



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

June 2024

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Tues. 4th June Members Selling Night
Tues. 2nd July Roman Numerals on Stamps
Tues. 6th August Preparing a Display / Exhibit
Sat. 31st August Stamp Fair

President's Report June 2024

The topic of our May meeting was a quiz. We all a lot of fun and were quite surprised how little we remember. Our winner was David Somerton – well done!

Ken Datson was presented with the Lois Whatley Trophy and was congratulated and thanked for all the work he does every meeting with the supper. I call him my Mr Reliable. We had a large and varied auction. I do hope everyone went home with a little treasure.

June is an interesting month for birthday's – the 1st brings three birthdays – John Armstrong, Tom Luke, and Marilyn Monroe. Laurie Bryant and Helga Boniwell are on the 2nd Michael Pattison one of our new members is on the 10th, and Angelo Verga on the 25th. Happy Birthday to you all and may you get lots of stamps and have a wonderful celebration.

On Saturday the 11th of May Ballarat Philatelic Society celebrated its 120th Formation Anniversary. Tom and I represented the club at their celebration. It was a great day catching up with lots of likeminded people from the philatelic world. The refreshments were good, and the members put together a wonderful display. What an achievement 120 years - Congratulations and Well Done.

The next meeting is on the 4th of June titled "Trading Night". Please bring along any philatelic items you don't want or have multiple copies. preferably priced. Remember one person's trash is another person's gold.

Let me finish with my little phrase to all members of our philatelic family.

TAKE CARE WE CARE, and you are all important.....Libby.



Thank you to Jacinta Allan MP and staff for the printed copies of this newsletter.

The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.00pm at

**Kangaroo Flat R.S.L.
Station St. Kangaroo Flat**

Auctions will be held at all Tuesday meetings.
10 items per member are allowed for auctions
Christmas bonanza auction in **December**.

Exchange sheets will no longer be circulated at meetings. Please see Lyn to access sheets at home.
More sheets are always needed so please "lick and stick" a few.

CLUB CONTACTS:

President: *Libby Luke* ph: 0448 120 066

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Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Dinner 2024

If you couldn't make it, here are some glimpses of what you missed.



Bendigo Philatelic Society Annual Dinner 2024



Czeslaw Slania's 80th Birthday Engraving



GUSTAV II ADOLFS DÖD VID LÜTZEN 6-11-1632

CZ. SLANIA sc.

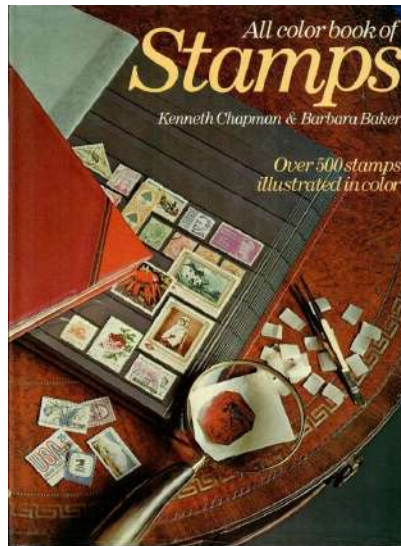
Czeslaw Slania turned 80 on the 22nd October 2001 and to celebrate, the Swedish Post Office asked him to engrave a stamp of his choice. For some time, he had wanted to produce an engraving of Carl Wahlbom's painting of the death of King Gustav II Adolf at the Battle of Lützen on 6th November 1632. Sweden had a policy of not showing violence on their stamps but agreed instead to produce a limited edition souvenir engraving. It took him three months to engrave but the final work shows why he is considered the greatest stamp engraver. It is only 75 x 53mm, not much larger than some stamps but the detail is astounding.

Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

All colour book of Stamps

By: Kenneth Chapman & Barbara Baker

A review / information: David Robinson. Library code: BPS-0133



This interesting 1974 publication contains over Five Hundred colour illustrations and covers commemorative stamps, thematic collections, stamps used for propaganda and stamps designs.

The publication's first chapter is titled The First Stamps. This chapter informs the reader on the subject of the world's first adhesive postage stamps. The world-famous Penny Black and the Two- Penny blue both issued in the Great Britain back on 1st May 1840. The US followed suite in July of 1845 and the chapter discusses how other countries followed Great Britain's lead and produced their own adhesive stamp issues.

Chapter Two is titled The Envelope Tells the Story and discusses postal markings, colours and art work, that can be found on some envelopes.

The third chapter explains in brief a Postal History on postal services and mail delivery.

Chapter Four covers Commemorative Stamps. In 1888 New South Wales took the first step towards the continuing practice of issuing Commemorative Stamps. This is quite a large chapter and contains a wealth of information and many bountiful colour photographs.

The next chapter covers Thematic collecting and how they can be collected irrespective of where in the world they have come from, as it is the subject of the design that matters.

A chapter on Propaganda stamp issues highlights the fact that the postal service used various stamps to publicise a point or idea.

Stamp designs do not just happen and in this chapter titled Designing Stamps discusses the finer steps in designing an attractive, quality stamp design.

The next chapter Something went wrong, highlights the printing and processing faults that can be discovered by the avid philatelist.



OBJ OBJ

*This 1938 Fiji 1 1/2d stamp first featured an un piloted outrigger canoe.
The second printing in 1940 was updated and featured a native mariner.*

They look good but.... There are two major classes of forgeries: philatelic and postal. Some stamps are copied to attract or trick a collector, where as some stamps are forged to be used in the postal service. There are many interesting stories to be found in this chapter.

[Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines.](#)

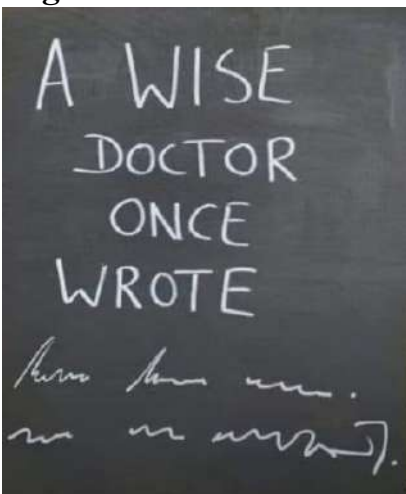


Lois Whatley winner awarded

At our May meeting, our president was finally able to present the shield to the winner of last year's Lois Whatley competition, Ken Datsun. This year's competition has begun so it is never too early to start finding those stamps.



Signs of the times



The cheque is in the mail can

One of the strangest stories in philately is the story of the Tin Can Mail of Niuafu'ou, the northernmost island of Tonga. This circular island is actually an active volcano. At one point in its past it rose to a full cone but an eruption blew away the top and left the island as it is today.



Before 1928, there were no cachets to show that this was carried by Tin Can Mail. This cover is the earliest found from the island and at the time, only outgoing mail went this way. Incoming mail went by rocket.

The island is almost inaccessible from the sea with no port and surrounding water too deep for a

ship to anchor. Even when the locals wish to use a canoe, they have to throw it from the cliffs and dive after it. In the past, fishing was done by swimmers who carried a long pole called a "fau" which was made from a particularly buoyant hibiscus. The waters here are also shark infested though attacks have been rare.



When William Travers arrived at the island in 1882, he was the only white man on the island but at the time, there was no way for him to communicate with his head office or with friends and family. Watching ships that travelled to Fiji pass close to the island but unable to visit only increased his feelings of isolation. This caused him to come up with an unusual solution to the problem. Wrapping a letter in waterproof cloth and attaching it to a stick, he gave it to one of the natives who swam out to the next ship and presented it to the captain. The letter requested that mail for the island could be put in a waterproof container and dropped overboard where it would be retrieved by a swimmer. Return mail from the island could be sent in the same fashion.

The idea worked and the "Tin Can Mail" was born. Almost all outgoing mail for the next hundred years was carried in this fashion though around the turn of the century, delivery to the island by rocket was tried. This proved quite unsatisfactory as some rockets overshot and fell into the lake, some letters caught fire and some mail simply got lost in the undergrowth. When Charles Ramsay took up duties on the island in 1921, he expanded the service, making 112 of the swims to the ship himself, a six hour round trip. This was despite him having been severely gassed during world war one, damaging his lungs.

Despite the popularity of the system with passengers on the ships, who would crowd the decks to watch, it was Walter Quensell, who came to the island in 1928 who saw the philatelic opportunities that the system presented. Initially using a child's printing kit, he produced cachets for all outgoing mail, then advertised in the philatelic press that collectors could send a self addressed envelope to the island and for a fee, it would be stamped and returned. The idea caught on and soon he was able to have a more professional stamp made. These became more and more flamboyant as time went on, including cachets in many different languages.



Eventually one of the swimmers was attacked by a shark and subsequently died from his wounds. This drew a directive from Queen Salote that from now on the cans should be delivered by canoe. Before he died, the swimmer who had been attacked confessed to his chief that he had tampered with the island's water tank, a cardinal sin as fresh water was scarce on the island, only collected during the cyclone season. Both men agreed that the attack had been a punishment from the gods!

The cheque is in the ~~mail~~ can

The canoes were extremely unpopular with the locals, mainly due to the difficulty of launching and bringing them to shore. They began surreptitiously swimming out when they could get away with it and after a while the issue came to a head. The natives went on strike and refused to use the canoes. They won the argument and went back to swimming and Quensell removed the word canoe from the cachets.



Quensell claimed to have sent over one and a half million letters from the island to a hundred and forty eight countries. Even with the fairly modest fee charged, this must have been a great boost to the island's economy which was mainly based on copra sales. Unfortunately, in 1946, the volcano erupted devastating much of the island and forcing the evacuation of the inhabitants. It was twelve years before those who wished to return were able to do so and another four before requests from the natives to reinstate the tin can mail were granted.

For those four years, they had little or no contact with the outside world but the reinstatement had problems of its own. The Tin Can Mail had become so popular that it swamped any local mail and took most of the postal resources. Some called it a philatelic gimmick but it was also an essential service for the islanders and continued until 1983, a century after its inception. That year, an airport was built on Niuafuou and from then on, mail travelled by air.

Further reading:

<http://www.bettybillingham.co.uk/TCM.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Niuafuou>



Why is this person on (so many German) stamps

No. 30: Käthe Kollwitz

The German stamp on the right is one I have been seeking for a long time so that when it came up at a club auction, I was delighted. Käthe Kollwitz was/is an artist I greatly admire, as much for her passion for social justice as for her art which was quite revolutionary for its time.

She was born, Käthe Schmidt in Konisberg, Prussia in 1867 and by the age of twelve was showing enough artistic talent for her father to arrange an arts education for her. Her maternal grandfather was a strong early influence being a Socialist pastor who had been expelled from the state church for his political beliefs so he started his own church.

Aged eighteen, she began formal art studies at the School for Women Artists in Berlin where she was greatly influenced by the graphic art of Max Klinger.

Two years later, she went to Munich to study painting but realised that she was more drawn to graphic arts such as drawing, etching, lithography and woodcuts. Early on in her career, she had been drawn to the Realism movement in art, making drawings of the people who visited her father's office, mostly the poor and working class.

Introduced by her brother to a medical student, Karl Kollwitz, Käthe found love and they became engaged but it was seven years before their individual studies allowed them to marry and she moved to Berlin where he was a young doctor administrating to the poor. She was fascinated by his patients and set up her studio in the same building as his surgery, using them as her subjects. She wrote,

"The motifs I was able to select from this milieu (the workers' lives) offered me, in a simple and forthright way, what I discovered to be beautiful.... People from the bourgeois sphere were altogether without appeal or interest. All middle-class life seemed pedantic to me. On the other hand, I felt the proletariat had guts. It was not until much later...when I got to know the women who would come to my husband for help, and incidentally also to me, that I was powerfully moved by the fate of the proletariat and everything connected with its way of life.... But what I would like to emphasize once more is that compassion and commiseration were at first of very little importance in attracting me to the representation of proletarian life; what mattered was simply that I found it beautiful."

After watching a performance of Gerhart Hauptmann's *The Weavers*, based on the Silesian weavers failed revolt in 1844, she produced a series of six works based on them. This gained acclaim throughout Germany and was recommended for the national art prize but this was vetoed by the Kaiser who said giving the medal to a woman was going too far as "orders and medals of honour belong on the breasts of worthy men."



Why is this person on (so many German) stamps

No. 30: Käthe Kollwitz

In 1902, Käthe began a second series based on the German Peasants' War of 1524–1525. This second series again drew from the experiences of the poor and revolution against the power of the nobility and church. One illustration from this series is considered to be prophetic. Entitled “After The Battle”, it shows a woman searching among the dead for the body of her son. Her own youngest son, Peter, later died in battle during the First World War in 1914. From then on she dedicated her work to pacifism.



After The Battle 1902-1906

A lifelong socialist, Käthe was attracted to the German Communist Party, which brought her into conflict with the rising Nazi party. When they came to power, she was stripped of her academic positions and her work was banned.

The Gestapo threatened to send her and her husband to a concentration camp and they both vowed to commit suicide if that should occur but due to her popular support and growing international reputation it did not happen.



Self portrait aged 37

Art from Käthe Kollwitz has also made it onto stamps, here from the United Nations and East Germany.

Karl died in 1940 from illness and in 1942, her grandson, another Peter, died in battle.

In 1943, she was evacuated from the house where she and Karl had lived since their marriage. The house was later destroyed in a bombing raid



with the added destruction of many of her artworks. She died sixteen days before the end of the war.



Woman with Dead Child, 1903 etching



Peter Kollwitz (1896–1914), youngest son of Karl and Käthe Kollwitz. The picture was probably made at the infantry training area of Wünsdorf south from Berlin. There, on October 12, 1914, he said goodbye to his mother leaving for the Western front, where he was killed later that month.

It's not too early to put this in your diary...



Maryborough Stamp Fair

Sat. 26th October, 2024

Mill House, Maryborough.



BENDIGO Stamp Fair

31st. August 2024

10.00 - 3.00

*Local & Melbourne
Stamp Dealers*

*St. Andrews
Uniting Church Hall
24 Myers St. Bendigo*

*Free Entry
Bendigo Philatelic Society
Inc*

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