

The Royal Philatelic Society London

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PRESS RELEASE

Stunning display starts Royal's new season

A stunning display of material from the Commonwealth of Australia heralded the start of the new season of meetings for The Royal Philatelic Society London on 19 September. Traditionally this first meeting features material from the Royal Philatelic Collection, displayed by gracious permission of Her Majesty the Queen.

It was in 1901 that the Australian colonies federated into the Commonwealth of Australia, but for fiscal reasons it did not prove possible to issue the first universal postage stamps until 1913. Thus this year marks the centenary of this first issue, the famous 'Kangaroo and Map' design, extensively illustrated by the material on display. It was not without controversy in that the portrait of the King was not included. It was therefore decided that the most commonly used stamps should depict the King's head, also included in the display.

Much of the material on display was acquired for the Royal Philatelic Collection following the purchase of the J. R. W. (Bill) Purves collection in 1930.

In addition the display included some of the commemorative issues, such as Sir Charles Kingsford Smith's air exploits, the centenary of Captain Sturt's explorations, and the ANZAC stamps marking the Gallipoli Landings. Particularly notable is the unique imperforate complete sheet of fifteen miniature sheets of the 3d Kookaburra design issued for the 1928 international stamp exhibition in Melbourne.



Michael Sefi (cente) with Rod Vosden (left) and Ian Greig (right).

The display was brought together by Michael Sefi, Keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection, assisted by Ian Greig and Rod Vosden.

Those wishing to visit The Royal Philatelic Society London at 41 Devonshire Place, London W1G 6JY, or be a guest at one of its meetings, are kindly asked to contact in advance the Administrative Office on 020 7486 1044.

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