

Bulletin

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Dear Fellow Members,

Happy New Year to all our members and families and all the best for 2022. Let us all hope that we can finally get back to some normality during this year. The society has started well in January with two Tuesday auctions and a Daytime Meeting. All have been well attended and seen some spirited bidding for a wide variety of lots. If you have stamps and/or covers that you wish to sell in February and March, then please contact Marco Turco to get lot numbers. If you require information on how to present lots at auctions, then Marco will also be hosting a Philatelic Meeting on March 8th at 7.15pm on this subject.

You will be receiving with this bulletin a Catalogue for our auction in March. The stand-out item has to be the £1 brown and blue Kangaroo that has been lightly hinged. It was part of Graham Morris' Australia collection and other items from his collection are also in this auction. If you cannot attend this auction, then please feel free to take advantage of our very successful and reliable (thanks to Ross Newton) postal bid option that is attached to the catalogue at the end.

At 12.30pm on March 5th just before the auction commences the President will be unveiling a plaque in commemoration of Dr William Wells AM and the auction room will be officially named 'The William Wells Hall'. See Page 5 in this bulletin for more details.

On Saturday February 5th at 1pm we have our first Premium Auction (minimum reserve of \$5) and then on Tuesday, February 8th at 7.15pm we have Ross Newton hosting the first Philatelic Meeting of the year on One-Frame Displays. If you have never displayed your items before then this is a must attend session which will demonstrate that it is actually easy to prepare a One-Frame Display. This meeting is followed at 8.15pm by the President's Display that was cancelled last year due to the lockdown. Our past President for the last two years, Dr Ian Sadler, will be presenting his China 1865 – 1949 collection. Ian is an eminent collector of Asian and Chinese stamps with an extensive knowledge of this area so please feel free to take advantage of his expertise and see this display and fire him with many questions. The Daytime meeting is on February 15th at 10am with exchange sheets, a mini-auction and a great

opportunity to socialise with other stamp collectors. February closes with a Tuesday auction at 7.30pm on the 22nd.

To all our members that I know are hesitant to attend meetings and auctions we are following Covid prevention protocols as much as possible by wearing masks, social distancing, ensuring vaccinations and hand sanitising. I am looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible returning to take part in our activities as soon as you feel you are able but, in the meantime, I wish you the very best.

We really do need a Building Manager for this year. Our last manager, Eric Klay, did a fantastic and thorough job, but there are always maintenance tasks to be done. If you feel you can help, then please contact me or the committee. Best regards and happy philately,

David Shutler, *President 2021-22*

Display Meetings

‘China 1865-1949’ by Ian Sadler on February 8th, 2022 at 8.15pm

This was going to be Ian’s President’s display last September but had to be cancelled due to the lockdown. This is a prize-winning exhibit and Ian is an eminent collector and expert in this area so please take advantage of this opportunity and come along.

‘1956 Melbourne Olympics’ by Ross Newton on March 8th, 2022 at 8.15 pm

Ross, our Vice-President, has been accumulating philatelic items on the 1956 Olympics for many years and has organised them into a varied, entertaining and prize-winning form. A not-to-be-missed event.

Annual Club One-Frame Competition on April 12th at 8.00pm

All members are invited to submit a one-frame display of any standard. Even if you have never thought of displaying your items before this is an opportunity to organise some of your favourites and show them to other members of the Society. In our Society we have some very experienced judges who are only too happy to offer advice and helpful hints toward this very rewarding aspect of Philately.

Philatelic Meetings on Tuesday evenings at 7.15pm

Please BYO material. We will try to answer your questions. Note: these meetings used to be called “Education”: the new name is considered more appropriate.

There will be no Philatelic meeting in April.

February 8th: ‘Preparing a One Frame Display’. Presenter Ross Newton.

Ross has shown many exhibits locally and nationally over many years. He will help Members prepare for the Club One Frame Competition in April. Bring your ideas and your material for advice.

March 8th: ‘Preparing Lots for Auctions’ by Marco Turco.

Marco is very successful at preparing the stamps and covers given to Sales Branch for auctions. He will cover this topic and advise any Members who bring material.

May 10th: 'What I Collect and Why' coordinated by Ian Sadler & Alistair Glass. A new approach to a favourite topic. We will invite 3-4 Members with different collections to explain and demonstrate them to our group.

Ian Sadler, *Philately Coordinator*

Stamp & Cover Collectors' Forum

Wednesday, March 2nd at 2pm

Friends, you are cordially invited to our *very first Forum* at Bri Phil House. This Forum arises from the deliberations of the Bri Phil 'Future Committee' and Members' discussions at the Club on November 9th.

The first informal Agenda is:

- Each member to relate their stamp and cover collecting interests.
- A guest speaker, with illustrations.
- Democratic decision on future meetings: content, day, use of Zoom etc.

Our intention is to provide a new series of Bri Phil Meetings which will explore many facets of stamp collecting, of interest to you all.

Please come or let us know your interest in our new Forum. *Please diarise.*

Ian Sadler 9592 3119

Alistair Glass.

The William Wells Hall

On March 5th at 12.30pm before the Catalogued Auction the auction room will be officially named 'The William Wells Hall'. The President will be unveiling a plaque to the society dedicated to William that will be placed in the room. Dr William Wells AM was a guiding light to Brighton Philatelic Society for over 60 years. He was President on 5 occasions, a committee member for over 40 years and the Exchange Branch Superintendent for 24 years. He was a Founding Fellowship member in 1973 and awarded Life Membership of the Society in 1974. He was instrumental to the success of Brighton Philatelic Society and his dedication to Philately and his friendship was greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

New Member

Please extend a friendly welcome to the following new member:

Colin Bragg - Brighton

Albums closed

John Steward had been a member of BPS since 1964 which makes him one of our longest serving members. Over the years he had displayed several sections of his extensive collection. He also had a large collection of early postcards.

John was also a keen member of the Australian Postal History Society.

Stamp Tip: Soaking Older Used Stamps to Remove Hinge Remnants, etc.

This is about cleaning up stamps with hinge remnants, messy gum remains, or stamps which are stuck to album pages, etc. This is NOT intended to be a discussion of bulk soaking of modern stamps that are on paper -- that requires some different procedures.

Without further ado and presented in somewhat brief manner, my "procedure" is:

- Perhaps most importantly, I make sure I am wearing comfortable shoes with good support. I tend to do this work in two- or three-hour chunks and it does get tiring without good shoes. I also make sure I have available a 1-2-inch-high object that I can use to have one foot up on it, and switch off which foot. I don't know about anybody else, but it really kills my back to be standing flat-footed for long periods of time.

- I use lukewarm water. If the water is too warm to have your hands in, it is much too hot for the stamps, however, some warmth will speed the process along. But I use ice-cold water for certain colour-sensitive stamps such as certain early British stamps -- some of which should really not be soaked at all.

- If there are just a few stamps to be soaked, I use an "oven safe" (not as likely to break if dropped) shallow bowl. You can probably get a white or clear one for 50 cents at a typical thrift store. Make very sure that it is extremely clean, with no oil/grease/food residue.

- For these types of earlier individual stamps with hinge remnants, I usually only soak up to 25 stamps at a time, occasionally gently mixing to make sure the stamps are not keeping each other from getting fully wet.

- I never put more stamps in that I think I can remove in 15-30 minutes (and then divide that quantity in half until you are sure of it). Too long in the water can cause all sorts of problems.

- If a larger group, I use a white plastic photo developing / darkroom approximately 9x12 inch tray (handy because the bottom is NOT totally smooth, and it has a pour spout/lip at one corner. A WHITE tray or bowl is important so you can tell if the water needs changing part way through the process. Cheap ones tend to have a smooth bottom which makes it harder to fish out the stamps. Another alternative is a white oven-safe baking dish from a thrift store.

- I also use a cheap hand-held strainer (NO LONGER for kitchen use) to pour the wastewater through so as not to put the waste hinges junk down the sink (they are not good for the pipes). Again, a thrift store is a good source.

- I always start each batch with fresh water. However, sometimes if there are lots of stamps, or the stamps are particularly dirty, I need to change the water. If you change the water, be sure to use a strainer, or something similar, to make sure you don't pour any stamps down the drain! (I am speaking from experience -- being "careful" does not work).

- I let the stamps sit for 10-15 minutes (longer if in cold water) before doing anything with them. Don't rush them.

- I then "test" the soaking by gently holding a stamp between thumb and finger and very gently rub the backside to see if it is clean yet or if there are still hinges or a gelatinous layer of gum, etc. If it is already clean or the hinges quickly comes off with very gentle rubbing, great. Different types of stamps, from different time periods, different countries, etc., will react differently.

- I am very conscious of how much I am rubbing. It is very easy to rub too much and cause damage to the paper surface. If it needs that much rubbing, it instead probably FIRST needs longer soaking and then scraping instead of rubbing.

- If the residue does not easily come off with rubbing, then I SCRAPE. I like to use the flat/long SIDE of a pair of tongs, but I have to be careful not to poke a hole in a stamp. A credit card edge can also work well to very gently SCRAPE off residue. Scraping is especially helpful if the stamp has a gelatinous gum layer. When scraping, I usually lay the stamp, face down, in my palm at the meaty area at the base of my thumb. Having a curved surface like that can help to guide and focus the scraping.

- Any scraping must be done from the centre of the stamp moving outward in a single motion. Do not scrape toward the centre. Do not move back and forth.

- If I have had to scrape, then I put the item back in water for a couple more minutes (perhaps in a different bowl so I can keep going on my normal production) and then test, rub, scrape again. Repeat as necessary.

- When soaking off old hinges, it is not uncommon for random pieces of hinge floating in the water to stick the front or back of another stamp. Thus, keeping the water clean is important and maybe even using a rinse bowl.

- When the stamps are clean, I transfer them to a clean (best if UN-dyed/printed) double layer of paper towel. When I have put all that I want on that paper towel, I put another double layer on top and press gently -- you don't want to transfer the texture of the paper towel into the stamp. I let that sit about 15 minutes. If I am doing "production", I might end up with a stack of those paper "sandwiches". These paper towels can be re-used several times if allowed to dry flat and with good airflow.

- After about 15 minutes between paper towels, I move to a stamp drying blotter book. I use a fancier type of book which has every other page with a shiny non-stick surface. The gum side goes toward the shiny surface. I put a modest amount of weight on the book to keep the stamps flat. If you want to avoid getting divorced, do not put the book on wooden furniture no matter what you think is okay (unless you have a plastic layer protecting the furniture and enjoy taking risks or have been thinking about divorce anyway). If a book without such a non-stick surface is used, then I have to check for sticking to the blotter paper after about half an hour or so. If much sticking is found, that is an indication that the soaking/rubbing/scraping and re-soaking process is not thorough enough.

- After making sure there is no sticking, I leave the stamps in the book for about a day. Since the stamps were pre-dried on paper towel, about a day in the book is usually adequate. However, if the book is still damp, that is probably an indication that the pre-

drying process needs to be more thorough.

- Before using any previously used paper towels or stamp drying books, I double check them for any signs of mildew. If there is any mildew or other types of stains, the paper towel should be discarded or book pages (or parts of pages) of the book cut out and discarded. This can be a vector for spreading mildew spores or stains to other stamps.

- If I am soaking higher-value stamps, or if I am in a hurry, or if I just have to soak one or two stamps, AFTER the pre-drying stage, I put the stamps in a stamp drying press. This is like a miniature bookbinding press with layers of blotting paper in it. Between the layers of blotting paper, I put a non-stick plastic sheet, such as the 3 mm material of poly sleeves we use to contain stamps and covers. The gum side goes against the plastic. The plastic slows down drying by a few minutes (perhaps going from 8 minutes to 12 minutes), but without the plastic, the pressure applied by such a press will cause stamps to stick to the blotter paper. [Back in the day, White Ace made an excellent stamp drying press. I occasionally have one available from an estate purchase. It is a tool that every stamp collector should have.]

- For drying just a few stamps (or pre-drying a few stamps before putting in a stamp drying press) I often used facial tissue. However facial tissue must be PLAIN, NO FRAGRANCE, NO SPECIAL COATINGS, NO LOTION-INFUSED, etc.

- If stamps stick to paper towels or facial tissue, RE-SOAK them and clean off more adhesive. Do NOT try to peel the stamp off the paper towel.

- If stamps stick to blotter paper, use a small amount (just a few drops) of water on the stamp to get it to release from the book. This may take some patience, but you don't want to permanently mess up your drying book or blotters -- or damage the stamp. Then RE-SOAK the stamp and clean off more adhesive. Do NOT try to peel the stamp off the blotter paper.

- I avoid mixing use of paper towels and blotter books between more valuable older stamps VS modern cancelled stamps. The modern stamps can have more problems with soluble cancellations, coloured-paper adhesions, etc. It is possible for those modern artifacts to contaminate the paper towels and blotter books with inks and chemicals.

- Lastly, when I remove the stamps from the blotter books, I turn the books / pages so that when I open the book the backsides of most of the stamps will be facing me. This allows me to quickly identify any that are potentially sticking to the book.

[This stamp tip is courtesy of Jay Smith, a stamp dealer specialising in Scandinavia based in Snow Camp, North Carolina. **Ed.**]

BRIGHTON PHILATELIC SOCIETY PROGRAM 2022

Feb	5	Premium auction 1.00 pm	
	8	Phil: One-Frame Displays 7.15 pm	
	8	Display: China 1865 – 1949 8.15 pm	E
	15	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	22	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
March	2	Stamp Collectors' Forum 2.00 pm	
	5	Catalogued auction 1.00 pm	
	8	Phil: Preparing Auction Lots 7.15 pm	
	8	Display: Melbourne Olympics 1956 8.15pm	E
	15	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	22	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
April	2	Premium auction 1.00pm	
	12	One-Frame Competition 8.00 pm	E
	19	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	26	Members uncatalogued auction 7.30pm	
May	7	Premium auction 1.00pm	
	10	Phil: What I Collect & Why 7.15pm	
	8	Display: Variety of Collecting Interests 8.15pm	E
	17	Daytime meeting 10.00 am	D,E
	24	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 6:30 p.m.
 Tuesday daytime from 10.00 am to 1:30 p.m.
 Saturday auctions commence 1:00 p.m.
 Uncat Sat Auctions Viewing: from 10:30 am
 Catalogued Auctions Viewing Friday 2:00 – 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)