

NEWSLETTER OF THE ORANGE COIN & STAMP CLUB FOR 31ST MARCH 2026

#280

Still our 60th Year



An image from our 2023 Orange Expo – Peter Neville, our current vice-president, making a sale to our Dubbo member, Heather Willis.

The next Orange Coin & Stamp Expo is on 23rd and 24th May 2026

Our web-site is <https://orangecoinsandstamps.org/>

The current Club meeting is on this Tuesday 31st March 2026 at 7.30pm.

Our next Mini-fair is on Saturday morning 4th April 2026, from 9-12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre in Sale St.

The next night meeting after the March one, is on Tuesday 28th April 2026

The Club normally meets on the last Tuesday of each month (except January) at 7.30pm.

Our mini-fairs are on the first Saturday of each month (except January, from 9 to 12ish.

The Orange Club will be holding its two 2-day Orange Coin & Stamp Expo at the Orange High School Hall.



Our meetings and the monthly fair are held in the Orange Cultural Centre building Sale St, Orange.

It's the building that used to be a school. It's on the right hand side as you enter the Woolworths Car Park.

ORANGE COIN & STAMP EXPO IS ON 23rd and 24th MAY 2025.

Our main 2-day show of the year, Orange Coin & Stamp Expo, at the Orange High School Hall is scheduled **for Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th May 2026.**

DATES FOR 2026

Orange Coin & Stamp Club, March 31st 2026 meeting, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Easter Saturday 4th April 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre

Campbelltown Stamp Club, 8th April 2026. Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 pm at St Thomas More Church Hall, 43 Acacia Avenue, Ruse 2560. *Beards on Stamps by Bill Richardson*

Wodonga Stamp Fair, Saturday 11th April 2026, 9-3, at 15 Havelock St, Wodonga VIC 3690

Milton Ulladulla Stamp Club's Stamp & Coin Fair. Saturday 11th April 2026, 9.30—3. St Martin's Church Hall. Ulladulla. Cnr

Orange Coin & Stamp Club, 28th April 2026 meeting, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural Centre. Princes Hwy & Green St

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair, Saturday 2nd May 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the Orange Cultural Centre

Parramatta Philatelic Society's Open Day,
Saturday 9th May 2026, 10 to 4. At O.E.S. Hall,
Railway Street, Wentworthville.

Campbelltown Stamp Club, 10th May 2026.
Club meets on the 2nd Wednesday of every
month at 7:00 pm at St Thomas More Church
Hall, 43 Acacia Avenue, Ruse 2560. *Aircraft on
Stamps: David Miner*

**Wagga Stamp & Coin Fair, Saturday 16th
May 2026**, 9 to 5 & Sunday 17th May from 9
to 3, at Sturt Public School, White Avenue,
Koorringal (a Wagga suburb),

**Orange Club's Orange Coin &
Stamp Expo, Saturday 23rd and
Sunday 24th May 2026** at the
Orange High School Hall,
Woodward St, Orange. See ad on page
6.

Orange Coin & Stamp Club, 26th May 2026
meeting, 7.30pm at the Orange Cultural
Centre. Princes Hwy & Green St

Orange Coin & Stamp Club mini-fair,
Saturday 6th June 2026, 9 to 12ish, at the
Orange Cultural Centre

Rockhampton Club's Stamp Fair, Saturday
13th June 2026, 9-3; at Fox Hall, Gladstone Rd,
Rockhampton Qld

Brisbane 2026 – Australian Full National
Date: 13th to 16th August 2026 Venue:
Sleeman Sports Complex, Old Cleveland Road
and Tilley Road, Chandler, Qld Entries close
31st May 2026 Contact: Joan Orr NSW
Commissioner: Bruce Chadderton Email:
kiwibrooce@yahoo.com Website:
www.qpc.org.au/queensland2026

Bendigo Stamp Fair, 29th August 2026, 9.30-
2.30, St Andrews Uniting Church Hall, 24
Myers St, Bendigo.

OUR SPRING FAIR 2025 COIN & STAMP DEALERS - PLEASE KEEP SUPPORTING THEM IN 2026

- **M.R. Roberts' Wynyard Coins,** 3
Barrack St Sydney 2000; Ph (02) 9299
2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710 Their e-mail
address is sales@wynyardcoins.com
- **Orange Stamps & Coins** (Howard
Lyons), PO Box 9288, Orange, 2800;
Mobile 0427 107 554 Phone/fax (02)
6362 2368, E-mail: -
howard.lyons@bigpond.com
Buying and Selling – Stamps, Coins,
Banknotes, Accessories, etc.
- **Phil & Win Morehouse,** Bankstown.
NSW 2200 Ph: (02)9707 4087, New e-
mail is: -
phillipmorehouse401@gmail.com
- **Top End Coins:** Les Robinson, P.O.
Box 381, Nelson Bay. 2315 Phone:
0455 660
email: topencoins@gmail.com
- **Peter Neville Stamps.** Orange.
Phone 0400754209
peternevillestamps@gmail.com or
www.ebay.com/str/stampsorangers
- **Larry's Bullion** (Glenn Deveigne),
silver bullion bought and sold; phone
0458262302,
stillafriend2025@gmail.com

TURN YOUR STAMPS INTO CASH! GET SOME PAGES READY FOR THE CLUB'S EXCHANGE BOOK

Colin needs coin and stamp pages for the next
stamp circuit book and the next coin/note circuit
books

Colin can be contacted direct at Email: ptilinopus1@bigpond.com Ph: 63690634.

ITEMS FOR THIS NEWSLETTER AND CORRESPONDENCE TO THE CLUB

Items for this newsletter are always required. You do not have to be a member of the Orange Club. They need to be posted to the Editor, Derek Dolstra, who is also the secretary at the Club's postal address: -PO Box 9113, ORANGE 2800 or better still e-mailed in Word format (pictures as jpg files) to: - ddolstra@bigpond.net.au or Phone 02 63 614 872.

CLUB CONTACT DETAILS

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Rob Willis, president rwillis@bigpond.com
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Michael Burrough, digital publicity officer at michael,burrough@gmail.com

FROM BRUCE CHADDERTON, PHILAS PRESIDENT

Since PHILAS moved [to 2 City View Road, Pennant Hills] we have managed to set up the former café area so it can function as a meeting room and administrative office. The Philatelic Society of NSW have already held their first club meeting there, expressing a positive opinion of their first experience.



Despite a number of positive suggestions about how we might keep the hotel bar, it is slated for demolition so we can put our offices and strong room there. Given its impending fate we have nothing stored in that area, thus avoiding a lot of double handling in the future.

The main room is full to the brim with compactus panels, cabinets and boxes of library materials. Over Christmas and early January some space was cleared allowing us to paint the walls and roof in one corner, before setting up one very large compactus in that area for the Library team to use. Over the next 3 - 4 weeks another large compactus will be set up allowing us to start the process of getting books, journals and catalogues out of their boxes and onto shelves where they can be accessed.

Auction materials are all in secure storage and will stay there until we complete the balance of the set-up work. We are still receiving estates; the reality of an aging population of collectors and younger generations who have found other hobbies, or who have never even seen a stamp on an envelope, so there will be no shortage of material when the auctions get under way again.

We are completing final payments to vendors from Auction #145 at the moment, apologetically later than normal, but Christmas and displacement of records during the move has slowed us down.

On the plus side, I would like to congratulate Michael Nibbs for his efforts in developing the catalogue for that auction. The catalogue was recently awarded a Vermeil medal at the 19th

NZ National Literature Exhibition in Dec 2025 (award certificate at right). When informed of the result, Michael modestly stated that he thought “Any award rightly belongs to the PHILAS volunteer group,” so congratulations to all involved.

A change of use Development Application has been lodged with the Hornsby Council. I have already met the planner on site. He seemed very positive about what we were proposing to do. Once, and assuming, we get the DA approved we will be sourcing a builder, via a competitive process, getting the bar removed and offices constructed. This is not a big job so the timeframes to when we are able to start getting everything in place and functioning isn’t a long one.

I have met a number of our neighbours in the building and, apart from one disappointed lady who we were unable to sell a glass of wine to (when she saw us in the bar area), everyone seems positive about our presence. Another of the residents indicated she was happy to see the stamp people as we would be a lot less noisy than the previous users of the property who had events which kept her awake into the morning ... sometimes the typecasting of stamp collectors can be a bit who grew up with the Stones, punk rock, U2 and AC/DC, but it can also have a positive side.

So that’s the building update which I know you are all keen to learn about ... For those of you with exhibiting aspirations Australia’s National Exhibition will be held this year in Brisbane; Queensland Stamp and Coin Show 2026, 13 - 16 August 2026. There is no national being held in New Zealand this year so this is your best opportunity to test your exhibiting skills or seek

to qualify for international exhibitions (by achieving at least 75 marks at a national exhibition). Closing date for entries is 31 May and, given how well the Sydney Stamp Show was supported last year, I am hoping we put up a strong contingent of NSW entries to support our neighbours. The prospectus and entry details can be found on the APF website:



3 Barrack St Sydney 2000

Ph (02) 9299 2047 & Fax (02) 9290 3710
remains the same. Their e-mail address is

sales@wynyardcoins.com



Orange Coin & Stamp Club Inc's

**2026 – Coin & Stamp Expo
is on**

Saturday, 23rd May 2026

From 9am to 3pm

& Sunday 24th May, 2026

From 9am to 2pm

At the

Orange High School Hall,

Cnr Summer and Woodward Streets, Orange

**NSW dealers will be offering a range of Australian & World
stamps, coins & accessories.**

Buying and Selling

Competitive stamp & coin displays

Admission \$2, accompanied children free



Orange Coin & Stamp Expo is one of the largest regional shows in N.S.W.

JERSEY – STAMPS IN THE PERIOD OF THE GERMAN OCCUPATION - 1940 TO 1945

On 15th June 1940 the German Army was approaching the Brittany coast of France only 20km east of Jersey. Stores started arriving from the U.K. for the Island's defence. However on 19th June 1940 the U.K. government decided that the Channel Islands (Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark) were to be a Demilitarised Zone. The British Army withdrew. The Islands' militia decided to go to England to join the British Army.

Islanders' were asked if they wanted to be evacuated. Half the population volunteered to go but only 6,600 were able to leave in time. 41,000 people remained on Jersey. By 28th June 1940 the Luftwaffe started bombing the island. The machine gunned the towns. 11 were killed on Jersey.

Ultimatums were dropped demanding that white flags be flown and white crosses be painted on the ground. The Luftwaffe flew in to Jersey Airport and the Bailiff of Jersey handed over control on 1st July 1940.



Initially, only 1,750 German troops occupied Jersey. By the end of 1941 that had increased to 11,500. Military orders to the civilian population appeared in the Evening Post newspaper and were pasted up around St Helier, the capital.

Later in September 1942, a high-level order was issued that all people not born in the Island, along with their families, were to be sent to German internment camps. This order, which came directly from Hitler, was an act of vengeance for the internment of German citizens by the British in Persia in 1941. About 1,200 were eventually deported, despite protests by the Island authorities. Families were sent to the town of Wurzach in

Baden-Württemberg, whilst single men were sent to the Bavarian town of Laufen. They were liberated in April-May 1945 and repatriated.

The last mail boat carrying mail from the Channel Islands to England departed around June 23–28, 1940. That was just prior to the German forces landing. On 1st July 1940 all regular postal services to the UK were officially suspended. That severed communication for five years until liberation on May 9, 1945. Only very limited postal communications were possible through the Red Cross Civilian Message scheme.

Letters could be posted around the Channel Islands, but not to the U.K. or continental Europe. By the end of 1940, however, the stocks of British stamps became exhausted. The 1d and ½d stamps were the first to run out. Letters had to be handed over the counter with a cash payment so that they could be franked by postmarking.

The German Military Authority initially authorised the overprinting of U.K. stamps with swastikas.

Orders were given to the acting postmaster in Jersey, Mr O.F. Mourant, by the German Commandant, Captain Gussek, to supply quantities of the then current GB stamps for overprinting with a swastika over 'JERSEY 1940'. The overprinting was first made on the 1940 Postal Centenary issue (all values except the 1d, which was not available) by means of a small swastika and type carved from wood. There was only one block available so each stamp had to be overprinted separately.

The Bailiff of Jersey vociferously protested to the German Commandant against the defacing of the King's head. The matter was referred to Berlin for guidance. As it was the policy of the Germans to treat the Channel Islanders as courteously as possible the issue was not proceeded with and orders were given for the overprinted stamps to be destroyed.

Fortunately for collectors a few were not destroyed. The number of overprints is not accurately known, but very few exist. Stanley Gibbons Channel Islands postal history catalogue states that 'Only four complete sets and a few singles are known to have survived. One set is in the Jersey Postal Headquarters archives'.

The set below, declared genuine, was offered at auction for £39,500. Almost all of the others you will see on the internet are fakes.



After this set-back the German Military Authority next decided to order the local design and printing of Jersey stamps. The designs that were approved showed the value of the stamp and the ancient shield of arms used by Edward I in about 1290 shown on royal seals issued to the Bailiff. They became known as the official arms of both Jersey and Guernsey.

In January 1941, Major N.V.L. Rybot was asked to design a 1d stamp for Jersey, based on the design for the Guernsey stamps. The Germans demanded that this design be used. He decided to surreptitiously put four very small “A’s” in the corner of the stamp design. These were meant to stand for “*As Avernum, Adolphe Atrox*” or translated “*to Hell with you Adolph*”.

The 1d red stamp was issued on 1st April 1942. Interestingly, not many were used for postage. The bulk were purchased by speculators from a host of German and local collectors.



The 1d red Jersey stamp was issued on 1st April 1941. A brief announcement if the impending issue was made in the Jersey Evening Post on 31st March 1941. No Post Office Notices appear to have been published as, apparently, the German Feldpost wanted to conserve paper supplies on the island. The sheet, above has not been perforated.



A ½d green stamp was issued on 20th January 1942. The tiny corner letters were changed to 'A', 'A'' and 'B', 'B'. This was to signify "Atrocious Adolph" and "Bloody Benito".



The ½d green Jersey stamp was issued on the 29th January 1942. The Evening Post carried a brief announcement of the impending ½d issue only 2 days before. There are no ink shade varieties of any consequence, but there are four different varieties of paper: - newsprint, chalky, thin and thick. The sheet, above has not been perforated.

The 1d and ½d stamps were produced, under great difficulty, by Jersey's Evening Post newspaper. The 1d stamp was produced using carmine ink on a variety of available papers. The ½d green stamp had a number of print blemishes.

Early in 1943 it was decided to print a new series of stamps, often called the "Pictorials" series, showing views of Jersey. By that time letters could be sent to Nazi-occupied European destinations



These were designed by Edmund Blampied and engraved by Henri Corot in Paris. The printing was done by the Vichy French Government Printing Works.

It included the following stamps:-

1943	June 1	½d Green	<i>Entrance to an old Jersey Farm</i>
	June 1	1d Red	<i>Portelet Bay</i>
	June 8	1½d Brown	<i>La Corbiere Lighthouse.</i>
	June 8	2d Orange	<i>Elizabeth Castle</i>
	June 29	3d Blue	<i>Mont Orgueil Castle</i>
	June 29	3d Violet	<i>Seaweed gatherers at La Rocco Tower</i>

The initial printing was for 360,000 stamps of each value in sheets of 60 stamps.

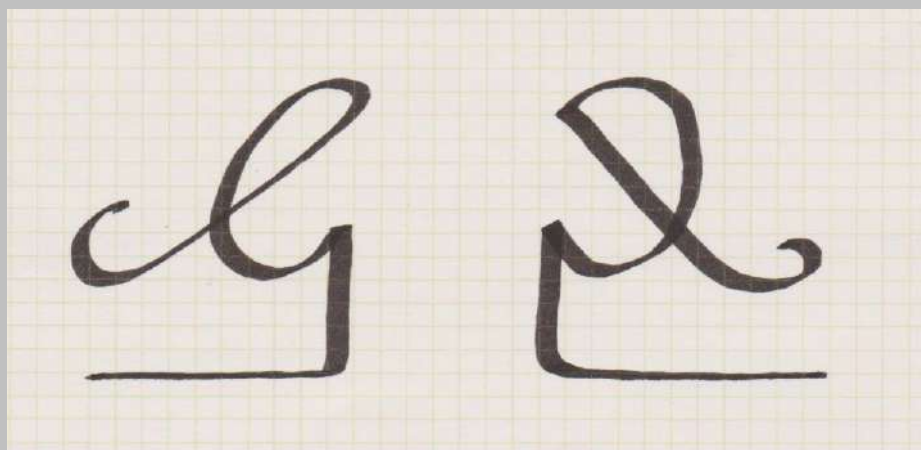
All designs incorporated the names of Blampied and Corot. They all had 13½ perforation. Press announcements appeared in the Jersey Evening Post on May 31st, June 7th and June 29th 1943.

Further printings were as follows: -

- 1943 ½d – 120,000
- 1943 1d – 240,000
- 1944 ½d – 240,000

- 1944 2½d – 360,000

Unknown to the German Occupation Forces the well-known Jersey artist, Edmund Blampied had managed to incorporate the Royal Cipher “G.R.” [George Regina] into the design of the 3d stamp on either side of the value. Apparently Blampied was questioned about it, however nothing seemed to have come of it.



Registered cover postmarked 29th July 1943, showing all six values

Image from Stampboards with thanks

The worst period of Occupation came in the final year, following D-Day in June 1944. By August, the Islands were in a state of siege and cut off from their

French supply routes as the Allied armies liberated Normandy and Brittany. Food supplies dwindled and gas and electricity eventually failed. Many brave young Islanders took advantage of the circumstances and escaped by boat to France from a place on the east coast since known as the Fauvic Embarkation Point.

Islanders were saved from starvation when the Swedish Red Cross ship, SS Vega, was eventually permitted to bring 750 tons of much needed supplies of food and medicine. Each Islander received a parcel which contained such forgotten delicacies of chocolate, biscuits, tea, butter, sugar, milk powder, tinned meat and fish, raisins, prunes, cheese, salt and pepper. The Vega arrived in Jersey on 31 December 1944 and visited a further five times with lifesaving provisions.

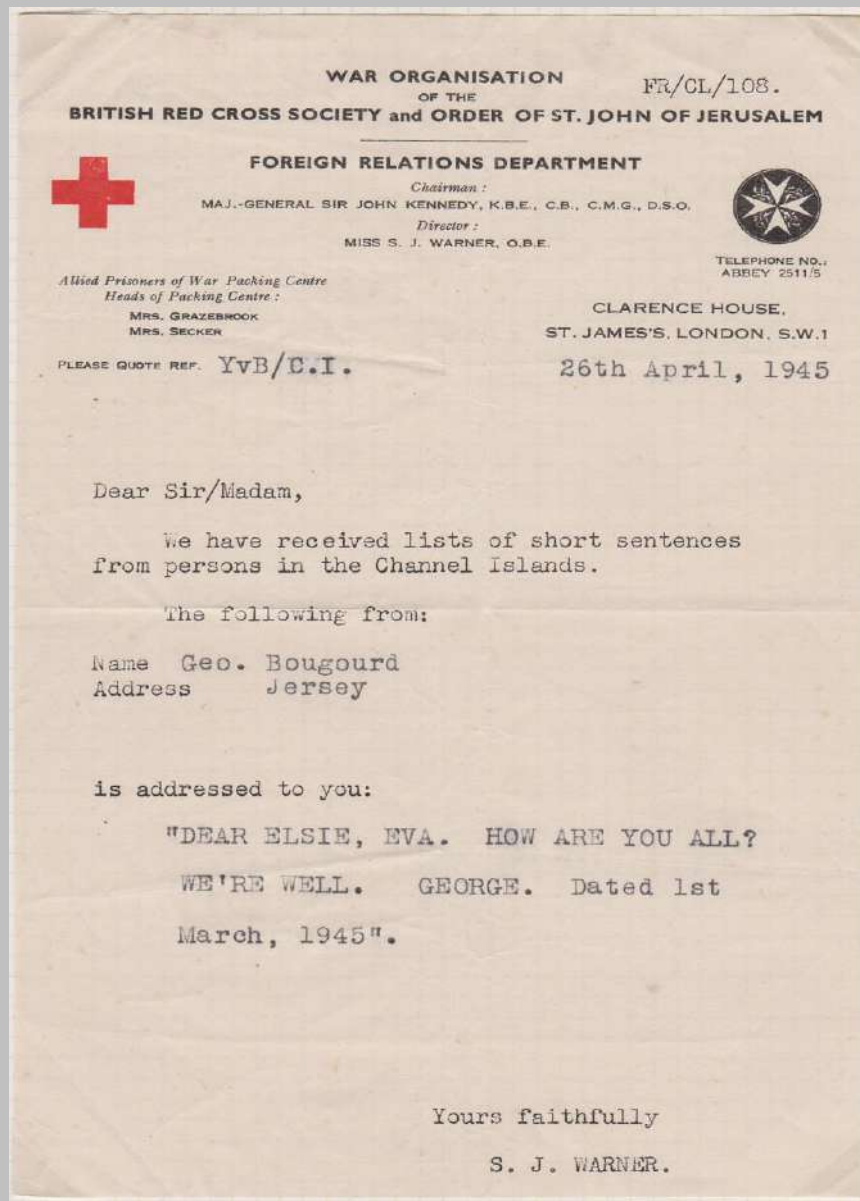
Following the interruption of the postal service with the U.K., short, one-line messages were sent by the six voyages of the Swedish-owned S.S. Vega held in neutral Lisbon and transcribed by the Red Cross on Form FR/CI/108.



The S.S. Vega was chartered by the International Committee of the Red Cross in late 1939 for "relief activities", to be based at Lisbon, Portugal, where it would work with the *Cruz Vermelha Portuguesa*.

During the war period, Vega made 44 voyages for the Red Cross under Captain Wideberg. Each time the ship was unloaded by the German Navy. Voyages 39 to 44, between December 1944 and June 1945, were made from Lisbon to the Channel Islands where the ship was met by the "Joint War Organisation" (the local British Red Cross who had joined with St. John).

Cargo on Vega's Voyage 39 comprised: 119,792 Red Cross food parcels, 4,200 invalid parcels, 4 tons soap, 5.2 tons salt, 37cwt medical supplies, cigarettes and some children's clothing. Cargo on Vega's Voyage 40 consisted of Cargo: 134,656 Red Cross food parcels, 4,200 invalid parcels, 5,465 kilos of tobacco and cigarettes, hearing aids, 20 tons of medical supplies, 200 kg (440 lb) seeds, shoe leather and salt. Voyages 41 to 44 were also to Jersey with emergency supplies. The Vega was at St Helier when the islands were liberated on 9th May 1945



THE 1948 LIBERATION COMMEMORATIVE ISSUE



To commemorate the 3rd Anniversary of the Liberation of the Channel Islands, the U.K. issued two stamps on 19th May 1948. The stamps depicted vraiking – which is seaweed gathering.

They were issued in Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. A limited number were issued in British post offices. They were valid for postage throughout the U.K. and Army and Navy post offices abroad.

The 1d carmine value was designed by J.R.R. Stobie of Harrison and Sons. The 2½d ultramarine value was designed by Edmund Blampied. Numbers sold were for the 1d – 5,934,000. For the 2½d – 5,398,000.



This first day cover was posted on Jersey on 10th May 1948. These covers were popular with British stamp dealers who printed their names on the envelope.



This first day cover was posted on neighbouring Guernsey on 10th May 1948 and was posted to a private address in Kogarah.

THE REGENSBURG 'CITY-VIEW' CONVENTIONSTHALER OF 1754

Tony Read showed his 1754 silver *Conventionsthaler* coin at the February 2026 meeting:-



Regensburg, was a crucial trade centre in the Austrian Empire, situated on the Danube River, linking various parts of Europe.

The *Conventionsthaler* was minted by the Regensburg Mint for the Free Imperial City of Regensburg – a small part of the Holy Roman Empire, under Francis 1 (reigned 1745 to 1765).

The Austrian Empire introduced *Conventionsthaler* currency in 1754 to replace the Leipzig standard of 1690. This was needed because a drop in the gold to silver price ratio from 15 to 14.5. In the 1730's it unleashed a flood of cheaper thaler coins.

The new *Conventionsthaler* (10 thaler standard, 23.386g silver) contained one tenth of a Cologne Mark. It originally corresponded to exactly two *Conventionsgulden* (20 Gulden standard 11.693g silver). So then a half *Conventionsthaler* was referred to as a *gulden*.

The parity did not exist with the inferior south German lower denomination, where the *Conventionsthaler* was worth two gulden and 12 *kreuzer*.

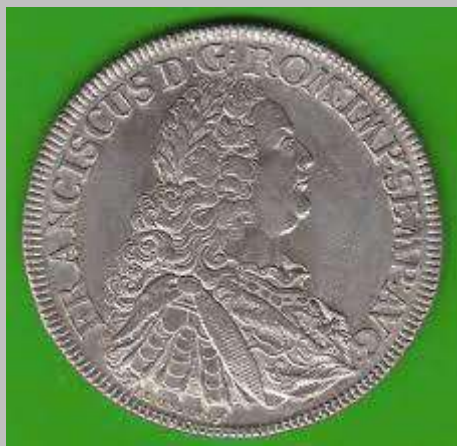
The *Conventionsthaler* replaced the *Reichsthaler* on 7th November 1750 on Austrian Crown lands. By a treaty of 7th November 1750 it was also introduced into Bavaria.

The *Conventionsthaler* became the standard thaler coin issued by many mints in the Holy Roman Empire. For example in 1765 Nuremburg issued a *City View* thaler. So, too, did Bamberg in 1800. The inscription “X EINE FEINE MARK” is inscribed in many *Conventionsthaler* coins.



The reverse of a 1780 coin showed a city view of Regensburg from the north looking to the south. The famous 12th Century Stone Bridge across the Danube, is shown with all three guard towers. Regensburg Cathedral is at the back.

The date and the mint master's initials "I.C." are shown together with the text "MONETA REIP RATISPOK" [= "*Money of the Republic of Regensburg*"] are shown.



The obverse shows a lauriated and draped portrait of Francis I with legend “FRANCIS I D:G : ROMIMP: SEMP: AV” [= *Francis I by the Grace of God, Emperor of the Romans, Always the Augustus*”].



Francis I was Holy Roman Emperor from 1745 to 1765. He was also Archduke of Austria from 1740 to 1765, Duke of Lorraine and Bar from 1729 to 1737, and Grand Duke of Tuscany from 1737 to 1765.

He became the ruler of the Holy Roman Empire and Tuscany through his marriage to his second cousin *Maria Theresa* of Austria, daughter of *Emperor Charles VI*. Francis was the last non-Habsburg monarch of the Empire. The couple were the founders of the Habsburg-Lorraine dynasty, and their marriage produced sixteen children.

Regensburg, now a UNESCO World Heritage site in Bavaria, Germany (no longer Austria), is renowned as one of Europe's best-preserved medieval cities, having survived WWII with minimal damage.

A Hungarian silver obol of Sigismund of Laxembourg



The Hungarian silver obol (1/2 denar) of Sigismund of Laxembourg (1387–1437) from Tint Read's collection is very small medieval coin. Typically it only measures 9 to 13mm-diameter. Tony's was only 7mm-diameter. The coins generally weigh between 0.2 and 0.4g.

These small coins often feature a shield with *Árpád* stripes on the obverse and a cross with four crowns or rosettes on the reverse.



They were produced during the reign of Sigismund of Luxembourg, who was King of Hungary from 1387 to 1437, He was also King of Croatia, Bohemia and Holy. He was

also Holy Roman Emperor from 1433 until his death in 1437. He was the last male member of the House of Luxembourg.

Hungarian silver obols (1/2 denar) were minted during the reign of King Sigismund mainly in Buda (now called Budapest) the capital of Hungary. They were also minted at a number of regional mints, like Kremnitz which is now in Slovakia.

Sigismund was the son of Charles III, Holy Roman Emperor and his fourth wife, Elizabeth of Pomerania. Sigismund married Mary, the Queen of Hungary in 1385. Soon after was crowned King of Hungary. He fought to maintain the authority of the Hungarian throne over a number of the aristocracy.



As King of Hungary, Sigismund fought against the rebellious House of Horvat

Sigismund also led the Crusade of Nicopolis in 1396. Unfortunately his army was soundly beaten by the Ottoman Empire troops.



1896 painting by Ferenc Lohr, showing Sigismund fleeing the Battle of Nicopolis

Afterwards he founded the *Order of the Dragon* to both fight the Turks and secure the thrones of Croatia, Germany and Bohemia.

He was the driving force in the *Council of Constance* (1414 to 1418) that ended the Papal Schism when there were two popes.

In 1428, Sigismund led another campaign against the Turks, but again with few results. In 1431, he went to Milan where on 25 November he received the Iron Crown as King of Italy. He remained for some time at Siena, negotiating for his coronation as Holy

Roman Emperor and for the recognition of the Council of Basel by Pope Eugenius IV. He was crowned Emperor in Rome on 31 May 1433.



Sigismund gold gulden of 1387-1389



Sigismund silver dinar of 1387-1437

Other coins of Sigismund of Luxembourg include gold *gulden*, silver *dinars*, and low-quality *quirting*. They reflecting his rule as King of Hungary, Bohemia, and Holy Roman Emperor. They usually feature a patriarchal cross, a four-part shield with *Árpáadian* stripes and the Brandenburg eagle.

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2026 – Coin & Stamp Expo is on

Saturday, 23rd May 2026

From 9am to 3pm

& Sunday 24th May, 2026

From 9am to 2pm

At the

**Orange High School Hall,
Cnr Summer and Woodward Streets, Orange**

TWO 1912 COVERS TO ALICE WONG AT THE BOLONG STORE

Your editor recently purchased two covers from Ken Moore that were posted from Blanket Flat and from Raymond Terrace to Alice Wong at the famous Bolong Store near Kempton, near Laggan & Boorowa in the southern highlands of N.S.W.:-



1912 COVER FROM BLANKET FLAT TO KEMPTON

The cover, above, marked 'card only', was posted to "Miss A.E.M. Wong / Bolong / Kempton", from Blanket Flat. The addressee was Alice Maude Wong. The Wong family owned a property at Bolong, just south of the Kempton Post Office, and ran the Bolong store.

It shows a 1d dull rose 1d New South Wales Shield (Die II, Crown over 'A' watermark, perf 12 x 11½) stamp of July 1910, cancelled by an impression of the Type 1D(i), "BLANKET FLAT / [?? ?] / [1912] / N.S.W" date-stamp. To the left of the stamp is a largely undecipherable Kempton Type 1D(i) "[KLEMPTON / [?? ??] / [191]2 / [N.S.W]" arrival date-stamp.

Hopson & Tobin (1991) recorded use of the Type 1D(i) date-stamp at Blanket Flat from 1899 to 1914 Hopson & Tobin (1998) also recorded use of the Type 1D(i) date-stamp at Kempton from 1899 to 1937.



1912 COVER FROM RAYMOND TERRACE TO KEMPTON, N.S.W.

The cover, above, was posted on 4th April 1912 from Raymond Terrace to "Miss A.H. Wong / Bolong / Kempton P.O. / via Laggan".

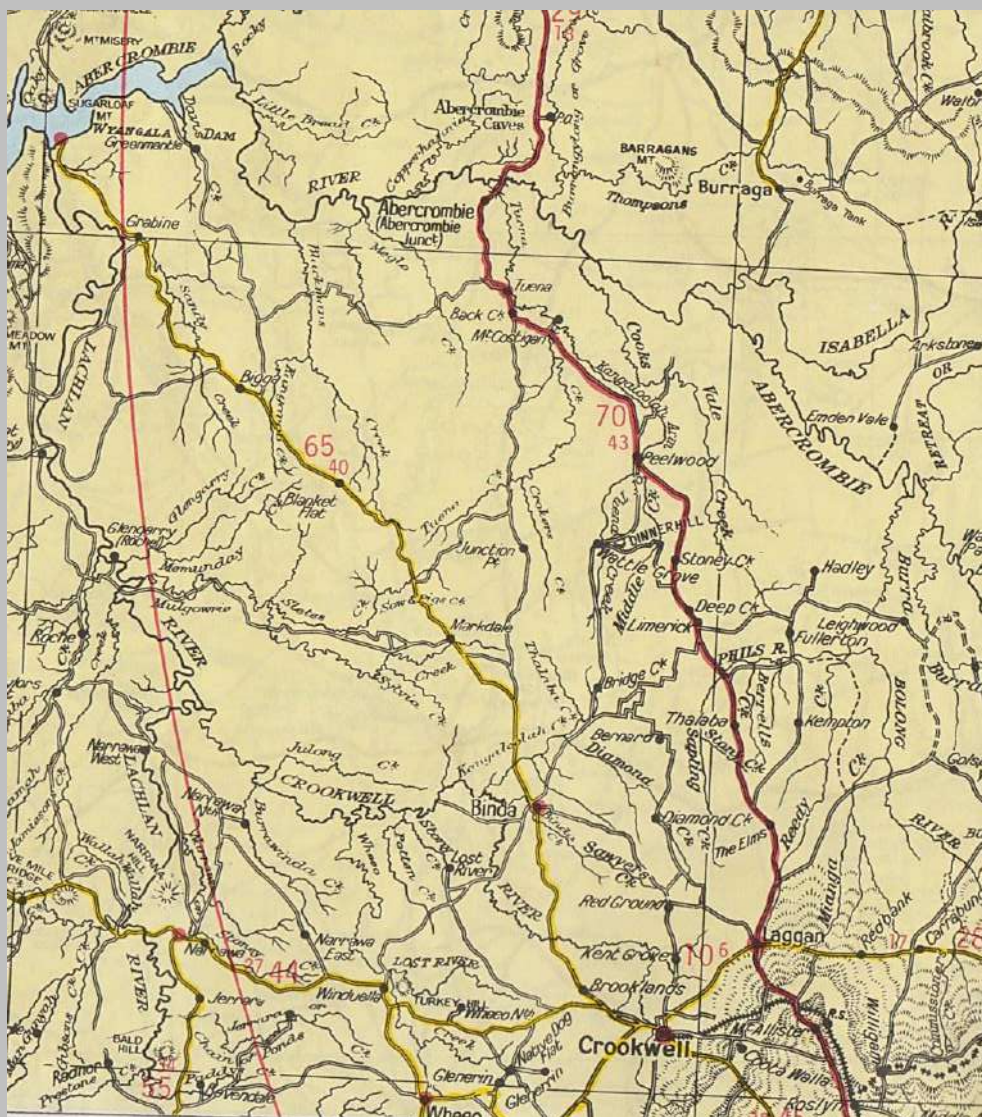
It shows an impression of the Type 1D(i), "RAYMOND TERRACE / AP 4 / 1912 / N.S.W" date-stamp cancelling a 1d dull rose *New South Wales Shield* (Die II, Crown over 'A' watermark, perf 12 x 11½) stamp of July 1907. Hopson & Tobin (1998) recorded use of Raymond Terrace Type 1D(i) from. 1884-1913

Also shown is an impression of the Type 1D(i), "KEMPTON / AP 9 / 1912 / N.S.W" arrival cancel. Hopson & Tobin (1995) recorded use of the Type 1D(i) date-stamp at Kempton from 1899 to 1937.

BLANKET FLAT, KEMPTON & BOLONG – AND THE STORY OF THE BOLONG STORE

A little investigative digging opened up the fascinating history of Alice Wong and Wong's Bolong store.

Bolong is a former locality just north of Kempton. It is north of Laggan and Crookwell.



Bolong is not marked on this map, but Kempton is. Blanket Flat are.,

BOLONG NSW 2583

There are two Bolong's in New South Wales, one near Nowra, with Postcode 2540, and the other south of Kempton, on the Southern Highlands, Postcode 2583. Bolong 2583 is about 3km north of the site of Kempton. It is close to the bank of the Phil's River. Bolong never had its own post office. Letters were posted and collected from the Kempton Post Office. The former Bolong locality was around the "Bolong" property,

the Bolong store, the Bolong Cemetery and the now in ruins Bolong *St John's* Anglican Church.



The ruins of St John, The Evangelist Anglican Church, Bolong, are adjacent to the Bolong Cemetery and site of the Bolong store.

The foundation stone of the church was laid in November 1863. A plaque at the site records: - “This Cairn marks the site of the first - St John's Bolong (1863~1947) - and commemorates the - 125th anniversary of Bolong Cemetery - 5 May 1996”. It originally included a residence and school. A severe storm blew off part of the roof in 1947 and a new church opened nearby in 1951. The old church is now a historic ruin. The Bolong Cemetery contains 100 graves.

KEMPTON NSW

Kempton, too, is a former locality. It's now within the boundaries of the Fullerton locality. It is north of Laggan and Crookwell. The land is very arable grazing land. The current Fullerton locality's north eastern border is defined by the Abercrombie River, and its eastern border is defined by the Bolong River, which comes to a confluence with the Abercrombie River. These rivers are part of the Lachlan catchment. The gazetted Fullerton locality has a population of only 48.

The **Kempton Receiving Office** opened in 1st August 1897. It was upgraded to a **Post Office on 1st October 1899**. A Telephone Service was provided on 9th October 1915. A manual telephone exchange was provided on 23rd March 1922. The Post Office closed

and became just a Telephone Office from 26th March 1945. This Telephone Office closed days later on 23rd April 1945. Subscribers were transferred to Fullerton. In the 1890's, and up to circa the World War I era, mail was delivered to Kempton on only on Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays, from Laggan. Laggan is on the once busy Goulburn to Crookwell railway line.

BLANKET FLAT NSW 2583

Blanket Flat is a rural locality 48km north from Crookwell on the Bigga Road. It's another grazing area.

The **Blanket Flat Receiving Office** opened on 16th November 1893. It was up-graded to a Post Office on 15th February 1898. A Telephone Service was established on 14th September 1909. A manual telephone exchange was installed in 1921.

The Blanket Flat Post Office closed on 18th April 1971 and became a Telephone Office only, on the next business day. The Telephone Office closed soon after on 5th June 1971.

The site of the post and telephone office was visited in 2003. There was no trace then of the former post office building on the Bigga Road, although the site was shown on the Bigga 1:50 000 topographic sheet. It had either been demolished or lost in a bushfire.

WONG'S STORE AT BOLONG

Mrs A.E. Wong's and Mr Wong Sat's Store at Bolong - near Crookwell, 46 kilometres from Goulburn has been re-erected and now forms part of a new exhibition: - *What's in store? Shopping in Australia, 1880-1930* exhibit at Sydney's Powerhouse Museum. It has been described as "a treasure trove of the trivial". It provides a snapshot of life in the many struggling rural communities of the late-19th and early-20th centuries.



The Wong's Bolong Store re-erected at the Sydney Powerhouse Museum

The man who built and ran it was Chinese, Wong Sat.

Wong came to Australia in 1857. Seven years earlier there had been virtually no Chinese people in the country, but the trickle of hopeful peasants, merchants and artisans seeking their fortunes in "Australia's gold mountains" had long since become a flood. By the 1901 census there were 3000 Chinese living in Sydney, 11,000 in the state.

Family legend has it that Wong probably entered the country in Adelaide, before trekking north to the NSW diggings. Well-educated, he forged links with the Chinese wholesalers in Haymarket and set up shop on the outskirts of Bathurst.

It was there - probably over his counter - that he met his future wife, Amelia, whose family had emigrated from Manchester. A devout Anglican, she was well-read, with a library of leather-bound volumes on theology and women's education. They married in 1864, had the first of their 10 children, and moved to Bolong in 1874.



The Wongs' built a weir on the Phil's River sometime between the 1890's to about 1915

At first they rented, since Wong was unable to buy property. But once he was naturalised in 1879, he was able to spend the money he had accumulated on land - ending up with more than 400 hectares from the subdivision of the original Bolong homestead.

The store was built in the early 1880s in between the homestead and the doghouse. A neighbour made it out of local gum. No advertising signs were needed - the whole community knew it was there. Since there was no pub, Wong's store was the most important focal point for miles, rivalled only by the many churches.



The Bolong shop wagon in the Powerhouse Museum

Amelia Hackney Wong was born in 1815. Amelia lived with her family until she met and married Chinese immigrant Wong Sat in 1864. They ran a store in the gold mining town of Tuena near the Hackney property. Seven of their 10 children were born there. In 1875 the family moved south to the Fullerton/Bolong area where they operated another store. At a time of increasing anti-Chinese feeling from the 1880s, the Wongs' were an integrated part of the predominantly Anglo-Celtic community around their store. The children were brought up exposed to the Chinese heritage of their father and the English heritage of their mother –



*Photographic print, sepia, group portrait of Amelia Elizabeth Wong nee Hackney and female members of her family in the Powerhouse Museum, Amelia Eve Wong and/or Henry Hackney Wong, Bolong district, 1907. This is an outdoor, formally arranged group portrait of (from left to right) **Alice Maude Wong**, Amelia Elizabeth Wong (nee Hackney, aged about 67 and holding baby thought to be Ada Hackney), Frances Hackney Wong (standing) and Amelia Eve Wong.*

Wong Sat died, a wealthy man, in 1916. Amelia and the children had no interest in the store, so it was locked up, stock still on the shelves. Occasionally the children would go in to raid the supply of lollies, but essentially it remained untouched until World War II.

Then a young boy who had been evacuated to Crookwell from Sydney was taken to the shop because he needed a pair of boots. He was Peter Doyle, who grew up to be a restaurateur and collector of Australian memorabilia. In the 1970s Doyle returned and bought some items, and these eventually ended up in storage at the Powerhouse. But the true significance of Wong's store only became apparent when a local historian, Albert Speer, was taken there in the late 1990s.

Like many other store owners in the state, Wong provided much-needed credit. "We have notes saying, 'I'll pay you when I take the sheep to Goulburn, and thanks for being so nice about it'," says Hoskins. "The store was a very important financial institution as well as a retail outlet."

Around its walls, stacked on the original, simple wooden shelves, were the bare necessities and occasional luxuries which made the hard lives of bushmen and women seem tolerable: soaps and patent medicines; stout leather boots for the men and straw boaters for the ladies; four imported wigs, complete with ringed curls; slates and chinks for the schoolchildren; lollies and jams; dried fruits and fine haberdashery; silk ribbons from Switzerland; cutlery from Sheffield; pencils from the US; cheap trinkets from China.

But the real value of Wong's store is to show how the remote community stayed in touch with the rest of the world.