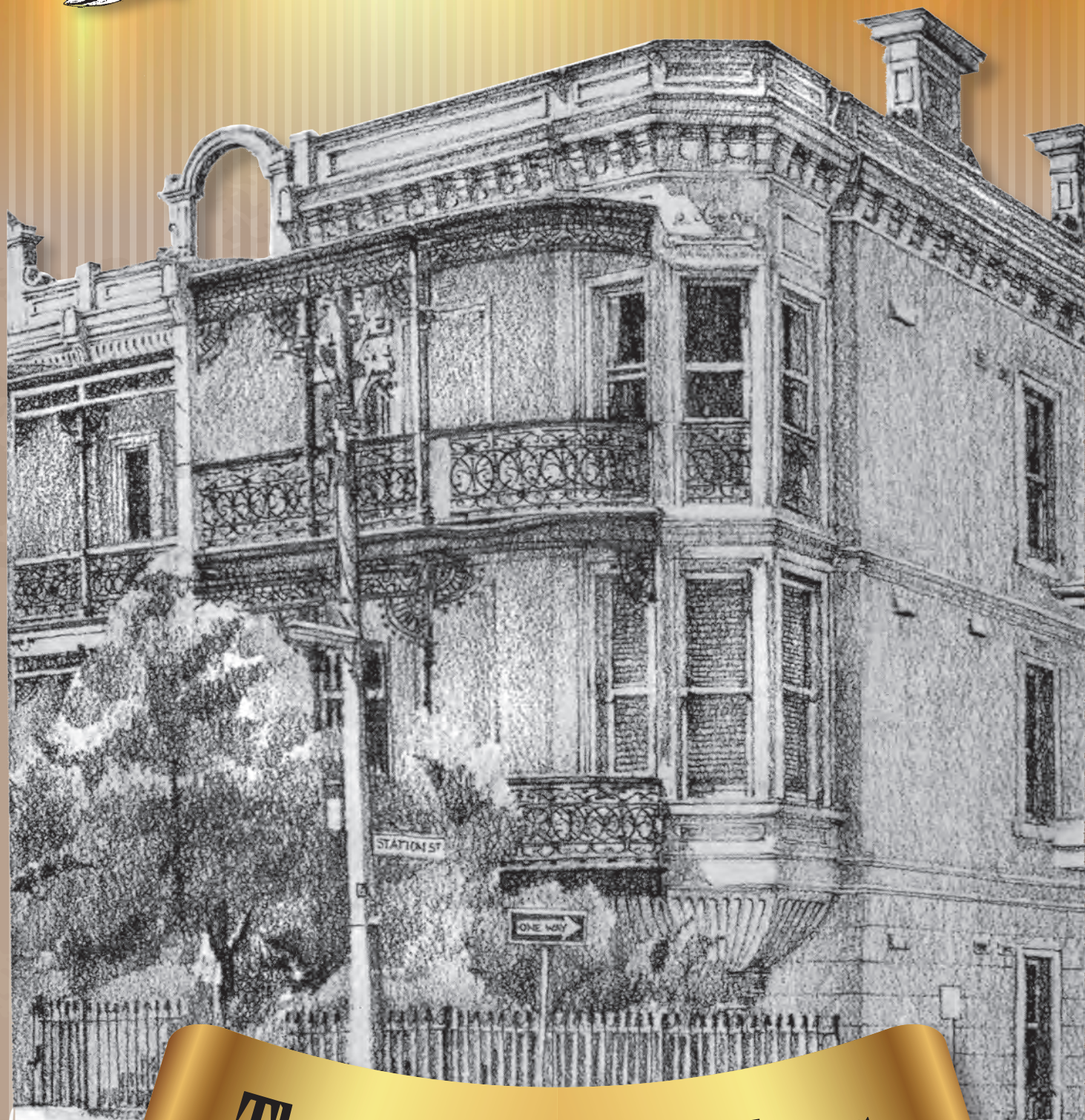




Philately *from* Australia

Journal of the **ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY of VICTORIA Inc**



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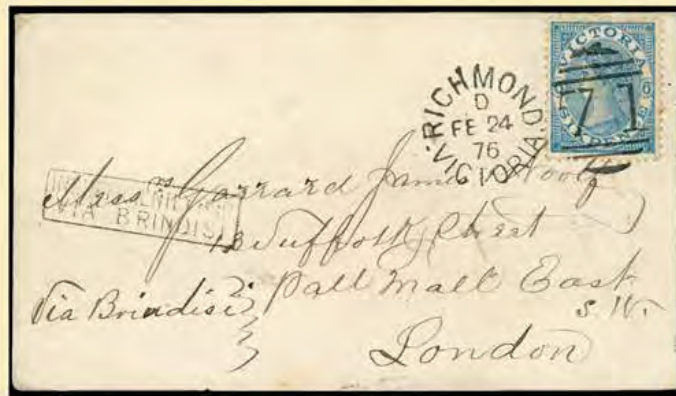
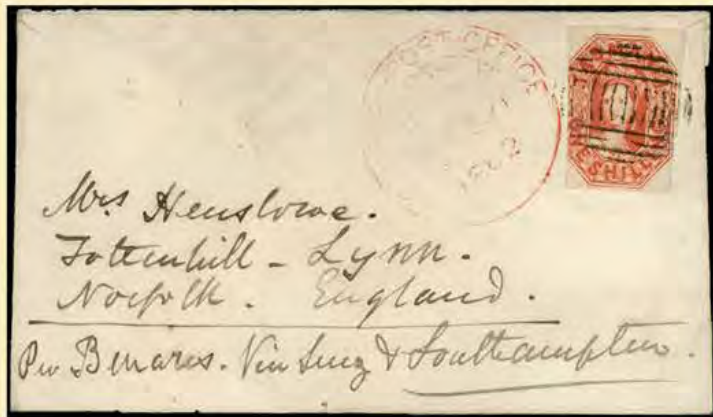
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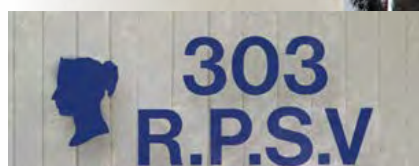
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C.G.

Philately *from* Australia

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Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of *Philately from Australia* for 2017 – a special issue devoted to the history and activities of the Society in celebration of our 125th anniversary. The RPSV Council takes pleasure in making copies of this issue available to interested members of the wider philatelic community at the Society's stand at MELBOURNE 2017.

Our Librarian, Richard Breckon, has generously volunteered to write two feature articles about the Society. The first covers the period from the Society's founding in 1892 to 1946, just before the announcement of our "Royal" accreditation in January 1947; the second runs from 1947 until the late 1970s. He covers a number of important areas including the founding of the Society, prominent members, the Library, philatelic publications, the Journal, the Expert Committee, and the Exchange Branch. Both articles are illustrated with a wonderful series of images sourced from our Library and Archives. Richard has also compiled detailed reference lists of all our Presidents and Society Awards.

To complement the above, Richard has provided a "snapshot" of the Society today, and extended our regular "Years Ago" feature to cover 125 years at 25-year intervals. In addition, we celebrate the achievements of members in recent national and international exhibitions including China 2016, Philataipei 2016, Thailand 2016, Hobart Stamp Show 2016, Christchurch 2016, Mandurah 2016, and Adelaide Stampex 2016.

I am confident that all readers will find much to interest and inform them as they browse this special edition. Finally, please note that our regular articles, including Gary Diffen's series on WWI postal history and Colonial Errors, will again appear in the June 2017 edition of the journal. We will also be featuring coverage of MELBOURNE 2017 and ROYALPEX 125 which will be held at Melbourne's Caulfield Racecourse from Thursday 30 March to Sunday 2 April.

The Society's Two Homes in Melbourne

Cover: 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra (Drawing by Dennis Duncan)

This was (and still is) a classic three-storey Victorian building. It was opened in 1957 and became the Society's first permanent home. The meeting room was on the ground floor and the first floor contained the Council Room, Library and kitchen; the top floor was leased to aid Society finances. Unfortunately, maintenance, accessibility and space issues forced the Council to begin searching for a new home in 2003.

Left: Purves House (2017): 303 High Street, Ashburton

After an exhaustive search, the Society purchased the property in December 2003 for \$1.23 million and officially acquired it on 15 April 2004. At the time, the two-storey property was about 12 years old with air conditioning, heating and security system. Now fully outfitted, including a lift, it features an area of about 400 square metres, with the Library and Council Room downstairs and the main meeting room and kitchen upstairs.

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Articles on any subjects of philatelic interest are welcome from contributors, whether or not they are RPSV members. Articles should be submitted as plain text in the body of an email or as an attachment in Word or Rich Text format. Please include a list of references or bibliography, as appropriate. Images should be supplied at 300 DPI or higher; quote source/permission for non-author images.

All contributions will be reviewed by the editorial team. Articles exceeding 3,000 words may have to be divided into instalments appearing in various editions of the journal.

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www.rpsv.org.au



Journal of the
**ROYAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY of VICTORIA Inc**



A Word from Your President

Our Society has a long and rich history and, in a few weeks time, we will be celebrating our 125th Anniversary. The celebrations will involve ROYALPEX 125, a non-

competitive display by members to be held in conjunction with MELBOURNE 2017, the 34th FIAP International Stamp Exhibition at the Caulfield Racecourse from 30 March to 2 April. I recommend to all those who have the opportunity to attend what should be a great exhibition.

Our traditional evening meeting on Thursday, 30 March will make way for a special reception where all members, partners and guests are invited to celebrate our 125th Anniversary. This promises to be a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends **and** introduce yourself to new friends, with all of us bonded by a common interest.

This issue of *Philately from Australia* is a special edition devoted to the history and activities of the (Royal) Philatelic Society of Victoria. Our Librarian, Richard Breckon, has combed the archives to prepare a concise account from our modest beginnings to the late 1970s. His contribution to this Anniversary edition is significant, and indeed typical of past members who have devoted their time and energy for the benefit of the Society. The names of members who have contributed over the years read like a "Who's Who" of Australian Philately, from the Society's founding in 1892, to our "Royal" accreditation in 1947, to our upcoming birthday in August this year.

The 125th Anniversary Reception at Purves House in late March promises to be the social highlight of 2017, so I am looking forward to the year ahead. Enjoy the read...

Gary Diffen

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.



ROYALPEX 125

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc. celebrates its 125th Anniversary this year. Part of the celebrations includes ROYALPEX 125, a non-competitive exhibition by members from around Australia and overseas.

See us at STAND 27 for our two official ROYALPEX 125 souvenirs. These are limited numbered overprints on:

- **Rare Beauties Minisheet Limited Edition of 250**
- **Holden LJ Torana PNC Limited Edition of 200**

Also at STAND 27 is the full range of our philatelic publications on Australia and the Colonies. Many of the older publications are at reduced prices. Also, many second hand books surplus to our Library requirements will be available at very affordable prices.

This year is also the 70th anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Victoria being granted in 1947 the "Royal" prefix by King George VI. Since 1949, the Society has published *Philately from Australia*, a full colour quarterly journal devoted to philatelic research and publication. Our Expert Committee is the premier organization in the region providing certificates of opinion on Australasian and Pacific Islands material.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc. is one of the premier philatelic Societies in Australia. New members are always welcome. Come to STAND 27 and talk to one of our friendly members about the benefits of joining the Society, and receive information on the Society and our activities, as well as our publications.



The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc. – 125 Years On!

The “Royal”, as the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is often called, marks three notable anniversaries during 2017: – 125 years since the Society’s foundation (1892); 70 years since the “Royal” prefix was granted to the Society by King George VI (1947); and 60 years since the Society acquired its first home at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra (1957).

The (Royal) Philatelic Society of Victoria was established in Melbourne on 10 August 1892. It is not the oldest in Australasia – the Philatelic Society of South Australia (1888), the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand (1888) and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (1890) are older.

Nevertheless, the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is arguably Australia’s leading philatelic society. Many prominent philatelists are members, including those living outside Victoria. Notably, the three living signatories in Australia to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (the world’s highest philatelic honour) are Royal members: Ray Chapman (1987), Geoff Kellow (2009) and Ray Todd (2011).

In 1957, the Royal became the first Australian philatelic organisation to purchase its own premises. Its present-day home is Purves House in Ashburton, a modern, two-level office building, which was opened in October 2004. During the Melbourne 2017 International Stamp Exhibition, a 125th Anniversary Open Night will be held at Purves House on Thursday, 30 March 2017 at 7 p.m., which members, guests and visitors are welcome to attend.

The Royal’s main purpose is to promote philately in all aspects, particularly through the advancement of philatelic knowledge. As part of this mission, the Royal publishes *Philately from Australia*, Australia’s oldest philatelic journal still in production. Published quarterly since 1949, the journal is an important source of contemporary philatelic research and of the Society’s current activities.

The Royal also produces reference works with a particular focus on Australian stamps and postal history. In fact, since 1950, the Royal has published around 40

books. One recent and notable publication, *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879–1912* by Kenneth Scudder, was awarded the Royal Philatelic Society London’s 2015 Crawford Medal, which is recognised as the world’s most prestigious award for philatelic literature.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria owns the largest philatelic library in the Southern Hemisphere, which is continually expanding as new books, journals and catalogues are added. During Melbourne 2017, the Library will be open on Saturday, 1 April 2017, 2 - 5 p.m. Visitors are invited to come along to Purves House to join special tours of the library.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria’s Expert Committee provides members and other clients with Certificates of Opinion involving Australasian and Pacific Islands philatelic items. The Committee is regarded as Australia’s leading authority for opinions on stamps and postal history.

The Royal meets on the third Thursday evening of the month, as well as the fifth Thursday evening (if applicable). The meetings usually feature a display of a significant collection of a local, interstate or overseas philatelist. Daytime meetings are also held on the first Tuesday of the month. Royal meetings provide a valuable opportunity to learn about philately from very experienced members.

The non-competitive ROYALPEX 125 exhibits on display at the Melbourne 2017 International Stamp Exhibition showcase the wide range of collecting interests of Royal members. There are 47 exhibits contributed by 34 Royal members, continuing a tradition of non-competitive exhibits held for the Royal’s Centenary (1992) and 75th anniversary (1967).

Interested philatelists are welcome to apply for membership of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. By joining, you participate in the activities of Australia’s premier society, as well as contributing to the advancement of the hobby. A membership application form can be downloaded from the website.

www.rpsv.org.au



A Short History of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1892 to 1946

It was “third time lucky” when the Philatelic Society of Victoria (PSV) was born in 1892. Melbourne-based philatelic societies were established in 1887 and 1890, but they withered after a few months, leaving little tangible evidence of their existence.

The first gathering of the new Society was over dinner on 7 July 1892 at the Vienna Café in Collins Street, Melbourne where the Society’s formation was discussed by a small group of philatelists. On 10 August 1892, a meeting in an office building at the corner of Queen Street and Collins Street led to the formal establishment of the Philatelic Society of Victoria. Rules had been drafted, which after debate and a few amendments, were adopted. Three office bearers were appointed to be President, Vice-President and Secretary/Treasurer, together with three committee members.

Who were the people involved? The leading philatelists included Charles Hesselmann, an importer whose Queen



Mr David H. Hill, the first President of the PSV



Mr C.B. Donne, a Foundation Member and one of Australia's earliest stamp dealers

Street office was used for the inaugural meeting; David Hill, a Treasury official, who published the earliest archival research of Victorian stamps and postal stationery; Walter Brettschneider, a sign writer and part-time stamp dealer; F.R. Godfrey, a grazier and company director; Charles Donne, a retailer of books and maps, and a part-time stamp dealer; William Rundell, head of the Post Office Records section, who sourced information of philatelic interest; Maximilian Tannenberg, a lithographic artist successful in various stamp design competitions; and William Ackland, who began Melbourne’s first dedicated stamp shop in 1892.

The PSV met monthly, variously on a Tuesday, Wednesday or Thursday evening. The venues changed regularly. During the Society’s first 35 years, at least 12 locations in Melbourne’s Central Business District served as the Society’s meeting rooms, which were

often the business premises of leading members. In the Society's early years, attendance at meetings was small, being about 10 to 20. The total membership fluctuated between 60 and 80, of whom around three out of five were "City" members and the others "Corresponding" members (country and interstate).

The meeting formats in the early years involved members displaying their collections and recent acquisitions, or the presentation of papers read to members. The somewhat improvised formats continued until 1914, when it was decided to produce a regular syllabus for six-month periods. A special feature of meetings was the display (under glass) of world-wide new issues as distributed by the Universal Postal Union. Organised by William Rundell, the UPU stamp displays began in 1894 and continued at least until the late 1920s.

In 1895, a rule was adopted "that no smoking be allowed at meetings until the business of the evening is concluded." Another rule that had been originally adopted in 1892 stated: "No person who is professionally engaged in selling and buying stamps, shall be eligible as a member of the Committee." The ban on stamp dealers was impracticable and it was dropped in February 1894.

From the outset, exchange books were circulated in the PSV and they played an important role. The books were despatched by registered post with the sequence of movement between members being determined by annual ballots. In 1905, the exchange books were allowed to be circulated outside Victoria for the first time, which encouraged interstate collectors to join the PSV. Between 1892 and 1926, a total of 400 exchange books were produced with sales of stamps amounting to £11,100 – the equivalent of more than \$1 million in today's currency.

From an early stage, the Society had to deal with forged and manipulated stamps in the exchange books. In 1893, a member was obliged to resign when it was discovered that high-value Victorian fiscal stamps on his exchange sheets had their pen cancellations removed, and forged postmarks added. His cancelling devices were confiscated and impressions of them circulated to philatelic bodies.

In the 1890s, the UK-based, Society for Suppressing Speculative Stamps (SSSS) was active in condemning commemorative and short-term issues that were deemed exploitative and unnecessary for postal use. This led to the PSV Exchange Superintendent removing the "condemned" stamps from the exchange sheets but, after a few years, the practice ceased. As the Society's Historian, A.J. Derrick, observed: *There is, however, an element in human nature which cannot be set aside by resolutions of societies, and speculative stamps were collected in spite of all black lists and the movement gradually came to an end.*



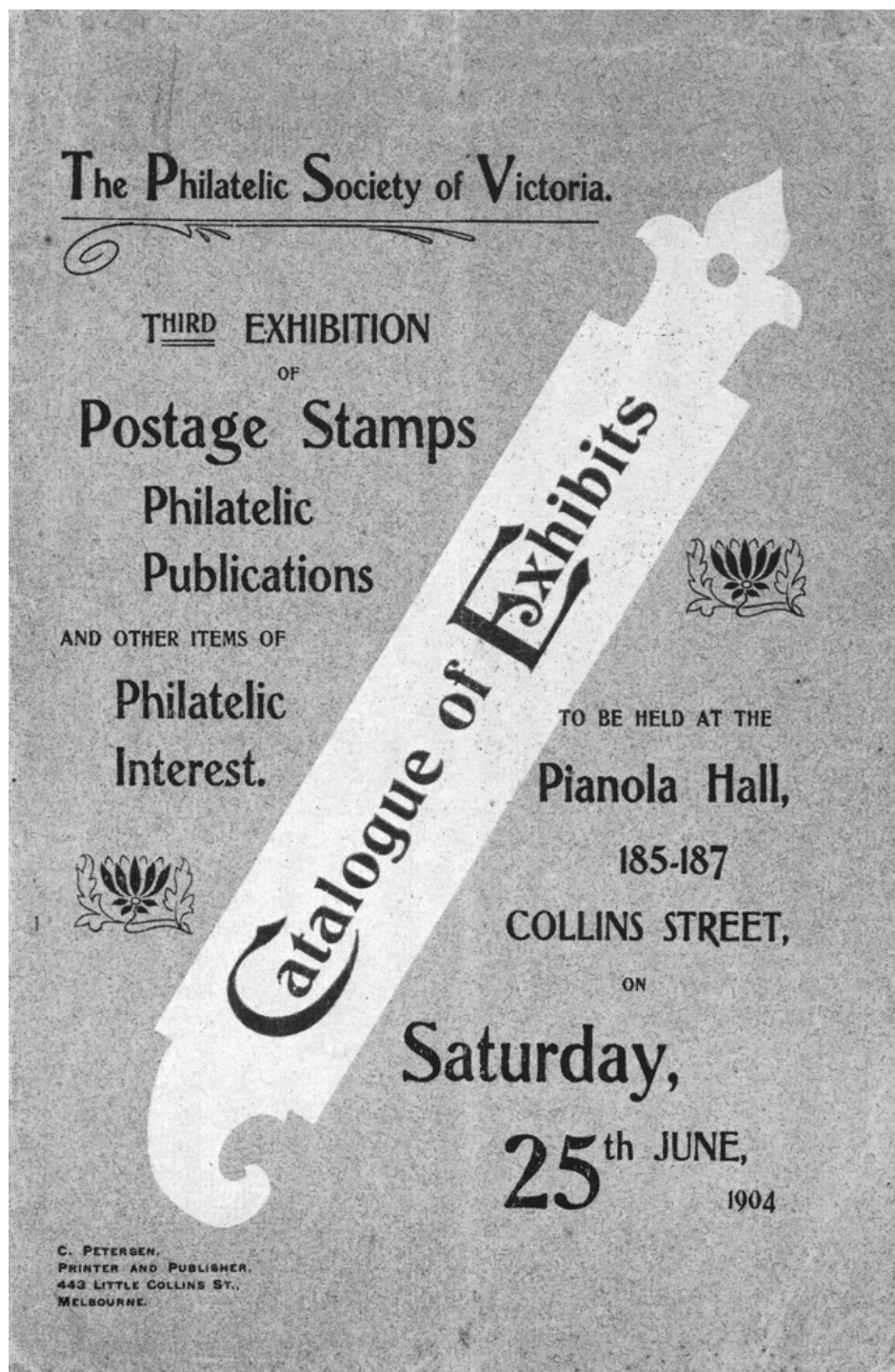
Mr A.J. Derrick, RDP 1928

On 15 September 1894, the PSV held its first stamp exhibition (and the first in Australia) at the Vienna Café in Collins Street. There were 149 frames accommodating 10,000 stamps, 400 postcards and 700 envelopes exhibited by 26 members. About 600 visitors turned up to the show. Two more one-day exhibitions were held on 26 May 1900 and 25 June 1904, these being staged in public halls in the city area. The 1900 exhibition, marking 50 years of Victorian stamps, also involved exhibits from the Government Stamp Printer and the Post Office. The 1904 exhibition was notable for the 26-page catalogue with a colour cover, the sales of which at 3d each (and the advertisements inside) almost covered the £25 expenses in running the exhibition.

A library was formed soon after the Society was established, comprising a single bookcase of handbooks, journals and catalogues. The Library was housed in the various city premises, which at different times served as the meeting venue. On Saturday, 21 November 1897, the "Great Flinders Street Fire" devastated the area between Elizabeth and Swanston Streets. The fire totally destroyed the Society's library, which was held in Walter Brettschneider's premises located in Flinders Street. Fortunately, the Society's records escaped as Brettschneider had them in his house.

A circular to members appealed for donations to rebuild the Library. Evidently, many donations were forthcoming as, six months later, David Hill congratulated the Society on "the valuable library" which now existed. In 1907,





The cover of the 1904 Stamp Exhibition catalogue

member) were responsible. They were punished by reductions in status and salary.

The PSV was at war again following the Victorian Post Office's first charity stamp issue in 1897, sold at a premium of 12 times their postage value, to celebrate Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The charity stamp concept was repeated in 1900 with stamps raising funds for the wounded soldiers of the Victorian Contingent in the Boer War. The Society regarded these ventures as objectionable, passing a resolution in 1900 *regretting that the Postmaster-General should have decided to issue the proposed war stamps and entering its protest against the same*. Curiously, it was a leading PSV member, F.R. Godfrey, who urged the issue of charity stamps in 1897.

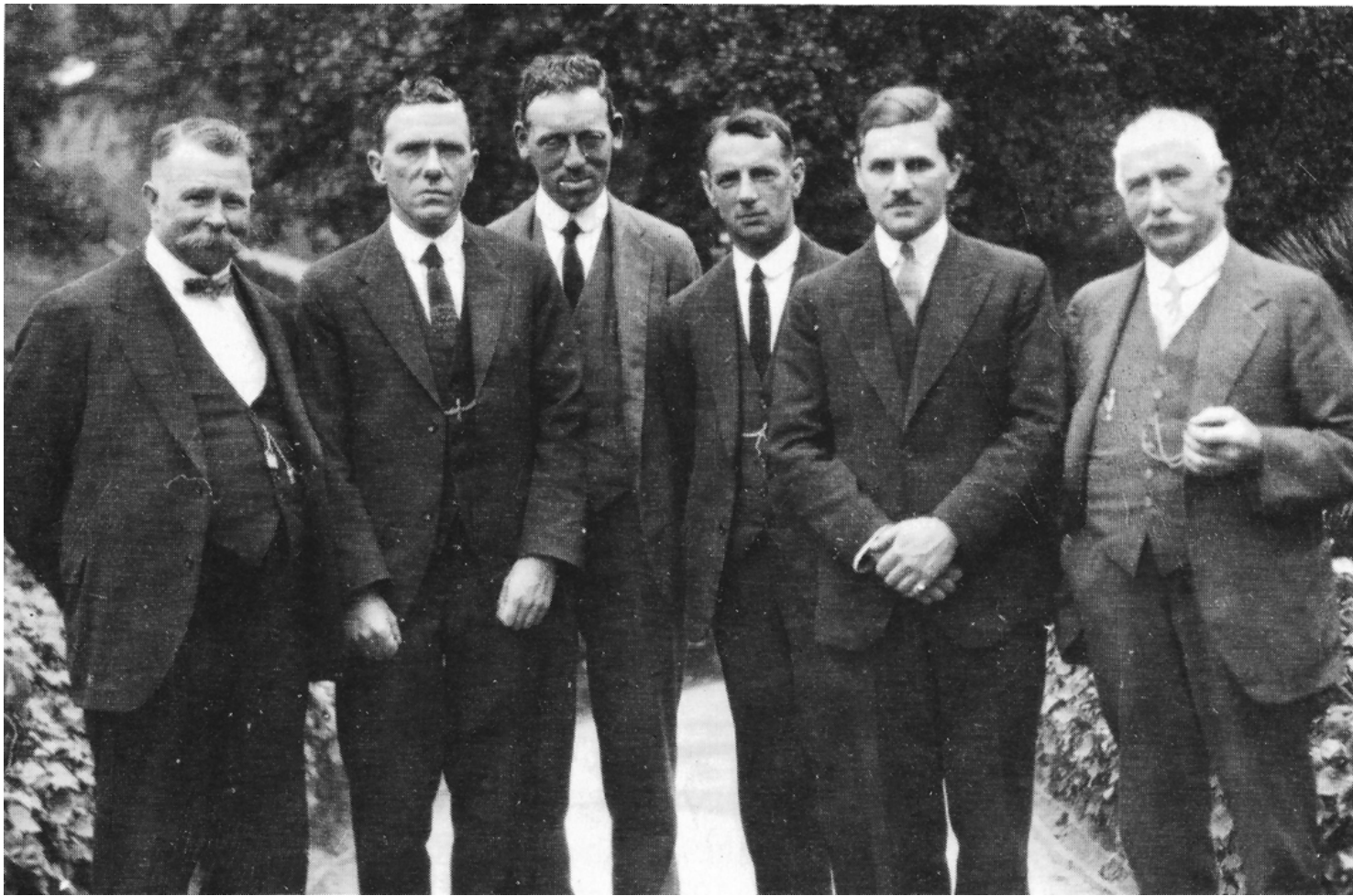
World War I had a significant impact on the Society. At least 13 members joined the Forces, one of whom, Sergeant J.H. Hooke, was killed at the Gallipoli landing. Some of those who enlisted offered to resign from the Society, but it was decided to grant them honorary membership during their time in the services. At most meetings of the Society during 1917–18, auctions were held of stamps donated to raise funds for Red Cross work. The 1919 Annual General Meeting reported that the auctions had raised a total of about £200.

the PSV published the first Library catalogue with 200 copies being printed of a “neat and handy” reference. Two years previously, the “no borrowing” rule was abolished and members could take library books back home to study.

As an activist body, the PSV safe-guarded the interests of philately. The unauthorised reprinting of obsolete Victorian stamps in 1894–95 for trafficking to collectors led to a PSV delegation meeting the Postmaster-General. After further investigation, it was discovered that some public servants (including a PSV

A sordid aspect of the wartime PSV was a resolution carried in January 1916 *that it be a recommendation to the Committee that members of enemy birth be asked to resign*. The PSV Committee quickly prepared a list of members who were potentially subject to the rule, including one with a son at the Front and Walter Brettschneider. When Brettschneider and another member concerned refused to resign, their subscriptions were rejected. It was not until 1926 that the “enemy origin” rule was expunged, and Brettschneider was able to join the Society again.

Following World War I, the membership continued



Group of members at the 1928 Melbourne International Stamp Exhibition.
 (Left to right: D.F. Stevenson, J.H. Dunn, A.A. Rosenblum, W.E. Wakefield, J.R.W. Purves and W. Brettschneider)

to grow steadily to reach the 150-mark by 1922. That year, the average attendance at meetings was 27 and the number of Town and Country/Interstate members was about 50/50.

In July 1924, the Society created the award of Honorary Life Member, which was presented to five members: D.H. Hill, A.J. Derrick, W.R. Rundell, A.S.A. Whelen and P.T. Berry. (With the exception of Berry, they were all foundation members.)

During the 1920s, two very influential philatelists emerged in the Society: A.A. (Alec) Rosenblum and J.R.W. (Bill) Purves. As RPSV Historian Horrie Chisholm explained, the two leading philatelists occasionally had “great arguments” at Society meetings about technical aspects of Australian Commonwealth stamp production, the discussion being joined by some other members, but leaving the majority “bemused and bewildered.”

Alec Rosenblum rose to prominence with the 1922 publication of *The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia*. During its 46-year life – the final edition of

the handbook appeared in 1968 – Rosenblum’s work educated generations of Australian Commonwealth enthusiasts. A “mover and shaker” in stamp circles, Rosenblum edited the *Victorian Philatelic Record* during most of the 1920s until he established the *Australian Stamp Monthly* in 1930, a more commercial venture than the “Record”.

Bill Purves rapidly made a name for himself with his erudite research. Aged only 26 in 1929, he was elected President of the PSV and, ten years later, was made an Honorary Life Member. The sale of Purves’ 19-volume Australian Commonwealth collection to King George V in 1930 generated wide publicity for the hobby. In 1931, Purves was invited to display at the Royal Philatelic Society London (Chisholm suggests he was the first Australian to be invited); the subject of his display and an accompanying paper was the Tasmanian Pictorials. The highlight of his early career was signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1937. Starting out as the Roll’s youngest philatelist, Purves went on to be the senior signatory when he died 42 years later.



The June 1948 Society meeting at the Stamp Centre (opened July 1946)

Other leading PSV members of the inter-war years included Stan Orlo-Smith, the Melbourne stamp dealer who published the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* in 1926; Jack Cato, Melbourne society photographer and Australian Commonwealth specialist, who was described by Chisholm as a “character” who viewed the world with a “superior air”; and Phil Collas, who succeeded Rosenblum as editor of the *Australian Stamp Monthly* in 1935. Interestingly, the American Consul in Melbourne, John Dye, was a PSV member who, in 1931, displayed 1847–1888 US issues “almost complete”.

The PSV played the leading role in organising the major philatelic exhibitions in Melbourne in the 1920s and 1930s, starting with the Second Australasian Philatelic Congress and Exhibition, 14–17 March 1921. (The first was held in Sydney in 1911.) The 1921 exhibition comprised 192 exhibits from 71 exhibitors, and revolving displays of 480 album pages. The Fourth Australasian Philatelic Congress and Exhibition, 26 October–2 November 1928, was

Australia’s first international exhibition. It attracted 455 entries from 30 countries, making Melbourne in scope second only to the 1926 New York exhibition. Finally, the Sixth Australasian Philatelic Exhibition (the congress element was dropped) coincided with the Centenary of Victoria, 8–17 November 1934 and attracted 482 exhibits.

World War II was less disruptive to PSV activities than World War I. At least there was no “enemy origin” rule introduced. The Society was active in fund raising, combining with other philatelic societies on the Victorian Philatelists’ Patriotic Committee to organise Red Cross Stamp Auctions raising a total of £3,500.

Although “brownouts” were in force, and many members were engaged in war work, the Society commemorated its 50th anniversary on 20 August 1942 with an invitation exhibition at Centenary Hall featuring rare stamps protected by sheets of celluloid laid out on long trestle tables. Shortly before the Golden Jubilee celebrations, “Bretty” Brettschneider



*The Sales Branch at work (1948): Standing – H.M. Campbell, F.J. Beverin and E. Durant;
Sitting – L. Van Straten, P. Collas, J.R.W. Purves, C.G.C. Hodgkinson, W.L. Russell, L.A. Chester. P.W. Simonson and E.B. Doery.*

and D.S. Abrahams, the last of the foundation members, died. An era had passed.

The Society's Annual Competition was introduced in June 1943. Entries of 10 sheets were judged on the basis of Philatelic Interest & General Appeal, 45 points; Philatelic Knowledge & Research, 25 points; Arrangement & Display, 15 points; and Condition, 15 points. The highest aggregate exhibit was awarded the Silver Medal. The Annual Competition has been a feature of the June meeting ever since.

At the end of 1945, the Society began searching for a new meeting venue when the Teachers' Association

room was no longer available. It was a familiar story, but this time there was a happy ending. The second floor of the Boy Scout Association premises at the western end of Collins Street was offered to the Society on a two-year lease. The offer was accepted and the Society had a "permanent" home, with a main meeting room, library and committee room. Called the Philatelic Society of Victoria "Stamp Centre", it was opened on 10 July 1946 by the Commonwealth Stamp Printer, W.C. Gordon McCracken.

The Society was growing steadily.

Sources:

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Lists of Presidents & Awards of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

Presidents of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria 1892 –					
D.H. Hill	1892	J.S. McNeill	1921	E.G. Creed	1952
D.H. Hill	1893	A.A. Rosenblum	1922	J.R.W. Purves	1953
C. Hesselmann	1894	J.M. Fenton	1923	Rev J.C.W. Brown	1954
A.S.A. Whelen	1895	A.J. Derrick	1924	P. Collas	1955
J. Davis	1896	L.A. Chester	1925	P.T. Masters	1956
A.J. Derrick	1897	Dr C.J. Simpson	1926	J.R.W. Purves	1957
W.R. Rundell	1898	J.H. Dunn	1927	C.G.C. Hodgkinson	1958
W. Brettschneider	1899	J.M. Fenton	1928	J. Gartner	1959
C. Chapman	1900	J.R.W. Purves	1929	A.W. Bunn	1960
W. Davies	1901	J.S. McNeill	1930	A.G. Brown	1961
D.S. Abraham	1902	W.E. Wakefield	1931	R.L. Lloyd-Smith	1962
J. Welsh	1903	A.E. Forman	1932	J.R.W. Purves	1963
W.T. Littlewood	1904	W.H. Dooley	1933	E.G. Creed	1964
W.R. Rundell	1905	J.M. Fenton	1934	C.G. Skewes	1965
F.A. Jackson	1906	J.R.W. Purves	1935	A.J. Petrie	1966
L.A. Chester	1907	J. Cato	1936	H.L. Chisholm	1967
A.G. Kelson	1908	H.A. Clarkson	1937	G.T. White	1968
C.H. Edmondson	1909	L.S. Cox	1938	J.R.W. Purves	1969
Rev H.W. Lane	1910	W.L. Russell	1939	L.W. Buchanan	1970
H. Glazbrook	1911	P. Collas	1940	T.C. Lester	1971
W.R. Rundell	1912	P.W. Simonson	1941	P. Jaffé	1972
C.H. Edmondson	1913	F.H.K. Davis	1942	J. Gartner	1973
W.R. Rundell	1914	A.S. Chinn	1943	Miss M.E. Farley	1974
Rev H.W. Lane	1915	W.M. Holbeach	1944	J.R.W. Purves	1975
P.T. Berry	1916	L. Van Straten	1945	M.B. Watson	1976
A.D. Price	1917	J.R.W. Purves	1946	D.N. Baker	1977
B.H. Alston	1918	C.G.C. Hodgkinson	1947	D.E. Napier	1978
S. Orlo-Smith	1919	F.A. Ladbury	1948	P. Jaffé	1979
Rev H.T. Hull	1920	H.M. Campbell	1949	J. Gartner	1980
		G.R.L. Clark	1950	M.B. Watson	1981
		E.B. Doery	1951	T.C. Lester	1982

G.T. White	1983
R.T.P. Chapman	1984
L.W. Buchanan	1985
T.A. Carter	1986
G.R. Jones	1987
J. Trowbridge	1988
D.R. Terrington	1989
J. MacDonnell	1990
T.A. Carter	1991
Miss M.E. Farley	1992
L.W. Buchanan	1993
W. Roemer	1994
J. Trowbridge	1995
J. Sinfield	1996
G.N. Kellow	1997
D.E. Napier	1998
T.A. Carter	1999
M.B. Watson	2000
J. MacDonnell	2001
G. Brown	2002
G. Brown	2003
R. Geitenbeek	2004
C. Bromser	2005
C. Bromser	2006
J. Sinfield	2007
J. Sinfield	2008
J. Shawley	2009
J. Shawley	2010
F. Pauer	2011
F. Pauer	2012
J. Boykett	2013
J. Boykett	2014
G. Diffen	2015
G. Diffen	2016

Life Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria 1894 –	
Life Honorary Presidents*	
D.H. Hill	1894–1926
A.J. Derrick	1926–1931
A.S.A. Whelen	1931–1933
W. Brettschneider	1934–1942
<i>*Recipients were required to be foundation members (1892).</i>	
Life Members	
M.P. Castle (UK)	<i>Year unknown</i>
C.L. Pack (USA)	1911
C.W. Ellis	1912
D.H. Hill	1924
W.R. Rundell	1924
A.J. Derrick	1924
A.S.A. Whelen	1924
D.S. Abraham	1932
W. Brettschneider	1932
E.R. Long	1937
J.R.W. Purves	1939
L.A. Chester	1942
J.M. Fenton	1945
C.G. Skewes	1950
W. Orchard	1957
C.G.C. Hodgkinson	1957
E.G. Creed	1957
E.B. Doery	1957
J.H. Dunn	1958
H.F. McNess	1959
A.E. Layton	1967
T.C. Lester	1968
J. Gartner	1975
Myra Farley	1976
Helen Serjeant White	1976
P. Collas	1980

H.L. Chisholm	1980
Joyce Buchanan	1980
L.W. Buchanan	1984
A.W. Bunn	1985
R.L. Lloyd-Smith	1987
H.M. Campbell	1988
P. Jaffé	1989
D.R. Terrington	1992
J. Trowbridge	1992
M.B. Watson	1997
R.T.P. Chapman	1999
D.E. Napier	1999
G.N. Kellow	2003
Recipients of the David H. Hill Medal 1957 –	
J.R.W. Purves	1957
H.M. Campbell	1963
J. Gartner	1974
E.G. Creed	1980
H.L. Chisholm	1982
R.T.P. Chapman	1984
Myra Farley	1984
Joyce Buchanan	1984
L.W. Buchanan	1984
P. Jaffé	1990
T.A. Carter	1992
G.N. Kellow	1992
R. Jones	1999
H.M. Campbell	2001
G. Brown	2014
Recipients of the J.R.W. Purves Medal 1970 –	
J.R.W. Purves	1970
Joyce Buchanan	1970
A.W. Bunn	1970
H.L. Chisholm	1970
E.G. Creed	1970
E.B. Doery	1970



Myra Farley	1970
J. Gartner	1970
Marjorie Gates	1970
C.G.C. Hodgkinson	1970
T.C. Lester	1970
R.L. Lloyd-Smith	1970
A.J. Petrie	1970
C.G. Skewes	1970
J.C. Todd	1970
Helen Serjeant White	1974
L.W. Buchanan	1974
D.E. Napier	1976
P. Jaffé	1976
J.W. Turnbull	1984
D.R. Terrington	1984
G.T. White	1984
D.N. Baker	1984
T.A. Carter	1990
R. Jones	1990
G.N. Kellow	1990
J. Trowbridge	1990
D.N. Baker	1984
M.B. Watson	1992
R.T.P. Chapman	1995
H.M. Campbell	1995
J. MacDonnell	1996
J. Sinfield	2000
J. Shawley	2007
F.P. Pauer	2016
Recipients of the John Gartner Medal 1999 –	
B. Peace	1999
H.N. Eustis	2002
G.N. Kellow	2005
Dr. J. Barwis	2010
J.M. Wilkins	2010
K. Scudder	2014

50-Year Members	
W. Ackland	1893–1953
A.G. Kelson	1897–1960
W. Orchard	1903–1968
C.G.C. Hodgkinson	1914–1975
A.E. Layton	1916–1969
J.H. Dunn	1918–1969
H.T. Howden	1918–1969
J.A. Schofield	1919–1972
Dr W.P. Heslop	1920–1983
J.R.W. Purves	1923–1979
R.W. Gates	1923–1974
Dr. G. Kerfoot	1935–1992
J.A. Ganley	1935–2008
P. Collas	1935–1989
S.G. Parker	1942–1992
H.M. Campbell	1945–2002
Dr. Jean Laby	1946–2008
R. Jones	1947–2004
H.L. Chisholm	1947–1999
D.M. Englander	1949–1999
R.T.P. Chapman	1949–present
Myra Farley	1952–2010
Joyce Buchanan	1952–2008
Dr. J. Chapman	1952–present
P. Jaffé	1954–2005
M.T. Bulley	1955–present
O. Ingles	1957–present
O. White	1957–present
L.W. Buchanan	1958–present
J.M. Wilkins	1958–present
G.T. White	1958–2009
D.E. Napier	1963–2016
C.A. Lawlor	1964–present
M.B. Watson	1964–present

Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria 2010 –	
M. Barden	2010
J. Boykett	2010
R.N. Breckon	2010
G. Brown	2010
B. Lloyd-Smith	2010
A. Presgrave	2010
J. Sinfield	2010
R. Todd	2010
R. Turner	2010
G. Watson	2010
C. Bromser	2011
K. Scudder	2011
J. Shawley	2011
Marion Smith	2011
W. Jenkins	2012
T. Morgan	2012
B. Pope	2012
Stephanie Bromser	2013
A.W. Gray	2013
M. Groom	2013
G. Hayward	2014
Julie Marshall	2014
F.P. Pauer	2014
J. Shaw	2014
Marjorie Crawford	2015
P. Leitch	2015
T. Gallagher	2016
A. Grey	2016
D. Wood	2016

Background notes:

President, Rule 13 (1): *Save for the President or Vice-President all persons elected or appointed pursuant to Rules 11 and 12 shall hold office until the annual general meeting next after the date of their election and shall be eligible for re-election or re-appointment. The President or Vice-President may be elected for a second consecutive one-year term.*

Rule 13 (2): *A member may not be elected as President or Vice-President in the ensuing three years after vacating either of these offices.*

Rule 16 (1): *Only members who have served for at least four years as Councillors shall be eligible for nomination as President.*

Prior to 2002, the President was elected for a single one-year term, following which the Vice President succeeded, this being the convention. In 2002, the Rules were changed to allow the President and Vice-President to serve two-year terms.

Awards, Rule 29: *The Council in its sole discretion may from time to time reward a member's service to the Society by the conferring of any of the following four awards, it being understood that the holding of any one does not preclude the holder from receiving any one of the other three.*

Life Members, Rule 29 (1): *Life members shall not at any time exceed five in number and shall have full membership rights in the Society during their lifetime without payment of an annual subscription and shall be deemed financial members. The current number of life members shall be reduced to five by attrition. (Note that there are currently five Life Members.)*

Rule 9 (1): *Life Members may use the designation, LMRPSV to indicate that they have been so honoured by the Society.*

David H. Hill Medal, Rule 29 (2): *This award, the highest the Society can give, is for distinguished service, whether of a philatelic, cultural or administrative nature, in the cause of philately. Unlike (1) and (3), this award is not limited to members of the Society, but is restricted to persons resident in Australia. The same person shall be eligible to receive it more than once provided that four years have elapsed since the previous award. (Note that (1) refers to Life Members and (3) to the J.R.W. Purves Medal.)*

J.R.W. Purves Medal, Rule 29 (3): *This award is for distinguished service to the Society by a member. Save in exceptional circumstances a minimum of ten years' distinguished service to the Society in any field or fields whatsoever is necessary for the conferring of this award. The medal can be awarded only once to each recipient.*

John Gartner Medal, Rule 29 (4): *This award is for the best separate philatelic literature work on any subject published in Australia during the preceding two years. It will be available annually, but may be withheld in any year at the discretion of the Council. The award shall not be limited to Society members nor to Australian citizens nor to persons resident in Australia, and may be conferred on a person(s) or organisation. The award may be made for continuing publication over a period of years of separate philatelic works constituting a significant contribution to philately. The award may be made to the same person(s) or organisation more than once provided that at least five years have elapsed since the previous award.*

Fellows, Rule 8: *Any Ordinary Member of the Society may be elected a Fellow who has*

- (1) *Performed meritorious work for the benefit of the Society, or*
- (2) *Who has performed meritorious work for the benefit of philately, or*
- (3) *Who has written and published books which are for the benefit of philately, or*
- (4) *Who has consistently displayed at National or International stamp exhibitions at the level of a Large Vermeil medal, and*
- (5) *Has been a financial Ordinary Member of the Society for a minimum period of eight years.*

The election shall be by Council acting on the recommendation of the Awards Committee.

Rule 9 (2): *For so long as they remain financial members of the Society Fellows may use the designation FRPSV.*



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A Short History of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1947–1979

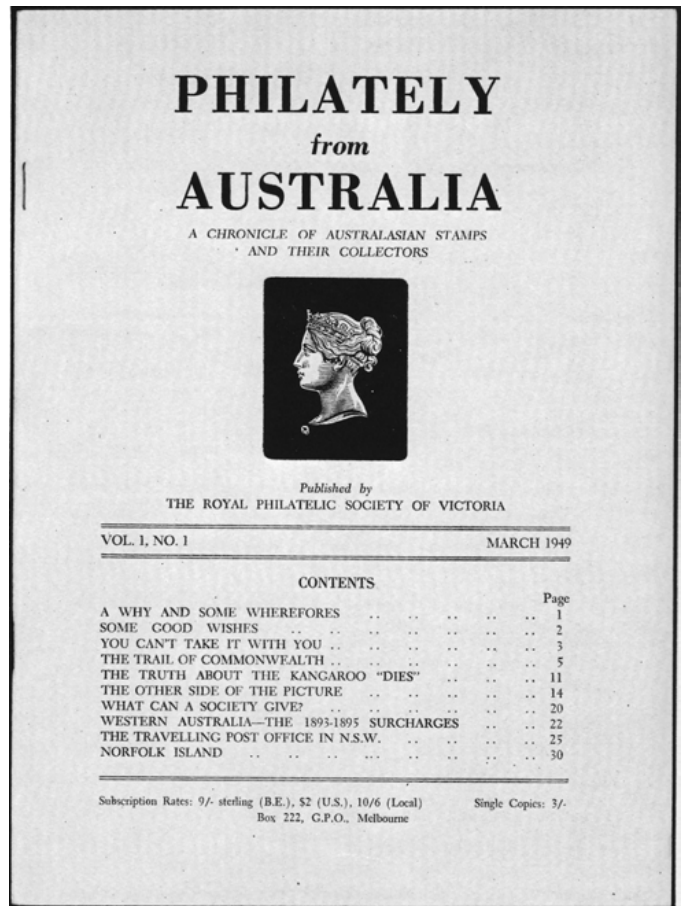
At a general meeting of the Philatelic Society of Victoria on Thursday, 16 January 1947, an announcement was made that changed the Society's name and status in the philatelic world. The President, Bill Purves, read a communication received from the Victorian government's Crown Law Department: *His Most Gracious Majesty the King has been pleased to approve of the prefix Royal being used in the name of the society.* "Prolonged applause" followed the news and members were urged *to show by their enthusiasm and actions that the Society was worthy of the honour conferred upon it.*

Interestingly, the application for the "Royal" prefix was prompted by its granting to the (Royal) Philatelic Society of New Zealand in January 1946. Bill Purves was closely involved with the Letter of Application and accompanying statement seeking the award. Following the elevation to Royal status, the Society's Committee was renamed the Council.

In 1947, the membership reached 276, an increase of 23 over the previous year. That year, Bill Purves



Horace (Horrie) Chisholm



The first issue of *Philately from Australia*, March 1949

was invited to participate as a judge at the New York 1947 Centenary International Philatelic Exhibition – a singular honour for an Australian philatelist at that time. Another honour was an invitation in 1947 from the Australian Post Office to Bill Purves and Bill Russell, a Myer Emporium advertising executive, to serve as members of the newly-established Stamp Advisory Committee. They continued in their roles until the mid-1960s.

The early post-war period was, in the words of the Society's Historian, Horace (Horrie) Chisholm, *one of action to develop the Society towards becoming "one of the leading societies of the world."* The Society's Stamp Centre in the Boy Scout Association building in Collins Street was established, not only as the evening meeting venue, but also as a centre for daytime



The Society's Diamond Jubilee celebration dinner, 1952

activities. Regular auctions (for legal reasons, they were called "Sales by Tender") were held. The Expert Committee was set up in 1949; the first Certificate, signed by Purves, involved an unused New Zealand 1d Chalon on *Pelure* paper.

Probably the most significant initiative was the decision to publish a journal and philatelic books. The move was made possible by John Gartner's joining the Society in 1948. As proprietor of The Hawthorn Press, a specialty publishing firm in Melbourne, Gartner was willing to



Signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Left to right: John Gartner, Bill Purves, Hugh Campbell (March 1976 RPSV meeting)



Myra Farley (left) & Joyce Buchanan (right)

provide a level of assistance for the Society's publishing ventures that would have been unaffordable, if normal commercial costs had applied.

Philately from Australia's launch in March 1949 was driven by Bill Purves, who envisaged a quarterly journal of quality philatelic research. Such a journal did not exist in Australia and it was natural for the RPSV to publish it. Purves with his philatelic knowledge, and Gartner with his passion for publishing, were the key to the journal's success. Also, Hugh Campbell, the first editor of *PfA* and a pioneer researcher of Australian postal history, played an important role. Notably, the three philatelists were signatories of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Today, *Philately from Australia* is the country's oldest surviving philatelic magazine.

The Society's book publication program commenced with *The Postal History of the Port Phillip District, 1835–1851* (Purves, 1950). Only one further book appeared in the decade, this being *The "Emblems" of Victoria, 1857–1863* (Purves, 1957). At this time, the Society was focused on raising money for the Building Fund to purchase its new South Yarra premises. Limited funds were available for book publishing until the building had been paid off.

Apart from publishing, the Society played the key role in Australia's biggest philatelic exhibition up to that point – the Australian National Philatelic Exhibition (ANPEX 1950) held to commemorate Australia's stamp centenary. Organised under

the auspices of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in co-operation with all philatelic societies throughout Australia, the exhibition was staged in the Melbourne Town Hall, 4-14 October 1950. It was the first in Australia for 12 years, and the first in Melbourne for 16 years.

Notably, ANPEX 1950 was the first Australian exhibition to host an exhibit from the Royal Philatelic Collection, and the first to incorporate a Court of Honour. The Championship was won by W.H.C. Bromfield of Perth, who had signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists earlier in the year and subsequently joined the RPSV. The Society was honoured in February 1951 by a visit from Frederick Walker, the Custodian of the RDP. Only once previously had the Roll been taken out of the UK.

The Society marked its 60th anniversary in 1952, with the celebration dinner at Scott's Hotel on 1 October. This was a favourite venue for the Society, no doubt because the manager, J. Stanley Smith, was a RPSV member himself. The Diamond Jubilee membership was 270, with an average attendance at meetings of 35. It was notable that two members who joined in 1952 went on to play very influential roles in the Society – Myra Farley and Joyce Buchanan.



Headquarters: 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, shortly after its opening in 1957



Council Room at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra (1959). Left to right: unidentified visitor, P. Collas, C.G.C. Hodgkinson, A.G. Brown, A.W. Bunn, J Gartner, M. Farley, T.C. Lester, E.B. Doery, J.R.W. Purves, and R.L. Lloyd-Smith

An innovation that year was the introduction of “fifth Thursday” meetings. Although the change might seem of small significance, it had the effect of increasing the number of displays at meetings by 25 per cent.

In May 1954, bad news arrived with a letter from the Boy Scout Association saying they had sold the building, and the Society’s long-term lease would come to an end. After 8½ years occupying a “permanent” home, the last meeting at the Stamp Centre took place on 16 December 1954.

The old hunt for a new home was on again, but with a new strategy. Having located a venue in the Master Builders’ Association building in East Melbourne, the Society embarked upon a search for a permanent home. In the first year, the Building Fund raised £3,000 through donations of cash and stamps plus a generous offer from H.F. McNess, a Perth member. His offer was a £4,500 loan to the Society at 3 per cent for six years, the first six months to be interest free. By 1959, the Society could proudly say the Building Fund had raised £11,000 over a five-year period.

A three-level terrace house at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra was available for sale and the Society purchased it for £7,000 – the equivalent of \$219,000 in today’s money. Dating from 1890 or 1891, 6 Avoca Street was



The opening page of the new Minute Book begun with the first meeting held at 6 Avoca Street





Ron Lloyd-Smith

virtually contemporaneous with the Society. Although it had served as a “bed & breakfast” for many years, the Society saw the building’s positive advantages: the ground floor meeting room; Council Room, Library and kitchen on the first floor; and the top floor for leasing as a private flat. The location in South Yarra was ideal; being readily accessed by tram, train and bus services, and adequate street parking was available.

Following acquisition of the building on 20 September 1956, six months of working bees were required for painting inside and outside and decorating the rooms. Major renovation work was done professionally at a cost of £2,000. It was estimated that the voluntary efforts of the working bees were worth another £2,000.

The first meeting in the building was held on 21 March 1957. It was attended by 53 members and three visitors who signed a decorated page of a new minute book. As Bill Purves put it: *to have a clubhouse of our own – comfortable and congenial – should make our task a great deal easier, and should make it possible to enlist the maximum number of crusading spirits for the many enterprises the future is sure to hold for us.*

The Society marked the new era with a medal to honour distinguished service of a cultural or administrative nature in the cause of adult philately. Called the David H. Hill Medal, in honour of the Society’s foundation president, the award was intended to be “greatly prized” and, during 60 years, it has been awarded to only 15 recipients.

The Society always regarded the publication of

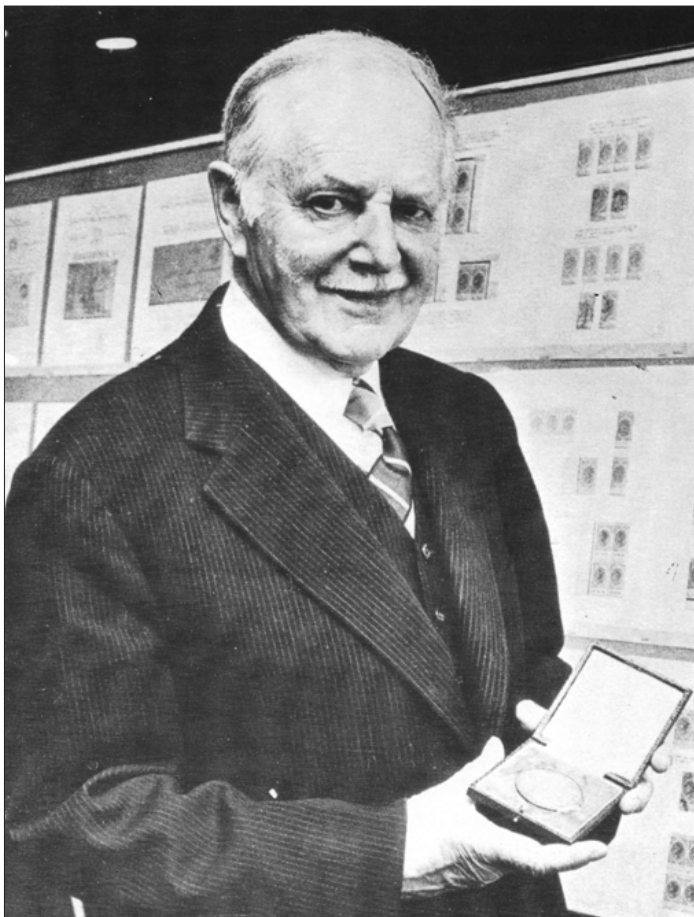
philatelic works to be the most important aspect of its duties as a Royal Philatelic Society. Following a re-emergence of publishing, the Society produced: *The Postage Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia: Cumulative Index of Source Material* (Holbeach, 1960); *Victoria: The Postage Dues* (Purves, 1961); *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings* (Campbell, Purves & Viney, 1962); *Victoria: The Barred Numeral Cancellations 1856–1912* (Purves, 1963); *New South Wales Numeral Cancellations* (Brown & Campbell, 1963); *The Butterfly and Barred Oval Cancellations of Victoria, 1850–1855* (Purves, 1965); and *Victoria: The “Registered” and “Too Late” Stamps, 1854–58* (Purves, 1966). It was a golden age of philatelic research and publishing.

Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition (MIPEX 63) was Melbourne’s first in 13 years. It was effectively organised by the Society, with Bill Purves as president and John Gartner the executive officer. Two venues were used – the Lower Melbourne Town Hall and Preston Motors, these being a city block apart. MIPEX 63 was Australia’s first truly international exhibition, with judges from the United States and Canada, and Court of Honour exhibits from the Royal Philatelic Society London, the Collectors Club and the Philatelic Foundation (New York). There were 201 entries in the competitive classes, with the championship being awarded to Dr William Heslop, one of the Society’s oldest members, for his Australian States.

The Society’s 75th anniversary in 1967 was the first quarter-century anniversary to be celebrated in peace time. The 25th anniversary (1917) and 50th anniversary (1942) occurred during the two world wars, with many members being absent on active service. On 7 July 1967, the 75th anniversary was marked by a dinner at the Hotel Australia in Collins Street, a date and location corresponding to the inaugural dinner at the Vienna Café in 1892. Three months later, a non-competitive display of 400 sheets contributed anonymously by members was held at 6 Avoca Street over a weekend.

In February 1968, the format of commencing a meeting with the display was introduced, the idea being that the exhibitor should not be kept waiting by the meeting’s general business, and members should see the display first up. Another innovation in the 1970s was occasional musical evenings, followed by a special supper. Bill Purves hosted the evenings with excerpts of European operas.

In 1970, the Society introduced the J.R.W. Purves Medal to recognise distinguished service to the



J.R.W. (Bill) Purves

Society of not less than 10 years, except in exceptional circumstances. The Purves Medal has been awarded to 35 members, who are not necessarily philatelists gaining high awards in competitive exhibiting. They have certainly given their time freely to benefit the Society.

In 1976, Librarian Ron Lloyd-Smith stepped down after 23 years' service. He noted that, during this time, the library had grown seven-fold to reach 2,243 handbooks and 1,300 volumes of bound journals, with a ten-fold increase in the number of borrowers to a record of 348 for 1976. By 1978, the growth in journals and catalogues mailed to the Library caused the Society to relinquish its historic Melbourne GPO Box 664 (in use since 1914) to a larger Box 2071.

The Society was honoured to have many prominent philatelists in its ranks and it is impracticable to

discuss them in this article. An invitation to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists is the world's highest honour and notably the Roll's seven Australian philatelists since 1950 are all RPSV members: William Bromfield (1950), Hugh Campbell (1969), John Gartner (1976), Ray Chapman (1987), Peter Jaffé (1992), Geoff Kellow (2009) and Ray Todd (2011).

Perhaps the saddest day in the Society's modern history was the loss of an "irreplaceable personality" – J.R.W. (Bill) Purves. The doyen of the Royal died suddenly on 13 May 1979 at the age of 76. It is a measure of his influence that the June 1979 edition of *Philately from Australia* was almost wholly devoted to tributes.

Also, Purves was remembered in a perpetual memorial maintaining the tradition of philatelic scholarship he had pursued: "The J.R.W. Purves Memorial Series" is the title of the Society's sequentially numbered books. Fittingly, the first in the series to be published was *J.R.W. Purves, RDP, FRPSL: A Philatelic Bibliography* by Geoff Kellow (1982). This work lists 28 books (three in collaboration with others) authored by Purves, 187 magazine articles and serials in 22 journals, as well as chapters in exhibition catalogues and other publications, and specialist columns. Although his published researches obviously focused on Victoria and other Australian colonies, they embrace the stamps of 31 countries.

The bequest by Purves of his philatelic library to the Society involved Librarian, Geoff Kellow, taking almost two years to sort and catalogue the 574 new titles and 200 volumes of periodicals (mostly bound) for the Library. By expanding the Library's holdings by a third, the Purves Bequest has made it the largest philatelic library in the Southern Hemisphere.

As Bill Purves said to the 1976 Annual General Meeting after concluding his last term as President: *A successful philatelic society is based on integrity, stability, and continuity. Change for the sake of change gets nobody anywhere. The Society's policy always has been to hasten slowly.*

Source:

Chisholm, H.L., FRPSL, FRPSNZ, *Century of Happiness: The Centennial History of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria*, The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc., Melbourne, 1992.



125 YEARS & 25 YEARS AGO

Our regular column, *100 Years & 50 Years Ago*, has been extended to 125 years in 25-year slices in recognition of the Royal's 125th anniversary. We will return to the usual format in the next edition of *PfA*.

125 YEARS AGO

Vindin's Philatelic Monthly, April 1892, reprinted A.F. Basset Hull's letter that had been published in the Hobart *Mercury* newspaper the previous month when the Inter-Colonial Postal Conference was being held in Hobart. Hull observed that a Conference agenda item related to "Universal stamps for the (Australasian) colonies". As Hull noted in his letter:

The history of postal systems of the world is full of precedents for the adoption of a federal postal issue. Perhaps the most marked instance is that of the North German Postal Confederation which in 1868 absorbed the stamp issuing states and towns of Prussia, Hanover;

Hamburg, Lübeck, Schleswig, Holstein, Baden, Bergedorf, Bremen, Brunswick, Mecklinburg, Schwerin and Strelitz, Oldenburg and Saxony. This Confederation issued two series of stamps whose colours were assimilated to the corresponding values, which were expressed in the two different denominations current in the Northern and Southern states. The Confederation was subsequently merged into the Postal Administration of the whole German Empire, with but the one series of stamps.

Notwithstanding this encouraging advice, the Inter-Colonial Postal Conference did not agree to adopt uniform stamps for the Australasian colonies.

100 YEARS AGO

As reported in *The Australian Philatelist* of April 1917, at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Victoria on Thursday, 15 March 1917, the President, P.T. Berry, proposed this resolution which was carried unanimously:

That the action taken by Messrs. Stanley Gibbons, Ltd., as disclosed in the 1917 catalogue, part 2, reading as follows: "The question has been asked on many occasions as to what position this firm intends to take up in relation with business with Germans after the war is over. The matter has been carefully considered, and the directors have decided that they will not knowingly either sell or buy from any Germans except such as have been naturalised by this country before the war began. No decision has been come to as regards Austrians or enemies of other nationalities, and our position in regard

to them will be settled when the war is over." received the hearty approval of the society, and that we also appreciate particularly the fact disclosed in their letter of January 4, 1917 to the "Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly" that they will not buy, sell or catalogue future issues of Germany or her States and colonies, if any.

It was also decided at the Philatelic Society of Victoria's meeting to seek advice from other societies as to how the PSV could deal further with the question, the Committee being authorised to handle the matter. It is interesting to note the equivocation about Germany's allies. For example, what might have been the post-war attitude of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. to, say, Czech citizens of the former Austria-Hungary?

75 YEARS AGO

The Australian Stamp Monthly of April 1942 published a statement of the "official requirements of the Postmaster-General's Department relating to the use of stamp illustrations in advertisements and other publications":

The Department has the authority not only to control the illustrations of Australian stamps, but also those of other countries. Several instances have come to our knowledge recently where the Department has had occasion to issue warnings to persons who had unknowingly infringed the regulations governing stamp illustrations. Originally it was required that representations be printed in black and be twice the size of the stamp concerned. A subsequent modification issued in January 1937, allowed the representation of a postage stamp printed in any journal, publication, circular, catalogue, price list or newsprint of

any kind to be printed in black and be in size at least one fourth as large again as the original. The Department, however, would not raise objections to reprints obtained from all blocks or plates which did not conform to the size prescribed, but all new blocks had to be in accordance with the new conditions. In October 1937, another modification of the conditions was announced, it being provided that as an alternative to the condition that representations shall be in size at least one fourth as large again as the original, the use of blocks defaced with a line drawn through the centre for printing stamp illustrations was permitted. The stamps were still to be printed in black.

The use of full colour in stamp illustrations was subject to the specific approval of the Postmaster-General's Department to the particular plan in mind.



50 YEARS AGO

Philately from Australia of March 1967 featured "The Curious World of Philately" on the lead editorial page:

Many years ago, a Melbourne newspaper printed an article on philately under the heading "The Pursuit of Imperfection". The author distinguished philately as the one hobby whose devotees prized the evidence of human frailty and forgetfulness above perfection. Philatelists, he pointed out, loved errors and omissions

and priced them far above the admirable and often more beautiful normal, whereas bibliophiles, for example, discounted a book incorrectly collated, with pages bound in the wrong positions or omitted. A sheet of stamps printed from a cracked plate might find an honoured place in a philatelic exhibition, but who would dare offer a print from a cracked plate for display in a photographic exhibition?

25 YEARS AGO

The Australian Philatelic Federation's *APF News* of March 1992, the first to be published in colour, carried an editorial from the newly-elected APF President, Ray Todd, discussing the challenges that philately now faced in an emerging economic recession:

How do those involved in our hobby cope during a recession? Do they adopt different strategies for their collecting interests or do dealers wind down their stocks dramatically? Not all are affected but with 10% unemployment you would expect that some of us must suffer. My firm view is that all of the above must be driven by the size of the disposable income and the nature of the collectors' interests. Often new issues are the first to suffer in a downturn or collectors adopt a view that they can afford to collect the mint stamps of a country up to

a certain point in time then swing over to used because they perceive the latter as a cheaper alternative. This is a strategy I cannot recommend – if one has to tighten their belt from the stamp purchase point of view giving up new issues of your chosen interest is not the way to go. All of us have been through tough times at different stages of our collecting life and I have always felt it is preferable to reduce the number of my collecting interests rather than water down the quality. In other words if I needed to buy something and had little cash to do it the obvious source of finance was from the disposal of material in which I had lost interest. As most will agree selling anything in a hurry usually entails receiving a lower than market price so a balance must be maintained. Of course on the positive side of all this is more opportunity must exist to those who have spare cash to pick up some bargains.



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STAMP NEWS is an informative monthly magazine for philatelists with news stories from around Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and the rest of the world. Each issue runs to at least 90 pages with special features on Australian Commonwealth Philately, Postal Stationery, Investments, Cinderellas, Postcards, Collectibles and much more. Brought to you by our worldwide network of informed contributors and correspondents.

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Exhibition Awards for Society Members

Congratulations to RPSV members for their awards at CHINA 2016 FIAP Exhibition, PHILATAIPEI 2016 World Stamp Championship Exhibition, THAILAND 2016, 32nd Asian International Stamp Exhibition, and Australian, and NZ National exhibitions, HOBART STAMP SHOW 2016 (One-Frame), CHRISTCHURCH 2016, MANDURAH 2016, and ADELAIDE STAMPEX 2016. At CHINA 2016 in Nanning special congratulations are due to Darryl FULLER for winning the FIP Championship Class.

ADELAIDE STAMPEX 2016, National Philatelic and Picture Postcard Exhibition, Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, 7–9 October 2016

Australasian Challenge 2016:

Martin WALKER, South Australia's Revenue Stamps 1886–1966 (Revenues, 8 frames):
LARGE GOLD (94) + Felicitations

Glen STAFFORD, Nicaraguan Postal Stationery – The Seebeck Era (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (92)

Raymond TODD, Postal History of Haiti (Postal History, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (91)

Philip LEVINE, Gold Coast Postal Stationery (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): GOLD (89)

John DIBIASE, The Postage Stamps of Western Australia (Traditional, 8 frames): GOLD (88)

Ian MCMAHON, Postal Stationery of Canada issued during the Reign of King George VI (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): GOLD (87)

Gary WATSON, Ceylon's Involvement in World War II (Postal History, 5 frames): GOLD (87)

Charles BROMSER, The Copernican Revolution: A History of Cosmology (Thematic, 8 frames): GOLD (86)

Geoffrey KELLOW, Sierra Leone: The Postal History of the King George VI Period (Postal History, 5 frames):
GOLD (86)

Peter LEITCH, Victoria £10 Stamp Duty 1879 to 1901 (Traditional, 3 frames): GOLD (85)

James SHAW, New Zealand Wages Tax Issues 1931–1959 (Revenues, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

Ross WOOD, Nyasaland Airmails (Aerophilately, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

Peter ALLAN, Australian Postal Rates – King George VI 1936–1952 (Postal History, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (84)

Jeanette BANFIELD, History of and Advances Made in Medicine (Maximaphily, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

Tony PRESGRAVE, The Rise, Fall & Rebirth of the River Murray Shipping Trade (Open, 5 frames):
LARGE SILVER (73)

Mervyn COBCROFT, A Tale of Three Cities (Open, 2 frames): LARGE SILVER (73)

Australasian Picture Postcard Challenge:

David FIGG, Strike a Light! (Postcards, 5 frames): GOLD (86)

Jeanette BANFIELD, Mesopotamia to Iraq (Postcards, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

Anthony PRESGRAVE, What's the Time? (Postcards, 1 frame): VERMEIL (79)

Ross DUBERAL, Fiji – Arthur Mills, Publisher 1907–1911 (Postcards, 1 frame): VERMEIL (75)



MANDURAH 2016 FAIR, National Stamp Exhibition,
Mandurah and Peel Convention and Exhibition Centre,
Mandurah WA, 3–5 November 2016

Harry LOWER, South Australia's "Postage" Long Stamps (Traditional, 8 frames):
LARGE GOLD (95) + Special Prize

Martin WALKER, South Australia's Revenue Stamps (Revenues, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (92) + Special Prize

Geoffrey KELLOW, Sierra Leone: The Sterling Issues of Elizabeth II, 1953–1964 (Traditional, 8 frames): GOLD (88)

Glen STAFFORD, Nicaragua Airmail Stamps – The Early Years (Aerophilately, 5 frames): GOLD (87)

Gary BROWN, South Africa – First Revenue Series (Revenues, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

John MOORE, 1989–1991 Australian Sport Definitive Series (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

Gary BROWN, Aden from British Colony to People's Republic (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

John MOORE, 1988 Australia Living Together (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

Bernard BESTON, British Guiana – The Airmail Story 1913–1950 (Aerophilately, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

Murray COLLINS, Southern Rhodesia (Traditional, 6 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

John MOORE, Lord Howe Island – A Traveller's Tale (Postcards, 3 frames): VERMEIL (75)

Darryl FULLER, Revenue Stamped Paper and Other Non-Adhesives of Israel (Revenues, 3 frames):
LARGE SILVER (72)

Anthony PRESGRAVE, Engineering a City (Postcards, 3 frames): SILVER (65)

HOBART STAMP SHOW 2016, National One-Frame Stamp and Postcard
Exhibition, Hobart Town Hall, Hobart Tas., 18–20 November 2016

Harry LOWER, The Halfpenny "Bantams" of South Australia (Traditional): LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

Martin WALKER, Paraguay – The First Kraus Definitives of 1903 (Traditional):
LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

Gary WATSON, The Pre-Separation Datestamps of Melbourne (Postal History):
LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

James SHAW, New Zealand 1878 1d Stamp Duty Issues – A Study of Stamps and Usage (Revenues): GOLD (88)

Ian FUARY, Australia's First Franking Machine Dies (Postal History): GOLD (87)

Peter ALLAN, The Operation of the Early Tasmanian Stamp Duty Acts (Revenues): GOLD (86)

Mark DISERIO, Australia KGV 1d Oval Embossed Die, 1928 – 1937 (Postal Stationery): GOLD (85)

Philip LEVINE, Cape of Good Hope Queen Victoria Prestamped Envelopes (Postal Stationery): GOLD (85)

Gary DIFFEN, The Australian Gallipoli Campaign and the Shortage of Writing Materials (Postal History):
LARGE VERMEIL (84)

Philip LEVINE, Gold Coast Manuscript Cancellations (Postal History): LARGE VERMEIL (84)

Bill JENKINS, The Campbell & Co and Campbell and Fergusson 3d Blue, Victorian Half Length (Traditional):
LARGE VERMEIL (84)

James SHAW, New Zealand Decimal Errors 1967–2010: Errors not by design (Traditional): LARGE VERMEIL (84)

Gary BROWN, Aden – 1937 Dhow Series (Traditional): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

Gary WATSON, The Letter Carrier Datestamps of Melbourne (Postal History): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

Bill CLARK, The Emblems Issue of Victoria 1857–1863 (Traditional): LARGE VERMEIL (82)



Harry LOWER, Australian Birds Series 1964–1965 First Day Covers (First Day Covers): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

John MOORE, Vale of Gloucester (Postcards): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

Murray COLLINS, K.U.T. Postal Stationery – The First Issues (Postal Stationery): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

Bernard BESTON, Norfolk Island –The Ball Bay Series (Traditional): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Bernard BESTON, Queensland –The Postal Financial Systems (Revenues): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Jon FLADEBY, The First Issue of Bundi (Traditional): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Bill JENKINS, Victoria 2d De La Rue 28th Jan 1870–1873 (Traditional): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Brian POPE, KLM comes, and goes! May 1931 (Aerophilately): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

John SHAWLEY, Mauritius: Outgoing Mail Rates 1875 – 1883 (Postal History): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Ian FUARY, The 1994 “Stamp Gang” Cancellations (Marcophily): VERMEIL (79)

James SHAW, New Zealand 1900 ½d Boer War Commemorative Issues: A Study of Stamps and Usages (Traditional): VERMEIL (78)

Sean BURKE, Picture Postcards used in Rhodesia 1902 –1908 (Postcards): VERMEIL (76)

Paul PEGGIE, Pictorial Postcards from Barotseland (Postcards): VERMEIL (76)

Michael BARDEN, The 1946 “Van Acker” -10% Issue of Belgium Provisional Surcharges: In Veritas or In Verisimilitudinem? (Traditional): VERMEIL (75)

James SHAW, New Zealand 1965 Anzac stamp issue 4d and 5d study (Traditional): VERMEIL (75)

Sean BURKE, A View of Rhodesia through the postcards published by E. Peters of Cape Town (Postcards): LARGE SILVER (74)

David KAJEWSKI, Postcards from Mack (Postal History): LARGE SILVER (73)

John MOORE, Lord Howe Island Postal Markings 1900 – 2000 (Marcophily): SILVER (66)

CHRISTCHURCH 2016 STAMP & POSTCARD SHOW,
National Stamp Exhibition, Addington Racecourse,
Christchurch NZ, 18–20 November 2016

Jury Class:

Ray TODD, Airmails of Western Australia 1919–1939 (8 frames): LARGE GOLD (90)

Competitive Classes:

Ian MCMAHON, Sandgate (Postcards, 3 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

John DIBIASE, History of Stamp Hinges (“Other”, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

John MOORE, Australian Airmail Postage Charges 1921–1947 (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (77)

David FIGG, Brookes Limited (Postcards, Class 6.1, 1 frame): LARGE SILVER (74)

David FIGG, The Adelaide Hills Railway Viaduct (Postcards, Class 6.1, 1 frame): LARGE SILVER (72)

David FIGG, General Douglas MacArthur: Defender and Liberator of the Philippines (One-Frame): SILVER (67)

CHINA 2016, 33rd Asian International Stamp Exhibition, Nanning
International Convention and Exhibition Center, Nanning City,
Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China, 2–6 December 2016

FIP Championship Class:

Darryl FULLER, Leeward Islands Postal Stationery (8 frames): WINNER GPHC



Competitive Classes:

Ian MCMAHON, New Zealand Postal Stationery, Queen Victoria to King George V (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): GOLD (90)

Glen STAFFORD, Nicaragua Postal Stationery: The Seebeck Period (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): GOLD (90)

Raymond TODD, Airmails of Western Australia 1919–1939 (Postal History, 8 frames): GOLD (90)

Raymond TODD, Sweden Postal Stationery 1872–1897 (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): GOLD (90)

Philip LEVINE, Gold Coast to King George V (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

Jim SHAW, New Zealand Postage Dues (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

Glen STAFFORD, Nicaragua Airmail: The Early Years (Postal History, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

John MOORE, 1989–1991 Australian Sport Definitive Series (Traditional, 5 frames): VERMEIL (80)

PHILATAIPEI 2016 World Stamp Championship Exhibition,
Exhibition Hall 1, Taipei, Taiwan, 21–26 October 2016

Stephen BROWNE, Postal History of New South Wales 1801–1849 (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Special Prize

Martin WALKER, South Australia's Revenue Stamps 1886–1966 (Revenues, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) + Special Prize

Malcolm GROOM, Tasmanian Pictorials 1899–1912 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (91)

Gary BROWN, Postal Stationery of Natal (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88) + Special Prize

Jim SHAW, New Zealand ½d Newspaper Stamp Issues 1873–1905, including stationery, wrappers and Austin Walsh cards (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (87)

Ronnie WINCHESTER, The Colony of Victoria Registered Mail: Pre-UPU Routes & Rates (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (86)

John MOORE, Treatment and Handling of Australian Registered Mail 1900–1966 (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (83)

Darryl FULLER, Airmail Postal History of the Caribbean (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (80)

Peter ALLAN, Tasmanian Free Mail 1853–1882: Acts & Regulations (Postal History, One-Frame): (87)

Ross WOOD, Czechoslovakia 1930 Airmail Stamp Issue (Aerophilately, One-Frame): (85)

THAILAND 2016, 32nd Asian International Stamp Exhibition,
Mall Ngamwongwan Convention Center, Nonthaburi, Thailand,
10–15 August 2016

Gary BROWN, Postal Stationery of Natal (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): GOLD (90)

Jim SHAW, New Zealand Postage Dues: 1899–1951, 1st, 2nd & 3rd series (Traditional, 8 frames): GOLD (90)

Ian MCMAHON, King George VI Aerogrammes of Canada (Postal Stationery, One-Frame): VERMEIL (84)

Jim SHAW, New Zealand Stamp Duty, 1d Revenue 1878 Issues (Revenues, One-Frame): VERMEIL (83)

Ross DUBERAL, Travelling Post Office Markings of Western Australia 1889–1918 (Postal History, One-Frame): LARGE SILVER (79)

Charles BROMSER, From Rocket Plane to Space Travel (Astrophilately, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (78)



Royal News

New members

The Society has gained six new members: **John BAILEY** (UK), **Roger ELLIOT** (UK), **Lawrie HEIGHT** (SA), **Vito MILANA** (Vic.), **NGU Chanh Hao** (QLD) and **Brian PEACE** (UK), whose applications for membership have been accepted by Council. We wish them a long and happy association with the Society.

Donations by Rev. John Tollan

An extensive donation of philatelic handbooks was donated to the Society's library by our member, John Tollan, ahead of his move from Victoria to New Zealand. The donation is particularly important because it largely comprises books published in recent times, the great majority of which are new to the Library's holdings. Several collections were also donated to benefit the Society's funds.

Council members' display

The varied collecting interests of Council members were showcased at the 19 January meeting, which involved six-sheet displays: **Peter Alexander** (North West Pacific Islands, 30-on pane studies of George V stamps in third, fourth and fifth overprint settings); **Richard Breckon** (Printed advertising messages on Australian postcards featuring printed matter rates of postage); **Marjorie Crawford** (Postal usage of recycled envelopes in Australia during the 1980s and 1990s); **Gary Diffen** (Victorian covers of steam packet contracts & clipper sailings); **Joe Edwards** (Waterlow recess stamp printings of Independent State of Congo and Belgian Congo); **Ted Gallagher** (50th and 100th anniversary commemoration of the 1914 First Air Mail flight by Maurice Guillaux); **Peter Leitch** (Victoria's £10 Stamp Duty 1879–1901);

and **Frank Pauer** (PMG Post Office official first day covers 1937–40 & 1954–70).

RPSV Open Evening, Thursday, 30 March 2017

The Society's fifth Thursday in the month meeting will be an Open Evening to coincide with the first day of Melbourne 2017 Stamp Show. Members, guests and visitors may attend the evening to view the facilities at Purves House, 303 High Street, Ashburton, from 7.00 p.m. on Thursday, 30 March. Further particulars may be obtained from the Society's stand (No. 27) at the exhibition.

Library Open Afternoon, Saturday, 1 April 2017

The Society's library will be open to coincide with the third day of Melbourne 2017 Stamp Show. Members and visitors interested in viewing the Library may attend the afternoon at Purves House, 303 High Street, Ashburton, from 2.00 p.m. on Saturday, 1 April. Further particulars may be obtained from the Society's stand (No. 27) at the exhibition.

Annual Competition 2017

The Society's Annual Competition will be held on Thursday, 15 June. The competition rules permit high resolution scans of exhibits to be submitted for judging, if full colour at 600 DPI (dots per inch) and laminated, to encourage interstate and overseas members to participate. Annual Competition entries must be lodged with the Secretary by 18 May. For further details of the Annual Competition, see the Society's website:

<http://www.rpsv.org.au/services/annual-competition>

VALE: Three former members

Three former RPSV members have passed away in recent months. Although their memberships had lapsed some years ago, each had contributed in significant ways to the Society and to philately generally.

Irene KERRY (1927–2016), a prominent identity in the Melbourne stamp community, was particularly involved with the Brighton Philatelic Society. She was awarded the Victorian Philatelic Council's Award of Merit in 1992 in recognition of her work in organized philately. Irene was also closely associated with the Girl Guide movement in Victoria.

Dr Paul KORNAN (1938–2016), a leading Melbourne psychiatrist, was interested in picture postcards. Paul's Collins Street practice featured a "Postcard Gallery" for many years, offering postcards for sale to collectors. He authored an interesting booklet classifying the main themes of Australian

picture postcards. At a later stage, Paul put together an important collection of British Post Offices Abroad, a record of which is found in *Combination Mail of British Post Offices Abroad* by Geoff Kellow.

Professor Richard DIVALL (1945–2017), a leading conductor and musicologist, was director of the Victorian State Opera for 25 years, and Principal Resident Conductor of Opera Australia for a further five years. His philatelic interests included the stamps and postal history of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta. Richard was a Knight of Malta in Solemn Religious Profession and was active in the works of the Order.



APRIL 2017

4 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Natal Postal Stationery: Gary Brown FRPSV**

12 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

20 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **The Era of Change – Victoria's Early Postal Markings 1840–1860: Bob Hillman**

29 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

MAY 2017

2 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Belgium: Michael Barden FRPSV**

10 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

18 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Victorian Registered Mail 1849–1913: Ronnie Winchester**

27 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

JUNE 2017

6 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Rotary: Graham Allison**

14 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

15 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Society's Annual Competition**

24 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

29 (Thur) 8.00 p.m. **Sierra Leone QEII Issues: Geoff Kellow RDP, MAP, ARP, LMRPSV, FRPSL**

JULY 2017

4 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **British Africa – Mauritius & Nyasaland: John Shawley FRPSV, FRPSL**

12 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

20 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **WWII Propaganda Leaflets: Charles Bromser MAP, FRPSV**

(Invite a friend night)

29 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

AUGUST 2017

1 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Modern Great Britain: Marjorie Crawford FRPSV**

9 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

17 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Australia WWII to Overseas**

Destinations: Gary Watson FRPSV

26 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

31 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **South Australian**

Departmentals: Tony Presgrave FRPSV, FRPSL

SEPTEMBER 2017

5 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **“Rated R”: John Garlick**

13 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

21 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **125th Annual General Meeting; 8.00 p.m. Retiring President's Display**

30 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

OCTOBER 2017

3 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Australians in WWI: Gary Diffen**

11 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

19 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **The King George VI Issues of Kenya, Uganda & Tanganyika: Ronnie Winchester**

28 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

NOVEMBER 2017

7 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Victoria: Bill Jenkins FRPSV**

8 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

16 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **GB Postal History – A Few of my Favourite Things: Graeme Hayward FRPSV**

25 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

30 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Australia Post – Philatelic Archival Collection Extracts: Richard Breckon APR, FRPSV**

DECEMBER 2017

5 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Members' Six Sheets**

13 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

21 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **President's Social Evening** (Members are invited to bring a guest.)

30 (Sat) **Library not open**





The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.

Purves House, 303 High Street,
Ashburton VIC 3147
PO Box 490, Ashburton VIC 3147, Australia
www.rpsv.org.au

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is one of the premier philatelic Societies in Australia. It was founded in 1892 and in 1946 was granted the "Royal" prefix by King George VI. The Society has owned its own building for over 50 years and, in 2003, moved into Purves House in Ashburton, a suburb of Melbourne. The Library is now located in a highly accessible space and the meeting area can accommodate up to 100 people.

New members are always welcome and are offered the following services:

MEETINGS/DISPLAYS: Around 25 meetings are held annually (day and evening) with some of the best available collections on display.

EXCHANGE BRANCH: Exchange books circulate regularly within Australia.

LIBRARY: Members have access to the largest philatelic library in the southern hemisphere. The Library receives many of the leading philatelic journals.

EXPERT COMMITTEE: The Society's Expert Committee will provide members and others with Certificates of Opinion on Australasian and Pacific Island items.

PUBLICATIONS: Members receive the quarterly journal *Philately from Australia*. The Society has produced many keystone philatelic publications and actively seeks new research for publication.

An Application for Membership form may be downloaded at:
<http://www.rpsv.org.au/rpsv-docs/Application-for-Membership.pdf>

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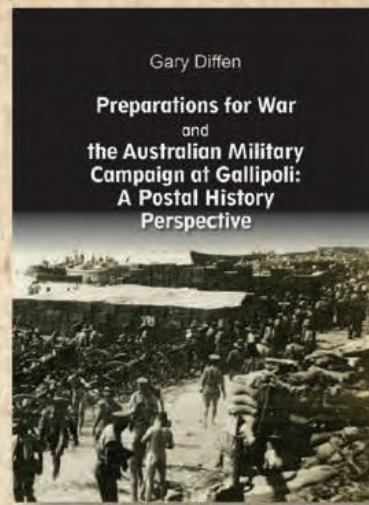
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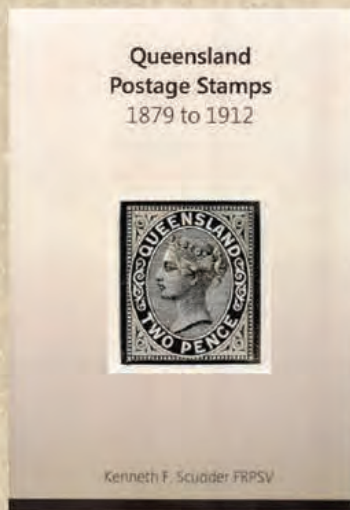
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