



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Founded 1931

December 2024

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Tues. 5th Nov. Annual Competitions
Tues. 3rd Dec. Christmas - Eats and Fellowship

President's Report December 2024

I thought this month I would keep it brief, before the Merry-Go-Round of Christmas hits us all.

Last month we held our club Competitions, "The Len Bennett Memorial Competition (Open)" and "The John Tresise Memorial Competition (Thematic)". Our past President David Cotton swept the pool with winning both competitions. Not bad for a man with limited sight. Well done, David.

Our December birthdays are Lee on the 13th, Ken on the 17th and Libby (me) on the 19th hope we all have a wonderful Day. "Happy Birthday"

Just to remind you our next meeting starts at 6.30pm. It is our Christmas Eats and Fellowship. Please all bring a plate of either sweet or savory to share with fellow members. This will be followed by our Club Auction.

Did you know Australia was the first country to produce an annual Christmas issue. It was in 1957 and was based on a Sir Joshua Reynolds painting, depicting a child at prayer and the star of Bethlehem. 1957 was a good year!

May I take this opportunity to wish you and yours a Very Happy and Safe Festive Season. With lots of stamps filling your stocking.

May all your dreams come true in 2025. Happy New Year.

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:

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David Cotton wins both classes in our annual competitions



David commented, “If I can do it with my limited vision, then everybody can!” Well done, David! There was a good selection of entries this year and all were of a high standard. This meant that the difference between the top score and those below it was just one or two points. Congratulations to everyone who put in an entry.

The real meaning of life

God was surveying his handiwork, pleased with what he had made. He looked fondly at the dog and said, “Dog! You will be the constant companion for man, sit on the porch and bark to warn him of any danger. For that, I will give you twenty years.” “Thanks!” said the dog, “But I don’t know whether I can keep it up for that long. How about if I give you ten back and keep ten?” God agreed.

God then spoke to the monkey. “You will play silly tricks and pull faces to keep everyone amused and for that I will give you twenty years.” “I’d rather have ten, like the dog. You can keep the other ten,” said the monkey and God agreed to that as well.

The cow came next. “All day in the fields, you will eat grass to produce milk and meat to feed the man,” said God “And for such a great effort, I will give you sixty years of life.” “No! No! No!” said the cow. “I couldn’t stand that long! Twenty is the most I could manage.” God agreed once again and took forty back.

Then God spoke to man. “You will play, you will sing and frolic in the sun and I will give you twenty years also,” he said. “Hey, that sounds great,” said the man, “But I don’t think twenty is enough. How about you give me the years the others didn’t want?” “Very well,” said God and that is what he did.

And that is the meaning of life. For twenty years we play, sing and frolic in the sun. Then we spend forty years slaving to feed our families followed by ten years doing silly tricks and pulling faces for our grandchildren. Finally, we end up on the porch, barking at everyone.



The Grey Zone: Australia's 'Lyrebird' stamps

The Lyrebird



The Superb Lyrebird (male)

Menura novaehollandiae

(Found throughout South-East Australia
and introduced to Tasmania from 1934
where it is thriving)



Albert's Lyrebird (male)

Menura alberti

(Only found in Southern Queensland)

Ground-dwelling Australian birds notable for their impressive ability to mimic natural and artificial sounds. Many books written on these birds please refer to for more details.

All Lyrebirds on stamps 1932 to 2005 are the 'Superb'.



1932 1st Issue Large Version

Issued 15-2-1932 1/- Green (shades)

No watermark

Flat Plate recess printed in sheets of 120.

Designed & Engraved Frank D. Manley

Perf. 11 or 11.5



1932

Yellow-Green



1932

'Retouched' mist (background)



1932 Perfin

G NSW

(State Government use)



1932 overprinted O S



1932 Unissued.

*Note: The so-called "Chambon essays", with "australia" and "one shilling" scored through on the die, were printed by **France's Stamp Printing Works on their Chambon printing presses**, apparently in connection with efforts of the French authorities to sell Chambon intaglio equipment to the Note Printing Branch.*



1937 2nd Issue - Small Version

Issued 2-8-1937

Gray-Green or Dull Green

Small Wmk Multi Crown CofA

Perf. 13.5 x 14

Varieties: see Specialist catalogue



1937 Unissued.

French essay-prints again.



1941 3rd Issue - Small Version

Issued 18-2-1941 or 29-3-1941 (unsure)

Dull Green (shades)

Perf. 14.75 x 14

Other Varieties: see Specialist catalogue



1941 Issue used 1946-1947

Issued officially 8-5-1947 BCOF

(British Commonwealth Occupation Forces in Japan)

Overprint reads '1946'. They were 1st issued 12 Oct 1946 but withdrawn within 2 days, then re-issued in 1947 with date still as 1946.

At least 4 varieties: see Specialist catalogue



Forged copy of overprint.



1956 4th Issue - Small Version

Issued December 1956

Dull Green

No Wmk Perf 14.75 x 14

4 Varieties: see Specialist catalogue



2005 5th Issue

Issued 7-6-2005

Designed C. Cram & K. Stead

Lithograph printed

35.5mm x 26mm

A fascinating series of stamps. It would take months to collect all varieties and a lot of money!

Grey, Maryborough

Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

Review by: David Robinson

Missing, Captured, Killed

The visions and the victims of Mussolini's wars
as shown through the post.

Collection, Text & Illustrations by: John James Armstrong BPS 0284

This book follows John's philatelic interest, in the war time pursuits of Benito Mussolini.



This is the only Italian issued Postage Stamps set to feature Mussolini.

Many commemorative stamp sets were issued during the 1930's and 40's. Most of these were printed in photogravure by the Italian State Printing Works. A set of stamps showing Hitler and Mussolini facing each other was issued in 1941 in honor of the German-Italian alliance.

Once we turn the first page, we get the feeling that we are about to engage with the author and discover something special. John has skillfully crafted his old stamp and envelope collection into something that will transport you back in time.

The pages reveal many interesting colour pictures, stories, stamps, letters, postmarks, and war time documents that have been collected by John over many years of Philatelic study.

John's collection not only includes Italian war time memories but also personal mail from other Nations Armies who fought or had a connection to Italy during Mussolini's time in power. John has included many insights and stories behind the personal everyday mail sent by Italian soldiers and prisoner's, also soldiers of Britain, Commonwealth Countries, United States, Israel, Germany, Poland, Russia, and Spain.

I personally enjoyed reading some of John's life stories and how together with his family he moved to Australia. and how after a chance meeting with a local farmer John was motivated to bring to life many of the Wartime memories he holds in his collection.

As an example, page 28, John displays a copy of a letter from a Greek soldier, Private Gallis Ioannis to Mrs. Triantaffylidou Panagoula, his sister. It was sent via the Military Post Office and all censor and postmarks are Greek.

Letters were permitted from prisoners under the Geneva Convention. In most cases letters from prisoners were free of charge and were often written on cards or letter sheets provided for that purpose. Letters were censored to varying degrees and could take months to reach their intended destinations.

On page 42 we find an Italian stamped and addressed postcard showing Mussolini reviewing the ARMIR, on the way to the Russian Front. John points out that on the day this postcard was posted the Russian army launched their major counter-offensive that destroyed the Italian force.

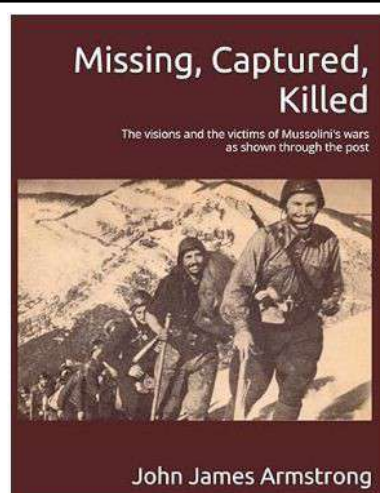


1930-32 Airmail Set for Italy. This set was used throughout WW II for Military use and during Italian Occupation.

Pietro's Story: Page 56

Pietro was an Italian Prisoner of War, captured in North Africa and shipped to an internment camp in Victoria, Australia. Pietro was sent on to a War Control Centre in Kyneton, Victoria. A farmer from Malmsbury was granted permission to have Pietro work on his farm, where Pietro found purpose to fill his days. What happened to Pietro after the war is unclear, but his story and picture of fellow Italian Prisoners is very interesting. John reveals that the last repatriation ship to leave Australia was the Orontes which left Melbourne on the 21st of Jan. 1949. the ship carried 779 Italian prisoners-of-war on board. It was estimated that between ten to fifteen per cent of Italian POW's later returned with their families to start a new life in Australia.

*Our library holds an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines,
available to members. Please contact David email ddusa@live.com.au*



Missing, Captured, Killed: The visions and the victims of Mussolini's wars as shown through the post.

by John James Armstrong (Author)

This book is about the cost and futility of war and is illustrated by items from the mail during Benito Mussolini's time in power in Italy, from 1922 to 1945. These are drawn from John's personal collection. War can bring forth heroes but it can also bring out the worst excesses of human behaviour. The anger and bitterness left behind, in some cases, continues to this day.

This book is available at the club or from Amazon Australia by Ctrl+Click on <https://www.amazon.com.au/Missing-Captured-Killed-visions-Mussolinis/dp/B0DL9VN582/>

Types of postmarks used on Swedish Travelling Post Offices (TPOs)

Travelling post offices were an extremely efficient way of sorting mail while it was being carried. In Australia, a letter could be carried from Bendigo to Sydney in under a day, a feat that is impossible these days when mail is carried by road. One can't really expect an interstate driver to be sorting mail while he is driving but on the TPOs that could easily be done.

Although true travelling post offices in Sweden didn't come into use until 1868 when the P.K.X.P postmarks came into effect, mail had been carried on trains in Sweden from 1862 and had been given postmarks that showed the route. The Swedish stamps below and descriptions are from David Cotton. Additional information is from the TPO and Seapost Society (UK) website. (www.tpo-seapost.org.uk)



This French stamp shows the interior of a TPO.



The earliest postmarks came in two types. Some had an abbreviated version of the name of the railway. These were in use from 1862-1868 and this example says Söndra St.Banen which was the Southern mainline of Söndra Stambanen.



The second early type just used the initials of the rail line. These first saw use in 1864 and continued into the era of the working TPOs until 1891. The example on the left, W.S.B. was the West Main Line while the example on the right, from Tony Goodbody's post on the TPO-Seapost site, is from the Lidköping-Skara-Stenstorp Railway, a narrow gauge railway built in 1870 and shown below.





In 1868, the “true” travelling post offices were inaugurated, meaning that the mail was actually sorted on the train rather than just being transported between sorting venues. These are the postmarks most familiar to collectors, the P.K.X.P. standing for Postkupéexpeditioner which roughly translates as forwarding mail van, followed by the identification of the line. I have seen another card with this postmark which was carried on the Trelleborg-Sassnitz railway between Sweden and Germany so that may be what this code denotes. There were two types of these with either a dotted circle or a normal full circle. These were used from 1868 until the 1950s. It is important to be able to read the date as the route denoted by the codes could change over time.



From 1875-1899 a type could be used that used the terminus names rather than the line identification code or name. This example is from the line between Örebro and Hallsberg.

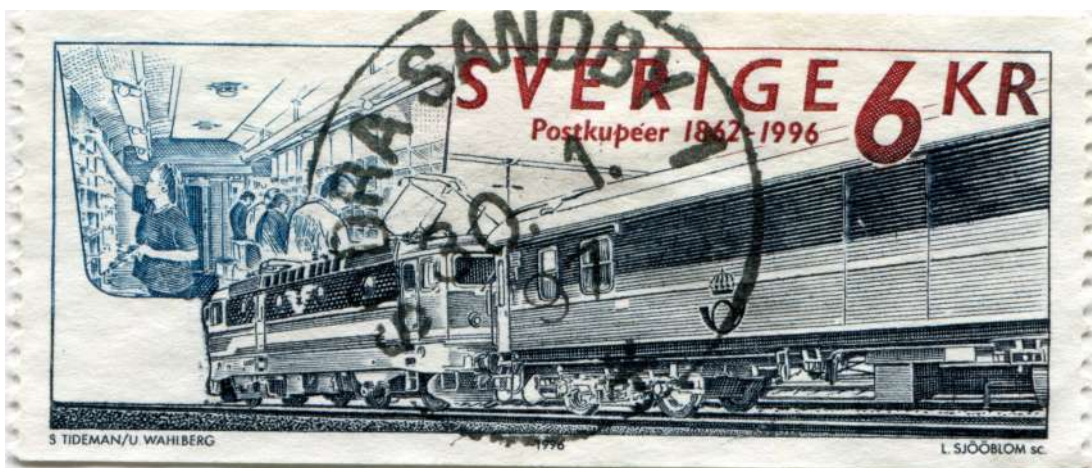


Introduced in 1899 and used from 1900 - 1950s, the PLK postmark stood for Postiljonskupéexpeditioner, meaning Postal guard on train or postman's compartment. These route numbers could also vary over time so when collecting these, the date is important.



In 1913, it was decided that the term P.K.X.P. would be changed to PKP standing for Postkupéer, meaning postal compartment or post office on train. This shows on postmarks from 1914. Although others were kept right up until the 1950s, this one survived until the demise of the TPOs in 1996. PKP postmarks can be found with either a single or double surrounding circle.

In 1996, the Swedish Post Office issued a stamp to mark the closing of the travelling post office system. It pictures a modern mail van with an illustration of the interior.



Reminder: All the numeral types should be collected with the year date showing as they were used on various routes over a long time. David Cotton

The Grey Zone: ‘Germania’ stamps

It was at the behest of Kaiser Wilhelm II that the Eagle and Number stamps of the German Empire from 1872 to 1899 be replaced by something more ‘emblematic and symbolic’ of the new unified Germany. To this end, the Kaiser appointed Paul Edward Waldruff, an artist and engraver, (born 1870 – died 2 June 1917 from pneumonia as a German soldier and buried at the Pranzjony Cemetery in Lithuania), to design the new stamp. The Kaiser also personally picked his favourite actress Anna Fuehring to be the model of “*germania*”.



Anna Fuehring in Wagnerian costume



Sketch by Paul Waldruff (and new stamp in corner).
An octagonal crown with sword and olive branch,

The initial stamp series of Germania were issued on 1st January, 1900 and inscribed ‘Reichspost’ (Empire Post).



On 1st April 1902 the 2nd Series was issued but inscribed Deutsches Reich (German Empire).



3rd Issue 1916-1919 with 'clear background' and new value.



Germania stamps are the longest running series in German [philately](#). It was the custom in 1900 to use the portrait of the monarch, but as the German Empire had 'many other kingdoms and duchies' within it each with their own "head", *Germania* was seen and accepted as a 'unifying symbol'. These stamps were not used in Bavaria or Wuerttemberg. From 1915 to 1922 there are **MANY overprints** on these stamps. A few examples follow:



There are literally hundreds of these overprints. It would be impressive to have them all!

Grey Loyer, Maryborough

Why is this person on a stamp? No. 36: Booker T. Washington

As a teenager, I loved American blues and soul music. Booker T. And the M.G.s was a group I liked for their tune, “Green Onions” which came out in Australia just as I was learning to fumble my way through the chords on a guitar. It wasn’t until quite some time later that I saw the stamp shown here and found out that “my” Booker T. (Jones) was named after someone earlier and just as admirable.

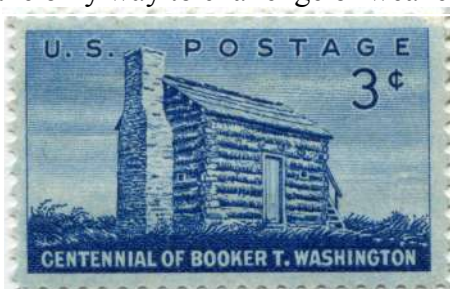
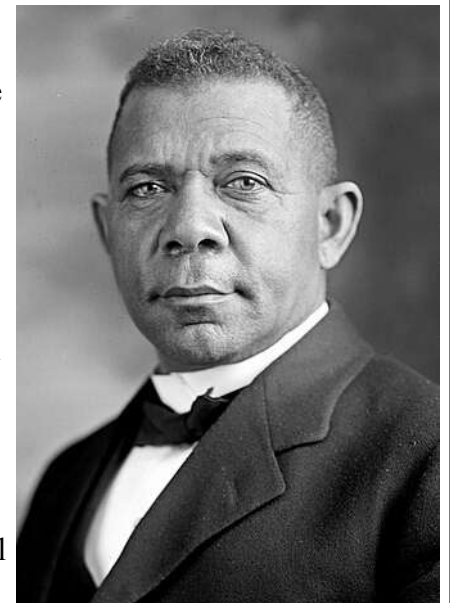
Booker Taliaferro Washington was born into slavery in 1856 on James Burrough’s plantation in Hale’s Ford, Virginia. His mother was a slave but he never knew his father who was thought to be a man from a neighbouring plantation and may have been white. He was freed by the American civil war at the age of nine and his mother, Jane, took her children to West Virginia, a free state, to be reunited with her husband, Washington Ferguson who had escaped earlier. Booker T. later took this Christian name as his own surname when he needed a surname to be able to enrol in school. Later in life, his mother told him she had originally named him Booker Taliaferro so he adopted that as a middle name.

Growing up, he showed a keen mind that, after teaching himself to read and write, took him through school, where he paid his way by working as a janitor, then to College at the Wayland Seminary. It was a rare achievement for someone either black or female in those days. By 1881, he had become so respected that he was chosen to lead a new higher education institute for black students, The Tuskegee Institute that was founded in Alabama. A speech that he gave in 1895 to the Cotton States and International Exposition in Atlanta, Georgia, brought him to national prominence, partly due to its controversial elements which are still argued to this day.

Booker T. believed that the education offered to black people should include the option of vocational training, thus giving them that ability to gain financially. This was not available at the time with trades being predominantly for whites. Despite being freed after the civil war, the social position for black people in the South was poor and at times dangerous. Understanding this, Booker T. probably saw the danger of trying to move too far, too fast and suggested compromises to sweeten the deal, including such things as not seeking the vote. Some other black leaders, particularly in the North condemned what became known as the Atlanta Compromise as their sights were set of full civil rights and equality. Both were right in their own way and the speech led to Booker T. becoming increasingly immersed in black politics with a large following, both black and white.

In 1901, he wrote his autobiography, “Up From Slavery” which drew critical acclaim and saw him invited to dine at the White House with President Theodore Roosevelt. He was the first black person to dine with a US President as an equal.

Booker T. Washington helped set up foundations, particularly the National Negro Business League to assist black entrepreneurs get started in business. The money came from many sources which included churches and influential white businesspeople. He believed that this was the path to equality and that financial security was the only way to challenge or weaken the “Jim Crow Laws” which still controlled much of black life in the southern states.



In 1915, Booker T. Washington fell ill and died. His legacy and influence were so strong that the period of American history from 1880 to 1915 is often referred to as The Age of Booker T. Washington.

On the centenary of his birth, the U.S. released a stamp showing the cabin where he was born and lived as a child on the plantation.