

# Australian Journal of Philately

(Incorporating: The Date Stamp and Australian Journal of Postal History)

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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
21 April 21014	George Speirs	Australian Civil Censored Mail
16 June 2014	Harold Sheath	WWI Postal History
18 August 2014	AGM	Works in Progress

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## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Another full and varied journal for your interest. Melbourne has just experienced two of its iconic events during March which brought crowds from interstate and overseas. Moomba is a time for culture and family fun and with the Melbourne Wine and Food Festival also here in Melbourne, there has been much to do. Also at this time there is the Grand Prix. The first of the season. I took my grandson as part of his Christmas present and it was a wonderful event, with an Aussie finishing second; only to be disqualified for a fuel breach. Still it was exciting while we were there to see him finish.

Another event that has just concluded was the eighteenth biennial Canberra Stampshow 2014 which, regrettably I was unable to attend. It would have been a huge success and congratulations to all those who exhibited.

I was taken by surprise at the February general meeting when I was awarded life membership of the Australian Philatelic Society. I thank the council for awarding me this honour.

Thank you to all the contributors for this issue of the journal. Without your efforts there would not be one. It has also helped to ensure that we are on time with publication.

George Vearing wrote, that he was a little light on for material for this issue of the journal. If you have been intending to send George datestamps or scans of datestamps from any state, not just Victoria, for inclusion in his compilation of HHDS, please do so. George does a great job with this task and our help is acknowledged.

Ian Cutter has been busy with a number of interesting one and two page contributions, two which I have included in this issue. Many of us could do the same as Ian and from an editors perspective these type of offerings are invaluable for the completion of each journal. They also give valuable insight to the many and varied aspects of this great hobby, or is it the great obsession, that is ours?

Ciao for now.

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## Bovigny to Hobart 1919 - 1921

### Michael Barden

Vincent d'Arehambeau of Honvelez, near Bovigny in Belgium and James A. Pillinger from Hobart probably met on the Western Front in Belgium or France. Since it took some time to repatriate ANZACS, this may well have been after hostilities ceased. As with many other soldiers, they kept in touch by sending each other picture postcards when they had returned home. Alas, I only have one side, and these I acquired recently at a Tasmanian stamp auction. The under bidder collected Olympic memorabilia, I desired them for the postal history. In time, they will go to the under bidder.

Bovigny today has a population less than 1000. It lies in Luxembourg Province on the rail between Gouvy and Vielsalm near the Belgian border with Luxembourg. Thus it is a small Ardennes township or village, which lies in very pretty country. In 1919 it was a village with a station on the main rail line between Liège and Luxembourg City. Its post office was classified as Station-Perception, in that the station staff ran it. Possibly then as now, tourism was important for Bovigny. Honvelez was a nearby hamlet or village.

Hobart, whilst the capital of the Australian island state of Tasmania, has a population of around 215,000 today. In 1920 it was around 80,000. No Pillingers are listed in today's phone book. Garden Crescent no longer exists, possibly having become Garden Road in Moonah, an old suburb, The road is bent, so, maybe?



This first card in the correspondence contains a 15c Roi Casqué stamp (to pay 10c postage).

The text in French says, « Je serais très heureux d'échanger quelques cartes avec vous. Ci eg (?) vues de France (front) et de mon village. MPCC 1049, V. d'Arehambeau, Honvelez, Bovigny, Luxembourg, Belgique »

The card's printer was from Mousson, hence a NE France scene

**Bois le Prêtre – Croix des Carmes (Whitefriar's cross - first aid post ?) Bovigny** cds of 26 December 1919

The next two postcards are of interest in that they use the 1920 Antwerp Olympic Games stamps **outside** Belgium **before** the 16 October 1920 allowed date (a UPU decision wrt charity stamps, which were for use only within their country until the 1920 UPU decision at the General meeting allowing their use anywhere). In fact both cards were posted together at Bovigny and are dated 19 September 1920.

Both cards are German and views of Moers in the Ruhr area near Krefeld. It may be our Belgian was part of the occupying forces for a short time and bought the cards then. One carries a 10c stamp and the other a 15c to give Pillinger two of the set of three. The third was posted at Bovigny in 1921 and carries in addition a PAX charity stamp, which appears to be of Ste Gudule, the principal cathedral in Brussels.



**Moers' Castle Park.**

10c stamp used to pay the postage abroad



19 Sep 1920

Brussels cds of 20 Sep on both stamps



**Statue of the Elector (of Hanover ?)**



**Ruined church at Mousson.**

Mousson lies between Nancy, Metz and Verdun in Lorraine, NE France. It is heavily wooded nearby.



A correspondence, which has survived from a hamlet to a small town on the other side of the world. It never ceases to amaze me what can turn up unexpectedly, the better with some 'illegal' stamp usage.