



Welcome to the April 2023 edition of our Newsletter

The February 2023 meeting saw us in a different area of the Eastwood Leisure Centre which proved to be very crowded. The Committee has resolved that we will return to the kitchen area for the immediate future.



The Begonia Festival Stamp Fair was once again a magnificent success. Close to 200 visitors. I noticed a number of new faces; many younger people were also in attendance. This is healthy for our great hobby. Our friends from the Latrobe Valley, Warrnambool, Maryborough, Bendigo, Geelong, St Arnaud, Essendon Broadmeadows clubs were among those who supported the Fair. It was great to see Norm Hamilton at the Fair and we wish him well with his recovery.

Our thanks go to the Club Members who were there for bump in on Sunday afternoon and again during the Fair and of course for the bump out. We appreciated the help of young Patrick Hoang who has become a regular helper at our Fairs.

The Displays were the BEST EVER according to several prominent philatelists present. Thanks, Jack Van Beveren, for co-ordinating this very popular aspect of our Fair. Thanks to Ian Saddler for bringing his display and a couple of others from the Brighton Club and our own members who contributed with their quality Displays. Thanks to the Club Members who ‘manned’ the Club table all day and Trish Simmons for making sure all children had hands full of stamps to take home.

Thanks to Frank and members of his wider family for making sure everybody was well fed and watered. This is a big job and much appreciated. The Limited-Edition mini sheets almost sold out and covers also went well. Thanks also to Sarah Morey for her efforts in designing our brochures again.

Both Warrnambool and Maryborough Clubs are having their Auction nights shortly and we hope our members can support them and put up their lots for the Auction as well.

Our Syllabus has been finalised and is a rather spectacular document! Thanks Jan.

Jack and Frank advised that we need to have a working bee for the Display Frames and Frank is to attend to our tables which need some maintenance. We are very lucky to have Frank and Lone who are great supporters of the Club.

Our next meeting is on the 3rd Monday of April at the Eastwood Leisure Centre.

Inside this issue:

March Stamp Fair Details and Souvenir Sales	2
BPS 2023 Syllabus	3
Stamp Forgeries	4/5
Reader Request for Information	6
The Honourable Thomas Coutts	7
Odds and Ends from Around the World	8
The sole survivor from a dead country	9
“When can a stamp be worth 10x catalogue value?”	10/11
Guest Speaker Acknowledgement	11

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 EUREKA STAMPS & COINS FAIR

**Sunday 8th
October 2023**

**9.30 am -
3.30 pm**

**EASTWOOD
LEISURE CENTRE**

20 Eastwood Street
(see back for map)

FREE ENTRY & INTERCLUB DISPLAYS



*35 plus dealers
and club tables,
easy parking,
free dealer
valuations,
prizes and
giveaways*

Book a table: Neil Petrass—0448 346 499—npetrass@bigpond.com
More info: Peter Morey—0435 601 673—petermorey05@gmail.com

Next Fair: Ballarat Begonia Festival Stamps & Coins Fair
Monday March 11th 2024

**VISIT our website: Ballaratstampclub.com.au
New members most welcome!**

More Details to follow, check our webpage.

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

- 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.

Please support our sister clubs

Warrnambool philatelic society Visitors/ Auction night Wednesday 19th April 2023 at

Hammond Fellowship Centre, Henna Street, Warrnambool.

Lot placement and viewing from 7.00pm, with Auction to start around 7.30pm. It will be followed by a light supper.

Each person can have as many lots, as they like. It would be great to have an Auction list of lots, so with a brief description of each lot. Regards Darryl 0448487356

Maryborough Stamp Club Annual Auction Tuesday, 9th MAY 2023 from 5.30pm

You are warmly invited to submit items into our Annual Auction to be held in St Augustine’s Hall, Burke Street, Maryborough.

Anyone may submit up to 20 items. (No commission taken).

Please send a description of your item(s) to me **by 11th April 2023**.

Your description MUST include the Reserve Price which will be the STARTING PRICE.

THE STORY OF BRITISH STAMP PRINTING



LINE ENGRAVED also known as Intaglio or Recess Printing



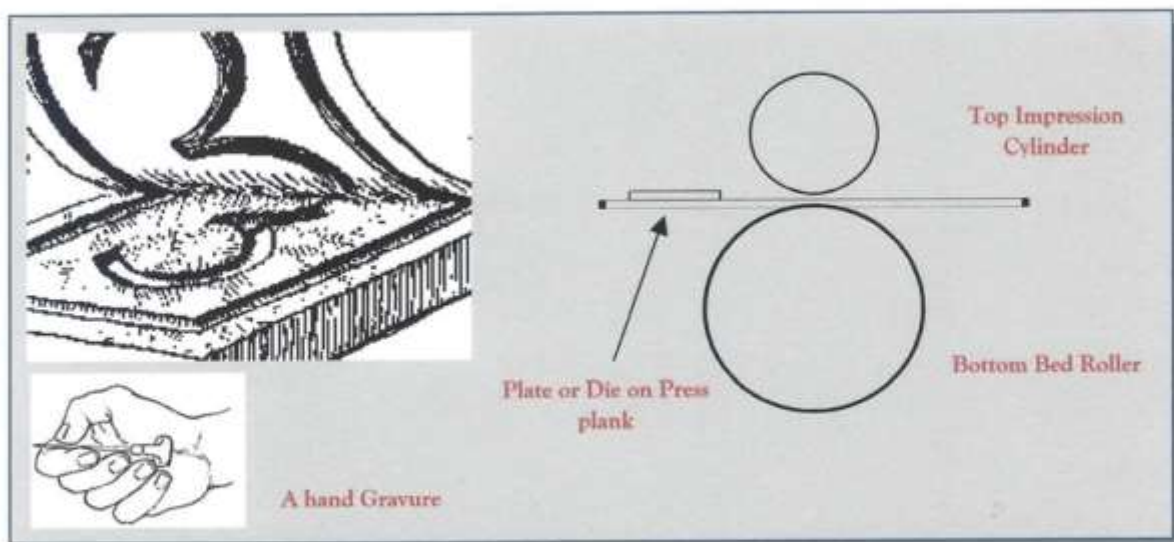
1858 - 1d Red

The early British stamps are considered the Classics of all the worlds first Postage Stamps, and rightly so. They set the design and production standard by which all of the early Commonwealth Issues were to appear. The Penny Black remains The Definitive Engraved Issue, with the exquisite Engine Turned background to the bust of the very regal young Queen Victoria, a simple but truly remarkable First Adhesive Postage Stamp.

To obtain a print from this method first of all a steel die is cut using a very sharp engraving tool called a Gravure, this Working Die is then hardened to become the Master Die for reproducing the number of stamps to make up a full Pane. Of all the printing processes this is the most technically demanding, and the engraver is truly an artist in his own right. And the printer of the finished print from the engraved plate has to do justice to the engravers skills with his own knowledge of the art, much as I did when I reproduced the Luxembourg Stamp Essay in 1971.

The characteristics of Engraved printing are fairly obvious:

No Solid areas of print, whole of print made up of fine lines, with angles to give contrast and depth. The ink has a raised feel to it, and is sometimes used with an embossed die on the reverse for extra texture. In particularly good engraving the lines show reflected light when the stamp is held slightly at an angle.



NOTABLE STAMPS PRINTED BY THIS METHOD:

From the Penny Black of 1840 to Penny Halfpenny Rose of 1870

PRINTERS USING THIS METHOD FOR BRITISH STAMPS:

PERKINS, BACON & PETCH – DE LA RUE – WATERLOW - BRADBURY, WILKINSON, SOMERSET HOUSE

THE STORY OF BRITISH STAMP PRINTING



SURFACE PRINTING

also known as Typographed or Letterpress Printing



1902 - 1d Red

The early British stamps needing to be produced in ever larger quantities and at a cheaper cost saw a 67 year period of change from Engraved Issues to Surface Printed Issues. And though nowhere near as good as the early classic Victorian stamps, they were a good alternative of the day.

To obtain a print from this method first of all a steel die is cut using a very sharp engraving tool called a Gravure, in much the same way as for the Engraved Issues. This Working Die was then hardened to become the Master Die for reproducing the number of individual stamp dies or stereotypes by locked up together to make up a full Pane. Of all the printing processes this was and still is the least precise as far as quality is concerned.

The characteristics of Letterpress printing are fairly obvious:

Solid areas of print, with very contrasting white areas, where the print is made up of fine lines, they tend to be thick and uneven. Often the impression of the print could be seen and felt on the reverse of the stamp, with the ink showing through. Plates were easily damaged and gave rise to many different shades of the same colour.



NOTABLE STAMPS PRINTED BY THIS METHOD:

From the De La Rue Penny Halfpenny Rose of 1870 to the 1934 Photogravure Issues

PRINTERS USING THIS METHOD FOR BRITISH STAMPS:

DE LA RUE – HARRISONS – SOMERSET HOUSE – WATERLOW – BRADBURY WILKINSON

THE STORY OF BRITISH STAMP PRINTING

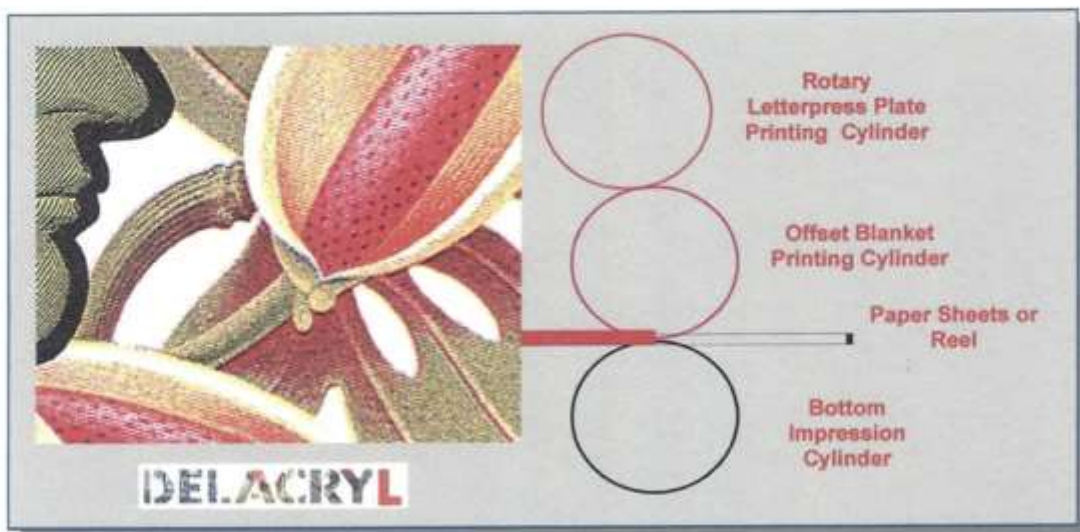


DELACRYL Offset-Letterpress or Letterset



The first contract awarded to the De La Rue Company for stamps printed by their improved Lithography method of production called Delacryl, was in 1969 for the Post Office Technologies issue of four stamps. The stamps were not that impressive, but that may have been due in part to the modernity of the designs. Delacryl could have made much more of better designs and De La Rue boasted that the process had an enhanced dot structure of 90,000 dots per square inch and a 250 line screen. With a four colour original the quality easily compare to the quality of the best Photogravure. Few issues were printed by this method, however Super- Litho and other spin -offs from Delacryl now see many stamps printed this way. The above composite sheet of four essays shows the quality of the method, with examples of two to six colours. The process was explored by De La Rue only for the production of postage stamps, with the basis for the technology being Offset-Letterpress or Letterset.

The characteristics of Delacryl printed stamps are:
Solid areas of print often look very even and smooth, white non-inked areas have very defined edges, and the printed image has no raised feel to it.



THE STORY OF BRITISH STAMP PRINTING



DELACRYL and HARRICRYL Offset-Letterpress or Letterset



Both Harrisons and De La Rue experimented with a new "secret printing process" De la Rue called it Delacryl and from 1966 went on to develop it further. Meanwhile Harrisons called their similar process "Harricryl" which was introduced to them in their Hayes factory by an ex De La Rue employee. The 250 line screen gave a very good image but the idea was not taken forward by Harrisons, though was used by De La Rue for a number of stamp issues including Britain and Commonwealth stamps printed at their Gateshead factory from 1969 to date. It comes then as no surprise that Questa developed their own Super-Litho method probably along similar lines of printing technology. And today's Lithography printing is easily a match in quality with much cheaper production costs than Photogravure.

The characteristics of Delacryl printed stamps are:

Solid areas of print often look very even and smooth, white non-inked areas have very defined edges, and the printed image has no raised feel to it.



Unique and Wonderful Stamps

When it comes to stamps, one of the most exciting things for us, and for many collectors is the creation by the postal services of something unique and innovative. There is absolutely no doubt that the stamps we are highlighting today are both unique and innovative.

The first stamp comes from a country that is famous for many great things, but innovation is not the first word that comes to mind. The Vatican City has issued the stamp below in celebration of UNs Decade for Ecosystem Restoration, and it truly is impressive.



The stamp was created entirely from polyester strings made from recycled plastic bottles. The production of 45,000 stamps resulted in 4,000 plastic bottles being recycled into polyester string, and each stamp is made using more than 75 meters of polyester.

To support the focus on ecosystem restoration, the stamp depicts a seed in the ground, which is able to grow and flourish thanks to the golden light of the sun. This is the first stamp in a new series on ecosystem restoration, and we can't wait to see what else the Vatican City might have in store for us.

There is one postal service we can always rely on, when it comes to innovative stamps, and as always, the Austrian postal service does not disappoint. For the past decade, the Austrian postal service has had a very large focus on sustainability, and they have been implementing all sorts of sustainable activities into their work, including solar power generation, electric delivery vehicles, and efficient waste management. This includes recycling the worn-out uniforms of their employees.

The stamp to the right is actually made entirely from old uniform shirts, which were shredded, mixed with water, and ground to a pulp. The pulp was then pressed into sheets and dried, creating sheets of rag paper. To highlight the material used for the stamp, the design of the stamp resembles the laundry instructions sewn into clothing, with the outline of a uniform shirt in the background. As seen on the stamp you should not wash it, iron it, or bleach it - only for collecting purposes. This actually goes for most stamps out there.

The stamp is truly impressive, and it once again shows that the Austrian postal service keeps pushing the boundaries of stamp creation.



Australia 1932 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge Stamp

The most iconic stamp from this country, and missing from 95% of collections. It was printed on what was essentially very coarse hand-towel type blotting paper, and perforated with blunt nails. This was the absolute height of the Great Depression, and even the Government Printer was economising. The coarse paper means a large number are thinned - try and carefully peel an old hinge off these, and you WILL thin them! And the perfs, as all will know are often terrible and ripped out, and "fluffy" and poorly punched. They were perforated with the single line machine rather like a fancy treadle sewing machine one line at a time, then sheet rotated 90 degrees, and the other sides done. Hence wide margin centering is not common at all. A beauty - clean and perfect with superb perfs and centering for these "terrors".



Australia 1916 WWI double rate, four stamp, Roo/KGV complete cover to France -

Australia 1916 uncensored, small double rate, re-addressed cover to Rouen, Normandy. Sent from "Cooino", in Kissing Point Road Turrumurra, NSW, which was built for William James Adams, heir to the Tattersalls



fortune. The house was featured as a private residence in "Our beautiful Homes", N.S.W. 1910. In World War I the city of Rouen was just behind the German occupied lines, and became a major logistics centre with numerous base hospitals. British Commonwealth camps and hospitals were stationed on the southern outskirts.

A base supply depot and the 3rd Echelon of General Headquarters were also established in the city. No 1 Australian General Hospital was located there from 1916 to early 1919. Franked with 2 x 2d Grey Kangaroos, plus 2 x 1/2d Emerald single watermark KGV Heads. All cancelled by Turrumurra cds's of '10 JL 16' with French backstamps. Double rate covers to France are rare, 4 stamp covers even scarcer, as a 5d KGV or 5d Roo were of course the obvious franking choice, at any PO for a 5d letter rate, and this is a scarce survivor. The 2d appear from the perfs to be Slate Grey SECOND watermark, Cat \$450+-. VERY strange not to be censored in the midst of WWI to the busiest war action in Northern France, making it more desirable.

Begonia Stamp Fair Displays

There were 15 frames displayed at the Begonia Stamp Fair that highlighted the collection interests and expertise of some of our members and also displays provided by a couple of Brighton Philatelic Society members. This was a display and not a competition and drew a lot of interest from those who attended. Below is a list of the displays and their presenters who would be only too happy to talk to you about their work.

American Red Cross (Cliff Matthews—Ballarat)

French Red Cross (Cliff Matthews—Ballarat)

Apollo Voyages (Ross Newton – Brighton)

Olympic Games (Ross Newton – Brighton)

British Colonial Mail (Keith Sanders—Ballarat)

Spain (Cliff Matthews—Ballarat)

Ceylon (Ian Saddler—Brighton)

Moomba (Jack van Beveren—Ballarat)

China (Ian Saddler—Brighton)

Philatelic Congresses (Jack van Beveren—Ballarat)

British West Indies (Keith Sanders—Ballarat)

Flying Doctors (Cliff Matthews—Ballarat)

Exhibitions Jack van Beveren—Ballarat)

Broken Hill (Peter Morey—Ballarat)

Mauritius - King George VI - Die 3

Identifying the Leeward Islands and Mauritius small keyplate issues first requires an understanding of the print dies that were used to print the King's head on these stamps. If you can allocate a stamp to the die used, you will know the relative time period it was printed. There were three dies used to print these stamps and each of the dies was used during a certain time period. The entire process was described by Richard Lockyer in "King George VI Varieties - Part 42 - Small Keyplates" which appeared in Gibbons Stamp Monthly November, 1996 issue.

The image below includes Richard's description of Die 3 which was used from 1947 until 1949 for Mauritius stamps. I have inserted numbers by the description which are superimposed on the attached image to show you where to look for these features.

The best Mauritius stamp to use to find these characteristics is the 3c value. It was only printed four times and each of the three dies were included in a way that can be readily identified based on additional characteristics. It is also fairly inexpensive so you can accumulate a few for identification.

If you can find the Die 3 stamps from this set, you will typically have found the higher value stamps printed on Chalk paper. The values from 25c to 10R were printed using Die 3 on chalk paper, with one exception which is the 1945 5R value which was printed on Substitute paper. All of the lower value stamps were printed using substitute paper. You should know that not every value was printed using Die 3. It was not used for the 12c, and 20c values because the last printing for these two stamps was 1945.

It is fairly easy to separate the Die 2 stamps from the other two versions, but it can be confusing to identify the difference between Die 1 and Die 3. This is especially true when the impression is not as good. When I am trying to decide, I use the paper and gum as the tie breaker. The Die 1 stamps tend to have yellowish gum compared to the Die 3 stamps which tend to have white gum. Compare your stamps against black paper under a strong light to see the variations.



Mauritius - Die 3 Example SG 253 3c Reddish-Purple & Scarlet 1948 Printing

Richard Lockyer's Description
of Die 3 Characteristics
Refer to the numbers above to see components

- (1) The white patch on the forehead can be almost as large, but the lines of shading are of more even length.
- (2) Sometimes the patch under the eye is as pronounced as on plate 1.
- (3) Early in the life of plate 3 the upper lip is well shaded, but fades out on later printings.
- (4) However the lines on the neck almost always touch the base line as for plate 2.
- (5) The shading of the jaw line is heavier on plate 3 when compared to plate 1. On plate 2 it does not vary much in depth from the rest of the very strong shading which is a major feature of that plate.
- (6) A marked difference is in the white lines of the hair; these show very clearly on plate 3, particularly on stamps from the later printings.
- (7) Finally, the white line under the chin is clearly broken on Plate 3. This line is either continuous on plate 1 or sometimes shows a small break on plate 2.

This is stamp club newsletter but from time to time we are asked about the value of bank notes in collections and when I saw this article I thought it might interest our readers.

GRADING BANKNOTES

Like coins, banknotes are valued according to their state of preservation. The most common form of grading such notes is as follows.

UNCIRCULATED : A banknote as found in a bundle or section direct from Note Printing Australia. It will have no folds or flickmarks. It might be slightly rippled in the area of the watermark while modern polymer banknotes might show slight buckling from the plastic strapping used to bundle up blocks of notes for transporting. This is normal. Some collectors and dealers refer to such a note as CFU or (Crisp, Flat, Uncirculated). Strictly speaking this is almost impossible to achieve because of the above comments dealing with manufacturing methods.

aUNC : ABOUT UNCIRCULATED : An uncirculated banknote with a teller counting flick or centerfold.

EF : EXTREMELY FINE : Such a note should be clean and crisp with only the slightest amount of folding or creasing. Such a note may have up to three light folds. It should not be stained or faded or impart any other weakness one should expect from a note which has only received marginal handling in circulation.

VF : VERY FINE : A note showing distinct signs of wear although the paper will still be reasonably crisp and not limp. Numerous light folds or even one or two heavy folds will be noticed although the note will be free of heavy soiling or folding.

F : FINE : The note will show soiling and heavy creasing and a number of small tears. Overall the note will still appear to be in a collectable condition although much of the colour and brightness has gone.

VG : VERY GOOD : Such a note is just about at the end of its useful life and is of little value to the collector unless very rare. The note will display major discoloration and staining as well as numerous tears and even pin holes.

If you have collections or know of people who have a collection they want advice on how to sell, store or display their material, the best time to have this done is at our fairs or at the fairs of other stamp clubs where there will be dealers to offer advice. Remember always get a couple of opinions.