



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

January 2025

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



- Tues. 7th Jan. Stamps and Postmarks from 1925
 Tues. 4th Feb. Modes of Transport on Stamps
 Tues. 4th Mar. View Lois Whatley/Roman Lemega entries



*Wishing all our members and friends a
Happy New Year*



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 7.00pm 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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President's Report January 2025

Libby sends her apologies for the lack of the normal report in this edition but would like to inform members that at our January meeting, David Somerton will be giving a talk.

David has requested that those who are able to do so, bring a laptop or iPad that can be connected to the internet for some of the illustrations of his subject.

Members are also reminded to bring along any stamps or postmarks from your collection from the year 1925.



Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

Book information: David Robinson. Library code: BPS-0062

Flaw Checklist for Electro 15 of KGV 2d Die 1

By: R. Guy OAM, R.F. Parsons and J.M. Sandy



15L.39 Cracked Electro, through Roo's hip (late State)

This Spiral-bound 19 page booklet contains detailed descriptions and illustrations covering the period of 2d red KGV use: (February /March 1923 to September /October 1923.)

A change to the postal charges during the latter half of 1923, saw the dropping of the 2d rate down to 1 1/2d, for all mail under the one ounce weight.

There are several 2d red KGV stamp varieties that have been discovered and many, if not all, have been studied and documented in this interesting booklet.

[Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines, available to members. Please contact David on email: \[ddusa@live.com.au\]\(mailto:ddusa@live.com.au\)](#)

The Grey Zone: British India: Part 1: The Scinde Dawk Stamps 1852-1854

These were the **first postage stamps of India and indeed issued by any Asian Country**, and, also, the world's **first circular stamps**.

The Sind (*Sindh*, *Scind*, *Scinde*) was a district on the western side of British India
(see maps below). It now lies in Pakistan.



On the map (right) the Sindh is in dark purple towards the upper left side.



On 1st July 1852 in the Scinde District the first postal (embossed) stamps were issued becoming known as the ***Scinde Dawk*** stamps. The word Dawk or Dak was the term used to describe the very old postal system of runners in the Indus Valley. Sir Bartle Frere (Chief Commissioner of the Sindh from 1850) reformed the postal system by establishing a cheap and uniform rate of ½ Anna **prepayment** for all mailed items, and efficiently used horses and camels to deliver the mail.

The British had conquered the Sindh district in 1843.



The ½ Anna copper coin as minted by the East India Company. Latin inscription "*Auspicio Regis et Senatus Angliæ*" Translation: By the Command of the King and Parliament of England.

All Scinde Dawk's had a face value of ½ Anna (see coin above).

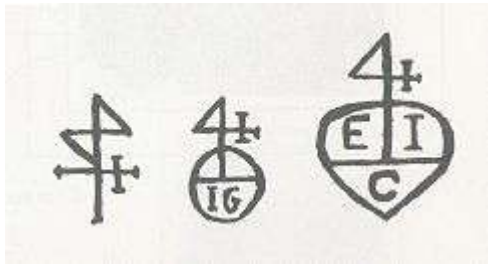


Sir Henry Bartle Edward Frere, 1st Baronet, GCB, GCSI, PC (29 March 1815 – 29 May 1884): Colonial Administrator of the Sindh / Scinde.

Sir Bartle Frere with the help of Edward Lees Coffey (*no picture or details of his life can be found*) the postmaster of Karachi, designed the Scinde Dawk stamp.



This was the Merchants Mark of the English East India Company (EIC) with the mystic '4' symbolising Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) in a heart (denoting 'good luck').



The last design is the one used on the embossed stamps which show the '4' with a Christian Cross on its side, and the heart now divided into three with the initials E.I.C.

Inscribed: **Scinde District Dawk** with new logo design, and value $\frac{1}{2}$ Anna.

The end design was finished by De La Rue & Company, England

The 1st (1852) **Vermilion (red)** Scinde Dawks were embossed on wafers of red sealing wax. Singular and circular, they do **not** exist in pairs, blocks or strips. Each stamp was separately punched from the sealing wafer (formerly used to produce seals for letters). Unfortunately, these punched wafers were hard and brittle, and when glued to the reverse of an envelope cracked very easily. Many were damaged when opening an envelope, and so were discarded or destroyed. Hence to the 'white' **paper** Scinde Dawk of 1853.



The Vermilion embossed stamp.

Value today up to \$55,000 to \$80,000

The 2nd (1853) White Scinde Dawk was issued embossed on paper. It is not known how many stamps were in a sheet but an irregular block of 14 is known. None of the stamps are in alignment or even equidistant so each stamp must again have been embossed one-at-a-time.

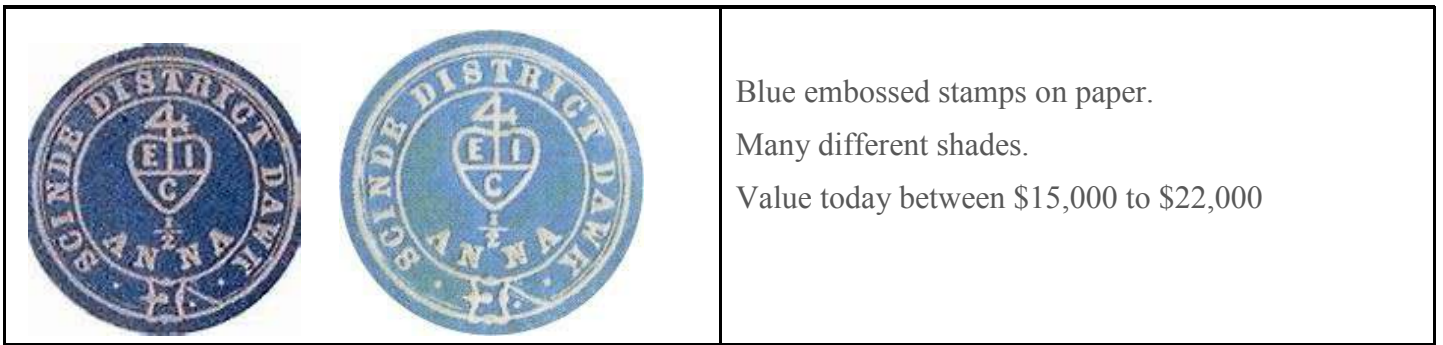
These white seals were difficult to distinguish on white envelopes in candlelight so a fresh batch was ordered from England coloured blue. These also had to be glued to a cover.



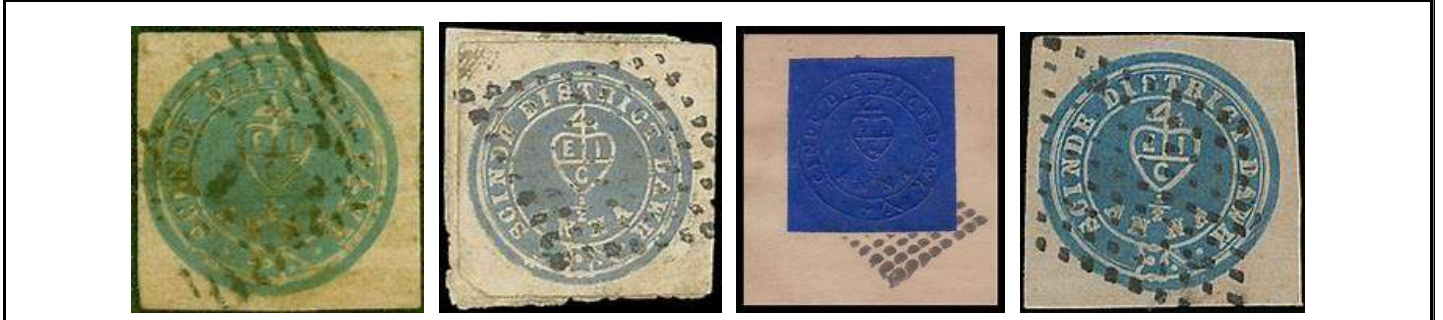
The White embossed stamp on paper.

Value today around \$5,000 to \$10,000

The 3rd (1854) and final, Blue Scinde Dawk was issued also on embossed paper and had to be likewise glued to a cover. These arrived from England in 1854 but were ordered to be destroyed in September 1854 but still continued in use **up to 1856** when the remaining stocks were destroyed as the Central Post Office in the capital Calcutta had issued stamps for all India from April, 1854.



Other 'blue shades', on white or grey paper.



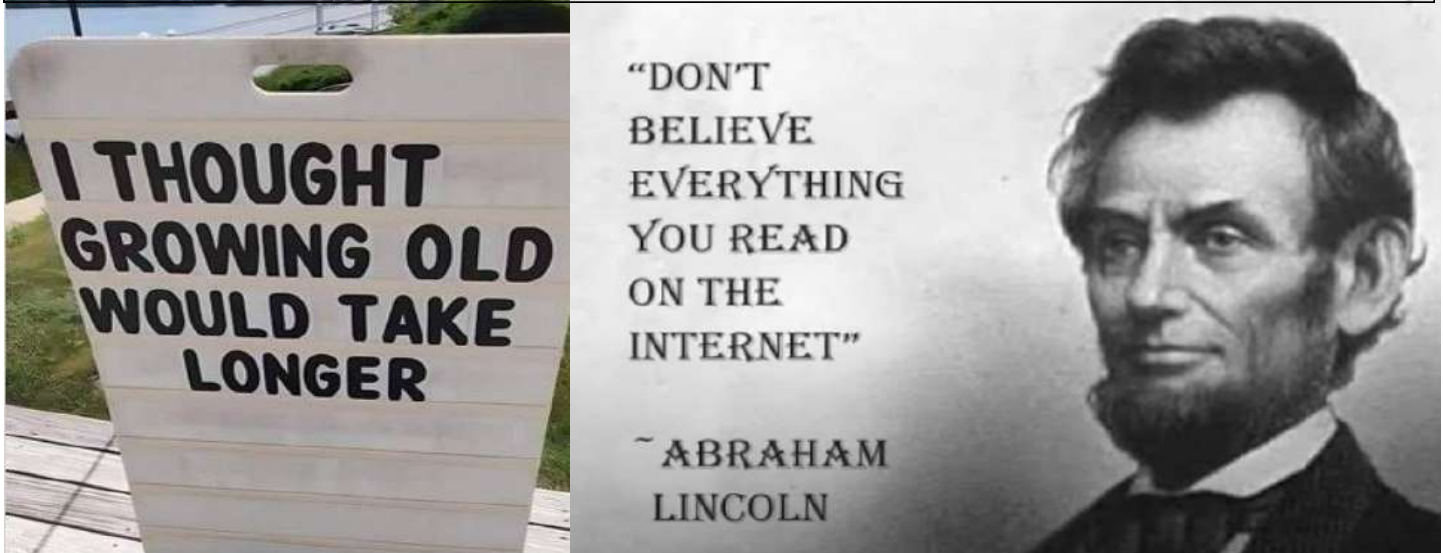
Scinde Dawk forgeries: Beware when purchasing "original stamps".

Given their great rarity, the Scinde Dawk stamps (1852-6) have been forged over the ages and most of these fakes can be detected easily as they are **not embossed** on paper. Other types of forgeries of these stamps show a misalignment of the second letter "A" of ANNA with the "K" of DAWK; and in other fakes the "1/2" is not separated from the central heart shaped emblem. Forgeries/fakes are plentiful on Ebay for around \$20 each. They serve a purpose to fill spaces in an album that would otherwise remain empty.



Old forgery \$106	Fakes around \$20 to \$30 each
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Grey, Maryborough



Why is this person on a stamp? No. 37: Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas

Captains Steponas Darius and Stasys Girėnas were two Lithuanian pilots who had migrated to the United States. They died when their plane crashed on their New York to Kaunas, Lithuania flight of 1933. After leaving New York on July 15th, they successfully crossed the Atlantic, despite their plane, named *Lituanica*, having no real navigation equipment and experiencing very bad weather.



Lituanica over New York

<http://www.lituanica.lt/photos.html>, CC BY 3.0

After travelling non-stop for 6411km in 37 hours and 11 minutes, an average speed of just over 172 kph, the two experienced pilots crashed over the German village of Kuhdamm, near Soldin, Germany (now Pszczelnik, near Mysliborz, Poland) just 638km from Kaunas.

Officially the flight was attributed to bad weather or engine failure but there were also theories that the plane had been shot down after being mistaken for a spy plane and flying too close to a concentration camp. The bodies and some parts of the plane were returned to Lithuania.

In 1934, Lithuania issued a set of stamps to honour the men. The 40c shows the plane over the Atlantic with a stylized map in the background while the 3L shows the plane over the globe.

Others in the set are not so easy to understand. The 1L shows the “Angel of Flight” standing guard over the wreckage of the plane while the 5L shows *Lituanica* and Vytautas, an ancient ruler and hero of Lithuania.

Despite almost a century passing, the two men are still revered in Lithuania and the Lithuanian National Soccer Team plays at the Darius and Girėnas stadium in Kaunas.





BENDIGO Stamp Fair

30th. August 2025

9.30 - 2.30

**Local & Melbourne
Stamp and Coin
Dealers**

**St. Andrews
Uniting Church Hall
24 Myers St. Bendigo**

Free Entry
**Bendigo Philatelic Society
Inc**

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