

Philatelic Literature: **Japanese Philately**

by Dr. Everett L. Parker

There are many philatelic journals which have improved dramatically over the years as technology has improved, making editing and production easier.

But one of the nicest journals you'll find combining excellent layout, editing, use of color, and production is **Japanese Philately**, journal of the International Society for Japanese Philately.

This always has been an interesting journal providing its members with in-depth research and timely articles, but in more recent times, it has come to shine, largely due, one would suspect, to the efforts of editor Ron Casey of East Brisbane, Queensland, Australia.



And now, for the first time, **Japanese Philately** features a logo, a first for the society. It's an intricately designed artwork featuring a dragon, Japanese text and English.

In the August 2012 issue, received in late September, the front cover article discussed a recently issued "SCD" (Small Commemorative Datestamp) depicting the artwork of one of the Japan's more famous modern painters, Takahashi Yuichi. The artwork, shown with the special cancel, depicts an oil painting of a salmon.



There is a two page background piece on how the new logo design was developed, followed by a two page article

on the 2012 summer greeting postcards. A further update from a previous article on “cancellation missing” postmarks showed how incoming mail with uncanceled stamps receive a special marking.

Editor Casey covered Prefectural new issues in great depth, and there is an article on the third set in a recent stamp series on seasonal flowers. The eighth set of a series on hometown festivals follows, with several commemorative datestamps illustrated.

Modern art museum anniversaries are covered in depth with new stamps, and each is illustrated and explained. There is information on the 20th anniversary of Japan’s cooperation in U.N. peacekeeping operations, and more of the popular “Hello Kitty” greeting stamps are covered. There is also information on older issues and material as well, including a look at parcel postcards in use between 1951 and 2003.

While much of the 64 page journal is taken up with modern issues (and there are a lot issued every year), there is other member information, including a membership report, classifieds, and even a page devoted to “News from Japan.”

It is published in the 8.5 x 11.0 inch format with a self-cover (meaning the cover paper stock is the same as interior sheets). The paper is a high gloss which allows outstanding reproduction of full color illustrations and text. With considerable attention to detail and meticulous editing, this is a journal which is a joy to read. It is both scholarly in context yet easy to read and comprehend.

If you have an interest in Japanese stamps, postal stationery and history, membership in the International Society for Japanese Philately is for you.

For membership information, contact Secretary William Eisenhauer, P.O. Box 230462, Tigard, OR 97281. His email address is: secretary@isjp.org. There is also a website at <http://www.isjp.org>.

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That’s it for this time. Remember that review copies of books, monographs, society journals and other philatelic literature are solicited. Send publications to Dr. Everett L. Parker, 249 NW Live Oak Place, Lake City, FL 32055-8906. Email is eparker@hughes.net.

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