



Philatelic Review Bulletin

Wyong & Districts Philatelic Society

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Produced in Australia by

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Dear members,

The content of this bulletin aims at informing about items and topics relevant to our hobby and club.

All members are invited to submit articles that they like to share with others. Articles can be short or long and the editor will decide to publish those in one or more than one bulletin.

I wish all members a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and may all your wishes come true during the next year.

The editor

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Meetings and other information:

[Philatelic Association of NSW \(philas.org.au\)](http://philas.org.au)

Evening Meeting:

The **third Wednesday** of the month at 7.00 pm

Canton Beach Sports Club
11 Hibbard Street
Toukley NSW 2263

Daytime Meeting:

The **first Wednesday** of the month at 1.00 pm

RFBI Lake Haven Masonic Retirement

Village

12 - 16 Christopher Crescent
Lake Haven NSW 2263

George V Study Group

The **first Wednesday** of the month following the daytime meeting.

2025 Meeting Dates

Evening meetings at Toukley 7.00 pm

15 January

Michael O'Sullivan: own choice

19 February

Ray Mahony: NZ Miniature sheets

19 March

Workshop night: all members problems, Flaws, etc.

16 April

Christine Munro: own choice

21 May

Peter Van de Ven: Dutch Indies

18 June

AGM

Daytime meetings 2024 at Lakehaven 1.00 pm

1 January 2025

Exchange & KGV study group

5 February

Exchange & KGV study group

5 March

Exchange & KGV study group

2 April

Exchange & KGV study group

7 May

Exchange & KGV study group

4 June

Exchange & KGV study group

Philas Connection

[Philatelic Association of NSW \(philas.org.au\)](http://philas.org.au)

Monthly Display

The monthly display by Mark Field on Queen Elizabeth II Machine Stamps provided enough information to members that this was a highly specialised collection. However, due to time restriction, Mark was only able to show a small part of his Machine collection.

Stamp Fair 2024



Advertising

The November Stamp Fair was well attended by members and the public.



The President thanked all members who participated in organising the stamp fair. He stressed that the number of visitors was up compared to the previous fair. The bargain table, with eight members selling, saw a strong demand across all offered items. Special thanks go to Christine operating the canteen, to Dennis

¹ Uwe Kruger Listing

evaluating stamp collections from visitors as far away as Woy Woy.

The view was offered to discuss another stamps fair in 2025 at the same location early next year.

Merry Christmas - Australia¹

In 1957 Australia issued Christmas stamps for the first time. This was intended as an experiment, but following favourable public reaction to the idea the Post Office decided to issue Christmas stamps.



Stamp: 1957 Christmas Red 3½d & 4d

Designer: Donald Cameron

Denomination: 3½d

Perforations: 14.4 x 14

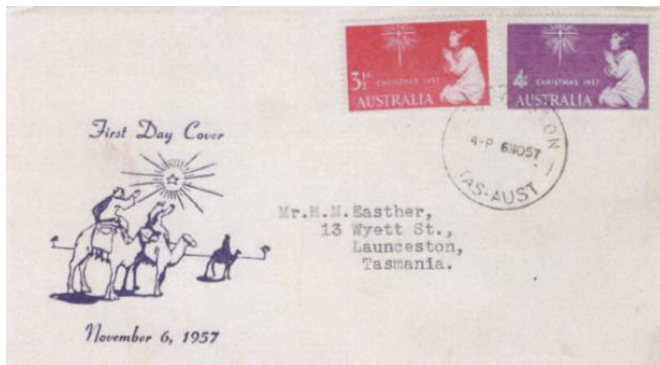
Issue title: Christmas 1957

Issue date: 6 November 1957

Cachet Maker: Challis



Cachet maker: Easter



Blue (also in red)

Cachet Maker: Guthrie



Cachet Maker: Peake



Cachet Maker: Postmaster General



Hermes – blue & gold



Hermes – red - & blue



On Her Majesty's Service

Cachet Maker: Rivet; Joseph Colinridge



Silver/blue

Cachet Maker: Royal



Silver Blue



Gold/black



Gold/blue

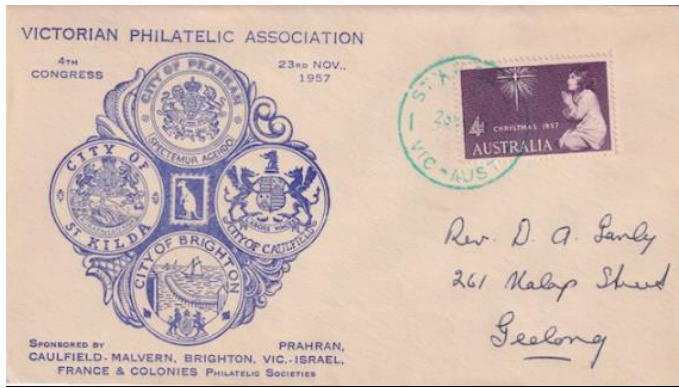


Cachet Maker: Victorian Philatelic Association



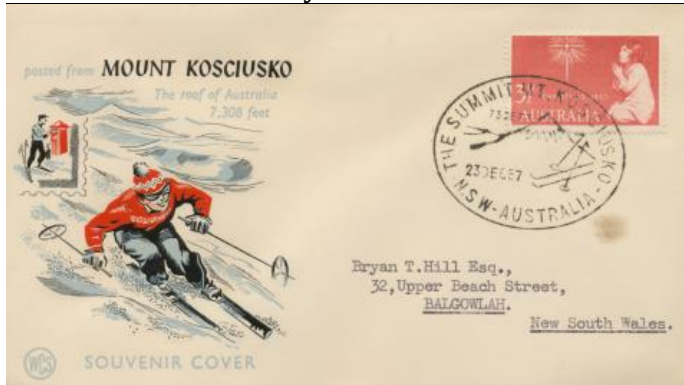
Gold/red





Purple/blue/yellow

Cachet Maker: Wesley Cover Service



Merry Christmas – Great Britain²

The British Philatelic Bureau issued a set of Christmas Stamps on the **16 November 1983**. The stamp images show familiar objects such as a pillarbox, Chimney pots, an umbrella, a street lamp and a topiary hedge.



The British Philatelic Bureau issued a set of Christmas Stamps on the **20 November 1984** in the year of Christian Heritage. The illustrations are based on passages from the Gospel and what is known of the period. It is a period when the strengthening power of faith is no museum piece, but an urgent requirement for our survival in the future.



Yellow/brown/blue

The British Philatelic Bureau issued a set of Christmas Stamps on the **19 November 1985** depicting Pantomime. Pantomime can be found in Roman times. Pantomime was encouraged during the reign of Queen Victoria and equally

² Uwe Kruger Listing

by her husband Albert. Most of what current Christmas Traditions are today, such as Pantomime, Christmas-trees, cards and the giving of presents came into being during that period



The British Philatelic Bureau issued a set of Christmas Stamps on the **18 November 1986** depicting the Glastonbury Plygain, the Hebrides Tribute, the Dewsbury Church Knell and the Herford Boy Bishop.



The British Philatelic Bureau issued a set of Christmas Stamps on the **20 November 1988** depicting Christmas Cards. With the advance in printing the first colour Christmas Cards came onto the market in the 1860'.



The British Philatelic Bureau issued a set of Christmas Stamps on the **14 November 1989**. The motives selected for the Christmas Stamp Issue are from the interior of Ely Cathedral.



USA - The Nutcracker³

On 18 December 1891, Tchaikovsky's ballet "The Nutcracker" premiered in Saint Petersburg, Russia.

To remember this occasion the USA Postal Authorities issued the following stamps:



Germans coined the phrase. „Gott gibt die Nüsse, aber wir müssen sie selber knacken." (God provides the nuts. but we have to crack them ourselves). This phrase is recited to teach German children that life is often difficult and hart work (cracking the nut), but if you persevere the rewards are plentiful. This life lesson may have contributed to the popularity of nutcrackers, as it helped children to enjoy the benefits of hard work.

The Germans also have a folk-tale telling the origin of wooden nutcrackers. According to the story. "A wealthy farmer was looking for an efficient way to crack the walnuts that grew on his tree. He decided to hold a contest for the local craftsmen to come up with a nut cracker.

³ Mystic Stamp Company

The local puppet maker brought the farmer a brightly coloured puppet with a large, strong jaw and won the contest. He was rewarded with his own workshop”.

In reality, early nutcrackers existed centuries ago. Nuts were a popular dessert in Europe, and nut crackers were placed on tables as a source of conversation as well as a way to open shells.



By the 1800s, the *Erzgebirge* region of Germany had become well known for their nutcrackers. Many craftsmen made their living creating and selling them. Nutcrackers were often given as gifts, as they were thought to bring good luck to the home. Often shaped like soldiers, they protected the family from danger. The large mouth and teeth were thought to scare the evil spirits away.

Realizing the nutcracker's importance to German E. T. Amadeus Hoffman wrote the story *The Nutcracker and the Mouse King* in 1816.

Decades later, Russian composer Peter Tchaikovsky was tasked with producing a double-bill program for the Imperial Theatres. One performance would be his opera, *Iolanta*, and the other a ballet. Working with choreographer Marius Pepita, he decided to adapt Hoffman's story into a ballet.

The *Nutcracker* premiered on 18 December 1892 to poor reviews. Much of the criticism was aimed at the dancers themselves and the extensive use of children in the ballet. But the response was much more positive for Tchaikovsky's score. It was called “astonishingly rich in detailed inspiration” and, from beginning to end beautiful, melodious, original and characteristic.



Due to its poor reception, *The Nutcracker* wasn't performed again for many years. Then in 1919, Alexander Gorsky arranged a new version. He changed many of the problems identified during the premier performance, particularly by casting more adults. The *Nutcracker* was first performed outside of Russia in 1934 in England. The ballet then made its way to America in 1944. The ballet's popularity soared, particularly in the 1960s. Today, *The Nutcracker* is a Christmas season staple in America, viewed by millions every year.

Stamp collecting versus Cover collecting⁴

When I started collecting stamps at the ripe old age of 12, I had no mentor or any one telling me anything about storing stamps or that some issues came as sets. I only learned about catalogues when I was 17 years old. I accumulated a reasonable number of stamps before I married. When I moved to Australia in 1970 I left my stamp collection with my parents in a big, locked trunk. In Sydney, at that time there were a few stamp dealers with very odd habits. Some sold damaged stamps and did not like my approach that I only wanted used stamps with a clear postmark. Finally I found a dealer who listened to me and sold my First Day Covers (FDC's).

That dealer was my favoured and I accumulated a reasonable number until I hid the storage barrier.

My guess is that is one of the reasons so many collectors avoid collecting FDC's. Some, however collect envelopes. I have always admired the history behind covers. The stamp or

⁴ Uwe Kruger

stamps and the postmarks provide sometimes information not available from catalogues. I also admire the elegant handwriting of the sender and can image the quills that penned addresses. What stories were contained in those envelopes? What news did they share? Family secrets, wartime correspondence, medical tragedies, the emotions of people building a nation. All that and more dropped into the letter receiver, carried by men on horseback to the address on a folded and sealed piece of paper.

Locking closely at the postal markings one can, at times follow the postal route. Some envelopes provide place of sender and the address the postmark indicating the nearest post office. Many of those post office do not exist anymore and even the place mentioned in the addresses have disappeared.

However, stamp collectors are as creative as many people that make history by collecting items mailed for the purpose of marking history. May it be the maiden voyage of a ship or a flight to transport mail. In that respect creating a document of historical interest.

A single stamp may remind the collector of a historical figure, an anniversary of public interest or a national symbol, like a flag or coat of arms. Further research is sometimes required to unlock the reason for the stamp issue.

An envelope can provide the same pleasure just looking at the stamp but in addition to that each envelope answers questions such as of where the cover has travelled, how long was its journey between transit points and finally how long it took to reach its final destination. The markings are proof of the rates paid.

And, yes, there is that storage problem. That never goes away. So many aspects to collecting, storing and evaluation of a single object that can make it difficult to make a decision what and how to do.

Fireworks on stamps

This will be the last edition of 2024. The editor had the thought that people in general like fireworks to say farewell to the recent year and welcome the new year.

Australia 2006



Australia 2014



Austria 2004:



Canada



Curaçao 2014



Ghana 1960



DDR (East Germany) 1973:



Great Britain 2012:



Fürstentum Lichtenstein 1981:



Hong Kong





Netherlands 1988:



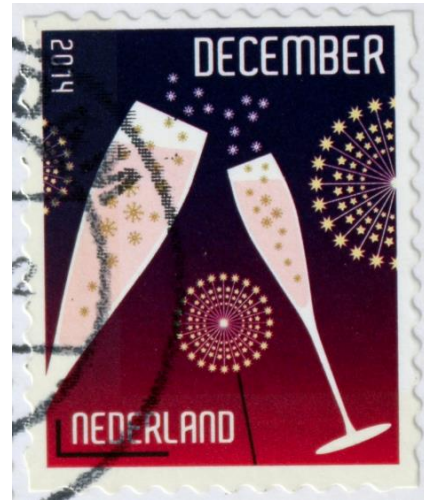
Netherlands 2007:



Netherlands 2013:



Netherlands 2014:



Japan



Malaysia 1973:



Papua New Guinea



Pitcairn Islands



Singapore 2014:



Portugal



Spain 2014:



Sweden 1993:



San Marino 1981:



Singapore 1994:



Thailand 2010



Thailand 2011:



USA



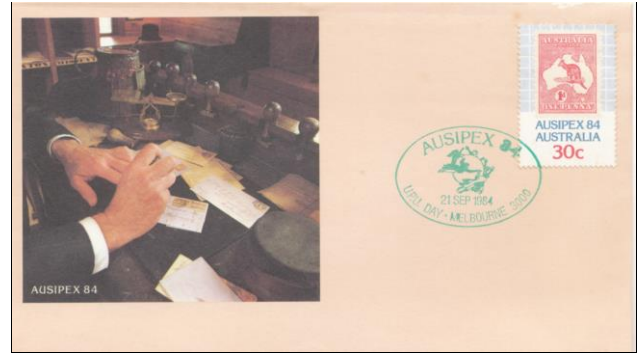


USSR 1964:



Universal Postal Union (UPU)

In 1863, Abraham Lincoln's Postmaster General Montgomery Blair suggested an international conference be held to discuss common postal problems. A conference was held in Paris, and fifteen nations attempted to establish guidelines for an international postal service. Until this time, mail had been regulated by a number of different agreements that were binding only to signing members.



AUSIPEX 84 U.P.U. DAY

On October 9, 1874, Universal Postal Union (UPU) was established by 22 countries in Bern, Switzerland. The UPU is the organization that sets the rules for the flow of mail between countries. Since it was formed, the UPU has worked to connect every person, regardless of nationality, through a safe, efficient, and orderly mail system. The basic ideals were that there should be a uniform rate to mail a letter anywhere in the world, that domestic and international mail should be treated equally, and that each country should keep all money collected for international postage. It also made sending international mail easier in another important way. Previously, people had to attach a stamp from each country their mail would pass through. This no longer was necessary.



Australia: UPU Cinderella 1974⁵

⁵ George Hamori, master-craft Printing

Under this agreement, known as the International Postal Convention, a simpler accounting system was devised as well. Previously, countries could vary the international rate. Any mail traveling across a country's border was charged this rate. In addition, many countries charged a one-cent surtax for mail being transported by sea for more than 300 miles.

At the 1878 conference, the name was changed to the Universal Postal Union. It wasn't until the 1880s that the organization became truly universal. By the 1890s, nearly every nation had become a member.

In 1898, the Universal Postal Union standardized the colours of certain stamps in order to make international mailing easier and more efficient. They proposed that member nations use the same colours for stamps of the same value. In order to conform to the UPU's regulations, the 1¢, 2¢, and 5¢ stamps underwent colour changes. Later that same year, the 4¢, 6¢, 10¢, and 15¢ stamps were changed to avoid confusion with current issues printed in similar colours.

In 1947, the UPU became a specialized agency of the United Nations with its headquarters in Berne, Switzerland and began holding conventions every five years. Today, 192 member states have joined the Universal Postal Union.

1 October 2024

Universal Postal Union – 150 Years Set of Stamps (1 x \$1.50, 1 x \$4.10)



Today, it continues to organize and improve postal service throughout the world with 190 member states. It's the oldest international organization existing and claims to be the only one that really works.



First Day Cover with badge

Topic (Thematic) Collection – Thoughts by the editor

When I started collecting stamps, I was so young that I had not heard of other countries as I did not own any other stamps as early as those issued for the Bundesrepublik Deutschland.

A few years later, one of my brothers needed money and I purchased his stamp collection. Such, I obtained my first foreign stamp which was issued by Southern Rhodesia, 2d Victoria Falls (there is now a similar 3d in my collection:



In later years I collected countries to the point that it became too expensive to continue.

In today's situation my advice to a prospective stamp collector would be to focus on a topic. Two 'newer, younger' collectors at the Penrith stamp club followed my advice and the lady collector did focus on orchids on stamps because her first hobby was growing orchids. The second topic collector did focus on ships on stamps. His collection was sold at Spinks (if I remember correctly) for over £100 000. His widow received the money shortly after he died of old age.

Google results are differentiated and complex as thinking of a word and there is a stamp or stamps relating to it. For a young collector that would be a way to start a collection. With guidance and maturity this topic collector may turn into a specialised stamp collector, if...

When I joined my first stamp club at the ripe old age of 18 years I already knew about catalogues as I had an older mentor guiding me into the direction from accumulating towards hording and sorting.

My first impression of that particular stamp club did hinder me of joining up for many years. Keeping information from younger collectors, swapping one expensive stamp for 5 or 10 cheap stamps was common practise at that club.



AUSIPEX 84 – THEMATIC DAY

Today, I appreciate it very much if collectors approach me searching for answers or raising an issue. Resulting from the many questions I did edit a bulletin for 7 years for the Penrith stamp club and again now for the Wyong Club. I also have been working on a Glossary for many years. Lately, I have been working on a listing of FRAMAs, Fakes, and expanding Australian (First Day) Cover information. All at the cost of collecting stamps.

Coming to think of it, there is a topic called First Day Covers, so I follow my own advice.

Air Mail envelopes - Addendum

In Bulletin Issue 9 – 2024, page 11 the editor showed air mail envelopes with cachet:

1. The Organising Committee XVIth Olympiad Melbourne Australia. (1956)
2. A group of first nation people around a campfire.
3. Australian Force Vietnam (1967?).
4. Shire of Broome.

Two more envelopes have been identified.



Captain Cook; 1770-1970 BI CENTENARY

It is assumed that, for the above envelope the cachet was produced by Seven Seas, Dubbo. Postmark: 16 – 23 May 1970 Thunderbolt Centenary Celebrations. The commemorative

Cachet: unknown producer.

During World War II the Germans did overrun several European countries.



There is no indication on the stamps itself what the purpose of the stamp issue was. One could interpret it in the wrong way quite easily.

The black shading is visible in the blue and red areas of the flag. However, at one stage the black details were printed first and the colours of the flag last, thus obscuring the black shading.



That is the difference between a cheap stamp and one that can be sold for a few dollars. The editor hopes you got Scott #917 & #917a.

Microprinting is tiny type added to a stamp's design. The type is so small, it can't be read without a magnifying glass or microscope. The printing is usually made up of letters, numbers, and symbols.

Microprinting is a security measure to prevent counterfeiting. The use of counterfeited stamps means lost revenue for postal services. Producing and selling fake stamps is a crime. When forgers try to reproduce a microprinted stamp using a scanner or photocopier, the text

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may appear as a solid line or blur. It's too small to make a clear copy.

You'll need a magnifying glass with at least 4x magnification to see the microprinting on your stamps. Larger magnification is recommended. The first stamp to be microprinted was U.S. #2655, the 1992 Stream Violet stamp. If you look closely at the 29¢ denomination, you'll see shading made by microscopic dots.



The first US stamps with microprinting in the design were the 1992 Christmas Toys stamps (#2711-14). In these stamps, portions of the wheels are shaded with magenta dots.



More recent microprinting uses a combination of letters and numbers such as: USPS, 4eveR, 4evr, or 4EVR.



The microprinting on US #3752 is located on the end of the second squash blossom on the right side of the necklace. The photo above shows the section under magnification.



The microprinting on #3314 is on the upper right petal of the flower. It spells out the word "BOTANISTS."

Australia Post introduced the year of issue on stamps (Frama's excepted) printed 16 May 1990, Gold Fever (4 x 41c) using microprinting. The stamps are part of the Colonial Collection series representing aspects of life during the Gold Rushes of the 1850's. However, year imprints were not consistent as later issues that showed the year as text reference did not have the microprinting of the issue year.

Stamp Collecting

The cohort of stamp collectors is shrinking. That is a fact and many stamp clubs, with large numbers of members, have closed forever. In discussions with potential members, I would like to provide some arguments why they should collect stamps:

Stamps are fun

Collecting stamps can be personal and may reflect another hobby this person is involved in like growing orchids (orchids on stamps).

Stamps are history

When we collect stamps, we are holding a piece of history in our hands. Stamps show historical events or a person showcasing heritage and customs of a nation and the importance during different time periods.

Stamps are affordable and accessible

Anyone can become a stamp collector. With the right guidance, a stamp collection can be built up reflecting the interest and topic knowledge of the collector within an affordable budget.

Stamps improve the quality of the collector's life

A study has shown (*Nature Medicine*) that people of 65 and older found that “compared with people who didn’t have a hobby, reported improved health, more happiness, fewer symptoms of depression, and higher life satisfaction”.

Stamp's let us travel the world

Collectors are not restricted to collect a country, a thematic or one type of stamp. Many stamps show historical buildings, landscapes like mountains or lakes one can visit at any time. Collectors are witness to important events such as the moon landing(s), first transatlantic flights or see the wonders of the world.

Stamps are Art

Stamps show important pieces of art such as sculptures, paintings or classical porcelain. There are plenty of other artworks depicting the craftsmanship of the human race in past times as well as current expressions of art shown on stamps.

Stamps provide the collector with the thrill of the chase

Owning a stamp catalogue about a country or a topic provides the collector with guidance to

expand a collection. Being a member of a stamp club opens up avenues of discussions and requests. Once fellow collectors know your area of interest, they may assist to find that elusive stamp missing from your collection.

Stamps connect us with other collectors

Many members of the public picture stamp collectors as solitary people hovering over their collection for hours. In today’s world with internet and other communications possibilities the time of information exchange has accelerated dramatically. Joining a club, an online forum or chatroom provides ample opportunity for information exchange.

Stamps are important

Postage stamps made history by facilitating communication across the globe.

They brought together or divided nations and helped families and friends to stay in touch over great distances. Today’s developments in modern communication devices have reduced usage of stamps and somewhat reduced that personal expression between sender and receiver of a card or letter. Receiving written words for a special occasion was for many migrants the line to “home” and loved family members.

How does a new collector gets started?

There are many options.

Get the stamp collection out of the cupboard you started as a child.

Join a stamp collectors club. Talk about stamp storage, how to get stamps, catalogues or listings of stamps, computer usage, etc. Remember, there are no stupid questions just wrong answers. All beginnings are humble. However, once you are in the “grove” you will find stamps in many unexpected places.