



IEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 34, Jesmond NSW 2299

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

November 2023 Newsletter 208 EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

We meet at **2:00** on the **SECOND THURSDAY** and the **2:00** on the **THIRD WEDNESDAY** of each month at **Pasterfield Centre**, Horizon Drive, Cameron Park

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME



Christmas Party



Come help us celebrate Christmas. Our annual get-together will be on **Wed, Nov 29** at the Pasterfield Centre, our usual meeting venue. For details, see the President's Piece inside.

Upcoming Events

- 15 NOVEMBER Wed – social meeting, displayers Ross Zimmerman *Mount Fuji* and Tony Ayuz *Pakistan to 1947*
- 18 NOVEMBER Sun – Wallsend Stamp Fair
- 29 NOVEMBER Wed – *Christmas Function* – lunch from 12.00am to 3.30pm, at Pasterfield
- 14 DECEMBER Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Warren Oliver, *NSW Diadem Issues*
- No social meeting in December
- 11 JANUARY Thurs – monthly meeting, *members bring 6 pages of something new*
- 17 JANUARY Wed – social meeting, displayer George Chalmers, *American Space Mission Patches*
- 8 FEBRUARY Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Tony Walker, *British Borneo 1939-47*
- 21 FEBRUARY Wed – social meeting, displayer Ron Davis, *A European Safari*
- 14 MARCH Thurs – monthly meeting, TBA
- 20 MARCH Wed – social meeting, displayer Paul Killen, *First Day Covers of A to Z Countries*
- 11 APRIL Thurs – monthly meeting, *members bring 6 pages of a topic starting with the letter F*
- 17 APRIL Wednesday – social meeting, displayer Ross Zimmerman, *Birds in Japan*

Record Attendance!

We've been getting good numbers turning up for our meetings this year. We had a roll-up of 28 at the September Monthly meeting, the highest since 2011. Also, 23 members attended the September social meeting – possibly the largest attendance ever for a Wednesday meeting. It's good to see new collectors joining NPS, helping to ensure its future.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

As the days are getting longer and the weather is warmer, the attendances at our meetings is increasing. We all hope that the extra members extend into the future. If we concentrate on the basics – informative meetings, an auction of useful collectable stuff, afternoon tea, lots of discussion with new friends – we should continue to see good attendances.

Our website is always up to date. It is pleasing that more members have 16 pages of a collection for view on the website – look at MEMBER DISPLAYS on our website or google Newcastle Philatelic Society. There are no names attached to these displays or mini-collections. While you are on the website, check out the calendar of coming events and the stamps that feature Newcastle.

Our Christmas get together is happening on Wednesday 29 November, from about 12 noon. We ask that every member brings a plate of salad, or meat, or dessert. I will circulate a sheet of paper so you can see what others are bringing.

Best wishes to all collectors and their families, the man in the red suit will have been and gone before the next Newsletter. Have a happy Christmas and best wishes for a healthy and prosperous new year. As always, happy collecting.

Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

Recently there has been an upturn in the number of members and visitors attending both our main monthly and the Wednesday social meetings. The attendance of 28 at the September Monthly meeting was the highest in number since early 2011. Interestingly of those 28, 21 were new attendees from 2011. This is very pleasing as for many years the doomsday predictions have been dire for our hobby.

On a recent trip from Newcastle to Adelaide I was talking with a couple who were returning home after being in Newcastle to see family members. Somehow our conversation got around to collecting things, and, in particular, stamps. The woman said it must be hard to collect stamps these days because she rarely receives mail with a stamp on it. I explained that is because virtually no-one uses the mail for social purposes. There is anecdotal evidence that young people these days have difficulty in putting together a simple message on a postcard. Such is the change of times where most people now send text messages on their mobile phones along with predictive text and instant receipt on the other end. This has certainly changed the way we communicate.

I wish everyone all the best for Christmas and a happy and healthy 2024. Philatelic regards!

John Moore, Secretary

AGM - ELECTION OF OFFICERS

One of the functions of the Annual General Meeting, held on August 10, was the election of officers for the coming year. We are grateful to the following for agreeing to occupy executive positions for 2023-24:

President and Publicity Officer– Greg Laidler

Secretary and Public Officer– John Moore

Treasurer – Tony Walker

Vice-President and Newsletter Editor – Jim MacDougall

2nd Vice-President – Roger Eggleton

Wednesday Meeting Co-ordinators – Ron & Carol Davis

Operations – Don Catterall

Webmaster – Greg Laidler

Committee Members – Don Rutherford, Barry Parker, John Edwards, Chris Ashhurst-Smith

Honorary Auditor – Don Rutherford

Honorary Solicitor – David Noonan

AUCTION REPORT
Wed, Oct 25

It was another good night with a busy crowd of 36 Bidders, all looking for a share of this evening's delights. There was a total of 385 lots on the tables and some of those tables were groaning with a multitude of boxed lots, each full of potential treasures.

26 vendors had supplied material for this auction and most would have been happy with their sales. In all, 128 lots were sold and the success rate of 33% is quite a bit lower than average, possibly due to the absence of several regular buyers. Trips away must come first.

Total sales for the night amounted to a quite substantial \$1,479, a very nice result for a club auction. Top sale of the night was \$95 paid for an early ten shillings Tasmanian revenue. Next at \$60 came a full set of Fine Used pre decimal Navigators, a missing set in most collections. At \$50 there was a nice accumulation of Australian Postage Dues, certainly well worth the outlay. At \$45 went a full set of 1935 Test Cricket Cigarette cards and at \$40, a collection of Norfolk Island material. A binder full of unused Hagner sheets came next at \$36 followed by a similar lot at \$33. Also at \$33 came two large boxed lots and reportedly both absolute bargains. Finally, at \$30, came an early MUH WA Revenue.

Late sales tonight were quite extraordinary and I handled almost \$250 worth myself from lots that I was looking after. One odd aspect of the night was the number of ticked items that did not sell - at least 10 items were passed in. Members are respectfully encouraged to avoid this situation whenever possible. No Phantom bidders please!

It was indeed a good night and thanks are due to everyone who helped make it happen. Have a lovely Christmas and we hope to see you in 2024.

Don Catterall, Auction Convenor

UNITED STATES PRECANCELLED STAMPS - George Chalmers
Wed, Aug 12



Precancelled stamps have not been widely used around the world. Besides the USA, Canada, - Belgium and France and a few other countries have used precancels as a way of speeding up mail sorting and delivery. While commonly collected in USA and Canada, they are not popular in Australia. George knows of only two collectors of US pre-cancels in Australia - a South Australian collector and one in Sydney. He has been collecting USA stamps since he was 5 years old, more especially after a trip to the United States. His pre-cancelled stamps covered the early 20th Century from the 1891 two-cent postage due to the 1938 one cent George Washington stamp. The US Post Office authorised pre-cancellation in 1887 and produced standard guidelines for their use in 1903.

There are 24 types of pre-cancels, with different spacing, upper case and lower case (as with Santa Barbara), with or without horizontal lines and different letter styles (like the Binghampton stamp), and they were used in all the US States. Occasionally there were inverted errors (such as Monmouth), and some also included a date to prevent reuse. Occasionally, the lines were not

horizontal. As with Australia, names of towns have been "stolen" from all over the world, such as Belgium, Wisconsin, and Bath, Pennsylvania. An unusual display!



**COLLECTING POSTMARKS AND DATES- Chris Ashurst-Smith
AROUND THE HIMALAYAS - Ron Davis
Wed, Sept 20**



A double feature was on show when the largest turnout for a Wednesday meeting, 23 members, turned up. No one was disappointed, with two interesting displays shown. Chris brought along a sample from his large collection of cancellations, illustrating the large variety of classes that one might collect. He had some closed post offices (such as *Tubbul*, a locality near Young, *Cockle Creek* and *Young Wallsend*, now Edgeworth), some interesting slogans (*smoke Jamaican cigars* and *grow more wheat*).

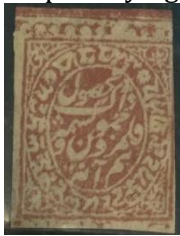


There were entertaining place names (*Salmon Arm* and *Sturgeon Falls* in Canada) and unusual places (*Humpybong*, *Millaa Millaa* and *Thurgomindah*, in rural Queensland.). He showed a collection of cancellations, one for every day of a



month and all on copies of the same stamp! It was a fascinating collection and was a good illustration of what wide a field of interests philately encompasses.

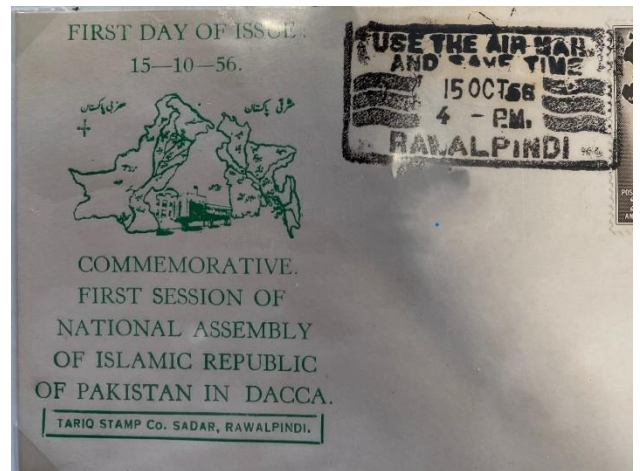
Ron Davis brought another of his travelogue displays which, as usual, contained an interesting variety of places. There were stamps from Nepal, Pakistan and Bangladesh as well as pretty stamps from Myanmar portraying traditional customs. From India there were some nice covers celebrating Independence Day (Aug



15, 1949). Ironically, Afghanistan was represented by stamps picturing women. Tibet was represented, even though it actually issued very few stamps. There was mail from Jammu and Kashmir, a disputed territory on India's western border with Pakistan. New to me was the Nagaland, a state on the far eastern side of India. Bhutan was well represented, but many of its stamps were just issued for collectors.



Thanks to both displayers for a very enjoyable afternoon.



A SHOULD-BE-BETTER-KNOWN SCULPTOR



King George V celebrated 25 years on the throne in 1935. The Empire responded with an omnibus issue for most of the colonies, which showed a picture of Windsor Castle and a profile picture of the king. The picture of the King was taken from the Coronation Medal (shown here), awarded in 1911 to people who had participated in George V's coronation.





The medal was created by Australian sculptor Bertram Mackennal. Mackennal, whose father was an artist and sculptor, was born in Melbourne. At age 20 he went to England to further his art studies and ended up spending most of the rest of his life working in England. He was the first Australian to be a member of the Royal Academy and was chosen to design the medals for the 1908 Olympics. The medal design was also used on most coins throughout the Empire.

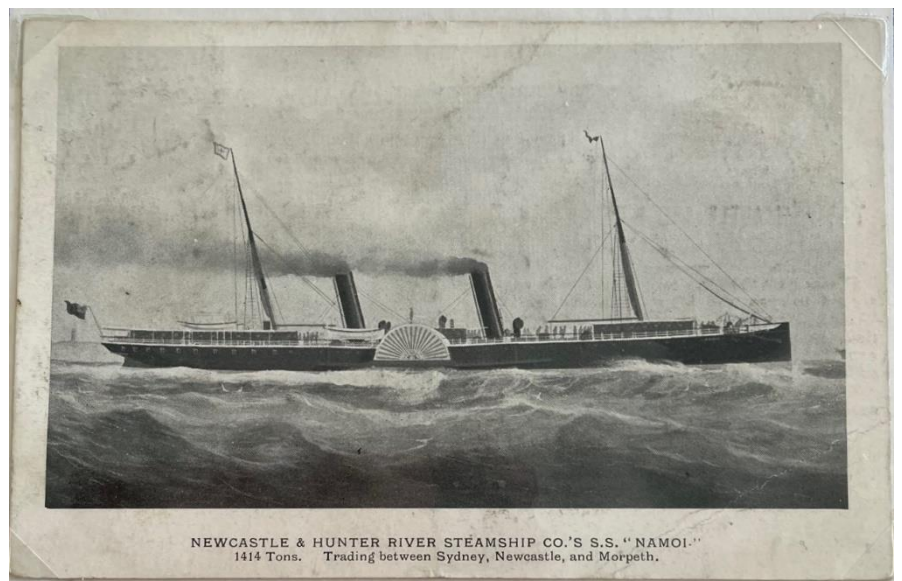
Another design of his (the bare-headed King) was used for British coins and stamps of the period. Reportedly, Mackennal was the only artist the King actually liked! It is likely that he is the sculptor whose work has been seen by the most people in the world!



POSTCARDS - Don Catterall Wed, Oct 18

Don showed us another fine selection from his inexhaustible collection of postcards. Many of the cards were from the pre-WWI period, the 'golden age' of postcards, and most of these were in excellent condition. The first group of cards pictured street scenes in Maitland. They included trams, buggies, trains, cars and an Empire Day Celebration. I was surprised to learn that there was a tram service between Maitland and Morpeth. Unsurprisingly, there were pictures of a flood, this one was the great flood of 1893. The largest group of cards pictured scenes from the port of Newcastle. There were coal ships, goods ships, passenger ships, ferries and more. It's interesting to see the harbour full of square-rigged ships. Included also were a number of wrecks, including the *Adolphe*, whose remains are still visible on the Stockton breakwater over 100 years later. The passenger boats for local travel to Morpeth, Port Stephens, Paterson and Sydney showed how different life was then.

Another very unusual group of cards featured paintings of First Fleet ships. Don provided informative notes about each ship, with lots of facts I didn't know. For example, the Marshall Islands in the Pacific were named after the captain of the ship *Scarborough*, who explored the region in 1788.



Finally, Don showed some from his 'World of Weird Stamps' – football-shaped stamps, one for each NRL club! Don provided interesting write-ups for many of the cards, and the long periods of silence in the room were proof of what an interesting display it was. I'm already waiting for the next one.

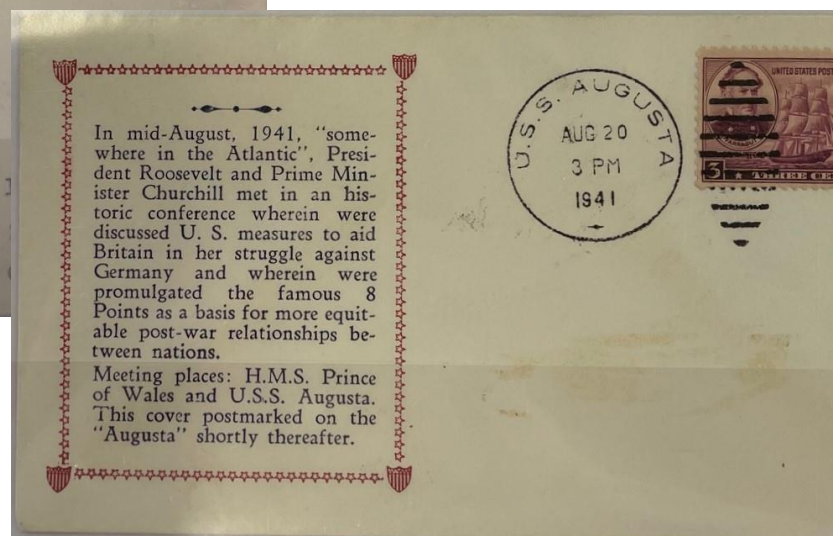
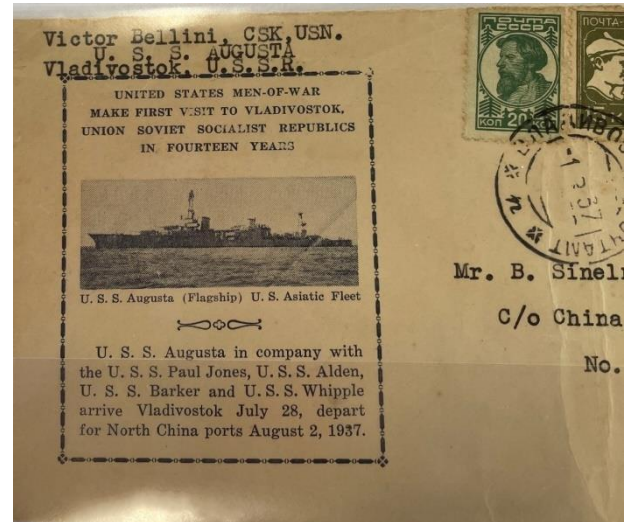
SHIP MAIL FROM THE USS AUGUSTA – Greg Laidler

Thurs, Oct 12

The US navy provided postal services for its crews while at sea. Greg's display is about mail from the ship USS Augusta, a heavy cruiser commissioned in 1931 and decommissioned in 1946. Letters were cancelled on board, bagged securely and delivered to some contracted carrier at the next port who transported them to the nearest US port to be put into the US postal system. A letter mailed from a ship often bore a patriotic or informative cachet and a cancellation which showed the name of the ship, the date, the location and sometimes other information. Thus, a collection of these ship covers provides a history of the ship's service.

Greg chose USS Augusta because of its important roles. It served as flagship of the Asiatic fleet in the 1930s, visiting Singapore, Australia, Siam, and Japan, among others. It was in Vladivostok in 1937, during the Japanese invasion of China. In 1941, it was made flagship of the Atlantic fleet and became famous for carrying President Roosevelt to the Atlantic Charter meeting with Winston Churchill in Placentia Bay, Newfoundland. It was involved with the invasion of North Africa, the Normandy landing and the liberation of southern France. Later it ferried Roosevelt to the Potsdam Conference.

Greg had a fine collection of mail illustrating many of these activities. There was mail from various shipyards where the Augusta was having maintenance. The ship mail included ordinary letters, greeting cards, airgraphs and business mail. Many cachets were patriotic and some were informative, like the ones shown here.



There was even mail from one ship to another. The material was in excellent condition and very nicely displayed. This was an enjoyable and informative display.

ZANZIBAR AIR MAILS 1931-1966 – John Moore
Thurs, Sept 14

Zanzibar was a British Protectorate consisting of two islands off the east coast of Africa. It united with Tanganyika in 1964 to form the country of Tanzania. The first airmail flight occurred in 1931 and John's display basically covers the period up until its merger. John said that there seemed to be few collectors of this area.

John had lots of items illustrating the development of new routes in the pre-war period, with mail sometimes needing several different flights to reach its destination. During wartime, roundabout routes were sometimes needed, and mail was often censored. Surprisingly, there was a cover postmarked July 5, 1931, even though the official starting date for airmail was July 6!



There was mail to England, Germany, China, USA, Argentina and many more destinations, as well a wide variety of rates including a 2nd class airmail rate introduced in 1949. There were several kinds of 'AIR MAIL' stickers, several kinds of printed air mail envelopes, different kinds of air letters, postcards, registered mail and more. Many of the covers were in very good condition.



While it's hard to imagine what has not been included, John described this display as a work in progress with his intention being to expand it and bring it up to a competitive level.

One interesting thing I learned – since Zanzibar was a protectorate rather than a colony, its stamps pictured the Sultan rather than the King or Queen. This was a fine display of a complex topic.

AUSTRALIA'S POST OFFICE IN THE COLONIAL PERIOD

- 1809 Isaac Nichols, recognised as Australia's first postmaster, was appointed in Sydney to take charge of the mails.
- 1812 John Beamont was appointed Postmaster, Hobart Town.
- 1825 A regulation was passed to allow the Governor to establish and control other post offices in the colony.
- 1828 The first postman was appointed, in Sydney, to deliver letters to recipients. He also picked up letters for posting.
- 1837 Thomas Gilbert was appointed postmaster in Adelaide and E. J. Foster in Melbourne.
- 1838 First overland mail service between Sydney and Melbourne.
 Embossed postage covers were introduced (1s 3d per dozen) This was the first time in the world a system of prepayment of postage via a stamped letter became available.
- 1850 Uniform rates of postage were established in Australia.
 NSW and Victoria introduced adhesive stamps.
- 1852 Prepayment of postage by adhesive stamps became compulsory in NSW (and 1855 in Victoria).

- 1855 The first transportation of mail by train took place, between Sydney and Parramatta.
- 1856 Regular monthly steamship service to England began.
Carriage of mail by Cobb & Co coaches in Victoria began.
- 1875 Postcards were first issued for sale in Australia at the GPO in Sydney.
- 1891 The Australian colonies joined the Universal Postal Union.

(information from Australia Post)

Empire Classics

It may not be widely known that Trinidad has the honour of being the first of Britain's colonies to issue adhesive postage stamps. Communication between the two main towns of Port-of-Spain and San Fernando was by ship and a private mail service was begun when Governor McLeod's requests to the British government came to nothing. Businessman David Bryce used his ship, which was called Lady McLeod after the Governor's wife, to carry the mail and in 1847 he issued stamps costing 5¢ each for the purpose. They were imperforate, designed by some unknown



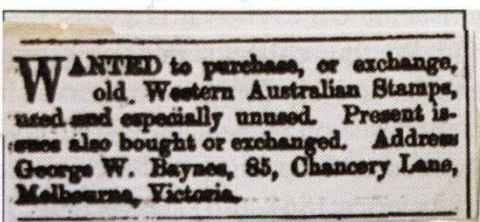
local printer, and featured the silhouette of a ship and the monogram LMCL. There was no need to identify the country since the stamps were only used for local postage. In 1851 an inland government-run postal service was initiated and Perkins, Bacon stamps printed for its use.

The Lady McLeod stamps are scarce. Most used copies are cancelled with a pen as shown here.

Upcoming Exhibitions:

- Thailand WSC 2023, 23-28 November 2023
- EFIRO 2024, Bucharest, Romania 16-19 April 2024
- PhilaKorea 2024, 15-19 August 2024
- Canberra Full National, 12-15 September 2024
- Toowoomba National One-Frame, 11-13 October 2024
- Auckland 2024 Stamp Show, 21-23 November 2024

The May 19 1865 edition of
*The Perth Gazette and West
Australian Times* contained the
following:



LATE NEWS

Greg Laidler has received a Vermeil award for his book *The Printing and Production of the 1927 Opening of Parliament* book at the Perth 2023 National Stamp Show in early November.

John Moore's *Zanzibar Air Mails 1931-1966* display, which he showed us in September, has received a Large Vermeil medal at the Royal/Canpex national exhibition in Canada in October.

Congratulations to both.