



The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

February 2023

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Diary of Future Events

Tues. 7th Feb 7.30pm Heart Matters

Tues. 7th Mar 7.30pm View Lois Whatley Entries

President's Message February 2023

Presidents Report : February 2023

After the last few years all we can do is wonder what 2023 will throw at us. Let us be positive and stay, happy, healthy, wealthy and with lots of stamps.

All that attended our January Meeting were very fortunate. We had a presentation by our John Armstrong using our new Projector. Titled: All One must know about Philatelic sites on the internet. I'm sure we all learnt a lot. I know I did. Our rowdy lot never let me formally thank John so Thank You so much from myself and all in attendance.



Our Birthday Girl for the month of February is our wonderful & patient treasurer Margaret Brown. Happy Birthday and hope you have a great day on the 17th. Now if I do not have your Birthday details we cannot wish you Happy Birthday. Please keep me up to date.

At our February meeting we will finally be having the presentation on "Heart Matters" by Georgie Redman. She will be first cab of the rank as it is not fair putting her through one of our crazy auctions. I ask you all please to keep quiet while she speaks, and leave questions to the end. This will enable us to go home at a decent time after the auction and cuppa.

Now it's reminder time please.

- 1: Do not rush at Margaret after the Auction she will announce when it is time to pay for your auction lots.
- 2: Don't forget to put a donation in Ken's tin for your cuppa and biscuit. Ken comes along every month and there is always a hot drink and a treat, and never any fuss. Thanks Ken you are very much appreciated.
- 3: At the end of the evening please, put your chair back against the wall before leaving.

I am now off my soap box.

Let me finish with my little phrase to all members of our philatelic family.

TAKE CARE, WE CARE and you are all important Libby.

Thank you Maree Edwards and staff for the printed copies of this newsletter.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm at

**Kangaroo Flat R.S.L.
Station St. Kangaroo Flat**

Auctions will be held at all Tuesday meetings.

10 items per member are allowed for auctions
Christmas bonanza auction in **December** .

Exchange sheets will no longer be circulated at meetings. Please see Lyn to access sheets at home.
More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

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A penny for your thoughts...

At the January meeting, a chance discussion showed that both Libby, our president, and myself were collectors of the British Penny Red stamps that have plate numbers as part of the design. More of that later but first, here is a bit of background information.

The original Penny Black had a fault. The original black postmark was not easily seen and when the ink for the postmark was changed to red, it proved to be possible to wash the new ink off. This led to a perception, at least, that the post office was losing a lot of revenue due to the reuse of stamps. The solution was, in February 1841, less than a year after the release of the Penny Black, to reprint the stamps in red and revert to the black postmark. Originally, the plates that had been used for the Penny Black were reused for the new issue.

Over the next almost forty years, there were a few minor changes in the design of the border frame while the Queen's image remained the same. The final version, issued in 1864 had letters in all four corners, and was produced from a number of printing plates numbered from 71 to 225. Overall, some 21 billion Penny Reds were produced before the issue came to an end in 1879. Prices range upwards from around fifty cents to quite a few dollars. Both Libby and I would love to collect at least one example of each plate and although my collection is still rather modest, Libby only needs two more to complete the set - plate 77 and plate 225. The internet provides the following details of her chances.

Of all the plates, 77 is the rarest. It is likely that only one sheet was printed, and there is a record that the printing plate was rejected due to poor alignment which would result in some stamps being misperforated. This sheet should have been destroyed, but a few mint and used examples have been discovered over the years. Percy Jackson was one of those collectors best described as a Penny Red nut. A retired bank manager, he lived in a rented cottage in the small village of Ropley in Hampshire with his wife Ellen. A keen stamp collector and member of the Royal Philatelic Society of London (RPSL), he wrote to *The London Philatelist* in 1943, requesting information about Penny Reds. Only the following year, sorting through a "box of a million Penny Reds", he found his elusive Plate 77. It would certainly have been the highlight of his philatelic life. He sent the stamp to the RPSL for a certificate of authenticity, and put it up for sale at a Robson Lowe auction in 1944, where it sold for £220. It has never appeared at auction since.

There are eight confirmed singles known from Plate 77:

An unused irregular block of four (with corner letters AA, AB, AC and BA) was discovered in the 1870s. Of these,

- AA ended up in the collection of Henry J Crocker which was destroyed in a fire following the San Francisco earthquake of 1906
- AB was acquired by King George V in 1919 and is still in the Royal Collection
- AC was sold in a Robson Lowe auction to Major Raphael in 1959 – but his collection was stolen in 1965, and the stamp has not been seen since
- BA became part of the Thomas Tapling Collection and was bequeathed to the British Museum in 1891 – it is held in The British Library today.
- LL, heavily cancelled by an obliterator postmark, was discovered by a Penny Red collector in 1906. It passed through a number of hands before being sold for £375 in 1966. It is now in a private collection and has not been seen since 1974.

The remaining examples are all used.

Interestingly, three examples (PH, PI and MI) supposedly all originated from one wholesale lot of Penny Reds



A penny for your thoughts...

divided among a number of collectors.

- PH was discovered in 1924 and passed through several collections before being sold to H G Fletcher in 1956. His collection was bequeathed to a museum in 1989 and transferred to The British Library where it remains.
- PI, a used example on piece with a four-penny stamp, was discovered by a Manchester stamp dealer in 1920. It was auctioned by Robson Lowe in 1959 for £900, and subsequently by Christie's and Spink, passing through the collections of Hassan Shaida and Pichai Buranasombati. Last sold in 2012 by Stanley Gibbons for £550,000 (a record for a British stamp) it remains in private hands.
- MI was discovered by Percy Jackson in 1944 and auctioned for £220 by Robson Lowe.

So, it seems that you need a spare million Australian dollars, at least, to be in the running if one of these stamps comes onto the market.



Either that, or you have to be extremely lucky or like Percy Jackson, be willing to sift through a million stamps in the hopes of finding one. But don't despair for all is not yet lost and as has been said before, the final word has not been written in philately.

The recent discovery of a part-envelope bearing three Penny Red stamps inscribed 77 has stimulated much debate in the philatelic world. Rigorous scientific testing has proved the stamps to be genuine, but some philatelic authorities are yet to be convinced. There is a very lively discussion about this on Stampboards which also has a wealth of other information about this issue. For instance, member Highlandtiger, who also collects old catalogues, showed an extract from the 1897 Stanley Gibbons catalogue which states that there was rumoured to have been a Plate 70, though none had been seen. Since then, it still seems that none have been seen so either it did not exist or that first effort was defective in some way and was destroyed. "The Line-Engraved Stamps of Great Britain" printed in 1920 by Perkins Bacon, who also printed these stamps, does not mention a Plate 70 (<https://archive.org/details/lineengravedpost01baco/page/n5/mode/2up>) but as there are nine surviving Plate 77s and one of those brought a million dollars, I shudder to think what a single Plate 70 might fetch.

As for Plate 225, shown at the top of this page, the last plate used and only issued for a very short time and the second rarest, that issue is more accessible. The one shown above is currently available at www.johnkinnardstamps.com/ for a mere £680 (+gst when you import it probably +post and insurance). Seems like a steal, doesn't it?

GREAT BRITAIN.		Un.		Used.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
47.	2d., blue	..	..	..	..
48.	2d. " (thinner lines)	..	..	1	0 0 3
49.	2d. " (imperf.)	..	..	1	6 0 3
50.	2d., deep blue	..	..	40	0
		..	..	1	0 0 3

(d) The 1d. plates are numbered from 71 to 225 both inclusive except 75, 126, and 128. Plate 70 is reputed to exist, but no specimen is known; a specimen of 77 is in the Tapling Collection, and we have lately obtained a second. The 2d. plates are numbered 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, the last three have thinner white lines than the first four.

1870. Wmks. Types 3, 2.

1d., rose-red (c)	..	..	..	..	..	0	6	0	3
1d. rose	..	..	..	..	..	0	6	0	3

Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

Review by: David Robinson

POSTAL MECHANISATION IN AUSTRALIA

A BRIEF HISTORY BY: KEN W SPARKS

This Ken Sparks publication gives the reader an interesting insight into the development of postal sorting techniques. As the amount of mail grew in Australia, it was soon apparent that the hand sorting of mail was slow, labour intensive and expensive. Several changes needed to be employed, many of these changes are discussed in the thirteen chapters, they include:

- i. Postcode Development. The purpose of the postcode was to provide an identification system to mail and simplify the labor-intensive sorting process.
- ii. Early Mechanisation. Discusses Pneumatic tube conveyors, Monorail train, Automatic Bin Clearance, Sorting Machines and Spiral Chutes.
- iii. Letter Preparations. Alternative Stamp Cancelling Tests, Alternative Stamp Detection Methods
- iv. Redfern Mail Exchange. Interstate mail, and international mail.
- v. Later Mechanisation.
- vi. Technological Developments after Redfern.
- vii. Decentralised Mail Network
- viii. Development of Standard Articles
- ix. Letter Tagging
- x. National Letter Sorting Projects
- xi. Indexing Coding
- xii. OCR in Australia
- xiii. Flats Sorting Machines.



Mailing, Sorting & Delivery



KEN W. SPARKS

After a quick study on the internet, I found the author Ken W Sparks has released several other publications. Some of these include:

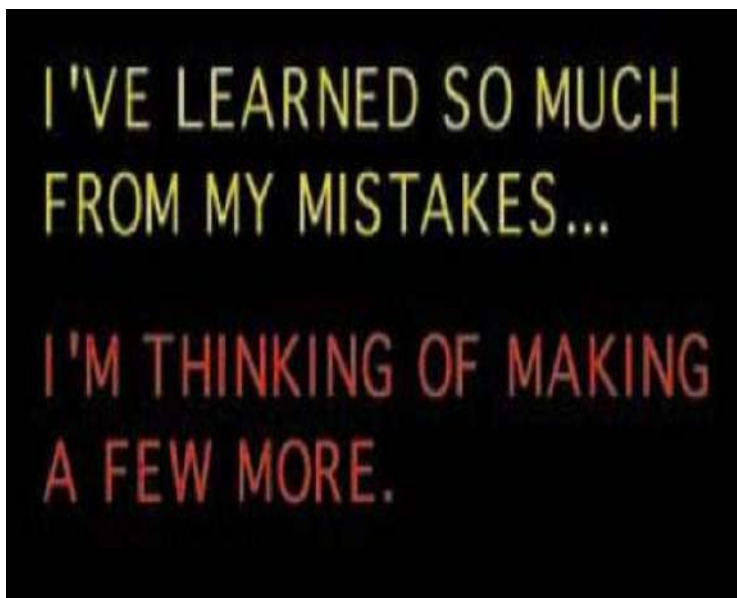
- The Melbourne Mail exchange 1917-1988: a history of its postal mechanisation: snap shots / Ken Sparks
- Australian street posting boxes / Ken Sparks
- The Sydney GPO and the Sydney (Redfern) Mail Exchange: a history of their postal mechanisation and development of sorting procedures: Pre-Federation to 1990 / Ken Sparks
- Bass Strait mails from Federation to World War II / K.W. Sparks
- Australian postal vending machines / Ken Sparks
- Australian phonecards / edited by Graham Bird and Ken Sparks
- FRAMA Australasia update 1988 / by Ken Sparks
- The modern pre-stamped envelopes of Australia / by Ken Sparks
- Australian street posting boxes / Ken Sparks
- Official airmails of Australia / K.W. Sparks

[Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines.](#)

[which are available to members.](#)

[Please contact me David Robinson on 0428 821 221- email \[ddusa@live.com.au\]\(mailto:ddusa@live.com.au\)](#)

Spacefillers



Australia Day. Should we change the date? by John Armstrong.

These musings are a personal view and are not intended to represent the views of the club.

I spent my first fourteen and a half years in the south of England where I now realise the grammar school that I attended, trained me well to be quite racist. I don't mean that they taught me to hate foreigners, far from it, but the education system was still hanging on to the old threads of Empire and our lessons were liberally sprinkled with Rudyard Kipling and patriotic songs because we all knew that the British were the greatest race on earth. And did those feet...etc.

There were no coloured people there in those days, in fact, until I left England, I had only met one, an Indian hawkker who came door to door.



So when I came to Australia in 1962, I didn't even think about the "White Australia" policy that was still in place. I just accepted that that was the way things were and probably should be. My mother, on the other hand thought deeply about such things. She was a Methodist lay preacher and soon became involved in the Aboriginal Advancement League and the first Aboriginal person I met was Harold Blair when he visited our home. Later I also met Pastor Doug Nichols when he and my mother had a meeting. I met him again, some years later, when my band played for his coronation as King of Moomba.

Meeting these two cultured and well-educated men left me with an impression that Aborigines were simply darker versions of the other adults that I knew and it wasn't until, at the age of eighteen, when I left home to busk my way around the country, that my perceptions changed forever. When I got to northern Queensland, specifically Townsville and Cairns, I saw aborigines being subjected to some of the worst treatment I could imagine. What was most shocking to me was that the same attitudes towards Aborigines were held by many of the people I liked and even had admired. Having always been a perverse sort of character, I soon had many friends in the black community, in fact, I was in the home of one of them, listening as the results of the 1967 referendum came in. Nobody, black or white, in Townsville, had expected it to pass and when the result was announced, my friend's wife simply burst into tears.

There have been quite a lot of stamps depicting Aboriginal art but few depicting people. Early issues, such as the one above which still goes by the slightly derogatory name of the "One Pound Jimmy" stamp, showed the romanticised image of the "noble savage". Albert Namatjira made it as one of the "famous Australians" despite his life being one of persecution and abuse. Things are improving with the recent release of the Doug Nichols stamp but I will know that we are really serious about addressing the deficiencies in our historical record when Pemulwoy features on a stamp.



Australians of British heritage will soon, apparently, be in the minority so why do we need to cling to a date for our national celebration that reflects the dispossession by the British of the people who were here before. Yes, I think January 26th is worth remembering, even with a holiday perhaps, but a truly national day should reflect something of which we all can be proud.

That's why, I think Australia Day should be the 27th of May, the day I sat with Johnny Lowah and his family and listened in amazement as Australia through a referendum finally made that first giant step towards reconciliation.

Some useful philatelic websites. This is a copy of the handout from the talk in January

Discussion Groups

<https://www.stampboards.com/>

A world-wide group but based in Australia and having many of the discussions about Australian stamps. As with all discussion groups, it is a good idea to visit and simply watch for a while until you get to know how everything works, the rules etc. And which topics you are most interested in.

<https://www.stampcommunity.org/>

An very friendly American-based group so many of the discussions are on US issues.

Free Online Catalogues

<https://www.stampworld.com/en/>

An excellent catalogue that illustrates every stamp which is better than a paper catalogue where there is only usually room for one example per set. Free to use but financed mainly by advertising (and some donations). If you use an adblocker you will get constant requests to turn it off

<https://colnect.com/en/stamps/countries>

The above comments are true for Colnect as well. Also an excellent site but in my opinion, the layout is not as well organised as Stampworld.

Buying and Selling

<https://www.ebay.com.au/>

By far the biggest online but requiring some caution if buying and subject to some pretty hefty fees if selling. They take little interest in removing sharks and shysters as they are only there for the money so shill bidding, forgeries and other undesirable elements are fairly common.

<https://www.hipstamp.com/>

Before the Australian dollar collapsed, this was the best place I had found for both buying and selling. Being US based, it means the exchange rate and postal charges are issues but still worth a visit. Very diligent on maintaining the credibility of the site so complaints are seriously investigated and acted upon.

https://www.delcampe.net/en_GB/collectables/stamps/

European based otherwise the comments for Hipstamp apply here as well. For collectors of European countries, this can be a place to find elusive items that are not available in Australia.

<https://www.gixen.com/main/index.php>

A free snipe-bidding service for eBay. The best way to avoid getting caught up in a bidding war. Decide how much you are willing to pay and leave it to Gixen. Well worth the extra few dollars to get the mirror subscription as well.

Engraved Stamps

You knew I had to get this in somewhere didn't you?

<https://stampengravers.blogspot.com/>

<http://www.engravedstamps.net/index.php>

Why is this person on a stamp No 14: Sir George Cayley

We have all heard of the Wright Brothers as the ones who were first to fly a heavier than air machine but until I began researching this stamp, I knew nothing about Sir George Cayley whose work, as the stamp claims, led to the invention of the aeroplane. Born in 1773, decades before the Wright Brothers' flight, he is considered the first person to study and really understand the principles of aeronautics.

Born into the British aristocracy, his privileged birth allowed him to pursue life as an inventor and engineer and he excelled in both. His inventions included the self-righting lifeboat, the wire-spoked wheel - still in use today, caterpillar tracks for vehicles, automatic railway signals, seat belts, a design for a helicopter, and an engine that was driven by exploding gunpowder. He suggested that a more practical engine might be made using gaseous vapours rather than gunpowder, thus foreseeing the modern internal combustion engine. He also contributed in the fields of prosthetics, air engines, electricity, theatre architecture, ballistics, optics and land reclamation, and held the belief that these advancements should be freely available.

In his work on aeronautics, he was the first to identify the four main vectors of flight, weight, lift, drag and thrust. He also identified and described the importance of the cambered aerofoil, dihedral, diagonal bracing and drag reduction, and contributed to the understanding and design of ornithopters and parachutes. In 1909, Wilbur Wright wrote, "About 100 years ago, an Englishman, Sir George Cayley, carried the science of flight to a point which it had never reached before and which it scarcely reached again during the last century."

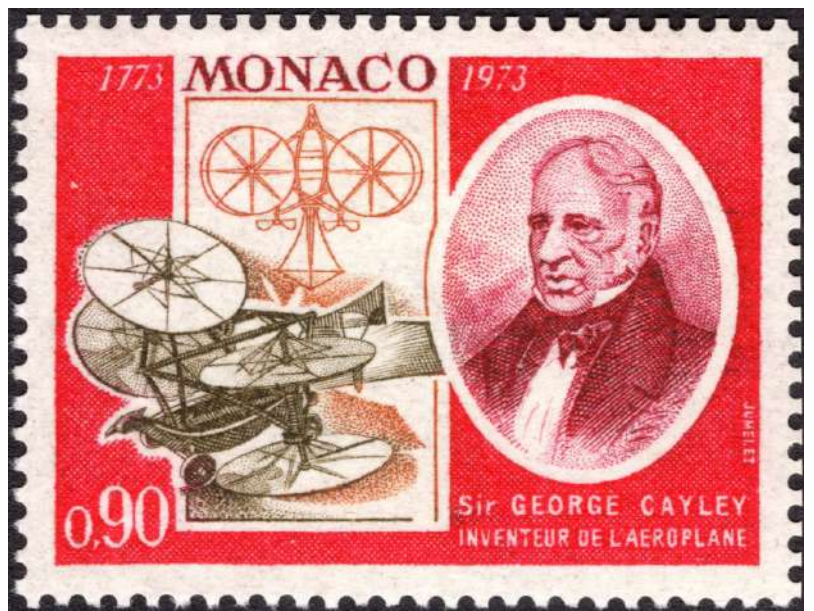
Apparently, flight had fascinated Sir George from his schooldays and his school notebooks contain drawings and notes that show he was working on his ideas even back then.

He argued that manpower alone was insufficient for powering flight, but no suitable working engine was available in his time and so he confined his flying experiments to gliding.

In 1848, he had progressed far enough to construct a glider in the form of a triplane large and safe enough to carry a child. A local boy was chosen but his name is not known.

He went on to publish the design for a full-size manned glider or "governable parachute" to be launched from a balloon in 1852 and then to construct a version capable of launching from the top of a hill, which carried the first adult aviator across Brompton Dale in 1853. The identity of the aviator is not known. What is known is that he was the first to fly in a glider with distinct wings, fuselage and tail, and featuring inherent stability and pilot-operated controls: the first fully modern and functional heavier-than-air craft.

(Sources: 1. Wikipedia; 2. www.thespacetechie.com)



Mechanics' Magazine,

MUSEUM, REGISTER, JOURNAL, AND GAZETTE.

No. 1520.] SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1852. [Price 3d., Stamped 4d.
Edited by J. C. Robertson, 166, Fleet-street.

SIR GEORGE CAYLEY'S GOVERNABLE PARACHUTES.

Fig. 2.

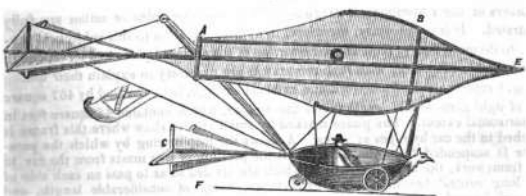
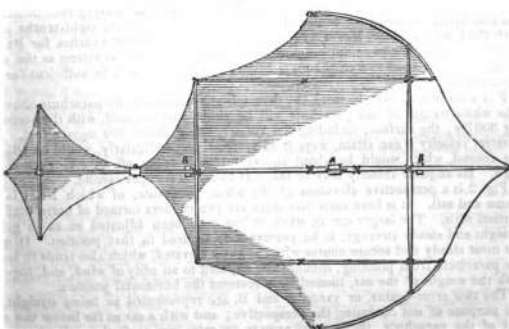


Fig. 1.





BENDIGO

Stamp and Coin Fair

*In conjunction with
Bendigo Coin and Collectables Club Inc*

5th. August 2023

9.30 - 3.30

*Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin Dealers*

*Please Note New Venue
Prince of Wales*

Showgrounds

Holmes Rd, North Bendigo

Entry by gold coin donation appreciated

Bendigo Philatelic Society Inc

P.O. Box 962 Bendigo Central, Vic. 3552

www.bendigophilatelic.org

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Paul Brownlie

Email: newmarketeer@hotmail.com