



Philately *from* Australia

Journal of the ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY of VICTORIA Inc



WWI Mail in England
& Western Front



125th Anniversary
Celebrations



Introduction of
Postcodes 1967



The John Lancaster Customs Collection. A few of the treasures scheduled for June



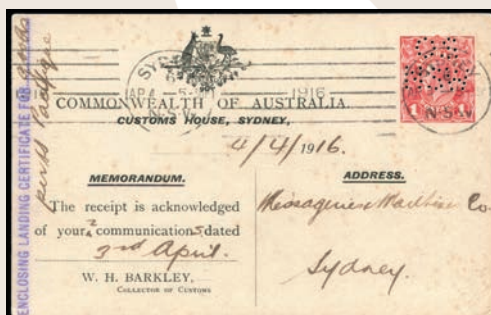
Extraordinary pre-paid customs duty of 1/9½d on normal size envelope



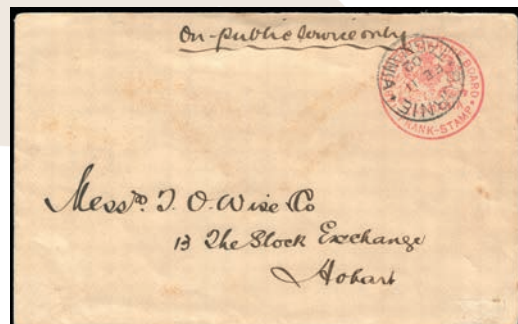
1930 cover from North Head Quarantine Station to Melbourne - Smallpox outbreak



1862 cover to England having contained 6 pennyweight of gold.
Tied and sealed by the Ballarat Sub-Treasury.



1d Postal Card perforated 'OS/NSW' for the Customs Department Sydney



The only recorded cover with Table Cape Marine Board frank

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Editorial

Our special March edition of the journal was made available to interested members of the wider philatelic community at the Society's stand at Melbourne 2017. Although the excitement of the exhibition and our 125th Anniversary celebrations has subsided, this June edition contains photographic coverage of the show and social events, much of which comes courtesy of our "photographer-at-large", David Figg. I am sure that all members, especially those who were unable to attend the exhibition, will enjoy these images. We also provide listings of the Royalpex 125 exhibits and members' exceptional awards in the competitive display classes.

Following his informative and engaging Society history articles in the last edition, Richard Breckon has turned his attention to two unrelated topics. In his first article, he discusses the handling of Australian overseas mails during WWI focusing on mail volumes, shipping transit times and the substantial difficulties overcome by the Post Office. Richard's second article deals with the introduction of the Postcode system in Australia in July 1967. He has researched available records and newspaper articles to give a very interesting account, along with images of some of the early postcode publications. Those of us with longer memories might even feel some nostalgia!

As promised, our regular articles are re-appearing in this edition of the journal. Gary Diffen continues his WWI postal history and Colonial Errors series. This time he discusses WWI mail in England and the Western Front, and Queensland Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin errors. As always, we are treated to many rare items from Gary's personal collection. We can look forward to these series continuing in the September and December 2017 editions. Richard Breckon has again contributed his usual "Back Then" and "100 Years & 50 Years Ago" items plus an article on *Union Postale*, the multi-language magazine published by the Universal Postal Union.

Finally, Bill Lloyd-Smith presents a brief follow-up article regarding KEVII on Tasmanian postal stationery and the KEVII high values of Victoria, this time dealing with the Tasmanian Fleet Card of 1908. He has also provided a comprehensive update on progress with the planned second edition of Basset Hull's *The Stamps of Tasmania*. He details revisions to existing chapters and the preparation of new chapters to bring the work up to 1913 when the uniform series for the Commonwealth appeared. In addition, some of the rare material collected for publication is illustrated.

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



A Word from Your President

As I write this, it is two weeks since the gates have closed on the Caulfield Racecourse and the success of Melbourne 2017 and Royalpex 125.

It was great to catch up with old friends, meet new friends, and talk with fellow collectors, dealers — and those in between. Thirty-five members displayed some marvellous material at Royalpex 125 and many others were involved in the competitive exhibits. Special mention must be made of two members who characterise what membership of the “Royal” is all about.

Roger Elliot has been a member for only a short time. However, he has been well known in Australian postal stationery circles for a number of decades. Roger was born with a number of health issues which still plague him to this day and, yet, he committed to display ten frames of his Australian stationery treasures — his first display or exhibit in nearly eighty years. Another member who embodies our values is Jürgen Saefel from Germany.

After being made redundant, he decided to take a chance and come to Melbourne just to meet fellow collectors of Australian stamps and postal history (there are not many in Germany). He was only here for a week, but thoroughly enjoyed himself. As it happened, he managed to pick up a new role just before flying out! What this demonstrates is that people are still passionate about our hobby.....and that we come from many different walks of life to share the same interest.

Finally, our 125th Anniversary Reception at Purves House on the evening of Thursday 30 March was a huge success. About 70 members and guests were treated to a fully-catered function to celebrate, including a magnificent birthday cake decorated with an image of our original home at 6 Avoca Street etched into the icing. Again, it was great to catch up with old and new friends. So many people came up and said how much they enjoyed the evening — and the catering!

Until next time, enjoy the read...

Gary Diffen



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STAMP NEWS

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

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Exhibition Awards for Society Members

Congratulations to RPSV members for their awards at MELBOURNE 2017 FIAP Exhibition. Special congratulations are due to Masayasu NAGAI for winning the Grand Prix National and to Alan GREY as runner up for the GPN.

MELBOURNE 2017, 34th Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP) International Stamp Exhibition, Caulfield Racecourse, Melbourne, 30 March–2 April 2017

CHAMPIONSHIP CLASS:

Stephen SCHUMANN, New Zealand Postal Stationery 1876–1940 (8 frames)

John SINFIELD, Panama Republic Postal Stationery till 1940 (8 frames)

COMPETITIVE CLASSES:

Masayasu NAGAI, Private Printing Period in Victoria 1850–1859 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Grand Prix National

Alan GREY, “Postage to Collect” for Australian Colonial Mail (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Grand Prix National *Runner up*

Gary DIFFEN, Preparations for War and the Australian Military Campaign Gallipoli (Open Philately, 8 frames): LARGE GOLD (96) + Felicitations & Special Prize

Mark DISERIO, Australian Registered Letter Envelopes 1912–1962 (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): GOLD (91) + Special Prize

Paul PEGGIE, Mission Mail: Central Africa 1883–1923 (Postal History, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (89) + Special Prize

Gary DIFFEN, Brewery Advertising Envelopes of the United States of America 1860–1945 (Open Philately, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

Harry LOWER, South Australia Long Stamps, the Second “POSTAGE” Series (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

Raymond TODD, Sweden Postal Stationery 1872–1918 (Postal Stationery, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (88)

Peter RONNE, Genesis of Photolithography Australia Stamps 1977 (Traditional, 8 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (86)

James SHAW, New Zealand Wages Tax 1931–1958 (Revenues, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (86)

James SHAW, New Zealand Decimal Stamps from 1967: Printing Methods, Studies and Varieties (Traditional, 5 frames): LARGE VERMEIL (86)

John MOORE, Australia’s 1988 Living Together (Modern Philately, 5 frames): VERMEIL (84)

Ross WOOD, The History of Aviation (Maximaphily, 5 frames): VERMEIL (84)

Ian MCMAHON, Guelph: The Royal City (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (83)

Gary WATSON, Ceylon’s Involvement in World War II (Postal History, 5 frames): VERMEIL (83)

John DIBIASE, Western Australia: The Railway Parcel Stamps and Labels 1905–1986 (Traditional, 5 frames): VERMEIL (80)

Ronnie WINCHESTER, Kenya, Uganda and Tanganyika: KGVI (Traditional, 5 frames): SILVER (71)

ONE-FRAME COMPETITION:

Stephen BROWNE, New South Wales Stampless Mail 1850–1852: 92 points

Bill JENKINS, Charles Naish of Victoria: 90 points

Gary WATSON, The Letter Carrier Datestamps of Melbourne: 87 points

Gary WATSON, The Pre-separation Datestamps of Melbourne: 85 points

James SHAW, New Zealand 1878 1d Stamp Duty: 85 points

James SHAW, New Zealand 1965 Anzac (50th Anniversary) Issues Study: 4d and 5d: 80 points

David FIGG, General Douglas Macarthur – Defender and Liberator of the Philippines: 69 points

ROYALPEX 125: Entries by Society Members

Thirty-five members contributed 49 exhibits in ROYALPEX 125, a 150-frame, non-competitive part of MELBOURNE 2017, held to celebrate the 125th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Peter ALEXANDER, North West Pacific Islands (NWPI), 1 frame

Russell BOYLAN, St Vincent – The De La Rue period, 9 frames

Gary BROWN, South Africa Revenues, 5 frames

Richard BRECKON, Interchangeable usage of Australian States stamps 1910-1913, 1 frame

Kevin BURT, The introduction of registration labels to Australia, 1 frame

Bill CLARK, Emblems issues of Victoria 1857–1863, 3 frames

Gary DIFFEN, Errors of the Australian Colonies/States and the history of their discovery, 14 frames

Gary DIFFEN, The carriage of mail from the Australian Colonies to 1891, 12 frames

Mark DISERIO, QEII Pre-decimal postcards (Australia), 1 frame

Hubert DU GUESCLIN, Flying boat mails and Australia after 1945, 3 frames

Linton EDWARDS, The engraved stamps of Australia 1913-1914, 1 frame

Roger ELLIOT, George V postal stationery of Australia and its usage, 10 frames

David FIGG, “Strike a light”, 5 frames

Ted GALLAGHER, ANZAC Anniversaries, 3 frames

Malcolm GROOM, Tasmanian Pictorials 1899-1912, 8 frames

Bill JENKINS, Victorian Goldfields North Western, 3 frames

Kevin KEAST, The Sixpenny Woodblock 1854-1861, 2 frames

Geoffrey KELLOW, The 2/- Stamp Duty of Victoria 1885-1907, 3 frames

Peter LEITCH, Kouang-Tcheou-Wan: A French colony in China, 2 frames

Harry LOWER, South Australia’s Penny Reds, 1 frame

Harry LOWER, Centenary of South Australia’s first postage stamps, 1955, 1 frame



- Anthony LYON**, New Zealand postal stationery postcards 1876-1901, 3 frames
- Mark MCWHA**, Victoria – Barred numeral cancellations on cover and postal stationery, 5 frames
- Vito MILANA**, War Loan Bond and Liberty Loan cinderellas: Australia 1917-1918, 1 frame
- Hao NGU**, Was life created?, 1 frame
- Frank PAUER**, Australian “Official Post Office” First Day Covers 1932-1970, 5 frames
- Brian PEACE**, The first hand stamps of Adelaide and Port Adelaide, 1 frame
- RPSV Inc.**, Aspects of the RPSV Forgery Collection, 2 frames
- Ian SADLER**, Japanese conquest and defeat in World War II, 5 frames
- Jürgen SAEFTEL**, Tattersall Entry, 4 frames
- Allen SHATTEN**, Tasmania – 1d QV Postcard, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand “Letter Carrier” instructional markings – Curiosities of New Zealand postal system, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand Boer War 1½d commemorative 1900 to 1908 issue and study, 2 frames
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand “Masters of Salvage” – Patched, repaired and mixed perfs, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand Chalon “Overlaps” study 1855 to 1862 – “Overlaps by design”, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, Victoria ½d bantam stamp – A study and usage, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand 1903 Express Delivery issue – Study of stamps and usage, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, Some of my favourite things in Philately, 2 frames
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand paper folds, pleates and creases, 2 frames
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand 4d 1960 Pictorial stamp study – Chalky paper, 1 frame
- Jim SHAW**, New Zealand 1d 1898 Pictorial – Study and usage, 1 frame
- John SHAWLEY**, Mauritius the 1859 Dandenue issue, 1 frame
- John SHAWLEY**, Mauritius outgoing mail rates 1875-1883, 1 frame
- John SHAWLEY**, Nyasaland stamps and postal history, 1 frame
- John SINFIELD**, Cancer Levy Stamps of Panama 1939-1950, 1 frame
- Russell TURNER**, Victoria – The £5 fee stamp, 2 frames
- Martin WALKER**, Air Mails of South Australia to 1939, 5 frames
- Gary WATSON**, Commonwealth of Australia: Penny overseas rates, 8 frames
- Ross WOOD**, The Czechoslovakia 1930 airmail issue, 1 frame



Melbourne 2017 & RPSV 125th Anniversary Celebrations

Our roving photographers captured some interesting moments involving “Royal” members at Melbourne 2017 and our 125th Anniversary celebrations. Contributions came from Peter Allan, David Figg, Eric Frazer, Ian McMahon (front cover image), Brian Peace and Glen Stafford; images from the Melbourne 2017 website are reproduced with permission.



Caulfield Racecourse concourse (Image: Eric Frazer)



Set-up day: David Figg in quiet contemplation
(Image: Glen Stafford;
<http://melbourne2017.com.au/photos/>)



Set-up day: Johanna Stafford,
Graham Hayward,
Gary Brown & Peter Alexander
taking a break
(Image: Glen Stafford;
<http://melbourne2017.com.au/photos/>)



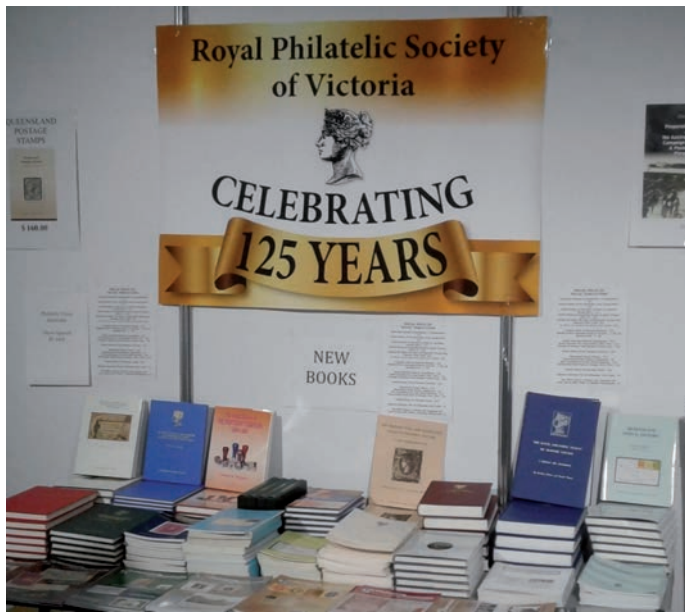
Renniks Publications stand (Image: David Figg)



Pittwater Philatelic Service stand (Image: David Figg)



*Jon and Lesley Fladeby at the APF stand
(Image: Peter Allan; <http://melbourne2017.com.au/photos/>)*



The "Royal" stand (Image: Eric Frazer)



*The "Royal" stand with Peter Leitch & Les Vincent in attendance
(Image: Eric Frazer)*



Looking down at the "Royal" stand (Image: Eric Frazer)



*Tony Shields
(Image: Peter Allan; <http://melbourne2017.com.au/photos/>)*



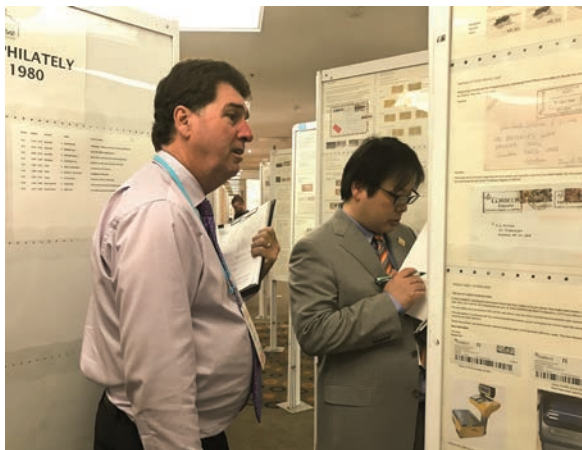
Overview of some of the stands (Image: Eric Frazer)



The Australia Post Designer Gallery (Image: David Figg)



The main Australia Post stand (Image: David Figg)



Glen Stafford judging exhibits
(Image: Peter Allan; <http://melbourne2017.com.au/photos/>)



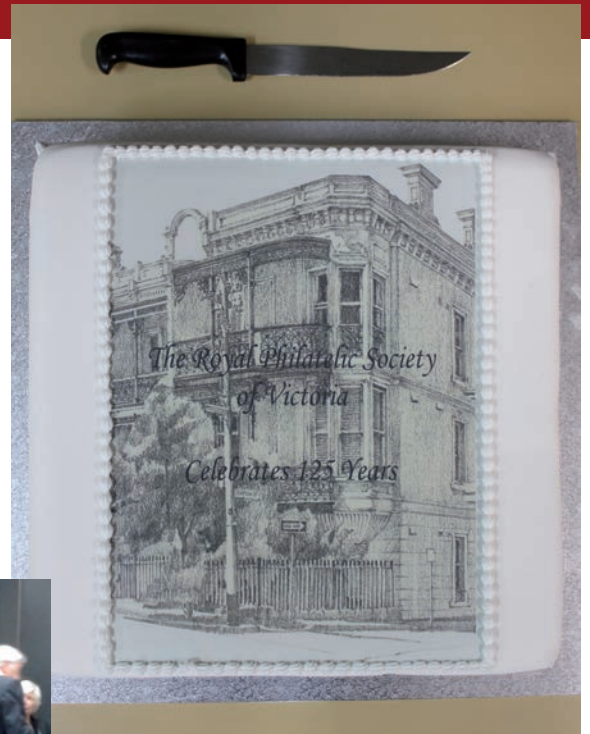
Some of the philatelic exhibits (Image: David Figg)



The Literature exhibits
(Image: David Figg)



President Gary Diffen addresses the 125th Anniversary Reception (Image: David Figg)



The 125th Anniversary cake (Image: David Figg)



Members & guests at the Reception (Image: Eric Frazer)



Gary Diffen & Ken Scudder (Image: Brian Peace)



Members & guests at the Reception (Image: David Figg)



John Shawley & Gary Diffen (Image: Brian Peace)



Members & guests at the Reception (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares held at the Melbourne Aquarium; in foreground L/R: Prakob Chirakitti, Surajit Gongyatana & Bernard Beston (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Frank & Karen Pauer (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Johanna & Glen Stafford (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Stephanie & Charles Bromser (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Dianne & David Figg (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Malcolm & Trish Groom (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Gary & Robyn Brown (Image: David Figg)



The Palmares: Koichi Sato, Gary Brown & Malcolm Groom (Image: David Figg)

Overseas Mail Handling by Australia's Post Office in World War One

Australia's overseas mail was much disrupted by the effects of World War I. All the pre-war certainties that revolved around regular shipping timetables disappeared. In a wartime world of improvised shipping, the Post Office struggled to handle greatly increased quantities of mail posted to and from the Australian forces serving overseas.

Carrying the mails to and from Australia

At the outbreak of war, both the Orient Royal Mail Company and the Peninsular and Oriental Company (P & O) conducted fortnightly voyages between Australia and the United Kingdom, in both directions. The Orient and P & O lines alternated their fortnightly voyages each week, so that a weekly service was provided for both outgoing and incoming UK mails. The mail timetables were predictable enough for voyages of Orient and P & O mail steamers to be recorded in days and hours, and sometimes with minutes added. The times were measured from the departure of the steamer from Adelaide (to which mail was carried by rail from other states) to the steamer's arrival in London.

The "normal" times for the transit of mails from Adelaide to London was 29 days 2 hours and, for the opposite direction, 28 days 14 hours. An extra 36 hours was allowed during the monsoon season. Immediately following the outbreak of war, the quicker carriage of Australian mails through Italy and France by railway was discontinued; the mails were now taken by the "long sea route" from Suez across the Mediterranean to England. The altered route resulted in average transit times for the mails being lengthened by about three days.

Another disruption involved the requisitioning of passenger liners by the British Admiralty to serve as troopships. This affected the Orient's ships more so than P&O's. It was no longer possible for the two shipping companies to adhere strictly to timetables. Also, censorship required an embargo to be placed on the publication of the departures and arrivals of the mail steamers. The public were only informed of the closing times for overseas mails at the general post offices across Australia.

In February 1915, the overland route was restored, but without Italy's involvement. Australian mails were carried to the French port of Marseilles, from where they were taken to London. The opposite route applied to inwards mails for Australia. However, the arrangement did not result in a return to pre-war transit times as general wartime conditions caused the mails to be handled at a slower speed.

As the war progressed, the shipping links between Australia and England became more precarious due to enemy submarine activity in the Mediterranean. By June 1917, the losses to Allied ships were serious enough for the Suez route to be abandoned altogether:

Owing to dislocation of maritime mail transport due to the war; mails which were formerly conveyed between the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom by steamships of the Orient and Peninsular and Oriental Lines are now despatched at every available opportunity by any suitable steam-ships, both via America and via South Africa. By this means it has been possible to maintain a fairly regular service, and although the time occupied in transit is necessarily greater than under the conditions existing before the war, the interchange of mails between the Commonwealth and the United Kingdom has been less seriously affected than might have been anticipated, as the result of the various means adopted by the enemy for the destruction of mercantile shipping. The suspension of the regular service between Australia and the United Kingdom by the P. and O. steamers rendered the Department dependent upon the irregular sailings via the Cape and also the American route. The use of the American route is, however, too costly for the transmission of parcels, although the United States Administration is prepared to accept them for land transit at domestic rates. It was therefore necessary to restrict parcel despatches to all sea routes.

"Postmaster-General's Department Seventh Annual Report 1916-1917", p. 17

The via America route involved letters and small packets being carried by sea to the US west coast; by railway to the east coast; and by sea to England. Parcels were taken by the "long sea route" via South Africa, between Australia and England.

The shipping situation continued to worsen:

The position in regard to English and oversea mails has become more precarious as the submarine menace has necessitated the withdrawal of ships from ordinary services to make good the wastage in the shipping of the allies, and to provide transport for the American and other troops. Every opportunity has been seized to convey such mails to their destination via America and South Africa, but the service has been erratic and difficult to handle . . . The weight of letters conveyed by non-contract vessels during 1917-18 shows an increase of 119.82 per cent. as compared with that of letters conveyed during the previous year, and the weight of other articles



conveyed an increase of 122.04 per cent. There was also an increase of 122.10 per cent. in the amount paid for such service. The increases are due to the discontinuance of P&O and Orient lines to London, so mails for Europe and America, &c. are being despatched by non-contract vessels whenever such were available. This dislocated the pre-war services to the point of dissolution, rendering it difficult and costly to maintain connexion with the outside world.

“Postmaster-General’s Department Eighth Annual Report 1917-1918”, p. 16

Contemporary newspapers reported the mails carried by non-contract ships could take as long as eight weeks or so, twice the time of pre-war days. The difficulties were not overcome until nearly three years after the war’s end, when regular contract shipping was fully restored.

Growth & decline of wartime overseas mail

World War I led to large increases in all types of mail articles posted for delivery overseas. This was particularly so with parcels, which involved growth at exponential levels. Post Office statistics for mail volumes were recorded according to four categories of postal articles:

- Letters and postcards
- Packets (books, magazines and other printed matter)
- Newspapers
- Parcels

The tables published here give the volumes of outward and inwards overseas mail according to the four categories during World War I. The years covered are the financial years (1 July-30 June) from 1914/15 to 1919/20, inclusive. A complication arises in comparing wartime to pre-war mail volumes because up to 1913 statistics in the annual reports were presented as calendar years (1 January to 31 December). As a result, mail volumes are not available for the “last year of peace” from 1 July 1913 to 30 June 1914.

Obviously, the escalating traffic in overseas mail is attributable to the growing numbers of Australian troops serving overseas. All categories of outwards mail show substantial increases for the first three years of war, from 1914/15 to 1916/17. The amounts of outward mails of letters, packets and newspapers approximately doubled during this period, all reaching a peak year in 1916/17.

Astonishingly, the volume of outwards parcels increased by 12-fold during this period. A key reason for the rapid growth was the introduction of concession rates of postage for parcels addressed to the troops abroad. The concession postage was fixed at half the rate that applied to parcels sent to civilians in the United Kingdom.

The extraordinary growth of parcel traffic put pressure on Post Office operations:

Early in September 1917, parcels mails had accumulated to such an extent that it was feared that, owing to the limited shipping space available by reason of the urgent necessity to send food to Great Britain, it might be necessary to hold over parcels despatches for some time. However the difficulty was overcome and, although the number and weight of parcels posted to members of the Australian Imperial Forces abroad have considerably exceeded the estimates, all parcels have been forwarded at fairly regular intervals and with little delay between the dates of posting and the date of despatch.

“Postmaster-General’s Department Seventh Annual Report 1916-1917”, p. 17

After the peak year of 1916/17, overseas mail traffic began a steady decline. By 1919/20 (the “first year of peace”), the volumes of letters, packets and newspapers had fallen to levels considerably below those of 1914/15. Parcels volumes remained higher than pre-war, although the quantities dropped significantly from the wartime peaks.

The volumes of inwards overseas mail involved similar patterns of growth and decline, except for parcels. There was no peak year for inwards parcels, as the volumes grew at a steady rate throughout the war. The upwards trend was not caused by the troops, but rather was driven by the business sector:

As shipping decreased and freights increased, the commercial community turned more to the Parcels Post to secure a more regular and cheaper transport for their wares, with the result that the Department was suddenly called on to handle a considerable number of dutiable and other parcels and the accommodation of this class of work, already congested, became wholly inadequate. Regulations allowing merchants to leave parcels at post offices for 14 days from the date of receipt free from demurrage charge was altered, the period being reduced to three days, but the invasion of mercantile parcels, ever on the increase, continued, as many as 1,000 being received for individual firms in a single mail. At Sydney the men’s dining and cloak room had to be commandeered for storage purposes pending customs adjustment and delivery of the parcels. Owing to the abnormal volume of this class of mails, the cost of handling, transport and storage was such as to render a delivery charge of sixpence per parcel necessary. Even then the service to the addressee was being rendered at a fourth the cost of ruling freights outside.

“Postmaster-General’s Department Eighth Annual Report 1917-1918”, pp. 11-12

Sources

Postmaster-General’s Department, *Annual Reports 1914–1915 to 1918–19*, Commonwealth Parliamentary Papers

Commonwealth of Australia, *Post & Telegraph Guide, No. 14, April 1917*, “Special arrangements in connexion with correspondence to and from members of the Australian Expeditionary Forces”

Trove digitised newspapers, National Library of Australia, trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers



Table 1

Letters and postcards posted from & to Australia ('000)
Percentage change from previous year in brackets

Year to 30 June	Despatched	Received
1914/15	25,161 (N/A)	29,194 (N/A)
1915/16	33,668 (+33.8%)	32,292 (+10.6%)
1916/17	47,464 (+41.0%)	59,301 (+83.8%)
1917/18	44,942 (-5.3%)	48,961 (-17.5%)
1918/19	29,550 (-34.2%)	38,958 (-20.4%)
1919/20	20,705 (-29.9%)	36,493 (-6.3%)

Table 2

Packets posted from & to Australia ('000)
Percentage change from previous year in brackets

Year to 30 June	Despatched	Received
1914/15	1,777 (N/A)	2,095 (N/A)
1915/16	2,955 (+66.3%)	2,115 (+1.0%)
1916/17	3,226 (+9.2%)	3,007 (+42.2%)
1917/18	2,826 (-12.4%)	2,099 (-30.2%)
1918/19	1,907 (-32.5%)	2,582 (+23.0%)
1919/20	1,495 (-21.6%)	2,119 (-17.9%)

Table 3

Newspapers posted from & to Australia ('000)
Percentage change from previous year in brackets

Year to 30 June	Despatched	Received
1914/15	6,727 (N/A)	10,174 (N/A)
1915/16	10,011 (+48.1%)	8,603 (-15.4%)
1916/17	12,095 (+20.8%)	10,209 (+18.7%)
1917/18	10,896 (-9.9%)	7,152 (-30.0%)
1918/19	7,360 (-32.5%)	7,194 (+0.6%)
1919/20	3,838 (-47.9%)	7,799 (+8.4%)

Table 4

Parcels posted from & to Australia ('000)
Percentage change from previous year in brackets

Year to 30 June	Despatched	Received
1914/15	93 (N/A)	185 (N/A)
1915/16	466 (+401.1%)	221 (+19.5%)
1916/17	1,173 (+151.7%)	245 (+10.6%)
1917/18	1,179 (+0.5%)	278 (+13.5%)
1918/19	759 (-35.6%)	369 (+32.7%)
1919/20	163 (-78.5%)	339 (-8.1%)

Table 5

Transit times for UK mails from & to Australia

Year to 30 June	Orient mails	P & O mails
1914/15		
<i>Adelaide/London</i>	Average:	Average:
	32 days 11 hours	32 days 23 hours
	Normal:	Normal:
	29 days 2 hours	29 days 2 hours
<i>London/Adelaide</i>	Average:	Average:
	30 days 17 hours	32 days 3 hours
	Normal:	Normal:
	28 days 14 hours	28 days 16 hours
1915/16		
<i>Adelaide/London</i>	Average:	Average:
	39 days 21 hours	36 days 3 hours
	Normal:	Normal:
	29 days 2 hours	29 days 2 hours
<i>London/Adelaide</i>	Average:	Average:
	33 days 23 hours	34 days 12 hours
	Normal:	Normal:
	28 days 14 hours	28 days 16 hours

Notes:

1. "Normal" times refer to pre-war transit of mails via Italy and France.
2. An extra 36 hours was allowed during the monsoon season.
3. No figures published for 1916/17 onwards owing to the irregularity of shipping services.



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CHF 523,600 CHINA 1897, 5 dollar mint pair with inverted overprint (December 2007)
CHF 406,300 ZURICH, 4' mint strip of 5 (June 2009)
CHF 360,000 BRAZIL 1843, 30 reis interpane block of four (March 2013)
CHF 334,600 CHINA 1897, 2 cents, mint sheet of 100 (October 2008)
CHF 324,000 GENEVA 1846, Large Eagle block of 20 (April 2012)
CHF 312,000 ZURICH, 4' pair on cover (December 2010)
CHF 262,900 AUSTRIA 1850, 'Yellow Mercury' mint pair (October 2008)
CHF 259,600 SWITZERLAND 1850, 'Waadt 5' and Rayon II (2) on cover
CHF 239,000 ZURICH, 6' mint block of 6 (March 2010)
CHF 239,000 CANADA 1851, 12 Pence mint (March 2010)
CHF 221,000 ZURICH, 4', two singles on cover (March 2010)
CHF 216,000 BASLE 1845, mint pair of the 'Basle Dove' (December 2010)

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Introduction of Postcodes in Australia in 1967

Australia's system of postcodes was introduced on Saturday, 1 July 1967, which is 50 years ago. Four-digit postcodes were originally devised to take full advantage of electronic mail handling equipment at the former Redfern Mail Exchange in Sydney. Redfern was Australia's largest mechanised mail centre when it opened in 1965.

Until 1967, the addresses of all letters were read by trained mail sorters, who had acquired a detailed knowledge of geographical localities and their sorting paths. With about 8,000 delivery offices in Australia, it was impossible to sort letters in a single handling. It required two, three or, perhaps, even more stages of sorting to get the letter to its delivery office.

Postcodes simplified the sorting of letters. Coding

operators pressed keys corresponding to the postcode and the letter was sorted electronically for despatch to the delivery office, without any further sorting being involved.

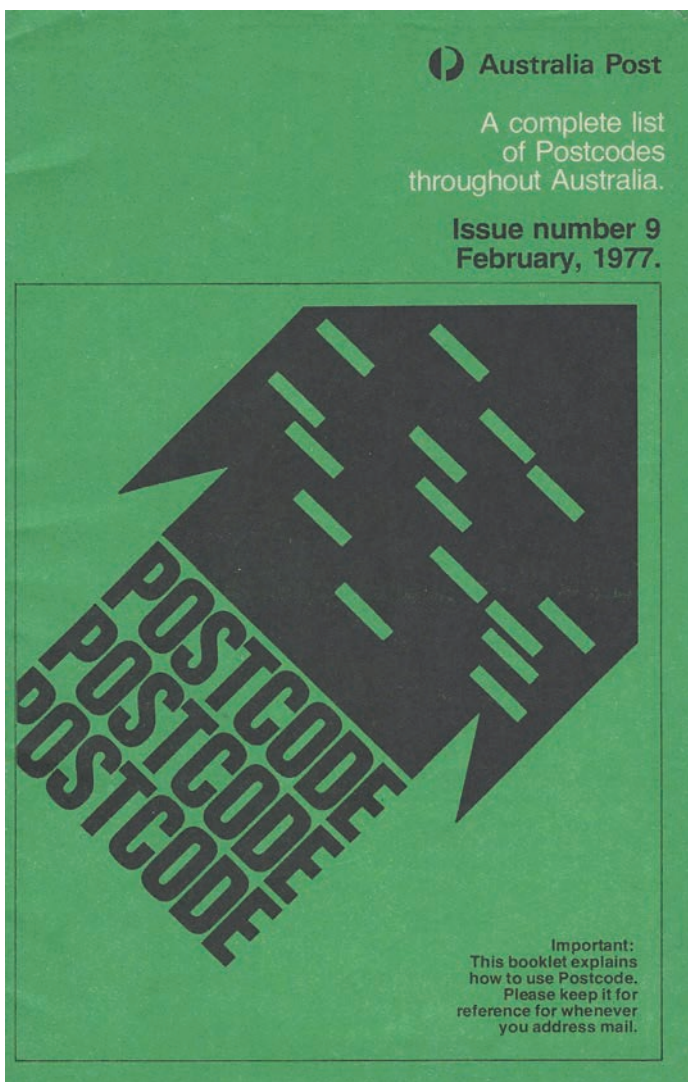
On 18 May 1967, full details of the new system of postcodes were released by the Postmaster-General, Alan Hulme MHR. Every city, town, suburb and small centre in Australia was given a postcode. Nearly 5,000 postcodes were allocated. Existing postal districts and zones were abolished, including Melbourne's long-established alphanumeric codes: C1 (Central 1), SE13 (South East 13), etc.

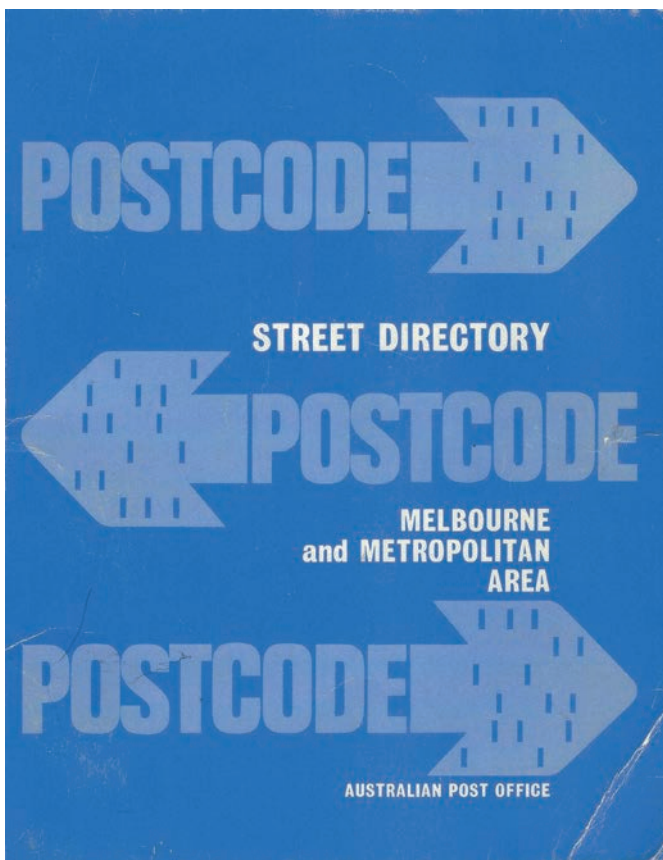
The 1967 allocation of postcodes followed a broad geographical pattern. Postcode numbers for capital city suburbs began in the west and moved to the north, east and south, with the same pattern being followed for country areas. The first digit identified the state with the number corresponding to radio station call signs in use since the 1920s: "2" (New South Wales), "3" (Victoria), "4" (Queensland), "5" (South Australia), "6" (Western Australia) and "7" (Tasmania).

The postcodes falling within the range X000 to X010 were allocated to state capital's city business districts; X011 to X199 to capital city metropolitan areas; and the remainder to country regions, X200 to X999. (Here, X can be one of 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7.) Several ranges of postcodes were withheld to allow for future growth of regions. Locations with significant Post Office Box usage, such as general post offices in capital cities, were allocated a separate postcode for mail to PO Boxes.

Territories were included in the state responsible for postal delivery. The Northern Territory was originally allocated South Australia's 5780 to 5799 range but, in 1988, the territory gained a separate band of postcodes from 0800 to 0999. The Australian Capital Territory was allocated the New South Wales 2600 to 2619 range, which was subsequently extended to include the 2900 to 2920 range. The external territories had postcodes in the states that arranged for their mail deliveries: Norfolk Island (2899), Christmas Island (6798) and Cocos (Keeling) Islands (6799).

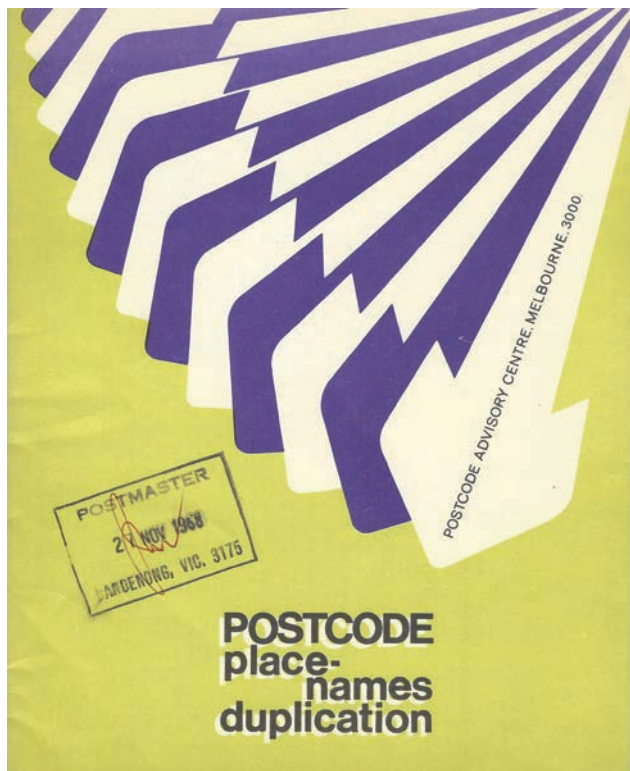
Obviously, the success of the postcode system in its early stages depended upon the extent to which businesses and the public used postcodes on mail, not only for the delivery address on letters, but also for the sender's





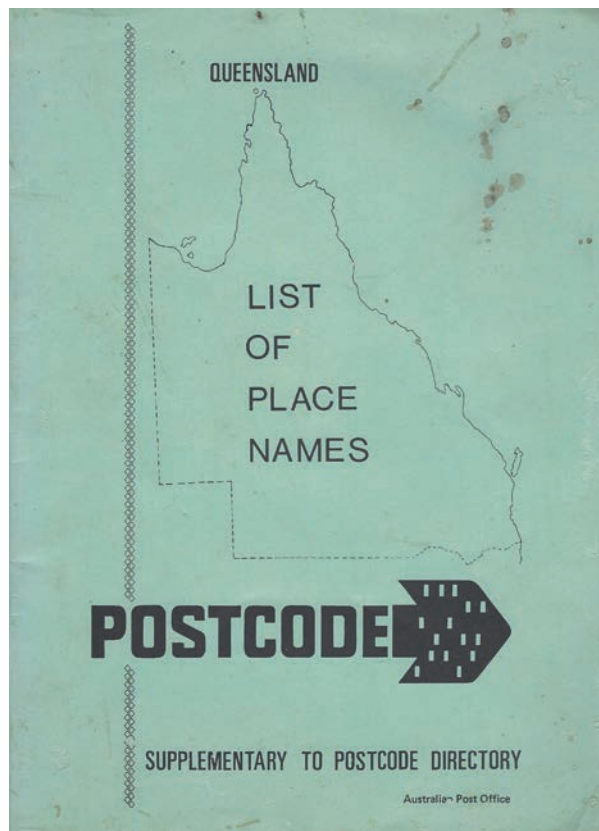
address on correspondence. This was a challenging task for large businesses and government bodies with large mailing lists to be converted to include postcodes. There was no monetary compensation for this work.

The Post Office did much in a short period of time to promote awareness of postcodes. Postcode Advisory Centres operated at each capital city mail exchange to



handle business enquiries. Extensive advertising through press, radio and television, and publicity in post offices, helped to gain people's co-operation in using postcodes.

The first edition of a 29-page Postcode Booklet, listing postcodes alphabetically by state, was distributed free by



post to every household and business address in Australia, with a total of 4½ million booklets being distributed in July 1967. Also, included in the national mailing was a postcard that identified the recipient's postcode.

The *Canberra Times* of 28 July 1967 reported Postmaster-General Hulme's statement that 40 per cent of mail posted in Australia was now carrying the postcode. He called it "a pleasing result" considering that distribution of the Postcode Booklet was completed only a week or so earlier. On 8 August 1967, the *Canberra Times* reported a Post Office spokesman as saying the compliance rate for postcodes on letters had passed 50 per cent.

Following closely behind decimal currency, the introduction of postcodes represented a relatively significant change in people's daily lives.

Sources:

Trove digitised newspapers, National Library of Australia, trove.nla.gov.au/newspapers

Wikipedia.org/wiki/, "Postcodes in Australia"

"Australia Post – This is the Mail" (1966), aso.gov.au/titles/sponsored-films/australia-post-mail/

Processing WWI Mail in England and the Western Front

Given the range of instructional cachets, it is surprising how little has been written regarding the processing of Australian mail in England and the Western Front. Aside from the Emery books published in 1984 and 1986, there is negligible literature available.

I have decided to group England and the Western Front together purely because both theatres were so inter-linked in processing the mail. The Australian Base Post Office in London manufactured a number of instructional handstamps. Conversely, many of the military battalions and units made their own devices and, for the sake of simplicity, I have listed these all under the one heading. Not only were these cachets used in England, but they were also utilised on the Western Front. Deciphering where they were used is difficult at best, so what you see here is a consolidated listing.

The Australian Base Post Office

After the Gallipoli Campaign concluded in December 1915, the Australian troops were sent back to Egypt to recuperate for three months whilst the Allied commanders decided to which theatre of the war these soldiers would be allocated. It was decided that the Light Horse troops would remain in preparation for the Light Horse Campaign from Egypt to Syria (the subject of a separate article), and the remaining infantry would be sent to the Western Front.

The first Australian Base Post Office was established in early 1915 by the Australian High Commissioner at Australia House in London. With the redeployment of troops to the Western Front in France, the Australian Post Office was relocated from Egypt to England. The Letter Section opened in June 1916 at Mount Pleasant, the great London postal centre. The Postal Re-direction section was established at the Administrative Headquarters at 130 Horseferry Road, and the Parcel Section at Regents Park with the British Army Parcel Headquarters. As the volume of mail grew, it became increasingly inconvenient to operate these departments so far apart and, by October 1917, all three were operating under the one roof at St. Pancras Station Granary, London.

At Figure 1 is a 1919 official OHMS envelope addressed within London showing the Commonwealth of Australia Administrative Headquarters cachet in purple. Official correspondence was handstamped with this cachet which is relatively scarce.



Figure 1

Categorisation of Instructional Handstamps

The delivery of the mail became quite difficult with the expansion of the mail service to soldiers training in England and those fighting on the Western Front. A number of different scenarios had to be catered for. For example:

How do you send mail to a soldier who has transferred from one battalion to another?

Where is a letter delivered if the soldier has been wounded and sent to hospital?

What if the addressee is missing in action? They could be either wounded, captured as a prisoner of war, or killed.

What if the soldier has left hospital and returned to Australia?

These are just some of the situations that the postal staff in each unit and at Horseferry Road in London had to deal with. The postal administration in London kept detailed records in a card system, filed alphabetically, on the location of each soldier in England and the Western Front. Given the number of soldiers, these administrative records were not infallible and a number of letters did not reach their intended recipient.

To assist in delivering the mail, a series of instructional handstamps was utilised to indicate a common element in processing the mail. The following series of headings form the major groups: Undeliverable, Unable to Trace, Not Found, Hospital, Missing, Deceased, Prisoner of War & Returned to Australia.

Undeliverable

The envelope at Figure 2 was sent from Koondrook on 12 July 1917 and addressed to Corporal Val Kelly of the 22nd Infantry Battalion on the Western Front where he was killed on 18 September. The cover was endorsed at the top “Killed in Action” and signed by Lieutenant Paterson. This was a common practice for Australian mail to be processed or redirected by manuscript endorsements.

The letter was returned to the Australian Base Post Office in London where it received the purple boxed “UNDELIVERABLE/A.B.P.O./RETURN TO SENDER.” cachet in purple. This was the most common form of “Return to Sender” handstamp for the Base Post Office. Most of the



Figure 2

major instructional markings used at Horseferry Road in London were prefixed by A.B.P.O., but not all. What this suggests is that there must have been a large quantity of mail that was undeliverable to justify the manufacture of this and other instructional handstamps.

Unable to Trace

This type of cachet and “Not Found” in the next section are very closely related. However, I have separated them since there are a number of different types of each cachet. The handstamp in Figures 3 & 3.1 was also issued by the Australian Base Post Office in London. When the



Figure 3

envelope arrived at the Western Front, it was found that Private Albert Jones of the 55th Infantry Battalion had been captured at Fleurbaix on 20 July 1916. The envelope was endorsed in manuscript at the top “Missing” and in red “P.O.W.”. It was sent back to London where the black boxed “Unable to Trace” cachet was applied. In addition, lightly struck in purple underneath this is “PRISONER OF WAR”, which was also probably applied at the A.B.P.O.

There are a number of different types of these “Unable to Trace” cachets, with many, I suspect, produced by

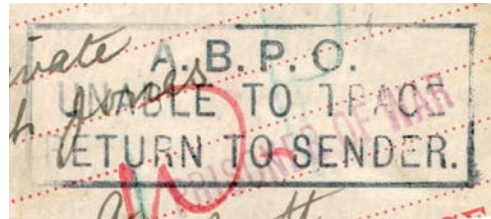


Figure 3.1

Australian postal sections other than Horseferry Road. For example, Australian mail was processed through Australian postal facilities at the various training camps, resting battalions and hospitals around England who manufactured these instructional devices.

Not Found

I believe that the differences between this and the previous cachet are negligible, but all the examples of the “Not Found” handstamps appear to be privately produced by individual units and are not related to the A.B.P.O. The Letter Card in Figure 4 is addressed to Gunner Richard Dohse at the Australian Machine Gun Company at Belton Park. It was handstamped “NOT A.M.G. TD./GRANTHAM.” (Figure 4.1) and dated in manuscript before being redirected to Watford and Hampstead. I have



Figure 4

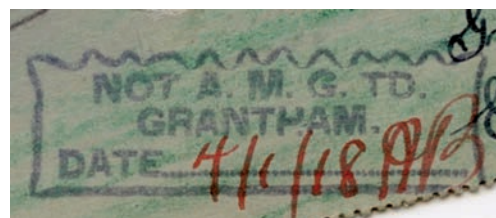


Figure 4.1

found that nearly all of these cachets are very rare with only a couple of examples recorded. They are found in all types of forms including boxed, oval, straight lined and unframed.

Hospital

Given the number of Australian soldiers who were sent to hospitals all around England (including my grandfather), I am surprised that there are not more “HOSPITAL” handstamps recorded. The envelope at Figure 5 is addressed to Private Arthur Tostevin of the 22nd Infantry Battalion who was wounded in action on 27 July 1916. The envelope is handstamped “HOSPITAL” in purple at the top (Figure 5.1), and I believe this was probably applied by the soldier who was allocated to distribute the mail for the 22nd Battalion. I have only recorded a couple of different types of these, so they



Figure 5

are all scarce. Private Tostevin’s wounds were so severe that he was repatriated back to Australia on 4 May 1917 and discharged.

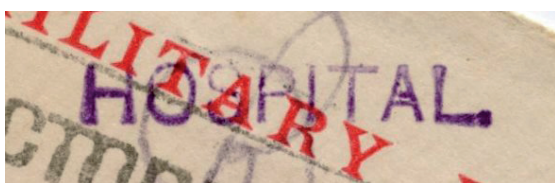


Figure 5.1

Missing

If you consider how trench warfare was fought in WWI, it is again surprising how few “Missing” cachets are recorded. Battalions were sent in to fight for roughly two weeks at a time, on many occasions suffering casualties of about a third before being withdrawn to replenish the battalion – and then do it again. Complete idiocy, but that was how the military forces on each side engaged in battle.

The cover at Figure 6, datestamped 3 September 1916 and addressed to Private William Monaghan of the 48th Infantry Battalion, is a sad indictment. It was endorsed



Figure 6

“Missing” and initialled by the commanding officer at the lower left and sent back to the Australian Base Post Office in London where the black “MISSING” cachet at the top was applied (Figure 6.1). The envelope was held for a considerable time at the A.B.P.O. where it was endorsed in manuscript “Deceased 8/1/18” when it was discovered that Private Monaghan had been killed in action on 8 August 1918, i.e., almost a year and a half after his death. The “MISSING” caption of the cachet was deleted and the cover returned to the Dead Letter Office in Perth on 13 May 1918. Three Monaghan brothers enlisted in the war....and only one returned.



Figure 6.1

Aside from the A.B.P.O. “Missing” cachets, others exist privately produced by some of the fighting units, including the 22nd Infantry Battalion.

Deceased

One wonders what the thoughts are of someone who had written a letter to a soldier serving overseas, only to have it returned with a “DECEASED” handstamp emblazoned



Figure 7

on the front such as that in Figures 7 & 7.1. There are a number of these cachets, mostly privately produced



Figure 7.1

by the units, but also a couple of different examples manufactured for the A.B.P.O. in London.

The example illustrated was privately produced for the 40th Battalion. The cover is addressed to Private Cecil Huxley of the 40th Infantry Battalion who was killed in action in Belgium on 8 June 1917. It was endorsed "Killed in action" in manuscript and signed by Captain Cecil Griely on 15 September where it was handstamped "DECEASED" in purple. The envelope was returned to the A.B.P.O. where it received the "Return to Sender" cachet and sent to the Tasmanian Dead Letter Office on 10 July 1918.

Prisoner of War

With the number of Australian soldiers interned as prisoners of war, it is again surprising that there are not that many handstamps for this instruction. The cover in Figure 8 was addressed to Private Anders Nielsen of the 13th Infantry Battalion who was wounded and captured by the Germans on 29 September 1916. It was



Figure 8

sent back to the A.B.P.O. in London who incorrectly applied the "Returned to Australia" handstamp which was then crossed through in manuscript. When further information was forthcoming, it was found that Private



Figure 8.1

Nielsen was a guest of the German military and the "PRISONER OF WAR" cachet struck (Figure 8.1). I am assuming that this cachet was used at Horseferry Road, although others that I have seen are almost certainly privately produced by the battalions.

There are no other datestamps on this envelope, so it is not known if it was returned to Australia. Private Nielsen was repatriated to England on 19 December 1918 and returned to Australia on 1 August 1919.

Returned to Australia

Finally, many Australian soldiers were repatriated back to Australia because of the wounds they received during the



Figure 9

war, however, I have only seen a couple of these cachets. The A.B.P.O. used a two-line cachet which was illustrated on the previous cover, with all other examples seen privately produced. The registered envelope dated early October 1918 in Figure 9 was addressed to Staff Sergeant Walter Rainsford of the 14th Field Ambulance. It shows two different types of this cachet (Figures 9 & 9.1) when, during the course of its delivery, it was discovered that Rainsford had returned to Australia on 23 October. The cover was forwarded to Australia and sent to his new address in George St, Sydney.

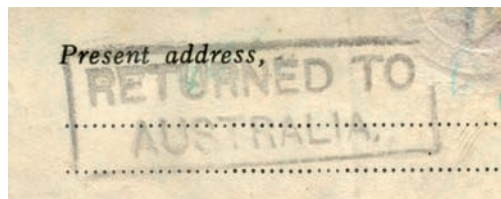


Figure 9.1

From this small overview, the number of challenges the Australian Base Post Office in London faced in delivering the mail to soldiers at the front can be seen. The range of handstamps is formidable. Collecting these cachets is also a challenge, with many of them very rare and the only examples I have recorded. In the next article, we will examine the Training Camps in England and the hospitals where the Australian soldiers recuperated.



Queensland Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin Errors

One of the more difficult colonies to collect is Queensland. Many of the errors are unique or have only a couple of examples recorded so, when they are offered for auction, generally it is once every generation or more. There are not many “Imperforate Between Stamp and Margin” errors; detailed below are some of the few.

SG 24 variety 2d Blue.
Error: Imperforate between stamp and margin at base, mint



Figure 1

This stamp in Figure 1 is a very attractive example of this error. My first record of this error was when this stamp was auctioned by Robson Lowe in June 1948; it has appeared at auction intermittently since. It is still the only example I have recorded in either mint or used condition. Conversely, there is another used copy, completely imperforate, showing the sheet margin at top. One would expect more of these to have turned up, like the 6d value. However, they may not be recognised by current collectors as being true errors. So, the possibility is that others are out there ...

SG 27 variety 6d Yellow Green.
Error: Imperforate at base, used on cover

I have written about this error previously (*PfA* Vol LXV, No. 1 March-May 2013, p. 15). The thing that I find truly astonishing, is that all of the examples I have seen are on cover! To date, I have tracked three copies, but I suspect there are a few more out there. The difference between the 6d value in Figure 2 and the 2d stamp in Figure 1 is the size of the margins at base. On all the 6d stamps, the margin at the base is quite small compared to the margin of the 2d example.



Figure 2



Figure 3

SG 50 variety 1d Orange Vermillion.
Error: Imperforate at base, mint block of eight

This is one of my favourite pieces, and is one of the rarities of the Queensland Chalons. I can find no early reports of the discovery of this error, although three units, contained in a mint block of 18, are in the H.L. White collection which was bequeathed to the NSW State

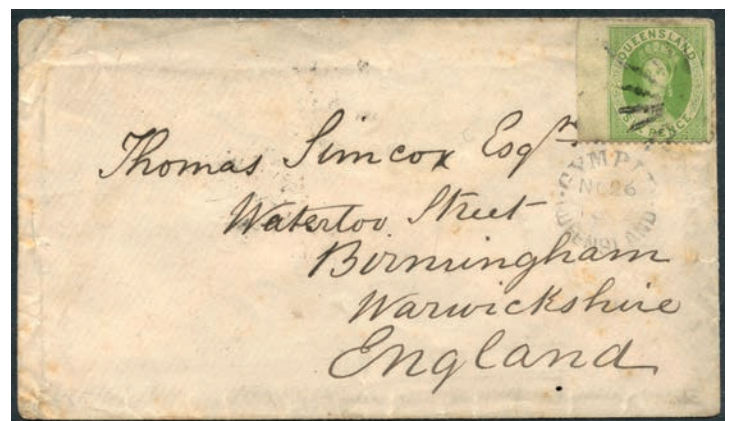


Figure 4

Library in 1922. Two other pieces, including the block of eight illustrated at Figure 3, are the only examples I have recorded. Given the size of the sheets of the Chalon series, this leaves only one single of this error yet to be discovered. The hunt is on!



Figure 5

SG 68 6d Yellow Green.
Error: Imperforate between stamp
and margin at left

For about six years, I have owned an unused example of the 6d value imperforate between stamp and margin at left. Fortunately, I have also been able to acquire the cover in Figure 4 showing this error. To date, these are the only two examples I have recorded. It seems unusual, given the number of different watermarks and perforations of the Chalon series, that this error does not appear on other values.

SG 255 variety 1d Vermillion.
Error: Imperforate between stamp
and margin at left, unused block of four

Although this obscure Perforation of 12 x 9.5 was first reported in 1901, the only used examples that have been recorded were in 1906, leaving its status in doubt (see Figure 5). Stanley Gibbons have now removed this listing, however, the perforations appear to be genuine. Brusden-White records this block of four on Page 63 of the *Federal Period* catalogue, but fails to mention that it is imperforate



Figure 6

between stamp and margin at left. To date, it is the only example recorded. It would interesting to see if any of our readers can cast more light on this error and this issue.

SG 288 variety 1d Vermillion.
Error: Imperforate between stamp
and margin at right, mint block of four

This is the most common of all the errors detailed in this article, and is relatively common on the auction circuit (see Figure 6). Oddly, I had not found any early reports of this error until a complete vertical strip of twelve from the Stone collection was auctioned by Stanley Gibbons in 1977. The Brusden-White catalogue states that probably two sheets were discovered with this error. However, I have recorded six blocks of four and a block of six. I think the Stone block of twelve has been broken down, but there are numerous examples of single stamps with this error, making it relatively common compared to others.

In the next edition, we will look at the imperforate between stamp and margin errors of South Australia.

Graeme Plaw

A Bird with a Tail/Tale to Tell!



Figure 1

1937. The perforation was 13.5 x 14 and watermarked Multiple Crown C of A. There was one perforation change printed December 1940 with 14.75 x 14 also watermarked, and a further issue in unwatermarked paper printed September 1956.

I was sorting through a small selection of used first issue 1937 Dull Green Lyrebird stamps recently checking them for listed varieties. The 2015 ACSC KGVII Catalogue lists only two weak entries in the left lower border and a retouch for this first print. These can be found for those who seek them out.

The 1/- Lyrebird was first issued in a reduced version of the 1932 definitive on 2 August

I was surprised to come across a pair of stamps that both have what appears to be a significant roller flaw (or re-entry) showing from the word "LYREBIRD" extending down to the base of each stamp. See Figures 1 & 2.

As these are used stamps, I am unable to locate a plated position as each of these show no watermark border lines. I would invite comment from others if they have sighted anything like these. I remain hopeful that others similar to this are known. We could then all enjoy a listing similar to the Roller Flaw "O" of "ONE" referenced on both later printings of this Telegram and Parcel Rate stamp issue.



Figure 2



A Note on KEVII and the Tasmanian Fleet Card



Tasmania Fleet Card 1908, front and reverse

The purpose of this note is to update my previous articles in *Philately from Australia* (2014, 2015) regarding KEVII on Tasmanian postal stationery and the KEVII high values of Victoria. In the first article, it was suggested that the head of King Edward VII, as depicted on Tasmanian postal cards and newspaper wrappers, was derived from the dies used for the £1 and £2 stamps of the Victorian regional issue. The second article focussed on the progressive die proofs as illustrated in Kellow's book on Victoria. The indicia show a persistent hook flaw

The same hook flaw has now been observed on a Tasmanian Fleet Card that I examined recently. This card is quite scarce as only 2,000 were printed. As noted in my 2016 article in *Philately from Australia*, this card was apparently missed by the philatelic press for a long time. This flaw is illustrated below and compared with a similar flaw on the KEVII high values of Victoria. There seems to be little doubt that the die flaw was transferred to those for the Tasmanian indicia. As Max Hooper stated in his book (1995) on the early Federal period, economy



Victoria £1 postage stamp 1901



1d KEVII Fleet Card indicium



Victoria £2 postage stamp 1902

coming from the right hand side of the King's mouth. That hook flaw also appears on the £1 and £2 stamps of Victoria, including plate and die proofs of that issue. In these articles, the Fleet card was not considered.

was the order of the day. Treasury insisted that economies be carried out on every aspect of the new Federal postal administration, including the production of new stamps and postal stationery. It is not surprising that new dies would be derived from old ones whenever possible to

avoid the high cost of engraving a new likeness of the monarch.

It should be stated that the hook flaw first occurred on the £1 stamp as it was the first stamp of that denomination

for Victoria since Federation was proclaimed; it was issued on 18 November 1901. The same die was clearly used to create a working die for the £2 stamp (issued 6 June 1902) and, subsequently, for the Tasmanian indicia from 1904 onwards.

References

Max Hooper (1995), *The First Postage Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia: 1901-1912*, Sydney: Australian States Study Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club.

Bill Lloyd-Smith (2014), "KEVII Stamp Dies for Tasmania", *Philately from Australia*, Vol. 66 No. 2, pp. 55-56.

Bill Lloyd-Smith (2015), "KEVII dies for Victoria and Tasmania: an update", *Philately from Australia*, Vol. 67 No. 1, p. 6.

Bill Lloyd-Smith (2016), "American Fleet Postcards 1908 and German Philatelic Sources", *Philately from Australia*, Vol. 68 No.3, p. 105.

Bill Lloyd-Smith FRPSV

Basset Hull: The Stamps of Tasmania: An Update on the Second Edition



1d Platypus with vertical SPECIMEN

This note provides an update on the second edition of the Basset Hull book on Tasmania plus some of the wonderful images which will eventually be published. We must note that Basset Hull's draft only goes up to late 1902

as that is when he finished his revisions. It seems that he did not return to that second edition on Tasmania ever again. The draft, as Basset Hull left it, consists of ten Chapters entitled Sections I to X, going from the first issue of 1853 up to the very end of 1889. The Chapter on the newspaper duty stamp of 1827 was omitted on the grounds that it was not a postage stamp. Obviously, other Chapters from the first edition need to be included because of the revived interest in postal stationery, revenue stamps of all kinds and even railway stamps.

We now provide an overview on the current work. In general, the order of Chapters (called Sections in the draft) has been retained. Of necessity, new Chapters have had to be provided to describe the later issues that followed the publication of the first edition of Basset Hull's book on Tasmanian stamps in 1890 by the (then) Philatelic Society of London. These will be inserted in the proper place to maintain continuity. To give a simple example, we note that a supplement to the original book of 1890 was published in *London Philatelist* for August and September 1901. That supplement was



6d Pictorial mint London print

incorporated into the draft second edition as two Chapters, with some additions that have apparently never seen the light of day. They follow on from Section X, entitled *The Postage and Revenue Stamps of 1882 to 1890* as in the first edition. Section XI discusses the local printings of Sideface issues (first issued on 1 November 1870) from 1890 to approximately 1896, including surcharges while Section XII discusses the Bicoloured issues of 1892 to 1899 in detail. Two new Chapters had to be drafted in Basset Hull's style to cover the London printings of the Pictorials and the philatelic consequences of Federation as of 1 January 1901. Indeed, Section XII refers to a Section XIV (presumably dealing with the philatelic consequences of Federation). By simple logic, Section XIII can only deal with the London printings of the Pictorial issue. The story of what happened from 1902 is treated in an Epilogue (still being revised). This part of the story ends soon after 1913 when the uniform series for the Commonwealth appeared.

We have to remember that Basset Hull's draft second edition limited attention to *adhesive* stamps only. By 1902, collectors in the English-speaking world were





9d Sideface very dark blue (indigo) wmk TAS

mainly focussing on adhesive stamps after Stanley Gibbons had decided to cease cataloguing postal stationery after 1900. The Chapters on adhesive revenue stamps were retained mainly because these stamps were later authorised for postal use as from 1 November 1882. In more recent years, postal stationery, revenue stamps and railway stamps have regained substantial interest

among collectors. Hence, Chapters dealing with these subjects (other than railway stamps, which were not discussed in the first edition) have been restored with suitable updates.

New Chapters have been written to discuss letter cards and PTPO stationery since these appeared after 1890. They will immediately follow after the Chapters on postal cards and stamped envelopes, which themselves have been augmented with information from contemporary sources. The Chapter on frank stamps has been restored with a few updates from contemporary sources, such as philatelic journals current in those days. The idea is to make the draft look like a contemporary account, using only information that was available in those times.

The Chapter on reprints and specimens has been restored, along with the Chapter on proofs and essays. The 'essays' include the 2s 6d and 10s stamps of the De La Rue keyplate type that were printed in early 1886 but never issued to the public. The Chapters dealing with impressed duty, postal notes and beer duty stamps have been restored as well with suitable updates. However, most new information will appear in the auxiliary notes as there are few contemporary references to reprints, specimens, proofs and essays. Contemporary information on beer duties mostly appears in the few publications devoted to fiscal philately, including the catalogues of Morley and Forbin (the latter being in French) on revenue stamps.

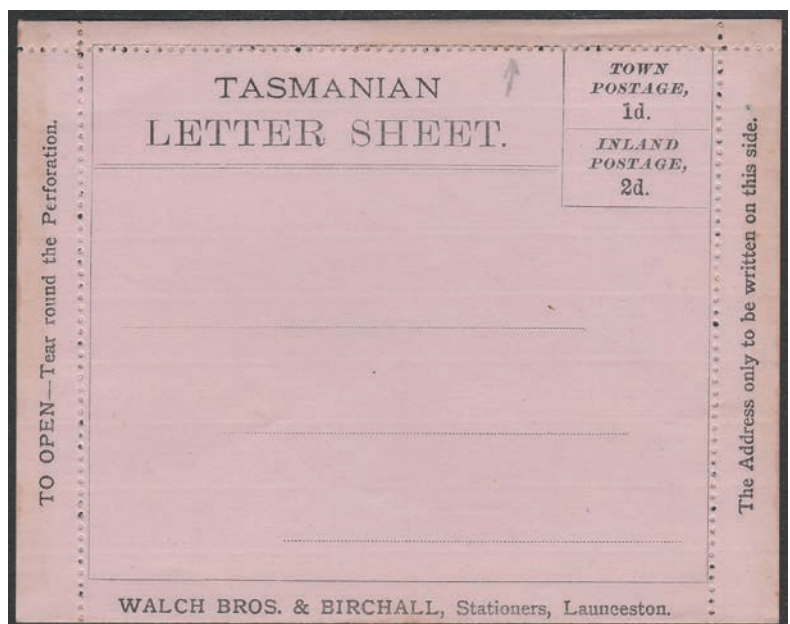
Most Chapters have been edited and a few corrections have been made. Most of the Chapters on adhesive stamps were revised by Basset Hull himself for the second edition with some new information, much of which came from official sources and also from local contacts known to him. A rather difficult Chapter to edit is the one on the perforated Chalon issues where numerous private roulettes were provided locally by various vendors. Basset Hull expanded substantially on his rather brief treatment of private roulettes in the first edition. Even so, his treatment of the private roulettes seems to be somewhat incomplete. These are complex and, due to their scarcity, collectors should be on their guard against fakes.



10/- Dragon postally used on a piece with Hobart duplex and London oval registered cancel

All Chapters in the second edition will appear with extra notes to record some of the updates to our knowledge of Tasmania stamps and postal stationery that have come to light since Basset Hull wrote the draft. Indeed, many of these updates did not come to light until after Basset Hull's death. Many of these notes have already been drafted. The idea of using notes comes from Basset Hull's book on New South Wales, which was substantially edited by the then Philatelic Society of London by adding substantial notes to expand on each Chapter. In addition, the book on New South Wales added a few extra notes to expand on such topics as the rather complex subject of perforations and revenue stamps.

The above approach has been adopted for the present book on Tasmania. Thus, notes now exist on all the planned Chapters. Extra notes have been drafted on such matters as perforations (a perennial source of confusion for many collectors, especially for the Chalons and Sideface issues), De La Rue issues with quantities printed of 1d and 2d from 1878 onwards, wing margins, bulk postage (one major use for high value stamps) and watermarks. Appendices are given for printings of Chalons and the 1889 stocktake of the then current issues.



Walch Bros & Birchall Letter Sheet

Holden FJ Postal Van, circa 1956



This photograph of a Holden FJ postal van used for mail posting box clearances was taken probably in Melbourne around 1956. The 1956/57 Annual Report of the Postmaster-General's Department reports: *A new type of vehicle was introduced. This was a postal van of 7 cwt. capacity, which replaced some 15 cwt. vans previously used. Essentially a standard commercial vehicle converted for postal purposes, it has proved satisfactory in service, being manoeuvrable, reasonably priced and economical to run and maintain. An emblem consisting of the Royal Cipher and the words "Royal Mail" has been affixed to all mail-carrying postal vans.*

Photograph courtesy of Australia Post.

100 YEARS



50 YEARS AGO

Under the heading "A Munificent Donation", *The Australian Philatelist*, June 1917, reported the donation by Henry L. White FRPSL of his "unrivalled" collection of New South Wales stamps to the Trustees of the Mitchell Library, Sydney:

The magnitude of the donation has never been exceeded in the philatelic world, excepting perhaps the donation by the late Mr. T.K. Tapling of his general collection of stamps to the British Museum; but in the latter case all countries were represented, whereas Mr. White's gift represents one country only. Based to a great extent on catalogue prices, it is valued at £15,000, but this amount is well within the mark, as the rarities and extra fine copies were valued very reasonably. . . . Having purchased in 1897 the specialised Queensland collection from Mr. E.D.E. van Weenan, his [H.L. White's] interest then became centred in specialising in all the States of Australia, but his favourites were New South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia. At the same time, he devoted a good deal of attention to Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia, and managed to make a fine representative collection of each.

The 10th anniversary of the official opening of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's "headquarters" at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, occurred on 16 March 1967; as reported in *Philately from Australia*, June 1967:

Today nobody could doubt the wisdom of and success of the acquisition. Displays are given under near-perfect conditions, and suppers provided by the self-sacrificing lady members have completed the enjoyment of the evenings and facilitated greatly the friendliness between members which the society believes to be one of its most important distinguishing characteristics. It has also allowed the library to be properly housed. The growth of the library since headquarters has been established is obvious to all who attend meetings and the important part which it is playing was shown by the fact that there were nearly 300 borrowings last year. The facilities available also allow the library to become a repository for records of Australia's philatelic history which may well become of national scope. The meeting room has already been used for an exhibition, the quarterly sales and for social gatherings. Its possession also means that special meetings can be arranged without having to consider the availability of a room. It is also a financial asset, and its possession augments and testifies to the size, status, importance and permanence of the society.



Union Postale: The Magazine of the UPU

L'UNION POSTALE

JOURNAL PUBLIÉ PAR

LE BUREAU INTERNATIONAL

DE

L'UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE

Abonnements.

Il ne peut être pris que des abonnements annuels concordant avec l'année astronomique. Prix de l'abonnement, port compris, fr. 3. 40 pour la Suisse, fr. 4 pour les autres pays. Prix du numéro, 35 cts. port compris.

Avis. — Le montant de l'abonnement doit être transmis *franco* au Bureau international de l'Union postale universelle à Berne, au moyen d'un mandat-poste ou d'une traite à vue sur la Suisse.

XVI^e volume.N^o 8.Berne, 1^{er} août 1891.

Sommaire. LE CONGRÈS POSTAL UNIVERSEL DE VIENNE. — BIBLIOGRAPHIE POSTALE. — PETITES COMMUNICATIONS.

Le Congrès postal universel de Vienne.

Ainsi que l'annonçait l'avant-dernier numéro de ce journal, le Congrès postal universel a été ouvert solennellement le 20 mai 1891, à 11 heures du matin, dans la grande salle de l'Association Imp. et Royale d'horticulture à Vienne. Etaient représentés à ce Congrès,

1^o des pays composant actuellement l'Union postale universelle: l'Allemagne, l'Amérique (Etats-Unis), l'Argentine (République), l'Autriche, la Hongrie, la Belgique, les Etats-Unis du Brésil, la Bulgarie, le Canada, la République de Colombie, l'Etat indépendant du Congo, le Danemark et les colonies danoises, l'Egypte, l'Espagne et les colonies espagnoles, la France et les colonies françaises, la Grande-Bretagne et diverses colonies britanniques, la Grèce, Guatemala, Hawaï, l'Inde britannique, l'Italie, le Japon, Libéria, le Luxembourg, le Mexique, le Monténégro, la Norvège, le Paraguay, les Pays-Bas et les colonies néerlandaises, le Pérou, la Perse, le Portugal et les colonies portugaises, la Roumanie, la Russie, le Salvador, la Serbie, Siam, la Suède, la Suisse, la Tunisie, la Turquie, l'Uruguay et Vénézuéla;

Der Wiener Weltpostkongress.

Der Weltpostkongress wurde, wie wir schon in der vorletzten Nummer dieser Zeitschrift kurz mitgeteilt haben, am 20. Mai, 11 Uhr Vormittags, in den für den Kongress besonders eingerichteten Räumen der k. k. Gartenbau-Gesellschaft in Wien in feierlicher Weise eröffnet. Vertreten auf dem Kongresse waren

1. von denjenigen Ländern, welche gegenwärtig dem Weltpostverein angehören: Deutschland, Vereinigte Staaten Amerika's, Argentinische Republik, Oesterreich, Ungarn, Belgien, Vereinigte Staaten von Brasilien, Bulgarien, Kanada, Republik Columbien, Congostaat, Dänemark und die dänischen Kolonien, Egypten, Spanien und die spanischen Kolonien, Frankreich und die französischen Kolonien, Grossbritannien und verschiedene britische Kolonien, Griechenland, Guatemala, Hawaï, Britisch-Indien, Italien, Japan, Libéria, Luxemburg, Mexiko, Montenegro, Norwegen, Paraguay, Niederland und die niederländischen Kolonien, Peru, Persien, Portugal und die portugiesischen Kolonien, Rumänien, Russland, Salvador, Serbien, Siam, Schweden, Schweiz, Tunesien, Türkei, Uruguay und Venezuela;

The Universal Postal Congress in Vienna.

As we informed our readers in the June number of our periodical, the Universal Congress was solemnly opened on the 20th of May last, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, on the premises of the *k. k. Gartenbau-Gesellschaft* in Vienna, the rooms of which had been specially arranged and decorated for the purpose. The following countries were represented at the Congress:—

1.—Of the countries at present forming part of the Universal Postal Union:—Germany, the United States of America, the Argentine Republic, Austria, Hungary, Belgium, the United States of Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, the Republic of Colombia, the Congo Free State, Denmark and the Danish Colonies, Egypt, Spain and the Spanish Colonies, France and the French Colonies, Great Britain and various British Colonies, Greece, Guatemala, Hawaii, British India, Italy, Japan, Liberia, Luxemburg, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Paraguay, the Netherlands and the Netherland Colonies, Peru, Persia, Portugal and the Portuguese Colonies, Roumania, Russia, Salvador, Servia, Siam, Sweden, Switzerland, Tunis, Turkey, Uruguay, and Venezuela;

The multi-language magazine *Union Postale* has been published by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) continuously since 1875. The 142-year old magazine is a remarkable record of developments in world postal services during almost the entire period of the UPU's existence.

The RPSV Library has been most fortunate in acquiring a lengthy run of *Union Postale*. The donation from Australia Post comprises bound volumes of the magazine commencing in 1877 and continuing, with some gaps, up to 1983. (The Royal's library currently holds an incomplete run of *Union Postale* as loose magazines of the 1960s and 1970s.)

For most of its life, *Union Postale* was published monthly for circulation to member postal administrations and to other interested parties. The magazine's articles generally focus on progress and new techniques introduced to the international postal system by member countries, but these articles also embrace changes in domestic postal systems, which are impacted by international developments.

Most *Union Postale* articles were submitted by postal administrations to offer reports of recent developments and extracts from annual reports. To cite one example, *Union Postale*, April 1919, features an article, "The War Prisoners' Post in Switzerland", which is a description of how the Swiss postal administration handled the vast quantities of Prisoner of War mail passing through that country during World War I.

Until 1920, *Union Postale* was published in French, German and English; the editorial pages were laid out in three columns to accommodate each language. The illustration on this page from the August 1891 edition describes the Vienna UPU Congress held in May/June of that year.

At the 1920 Madrid UPU Congress, Spanish was added as an official language. From 1920, articles in *Union Postale* were published in four columns of text. The photographs and diagrams accompanying the articles were captioned in the four languages.

The 1947 Paris UPU Congress expanded the official languages to include Arabic, Chinese and Russian, which reflected the procedure at the United Nations. German was dropped by the UPU in 1947 but, at the 1952 Brussels UPU Congress, German was reinstated. In 1951, the original title of *L'Union Postale* was changed to *Union Postale*.

The seven official languages of the UPU have remained unchanged up to the present day. The articles in *Union Postale* appeared in the following sequence of page sections: French, German, English, Arabic, Chinese, Spanish and Russian. Because of this unwieldy format, the articles were not very long and they did not go too deeply into the subjects. By the mid-1990s, the seven-language format made the magazine quite bulky, so the sensible decision was made to replace the single edition with seven different language editions of *Union Postale*.

It is interesting to note that *Union Postale* accommodated a variety of languages from the beginning, even though the UPU itself adhered exclusively to French as its official language, with all other publishing activities of the UPU being in French only until the mid-1970s.

Unfortunately, the early volumes of *Union Postale* in original binding acquired by the Royal's library involve significant omissions. We hold all *Union Postale* magazines for 1877, 1878, 1881 and 1882, but we do not have any at all for 1875, 1876, 1879, 1880, 1883 and 1884. All editions from 1885 to 1916 are there. A printed note affixed inside the first volume says that the missing editions could not be supplied by the International Bureau of the UPU in Berne, suggesting that the binding of the journal was carried out after the admission of the Australasian colonies to UPU membership in 1891.

Another unfortunate gap in *Union Postale* occurs between 1917 and 1931, which is not so readily explained. These magazines must have been part of the original holding, but they were separated from the rest for some reason. Even so, this remarkable holding of *Union Postale*, covering a century of publishing, is a valuable addition to the RPSV Library.

Note that the quarterly editions of *Union Postale* published since 2003 can be freely accessed on the UPU website, with only a short delay of a few months before the latest edition is added: <http://news.upu.int/magazine/archives/>



Royal News

New members

The Society has gained 12 new members. On 20 April 2017 **Lester C. LANPHEAR III** (USA) was accepted for membership. On 18 May 2017, 11 applications for membership were accepted: **Markand DAVE** (India); **Colin DAVIS** (Vic.); **John GREENAWAY** (Qld.); **Robert KNIGHT** (Vic.); **Mark KNOTHE** (Vic.); **Linda LEE** (NSW); **Brian MILLS** (Vic.); **Ben PALMER** (UK); **Robin POLLET** (Vic.); **Paul PRETTO** (Vic.); and **Evan TSIRGIOTIS** (SA). We wish them all a long and happy association with the Society.

Nominations for Council

Nominations for election to the 2017/18 Council must be placed with the Secretary by Thursday, 17 August 2017, ahead of the 125th Annual General Meeting to be held on Thursday, 21 September 2017.

RPSV stand at Melbourne 2017

The Society's stand at Melbourne 2017 International Stamp Exhibition was very successful in terms of sales of souvenir products and publications. The specially overprinted Holden Torana PNC (postal numismatic cover) sold particularly well, as well as the secondhand philatelic books that were duplicate to the Library's holdings. Also, the Society received 11 applications for membership during and immediately following the exhibition. Special thanks are due to Peter Leitch who managed the stand and to our volunteer workers: Bill Clark, Joe Edwards, Eric Frazer, Ted Gallagher, Bill Jenkins, Vito Milana, Graeme Plaw, John Rennie, Ken Scudder, John Shawley and Les Vincent.

Library donation

The RPSV wishes to acknowledge the donation of Literature entries at Melbourne 2017 for inclusion in the Society's Library. Over the years, the Library has benefited from donations of Literature entries in major exhibitions.

SOCIETY SYLLABUS

www.rpsv.org.au

July 2017

4 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **British Africa – Mauritius & Nyasaland: John Shawley FRPSV, FRPSL**

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

20 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **WWII Propaganda Leaflets: Charles Bromser MAP, FRPSV** (Invite a friend night)

29 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

August 2017

1 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Modern Great Britain: Marjorie Crawford FRPSV**

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

17 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **Australia WWII to Overseas Destinations: Gary Watson FRPSV**

26 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon

31 (Thu) 8.00 p.m. **South Australian Departmentals: Tony Presgrave FRPSV, FRPSL**

September 2017

5 (Tue) 1.00 p.m. Daytime Meeting, **Rated "R": John Garlick**

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

21 (Thu) 7.30 p.m. **125th Annual General Meeting; 8.00 p.m. Retiring President's Display**

30 (Sat) 2.00 p.m. Library Afternoon



The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc.
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 Ashburton VIC 3147
 PO Box 490, Ashburton VIC 3147, Australia
www.rpsv.org.au

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is one of the premier philatelic Societies in Australia. It was founded in 1892 and in 1946 was granted the "Royal" prefix by King George VI. The Society has owned its own building for over 50 years and, in 2003, moved into Purves House in Ashburton, a suburb of Melbourne. The Library is now located in a highly accessible space and the meeting area can accommodate up to 100 people.

New members are always welcome and are offered the following services:

MEETINGS/DISPLAYS: Around 25 meetings are held annually (day and evening) with some of the best available collections on display.

EXCHANGE BRANCH: Exchange books circulate regularly within Australia.

LIBRARY: Members have access to the largest philatelic library in the southern hemisphere. The Library receives many of the leading philatelic journals.

EXPERT COMMITTEE: The Society's Expert Committee will provide members and others with Certificates of Opinion on Australasian and Pacific Island items.

PUBLICATIONS: Members receive the quarterly journal *Philately from Australia*. The Society has produced many keystone philatelic publications and actively seeks new research for publication.

An Application for Membership form may be downloaded at:
<http://www.rpsv.org.au/rpsv-docs/Application-for-Membership.pdf>

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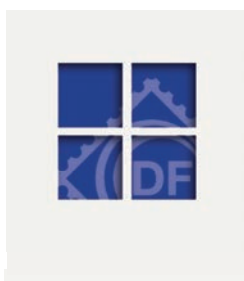
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Victoria 1886 Error of Colour



Kangaroo 6d Deformed 'E'



Un-Issued KEVIII 2d Scarlet



Austria 1858 Newspaper



1900 Boer War Part-Imperforate Pair



Australia 5d Japanese Prisoner of War Lettersheet

STAMPS & POSTAL HISTORY

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