

Campbelltown Philatelic News

DECEMBER 2011



Editor David Miner

Next Meeting Wed 25th JANUARY "OTHER HOBBIES"

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL IS NOW DUE.

- Ordinary Member \$5.00 per annum
- Postal Member \$10.00 per annum
- O.S. Postal Member \$15.00 per annum
- (10) Year Membership (Best Buy) \$40.00.

Any member un-financial by March meeting 2012 will not be eligible/pay full price to attend our 40th birthday dinner, and may not participate in submitting circuit sheets or auction lots.

COMMENCEMENT OF AUSTRALIAN STAMPS

The Commonwealth commenced control from the states of telephone, telegraph & postal services from March 1st 1901; however it took until 1913 for them to issue Australian stamps. In the meantime the post offices in each state continued to sell only the state stamps where they were located. It had been suggested that state stamps should all have the letters AC (Australian Commonwealth) overprinted on them, but that was ignored.

All six states were to maintain separate postal accounts for ten years under the requirement of a clause of the Constitution. During that period, each state stamp was only valid within the boundaries of the issuing state. After 1910, each state stamp could be used right throughout Australia.

As uniform postal operations were implemented on May 1st, 1911 a competition was conducted for suitable designs for the first truly Australian stamps. "Skilled artists" were invited by the Commonwealth to submit their designs, with £100 & £50 prizes for the best two entries.

The requirements specified designs had to embody "Australian characteristics", but not be photographic. One of the judges was J.B. Cook, government printer, whilst another, A. Whelan was a member of the Victorian Philatelic Federation. There were 1,051 submissions from 533 entrants.

The winner was a Victorian, Mr H. Altmann with a King George V head, bottom corners showing a kangaroo & an emu, and upper corners each with three shields displaying state coats of arms.

Although this was the winning entry, Mr C. Frazer, the Post Master General declined to accept the design on the grounds it was too crowded & "fussy".

(Continued in next edition)

VOTE OF THANKS TO KITCHEN WORKERS

The committee passed a vote of thanks to the ladies who operated the kitchen at the 2011 Fisher's Ghost Stamp Fair so successfully. The tasty food & choices of beverage kept us refreshed throughout the day.

CHARITY AUCTION

Last Christmas club members raised \$555 for the

Kids of Macarthur Health Foundation.

Members will build the sum to \$1,000 through this month's auction in order that we may pass on this amount to;



Members are invited to submit the name of their favourite local charity for 2012 so the committee may select the next organisation your club will support.

PERSONALISED STAMPS

Post Luxemburg, unlike Australia Post, has brought out personalised stamps where the image occupies the bulk of the stamp, and the country name & value are relegated to a very small piece on the side. This would more likely encourage the public to become involved in those personalised stamps.

(See next page for an example, & make up your own mind).



Treasure hunters eye \$200m silver haul

September 27, 2011

When the SS Gairsoppa was torpedoed by a German U-boat, it took its huge silver cargo to a watery grave. Seventy years later, US divers are working to recover what may well be the biggest shipwreck haul ever. Florida-based Odyssey Marine Exploration has confirmed the identity and location of the Gairsoppa and cited official documents indicating the ship was carrying some 219 tonnes of silver coins and bullion when it sank in 1941 in the North Atlantic some 490 kilometres off the Irish coast.

That's worth about \$US200 million (\$204 million) today, which would make it history's largest recovery of precious metals lost at sea, Odyssey said.

"We've accomplished the first phase of this project - the location and identification of the target shipwreck - and now we're hard at work planning for the recovery phase," Odyssey senior project manager Andrew Craig said in a statement on Monday.

"Given the orientation and condition of the shipwreck, we are extremely confident that our planned salvage operation will be well suited for the recovery of this silver cargo."

Recovery is expected to begin next year. After a tender process the British government awarded Odyssey an exclusive salvage contract for the cargo and under the agreement Odyssey will retain 80 per cent of the silver bullion salvaged from the wreck.

The 125-metre Gairsoppa had been sailing from India back to Britain in February 1941, and was in a convoy of ships when a storm hit. Running low on fuel, the Gairsoppa broke off from the convoy and set a course for Galway, Ireland.

It never made it, succumbing to a U-boat's torpedo in the contested waters of the North Atlantic. Of the 85 people on board, only one survived. The Gairsoppa came to rest nearly 4700 metres below the surface, but Odyssey is insisting that won't prevent a full cargo recovery.

"We were fortunate to find the shipwreck sitting upright, with the holds open and easily accessible. This should enable us to unload cargo through the hatches as would happen with a floating ship alongside a cargo terminal."

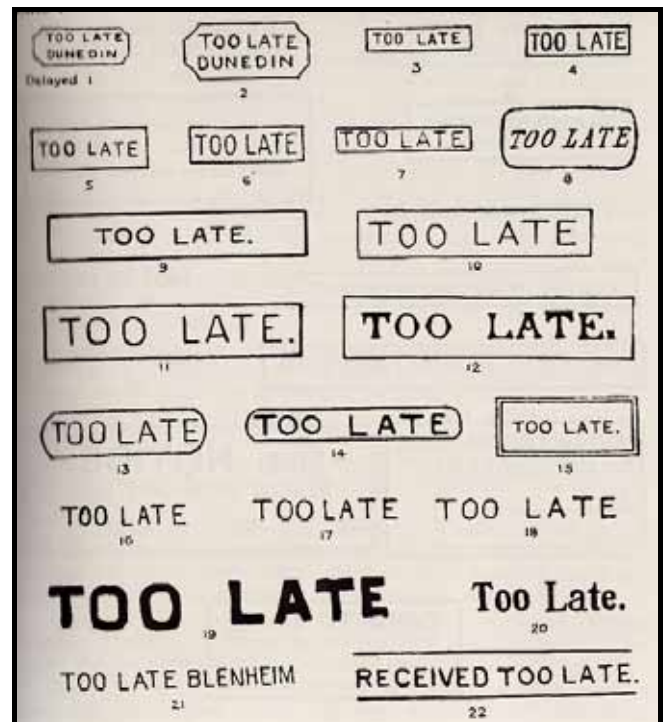
Odyssey, a world leader in deep-ocean exploration, recently conducted remotely operated vehicles from its main ship, the Odyssey Explorer, to inspect the shipwreck. It said it acquired still and video imagery from the site that were used to confirm the identity and evaluate the condition of the Gairsoppa.

"TOO LATE"

Postal authorities strive to achieve speedy delivery of letters & parcels. These days mail services are so regular & frequent that if a mail is missed, there are rarely grave consequences.

Back when communications were less frequent, the Postal authorities protected themselves against accusations of inefficiency, and culpability, by marking articles received after mail collection & despatch.

Below are some different markers used in New Zealand.



That's a lot of ways of saying the same thing.

Have you been good in 2011?



AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE DUE



Used postage due were once very cheap. Today they are rapidly increasing in price. Should you decide to collect them, start now !!

THE UN-WATERMARKED SERIES: 1958-1961.

It was decided on 17th January, 1957, that postage due stamps of denominations below 5/- should be printed on un-watermarked paper. This was in line with the practice then followed in regard to the printing of postage stamps. At the time, considerable quantities of finished and partly finished stocks of the several denominations were on hand and it was not practicable to put the decision into effect for approximately twelve months.

Early in 1958 distribution was commenced of some values of the series on un-watermarked paper but specific dates of issue were not arranged as earlier stocks held at post offices had first to be exhausted. Initial supplies of the 1d. and 8d. stamps were first sent out from the Note Printing Branch on 25th February, 1958, and of the 2d., 4d. and 5d. two days later. The first supplies of 1/- stamps were distributed on 6th May, 1958.

In view of the subsequent change of sheet format, it may be noted here that the above stamps were issued in sheets of 120 divided into two panes each of 60 stamps, (10 rows of 6). This sheet arrangement had been maintained since 1918. It may also be noted that the 7d. and 2/- stamps were not printed on un-watermarked paper at this time because substantial stocks on watermarked paper were still held.

A Wollongong philatelic member has a most wonderful collection of World Wide postage due stamps. Perhaps this club might persuade him to display a selection.

Really, have you??



UNANNOUNCED NEW ISSUE



To celebrate the 60th anniversary of ANZUS (and coinciding with the arrival in Australia of President Obama) this stamp was released in sheets of ten. Not all post offices received a supply; however there appeared to be a large output.



A PROPOSED FRAMA MACHINE REPLACEMENT

In 1988, a development contract was let for an Australian made stamp vending machine that was similar to the specification for the FRAMA Stamp Vending Machine introduced by Australia Post in 1984 obviously a potential market for the machine. The contract was let with Aberfeldie, the same company that later supplied the coin validators for the Australian FRAMA machines. The company is probably better known for the ticket validating machines supplied to the NSW Transport Commission for use on the Sydney buses. The "stamp" was printed on a dot matrix printer and the output format was readily programmable to provide such fixed information such as "Australia" and machine number. The machine was programmed to query the user to his/her requirements and, having been established, the amount of coinage required displayed.

A later version was developed and fitted into a solidly constructed case. This version contained features which are not present in the FRAMA machine. It was fitted with a coin dispenser that would enable change to be dispensed to the nearest five cents. While the two coins selected may be varied, the two most commonly selected are the 20 cent and 5 cent coins.

The machine would then try to dispense change to the next lowest five cents subject to coins being available. For

example, if a \$1 coin was inserted for a 75 cent stamp, the machine would normally dispense a 20c and 5c coin in change. If the 20c bin was depleted, the change would be dispensed in 5c coins. If correct change was not available or the required change was not a multiple of five cents, the shortfall would be dispensed as a stamp.

Production prototype was fitted with a dot matrix printer that could be programmed with the fixed information. The "smartness" of the machine had still to be fully developed but facilities allowed for included the ability to be remotely interrogated for statistics and ongoing correct operation and possibly for down loading of programmes to the inbuilt computing facility. The machine could also be operated by a swipe card similar to the recently introduced Telecom phone card.

A trial batch of machines were expected in late 1990 for use in the Canberra area. Unfortunately, problems were experienced which prevented the development from being finalised. With the development of the Retail Post concept, the project was put in abeyance.



MORE ABOUT STAMPS IN COLONIAL TIMES.

During the colonial period a practice had developed of utilizing New South Wales stamps in certain Pacific Islands which were not under Australian jurisdiction, and as a matter of practice these stamps were also employed in Lord Howe Island, a dependency of New South Wales, and in Norfolk Island, technically a British colony but de facto under New South Wales control. Following Federation, the same usage of stamps of the New South Wales regional series was continued. However, a new principle was established by the Postmaster General in May 1907, when in a decision concerned with the cost of carriage of private mail bags for British officials in the South Seas - which bags usually contained private mail to and from local residents in the same island groups - he decided that the cost of transportation should be borne in equal proportion by the Commonwealth and the persons to whom they were addressed, except in cases where stamps bearing the name of a State of the

Commonwealth were used in prepayment of postage in both directions when the Commonwealth would bear the whole cost.

The effect of this determination not only encouraged the usage of Australian stamps in those Pacific areas affected but removed the long-held view that only stamps bearing the words "NEW SOUTH WALES" could be so employed. It was now possible to use stamps of the other regional series in such areas, but actually very little such usage occurred because the habit of drawing stamp stocks from the G.P.O. Sydney was retained, and comparatively few travellers carried stamps of other Australian series. As might be expected, however, some philatelic covers illustrative of this new situation were originated at the time.

CANADA POST LOOSES PAY CASE

The Supreme Court of Canada ruled in favour of workers in a pay equity case involving women at Canada Post ***that was originally filed 28 years ago.*** The Public Service Alliance of Canada (PSAC) claimed in August 1983 that women were being discriminated against under the Canadian Human Rights Act because they made less than men in comparable Canada Post jobs.

After lengthy proceedings, the Canadian Human Rights Tribunal ruled in the workers' favour in 2005

PSAC had originally asked for \$300 million, but the tribunal reduced the damages by 50 per cent to \$150 million.

In 2008, the Federal Court overturned that decision in a ruling that was subsequently upheld 2-1 by the Federal Court of Appeal, with Justice John Evans dissenting. But the Supreme Court last year agreed to hear a final appeal and on Thursday, in a rare decision delivered orally after the parties had made arguments, ruled unanimously in favour of the workers.

Punchbowl Stamp & Coin Fair

Punchbowl Community Centre
44 Rossmore Ave, Punchbowl 10am till 3pm
Sat - 28th January 2012
Sat - 25th February 2012
Sat - 24th March 2012
Sat - 28th April 2012
Sat - 26th May 2012

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL
BE SAFE AND SEE YOU IN 2012**

