



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

March 2025

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Tues. 4th Mar. View Lois Whatley/Roman Lemega entries

Tues. 1st Apr. Annual Dinner

Tues. 6th May Mining, Ores and Crystals on stamps

President's Report March 2025

Just a short report this month – Life has become very busy.

March is the month when we hand in our Lois Whatley and Roman Lemega entries. Entries are viewed by all in attendance and Jo takes them home for judging, bribes will not be accepted. I know quite a lot of you have found this year's competition quite challenging. Well, we are now on count down for the winners.

After the last committee meeting, I was set two tasks. One to talk to Brian Bywater re a mini- Fair, and the other was to order an electronic Perforation Gauge. Both tasks are well on the way. Brian has suggested May would be a good month, so I now must talk to the RSL re room hire. The perforation gauge has been ordered and paid for. Just hope it arrives prior to the meeting.

Our theme for the February meeting was modes of Transport. This was an easy theme as every country has transport stamps. Many of our members put together a small presentation. Thank you to everyone who participated.

Our March birthday people are Toni on the 1st, Rae on the 7th, Jim on the 20th, and David Cotton on the 30th. Hope you all have a wonderful time on your special day. "Happy Birthday".

Don't forget the 2025 Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamp and Coins Fair on Sunday 9th of March. It's always good to support our Regional Clubs.

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 7.00pm 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:

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The Grey Zone: Some Stamp Facts No. 1: Did you know?


1. Mail Coaches

	<p>John Palmer of Bath, England 1742-1818 was the instigator of the British system of mail coaches from 1784 when he managed to get mail from Bristol to London in only 16 hours! He eventually extended mail coaches over all England and Scotland and was awarded an annual pension of 3,000 pounds in 1792, and a further 50,000 pounds in 1813 for his services to the Post Office.</p>
	<p>Mail coaches continued into the 1840's but were replaced by rail services from the 1830's. The last coach ran in 1846.</p>


2. Superb English cover of Late Fee payment.

	<p>British letter of April 10th, 1871 showing a "Late Fee" of One Penny (QV stamp Deep red stamp) beside a 3d (QV pink stamp) postage to France. L1 indicates "Late".</p> <p>Sender knew letter was 'late' so attached an extra one penny stamp to ensure letter would be despatched that day.</p>
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3. "Two-faced" stamp.

	<p>The "Liberty stamp".</p> <p>'Two-faced stamp' from Haiti of 1881.</p> <p>Designed by Louis-Edmond Laforesterie.</p> <p>His idea was to represent both 'white' and 'coloured' races of Haiti with the white profile looking left and the scarfed coloured looking right. Didn't quite work?</p>
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4. Own Image on stamp.

<p>Stamp Forger: Samuel Allan Taylor 1838-1913.</p>	
	<p>Bogus Kers City postage "stamp" featuring a portrait of Taylor himself !!!!!!!!</p> <p>Stamp dealer, stamp forger and con-man based in Montreal, New York City and Boston.</p> <p>A prolific forger specializing in bogus US locals, he was extremely active creating these stamps in the 1860s.</p>


5. Inverted Frame example.

	<p>Jamaica 1922</p> <p>1/- Orange with ‘inverted frame’.</p> <p>Statue is of Queen Victoria.</p> <p>2024 value \$50,000. Only 5 copies known.</p>
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6.

<p>‘Paquebot’: International used French word for ‘Packet Mail’, as postmark for mail posted on board ship. In use from 1894. Some examples.</p>	
	
	

7. Rarest Canadian Stamp

	<p>1851 12 pence. Queen Victoria head.</p> <p>1st Series of Colony of Canada. Portrait by Alfred Edward Chalon. Printed in New York.</p> <p><i>1/- not used as this value then meant 16 and two thirds pence!</i></p> <p>About 125 used copies exist & 5 unused.</p> <p>Value 2024 \$500,000 upwards each.</p> <p>An attractive stamp.</p>
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8. Newfoundland: Overprints inverted examples.

<p>This then ‘independent Dominion within the British Empire’ had a number of inverted overprints which today command very hefty prices.</p>	
	
	

Grey, Maryborough

Australia, 1929 3d Dark Green Airmail Stamp

This was the **first** Australian airmail stamp. It was issued on 20 May 1929, to commemorate the first official airmail route from Adelaide to Perth. The flight was scheduled for 2nd June, but bad weather delayed the flight until the next day the 3rd June.

The basic Designer was Ronald Arthur Harrison (1891-1968), but Harold Brocklebank Herbert (1891-1945) was commissioned to prepare the final design, the Engraver was Arthur Taylor, and the Printer was John Ash (1872-1947).

The design shows a De Havilland DH66 biplane (the actual plane used) flying over a flock of merino sheep flanked on either side by Eucalypts.

This original stamp became known as '**Type A**' as the mesh of the stamp is **vertical** and its size is 31 xx 22mm. In 1930 the '**Type B**' stamp was issued in a 3/- (36 pence) Booklet of 3 panes of 12 stamps. The mesh is **horizontal** and its size slightly bigger measuring 31.75 x 21mm.





Both stamps were without a Watermark, perf 11. A total of 3,720,560 stamps were issued.

An 'OS' stamp was also produced for official government use (both Types A & B were used).

The engraved stamp design was recess-printed, a process also known as **intaglio**.

The stamps were printed on paper that was moistened prior to being put through the press.

This "*wet process*" allowed the paper to take the ink more readily. However, the downside of wet printing is that when the paper dries it shrinks a little, thereby also shrinking the design with it. The shrinkage can be from side to side or from top to bottom, depending on the mesh of the paper. It is this shrinkage that caused the two varieties of the 1929/30 3d airmail stamps.

Type A	Type B	OS Type A	OS Type B
			

TYPE 'A' (TOP STAMP) & TYPE 'B' (BOTTOM STAMP)

You can see the extra width of the bottom stamp (right side).



Double joined stamp Plate Blocks numbered 1, 2, 3, 4.

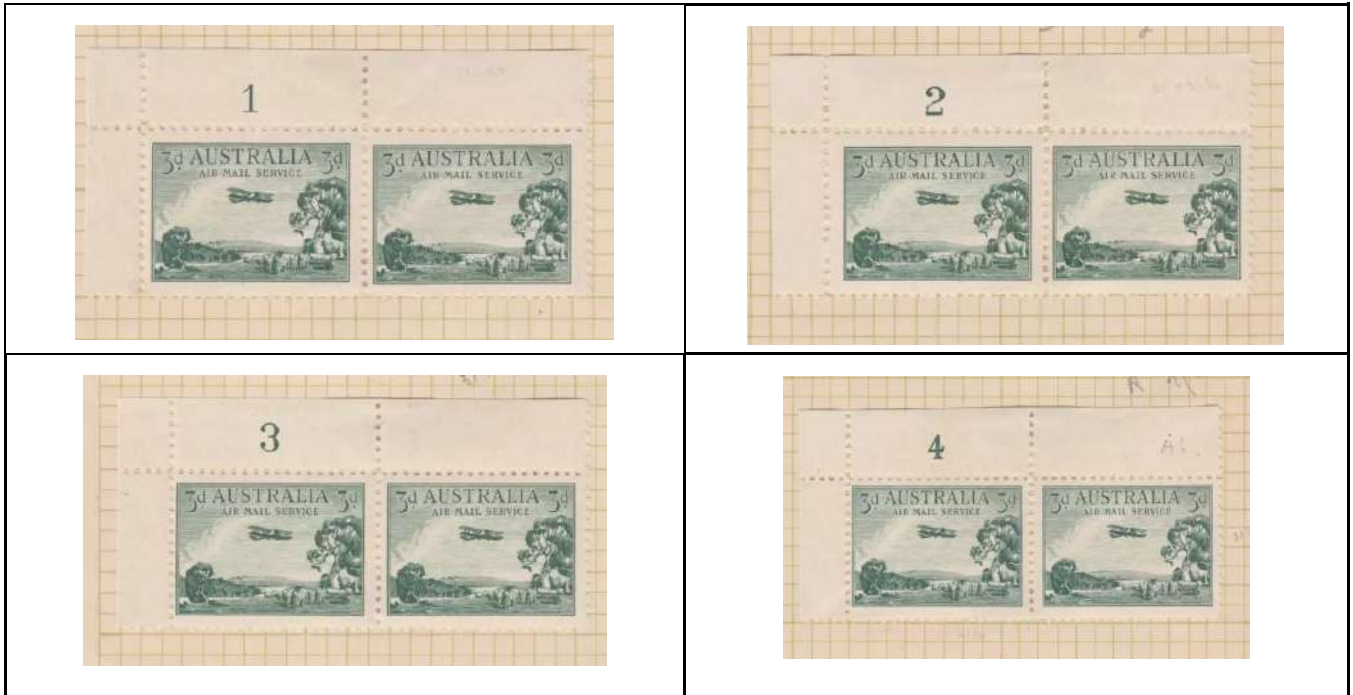


Plate Block inscribed John Ash



Some covers:





← Spectacular cover of 1937
with 8 stamps of 1929 &
4 stamps of KGVI of 1937

GREAT RARITY: The 'special DIE PROOF' of 1929.



This is the special Presentation **Die Proof** in the issued colour, on thick stock, 215 x 167mm. Only 12 were produced from a special 1-on plate for presentation to the six members of the stamp design committee as well as associated dignitaries. AAMC.163f; ACSC.134DP(2).

"Only five have been traced to 2024". An exceptional item.

Value today around **\$12,500 !!!!**

Grey
Maryborough






The Phantom Republic of Counani (or Couani) & its stamps.

circa 1885 to 1904

(alias: the Republic of Independent French Guiana)

Ever heard of this? or have you any of their stamps?

A number of French Hoaxers conspired to bluff their way in trying to establish an independent country next to French Guiana, proclaiming themselves ‘free’, adopting a flag, a Coat of Arms and issuing ***bogus postage stamps***. Borders between countries in South America were often in dispute vis-à-vis the Empire of Brazil and France.

	<p>A <u>fanciful</u> map shows Counani (or the Republique de la Guyane Independante) from the Atlantic coast stretching to Venezuela.</p>	
	<p>This map shows Counani as a small ‘coastal area’ – probably more realistic.</p>	
	 <p>or</p>	
<p>1st Flag of Counani 1886-7</p>	<p>2nd Flag of Counani 1887-1891</p>	<p>Coat of Arms of Counani</p>

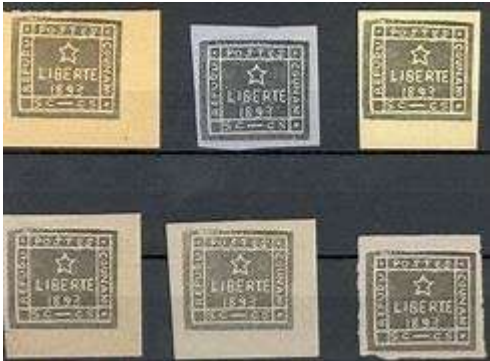



In 1885 Paul Quartier returned to the disputed area known as Counani and signed a Treaty with local village chiefs **creating a “free” state on 23 July 1886**. This ‘new state’ mainly consisted of a few hundred criminals, deserters, fugitive slaves and traders.

A government was formed with Jules Gros, a respected Parisian (in Paris) who was declared President, M. Guigues was Minister of State, and Paul Quartier was Quartermaster.

On 11 September 1887 both France and Brazil declared ‘Counani’ invalid and illegal, and disposed all officials. So ended the 1st Republic. Jules Gros died on 30 July, 1891.

In the meantime postage stamps were issued in 1892-3, and this ‘de facto republic’ seemed to linger on until in 1901 when Adolphe Brezet (a former French soldier and adventurer) stirred up everything again and declared himself 2nd President of Counani!

Brezet, based in Paris called press conferences boasting of his country Counani. Always resplendent in costume with sword, he extolled in Paris for 3 years (1901 to 1904) the great achievements of his country but Brezet finally came unstuck when in 1904 both Japanese and Russian officials realized that the shipyards and other assets of Counani did **not** exist. Thereafter Parisian society rejected Brezet, and everyone realized it had all been a ‘big con’. He claimed to be president as late as 1911 when he was exiled to Britain. Nothing more was ever heard from him after 1912. For these and more details look up the Internet.

Some issued stamps of Counani from 1892-3. Beware of reproductions and forgeries!	
<div data-bbox="113 546 604 943"> <div>b</div>  </div>	<div data-bbox="639 546 1498 960">  </div>
<div data-bbox="239 994 695 1301">  </div>	<div data-bbox="860 1178 1394 1211"> <p>A very rare Counani stamp postally used.</p> </div>
<div data-bbox="301 1341 635 1760">  </div>	<div data-bbox="860 1337 1500 1771"> <p>Jules Gros (3 March 1829 – 30 July 1891) was a French journalist and Secretary of the Société de géographie. He became the 1st President of the unrecognised Republic of Counani in May 1887, but was deposed in September 1887 by France and Brazil.</p> <p>He never visited Counani.</p> <p>No photo can be found of Aldophe Brezet.</p> </div>

Grey
Maryborough

Why is this person on a stamp? No. 39:

Marceline Desbordes-Valmore

Marceline Desbordes-Valmore, though a woman, and writing in an age when novels and poetry were almost exclusively the domain of men, became one of the major influences of what came to be known as the Romantic movement in French literature.

She was born in Douai, Northern France in 1786. Three years later, the French Revolution began, resulting in the destruction of her father's cabinet business which relied on the wealthy and church patronage.

With her mother, when she was fifteen, she made a long and arduous voyage to Guadeloupe to seek assistance from a relative who was a wealthy planter, only to find the colony ravaged by Yellow Fever and the relative had recently died. Two weeks after arriving, her mother also died from the disease.

Somehow, after surviving for eight months in Guadeloupe, she made her way back to her father in France and at the age of sixteen was hired as an actress and singer by the local theatre. This led to engagements in Rouen and then Paris. She also began writing which grew in importance as she began to have problems with her voice.

In 1808, she fell in love with Henri Latouche, an editor, who did not return her love but made her pregnant. The son, born from this union, died at the age of five. Her experience with Latouche was a major influence on her writing as rather than writing about love as something ethereal, her poems gained a gritty realism, at times even a darkness. Later, she married an actor, Prosper Lanchantin, known as "Valmore," who was less flamboyant and successful than Latouche but they were very happy together.

Her writing was an influence on some of the greatest male writers of her time. Baudelaire wrote, "No poet was ever more natural; none was ever less artificial. No one has been able to imitate that charm, for it is entirely original and naive."

During the French Revolution, not every area, particularly outside Paris, supported the revolt. Lyon was mostly against it and the revolutionary forces were sent to attack the city. The savage result saw the city bombarded into submission and two thousand people executed. When hangings and the guillotine were seen to be too slow, for two days, hundreds were killed by cannons firing grape shot. Marceline's poem about the event is a fine example of the realistic imagery of her poems.



In the street on a day of funerals at Lyon : The woman

*We have run out of money to bury our dead.
The priest is there, figuring what the price will be,
And the corpses stretched out, holed by artillery,
Want a shroud, a cross, remorseful words to be said.*

*Murder is king. The victor whistles as he goes
To the Treasury, to be paid for blood he shed.
He has shed plenty, but his hand is not tired
From fighting. There was no fighting at all, God knows.*

*God picked up each soul like a perishing flower.
Women and children went flying up to the skies,
And men . . . there they are, in blood up to their eyes.
Angry souls, too many to be borne by the air.*

*They don't want to leave their members behind, the dead.
The priest is there, figuring what the price will be,
And the corpses stretched out, holed by artillery,
Want a shroud, a cross, remorseful words to be said.*

*Those who are still alive do not know where to go.
A paid sentinel in the middle of the way,
Death is a soldier who aims and they take away
The rebel who would stand witness tomorrow.*

Women

*Let us take our black ribbons, and wear one on the arm.
It has been forbidden to take the pale remains
Of our murdered. They have heaped them on the stones.
God bless them all! They were all of them unarmed.
Translation by Louis Simpson. newcriterion.com*



Fouché à Lyon drawn by Auguste Raffet 1834



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*

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

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