



Newcastle Philatelic Society Newsletter
VIEWS FROM NOBBY'S
 Newcastle Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 239C, NEWCASTLE NSW 2300
FEBRUARY, 2010 : Newsletter No.152 : EDITOR: Ron Davis

WHAT'S ON IN YOUR SOCIETY

THE NEWCASTLE PHILATELIC SOCIETY MEETS 7.30pm SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH, MAYFIELD EX-SERVICES CLUB, 2nd FLOOR MEETING ROOM, HANBURY STREET, MAYFIELD.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME.

| DATES | DETAILS |
|---|---|
| Saturday 6 th & Sunday 7 th February 2010 | EXHIBITION: 100 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN STAMPS at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, starting at 10.00 am to 4 pm each day |
| Thurs 11 February 2010 | "COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS" - Display by John Hill |
| Saturday 13 th & Sunday 14 th February 2010 | EXHIBITION : 100 YEARS OF AUSTRALIAN STAMPS at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. each day |
| Wed.17February2010 | Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by John Moore - "ASPECTS OF THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC" |
| Sun. 21 February. 2010 | Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m. |
| Thurs. 25 February '10 | STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02- 4943 5639) |
| Thurs 11 March 2010 | "BRIDGES AND CASTLES" - Display by Ron Davis |
| Wed. 17 March 2010 | Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10.00 a.m., 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by Don Catterall - "HISTORY ON POSTCARDS". |
| Sun. 21 March 2010 | Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m. |
| Thurs. 8 APRIL 2010 | POPULAR CHOICE COMPETITION - 6 pages on Something Philatelic Starting with the Letter 'S' |
| Sun 18 April 2010 | Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m. |
| Wed 21 April 2010 | Newcastle Daytime Meeting: 10 am, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, Display by John Moore - "AUST. REGISTERED MAIL - THE STORY CONTINUES". |
| Thurs 13 MAY 2010 | "POLES APART" - Joint display by Tony Walker and Don Rutherford |
| Sun 16 May '10 | Junior Stamp Activities Meeting, at WALLSEND STAMP FAIR , 11 a.m. |
| Wednesday 19 May '10 | Newcastle Daytime Meeting - Display by Howard Bridgman : "WEATHER" |
| Thurs. 20 MAY 2010 | STAMP AUCTION NIGHT (details, phone Don Catterall 02 - 4943 5639) |

- A PIECE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT -

Since my last "Piece", a number of important events have taken place....

The 2009 social Christmas Party was a great success and, even though the weather was terrible with heavy rain, thunder and lightning, it still turned out to be a night to remember.

Special thanks are due to those who braved the weather and made it a great night of entertainment and fine cuisine.

Over the past few months, guest presenters at all the meetings have been outstanding, and one could describe them as the best of the best. This quality will soon be on display with the special mini-Expo (at Studio 48 in February) and the Philas Competitions in April 2010. It will be the best of our best against the best of the rest, and four of our members have been selected to represent our Society.

And don't forget to participate in our April Popular Choice Competition - 6 pages, "Something Beginning with S" !

Therefore, with all the regular events planned we do have much to look forward to !

- Keith Kestel, President -

- ARABIC NUMERALS are not Arabic. Hindu scholars were the first to use them,

*****lrk**lrk**k*****lrk*****

THE SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS February 2010

It's that time of year when we have to start looking at the 2010-11 syllabus and start inviting people to display. If there is a particular subject you would like to see displayed, please let me know in the next month or so.

On the subject of displays, there is a change: Paul Stoml will now be displaying at the 8th Jul 7- '10 meeting, with Tony Walker and Don Rutherford showing "Poles Apart" - the Arctic versus Antarctica - at the 13th May '10 meeting.

From time to time, people change their internet service provider (ISP) and forget to tell their contacts. Often when I email out the minutes, I receive messages to say that various recipients are no longer known or words of similar effect. Changing your ISP is just like moving house - you need to inform your contacts!

John Moore, Secretary.

WITH THE PUBLIC CHOICE COMPETITION COMING UP ON 8th APRIL 2010 :

A few tips on what makes a good display :

- Make the display tell a story.
- Plan what is going to be displayed. For example - if displaying SAILING SHIPS, do not have a mish-mash of stamps/material containing Yachts, Windjammers, Cruisers, the Armada, Hobie-Cats on each of the pages - better would be separate pages of, perhaps : Working Ships, Leisure Craft, old Naval Ships, etc.
- The first page should contain an Introduction of what the story is about
- In the above example it could be explained that the subject SAILING SHIPS is made up the aspects Working Ships, Leisure Craft, old Naval Ships, etc.
(In a State or National level competition the first page would have to go into detail about the story with little or no philatelic material being shown, but this is too big a constraint on a 6page display!)
- Let your material tell most of the story. Keep text to a minimum.
- Make each page as attractive as possible, but do not embellish them with superfluous pretty diagrams. Have the material laid out neatly, not too much or too little on each page. Be consistent in how stamps/covers etc are presented .

FREE ADVERTISEMENTS !!

February, 2010

For our members : Phone RON DAVIS on 4951 7878 if you have something you want to buy, or swap, or sell.

WANTED:

KEVINSIMKUS-ph. 49511597: *Wanted-MORE members to put their names down on the CIRCUIT LISTS to BUY stamps! Just take out the stamps you want from the circuit hook, pass it on to the next person, & send the money to me.*

JOHN BASSFORD -phone 4952 5716: *Anything from "unusual countries" and "dead countries".*

STEPHEN BURTON, *Quality pre-1950 Australian Mint or Used. Will pay cash for better items, or trade. Also buying quality singles and collections world-wide. Phone 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.*

DAVID PICKERING, phone 4953 2735 -*Locomotives on stamps, PC's, and ALL Australian 'Specimens' Overprints.*

JOHN MOORE, P.O.Box 528, Cardiff; 2285 or telephone 02-4956 8931 *wants: Australian Debit Docket that was issued to claim fees on underpaid registered mail.*

REX HILL, phone 4957 0176 -*preprinted pages for albums, Great Britain from 1840, British Commonwealth, Channel Islands, Isle of Man, early Norfolk Island, early Cocos Island.*

BERNARD DOHERTY, phone 4967 5478: *"WANTED: Articles and items to do with PARCEL POST- Parcel wrappings with PMG or Australia Post service labels, Priority Paid, Customs outward and inward, insurance labels. Preferred with stamps or counter printed label. Address labels from the major department stores with postage stamps. i.e., anything to do with PARCEL POST. Contact Bernard Doherty, PO Box 18, Waratah, 2298, phone 4967 5478, or email bjdo@bigpond.net.au. Happy to reimburse.*

CHRIS ASHHURST-SMITH -phone 4957 0622: *N.S. W. POSTMARKS, with CDS's; and George V or VI Australian.*

DON CATTERALL - phone 4943 5639: *old postcards, and AUSTRALIAN Revenue and Railway Parcel stamps.*

SANDRA BAKER - phone 4956 4515, *issues showing "Pre-history"- early man, fossils, cave paintings, etc.*

FOR SALE:

KEVINSIMKUS-phone 49511597: *Stamp hinges \$5 a large packet (1000). Hard to get anywhere else!! Idea for mounting stamps for sale on circuit book pages. Proceeds to Philatelic Society funds.*

STEPHEN BURTON-*Australia and World from 1840 to date. Will sell or trade. Visit me at WALLSEND Stamp and Coin Fair on the 3rd Sunday every month. Free valuations. Phone 4954 4002, or 0432 540 760.*

- The fingerprints of koalas are virtually indistinguishable from humans.



AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC LITERATURE

- display by Geoff Kellow (Sydney), 12th November 2009

We had never seen anything like it before - 89 years of covers from Australian stamp auctions and stamp magazines, from the 'NSW Stamp Collectors' Magazine' of November 1879 (of which there were only 2 issues), right through to 'Stamp Preview' of 1968! Geoff had received a Large Silver Award for this exhibit of rare material.

He spoke of another 1879 magazine - *The Australian Stamp Collectors' Journal* - of which there is only one copy known, in Adelaide. The year 1882 saw *The NSW Philatelist*, and 1887 *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* of which the famous A.F. Basset-Hull was the editor. In 1890, Basset-Hull also produced *The Federal Australian Philatelist* - interesting in that Australian Federation had then not yet occurred!

The Postcard Collectors' Journal appeared in 1906, and *Junior Stamp News* in 1912. The famous Alex A. Rosenblum produced the *Victorian Philatelic Record* in 1918, and was later to produce *The Australian Stamp Monthly* - Australia's most successful stamp magazine - in 1930. The first two issues had coloured covers, which had to be changed to black-and-white because of restrictions on the import of coloured stamp illustrations. Then there was *The Southern Cross Collector* in 1922, A.H. Young's *The Queensland Philatelic Review* also in 1922, and *Trahair's Monthly Circular* in 1924.

While many of these early (and later!) magazines were short-lived, the *Hagan Bulletin* went through 71 numbers from 1925 to 1931. *The Month in Philately*, first issued in 1927, ceased in 1932. There were several magazines from the 1930's - *Waratah News* in 1931, the *Australian Air Mail and Philatelic Monthly* in 1935, Bill Hornadge's *Australian Stamp Trader* in 1932 (while he was still at school!), and his *Australian Stamp Collector* in 1936, both published in Catherine Hill Bay.

The *Australian Air Post Collector* - put out by the Queensland Airmail Society and Australian Rocket Society only lasted for 3 issues, from January to March 1936. A bulletin and review published by William Mappin - "*Stamp Collectors' Opportunity*" - came out in April and May 1948, and in March 1952, the Sydney Philatelic Club (later the Royal) published its first Journal.

And in 1954, the Papuan Philatelic Society first published its Bulletin, *Stamp News*.

But Geoff's display also showed Australian auction CATALOGUES, which in the 1920's were simply price lists. In 1928, Wilfred H. Butcher printed the first known catalogue, for the Melbourne Exhibition. Then in the 1930's, Melbourne Stamp Auctions started printing catalogues. They are up to Sale No. 700 now, but very few of their catalogues have survived. And on 21st November 1956, they made history with the first use of colour in an Australian auction catalogue.

Before World War II, there were no Sydney Auctions which published catalogues.

The World Record for longevity goes to *The Australian Air Mail Catalogue*, first published by Nelson Eustis in 1937, and "still going".

There are only a small selection of philatelic BOOKS published in Australia. In 1884, "*Sydney Views*" was the first book published dealing solely with an Australian subject. And the book "*The Air Mail Exhibitor*" was first brought out in 1937, and after 50 years, there was a new one out in 1988.

Strange things happen. In the 1960's-1970's, "*The Stamp Review*" was the forerunner to the current *Australia Post Bulletin*. One particular issue was at the printers, and there was a fire - the entire lot was destroyed! There was ONE copy held by a proof reader - and THAT copy was in Geoff's display!! -RD. -

FOR MOTHS ON STAMPS COLLECTORS: In 1540, a CLOTHES MOTH was brought to trial before Judge Corrector Portillero sitting in Guimaran, a province of Oviedo, Spain. The 'defendant' was charged with having destroyed a tapestry "of a priceless and luxurious weave", valued at 10,000 maravedis. After a formal trial, the moth was found guilty and sentenced to have its throat cut. At the same time, the Judge decreed that the whole moth tribe be forever banished from the kingdom. But the moth was INNOCENT. Moths don't eat cloths or tapestries. The true culprits are the larvae of the moth.



AUSTRALIAN PARCEL POST MAIL

- a display by Bernard Doherty, 10th December 2009

"How can you make a display of parcel wrappers?" someone said before the meeting - but Bernie surprised us all. He displayed various ways to show that a parcel was not tampered with - a lead seal, a wax seal, wax on the parcel, COD tape right around the parcel, and a very interesting piece - an item from India which had been hand-sewn into a very large cocoon of calico.

He displayed a wide variety of labels adhered to the parcels - one of which was the Australia Post "Not to be Moved by Air" label. Several items are not allowed to be flown by commercial aircraft, including aerosol cans, large lithium batteries, certain types of paint, explosives (understandably!), and volatile chemicals - these can only be sent by road or sea. Another intriguing label was the "Infectious Substance" label in French and English. The outer wrapper of a bacteriological sample was in the display. The

contaminated material (salmonella) had been in a small bottle inside several other bottles and boxes - understandably well protected. Nevertheless the label exhorted : "In case of damage or leakage, immediately notify the Public Health Authority" - but no telephone number to do so!



Bernie described how queen bees were sent in the post by airmail from beekeeper to beekeeper in special packaging with air holes, how wine was packaged to reduce the possibility of damage and so that if something broke it wouldn't be disastrous, and how "articles for the blind" - like book recordings, Braille items, etc., are sent free of charge - and he displayed the appropriate wrappers and labels.

On 2nd April 1991, Australia Post introduced its own 'Across Town' Courier Post in Sydney and Perth. The flat rate across town was \$3.25. It undercut existing courier rates, and was very unpopular with the established courier services, and so the service was withdrawn on 11th November 1992. In 1989, there had been an Industrial Commission Audit, with Mayne Nickless and TNT complaining about the competition from Australia Post. The Parcel Post labels were withdrawn in 1992.

Then there were all the Private Mail system labels - the NSW Overnight Parcel Service, Kwika Mail 1984, which was a subsidiary of Kwikasair (TNT Management P/L), the NSW State Rail Door To Door Service 1991, Trackfast (NSW Rail) which operated in 300 country towns in NSW, the Business Parcel Service South Australia 1987-1996 - which was renamed the Business Delivery Service - and Business Parcel in Tasmania.

In 1991, Australia Post introduced a system of 'volume versus weight', called "cubic weight". Suddenly very light but very large parcels (bundles of feathers?) were deemed to weigh so-many-kilograms, and the postage cost soared accordingly.

There were some very unusual parcels which Bernie included in his display - such as the one in a fruit box picked out by the Quarantine Service. The fruit box was seized, but the contents were repacked and sent on.

A "Returned/Refused" item returned to Australia from overseas incurred "\$23 more to pay", and there were "More to Pay" items redirected within Australia. Items on which duty had to be paid were retained for one month after an advice was sent to the recipient, and were then returned to the sender.

Qantas and the Australian Post Office ran an 'Australian Air Express' Service especially for perishable items, such as cut flowers and exotic fruit. After that the "Express Post" service was started, and "Express Post Interstate". In September 2002, "Express Post Platinum" was introduced, guaranteeing next day delivery (did the "platinum" refer to the postage cost??). And labels for "Overseas Insured" mail.

Bernie admitted accosting some customers carrying interesting-looking parcels in various post offices in Newcastle in his search for parcel-related items, and John Moore commented on his memories of attending Philas and APF meetings in Sydney and Adelaide with Bernie, and standing to one side embarrassed, while Bernie rummaged through waste bins on the footpath outside well-known postal establishments

But two of the most talked-about items were the Second World War 5/10d. Food Parcel label from Australia to Great Britain, which invoked fond memories amongst some of our older members, and a humdinger - a 'Point to Point' parcel costing \$271 postage, weighing 480 kilograms(!!!), from a Victorian warehouse to Reece Plumbing in Womers Bay ! Now, THAT wouldn't be easy to carry on a postie's motor-bike !

-RD. -



100 ARS

OUR FEBRUARY 2010 EXHIBITION AT STUDIO 48, 48 MACKIE AVENUE, NEW LAMBTON EAST

AUSTRALIAN STAMPS



IN NEWCASTLE
1910 - 2010

100 YEARS OF STAMPS

The exhibition will be over two weekends - **Saturday and Sunday 6th & 7th February, and 13th & 14th February 2010, from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.** and will be manned by members of our Society. There are displays of stamps and other philatelic items from Australia and from the whole world. Of special interest is a unique display of historic postcards of the Newcastle-Maitland area. There will be stamps on sale, and Newcastle Philatelic Society's stamp circuit books will be available to buy stamps and covers from. The Juniors Activity Group will meet on Saturday 6th from 1 to 4 p.m. And special commemorative Personalised Stamps will be available !

OUR SOCIE;:;•• ; ;;;; •;; • •••

Our 2009 Christmas Party was held at KEITH AND PAMELA KESTEL's place in Wallsend, on FRIDAY 20th NOVEMBER. Members were asked to bring along "something of interest which they can either talk about, or tell a story about".

ANNA HILL brought along cushion covers from all around the world;

KEVIN SIMKUS brought along a peculiar philatelic cover, with a lone stamp and cancel on one side (only), and the address on the other side (only)!



MARGARET CATTERALL

displayed a folder from 1928 of historic stuff, 1878-1928, for the 50th Anniversary of Winn's Department Store in Newcastle. Margaret's mother had worked there.

DON CATTERALL had a "Little Ben" postcard from Aden - a tower on the hillside - no doubt reminiscent of 'Big Ben' in London.



WINN'S to-day-the Store for Value. After 50 years • successful business trading. Area, over 80,000 square feet.

KEITH KESTEL reminisced about French Polynesia and New Caledonia, where he was a missionary many years ago;

CAROL DAVIS talked about her latest exercise programme - enjoying recorded music while dancing to it;

JOHN HILL talked about attending one of Woody Allen's clarinet shows, and had a card autographed by him;

ED BURNARD showed an unusual New Zealand cover which had BOTH New Zealand Post AND Universal Post stamps on it (illegal?);

SHIRLEY BURNARD had brought along a few items from her large collection of dolls;

VAL RUTHERFORD had a wood carving from the Alligator River region in the Northern Territory, obtained during a recent trip with Don;

RON DAVIS displayed a tapa cloth made from beaten bark from Fiji, which had been presented to his father in 1924, and a model steam donkey engine which he used to play with in the early 1950's;

BERNIE DOHERTY had a booklet dated August 1962 with a long list of instructions for telegram boys - "always be on time; always look neat; don't smoke", etc.;

REX HILL displayed some lapidary work- several cabochons.

23 people in all attended, and as well as the above, included Trevor and Doris Dumbrill, Howard and Diana Bridgman, Janet Doherty, Don Rutherford, Pamela Kestel, and Bill, Diana and Ray - friends of the Kestels.



SIXTY ONE DAYS TO GLORY: The Uiverdisplay a display by Ed Wolf (Sydney), 8th January 2010

The central theme of Ed's display was the DC-2 aircraft known as the *Uiver*. KLM Dutch Airlines named each of their aircraft after birds, using the last letter of the aircraft's registration as the first letter of the name. The plane was PH-AJU and so it needed a Dutch bird name beginning with U. There is only one bird that this would normally fit - the *Uil* or Owl, but that had already been taken. Instead KLM reverted to the slang word for stork, *Uiver*.

The 1934 Melbourne Centenary Air Race was an event created by Sir Macpherson Robertson. The owner of the MacRobertson chocolate company, he intended to put Melbourne on the map at the 100th year of its founding by offering a prize of £10,000. The race was a flight from London to Melbourne, broken down into two categories - speed and handicap, and all planes from any country were eligible to enter. Initially there were some 93 entrants, but on October 20, 1934, there were only 20 aircraft facing the starter's flag.

The ultimate overall winner was a two seater speedster, a DH-88 Comet, flown by Scott and Campbell-Black in a time of just under 71 hours. The KLM Dutch Airlines entered this DC-2, *Uiver*, flown by Parmentier and Moll, which made the head lines because it was only some 19 hours behind and carried freight and passengers, as well as following its normal schedule at least as far as the Dutch East Indies. Except for losing its way on the final leg and having to put down at Albury, and so losing time of 8½ hours, the difference would have been even less !!

Prior to this event it was normal for Imperial Airways to fly from London to Singapore in 10 days and for KLM to fly from Amsterdam to Batavia in 2. But there HAD been a special Christmas flight in 1933 by KLM that did it in 4 days. The distance from either Singapore or Batavia to Australia had been expected to take at least a further 3 days. Suddenly the time was more than halved and the passengers' comfort improved.

There were no special stamps issued by any country for the event. Only one country, Holland, opened their postal facility to provide a service. They provided a special elliptical cachet in red which was applied to all mail and insisted that the 112½ cents postage had to contain at least one of the previously issued "Airmail Stamp for Special Flights" triangular stamp for the 1.00 gulden airmail portion. On arrival at the KLM office in Sydney an oval cachet was applied on the rear giving details of the flight time etc. For the return flight FROM Australia, the local authorities refused to sanction the carriage of Australian mail by a "foreign" carrier (KLM) but some 45 items slipped through the net and were carried to Amsterdam. Again for the return journey the Dutch East Indies Post Office prepared a special canceller similar to the 1933 Christmas flight design, with the name of the aircraft incorporated in it. These were prepared for Bandung, Batavia, Medan and Palembang where they were applied to the triangular stamp and additionally to the front of the covers creating a huge amount of additional handling. Backstamping was used on arrival in Holland.

Ed's display was broken into several distinct sections : SECTION 1 was the development of the route between Holland and the Dutch East Indies. It described how KLM's regular route that would comprise about three-quarters of the overall distance between London and Melbourne.

SECTION 2 was the pre-publicity and the outward flight (race) to Australia. The cover addressed to the instigator of the race, Macpherson Robertson, was interesting, as were two covers signed by the KLM pilots Parmentier and Moll.

SECTION 3 was the return flight by the aircraft to its base in Amsterdam carrying mail all the way. Noted was an unusual commercial cover with 6 triangular stamps - the cover shown here.



SECTION 4 was the following major flight by the *Uiver* in 1934, a Christmas mail flight that ended in a disastrous fiery crash in the Iraqi Desert. The crash covers are particularly rare as an American stole some of them from the wrecked plane before the postal authorities got to the scene. They were subsequently found and returned to their senders !

SECTION 5 showed the anticipated return flight of the Christmas mail, which of course could NOT be carried out using the intended (crashed) machine. Dates had to be altered. Ed's display included a single commemorative cover, 25-years later, and a display on the 50th Anniversary of the Flight when a replica of the DC-2 plane made the journey to

Australia and back in 1984. A dilapidated DC-2 had been located in America and was restored by KLM at great expense for the flight, and then returned to its owner. Ed's final SECTION, 6, involved the fund raising effort of 1½ million guilders by the Dutch community in 1999 to purchase this last surviving DC-2 and install it in their aviation museum. Special covers were created in Holland for this emotional event.

On 24th October 2009, the Australian end of the original flight was commemorated by the Australian Airmail Society and a Melbourne museum, by a further commemorative flight in an ex-TAA DC-3 "*Hawdon*". The focus was on Melbourne and Albury to particularly celebrate the part played by the folk of Albury in un-bogging the lost DC-2 !

THE NEWCASTLE DAYTIME MEETINGS,
at Studio 48, 48 Mackie Avenue, New Lambton East, at 10 a.m.
on the THIRD Wednesday of each month (except December).

"SOVIET 'DRIFT STATIONS' IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN" - display by TONY WALKER,
Wednesday 18th NOVEMBER 2009

Tony displayed the ARCTIC OCEAN DRIFT STATIONS that were established by the Soviet Union before and after WWII. That is, teams of scientists and specialists setting up camp on the drifting ice for periods of approximately one year. The Soviets had been inspired by Fridtjof Nansen's drift of the *Fram*, a ship specially designed to drift with the ice floe. It was Nansen's desire to drift with the ice to the geographic North Pole. But in the end, his attempt failed - he didn't get anywhere near the North Pole - ocean currents were against him. It was the concept and the enormous amount of scientific data gathered by the Norwegians that caught the attention of the world, including the Soviets.

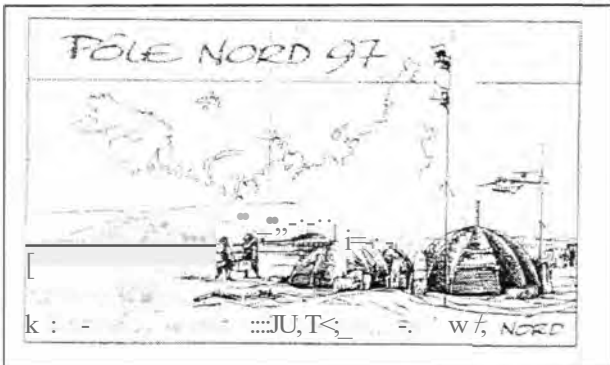
The WORLD'S FIRST ICE DRIFTING STATION was established very close to the North Pole in 1937 by a Soviet aerial expedition led by Otto Schmidt. This station would be later referred to as "North Pole I" after WWII when the 2nd and 3rd stations were established. The length of drift would vary depending on its location. Some drifts would be flat-out lasting a year, due to catastrophic breakup of the ice. Others, like North Pole 22 would last for several years.

Tony's display looked at Nansen, and then at the Soviet Union's establishment of their ice drifting stations from 1937 through to the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991. During this period 31 stations were established, and most of these 31 stations were represented in the display. North Pole 4 and 5 were the first stations to be given post office status in 1955. The date stamps were of the normal Soviet format and would contain the inscription "Sevemyi Polyus 4" (5, and so on). From North Pole 22 to North Pole 31, the date stamps would be of differing designs for Philatelic purposes.

The 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union would see the end of the drift stations for 12 years. Ice Station Borneo was set up on a commercial and seasonal basis in the late 1990's. The resurgence of Russian pride, finances and territorial integrity would see the re-establishment of floating ice drift stations in 2003. Most notable would be the desire to see how many cachets and stamps can be crammed into the smallest amount of space (as you can see in this illustration)!

Tony's display ended with the International Polar Year 2007/2008 from the Russian perspective, and included Russia's territorial claim for the geographic North Pole. They planted an undersea "flag" right on the spot, 4261 metres down !

TW/rd



"PECULIAR STAMP ISSUES, PECULIAR MAIL, AND PECULIAR PLACES"
- display by RON DAVIS, Wednesday 20th JANUARY 2010

"There are various definitions of the word '*peculiar*'," Ron was saying. "The one I've taken is '*strange*'. So I have included some weird stamp shapes, some peculiar mailing practices (my favourite is BLACK envelopes!), and some very unusual destinations in the world - my favourite of those being HELL. There's one in Norway, one in Michigan in the U.S.A., and one in the Cayman Islands. So when someone tells you to go to HELL, you DO have a choice!!"

This topic was inspired by some stamps Ron bought at a Society stamp auction some time ago - LATVIAN stamps of 1918, printed on the back of German war maps. Equally peculiar are French stamps from the Council of Europe - these stamps are for use ONLY on mail posted in the Post Office in the Council of Europe Building in Strasbourg!

There was a cover from the minute island of Hoedic in FRANCE, and a cover from ZIMBABWE on which \$15 million did not cover the postage!

Then there were a number of private post issues, advertisements and surcharges on the BACK of stamps, and stamps from several territories on the one miniature sheet.

But the "piece de resistance" was an official collection of 30 Olympic pins from the IOC Museum in the form of postage stamps - "Stamps of the Ancient Sports". These enamelled 'pins' showed reproductions of stamps from a wide variety of countries dating from 1896 and 1906 in Greece to 1964 in Italy. Fascinating stuff!



BITS AND PIECES

● AWARDS FOR ONE FRAME EXHIBITS

Consistent with the world trend, the Australian Philatelic Federation has recently adopted metallic awards for the one-frame class, and all future APF competitions will use the new awards. It is expected that our Society's judging panel will also be awarding metallic awards for the Society's AUGUST COMPETITION. The aim is to have a clear path of progression to allow one-frame exhibitors to advance from State-level exhibitions to National level, to realistically test their wider skills in this class.

The old gemstone awards and the new metallic equivalents are shown in the following table.

'Certificates of Participation' will also continue to be awarded where appropriate:

| | | |
|----------|-------|---------------|
| Diamond | 85+ | Gold |
| Ruby | 75-84 | Vermeil |
| Emerald | 65-74 | Silver |
| Sapphire | 55-64 | Silver-Bronze |
| Topaz | 45-54 | Bronze |

- The stripes on a ZEBRA are white, not black ! The white stripes are superficial tufts on the black coat of the zebra. The skin colour is black and the white marks are the stripes. Zebras are descended from solidly-dark coloured animals, which in the late stages of evolution have been covered with the white transverse bars - "stripes" - on the body.
- Queen Christiane Eberhardine was Queen of POLAND for 30 years (1697-1727), but never set foot in Poland !
- The FIRST Air Express Delivery was made 1013 years ago. The Caliph Aziz of Cairo (975-996) sent a rush order for cherries to the town of Baalbek. 600 pigeons made the delivery.
- Every ship weighs more in the daytime than at night, when the moon shines upon it. It's the presence of the moon, not the moonlight. The gravity pull of the moon upon the ship is greater than the pull it exerts upon the water. As a result, the ship displacement is reduced.
- The FULL MOON is times as bright as a HALF-MOON. That part of the moon which is visible when it is in the half moon phase is hilly and rough, and reflects only one-ninth the light of the full moon.
- Why is the President of the U.S.A.'s mansion called "The White House"? When George Washington met and wooed Martha Custis, she owned a plantation on the Pamunkey River in Virginia, which she inherited from her first husband. The manor was known as "The White House". It was in this "White House" that America's first President, Washington, found his greatest domestic happiness. Many years later, when the Executive Mansion was built in Washington, DC, "the Father of America" suggested that it be called "The White House" in commemoration of the beloved Virginia manor. The original "White House" was destroyed in the American Civil War in 1861, and was last owned by Mrs. Robert E. Lee, a descendant of Martha Washington.



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The best thing about the future is that it only comes one day at a time.

-Abraham Lincoln.

