

June 2022



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

Welcome to our June 2022 edition of Ballarat Philatelic Society Newsletter

A HUGE thank you to Pat Tacey and his small team for our Brilliant New Website – Congratulations to you all. It is of course a work in progress as Websites are. It is a spectacular start!



We returned to 'normality' for meetings at the Eastwood Leisure Centre since the last Newsletter and the attendance was quite good. We thank Marita at the Leisure Centre for all her assistance.

Thanks to Secretary Jan and Treasurer Brian for all their work.

At a recent Club meeting Jack Van Beveren and others promoted the idea that we continue to produce the 'Ballarat Historical Covers'. Jack said our Club should be proud of its record in promoting Philately far and wide for many years. As we only had one cover image left it will be used for the 25th Series for October 2022 issues. It is an image of children next to Lake Wendouree from around 1908. The Club will need to find and print a new series of images for future Covers. Please help with this. Soon we also hope to see a Ballarat Stamp Club report in the APF News!

Trish Simmons is now organizing the 'Free stamps for Kids' campaign. More soon.

This time our overprinted Australia Post mini sheets 'Postcards to the Front' will continue with a little more information regarding the very old Printing process used. They are printed Letterpress on a Heidelberg Platen machine utilizing hot metal handset type. We are grateful for the support of Waller & Chester, a long-established quality printing firm in Ballarat.

For around 40 years Coin Dealer Steele Waterman has hired tables for our Club Fairs. As we had to cancel our March Fair he approached me and the Club to help with a Winter Coins and Stamps Fair. This was held on June 11th at Central Wendouree Bowling Club and it was great to see people once again getting into stamps and coins in Ballarat. The Club Members present all enjoyed themselves. We circulated our own October Fair Flyers at the event.

The Ballarat Philatelic Society Stamps and Coins Fair will be conducted at the Eastwood Leisure Centre on Sunday 9th October 2022. We will have displays as well as the usual club and dealer tables. The club will conduct an extensive publicity campaign to promote this event.

I believe our very valuable trailer containing our Fair tables etc now has four new tyres. Thanks Frank and Lone Myers for looking after the trailer at their property.

Peter Morey President Ballarat Philatelic Society

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Next Newsletter

The next edition of the Ballarat Philatelic Society Newsletter is due early August. Contributions are always welcome, please email to info@ballaratstampclub.com.au We are happy to promote other stamp club events

Ballarat Eureka Stamps & Coins Fair

**Sunday 9th
October 2022**

9.30am - 3.30pm

Eastwood Leisure Centre,
20 Eastwood Street,
Ballarat



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 mail.**

Overseas clients allow for 15% for PayPal.

◆ **Direct Payment (new details)
BSB: 013 516 A/C: 642092592
Ref: Your Name**

◆ **Cheques payable to
Ballarat Philatelic Society
PO Box 337, Wendouree, Vic. 3355**

For Sale:

Limited Editions Series 25 of the
Ballarat Historical Envelopes.
Featuring a corner of Lake
Wendouree, Ballarat.

Only \$3

Overprinted Australia Post
'Postcards to the Front'

Miniature sheet.

Overprinted letterpress on a Heidelberg Platen
machine, utilizing hot metal handset type.

\$15



**Note: These items sell out quickly,
so get your orders in early!**

BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY inc.

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Established 1904

SYLLABUS 2022

Meetings:

7.00 pm (Social gathering) 7.30 pm (Formal meeting)

3rd and 5th Mondays of each month (except December)

Eastwood Leisure Centre

20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat

Membership \$5.00 Visitors welcome

July 18	Annual General Meeting <i>President's Display</i>	October 9	(Sunday) Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair Eastwood Leisure Centre
August 15	Inter-club social night and auction (Club Newsletter items due)	October 17	Other Collections or Hobbies Night
August 29	Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting	October 31	Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting
September 19	Annual Membership Due Club Member's Special Interest Display: Neil Petrass: <i>Topic to be advised</i>	November 21	Mystery Guest Speaker
		December	End of year Function Date and Venue to be advised

Ballarat Philatelic Society's New Webpage

ballaratphilatelicsociety.com.au

Is now up and running, although we still need to tie up a few loose ends.

If you have any photos, memorabilia, documents etc. that can be added to our content it would be most appreciated.

The Members' Section will be password controlled and only accessible to paid up members, the password will be changed at regular intervals. This will be the area where material relevant to club members but not the general public will be available.

The Local Post of Rattlesnake Island

Rattlesnake Island is a mere 85 acres in Lake Erie and west of Middle Bass Island, there were rattlesnakes on the island although it has been many decades since anyone has confirmed seeing one on the island. How the snakes got there is a mystery, although the ledges area an ideal habitat for them.

For decades Rattlesnake Island was the base of a local post operation that saw mail flown aboard the historic Ford Trimotor plane originated by Dr. James Frackelton, a Cleveland surgeon known for clinical research on preventive medicine. Frackelton also operated the Cleveland Stamp and Coin Co. in the 1960s.

Historical references to the island date to the late 1500s, when the Erie Indians occupied Lake Erie's southern coast and presumably most, if not all of the Lake Erie islands. The Ottawa and Huron tribes later lived on the islands.



The origin of the island's unusual name is uncertain. It was once home to the timber rattlesnake. Historians trace the name to the Ottawa people, who thought the island's shape with its two dot islands at the western tip represent snake rattles.

Over the years Rattlesnake Island has had a variety of owners including Toledo industrialist Hubert Bennett who developed the island between 1929 and 1932, building a residential cabin, guest lodge, harbor and landing strip. Even then mail was delivered by boat from Port Clinton in summer and by horse-drawn sleigh over the frozen lake in winter.

The island's ownership changed a many times, leading to further development, before Frackelton, one of five Clevelanders, bought it for \$100,000 in 1959. Currently the island is home to the exclusive Rattle Snake Island Club.

Being a stamp collector, Frackelton soon thought of instituting a local post as a way to get regular stops from Island Airlines, owned by Ralph Dietrick, a veteran World War II pilot who was flying a Trimotor, also known as Tri-Motor, to North Bass, Middle Bass and South Bass islands.



The Local Post of Rattlesnake Island Continued

Frackelton was friends with renowned stamp dealer Herman "Pat" Herst Jr., who had successfully operated a local post in Shrub Oak, New York. The doctor envisioned a local post with Dietrick's "Tin Goose" flying the mail. It took Frackelton seven years to gain post office approval to establish the service that could issue its own stamps.

But Frackelton's first stamps, rectangular in shape, were nixed by postal officials, who said they looked too much like regular postage stamps. In January 1967, Frackelton released triangular stamps, the shape that remained in use for nearly 40 years .



The annual sets of three triangular stamps continued until 1989 when the new owners decided to terminate the local post.

The post office determined local post stamps could be placed on mail, but that each mail piece also had to be franked with regular stamps covering the normal postage rates.

Rattlesnake Island Local Post quickly became popular among collectors worldwide. Frackelton hired people to run the post and process hundreds of requests for mail to be flown from the island to Port Clinton, where letters were postmarked and placed into the regular mail stream.

The first stamps, valued at 5 cents, 10 cents and 25 cents, showed a map of Rattlesnake Island, a Trimotor approaching the island and a boat and a dock, respectively. Stamp designs later depicted island plant and animal life, boats, ships and lighthouses.

The local post was relaunched by Frackelton in 2005 issuing one last set of stamps in 25-cent (post cards), 50-cent (letters) and \$1 (parcel post) denominations. The local post founder James P. Frackelton was still deeply involved in the local post until he died Nov 30, 2012, at age 85..

Throughout its history, the local post has released its stamps either perforated or imperforate. There have been 186 high quality design stamps issued, generally showing scenery on the island, feature Lake Erie history or the local flora and fauna. There certainly is a lot of interest for topical collectors.



Alpha Private Cover Makers

Alpha is the business name of Havilah Enterprises, a business that was run by Bevan Alexander & his children.

Originally they were based in Gawler South Australia, but later moved to Ballarat where they had a factory next to a bikie gang.

They were prolific cover producers from the mid 1990s to the mid 2000s & were at the time the Australian Philatelic Bureau's largest customer. They produced more covers than they could sell.

Tony Shields told me he bought a bulk lot of 50,000 covers from them. Took what he could sell out of the lot & sold the remainder to Michael Hudson. And still had tens of thousands of covers in stock.

When business waned they resorted to adding cachets to 1980s pre stamped envelopes.

A couple of the sons still sell on eBay.



Following on from previous newsletter articles that have discussed the machinations of the Russian Empire this month we look at Georgia.

GEORGIA 1919

Georgia is located in the south Caucasus region of Eurasia.
Georgians, an ethnic group, have their own language.
But at the beginning of the 19th century, Georgia was
annexed within the Russian Empire.
Following the Russian Bolshevnik Revolution of 1917, Georgia declared
independence on 26 May, 1918.

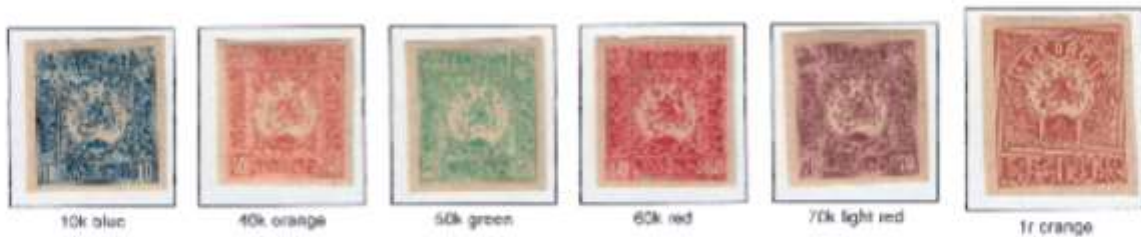
A National; republic was formed, and Georgia issued stamps in 1919 and 1920. Georgia was under British
protection from 1918 - 1920.

The first issue for the nascent republic had five denominations with "St George" design.
The coat of Arms of Georgia depicts St George slaying the Dragon.

1919 - Perf issued stamps



1919 - imperf



1920 - issue of "Queen Thamar" perf and imperf



Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands

The **Gay and Lesbian Kingdom of the Coral Sea Islands** was a putative micronation established in 2004 as a symbolic political protest by a group of gay rights activists based in Australia.



The Coral Sea Islands Territory is an external territory of Australia which comprises a group of small and mostly uninhabited tropical islands and reefs in the Coral Sea, northeast of Queensland.

History of the Coral Sea Islands

The Coral Sea Islands were first charted in 1803. In the 1870s and 1880s the islands were mined for guano but the absence of a reliable supply of fresh water prevented long-term habitation. The Coral Sea Islands became an Australian external territory in 1969 by the *Coral Sea Islands Act* (prior to that, the area was considered part of Queensland)

Founding of the Gay and Lesbian Kingdom

The initiative for the founding of a gay kingdom was taken by Matthew Briggs of the Brisbane Gay and Lesbian during the Pride Festival in 2003. Gay activists believed that change in the marriage law, in particular the government's plan to amend the marriage act so as to prevent homosexual couples who were married overseas to have their relationship recognised, had taken from homosexual people the right to be treated equally, "whether it be marriage, superannuation, hospital visits, adoption or IVF treatments".

Declaration of independence

On 14 June 2004, after sailing on a ship named the *Gayflower* (a reference to the Mayflower), the activists raised the gay rainbow pride flag on Cato Island and declared the Coral Sea Islands an independent gay and lesbian state. Coinciding with the decision to secede from Australian sovereignty, the kingdom's founders drafted a declaration of independence.

The activists founded a camp site on Cato Island which they named "Heaven" after the famous gay nightclub in London as its capital, and "I Am What I Am" was set as the Kingdom's national anthem.

The kingdom issued its first stamps in July 2006 "with the aim of creating a high and distinctive reputation amongst the philatelic fraternity".

International relations

Other than the protester inhabitants, the islands of the Coral Sea Islands Territory were uninhabited and the kingdom's independence was not recognised by Australia or any world government.

Dissolution of the kingdom

Following the decision made by the Australian government to legalise same sex marriage, the kingdom was dissolved on 17 November 2017.

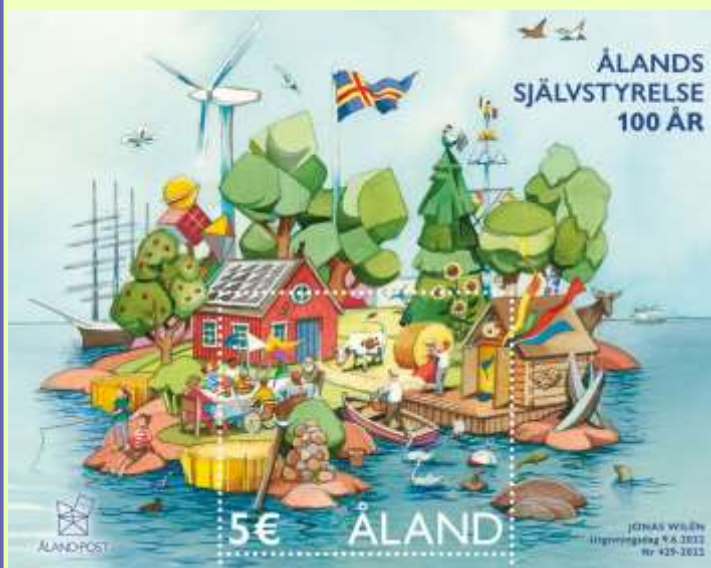


Quirky Philatelic Issues

The theme for 2022 Europa stamps is "Stories & Myths", and each issuing country is basing their 2022 EUROPA stamps on local myths and stories. The beautiful souvenir sheet from Denmark consists of three stamps, each depicting one of the creatures known as *the subterraneans*. They are said to dwell on the island Bornholm, and are a mix of creatures that, as the name suggests, live below the surface. They are often thought to be living in or near burial mounds or rock formations.



The subterraneans are known to be helpful to those who deserve it, but can be quite nasty to people, if they do not treat the subterraneans properly. The stories go back several hundred years, and still to this day play a large role in the folklore on the island.



Åland, the land of thousand islands & skerries, celebrates 100 years of autonomy in 2022. On 9 June, a miniature sheet was issued showing life in Åland today, designed by Åland artist Jonas Wilén. The miniature sheet offers you a lot to discover.

In 2022, it is 150 years since Piet Mondrian was born in Amersfoort. PostNL marks the anniversary by issuing a stamp in true gold and color decorated in Mondrian's characteristic style. Piet Mondrian was a pioneer in abstract art. In particular, his later geometric-abstract work with the characteristic horizontal and vertical lines and primary color ranges in red, yellow and blue is world famous. The gold stamp shows his most famous and last work, Victory Boogie Woogie. The stamp is made of 24 carat gold and is delivered in a matching box. Limited edition of 1500 pcs.



Japan 1942, saluting the Japanese pilot

The fact of World War II was that most pilots gave their lives to the cause. Even in victory, the British pilot death toll was 46%. For Germany and especially Japan that toll was even higher.

For a few, including today's subject, their skill was so great it saved them.

A pilot saluting his flag. It must be remembered that this portrait is not a kamikaze. This pilot was expected to win and come back home to talk about it. In general, that was too optimistic.

This stamp is issue A150, a 15 Sen stamp issued by Imperial Japan in 1942. It was part of a 16 stamp issue in various denominations.



This story is about Japanese Naval Lieutenant Tetsuzo Iwamoto who was one of Japan's leading fighter aces. According to his diary from the time, he shot down 202 aircraft with his Mitsubishi Zero fighter. Iwamoto was an ace even before Pearl Harbor having been based in Nanking, China and scoring 14 victories against Chinese flown, Russian made Polikarpov I-15 fighters, an out of date biplane fighter. 1942-1944 saw Iwamoto stationed at Rabual in New Guinea where he was in almost constant combat with Australian and American fighters. Here his diary credited him with 48 Corsairs, 7 Wildcats, 29 Hellcats, 4 Spitfires, 4 P38s, and 75 various model bombers. The Zero became more out of date as the war went along but never lost its unparalleled agility in the hands of an expert pilot. Iwamoto stated that he knew how to beat the American fighters but was impressed by how much punishment the heavier fighters could take and keep flying, much more so than his light Zero.



Iwamoto was promoted through the ranks and commissioned as an officer. In 1944 he was transferred back to Japan to train Kamikaze pilots and perform air defence missions including over Okinawa. Unlike Germany where some of the surviving aces were issued jets in the last days of the war hoping for a miracle, Iwamoto flew Zeros till the end.

Iwamoto was not treated well by his homeland after the war. Called in for questioning several times by the occupation forces, he was not charged with war crimes. He was however blacklisted for employment. There was much pacifist propaganda that viewed the veterans as the pawns of warmongers.

Though he desired to fly again, for the rest of his life it was not to be. He suffered a misdiagnosed appendicitis and then died of sepsis in hospital at age 38 in 1954. The Japanese Self Defence Force Air reformed that same year.

