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*Official Organ of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

Vol. XL, No. 3

September 1988

THREE NEW PUBLICATIONS

The Society announces the imminent appearance of three new publications, the eighth, ninth and tenth of the J.R.W. Purves Memorial series.

South Australian Numeral Cancellations, by Hugh M. Campbell, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., and Dr. Donald H. Pearce. 56 pages. Price, \$25.

The subject of the numeral obliterations of South Australia is one in which little apparent progress has been made since the pioneering article of Harry Heinecke which appeared in *Philately from Australia* in 1956, although the list presented then had many gaps and apparent errors. Hugh Campbell and Don Pearce have now redressed this situation and increased our knowledge of the South Australian numerals to a level comparable to that of the other Australian Colonies.

New information has been obtained largely from archival sources, especially the *Government Gazettes* and *Post Office Guides*, which included official lists of post office numbers. What has emerged is a practically complete picture of the original allocations, plus fairly certain knowledge of a number of re-allocations. In the process the first accurate list of the post offices of South Australia and their opening and closing dates (up to 1874, when the numerals ceased to be issued) has been provided.

As a collecting field South Australian numerals remains one of the most difficult. Of the 314 numbers issued, over 10% have yet to be seen, while over 18% are rated RRRR (one or two copies seen) and only 16% are common (more than 26 copies seen). Tying covers for most numbers have never been seen.

The monograph is attractively presented with a full colour stiff card cover.

The Postal History of Thursday Island, by James W. Turnbull. 40 pages. Price, \$20.

Thursday Island, although politically always part of Queensland and having no special postal status, has for some time been a popular collecting area. It was, however, for many years an important stopping point on Queensland's Torres Strait mail route to the United Kingdom. The story of the development of this service is told.

Its early postal history is noteworthy for the use of three different numeral obliteratedors—Nos. 51, 148 and 336, the first being of particular rarity. All markings follow the Colonial Queensland and later Commonwealth patterns, but all examples of instructional markings are very scarce. Thursday Island postal markings are exceptional in one regard—paquebot markings—of which some eight types are described and illustrated.

During World War II Thursday Island and neighbouring Horn Island were important bases and the full story of the military postal arrangements and markings is given. Details are also given of views of Thursday Island reproduced on the various sets of postcards (unstamped) produced by the Queensland Government Printer.

This new monograph will present the many collectors of this area with a comprehensive picture of the scope of the field. It is copiously illustrated with a full colour cover.

A Philatelic Subject Index of Victoria, by Geoffrey N. Kellow. 424 pages. Price, \$50.

The Society continues its tradition of philatelic publications on its home State with this comprehensive bibliography of Victorian philately.

There is a long history of publication of researches into the stamps and postal history of Victoria, which includes some of the most famous names in philately, both in Australia and overseas—D.H. Hill, W.R. Rundell, L.L.R. Hausburg, R.B. Yardley, C.L. Pack, and most extensively, of course, the late J.R.W. Purves.

This new work is an index to all these endeavours, and many others. It lists both periodical literature and monographs, and indexes both these sources in great detail—including referencing within articles. All major Australian and overseas philatelic journals have been indexed, not only for articles and short notes, but also for advertisements listing major Victorian items. The major Australian and English auction catalogues have been indexed, as far as availability has allowed, and all the major Victorian sales, from whatever auction house, have been included. There is also one official publication included, the Victorian Post Office Annual Reports.

The result is an index not only enabling access to all information published on any particular subject, but also a source book listing the vast majority of important philatelic items of Victoria and references to their appearances on the market. Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will find practically all the original sources in the Society's Library.

FAREWELL, MR. RON LLOYD-SMITH

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and all its members deeply mourn the passing of Mr R.L. Lloyd-Smith on July 6.

Mr Ron Lloyd-Smith was "The Father of the Library".

He joined the Society in January 1946, following his return from World War II, in which he was an Australian Engineers officer, serving in Palestine, Lebanon, Syria, and New Guinea. He was wounded in the knee and besides being involved in railways operation, road construction, and airstrip extension, was, for a period, engaged in mine lifting.

The Library has always been one of the Society's prides, but immediately he became Librarian he put new life into it. He was a very active and far-sighted Librarian and constantly enhanced its quality. He produced a catalogue, and a supplement, and increased the members' knowledge of what help it could give them.

When he left the office, after 23 years' service, he had made the Library the best library in Australasia.

He was deeply devoted to the Society and was its President in 1962. His writings include a Bibliography of Australian Philatelic Literature as a serial in *Philately from Australia*, listing 73 journals, with details and comments.

Mr Lloyd-Smith became a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, last October. He was a foundation recipient of the Purves Medal from The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1970 and an Honorary Life Member in 1987.

Ron Lloyd-Smith was one of the most widely-known and liked members of the Society and the Lloyd-Smith name was prominent in the Society. His wife, Margaret ("Peg") chose and hung the curtains in the Society's kitchen, and on her death, his second wife, Glory, became well-known to members. Both were members of the Board of Works staff and were friends. A son, Dr C.W. Lloyd-Smith, joined the Society on his 21st birthday.

Before he retired 12 years ago, Ron Lloyd-Smith was Chief Surveyor of the Melbourne and Metropolitan Board of Works and was well-qualified in his specialty.

He was a Fellow of the Institution of Surveyors, and 56 years a member, and he catalogued its library, too.

At the Thanksgiving Service at Springvale, attended, it was said, "by half the Board of Works and half the R.S.L.", speakers described him as "a man who lived for his community" and remarked that "The people of Melbourne will never know what they owe to Ron Lloyd-Smith."

H.L.C.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Portrait Engraving Surprise

Who would have thought that the engraver of exquisite Maori Girl's Head on the 3d New Zealand 1935 set was a Czechoslovakian?

But he was—Bohumil Heinz.

This is revealed by an article in *The Philatelist/PJGB* for March-April 1988 by Colin Fraser, who became known to many Australian

philatelists when he was here for the Christies-Robson Lowe sale in Melbourne recently.

He reveals that Mr Heinz was employed by De La Rue during 1933-37—apparently mainly as a specialist portrait engraver.

When he returned home, he took some samples of his work with him and they included the Maori Girl's Head stamp, the design being complete except for the border design and value tablets.

THE LETTERCARDS OF QUEENSLAND

By WILLIAM C. WALTON

In collecting and examining the lettercards of Queensland for twenty years, the author became increasingly dissatisfied with the traditional sequence of issues laid out in the catalogues. This was primarily because too many things did not seem to progress in any sensible way. The most familiar catalogue today is Higgins & Gage (*Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, Section 14, Pakistan to Queensland, Edward G. Fladung (Ed.), Pasadena, Calif., 1969), but the Queensland lettercard listing—as many others in Higgins & Gage—is basically a relisting in English of the corresponding section in Ascher (*Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog*, Band II, Mocambique bis Wurttemberg, Leipzig, 1928). Ascher in turn presented an expanded and more detailed listing of what had earlier appeared in various editions of the Senf catalogue. Earlier catalogues were thus simply the origin of the Higgins & Gage sequence, and offered no alternative possibilities.

Phil Collas, in *Queensland Postal Stationery. The Background and the Issues* (The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne, 1979) puts forward the same basic issue sequence as Higgins & Gage, although providing a substantial amount of informational text about the individual issues. Unfortunately, Collas provides no specifics as to how he arrived at the sequence—whether he agreed with it based on his own observations, or whether he simply followed the more or less universally repeated sequence first laid out many decades ago. Collas does make reference to certain “back and forth” elements in the sequence, of the sort that had disturbed this writer, but without making any real comment on the inconsistency they seem to represent.

During 1983 the author began a serious study of these issues. This had to be conducted with unused material, since that was the way the reference collection had been formed; the only used examples at hand at that time were two copies of H&G 2a postmarked in January 1898 and April 1899.

First Steps in the Study

To help establish an initial analytical frame of reference, the issues were broken into three obvious groups:

“Colonial” cards (H&G 1 and 2 group)—these 2d cards are essentially pre-Federation issues, and all carry the first back text detailing the other Australian Colonies individually.

“Commonwealth 2d” cards (H&G 3 and 4 groups)—these cards are still impressed with a 2d stamp, but carry the second back text referencing the Commonwealth.

“Commonwealth 1d” cards (H&G 5 and 6)—these cards are impressed with 1d stamps, as a result of the standardisation of rates throughout Australia as of 1 May 1911.

It was a given premise of this study that these three groups were sequentially discrete—that is, that all of the cards in the first group had to precede all those in the second, and all of the second group had to precede all those in the third. Thus, the only questions under investigation were the possible sequences within the first (“Colonial”) group and within the second (“Commonwealth 2d”) group.

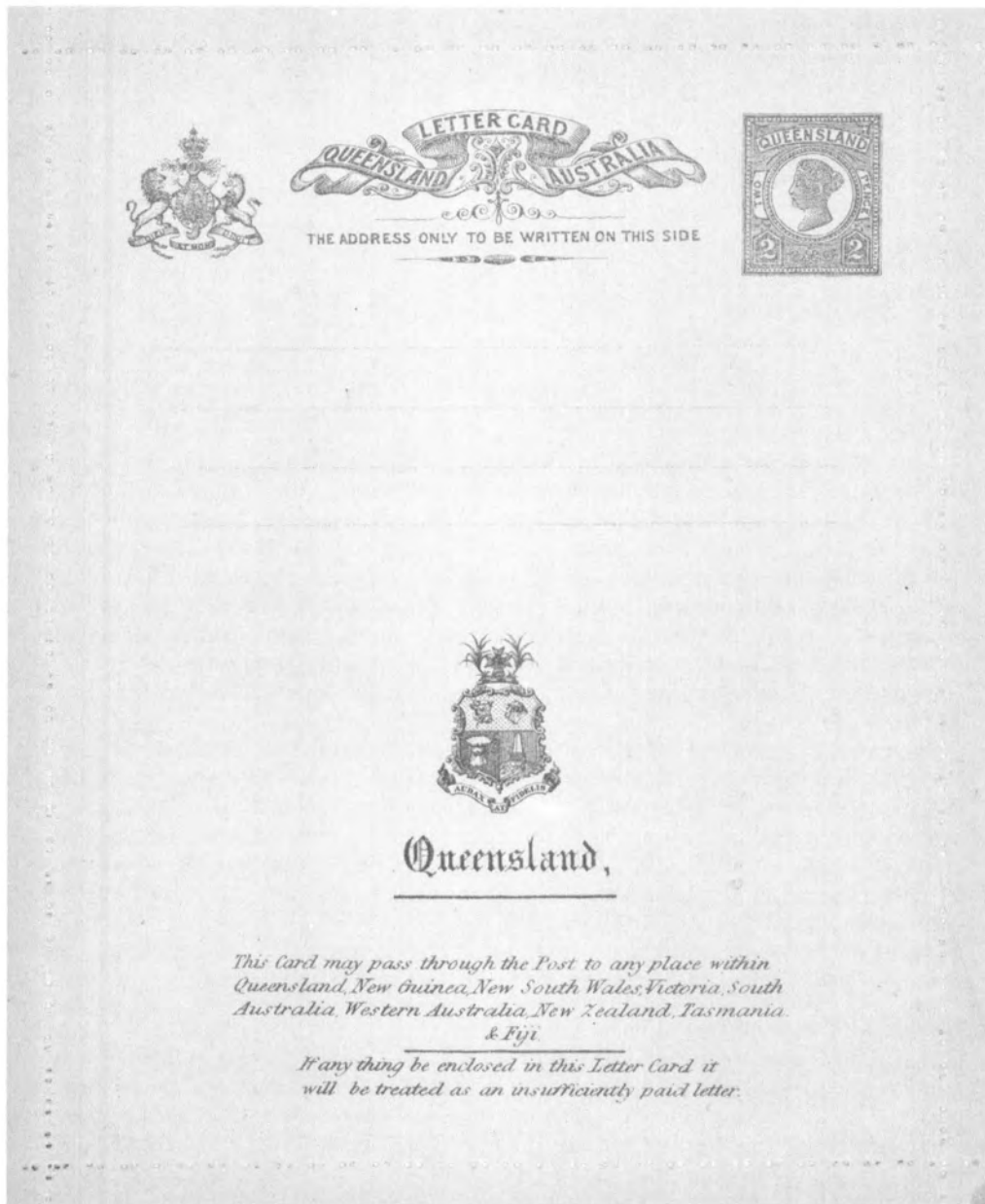


Figure 1. The style of the Queensland lettercards

TABLE 1: H&G Sequence, with three variables

H&G DATE	H&G#	PERF GAUGE & STYLE	ADDRESS LINES	BACK QUEENSLAND
<i>COLONIAL</i>				
1895	1	12, ORDINARY	.....	COMMA
	1a	12, INTERRUPTED	.....	COMMA
1897	2	12, ORDINARY	.....	COMMA
	2a	12, INTERRUPTED	.....	COMMA
<i>COMMONWEALTH 2d</i>				
1902	3	10, ORDINARY	-----	(NO COMMA)
	3a	12, INTERRUPTED	-----	(NO COMMA)
	4	12, INTERRUPTED	-----	COMMA
1903	4a	12, INTERRUPTED	.....	COMMA
	4b	12, INTERRUPTED	-----	(NO COMMA)
<i>COMMONWEALTH 1d</i>				
1912	5	10×10, ORDINARY 12×10,	-----	(NO COMMA)
	6	10×10, ORDINARY 12×12,	-----	(NO COMMA)

Casual inspection comparing the first group with the third (to establish end point or "anchor" differences) quickly showed that all cards in the Colonial group have fine dot address lines (indented at left under arms and at right under stamp), whereas all in the Commonwealth 1d group have short dash address lines (aligned with left end of arms and right edge of stamp). It also showed that the word "Queensland" on back—though invariably looking the same—is always followed by an irrelevant but large comma in the Colonial group, while this comma is never present in the Commonwealth 1d group. Examination of the middle group (the Commonwealth 2d cards) showed that the address lines and the comma changed independently—that is, on different cards.

At least one more production variable seemed called for in an initial overview. Since the first two were both printing variables, it seemed prudent to select one reflecting some other aspect of production—reducing the risk of analysing around some artefact introduced in the printing process. Perforations were selected. All cards were checked. It was found that all Colonial cards were perf. 12 (ordinary or interrupted) as Collas states, and that the perf. 10 gauge occurred on some examples of both the Commonwealth 1d cards (H&G 5 and 6).

These three simple variables—perforation gauge and style, address lines, and comma—were then noted for each card. Table 1 shows the results.

Formulating a Trial Hypothesis

It is immediately tempting to reorder the listings. H&G 4a—the isolated fine dot address line in Table 1—could be moved up as the first Commonwealth 2d item; its perf. 12 and comma would be consistent with the preceding listing. H&G 4 might come next as it represents the only other comma listing; H&G 4b would follow (presuming for a moment that the "4 group"—4, 4a and 4b—are internally cohesive and belong together). Next could come H&G 3a, since H&G 3, with its perf. 10, might lead into the use of this gauge on the Commonwealth 1d.

What is necessary as a next step is expanding the study by adding as many additional variables as possible, and then attempting to fit them into the new scheme, while still maintaining a smooth and continuous progression of production variables. If this could be achieved, it would offer much stronger support for a new sequence hypothesis.

Selection of Additional Variables

Non-printing production variables, to supplement perforation, were reduced very quickly. On lettercards, the only additional possibilities are paper stock, gum, and overall format (size). Size was discarded after many measurements—despite being the supposed only basis of identification of H&G 4b—because of substantial and apparently random (within issue) variability. Gum was also discarded because of apparent varying aging and climatic effects. Paper stock was included, because it appeared possible to identify distinctly different stocks without “in between” examples.

Printing variables offered a wealth of opportunities. Examination showed that almost every design component was changed at various times, and appeared to be independent of the other elements—that is, one element would be changed on a card while others were unchanged.

Figure 1 illustrates an entire card (in this case H&G 4 is used) to show the printing components.

On the front (the upper half of the unfolded card), the address lines had already been selected. In addition, it was found that the front coat of arms (at the left), and the stamp die, both varied independently and could be included. Only the central element (including the address admonition) was found to be essentially constant and unchanging across all issues, and thus unusable.

On the back (the lower half of the unfolded card), the advice note and the comma following “Queensland” had already been selected. In addition, the back arms were found to be another independent variable.

Interestingly, study of the back arms led to the identification of a major new Colonial card—a variety of H&G 2a—not previously catalogued. Study of the paper stock led to the identification of an uncatalogued variety of H&G 3a. Analysis of both the back arms and the stamp dies led to a considerably more tangible identification of H&G 4b than one based on card width. These points are detailed later in the article.

One troublesome point, relating to the printing method, should be mentioned before moving on to analysis of the variables. Collas describes a change from lithography for the Colonial cards, to relief printing (typography, or surface printing) for the Commonwealth 2d cards. The author has examined these cards carefully and is convinced that all of Queensland’s lettercards were printed by lithography. Collas cites no basis for his statements about relief printing, so it is unclear whether he examined the cards himself, or simply drew from another source. If he used Basset Hull—whom he often cites—as a source for this, the information is certainly suspect. Basset Hull’s writings on New South Wales postal stationery clearly show that he is a totally unreliable authority on printing methods, which he muddled hopelessly.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE VARIABLES

A: Paper Stocks

Wove paper was used on all Colonial cards. All Commonwealth cards (2d and 1d) were printed on laid paper.

The wove paper has traditionally been divided into two types—greenish and bluish white (or bluish grey). On examination, however, there appear to be three stocks. *Wove 1*—This is a bluish white stock which is relatively unsurfaced. It has a distinct mesh which is easily seen when held up to a good light. This has only been found on H&G 2. Compare this with *Wove 3*.

Wove 2—This is a greenish stock, but otherwise very similar to *Wove 1*; it is relatively unsurfaced, with a distinct mesh. This is the stock found on H&G 1 and 1a.

Wove 3—This is another bluish white stock (with noticeable variation in hues). It is much more surfaced than Wove 1, and the mesh is much more difficult to see clearly. Stitch watermarks are often found on this stock, which was in use for a number of years. This is the stock found on H&G 2a (and the variety of it, 2a"x", to be described later).

The recognition of two apparently different types of paper, both masquerading in the listings for ninety years as one "bluish white", may prove to be an important finding. It shows a possible discontinuity between H&G 2 and 2a. This in turn allows a hypothetical resequencing of the Colonial issues, which makes more sense of the introduction of the interrupted perforation:

First issue (H&G 2) on wove 1, with ordinary perfs.

Second issue (H&G 1) on wove 2, with ordinary perfs.

Third issue (H&G 1a) essentially a continuation of the second issue but now with interrupted perfs.

Fourth issue (H&G 2a) continuing the interrupted perfs., but now on wove 3, a surfaced (and stronger) card.

Some of the pros and cons of this are discussed in the notes on the individual issues.

The laid paper stock of the Commonwealth lettercards also occurs in three major and relatively easily distinguished varieties:

Laid 1—This is an ivory stock, horizontally laid, with wide laid lines (approximately 11½ lines per 20mm). It occurs on H&G 4,4a,4b and 3a. A sheet watermark is found on this paper, which may or may not show in part on any given card, as a random function of cutting; cards with portion of the watermark seem somewhat scarcer. In fact, there may have been two different watermarks in use at different times on laid 1:

Watermark A shows a large shield device over 185mm in height; found on H&G 4a and 4. One card, showing almost the entire device, shows no trace of any lettering.

Watermark B shows (on its left edge, which is all the author has found) a central ornate device of some sort, with double-lined sans-serif capital letters above (angled up) beginning "MO . . ." and below (angled down) beginning "AIR." Found on H&G 3a.

Of course, watermarks A and B may prove to be different portions of the same overall sheet watermark. Since H&G 4b has not yet been found with watermark, it may prove to show either A or B, if the two are different.

Laid 2—This is also an ivory stock, horizontally laid, with narrow laid lines (approximately 16 lines per 20mm). It occurs on H&G 3a (an unlisted variety, 3a"x") unsurfaced, and on H&G 3 with typical surfacing. The 3a"x" variety has not been found watermarked, but 3 may be found (uncommonly) showing portion of a sheet watermark. In view of the change in laid lines from laid 1, this is almost certainly a different watermark than watermarks A and B:

Watermark C shows what appears to be a double-lined script letter watermark. The only copy noted, appears to show most of the letter A.

Laid 3—This is a lilac-grey stock (coloured through), surfaced to such a degree that the closely spaced laid lines are hard to measure. It occurs on H&G 5 (vertically laid, the only such lettercard), and on H&G 6 (horizontally laid). The direction of the laid lines is no doubt a function of plate format. Again, a sheet watermark exists, and both cards are occasionally found showing a portion of the watermark:

Watermark D consists of a trade name in two lines, reading STRATHDEE/FINE in double-lined seriffed capital letters, and reading in the same direction as the laid lines.

B: Perforations

Three different perforations can be readily identified:

Perforation 12, ordinary—This gauge appears to have been the first used, and is found on H&G 2 and 1.

Perforation 12, interrupted—This gauge (really a modification of the perf. 12 ordinary gauge) appears to have been introduced fairly quickly. Collas states that this change was made to provide better detachment, but there is little likelihood that this was the case—for easier separation the solution is always a finer gauge, not a coarser one, and the interrupted perforation is simply a novel way to create a “coarser” gauge. In fact, both wove 1 and wove 2—perhaps because of their relative lack of surfacing—tend to have relatively flimsy or fragile selvages (H&G 2 and 1); these no doubt created some handling problems either before sale or in the mailstream. It seems likely that the interrupted perforation was introduced to provide better integrity by reducing premature separation. (The almost immediately subsequent shift to wove 3—a more surfaced and hence stronger stock—tends to support this idea). Perf. 12 interrupted seems to have remained in use almost to the end of the Commonwealth 2d rate, until the introduction of the 10 gauge; it is found on H&G 1a, 2a, 4a, 4b and 3a.

Perforation 10—This gauge appears to have been used last. It is found on H&G 3, 5 and 6. H&G 3 (a Commonwealth 2d card), has only been found perf. 10 x 10, H&G 5 and 6 have both been found perf. 10 x 10, but both also exist with a variable perf. gauging 12-12½—either alone (H&G 6) or in combination with perf. 10 (H&G 5). This latter gauge (“perf. 12-12½”) is actually a fourth gauge, distinct in its variability from the earlier perf. 12.

C: Back Coat of Arms

Three different designs were employed for the back arms. Two of these three also appeared in two different sizes. These are illustrated in Figure 2. Many points of difference exist, and the following notes cite only some obvious ones which facilitate rapid identification.

Back Arms 1—This type has scroll ends which point in towards the shield. The sheath in the lower left quadrant of the shield has a plain, slightly shaggy top. The overall dimensions are 18 x 27mm. It is found on H&G 2, 1, 1a and 2a.

Back Arms 2—This type has scroll ends higher and pointing away from the shield. The sheath top has been “trimmed” and dots appear on top. Two sizes occur:

2A is 19 x 28mm, roughly the same size as type 1; it is found only on H&G 2a“x”, and is the one element which distinguishes it from H&G 2a. This variety is a major one which has not been recognised in the catalogues.

2B is 22 x 32mm, the larger size probably resulting from the reduction in height of the back advice note with the introduction of the Commonwealth text. It is found on H&G 4a and 4. A scratch is ordinarily found across the left side of the ribbon, through the “AU” of “AUDAX”; the author has seen this on every copy of 4a, and on all but one copy of 4.

Back Arms 3—This type has scroll ends like type 2, but the sheath top is very bushy, and touches both sides of the quadrant. Again, two sizes occur:

3A is 23 x 34mm, roughly the same size as type 2B. It is found only on H&G 4b, and is one definite way to identify the card.

3B is 18 x 26mm, close to the smaller formats of types 1 and 2A. The return to a smaller size may have been prompted by occasional examples which show the very top of the arms folded onto the front of the card. It is found on H&G 3a, 3a“x”, 3, 5 and 6 (both halves).

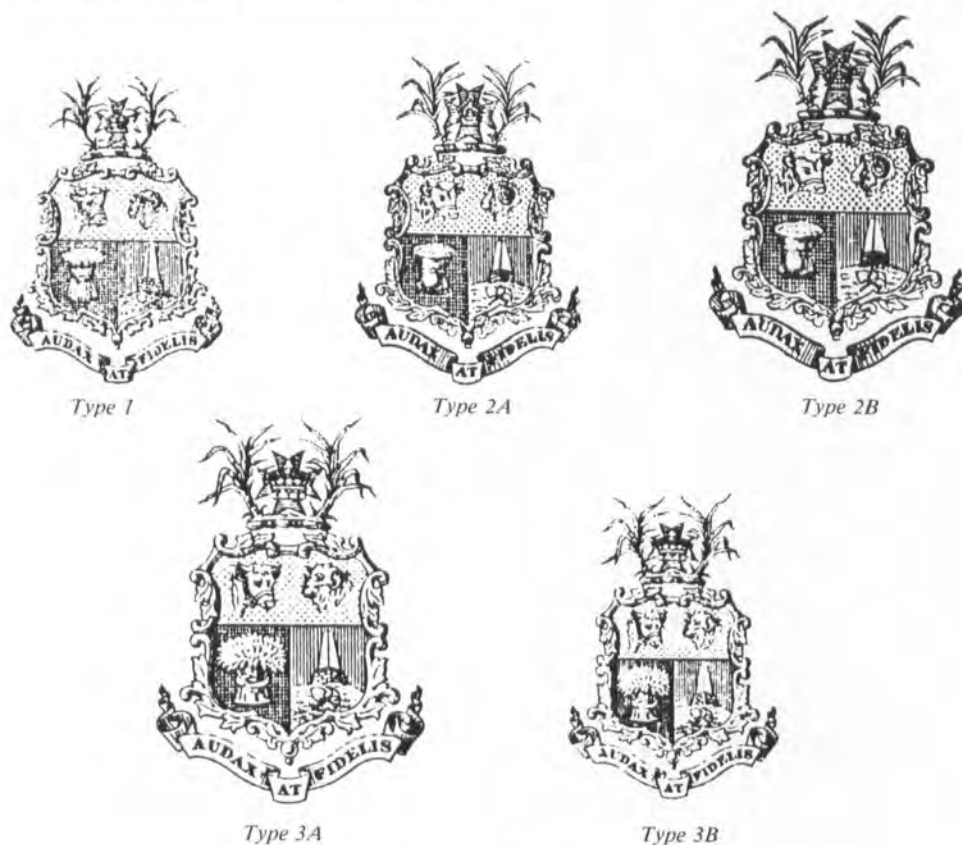


Figure 2. Back Coats-of-Arms

D: Back Advice Note

Three different back texts were used, but the second underwent a modification at one point. These are shown in Figure 3.

Back Note 1— This text has six lines in italic type, detailing the Australian Colonies. It was used throughout the Colonial period and is found on H&G 2, 1, 1a, 2a and 2a“x”.

Back Note 2— This text has five lines in upright type, referencing the Australian Commonwealth. Two major varieties occur:

2A shows the first two lines not aligned at the right. This occurs on H&G 4a, 4 and 4b, with various other minor typesetting varieties from card to card.

2B shows the first two lines aligned at right. This occurs on H&G 3a, 3a“x” and 3, apparently without setting varieties.

Back Note 3— This text has five upright lines referencing the “penny letter rate”, and occurs on H&G 5 and 6.

E: Front Coat of Arms

Only two types of coats of arms appear on the front of the lettercards. These are illustrated in Figure 4.

Front Arms 1— This type has an uncrowned lion facing the unicorn; the tails stand clear of the necks; the shield is narrow, with leaves above and ribbons below. It appears on all the Colonial cards.

This Card may pass through the Post to any place within Queensland, New Guinea, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania, & Fiji

If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter.

Type 1

This Card may pass through the Post to any place within the Commonwealth of Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, and Fiji.

If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter, if not already prepaid at that rate.

Type 2A

This Card may pass through the Post to any place within the Commonwealth of Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, and Fiji.

If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter, if not already prepaid at that rate.

Type 2B

This Card may pass through the Post without additional postage to any place to which the penny letter rate of postage applies.

If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter, if not already prepaid at that rate.

Type 3

Figure 3. Back Advice Notes



Type 1



Type 2

Figure 4. Front Coats-of-Arms

Front Arms 2—This type shows a crowned lion with head facing outward; the tails touch the necks; the shield is broader, with the crown resting on top of it and the leaves and ribbons removed. It appears on all the Commonwealth 2d and 1d issues.

F: Address Lines

Only two types of address lines appear to have been used, as already noted. These are illustrated in Figure 5.

Address Lines Type 1—These lines consist of fine dots, with the margins at both ends inset or indented—at the left under the arms, and at the right under the stamp. Type 1 lines are found on H&G 2,1,1a,2a,2a"x" and 4a.

Address Lines Type 2—These lines are made up of short dashes, with the margins aligned with the left edge of the arms and the right edge of the stamp. Type 2 lines are found on H&G 4,4b,3a,3a"x",3,5,6 and 6 reply half.

(to be continued)

VICTORIA 1D "NETTED CORNERS"

A SECOND "CRACKED ELECTRO"

By RUSSELL JONES

In *Philately from Australia*, September 1985, I published an account of the "cracked electro" variety of B16 of this stamp.

Since then a second damaged electro has come into my possession which I think has not been previously described. It can be fairly called a "cracked electro", although the damage is in a straight line and was possibly the result of the dropping of a sharp tool such as a chisel on the forme rather than the stresses of printing pressure. I have seen only one copy, and the damage was probably regarded as severe enough to require early substitution. The watermark is single-lined 1. The undamaged state is known and the electro is therefore A6I(ii). The substitution, A6II, is known watermarked single-lined 1 and dated 13 AU 64.

The "cracked electro" A6I(ii) shows an oblique cut through "VI" and hair, and there is also damage to the top frame (Fig. 1). Fortunately enough of the right frame of A5 is present to position it as A6. The upper part of the right frame of A5 is curved in. Fig. 2 illustrates A5 in combination with A6(i). Fig. 3 shows A5 in pair with the substitution A6II.

I do not have a copy of A6 in any state watermarked double-lined 1. This would be of value in timing the damage.

A Third Substitution. During the second setting unit B3 was also substituted. The damage making this necessary is not known. I have B31 watermarked single-lined 1 and dated 18 NO 63 (Fig. 4). Fig. 5 illustrates the substitution B31I with watermark double-lined 1.



Fig. 1. A61(ii)



A5

A61I

Fig. 2



B2

B31

Fig. 4



A5

A6 I(i)

Fig. 3



B31I

B4

B5

B6

Fig. 5

TASMANIAN PICTORIAL 1D. RECESS PLATE VARIETIES

By JAMES E. ORR

Introduction

Mr K.E. Lancaster's new book¹ devoted to the Pictorial issues of Tasmania is carefully written, well-organised and beautifully printed. However, I was surprised at his relative lack of interest in the recess issues produced in London by De La Rue. On page 16 of his book is only a short list of colour-line varieties. His statement "The overall excellence of the printing has resulted in only a few collectible plate varieties" I believe to be misleading on two counts: (1) their work was not to the highest standard as they continued to print from damaged plates for some time (albeit out of necessity), and (2) as I will show in the case of the 1d value, the cause of the scratch varieties is fascinating and has led to some interesting research. The master-plate (copperplate) process used by D.L.R. with its attendant soft printing surface permitted accidental damage of various kinds. Two key flaws, not scratches, on two different plates permitted the dates of issue to be deduced.

This article will also address the question of how many plates were used for the 1d value. Back in 1931, Mr Purves in his address to The Royal Philatelic Society, London² stated that eight plates were used but at that time he had seen only five plates (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 7 and 8). Again I was surprised that after 57 years had elapsed that same information has been restated and no other plate numbers listed.

Source of Stamps and Method of Study

I was fortunate to obtain a lot from the Purves collection (Robson Lowe, 4 May 1983, Lot 174) which contained a stockbook with 1d recess varieties, mostly scratches. Some were identified by Plate Nos. 2, and 4. This lot also contained a complete sheet with Plate No. 3, two blocks with Plate Nos. 3, and a corner horizontal strip of three with Plate No. 1. Mr Purves had made a few notes concerning the varieties but there was no discussion of the cause of the scratches or mention of Plates 5, 6, 7 and 8. Mr Purves source of information concerning Plate Nos. 2 and 4 was not noted, but we do know he at one time possessed a complete imperforate sheet with Plate No. 4, unique. It was the only imperforate sheet with TAS watermark (*Philately from Australia*, June 1968, p.30).

To the Purves lot I added my own collection of varieties, some plated, some not. I decided to accurately sketch the pattern of scratches onto cardboard squares the size of the stamps, and similar to a jigsaw puzzle match the angles and position of the lines at borders. Prospective fits were then checked with actual stamps. From this task came a startling picture. The pattern of scratches on Plate 2 (see Fig. 1) was of a repeating cycloidal nature and quite precise. Even more remarkable, it looked like the pattern on Plate 3 (see Fig. 2), and in the same relative position! These events could not be coincidence and I went to the library, where the answer lay, as will be discussed. From the rest of the varieties I was able to "jigsaw together" four groups from unknown plates (see Figs. 3 and 4).

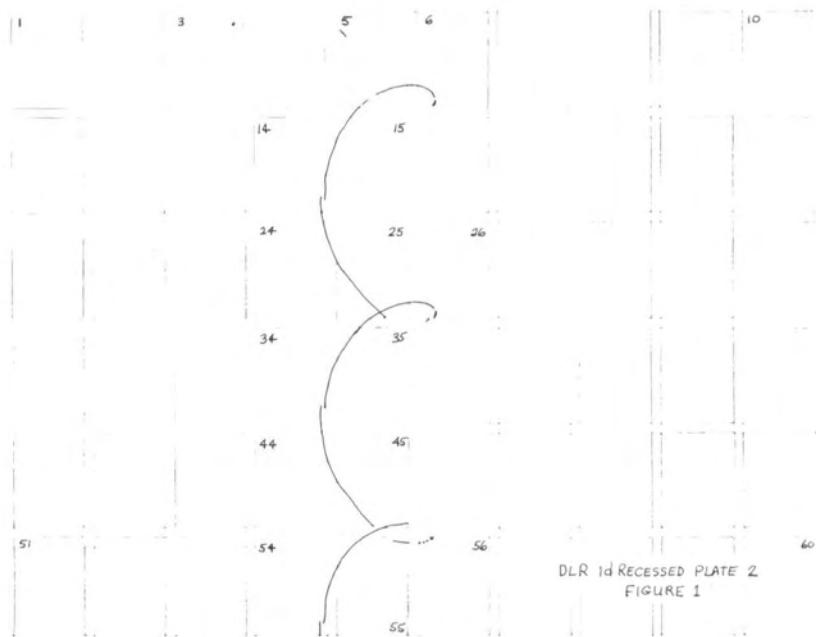


Fig. 1

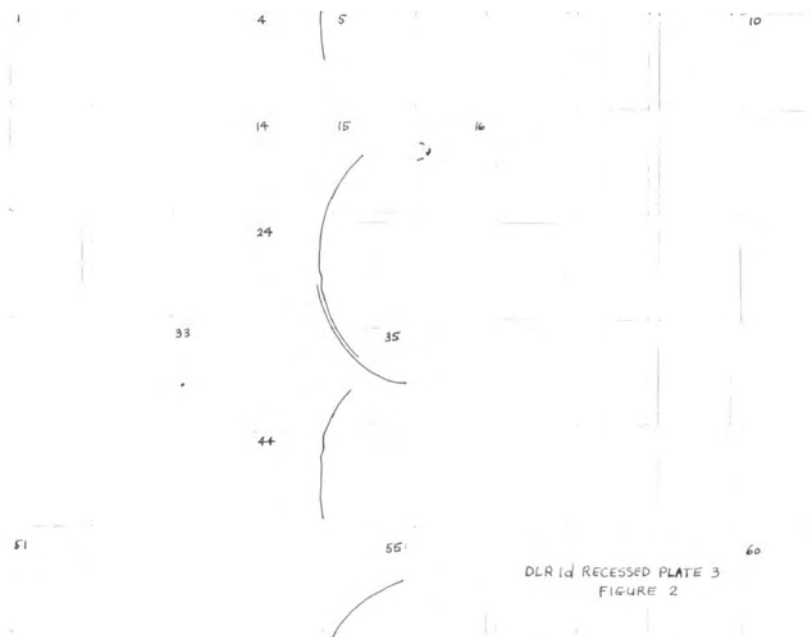


Plate 3 and the "Rock on the Bank" Variety

In this case the complete sheet from the Purves lot showed the scratches and a key variety identified by Purves as the "rock on the bank", position No. 33 (see Appendix for location description). My next step was to plot the varieties from Plate 3 by number found and date. This data (Fig. 5) shows that the "rock on the bank" variety was found from January 1900 (earliest 4.1.1900) through to February 1902, but that the first scratch varieties were not found until July 1901 (earliest, Launceston, 15.7.1901). Two peaks in Fig. 5 indicate at least two late printings of the scratched plate. The first large peak was either one large printing, or possibly two printings, and the last printing was issued in January 1902.

Plate 2 and the "Extra Notch" Variety

This plate shows the cycloidal pattern more clearly as three cusps have registered. Again, a flaw identified by Purves as the "extra notch", position No. 3 is a key in dating. When the Plate 2 stamps are plotted by date and number, a pattern very similar to Plate 3 develops with similar dates (see Appendix for details). The "extra notch" variety is tied to the scratched varieties in a key block of six, Nos. 3-5/13-15. Clearly then, the scratched Plates 2 and 3 were used in the press at the same time and will be explained as being damaged within a few minutes of each other!

Plate 4

Mr Purves identified only one stamp, position No. 46, from this plate, and therefore it takes on added importance. Only two copies were in the lot, dated 22.8.1901 and 27.9.1901.

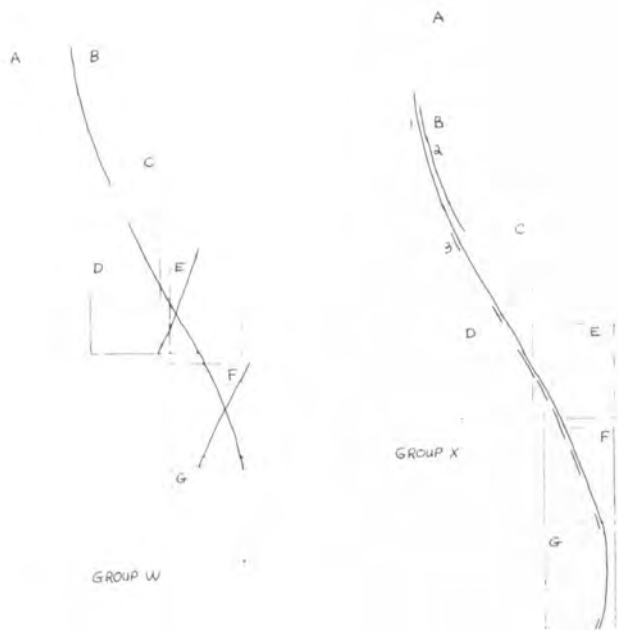


Fig. 3

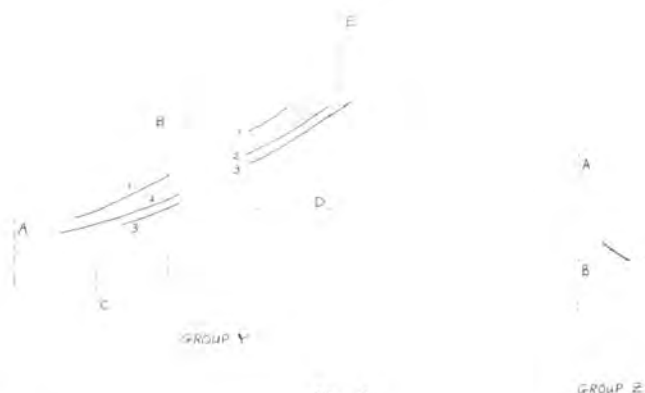


Fig. 4

Unknown Plates

The scratches in these groups—W, X, Y and Z—are in general thinner (usually $\frac{1}{10}$ mm wide or less) than those on Plates 2 and 3, and have multi-tracks and the arcs have larger radii (see Figs. 3 and 4). Two groups, W and X, have almost identical S-shaped curves. Group X being six stamps wide extends the full width of the sheet. I believe the cause of this damage was a piece of grit which scored the plate during the polishing operation of the printing cycle. This being a manual operation, usually using the bare palm of the hand with some whiting added, one would expect no regularity to the scoring pattern, and the shape would vary from a large arc of natural radius 10" to 14", the distance from palm to elbow, to S-shaped curves (perhaps it kept ink from collecting on the edges of the plate). It was all dependent on the technique and expertise of the polisher. The multi-tracks can be explained as sequential polishing strokes before the grit falls off. Dates found in the unknown groups are earlier than those from Plates 2 and 3, and perhaps are from Plates 1 and 4. It is quite possible from the dating to surmise that groups W and X will be found on the same plate.

About one dozen stamps varieties were left over because they did not combine with others or only single copies existed.

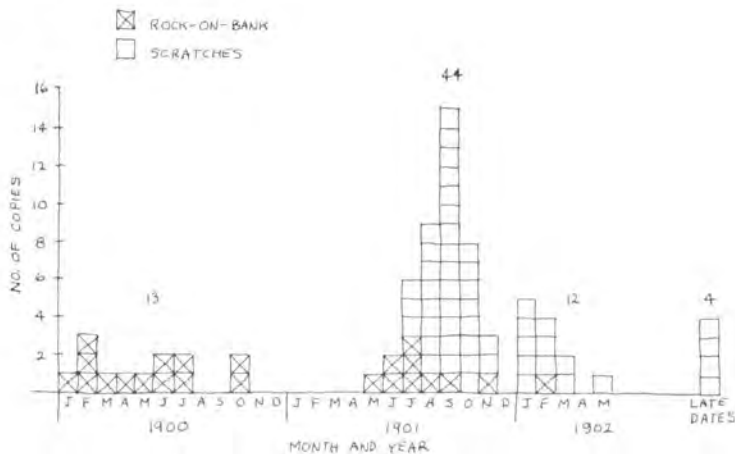


Fig. 5. Dates found on Plate 3 Varieties

Cause of Scratches on Plates 2 and 3

Was the culprit a mechanical operation during printing? Indeed it was. The press used was most likely similar to the semi-automatic Hoe machine³. These machines were flatbed power presses utilising steam or electricity to drive four planks on which printing plates were attached. The planks moved in sequence on a table so that while one plate was receiving an impression the succeeding plate was being polished. The following plate was automatically wiped and the next plate automatically inked and so on in procession. The presses need not have all planks full, i.e., every other plank could be vacant.

It is the automatic wiping mechanism we need to focus on. The face of the wiper is a large, flat plate slightly larger than the recessed area of the printing plate (Fig. 6). The wiper is equipped with a felt pad about $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick and a wiping cloth is tightly stretched beneath the pad. Unused cloth is wound upon a spindle at one end and fed to another spindle at the opposite end. Some of these machines were designed so that the wiping cloth is automatically shifted to clean cloth after each complete printing cycle. The wiping is effected by rapid vibrating motion or by gyratory motion. The sideways motion is adjustable for strokes of from $\frac{3}{4}$ " to $1\frac{1}{2}$ " amplitude. The oscillating wiper moves at *right angles* to the travel of the plate which therefore produces a repeating zigzag pattern (if vibrating) or a series of repeating arcs (if gyrating). The base of each pattern corresponds to the distance of the plate as it travels during one trip of the wiper and the height corresponds to the length of the stroke.

If a piece of grit became lodged in the wiping cloth then the gyratory pattern would be scored into the plate. Note this is not a true cycloid in the mathematical sense. Both patterns on Plates 2 and 3 are in exactly the same relative position and amplitude is $1\frac{1}{2}$ " and base distance is $2\frac{13}{16}$ " for both.

Now what caused the perplexing dual track on Plate 3, Nos 34 and 35? As viewed on Figs. 1 and 2 the plate moved upward while gyration amplitude is sideways, left to right to left, etc. Thus, grit appears to move downward. Three explanations of

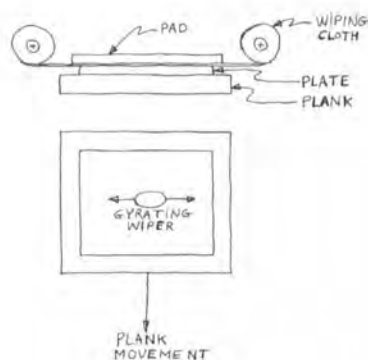


Fig. 6. Automatic Wiping Mechanism

the dual track are possible: (1) the plate went through the wiping mechanism twice; (2) grit particles were on the cloth during part of the cycle; and (3) the press was stopped perhaps for adjustment or to place paper on the plate, etc., and the wiper mechanism "relaxed" to a different position. I favour explanation (3) because I believe that the damage was detected only when two plates were in the machine, and the inspector either detected the gritty cloth, or the cloth automatically cycled to a clean position. Thus, the damage to Plates 2 and 3 would have occurred within minutes of each other some time April-May 1901 assuming shipments took two months by steamer to Australia.

How can we detect the actual direction (up or down) that the grit scored the plate? A careful study of the scratches shows that on many stamps the grit was "caught" in a vertical frameline recessed groove and travelled in this groove for several millimetres before sideways pressure from the wiper forced it to jump out. For descriptions of these jumps see Appendix (Plate 2, positions 14, 34 and 54, and Plate 3, positions 24 and 44).

Number of Plates used for the 1d Recess Printings

We know from the Purves lot that he had seen Plates 1, 2, 3 and 4, and from his 1931 article² also Plates 7 and 8. This begs the question if anyone has seen Plates 5 and 6? Plates 5 and 6 were not mentioned in the Robson Lowe Purves catalogue. On page 699 of John Easton's book on the history of De La Rue he states "In January 1901 the firm had an accident with two of the printing plates for the 1d and replaced them at their own expense." Four possibilities come to mind: (1) Plates 5 and 6 were the plates involved in the accident and were never used, and Plates 7 and 8 replaced them; (2) Plates 2 and 3 were the ones he referred to, but were continued to be used with the scratches because of the pressure to get supplies to Australia; thus, only four plates were originally intended to be used; (3) the accident happened to Plates 1 and 4 and were replaced by Plates 7 and 8. (There is some evidence for this because of the large issue of Plates 2 and 3 starting in July 1901 which may have been required while waiting for new plates to be prepared); (4) Plates 5 and 6 were actually used and a collector will dutifully record their use in this journal. My guess is that (1) is correct and therefore only six plates were used. Note, it is stated by Baxter³ that nickel-faced copper electrolytic plates made with the master-plate method have an average yield of about 25,000 impressions. For the 1d, 96,000 sheets were printed and therefore only four plates were necessary. The 1d's were steel-faced rather than nickel-faced but the life should have been similar.

Conclusion

Hopefully, this subject will appeal to enough collectors to search their holdings for plate numbers to answer the questions raised. In addition, further research could tie the scratch varieties from the unknown plates or identification of other groups to particular plate numbers involved. The whole area of the other recess values (½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d) remains to be investigated.

Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mr Lancaster for providing the wonderful framework on which this work could evolve.

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- The Pictorial Stamps of Tasmania, 1899-1912*, by K.E. Lancaster. The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Melbourne, 1986.
- "The Technique of the Tasmanian Pictorials", by J.R.W. Purves. *London Philatelist*, September, October and November 1931.

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The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps, by J. Easton. Faber and Faber Ltd., London, 1958.

APPENDIX

The Constant Plate and Group Varieties

Plate 2

Dates: "Extra notch", earliest date Hobart, 8.5.1900.

Earliest scratch variety Launceston 11.7.1901. Two peaks of scratch varieties, second peak starting January 1902.

No.

- 3 Extra coloured notch on N.E. ornament. The notch is 3mm left of and 4¼mm below N.E. corner.
- 5 Scratch starts 6mm below N.W. corner and 1½mm to right of frame and is 2mm long. Another scratch (coming from No. 6) enters frame 7½mm above S.E. corner, arcs counterclockwise and exits 16mm left of S.E. corner.
- 6 Scratch enters 4½mm right of S.W. corner, arcs counterclockwise, skips, widening in tear drop shape above "M" of "MOUNT" and exits 7½mm above S.W. corner.
- 15 Scratch enters 5mm right of N.W. corner and exits 8mm below N.W. corner. There is also a horizontal scratch about midway which crosses to No. 16 from another event.
- 14 Scratch enters 13mm above S.E. corner, then "jumps" left 1¼mm and up 1mm, and then crosses through "d" of right tablet to exit 1½mm left of S.E. corner.
- 24 Scratch enters 1mm left of N.E. corner and exits 3mm below N.E. corner.
- 25 Scratch enters 18½mm above S.W. corner and exits 15mm right of S.W. corner. Another thicker scratch (coming back from No. 26) enters 5¼mm above S.E. corner and exits 13mm left of S.E. corner.
- 26 Scratch enters 5mm right of S.W. corner and slightly in. It arcs counterclockwise with wide part of scratch to left of "M" of "MOUNT" (it looks like No. 6 except for placement of the wide part) and exits 5½mm above S.W. corner. Three coloured dots are on border 3½mm right of S.W. corner.
- 35 Scratch enters 7mm right of N.W. corner and exits 10mm below N.W. corner.
- 34 Scratch enters 14mm above S.E. corner, gets caught in the thick vertical frame line left of outer frame, then "jumps" 1¼mm left and goes between "l" and "d" of right tablet, and exits 2¼mm left of S.E. corner.
- 44 Scratch enters 2½mm left of N.E. corner and exits 9½mm below N.E. corner.
- 45 Scratch enters 15½mm above S.W. corner and exits 11½mm right of S.W. corner. Another scratch (coming from No. 46) enters 1mm above S.E. corner and exits 7mm left of S.E. corner.
- 56 Scratch (actually a series of four coloured marks) enters approximately 2mm below N.W. corner, arcs counterclockwise and exits 4½mm right of N.W. corner.
- 55 Faint scratch starts about 5mm left of and 1½mm below N.E. corner, arcs counterclockwise and exits about 2mm below N.E. corner. Another scratch (coming from No. 45) enters 8½mm right of N.W. corner and exits 9½mm below the N.W. corner. At this exit is a short coloured line 1mm long parallel to the frame from another event.
- 54 Scratch enters 16mm below N.E. corner, gets caught in second vertical frame line 1½mm left of outer frame, then travels 6½mm before "jumping" 1½mm left to middle of "l" of right tablet, and finally exiting 3¼mm left of S.E. corner.

Plate 3

Dates: "Rock on bank" earliest date Launceston, 4.1.1900.

Earliest scratch variety Launceston, 15.7.1901. Two peaks of scratch varieties, second peak starting January 1902.

No.

- 33 "Rock on bank" variety. A dark coloured spot about 1½mm in diameter, easily seen with the naked eye, is located 12½mm above and 4mm right of S.W. corner, on the left bank.
- 4 Scratch enters 1mm left of N.E. corner and exits 16¼mm below N.E. corner.
- 16 Scratch starts with dash inside left frame 14½mm below N.W. corner, then arcs counterclockwise with wide mark in trees and disappears 8½mm below N.W. corner and 2½mm right of frame.
- 15 Scratch starts faintly just above centre low tree and exits 25mm below N.W. corner.

- 14 Scratch enters diagonally near S.E. corner but never cuts into frame. It is very faint, identified as part of pair.
- 24 Scratch enters $\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of N.E. corner, gets caught in second vertical frame line to the right and finally exits $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm above S.E. corner. Another fainter scratch is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm left and parallel to the first scratch and with same arc.
- 35 Scratch enters $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm below N.W. corner and exits 18mm below N.E. corner. This becomes the dominant scratch. The other scratch enters $\frac{1}{2}$ mm right of N.W. corner and disappears in left side of mountain. A third scratch (coming from direction of No. 36) starts in the left bank and exits $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm above S.W. corner.
- 44 Scratch enters $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm below N.E. corner, gets caught in frame for 3mm, then swivels left to get caught again in next thick vertical frame line for 12mm and finally exits 3mm above S.E. corner.
- 55 Scratch starts $17\frac{1}{2}$ mm above S.E. corner and 2mm left of frame and passes diagonally through "1" of left tablet and exits mm right of S.W. corner.

Plate 4

- 46 Horizontal wiggly scratch enters 1mm below N.W. corner and passes through lower part of "TA" of "TASMANIA" and disappears.

Group W

Dates: Peak starting October 1900 ending about January 1901.

No.

- W-A Scratch enters $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of N.E. corner and exits 13mm below N.E. corner.
- W-B Scratch enters 6mm above S.W. corner and exits 2mm right of S.W. corner.
- W-C Scratch enters 2mm right of N.W. corner and exits 6mm left of S.E. corner.
- W-D Scratch enters $5\frac{1}{4}$ mm left of N.E. corner and exits 10mm below N.E. corner. Another scratch enters $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm left of S.E. corner and exits 3mm above S.E. corner.
- W-E Scratch enters $16\frac{1}{2}$ mm above S.W. corner and exits $9\frac{1}{4}$ mm right of S.W. corner. The other scratch enters 10mm above S.W. corner and exits $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm right of N.W. corner (quite faint).
- W-F Scratch enters 11mm right of N.W. corner and exits 1mm left of S.W. corner. Another scratch enters $11\frac{1}{4}$ mm left of S.E. corner and exits 3mm below N.E. corner.
- W-G Faint scratch enters border near N.E. corner and ends exactly at this corner. The other scratch enters border 12mm left of N.E. corner and stops just after crossing the frame.

Group X

Dates: Peak starting October 1900 and ending about January 1901.

No.

- X-A Scratch No. 1 starts at second "L" of "WELLINGTON" and exits 10mm left of S.E. corner.
- X-B Scratch No. 1 enters $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of N.E. corner and exits $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of S.E. corner. Scratch No. 2 enters 9mm left of N.E. corner and exits $2\frac{1}{4}$ mm above S.E. corner.
- X-C Scratch No. 2 enters $\frac{1}{2}$ mm below N.W. corner and disappears in the N.W. ornament. Scratch No. 1 enters $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm below N.W. corner and exits $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of S.W. corner. Scratch No. 3 (very faint) is parallel and $\frac{3}{4}$ mm left of scratch No. 1.
- X-E Scratch No. 1 enters $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm above S.W. corner and exits 6mm right S.W. corner. The parallel scratch No. 3 is now about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of scratch No. 1.
- X-F Scratch No. 1 enters $7\frac{1}{2}$ mm right of N.W. corner and exits $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of S.E. corner. The parallel scratch No. 3 is still $\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of scratch No. 1.
- X-G Scratch No. 1 enters 4mm left of N.E. corner and changes direction and exits $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of S.E. corner (now very faint). The parallel scratch No. 3 is still about $\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of scratch No. 1.

Group Y

Dates: Peak starting August 1900 and ending about October 1900, with possible second peak starting January 1901.

No.

- Y-A Scratch No. 1 exits $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm left of N.E. corner. Another scratch No. 2 exits $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm below N.E. corner.
- Y-B Scratch No. 1 enters 2mm right of S.W. corner and exits 11mm above S.E. corner. Scratch No. 2 enters 15mm right of S.W. corner and exits 4mm above S.E. corner. Scratch No. 3 (coming from No. Y-C) crosses S.E. corner.

- Y-C Scratch No. 2 enters 1mm below N.W. corner and exits 6½mm right of N.W. corner. Scratch No. 3 leaves 9½mm left of N.E. corner.
- Y-D Scratch No. 1 enters 3mm below N.W. corner and exits 5½mm right of N.W. corner. Scratch No. 2 enters 10y7mm below N.W. corner and exits 4mm left of N.E. corner. Scratch No. 3 enter 14½mm below N.W. corner and exits ½mm below N.E. corner.
- Y-E Scratch No. 3 enters 1½mm right of S.W. corner and disappears in S.W. tablet.

Group Z

Dates: Peak starting July 1900 and ending about October 1900, with possible second peak starting December 1900.

No.

- Z-A Scratch starts in "U" of "MOUNT" and exits 13mm left of S.E. corner.
- Z-B Scratch (coming from Z-A) touches frame 7mm left of N.E. corner. Another scratch starts almost exactly at N.E. corner and continues across right border.

THE 1914 1D. KING GEORGE V SURFACE-PRINTING DIE

By T.A. CARTER

The die and four steel plates of the 1d King George V sideface issue of Australia were ordered early in 1914 from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. of London. Recent research has shown that the engraving of the steel die was actually sub-contracted out to Messrs. De La Rue & Co., the engraver being R. Pearce.



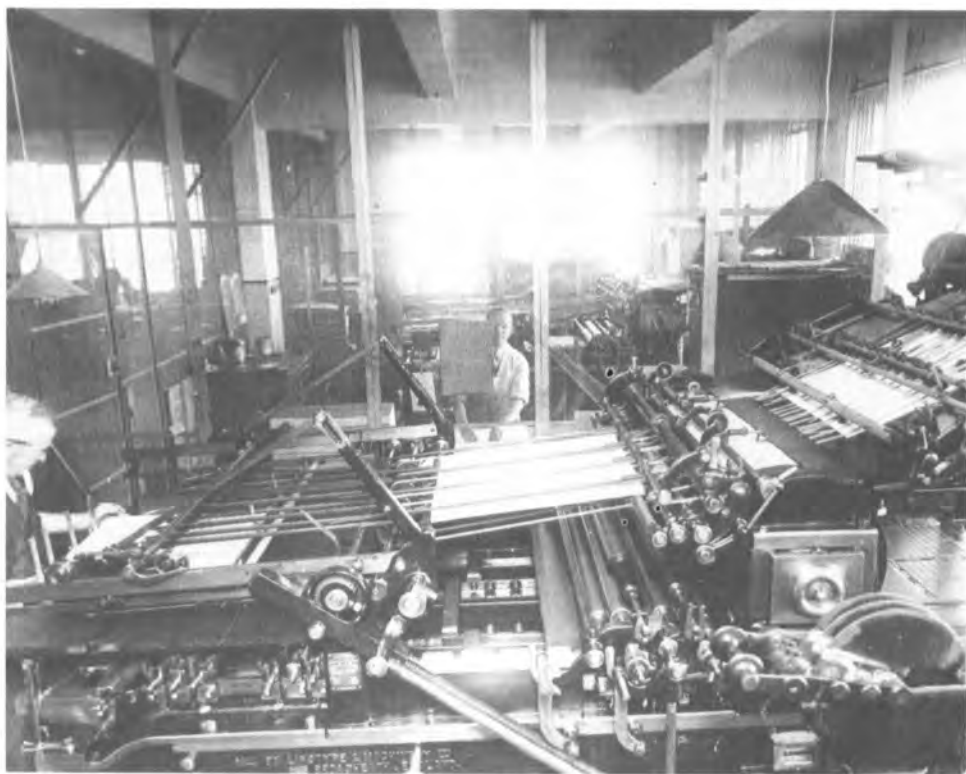
The 1d King George V Letterpress Die Enlarged 2.5 times.

The original die still exists in the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia, and photographs of it taken by the author are reproduced here by permission of Australia Post. Illustrations have not previously been published.

The die was engraved, in reverse, on a piece of steel measuring $3\frac{1}{4}'' \times 2\frac{5}{16}'' \times \frac{5}{32}''$. The areas that are cut away are those that appear as white on the printed stamp. The die, after hardening, was used to prepare a transfer roller from which the steel printing plates were laid down.

The die in its present condition has various scratches which have occurred during the years of storage and handling since 1914. The engraved area is surrounded by a cut-away border adjoining which at right angles are 13 notches at top and bottom. The purpose of these, if any, is not clear.

Also shown is another photograph which it is believed has not appeared previously in any philatelic publication. It was originally published in the Melbourne *Age* of 14 May 1932. It shows the printing of the Australian 1d King George V at the old Note Printing Works in Fitzroy. The four 1d plates can be seen in position in the bed of the printing press, at far right. A workman is examining a printed sheet of stamps (480-on) at far left.



Printing the 1d King George V Stamps. From The Age newspaper of 14 May, 1932.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

South Australia

At the meeting on 19 May Dr Donald Pearce of Adelaide displayed his collection of the engraved issues of South Australia. The collection is arranged value by value to enable a better appreciation of the many changes of paper, perforation and shade which took place.

The 1855 London prints were present in profusion, including mint copies of all values, a used strip of three of the 1d, and a used block of 4 of the 6d. Highlight was a mint severed pair of the unissued 1/-.

The first locally printed issue, imperforate, included three used pairs of the 1d, one on cover, and a used strip of five of the 1/- orange. The same issue, rouletted, had four copies of the 1/- printed both sides.

The 1860-69 roulettes began with proofs of the new 4d, 9d and 2/- values. There was a mint block of 12 of the 4d dull violet, three used copies of the 10d on 9d surcharge inverted, and a used block of three of the 2/- with roulettes between omitted.

The Large Star watermarked issue was practically complete, with all the rarities. The 3d on 4d included four copies of the Prussian blue shade, two imperforate copies, and one rouletted. The surcharge omitted error was represented by a fine used copy. There were three used copies of the 10d on 9d error of watermark Crown SA, and one of the two known used copies of the 2/- rose-pink perf. 11½ x 10.

The best items in the later issues were a used copy of the 3d on 4d watermark Broad Star double surcharge, and a mint copy of the 4d watermark V over Crown.

Annual Competition

The response to the Annual Competition this year was disappointing with only two entries. The judges commended both exhibits but did not feel any award should be given.

Anders Molander showed the Waterlow issue of the Belgian Congo. This was a study of the plates used, and concentrated on the plate flaws, reentries and guidelines found.

Peter Jaffe showed Montserrat. This included a copy of the 1876 6d blue-green and the inverted "S" variety on various 1d values. There were also three mint copies of the 4d watermark Crown CC.

The Annual Competition entries were supplemented with a display of Australian special postmarks from Max Bulley. These began with the 1905 St. James Hall cancellation, and progressed through to 1940, including a number of air mail items. A special showing was made of the datestamps used at the temporary post offices in the 1930's—Bendigo Showground (1934-35),

B.M.A. Conference Melbourne 1935 (Relief No. 11), and Wesley Church (1935, 1936 and 1939).

Hong Kong Postal Markings

The display at the meeting of 30 June, provided by Len Buchanan, was a study of the postal markings of Hong Kong and its Treaty Ports.

The display opened with pre-stamp markings which included an 1842 entire with the Hong Kong Royal Arms handstamp, entires showing the various types of the Hong Kong Crowned Circle, and an 1853 entire to Guernsey with "SHIP LETTER/VICTORIA HONG KONG". The later markings included a section of the Marine Sorter datestamps.

Most of the material on view dealt with the Treaty Ports. Pre-stamp entires included one of 1835 with the rare circular "Boat Office/MACAO", and one of 1853 to Bombay with the Canton Paid datestamp.

Amongst the rarer numeral obliterators on loose adhesives were D28 (Kiangchow) on the 4c grey, D29 (Hankow) on the 5c, 10c(2) and 10c on 12c, and the rarest number of all, D30 (Hiogo) on the 12c blue. Covers included one of 1875 from Yokohama to Hong Kong with the 8c cancelled Y1 in blue, and one of 1875 from Foochow to Melbourne with two pairs of the 30c cancelled F1 in blue.

The Shanghai material included examples of the "Sunburst" cancellation. An unusual later item was an 1894 cover with the boxed marking of the Samah Land Post.

Annual Meeting

The 96th Annual General Meeting of the Society was held on 21 July. The President, Mr Russell Jones reported the average attendance at meetings during the year was 40. This had remained static, and was one of the reasons that the Society had decided, after careful consideration, not to proceed with major structural alterations to 6 Avoca Street aimed at increasing space. The cost of this had been estimated at \$250,000.

Mr Jones also spoke of the forthcoming Stampshow 89 exhibition, of which he was President. The Society has given the exhibition a \$500 donation.

The Treasurer, Mr J. MacDonnell, reported a successful year. Income and expenditure had remained at approximately the same levels as the previous year. Reserve funds had been allowed to accumulate in anticipation of the possibility of structural changes to 6 Avoca Street. The decision to defer this expenditure meant the Society was in a healthy financial position, but Mr MacDonnell warned that the Society's guaranteed income was derived from only five sources—subscriptions, rent, publications, sales branch commission, and

bank interest — while costs were unpredictable, particularly if any major work on the building becomes necessary.

Philately from Australia

The Business Manager of *Philately from Australia*, Miss J. Buchanan, reported a satisfactory year, with increased subscriptions and a large increase in the sales of back numbers — five times the previous year. Members were reminded that all but two issues were in stock. Increases in postal rates had made it necessary to increase the annual subscription to \$15.

Sales Branch

The Sales Branch Superintendent, Mr P. Stratton, said the three sales conducted during the year had seen 67% of lots sold with total sales of \$87,000. More material from the estate of Warwick Walker was offered, and it was gratifying to see more material forthcoming from members of the Society. The coming year looked promising, with excellent material from the collection of Rev. J.C.W. Brown.

House Committee

The Chairman of the House Committee, Mr P. Barlow, reported that during the year much work was devoted to consideration of proposed extensions to 6 Avoca Street, and the preparation of submissions to council on this subject. As a result it was felt better not to undertake costly repair work which might in the near future be altered. The decision that no major alterations will be made in the near future means that the finishing of repairs to the plaster and an investigation of damp areas will be immediately undertaken.

Expert Committee

The Chairman of the Expert Committee, Mr P. Jaffe, stated that 41 items were examined during the year and 38 certificates were issued. The cost per certificate had been held to \$20 plus postage, and members were taking advantage of their entitlement to one free certificate.

Deceased Estates

Mr G. White reported that the disposal of the estate of Mr Z. Andrides was completed during the year, and that of Mr W. Walker was continuing. The Rev. J.C.W. Brown had approached the committee concerning disposal of some of his collections.

Exchange Branch

The Exchange Branch Superintendent, Mr D. Napier, reported sales in line with those of the previous year. The length of time required for books to complete their circuit remained a problem, and users were urged to obey the rules concerning this. There was also a problem with the use of extremely peelable hinges. Mr Napier

stated that pressure of business did not leave him with sufficient time to properly conduct the Exchange Branch, and had advised Council to consider a replacement.

Publication Committee

The Chairman of the Publications Committee, Mr R. Jones, reported that work had been progressing on three books, and these would appear very soon: *South Australian Numeral Cancellations* by H.M. Campbell & Dr D.H. Pearce; *The Postal History of Thursday Island* by J.W. Turnbull; and *A Subject Index of Victorian Philately* by G.N. Kellow. The purchase of a computer by the Society during the year would enable considerable savings on typesetting costs.

Library

The Librarian, Dr G.N. Kellow, reported continuing heavy use of the library. Pressure on space had been alleviated by the relocation of two bookcases into the main library, but he warned that space was likely to be a continuing problem. The acquisition of a computer by the Society may facilitate the production of an up-to-date index to the library.

Presidential Display

Mr Russell Jones chose as the subject for his Presidential display the three major printing processes — recess-printing, surface-printing, and lithography, and the types of varieties characteristic of each — illustrated by a wide variety of stamp issues.

For recess-printing, transfer roller errors were represented by a block of the 1916 2c red including one 5c error. Roller flaws were shown on the Natal 6d and St. Helena 6d Perkins Bacon plates. The De La Rue master plate process was demonstrated on the Bahamas "Staircase" issue and the Tonga Queen Salote stamps. Pantograph flaws included the Brunei "5c" retouch and Virgin Islands 1899 ½d flaws. Examples of reentries were shown on the Western Australia 1d Swan plate, and on the New Guinea 1937 5d Coronation.

In the surface printing process, errors of cliché included the Egypt 1875 1pi tête-bêche in a mint block of 9, and the Roumania 1891 25b blue error of colour in a block of the 5b. Victorian issues were used to demonstrate many of the types of flaws that arise — sub-types (1901-12 3d), double strikes, internal distortion varieties, substitutions (Laureates), retouches (2d Bell Die 1), reglet flaws (2d Bell Die 1), and cracked electros (3d and 4d Beaded Ovals, 1d Netted Corners).

The early Victorian issues were also used to illustrate lithography. Retouches, white line and coloured line varieties, fingerprint flaws and creased and squeezed transfers were shown on the Half-Length issues. A very rare item was a strip of 4 of the 2d Queen-on-Throne Campbell printing showing the substituted transfer.

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