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STAMP HINGES

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MEETINGS AND EVENTS

- January 2nd CLUB/LIBRARY DAY –
1st Saturday monthly @ 12-4pm
- January 19th PSWA GENERAL MEETING - MEMBERS: New Acquisitions
Non-Stamp Displays
- February 1st MONDAY PHILATELIC FORUM – **In Recess**
1st Monday monthly @ 7.30pm
- February 4th THURSDAY DAYTIME STAMP CLUB
1st Thursday monthly @ 1-4pm
- February 6th CLUB/LIBRARY DAY –
1st Saturday monthly @ 12-4pm
- February 8th MONDAY POSTMARK CIRCLE – **In Recess**
2nd Monday monthly @ 7.30pm
- February 16th PSWA GENERAL MEETING – Roger Cumming:
Greetings Covers
STAMP MART AUCTION - Lot Lists Due
3rd Tuesday monthly @ 7.30
- March 1st MONDAY PHILATELIC FORUM – **In Recess**
1st Monday monthly @ 7.30pm
- March 4th THURSDAY DAYTIME STAMP CLUB
1st Thursday monthly @ 1-4pm
- March 6th CLUB/LIBRARY DAY –
1st Saturday monthly @ 12-4pm
- March 8th MONDAY POSTMARK CIRCLE – **In Recess**
2nd Monday monthly @ 7.30pm
- March 16th PSWA GENERAL MEETING – Joe Clarke–
1840-1981 GB Used Collection
3rd Tuesday monthly @ 7.30
- April 1st THURSDAY DAYTIME STAMP CLUB
1st Thursday monthly @ 1-4pm

Editorial - Ramblings of a Stamp-A-Holic

What a year! It sounds like something out of a horror movie; The “Year of the Covid”. We were luckier than most over here in Western Australia as after initial lockdowns life in WA has returned to nearly normal pre Covid.

There has been a noticeable resurgence in collecting as many new faces have come out of the woodwork at Dealer events and auctions throughout the year. It was great to see more younger folk taking an interest at the fairs and shows which could auger well for the future for stamp collecting.

Sadly, there has also been the passing of members and poor health in a few others and we should take a minute or two to reflect on the contribution that they have had to the stamp fraternity.

The Library days have been terrific this year and have firmly cemented these dates in the syllabus as an informative and fun socialising gathering of friends and colleagues.

The Forum will be back on the agenda as displays become more prevalent later in the year.

The Postmark Circle unfortunately is in recess until further notice and may reinvent itself in a new format; We will see what the new year has in store for us.

Our Club “Just an Auction” format has been re badged as “Stamp-It” and will include dealer tables.

Subscriptions remain capped this year at \$25 and Nigel is always ready to receive any funds.

A big thanks to Brian Austin for his regular contributions to articles for Stamp Hinges as they are always informative and interesting.

The “Wanted” and the “For Sale” is empty this issue as we need to hear from members with their lists to help fill these sections.

If you also have any items of interest that you would like to share send me a scan and I would only be so happy to include it in future issues.

Don’t forget to bring along your new acquisitions either philatelic or non-philatelic at our January meeting; the more the merrier.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and HAPPY STAMP COLLECTING IN 2021

Club Library Days

WOW! The library day has developed into an institution. What a wonderful opportunity to mix with friends and develop new ones through philately at an informal gathering. The PSWA has continued to build on the available reference material and knowledgeable members are always in attendance to assist with all areas of your collection.



Non-members always welcome although you cannot remove material from the library.

The first library day for 2021 will be held on January 2nd from 10AM-4PM. and on the first Saturday of the month for the remainder of the year.

Bring along anything you need Help with, maybe another collector can help. If you need help with getting Auction lots done for our Auctions or General Meeting nights come along maybe, we can help. Pop along and enjoy a sandwich and cup of tea while enjoying a chat.

We now have a list of contents in the Library up on our Website. It is a bit out of Date, but we are working on it. I hope to update the list every 3 Months.

Day Time Club Days

Day Time is an extension of the PSWA and is always well attended. As with all meetings during the "Covid Era" it was not without little problems; none bigger than the facilities not being available for tea and bickies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Check out the syllabus for 2021 meeting dates.



Club Meetings

Once meetings recommenced, they were always well attended. The format usually includes displays of material by club members and an auction of lots supplied by the members.



Our last meeting included the presentation of club awards. Brian Austin was the recipient of the Les King Trophy



We missed Mark a few meetings ago as nobody thought to bring along a set of club keys though we eventually got in when Andrew turned up with keys'

We will miss Trevor Lacey as our resident auctioneer and recently presented Trevor with a plaque to commemorate his retirement. Good news though as Terry Finlayson has stepped up to the plate and doing a great job.

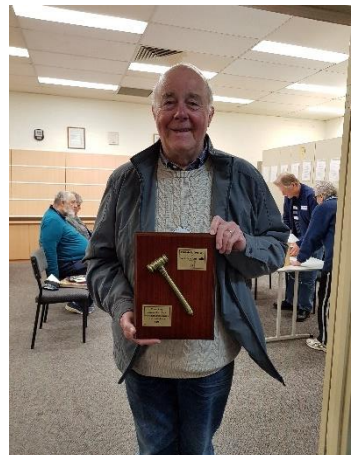
Wanted

Please submit your want lists to me so we can put it out there – IT WORKS

Nothing off limit here guys – I can hear the rush of emails now!!!!!!!!!!

For Sale -

Fellow club members send me your excess material to place in stamp hinges philatelic or not. It fills a space and creates interest.



Comparing overprints using Word on a computer: Brian Austin

Computers are marvellous things and can be used in a variety of ways to assist the stamp collector/ philatelist. One useful way is in comparing overprints.

Recently I was asked my opinion about some stamps. As a collector of classic India, word had gotten around that I might be considered a bit of an expert on these issues. At this point I should make it clear that while I may have a bit more knowledge about the issues of the sub-continent during the heyday of the Raj, I would not personally consider myself an expert, more of someone with perhaps a bit more knowledge than others on the area. That being said, I thought that I might them check out.

The stamps in question which were rare inverted official overprints on the 1882 issue. These stamps were printed by De La Rue in London and the overprint of "On H.M.S." applied. Hausberg (1907) notes that "Messrs De La Rue &Co state that the type was always the same, and that differences, although dignified by the name of separate types, are only due to wear....The earliest overprints are in the thin letters, but they become more and more thick, until there is a sudden change about the year 1898, when a new lot of type was set up." Based on this information, it can be seen that there are two settings – the original in 1882 and the new setting in 1898. The original setting would have been used on the original set of issues and the new setting on the new values issued in 1899 and 1900.

The normal upright overprint versions of these stamps are quite cheap to acquire in both mint and used condition for the lower values and relatively inexpensive for the higher values. This is now where the use of a cheap printer/scanner and a computer come into their own. I had asked my friend who had asked me about his inverted overprints to scan the stamps and send me the scans. This he did and these are illustrated below. I then scanned a range of the normal stamps from over the period so that I could see a range of how the overprint may have changed with wear and with the new setting.



Normal



Invert



Invert



Normal

The stamps themselves were scanned at 300dpi on a base model (i.e., Epson XP-100, it cost about \$50) scanner/printer as jpgs. I then copied the scans one by one and inserted them as Pictures into a Word file in Office 2013. The pictures were changed in the Word file to Text wrapping "In front of text" and resized. This enabled me to increase the size of the picture up to a large size. This meant that I then had large illustrations of the inverted overprints side by

side with the normal upright overprints. This allows for a basic comparison without having to revert to a magnifying glass.

It is here that the process gets into its own. When you then highlight a picture to move it, the picture goes into a transparent mode. Moving this transparent image over one of the other images allows you to line up the overprints exactly over each other and compare them. If you do this with a range of the normal upright overprints it can be seen that they always align with each other. The letters may be thicker on some rather than others, but the alignment is always the same. Comparing them however to the inverted overprints I could see that the once one lined up the "On" not all of the other letters lined up. Along with some other characteristics (the distorted leg on the "n" on the 1a carmine, the light dots, etc) this led me to conclude that while the inverts looked fairly good; unfortunately, they were not the genuine item but carefully made forgeries. I do emphasize however that I am not an expert.

The process however was a good exercise in the use of a computer to compare stamps, especially with settings of overprints. The use of blown-up images on computers however does highlight things a lot easier than through a magnifying glass. See if you can work out why the below stamps might be better at a higher magnification.



The Local Auction Scene

Since the recommencement of auctions after covid there has been a strong resurgent in demand across many of the collection formats. Our "Stamp Mart" was extremely strong as there was excellent material offered including a parcel tag which achieved \$3600. As we are all aware good material will always command market highs and perhaps club auctions should concentrate on quality versus quantity!!!



Gavin Woodward has ensured that the auction catalogues have been distributed to the Eastern States and this has certainly helped with the steady increase in Postal Bidding at many of the auctions

Upcoming Auctions and Format

NOTE: ALL AUCTIONS FROM 2021 ONWARDS WILL NOW HAVE A MINIMUM RESERVE OF \$10

There will be a STAMP EVENT held on January 31st at the South Perth Civic Centre commencing at 9 o'clock until 4 o'clock There will be 13 Dealers in attendance. NOTE: No Auction

A NEW EVENT ON THE RADAR

STAMP-IT (Formerly Just An Auction) February 14th & August 8th

As from 2021 we have renamed our Just an Auctions and moved them to the South Perth Civic Centre. The new name Stamp-It (The brainchild of Paul Holman). We will have Dealers in Attendance as well.

STAMP MART 2021 MAY 16th

This is our Premier Event and is scheduled on the 16th May (Sunday), back to the normal third Sunday of May.

Mel Peachey Has again Volunteered to Organise this for us. Once we work out the details Application forms for Tables will be sent out. If you are interested, please send Mel an Email.

The doors open at 10am and the auction to commence at 2pm.

Now is the time to commence sorting through your lots for the auction. This is the "Biggy" and will require all hands-on deck to ensure a successful day.

Don't forget the Youth entries for the "Don O'Loughlin Trophy" and the members entries for the "Les King Trophy"

SWAN RIVER STAMP SHOW 2021

Well, the Swan River Stamp Show is no more. The WAPC has moved the Exhibit side to combine with The Perth Stamp & Coin Show on October 29th-31st. With the name of SWANPEX. So, no Auction.

PHILATELIC FORUM

Just a reminder that this has gone into hibernation until MAY 2021.

POSTMARK CIRCLE

This is also in Hibernation; we will inform Members when they start up again

NON-CLUB RELATED INFORMATION

STAMP FAIR

The Stamp Fair Group is no more. They have decided to close after many successful Years.

We Thank them for their efforts over the years and wish them All the best in the future.

PERTH STAMP & COIN SHOWS

12th-14th March

28th-31st October incorporating SWANPEX

ACE STAMP AUCTIONS

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th February

WESTERN AUSTRALIA Stamps, Postal History, Postmarks, Postcards & WA Collections

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th June

AUSTRALIA & WORLD Box Lots, Collections, Single Lots, Aerophilately, Thematics, Literature & Accessories plus a Coin & Banknote section

Saturday 27th & Sunday 28th November

AUSTRALIA & WORLD Box Lots, Collections, Single Lots, Aerophilately, Thematics, Literature & Accessories plus a Coin & Banknote section

Collecting covers fronts versus complete covers: Brian Austin

Recently I acquired a batch of fronts, covers where the back had been removed and so only the front remained. They were from Australia, posted to Germany during the 1930s and franked with rates to make up the airmail rate via Greece. Needless to say, they have some rather exotic franking's on them which will fit nicely into my collection of GV used on cover. And this brings up the issue of a front versus a whole cover.

Is a front that much lesser of an item than a whole cover? In saying this, the auction lot which consisted of 12 fronts was passed in at the reserve of \$50. I had not actually looked at the lot prior to the auction and it was only on a whim that I looked at the description and thought it might be worth it. I had missed a couple of lots that I had thought might be good in my collection so called a few lots later and acquired the lot for the reserve. It was not until I actually looked at the items and when I was later paying attention to them that I formed the conclusion that this was indeed a nice lot.

To summarise the fronts, they were all from a company based in Melbourne and Sydney to Berlin in the period 1934 – 1939. Franking's varied from a 3d Macarthur and a large 6d kookaburra as solo usages to combination covers with 1/ 4 C of A George V heads – one strip of three and the other in combination with a 9d Macarthur– to a pair of 1/- Anzacs making up a 2/1 rate and two covers with 5/- robes in combinations for 6/1 rates. Needless to say, some of these would have garnered a lot more than the reserve individually had they been on complete covers.



For the collector of usage of stamps this represented a treasure trove as most of these are decidedly scarce if not rare on commercially used covers. So, the question came, why did nobody else bid for them or is it just the stigma of front versus cover? Fronts are treated as the poor cousins of the whole cover. There is always that tantalising thought that the back sides of the covers when they were whole may have had a range of transit postmarks that would have lifted them but by the same token most covers do not have any markings on the reverse. It is more common to just see the sealing flap and the plain paper of the back. Yet that plain piece of paper transforms the front into a cover.

When mounted both a front and a cover look the same as you cannot see the back unless you take it out of its mount or unless a copy of the back is placed next to the front. In most cases nobody could care less about the back, unless it had some crucial postmarks or other notations of interest. It is much like the joys of Mint Unhinged (MUH) versus Mint Hinged (MH) unused stamps. MUH command a premium over the MH yet most people when looking at stamps, for some reason seem to pay attention to the design on the front of the stamp rather than what the gum looks like – or at least if they are not buying the stamp. It is only at that crucial step, the parting of money, that the back becomes important.

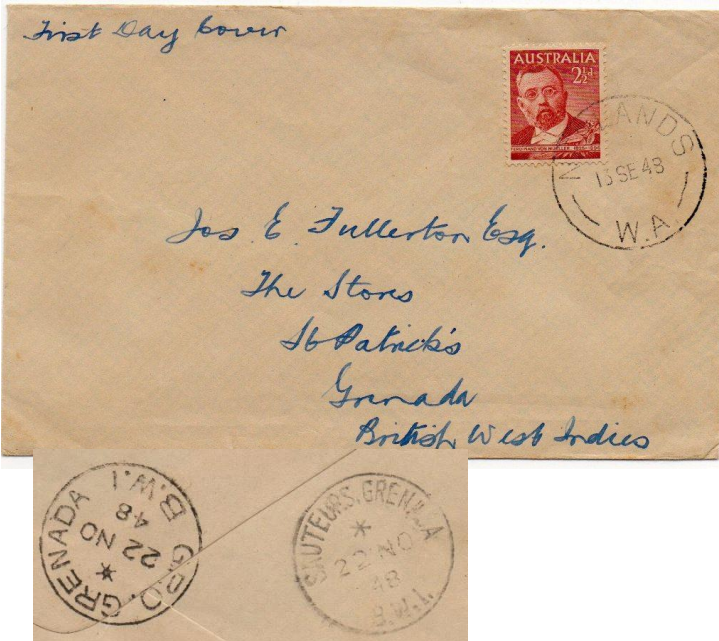
And that is probably what happened in the case of my auction lot. When parting with cash, people appear not to look at what is in front of them but need to look at the back as well. It is like kicking the tyres on a used car. You need to feel comfortable that it

is all there. A front, of course, is not all there as a cover – it has no back – so must be less desirable. The cover should be all be there.

Thinking further on the auction there was another lot that I was interested in that featured the solo use of a 5d Kangaroo. It went for substantially more than my lot and deservedly so as it is only the second time that I have seen a 5d on any cover. The other one was in an eastern state auction a few years ago. Needless to say, I consider such an item as a rarity – it is certainly much scarcer than MUH first watermark 2-pound roos which seem to regularly appear commanding high premiums in auctions. The successful bidder had indeed gained him/herself a nice item.

That cover with the 5d roo was complete, if a little worn for wear. I could compare it however for scarcity with my front with the strip of 3 1/4 GV heads. Single 1/4's are not common and this is the only multiple of the C of A watermark on cover that I have seen in the last 10 years. This is not to say that there are others out there, it is just that I do not think so. In this case I am quite happy with my front. It is like the part of the inverted frame swan of Western Australia that graced the collection that was displayed some years back at Fremantle. Sometimes something is better than nothing.

So, I can only say that I think that fronts are OK. While I do prefer whole covers there is nothing wrong with the crucial half when that is all you are showing. In conclusion I can show another cover recently acquired being an FDC sent from Nedlands to Grenada in the West Indies in 1948. It has a nice clean front, meets an appropriate rate to a British Empire destination albeit an obscure one for this stamp and has a couple of nice Grenada sorting marks on the reverse. These are a good reason for a back to a cover as similar items to Australian addresses have nothing on the back. It did not come in the auction lot but is just here for comparison.



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