

# DOWN'S MEN HAVE STAMPS WORTH THOUSANDS

(By a STAFF WRITER)

**A lot of you probably consider stamp collecting as a kid's hobby — yet it is anything but.**

**It is a hobby in which men and women have spent a lifetime and amassed stamps worth thousands of pounds.**

*This is the case right here on the Downs, where a small body of enthusiasts own stamps which on catalogue value are worth a sizeable fortune.*

To give these men and women a chance to pass on their vast knowledge and interest young people in the same hobby a Queen City Philatelic Society has been formed here.

Patron is the Federal member for the Downs (Mr. Reg Swartz) and the president is the State Opposition Leader (Mr. Les Wood).

Chairman is a City Council employee named Mr. Jack Coates, father of 1956 Carnival of Flowers Queen (Val Coates).

This Queen City Philatelic Society was started here in August last year, and has a very select membership. At the moment the society has only a few members, including men like G. S. Robinson, Graham Law, Harold Ormo, Mr. Bert Suley, L. Radcliffe and Mrs. Smart.

There are also members who live as far away as Mundubberra and Cambooya. This week, the society held a management committee meeting and decided to spread stamp interest in Toowoomba by starting a section to cater for primary

and secondary schools. As in every city and town, there are hundreds of young people in Toowoomba with an elementary knowledge and interest in stamp collecting.

But most of them have no idea how to go about it—and that is the purpose of the new Queen City Philatelic Society.

The stalwarts of the new association are men who have specialised in different aspects of stamp collecting.

Mr. Coates, for instance, has concentrated on Australian and New Zealand stamps.

Mr. Suley, on the other hand, would have one of Queensland's greatest collections of Chinese and American pre-cancel stamps.

has put out. Circumstances, however, have put an end to many of his old contacts. The one in China was caught up in the change to a Communist regime—and Mr. Suley has never heard of him since. One he had in Sweden sent word that he was leaving for England to study—and that was the end of his association.

For an hour one afternoon this week, Mr. Suley and I sat on the front steps of his home studying stamp albums.

His Chinese book in particular is full of interest. Through its pages it is possible to trace the changing history of China.

You can read in the designs the altered political situation; the story of the country's chaotic currency; the change from the old way of life to the Communist sway of red flags, soldiers and high tempo industrial development.

To illustrate the point

about Chinese currency madness, Mr. Suley has stamps carrying a face value of five million dollars.

The Chinese have turned out quite a lot of big stamps bigger than the ones we are accustomed to. Some I saw measure two inches.

The picture of Sun Yat Sen, father of the Chinese Republic, figures a lot in the stamps I saw.

Then there are stamps to commemorate the revolution of 1912; others to mark the first air mail to China, with an old bi-plane crossing the Great Wall.

The old way of life is depicted in stamps of all values—but suddenly you can see the advent of the present regime, when the stamps become an advertising medium for the People's Republic.

To more fully appreciate what is written on these stamps, Mr. Suley Legan a study of the Chinese language, particularly of Chinese characters. As a result, he is able to interpret a lot of what is on his valuable collection.

## High prices are paid

Of all his stamps, Mr. Suley thinks that a four-dollar Columbian is the most valuable. It is catalogued at £25.

That price, of course, is nothing to what has been paid for some rare stamps.

The British Gulana four-cent stamp is rated one of the most valuable. Only one is claimed to have been produced, and on one occasion it is reported to have been sold for £10,000.

Little is known about the present owner, but many stamp experts believe he is a wealthy West Australian. In our front-steps survey of his albums, Mr. Suley pointed out a number

of Australian stamps which he rates among the best he has seen.

One of them is the stamp produced to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Postal Union. It shows a stockman against an out-back sign post, and Mr. Suley says if you look closely enough you can see the word Burke on the signpost.

Another fine Australian effort is the 7s stamp to mark the Royal visit in 1954.

Other stamps which have impressed Mr. Suley are one to mark the Cobb & Co. era and others produced during the Olympic Games in Melbourne.

As in the Chinese collection, you can trace a lot of Australian history through Mr. Suley's stamps. He even has a couple that were actually produced by the Queensland Government prior to Federation.

Mr. Jack Coates, like most ardent collectors, has been dabbling in stamps since he was a youth.

His speciality is Australian and New Zealand stamps.

Some time back he sold one of his general collections, part to a Toowoomba man, and part to a Brisbane collector, but he still has a vast album with many of the best stamps produced by Australia and New Zealand.

Mr. Coates said that some Australian stamps were worth hundreds of pounds.

One of these was the "Inverted Swan of West Australia." Someone had blundered in producing this stamp, with the result that the swan was swimming on its head instead of its stern.

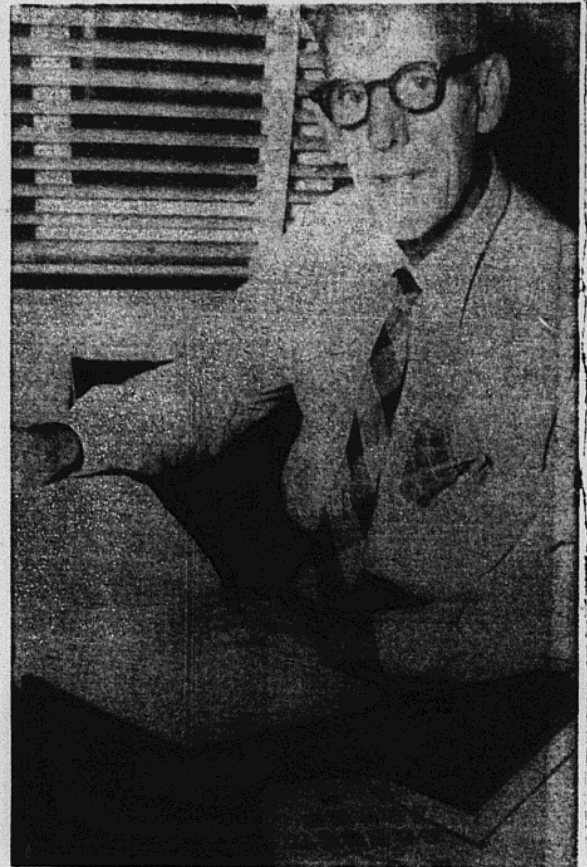
Another valuable "upside-down" stamp now very valuable, had been produced by accident in America. It showed a plane flying upside down.

A boy had spotted it first and he had borrowed enough money to buy the entire sheet. These were worth a fabulous amount.

Royally, said Mr. Coates, had always been very interested in stamps.

The late King George V's collection had been rated among the best in the world. He had two of the very rare Plum Coloured King Edward VII stamps.

Maybe this article has made you realise that there is more to stamps than just licking them.



Mr. BERT SULEY looks over his Chinese collection, rated one of the best in Australia.



## REGISTRATION FOR NATIONAL SERVICE

All Male BRITISH SUBJECTS and NEW AUSTRALIANS

OF THE CLASSES DESCRIBED BELOW WHO ARE ORDINARILY RESIDENT IN AUSTRALIA

MUST REGISTER

Between 24th February, 1958, and 10th March, 1958

unless exempt from liability to do so.

### BRITISH SUBJECTS

who have attained or will attain the age of 18 years between 1st January, 1958, and 30th June, 1958 (inclusive)

NATURALIZED BRITISH SUBJECTS NOT ALREADY REGISTERED who attained the age of 18 years between 1st January, 1957, and 30th June, 1957 (inclusive)

AND

### NEW AUSTRALIANS

(NOT BEING BRITISH SUBJECTS)

who attained the age of 18 years between 1st January, 1957, and 30th June, 1957 (inclusive), who were in Australia on 10th June, 1957, and who, on 24th February, 1958, have been in Australia for twelve months.

A person who intends to make his home in Australia is regarded as ordinarily resident in Australia as from the time of his arrival. A person who is absent from Australia during the period within which he is required to register, must register within 14 days after his return.

#### EXEMPTIONS:

The ONLY persons exempt from the liability to register are certain diplomatic personnel, aboriginal natives of Australia, and full-time serving members of the Permanent Defence Force. All others in the above age-groups must register.

#### HOW TO REGISTER:

Registration forms may be obtained from Post Offices and District Employment Offices of the Department of Labour and National Service. Detailed instructions are given in these forms.

#### WHEN TO REGISTER:

Registration forms must be completed and forwarded to the Registrar for National Service by 10th March, 1958, even though the person required to register may not actually turn 18 until after that date.

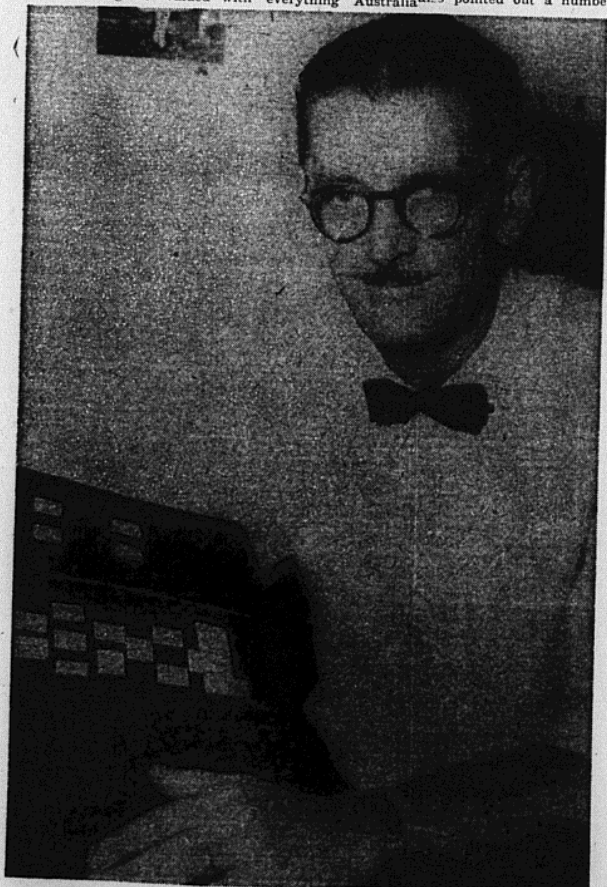
#### BALLOT:

A Ballot will be held in April to select those registrants who are to be considered for call-up. A person who does not register by 10th March may lose his right to take part in the ballot.

#### FAILURE TO REGISTER:

A person required to register who fails to do so is liable to a minimum penalty of £10.

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Chairman of the "Queen City Philatelic Society" (Mr. JACK COATES) with his fine collection of Australian and New Zealand stamps.