

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

May 2018



Diary of Future Events

May	Tuesday	1st	Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.
May	Wednesday	2nd	Daytime Meeting.
June	Tuesday	5th	Soccer World Cup.
June	Wednesday	6th	Daytime Meeting.
July	Tuesday	3rd	Moon Stamps Lunar Eclipse.
July	Wednesday	4th	Daytime Meeting.
August	Tuesday	7th	Year of a Clean & Healthy Planet.
August	Wednesday	8th	Daytime Meeting.
August	Saturday	11th	Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair

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

President's Report May 2018

Another month of 2018 has gone past and what have we done ?
First we had a wonderful day with the members of the St. Arnaud Stamp Club. A wonderful morning was enjoyed by all and we had 20 members present. A big thank you to all who contributed to make this day a success. Great to see you St. Arnaud. Do come back again.

Last meeting entries were collected for the Annual Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt and results will be announced at our May meeting.

On Saturday the 28th of April many of our members will attend the Maryborough Annual Stamp Fair. Come along and enjoy the day and hopefully pick up that elusive treasure.

Owing to ill health Myrtle will not be providing supper after this month. A big thank you for all your effort Myrtle Get well ASAP. We now need a member to pick up Tea, Coffee, Milk and biscuits from the Supermarket. We are looking for volunteers Please contact me if you can help..

We continue to ask for more exchange sheets so Lick and Stick please.
Happy Collecting ...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.

CLUB CONTACTS:

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St Arnaud club visits Bendigo

St Arnaud is not a big town, nor is the stamp club there particularly large but what both lack in size, they make up for in enthusiasm. A love for all things philatelic brought them to Bendigo this month to join us at our daytime meeting.

To add to the fun, our club decided to run a second auction for the month, something that doesn't usually happen at the daytime meetings. This, of course, meant a lot of extra work for Margaret, our stalwart treasurer, who had to keep track of it all. Thanks, Margaret!

Fortunately, our webmaster was in attendance with camera in hand to record the event.



Our St.Arnaud Visitors.



Getting ready for the Auction.



No time for stamps until after the auction finishes. Our hard-working Treasurer and Auction coordinator.



Let the battle begin!



A novel way to keep a wants list



Heads down! Time for a serious look at the exchange sheets

Soliloquy of a Postage Stamp

Ernest W. Brady, an Irish-American born in the 1880s wrote this in 1963.

I am the world's greatest traveler. I've journeyed from pole to pole and all the climes in between . . . by dogsled, camel and horseback, by every land, sea and air conveyance; even by submarine, dirigible and rocket.

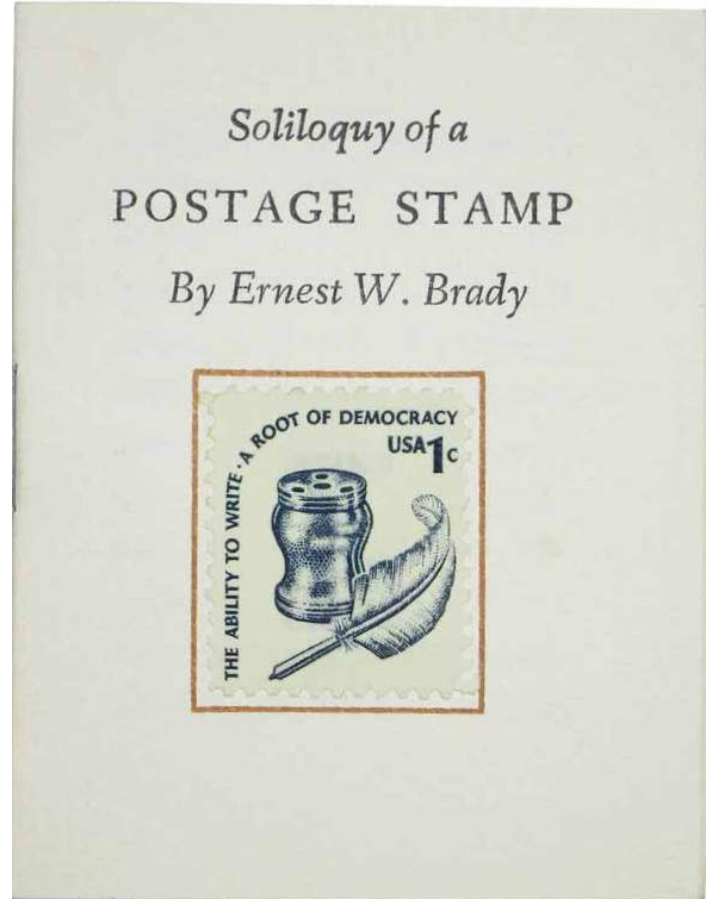
I am the world's greatest art and portrait gallery. The heroes and heroines of mythology pose within my borders. I portray the greats and the near-greats of all time; kings and queens, pharaohs and presidents, princes and princesses, poets and patriots, emperors and explorers, athletes, architects, aviators, artists and adventurers, tribal chieftains, inventors, moguls, musicians and martyrs, dramatists and novelists, shahs, sultans, saints and sinners. Even the vanished forms of the phoenix, dragon, centaur and unicorn appear on my face.

I am the world's greatest picture chronicle and miniature encyclopedia. I map communities, countries and continents, and reveal views from every strange remote corner of the earth. I depict mountains and valleys; oceans, rivers, lakes, waterfalls, geysers, harbors, bridges and dams; native canoes, sailing ships and modern ocean liners; monuments and statues; castles, cathedrals, churches, missions, mosques, temples and ruins of temples; and every type of locomotion, from automobiles to zeppelins and steamboats to space ships. I delineate all manner of sports, handicrafts, customs, sacred rites and ceremonies; and nearly every variety of bird, animal, fish, fruit and flower.

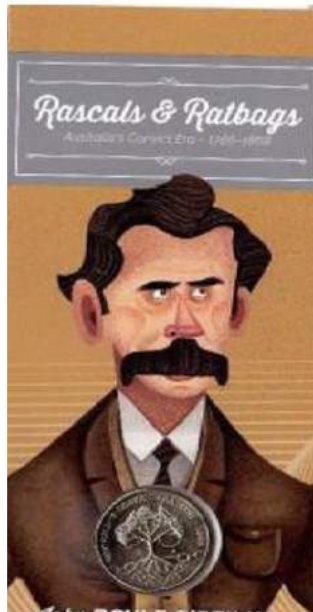
I frame the horrors of war, the blessings of peace, the hardships of emigration, the plight of indigence and the blight of famine. I illustrate the adventures of Don Quixote, the fairy tales of childhood and the legends of all civilizations. I reflect the symbols of art and culture, of natural resources and industry, of trade and commerce, of agriculture and architecture, and of all human endeavor(s). I commemorate the expeditions and voyages, and the inventions, discoveries and creations that make life worth living.

Millions of men, women and children are fascinated by me. Through my infinite variety they find boundless pleasure, relaxation and enchantment.

Yet . . . I am only a postage stamp!

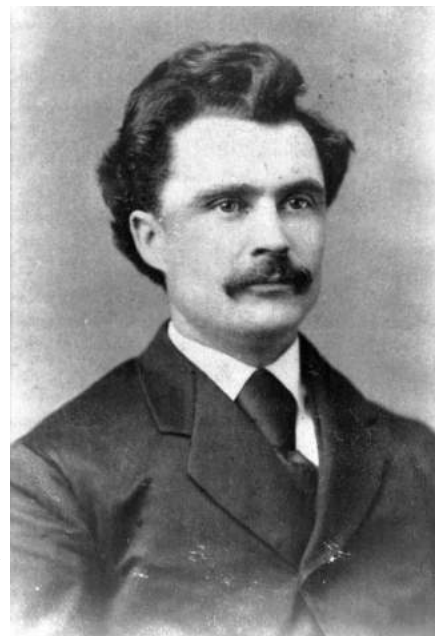


Editorial



John Boyle O'Reilly

I always enjoy reading the newsletters from other clubs and the one from Orange is always full of interesting things that I didn't know. Surprisingly then, their April newsletter made me extremely angry. This was not due to any failing by the club but by seeing a picture of the new Australian mint coins that they have called "Rascals and Ratbags". Apart from the Disney-style cartoons, which I think are appalling but concede that is just a matter of taste, what has really upset me is their choice of John Boyle O'Reilly who was neither a rascal nor a ratbag but a man whose courage and integrity, if imitated by our leaders in government, business and even religion, would lead to Australia being a far better place to live.



How do I know this? Well, back in 1976, my band recorded a song called "The Catalpa" which told the story of a group of Irish political prisoners, the last convicts to ever arrive in Australia, who were languishing in Fremantle Jail. One of the group was John Boyle O'Reilly who escaped to America and there helped organise the rescue of the other six prisoners. They sent a whaling ship, the Catalpa, to Western Australia plus a shore party who got the prisoners out of jail. The whaler's boat, under the leadership of Captain Anthony, rowed ashore, picked up the men and took them back to the ship. They were chased by the government steamship, the Georgette, but made it back to the Catalpa, which was waiting in international waters. Although the Georgette fired a shot across their bows, Anthony raised the US flag and warned them that if they tried to board it would be an act of piracy and could cause a war with the United States. The Georgette then gave up and went home and the Catalpa sailed to America to a hero's welcome.

It was a stirring story which interested me in the man in the background and I spent the next twelve years researching his life, during which time he became a hero of mine. It culminated in writing a pair of radio plays for the ABC, the first about O'Reilly, his time in Australia and his escape and the second about his part in the escape of his comrades leading into the story of the Catalpa incident. (If any member has an interest in hearing them, I can lend you a cd). There is much more to his story, particularly his later years in Boston where he became a highly respected newspaper editor. He was never known to swear.

This honourable man, whom the mint have the temerity to label a "rascal and ratbag" died tragically at the age of 46 due to a mix up between medication that he was taking and that of his wife. Although the mistake was instantly realized, he was not able to be saved and died a few hours later. America declared a day of mourning. Former President Cleveland read the eulogy at his funeral.

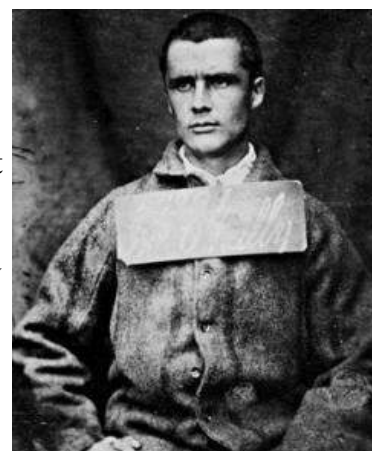
"I have heard with sincere regret that John Boyle O'Reilly is dead. I regarded him as a strong and able man, entirely devoted to any cause he espoused, unselfish in his activity, true and warm in his friendship, and patriotic in his enthusiasm." – Former US President Grover Cleveland

"It is a public calamity - not only a loss to the country, but a loss to the Church, and to humanity in general." – Cardinal James Gibbons

"John Boyle O'Reilly was a man of heroic mold and nature; brave, adventurous, patriotic, enthusiastic, with the perfervidum ingenium, which belongs quite as much to the Irish as to the Scotch. We have been proud of him as an adopted citizen, feeling always that his native land could ill spare so noble a son. His poems show what he might have been had he devoted himself to letters. His higher claim is that he was a true and courageous lover of his country and of his fellow men" – Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr.

Rascal? Ratbag? No way!

John Armstrong



O'Reilly's West Australian prison photo

Scanning stamps for the internet

There are many reasons why people wish to scan stamps for the internet ranging from building a website to joining in a conversation on one of the stamp oriented discussion groups, or even to sell on eBay. If you look at what is presented, especially on eBay, you will notice that there is a wide range in the quality of the images that are shown.

Of course, with eBay, poor images are often intentional as that venue is home to many of the crooks and shysters who use this as a strategy to hide flaws and deficiencies in the stamps they are selling. A good rule, when buying online, is never buy if the image shown does not give you a clear picture of what you will be buying, unless, of course, you know the seller.

Ignoring the dark side of the hobby, there are several tricks and things to remember when scanning for the internet. The first is size and resolution. When it first became possible to show images on the internet, computers had much less memory and space on their hard drives than they do today. In order to conserve this, it was generally recommended that images should be scanned at around 72 dots per inch (dpi). At the time this was considered the maximum required to look good on the screen but also at this time, most screens were far smaller than they are today. Older images scanned like that appear grainy or blurred on modern screens. Images that look good on many of the "chat" sites have been scanned at 300-1200 dpi but as screen size and quality continues to increase, even those may look grainy in a few years time.

Scanners are no longer expensive and most printers these days incorporate a scanner. When scanning stamps, a stand alone scanner has a slight advantage over a printer/scanner, the main one being the angle of light hitting the stamp. This is more acute in a printer/scanner which can sometimes lead to the scan being lighter at the bottom than at the top. This can be addressed by manipulating the image after scanning and pretty much all types of scanner come with software for adjusting how the final image looks. So here are some of the tips.

Firstly, before you scan, only select the area you want in the final image and then scan at as high a resolution as the scanner will do within a minute or two. For instance, I keep all the scans on my website at 9600dpi which should future-proof them for some years to come. If I scan at 9600, which is as high as my machine allows, it will take ten to fifteen minutes to do each stamp. So far, I have scanned 11,000 stamps onto the site but am only half way through the stamps I intend to scan. If I took fifteen minutes each, the job would take generations rather than years. (When I started, three years ago, I optimistically thought I would complete the job in two years.) This is where size comes into the equation, measured in pixels or sometimes in kilobytes.

A good size for showing on the internet is around 800 pixels on the longest edge. If I were to scan the stamp shown above, even as low as 1200dpi, I will get an image that is several thousand pixels high which is more than I need. I can then exchange pixels for dpi by editing the size of the image before I save it. The programme I use, which is pretty typical, offers to edit three interlocked values, by that I mean that you alter them all at once. If you change the height, it adjusts the width to suit and I can also tell it what dpi I want the final image to have. With the image above, I have reduced the height to 800 and increased the dpi to 9600. 800 is often the limit set by some bulletin boards, (though some also limit the kilobytes which may need a further reduction on larger stamps).

The stamps I usually scan are line-engraved, printed by the intaglio method. These stamps are the only ones where a third dimension is important, that of depth as the ink stands proud on the paper. All of the programmes I have used have allowed me to enhance this by increasing the shadow component to give a three dimensional effect but you need to take heed of the colour of the stamp. Blue and black stamps can be enhanced in this way very well, though they may need brightening slightly, Red and carmine stamps tend to flare when the shadow is increased so with these, a reduction in the colour saturation is usually required. I know this all is getting a bit technical, but after you have tried a few, I know you will find it all comes together. Experimentation and practice will soon have you posting images that are the envy of your friends.



You should receive this newsletter in time for the...

Maryborough Stamp & Coin Fair (Vic).

Saturday, 28th April, 2018

from 9.30 to 3pm

**St. Augustine's Hall,
Cnr Kars & Burns Streets**

**5 Melbourne & Local Dealers
& Members' Tables**

Light Refreshments

Lucky Door Prizes

Philatelic Displays

**FREE ENTRY
& On-Street Parking**

Contact: Grey Loyer 5460 5008
gloyer(at)live.com.au

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 May 2nd. 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.bendigophilatelicociety.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au