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MARCH 1992

SOCIETY MOURNS TWO LOSSES WITHIN A FEW DAYS

Again the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has suffered the passing of two specially valued members within a few days.

DR. G. KERFOOT

Dr G. Kerfoot, who had attained 51 years membership of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, died in mid-January.

He joined the Society in January 1935 when he was practising as a dentist in Bentleigh. In 1936 he moved his practice to Wagga Wagga, N.S.W. But he retained his membership throughout the long period until his death.

After retirement, he returned to Melbourne but did not come to meetings. On his 50 years' membership the Council sent him a letter of congratulations and good wishes and he replied with a gracious letter of thanks, recalling that Mr L.A. Chester had proposed him for membership.

Dr Kerfoot went to Stampex 86 in Adelaide and attended the Society dinner at the Adelaide Club, with Mrs Kerfoot. For them it was a happy evening and the other members there enjoyed their company.

On his death, he was the Society's fifth longest serving member.

P.J. BARLOW

Mr Peter Barlow, a member of the Council of the Society since 1983, died from a sudden heart seizure after a day's yachting on January 11.

He pulled down the sail of his yacht, said "Haven't we had a lovely day" and fell backwards across the rail.

Mr Barlow was a quantity surveyor. His firm, Barlow Associates, had businesses in London and Melbourne. He was a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and a Fellow of the Royal Australian Institute of Quantity Surveyors.

He joined the Society after coming from Britain, in August 1970 and as elected to the Council in 1983. In that year he also became Chairman of the House Committee, after a period as one of its members.

Mr Barlow declined higher office than membership of the Council.

At Stampshow Melbourne last July he made his first exhibition entries and won a Silver Bronze medal for Great Britain overprinted for use in the Persian Gulf and a Bronze medal for the Machin Decimal Issues of Great Britain.

As House Committee head, he was keenly and deeply involved in proposals for the development of the Society's building and his competence was very evident. In that position he was primarily responsible for making the building a showplace for AUSIPEX 84 World Philatelic Exhibition visitors and overseas members of the Society to visit, and during his term he did a great deal of work himself.

His keen interest in the forthcoming Centenary History was evident when he put the partly-written draft manuscript onto his high-quality computer and then planned the chapter heading type-style and chose the type that is likely to be used.

The Society's final gratitude to him is for having used a connection with The British Library to gain valuable information that could not otherwise have been available.

H.L. CHISHOLM

SOME NOTES ON THE TASMANIAN "REVENUE" OVERPRINTS

By BILL LLOYD-SMITH

1. INTRODUCTION

In the past there has been a good deal of confusion about the philatelic status of various Tasmanian stamps overprinted "REVENUE" which appeared from November 1900 onwards. In particular it is of interest to determine which of these stamps were available for postal purposes. There is some uncertainty concerning the exact date of issue of these overprints. These issues were discussed in A.F. Basset Hull's article "Fiscal Philately" in the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, July and September 1930. We shall see that some of his comments appear to be incorrect.

Let us review the background to these stamps. Firstly, we examine the legislation concerning interchangeability between postage and duty stamps. Prior to 1882, revenue stamps were not available for postal purposes. Interchangeability of postage and revenue stamps came by virtue of an Act of Parliament entitled "An Act to consolidate and amend the Laws relating to Stamp Duties in Tasmania" which came into force on 1 November 1882. Section 10 provided that:

It shall be lawful for any person to use for the purposes of this Act Stamps made and sold under the provisions of any Act relating to the Post Office, and any person may use for the purposes of any Act relating to the Post Office, any Stamps provided under this act or any enactment repealed hereby.

Thus on 1 November 1882 the Platypus and St. George and Dragon issues became available for postage. Likewise, subsequent printings of the St. George and Dragon stamps up to 1900 were valid for postage. No further printings of the Platypus stamps were made until 1900 when the "REVENUE" overprints were produced on local printings made for that purpose.

It is necessary to briefly review the history of these stamps between 1882 and 1900 in order to clarify the background to the "REVENUE" overprints. We deal with each value in turn. Note that the Platypus issues alluded to are the London prints. These were first locally printed in 1900. The St. George and Dragon stamps were always printed in Hobart.

Late in 1882, according to A.F. Basset Hull in *The Stamps of Tasmania*, the 1d Sideface was withdrawn from sale for about 18 months so that the 1d Platypus could be used up. The 3d Platypus was the only 3d value available at the post office for a number of years, once the small stock of the 3d Sideface was exhausted. Since the letter rate to the Australian mainland and New Zealand was reduced from 3d per ½oz. to 2d per ½oz. on 1 January 1882, the 3d value was

not frequently used. Indeed, out of the initial printing of 720,000 there were 695,920 left in stock on 31 December 1889, but this count includes a few unissued 3d Sideface. Thus, in 1900 there were probably at least 600,000 of the 3d Platypus left in stock. There were evidently a few 3d Sideface left in stock in 1900 as well as examples are recorded in the Commonwealth presentation sets given to Federal and State Members of Parliament in 1901, along with the 3d Platypus. Details are given in Chapter 16 of W.E. Tinsley's *Stamps and Postal History of Tasmania*. Also see *The Australian Philatelist*, April 1901, pages 117-118.

The 6d Platypus replaced the 6d Chalon Head in 1883 or soon after. It was exhausted in July 1891 and temporarily replaced by a provisional printing of the 6d Chalon Head. In November 1892 the 6d Tablet appeared. The 1/- Platypus replaced the 1/- Chalon Head in 1883 or soon after. In turn it was replaced by the 1/- Tablet in November 1892. A few sheets of the 1/- Platypus evidently remained in stock as it is recorded in the Commonwealth presentation sets alluded to above. Out of the initial printing of 360,000 there were 205,560 of the 1/- Platypus in stock on 31 December 1889, so a few sheets would be expected to remain in stock until 1900. The 1d and 6d Platypus are represented in the Commonwealth presentation sets by reprints, so it seems clear that the stocks of these 1880 printings had been exhausted.

The 2/6 and 10/- St. George and Dragon stamps were the only stamps of these denominations available for postage until November 1892 when these were replaced by the corresponding denominations of the Tablet series. The 2/6 was initially issued on paper watermarked double-lined "1" in May 1880, but a new printing on paper watermarked close-spaced "TAS" appeared in August 1888. Basset Hull stated that the initial printing was of 30,000 stamps. Likewise, the 1888 printing was stated to comprise 30,000 stamps, according to an article by J.S. McNeill entitled "The Stamps of Tasmania" in *The Victorian Philatelic Record*, May 1923, pages 103-105, but this figure is suspiciously small. It should be noted that McNeill quoted Basset Hull's figures for the quantities printed of the 5/- and 10/- in 1880, but not for the 2/6 in 1880. The official count on 31 December 1889 gave the number of 2/6 stamps in stock as 78,540, but this includes the stock of unissued 2/6 stamps prepared by De La Rue in 1886. As there were 24,600 of the latter, we are left with 53,940 of the 2/6 St. George and Dragon. Thus, it appears that the figure quoted by McNeill is either too small or another printing of the 2/6 was made in the 1880's but not recorded by Basset Hull. In any case, the reader will not be surprised that some of these stamps appeared in the Commonwealth presentation sets in 1901.

The 10/- was initially issued in May 1880 on paper watermarked double-lined "1" in salmon. A new printing was made in February 1889 on the same paper as before but the colour is more like red-salmon to red-orange. The first printing was of 30,000 stamps but the size of the second printing is apparently not known. The official count on 31 December 1889 gave a figure of 34,320 of the 10/- but we have to delete 24,000 of the unissued 10/- stamps prepared by De La Rue in 1886. This leaves us with a mere 10,320 of the 10/- St. George and Dragon. This figure seems quite small, but the 10/- appeared in the Commonwealth presentation sets in 1901, so some stocks remained unissued until 1900 at least. One wonders if the 1889 printing was inadvertently omitted when counting the 10/-

stamps at the end of 1889 on the grounds that the Government Printer could have had a portion of that printing still in stock, awaiting issue to the Post Office.

As for the 5/- St. George and Dragon, it replaced the 5/- Sideface until 1885 when a new printing of the latter was issued. The official count of 31 December 1889 revealed 51,780 of the 5/-, mostly the Sideface issue but there was also a few of the St. George and Dragon. This fits in with the assertion made by Craig and Ingles in *The Revenue and Railway Stamps of Tasmania* that unissued sheets of the 5/- St. George and Dragon were discovered and released about 1895. Evidently the supply was exhausted soon after 1897 when the 5/- Tablet appeared, as the Commonwealth presentation sets contain a reprint of the 5/- St. George and Dragon, rather than an original. The colour of the reprint would be the obsolete brown colour rather than sage-green which was used for the 1880 printing.

From time to time the Tasmanian authorities sent presentation sets to the U.P.U. and various dignitaries. Reprints were made for that purpose if originals were no longer available. These sets included all the Platypus and St. George and Dragon issues. Even the 3d St. George and Dragon was requested for presentation purposes. In any case, the fact that the authorities included these stamps (or reprints thereof) in their presentation sets suggests quite strongly that these stamps were regarded as normal postage stamps. After all, the legislation of 1882 had specifically authorised the interchangeability of postage and revenue stamps.

2. THE END OF INTERCHANGEABILITY

With the advent of Federation, postage stamps had to be separated from revenue stamps. In the case of Tasmania this requirement was satisfied before the end of 1900. This point is made quite clearly in Craig and Ingles' *The Revenue and Railway Stamps of Tasmania*, pages 4-5, and in the P.M.G. *Philatelic Bulletin*, Vol. 10 (1962), pages 14-15.

It has been stated in various references that all fiscal stamps were rendered invalid for postage after 30 June 1901. For example, see Tinsley's *Stamps and Postal History of Tasmania*, Stanley Gibbons Part I Catalogue, and "The so-called Postal Fiscals of Tasmania with particular reference to the Platypus Stamps" by H.M. Campbell in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, February 1963. It is not clear where this statement comes from as fiscal stamps were no longer valid for postage after 30 November 1900 as we shall see.

On 18 October 1900 the Tasmanian Parliament passed an Act entitled "An Act to further amend the Stamp Duties Act, 1882", which provided as follows:

Section 1. Section Ten of the Stamp Duties Act, 1882 is hereby repealed.

Section 2. It shall not be lawful for any person to use for the purposes of the Stamp Duties Act 1882, or any amendment thereof, stamps made and sold under the provisions of any Act relating to the Post Office.

Section 3. This Act shall come into operation and take effect on and after the First Day of December, One Thousand Nine Hundred.

The reader will recall that Section 10 of the Stamp Duties Act, 1882, gave legislative sanction to the interchangeability of postage and revenue stamps. The text itself has been quoted in the Introduction. It is clear that fiscal

stamps provided under the Stamp Duties Act, 1882 or its amendments were available for postage up to 30 November 1900. After that date these were simply fiscals. Of course it does not follow that such fiscals were necessarily sold as anything but fiscals, but the purchaser could use such stamps for postage until 30 November 1900.

It remains to clarify which stamps were deemed to be provided under the terms of the Stamp Duties Act, 1882 and its amendments. To this end we quote the following Treasury Notice of 14 November 1900:

The Administrator of the Government has been pleased to approve that on and after 1 December next Postage Stamps may not be used for the purpose of the Stamp Duties Act, nor Revenue Stamps for postal purposes. The following Postage Stamps have been withdrawn, and will only be used for revenue purposes, viz:

St. George and Dragon	2s6d, 5s and 10s.
Platypus	1d, 3d, 6d and 1s.
Queen's Head	£1

Persons having these Revenue Stamps in possession may exchange them at the Post Office for Postage Stamps at any time during the month of December.

The very text of this notice shows clearly that the authorities had regarded the Platypus and St. George and Dragon issues as postage stamps. Also this notice states clearly which stamps without the "REVENUE" overprints were to be designated as fiscals. Obsolete printings of the St. George and Dragon stamps such as the 5/- brown were implicitly included in the Government Notice, but not the 3d St. George and Dragon which was apparently still valid for postage after 30 November 1900.

The Pictorial, Tablet, Sideface and earlier postal issues were still regarded as postage stamps, except for the £1 Tablet which was reserved for fiscal use, as specified by the Notice quoted above. It is obvious that all stamps overprinted "REVENUE" were designated as fiscals. Nevertheless, these could legally be used for postage up to 30 November 1900 but not afterwards, since that is what the letter of the law implied.

Despite the separation of postage and revenue stamps, revenue stamps continued to be used for postage and vice versa, although such usage was unauthorised. Notices were inserted in the *Government Gazette* on 23 and 30 December 1902 to remind the public that postage and revenue stamps were entirely separate.

3. COMPARISON WITH THE VICTORIAN "STAMP DUTY" ISSUES OF JUNE 1901

A parallel situation in Victoria occurred in June 1901 when the 1d and 3d Stamp Duty types appeared in new colours, viz. olive and slate-green respectively. Under the then current legislation, these two stamps could be, and were, used for postage up to 30 June 1901 but not afterwards. Of course, these were really issued as fiscals since the Stamp Duty series had already on 29 January 1901 been replaced for postal purposes by the "No Postage" series and three of the new "Postage" series, viz. the 1d, 2½d and 5d values.

Many of the existing postally used copies of the 1d and 3d Victorian Stamp Duty types in the new colours as described above were, of course, philatelic-

ally inspired. There is also evidence of back-dated "cancelling by favour" on these stamps. Some further information on these stamps is available in Kellow's *The Stamps of Victoria*.

These observations concerning the Victorian stamps described above also apply to the Tasmanian "REVENUE" overprints. However, the situation for the Victorian Stamp Duty issues is much clearer than for the Tasmanian "REVENUE" overprints for several reasons to be explained below. For Victoria only the 1d and 3d Stamp Duty types appeared in altered colours in shades between 29 January 1901 and 30 June 1901 inclusive and their dates of issue are known. These values were, of course, readily amenable to postal use on letters.

In the case of Tasmania, there is some uncertainty as the exact dates of issue of most, if not all, of the "REVENUE" overprints. More than one printing of certain values was overprinted "REVENUE" and therefore it is necessary to determine which, if any, printings were available by 30 November 1900. It is not just a question of deciding which values were issued on or before 30 November 1900. Since the values involved ranged from 1d to £1, it should be clear that the opportunity to use the higher values for postal purposes was extremely limited. Finally, these stamps are plagued with numerous overprint errors, such as double and inverted overprints. Such errors seem to be offered fairly frequently at auctions. One wonders whether some of these errors represent leakages of printer's waste, as Craig and Ingles have suggested in the second supplement to their catalogue of Tasmanian railway and revenue stamps.

4. THE GENESIS OF THE "REVENUE" OVERPRINTS

These issues first appeared in November 1900 but there seems to be some confusion concerning the exact dates of issue as we shall see. The Treasury Notice quoted previously makes no allusion to these. The purpose of the overprint was undoubtedly to mark the revenue stamps very clearly as revenue stamps so that the public would not use these stamps for postage.

The Australian Philatelist for December 31, 1900 chronicled the Platypus series overprinted "REVENUE". In the same journal for January 30, 1901 it was pointed out that the 1d, 6d and 1/- were locally printed. No mention was made of either a 2d Platypus or the 2/6 to £1 values in these references.

The Australian Philatelist for December 1, 1902 published a letter from W.A. Weymouth of Hobart who stated that the values entitled to be catalogued as postally used were the 3d, 2/6, 10/- and £1. The next issue of the journal published an official letter from H.L. D'Emden, then Superintendent of the General Post Office, Hobart, that these four values were on sale for about fourteen days in November 1900. We quote his letter to Mr Fred Hagen, then editor of *The Australian Philatelist*:

Government of Tasmania
Post and Telegraph Department
Hobart, 1st December 1902

Mr Fred Hagen, Box 660, G.P.O. Sydney
Dear Sir,

In reply to your letter of the 17th ultimo, which illness and absence from office has hitherto prevented my replying to, I beg to inform you that 3d platypus, 2s6d St. George and Dragon, 10s St. George and Dragon, and 20s Queen's head were surcharged with the word "Revenue" and were

on sale and available for postage for about fourteen days in November, 1900.

Yours faithfully,
Henry L. D'Emden

The catalogue of Craig and Ingles states that these "REVENUE" overprints appeared from 20 November 1900 onwards. Other writers give slightly different dates. Obviously there is confusion as to the dates of issue but 20 November 1900 is probably close to the truth.

In *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, June 30, 1902 (Vol. 12), page 241, it is recorded that *Ewen's Weekly* stated that the 1d, 6d, 1/- Platypus and 5/- St. George and Dragon were never available for postage, either in November 1900 or later, with the "REVENUE" overprint, but the 3d, 2/6, 10/- and £1 were available for postage up to 30 November 1900. Thus it is apparent that there was some confusion as to what was intended or allowed. It is quite possible that the allusion to 1d, 6d, 1/- and 5/- values just mentioned indicates that new printings were made of these values specifically for overprinting prior to issue, whereas old stocks of 3d, 2/6, 10/- and £1 were meant, as these had been formerly sold for postal use. Late in 1900 these old stocks were duly overprinted.

In *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, January 31, 1908 (Vol. 18), page 154, the same remark is made about 3d, 2/6, 10/- and £1 as in 1902, but it is added that 1d, 2d, 6d, 1/- were never issued without the overprint and it is stated that these were never authorised for postal use. This statement conflicts with the wording, if not the spirit, of the amendment to the Stamp Duties Act, which was quoted earlier in this article.

In any case both old stocks of Platypus and St. George and Dragon stamps and new printings of the foregoing were overprinted. Perhaps the authorities believed that the new printings were never authorised for postage, unlike the old stock, even though the legislation clearly implied that these were valid for postage up to 30 November 1900. If so, the law as it stood did not express their intentions accurately. Collectors of that time who put these emissions to postal use in November 1900 were quite entitled to do so.

It is now time for us to examine each of these issues in some detail. At present it is not yet possible to give conclusive judgments in every case, but we shall go as far as possible. Any doubts and uncertainties will be mentioned as these arise. In order we deal with the Platypus issues, the St. George and Dragon issues, and the £1 Tablet.

We note that many of these stamps are found with a Hobart postmark dated 30 November 1900, sometimes on cover, usually addressed to H. Morey, G.P.O. Hobart. These Hobart postmarks need not be proof of actual postal use on that date, unless the stamps are on entire cover.

The word "REVENUE" is normally 1.5mm high and 15mm long on these stamps. At least three formes would have been used. One would be needed for the Platypus stamps, another for the St. George and Dragon stamps and a third for the £1 Tablet. The forme for overprinting St. George and Dragon stamps appears to have been scrapped by 1903 as a new version of the "REVENUE" with taller letters was used late in that year for overprinting another printing of the 2/6.

5. THE PLATYPUS ISSUES

Except for one printing of the 1d, these stamps only appeared on paper watermarked close-spaced TAS. The plates for the 1d, 3d, 6d and 1/- Platypus had been sent by De La Rue to Hobart in 1894. We have seen that large stocks existed of the 3d, and a few sheets of the 1/- still remained unissued in 1900 as a few found their way into the Commonwealth presentation sets of 1901. Hence it was necessary to print new supplies of the 1d, 6d and 1/- for overprinting (but not the 3d). For this purpose, lithographic transfers were made from the original plates. At some stage not yet clear, it was decided to issue a 2d value in the Platypus type. The value label corresponding to this key type was locally produced and lacks the regularity of the De La Rue productions. The letters in the words of value are somewhat smaller than in the other values. Basset Hull correctly stated in his article "Fiscal Philately" that the 1d and 6d had been used up by 1900. He also correctly noted that a large stock of the 3d and a small stock of the 1/- remained in 1900.

Basset Hull stated that the 1/- London print was used up first and then followed up by a local printing of the 1/-. However, *The Australian Philatelist* of 30 January 1901 says that the 1d, 6d and 1/- are locally printed. The 1/- London print is not mentioned at all. Thus Basset Hull's statement is dubious. Certainly the 1d with "REVENUE" overprint would have been needed by 1 December 1900 (a Saturday) at the very latest as no other 1d stamps were available for revenue purposes. Probably it was issued in November 1900. At any rate Basset Hull's suggestion that the 1d and 6d appeared early in 1901 is wrong as the previously cited report in *The Australian Philatelist* for 31 December 1900 concerning these issues shows. A 6d and 1/- would have been urgently needed to avoid (or at least reduce) the need to plaster a document with 3d stamps to pay, say, 2/- stamp duty as the next higher denomination otherwise known to be available in time was the 2/6.

1d Value. According to *The Australian Philatelist* of January 30, 1901, page 76, the 1d appeared in deep blue, not pale blue as stated in the first supplement to Craig and Ingles' catalogue. Campbell recorded an example postmarked at Scamander on 13 November 1900 (*Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, February 1963). It would seem almost certain that later printings of the 1d appeared after November 1900 and hence were not valid for postage although a few copies apparently passed through the mail.

The 1d is also known on paper watermarked wide-spaced TAS. This was obviously an attempt to exhaust the old stocks as the last use of this paper for postage stamps had been in August 1891 for the 4d Sideface in bistre. According to Craig and Ingles this printing appeared in July or August 1903. If this date is correct then this printing was not authorised for postage even though it is listed in Stanley Gibbons catalogue and Robson Lowe's *Encyclopaedia*, Volume 4. It would be desirable to examine fiscally used copies in order to decide this point.

2d Value. This value was not mentioned in *The Australian Philatelist* for 31 December 1900 and 30 January 1901 when the other Platypus stamps were chronicled with "REVENUE" overprint. In the first supplement to Craig and Ingles' catalogue it is stated that the 2d appeared in 1903, not 1900. Some

examples of the 2d with value omitted postmarked Hobart 30/11/1900 are known, but these could have been postmarked by favour. I have not seen any examples with fiscal cancellations dated in 1900.

It would still be desirable to look for early dates of fiscal use in order to decide just when this stamp was issued, even though it is extremely doubtful if this stamp was ever available in November 1900. If this supposition is correct, then it follows that the 2d was never available for postage.

3d Value. This is the easiest value to find with genuine postal cancellations. I have seen an example cancelled at Sandy Bay 29/11/1900. Since stocks of the London printing of 1880 were still quite large (probably over 600,000), it was sufficient to overprint the existing stock. There seems to be no doubt of its availability for postage and the latter of H. D'Emden quoted above is confirmatory evidence. From 1903 onwards this stamp was also issued with surcharges of 1d and 4d but these were purely fiscals.

6d Value. This value requires little comment. The main point of concern is when it first appeared in 1900, possibly November as it was reported in *The Australian Philatelist* for 31 December 1900. There remains the possibility that the 6d with "REVENUE" overprint was first issued early in December 1900, but the report in *The Australian Philatelist* gives the clear impression that it was issued in November. It would be desirable to examine early dates of usage, both postal and fiscal.

1/- Value. This value almost certainly appeared in November 1900. *The Australian Philatelist* for 31 January 1901 mentioned that the 1/- was locally printed. The 1/- London printing also exists with the "REVENUE" overprint but is of some rarity. Craig and Ingles price the London printing at \$75 used as compared to \$15 used for the local printing. We have seen that a few sheets of the 1/- London printing were in stock as late as 1901 as the Commonwealth presentation sets contain originals of the 1/- Platypus. It is evident that a few remaining sheets of old stock were overprinted "REVENUE" and put into use. It is possible that this variety also appeared in November 1900. It would be desirable to examine early dates of usage, both fiscal and postal, in order to determine the philatelic status of these two printings.

There are numerous errors found on these stamps (1d to 1/-). Most of them are listed by Craig and Ingles, and McNeill states numbers said to have been issued of some of these in his article in *The Victorian Philatelic Record* of May 1923. The fact that most of these are often found in unused condition suggests that many of these got into the hands of collectors, rather than being issued for use.

6. THE ST. GEORGE AND DRAGON ISSUES

Both old stock and new printings were overprinted "REVENUE". The 3d value had been replaced by the Platypus design so only the 2/6, 5/- and 10/- values need concern us. Most of these stamps have watermarks either double-lined "1" or close-spaced TAS, but the 2/6 is also known on paper watermarked double-lined "4". This is significant because Tinsley states on page 27 of his book that the supply of double-lined numeral paper lasted past 1890 and was

used up on other postal printing matter (whatever that may be), including postal notes. Nevertheless, it seems likely that all of the stamps with watermark "1" were remainders of old stock and also many, if not all, of the 2/6 on paper watermarked close-spaced TAS were remainders of old stock. Indeed, Basset Hull correctly states that a stock remained of the 2/6 and 10/- but not of the 5/-. Any old stocks of the 10/- must have been on the double-lined figure "1" watermarked paper, not the TAS watermarked paper as Basset Hull seems to say. We have already seen that the 2/6 and 10/- first appeared with "REVENUE" overprint in November 1900 as the letter of D'Emden confirms, not December as Basset Hull says.

2/6 Value. This value is usually seen watermarked close-spaced TAS but it also exists on paper watermarked double-lined "1". These latter items no doubt come from remainders left at the bottom of the pile when the 2/6 was printed on the TAS watermarked paper in 1888. None of the reports in contemporary journals cited in this article mention the watermark of this value. The 2/6 on the TAS watermarked paper is known with postmarks from November 1900 and it is possible that the 2/6 on paper watermarked double-lined "1" also appeared in November 1900. It would be desirable to check this possibility by examining fiscally used copies of the latter, and postally used copies too if these exist.

Since the stock of 2/6 stamps on 31 December 1889 was 53,940 as we have previously seen, a considerable portion of this stock must have remained when the 2/6 Tablet appeared in November 1892. It is even possible that this old stock was considered to be sufficient so that no new printing on TAS watermarked paper would be needed for some time. McNeill stated that one sheet on TAS paper was issued imperforate. This amounts to 120 copies.

A new printing on paper watermarked double-lined "4" appeared in late 1903. The second supplement to Craig and Ingles' catalogue records an example cancelled 30/11/03 in manuscript. A new forme was used and the overprint was 2mm high. Of course, this printing was never available for postage. It was probably a small printing made to use up old stocks of paper and was replaced in 1904 by a new design (numeral of value series).

5/- Value. This value only exists with the watermark close-spaced TAS. According to Easterbrook (*Philately from Australia*, 1962, page 85) the 5/- appeared about 1 January 1901 (the earliest date seen by him) or shortly before. Obviously this stamp is the result of a new printing. It is doubtful if this stamp ever appeared in November 1900. Thus it would not have been available for postage. However, we have quoted a report to the effect that the 5/- (and some other values) was never available for postage, either in November 1900 or later. Thus it is not entirely clear whether the 5/- did appear in November 1900 or a little later. At present no judgment can be given on its philatelic status but the future verdict is likely to be "revenue stamp only".

10/- Value. This value exists with watermarks double-lined "1" and close-spaced TAS. The former watermark would almost certainly represent old stocks of this value. One would expect most of these stamps to come from the 1889 printing, but a few sheets from the 1880 printing could have remained at the bottom of the pile, only to be overprinted in 1900 or later. The catalogue of Craig and Ingles

mentions a range of shades for this value so it is worth examining fiscally used copies of these shades in order to establish earliest dates of use.

Craig and Ingles' catalogue states that the 10/- on the TAS watermarked paper appeared in 1902 (see their second supplement). If this statement is correct then it follows that postally cancelled copies dated 1900 were cancelled by favour. The postally cancelled copies described in auction catalogues all had watermark double-lined "1", as far as I am aware.

Thus it seems likely that the 10/- on issue in November 1900 was watermarked double-lined "1" but the reports in contemporary journals do not mention the watermark. At any rate postally used copies, even if philatelically inspired, appear to be far scarcer than for the £1 Tablet, if auction catalogues are any indication.

The 10/- is known surcharged 5d but this appeared in 1918 and hence is a fiscal.

A few errors have been recorded among these stamps but these are not as numerous as for the Platypus issues. The catalogue of Craig and Ingles lists these errors and McNeill's article, previously cited, contains some further information.

7. THE £1 TABLET

The stock of £1 Tablet stamps in November 1900 must have been quite substantial as 243,600 were delivered into stock on 3 February 1897. Hence there was no need to print any more of the £1. According to A.R. Butler, who wrote Chapter 16 of Tinsley's book, the £1 was overprinted "REVENUE" on 18 November 1900. Apparently one sheet escaped the overprint and it was hand-stamped "REVENUE" diagonally in violet. I have not seen this variety myself but Craig and Ingles state in their first supplement that the overprint was 23.5mm long and 3mm high. McNeill stated that one sheet was thus handstamped so only 240 copies were ever produced. Thus, Basset Hull is wrong in saying that the £1 Tablet was overprinted in December 1900 as this stamp was already available in November 1900. His claim that the handstamp was applied at a "later date" (unspecified) is not substantiated.

It is clear that both these stamps would have been available for postage for a short time in November 1900. Most if not all instances of postal use would have been philatelically inspired.

In 1919 the £1 appeared with surcharges of 5d and 1/- but these were purely for fiscal use.

In addition Butler, in the reference cited above, mentioned an example of the £1 Tablet overprinted "REVENUE" and additionally overprinted "SPECIMEN". It is amongst archival material held by Australia Post.

Some overprint errors have been recorded. These are described in Craig and Ingles' catalogue and its supplements. McNeill's article also contains some information on these errors.

8. SOME GENERAL REMARKS

The Platypus and St. George and Dragon issues have been a source of interest to many collectors, not least because of the originality of the designs.

Moreover, many of these were the only stamps of their denomination available for postage at various times.

The "REVENUE" overprints on these issues and the £1 Tablet mark a watershed between the postage issues and the revenue issues, which were henceforth to be entirely separate. The brief availability for postage of some of these latter issues was somewhat accidental but the letter of D'Emden quoted previously gives official sanction to the postal use of some of these.

The most accurate catalogue listing of the Platypus and St. George and Dragon issues, both with and without the "REVENUE" overprint, appears to be that of Craig and Ingles. Even so, there is apparently some uncertainty about the order of printings (? shades) of the 1d Platypus overprinted "REVENUE". The problem of distinguishing which printings were available for postage, even if only briefly, is not completely solved as we have observed. It is hoped that this article will make a beginning in that direction.

It is important to record early dates of use for these "REVENUE" overprints, and fiscal cancellations would be of great help in this matter. If sufficient information comes to hand, it would be possible to publish a supplement to these notes.

The 3d, 2/6, 10/- and £1 are known used together on a cover dated 30 November 1900. This item appeared in the David Feldman auction of 10 April 1983. A mint and a used copy of the 10/- watermarked double-lined "1" were offered in Harmer's of Sydney auction No. 285. The Royal Collection contains a used copy of the same stamp. A used copy of the £1 Tablet handstamped "REVENUE" was in Harmer's of Sydney Sales 5-6, and another was in Robson Lowe's Sales 1623-4. The normal version of the £1 Tablet with "REVENUE" appears to be offered in auctions fairly frequently, especially with a Hobart cancellation dated 30 November 1900. Likewise, some of the Platypus stamps with "REVENUE" overprints, particularly 1d, 2d with value omitted and 3d appear in auctions fairly frequently. It is not uncommon for these items to exhibit various errors, many of which are listed by Craig and Ingles. The 1/- Platypus (local printing) also turns up in auctions from time to time, but the 6d and St. George and Dragon issues are apparently considerably scarcer if auction catalogues are any indication of the availability of these stamps.

In conclusion, the "REVENUE" overprints have been regarded with suspicion, particularly because of the occurrence of backdated postmarks and the plethora of blundered overprints. In practice, it is very difficult to assemble a good showing of postally used copies, even allowing for philatelically inspired use. It is likely that most collectors will have to be satisfied with the inclusion of some fiscally used material. The usual warnings about penmarks being cleaned off and forged postmarks added apply to these stamps.

I wish to thank Geoff Kellow for some helpful discussions about the stamps described in this article.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

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

The last update to our book was in September 21991, and there is not much to add since then. However, there are a few typographical errors in the original work that have escaped notice previously, one of them pointed out by Mr Neville Solly. Apart from these, another in the list of Type 4 datestamps has now been found "tied" to a numeral cancellation.

Chapter 4

- p. 19. 105 NURIOOPTA. Should read "NURIOOTPA".
 p. 23. 158 RAPID BAY early 182. Should read "early 1862".
 R.78 ROSEWORTHY. Should read "R.76".
 p. 29 R.135 ARKABA. In the Remarks column, "No. 15 later used at G.P.O." should read "No. 135 later used".

Chapter 7

- p. 46 Second column. Before "WOODCHESTER", add "***".

THE ANNUAL RECALL OF EARLY VICTORIAN DATESTAMPS

By G.N. KELLOW

In *Philately from Australia*, September 1981, several types of provisional handstruck and manuscript markings of Victorian post offices were described ("Two Provisional Geelong Postal Markings of 1849", by A.A. Levy and G.N. Kellow, pages 55-58). It was apparent that the use of these markings, all dated around the last days of December and first days of January, was necessitated by the recall of the normal datestamps to Melbourne for the year date to be altered. The datestamps did not incorporate year slugs, but each year the new year date had to be re-engraved.

A circular lettersheet from the G.P.O. Melbourne regarding this procedure has now turned up, and is illustrated here (reduced). Dated 23 December 1859 and addressed to the Postmaster at Sandy Creek, the text is self-explanatory. It is backstamped with the Sandy Creek crowned oval datestamp, DC 26 59.

CIRCULAR, No. 10

General Post Office,

Melbourne, *23rd Dec*, 18 *59*.

SIR,

With the last mail despatched by you to this office in the present year, I have to request that you will forward the date stamp of your office, for the purpose of having the year altered from 18 *59* to 18 *60*.

Until the stamp is returned, you are requested to write the name of your office and the date in ink, upon each letter.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

WILLIAM TURNER.

The Postmaster,

Sandy Creek

THE PLATING OF THE 10d LAUREATED ISSUE OF VICTORIA

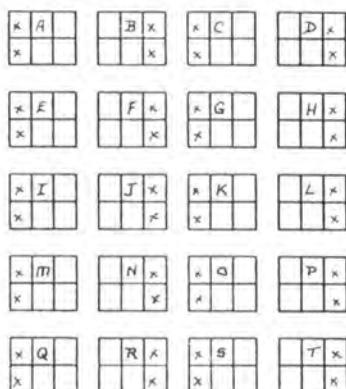
By RUSSELL JONES, F.R.P.S.,L.

This value was required to meet the rate on a letter sent to the United Kingdom via Marseilles, and also for the combined Inland and Registration rate.

The first printing was in grey and grey-black on De La Rue paper water-marked "8". Subsequent printings were in shades of purple on pink paper water-marked "10". The last printing was in a distinctive brown-purple on rose and does not exist without the NINE PENCE surcharge (required for the via Brindisi rate).

The plating of this value was one of the last to be completed by the late J.R.W. Purves.

The 10d was printed throughout from a forme of 120 in twenty blocks of six (two rows of three) – each block therefore having a value of 5/-. For descriptive purposes the blocks have been lettered A to T, the electros in each block being numbered 1 to 6. It will be noted that every stamp has at least one adjacent gutter, which explains the prevalence of so-called "imperforate" copies. No imperforate pair is known.



The 10d forme, comprising twenty blocks of six stamps, lettered A to T. The crosses indicate the "NINE PENCE" surcharge positions found with pin-hole in "O" of "VICTORIA".

No substitutions or shuffling *inter se* of the electrotypes is known. The plating is 75% complete for the grey printing, and 95% complete for the 9d on 10d.

The following four peculiarities will often be noted to be present and may amount to sub-types:

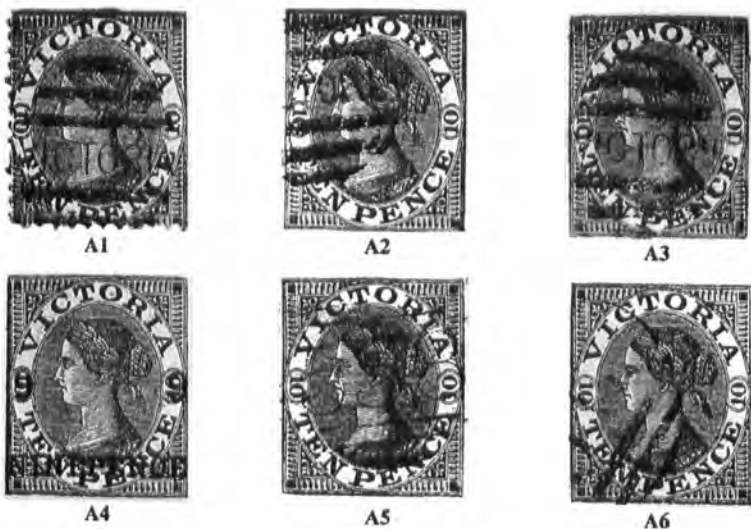
- (i) Left frame shaved at base.

- (ii) S.E. corner square joined to frame by colour.
- (iii) Oval about right "10" broken at 6 o'clock.
- (iv) Serif at top of first "E" of "PENCE" bifid.

The major varieties are retouches on G2 and G3, and very extensive double strikes on O5 and E3. Double strikes also occur on E1, E2, G6, H1, I1, I2, I3, I4, K1, O2 and S6.

With regard to the NINE PENCE surcharge there is a feature which I do not think has been described before. Mr Purves showed that the overprint was applied separately to each block of six, i.e., twenty applications for the sheet. In the centre of the "O" of "VICTORIA" will frequently be found a "pin-hole". When the stamps are plated the distribution of the stamps with a pin-hole is as shown in the diagram. These pin-holes are obviously related to the surcharging. In this connection it may be noted that no multiple larger than a pair is known, and certainly no multiple across the inter-block gutter. Possibly the sheet was divided before surcharging - the pin-holes are invariably present on the stamps indicated in the diagram and are never found elsewhere.

A pin-hole associated with perforation has been found in the S.W. corner of L3.



- A1 Right frames fused above centre with minute dent 1mm from S.E. corner.
- A2 Left inner frame broken into several small lengths for 2mm below centre. Right frame is split for 1mm at lower end.
- A3 Right frames fused for 4mm at lower end. Small bend in right frame 4.5mm from top. Small break in bottom frame 1mm from left end and just to left of blob of colour.
- A4 Difficult. Bottom frame has curved white line in it for 2-5mm from left corner; may be closed by ink. Top frame is thinned slightly at right end for about 3mm.
- A5 Difficult. Top of "R" of "VICTORIA" joined to oval by small spur of colour. S.E. corner square partly joined to inner frame. Small spot of colour between frames opposite S.W. square.
- A6 Difficult. Right frame shaved for 0.5mm at lower end.



B1



B2



B3



B4



B5



B6



C1



C2



C3



C4



C5



C6

- B1 Top frame is bevelled quite markedly for 4.5mm at left end. Bottom inner frame is sometimes missing under "EN" of "PENCE".
- B2 Top frames are fused left of centre. Right frame is joined to inner by solid colour for 3mm at top.
- B3 Outer left frame is missing. Above centre the inner frame is in contact with body of stamp.
- B4 Bottom frame touches inner for 3mm at right. Top frame is thinned for 6mm at left.
- B5 Difficult. Bottom frame is thinned for 1mm at 2-3mm from left end. Right frame is thinned and approaches the inner at lower end.
- B6 Difficult. Top frame is thinned for 6mm at left end.
- C1 All outer frames except bottom are thick. Top frame has square notch at right end. Blob of colour between right numeral ovals at 6 o'clock.
- C2 Very difficult. Lower right square is joined by colour to right frame. On lightly printed copies the left frame is split above centre.
- C3 Serif at bottom of first "E" of "PENCE" is forked. Dent in right frame 5mm above base. S.E. corner of S.E. square is split off and joined to frame.
- C4 Ovals under "OR" of "VICTORIA" are joined by colour.
- C5 Outer left frame is missing (cf. B3). Outer right frame is fused with inner at level of "CE" of "PENCE".
- C6 Top frame dented in to touch the inner over "C" of "VICTORIA".



D1



D2



D3



D4



D5



D6



E1



E2



E3



E4

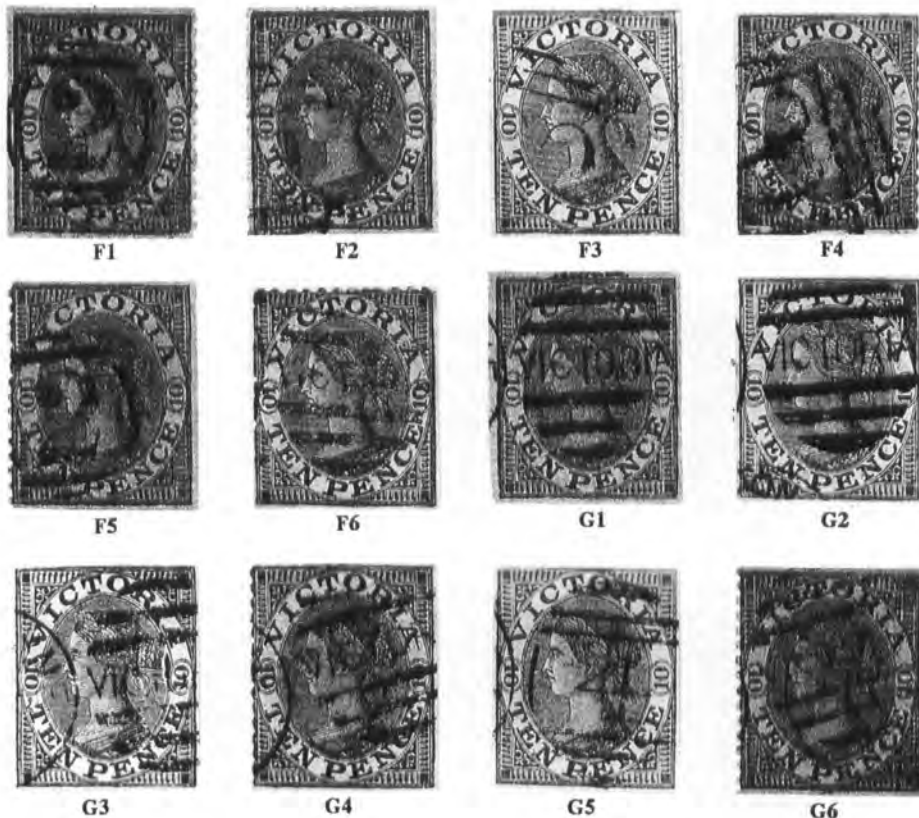


E5



E6

- D1 Top frame fused in left 6mm.
 D2 S.E. square fused to inner frame in bottom half.
 D3 Difficult. Left frames gradually fuse above centre.
 D4 Circular spot of colour in S.W. corner. Bottom frame fuses in right half. Left inner frame is double 4mm from bottom.
 D5 Left frame is irregular opposite numeral oval.
 D6 N.W. corner is badly broken.
- E1 Double strike. Fine extra line between inner and outer bottom frame with doubling of oval at 6 o'clock. Shows also a fine doubling of right part of right numeral oval with doubling of outer main oval below the numeral and of frame above. The two lines of the oval about "10" are joined by colour at 6 o'clock.
 E2 Double strike. Shows in main oval as a curved line of broken shading just inside left edge. The left frame is double in centre two quarters and the bottom frame is also slightly doubled. Sometimes white spots on face.
 E3 Double strike (?). Another remarkable stamp with extra frames all around. There is a prominent spot of colour on ear.
 E4 Top frame has two breaks 8 and 2mm from N.E. corner. Left frame has two fine breaks 1.5 and 6mm from lower corner.
 E5 Left frame is thick except in bottom 1.5mm where there is a free-standing line.
 E6 Left frame becomes progressively thinner towards the bottom. Right frame shows two notches at top and just below centre.



- F1 Bottom frame bevelled at right end.
- F2 Right frame thinner in bottom quarter. White flaw in left serif at top of "T" of "VICTORIA". Small notch in right frame 0.5mm from top.
- F3 Fine break in right frame 0.5mm from bottom. Notch in the lower aspect of bottom frame 3.5mm from right corner.
- F4 Major break in bottom frame at left. Extra colour across the corner square and ornamental border.
- F5 Oblique white flaw in S.E. corner square. Bottom frame thick and bevelled at left.
- F6 Left frame shaved at base with fine line upwards from bottom frame. Extra colour across left "10", in particular at top of "1". Oval about right numeral is broken at 6 o'clock. Colour joining N.W. square to surrounds. Right frame double in lower two-thirds.
- G1 Square notch at S.E. corner.
- G2 (i) Heavy colour blots out the ornamental panel in N.E. corner. Additional small blotch on ornamental border in S.W. corner.
(ii) Recutting of the ornamental panel - only approaches the normal in a superficial way. The spot in the S.W. corner is not touched. Occurs during the brown printings.
- G3 An irregular flaw covers the area between the hair and the right numeral. The adjacent right frame and numeral are slightly abnormal. A number of irregular lines cross the flaw and may represent an added metal retouch. In the NINE PENCE surcharge it wears badly and the oval under "IA" is partly missing.
- G4 Top frames fused for 5mm from left corner. Small vertical white flaw in S.E. corner square crossing frame.
- G5 Top frames fused in left half.
- G6 Double strike of corner square and adjacent ornamental border of N.E. corner. 1.5mm coloured line under centre part of bottom frame.



H1



H2



H3



H4



H5



H6



I1



I2



I3



I4



I5



I6

- H1 Minor double strike. Involves oval and frame above and below right numeral, as well as central part of bottom frame. Left frame shaved at bottom.
- H2 U-shaped notch in bottom frame at left corner. Circular white flaw in S.W. corner square. S.E. corner is rounded. White flaw in serif at foot of first "E" of "PENCE".
- H3 Outer left frame close to inner for 2mm in top left corner. Right serif at top of "I" of "VICTORIA" is bifurcated.
- H4 Double strike. Oval about right "10" is doubled on right and there is slight doubling of the left frame. Top frame fused left of centre. S.E. corner rounded.
- H5 Triangular-shaped blob of colour over angle of jaw. Outer left frame is missing.
- H6 Difficult. An oblong blob of colour between two shading lines on neck about halfway from base to ear and in line of the ear.
- I1 Double strike. The right side of the oval about right "10" is doubled together with the adjacent parts of the right frame. There is a little colour between top of "I" of "VICTORIA" and oval. Oval about right numeral broken at 6 o'clock.
- I2 Outer bottom frame double. Central two quarters of right frame is doubled with a very thin outer frame - sometimes not printing.
- I3 Double strike. Left frame is clearly doubled except at top and bottom. Bottom frame is doubled in right two-thirds, with a square notch at extreme right end. Right frame is thickened and blurred and there is evidence of double striking in centre. Two ovals about right "10" are broken at 6 o'clock.
- I4 Double strike. Minor with faint doubling about right numeral. Fine extra line between inner and outer frames. Right side of oval about numeral is thickened. Right serif at foot of "P" of "PENCE" has a circular white flaw. Extra blotches of colour on left side.
- I5 Bottom frames are more or less joined by colour left of centre.
- I6 Bottom frame thickened at left with sharp projection just right of centre.



J1



J2



J3



J4



J5



J6



K1



K2



K3



K4



K5



K6

- J1 Outer top frame missing. Outer left frame bends in suddenly 4.5mm from top.
- J2 Stem of "T" of "VICTORIA" has a large blob of colour on right side.
- J3 Break in oval line over "N" of "TEN".
- J4 Major internal distortion flaw in S.W. corner.
- J5 Right frame doubled in central two quarters. Circular blob of colour in S.E. corner. Left frame partly double. U-shaped notch in bottom frame 4.5mm from S.W. corner.
- J6 Small break in top frame almost at N.W. corner.
- K1 Minor double strike. Ovals above left numeral are thicker than normal. The outer oval about left "10" is thickened at top to form a cap. Left frames are fused in top half as are the bottom frames right of centre.
- K2 Right frame split for 2mm at top.
- K3 Left frame missing. Colour across lower part of right upper ornamental border.
- K4 Right frame thin above centre and curves in to touch the inner. White flaw in front of "R" of "VICTORIA". Two dots of colour between "P" and "E" of "PENCE" and again after "N" of "PENCE". S.W. corner square has two white flaws.
- K5 Internal distortion flaw of upper right frame. Bottom frame is split for 7mm on left. Blob of colour on chignon.
- K6 Top left corner square is joined to left frame by a bar of colour. Small break in S.W. corner. Break in outer oval about right numeral at 6 o'clock.



L1



L2



L3



L4



L5



L6



M1



M2



M3



M4



M5



M6

- L1 S.E. corner square joined to right frame at bottom.
 L2 Irregular mass of colour joins hair to right numeral oval.
 L3 Square notch in S.W. corner. Small white flaw in tip of left serif on cross-bar of "T" of "VICTORIA".
 L4 Left frame fused below centre. Colour across the two ovals between "O" and "R" of "VICTORIA".
 L5 Right frame has thickening between 3 and 1mm from bottom.
 L6 Left inner frame is missing immediately above junction with bottom frame for 0.5mm. Left frames fuse in upper 4-5mm.
 M1 Corner of triangular ornament joined to ornamental border in S.E. corner. Colour between frame and ornamental border 3mm from N.E. corner.
 M2 Left inner frame double in central two-thirds.
 M3 Top frame projects to right at N.E. corner.
 M4 Top frame bevelled at N.E. corner. Right frame split for 6mm below centre.
 M5 Double strike. Doubling of oval at 6 o'clock and adjacent part of inner frame (to right and left of centre). Coloured flaw joins top of "C" of "VICTORIA" to oval.
 M6 S.E. square has white flaw at top right. Fine break in bottom frame 1.25mm from left end.

(to be continued)

VICTORIA 1d CAMPBELL HALF-LENGTH

NEW EARLY DATE

By Dr. W.B. SPARROW

Amongst a recent auction purchase from the United Kingdom of a number of Half-Lengths was a fine copy of S.G.18, 1d orange-red on piece, addressed to "... Public Works Committee". This Campbell & Co. printing is cancelled by a Melbourne barred oval. Alongside is a very clear oval datestamp reading "MELBOURNE/Crown/Fe 7 D/1854/VICTORIA."

This dating verifies Dr Geoff Kellow's delivery date for the printing of February 1854 in his *The Stamps of Victoria* (1990), but precedes the previously recorded earliest date of 6 March 1854.

BOOK REVIEW

Philately from Western Australia, by Mogens Juhl, F.R.P.S.L. 17.5 x 24cm. 112 pages. ISBN 0 9593752 4 4. Published by the author, 71 Avalon Parade, Avalon Beach, N.S.W. 2107. Price, \$33 including postage within Australia.

Whoever Admiral Lord Nelson defeated at Copenhagen it is improbable that it was a relation of Mogens Juhl, F.R.P.S., L. and Master of Law, Copenhagen.

This upholder of philatelic truth has now provided *Philately from Western Australia. A Catalogue/Handbook 1829-1912*, his fifth book on the general subject. It is both a summary and an update. It looks good, as do its predecessors, is at a modest price for its quality and must make compilation of a collection, traditional, postmark study or postal stationery, easier and more profitable in every sense.

Western Australia has never been the most neglected of Australian States philatelically, though the popular idea that a collection needs a 4d inverted frame before it is taken seriously dies hard. Mogens Juhl, unlike some who write, is an experienced collector of many years capable of winning high awards from competent juries in the face of strong competition. Some of his detractors and/or critics present less impressive credentials.

Juhl likes to record and to teach. In general he does an excellent job and nothing said below

is intended to be unhelpful. Anybody prepared to write a comparable work on another Australian State or similar challenging subject should use this volume as a model or guide.

Prephilately is treated briefly but adequately (pp.11-14) and there is no attempt to guide the reader as to values. The imperforates, including the 1d black and its local printing (pp.15-24) are likely to provide the main interest for general readers. Juhl is probably too kind to roulettes and over-generous in listing and pricing the interesting "Imperial punctures" when space could have been directed to the unexplored 2d lithograph. We do not know if the basis was a single derived from the 6d or a triplet (one margin too narrow) similarly derived with value tablets of varied length. Even the "lost" intermediate stones for the two values present difficulties. While 12 divides neatly into 240, the choice of 3 x 16 for the 2d reminds us of Victorian conjuring - and of the poorly constructed triplet. There is no mention of the "why" the 2d was dyed to differentiate it from the 6d or why the term "coated" is used, for what appears to be a second printing operation. Surely a European philatelist familiar with Australia and Austrian Italy low values would list both impressions up and impressions reversed under different sub-numbers. No mention of the 4d

with thumb/fingerprint? Has anybody looked for this?

The 1861 issue (pp.25-26) lacks comment on proofs. Die proofs, plate proofs, colour trials, etc. and specimens are more important in a collection, at least to the English-speaking world, than re-issues or invisible watermark positions. The illustrations on page 25 might have been captioned "rough A", "clean A" (rough at top), "very rough A" and "Somerset House line 14". The two copies of 4d 11a are freaks.

Plating, lightly dismissed on page 15, becomes important if any study of watermarks on De La Rue 1863 pair is attempted. How paper is cut from a large sheet can be as intriguing a subject as any other to the student. The 6d is proportionately easier to find with part of the watermark than the 1d. Where is the watermark on the moulds is a harder question to answer than why two moulds had different sizes of hand-made lettering.

Mogens Juhl has a Rowland Hill "CANCELLED" 6d but is too modest to mention it. The three 1/- were in the John Gartner, T.W. Hall and Dale-Lichtenstein collections. The stamps do not come from proof sheets, but from extra sheets printed by Lewis in the week to July 12 to cover damage.

The 1865-81 De La Rue CC period is based on previous work, with prices included (pp. 28-34). On page 28 the sideways watermarks require a correction at AUST. The suggestion as to the origin of 12½ line perforation may prove incorrect. Perhaps more important would be to know the other users of the hand-made paper and some note as to when De La Rue ceased to buy the machine-made paper and in consequence prices were reduced. The provision of totals sold without some breakdown into sub-totals according to date and periods of use seems a backward step, particularly as such analysis would help with postmarks doubts. The analysis of the 2d error of colour is, in contrast, excellent.

In the CA watermarks (pp.35-40) your reviewer wonders who pays premiums for plate numbers or current numbers (particularly when there is no rarity, vide comment by Juhl on plating) or wing margins however much scarcer or however more convenient for postmarks collectors. And the Commissariat hole is not the equivalent of Rembrandt drilling an etching plate to wear it. It would be interesting to know how many of 45a, the pale brown 1d

provisional, are now known and the cancellations. It may be a smaller score than the inverted frame.

The later surface printed lack details of die proofs and are issued in meaningless millions (pp.40-42). Pricing with additionals, for current numbers or postmarks is as likely to mislead the ignorant as to provide useful guidance. The note that "long" revenue stamps curl in two directions is helpful. The sorry story of 1895 green on green surcharges provokes no moral strictures.

The Commonwealth period is dealt with skilfully (pp.47-57). The illustrations on p.48 of the right triangles of 1d could well have been enlarged more.

Official mail (pp.60-65) includes a table made too complicated by Medical and PWD stamps.

Postal Stationery (pp.67-89) appears overdone. Space could have been saved by leaving out blank areas of cards and perhaps giving dimensions.

Numeral and letter cancellers (pp.90-101) conclude the main text. How strange that W.A. and Victoria had both to replace "10" and that unused W.A. 1/- lithographs have like Mauritius primitives often had "14" faded out. The tables of periods of use of marks with appropriate premiums are full of perils for there is no premium obtainable on rarities, however remarkable the combination of quality stamp, rare cancel and entire. Maybe a simpler guide (numbers known with each mark) or a non cash rarity rating works better.

The Colonial Postmarks, Jul's Volume III ended correctly at 1901 when the Commonwealth began. Now that the catalogue deals with this period for stamps and postal stationery the logic of ending cancellations and other postal instruments employed to cancel becomes less clear. Some outline would be helpful.

The Tasmanian and South Australian listing of numerals indicates that these were supplied in runs, some short with common characteristics, and some long. It might be worthwhile in the next edition to show a few more figures. Did the double "80" diamond arrive as a sample from London of an attempt at mechanical cancellation? Like Newfoundland's "235", it seems not to fit. One gap is in pen marks.

Finally collectors do their own thing, bless them. Devoted students and publishers like Mogens Juhl have to stand, serve and wonder.

The general excellence of proofreading is slightly marred by the misprint "Postermaster" in the penultimate paragraph on page 102. The error does not occur in the *London Philatelist*.

More serious is the lack of an index, for which a table of contents is not a substitute.

An index helps the vain to discover how often they are mentioned!

Now the conclusion "buy, read and enjoy the book" by one of the European-born philatelists who have done so much to restore Australian collecting from the nadir to which it sank after the death of J.R.W. Purves.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Printing Problems in Victoria, 1862

The display at the meeting of 21 November was entitled "Printing Problems in Victoria, 1862" and was presented by Mr Geoff White.

Mr White presented a short paper on the subject, which dealt with largely with the 6d "Adapted Design" stamp of 1862, its method of production, the types of varieties created, and its printing.

The stamp was derived from the previous 6d die - the "Beaded Oval" - by cutting out the head and inserting this in a newly engraved frame. The reason for the change was that the figures and words of value on the Beaded Oval die were considered too small. The fit between the new two-part die was not perfect, and the gap at the junction of the two parts caused problems when it came to stamping lead moulds for the creation of electrotypes. The design was improved by cutting away a white margin between the head and frame, in some cases on the electrotypes, and later on the die itself.

Mr White explained the various types of varieties found. Sub-types caused by the adherence of lead to the die over a number of striking abound, also double strikes and distortion varieties. The lead moulds were struck singly by hand. Substitutions occur during printing, and the full story of all these is still not understood with certainty.

The stamps were printed on occasion on the new "Scandinavian" printing press, of which Mr White was able to show an illustration. This machine was too powerful and this resulted in the rapid breakdown of the makeready and subsequently many of the printed stamps are of poor appearance.

The display illustrated many of the points

made in the talk, with reconstructions and the many types of varieties.

New Zealand Pictorials

Mr Michael Blake travelled from Adelaide to present the display for the meeting of 16 January. His subject was the Pictorial Stamps of New Zealand, 1898-1909.

All aspects of these beautiful issues were covered.

Of the 1898 London Printings, there was a Waterlow sample sheet of nine in green, and a perforated plate proof block of 4 of the 2½d "WAKATIPU" in black. The issued stamps included the ½d offset in a mint pair, and a mint horizontal pair of the 2d imperforate vertically.

The 1899 Local Printings were prefaced by a set, 2½d to 5/-, of imperforate plate proof blocks of four in black. The 1½d Boer War issue was present as a mint strip of three imperforate vertically, and the major reentry on this stamp was also shown.

The 1900 Mt. Cook on Basted Mills paper was shown as a mint block of four with mixed perfs.

The 1902 watermarked issue was well-represented. Of the mixed perfs there were two used pairs of the 2d, and a used copy of the 6d. The 4d mixed perfs was shown in a mint block of four imperforate vertically, and there was a mint copy of the 1½d compound perf. 11 and 14. The rare 1/- on 7mm paper was present as a fine used copy. Two mint blocks of four of the magnificent 5/- stamp were shown - one perf 11 wmk. sideways, the other perf. 14 wmk. upright.

The 6d printed on paper watermarked

"LISBON SUPERFINE" was present in a mint block of 12, and there was a mint block of four of the 2/- laid paper.

Of the 1907 redrawn dies, there were die proofs of the ½d in purple-brown and carmine-lake, and the 6d in black. Rare issued items included the ½d mint block of four with the upper pair imperforate, and a mint block of four of the 1/- orange-brown perf. 14 x 15.

Unusual items included a 1901 set of ½d to 5/- overprinted "SPECIMEN" by a receiving postal authority, and similar examples of the ½d-5/- "OFFICIAL" overprints. There were examples of the 1/-, 2/- and 5/- handstamped "CLEANED".

Postal Mechanisation in Australia

Mr Ken Sparks gave an interesting display at the meeting of 31 January of a little-understood and appreciated subject - post-World War II postal mechanisation in Australia.

The earliest trials shown were those of the Pitney Bowes letter facing machine of 1965.

The various Redfern Mail Centre coding trials were fully covered.

A series of trials in the 1970's produced a number of rare items. These included the OCR (Optical Character Reading) letter sorting machine (1972), HBM Impact Printer coding trial (1976), REI High Speed Electrostatic Printer trial (1976), SECAP coding desk trial (1976), A.B. Dick Ink Jet Printer trial (1976), and Toshiba Coding Desk trial (1978).

More recent rarities included the Toshiba Ink Jet Printer trial of 7 October 1981, and the 1990 Preston Mail Centre Ink Jet Cancel trial of 22 November, when 500 only pieces of mail were treated.

Current OCR (Optical Character Recognition) coding was explained, and examples were included of the sorts of things that can go wrong.

Special markings used included a circular "TEST MAIL/Toshiba" in red, and aerogrammes with "CANCELLED" and "TEST MAIL" overprints.

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The Philatelic Society of Victoria which was founded in 1892, and which in 1946 had the privilege conferred upon it of the use of the prefix "ROYAL", is a Society to which you, as a collector, should belong. Among its many advantages are:

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

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

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



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

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

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