



## **Chapter 8**

### **The LITPC Outside the U.S.A.**

The LITPC membership spans the world globe with representation in almost all corners of the world of Lionism. Our friends to the north in Canada are so integrated into the pin activities in the U.S.A., we sometimes forget that they are in fact a separate country and, as such, have totally different customs and needs when it comes to Lions trading pins. The other two countries that provide active participants and leadership are the United Kingdom and Australia. We never want to forget that it is this touch of involvement that helps us to backup our claim of being an international organization.



# The LITPC in the United Kingdom



The British Isles and Ireland Trading Pin Club (BI&ITPC) was organized in 2000 and has provided the LITPC a vital link with the entire European continent. Without question, the leading personality and the driving force within that organization has been its long-time Secretary and Newsletter Editor, PDG **Deryck Chambers**. He and his wife, **Mollie**, are frequent visitors to the U.S.A. and to various pin swaps, particularly on the East Coast of the U.S.A. However, as in any organization such as the BI&ITPC, it takes the cooperation and hard work of the entire membership to make a success of the operation. Fortunately, this Club has been blessed with individuals who enjoy the hobby and are willing to do what is necessary to make things happen. Another individual who was affiliated with the Club is Lion **John Leggett**, one of the most prolific pin makers outside of the U.S.A. Lion John served on the LITPC Board of Directors in 2006-2008, and is presently a member of a Lions Club in the U.S.A.

To give you the full flavor of the manner in which PDG Deryck expresses himself, I want to share with you a “report” that I received from him.

## British Isles and Ireland Trading Pin Club

The seeds to start the pin club were sown at the 1999 International Convention held in San Diego. Over the traditional glass of beer, in some secluded bar, a conversation between LITPC Past President Lion Jim Schiebel and P.D.G. Lion Deryck Chambers (MD105), turned to Europe. There were no pin clubs in that Continent, and Lion Deryck agreed to undertake the possibility of starting one in his Multiple District. An article was put in the Lion Magazine for interested Lions to respond to the idea of collectors forming a club. A decision to go ahead was made and the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2000 is recognised as the starting date.

From the outset, the pin club was indebted to its ‘Associate’ members, who were all members of the LITPC and mainly from the U.S.A., whose experience and willingness to trade, gave the impetus needed to the ‘Regular’ members. From the outset the club has produced pins and initially it was just a single pin. The first pins were representative of the 4 countries, which constitute MD105, and this continued for eight years.

In 2005 a decision was made to also produce a pin to recognise an anniversary of an historical nature, and this began the ‘Anniversary’ series. In 2008 the theme of the club pin changed from representing a particular country, to portraying a ‘Famous Person’, one who might be known worldwide.



The First Pin

The reputation of the club over recent years has been accepted by traders as being responsible for producing ‘good’ pins. It was an honour in 2005 for the pin club to be given the responsibility of complete control of the annual MD105 pin. This included design, production, purchase and sales.

The displays which the pin club provide, are a successful P.R. exercise, and a source for new members, and are a feature at the MD & Sub-District Conventions. The highlight in this respect in recent years, must be the pin club’s presence at the Europa Forum in 2006 when this was held in England. It was instrumental in spreading the word about pin trading to the delegates from all the European Districts.

In 2003 the Board of Directors agreed a proposal to start a fundraising project to support each year a Lions charity. The idea was to collect donations of unwanted Lions pins and to sell them at every opportunity. It has subsequently been possible to hand over thousands of pounds (GBP) to many different charities, culminating in a US \$2000 presentation to the LITPC Appeal for Campaign Sight First II.



# The LITPC in the United Kingdom



BI&ITPC Directors Lions John and Denise Freeman Are "Greeted" by Some Special Young Ladies.

NOTE: Sadly, subsequent to this photo, Lion John passed away



LCI President Jimmy Ross (TX) and PDG Deryck Chambers at the MD-105 Convention.



Lion Peter Claxton Making a Charitable Donation to PID Phil Nathan at the 2004 MD 105 Convention.



Lorraine Minnich, Delaware, and LITPC Past President, PCC Jim Schiebel, New York, enjoy some refreshments with Lion Mollie Chambers, BI&ITPC.



The Secretary, PDG Deryck Chambers, Presents A Set of MD 105 Pins to the Multiple District Headquarters Office Staff.



## The LITPC in Australia



This account of the establishment and operation of the Australian Lions Pin Trading Club (ALPTC) was furnished by their Secretary, PDG **Lance Leak**. The ALPTC was formed at their inaugural meeting held at the MD 201 Convention in Newcastle NSW on 6 May 1992. With the approval of the MD 201 Council of Governors, the Club has moved from early humble beginnings to one of friendship and strength.

Lion **Hugh O'Brien** of Elwood, Victoria, was elected as the Inaugural President, with Lion **Lionel Frame** being elected as the Secretary. The year 1993 saw the issue of the first Club bulletin and the first Annual General Meeting (AGM) was conducted at the Maloney's Hotel, Hobart, Tasmania on 12 May 1993. Lion Lance reports that *"this was a great idea since the atmosphere was relaxed and happy and by the end of the breakfast meeting, a bond of common interest had been established amongst those present."* Each member present introduced themselves and gave a brief profile regarding their years of pin trading, as well as the estimated number of pins that each have in their collections. The first ALPTC pin, shown here, was approved at this meeting in Tasmania for issue in 1994.



The first ALPTC Pin

Fill Necked Lizard

The Summer issue of the ALPTC bulletin reported that 66 Charter Members had joined the Club. It should be noted here that 26 of these traders remain active today (2009) in the ALPTC. One of the strong features of the Club is that the AGM and pin swap is held each year in conjunction with the MD 201 Lions convention. Actually, the membership enjoys two other annual swaps, one being called the Western Australia Swap in February and the other one being called the Eastern States Swap in September. Obviously, the sheer size of the Australian continent does not bode well for large attendance at either of these swaps. However the AGM usually attracts a goodly number of the membership.

As this is being reported in 2009, the Club has approximately 160 members from Australia, New Zealand, United Kingdom, and the United States. As in other pin trading clubs throughout Lionism, the ALPTC is in the process of documenting all of the pins that have been issued in Australia. Initially, there were almost 900 pins included in the catalogue, and today, there are approximately 1,950. Each year the catalogue is updated and made available to the membership.

The ALPTC is proud of the fact that two of their members, PDG **Paul Greenfield** and PDG **Reg Langusch** have been elected and each have served for two years as a Director of the LITPC. In addition, one of the members, Lion **Lionel Frame**, was bestowed Life Membership in the LITPC. Another honor of significance is the Life Membership that has been bestowed upon PDG **Rae Strain**, PDG **John Gillham**, and PDG **Lance Leak**.



# The LITPC in Canada



The relative ease over the years of being able to travel from the U.S.A. to Canada and for the Canadians to travel to the U.S.A., and the fact that so many close friendships have been forged over the years has tended to help blur the fact that we're talking about two separate and distinct countries. The Canadians have a rich and deep history when it comes to Lions pin trading. In the 1970s, the hottest items in the pin trading community were originated in Canada. The U.S.A. traders drove for miles and miles to get to their conventions and meetings simply to be able to trade for these "gems". The three dimensional (3-D) craze in pin trading was "king" back in those days and no one could compete with the imagination that came to the surface in the production of these pins. One of the events that took place on an annual basis was the **Rodney, Ontario International Breakfast** where a special pin was designed and given to every paid ticket holder. . These 3-D "dangler" pins were so treasured and so exclusive, serious traders from all over North America either attended or purchased tickets for the event and had someone in attendance pick up their "prize". Here are just a couple of the pins in that long-running series.



In the interest of space, the images of the pins have been reduced. The actual size was normally 4" high x 1 3/4" wide. The gold utensils that were dangling from the basic pin were the same each year, with the Lions emblem being in the spoon. Note the missing "egg" on the pin shown on the right. That was purposefully done to represent the egg that you were eating at the Breakfast.



Another absolutely "had-to-have" series were the pins issued by the **Ham Nord, Quebec Lions Club**. The best way for anyone to be assured of getting one of these was to attend the Multiple District A Convention since at that time, both MD-U and MD-A were all one Multiple District. Once again, we are showing (at a reduced image) just a couple of the harder-to-get pins.



When one makes their pins so very difficult to obtain and, in the process, give you the impression that your pins are really not worthy of consideration, it turns off a lot of folks. Well, some of the big-time traders primarily from the Quebec Province, who are no longer with us, consistently looked down their noses at the "Yanks" and their cheap Chinese-made pins. If your pin was not made in Canada and it did not have a safety pin fastener, your chances were almost slim or none that you would be able to make a trade for one of these pins shown to the left or any of the other beautiful Canadian pins. This situation contributed significantly to the diminishing demand for the Canadian pins. Another factor, and a very significant one, was the introduction of so many pin swaps in the U.S.A. One can travel just so much and can concentrate on just so many different categories of pins. It has absolutely nothing to do with the present Canadian traders who, for the most part, are easy-going and fun to be around. Several of them are "regulars" on the swap circuit, particularly in the Eastern part of the U.S.A.