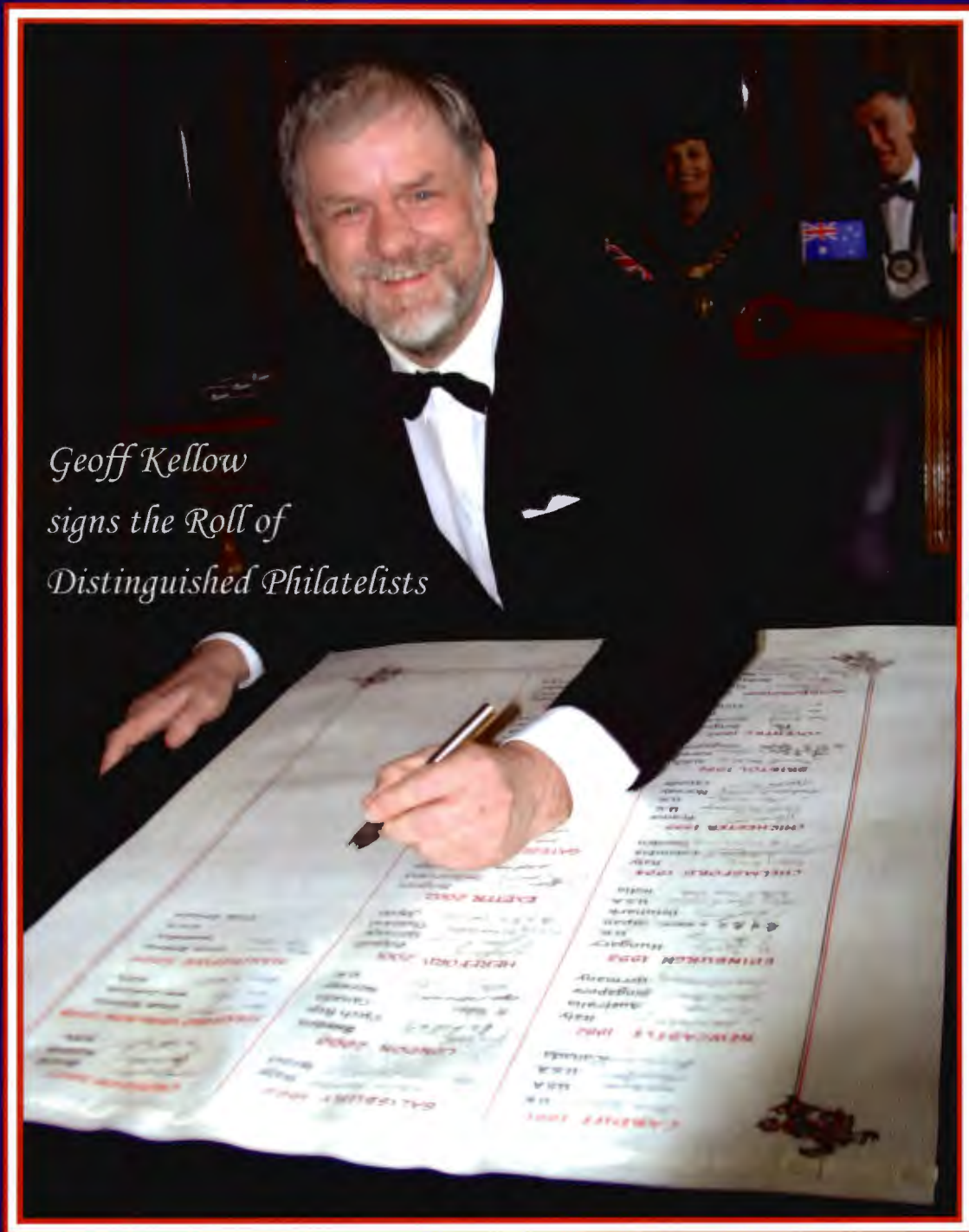


Philately *from* Australia

Volume LXI, No 3, September 2009



*Geoff Kellow
signs the Roll of
Distinguished Philatelists*

ALSO THIS ISSUE:

*Purves House:
Melbourne Stampshow 09 meeting*

*Ray Chapman:
60 Years a 'Royal' member*





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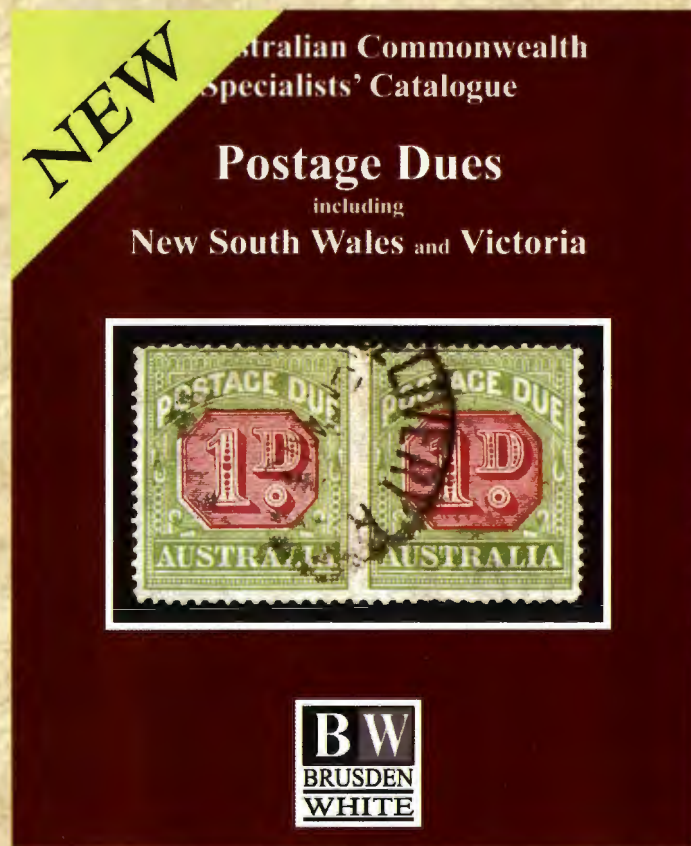
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Philately *from* Australia

Volume LXI, No 3, September 2009



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Editorial

It is a sad observation that every edition of *PfA* during the past 18 months has featured one or more obituaries. This edition records the passing of two long-serving members: Geoff White and Mac Clarke. The genial personalities of Geoff and Mac touched all those who knew them.

In the last edition we reported the news of Life Member Geoff Kellow being invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Geoff visited the UK in July to participate in the signing ceremony in Manchester and we proudly present photographs of this important event. In the next *PfA* we will report on the special dinner the Society is giving Geoff on 28 October.

It is a rare occasion for a Society Member to attain 60 years of membership; only seven members having achieved the milestone in the Society's 117-year history. Now an eighth member joins their ranks. He is Ray Chapman AM MBE, who joined the Society in October 1949. We present a special tribute to Ray, whose career is arguably without equal amongst Australian philatelists.

The Society's special Evening and Social Meeting on the opening day of Melbourne Stampshow 09 was a wonderful occasion, with more than 100 members and visitors attending. Many interstate and overseas members and visitors saw the facilities of Purves House for the first time. We have plenty of photographs of the evening to share with our readers.

Awards won by Society members in Australian and New Zealand exhibitions over the past year are detailed, including many of our members who participated in Melbourne Stampshow 2009. It is pleasing to report that one Large Gold medal and 12 Gold medals were won by Society members. Stampshow was the first National Exhibition to be held in Melbourne since 2002 and RPSV members were prominent in organising the event. Nearly all the feedback concerning Stampshow reflected positively on those who worked to make it successful.

Following the Society's annual general meeting on 17 September the 2009–10 Council took office, including a new President – John Shawley, who has taken up the position for the first time. The various annual reports presented to the meeting are published under "Royal News".

It is pleasing to report that the Society's newest publication on the Half-Length stamps of Victoria (by John Barwis and the late Rob Moreton) has won two major awards – a Large Gold medal at the New Zealand Philatelic Literature Exhibition at Palmerston North in June and a Gold Medal at Melbourne Stampshow in July. These are noteworthy awards in Philatelic Literature judging. Also, Bill Lloyd-Smith has written a comprehensive review of the Half-Lengths book.

Melbourne philatelist, John Waugh, who recently joined the Society, writes about the Victorian TPO system and the discoveries he has made by researching railway timetables. Other articles, also dealing with aspects of Victorian philately, include a fascinating die discovery on the 4d Emblems stamp (Les Molnar) and discount sales of the Half-Length stamps (Gary Watson).

For readers who are growing weary of Air Mail Extracts from the PMG Department Annual Reports, the editor can promise that only two more instalments are planned in the series. Hopefully, there will have been some information appearing in the extracts published so far which has proved useful for some readers.

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.
Purves House
303 High Street
ASHBURTON VIC 3147

General correspondence:
Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.
PO Box 490
ASHBURTON VIC 3147
TEL: (03) 9885 1483 (answering service)

Publications Manager:
John Sinfield
PO Box 548
HEATHMONT VIC 3135
TEL: (03) 9720 5430
Email: Sinfield30@optusnet.com.au

Philately from Australia Committee:
Richard Breckon (Chairman and Editor),
Bill Lloyd-Smith (Assistant Editor), Don
Napier (Advertising Editor), John Rennie
and Joe Edwards.

Editorial contributions:
Articles on any subjects of philatelic interest are welcome from contributors, whether or not they are RPSV members. Articles should be submitted as plain text in the body of an email or as an attachment in Word or Rich Text format. Articles exceeding 3,000 words may have to be divided into instalments appearing in various editions of the journal. Pictures should be scanned at 300 DPI in the highest quality JPG format. Pictures should be supplied separately to the text; they should not be embedded within the text.

Editorial submissions to: Richard Breckon
Email: Richard.Breckon@auspost.com.au
Tel: (03) 9204 8771

Advertising submissions to: Don Napier,
Email: denapier@netspace.net.au
Tel: (03) 9827 8064

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Journal of the
**ROYAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY OF VICTORIA Inc**

Geoff Kellow, RDP FRPSL MAP APR, signs the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists



Geoff Kellow signs his name on the Roll.

Our Life Member, Dr Geoff Kellow, became the 15th Australian to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. He visited the United Kingdom for the signing ceremony at the British Philatelic Federation Congress held at Manchester on Friday, 17 July 2009. Significantly, Manchester was the BPF Centenary Congress; the first congress was held in Manchester in 1909.

Geoff is the first Australian in 17 years to become an 'RDP', following the appointment of the late Peter Jaffé in 1992. The only other living Australian RDP is 60-year RPSV member, Ray Chapman, who gained the award in 1987. It was Ray who nominated Geoff for the RDP – the invitation to sign the Roll being regarded as the highest honour to which a philatelist could aspire.

Unfortunately, Ray Chapman was unable to travel to the UK to act as Geoff's sponsor; this role being played on the day by Alan Huggins, RDP Hon. FRPSL.

In addition to Geoff, the other philatelists chosen by the Board of Election to sign the Roll this year are George Barker (United Kingdom), Barbara Mueller (United States) and John Sussex (United Kingdom).



Geoff Kellow being presented with his Medal of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by Christopher King, Secretary of the RDP Board of Election, with Geoff's sponsor, Alan Huggins, at right.



Front row: New signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (left to right): Robin Startup (New Zealand, 2008); George Barker (UK); Geoff Kellow (Australia); John Sussex (UK) and Barbara Mueller (USA). Back row: The new signatories' sponsors (left to right): Chris Harman (UK); Jean Storch (France); Alan Huggins (UK); Francis Kiddle (UK); and Bob Odenweller (USA).



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Purves House:

Melbourne Stampshow 09 meeting

Thursday, 23 July 2009 was a notable night for the Society – the largest gathering of members and visitors since the opening of Purves House five years ago. The Society held a special meeting (described as an Evening Social and Philatelic Meeting) for the benefit of interstate and overseas members visiting Melbourne Stampshow. The meeting was held on the first day of Stampshow, this being the third Thursday of the month. In an exception to a long-established tradition the meetings on the third and fifth Thursdays of July did not take place.

Over 100 people came along to the 23 July meeting to enjoy a pleasant supper and to view a display from Australia Post – King George V definitive stamps of the Chapman Collection. The display was brought along by Richard Breckon of Australia Post Philatelic Archives. Appropriately, Ray Chapman himself was on hand to present a short introduction to the display.

For Ray and Pam Chapman it was their first visit to Purves House for a Society function. The occasion was of special significance because of Ray's 60 years of Society membership occurring in October 2009 and also because of Geoff Kellow's attendance – his first since signing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. (Ray and Geoff are Australia's only living RDPs.)

Other highlights of the evening included:–

- Awards for the Society's 2009 Annual Competition were presented to Barry Scott of New Zealand (Silver Medal) and Jim Shaw (Bronze Medal).
- Robin Gwynn of New Zealand presented President John Sinfield with the Society's Large Gold Medal and Special Prize for the Half-Lengths of Victoria book entered in the 11th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition, held in Palmerston North a month previously.
- John Sinfield presented Australia Post with a Subscribers' Edition of the Half-Lengths of Victoria book in appreciation for the Chapman Collection display of George V definitive issues.

Special thanks are due to Lesley Sinfield and Dianne Shaw for the drinks and supper, and to Helen Watson and Frank Pauer for the photographs reproduced here.



Left to right: Brian Peace (UK) and Max Watson (Vic).



Left to right: Gary Watson (Vic); Brian Peace (UK); Paul Fletcher and Paula Sager (NSW).



Ray Chapman introduces the display of George V issues.



An attentive audience listens to the introduction to the display.



Barry Scott (NZ) receives the Silver medal for the Society's 2009 Annual Competition from President John Sinfield.



Robin Gwynn (NZ) presents John Sinfield with the Society's Large Gold medal and Special Prize for the Half-Lengths book at the 11th NZ Philatelic Literature Exhibition.



Members and visitors at Purves House for the Chapman Collection display.



Left to right: Ross Wood (WA); Michael Blake (SA); Gary Brown (Vic); and Arthur Gray (NSW).



Australia's new RDP, Geoff Kellow (right) is congratulated by Ray Chapman RDP (left).



RPSL Members at Purves House. Left to right: Patrick Flanagan (South Africa); Robin Gwynn (NZ); Michael Blake (SA); Chris King (UK); Jan Berg (Sweden); and Barry Scott (NZ).

60

Ray Chapman AM MBE RDP FRPSL FAP: 60 Years a 'Royal' member



Our Life Member, Ray Chapman, marks 60 years of Society membership in October 2009. Ray is only the eighth member of the Society during its 117-year history to have achieved a Diamond Jubilee. He joined the Royal in October 1949 and he is our longest serving member.

At the time Ray joined he was well known in the community as Chief Announcer at Melbourne Radio Station 3AW. The General Manager of 3AW, Randall White was a philatelist specialising in Irish overprints on British stamps and he was a Society member. Another philatelist was Eugene Gorman KC, a leading barrister and Chairman of the 3AW Community Trust. Ray was in good company.

Ray Chapman's reminiscences about his early days in the Royal are outlined in a talk "Collecting for a Lifetime" that he presented in 2001:

In 1949 Eric Norden, who was a member of Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (he wrote "Trail of the Commonwealth" for Philately from Australia) encouraged me to join this Society because of my keen interest in Australian Commonwealth stamps. I went along to several meetings and I joined in October 1949. I was the youngest member and I found it difficult to settle in. All the other members seemed to be successful professional people – doctors, lawyers, academics and businessmen.

The members looked a formidable group of people with dark suits, homburg hats and even some with winged collars. They were not too sure about the new radio announcer member. Bill Purves called me a "spieler" and asked me to name my main interest. I said Australian Commonwealth – used King George V. "Goodness, you shouldn't be wasting your money on them. Have a look at Victoria or some of the other states."

I remember saying they were all I could afford and there was much to interest me – different printings, watermarks, perforations, wonderful shades and many varieties. I actually cut my philatelic teeth on them.

The organising of ANPEX 1950 was well under way when I joined the 'Royal' and it was not long before Bill Russell, chairman of the ANPEX publicity committee, asked me to join it. I am the only member of the original committee left today. Radio 3AW broadcast many free 'scatters' advertising ANPEX, and for the first time in Australia the opening of a stamp exhibition was broadcast when ANPEX opened.

Joining the RPSV was the first and most important step I would make in my quest for philatelic knowledge. I often refer to it as my philatelic Alma Mater. Over the years my opinion and advice has always been to join a society. Here you can meet happy, friendly and helpful members. I was very fortunate that the society I joined had such a group of experienced, knowledgeable and distinguished philatelists, who were happy to pass this on to an eager young member.

Ray Chapman's passion has collecting Australian Commonwealth. The collection he formed of Australian stamps from 1901 to 1965 over a period of 40 years is famous – the Chapman Collection having been acquired by Australia Post 23 years ago. In "Collecting for a Lifetime" ray explained the basis of his collecting:

The plan for my collection was to concentrate on the Kangaroo and George V issues both mint and used, then commemoratives and all available essays and proofs and competition entries. If rarities came along I made every effort to obtain them, because they may not come along again in my lifetime. Other components of the collection comprise Postage Dues, Specimens, postal stationery, first day covers, letters with official correspondence, airmails (a rich and historic field) and shades and varieties, both of the major and minor kinds. Condition was very important and if it was possible to improve an item then I did – no short perforations and the best centring possible. Duplicates were used to help finance purchases.

I endeavoured to keep clear of very competitive auctions with deep-pocket collectors chasing elusive items and bidding well over their nominal value. On one occasion I was leaving an auction after being outbid by a prominent dealer, who had pushed me to a high figure for a fine £1 chestnut and blue, third watermark Kangaroo stamp. The dealer followed me out and said "I didn't know you wanted that stamp so badly, you can have it plus 10%." I declined and said I'll wait, one will probably come up later. A year passed and I made a successful bid and purchased the stamp for much less at an overseas auction.

In August 1976, Robson Lowe conducted a special

Melbourne auction containing classic Perkins Bacon material of the Australian 1d George V. I had the Bennett die proofs numbered 1 to 4 of the 1d letterpress stamp, but I wanted to fill the gaps with the original, six progressive die proofs that appeared in this auction for the first time. They had been engraved by F.W. Pearce, De La Rue's head engraver who had been engaged by Perkins Bacon. I bid successfully and this gave me the 10 clear states of the 1d George V die. Another important section of the Collection was brought back to Australia.

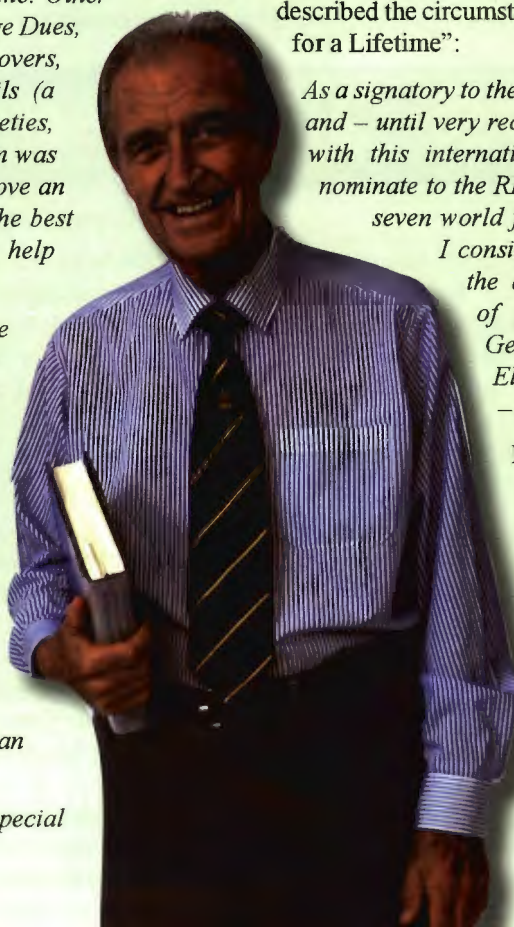
I never could have achieved my goal without my wife Pam's interest and help. How many times she typed articles, inventories and descriptions – I have lost count.

In organised philately, Ray's singular achievement was the staging of AUSIPEX '84. This was Australia's first World Philatelic Exhibition held under FIP auspices and it marked the effective entry of Australian philately into the global stamp scene. Ray led a dedicated team of organisers, including Myra Farley, Joyce Buchanan and many other leading RPSV members, to ensure the 3,400-frame exhibition was successful. An estimated 85,000 visitors came over the 10 days AUSIPEX was held; about a quarter of them being children in organised school groups. There had never been an exhibition like it before and perhaps it will never be equalled again in Australia.

Today, Ray and Pam Chapman enjoy their retirement at Noosa Heads on Queensland's Sunshine Coast, north of Brisbane. Although Ray has not been so active in the 'Royal' in recent years, he pursues a lifelong interest in philately. He demonstrated this by his nomination of Geoff Kellow to become the 15th Australian to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Ray described the circumstances in a postscript to "Collecting for a Lifetime":

As a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and – until very recently – the only living Australian with this international honour, I was allowed to nominate to the RDP Board of Election (comprising seven world famous philatelists) someone who I considered to be a worthy recipient of the award. It was with a great deal of pleasure that I nominated Dr Geoffrey Kellow to the Board of Election and this was duly accepted – congratulations Geoff!

Ray Chapman has enjoyed a lifetime of participation in a fascinating hobby, especially because this has focused on collecting his own country's stamps. Ray has experienced this pleasure for 80 years – from the age of 7 (when he acquired his first mint 1½d Canberra commemorative) to the age of 87, which he reaches in October 2009.



Ray Chapman: Curriculum vitae

Honours: Member of the British Empire (MBE) for Outstanding Service to the Community and 3AW Community Service Trust (1976); Member of the Order of Australia (AM) for Services to Philately and the Wider Community (1994).

Roll of Distinguished Philatelists: Elected to the Roll becoming the 13th Australian RDP (1987).

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria: Joined RPSV and currently the only 60-year member (1949); President (1984); David H. Hill Medal (1984); J.R.W. Purves Medal (1995); Honorary Life Member (1998).

Other philatelic awards: Fellow of Royal Philatelic Society London; Honorary Fellow of British Society of Australian Philately (1987); Fellow of Australian Philatelic Order (1995); Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club Research Medal (1998).

Exhibition organisation: Publicity Committees for ANPEX (1950) and MIPEX (1963); President of AUSIPEX, first world philatelic exhibition in Australia (1984).

Juries: Canberra 2nd National Philatelic Exhibition (1982); ANPEX Brisbane (1982); Chairman, Canberra 3rd National Philatelic Exhibition (1984); Vice-Chairman, AUSIPEX (1984); Chairman, STAMPEX Adelaide (1986); CAPEX FIP world exhibition (1987); Chairman, AEROPEX Adelaide (1988); Chairman, SYDPEX Sydney (1988); Chairman, STAMPEX Adelaide (1988); Stamp Show Melbourne (1989); STAMPEX Adelaide (1991); Stamp Show Melbourne (1991); Stamp Show Brisbane (1992); Stamp Show Melbourne (1996).

Exhibition awards: *Australian Commonwealth:* Grand Award and Gold Medal, ZEAPEX (1980); Grand Champion and Gold Medal, SYDPEX (1980); Gold Medal and Special Prize, Bangkok FIP International exhibition (1983); Gold Medal, Madrid FIP World exhibition (1984); Gold Medal, Rome FIP World exhibition (1984); Invitation display, Royal Philatelic Society London (1986); *Postage Dues:* Gold Medal and National Grand Prix, AUSTAMP Canberra (1990).

Publishing: Consulting Editor *Stamp News* (1985); Editor *APF News* (1982–92); "Chapman Collection" serialised in *Stamp News* (1990s); "The Chapman Collection of Australian Commonwealth" published by RPSV (1999).

Australia Post: Stamp Advisory Committee member (1979–85); purchase of Chapman Collection by Australia Post (1986).

Philatelic Federations: Public Relations Officer, APF (1982–92); Traditional Philatelic representative on FIP Commission (6 years); Australian representative at four FIP congresses (1978–82).

100 years and 50 years ago

100 years ago

A call for "the Federalisation of Australasian philatelic societies" would shortly bear fruit with the staging of the first Australasian Philatelic Congress in Sydney in 1911. Nevertheless, a true federation of Australian philatelic organisations did not occur until 1976 with the establishment of the Australian Stamp Promotion Council, now the Australian Philatelic Federation. *The Australian Philatelist*, September 1909, made the plea:

There is far too much isolation about the various philatelic societies. Each goes its own way, and they have nothing in common except the reports of their meetings in these pages. This is not as it should be. Surely, if the six States can arrange a satisfactory basis of federation, the various philatelic societies can easily arrange a common working ground and a uniformity of procedure, which will be beneficial to all. An annual conference at the various capitals in rotation, at which, say, two delegates from each of the other States would attend, would be an excellent means of consolidating philatelic interests. There is at present a paucity of philatelic writers in this country, but we are confident there are plenty of good philatelic talkers

50 years ago

Philately from Australia in September 1959 carried an announcement that a major philatelic exhibition would be held in Melbourne during 1963. The plan to hold "ANPEX 1963" as a National exhibition was later changed to International, as reflected in the name eventually adopted, "MIPEX":

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will conduct a National Philatelic Exhibition in the Melbourne Town Hall during September-October 1963. The Council has appointed Mr J.R.W. Purves as chairman and will later appoint an executive council and chairman of sub-committees. The Exhibition will commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the issue of Commonwealth stamps. The first definitive issues, the Kangaroos, were issued in 1913. The control and ultimate financial responsibility for the Exhibition will be in the hands of the Society. Opportunity, however, will be given to all Victorian and indeed interstate societies and collectors generally to co-operate and assist in making this Exhibition (ANPEX 1963) at least as great a success as any of its predecessors. To ensure this, representations on sub-committees will be open to all, irrespective of society

Air Mail Extracts

from PMG's Department Annual Reports, 1950-52

Air mail extracts from the Postmaster-General's Department Annual Reports, 1950-51 & 1951-52

In the early 1950s the Postmaster-General's Department continued to be busy establishing new overseas air mail services and expanding the domestic network. This activity was reflected in very lengthy descriptions appearing in the Department's Annual Reports. Note that the extracts involve editing of statistical tables to avoid duplication and minor detail. In the previous instalment of "Air Mail Extracts" (*PfA*, June 2009) the final two paragraphs of the 1949-50 Annual Report were inadvertently omitted. They are reproduced below.

1949-50 Annual Report (addenda)

Other Articles and Parcels Air Mail:— An important innovation introduced during the year was the "Other Articles" Air Mail facility which enables the despatch by air to overseas countries of postal articles of the second and third classification at rates substantially less than those applying to letter class articles. Arrangements are in hand for the application of cheaper air mail rates to parcels.

Accidents:— During the year three serious accidents were suffered by aircraft employed in the carriage of mail. In one instance the mails were wholly destroyed and, in another, portion of the mail was lost.

1950-51 Annual Report

Internal Services:— Several new air services were introduced, and improvements and re-arrangements were effected in the operation of existing services. The principal innovations were:—

- New services established:— Brisbane-Emerald-Barcaldine; Charleville-Winton-Boulia; Charleville-Windorah-Broken Hill; Charleville-Birdsville-Leigh Creek; Melbourne-Brisbane, direct; and Melbourne-Warrnambool.
- Extensions of route:— Adelaide-Whyalla to Woomera; Brisbane-Kingaroy to Wondai; Melbourne-Kerang to Deniliquin; Melbourne-Swan Hill to Mildura; and Sydney-Parkes to Broken Hill.

Calls were introduced at several places not previously served by air: Collarenebri and Gunnedah, New South Wales; Ayr and Gayndah, Queensland; Leigh Creek, South Australia; and Bamboo Springs, Western Australia.

Trans-Australia Airlines, the principal operator for the Commonwealth domestic air mail services, extended its network, the most important expansion being the establishment of regular routes to serve the large area known as the Channel Country. At the close of the year, the route mileage operated by Trans-Australia Airlines was 15,253 and the Company was carrying approximately 80 per cent. of the total domestic air mail loading. During the year Trans-Australia Airlines also conveyed more than 3,000,000 lb. of unsurcharged mail by

services which usually carry only mail matter bearing air fees.

At the end of the year, 77 air services were being used regularly for the carriage of mails within the Commonwealth and to the Territories of Norfolk Island and Papua-New Guinea. Of these services, 62 carried surcharged air mail only, the other 15 routes being used for ordinary mail not bearing air fees.

The following statement shows the development in Australian internal air mail services over the past two years:—

Year	Air services Operating	Route distance (miles)	Articles carried
1949-50	69	44,644	46,306,016
1950-51	77	50,202	52,835,200
% increase		12.4	14.1

Australia-Papua New Guinea:— The Sydney-Port Moresby-Lae air service, operated by Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., was maintained at a frequency of five return trips weekly, with an extension to Rabaul via Finschafen once weekly. Under contract to the Commonwealth Government, the Company also operated for the Administration of the Territory a number of feeder air services, which carried the bulk of the mail matter distributed throughout the Territory. Only articles bearing air mail fee were carried by air between the Mainland and the Territory, and particulars of this traffic during the year are as follows:—

	Articles
Posted in Commonwealth	1,178,144
Posted in Territory	1,528,224
Total	2,706,368

Australia-Norfolk Island:— Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., continued to maintain a regular air service once fortnightly between Sydney and Norfolk Island. Surcharged air mail only was carried over the route, and the volume conveyed during 1950-51 was 476 lb. to Norfolk Island and 469 lb. from Norfolk Island.

Lord Howe Island:— The once-weekly ordinary mail service between the Mainland and Lord Howe Island continued to be performed by aircraft. As from 24 December 1950, Trans-Oceanic Airways Pty Ltd replaced Qantas Empire Airways as the airline operator for this route.

Ordinary Mail services Operated by Aircraft:— In addition to air services between the Mainland and Tasmania, which carry letter mails without air surcharge, the 11 undermentioned air services were utilized regularly under contract for the carriage of all classes of mail matter, thus replacing road or sea transportation:— Adelaide-Kangaroo Island; Alice Springs-Tennant Creek-Brunette Downs-Alexandria; Alice Springs-Wyndham-Katherine-Borrooloola; Alice Springs-Wave Hill-

Forthcoming Fantastic Philately!

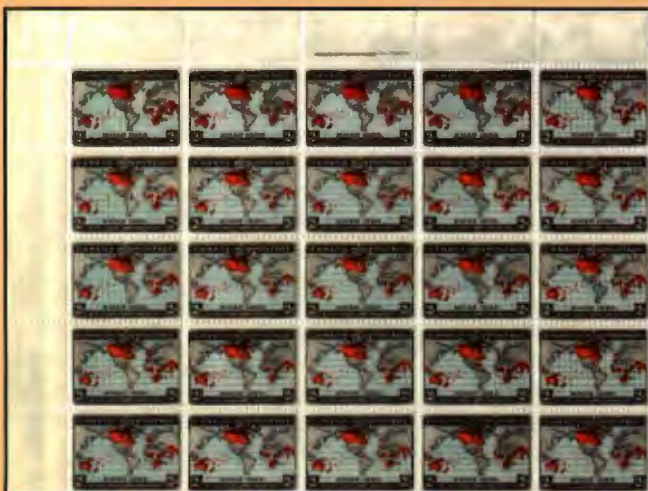


September 9/10 & November 11/12 -

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Extension of the "all purpose" air mail services to other areas where the provision of reasonable mail facilities by surface means is difficult is receiving consideration.

Australia-United Kingdom Air Service:— During the year a four-times weekly mail service continued to be provided by Constellation aircraft, which fly the distance between Sydney and London in four days.

Steady development in the volume of Australian mail despatched was manifest and late in November 1950 an Air Mail Parcels Service was introduced. At the close of the year, the weekly volume of Australian mail despatched by this service totalled 7,630 lb., compared with 6,360 lb. at the end of the previous year. A break-up of this traffic is shown below (as at 30 June 1951):—

Letters (weekly volume):	6,440 lb.
Second and Third Class (weekly volume)	955 lb.
Parcels (weekly volume)	235lb.

Particulars of the mails carried from and to Australia are given hereunder:—

Outward Air Mail (lb.)

1950-51	Australian	Transit	Total
Letter mail	329,775	83,980	413,755
2nd and 3rd Class mail	43,872	8,266	52,138
Parcels	5,582	749	6,331

Inward Air Mail (lb.)

1950-51	Australian	Transit	Total
Letter mail	380,264	122,939	503,203
2nd and 3rd Class mail	123,868	45,300	169,168
Parcels	11,578	4,246	15,824

The make-up of Australian mail despatched during 1950-51 was as follows:—

Country of destination	Letters 2 nd & 3 rd Class	Parcels
United Kingdom	58%	19.5%
European countries	24.6%	62.4%
Other countries	17.4%	18.1%

Australian-New Zealand Service:— At the commencement of the year eight air services were being operated regularly each week between Sydney and Auckland by Solent-type flying boats. On 1 October 1950, Wellington, in lieu of Auckland, became the New Zealand terminal for some flight, and on 28 June 1951 a new route, Melbourne to Christchurch was established. At the close of the year the frequency of operation each week was four times between Sydney and Auckland; four times between Sydney and Wellington; and once between Melbourne and Christchurch. Particulars of the mail loading on the service are as follows:—

Australia to New Zealand (lb.)

1950-51	Australian	Transit	Total
Letter mail	110,018	110,042	220,060
2nd and 3rd Class mail	13,607	41,317	54,924
Parcels	2,949	4,246	7,195

New Zealand to Australia (lb.)

1950-51	Australian	Transit	Total
Letter mail	71,048	87,871	158,919
2nd and 3rd Class mail	11,044	7,853	18,897
Parcels	3,968	749	4,717

Australia-North America Service:— Throughout the year, air services were operated regularly twice weekly between Australia and North America by British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines and Pan-American Airways, the transit time between Sydney and San Francisco being only two days. Mails were despatched thrice weekly, twice by British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines, which operates on behalf of the partner countries (Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom), and once by Pan-American Airways, which operates on behalf of the United States. Particulars of the Australian air mail exchanged with America and Pacific Countries are shown hereunder:—

Outgoing for:— (lb.)

1950-51	US & Canada	Other	Total
Letter mail	52,419	14,397	66,816
2nd and 3rd Class mail	7,378	1,323	8,701
Parcels	807	76	883

Incoming from:— (lb.)

1950-51	US & Canada	Other	Total
Letter mail	67,440	8,314	75,754
2nd and 3rd Class mail	10,467	1,260	11,727
Parcels	6,734	181	6,915

Australian Overseas Services:— The following international air services were operated regularly by Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. On behalf of the Australian Government:— Sydney-Noumea-Santo (New Hebrides), weekly; Sydney-Noumea-Suva (Fiji), weekly; Lae (New Guinea)-Honiara (Solomon Islands), fortnightly; Sydney-Labuan-Hong Kong-Iwakuni (Japan), weekly; and Sydney-Manila-Tokyo (Japan), weekly. Air mail was despatched by these routes and, in addition, in the case of the services to Iwakuni and Tokyo, ordinary mails exchanged with members of the Forces in Japan and Korea were carried regularly without payment of air fees.

Other Overseas Services:— Other international air services operating regularly to Australia during the year were Colombo to Sydney (by Air Ceylon); Paris to Noumea (New Caledonia) via Brisbane (by Air France); and Vancouver-Sydney (by Canadian Pacific Airlines Ltd.). Australian air mail is being



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carried to Noumea and Colombo by Air Ceylon and Air France. An emergency air service was also operated throughout the year between Biak (Dutch New Guinea) and Darwin by the Netherlands Airline Company, K.L.M., and these flights were used for the exchange of mail with Dutch New Guinea.

Survey Flight to Chile, South America:— During March and April 1951, Captain P.G. Taylor, GC MC, made a survey flight from Sydney to Chile and return via New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Cook Islands, Tahiti, Gambier Islands and Easter Island, and special arrangements were made for the carriage of mail by the flight.

Airletter Service:— Approximately 11,000,000 airletters were despatched to overseas countries during the year, this number representing 46% of the total number of articles despatched by air to other countries.

Other Articles Air Mail:— The “Cheaper air rate” facility for articles of the second and third class postal categories was progressively extended during the year and is now available to most overseas countries.

Parcels Air Mail:— An important innovation introduced during the year was the Parcels Air Mail facility which enables parcels to be despatched by air mail to overseas countries at rates substantially less than those applying to letter class mail.

Philatelic Mail Facilities:— Special philatelic mail facilities were provided in connection with the survey flight to Chile by Captain Taylor and on the occasion of the first flight from Melbourne of the Melbourne-Christchurch regular air service. In each case, a special cachet appropriate for the occasion was impressed on the postal articles despatched from Australia.

Accidents:— During the year four serious accidents were suffered by aircraft employed in the carriage of mail, but in no instance was the mail lost or damaged.

1951-52 Annual Report

Internal Services:— Several new air services were introduced in addition to effecting improvements and re-arrangements of existing services. The principal innovations were:—

- New services established:— Alice Springs-Argadargada-Mount Isa; Alice Springs-Cresswell Downs; Brisbane-Gladstone-Heron Island; Brisbane-Lindeman, Daydream, and Hayman Islands; Charleville-Jundah-Bedourie-Birdsville; Cloncurry-Kamilaroi-Burketown; Cloncurry-Boulia-Winton-Jundah; Derby-Cape Leveque; Melbourne-Devonport-Hobart; Onslow-Ashburton Downs; Perth-Lancelin; Sydney-Coffs Harbour-Coolangatta; and Sydney-Cootamundra.
- Extensions of route:— Alice Springs-Alexandria to Borroloola and Mount Isa; Brisbane-Daydream Island to Townsville and Cairns; Brisbane-Hayman Island to Cairns; Brisbane-Roma to Cunnamulla; and Sydney-Moree to Mungindi and St. George.

Calls were introduced at three places not previously served by air: Narromine and Tocumwal, New South Wales; and Proserpine, Queensland.

Although Trans-Australia Airlines continued to convey the major portion of the air mail over domestic routes during 1951-52, a substantial quantity was transferred to Australian

National Airways Pty Ltd towards the end of the year, as a first step in the approved plan for the distribution of air mail between the two companies, where they operate on the same routes.

At the end of the year 87 air services were being used regularly for the carriage of mails within the Commonwealth and to the Territories of Norfolk Island and Papua-New Guinea. Of these services, 64 carried surcharged air mail only, the other 23 routes being used for ordinary mail not bearing air fees.

The following statement shows the development in Australian internal air mail services over the past two years:—

Year	Air services Articles carried	Operating	Route distance (miles)
1950-51	77		50,202
	52,835,200		
1951-52	87		54,143
	54,750,432		
% increase	7.9		3.6

Australia-Papua New Guinea:— The Sydney-Port Moresby-Lae air service, operated by Qantas Empire Airways Ltd., was maintained at a frequency of five return trips weekly, with an extension to Rabaul via Finschafen once weekly. Under contract to the Commonwealth Government, the Company also operated for the Administration of the Territory a number of feeder air services, which conveyed the bulk of the mail matter distributed throughout the Territory. Only articles bearing air mail fee were carried by air between the Mainland and the Territory, and particulars of this traffic during the year are as follows:—

	Articles
Posted in Commonwealth	1,192,128
Posted in Territory	1,631,264
Total	2,823,392

Australia-Norfolk Island:— Three mail services a fortnight have been maintained between Australia and Norfolk Island by means of the fortnightly direct service provided from Sydney by Qantas Empire Airways Ltd. and the weekly New Zealand service operating from Auckland. During 1951-52 the volume of mail conveyed by the Qantas service was 479 lb. from Sydney to Norfolk Island and 426 lb. from Norfolk Island to Sydney. Because of the lack of regular surface sailings to Norfolk Island, arrangements were made, as from December 1951, for all letter mail exchanged with Norfolk Island to be carried by air without payment of air mail fees.

Ordinary Mail services Operated by Aircraft:— In addition to the Mainland-Tasmania and Sydney-Norfolk Island air services, which convey letter mails without surcharge, the 17 undermentioned air services were utilized regularly under contract for the carriage of all classes of mail matter, thus replacing road or sea transportation:— Adelaide-Kangaroo Island; Alice Springs-Mount Isa-Borroloola; Alice Springs-Mount Isa-Cresswell Downs; Alice Springs-Argadargada-Mount Isa; Alice Springs-Katherine-Roper Valley; Alice Springs-Wyndham-Roper Valley; Alice Springs-Tieyon; Alice Springs-Utopia; Derby-Cape Leveque; Derby-Kimberleys-Wyndham; Normanton-Koolatah, Onslow-Ashburton Downs; Perth-Lancelin; Perth-Rottnest Island; Port Hedland-De Grey District; Sydney-Lord Howe Island; and Tibooburra-Cordillo Downs.

To be continued...

New research into Victorian Travelling Post Offices

(Illustrated by TPO service on South-West Line to Warrnambool and Port Fairy, 1890 to 1932)

Until recently it was thought that each of the numbered Travelling Post Office (TPO) cancellations, ranging from 1 to 19, came from a distinct or a different travelling post office. My recent research into railway time-tables and other sources, has revealed that this was not always the case. On shorter routes, such as the Melbourne-Bendigo route (MG/TPO 3, 4 and 14 cancellers), a single TPO number *was* associated with a specific, single daily TPO service. However, some TPO services on longer routes nearly always needed two MG/TPO numbers to provide a single daily TPO service, and this often depended on the times of travel. The history of the MG/TPO 18 and 19 cancellers on the South-West Line provides a good illustration of this.

TPO services were provided by post office staff called mail guards undertaking mail receiving, mail sorting and mail delivery activities in specially-fitted railway vehicles called mail sorters. A mail guard team working in a mail sorter on a specific route was issued with a set of distinctively-numbered cancellers, with different cancellers for journeys DOWN to the country, away from Melbourne, and UP journeys towards Melbourne.

Recent research provides convincing evidence that both the MG/TPO 18 and 19 cancellers were always associated with one daily mail sorter/TPO service on the South-West Line. Until March 1890, the railway line from Geelong to the south-west had seen regular scheduled

train operations only as far as Terang. However, in that month timetables were established for regular train operation through Warrnambool to Port Fairy.

The earliest recorded TPO cancellation on this line (recorded by JRW Purves) is a DOWN MG 18 cancellation dated 8/1/1890, before train services had reached Warrnambool. Train timetables of the time reveal that this item must have been carried on a mail sorter/TPO, while it was attached to a local train running between Geelong and Terang. At that time, most mail from Melbourne to places on the South-West Line was carried on the 6.30 am DOWN train as far as Geelong. This train then proceeded to Ballarat and then onto Stawell. South-West mail was transferred to the Terang local DOWN at Geelong. Mail beyond Terang was carried by horse-drawn vehicles. The reverse arrangements applied to mail travelling UP to Melbourne. UP mail was transferred at Geelong between 9.00 and 9.15 pm onto a train, which had left Ballarat at about 7.00 pm to arrive in Melbourne shortly after 11.00 pm. Until March 1890, the mail sorter/TPO service on the South-West Line travelled DOWN from and UP to Geelong on the same day, and it was provided by a single mail sorter carrying the MG/TPO 18 set of cancellers.

From March 1890, however, this daily mail sorter/TPO service began to operate through to Port Fairy. From that time the 6.30 am DOWN from Melbourne proceeded from Geelong to Port Fairy (not to Ballarat). The early morning train to Ballarat now left Melbourne at 6.50 am and travelled to Ballarat via Bacchus Marsh on a line only just opened.

The new passenger/mixed train service

to Port Fairy, with its extended mail sorter/TPO service, now took over 8½ hours to complete, arriving at Port Fairy from Melbourne at 3.06 pm. The return journey UP began at Port Fairy at 1.25 pm the next day and arrived at Melbourne at 11.20 pm. This meant that two trains with two mail sorters and two sets of MG/TPO cancellers were now needed to continue this daily train and mail sorter/TPO service. To achieve this, the MG/TPO 19 set of cancellers was introduced. The two trains and their two mail sorters, each carrying its own set of MG/TPO cancellers, crossed each other between Warrnambool and Koroit on their DOWN and UP journeys on successive days. The vehicles providing this daily TPO service were E type mail sorters – four-wheeled, converted passenger carriages which contained only one sorting table and probably needed only two mail guards. Analysis of clearly-dated cancellations for the years 1891 and 1895 show that the MG/TPO 18 cancellers travelled DOWN on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays and UP on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and that the MG/TPO 19 cancellers travelled DOWN on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, and UP on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.

Around March-April 1908, the MG/TPO 18 set of cancellers disappeared from view. At that time, while the passenger train service timetables remained the same, the associated daily mail sorter/TPO service changed once more. The 6.30 am DOWN passenger train from Melbourne to Port Fairy included an EES type mail sorter (larger than the E types), which carried the MG 11 cancellers. This was shunted off the train at Geelong, and then shunted onto a local mixed train

running between Geelong and Ballarat. (This EES mail sorter with its MG 11 cancellers returned to Melbourne later that same day on a third train, via Bacchus Marsh). At Geelong an E type mail sorter was shunted onto the Port Fairy DOWN train, but was shunted off the train at Warrambool at about 1.50 pm, before the train proceeded to Port Fairy. Soon afterwards, it was shunted onto the UP train that had left Port Fairy at 1.25 pm. This train departed Warrambool at 2.50 pm reaching Geelong at about 9.00 pm, where the E mail sorter was once again shunted off before the train travelled on to Melbourne. At Geelong the mail sorter was parked overnight, to await its DOWN journey again the next morning. This arrangement, while still requiring two trains to operate the daily passenger service, required only one mail sorter to provide the daily TPO service. The mail sorter/TPO service once again travelled DOWN and UP on the same day, and once again needed only one set of cancellers – the MG/TPO 19 set.

In 1917, following the opening of the Spencer Street Mail Exchange, and the withdrawal of all mail sorter/TPO services to Ballarat, the South-West Line mail sorter/TPO service once again travelled from and to Melbourne, but it still travelled only as far as Warrambool, travelling DOWN and UP on the same day. This TPO service thus still needed only one mail sorter, carrying the MG/TPO 19 set of cancellers. The arrangement lasted until 1932, when the two remaining daily TPO services – to Albury (MG/TPO 13 cancellers) and Warrambool (MG/TPO 19 cancellers) – both ended.

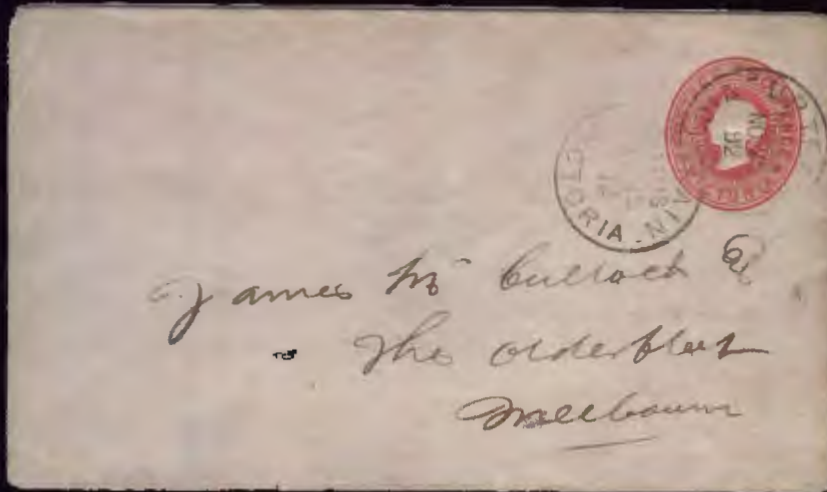
Other TPO services, which required two trains and two paired sets of cancellers to operate a single daily service, travelled:–

- to Geelong, then to Ballarat and beyond to Stawell (MG/TPO numbers 2 and 7, and later MG/TPO numbers 10 and 11)
- to Albury/Wodonga – afternoon

service using numbers 5 and 6, morning service from 1881 using numbers 12 and 13; and still later numbers 6 and 13 paired together, which until 1919 provided a TPO service running DOWN during the morning and UP next day during the afternoon and evening.

- to Sale until about 1890; morning service using MG/TPO numbers 8 and 9, and after 1885 the afternoon service using numbers 15 and 16.

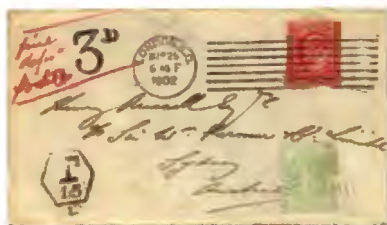
For a short period between 1887 and 1890 there were four daily TPO services to Ballarat and beyond via Geelong using seven mail sorters, including two on Adelaide express trains – the EMTPO cancellers. Three of these services, including the one on the Adelaide Express, needed two mail sorters to operate. The MG/TPO 1 cancellers travelled UP from Stawell to Melbourne in the morning and back DOWN to Stawell later that same night, needing only one train, one mail sorter and one set of cancellers.



The front and reverse of a cover that travelled on the UP train mail sorter/TPO carrying the MG 18 cancellers on Friday, 25 November 1892. The cover travelled from Geelong to Melbourne, where it received a Code A (midnight to 7.30 a. m.) backstamp on 26 November. This is firm evidence the train arrived at Spencer Street close to midnight. The only train the cover could have travelled on was the 1.25 p. m. UP train from Port Fairy, scheduled to leave Geelong at 9.15 p. m. and arrive at Spencer Street Station at 11.20 p. m. This cover, together with a search of the working timetables at the Public Records Office of Victoria, illustrate the method used to discover the trains on which the MG/TPO cancellers travelled.

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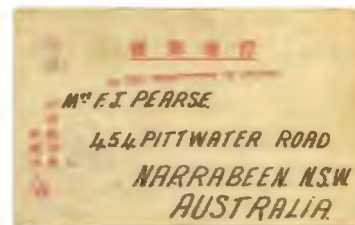
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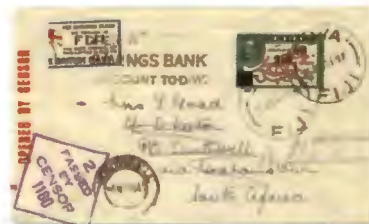


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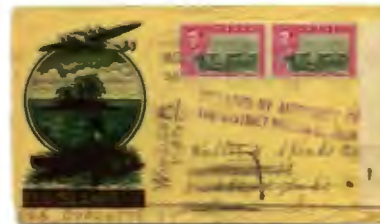
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Sources:

J.R.W. Purves, *Victoria: The Travelling Post Offices and Their Markings 1865-1912*, 2nd Edition, 1979.

D.G. Davies and G.R. Linfield, *The Cancellations of Melbourne 1861-1912*, December 1980 (this publication deciphers the Melbourne GPO time codes).

Michael Guincy, railway historian, who in personal communication, pointed out that J.R.W. Purves was in error with his statements about when railway services commenced to Warrnambool. This was confirmed when the railway working timetables held by the Public Records Office of Victoria were researched.

Victorian Railways Working Timetables

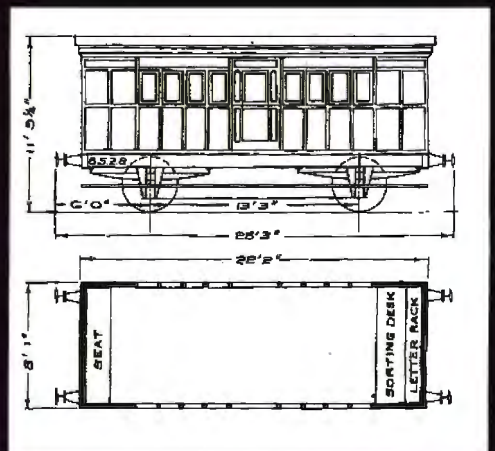
from 1888 to 1909.

T.R. Molomby and S. Jones (of the Victorian Railways), *"Allotment of Carriages at Stations and Instructions regarding the Record of Car Movements"* 8/12/1908, showing which trains included mail sorters at that date.

A lettercard written at Lorne on Wednesday 13 March 1895 and addressed to Geelong. It features an UP train cancellation of 13 March and a Geelong backstamp of the same day, Code Z. This item illustrates how, once the travel time of trains with a mail sorter/TPO is known, many other useful inferences about the operation of the mail distribution system can be worked out and also how new questions can arise. For example, although the card was written at Lorne, it was not posted there. Instead, it was posted at Birregurra Railway Station, from where it was picked up by the mail guards on the UP train mail sorter at about 7.00 p. m. and sorted into the Geelong mail slot. How it got to Birregurra is not known – it may have been hand delivered by a friendly mail coach driver. When the train arrived at Geelong, the mail bag containing the lettercard was off-loaded and transported to the post office (where mail clerks were still working). The lettercard was transit - stamped and sorted ready for delivery. Did post offices open on Saturdays in those days, and were there mail deliveries on Saturday morning?



The plan and elevation of an E type mail sorter, probably manned by a crew of two mail guards, used on the Melbourne-Geelong route from 1890 until at least 1910 (and probably longer).



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Four pence Emblems Discovery

While reviewing my inventory of Emblems one day in February 2008, I came across a four pence stamp that had caught my attention more than once.

Since acquiring it in a collection several years ago, I had always thought there was something unusual about this stamp. I segregated it from the other issues and put a note beside it, reminding me to review it in more detail at some later date. I had even decided at one point that it might be a proof, but I never confirmed my suspicions.

Finally, on that winter evening last year, I decided to take up the challenge. After first scanning it at 800dpi to generate an enhanced view of the details, it became apparent that some characteristics of the stamp were distinctly different to other examples in my collection. In particular, I noted the back of the neck and how far it extended upwards, and its contour, which differed from the other stamps in my possession.

After confirming there was no discernible watermark, my first hunch was that it might be a forgery. However, the paper, the engraving characteristics, and the overall “look” of the stamp had every appearance of a Calvert printing.

I solicited the opinion of several knowledgeable collectors, and the general consensus supported my opinion that it too closely resembled Calvert’s printings to be a fake, but it diverged from the normal issue too much to be easily explained.

I forwarded the stamp to the RPSV Expert Committee and several months later I received a certificate with their opinion:

We have examined the enclosed Victoria fourpence Emblem, unwatermarked, inferior quality paper, imperforate, brown-vermilion (shade), unused, showing head distinctly different from the issued stamp.....and are of the opinion that it is genuine and is a printer’s pull contemporary with the Emblems period” (RPSV Certificate #3960, March 2009)

Upon its return, my closer inspection of the garlands in the oval frame and other features in the design further convinced me that this was printed from a completely different die than the issued stamp. Calvert engraved a separate die for each of the 1d, 2d, and 4d denominations in boxwood and, it would seem, that he made a second die for the four pence, from which this stamp was printed.

The stamp does not appear to be a die proof, making the mystery surrounding this stamp even more intriguing. Did Calvert make up a plate with this different design - and, if he did, why did he do it? Was this a first effort that was rejected? And, to make

things more confusing, the colour of this stamp closely resembles the rose shades used some months after the initial vermilion of the early printings. More mystery.....



The circumstances surrounding the purpose and production of this stamp remain shrouded in mystery, but there appears little doubt that Calvert engraved a second die for the four pence Emblems issue from which this stamp was printed.

Identifying Characteristics of the Die 2 Stamp.

The following characteristics are found in the Die 2 design

1. The head is narrower
2. The back of the neck continues further upwards and curves leftward at top
3. The hair and tiara details are thicker and more crudely drawn.
4. The point where chin and neck join is more rounded
5. The bottom left of the neck is rounded at bottom (not the sharp acute angle seen in Die 1)
6. The bottom of the neck at the rear curves inwards
7. The sweep of the hair and the chignon are completely different in the two stamps.
8. The ear continues diagonally upward to the right (Die 1 curves inward)
9. There is no hair showing above the tiara.
10. The eyeball and eyebrow are distinctly different.
11. The front of the chin is diagonal (if projected would intersect with the tip of the nose)



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Melbourne Stampshow 09, National Philatelic Exhibition

23–26 July 2009, Melbourne Park Function Centre, Melbourne

- Arthur Gray**, The King George V commemorative and pictorial issues of Australia 1927–1936 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) and Special Prize
- Paul Fletcher**, Niue (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (88)
- Ray Price**, Labuan: the Queen's Head issues (Traditional, 4 frames): GOLD (88)
- Philip Levine**, Gold Coast 1835–1913 (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (88)
- Martin Walker**, South Australia's Revenue stamps (Revenues, 8 frames): GOLD (88) + Special Prize
- Maurice Williams**, QANTAS "The Spirit of Australia" (Open Philately, 6 frames): GOLD (88)
- John Dibiase**, Postage stamps of Western Australia (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (87)
- Hans von Strokirch**, Danish West Indies postal history (Postal History, 7 frames): GOLD (86)
- John Dibiase**, Great Britain essays, trials & Penny Black plates (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (85)
- Malcolm Groom**, Tasmanian embossed stationery (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): GOLD (85)
- Frank Pauer**, Australian official Post Office first day covers (First Day Covers, 5 frames): GOLD (85)
- Paul Peggie**, Mission mail – Central Africa (Postal History 2C, 6 frames): GOLD (85)
- Barry Scott**, Imperial Airways Limited (Aerophilately, 5 frames): GOLD (85)
- Mark Diserio**, Australian postal wrappers (Postal Stationery, 7 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (84)
- James Shaw**, New Zealand Postage Dues and underpaid mail (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)
- John Dibiase**, Postal stationery of Western Australia (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)
- Hans von Strokirch**, Icelandic postal stationery cards (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)
- Michael Blake**, The Great Australian Legend (Postal History 2C, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)
- Hubert du Guesclin**, Flying boat mails in Australia (Aerophilately, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)
- Ian Fuary**, Australian Franking Machine imprints (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)
- Rodney Perry**, Commercial philately in Australia (Postal History 2C, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)
- Rodney Perry**, Australia King George VI: stamp usage (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)
- Peter Ronne**, Genesis of Photo Lithography – Australia, the first issues 1977–1986 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)
- Dave Elsmore**, South Australia Revenue stamps (Revenues, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)
- Robert Hillman**, Early Victorian postal markings (Postal History, 8 Frames): VERMEIL (78)
- R Gordon Darge**, Postal history of New Zealand Forces before, during and after the Great War (Postal History, 8 Frames): VERMEIL (78)
- John Lucaci**, The Evolution of French commercial and postal aviation post-World War II (Postal History, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (78)
- Rodney Perry**, Papua New Guinea 1952–1966, stamp usage to decimal currency (Traditional, 8 Frames): VERMEIL (78)

James Shaw, New Zealand Express Delivery 1st and 2nd issues 1901–1949 (Traditional, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (76)

Jack Gunn, An Introduction to UK 1st and 2nd Class official mail (Postal History, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (76)

John Lancaster, Development of Customs and Excise activities in Australia 1817 to 1930s (Open Philately, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (76)

Alan Grey, British New Guinea & Papua 1891–1942 (Postal History, 8 Frames): LARGE SILVER (73)

Martin Walker, The Portrayal of living people in Australian philately (Open Philately, 8 Frames): LARGE SILVER (73)

Ronnie Winchester, Victoria, the Registered mails 1851–1914, routes, rates, receipts and deliveries (Postal History, 5 Frames): LARGE SILVER (72)

Erica Genge, Printer's Dilemma: the 1937 Coronation issues (Traditional, 8 Frames): LARGE SILVER (72)

Jon Fladeby, Norway stamp issues 1872–1885 (Traditional, 5 Frames): LARGE SILVER (72)

Raymond Chapman, Ireland 1922–1937 (Traditional, 3 Frames): SILVER (69)

Harold Sheath, Australia and colonies: More to Pay (Postal History, 4 Frames): BRONZE (55)

Raymond Chapman, Ausipex '84 – A Silver Anniversary 1984–2009 (Postal History 2C, 4 Frames): BRONZE (55)

Jeanette Banfield, Owls (Thematic Philately, 3 Frames): BRONZE (55)

LITERATURE CLASS:

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc., *The Half-Lengths of Victoria: the stamps and postal history 1850–59* by John Barwis and Rod Moreton: GOLD (88) + Special Prize

Bernard Manning, *Queensland Numeral cancellations*: VERMEIL (78)

Dave Elsmore, *Australia and New Zealand Revenue and Railway Fee stamp catalogue, including Australian Locals*: VERMEIL (75)

TARAPEX 2008, New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition

New Plymouth, 7–9 November 2008

Allan Berry, New Zealand Government Life Insurance Department, 1891–1906 (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (93)

Arthur Gray, The Stamp Booklets of Australia, 1904–1935 (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

David McNamee, Van Diemen's Land pre-adhesive postal markings, 1822–1853 (Postal History, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

John Sinfield, Panama Republic postal stationery (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (92) + Special Prize

Bernard Beston, Postal stationery of British Guiana (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (90)

Charles Bromser, Rocket mail pioneers (Astrophilately, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (90)

Dave Elsmore, Queensland Impressed Numeral revenues (Revenues, 5 frames): GOLD (88)

James Shaw, New Zealand Postage Dues 1899 to 1951, and underpaid mail (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (87) + Special Prize

Don Napier, Development of air mails in British Africa (Aerophilately, 5 frames): GOLD (87)

John Dibise, Afghanistan pre-UPU membership 1871–1923 (Traditional, 5 frames): GOLD (86)

Allan Berry, New Zealand Government Department printed franks (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

Hubert du Guesclin, Flying boats and Australia, 1925–1939 (Aerophilately, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

Gordon Darge, The Camel Postman stamps of Sudan (Traditional, 5 Frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

Richard Gurevitch, Costa Rica airmails – the first 25 years (Aerophilately, 5 Frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

James Shaw, New Zealand Express Delivery 1st and 2nd issues 1901–1949 (Traditional, 5 Frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

Ian McMahan, New Zealand postal stationery, Queen Victoria to King George V (Postal Stationery, 5 Frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Derek Pocock, Nicaragua – The post-Seebeck period (Postal Stationery, 5 Frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

James Shaw, New Zealand Unemployment Relief & Social Security stamps, 1931–1958 (Revenues, 5 Frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Ross Duberal, Fiji KGVI Pictorial Definitive issue (Traditional, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (79)

Anthony Presgrave, The Rise and rebirth of the River Murray trade (Open Philately, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (78)

Allan Wichelman, Luxembourg postal history during World War II German occupation (Open Philately, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (78)

Erica Genge, Forty years of British Definitive Air Letters (Postal Stationery, 5 Frames): VERMEIL (77)

Timothy Morgan, The Scroll issue of Canada (Traditional, 5 Frames): LARGE SILVER (74)

John Lucaci, France during the dark years of WW2 (Traditional, 5 Frames): LARGE SILVER (73)

Ian McMahan, Guelph: the Royal City (Open Philately, 5 Frames): LARGE SILVER (72)

POSTCARDS:

Ross Duberal, Fiji Arthur Mills, Publisher 1907–11 (1 Frame): EMERALD (78)

John Dibiase, Morbid views! (5 Frames): SILVER with Distinction (77)

NATIONAL ONE-FRAME:

Barry Scott, World War II New Zealand Prisoner-of-War Air Letter Cards 1941–1945: DIAMOND (91) + Special Prize

Barry Scott, Australian Military Lettercards & Envelopes 1916–1919: RUBY (87)

James Shaw, New Zealand 1½d Boer War stamp issues, 1900–1907: RUBY (87)

James Shaw, New Zealand ½d Newspaper stamp issues, 1873–1903: RUBY (86)

Barry Scott, The Desert Airmails 1921–1927: EMERALD (74)

Adelaide Stampex 2008, National One-Frame Competition and Multi-Frame State Competition, Drill Hall, Torrens Parade Ground, Adelaide, 11–12 October 2008

NATIONAL ONE-FRAME:

Don Napier, A Study of the Rhodesian bi-coloured Double Heads using the 3d value: DIAMOND (87)

David I. Smith, Federation problems with Beer Tax: DIAMOND (87)

Rodney Perry, Pioneer philatelic traders: commercial philately in colonial Australia: DIAMOND (86)

Michael Blake, Stamps of Great Britain used in the Niger River Basin: DIAMOND (86)

Michael Blake, The Band Played Waltzing Matilda: RUBY (81)

Rodney Perry, NQR: Misadventures within the Australian postal system: RUBY (83)

Rodney Perry, Destination Australia: airmail incidents: RUBY (75)

Rodney Perry, Australian Commonwealth: Souvenir covers

commercially used: RUBY (75)

Ross Wood, Turks & Caicos Islands postal stationery: EMERALD (73)

Ross Wood, 1938 King George VI issues of Kenya Uganda Tanganyika: EMERALD (70)

Rodney Perry, Great Britain 1934 re-engraved 'Sea Horses' usage: EMERALD (68)

Rodney Perry, Victoria: Impressed Duty issues: SAPPHIRE (63)

Timothy Morgan, Transatlantic mail from Canada: SAPPHIRE (62)

John Dibiase, Mail to and from HMAS *Sydney*: TOPAZ (54)

STATE EXHIBITION:

Martin Walker, Cyclone Tracy: DIAMOND (85)

Martin Walker, Post offices of the Wayville Showgrounds: RUBY (79)

Sunstamp 2008, Half-National Philatelic Exhibition 22–24 August 2008, RNA Showgrounds, Brisbane

Arthur Gray, King George VI definitive issues of Australia 1937–1952 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (92) and Special Prize

Mark Diserio, Australian Registered Letter Envelopes 1912–1969 (Postal Stationery, 6 frames): GOLD (87) and Special Prize

Geoff Kellow, The decimal definitives of Sierra Leone 1964–1971 (Traditional, 6 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83) and Special Prize

Ian McMahon, Envelopes and postcards of Canada (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

Gary Brown, The Protea definitives, South Africa (Traditional,

4 frames): VERMEIL (77)

Rodney Perry, Australia King George VI stamp usage (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE SILVER (73)

Ian McMahon, Palestinian Authority (Traditional, 4 frames): SILVER (69)

Ray Price, Queen's Head issue of Labuan (Traditional, 4 frames): SILVER (67)

Ross Wood, Ducks (Thematic Philately, 5 frames): SILVER (65)

John Dibiase, Postal stationery of Afghanistan (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): SILVER-BRONZE (62)

Half-Length

In their new book *The Half-Lengths of Victoria: The Stamps & Postal History 1850-59*, authors John Barwis and Rod Moreton state at pages 37-38: "The Morning Herald's January 3rd article also mentioned that the new stamps were being offered at a discount. All three values, when purchased in lots of 25, were sold at face value less four percent. Thus 25 1d stamps sold for 2 shillings, 25 2d for 4/-, 25 3d for 6/-, etc."

They then pose the question: "Why would a discount be offered?" But their speculation that follows is a bit off the mark: "It is possible that the GPO, expecting a stamp-buying rush, simply offered stamps to the public at the same discount they had already conceded to local shopkeepers, who may have been expected to accept a four-percent margin for selling the stamps at face value."

I was immediately reminded that Brian Peace has an original New South Wales "Government Gazette" of 28 December 1849 that, among other things, specifies that the new "Sydney Views" stamps would be available from 1 January 1850 at a discount. As can be seen from the accompanying scan, the same discount of 4% as mentioned in the Melbourne newspaper article was to apply. I expect that there will be a very similar notice to be found in a late 1849 issue of the Port Phillip "Government Gazette".

Clearly, Barwis & Moreton were unaware of the NSW Gazette and had not located its Victorian counterpart. And it may be that this information simply is not well known.

Houison at page 42 mentions the relevant NSW Gazette, but he makes no comment about the discounts available. However, Basset Hull was certainly aware of the discounting of the Sydney Views, as at page 19 he refers to and specifies "the wholesale rate" at which they were sold.

The NSW Gazette of 29/12/1849 is a fascinating document. The new postal provisions specified relate to soldiers' and sailors' letters, free mail, and postage due of double any unpaid portion. In addition, a list is given of new Sub-Offices and Receiving Offices to be established. I expect readers will be interested in seeing all the relevant extracts.



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Colonial Secretary's Office,
Sydney, 22nd December, 1849.

POSTAGE RATES.

HIS Excellency the GOVERNOR directs the publication for general information of the following Table of Postage Rates, to be charged under the Act of Council 13th Victoria, No. 38, which comes into operation on the 1st of the ensuing year.

By His Excellency's Command,
E. DEAS THOMSON.

TABLE of Rates of Postage, under the Postage Act, 13 Vict., No. 38.

INLAND LETTERS.

Not exceeding ½ an ounce	2 pence
Exceeding ½ oz. but not exceeding 1oz...	4 "
" 1 " " "	2 " 8 "
" 2 " " "	3 " 12 "
" 3 " " "	4 " 16 "

and for every ounce or fraction of an ounce, above four ounces, four-pence *additional*.

TOWN LETTERS.

Not exceeding ½ an ounce	1d.
Exceeding ½ oz. but not exceeding 1oz...	2 pence
" 1 " " "	2 " 4 "
" 2 " " "	3 " 6 "
" 3 " " "	4 " 8 "

and for every ounce or fraction of an ounce, above four ounces, two-pence *additional*.

BANKERS' PARCELS, &c.

Bankers' Parcels, Patterns, Prices Current, Writs or Proceedings of Courts of Justice, Legislative Papers, and Periodical Publications, if forwarded without any letter or writing other than the address and the prices of the articles—

Not exceeding 4ozs.....	2 pence,
-------------------------	----------

and for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce, one halfpenny.

SHIP LETTERS.

(In addition to the Inland Postage)

Not exceeding ½ an ounce	3 pence.
Exceeding ½ oz. but not exceeding 1 oz. 6 "	
" 1 " " "	2 " 12 "
" 2 " " "	3 " 18 "
" 3 " " "	4 " 24 "

and for every ounce or fraction of an ounce above four ounces, sixpence *additional*.

All Ship Letters must be pre-paid, or they will not be forwarded.

But Ship Letters received from beyond the Seas when sent inland will be liable only, in addition to the Sea Postage, to the same Inland Postage as they would have been if pre-paid.

SAILORS' AND SOLDIERS' LETTERS.

Sailors and Soldiers in Her Majesty's Service may send and receive Letters on their own private concerns under the following Regulations:—

- 1.—The Letters must be superscribed with the name of the writer, his description or class in the Vessel or Regiment, and signed by the Officer at the time in command.
- 2.—The weight must not exceed half an ounce.
- 3.—Letters sent by, or addressed to, Sailors or Soldiers, and posted in the Colony in accordance with the foregoing restrictions, will be charged
If pre-paid 1 penny.
- 4.—If not pre-paid they will be charged double the rate of an ordinary Letter, unless addressed to parts beyond the Colony, in which case they will not be forwarded.
- 5.—Letters sent by or received from Sailors or Soldiers, and arriving from parts beyond the Colony, will be charged.
If pre-paid..... 1 penny.
If not pre-paid 2 pence.
- 6.—And in every case where Sailors' or Soldiers' Letters are posted not in accordance with the requirements of the Act, they will be treated as ordinary unpaid letters.

NEWSPAPERS.

If sent without cover, or in a cover open at each end, and without any writing or enclosure except the name and address.

For each Newspaper or Government Gazette whether pre-paid or not 1 penny.

The postage on Newspapers intended for parts beyond the Colony *must be pre-paid*, otherwise they will be detained.

Newspapers not posted before 3 o'clock, p.m., will be delayed to the succeeding Post.

PETITIONS AND ADDRESSES.

Petitions and Addresses to Her Majesty are exempt from Postage.

Members of Council may receive, free of Postage, petitions and addresses to Her Majesty and His Excellency the Governor, and petitions addressed to either the Executive or Legislative Council, if not exceeding 32 ounces in weight, and sent without covers, or in covers open at the sides.

It will be observed that all Letters not pre-paid will be liable to double Postage, but in order to facilitate the pre-payment, Stamps have been prepared, and will be sold to the Public at every Post Office, Sub-Office, and Receiving House, at the following rates:—

Penny Stamps	1d. each.
Two-penny Stamps	2d. "
Three-penny Stamps	3d. "

Or wholesale at the following prices:—

PENNY STAMPS.

25 for	2s.
50 "	4s.
75 "	6s.
100 "	8s.

TWOPENNY STAMPS.

25 for	4s.
50 "	8s.
75 "	12s.
100 "	16s.

THREEPENNY STAMPS.

25 for	6s.
50 "	12s.
75 "	18s.
100 "	24s.

Letters having Stamps equal to the Rates of Postage, pass free of all other Postage, but where the value of the Stamps is less than the Postage, they will be charged double the amount of such difference. The Stamps are to be placed on the front of the Letter above the Superscription.

Letters must be posted half an hour previous to the time fixed for despatch of the Mails; but late Letters will be received to within a quarter of an hour upon payment of a Fee of 6d. each Letter.

Letters will be Registered and receipts given upon payment of a Fee of 6d. each Letter. The Post Office will not be responsible for such Letters, but every caution shall be adopted to prevent loss by entering them upon the Letter Bills and obtaining receipts for them upon delivery. Parties are however advised to cut Notes or Drafts in halves and send them by different Posts.

Letter Carriers will deliver within the limits of Sydney twice in each day, starting from the General Post Office at 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., and any Letter Carrier delivering Letters in the street, or loitering whilst on delivery, will be dismissed.

Private Letter Boxes will be provided for Merchants and others, and their Letters delivered at a separate window upon payment of one guinea per annum.

The General Post Office will be open to the Public from 9 a.m., to 6 p.m., except for half an hour for the despatch of the Country Mails, namely from ½ past 4 to 5 p.m.

No Hackney Carriage shall stand, or ply for hire, nor shall any Hawker, Newsvender, or idle or disorderly person stop or loiter opposite the General Post Office, under a penalty of £5.

The Country Offices will be open from 9 a.m., to 6 p.m., except where Mails arrive at a later hour; in which case, the Office will be open for half an hour after such arrival, but not later than 8 p.m.

Receiving Houses will be established at the following places within the limits of the City of Sydney, for all Stamped and Unpaid Letters and Newspapers. These Offices will be visited at 1 p.m., and 4 p.m., and all Letters and Newspapers posted there will be brought to the General Post Office for distribution, viz. :—

- At Mr. Alder's, Parramatta-street, nearly opposite to the road leading to Redfern.
- At Mr. Row's, corner of Liverpool and Pitt-streets.
- At Mr. Taylor's, South Head Road, nearly opposite to Darlinghurst Court House.
- At Mr. Read's, Toy Bazaar, Elizabeth-street.
- At Mr. F. Mitchell's, opposite the Queen's Wharf; and

At Mr. Vaughan's, Miller's Point.
Sub-Offices will also be established at the following Suburbs, where all Letters and Newspapers will be forwarded for distribution, and at which Offices all Stamped and Unpaid Letters can be posted, but no Newspaper or Letter can be prepaid in money, viz. :—
Balmain, St. Leonards, Paddington, Newtown, and Longbottom.

Royal News

Annual General Meeting, 2009

The Society's 117th Annual General Meeting was held on Thursday, 17 September; this date being in accordance with the alteration to the Society's Rules changing the date of the Annual General Meeting from July to September. The usual order of business was followed, involving the President's Address; presentation and adoption of reports; election of Council; and appointment of an auditor.

President's Report (John Sinfield MAP)

Tonight brings to a close the second year of my current Presidential term. I would particularly like to pass on sincere thanks to all Council and Committee members who ably assisted the smooth operations of the Society over the past 27 months. In terms of our 2008 amended rules, Council reduces by one representative next year. In this regard I particularly express gratitude to Charles Bromser, John Rennie and Tim Morgan, each of whom are not re-nominating for Council. My appreciation also to John Boykett, who most ably provided an interim Secretarial role.

2009 was an active year for Victorian philately, with Australia's national philatelic exhibition being staged in Melbourne during July. The Society played a major part. Just as the RPSV relies on help from all members, so too does any exhibition and I am most pleased to report that Society members were to the forefront in enabling smooth exhibition operation. Thanks to all who gave assistance. During the course of the exhibition, I was delighted to host a Society Presidential reception, attended by in excess of 100 members and guests. I am told all enjoyed a memorable evening in conjunction with Australia Post's generous display of portion of their Chapman archival collection, which Ray was able to honour for us by personal introduction. I deliberately use the phrase "*I am told*" since together with my wife, Lesley, I was far too busy to observe reactions to the evening. Lesley also generously donated her efforts in co-hosting our December Christmas function. Many thanks, Les. And thanks also to our good friend, Lyndel Walker for delighting us with a glimpse of her extensive "ink and associated products" collectable display.

Continuing Society policy of making available foremost philatelic displays, this year's Thursday evening meetings featured diverse collections of not only Australia and forerunner colonies, but also material of the British Commonwealth including Britain, New Guinea, New Zealand, Ceylon and South Africa. Added interest was provided by both Portugal and Panama. Interstate displayers honoured us on four occasions.

Last year's installation of wall frames was put to frequent use, and I have been attempting to ascertain members' preferences to display in the frames versus our traditional passing around of sheets. Opinion is divided, and on this matter the "jury is still hung". Monthly daytime meetings continue to attract substantial attendance as does our second Wednesday Postal History group. Ongoing interest is maintained by entertaining displays combined with cordial informality. Thanks to all who participated and to the respective co-ordinators, Marion Smith and Gary Brown.

This year's annual competition attracted three entries and congratulations are extended to Barry Scott (silver medal) and Jim Shaw (bronze). They, plus all past competition winners are now listed as a permanent record on our new website.

On assuming Society Presidency in July 2007, it was my aim to complete one specific major task each year. I am pleased both my goals have been successfully implemented. First was our wall display unit which was christened at our 2007 Christmas evening and has since received ongoing use. Second goal was the setup of the RPSV website. This came to fruition last June thanks to the perseverance of our IT committee and specifically Helen Morgan. Many thanks, Helen. The website may be accessed on www.rpsv.org.au, and has obviously been accessed widely as already several additional book purchases have resulted. But we still seek assistance to help maintain the site. Any offers?

On the Society's behalf I extend specific congratulations to our Honorary Life Member, Dr Geoff Kellow for his invitation to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. We will honor Geoff at a dinner on 18 October next, at which time our only other living RDP, Ray Chapman will celebrate 60 years' Society membership.

Twelve new members were welcomed to the Society in the past twelve months. We trust you will enjoy your stay with us. Regrettably we also recorded the passing this year of five dear friends, including our 50-year member, Geoff White; long term country member Mac Clarke; active daytime member Richard Masters; plus John Viersen and Peter Troy. To their family and friends, the Society's condolences. On perhaps even a more depressing note were Victoria's disastrous February bushfires. All Society members were dismayed by our esteemed member, Gary Brown's loss of five immediate family members, and were saddened in passing on our distress to him, Robyn and their remaining family members.

I now hand over Presidency of the Society to my successor, John Shawley and wish him and our new Council every future success.

Business Manager's Report (John Sinfield MAP)

This report must necessarily emphasise the release of the Society's latest publication "*The Half Lengths of Victoria: The Stamps and Postal History 1850-59*" by John Barwis and Rod Moreton. Although officially launched on our advertised date of 16 April, delays in shipping from the printer unfortunately deferred actual mailing of pre-publication orders until June. I believe all such orders are now filled. Limited print run of 80 numbered leatherbound deluxe editions was undertaken, and this specific publication is no longer available. Copies of the standard edition plus CD remain on sale at \$180 (plus postage). Regrettably the massive cost of foreign airmail postage makes worldwide distribution of orders an expensive exercise. Mailing this book to Europe comes in at around \$75 and to USA, \$65!

"*Half-Lengths*" was entered into three philatelic exhibitions. In New Zealand 11th Literature exhibition (June), the book received Large Gold and Grand award, and in both APS Congress (August) and Melbourne Stampshow (July) gold medals were obtained, the latter with special prize. In New Zealand Max Watson & Carl Stieg's book "*Franked!*" received Large Vermeil. Continuing 2008 Society policy to donate our publications as special prizes for philatelic exhibitions, we provided Melbourne Stampshow 2009 with six books, which provided two exhibition prizes of three volumes each.

Sale of other publications averaged about four books monthly. In June, in preparation for listing on our new website, the Society revised downwards the price of most older publications. These become quite good value, so if you were debating purchase,

now is the time to act. Several publications are in very short supply. Revised prices are listed on RPSV website and in June "*Philately from Australia*". Regular trade purchases enjoy 30% discount on advertised price. We have received several website publication enquiries/orders, one even from as far away as Argentina!

Thanks to the effort of our active House Committee; members will note the new blinds now installed in our Ashburton Business Manager's storeroom.

House Report (Don Napier FRPSL)

The Committee is pleased to advise there are no major incidents to report for the year under review. There were no further signs of dampness along the Eastern wall of the Library; however the House Committee continues to monitor the situation closely. There continues to be minor attacks by graffiti artists and these problems are dealt with as quickly as possible.

Only routine maintenance of the services and minor repairs to the building were carried out.

To conform to current regulations the access to the roof was changed and now comprises a loft type ladder.

The valuation of the Library is continuing.

The House Committee has been in contact with the owner of 305 High Street. The lease to Kentucky Fried Chicken has a year to run. In the current financial climate the owner is not of a mind to commence the redevelopment for which he has a building permit.



STAMP NEWS

STAMP NEWS is an informative monthly magazine for philatelists with news stories from around Australia, New Zealand, the South Pacific and the rest of the world. Each issue runs to at least 90 pages with special features on Australian Commonwealth Philately, Postal Stationery, Investments, Cinderellas, Postcards, Collectibles and much more. Brought to you by our worldwide network of informed contributors and correspondents.

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RPSV Expert Committee Report (Max Watson FRPSL)

The Committee comprised Max Watson (Chairman), John Boykett and John Shawley (Secretary).

The Committee has received 234 submissions (323 were received in 2007/8) and issued 207 (195) certificates. Billings for the 2008/9 year totalled just over \$15,000 (\$11,000). Some \$2000 of the year's billings related to the prior year. 37 Dealers and Collectors submitted items to the Committee, including 12 members who received one free certificate. Overall a pleasing level of activity but future workload cannot be predicted, as it is dependent upon major sales and collector and trade needs.

Turnaround is monitored and reported to Council, with an objective to return material within two months.

The Committee is receiving an increasing proportion of Commonwealth of Australia items and we have increased our support network to assist in this area.

Current charges are \$75 per certificate (members one free certificate per financial year) and a handling fee of \$45 where a certificate is not issued. These charges have been in effect for over two years and will be reviewed in the near future.

Librarian's Report (Richard Breckon APR)

The Library is managed by Richard Breckon (Librarian) and John Shawley (Assistant Librarian). The main work involves manning the Library during opening times; responding to enquiries; shelving new and returned items; binding loose journals and recording acquisitions.

The Library comprises nearly 300 linear metres of books, journals and catalogues. It is generally recognised as the most important philatelic library in Australia.

Early in November 2008, access to the Library was briefly interrupted with the entire contents being transferred to the meeting floor level; the bookshelves dismantled; and new carpet laid on the ground floor to replace the existing carpet damaged by flooding. The full cost of the new carpet, including the removalist company's work, was met by insurance.

The Library is opened twice a month, on the second Monday evening and the last Saturday afternoon, as well as during evening and daytime meetings. To encourage members to make use of the Library, recent journals, auction catalogues and newly-acquired books are put out for viewing on the meeting floor level.

We purchase books regularly, with the aim of acquiring all Australasian works and as many important foreign publications as possible. The Library has on hand sufficient magazine holders to accommodate the holdings of loose journals and auction catalogues. No binding of loose journals was pursued during the year, but it is planned to carry out this work during the coming year.

During the year we have actively pursued the matter of outstanding Library loans and a number of much-overdue items

have been returned to the Library. Unfortunately, a former member still holding several loans is proving to be difficult in this regard. In future, the two-month limit to borrowings will be enforced.

We acknowledge with gratitude various donations made to the Library. It is particularly useful to receive overseas auction catalogues, which otherwise might not be received by the Library.

Philately from Australia Report (Richard Breckon APR)

The Philately from Australia Committee, having been in existence since April 2008, was established by Council to take over the previous role of the Publications Committee in managing the journal. The Philately from Australia Committee comprises: Richard Breckon (Chairman and Editor), Bill Lloyd-Smith (Assistant Editor), Don Napier (Advertising Editor), John Rennie and Joe Edwards.

It is a firm objective to make the journal ready for mailing during the month of publication. Although the target was met for three of the four editions during the year, it is unfortunate that the June 2009 edition was very late in appearing. Every effort is being made to adhere to the publication target in future.

Philately from Australia achieved its 60th anniversary in March 2009, the event being marked by a series of special articles during 2009. Commencing with the March 2009 edition, *Philately from Australia* has expanded to 36 pages with full colour printing throughout.

The journal's designer since 2008, Felicity Bolitho of Ballard Design, Geelong Vic., and the printer since 2006, Program Print of Hamilton Vic., perform work of a high standard.

Exchange Superintendent's Report (Bill Jenkins)

We have had another excellent year financially. We have five circuits; one of our city circuits having lost about half its members. I believe there are two reasons:-

- We have not got many city members, which means that some have too far to travel to give the books to the next member. If they are unable to find many suitable stamps for their collection it is not worthwhile.
- The other problem is the cost of postage in relation to the value of the stamps purchased; the cost of postage is becoming a real problem.

We always need more material and the more people who supply stamps the greater variety of philatelic material exists for members. There is a lot of interest at the daytime meetings, when members come a half an hour early to check through the exchange sheets. One of our members has started supplying a lot of postal history this year, which is very popular. The Exchange Branch needs the support of all members of our Society.

Honorary Treasurer's Report (Frank Pauer)

This is my third report to members as your Honorary Treasurer and I am pleased to present the Society's audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30 June 2009. With the change in the Annual General Meeting being held in September, it has enabled us to present Audited financial accounts for the last two years.

The Profit and Loss Account presented tonight shows a loss of \$16,632 as compared to a loss of \$29,720 for the previous year, both figures post income tax. When you take out the non-cash items, i.e. depreciation and the decrease in the stock valuation this year, we made a Cash Profit of \$27,276 compared to last year of \$20,762.

Our total income this year was \$111,223 compared to \$103,495 last year. Members contributed \$19,301 or 17%; Interest and distributions from investments contributed \$24,667 or 22%; Expert Committee contributed \$12,439 or 11%; Publications contributed \$38,162 or 25%, of which \$31,162 was from sales and advertising of the new publication "*Half- Lengths of Victoria, Stamps and Postal History 1850-1859*". Various other branches contributed \$14,917 or 13%. The distribution from our investments and interest were down by \$23,733, almost 50%, this was due to the Global Economic Crisis, which will continue into next year, so we will have to tighten our belts for the next few years.

Total expenditure was \$131,856 compared to \$133,215 in the previous year, a decrease of \$1,359. The major expenses were Depreciation \$18,359, Insurance \$10,061, Journal Production \$13,929, decrease in stock of old publications \$25,550 and printing and stationery \$20,483. Council decided last year to value the stock at a realistic value and this has been done over the last two years, with the final decrease next year. Printing and stationery was mainly made up of the printing of the Barwis book of \$16,550.

On the Balance sheet side, we have spent \$28,273, of which \$16,550 was for extra Barwis books in stock, \$3000 was for the Microscope for the Expert Committee and \$2,240 was for the Library. We still have a substantial sum of money invested, but this year we have had to utilize \$25,000 from our deposits to balance the books.

Council has kept the subscriptions for the 2009/2010 year at \$80.00 for Metropolitan members and \$70.00 for Country, Interstate and Overseas members.

The Finance Committee held one meeting during the year, additionally, I should emphasize that I am in constant contact with members of that committee. I thank all the members of the committee for their assistance and advice during the year.

Society's Annual Competition

The Society held its Annual Competition on 18 June 2009 with judging carried out in accordance with National (FIP) regulations. Three entries were submitted; the results being Barry Scott, Cairo to Baghdad Air Mails (Silver Medal); Jim Shaw, New Zealand 1973 higher-value definitive issues (Bronze Medal); and Charles Lawlor Upper Silesia covers. The presentation of the medals was made at the Society's Social

and Philatelic Meeting coinciding with Melbourne Stampshow 09 on Thursday, 23 July.

Council 2009-10

The following members were elected to Council to serve for the year 2009-10:

President: **John Shawley**

Vice President: **Frank Pauer**

Immediate Past President: **John Sinfield MAP**

Treasurer: **Frank Pauer**

Secretary: **John Sinfield MAP**

Council members:

John Boykett

Richard Breckon APR

Gary Brown FRPSL

Joe Edwards

Don Napier FRPSL

Max Watson FRPSL

Eric McKinstry has been re-appointed Auditor.

Dinner for Dr Geoff Kellow, RDP

The Society's dinner in Melbourne on Wednesday, 28 October 2009 to mark the signing of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists by Geoff Kellow, was held at the Savage Club, Bank Place, Melbourne on Wednesday, 28 October 2009. (The Savage Club was the venue used for Melbourne Stampshow 09 Palmares.) Geoff Kellow's dinner was held on a date immediately prior to LAUNPEX 2009, the One-Frame National exhibition being staged in Launceston. Interstate members travelling to Launceston had the opportunity to attend the dinner to celebrate Geoff's achievement. Guest of Honour at the dinner was Ray Chapman AM MBE RDP, who proposed Geoff for nomination to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Don Napier FRPSL, 80

Honorary Life Member Don Napier celebrated his 80th birthday on 18 September 2009. Don has twice been President of the Society (1978 and 1998) and he holds the J.R.W. Purves Medal (1976). He became a Life Member of the Society in 1999. In 2013, Don will become our next 50-year member.

London 2010 Jury

The members of the Jury appointed for London 2010 International Philatelic Exhibition have been announced and the RPSV is well represented. Of the 33 Jury members at London 2010, three are Society members:— Malcolm Groom (Jury Secretary), Gary Brown and Ray Todd.

Gary Brown FRPSL, former APF President

At the Annual General Meeting of the Australian Philatelic Federation held on 29 August 2009 in Woden ACT, Gary Brown FRPSL stepped down as President after a two-year

term. His replacement as APF President is David Figg (South Australia), who joined the RPSV earlier this year.

David Ingle Smith FAP

At the Australian Philatelic Order awards Dinner held on 29 August 2009 at the Hellenic Club, Woden ACT, RPSV member David Ingle Smith was elevated to a Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order (FAP). Known to everyone as "Dingle", he has served as a member of the ACT Philatelic Council since its inception in 1980. He has worked actively for philately at local, national and international levels. He became a Member of the Australian Philatelic Order (MAP) in 1996.

New members

The Society has gained five new members: Anthony de C Macgillycuddy, Guido de Meneghi, Ray Fleming and John Waugh (Victoria); and Colin Hoffman (United Kingdom). Their applications for membership were accepted by Council on 17 September. We wish them a long and happy association with the Society.

Half-Lengths book wins prizes at exhibitions

The Society entered its latest publication, *The Half-lengths of Victoria: The Stamps and Postal History 1850-59* by John Barwis and Rod Morton, in two recent exhibitions.



Day Meeting Convenor, Marion Smith, admires the Ross Morgan painting awarded as a Special prize for the Society's *Half-Lengths of Victoria* book at Melbourne Stampshow 2009.

In the Literature Class of Melbourne Stamp Show 2009 the book was awarded a Gold medal and a Special Prize (88 points). The prize, donated by the Victorian Philatelic Council, is an indigenous painting by Ross Morgan of the Yorta Yorta people. (He often paints the Goanna and Long Neck Turtle, these being the totems for his native country.)

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At the 11th New Zealand National Philatelic Literature Exhibition held in Palmerston North on 27 June 2009, the Half-Lengths book won Large Gold and a Special Prize (95 points). It also won the Grand Award, donated by the Manawatu Philatelic Society. The prize – a Kauri carved artefact – was presented personally to the Society at the Social and Philatelic Meeting coinciding with Melbourne Stampshow 09 on Thursday, 23 July, by Robin Gwynn FRPSL, FRPSNZ.

Purves House roof ladder

To conform to current regulations the Society has recently installed new access to the roof of Purves House, comprising



President John Shawley inspects the newly-installed roof ladder to Purves House.

a loft-type ladder and a roof hatch. Roof access points have been installed and a safety harness acquired, all of which will provide better access to the roof for maintenance of our two roof-mounted air conditioning units, and the cleaning of the roof gutters. The photograph shows President John Shawley inspecting the new installation.

Society Syllabus

October 2009

- 6 (Tue) 1 p.m. Daytime Meeting
- 12 (Mon) 5.30 p.m. Library night
- 14 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
- 15 (Thu) 8 p.m. **Tasmanian Pictorials, Malcolm Groom FRPSL**
- 29 (Thu) 8 p.m. **Joint Display: "Trouble in the Balkans", Adrian Michell; Papua and New Guinea between the wars, Joe Edwards**
- 31 (Sat) 2 p.m. Library afternoon

November 2009

- 9 (Mon) 5.30 p.m. Library night
- 10 (Tue) 1 p.m. (Second Tuesday) Daytime Meeting
- 11 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
- 19 (Thu) 8 p.m. **Private postcards in Australia 1895–1959; aspects of mail usage, Richard Breckon APR**
- 28 (Sat) 2 p.m. Library afternoon

December 2009

- 1 (Tue) 1 p.m. Daytime Meeting
- 7 (Mon) 5.30 p.m. Library night
- 9 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
- 17 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **President's Social Evening**, members are invited to bring along a guest
- 26 (Sat) Library *not* open
- 31 (Thu) No evening meeting

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The Half-Lengths of Victoria: the stamps and postal history 1850–59

It is a pleasure to review this latest addition by John Barwis and the late Rod Moreton to the voluminous literature on the stamps of Victoria. Their recently published book of over 480 pages is a sumptuous coverage of the Half-Length stamps of Victoria. It is No. 21 in the J.R.W. Purves Memorial Series, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. The accompanying CD contains a scan of Barwis' exhibit of Half-Lengths. Let us review some of its contents to see what it adds to the story about these stamps, the very first ever issued by the Victorian Post Office.

The book opens with an overview of the subject. The Half-Lengths of Victoria have attracted the attention of many leading philatelists, including Ferrary, Tapling, Hausburg, King George V, Pack, Lichtenstein and Burrus and many others. The leading student was none other than J.R.W. Purves, whose researches became the benchmark for all subsequent investigations into these stamps. The authors point out that condition, centring and colour form a serious challenge for collectors of these stamps. Collectors are practically forced to include some stamps with minor defects, since four-margin copies are very unusual for some of the Ham printings.

The book includes some advances on the plating of the stamps since the appearance of Purves' book in 1953. There is much information on the cancellations used on the Half-Lengths and on foreign mail routes. There is a census of known covers, which is frequently referred to in the text. It is an essential feature of the book and ensures that it is not limited to a technical discussion of the means of production for these stamps. The authors provide some guidance on how to use the book.

Chapter 1 provides a good historical introduction. Gold had a tremendous influence on the early development of the Colony of Victoria and it was necessary to provide a postal system that could cope with the rapidly increasing population. Chapter 2 introduces the reader to the work of Thomas Ham, who was responsible for the printing of the first stamps of Victoria. Ham entered into a contract to print supplies of stamps for the postal needs of Victoria as from the beginning of 1850. The authors explain how Ham met the terms of his contract in the short time from late November 1849 to early January 1850. It seems that he started work on the dies and plates even before he had signed the contract, since it was already clear that he was going to print the required stamps. Ham also decided to use smaller stones of 30 impressions each, so that he would have an initial supply of stamps ready on time. The authors give evidence to show that the first sales at post offices took place on 3 January 1850. The first printings have an unusually fine quality, since Ham decided not to use intermediate stones for building up the lithographic stones.

Chapters 3 to 8 describe the printings in detail and Chapter 9 describes the rouletted and perforated Half-Lengths. The 1d

three die-states with five printings, the last three being for the third die-state. The second and third die-states were printed from stones of 120 impressions, as Ham had intended to do as part of his contract. Examples of each printing are well illustrated in colour with details of the printing stones being given in diagrammatic form. Several usages on cover are illustrated. (Plating details are found in Appendix 1.) Furthermore, details are given of the numbers printed and issued, as far as possible. In some cases, there were substitutions so that the sheet layout shows a number of abnormal types, such as 'type 29' being in place of the expected 'type 6' (see Figure 3.12). Locations of abnormal positions are provided in a handy diagram.

Chapter 4 describes the eight printings of the 2d Ham. There were four die-states. As for the 1d, the first die-state was made from a stone of 30 impressions whereas later die-states were produced with stones of 120 impressions. Abnormal combinations are described for the second die-state. This chapter is profusely illustrated in colour with several usages being shown. Examples from all printings are illustrated. As for the 1d, details of numbers printed and issued are provided to the greatest extent permitted by existing knowledge. This stamp was engraved in rather fine detail, so it was more prone to rapid wear. The 2d was replaced by the 2d Queen on Throne stamps in the last week of December, so this value was never printed by Campbell or Campbell & Ferguson.

Chapter 5 describes the five printings of the 3d Ham. There were three die-states and five printings. As for the two previous chapters, there are numerous illustrations with examples from each printing and some usages. Quantities printed and issued are given. The use of a few unused examples in this and previous chapters is helpful for showing the correct colours, without the distraction of postmarks or other markings.

With Chapter 6, we move on to the Campbell/Campbell and Ferguson contracts. This chapter is short. It is made clear that Ham did not get the contract in 1853, since the tender offered by Campbell/Campbell & Ferguson was considerably cheaper.

Chapter 7 covers the Campbell/Campbell and Ferguson printings of the 1d in depth. This chapter is richly illustrated, showing that the margins are generally larger than those on the Ham printings. Five stones are identified with the nine estimated printings being described carefully. A number of interesting transfer group combinations are discussed and tabulated in detail.

Chapter 8 covers the Campbell/Campbell and Ferguson printings of the 3d in depth. Four stones are identified with the nine estimated printings being described in detail.

Diagrams show how the transfers are believed to have been set out on the stones. The quality of the paper is often a distinguishing feature for these printings of the 3d and 1d with many printings being on poor quality paper.

Chapter 9 discusses the roulettes and perforations on the Half-Lengths. These are mostly found on the 3d but some also occur on the 1d. The authors provide guidance on how to assess the genuineness or otherwise of purported examples of these stamps. Unfortunately, conclusive criteria are not always available so the collector will need to study this matter very carefully in order to make his/her own judgment.

Chapter 10 is especially important as it provides a careful guide on how to identify the printings. Paper characteristics are an important part of this task. A number of exercises are provided so that the reader can learn by practice to narrow down the range of possibilities and eventually arrive at a correct classification. Decision trees are provided for each denomination. We note that Chapters 3 to 9 all discuss the rarity of the various printings and early attempts at providing a means of separation.

Chapter 11 discusses forgeries. The most famous (or infamous?) of these are perhaps those of Jeffryes, who was sentenced to six months imprisonment for his activities. The book illustrates and describes these forgeries of the 2d and 3d very clearly. (The 1d was not forged by Jeffryes.) However, all three values were forged by Oneglia (not Panelli as was once believed). These efforts are easily recognised as bad as the authors demonstrate with illustrations. The Spiro forgeries are only slightly better as the book shows convincingly. Other forgeries are known, but these are not at all dangerous.

At last we move on to cancellations and postal history. Chapter 12 discusses the cancellations in depth. The first of these are the Butterfly cancels, which are most attractive. Evidently, the authorities thought that they did not adequately cancel the stamp so the Board of Enquiry in 1851 recommended a larger design for this purpose. The result was the Barred Oval. From 1856, the Barred Numeral appeared, although it is not quite clear to this reviewer why it was necessary to change the design of the canceller. This chapter also discusses manuscript cancellations, followed by town and newspaper datestamps. A few examples of cancellations outside of the Port Phillip District are discussed. Assessments of rarity are provided.

Chapter 13 discusses the foreign mails. This begins with non-contract mails, in which the carriage of mail going outside of the Port Phillip District relied largely on private ships, rather than regularly-scheduled services as per contract. There is a lengthy discussion of contract mails. They started with the Toulmin packets (under sail), but contract steamer services were initiated in 1852. Sail was resumed temporarily in 1854–1857, due to the Crimean War, but after that, steam service came back. Rates and routes are explained in this chapter, although the reader will need to check Appendix 2 for a detailed explanation of the rate

for a detailed explanation of schedules. The rarity of covers carried under various contracts is discussed. There are lists of ships with departure dates from Melbourne, together

with arrival dates overseas, e.g. Southampton, Marseilles.

How did the authors arrive at their conclusions? Chapter 14 explains how census data on a large number of covers bearing one or more Half-Lengths. First, the authors point out that any such analysis is statistical in nature since it is based on a hopefully large sample of covers. There may be covers in existence that the authors were not aware of. Nevertheless, it is likely that most surviving covers have been accounted for. There are a number of sources of bias that must be taken into account and these are clearly explained. Given all these caveats, the authors provide an analysis of the rates paid and overseas destinations with denominations actually used. A graphical analysis is given for survival rates on cover. In general, the patterns tend to be linear when plotted with a logarithmic scale as the authors have done in Figure 14.2. (This kind of pattern is often observed in many other aspects of life, including human populations of cities, the Internet, science and so on.) Finally, the authors discuss the values on cover as a function of rarity on cover. The relationship is not very close as the table on page 308 shows. Hence, they propose some on-cover values on pages 310–311.

The annotated bibliography follows next and takes 20 pages. Nearly every reference cited has a few notes to explain its relevance to the book. The works of Purves alone on the topic of Half-Lengths and related matters take nearly four pages to describe, while the earlier works of Pack take nearly two pages to describe. A number of references that seem to be better known overseas are cited, but they appear to throw light on the foreign mails discussed in Chapter 13 and elsewhere. The authors have even listed some local histories (such as Ballarat and Dunolly), due to the strong link with gold mining that did so much to swell Victoria's population.

Appendix 1 provides essential details of plate reconstructions and the limits to present-day knowledge. All stamps are illustrated in colour with primary flaws (and secondary flaws where relevant) being described in words on the page opposite the illustrations. The expert will find scope for further advances in these reconstructions if suitable material comes to light.

Appendix 2 provides essential knowledge on postal rates for this period in Victoria's history. The core rates are those for within the Colony, intercolonial rates and rates to the UK. Rates to countries outside of the then British Empire are not given as they would form a separate study. It is interesting to see the rates for letters containing gold since gold was often sent by mail in those days.

Appendix 3 contains essential data on the cancellations used when the Half-Lengths were current, with numbers recorded on cover. Appendix 4 illustrates the Melbourne handstamps. Appendix 5 gives the text of the original Ham documents and makes for some very interesting reading. Appendix 6 contains an extensive census of known covers with notes on how to use this listing.

Finally there is a subject index and another one for ships. In using the subject index, it is advisable to use the detailed table of contents as well, since this will facilitate the task of seeking information on a specific topic relating to Half-Lengths.

The optional CD reproduces a good exhibit by John Barwis of the Half-Length printings. The small envelope containing this CD was stuck to the box containing the book so the CD had to be gently extracted for viewing.

Vale two members



Geoffrey Tremlett White

Geoff White died on 4 July 2009 in Melbourne, aged 87. Geoff had been a member of the Society for 51 years. He was twice President, his terms being in 1968 and 1983. He received the J.R.W. Purves Medal in 1984. For more than 30 years, he was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London (FRPSL).

Geoff was well known for his passionate study of Victoria's Nineteenth Century postmarks. Geoff (together with co-author Hugh Freeman) produced one of the Society's most important publications eight years ago: *The Numeral Cancellations of Victoria*. Geoff's interest in Victorian postmarks stemmed from his collecting Australian States stamps, particularly those of Victoria.

Shortly before his death in 1979, Bill Purves passed the 'baton' onto Geoff to produce a revised edition of *Barred Numerals of Victoria* (RPSV, 1963). After teaming up with Hugh Freeman in 1996, the two authors made quick progress and the new edition appeared in 2001. It is testimony to Geoff's deep knowledge (and that of Hugh's) that the *Numeral Cancellations* book is twice the size of the original work.

Geoff served in 463 Squadron of the Royal Australian Air Force during the war, flying an Avro Lancaster heavy bomber over Germany. After he had completed 34 missions, Geoff was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC).

Inevitably, Geoff's childhood interest in the hobby dropped away but it was reawakened when he was in his mid-30s. He developed an interest in collecting Australian states stamps and also those of Canada, where he had undergone his RAAF pilot training. He joined the RPSV in 1958. A brief profile of him in *PfA* in 1959 noted that he "is married and has a family, but still manages to spend some time fishing at Barwon Heads."

Geoff is survived by his wife Helen and his daughters, Sue and Rosemary.

Douglas Hugh MacCallum Clarke

MacCallum Clarke, who died on 9 July at Colac (Victoria), was known to all as 'Mac' Clarke. He joined the Society in 1972, although living in Colac meant that he could not play an active role. He might have been our longest serving member, as he originally joined the Philatelic Society of Victoria (as it then was) during World War II. However, he was a member for a couple of years before resigning.

Mac was a very friendly man who always enjoyed a chat and sharing news. An editorial item in *PfA* would often bring forth a short note from Mac containing a few pithy comments adding to the story.

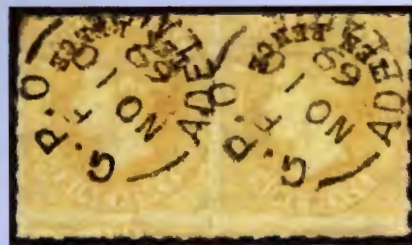
His philatelic interests were broad-ranging, as shown by the subjects of various displays he presented to Society meetings:— Pacific Islands postal history; Victorian postage due stamps and markings; and Penang postal history.

Mac was an enthusiastic follower of the Melbourne (Demons) Football Club and a member of the Melbourne Cricket Club. A brief note from Mac commenting on "J.R.W. (Bill) Purves: Some Reminiscences" (*PfA*, March 2009) referred to Purves as a Demons supporter: "I can still see him clapping a cheering when a forward clad in red and blue took a mark — pity he's not here to help Jim Stynes!"

Mac's wife Anne is deceased and he is survived by his children, Cynthia, Andrew and Helen.

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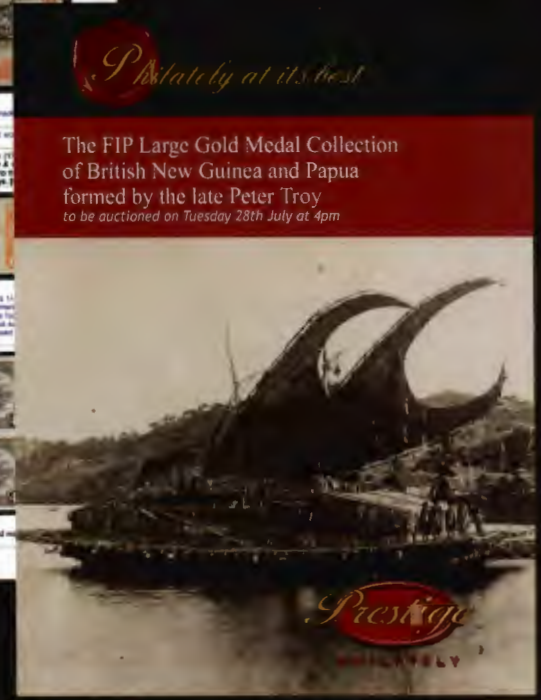
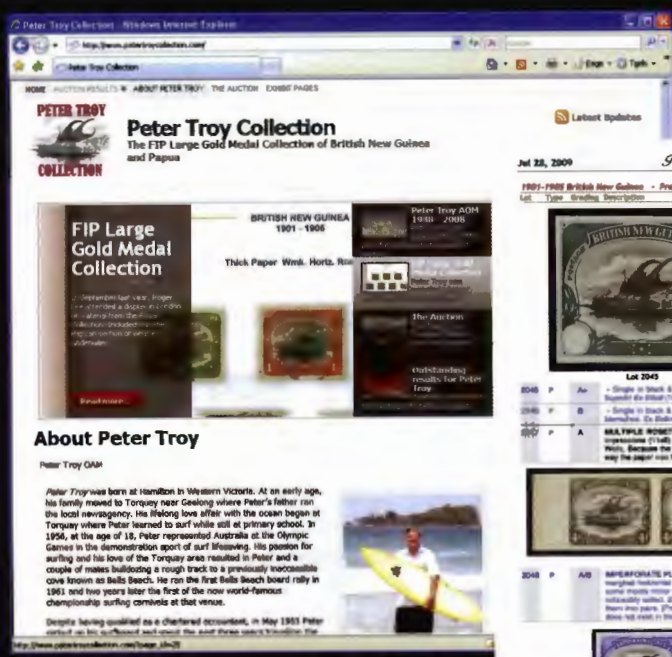
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