



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

Hi to all our Members and Friends of Ballarat Philatelic Society

This will be my last newsletter piece for 2020 in what has been a very sad and difficult year for many people, especially in our Great State of Victoria.

We conducted our AGM via Zoom recently and thanks to all who participated and those who apologised as well. We welcomed in a new Secretary Jan Kerr and I particularly would like to record my grateful thanks to outgoing secretary Keith Sanders. Keith is an excellent asset to our club and will remain on the committee – thanks Keith. Thanks also to treasurer Brian Wallis, circuit manager Neil Petrass and the rest of the committee too.

On another much more positive note I have spoken to the people at the Eastwood Leisure Centre and we all hope we can conduct Ballarat Begonia Festival Fair on Monday March 8th 2021. We are currently preparing the miniature sheet which is the Civil Aviation 100 years and the 100 year old image of Ballarat cover is of the World Famous Eureka Stockade. Please see all the details later in this newsletter. The October 2020 editions were sell outs and orders are already coming in for 2021.

VALE – we recently lost Danny Bailey a long time Club Member and supporter. Danny had been ill for some time and we conveyed our sympathy to his wife Freda.

We continue to get requests for the “Free Stamps for Kids” and I mailed out another 15 packets and a few albums in the last fortnight. Just send a stamped, self- addressed envelope to Ballarat Stamp Club P O Box 337, Wendouree 3355. We have sent stamps to the USA, Canada, UK and India as well as all over Victoria. Thanks to the people who have donated stamps, cash and albums recently.

I am giving a Zoom Twilight Talk on ‘A Potted Postal History of Ballarat and Victoria 1850s till 1950s’ for The Ballarat Mechanics Institute on Friday November 27th and be promoting getting involved in Philately and hopefully recruiting new Members.

The auction houses continue to have high sell out rates and this is good for our Hobby long term.

Please keep safe and well over the Christmas/New Year period and “A Merry Christmas to ALL”.

Peter Morey President Ballarat Stamp Club – November 2020



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December Newsletter

The December Newsletter will have a **Christmas theme**, so I would welcome contributions relating to Christmas stamps, covers, seals, cancels or basically anything that philatelic that relates to Christmas.

Please have items (Word or Pages format) and scans of items referred to (jpeg or png format) to me by December 12th

Upcoming Events

Meetings

March 8, 2020

to be advised according to COVID restrictions

Begonia Stamp Fair— Eastwood Leisure Centre

Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc A0012556J

Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamps & Coins Fair

**Monday 8th March
2021**

9.30am — 3.30pm

**Eastwood Leisure Centre,
20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat**



For Sale:

**Limited Editions Series 22 of
the Ballarat Historical
Envelopes. Featuring The
World Famous Eureka
Stockade, Ballarat**

Only \$3

**Australian Post overprinted
Civil Aviation 100 Years**

\$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 Pay Pal
- Direct Payment
BSB: 313 140 A/C: 21301875
Ref: Your Name
- Cheques payable to
'Ballarat Philatelic Society'
PO Box 337, Wendouree, Vic. 3355



VISIT our website: Ballaratstampclub.com.au

New members most welcome!

IN THE EVENT THAT THE FAIR NEEDS TO BE CANCELLED

Customers can 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 if you wish to do this.

Note that October 2020 items both sold out, so get in quick!

Club News

AGM

November 9th saw the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Ballarat Philatelic Society conducted as a Zoom meeting. Although not the ideal way to meet the agenda was completed, reports passed and the incoming committee duly elected.

Office Bearers

The Office Bearers and committee for the coming year are;

President	Peter Morey
Vice President	Pat Tacey
Secretary	Jan Kerr
Treasurer	Brian Wallis
Committee	Jack van Beveren, Tony Reyntjes, Neil Petras (Circuit Book Co-Ordinator) Phil Day, Cliff Matthews, Ione Myers

Note we have a new secretary as Keith Sanders decided to step aside after 4 years as secretary. President Peter thanked Keith for his diligent work as secretary over the time, a sentiment that was endorsed by all present. Peter also wished incoming secretary, Jan Kerr, all the best for the future.

Bereavements

During the last few months, we have been informed of the passing of several ex-members of the Club.

During August, long term member **Heather Earle**, passed away. She was the wife of John Earle who is a Life Member of BPS.

Heather is well remembered for her tireless catering work with John at the Fairs.

During September, another long-term member and avid collector, **Danny Bailey** passed away. Over the last few years Danny faithfully continued to attend our Stamp and Coin Fairs.

On October 3, **Greg Lockhart** passed away after a very long period of illness. Greg spent several years as a member of the Club and was an addicted collector with a wide range of other collecting interests.

Syllabus

January 18:	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting	June 21	Nominations due for Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2021/22
February 15	Eureka Displays – One sheet Letter “Q” (Club Newsletter Items Due)		(Club Newsletter items due)
	Club Member’s Special Interest Display: <i>Bass Strait Islands Mail: Keith Sanders</i>	July 19	Annual General meeting <i>President’s Display</i>
March 8	(Monday – Labour Day) Begonia Festival Stamps and Coins Fair	August 16	Inter-club social night and auction (Club Newsletter items due)
	Eastwood Leisure Centre	August 30	Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting
March 15	Eureka Displays – Two Sheets Letter “R” Club Member’s Special Interest Display: <i>Neil Petrass</i>	September 20	Annual Membership Due Club Member’s Special Interest Display: <i>Dutch East Indies: Peter Morey</i>
March 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting	October 10	(Sunday)
April 19	Eureka Displays – Three sheets Letter “S” (Club Newsletter items due)		Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair Eastwood Leisure Centre
May 17	Eureka Displays – Four sheets Letter “T” Club Member’s Special Interest Display: <i>Antarctica: John Niehoff</i>	October 18	Other Collections / Hobbies Night
		November 15	Mystery Guest Night
		November 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting
May 31	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting	December	End of year Function Date and Venue T.B.A.

From My Collection

Saint Anthony Guide Seals

Someone once asked what the abbreviation S.A.G. stands for? They said that a friend always puts these initials on the letters and packages they send. When asked why, they did not know. It was what mother and grandmother did. They think it is something Latin.

In fact, the abbreviation S.A.G. stands for *Saint Anthony, Guide*, and refers to the tradition of placing these initials on letters and posts so that they will not be lost in the mail.

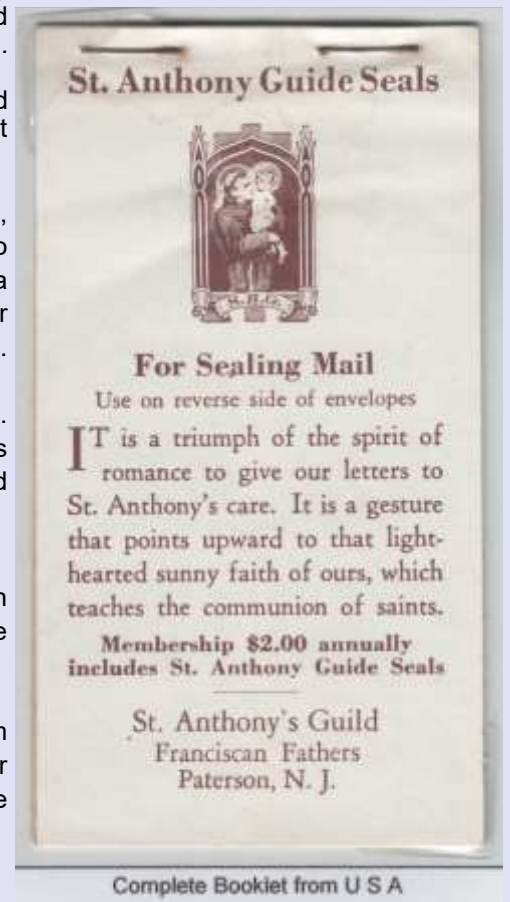
The custom has its origin in 1729 when a merchant travelled from Oviedo, Spain, to Peru for work. His wife wrote to him many times but received no answer. Very worried, she turned to St. Anthony of Padua. She wrote a letter to her husband and placed it in the hands of the statue at her church, pleading with him to help it reach its destination.

For several days, she prayed before the Saint, always with the same plea. One morning, to her amazement, she found a different letter in the hands of the Saint, a response from her husband to her letter and a few gold coins.

The letter, which is still on display in Oviedo, reads Lima July 23, 1729, on the date line. In it her husband writes that he received her letter from the hands of a Franciscan Friar...

Since then, the custom developed of writing S.A.G. on letters with the aim of asking the protection of St. Anthony, who has become the protector, or "*Guía*" in Spanish and *Guida* in Italian, of correspondence. Hence the initials S.A.G.: *Santo Antonio Guía*.

This practice was encouraged by the St. Anthony's Guild of the Franciscan Friars of Paterson, NY. To promote the devotion, they provided envelopes and stamps with the S.A.G. The pious practice continues to this day.



The seals were printed in booklets of 50 seals and sold by the Franciscan Fathers who had parishes around the world.

The samples pictured above are a booklet from the USA and a booklet from Australia

Source = "Stories & legends"

St Anthony Guide seals

The figure shown on the labels is a representation of the portrait of St Anthony and the letters 'S.A.G.' stand for SAINT ANTHONY GUIDE" - ie an appeal to the Saint to guide the letter safely to its destination.

The labels have no postal status of any kind and probably fall into the classification of religious charity stickers.



issued in Australia



issued 1924



JEAN de SPERATI and the *forged* £2 Kangaroo

I was going to write an article on a number of philatelic forgers, but became so engrossed with the works of Jean de Sperati, and in particular, his forged £2 Australian Kangaroo's that I decided to concentrate on these alone.

This was the only Australian stamp that Sperati forged and to-day these stamps command **premium prices**. It appears that only two mint copies (one shown here) of the £2 exist and that no more than a couple of dozen used copies (nine shown here) are known. All that I could track down are listed below. I know many collectors are into Australian stamps and that many 'lack' the 1913 (1st Watermark) £2 Kangaroo in their collection, which Sperati made his



Genuine 1913 £2 stamps.

forgeries of.

Forgery is a white-collar crime that generally refers to the false making or material alteration of a legal document with the specific intent to defraud anyone (other than themselves). Within the philatelic world there exists two areas of forgery: postal forgery, made to deceive the Post Office, and 'fakes' made to deceive collectors and sellers. 'Fakes' are stamps doctored in some way to make them appear what they are not with forgeries: i.e.: fake postmarks, overprints, perforations, or an entirely produced bogus stamp.

Copies, stamp replicas, and reproductions are **not** considered forgeries, though they may later become forgeries through knowing and wilful misrepresentation. 'Cinderella stamps', facsimile stamps, reprint stamps are NOT forgeries so long as clearly **styled**.



Jean de Sperati (14th October, 1884 in Italy to 28th April, 1957, in France):

He is regarded by many as the best Master Forger of postage stamps of all time. He produced some 566 varieties from over 94 countries. It was said he spent 14 to 16 hours a day often 7 days a week working to obtain near perfectly and technically faultless copies!

A brief summation of his interesting life:

He was born Giovanni Sperati in Pistoia, Tuscany, Italy. Stamp collecting became his passion as a young boy, unfortunately, the family had little money and he struggled to buy stamps. Saving hard to buy a French Colonial stamp he learnt later that it was a forgery. He decided to get his revenue on the 'stamp world' and on 'dealers'. His brother and mother began to assist him in fake stamps until 1909 when the family came to the attention of the Italian police. The family then dispersed with Giovanni relocating to Paris, changing his name to Jean de Sperati, and marrying in 1914. He laboured at anything whilst continuing "his studies" in printing and chemistry ever perfecting his skills to produce what he termed "philatelic works of art". He claimed to have always signed on the reverse of each stamp his name in (light) pencil.



This superb forgery sold in New York in October, 2014 for \$5,400.

Why were his fakes so good?

A brilliant and clever forger, as opposed to other forgers, in that he took a **genuine low denomination stamp** from a set of stamps and through bleaching skills and with chemicals he removed that part of the surface printing that he wanted to alter, then overprinted it by the photo lithographical process his forged alteration. **Thus, the fake stamp was original regarding paper, watermark and perforation, it was only the printed surface that was different, and this was extremely hard to detect.** Many experts were fooled for years.

Did he get caught?

Yes. During World War II he sent a packet of stamps to Lisbon. They were intercepted by French authorities. He was charged with avoiding tax and sending 'value items' out of France (in wartime) even though he said the stamps were fakes. Examined by experts at the time, they were declared to be authentic. He was charged with defrauding collectors of revenue, this was difficult to prove because Sperati *claimed* he

always wrote on the back of each of his stamps "*Reproduction de Jean de Sperati*" lightly, in pencil.

He was brought to trial in 1948, and eventually found guilty in April, 1948 of 'deceitful intentions', sentenced to one year's (suspended gaol due to his age) and fined 310,000 Francs. He vowed, and never did, falsify stamps again.



This forgery was sold for \$4,000 in January, 2004 at auction in Melbourne.

What happened to his collection of remaining forged stamps?

In 1953 the British Philatelic Association purchased his entire 'forged' stock including a complete collection of all his forgeries for around \$40,000, which they showed at an Exhibition in London



This forgery, with NSW postmark cancellation sold

in 1954. This collection is still held to-day by the BPA. His forgeries are VERY collectable and command high prices, although some can be purchased for as little as \$200 each, but not the £2 Kangaroo!

He died at Aix-les-Bains in France on 28th April, 1957 aged 73 years.

Contributed by Grey Loyer, Hon. Secretary, Maryborough Stamp Club (Vic.) (Founded 14.7.1971)



Forgery with genuine 'AYR - QUEENSLAND' cancellation



This forgery, with NSW postmark cancellation sold in 2004



Forgery with genuine Boulia, Queensland



A proof forgery signed by Jean de Sperati sold for \$9,300!



£2 black & rose-carmine. Well centred, a few nibbled perfs at top right, unused with part-"o.g.", Ex Neil Russell. RPSofV Certificate (2017). [One of the great rarities among forgeries of the British Empire].

Sold for \$6,000 in 2017.

Reader Wish lists.

New Zealand Post Offices

Can anyone supply me with a list of New Zealand Post Offices operating in 1931-32?

Thank you Grey Loyer (Maryborough) gloyer@live.com.au

Newsletter Items

The editor of this newsletter is in need of contributions from any of our readers, he would like to highlight the knowledge, experiences and interests of our broad readership that stretches throughout Australia and overseas. Overseas contributions would be most welcome. All he asks is that items are forwarded in Word or Pages format and pictures in jpeg or png format for ease of handling.

Useful tips, interesting trivia and useful websites are required or the newsletter, the editor is running out of information. Email anything you can to tacey55@gmail.com.

Quiz answers will be sent at the end of next week



Tripolitania, Italian Colony (1922 – 1934)

Region: North Africa

Group: Libya Area

Classification: Italian Colonies

Prior Regime: Tripolitanian Republic

Key Dates:

- 1911 – Tripolitania was captured from the Ottomans by Italy
- 1912, Oct 18 – Libya, including Tripolitania was ceded to Italy by the Ottoman

Empire

- 1918 – The Arab Tripolitanian Republic declared
- 1922, Nov 12 – Tripolitania annexed by Italy
- 1923 – Tripolitanian Republic dissolved
- 1934, Jan 1 – Tripolitania, Cyrenaica, and Fezzan joined to form the Italian colony of Libya.

Following Regime: Italian Colony of Libya

ITALIAN SOLDIER IN TRIPOLI For centuries, the region which is now Libya was under the nominal control of the Ottoman Empire and was historically separated into three major regions: Cyrenaica, Tripolitania, and Fezzan. As the Ottoman Empire began to collapse, European powers begin to compete for the various territories in North Africa. In 1902, Italy signed a secret pact with France in which each agreed to not interfere with the other as they invaded areas of North Africa. For the next 10 years, Italy did little to realize the "opportunity", but eventually declared war on the Ottomans and invaded Tripolitania on 29 September 1911.

The Italians slowly advanced capturing parts of the Ottoman provinces of Tripolitania, Fezzan and Cyrenaica, in addition to the Dodecanese Islands in the Aegean Sea. However, by the autumn of 1912, as the first Balkan war broke in Europe, the Ottomans were forced to withdraw troops to the Balkan front, conceding defeat in the region. The Turks signed the Treaty of Ouchy on 12 October 1912 ceding the Provinces of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica to Italy and continued to allow Italian administration of the Dodecanese Islands. Turkey eventually renounced all claims on these islands in 1923.

As World War I broke out in 1914, Italian troops were withdrawn from the region, exception for the coastal towns. Control of the inland territory reverted to the local Senussi zawiya (fortified outposts around a mosque). After the war, the local population in Tripolitania, declared the formation of an Arab Republic called the "Tripolitanian Republic" on 16 November 1918. The declaration was formally presented during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference but gained little support from international powers. The fledgling republic eventually dissolved in 1923, as the Italians began to establish firm control over the region, creating two

separate colonies of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica.

As Mussolini and the Fascists seized control of the Italian Government (October 1922), they officially annexed Tripolitania in Nov, 1922 and began to rule the colony with an "iron fist",

including the use of concentration camps to quell local resistance. While Italian forces continued to encounter strong



resistance in Cyrenaica, they were quite successful in Tripolitania.

Colonial rule in Tripolitania was primarily a military rule. Mussolini often called the Libyans "Muslim Italians," however Italian investment in Libya was made primarily to extract resources or to promote settlement of Italians to Libya. No development effort was used to better the local Arab population such as education or modernization. Over time, Italian troops

continued to advance south, assuming control in Fezzan, although it remained a "Military Territory".

On 1 January 1934, the colonies of Tripolitania and Cyrenaica along with the Military Territory of Fezzan were combined to form the single Italian Colony of Libya. The colony lasted until World War 2, when British troops eventually drove all Italian and German forces out of Libya completely in February 1943.

Throughout the period of the individual colonies, Tripolitania and Cyrenaica issued separate commemorative, air post and authorized delivery stamps. However definitive, parcel post, postage due and express stamps were combined and issued under the name of "Libia".

The first stamps for Tripolitania, were issued on 24 October 1923, by overprinting the 4 stamps in the Italian "Propaganda for the Faith" series with "TRIPOLITANIA" in black. Many Italian commemorative series continued to be overprinted "Tripolitania" in various colours and fonts for the entire existence of the colony. These include:

- "Propaganda for the Faith" Series – 1923, Oct 24
- "Fascisti" or "March on Rome" Series – issued 1923, Oct 29
- "Manzoni" Series – issued 1924, Apr 1
- "Victor Emmanuel" Series – issued 1925 – 1926
- "Saint Francis of Assisi" Series – issued 1926, Apr 12
- "Volta" Series – issued 1927, Oct 10
- "Monte Cassino" Series – issued 1929, Oct 14
- "Royal Wedding" Series – issued 1930, Mar 17
- "Ferrucci" Series including air post – issued 1930, Jul 26
- "Virgil" Series including air post – issued 1930, Dec 4
- "St. Anthony of Padua" Series – issued 1931, May 2
- "Holy Year" Series – issued 1925
- "Charitable work of the Voluntary Militia for Italian National Defense" Series – issued 1927, Apr 21, 1929, Mar 4, 1930, Oct 20

Additionally, the Italians overprinted Italian air post semi-postal, air post semi-postal official, air post semi-postal special delivery and authorized delivery stamps.


A series of stamps were specially printed for use in Tripolitania, including a Colonial Institute Issue (featuring a common design from the colonies) issued on Jun 1, 1926, several Air Post series, and two special flight issues.



Philatelic Quiz

1. We have many abbreviations in philately, such as MNH for mint never hinged, OG for original gum, and CTO for cancelled to order. What does SFL stand for?
 - a. Single Forlorn Lover
 - b. Single Franked Letter
 - c. Single Folded Letter
 - d. Second Forwarded Letter
2. Another example is the abbreviation O.A.T. It stands for:
 - a. Ordered Aboard Train
 - b. Onward Air Transmission
 - c. Ongoing Air Travel
 - d. Outward Airplane Transportation
3. SAAR stopped issuing stamps in 1959 and began using stamps from:
 - a. Germany
 - b. Austria
 - c. France
 - d. Poland
4. Who of the following was NOT a Postmaster General of the United States?
 - a. Lawrence F. O'Brien
 - b. John Gronouski
 - c. Albert Hitchcock
 - d. John Wanamaker
5. Which of the following has NOT been honored on a US stamp?
 - a. Clark Gable
 - b. Marilyn Monroe
 - c. Martha Hayes
 - d. Milton Hershey
6. Aniline ink has a peculiar quality. It
 - a. Bleeds
 - b. Is blue colored
 - c. Is red colored
 - d. Is not soluble in water
7. Which of the following did not forge postage stamps?
 - a. J. Walter Scott
 - b. Jean Sperati
 - c. Lucien Smeets
 - d. E.H.R. Green
8. Which one of the following stamps is a fake?

A
B
C
D


9. What country issued a stamp made of cork?
 - a. Bhutan
 - b. Austria
 - c. Portugal
 - d. France
10. Which of the following is NOT an Indian Feudatory state?
 - a. Idar
 - b. Las Bela
 - c. Jind
 - d. Tunk
11. Which Country Issued the first Postage Due stamps?
 - a. Great Britain
 - b. France
 - c. United States
 - d. Brazil
12. Which country, in 1964, produced the first self adhesive stamps?
 - a. Bhutan
 - b. Sierra Leone
 - c. Gibraltar
 - d. Tonga
13. The United States issued its first perforated stamp in:
 - a. 1845
 - b. 1851
 - c. 1857
 - d. 1861
14. Cartophilately is a collection of stamps that display:
 - a. Carts
 - b. Maps
 - c. Cartoons
 - d. Car Tops
15. Collectors often refer to these stamps as "The Cotton Reels" –these stamps were issued by:
 - a. Bermuda
 - b. Virgin Islands
 - c. St. Pierre and Miquelon
 - d. Louisiana
16. This stamp is from an entity called Sirmoor and is located where?
 - a. Africa
 - b. India
 - c. China
 - d. Himalayas
17. Who was Walter George Quensell?
 - a. He created Tin Can Mail
 - b. He created Lundy Island stamps
 - c. He designed Pitcairn Island stamps
 - d. He flew with Amelia Earhart in the Pacific
18. Despite having no permanent population, six different Scott listed entities have issued stamps for use in parts of the Antarctic since 1960. Which of the following is NOT one of them.
 - a. British Antarctic Territories
 - b. Austrian Antarctic Territories
 - c. Falkland Islands Dependencies
 - d. South Georgia
19. Which of the following countries should not be in the group?
 - a. Sardinia
 - b. Kingdom of Italy
 - c. Mongoliad
 - d. Newfoundland
20. Why was this stamp considered controversial?
 - a. He was not the Queen
 - b. He was the Postmaster of New Brunswick
 - c. He was the Prime Minister of Canada, not New Brunswick
 - a. The value was exceptionally high



The Weird and Wonderful

The most passionate philatelist ever was a postman named Alan Roy, who dedicated 70 years to collect 2 million postage stamps

Austria's Innovative Stamps

Austria made the first embroidered postal stamps in the shape of a Dirndl a local Austrian outfit and features three colours using unique fabrics. They also created First Official Ceramic Stamp the Viennese Rose.



The "Forever Stamp"

In 2007 the United States launched forever stamps, which are always valid for the postage rate of a first-class (1 ounce) letter no matter how the stamp prices change. This means no matter when it was bought or how much you paid for the forever stamp it can be used to send a first class letter.



The smallest stamp ever produced for actual postage was issued in 1863 in Bolivar in Colombia. The stamp was 8 x 9.5mm and featured the Coat of Arms of Bolivar.



The Universal Postal Union is the second oldest international organization and is responsible for safe delivery of postal 'snail mail'.



Most Self Adhesive Stamps are Vegetarian

Here's a fun fact that probably hasn't even crossed your mind before but now you know, you'll never forget... The glue on the back of stamps is vegetarian! According to the UK Royal Mail envelope and stamp adhesive is almost always vegan as no animal products are involved.

Oh, and if you lick a stamp it is about 1/10th of a calorie

Before the invention of stamps, the receiver of the letter should have paid a certain fee based on the number of pages as well as the travelled distance.

No Commemorative stamps were issued in Australia between 1901 and 1927 because the UPU (Universal Postal System) banned commemorative stamps being used on international mail. The powers that be, concluded that the ban included the use of commemorative stamps for domestic use. The UPU lifted the ban in 1922. In 1927 the opening of the Parliament House in Canberra was commemorated with the first commemorative stamp issued by the Australian Commonwealth.

