



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 88th year

November 2018



Diary of Future Events

- November 6 Club Competitions. No Auction this month.
- November 7 Daytime Meeting.
- December 4 Christmas Eats and Mammoth Auction.
- December 5 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

Presidents Report 2017-2018

It is now 14 months since our last Annual Meeting and the world of Philately has moved along as has our Society. California Gully Rotary premises did not measure up to our expectations and we were left with a night I am sure we would rather forget.

With the assistance of our Vice President Bill Trew we obtained the use of the Old Specimen Hill State School Hall now owned by CVGT, which has been our home for our night meeting for over twelve months. It meets all the requirements we need.

Our Wednesday Day morning meeting has become a regular feature at Golden Square and we have had visits from our sister clubs of St. Arnaud and Ballarat and it was wonderful having them as our guests. A big thank you to Ken Datson who is the organizer for our daytime meeting. Apart from the Exchange sheets the social atmosphere is wonderful. If you have not attended and are able please come and join us for a most relaxed and friendly morning. Remember it is on the Wednesday morning following the night meeting.

The Library has a new Manager in our Ian Kimpton and books can be ordered online and picked up at the night meeting. They can be returned the same way. We thank our previous Librarian Jim Garden for all his hard work and wish him every happiness in his re-location.

We are pleased to have Myrtle back with us, and hope her medical problems are hopefully now behind her. Keep well Myrtle.

Annual Dues for the present year are now due so please pay our unpaid hard working Treasurer Margaret Brown.



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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 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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Presidents Report 2017-2018 (Continued)

Our committee continues to meet as required and my thanks go to each of you.

It would be very remiss of me if I did not thank everyone involved with our Annual Stamp Fair. Especially Bill, who is our Fair co- coordinator. Also John Armstrong for all his extra work, and added duties when we were on our Annual Holiday to the Sunshine Coast. Our newsletter is revered by clubs far and wide.

Most of my outgoing correspondence usually ends with a plea for more exchange sheets !!! This time I would like to on behalf of everybody sincerely thank Lyn Downward for the outstanding work she does in managing the Exchange sheets.

A BIG THANK YOU FROM ALL OF US.

I now would like to thank all the members because without you all we would not have such a great club. Thank you for your support , and let us all continue to enjoy the hobby we all love.

Now to another year !!! Enjoy and may that elusive stamp you require turn up.

Libby Luke, October 2018.

Victorian and NSW Numeral Postmarks Needed

We received a letter this month from Gary Carbines of Apple Stamps in Devonport who is looking for postmarks for a client. He wrote:

“Greetings. I’m buying not selling!

I have a client who is after numeral cancellations on selected NSW and Victorian stamps. The numerals required are difficult to find and might be hiding in private collections. There may also be collectors in your club who specialize in this form of collecting.

My request is for you to please contact members to find who might be able to help. It would simply mean them doing a collection search for numerals on their stamps and then contacting me with the numbers that are clearly visible. This is the easiest method as there is a considerable list of numerals required.”

Gary has included an image of two of the types of stamp his client is seeking and this is shown at right. He can be contacted by email at garycarbines@gmail.com or alternatively, he has supplied a reply-paid envelope which can be obtained from our secretary at the next meeting.



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 October 3rd. 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.

What we did on our holidays...Well, stamps, of course!

David, Libby and Tom left us here freezing during the coldest part of winter and headed north to Queensland. So how did they fill their time? Why, by visiting as many stamp clubs and fairs as they could find. Tom took these photos of the day at Caloundra.

“This is a wonderful club that always welcomes us with a most wonderful array of Exchange books.



The club meets on the 4th Thursday of each month in the afternoon. Here is a photograph of the scenic and wonderful venue.



Both David and Libby came away with some bargains according to them.



Look at the heap of Stamps in front of David. He may come back to Bendigo looking for a loan (BIG GRIN)”

Hearts, Tarts and other tales

In 2009, the USA chose as the subject for their popular “Love” series of stamps, the King and Queen of Hearts, shown as playing cards. We probably all remember the old rhyme:

*The Queen of Hearts made some tarts
All on a Summer’s day
The knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts
And took them all away.*

What is less well known is that the poem refers to a real person. She was a Scot, Elizabeth, daughter of King James VI who became James I of England and she was the elder sister of the future King Charles I. Her story is intertwined with one of the bloodiest and most tragic periods in European history between 1618 and 1648 which came to be known as the “Thirty Years War”.

Elizabeth married Frederick, Elector of the Palatinate in Bavaria, by some accounts a fairly incompetent ruler, at a time when there was relative peace between Catholics and Protestants in Europe as the Holy Roman Emperor, Matthias, had issued decrees urging religious tolerance and giving freedom of worship to Protestants. All this changed with his death. His successor, Ferdinand II (was he the Knave?) was a zealous Catholic and fervently anti-Protestant and began trying to enforce Catholicism throughout Europe. This was resisted in the more Protestant parts of Europe and the leaders of the Kingdom of Bohemia offered the crown to Elizabeth’s husband Frederick, which he accepted.



Elizabeth, Queen of Hearts

Ferdinand did not take this lying down. Matthias had ruled the empire from Prague but this did not suit Ferdinand and he sent two Catholic ministers to Prague to take over administration of the government. The locals were not having any of this and in what later became known as the Prague Defenestration, they threw the two men and their secretary out of a third storey window where they fell 21 metres but amazingly, survived.

Needless to say, the Catholics claimed that divine intervention had saved the men and preached that they had been caught by angels. The Protestants countered with their own story which was probably made up. They said the men had survived by landing in a dung heap. Either way, after that it was on for young and old with both sides readying armies and calling on allies for support. Although England was not officially involved, Elizabeth being from Scotland meant that three unofficial forces of Scots and English soldiers, the largest one totalling 600,000 men were sent to join the war.

The Protestant forces were defeated at the Battle of White Mountain and Elizabeth and Frederick took flight to the Hague where they lived in exile. Frederick died, at the age of 36, while returning from a trip to Sweden where he had hoped to gain assistance to regain his throne. James I refused them any assistance and they lived in relative poverty but it is during this period that her cheerful forbearance earned her the affectionate name of “Queen of Hearts”.

For Europe, the trouble was far from over as the fighting continued. By the end of the thirty years, over eight million people had died, both soldiers and civilians, some from the war but many from the results of the war including starvation and plagues. So bad did conditions become that after several crop failures as well, people began to panic and believe that it must all be the work of the devil and this led to the greatest number of witch hunts in history. Unfortunately, those eight million died in vain as even today, religious tolerance has not been achieved throughout the world and trying to spread religion by violence is still practiced widely.

In 1660, Charles II was restored to the throne of England and the following year, Elizabeth returned to England. By this time, she had seen the death of her husband and four of her children as well as the execution of her brother, Charles I. She was old and sick and lived quietly until in February 1662, she died and was buried in Westminster Abbey. Although the Stuarts were eventually removed from the throne, in a way, they are still there. Elizabeth’s grandson, the Elector of Hanover, became King George I. The current monarch, Elizabeth II, is a direct descendant through two different paths.

Stamp Investment. An interesting article from the past.

Ken Datson found this newspaper clipping which we were guessing came from the early 1980s. The cartoon by Neil (Neil Matterson) helps with dating it. He produced cartoons for the Sun and Herald (separate papers back then) from 1975 until 1982.

As some of us may remember, at that time there was a frantic bubble of investors who expected stamps to make them into millionaires. Like all such bubbles throughout history it eventually burst leaving most people sorely out of pocket. I remember around that time being told that the block of 25 1971 Christmas stamps was "worth" three hundred dollars. The block shown below is available on eBay for sixty five and Ken says he recently bought one for sixteen!

Philately puts the stamp on inflation

By PHILIP BEARD

THE humble postage stamp is proving to be one of the best inflation fighters around today.

So much so, that the face of philately is rapidly changing from stamp collecting to stamp investing.

The once peaceful domain of the collectors' life-long hobby is being disturbed by the speculator and investor.

"Stamp collecting is not a hobby any more," the Australian director of Robson Lowe International, Mr Ray Kelly, said.

Robson Lowe International, which is based in Britain, is one of the world's biggest stamp dealers.

"Investors and speculators have moved into the market, and the day of the collector having the market to himself is gone," Mr Kelly said.

He said the main appeal about stamps was that they appreciated at a faster rate than inflation.

"In 99 per cent of cases, stamps either appreciate or stay stable," he said.

"Rarely do they decline in value."

Mr Kelly said stamps were the second most negotiable currency.

He said his company was not an investment adviser, but offered potential investors in stamps the following advice.

"They should look for high denomination, low-issue stamps," he said.

"The high denomination issues of the past, such as the King

George V issue, and the five-shilling Sydney Harbor Bridge stamp, are fetching top prices.

Another Melbourne stamp dealer Mr Lionel Evans said potential investors should favor local stamps because they were easier to sell.

He said investors should also seek the older issues as investment prospects.

"Some older issues have increased in value between 200 per cent and 300 per cent," Mr Evans said.

"Few new issues will do that."

"The proven items bring the best prices."

Both dealers stressed that the condition of

the stamp was very important, and buyers should be wary of defects.

Potential investors were advised to talk to dealers before buying and to read about philately.

Mr Evans said it was important that people planning to invest in stamps should learn as much as they could about them.

Mr Kelly dispelled the notion of overnight riches through stamps.

"If you're looking to make a quick profit, stay out of stamps and take your money to the racecourse," he said.

"You must plan to hold on to the stamp for at least a year, perhaps several years."

Mr Kelly also warned that potential stamp

investors could burn their fingers.

The 35c Australian Christmas stamp of 1974 gained in value quickly, and many collectors expected the same about the 45c Christmas issue, of 1975, he said.

"As speculators moved in, the price rose to \$3.50 in 1976," he said.

"But the current price is \$1, so those who bought at the top of the mountain burnt their fingers."

Mr Kelly said there was little trouble selling stamps on the Australian market.

In addition, people had little difficulty selling their local stamps overseas.

There is little doubt that stamp collecting is booming.



Evidence of this is that Australia Post's philatelic sales section lifted 1975-76 turnover by \$1.25 million to \$5.25 million.

So, if you're thinking about hitting the stamp market in a bigger way than Stanley Gibbons (father of modern philately) and need a final push, Australia Post will buy back unused stamps in good condition at 90 per cent of face value.

This is not a bad guarantee in the present uncertain economic climate.



The 1971 Christmas block. \$300 in 1982. A fraction of that now

In the article above, Ray Kelly and Lionel Evans were not advocating buying "trendy" (at the time) philatelic items like the above but if you read the article carefully, you will see that the advice they were giving is as true today as it ever was. High quality items have outstripped inflation since the eighties whereas the myriad offerings from Australia Post as "collectables" have languished and many of the stamps that were bought in the past as investments are now being sold off for cheap postage at well under face value.

Rube Goldberg had the problem licked!

Many of us who collect stamps are not keen on the peel and stick variety but the postal authorities are adamant that people want them as they don't like licking stamps. One can only assume that they have done some research to back this up but anecdotal evidence would suggest that they are correct. Over the years, people have complained about the taste and claimed that licking stamps is a health hazard (you don't know where they've been) or a weight hazard. On the right is an article that we showed some months back but it is worth repeating.

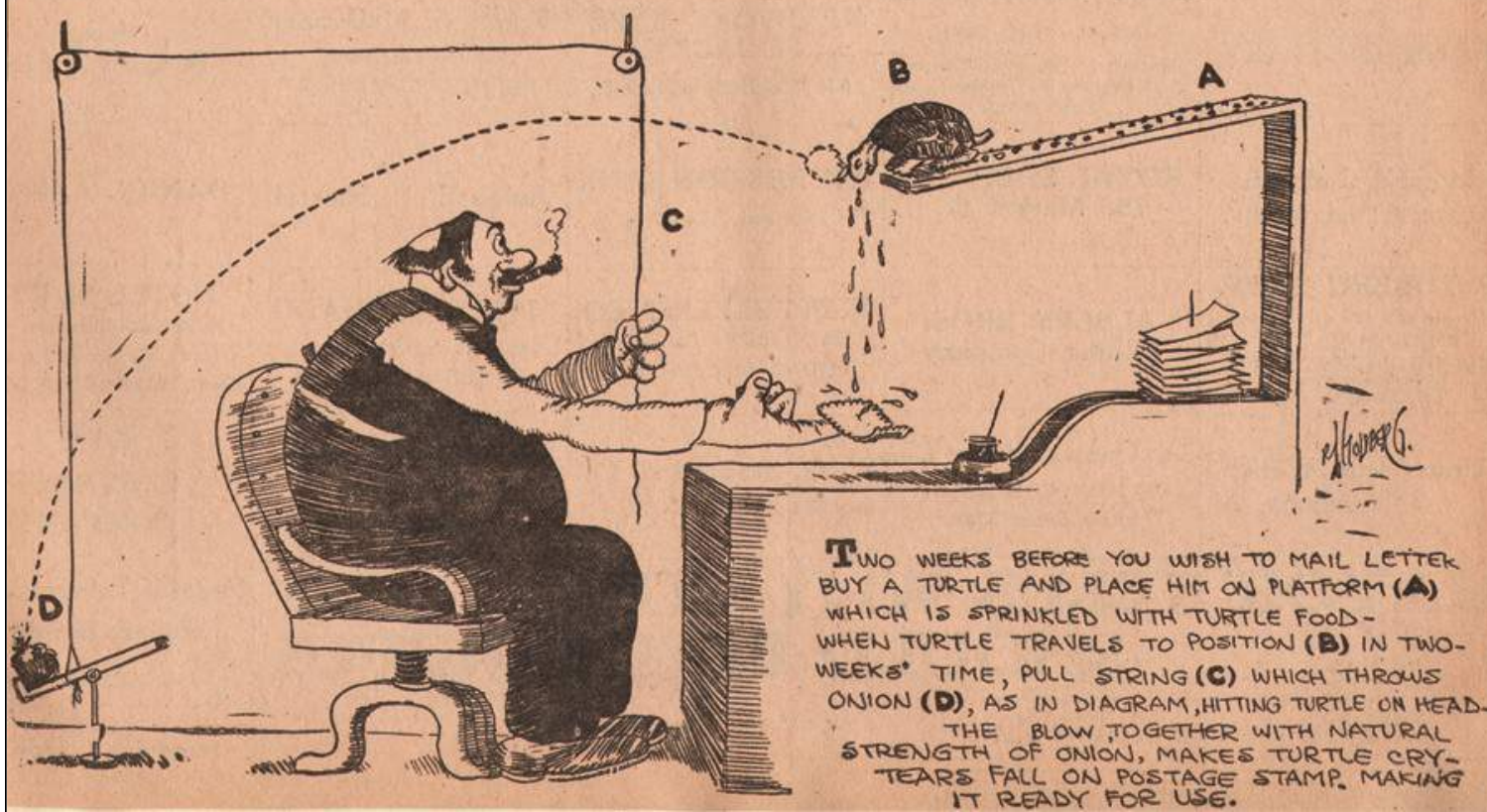
Reuben Garrett Lucius Goldberg, known as Rube was an engineer, sculptor and inventor who was also a cartoonist. He is best remembered for his cartoons of mechanical inventions that were aimed at solving problems such as how to safely wet a stamp. Although it is nearly fifty years since he died in December 1970, that particular solution, offered to the world in 1916, can still cause us to raise a smile.

PHILATELY FATTENING

UK trade journal, *The Philatelic Exporter*, reported in its March edition that Royal Mail (GB) has confirmed that the gum on a single stamp contains 5.9 calories, so that by licking five stamps a day for a month would accumulate 885 calories, more than the average portion of fish and chips! Apparently the wood-based gum contains naturally occurring and highly calorific, sugars. All this vital information has come to light as GB recently released its new series of self-adhesive booklets.

The Only Sanitary Way to Lick a Postage Stamp

Copyright, 1916, by R. L. Goldberg.



Stamp Bulletins Needed

Ian reports that the reaction to last month's plea for Stamp Bulletins was extremely gratifying and our thanks go to the members who found bulletins for our librarian, especially Ken and Paul. We now only need a few to complete the collection, either as an original or alternatively a photocopy or digital copy. The numbers required are:

100, 101, 102, 103,

If you can help with any of these, please contact the club through one of the methods listed on the front page of this newsletter or give them to Ian Kimpton at our meeting.

Forger Who Turned Stamp Designer

We were given a July 13, 1962 page from a (now-defunct English?) journal called Philatelic Magazine which contained an article, written by R. A. Long about the designer and engraver of the Liechtenstein stamp shown. As after more than fifty years this should now be in the public domain, we are repeating R. A. Long's information for the benefit of modern collectors.

“Behind eleven of Liechtenstein's most beautifully designed and engraved stamps there lies a curious history. Eugene Zotow, by birth a Russian Jew, was previously Professor Ivan Miassojediff of the St. Petersburg Academy of Art before the Bolshevik Revolution. Later, when Stalin began to persecute the Jews, the Professor fled from Russia to Berlin where he met an old pupil, Solomon Smolianoff.



There, in Berlin, when not painting and turning out etchings, the pair pooled their artistic talents in counterfeiting British and American currency notes and forging passports. They were caught by the German police and imprisoned. After release and further brushes with the Berlin police, Zotow slipped out of Germany into hiding in Liechtenstein just before the outbreak of WW2.

To digress for a moment, his confederate, Smolianoff remained in Germany, was caught again and imprisoned then was employed by Hitler on the abortive plan to produce millions of forged English currency notes to be dropped on that country and unsettle their economy.

But to return to Zotow, who had quietly slipped into Liechtenstein before the war started. He looked such a kind, sad, old man that he was unofficially allowed to stay and people got accustomed to seeing him at his easel painting scenes of the surrounding countryside. Before long he was doing well with delightful etchings of scenes in and around Vaduz, the capital.

His work caught the eye of a senior postal official and Zotow was commissioned to produce some stamps. The Government was pleased with his first set in 1939 (SG193-5) and his engraving of “The Madonna and Child” (SG200) of the same year, and commissioned two further sets in 1942 and 1943, viz, “600th Anniversary of Separation from Estate of Montfort” (SG205-9) and “Completion of Irrigation Canal” (SG221-4).

Following these, his painting and etching work increased and all might have gone well but for the fact that he attracted the attention of Baron Edward Falz-Fein who was engaged in propaganda to make Liechtenstein a tourist centre and wanted the maximum artistic merit in both stamps and currency notes.

He discussed with Zotow the relative artistic merits of various countries' notes and Zotow thought the most beautiful were the Swiss and French notes. Asked what he thought of American notes, Zotow replied that the Americans were stupid as they made notes of different denominations but the same size which encouraged forgers.

This conversation probably tempted Zotow to return to his bad old ways. He went to Switzerland and then to a spot on the Italian border where he met his old pupil and confederate, Smolianoff, who had survived, and from him obtained the necessary counterfeiting material, copper plates, etc. He obtained the paper by bleaching USA one dollar notes and printing thereon *one hundred* dollar bills.

Unfortunately for Zotow one of his agents in Zurich offered some of these \$100 bills to two men who, thinking it was some Black Market operation, reported the matter to the American Consul. Enquiries followed which eventually led to Zotow. He was arrested, tried, convicted and sentenced to two years imprisonment and deportation.

When released, he went to England where he tried for a job with Waterlow and Son. Though they admired his work they could obviously not employ him. Unable to find a home or employment in England, he set sail for the Argentine and died suddenly. This great, if perverted, master of his art had one little foible. He was not content that his stamps should bear simply his name, E. Zotow. His academic distinction was not to be overlooked and on his stamps appears ‘Prof. E. Zotow.’

R. A Long”



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

Saturday

10th August 2019

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.bendigophilatelicsociety.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: marj.trew@bigpond.com.au