

CAMPBELLTOWN PHILATELIC NEWS

APRIL, 2011

EDITOR : DAVID MINER

NEXT MEETING 11TH MAY – MEMBER'S ROUND TABLE SEMINAR

What's on

23rd April (Sat) Punchbowl Stamp & Coin Fair
29 Arthur St. 9am – 3pm.

24th April (Sunday) Milton Ulladulla Stamp Club
Civic centre, Pacific Hwy 10 am – 4pm

30th April (Sat) Richmond Stamp & Coin Show
St Monica's Church Hall. Windsor & Bourke
Richmond. 9am – 3pm.

8th May Narellan Coin & Stamp Fair Queen St
Community Centre Hall. 9am – 3pm

.....

The Evolution of Mail and Postage Stamps

(Continued from previous edition)

Starting around 1290, the Venetian Tassis family organized a private courier service throughout the Italian city states. Marrying into German royalty, they later became known as the Thurn and Taxis family, managing an independent horse-based express service throughout the European continent handling diplomatic and commercial dispatches.

The business became so successful that Franz von Thurn and Taxis was appointed as the first Imperial Postmaster of the Holy Roman Empire at the turn of the 16th century to manage communications throughout the empire. Within a few decades typical deliveries between Brussels and Paris took 36 hours, and Brussels to Naples took 14 days. They employed over 20,000 people by the end of the 18th century and formed the basis of the modern 19th century postal system throughout Europe.

The English Postal Service was officially established under King James II in 1657 from royal courier routes operating in Elizabethan times as a way of collecting revenue from the domestic mails. Rates at that time were based on the distance the letter was to travel multiplied by the number of sheets of paper composing the letter.

For example, the basic rate for single sheet letters was 2 pence for up to 80 miles, 4 pence for 80-140 miles, and 6 pence for distances over 160 miles .

A two-sheet letter sent 100 miles would have cost 8 pence (2x4 pence) in total.

Delivery was made by private contractors who collected their fees in cash from the addressee and paid the government back accordingly based on annual contracts. This was the norm for about 200 years afterwards.

Henry Bishop, English Postmaster General (1660-1663), introduced the first postmark in London in 1661 as a way of documenting the month and day a letter was received at the General Post Office to minimize local delivery complaints. Known as "Bishop's marks," several types were used over an 80-year period.

Early U.S.A.

As for the American colonies, informal independently run postal routes began in Boston as early as 1639, with Boston to New York City service starting in 1672. Officially sanctioned mail service began in 1692 when King William III of Great Britain granted a delivery "patent" to an English nobleman. With it came exclusive rights to set up and offer service to the colonial governments. Routes were set up between New York, Philadelphia, Boston and Portsmouth by the following year. Individual riders made the treks rather than by relays. A single sheet letter cost 9 pence between New York and Boston.

By 1707 the Crown bought the patent back and began its own operation by an act of Parliament in 1711. Ben Franklin was named the postmaster of Philadelphia in 1737, and later was appointed by King George III in 1753 as Co-Deputy Postmaster General for America along with William Hunter.

Postage rates were high and looked upon as another form of taxation by the colonists. The British Stamp Act for America of 1765 placed a formal tax on official documents of all kinds, sparking the American Revolution. The tax was repealed a year later. Very few were ever actually used in the thirteen colonies, but saw service in Canada and the British Caribbean islands.

(To be continued..)

Do you collect Chinese stamps ?

February, 1980 a customer went into his local post office & was told they had a new edition of stamps for the Year of the Monkey. "I liked them so I bought 15 sheets of monkey stamps with 80 stamps in each sheet," he said.

After he used 4 sheets of the stamps for letters he learnt that one monkey stamp was now worth US\$4.70 to collectors so he decided to save the rest.

(At today's values they are worth US\$1,250 x 15 sheets x 80 stamps = \$1,500,000)

From 1990 to 2008, Liu bought three apartments by selling five sheets of the stamps. The 55-year-old is now saving the remaining 6 sheets to help fund his retirement.



BIRD OF PARADISE

There are more than three dozen species in the family *Paradisaeidae*, more commonly known as the birds of paradise. Most are distinguished by striking colors and bright plumage of yellow, blue, scarlet, and green. These colors distinguish them as some of the world's most dramatic and attractive birds. Males often sport vibrant feathered ruffs or amazingly elongated feathers, which are known as wires or streamers. Some species have enormous head plumes or other distinctive ornaments, such as breast shields or head fans.

Males put their bright colors and unusual ornaments to good use when they display for females. Their elaborate dances, poses, and other rituals accentuate their appearance and put on a phenomenal show for both female birds and any humans lucky enough to be in the vicinity. Such displays can last for hours, and in many species they consume a significant part of the male's time.

Birds of paradise are found in New Guinea and surrounding islands. The manucodes and riflebirds species also dwell in Australia. Birds of paradise are so attractive that their appearance once made them the target of skin hunters, who decimated some species.

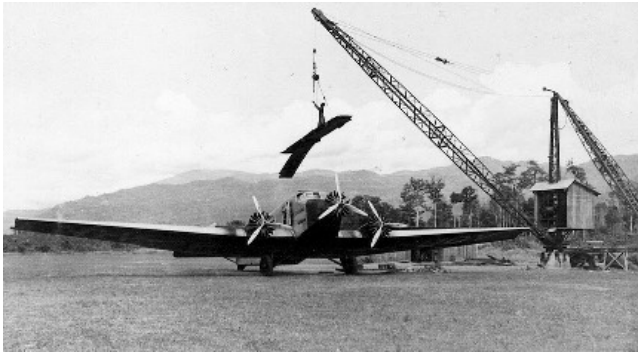
These birds also lend their name to a colorful flower. South Africa's bird-of-paradise (*Strelitzia reginae*) is a member of the banana family. It sports a beautiful flower believed to resemble the avian bird of paradise in flight.



Covers with Bird of Paradise are very collectable, even where they show signs of ageing. The editor is interested in purchasing additional covers, so tell him what you have to exchange or sell.

In New Guinea about the time of that cover (1931-36) the only means of transport between settlements was by boat along the coast, or inland by walking, or by aeroplane.

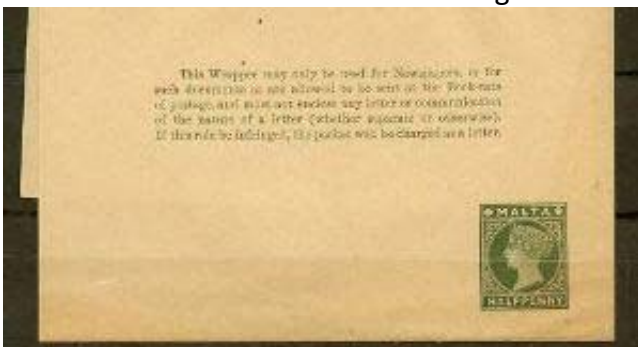
Aircraft were primitive, but utilised to carry everything imaginable. In the photo, workers are unloading through a hole in the roof, timber from an early Junkers of Guinea Airways. They carried any payload – people, house sections, bullocks, pigs, bags of rice, billiard tables, pianolas, & even a baby Ford motor car. In 1928 New Guinea accounted for the most air freight anywhere in the world. For many years they made more flights there, than the rest of the world combined (because of the goldfields).



There's more to Philately than just stamps.

NSW was the second country in the world to introduce Newspaper postal wrappers (1864), second only to USA (1861). There have been 110 countries who issued them.

Australia didn't ceased using them till 1980. British Commonwealth countries charged ½d.



Here is a 1900 one from Malta.

.....
The members who don't use a computer are at a disadvantage, because there are so many "sites" on the internet having stamp auctions or stamp information which assists collecting. We try not to constantly refer to these sites, however it is easier to do so than to mention reference books relating to our hobby. Here's one Eddie Blakeney pointed me to:-

<http://www.ozrevenues.com/>

.....
Many of us have bought / acquired a bulk lot of philatelic material without specifically wanting much of the contents. The "extras" are put away in the back of a cupboard. I pulled out some the other day & was surprised when I looked closely as some items – see photo below.



Part of at least a dozen postcards which could form a display entitled "Dead Letter Office".

.....
As next meeting -11th May – will be a "round table discussion" about member's philatelic issues, we ask you to bring along items that you want to talk about, as well as questions you want answered. Members can use the club email to enable the committee to prepare material.

mystampclub@yahoo.com.au

Even questions such as "which postal auctions do you recommend?", or "where can I best obtain bulk Australian used stamps?" could be researched & answered at the meeting.

.....
The US congress has refused the Postal Service's request to cease Saturday deliveries as a fiscal savings measure. The USPS is going broke and is seeking savings. Putting up the costs of services has only driven away customers. You would think US politicians would be supportive – just like their counterparts here in Australia.

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 19 (Bernama) -- Pos Malaysia, in collaboration with Korea Post, issued commemorative stamps and first-day covers, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of Malaysia-Korea diplomatic relations . Both stamps feature the image of the Malayan tiger and Korean tiger, said Pos Malaysia, Malaysian post services company.

The stamps, measuring 30mm X 50mm, are printed in sheets of 20 on SPM watermarked, phosphor-coated paper and are available in 50 cent denomination.



A must for animal thematic collectors..

Pensioners' anger after crook who conned them out of £33,000 stamp collections is ordered to pay back just 1p

A crooked antiques dealer who stole nearly £30,000 by conning pensioners out of their precious stamp collections has been ordered to pay back just 1p. Philip Clarke, 60, has avoided paying back all 32 of his elderly victims because he was declared bankrupt at the time of the thefts.

He duped customers into handing over their albums for a valuation before brazenly selling them on without their knowledge. Clarke then pocketed the cash and when his victims phoned to ask for their stamps or money, he used stalling tactics to put them off. He was eventually arrested and jailed for 21 months at Dorchester Crown Court, Dorset, for deception.

Clarke set up the Boscombe Stamp Company in Bournemouth after he was released from jail for a similar scam involving antiques. The father-of-two advertised his services in the Yellow Pages and in the

back of collectors' magazines.

His victims contacted him in order to have their stamp collections either valued or sold on.

David Allen, from Belton, Lincolnshire, lost his £12,000 collection of stamps and postcards after falling for his lies.

Eric Piper had built his collection up from the age of six to 89. He died shortly after making a complaint to the police when Clarke failed to give him his money. Clarke duped a man aged in his 90s and living in a nursing home out of a set of stamps worth £500 while the local Salvation Army lost £175 worth of stamps.

Clarke was jailed in March after he admitted 24 counts of evasion of liability by deception and asked for a further eight offences to be taken into consideration

. Clarke duped a man aged in his 90s and living in a nursing home out of a set of stamps worth £500 while the local Salvation Army lost £175 worth of stamps.

Clarke was jailed in March after he admitted 24 counts of evasion of liability by deception and asked for a further eight offences to be taken into consideration

Australian topic of the month " **FLOWERS** " .

Two new sets issued in March,2011 are flowers

