



# Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



**The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.**  
(founded 1932)

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*Capital Philately*

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## CAPITAL PHILATELY

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### EDITORIAL

November 9 1992 is the sixtieth anniversary of the Society - the first meeting of eleven members was held at the Hotel Canberra on November 9 1932. The date is also of special significance for *Capital Philately*. Volume 1, number 1 was published at the time of the Society's fiftieth birthday. Volume 11, number 1 therefore, celebrates the successful completion of ten years of continuous publication. This issue is double the normal length as a contribution to the Society's Diamond jubilee.

There have been three editors during the first ten years, Alan Salisbury until mid-1987, Ed Druce from 1987 to late 1989 and the current editor since that date. Each of the editors has contributed an article to this special number. Throughout the the ten years the editorial policy has consistently avoided contributions that would be more appropriate in the Society's newsletter. The only exception is to record the successes of Canberra-based members in state, national and international competitions. The increase in number and standard of such awards has been one of the most positive features of the Society over the last decade. However, on this special occasion the majority of the contributions are devoted to recording various facets of the Society's sixty years of philatelic endeavour. We trust that this lapse into self-indulgence will also be of interest to philatelists resident outside the national capital.

It is instructive to quote from Alan Salisbury's inaugural editorial of November 1982.

'The pages of the journal are open to any kind of philatelic writing.  
...as long as any material has worthwhile philatelic interest he [the editor] will publish it.'

This has remained the key to editorial policy over the decade. It was re-echoed by Ed Druce's summary of the aims *Capital Philately*, in the AUSTAMP 90 literature section, as: '...a journal of quality for the learning and learned philatelist'.

## *Capital Philately*

Throughout its first decade *Capital Philately* has been regularly entered in the literature sections of Australian national exhibitions. The awards have fluctuated between silver-bronze and large silver.

A Canberra-based society does not have the obvious theme available to journals in other states. For these, additions to the philatelic knowledge of earlier state stamp issues and postal history provide an ever fruitful field of endeavour. Our own articles are, perforce, more diverse and it must be remembered that *Capital Philately* is, after all, only a society journal. It offers the opportunity for its members, and others if they wish, to try their hand at philatelic writing. It is certainly the case that our members have contributed to the growing literature on all aspects of Australian philately. Nationally, the areas of positive progress in philately over the last decade have been in the quantity and quality of competitive displays and in philatelic literature. The major disappointment is the decline in membership of all forms of stamp clubs.

The costs of producing quarterly issues of any society journal, philatelic or otherwise, are large. This is true for *Capital Philately*. Postage costs come a close second to the printing charges. At the time of celebrating ten years of publication, a special word of thanks must go to the Australian Philatelic Federation and the ACT Philatelic Council for their annual contributions to the costs. Without their assistance it is unlikely that the Society's funds would have been adequate to maintain our publication.

Overall, the Society can be proud of its record of philatelic publication over the last decade. The future, like the past, is up to the membership - their support in providing high quality material and in providing the funds for their publication, are essential.

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

This year marks the Society's sixtieth anniversary. The first meeting was held on November 9 1932. It also marks the tenth anniversary of the first issue of *Capital Philately*. Our journal was first started in 1982 as an initiative to celebrate our fiftieth anniversary.

Over the first ten years it has developed into a respected philatelic journal presenting articles on a wide range of topics and winning medals at national and international exhibitions including, most recently, a silver medal at National Stampshow 92.

The journal provides the opportunity for all members of the Society to share their interests and knowledge with other members of the Society and collectors outside Canberra. Over the first ten years many members have contributed articles to *Capital Philately*.

I would wish to express my thanks to all contributors, for without them the journal could not have prospered. I would also like to thank the editors over the first ten years, Alan Salisbury, Ed Druce and Dingle Smith for their efforts in nurturing the journal over this time.

I would hope that all members would continue to support their journal and to share their knowledge and interest with other members by contributing to *Capital Philately* in the years to come.

Ian McMahon



## *Capital Philately*

### CAPITAL PHILATELY - THE FIRST TEN YEARS

Derek A. Pocock

There is something special about Canberra; more accurately there is something special about Canberra people. For a relatively small city less than a quarter the size of any other capital on (mainland) Australia, it nevertheless can hold its own in most fields of human endeavour. I know from the bridge world that its players are champions, I believe there is a game played with a funny shaped ball called Rugby League where in Canberra the standard is at full national level; and philatelically it is a city of experts and achievers out of all proportion to its relative size and population.

So when the editor asked for an outsider's comments at this time of celebrating the 10th anniversary of *Capital Philately*, I had no difficulty in both accepting the honour to contribute and also findings some truisms on the publication itself. My run of *Capital Philately* is complete from vol 1, no 1. Everyone is in order, on the shelf, as yet unbound (for reason see later), thoroughly read and often referred to. Oh! to be able to say that for all our philatelic publications.

It is a measure of the quality of Canberra philatelists that a journal of such high standards can be conceived, delivered nurtured and thrive. But my personal pleasure is the versatility which it has shown through the years - a facet that in many ways mirrors philately in Australia generally. Philatelic interests are perhaps wider or broader in Australia than almost anywhere in the world - perhaps because of our diverse origins the intrinsic interest in Australian stamps, postal history and postal stationery (let us not forget our new FIP class of revenvues nee Cinderellas) is strong well into the Commonwealth era. This is reflected in the contents of *Capital Philately*.

Lest my apparent eulogy is seen to be too effusive, let me carp a little. The worst thing a quality magazine can do is change its printing format by going from quarto to A4 after vol 6. Then a personal antipathy for articles in pseudo conversation and dialect like 'Phil Litt' in the early days: useful articles do not need James Joyce's Ulysses style! And (yes, poor grammar I know) after an index for vol 1-5, we need the promise of a complete index for 1-10. And a new cover design is not an outrageous demand after 10 years.

Back to plaudits though - not difficult after giving my very personal opinions an airing. *Capital Philately* has become a consistent feature of the hobby in Australia. The quality of the articles has been of a high standard throughout the 10 years, whilst the editors over the years have also allowed space for controversy. Similarly the recent reproduction of quizzes reflects the level of philatelic knowledge at a Canberra Society level: if anyone gets even 75% they should be well into the gold medal (national) class!

What can we expect for the next 10 years? Apart from an index and a new cover, please no change of size,. More important will be a continuation of the quality and perhaps also the quantity of the articles. I believe that some space should be given to in-depth reports of displays given to the Society. I also hope that the comprehensive book reviews will be maintained particularly those relating to the Australian scene. Above all keep up the sheer quality of the paper on which the journal is produced as this aspect impresses the reader immediately and should eliminate the throwaway attitude so endemic amongst readers these days.

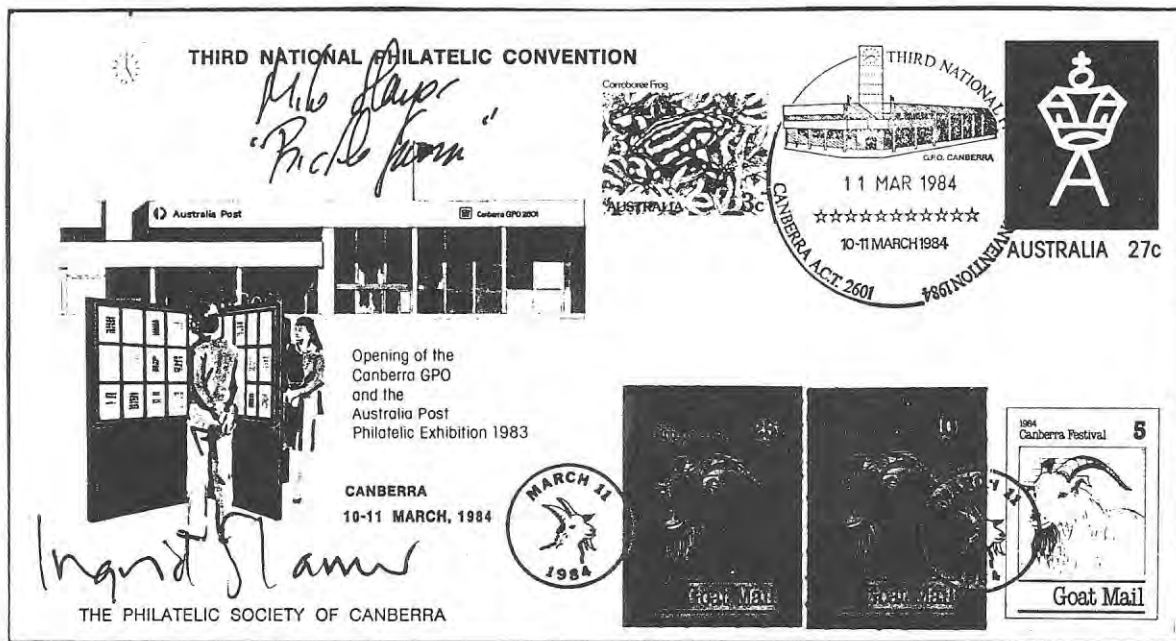
*Capital Philately* can be proud of its first 10 years. While it continues in this vein, I feel reassured of the continuing health of philately in Australia generally.

GOAT MAIL - A FAVOURITE COVER

Dingle Smith

The Third National Philatelic Convention, March 10-11, 1984, was the first occasion for which the Society organised a cinderella mail event. Ed Druce was responsible for suggesting a goat mail - the task of organising goat, cart driver and cinderella labels fell to the Convention Committee!

Mike Hayes, a local broadcaster and writer (of 'Prickle Farm' fame) generously agreed to provide Joyce, the goat, a suitable cart and to drive the two between the Convention's two venues. These were the new Canberra GPO in Alinga Street and the headquarters of the NSW Regiment Training Depot in Allara Street, a distance of about two kilometres. The design of the goat mail labels and handstamp was undertaken by Ingrid Slamer, a graphic design artist employed at the Australian National University. The next problem was to find a printer willing to produce the designs as stamp-like labels in a rouletted format. After visits to a number of printers Adler and Stoyles of Fyshwick agreed to print the labels in rouletted miniature sheets of eight. There were three values, each printed in black on differing colour self-adhesive paper; the 5 (taken as 5 cents) on yellow, the 10 on deep orange and the 25 on green. The mail run took place on the afternoon of Sunday March 11. Joyce and Mike Hayes were accompanied by a police motor cycle escort and the event was featured on local television. Several hundred covers were transported in Australia Post mail bags.



The cover illustrated above is the specially overprinted Australia Post Pre-stamped Envelope (no. 061), complete with commemorative postmark which also features the Canberra GPO. The cover also has a complete set of the goat mail labels cancelled with the 'goat head' and signed by Mike Hayes and Ingrid Slamer. For me it is a momento of the many hours of fun that the Convention Committee spent discussing this item, as well as the delight of explaining the event to Mike Hayes and to Ingrid Slamer. The Society has continued the tradition of a special cinderella event, complete with special labels and the like, at each subsequent Convention. However this, the first of the series, was surely the most original and most spectacular.

## THE EARLY YEARS OF THE SOCIETY

A.G.Salisbury

This article does not purport in any way to be a history of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. It is an attempt to record some of the events of the first thirty or so years after its formation in 1932, together with some details of what is known about the leading stamp collectors of the district, whose activities founded and sustained the Society.

The main source of information lies in the minutes of the meetings, but, as will be seen later, these are in many ways incomplete, while the information actually recorded is frequently so sparse as to be of limited use in producing a full account.

However, a great deal of information is available in contemporary records, mainly the files of *The Canberra Times* (and, to a lesser extent, *The Queanbeyan Age*). These are supplemented by Electoral and Advisory Council Rolls and telephone directories of the time, in the holdings of the National Library of Australia. Apart from a few personal notes and recollections, I have relied greatly on the meticulous historical researches of my wife, who has a vast store of information on early Canberra.

Not much can be found from the files of the Society itself. While there are references in the minutes to the need to retain files for certain periods, the accumulation of financial and membership records has largely disappeared. Furthermore, the minutes of meetings contain little detail about people who joined and left the Society from time to time. As a further deficiency, the minutes do not always state where the meetings were held.

In the early part of 1932, a number of stamp collectors in the region around Canberra realised the need for a philatelic society to enable them to further their interests, and the original driving force towards this end came from Mr. J.W.Shakespeare.

Bill Shakespeare was one of three brothers, sons of Mr. T.M.Shakespeare, founder of *The Canberra Times*. All members of the family were closely associated with newspaper publishing in Sydney and the country areas of New South Wales, and after the death of their father, the three brothers came to hold executive positions with the Canberra paper. I knew all three, but Bill was the only one with philatelic interests.

*The Canberra Times* of 9th November 1932 carried the following advertisement on page 3:



As a result, the eleven people listed below attended the meeting, and are shown in the order in which their names appear in the minutes:

1. **Dr. C.C.Finlay**, a leading medical practitioner, of Kingston (he actually moved the motion for the formation of the Society). He became one of the two first Vice-Presidents at the inauguration of the Society in 1932, and remained a member for many years. He was Vice-President again in 1945.
2. **The Rev. H.W.Woodhouse**, the Minister of the Canberra Methodist Church in Forrest, who was in charge of the Canberra Methodist Circuit. He was the first President of the Society, and remained a member until he moved away from Canberra in 1935. A photograph is reproduced below:





**The Rev. H.W. Woodhouse - the First President of the Society**

3. **Professor J.F.M. Haydon**, Professor of Modern Languages at the The Canberra University College. He was one of the original Vice-Presidents and was elected as the second President in November 1933. He was Vice-President for a further two years, after which he was President again in 1937.
4. **Mr. E.H. Harvie**, a dentist, who lived in Kingston. He was Vice-President in 1937, President in 1938, and Vice-President again in 1945.
5. **Mr. H. Chapman**. It has not been possible to identify him precisely.
6. **Mr. H.C. Deane**, a solicitor, of Queanbeyan. He was elected President in November 1934, and Vice-President in 1935.
7. **Mr. J.F. Hopkinson**, a storeman, of the Causeway, Kingston. He worked for the Department of the Interior on the early construction of the National Capital, and an obituary appeared in *The Canberra Times* of 27th September 1946. Nothing is recorded of his philatelic activities.
8. **Mr. W.W.C. Weale**, a public servant, of Barton, who was one of the original Auditors of the Society, and served for several years. He was the secretary to the Council of St. John's Church, Canberra, from 1932 to 1939.



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9. **Mr. J.W.Shakespeare**, of Braddon, was elected to the combined positions of Secretary, Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent at the initial meeting. He became Vice-President in 1946, and President in 1956 and 1957.

10. **Mrs. L.H.Frimley**, of Braddon. No details can be traced about her, other than that she was married to Mr. J.J.Frimley, a printer. She died in 1963.

11. **Miss E.M.Rowe**, a nurse at the Canberra Community Hospital.

Apart from these people, apologies were received from:

12. **The Hon. A.E.Green**, M.H.R. for Kalgoorlie.

13. **The Hon. J.A.Perkins**, M.H.R. for Eden-Monaro.

14. **Mr. L.H.Kendall**. He was one of the original appointees as Auditor of the Society, but little is known about him apart from the fact that he moved away from Canberra shortly after the initial meeting.

15. **Mr. C.Brinkman**, of Griffith. No public record can be found of anyone with this name.

16. **Dr. J.A.James**, of Braddon. A prominent Canberra medical practitioner (after whom the hospital is named). He took an active part in the Society, and was Vice-President in 1951 and 1952.

17. **Mr. W.H.B.Dickson**, who lived at the Hotel Queanbeyan. He practised as a solicitor in the Melbourne Building at Civic.

18. **The Rev. Dr. J.Walker**, Minister in charge of the Presbyterian Church in Canberra from 1927 to 1933.

The initial meeting decided that all of the eighteen people listed above should be recorded as Foundation Members of the Society.

Mr Shakespeare had prepared a draft set of Rules for the conduct of the Society's business, and these were approved by those present.

It was decided that the Hon. Archdale Parkhill should be invited to be Patron of the Society, and the following members were elected to fill the positions provided in the Rules:

President	The Rev. H.W.Woodhouse
Vice-Presidents	Professor J.F.M.Haydon
	Dr. C.C.Finlay
Secretary-Treasurer/ Exchange Superintendent	Mr. J.W.Shakespeare
Auditors	Mr. L.H.Kendall
	Mr. W.C.C.Weale

Of the Foundation Members, Mr.Shakespeare, Dr. Finlay and Dr. James served the Society for many years. Mr. Shakespeare died in 1959, Dr. Finlay in 1962 and Dr. James in 1965. As far as is known, these were the last survivors.

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A report of the proceedings of the first meeting appeared in *The Canberra Times* on 17th November 1932:

**PHILATELIC SOCIETY**

**Monthly Displays Of Stamps**

The Philatelic Society of Canberra was formed on Wednesday evening. The Hon. Archdale Parkhill was elected Patron, with Rev. H. W. Woodhouse president, Dr. C. Finlay and Prof. Haydon vice-presidents, Messrs. H. C. Deane, E. H. Harvie, and J. B. Hopkinson general committee, and Mr. J. W. Shakespeare, hon. secretary and treasurer.

The meeting decided to hold monthly meetings on the third Tuesday in each month and fixed the next meeting for Tuesday, December 20, at Hotel Canberra, when Mr. W. W. C. Weale will display his collection of British Colonials and Balkan States. Further displays have been promised by members.

Special attention is being made by the society in regard to the junior section and the hon. secretary will be pleased to hear from junior collectors so that efforts may be made to instruct and help them in the display of their respective collections.

It will be noted that the list of office-bearers published there differs slightly from that recorded in the minutes.

The second meeting was held, again at the Hotel Canberra, on 20th December 1932, after being similarly advertised. Mr. Weale showed his collection of 'British Colonials and Balkan States' to the nine people present, who included some of the original members and some newcomers. Already, the Society was becoming known outside Canberra, and an early application for membership was received from one of Australia's most prominent philatelists, Mr. A.A. Rosenblum. He was soon followed by two leading Melbourne dealers, Mr. S. Orlo-Smith and Mr. William Ackland. Other applications came quickly, including one from Egypt!

It was the practice, as shown in the following advertisement from *The Canberra Times* of 16th January 1933, for members to bring their complete albums to meetings, for inspection by those present, but this was found to be too cumbersome, and, as a matter of convenience, it was soon decided to display only separate sheets which could be passed around individually.

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF  
CANBERRA  
MONTHLY MEETING  
TUESDAY, JAN. 17, 1933, at 8 p.m.  
at MR. E. H. HARVIE'S RESIDENCE,  
KINGSTON.  
Members please bring an album.  
Visitors welcome.

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The Society was quick to institute an exchange book system and the first book was ready for circulation by the second meeting. From then on, there are frequent notes in the minutes of plaintive exhortations by the Exchange Superintendent for more sheets, and to complaints that members were holding the books for too long. Surely anyone who has ever had charge of an exchange system must regard these as their greatest concerns!

Another feature of early meetings was the introduction of sales, where members could dispose of their surplus material. The Society started this in a small way, and it is recorded that, at one early meeting, the funds benefitted by the sum of 7d as commission on such sales.

The Society worked actively to co-operate with other similar bodies, and developed regular exchange visits with the Philatelic Societies in Yass and Goulburn, and later, in Cooma. For a short time, it was instrumental in setting up and controlling the 'Southern Tablelands Exchange Club', to provide access to philatelic material for members who lived in those areas. However, this arrangement did not achieve a great deal of success or permanency.

As well as the local exchange visits, the Society maintained contacts further afield and a notable event was an expedition to Bega in 1962, when the President, Mr. R.P.Hyeronimus, was invited to open the Bega Philatelic Society's Exhibition. A number of Canberra members made a weekend trip there and contributed towards the programme and display.

One of the concerns of the Society in the early times was the venue of meetings and the cost of the hire of the accommodation. As shown above, the first two meetings were held at the Hotel Canberra, and the cost involved was far beyond the Society's resources. Mr. Harvie offered the use of his home for the third meeting held in January 1933. After that, the President arranged for meetings to be held at the Central Methodist Hall in Forrest. As an experiment, it was soon arranged to hold alternate meetings there and at the Reid Methodist Hall, but this was not successful, as most of the members lived on the south side of Canberra.

Meetings at Forrest continued for some years, apart from one in May 1936 at the office of *The Canberra Times*. There were intermittent discussions with the Church authorities about the rental, which culminated with the meeting of December 1937 being held in Queanbeyan at the home of Mrs. Holliday.

Mrs. Holliday had been a former President of the Yass Society, and had taken part in several visits to meetings in Canberra from Yass, where her husband was the Rector of St. Clement's Church. On his transfer to Queanbeyan in 1936, his wife joined the Canberra Society, where she soon took an active part in its affairs. She became Vice-President in 1937.

Meetings were resumed at the Hall in Forrest, but it was soon realised that the hire charges were beyond the Society's finances, and it was decided that meetings should continue in the homes of members, on an ad hoc basis.

Attendances at meetings had declined, sometimes down to four or five, and they lapsed after November 1939, until Mr. Harvie invited members to his home in March 1941, when five people responded. A few meetings followed in Mrs. Holliday's home in Queanbeyan, and she was elected President in April 1941. As an aside, it was decided at that time that those attending in private homes should be asked to contribute 3d each towards the cost of the supper. However, interest proved to be erratic, and the Society again went into recess after August 1941.

A further attempt at revival came in May 1946, when Mr. Harvie again invited members to his home. Mrs. Holliday was elected President, and meetings were resumed as from July 1946 at the Forrest Methodist Hall, except for that of March 1947, which was held in



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Yass, for the convenience of members who lived there, and one meeting at the Canberra Grammar School in November of that year. Mrs. Holliday became Vice-President again in 1947, when a new President, Mr. E.C.Dockar, was appointed.

From 11th November 1948, the situation is rather confusing, with nothing recorded until January 1951. The remaining minutes are out of chronological order, and some appear to have been written up after the respective dates, with several blank pages, left (presumably) for possible completion at a later date.

Mr. J.A.Dean, an enthusiastic member at the time, was a public servant who lived at Narrabundah, and had been Secretary from 1946 to 1947, and Vice-President in 1948. He had a fine collection of Philippines, and I saw some of it at a combined display at the meeting in July 1946 (which, incidentally, was the first meeting I attended before 1959).

Mr.Dean called a meeting to be held in the Y.M.C.A. Rooms in the Sydney Building, Civic, on 19th January 1951, and ten members attended. He was elected as President, with Dr. James as Vice-President, Mr. H.W.Love as Secretary, and Mr. N.Crawford as Exchange Superintendent.

Mr. Dean and Dr. James were re-elected in 1952, but it soon happened that the Exchange Superintendent had to resign as he found it impossible to do the work. Then in August 1952 the Secretary resigned also. As no replacement Secretary could be found, the President offered to carry on the work of the Society, but obviously this could not continue, and records of meetings ceased as from 12th November 1952.

Late in 1956, Mr. Dean again came to the rescue, and took advantage of a new atmosphere of enthusiasm among the remaining members. He called a special meeting (the location is not recorded) for 5th October 1956, with the object of re-forming the Society and getting it on a sound basis again. He took the chair, and the following were elected:

President	Mr. J.W.Shakespeare
Vice-President	Dr. J.A.James
Secretary	Mr. W.Parker
Exchange Superintendent	Mr. F.Rinaldi

Subsequently, a regular meeting was held in the Phillips Building, Civic. on 9th November 1956, when nineteen people signed the attendance roll. After this date, meetings have continued in an unbroken sequence ever since.

The locations of meetings up to 5th April 1957 are not recorded, other than those for May and June of that year, which took place at the Manchester Unity Office in Civic.

July 1957 was the beginning of a long association with the Y.W.C.A. Rooms at Civic, first in a small room, and later, as the attendances grew, in the larger library. Some present members will remember going down the stairs of the building, which stood at the north-east corner of Mort and Alinga Streets, to the basement, where the Society had to pay 2/- extra for firewood at the winter meetings.

Towards the end of the period of the Society's use of the premises, there was some difference with the owners about charges for the use of the kitchen and crockery, and eventually the Society moved to Red Cross House, in Hobart Place, Civic, for about two years from 1964. Under this arrangement, the Society was required to provide additional chairs, which would revert to the owners of the building on vacation. This occurred in 1966, when the Society moved to the newly-opened Griffin Centre, its present location. However, these moves are outside the scope of this article.

**Office-bearers at the Annual Meeting, 10th September 1959  
in the Y.W.C.A. Library**



Clockwise from the top - R.P.Hyeronimus (President), C. de Goede (Treasurer), A.D.Ross (Exchange Superintendent), T.Frommer (back to camera), A.G.Salisbury (Vice-President), H.L.Higginson (Secretary), A.Hart (Visitor-Exhibitor).

A link with the early years of the Society was provided by Mr. S.J.Kingley, who was President as long ago as 1935, and Vice-President in 1936. In later years he was a regular attendee at meetings up to the 1960s. He died in 1970.

Mr. J.Q.Ewens died in August 1992. He had been the Parliamentary Draftsman in the Attorney-General's Department, and was elected President of the Society in 1936. After completion of his term, he served as Exchange Superintendent for two years.

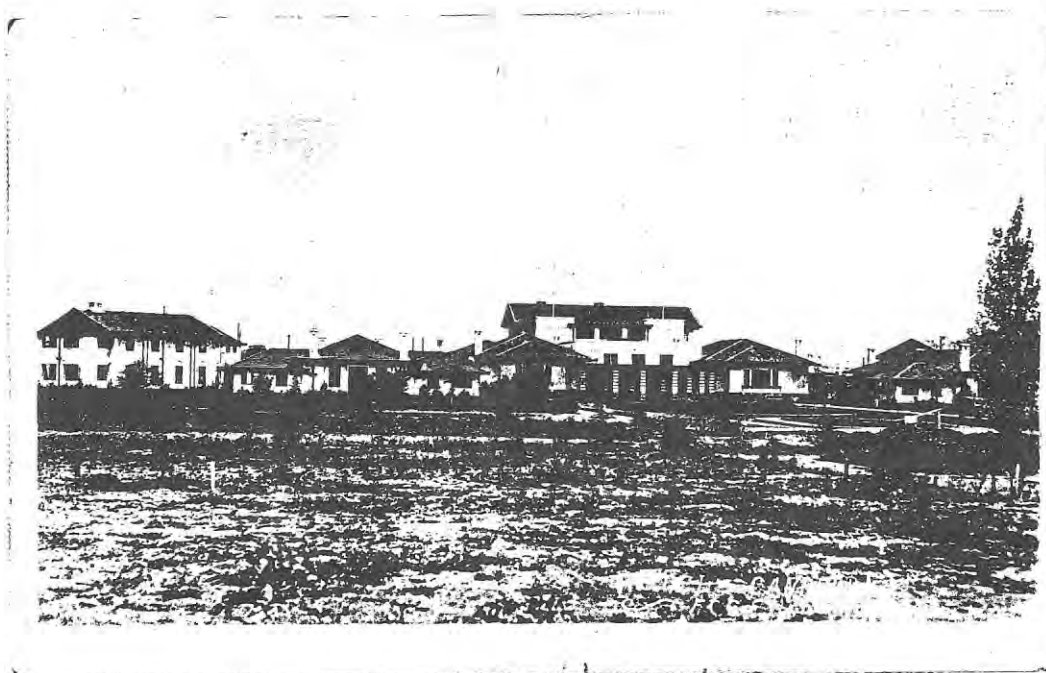
After the re-formation in 1956, Mr. Shakespeare remained as President until he was succeeded by Mr. R.P.Hyeronimus in April 1958. Bill Shakespeare gave his last display to the Society on 12th February 1959, and died suddenly in the Canberra Community Hospital on 21st July 1959. It is safe to say that no-one contributed more to the Society than he did. I knew him well, together with his wife Hazel, and I had the opportunity to visit his home several times in the 1940s, to admire his fine collections of many kinds, particularly of Australian Commonwealth and Great Britain.

After his death, his collections remained intact for some time, and Ron Hyeronimus and I met Mrs. Shakespeare, who allowed us to select some sheets of Great Britain, which were displayed at the Society's first Exhibition in 1963. After that, I have no knowledge of the disposal of the collections. Mrs. Shakespeare told me later that all the material had been sold, and she gave me her husband's philatelic library, which I still value greatly. She died in 1989, which ended the last direct connection with the foundation of the Society, 57 years before.

From small beginnings with meetings often of less than ten people, sometimes even without a quorum, the Society has had its ups and downs, but there has always been a solid core of dedicated and enthusiastic members to guarantee survival. There were about twenty members at its last 'resurrection' in 1956, with a regular growth ever since. Attendances at meetings also grew considerably in the 1970s and 1980s, together with the total members



on the roll. However, more recent actual attendances at meetings appear to be falling off, but this is typical of most philatelic societies today, and perhaps this is a matter for more serious research.



**The Hotel Canberra: the photograph is close in time to the first meeting of the Society held there on November 9 1932  
(postcard provided by John Mathews)**

**THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA.**

At an enthusiastic meeting of stamp collectors from Canberra and Queanbeyan, another society was formed in the National Capital early this month, under the name of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

The Hon. Archdale Parkhill, Postmaster-General, was elected to the position of Patron, with Rev. H. W. Woodhouse as President, Dr. C. Finlay and Prof. Hayden, Vice-Presidents, Messrs. E. H. Harvie, H. C. Deane and E. F. Hopkinson, general Committee, and Mr. J. W. Shakespeare as Secretary, Treasurer and Exchange Superintendent.

The membership to the Society was fixed at 2/6 application fee, with 5/- per annum for local members, and 3/6 for interstate members, while the rate for junior members between the ages of 14 and 18 was fixed at 2/6 per annum.

Meetings were fixed for the third Tuesday in each month, and at the next meeting to be held at the Hotel Canberra on Tuesday, December 20, Mr. W. W. C. Weale has consented to show his collection of British Colonials and Balkan States.

The Society decided to issue an exchange book, the first of which will be issued in December. The Hon. Secretary will be pleased to hear from any collectors at his address, Red Hill, Canberra.

From present indications, the Canberra Society promises to grow into a healthy body, as in Canberra there are many collectors who are very enthusiastic, and quite a large number of junior collectors.

**THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA.**

On Saturday evening, February 11, members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra paid an official visit to the Yass Stamp Club, at the invitation of Mrs. Holliday, President of the Yass Club.

The visit was a great success, and, it is hoped, will be the forerunner of inter-club visits between Yass and Canberra, and thus help philatelists in both centres.

At the present time the membership of the Yass Stamp Club is composed mostly of ladies whose interest in the hobby is very keen under the leadership of Mrs. Holliday (President) and Mrs. A. J. Shearsby (Secretary).

Mrs. Holliday showed a fine collection of Commonwealth, while Mr A. J. Shearsby's collection of India and Indian States was much admired.

The members of the Yass Club decided to join in the exchange book of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, while a joint meeting of the two clubs will be held at Canberra on March 21 next.

**Accounts of early Society meetings from the 'Australian Stamp Monthly' for December 1932 and March 1933.**



THE SOCIETY - THE SECOND THIRTY YEARS

Ian McMahon

Elsewhere in this issue Alan Salisbury describes the history of the first thirty years or so of the Society. In this article I wish to cover some of the events and personalities of the second thirty years.

In contrast to the first thirty years of the Society when the venue for meetings changed regularly, during the second thirty years the Society became more 'settled'. In 1966 the Society commenced holding meetings at the Griffin Centre and has continued to do so ever since establishing a clubroom at the Centre, first on the ground floor and from 1982 at the present location on the first floor. The Clubroom has enabled the Society to house and expand its library while the Griffin Centre has become a focal point for the Society and its activities. The Society had created the post of Librarian in 1961 with the first holder of the post being Mr A Haldane. Other Librarians have included Frank Martin, Bill Baskerville who is still a member of the Society although now resident in Coffs Harbour, Steve Wilson, Ralph Lawton, Derek Brennan and Ian Faber.

The late 1960s and early 1970s were a period of consolidation for the Society. In 1966 the Society had almost seventy members and the annual subscription was one pound for adults and five shillings for juniors becoming \$2 and 50c respectively on the change to decimal currency. This remained unchanged until the inflation prone days of the late 1970s when it rose to \$5 for adults and \$2 for juniors. Many of the members at the time are still with us including Alan Salisbury, Paul Magi, Bernard van der Meer and Steve Abrahamffy. The pattern of formal meetings of the Society was very similar to that of the present. Among the well known visitors to give displays at these meetings were Colonel F Thompson (Cook Islands), Peter Jaffe (St Vincent), H Chisholm (Historic Air Mails) and J Gartner (Western Australia). In 1969 the Society experimented with holding an informal meeting in addition to the display nights. These meetings proved a success and have continued ever since. Over the years other types of meetings have been introduced including discussion nights, auction nights and afternoon meetings.

As mentioned in Alan's article, Ron Hyeronimus took over as President of the Society in 1958 for two years, returning for a second term in 1962 with Laurie Higginson serving as President over the period 1960-62. Ron had a very distinguished philatelic career being a leading expert on Australian Postage Dues and a life member of the Society. His research into Australian postage dues culminated in the publication of his book 'The Postage Due Stamps 1902-1963'. His collection of Commonwealth issues 1913-72 won a gold medal at AUSIPEX 84. Besides being President for two terms he held numerous other positions over the years including that of secretary which he held for over ten years beginning in 1967. He was a banker by profession and became the Manager of the Dickson Branch of the Commercial Banking Company of Sydney. Under his leadership the Society held its first exhibition in 1963 at the Albert Hall which is described in Alan Salisbury's article in the Exhibition Catalogue of the 7th National Philatelic Convention.

Alan Salisbury is well known to all members of the Society. He has had a very distinguished philatelic career and became known to all Australian collectors through his columns in *Stamp News*. Alan has served the Society in many positions since 1959 including President (1964-66, 1967-69, 1971-73) and Treasurer (1974-81) and is a life member of the Society. Cliff de Goede was President during the period 1966-67. He is now resident in Queensland and is well known for his collections of the Netherlands and colonies and Queensland. Aubrey Simmons was President over the period 1969 to 1971. In his obituary in *Capital Philately* it was noted that 'He was an expert Philatelist of the old school, with a knowledge of every aspect of the hobby which was quite phenomenal'. His collecting interests included British postal history.

## A GROUP WHO LEARN FROM THEIR HOBBY...

A hundred Canberra people are learning history, geography and science from pieces of paper less than a square inch in size.

They are members of the Canberra Philatelic Society — and they are learning through their stamp collections.

"We are trying to get more and more people interested in philately as a science," Mr. C. de Goede, president of the group said.

"Stamp collecting contributes to one's knowledge of the geography and history of the area from which a stamp originates."

The society — the second oldest in Canberra — arranges for collectors from Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney to speak to members.

Sometimes the speakers now obtained slides and maps of the areas from which the stamps came.

Tonight at 7.30 the group will meet at the Griffin Centre for its monthly meeting.

Anyone interested is invited to attend.

Each member will show five sheets of stamps from his collection — or be fined five cents.

Each meeting closes with a sale of stamps by tender with members providing the stamps.



● Mr C. deGoede, president of the Canberra Philatelic Society, examines his own extensive collection of stamps.

Extract from *'The Canberra Times'* during the Presidency of Cliff de Goede, 1966-67.

Since 1973 the Society has had many presidents each of whom has served about two years due to an unwritten convention limiting the terms of presidents to that period. The Presidents since 1973 would be well known to most members of the Society: Derek Brennan, Steve Wilson, Brian Darke, Ed Druce, Elspeth Bodley, Dingle Smith, Paul Barsdell, Peter Wood, Judy Kennett and Ian McMahan. Steve Wilson was particularly noted for his interest in thematic collecting and his comprehensive collection of bird stamps while Brian Darke was a keen postal stationery collector and author of a catalogue of Australian postal stationery. One exception to the two year rule was Peter Wood who retired early to move from Canberra to Melbourne with Judy Kennett filling in for the remainder of the Society's year.

While the Society has had frequent changes of President, the other major office bearers have tended to serve for much longer periods. As noted above Ron Hyeronimus served as Secretary from 1967 until Ian Hay took over in 1977. When he left Canberra for Manila in 1978 Trish Hyland became Secretary. She was followed in 1981 by Bruce Parker who served for many years until replaced by Peter Oldham. Two long serving Treasurers were Paul Magi (1967 to 1974), and Alan Salisbury (1974 to 1981). Exchange Superintendents have been particularly long serving with Doug Ross holding the position from 1959 until 1972. When I joined the Society in 1978 Don Gray was exchange superintendent and I can remember receiving my first book from him. He was followed by Phil Saxby and in 1981 by Hans Karman, the present holder of the position. As the Society grew the number of office bearers increased to lighten the workload with positions of Assistant Secretary and Clubroom Manager being created. These positions have often served to introduce new members to Council.

The late 1970s and the early 1980s were exciting times for the Society and history will most likely record this period as the Society's heyday. During this time the Society's

membership reached over 270, average attendance at meetings was 40-50, the Society won the Stamp News most active society competition on no less than four occasions and was runner up on two others, the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary and commenced holding its national conventions and publishing *Capital Philately*. This was also the time when stamp collecting was booming with many investors entering the market who had not previously been involved in stamp collecting. I joined the Society in 1978 and can remember the vitality of the meetings, the competition for lots, especially Australian material, at the auction run by Ray Sullivan. One highlight for me early on in my membership was a visit to the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank in their old premises in Melbourne in October 1979. Members of the Society were treated to a tour of the stamp printing facilities and to the sight of sheets of \$50 dollar notes. Notable visitors to the Society during this period were Colonel F Thompson and the Philatelic Society of New South Wales in 1977, P Collas in 1980 (POW mail from the Second World War) and John White (Queensland).

The Society first won the Stamp News Most Active Society Award in 1975 with the Oxley Club from Brisbane coming second. Stamp News said that 'Canberra probably won the trophy for a slightly wider spread of activities and for the unusual school of philately.' The Society was also very active in promoting philately with Post Office and school displays. The School of Philately which the Society has organised on a number of occasions involved a series of lectures on topics such as mounting and displaying a collection, printing processes and the techniques of collecting.

The Society won the 1977 award for the most active Philatelic Society in Australia, beating the Tamworth Philatelic Society by only one point. Stamp News described the Society as 'a very solid Society, strong in every department, and the Society gained high points in every division of the competition because of this. Amongst its solid achievements is the School of Philately which it continued to conduct in 1977 with eight sessions in the period March to May. The Canberra Society is noted for the high standard of its monthly meetings, but also takes very seriously the task of promoting philately in the community.'

## Canberra Wins Society Competition

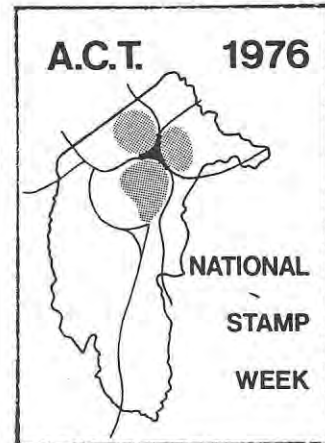
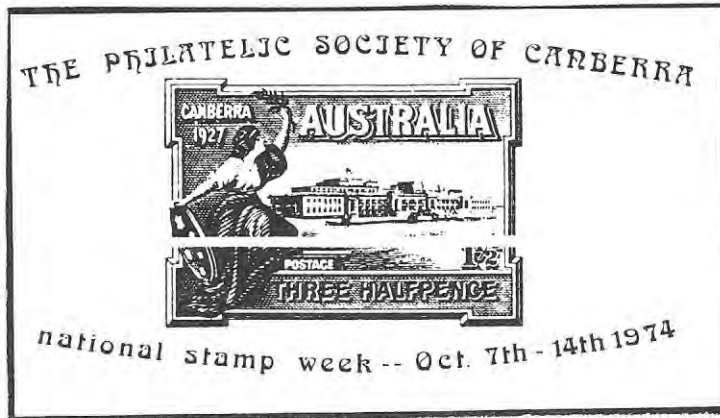
The "Stamp News" Grand Trophy for the Most Active Philatelic Society in Australia in 1977 has been awarded to the Canberra Philatelic Society (ACT) which narrowly defeated the Tamworth Philatelic Society (NSW), thus reversing the awards of last year when Tamworth won with Canberra being the runner-up.

**'Stamp News' proclaims the good news for Canberra**

In 1982 the Society was runner-up to the Macquarie Valley Philatelic Society but won the award again in 1983 and 1984 and was runner up in 1985. In 1984 the success of the 3rd National Philatelic Convention greatly assisted the Society's win. The Society held its first Convention in 1980 and has held them every two years since. The Conventions are discussed in an article by Dingle Smith elsewhere in this issue of *Capital Philately*. The late 1970s and early 1980s also saw the staging of National Stamp Week usually in September or October of each year. The Society participated actively in these events holding public displays and, on occasion, combining with the ACT Stamp Promotion Council (the forerunner of the ACT Philatelic Council) to produce souvenir sheets.



## Capital Philately



**Souvenir sheets for National Stamp Week, 1974 and 1976.**

The Fiftieth anniversary of the Society was in 1982 and was celebrated with an anniversary dinner at a restaurant in Belconnen and by the Society presenting each of its members with a small stockbook engraved with the Canberra coat of arms and the name of the Society. The anniversary also saw the first issue of *Capital Philately* with Alan Salisbury as the founding editor. After Alan, the editorship passed to Ed Druce and then Dingle Smith. The first issue included articles by Alan Tippett ('Kadavu - Fijian Port of Entry'), Ed Druce ('Stamps of Ireland'), Alan Salisbury ('5/- Harbour Bridge') and the popular 'Phil Litt' ('Reading about Stamps'). The journal has won many awards since that time including a recent silver medal from National Stampshow 92 in Brisbane in June this year. While a copy of a Society newsletter exists from the very earliest days, the newsletter was revived in 1978 by Steve Wilson and Elspeth Bodley and has been produced ever since. In 1988 it was awarded first prize in the Newsletter class of the Stamp News 1987-88 Journal competition.

No mention of this period of the Society's history would be complete without a mention of Alan Tippett. Alan was a life member of the Society and a very knowledgeable philatelist whose main interests were Fiji and postal history. He had a very personal touch to his displays which added considerably to their interest. Before coming to Canberra he had been a Methodist missionary in Fiji and a professor of anthropology in the USA. At Sydrex 88 he won the Grand Prix International for his Fiji and a Vermeil for his book *Dynamic Roots of Postal History*. [Extracts from this monograph will be published in forthcoming issues of *Capital Philately* - Ed].

After the boom period of the early 1980s, the Society consolidated in the late 1980s. This was especially apparent to me as I moved away from Canberra for three years in 1981 and on my return found a much smaller Society, a new clubroom and auctions only at the third meeting of the month which have since been replaced by three or four auction nights during the year. Members were no longer as interested in decimal Australian stamps whose value had dropped rapidly after the investors left the market in the early 1980s. One major change in the late 1980s was the incorporation of the Society on 25 May 1988.

### PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA

#### PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS 1964-65

1964

1st October	Germany	Miss J. Resch
+ 5th November	Members' Night	Displays of not more than six sheets by all members
3rd December	Space Covers	Mr. O. A. Simakoff

# Capital Philately

Vol.1, No.1.

November 1982

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**The contents page for the first issue of Capital Philately**

While the Society in the 1990s has fewer members than in the late 1970s, it remains very active. The innovations of the 1970s and 1980s including the journal, the newsletter, the library and the Conventions have continued as valuable services to our members and philately in Canberra. In the years to come the Society will face many challenges and like philately itself will need to adapt if it is to remain relevant to its members.



THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF CANBERRA, Incorporated

**PROGRAMME  
OF  
MEETINGS  
1992**

**PHILATELY FROM WHENCE AND WHITHER TO**

Edric Druce

When the editor asks you to pen a few lines for the 60th birthday of a philatelic society what do you do other than panic? In the end I controlled the panic and thought that maybe a look at the trends in philately might give me a good excuse to draw on the last sixty years and try and gaze into the next sixty years.

Ever since the inception of philately there have been some hardy perennial issues and complaints. 'There are too many stamp issues' has been around for over one hundred years and 'The designs of modern issues are awful' must be nearly as old. Add to that 'The hobby is dying, there are no new people being attracted to the hobby'; and we have at least three clichés which are centenarians. In other words these clichés are as old as organised philately in Australia. What is more they are not likely to become obsolete in the foreseeable future.

That is not to say that such questions should be ignored but at least they should be placed in the same category as claims that the end of the world is nigh or that we are going to run out of oil next year. Why then did not all these philatelic prophecies of doom come to pass? There seemed, at the time, to be good anecdotal evidence that these issues were real and that those who believed in them were certainly honestly concerned, as are the modern believers.

To try and answer this conundrum and to give you, the members of our society, some ideas on collecting trends in the future I need to digress to the centenary celebrations of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria which took place on August this year.

I had the honour of reading a paper on Postal History. In it I touched on the evolution of this class of philately and its relationship with other philatelic classes. I'm going to draw a lot on that talk in this article. But there is an additional reason why my mind went back to that celebration. One of the visiting dealers called me a very inelegant, almost rude, name. 'Serve you right', I'm sure you are all thinking. That impeccable English dealer Eric Etkin called me a vacuum cleaner, or a vacuum cleaner collector.

As soon as he had said it he became embarrassed and hurriedly set about explaining himself. 'You look at everything and quickly spot the interesting item', he said. 'Not necessarily the pretty item or, thank goodness, the expensive item, but the interesting item from a wide field of collecting interests'.

This is really a compliment and it set me musing. Who else is like me? At least in a collecting sense! Like a flash of light it came to me; it wasn't a question of who was like me; it was the other way around. All the great collectors I have known have all been vacuum cleaner collectors.

Let me name a few. If we start on Canberra then people like Alan Salisbury, Doug Ross, the late Aub Symonds, and Dingle Smith spring to mind. Elsewhere in Australia people like Lew Viney, John White and the current crop of vacuum cleaners, Bernie Beston, Malcolm Groom, Ray Todd, Derek Pocock, John Sinfield and Tony Presgrave are all collectors of this ilk. What distinguishes them is their catholic collecting tastes, their ability to search and hunt, their knowledge and their eye. All summed up by Eric Etkin as 'vacuum cleaner collectors'.

The Philatelic Society of Canberra has been extremely lucky in having a large number of vacuum cleaner collectors over the years and a large proportion of the current members fall into that category. I would argue that this is one of the underlying strengths of a great Australian philatelic society.



## *Capital Philately*

What else do such collectors bring to the hobby? Well, if it were not for such people, the ambit of our hobby would be minute; there would be even fewer covers available for the postal historian and aerophilatelists, fewer proofs and artists essays for the traditionalist, virtually no beer duty stamps, or railway stamps, or fiscals. Very little postal stationery would have survived, particularly of the used variety and Cinderella's would be buried beneath the pumpkins.

The overwhelming evidence, which is ignored by nearly all philatelic commentators, is that philately is expanding, broaching new collection interests and becoming more exciting. This expansion and the emergence of new horizons is neither the result of Post Office endeavours, nor of doomsayers who wish to reinvent the past but of vacuum cleaner collectors who redefine philately, set new standards, publish their findings and ideas and build collections with 'critical mass'.

It is this activity which confounds the doomsayers and cause those perennial clichés to be continually unproven. Let us take them one by one and see why this is so. 'Too many stamp issues' may be true in one sense and certainly it leads some collectors to give up. But those collectors are the ones who collect to a strict set of rules - in the 1950s and 60s the unthinking culture was completeness, one of everything or if you were a real collector, ten or twenty of everything. Too many stamps quickly snuffs out this collectors light. But vacuum cleaner collectors don't stop; they change the rules. They study an issue of a period, or study the use of a stamp, or its design if not its designer. Wow, what excitement. Even better, the hoi-polloi won't follow until everything has been fixed - a catalogue exists, and albums or sheets are available with instructions such as boxes and pictures, and dealers produce lists which are standardised in their terminology and complete, or near complete, in their offering.

'Awful designs' may also be a truism - beauty is in the eye of the beholder and therefore what appeals to one will not necessarily appeal to another. Stamp design reflects the overall design and artistic standards of a country or period. Stamp collectors who have seen a few stamps in their time can pick a French, or German, or American stamp immediately by its design, they don't have to look for the country name. Similarly the designs from all countries in the nineteenth century can be distinguished easily from those of the early, middle and late twentieth centuries. By the way, this study of minuscule art 'schools' has not yet blossomed, but surely it must. These changing designs also reflect changes in printing technology and, more recently and still emerging, base materials (notice I didn't say paper) and printing inks (and dies and other methods of producing colour variations). These technologies tend to be far ahead of many tastes and particularly philatelic tastes. Imagine the outcry if stamps began to look like phone cards - but imagine the surge of youthful interest!

And this brings me to the most common cry of all 'The kids aren't collecting stamps anymore!'. This is certainly true because the few statistics that we do have show a decline in the number of children interested in collecting stamps. It is only a marginal decline but it is real. However, this is a statistic for the developed world and it is also a statistic which measures stamp collecting rather than collecting.

There is not only anecdotal but statistical evidence that mature (of age) stamp collectors are almost always those who collected stamps as kids. The only quibble I would have is that it is the fostering, the instilling, the development of the collector interest which is critical. Whether it is stamps or phone cards matters not a jot. The anecdotal evidence of today is that phone cards have triggered the collecting interest in kids - they swop them, deal in them, pester dealers for them and beat me to the disposal container on phone booths. This augers well for philately because when these collectors return as mature collectors it will be to a hobby which offers variety, standards, a literature, competition, beauty, history, and pleasure - in other words philately.



## *Capital Philately*

When we look at the developing world we see a totally different picture - a boom in stamp and cover collecting. Currently Malaysia is looking at including stamp collecting as part of the compulsory curriculum in schools. Indonesia has similar ideas. What has sparked this? Thematic collecting and the realisation amongst educationalists in the developing world that collecting and studying stamps not only helps forge a national identity but also teaches geography and biology and hence environmental awareness, history, international relations and a whole lot more that our modern world thinks is important, that is the cause.

My central argument has been that philately is continually saved from its commonly foretold doom by the inventiveness of advanced collectors who continually find new fields to conquer. How else can philately have survived the explosion in new issues, the picture perfect products of new lithographic printing techniques, and the continued alleged absence of the next generation of collectors.

Apart from thematic collecting, postal history has been the boom area of philately over the past three decades. While the term was coined on the 1930s by Robson Lowe, who ran postal history auctions from then until now, it was not until 1974 that the class was first introduced at the international level. In just 18 years it accounts for about one quarter to one third of competitive philately. It was this point that was the central theme of my talk to the centenary celebrations of the RPSV. I took it further and compared the existing classes, pointing out what they could learn from one another. Not only is this important in that it continually broadens and strengthens the hobby but also it can help us spot trends and new challenges in the hobby. Let me take each class and try some crystal ball gazing.

### **Traditional Philately**

Up until the Second World War traditional philately was all of philately. Since then five or more philatelic classes have been spawned. Traditional philately is therefore the mother of most philatelic endeavour and like most mothers she has varying degrees of fondness for her offspring. She has absolutely no trouble with postal stationery. After all stationery is really just large stamps as Ray Todd told me the other day. Maximaphily appears to be the loved but intellectually handicapped child, still at home, perhaps never fully to leave. Postal history is the errant son, loved but scolded, always getting into trouble but mostly forgiven. Thematics though, are beyond the pale - separated by a generation gap and of a different culture.

But it is from thematics that traditional philately should take its lead. Just the adoption of the concept of story or theme on which thematic philately insists would do much to reinvigorate the class and bring new understanding for collector and viewer alike. Why was the stamp issued, what were the circumstances of its issue; how was it used are some of the questions which must not only be asked but also answered.

New horizons are opening up for traditional philately. It has taken unto its bosom the orphan of philately, fiscal stamps. This is a boom area, with the challenge of new knowledge, new study, new literature, and new collectors. Watch out for the explosion of interest and then of prices. My conclusion is therefore that traditional philately is awaiting a re-birth and will return to a prominence that it has forsaken to postal history and thematics over the last few decades.

### **Postal Stationery**

It is probably hard to imagine, but up to the turn of the century postal stationery was just another stamp - to be collected just like other stamps and to be included in the definition of completeness. But by the early 1900s both catalogues and albums were becoming cluttered, so the simple solution of the publishers was to drop stationery items from catalogues and pre-printed albums. The collectors (most of them) followed like sheep. A greater indignity was temporally imposed - cut squares. Why not mutilate and trim the margins of these pieces of stationery so that only the stamp impression remained, this way, for a few years at least stationery could remain as a collectable item. Eventually even this horrendous

compromise was discarded. To this day there are some stationery issues which are known only as cut squares.

Thus the fashion became to ignore stationery altogether; they are not real stamps was the catch cry. But eventually, because there were too many stamps or because the design of modern stamps are ugly, vacuum cleaner collectors turned to the neglected field of postal stationery. Imagine their surprise when it was the modern issues (say 1920 to 1960) that were hard to find and used examples especially so. This holds good for most countries except the larger users of stationery such as the US and Germany.

The effort in postal stationery has been to find examples of what was issued. Nobody knew. This task is now, for the world, about 95% complete and new challenges are arising. Once again the story is critical to the building of a collection- why was it issued, to where could it be used without additional franking etc. Because stationery is the item on which additional postage is stuck, the question of rates and routes becomes an essential part of the collectors goal. This postal history aspect of stationery is only just emerging and it will put increased pressure on the market for used material and prices will rise accordingly. Just remember that, used items not mint - that slays a few sacred philatelic cows!

### **Postal History**

This new child - some would say enfant terrible - has soared in popularity. The major philatelic effort has been in documenting the postal history of countries. In fact if you look back over the sixty years of issues of the Postal History Bulletin you can see the change in emphasis from the study of the history of postal systems, often continental in scope, to a study of the routes, rates and markings of countries and then areas, and now towns and villages. This increased focus is continuing but has yet to hit Australia with full force. As yet we have not seen the postal history of the Monaro, nor of Wagga Wagga, nor yet of Gundaroo.

With the march of time collectors will have enough material to begin to work at this type of collection spurred on by borrowing the concept of a story line from thematic collecting. My forecast is therefore that many new collections will be formed which deal with local postal history in much more depth than we have so far seen.

### **Aerophilately**

Unkind collectors like me, while having aerophilatelic collections, are wont to note that aerophilately is merely a part of postal history. When this early child of traditional philately flew the coop (sorry) it took not only first flight covers with it but also airmail stamps and airmail etiquettes (Cinderella's). For some reason this brave new class got stuck in a rut. While there have now been sufficient mail plane crashes to form an exhibit and enough pigeon posts to make any statue tremble, aerophilatelists seem to have ignored the rapid emergence of aircraft as the preferred carrier of mail. Add to this the continually evolving new routes and the effect of inflation on rates over the past four decades and you have the most exciting untouched area for new vacuum cleaner collecting. But will it fall to postal history or aerophilately? I hope the latter because it surely needs an injection of vision, of excitement and breadth. That this is possibly was demonstrated by that marvellous show in Adelaide in 1978 which concentrated solely on aerophilately and gave full freedom to the class to expand and show its potential. Adelaide in 1994 will provide another opportunity and I'm already starting to work on a collection to support my ideas. Many other vacuum cleaner collectors are doing the same. Let us hope that the rest of the aerophilatelic world catches on.

All the above is notwithstanding the new area of astrophilately. When space mails eventuate as a normal commercial occurrence then watch the count down to take-off in popularity and price.



## *Capital Philately*

### **Thematics**

This is without doubt the strong collecting interest of the young. Postal administrations have responded by issuing many stamps featuring popular themes, aided by new technology. There is no doubt that it will continue as a major collecting interest as the pull through from junior to senior collector occurs.

Indeed thematics may well become the driving force of philately, requiring as it does traditional philatelic skills and knowledge together with an appreciation of stationery, post marks and fringe areas of philatelic interest.

If it can learn from other classes it is probably that rules do not have to be too rigid. Let the collector make more decisions and provide the judges with more flexibility. Overall it is still a growing area and one which should be fostered and nurtured along the lines pioneered by the Queensland Philatelic Council. Does the Philatelic Society of Canberra need a special thematics section to stimulate more interest and perhaps safeguard its membership?

### **Social Philately**

This brand new class, pioneered by Australia and indeed by Canberra, has certainly discovered some new vacuum cleaner collectors in the closet. At the national class in Canberra 1992 there were some truly beautiful collections with Ray Kelly's advertising envelopes, John Trowbridge's pubs and grog, and George Gunderson's telegraph forms leading the charge, ably supported by some innovative New Zealand collections.

In this class we are still exploring the boundaries and we have yet to see collections based on philatelic history (for example albums, stamp hinges, perforation gauges etc.) or on the paraphernalia which surrounds stamp use (post office stationery [unstamped] on the one hand and stamp boxes on the other). That such exhibits will appear there is no doubt, the latest high quality English auction houses now regularly include pages of stamp boxes in their catalogues and at prices up to \$2000!

The most exciting thing about Social Philately is not that it turns on the viewer (witness the crowds round the exhibits at Canberra) and that it turns on collectors because of its freedom and charm but the fact that it has to draw on all the other major classes for technique, for display ideas, and for material as well as requiring new material from other collecting areas (post cards, local history, maps, photos etc.).

### **Conclusions**

Most may disagree with me but philately is alive and well. More collecting interests, more material, more auction catalogues, higher prices except for wallpaper issues, more exhibitors; the only decrease is in society membership generally in Australia. Could it be that we are not giving the new collector what they want? Could it be that institutional philately is slow to respond to emerging trends? Could it be that we are too rigid in our acceptance of the scope of philately?

Whatever the reason I did promise some crystal ball thoughts on the philatelic growth areas to the turn of the century, here they are (in no particular order);

1. Social Philately particularly with respect to commerce,
2. Postal Stationery with concentration on rates,
3. Design (artistic) styles of stamps,
4. Postal History of small areas,
5. Fiscals,
6. Studies of single modern issues,
7. Modern airmail rates,
8. Postage dues and their use,
9. Philatelic History, and
10. Philatelic Paraphernalia.

ANSWERS TO THE ROSS PHILATELIC QUIZ NO.1

A.D.Ross

The quiz questions appear in *Capital Philately* v.10, n.4, 63-64.

- Qu.1. (a) France and Portugal (b) Sicily (c) France (d) Czechoslovakia (e) France - again. Vive la....
- Qu.2. Three: 38, 43 and 80 cents. Sheet and booklet.
- Qu.3. UK, USA and NZ.
- Qu.4. Comb has 'square' corners and line 'irregular' corners as regards the layout of the perforation teeth.
- Qu.5. 1934: Victorian Centenary. 1950: Small Aboriginal head. 1952 Large Aboriginal head. 1961; Stockman. 1968: Famous Australians: Namatjira. 1975: Famous Australians: Truganini. 1982: Australia Day. 1986: Bicentenary Convict Settlement (\$1.00). 1987: Christmas. 1988: First Fleet Sydney Cove strip - 2 stamps. Early Years strip - 1 stamp, Christmas strip - 1 stamp (Islander?), Pastoral Era strip - 1 stamp, Living Together - 15 cent, Exploration M/S has Aborigines in the surround. Any others?
- Q.6. Bhutan
- Q.7. B - Bangkok (British Postal Administration). C - Columbia. E - Bavaria (Eisenbahn). G - Griqualand West and Canada.
- Q.8. (a) Dead Letter Office. (b) First (1850) issue of British Guiana. (c) A variety of semantic values. (d) What it says. (e) Perhaps best is validated. (f) To pay. (g) Se-tenant.
- Q.9. Mauritius no value green surcharged 'Four Pence' in 1854.
- Q.10. (a) Greece. (b) India. (c) Palestine (d) British North Borneo. (e) Australia and Papua. (f) Kishangarh.
- Q.11. (a) Cochin. (b) UK (c) Jamaica (d) Tonga (e) Austria (1850). (f) Maldives
- Q.12. (a) France. (b) St Helena. (c) Portugal. (d) India (e) Nyasaland. (f) Transvaal. (g) Bosnia & Herzegovina.
- Q.13. Austria, Italy and Switzerland.
- Q.14. (a) Roman States. (b) India, Pakistan, Bahrain, Kuwait, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, British POs in Eastern Arabia etc. (c) Lithuania. (d) Tibet. (e) Mongolia (f) Ecuador. (g) Germany.
- Q.15. Peru.
- Q.16. (a) Albania. (b) Russian PO in Crete. (c) Norway. (d) Serbian occupied Hungary (1919). (e) Ingarmanland. (f) Croatia (1941).
- Q.17. At the time of competition, USA se-tenant sheet of 50 State emblems. There has also been a similar sheet of flowers, from (I think) the USA.
- Q.18. At the time of the competition, the Pre-paid Post Box at \$9.50. My moral consultant agreed that a \$9.99 Frama label was clever but illicit.
- Q.19. Xmas issues, each year from 1960 to 1965. The ANZAC issue (1965), Lions issue (1967) and coils issue 1968-71.
- Q.20. Canada 2 cent world map, issued 7 Dec 1898, 'Xmas 1898'
- Q.21. Palestine; the EEF (military) issues were converted to a 'civilian' issue by an overprint in Arabic, English and Hebrew (naturally, the work was done by the Orthodox Convent, Jerusalem)
- Q.22. At the time of the competition - 10. Opposite stamps 1,3,5,7 & 9 in both left and right margins.

Doug Ross wishes to stress that, although he arranged the competition, in its preparation and in deciding over one or two knotty points arising from some submitted answers, he had full access to Alan Salisbury's wide philatelic knowledge and keen sense of equity. As ever, he is grateful for this access.

## THE NATIONAL PHILATELIC CONVENTIONS 1980-1992

Dingle Smith

The year 1982 marked the fiftieth anniversary of the formation of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. Two major initiatives were launched in that year and both have continued into 1992, the Society's diamond jubilee. The first of these was the launch of *Capital Philately*; volume 1, number 1 appeared in November 1982. The other was the Second National Philatelic Convention held in March 1982. Its precursor, the First National Philatelic Convention, took place in 1980 and was a tentative innovation to gain experience for a larger event in the the jubilee year. The term 'National' was employed to highlight the location of the exhibition in the national capital. 'Philatelic Convention' now appears as a rather pretentious title but has been retained to emphasise the continuity of the shows which have become an established date on the philatelic calendar. Indeed, the series has the longest running sequence of any comparable event in Australia.

This account will give a summary of each of the National Conventions and illustrate the postal philatelic items and the commemorative postmarkers associated with them. It is based upon a display presented at the Society's meeting held on Thursday November 5 1992, entitled '60th Jubilee - an Evening of Nostalgia',

The non-postal philatelic items produced for the National Conventions are described and illustrated in *The handbook of Australian and New Zealand philatelic exhibitions*, compiled by Robert Kennedy and published by the Cinderella Stamp Club of Australia in 1988 or in the updated version (Handbook No.2) published in early 1992.

### **The First National Philatelic Convention**

This was held at the Jewish Centre on Saturday and Sunday, 25-26 October 1980. There were philatelic exhibits, talks, dealers and a dinner. In addition a range of philatelic items were available and many were used in conjunction with the commemorative postmarker provided by Australia Post. This featured the Canberra carillon, which is also used on the reverse of the Society's medals - first used at the Second Convention. All of these ingredients have been retained at later Society conventions. However, on this inaugural occasion there were no competitive displays.

There were two postal philatelic items.

- . An Australia Post Pre-stamped 22 cent envelope (No.21), which featured a Grey Kangaroo, was overprinted to promote the Convention.
- . An Australia Post 18 cent postcard (C1.2.76) illustrating the Canberra carillon at sunset. These numbered cards were specially overprinted and signed by John Gordon, the carillonist.

Examples of these items are shown in Figures 1 and 2. It was a measure of the popularity of PSEs in 1980 that well over a thousand envelopes were sold, many in reply to mail orders. The demand was such that it was necessary to arrange a second printing of the overprint!

### **The Second National Philatelic Convention**

This Convention, the week-end of March 6-7 1982, was the major celebratory event of the golden jubilee of the Society. The venue was the Training Depot of the 3rd Battalion of the Royal NSW Regiment, in Allara St. Civic. The event was chosen to coincide with Canberra Festival Week, a tradition that has been maintained for all subsequent Conventions.



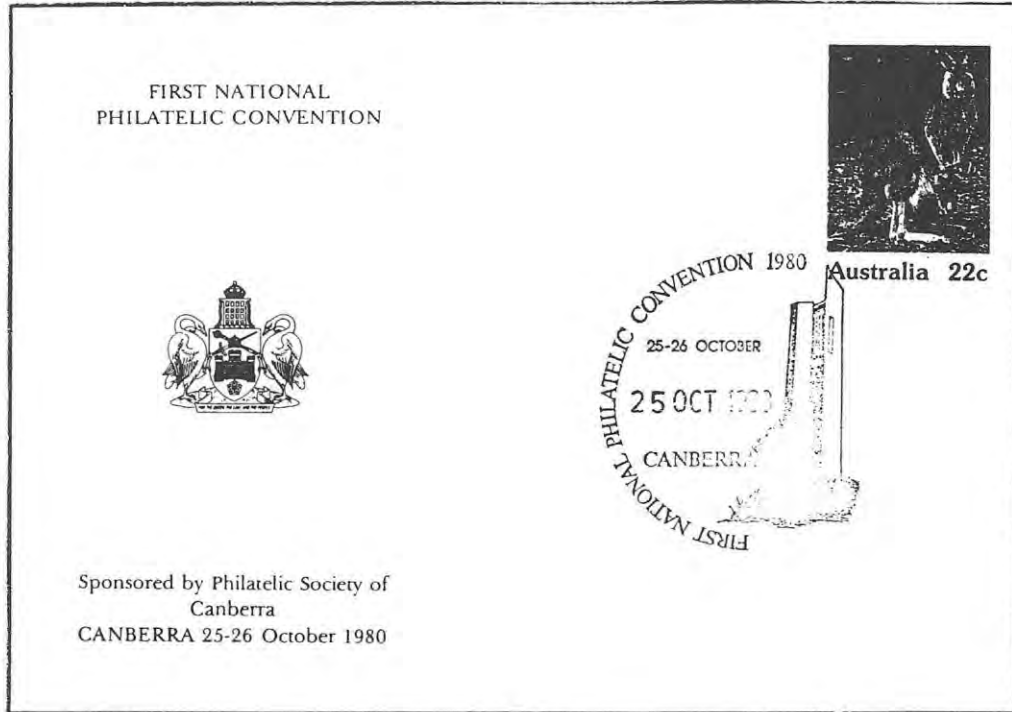


Figure 1 Promotion cover and carillon postmarker, October 1980

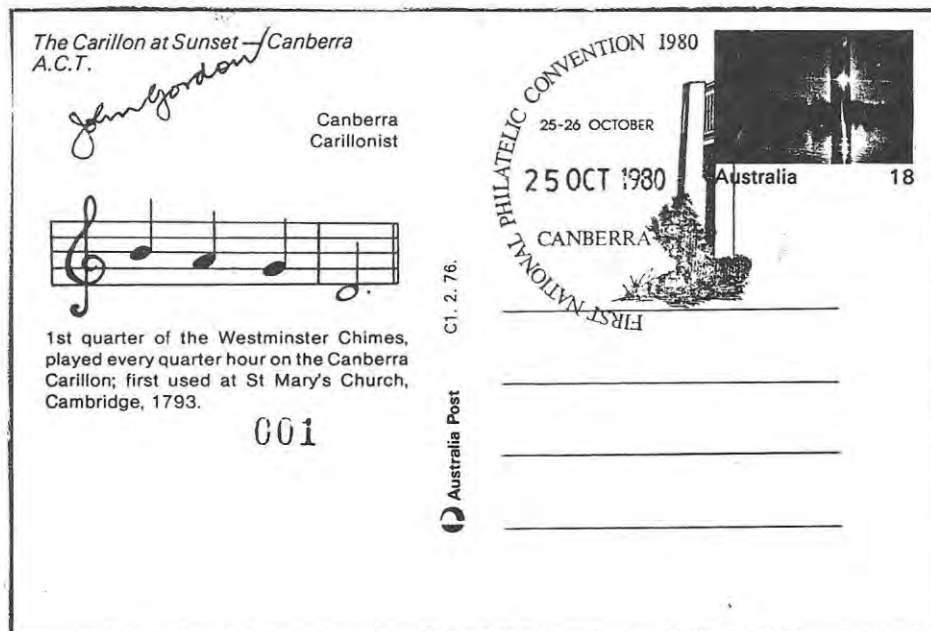


Figure 2 Carillon postcard, overprinted for the First Convention.



Figure 3 Koala PSE and postmarker for Second Convention, March 1982

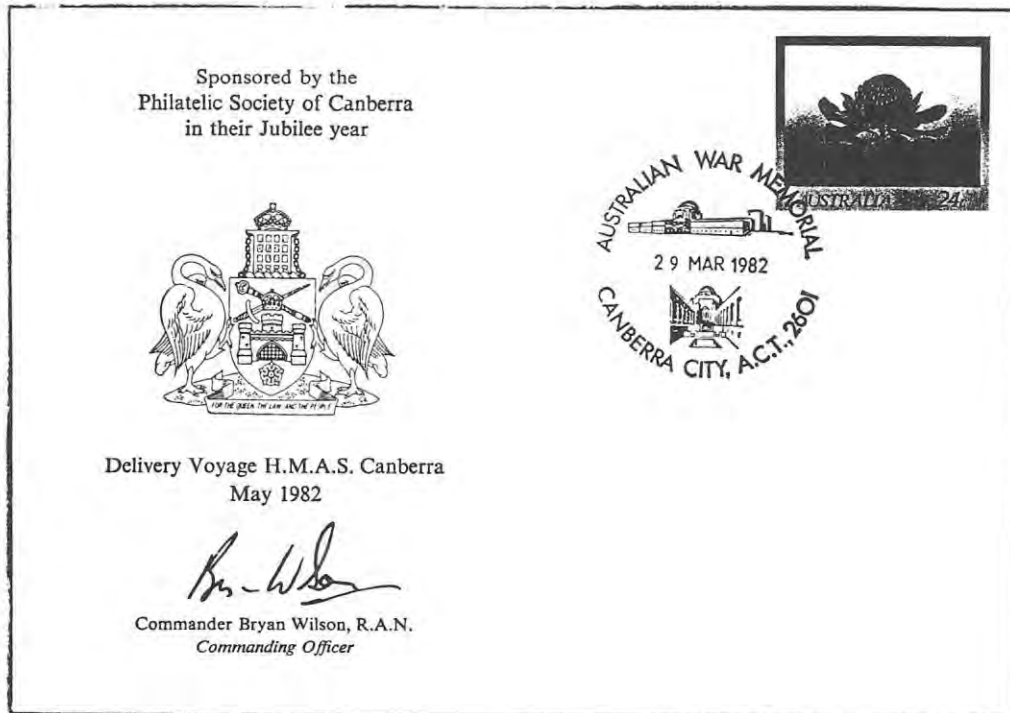


Figure 4 Waratah PSE overprinted for delivery voyage of HMAS Canberra

## *Capital Philately*

For the first time the Convention incorporated competitive displays. There were 58 entries, all of two frames. Most were entered by members of the Society, the majority of whom were exhibiting for the first time. It is worth noting that many of these first time entrants have subsequently gained high awards at national and international level. There were 19 dealers, an Australia Post stand, a catalogue (edited by the late Dr. Alan Tippet) and an auction conducted by Edlins of Canberra with a 5% surcharge going to Society funds. Edlins auctions have been a feature at all subsequent National Conventions.

There were two postal philatelic items.

- . The 22 cent Australia Post Pre-stamped Envelope (No.22), Koala, used for pre-Convention publicity and during the event
- . The 24 cent Australia Post Pre-stamped Envelope (No.42) the Waratah, overprinted to commemorate the delivery voyage of the HMAS Canberra from the USA. These covers were numbered, signed by Commander Bryan Wilson (the Commanding Officer) and postmarked at the Australian War Memorial on 29 March 1982.

They are illustrated in Figures 3 and 4. The postmarker contained an excellent representation of the new HMAS Canberra.

### **Third National Philatelic Convention**

Two venues were used for the Third Convention, March 10-11 1984, the Training Depot in Allara Street and the new Canberra GPO in Civic which opened in April 1983. In large part this was due to the extra space needed to house the 114 competitive displays. The exhibits were judged at national level in order to allow exhibitors who attained a vermeil, or higher award, to enter AUSIPEX. This was the Australia's first international philatelic exhibition, held in Melbourne in September 1984.

This was the first of the Canberra shows to include a Cinderella mail 'happening', since that time they have been a regular feature. The chosen event was a Goat Mail for which self-adhesive labels were printed on rouletted miniature sheets of eight, with nominal values of 5, 10 and 25. These are further described in the 'Favourite Cover' article elsewhere in this issue of *Capital Philately*.

There was a single postal item for the Convention, also used for pre-Convention publicity.

- . The Australia Post Pre-stamped Envelope (No.61), issued to commemorate the opening of the Canberra GPO and the Australia Post Philatelic Exhibition, was specially overprinted

The commemorative exhibition postmarker also featured the new Canberra GPO. The postmark and cover are illustrated in Figure 5.

### **Fourth National Philatelic Convention**

The fourth Convention was housed at a single venue - the Canberra GPO. The competitive entries numbered 74, and were judged at state level. This was the first Convention with a duration of three days, March 17-19. The final day was Canberra Day, a public holiday in the ACT.

All the philatelic items were linked to the theme of postal history in the Canberra region. On Sunday March 16, Pony Club members rode in to the exhibition venue carrying mail from the sites of four post offices that were in service in the 1880s. These were the Canberra, Ginnindera, Lanyon and Jeir post offices, special cancels were available for each of these. The Cinderella label illustrated a young rider on horseback. A single postal item was produced.



## Capital Philately

The cover shows the location of the early post offices, see Figure 6. The cancel in the illustration is for the original Canberra post office, now submerged under the waters of Lake Burley Griffin.

The convention postmarker show an early mail carrier mounted on horseback.

### The Fifth National Philatelic Convention.

This Convention was again of three days duration (March 19-21), held at the Canberra GPO with a state level competition with 68 entries. The Convention was formally approved as a Bicentennial Event and many of the philatelic items included the Bicentennial logo in their design. The main Cinderella feature was a hot air balloon mail drop organized in conjunction with Balloon Aloft as a part of the Bicentennial Great Balloon Event. Early in the morning of March 17 some thirty hot air balloons took part in a target competition mail drop. The target was a mail van located to the north of Lake Ginninderra. The winner was 'Mercury' piloted by James Murray of NSW with 'Red Dog', from the USA, second. A total of 750 covers were flown but only 705 were recovered after the drop!

There was a single postal philatelic cover.

The cover showed a hot air balloon flying over a stylised Canberra, complete with newly Parliament Building. It is illustrated in Figure 7.

The commemorative postmarker bore the coat of arms of the ACT.

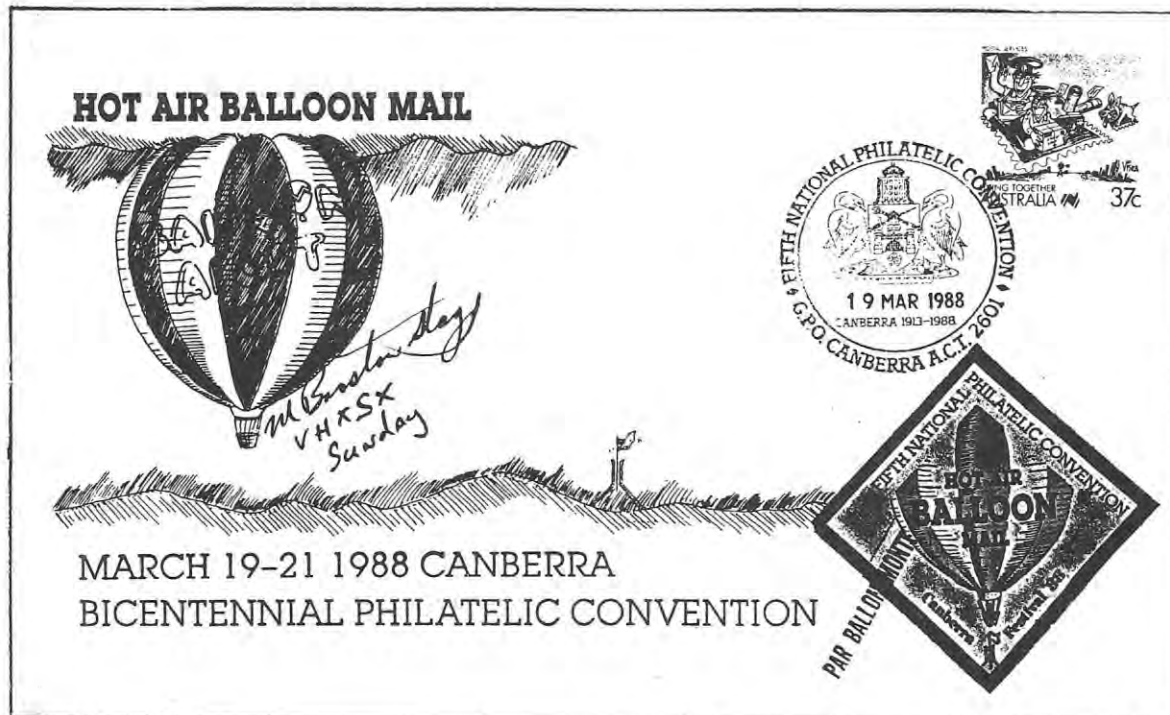


Figure 7 Hot air balloon cover with label and cachet, March 1988

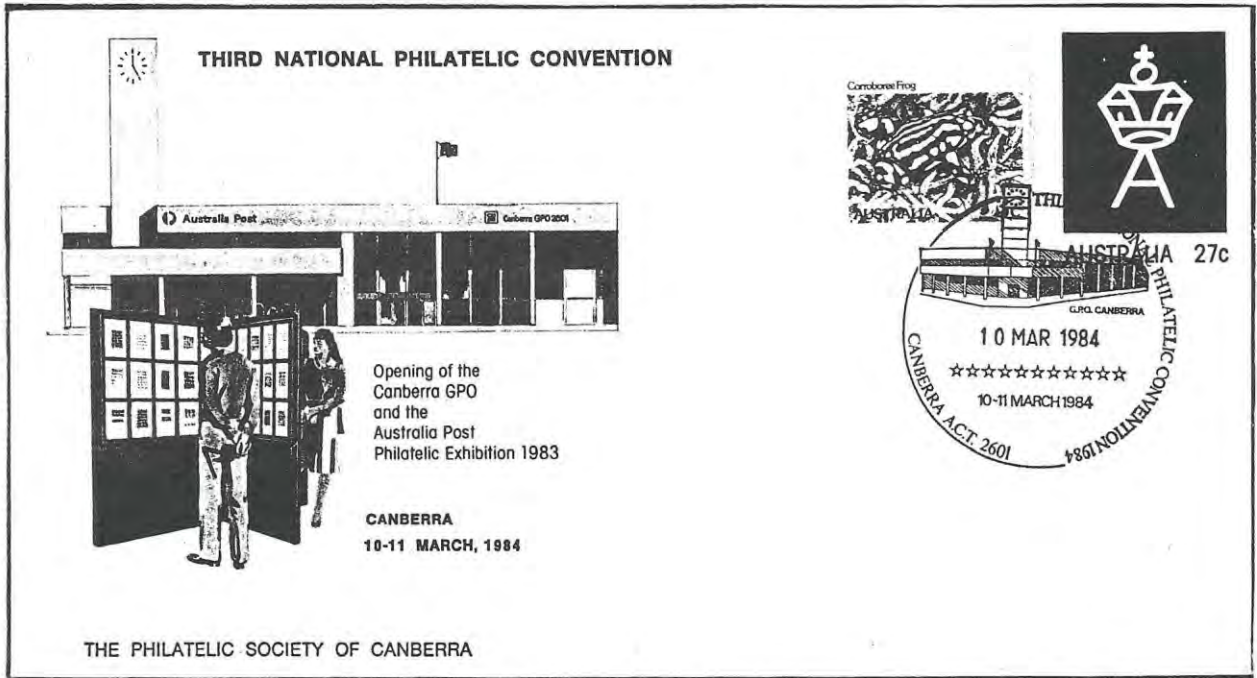


Figure 5 Convention cover and postmark commemorating opening of the new Canberra GPO, March 1984.

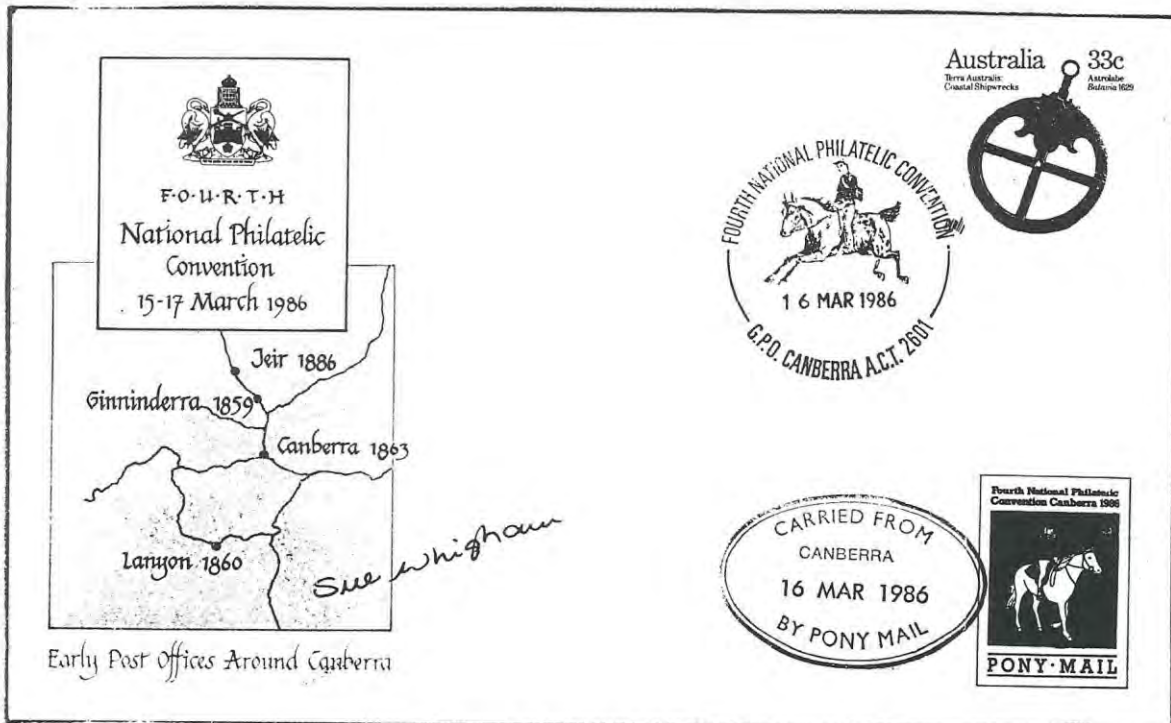


Figure 6 Early post offices in the Canberra region: four different cachets were used to cancel the Pony Mail label.

## **The Sixth National Philatelic Convention - AUSTAMP 90**

AUSTAMP 90 held at the Bruce Indoor Stadium of the Australian Institute of Sport 16-19 March, was the Australian National Show for 1990. For administrative reasons AUSTAMP was not directly the responsibility of the Society. However, all members of the organizing committee were members of the Society and AUSTAMP formally incorporated the Sixth National Philatelic Convention.

As befits a national show, a larger number of philatelic items were produced. Those listed below represent the major of these although not all are illustrated.

- . A pre-Convention publicity envelope, overprinted on the 37 cent Bicentennial PSE, was available in time for use at SYDPEX 88. This is shown in Figure 8, together with the first of the advertising labels.
- . A specially overprinted version of the above cover was also available on 16 March to mark the first game of the Canberra Raiders at the Bruce Stadium, on March 16.
- . AUSTAMP 90 also sponsored a team on the Sydney to Darwin motor safari, held in August 1989. Unfortunately the team withdrew from the rally at Menindee due to mechanical failure!
- . A cover entitled 'Mail deliveries of yesteryear' was available at the Convention and was often used in conjunction with the exhibition postmarkers. Figure 9 illustrates a cover dated March 17.

Australia Post provided a different AUSTAMP postmarker for each of the four days of the Convention. For March 16 rugby football was featured, basketball on March 17, cycling on

March 18 and swimming on the last day, March 19. The first day postmark was in green, the next two days in black and the last day in red. On this occasion Australia Post also provided two additional stamp related convention items.

- . The central gutter of the 1990 Australia Day 41 cent stamp was printed with the AUSTAMP logo.
- . The front cover of the 41 cent 'cycling' booklet was overprinted with the AUSTAMP logo.

### **The Seventh National Philatelic Convention.**

The latest Convention was held March 14-16 1992, at the Canberra GPO. It was state level show but there were also Cinderella and Social Philately classes at national level. The total number of competitive entries was 52.

The philatelic items and commemorative postmarks are described in a full account of the convention in *Capital Philately*, vol. 10, no. 3, pages 35-42.

### **The Past and Future**

The occasion of our jubilee is an appropriate time at which to summarise the seven National Philatelic Conventions organised by the Society. Full accounts of the displays, lists of dealers and background to the shows are given in the catalogues - all of which can be consulted in the Society's library. However, these do not present complete listings and illustrations of the postal philatelic items - the aim of this account is to provide such a description.



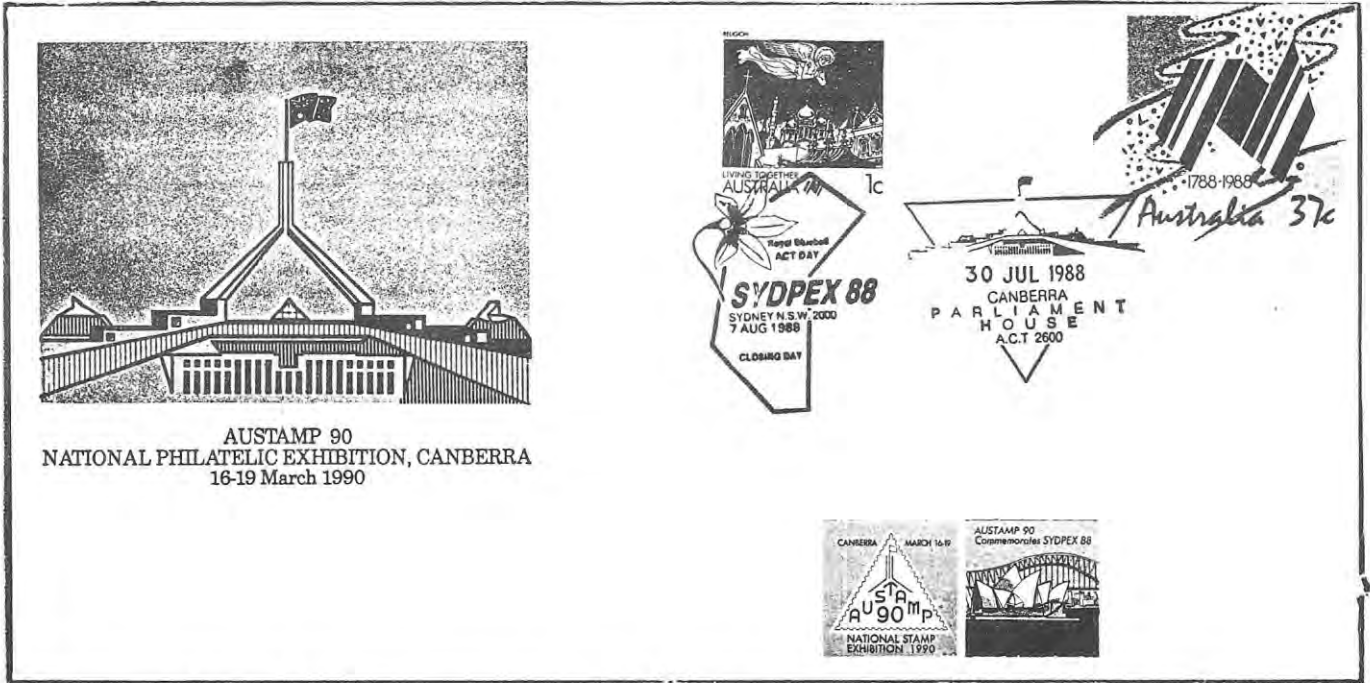


Figure 8 Promotion cover for AUSTAMP 90, cancelled at SYDPEX 88

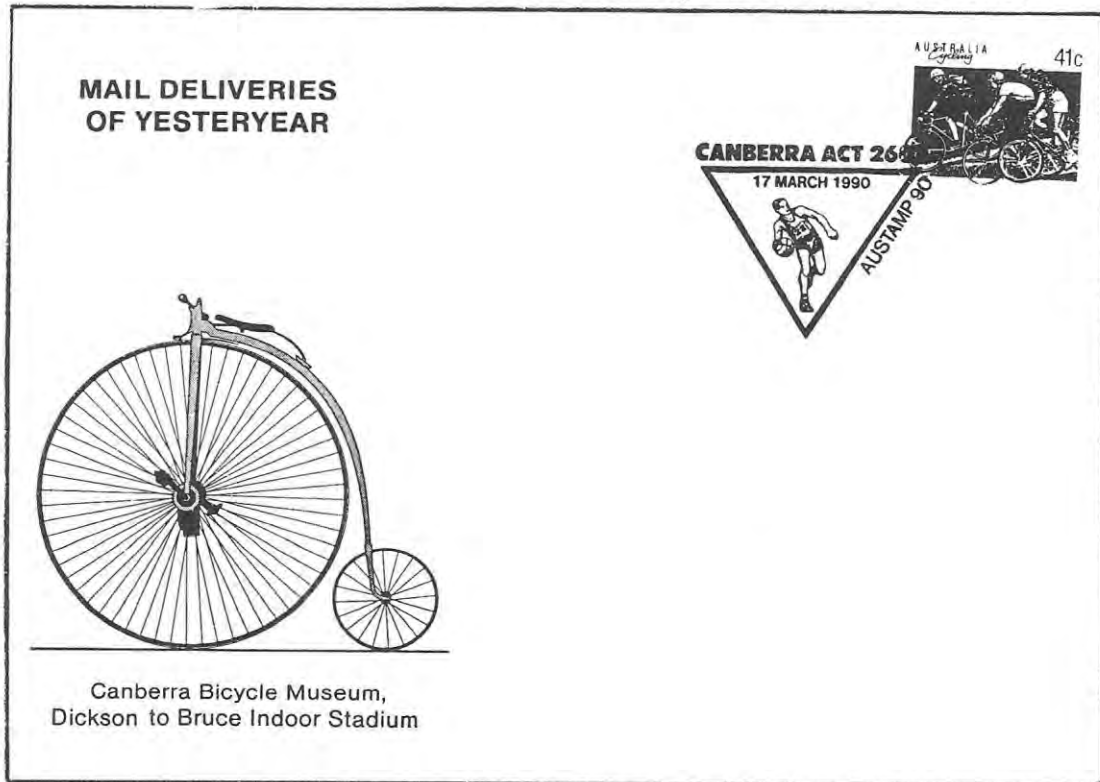


Figure 9 AUSTAMP 90 cover with postmark for the second day, March 1990,

## *Capital Philately*

Since 1980 the biennial conventions have become an integral part of the Society's activity. They have provided the opportunity for many members to take the first step in exhibiting their material in the competitive arena. They have enabled the Society to provide a regular showcase of its activities within the setting of Canberra Festival week. Finally, (with the exception of AUSTAMP 90) and by no means of limited importance, they have provided a regular source of additional income. Traditionally a proportion of the profits have been devoted to purchasing special items for the Society's library.

None of this would have been possible without the unfailing assistance of Australia Post who have co-operated in so many ways. Not only in the production of philatelic items but, since 1984, in making available the facilities of the Canberra GPO as a venue. Support has also been provided by the dealers who attend the shows, space limits the numbers to eighteen to twenty tables. A measure of the success of the shows is that for many years we have not advertised the availability of tables but have invited back those who attended in former years. More than half of the dealers attending in 1992 have been regulars since 1982.

It is interesting to speculate on the nature and style of future shows that may be organised by the Society. Whatever form they take, there is no doubt that philately in the ACT would have been much the poorer over the last twelve years if it were not for the unbroken series of biennial National Capital Philatelic Conventions.

**Readers may care to note that a number of the items described in the above article are still available for sale. Any postal queries by should be addressed to the Society's address given on the inside front cover.**

### **KUALA LUMPUR 92**

The 5th Asian International Philatelic Exhibition, KL 92, was held in Malaysia, September 1-7. There were two entries from Canberra-based members of the Society.

Edric Druce, *Postal History of New South Wales to 1870*. Large Gold (with special prize).  
Paul Barsdell, *Sarawak 1869-1929*. Vermeil.

### **PEELPEX 92**

The Tamworth Philatelic Society organised a two-day show, September 19-20, which incorporated displays judged at state level. There were three participants from the Society.

Dingle Smith, *Postal Stationery of New South Wales -Specimens and Reprints*. Vermeil.  
Ian McMahon, *Commonwealth of Australia Printed to Private Order Stationery*. Large Silver.  
Jeremy Smith, *Trains, Tracks and Time*. Large Silver (prize for best junior exhibit).

Ian's award was particularly pleasing as the entry was the Society's Occasional Monograph No 1, published in March 1992.

A longer version of Jeremy's thematic display was shown, by invitation, at a national stamp show held in Peking in June. He received a handsome certificate of appreciation and a range of souvenirs.

Congratulations to all these members on their achievements.