

Australian Journal of Philately

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**Private Business Wrapper Of Australia:
Postal Rates and Social Philately Implications**

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Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

Meetings: The Australian Philatelic Society meets bimonthly on the third Monday of (February, April, June, August, October, December), at 7.45 pm at the RSL Canterbury Memorial Homes, 152 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, Melway Ref: page 46 C 10/11. Visitors welcome.

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Date	2013 / 14 Programme	Display
20 October 2014	John Young	Asia & Middle East International Air Mails (1937-1945)
15 December 2014	Members Competition	Up to 10 A4 page display
16 February 2015	TBA	TBA

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Front cover:

New Zealand 1886 Postcard

In 1886 a small printing was made which differed from the previous in that 'New Zealand' and 'The Address Only to be Written on this Side' lines had the first letter in upper case.

About 20 used and only 2 mint cards are known, one of which is in the editor's collection.

I believe this resulted because of the replacing of one of the cards in the forme (16 per forme), with one from the 'Reply Paid' forme but with the 'Reply or Reply Paid' removed.

This would explain why there are so few extant and the wide distribution of those cards that have postal usage.

Editorial

Tony Lyon

"The philatelist will tell you that stamps are educational, that they are valuable, that they are beautiful. This is only part of the truth. My notation is that the collection is a hedge, a comfort, a shelter into which the sorely beset mind can withdraw. It is orderly, it grows towards completion, it is something that can't be taken away from us" - Clifton Fadiman in Any Number Can Play.

There is no doubt that philately is beneficial to those who enjoy the pursuit of that elusive item. The things you learn as you research maybe a particular cover in your collection, trying to make sense of a rate or whatever, certainly helps shut out some of the stresses that life can and will bring. Therefore I agree heartily with Clifton Fadiman in his assessment. I wonder if he was a collector. Maybe that should be researched?

Physicist and Noble Laureate Ernest Rutherford observes, rather tongue in cheek I suggest, that, "[a]ll science is either Physics or stamp collecting." I guess that is another way of looking at it.

The AGM of the Society was held on Monday 18 August, 2014. It was quite well attended and it was good to see Simon Alsop being able to be there. One of the points of discussion is the idea that we change from a night meeting to a day time meeting, possibly on a Thursday to enable those who find it difficult to drive at night to continue coming. The Council are interested in feedback regarding this idea.

Thanks again to the contributors for this journal. The editor is looking for front page items, an interesting cover with a short write up. He is also interested in one page items that would be suitable for the back cover which is printed in colour. Please send contributions either by mail or preferably by email to the editor. The address details may be found on the inside front cover.

Ciao for now.

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
3. publish details of members, with their consent, in the AJPH or other Society publications.

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From the President

In the previous issue of the journal I invited members to propose displays for 2015 on the subject of World War 1 postal history. That remains the mission for next year, but I should also mention that postal history on other conflicts is also welcome. In fact, postal history on any subject is wanted.

During the northern summer I toured Albania, a country that has little in common with Australia. Not only is it an obscure place somewhere in the Balkans, it is apparently an obscure postal-history subject. Albanian postal history is nearly impossible to find, anywhere.

When I went on to Slovenia (part of former Yugoslavia), I found an antique shop with thousands – probably tens of thousands – of stamped east European postcards. Among them I found three from Albania in 1947, addressed to Ljubljana, Slovenia. The most interesting of them is shown below. The stamps commemorated Albania's socialist reconstruction, showing a postwar locomotive with heroic workers (men and women) building a railway. The postcard's picture is even more interesting.

It is an aerial view of the capital city, Tirana, with the civic square in the middle. At the left of the square there are significant buildings: an Ottoman Turk mosque, a Venetian watch tower and two Italian fascist buildings. All are still there, and tell much of the history of Albania's 500-plus years of occupation by foreign forces. The stamps on the address side tell of the 45 years of postwar communist government.

Today much of the land in the background of the square is suburbia. The centre of Tirana is dotted with medium-rise apartments, and the grey socialist concrete has been painted in rainbow hues. The civic square, after being a slum site in the 1990s, is now a well laid out open space and boulevard, flanked by a museum, library, theatre, etc.

The postcard is probably a little wanted piece of postal history, but having seen the place, it has its appeal. It is hard to imagine, however, developing Albanian postcards into a fifteen sheet exhibit.

