

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA



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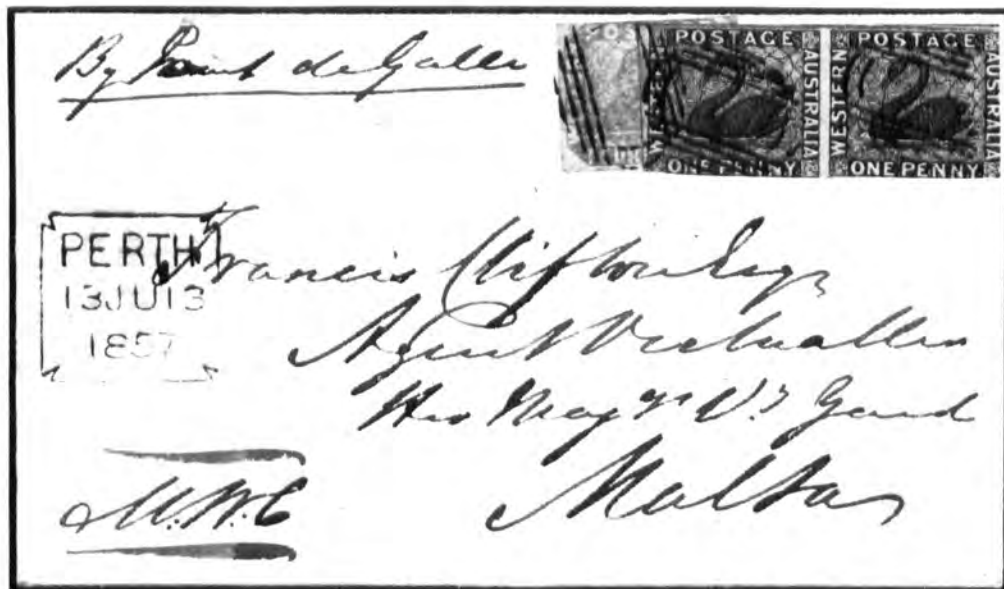
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FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will be publishing three new books this year.

The first is *The Pictorial Stamps of Tasmania 1899-1912* by Keith E. Lancaster. This work is the product of both Mr Lancaster's and the late J. R. W. Purves' research over many years. There is an exhaustive treatment of the method of production of the De La Rue engraved plates, and of the various techniques used in Melbourne for the lithographic and typographic printings. Full plating guides are presented for every Melbourne printing stone and plate. Although intended primarily as a monograph on the technical aspects of the production of the Pictorial stamps, other aspects, such as perforations and watermarks, are also covered. J. R. W. Purves described the Tasmanian Pictorials as the most interesting Australian stamps of the Commonwealth period.

The second book will be *The Postal History of the Australian Army During World War II*, by Phil Collas, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L. Mr Collas is the acknowledged authority on this subject, and this work, of more than 250 pages, will certainly become a standard text, filling a gap in this now very popular field. All theatres of war are covered, along with the internal Australian arrangements. The organisation and functioning of the Army Postal Service are explained fully, and there is an exhaustive treatment of datestamp allocations, and of the use of both stamped and unstamped stationery. There will be more than 50 pages of illustrations.

The third publication will be a *A Subject Index to Victorian Philately* by Geoff Kellow, a bibliography of the postage stamps, postal markings and postal history of Victoria. This listing runs to over 450 pages, comprising more than 25,000 separate entries. The coverage includes 28 journals, 45 books and monographs, and every major auction catalogue. It is probably as exhaustive an index as has been published on any philatelic subject, and will be essential to collectors of any aspect of Victorian stamps and postal history.

An innovation will be the provision of dust jackets for all three books. The first two will also include full-colour frontispieces.

These publications, and all others still in print, are available from Stanley Gibbons Australia Pty. Ltd. Readers are referred to the advertisement on the back cover of this issue.

R.P.S.V. HONOURS — MR ALAN BUNN

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria began 1986 by making Mr A. W. Bunn, F.R.P.S.L., an Honorary Life Member.

This honour may not be held by more than 10 members at any one time.

Mr Bunn's election has been a highly deserved one.

He has been President (1960), Vice-President, Secretary, Auditor, and also a member of the Council for a long period.

He was made secretary in 1948 and became secretary of ANPEX 1950, secretary of the Display Committee of MIPEX 1963, and inaugural treasurer of AUSIPEX 84.

The honour was announced at the January meeting, the first meeting he had attended after being knocked down by a taxi opposite Flinders Street Station, an accident which put him in hospital for more than a month, and rendered him unconscious for a week.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Early Victorian Post Office

One of the Victorian Sesquicentenary projects has been the publication of *The Historical Records of Victoria* (Editor-in-Chief Michael Cannon) by the Victorian Government. The recently-published Volume 4 — *Communications, Trade and Transport, 1836-1839* is of particular interest to philatelists. Part V of this volume, pages 529-592, covers "Postal Services", and comprises four chapters headed "Early Post Offices and Postmasters", "Mail Service between Melbourne and Sydney", "Mail Service between Melbourne and Geelong" and "Settlement of Postal Accounts". The book can be obtained from the Government Bookshop, 41 St. Andrew's Place, East Melbourne, price \$28.50 (hard-bound).

New F.R.P.S.L.

Another member, Mr B. Assheton of Adelaide, has recently been elected a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London.

*Miss Myra Farley becomes**A.P.S. Life Member*

Miss Myra Farley, present Secretary of the R.P.S.V., and President in 1974-1975, is to be congratulated on being elected a Life Member of the American Philatelic Society.

The 1d Stamp Duty of Victoria 1890-1901

Attention is drawn to an article in recent issues of *The Philatelist and PJGB* entitled "Victoria: 1d Stamp Duty Issue: 1890-1901" by Don Davies, F.R.P.S.L. The first two articles, based on the Purves collection, have appeared in the Nov.-Dec. 1985 and Jan.-Feb. 1986 issues. They treat in considerable depth the printings (shades, perf. and watermark varieties) and the plates (methods of production, sub-type varieties and retouches), and demonstrate the undoubted philatelic interest of what is probably Victoria's commonest stamp.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by R. P. T. CHAPMAN, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

THE HARRISON PROOFS

Robson Lowe, now in his eighties, and still as good a raconteur of postal history as anyone I know.

During a visit to Melbourne in the early 1970's he met Mrs Ronald Harrison of Mt. Eliza, widow of the famous designer of many of our Australian Commonwealth stamps, Ronald A. Harrison.

Mr Harrison died at Sorrento, Victoria, on the 21st November, 1968 at the age of 77 years. He was the son of Thomas S. Harrison, who came to Australia from England in 1912 to organise the Note Printing Branch, then being established by the Commonwealth Government.

Ronald Harrison was employed from about 1912 and was the only designer on the staff for many years. Later, until his retirement in 1951, he was the Technical Adviser at the Branch. He won the Canberra Stamp Design Competition in 1926 and the 1928 Exhibition Competition.

Although the 1928 design was not used, his first design for Australia, the 6d Kookaburra (1914) was used for the Exhibition issue with the denomination changed to 3d. Both these were engraved by his father, as was the unissued 2d and 1/- of the 1914 period.

Imperf. plate proofs exist in green of the George V 2d engraved, one showing part of imprint. This pair, originally from the T. E. Field Collection, has now been separated. Three die proofs exist of the 1/- engraved Swan in Olive, Black and Indigo.

Other well known issues on which father and son combined were the Nauru Ship series (1924) and the New Guinea Native Village series of 1925.

In 1929 R. A. Harrison designed the 3d airmail stamp with Harold Herbert. In 1930 the Sturt Centenary 1½d and 3d, 1932 the 2d, 3d and 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge, 1937-38 the 1d, 1½d and 2d definitives and in 1947 the 1d Princess Elizabeth.

During a visit to Robson Lowe's Melbourne office, Mrs Harrison brought some very interesting essays and proofs to show "Robbie". These eventually came on the market in 1974 and are listed as follows—

1. 1912 Kangaroo Essay 4d orange by Blamire Young, with double values at the top and Tasmania missing.
2. 1912 Kangaroo imperf. proof 2d violet on unwatermarked paper depicting value at top left and Tasmania added. Both these items are very rare.

3. 1912 Kangaroo perforated plate proof. 1d light brown showing value at top left. Tasmania added, unwatermarked paper.

4. 1912 Plate proof 2½d indigo imperf., unwatermarked paper, accepted colour and design.

5. 1912 Kangaroo 1/- map of Australia with Kangaroo draped by flags. Monocoloured in brown. Very rough perfs. Attributed to Blamire Young. First Commonwealth essay.

6. 1912 1/- imperf. litho map of Australia between draped flags and framework in turquoise shade, the Kangaroo superimposed in chestnut.

Also some 2nd and 3rd watermarked paper signed by T. S. Harrison.

PROOFS OF SIR HARRY BROWN

The most important group of essays and proofs came from the estate of Mr H. P. Brown, originally Secretary to the Postmaster General's Department. The complete list has not been recorded before.

1. Two die proofs in blue of the King George V sideface engraved by Samuel Reading for £25 for the 1911 Commonwealth Postcards. This was the first Commonwealth postage stamp with the head of George V.

2. Die Proof in indigo of 1913 One Penny engraved. Until the discovery of this copy only one other had been recorded.

3-5 There were three wonderful new proofs of the Canberra stamp in this collection. J. A. C. Harrison's original die proof and two strikings from the original dies A. & B. and the approved shade. (I intend to cover this more fully with the other Canberra proofs including the progressive die proofs in our next issue of the Trail).

6. 1931 Kingsford Smith essay with Note Printing Branch Cachet.

7. 1932 1/- Lyrebird engraved by F. D. Manley. Initialled die proof, unique.

8. 1932 Sydney Bridge photographic essay with Note Printing Branch cachet.

9. 1934 Centenary of Victoria 2d vermilion with F. D. Manley initials.

10. 1928 3d green air proof on hand made paper.

11. 1934 1/6 Hermes die proof initialled by F. D. Manley.

12. 1934 Plate proof 1/6 Hermes.

13. 1935 Anzac two watercolour essays by B. Cottier, whose winning design was modified and engraved by F. D. Manley.

14. 1935 Anzac 2d orange scarlet die proof in issued colours initialled by F. D. Manley.

15. 1935 King George V Silver Jubilee. Photographic proof with Note Printing Branch cachet.

16. 1936 2d original wash drawing of King Edward VIII essay.

17. 1937 3d blue King George V die proof, believed unique.

18. 1937 2d red King George VI die proof.

19. 1937 Photographic essay of 5/- and £1 Robes with Commonwealth Note Printing Branch cachets.

Die proofs of the 5/-, 10/- and £1 Robes and the 2d King George VI were presented to King George VI. In fact, King George VI and later Queen Elizabeth were presented with die proofs of all Australian issues.

Mr H. P. Brown, M.B.E., was appointed Secretary to the Department by the PMG in December, 1923. Originally Mr Brown was lent by the British Post Office to act in an advisory capacity, particularly in regard to the telephone service. He liked Australia and decided to stay here.

He became Director-General of Postal Services in the early thirties and retired in 1940. During his period of office, many advances were made in our postal services. He was knighted for the part he played in improving these services.

MORE ON THE PHILATELIC LITERATURE OF AUSTRALIA

By R. H. TAYLOR, F.R.P.S.L.

The Editorial in the June 1985 issue raises a matter which I find perplexing and which I have never been able to understand. This is the attitude of philatelists towards philatelic literature. I assume that by 'philatelist' we mean a student, as opposed to one who is merely acquisitive. Surely to the student in the field of Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports F. W. Webb's book is indispensable, and the prices now being realised for copies underline the fact that this necessity is being recognised. However, Colonel Webb, whose book was limited to 500 copies, had two very worthy predecessors in the form of *Hong Kong, the Treaty Port and other Postmarks* by G. T. Bishop, C. S. Morton and W. Sayers published in 1934 and *Hong Kong and the Treaty Ports Postal History and Postal Markings*, described as a second edition and edited by H. E. Lobdell and Adrian E. Hopkins in 1949. My own copy is autographed by Adrian Hopkins, but I have no information as to the number of books published in either case.

The second Edition was priced at £4.4.0 or U.S. \$12.00 and in its preface Adrian Hopkins says, "I make no apology, however, for the price of this book. Philatelic Publishers know only too well that stamp collectors seldom read, and never buy books about their hobby."

If anyone aspires to being a philatelist, he needs his tools of trade and surely these tools include the literature relating to the sphere to which he devotes his interest. Obviously, the tools will be, or should be, updated. The Late J. R. W. Purves' work *The Half Lengths of Victoria*, does not diminish the pioneering enterprise of Charles L. Pack in his *Victoria the Half Length Portraits and the Twopence Queen Enthroned*, although many of his conclusions were shown to be wrong. I value both for the research and study that has gone into their publication, although they are a field in which I do not collect.

Why, then, are we prepared to pay hundreds of dollars for a stamp or cover which is within one's field and, at the same time, ignore a work currently available for a few dollars, which could probably tell us more about the item in question than we already know. It is a curious anomaly that we pass the work by at the time of its publication, presumably because we think we are infallible, and yet, many years later are prepared to pay some quite incredible figure for a copy.

Of Basset Hull's three works on the Australian States, I have always regarded Tasmania as being the least important and have certainly seldom had recourse to it, compared with his New South Wales and Queensland. Nevertheless, I would not be without it and the same applies to any volume in my Library.

The philatelic editor is seldom overwhelmed by praise and one can only concur in just how accurate was Stephen G. Rich, the pioneer of philately of the Anglo-Boer War 1899-1902 when, in his dedication of his work by that name, he says that it is — ". . . to the critics and reviewers who will comment on it and who may be expected to find fault with the omission of material which they have carefully hidden and have never put on record or who may be expected to find supposed errors which are

actually corrections of misinformation handed down from first erroneous scribe to other scribes . . . ”

I have heard the same carping criticism of many latter day books, and one that comes to mind is Gisburn's work on the British Solomon Island Protectorate, which deals with both its postage stamps and its postal history. Is it because the "experts" find and highlight these flaws that literature is so neglected. If so, why is the literature flaw to be despised and the flawed stamp to be prized? Surely there must be satisfaction in detecting the literary flaw and correcting it for the benefit of future students.

It is true that Australian literature, and I am using the term in, perhaps, a wider sense than did the Editor, was generally a neglected field in the past from a bibliographic point of view. However, I would deferentially join issue on the apparent void between 1884 and 1911. Dealing with specific items that support publications of Australian stamps, I do not have a copy of T. Martin Wear's *The Sydney Views*, whilst Courtenay Smith's *The Future of Australian Philately* is a comparatively modest book, but none the less very desirable. Surely, however, pride of place must be given to Andrew Houison's *History of the Post Office, together with an Historical account of the issue of the Postage Stamps of New South Wales*, as not only did it deal exclusively with the stamps of New South Wales, but it was printed locally in New South Wales in 1890. Alas, I do not own a first edition but a facsimile production by View Productions Pty. Limited in 1983 is worthy of a place on any philatelic bibliographical shelf.

Although I appreciate that it might be regarded as a price list, I do not know that this necessarily excludes *South Australia* by Francis H. Napier and Gordon Smith, which was published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd. in 1894. The catalogue occupies some 75 pages but it is followed by detailed notes on the various issues covering no less than 59 pages.

On the wider field of Australasia, must we not include *The Postage Stamps, Envelopes and Postcards of Australia and the British Colonies of Oceania* published by the Philatelic Society of London in 1887. Again in 1908, we have *The Postage Stamps of Fiji Islands* by Charles J. Phillips, published by Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Mention is made in the Editorial of the publications by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. When one thinks of New Zealand one almost instinctively recalls the research by the late R. J. G. (Ray) Collins. However, his *Stamps of the Pacific Islands* was not published until 1924 which is, of course, well after Courtenay Smith's publication. Nevertheless, it was preceded by *The History of New Zealand Postage Stamps* by William Jolliffe which was published in 1913. Admittedly, once again, later than Courtenay Smith's book, as is R. B. Yardley's *Samoa Express Postage Stamps*, published by the Royal in 1916.

Even earlier than this were some of Fred J. Melville's publications. That on Tonga is shown as having been published in 1909, and is number seven of his series. Number 8 is British New Guinea. Unfortunately, it bears no date of publication but the last stamps described in it are the issue of 1907/1908.

The article in question would appear to dismiss dealers' price lists and catalogues and I would be the first to acknowledge that, for the most part, they were promoted for the sale of stamps available from the publisher. However, James H. Smyth's *The Australian Journal of Philately* which was first issued in 1900 and which ran until 1905, contains many articles of philatelic worth. So too, but to a lesser degree, did *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, which first saw the light of day in 1887 and the *Australian Philatelist* which superseded it, and in which the *Australian Journal of Philately* was absorbed. It continued in publication until 1924 and there was much of philatelic value to be found on the Australian scene in many of its issues.

In the meantime the *Australian Stamp Journal* was first published in 1910 and continued until 1951. Its expressed object, as declared in the opening Editorial, was to cater for those who were "not sufficiently far advanced to appreciate fully long articles on abstruse problems . . .". Accordingly there is not to be found the meat in this publication that there is in some of the earlier ones. Nevertheless, it was always highly regarded by those whose interests lay in the Pacific Islands.

I appreciate that the discussion was directed towards specific publications. However, having regard to the acknowledged lack of interest in philatelic works until, at least, recently, was there really a market for any long work of a serious nature and did not the publications, to which I have referred, prove an adequate vehicle for the dissemination of serious philatelic information?

"TOO LATE" IN QUEENSLAND

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

I was extremely interested in George Molnar's article "Too Late" Handstamps of New South Wales, in the September 1985 issue of *Philately from Australia*, as I had been contemplating writing up the 'TOO LATE' handstamps of Queensland in my possession (all three of them!)

Mr. Molnar proves conclusively that in New South Wales and Victoria, 'TOO LATE' was the equivalent of Late Fee. A further proof that he did not mention is that the special stamp issued by Victoria at the beginning of 1855 to cover Late Fee was actually inscribed 'TOO LATE'. I am not sure, however, that George is right when he says, after quoting from the Tasmanian Post Office Regulations of 1853, "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". I think he may have misread the last sentence of the quotation, which read: "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' " (my italics).

My reading of this sentence is that it applied, not to letters on which Late Fee had been paid, but to letters which missed the mail altogether. If it had applied to Late Letters, which actually caught the mail, there would be no point in putting on the date of the mail for which the letters were "too late". As the Late Fee was a perquisite of the postmaster in Tasmania, stamps to its value may not have been affixed, in which case the franking on the letter would be the same, whether it were an ordinary letter, a Late Letter, or missed the mail altogether. However, it would seem that 'TOO LATE' did not equal Late Fee in Tasmania, since there were several 'TOO LATE' handstamps in use, and contemporaneously, several with 'LATE FEE' or 'LATE LETTER', as well as various manuscript versions of both.

All this leads up to the position in Queensland, where, although in most cases it adopted the rates and practices of New South Wales when it became a separate Colony in December 1859, it would appear that 'TOO LATE' and 'LATE FEE' meant two different things. They certainly did in the Commonwealth period, as Joan Frew illustrates in her book, *Queensland Post offices 1842-1980 and Receiving Offices 1869-1927*, strikes from handstamps held at three different offices, including both 'TOO LATE' and 'LATE FEE' stamps from all three. The meagre evidence available seems to show that they meant different things from the start.



Fig. 1 Rainworth to Rockhampton, 1865

The earliest relevant cover I have was posted in January 1865 from Rainworth to Rockhampton. It has no adhesive stamp, but was paid in coin, as a manuscript '2d' in the top right corner indicates; there is an unframed single-line 'TOO LATE' handstamp, measuring about 32×5 mm. '2d' obviously does not include Late Fee, and the letter, posted at Rainworth on the 24th, did not reach Rockhampton until the 29th, which seems a long time even for those days, so it probably missed a mail. (Fig. 1).

The next item in date order to consider is a cover sent in 1867 from Brisbane to Helensburgh, Scotland, via Marseilles. It is franked 10d, which was the correct rate for that route, but there is an additional 6d. stamp, around which is written 'Late Fee' in manuscript; there is no handstamp.

Next I have a cover sent in 1869 from Toowoomba to Dublin, which has a 'TOO LATE.' handstamp very similar to the one on the Rainworth cover; if anything, the letters are not quite so tall, the central bar of 'E' is the same length as the other two, and there is a stop after 'LATE'; over-inking makes it impossible to tell whether there is a stop after the Rainworth one. The cover is franked 6d., the correct rate via Southampton, and it took from 17 May to 13 August to get from Brisbane to the Holyhead & Kingstown Packet (about three months), which is about a month longer than taken by other covers from the same correspondence. The letter obviously missed the mail steamer at Brisbane, and the 'TOO LATE.' marking must have been applied there. (Fig. 2).

My other 'TOO LATE' item comes much later, so I shall mention next a Late Fee cover referred to by Lester Shepard in his article on the Late Fee Markings of Queensland in the September 1976 issue of *Philately from Australia*. This is franked by two 3d. Chalon Heads and is addressed to Sydney, to which it came as a Loose Ship Letter, and the stamps are cancelled there, either in 1878 or 1876 according to Lester. The cover is endorsed "Late Fee" in manuscript. The Late Fee on inter-Colonial letters at the time was 3d., but from the beginning of 1874 the postage rate was 2d., so if either of the above dates is right, the letter was 1d. over-paid.



Fig. 2 Toowoomba to Dublin, 1869



Fig. 3 Maryborough to Gympie, 1892

I have two inter-Colonial letters of 1873, when the rate by sea was 3d., one from Gainsford to Sydney, the other from Pimpama to Melbourne, both with 6d. stamps. As the contents are not still in them, it is impossible to tell whether they are double-weight letters, or whether one or other bore 3d. Late Fee.

I have neither Too Late nor Late Fee items from the 1880s, or at least items so marked, and Lester Shepard mentions no Late Fee items from this period either.

My last 'TOO LATE' item is an 1892 1d. postcard from Maryborough to Gympie. This may be the first 'TOO LATE' item I acquired, but as the handstamp is struck over the top inscription and the right end is faintly struck, it is only recently that I recognised it for what it was. Only the letters 'TOO L' (8½ mm high), and a straight line about 34 mm long beneath, can be clearly made out. The short rail journey between Maryborough and Gympie should have been accomplished in the one day, but the Gympie backstamp is dated the day after the Maryborough duplex, and there is no additional stamp to pay Late Fee, so it is fairly certain that 'TOO LATE' meant exactly as it says in this case also. (Fig. 3).

It was about this time also that 'LATE FEE' handstamps began to appear. They are not as common as they might be, however, as it seems to have been the general practice to apply the handstamp only when the Late Fee had to be recovered from the recipient, though there are exceptions. Both Lester Shepard and I have quite a few covers, particularly ones posted on T.P.O.'s, with an additional 1d. stamp obviously for Late Fee, but with no handstamp. It would seem from all this that in Queensland at any rate 'TOO LATE' and 'LATE FEE' meant different things.

QUEENSLAND: THE PATRIOTIC FUND STAMPS 1900

By C. DE GOEDE

At what price were the Queensland Patriotic Fund stamps sold to the public? When I first started collecting Queensland many years ago, I studied the writings of the two early specialists in the field, Bassett Hull and Samuel Dalby. To my surprise I found in Dalby's series of 'Fragments' published in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* an article on the Patriotic Stamps which quoted an official notice from the Queensland Post and Telegraph Department indicating they were sold at 6 pence and 1 shilling respectively. Yet, all the catalogues and handbooks state they were sold at 1 shilling and 2 shillings. At the time I checked the contemporary newspapers, and found indeed that this official notice had been published. As far as I was concerned this settled the matter, and I always accepted that Dalby was correct.

Prompted by a request for information on the subject from a fellow Queensland specialist in England, I decided recently to investigate the circumstances a little more fully and make a search of archival material available. Not only did this search confirm Dalby's statement, but it also permitted me to flush out the story a little better. Earlier researchers have been hampered by the paucity of archival records relating to the Queensland Post and Telegraph Department. This is still the case, but some details were found in other series held by the Queensland State Archives, particularly those relating to the Queensland Patriotic Fund. These, together with items culled from the contemporary press, revealed the following sequence of events.

The Queensland Patriotic Fund was established in October 1899 by a group of interested and prominent citizens to assist the wives and families of volunteers in the several contingents recruited for the Boer War, and was financed from donations raised by committees in all major towns and cities. The Fund was administered by an Executive Committee which met on the first Monday of each month in the A.M.P. Board Room in Brisbane, while overall policy was laid down by a General

Committee and including three Trustees. One of the General Committee members was the Hon. J. G. Drake, Member of the Legislative Assembly for Enoggera from May 12, 1888 to December 7, 1899, and who became a Member of the Legislative Council from that date until February 1, 1901. He then became a Federal Senator in the new Federal Parliament. In the Queensland Parliament the Hon. J. G. Drake was a Cabinet Member, Postmaster-General, and Secretary of Public Instruction. In the Legislative Council he was also the Government Leader.

Although it could be said that Sir John Forrest was the first Federal Postmaster-General, he only held the post on a caretaker basis for seventeen days, from January 1, 1901 to January 17, 1901. The Hon. J. G. Drake took office as Federal Postmaster-General effective February 5, 1901, and remained in that position until August 10, 1903, when he took over the Defence portfolio. Consequently, it is clear that during the entire Patriotic Fund period the Hon. James George Drake was involved with the postal administration and also with the Fund itself. It therefore came as no surprise to see he strongly supported the suggestion made in early 1900 that a special stamp issue be made by Queensland to raise additional funds.

The Government Printing Office was instructed to prepare appropriate designs for a 1d and a 2d stamp, and this job was given to Mr. Fred J. Elliott, the lithographic artist at the Printing Office. Mr. Elliott prepared six designs, three for the 1d and three for the 2d. The choice for the 1d design, similar to the issued stamp, was fairly unanimous, but for the Two Pence there was considerable preference for the design showing soldiers on a ridge with rifles aimed, representing "The Engagement at Sunnyside", an action in which Queensland volunteers figured prominently. However, it was found when this design was reduced to stamp size the image of the soldiers became so small as to be virtually mere dots. Consequently, another design was chosen with the Queen's portrait in a central oval, flanked by on the right side a troop ship leaving Pinkenba Wharf and on the left by a mounted infantryman of the Queensland Light Horse.

The Postmaster-General submitted his formal proposal and the designs to the Government, and the weekly *Queenslander* reported in its issue of April 28, 1900 that during the preceding week: "Cabinet had approved of the issue by the Post Office Department of special stamps in aid of the Queensland Patriotic Fund". In common with the special issues of New South Wales and Victoria, the "twelve times" principle had been adopted, and the stamps were to be sold at 1 shilling and 2 shillings respectively, with 11 pence and 1/10 respectively for the benefit of the Fund. In a letter to the Secretary of the Queensland Patriotic Fund, Mr R. T. Scott, Under Secretary Post and Telegraph Department, indicated that the issue would be limited to 40,000 of the 1d and 20,000 of the 2d.

The Government Printing Office was given the go-ahead, and Mr Elliott refined his designs ready for the photographer and the zinc plates. When the first proofs were printed someone remarked in respect of the 2d that it was not very elegant for the Queen to be looking at the backside of the mounted infantryman's horse! The original artwork of this stamp with the mounted infantryman on the left and the troopship on the right, together with a fine proof in black of the same is in the L'Estrange collection held by the Oxley Library. Obviously, the remark caused some consternation and production of the stamp was immediately halted. The matter was referred to higher echelons, as the design had already been approved, and this led to further delay in its production.

In the meantime, production of the 1d value had proceeded and reached the colour trial stage. There is a presentation sheet to the Hon. J. G. Drake in the L'Estrange collection, showing eleven colour trials of the 1d with a separate section showing the 1d in "Approved Colour", the 1d in "Approved Colour for the Two

Pence", and a proof of the 2d as issued annotated "Design Not Yet Approved". Unfortunately, the sheet is not dated. There is a second Presentation Sheet in the collection, obviously prepared subsequently, with a proof of the 2d in the issued design and colour annotated "Design and Colour Approved for 2d". The "horse's backside problem" had been solved by transposing the mounted horseman to the right of the Queen and the troopship leaving Pinkenba Wharf to the left.

The announcement of the special stamp issue in late April was received with mixed feelings by the public in general, and by the philatelic community in particular. Probably as a result of the activities of the Society for the Suppression of Speculative Stamps and its strong campaign against special and charity issues in the 1890's and early 1900's, the Patriotic Fund issue was condemned by the stamp trade and philatelists alike. Such special stamps were not recognised by the UPU as valid postage, and consequently the stamps could not be used on overseas mail. This further strengthened the view by collectors that they were "being ripped off", and the adverse publicity made it clear that sales were unlikely to reach the target of 40,000 1d and 20,000 2d stamps. Although I have not been able to find any official documentation on the matter, it is clear that the selling price was again discussed in this light, and a decision made in early June 1900 to reduce the proposed premium and sell the stamps at 6 pence and 1 shilling respectively. This re-consideration of the selling price plus the need to re-design the 2d value led to significant delays in the issue of the stamps.

Initially, it was intended to issue the Patriotic Fund stamps on Friday, June 1, 1900, and on May 31 the *Brisbane Courier* made enquiries from the Post Office regarding the issue. On June 1 it published the following report on what it had been told, and which is more significant in what it does not say rather than what it said.

The special stamps to be issued by the Postmaster General in aid of the Patriotic Fund are now almost ready for issue, and in a few days the public will be able to buy them at all the post offices. The design is very handsome, and will make a worthy memento of an historical time. A finely artistic portrait of Her Majesty makes the centre of the design, and at the base the figures of Tommy Atkins and a Queensland mounted infantryman stand in bold relief, whilst between them, sitting down, is represented by a typical bluejacket. The words "Queensland" and "Patriotic Fund" are at the top and bottom of the stamp. The stamps will be issued at 1d and 2d, the penny ones in magenta and the twopenny in violet-lake.

This is a description of the 1d stamp only, and consequently it may be assumed that the new design of the Two Pence stamp had not yet been approved on that date. Pointedly, the article then mentions only the franking value of the stamps, i.e. 1d and 2d, but fails to indicate the actual selling price to the public. Accordingly, it may also be assumed that the matter of the premium had not yet been settled. Both these problems appear to have been settled during the following week.

The official notice quoted by Dalby regarding the stamps being available at post offices was dated June 9, 1900. However, due to the design problems with the 2d and other printing difficulties this deadline could not be met. It is for this reason most researchers did not accept his statement, as the announcement could not be found in the Government Gazette or any newspapers around that date. In actual fact, it had to be held back for nearly two weeks, and was not published in the press until June 22, 1900.

In the meantime, the printing problems were overcome, and by June 13 the Post Office started making preparations for distribution of the stamps. A manuscript memorandum to the Officers in Charge of principal post offices was prepared on that date, probably for distribution with the parcel of stamps. It reads as follows:

JUNE 1986

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

Registered Number
C... 880/00

Post and Telegraph Department
Brisbane, 13th June 1900

CIRCULAR

MEMO. for the Officer in Charge

Referring to the special postage stamps, which have been issued for the benefit of the Queensland Patriotic Fund, I have to instruct you that while the nominal values thereof are one-penny and two-pence, they are to be sold at 6d and 1/- respectively, and you will be debited at the latter rates.

A separate account must be kept in connection with these stamps, and the proceeds of their sale are to be remitted to the Accountant accompanied by a Remittance Letter with "Patriotic Stamp Account" distinctly entered thereon.

No discounts will be allowed in any case; and if any stamps remain unsold at the end of September next a statement must be forwarded to the Accountant showing the number of each denomination on hand.

This formal instruction together with the text of the notice drafted on June 9 and published June 22, proves beyond all doubt that the actual selling price of the Patriotic Fund stamps to the public was 6 pence for the 1d and 1 shilling for the 2d.

The first supplies of the stamps reached the Brisbane General Post Office shortly after June 13, but as far as I have been able to determine they were not officially placed on sale until June 19. Other principal post offices which were supplied with the stamps received them over the next few days. It was at that stage that the June 9 notice was inserted in the newspapers, and it appeared in the *Brisbane Courier* on Friday, June 22. The Under Secretary of the Post and Telegraph Department wrote a letter to the Secretary of the Queensland Patriotic Fund on June 21, 1900 (the day the official notice was released) as reproduced.

POST & TELEGRAPH DEPARTMENT
BRISBANE

21st June 1900

Sir,

Referring to previous correspondence relative to the issue of special stamps for the benefit of the Queensland Patriotic Fund, I have the honor to inform you that the stamps in question are now on sale at this Office and have also been issued to all the principal Post Offices in the Colony for sale.

The stamps are nominally of the values "one-penny" and "two-pence", but are being disposed of to the public at the rate of six-pence and one-shilling respectively — see notice herewith.

Perhaps you will be good enough to assist in giving the matter publicity, and generally with the view of ensuring success of the scheme. The issue has been limited to 40,000 at one penny and 20,000 at two-pence.

I have the honor to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

signed: R. T. Scott
Under Secretary, &
Superintendent of Telegraphs

This letter confirms that distribution was not completed until the 21st of June. A cover addressed to England is known cancelled June 14, 1900, and other copies with dates before June 19 possibly exist. However, it appears likely these were secured by post office personnel before the official release date. If any had been placed on sale before June 19 surely the Under Secretary would have had the courtesy to advise the Queensland Patriotic Fund at that time. A thorough check of the daily press for the period between June 13 and June 22 also fails to provide any indication that the stamps were available, a newsworthy item that no respectable newspaper-man would have overlooked!

(to be continued)

THE NEW SOUTH WALES 2D QUEEN-ON-THRONE ESSAY

IS IT AN ENGRAVING MISTAKE?

By G. N. KELLOW

In the course of preparing a manuscript on the 2d Queen-on-Throne stamps of Victoria, I have recently been going through references relative to the origin of the design. The major source is an article entitled "Victoria: The Queen-on-Throne Designs, 1852-1856. A clarification" by Robson Lowe and J. R. W. Purves, in *London Philatelist*, July-August 1979, pp90-91. These hardly seem the authors with whom one should disagree, but some discrepancies have been found between their article and the original sources, which in turn suggest an extraordinary alternative theory for the existence of the New South Wales 2d Queen-on-Throne design, viz., that it was an error in the name of the colony, and was never meant to be made at all.

1. Thomas Ham produced an original design for his 2d hand-engraved plate, which was begun late in 1851.

2. When Victoria sent an order to Perkins Bacon in May 1853, it was fortuitous that the company already had such a die, for a New South Wales 2d stamp. The Perkins Bacon estimate was sent on 3 September 1853.

3. The Perkins Bacon design was based on a drawing by Henry Corbould. Engravings exist of the Queen-on-Throne vignette in large size (for bank notes) and in stamp size.

There is a mistake here, however. It is incorrect to say that the New South Wales 2d die existed at the time the Victorian order was received by Perkins Bacon. The Victorian order was sent from the Colony on 5 May 1853 (see *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, April 1892, p39) to the Colonial Agent-General, Edward Barnard. The reply from Perkins Bacon to Barnard was sent on 24 August 1853, and the estimate followed on 3 September (see de Worms, *Perkins Bacon Records*, p130). The tender was accepted by Barnard on 26 September.

Turning to New South Wales, however, de Worms records that the engraving of the 2d Queen-on-Throne die was entered in the engraving book on 25 November 1853 (see pp95,756). I cannot find what this date refers to, but it is presumably the date of completion. Thus, the engraving of the New South Wales does not precede, but rather follows, the Victorian order. The time elapsed, two months, seems a reasonable period in which to engrave an original die, and suggests the New South Wales die could have been produced in response to the Victorian order.

Die proofs of the New South Wales 2d Queen-on-Throne are known in both black (original) and in blue on wmk. 2 paper (reprints, see de Worms, pp97-100). From the New South Wales roller were also derived the dies from which the 20th century reprinted die proofs in fancy colours come. A perusal of *Perkins Bacon Records* shows that the New South Wales 2d Queen-on-Throne is unique in that it was the only die produced by Perkins Bacon for which no surviving order can be found. This, coupled with the fact that Basset Hull was unable to find any correspondence on the subject at the Colonial end (and none has been found since) leads one to the conclusion that indeed there never was any order for this stamp for New South Wales.

The order from Victoria requested engraved plates for 1d and 6d "of a design similar to the 2d then in use". A 2d stamp was attached to the order to be used as a model. This was, of course, a copy of Ham's 2d engraved Queen-on-Throne, and that stamp *does not bear the name of the colony*. This was the first order from Victoria to the Colonial Agent-General relative to postage stamps (and the only one until an 1859 order for watermarked paper). Despite Victoria having been separated from New South Wales since 1 July 1851, some confusion may have existed, in the mind of the Agent-General or of Perkins Bacon, as to the proper designation of the colony, and especially so since the model sent to them for copying bore no name at all.

An amazing mistake was made. The Queen-on-Throne die was engraved, but in error it incorporated "NEW SOUTH WALES" instead of "VICTORIA". It is true that the value engraved was "TWO PENCE", and since the order was for 1d and 6d values, this would seem to imply a second error, which is stretching probability too far. In fact, there is no proof that "TWO PENCE" was engraved originally. The error may have been detected or realised when the die was still undenominated. To correct it, fresh dies had to be made by transfer to a roller, erasure of "NEW SOUTH WALES", and re-transfer to two pieces of flat steel (for 1d and 6d). The engraving book records production of the 1d die on 11 February 1854, and the 6d on 14 February 1854 (see *Perkins Bacon Records*, p765). Perkins Bacon probably saw no reason to destroy the New South Wales die, and completed it later by adding "TWO PENCE".

The mistake, if that is what it was, must have been very embarrassing, and it is not surprising that the colony never heard of it. Since there is no correspondence on the subject between the Colonial Agent-General and Perkins Bacon, it is likely the error arose within Perkins Bacon; no internal memos may mean it arose at the highest level.

To summarise, the factual position is as follows:

1. Victoria sent an order to Perkins Bacon, via the Colonial Agent-General, for 1d and 6d engraved plates in the Queen-on-Throne design.
2. A 2d Queen-on-Throne stamp, bearing no colony name, was attached to the order as a model.
3. The production of a 2d New South Wales Queen-on-Throne die is recorded in Perkins Bacon's engraving book two months later.
4. There is no correspondence at all extant (from Perkins Bacon, the Colonial Agent-General, or the New South Wales Government) re production of this New South Wales design.
5. The production of the 1d and 6d Victorian dies followed 2½ months after that of the New South Wales die.

The existence of the New South Wales 2d Queen-on-Throne essay has been accepted with little questioning of the mystery as to the reason for its existence. The suggested answer is that it was a remarkable mistake of engraving.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF INTERNEES AND PRISONERS OF WAR IN AUSTRALIA DURING WORLD WAR II

By P. COLLAS, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

(continued from March 1986, p. 23)

The Camps and Establishments on Queensland, Western Australia and Tasmania

Queensland:

Gaythorne: It was indicated in the handbook that no relevant postal history material had been seen. Since then, Mr R. Lee acquired a notelope of the second group (printer's reference a.w. 100m 12/42) which was originated at Gaythorne on 27 August 1945 by an Italian POW. How an Italian came to be held at that camp as late as August 1945 is unclear. It would also seem, from a partially obscured markings, that an "Approved by Camp Commandant" form of rubberstamp was being employed at Gaythorne at the time. Earlier, censorship had been carried out by the District Censor.

Western Australia:

Harvey: Additionally to the "back of the envelope" marking illustrated at Fig. 53 in the handbook, this being in part lettered in Italian, there was an analogous marking with text in English only. Several illustrations of the latter markings have been seen and taking into accounts dates on relevant covers, one inclines to the view that the English language cachet was the first to be used, the part Italian form being brought into use later.

Marrinyup: Covers and cards from prisoners of war at this camp are quite scarce and it was therefore a pleasure to view photostats of several items now in the possession of Mr G. Pohlig. In order of dates of origin the first was a 1s air mail fee notelope originated at the camp on 25 June 1944 and postmarked at Perth WA on 12 July 1944. It also bore an impression of the standard WA diamond-shaped civil censorship marking. What can be seen of the camp marking seems to be on the lines of that earlier recorded for the Harvey Camp and then illustrated at Fig. 42. This particular letter would not seem to have reached its destination in Germany until 10 January 1945.

The second item was an example of the 1944 Christmas card, with inscription in German, as described in chapter eleven of the handbook. Mr Pohlig, in sending me a relevant photostat, wrote: "The card was in my friend's grandmother's prayer book for almost 40 years." The three-line camp rubberstamp marking on the address side of this card read: "Approved for transmission by Camp Commandant/H.O. No. 16 P.W. Camp/Marrinyup W.A." While the address side of the card carried a Western Australian civil censor marking, the only postmark was that of the Ship Mail Room, Melbourne, Vic. of 2 November 1944. Obviously, it had to pass through the latter office to meet the postal department's overseas despatch arrangements.

The third item, a notelope apparently not bearing a postage stamp, was originated on 18 February 1945. The particular form bore the printer's reference a.w. 500 m 5/44. This also passed through the Ship Mail Room, Melbourne, the date being 3 March 1945. The article took a long time to reach its destination in Wurtemberg, not being delivered before November 1945. The long delay prompted the German postal

authority to place a cachet on the address side before delivery, reading (in German) "This is older mail. When you answer use the last known address of the sender." After the end of the war in Europe the German postal service was disorganized in many areas and this led to long delays in mail handling.

The next notelope to be mentioned here was written in January 1946 and carried a two-line camp marking reading "H.Q. No. 16 P.W. Camp—Marrinyup W.A." It passed through the GPO Melbourne on 2 February 1946, being there machine-postmarked. Upon arrival in Germany it passed through American civil censorship at Stuttgart before delivery at destination on 20 May 1946. A further notelope originated at Marrinyup on 23 February 1946 does not seem to have acquired any markings except the 28 February postmark of the relatively near Pinjarra civil post office. This letter would not appear to have reached its destination until May 1946. *Rottneest Island*: For at least some of the period responsible guard units comprised M and Y companies of the 5th Garrison Battalion.

Tasmania:

Brighton: It was indicated in the handbook that no relevant postal history material had been noted. This deficiency is now rectified as Mr Pohlig has shown me a photostat of a notelope (printer's reference a.w. 200m 10/43) bearing the 1s air mail fee impression, the missive being originated on 9 October 1944.

Envelopes and Cards generally

I am indebted to Mr R. M. Lee for the photostat of a card, generally of the type illustrated in the handbook at Fig. 63, but which bore further printing which may have been carried out in Murchison Camp. On the left side of the address face, reading upward, is the printed advice "Written in Italian" and on the correspondence side "Murchison P.W. Group" is printed after "Camp" with the word "Australia" lower down. The relevant date is difficult to read but was probably 28.8.1945.

It is now practicable to describe more fully a Service of Prisoners of War Parcels Acknowledgement Card and two variants of the Service of Prisoners of War Address Card. Mr Pohlig kindly provided photostats of the address and reverse sides of the relevant cards.

The first card has a "Post" and "Card" heading with a large representation of the Australian coat of arms between these words. At the left is the major heading, "Service of Prisoners of War" in English and below appropriate instructions in English, German and Italian. The reverse side also contains instructions and advice in the three languages and the specific information that the signatory has received a parcel. Additionally to insertion of date and address nothing further was to be written on the card. It may be noted that the printer's reference, "a.w. 20m 6/41" appeared at the bottom right of the reverse side. It is not known, at this time of writing, if there were earlier or later printings of this kind of card.

The handbook recorded that there were several different printings of the Address Card and the following brief descriptions identify two of these.

(a) "Post" and "Card" heading with a large representation of the Australian coat of arms between the words. The first three words of the underlined instructions at the left of the address face, in German, read "*Sollte etwas hinzugefugt*". These same words, with the underlining, are to be found in the German text on the reverse side. The card is further distinguished by the printer's reference at bottom right, "a.w. 50m 10/41".

(b) The words "Post" and "Card" as the main heading on the address side are separated by a smaller representation of the Australian coat of arms. The first three

words of the underlined instructions at the left of the address face, in German, read *Diese Postkarte Wird* and again one finds a repetition of these words on the reverse side. A printer's reference does not appear.

With regard to greetings cards provided by the YMCA it was not sufficiently emphasised in the text of the handbook that the 1945 card, printed in English and intended for use by Japanese prisoners, conveyed New Year greetings only, making no reference to Christmas. This is clear from the illustration at Fig. 73.

The Unfranked Lettersheets ("Notelopes")

While it is not practicable to describe all paper details of lettersheets within the earlier designated second and third groups, several additional printings not previously noted are now recorded below. It will be seen that references in respect of the 1943 printings do not commence with "a.w." Here, the printer's order numbers and references follow the date indication. It is also to be seen that one of the 5/44 printings, and also one of 10/44, were varied slightly, as noted, in respect of the top line of printing on the address face.

Second Group:

- 100m 4/43 12504 y10
- 100m 9/43 15346 y10
- 100m 12/43 17887 y10
- a.w. 300m 1/44; ivory-coloured, glazed.
- a.w. 300m 5/44; without printing on address face.
- a.w. 500m 5/44; white, glazed. The top line of printing on the address face, earlier shown as 'Service of Prisoners of War' has had the word 'only' added after 'War'. Hitherto, this later word had appeared at the end of the second line of printing so that in effect it was transposed from the second line to the first.
- a.w. 500m 9/44
- a.w. 200m 10/44; without printing on address face.
- a.w. 500m 10/44; white, glazed. With the same alteration on the address face as indicated in respect of a.w. 500m 5/44.

The Air Mail Fee Franks

In the handbook some of the lettersheets which were subsequently impressed with the 1s air mail fee franks were listed under the sub-heading "Third Group". To this list may be added "a.w. 400m 1/44" and "a.w. 500m 10/44".

A little information has come to hand concerning usage of the 5d air mail fee lettersheet. The particular example originated at No. 14 Camp, Loveday Group. It was addressed to Japan (in English and Japanese) and machine-postmarked at Adelaide on 21 June 1945. It had been rubberstamped on the back in five lines "No. . . . /Name /No. 14C Camp/4th Military District/South Australia." The spaces after "No." and "Name" were completed in English, presumably by the prisoner.

With regard to the earlier published information concerning a 6d card originated on on SS *Orontes*, Mr Pohlig has corrected the particulars given in the handbook. He records that the ship left Melbourne on 20 January 1947 and, travelling via Western Australia, stopped at Fremantle for three hours only on 26 January. The card mentioned was originated on the previous day and must have been collected and taken off in a mail at Fremantle. The article continued overseas by air to reach Berlin on 4 February 1947, one day before *Orontes* reached Bombay. So that in this instance the view earlier expressed, that the card travelled by air from Bombay to Berlin was quite wrong. However, some mail from that vessel was off-loaded at Bombay. Mr Pohlig has shown me a photostat of a cover which was originated on the vessel on 24 January and franked with a 1s Australian stamp. It was probably intended to have been taken ashore at Fremantle but somehow was missed. A framed cachet reading "Insufficiently Paid for transmission by air" was applied, almost cer-

tainly in Bombay, and the accompanying postmark, of the type then used for mail from "royal mail ships" ("Bombay RMS") was carefully dated 5 Feb. 47, 6.30pm.

In Mr Pohlig's list mentioned previously he recorded usage of the 1s air mail fee lettersheets with dates of origin of 24, 26 and 28 December 1943. And, remarkably, they reached final destinations in February/March 1944. I had not attempted earlier, through lack of material, to presume a time of first availability but it now seems that December 1943 may be recorded for the 1s frank, and probably also for the 6d frank. In respect of the latter, Mr Pohlig records such a card with an originating date of 20 January 1944 and as usage of cards was far less than of lettersheets, the balance of probability is that supplies of both items reached camps together. However, a common date of issue or availability would not have applied.

It should perhaps be added here that apart from lettersheets, franked and unfranked, some prisoners did use the ordinary Australian airletter form — "airletter" as one word — with impressed 7d stamp of the type recorded has having first become available on 5 December 1944. The extent of such usage has not been adequately determined although the evidence of used examples so far seen has indicated positive usage by early 1946 although earlier dates may be expected.

VICTORIA 'TRAVELLING POST OFFICE' CANCELLATIONS: DATE-STAMP VARIETIES

By D. DAVIES, F.R.P.S.L.

During the process of sorting, mounting and writing-up my Victoria T.P.O. cancellation material, I noted a number of c.d.s. 'slug'/frame break varieties which may prove of interest to devotees of this highly collectable subject.

The following observations, based on my collection and, by courtesy of Robson Lowe Ltd., an examination of the relevant portion of the Purves collection, are given in the hope that the more important aspects, e.g. the 'plugging' of MG19 'Up' canceller, can be expanded by other T.P.O. collectors.

Thanks are also due to Roy Holland for checking my findings with his comprehensive Victoria T.P.O. collection.

Up Trains.

1. MG2 [Purves type (4)]: year slugs reversed, '80' for '08' (fig. 1).
2.6.1908–29.10.1908
2. MG3 [Purves type (4)]: month slug inverted, 'AU' for 'AU'.
27.8.1894
3. MG3 [Purves type (6)]: year slug reversed, '10' for '01'.
2.5.1901 (29.5.1901 normal)
4. MG3 [Purves type (6)]: year slug inverted, '02' for '02' (fig 2).
6.1.1902–3.10.1902
5. MG3 [Purves type (7)]: year slug reversed, '80' for '08' (fig. 3).
5.2.1908–27.3.1908 (normal to 7.1.1908 and from 24.4.1908)
6. MG3 [Purves type (7)]: year slug reversed, '90' for '09'.
5.4.1909 (20.4.1909 normal)
7. MG4 [Purves type (4)]: letters 'MG' reversed to read 'GM4' (fig. 4).
13.1.1876–5.12.1883
8. MG4 [Purves type (8)]: by early 1909 circle had developed a break at right, on a level with base of 'MG4'.
25.2.1909 onwards (fig. 5).

UP TRAIN



Fig. 1: MG2



Fig. 2: MG3



Fig. 3: MG3



Fig. 4: MG4



Fig. 5: MG4



Fig. 6: MG9



Fig. 7: MG11



Fig. 8: MG11



Fig. 9: MG11



Fig. 10: MG13



Fig. 11: MG17
original state



Fig. 12: MG17
damaged state



Fig. 13: MG18



Fig. 14: MG19
original state

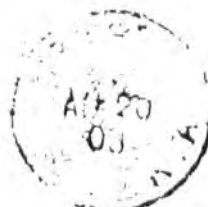


Fig. 15: MG19
damaged state



Fig. 16: MG19
plugged state

DOWN TRAIN
Fig. 17: MG4



9. MG9 [Purves type (1)]: year slug 'missing'.
15.1-26.6 (1890 stamp printings), also seen (1890 printing) with complete date slugs missing. (fig. 6).
10. MG11 [Purves type (1)]: year slug reversed, '10' for '01' (fig. 7).
17.6.1901-14.12.1901 (6.1.1901 normal)
11. MG11 [Purves type (1)]: year slug inverted and reversed, '02' for '02'.
21.2.1902
12. MG11 [Purves type (1)]: year slug inverted and reversed, '03' for '03'.
17.2.1903 (14.1.1903 and 7.7.1903 normal) (fig. 8).
13. MG11 [Purves type (1)]: year slug inverted and reversed, '05' for '05'.
15.2.1905 (2.2.1905 and 21.2.1905 normal) also 30.5.1905 (21.7.1905 normal) (fig. 9).
14. MG13 [Purves type (1)]: year slug reversed, '10' for '01' (fig. 10).
28.8.1901 (6.11.1901 normal)
15. MG17 [Purves type (1)]: large circle break develops (Jan. 1903) above letters 'RAI' of 'TRAIN' (figs. 11 & 12).
29.1.1903 onwards (undamaged state 16.1.1903)
16. MG18 [Purves type (2)]: year slug reversed, '80' for '08' (fig. 13).
10.2.1908-4.3.1908
17. MG19 [Purves type (1)]: an important new discovery of an apparent case of 'plugging'.
From 1901 onwards the canceller exhibited progressively worse signs of wear; so much so that by 1905/06 only the outer circle and date are discernible. However in late 1906/early 1907 it is evident that the canceller received attention by being cleaned and recut with the original 'MG19' routed out and plugged with new, squatter, 'MG19' slugs. (Earliest date seen in this second state being 12.4.1907). Note the shapes of the 'G' and '9'. (figs. 14, 15 and 16).

N.B. The 'inverted' varieties numbered 1, 3, 5, 10, 14 and 16 could equally be inverted *and* reversed as per the majority of the other slug varieties, but when the numbers "1" and "8" are involved it is not possible to be definite.

Down Trains.

1. MG4 [Purves type ()]: letters 'MG' reversed to read 'GM4' (fig. 17).
5.2.1877-6.6.1883

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

THE HILL AND RUNDELL EXTRACTS

By G. N. KELLOW

(continued from December 1985, p. 101)

Following the accountant's suggestion, a fresh order was prepared, and Mr F. W. Robinson was asked what quantity of paper would be required for the whole of 1864. He replied to Turner on 19.10.1863:

The following is the list of the quantities and cost of watermarked paper and "dandy rollers" required for a full twelve months consumption. The only "dandy rollers" at present brought into use are those for the first four kinds; but in repeating the order for another year "dandy rollers" will be excluded. As any alteration in the rate of inland postage will increase or decrease the consumption of the particular stamps affected, so would a fortnightly mail be the cause of a larger quantity of six penny stamps — say 50 per cent — being required, to meet which, and such like emergencies would it not be advisable to have extra watermarked paper available for any kind of stamp having thereon a crown or other approved device?

Paper etc. required from De La Rue & Co.

30,000 sheets of one penny paper	
15,000 sheets of two penny paper	
35,000 sheets of four penny paper	
15,000 sheets of six penny paper	
10,000 sheets of eight penny paper	115,000 at 38/-
5,000 sheets of one shilling paper	£ 218. 18. 0.

5,000 sheets of two shillings paper	
Three "dandy rollers" for 8d, 1/- and	
2/- stamps at £68. 10. 0.	£205. 10. 0.
	<hr/>
	£424. 0. 0.

Robinson's prophetic suggestion of a crown watermark was several years premature. He had further ideas on the paper for the high values, and sent this memo on the following day:

A saving of nearly the whole of the £137 which will be the charge for "dandy rollers" for the one shilling and two shilling papers may be effected without any loss as regards security if the paper for these two kinds is ordered to be made with the one penny and two penny "dandy rollers" and the paper itself tinted in the manufacture like that used for bank drafts and cheques. It must be obvious that a tinted paper with the watermark "one" or "two" could not be used for printing penny or two penny stamps, and vice versa. Time would also be gained, as there would only be a dandy roller required for the eight penny stamp.

Should you adopt this suggestion, a sample of the particular tints required should accompany the order.

Further memo for Mr Mabbott's information when preparing order.

It will be sufficiently explicit if the order for paper is stated as follows:

30,000 sheets penny paper
 15,000 sheets two penny paper
 35,000 sheets fourpenny paper
 15,000 sixpenny paper
 10,000 sheets eight penny paper
 One "dandy roller" for 8d paper

In addition to the above 5,000 sheets of pale blue tinted paper watermarked from the penny dandy roller; and 5,000 sheets of pale green tinted paper watermarked from the two penny dandy roller. If the order is similarly worded to this I should not think any samples necessary.

Meanwhile, the Treasury had also been asked, on 10.10.1863, if they had heard anything of the June 1862 order. They replied in the negative on 17.10.1863, and on 22.10.1863 Turner sent the new order to the Treasurer:

Urgent. Adverting to your letter of the 17th inst. No. 63/4775 respecting the Postage Stamp paper ordered from England, I am directed by the P.M.G. to state that from the time that has elapsed since the order was set home there is reason to fear that it has been overlooked by the Col. Agent-General and I am to request that you will have the goodness to forward an order by the present months' Mail for the paper and printing ink as per statement and samples of paper enclosed for transmission to the officer named above, the penny and four penny paper being most urgently required.

I beg to state, however, that if the previous order for postage stamp paper has been acted upon it will be necessary to deduct the quantities from the supply now to be ordered.

I am further to request that the sum of £500 may be forwarded to meet the cost of the above order and an account will be included in the estimates for 1864 to meet the disbursement, if you will be so good as to advance the money in the meantime.

Statement showing the description, quantity, etc. of the Postage Stamp paper to be ordered by the Col. Agent-General from De La Rue & Co.

30,000 sheets of Postage Stamp paper watermarked 1
 15,000 sheets of Postage Stamp paper watermarked 2
 35,000 sheets of Postage Stamp paper watermarked 4
 15,000 sheets of Postage Stamp paper watermarked 6
 15,000 sheets of postage stamp paper watermarked 8
 5,000 sheets of pale blue tinted paper for one shilling stamps watermarked from the one (penny) dandy roller.
 5,000 sheets of pale green tinted paper for two shilling stamps watermarked from the 2 (two penny) dandy roller (samples enclosed)

1 Dandy Roller for eight penny paper

Note 1. Dandy Rollers for watermarked paper 1, 2, 4 and 6 already provided and are with De La Rue & Co.

Note 2. It is requested that the paper may be packed up in parcels not exceeding 25 inches in length, 12 inches in width and 13½ inches in depth and forwarded to the G.P.O. London for transmission by R.M.S.S.

A letter (not in Rundell's extracts) was sent the same day to the Government Storekeeper cancelling the order for 4d and 6d paper which had been sent there in June 1863 and eventually held over to be sent as part of the 1864 requisition. This was done, and the sample sheets (one 4d, one 6d) which had been sent to the storekeeper were returned to stock on 27.10.1863.

The final letter on this subject in Rundell's extracts must have been a relief to one and all. The Treasury wrote to Turner on 28.10.1863 to inform him that the order had been despatched to England:

In reply to your letter of the 22nd inst. No. 842 I am directed by the Hon. the Treasurer to state that the Colonial Agent-General have by the last mail been requested to supply the paper and printing ink specified in the statement forwarded by you, due regard being had to the previous order to which you refer.

It only remains to give De La Rue's invoice, dated 16.1.1864, again taken from *The De La Rue History*:

1 Dandy Roller for producing the watermark for eight penny paper		68. 10. 0.
30,000 Sheets of Postage paper watermark (1)	38/-	57. 0. 0.
15,000 Sheets of Postage paper watermark (2)	38/-	28. 10. 0.
35,000 Sheets of Postage paper watermark (4)	38/-	66. 10. 0.
15,000 Sheets of Postage paper watermark (6)	38/-	28. 10. 0.
15,000 Sheets of Postage paper watermark (8)	38/-	28. 10. 0.
4,500 Sheets Pale Blue Tinted paper do. (1)	38/-	8. 11. 0.
5,000 Sheets Pale Green Tinted paper do. (2)	38/-	9. 10. 0.
		295. 11. 0.
Packing in 10 Tin lined cases and charged for delivery in London		5. 0. 0.
		<hr/> £300. 11. 0.

The exact date this paper was taken into stock is not known, since Rundell was unable to locate the Postage Stamp Paper Stores Ledgers for 1864-71. Rundell has a note that the Stores Requisition Book recorded its arrival in March and April 1864. The Acting Secretary, Mr H. P. Bance, wrote to the Government Storekeeper on 19.4.1864 asking by what steam vessel postage stamp paper received by him on the 12th inst. arrived. Rundell may have got the date of this letter wrong, and meant 19.3.1864, for no suitable ship arrived on 12.4.1864, but the *Bombay* arrived on 12.3.1864, and would have connected with the *Ripon* which left Southampton on 20.1.1864, tying in with the invoice date. It also fits in with Purves' computations, which indicate that the first printing on this new supply of paper was of the 1d, delivered into stock on 5.4.1864 — impossible if the paper did not arrive until later that month.

It will be noticed that, according to the invoice, De La Rue delivered only 4,500 sheets of 1/- blue paper, 500 sheets less than ordered. In fact it can be shown (from an analysis of stamp printings versus sheets available) that the invoice was in error — 5,000 sheets were sent — and that therefore the price was in error (in Victoria's favour). It was unusual for De La Rue to make a mistake, but it would have been even more unusual for them to send 4,500 sheets when 5,000 had been ordered.

The confusion with the sending of the original orders comprising this consignment and the subsequent delay meant that 1d and 4d paper ran out late in 1863. Because only small stocks of other value papers remained, it was decided to fill the gap by borrowing paper from the neighbouring colonies. Requests were sent to New South Wales, Tasmania and South Australia. The last two named provided paper, but only that of Tasmania (watermarked double line 1 and 4) was utilized. This usage will be treated in a separate article.

(to be continued)

BOOK REVIEW

The Stamps and Postal History of The Gambia, compiled by the West Africa Study Circle (editor, J. O. Andrew). Published by Christies-Robson Lowe in conjunction with The West Africa Study Circle, 39 Poole Hill, Bournemouth, BH2 5PX. 25 × 18.5 cm, 159pp. Price £16.

The previous monograph on The Gambia by R. E. R. Dalwick was published in 1953. This new work demonstrates the advances that have been made, together with the changes in direction exemplified by the greater depth of research on postal history matters.

The famous "Cameos" are dealt with thoroughly, and suggestions made as to the methods of production. It is perhaps surprising that, even with the opening up of the De La Rue archives, that finality cannot be reached.

All the later definitive issues of Queen Victoria, Edward VII, George V and George VI are

analysed thoroughly with respect to printings, shades, plates and quantities printed.

The interspersed through the chapters on the postage stamps of various chapters on postal rates and air mails is a little confusing. The aim is to present a chronological story, but it may have been better to consolidate the various topics.

The Travelling Post Offices form an important part of the postal services in a country divided in two by the Gambia River, and are covered fully.

There is a catalogue of the postal markings, and listings of essays and proofs and specimen stamps.

The story is curtailed with Independence in 1965.

The aim to update Dalwick is achieved. Dalwick, from the same publisher in 1953 cost £1; for the new volume the price has increased 16-fold, but it is worth it for the eight beautiful colour plates alone.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

South Australian Numeral Cancellations

The display at the meeting of January 30 was provided by Mr H. M. Campbell, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., who showed his collection of South Australian numeral cancellations.

Despite there being only a little over 300 numbers, the South Australian field is in many ways the most difficult of all the Australian Colonies. Very little has been found in the way of official information, and progress with allocations depends on the discovery of tying pieces and covers. The South Australian numerals were also relatively short-lived compared to those of the other colonies, being replaced by squared circle cancellations in the 1880s.

Mr Campbell's collection is one of the best holdings of this material, and he showed many covers, pieces and loose stamps demonstrating the different types of numerals and their allocations.

France

At the meeting on February 20 Mr H. Teltscher displayed France.

Many essays and proofs were shown of the early issues. A private serrate of the 1853 20c was

shown on cover, and there was a used block of 6 of the imperforate 40c.

The 1871 "10" in blue on 10c yellow-bistre was also shown, apparently genuinely used on piece.

The Siege of Paris covers included an inwards one transported into the city within a sealed container by floating it down the River Seine. This particular cover came from a container only recently discovered and opened.

Amongst the Blanc stamps was a 1c Prussian blue error of colour mint.

Twentieth century issues were well represented, with epreuves de luxe and other proofs, the early miniature sheets and private air mail vignettes, including sheets and errors. The Allied Forgeries of World War II were also shown.

Israel — Interim Period

At the meeting of March 20 Mrs G. Seaby displayed the stamps and postal history of the interim period of Israel.

The many local issues were well-covered, and a notable feature of the display was the number of covers.

The Negev Pipeline issue included a 5m pair imperf. between on cover. Amongst a large

showing of the Partition Map issue was the 5m value omitted mint and used. and the 1m imperf. between pair on cover.

Proof sheets of the 5m, 10m and 25m surcharges for the second Jerusalem issue were displayed, and a tete-beche sheet of the Theodore Herd issue.

There were also other covers showing usage of the French Consular overprint, the Tohuwabohu overprint, the Rishon le Zion clipped stamp, and the Safad local. Covers from the Taxi Mail service and the Haifa Special Delivery Messenger Service demonstrated the special mail carrying facilities provided.

Great Britain Postal History

The display at the meeting of April 17 was provided by Mr D. N. Baker, who gave a wonderful showing of Great Britain postal history, concentrating on early letters.

The earliest letter was one of 1392 (the reign of Richard II), and there were others of 1459

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

(Henry VI), 1485 (Richard III) and 1502 to Tripoli (Henry VII).

The world's first handstruck postal marking, the Bishop mark, was shown on a cover of 1664, three years after its introduction.

There were covers of 1760 and 1770 showing the triangular Dockwra-type marks, and a cover from Williamson's Penny Post in Edinburgh.

Early straight-line markings included YORK (1796), INVER/NESS (1802) and DAL/MALY in circle (1801). The later developments prior to the introduction of postage stamps — mileage marks, 5th Clause Posts, and the Penny Post — were all covered.

The post-1840 material concentrated on stationery, and included Ocean Penny Postage and Brotherhood and Peace envelopes, and a used copy of Gilpin's Ocean Penny Post envelope. The Mulreadies and their caricatures were well-represented.

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FOUNDED 1890

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