



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 90th year

December 2020



Web page: www.bendigophilatelicsociety.org Facebook: <http://tinyurl.com/zb2ma53>



GET READY TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN!

**At the recent committee meeting it was decided to restart
our Tuesday meetings in January.**

More details inside



President's Message December 2020

Greetings to Everyone

It is hard to believe that we are now approaching December and the final month of this year, a year we would all like to forget.

A friend said to me the other day that she is refusing to add another year to her age as she has not done anything this year.

With Christmas upon us the committee has decided to have a get together on our normal December monthly meeting day at 12 noon at the NEW White Hills Gardens

Because we still have some restrictions it will not be bring a plate to share it will be bring your own everything !!!!

That means food, drink, chair, Husband, Wife, Partner, or Friend.

It is now time to refresh our friendships. The bad news is no stamps will be in attendance.

Looking forward to the New Year we are planning to have our normal January Meeting - COVID safe. As things are continually changing confirmation will be in the next Newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing you all in the Park and if anyone requires transportation please contact me.

To any member that cannot make our Christmas get together we all wish you a Happy Christmas.

Keep safe and collecting stamps.

Libby (0448) 060 120



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.

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:

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Philatelists need never run out of toilet paper again

I had an Austrian mate many years ago. He was a very serious chap, so serious that I once thought he didn't have a sense of humour at all. He did, of course, just not like my English style that thought two men slapping each other with fish was funny.

As he was the only Austrian I knew, I naturally assumed that all Austrians were like that in the same way as many Europeans think all Australians are beer-swilling bogans.

If there was ever proof that Austrians like a good laugh, it is displayed in their Covid-19 stamp sheet. Apart from suggesting that you should imagine a baby elephant between you and the person next to you as a way of social distancing, Austria has also included another unique feature in this latest effort.



For some reason, this is one time that I am really glad the stamps are peel and stick as I wouldn't fancy licking them but then again, they are not much use for the paper's original purpose either.



When people look back on the pandemic in years to come, one of the things that must surely spring to mind is how so many people panic-bought all the toilet paper, stripping the supermarkets of their entire stock and leaving the shelves empty for the rest of us. Austria has commemorated this stupidity by printing the new Covid-19 stamp on three ply toilet paper.



BPS Committee Meeting -16th. November, 2020

At the recent committee meeting, it was decided to re-commence face to face meetings on January 5th 2021, subject to corona virus restrictions. At this stage, only the Tuesday night meetings will be available. No Wednesday meeting will be held in January.

A Christmas Get Together will be held at White Hills Gardens on 1st. December, 2020 at 12 noon, subject to restrictions at the time. Members and their family are invited. Everyone is to bring their own food, drink, chairs etc. Food cannot be shared. There will be no formal meeting.

Lyn is investigating the possibility of continuing the provision of exchange sheets at Members' homes. It will be trialled in January. Enthusiastic thanks was expressed to Lyn by the Committee for all her work in making exchange sheets available during the pandemic lockdown.

There have been suggestions from some members that our fair would be better at a warmer time of year. Bill Trew will survey the Stamp Fair dealers to see whether a change of date for the Fair (to March, April or May) would be possible.

The Lois Whatley 2019/20 competition entries will be handed in at the February 2021 meeting and the winner announced at the March meeting.

The 2020/21 competition will be due at the April Meeting and the winner announced at the May Meeting.

The 2020 Annual General Meeting has been postponed until February, 2021.

It is BPS 90th. birthday on 7th. August, 2021. It is planned to ask members to do a one page entry on a topic to be decided, the winner to be determined by "Popular Vote" and also have a Birthday Cake at the August Meeting.

Our treasurer reported that several members have not paid their subscriptions this year and requested that they be reminded of this in the newsletter.

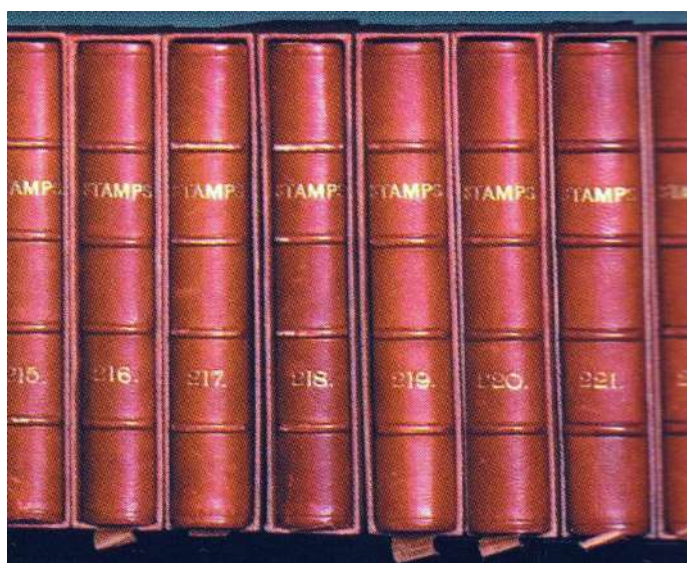
That damned fool - George V

George V was one of the notable philatelists of his day. In 1893, as the Duke of York, he was elected honorary vice-president of what became the Royal Philatelic Society of London. On his marriage that year, fellow members of the society gave him an album of nearly 1,500 postage stamps as a wedding present. He expanded the collection with a number of high-priced purchases of rare stamps and covers.



His 1904 purchase of the Mauritius two pence blue for £1,450 set a new record for a single stamp. A courtier asked the prince if he had seen "that some damned fool had paid as much as £1,400 for one stamp". "Yes," George replied. "I was that damned fool!"

King George collected the stamps of the British Empire which were housed in 328 "Red Albums", each of around 60 pages. Later Monarchs would add their own albums to the Royal Philatelic Collection, including George VI's "Blue Albums" and Queen Elizabeth II's "Green Albums".



Although King George VI doesn't appear to have been as passionate about stamps as his father, the stamp collecting gene seems to be alive and well in his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II.

Viv Martin

News from Paul Brownlie

For those of us who still collect Australian new issues, there has been a lot to choose from during 2020. Here are some of the items that are more than just the stamps.



First Day Covers - Gummed Stamps



2020 Australia
Mini Sheets



And finally, some 28 covers with gold postmark were issued on 2 November 2020 to celebrate fifty years of First Day Covers.

Yours in Philately
Paul



JEAN de SPERATI and the *forged* £2 Kangaroo

I was going to write an article on a number of philatelic forgers, but became so engrossed with the works of Jean de Sperati, and in particular, his forged £2 Australian Kangaroo's that I decided to concentrate on these alone.

This was the only Australian stamp that Sperati forged and to-day these stamps command **premium prices**. It appears that only two mint copies (one shown here) of the £2 exist and that no more than a couple of dozen used copies (nine shown here) are known. All that I could track down are listed below. I know many collectors are into Australian stamps and that many 'lack' the 1913 (1st Watermark) £2 Kangaroo in their collection, which Sperati made his forgeries of.

Forgery is a white-collar crime that generally refers to the false making or material alteration of a legal document with the specific intent to defraud anyone (other than themselves). Within the philatelic world there exists two areas of forgery: postal forgery, made to deceive the Post Office, and 'fakes' made to deceive collectors and sellers. 'Fakes' are stamps doctored in some way to make them appear what they are not, with forgeries: i.e.: fake postmarks, overprints, perforations, or an entirely produced bogus stamp.

Copies, stamp replicas, and reproductions are **not** considered forgeries, though they may later become forgeries through knowing and wilful misrepresentation. 'Cinderella stamps', facsimile stamps, reprint stamps are NOT forgeries so long as clearly **styled**.

Jean de Sperati (14th October, 1884 in Italy to 28th April, 1957, in France):

He is regarded by many as the best Master Forger of postage stamps of all time. He produced some 566 varieties from over 94 countries. It was said he spent 14 to 16 hours a day often 7 days a week working to obtain near perfectly and technically faultless copies!

A brief summation of his interesting life:

He was born Giovanni Sperati in Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy. Stamp collecting became his passion as a young boy, unfortunately, the family had little money and he struggled to buy stamps. Saving hard to buy a French Colonial stamp he learnt later that it was a forgery. He decided to get his revenge on the 'stamp world' and on 'dealers'. His brother and mother began to assist him in fake stamps until 1909 when the family came to the attention of the Italian police. The family then dispersed with Giovanni relocating to Paris, changing his name to Jean de Sperati, and marrying in 1914. He laboured at anything whilst continuing "his studies" into printing and chemistry ever perfecting his skills to produce what he termed "philatelic works of art". He claimed to have always signed on the reverse of each stamp his name in (light) pencil.

Why were his fakes so good?

A brilliant and clever forger, as opposed to other forgers, in that he took a **genuine low denomination stamp** from a set of stamps and through bleaching skills and with chemicals he removed that part of the surface printing that he wanted to alter, then overprinted it by the photo

lithographical process his forged alteration. **Thus, the fake stamp was original regarding paper, watermark and perforation, it was only the printed surface that was different, and this was extremely hard to detect.** Many experts were fooled for years.

Did he get caught?

Yes. During World War II he sent a packet of stamps to Lisbon. They were intercepted by French authorities. He was charged with avoiding tax and sending 'value items' out of France (in wartime) even though he said the stamps were fakes. Examined by experts at the time, they were declared to be authentic. He was charged with defrauding collectors of revenue, this was difficult to prove because Sperati *claimed* he always wrote on the back of each of his stamps "*Reproduction de Jean de Sperati*" lightly, in pencil.

He was brought to trial in 1948, and eventually found guilty in April, 1948 of 'deceitful intentions', sentenced to one year's (suspended gaol due to his age) and fined 310,000 Francs. He vowed not to, and never did, falsify stamps again.

What happened to his collection of remaining forged stamps?

In 1953 the British Philatelic Association purchased his entire 'forged' stock including a complete collection of all his forgeries for around \$40,000, which they showed at an Exhibition in London in 1954. This collection is still held to-day by the BPA. His forgeries are VERY collectable and command high prices, although some can be purchased for as little as \$200 each, but not the £2 Kangaroo!

He died at Aix-les-Bains in France on 28th April, 1957 aged 73 years.

by Grey Loyer, Hon. Secretary, Maryborough Stamp Club (Vic.) (Founded 14.7.1971)



Stamp Forger Jean de Sperati and his wife Marie-Louise in 1915.

(She was French: born in 1893, died in 1979).

				 Genuine 1913 £2 stamps.
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Below are some forged 1st Watermark £2 Kangaroo's by Sperati

	 This superb forgery sold in New York in October, 2014 for \$5,400.
	 This forgery was sold for \$4,000 in January, 2004 at auction in Melbourne.
	 Forgery with genuine 'AYR – QUEENSLAND' cancellation.
	 This forgery, with NSW postmark cancellation sold in 2004 for \$3,200.



Forgery with a Queensland Machine cancellation.



Forgery with genuine Boullia, Queensland cancellation.



A proof forgery signed by Jean de Sperati. It sold for \$9,300!



Again, using a Queensland machine cancellation.

New Zealand Post Offices

Grey Loyer has asked if any member is able to supply a list of post offices that were operating in New Zealand in 1931-32. Grey can be contacted at gloyer@live.com.au.

Bendigo Philatelic Society Web Page



At the recent committee meeting, Ian Kimpton advised the Committee that he will be moving to a smaller home in June 2021 and may not have space to house the extensive BPS Library. David Robinson has offered to take over the care of the library, provided another member is willing to take over the club web page from him.

A sub-committee was appointed to evaluate the need, costs of, and benefits of having a Society Webpage. Margaret Brown, David Robinson and John Armstrong will report back to the Committee on this.

The current page is under review at the moment but once the new page is set up, the ongoing maintenance will only require a small amount of time each month for someone with basic skills in this area. If this interests you, please let one of the sub-committee members know.



BENDIGO Stamp Fair 2021

We'll be back!

*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