



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 89<sup>th</sup> year

May 2019



## Diary of Future Events

Tuesday	May	7	Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt Viewing.
Wednesday	May	8	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	June	4	Philatelic Trivia Quiz.
Wednesday	June	5	Daytime Meeting.
Tuesday	July	2	Marine Life.
Wednesday	July	3	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

\*\*\*\*\* August 12th 2019 Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Stamp Fair \*\*\*\*\*

## President's Message May 2019

April has been a very busy month for members. Easter has come and gone and with the end of Daylight Saving we literally have more time in the evenings to work on our Stamp Collections.

During April we again visited the Stamp Auction conducted by the Warragul Stamp Club. In all over 600 lots were up for bidding. Many bargains were sought after and in all a very successful and rewarding day.

Think about placing this on your calendar for 2020. They will run their Annual Stamp Fair on the 1st June this year. (John Armstrong and Tom Luke please note !!!)

What a great night we had at the April Meeting !! For the second month in a row we had in excess of 30 members.

Members handed in their annual Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt entries and our Judges David and Ken have been busy deciding a winner. This will be announced at our May Meeting .

Your Committee has started pre-planning for this year's Stamp Fair to be held in August.

Happy Licking and sticking and do not forget we still need Exchange Sheets..... 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**

**10 items per member** are allowed for auctions

Christmas bonanza auction in **December** .

Exchange sheets will be circulated at all meetings.

More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

### CLUB CONTACTS:

**President:** *Libby Luke*

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## Club News

Although Easter will probably be over by the time you read this, the lead up to Easter was busy for some of our members. Our March meeting was the biggest for some time. We counted more than thirty but it was supertime when we tried to count and people kept moving. Several of our members showed items from their collections that illustrated World Health. It was also the night to hand in entries for the Lois Whatley Treasure Hunt so we wish all those who took the time to prepare an entry the best of luck.



*Richard and Libby were both on hand to welcome Dai Gum Loong to Bendigo.*

## Welcome Dai Gum Loong

Bendigo's new dragon has a philatelic connection. It has arrived and it is wonderful and so big and so long. Congratulations to all concerned. In excess of 120 meters with a huge head. The newest and longest Dragon in the world. Welcome Dai Gum Loong. Welcome home to Bendigo! This was the official unveiling and welcome to Bendigo. And the philatelic connection? Members of BPS were involved in this achievement and Richard was the Chairman of raising the finances for this acquisition. See you again on Easter Sunday.

## A final piece for our philatelic puzzle?

Also in March we were finally able to make a reasonable guess at who was the final purchaser from the exchange sheets issued by the Philatelic Society of Victoria (now the "Royal") that David Cotton researched back in our January issue. You may remember that we mentioned that the State Library held copies of The Philatelist magazine of August 1895 which held a member list. The first visit to the library was fruitless as it turned out that the magazines had been put in storage in Ballarat and needed to be ordered in. On a second visit the following week, the library made up for this by presenting issues covering three years from 1894 to 1896 and a fascinating day followed reading what stirred philatelists back when Victoria, the state was still in the realm of Victoria, the Queen.

There was no McC or McG in the Victorian club list but further reading showed that this was the magazine for not only the Victorian club but the Sydney and New Zealand clubs as well. Reading the Sydney reports was instructive as their exchange superintendent noted that although they were exchanging sheets with West Australia, South Australia and New Zealand, Victoria had so far not taken up the offer to join the group but was expected to do so. The Sydney club listed a Mr McClellan as a prominent member but no other candidates were found, despite many happy hours of reading. This suggests two things. Firstly Mr McClellan in Sydney has bought the stamp. Unfortunately no initial was found which would have really clinched things. Secondly, we had decided that the sheets were produced between 1894 and 1905 but this narrows the date to after August 1895.



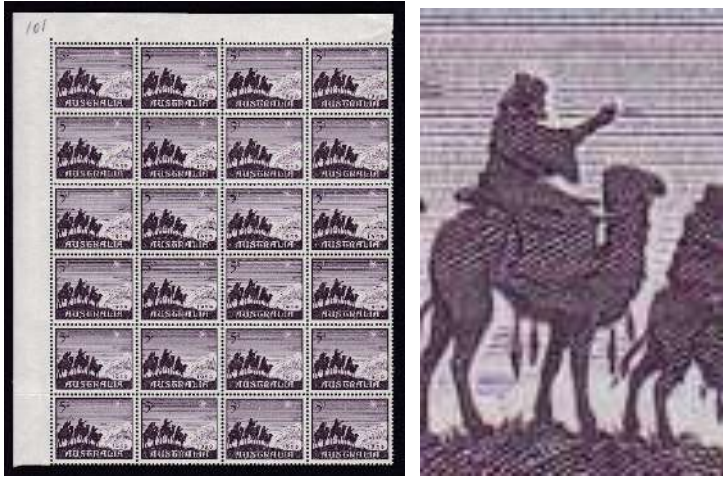
*Our annual Easter egg raffle was won by Myrtle Darby. Last year Myrtle donated the Egg and Ken won it. This year the reverse Ken donated and Myrtle won it.*



## 1959 Christmas issue flaw plated at row 6 stamp 4.

By Richard Guy

I refer readers to the wonderful and complete paper on the 1959 Christmas issue written by the current President of the Royal Philatelic Society, Ted Gallagher FRPSV, which was published in the latest issue of Philately from Australia (1). Ted identifies the three main flaws, and this paper plates the one shown in his figure 11. See my figure 1.



**Figure 1.** Small horizontal line between the lines of shading to the right of the middle man's finger.

After Ted had searched through 10,000 stamps in bundleware, this author had to do the same, but could only find 2100 from the dealer, plus 700 from his own bundleware made in 1959. After the bundleware search, I found a part sheet at a dealer's shop, and found this flaw at row 6, number 4. I too found enough copies of this "extra line" variety to be confident of saying these are on every sheet, as it must be on the master-plate. More sheets would be needed to check this. I found also that the extra line is sometimes found in pieces, and is not continuous. This could be a variation from a different sheet.

The search of this issue was really for the recut left frame behind the camel. Ted found just two copies in 10,000, and I found two copies in my 2,800, proving these are very scarce. Brusden White catalogues this flaw as 376d, but it has no diagram of the flaw. My two copies are scanned into figure 2.



**Figure 2.** The two copies of the recut left frame flaw, 376d.

**References.** A study of the 1959 Christmas Issue by Ted Gallagher FRPSV Vol LXXI No 1 March 2019. See pages 26-7.

## Some are errors and some are not.

One of the delights of the internet is that now we get the newsletters from many other societies to add to our own. It is always interesting to see what other societies are doing and to read their news. Betty sends us the Frankston newsletter and an article about the error in a Philippines stamp reminded me that I was going to alert members to a free e-book that is available on Google, also available as a paper book through Amazon.

The book in question is the “Standard Handbook of Stamp Collecting” by Richard McP. Cabeen, issued in 1934 and updated 1979. Just to whet your appetites, here is the section on design errors. The book has no illustrations so I have added some to break up the mass of text that some members find hard on a screen.

### “MISTAKES IN DESIGN

Mistakes in design are one of two kinds of errors which occur in stamps. Mistakes have little philatelic importance but they always are a source of publicity both in the general press and in stamp journals. Often the adverse publicity in such cases is the result of the critic’s ignorance of what the stamp was intended to show.

Considering the many people who are concerned with a stamp issue and who have the opportunity to detect faults, it is surprising that any errors go undetected. When a slip occurs there are plenty of collectors and noncollectors waiting to spot it. Often this search for faults becomes an obsession, and some times is politically inspired in an effort to harass the administration in a small way. The practice is not limited to the United States but is prevalent wherever people can speak out.

Mistakes are the result of incorrect information or the inability of the designer to transfer correct information into a stamp design. Artists may take some liberty with a design for the sake of symmetry or style, but more often an error is analagous to a slip of the tongue, and there is no plausible explanation.

These mistakes are seldom the fault of the engraver, for he is usually a very efficient artist whose only concern is to transfer a design to a steel plate. Except for undetected slips his work is a faithful copy of the design, often more faithful than can be had by photography and zinc etching. In a few exceptional cases mistakes have been intentional and were initiated as political sabotage.

One mistake in United States stamps, due to incorrect information, occurred about 1912 when stamps were being prepared for the Panama-Pacific Exposition of 1913. The design of the 2-cent value had been approved, the die engraved, plates made and stamps printed, and the entire issue of twenty to thirty million was ready for distribution when someone noticed that the scene was at San Pedro Miguel Locks while the inscription read “Gatun Locks”. The entire issue was destroyed except for a few copies for the archives and the question of error is purely academic as collectors cannot obtain the stamp. Should the archive copies come on the market, they would be valuable, but they should be classed as essays, since they were never issued. Had the issue been placed in circulation the stamps would be worth only as much as those in the replacement design with the inscription “Panama Canal”. It was fortunate that the error was caught in time for there would have been plenty of caustic comment about it.



A similar example is found in the 18-centavos stamp in the 1932 issue of the Philippine Islands. The source material was provided by Philippine officials and the artist composed a striking design showing he thought Pagsanjan Falls. After the stamp had been in circulation some time an American collector called attention to the resemblance of the picture to the Vernal Falls in Yosemite National Park. This made good newspaper copy, especially as the stamps were printed in Washington, and criticism was directed at everyone except the individual who had furnished the mislabeled photograph. This stamp was withdrawn, but since much of the printing had been distributed it is in no sense a rarity, just a moderately scarce and desirable stamp.



Another example of the same character appears on the twopence Bermuda stamp of 1936 which was to show the cup-winning Bermudian yacht Viking. After the stamp had been placed in circulation the yacht was recognized as the Lucie, owned by Briggs Cunningham, an American of Southport, Connecticut. No change was made, and no withdrawal, and the stamp is no rarer for its mistake.

**Some are errors and some are not. (continued)**



A mistake in caption occurs in the \$5 United States stamp of the 1922-1923 series. The central motif is the upper portion of the statue which surmounts the United States Capitol and the caption reads "America". This statue was ordered from the sculptor under the name "Armed Freedom" and when the head was hoisted in place on December 2, 1863, all accounts gave it that name. The entire statue is shown on the 3 cent value of the National Sesquicentennial issue of 1950, with the caption "Freedom". *(The error was in the PO's description not on the actual stamp. Ed)*



The three mistakes next described may be charged to the artist's lack of familiarity with the subjects. The first is in the design of the 5-paras Egyptian stamp of 1874. In this design an Arabic (conventional) "5" is placed at each corner, but all are inverted, indicating unfamiliarity with these numerals. The second is found in a stamp issued in 1927 to honor Sir Edward Codrington, who was in command of a British squadron which with other foreign vessels assisted the Greek navy in the Battle of Navarino. This stamp was inscribed "Sir Codrington" by an artist



who was not aware that the title is never used with the surname only. A corrected design was issued in 1928 but neither variety is scarce, although the first type is known in a scarce shade.



The third example appears in a 1951 issue of Korea to honor the twenty-one nations assisting the Republic of Korea army in the United Nations "police action". These were large stamps showing the flag of Korea at the right end and that of the honored nation at the left. The stamp for Italy bore the old royal flag with the arms of Savoy, but was soon altered by removing the crown above the arms. However it still was a mistake, for the flag of republican Italy has no device in the central panel.



The Cabot issue of Newfoundland in 1897 shows two examples of the use of wrong elements for unknown elements. The issue was to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the discovery of Newfoundland by John Cabot, but there was no picture of his vessel, the Matthew, and none of John Cabot. The American Bank Note Company, entrusted with this issue, substituted the Santa Maria, the flagship of Columbus, on the 10 cent value, and the portrait



of Sebastian Cabot, the discoverer's son, on the 2 cent value. The ship engraving had been used four years previously in the Columbian Exposition issue.



Since 1893 all stamp collectors have been aware of the fast-growing beard of Columbus, as indicated by stamps of the Columbian issue. He is beardless in the 1 cent value in the scene "Columbus in Sight of Land", but on the next day has a full beard in the scene "Landing of Columbus", on the 2 cent value. The engravers are criticized for this seeming error by people who should be able to recognize that these scenes are copies from paintings by different artists, neither of whom happened to make the voyage.



## Some are errors and some are not. (continued even more)

Another of these painter's mistakes is shown on the stamps of St. Kitt-Nevis in the subject "Columbus Looking for Land". The explorer is shown peering through a telescope, although that instrument had not yet been invented.



Criticism was directed against the United States for the design of the 5-cent value of the Norse American issue of 1925, for this pictured a Viking ship with the Stars and Stripes flying at the stern. This seeming anachronism vanished when it was explained that the stamp showed a reproduction of a Viking ship entering New York harbor in 1893 on its way to the Columbian Exposition.

Collectors sometimes call attention to the left-handed mailcatcher arm on the mail car shown on the 3 cent value of the Parcel Post issue of the United States, and attribute it to a reversed photograph. The explanation is that a car of the Chicago and North Western Railway is shown, and that this line not only uses the British word railway but is a left-handed railroad as well.



When the Mississippi Territory was organized the name placed on its great seal was spelled "Mississippi", but when this seal was reproduced on the commemorative stamp of 1948, collectors at once complained about the error.



Another stamp always mentioned when errors are discussed is the 12 pence stamp of Canada of 1851-1855. Since twelve pence equals one shilling, one is prone to call this a mistake in the indication of the value, and to blame it on the American engravers, Rawdon, Wright, Hatch and Edson. However, this is not a mistake at all. The Canadian currency was depreciated and it required fifteen pence to equal one shilling sterling. This 12-pence stamp represented about twenty cents in United States money. The 6-pence and 3-pence values were valued at about ten cents and five cents. This condition continued into the 1857 issue and both currencies were indicated on some stamps, as "10cy Ten Pence 10cy" and "8dStg" and "6d Stg Six Pence Sterling 7c Cy". The dual currency indications on the

1859 issue were for a different purpose and indicated the relation between the new Canadian cents and the English shilling on the values most used on foreign mail, as "Six Pence Sterling 12½c.", and "8d Stg 17 Cents", both of which were based on a shilling valued at twenty-five cents.



It seems unfortunate that a large share of the criticism directed toward trivial details could not be broadened to cover the entire subject of stamp design. Our search for the forest seems to be disrupted by the many trees we encounter."

## 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: Every Wednesday following the Tuesday night 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.

## What price catalogue value?

Dealers use catalogue value to work out their prices. Most of us have at least a passing interest in what our collections are worth and the catalogue value is often the only guide we have. Similarly, when buying, the catalogue is our only guide to how much we should pay. But what exactly is catalogue value and how is it determined and is it relevant to real world prices? The answers to these questions are tricky to say the least.

To start off, let's get rid of the common stuff. All catalogues have a minimum price, usually around 20c, that is simply what they would charge as a handling fee if selling the stamp. You can expect a dealer to charge this if you are buying stamps but that does not mean the stamp is worth 20c. In some cases you might be able to buy a box full of the particular stamp for 20c as they are so common, they are virtually worthless individually. The lesson from this is that if you are using the catalogue to value your collection, you need to ignore all the stamps that are shown at, or close to, the minimum price.

The value of a stamp is the amount someone is willing to pay for it and neither the catalogues or the dealers always get this right. This is particularly true of rare material and despite rumours that abound about the death of stamp collecting, recent auctions have shown this to be far from true. A Cocos Islands item in the recent Abacus auction that they estimated would bring \$600, sold for a whopping \$31,148 after fees were added. It was a fairly ordinary looking air letter sheet which if taken to a dealer might have only attracted an offer of a few dollars but more than one collector was willing to pay a small fortune for it which is what pushed the price so high.

Two of the larger catalogues are Gibbons and Scott. They not only lay their catalogues out in completely different ways, they work out their prices differently as well. Gibbons lists almost everything in chronological order while Scott breaks everything down into categories such as postal, semi-postal, airmail, official, etc.

A more relevant difference between them when it comes to price, is that Gibbons sell stamps while Scott do not. Gibbons price therefore is the price for which they will offer to sell. Needless to say, they will look at what they want to get and price a stamp accordingly. Scott, on the other hand, have a network of dealers and auction houses who inform them of the current prices that stamps are bringing and they base their prices accordingly.

Nothing has changed the face of stamp marketing more than the internet which has brought every dealer in the world with access to the internet onto our screens along with thousands of collectors who merely want an outlet for their surplus material. This has shown some material that was previously thought to be rare, to be not so rare at all but this has not really seen the huge drop in catalogue prices that you might imagine.

What does this all mean to collectors? If you are just starting out, not much at all as gathering together the many common issues in your chosen field does not require a great outlay. As you progress, however, and the stamps you buy go from costing cents to dollars and even up to hundreds or thousands of dollars, knowledge really is power.

The catalogues will give you an idea of which stamps are the rarer ones and an idea on the price. This can even sometimes be confusing as shown in the side box. It is a good idea to check more than one catalogue and then look online at what is available there. There is a caveat here that the internet is also home to a multitude of spivs, crooks and sharks so if something looks too good to be true, it probably is. Buying from a dealer is still probably the safest and best way to buy the better material and you get to see the item before you buy rather than a fuzzy scan. But a dealer will often charge at catalogue value and as you can see, that can be tricky.

(Des A. Schraml, Recess)

1959 (22 May). International Stamp Exhibition, Hamburg, and Centenary of First Postage Stamps of Hamburg and Lübeck. T 358 and a similar vert design inscr "INTERPOSTA". W 294. P 14.

	1227	358	10pf.+5pf. deep brn & blue-grn.....	1.20	3.25
	1228	358	10pf.+5pf. brn & grn (22.8.59).....	.35	1.20

Stamp of Hamburg, 1859 — SP282

Design: 20pf+10pf, Stamp of Lübeck, 1859.

	1959		Engr.						Wmk. 304
	B366	SP282	10pf + 5pf yel green & brown	.25	.45				
	a.		10pf + 5pf green & brown	.75	2.00				

*Gibbons (top) and Scott (below) disagree on colour names, prices and which shades are worth the most.*

## 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.



# 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](http://www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org)

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Bill Trew

Email: [marj.trew@bigpond.com.au](mailto:marj.trew@bigpond.com.au)