

# Cinderella Corner

## The Christmas Cinderellas And Collinridge Rivett

Welcome to the Christmas Edition of Cinderella Corner, and the final edition for 2018. The main purpose of this article is to explore some rather nondescript Christmas Cinderellas and their alignment with Christmas First Day Covers (FDCs) serviced by famed philatelic and general artist, Joseph Collinridge Rivett. The brief biographical account of Rivett is drawn from the thorough and seminal article by Geoff Sherrington on the great man and the rich philatelic landscape he helped canvas in Australia and in several other countries, including Papua New Guinea and New Zealand (*The Cover Collector: Journal of the Australian Cover Society, No. 25, Autumn, 2011*).

### Introduction

Joseph Collinridge Rivett was born in New Zealand on 7 January 1923 and died a decade ago in New South Wales on 29 March 2008 at 85 years of age. At the time of his death, he had lived in Australia for nearly 80 years. Rivett, as he was more commonly known, was most famous for his FDCs and souvenir covers that he either handpainted 'from scratch', or converted and embellished established ones, many of both which were limited in numbers and hand signed. In addition to covers, Rivett is also known for his hand drawn and coloured cinderella labels, which many were also limited in numbers. These mainly celebrated various milestones in Australia's philatelic histories, as well as other festivals and anniversaries across the country. These can be found affixed to some of his covers and others, more scarcely, exist not on cover in singles or in blocks. A future 2019 Cinderella Corner article will discuss these label types in more detail. Rivett also adorned some of his highly desirable covers with small cut-outs of pictures, mainly of magazine quality, which served as 'makeshift cinderellas'. Often celebrating different aspects of Australia and its features, such as photographs of kangaroos in hop, these were often partially

*Top to bottom: Figures 1 - 4*





# Vito Milana



Top to bottom: Figures 5, 6 & 7



cancelled on the front of serviced covers.

## Christmas Covers And Labels

In addition to producing his own cinderella labels, and creating others from cut-out images, Rivett also affixed, mainly on embellished Christmas FDCs, some Australian Christmas cinderella labels. These appear to fall into two categories: i) Anti-tuberculosis seals covering the period of 1950 to 1970, and ii) Christmas greetings labels with little identifiable points of reference regarding their origin and source. The former lot

are likely well-known to readers and are very common (and are continued to be produced).

The latter, perhaps, is not as well known. I have identified seven Royal FDCs embellished by Rivett, all limited in numbers, and each presenting an affixed different Christmas cinderella from the same set. These are illustrated across Figures 1 to 7.

**FIGURE 1** – The label on this cover presents the text: A MERRY YULETIDE. The cover is limited numbered 28 of 50.

**FIGURE 2** – The label on this cover presents the text: JOLLY XMAS. The cover is limited numbered 32 of 50.

**FIGURE 3** – The label on this cover presents the text: Hearty GREETINGS. The cover is limited numbered 34 of 50.

**FIGURE 4** – The label on this cover presents the text: HAPPY DAYS. The cover is limited numbered 37 of 50.

**FIGURE 5** – The label on this cover presents the text: GLAD TIDINGS. The cover is limited numbered 48 of 50.

**FIGURE 6** – The label on this cover presents the text: Hearty GREETINGS. The cover is limited numbered 49 of 50.

**FIGURE 7** – The label on this cover presents the text: A CHRISTMAS GREETINGS. The cover is limited numbered 50 of 50.

While the placement and overlaid cancels of these Christmas cinderellas on Australian FDCs suggest an Australian origin, it is nonetheless possible that their origins are the United States, given the inclusion of often American-linked words *Yuletide* and *Tidings*.

## Additional Christmas Labels

In addition to the six different Christmas labels (note that the same designed *Hearty GREETINGS* label is used on the covers illustrated in Figures 3 and 6) highlighted across Figures 1 to 7, an additional three labels have been identified that clearly 'sit' within this set of cinderellas. These feature similar pale colour arrangements, festive messages and Christmas motifs, to the other labels. Like the seven explored above,



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they measure 48mm x 38mm and are rouletted 12 on all four sides. Brief details for these additional three labels are presented below:

**FIGURE 8** – This label presents the text GREETINGS.

**FIGURE 9** – This label presents the text a MERRY YULETIDE. This label is different from the label illustrated in Figure 1 as the article ‘a’ is written in lowercase.

**FIGURE 10** – This label presents the text GLAD WISHES.

It is possible that additional designs exist in this set of Christmas Cinderella labels, beyond the scope of the nine different ones illustrated in this cinderella piece. Given that Rivett produced 50 Christmas covers for 1958 alone, it is highly probable that other limited numbers in the FDC set also highlight different labels: I welcome further examples from readers who may have these in their collections.

## Conclusion

The different Christmas and festive labels offered in this Cinderella Corner edition likely date to the mid-1950s. Further details as to their origins, however, are unknown. While nine different types of these labels are presented in this article, there is the possibility that more types exist. I welcome any reader’s knowledge about this, or how these labels were offered (e.g., sheet arrangement; costs). I wish all readers, near and abroad, a safe and festive season ahead.

## Revisiting Fameface: RIVPEX 2001

Many thanks to Cinderella Corner reader and Secretary of the Wagga Stamp Club Inc., Mr. Peter Simpfordorfer, for his comments on the Rivpex 2001 FameFace labels discussed in the September 2018 Cinderella Corner issue. Peter offered the following, which has helped further canvass the landscape of these fascinating cinderellas:

*The Wagga Stamp Club hosts 2 x 2 day Stamp & Coin Fairs each year being held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> weekend in May and the 4<sup>th</sup> weekend in November. The labels detailed in the September column were not produced by the Wagga Stamp Club but by member Rod Dooner who designed them and arranged the printing and sale of the labels. RIVPEX 2001 was the title of a proposed National Exhibition proposed for 2001 which did not come to fruition. Rod Dooner was the main enthusiast*



Top to bottom: Figure 8, 9 & 10

*for this project. Rod tried to interest Australia Post in the bushranger stamps but they declined as the bushrangers were classed as criminals and not suitable to be depicted on Australian stamps.*