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John and Les began coordinating their research in 2008 and made the decision in 2012 to amalgamate their findings into a single published work on the subject. Their combined research and the resulting book provide a unique perspective and represent a profound advancement in our understanding of the subject.

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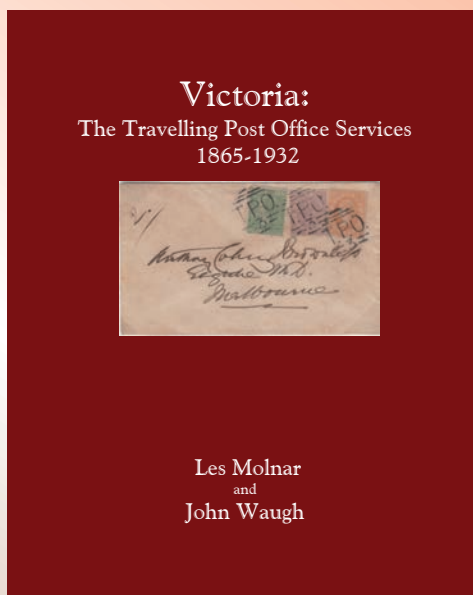
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# Philately *from* Australia

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# Editorial

We begin with the wonderful news that Ken Scudder has been awarded the Crawford Medal 2015 by the Royal Philatelic Society London for his *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912*. We also celebrate members' achievements at Malaysia 2014, Taipei 2015, Canakkale 2015, and Sydney Stamp Expo 2015 (see *Exhibition Awards for Society Members*). These results, achieved at the highest levels of competition, demonstrate members' continuing research, collection and display talents.

We continue our WWI theme which we began in the June 2014 issue looking at the postal history of colonial military and Easter training camps. Following his article on the Gallipoli campaign in the last issue, Gary Diffen now resumes his series with troopship mail from the Second Convoy until the end of the war. Again, we are treated to some exceptional material from Gary's own collection.

We are pleased to welcome a new contributor, Nicholas Cutajar, a member of the Philatelic Society of South Australia. Nick was persuaded by one of our members to submit his article on Malta during WWI. It is the remarkable, but not well known, story of Malta's role in running military hospitals during the war and the postal history associated with the tens of thousands of men who were treated and convalesced on the Island.

We also have a number of shorter articles covering a diverse range of topics. Gary Diffen continues his series on Australian colonial stamp printing errors, this time looking at New South Wales OS overprint errors. Bill Lloyd-Smith explores the background and use of the Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales and Western Australia following their recent listing by Stanley Gibbons. Brian Barrett, a new contributor and member of the Philatelic Society of Western Australia, presents some stimulating research on the rare 'PENOE' double on the 2d Tasmania Platypus of 1903. A further article focuses on two unusual covers demonstrating the rare (since 1951) collection of the postage due surcharge in Australia on taxed mail from overseas.

On the publications front, we provide news of the successful launch of Gary Diffen's book, *Preparations for War and the Australian Military Campaign at Gallipoli: A Postal History Perspective*, and the imminent publication of *Victorian Post Office Curiosities: A Treasure from the Archives*, by Eric Frazer and Max Watson. Finally, Bill Lloyd-Smith gives us a further update on the planned second edition of A.F. Basset Hull's, *The Stamps of Tasmania* featuring some of the magnificent images which have been graciously contributed so far.

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Articles on any subjects of philatelic interest are welcome from contributors, whether or not they are RPSV members. Articles should be submitted as plain text in the body of an email or as an attachment in Word or Rich Text format. Please include a list of references or bibliography, as appropriate. Images should be supplied at 300 DPI or higher; quote source/permission for non-author images.

All contributions will be reviewed by the editorial team. Articles exceeding 3,000 words may have to be divided into instalments appearing in various editions of the journal.

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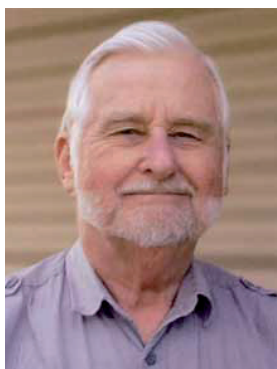
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# Crawford Medal 2015 for Kenneth Scudder FRPSV



Hearty congratulations are extended to Kenneth Scudder for being awarded the Crawford Medal 2015 for his recent publication, *Queensland Postage Stamps 1879 to 1912*. Following meetings of the Honours Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL), the award to Ken was approved by the Society's Council on 25 February 2015. Ken will travel

to London to be presented with his medal at the RPSL's Annual General Meeting on 25 June.

In the 95-year history of the Crawford Medal, which is

arguably the world's most prestigious philatelic publishing award, it is believed that the medal has only once before been awarded to a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, this being in 1954 to J.R.W. Purves for *The Half-Lengths of Victoria*.

The Crawford medal is named after James Lindsay (1847–1913), 26th Earl of Crawford, who assembled what is believed to be the greatest philatelic library of his time. Today, the Crawford Library is part of the British Library Philatelic Collections. The RPSL awards the Crawford Medal annually for “the most valuable and original contribution to the study and knowledge of philately published in book form during the two years preceding the award.”

Ken Scudder's *Stamps of Queensland* book was published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in May 2013.

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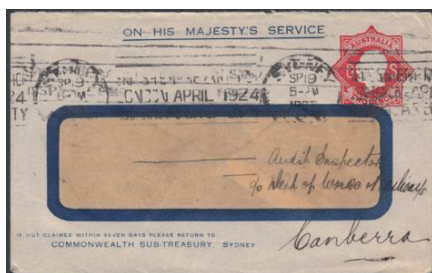
NSW 1907 TRAIN LETTER / LATE FEE cachet



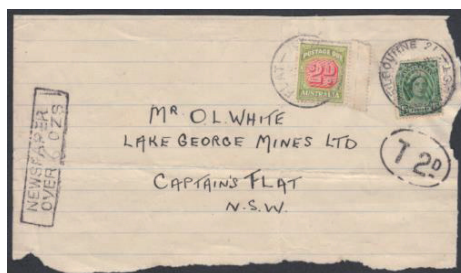
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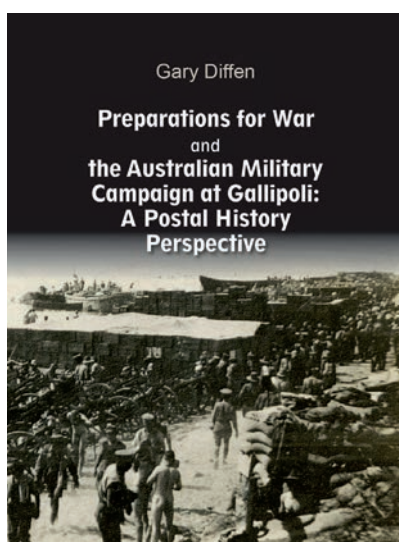
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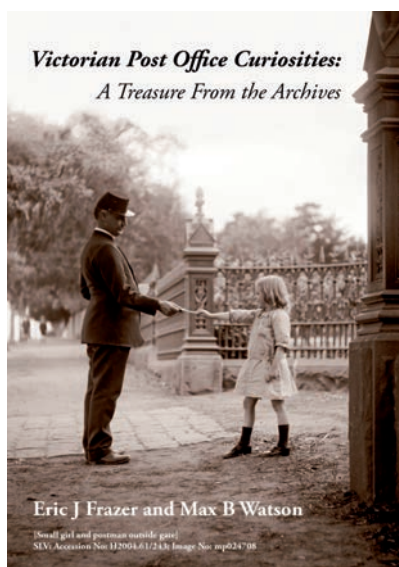


This is the inaugural publication of the RPSV *Collections Series*. It was launched by Major-General Greg Melick AO, RFD, SC and Gary Watson FRPSV, Head of Philately at Mossgreen Auctions, on 8 April 2015. Gary Diffen delivered a comprehensive talk detailing his grandfather's involvement at Gallipoli and introducing much of the material in the book. A display of more than 200 items from the book ran at Mossgreen Galleries from 8 to 12 April.

Unlike other books on the Australian military campaign at Gallipoli, this is the first to focus solely on the postal history of the conflict. It documents Gary's collection, one of the most comprehensive ever assembled. The work also details how the mail process functioned within the civil and military postal framework that existed in 1914 and 1915.

The book comprises some 150 pages in full colour and the initial printing has almost sold out. Those wishing to secure a copy can use the order form included with the March issue of *PfA* or download a copy from the Society's website: <http://www.rpsv.org.au>.

## *Victorian Post Office Curiosities: A Treasure from the Archives*, by Eric J Frazer and Max B Watson



The RPSV has just announced the coming publication of *Victorian Post Office Curiosities: A Treasure from the Archives*, by Eric J Frazer and Max B Watson. It is not a conventional philatelic work and will be of interest to postal historians, students of Melbourne & Victorian history, and some archivists and genealogists.

*Victorian Post Office Curiosities* is a ledger volume held by the National Archives of Australia (NAA) in Melbourne. It houses a collection of more than 200 curious, unusual, and "difficult to deliver" covers assembled by Letter Carriers at the Melbourne GPO over the period 1894-1911 to display their problem solving skills. This volume has been digitised and can be viewed at <http://www.naa.gov.au>.

The Frazer/Watson work presents extensive background research on the Letter Carriers and the handling of curiously addressed mail in Victoria and overseas. In addition, every item in the NAA volume has been transcribed and researched, revealing some fascinating stories about life in Victoria around 1900.

This hardback book will comprise about 360 pages in full colour and the initial print run will be limited to orders submitted by 15 July. Further details can be found in the order form enclosed, or downloaded from the Society's website: <http://www.rpsv.org.au>.



# Malta 1914 – 1918: “Nurse” and Postal Courier

*The aim of this article is to make known the great efforts of Malta and its people during the most difficult time of WWI, when the island became the ad hoc medical centre of the Mediterranean Sea for Eastern Europe's battlegrounds. In fact, Malta offered the best hospitals, doctors and specialists in Europe at the time, a legacy of the Order of St. John of Malta. As a result, Malta became known as the “Nurse of the Mediterranean”. A natural consequence of this role was the additional postal service rendered by Malta to the ANZACs, British and other forces through the Army Post Office, the staff being recruited from the civil post office.*

## Military Hospitals

The indication that Malta might be required to take an active part in providing medical assistance during the campaign was a cable from the General Officer Commanding (G.O.C.) Egypt dated 24 February 1915 enquiring the number of hospital beds available over and above normal requirements. Five hundred beds were offered immediately. Though the offer was not taken up, the Island Governor took immediate steps to expand the existing military hospitals and identify suitable buildings to establish new ones in anticipation. This initiative resulted in extending the capacity to 3,000 beds for the sick and wounded in Malta and a further 500 beds for convalescents at Fort Chambray in Gozo, Malta's sister island. Civil medical practitioners and civil hospital orderlies of the local St. John's Ambulance Brigade were also enrolled.

The main receiving hospital station at the time was located at the Sacra Infermeria or Holy Infirmary, a state-of-the-art hospital at the time when it was established by the Order of the Knights of Malta in 1574. It had a capacity for about 600 beds. Their skills in the field of Medicine were the most advanced in Europe at the time and this continued over many years after their departure. Situated very close to the Grand Harbour, where the Hospital ships brought the sick and wounded, it became the receiving and sorting base, as well as where dangerously ill or wounded patients were treated. (The wards of this hospital served many purposes over the years including as an end-of-high-school public examination centre; currently, it is the Mediterranean Conference Centre where the 2015 CHOGM will be hosted.)



*Figure 1: British, Australian and New Zealand sick and wounded treated and recovering at Bighi Naval Hospital, Malta.*



*Figure 2: The Holy Infirmary's facade with the limestone balcony and balustrades depicted on the 11c value of the set commemorating the Third Centenary of the School of Anatomy and Surgery, issued 15 Sept. 1976.*

By the end of March 1915, the first 500 sick personnel (venereal disease cases) arrived; they were accommodated partly at Forrest Hospital (already designated for such cases) and the rest at Imtarfa Barracks (hastily evacuated by troops). On 29 April, the G.O.C. Egypt cabled a request for 1,000 sick and wounded, and on the 30<sup>th</sup> a request for a further 600, and then later a further 1,000 cases. The foresight of the Maltese authorities in preparing much more hospital accommodation than requested was rewarded. By 6 June, the number of sick and wounded reached 1,962, by 12 June 2,593 and, by the end of the month, over 4,000 distributed among 14 hospitals. By now, Imtarfa Hospital (the venereal cases had been discharged on 13 June, cleaned and colour washed) and St. Andrews Hospital (expanded later to 1,158 beds), both splendidly located, as well as other hospitals at Valletta, Cottonera, St. Andrew's, Tigné, Floriana, Bavière and Hamrun were opened. At the same time, a few privately run hospitals offered beds and their services, and Naval and military beds were pooled too. One must also mention the offer of many private individuals to accept personnel with minor sickness and convalescents into their own houses. There is anecdotal evidence that suggests that a few, who were hospitalised and recovered in Malta, made a return trip in later years to thank the nurses and visit the graves of those they left behind.



Figure 3: Bighi Hospital had quite large corridors ideal for shielding patients from the summer midday sun and inclement weather while the wards had high ceilings. Due to the huge numbers of patients, at one point, they were bedded in corridors and ditches.

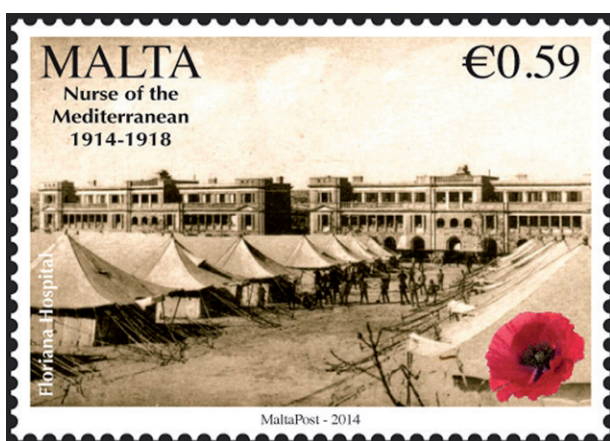


Figure 4: Floriana Hospital had a complement of 600 beds and its location was extremely convenient being close to the Grand Harbour and Marsamxetto Harbour, where all sick and wounded were disembarked.



Figure 5: HMHS Rewa was a steamship that was originally built for the British-India Steam Navigation Company. It was requisitioned for use as a British hospital ship during WWI. It was hit and sunk by a torpedo fired by the German U-boat U-55. It was carrying 279 wounded soldiers.

(This set was issued by MaltaPost plc on 7 Nov. 2014 to commemorate WWI.)

While sick and wounded continued to be landed in Malta, various initiatives were launched to assist in the convalescence of the several hundreds of soldiers. In October 1915, the Committee of the Soldiers' and Sailors'

Institute, with the assistance of a private donation of £200, converted a Gymnasium in Valletta into an institute for convalescents for the Navy, Army and Allied Forces. It included a library, reading/writing room, a refreshment bar, a billiard table and a fully equipped stage. It has been estimated that some 80,000 men benefitted from the venue, which had become one of the most popular places of entertainment in Malta. (After the war, it became the Vernon Institute.) One must also recognise and salute the valuable assistance rendered by the ladies of Malta (providing voluntary aid) and the Joint Committee of the British Red Cross Society (organising all the voluntary aid) and the St. John's Ambulance Association of Malta (donating gifts and medical comforts for the wounded). In addition, voluntary nurses and orderlies were trained and gave valuable assistance in hospitals.

During the third quarter of 1915, eight new hospitals were established and made fully dieted [equipped to serve appropriate food]; one was changed to a large convalescent camp hospital. During the second half of 1915, apart from wounded and sick servicemen, there were several cases of dysentery and other diseases. By then, the number of beds increased from over 6,000 to just under 13,100. One must remember that July, August and September witnessed some of the fiercest fighting on the Peninsula. Two thousand sick and wounded were disembarked in Malta, building the hospitalised population in Maltese hospitals to around 10,160 by the end of September. On a positive note, one must record that 3,500 fit personnel were returned to the theatre of war.

## Australia Hall

Malta at the time offered few places of entertainment, except a few bars in the capital city, Valletta, and in the town of Sliema and outlying areas which accommodated many of the British residents, mostly servicemen. So, the need was felt for some place of amusement for the thousands of convalescent Australian and New Zealander servicemen from around the St. Andrew's Hospital and other convalescent camps in the vicinity. Accordingly,



Figure 6a: Australia Hall (1916).



£2,000 out of an Australian Red Cross donation were used to erect a fine stone building on a site located between St. Andrew's and St. Paul's Hospitals. The edifice was designed by, and erected under the supervision of, the Royal Engineers; it was capable of seating 2,000 persons and officially opened in January 1916 as the "Australia Hall". In May 1916, it was managed by the British Red Cross Society and the Australia Hall Committee for the first few months; later, it was managed entirely by the latter. (Many years later, the property eventually passed over ownership to the Government of Malta, and was eventually sold to a private entity. The property has been in the news recently as it was sold to developers at a price much below its market value, maybe because of the dilapidated state at the time of the sale.)



Figure 6b: Australian Red Cross staff enjoying the warmth of the winter sun in the garden at the rear of Australia Hall.

## The Australians in Malta

Many Australian and New Zealand personnel were evacuated to Malta by hospital ships during the duration of the Dardanelles Campaign, and they relied much on the local postal services offered primarily by the Army Post Office, as well as the G.P.O. Malta, for communication with family and friends back home.

Many casualties could not be saved and were buried in Malta; 202 Australian and 72 New Zealanders are recorded dead and buried in Malta. ANZAC Day has been celebrated in Malta since 1916 (possibly the first commemoration ever in the world) and, since 1979, the service has been held at the Pietà Cemetery where the highest number of ANZAC war graves are located. There is also an ANZAC Memorial in the Argotti Gardens, Floriana, a suburb of the capital Valletta, where the names of the Australian and New Zealand men who lost their lives are inscribed. This author was present at

last year's (2014) ANZAC Memorial at Pietà Cemetery at the invitation of the Australian High Commission. It was a truly moving experience as a number of family descendants presented wreaths while various military and civil groups and representatives paid their respects.

## The K.O.M.R.M.

Before closing the military aspect, it is only appropriate to mention that Malta also provided military as well as logistical support. The King's Own Malta Regiment of Militia (KOMRM) was embodied by a proclamation issued on Sunday, 2 August 1914, by the then Governor and Commander-in-Chief, Sir Leslie Rundle. Their assignment was to man the various war stations on the coasts of Malta and Gozo, as well as stations dotted around the centre of the Island. This included guarding some 4,000 German, Austrian and Turkish prisoners of war. (Prince Franz Joseph von Hohenzollern, nephew of the Kaiser, rescued from the *Emden* was among those prisoners.) The KOMRM battalions provided assistance in several of the military hospitals.



Figure 7: The 1990 Maltese Uniforms (4th Issue) featured the Malta Labour Corps on the 10c stamp and the KOMRM on the 25c value. Both establishments contributed in the Gallipoli and Dardanelles campaigns.

On 14 January 1915, a contingent of 560 officers and men from both battalions left the Island to render garrison duties in Cyprus. Later in September, following a call for volunteers, 864 men volunteered for service in Gallipoli. About the same time, the half-battalion on service in Cyprus returned and most volunteered for service in Gallipoli, attached to British line regiments. On 5 December, a second labour battalion was sent to Salonika where a number of Maltese officers were decorated for bravery, while quite a few officers and men were mentioned in despatches. The KOMRM was eventually disbanded on 31 December 1921, to be resurrected again as the KOMR before WWII. In addition to military action, a group of some 1,000 Maltese was formed as the Malta Labour Battalion and served with honour and valour in the day to day strenuous task of assisting with carrying the wounded and sick people to various stations for processing.

## Malta commemorates

MaltaPost plc (the official name now that the post office is privately run) dedicated a special issue of a miniature sheet bearing a single stamp to the value of €3.59. The Miniature Sheet design is based around the famous image that adorned the special postcard issued by the St. John's Ambulance Brigade in 1915, after British papers described Malta as "The Nurse of the Mediterranean". The miniature sheet was issued on 25 April this year.



Figure 8: The ANZAC Centenary miniature sheet issued by MaltaPost plc.

## The Australian Post Office in the Middle East

According to Rupert M. Dalley RFD, the Australian postal arrangements in the Middle East were spearheaded by Staff Sergeant Arthur William Ross who embarked from Melbourne on 21 October 1914; by the second half of January 1915, he was put in charge of the newly opened Australian Base Post Office. In February, he was appointed Assistant Director of the Australian Army Postal Service of the 1st ANZAC Corps. After the withdrawal from Gallipoli, Ross, now a lieutenant, went to France to assist in the setting up of the Australian Base Post Office in Calais. In April 1916, his posting was as Deputy Assistant Director of Postal Services of the 1st ANZAC Corps. In November of the same year, he was promoted to Captain and Deputy Director of the Australian Army Postal Service; the following month he handed over to Lieut. C. J. Fletcher who was then Senior Postal Officer for the AIF in France.

## Postal arrangements in Malta

During WWI, British armed services mail was handled by the Army Post Office, a section of the Royal Engineers, Special Reserve. Staff were recruited from the civil post office. The General Base Post Office in the UK collected all mail from the civilian General Post Office, including all letters and parcels intended for the Expeditionary Forces. After sorting into separate bags for every unit overseas and organising their conveyance to the nearest appropriate port, mail bags were delivered to the appropriate Base, Stationery or Field Post Offices

(including Malta) which were responsible for handling all mail delivery and collection in the field.

Malta was regarded as a home station during WWI. While British army soldiers based in Malta were required to prepay postage, servicemen (including Allied Forces, such as the Australian and New Zealand forces) in hospitals were entitled to mail free of postage. During the Dardanelles Campaign, there were three stages of the Postal Services:

- 1: The initial arrangements which included the early services via Malta, from February to 10 June 1915.
- 2: Postal services through Alexandria from 10 June to mid-November 1915.
- 3: Attempts to accelerate the carriage of mail in November and December through direct sailings between Marseilles and Mudros (on the island of Lemnos in the Aegean Sea near Gallipoli).

Following a refusal by the French to carry parcel mails for the British (and Allied) Forces, an alternative route to Mudros was organised, coming into effect on 9 December 1915. All mail was to be directed to Malta. Two small Royal Engineers Postal Section (R.E.P.S.) parties were dispatched on 24 February and 20 March 1916 with great secrecy to two un-named base camps ("Base Z" and "Base Y"). Base 'Z' arrived at Mudros in early March, but was moved to Alexandria due to military activity preventing the setting up of the postal facilities there. Base 'Y' went straight to Alexandria, but was later moved to Mudros where it was set up in April. The Postal Unit from the Royal Engineers (UK) arrived in Alexandria on 23 April.

All mail from home (UK), as well as from Australia and New Zealand, for the Mediterranean Expeditionary Forces (M.E.F.) in the Dardanelles and Egypt was sent to Malta from where it proceeded in bulk to Mudros. Following complaints from the Egyptian end, mails were made up in two bundles, one to Malta for the Dardanelles and the other to Egypt. A small detachment of the Royal Engineers Postal Section was stationed on the Island of Malta to process (check and load) mail to the Dardanelles. However, due to irregularity in the availability of transport between Mudros and Malta, it was decided that all mail was to be sent to Egypt and vice-versa. The first mail under this new system reached Alexandria on 10 June 1916.

Homeward bound mails, including those to Australia and New Zealand, were at first processed at Mudros from bundles and bags received from the stationary "beach" field post offices. From Mudros, they were usually forwarded by sea transport to Malta, from where they proceeded on their onward shipment by the regular mail steamers to Marseilles, or elsewhere as required, but also sometimes by a direct route to England. In September 1915, the few staff of the R.E.P.S. took over the work of addressing letters from the hundreds of wounded



in the M.E.F. hospitals in Malta and transferring them to the local R.E.P.S. for processing. In later years, Malta became an important mail processing station for Mudros and Salonika and the work was taken over by the regular Army Post Office on the Island of Malta. Mails from British servicemen recovering in Malta were sent by the next available mail ship, while mail from French personnel was generally processed by the French army post office usually on board ships in port or the Mediterranean sea. Indeed, one comes across interesting postal markings from French military authorities.

### Lieutenant Colonel Rhodes' mission

In late 1915, Lieut. Col. R. H. Rhodes went to Egypt and Malta on a mission on behalf of the New Zealand Government to make a full enquiry concerning the hospital and postal arrangements. This followed concerns about the lack of letters to families in New Zealand from the war front, especially the sick and wounded. During his visit he made enquiries in Egypt, Malta and Lemnos, and also paid a visit to the trenches in Gallipoli.

He communicated his impressions regarding the scope of his visit to the Minister of Defence. He admitted that the hospitals and the postal staff had been subjected to "very severe strain" in the early days when casualties were very severe, conditions were strange and the distribution of staff "uncertain". However, he excluded "carelessness or inefficiency". He also confirmed that "everybody worked with a will" and that "there had been steady improvements in the services as the staffs adjusted themselves and acquired experience." In his report, he also referred to the claims of "enormous quantities of unsorted mail matter that had accumulated at the New Zealand base in Alexandria", which he denied. He stated that, following the recruitment of more experienced men, the service had made great improvements and assured the authorities that "the postal staff would prove itself capable of handling the work."

### "On Active Service MEDT<sup>N</sup>" Handstamp

Since all the wounded and sick hospitalised in Malta and Gozo from the Dardanelles campaign were military personnel, they were allowed to post letters and postcards free of charge. Such covers carry a mandatory manuscript declaration, "On Active Service", at the top. The postal markings on these missives included the single ring dated and coded "ARMY POST OFFICE" postmark, and generally a circular undated double or triple ring handstamp inscribed "ON ACTIVE SERVICE" at the top and "MEDT<sup>N</sup>" or "MEDT" at the bottom. The London G.P.O. Proof Book shows ten versions of this handstamps, eight of which have been recorded. Most had a (solid, outline, crude or no) cross in the centre, while at least one handstamp is known without the "MEDT<sup>N</sup>" at the bottom.

Some of the handstamps have the superscript "N" missing. There seems to be some doubts whether only sick and wounded personnel in hospitals were allowed to use this service. The earliest known date of this handstamp is 15 JU 15 (Type 2), which coincides with the arrival of the first sick and wounded from the arena of war. There is no doubt that the "On Active Service" handstamp was used on mail written in the various hospitals; the cross in the centre implies that this was the case, the latest on 17 DE 18 (Type 1).



Figure 9a: OAS-1 + OAS-2 + OAS-3



Figure 9b: OAS-4



Figure 9c: OAS-5 + OAS-6



Figure 9d: OAS-7



Figure 9e: OAS-8 + OAS-9 + OAS-10

Various colours of these handstamps have been recorded; some individual handstamps are known in at least three different colours used at the same location. For example, Type OAS-3 is known in violet, blue and red-mauve and was used on mail from the Imtarfa Hospital between 26 AU 15 and 18 NO 17. Although generally all (incoming and outgoing) mail was censored, mail from the hospitals in Malta, though it may have been censored, generally did not receive censorship markings. It has been proposed that, since in many cases military personnel had been involved in writing letters for the sick and wounded, there was no need for a further delay in processing mail by applying a censorship mark.

### The "Army Post Office" postmarks

Two Army Post Office postmarks were used for the duration of WWI. The first, "ARMY POST OFFICE S Z 7", APO SZ7, was a 28 mm single ring postmark which included a code (\*, A, B or D) and the date, shown below. The "S" is an indication that it was a "Stationary" Office rather than a "Railhead" Office; "Z" indicates its "Headquarters" area, while the "7" stands for the individual office. According to the Malta Study Circle (UK), up to July 1916, no code letter was used; after this date, codes "A", "B", "D" and "X" have been reported used.



Figure 10: ARMY POST OFFICE - SZ7

The earliest recorded date is 17 NOV 15 (no code), and the latest 27 JY 17 (Code A). Anecdotal evidence suggests that this handstamp was moved to Egypt in the summer of 1917. The Malta handbook, *The Stamps and Postal History 1576–1960* published by the Malta Study Circle (UK), reports

the use of the “ARMY POST OFFICE SZ6” on a “Malta Souvenir Post Card” dated 26 Oct 15. This author suspects that the postcard may have actually been posted in Egypt, where the SZ6 was in use. Malta stamps have also been recorded cancelled “BASE ARMY POST OFFICE” (14 JU 15 and 10 FE 18) and, although the Army Post Office number is not known, it is thought that it may be “Z” (at least after mid-1917) which was located at Alexandria after its term in Malta.

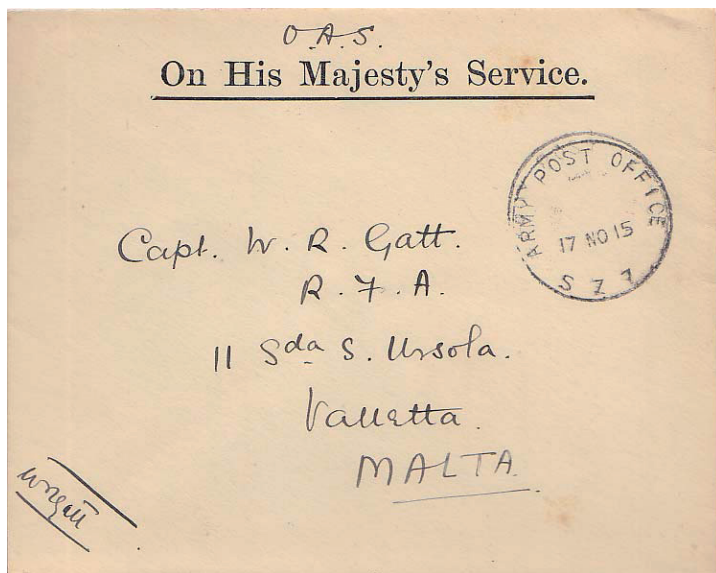


Figure 11: Local “O.H.M.S.” cover endorsed “O.A.S.” (On Active Service) at top to Captain W. R. Gatt of the Royal Field Artillery at his home address, Valletta, Malta dated 17 NO 15. Cover bears a fine strike of the APO SZ7, and marked bottom left m/s “URGENT”. Capt. Gatt was an avid postal historian at the time and it is likely that this cover is one of his philatelic endeavours.

The other handstamp was the “ARMY POST OFFICE H.D.1.”, APO H.D.1. which was introduced early in 1917. It was used concurrently with APO SZ7 and eventually replaced it. It has been suggested that the “H.D.” stands for “Home Depot”. Three handstamps of this particular postmark were sent from London on 17 JA 17, and they can be differentiated by consulting a table of five different dimensions.



Figure 12: ARMY POST OFFICE - HD1

The earliest recorded date of use is 11 AP 17, and the latest is 17 JA 19. Codes “A”, “B” and “+” have been recorded, but the significance of the “+” code remains unknown. Generally, the “On Active Service” and the “Army Post Office” (H.D.1.

/SZ7) handstamps were meant to be applied together on the cover, but this was not always the case.

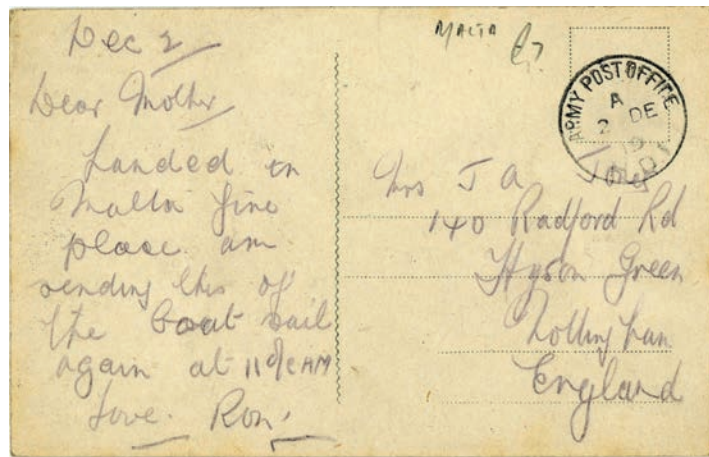


Figure 13: A very late use of the APO HD1 (2 DE 19) on a postcard to England, writing “Landed in Malta fine place am sending this off the boat sail again at 11.00 AM Love. Ron.”

All sorts of combinations of these postmarks and handstamps may be found on mail posted through the hospitals and convalescent camps but, generally, the “OAS” handstamp is found in violet as well as other colours, as mentioned earlier. In addition, other marks may be applied depending on the route and/or channel the postal item goes through, such as Hospital Ships, or base camp. For example, some covers, with regulatory manuscript identification of the individual (generally lower left hand corner of the missive) have been locally posted and received a Valletta G.P.O. postmark or the Sliema B.O. postmark (both civilian).



Figure 14: Headed “Valletta Hospital”(\*), dated “16-6-15” (the earliest known date for any OAS handstamp is 15 JU 15) postmarked at the “Valletta G.P.O.” (Army Post Office not yet fully set up?), m/s “On Active Service” at the top and OAS handstamp in violet. (\*) The hospital referred to here is the “Holy Infirmary” Hospital (see earlier), which was the receiving station. In fact, the date (16.6.15) is close to the date when the first wave of sick and wounded was being disembarked.

One would suspect these letters would have been posted outside normal channels. In some cases, they may have been handed in at a base camp (hospital or convalescent camp) or dropped in the few letter boxes or pillar boxes in the city (Valletta) or Sliema and processed by the G.P.O. If they were not handed in at the camp, were there any processes in place that such mail, after receiving a Valletta/Sliema postmark, would be passed on to the Army Post Office?





Figure 15: Cover endorsed (trans.) "Expeditionary French Troops of Palestine", and (trans.) "French Military Hospital in Malta", postmarked by the APO HD1 (dated 21 JU 18) and OAS-MEDT<sup>®</sup> handstamp and "Passed by Censor No 4182" in green-blue.

If so, some missives must have been missed or were processed through the normal channels, as for civilian mail. Some covers, particularly from non-British military personnel, were processed through the censorship channels. Examples of both cases are presented here. Other covers received either the "On Active Service" hospital handstamp and no other mark, or were serviced

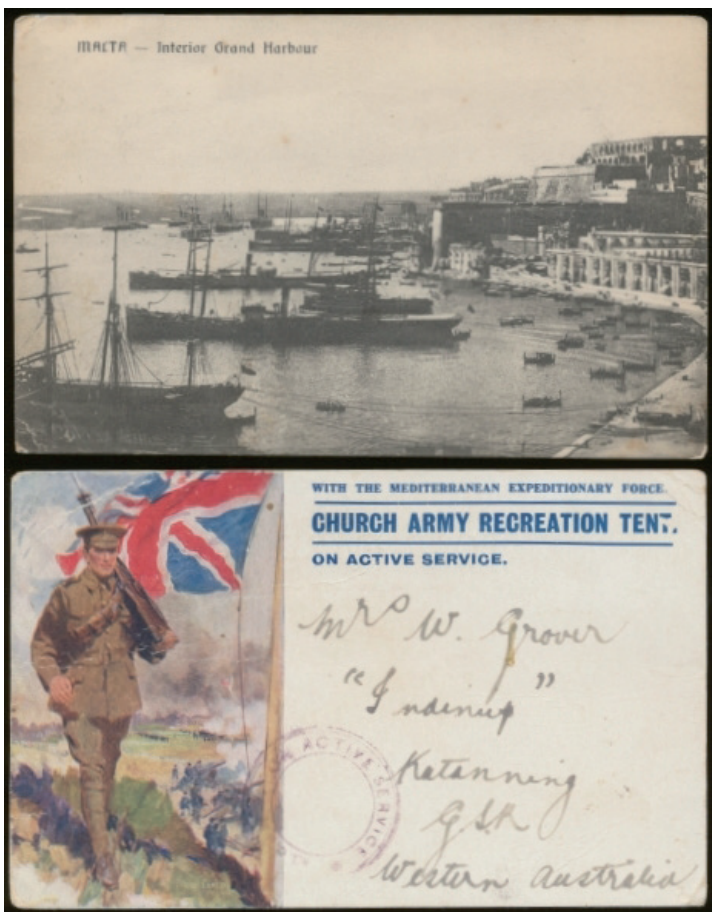


Figure 16: Undated "official" postcard (view of the Grand Harbour, Valletta, Malta at back, thus identifying the location) to Western Australia, with a strike of OAS-7 (no cross in centre) to Mrs. W. Grover in Katanning, Western Australia. "On Active Service" in print.

through the local postal setup after processing through the normal hospital channels. Of course, for students of this interesting phase of postal history, such variations provide the much sought after challenge and point of discussion, which makes this pastime of ours such an exciting and interesting endeavour.

### The "Wounded Post Office - Malta" handstamp

This particular handstamp is relatively rare and not much has been recorded in the annals of Malta postal history. Indeed, few covers are known bearing this handstamp, often applied in violet ink. A handful of covers have appeared in philatelic auctions over the last five years or so, and all fetched quite high prices. Two examples of this handstamp were on offer at Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, Sale 60 of the "Victory" Collection of Malta held on 21 October 2010. Lot 3405, estimated at £600-£800, consisted of a picture postcard dated 26 June 15 with manuscript "On Active Service" across the top, addressed to Yorkshire, England with a fine strike of the circular framed "WOUNDED POST OFFICE - MALTA" handstamp in violet, and a faint double ring "ON ACTIVE SERVICE - MEDT<sup>®</sup>", (OAS-7).

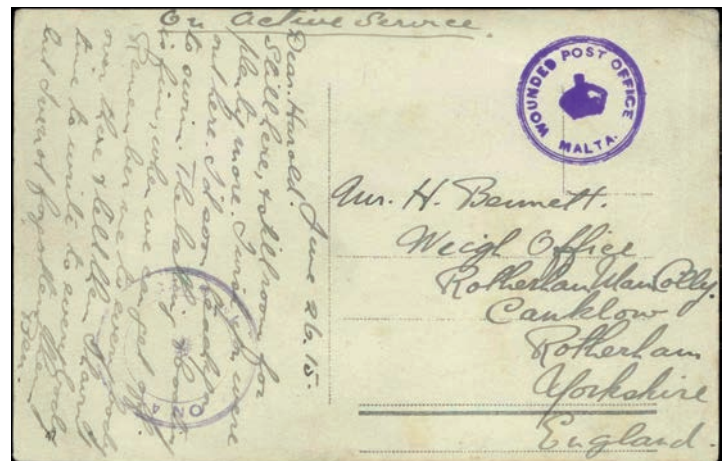


Figure 17: Postcard to England dated June 26, 15, with a faint OAS-MEDT<sup>®</sup> and a very bold Wounded Post Office handstamp in violet.

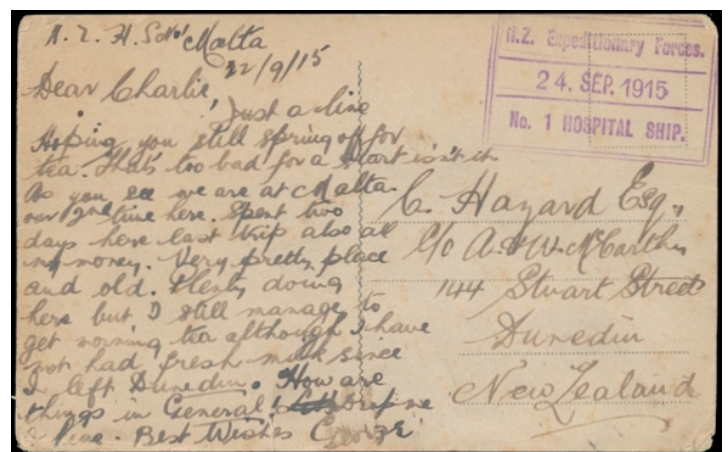


Figure 18: Postcard from a New Zealand soldier to Dunedin on board the hospital ship, in Malta, dated 22/9/15. The rectangular "N.Z. Expeditionary Forces/ 24. SEP. 1915 / No. 1 Hospital Ship." cachet applied on board. Malta described as: "Very pretty place and old."

## The Maoris in Malta

The Maori contingent, numbering just under 500 men, under Lieut.-Col. Herbert spent several weeks in camp on Malta before embarking to join the New Zealand Expeditionary Force at Anzac Cove. They spent their time in rigorous training at various camps on the Island and participating in field days. At the time, there were some two hundred different units of the British Empire and Allies, along with a very large number of troops from the UK. The order for departure to the battlefields arrived in June 1915.

According to author James Cowan, "The Maoris' home letters were often phrased in poetic and touching language." Private Huirua Rewha wrote from Malta to his parents, "Come to me, go from me, my letter of love to my parents, Rewha and Mae..."

## Sources:

"Australian fatalities at Gallipoli", The Australian War Memorial, <https://www.awm.gov.au/encyclopedia/gallipoli/fatalities/>

"Gallipoli and the Australian Home Front", Australian Government, Department of Veterans' Affairs, <http://www.anzacsite.gov.au/5environment/homefront.html>.

Grosvenor Philatelic Auctions, Sale No. 60: The "Victory" Collection of Malta, 21 October 2010.

*Malta Military Hospitals 1915-1917*, (Report) by G. R. Bruce, M.A., M.D., D.P.H., Capt. R.A.M.C. (S.R.), Specialist Sanitary Officer, Malta.

*Malta - The Nurse of the Mediterranean*, by Albert G. Mackinnon, M.A. 1916, Hodder and Stoughton, London (re-published 2010).

*Malta: The Stamps and Postal History, 1576-1960*. Handbook, Malta Study Circle, edited by R E Martin, 1980.

Prestige Philately, Auction No. 162: "The World at War", 5 March 2011.

*The Maoris in the Great War: A History of The New Zealand Native Contingent and Pioneer Battalion: Gallipoli, 1915, France and Flanders, 1916-1918*, by James Cowan, 1926 (Ch. 3). Auckland, Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 3.0 New Zealand Licence.

Gary Diffen

# Troopship Mail from the Second Convoy until the end of WWI

In the March edition of *Philately from Australia*, we skipped several topics in this series of articles to discuss the postal history of Gallipoli in remembrance of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the landing on 25 April 1915. We will now resume the series in order, and examine the mail from the Second Convoy until the end of WWI.

This is a fascinating field in itself, where a very good collection can be assembled with very modest means. The only issue is finding the appropriate material. Tony Finlayson authored a superb reference book on this area entitled, *Cachets and Transports of the AIF in WWI*, and I recommend this publication to all students of this field. Reference in this article is made to the types of cachets listed in John Firebraces' book, *British Empire Campaigns and Occupations in the Near East 1914-1924*.

## The problem of censorship

The principal issue with the mail from the First Convoy was the lack of censorship on the letters and postcards

sent home by the troops. This was partly addressed by the Second Convoy which consisted of sixteen troopships, numbered A29 to A44, and comprised principally of the 4th Infantry Brigade and the 2nd Light Horse Brigade. All the vessels assembled at Albany and sailed on 31 December 1914.

## Second Convoy mail: Introduction of a censor label

From 28 December 1914, a major proportion of the mail collected from the Second Convoy troopships was processed by Divisional Headquarters on board the A38 *Ulysses*. The ships landed at Colombo on 14 January 1915, and the mail was picked up by the SS *Egypt* the following day, landing in Adelaide on 30 January, for distribution by rail to the eastern states.

Figure 1 is an undated postcard of the A40 *Ceramic* addressed to Queensland with the "Passed Censor...M" label (Firebrace Type CM 24), and tied by an unframed "Australian Imperial Force" cachet in purple. The



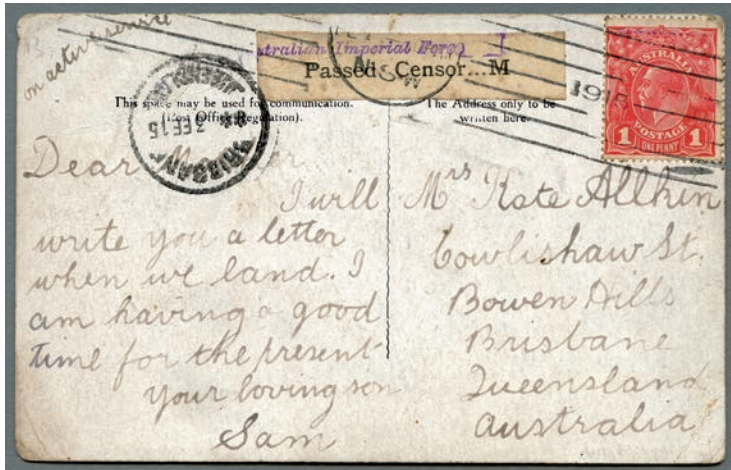


Figure 1

processing of this card was at the Headquarters on the A38 *Ulysses*, where this censor label originated. Other cards from this voyage also show the censor label originating from this troopship.

In his book on the *AIF Postal History*, Bob Emery states that this censor label was privately produced by Lieutenant Colonel Joseph Beeston on the A35 *Berrima*. However, given that all the known examples of this censor label have originated from the *Ulysses*, this statement is now considered incorrect. This censor label is quite scarce, and its usage has been recorded from other ports where the convoy stopped from Albany to Egypt.

### Second Convoy mail embargoed at Albany - 28 December 1914

The postcard in Figure 1 was written at Albany on board the A40 *Ceramic* and transferred to the Divisional Headquarters on the A38 *Ulysses* before leaving port on 31 December 1914. It was embargoed and carried all the way to Aden. The evidence of the embargoed mail is the Brisbane arrival postmark of 3 February 1915. All arrival datestamps in the first week of February 1915 in the eastern states were transported by the SS *Egypt*, which picked up the mail in Colombo on 15 January 1915. Private Samuel Allkin wrote this postcard on the A40 *Ceramic*, which bypassed Colombo on the way to Egypt. Instead, it sailed directly to Aden, docking on 21 January. The mail from Aden did not reach the eastern states until 15 February.

### The Third Convoy: Introduction of maritime censor handstamps

The Naval Board introduced ship-based censorship in February 1915 and this was applied to transports in the Third and subsequent convoys. From the Third Convoy onwards, they only referred to “convoys” in name as the vessels did not sail or stay together. Whilst some censor cachets included the troop transport’s A number, many did not, with a number of others inserting the A number in manuscript.

### The primary type of troopship censor cachets

A number of different types of “A.I.F./ Passed by Censor No.....” cachets were manufactured with a variety of combinations of punctuation marks to separate the “A”, “I”, and “F” in the top row of the handstamp. Seven primary types have been identified, of which there are an additional two sub-types. The registration of the “AIF” with the “Passed by censor No.....” in the lower row has two distinct settings. The first has the “I” above the “ce” of censor, whilst the second setting has the “I” above the “n” of censor. Hence, the primary troopship censor cachets are allocated under the following Emery classification:

- MCM 1/A: stop, stop, comma (I/CE)
- MCM 1/B: stop, stop, comma (I/N)
- MCM 1/C: stop, comma, comma (I/CE)
- MCM 1/D: stop, comma, comma (I/N)
- MCM 1/E: comma, comma, comma
- MCM 1/F: stop, colon, comma
- MCM 1/H: comma, stop, stop
- MCM 1/J: stop, stop, stop
- MCM 1/K: stop, colon, stop

These classifications are quite difficult to follow; however, it is the only classification that has been published to which collectors can refer. Figure 2 shows a representation of MCM 1/E (with the commas after A, I, and F). The postcard of the troopship A7 *Medic* in Figure 3 (addressed to South Australia) shows the ship’s censor cachet “A.I.F./ Passed by Censor No.”, unusually in blue (Firebrace Type MCM 1/J, with three full stops in the “A.I.F.”). The number “7” was inserted in manuscript, representing the A7 *Medic*.



Figure 2

### The secondary type of troopship censor cachets

The grouping of the secondary type of troopship censor cachets also started during the Third Convoy. Their classification is generally quite broad; essentially they have the “Passed by Censor” in addition to the specific number of the troopship within the cachet. This format

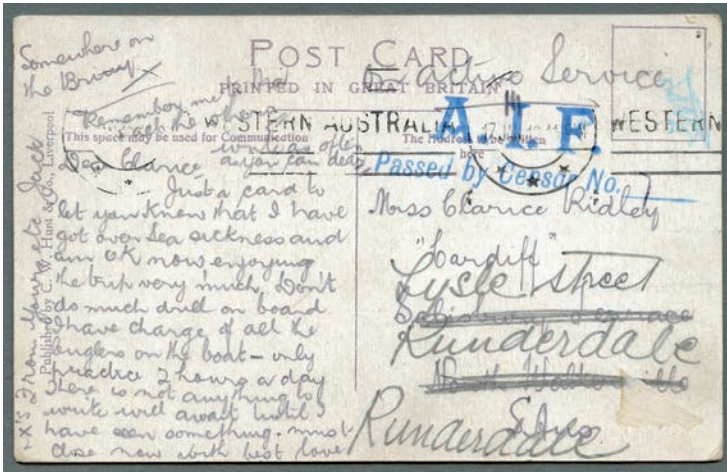


Figure 3

is consistent with almost all the secondary cachets. In nearly all cases, the secondary cachets are scarce to rare, with most having only a couple of examples recorded. Since the publication of the Emery books in the late 1980s, a number of new examples have been discovered.

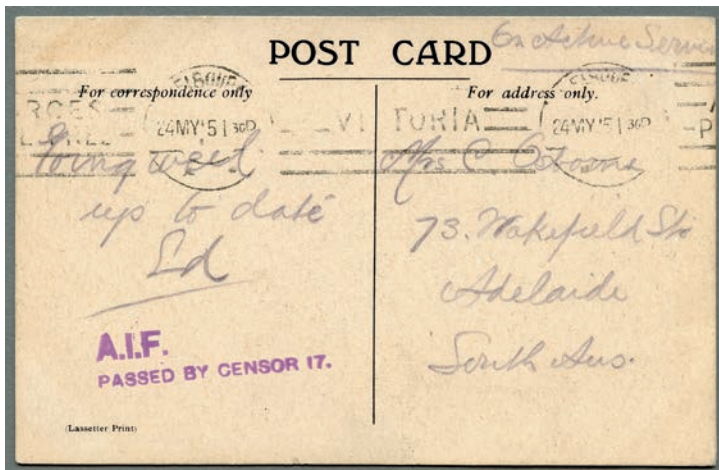


Figure 4

Figure 4 illustrates a postcard cancelled by the "A.I.F./ PASSED BY CENSOR 17." cachet (Firebrace Type MCM 15). This is a very good example of the secondary troopship handstamps. The A17 *Port Lincoln* embarked for Egypt as part of the Fourth Convoy, departing Adelaide on 1 April 1915. This card was bagged on arrival at Suez

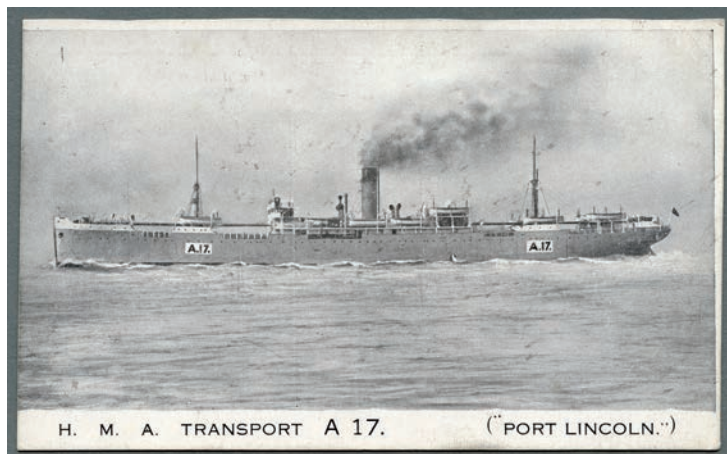


Figure 5

on 26 April and carried by the R.M.S. *Mooltan* from Suez to Australia, where it entered the postal system at Melbourne on 24 May 1915.

Postcards of the troopships are highly collectable and Figure 5 shows an unusual picture of the *Port Lincoln*. For censorship purposes, the name of the ship and "A 17" on the hull should have been inked out by the censor before being posted.

### A rare maritime manuscript censor

Also sent from the Fourth Convoy is this rare postcard of the A18 *Wiltshire* in Figure 6, dated 27 April 1915. Unusually, it is censored by a manuscript endorsement "A.I.F./ Passed Censor 18", in a similar style to the official cachets. It is the only example recorded of this maritime censor. The card was written by Private Thomas Anderson. He was promoted to Sergeant in France where he was awarded the Distinguished Conduct Medal for an attack on a pillbox in Ypres on 4 October 1917. Promoted to Lieutenant, he was further awarded the Military Cross for bravery at Rosiers on 9 August 1918. He survived the war and returned to Australia on 23 September 1919.

### Contemporary photographs prior to embarkation

Contemporary photographs prior to the embarkation of the troopships are quite rare. Figure 7 shows a photograph of the A71 *Nestor* looking over the Melbourne pier; it is dated 11 October 1915, prior to embarkation of the Thirteenth Convoy. The image was taken by Captain Arthur Clayton of the First Australian General Hospital. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Order as Acting Commander of the 8th Australian Field Ambulance at Ypres in late 1917 for devotion to duty. He served throughout the war and returned to Australia on 22 August 1919.

### An unusual postcard signed by soldiers of the 30th Infantry Battalion

The postcard in Figure 8 of the troopship A72 *Beltana* has printed, at the base, the transport information of the battalion and soldier information which was contrary to military censorship. It was written by Private Eric Robinson who roused all his mates from "D" Company of the 30th Battalion to sign the card. These signed cards are very scarce, and I have only seen about ten of these from various convoys.

### Pre-payment using postage stamps when mail was available free for soldiers on active service

Figure 9 is a YMCA postcard from the Seventeenth Convoy written aboard the A32 *Themistocles* by Private



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**SWITZERLAND, 1850, 'Winterthur'**  
*2½ rappen on cover (2009)*  
*Provenance: Iwan Bally (1964)*  
**HELVETICUS (1990)**

**CHINA, 1897,**  
*'Red Revenues' \$1*  
*from the*  
**'NORDENFELT**  
**STAMP FIND'**  
*(2008)*

**BRAZIL, 1843,**  
*interpane block of*  
*four (2013)*

**SARDINIA, 1853, mint strips of 5 from the**  
*'ROYAL STAMP FIND' at Fort Belvedere (2009)*

**BASEL DOVE 1845, mint pair.**  
*Provenance: Theodore Champion (1954)*

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GB£ 498'000,-  
EUR 600'000,-  
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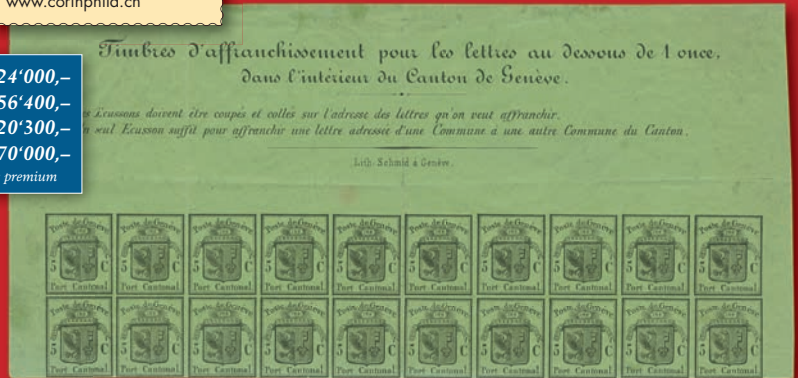
CHF 262'900,-  
US \$ 230'600,-  
GB£ 146'000,-  
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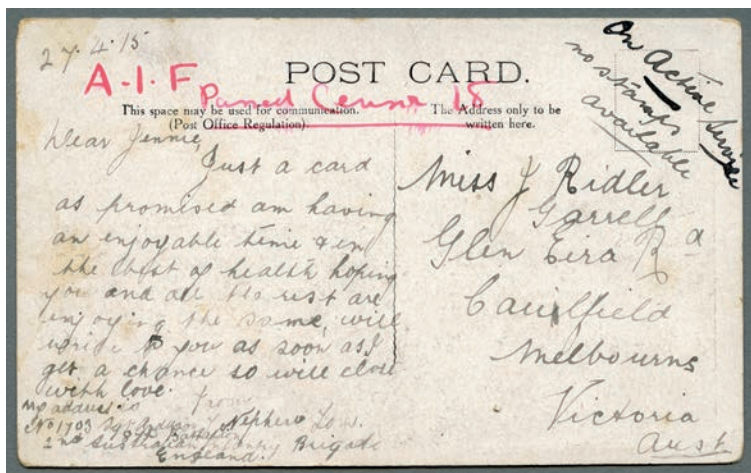


Figure 6

Ken Clark of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Brigade. Unusually, the card has an Australian 1d Red KGV stamp although the writer was eligible for free postage. However, the



Figure 7

reason for this is explained in the message. Private Clark writes: "I am going to put an Australian P stamp on it, and hope that the Censor, or whoever stamps the date on our letters, will be kind enough to stamp the date on the P stamp, as it will be rather a novelty after the war". The card was posted at the first port of call at Colombo, Ceylon and cancelled by the "A.I.F./PASSED BY CENSOR" cachet in purple (Firebrace Type MCM 13) of the Troopship A32 *Themistocles*. On the reverse, the censor has excised the port name in purple indelible ink.

### Troopship Convoys via South Africa

By September 1916, with most of the Australian troops fighting on the Western Front, it was decided that, from the Twenty First Convoy onwards, most of the ships would sail via South Africa. From about this period, until the end of the war, troopship mail is decidedly much scarcer than earlier convoys. Fewer men were enlisting

in the AIF, and the number of ships in each convoy was gradually becoming less. In general, it is much harder to identify the troopships from these voyages and the identity of the soldiers writing the postcards.

A card from the Twenty First Convoy is illustrated at Figure 10. Although the troopship is unknown, it is cancelled by a Cape Town cds of 27 June 1916, the first port of call for this particular convoy. In addition, it is handstamped with the "A.I.F./ PASSED BY CENSOR....." cachet in purple and initialled for censorship, a cachet not recorded by Firebrace.

### Mail from west Africa

With the convoys travelling to England via South Africa, some of the ships had to call along the way to ports on the west African coast. Only the occasional ship stopped at Dakar in Senegal, or Freetown in Sierra Leone. Figure 11 is also from the Twenty First Convoy, with the postcard headed "Dakar. French Senegal./ 29/6/1916" and addressed to New South Wales. Mail from these ports to Australia is very scarce.

The card is cancelled with the primary censor cachet "A.I.F./ Passed by Censor No." in violet (Firebrace Type MCM 1C). The interesting thing to note is that the manuscript censorship number "847" or "8X7" does not correspond to the transport ship number. A couple of other examples from the A8 H.M.A.T. *Argyllshire* on this convoy are also recorded censored with the manuscript "8" number, indicating censorship on this troopship did not follow the normal pattern compared to other convoys. This type of censorship using three digits is recorded on other convoys and has posed questions for Australian military postal historians for a number of decades – with no definitive answer. If anyone has a theory connected with this manuscript censorship, please get in contact with me. With other military collectors, I have been trying to work this out for years.



Figure 8





Figure 9



Figure 10

## Convoy 33 via Panama

Finally, one of the most interesting and rare troopship mail items is from the Thirty Third Convoy via Panama. This voyage consisted of only four vessels, and it was the only one to travel via this route. Figure 12 is an innocuous cover and a little battered about! The only clue as to its importance is the addressee, Mrs W. J. Holden.

The envelope was written by Sergeant Wellington Holden of the 50<sup>th</sup> Infantry Battalion. He embarked on the A32 *Themistocles* at Melbourne on 2 August 1917 as part of the Thirty Third Convoy. The manuscript "25-8-17" indicates that the letter was written at sea before departing Colon, Panama on 8 September. Mail from this convoy is rare and difficult to properly identify. On a sad note, Sergeant Holden was killed in action on 1 September 1918 and was buried at Villers-Brettoneux.



Figure 11

## Collecting troopship mail

The postcards and envelopes displayed in this article only provide a glimpse of what is available. Many of these items can be purchased for a very modest sum. In many cases, the addressee or soldier number allows identification of the author of the item. A quick look at the records in the Australian War Memorial can open up a rich history of an individual. The messages on the cards can be quite revealing. They can convey images of hope, despair, loneliness, and love. I can thoroughly recommend collecting this subject. You never know what will turn up!

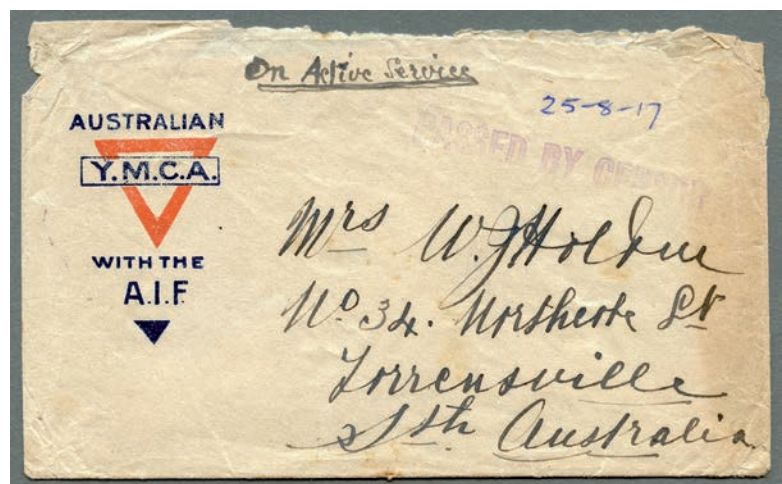


Figure 12



# A note on the Telegraph Stamps of New South Wales and Western Australia

It is only quite recently that Stanley Gibbons has granted catalogue status to the telegraph stamps of New South Wales and Western Australia. This occurred in the 2013 edition of their catalogue for Australia, Australian Colonies and associated Territories, first released at Australia 2013, World Stamp Expo in Melbourne. Many years ago, Gibbons did list telegraph stamps for Great Britain such as the 1926 edition of its British Empire catalogue.

While it is true that telegraph stamps were not intended for use as postage stamps, they had an analogous function as their use ensured the transmission and delivery of telegrams, just as postage stamps were (and still are) used for the transmission and delivery of letters and parcels through the mail system. Indeed, telegraph forms have been considered as analogous to normal postal stationery such as postal cards, stamped envelopes, wrappers and so on. Perhaps they could be seen as stamped telegraph stationery? This attitude evidently prevails in the Higgins and Gage catalogue of postal stationery for the world and the earlier Ascher catalogue. These forms are well known for New South Wales, Queensland, Victoria and Western Australia, although the Western Australian telegraph form is not listed in the catalogues by Higgins and Gage or Ascher.



Figure 1: NSW 1d Electric Telegraphs

These telegraph stamps and many others have been listed in various catalogues, including those published outside of the British Commonwealth. Details are provided below.

In the case of the New South Wales telegraph stamps, Basset Hull's book on New South Wales provides a good deal of information. It will be seen that the designs (e.g., see Figure 1) were derived from the then current series of duty stamps, ranging from 4d to £1 (e.g., see Figures 2 & 3). The denominations selected from that series were 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 4/-,

6/- and 8/-. New denominations of 1d and 2d had to be created using new plates to show the Colony's name and face value as noted by Basset Hull (page 380). Apparently, it is unknown whether any marginal inscriptions were provided for the 1d and 2d. The stamp duty keyplate would have had plate number 4 (for comparison, see the 1/- duty stamp with imperforate margin illustrated in Figure 2). The duty plates for 6d, 1/-, 2/-, 4/-, 6/- and 8/- were already available and would have shown current numbers 2, 4, 6, 9, 11 and 13 respectively, as we can deduce from Basset Hull (page 280). No current numbers can exist for the 1d and 2d since the duty plates for these would

have been locally produced. The telegraph keyplate would need to have been produced in the Sydney office and, hence, would not have a plate number in the style used by De La Rue.

All eight values were printed on the bluish stamp duty paper (first type watermark NSW) and perforated 12½, 13. The centre and outer rectangular frame were printed in black, while the rest of the design was printed in colour as follows: 1d: brick-red; 2d: blue; 6d: Indian red; 1/-: bright blue; 2/-: brown; 4/-: mauve; 6/-: carmine; 8/-: lilac.



Figure 2: NSW 1/- Stamp Duty with imperforate margin

Some sets were overprinted SPECIMEN. These appear to be all of Type 3, as described in the scheme devised by Geoff Kellow and the late William McCredie for New South Wales. See the Millennium auction catalogue for the William McCredie sale (2011) and also the Prestige Philately catalogue of the John Bell collection of New South Wales and Tasmania (2013).

This series was withdrawn after only one month. Apparently, the *Electric Telegraph Act 1857* had no provisions for stamps to be issued for denoting payment

of telegraph fees, so this series was technically not a valid issue of stamps for telegraph fees. These stamps were never available for postage or revenue purposes.

Stamps were not issued for telegraph fees again until late 1885. Basset Hull describes a proposal in a report dated 17 August 1885 by the then Assistant-Superintendent of Telegraphs (Mr P.B. Walker) on prepaying telegrams by means of stamps as pursued in Victoria. This proposal was approved by the Postmaster-General, who thought that new stamps of denominations 10/- and £1 were needed, together with a £10 stamp for Press telegrams. However, the proposed £10 stamp was not pursued further. The 10/- and



Figure 3: NSW 2/- Stamp Duty

£1 stamps that emerged from this proposal were obtained by overprinting current duty stamps of those denominations with the word POSTAGE to signify their availability for postage or telegraph purposes. Further, postage stamps were approved for use on telegrams by the Executive Council on 22 September 1885, but only the 5/- POSTAGE overprint was so used (first supplied to the Telegraph Department on 15 October 1885) as the 10/- and £1 were not issued until May 1886. By then, the use of stamps on telegrams had been discontinued as from 1 April 1886.

Thereafter, stamps were not used for telegraph fees until October 1893 when ordinary postage stamps were declared to be available for those purposes. That system remained in force until well into the Federal era.

These stamps are fully listed in various catalogues, such as all the Yvert et Tellier catalogues held by the RPSV library and the earlier Moens catalogue of 1892-3. This series is listed in the 1923 edition of Senf's catalogue, but in no other editions held by RPSV. Robson Lowe's Encyclopedia, Volume 4, also lists this series as telegraph stamps. Of course, they are listed in Morley's catalogue of telegraph stamps but many other catalogues consulted by the author do not list them. Further details are given in Basset Hull's book on New South Wales (Chapter VII).

In the case of Western Australia, a good deal of information about telegraph stamps is available from the book published by the Western Australia Study Group (1979) and later books by Brian Pope (1991) and Mogens Juhl (1981, 1992).

In brief, there were only two denominations of adhesive stamps (1d bistre and 6d lilac), initially perf 14 (first printing issued April 1879) followed by a second printing of 1d only perf 12½ (see Figure 4). The 1d was authorised for postal use from 26 October 1886 to alleviate a shortage of 1d stamps. The 6d value was not authorised for postage at this time, due to adequate stocks of the 6d Swan type stamp. The plate number for the keyplate was 1 while the current number was 2. The 1d and 6d telegraph stamps are known with the overprint CANCELLED type D7 (see Figure 5). This was applied by De La Rue, apparently for reference purposes. Scans of both values have been seen by this author and show that they were perf 14, but this is not stated in the book on Western Australia of 1979.



Figure 4: WA 1d Telegraphs (perf 12½)

There is the question as to whether the 6d telegraph stamp was ever authorised for postal use. Certainly, some postally used copies are known. It is probably safe to say that postal use of the 6d prior to the *Post and Telegraph Act 1893* that came into force on 5 September

1893 was not authorised, although usage was not necessarily penalised. As Juhl stated (1981), the money still ended up in the same Treasury. The Act of 1893 made provision for postal and fiscal use interchangeably for fees up to one shilling for stamps (both postage and revenue) issued by the Western Australian authorities. There is the intriguing possibility that the 6d telegraph stamp might have been legally available for postage from 5 September 1893, although such usage was not intended. Even more irregular was the occasional use of cutouts of the 1/- indicium from telegraph forms for postage. Such usage is almost certainly philatelic in motivation.

Not surprisingly, Robson Lowe listed the Western Australian telegraph stamps and also mentioned the 1/- telegraph form in a footnote, including usage of cutouts for postage. We note that some overseas catalogues, such as those published by Morley, Yvert et Tellier and formerly Gebrüder Senf (1923 edition) listed telegraph stamps for many countries, including New South Wales and Western Australia. In detail, I have seen listings of telegraph stamps in Yvert et Tellier in various editions between 1919 and 1978. The same comment applies to the earlier Moens catalogue. The telegraph stamps of Western Australia are listed in some other catalogues, mainly on the grounds that they were also used for postage. This includes Calman and Collin (1901) and the Scott catalogues in some years, such as 1910 and 1914 (held in the RPSV library).

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Figure 5: WA 1d & 6d Telegraphs CANCELLED (perf 14)



# New South Wales OS Overprint Errors



Figure 1

The New South Wales OS stamps are probably the most neglected issues of the Australian Colonies. There are a number of great rarities in these stamps, including many overprint errors which are characterised by a number of double overprints. However, care should be taken when purchasing these stamps since a number of “double impressions” of the OS forme exist, and all of these should be accompanied by an expertising certificate from a recognised authority, such as the RPSV.

As opposed to the OS overprints of South Australia, NSW has very few misplaced overprint errors. The 3d stamp in Figure 1 is one of the few that I have recorded. This is from the first printing of the Small Crown/NSW issues, SG O5 of which I have seen only two examples. Although not a catalogued variety, it does show that the government printer did not produce many sheets with the overprint misplaced.



Figure 2

The first major rarity of this group is the 5/- Corbould overprinted OS double. My records show that the only recorded mint example (see Figure 2) was auctioned as part of the Steinway collection by Harmer Rooke of New York as Lot 512 on 25 October 1939. It was



Figure 3

purchased by the great London dealer Tommy Allen. The first overprint is 1.5 mm to the left of the second strike, and this is consistent with the used stamps as well. Strangely, the error was listed by Stanley Gibbons much later in 1995. Two other used copies are known, making this one of the rarest OS overprint errors of NSW.

My next error is a little more contentious. The block of ten featured in Figure 3 shows a doubling of the OS overprint across all the stamps. It is interesting to note that the doubling is clearer and more pronounced on the right hand than the left hand units. This error was first mentioned by Hutson in *The Stamps of New South Wales* in 1960 and listed as SG O21ca in 1974. The single used stamp in Figure 4 shows what I would regard as a “double impression” of the OS overprint. These are readily encountered, especially in the 2d and 6d values, and care must be taken when purchasing these errors. The 2d value is probably the most common of the double OS overprint errors, with this mint block being the only recorded multiple.



Figure 4

Proving that overprint errors can still be discovered in modern times is the innocuous block of twelve of the 3d value, perforated 10, shown in Figure 5, from the Large Crown/NSW watermark issues. I bought this in an auction lot in 2009 and turned it over to examine the reverse. It showed the OS overprint double across the whole block, with one being albino. This is hard to illustrate from the reverse, and it does not have the same impact as the true double discussed in the next paragraph. However, it is still a legitimate error which was listed in the Stanley Gibbons catalogue in 2010. I have also found another example, perforated 12, which proves that new discoveries can still be made, even now.

However, the major rarity from this printing is the 3d Green with the double overprint shown in Figure 6. This error was well known to collectors early in the last century, and it was listed by



Figure 5

Stanley Gibbons as SG O22ca in 1909. The positions of the overprints make identification quite easy. Three used examples are recorded in private hands, with a solitary mint copy in the Royal Collection.

Although difficult to see due to the Sydney cancellation, the 8d Yellow stamp with the triple OS overprint shown in Figure 7 is a great rarity with only two examples recorded in private hands. It was known to collectors in the 1920s when King George V acquired his example; this was listed by error in the Wilson book on the Royal Collection in 1953 as only a double overprint. It was catalogued in 1988 by Stanley Gibbons. The three overprints are almost on top of each other and can only be seen under magnification. Other variations of the doubling of the “OS” exist as “double impressions”, and care must be taken in buying these errors on the 8d value.

A popular OS double error is the red overprint on the 1/- value listed as SG O33ba in 1909. It is quite a scarce error with only six used singles and two pairs recorded, one of which is in the Royal Collection. I suspect that there are more examples of this stamp lurking in other collections. All examples show a small shift upwards

and 1 mm to the left, consistent with the overprint illustrated in Figure 8.

After the Diadem issues, there are very few OS double errors recorded. One of these is the 2d Emu design from the Centenary series. The stamp in Figure 9 shows how the doubling occurred. The first overprint at the top has the “O” well formed, but the “S” of the overprint is much weaker, although it can be clearly identified. The printer must have been unhappy with the first overprint and inserted the sheet a second time to avoid wastage. The second strike is a much clearer impression and is overprinted ON TOP of the original “OS”, thereby creating the error. This example was first discovered in 2009 and listed by Stanley Gibbons the following year.

Two examples are recorded, both in mint condition.

The final overprint error shown in Figure 10 is a little known OS double from the 1891 surcharge series. I found no mention of this stamp in the philatelic literature until its listing as SG O55a in 2005. I have recorded three mint examples, each of them show the first overprint as a much lighter strike in grey-black.

The NSW OS overprints have been woefully neglected by many philatelists; however, there are sufficient errors to maintain an active interest in this area. I believe there are other unlisted errors waiting to be found, so the search is on ... I would be interested to hear from other collectors about the discoveries that they have made.



Figure 6



Figure 7



Figure 8



Figure 9



Figure 10



## 'PENOE' vice 'PENCE' double, on 2d Tasmania 'Platypus' 1903



This rare variety was a side-effect of Federation because, “On and after the 1<sup>st</sup>. prox. postage stamps may not be used for the purposes of the Stamp Duties Act, nor revenue stamps for postal purposes. The following postage stamps have been withdrawn, and will only be used for revenue purposes, viz.:—St. George and Dragon, 2s 6d, 5s, and 10s; Platypus, 1d, 3d, 6d, and 1s; Queens’s Head, £1. Persons having these revenue stamps in possession may exchange them at the Post Office for postage stamps at any time during the month of December.” (*Examiner*, 17-11-00, 9a). Note the absence of a London Print 2d Platypus, the need for which only arose some 18 months later.

On 26 July 1902, the Tasmanian Government announced a scale of Receipt Stamp Duties proposed to operate on and after the first day of September, 1902, including one of 2d “...in respect of every receipt or discharge given for or upon the payment of any sum of money amounting to £3 and does not exceed £30.” (*Mercury*, 26-07-02, 5d). This was problematic for John Vail, the Government Printer, as there was no 2d Duty Stamp available. He would have to print a quantity of 2d stamps, in addition to whatever other values were needed, in time to allow stocks to be distributed to Post Offices throughout Tasmania and available for sale by 1 September 1902. The quickest solution for Vail was to print ‘Platypus’ sheets without value and overprint them ‘REVENUE’ whilst having 60 type-set, curved ‘TWO PENCE’ units made to suit the De La Rue ‘Platypus’ Key Plate of 120.

How was this done? In the absence of official documentation, together with the undoubted rarity of the single and double ‘PENOE’, it is suggested that a type-set ‘master’ of four (2 x 2) was employed. (See Kellow, 1985). The actual procedure could vary considerably between different printers but, in general terms, it required making four curved ‘TWO PENCE’ duty dies to match the spaces in the original De La Rue Key Plate. An ‘O’ instead of a ‘C’ was inadvertently used in one of the four positions, but the error was detected in the first reproduced block and corrected on the master from which 14 correct blocks of four were then generated. These, together with the faulty block, were locked into a forme to make a pane of 60 in six rows of ten. Two applications of the pane of 60 were required and consequently one unit in each pane had the ‘PENOE’.

In the Parliament, when debate resumed on 26 August 1902, the 2d Duty was extended to an upper limit, not exceeding £50 and, to come into force on 1 October 1902 (*Examiner*, 27-08-02, 6f). The operative date was subsequently pushed back to 1 November 1902 (*Examiner*, 13-09-02, 7d). *The Stamp Duties Amendment Act 1902 (2 EDWARD VII, No 30)* however, was not assented to until 20 December 1902 and the commencement date became 1 January 1903, and that date was publicised.

At Launceston for instance, the public was warned that “On and after Thursday [1 January 1903] every receipt of £2 and over must be stamped. The responsibility of so doing resting with the person who signs or gives it. The scale is £2, and under £5, 1d, £5, and under £50, 2d, £50 and upwards, 3d. [A detailed list of exemptions follows]. Any person refusing to give a receipt, or signing it or giving a receipt without stamping it, is liable to a penalty not exceeding £5. Receipt stamps must be used on and after Thursday....Receipt forms can be stamped with impressed stamps on application to the Commissioner of Stamp Duties, Hobart. Postage stamps cannot be used. The necessary revenue stamps can be obtained at all Post Offices.” (*Examiner*, 30-12-02, 5d). Despite the extensive publicity, the introduction was an organisational shambles!

**At Devonport:** “The State Treasurer — or his subordinates — don’t appear to be very anxious to obtain revenue by the imposition of the newly-legalised stamp duties on receipts. A firm who wished to comply with the Act applied at the Post Office for revenue stamps yesterday, and were informed that none were procurable. Postage

stamps are barred; anyone neglecting to stamp a receipt for any sum exceeding £2 is liable to a penalty not exceeding £5; and yet no provision is made for compliance with the Act! Is a stoppage of business aimed at?" (*North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, 3-01-03, 2e).

**At Launceston:** "Quite a demand has set in for receipt, or, more properly speaking, revenue stamps since the commencement of the new year, but strange to say, although the public have been warned as to the necessity of using these stamps on receipts, the authorities appear to have entirely overlooked the fact that such an act has come into force. On Friday and Saturday business people and others were unable to obtain revenue stamps, and much annoyance and inconvenience was caused in consequence. Not only was the supply of receipt stamps totally inadequate to reach the demand but there was also a great scarcity of post cards." (*Examiner*, 5-01-03, 4f).

**At Hobart:** "Revenue Stamps. It is stated that the first issue of revenue stamps, numbering 47,000, was absorbed on the first day of the year, much to the astonishment of the authorities, who had imagined the first supply would be ample. However unpopular this form of revenue tax may be, it is certain that the public had become fully aware of the necessity for prompt compliance, and not at all inclined to run risks." (*Mercury*, 5-01-03, 5a). Furthermore, "The Revenue Stamp Department has had to meet an extraordinary pressure owing to the enormous demand for receipt stamps. On 31<sup>st</sup> ult. a supply of these stamps was forwarded to 350 post offices throughout the State, but the demand was so great that by noon on the 2<sup>nd</sup> inst. 70,000 stamps of the values of 1d., 2d., and 3d., had been issued, and although further supplies were being printed, the stock became exhausted, necessitating the surcharging of 24,000 stamps of higher value, which were all in circulation by Saturday morning. An ample supply of all values is now in hand, and any demand can be met. With reference to the deficiency of supply at the local post office, we are informed that it only existed for about three hours." (*Mercury*, 6-01-03, 4g).

Legal confusion persisted, however, and some months later "The Full Court gave judgement to-day in the case of the Deputy Postmaster-General against the State Government. In this case the Postmaster was fined 1s at the Police Court for having failed to affix a revenue stamp to a receipt for £41 19s 9d. Judge Clark gave judgement in favor of the Postmaster, but the Full Court (consisting of the Chief Justice and Justice M'Intyre [*sic* McIntyre]) held that the appellant's claim could not be sustained, and the decision of the magistrates was upheld." (*North Western Advocate and the Emu Bay Times*, 19-09-03, 3c).

The emergency printing of 1d, 2d and 3d values was the first time that the De La Rue 1d and 3d Duty Plates and the 2d Hobart Duty Plate had been involved in the one printing, and a special one at that! Given the urgency of the printing required, it is suggested that some left-overs and spoils from the August printing of the 2d that already

bore the printed duty, were reprinted with the duty plate to ensure that the total delivered tallied with the trip meter on the press. This procedure accounts for the duty printed in two colours.

Colour descriptions are given here in plain language and there is no intended relationship to any other stamps. It was general practice for a stamp value to be allocated a specific colour to be maintained for subsequent printings, but the technical quality of the Hobart printings was somewhat less than that of the London printings and, in practice, it was difficult to maintain colour consistency. This was especially so in the hurried circumstances of the Hobart printings in August 1902 and January 1903. John Vail was printing in 'Brown' but the end result, although adequate for his purposes, is now difficult to classify, and the stamps today can only be deemed to be in varying degrees of 'Brown'. Furthermore, although stamps printed on the main press were in one ink, the duty plate seems to have been printed on a different press giving rise to slightly different duty shades on the one stamp. A recently discovered stamp in 'Orange Brown', dated 10 July 1903, indicates a third printing, circa mid-1903? Thus, the 2d Receipt Duty printings may now be classified as August 1902 and January 1903 in varying degrees of 'Brown' and circa mid-1903? in 'Orange Brown'.

Whilst in my possession, the Double 'PENOE' has received a Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Certificate (No. 4294), 'is genuine', issued 26 April 2011. Since being authenticated, the stamp has been exhibited competitively on three occasions with remarkably different results!

May 2012, Western Australian Centennial Exhibition, Claremont, W.A: The Judge rejected the Certificate and said the stamp was not a 'PENOE'!

October 2012, Swan River Stamp Show, Claremont, W.A: The Judge had no problem with the Certificate or the 'PENOE'!

October 2014, Australian National Stamp Exhibition, Adelaide, S.A: The Judge did not notice the 'PENOE'!

I have no rational explanation of such divergent assessments. Have you?

#### Acknowledgement

My thanks to Brian Pope for his support and assistance with this article; without his encouragement, it might not have been written.

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# A Tale of Two Unusual Postage Due Covers



**Cover 1:** 1952 Canada 24 November > Perth 3 December, Western Australia, Australia:

**Tax treatment:** Canada airmail postage rate to Australia 25¢ each quarter ounce; over ¼ oz: deficiency 25¢, double deficiency 50¢. Conversion rate: 1¢ = 3 centimes; deficiency equivalent to 150 centimes. Australian conversion rate utilized was 1d = 4 centimes: (150 ÷ 4), total 37½d = 3s/1½d. Postage due collected at Perth G.P.O. and receipted with bicolour postage dues.

The determination of the amount of postage due in Australian currency on incoming overseas taxed covers is not always obvious or intuitive from viewing underpaid covers and their associated tax markings. The Universal Postal Union has enforced different taxing formulae and regulations from the time the Australian Colonies joined the Union in October 1891 to the present.

**Cover 1:** For outgoing underpaid international mail, Australia changed its conversion rate for postage due purposes to 1d = 4 centimes from mid-1948, before a second devaluation to 1d = 3 centimes came into effect in December 1949. From about mid-1948, the concession rate for taxed incoming British Empire mail, i.e., 1d = 10 centimes, was discontinued and the centime/penny conversion rate applied was the same as for foreign country shortpaid letters. The penny/centimes rates on incoming and outgoing taxed mail may not have co-existed within the same time frames or have been interpreted identically by each State.

From about 1951, the postage due on incoming overseas, taxed mail was not generally collected. I suspect the collection of postage due on taxed overseas mail was not cost effective. Most examples of collection after 1951, sighted by this author, are for taxed mail addressed to G.P.O. capital city post boxes, applying a conversion rate

of 1d = 3 centimes. This cover is singular with respect to the application of the 1d = 4 centimes conversion rate for taxed incoming overseas mail. No other taxed cover from overseas has been seen by me in any time frame using the 1d = 4 centimes conversion rate to calculate the postage due surcharge in Australia.

**Cover 2:** From 1 September 1978, the double deficiency system was changed to the collection of the deficient postage plus a service fee of 16 cents<sup>3</sup> on domestic shortpaid / unpaid mail within Australia. 'Underpaid' cards were utilized to collect the surcharge from the sender, if known, or from the addressee.

The collection of the postage due surcharge in Australia on taxed mail from overseas, from the inception of decimal currency, is rarely encountered. This author has not sighted an example utilizing the Vienna double deficiency fraction system introduced from 1 January 1966 and superseded by the Lausanne formula, fraction plus handling charge, possibly from September 1978.

This is the sole example of the Lausanne treatment for incoming international taxed mail sighted by this author. Subsequent to acquiring this cover, I realized that it was philatelic; however, this taxed cover remains one of my favourites. All aspects of taxing and postage due collection are consistent with the contemporary regulations.



**Cover 2:** 1978 Dortmund 24 April, Germany > Poste restante Mackay 5 May, Queensland, Australia:

**Postage rates and postage due treatment:** LUFTPOST / BY AIR MAIL letter, total postage franking 75 Pfg. The international surface mail letter rate was 70 Pfg, the tax fraction denominator. The airmail surcharge to Australia was 40 Pfg; therefore, 110 Pfg was the correct franking for an airmail letter up to 5 grams. The letter short paid 35 Pfg, the tax fraction numerator. Tax fraction 35/70 as applied. In Australia<sup>1</sup>, the destination country, the tax fraction, 35/70, was multiplied by the first weight step of the surface rate to Germany, i.e., 25c, and a tax handling charge of 16c added. Total tax 35/70 x 25 = 12.5 rounded up<sup>2</sup> to 13c plus 16c = 29c, as marked. Postage due surcharge collected and receipted with Australian postage stamps, total value 29 cents.

*Notes:*

<sup>1</sup> *Universal Postal Union, Lausanne, 5 July 1974.* Entry into force generally: 1 January 1976. Article 21(f): Charges on unpaid or underpaid unregistered items: "Charge fixed at the charge adopted for letters at the first weight step by the country of delivery multiplied by the ratio between the amount of deficient postage and the same charge adopted by the country of origin; to this charge shall be added a handling charge...prescribed by internal legislation" (*Australian Treaty Series 1977 No. 5*).

<sup>2</sup> *Post Office Circular No. 134, December 1971* regarding the Vienna scheme on Inward Overseas Items states: "The amount should be rounded up to the next whole cent, where applicable..."

<sup>3</sup> The service charge handling fee, 16c per article, was introduced 1 September 1978 and increased to 20c on 14 July 1981.

100 YEARS



50 YEARS AGO

*The Australian Philatelist*, 3 June 1915, summarised a lecture "The Production of Stamps" presented to the Philatelic Society of Victoria on 20 May by J.B. Cooke:

"He explained the various methods of obtaining plates; a steel die was first engraved, from which sufficient lead impressions were embossed to form a complete plate. The face of this plate was then covered with copper by being placed in a bath through which an electric current was passed. This film of metal was then stripped off and the back of it strengthened to the required thickness, thus forming the plate from which the printing is done. All the plates were steel-faced excepting the penny. The printing machine at the works printed 1200 sheets of 480 stamps each per hour. About one and a-quarter million penny stamps were required every day. On Tuesday the lorry left with Sydney's supply of stamps consisting of 25,000 sheets. The old machine printed 1500 letter cards per hour, the new one did 9000. Three boys worked the perforating machines, which did the work of 25 women on the old machines. Before the issue of Commonwealth stamps there were 90 plates of States' stamps in use, so that the work was simplified now."

Australia's growing range of philatelic magazines was discussed in an editorial in *Philately from Australia*, June 1965:

"Today is the day of increasing specialisation, in philately as elsewhere. One of the developments of recent years has been the growth of study circles, both in number and diversity. Before the specialist society or group has been operating long it finds the need of a publication for its discussions, queries, discoveries and findings. So often, a bulletin or journal is started and the need is satisfied. Many of these are a credit to the circles and persons responsible for them, and at first sight this would appear to be a pure gain for philately. But in fact it is not an unmitigated benefit. So many of these bulletins, journals and newsletters are small or duplicated and do not survive long. Consequently, the knowledge contained in them tends to become lost. . . . Important philatelic journals do not usually want to republish material from bulletins and when they do it is generally material that should have been in print in the first place."



# Bassett Hull: The Stamps of Tasmania: Images still required for the Second Edition

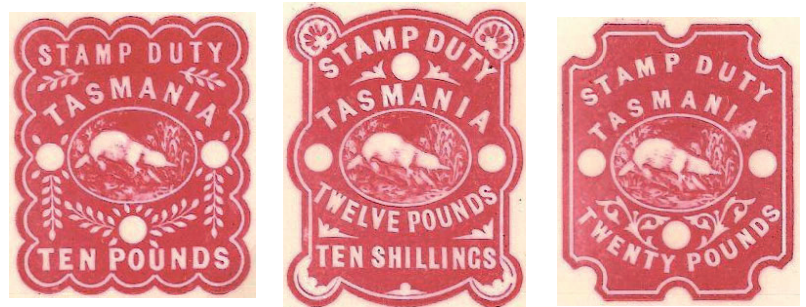


The 10s and £1 bicoloured stamps

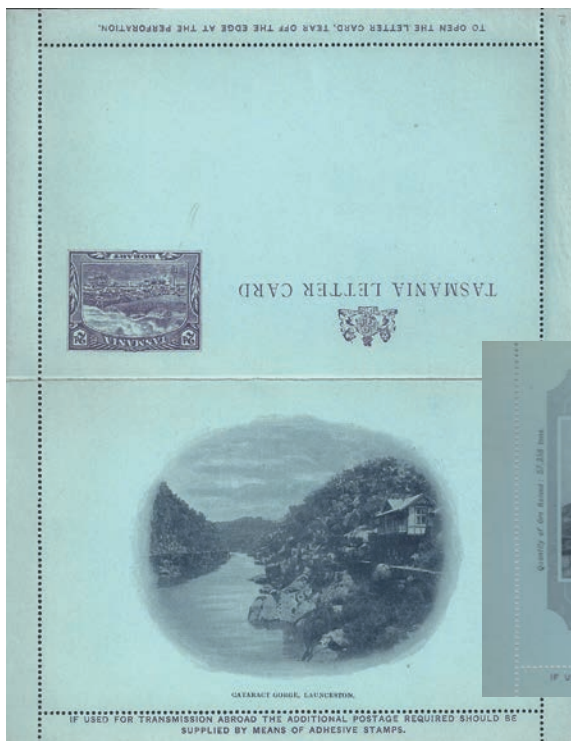
The recent calls for suitable images have been heard! We now have images of a range of views on the 2d lettercards, especially those issued in 1900 (Views) and 1903 (Mines). In addition, we have also obtained images of the bicoloured stamps (10s, £1) and the 27 Platypus impressed duties. (A few of these images may need enhancing.) We take the opportunity to illustrate some of this wonderful material.

A number of images of mint examples are still required. These should be of publishable quality and be scanned at a minimum of 400 DPI. As before, please send contributions directly to the author: bill.lloydsmith@gmail.com.

- 5/- brown St George and Dragon (imperforate issue of 1863-64).
- Sideface unused, especially 10d, 9d, 4d bistre, 4d yellow, 3d.
- The scenic lettercards from 1907 onwards. Most of the views are centred on the Cradle Mountain – Lake St Clair region, well known to tourists and bushwalkers.
- Earlier impressed duties from the 1860s (prior to the Platypus impressed duties from 1880 onwards). These are listed in Craig and Ingles' catalogue.



The £10, £12/10/- and £20 Platypus impressed duties



Two 2d letter cards

- Specimen and Reprint overprints, especially on Chalon, Sideface and Bicolours.
- Selected Beer Duty stamps in the period 1880 to the early 1900s with representative examples from each issue, if possible. Because of the poor condition that beer duty stamps often exhibit, we will attempt to use the most presentable examples.
- Further images of early Tasmanian postal notes would be most welcome.



The 4d blue and 5s Sideface.

Note: All images are reproduced with permission of the owners.



## Vale: Arthur Gray

### Hon FAP, FRPSV, FRPSL

Arthur William Sinclair Gray (14 April 1939–22 May 2015) was arguably the most successful philatelic exhibitor of Australian Commonwealth the stamp world has seen. A larger-than-life character, Arthur Gray invariably left a memorable impression on anyone who met him.

Arthur was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, as well as a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society London. He was a former president of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of NSW, which recently awarded him honorary life membership of the club.

During a 64-year career in philately, Arthur remained devoted to Australian Commonwealth stamps. He loved to hunt down and acquire items for his collection, which embraced the Kangaroo & Map and King George V issues, through to the modern decimals. Anything unusual and special had a place in the collection. Arthur could regularly surprise and delight by displaying a range of his unexpected rarities.

As a 12 year old, Arthur cycled around every post office he could reach to buy elusive imprint blocks with his pocket money. When a kindly postmaster offered imprint blocks of the obsolete Robes stamps for their face value, Arthur raced home to negotiate a loan from his parents to secure these treasures.

Arthur began his professional career as an executive with BHP (now BHP Billiton). He went on to become a merchant banker with Kleinwort Benson and retired as managing director of Russell's Health Foods. Skills acquired in his business career were put to good use when Arthur negotiated with stamp dealers!

Arthur was a late arrival on the exhibition scene. His first entry into competitive exhibiting was at Canberra Stampshow 1998, where "The Kangaroo Issues and Related Essays of the Commonwealth" won a Gold Medal and the show's Grand Prix. With this National-Level qualification, Arthur's Kangaroos exhibit was at AUSTRALIA 99 in Melbourne, where it won Gold and Best 20th Century Exhibit. By London 2000, the Kangaroos exhibit had gained a Large Gold Medal.

Between 1999 and 2015, Arthur won at least 21 Large Gold and 11 Gold medals at world philatelic exhibitions for his various Australian Commonwealth exhibits. As early as 2003 he was elevated to the FIP Championship Class with Kangaroos. His other Large Gold exhibits at FIP level comprised: "The George V Definitive Issues of Australia 1913–1938"; "The King George V Commemorative and Pictorial Issues of Australia 1927–1936"; and "The Stamp Booklets of Australia 1904–1973".

At National-Level, Arthur's Large Gold exhibits comprised: "The King George VI Definitive Issues of

Australia 1937–1952"; "The Queen Elizabeth II Pre-decimal Commemorative Issues of Australia 1953–1965"; "The 1d Red George V Issue of Australia 1914–1920"; and "The Australian Birds Series 1964–1966". The latter exhibit's Large Gold is a surprising achievement for these modern stamps.

In February 2007, Arthur sold his Kangaroo stamps at Shreves Galleries, New York. The 849-lot auction involved sales of nearly A\$7.2 million and generated a lot of publicity in the general media. This is believed to be a record for a 20th Century, "single issue" collection. The cover of the sumptuous auction catalogue featured Arthur's favourite stamp – the £1 brown & blue Kangaroo with JBC monogram.

The decision to sell the Kangaroo stamps surprised many people. Arthur was quoted as saying there was little new he could acquire in Kangaroos and he wanted to devote his energies to building up George V, later stamps and booklets. He believed it was best for collectors to supervise the sale of their own collections, and the dispersal of the Kangaroos to a new generation of collectors was "a thought that delights me."

After retirement from the business world, Arthur became a partner in establishing Millennium Philatelic Auctions and acquiring Brusden-White, publisher of *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*. Two years ago, he played a major role organising Australia 2013 World Stamp Expo, specifically by securing exhibits for the Court of Honour, arranging sponsorships and promoting the Patrons' Club.

During the final four months or so of his life, Arthur was seriously ill but this did not mean giving up. He attended Sydney Stamp Expo in April, where his George V Definitives exhibit was judged as top of the Championship Class. At the SSE Palmares, it was announced that Arthur was appointed an Honorary Fellow of Australian Philately (Hon FAP).

At the RPSV meeting on Thursday, 21 May 2015, Arthur was due to present a display of pre-decimal Queen Elizabeth definitive stamps. Up to a couple of weeks beforehand, he was determined to make the trip from Sydney himself, but it proved too much. Instead, he sent his daughter Rebecca to present the display to the meeting. The following morning Arthur passed away.

Arthur Gray is survived by his wife Nancy and his children, Cameron, Danielle and Rebecca.

Sources: Glen Stephens (Stampboards) and Malcolm Groom



# Exhibition Awards for Society Members

*Congratulations to RPSV members for their awards at TAIPEI 2015, CANAKKALE 2015, MALAYSIA 2014 and SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2015. In particular, Stephen BROWNE won Grand Prix d'Honneur in Championship Class for NSW Postal History at TAIPEI 2015, and Grand Prix d'Honneur in competition for the exhibit at MALAYSIA 2014; Darryl FULLER was Grand Prix d'Honneur runner-up in Championship Class at TAIPEI 2015 for Leeward Islands Postal Stationery; and Michael BLAKE won Large Gold at CANAKKALE 2015 for The Great Australian Legend 1914-1916. At SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2015, Arthur GRAY topped Championship Class for George V Sideface Definitives; Gary DIFFEN won Large Gold and Grand Award of the Exhibition for Preparations for War & Gallipoli Campaign; and Kenneth SCUDDER's Stamps of Queensland book, entered by the RPSV, won Large Gold and Grand Award National.*

TAIPEI 2015 – 30th Asian International Stamp Exhibition,  
Taipei World Trade Centre, Taipei, Taiwan, 24–28 April 2015

## *FIP Championship Class*

**Stephen BROWNE**, Postal History of New South Wales 1801–1849 (Postal History, 8 frames):  
GRAND PRIX D'HONNEUR

**Darryl FULLER**, Leeward Islands Postal Stationery (Postal Stationery, 8 frames):  
runner up GRAND PRIX D'HONNEUR

## *Competitive Classes*

**Arthur GRAY**, George V Commemorative and Pictorial issues of Australia 1927–1936 (Traditional, 8 frames):  
LARGE GOLD (96)

**Alan GREY**, British New Guinea and Papua 1891–1942 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (87)

**John MOORE**, Treatment and Handling of Australian Registered Mail 1900–1966 (Postal History, 5 frames):  
LARGE VERMEIL (85)

**Geoffrey KELLOW**, Sierra Leone: Postal History of the King George VI Period 1937–1956  
(Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

**Ian MCMAHON**, Queensland Postal Stationery (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

**Ross WOOD**, Czechoslovakia Airmails (Aerophilately, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

**Ross WOOD**, Australia 1988 Living Together series (Traditional, 5 frames): VERMEIL (81)

SYDNEY STAMP EXPO 2015 – ANZAC Centenary, National Philatelic Exhibition,  
Johnny Warren Indoor Sports Centre, Hurstville NSW, 16–19 April 2015

## *Championship Class*

**Michael BLAKE**, The Great Australian Legend 1914–1916 (Postal History, 8 frames)

**Anthony PRESGRAVE**, Departmental Stamps of South Australia (Traditional, 5 frames)

**Arthur GRAY**, The George V Sideface Definitive Issues of Australia (Traditional, 8 frames)  
+ Championship Class Winner

**Ian MCMAHON**, Envelopes and Postcards of Canada (Postal Stationery, 8 frames)

## *Invited Class*

**Barry SCOTT**, The Royal Air Force Desert Air Services (Aerophilately, 5 frames)

## *Competitive Classes*

**Gary DIFFEN**, Preparations for War and the Australian Gallipoli Campaign  
(ANZAC 2 – Postal History 2c, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Grand Award of the Exhibition

**Harry LOWER**, South Australia's Long Stamps (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (93) + Special Prize

**Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc**, Queensland Postage Stamps 1879–1912 by Kenneth SCUDDER FRPSV  
(Literature): LARGE GOLD (93) + Grand Award National



**Martin WALKER**, United States: 1933–35 Byrd Antarctic Expedition Issue (Polar Philately, 5 frames):  
LARGE GOLD (91) + Special Prize

**Gary BROWN**, Cricket – The Game (Open, 5 frames): LARGE GOLD (90) + Special Prize

**Frank PAUER**, Australian “Official Post Office” First Day Covers 1932–1970 (First Day Covers, 5 frames):  
LARGE GOLD (90) + Special Prize

**Gary BROWN**, Tunisia Till WWII (Traditional, 8 frames): GOLD (87)

**Peter LEITCH**, Victoria £10 Stamp Duty 1879 to 1901 (Traditional, 3 frames): GOLD (87) + Special Prize

**Ian FUARY**, Australian Franking Machine Dies (Traditional, 6 frames): GOLD (86)

**John LUCACI**, France during WWII: 1939–1943

(Postal History – Historical, Social and Special Studies, 8 frames): GOLD (86)

**Martin WALKER**, Air Mail Labels of the Australian Post Office (Cinderella, 6 frames): GOLD (86) + Special Prize

**Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc**, Philately from Australia (Literature): GOLD (85)

**Gary BROWN**, Aden – From British Colony to People’s Republic (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

**John DIBIASE**, Post Office Savings Bank, the Western Australia Markings and Supporting Documents  
(Postal History – Historical, Social and Special Studies, 4 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (82)

**Jeanette BANFIELD**, Mesopotamia to Iraq (Postcards, 3 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (81)

**Ross DUBERAL**, Western Australia Postal Markings (Postal History – Marcophily, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (80)

**Martin WALKER**, Australia’s Stamp Replica Cards (Literature): VERMEIL (79)

**Bernard BESTON**, Australia – Vacuum Oil Co Printed to Private Order (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): VERMEIL (78)

**Gary BROWN**, Natal Postal Stationery (Postal Stationery, 4 frames): VERMEIL (78)

**Anthony PRESGRAVE**, Bridging the Gap (Postcards, 3 frames): VERMEIL (78)

**Ross WOOD**, Nyasaland Airmails (Aerophilately, 6 frames): VERMEIL (77)

**John COURTIS**, Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of Argentina:  
1878–1945 (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): VERMEIL (76)

**Ian MCMAHON**, St Pierre et Miquelon (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (74)

**David KAJEWSKI**, Australian Automotive Advertising Covers (Open, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (73)

**Anthony PRESGRAVE**, A “Back of the Book” Collection of South Australia (Cinderella, 4 frames):  
SILVER BRONZE (64)

CANAKKALE 2015 100 Years of Canakkale Wars – International Stamp Exhibition,  
Canakkale, Turkey, 18–25 March 2015

**Michael BLAKE**, The Great Australian Legend 1914–1916 (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95)

**Martin WALKER**, Gawler and the Great War (Postcards, 3 frames): GOLD (92)

**John SINFIELD**, Australian WWI Forces Scenic Letter Cards (Postal Stationery, 1 frame): GOLD (91)

**Barry SCOTT**, The Royal Air Force Desert Service (Aerophilately, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (87)

**Bernard BESTON**, The 1918 War Tax Postage Impost (Traditional, 1 frame): VERMEIL (83)

**Jeff TRINIDAD**, The Little Soldier Boy (Postcards, 1 frame): VERMEIL (83)

**Jim SHAW**, New Zealand 1965 ANZAC issue: 4d + 5d Study (Traditional, 1 frame): VERMEIL (82)

**Ross DUBERAL**, Fiji War Stamp Overprints 1915–1920 (Traditional, 1 frame): VERMEIL (81)

HK STAMPEX 2015 – National Stamp Exhibition, Sheung Wan Civic Centre,  
Hong Kong, 6–8 March 2015

**Philip LEVINE**, Gold Coast Postal Stationery (Postal Stationery): GOLD + Special Prize

**Ross DUBERAL**, West Australian First Day Cover Producers (First Day Covers): LARGE VERMEIL (83)

**John COURTIS**, Great Britain Wrapper Destinations (Postal Stationery): LARGE VERMEIL (80) + Special Prize

**Ian MCMAHON**, Canada Envelopes and Postcards: the Karsh, Wilding and Cameo issues (Postal Stationery):  
VERMEIL (78)



MALAYSIA 2014, World Youth Stamp Exhibition & 29th Asian International Stamp Exhibition, Kuala Lumpur, 1–6 December 2014

**FIAP Grand Prix Club Members' Display**

**Gary BROWN**, India Stamps Used in Aden (FIAP Grand Prix: GPI Bangkok 2010; GPH Sharjah 2012)

**Arthur GRAY**, Australian Commonwealth – The Unissued Two Pence and One Shilling Engraved Issue (GP of Exhibition Hong Kong 2009)

**MALAYSIA 2014 World Youth Stamp Exhibition**

**Charles BROMSER**, The Copernicus Revolution: A History of Cosmology (Thematic, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

**Ross WOOD**, Ducks (Thematic, 5 frames): LARGE SILVER (77)

**MALAYSIA 2014 29th Asian International Stamp Exhibition**

**Stephen BROWNE**, The Postal History of New South Wales 1801–1849 (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Grand Prix d'Honneur

**Arthur GRAY**, The George V Commemorative & Pictorial Issues of Australia: 1927–1936 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (95) + Special Prize

**Gary BROWN**, South Africa – The Protea Series (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (86)

**John DIBIASE**, Western Australia: The Postal Stationery 1879–1913 (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

**Glenn STAFFORD**, Nicaraguan Postal Stationery – The Seebeck Era (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85) + Special Prize

**Ross WOOD**, Postal History of Nyasaland During the Reign of King George VI (Postal History, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (85)

**Jeff TRINIDAD**, Latvia 1918–1922 (Traditional, 5 frames): VERMEIL (83)

**John MOORE**, Treatment and Handling of Australian Registered Mail 1900–1966 (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (82)

**Gary WATSON**, Ceylon's Involvement in World War II (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (82)



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# Royal News

## New members

The Society has gained six new members: **Michael BAI** (WA); **Domenic ALVIANO** (Vic); **Laurie PARKER** (Qld); **Keith SEWELL** (Vic); **Janis MALOVKA** (SA) and **Michael KINO** (Vic). Their applications for membership were accepted on 20 May 2015. We wish them long and happy associations with the Society.

## Annual Competition 2014

At the Society's Annual Competition held on 19 June 2014, the winner was **Gary WATSON** (Silver Medal) for "The Letter Carrier Datestamps of Melbourne". The medal will be presented at the Annual General Meeting on 17 September.

## Gold Medal for *Philately from Australia*

At Sydney Stamp Expo – ANZAC Centenary in April 2015, *Philately from Australia* was entered by the Society. *PfA* won a Gold Medal (85 points), being the only Literature Class journal to win Gold. Five years ago, at Canberra Stampshow 2010, *PfA* won Large Vermeil

(80 points) plus Special Prize. We have a high standard to maintain in the quality of journal articles.

## Robin Occleshaw

On 17 April 2015, Robin Occleshaw passed away in England after a lengthy illness. Although he was not a member of our society, Robin was a noted researcher of Australian Commonwealth stamps and postal history. A long-time member of the British Society of Australian Philately, Robin's published works included a checklist of 7c QE II definitive varieties; Australian slogan cancellations 1917–88; and, in co-authorship with Eric Frazer, Australia's official postal labels. Also, he had an abiding interest in Queensland post offices and their Registration labels.

## Nominations for Council

Nominations for 2015–16 Council are to be lodged with the Secretary by 20 August 2015, ahead of the 123rd Annual General Meeting to be held on 17 September.

## SOCIETY SYLLABUS

### July 2015

7 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **GB Postal Stationery Rate Changes 1918–1923: Graham Hayward FRPSV**

8 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

16 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Some aspects of Melbourne datestamps: Gary Watson FRPSV**

25 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

30 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **New Zealand World War II: Tony Lyon**

### August 2015

4 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Victoria "Postage & Revenue" Period 1884 to 1901: Ken Scudder FRPSV**

12 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

20 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **The Australian Campaign at Gallipoli: Gary Diffen**

29 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

### September 2015

1 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Norway: Jon Fladeby**

9 (Wed) 7.45 p.m. Postal History Group

17 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **123rd Annual General Meeting; 8.00 p.m. Retiring President's Display**

26 (Sat) **Library not open**

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