

# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC  
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PRESIDENT: *David Cotton*

SECRETARY: *Roman Lemega*  
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**MARCH 2016**

## *Greetings Members & Friends of the Society:*

As announced in last month's newsletter, "*The Golden City Philatelist*" has a new editor. With so many roles to fill, **Roman Lemega** has done a sterling job in keeping the members informed through the medium of this monthly newsletter. **Roman** is to be commended for the presentation & content. Working under difficult circumstances, required extra effort in compiling the newsletter, on time, and it is noteworthy, especially as it is nearly *nine years* that **Roman** has had this responsibility! Secretary, Treasurer, Editor, Auction Administrator/Scribe, keeper of the keys and many other associated tasks! **Roman** – congratulations, well done! - *Viv Martin*

## *Diary of Future Events:*

### **2016**

March 01	Tuesday	– Member Display: ‘Inspiration from a Norwegian Christmas Card - <i>David Cotton</i>
March 23	Wednesday	– Visit to <i>St Arnaud Stamp Club</i> ( <u>amended – latest update</u> )
April 05	Tuesday	– <i>Lois Whatley Memorial Treasure Hunt</i> – <u>no auction</u>
April 23	Saturday	– <i>VICPEX 2016</i> hosted by the <i>Maryborough Stamp Club</i>
May 03	Tuesday	– Member Display: <i>Roman Lemega</i>
June 07	Tuesday	– Members Quiz: <i>Bob Hayes</i>
July 05	Tuesday	– <i>A.G.M.</i> and <i>President's Display</i>
August 02	Tuesday	– Member Display: <i>Rae Bryant</i>
August 13	Saturday	– Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc: “ <i>Stamp Fair</i> ”

## *Articles for Newsletter:*

This month's article comes from fellow member and regular contributor of philatelic information, **Bob Hayes**. The article is in the form of a book review and the rather intriguing title is, “**The Englishman Who Posted Himself and Other Curious Objects.**” This really stretches the imagination! (turn over to page 3 and read this fascinating review).

*“When he first mailed himself in 1900, there was no proof that he had done so, so in 1903 he re-mailed himself using Registered Mail, and the book includes a reproduction of the registry form to show that "Person Cyclist" was successfully delivered to Bray's Father.”*

**Distribution of Newsletter:** With the increase in postage costs, members are asked to please consider receiving your Newsletter by email. Details to **Tom Luke** please; email address above.

## LAST MEETING:

**ATTENDANCE:** Once again a well attended meeting in *February* with **36** members present.

**DISPLAY THEME:** At the *February* meeting, Doug Pearse circulated his display of trains and railway stamps with a brief explanation of some country aspects and gauges. Thanks Doug for sharing your knowledge on this thematic collection.

At the *March* meeting, David Cotton is scheduled to give a display.

**AUCTION:** The February offering was very much reduced in number with a limit of 5 items per member and no late acceptances. With the limited space available, this was a more controlled segment and, as usual, bargains were to be had.

**SUPPER:** Myrtle again excelled at providing very tasty treats for those present.

**EXCHANGE SHEETS:** The new Exchange Sheet Superintendents, *Lyn Downward & John Morvell*, will appreciate new material and request diligence in signing the spaces when removing stamps. Unsigned have to be paid for from club funds and is a cost to all members. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

## NEXT MEETING:

**VENUE:** The next meeting will be held on **Tuesday, the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2016** at the Kalianna School, corner of Prouses Road and Nolan Street, Bendigo at **7.30pm**.

**MINI-AUCTION:** As per the new rules and outlined in last month's newsletter, members are limited to 5 items each and at a seller cost of 20c per item. No late items accepted! Please advise Roman your reserve prices and he in turn will advise you your Lot Numbers.

## Presidential 'joggings'      *The Challenge of CHANGE*

How did we go? From The Presidents perspective, the auction timing was a lot better, the new auction rules were accepted and we had exchange sheets underway about 9 pm. Thanks to all for helping with *John Morvell's* change of seating idea for the auction. *Viv Martin* and *Roman* have organised a smooth takeover of the editor role of our newsletter. Please support Viv.

It is still cramped when the exchange sheets are distributed and we will be discussing use of a different room at Kalianna. If we continue to grow we will have to find a new venue and that brings up a whole heap of new challenges.

Well done to *Doug Pearse* for showing us what he collects. This is a change from our recent meeting format and we hope to encourage other members to show us what they collect.

This meeting I will be showing you something inspired by a Christmas card from Norway. We will also be having an auction and exchange sheets.

Here are "Some please remembers and don't forgets".

*Visit St Arnaud club 16 March.* Good to see members ready to go to St Arnaud.

*Maryborough Club hosting VICPEX on 23 April.* We should support them.

*Lois Whatley competition* at our *April* meeting. I hope we have lots of entries.

Can you find a frog, a peacock and a mouse on a stamp for my Lois Whatley entry?!!

Can you find some stamps with bridges on them for *John Armstrong*?

*Lyn Downward* is currently both Exchange Sheet organiser and Club Librarian. We *need a volunteer* to help with the library. It is not an onerous task and will give you the opportunity to read more about stamps.

We rely very heavily on exchange sheets from friends outside of Bendigo. We need to grow our own.

Twinkle your tweezers and continue to "Hinge and stick".

*David*

## ***Book Review:***

The results of a lifetime of postal adventures of W. Reginald Bray (1879-1939) are beautifully recorded in

### **The Englishman Who Posted Himself and Other Curious Objects**

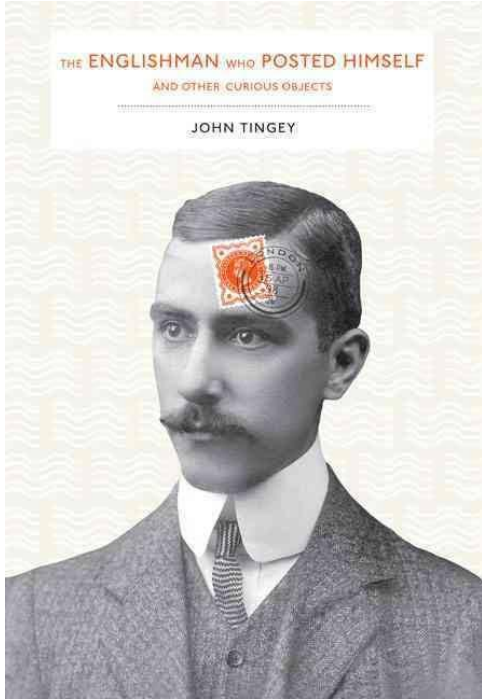
(Princeton Architectural Press)

by John Tingey. ISBN: 1568988729

W. Reginald Bray, who at nineteen years of age in 1898, tendered his sixpence at the Post Office to buy the large quarterly reference book, "The British Post Office Guide"

From a study of the regulations published quarterly by the British postal authorities, Bray discovered that the smallest item one could post was a bee, and the largest, an elephant.

Intrigued, he decided to experiment with sending ordinary and strange objects through the post unwrapped, including a turnip, a bowler hat, a bicycle pump, shirt cuffs, seaweed, a clothes brush, even a rabbit's skull.



He wondered how far postal officials would go to follow their own rules. He mailed dozens of cards to challenging addresses, some in the form of picture puzzles, others he sent to ambiguous recipients, at hard to reach destinations, all in the name of testing the deductive powers of the beleaguered postman.

Would, for example, a postcard clearly & legibly addressed, but in mirror writing, be delivered? Why, yes, it was. He enlisted the help of his mother, who crocheted an envelope with a needlework address; stamped, it was delivered just fine. He wrote a poem in which parts of the address were included & underlined. It was delivered. Returned was the postcard he sent "To Any Resident of London;" the rubber stamp from the Post Office said, "Insufficiently addressed."

He successfully posted his Irish Terrier and in the ultimate of his experiments (as the book's title asserts) he mailed himself. He did this three times. When he first mailed himself in 1900, there was no proof that he had done so, so in 1903 he re-mailed himself using Registered Mail, & the book includes a reproduction of the registration form to show that "Person Cyclist" was successfully delivered to Bray's Father.

Over time his passion changed from sending curios to amassing the world's largest collection of autographs, also via the Post. Bray also developed an interest in postmarks from around the world.

He sent messages by bottle & by balloon, & during more than 30 years of posting he sent out over 30,000 requests for autographs. Starting with key British military officers involved in the Second Boer War, he acquired thousands of autographs during the first four decades of the twentieth century of politicians, military men, performing artists, aviators, sporting stars, & many others

Just under half of his requests were successful. Hitler never sent an autograph, Bray had asked more than once (an underling sent more than one letter explaining why). Neither did he receive a response from King Edward VII.

Bray kept and filed all his postal experiments. His family sold the bulk of his archive after his death in 1939. The author John Tingey, a philatelist who chanced upon a few of the odd postcards Bray had sent out, has had his own adventures in seeking specimens of this Englishman's curious hobby.

This handsome book is a tribute to the lifetime's work of a remarkable British eccentric, & it is crammed with beautiful illustrations of some of Bray's postal experiments.

The book was in the collection of our own Goldfields Library, but (typically) the only copy has gone missing (pilfered?) An Inter library loan provided me with a copy. A recommended read for any collector.

Partly compiled from other reviewers: **Bob H**

*Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc.*

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# STAMP



# FAIR



## SATURDAY

## 13<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2016

## 10am – 4pm



## Local & Melbourne Dealers

### St. Andrews Uniting Church Hall

### 24 Myers Street, Bendigo

