



# The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J  
P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

August 2023

Web page: [www.bendigophilatelic.org](http://www.bendigophilatelic.org)



## Diary of Future Events

Tues. 1st Aug. A Philatelic Item of Interest

Sat. 5th Aug. Stamp and Coin Fair

## President's Report August 2023

Our 4<sup>th</sup> of July 20c a stamp night went very well with many of our members braving a cold wet evening to attend. It was an enjoyable evening. I received several constructive comments.

No.1: No boxes of mixtures of stamps too hard to go through, in a limited time, place unwanted stamps in an album or on Hagner Pages.

No.2: Don't limit to 20c a stamp just put the price you want near the stamp.

Again, this month we have 4 Birthdays. Noel on the 5<sup>th</sup> of August, Myrtle on the 19<sup>th</sup>, Geoff on the 21<sup>st</sup> and Ken on the 31<sup>st</sup>. Noel's Birthday is on the day of our shared Fair with the Coin Club on the **5<sup>th</sup> of August**. I hope you will all attend and wish Noel a Happy Day, how lucky to have your Birthday on the day of the fair, as this will be a wonderful day.

Our Next meeting is on the **1<sup>st</sup> of August**, and the topic for that night is a philatelic item of interest. It can be quirky, special or something important just to you. I would like you all to bring something and just to say a few words about it. We may be a bit short on numbers as many of our members are away on holidays. We wish them all a wonderful time and look forward to their return.

On the third Monday **16<sup>th</sup> of October** Ballarat is holding an inter club daytime meeting and Auction commencing at 1pm. David S. has offered to drive the Bus so we can all sit back and relax. Seats are filling rapidly so if you want to come, please contact me to reserve a seat.

Now just a little housekeeping reminder when meeting is over please put your chairs against the wall, and don't forget to put a gold coin in the supper jar. Also, after auction wait till Margaret has finished the accounting.

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 to Jacinta Allan MP 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.

### CLUB CONTACTS:

**President:** *Libby Luke* ph: 0448 120 066

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**Fair Coordinator:** *Paul Brownlie*

# Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

A review by: David Robinson

## THE STAMPS OF BELGIUM LUXEMBOURG & NETHERLANDS 1971



61<sup>st</sup> EDITION STANLEY GIBBONS LIMITED

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The low countries, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Luxembourg are three countries in the north-western European region and lie between France and Germany. BENELUX is formed from the beginning of each country's name. It was a precursor of the European Union. The region is more traditionally known in English as the Low Countries because they are all part of a plain near the North Sea, and parts of the Netherlands are so low as to be below sea-level, requiring dykes to keep the sea water out. Belgium as we know was virtually flattened during the First and Second World Wars. Belgium was originally part of the Netherlands and at one time Luxembourg was an independent state under the sovereignty of the King of Netherlands as Grand Duke. Many of the Benelux stamps are attractive, well designed and have the charm of the countries themselves. A collection of the three countries stamps is very popular and proves to be a pleasure to inspect and own.

### BELGIUM.

Postage stamps were first issued by Belgium in 1849 they are inscribed BELGIQUE-BELGIE and have become quite sought after by collectors. The issues are the famous 'Epaulettes' and 'Medallions'. Leopold's portrait was drawn by Charles Baugniet and the issues were engraved by the very successful English engraver John Henry Robinson. (John Robinson was born in Lancashire England in 1796 John is also well known for his engraving work on the Britannia 5-pound note).



The middle stamp: 1925 issue for the 75th Anniversary of the first Belgium stamps, portraying Leopold I and Albert I.

There are many known shades & colour variations also some quite rare postmarks, especially in colour's other than black. Leopold II being Belgium's second King reigned from 1865-1909 and the sole owner of the Congo Free State from 1885-1908.

There were two modern period where the country was occupied by the Germans: 1914-1918 German stamps were surcharged and overprinted BELGIEN with cents and francs; during WW11 1941- 1945 there were no overprints.

## LUXEMBOURG.



GRAND DUKE WILLIAM III

The first issue from 1852 features Grand Duke William III (the Dutch King) The design featured the Grand Duke, in an oval frame with the words POSTES carved around the top of the oval, and the stamp value in the upper corner. There is a strong link with the contemporary Belgian stamps, for the first Luxembourg issue was again designed and engraved by the Wiener/Robinson team.

Luxembourg's commemorative issues are among the finest in Europe, they are well thought-out designs, superbly printed by leading printing houses.



Particularly attractive are the annual Christmas charity stamps which often feature The Royal Family Provincial Arms, fairy tales and castles. All stamps are inscribed Luxembourg except the first set, simply inscribed POSTES and the value..



**The 1940-41 German occupation issues which consisted of the German Stamps overprinted LUXEMBURG and printed with the surcharge German Currency.**

## NETHERLANDS



The lowlands known for their tulips and windmills, is often referred to by foreigners as Holland but is officially known as the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Officially founded in 1579 as a union of various north-western provinces. One of these provinces was Holland developing into the dominate region as it included the cities of Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and The Hague.

The William III issue is the country's first stamp issued in 1852 and the variants are among the more popular collecting stamps of Europe. The only daughter of William III was Wilhelmina, first appearing on the 1891 stamp as a 10-year-old. Wilhelmina later became the second Queen of the Netherlands in 1898, her coronation was marked with the issue of a new set of stamps depicting a glamorous 18-year-old sovereign, who was to reign for 58 years.



1891-95 1898-192 **1898 FAR RIGHT: THE CORONATION STAMP ISSUED ON 6 SEPT. 1898**



Princess Juliana, the future Queen, first appeared on stamps in 1934. Juliana was crowned in 1948 to mark the occasion a 10c sepia and a 20c ultramarine stamp were designed by Van Krimpen, becoming the first Juliana full face definitive. A second profile series was issued in 1953, while Hartz introduced a third profile in 1969.

Other popular series from the Netherlands include the "charity stamps", the Child welfare stamps and the summer charities series depicting a wide variety of subjects.

[Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines, which are available to members.](#)

[Please contact David on email: ddusa@live.com.au](mailto:ddusa@live.com.au)

## One of the last of the old-style stamp shops.

Thanks to the wonders of the internet, this edition of the Bendigo newsletter is actually being typed in and sent to you from Mackay in Queensland where I am visiting my eldest son. Mackay has a very healthy stamp club, I've been told, and I am planning to visit while I'm up here. I'll keep you posted about that.

Mackay collectors can also enjoy something that most of us down south have relegated to the realm of wistful memories, that is, one of the last stamp shops left in Australia, in fact they are becoming a rarity worldwide. The same internet that has allowed me to work anywhere has also led to the death of the old-style stamp shops as the cost of rents has made it hard for the owners to compete with online dealers.



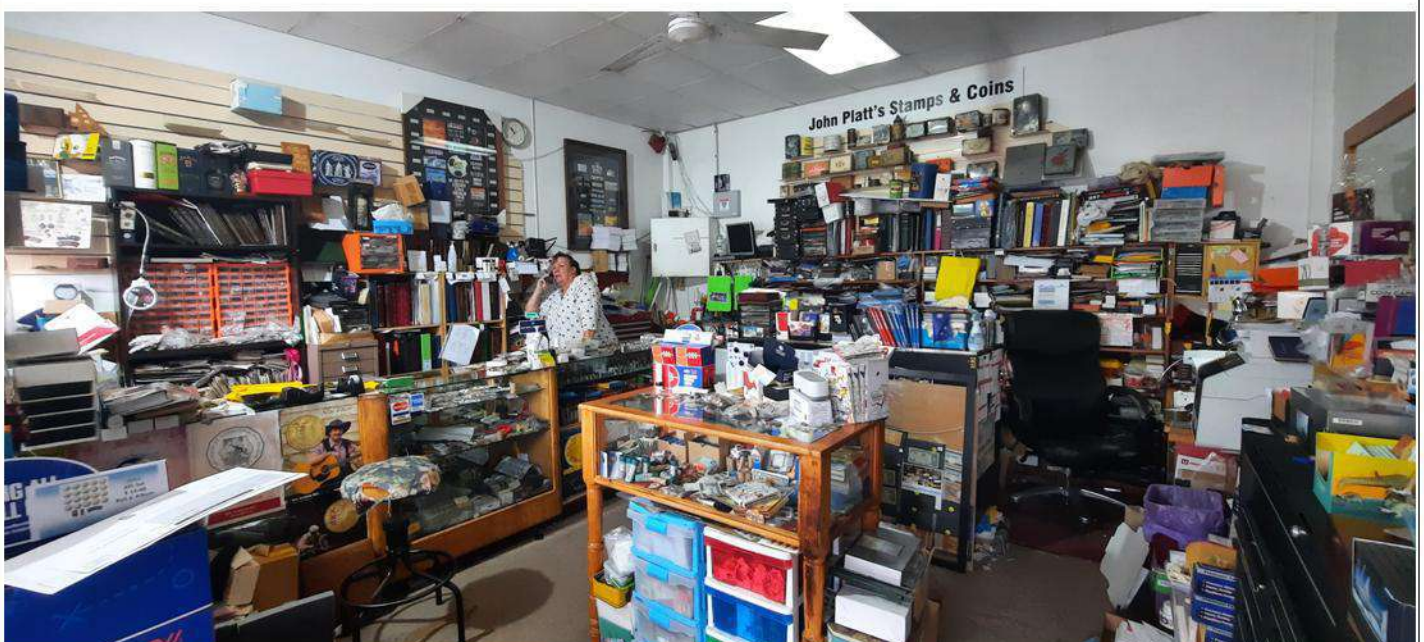
We all remember the ambience of a stamp shop. You would wander in and find all kinds of treasures piled up or hidden away, just waiting to be discovered. The more crowded and chaotic the shop, the more we loved them and most of us will remember many happy hours exploring our favourite shop. This is something that has been lost to collectors who now can only browse online.

John and Kathy Platts' shop is definitely not one of those sterile places where everything is laid out neatly and you almost feel afraid to touch anything. I said to Kathy that I was amazed that she could find anything but somehow, it all seems to work.

John was away when I called in. As part of their business plan, he is doing an eight week trip around Queensland visiting twenty cities where he gives collectors the opportunity to see their merchandise up close. The day I was there he was somewhere between Winton and Mount Isa, a seven hour drive between stops.

Although their business is more biased towards coins than stamps, as a stamp collector, I had no difficulty in finding items of interest. I will be here for eight weeks so I'm sure that I'll be a frequent visitor in that time.

John Armstrong



*Kathy was kept busy by a constant stream of visitors and phone calls while I was there. Everyone was greeted with a beaming smile that made them feel like they were an old friend.*

## Stamp and coin fair ready to send it

ALTHOUGH sending letters by post and carrying cash may be becoming a thing of the past, the practice of acquiring stamps and coins as collectables is still going strong.

Now the Bendigo Coin and Collectibles Club and the Bendigo Philatelic Society are putting on the largest collectibles fair in the region since before the COVID-19 pandemic, with over 40 traders filling over 100 tables at an upcoming event.

Bendigo Stamp and Coin Fair co-ordinator Paul Brownlie, who's also treasurer of the coin club and committee member at the philatelic society, said the pandemic had an unexpected impact on the pastime.

"The good thing about collecting coins and stamps is that everyone couldn't go anywhere, and they had excess money to dispose of, so they were filling gaps in their collections," he said.

Along with the stamps and coins, he said there will be a variety of other collectables on offer at the event.

"We do have one person who has militaria, another person who's selling Lego, another man selling football cards, and the other table holders selling other collectible

items," Mr Brownlie said.

"We're not strictly bound by coins and stamps, stamps now aren't as common as they used to be, but all the rage now is coloured two-dollar coins and coloured one-dollar coins from Australia.

"You've probably heard of the Vegemite coins and the Matildas coins, they're very, very popular through the Woolworth's stores, the only way you can get them, but very, very collectible."

Mr Brownlie said stamp collectors are often interested in

the stories the items tell and what they might say about the time and place they came from.

"Seeking stamps from all over the world and every stamp that's made, you want the story off the stamp.

"Why did they put that person's head on the stamp, or why do they have that scene on the stamp?"

The Bendigo Stamp and Coin Fair will be held on Saturday 5 August between 9.30am and 3.30pm at Prince of Wales Showgrounds.

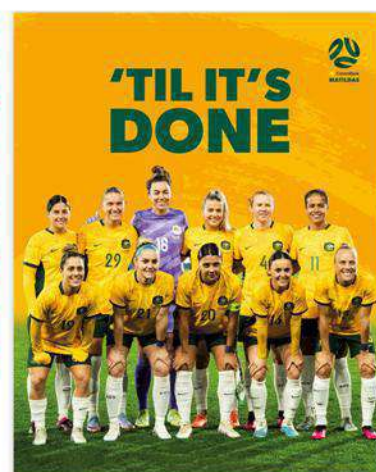
By the time you read this, our stamp and coin fair will be just days away. This year, we will be in the Prince of Wales Showgrounds at Holmes Road, North Bendigo. The times have been slightly extended to 9.30-3.30 so everyone should have plenty of time to snag a bargain or two. The Bendigo Times helped with our promotion with the above article on 14th July so many thanks to them for that.

Despite the fair taking much of my focus, I can still find time to peruse the new issues from Australia Post. They certainly bring mixed feelings. Personally, I'm not sure how much longer I will keep buying all the new issues as AP are surely simply trying to milk collectors for as much as they can get. The July issues are good examples of how bad things have become. They started out with a pretty nice new series of Australian animals for the international post.



Then they followed it with a pretty awful stamp for the FIFA Women's World Cup 2023, though I suppose your opinion on that is simply a matter of taste.

Then came a seventeen dollar pack of peel and stick stamps to celebrate the Matildas, Australia's national women's soccer football team. These are in the Mystamps format as are most of the other issues and these, in the main, show how stamps no longer feature the culture of this country.



These include a pack for the band Kiss for those old enough to remember them, one for Looney Tunes cartoon characters and one for the movie, Frozen.

Yours in philately,

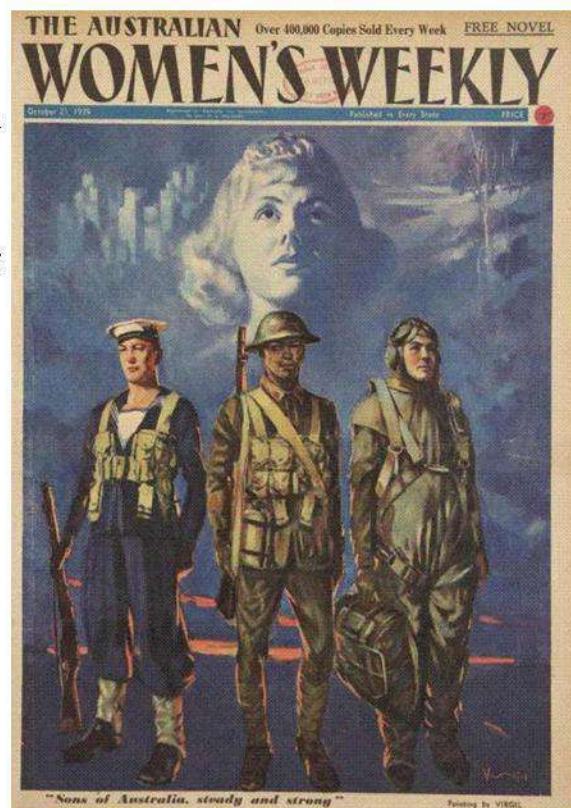
Paul

## The 1940 AIF Issue

When stamps were first printed, they were simply intended as a receipt for the payment of postage. They soon became much more than that, reflecting the changing tastes and fashions of society, recording historical events and spreading propaganda messages from the governments that issued them. They can also be a miniature form of fine art. The traditional method of stamp engraving stretches the artist's skills to the limit. The story behind these stamps is all of the above.

After the outbreak of World War Two, the government suggested to the Australian Post Office that they should issue a stamp to commemorate the departure of the A.I.F. for overseas. The Post Office decided that it would be better to honour all three armed services and the nursing service. They thought that the cover painting of the Sydney Women's Weekly on 21st October 1939 would make a good basis for a stamp design and the Weekly agreed for this to happen.

The cover featured a painting by Virgil Reilly and it depicted a sailor, soldier and airman with a nurse in the guise of guardian angel above them. Reilly used photos of three real servicemen for his painting. The soldier was his son, Gavan Reilly, the sailor was Charles Bruce and the airman was Arthur Wright. Virgil Reilly's wife was the model for the nurse.



The Post Office made their own changes. The first was to replace the servicemen with their own models, two of whom were workers at the note printing branch where the stamps would be produced. It was thought that if the original servicemen became casualties, having their image on a stamp might be hard for the families. Frank Davies Manley was given the job of producing the stamp.

There were few engravers in the world who could reach the standard of Frank Manley and he was responsible for an enormous number of Australia's early engraved stamps. Stamp engraving is done on a steel die at the exact size of the finished stamp but in reverse. The engraver uses a small chisel called a burin and works under a magnifying glass. One slip can mean disaster and ruin several weeks' work.

It also requires a very high standard of printing to show the skill of the engraver. Modern engravers work in the knowledge that the latest printing presses are of an almost unbelievable high quality. This was not true in Manley's day and it took a very skilled printer to exact the sort of print that Manley's engravings required.

Manley brought his models to attention. His airman was put into uniform rather than the flying suit on the original and the soldier was given a slouch hat. For the nurse, he seems to have used the original model of Virgil Reilly's wife but she is now looking resolutely ahead rather than at the heavens.

Both painting and engraving have city and bushland scenes for the background to emphasise that Australian forces were from both areas. The stamps were produced in four denominations, 1d, 2d, 3d and 6d. This was the first time a commemorative one penny stamp had been produced. This was so that they could be used on mail to the forces overseas to show that Australia was behind them.

A legend has grown that all three men on the stamp were killed but this is not true. All of them survived the war. Those on the original painting were not so lucky.

Gavan Reilly, the son of the artist was killed in 1942 at Buna Mission, Papua on the north coast of what is now Papua New Guinea.

The airman is believed to have been Arthur Norman Wright, RAAF who was killed in the skies over England in 1941.

The sailor was Leading Seaman Charles Henry Bruce RAN of the British ship Ceramic who was killed in the Atlantic in 1942.





## Why is this person on a stamp No 20: Franz Anton Maulbertsch

Perhaps not as well remembered today as he deserves, Franz Anton Maulbertsch (1724-1796) was one of the most important Central European artists of the eighteenth century. One reason that he is not better known is that much of his work was frescoes for churches in remote parts of relatively inaccessible areas of Bohemia, Moravia, and northern Hungary.

Trained at the Imperial art academy in Vienna, Maulbertsch enjoyed a highly successful career in the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the 18th century. He produced works for castles and churches in present-day Austria, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary. He was admired for his swift, virtuoso working methods in creating frescoes and altarpieces, as well as small-scale independent works. In his atmospheric use of light and colour he is now recognised as the leading northern exponent of the tradition of Giovanni Battista Tiepolo.



His frescoes are noted for their brilliant use of light and shade to create a sense of distance which he developed by first producing a monochrome version of varying shades of grey to white. Examples of this exist such as the “Glorification of the Royal Hungarian Saints. This is held by The Met in New York, though not currently on display. Their description reads:

“Monochrome, or grisaille, oil sketches allowed artists to work out complex light effects independent of the diverse colour palette used in the final painting. This work, with its sophisticated spatial organization, was executed for the Hungarian Cathedral Basilica of Győr (Raab) by Maulbertsch, the outstanding Austrian exponent of the Venetian tradition embodied by Tiepolo. Saint Ladislaus I (1040–1095), king of Hungary, appears at lower left, while an earlier king, Saint Stephen (975–1038) and his son, Saint Emeric, are shown at the summit of clouds. Careful use of a subtle range of whites and light gray creates the illusion that the Trinity hovers in the heaven, far above the space.”

Although the major part of his work was of a religious nature, his secular pieces also showed his skill at using grades of light and shade to convey depth and distance as in this painting entitled “Pastoral Serenade, painted in 1752.

He died in Vienna in 1796.





## **MARYBOROUGH STAMP & COIN FAIR 2023.**

**To be held on Saturday, 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2023.**

**From 9.15 am to 2.15 pm.**

**at St Augustine's Hall, Burns Street, Maryborough.**

**Plenty of Free Parking. Free admission.**

**Some refreshments provided.**

**Melbourne & local dealers.**

**Free Valuations provided.**





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

Enquiries to Fair Coordinator: Paul Brownlie

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