



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89th year

February 2019



Diary of Future Events

Tuesday	February	5	Chinese New Year.
Wednesday	February	6	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	March	5	Aircraft Before 1940.
Wednesday	March	6	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	April	2	World Health Awareness.
Wednesday	April	3	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	May	7	Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.
Wednesday	May	8	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

President's Message February 2019

With the holidays all behind us now we can hopefully look forward to another successful Philatelic Year.

January meetings both Night and Day were very successful and members in attendance all enjoyed a break from all things Christmas and back to looking for that treasure.

I am hoping that the heat has kept you all safely in doors and working on your collection.

My time has been spent working and sorting my Australian Covers I have purchased from Archival Survival, Binders and Acid Free Storage pockets, this makes for better preservation and organization than the old shoe box.

It is back to our usual meeting rooms this month and we hope you can find or make a display that celebrates the CHINESE NEW YEAR.

After our break we now look forward to the Stamp Fairs from our sister clubs and particularly Ballarat which is held at the famous Begonia Festival on Monday the 11th of March 9:30Am to 3PM.

As I close this letter do not forget Exchange sheets or as they are better known "Lick and Stick" !!!

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 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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Rotary v Flat Plate Printing

If, like several of our members, you collect stamps from the United States, you may have had trouble sorting out the differences in some of the early copies. A novice collector might look at the two stamps shown and conclude that they are the same. More experienced collectors might point out the difference in shade or the fact that one has obviously been printed from a plate that was showing wear but many of us would struggle when it comes to deciding whether they were printed on a flat plate press or a rotary press. For some issues this can mean a large difference in catalogue value.



The 1924 Scott's specialised catalogue, here on the desk, has this to say.

“The rotary press stamps are printed from plates that are curved to fit around a cylinder. This curvature produces stamps that are slightly larger, either horizontally or vertically, than those printed from flat plates. Designs of stamps from flat plates measure about 18½ - 19mm wide by 22 mm high. When the impressions are placed sideways on the curved plates the designs are 19½-20mm wide; when they are placed vertically the designs are 22½ to 23mm high.”

The difference is because the same transfer roller is used for both types of plate so with the rotary press, when the plate is bent round the cylinder the image is stretched. As you can see, we are dealing with as little as a half of a millimeter here so it can be difficult to see, particularly with ageing eyes.

One way to test, if you have a few of these is to place one on top of the other until you find two, such as those shown at right, where a difference can be seen. The lower one, which is the one on the left above, is slightly wider and therefore the rotary print while the other is from a flat plate press. As both of these are fairly poor examples of the stamp they could be sacrificed to use as templates for checking other stamps.



Laurie Bryant pointed out an improvement on this idea, as shown on the Kenmore Stamp Company website at <https://www.kenmorestamp.com/flat-vs-rotary>. This is a very informative site for collectors of US stamps. They suggest using a cheap or damaged flat plate stamp (the smaller image) and cutting off the four corners to make it easier to see the stamp underneath. This would certainly make the process a bit less fiddly and make it easier to line up the sides or top and bottom. By aligning the top and left frame lines on both stamps it can then be easily seen if the stamp being checked is wider or longer whereas without cutting off the corners, width and height have to be checked separately. Aligning the frame lines is also easier without having the intrusion of the white border.



The Plethora of New Issues. Where did it all start?

In the introduction to the 1949 Stanley Gibbons KGVI catalogue, the writer for Gibbons is irate that the British Post Office has issued three commemorative sets in 1948, loudly condemning the fact that the government issued them purely to raise revenue from collectors.

One wonders what the writer would think of present day stamp issuing bodies. There would be few countries these days that limited their commemorative issues to three sets and if they did, there would probably be twenty different values to each set.

Old catalogues can be valuable references as they often contain information that does not appear in the newer publications due to the space restrictions caused by so many stamps now available. They can also offer glimpses of attitudes in the past, as the 1949 article shows. As it also mentions, by 1949, many countries were using stamp issues to raise revenue for their governments, though the Australian Post Office did not put its nose into the trough until the late 1960s, after which there was an explosion of new issues. It is no surprise that many collectors name 1970 as the cut-off date for their collection, preferring to specialize on earlier issues or widen the number of countries collected. One has to wonder when stamps went from being a simple receipt for prepaid postage to a venue for government greed. Apparently, not long after the first stamps were issued.

In our last issue, we mentioned A. J. Derrick's history of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, published in 1926. He tells how the society strongly condemned the 1897 decision by the Victorian Government to "follow the bad example of New South Wales and issue 'Hospital' stamps". Their view was not universal and the Australian Philatelist stated that "the collector who would reject a stamp for such a laudable and humanitarian object, because it is not strictly necessary from a postal point of view is unworthy the consideration of all right thinking Philatelists."

The collecting gene, or virus, or whatever it is that drives us to seek out items for our collections has always left us open to exploitation. Many early collectors were wealthy so of course they were seen as being a rich source of revenue. Have you ever wondered why the British Post Office decided to print the plate numbers on their Victorian Penny Reds. That decision was surely made by the marketing department rather than the designer. Originally, they were printed from the same plates as the Penny Black but then, in 1864, the plate numbers were added. So then, each of the more than four hundred plate numbers produced a new set of varieties, each sheet already having 240 varieties caused by the addition of letters in the corners. Some plate numbers are extremely rare, a Plate 77 stamp sold in 2016 for nearly £500,000.



Perhaps the most blatant example of skullduggery was the Seebeck scandal. Seebeck was a director of the Hamilton Bank Note Company who offered contracts to Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras and Nicaragua to



Seebeck Issues for Nicaragua and El Salvador

produce and supply their stamps free of charge. There would be new issues each year and all unused stamps would be returned to Seebeck. The contract also allowed him to produce extra printings of all the stamps. Seebeck then sold them to the philatelic market. This continued from 1890 to 1899 until collector rage finally brought the practice to a close. In defence, it could be argued that none of these countries could have afforded the superb engraved issues that Seebeck produced for them but whether or not that justified the scam is still a matter for debate.

NEW BRITISH STAMP POLICY

The philatelic world viewed with mixed feelings the announcement that the British Post Office had decided to issue no less than three special sets of postage stamps during 1948—the arrangements made, and the terms in which the new departure in policy was announced, making it clear that the main object was to secure foreign currency by sales of stamps to collectors abroad.

The Silver Wedding of Their Majesties the King and Queen was a most fitting occasion for the issue of special stamps, but good taste should surely have dictated the issue of denominations which would not lay us open to the charge that this happy anniversary was being used for the purpose of raising revenue. As the "set"—if it could be so called—consisted solely of a 2½d. and a 1s. stamp, it stood self-condemned.

The issue of a set of stamps in connection with the Olympic Games might well be considered an act of international courtesy, and in this case the denominations chosen were representative and of reasonable face value; but the issue of special stamps to commemorate the liberation of the Channel Islands, to be on general sale only in the Islands and linked, in the official announcement, with the 1948 holiday season, again introduced that nasty flavour of commercialism; not to mention the entirely new complication of stamps issued outside this country, but which have franking power within it. The reason for all this may probably be found in muddled thinking, coupled with too much reliance on the absurd estimates which have appeared in the press as to the amount of foreign currency which could be raised from special issues of postage stamps, estimates which, by the time these lines are published, will have been proved to be false.

The main reason for dislike of this entirely new orientation of Post Office policy is that, for the first time, it places our country on a level with others—of low repute with philatelists—which issue stamps with the main objective of extracting money from collectors. This fact, unless the policy is quickly reversed, will do great harm to sales of British and British Empire stamps abroad, and the resultant loss will far outweigh any temporary gain accruing from the special British issues of the year.

One thing, at least, the Post Office has succeeded in doing. By issuing a 1s postage stamp, of limited validity, they have created the ideal medium for the illegal transfer of British currency abroad, as no controls which were ever created can stop the circulation of such small pieces of paper.

Calling All Cartophiliacs



The dictionary describes cartophilia as a love of 1. maps or 2. postcards, trade cards, cigarette cards etc. It is quite obvious from our auctions that quite a few of our members have an interest in old postcards, such as the one shown above. If you are one of these, an upcoming event at the Bendigo Library is not to be missed.

Eric Panther is the president of the Australian Cartophilic Society and he will be the guest speaker at the library on Saturday 9th February at 2pm. Eric is very knowledgeable when it comes to all things cartophilic and if members have any postcards that they would like to know more about, they are invited to bring them along.

If you would like to know more about the society and its activities, you can contact them through their website at <http://www.australiancartophilic.org.au/>

Che Guevara - Irish Rebel?

Back in those dim dark days of long ago when we were all young and rebellious teens, how many of us had a Che Guevara T-shirt or poster on the bedroom wall. Even though we might have known very little about the man, his politics or his history we understood that this was an image that would really annoy those old people who were constantly telling us what to do.

The romantic silk-screen image of Guevara the revolutionary was created by Irish artist Jim Fitzpatrick based on a photograph by Alberto Korda. Despite the popularity of the image, he didn't bother to copyright it and so received no royalties. That changed in 2004 when he decided to claim copyright and donate any royalties to Cuban hospitals. It gained a boost when the Irish Post Office decided to remember the fiftieth anniversary of Guevara's death in 2017 by using the image on a stamp. Why Ireland? Well Guevara's father was Ernesto Guevara Lynch, a civil engineer of Irish descent. Fitzpatrick met Che Guevara in a bar in Ireland when Guevara's plane was fogbound at Shannon Airport.



Not everyone thought the stamp was a good idea, particularly those Cuban exiles who had fled the revolution, some of whom lost family members in the blood-letting that followed Batista's defeat. There were howls of protest, even some from Irish politicians who could not see how the stamp was appropriate.

So who was this man who gazed down at us from a hundred bedroom walls. Was he the romantic revolutionary some of us thought or was he just a bloodthirsty killer - or perhaps both. His attitude to revolution and the price it exacts were summed up in comments he made not long before he died, trying to start a revolution in Bolivia.

“To send men to the firing squad, judicial proof is unnecessary. These procedures are an archaic bourgeois detail. Hatred as an element of struggle; unbending hatred for the enemy, which pushes a human being beyond his natural limitations, making him into an effective, violent, selective, and cold-blooded killing machine. This is what our soldiers must become .”

These are strong sentiments, yet they have been the basis for training young soldiers for battle since time began.

The First Day Cover that accompanies the stamp has a quote from his father, Ernesto, “in my son's veins flowed the blood of Irish rebels” so perhaps Ireland has a claim to him after all.

Why we have peel and stick stamps.

The Philatelic Database website (<http://www.philatelicdatabase.com>) has an interesting story that they invite readers to share. It was found by William Cochrane in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* (UK) published on October 1, 1872 and is reprinted here.



“Doctor Chesley, of Nottingham, New Hampshire, received, a few days since, a letter, bearing a signature with which he was acquainted, and enclosing two postage stamps, accompanied with a request for a prompt reply to an address in New York. The doctor, thinking he had unearthed a client, wrote off instantly the required reply, and stuck on the envelope one of the stamps he had received. But no sooner had he pressed his tongue across the gummed back of the stamp than he felt a sudden qualm. He immediately tried his pulse, looked at his tongue in the glass, listened to his own breathing, and set down in writing the following diagnostic: “Mysterious sensation of lassitude; convulsive beating of the heart; difficulty in breathing; general disturbance of the system.” Having thus “diagnosed,” the doctor called for his wife, and said to her, “my dear I have poisoned myself with this postage stamp.”

“Intentionally?” she asked.

“No,” he replied. “Involuntarily. I was sent them through the post, and I did not know it was poisoned.”

“My dear, it’s not possible,” returned the wife.

“Not possible,” he cried. “That’s just like women, well then madame, do me the favour to lick the other postage stamp.” And he handed her the other postage stamp sent. She wetted it with her tongue, and was immediately seized with the same symptoms as those of her husband, but of a much more violent character.

“There, I told you so,” cried the doctor, triumphantly. Then he felt his wife’s pulse, made her show her tongue, applied his ear to her chest, and said rubbing his hands, “You are much more severely bitten than I. Would you like to know how that happens?”

“I would much rather you saved me, murmured the wife.

“Let us go in an orderly way to work,” replied the doctor. You must first learn why the symptoms are more accentuated with you than with me; secondly, I shall save myself, for, having absorbed the poison first, it is but logical that I should get rid of it first. After that I will take you in hand.”

Here the doctor made a pause, introduced his finger and thumb into a tobacco pouch, thence withdrew a pinch of tobacco, and holding it under his wife’s nose, “You have often reproached me madame,” said he, “with smoking tobacco, but it is this vulgar habit which you may thank me for not being a widow now, for the tobacco has acted as an antidote, vulgarly called a counter-poison, and that is why you are worse than I am.”

If the doctor had continued a few minutes longer, his wife would have been lost; he stopped in time, took an emetic himself, and administered to her another emetic, and both husband and wife are quite well today. The suspected stamps have been sent to Boston to be analysed.”

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 are not 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 February 6th. 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 can be obtained from the club secretary.

Stamp Bulletins Needed

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 or give them to Ian Kimpton at our meeting.

Ballarat Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair

Sunday 14th October 2018 ... 9.30am – 3.30pm
Ballarat Specialist School (Farm Campus)
800 Norman Street Invermay Park Ballarat



Rectangular Ship

- **For sale:** Limited edition special overprinted Australia Post collectors Miniature Sheet & No. 17 of the Ballarat Historical Envelope series
- **Featuring:** interclub displays
- Visit our website: ballaratstampclub.com.au
- Book a table: Neil Petrass ~ 0448 346 499 ~ npetrass@bigpond.com
- More info: Peter Morey ~ 0435 601 673 ~ petermorey05@gmail.com
- *Next event: Ballarat Begonia Stamps & Coins Fair ... Monday March 11th 2019*

Features:

Free
Entry

Prizes &
give-aways

Free
Valuations

more than
35 dealer
& club
tables

Club
displays

presented by:



Ballarat Stamp
Club

Ballarat Philatelic
Society Inc.
A00125561



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

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