

The Force Awakens Star Wars Interest at IGPC

by John F. Dunn

When the new Star Wars blockbuster hit theaters across the nation and around the world, it should come as no surprise that interest in Star Wars topical stamps also has been awakened. With inquiries coming into our office, we turned to the website of topical new issues specialist Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp., www.IGPC.com, for a quick refresher, and to see what was available.



Browsing www.IGPC.com, we also came across a 2002 Australia sheetlet commemorating the second Star Wars film, Attack of the Clones, which was primarily filmed at a film studio in Sydney, Australia.

The sheet contains ten of the 2000 Australia on Globe stamp, Sc. 1831, with Star Wars characters in non-stamp labels within the sheet. This same sheet had been issued in a format that could be used for personalized labels, with a part of the proceeds going to volunteer organizations.



Perhaps the most famous of past Star Wars stamps is the USPS sheet (Sc. 4143) that was issued May 25, 2007. This highly promoted issue was accompanied by mail boxes decorated to look like R2-D2 and a popularity vote for the public's favorite stamp. That vote was won by the Yoda stamp (Sc. 4205), which was reissued in a pane of 20 new Yoda stamps—with a design that was different from that on the sheet—on October 25 at the ASDA Mega Event in New York City, also to great fanfare. That USPS sheet featured stamps from the first six Star Wars films.



There are plenty of other Star Wars issues that are available from *Mekeel's & STAMPS* topicals advertisers. Looking at the IGPC site, we also find a new issue from Great Britain, where the seventh episode—The Force Awakens—was filmed. The ambitious philatelic/ numismatic program includes a souvenir sheet, shown here, as well as a set of 12 Star Wars character stamps (available together in one sheet or individually in their own sheets of 12), Presentation Pack, First Day Covers, Stamp Cards, Battles, Vehicle and Character Medal Covers, Smilers personalizable sheets and a 26-page Prestige Stamp Book.

For details on these and many other worldwide topical stamps and souvenir sheets, please go to the Inter-Governmental website, www.igpc.com.