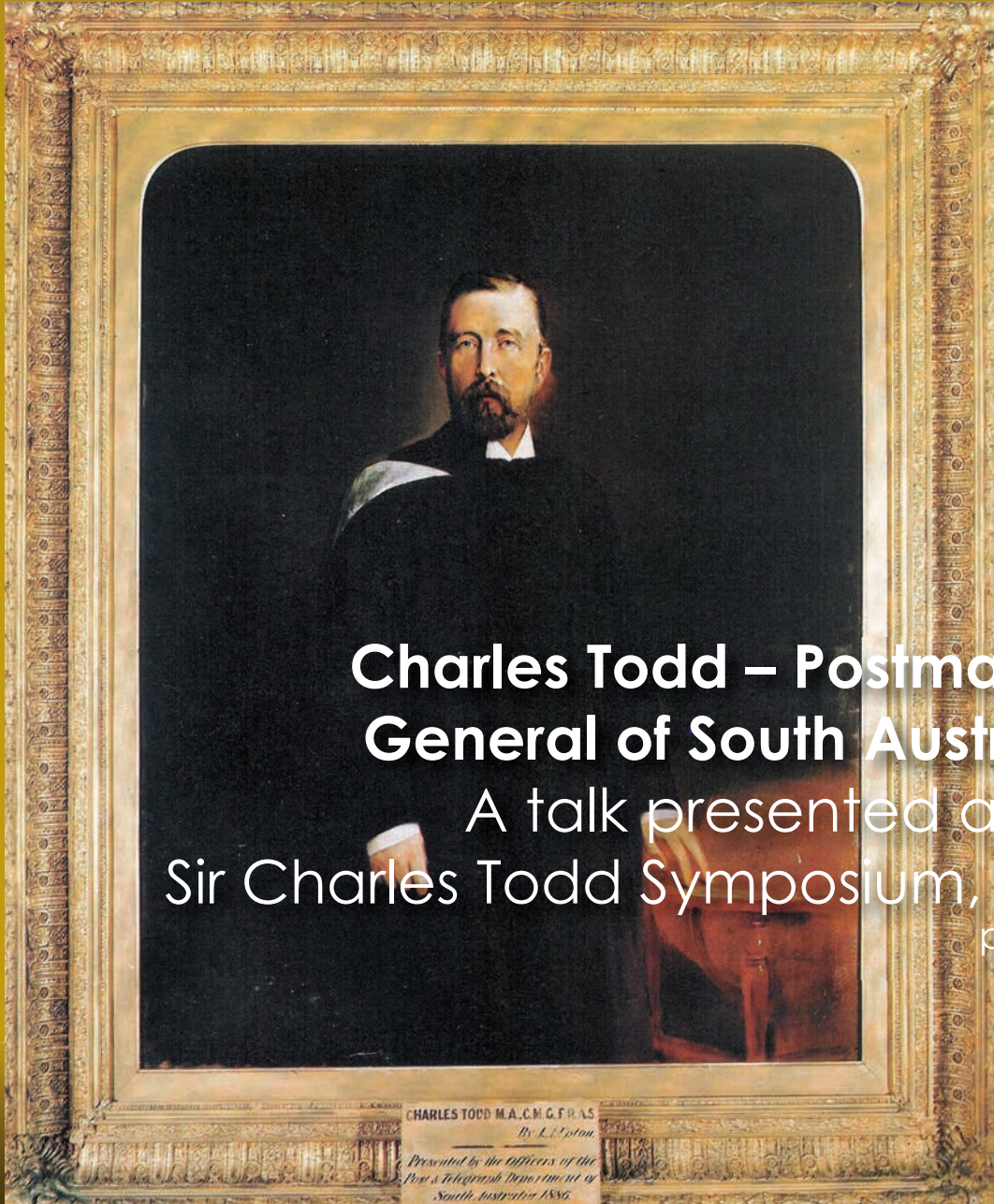




Philately *from* Australia

Journal of the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY of VICTORIA Inc



**Charles Todd – Postmaster-
General of South Australia:**
A talk presented at the
Sir Charles Todd Symposium, 2012
page 49



**Mercury, Messenger of the Gods,
in the Service of the Australian
Post Office.**
page 42



APTA
Auction
House
of the Year
2012



PHOENIX

Auction No.26 - Saturday 7th December.
in our Melbourne Auction Rooms commencing at 10:00am



5/- Bridge Imprint Block of 6 MUH



UNIQUE 1/2d Roo+1/2d Tas Embossed
Wrapper cut-out
Previously unknown!!



£1 Robes on 'Smythe' Registered Cover



1885 NSW Contingent in Sudan

We are actively seeking material for all our auctions. Contact us to discover our attractive vendor terms.
To request a copy of our catalogue please contact us with your details.

PhoenixAuctions.com.au



Phoenix Auctions Pty Ltd · Auction Rooms: Level 2, 170 Queen Street, Melbourne. Australia.
Postal Address: GPO Box 4346, Melbourne. Vic. 3001. Australia. · ABN: 92 132 987 663
P: +61 3 8682 9876 · F: +61 3 8677 2858 · E: phoenix@phoenixauctions.com.au

Torsten Weller Postal History, Postmarks & Postcards

Visit www.torstenweller.com to browse through 15,000+ items like these –
(if you do not have internet access, please write or fax and advise us of your interests to receive suitable photocopies)



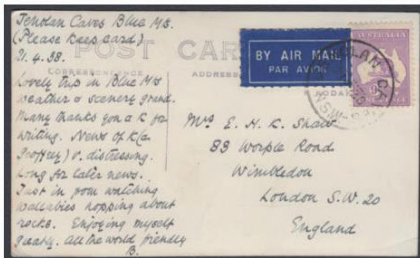
Queensland 1875 to England "via Torres Straits"



NSW 1890 Jubilee 2d postal card uprated but taxed



Victoria 1900 Boer War cover with 1d Postage Due



Australia 1938 postcard airmail to UK with 9d Roo



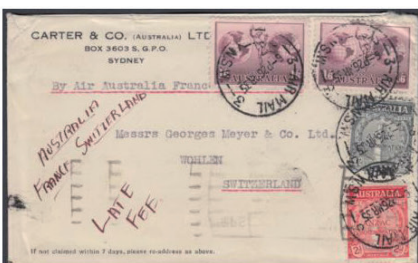
Australia 1935 KGV 2d env via internal US airmail



Australia 1963 Business Reply fee paid 6d Anteatr



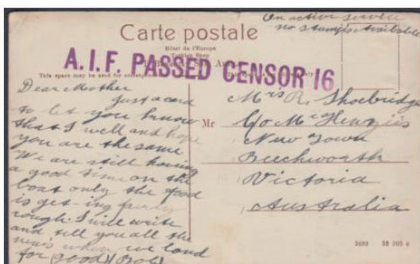
Australia 1935 KGV 2d red Danish postage due



Australia 1935 airmail to Switzerland 1/- ANZAC



Australia 1941 Dunera Intermee Clipper airmail to UK



Australia 1914 postcard from troopship at Aden



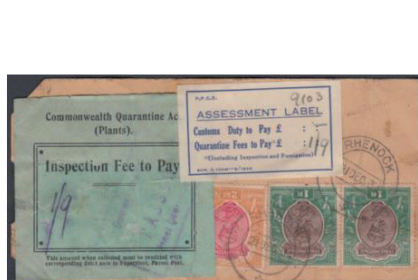
Australia 1940 from Palestine RECEIVED TORN



Australia 1945 KGV 5 1/2d Reg Env RAAF Darwin



South Africa 1924 Australia KGV 1/2d orange Due



India 1934 Parcel Australia Quarantine Fee labels



Canada 1940 Tatts "Suspected ... fraudulent" cachet

We invite you to visit our booth at Stampex, Westpex, Sindelfingen and all major Australian shows



Torsten Weller

Office: 1000 Glenhantly Road
Caulfield South, Vic 3162, Australia
Phone: +61 3 9571 1243
Fax: +61 3 9571 1253
Email: torsten@torstenweller.com

WANTED TO BUY

I am a keen buyer of Australian & World-wide
Covers & Postmarks, including better single items,
archives & estates, as well as collections & exhibits.
Contact me for a free & confidential assessment.

Philately *from* Australia

Contents

- 35 Editorial
- 36 Don Napier's 50 Years of membership
- 37 Election of new Society Fellows
- 37 Vale Vic Walker
- 38 Errors of Western Australia: Gary Diffen
- 41 Awards for RPSV members
- 42 Mercury, Messenger of the Gods, in the service
of the Australian Post Office
Eric J Frazer
- 48 100 Years and 50 Years ago
- 49 Charles Todd – Postmaster-General of South Australia
Martin Walker
- 54 Book Review
Bill Lloyd-Smith
- 56 Royal News

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc. is not responsible for opinions expressed by contributors in this journal, nor do the views of contributors necessarily reflect the policy of the Society or the members of its Council. Every reasonable effort is made to check the accuracy of information published in the journal, but the Society cannot be held responsible for any inaccuracies or for any consequences arising from the publication of inaccurate information. Acceptance of an advertisement does not necessarily mean endorsement of the product or service. The Society has the right to refuse any advertisement without giving a reason.

Editorial

This edition of *PfA* combines the June and September editions, which has been necessitated by circumstances. The December 2013 edition will be published, as usual, and during 2014 we will adhere to publishing quarterly editions.

As editor, I face a difficult challenge of supervising production of *PfA* while being in full-time employment. Unfortunately, the challenge in recent months has been too great, and the journal's timely appearance was not sustained. It is the first time *PfA* has not been published four times in a year.

I am stepping down as editor, this being my final edition. I have served since mid-2008, and also for a two-year period from 2000 to 2002, making a total of seven years in the editor's role.

The new *PfA* editor is Dr Eric Frazer. He is a retired CSIRO scientist and author of two published philatelic works – a comprehensive list of Post Office labels and a list of forms used by postal staff. He has also written articles for *PfA* based on extensive archival research, including handling of children's Santa mail (*PfA*, June 2012), and, in this edition, usage of the Mercury symbol by the Post Office. Eric brings to the editor's role significant skills.

Bill Lloyd-Smith and I will be assistant editors and we will continue to be regular contributors of articles. Gary Diffen takes up the role of *PfA* advertising manager.

Hopefully, the new *PfA* team will provide a good basis for the journal's future success. *PfA* is 65 years old next year and it has long been a leader in publishing philatelic research. My last plea is for *PfA* contributors to continue supporting the journal and for prospective contributors to have a go. The new editor has indicated he is willing to receive contributions in rough form, which can be "knocked into shape" as articles. Anyone with a little knowledge can be a contributor.

Richard Breckon

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.

Purves House
303 High Street
ASHBURTON VIC 3147

General correspondence:

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.
PO Box 490
ASHBURTON VIC 3147
Australia

TEL: (03) 9885 1483 (answering service)

Business Manager (sale of publications): Peter LEITCH

C/o Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.
PO Box 490
ASHBURTON VIC 3147
Australia

Email: pleitch@inet.com.au
TEL: (03) 9571 3686

Philately from Australia Committee:

Richard BRECKON (Chairman and Editor),
Bill LLOYD-SMITH (Assistant Editor),
John RENNIE
and Joe EDWARDS

Editorial contributions:

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

Closing dates for submissions

December 2013 *PfA*:

Editorial: (Closed)
Advertising: 29 November 2013

March 2014 *PfA*:

Editorial: 31 January 2014
Advertising: 7 February 2014

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**

Don Napier's 50 Years of membership

Nineteen members and guests gathered at the Melbourne Savage Club on Friday, 19 July to commemorate the 50th anniversary of Life Member Don Napier joining the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Our newest 50-year member joined in July 1963, just a few months prior to the staging of MIPEX, Melbourne's International Philatelic Exhibition.

Those attending the dinner to celebrate Don's milestone were Frank & Karen Pauer, Gary Brown, Charles & Stephanie Bromser, John Sinfield, Gary Watson, Mark Diserio, Bernard Beston, Max Watson, Edward Brentnall, John Boykett, Jon & Lesley Fladeby, Ronnie Winchester, Richard Breckon, Ken Scudder and Sean Burke.

Sean Burke presented the main address. He referred to Don's higher attributes, which fall outside those of "the many who are not blessed by doubt and the many who are challenged by a lack of presentation skills." Don delights in the company of others and in life-long learning. He is encouraging to newer collectors, especially "lesser mortals who do not collect Rhodesia."

Don's career as a Quantity Surveyor has taken him to Northern Rhodesia and Jamaica, so that today Rhodesia (the "Double Heads" issues), British Africa airmails and Jamaica postal history are Don's principal fields of collecting. He is a longstanding member of the Rhodesia Study Circle and notably eight RSC members were present at the dinner. Our UK member (and a leading RSC identity), Colin Hoffman, sent a special message of greeting read out at the dinner.

As Sean observed, clubs flourish through the keenness of volunteers, and Don's record at the RPSV is a distinguished one. He is a past president, secretary, treasurer, secretary to the Expert Committee, chairman of the Publications Committee, and of the House

Committee; trustee of 6 Avoca Street; and a leading player in the acquiring and outfitting of Purves House.

In reply, Don thanked Sean for his very kind words on "the centenary of my philatelic career." Don recalled that when he joined in 1963 Peter Jaffé was deputed to mentor him, and that Myra Farley and Joyce Buchanan were supportive, too. In that era, the RPSV was largely governed by three members, Bill Purves, John Gartner and Eric Creed, who got together for a weekly lunch to discuss Society business. As Don ruefully recalled, during his two, annual terms as president he only received one invitation to the weekly lunch.

Don mentioned his satisfaction at being able to overcome the shortfalls of 6 Avoca Street ("the meeting room was too cramped and the Council room was too big") by moving into Purves House, which is much more suited to the Society's needs. Don referred to the efforts of Max and Helen Watson in locating our new premises. Our Society, as Don observed, is going from strength to strength.

Thirty six years ago, Don made his inaugural entry into exhibiting at the New Zealand exhibition, PANPEX '77. He is known to express cautious views about the general expertise of philatelic judges. To illustrate the point, Don entertained his audience with a couple of facile comments judges have made about his exhibits.

Our president, Frank Pauer, presented Don with a dinner menu signed by everyone present. Further remarks were contributed by Ronnie Winchester (to whom Don once gave a folder of Rhodesia Double Heads to encourage him) and by Bernard Beston.

Don still possesses his first stamp album, acquired about 70 years ago with each stamp numbered progressively.



Election of new Society Fellows

Congratulations are due to the Society's newest Fellows, who were announced at the Annual General Meeting on 19 September:

- **Malcolm GROOM, FRPSL** (Tas.), who served as President of AUSTRALIA 2013 and Pacific Explorer 2005, Australia's most recent World Stamp Exhibitions.
- **Arthur GRAY, FRPSL** (NSW), whose ground-breaking exhibits of Australian Commonwealth have won Large Gold medals at World Philatelic Exhibitions over the past few years.
- **Stephanie BROMSER** (Vic.), one of Victoria's leading philatelic identities, having served as President of Melbourne Stampshow 2009. (Stephanie's husband Charles is a Fellow, so we have the first husband-and-wife Fellows in the Society.)

The three new Fellows join 17 existing Fellows, who have been appointed since the award was inaugurated in 2010. Any ordinary member of the Society may become a Fellow who has:

- Performed meritorious work for the benefit of the Society, or
- Who has performed meritorious work for the benefit of philately, or
- Who has written and published books which are for the benefit of philately, or
- Who has consistently displayed at National or International stamp exhibitions at the level of a Large Vermeil medal, and
- Has been a financial Ordinary Member of the Society for a minimum period of eight years.

Fellows may use the designation FRPSV as long as they remain financial members of the Society. Life Members of the Society (LMRPSV) are not eligible to be elected Fellows, Life Membership being considered a higher award.

Vale Vic Walker 1944–2013

RPSV member Victor George Walker died in Melbourne on 25 September at the age of 69, after a long illness. He was a leading member of the philatelic trade and an active contributor to Melbourne's stamp scene. Growing up in London, Vic decided to enter the stamp trade after leaving school, choosing the most recognised stamp firm in the world – Stanley Gibbons in the Strand. The firm's global reach allowed Vic to gain a wide knowledge of the industry. When Stanley Gibbons decided to establish a presence in Australia Vic was appointed to carry out the task. Setting up premises in Melbourne in 1978, Vic quickly gained a reputation among Australian philatelists and traders for his skills and integrity. Together with his wife Lyndel, Vic remained the face of "SG" until 1991, when the business was sold. Branching out into independent trading, Vic and Lyndel managed a stamp shop in Melbourne for several years. Later, Vic's expertise was put to use working for several leading traders, including Charles Leski. Vic's deteriorating health forced an early retirement from the stamp trade in 2006.

Vic played an active role in the affairs of the Australasian Stamp Traders' Association (APTA) and the Victorian Philatelic Council (VPA). He served as Treasurer for the national-level exhibition, Melbourne Stampshow in 2002. His own philatelic interests embraced postcards and the postal history of Putney, the London suburb where he grew up. In August 2010, Vic was given the VPC Award of Merit "for his many contributions to the development and support of organised philately." His citation for this award mentioned that those who knew Vic were "quick to comment that he has always been willing to pitch in and help in any way he could."

Vic was a friendly man who was always ready to chat about stamps. He will be much missed by the many collectors who came to know him in Australia and in England. He is survived by Lyndel, his son Robert, Emily and granddaughter Lucy-Jazz.

RB



Errors of Western Australia

Western Australia is dominated by watermark errors throughout all printings from the imperforates to the federal period. There are only two major imperforate between errors; one not seen since the Pack sales of 1944; and the other not seen since 1917, the existence of which is in doubt. Overall, there are slim pickings for collectors in this colony, however, we will examine two of the major errors, and investigate new opportunities for the eager philatelist.

The first important error of Western Australia is the 1857 2d Hillman “Printed Both Sides”, SG 15a and 16a. This is a fairly common error in imperforate condition and used examples appear quite regularly in local auction catalogues, printed on both the “red” and “Indian red” papers, although the latter is a much scarcer variety than the catalogue indicates. This error was first reported in the *Philatelic Record* in March 1881 and listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1892. The second printing on the reverse always shows a clear, flat washed out appearance. However, collectors should be aware that it is found in two different formats:— the error being printed upright on the reverse, and inverted. I have not done enough analysis to ascertain if one version is more prevalent than the other, but each variant appears to be readily available. This a rare stamp if rouletted (SG 20a). There is a lot of conjecture regarding the rouletting of the early Western Australian stamps, so that genuine examples of SG 20a are difficult to certify.

Although imperforate used examples are readily obtainable, it is a rarity in unused condition with only two examples recorded. Fig 1 is the front of an unused example which last came to public auction at a general Harmers of London sale in 1950, with Fig 2 showing the upright double printing on the reverse. Unused examples of this stamp were absent from all the major Western Australian collections, including Chadwick, Gartner, Austin, Juhl and Walkley. The other unused



Figure 1

yet no others have turned up.

Another major error from this colony is the 1874 “ONE PENNY” on 2d Yellow showing the triple surcharge. Although listed as 67b by Stanley Gibbons in 1903, there does not appear to be any contemporary reports on this stamp until 1922, when Charles



Figure 2

Phillips was writing in a local journal of the disposal of the Duveen collection. Fig 3 shows an example of this stamp, whilst Fig 4 illustrates a close up of the triple surcharge error. It is a rare stamp with ten used examples recorded, including one in the Royal Collection, all cancelled at Greenough or Geraldton. There are a further three examples known with the official puncture. In addition, Stanley Gibbons list two further errors. SG 67a is a “pair, one without surcharge” and 67c “O of One omitted”. Both of these errors are believed not to exist by modern day collectors. Shortly after Charles Phillips

example, badly cut in to and showing the double print on the reverse inverted, was Lot 68 in the Trevor Hiscock sale by Prestige Philately in February 2013. I have always thought that there would be more examples out there,



Figure 3

bought the business of Stanley Gibbons, he embarked on a trip to the United States in 1902 to promote the business and acquire stock. He published both of these errors in the *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* in November 1902 ... and nothing else has been

heard of them since. Each error was listed in the catalogue in 1923. One theory suggests these errors were forgeries given that they were both “discovered” at the same time, however, since there has been no sighting of them, it cannot be proven. The catalogue listing of SG 67a and 67c is one of the most intriguing of the Australian Colonies.

A new discovery in Western Australian errors is Fig 5 showing the 1902 V over Crown watermark 1d Carmine rose with mixed perforations at the left.



Figure 4

This pair is perforated 12½ all round with each stamp showing an additional vertical line of perforations gauging 11, thereby creating the error. It is not listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, although they do list this stamp as a compound perforation (SG 135). It was first listed by Brusden White as W10 in 2004, stating that the only example they were aware of was in the Western Australian Museum in Perth, which was part of the Bromfield collection formed from 1930 to the early 1960s. This pair was also part of the Trevor Hiscock collection sold by Prestige and it appears to be

the only example in private hands. Mixed perforation errors were highly coveted by the older collecting generation, especially from the 1920s to the 1960s.

The highest proportion of errors from Western Australia are watermark varieties, which occur throughout the printings of the stamps of this colony. All the rectangular stamps in the Federal Period from Western Australia are printed with the watermark sideways, and Fig 6 shows the 1902 V over Crown watermark 4d Chestnut with the error, watermark upright. This error was known to collectors in the 1920s and noted in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 1928, before being listed in 1984 as SG 119a. It is a very rare stamp, with six mint examples recorded in institutional collections. I have only recorded this example in mint condition. (One was sold but not photographed in a Robin Linke sale in 2001, which could be this example. Another used stamp is also known.) Given the rarity of this error, I am surprised it is so modestly priced in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. It is much rarer than the watermark upright errors which appear to be more popular, especially the 9d SG 157b. I am always of the belief that more of these watermark errors are lurking, waiting to be discovered ... so be prepared to be surprised.

Whilst we are discussing watermark errors of Western Australia, it is worth reprinting the watermark orientations index so collectors can correctly identify the watermark types. Fig 7 is a table from *The Philatelic Collection of the Western Australian Museum*, 1991, by Brian Pope. The table outlines the watermark variations AS VIEWED FROM THE FRONT OF THE STAMP. It is very important to emphasise the fact that watermark papers, such as CrCC and CrCA, designed for upright format stamps produce sideways as normal on horizontal format stamps. It should also be stressed that the orientations on the chart are the eight possible orientations applicable to all bilaterally asymmetric watermarks derived by rotating clockwise from both Upright and Upright reversed.



Figure 5



Figure 6



In contrast, the Stanley Gibbons catalogue lists their errors as “viewed from the back of the stamp”. This can be very confusing, however, the table is an excellent reference to start with, which can be applied across all of the Australian Colonies. The Western Australia Study Group has done some great pioneering work in listing the watermark errors of their colony, many of which have been recently included in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. I know these errors are not everyone’s cup of tea, however, it provides fertile territory for new discoveries, one of the few areas of study in the Australian Colonies which is yet to be fully explored. I have a theory. Aside from the De La Rue printings,

the watermark orientation errors should appear across nearly all positions in each stamp listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue. It is just a matter of finding them. For example, the 1871 Watermark Crown CC 2d Mauve, error of colour, exists as “Watermark sideways to the right”, and “upright, inverted and reversed”. There goes the theory that all mint examples came from the pane of sixty purchased by Stanley Gibbons in 1879. This is one of the few opportunities collectors have to provide original research, so the challenge is on to see what other watermark errors exist from our western state.

NORMAL							
N	Upright						
E	Sideways right						
S	Upright inverted						
W	Sideways left						
REVERSED							
NR	Upright reversed						
ER	Sideways right reversed						
SR	Upright inverted reversed						
WR	Sideways left reversed						

Figure 7



www.rpsv.org.au

Awards for RPSV Members at THAILAND 2013

Congratulations to RPSV members for their awards at THAILAND 2013. Two members won Large Gold medals: Arthur GRAY and Allan WICHELMAN (Thailand). Four members served on the Jury: Bernard BESTON, Geoff KELLOW, Barry SCOTT (New Zealand) and Stephen SCHUMANN (United States). Ross WOOD served as Australian Commissioner.

THAILAND 2013, World Stamp Exhibition, Bangkok, 2–8 August 2013

Arthur GRAY, The Stamp Booklets of Australia 1904–1973 (Traditional Asia, Oceania & Africa, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95)

Allan WICHELMAN (Thailand), Luxembourg's Coat of Arms Postal Stationery, including the precursors: 1870–1882 (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95)

Phillip LEVINE, Gold Coast to King George V (Traditional Asia, Oceania & Africa, 8 frames): GOLD (90)

Ian MCMAHON, Postal Stationery of Canada issued during the reign of King George VI (Postal Stationery, 8 frames): GOLD (90)

Gary BROWN, Tunisia (Traditional Asia, Oceania & Africa, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

James SHAW, New Zealand ½d Newspapers issues stamps, wrappers, stationery postal usages 1873–1905 (Traditional Oceania, Asia & Africa, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

Martin WALKER, South Australia's Revenue stamps 1886–1966 (Revenues, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

Glen STAFFORD, Nicaraguan Postal Stationery – the Seebeck Era (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): VERMEIL (83)

Ray TODD, Bolivia: the Revenues to 1906 (Revenues, 5 frames): VERMEIL (81)

Darryl FULLER, Israeli Revenues (Revenues, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (77)

Ross WOOD, Czechoslovakia Postal Cards 1918–38 (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (77)

Ian MCMAHON, "The Postal Stationery Collector" (Philatelic Literature): LARGE SILVER (77)

Jeff TRINIDAD, Latvia 1918–1922 (Traditional Europe, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (75)

One Frame:

James SHAW, New Zealand 1d Stamp Duty 1873 Issues and Usages 1900–1908: 81

James SHAW, New Zealand Decimals "Errors by Design" 1967–2010: 77

AUSTRALIA 2013, World Stamp Expo, Melbourne, 10–15 May 2013

Two RPSV members were omitted in the list of awards published in the March–May 2013 *PfA*: **Kay Gee Vee** (pseudonym) Australia King George 1d 1914–1937 (Traditional National, 8 frames): GOLD (92); and **Peter RONNE** Genesis of Photolithography Stamps of Australia 1977–87 (Traditional National, 8 frames): VERMEIL (83). We apologise for these oversights.



Mercury, Messenger of the Gods, in the Service of the Australian Post Office

Mercury, Messenger of the Gods, began his service with the *Australian Post Office* in 1934 with the issue of the 1/6d airmail stamp. Dedicated service over 15 years saw him recalled for the new 1/6d airmail stamp design in 1949. In parallel with Mercury's postal duties, he had a long career on the *Post Office Communications Crest* which was used on advertisements, stationery, and first day covers. In the final crest design, Mercury graduated to the top of the globe befitting his worldwide influence. Mercury also saw service in a wide range of postal ephemera including badges, plaques and tableware. After a career spanning over 40 years, Mercury retired in July 1975 when the *Australian Post Office* was split into two separate bodies. Over the years, he was closely identified with the postal service and, at times, became the humorous target of cartoons and at least one newspaper article.

Introduction

The Greek God Hermes, whom the Romans called Mercury, was the general messenger of the Gods of Olympus and, specifically, the courier for Zeus. In iconography, he has three attributes: a Petasus, or protective traveller's hat which sometimes is given wings; a Caduceus, or herald's staff (with two snakes and sometimes surmounted by wings); and Talaria, or winged sandals (sometimes winged feet). [1]

Mercury's image as a speedy messenger makes him an ideal allegorical representation of a postal system. Two recent articles have examined in detail the use of the Mercury (or Hermes) symbol in relation to postal services and philately [1, 2]. The best-known representation of Mercury in art is the bronze sculpture by Giovanni da Bologna in the *National Museum of Bargello* in Florence. Mercury is positioned on one foot creating the illusion that he is flying (see Figure 1). The Giovanni Mercury and its variations are the most common representations of the messenger of the gods on postage stamps [2].



Figure 1

Mercury (bronze statuette) by Giovanni da Bologna (ca 1564-80) in the National Museum of Bargello, Florence, Italy. (Image courtesy of Mary Ann Sullivan, Bluffton University)

The Australian Post Office's involvement with Mercury seems to have begun in the earlier days of the NSW administration. The head of Mercury appears on a keystone on the second floor of the George Street frontage of the Sydney GPO (see Figure 2). The first stage of this building was completed in 1874 [3] and Mercury, in winged cap, was seen as representing the Post Office and the Telegraph Office [4].

The Airmail Stamps: 1934 & 1949

It was to be about sixty years after the opening of the Sydney GPO before Mercury appeared on an Australian stamp. The stimulus was the anticipated commencement of



Figure 2

The Mercury keystone on the second floor of the George Street frontage of the Sydney General Post Office.

the regular airmail service between England and Australia in late 1934. Following rejection of some initial sketches, the Postmaster-General's Department instructed the Note Printing Branch (Commonwealth Bank of Australia) to adapt the imagery of the 1931 6d *Air Mail Service* stamp by separation of the two hemispheres and substitution of the figure of Mercury for the *Southern Cross* aeroplane. The preliminary design was prepared by F.D. Manley of the Note Printing Branch and approved, subject to necessary adjustments, at the end of March 1934; the die was engraved by E. Broad and F.D. Manley [5]. Interestingly, *The Australian Stamp Monthly* of 1 July 1934 reported that the designer was Mr H.P. Brown, Director General of Posts and Telegraphs who "has prepared an allegorical subject for reproduction" [6].



The 1931 6d airmail stamp, the 1934 1/6d airmail stamp and the 1949 1/6d airmail stamp.

Figure 3

Certainly, the design was well received as the following newspaper report shows [7]:

I have before me the latest stamp issued by our Postmaster-General's Department in connection with the new aerial mail service from Australia to England. The design is a very artistic one, fittingly colored, and very distinct. It bears the two hemispheres, upon which the respective continents are very vividly and attractively shown. It also depicts Mercury, the messenger of the Gods of ancient Greece who, with his winged staff, sandals and helmet, flies from one hemisphere to the other; what a beautiful imagination the ancients had when they conceived the mythological which to-day has become reality. The design of the new stamp is one of the best that has been issued by any Government, and it not only



Figure 4

The Regimental Badge of the Australian Corps of Signals. (Image courtesy of Michael Martin, The British & Commonwealth Military Badge Forum: <http://www.britishbadgeforum.com>).

charms the philatelist, but it appeals also to the general public.

In 1949, a smaller stamp showing the figure of Mercury superimposed on one globe was introduced to replace the 1934 design. The incentive behind its issue was the desire to bring the size of this denomination into accordance with the standard size adopted for the intermediate denominations, 1/3d up to 2/-. It is unknown where the idea for the new motif originated although possibilities include the Stamp Advisory Committee, officers in the Postmaster-General's Department, and artists at the Note

Printing Branch. The stamp designer and engraver was again F.D. Manley of the Note Printing Branch [5]. In both designs, the figure of Mercury is the same and appears to be based on Giovanni's sculpture. Figure 3 shows the three airmail stamps produced in 1931, 1934 and 1949 for comparison.

The Post Office Communications Crest

The *Australian Stamp Monthly* of 1 November 1934 reported that the 1/6d stamp was about to be issued (on 1 December 1934). As an aside, it also reported that the figure of Mercury "has recently been adopted as the central feature of a new badge for the Commonwealth Postal Department" [8]. Thus, one suspects that Mr Brown probably had a part in both design processes. Perhaps he was influenced by the many stamp designs incorporating Mercury produced over the years or knew that Mercury was used on the first seal of the United States Post Office Department back in 1782 [1]. One wonders whether he was also aware that Mercury had already been adopted for the *Australian Corps of Signals* regimental badge in 1930 [9, 10] following use by the *Royal Corps of Signals* since 1920 [11] (see Figure 4).

The development of the design of the Post Office crest can be followed in the advertisements placed in popular magazines such as *The Australian Women's Weekly* (e.g., [12]) and *Walkabout* (e.g., [13-15]). In fact, the Post Office advertised in the very first issue of *Walkabout* on 1 November 1934 [13]; this predates the public appearance of the Mercury symbol on the 1934 airmail stamp which was issued on 1 December 1934. The crest was circular featuring Giovanni's Mercury surrounded by the wording: *Post Office Communications, Australia* and the Australian Coat of Arms. The more familiar oval crest came into use by 1 July 1935 [14]; the two versions are shown in Figure 5.

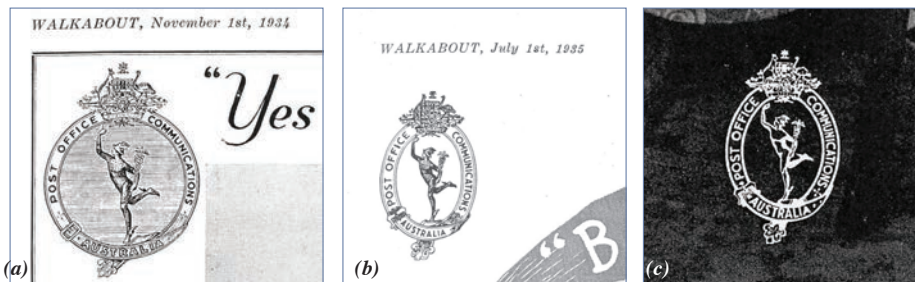


Figure 5

Post Office Communications, Australia crest used in *Walkabout* magazine advertisements: (a) 1 November 1934 [13]; (b) 1 July 1935 [14]; and (c) 1 October 1938 [15]. Reproduced with the permission of Australia Post.

Perhaps one of the most enduring interfaces of the Postmaster-General's Department with the public was the *Post Office Guide* which was issued annually with Monthly Supplements. It contained "particulars of Post Office Rates and Charges and General Information concerning Postal, Telegraph, Telephone, and Wireless Telegraph and Broadcasting Services, also an



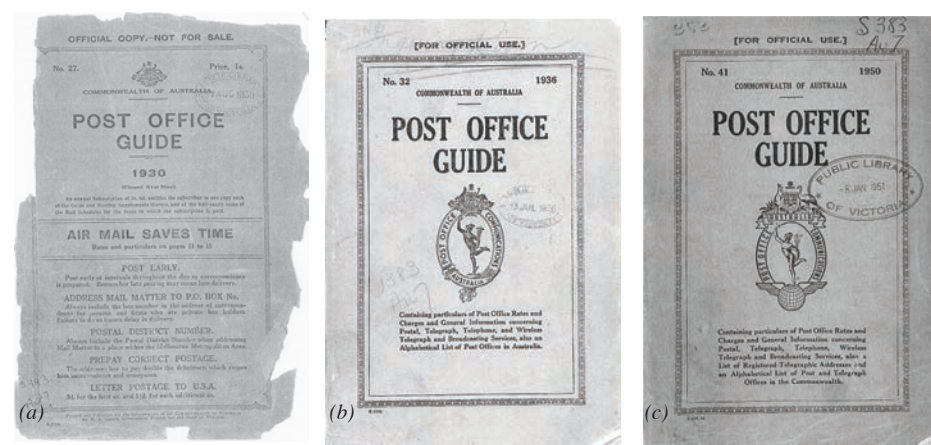
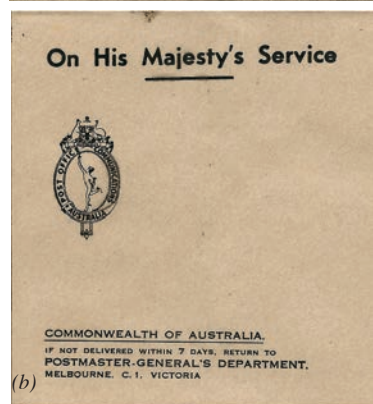
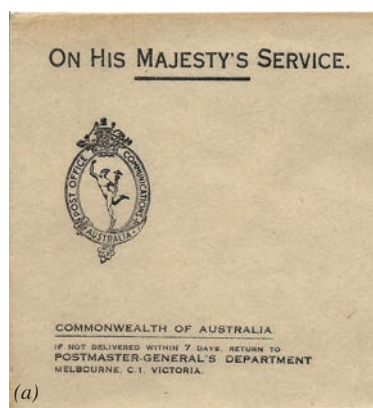


Figure 6

Front Cover of Post Office Guide: (a) 1930 [16]; (b) 1936 [17]; and (c) 1950 [18]. Reproduced with the permission of Australia Post.

Alphabetical List of Post Offices in Australia”. The front cover of the 1930 *Post Office Guide* carried only the Australian Coat of Arms [16]. However, by 1936 the oval Mercury crest occupied a very prominent position on the cover (see Figure 6) [17]. Pre-WWII versions of the *Guide* also contained plate advertisements for particular postal services and these sometimes featured the original oval crest. The 1950 *Post Office Guide* [18] displayed what was to be the final version of the crest with Mercury atop a world globe (see Figure 6). This was also the design adopted for the generic First Day Covers first issued in 1954 (see following section).



(a) and (b) Official envelopes: OHMS Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne, circa 1935-1945; (c) “Mercury – used by APO as a sign of speed in communication, copied from original on 20 September 1937”. (From the collection of the National Archives of Australia; NAA: C4078; N991). Reproduced with the permission of Australia Post.

Figure 7

stationery, posters and other items. Besides the move from circular to oval, other changes in the design apparently occurred in the late 1930s and are best shown by comparing two official envelopes (see Figure 7). The first relates to the scroll at the bottom of the crest which has been made more angular and less ornate. The second relates to Mercury himself; his arm has been straightened somewhat and the Caduceus is less prominent. The “straight arm” Mercury is shown in a 1937 Australian Post

Office image preserved in the *National Archives of Australia* (see Figure 7).

It appears that the modified crest was also used on posters, memos and letterhead paper from the late 1930s to the late 1940s. Some examples are shown in Figure 8. A small booklet entitled, *Romance of Post Office Communications*, published in 1953 also displayed the final “Mercury on Globe” crest and is shown in Figure 9.

The First Day Covers: 1937-1970

The Australian Post Office’s first official First Day Cover was the “Coronation” issue of May 1937. The September 1974 issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin* gives some of the background [19]:

The decision to issue the “Coronation” first day covers was made in March 1937, and in view of the very short “lead time” and as the relevant file contains some rough pencil sketches for the cover design it would appear that the layout and wording were prepared quickly, within the department.

Given the above, it is unsurprising that the Mercury crest was swung into action (see Figure 10). Two subsequent covers with different designs were issued in October 1937 and July 1940, but then wartime paper shortages intervened. From 1954, until the re-introduction of individual-issue covers in 1970, a standard First Day Cover featuring the “Mercury on Globe” crest was provided by the Department. This design was issued in two colour schemes which are also shown in Figure 10; the Mercury symbol itself was still closely based on the Giovanni sculpture (very similar to the airmail stamps).

Mercury Unleashed and Other Influences

On at least two occasions (once, officially), Mercury was unleashed from the crest and allowed to roam freely. The first time was very early in his Post Office career. The *Post Office Guide* of 1938 contained a full-page plate advertisement featuring Mercury in the Telegraph Service (see Figure 11). Surprisingly, perhaps, the *Post Office Express Messenger Service* had been given no extra help in delivering those “Specially Urgent Letters & Parcels”

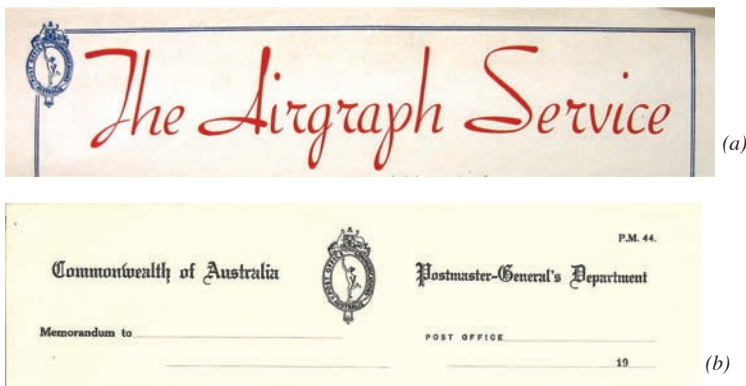


Figure 8

(a) *The Airgraph Service*, P.M.G. Poster No. 181 (H.E. Daw, Government Printer, Melbourne), circa 1942 From the collection of the National Archives of Australia (NAA: MP404/1; 1945/5495); (b) *Postmaster's Official Memo (Form P.M. 44; Sch. C. 2308-2/39, Feb 1939)*. Reproduced with the permission of Australia Post.

in 1936 (see Figure 11). It was not until 14 August 1950, with the issue of the "New 8½d Stamp", that Mercury began (unofficially) assisting the delivery of "Express Delivery Letters". A privately produced First Day Cover announcing "New Postal Rates for Registered Letters & Express Delivery Letters" featured a very striking and athletic Mercury going about his work (see Figure 12).

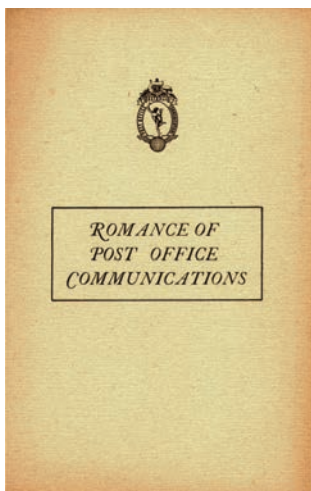


Figure 9

Romance of Post Office Communications, Postmaster-General's Department, Australia, 1953 (Collection: Powerhouse Museum, Sydney; Booklet 98/2/77-4/3; <http://from.ph/163049>).

Mercury's influence seemed pervasive, particularly in the early years. He even had a subtle influence in the delivery of telegrams. The *Mothers' Day Greetings Telegram* form (TG42F) and envelopes (TG65F & TG65M) featured a (telegram) messenger boy running with, or perhaps being carried along by, an out-sized winged envelope (see Figure 12). These forms were first issued in May 1939 and finally withdrawn in 1942 [20], perhaps as the paper shortages of WWII began to take effect.

Other Official Uses of the Crest

Mercury and the *Post Office Communications* crest have been used on a variety of non-paper items such as badges, plaques and tableware; some examples are shown in Figure 13. The *Post Office Communications* badge employs two "straight-arm" Mercurys; unfortunately, the year of production is unknown. The circa 1930's art-deco bronze plaque measures 39 x 70 cm and weighs slightly over 19 kg. It comes from a demolished Post Office in the Ballarat/Bendigo area of Victoria [21]. The crest on the butter dish suggests that it was in use in the late 1940s/early 1950s; the back reads "Maddock Ultra Vitrified England" [22]. From 1874 the Sydney GPO contained a section reserved for dining



Figure 10

The "Coronation" first day cover issued in May 1937 and the generic design in use from 1954 to 1970 which was issued in two colour schemes.

rooms and cafeteria to cater for staff needs and the shift work nature of many of the operations. The designs on the crockery reflect the changing nature of postal logos, from the earlier winged Hermes to later, more plain types [23].

Post Office Humour & Mercury's Retirement

It is apparent that, over the years, the Mercury symbol and crest became closely identified with the Australian Post Office, for better or for worse! Cartoonists could not resist the temptation for caricature and Mercury has been shown in a number of very different guises (see Figures 14-16). The



Figure 11

Plate Advertisements: *Speed Your Communications by Telegraph* (Post Office Guide No. 34 1938; facing p 286) and *Post Office Express Messenger Service* (Post Office Guide No. 32 1936, facing p 124). Reproduced with the permission of Australia Post.

first cartoon was published in August 1975 and relates to the division of the Australian Post Office into two separate bodies – the *Australian Postal Commission* (*Australia Post*) and the *Australian Telecommunications Commission* (*Telecom Australia*) [24]. Mercury is shown as a rather flabby figure apparently being forced from the now empty *Post Office Communications* crest at his feet. This marked





Figure 12

that is, perhaps, why the P.M.G. has a winged staff. It is not called Caduceus—not by the general public, at any rate. It is called a variety of names, but never Caduceus. It is in the main a faithful and efficient staff, though its wings sometimes appear to be penguin’s wings. Strange to say, it is that portion of the staff which literally flies that is most frequently behind time. English air-mail due in Melbourne on Friday arrived yesterday, that due yesterday is “expected” to arrive to-morrow, and that due to-day will arrive to-morrow. Perhaps there is method in this madness. Certainly postal delays lend point to the P.M.G.’s slogan: “Why not send a telegram?”

A Summary of the Evolution of the Mercury Design

The design began with Giovanni’s Mercury on the 1934 1/6d airmail stamp. Mercury was also incorporated into the *Post Office Communications Crest* which changed quickly from a circular to an oval design. Later, Mercury became “straight-armed” and the bottom scroll of the crest was simplified. The final version again featured Giovanni’s Mercury, but perched atop a globe in recognition of his worldwide influence. The major changes during the evolution of the design over the twenty years from 1934 are shown in Figure 17.

Acknowledgements

The author wishes to acknowledge Richard Breckon for access to National Philatelic Collection File Summary Reports, Max Watson for helpful comments on the draft manuscript and Frances Teasdale for technical reference advice. The author wishes to thank Mary Ann Sullivan (*Bluffton University*), Michael Martin (*The British & Commonwealth Military Badge Forum*), John Watson, Lynette Kaufer (*Penelope’s Hope Chest*), Mrs Teresita Benier, Katie Molnar, Charles Leski Auctions Pty Ltd, the Powerhouse Museum (Sydney), the National Archives of Australia, Australia Post, and Telstra Corporation Ltd for the use of images. Kate Boesen (*National Library of Australia*) and Kevin Leamon (*State Library of New South Wales*) provided invaluable assistance with copyright

Mercury’s official retirement from the Post Office after more than forty years’ service!

The second cartoon is a comment on the introduction of the 18c letter rate (up from 10c) on 1 September 1975 [25]. Mercury is presented as a dedicated servant with a muscular physique providing personalized mail delivery. The third is a deliberate swipe at Post Office inaction in mid-1976. On this occasion, Mercury, in shapeless garb, is apparently asleep on the job in the clouds, possibly awaiting direction from the bureaucracy who are “doing nothing but keeping their fingers crossed” [26].

Perhaps the last word in the present narrative should go to a newspaper article published in June 1939 which suggests the general public’s reservations regarding Mercury’s prowess in delivering the airmail – less than five years after he began work for the Post Office [27]:

MERCURY LOITERS

Mercury, messenger of the gods, had a winged staff called Caduceus. Mercury himself appears on the Postmaster-General’s official crest; and



Figure 13

Post Office Communications badge (Image courtesy: John Watson); Post Office Communications plaque (Image courtesy: Charles Leski Auctions Pty Ltd); Butter dish from GPO Dining Rooms (Image courtesy of Lynette Kaufer, Penelope’s Hope Chest).



Figure 14

OK! OK! I’ll Go!—I’ve still got a job with “Interflora”. Cartoon by Peter Donoghue published in *Telecom* [Australian Telecommunications Commission. Staff Newspaper] No.1 August 1975 [24]; reproduced with conditional permission of Telstra Corporation Ltd.



Figure 15 "For 18 cents, ma'am, one naturally expects a more personalised service . . ."

"For 18 cents, ma'am, one naturally expects a more personalised service . . .". Cartoon by Frank Benier published in the *Daily Mirror* 28 July 1975 [25]; reproduced by permission of Mrs Teresita Benier.



Figure 16

"Of course we do our best to recover the money. We have a whole squad doing nothing but keeping their fingers crossed." Cartoon by George Molnar published in *The Sydney Morning Herald* 13 May 1976 [26]; reproduced by permission of Katie Molnar.

issues. Special thanks in this regard are also due to Abigail Marshall (*Telstra Corporation Ltd*).

This article was inspired by three cartoons featuring Mercury found in a *National Archives of Australia* record

entitled *Australian Post Office - humour* which has recently been digitized [28]. The original newspaper clippings in the file were collected by Australia Post's former Historical Section in Sydney which closed in late 1988.



Figure 17 The evolution of the Mercury design used by the Australian Post Office since 1934 to the mid-1950s.

References

- [1] DeBlois, D., Harris, R.D., Pedersen, S.C., Hermes: Message and Messenger, presented at Winton M. Blount Postal History Symposium, 30 Sept-1 Oct 2010, Smithsonian National Postal Museum, Washington DC. Available at: <http://www.postalmuseum.si.edu/symposium2010/Harris-Hermes.pdf>
- [2] Hughes, W., Classic Stamps Portray Fleet-Footed Mercury, *Scott Stamp Monthly*, Vol. 28 No. 5, May 2010, p 32-37.
- [3] *The City's Centrepiece: The History of the Sydney G.P.O.*, Sydney: Hale & Iremonger, 1988.
- [4] Williams, J. L., Carvings on the G.P.O. Variety and Beauty. They Look Down, But Who Looks Up?, *The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW)*, Saturday 9 July 1938, p 13.
- [5] 1934-48 Mercury and Globes, Issued 1 December 1934 & 1949 Mercury and Globe, Issued 1 September 1949, File Summary Reports, National Philatelic Collection, Australia Post.
- [6] Overseas Airmail Stamp, *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, Vol. V No 7, 1 July 1934, p 192.
- [7] The Stamp Collector, *Sunday Times (Perth, WA)*, Sunday 9 December 1934, p 15.
- [8] Commonwealth Notes; Overseas Air Mail Stamp, *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, Vol. V No 11, 1 November 1934, p 333.
- [9] Naval and Military. Munitions Supply Board. Report for Two Years: Regimental Badges, *The Mercury (Hobart, Tas.)*, Wednesday 14 May 1930, p 3.
- [10] K. R., Militia Uniforms to be Brightened, *The Advertiser (Adelaide, SA)*, Saturday 14 June 1930, p 7.
- [11] Insignia: 42nd Signals Uniform & Insignia, 42 Signal Squadron History, <http://www.kellybadge.co.uk/42sqnhistory/42insignia.htm>. Accessed 6 July 2012.
- [12] [Postmaster-General's Department], Give the Family a Telephone this Christmas, *The Australian Women's Weekly*, Saturday 8 December 1934, p 14.
- [13] [Postmaster-General's Department], "Yes! We had a delightful trip", *Walkabout*, Vol. 1 No 1, 1 November 1934, p 59.
- [14] [Postmaster-General's Department], "Bon Voyage", "Welcome Home", *Walkabout*, Vol. 1 No 9, 1 July 1935, p 5.
- [15] [Postmaster-General's Department], Glad News is Best by Telegram, *Walkabout*, Vol. 4 No 12, 1 October 1938, p 2.
- [16] *Post Office Guide No. 27*, 1930 (C.2725.), Melbourne: Postmaster-General's Department (H.J. Green, Government Printer).
- [17] *Post Office Guide No. 32*, 1936 (C.1583.), Melbourne: Postmaster-General's Department (H.J. Green, Government Printer).
- [18] *Post Office Guide No. 41*, 1950 (C.536/50), Melbourne: Postmaster-General's Department (J.J. Gourley, Government Printer).
- [19] Pre-war Official First Day Covers, *Philatelic Bulletin (Australian Post Office)*, Vol. 22 No 1, Sept. 1974, p 3.
- [20] Hancock, B.J., *Australian Telegram Forms & Envelopes, Part II: Commonwealth of Australia*, Sydney: Cinderella Stamp Club of Australia, 1991, p 304.
- [21] Australia - Auction 332, *Australiana: #297, Live Bid Online*, <http://www.livebidonline.com/catalogues/common/catalogue.php?pagecode=AA446&eventid=332> Accessed 4 August 2012.
- [22] Maddock Vintage Australian Post Office Butter Dish, *Penelope's Hope Chest*, <http://www.penelopeshopechest.com/product/maddock-australian-post-office-butter-dish/>. Accessed 4 August 2012.
- [23] 98/2/14 Crockery and napery from Sydney General Post Office dining rooms, porcelain/cotton, various makers, England/Australia, [1930], *Powerhouse Museum*, <http://www.powerhousemuseum.com/collection/database/?irn=161792>. Accessed 5 August 2012.
- [24] O'Donoghue, P., OK! OK! I'll Go!—I've still got a job with "Interflora", *Telecom [Australian Telecommunications Commission. Staff newspaper]*, No. 1 August 1975.
- [25] Benier, [F.], "For 18 cents, ma'am, one naturally expects a more personalised service . . .", *Daily Mirror (Sydney, NSW)*, Monday 28 July 1975, p 4.
- [26] Molnar, [G.], "Of course we do our best to recover the money. We have a whole squad doing nothing but keeping their fingers crossed.", *The Sydney Morning Herald (NSW)*, Thursday 13 May 1976, p 6.
- [27] Mercury Loiters, *The Argus (Melbourne, Vic.)*, Tuesday 27 June 1939, p 8.
- [28] National Archives of Australia: Postmaster-General's Department, State Administration, New South Wales; C3898, Subject files, alphabetical series, 1856-1988; 33/4, Australian Post Office - humour [Box 957], 1935-1981.



Leski AUCTIONS



£2 Small Multi Wmk MuH

Sold for \$33,000 incl commission

Similar quality material always
sought for future auctions, contact us for
further information and to discuss
your collection

To find out more visit our website:

www.leski.com.au

13 Cato Street, Hawthorn East VIC 3123

PH: (03) 9864 9999 Fax: (03) 9822 2788

contact@leski.com.au

SPECIALIST INSURANCE FOR DEALERS AND COLLECTORS OF PHILATELIC & NUMISMATIC MATERIAL

Through H.W. Wood Australia Pty Ltd

Insurance Brokers

A member of *HW International Group*

- * comprehensive Cover for Competitive premiums
- * Worldwide Facility with clients in 45 countries



H.W. Wood has over 30 years experience in providing specialist insurance for stamp and coin dealers, collectors and auctioneers.

Please contact: **Malcolm Dart**

H.W. Wood Australia Pty Ltd,

617 Glenferrie Road, Hawthorn Vic 3122

Tel: 61 (0)3 9819 9122 Fax: 61 (0)3 9819 9430

Email: mdart@hwwood.net

AFS licence No. 230009 A product disclosure statement can be obtained from our office.

*London • New York • Philadelphia • Toronto
Paris • Cologne • Madrid • Rotterdam • Athens
and affiliates throughout the world.*

Proudly supporting the Philatelic Community.

100 YEARS



50 YEARS AGO

The Australian Philatelist, August 1913, carried a report of the 21st Anniversary Dinner of the Philatelic Society of Victoria at which the Stamp Printer, J.B. Cooke, was a guest of honour. This was around the time a new government had announced their intention to end the Kangaroo stamps:

“Mr Cooke, the Government printer, stated that he had had endless trouble with the Kangaroo stamp. It reminded him of a cat and mouse, and he thought that he had better keep in his hole as long as possible. It was safest. The Kangaroo issue had a clean sheet as regards minor varieties of perforation, shades, flaws in design, etc. He had had 34 years of stamp printing. He thought that the new issue (*i.e. the proposed replacement to the Kangaroo design*) would give general satisfaction. The cutting of the die would be as well done as possible. The appliances in the printing were not to be bettered. He had four machines second to none. There had been a lot of criticism of the paper used for the Kangaroo stamps, but it was an excellent quality and cost more per pound than banknote paper. The mucilage was the best gum arabic, the “gummers”, Messrs. John Jones & Co., of England, being about the best in the world.”

Following the retirement on 22 March 1963 of W.C.G. McCracken as General Manager of the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, *Philately from Australia*, June 1963, carried a brief report of the circumstances behind the discontinuation of personal imprints on Australian stamp sheets:

“It has been suggested that political factors were responsible for the change to ‘Printed by the Authority of the Commonwealth of Australia’ in 1942. Mr McCracken said he had suggested that the printer’s name should be omitted from stamp and banknote plates to save the cost of alteration to plates when another printer took over. The imprint of Mr McCracken, who had been stamp printer for two years at the time of the change, first appeared on the Armed Forces commemoratives of 1940. Mr McCracken received an O.B.E. in the Birthday Honours.”

Charles Todd

– Postmaster-General of South Australia:

A talk presented at the Sir Charles Todd Symposium, 2012



Figure 1

The author addressing the Sir Charles Todd Symposium. (pic. David Figg)

The beginnings of a postal service in South Australia appear to have commenced with the casual appointment of settlers to collect or distribute mail sent on the few ships that visited the fledgling colony. Arrangements became official when Thomas Gilbert, the Colonial Storekeeper, was appointed postmaster of Adelaide on 10 April 1837. As Gilbert was the only postmaster in South Australia he assumed the title of Postmaster-General but he was soon brought back into line by the colonists. Henry Watts was the colony's first actual Postmaster-General, appointed in 1838. He was succeeded by his brother John in 1841 and he remained at the helm until his retirement twenty years later.

Most of the facilities we normally associate with the postal service were established under John Watts. Mail services began to radiate from Adelaide; contracts were made to provide regular communications with Britain and the neighbouring colonies. Postage stamps were issued in 1855 and a money order service commenced in 1859.

J.W. Lewis was elevated from Deputy Postmaster General to the top job in 1861. The 1860s was a decade of expansion in the colony's infrastructure as mining and agriculture developed further and further from Adelaide. This placed a considerable strain on the government purse

and economies were required. The politicians looked for every possible means to save a penny and one of these was to amalgamate departments where practicable.

One of the more obvious amalgamations was that of the Post Office and Telegraph Departments. New South Wales and Victoria had already amalgamated theirs. The government firmly believed great economies could be achieved with amalgamation. There were already many towns in the colony with separate post offices and telegraph stations.

Whilst bricks and mortar savings were obvious so were the savings to be made on salaries. The first salary to be saved was to be that of, either, Lewis, the Postmaster-General, or Charles Todd, the Superintendent of Telegraphs. The government had a dilemma. The politicians gave Todd the reins to the new department and unceremoniously dismissed Lewis. The newspapers had a field day. The highly regarded Todd was seen to be too busy with his telegraph ambitions to be burdened with a four-fold increase in administrative work. The newspapers could not fault Lewis's performance as Postmaster-General and condemned his unworthy dismissal.

The politicians defended their decision believing it was easier for Todd to learn the administration of the postal business than it was for Lewis to learn the technical intricacies of the new science of telegraphy. Lewis's status in the Civil Service was later redeemed when he was appointed head of the Customs Department in May 1870 but the bitter taste of how he lost the Postmaster-Generalship remained.

When Todd became Postmaster-General on 1 January 1870 he inherited a department with 359 employees and 270 post offices which had handled three million letters in the previous year. He also inherited a half-finished General Post Office building.





Figure 2

A portion of the display at the Sir Charles Todd Symposium. (pic. David Figg)

Very shortly after his appointment the Register lampooned his new role with a satirical, but probably accurate, sketch of daily life running the post office department - crisis by crisis. This was not Todd's style at all. He was occupied with planning perhaps the largest enterprise of his life – the Overland Telegraph to Darwin. In order to achieve the telegraph project and to cover his long absences from Adelaide, Todd endowed the deputies of his postal predecessor with greater freedom to manage the department. As far as the day to day operation was concerned this was a sensible move but in terms of guiding the expansion of the post office it proved to be a mistake.

When the new General Post Office was first designed the amalgamation had not been contemplated. When building commenced in 1867, the plans covered only the construction of the building, not the layout of the internal fittings. This was to have been done by PMG Lewis when the time came but he was gone and Todd was on the other side of the continent. The job passed to the architect who travelled to Melbourne to observe the layout of their recently completed GPO. Todd was still on the other side of the continent when the General Post Office opened in May 1872.

After the euphoria of his telegraph achievement had subsided Todd had a new challenge. The business of the post office had grown but no-one had planned for the increase. The staff were over-worked and the new GPO turned out to be poorly laid out. One of the consequences of the amalgamation was to place the telegraph office into the new building, squeezing the operations of the post office into the remaining space. The grumblings of the staff grew.

When two mail robberies were executed with complete success for the criminals the grumblings of the public

caused the Government to act. In 1874, Todd and his staff were brought before a Government Commission to Inquire into the Workings of the Post Office.

Todd then turned what could have been a disaster for his reputation and career into a triumph. Whilst the heads of all the various departments of the post office were naturally called before the inquiry, Todd allowed, and perhaps encouraged, lowly ranked staff to describe their lot in life.

William Chapman, one of the letter carriers, gave evidence to the Inquiry to explain that the business of the Post Office had grown without a sufficient increase in the staff to handle it. Despite the new Civil Service Act allowing government

servants three weeks leave per annum the letter carriers were unable to have any holidays. There was no-one to do the work if they were away. Chapman explained that in the 21 years he had been working at the post office he had never managed to be away for a whole week. The Inquiry received a similar submission from the staff of the letter branch pointing out they have only two days off each year – Good Friday and Christmas Day.



Figure 3

Portrait of Sir Charles Todd by J.A. Upton presented by Officers of the Post and Telegraph Department of South Australia in 1886. (Courtesy, Australia Post)

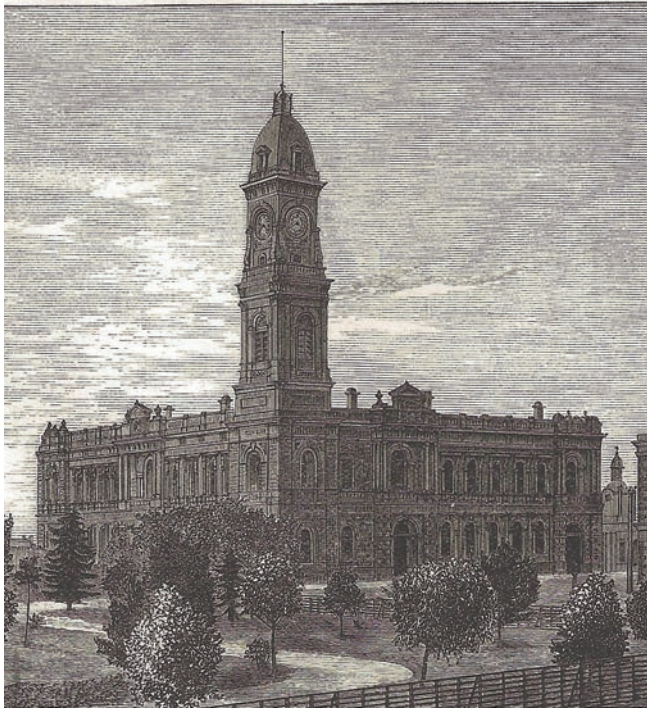


Figure 4

1870s woodcut of the Adelaide General Post Office opened in 1872. This scene must be after the clock was installed in 1876.

The report of the Inquiry dealt with seventeen major topics. Todd responded to each and every one of the Inquiry's findings accepting full responsibility for the situation. His plans for a reformation within the Post Office appealed to the committee and saved the day. Working conditions improved for the staff operating the postal services and the services improved for the people using them. A new Post Office Act was drafted by Todd and from this an exhaustive set of rules and regulations was developed.

As a member of the Philatelic Society of South Australia

it would be remiss of me not to illustrate the effects of Todd's workplace efficiency with some of the changes in the postal items we collect today.

The initial change was just that – an initial change. Government Departments used to get their stamps supplied free. In the 1860s it was suspected that some employees were pilfering stamps and either selling them or using them on their personal mail. The Governor's Private Secretary was high on the list of suspects. To curtail this practice the post office printed the initials of each department on the stamps supplied to them. Thus, we have "P.O." for Post Office and "S.T." for Superintendent of Telegraphs and my personal favourite "L.A." for the Lunatic Asylum. This required the setting up of dozens of printing plates for the differing initials and the maintenance of stocks of stamps for each of the 54 departments. In 1874 this practice was simplified by replacing them with stamps overprinted "O.S.". These initials were for "On Service" but some observers noted at the time they also matched those of the Issuer of Stamps – Overton Sparks. When the stocks of these "departmental" stamps were being run down requisitions for new supplies were occasionally filled with old stamps initialled for other departments. With all the problems caused by the Private Secretary I often wonder if Mr. Sparks was tempted to send to Government House a supply of stamps overprinted "L.A."!

Penny postcards were issued in 1876. This was a direct consequence of the Inquiry which actually called for a town postage of 1d. This was a luxury that could not be afforded so the issue of postcards was the compromise.

One of the great economic victories for the Post Office was to allow them to charge for the carriage of newspapers. A halfpenny stamp, which was actually designed to be half the size of a penny stamp, was issued for this purpose.

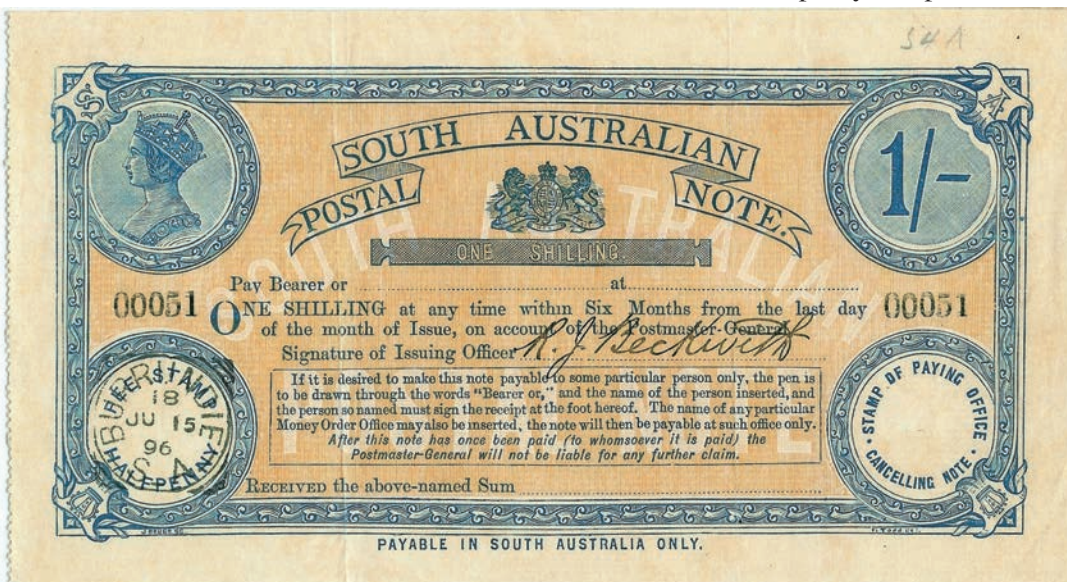


Figure 5

South Australia's first postal note designed by Todd's daughter, Gwendoline.

Stamp duty was introduced in 1886 to pay off loans made to the government for the state's latest railway projects. A special series of stamps was produced for this purpose. They were printed in two operations – one to print the design and the second to insert the value. A set of 13 values was issued with the highest being TWENTY POUNDS – around \$3,000 in today's money!





6a, 6b, 6c & 6d
Stamps overprinted with initials
for use on official government mail.

Figure 6

Given their very high face value, these stamps are understandably very rare. A set in mint condition now resides in the Royal Collection. It probably got there when the Duke of Cornwall, later King George V, visited South Australia in 1894 and was presented with a collection of stamps by the government. A collection, incidentally, asked for by the Duke’s secretary!

A requirement of joining the Universal Postal Union was that each Post Office had to send every other member examples of their stamps usually overprinted SPECIMEN to prevent their misuse. When the Post Office prepared their sets of SPECIMEN stamps they also allowed thankful collectors to buy them at the much discounted rate of a £1 per set.

As a special treat for the members of the philatelic society, Todd arranged for the latest stamp arrivals from the UPU to be sent to their meetings for inspection.

In 1887 a series of postal notes was issued in South Australia. The notes had a special connection to Todd as the design was by his daughter, Gwendoline.

New stamps were required when the Australasian Colonies were admitted to the Universal Postal Union. The Philatelic Society suggested to the Postmaster-General that a competition be held to decide the designs of these stamps. The idea was embraced and a competition was held attracting dozens of entries. The entries were later sent to a meeting of the society for the members to inspect.

A full sized halfpenny stamp was issued in 1899 featuring a view of the Adelaide GPO. This was the first postage stamp in the world to depict a post office, edging a German stamp depicting the Berlin Post Office by just a few weeks. Todd declared he thought the new halfpenny issue was the most handsome stamp produced in the colony.

When the post office became a federal department in 1901 it could no longer allow its stamps to be used for state government stamp duty. The stamps inscribed “Postage and Revenue” were replaced with stamps simply inscribed “Postage”. With Todd’s permission, the now Commonwealth Stamp Printer, Mr. Cooke, also produced a new set of duty stamps for the State Government until

it had set up its own facilities to produce them – much to the alarm of their federal masters in Melbourne who specifically told them not to do so. Todd may have had a new boss but he was still South Australian at heart.

Despite some condemning illustrations of Cooke’s work, such as the infamous “EIGHT” error, he later became the printer of stamps for all of Australia and produced the first Australian Commonwealth stamps issued in 1913.

Returning to Todd’s reformation of the Post Office, not only did it save the day, it also accorded him an astonishing degree of respect and affection from his staff. The esteem with which Todd was regarded is probably best illustrated by the portrait overlooking the post-shop in the General Post Office. It was organised by the heads of the department following the banquet marking Todd’s return from England in 1886. Painted by John Upton the portrait was paid for by contributions from staff. When presented on Christmas Eve 1886 it was seen to be a permanent memento to mark the friendship between Todd and his employees.

This friendship was undoubtedly reinforced by Todd’s love of humorous wordplay. Dubbed the “Pun-master-General”, he claimed his first employer, the Greenwich Astronomer Sir George Airy, was so-called because he didn’t have any bowels! One of the best known postal puns came when the residents of Orroroo requested a new post office. “What do they want a post office for?,” he exclaimed, “There are only two letters in Orroroo!”

By 1887 the Department was returning a profit and it continued to do so every year thereafter. At the time of Federation South Australia was the only state with a profitable Post and Telegraph Department.

Todd attended virtually every Inter-colonial Postal Conference over three decades. The decisions from these were instrumental in establishing a place for Australia in the Universal Postal Union and perhaps more significantly the mechanism for Australia’s transformation to a Commonwealth. The Postal and Telegraphic Conferences through the 1890s did much to unify the regulations and methods throughout Australia. A unified department was seen as one of the foundations upon which the success of a federated Australia relied.

Despite his experience and esteem Todd didn't always manage to sway everyone to his view. With the Overland Telegraph, Todd had made South Australia the first point of contact with the rest of the world. When the overland railway to Melbourne was opened in 1887 Adelaide also became the hub of international mail services to the west. Not only did this give South Australia a commercial advantage over the eastern states, it also generated considerable revenue from transit fees charged on both telegrams and mails. To deny South Australia this advantage the eastern states used their numbers to approve Pacific mail and cable connections. Interestingly, in votes that South Australia was destined to lose, the colony's delegates chose to abstain rather than be seen to vote against a proposal with obvious advantage to a federated Australia.

At the ceremony to mark the inauguration of the federated post office in 1901 Todd drew upon his repertoire of puns. He recalled the time when the Governor of Western Australia, Frederick Weld, sought his help to connect Adelaide and Perth by telegraph. The "Pun-master-General" replied "he would feel it a pleasure and a duty to do all he could to *weld* the colonies together." Todd had excelled in this duty. When asked what the change would mean to South Australia, the now Deputy Postmaster-General indicated the public should not notice any difference.

Todd remained at the helm for another four years. In the year of his retirement the department in South Australia had more than 1,700 employees and 700 post offices handling more than 27 million letters. The telegraph system had more than 20,000 miles of wire which led Sir Charles to quip at the banquet honouring his retirement that the state was well posted!

To me, Todd's role in the Post Office was largely an administrative one. Whilst he did not establish the post office in South Australia he was certainly responsible for creating one that could run itself.

Todd always said he was a servant of the people. Having efficient departments that could run themselves was certainly something both Todd and the Government wanted. It allowed him the time and freedom to be a servant of the people in more and varied ways. In later life we find him in many diverse roles ranging from representing the Government at a conference discussing the eradication of rabbits to presiding over a committee raising money for the Transvaal Patriotic Fund. Todd was certainly an example of the truism, "If you want something done, ask a busy person!"

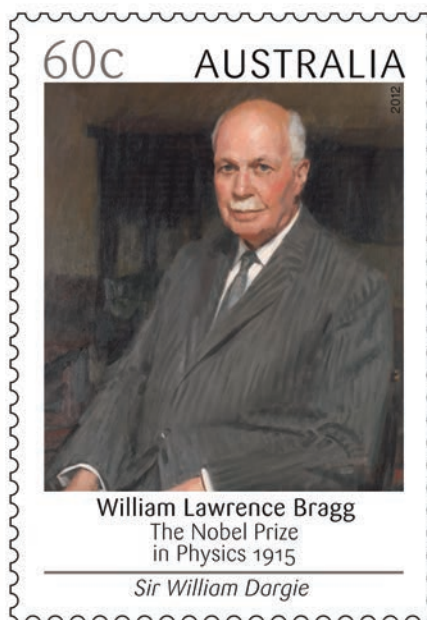
At the turn of the twentieth century he was instrumental in raising funds for the statue of the explorer John McDouall Stuart. In the years after his death there

appeared a number of letters in the newspapers calling for a statue of Todd to join the eminent people of South Australia's history immortalised in Victoria Square. A century on there is still plenty of room.

There is also plenty of room in the albums of the collectors among us to include a stamp depicting the great man commemorating *all* of his achievements – just like the stamp depicting his grandson, William Lawrence Bragg, being issued on August 28th (2012).

Postscript:

The Sir Charles Todd Symposium was held on 17 August 2012 to coincide with the 140th anniversary of the completion of the Overland Telegraph Line between Adelaide and Darwin and a Todd family reunion being held in Adelaide for the same anniversary. The Symposium was coordinated by Mac Benoy of the Australian Meteorological Association and intended to present papers dealing with each of the many aspects of the life and times of Sir Charles Todd. Eight speakers presented papers on Todd's roles in the development of meteorology, astronomy, electrical engineering, telegraphy, surveying, and postal services in South Australia plus papers on the colonial history of the state and Todd's family. With such a packed programme speakers were strictly limited to eighteen minutes each! The Symposium became accredited as a National Science Week event and was presented to an audience including present and retired professionals from the various fields being discussed as well as the current generation of the Todd family. The author has recently been invited to be a member of a "Charles Todd Expert Group" focussed on promoting the significant role of Todd in the history of South Australia and each of his professional fields.



Charles Todd's grandson, William Lawrence Bragg, featured on an Australia Post Stamp issued in 2012. (Australia Post Philatelic Group)

Figure 7



Review of *Australasian Wreck Mail* by Brian R. Peace

The second edition of *Australasian Wreck Mail*, self-published by Brian R. Peace, has recently appeared, some 16 years after the first edition in the J.R.W. Purves Memorial Series was published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. It is now over 400 pages (A4 size) in length, compared to the first edition being under 300 pages in a smaller format.

Not all ships that suffered the misfortune of a shipwreck in Australasian history actually carried mail, as far as is known. For instance, the *Loch Ard* is well known to Victorian residents as a maritime disaster, taking place in June 1878 near the Twelve Apostles, now part of Port Campbell National Park, with only two survivors. This ship may not have carried any mail and, in any case, nearly all the cargo was lost. Not surprisingly, this incident is not in Peace's book and there is no obvious reason why it should be. Even so, there were many shipwrecks in which mail *was* being carried and the author has had plenty of material to focus on, as this book shows.

A good way to appreciate the enormous amount of work that has gone into the second edition is to compare the two works. The layout of the work into Chapters, Appendices and Index of Ships is almost identical, except that the first two appendices in the first edition (called Full Table of Incidents Involving Australasian

Mail 1622–1993, and Full Table of Mechanical Breakdowns Involving Australasian Mail respectively) have been dropped from the second edition. However, all the information in the omitted Tables is still available in the second edition under other headings, either in the Appendices or in the main part of the book.

Not surprisingly, a large number of new illustrations are provided in the new book, many being in colour when possible. There are many references in the text to the first edition, called *AWM* for brevity. As in *AWM*, the new book devotes the first Chapter, now over 330 pages long, to describing shipwrecks where mail was being carried to, from or within Australasia between the years 1622 and 1999. Background information is given for each wreck described in that lengthy Chapter. The wrecks themselves are described with the focus being on the actual ship's journey, the survivors, the cargo and especially the mails. Most illustrations are of surviving covers, many of which are in less than pristine condition, due to their prolonged exposure to water. Often, some



of the stamps have floated off. Some of these covers bear markings or endorsements to state that the cover was retrieved from a shipwreck. Many covers bear no such markings, so considerable research may be needed to show that a dilapidated cover in one's collection is really a survivor from an ill-fated voyage. The author has carried out extensive researches in this direction and included the results in this book. The benefits of collaboration with other collectors are evident in the descriptions and references cited in Chapter One.

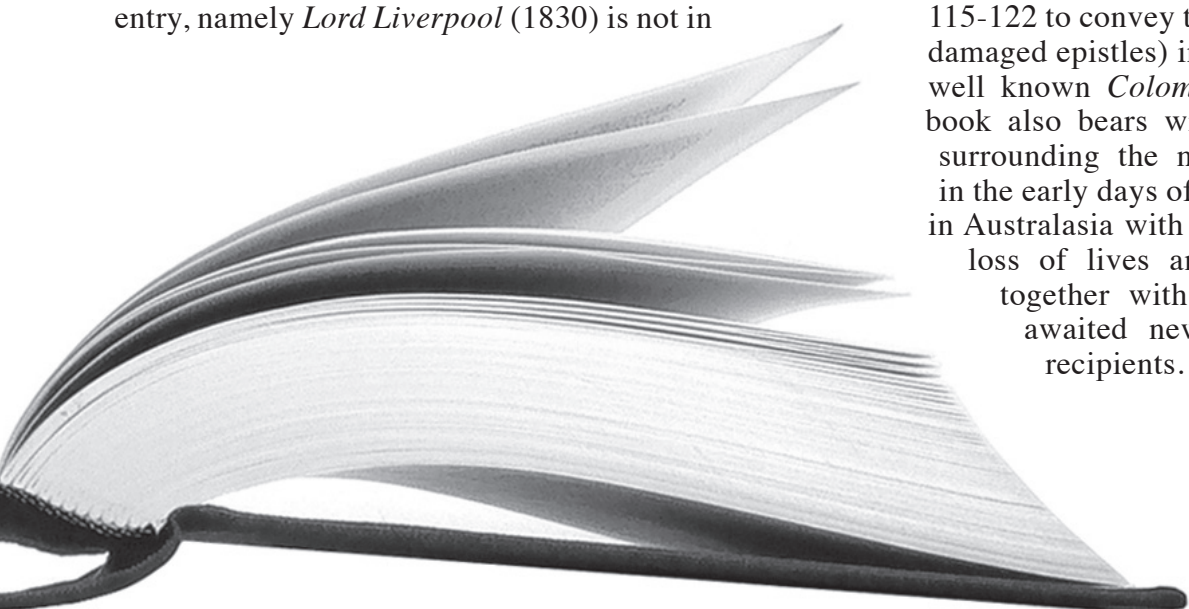
Some illustrations in *AWM* have been reproduced in the new book but some exceptions exist. One example is Item 5 for *Orotava* on page 203, where the cover front is described in the text with a reference to the illustration on page 101 of *AWM*. This example illustrates one reason why owners of *AWM* should consider retaining this older book and using it alongside the new book. The description of the *Clonmel* wreck in January 1841 seems to have some geographical problems. Clonmel Island is largely a sandbar where the wreck took place. It is actually about 8 km south of Port Albert and only a short distance east of Snake Island. It is northeast of Wilson's Promontory, whereas Shallow Inlet is over 40 km west of Port Albert and nowhere near Clonmel Island. This reviewer has visited Snake Island once and other areas of this part of Gippsland a number of times.

Chapter Two lists the incidents described in Chapter One with new entries in bold face. More columns are now provided to say where the ship sailed from and where it was bound. The date of sailing is listed and estimated counts of surviving mail are given where known. At least one new entry, namely *Lord Liverpool* (1830) is not in

bold face as it should be. Chapter Three describes mechanical breakdowns in the same manner as Chapter One for shipwrecks. Again this Chapter is updated from *AWM* with many new illustrations in colour. The reader will have to consult *AWM* for an illustration of a cover (Figure 152 in *AWM*) from the *Bombay* (1865). Chapter Four lists the known instances of mechanical breakdowns described in Chapter Three. New entries are in bold face. At least one entry, namely *Emma* (1848) is not in bold face but it should be. Chapter Five describes unattributed incidents, mostly from the two World Wars. New illustrations are provided, mostly in colour. These generally supplement the illustrations in Chapter Five of *AWM*. Chapter Six gives a list of these unattributed incidents. A couple of new entries are not in bold face but they probably should be. Chapter Seven has a greatly expanded bibliography, reflecting the efforts inspired by *AWM* over the past 16 years.

There are three Appendices to follow. Appendix One and Two are updates on Appendix Three and Four of *AWM*. Many new entries are listed in bold face for Appendix Two. Appendix Three is new with details for a court case involving the theft of valuables from the *Admella* (1859). There is also a page about mail lost and recovered from the wreck of the *Admella*. The old Appendix Five in *AWM* has been replaced with the new Appendix Three.

Overall, this book is highly recommended for all students of wreck mail. It is also of interest to the postal historian for its extensive descriptions of covers and fronts that have had a tough journey to reach the intended recipient. An interesting feature is the use of 'ambulance covers' on pp. 115-122 to convey the 'casualties' (water damaged epistles) in connection with the well known *Colombo* wreck mail. The book also bears witness to the dramas surrounding the numerous shipwrecks in the early days of European settlement in Australasia with great concerns about loss of lives and associated cargo, together with mails bearing long awaited news for the intended recipients.



Royal News

Annual General Meeting, 2013

The 121st Annual General Meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc. was held on Thursday, 19 September 2013. The usual order of business was followed, involving the President's Address; presentation and adoption of reports; election of Council; and appointment of Auditor.

President's Report (Frank PAUER)

Tonight brings a close to my second year as your President. Even though there have been a few challenges during my Presidency, I have enjoyed myself and it has been an honour serving you all. I would particularly like to express my sincere thanks to all Council and Committee members for giving freely of their time, effort and expertise for the benefit of the membership, as well as their support to me personally in the smooth operations of the Society over the past 12 months. This year marks the retirement from Council of Gary Brown. Due to wanting to spend more time with his family and travel during the year Gary resigned as Vice President a few weeks ago. Gary has served on numerous committees and has been on Council for many years. Gary will be a significant loss to Council but I am sure we can happily avail ourselves of Gary's valued experience and knowledge in the future. John Boykett had stepped in as Vice President and if confirmed will be the incoming President. On another note due to work commitments Joe Edwards is stepping down from Council. Joe thank you for your input to Council and we hope that in the future you may stand again.

During the year Ted Gallagher had stepped in as Secretary while Peter Leitch was travelling overseas. Ted thank you for stepping in and doing the job so diligently. Ted must have liked the job so much that he has nominated for the Secretary position this year. Peter Leitch is stepping

down as Secretary due to wanting to travel next year but is nominating for Council. Thank you Peter for all your work this year especially in your submissions to the State Revenue Office and City of Boroondara for the exemption of Land Tax and Council rates respectively. While Peter was away overseas Ted Gallagher took on the challenge of pursuing these submissions and after a lot of rejections Ted had eventually won, and the City of Boroondara has exempted the Society of any Council rates, a saving of about \$5,000 a year. Ted on behalf of the Society, I thank you very much for your perseverance and the Society is indebted to you. Ted is now chasing the State Revenue Office for an exemption in Land Tax. Watch out SRO Ted is after you. Two new nominations for Council have been received and if confirmed will provide some new visions to Council.

The 2012/2013 year was a very active and busy year for the Society. In November 2012, in conjunction with the Hobart 2012 National One Frame Exhibition, the Society held a joint meeting with the Tasmanian Philatelic Society. This was a very successful evening with over 50 local and interstate members in attendance coming to view the six varied one frame displays presented by both societies.

In April 2013 we held our 7th Annual Bourse which was well attended by members and visitors, as well as an international trader, who was in Melbourne for the World Stamp Exhibition.

May 2013 was a very busy month for our Society. The Publishing Committee took on the enormous task of publishing three books at the same time to be available for sale at our stand at the Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition. This was the Society's most ambitious publishing program ever. We released *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912* by Ken Scudder, *Specimen Stamps of Victoria* by Geoff Kellow, Russell Turner and

William McCredie, and *The Chapman Collection of Australia Commonwealth Stamps: The Kangaroo Issues* by Ray Chapman. Thank you to Gary Brown and the Publication Committee, and a special thank you to Peter Leitch for his enormous efforts with the printers in getting the printing done on time, and the books being available on time for selling at our stand at Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition.

Now talking about Australia 2013, the involvement of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria at Australia 2013 was enormous: – of the 16 positions on the Organising Committee, 12 were held by RPSV members; and Purves House was used to hold all Organising Committee meetings, as well as being the headquarters for the organisers. Just as the RPSV relies on help from all members, so does a large exhibition like Australia 2013, and I am most pleased to report that many Society members were prominent in the ranks of volunteer members. Numerous people spent a great deal of time to make Australia 2013 a success. In particular, I would like to mention the work carried out by Malcolm Groom (President) and Gary Brown (Vice President). The Philatelic community is indebted to you for this success.

In conjunction with Australia 2013, the Society was honoured to host a joint reception with The Royal Philatelic Society, London at Newman College. Approximately 140 members and guests from both societies attended, and all enjoyed a memorable evening. I would like to thank Sean Burke and the students of Newman College for the catering. Also, I thank Don Napier for looking after all the organisation of the reception, as well as Stephanie Bromser for stepping in and helping Don.

As mentioned before the Society took up a stand at Australia 2013. This enabled the Society to sell some of our old books; sell and promote the three new books; sell some of the left over Bourse souvenirs, as well as enabling the Society to promote itself to the vast international audience. I would like to thank all the volunteers that manned the stand and made this a successful venture.

In July, the Society had the pleasure in celebrating Don Napier's 50-year membership of the Society. Twenty two members joined in the celebrations at the Savage Club, Melbourne. We all had a very enjoyable evening and Sean Burke gave a heart-warming speech.

Membership has increased to 265 during the year with 10 new members joining the Society this year, eight of which joined at our stand at Australia 2013 World Stamp Exhibition. We trust that the new members will enjoy their membership with us. On a sad note, due to illness, the Society lost one of our valued members, Marion Smith. Marion led the daytime meeting for five years and was the Society's first woman to be awarded a Fellowship, an honour well deserved. Marion will be sadly missed and to her family I offer the Society's condolences.

Council as always aims to provide members with displays that include foremost exhibits, and as I mentioned this last year it is becoming increasingly difficult with the slowing down of locally formed exhibits. I thank all displayers for their participation in our meetings. Monthly daytime meetings continue to attract substantial attendance, as does our second Wednesday Postal History Group. Thanks to all who participated and to the respective conveners, Graham Hayward and Gary Brown.

Last year, the Annual Competition rules were altered to permit entries that are high resolution scans of the exhibits to be submitted for judging. The new rule is to encourage interstate and overseas members to participate. The Society needs to promote this more, so that one day we do have some of the overseas members participating. This year's annual competition attracted five entries, all local with no interstate or overseas. Congratulations are extended to John Shawley (silver medal) and Don Napier (bronze medal). The Judges commented that all exhibits were of a high standard and quality of material was excellent. I commend the five entrants on the high standard of their exhibits.

Under John Shawley's guidance your Council started to include in the syllabus two sessions a year entitled "Opening Up Your Hobby", which are designed to increase members' knowledge and enjoyment of the hobby. With the success of the two previous years, Council continued this concept in 2013 with talks on "Facebook and Stamps" by Joe Edwards; "Selling on Ebay" by Gary Brown; and "Stamp Printing Techniques" by Kevin Keast. These sessions were all very well attended and very informative.

Philately from Australia has not progressed well this year with only three of the four issues coming out in this financial year. With pressures of writing articles for PfA and work commitments Richard Breckon has not been able to get the journal out in a timely fashion. Due to this, Richard has resigned as Editor of *Philately from Australia*. I thank Richard Breckon for all his hard work for being the Editor for the last five years. Council has appointed long standing member Eric Frazer as the new Editor. I welcome Eric on board, and with the help from Richard Breckon and rest of the PfA Committee, I think that PfA will continue to be the pre-eminent journal in Australia Philately.

The Exchange Branch is going from strength to strength, with its biggest turnover, again since Bill Jenkins has taken over. The Expert Committee has again made a significant financial contribution to the Society this year, with billings well in excess of \$28,000. On behalf of the Society I would like to thank the members of the Expert Committee, Max Watson, John Shawley, John Boykett and Gary Diffen, for all their hard work and dedication.

The Awards Committee recommended to Council in upgrading to Fellow of the Society, the following



three members, all of whom have developed advanced collections in their respective fields of interest and provided exemplary contributions to the Society and philately.

- Malcolm Groom, Hobart, Tasmania
- Arthur Gray, Sydney, NSW and
- Stephanie Bromser, Melbourne Vic.

These three recommendations were approved by Council and congratulations are due to all three members on recognition of their contributions to the Society and/or our hobby.

Lastly, I would like to thank our members for attending our meetings and I hope that you will continue to attend, and participate in the Society's activities. Again, many thanks to all Council members and all representatives on the numerous committees. The Society cannot operate without your support. I wish the incoming President, John Boykett and his Council every future success and I look forward to continuing to contribute to the Society.

Honorary Treasurer's Report (Frank PAUER)

This is my seventh report to members as your Honorary Treasurer and I am pleased to present the Society's audited Financial Statements for the year ended 30th June 2013.

The Profit and Loss Account this year shows a Profit of \$27,238 as compared to a loss of \$9,639 for the previous year.

Our total income this year was \$100,828 compared to \$64,042 last year; this is an increase of \$36,786. Members contributed \$19,369 or 19%; Interest Income contributed \$8,529 or 8%; the Expert Committee contributed \$27,433 or 27%, which was an increase of \$13,596; Publications contributed \$32,908 or 33%; and advertising in *Philately from Australia* contributed \$5,966 or 6%. This year, as in the previous years, the Society produced two souvenirs for our Annual Bourse. These contributed \$5,120 towards our income or 5%, which made a profit of \$2,814. Various other branches contributed \$1,503 or 2%. The main reason our Revenue has increased is because Publications income is up \$25,402, mainly due to sales of the three new books, and Expert Committee Revenue is up \$13,596.

Total expenditure was \$73,590 compared to \$73,680 in the previous year, a decrease of \$90. The major expenses were Printing of publications \$41,947; Insurance \$9,976; Journal Production \$9,713; and Rates and taxes \$7,221.

On the Balance sheet side, our Cash Reserves have decreased by \$2,321 but the Balance Sheet Equity has increased by \$27,236. We needed to take \$50,000 from the term deposit to pay for the printing of the three new

books. The term deposit was at \$155,000 last year but is at \$115,000 as at year end. This should be back to \$155,000 by end of the 2014 financial year.

Council did not increase the subscriptions for the 2012/2013 year, which remain at \$90.00 for Metropolitan members and \$80.00 for Country, Interstate and Overseas members.

I am in constant contact with members of the Finance Committee and I thank all the members of the committee for their assistance and advice during the year.

Business Manager's Report (Peter LEITCH)

Sales to collectors and the trade continued at a steady rate during the year. A major focus for the Society's publications was the Australia 2003 Exhibition, where all of the Society's publications were available for purchase. During the Exhibition it was gratifying to see the number of members who volunteered to help at the Society's stand – in particular, on the set up day, Thursday, and Friday, the first day of the Exhibition, when I was an emergency patient at Cabrini Hospital. Australia 2013 saw a temporary drastic price reduction for our older publications in an attempt to clear stock. This had limited success.

The stock holdings of recent publications have a retail value of over \$84,000. Book sales are an important revenue source for the Society. Therefore, it is important that efforts be made to publicize our publications to hopefully generate sales. Any publicity suggestions are welcome.

Three new publications were available at the Australia 2013 Exhibition:

- *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912*
- *The Specimen Stamps of Victoria and,*
- *The Chapman Collection of Australia Commonwealth stamps: the Kangaroo issues*

The Queensland and Victoria books have been well received, being major reference works in their particular fields.

It is pleasing to be able to have the new books printed here in Melbourne at a very high quality and a reasonable price. Being printed locally gave us greater control over the production of the books, such as the colour images, and the provision of proof copies. There are several more books being considered for publication.

House Report (Ted GALLAGHER)

Only routine maintenance has been carried out. As reported in previous years, the front of the building is looking weathered. The window frames need to be painted when finances allow.



Publications Committee Report (Gary BROWN FRPSV, FRPSL)

The committee consists of: Frank Pauer [President], Committee: Gary Brown – Chair [resigned August 2013], Richard Breckon, Joe Edwards, Peter Leitch, Graham Plaw and Bill Lloyd-Smith.

The past 12 months saw the finalization of three books for release at AUSTRALIA 2013 where the society will have a stand:

- **Victorian Specimen Overprints:** by the late Bill McCredie and Geoff Kellow; approximately 140 pages; A4 format and perfect bound.
- **Queensland Postage Stamps 1879–1912:** by Ken Scudder; 440+ pages; A4 format; perfect bound finish; pre-sold, Leather numbered edition.
- **Chapman Collection, Kangaroos section:** edited by Richard Breckon; the chapters of the 1999 Chapman book were reproduced with full colour scans throughout.

As can be seen from the published Annual Reports, sales of the three books have yet to achieve the costs of publication. I am of the opinion that the Society needs to look very hard at the number of books to be produced and resist the savings of a few dollars for higher number produced.

The Committee have two books before it at present:

- **The Bassett Hull of Tasmania rewrite** (Bill Lloyd-Smith) is planned for publication in 2013/14 year.
- **Victorian Post Offices Curiosities** (Eric Frazer and Max Watson) is also expected publication in 2013/14.

Additionally, **History of Overseas Airmail** (Ron Lee) is to be considered.

Considering my comments above about publication costs, I hope the incoming Publications Chair and his committee ensure that we have very low stocks, as storage space is already at a premium.

RPSV Expert Committee Report (Max WATSON LMRPSV, FRPSL, Chairman)

The Committee comprised Max Watson (Chairman), John Boykett, Gary Diffen and John Shawley (Secretary). The Committee would like to thank the specialists who have offered support to our evaluations over the year.

The year opened with a significant number of items under review: 322 submissions (331 in 2011/12) were received, and 348 (301) certificates issued. Billings for the 2012/13 year totalled just over \$28,200 (\$23,200).

Items were received from a wide range of clients, both dealers and collectors, and showed a wide range of types, and challenges. A significant number of items were received from members using their annual free

certificate allowance. Workload cannot be predicted as it is dependent upon major sales and collector and trade needs, but the level of work to hand at the beginning of year 2013/14 is pleasing.

Turnaround is monitored and reported to Council, with an objective to return material within two months. Despite the high workload we have managed to work close to this target, but the workload over the recent period has been close to the capacity of the current team.

Charges over the year were \$90 per certificate (members, one free certificate per financial year), and a handling fee of \$60 where a certificate is not issued. Both these rates came into effect on 1 July 2012.

The Committee accepts stamps and postal history items emanating from Australia, Australian Colonies, New Zealand and Pacific members of the British Colonies. Any member who has an appropriate knowledge base would be welcome to discuss their participation on the Committee with the Chairman. All Committee members learn a great deal by their participation and it is a privilege to view the wide range of material reviewed.

Library Report (Richard BRECKON APR, FRPSV, Librarian)

The Library is managed by Richard Breckon (Librarian), John Shawley (Assistant Librarian) and regular volunteers, including Marjorie Crawford and Peter Leitch. Our 300 metre-library, valued at more than \$360,000, is Australia's premier philatelic library.

I wish to thank members who have donated items to the Library during the year. In particular, Bill Wells donated long runs of various journals new to the Library, and Gary Brown regularly donated books purchased at overseas exhibitions. Newly-acquired material is put out for viewing on the Meeting Floor level, where it is well-browsed.

As a result of World Stamp Expo in May, we acquired the 97 Literature entries, representing a major donation of handbooks, journals and catalogues. Also, at the Society's stand at World Stamp Expo we sold better examples of duplicate books acquired from the former Australia Post Corporate Library. The remaining supply of duplicate books and journals will be offered for sale to members through price lists and on the RPSV website.

The RPSV Library is part of the Global Philatelic Library, via the Royal Philatelic Society London Catalogue database. To fulfil our role properly, we are looking at purchasing a Library Catalogue System for installation on the Society's laptop. The RPSV Library database, based on the 1995 published work, will be put into an online catalogue in the coming year.



Philately from Australia Report (Richard BRECKON APR, FRPSV, Editor)

The Philately from Australia Committee comprises: Richard Breckon (Chairman and Editor), Bill Lloyd-Smith (Assistant Editor), John Rennie and Joe Edwards. Also, John Shawley, Peter Leitch and Marjorie Crawford carry out the journal's mailing.

An unfortunate situation has arisen with *PfA* falling well behind in publication. This is solely due to my role as editor; I have been unable to give the job all that is required. As a result, I am stepping down. The new editor of *PfA* is Eric Frazer, who will take over the job as soon as an orderly transfer can be arranged. Eric is a long standing member of the Society, a skilled researcher, and, being a retired CSIRO scientist, he has time to devote to his new role. I will continue to write feature articles and other editorial items for *PfA* to help Eric. It has been a challenging task producing *PfA* and I wish to thank everyone who has played a role in the process during my five years as editor.

PfA is designed by Aggie Kacprzak, (Adesign, Geelong Vic.) and printed by Printgraphics (Mount Waverley, Vic.). Both designer and printer perform their work at a high standard. We are fortunate to have them working for us.

PfA writers devote a great deal of time to their work. The journal cannot function without them and we need more writers. I encourage anyone to 'have a go'. We also need advertisers, because without them we cannot offset production and mailing costs.

Next year, *Philately from Australia* turns 65. We have a proud record of promoting philatelic knowledge with this journal and long may it continue.

Exchange Branch Report (Bill JENKINS FRPSV, Superintendent)

The Exchange Branch has had another good year. I have reduced the circuits from five to four to try and offset the increasing cost of postage. We have lost four members this year due to being too old to collect or going overseas for a long period. I am disappointed that there are no new members gained from the World Stamp Exhibition. I became Superintendent after an exhibition in Sydney when I was able to add three new circuits. A lot of the material is supplied by two vendors. We always welcome more vendors, as this gives the members a larger variety from which to choose. There is a lot of Australian postal history and Australian colonies in our books. If anyone would like

to buy or sell on the exchange please contact me on (03) 9787 4170 or email: jenkinsbill@bigpond.com

Council 2013/14

The following members were elected to Council to serve for the year 2013–14:

President: **John BOYKETT FRPSV**

Vice President: **Gary DIFFEN**

Immediate Past President: **Frank PAUER**

Treasurer: **Frank PAUER**

Secretary: **Ted GALLAGHER**

Council members:

Peter ALEXANDER

Richard BRECKON APR, FRPSV

Marjorie CRAWFORD

Peter LEITCH

Invited member: **Max WATSON LMRPSV, FRPSL**

Eric McKinstry has been appointed Auditor.

Purves House made Non-Rateable

As announced in the President's Report above, Boroondara City (the Society's local government body) has advised that 303 High Street, Ashburton, will be made non-rateable. The decision follows several applications for our premises to be made non-rateable on the basis of the Society's role in advancement of education and for purposes beneficial to the community. The acting secretary, Ted Gallagher, played a leading role in securing this decision. On 3 September 2013, the following letter was received from Boroondara City:

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.
PO Box 490
ASHBURTON VIC 3147

Land to be Made Non-Rateable Application – 303 High Street ASHBURTON

Dear Mr Gallagher

Thank you for your letter received 2 September 2013.

I have gone through the legal advice that Council has on non rateable properties and found that many Royal Societies have been granted non rateable status in the past due to the research and dissemination of knowledge that they partake in.

As such property will be made non rateable as part of our next supplementary valuation batch next month and will be backdated to the date of your original application on



11 June 2013. A revised rates notice will then be sent out showing any remaining charges or levies.

Yours Sincerely,

Philip Moloney
Senior Revenue and Property Officer

New Members

The Society has gained eight new members, largely through our presence at World Stamp Expo, Melbourne: **Peter ALLEN** (Tas), **Neil AVERY** (Vic), **Peter CAMPBELL** (Vic), **Dale JUDD** (Vic), **Masayasu NAGAI** (Japan), **Juergen SAEFTEL** (Germany), **Simon SOLOMON** (Vic) and **Tony VAN MERWIK** (Vic). They were accepted as members on 20 June, except for Peter Allen and Masayasu Nagai, who were accepted on 18 July. We wish them a long and happy association with the Society.

Annual Competition 2013

The Society's Annual Competition was held on 20 June with the following results: **John SHAWLEY** (Silver medal): "Mauritius: the Dardenne issue"; **Don NAPIER** (Bronze medal): "Jamaican War Stamps"; **James SHAW**: "Boer War Letters and POW postings – local & overseas"; **Mark DISERIO**: "Governor of Victoria Franks"; and **Ted GALLAGHER**: "1d Queen Elizabeth 1937–43." For details of the Annual Competition see the Society's website: [www.rpsv.org.au/services/annual competition](http://www.rpsv.org.au/services/annual%20competition)

Alan James WHITE (1939–2013)

On 10 August, the death occurred of Alan White aged 74, a retired stamp trader and publisher of the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*. Alan served as Superintendent of the RPSV Sales Branch during the early 1980s, when the Society operated its own auctions. He had not been a RPSV member for many years.

Opening up Your Hobby, Part 6

On 29 August, the sixth instalment of "Opening up Your Hobby" involved member **Kevin KEAST** giving an account of his lifetime career as a letterpress etcher and block maker. Kevin had a fascinating array of working materials with him, and we hope to write an account of Kevin's presentation in a future edition of *PfA*.

Change to Syllabus

The October and November evening meetings of the Society involve a change of displays with the November display switching to October, and vice versa. On Thursday, 17 October **Gary DIFFEN** presented "Cheers! Brewery, Winery and Distillery Advertising covers of the United States". On Thursday, 21 November an Australia Post archival display will be presented by **Richard BRECKON**. The switch was necessitated by personal circumstances.

SOCIETY SYLLABUS

www.rpsv.org.au

July 2013

2 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting
10 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
18 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Postal Stationery of British Guiana:**
Bernard BESTON
20 (Sat) 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. Society Open Day and Bourse
27 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library afternoon

August 2013

6 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting
14 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
15 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **QEII Pre-decimal issues of Australia:**
Arthur GRAY
29 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Opening up your hobby, Part 6**
31 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library afternoon

September 2013

3 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting
11 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
19 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **121st Annual General Meeting; Retiring President's display**
28 (Sat) **Library NOT OPEN**

October 2013

1 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting
9 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
17 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Cheers! Brewery, Winery and Distillery Advertising covers of the United States: Gary DIFFEN**
26 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library afternoon
31 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **An Introduction to Australian Revenues:**
Dingle SMITH

November 2013

12 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting (note: 2nd Tuesday)
13 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
21 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Postal Archival Collection Extracts:**
Australia Post
30 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library afternoon

December 2013

3 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting
11 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group
19 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **President's Social evening: members invited to bring a guest**
28 (Sat) **Library NOT OPEN**



THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30th JUNE 2013

	<u>2012/2013</u> <u>YEAR</u>	<u>2011/2012</u> <u>YEAR</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
<u>Current Assets</u>		
Cheque Account (ANZ)	43,277	6,839
Building Fund Account (ANZ)	15,252	14,665
Deposit Account (ING)	19,335	18,681
Term Deposit (ANZ)	115,000	155,000
<u>Fixed Assets</u>		
303 High Street - Ashburton	1,498,146	1,496,756
Fitting, Furniture & Equipment	27,413	26,256
Library Racking	9,654	10,508
Library	362,516	362,516
Forgery Collection	76,760	76,760
<u>Stock of Publications</u>	90,571	64,195
<u>Investment Account(MERCERS)</u>	0	0
<u>G.S.T. Account</u>	1,492	861
<u>TOTAL ASSETS</u>	\$ 2,259,417	\$ 2,233,038
<u>LIABILITIES</u>		
Subscriptions in Advance	285	583
Exchange Branch Vendors	195	1,677
Exchange Branch Superintendent - Commission	1,321	560
Exchange Branch Insurance Fund	3,350	3,220
Other Creditors	1,507	1,475
<u>TOTAL LIABILITIES</u>	\$ 6,658	\$ 7,515
<u>NETT ASSETS</u>	\$ 2,252,759	\$ 2,225,523
<u>MEMBERS EQUITY</u>		
Accumulated Funds	2,272,227	2,281,866
Capital Loss Reserve	(124,087)	(124,087)
Asset Revaluation Reserve	77,381	77,381
Profit/(Loss) During The Year After Transfers	27,238	(9,639)
TOTAL	\$ 2,252,759	\$ 2,225,522

The accompany notes form part of these accounts.



THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

PROFIT & LOSS ACCOUNT AS AT 30th JUNE 2013

<u>INCOME</u>	<u>2012/2013</u> <u>YEAR</u>	<u>2011/2012</u> <u>YEAR</u>
Members Joining Fees & Subscriptions	\$17,386	\$16,825
Donations	\$1,983	\$6,244
Interest and Dividends Received	\$8,529	\$7,099
Sale of Publications	\$32,908	\$7,506
P from A Subscriptions and Advertising	\$5,966	\$6,767
Expert Committee	\$27,433	\$13,837
Exchange Branch	\$1,321	\$997
Bourse Souvenirs	\$5,120	\$4,568
Sale of Ties	\$0	\$15
Room Hire	\$182	\$182
<u>TOTAL INCOME</u>	\$ <u>100,828</u>	\$ <u>64,042</u>
 <u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Accounting Fees	\$600	\$600
Advertising & Promotion	\$659	\$0
Bank Charges & Fees	\$2,149	\$1,367
Bourse Souvenirs	\$2,286	\$2,264
Catering	\$732	\$931
Cleaning	\$1,920	\$1,833
Cost of Displays	\$266	\$1,000
Depreciation	\$9,257	\$10,246
Donations	\$1,000	\$0
Electricity	\$2,520	\$4,557
Fees & Charges	\$44	\$43
Functions	\$281	\$114
General Expenses	\$704	\$223
Insurance	\$9,976	\$11,824
Journal Production & Printing	\$9,713	\$15,578
Library Expenses	\$593	\$478
Movement in Old Stock of Publications	(26,376)	\$1,555
Postage	\$3,009	\$4,943
Printing & Stationery	\$1,676	\$1,804
Printing of Publications	\$41,947	\$0
Rates & Taxes	\$7,221	\$8,242
Repairs & Maintenance	\$1,431	\$4,847
Security Service	\$573	\$573
Telephone	\$1,233	\$660
Web Site	\$176	\$0
<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	\$ <u>73,590</u>	\$ <u>73,680</u>
NETT TRADING PROFIT/(LOSS)	\$ <u>27,238</u>	\$ <u>(9,639)</u>

The accompany notes form part of these accounts.



Max Stern & Co.
has a new address
on the web!
www.maxstern.com.au

**Australasia's most comprehensive
'new issues' list released monthly!**

All new issues are listed alphabetically by country from A-Z. Hundreds of issues arriving weekly including special products, thematics, souvenir sheets and more!

We also act as agents for over 26 Philatelic Bureaus including Canada, China, Great Britain and Islands, Hong Kong, Ireland, Israel, Macau, New Zealand, Sweden and many more.

Australian, A.A.T., Christmas Islands, Cocos Keeling islands, Nauru, Norfolk Island, P.N.G., Pitcairn Island and Great Britain are also fully listed together with SPECIAL SAVINGS on Collections.

Max Stern & Co.
Port Philip Arcade - 234 Flinders St - Melbourne
(G.P.O. Box 977, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia 3001)
Phone +61 3 9654 6751 Fax +61 3 9650 7192
Email maxstern@maxstern.com.au
<http://www.maxstern.com.au>



**Shields Stamps
& Coins Pty. Ltd.**

**COME AND
VISIT OUR
NEW SHOP !**

**52 Burgundy Street, Heidelberg
VIC, 3084 Australia**

Ph: (+61) 03 9459 5953 Fax: (+61) 03 9459 5911

Email: shieldsstamps@email.com
Website: www.shieldsstamps.com.au

*Shop Hours: Monday - Thursday: 9:00am to 5:30pm
Friday: 9:00am to 8:00pm, Saturday: 9:00am to 5:00pm*

**We maintain quality stocks of
Australia Roos, KGV, Postage Dues, Decimals,
Malayan States, New Guinea, Papua, Thailand
British Commonwealth and most other countries**

STAMP NEWS

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

For a free sample copy of STAMP NEWS without obligation, write to us advising that you are a reader of *Philately from Australia*

STAMP NEWS P.O. Box 1290, UPWEY, VIC, 3158 Australia



www.michaeleastick.com
Stamps, Coins, Postcards, Collectables

Michael Eastick & Associates Pty. Ltd.

www.michaeleastick.com
Australian and Worldwide

- Stamps ● Covers
- Postal History ● Booklets
- Overprints ● Coins
- Banknotes ● Postcards
- Medals ● Collectables

**Buy from our online store
without leaving home**

**Hundred's of new items
listed every week at
www.michaeleastick.com**

Email - michael@michaeleastick.com

Shop 4 66-70 Railway Road Blackburn,
Vic 3130 Australia

Ph: 03 9894 8561 Fax: 03 9894 1904

Member of     

Selling in London



Collectors around the world are using Grosvenor in London for their buying and selling needs. We hold regular specialised public auctions of stamps and postal history, achieving exceptionally high results in the heart of the international stamp market – with prices on the rise.

Our March 5th/6th auction will feature **North Borneo** from the collection of Stewart Murray of Canada and the 'Saisunee' collection of **Gilbert & Ellice Islands**.

Auctions are advertised across the internet and each is available to view, fully illustrated, on our website, www.grosvenorauctions.com. Copies of our award-winning auction catalogues are available free on request.

Gary Brown, our official representative in Australia, is pleased to offer all advice and assistance, confidentially and without charge, whether you are considering the sale of single valuable items or a whole collection. You will find vendor commission rates are generous and fully inclusive, offered at the lowest possible levels. Gary can be contacted at

PO Box 106 Briar Hill Vic 3088
Mobile: 0413535633 Home: 03 94322614
Email: garyjohn951@optusnet.com.au

GROSVENOR

399–401 Strand 2nd & 3rd Floors London WC2R 0LT United Kingdom
T: +44 (0)20 7379 8789 F: +44 (0)20 7379 9737 E: info@grosvenor-auctions.co.uk

www.grosvenorauctions.com



SOUTH AUSTRALIA: the Michael Blake Collection

awarded the Grand Prix National at *Melbourne 2013*

is to be sold at Public Auction in Melbourne on 7th February 2014



The deluxe full-colour catalogue will be posted to you **FREE** on request

Click

WWW.PRESTIGEPHILATELY.COM

Email

INFO@PRESTIGEPHILATELY.COM

Post

PO Box 277 BORONIA VIC 3155 AUSTRALIA

Phone

+61 3 9762 6009

Tax

+61 3 9762 4009

Prestige
PHILATELY