

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA



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## R.P.S.V. LOOKS BACK WITH PRIDE ON ITS AUSIPEX YEAR

"1984-1985 will always be remembered as the period Australian Philately made its mark on the world scene with Australia's most notable philatelic event ever, AUSIPEX 84," Mr Ray Chapman, M.B.E., said in his Presidential Address to the annual meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria on July 18.

"I had the honour to be elected President of AUSIPEX 84 in January 1982, and two and a half years later, President of the Royal.

"It was a very proud moment because "The Royal" has played a major part in the success of all philatelic exhibitions in Australia.

"I say emphatically there would not have been an AUSIPEX 84 without the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

"The great contribution by some of our members and the participation of many others as exhibitors was an experience I will not easily forget.

"I was told the people we wanted would not come, the standard would be low because the world's finest judges and exhibitors could not afford the time to come 'Down Under', and we would not raise \$2 million to stage this great exhibition.

"While a lot of people sat on the fence, and watched and waited for things to happen, we made things happen with a Committee of 20 and an Inner Executive of seven."

"Australia's reputation was at stake and Australia Post threw their weight behind our efforts because they saw we were heading in the right direction. They sponsored our specimen pack proposition, which added to our responsibility to prove we could do it.

"Action was the order of the day and personal differences had to be ironed out quickly.

"The success of AUSIPEX is now history but it has been captured for all time on Video and is already helping the STAMPEX 86 Executive in Adelaide.

"I am hoping 'The Royal' will play its part in supporting STAMPEX 86. The South Australians were well to the fore at AUSIPEX 84.

Mr Chapman said Mr John Marriott, President of The Royal Philatelic Society,



London, and Keeper of the Royal Collection, apart from playing a major part in AUSIPEX as Chairman of the International Jury, had accepted his invitation to display his own fabulous collection of Trinidad to a meeting of 'The Royal'.

The special frames for that display had been given by AUSIPEX to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and were being used for his Presidential Display that night.

Mrs Mary Anne Owens (U.S.A.) famous Gold Medal Thematic Collection, "Elephants", had also been shown during the year.

"Yes, it has been a momentous year," Mr Chapman said.

"I sincerely hope that the worthwhile friendships formed at AUSIPEX and throughout philatelic societies will continue.

"Dealers need collectors and collectors need the sympathetic interest of dealers.

"There is much to learn and the further you can look back, the further you can look forward. Challenge and change are the order of the day.

"Reflect on your Society's 93 years of service to philatelists and philately. Are we worthy of our membership? Are we knockers, or are we genuinely interested in the Society?

"Myra Farley, after traumatic years as Executive Officer of AUSIPEX, continues her splendid service to the Society.

"*Philately from Australia*, our excellent journal, synonymous with the Society, needs members' wholehearted support.

"We need contributions urgently to make Russell Jones and Joyce Buchanan feel all their efforts are not in vain."

Mr Chapman said Peter Barlow, Chairman of the House Committee, had provided a real face-lift to important areas of our home, and the Expert Committee (chaired by Peter Jaffe) had been an important and helpful part of the Society and an excellent fund raiser.

Richard Breckon, the librarian, had received a splendid donation on behalf of the Society from the AUSIPEX Executive of copies of all literature entries.

AUSIPEX had also given other literature entries to the Brighton Philatelic Society, through Len Buchanan.

Mr Chapman further thanked the auditors, Helen Watson and John Sinfield for their meticulous work.

"The impetus from AUSIPEX has led to the formation of a responsible Philatelic Exhibition conceived from the Stamp Promotion Councils in each State. AUSIPEX proved the States could work together. The support from throughout Australia for AUSIPEX showed that," Mr Chapman continued.

"We must make sure we never return to the ridiculous time-consuming arguments and jealousies that existed between the States, societies, and dealers.

"Philately is supposed to be a friendly hobby.

"Unfortunately, problems exist on the home front. Efforts for 'The Royal' to play a part in the new Australian Philatelic Federation have so far been frustrated but if we honestly believe we are all in this for the good of Philately, democratic principles must prevail.

"If dealers have five votes and a pecuniary interest, surely one of the world's leading philatelic societies is at least entitled to the same number on the Victorian Philatelic Council.

"Some members of the V.P.A. cannot expect a Society formed in 1892 and honoured with the title 'Royal' to lose its identity as a great teaching Society.

"Is not this the reason many members of societies in the V.P.A. join 'The Royal'?

"If it is to join the 'Snobs' as I have heard, it is an empty and expensive exercise.



"I believe it is much more than this.

"Why do leading philatelists, asked to display at 'The Royal', consider it an honour?

"Where else can you see so many displays a year from leaders in their respective fields?

"Experienced and dedicated philatelists are becoming as scarce as the classic stamps they collect, swamped in a morass of new issues, meters and labels, and other offshoots of collecting."

Mr Chapman concluded: "I have enjoyed being a member of 'The Royal' since 1949, from student to President.

"This year has given me the greatest pleasure, and I wish to thank you all for your support and to wish Mr Buchanan All The Best for a happy and successful term of office.

"I leave the Chair proud of the tradition I have helped to carry on, and confident that 'The Royal' will continue to prosper, and that our future holds even greater things in store than the past."

## PLATE NUMBERS OF THE UNISSUED 2d AND 1/- ENGRAVED, 1914

By H. L. CHISHOLM

The unique sheets of the unissued 2d and 1/- engraved stamps of 1914 from the Royal Collection displayed at AUSIPEX — and shown in the Catalogue — revealed two important features that may not have been recorded in Commonwealth literature.

Both were from Plate "No 1" with the normal imprint markings beneath this inscription and on all the other sides.

The "No 1" on the 2d was in the same powerful and attractive lettering as the plate numbers on the 1d and 6d, but that on the 1/- was a much thinner and less impressive engraving.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

*New "Forwarded by Air Mail"  
Cachet Point*

*Dr. G. Kerfoot attains  
Golden Jubilee*

Dr. G. Kerfoot achieved his 50 years membership of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in January. For many years before his retirement to Melbourne he was a dental surgeon in Waggi, Victoria.

Mr. Gary Watson of Melbourne reports a "Forwarded by Air Mail" cachet (Eustis Type 91), from Hall's Creek, W.A., a point from which it has not been recorded.

The cover, addressed to Perth, has the postmark date Sep 4 1926 and the cachet is in violet.

# AUSTRALIAN PHOTOGRAVURE STAMP ISSUES

## VI. THE PRINTING OF THE STAMP

By BETTY VAN TENAC

The Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia used two photogravure presses during the period it printed postage stamps for Australia and territorial issues.

**1. The Chambon Press** was introduced in 1961. It printed from rolls of paper and had an inbuilt numbering device, perforator and guillotine attached. At first this press contained only 4 cylinders but in 1972 an additional cylinder was added. Stamps from this press are found printed in the following ways. I refer to the sheet layout that was illustrated in *Philately from Australia*, September 1984, p. 65.

- (a) Sheets of 100 in two panes of 50. According to direction of design the panes are known as upper and lower or left and right. Each pane bears a serial number in the margin, colour bars at the side or top, two lines in the gutter, or tonal step wedge according to issue.
- (b) Sheets of 50 in two panes of 25 — sheet markings as above.
- (c) Coil stamps comprising 196 subjects 14 across the length of the cylinder and 14 around. These are arranged in a complete "wrap around" form so that impression No. 1 abuts directly onto No. 14 separated only by the small (3mm) gutter for perforating which occurs between all other subjects.
- (d) Both the 1970 Cook Bi-centenary mini-sheet and the 1976 National Stamp Week sheet were printed on this press incorporating different layouts. Six mini-sheets to the unprinted sheet for the Cook issue and 8 mini sheets for the National Stamp Week issue. Colour bars were found on the National Stamp Week issue as well as traces of numbers.

**2. The Rembrandt Press** was introduced in 1972. It printed from sheets of paper, had no numbering device, perforator or guillotine fitted. Stamps from this press were printed in the following manners:-

- (a) For small size low value definitives the sheet contained 600 impressions in six panes of 100 with colour bars at bottom, top or side according to design layout (See fig. 1).
- (b) For larger sized commemoratives/definitives the sheet from the press contained 300 impressions:-

Horizontal stamps comprised three panes of 100 side by side, each consisting of two sub panes of 50 one on top of the other. The sheets were divided vertically into three producing 3 sheets of 100 comprising an upper and lower pane and sold in that form. Vertical stamps consisted of 3 panes of 100, one on top of the other. These were separated horizontally to produce sheets of 100 in right and left panes, each of 50 stamps (see fig. 2). Colour bars and register marks were fully described in September 1984 issue. It was during printing that many of the varieties subsequently found on stamps occurred.

### *Doctor Blade Flaw*

In general this type of flaw is caused when excessive ink gathered on the top of the doctor blade and started to harden when the machine was stopped. When the machine was re-started, the additional ink adhered to the paper causing a darker line.

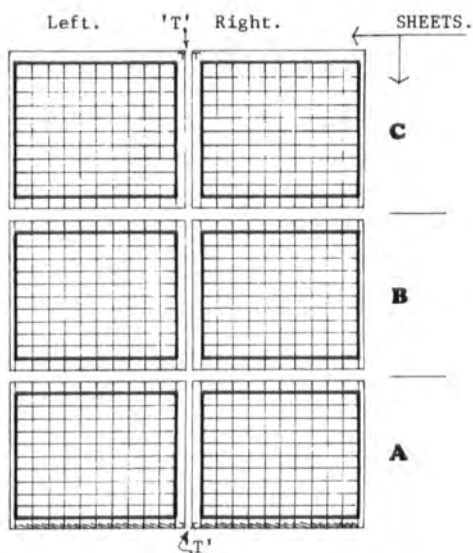


Fig. 1

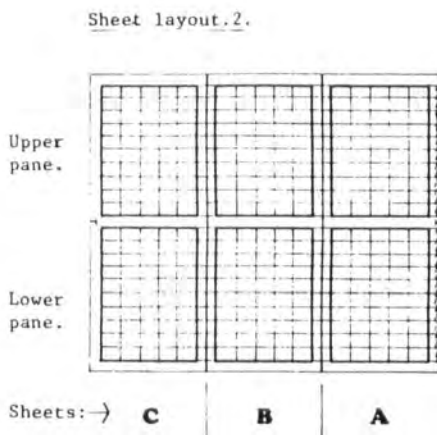
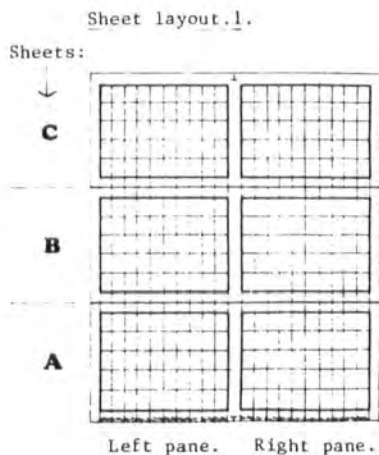


Fig. 2

The line always followed printing direction, but could give an opposite appearance depending on the press used and the design layout. In the Rembrandt press issue illustrated we have the variety running vertically down the 7c Agate base rate definitive stamp (see fig. 3).

A thin white line across the stamp could be caused by a small particle of foreign matter caught on the doctor blade which shows up as a line of complete wiping.

A line of colour across or down stamp and margins (again depending on layout direction, etc.), could be caused by a "nick" or "hole" in the edge of the doctor blade allowing excess ink to flow through on to the paper.

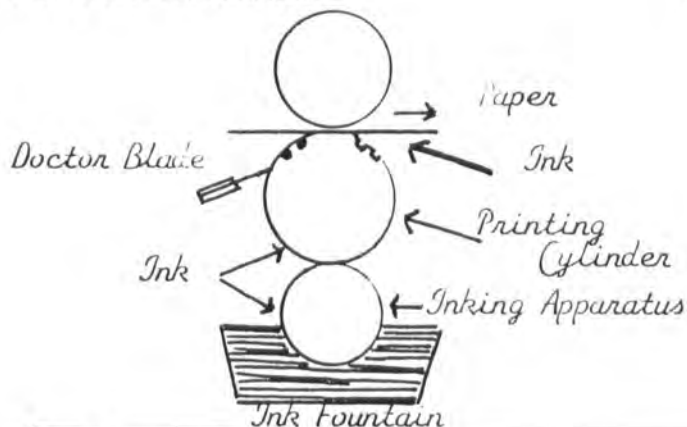


Fig. 3

#### *Scratch Mark Developing on Cylinder*

The World Medical Association and Soil Congress issue of August 6th 1968 provided a good example of this variety. As was usual with the Chambon press on which these stamps were printed the centre gutter had two vertical (in these issues cyan) lines running down the middle. However the lines were somewhat thicker than usual and in printing it was found the width caused the doctor blade to wipe the ink down over the bottom pane of stamps. In this case the Medical stamp was printed on the left pane and Soil on the right — both horizontal stamps but printed vertically thus the ink was wiped down over the Soil stamp. Further, the cyan cylinder developed a scratch mark on Right Pane 2/1 so a new cylinder was made and this time thinner gutter lines were put in the centre gutter.

Thus 5 cylinders were used in this printing. The stamp can be found with two different gutters and with and without the "Syringe" variety on Right Pane 2/1.

*Colour Out of Alignment*

The paper is under constant pressure during the printing process creeping or moving from side to side. Both presses had manual and electronic devices to ensure accurate registration of colours was made but there were so many factors involved that absolute registration on every stamp was impossible (see fig. 4).



Fig. 4

*Skid Marks*

An unusual variety was found only on the Rembrandt Press issues where the Rembrandt feed board wheels skidded and caused a slur on the sheet with some ink transference from the delivery tapes. The sketch below shows how both the blocks are actually part of the same row before the stamps are guillotined and perforated. The variety was found on several issues including the 3c Coral Crab, 10c Prime Minister series of 26th March, 1975 (Earl Page) (see fig. 5) and the 30c Brushtail Possum definitive of 1974.



Fig. 5

*Printed on the Gummed Side*

P.V.A. gum itself is virtually colourless and when it was first introduced in the 1970s the R.B.A. printers found difficulty in identifying each side of the unprinted sheets. This resulted in some sheets of stamps being printed on the gummed side as sheets were fed the wrong side up into the press.

For a period the Note Printing Branch experimented with different tinted gums to combat this problem. My example of this occurrence is the Edith Cowan stamp from the 1975 Famous Women series but it also occurred in other issues about this time.

#### *Paper Substitution*

Late in 1977 a roll of wide paper usually kept for printing Cocos Keeling Island stamps was inadvertently inserted on the Chambon Press during the printing of \$2.00 definitive Painting stamp instead of the usual narrow rolls indicative of Australian Chambon issues. This variety was much sought after by collectors at the time and sheet margin blocks from both rolls add to an Australian photogravure collection.

#### *Cylinder Deterioration*

An interesting example of this variety is the black cylinder deterioration on Sheet C of the 20c Horse Racing stamp issued 18th October, 1978 and printed on the Rembrandt Press. Sheets from this position could be found showing a gradual break down of the black cylinder on Row 2 Stamps 2 and 5.

#### *Wavy Streak of Colour*

Wavy streaks of lighter colour appeared occasionally in photogravure issues. The variety was more visible in the darker inks and were mainly confined to the Rembrandt Press. When solvent evaporation calls for addition of more solvent to rectify ink viscosity, such white marks or light streaks could occur for a brief period following addition of the solvent. An example is the 20c Canberra Ferries and Steamers issue of 14th February, 1979.

#### *Change of Cylinder Position*

Noted on the Australia Day 1978 issue (Chambon Press). During the printing of this stamp a recorded paper change was made by the Note Printing Branch. At the time of change of paper the black and dark blue cylinders were changed in the press. This change became immediately apparent when one compared the colour bars of this issue.

#### *Numbers — Different Positions in Margin/Gutters*

On definitives or commemorative issues needing long printing runs on the Chambon Press, the numbering device was changed to varying positions to reduce wear and tear. It is also noted that numbers changed position when a replacement cylinder was inserted. The number could move up or down rows or across the margin, particularly in the gutter where the number can be found left or right and over or under the gutter line. An example is the 8c Ord River Scheme definitive stamp of 31st August, 1970.

#### *Colour Variation*

Photogravure stamps often showed great colour variation in the same issue and was due to various causes —

A different bath of ink, Different Paper, Ink Viscosity, Variation in temperature or humidity.

A good example is the comparison of different stamps from the 18c Cricket issue of 1977.



*Broken Lines/Letters, etc.*

Very fine lines or small lettering can miss being etched, because in some stamps within the same sheet, the fine line or part thereof might fall on the opaque areas separate individual cells. There is no such thing as a solid line in gravure — all apparently solid lines are actually made up of minute square dots. Therefore, the thinner the line, the less chance there is of etching and printing it successfully on every stamp within the sheet. An example is the 7c Snowy Mountains Scheme of 1970 National Development issue Left Pane, Row 7, stamp 4, variety broken tower leg.

*Offset*

This is rare in photogravure stamps but could happen if the cylinder revolved without a sheet of paper on which to deposit its image in ink and the roller picks up the ink which was intended for the sheet. The next sheet through the machine will then receive an image both on the back and on the front, that on the back being reversed or mirrored. A corner fold on one sheet can cause a similar effect.

Australia Post postmasters had special books in which to deposit sheets of stamps in their safe. The books were made for L.S.D. issues. When the Chambon press sheets were issued in sheets of 100 they had to be folded in order to fit the books. This resulted in the left and right (upper/lower) panes rubbing together and often one would see lettering reversed that looked like an offset but was merely ink transferred. This occurred particularly in the "Painting" series where the black ink seemed subject to rubbing.

*Missing Colours (or colours partially missing)*

This is the glamour variety of Photogravure printing. It can have a number of causes:

- (a) Taking pressure off the cylinder while printing, affecting a row or several rows of stamps across/down sheet according to printing direction or press.
- (b) Either a faulty cylinder adjustment or two sheets of paper passing through the press at once may result in a complete sheet of missing colour (Rembrandt Press).
- (c) A corner paper fold occurring between the printing of one of the colours can result in a corner "missing" one of the colours (Rembrandt Press).
- (d) Misplacement or shifting of a sheet can result in one row of an entirely missing colour (Rembrandt Press).
- (e) Faulty application of ink to cylinder resulting in irregular or partial colour omission (Rembrandt and Chambon).
- (f) If the cylinder is stopped and cleaned with cleaning fluid or rag this could result in an area of printing surface having colour removed from it and appearing on the sheet as an irregular uncoloured area (Rembrandt and Chambon).

*Small White Spots*

Cells on the cylinder not depositing the ink. These will not be constant throughout the whole printing and can occur for a variety of reasons:

- (a) Ink drying in very shallow cells between the doctor blade and paper (because of weather conditions or other temperature or humidity variations).
- (b) Variations in ink viscosity and its ability to flow freely or otherwise.

*White Patches (with or without a dark spot in the centre)*

Foreign matter on the cylinder covering some cells and preventing ink being picked up. This is again normally only of a temporary nature.

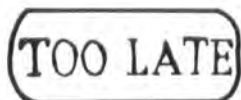
*Red and Black Numbers*

Prior to October 1968 all definitive and commemorative stamps were printed with red serial numbers. Stamp printers after 1968 used black numbers. However, within the early bird definitives and later flower definitives both colour serial numbers can be found.

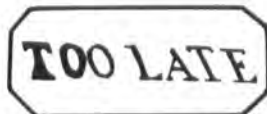
## “TOO LATE” HANDSTAMPS OF NEW SOUTH WALES

By G. P. MOLNAR

The rectangular boxed TOO LATE handstruck marks of N.S.W. were in use for about a decade. The earliest date known to me is 1 September 1843 (ex-Slade, Harmers of London, 3-4 April 1979, Lot 28) and they continued into the early 1850's. Several distinct varieties exist, from separate offices, but they have never been properly catalogued, nor has their function been convincingly elucidated.



*Sydney 1850*



*Gunning 1852*

What is the meaning of this mark?

Handstruck stamps with the words “too late” were in use in Britain pre-1840. Alcock and Holland (1940) in the standard work on U.K. postmarks describe their use as follows (p. 358):

“Letters posted at the larger offices in the provinces after the dispatch of the mails were stamped with various types of ‘Too Late’ marks in the early nineteenth century. As such letters were not dispatched until the next day, these marks were a precautionary method of avoiding complaints of slow delivery.”

In this period a late fee service was only provided by the Chief Post Office in London. There late fee letters were marked by special date stamps, while “letters posted without the extra fee too late for despatch the same day” were stamped PUT IN AFTER/7 OCLOCK AT NIGHT or POSTED AFTER/7P.M. The TOO LATE's come from non-metropolitan offices which did not offer a late fee facility. It is clear that TOO LATE here means that a letter so marked was handed to the post office too late to be included in the bag. There are also examples of colonial TOO LATE's which conform to this usage (e.g. St. Vincent). However, I do not accept that this interpretation applies to N.S.W., for the following reasons.

1. Victoria had very similar boxed TOO LATE marks since 1846. De Righi (n.d.), in a work based on J. R. W. Purves' notes and material, wrote (p. 9):

“These handstamps were used, *not* to indicate that the letter had missed a particular mail, but in connection with the acceptance — subject to payment of a ‘Late Fee’ — of letters handed in to a Post Office after the advertised time. The May report of the Board on the Melbourne Post Office states (on p. 17) that ‘The practice has hitherto been to stamp ‘TOO LATE’ upon letters which are deposited at the (Melbourne) office (within quarter of an hour) after the proper time for making up some particular mail’. All other letters for that mail received on the same day were not so marked. The Board recommended that *all* Late (i.e. Late Fee) Letters accepted for a particular mail should be stamped ‘TOO LATE’.”

Here we have proof that the Victorian TOO LATE was a late fee stamp.

2. The N.S.W. Post Office provided a late fee service in the 1840's. In the 1849 Act which introduced postage stamps to the colony the service is re-offered in the following terms:

"Letters must be posted half an hour previous to the time fixed for despatch of the Mails; but late letters will be received to within quarter of an hour upon payment of a fee of 6d. each letter." (Basset Hull, 1911, p. 452.)

It is interesting to note that for the entire period under review no N.S.W. cover is known which shows any evidence of a late fee having been paid. There are no written endorsements, ms ratings, special datestamps, or handstruck markings with the words "Late Fee", or excess of 6d. paid in postage stamps — nothing to indicate that the late fee service was used by the public. However this apparently curious fact becomes explicable if we accept that the function of the N.S.W. TOO LATE's was the same as that of their Victorian counterparts.

3. Tasmania had a single line unframed TOO LATE handstamp but as the earliest known use is 1 August 1859 (Ingles, 1975, p. 122) its direct relevance to N.S.W. in the 1840's is slight. The Post Office Regulations of 17 October 1853 define its use as follows:

"A statement of the hours of closing the Mails is to be kept affixed on some exterior part of each Post Office, in order to avoid the frequent occurrence of Letters being put into the Letter-box after the departure of the Mails; and each Post Office shall be closed for half-an-hour before the dispatch of the Mails, to allow time for assorting and securing the same; but Letters are to be received to within a quarter-of-an-hour of dispatch, upon payment of a fee of 4d. in money for each Letter, as a perquisite to the Postmaster forwarding. Letters posted too late for transmission must be marked with the words 'too late' and the date of the Mail for which they may be 'too late'." (Campbell, 1962, p. 180.)

Here we see that the late fee was officially designated a postmaster's perquisite, accompanied by the requirement that all late fee letters be marked TOO LATE. This use of the handstamp is in line with the recommendation of the Melbourne Post Office Board cited above.

I'm indebted to Norman Hopson for pointing out that according to archival evidence, a system of treating late fees as perquisites also existed in N.S.W., at least up to 1852. In this case the late fees were aggregated (or estimated?) and added as a lump sum to the annual salary of certain officials (e.g. the Inland Letter Clerk at the Sydney G.P.O.). Some method of internal accounting must have been in operation to keep track of the late money, which in turn suggests that letters for which a late fee had been paid were marked in some way.

4. On 21 January 1851 a Mr J. Shoovert of Mount Keira wrote a letter of complaint to the Board of Inquiry into the Post Office which at that time was taking submissions from the public.

Gentlemen, on Tuesday the 7th day of January instant I called at the Post Office (Sydney — GM) for the purpose of posting a letter, it was then 20 minutes to 5 pm — a gentleman came up at the same time and knocked at the window which was opened by a young gentleman, whose name I have since learnt to be Hill. Mr Hill said to the other Gent (with whom he appears to be acquainted as they exchanged smiles) you must pay eight pence, which was paid, I then handed in my letter with a shilling, and received in exchange a threepenny piece, and one penny — My letter however did not reach Wollongong until the 9th instead of the 8th which caused much inconvenience, and some loss instead of the letter being forwarded and for which I had paid six pence extra it was marked too late in proof of which I herewith enclose the envelope — . . . (N.S.W. State Archives Ref. 4/1152:22).

The envelope addressed to "Mrs Shoovert/Mount Keira/Wollongong" was stamped circular Sydney PAID in red, handstruck '2' in red, boxed TOO LATE in black, and a telltale "Wollongong JA 9". Mr Shoovert clearly understood the TOO LATE mark to be proof of his having paid the late fee. This is confirmed by the

replies submitted to the Board by the clerk Hill and by the Postmaster James Raymond: the facts as disclosed in the complaint were not disputed. Raymond was satisfied that the late fee had been properly accounted for. The feeble explanation offered for the delay in delivery was that the inexperienced Hill had misplaced the letter in the wrong basket.

These considerations point to one conclusion. The TOO LATE handstamps of N.S.W. 1843-1852 were used to indicate that a letter on which a late fee had been paid became eligible for inclusion in the dispatch from which it would have been excluded if the late fee had not been paid. TOO LATE means **late fee**.

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## VICTORIA 1d. "NETTED CORNERS" — THE "CRACKED ELECTRO" VARIETY

By DR. RUSSELL JONES

This variety was first publicised by Sir Edward Bacon in a display from the Royal Collection (see *London Philatelist* 1927 at p. 76). He described the second and third states only. The late J. R. W. Purves identified the substitution. The printing base was of 120 single electrotypes clamped in a forme. The first setting was in four blocks of 30 (6 x 5) with gutters. The cracked cliché was unit B 16.

The stamp was issued on 1.10.61 printed on paper watermarked "ONE PENNY". Yardley records 5 printings totalling 34,500 sheets. In January, 1863 it appeared on De La Rue paper watermarked single-lined 1. Sometime in the printings on this paper the electros were re-arranged into eight groups of 15 (5 x 3) without shuffling. Purves gave 20.8.63 as the earliest date for this second setting.

In December, 1863 emergency printings were made on Tasmanian paper watermarked double lined 1 (three printings totalling 9,500 sheets). In March, 1863 a new supply of single-lined numeral paper was used until 8.8.64 for ten printings of 31,000 sheets in the distinctive apple-green shades.

**First state** (Fig. 1) Wmk. 'ONE PENNY'.

Cracked top left corner — there is 0.5 mm displacement of the corner to the left above a break in the left frame 2 mm from the top.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4

**Second state** (Fig. 2) Wmk. 'ONE PENNY' and '1'.

An additional prominent, more or less horizontal, irregular crack across the whole width of the electro just below the Queen's chin. There is 1.25 mm displacement of the lower portion to the left. A number of vertical white lines cross the fracture in the solid colour of the oval before the head and also on the neck and chin level with the ear. Some increased colour is present and may represent an attempt at an "added metal" retouch, or the heads of pins driven through the broken cliché to fix it to the backing or mount to prevent further movement.

The position of the upper left corner has been improved and it no longer projects to the left, as it does in the first state.

I have this state in the "ONE PENNY" wmk. with a 10 AU 62 date and in the olive-green printing on "1" paper of Feb. '63

**Third state** (Fig. 3).

New damage to the top right corner: 5 mm of the top and right frames have broken away. I have this state dated 26 JU 63 on single-lined paper.

**Fourth state** (Fig. 4). The substitution.

The offending electro has been replaced but the new unit shows considerable weakness of the frames at the top right corner — varying somewhat with the effectiveness of the make-ready. There are three short lines of colour in the top margin.

Re-arrangement to the second setting has resulted in the substituted cliché having an inter-pane gutter on its left side. Its position is unaltered — still to the right of B 15 (see Fig. 4) and a known large block confirms that it still occupies the position below B10.



I have the substitution on double-lined numeral paper and on the later single-lined numeral printings of 1864. If the substitution took place at the time of re-arrangement to the second setting then it should be found on single-lined numeral paper from the first supply i.e., before the emergency printings of December, 1863.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S SHIP LETTER HANDSTAMP

By MOGENS JUHL, F.R.P.S.L.

It was interesting to read in the March number that the letter postmarked on 20 AP 43 with the octagonal SHIP LETTER left on the *Phantom* for Mauritius, thus proving that the marking was applied at Bunbury P.O. (Probably the same then applies to the fourth letter I mention in Vol. III, p. 26.)

At that time Fremantle was still the main port serving the Swan River Colony and its hinterland to York with a population of c. 2,500, while the Bunbury-Australind-Vasse P.O.'s represented 500. Surviving letters more than confirm this distribution.

My supposition that Fremantle was the user of the only ship marking used outside Perth is, therefore, quite reasonable and in particular confirmed by the existence of the letter of 13 MR 44 with both SHIP LETTER and PAID/FREMANTLE and several letters from the families in the Bunbury area showing the latter postmark.

It seems highly improbable that the small P.O. at Bunbury would have been the only recipient of an octagonal SHIP LETTER and, in my opinion, we now have two users of this same type, and perhaps Albany P.O. was also provided with one we have yet to see.

At present I only know of the three strikes dated 20 AP 43, 13 MR 44 and 4 MR 48, but I hope that more will turn up and enable us to detect minor differences between instruments.

I leave it to readers to judge the correctness of Pope's statement that I am "without any evidence whatsoever" about the use at Fremantle. They may also consider the reference in which he joins Duberal's review of my Vol. III in *Black Swan*, March 1984. That I "failed to appreciate" that letters were brought to Perth and Fremantle for posting is just blatant nonsense; otherwise I would have realized long ago that the existence of more than one octagonal SHIP LETTER was a strong possibility.



# QUEENSLAND CANCELLATION CODES

By H. M. CAMPBELL, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.

In my book, *Queensland Cancellations and Other Postal Markings, 1860-1913*, mention is made of the letter and numeral codes found incorporated in various date-stamps and duplexes of Brisbane from about 1864 to about the end of the century. However, no serious attempt was made to explain these, nor was any reference made to the codes used at other post offices in the larger country towns or the Brisbane suburbs. As nothing has been discovered in the archives referring to them, to a certain extent we have to rely on guesswork, but the practices in other Australian Colonies may help to some extent.

To try to find out how codes worked in other Colonies, I consulted the following: *Postmarks of New South Wales*, by R. Tobin (Richard C. Peck, 1983), pp. 22-32. *South Australia: The Squared Circle Cancellations*, by Donald G. Cox (Hawthorn Press, 1975), Introduction and main tabulation.

*Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*, Part II, by John Avery, P. B. Edwards, O. G. Ingles and J. R. W. Purves (The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1975), Chapter VI.

*The Cancellations of Melbourne, 1861-1912*, by D. G. Davies and G. R. Linfield in collaboration with J. R. W. Purves (The Royal Philatelic Society, London, 1980), Section I.

*Code Letters used by Victorian Post Offices*, by G. T. White (*Philately from Australia*, June 1981, pp. 39-41).

*Postage Stamps and Postal History of Western Australia*, by Mogens Juhl, Vol. III (Mogens Juhl, 1983), Chapters 20 and 30.

The amount of information on codes varies in these references, and in some cases, I am afraid, the information given is misleading. However, the most informative and authoritative is the Davies and Linfield work on Melbourne, as they cite archival evidence to back up their conclusions. In this work the authors deal only with the marks applied as cancellations on mail originating in Melbourne, which consisted of duplex cancellations from 1861 to 1895, and circular date-stamps from 1895 to 1912; they do not deal with the date-stamps used as back-stamps on arrival or transit mail in the first period, except a few which were later used as cancelling stamps. As a matter of fact these too were coded.

The cancelling stamps used at Melbourne (both duplex and single) incorporated both numbers and letters, the numbers being fixed, and the letters moveable (memorandum of 19/7/66). That the letters represented a time code is without any doubt, owing to the archival evidence. There had been a six-letter system in use from the beginning of 1854, but this was replaced by a twelve-letter system in July, 1861, when the duplex was introduced; three other letters were added later. No archival information has been found to explain the meaning of the numbers found in conjunction with the letters, but the authors suggest that they probably indicated the particular shift or rota to which the handstamp was assigned in the sorting office; up to 1895 25 different numbers had been used, but no more than 22 were in use at any one time.

According to Geoff White's article in *Philately from Australia*, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong, as well as some other post offices, used the same letter code as Melbourne, or one very similar, while other offices used a more simplified system. In fact, in some cases the use of the letter code, and the numbers, seems to have been very erratic and spasmodic. This article deals only with the duplex cancellers used as departure stamps.

The use of codes in New South Wales was apparently not nearly so extensive as in Victoria. Duplex cancellers were introduced at the Sydney G.P.O. as early as 1857, and these incorporated code symbols, but there is not very much archival information about them, as they were evidently ordered privately as required by the Postmaster-General. They were not subject to public tender as were the obliterated and date-stamps required for other post offices. Duplex cancellers were not introduced in other post offices until 1877 at the earliest, and they are specifically mentioned in the Tender documents when these were called for in the *Gazette* of 7 June, 1878, in which, *inter alia*, 10 Hardened Steel Date Stamps (double), with Obliterator attached, were called for. In these first country and suburban duplexes provision was made for the insertion of a code symbol, and some of the post offices to which they were allotted did make use of the facility. Both letters and numbers were used, but not together as in Victoria — a post office that used letters did not use numbers, and vice versa. In each case the codes were very simple, as only the letters A, B and C, and numbers 1 to 4 are known. Mr. Tobin says that it is fairly certain that these were used to indicate a particular mail despatch each day. Some larger offices used up to No. 8 in a letter type of duplex, but in 1884 actual time slugs began to be introduced into the duplexes. A few post offices continued to use letter or figure codes after the other duplex users were showing the time, but this was not the norm. There is no doubt, therefore, that in New South Wales both letters and figures were used in codes in some way connected with time.

In South Australia the early date-stamps used at the G.P.O. in Adelaide, as well as the few duplexes used there, contained codes, both letters and numbers, but not together. In addition, a few of the early date-stamps used at some of the busier offices used figure codes. I do not know how the codes at the G.P.O. worked, but if we can go by the figure code found in many of the "squared circle" cancellers, the figures in some of the circular date-stamps that preceded them are most likely connected with time. Donald Cox refers to the figures found in the "Squared circles" as time markings. They could well indicate, like those in New South Wales, a particular mail despatch.

In Tasmania, the first Hobart duplexes were similar to those of Melbourne, but with "TASMANIA" instead of "VICTORIA" in the obliterator portion, and undoubtedly were made by the same manufacturer; like the Melbourne ones, the Hobart duplexes incorporated a combination of figure and letter, but being a much smaller G.P.O., the figures were confined to 1, 2 and 3. The authors of *Tasmania Part II* were aware that the letters in the Melbourne duplexes represented a time code, but for reasons that they believed compelling, they concluded that the letters in the Hobart duplexes did not, but possibly individual postal clerks. At one time I was also of that opinion, but I now firmly believe that the Hobart letters, like the Melbourne ones, represented a time code. Is it a coincidence that the letters found in the Hobart duplexes, A, D, H, K, L, O, S and T are the first eight letters of the second Melbourne time code? Later duplexes and contemporary date-stamps also contained a similar letter code, but in the single date-stamps that replaced the duplexes as departure markings in the early 1900's, another two letters from the Victorian list, V and Y, were added. Is it again coincidence that the date-stamps incorporating these ten letters were replaced by date-stamps with indications of time of which ten different are known? These are not actual times, of course, but *termini ad quem*, so they are in a sense a sort of code themselves. Anyhow, I think there is enough circumstantial evidence to support the theory that the letters in the Hobart duplexes and date-stamps represent a time code. The duplexes and early date-stamps used at Launceston and Zeehan, and the early date-stamps used at Strahan, incorporated the first eight letters used at Hobart; Zeehan later added V, and

Strahan appears to have used V instead of T. The authors of Part II also report a solitary case of V (inverted) for Launceston, but this could possibly be an A where the cross-bar did not register. They still opt for the letters being allotted to individual clerks, but from what we have learned to date that possibility seems very unlikely. A further argument against it is that if a maximum of ten letters was enough for Hobart, it is extremely unlikely that there would have been eight or nine different clerks on stamping duty at the three smaller offices, even though we know that Zeehan and Strahan were then very much busier than they are today. I would say that a time code was involved in these cases also.

The first duplex used at Perth evidently came from the same stable as the Melbourne and Hobart ones, incorporating "1 A" in the date-stamp and "WEST/AUSTRALIA" in the obliterator; it was introduced in 1870, but the code system evidently did not find favour in Western Australia at that time, as no other figures or letters are known for this duplex, and it was withdrawn late in 1873. Mogens Juhl makes a mistake about the codes used in Victoria, as he says that there the figure stood for the mail and the letter for the clerk, but as Davies and Linfield have shown, this was not so. Codes were introduced in 1886 in Perth duplexes, and later in duplexes used at some other post offices. These were figure codes, but as Mogens Juhl does not consider these of any philatelic importance, he does not say what the figure code was at the various post offices concerned. They probably represent mail despatches, and certainly would have something to do with time, as they were replaced by others showing explicit expressions of time. If Juhl had realised this, I wonder if he would have placed more importance on the codes. I suppose it depends on what one finds interesting, as Mogens goes into rather minute detail in distinguishing between different implements of the same type used at the same office.

Having picked other people's brains in relation to codes used in the other Australian Colonies as far as possible, I now turn what I have learned to the problem of the codes used in Queensland. It did not take me long to realise that this was a much more complicated problem, as here we have both figures and letters, not in conjunction with each other in the same implement, but separately, and evidently for the same purpose; further, the letters are found both as capitals and as lower-case italics.

Codes were not used in the first date-stamps and duplex used at Brisbane, but were evidently introduced about 1865 (my first date is MY 19, 65), and at first capital letters were used in a simple code: A, B, C, D; this seems to have been used for both departure and arrival or transit stamps. Some time in 1867 there appears to have been a radical change, as from then on a number code was used on departure mail and a lower-case italic letter code on arrival or transit mail, though occasional exceptions to this rule can be found. The numbers used in the first type in which they are found ran from 1 to 10, but it seems that when they were first introduced, they went up only to 4 or 5, later extended to 7 or 8, and finally to 10; that the figures were movable, and not fixed as in the Melbourne duplexes is shown by the fact that "10" is known both right way up and inverted. Of the lower-case italics, only four letters are known; *a*, what is evidently intended as *b*, *c* and *d*; the *b* is unlike the italic *b* used by any of the printers of *Philately from Australia*, Hawthorn Press, Advocate Press, or Brown Prior & Anderson, but is more like an italic *v*. In at least one type, the *d* can be found inverted, so appears as *p*. The use of lower-case italics appears to have ceased about 1873, after which the use of roman capitals for arrival or transit mail became the norm. A to D were used up to 1876, when E, F and H were added; after that, things begin to get a bit complicated, since from about 1884 to when time slugs began to be introduced into date-stamps, 22 letters were in use.

The date-stamps in which they are found were mostly intended for use on arrival or departure mail, but two types, the "Squared circles" (1883-1891) and the "framed, with asterisks" (1889-1896) were definitely used on departure mail. The numeral codes used particularly in the duplexes, are also hard to explain, as from about 1886 the numbers run from 1 to 36. These facts suggest that the time codes (if, as I believe, both series *were* time codes) used at Brisbane were much more extensive than those used at Melbourne, where no more than 15 letters were ever used. That there might have been a very sophisticated time-code system in operation in Brisbane is rather suggested by the fact that, although I have not collected Brisbane markings as such, I have been able to find, in my own collection and the illustrations in my book, 22 different time indications amongst the Brisbane markings that replaced those with letter or numeral codes — it will be recalled that in the corresponding markings for Hobart, which have been very much more thoroughly researched, only ten time indications have been found. I have not been able to discover, however, the inter-relationship between the letter code, with 22 symbols, and the numeral code, with 36. The problem is not made any easier by the octagonal date-stamps, in which the numbers incorporated do not seem to fit into any time scheme. Those with "H" or "T" have numerals from 1 to 9, but those with "X" run only to 7, and those with "O" to 5 only; there would seem to be some connection between the numbers and the volume of mail in each category.

The use of codes in Queensland was not confined to Brisbane, but extended to the larger country offices and some of the suburban ones. In large offices the usage could cover both duplexes and single date-stamps, and often to more than one of each. In the following list, which covers only what I have in my own collection, I merely show the various codes I have, without detailing the various types in which they are found. In some cases the use of codes is sporadic, so the same type can be found with or without them. They are, of course, all types that came into use before time indications were introduced into date-stamps.

ALBION. Codes A, C, D.

BOWEN. Code A.

BUNDABERG. Codes A, B.

(Duplex). Codes 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13.

CAIRNS. Codes B, C.

CHARTERS TOWERS. (Duplex). Codes 1, 11.

CHILDERS. Code ZA.

COOKTOWN. Code A.

Code I.

DALBY. Code C.

EMERALD. Code P.

GYMPIE. Codes C, D, E.

INGLEWOOD. Code B.

IPSWICH. Code *a*.

Codes A, B.

MACKAY. Code D.

MARYBOROUGH. Codes A, F, G.

Codes 1, 3, 9.

(Duplex). Codes E, H.

(Duplex). Codes 1, 3, 4 (inverted), 6, 9, 11.

OAKEY. Code C.

PARLIAMENT HOUSE. Code A.

PETRIE TERRACE. Code C.

REDHILL. Code A.

ROCKHAMPTON. Codes A, B, E, F.

Codes *a*, *d* (inverted), *e*, *f*.

Codes 5, 6.

(Duplex). Codes 1, 2, 4, 6, 11.

(Duplex). Code A.

ROMA. Code A.  
SANDGATE. Codes D, G.  
SOUTH BRISBANE. Code B.  
TOOWOOMBA. Codes 1, 2.  
                Codes A, B, C, D, D (inverted).  
                (Duplex). Codes 1, 6, 7.  
TOWNSVILLE. Codes A, C.  
                Codes 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.  
                (Duplex). Codes 1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 10, 11, 19, 24.  
WARWICK. Codes *a*, *e*.  
                Codes B (inverted), D.  
                Codes 6, 9.  
WOOLLOONGABBA. Codes C, D, E.

Here, I have just listed what I have, and make no attempt to elucidate the codes. That they were expressions of time, however, I consider probable. Possibly it does not matter very much, and maybe Mogens Juhl is right in considering that the matter is not of any great importance. I myself have no intention of chasing after every possible variation, but it would be rather nice to know what the various symbols stood for, in the Brisbane marks particularly, as we do for the Melbourne duplexes.

#### A FURTHER NOTE ON DUPLEXES

One of the valuable things to be found in Mr. Tobin's book is a schematic illustration of the make-up of a duplex obliterator. He was dealing, of course, with the New South Wales ones, but I should imagine that very much the same sort of assembly applied to the duplexes used in other Australian Colonies. Mr. Tobin shows that the obliterator portion was attached to the frame by a pin through the shank, and normally was not removed. The date-stamp portion, on the other hand was attached by a screw mechanism, which was undone to enable the change of date slugs (and also code slugs). If, therefore, after such a change a different thread were engaged, or on screwing up a different degree of tightness were achieved, there would be a change in the position of the date-stamp in relation to the obliterator. It shows in consequence that such changes are of no importance, as they could alter from day to day. The authors of *Tasmania Pt. II*, therefore went much further than necessary in detailing the changes to Hobart duplex, Type 2 (pp. 60-61); Their (II) and (IV) are unnecessary, as they have no philatelic significance. I too, have been guilty of making too much of these variations in some of the Brisbane duplexes, in my *Queensland book*. The listing of the Brisbane duplexes could, therefore, be very much simplified, should a new edition, or a new book, ever be written.



# THE "BRISBANE OBLITERATOR" WHICH ISN'T

By DR. A. E. ORCHARD

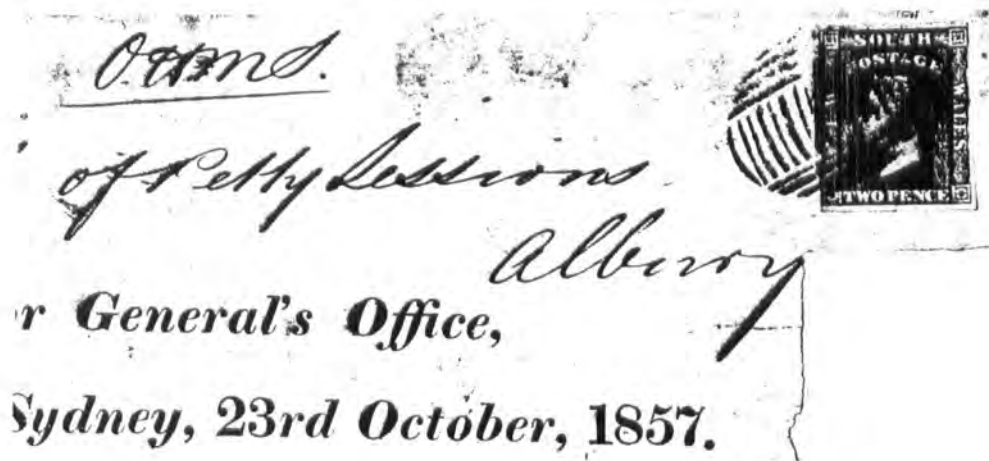
In the March 1983 issue of *Philately from Australia* I discussed a cover sent from Brisbane to Sydney in 1855, bearing a 2d laureate cancelled with an unusual type of dumb obliterator. I suggested at the time that this might possibly be an unrecorded type of Brisbane, as it differed in a number of respects to those used in Sydney. I also asked for comments from anyone having a similar marking on cover. No comments have been received, but I have now acquired another example, on a part cover, which shows that this cannot be a Queensland marking, but is most probably an emergency marking used at Sydney to cancel stamps on incoming mail that had missed cancellation at source.

The part cover has in manuscript at the top O.H.M.S. and below in the same hand "Clerk of Petty Sessions/Albury". Below this is a printed 'address' in two lines "Surveyor General's Office/Sydney, 23rd October 1857". On the right at the top corner is an imperforate 2d Diadem cancelled with the dumb obliterator. Below this is a cutout which might have contained another adhesive.

My interpretation of this piece is that it was a preprinted envelope issued by the Surveyor General's Office for some kind of return, and that it was sent from Albury to Sydney with the stamp uncanceled for some reason. In Sydney the stamp was cancelled with the obliterator used for this purpose, the same obliterator as was used on the 1855 cover that arrived from Brisbane with the stamp uncanceled.

However, as one puzzle is solved (?) another presents itself. Why the printed date in the "address"? Perhaps this isn't part of a cover but part of some notice or proclamation and that it really went the other way (i.e. from Sydney to Albury). What then is the status of the dumb obliterator? Presumably it must then be just another of the numerous different types recorded for normal postal use at Sydney. But why then is it so rare — these are the only two examples that I have seen in probably several hundred strikes on and off cover? I don't have enough information to answer these questions and would appreciate comments.

Incidentally, from this second strike which is much clearer than the first, it is obvious that there are 16, not 14, vertical bars in the obliterator.





# VICTORIA: THE DE LA RUE AND SAUNDERS SINGLE-LINE NUMERAL WATERMARKED PAPER

## THE HILL AND RUNDLE EXTRACTS

By G. N. KELLOW

This article is a compilation of all the relevant archival material extracted by D. Hill, and especially W. R. Rundell, and bequeathed to the Royal Philatelic Society by J. R. W. Purves. Both Hill and Rundell have published brief resumé's of this material (in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, and the *Australian Stamp Journal*, respectively) but both these accounts contain errors. Purves did not enter into this subject in print to any great depth, but he has left a few manuscript notes on some of the problem points, and these have been incorporated.

The usage of the single-line papers is a very complex subject, involving as it does emergency usages in the period 1863-1868, and later on mixed use of the coloured papers with the coloured V over Crown paper. In the absence of the relevant Paper Ledgers, the estimation of the size of these various printings is not possible without a parallel study of dated copies. Purves was the first student to amass the necessary material, and the figures at the end of this article are entirely his, checked against the records as far as is possible.

## THE FIRST CONSIGNMENT (FROM DE LA RUE FOR 1 AND 4 PAPER)

In the first article in this series, dealing with the Saunders words of value watermarked paper, it was seen that the demise of that paper was the result of the recommendations of Mr F. W. Robinson, the Stamp Printer. His letter of 10.6.1861 to Mr W. Turner, Secretary of the P.O., is the earliest reference found by Rundell to a change in stamp paper.

I have carefully perused the whole of the correspondence relating to the supplies of Watermarked Paper for Postage Stamps, and am glad to find that there need be no difficulty in extricating ourselves from the protracted, but probably well meant acceptance of the tender of Mr Saunders in preference to that of Messrs Thos. De La Rue & Co.

It appears that there were originally three tenders for the required supply of paper, the two lowest being Mr Saunders and Messrs De La Rue & Co.

The former supplies a hand-made paper only, at the rate of 50/- per 1000 sheets, and the latter offer to supply machine-made paper at 45/- and hand-made at 57/6. I see no reason why the machine-made paper should not answer our purpose, even if the description were not of a kind better adopted for obtaining good impressions from the dies.

Although Mr Saunders speaks so confidently of the peculiarities of his paper, I have no hesitation in saying it would be most undesirable to continue its use. It is at once tough, harsh, spongy, and elastic, all most undesirable qualities and the reverse of those required.

Referring again to the tender of Messrs De La Rue, I beg to quote the following passage from their letter to the Colonial Agent-General dated 14th Sept. 1859.

"In sending in our prices for certain quantities of paper required for Victoria, we beg to call your attention to our estimate being for that description of paper which after many trials has been adopted as the most suitable for postage and other labels supplied by us to the British Government, and not for paper similar to that used for Bank Notes, because that paper would be quite unsuitable for receiving the impression of postage labels."

Now this paper that has been tested and stood the test, can be obtained at 45/- per 1000 sheets; the kind we are now using, and which is condemned at all hands being charged 50/- per 1000.

I do not lose sight of the fact if the proper kind of paper is obtained from Messrs De La Rue the expense of two dandy rollers — penny and fourpenny — for the proper watermark would be incurred in the next

order; but this would I apprehend be partly counterbalanced by the decreased cost of these two descriptions, of which seventy thousand sheets per annum are required; but more particularly by the advantage of having "that kind of paper which after many trials, has been found most suitable for postage and other labels" — vide De La Rue's letter.

I may add that a more simple watermark might be adopted without losing any degree of security; say the simple figures 1 and 4 to express one penny and four pence; by this change the cost of the watermarking would be reduced as the present "diffuse" watermark causes a host of difficulties in the manufacture.

Rundell could find no more on this subject until 19.9.1861, when Turner received a communication from the Government Storekeeper:

Referring to your Estimate for Stores for the service of 1862 I have the honour to request that you will be good enough to furnish me with a specification of the Postage Stamp Paper (60,000 sheets) in order that steps may be taken to procure the paper through the Colonial Agent-General.

If it is desirable to charge this expenditure against the present years' vote for "Stores" I have to request that an authority may be issued for the same.

These questions were referred to Mr B. Weymouth, the P.O Accountant, and Mr F. W. Robinson, who both replied on 24.9.1861.

Mr B. Weymouth:

60,000 sheets required, 40,000 four penny, 20,000 penny. As the printer of the stamps states that De La Rue's paper should be applied for instead of Saunders, the latter being 5/-per 1000 sheets dearer than the former. The Printer complained of the hardness of the paper supplied by Saunders now being used — that it caused him (the printer) more labour than De La Rue's would.

Mr F. W. Robinson:

The 60,000 sheets of watermarked paper required for the coming year should be in the proportion of 40,000 fourpenny and 20,000 penny. I would however again urge the desirability of obtaining on the present and all future occasions the description of paper tendered for by De La Rue & Co. of London at 45/-per 1000 sheets — 5/-per 1000 less than that supplied by Mr Saunders — as being better adapted in all respects for its intended purpose; being, in fact, the kind finally adopted by the Home Government after repeated experiments. The price of the paper is a permanent matter, and the cost of the appliance for producing the watermark would be soon saved in the lesser cost of the proper article.

Robinson, however, was apparently still worried about not getting what he wanted, and launched a final thrust the following day in the form of a further memorandum:

There are so many disadvantages in connection with the use of the present watermarked paper, that I trust I shall be excused making further reference to the order about to be transmitted to England for an additional supply. The difference between the two tenders of De La Rue and Mr Saunders was this:— the latter agreed to supply a hand-made paper at 50/-per 1000, which has been fully proved to be unsuitable for our purpose, whilst the former firm offered machine-made paper at 45/- and hand-made at 55/- both being the description of paper used by the Home Government for printing stamps. Now, as the moulds used for the hand-made paper are the property of the Colonial Government (and probably in the charge of the Agent-General) if the change is made there would either be an additional charge of 5/-per 1000 or, by incurring the expence of dandy rollers, a perpetual saving of 5/-per 1000. I refer you to Mr Gibbs and the other Gentleman of the Stamp Branch in support of my statement as to the objectional nature of the paper now in use.

Robinson's recommendations were acceptable to the authorities, and on 24.10.1861, in reply to a request, he detailed the exact specifications of the paper required:

Messrs Thos. De La Rue & Co. of London should be requested to supply 60,000 sheets of the paper tendered for by their firm at 45/-per 1000 sheets, the size of those annexed "and of that description used by the Home Government for the printing of postage stamps." They will also be required to procure and supply two "dandy rollers" for producing the watermarks a figure of 4 and 1 respectively, 40,000 sheets to be marked with the 4, and 20,000 with the 1. The figures to occupy a similar position on the paper to those marked on the loose sheets. The paper to be supplied in flat bundles of 500 sheets each.

On the same day Turner sent the official requisition for the paper to the Treasurer:

I am to request that you will have the goodness to cause the necessary steps to be taken for the securing the despatch of the order by the "Northam."

Description:— Paper: 40,000 sheets of fourpenny, 20,000 sheets of one penny, in reams of 500 sheets, watermarked as described in column of remarks. The paper formerly supplied by Saunders, though of good quality, was found after being printed upon to be unsuitable, the watermark causing the stamp to appear as if partially obliterated.

Remarks:— The last supply ordered from Saunders cost 50/-per 1000 sheets. This to be ordered from De La Rue and Co. at 45/-per 1000 sheets (vide their tender dated 14th September 1859, addressed to P. G. Julyan, Esq.).

The sheets to be of the size of those annexed, and the figures to occupy a similar position to those marked thereon. The paper to be of that description used by the Home Government for the printing of postage stamps, and to be supplied in flat bundles of 500 sheets each. There will also be required two "dandy rollers" for producing the watermarks, the figures 1 and 4 respectively, 40,000 sheets to be marked with the 4 and 20,000 with the 1.

(Sgd) W. TURNER.

No further correspondence regarding this first consignment appears in Rundell's extracts. However, the invoice was reproduced in *The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps* (J. Easton, 1958) on p. 673. It is dated 10.5.1862:

2 Dandy Rolls for producing the Watermarks of one penny & fourpence @ £68.10	£137. 0. 0.
40,000 sheets of paper from above from the "Fourpence" Dandy Roll @ 38/- per 1000	£76. 0. 0.
20,000 sheets of paper from the 1d Dandy Roll	£38. 0. 0.
Shipping Charges	£1. 8. 6.
	<hr/> £252. 8. 6

The invoice shows that Victoria got the paper considerably cheaper than expected — 38/-per 1000 sheets, compared to De La Rue's quoted 1859 tender figure of 45/-per 1000 sheets.

The Postage Stamp Paper Stores Ledger records that the above quantities of 1 and 4 paper were received on 4.10.1862. The paper had, in fact, arrived just too late. The last of the Saunders FOUR PENCE paper had been used up in June 1862 (except for 500 sheets which were apparently considered sub-standard, and were not used until the major emergency of 1868), and a further supply of 4d stamps (of the "Beaded Oval" design) being required in September, recourse was necessary to the FIVE SHILLINGS paper.

#### THE SECOND CONSIGNMENT (FROM DE LA RUE FOR 2 AND 6 PAPER)

In reply to an enquiry from William Turner, Mr. F. W. Robinson supplied the following information on 29.3.1862:

I have ascertained that the quantity of watermarked paper on hand is as follows:—

One penny	15,000 sheets
Two penny	5,000 sheets
Three penny	7,000 sheets
Four penny	11,500 sheets
Six penny	11,500 sheets

At the present rate of consumption these quantities will keep up the stock of stamps for about the following periods:

Penny	7 months
Two penny	7 or 8 months
Three penny	4½ years
Four penny	4½ months

Six penny

12 months

The supply of Penny and Fourpenny paper ordered from De La Rue & Co. (i.e., the first consignment of single-line numeral paper — G.N.K.) may reasonably be expected to arrive by the time it is required, but it will be seen that it is necessary to give an early and urgent order for Two penny paper if not indeed for Six penny.

Below appear the following memoranda:

Mr Waymouth — what amount (if any) will be necessary to place on the estimates to meet the cost of the paper now ordered and to be ordered? WT 29/3/62.

The paper ordered in October (expected shortly) will cost	£175
What now required 12,000 @ 2d)	
12,000 @ 6d)	say £94
	<hr/> £269

but to cover any oversight it would be better to say £300. BW 4/4/62.

Mr Jackson — Letter to be sent to Treasury in time for next mail requesting that an urgent order may be sent home for the quantities of 6d and 2d papers required, viz., 12,000 at 2d, 12,000 at 6d. WT 14/5/62.

Done. JW 15/5/62.

The letter to the Treasurer is dated 16.5.1862:

I am directed by the P.M.G. to request that you will have the goodness to cause an urgent order for paper required in the manufacture of Postage Stamps to be sent to the Col. Agent-General in England by the next mail in order that the required supply may be obtained with the least possible delay. The following are the quantities and descriptions of the paper required, viz., 12,000 sheets for 2d stamps  
12,000 sheets for 6d stamps

D.P.M.G.

No further pertinent information appears in Rundell's extracts, but De La Rue's invoice is again available from *The De La Rue History*:

2 Dandy Rolls for producing the watermarks of twopence & sixpence respectively £68.10	£137.0.0
12,500 sheets of paper from above named Dandy Roll Duty twopence per 1000 38/-	£23.15.0
12,500 sheets do. do. Duty 6d per 1000 38/-	£23.15.0
Packing in the best manner for shipping	£1. 2.0
	<hr/> £185.12.0

The invoice is dated 6.10.1862. The Postage Stamp Paper Stores Ledger indicates this paper was received into stock on 2.3.1863. 500 sheets more of each type were received (and invoiced) than were ordered.

Once again the paper arrived too late. The Saunders TWO PENCE paper was exhausted in May 1862. Further supplies of the 2d "Emblems" were required in December 1862, and the emergency usage of the THREE PENCE paper was resorted to. 2,000 sheets of SIX PENCE paper were still in stock when the 6 paper arrived, but these were put aside and the superior De La Rue product was used preferentially. The Saunders remainder was not utilised until the emergency of 1868.

(To be continued)

## EDITORIAL NOTES

*Gift to Expert  
Committee*

The Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has received from Mr. A. Pattiz, a United States member, a set of slides illustrating the O.P.S.O. overprints used on New Zealand Stamps.

These overprints have been dangerously forged, and the gift is especially appreciated.

Thanks for it were expressed by the chairman of the Expert Committee, Mr. P. Jaffe, in his report to the annual meeting.

These overprints have been cleverly forged, and the gift is especially appreciated.

*New India 4 Annas  
Inverted Head*

*The Philatelist and PJGB* for May/June has for its front cover an enlarged colour illustration of a newly-discovered specimen of the India 4 Annas, 1854 Inverted Head.

It is a cut-to-shape copy of Frame Position 3, Head Position 10, the fourth of this combination known.

The others are Williams Brothers' I, XIV and XIX.

It is also the fourth Inverted Head with the cancellation of nine horizontal bars of Bombay.

The Inverted Head is a variety of the first printing, which is in sheets of 12.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF  
VICTORIA*Membership Surge*

"The 29 new members welcomed to the Society in the last year, represented the highest annual increase in my records," the Treasurer, Mr. J. MacDonnell, reported at the July Annual Meeting.

These had been offset by deaths and a few resignations.

"However, there has been a net gain in membership which is reflected in the total subscriptions exceeding \$7,000 for the first time."

*Philately from Australia* costs were a 9.3% increase over last year, but a 33.7% increase over two years ago, was almost entirely due to printing costs.

*Improvements to 6 Avoca Street*

The chairman of the House Committee, Mr. P. J. Barlow, reported that a new electrical supply had been given to the building, and external lighting with time switching to the front porch completed, in addition to extensive refurbishing and redecoration.

*Australian States Study Circle*

The Australian Study Circle now has a membership of 32, with Mr. Max Watson as leader and Mr. G. T. White as secretary.

A special meeting during AUSIPEX had been the highlight of the year, with many Interstate and Overseas members present.

AUSIPEX had given the Circle a number of new members.

A number of discoveries had been made. Newsletter No. 4 had been issued during the year and No. 5 was ready to print.

*More Books Coming*

Dr. G. Russell Jones, Chairman of the Publications Committee, said it hoped to release a book on The Pictorial Issues of Tasmania by Mr. K. E. Lancaster of Launceston during the year. This was a subject dear to the heart of Mr. J. R. W. Purves and the book would include research carried out with him.

It would be followed by *The Postal History of the A.I.F.* by Mr. P. Collas, in two volumes.

Dr. Russell Jones asked for more articles by members.

"The purpose of *Philately from Australia* is to offer a forum for the reporting of original philatelic study and new discoveries," he told members. "Our disappointment is the small number of members of this Society who contribute material."

"Originally, *P. from A.* was limited in content. Recently the scope has been widened to embrace the whole world, therefore no matter what a member's collecting interests may be, the pages of *P. from A.* are open to him or her for original contributions."

He said the cost of producing *Philately from Australia* was of concern to the Publication Committee. It had never been expected to show a profit but income from advertisements was unlikely to be increased.



"This Society has a proud record as a publisher of Philatelic Literature," Dr. Russell Jones continued. "It is my belief that if philatelists wish to become members of a prestigious Royal Society such as ours, they must be prepared to contribute financially through their subscription, first to the cost of *Philately from Australia*, and secondly, of the Society's books and monographs.

"If all members of this Society were prepared to buy a copy of each of our publications, our initial printing costs would easily be recouped."

Since Stanley Gibbons Australia Pty. Ltd. had been appointed as agents, the sale of our books had increased.

Mr. Peter Barker, of Brown Prior Anderson had been an unfailing source of information and assistance.

The Business Manager, Miss Joyce Buchanan, said the Society had to subsidize *P from A* first to cover the postage costs, and then to make up the balance of the printer's account. This year \$5,190 had been received from Society funds.

New members might not be aware that all back numbers, from the first issue in 1949, except two, could be bought, with indices up to Volume 30.

\$236 had been received from the sale of back numbers this year.

Publication sales through Stanley Gibbons amounted to \$1,375 and sales to Society members were \$108.

#### Library

The Librarian, Mr. R. Breckon, said there had been a noticeable increase in the number of members using the library.

Mr. John Boykett had been appointed Assistant Librarian during the year and had worked enthusiastically in the management of the library.

A major purchase of current literature had been made and a start to acquire the chief Australian stamp auction catalogues had been made. Donations of these from members would be welcomed.

A range of current magazines has been donated by Messrs. A. W. Bunn, H. L. Chisholm, and R. L. Lloyd-Smith.

A new library catalogue was a project to be considered next year. The existing catalogue, from the late 1970s, pre-dated the Purves Bequest, and obviously omitted much of the library's contents.

The new catalogue might best be published in parts (e.g. Australasia, British Commonwealth otherwise, and Foreign).

#### Expert Committee

The chairman of the Expert Committee, Mr.

P. Jaffe, said it had examined 198 items and issued 152 certificates during the year.

The number of certificates was 90 more than last year and this was directly due to material submitted by dealers for prospective sale at AUSIPEX.

#### Exchange, Deceased Estates and Sales Branches

Mr. Chapman had called the Exchange Branch the old and tried traditional method of disposing of your duplicates, and Mr. D. E. Napier, the Exchange Superintendent said six circuits were operating and 65 members participating. A request was all that was necessary to add one's name to the list.

Material offered was mostly of a very good standard. Sales had nearly doubled those of the previous period.

"On the black side was the loss of two exchange books resulting in a call of \$550.48 on the Insurance Fund," Mr. Napier reported.

The Chairman of the Estates Committee, Mr. G. T. White, said the sales of material from the Tresise and the Wellington Estates was virtually completed.

The Superintendent of the Sales Branch, Mr. A. J. White, said future sales would be conducted to dispose of two Estates. The August 1984 sale had to be cancelled when a vendor decided to withdraw his material because of AUSIPEX, and it was too late for replacement lots to be slotted in and have the catalogue printed in time.

Thanks and acknowledgements were expressed by the Chairman to the following members, Dr. G. N. Kellow, L. W. Buchanan, A. W. Bunn, H. L. Chisholm, T. C. Lester, R. L. Lloyd-Smith, A. Molanders, T. Morgan, E. D. Lyon and G. T. White.

#### The New Officers

Officers elected were: President, Mr. L. W. Buchanan; Vice-President, Mr. T. A. Carter; Immediate Past-President, Mr. R. T. P. Chapman, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.; Secretary, Miss M. Farley, F.R.P.S.L.; Treasurer, Mr. J. MacDonnell; Committee, Miss J. Buchanan, Dr. G. Russell Jones; Messrs. P. J. Barlow, T. C. Lester, D. R. Terrington, J. B. Trowbridge, M. B. Watson and G. T. White.

#### Presidential Display

Mr R.T.P. Chapman's Presidential Display was a selection of 100 sheets from his magnificent 1500 sheet Gold Medal Australian Commonwealth collection.



These were set out on the stands that had borne the John Marriott Trinidad.

They ranged from the Kangaroos to the 3d Airmail stamp.

Items that caught the eye and continued to live in the memory included the card giving Mr. J. B. Cooke the Government Stamp Printer the instructions for the basic design of the Kangaroos, preliminary designs and the miniature sheets giving the essays for the high value Kangaroos in various colours, controls of the high values on the successive watermarks and the 5/- Misplaced Kangaroo.

The King George V issues kept the specialists floating.

Among the Commemorative Issues were one of the imperforate blocks of the 3d Kookaburra, die proofs of the Canberra and the 3d airmail — especially beautiful in a finer green than the issued stamp — and a special signed Presentation Die Proof of the Canberra.

#### *Ceylon*

Mr Robin Redlich opened the Society's new year by giving his first display — Ceylon, 1872-1900, and he had good reason to be proud.

His display was rich in handpainted essays and

## PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

die proofs, several stamped "Before Hardening," and Specimens.

There were Plate Number blocks from the single sheets of the various values for the Kensington Exhibition.

Another item was an unsurcharged copy of the 24c purple-brown, sent out to Ceylon but not issued unsurcharged.

The 1885 Keyplate issue was notable for a handpainted essay, a die proof without value, colour trials, and an essay for an alternative design.

Numeral cancellations were followed by an official cover to a Boer Prisoner of War at Colombo.

#### *St. Vincent*

Mr P. Jaffe gave a slide display, "Some Aspects of St. Vincent", at the second August meeting, which, being interpreted, meant Interesting Things About St Vincent — pictures with a running commentary.

His talk ranged from the size of the island to pre-stamp covers, through the rival British and French shipping services and beautiful colours of the stamp issues, with their various printings, to the Revenue Department's stamp arrangements.

It was a novel and most enjoyable evening.

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# AUSTRALASIA

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Ellice Islands</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History <b>Nauru</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Marshall Islands used in Nauru <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History <b>New Guinea</b> <input type="checkbox"/> German New Guinea <input type="checkbox"/> "GRI" overprints <input type="checkbox"/> NW Pacific Islands <input type="checkbox"/> Specialised from 1925 <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History/Stationery <b>New Hebrides</b> <input type="checkbox"/> NSW used in New Hebrides <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History <b>New Zealand</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Chalon Head <input type="checkbox"/> Other 19th-Century Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> 20th-Century Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postage Dues <input type="checkbox"/> Official Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> Life Insurance Dept <input type="checkbox"/> Postal Fiscals <input type="checkbox"/> Postal Stationery <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History <b>Norfolk Island</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-stamp Postal History <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <b>Papua</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Queensland used in Papua <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> British New Guinea (to SG46) <input type="checkbox"/> Specialised later Stamps	<input type="checkbox"/> Postal History/Stationery <b>Papua New Guinea</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Australia used in Territory <input type="checkbox"/> Proofs <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <b>Pitcairn Island</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History <b>Samoa</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs <input type="checkbox"/> 19th-Century Stamps <input type="checkbox"/> German Samoa <input type="checkbox"/> "GRI" overprints <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History/Stationery <b>Solomon Islands</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History <b>Tokelau</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-stamp Postal History <b>Tonga</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Essays/Proofs/Specimens <input type="checkbox"/> Errors/Major varieties <input type="checkbox"/> Postal History/Stationery
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The Philatelic Society of Victoria which was founded in 1892, and which in 1946 had the privilege conferred upon it of the use of the prefix "ROYAL", is a Society to which you, as a collector, should belong. Among its many advantages are:

★ **SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is posted free to all members.

★ **MEETINGS** held on the third and fifth Thursday of the month at 7.45 pm in its own premises, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, Melbourne 3141.

★ **EXCHANGE BOOKS** circulate regularly within Australia to interested members.

★ **THE SALES BRANCH** enables members to buy and sell stamps not considered suitable by the vendor for exchange sheets. Postal bids accepted from members for any item.

★ **COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY** is open to members on Meeting Nights and one other night monthly or by arrangement with the Librarian. Also 12.30 on first Wednesdays.

★ **CURRENT FILES** of the leading overseas philatelic journals printed in English are available on the tables at the Society's rooms.



★ **QUARTZ LAMP & MICROSCOPE** and a Reference Forgery Collection are available.

★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** It has always been Society policy to obtain the best available collections for display at Society monthly meetings. Lectures and discussions by leading philatelists enable members to improve their philatelic knowledge.

★ **PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE:** This Society includes experts on almost all branches of Philately, whose advice is always available.

★ **THE SOCIETY'S FEES** are: Entrance Fee: \$25.00; Annual Subscription: City and Metropolitan Members, \$30.00; Country, Interstate and Overseas, \$25.00.

★ **ALL COMMUNICATIONS** should be directed to Miss MYRA FARLEY (Secretary), Box 2071, GPO, Melbourne 3001.

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