



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

November 2023

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Diary of Future Events

Sat. 28th Oct. Maryborough Stamp Fair

Tues. 7th Nov. Club Competitions

President's Report November 2023

Our last meeting was the Annual General Meeting. All Positions were made vacant and have been filled. We are all looking forward to the coming year. There is one new face on the committee and that is Geoff Crawford – welcome. It's always nice to have a new person. New thoughts and ideas.

Marg would appreciate Membership fees from anyone who has not paid their membership, cash or direct debit are both acceptable. The new fees are \$20.00 a single and \$30.00 a couple.

Now to some very sad news. We lost Lindsay Nicholls on the 27th of September. He went to bed one night and did not wake up the next morning. So very sad but hopefully he did not suffer. Lindsay was 89. He will be sadly missed. Eight of our members attended the funeral, which I thought was wonderful.

The Geelong and Ballarat Fairs were held over the last two weekends, and Maryborough is on 28th of October. October is always a great month for stamp fairs.

The Ballarat Philatelic Society initiated an interclub daytime meeting on the 16th of October and invited other clubs to attend. They had a large Auction of over 200 lots and a guest speaker – Garry Watson from Abacus Auctions. Garry has been in the Philatelic world for all his life and is well respected. His presentation was both informative and entertaining. Eight of our members climbed onto the Police Express Bus driven by David Somerton and had a lovely day of fellowship and Stamps. Who could ask for more. Thank you, David, your driving skills are appreciated. Thank you to our sister club Ballarat for giving us a wonderful day.

We have two members having a birthday this month David Robinson on the 2nd and Bill Trew on the 18th. "Happy Birthday" to you both we do hope you have a special day.

November Meeting brings the annual competitions: Bennett & Tresise, these were named after founding members of the Society and we are trying to find out as much as possible about these two early members. If you can help, please contact me. You have about two weeks to complete your entries, so get a wriggle on!

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:

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Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

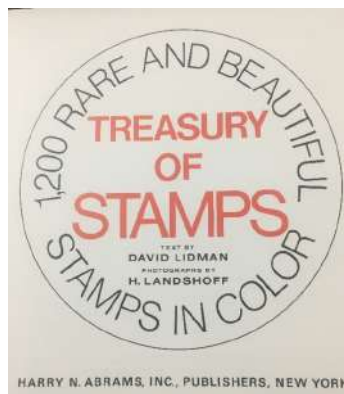
A review by: David Robinson. Library code: BPS0112

TREASURY OF STAMPS

1200 RARE & BEAUTIFUL STAMPS IN COLOR

Text by: DAVID LIDMAN - Photographs by: H. LANDHOFF.

Published by: H. N. ABRAMS INC. PUBLISHERS NEW YORK.



The Treasury of Stamps is attractively presented in full colour and is bound in a hard, white cloth covered presentation. The book contains a wealth of information on the development of the postal histories from around the world. Stamp designs, trends, and printing processes. The author David Ledman is well known in the US Philately circles as the Stamp Editor from the New York Times.

The real beauty of this book lies in the treatment of a selection of stamps by H. Landhoff, a renowned U.S. photographer. Hundreds of postage stamps have been reproduced in large size, arranged by subjects. The postage stamps are presented in thematic subjects covering the animal kingdom, literature and music, art and architecture, business and industry, politics and governments, science, sports, war and peace, and natural phenomena; many fields are represented.



From page 1058: French stamps of Marianne, used as a symbol of France on numerous stamps, L-R is an image by Edmond Dulac (1944) Pierre Gandon (1945) and Jean Cocteau (1961)

In this publication the chapters include.

"Neither snow, nor rain..."

Thurn und Taxis: the family Postal Union.

The stamp comes to England

The New World

The Postal Card

The Heavens are conquered

To the Moon

The Postman Cometh

Stamps have changed

Stamps a reflection of their time

Poliferation of Nations & stamps

Gimmickry

Propaganda

It's a business, too.

Printers & Printing Methods

Changing the look of U.S. Stamps

Thoughts on Stamp designs

Collectors, Stamps, and Philately

A Collection of Rare and Beautiful Stamps

In this section, hundreds of stamps have been photographed by Herman Landshoff. Herman a German American Photographer worked as a fashion photographer in New York (1942–1960) He is also known for his work with a large number of contemporary artists, photographers, actors and other creative minds, including famous photographs of Albert Einstein.



From page 241: For a junior stamp show, Juventus 1969, Luxembourg solicited design ideas from European children and used three designs by Belgian, Austrian and Swiss children on a souvenir sheet set.

[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)

If the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body, then left handed people are the only ones in their right mind.



What on earth are Crypto Stamps and are they worth collecting?

We may all have heard about crypto currency as Bitcoin has often made the news headlines. For many of us from the older generations, this can all be a bit mystifying, even suspicious, the idea that our money can exist somewhere in “cyberspace” and a bitcoin that began life worth a dollar, is now worth far more than that rings alarm bells for many of us.

Some of us have seen too many speculative bubbles burst to believe that bitcoin can just keep going up in value. Profit without production has a history of failure bringing heartache to the last investors on the chain. Crypto currency is based on a computer system called a “blockchain” which is far too complicated for this writer to begin to understand.

Also based on the blockchain system is the idea of Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs). This is where one can own the rights to a piece of digital property, often an artwork, without that item having a physical representation. NFTs can be traded like normal artworks. Again, older people might wonder why one would want an artwork that they couldn’t hang on their walls but remember that much of the world’s most valuable treasures, outside of museums, live in bank vaults.

Since 2019, we have seen the emergence of crypto stamps which are very similar to NFTs in that they may have a digital component as well as a physical one. These are causing a lot of interest and excitement among younger collectors and because of this, could possibly gain in value over time, depending, of course on the numbers issued. As we know, many older stamps were produced in their millions and can still be basically worthless decades later.

So what exactly is a crypto stamp? Well, a crypto stamp is a physical stamp that has a “twin” digital copy on the blockchain. The stamp carries a QR code, or design that can be scanned, that allows access to the digital version. This digital version is a Non-Fungible Token that can then be activated and collected or traded. The first of these was a joint issue by Austria and the Netherlands in 2019 and featured a cat (shown top right). 150,000 were produced. Since then several other countries have issued these including Liechtenstein, Croatia, Gibraltar, Switzerland, the UAE, and even the United Nations in New York. An internet search shows that over 300 have been issued so far.

So, are these worth collecting? Well firstly, you will need a large budget as they are mostly very expensive and at anything from €10 to around €200 are obviously aimed at collectors rather than for postal use. One would hardly put a €200 stamp on a letter. Also, as with most “collectables” issued by postal authorities, there are premium “gold” versions, which actually have real gold in the print to give them a sparkle. These are, of course, very limited editions and are reputedly snapped up by investors.

This brings us back to the original question. Are these worth collecting? I suspect that many older collectors will answer in the negative while many younger collectors with high disposable income will keep driving the prices up until they reach a limit, if one exists. The sad part of all this, in my opinion, is that the prices will drive away many collectors from what could have been a very interesting new facet of the hobby.



The stamps of Rattlesnake Island

Over the years, most of us would have come across “bogus” stamp issues. The most common when I started collecting were the “sand dune” stamps, issued by middle eastern entities where there was no postal service. These were usually large colourful labels which were sold in packets, mainly to children. Many of us can probably remember the disappointment of finding out that our “valuable” collection of these was actually worthless.



Sometimes, however, there was an element of veracity around some of these stamps. A case in point is the issue of stamps from Rattlesnake Island which although originally designated as bogus, later gained approval and are still being issued today.



Rattlesnake Island can be found on Lake Erie off the coast of Ohio. Despite having both permanent and seasonal inhabitants, the United States Post Office refused to deliver mail to the island. For years, resident Dr James Frackleton lobbied without success for a postal service until in 1966, he gave up and instead founded the Rattlesnake Island Local Post. He organised for stamps to be printed and arranged for this local mail to be carried to the post office in Port Lincoln, Ohio by the local airline, Island Airways, who carried freight and passengers around the various lake islands.

Philatelists loved the first issues and requests came from all over the world when the news got out. Naturally, this caused an uproar at USPS who were not pleased at all at this interloper and the US Justice Department soon became involved. The end result was a win for the island as because the USPS still refused to deliver there, it was declared that the local post was a legal carrier. The stamps were legal for carriage from the island to the post office but mail had to carry regular US stamps for travel beyond that.

Only one stipulation was made. The original stamps were rectangular. These had to be changed to a different shape so that they could not be mistaken for US issues. New, triangular stamps were printed and the post operated regularly until 1989. It was later revived, including from 2005 to 2010 by Dr Frackleton, and again in 2022 by local resident, and now Postmaster General, Dave Gill.



One of the original rectangular stamps



The 2022 issue and the 2023 perforated stamps

Philatelists these days are used to varieties being deliberately produced to make them “collectable”. The first 2022 issue from Rattlesnake Island produced a “true” variety due to a problem at the printers. Instead of perforated stamps, what Dave Gill received was an issue that had been roulette. As the release had already been announced, there was no time to change this and the stamps went out. It was not until 2023 that they were able to get supplies that were properly perforated P12.

Sources: American Philatelic Society News and writers collection.

Why is this person on a stamp No. 23: Bozena Nemcova

Collectors of Czechoslovakia may have noticed that the early identifiable subjects of their stamps were almost exclusively male. The few female images were either generic wives and mothers or as the allegory for peace.

It wasn't until 1950, when Czechoslovakia commemorated the 130th birth anniversary of the poet and writer, Bozena Nemcova that a woman finally made it onto a Czech stamp due to merit. At least, after such a long time, the stamp issued was a rather beautiful one, designed by Karel Svoboda and engraved by Jan Mracek.

Bozena Nemcova was revered in Czechoslovakia as one of the important writers during the Czech National Revival which was a cultural movement which took place in the Czech lands during the 18th and 19th centuries. The purpose of this movement was to revive the Czech language, culture and national identity.

Nemcova's birthplace, Vienna, in 1820, when she was reputedly born, was part of the Austrian Empire as was Prague, where she died, aged 41 in January 1862. Born Barbora Novotná she was originally educated in German, switching to Czech on moving to Prague as an adult. There is some controversy over her birth with some historians believing that she was the illegitimate child of aristocrats who was given to her parents to raise. The main argument for this seem to be based on school records that would show an actual birth date in 1918. Most historians do not accept this idea however.

It is perhaps fitting that she became the first woman to be honoured on a Czech stamp as much of her work was about the lives of Czech women and the struggle for female emancipation. When she was 17 years old, her parents arranged for her to marry Josef Němec, fifteen years her senior but the marriage was not a happy one. They had four children, three sons and a daughter, but were plagued by poverty. His activities as a Bohemian patriot made him unpopular with the state authorities and eventually cost him his job as a financial security guard or customs officer, depending on which source you read.

In Prague, Bozena Němcová began to write in Czech. Her first poem, *Ženám českým* (To Czech Women), was printed on April 5, 1843. She wrote two novels, both released in 1855. Her most famous novel is *Babička* (The Grandmother) (1855) and is about a young girl named Barunka (a pet form of Barbora) and her childhood with her grandmother in the countryside. The book was inspired by Němcová's own childhood in the village of Ratibořice, where she lived with her parents, siblings and maternal grandmother Magdalena Novotná. The grandmother greatly influenced the little Barunka; as an adult, Bozena Němcová greatly idealized her. Her other novel was titled *Pohorská vesnice* (The village under mountains). Much of her other writing was retelling of Czech legends and fairy tales.



The photo on which the stamp is obviously based.



Nemcova's grave

Her marriage was plagued by bouts of violence including one episode where her husband beat her so badly, the police had to intervene. Eventually they divorced and she was forced to live on the small income her writing brought as well as the generosity of friends. Her health failed and although her death certificate lists "general dropsy", the actual cause was possibly a combination of cancer and tuberculosis. The support she received, particularly from Bohemian patriots was never enough to support her needs and she died in abject poverty on January 21, 1862 after four days of unconsciousness. This support contrasted greatly with the magnificent funeral those patriots financed for her. Her subsequent fame in Czech circles seems a little ironic considering how desperate her life became.

Main source: Wikipedia



MARYBOROUGH STAMP & COIN FAIR 2023.

To be held on Saturday, 28th 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.

