of stock. With regard to a firm or company, membership is granted to one person within that body, who then acts as their nominated representative.

If that person was changed the Association would need to be informed immediately.

All applications for membership have to be made in writing to the Committee of the Association via the Honorary Secretary. An application form is available. Prospective members are asked to furnish a few personal details, such as their trading history, details of any other employment and their bankers. They also need to be known within the Postcard trade as it is a requirement that their application is signed by two PTA members. There is an annual subscription of thirty-five pounds which becomes due once a membership application has been passed.

The Committee has the right to refuse membership to a prospective applicant without having to give its reasons, although this right would only be exercised with very good cause. If passed by the Committee, the applicant is informed that the application has been provisionally accepted. The applicant's name is then printed in the next issue of the 'PTA News', in order that other PTA members can raise any objections that they may have. Unless of a serious nature, any objections raised would not necessarily preclude membership being granted.

The Committee meets approximately every eight weeks to process membership applications, organize The Picture Postcard Show and generally deal with the Association affairs. It consists of a Chairman, Secretary, a Treasurer, an Exhibition Secretary, and a Public Relations Officer as the elected officers, plus up to six other elected committee members. Any member who feels that they have ideas to offer, or who would like to help with the Association's aims and affairs, has the right to stand for election to the Committee as long as they can furnish the names of two other members who are prepared to second them.

All work done by members of the Committee is on a voluntary unpaid basis, although out-of-pocket expenses are met. The Association publishes annual audited accounts and the Committee is bound not to incur any liabilities which exceed the assets of the association.



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Benefits

Members join a trade organization to benefit from the collective strength that comes from common business interests fostered by the adoption of recognised standards of behaviour.

The PTA promotes the hobby and, through its rules, establishes standards of good business practice in which the public can have confidence. The Picture Postcard Show at which members, and only members, can either stand or get entry free of charge, sets the standard by which all other postcard shows are measured.

Publicity for the annual show goes beyond the normal level as it is seen as the justification for a wide-ranging promotion of the membership and the hobby. The status of the membership is further promoted by the issue of a flyer describing the hobby, by providing membership badges, and through an active website on the internet. Any member can advertise his/her business via an entry on the website and if the member runs a fair that can also be shown.

**The 'Postcard Pages' website can be found at the url
<http://www.postcard.co.uk>**

From time to time members run into difficulties. The PTA committee will mediate on any dispute arising between members and will give advice and moral support to any member experiencing business problems. Those suffering theft can broadcast details of their loss through the "Red Alert" system. Approvals dealers can benefit from a separate no-cost section where they can share useful information and problems.

Regular newsletters keep members in touch with what is going on and can act as a means of communicating with fellow members should they wish to.

Anyone uncertain as to the genuineness of cards in their possession can seek the help of the committee in securing an expert opinion.

Some fairs run by PTA members offer discounts to fellow members.

Members can get details of any of the above from the Honorary Secretary.

BIPEX - The Picture Postcard Show

The success of the Postcard Centenary Show was a welcome boost for the hobby and a great 'feather in the cap' for the PTA. An unprecedented number of people attended the show over the five days on which it was held and the decision that had been taken to move the show to the Royal Horticultural Halls in Westminster was well justified.

Following the success of the show it was apparent that a return to the previous venue, Kensington Town Hall, was out of the question as that hall cannot now accommodate the number of member dealers who wish to take stands (we are in fact starting to have problems fitting everyone in at R.H.H.) Therefore it was decided to hold future shows at R.H.H. and build on that success.

The New Hall, which is the one that we use is a spacious purpose-built exhibition hall, with staff experienced in the skills associated with staging major exhibitions and the catering facilities are what you would expect from such a venue. Most important of all, the collecting public expressed a strong preference for the show to remain there quoting space and light as main advantages.

With the change of venue, the chance was taken to change the name of the show. It was felt that the acronym 'BIPEX', whilst well known in the postcard world meant little to anyone outside it. Consequently the decision was taken to gradually phase the name out and the title 'The Picture Postcard Show' was coined. However BIPEX will not die! The show is still known to many by its original name and especially now that we have such a large international presence at the show we are now calling the show British International Postcard Exhibition, The Picture Postcard Show.



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Looking to the Future

As a prospective new member you may be wondering what the association is planning for the future advancement of the hobby. As well as planning to hold a major provincial show. the committee are always actively pursuing ways in which the hobby can be brought to the notice of the general public.

The PTA has produced a general information leaflet promoting postcard collecting as a hobby. Designed to be distributed at Antique & Collectors Fairs, in libraries and museums. County shows etc. it is hoped it will reach those people who would not normally go to a Postcard Fair and do not get to see Picture Postcard Monthly.

The Centenary Show (1994) marked a new beginning for the hobby and the great success of this and subsequent shows has given us a momentum that the committee are eager to maintain. Extensive publicity on T.V. Radio and in magazines and newspapers. has helped promote the Picture Postcard Shows. However, running an event of this magnitude can only be staged by an association of some standing.

The organization and promotion of the hobby in general and events such as the Picture Postcard Show in particular are greatly facilitated by the strength of the Association. The greatest source of this strength is in our numbers which is why it is important that anyone who deals in postcards, either full or part-time, solely or in conjunction with other items, should be a member. The wearing and displaying of membership badges (available on request) helps to maintain, and even raise the profile of the PTA in the eyes of non-members and of course helps to raise a dealers standing when in contact with the general public.

The more we can make the Postcard Traders Association a significant organization to deal with, the more we will be able to regulate and promote the hobby of Postcard Collecting.

**The Postcard Traders Association needs its members
and the future of postcard collecting as a hobby is in their hands!**

Officers of the Association

Chairman	Melanie Mordsley
Honorary Secretary	Derek Popplestone <i>24 Parry Road, Sholing, Southampton. SO19 0HU</i> <i>Telephone 02380 446143</i>
Treasurer	Tony Stevens <i>Lees Court, Canterbury Road, Charing, Kent, TN27 0EX</i> <i>Telephone 01233 713893</i>
Exhibition Secretary	Dave Davis
Membership Secretary	Mike Huddy <i>Larkfield, Haw Lane, Saunderton, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP14 4JD</i> <i>Telephone 01844 342132</i>
Committee Members	Mike Day, Palle Petersen, Richard Stenlake



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Postcard Traders Association

Code of Ethics

Promoting Postcards Through Fair Trading

The association expects high standards of trading from its members principally to conform with one of its main stated aims. ie. to protect the public from dubious or unfair trading practices.

Code of Ethics

The **current code of ethics** is stated below. The majority of members of the PTA are dealers in old or antique postcards and many of these rules will apply specifically to them.

Internet Trading. We also acknowledge the recent trends towards trading on the internet. In the absence of specific ethics aimed at internet trading we would expect members to abide by the basic principles outlined below.

Please note 'retail sale' (Rule 1.) refers to stock on display at a fair, event or shop and would not include cards sold by auction. You would not be expected to give fellow PTA members trade discount on items sold by auction eg. ebay (Rule 6.)

TO BE INCLUDED IN THE RULES OF THE ASSOCIATION AS PART OF RULE C5

As a member of the P.T.A. I will:

1. Price or price-code all cards offered for retail sale.
2. Present my stock for sale as attractively as possible.
3. Ensure that modern repros and reprints are clearly marked as such or the purchaser is informed of the status of the card at the time of purchase.
4. Make appropriate refunds on returned goods.
5. (a) Accept cheques with a guarantee card when they are offered in payment (U.K. members only).
(b) Give receipts or VAT invoices if requested to do so.
6. Not deliberately make any derisory offers for material.
7. When paying by cheque, ensure that I have sufficient funds in the account to cover it.
8. Give a reasonable and/or appropriate Trade Discount to my fellow PTA members.
9. Reply to enquiries that enclose S.A.E.
10. Not purchase material I believe to be stolen.
11. Prosecute those caught stealing from me, or assist the Police to do so.
12. Not knowingly bring the Trade into disrepute by my actions.

A breach of this Code of Ethics may result in loss of membership of the association



Postcard Traders Association

RULES

A. AIMS and OBJECTIVES

The Association shall be known as "The Postcard Traders" Association.

The objectives of the Association shall be:

- (a) to maintain standards of fair trading by all members of the Association
- (b) to encourage, promote, and advance the hobby of Picture Postcard collecting.
- (c) to promote an annual exhibition and fair to be known as The Picture Postcard Show and/or BIPEX (British International Postcard Exhibition) or such other name as shall from time to time be agreed upon.
- (d) to promote and engage in such activities for the advancement of the foregoing Aims and Objectives as the Association by its Committee shall from time to time agree upon.

B. INTERPRETATION

1. The following words and phrases shall have the meanings hereinafter ascribed to them respectively, namely:
"The Association" shall mean the Postcard Traders Association "The Committee" shall mean the Committee for the time being of the Association.

C. MEMBERSHIP

1. All persons over the age of 18 trading by way of retail, wholesale or auction in picture postcards and/or accessories and/or any postcard related material or who organise events at which there is trade in picture postcards, shall be entitled to apply for membership of the Association. In respect of a firm or other incorporated body membership shall be granted to the firm or incorporated body through its nominated representative.
2. Applications for membership shall be made in writing to the Committee of the Association. The granting of membership shall be the responsibility of the Committee who shall have the power to decline any application in its discretion without giving a reason and whose decision shall be final.
3. The Committee shall have power in its discretion to terminate the membership of any member without publishing a reason in which event such member shall be entitled to a pro rata refund of his current subscription.
4. Any member may resign from the Association by giving one months notice in writing to the Secretary and shall upon expiry of such notice cease to be entitled to the benefits of membership but shall remain liable for any unpaid subscription or other dues owing to the Association.
5. A member of the Association is required to maintain fair standards of trading at all times. Complaints of unfair trading made against any member will be fully investigated by the Committee who shall arbitrate between the complainant and the member concerned and adjudicate upon the complaint. The adjudication of the Committee shall be final and binding on such member.

A Code of Ethics binding on all members is appended to these Rules.

6. The right to trade at The Picture Postcard Show/BIPEX shall be limited to members of the Association. Non-members may be permitted to trade on specially arranged occasions. Trading shall be predominantly postcards and postcard accessories.

D. OFFICERS AND MANagements

1. The Officers of the Association who shall be members of the Association shall comprise the following:
Chairman: Hon. Secretary: Hon. Treasurer: Hon. Exhibition Secretary Hon. Publicity/Public Relations Officer.
2. The management of the Association shall be vested in a Committee comprising the Officers and six other members and its decisions shall be binding on all members. In the event of any Officer or member of the Committee resigning during the year the Committee shall have power to co-opt another member to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the year. A quorum shall comprise five members of the Committee.
3. Election of the Officers and of the other members of the Committee shall be by vote of the other members of the Association present and attending the Annual General Meeting or by postal vote.
4. The term of office of the Officers and Committee who on expiry thereof shall be eligible for re-election shall be

Chairman - Three Years:
Secretary - Two Years:
Treasurer - for the first year only, one year and thereafter two years:
Exhibition Secretary - Two Years:
Publicity/Public Relations Officer - One Year:
Other Committee Members - One Year Each.
5. Nominations for the election of Officers and Committee members shall be submitted to the Secretary, together with the nominee's written consent, not later than two months prior to the Annual General Meeting, such nominations to be proposed and seconded by members of the Association.
6. An Officer or member of the Committee shall vacate his office
 - (a) if a receiving order be made against him or if he becomes bankrupt or suspends payment of his debts or compounds with his creditors
 - (b) if he becomes of unsound mind
 - (c) if by notice in writing to the Association he resigns his office
 - (d) if he ceases to be a member of the Association or if being the representative of a member he ceases to represent such member.

7. The Committee may delegate any of its powers to Sub-Committees consisting of such members of the Association as it shall decide. A member of the Committee shall ex-officio be a member of every Sub-Committee.
8. The Committee shall be responsible to the Association for the funds and property of the Association.
9. The Association shall form an Expert Committee comprising such members and other persons whom it shall elect and the authentication of picture postcards will be undertaken by such Expert Committee who shall be entitled to obtain the opinion of any other recognised expert throughout the world of the genuineness or otherwise of any item. All expenses incurred by the Expert Committee in considering any item submitted shall be borne by the person submitting it.
10. The Committee shall have power to act in any matter not provided for in these Rules, consistent with the aims and objectives of the Association.

E. FINANCE

1. The financial year shall be from the first day of March to the last day of February next.
2. Each member on election and for each financial year thereafter shall pay a subscription of Fifty Pounds including VAT or such other sum as the Association shall from time to time decide upon.
3. Subscriptions shall become due on the first day of March in each year and payable within two months therefrom to the Treasurer who shall be accountable to the Association for all money received by him.
4. The annual subscriptions of members and all other funds of the Association shall be available for the ordinary purposes of the Association including the expenses of management and the other undertakings of the Association.
5. The Association by its Treasurer shall keep full and true accounts of all money received and expended by the Association. Once in each financial year the accounts of the Association shall be examined and their correctness ascertained by an Auditor who shall be appointed at the Annual General Meeting. Every account of the Association when adopted by a General Meeting shall be conclusive.
6. The funds of the Association except a working float shall be placed in a bank account or accounts which shall be operated under the signature of any two of three officers to be selected by the Committee one of whom shall unless the Committee shall otherwise decide be the Hon. Treasurer.
7. The Committee shall not incur any liability or liabilities which shall in aggregate exceed the accumulated funds of the Association unless so authorised by a resolution carried by a simple majority of members present and voting at an extraordinary general meeting. Notice of such meeting and of the terms of the proposed resolution shall be given to each member not less than twenty-eight days (or in the case of any emergency seven days) before the date of the meeting.
8. Subject to the provisions of Rule E8 hereof any balance of expenditure over income so found on the audit of an annual account or any liability which the Association is unable to meet from its funds shall be made good by way of a levy upon all members equally.

F. MEETINGS

1. An Annual General Meeting shall be held once in every year at such date, place and time as shall be determined by the Committee. All other General Meetings shall be called "Extraordinary General Meetings" and shall be held at such dates places and times as the Committee shall determine.
2. Not less than three months notice of the Annual General Meeting shall be given to members of the Association and who shall be given not less than one months notice of all extraordinary general meetings.
3. An extraordinary general meeting shall be called on the written application to the Committee of at least 12 members of the Association stating the reason therefore within twenty eight days of the receipt of such request.
4. Brief Minutes shall be recorded at all General Meetings which shall be signed by the Chairman at the next General Meeting.
5. Fifteen members personally present shall be a quorum for a General Meeting. No business shall be transacted at any General Meeting unless the necessary quorum be present.
6. Only those members who have paid all subscriptions which have become due shall have power to vote at any General Meeting.

G. DISSOLUTION

1. In the event of a resolution to dissolve the Association being proposed special notice thereof shall be given to each member not less than twenty-eight days before the date of the meeting and voting by post addressed to the Secretary shall be permitted. A majority of two thirds of the total number of votes cast shall be required to pass such a resolution. In the event of such resolution being passed the property and funds of the Association after the discharge of all debts and liabilities of the Association shall not be distributed among the members but shall be passed over to such similar Association having a similar prohibition against distribution to members as shall be agreed by the same majority.

H. ALTERATION OF RULES

1. No alteration of these Rules or of any amendments thereto shall be made except by resolution of two thirds of members present and voting at an Annual General Meeting or at an extraordinary general meeting specifically called for that purpose in which case the proposed alteration shall be set out in the notice convening such meeting.

1. BUSINESS DETAILS	
Trading Name :	Proprietor (if different) :
Address :	Telephone :
	Fax :
	email :
	website :
Banker's Name :	
Full Branch Address :	

2. NOMINATED REPRESENTATIVE	
Name :	Date of Birth :
Address :	Telephone :
	Fax :
	email :

3. ABOUT YOUR BUSINESS	
<i>How would you describe your postcard business?</i>	
Dealer in old or antique postcards	Dealer in modern postcards
Publisher	Auction house
Accessory supplier	Other <i>please state :</i>
<i>How do you trade?</i>	
Shop	Fairs
	Internet
	Postal
	Wholesale
Other	<i>please state :</i>
Are you VAT registered?	Percentage of business postcard related :
<i>How long have you been trading</i>	a. generally? years
	b. in postcards? years
<i>Is your postcard business full-time or part-time?</i>	
<i>Please give details of other employment or business interests :</i>	

<i>Details of other fields of trade (cigarette cards, ephemera, etc.)</i>	

<i>Details of any specialities in your postcard business</i>	

4. OTHER INFORMATION

Have you ever been bankrupt or a principal in a business which ceased trading?

If yes please give details :

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What could you do to help or promote postcards or the collecting hobby?

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Why do you want to become a member of the association?

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Membership of other trade, philatelic organisations or postcard clubs

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5. SPONSORS

Your two sponsors for your application should both be members of the Postcard Traders Association. If you are unable to find suitable sponsors please contact us to discuss your application.

NOTE TO SPONSORS : Will potential sponsors please note that they should not sign applications that have not been properly filled in or for applicants whom they do not know.

Sponsors	1	2
Name :		
Trade Name :		
Signature :		

6. SIGNATURE

I confirm that the particulars given on this form are correct and complete, and that I have read the rules of the Postcard Traders Association and agree to abide by them.

Signed		Date:	
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