



IEWS FROM NOBBY'S

Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter

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

Website : www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au

August 2024 Newsletter 211 EDITOR: Jim MacDougall

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

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

Special guest

At our November monthly meeting, we will be excited to host Mick Drury. He is an expert on Australian KGV and will show some of his outstanding collection of KGV postal stationery – one of the best collections ever formed. Don't miss this outstanding show.

The format of the day will be a bit different from usual – he likes to lay his display out on the tables, so that we can walk around to examine it.

8 AUG Thurs – *Annual General Meeting, Annual Competition and awards*

21 AUG Wed – social meeting, displayer Chris Ashhurst-Smith, *Postmarks and Postal Dates Part 2* and displayer Ron Davis, *Weird Things on Postcards*

12 SEPT Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer *TBA*, please see website
<https://newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au/>

18 SEPT Wed – social meeting, displayer Ken Connolly, *Switzerland*

10 OCT Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer *TBA*, please see website
<https://newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au/>

16 OCT Wed – social meeting, displayer Don Catterall, *Postcards*

14 NOV Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer Mick Drury, *KGV Postal Stationery*

20 NOV Wed – displayer Warren Oliver, *Miscellaneous New South Wales*

12 DEC Thurs – monthly meeting, displayer *TBA*, please see website
<https://newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au/>

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held during the Thursday monthly meeting on Aug 8. There will be an election of officers for the coming year, and nominations for any position are welcome at the meeting. Also we will have on display all the entries in the annual club competition.

PRESIDENT'S PIECE

Before my attention turns to the upcoming Annual General Meeting and the preparation for the next year of our society, it is appropriate to look back on the recent past.

Our last three months have been very positive, with many members attending our meetings, varied displays by our members, interesting material in our society and monthly auctions, and lots of conversations after the meeting has concluded.

Special mention goes to Don Catterall, who conducted his last auction recently. I am sorry that I could not be there to thank him for his years of organisation, but I will catch up with him soon.

Thanks to all the members who make this such a great society. There will be a few changes in our committee and society in the coming year. I urge you to volunteer and join the committee and find out what happens behind the scenes.

Happy collecting., Greg Laidler, President

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS.

In my Snippets for this issue, I would like to pay a special thankyou to Don Catterall who after many years as the Society's Auction Convenor has decided to retire from that position. Lost somewhere in the records, Don took on the role of Auction Convenor approximately 30 years ago, and since then he would go on to convening approximately 120 auctions and swap and sale activities. With many of the auctions grossing well over \$1,000 plus an unknown turnover from the swap and sale nights, he has dealt with a lot of dollars during that time.

What probably is not fully known to members is the amount of time Don has spent lotting up material that has been donated to the society and on behalf of deceased members estates. Not to forget all the advertising by printing 'dodgers' and personally distributing at the monthly Wallsend Stamp and Coin Fairs and the number of collectors that Don has encouraged to join the society. On the latter it was through Don's persistence back in the early 1990's that I was encouraged to come along to a meeting and join the society. In case people are wondering how I met Don, one afternoon after work I was getting Framas from the Mayfield Post Office machine. Don was doing like wise and suggested that there was a meeting that night in the Merewether School Library and I would be most welcome to come along. The rest is now history! Well done, Don.

Philatelic regards, John Moore, Secretary

Around the Clubs

Toronto Stamp Club – Bolton Point Community Hall 68A Middle Point Road, Bolton Point
Meets: first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 pm

Maitland Stamp Club – The Polish Hall, 6 Grant Street, Maitland
Meets: Second Monday of each Month, except for January, 2:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Morisset Stamp Club – Uniting Church Hall, Cnr Kahibah & Awaba Streets, Morisset
Meets: Fourth Saturday of each month (excluding December), from 10:00 am to 2:30 pm

Wyong and District Philatelic Society – Canton Beach Sports Club, 11 Hibbard, Street, Toukley
Meets: third Wednesday of the month, 7:00 pm
Lake Haven Masonic Retirement Village, 12 - 16 Christopher Crescent, Lake Haven
Meets: first Wednesday of the month 1:00 pm

Gosford District Philatelic Society – Erina Rugby League Football Club, 18 Ilya Ave, Erina
Meets: - First Monday of the month, except January, at 1:30 pm.

AUCTION RESULTS - Wed July 24

This was an interesting night with good material and plenty of competitive bidding. Due to Covid and Flu, both seller and buyer numbers were down but there was plenty for the happy crowd of over 40 to enjoy. 19 vendors submitted 326 lots and of these 147 were sold – a good average clearance rate of 45%. Total sales for the night were \$1,497 and most of the 34 registered bidders were rewarded. Late sales, as always, were available and I supervised over \$150 worth of those myself.

Highest sales for the night were quite oddly all of \$50 and there were three of them. The buy of the night was an early album with heaps of high SG value stamps which I think definitely slipped under the radar. Next came the hard-to-find stamps from the NZ 1906 Christchurch Exhibition, and finally came a couple of early Tasmanian imperf Chalons. All very good buys at that price.

At \$45 was sold a fine used pair of 3d blue KGVI “white wattles”, a rare classic indeed! Colonial stamps were popular as always and a lovely batch of South Australian earlies all sold well with: \$40, \$35, \$35 and \$30, leading the way. At \$35 we sold a set of MUH pre-decimal Navigators, another classic purchase.

Finally at \$25, two lots were sold; firstly a nice Van Diemen’s Land Fourpence and then lastly a compilation of Aussie gutters on display sheets, the work of a former very keen junior. It was a good night and all went smoothly, with the working team in fine form.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Please note that after 30 years I am now handing over this job to committee member Greg Korsman. Please treat him well.

Don Catterall, Convenor.



Don Catterall on his last night as auction manager. Don assures us he will continue to be involved.



Don with Ed Burnard at the July 24 auction. Ed has been a faithful worker at the Society’s auctions and is also stepping down after many years of service.

SELECTION OF ONE FRAME EXHIBITS -Thurs, June 13

Our June monthly meeting was something a bit different from our usual presentations. Members were invited to bring in a display of one frame or less. The object was to show the variety of ways one can set up a display, for the benefit of newer members wanting to start putting together a display.

Lots of members responded and we had lots of displays to look at. Many were ones which had been shown before and that I had mostly forgotten about, so it was good to see them again. Most were on A4 pages, but some other page sizes were evident. We saw some different styles of mounting as well as different sorts of layout. One unusual style had the text in the centre of the page and the stamps mounted in an oval around the text.

Greg introduced the meeting by showing a variety of page types that are commonly used as well as the different methods of mounting. All in all it was an interesting and instructive meeting.

PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ON STAMPS – Greg Laidler

Thurs, May 9

Greg has a wide variety of collecting interests! He has shown us many displays over the years, but this one was something different – a topical display focussed on US President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy was a hugely popular president and was in office in a very turbulent time in history. The Cold War, the civil rights movement, the VietNam War and the struggle for women’s rights all defined his three years in office.

Kennedy’s worldwide popularity resulted in a rush to commemorate him on postage stamps after his tragic death. Greg told us that he was especially popular in many African countries, hence many of the issues shown here.



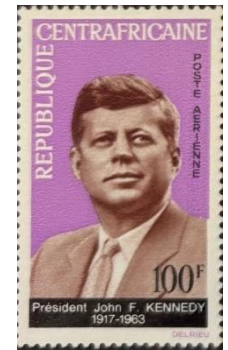
One that caught my eye was the issue from Togo which pointed out that Kennedy’s death was exactly 100 years since President Lincoln’s proclamation freeing the slaves in the USA. Liberia as well issued a stamp featuring Kennedy and Lincoln.

Greg also explained that relatively few of the many issues were used for ordinary postage, such as the USA cover shown here. Many were issued mainly for sale to collectors, and these included some lovely mini-sheets.

We saw many stamps on cover, some first day covers from Argentina and



Mexico, an issue from Cook Islands in 2013, the 50th anniversary of the assassination and a nice cachet from the UK among many other things. A turnout of 26 members enjoyed Greg’s display.



MEDICINE ON STAMPS – Chris Ashhurst-Smith

Wed, May 16

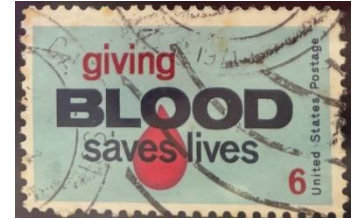
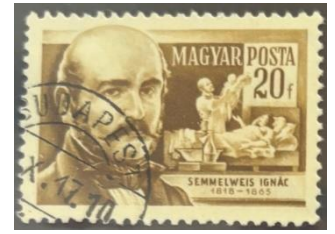
Our May social meeting featured an interesting thematic display. Chris showed us part of his collection of stamps showing medical topics. He told us that when he started out, he didn’t realise just how many such stamps there would be. In particular, he decided to avoid Red Cross stamps since there were so many of them.

Chris grouped the display into four categories: disease, medical congresses, celebrities and achievements.



Among the celebrities were familiar names such as Lister, Pasteur and Christian Barnard. But there were others that I didn’t know about such as the Hungarian Ignaz Semmelweis who drastically reduced the death of women in childbirth just by requiring the workers to disinfect their hands! Another was French Nobel prize winner Charle Nicolle who discovered that the deadly disease Typhus was transmitted by lice.

Discoveries and inventions were celebrated on many stamps. The stethoscope, x-rays, the use of chloroform, concave spectacles and many others were found on the stamps of many, many countries. Along with the stamps were a number of covers with informative cachets, as well as some interesting slogan cancels. This display was a wonderful reminder of what enormous strides have been made in health care in a relatively short period of history.



DEFINITIVE STAMP ISSUES OF AUSTRALIA, 1936-1952

John Edwards, June 19

King George VI was Edward VIII's younger brother, and had not expected to be king. When Edward VIII abdicated in December 1936, the Post Office required that all his stamps be destroyed. All were destroyed except a corner block of 6 that had been presented to the Governor of Victoria – the only ones still in existence. King George VI stamps started on 10th May 1937 with the 1d Elizabeth green and continued until the King's death in 1952. Following the previous kangaroo and map series of stamps, the size of all the lower values was reduced.

There were many changes during his reign – for instance perforations changed, chalk surfaced paper was used for high value Robes and the November 1940 3d value Die II, the earlier King's and Queen's "haloes" were removed, the halfpenny War Tax of December 1940 meant overprinting of three values, and the 2/- kangaroo and map was reprinted in 1946, having been the same since 1913.

Most of the King and Queen stamps were reproduced from portraits, but the halfpenny pictured a kangaroo named "Duke" that was a favourite at Melbourne Zoo. The 4d. featured a koala named "Gumleaf" from the Animal and Bird Sanctuary at West Pennant Hills in NSW.



But perhaps the most unusual issue was the 7 pence-halfpenny blue King George VI issued 31st October 1951, facing the "wrong way". Custom had required that each succeeding monarch faced the opposite way to the preceding one. King George VI was supposed to face LEFT. This sole stamp shows him facing RIGHT!



The first Queen Elizabeth II stamp was 2nd June 1953.

– Ron Davis

A POSTCARD WITH A STORY!

I am interested in stamps that celebrate important historical events and certainly one of the most important in Canada's history is the establishment of the first permanent European settlement. It took place at what is now Quebec City in 1608. In 1908, to celebrate the 300th anniversary, the Canadian Post Office issued a beautiful set of pictorial stamps, depicting artists' imaginings of various aspects of the founding. As well as collecting the stamps, I was able to purchase a collection of postcards showing the elaborate anniversary celebrations. However, among the postcards was one, shown here, that was different. The French inscription translates as: *Jacques Cartier and his companions cured from scurvy. First pilgrimage and first miracle in Canadian land (1536)*. This reminded me that I had learned the story behind this in primary school and it's a most interesting one.

In 1608 **Samuel de Champlain**, under the authority of King Henry IV of France, led a group of 32 men to form a settlement in Canada at the location he chose on the north bank of the St Lawrence River. Sadly, only nine of them survived the first winter, the others dying from scurvy. But somehow the settlement survived and grew. Three years earlier, Champlain had tried to establish a settlement in what is now Nova Scotia, but scurvy along with the harsh winter climate had defeated his efforts there.



Much earlier, mariner **Jacques Cartier**, under the authority of King Francis I of France, had made three voyages of exploration to the east coast of Canada, searching for a westward route to Asia. He had explored around Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island and the large gulf of the St Lawrence River, up as far as what is now the city of Montreal, and claimed the land for France. On his second voyage, in 1535, Cartier was forced to remain in Canada over the long winter. Without access to fresh food, Cartier's men were struck down with scurvy, as were many of the local Indigenous people, the Iroquois. Many died. They were desperate – Cartier wrote in his journal:

“... out of 110 that we were, not ten were well enough to help the others, a pitiful thing to see ...”

However a visitor, the son of the chief of a neighbouring tribe, told Cartier how to prepare a drink from the bark of a tree that grew in the area. It succeeded admirably in treating the disease; within a week his men began to recover and 85 survived. No wonder Cartier thought it was a miracle! The tree, *Eastern Red Cedar*, has since been known as *arbor vitae* (Latin for ‘tree of life’). The postcard imagines the men on a pilgrimage to a makeshift shrine consisting of a picture of the Madonna and Child nailed to a tree. It is remarkable to think that this chance encounter might have altered the course of Canadian history.



Cartier and Champlain
300th anniversary stamp



The experience of Cartier's expeditions was part of the reason that France waited another 70 years before trying again to establish a colony in Canada. And even then, they did not seem to remember the Indigenous cure for scurvy that Cartier had learned. We now know that scurvy is caused by vitamin C deficiency and is easily prevented by a normal diet. After a month or so without fresh fruit or vegetables, scurvy becomes a risk, and around Cartier's time, mariners were beginning to undertake much longer sea voyages. Scurvy remained a terrible scourge for many years. It's been reliably stated that scurvy caused more deaths in the British Navy than the French and Spanish navies did. It was another 250 years before the British Navy made lime juice a compulsory drink on its ships, effectively eliminating the disease.



Cartier was obviously highly respected in Canada. He appeared on one of the country's earliest stamps, the 10p stamp of 1855 and no one other than him, Queen Victoria, Prince Albert and the famous beaver graced Canada's stamps for more another 40 years. No contemporary portrait of Cartier is known to exist. The stamp is engraved from a portrait by Canadian painter Theophile Hamel, made in about 1844. In 1934, a stamp commemorating the 400th anniversary of his first voyage was issued.

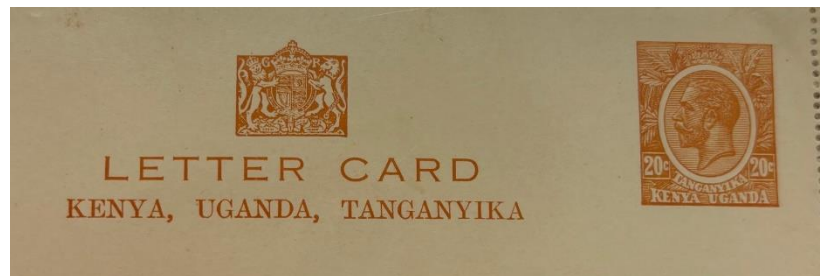
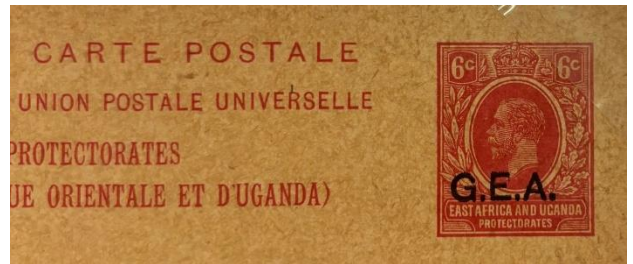


POSTAL HISTORY OF KENYA, UGANDA, TANGANYIKA, UP TO 1935

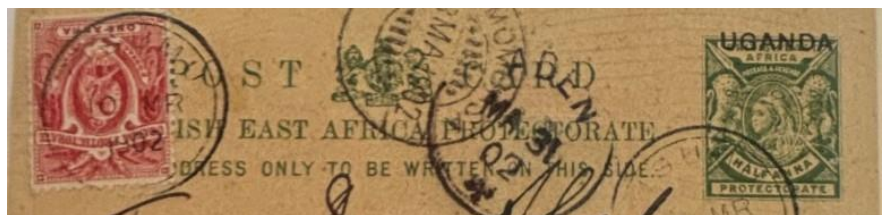
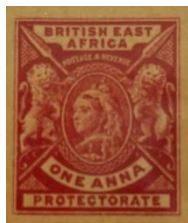
John Moore Thurs, July 11

The postal history of British East Africa is very complex and poses a real challenge for any collector willing to tackle it. John has done so most successfully. He showed us about 60 of the 80 pages making up the display that he exhibited in the Asian International Exhibition in Djakarta. The display won a Vermeil medal.

It includes the various kinds of preprinted postal stationery – postcards, lettersheets, envelopes, registered letters and so on. The first were issued in 1891 by the *Imperial British East Africa Company*, and the region underwent administrative reorganisation as *Imperial British East Africa*, *East Africa and Uganda*, *Kenya and Uganda*, *G.E.A.* (German East Africa) and *Tanganyika Territory*, and *Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika* by 1935. The envelopes often were printed in several denominations. John said that the aim was to collect each item in three forms: unused, used and specimen, and in some cases one form or another was very scarce. For some items he was able to find all three.



Most of the material was in excellent condition, and the display was well organised and nicely displayed. Thanks to John for an impressive display.



THREE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES

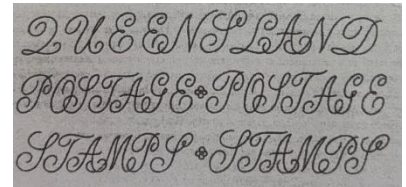
Ed Burnard Wed, July 17

The Australian colonies are a gold mine for collectors. There are many printings, different perforations, papers and watermarks as well as numerous colour variations. Ed has spent many years amassing a wonderful collection of the colonies. A year ago he showed us Victoria and Tasmania. Today he showed us a selection from his Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia collections. Ed clearly relishes the challenge posed by the varieties described above.

Queensland's issues began in 1850 with a Chalon head design and this was used for 30 years. These went through perforation and paper changes and included the very unusual watermark on the 1866 issue shown here. For the next 20 years several versions of sideface Victoria designs were used. The only departure from these two designs was the 1903 issue celebrating Federation.

Incredibly, there was little change in Western Australia's postage stamp design from its beginning in 1854 until Federation. The famous swan appeared in several different frame styles. Over the years, issues were imperforate, rouletted or perforated with a variety of different perforations. Several overprints occurred. After Federation, a new issue came out featuring Queen Victoria, but by the time it appeared there was already a new king on the throne!

South Australia's stamps show the same variation in perforation, colour and watermark as the other colonies. Ed's collection of these was amazing, including many unused stamps. As well as postage stamps, he had lovely revenues (up to £20). All in all, this was a fabulous display, including a lot of hard-to-find material. I heard one member say that it was the best display our Society has seen.



Upcoming Exhibitions:

Full National, Canberra, 12–15 September 2024

National One-frame, Toowoomba, 11–13 October 2024

FIAP Exhibition 2024 SHANGHAI, 29 Nov – 3 Dec

Royalpex Exhibition, 2025 Palmerston North NZ, 7 – 9 Mar

PhilaKorea 2025, date TBA

See the APF website <https://apf.org.au/philatelic-exhibition-timetable/> for further details.