

Happy New Year and welcome to the February 2023 edition of our Ballarat Stamp Club Newsletter.

Our first January Meeting was well attended and a fun night. We welcomed a new Member Norm Gerraty who recently moved to Buninyong. Welcome Norm.



The Committee met on the 30th of January and finalised the Syllabus which is now on the Web Site. We are also seeking Website Sponsors.

Neil Petrass has sent out the invitations to potential Dealers for the Monday March 13th Begonia Festival Stamps and Coins Fair. Peter and Pat are arranging the Covers and mini sheets which are very colourful. They are the 26th consecutive issues of this type. **The Ballarat Historical Cover is a "Snow Scene" from about 1904 and the Australia Post mini sheet is the spectacular 'Budgerigars'.**

We would love to have more entries for the Displays for the March Fair, perhaps from other Clubs. These Displays are not competitive, just for the fun and interest of all visitors. Please contact Jan Kerr (Secretary) or Jack Van Beveren through the club's email info@ballaratstampclub.com.au if you have a display to exhibit.

Our Guest Speaker at the November meeting was Ross Newton, current President of the Brighton Philatelic Society. Ross is a specialist in Thematic collections and his very interesting and competent presentation was well received by all present. Ross also became a Ballarat PS Member.

This year the Ballarat Club will have a number of guest speakers in addition to Club Member presentations.

Later in the year we will have an Inter Club night and auction details of which will be circulated to members and other stamp clubs.

A few Members have been unwell recently and we especially send Gentleman Life Member Norm Hamilton our best regards. We wish the 'Sickies' a speedy recovery.

A note from the Website. The Club received several requests as to **'What do I do with my inherited stamp collection'?** We are arranging some options for collections to be brought to our Stamps & Coins Fairs and on other occasions. This will give people access to advice from different Dealers and Club Members if they wish. Note members will not be giving valuations. This information will be placed on the Website in due course.

The Ballarat Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair will be held on Sunday 8th October 2023.

Peter Morey, President Ballarat Philatelic Society

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Newsletter Items

Please forward anything of philatelic interest to info@ballaratstampclub.com.au for inclusion in future newsletters. Stories preferred in a word processing format rather than PDF, pictures in jpeg or png format, although I can work around these restrictions if necessary. Please contribute to the next Newsletter due in late March, items will be accepted between now and then.

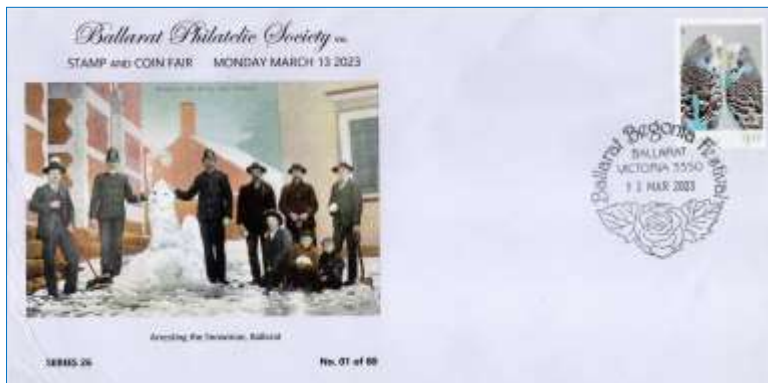
Ballarat Philatelic Society Inc A0012556J

Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamps & Coins Fair

**Monday 13th
March 2023**

9.30am — 3.30pm

Eastwood Leisure Centre,
20 Eastwood Street,



For Sale:

Limited Editions Series 26
of the Ballarat Historical
**Envelopes. 'Arresting the
Snowman, Ballarat'.**

Only \$3

Australian Post
overprinted **'Budgerigars'**
miniature sheet.

\$15

To order contact –

[Peter Morey](#)

petermorey05@gmail.com

0435 601 673

- Orders processed in order of receipt with payment
- Allow \$2 postage or \$4.50 for registered post
- Overseas clients allow for 15% for PayPal
- Direct Payment
- BSB: 013 516 A/C: 642092592
Ref: Your Name
- Cheques payable to
'Ballarat Philatelic Society'
PO Box 337, Wendouree, Vic. 3355



**Note that 2022 items all
sold out, so get in
quick!**

NEXT FAIR Sunday October 8th

VISIT our website: ballaratstampclub.com.au

New members most welcome!

Ballarat Stamp Club 2023 Syllabus

Below is the proposed program of events and activities for 2023. We will endeavour to adhere to this but will always be open to new experiences and opportunities that may come up.

Meetings: 7.00 pm (Social gathering) 7.30 pm (Formal meeting)
3rd and 5th Mondays of each month (except December)

Eastwood Leisure Centre
(follow arrows to our allocated room)

20 Eastwood Street, Ballarat

Membership \$15.00 Visitors welcome

January 16: Meeting and Circuit Sheets.

January 30: Committee Meeting.

February 20: Meeting and Circuit sheets. Eureka Displays – One sheet Letter “A”

March 13: **(Monday – Labour Day) Begonia Festival Stamps and Coins Fair**

Eastwood Leisure Centre

March 20: Eureka Displays – Two Sheets Letter “B”

Club Member’s Special Interest Display: Jack van Beveren:

(Club Newsletter items due for April Edition)

April 17: Eureka Displays – Three sheets Letter “C”

May 15: Eureka Displays – Four sheets Letters “D”

Club Member’s Special Interest Display: Keith Sanders:

(Club Newsletter items due for June Edition)

May 29: Committee Meeting and Circuit Sheets

June 19: Nominations due for Office Bearers and Committee Members for 2023

July 17: **Annual General Meeting**

Guest speaker and/or President’s Display

(Club Newsletter items due for August Edition)

August 21: Other Collections and Hobbies nights.

Sept. 18: Club Member’s Special Interest Display: Neil Petrass: *Topic to be advised* Annual Membership Due

October 8: **(Sunday) Eureka Stamps and Coins Fair** Eastwood Leisure Centre

October 16: Interclub Night

October 30: Committee Meeting and Circuit Sheets

Nov 20: Meeting, Guest Speaker and Circuit sheets

Dec 18: End of year Christmas Party Function 6 p.m. Eastwood Leisure Complex.

Stamp Forgeries

Stamp forgeries have been around almost as long as postage stamps. The first adhesive postage stamp was issued in May 1840. The first classical forgeries began to show up in the 1860's. The most famous of the forgers were Sperati and Fournier. Their forgeries were of excellent quality, and the forged stamps are sometimes nearly impossible to differentiate from the original government issued postage stamps of the time.

Any time there is a collectible commodity that is in high demand, there are people bent on deceiving collectors with counterfeited products. This goes for ancient artifacts, ancient Asian pottery, autographs, antiques, rare coins, and of course, rare stamps ... anything that can be sold to an unsuspecting buyer, in order to make money.

Sometimes, the seller might not actually be aware that the stamp he is selling is not authentic. He may have bought it in a collection or from another seller, thinking it was actually real! That is why the online auction buyer must have a high degree of education in what he is collecting. Always pay attention to what you are buying. If buying a classic stamp, always take a photo of the lot image and view the image in Windows Picture Viewer or similar, enlarging it to reveal the fine details, before deciding to bid on it.

On the other hand, for the philatelist specializing in a particular issue of any country, a reference collection of known forgeries is a very valuable asset. In some cases, as with the forgeries of Sperati, the forgery can be worth as much, if not more, than the actual stamp it was created to imitate!

*Unless you are an EXPERT in a particular field of 19th Century philately, remember the following cardinal rule when buying any high-priced 19th Century stamps that have been extensively forged or reprinted: **ONLY BUY AUTHENTICATED OR CERTIFIED EXAMPLES** from dealers that have a strong track-record in selling that type of material!*

But all of us can be deceived, if we're not careful

If you collect any kind of classical philatelic material, ESPECIALLY IF YOU COLLECT ITALIAN STATES, GERMAN STATES, SWISS CANTONS, OR ANY OTHER EARLY CLASSICS THAT HAVE VERY HIGH PRICES, ensure that you have reliable reference material.

The examples below and on the next page are samples of the forgeries



The famous Hong Kong 96c Olive-bistre stamp (left) and Sperati forgery (right) with gum and genuine Crown CC wmk

In doing some research for this article I found <https://stampforgeries.com/>, a site that provides 6000 plus Images of forged stamps compared to genuine stamps side-by-side and organised country by country.

This is one example of material available, you get a plethora of sites and references simply by searching "Stamp Forgery Web Pages".



Above Some CAPE OF GOOD HOPE forgeries

Note the first one with the short hair and the triangle off centre

Below FOURNIER DEALER SAMPLES An interesting item sent by Fournier to dealers. These are his "premier choix" items (some of his first choice forgeries)



Reader Request

Cliff, a prolific contributor to our Newsletter, has supplied the images below and has asked that a reader may be able to solve a dilemma for him. He writes *"I have an opportunity to purchase these Venezuela stamps at a very good price. Scott's catalogue says there are forgeries and reprints of these Murillo stamps. I did some looking online but my vision is not the greatest and can't determine if these are original, reprint, or forgeries. Hoping someone can help. The #137 seems to be original as it has the small mark at bottom below the 5. They are all perf. 12."*

If you can assist Cliff please email him through our club email info@ballaratstampclub.com.au and we will put you in touch with him.



As suggested in the previous article using your computer enlarge the image to give you a better view of its intricacies. You could also use the site mentioned in the previous article to see if they are noted forgeries.



The Honourable Thomas Coutts

THE ships of the Honourable East India Company hold an important and colourful place in the development of intercontinental mail transport. Fast, well-founded and efficiently manned, the vessels of this company of merchant venturers which founded the British Indian Empire had an enviable reputation for reliability. Perhaps the most celebrated of these fine ships was the *Thomas Coutts*.

In March 1826 carrying goods and mail under the command of Alexander Chrystie, the *Thomas Coutts* left England and arrived in Bombay, India, three months later on June 2. In August she sailed for China, stopping at Singapore and Macao. The ship left China on November 23 and reached St Helena late in January 1827. She arrived in the Downs, in the English Channel, on March 2 having made the historic and record-breaking voyage in

10 days less than a year. The handsome *Thomas Coutts* was one of the many famous Blackwall frigates – built in the Blackwall Yard on the Thames in 1817. The first ships to be built on the Blackwall stocks were all East India-men, the earliest believed to be the *Globe* – named after a local tavern – which sailed for India in 1611.

Throughout the 18th century the East India Company laid down exacting specifications for its ships, many of which were superior to those of the Royal Navy. These vessels reached perfection during the early 19th century.

When the company's charters expired in the 1850s and the ships were sold, it was a long time before Britain's Mercantile Marine recovered from the blow. The *Thomas Coutts* was bought by Joseph Somes, together with five other East Indiamen.

Odds and Ends from around the World

2022 Aruba Lighthouse Stamp

On 1 Nov 2022 Aruba issued a set of four stamps titled "Landscapes of Aruba". One of these stamps shows a nice picture of [Nordwestpunt Lighthouse](#), also called California Lighthouse. It got the California name as a result of a ship of that name that wrecked near the lighthouse prior to the light being built in 1916.



The 'Carolean' Stamp Era



Post offices, including Jersey, Guernsey, and the Isle of Man, have issued their first stamps featuring the cypher of King Charles III, as the new 'Carolean stamp era' begins in earnest.

The 'Carolean stamp era' has begun, with a growing number of postage stamps now featuring the cypher of King Charles III.

Guernsey was the first post office to issue a set of stamps replacing the effigy of HM Queen Elizabeth II with the official cypher of King Charles III.



The Christmas stamps for both Guernsey and Alderney, were the first to display the cypher of King Charles III, and also depicted illustrations of British pantomime characters.

The new King's cypher, in the top left hand corner of the stamps, is the Sovereign's monogram, consisting of his initials C (for Charles) and R (for Rex, the Latin for 'king') and a representation of the crown.

The cost of posting a letter today compared to when

Decimal Currency was introduced in

1966



With cost of posting a standard letter in Australia increasing to \$1.20 at the beginning of 2023 it is interesting to do some comparisons to the year decimal currency was introduced.

In 1966 it cost 4 cents to post a letter. If you use an inflation calculator you find that would equate to 37 cents today.

This compares to today's standard letter rates in the USA 63cents (89c AUD), the united Kingdom 95 pence (\$1.65 AUD) and New Zealand \$1.70 (\$1.55 AUD).



The sole survivor from a dead country

In stamp collecting, a country which no longer exists is referred to as a “dead country”. **Dead countries have always been a major draw for collectors.** One of the main reasons for this, I think, is because these countries no longer produce postage stamps. That means collectors can aspire to build a complete collection of every stamp and every variety of those stamps. The major British Commonwealth rarity discussed today is not only from a dead country... It is also the sole surviving example of its kind. It is unique.

When you own this stamp, no one else can. And, if someone else wants it to complete their collection, you can effectively name your price. With inflation beginning to find its way into the stamp market - as it always does - the value of this major rarity could soar in the coming months. It also helps that it is a particularly handsome stamp... This is a top-tier rarity for investment purposes, ticking all the relevant boxes...



Nyasaland 1913-19 £10 purple and dull ultramarine on chalk-surfaced paper, printing variety, SG99c

Unique

This famous British Commonwealth rarity comes from the African nation of Nyasaland (now Malawi) in southern Africa by Lake Nyasa. The £10 face value was the highest value in the 1913 issue of stamps. To put into context, this is the equivalent in value to around £300 today. For many years, British and Colonial authorities considered postage as just another tax.

The high values of many of these stamp series were used for revenue purposes rather than postage. As a result, they were often printed in very small quantities, making them incredibly rare today and difficult spaces to fill in the stamp album. This particular example is beyond rare, it is unique. You see, there is a printing variety showing a nick in the top right scroll. It is the **only known surviving example** of the variety in mint condition.

Premium-grade quality

The high value King George V stamps from 1913-19 used a striking royal image. It is the rarest and most stunning stamp I have ever handled from Nyasaland. Being the only one in existence, there is no way to be choosy about quality. However, in this case, it just so happens the only surviving example is in wonderfully fresh mint condition with original gum and fine colour.

Authenticity assured

For such a unique printing variety, authenticity is critical to its value. This is assured as the stamp is accompanied with an independent certificate of authenticity issued in 2009 by the British Philatelic Association (BPA). The BPA Expert Committee was formed nearly ninety years ago. The Committee is formed exclusively of professional philatelists who made a living dealing in stamps.

Their time is given free of charge, making them entirely independent as they have no vested interest in the professional opinions they provide. Such collective expertise from specialists who have handled many thousands of stamps in their career ensures they can consistently provide a superior service. Because of this, their certificates are trusted, without reservation, across the whole world.

Strong Liquidity

The British Protectorate of Nyasaland has an interesting postal history. It was made famous to the British public through the exploits and explorations of David Livingstone in the 1850s. Livingstone was a strong willed Christian opposed to the horrors of the slave trade. His pioneering efforts proved the catalyst for British missionaries to follow in his footsteps.

The Nyasaland Protectorate was formed on July 6, 1907 and its first stamps were issued on July 22, 1908. It ceased to issue stamps after becoming independent, and renamed as the nation of Malawi in 1964.

There are a large number of collectors in “dead countries” such as Nyasaland. The African stamp market is one of the hottest areas of the market, with auction realisations and prices rising more than any other area of the world in the past few years.

Reference <https://www.paulfrasercollectibles.com/blogs/postage-stamps/the-sole-survivor-from-a-dead-country>

“When can a stamp be worth 10x catalogue value?”

The most critical factor when determining the value of a stamp

Let me make this clear...

There is one very visible element to valuing a stamp. In the US, it is the most important factor in determining value. It is all about “centring”. Or “centring” for my American readers! The centring of a stamp is the most reliable and easily verifiable measurement.

Now let’s have a look at why centring is so important and how you can use it to great advantage and profit.

Stamp centring in the US

Stamp collectors in the US (and Canada) are obsessed with the centring of stamps to add to their collections. As a result, well centred stamps are worth far more in the US market than they are in the rest of the world. A stamp is considered a gem when there are four visually equal margins. Even after a careful examination, it will be impossible to pick a margin smaller than the other three.

The reason for the wide variation in pricing is all about rarity... Many classic imperforate stamps were printed close together on the sheet. This makes it difficult to find neatly trimmed examples with all four margins in equal size (almost never seen). The designs of perforated stamps were also printed close together, making it difficult to find examples where the perforations do not cut into the design. Also, as the perforation process occurs after printing, any sheet which was even slightly misaligned would result in the perforations being closer to the design on one or two sides.

Improved production methods mean modern stamps have more precise perforating techniques. Consequently, what may be above average centring for an early issue may be below average for a modern issue. There is no denying that well centred stamps are more aesthetically pleasing. This means the most discerning philatelists want stamps that are perfectly centred to add to their collection.

This demand for perfection, coupled with extreme rarity, leads to massive premiums being applied to perfectly centred examples.

Stamp centring in the UK

The UK and British Commonwealth stamp market does not place the same importance on centring as the US market. The following quote from a collector posted on an online stamp forum sums things up:

“As a collector of British Empire and early South America I am particularly fussy about acquiring stamps that are very well centered. I know it isn’t necessarily important for every collector but for me it adds significantly to the aesthetic appeal. Fortunately, I never seem to have to pay much of a premium, if any, for a perfectly centered stamp versus one with irregular margins.”

The Stanley Gibbons catalogues include a footnote for pre-1920 classic GB stamps referring to significant price premiums applicable to well-centred, lightly used stamps. Those premiums can be double or even more. Yet, most of the stamp trade, particularly in the UK, seem to have overlooked this in the past. There are signs of an awakening, a growing recognition... In recent auctions of British and British Commonwealth stamps, there has been an increasing number of well-centred stamps selling for much larger premiums.



Typical centring



Canada 1916 (1 Jan) 2c + 1c scarlet, type 47, die 1, perforations 12, SG233.

A fine mint example with large part original gum. Minor wrinkles do not detract from very fine and fresh appearance.

Perforations and centring far above average for this issue.

A difficult stamp to find in unused condition



Antigua 1921-29 £1 purple and black/red, SG61.
A very fine quality example of this attractive King George V stamp with original gum. Unusually well-centred for this stamp, which is rarely seen so fine.
Price: £275

Typical centring



Typical centring

Great Britain 1884 10s Ultramarine, SG183.
A superb used well-centred horizontal pair lettered GC-GD, neatly cancelled by clear and crisp Ilfracombe circular date stamps for 'MY.25.1889'.
Most appealing with the date stamp leaving the left-hand stamp with a clear profile.
A scarce multiple of this Queen Victoria classic surface printed stamp with particularly lovely colour.
Price: £1,100

Thank You to Our Guest Speaker in November 2022

Ross Newton, President of the Brighton Philatelic Society, was our guest speaker at the November, 2022 meeting. Ross spoke about a lifetime collecting stamps beginning as a youngster and continuing for many years. Ross has always collected and displayed thematically. He presented a number of his amazing collections and spoke about the intricacies of his collecting. He gave us valuable insights into how thematic collecting is a matter of developing the story and supporting it with philatelic material. Hopefully some of his advice rubs off on us and we see more members developing displays that they will exhibit in the future. Ross also joined Ballarat Stamp Club on his visit and we hope to see him in the future and tap into his knowledge and expertise.

