



Bendigo

The Golden City Philatelist

BENDIGO PHILATELIC SOCIETY INC. A0016241J

P.O. BOX 962 BENDIGO, VIC. 3552

Now in our 91st year

February 2022

Web page: www.bendigophilatelic.org



Diary of Future Events

Tues. 1st February 7.30 Meeting at Kangaroo Flat RSL

President's Message January 2022

Well here we are into the New Year - 2022!

A year we thought we might be COVID free, little did we know, anyway enough of that and more about our love of Stamps.

At our next meeting on February the 1st, we are trying something Different. We are going to have a workshop on KGV stamps, "Perforations & Watermarks " so bring along any of these stamps you need help with. Our experts, Noel & David, will be available.

If this is successful we plan to do further workshops on various topics.

Any suggestions !!!

The second Tuesday in March - Maryborough is having their big stamp auction this is a great night - good stamps, good food and good company.

Our Birthday person for January is Richard Guy - "Happy Birthday" Richard.

Anniversary Celebrations are still in the planning, it is very hard to plan to far ahead.

Just a short message this time, please all stay well and safe.

Let me finish with my little phrase by saying TAKE CARE we CARE and you are all important.....Libby



The general monthly meetings of the BPS are held on the first Tuesday of every month at 7.30pm 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.

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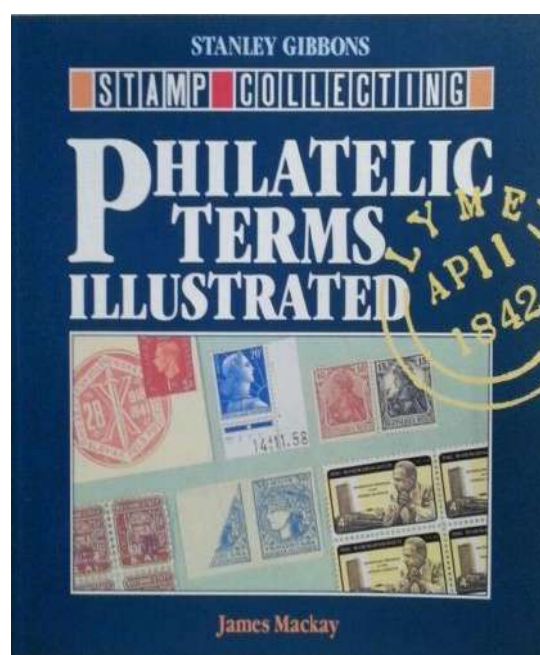
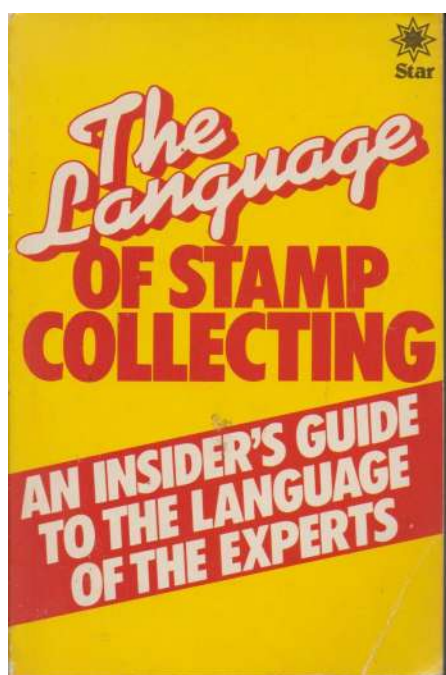
Librarian: David Robinson

email: ddusa@live.com.au

Bendigo Philatelic Society Library

Many new stamp collectors struggle to understand some of the philatelic terms used to describe stamps and related material. Philatelic terms are often found in catalogues, handbooks, collectors' albums, magazines, price lists and auction catalogues. Therefore, this month I have found two books from our library that cover this topic.

That being: Philatelic terms and descriptions, that are often used to identify and describe stamps. Both books are arranged in alphabetical order and provide us with a comprehensive listing of the terms often used by collectors. Not only do we find the technical words, but also many of the colloquial expressions and nicknames. Occasionally some terms are referred to by philatelists using an alternative term, in both books we find a cross reference to the more commonplace terms, alongside the less frequently used term. Both books provide the answers to most problems of terminology, that will enable collectors to build a deeper perception and enjoyment from their hobby.



The Language of Stamp Collecting - BPS 0020

This 1981 publication was printed and bound in Great Britain and written by David Rennie in London. Mail history and picture postcard collecting are growing in popularity and overlapping stamp collecting, this book includes many expressions which are used in both these areas.

STANLEY GIBBONS

Philatelic Terms Illustrated - BPS0025

This edition of an established reference work defines the main printing methods, papers, types of stamps, errors, varieties, watermarks, perforations, and postal services a stamp collector will find referred to in this reading. Illustrated in black and white and colour with many items from the famous Stanley Gibbons collections.

Our library stocks an extensive range of books, leaflets & magazines,
which are available to members.

Please contact me David Robinson on 0428 821 221 or email me at ddusa@live.com.au



Hello fellow Philatelists

I found the above in an Auspost letterbox brochure. Some of you maybe interested in this phone App.

I also found this International Reply Coupon interesting. I'm not sure if I would need one of these but I suppose you would include this if you wanted to encourage the recipient of your mail to acknowledge receipt so businesses might find it useful. It seems a fairly complex sort of document.

This is the front & back.

Yours in Philately

Paul



Why is this person on a stamp No.2

While sorting some Colombian stamps, this one seemed like a good candidate for the next article on why someone, other than royalty or a politician, deserves to be on a stamp.

The stamp is from 1961 and is for the Red Cross fund and features a nurse named Manuelita de la Cruz. Amazingly, there is little about her on the internet, most entries being one line which says little more than what is written on the stamp. Wikipedia lists the stamp but has no entry for the person depicted.

“Martir del deber” translates basically as “Martyr of Duty” with the date 25th November 1955.

Colombia, on the Pacific coast of South America is affected by the same El Nino/ La Nina cycle that is a major influence on Australia’s weather. The difference is that it is in reverse to what happens here. While El Nino can bring drought to us, in Colombia, it causes floods.

It was during one of those floods, in 1955, that Manuelita lost her life while attempting to save her patients. This is certainly worthy of the stamp in commemoration but begs the question why her sacrifice has not been more widely acknowledged.



With gifts like this, it must have been Christmas.

John Armstrong

As I've not let anyone forget, my passion is for line-engraved stamps and along with several like-minded on-line buddies, I have been trying to record the names of the engravers, designers and printers of these small masterpieces. The results are shown in the engravedstamps.net website where we have details of some fifteen thousand different designs. (We only show one stamp from sets where they all use the same design.)

Unfortunately, though designers and printers are usually well known, many of the engravers identities were kept secret. The best engravers were much in demand and secrecy discouraged poaching by other companies. As the engravers also produced banknotes, there was also the fear that they could be compromised by organized criminals. This means that for many of the stamps on the database the engraver is listed as "unknown" and I celebrate every time I can change one of these.



Gift number one.

The Jersey stamp shown above was one of my "unknowns" but then a couple of days before Christmas I received an email.

"This stamp was engraved by my father, Leslie Ernest Downey, when he was with De La Rue. Regards Richard Downey".

Needless to say, I responded straight away and Richard followed this by sending me his father's list of stamps that he had engraved, only one of which was known to me. His grandfather was also a stamp engraver and his list has been promised as well and his great-grandfather was also an engraver but only did one stamp. I will expand this story into a separate article later in the newsletter.

Gift number two.

Some years back, the American Bank Note Company was bought out by a venture capital mob. They stripped the company and sold off anything they could sell quickly then sold the cut down company, took their profit and left.

Part of that was the sell-off of the complete archive from their stamp department which they simply bundled up into lots of several thousand pieces and held an invitation only auction for dealers. The prices raised were ridiculously low and meant that proof sheets averaged about four dollars each, to subsequently be offered by the dealers for sometimes between thirty and a hundred times that price. There was still a ready market but the information contained disappeared into private collections.

A few countries, Canada and Costa Rica come to mind, heard about this in advance and negotiated to buy the entire sections for their respective countries and in their cases, the information is now available through their postal museums and philatelic organisations.

For some other countries, such as Ecuador, there has been no information available, in fact, Ecuador is one of the few countries where not one engraver was known to me.

I am on the mailing list of quite a few dealers, though lately I have avoided buying overseas due to the parlous state of the Australian dollar plus the 10% GST now collected on eBay etc. Also, at the moment, the USPS have suspended most mail to Australia due to covid problems. I still like to read the dealer newsletters though and at Christmas time, one of them listed a dozen ABNCo work sheets from Ecuador and a similar number of proofs.

With gifts like this, it must have been Christmas.

Though to a collector, the proofs might be the most desirable items, unless they are signed, which none of them were, it is the work sheets that contain the information I seek. Generally they have either a first print or a proof of the stamp with the names of those who produced it. For instance, the stamp with the runner was mostly engraved by Elie Timothée Loizeaux but with a border by Warrell Hauck while the other stamp was engraved completely by Louis Delnoce using a postcard as the source for the image.

I contacted the sellers in the United States and they told me that they had bought a large part of the stock of a New York stamp dealer who had died. They are still sorting through it. These items are obviously from the ABNCo sale and it remains to be seen what else will come to light.

Ho! Ho! Ho!



Rolling Stones on new stamps.

For many of us, the Rolling Stones, along with The Beatles were a major part of the soundtrack to our youth. They are now the fourth English band to be honoured with British stamps. The others were The Beatles in 2007, Pink Floyd in 2016 and Queen in 2020.

The stamp illustrated shows the drummer, Charlie Watts who died in August 2021. While others in the band were infamous for their often wild lifestyles, Charlie was the gentleman of the group, unassuming and always impeccably dressed. A successful jazz drummer before being persuaded to join the Stones, he was several years older than the others, and far more experienced musically. Bassist, Bill Wyman, said that the band's music didn't really come together until Charlie joined and his superbly disciplined beat added to Bill's bass line gave the rock-solid foundation to the band's sound that allowed the others the freedom to improvise freely.

In his autobiography, Bill also tells the story of how after the band became successful, they nearly had to change their name. Apparently, there was an old-time dance band in England run by two brothers whose surname was Stone and they had used the name Rolling Stones for years and had it registered.

They agreed to part with the name, no doubt for a price, but not because they thought that the other band should have it. The problem for them was the number of young people turning up at their dances and making a fuss because they were not the band they had expected to see. No doubt it was Andrew Loog Oldham, the "new" Rolling Stones manager who sorted it all out eventually.





The Downeys - A family of stamp engravers.

As promised earlier in this newsletter, here is a brief overview of the contribution the Downey family has made to the world of postage stamps. When Richard Downey made contact with details of the family archive it was a rare gift to be sure.

His great-grandfather, Alfred Dyer Downey, was an engraver but apparently, he only engraved one stamp, the 1c value from the Bolivia Centenary of the Republic set.

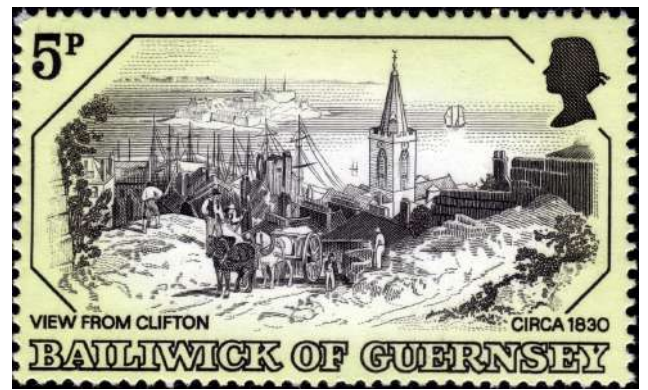
Richard's grandfather, Alfred James Downey was far more prolific having engraved all or part of more than sixty stamps for many different countries, including Ecuador, Newfoundland and the Falkland Islands shown here. He worked for Perkins Bacon and De La Rue.



Stamps engraved by Alfred James Downey

The Downeys - A family of stamp engravers.

Leslie Ernest Downey was Richard's father and he continued the family trade of stamp engraver, mainly in the 1950s when engraving was being displaced by lithography but continuing right up until 1977 when he engraved the 5p stamp in the Guernsey "Old Prints" set. Like his forebears, he was a superb engraver who produced many stamps for a wide range of countries. What follows is a selection of his work.



Proof of vignette of Jordan's King Hussein by Leslie Ernest Downey with the completed stamp below



Stamps engraved by Leslie Ernest Downey.