



Philatelic Society of Australia

Commemorative Meetings 2011



Report for Wednesday 21 September 2011

George V commemorative and pictorial issues of Australia; 1927-1936 by Arthur Gray

The ninth meeting of the Society's centenary year took place at Philas House on 21st September with 17 members & 4 visitors in attendance. The guest presenter was Arthur Gray, who had recently won a gold medal plus special prize for this display at Indipex 2011. The display "The George V Commemorative and Pictorial Issues of Australia" was presented.

Arthur introduced his 8-frame display by giving an account of his early days collecting philatelic items before moving on to describe some of the more novel and rarer items in his display. It opened with the 1927 issue "Opening of Parliament House Canberra", and featured die proofs, original steel engraving plates, and examples of the 5 colours used in the progressive proofs. Examples of the 1928 "Melbourne Philatelic Exhibition", and those of the 1929 "Perth-Adelaide Air Service" followed this. Of the airmail issue on display were the four printing types as well as a heliogravure reproduction.

The display of the 1929 "Centenary of Western Australia" included the artist's preliminary sketches while that of the 1930 "Centenary of Sturt's Exploration" featured an unadopted photographic proof and a retouched die proof.

The 1931 "Kingsford Smith Flights" issues were covered extensively and included a photograph of a proof showing the "Southern Cross" flying in the wrong direction. The 1932 "Sydney Harbour Bridge" issues showed examples of the retouch over left center of bridge together with a full sheet of the 5/- value.

The displays of the 1934 "Centenary of Victoria" featured examples of competition entries, an essay on a replica card, the 1/- issue in 3 trial colours and an example of the 1/- black with wavy perforations. The final 2 commemorative series of 1936 were the "Opening of the Tasmanian Cable" and "the Centenary of South. Australia", once again retouches and printing flaws dominates the displays of these issues.

Martin Walker (visiting from Adelaide) in his vote of thanks commented on the extent and variety of the collection's coverage, and stated that it would be most difficult that could match the depth & rarity as displayed. The audience demonstrated their enthusiasm by the questions to Arthur and over an hour was spent in viewing the display.

This was the final guest display for 2011 Centenary Year, but we will continue to enliven the 3rd Wednesday each month in 2012 with displays from noted philatelists.

Our 2012 Syllabus will be on the web site during November.

Richard Peck in his vote of thanks commented on the extent of the collection's coverage and stated it must be the most complete assemblage of faults in Australian peel and stick material. The audience demonstrated their enthusiasm by the number of questions directed to Barbara, and the time spent in viewing the display.