



BC Philatelic Society Newsletter

Bringing stamp and postal-history collectors together since 1919

The BC Philatelic Society — Always on-line at www.bcphilatelic.org

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The Australia 2013 FIP World Stamp Exhibition – commemorated the centenary of the Kangaroo and Map stamp, the first Australian Commonwealth postage stamp.

— by Trevor Larden



Photo: Nancy Bell

The venue – WOW! One of two UNESCO "listed buildings" in Australia – the Royal Exhibition Hall, Carlton Gardens, Melbourne – the other being the Sydney Opera House. Visitors enter an incredible space, with a huge central dome, a second floor gallery all around the periphery – this is truly a grand space.

Dealers, and various "country" reps. were on the ground floor, as was Australia Post – with a zillion things to purchase. Also, on the ground floor, were the Court of Honour, presentation stage, trophies (and were there trophies!) a café, some exhibits, all sorts of greeters and PR people. All round the upper level were the bulk of the exhibits, with the great central open area in the form of a T' below.

in all. We zoomed around these in about three hours; by then we were tired – I am not one for looking at philatelic material for eight hour stretches.

We did the Court of Honour; the Royal Collection (Kangaroos) which was practically in the dark. Fortunately, the fabulous Ray Chapman early Australian material, had supplementary lighting and could be seen. Lighting – the bane of all large shows! The third day, on my own, I bought a little more material; and, I met five of six young designers of the 2012/2013 Australia stamp (five of the six were women). I had another go at the Court of Honour; the Royal Collection is just too "in the dark" – so, a spotty look at best.

There were over 3300 frames, i.e., over 52,000 pages – an impossible task to cover, even if you did the entire six days from opening to closing. I managed to get five complimentary tickets through Australia Post – a saving of A\$50. I used three of these, and Nancy used two. Our first day we had a quick look around (it was the second day of the show) and lined up for a few souvenirs – did they overdo it! I bought the Catalogue so I could plan what we would do the second day. I selected my areas of interest – a few countries, the Court of Honour, and one or two others – maybe a 100 frames

I hope to elaborate on some of the "technical things" at one of our quieter meetings – talking about frame layout, the use of 11" by 17" sheets, the Court of Honour, some specific exhibits, to name just a few. A large, international show, is almost too much - multitudinous country representatives and dealers, and thousands of frames. The Aussies were well organized, extremely helpful and friendly; I actually got a brief, backstage tour of the building with the Managing Director of Australia Post.

Finally, none of our exhibitors need feel intimidated – the postal history stuff may have cost a little (probably a lot more than Bob's or Derren's) but looked no better. Likewise, June with Thematics; Fritz with a country collection (five frames of the early Cantonal stamps from a Columbian collector) and our "so-called" novices, Geoff and Martine, looked pretty good. The five percent for pre-

this issue

- Trevor Larden reports on the Australia 2013 FIP World Stamp Exhibition
- David Foreman writes about a cover that went from Saskatoon to Singapore and back in 1937; the intended recipient refused to pay the postage due!

And more...

sentation does not always guarantee a fine looking exhibit; but I am biased. All in all, a pretty terrific three half-days viewing. I hope to elaborate at a later date.

Thank you, Trevor

