



Philately *from* Australia

Journal of the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY of VICTORIA Inc

355.1 Crawford 247(1)

1865

NOVEMBER



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OF

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First Stanley Gibbons catalogue dated November 1865, from the Crawford Library at the British Library. See page 105.



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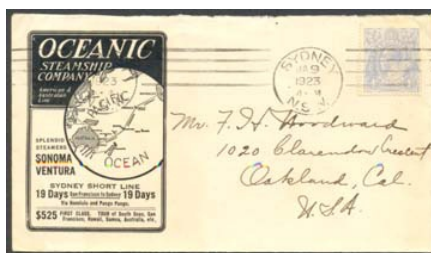


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Philately *from* Australia

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Editorial

In June *Philately from Australia* we presented the evidence given by J.B. Cooke to the 1908–10 Royal Commission into Postal Services. This generated some interest amongst readers; perhaps because it provided a rare opportunity to learn the thoughts of the national stamp printer. We now continue the story by concluding Cooke's evidence and presenting the evidence of W.A. Gullick, NSW Government Printer, to the Royal Commission. Gullick and Cooke apparently never met, but they were well informed of each other's work activities and the antipathy between them is unmistakable. Gullick did not welcome the smooth transition of his rival Cooke into the role of national stamp printer.

At PHILANIPPON 2011, recently held in Yokohama Japan, three Australian exhibitors did particularly well with Large Gold Medals plus Special Prizes for their exhibits. The three exhibitors are Society members: Gary Brown (Aden Postal History), Geoff Lewis (Cuba Maritime Postal History) and Arthur Gray (Australian George V Definitive issues). It is pleasing to see such high results being achieved at FIP level.

A long-standing PfA contributor, Ken Scudder, discusses the six derived die types of Victoria's 1885 Naish issues, reproducing for the first time notes prepared by J.R.W. Purves and provided to Ken a few years before Purves' death. A first time PfA contributor, Ted Gallagher, examines the 4d Koala definitive and presents new research about the sheet positions of two plate flaws.

In 1898 the *Bendigonian* newspaper servicing Bendigo VIC published an account of Bendigo's postal activities. John Waugh has reproduced the article, adding his own comments and explanations to the *Bendigonian's* account, as well as providing further information about travelling post office services to Bendigo.

Finally, we profile our member David Wood of Phoenix and Premier Postal Auctions. Specifically, David has created a remarkable database of post office opening and closing dates that should be known to every serious student of Australian postal history. The database is equally important to local historians.

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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; please do *not* place pictures within the text.

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Closing dates for submissions

December 2011 PfA:

Editorial: 3 November 2011
Advertising: 10 November 2011

March 2012 PfA:

Editorial: 3 February 2012
Advertising: 10 February 2012

Designed by A Design, Geelong, Vic.
Printed by Printgraphics, Mount Waverley, Vic.

www.rpsv.org.au



Journal of the
ROYAL PHILATELIC
SOCIETY of VICTORIA *Inc*

Awards for RPSV Members

Congratulations are due to RPSV members for their awards at recent World and National Level philatelic judging. At Sydney Stamp Expo 2011, two members achieved special honours: **Paul Fletcher** (Best Exhibit, Australian Championship Class) and **John Sinfield**, (Grand Award National). At PHILANIPPON 2011, three Large Gold medals and Special Prizes were awarded to members **Gary Brown**, **Geoff Lewis** and **Arthur Gray** for their respective exhibits.

Sydney Stamp Expo 2011, National Philatelic Exhibition
31 March–3 April 2011, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Sydney

AUSTRALIAN CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS:

Paul Fletcher, The Postage Due Stamps of Australia (Traditional, 8 frames): BEST EXHIBIT

Stephen Browne The Postal History of New South Wales 1801–1849 (Postal History, 8 frames): RUNNER-UP

Linda Lee, Women in Society (Thematic, 8 frames)

John Dibiasi, Postage Stamps of Western Australia, 1854–1912 (Traditional, 8 frames)

Arthur Gray, The King George V Commemorative and Pictorial issues of Australia 1927–1936 (Traditional, 8 frames)

OTHER CLASSES:

Arthur Gray, The King George V Sideface Definitive issues of Australia 1913–1938 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Special Prize

John Sinfield, Australia's Pre-Decimal Postcards (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) + Felicitations + Grand Award National

Barry Scott, Imperial Airways Limited (Aerophilately, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (92) + Special Prize

Malcolm Groom, Tasmanian Pictorials 1899–1912 (100 Year On Challenge, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

Paul Fletcher, Postage Due Stamps of New South Wales and Victoria (100 Year On Challenge, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (90) + Special Prize

Gary Diffen, The Australian Military Campaign at Gallipoli (Postal History: Historical, Social and Special Studies, 8 frames): GOLD (87) + Special Prize

Frank Pauer, Australian “Official Post Office” First Day Covers 1932–87 (First Day Covers, 5 frames): GOLD (87) + Special Prize

James Shaw, New Zealand Postage Dues, 1899 to 1951, 1st, 2nd and 3rd Series (and Underpaid Mails), (Traditional, 8 frames): GOLD (87) + Special Prize

Bernard Beston, Ecuador – the Postal Stationery (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): GOLD (86) + Special Prize

Michael Blake, Nigeria 1892–1914 (100 Year On Challenge, 5 frames): GOLD (85)

Martin Walker, Lion Definitives of Paraguay (100 Year On Challenge, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83) + Special Prize

Ross Wood, Flying Boats over the Pacific (Basin), (Aerophilately, 7 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

Maurice Williams, Australia's Royal Stamps 1935–1977 (Traditional, 7 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

Erica Genge, The Early Years of British Airletters (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

Ian Fuary, The Printed “Stamp Gang” Cancellations (Australia Post Cup, 3 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

Jeanette Banfield, History of Advances made in Medicine (Maximaphily, 5 frames): VERMEIL (79)

John Bell, CERES (Traditional, 6 frames): VERMEIL (79)

Ross Wood, From British Central Africa to Nyasaland Protectorate (100 Year On Challenge, 4 frames): VERMEIL (79)

John Lucaci, The Evolution of French Airlines and Postal Aviation Post-World War II, 1945 to 1970 (Aerophilately, 5 frames): VERMEIL + Special Prize (78)

John Courtis, Great Britain Post Office Wrappers (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): VERMEIL (78)

Ray Todd, Chile – The 1910 Centenary Issue (100 Year On Challenge, 5 frames): VERMEIL (75)

James Shaw, New Zealand ½d Newspaper Stamp Issues 1873–1905 Stamps, Stationery and Wrappers (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (74)

Ross Duberal, Fiji – The Architectural Definitives 1979–1999 (Experimental Modern Class, 5 frames): SILVER (65)

Philip Levine, Gold Coast Incoming Mail (Postal History, 3 frames): SILVER BRONZE (62)

Jeffrey Trinidad, Clowning Around (Thematic Philately, 5 frames): SILVER (62)

PHILANIPPON 2011, World Stamp Exhibition,
Yokohama, Japan, 28 July–2 August 2011

- Gary Brown**, Aden Postal History (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) + SPECIAL PRIZE
Geoffrey Lewis, Cuba Maritime Postal History (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) + SPECIAL PRIZE
Arthur Gray, George V Definitive Issues of Australia 1913–38 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) + SPECIAL PRIZE
Barry Scott, Imperial Airways Limited (Aerophilately, 8 frames): GOLD (91) + SPECIAL PRIZE
Ray Todd, The Postal Stationery of Bolivia (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)
Linda Lee, Flower Magic (Thematic, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)
Ian McMahon, New Zealand Postal Stationery Queen Victoria to King George V (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)
Jeanette Banfield, The History of Advances Made in Medicine (Thematic, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (77)

GEEPEX 80, National One Frame Competition,
Geelong VIC, 5–7 August 2011

- Anthony Presgrave**, The Surcharged stamps of South Australia: VERMEIL (83)
Martin Walker, Australia Post's Limited Edition stamp issues: VERMEIL (80)
James Shaw, New Zealand 1½d Boer War stamp issues 1900–08: VERMEIL (80)
James Shaw, New Zealand 1d 1878 “Stamp Duty”, a Study of stamps and usages: VERMEIL (75)
Glen Stafford, Siam's First Postal Card: VERMEIL (75)
James Shaw, New Zealand Chalon Overlaps by Design, 1857–62: SILVER (68)
Jeff Trinidad, 1933 General Duty Revenues of Latvia: SILVER (68)
James Shaw, New Zealand Decimals Colour Separations, 1967–2010: SILVER (64)
John Dibiase, Mail to and from HMAS *Sydney*, the Charles Allan Ayres Correspondence: BRONZE (62)
Anthony Presgrave, The Hunting of Snark: BRONZE (55)

Ken Moore

Victoria 1d POSTAGE Die II, 12½ Single Line

Is this stamp a new discovery or has it been overlooked by catalogue editors? The watermark is V over Crown upright SG85(V4) with a horizontal marginal line in the watermark at the top. The perforation measures 12.4 on Stanley Gibbons Instanta Gauge on all four sides. The stamp is obviously oversized vertically (tall) and therefore it is not a comb perforation. The postmark is a rather messy machine cancel. The Single Line perforation 12½ machine was available and in use during the period of issue of the Die II 1d, but it appears that its use on the 1d has not been previously recorded. It was used for the larger 5/-, £1 and £2, and the smaller ½d. Stanley Gibbons does not list any V over Crown 1d perforation 12½, but does note that sheets of 1d Die II perforated 12½ exist with two black lines printed across the face of the stamp for stamp vending machine trials. They also list Compound or Mixed perforation 12½ and 11 and also list a 2½d perforation 12½. Geoff Kellow in *The Stamps of Victoria* does not record any 1d single line perforation 12½, but does state that large blocks and some full sheets of Die II single line perforation 12½ were

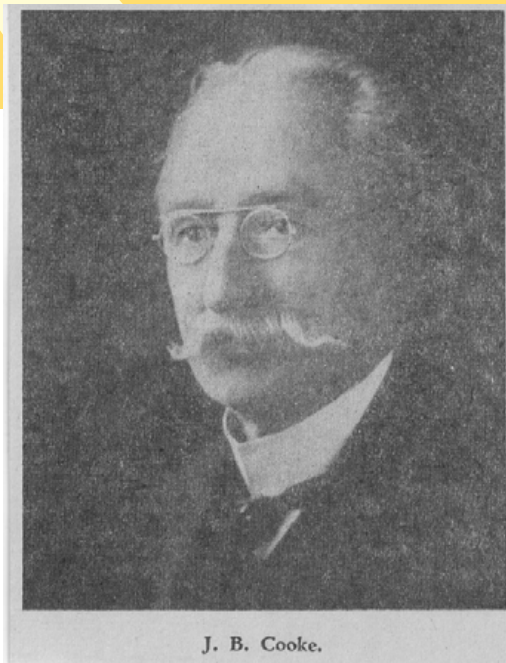
overprinted with two 4mm black bars for trials of stamp vending machines. Mixed and compound perforations involving the 12½ line perforation are also recorded, as is the 2½d single line perforation 12½ imperforate at base.



Stamp printing and the 1908–10 Royal Commission into Postal Services: the evidence of J.B. Cooke

Part 01

continuation from Volume LXIII no.2



45982 In view of that fact, would the New South Wales Government Printer be at a disadvantage as compared with yourself in perforating stamps? – Yes, because his plates were defective. The perforator was all right, but the plates were not squared. Mr Gullick has had another one made recently, and I believe he is perforating his stamps by that machine.

45983 Were the plates a part of the machine? – No; I am referring to the plates upon which the stamps were printed. It is no use having an accurate perforator if the sheets are not accurate. The plates that Mr Gullick was using were not true enough to fit the machine. When Mr Nash came back from Sydney he left doubts in my mind whether the thing was going to be a success. He said that the plates did not appear to be of the right kind, and that the Sydney people did not go about the work the same way as I did.

45984 You stated that you had not seen any machines in other countries, but from conversations you had had with gentlemen who had seen them, you were of opinion that your methods of perforating were quite equal to those in operation in other countries. Is that so? – I think they are equal, for the reason that the New Zealand Government, when inquiring into what stamps they should produce, sent a man to France and Germany, and on his way back he called in at my office one Saturday morning and inquired into our methods. Our perforating machine was working, and he came and had a look at it. Sir Charles Todd asked him what he thought of it, and how did it compare with what he had seen in other places. He said

that in Germany a machine was being used approaching ours in construction, but it was upside down, and the work could not be seen like it could in my machine. Mr Collins, the accountant to the Commonwealth Treasurer, whilst on leave, went through the place in America (I think Boston) where stamps are produced, and he described to me the method of perforating, and asked me what I thought of it, and I said “We have nothing to gain from them.” That is why I made the remark in my statement to which you have referred.

45985 You stated that in 1902, if your offer had been accepted, and the Secretary to the Postal Department given a free hand in the matter of printing stamps, postal notes, &c., there would have been a saving of £8,000 a year. Was that amount estimated on the bulk price of paper? – Yes.

45986 What is the lowest price at which you have produced stamps in South Australia? – Threepence.

45987 In what year was that? – In 1908.

45988 Was that the time when the paper came down to its lowest price? – No. the firm would not take a contract for the small amount of paper used for the printing of stamps in South Australia at the same price as they would for the whole of the Commonwealth.

45989 Was the saving due to your management, method of working and the speed at which the work was done? – Yes.

45990 In what way are you saving £4,000 a year now? – £4,000 a year has been as the results of my efforts at that time. In 1902 I reported to the Postmaster-General that if I were given the whole of the stamps to print in the Commonwealth, and supplied with the necessary machinery, costing £1,302, I could produce stamps at 2¼d per thousand. At that time it was proposed that the stamps should be printed at the Government Printing Office in Melbourne, and, knowing that, I put in my estimate, and my estimate was based on my being allowed to print the whole of the stamps for the Commonwealth.

45991 Has your estimate ever been realized in actual practice? – No, because I have not been supplied with what I asked for.

45992 Would you say that, if the other Government printers had been given the opportunity to print the whole of the stamps for the Commonwealth, they could not have done likewise? – I could not say, but when one was asked to give a price for postal notes for the Commonwealth, he increased the price by 1s.1d, and what would apply to postal notes would apply to stamps.

45993 Would you advise the Commonwealth Government to ascertain the cost of printing stamps in each State? – No.

45994 Do you think that the State Government printers should have an opportunity of tendering for the printing of stamps, postal notes, &c., along with yourself? – If the Government is not satisfied with me they could do that, but it would be tantamount to dispensing with my services. I do not think that is necessary, nor do I think that Government printers have any claim for such consideration.

45995 What letterpress apparatus have you in Melbourne for the purpose of your work? – By the amalgamation of the Adelaide and Melbourne branches the capacity of the plant has been increased. Adelaide was strong where Melbourne was weak. We have all that is necessary to produce stamps, postal notes and postcards for the whole of the Commonwealth.

45996 Have you the Adelaide plant in Melbourne? – All of it that is necessary and all that I require.

45997 Can you cope with the demand for the whole of the Commonwealth issue satisfactorily without the addition of more machinery? – Yes.

45998 Do you know that the Stamp Printing Board estimates that a very heavy initial expenditure would be required? – I do not agree with the figures. Mr Gullick says that the steel-plate process would cost £30,000 to introduce; my estimate was £10,000, as reported to the Postmaster-General and the Treasurer at the time, after allowing ample margin for expansion, and on the basis of a uniform stamp.

45999 Was Mr Gullick estimating on the basis of the present varied issue of stamps, or a uniform stamp? – On the basis of a uniform stamp. He said that the cost in Canada had risen to £60,000. I say that that is no reason why the printing should cost £60,000 in the Commonwealth. The proposal of the Stamps Printing Board was to purchase the plates from large firms in England, as was done in South Australia. The Canadian Government went in for an elaborate bureau of artists, engravers, &c., which was entirely unnecessary. That method has the disadvantage that the Government is restricted to one artist and one engraver, and his particular class of work, whereas the Board proposed that the Commonwealth should obtain the services of London engravers and artists. By that means greater diversity in style is obtained. It was not necessary to expend a penny in establishing a bureau of artists and engravers. Mr Gullick says the steel plates cost from £60 to £116, while Mr Mackey says they were supplied to the New Zealand Government for £25 per plate of 240. Mr Mackey says: “We have just received from Messrs. Perkins, Bacon and Co. plates for £25, as against Mr Gullick's statement that they cost £60.” Mr Gullick in his report of 1907 said that the life of a steel plate was limited to 50,000 impressions, but the New Zealand Government Printer says that they will reach 400,000. I have taken more than 70,000 impressions in Adelaide, and the plates showed no signs of wear. Mr Gullick stated that the Sydney penny postage stamp, which is printed by the electrotype process, cost 4½d, while the New Zealand Government Printer says that the penny stamp in New Zealand cost 5d per thousand in 1907. There is only a difference of a halfpenny between what is admitted to be the superior process and the other. Mr Gullick also says that the English steel-plate stamps cost 7½d, but that must be for some higher denomination, and I think the stamps must be larger, because the current issue for many years has been printed by the electro process, so that there is no comparison. I know the current issue of English stamps is printed from electrotypes, because I know the difference between electrotypes and steel processes. Mr Gullick quotes the price of labour in England, and says that it is cheaper, but I say that there is no guarantee

that the customers get the benefit, and it does not necessarily follow that the Australian States reap the benefit of cheap labour in England. As to the cost of Western Australian stamps, some years ago I had a conversation with Mr Traylan, MLC, who visited Adelaide to investigate the drainage system there. He asked me if he could go through my office, and I said if he obtained permission I would be pleased to show him though, and he asked me about the cost. I asked him to inquire about the cost of printing stamps in Western Australia, and the result was that in 1897 the Western Australian stamps, which were printed in England, were costing, for the lower denominations, from a halfpenny up to threepence, 1s.0½d per thousand, while the fourpenny, fivepenny and sixpenny stamps were costing 2s.3d per thousand. We are printing the lower denominations now for 4d per thousand.

46000 Does that show that the difference between the cost of production and the price obtained was taken by the middle man? – Yes. I say no notice should be taken of the statement of the cost of supplying printed stamps from England. Mr Gullick further said that the vast issue of Indian stamps was costing 6½d.

46001 What do they cost? – I do not know.

46002 Then how do you know that they do not cost 6½d per thousand? – Because I know the stamp. I have seen it, and it is printed in England with cheap labour, and where they have far better appliances than we have here.

46003 Do you not draw that conclusion by inference? – No, I am positive of it. If I were a younger man, I would not stay in Australia another day.

46004 How old are you? – I was 56 years of age last July. There is no justification for the statement of Mr Gullick that, although those stamps are printed where labour is cheap, they cost 6½d. He further said that no evidence has been forthcoming from South Australia as to cheap production. I say the best evidence is in the produced article, and that we have always been below New South Wales. When Mr Gullick was charging the Postmaster-General 7½d I was charging him 4d. He is now charging the Postmaster-General 4½d, and I am supplying the South Australian stamps for 3d. I say there is abundance of evidence to show that my method is the more economical. I maintain that I have been instrumental in reducing the cost 40 per cent., owing to the agitation which took place, and which caused the various printers to look into the matter, and run their departments more economically than hitherto. It means a saving of £4,321 in the printer's bill for some years past. Had it not been for this agitation the Government would not have known that the printers were being overpaid, and they would still have been paying the same price as was paid at the time of Federation.

46005 Has the position of Commonwealth Stamp Printer been gazetted? – I know exception has been taken to my being in the position, but I was gazetted long ago. I am merely a transferred officer.

46006 Am I correct in saying that you are a transferred officer from the State to the Commonwealth, and that no new position has been created? – Yes.

46007 You stated that you had been informed that if you could prove your ability to produce stamps at a lower price than has been charged in Melbourne you might look for an increase in salary. Who so informed you? – Something to that effect was placed on my application for an increase of salary. The exact words of the communication from the Commonwealth Public Service Commissioner are: “With regard to the salary proposed to be paid to Mr Cooke on his transfer to Melbourne,



I am to say that the Commissioner is of opinion that for a commencement the minimum salary of the third class, namely £310, is sufficient at this stage. The ultimate value of the position being dependent upon the holder of the office demonstrating by his work, and the value of it, that it is worth a higher amount.”

46008 Was that before you came to Melbourne? – That was at the time of my transfer.

46009 Do you say that since then there has been no estimate of the value of your work? – Yes, until about six weeks ago.

46010 Have you heard anything further? – No.

46011 Do you hold the opinion that you have proved your work under the Commonwealth to be of greater value than when in South Australia, owing to the fact that you are producing £3,000,000 worth of stamps, while previously you only produced £400,000 worth a year? – Yes, together with the responsibility and the larger staff I have to administer. I have responsibilities here which I had not in Adelaide, where I was merely a printer. The stamps were taken from me, and I was given a receipt for them, and they were put into stock, and issued as required. In Melbourne I have a staff of about twenty five under me, and they have about £10,000 worth of my stuff in the room, and I am responsible. When the printing is completed the material is put into stock, and I and another officer are jointly responsible for issuing that stock. Therefore, I claim additional responsibility. I have a list of officers in the Clerical Division whose responsibilities are trivial as compared to mine, and who are receiving the same salary as I am. The distributor in Melbourne is getting £360 a year. He merely requisitions for so much worth of stamps, and takes them out and issues them. In Adelaide the distributor is getting £310, and he only requisitions and distributes the comparatively small number required for South Australia.

The supervisors are all getting £310 a year, and their duties are to see that the telegraphists under them are operating properly, while they carry no financial responsibilities whatever.

46012 Where are you situated now? – In portion of the Victorian Government Printing Office.

46013 Do you think it would be advisable for the Commonwealth to obtain contracts for the supply of paper over long periods? – We now obtain tenders for the supply of paper for a period of three years. At the time I made my estimate the price of paper was about as low as it could possibly be and I advised that the contract should be for a period of four or five years. If the prices were high I would make the contract for a short period.

46014 Is there anything to prevent you from calling for tenders? – Not as soon as the present contracts expire. A number of statements have been made in New South Wales concerning my reputation. I believe that the representative of the Typographical Association was a paid organizer. I do not go to the typographical master printers for advice. Whatever I have done I have done as a matter of duty. I am in my position for the purpose of curtailing expense, wherever possible, irrespective of whatever anybody outside might say. I claim that owing to my invention of the perforating machine, I have helped the Sydney Government printing Office to bring down the price of stamps.

Cooke examined by W. Webster MHR

46015 regarding your statement with respect to the number of sheets of stamps, do I understand that in New South Wales the numbers were not kept in numerical order? – That is what I say.

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46016 Would not the proper official demand that they should be kept in numerical order? – The Auditor-General, if he notices anything objectionable in the Commonwealth printing office, complains of it, and an instruction is given to the Commonwealth stamp printer, and he has to comply with it. The State Government Printer, if he gets an instruction from the Auditor-General, may carry it out if he so desires.

46017 Do you mean it to be inferred that a suggestion of the

kind would not be carried out by the State Government Printer? – It might or it might not.

46018 Do you say that has happened in other States? – I have seen one penny and twopenny stamps numbered, but not in numerical order, in fact in no order at all.

46019 Are they are neither issued nor kept in numerical order? – That is so.

Stamp printing and the 1908–10 Royal Commission into Postal Services: the evidence of W.A. Gullick

Part 02



W.A. Gullick, New South Wales Government Printer, 1897 to 1922

In this second instalment of evidence to the 1908–10 Royal Commission into Postal Services involving stamp printing, the New South Wales Government Printer, W.A. Gullick, takes an unmistakably hostile stance against J.B. Cooke, who had recently established a national stamp printing office in Melbourne. Cooke's appointment to the role generated envy from the Sydney stamp printer, who evidently had expectations of being considered for the role himself or at least being consulted in the decision-making processes involving the national stamp printing office.

William Applegate Gullick (1858–1922) was appointed New South Wales Government Printer and Inspector of Stamps in 1897, following a 22-year career working for printers John Sands and Co. He served as Government Printer until his sudden death at the age of 63. Gullick's obituary in the Sydney Morning Herald (29 April 1922) noted that his hobbies included coin and stamp collecting. He is chiefly remembered today for his early experimental use of colour photography as an amateur photographer.

However, Gullick is not particularly well known to philatelists, even though he was the NSW Stamp Printer for 15 years. He was clearly a man of some ability and, notwithstanding his antagonism towards Cooke, Gullick deserves to be better remembered by the philatelic world.

W.A. Gullick at the Royal Commission

On 24 August 1909 W.A. Gullick appeared before the Royal Commission and began by reading out the following statement:

“Federal action in connection with the printing of postage stamps in particular has passed through several stages – the first commencing about July 1903, when Sir John See was Premier of this State. At about that date the press notified that the Federal Government was taking steps towards printing the New South Wales section of the Federal (electoral) rolls, and postage stamps outside of New South Wales. This notification caused protests to be made to the Colonial Treasurer, in charge of this Department (i.e. the NSW Government Printing Office), in the form of a deputation from representatives of the Printing Trades Union.



Under date of 18 August 1903, the Prime Minister informed the Premier of New South Wales that after consultation with his colleague, the Minister for Home Affairs, and with his concurrence, he determinedly adhered to the printing of the Federal rolls at the printing offices of the respective states. With regard to the printing of postage stamps, it was stated that, whilst it had been for the time being for purposes of economy and expedition, to print the new 9d stamp for New South Wales in the Victorian office, the Postmaster-General had stated that the matter would be further considered before any more postage stamps were ordered to be printed. Sir Edmund Barton also stated that he understood other printing for use in the State branches of Commonwealth Departments was obtained from the State Government printing offices.

In October 1903, paragraphs appeared in the Melbourne Argus, the Sydney Morning Herald and Daily Telegraph to the effect that it was contemplated to establish a printing office for the purpose of printing postage stamps for the Federal Government in Adelaide.

In August 1904, the Prime Minister, Mr J.C. Watson, wrote to the Colonial treasurer of New South Wales asking for certain information, intimating that it had been proposed to print all the postage stamps, postal notes and postcards required for the various States in future by the post and Telegraph Departments at one of the State Capitals; and that before deciding he would like the views of the State Governments upon the proposed change. He further requested a statement from the Government Printer of New South Wales on the matter.

This was replied to, and the report requested was supplied by the Government Printer, under date of 12 January 1905, to the State Premier. Mr. Carruthers (NSW Premier), in forwarding the same on 20 January 1905, entered an emphatic protest against the adoption of any proposal which would have the effect of removing the work to the Post and Telegraph Department of any one of the States, as the proposed change appeared neither economical nor expedient.

On 23 September 1905, the Commonwealth Treasurer made further inquiry as to the number of persons employed in New South Wales in the printing of postage stamps, quantity of stamps printed, cost per 1,000, total annual cost and value of stamp printing machinery on hand. The Government Printer reported under date of 11 October 1905.

On 6 November 1905, the Government Printer invited Treasury attention to Mr. Batchelor's remarks in the Commonwealth Parliament – that stamps could be produced in the Adelaide office for 2½d; and pointed out that, as England paid for her enormous Indian issue 6½d per 1,000 printed by private contract, he was quite in concurrence with the already expressed opinion of Mr. Brain, Government Printer, Melbourne, that the necessary quality of paper alone could not be landed for the money.

On 7 November 1905, Mr. W. Anderson MLA moved the adjournment of the Legislative Assembly of New South Wales to call attention to the proposal to transfer stamp printing to Melbourne.

The Premier, Mr. Carruthers, ordered the report of the Government Printer on the foregoing matter of cost, &c., to be printed and laid upon the table of the House, together with his own protest of 20 January 1905. Three days after the adjournment of the House – on 10 November 1905 – Mr Carruthers forwarded a printed copy of the papers to the

Prime Minister, together with Hansard, containing the debate on Mr. Anderson's motion for adjournment; and further pointed out that the estimate of 2½d per 1,000 stamps printed in Adelaide, could not be taken seriously.

On 6 November 1905, the New South Wales Typographical Association formally protested to the State Premier against the proposal for centralizing the printing of postage stamps in Adelaide, and requested him to receive a deputation in protest against it. The Under-Secretary replied, under date of 14 November 1905, that a letter of protest had already been sent to the Commonwealth authorities.

On 4 January 1906, the Government Printer drew attention of the Treasury to a cutting from the Melbourne Herald giving an account of what purported to be an interview with Mr. R.S. Scott, Secretary to the Postmaster-General's Department reflecting directly and inferentially on this State, charging it with making errors in stamp issues. The Government Printer produced photos and philatelic journals, proving that every one of the errors mentioned in the newspaper paragraphs were made in South Australian issues under the supervision of Mr. Cooke, who (it was stated) was singled out to control the proposed Commonwealth printing plant; and also that the alleged irregular distribution of stamps did not occur in New South Wales, where the system of audit and check in vogue had the approval of the Commonwealth Auditor-General. The Premier (Hon. J.H. Carruthers) accordingly communicated with the Prime Minister on 15 January 1906 and received a reply enclosing a copy of a report from Mr. Scott (6.2.06), submitting that he (Mr. Scott) did not accept the responsibility of the press statements regarding the errors referred to, which were made in Adelaide, and not in Sydney.

The next stage may be taken as dating from August 1907 and arose from the appointment of a special departmental semi-official board, deputed by the Postmaster-General, to deal with the subject of the best method be adopted to insure a suitable issue of postage stamps for the Commonwealth – on which Board this State was not represented, or allowed to give evidence.

Having furnished in the foregoing information in outline, I now simply review these earlier propositions advanced by the Post Office, as follows:–

It must be granted from the correspondence that the press reasons advanced on the score of errors were fully met and disposed of by the acknowledgment of the Secretary of the Postal Department, Mr. Scott.

The question of reduced cost in production was met on all sides by practical evidence of inaccuracy, and further argument was apparently abandoned on that basis.

The Postal Board stage has already been the subject of one report which I have submitted, but I wish again to invite your attention to a further analysis, as the printed official copy of the Board's findings was not available when I last reported.

Taking, as a starting point, the large and otherwise unnecessary new expenditure to be incurred and charged to the States to carry out the recommendations, it was claimed that, inasmuch as the stamps were a Commonwealth issue, the Commonwealth authorities did not consider it necessary that the States should have representation.

Yet it must be remembered that this State would be expected to bear its proportion per capita of the very largely-increasing expenditure, as well as having its existing plant depreciated,



and staff displaced; although, as a State, it already had all necessary plant available for its own requirements.

The installation of a steel plate printing plant cannot cost less than £30,000 to produce the necessary quantity of work for the Commonwealth, and even then such expenditure would not guarantee the very highest class of work as compared with the United States, on account of the great cost of engravers' wages. In Canada, dealing with a population approximately the same as the Commonwealth, the expense has risen to over £60,000. The Board's report also provides for the contingency plates being engraved abroad – losing at once the major check on the original printing vehicles.

As of this expenditure somewhat over one third (say, £11,000) would be debited to the State of New South Wales, besides a proportion of the large annual upkeep, I cannot but represent this item plainly before it is entered into.

Character of Issue: – The Committee has been frank enough to admit that the cost of steel plate printing will be greater, but places per contra the possible monetary returns from sales to philatelists as estimated by Mr. W.A. Hull, who has recently emerged into philatelic business from the amateur stage.

It may be interesting to quote here the opinions of the greatest philatelic dealers in England, Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co., in their monthly publication reprinted in April 1908 in the *Australian Philatelist*: –

'We greatly regret to see that the only ideas the Committee appear to possess on the subject of stamps are, that they should be made attractive to collectors, so that the latter may be induced to buy enough of them to pay the cost of production; that the King's head is too monotonous a design to produce this desired effect – besides, it is snobbish in a Commonwealth to have any King's head except with a desire to cut them off – and finally that steel plate printing is likely to produce more attractive stamps than surface printing. It would seem either that the philatelic member of the Committee has given advice that all true philatelists would emphatically repudiate, or that his advice has been consistently rejected. The idea of looking to stamp collectors to pay for the engraving and printing of stamps is worthy of some petty little State on the verge of bankruptcy, rather than a great and flourishing Commonwealth, such as we expect Australia to be. The designs should be suited to their purpose as postage stamps, not microscopic pictures of local scenery, or objects of natural history, but something truly emblematic either of Empire as a whole, or a portion of it where the stamps are to circulate. Stamps are paper money. What do Australians put on their coins? Either for coin or stamps there is no more appropriate device than the portrait of the reigning monarch, or coat of arms, or other special emblems of the country; and as a protection against forgery, a fine portrait is acknowledged to be the best.'

As somewhat similar expressions of opinion from local philatelic dealers have also been freely ventilated in the Australian press, I need not further dwell on this part of the Board's report, after contrasting Mr. Hull's slight experience and recommendation with that of a firm like Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co.

With regard to the statement that the steel plate method does not lend itself nearly so easily to imitation by photolithography as the electro, or relief method, I quote Mr. J.S. Purcell CB, the English Comptroller of Stamps, when advising Mr. Lambton, late Deputy Postmaster-General (NSW): – 'As to liability to fraudulent imitation and removal of cancelling marks – the suitability or otherwise, depends

upon certain conditions. If steel plates are used in connection with recess printing, and the use of oleaginous inks, the system is unsafe in the extreme, as an entire sheet of genuine stamps could be transferred by the lithographic process to stone, and then be reproduced as often as the stone is inked afresh. Stamps produced by surface printing from electrotypes cannot be imitated in the same easy manner; but there is no doubt that, given the necessary skill in engraving, &c., any stamp that was ever produced under any system can be successfully forged. The only real protection arises from the wholesale fear of the law, and the difficulty in disposing of the stamps when forged.'

The following advice, tendered by the Board on watermarking, is so inept that if it were not for its misstatement, it might fairly be left alone – 'The security gained by having the paper watermarked is chiefly applicable in the printing office where it is useful as a check against the surreptitious introduction of other papers with intent to defraud the Department.'

The check is really exercised over the paper before it reaches the printing room, and the watermark serves as a check against the production of unauthorized, or the broadcast issue of fraudulent copies of the stamps from sources, other than official. Unwatermarked paper will frequently be passing through a revenue printing room – matters other than postage stamps. Neither is it made very plain how the introduction of watermarks can diminish the cost of paper when heavy expenses have to be paid for the dandy roll to produce the watermark. Under such conditions as attach to its use in making revenue paper, the watermark adds very considerably to the cost.

The Board claims for the steel plate process as a method of stamp printing, that which is disclaimed for the process by the English postal authorities, the New Zealand postal experience, and the bulk of practical production in Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Russia, Switzerland, Belgium and every largely-populated country except the United States. The weight of evidence of practical use is thus very heavily against its recommendations.

Better and more uniform results: – Experienced philatelists all know of the New Zealand and Tasmanian steel plate issues in various states of decrepitude, and these are factors which the non-practical members of the Board must find some difficulty in reconciling. The final paragraph of recommendation 4, on design, colour, and size, reads as follows – 'NOTE – In producing these colours the inks used must be ground to the finest grade, and in no case must there be anything in the ink that would be detrimental to the plates.'

Whoever is responsible for this recommendation embodied in the report, must certainly be entirely ignorant of an indispensable factor of power plate printing. It is a necessity that the inks used for plate printing on these power presses should not be finely ground, but short and sharp in the grain, to enable clean wiping of the surface of the plates by the mechanical wipers attached to the machine. No finely-ground fluid ink can be used, as it cannot be wiped clean from the plate by the mechanism, and a tinted surface all over the sheet is the result. It is largely owing to this necessity of the ink for use on power plate machines at high speed, and the heavy frictional weight of the wipers, that so much wear and tear takes place on the engraved plates; and this heavy wear is one of the reasons (combined with others) which is leading the New Zealand Government to abandon power plate printing of their issues. From different sources the cost of steel plates is



given at £60 to £115 each; electros cost in actual practice £20 each.

Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. of London recently quoted from production in England with cheaper labour, 7½d per 1,000; whereas the present charge to the Commonwealth from this State is only 4¼d per 1,000. Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co. also state that they have known a plate to give up to 70,000 impressions, and even 110,000 on a hand press. In actual practice electros are furnishing from 1,000,000 to 1,250,000 impressions without serious deterioration, as against the 110,000 put as the best limit of this firm's experience for steel plates. This information with regard to Messrs. Perkins Bacon and Co's prices, &c. has been courteously placed at my disposal by Mr. A.F. Basset Hull, from correspondence he has had with that firm.

After some eight or ten years' experience, the New Zealand Government is deliberating abandoning the process for reasons which are plainly voiced in Mr. MacKay's letter to me, as follows:-

Wellington, 24th March 1909
Government Printer, Sydney

Dear Sir,

I have to acknowledge yours of the 15th inst., and have pleasure in replying thereto. In November last a change was made in the method of producing the universal penny stamp from steel plate to surface printing.

The former method was costly and slow in actual printing, while in the subsequent operations of gumming and perforating, a very great saving is effected in time and cost.

Plates are now being obtained for the printing the half-penny stamp also by letterpress for the same reasons.

(Signed) JOHN MACKAY, Government Printer

The Postal Board's proposal, therefore, is a direct suggestion to incur fresh expense, the debit of which would be from £11,000 upwards to this State alone, in favour of a process which has absolutely failed in the hands of our neighbors in the Dominion of New Zealand, even when backed by the expense of importing skilled labour and plant, and endurance of all the inconvenience of an interrupted and unevenly-produced output. As I have previously stated that, while not suggesting any such centralization until the Federal Capital is established, £2,000 additional plant here would provide for all necessary stamp printing for the whole Commonwealth if relief printing be continued – and this is the system adopted by the consensus of opinion of the majority of the largest nations of the world, although it is possible even this comparatively small expenditure might not be necessary, considering the other State plants in existence.

The one centre which admittedly stands out for the steel plate process, irrespective of cost, is the United States of America; otherwise there is included the unfortunate reference to the issues of smaller States who indulge in speculative philatelic issues, and to New Zealand – which is rapidly discarding the process on account of its impracticability without gross expenditure – and thus, after experience falling into line with all the larger nations of Europe.

The report of the Special Board, therefore, is of questionable value on the following practical points:-

1. As to cheapness of cost of production of steel plate

printing, as it costs – (a) in England by private contract, 7½d against 4½d present cost here for letterpress methods; (b) In New Zealand under Government control the steel plate process is being abandoned on account of cost and slowness.

2. As to initial establishment and plant expenditure to be debited to States.
3. As to upkeep in wages, wear and tear.
4. As to security – see Mr. Purcell's remarks.
5. As to returns from philatelic sources – see Messrs. Stanley Gibbons and Co.'s article.
6. As to cheapness and practical purpose of watermarking.
7. As to quality and nature of ink used.
8. As to uniform quality of issue so produced.

In conclusion, I trust that from the evidence here submitted it may be fairly deduced that whatever friction has arisen between the State of New South Wales and the Commonwealth in this connection, has been practically caused by the continuous efforts at centralization largely based on unreliable premises. The action thus taken has created disturbance of local feeling, which in turn has shaped itself in the form of deputations and representations to the State Ministry and Parliament, necessitating analysis and reports through official channels.

The question of producing a uniform issue, and its present difficulties, could have been easily disposed of long ago, without in any way interfering with the relations between the States and Commonwealth, or their plants, or continuity of employment of labour, but the tendency seems to have been directly away from any such advice., in favour of representations for centralization, or additional expenditure.

Although the Postal department has now, for the second time, gone outside the experience of the practical functions engaged in the production of stamps, I still feel justified in suggesting to this Commission that before the States are debited with heavy additional expenditure for this purpose, the Department might at least risk calling together, for an expression of opinion, those at present practically responsible for stamp production. They have been engaged all their lives in the handling of printing and its allied trades; and I feel assured that if this usual official course had been adopted at the outset, the successive Federal Ministries would have been spared a great deal of unnecessary friction and State protest.

Attachment 'A'

Government Printing Office
Sydney, 12th January 1905

Subject – Printing of Postage Stamps

With reference to the attached minute of 13th August 1904, I have to report as follows:-

- (a) Cost of producing postage stamps – 7½d per 1,000.
- (b) Description of machinery used for stamp printing, with valuation, attached.
- (c) Value of (1) stamps and dies, £960 15s.; (2) material on hand, £1,878 5s. 6d; number of men engaged in stamp printing, 9.
- (d) The means taken to safeguard the revenue are those of the audit system, consisting of a registration of each



individual die as produced, together with a record of its history up to destruction – which is certified to by Audit Board.

This is also covered by a periodical inspection by Audit officers, and verification of the stock of dies on hand.

On the general position I have the honour to report that the proposal to produce postage stamps under separate administration appears likely to lead to an entirely new expenditure to the Commonwealth, and to be a reversion to a practice in vogue in this State, and abolished after a long trial, fifty years ago. Neither is it in accord with the practice in England, France, Germany, Russia or Japan. In each case the work in its preparation as revenue producing currency, is supervised by Treasury functions, and it was the recognition of this necessity which changed the practice in this State half-a-century ago.

Further although the items named as “Plant” in the attached list are used for postal purposes, and are necessary, they are not entirely so occupied, and also require from time to time to be supplemented by the co-operation of the larger and more extended and varied plant, to sustain the necessity of all calls which come within the scope of the work connected with postage stamp printing, and allied postal revenue printing.

Such a procedure would, therefore, eventually mean either an unsatisfactory and limited plant, or the foundation of another continually extending plant, independent of those already existent for State purposes, creating a still further surcharge on the individual States for primary purchase and annual maintenance. If one State is to monopolize the whole of this work I may fairly point out that the sum of £2,000 spent in certain indicated directions would, in conjunction with existing facilities in this office, fully equip the plant for the work of the whole Continent, and not necessitate any fresh appointments, while preserving the facilities of the assistance which a larger and fuller plant always gives to the many varieties of revenue material introduced. Further, in the higher stages of this work the plant printing of stamps, or revenue documents, such as is the practice carried out in the United States, Canada and New Zealand, the facilities already exist here, without any further provision or expense, and are regularly utilized for State purposes – being efficient also for bank or currency notes.

(Sgd.) W.A. GULLICK
Government Printer

(This is in reply to the Commonwealth Treasurer's letter of 13th August 1904 – Sgd. J. BURT, 18.1.05.)

DESCRIPTION AND VALUE OF STAMP PRINTING MACHINERY

2 letterpress machines, at £300	£600
1 Gumming machine	£180
1 Steel plate press	£70
3 Treadle perforators, at £30	£90
1 Machine perforator	£160
1 Platen machine	£60
1 Letter card machine	£65
22 Numbering machines at £6	£132
1 Guillotine	£120
1 Power plate press	£900
	£2,377-

Attachment 'B'

Government Printing Office
Sydney, 11th October 1905

Sir,

With reference to the questions contained in the attached minute of the Honorable the Treasurer of the Commonwealth, I have the honour to report as follows:—

- (a) Number of persons employed in 1904–05 in connection with printing postage stamps at the Government Printing Office, Sydney – 9.
- (b) Number of postage stamps printed at the Government Printing Office, Sydney, 1904–05 – 102,232,353 at a cost of £3,195.
- (c) Cost per thousand charged to Postal Department for printing stamps – surface printing, 7½d. (This cost will be reduced to 5½d per 1,000, or £852 per annum less for the same quantity of stamps, directly effect is given to a new contract which the Agent-General is at present entering into with regard to the purchase of watermarked paper, and which should come into operation in London as from about this date.)
- (d) Total annual cost (showing principal headings, such as salaries, postage stamp paper, &c.) of establishment of printing postage stamps – Salaries, paper, gum (paper already gummed) – £1,980 for 427,000 sheets. (It is impossible to furnish this information in the form desired, as applied to postage stamps alone, as all revenue printing, including the production of duty stamps, railway tickets, railway stamps, tram tickets, bath tickets, and numbers of other revenue-producing vehicles, are included in the one room under the heading of the General Revenue Branch. The postage stamp printing forms only a portion of the whole. For this reason, in the reply given to question (a), the number of officers wholly engaged on postage stamps is approximated at “9”, but that number, of course, does not include the whole of the officers engaged in the Revenue Printing Branch in view of the varied services discharged as noted above.)
- (e) Value of stamp printing machinery on hand – £2,377 (see return attached). This return is also subject to somewhat similar conditions to those noted as applying to (d), and I have, therefore, to invite attention to my minute of 12th January last, which contains other information which may be of service at this juncture.

I have (Sgd.) W.A. GULLICK
Government Printer

(Note that the list of stamp printing machinery is identical to the one supplied on 12.01.1905.)

Gullick examined by W.H. Wilks MHR

On 24 August 1909, W. A. Gullick was examined by the Chairman, W.H. Wilks. (Note that the numbers below refer to the sequence of questions and answers recorded by the Royal Commission.):

44874. How long have you held the position of Government Printer? – Since 1897.

44875. What was your experience prior to receiving that appointment? – I had been twenty two years with the firm of John Sands Limited, where I was brought into contact with printing matters on a much wider scope than in the Government Printing Office.

44876. Do you think the Board which was appointed in 1907 to inquire into the best methods to be adopted to insure a suitable issue of Commonwealth postage stamps was competent to deal with such an important matter? – No; because there was not a practical printer on the Board.

44877. Was not Mr. J.B. Cooke a practical printer? – No; there was not a practical printer amongst them.

44878. Did you raise that objection at the time the Board was appointed? – I did not raise an objection on that ground. I only analysed the findings of the Board.

44879. Does Mr. Cooke hold the nominal position of printer of Commonwealth stamps? – I suppose he does, but I do not know him.

44880. How do you know he is not a practical printer? – From the methods he adopts.

44881. What are those methods? – His statement in regard to the cost of producing stamps, which he states to be 2½d per thousand.

44882. Do you think it is impossible to produce them at that rate? – Yes; to produce stamps of the nature in circulation.

44883. Have you seen the stamps printed by Mr. Cooke at that price? – Yes.

44884. Do you know the quality of the paper used? – Yes.

44885. Do you say it could not be produced at that price? – I do not know the cost of that paper. I know the normal cost of paper as used by Mr. Brain and myself.

44886. On what do you base your statement that it is impossible to produce stamps at 2½d per thousand? – Quotations I have obtained from practically all over the world.

44887. What is the cost of production in New South Wales? – 4¼d per thousand.

44888. How does the price compare with elsewhere? – It is cheaper than the English cost.

44889. How does the English cost compare with the South Australian? – I have no criterion other than the statement that the paper cost 2½d, and I do not see how it is possible to do the printing for nothing.

44890. Did you ever see Mr. Cooke's method of printing the stamps? – No. I have heard of it, and read reports about the machinery used by him.

44891. Have you heard of his device for perforating stamps? – That has been in use for ten or fifteen years past. It has been in use in New South Wales ever since I have been in the Government Printing Office.

44892. Have you experienced any difficulty in the perforation of your stamps? – Only with the later issues, where they could not be perforated with the automatic machines. Originally the

stamps of this State were of various sizes, and some could not be perforated with the automatic machine.

44893. Do you claim there should be a uniform issue of stamps throughout the Commonwealth? – I think that would be a decided advantage both to the public and the Government.

44894. Do you think it would be a saving from a printing point of view? – It would not make any practical difference in that respect.

44895. Would it not make a difference in the cost of plant? – It might in that respect, but with a uniform system, the expense would be spread over six States.

44896. What is the meaning of the paragraph in your statement “Although the Postal Department has now, for the second time, gone outside the experience of the practical functions engaged in the production of stamps”? – First of all, the Postal Department took advice from one source, which was apparently Mr. Cooke, who was not accustomed to handle matters in a large way, and who did, apparently, little printing outside the Adelaide office, and the second time the Department took the advice of a Board which did not include a single member who had been engaged in stamp printing of any magnitude. That Board practically amounted to an incompetent one.

44897. Were some of the members more artistic than practical? – I think Mr. Bernard Hall's ideas were largely artistic.

44898. Do you think the printing of stamps should be done from the stand-point of usefulness instead of from a philatelic stand-point? – Certainly.

44899. Should the Government issue stamps with the object of making a profit from their sale to philatelists or for the purposes of the Department? – For the latter purpose.

44900. Do you desire a conference of Government printers on this stamp question? – Yes.

44901. Do you think a practical recommendation would be the result of such a Conference? – Yes.

44902. Do you contend that with the expensive plant New South Wales has, she should receive a fair share of the work until the Federal Capital is established? – Yes; that is the position I take up.

44903. Is your machinery now lying idle for want of work? – It is not lying idle. Very little work has been withdrawn up to present.

44904. If the work of printing stamps were withdrawn, would your machinery lie idle? – A certain amount of it would.

44905. Do you ask that your machinery should be utilized until the establishment of the Federal Capital? – Yes.

44906. When that period does arrive, would you oppose the printing of the Commonwealth stamps at the Federal Capital? – No; I think that would be in the interests of the Federal Government.

44907. Do you favour the printing of stamps by the electrotype process? – Yes. I have already made a recommendation to that effect, and my recommendation is



endorsed by the remarks of the Controller of Stamps in England, and it can be further endorsed by unofficial recommendations published by the Colonial Office for the benefit of the small colonies.

44908. Would there be a difficulty in disposing of forged stamps? – The possibilities of forgeries with steel plates are great, for the reason that they take a large amount of ink, and can be transferred down on a stone, and then the stamps could be printed at once.

44909. Do you think the facilities for forgery are even greater with the method the Board condemns? – No; I say that unhesitatingly.

44910. Is the plant necessary for the steel plate process an expensive one? – Yes; particularly in regard to the engraving. In the United States the wages of an engraver are a very expensive item as they range from £600 to £1,500 per annum for first class men.

44911. Have you any opinion in regard to a suitable design for a Commonwealth stamp? – I have no opinion in regard to designs. I do not think there is anything in the art work of stamps except from a philatelic stand-point, and that is a question which is tabooed by even the stamp dealers.

44912. Do you consider all that is required in a stamp is something which will prevent forgery, and which will make the values easily discernable? – What is required is something by which the values can be readily picked out by the letter sorters. That matter has been settled by the Berne Convention (sic.)

44913. Should the mutilation of stamps also be quickly discernable? – It should be as clear as possible.

44914. Have you any opinion to express on the denomination of stamps? – No; I consider that is a matter for the Postal Department to deal with.

Gullick examined by J. Webster MHR

44915. What is your opinion of the estimated return for the sale of stamps to philatelists given by Mr. Walter A. Hull at £40,000 for the first year and £20,000 for the succeeding years? – Candidly, I would not like to pass an opinion, because I have never included philatelists in my calculations in any shape or form. I have had very strong protests from one of two people who have called on me from time to time, but I have kept clear of the matter.

44916. Have you made it your business to test the reliability of the Stamp Board's report? – Not further than what has been reported in the philatelic journals.

44917. Do you take their opinion as your guide in such matters? – Yes, and also the opinion of Mr. Smythe of Fred Hagen's and Mr. Van Weenan, who is on the Sydney Mail, and is also a stamp collector.

44918. Do you consider those gentlemen reliable authorities? – Mr. Smythe has been in business here for a long time, and has had a longer experience than Mr. Walter Hull.

44919. Do you think the philatelic side of the question should materially affect the stamp problem? – It has been claimed by philatelists as being a fair ground of use, whilst it has been disclaimed by local philatelists as not being a matter of very

great weight.

44920. Do you say it is not of sufficient importance to sway a decision on this matter? – Not to that extent.

44921. Have you a knowledge of the staff employed in the office in Adelaide where postage stamps are produced? – Not the slightest.

44922. Have you ever made it your business to inquire into the matter? – No.

44923. Are you aware that the stamps were produced by hand machines? – No, I was not aware of that, but I can quite understand it, because I believe I have the only steel power press in the Commonwealth.

44924. If the 28,000,000 stamps required by Adelaide were printed on a hand press, what would be the difference in the cost between the operating of that press and the operating of a power press? – There would be about £1,400 difference between the steel plate printing by a hand press and the electroplate method of printing by steam. That would mean a difference of about 4d per 1,000.

44925. If Mr. Cooke were printing the stamps in Adelaide by means of a hand press, what would be the cost per thousand? – I should say about 11d. to 1s. per 1,000.

44926. How does that bear comparison with the statement the stamps were printed at 2½d per 1,000? – It does not bear comparison.

44927. Do you think such a contention is a ridiculous one? – Yes, if the printing is done by steel plate on a hand press.

44928. Have you seen the South Australian stamps? – Yes, from time to time.

44929. Are any of them produced from electro-plates? – Those I have seen have been produced in that manner.

44930. Is there an electroplate plant in Adelaide? – They evidently have a letterpress machine for the work. Of course, they are steam driven.

44931. Are the bulk of the stamps in Adelaide produced by the electro process? – All the heavier issues were up to twelve months ago.

44932. What experience would Mr. Cooke be able to gain by printing the remainder of the issue by hand press? – The result would be very unsatisfactory and very unpleasant.

44933. Would the result be such as to warrant the Commonwealth Government appointing him to take charge of the whole of the stamp printing for the different States? – I should not think the plan would be practicable.

44934. Are you aware of the part taken by Mr. Cooke in the production of stamps in South Australia? – Not in regard to the actual production. I have always understood that he supervised the work.

44935. Have you any idea of the number of the staff under him? – No, I have not gone into that matter.

44936. If Mr. Cooke took part in the actual work of printing the stamps, would that account for the great difference in the

average cost of production of 11d and 2½d per 1,000? – It then becomes a question of how the cost is calculated. If Mr. Cooke's salary is put down as a supervisor's salary, and not calculated in the cost of production, then, of course, it would not appear in that cost at all. If Mr. Cooke goes to the printing press, and lends a hand, the expense should be debited for that portion of the time occupied by him in printing. I have no means of obtaining that information. When on one occasion the question of cost was raised, Mr. Wade, Premier of New South Wales, made a request for such details, but they were not supplied.

44937. Do you think they would have as effective a system of printing stamps in a small office like that in Adelaide as they would have in New South Wales? – I do not think they could, or they would not have produced the errors which it was endeavoured to foist on me. We were accused of issuing stamps with misprints, as shown on the eight-penny and other stamps. Certain allegations were published in the Melbourne press, and the matter was referred to the Central Office, when Mr. Scott stated there was no foundation for the statements, and that errors were made in Adelaide and not in Sydney. Mr. Scott said he could not be held responsible for the statements in the press, and disclaimed any official authority, and that ended the matter so far as I was concerned.

44938. What was the nature of the errors? – There was a variation in the placing of the values on the stamps, and the word “eight” was mis-spelt. Some of the variations were the result of having to make two operations with the one stamp. The errors were so well known that they were illustrated in the *Philatelic Journal* (sic.) The word eight was spelt “eigt”.

44949. Would those errors indicate that the officer in charge was trying to perform the machining as well as the supervising? – The supervisor would have to take responsibility for the mistake.

44940. Do not such errors occur when men are trying to duplicate their work? – On such occasions it is more likely for errors to occur. There is no cross-check then. The duty of the supervisor is to exercise a cross-check.

44941. What would be the cause of the duplication of the printing? – A method has apparently been used of inserting values after the stamps have been printed. The stamps when printed are left blank, and when necessary the values are filled in. When the values are printed in, in some cases the formes shift, which results in a doubtful impression.

44942. Was it the practice in South Australia to insert the values after the stamps had been printed? – I do not know what the practice was, but the result is there.

44943. Do you adopt that method in New South Wales? – No.

44944. Do you think it economical or wise? – I do not think it is either. It increases the possibility of errors. If the electrotpe is made and thoroughly tested, it is right for all time, while if blanks are left in the sheets there is always the possibility of errors occurring.

44945. Is it essential that the printing of stamps should be carried out accurately? – Certainly, that is one of the main essentials.

44946. When did that error in South Australian stamps occur? – The report about it appeared in the journal on 1st July 1904, and that was practically when the controversy was taking place over the question of printing the stamps.

44947. When was the cost of production submitted by South Australia? – That would be about November 1905.

44948. Supposing they could produce the stamps at 2½d per 1,000 in Adelaide, would the class of production be a satisfactory one for the Commonwealth issue of stamps? – Apparently not, because it was made the basis of complaint which was attempted to be set on my shoulders in regard to uniformity of issue. It looked very like trying to put the trouble on me.

44949. Do you think the Commonwealth Government should appoint a man of that character to have charge of such an important branch as the stamp printing of the Commonwealth service? – That is a rather difficult question for me to answer.

44950. Do you think the evidence you have placed before the Commission is sufficient to pass a judgment on that which you have personally judged? – Yes. I think the positions should be open to competition, because I do not think there are sufficient grounds shown by the production in Adelaide to warrant the assumption that any remarkable skill will be shown there.

44951. Then the alleged cheap production of stamps in Adelaide has not been substantiated by evidence? – No, and the information which has been asked for by the Premier of New South Wales has not been forthcoming.

44952. On what new grounds does the Government contend that the appointment of Mr. Cooke to the position is justified? – On the grounds of uniform issue.

44953. Is that sufficient to justify the change which is now proposed? – Although I think a uniform issue will be advantageous, still I do not see any necessity to scrap-heap the existing plants of the different States to obtain that end.

44954. Would the different plants be scrapped if a uniform stamp were issued? – That would occur if the recommendation with regard to steel plate printing were adopted. I am provided with both classes of presses in this State.

44955. What is the main ground of your contention in regard to New South Wales' interest in this matter? – That the printing of the stamps has been attempted to be taken away on false premises, first as to the cost and error in production, and secondly on the alleged cheapness of the steel plate production.

44956. Do you consider the statement regarding the cheapness of the steel plate production is not well grounded? – The facts as argued out in the Board's report are not well grounded, as I point out in my statement.

44957. Do you consider that system would be more costly? – Yes.

44958. To what extent would it be more costly? – The cost of production in England, where the rate of wages are about 34s.



to 38s. per week shows that stamps are produced at 7½d per 1,000 as compared with 4½d in this State.

44959. What are the wages paid here? – The wages paid to good men are from £3 5s. to £3 10s., and that would mean another 4d or 5d to be added to the English cost of production.

44960. If the Commonwealth was called upon to adopt a steel plate process, would it have to add from 11½d to 1s. per 1,000 to the cost of the stamps? – It would have about three times the present cost.

44961. Do you think such a course would be a suicidal one to adopt on the grounds of economy? – I do not think the grounds of economy is justified, nor has it been substantiated.

44962. Do you think the steel plate process would be better as regards the danger of forgery? – There is no greater security from forgery, and that is instanced by the English Controller of Stamps. There is a greater facility for forgery owing to the thickly inked impressions on the steel plates as compared with a thinly inked impression in the electro process. Again, letterpress machines are always available, as they are cheap and are easily purchased, if more are wanted, and the hands can always be obtained to work the machines. Another point against the steel plate process is that the recommendation of the Board is that stamps shall be first engraved abroad. If that is done, the major check in regard to the prevention of forgery is lost. If that check is to be secured, it must be by employing expensive labour on the spot to do the engraving, or it must be foregone if the work is left to some one on the other side of the world. I do not in any way wish to detract from the stability of the houses on the other side of the world, but at the same time we naturally like to have things under our own control as far as possible.

44963. Can the whole of the process in regard to electrotyping the stamps be carried out in the Commonwealth? – Yes. That process is self-contained as far as Australia is concerned.

44964. If the whole of the Commonwealth stamp printing were centralized in Melbourne, what reductions in your staff would take place? – About ten men would have to be dispensed with. All of those are good workmen, and their salaries would range from £3 to £4 10s per week.

44965. Do you raise any objection to the Commonwealth Government establishing its own printing office when the Federal Capital is established? – No; I have never voiced an objection in any shape or form at any time.

44966. Do you think that, pending the acquisition of a Federal Capital, things might be left as they are? – Yes. We could do the work more efficiently and satisfactorily to the Government than is represented by the Board's report.

44967. Is there any justification for the suggestion to print the larger denominations of stamps by the more expensive process? – No; the reverse is the case. New Zealand went in for the steel plate process, and imported a man from America, paying his passage money, and retaining him there, but eventually they had to ship him home again. They had the machines, imported ink, and paper, but found that the means of production were slow, and the cost high, and that the wear and tear of the plates was so rapid necessitating their being sent abroad to have the plates duplicated, that it wasted much

time, and left them with their issues of mixed character running down in quality. The only time they could depend upon getting good impressions was when the plates were new. That was due to the peculiarity of the ink, which must be a sharp strong ink which will wipe off clean with one wipe. A smooth ink would hang about the plates, and could not be wiped off even with the hand.

44968. Do you think what occurred in New Zealand might occur in the Commonwealth? – Yes.

44969. Do you know what the cost in New Zealand was? – I have not the slightest idea.

44970. What has been the experience of Canada? – Canada for a long time obtained her stamps from a private firm in the United States. A branch of that company was formed in Canada and was eventually sold to the Government. The branch has been added since the Government took it over.

44971. Do they use the steel plate process in Canada? – Yes.

44972. Do you consider the bulk of evidence is in favour of electro-type process? – Yes; that is found all the world over.

44973. Should that be sufficient to guide the Commonwealth Government of the utility, economy and wisdom of following that example? – Yes.

44974. Do you think it would be advisable for the issues of stamps to be frequently changed? – I think if that were done, there would soon be a great outcry from the public. I would not indorse such action being taken, as there is already an outcry if there is the slightest variation of colour or perforation.

44975. What would be the cost of laying down a steel plate printing plant? – I had some correspondence from the firm of William Peck and Co., of New York, and received a quotation from them of 50,000 dollars first cost for the New South Wales issue as it was in 1897 when I wrote to the firm. Of course, the Commonwealth issue would be practically five or six times the size of what the New South Wales issue was in 1896.

44976. If you were supplied with an additional £2,000 would you be able to print the whole of the Commonwealth stamp requirements? – Yes.

44977. Have you sufficient plant now to continue the printing of the issue you now do for the next ten years? – So far as I can see, for the next five years. There is no trouble in carrying on what we are today doing.

44978. Do you desire to become monopolists in regard to the printing of stamps? – No; I have never asked that.

44979. Do you simply point out that the extra £2,000 would cover the whole of the Commonwealth requirements, because it is proposed to make this printing of stamps a Commonwealth matter? – Yes.

44980. Do you think the Commonwealth would save more money by printing the whole of its stamps in Sydney than it would by adopting the system now proposed? – Yes.

1942–57 4d Koala Varieties Plated

I recently had the opportunity of looking through 6,000 4d Koalas. These were nearly all perforated 14.75 x 14 and about 80% to 90% were on unwatermarked paper. According to the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* (ACSC), which is based on an unpublished paper entitled "1938 4d Koala" by Geoff Kellow, the steel master plate consisted of 640 impressions. What was surprising was the disproportionately large number of two varieties, these being ACSC 198i and 199i: Colour in the last white border segment at top right; and 199h: Colour spot below the top border to the right of the last "A" of "AUSTRALIA". The former is unlocated according to the ACSC, and the latter is recorded as Sheet C right pane 8/6.

To solve the mystery of the disproportionate number of these varieties (approximately 5% of all stamps viewed) and to find the missing location of 198i and 199i, I visited Melbourne stamp dealer, Max Stern, who allowed me to look at the



199h is a colour spot below the top border to the right of the last "A" of "AUSTRALIA"



199h is located in the left vertical row of three (Sheet C, Right Pane: 8/6, 9/6 and 10/6)

few sheets he has, all being without watermark. On a sheet C, with perforation pips at the bottom and perforations extending through the right selvage, I found variety "i" on stamp 5 of rows 3 to 6 of the right pane. This repetition would suggest that the variety is a roller flaw. I also found variety "h" on the same sheet, as expected, in location right pane 8/6, as recorded in ACSC. However, it is also evident on the two clichés below, 9/6 and 10/6, albeit slightly weaker; also suggesting it too is a roller flaw. As expected, the re-entry below the bottom frame, ACSC variety "d", was present at left pane 1/7.

I also found three used examples of variety "h" on watermarked paper, which is not listed, as such, in ACSC. Also of interest is a used single with green ink in all four borders. This would suggest that excess ink has not been properly removed before printing the sheet.



198i/199i is colour filling the last white border segment at top right



Stamp with green ink in all borders suggesting excess ink not properly removed from plate

198i/199i are located in the lower left vertical row of four

(Sheet C, Right Pane: 3/5, 4/5, 5/5 and 6/5)

Acknowledgements:
Geoff Kellow
Max Stern

Reference:
Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue
King George VI, Second Edition, published by
Brusden White in 2006 and edited by Geoffrey Kellow.

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David Wood's Post Office Reference: a remarkable database



The Internet Age provides philatelists with an astonishing amount of information, which in previous years had been confined to printed works or non-existent as accessible records. It is fair to say that one philatelic website in particular

provides extraordinary information that deserves to be widely known. Also, this is a website that is useful to local historians, as well as to philatelic researchers, and it is freely available to all users.

David Wood of Phoenix Auctions and Premier Postal Auctions manages a database of 30,000 to 40,000 post offices in Australia, Papua New Guinea and selected British colonies: www.premierpostal.com/ **Reference Tools/Post Office Reference**

David is a long-standing member of the Society and a leading authority on Australian post offices and datestamps. His website provides details of post office dates of openings, closings, and changes in name and status. For the Society's own home (Ashburton VIC.), we learn that Ashburton Post Office first opened on 15 December 1927. Also, an Ashburton East Post Office was opened on 3 October 1949, to be renamed "Ashwood" on 28 February 1951.

Where did it all begin for David Wood? In 1973 David was studying first year law at the University of Melbourne. He was a member of the University's Philatelic Society (together with Richard Juzwin). One society auction included a lot of 1930s Australian 2d commemoratives on piece. The lot went unsold, but David acquired it and he was soon focused on postmarks.

David's early area of specialisation was Victorian datestamps; the chief reference at the time being Bill Purves' 1963 work on Barred Numerals of Victoria. David met the late John Webster, a diligent researcher of Victorian postmarks, who built up his own records based on the work of earlier researchers, such as Alec Gavin and Charlie Fawcett. Their combined research chiefly covered the Commonwealth period.

From 1979 onwards, David made weekly visits to the National Archives of Australia at their premises in Brighton, VIC. He trawled through anything to do with postal services

in Victoria, chiefly filling gaps in knowledge of post offices for the period between 1870 and 1901; tightening down the opening and closing dates, especially during the Depression years of 1892–95.

Early Victorian Gazettes announced opening dates of post offices, but in later years the Gazettes merely announced the names of new post offices, since the numbers involved had become more prevalent. Postal Guides provide a source of information with their consolidated lists of post offices, but often the Guides contain errors, such as listing post offices that had closed, which might only be corrected when the error was pointed out several years later. The core information is in the primary records held by National Archives.

The first fruits of all this work appeared in *The Post offices and hand-held datestamps of Victoria: volume 1 comprising introductory chapters and the alphabetical listings A'Beckett Street to Byrneside State School* by Gary Watson, David Wood and John Webster. The book by the three "Ws" was launched at Melbourne Stampshow in 1989. Three years later, volume 2 appeared covering post offices from CEBS National Camp to Gypsum Siding. No further volumes have appeared, but as noted below an online database of Victorian datestamps is available to researchers.

David cannot say how many times his database of post offices has been accessed by internet users. There are links on the discussion website Stampboards and links also appear on Wikipedia entries for individual towns.

For example, the entry for Jerilderie NSW at <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jerilderie> features a statement that Jerilderie Post Office (spelt "Jereelderie" until 1890) was opened on 1 October 1862. The reference cited for the date is the Premier Postal database of post offices.

The database can be searched alphabetically for particular post offices by states or nationally, with cross references being made to changes of name. A special feature of the site is the Refined Search facility, which allows the particular post office to be identified by entering part of the name, if the postmark details are incomplete. For example, entering the part name "...AT SOU..." yields Ararat South VIC.

David originally set up the post office database for his own use, but he has made it available for everyone. Also, on the website is a database of Victorian datestamps. This provides details of more than 30,000 postmarks used at 7,000 or so post offices in Victoria. The database of datestamps can be accessed on a payment basis: www.premierpostal.com/ **Reference Tools/Victorian Datestamps.**

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TPO Services and Mail handling at Bendigo, 1898

An article with nine photographs in the weekly newspaper *The Bendigonian*, 18 August 1898, provides a fascinating glimpse of the mail handling, sorting and distribution system for Bendigo during the last years of the 19th and early years of the 20th centuries. It highlights the fact that the TPO (travelling post office) services were intimately involved.

The following are quotes from the article. The quotes are in **bold italics**, and additional information to help with understanding is provided in brackets in normal type.

First quote:-

Although not a portion of the stately edifice (refers to the public offices in Pall Mall completed in 1887, the ground floor of which housed the Bendigo Post Office) **shown in our illustrations, the mail van at the railway station plays an important part in the postal services of the city.** (Actually there were two different mail sorting vans stationary at the station and sorting mail at different times of the day – from early morning to about 11.45 am, and between about 5.00 pm and 6.40 pm). **Bendigo is amongst the largest junction stations for the transfer of mail in the colony – something like 375 bags of correspondence being transferred daily** (125 of these going to the Bendigo Post Office). (Two or three postal department workers – also appearing in the attached photo – along with up to four staff, who manned one of the van on its journeys) **have a very busy hour between 11 and 12 am (sic) and again between 6.30 and 7.30 pm.** (At this date the first of the three daily TPO DOWN services from Melbourne – MG 14 cancellers – arrived at Bendigo at 11.22 am; and there would also be mail from branch lines, and local post offices to be sorted for the van's trip UP to Melbourne commencing at noon – MG 4 cancellers. Further, the last of the two daily TPO UP mails to Melbourne departed Bendigo at 6.50 pm, and this also carried mail from the branch lines beyond Korong Vale, including Wycheproof and Boort, from Kerang/Swan Hill, and from Echuca, including Balranald and Deniliquin in NSW.) **About 2 tons of mails consisting of about 187 bags** (half the daily total handled at the Bendigo station) **are brought by the first train from Melbourne,** (the one arriving at 11.22 am) **and these have to be checked twice and handled three times in a little over half an hour.**

Second quote:-

125 mails (probably meaning 125 mail bags) **from all parts of the colony find their way into the room** (referring now to the Post Office mail room) **every day.** (The articles in these bags were first divided into two piles – pile 1 being mail to be delivered in the city and suburbs, pile 2 being further sorted for nearby destinations. A count for the previous 12 months – 1897/98 – revealed the number of articles coming into the Bendigo Post Office mail room annually.)

- **1,728,891 letters**
- **167,505 registered letters**
- **357,421 newspapers**
- **272,234 packets**
- **2,743 parcels and**
- **4,978 parcels destined for other offices**

Third quote:-

Operations in the sorting and stamping room are greatly facilitated by the use of the stamping (cancelling) machine (mainly used in conjunction with duplex cancellers) – **a little contrivance so simple in structure that one wonders that it was not invented many years ago. The affair is worked by a little lever which is brought up and down and in this way brings the stamp down on the letter, a small rubber roller conveying the ink from a little cistern to the stamp during the operation. An expert can stamp as many as 220 letters per minute.....as many as 260 (per minute) have been done...”**

Other information from the article stated there were three Bendigo town mail deliveries on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays, and two deliveries on Wednesdays. Letter carriers (postmen) worked on Saturdays, but had a half day off on Wednesday afternoon.

TPO implications

From these quotes it can be seen that 250 (375 less 125) bags of mail each day were transferred to and from other

lines of rail at Bendigo station in 1898 (and similar amounts from 1890 and well into the 20th century). Some of these sealed bags would have contained mail sorted on the three daily DOWN TPO services. Others would be sealed bags originating from Melbourne and post offices between Melbourne and Bendigo. The rest would have come from the branch lines north of Bendigo on their way UP to Bendigo or places closer to Melbourne or Melbourne itself. Many of these latter bags would be opened and sorted while the sorting vans were parked at Bendigo station at a short dead-end platform (platform 3), constructed specifically for that purpose between 1889 and 1890.

It is interesting to note that examples of cancellations during the 1890s and early 1900s from the sets of cancellers carried by two of the three daily UP TPO services from Bendigo, namely those numbered 4 (departed Bendigo UP at 12.00 noon) and 3 (departed Bendigo UP at 6.50 pm), are the most numerous of all TPO cancellations, yet are a miniscule proportion of the total mail carried on the route.

Thanks to *The Bendigonian* article, a study of Victorian railway timetables for the time, and information extracted from Postal Department "Transfer Records" preserved in National Archives, a snapshot of how TPO services operated to and from Bendigo in the 1890s and the early 20th century can now be put together.

Daily Bendigo Line TPO Services and Station Operations 1890-1909

From about 5.30 am

There was an E type mail sorting van parked at platform 3. This had arrived the previous night. Mail was being sorted (MG 4 UP canceller) prior to its run to Melbourne departing at 12.00 noon. In addition, the 6.30 am UP passenger train (not a TPO service) was being prepared for its run.

6.30 am

The first UP passenger train of the day departs for Melbourne. This does not include a mail sorting van, but carries some mail in sealed bags in the guards van.

From about 9.30 am

Local branch line UP trains from Echuca, Kerang and Korong Vale begin to arrive carrying sealed mail bags to be opened and sorted on the E type mail sorting van parked at platform 3, where the **MG 4 UP** canceller was already in use.

11.22 am

The first DOWN passenger train from Melbourne arrives. This has the **first daily DOWN TPO service** operating in a DDMS mail sorting van carrying the **MG 14 DOWN** canceller. It is the main DOWN mail and carries some two

tons of mail in about 185 different mail bags. Half of these mail bags are forwarded on to Bendigo Post Office for further sorting and half retained at the station for loading onto local DOWN trains to Swan Hill (departing at 11.52 am), Echuca (departing 12.02 pm and Korong Vale, and beyond (e.g. to Wycheproof) departing at 12.15 pm. The mail sorter is returned to Melbourne later in the day attached to a goods train, and the mail guard crew (and the MG 14 DOWN canceller) return to Melbourne on the 12 noon TPO UP service, which used the MG 4 cancellers.

12.00 noon

Some 10 or 15 minutes before noon, activity in the E type mail sorting van ceases, the mail guard crew de-train, and the mail sorter is shunted on to the front of the train to depart for Melbourne at 12.00. When the complete train is ready (possibly on platform 2) the crew re-board with the **MG 4** cancellers and it is away as the **first daily UP TPO service** but not the main one. It arrives at Melbourne at 3.55 pm. (GPO code X on mail marked on its journey confirms the arrival in mid-afternoon.)

4.49 pm

The **second daily DOWN TPO service** arrives on the 12.15 DOWN passenger train from Melbourne. This TPO service operates in a DDMS type mail sorting van using the **MG 3 DOWN** canceller. Soon after arrival the mail sorting van is removed from the rear of the train and shunted into platform 3, where it re-commences operations with the **MG 3 UP** canceller. Here, it receives mail bags from the local UP trains from Echuca, Swan Hill and Korong Vale lines, which arrive at 6.05, 6.15, and 6.25 pm, before being attached to the train being prepared for the 6.50 pm UP passenger/TPO service.

6.50 pm

The **second** (and most important) **daily UP TPO service** departs for Melbourne still using the **MG 3 UP** canceller. It arrives in Melbourne at 10.55 pm. (GPO code A next morning confirms the late night arrival.)

10.11 pm (Mon to Fri) and 11.01 pm (Sat)

The **third daily DOWN TPO service** (E type mail sorting van) arrives using the **MG 4 DOWN** canceller having left Melbourne at 5.42 pm (Monday to Friday) and 6.30 pm (Saturday). This service does not connect with any local branch line services and overnight the train is prepared for departure for Melbourne again next morning at 6.30 am, but without the mail sorting van.

There were no regular passenger train or TPO services on Sundays.



Further details

The TPO services to Bendigo (originally named Sandhurst until 1891) were the most consistent of all TPO services. From the start of these services in 1865 the MG/TPO 3 and 4 sets of cancellers travelled on the same trains as shown above, and did so until 1917 when they were withdrawn.

The MG 14 DOWN canceller was introduced in 1883, when the third daily DOWN mail service in a guards van was up-graded to a TPO service in a mail sorting van. This canceller always travelled DOWN in the early

morning DOWN passenger train. After 1917, this morning DOWN train with its mail sorter and number 14 cancellers began to travel UP again (probably attached to the 12 noon UP passenger train) with the newly introduced TPO 14 UP canceller. That arrangement lasted until 1928.

The sorting of mail in stationary mail sorting vans at stations may have taken place on other TPO routes (Ballarat, Numurkah and Warragul stations are possibilities), but unlike at Bendigo station, there is no hard evidence that it really did occur.

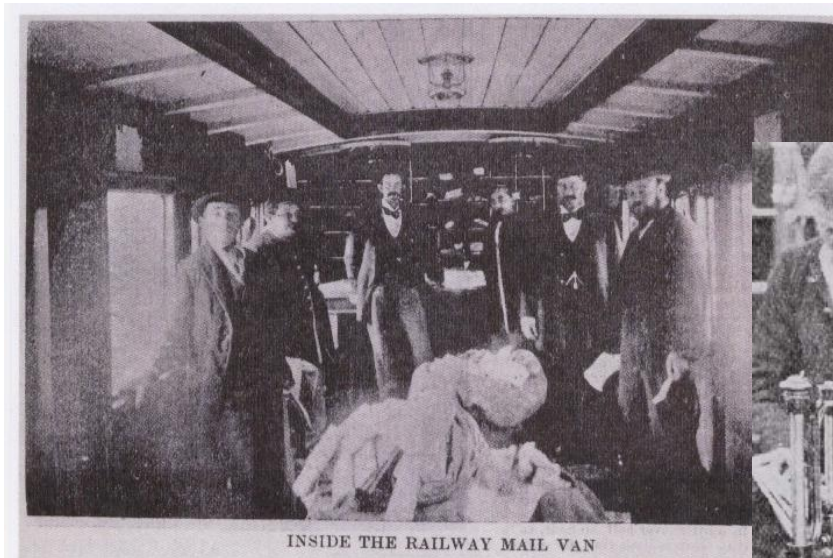


Figure 1

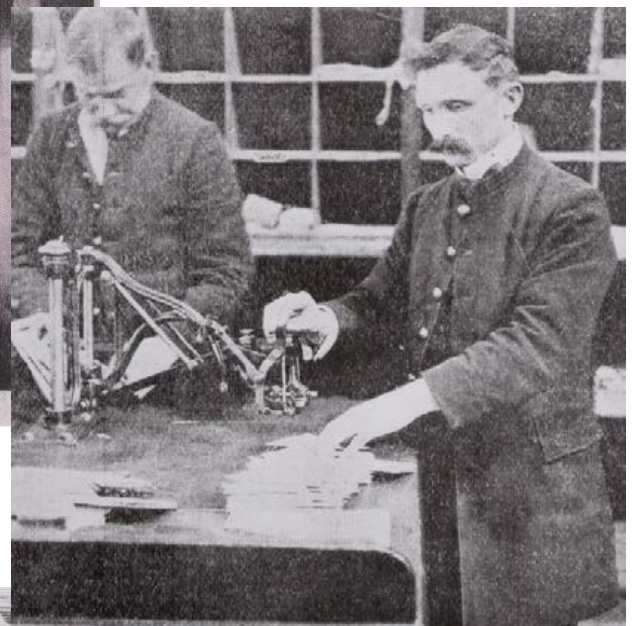


Figure 3

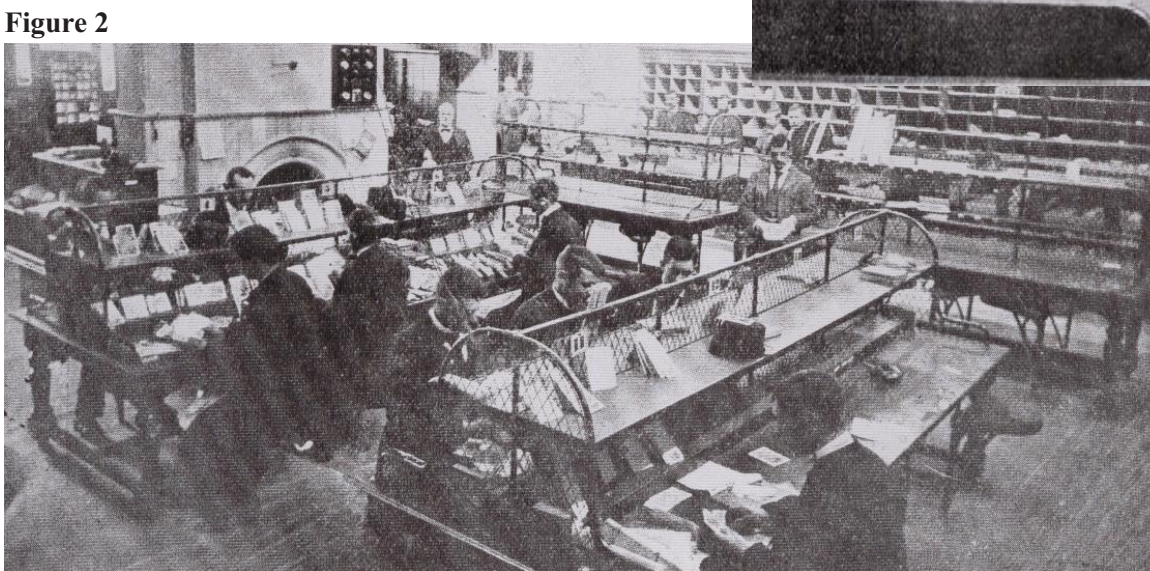


Figure 2

The three photos are from the article in *The Bendigonian* are reproduced courtesy of the La Trobe Library, Melbourne. **Figure 1** shows the interior of one of the two DDMS mail sorters built for the Bendigo TPO services in 1888. It is shown stationary at Bendigo station with six people, only three or four of whom would have travelled in the van on its evening UP journey to Melbourne. **Figure 2** is the mail sorting room at the Bendigo Post Office, featuring 15 sorting staff shown in the photo. **Figure 3** shows the cancelling machine at Bendigo Post Office.

Victoria 1885 Values

Derived from the Naish Engraved Dies:

Notes by J.R.W.Purves, RDP, FRPSL

With the introduction of the Victorian Post Office Act 1883 and the decision that all stamps, for Postage, Duty and Fee, should be inscribed "STAMP DUTY" new smaller stamps to cover the postage values of ½d to 2/- were required.

Charles Naish was engaged to engrave steel dies for the ½d, 2d, 3d, 4d, and 8d values and also for a larger 2/6 value. From these smaller dies plates of 120 subjects were made. Plates were also required for the 1d, 6d, 1/- and 2/- values. The designs for these stamps were derived from several of the Naish dies using copper electrotype techniques.

The 1d and 6d designs were derived from the 3d, the 1/- from the 2d, and the 2/- from the 8d. For each of these values 6 electros were grouped together to form a working die from which moulds were made. From these moulds electros were formed. Twenty good electros were then grouped together and placed in an electrolytic bath to form the plates of 120 subjects. Therefore, for each of these derived values there are 6 Primary Types.

In October 1976 Bill Purves sent me a note enclosing his handwritten guides to distinguish the six types of the 1d, 6d, 1/- and 2/- derived values and, with his compliments "also sets fiscally cancelled". Strangely, as far as I am aware, although this information has also been shared with a few others, it was never published.

At times, over the years I have endeavoured to acquire mint examples to use to illustrate these types. However, not yet having completed this task, but feeling that it is more than time Bill Purves' research work was published, it was necessary to seek assistance from fellow members. Those members are acknowledged at the end of this article.

In the following guides to distinguishing the type descriptions these have been presented as they were written. It is acknowledged that had Bill Purves have presented these for publication he may well have considered some editing.

From J.R.W.Purves' Notes:-

1d STAMP DUTY, 1885-86

A description of the 'primary' flaws peculiar to each of the six types, numbered as they normally appear in each of the 20 blocks of six (3 x 2) in the sheet (1,2,3 over 4,5,6).

NOTE:

- (a) The 'primary' characteristics are given in the order in which the writer believes they should be distinguished. If, say, the cancellation obscures the position of the design on which one of these appears you then turn to the other flaws recorded. In any event the recording of more than one such 'primary' flaw provides the means of clarifying any of the six types with certainty.
- (b) Types 4, 5 and 6 are in general easier to clarify than 1, 2 and 3 and of those Type 2 is the hardest.

Remember always that the 'ONE PENNY' was separately engraved (i.e. cut out) for each type and that although there are thus six variations of lettering, the words on any one type are identical.

TYPE 1

- (i) A break in the base of the coloured diagonal under the middle of the first 'N' of 'PENNY'.
- (ii) A short white line in the bottom edge of the solid colour under and slightly to the left of the right leg of the first 'N' of 'PENNY'.
- (iii) A narrow rectangle of colour inside the head of the 'P'

TYPE 2

- (i) A break in the middle of the base of the top curl of the large ornament to the right of the 'A' of 'VICTORIA'.
- (ii) A shallow dent in the lower left outline of the scroll in the lower right corner. This appears on the great majority of copies of this type but is sometimes obscured by ink on some from Plate 1.
- (iii) The left leg of the 'A' of 'STAMP' is joined to the white curved line below by a tiny white flaw.
- (iv) The colour in the head of the 'P' is narrow and slopes



downwards from left to right.

TYPE 3

- (i) A white nick in the top edge of the solid colour over (and between) the letters 'CT' of 'VICTORIA'
- (ii) A small white flaw under the left leg of the 'N' of 'ONE', just in from its lower left corner.
- (iii) A slight break or weakness in the inner coloured line of the large scroll at lower right opposite and just under the head of the 'Y'.

TYPE 4

- (i) Two white dots in solid colour at lower right corner, one on inside of base of larger scroll ornament and the other below it on the outside.
- (ii) Frame lines in lower left corner are thicker than normal.
- (iii) Two breaks in left oval shading on bridge of nose to the left of eye and to left of base of nose respectively.
- (iv) Diagonal flaw on top left of 'O' of 'ONE', and small white dot (sometimes obscured by colour) to the left of top of 'P'.
- (v) A white dot in solid colour between 'T' and 'A' of 'VICTORIA' just above the centre of these letters.

TYPE 5

- (i) A white flaw (quite conspicuous) resting on right side of first 'T' of 'VICTORIA' just above middle.
- (ii) Break in line of shading at middle right of neck, in from right edge (sometimes hard to see).

TYPE 6

- (i) A marked break in the shading line in the middle of the cheek, to the right of the lower lip.
- (ii) A small white flaw on the solid colour to the immediate lower left of the 'E' of 'ONE'.
- (iii) A small break in a line of shading to left of base of crown (sometimes obscured KS).

6d STAMP DUTY, 1885-86

NOTE: As with the 1d the "primary" characteristics are given in the order in which the writer believes they should be distinguished. It should be possible - by looking for all the flaws noted - to identify all single stamps. Remember always that the word 'SIX PENCE' were separately engraved (i.e. cut out) for each type and that, although there are thus six varieties of lettering, these two words always appear identical on the one type.

TYPE 1

- (i) A white spot to the right of the 'A' of 'VICTORIA'.
- (ii) A small white spot between the top of the two arms of the 'V' of 'VICTORIA' but much nearer to the left arm than the right.
- (iii) A spot of colour to the lower left of the chin (in the Plate 1 printings) which became a break in the shading in the Plate 2 and 3 printings.
- (iv) A small white spike just upwards from the top of the 'P', slightly to the left of the middle.

TYPE 2

- (i) A conspicuous white vertical flaw jutting upwards from the right end of the first 'T' of 'VICTORIA'.
- (ii) 'EN' closer than 'PE' (also seen in Type 5)

TYPE 3

- (i) A nearly vertical white flaw on the right edge of the head, opposite and just above the base of the chignon.
- (ii) A marked break in the shading on the cheek, to the right of the lower lip.
- (iii) The base of the 'S' of 'SIX' with less curve than in the other types although Type 6 rather resembles it in this regard.

TYPE 4

- (i) The lower curve of the 'S' rather abnormal by comparison with the other types, the bottom half of the letter protruding farther to the left than in the other five types. Perhaps the most helpful way to put it is that whereas elsewhere the letters 'S' and 'X' are parallel to one another here the 'S' leans a little to the right. Elsewhere this Type 4 seems to be without any useful 'primary' characteristic.

TYPE 5

This is the most difficult of the types to distinguish and it is helpful to pick out Types 1, 2 and 6 before looking for the 4's and 5's.

- (i) A tiny coloured spike or swelling protruding onto the white oval over the middle of the 'S' of 'SIX'.
- (ii) 'EN' closer than 'PE', as in Type 2.
- (iii) A vague white spot on the solid colour to the top left of the 'S' of 'SIX' occasionally obscured by ink.

TYPE 6

- (i) A white diagonal spur protruding upwards from the top left of the 'S' of 'SIX'.
- (ii) A broken line of shading on the cheek, to the right of the upper lip. (i.e. higher than a similar break on Type 3)
- (iii) A break in the thin coloured line over the right end of the 'C' of 'VICTORIA'.
- (iv) Generally a break over the top left corner of the crown, under the left of the 'C'.
- (v) 'C' of 'PENCE' has a rather flat base, with little or no curve.

1/- STAMP DUTY, 1885-87

NOTE:

- (a) As compared with 1d and 6d, where only the value tablet required to be engraved on the original six electrotypes, it was, for the 1/- and 2/- necessary to engrave the figures '1' and '2' respectively at each side of the design. For the 1/- only it was further necessary to 'line' the curved value tablet.
- (b) Although the 'die' break in the top frame found in the 2d value is often obscured by writing it is obvious that the original six moulds were stamped from the 2d



die in its second state which proves – and it is what one would expect – that the 1/- plates were produced after the 2d plates.

(c) This is a most curious and interesting aspect. All six types show an extra white spot over the middle of the 'N' of 'ONE'. Since this spot was not on the original 2d design and since its position varies slightly according to the type (although constant on any one) I can only think that these were all marks affected deliberately by the engraver and that for him they represented 'guide' or 'position dots'. Bear in mind, on this aspect, that in this case the engraving covered two operations. He almost certainly engraved the letters of 'ONE SHILLING' first and then he had to 'line' the curved tablet so engraved with seven white lines. Two of these lines, at the top and the bottom of the tablet, were clear of the letters. The interior five lines were between and through the letters.

Such a dot (which of course, was in recess), engraved in approximately the same position on each of the original six electrotypes, would have told him, in each case, where to put the 'N' of 'ONE'. This was a safeguard if six different engravings of the words 'ONE SHILLING' were to appear relatively homogeneous. I cannot recollect ever having come across a constant variety of this type before and for that reason alone, deem it worthy of mention.

TYPE 1

- (i) A clear break in the curved coloured line over and slightly to the right of the first 'L' of 'SHILLING'.
- (ii) 'H' wide and its cross-bar slightly below centre.
- (iii) The base of the right hand 'l' sloping slightly downwards from left to right.
- (iv) The upper of the two white lines through the lower half of the 'H' is rather faintly engraved, by comparison with Types 3, 4, 5, 6 and is often indistinct.

TYPE 2

- (i) The 'E' of 'ONE' with a very short middle stroke.
- (ii) Only one white line through the lower half of the 'H' – in all the other types there are two such lines.
- (iii) A lopsided base to the right hand 'l'. There is practically no serif at lower left but a longer one at right.
- (iv) Outer left frame sloping slightly inwards at lower left corner.

TYPE 3

The most normal of the six types.

- (i) Small breaks in the middle of the shading in the shaded ornament at top right.
- (ii) The right hand 'l' resembling that in Type 2 save that whereas the lower right serif in Type 2 is cut off in Type 3 it more or less ends in a point.

TYPE 4

- (i) A short white vertical flaw in the right of the solid colour at the base of the bust, over the left of the second 'L' of 'SHILLING'.
- (ii) The top half of the 'S' is narrower than the lower half.

(iii) The 'O' of 'ONE' is noticeably narrower than in any of the other types.

(iv) Base of 'l' at left slopes downwards from right to left.

TYPE 5

- (i) A hollowed out (due to a break) top left corner, a small but clear defect.
- (ii) The left leg of the 'H' is noticeably lower than the right.
- (iii) The base of the left hand 'l' slopes downward from left to right.
- (iv) The 'S' of 'SHILLING' is narrower in Types 5 and 6 than in the other four types.

TYPE 6

- (i) A tiny white diagonal spur (a small but always clear flaw) in the circle edge over the left of the 'N' of 'ONE'.
- (ii) A small white spot between the tops of the 'S' and 'H'.
- (iii) 'S' is narrow, like the 'S' in Type 5.

NOTE ON A SUB-TYPE VARIETY

Types 1, 4, 5, 6 all show the same sub-type which does not, however, appear on Types 2 and 3. This consists of a small patch of extra colour on the right of the third 'spoke' down in the fan-shaped ornament to the top left of the 'O' of 'ONE'. It was doubtless due to fragment of foreign matter adhering to the die during the stamping of four of the original six moulds.

2/- STAMPDUTY, 1886-1900

NOTE: Here the more useful distinguishing features are to be met in the variations of the words of value. Unlike the 1d and 6d there are only a few instances of 'primary' flaws to be found outside this area of the design – these being described under Types 1, 3, 4, 5. While the twelve figure 2's are all different the difficulty in providing useful descriptions of these for collectors impels me generally to omit reference to them in the descriptions that follow:-

TYPE 1

The easiest of the types to identify.

- (i) A more or less vertical flaw extending downwards from the lower left of the 'V' of 'VICTORIA' into the ornaments below.
- (ii) A break in the lines of shading at the back of the neck, in the middle.
- (iii) Top of the 'O' of 'TWO' about level (it is very slightly lower) with the top of the 'W'. In the other five types it is above the 'W'.
- (iv) The two 'S's' of 'SHILLINGS' sloping markedly backwards. This feature is also found in Type 3 but not otherwise.
- (v) Both left and right '2's' (as also in Type 2) sloping slightly backwards. On the other four types they are upright.



TYPE 2

The hardest type to identify and best left until the other five have been eliminated.

- (i) A shallow external dent in the solid colour to the immediate right of the second 'S' of 'SHILLINGS'.
- (ii) Both 'S's' practically upright.
- (iii) Both left and right '2's' sloping slightly backwards (as also in Type 1).

TYPE 3

- (i) 'H' narrower than in other five types.
- (ii) Both 'S's' sloping backwards (see Type 2 also).
- (iii) 'O' of 'ONE' noticeably narrower than in other five types.
- (iv) A small vertical break across the middle of the ornament second up over the 'T' of 'TWO'. This break being obscured by ink in more heavily printed copies.

TYPE 4

- (i) A break in the third line of shading from the top, under the vertical stroke of the 'P'.
- (ii) 'H' short and stumpy, its cross-bar being below centre.
- (iii) 'O' of 'TWO' noticeably higher than preceding 'W'; this characteristic being common to Types 4, 5, 6 but not

to Types 1, 2, 3.

TYPE 5

- (i) A nick in the top of the solid colour over the 'SH', under the right of the 'D'.
- (ii) Cross-bar of 'H' higher than centre, this being the only type where this is so, the cross-bar being either centred (in 6) or slightly below centre (1, 2, 3, 4).
- (iii) Both 'S's' approximately upright.
- (iv) The last 'S' narrower than in the other five cases although that on Type 2 runs it close in that respect.

TYPE 6

- Rather similar to Type 5.
- (i) 'T' of 'TWO' further to the right than in Type 5.
- (ii) Last 'S' of 'SHILLINGS' squarely under the lowest border ornament. In Types 2 and 4 this is centred slightly to the ornament's left whereas in Types 1, 3, and 5 it is clearly centred to its left.

Assistance in the selection of suitable illustrations is gratefully acknowledged from John Boykett, Dave Elsmore, Bill Jenkins, Geoff. Kellow and Max Watson.

TYPE 1



TYPE 2



TYPE 3



TYPE 4



TYPE 5



TYPE 6



Book Review:

Review by Gary Brown

Postal and Airmail Rates in France & Colonies 1920-1945

by Robert E Picirilli

This comprehensive study of the Postal and Airmail rates in France and Colonies was recently published by the France and Colonies Philatelic Society of Great Britain. [www.fcps.org.uk]

The author, Robert E Picirilli, mentions how the publication grew from his need to be able to explain the franking on airmail covers in his exhibit of Ivory Coast 1892 – 1945 and how information about the airmail surtaxes in use there, as well as in other French colonies, was simply not available. He commenced the work on the book in 1995 and published this year.

The book comprises 227 pages plus a CD data base, which includes coloured copies of the illustrations in the book and a record of all the covers researched for the book. The book consists of 19 chapters with the first chapter, *How French Colonial Airmail Rates worked*. Thus a cover going by air needed in addition to the basic letter rate and registry needed to usually prepay an added surtax for the extra cost involved. These surtaxes did not depend on whether the destination was within the French community or outside it. Airmail surtaxes were strictly dependent on distance and routing.

The collector of French colonial covers soon discovers that the majority of the airmail from French colonies, especially during the early years of airmail, was destined for France. Consequently in each chapter of this volume the first airmail surtaxes will be those between the colony and France. These were usually the same for airmail going in either direction, except where a different local currency was used in the Colony, the return rate was different.

Where the book becomes invaluable is when the airmail is from a given colony to some country other than France. Two possibilities are described throughout the book. First, if there was a direct connection by air to that country (whether another French colony or not), then the airmail might well go directly there and at a surtax defined and applied at the colony of origin.

The second possibility is that airmail might go first to France and from there to the country of destination. In such cases, the sender who wanted the letter sent by air all the way to its destination – if it was available – would prepay for air by both legs of the journey. In other words, the total airmail cost was [1] the surtax to France plus [2] the surtax from France on to the destination country. Therefore, a cover from Senegal to Hungary had the Air

surtax - Senegal to France and the Air surtax – France to Hungary, both applied in the calculation of the postage required for the cover to go by air.

The purpose of the second chapter, *Airmail Surtaxes from France*, written by Derek J Richardson [who wrote *Tables of French Postal Rates 1949 to 2005, 3rd edition, 2005*] is to provide the airmail surtaxes from France to various destinations in the world. The chapter consists of 26 sets of tables, for example Table 2.16. Airmail Surtaxes, France to East Africa.

The remaining 16 chapters are from each of the French colonies, i.e. chapter 3 – *Postal and Airmail Rates from Algeria*; Chapter 4 – Camerouns and so on until Chapter 19. Of course, during the time period of the book, two groups of colonies are combined, Dahomey, French Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal, French Sudan, Upper Volta are classed as AOF (*Afrique Occidentale Française*) and together with Togo are in Chapter 13, French West Africa. The other grouping in Chapter 5 is French Equatorial Africa – Chad, French Congo, Gabon and Ubangi-Shari.

The CD that comes with book includes colour images of all the illustrations in the book. These images are chapter files for easy access. It also has an excel database for each chapter of the book detailing all the covers that the author had access to. The CD interconnects with the book by showing which covers relate to the respective rate table in the book. To show as an example the there are 182 covers in the Tunisia chapter listing on the CD and a large 2000+ covers for the AOF section.

In conclusion this a must have book for anyone collecting the French area and details are available at www.fcps.org.uk



Review by Bill Lloyd-Smith

New Zealand Stamps Overprinted "O.P.S.O."

by Colin Capill, FRPSNZ

This slim book of 53 pages is a pleasant introduction to the O.P.S.O. issues of New Zealand. The author points out in the Preface that little has been written on this subject, apart from what is readily available in the catalogues, the *Philatelic Handbook* by R.J.G Collins (1921) and the first two volumes of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*.

This little book has twelve chapters and six appendices, together with 22 illustrations in the text. It is published jointly as Special Publication No. 4 by the New Zealand Society of Great Britain and Monograph Series No. 17 by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. This book is the culmination of many years research into these unusual issues. The author also corrects some misinformation on these issues.

The Introduction points out that these stamps are expensive, especially on cover. They were never available to the public in mint form. In view of the limited amount of information previously published on these stamps, the Introduction therefore sets the scene for the investigation of all past information and official records.

Chapter 2 explains the historical background and the system of franking official mail between 1840 and 1891. Abuses of the franking privilege are discussed briefly here. We also learn of the introduction of a new system shortly after New Zealand joined the Universal Postal Union (UPU) in which official mail to foreign countries was to be prepaid using stamps. "Foreign countries" meant places other than the United Kingdom, Australian Colonies and British possessions. It was decided that the General Post Office at Wellington would use stamps with O.P.S.O. impressed thereon for all its own official mail to foreign countries, other than mail to other postal administrations (later to include the UPU headquarters in Berne). This chapter points out that these specially overprinted stamps (actually handstamped) were only used at Wellington by the GPO for its own mail despatched from that office. Postal officials elsewhere in New Zealand were not allowed to correspond outside of the Colony but had to refer such matters to the GPO at Wellington.

Chapter 3 describes the treatment of official mail. Mail within the British Commonwealth went free of charge. Mail from the GPO at Wellington to foreign countries bore stamps overprinted O.P.S.O. affixed (except to other postal administrations). Mail from other Government Departments to foreign countries bore ordinary stamps. Telegram envelopes addressed to overseas countries also bore ordinary postage stamps. Examples of these usages are illustrated in this Chapter. It is now clear why O.P.S.O. overprinted stamps are so difficult to acquire (Chapter 4).

Chapter 5 deals with new issue reports. The author has searched a number of contemporary journals in search of these reports. The English journals, including *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, together with the *Australian Philatelist* had a reasonable coverage but obviously there were significant gaps in the record. Some reports were wrong as the author explains. We learn that the use of O.P.S.O. issues ceased on 31 December 1906. New stamps overprinted OFFICIAL were introduced for official use on 2 January 1907.

The overprints are described in Chapter 6. There were four different handstamps but only the fourth type is readily

distinguished from the others, due to its distinctly taller letters. The colours and positions of the handstamps are also discussed.

Chapter 7 discusses the usage of these stamps with illustrated examples. One illustration shows an instance of stamps with the handstamp used together with ordinary stamps, possibly an irregularity. Two used blocks are also illustrated. Chapter 8 discusses the special case of philatelically inspired usage since certain overseas collectors wrote to the Wellington GPO in the hope of getting a reply bearing one or more of these varieties.

The question of specimen stamps for the UPU is discussed in Chapter 9. It is just possible that an example of a stamp bearing the O.P.S.O. handstamp was sent to the UPU but the author admits to being unsure on this matter. What is more certain is that some presentation copies of these stamps exist as the author explains in Chapter 10.

The collector will naturally be concerned with the possibility of reprints. Chapter 11 discusses this question in some depth. The author discusses the possible origin of many of the mint examples of O.P.S.O. handstamps known to exist. He discusses the possibility that some of these mint stamps had been improperly overprinted by a person who had access to the handstamp. The author examines a number of references in the literature that deal with mint examples of these stamps. Their status was queried since they were not obtainable legitimately in mint condition. A mint block of the ½d black Queen's head is illustrated as a prominent example of reprinting.

Forgeries exist as explained in Chapter 12. Some are very deceptive and forged cancellations are known. Hence care is needed when buying these stamps. Genuinely used examples invariably bear a Wellington postmark so that the presence of any other postmark indicates a forgery.

Chapter 13 serves to conclude the author's account. He points out that a number of unanswered questions remain. These will hopefully be answered as collectors check at relevant material and report their findings. He suggests that the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand is a good place for collectors desiring an expert opinion on any examples that come their way.

The book includes a bibliography and six appendices. Appendix 1 gives statistics of mail sent overseas on official business in 1893. The figures speak for themselves and demonstrate the rarity of O.P.S.O. stamps since they could only be used on mail to foreign countries. Appendix 2 gives details of three early catalogue listings of these stamps. Appendix 3 lists all the stamps known to have been genuinely overprinted O.P.S.O. Overprint types are not separated but this may be due to the scarcity of material. Appendix 4 lists the few known covers (all registered) from the GPO to foreign countries that bear stamps not overprinted O.P.S.O. Appendix 5 lists the stamps known to have been cancelled with black bars for presentation purposes. Appendix 6 lists the known reprints.

In summary, this book is a valuable contribution to the study of New Zealand's O.P.S.O. stamps. It is expected to stimulate further study of these scarce and intriguing stamps.



Royal News

Certificate for Fellows

A certificate is being prepared for presentation to the Society's Fellows, in readiness for the Annual General Meeting on 18 September. The 14 Fellows involved are: **Michael Barden** (VIC), **John Boykett** (VIC), **Richard Breckon** (VIC), **Charles Bromser** (VIC), **Gary Brown** (VIC), **Bill Lloyd-Smith** (VIC), **Anthony Presgrave** (SA), **Ken Scudder** (VIC), **John Shawley** (VIC), **John Sinfield** (VIC), **Marion Smith** (VIC), **Raymond Todd OAM**, **RDP** (WA), **Russell Turner** (VIC) and **Gary Watson** (VIC).

New member

The Society has gained a new member: **Mark Clyne** (VIC). His application for membership was accepted on 18 August 2011. We wish him a long and happy association with the Society.

Bernard Caillard (1925–2011)

Former member Bernard Caillard died in Melbourne on 14 July, aged 85. Born in England, Bernard was an engineer by profession. He worked in the Sudan for most of the 1950s, before coming to Australia to live. His philatelic interests embraced postal stationery of Victoria and Mauritius, and Cape of Good Hope Triangular stamps. He resigned from the Society about eight years ago. Bernard's engaging and friendly manner will be remembered by many members.

Society members to exhibit at RPSL

Three RPSV members will present exhibits to the Royal Philatelic Society London during 2012. **Geoff Lewis** will show "Philippines; Cuba; New Orleans; Inwards to Spain; 1836 Anglo-French Postal Treaty" on 1 March. **Arthur Gray** presents "Australian Commonwealth: Federation to the end of the George V Reign" on 12 April, followed by a second display "Australian Commonwealth: George VI and Elizabeth II selected issues to 2000" on 26 April.

100 YEARS & 50 YEARS AGO

100 YEARS AGO

Under the heading "The Strain on Collecting" *The Australian Philatelist*, October 1911 discussed a long-standing challenge:

"We wrote some time ago that the strain on collectors in trying to keep pace with new issues was becoming an intense one, and that some steps should be taken to relieve it. It is, of course, open to philatelists to confine their collections to certain divisions of the globe only, but if we are to separate them into: 1. Great Britain, her possessions and protectorates; 2. European countries and their possessions; 3. Oceania; 4. North America; 5. South America; 6. all other countries – the collecting of even one of the six groups in its entirety is too great a strain on the ordinary collector. Take, for instance, Gibbons' catalogue part 1: We find that Great Britain has 663 original issues and varieties enumerated; British possessions outside of Australasia, 8,754; Australia and New Zealand, 3,338; and protectorates and joint controls, 1,510; a total of British Empire stamps of 14,265.

50 YEARS AGO

In *Philately from Australia*, September 1961, Editor Horrie Chisholm discussed the remarkable coincidence of 20th century stamp printers in Australia and New Zealand both being named "John Ash" and not being related to each other. John Ash (Australia) was 33 years a stamp printer and he was head of his branch from 1927 until his retirement in 1940. John Ash (New Zealand) was 40 years a stamp printer and he was head of his branch from 1954 until his retirement in 1960. Before emigrating from England, John Ash (Australia) was printing manager of De La Rue. John Ash (New Zealand) joined the Government Printing Office in Wellington, working in the stamp printing branch for his entire career. During the 1930s, a number of New Zealand's Health, air mail and Express Delivery stamp dies and plates were made under the direction of John Ash in Melbourne and the stamps printed by John Ash Wellington.



Royal News

Letter to the Editor,

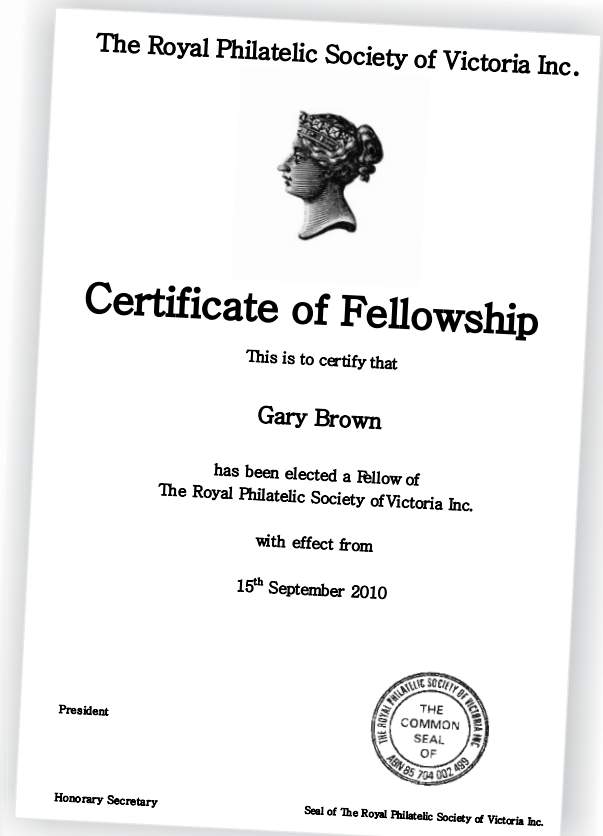
The First Stanley Gibbons Catalogue

I was most interested to see the interesting article *Stanley Gibbons Catalogues from 1865 to 1915* by Graeme Kenneth Loyer in PfA March 2011, pages 13 to 19.

I need to correct Mr Loyer's statement that three copies of the first catalogue dated November 1865 exist. It is in fact two copies that exist both printed on green paper, one is in the United States and the other is in the Crawford Library at the British Library. Shelfmark: Crawford 247 (1). The Crawford Library copy was acquired from J K Tiffany (1842–1897) of the United States in 1901, as part of the Tiffany philatelic library, by the 26th Earl of Crawford (1847–1913) who bequeathed it to the British nation. The copy that he reports as in the ownership of Stanley Gibbons is in fact an undated proof on white paper. This was, until acquired by Stanley Gibbons, in the collection of my good friend Victor Short, FRPSL and I remember examining it with him together with the Crawford Library copy, in my office at the British Library, to establish if it was a proof for the November edition, or one (otherwise unknown) of earlier date, or later than November. This was never resolved.

I hope that this may be of interest.

David R Beech, FRPSL
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SOCIETY SYLLABUS

October 2011

- 4 (Tue) 1 p.m. Daytime Meeting
- 12 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
- 20 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Kouang-Tcheou-Wan, a French Colony in China: Peter Leitch**
- 29 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library afternoon, incorporating Circuit Book Bonanza

November 2011

- 8 (2nd Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting
- 9 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

17 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Errors of the Australian Colonies: Gary Diffen**

26 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library afternoon

December 2011

- 6 (Tue) 1 p.m. Daytime Meeting
- 14 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
- 15 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **President's Social Evening**
 (Members invited to bring a guest)
- 29 (Thu) No Evening Meeting
- 31 (Sat) No Library Afternoon

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Australian Colonies

to be sold at Public Auction in Melbourne on Friday 23rd September 2011



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Barred Numerals



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Victorian
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