

*Dundee & District Philatelic Society*  
*Minutes of Meeting 25 January 2018*  
*Dundee Art Society, Roseangle Gallery, Dundee*

**South Australia – Sandy Forbes FRPSL**

- Welcome:** President David Millar welcomed members & guests
- Apologies:** Doug Howkins, Norman Kelso, Colin Campbell.
- Attendance:** 10 Members and 2 Visitors
- Minutes:** The minutes of the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2018 were not available. Approval was deferred until the next meeting.

**Business:**

- President: Nothing to report
- Secretary: 1) Should we have a table at congress? While it is good to publicise ourselves manning is difficult. Because it is free, we lose nothing by asking for one. If there is a problem nearer the date, we can cancel  
2) Reported that a display he gave to the Art Society on the 19<sup>th</sup> was received well. Consideration should be given to a joint meeting in 5 years time to commemorate our 100 years association with the Art Soc.
- Treasurer: Nothing to report
- Packet Secy: Nothing new to report
- Librarian: To coincide with Sandy's display, David showed 4 Australian books we have in the library. Sandy pointed out that one of these was an original rare copy. He had seen only reprints before now
- Publicity: Colin was not present. Through Charles, he requested photographs of the winners in our competitions. Unfortunately, the shields were not available. To be done at the next meeting
- Webmaster: Nothing to report
- ASPS Rep: 2 display boards are available to each society at Congress. Security is an issue. For this reason, rare / valuable should not be displayed. Good Photocopies as an alternative?

**A.O.C.B.** Nothing raised.

**Vote of Thanks:** Ron Goodfellow (see report)

**Date of Next Meeting:** Morning Meeting – 1<sup>st</sup> February 2018 10am till Noon  
Evening Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018  
"O Night"

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**South Australia – Sandy Forbes (DDPS)**

This evening, Sandy presented a much anticipated display of South Australia, one that has already been shown at many societies throughout the UK. He focussed on the production of these stamps and not their postal history. As a consequence we were treated to what can go wrong together with errors and varieties.

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century South Australia was a vast sparsely settled land. This was a challenge for postal services. The first stamps were recess printed in London by Perkins Bacon after which plates were delivered to Adelaide and paper was supplied (to order) by Perkins Bacon. The production of plates is expensive and a cheaper solution was adopted if a new value was required – print an existing plate in a different colour then overprint this with the required denomination! After the first issues were supplied imperf, rouletting was used to make separation of stamps easier. It was of limited success and perforating soon replaced it. Some rouletted sheets were perforated subsequently which gives the specialist philatelist further varieties to seek out. Perforating is not without problems as Sandy showed – a sheet in which perforation size changes abruptly from 11½ to 12½, midline.

To reduce cost, from 1901, surface printing was adopted with plates and paper supplied by DLR, London. This process requires a different type of paper. However, keen to avoid waste the printers in Adelaide used up their stock of paper (the wrong paper) for these new stamps! Sandy has studied the 2d stamp in depth and displayed sheets that had been used as a competition entry. It was a stamp designed in a competition. Among the interesting stories he recounted was that of paper delivered so inferior in quality that printing on it was impossible and emergency supplies had to be bought from neighbouring Victoria. There were many varieties for us to study.

Little time was spent on the 1894 Tannenberg (designed) stamps which Sandy considered ugly when compared to others, a view many of us agreed with! Another design featured the GPO, Adelaide, issued in 1898. The design was taken from an etching but when the proofs were seen, the postal authorities requested that a (non-existing) prominent telegraph post be added in front of the building. The SA GPO was very proud of its extensive telegraph network which outstripped those of other states.

One of Sandy's delights is the "Long Stamp" which appeared first in 1886 and continued in a variety of forms until the end of South Australia's independent issuing of stamps. I will report just two of the many shown. Sandy has discovered it difficult to find used examples, but has a genuine item that is a gem; a postally used £2. Its postmark is Walleroo in the gold country and it is quite possible that it paid the postage for a parcel containing gold. In contrast, the second was forgery! The 8d denomination has two varieties, one very rare and the other reasonably common. The unfortunate forger mistakenly chose to print the common variety.

Sandy finished with his "work in progress". For accounting purposes the supplier of paper numbered each sheet and in addition added the value of the long stamp for which it was to be used. However, as the introduction of Australia stamps approached the South Australian GPO was keen to use up all existing stocks of its paper and the assignment of paper to defined values was abandoned. For example a sheet intended for a 5/- stamp might have the 4d denomination printed on it.

Ron Goodfellow gave the vote of thanks. He thanked Sandy for what was a remarkable display of stamps of great rarity, of outstanding quality with many varieties. Above all he recognised Sandy's encyclopaedic knowledge of South Australian stamps.