

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA, Part 2

Ian McMahon

While Presidents have come and gone, the other major office bearers have tended to serve for much longer periods. 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. Doug Ross will be remembered by many members. He was responsible for designing quizzes which challenged even the most knowledgeable of our members. 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, then by Karl Mueller and Meera Rajendran. Hans, Karl and Meera have been ably assisted by Bernard van der Meer. 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).

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.

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to my second issue as editor and the hope that we have Capital Philately back on schedule for four issues a year - coming out in March, June, September and December. This is all thanks to a prompt response from authors and the help of Bruce Parker and family in pushing the publication through.

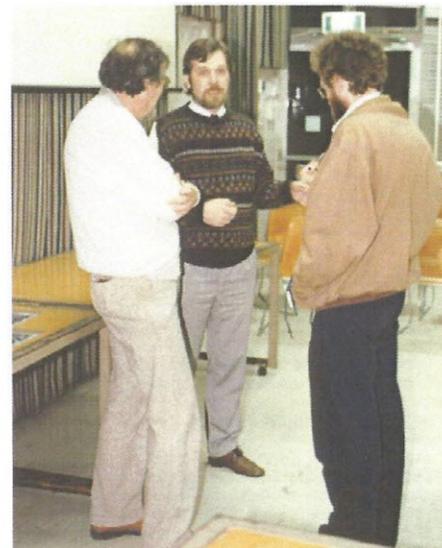
This issue is aimed at Canberra Stampshow 2008 our 15th biennial consecutive National Philatelic Convention. As chair of the organising committee this exhibition is taking up a lot of my time, as well as that of fellow committee members. The exhibition itself is shaping up as our most successful and is a half national exhibition (limited exhibition classes) with a scouting theme. As 2008 is the 100th anniversary of Scouting in Australia this seemed a natural theme for the exhibition. There is also a strong link between collecting and scouts and especially so for stamp collecting. The exhibition itself is oversubscribed for frames, dealer stands and sales of souvenirs have been the best ever with most sold out before the exhibition. The exhibition will be opened by Mr John Ravenhall, the Chief Commissioner of Scouts in Australia and we are making every effort to include as many scouts and cubs as possible. This is also our first exhibition not on the Canberra Day long weekend and we are hoping that it will attract even more local collectors. We will have a more detailed report about the exhibition in the next issue.

This issue of Capital Philately continues our tradition of mainly printing new articles. There is always something to read and I hope that this issue will be no exception. I asked authors to look at preparing articles relating to collecting as I would like to have some copies of this issue to hand out to potential new members at Canberra Stampshow 2008. In this issue you will find a continuation of Ian McMahon's excellent article on the history of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. Paul Barsdell takes a more serious look at a philatelic conundrum, the French Indo-China change of currency issues. On the collecting front I have rewritten and updated an article on obtaining material for your collection, while Elspeth Bodley and Tony Luckhurst have produced articles on collecting postcards and Machins, respectively. With Bruce Parker providing some collector tips for new and old.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and remember we are always after articles whether big or small. As editor I am happy to help you prepare them. So start writing or find your favourite cover and let the other members of the Society enjoy what you enjoy . . . Darryl Fuller

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. It won the award again in 1977, 1983 and 1984 and was runner-up in 1982 and 1985. The late 1970s and early 1980s also saw the staging of National Stamp Week usually in October of each year. The Society participated actively in these events holding public displays and on one occasion producing a souvenir sheet.

The Society held its first Convention in 1980 and has held them every two years since. Initially these were termed 'National Philatelic Conventions' but in recent years the advertised title has changed to Canberra Stampshow and, in small print, the National Philatelic Convention. Except for the First Convention, all later Shows have been held during Canberra Week and many have included Canberra Day, a public holiday Monday confined to the ACT. On all occasions Australia Post has produced illustrated commemorative postmarkers.



The 50th anniversary of the Society was in 1982 and was celebrated with an anniversary dinner 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 Tippet ('Kadavu - Fijian Port of Entry'), Ed Druce ('Stamps of Ireland'), Alan Salisbury ('5/- Harbour Bridge') and the popular 'Phil Litt' ('Reading about Stamps'). 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 Tippet. 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. At Sydplex 88 he won the Grand Prix International for his Fiji and a Vermeil for his book 'Dynamic Roots of Postal History'.

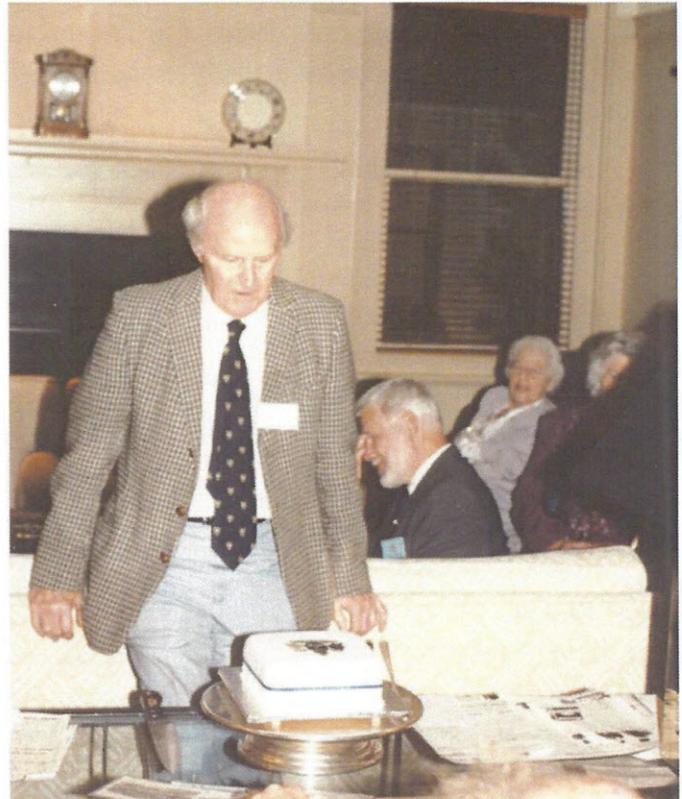
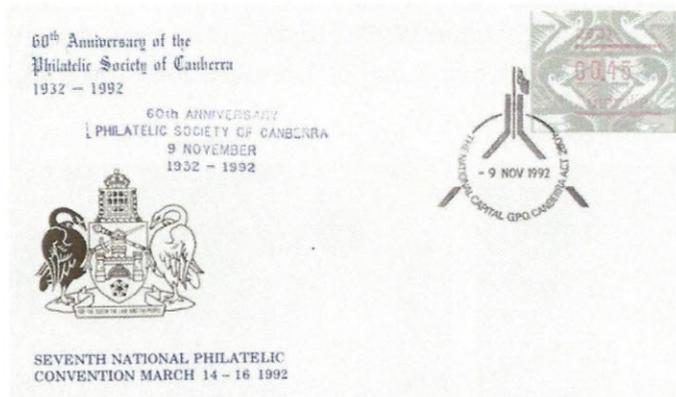
After the boom period of the early 1980s, the Society consolidated in the late 1980s. This was especially apparent to me as I moved away from Canberra for three years in 1981 and on my return found a much smaller Society, a new clubroom and auctions only at the third meeting of the month which have since 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. The innovations of the 1970s and 1980s including the Journal, the newsletter, the library and the Conventions have continued as valuable services to our

Capital Philately

members and philately in Canberra.

1990s

The 60th anniversary of the Society in 1992 was marked by a cocktail night at the Hyatt Canberra (the former Hotel Canberra where the first meeting of the Society had occurred) and by an evening of memorabilia.



Stamp group turns 60

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, which first met on the evening of November 9, 1932, at the Hotel Canberra, now the Hyatt Hotel.

Arrangements have been made to hold a special get-together of past and present members of the society at the Hyatt Hotel on Monday, November 9.

Subscriptions in 1932 were set at 5/- for ordinary members, 3/6 for associate members, and 1/- for junior members with a 2/6 application fee.

Meetings were held on a regular basis, and apart from a dormant period during

the latter part of the Second World War, the society has remained active.

The society's first 60 years has seen it grow from a small group of enthusiasts to one of the largest and strongest societies in Australia.

A number of events are planned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the society including a special issue of its journal *Capital Philately* in November, and a historic display at a meeting late in 1992.

Those wishing to attend the function contact Judy Kennett on 251 6997 AH.

The 1990s saw the Society experiment with a branch in Tuggeranong, conduct junior meetings (in Tuggeranong run by Mathew Bass-Becking and at the Griffin Centre continuing the work of Allan Wells and Elspeth Bodley), commence a monthly stamp fair, establish a picture postcard branch (commenced by Chris Puttock and now ably chaired by Elspeth Bodley), commence focus group meetings and establish a Machin study group. The Postcard Branch and the Machin Study Group both commenced publishing newsletter, bringing many members from outside Canberra. These newsletters have now been incorporated into Capital Philately.

The 1990s also saw the introduction of the Australian Philatelic Order by the Australian Philatelic Federation. The first award dinner for the Order was held in Canberra at Parliament House in 1994. Many members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra attended. In 1995, Alan Salisbury became a member of the order. Ed Druce was made a Fellow in 1998 followed by Dingle Smith (Member, 1996) and Tom Frommer (Member, 2002).

Into the Twenty-First Century

The Twenty-First Century has seen the Society move onto the Web and its members increasingly using the web for contact with other philatelists, buying and selling and for information. The Society established its own website with Hans Karman as webmaster.

2001 saw the passing of Dr Ed Druce, a former president of the Society and one of Australia's best-known philatelists, well-known and respected by philatelists across the world. A member of the FIP Board and a former president of Australian Philatelic Federation, Ed had an extraordinarily wide range of collecting interests including postal stationery, postal history, social philately, aerophilately, frugal philately, thematics, one-frame, traditional and maximaphily. He also "invented" two new exhibiting classes - social philately and frugal. The former, first introduced at Austamp 90 in Canberra, became an experimental FIP class at Melbourne in 1999.

He judged on innumerable national and international exhibitions, often as Chair of the Jury. He had a passion to improve the standard of judging, leading and organising courses and seminars on many occasions. In 1998 he became a Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order. In 1992, he became editor of the Exhibitor, the NAPE journal.

In September 2005, the Society moved into its new premises in the new Griffin Centre, across the road from the old Griffin Centre. The new Clubroom is located adjacent to the Society's meeting room and has allowed easier access to the Library.

The Society continues to strongly support Junior collectors, with a club run by Jenni Creagh at the National Dinosaur Museum, support provided to schools and Juniors' activities at Canberra Stampshow.

Although in the 21st century stamp collecting is not the mass hobby that it once was, the Society continues as a strong and vibrant club, continuing with its regular meetings, maintaining a strong library and publishing Capital Philately (including Postcards and Machins).

The Philatelic Society of Canberra has always 'pulled above its weight' in national philately. It continues to include members who are national and international exhibitors and judges (winning the Second Australasian Challenge), philatelic writers and has contributed two Presidents of the Australian Philatelic Federation and a member of the FIP board. One of the enduring traditions of the Society is that it caters for all stamp collectors and philatelists and its members are only too willing to provide assistance and advice to new collectors.

References

The First Year of the Society Ian McMahon Exhibition Catalogue National Philatelic Convention 1992

The Early Years of the Society Alan Salisbury Capital Philately Volume 11 November 1992 Pages 5-12

The Society: The Second Thirty Years Ian McMahon Capital Philately Volume 11 November 1992 Pages 13-17

70th Anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Canberra Ian McMahon Exhibition Catalogue Canberra Stampshow 2002

Footnote:

The Author is preparing the final part of the table of Office-bearers (from 1982 to the present) as well as a tabulation of those other members who, in recent years, have also held positions on the Society's Council. This final tabulation will be made available in a future issue of Capital Philately.

Table 2: Philatelic Society of Canberra Office-Bearers 1932-1981

Year	President	Vice-Presidents	Secretary	Treasurer	Exch Super	Librarian	Publicity Officer
1932 (9 Nov)	H Woodhouse	J Hayden C Finlay	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare		
1933 (8 Nov)	J Hayden	H W Woodhouse D Walker	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare		
1934 (13 Nov)	H Deane	J Hayden H W Woodhouse	J W Shakespeare	E Harvie	J W Shakespeare		
1935 (9 Nov)	S Kingley	J Hayden H Deane	J W Shakespeare	N Edwards	J W Shakespeare		
1936 (10 Nov)	J Ewans	S Kingley L Barber	L Barber	S Kingley	J W Shakespeare		
1938 (8 Feb)	J Hayden	E Holliday E Harvie	L Barber	N Edwards	J Ewens		
1939 (13 Feb)	E Harvie	E Holliday S Dusting	L Barber	L Barber	J Ewens		
1941 (17 April)	E Holliday		J Dean	J Dean			
1946 (23 May)	E Holliday	E Harvie C Finlay	J Dean	J Dean			
1947 (6 Jan)	C Marriott	J W Shakespeare H Stephenson	J Dean	A Currie	J W Shakespeare		
1948 (8 Jan)	E Dockar	H Stephenson E Holliday	J Dean	C Marriott	C Marriott		
1949 (17 Jan)	E Dockar	H Stephenson J Dean	W Love	C Marriott	C Marriott		
1951 (10 Jan)	J Dean	J James	H W Love	H W Love	N Crawford		
1952 (9 Apr)	J Dean	J James J Douglas	H W Love	H W Love			
1956 (5 Oct)	J W Shakespeare	J Dean	W Parker	W Parker	F Rinaldi		

1957 (12 Sep)	J W Shakespeare	H Higginson R Hyeronimus	A D Haldane	C de Goede	F Rinaldi	W Menzies	
1958 (11 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	A D Ross A D Haldane	H Higginson	C de Goede	C Murphy		
1959 (10 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury J Gregory	H Higginson	C de Goede	Doug Ross		
1960 (8 Sep)	H Higginson	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	W Gray	Doug Ross		
1961 (10 Sep)	H Higginson	B Kalivoan	A Salisbury	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	A D Haldane	
1962 (6 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	B Kalivoan	A Salisbury	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	F Martin	
1963 (5 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	C de Goode	A Salisbury	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	F Martin	
1964 (3 Sep)	A Salisbury	C de Goode	I Hay	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	W Reynolds	
1965 (2 Sep)	A Salisbury	F Adcock	I Hay	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	W Reynolds	
1966 (1 Sep)	C de Goode	A Salisbury	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	Doug Ross	W Reynolds	
1967 (5 Oct)	A Salisbury	J Duff	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	W Meyer	
1968 (6 Sep)	A Salisbury	J Duff	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	A Miller	
1969 (4 Sep)	R Simmons	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	A Miller	
1970 (3 Sep)	R Simmons	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	A Miller	A Salisbury
1971 (2 Sep)	A Salisbury	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	W Baskerville	A Salisbury
1972 (7 Sep)	A Salisbury	E Bodley	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	R Morgan	W Baskerville	W Wood
1973 (6 Sep)	D Brennan	E Bodley	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	R Morgan	W Baskerville	W Wood
1974 (5 Sep)	D Brennan	E Bodley	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	R Morgan	W Baskerville	W Wood
1975 (4 Sep)	S Wilson	B Darke	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	E Bodley
1976 (2 Sep)	S Wilson	B Darke	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	E Bodley
1977 (1 Sep)	B Darke	E Druce	I Hay	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	D Smith
1978 (7 Sep)	B Darke	E Druce	T Hyland	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	D Smith
1979 (5 Sep)	E Druce	E Bodley	T Hyland	A Salisbury	P Saxby	S Wilson	P Wood
1980 (4 Sep)	E Druce	E Bodley	T Hyland	A Salisbury	P Saxby	S Wilson	P Wood
1981 (3 Sep)	E Bodley	Dingle Smith	B Parker	P Wood	H Karman	R Lawton	P Breitkopf

Finding Material for Your Stamp Collection

Darryl Fuller

This article originally appeared in 1996 entitled “Can You Buy a Gold Medal?”¹ but I feel it is time to update it, since much has changed in the last 12 years - although much remains the same. New collectors and even experienced ones often ask – ‘where did you get that?’ – and I hope the following will be a guide to how you or any collector can go about putting together, if not a gold medal collection, then a satisfying one. There are three things you need to put together a satisfying collection – HARD WORK, DEDICATION and LUCK! But I must admit that the first two of these often lead to the last one.

It is hard work putting together a satisfying collection, be it a gold medal collection or simply something that you are proud to show others. However, the ideas contained in this article should assist you, as it is virtually impossible to put together a satisfying collection from one source.

Dedication is something most collectors have a lot of, with many being fanatics, much to the chagrin of their relatives. Most great collections are measured in decades not years. When I first penned this article I was in my late thirties, was in my second decade of collecting Leeward Islands postal stationery and still had a way to go I felt. I hadn’t achieved an exhibition standard I was happy with; I didn’t even have an example of all known Leeward Islands stationery. In the intervening decade or so I have achieved both a gold medal and I have an example of all known Leeward Islands stationery. Indeed I have achieved a collection that even I didn’t think possible.

This is where luck comes into collecting, but some of it is luck that you make yourself. In 1996 my collection had one obvious hole, that of King George VI postal stationery. I was missing some used material and had little proof material. This period is very challenging as all stationery collectors know. The material in question just didn’t turn up or does so slowly that it was unlikely that I could round out my collection. Little did I know that another collector of Leeward Islands stamps and stationery, whom I knew but didn’t correspond with, had decided to cut back his collection. To this end he decided to sell his KGVI postal stationery as one lot by assigning it to a well known English dealer to sell on consignment. As luck would have it two fellow collectors were talking to the dealer at an international exhibition and came across the lot. On their return to Australia they told me about it and I immediately asked the dealer for a photocopy. To cut a long story short, it filled every gap I had in KGVI, except one, and I agreed to buy it even though it was far more than I could afford. Moral – it pays to let others know what you collect.

The rest of this article will discuss the many ways to obtain material for your collection. When I first wrote this article the Internet was fairly new and not widely used for stamp collecting, although stamp collectors were early adopters. I don’t think I signed up to eBay until 1998. The Internet has changed many things but it is neither the be all and end all, nor should it be avoided in your quest. It is just one of many ways to get material.

Stamp Dealers – Much can be said of stamp dealers but the two most salient points are to cultivate your dealers and to remember that they are in business to make a profit. They have some distinct advantages over virtually all other ways of obtaining material. By forming a good trading relationship with a stamp dealer they will actively start to look for material to sell you. You must remember that dealers will look for new stock in other dealers’ stock, at auction and other collectors. Sometimes this will just be for stock and other times it will be for specific clients. However, you must remember that they may have more than one client for a stamp or cover. The trick is to become the first client they offer the item to. This is what I mean by cultivating your dealer. If you continually haggle about price, don’t respond to offers or simply don’t buy much, then chances are you will be well down the list when it comes to important material. In my earlier collecting days I was certainly top of at least one dealer’s list and because of this I virtually always had first pick of material for sale. If I really felt that something was priced too high I didn’t buy it, but it is also important to remember that dealers who specialise in one area usually know the value of an item and if the price is high it may be that the price they paid was high because

¹ “Can You Buy a Gold Medal Collection?” *Asia Pacific Exhibitor* Vol 9 No. 2 May 1996