

Bulletin

Volume 61

No. 2

June 2021



Website: www.brightonps.org.au

Dear Members,

It is great that our Club is functioning normally again after last year's lock-down. I hope you are all getting your jabs to protect you (I have had my first), since we do not know when Covid will get loose again in Melbourne. Auctions have returned to their friendly buying and selling. We had a great turnout for both our Annual Club competition (won by Brad Baker and Alex Pershin) and for Ted Gallagher's comprehensive display of varieties of the QE II and Fauna Definitives.

I invite you all to our **Gala and Display Day on Sunday, August 15th**. There will be lots of interesting Displays, Dealers and two talks. Fuller information is in a separate article. *This is your chance to bring your partner, family and friends for a great day out!* We hope to gain new members through this Gala.

Many of you will know about the sad passing of our long- time member, Norm Mills, perhaps the last of our members who served in the Navy in World War II. There will be a Memorial Service for him on June 22nd. Details from Ross or Ian.

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Have you considered collecting covers or watermarks or perforations or postcards? I encourage you to develop your stamp collecting into Philately. There is so much more to Philately than buying to sell on e-bay! Every country in the world has been issuing stamps since 1840. By way of example, I have some collections, of Britain (Queen Victoria only) and Japan, being just one of each stamp. Then I have displays of World War II in the Pacific and Indian Princely States. I am building a collection of Mountains of the World from postcards and stamps. Which way will you go? Please come to our Education meetings to get some ideas.

I commend our future program to you. We have Education and Display meetings on Tuesday, June 8th. Then July 13th is your opportunity to display any material you have with the letter 'W': West Australia, Wurtemberg, Western Samoa or anything loosely connected with 'W'. Then our HUGE Catalogued Auction on July 3rd: the Catalogue comes with this Bulletin. If you have queries, try our website www.brightonps.org.au which is regularly updated by Michael Tonta.

I look forward to seeing you at Bri Phil House in the near future!

Best wishes,

Ian Sadler, President.

Display Meetings

Family Correspondence ‘In Time and Place’ and Norway by Jon Fladeby - June 8th at 8.15pm

Jon will show how he uses family correspondence to illustrate events in Norway from 1850 to the late twentieth century. He will also display a traditional approach to the famous Posthorn stamps of Norway, 1872 to 1892.

The Letter ‘W’ by YOU – July 13th at 8.15pm

Our usual annual opportunity to display up to 15 sheets of stamps and covers from your collection, with some association with the letter ‘W’. e.g. Western Australia, Wurttemberg, Williamstown, aircraft- Wings. Be creative, show us your collection! We look forward to a varied set of displays.

Education Meetings at 7.15pm

Please bring your own material. We will try to answer your questions.

‘What do I collect’ by Stephen Bradford on June 8th

Stephen has agreed to continue this series. Come and find out the answer. Hint: He likes some Australian covers from the Pilbara.

British Commonwealth, King George V & VI, on July 13th. Presenter TBA

A Club Member will share his collection of the rich material from many countries in the Commonwealth. Bring your stamps to compare.

Albums Closed

Norman Mills – a member since 2008

Brian Webster – a member since 1975

Gala and Display

All Members are invited to our Gala on SUNDAY 15TH AUGUST at Bri Phil House, Gardenvale. You will be delighted by Stamp displays, Dealers, Lucky door prizes and Free stamp packs to under-16s. Bring your family and friends: non-members most welcome.

Help us to celebrate 100 years of Rotary in Australia and 100 years of the RAAF whilst having a great time.

The Gala runs from 10.00 am to 3.30 pm with a Guest speaker from Rotary International at 11am and a talk on his ‘philatelic life’ by one of our long-term Members. The displays will feature the two Centenaries, the end of WWII, Australian military overseas and a range of other subjects.

Enquiries: Phone: 9530 6760 or Email: briphilhouse@hotmail.com

Rotary Australia and BPS

This year Rotary Australia celebrates 100 years of service to the community. At our Gala event in August we will acknowledge the wonderful work of this organisation through exhibits and a guest speaker.

Several years ago Rotary Australia realized that Australia is the world's only developed country with trachoma, an infectious eye disease that can be prevented with good hygiene practices. The only group of people in this country with trachoma is the indigenous population and Rotary Australia aims to eradicate trachoma by the end of 2022.

Brighton Philatelic Society is proud to be associated with this project and have been donating and selling large quantities of stamps on paper for the past 3 years. In 2020 \$5,000 was raised by BPS and already this year our contribution to this project has been \$3,000.

If any of our members have bulk stamps on paper we would be delighted to pass them on to Rotary to further assist with their fundraising. Please contact BPS through our website or phone 9530 6760.

New Members

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new members:

John Pilkington – Clifton Hill

Adrian Smith - Langwarrin

Sarah Waugh – Winter Valley

Russell Brewer – Brighton

Kym Schramm – Mildura

Gary Pagano – Narre Warren

Book Review

International Postal Reforms 1550 to 1898 / by James L. Grimwood-Taylor. London: The Royal Philatelic Society, 2020. 1053pp. in 2 volumes. *This book has recently been added to our Library collection.*

Another beautifully produced work from The Royal Philatelic Society London. The first volume deals with the development of international postal services prior to the introduction of the postage stamp in 1840. The second volume has the subtitle 'The birth of the postage stamp and its international effects 1840 to 1898', and I will review just this second volume here since it contains more of interest to our members than the first volume which covers pre-stamp postal history.

This volume begins in late 1839 with the experimental uniform 4d postage period in Britain with examples of the documents announcing the uniform 4d rate and many illustrations of postal markings used at that time. There is a catalogue of all known 4d markings identifying their source, and a checklist of all known covers. The resulting increase in mail encouraged the introduction of Rowland Hill's Uniform Penny Postage

of 1d for letters sent within UK in early January 1840 despite the non-appearance of the proposed prepaid labels.

The history of the creation of the first postage stamps is dealt with in great detail, from parliamentary discussions, selection of printers, development of designs to illustrations of early use on covers. A good number of Mulready envelopes and imitations are also illustrated. The next few chapters cover the introduction of postage stamps in USA, Brazil and Switzerland the Europe and Australia, and then the moves towards the Universal Postal Union. The final chapter describes the development of the collection of postage stamps, and some of the pioneer collectors of them. This lead to an increase in the issue of new stamps between 1850 and 1860 and the development of philately as a hobby through the 1860s. A fascinating book with many interesting anecdotes, however the index again lets it down with too many undifferentiated page references eg Charles Whiting has 56 index entries, USA has 63 entries, there are entries like 'Pamphlets' and 'Newspapers', and 'France' and 'Ireland' with over 50 entries and none has even one sub-heading. However, the bibliography is wonderful with 12 pages of tightly packed lists of books, articles and government reports.

Ray Price, *Librarian*

A New Source of Stamps in the Brighton District

'Sammy Stamp' is the nickname for a group of people formed under the Uniting Church to raise money from the sale of used stamps in order to support community activities and appeals. It has operated for many years in the city offices of the Church, but has now relocated to the Brighton area. It now meets in the hall adjacent to the Uniting Church, 15 Black Street, Middle Brighton. It is open for sales on Thursdays only, between 9.30 am and 1.00 pm. Car parking is available, alternatively it is close to the Middle Brighton Railway Station, or by bus which comes from the east along St Andrews Street from Centre Road.

Sammy Stamp sells donated stamps, received from collections in many Uniting Churches throughout Victoria as well as from many other supporters. The stamps on sale include a majority of Australian issues, including recent ones, as well as stamps from other countries, some more than others. We can provide lots of items for your collection, but don't come looking for a 2 pound kangaroo because we haven't been given any of those yet ! You will be most welcome to visit us. Why not come and check us out

Annual Competition Results

Our annual one-frame competition was held on April 13th. About twenty Members attended to view the five entries.

We congratulate the philatelic winner, Brad Baker, our Treasurer, with an interesting and scarce display of covers bearing the Australian 6d Laughing Kookaburra.

The most popular display was won by Alex Pershin with older Russian stamps plus heraldic devices. These two gentlemen submitted two entries, Alex's other being 'Monkeys'. Ross Newton submitted a colourful display of stamps about 'My Church'. Judging was by Charles Bromser, who is an international judge, and Ian Sadler.

Members enjoyed the very varied entries of stamps and covers. Later the exchange sheets were perused.

Stamp Tip: Examining Supposedly Never Hinged Early Stamps

This column is absolutely NOT suggesting that you should collect mint stamps vs used, nor that if you do collect mint stamps that they should be never hinged. It is also NOT about detecting regumming -- that is a subject for another time. This is only about examining supposedly NH early stamps to make sure you are really getting what you are paying for.

As with many of my columns, this topic has come about from a recent experience. I was examining, for potential purchase, an Iceland collection that the collector thought only contained NH stamps. However, in the stamps prior to 1940, there were quite a few very lightly hinged stamps that the collector apparently did not realize were hinged. (Fortunately there were no re-gummed stamps, which is a problem of which we see more or less depending upon how the collector has acquired their stamps.) In this case, the very simple reason for the presence of lightly hinged stamps in this collection was that the collector did not understand that it is prudent to always inspect early NH stamps with a magnifying glass immediately upon receipt from the seller. While we hope such inspection really should not be necessary or that the burden should not fall on the collector, the reality is that if paying extra for NH, the purchaser really paying extra for NH, the purchaser really has to make sure it is NH (and original gum). It could be that the seller has not properly inspected the stamp (which is incompetence and/or lack of caring) or that the seller did know the stamp was not NH but hoped that it would "pass" as NH -- and based on what I see in collections, one or the other of these things happens more than I like to think.

Just like pregnancy, the status of NH is binary: either it is or it is not. There is no "almost pregnant" and there is no "almost never hinged" or even "nearly never hinged". However, unless a) a seller properly inspects the stamp under magnification and b) a seller is completely honest even when "nobody is looking", buyers will likely receive at least a few lightly hinged (early) stamps when the buyer is expecting and paying for never hinged stamps. There are far too many times when an extremely lightly hinged stamp will LOOK NH when examined without magnification. As a side note, there is a dealer in Argentina -- who claims to be an "expert" -- with whom I will not do business, that publicly states that the company only looks for hinging under normal viewing conditions and does not use magnification; and that if a stamp turns out to be hinged, that is the buyer's problem (no refund)! That's unacceptable to me.

In the case of Iceland (the country collection I was recently examining was Iceland), there are some particular problems which are also duplicated in the stamps of Denmark for the same time periods -- the same printer printed both countries' stamps. In early stamp issues, the gum was applied after printing. The freshly gummed sheets were laid out on racks, gum side up, to dry. If you have ever laid out wet paper to dry, you will understand that the paper will end up with all sorts of irregularities -- low spots where the still-liquid gum collects in pools and high spots that are nearly devoid of gum because some of the gum has flowed to the low spots. At a glance, the high spots can look like hinge marks. This surface is often far from flat, thus under ordinary viewing conditions, it could be easy to miss a tiny hinge spot in that bumpy or irregular surface.

Also, collectors who use hinges correctly strive to use hinges that will leave the smallest mark and no remnant. When successful in that goal, the result can be a stamp that will have a hinge mark, but the mark may be extremely difficult to see.

Lastly, specific to embossed stamps such as Iceland Scott #86-91 and #92-98, the embossing can make it extremely difficult to see light hinge marks (and also leads to some false positives of hinging when a stamp is actually NH). The gum of these two stamp issues absolutely must be examined under at least 10x magnification if you are expecting NH stamps.

My process for examining the vast majority of pre-1940 mint stamps that are CLAIMED to be NH is as follows:

- I examine such stamps under a simple 10x magnifier "loupe". There are several styles of such loupes, but I find that it is best to use one where the diameter of the lens is at least 15 mm (20 mm or more is much better); anything smaller is just too hard for us older folks to effectively use.
- I examine under a point-source light, such as a small desk lamp, NOT only under general room lighting, not under a fluorescent lamp, and not under a light that has a diffuser to spread the light out. You specifically want to be able to create shadows.
- I prefer an "old fashioned" incandescent light, but these days you are more likely to only be able to obtain LED lighting (or perhaps halogen). (You may have seen Ott lights recommended for philatelic use; their daylight-like light is excellent for stamp colours, the diffuse light they produce is not suitable for this specific examination task.) The light should not be too bright; again you want to be able to create shadows, not flood the zone with light. Fluorescent lights are, by their nature, diffused, thus they are almost useless for this specific task.
- The light fixture really should have a hood or sides or something that directs the light downward, NOT with lots of light coming out toward the user. Again, avoid fixtures that have a diffuser to spread the light widely.
- While seated at the light, you should NOT actually be able to see the "bulb". You may need to put a shield on the side of the light fixture that is facing you. For some types of fixtures I have actually taped a curved piece of thin, opaque cardboard to the edge of the light fixture to prevent me from looking into the light.
- I hold the stamp with tongs -- but I always remember to additionally examine the area where the tongs are. (Keep in mind that we are examining the BACK of the stamp.) I hold the stamp somewhere in the EDGE of the downward light beam/zone and move the stamp in and out of the lighted zone, while holding the stamp at an oblique (very shallow) angle to the direction of the light beam/zone. The goal is to move the stamp slightly in and out of the light-beam-edge and to change the angle of the light to the stamp surface, so as to create shadows on the surface (back) of the stamp.

Keep in mind that all the normal rules of logic apply. In this case we can say: Lack of evidence is not evidence of lack (of hinge mark). Just because you have not been able to spot an extremely light hinge mark does not mean that there is not one present. However, we can do our best to look for a hinge mark.

[This stamp tip provided by Jay Smith, a stamp dealer specialising in Scandinavia living in Snow Camp, North Carolina]

BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY PROGRAM 2021

June	5	Premium auction 1.00pm	
	8	Ed: What do I collect? 7.15pm	
	8	Display: Family Biography in Time & Place – Norway 8.15 pm	E
	15	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	22	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
July	3	Members catalogued auction 1.00pm	
	13	Education: George V & VI 7.15	E
	13	Display: The Letter W 8.15	E
	20	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	27	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30 pm	
August	7	Premium auction 1.00pm	
	10	Education: Assemble Lots 7.15pm	
	10	Display: Early Australian ‘Dealers’ Covers 8.15	E
	17	Daytime meeting 10.00am	D,E
	24	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
Sept.	4	Premium auction 1.00 pm	
	10	Gala Anniversary Exhibition 10.30	
	14	AGM & President’s Display 8.00 pm	E
	21	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	28	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30	

E = Exchange sheets
 Tues. evening auction commences 7.30 p.m.
 Tues. display evening commences 8:15 p.m.
 Evening Auction Viewing from 5:30 p.m.
 Tuesday daytime from 10.00 am to 1:00 p.m.
 Saturday auctions commence 1:00 p.m.
 Uncat Sat Auctions Viewing: from 10:30 am
 Catalogued Auctions Viewing Friday 3:00 – 8:00 p.m.
 Saturday 9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

All meetings are held at BRI-PHIL HOUSE, 80 Gardenvale Rd. GARDENVALE (Corner of Magnolia Rd