



**To all our Members and Friends – welcome to the June 2021 Newsletter**

As previously advised arrangements for our Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair on Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup> at the Eastwood Leisure Centre are progressing well. We will have the updated Flyers out and about soon.



The usual Mini Sheets and Ballarat Historical Covers will be promoted also. Our friends at the venue advise we can now have up to 200 people in each room – Wow! There are restrictions in relation to usage of the kitchen but we will know soon what we can and can't do in relation to that. Jack Van Beveren has volunteered to be our Covid Officer for the Fair. Frank Myers will assist with some safety options during the set up on the Saturday.

Our May meeting was a lot of fun as usual with Tony and Jack conducting the club auction with lots of interesting comments especially from Tony Reyntjes. A couple of donated parcels of stamps were won by new Members of the club.

Brian Wallis brought us up to date regarding our banking changes and our very sound financial position. Neil Petrass continues to pick up and sort the circuit sheets for the club meetings and members.

John Niehof gave us a brilliant talk with a slide presentation of his numerous trips to the Antarctic. John was one of two maintenance carpenters there, spending several years at what is really 'Down Under?' He of course collects Antarctic along with Holland and other countries.

I would like to particularly thank The Ballarat Times newspaper who promotes the "Free Stamps for Kids" every week, now for over 14 months. This is excellent publicity for us. Soon we will send more stamps to each recipient of the packets encouraging them to come to the next Fair.

Secretary Jan Kerr advises that the management of the Eastwood Leisure Centre is very cooperative and helpful. We hope to promote the Fair through their website shortly.

Our friends at Bendigo Philatelic Society are back on track with their Stamp Fair on Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>. More info from their website.

We are still considering buying a supply of quality albums as gifts for winners or participants in our Fair Displays.

Cheers and more fun stamping!

**Upcoming Events** *Note all activities are subject to COVID-19 Restrictions in place at the time*

- June 21 Nominations due for Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2021/22
- July 19 **Annual General meeting**  
*President's Display*
- October 10 **Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair**  
Eastwood Leisure Centre

Inside this issue:

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| From My Collection – State of Rainbow Creek                     | 3   |
| Symbols Overprinted on Dead Country Stamps                      | 4/5 |
| 24 carat collector items for the collector who has everything!! | 5   |
| Surcharges in the Russian                                       | 6   |
| Royal Mail Barcodes on 2nd Class Stamps                         | 7   |
| Philatelic Quiz   | 8   |
| 10 Facts about the Penny  | 10  |

## Ballarat Philatelic Society Syllabus for 2021

*Note all activities are subject to COVID-19 Restrictions in place at the time*

|              |   |             |  |
|--------------|---|-------------|--|
| June 21      | Nominations due for Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2021/22                                      | October 10  | (Sunday)<br><b>Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair</b><br>Eastwood Leisure Centre |
| July 19      | <b>Annual General meeting</b><br><i>President's Display</i>   | October 18  | Other Collections / Hobbies Night  |
| August 16    | Inter-club social night and auction<br><b>(Club Newsletter items due)</b>                                 | November 15 | Mystery Guest Night  |
| August 30    | Circuit Sheets and Committee meeting  | November 29 | Circuit Sheets and Committee Meeting                                       |
| September 20 | Annual Membership Due<br>Club Member's Special Interest Display:<br><i>Dutch East Indies: Peter Morey</i> | December    | End of year Function<br>tbc  |

# **BALLARAT PHILATELIC SOCIETY** INC.

Established 1904

## Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair

**Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>**

at the Eastwood Leisure Centre

***Keep this Day Free***

Details of the Covers and Mini sheets will be released soon.

Watch your email for details of how to order and pay.

If you wish to book a table contact Neil Petrass

# The State of Rainbow Creek



In Victoria, a long-running dispute over flood damage to farm properties led to the creation of the Independent State of Rainbow Creek, in the state's northeast, by Tom Barnes in 1979.

Rainbow Creek was founded as a result of a long-running compensation dispute between a group of Victorian farmers in the town of Cowwarr, and an agency of the Victorian State Government, the State Rivers and Water Supply Commission (SRWSC). The farmers were seeking compensation for the decades of flooding and subsequent damage to their farmland and property due to flooding of the Thomson River. They blamed the flooding on government incompetence.

The secession was intended as a way of publicising their cause to the wider community. Barnes became aware of the Hutt River Province and seeking to emulate "Prince Leonard" took legal advice and then declared the unilateral secession of his property from the State of Victoria on 23 July 1979. He appointed himself "Governor" of the newly created Independent State of Rainbow Creek, and together with "Minister for Information", George Downing, swore allegiance to Queen Elizabeth II of the United

Kingdom as his Head of State. His secession document was lodged with the Victorian Governor, the Governor-General of Australia, Buckingham Palace and the International Court of Justice in The Hague.

Public attention was again focused on Cowwarr, and the existence of the State of Rainbow Creek ensured that Barnes remained a thorn in the side of the SRWSC and the Victorian Government for a number of years, as he issued passports, stamps, banknotes and other printed material to promote the cause of his farming community. Ill health eventually forced Barnes to retire to Queensland in the mid 1980s, from where he has since published several books of local history and poetry. The issues that led to the Rainbow Creek secession remain unresolved.



## SYMBOLS OVERPRINTED ON DEAD COUNTRY STAMPS

National symbols and emblems are important for building or emphasizing a common identity. Therefore, it is no surprise that nations trying to change (or even create) its identity often used an image, rather than a name. In this edition, we will explore six “countries” which used emblems on their overprints for its postage stamps. For those of us who collect stamps, banknotes or even coins, learning these and other such symbols can make county identification far easier. Plus, we might learn a little more about the country along the way.

### UKRAINIAN NATIONAL REPUBLIC (PRE-USSR)



Soon after the Russian Revolution, Ukraine declared independence on January 25, 1918. The Ukrainian Peoples Republic adopted the *tryzub*, a unique form of a trident as its national symbol. The *tryzub* played an important part in Ukrainian history, including being on the coat of arms of Volodymyr the Great, the Grand Prince of Kiev in the 10th century.

While Ukraine did initially issue a set of 5 stamps (called the Shagiv issues), in August, 1918, Ukrainian authorities ordered that all available stocks of Imperial Russian stamps be overprinted with the *tryzub* for use in Ukraine. This was done primarily to make higher denominations, reduce Russian influence as well as save money by using their inventory of Imperial stamps. Six different city post offices overprinted the stamps, each with their own versions of the *tryzub*. A host of different designs and variations were issued. The Ukrainian Philatelic and Numismatic Society has put together a nice summary of the various versions of the trident, which I have included in my Ukraine Stamp Album.

### REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA (PRE-USSR)

Armenia is another ethnic region of the Russian Empire which declared its independence after the revolution. As did Ukraine, Armenia took their ample supply of Russian Imperial stamps, and hand-stamped them at local post offices for use in the new republic.



While technically not a symbol, the first two overprints, which resemble the letter “Z”, were formed by the combination the Armenian letters for H and P. Referring to *Haykakan Post* (Armenian Post), the “Z” symbol is often referred to as the “HP” monogram. The third overprint was used on surcharges of new values. Some say it is a stylized “HH” in the Armenian Alphabet which stand for *Hayastanee Hanrapetutian*. Recently others have advocated that it is a combination of the Armenian letters “DH”, which stand for *Derutune Hayastanee*, meaning State of Armenia. There is a large variety of these overprints available, and common for these types of issues, many are counterfeits.

## SYMBOLS OVERPRINTED ON DEAD COUNTRY STAMPS (CONTINUED)

### CHILEAN OCCUPATION OF PERU



In 1879, Chile went to war against Peru and Bolivia, fighting over a Bolivian region of the Atacama Desert rich in nitrates. Nitrates are a basic ingredient of saltpeter, which is required to make gunpowder. Often called the War of the Pacific, the superior Chilean military decimated the poorly prepared Bolivian army after the first battle. However, the war continued with Peru, who was supported by the Americans. With a superior navy, Chilean forces were able to drive back the Peruvian military, ultimately capturing Lima in Jan 1881, as well as other key cities in Peru. What followed was a three and a half year occupation. For postage, Chilean authorities overprinted Peruvian stamps with the Coat of Arms of Chile for use within occupied areas. Many outlying areas of the country, which supported the resistance, applied their own local overprints or even created their own crude stamps. The occupation ended in Aug 1884, when Chilean troops left the country. The disputed territory was annexed by and remains part of Chile today.

### ITALIAN SOCIAL REPUBLIC

As the Italian Social Republic established its postal system, Italian stamps were overprinted with the fasces, the emblem of fascism. The fasces was an ancient Roman symbol of power carried by officials who were responsible for executing judgment. The fasces was an axe, with a bundle of sticks surrounding the handle. It was carried by the Roman official, indicating their power over life and death. This symbol is often used today to indicate justice, and is part of the seal of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts.



Contributed by Cliff Matthews

## 24 carat collector items for the collector who has everything!!



The gold stamp from Luxembourg is a recreation of the first EURO-PA stamp issued, a celebrating the 65th anniversary of the EURO-PA stamps.

The EUROPA stamps cooperation has grown considerably since the introduction 65 years ago, and 52 members currently take part in the jointly themed stamps every year.

The gold stamp from Luxembourg is made from 24 carat gold, and only 650 stamps have been created for the issue. The stamp is priced at only 50 EUR.



The two gold stamps above depict Queen Maxima of the Netherlands marking her 50th birthday of the Queen, which took place on May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Born in Argentina in 1971, she married the Crown Prince (now King) Willem-Alexander in 2002. She has been Queen since 2013, when Queen Beatrix abdicated the throne to her son. Both stamps are available for only 50 EUR.

## SURCHARGES IN THE RUSSIAN CIVIL WAR

Probably some of the more complicated surcharges to identify came from the chaos of the Russian Civil War. After the fall of the monarchy and the October Revolution (Nov, 1917), a bloody civil war erupted in Russia. The Bolsheviks (often called the Red Army), created a new state called the Russian Socialist Federal Soviet Republic (RSFSR). In opposition, the loyalist armies (often called the White Army) generally wanted to reinstate the monarchy.



The RSFSR, printed their own stamps, usually with revolutionary themes. However the fractured White Armies took the readily available imperial stamps and surcharged them in Russian Rubbles, due to rampant inflation caused by the war. These surcharged stamps are often the only ones issued by a particular entity. In the images above, I have shown four examples of stamps surcharged 50 Russian Rubbles during this period. They can only be distinguished by the font and size of the numerals.

The first is from the Provisional All-Russian Government under Admiral Aleksandr Kolchak. In 1918, Kolchak declared his government to be the legitimate anti-Bolshevik government of Russia. The Provisional government was headquartered in Omsk, a city in Western Siberia. Kolchak also had the gold reserves of the former Russian Empire, as well as the support of the Allies in the civil war. However, one of the firsts objectives of the superior Red Army was to take Omsk and possession of the gold reserves. In November 1919, they took the city and the reserves, and eventually captured and executed Kolchak on February 7, 1920. The stamps issued by the Kolchak government can be found under Siberia in catalogues.

The next two examples are found under “South Russia” in Scott and Stanley Gibbons. The Cossacks, fierce fighters and strong supporters of the Czar, where natural allies of the White Armies. After the Bolshevik revolution, the Don Cossack host declared its independence and the formation of the Don Republic in 1918, Don territory bordered much of Ukraine, who were their natural allies.

The third surcharge was issued by the Kuban Cossack host, lying south of the Don on the eastern shores of the Black sea. The Kubans were more fractured than the Don, with groups supporting both sides. Ultimately the Red supporters were ejected from Kuban territory. Both Cossack Hosts were part of General Denkins White Army of South Russia. The White Army was ultimately defeated by the Bolsheviks in 1920, and afterwards, the Soviets instituted the brutal “decossackization” (Raskazachivaniye), a major program of genocide and exile.

To make matters more complicated, there were also bogus stamps issued during the civil war, such as the one that is similar to the Kuban issue, but without the dash.

## Royal Mail new barcodes on 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Stamps.

Royal Mail started adding barcodes to a limited number of 2nd Class stamps from March 23<sup>rd</sup>, as part of the company's extensive modernisation drive. The unique barcodes are poised to pave the way for innovative customer services and benefits in future.

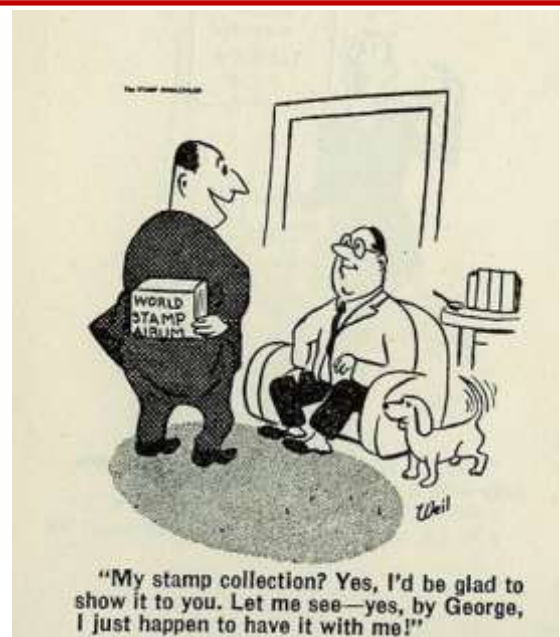
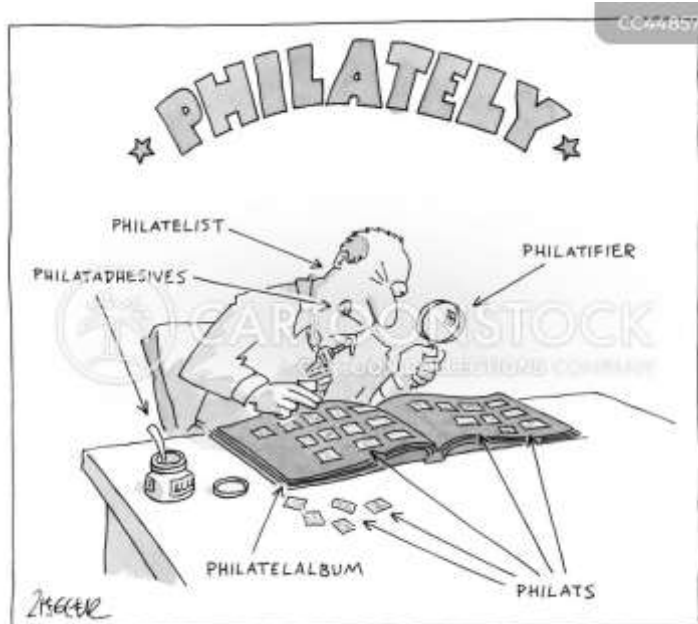
These stamps are produced in sheets of only 50, rather than 100, so the bar-code for point of sale use is new. The top panel has two stamps, and is followed by four panes of 12 stamps, in three rows of 4. The whole is narrower than the existing sheets, each panel being 170 x 100 mm.

Nick Landon, Chief Commercial Officer at Royal Mail, said: *'This initiative will see Royal Mail become one of the first postal authorities in the world to add unique barcodes to stamps. By doing this, we are looking to transform the humble stamp so that we can offer our customers even more convenient, new services in the future.'*



These first trial stamps will not be available from Post Offices: the initial pilot will see around 20 million 2nd Class stamps supplied to UK businesses through the retailer Viking Direct and through Royal mail services.

Datamatrix codes in the post are not new despite Royal Mail's claims, although the way that they are going to be used probably is. In the USA a similar code has been used on machine vended stamps as far back as at least 2001.



## Newsletter Items

The editor of this newsletter is in need of contributions from any of our readers, he would like to highlight the knowledge, experiences, interests and collecting needs of our broad readership that stretches throughout Australia and overseas. Overseas contributions would be most welcome. All he asks is that items are forwarded in Word or Pages format and pictures in jpeg or png format for ease of handling.

Useful tips, interesting trivia and useful websites are required for the newsletter, the editor is running out of information. All our readers are urged to contribute. Email anything you can to [tacey55@gmail.com](mailto:tacey55@gmail.com).

**April Newsletter deadline Friday April 16th**

# June Stamp Quiz

Source [Stamp Quiz 2 - All About Stamps](#)

1. Which African country was first to issue non-colonial postage stamps?
2. What were the two oils postmaster had to mix with printer's ink to make obliterator ink for cancelling the first Penny Blacks in 1840?
3. In which year was a GB 4½d stamp first issued?



4. Which country was first to use catapult mail; and in which year?
5. Which king is portrayed on the 1886 first stamp of the Protectorate Kingdom of Tonga?

6. Which ship features on the 1.50 franc stamp issued by France in 1935?



7. Which sport is celebrated on the 3 cent 1928 Netherlands Olympics stamp?

8. What 1925 event was celebrated in Norway with a set of Air stamps?
9. What production method was used to create Portugal's first postage stamps in 1853?
10. Which ruler appeared on the first stamps of Liechtenstein?



# 10 facts about the 1840 Penny Black stamp

Source [Collecting rare British stamps - 10 facts about the 1840 'Penny Black' stamp - All About Stamps](#)

## 1. No country name

The 1d Black is the world's first adhesive postage stamp - as such the 1840 stamp and all of Britain's subsequent stamps do

## 2. Invented by Rowland Hill

Rowland Hill is credited with inventing the postage stamp after issuing a pamphlet on postal reform, he described the idea as '...a bit of paper just large enough to bear the stamp, and covered at the back with a glutinous wash'.

## 3. The public were asked to design the stamp!

A 'Treasury Competition' was run in the lead up to the stamp issue, asking members of the public to design the new labels. None of the designs were deemed good enough and a portrait of Queen Victoria was used. *not* include the country's name.

## 4. The Mulready envelope was expected to be more popular

The authorities also issued a postal stationery lettersheet at the same time as the Penny Black. Called '[Mulreadys](#)' after the artist whose illustration was used on them, the sheets were expected to be more popular than stamps, but were widely ridiculed by the public and often mocked by other illustrators. The lettersheets were withdrawn within months.

## 5. It's not that rare!

A reported 68,808,000 copies of the stamp were printed, meaning the Penny Black is not a rare stamp. However, examples in mint condition and with neat margins can command very high prices.

## 6. The postal workers had to cut the sheets into stamps

With no perforations, each Penny Black stamp was cut from the sheets of 240 using scissors, meaning the margins of each stamp can vary greatly, depending on the dexterity of the postal worker

## 7. The ultimate first day covers

The Penny Black went on sale on to the public on 1 May 1840, although it was not valid for use until 6 May, 1840. Despite this, some examples of the Penny Black stamp were used before 6 May; such covers are extremely rare and most desirable

## 8. You can tell where the stamp appeared on the sheet

The letters in the bottom corners of the Penny Black stamp refer to the position of the stamp within the sheet of 240. The very top left stamp in the sheet would have the letters 'AA', moving right, the next stamp would have 'AB', moving down, the stamp would have 'BB' and so on.

## 9. The 2d Blue followed just two days later

The second adhesive postage stamp was the 2d Blue, which followed on 8 May, 1840.

## 10. The stamp quickly met postmark problems

The '[Maltese Cross](#)' cancellation used on the Penny Black stamps proved difficult to see and prompted the introduction of the [1d Penny Red stamp](#), which replaced the Penny Black in 1841.