

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

April 2018



Diary of Future Events

April	Tuesday	3rd	Commonwealth Games.
April	Wednesday	4th	Daytime Meeting.
May	Tuesday	1st	Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.
May	Wednesday	2nd	Daytime Meeting.
June	Tuesday	5th	Soccer World Cup.
June	Wednesday	6th	Daytime Meeting.

Please Note: The daytime meeting is on the Wednesday after the main meeting. This is not always the first Wednesday of the month

Remember! Entries for the Lois Whatley competition must be handed in at the April meeting.

President's April 2018 Message

April, Easter and the end of Daylight Saving for the present. Busy, Busy, Busy, We are looking forward to a busy but enjoyable month at the BPS.

First and most importantly we are really looking forward to a visit by our friends, the members of the St. Arnaud Stamp Club. They will attend our daytime meeting on the 4th of April. And we hope for a good attendance by all members.

Preliminary arrangements for our August Stamp Fair are on the way with your Committee discussing same at a special meeting.

Members including your President had a wonderful and fruitful day on Saturday the 3rd of March at the Brighton Philatelic Society Auction and many purchases were made. Whilst at the Brighton Stamp Fair we heard of the sad passing of our friend Max Harding. A doyen of the Philatelic world and friend to so many. We all have different memories of Max and how he helped us with his pleasant disposition and wonderful stamp knowledge and exchange sheets. Vale a good friend.



Vale Max Harding

Do not forget that at the April Meeting members will hand in their Lois Whatley Annual Treasure Hunt items for Judging. All eyes will be on our May meeting when the winners will be announced. This Treasure hunt is in memory of the Late Lois Whatley our Secretary for many years.

As usual I finish this report reminding all that we need more exchange sheets which are the lifeblood of our society.

Happy Stamping... Libby.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at **Old Long Gully School (now CVGT) Cnr Stanfield and Jackson Streets, Long Gully** Extra Daytime Meeting at Golden Square on the Wednesday after the main Tuesday meeting. **Auctions** will be held at all Tuesday meetings **EXCEPT MAY, JULY and NOVEMBER** **5 items per member** are allowed for auctions **except in December** when **10 items per member** are allowed for the Christmas bonanza auction. Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

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The way it was in 1921

Many of you will remember our friend Ed, in Canada who provided a stamp collage for a competition recently. He is one of those lucky people to still have a local stamp shop. He has a good relationship with the owner and recently was shown about fifteen bound year sets of a magazine called "The Graphic". These had been part of an estate the owner had bought and as his business is mostly stamps, he was selling them cheaply to move them on. What collector or history buff would have been able to resist those and eventually, Ed bought all of them. As it was still winter there, it seemed a good idea to stay inside in the warm and peruse his new treasures. The Feb 1921 magazine had an article on the new issues of stamps in a changing Europe and Ed has kindly copied this as he thought we would be interested. He was right, of course.



Stamps as "Scraps of Paper" that Record the Birth of Nations

Just now the philatelists are having the time of their lives, for every known new State, from Finland to Armenia, is producing postage stamps with astonishing zeal and freakishness. Even the "cloud kingdom" has its own unique specimen, and this fetched 200 guineas at a Strand auction some time ago. It was the first Transatlantic Air Post stamp, and was given by the famous pilots, Hawker, Grieve and Alcock, for Newfoundland marine charities.

Small fortunes are being realised for philatelic examples of historic value. Thus a shrewd soldier of our Mesopotamian Force, casting about him for souvenirs, ignored the usual Turkish military trophies, and brought home instead twenty-five British Occupation of Baghdad stamps. For these the dealers promptly paid him £700!



There are furtively printed stamps of the "Irish Republic" in orange, white and green, enclosed in a shamrock frame, and bearing portraits of the "Manchester Martyrs" – those alleged "victims" of a "ruthless" English "domination."

Poland has poured out 400 new stamps, one of them with Paderewski's head; this figures in the collector's album as "the 15-fenygow value, lithoed in scarlet." Serbia shows her rising sun, new Bulgaria her baby Tsar, Boris. And Lettland celebrates her deliverance from the Bolsheviks with a postal allegory of two female figures embracing, with a human skull and withered bush in the foreground to give a tragic touch to the design. The Republic of Esthonia ordered a curiously limited issue of 3500 2-penni orange and 5-penni green. These stamps were on sale for three days only, and they featured seagulls on a furious sea – no doubt as a symbol of freedom emerging from political storms.

German-Austria has swept aside the old Hapsburg stamps and her famous artist, Josef Renner produced a series of new ones, ranging in value from 3 heller to 1 Krone. Several of these bear a post horn, as though to proclaim news of a better Austria day.



Czecho-Slovakia issues include a likeness of the Bohemian blacksmith-scholar, Thomas Masaryk, who is now President of the newly-liberated state. Armenia, too has new stamps to mark the downfall of her old oppressor, the Turk. And in the album of eager buyers are other specimens from such impulsive Republics as Ararat, Georgia and Azerbaijan – whose capital is the famous oil port of Baku, on the Caspian Sea. Even individual cities, made famous in the war, are designing special stamps, and often freakish, they may appreciate to great values. Thus Liege has a 25-centime stamp, which commemorates her heroic defence against the first German onslaught in 1914. The Greeks of Asia Minor too have 'overprinted' certain Turkish stamps, in order to signalise the 'Hellenic Occupation of Cydonia.'

And, of course, that bone of Slav-Italian contention – the Adriatic City of Fiume – has had all sorts of stamps between the Austro-Hungarian amnesty of October 28, 1918, and the seizure of the town by the poet, D'Annunzio. For one day only, Hungarian stamps were issued in Fiume, overprinted 'H.S.H.' (the Yugo-Slav Union). These the Italians banished altogether, substituting a symbolic figure of Fiume, crowned with Italy's star.



Another propaganda issue showed the city's ancient tower, flying the flag of Savoy; yet another, an Italian warship in the famous roadstead of the Adriatic port.

When the Rumanians overran Transylvania, they surcharged all the Magyar stamps, marking them in *lei*, the currency of King Ferdinand's conquering hosts. In Galicia, the Poles and Ukrainians did the same – and afterwards carried on quite a philatelic 'war' among themselves; altering stamp issues, complaining, cross-printing, and making counter-designs, until the stamps of Galicia were in the wildest welter.

The Croats and Slovenes, in a similar manner, expressed the ferment of nationality in new stamps. The rich Ukraine poured out 175 varieties. Alphonse Mucha, the famous Czech artist, is preparing Bohemian designs; one of them showing the ancient fortress of Prague illumined by a new dawn. A Croatian issue has a sailor proclaiming the Republic from the mast-head; and in Laibach, the Slovenes tell their story in a stamp, which bears the dramatic figure of a prisoner, newly released, with loose chains on his hands.



Even States remote from the war's scourge are ordering special 'Peace' issues. Among these is Argentina, who is picturing the Christ statue of her friendly pact with Chile. This colossus stands high above the snow-line in the Andes. Columbia has a new aerial postage stamp, the 2-centavo rose, overprinted, 'Lo servizo Postale-Aereo'. Only 200 copies of this were struck off so it bids fair to become an album prize.



Lastly, there is the Christian-negro Empire of Ethiopia with new issues representing a regular zoo of lions, leopards, rhinos, ostriches and giraffes. Ethiopia was rather in a hurry to get her new stamps, when her "black but comely queen" was crowned in 1917. A Swiss artist, of Berne, M. Walter Plattner, was entrusted with the designs; but the printing of the stamps in Paris was delayed by that shortage of paper, which affected us all at a time when the U-boat ravage was at its height.

It seems almost incredible that it is less than eighty years since Rowland Hill first submitted his beautiful sketches of the novel adhesive postage stamp to the then Chancellor of the Exchequer. This was the famous 'Penny Black' of Great Britain, 1840, for which Henry Courbould supplied the finished design. For three years this innovation remained England's monopoly. Other governments were slow to follow our lead; so that in the following ten years, only twenty nations had adopted postage stamps.

The hobby of collecting dates from 1860. It is well known that King George is one of the greatest living connoisseurs; the curator of his famous collection is Mr. E. D. Bacon, who is also the President of the Royal Philatelic Society. As much as £525 has been given for a rarity which his majesty sold at auction through the National Philatelic War Fund. Among the most coveted stamp treasures, I may mention the '1-cent error of British Guiana, 1856, on crimson paper.' This stamp has fetched £250.

Early issues of the Dutch colonies, preceded by die-proofs and colour trials, realise very high prices. So do certain rare Swiss specimens, such as the 'Basle Dove' and 'double Geneva'. The 5-cent blue, issued by the Alabama Government during the Southern Confederacy, has made as much as £136. But surely the 'stamp of stamps' is the classic 'Post Office Mauritius', a twopenny issue that sold for the extraordinary sum of £1400.

It may well be, however, that even this amazing record will one day be eclipsed by some quite unique stamp, issued by those clamorous new-born or regenerated States, which as a result of the great and appalling struggle from which the nations have recently emerged, now haunt the world's stage, like uneasy hosts of history at Liberty's new feast.

All text, punctuation and spelling are taken from the 1921 original. Some comments and political views expressed may cause offence and do not reflect the views of the editor or the Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc.



Sold for £250 back in 1921. A fortune perhaps, but this was before Dupont slept with it under his pillow so the condition would have been better.

It's not just at the cricket that we beat the Poms

Tom Glazebrook's article last month about the book on the Penny Post and Rowland Hill's postal reforms caused a lot of people to comment. Among them was member Paul Brownlie who showed Tom an article from the Stamp Bulletin No. 143 of October 1979. So to continue the story for those of us who can't remember things we read back then, here is the relevant extract.

“ James Raymond, Postmaster-General of New South Wales, received Rowland Hill's pamphlet together with the report of the committee of enquiry on postal reform, in 1838. Raymond was greatly impressed by the proposal to use stamped stationery to pre-pay postage and upon application, he quickly obtained the approval of the Governor, Sir George Gipps, to employ this method of prepayment for Sydney's local penny post.

It is an interesting fact that Rowland Hill's pamphlet actually resulted in the colony of New South Wales beating Great Britain by eighteen months for the honour of issuing the world's first pre-paid postage stamps. These stamps, issued to the public in 1838, for use on letters posted and delivered within the boundaries of the Sydney penny post, consisted of an embossed impression of the Post Office seal, This seal showed the lion and unicorn in a double circle and the words 'General Post Office, Sydney, New South Wales'. Letter sheets embossed by this seal could be purchased for 1s 3d per dozen sheets or 1¼d each. One penny of this was for postage, the additional ¼d being charged to offset production costs. In addition to these letter sheets, Sydney residents could also purchase notepaper or envelopes embossed with the seal at a cost of 1s 8d for 25 items. These local post pre-paid embossed sheets continued in use until adhesive stamps superseded them in January 1850.”

As Tom commented, we may be colonials but we can lead the world when we want to.



The embossed stamp of the Sydney Penny Post used in Melbourne which was part of New South Wales back then. Image: Australia Post website

And another thing ... (a comment from the editor)

As stated above, the article stimulated a few discussions and reading the book also left a strong impression on me that we have lost a lot over the years. This idea was particularly strengthened by a package that I bought on eBay from China. Let me clarify and show you how the two are linked.

One theme that runs strongly all through the book from the time of the Great Fire of London right up until the First World War was that the Post Office should not be required to make a profit, though it was expected to be run as an efficient business, but any shortfall should be made up from taxes. The argument was that the Post Office's role was to provide a service to the community that would benefit everyone but also would assist the business world to thrive.

As most of the taxes would have come from the business people, rather than the poor who were finally given an affordable means of communicating with absent loved ones, it is a measure of how accepted this idea was that there were no howls of protest from the business world which was given a tool to conduct their business cheaply across the Empire and indeed, the world. The concept seems to have been particularly strongly supported in the United States.

The idea of service being more important than profit seems alien to our modern business moguls and possibly linked to that is the growing disparity between the super-rich and the poor. So is such a thing possible today? Well, China seems to think so.

I needed a small lead to connect a phone to a computer and as I live in a fairly remote area, I use eBay a lot for purchases like that. I found one, very cheaply, direct from the manufacturer in China, in fact it only cost me 99c. I cannot see how anyone can sell anything they have to make for 99c and still make a profit, but that is not the point I'm making. Amazingly, it was post free! How could that be possible? Well, it seems that in order to assist businesses in China to export their products, the Chinese government are giving them free postage. This is taking the concept of service to a whole new level. I checked and if I had wanted to send it the other way, it would have cost me thirteen dollars. So as my father used to say, we seem to have gone from the sublime to the ridiculous!

Long ago, the postman carried a bell which he rang for people to bring him letters to carry. He was sometimes known as the Bellman. These days, he is more commonly known as the Bill man.

Libby Luke - A Presidential Profile.

The Bendigo Post Office Gallery recently showed a profile of our club president, Libby Luke. For those who may have missed it, we reprint it here.



Libby is a philatelist. She began stamp collecting at the age of five after her sister gave her duplicate stamps from her own collection. When her sister went overseas she gave instructions to her mum and dad to keep the collection going, buy new Australian Issue stamps while she was away. Mum and Dad caught the bug and they were all collecting stamps ...

Libby's parents then decided to join a stamp club.

It met on a Saturday night and needless to say I was the only child in attendance, I would have been seven. Mr Ayling came up to me that night after just returning home from a trip to England and said it was his duty to encourage youth philately and gave me some stamps. We became great friends and would spend many hours together with stamps. He had the sixth best Austrian collection in the world. So guess what? Austrian Stamps became my first love. Their designs are very beautiful with fine engraving and are still my favourite collection. I entered stamp competitions winning prizes and put on small exhibitions. One display was entitled 'Austria - The Land of The Waltz and Beautiful Stamps'. Unlike many other children's hobbies which chop and change, mine has never strayed. That means I have been collecting stamps for more than 50 years! At ten years of age I was made an honorary member of the Austrian Stamp Club of Great Britain.



Libby's parents encouraged this passion and opened a standing order with the Austrian Post Office so that Libby would receive all the new issues. Mr Ayling from the stamp club kept in touch and would pay Libby 50 cents an hour in stamps.

Her professional life led Libby to work as the 'Archival Collection Manager' at Australia Post within the Stamps and Philatelic Group. She was a member of this group for 18 years. This role required managing the huge collection of stamps and compiling albums for the Queen to mark her visits to Australia.

For Libby, stamp collecting is a wonderful hobby that teaches you so much about different themes and subjects. It has enabled her to make life-long friends through the common pursuit of that elusive stamp which will complete a set or fill a gap in the collection.

A Stamp That didn't Make It

I was looking at stamps by the great French designer and engraver, Henry Cheffer, when I came across an item I hadn't seen before. I'm guessing that many of our members are in a similar position so here it is.



As war began in 1939 in Europe, the governments of Britain and France planned on a joint issue to demonstrate their mutual support and obligations. The stamp would be designed in France and printed in England. France chose Henry Cheffer as designer, being a well established French stamp designer as well as being one of their foremost engravers. (Britain would have preferred it to be designed by Edmund Dulac, a French national living in London who had already designed stamps for Britain.)

Cheffer was confirmed but as his designs were more suitable for engraved issues, it was decided that Dulac would redraw the design in preparation for the British preferred printing method of photogravure. The printing contract went to Harrison and Sons.

Cheffer completed his design, showing the heads of King George VI and President Lebrun of France and all went to plan right up until the first essays by Harrisons in 1940. Then came the news that France had asked for an armistice with Germany and the whole balance of power in Europe changed suddenly. The stamp was quietly forgotten.

Henry Cheffer was well known to the British postal authorities as in 1938, King George and Queen Elizabeth had visited France. Cheffer was chosen to produce the commemorative stamp for their visit, shown at right.

You can read more on the joint issue at the British Postal Museum website

<https://postalheritage.wordpress.com/2010/07/14/a-stamp-for-the-anglo-french-alliance/>



Extra Daytime Meeting of the Bendigo Philatelic Society.

If you are unable to get to our regular evening meeting, or want more time to pursue your collecting interests, we now have a daytime meeting on the morning after our main meeting.

Members are welcome to attend both meetings. Daytime meetings will not be formal meetings.

Venue: Golden Square Hall, 9 Old High St.
(Bendigo Field Naturalists Club rooms)
(Behind the Golden Square Fire Station)

Date and time: Wednesday April 4th. at 10.00am
(Then every Wednesday following the Tuesday meeting)

Coffee, Tea, biscuits etc, available throughout the meeting.

The venue has lots of free parking, has ground floor and ramp access and is close to a bus stop in High street. Further details if required can be obtained from the club secretary.



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday 11th August 2018

9.30am - 3.30pm

Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin Dealers

St Andrews

Uniting Church Hall
24 Myers Street Bendigo

Free Entry

Food and Drinks Available

Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc

P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552

www.bendigophilatelicssociety.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

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