



NEWSLETTER

OF THE

BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC.

Established 1904

Meetings are held on the 3rd and 5th Mondays of each month (except December) at The Eastwood Street Leisure Centre, 20 Eastwood Street Ballarat, commencing at 7pm.

Membership \$5 (for 2020/21)

Visitors Welcome

Members and Friends all over the World – welcome to the August 2021 Newsletter!

We were grateful for small mercies while being able to meet for a few months since the New Year. The meetings have been (infectious) I mean they have been fun not the other possibility!! Everybody being Covid conscious. Thanks to the Management of the Eastwood Leisure Centre for keeping us informed.



I have sent out the Ballarat Historical Covers and mini sheets advertising flyers and already had a huge response. More than half of the mini sheets are sold. We hope we do not need the Covid Cancellers this time, if we are able to run the Sunday October 10th Fair. **Please see the advertising included in this Newsletter and note the new Banking details.**

The cover features Ballarat Post Office and Township from the Government Enclosure 1850's and Australia Post Migratory Birds are the overprinted Miniature sheet.

We continue to have the small auctions at the meetings and thanks to Jack, Tony and others for helping this make this happen. Neil continues to keep our collecting interests up, making sure we have circuit books regularly. Please stick to the rules and keep the books moving quickly allowing for Covid restrictions.

Secretary Jan Kerr has helped with the Free Stamps for Kids program which continues to be advertised in the Ballarat Times free every week. We are about to promote the fair and our club seeking new members with an advertising campaign with in the Ballarat Times .

Sadly, Bendigo have been caught up with the Covid restrictions and had to cancel their Fair which was to be in early August.

Thanks to the Ballarat Club Members who assist with the Brighton Auctions on a regular basis. Brighton Club have advised me that they do a great job and are much appreciated. Thanks Jack, Neil and the others who also assist.

Treasurer Brian Wallis advises that the banking situation has now settled down and all is in order.

Cheers and stay safe and well
Peter Morey President Ballarat PS

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Upcoming Events

Note all activities are subject to COVID-19 Restrictions in place at the time

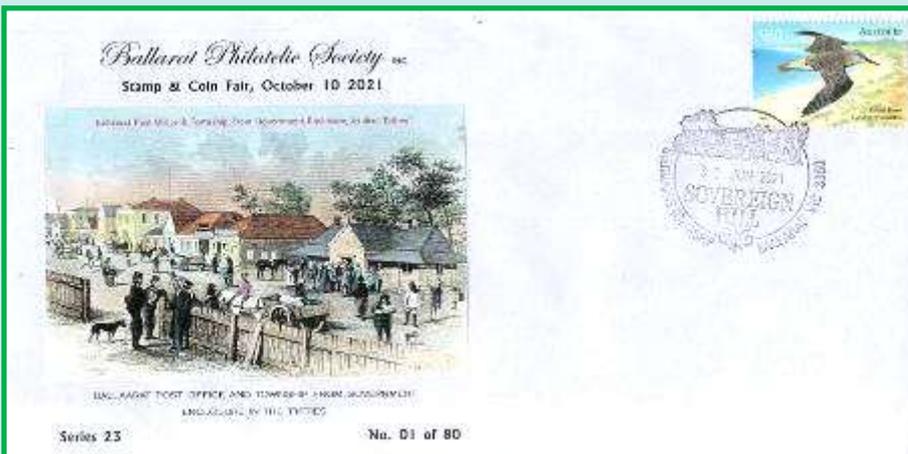
August 16	Inter-club social night and auction
August 30	Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting
September 20	Annual Membership Due
	Club Member's Special Interest Display: <i>Dutch East Indies: Peter Morey</i>
October 10	Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair Eastwood Leisure Centre (see details next page)

BALLARAT EUREKA STAMPS & COINS FAIR

Sunday 10th October
2021
9.30 am - 3.30 pm

EASTWOOD LEISURE
CENTRE
SUBJECT TO COVID REQUIREMENTS
20 Eastwood Street Ballarat

FREE ENTRY & INTERCLUB DISPLAYS



*35 plus dealers
and club tables,
easy parking,
free dealer valuations,
catering,
prizes and giveaways*

For sale: Limited Editions - No.23 of the Ballarat Historical Envelopes series and overprinted miniature sheets ; details on next page

Book a table: Neil Petrass—0448 346 499—npetrass@bigpond.com

More info: Peter Morey—0435 601 673—petermorey05@gmail.com

Next Fair: Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamps & Coins Fair Monday March 14th 2022

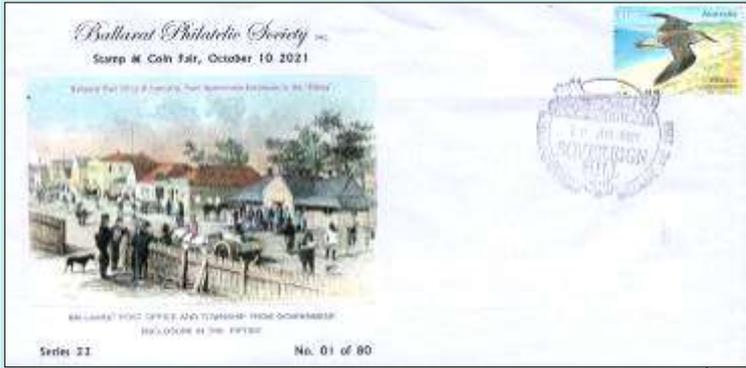
VISIT our website: Ballaratstampclub.com.au

New members most welcome!

Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coins Fair

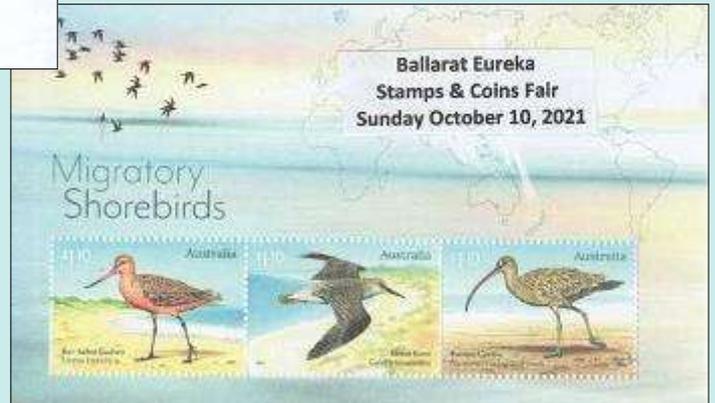
For Sale

Limited Editions Series 23 of the Ballarat Historical Envelopes. Featuring Ballarat Post Office and Township from Government Enclosure in the Fifties. **Only \$3**



Australian Post overprinted Migratory Birds miniature sheet.

\$15



To order contact –

Peter Morey petermorey05@gmail.com 0435 601 673

- Orders processed in order of receipt with payment
- Allow \$2 postage or \$4.50 registered
- Overseas clients allow for 15% for PayPal
- Direct Payment -preferred method - ([Note](#) new details)
- BSB: 013 516 A/C: 642092592 Ref: Your Name
- Cheques payable to
- **Ballarat Philatelic Society'** PO Box 337, Wendouree, Vic. 3355

IN THE EVENT THAT THE FAIR NEEDS TO BE CANCELLED

Customers may choose to have a special cancellation cachet applied to either or both items– **It's your choice.** Maybe a collectors piece. Please advise Peter Morey at the time of ordering if you wish to do this.

Ballarat Philatelic Society Syllabus for 2021

August 16	Inter-club social night and auction (Club Newsletter items due)	October 10	Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair Eastwood Leisure Centre
August 30	Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting	October 18	Other Collections / Hobbies Night
September 20	Annual Membership Due Club Member's Special Interest Display: <i>Dutch East Indies: Peter Morey</i>	November 15	Mystery Guest Night
		November 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting

Danish West Indies (1754 – 1917).

Region: Caribbean
Group: Danish Colonies in the Caribbean

Classification: Colony (Denmark)

Prior Regime: Indigenous peoples

Key Dates:

1672 – First Danish settlement on St. Thomas

1683 – Expansion to St. John

1733 – St. Croix purchased from the French West Indies Company

1754 – Sold to Danish King, becomes a Royal colony of Denmark

1905 – Currency changed from daler (cents) to the franc (bits)

1917, Jan 17 – Islands sold to United States

1917, Mar 31 – DWI officially became the U.S. Virgin Islands

Following Regime: United States

Scott Catalogue: (Danish West Indies) #1-58, J1-J8

Pick Catalogue: (Danish West Indies #1-20)



CHARLOTTE AMALIE WATERFRONT, ST THOMAS, DANISH WEST INDIES

When the new world opened, the islands of the Caribbean quickly became colonies of the major European powers (Spain, Britain, France and the Netherlands), as well as a haven for pirates and profiteers. The Caribbean region practically remained in a state of constant “war” during much of its colonial history. While the wars were often based in Europe, battles frequently spilled over into the region. Additionally, there were political squabbles within the region, and the ever-present pirates, which were often used as a disruptive tool of nations when not technically at war.

The northern country of Denmark, although not a major power, also had a colony within the region. The colony had its beginning when the Danish West India and Guinea Company settled on St. Thomas Island in 1672, expanded to St. John in 1683, and later purchased St. Croix from the French West Indies Company in 1733. Despite the conflicts with the British and the usual risks from the marauding pirates, the islands were very profitable, as they grew and exported a large volume of sugar, using primarily cheap slave labour.

In 1754, as Europe was about to explode into war (the Seven Years’ War – 1756–63) King Frederick V purchased the islands and established them as a royal Danish Colony. By the early part of the 20th century, slave labour was no longer available, and the sugar industry waned in the region, as a consequence, Denmark no longer considered the colony as a profitable venture. On 17 Jan, 1917, the islands were sold to the United States for \$25 million, and on March 31st, the islands became the United States Virgin Islands.



The first postage stamp of the Danish West Indies was issued in 1856 and was of the same coat of arms design as the stamps of Denmark. In 1874, DWI issued new “numeral” design stamps, also mirroring Danish stamps. Most were printed in two colours, with a central oval containing the value, arms, and country name, surrounded by a frame of intricate scrollwork, usually printed in a different, contrasting colour. Nine denominations were issued, and over the 30+ years of use, there were numerous printing runs creating many shade varieties. Also, most issues also included an “inverted frame” variety where the plate of the scrollwork frame was inverted when printed. Add various surcharge issues which were printed to account for shortages in stamps, interesting postmarks, and well sought-after postal history specimens, collecting these issues are a specialist’s paradise.



1873



11 Charlotte Amalie Harbour and Training ship “Ingolf”

1905

In 1905, DWI changed their currency from dalers (1 daler = 100 cents) to francs (1 franc = 100 bits). With this change, the colony took the opportunity to modernize its stamp designs as it needed to issue stamps in the new currency. Two designs were issued, one depicted a silhouette of King Christian IX, and the other a beautiful image of a sailing ship in St. Thomas harbour. In 1907 and 1915, two additional designs featuring King Frederik VIII and King Christian X were issued during the monarch’s reign. In addition to the definitive stamps, DWI also issued postage due stamps, both in the pre 1905 “cents” and in the new currency after the monetary reforms. Stamps of DWI were replaced with stamps of the United States after the transfer of power in 1917.

Contributed by Cliff Matthews

LORD HOWE ISLAND Courier Post Issues - First Issue on 1st December, 1998

Sleepy Lord Howe Island (LHI) decided in 1998 to issue a stamp like label to pre-pay the local courier deliveries on the island. Lord Howe Island is postally part of New South Wales. Australia Post delivers to your P.O. Box at the one post office agency. No postman – no mail van. If you are sick or infirm, or it is pouring down with rain, too bad! You need to get to your P.O. box to pick up your mail. A local service was devised where for \$A1.80 any article would be collected or deliver to you. A courier service in essence, similar to those that exist all over Australia and New Zealand without incident. To cut pollution an electric van was ordered for this purpose. They called the service Zero Emission Mail - or ZEMAIL.

During 1998 someone decided to create a fancy label or stamp to use on this mail. A "Cinderella" or "Local" is probably the more correct term. A reproduction of a 1936 Gower Wilson Hospital Cinderella stamp was used – with the addition of "Lord Howe Island Courier Post \$1.80" to the original design. There was no use of the word Australia anywhere upon it. The new "stamp" was very popular, as only 200 sheets of 32 were printed and 200 stamp books were made up from this stock. All had special matt gum to combat humidity. Both sold out in very short order, which when we look



Cinderella without overprint



First Local stamp with overprint

back now was self-evident, Lord Howe Island is a very popular place with stamp collectors – worldwide.

The debut stamp issue quickly soared in value. Singles sell for \$30 each and sheets of 36 fetch \$A700. The \$A7.20 booklets sell for \$A150 each today. A good number of stamps and booklets were bought by islander as souvenirs and will likely never re-enter the stamp market. Many were of course used for the courier service fee and discarded.

The Lord Howe Island Courier Service decided to print far more glamorous full colour "stamps" for future use and in a much larger quantity. One of the companies asked to tender for printing them was the Australia Post owned Sprintpak. From that time on, the troubles began for this tiny island.

Australia Post legal department demanded all sorts of undertakings in writing, claiming the issuance of these labels was breaking the Australian Postal Corporation Act (1989) and possibly the Trade Practices Act of 1974.

Legal action in the Federal Court of Australia seeking costs was threatened unless 5 responses were made within 7 days, and this included details of numbers sold and profits made. Further heavy legal letters emanated from Australia Post solicitors upon the hapless Lord Howe Island locals again threatening Federal Court action and damages and costs.

The courier service and the 300 feisty community fought back, pleaded their case to the Australian Consumer & Competition Commission. Meetings were held with Australia Post staffers on June 9 1999. Discussions went on, and on, and on until the ACCC determined that the sale of Lord Howe Island stamps did NOT contravene the Postal Act 1989.

The second L.H.I. issue (June 10th 1999) was thus a



monocolor

black \$1.80 Emergency label stamp, created because the legal position with the Australia Post was still not resolved

A very pretty 4 colour, 4 stamp set of \$1.80 local marine and bird life issues was then designed on Lord Howe Island and printed in Dunedin New Zealand to ensure Australia Post did not get stirred up again. LHI became a "World Heritage Site" mainly because of the unique marine and bird life.



Cinderella of Lord Howe Island



Last local issued stamp

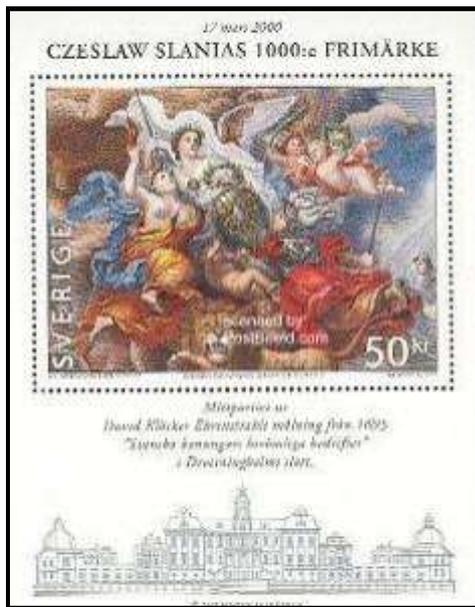
Find more detail on these Lord Howe Island Stamp Issues here - <https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?f=65&t=5319>

Contributed by Jack van Beveren

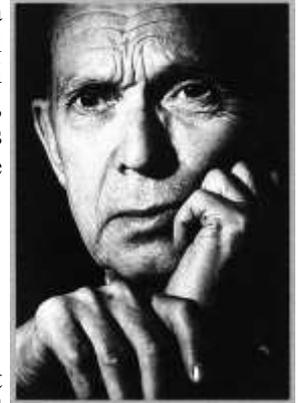
World-renowned stamp engraver Czeslaw Slania

During his 55 year career, Czeslaw Slania produced more than 1,000 stamp engravings for many countries, including six stamp designs for Australia. He also engraved banknotes for many countries.

Slania's 1000th engraved stamp, issued by Sweden in 2000, is of the painting Great Deeds by Swedish Kings by David Klöcker Ehrenstrahl. That stamp made it into the Guinness Book of Records as the largest engraved stamp ever issued.



hand-held magnifying glass and mirror (to reverse the artwork image). Slania liked to listen to classical music, preferably a Verdi opera. Slania's sketch pad, burins and steel dies invariably accompanied the engraver when travelling.



Czeslaw Slania visits Australia

Twenty years ago, in August 2001, Czeslaw Slania visited Australia for the launch of the Australia–Sweden joint stamp issue. The stamp theme honours the 18th-century Swedish botanist, Daniel Solander, who accompanied Captain Cook on the Endeavour (1768–71). Czeslaw Slania engraved the two Solander stamps for Australia Post.



Engraving: an introduction

With intaglio (or recess) printing, the printed image comprises intricate patterns of lines and dots that are cut into the surface of the printing plate. For intaglio stamps, the process begins with the hand engraving of the stamp-size image (in reverse) into the surface of a softened, steel die.

The engraving is carried out using burins featuring a variety of points. Deep lines are cut for heavy tones of colour; thin or broken lines for intermediate tones; and dots for faint tones. As many as seven lines might be cut within a space of just one millimetre!

Engraving a stamp die is an exacting and lonely task that requires intense concentration. A die could be ruined by a single false cut. Slania Czeslaw generally worked in simple fashion using a burin,



During his visit to the Postmaster Gallery in Melbourne for the joint issue launch, Slania, seated at a desk, spent several hours signing items for collectors who queued patiently. The whole process looked effortless – the engraver's steady hand never seemed to hesitate. Occasionally, collectors would submit stamps that Slania had not engraved. Every errant stamp was quickly recognised, and his signature was declined.

Slania Czeslaw also engraved the four Australian Aviation Feats stamps in 1994 – depicting the achievements of early Australian aviators.

Not all stamp engraving is done by hand. Some parts of the image are etched, such as geometrical patterns and lettering, which are not suitable for hand engraving. For example, the 1994 Aviation Feats stamps were chiefly engraved by hand, but the wavy line panels around the aviators' year dates were etched by acid biting into the die's surface to a uniform depth.

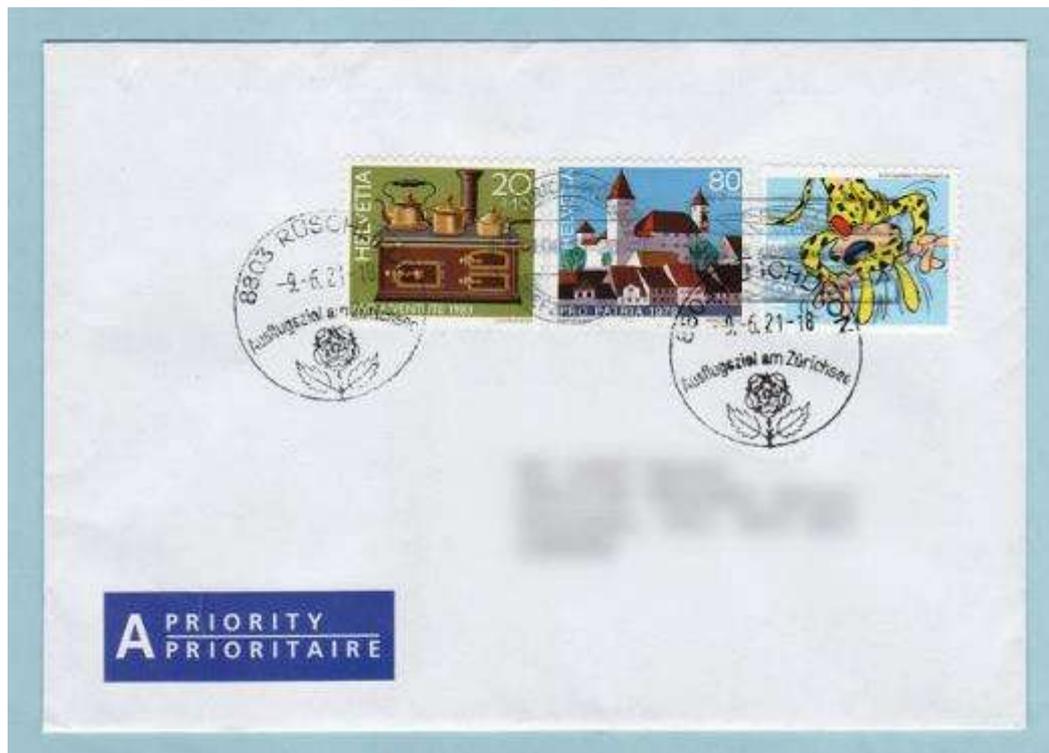
Contributed by Cliff Matthews

Stamps with Seeds

Estonia 2021 Poppy Stamp with Seeds

Issue date 20 May 2021

Estonia Post has issued a special stamp featuring the Common Poppy flower with seeds of the Poppy Plant affixed with a transparent plastic sticker. These seeds can be planted in the soil to grow the Poppy Plant.



Switzerland Charity Stamps

On the left is a Swiss "Pro Junentute" stamp. Proceeds from the sale of this stamp went towards a children benefit. And in the middle is a Pro Patria" stamp. The sale of this added-value stamp contributed to the social and cultural benefit of the Swiss public. Both of these charities have been raising money through added-value stamps for well over 100 years. The upside-down stamp on the right is Marsupilami: a Franco-Belgian comic character.

For collectors of Victorian barred Numerals

The list below has been amended to include the ratings of offices RRRRR to S and including NNR (Number Not Recorded).

Offices with the rating in *italic* or without a type after the rating have only had one canceller issued to them.

It does not apply to the (B) Butterfly and (BO) Barred Oval cancels.

NNR =.....Number Not Recorded
RRRRR =..1 to 3 copies recorded
RRRR =...4 to 12 copies recorded
RRR =.....13 to 24 copies recorded
RR =.....25 to 50 copies recorded
R =.....51 to 100 copies recorded
SS =.....101 to 200 copies recorded
S =.....201 to 300 copies recorded



I thought this might be of interest to some members who collect barred

Liechtenstein 2021 Pen International Stamp with Scratch off Printing

Issue date 07 June 2021

PEN International was founded after the First World War to promote peace and international understanding, with special emphasis on connecting world's best-known association of writers. The association campaigns to uphold and enforce the right to freedom of expression and takes a public stand against repression, censorship, imprisonment and assassination of writers and publicists.

Liechtenstein has commemorated the centenary of the founding of PEN International with 3 special stamps with scratch off printing in black - with special quotes from "Friedrich Schiller" (face value: CHF 1.00), "Emily Dickinson" (face value: CHF 1.50) and "Johann Wolfgang von Goethe" (face value: CHF 3.80) with certain words being blacked out (face value: CHF 3.80) with certain words being blacked out.



The effect of censoring some words in a text can be seen in blacked out quote from Johann Wolfgang von Goethe 's that reads "he who loves and errs let himself be buried", however his full quote reads, "He who no longer loves and does not err, let him be buried".

Stamp Trivia

Letters are sometimes used to indicate which country stamps come from. For example:-

- YCTAB is a name used on stamps issued by Montenegro in 1905.
- Y.C.C.P. was used by the Ukraine of the Soviet Union, as was Y.C.P.P. (for 1923 semipostals).
- YKP. H. PETI (or YKP. H.P.) was overprinted on Albanian stamps for use by Western Ukraine.

Historically, stamps of Albania (Republika e Shqiperise, or less formally, Shqiperia) have been printed with at least 10 different spellings of the country's Albanian name. Some others include Shqipenie, Shqiperia, Shqiperija, Shqiperise, Shqipni, and Shqipinja. Fortunately enough, identification is made easier by the fact that all of the various spellings begin with the same letter combination, 'Shq'.

Burkina Faso was previously called Upper Volta (Haute-Volta in French), after the fact that the country contains the upper part of the river Volta. In 1984, the name was changed to Burkina Faso, which means 'the land of upright people'. Haute-Volta was also overprinted on stamps of Upper Senegal and Niger for Upper Volta.

The republics of Egypt and Syria formed the United Arab Republic in 1958, and the Egyptian president, Gamal Abdel Nasser, was elected as the president of the new state. The union sparked tensions with neighboring Jordan. Jordan formed a military agreement with Iraq, and eventually gained Israeli, American, and British support for the regime. The UAR dissolved in 1961 when Syria seceded from the Union. Egypt continued to use the name UAR until Nasser's death in 1971. From 1958-1961, Syrian stamps were printed with the name UAR and denominations in p. Egyptian stamps from 1958-1971 were printed with the name UAR and denominations in m and f.

Rouletting uses an instrument similar to a pizza-cutter to create a 'tear along the dotted line' effect. This system is seldom used these days.

Did you know?

One of the philatelic world's better known error rarities is the fourpence blue Swan, issued by Western Australia in 1855. During the printing of this stamp, one of the plates was inverted, resulting in the frame being inverted, not the swan. Only 14 known copies exist, unfortunately, not in my collection. Each copy is worth in excess of \$100,000.

In 1980 15cent AAT stamp, depicting the ship SY Nimrod, was reissued with a different design because the original stamp showed the wrong ship. The 1980 issue actually showed a ship called the 'Morning'. The Nimrod was used by Ernest Shackleton for his 1907-09 expedition.

The kangaroo booklet of 20 stamps issued on November 2, 1994 was obtainable from Advance Bank Automatic Teller Machines (ATM's).

Two stamps are attached upside-down in relation to each other, either intentionally or accidentally are described as Tete Beche which roughly translated from the French, it means 'head-to-tail'.

Perforation teeth are the result of small holes punched between stamps for easy separation without a cutting device. The first stamps to be perforated were issued in 1854 by the General Post Office of Great Britain, using a perforating device created by Henry Archer.

Perforations can come in a variety of styles and frequency in the number of perforation teeth per inch or centimeter. Small gauges are available to measure them.

Switzerland is known as Schweiz in German, Suisse in French, Svizzera in Italian and Svizra in Rumansh. To avoid confusion, the Latin name Helvetia is used on Swiss stamps and coins

Holland is part of the Netherlands and the name is used by many people to denote the whole country. Netherlands in the Dutch language is

Sir Charles Edward Kingsford Smith, MC, AFC

(9 February 1897 – 8 November 1935), often called by his nickname *Smithy*, was an early Australian aviator.

Charles Edward Kingsford Smith was born on 9 February 1897 at Riverview Terrace, Hamilton in Brisbane, Queensland, Australia, the son of William Charles Smith and his wife Catherine Mary (née Kingsford, daughter of Richard Ash Kingsford, a Member of the Queensland Legislative Assembly and mayor in both Brisbane - and Cairns municipal councils). His birth was officially registered and announced in the newspapers under the surname Smith, which his family used at that time. The earliest use of the surname Kingsford Smith appears to be by his older brother Richard Harold Kingsford Smith, who used the name at least informally from 1901, although he married in New South Wales under the surname Smith in 1903.



In 1903, his parents moved to Canada where they adopted the surname Kingsford Smith. They returned to Sydney in 1907.



Kingsford Smith first attended school in Vancouver, Canada. From 1909 to 1911, he was enrolled at St Andrews Cathedral School, Sydney, where he was a chorister in the school's cathedral choir, and then at Sydney Technical High School, before becoming an engineering apprentice with the Colonial Sugar Refining Company at 16.

In 1928, he made the first transpacific flight from the United States to Australia. He also made the first non-stop crossing of the Australian mainland, the first flights between Australia and New Zealand, and the first eastward Pacific crossing from Australia to the United States; and, also, made a flight from Australia to London, setting a new record of 10.5 days.

Kingsford Smith married Thelma Eileen Hope Corboy in 1923. They divorced in 1929. He married Mary Powell in December 1930

Shortly after his second marriage he joined the New Guard, a radical monarchist, anti-communist, and allegedly fascist-inspired organisation.



After making the first non-stop flight across Australia from Point Cook near Melbourne to Perth in Western Australia in August 1928, Kingsford Smith and Ulm registered themselves as Australian National Airways. They then decided to attempt the Tasman Sea crossing to New Zealand not only because it had not yet been done, but also in the hope the Australian Government would grant Australian National Airways a subsidised contract to carry scheduled mail regularly. The Tasman had remained unflown after the failure of the first attempt in January 1928, when New Zealanders John Moncrieff and George Hood had vanished without trace.



Kingsford Smith's flight was planned for take off from Richmond, near Sydney, on Sunday 2 September 1928, with a scheduled landing around 9:00 a.m. on 3 September at Wigram Aerodrome, near Christchurch, the principal city in the South Island of New Zealand. This plan drew a storm of protest from New Zealand churchmen about the "sanctity of the Sabbath" being set at naught.

Philatelic record smashed by socialite's ball

In colonial Mauritius of the 1840s, Lady Elizabeth Gomm, the Governor's wife, was much admired around the capital, Port Louis, for her lavish balls.

In 1847, a young man, Henry Adam, was lucky enough to be invited to experience one of Lady Gomm's balls for himself. That invitation proved even luckier for him fifty years later.

Lady Gomm was an enthusiastic participant in the life and development of the colony and saw fit to invite people to her landmark fancy dress ball that year by using the recently established postal service. She slapped a few recent stamps on the envelopes containing her invitations, and off they went.



And by 'recent stamps', I really mean it. In 1847, postage stamps were still a new idea. Mauritius was only the fifth country in the world to issue them, and the first colony in the British Empire to do so, preceded only by the mother country itself.

Mauritius's first two stamps were primitive little numbers bearing an image of Queen Victoria. Five hundred were printed of each of a one-penny orange-red and a two-penny blue design.

Twenty years later, stamp collecting was really taking off as a hobby. A few examples of Mauritius's early stamps surfaced in Europe, intriguing collectors. In the ensuing years, early Mauritian stamps became some of the first philatelic rock stars, as the search for this scarce and exotic material inspired something of a gold rush. The hunt was on!

Extraordinary prices were paid for individual stamps and for the few covers that surfaced with those stamps on them. Some of those covers were said to have held invitations to a ball held by the Governor's wife. Back in Mauritius, Henry Adam was now in his seventies and had lived all his life in the colony. He must have fondly remembered Lady Gomm's balls, because he went and dug through his archives...



and *voila!* There it was. He found the envelope that once contained his invitation to the grand ball of 1847. It bore a bright one-penny red stamp.

Adam sold his cover to French stamp dealer Théophile Lemaire in 1899. He reportedly asked for his surname to be obliterated from the front of the cover. He received £680, a pretty handy sum for the day, and one that totally justifies continuing to stash away every letter/cover received.

The fascinating story of Lady Gomm and her balls, and Henry Adam, and the hunt for the earliest Mauritian stamps is very engagingly told by Helen Morgan in her book *Blue Mauritius*.

Covers from Lady Gomm's ball are almost as hard to find as that other famous Mauritian resident, the dodo. But, unlike the dodo, at least three 'Ball covers' still exist. One now resides in the British Library; one lives in the UK's Royal Collection. Henry's letter hit the auction block at Auktionshaus Christoph Gärtner in Germany on June 26, 2021, as the only Ball cover in private hands. Bidding



started at a cool four million euro, and ended in a hammer price of... *€8.1 million!!* If you follow an obsession with top-end auctions, you'll know that that wasn't the final price. Throw in the 23.8% buyer's premium charged by the auction firm, and we have €10,027,800. I notice in Gärtner's sales terms that they also add a cute €2 per purchased lot, so we can only assume the final invoiced price was €10,027,802. On auction day, that was roughly GBP 8.62 million, USD 11.96 million, CAD 14.72 million, AUD 15.76 million, RUB 864.51 million, and INR 887.72 million. In ANY currency, it represents a massive new record price for any philatelic item.

Mauritius actually depicted Lady Gomm's big ball on a stamp back in 1978, along with an illustration of a ball invitation cover. It was a reprinted in 1983 with that date added at the bottom. In 1997, Mauritius released *another* stamp depicting the ball! Typically for the era, it seems no one ever bothered to record any sort of image of Lady Gomm so her husband the Governor dominates the scene.