

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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“STUDY AND SCHOLARSHIP”

What these days often strikes the older school of students is the amount of enthusiasm misplaced in the haste to get the results of one's study into print. On the other hand, of course, there are people who will never publish work until they have filled in every hole, dotted every “i” and crossed every “t.” This trait is even worse than the first since it means that important work may *never* be published. Of these two kinds of student we prefer, frankly, the undisciplined enthusiast.

What we do think calls for comment is the number of studies now being published, on a wide variety of subjects, which have *already* been treated, in some publication, in part or whole, by *someone else*. For any presentation to be truly authoritative a careful investigation of the previous work published in a particular field is as important as a careful investigation of the field itself. In addition, we often find our enthusiastic student making statements on technical matters which the merest reference to such books as *Postage Stamps in the Making*, *An Introduction to Advanced Philately*, *Printing Stamps by Line-Engraving* and the like, would show to be manifestly incorrect.

Our appeal to the student is first — before he publishes work of a technical nature — to equip himself, as far as possible, with the requisite technical knowledge and, having done that, and as a further essential in the preparation of his own study for publication, to ascertain what, if any, previous references there are to the subject. In this regard what better place is there to look for these than in a Society's Library.

Naturally students all like to be “original” but we believe, even more, that they prefer their conclusions to be unchallengeable. Otherwise, as in a Greek

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Symposium, discussion is liable to be protracted indefinitely. Two heads being invariably better than one, if there *are* previous references, the consulting of these will certainly produce a more complete job, a less arguable proposition. Further, the fact that in such cases any self-respecting philatelist will insist on acknowledging the prior work *must* add weight to the author's own conclusions, either because there *is* agreement between the past and the present, or because the author is able to give *valid* reasons for *disagreeing* with a previous conclusion.

We imagine that the failure of many modern students to bring a sense of scholarship to bear on their work is mainly due to an itch to get into print. There are, however, apt to be many occasions when to yield to this itch without achieving first the necessary technical grounding, and doing the preliminary bibliographical research, can lead to much wailing and gnashing of teeth.

The finest attribute of scholarship is a scrupulous regard for accuracy. It is seldom met. — J.R.W.P.

RANDOM NOTES

Index to Current Philatelic Periodicals

Members of the Junior Philatelic Society are, of course, well acquainted with the above "Index," which is now an established feature of that Society's journal, *The Stamp Lover*, but non-members may not, perhaps, be aware of this valuable aid to students of philately.

The feature has appeared regularly in *The Stamp Lover* since January, 1950, and the aim of the compilers is that the index should embrace contributions of importance in every current philatelic periodical printed in the English language. As there are over 60 publications listed in the key, the monumental nature of the task, a labour of love by the Honorary Librarian of the J.P.S., and, by implication, the enormous value of the compilation to students, can well be appreciated.

In view of this, it is difficult to criticise, but so far as *Philately from Australia* is concerned, we should like to see the subjects dealt with in our features, "The Trail of Commonwealth" and "The Other Side of the Picture," listed in the Index, as well as our longer articles, as in many cases they are of just as much importance for students.

Perhaps, however, this would be impracticable.

The Stamp Lover subscription for non-members of the J.P.S. is 12s. 6d. sterling per annum.

Philatelic Federations

The protagonists of Philatelic Advisory Councils in Australia would do well to study the aims and methods of the County and Regional Federations in Britain. We have been favoured with copies of the 1950-51 Year Book of the Yorkshire Philatelic Association, and of the Bulletins of the East Midlands Federation of Stamp Clubs, from which it is apparent that the less such bodies interfere in the internal workings of their member societies, the more likely they are to achieve success.

These federations function with the minimum of organisation, and it is clear that their principal value is in the fresh inspiration and broadened outlook of the members in general, and those of smaller societies in particular, which come from the exchange of visits and displays. We in Australia might take a leaf out of their book in this respect.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by C. E. NORDEN

"1d. RED GEO. V SURFACE-PRINTED"

*Further Information About the Dating and Positioning of Constant Varieties,
Based on an Examination of the 1914 Proof Sheets*

The notes published in these columns in the December, 1951, issue regarding Mr Kilfoyle's proof sheets seem to have created a lot of interest, and some most appreciative letters have been received. In view of this, I thought it advisable to have all findings checked, and Messrs J. R. W. Purves, G. G. Cole and C. G. Skewes kindly agreed to lend a helping hand.

Mr Purves, in the days gone by, when he possessed an outstanding Commonwealth collection, was a keen "1d. Red" student and was, incidentally, instrumental in having the various shades classified according to their years of issue.

Mr Skewes, a more recent student, has probably one of the most specialised "1d. Red" collections in existence. It is almost complete according to the late Mr Neil's book, and also contains a number of *constant* varieties *not* chronicled.

Mr Cole has a collection of "1d. Reds" in sheets — nine complete and two panes of 60, as follows: (The dates given are the times of original purchase according to the markings in the selvedge):

<i>Lower Right</i>	<i>Lower Left</i>	<i>Upper Right</i>	<i>Upper Left</i>
20/7/1914	29/3/1918	5/2/1917	29/3/1918
3/8/1917			
31/1/1918	6/7/1918	16/12/1919	April, 1918
Cooke mult.	left pane only*		right pane only
1/8/1918			4/11/1918

The *complete 1914 Perkins Bacon proof sheets* which Mr Kilfoyle kindly lent me were:

1 Upper Left	2 Lower Right
1 Upper Right	2 Lower Left

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Previously published notes will be included in this present article but it will be limited to:

(1) Varieties existing on the 1914 proofs and recorded in Mr Neil's book, but the "early dates" of which, as recorded to date, are incorrect. These dates have been noted in brackets at the end of certain of the descriptions.

(2) Varieties *not* chronicled, but showing on the 1914 proofs *as well as* on Mr Cole's sheets.

This will complete the story as far as the *proofs* are concerned. In a *later* article we will, with the aid of Mr Cole's sheets, try to locate the position of certain *other* constant flaws which we know to exist but which have not been *located* on the proof sheets. Mr Skewes' comprehensive collection, together with other material on hand, should also help us to correct a number of "dates" which, in our opinion, can now be shown either to be "late" or to be wrong.

Quite a lot of work has been done in this field recently by various students, particularly in Great Britain, and any further assistance they can give will be greatly appreciated.

LOWER LEFT SHEET

Left Pane:

2. "Left frame curved slightly inwards at top for 2½ mm." (about 1915).
3. Top frame cut inwards for 2 mm. from right corner.
18. Weak entry at top right corner.
23. ¼ mm. break in shading line, left of crown and adjacent to the fifth pearl ("PENAVY").
29. ¼ mm. break in shading line, left of crown and adjacent to the fifth pearl ("RET. CORNER").
33. Break in right frame 12¼ mm. from top.
37. "White flaws in upper shading lines at left of 2nd pearl of crown," etc. (1915).
40. "Small white flaw on 'roo's back," etc. (about 1915).
43. "Dent in top of 'R' in 'AUSTRALIA,'" etc. (1915).

Mr Palmer's description of this variety in the June, 1950 issue is correct in detail, and it does exist in the proof sheet. His statement that it "*might possibly have been made by Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. whilst the plates were being manufactured in London*" is also obviously a correct deduction.

44. "Two small V-shaped notches in top frame," etc. (1934).
47. Curved lower right corner.
52. ½ mm. break behind 'roo 9½ mm. from left lower corner.
53. Right frame shaved inwards for 1 mm. at top corner.
60. "Small notch in lower frame 6½ mm. from right corner" (1931).

Note: There are also some minor "roller flaws" such as a ¼ mm. break in the 6th shading line from the top, ¾ mm. to the left of the crown which affect, in particular, the stamps in the 4th and 5th vertical rows.

Right Pane:

1. Weak entry and roller shift, left side and top of stamp.
2. White spot on 'roo 4½ mm. from point of tail. Weak entry along top frame.
3. Weak entry along top frame particularly above left wattle.
4. Vertical hairline from left wattle downwards for 2 mm.
6. "Crown top sloping downwards," etc. Although the crown top is normal, the notch in the top frame is showing. (1936).

THE TRAIL OF COMMONWEALTH

7. Slight roller shift over left wattle and weak entry along left frame.
 12. Scratch in left frame from top corner down for 10 mm.
 13. Weak entry and roller shift at left of stamp.
 18. Two scratches through right wattle commencing at 8 mm. and 10½ mm. from top right corner, 45 degrees upwards.
 31. Lower frame shaved for ¼ mm. at left corner.
 40. Thin "GE" in "POSTAGE" showing. If a retouch, it must, of course, have been done before the plate was ever used for printing. (In Mr Purves' opinion, this is *not* a retouch but a "roller-shift").
 41. An important variety *not so far recorded*, i.e., a small white flaw on the right side of the stem of "Y" in "PENNY" ½ mm. from base. It is of importance as it is one of the stamps in the blocks showing the substituted clichés, etc. All reconstructed blocks I have seen have been without this flaw, i.e., *only three-quarter correct*.
 44. Double left frame behind 'roo 8½ mm. from top 4½ mm. long.
 50. Left frame double for 1 mm. behind 'roo 16 mm. from top.
 57. Third shading line under King's neck broken immediately over "T" in "POSTAGE."
 - 48, 54, 60. Show small vertical scratches near right frame at and just below the right wattle, more prominent in No. 60 than in others.
- There are quite a number of minor "weak entries" and "roller flaws."

UPPER LEFT SHEET

Left Pane:

22. "Small frame break under first 'N' of 'PENNY'" (June, 1928). This break is also visible in the sheet.
55. "White flaw on fifth wattle at left" (probably 1915).
56. "Horizontal shading lines of background thinner generally," etc. (about 1915).

Right Pane:

2. Die 2 unit, shows a small notch in lower frame 10 mm. from left corner.
 3. Die 2 unit, shows abrupt curve on inside of bottom frame to right "Y" of "PENNY."
 8. Die 2 unit, small dot immediately outside top right corner.
 15. "Die 2 unit, with flaw, two small notches in lower frame below left value tablet."
 16. "Notch in lower frame 2½ mm. from left corner," etc. (1928).
 21. Die 2 unit, shallow nick under left value tablet (this flaw later developed to damage along the whole of lower frame).
 26. Die 2 unit, "in 1937 slight white flaw appeared in left tablet to the right of base of 1."
 32. Die 2 unit, top of crown has break (marked) in the centre.
 38. Die 2 unit, top of crown dented in middle and sloping down to right. Top frame rough for 8 mm. from right corner.
 43. "V notch in top frame 5 mm. from right corner" (1937).
 44. Die 2 unit, uneven lower frame near right corner.
 60. "Upward bulge in top frame near right corner" (1914).
- Nos. 2, 8, 15, 56 have been previously quoted by Rev. J. C. Brown and Mr Eric N. Palmer added Nos. 3, 27, 32 and 38 to this list.

With due respect to other "1d. Red" specialists, I would like to mention that some *ten or more years ago*, Mr Purves expressed to me his decided opinion that the so-called "Die 2" was only a "roller flaw" which had later been *retouched*. After examination of the material then available, I had no doubt that his assumption was correct.

UPPER RIGHT SHEET

Left Pane:

21. "White flaw in shading at right of top right curve of right value tablet" (1917).
25. "Left frame somewhat heavy," etc. (late 1914).
39. Angular notch in top frame, left top corner.

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41. "Top left corner of frame blunted" (June, 1915).
49. Vertical hairline behind 'roo $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from base of left wattle to 'roo's back. Does not show other varieties mentioned in book.

Right Pane:

21. Dot before "1" as described.
22. "Retouched left frame," etc. It is rather interesting to note that this variety, which existed from July, 1914, *does not show*. I would say that it is not a retouch but a damage similar to those frame damages which exist in many Geo. V issues.

Note: It is almost certain that the "retouch to right frame" (No. 20) does not exist, as there is no trace of it in the proof and the other sheets. Mr Skewes also possesses several pairs of No. 20 and 21, various dates, without any trace of the supposed variety. It should therefore be deleted from any check lists.

LOWER RIGHT SHEET

Left Pane:

3. "Right frame notched inward for $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. at top," etc. (December, 1914).
7. "Break in top frame 2 mm. to left of crown top and top frame faintly notched 1 mm. from right corner," etc. (January, 1915). The latter variety shows clearly.
15. "Right frame thinned for $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. opposite lowest wattle leaf." (Violet printings).
25. "Upward diagonal fine notch in left frame 9 mm. from lower corner" (November, 1917).
54. "Fine hairline in the shading $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. to right of right wattle," etc. (December, 1915). There is, however, no "fern leaf" flaw.

Right Pane:

9. "Right frame irregular by right value tablet," etc. (May, 1915).
13. "White line through the lower left corner of frame," etc. The author seems to doubt the existence of this flaw. I have had many copies. The variety is showing and the letters of "ONE PENNY" are distorted (probably, like 14, retouched).
14. "Retouched words "ONE PENNY," etc. The letters in the proof sheet appear very irregular, more so than in the printed stamp, confirming the virtual certainty that this variety (and 13) *were* due to *retouching*.
32. "Hairline through shading at left," etc. (June, 1915).
54. Corner dot not showing but lower frame bumped up to right corner.

There are quite a number of weak entries and minor re-entries or "shifts" showing on the proof sheets. It would be extremely difficult to detect them on the printed stamp, and as they are of little importance, it was decided to omit them.

As it is, and in order to keep in line with Mr Neil's book, many minor varieties which really *don't* warrant inclusion in a check list have been recorded.

Lately, unfortunately, "one-stamp" specialists have made mountains out of mole hills and rushed into print with minute varieties of no philatelic importance. The reason is obvious — their philatelic knowledge is limited and they are unable to separate the varieties of importance from those of no consequence. Strictly speaking, each stamp differs from the others in a sheet, and I venture to say that if each one were photographed separately and suitably enlarged, they could all be told apart. As to whether such a pursuit is either profitable or desirable is, of course, a matter of opinion.

1d. RED KING GEORGE V

The "Tin-Shed" Flaws, and More About Perforations

By Rev. J. C. W. BROWN

Dr Gordon Ward's recent query is symptomatic of a renewed interest in the so-called "tin-shed" flaws, and it might be well to place on record the results of work done on these flaws in recent years. The name referred, of course, to the allegedly primitive conditions in which the early Commonwealth stamps were printed. The theory (once accepted by myself) was that these flaws were the result of water having condensed on the plate overnight or even dripped on to it from the roof. It is true enough that the building where the stamps were produced could in some sense be described as a "tin shed," but it is also a fact that there was in Australia at that time a tradition of more than sixty years of stamp printing. The old theory was to say the least of it a trifle far-fetched, and the most probable explanation would appear to be something quite different.

Mr A. R. Watson, of Brisbane, has done a considerable amount of work on these flaws. His theory, communicated to me some years ago, is that they are actually a case of partial "printing on the gum," a few spots of gum having somehow found their way on to the printing surface of the paper prior to the operation of printing. Mr Watson builds up his case as follows:

1. These flaws are not known on mint stamps. It is apparently only after stamps have been soaked that they appear.

2. Postmarks, where present, are always broken over the area of the flaw.

3. Flaws can sometimes be extended by simple moistening with the tongue.

4. Mr Watson has an interesting stamp showing distortion of the design in the neighbourhood of the flaw. Evidently the ink, in the process of soaking, had partially floated off the paper and had twisted before it settled back when the stamp was dried.

5. A large proportion of the flawed stamps shows line watermark, making it probable that the spots or streaks of gum responsible were for the most part near the edge of the sheet.

My own experience (so far as it goes) confirms that of Mr Watson. I would only add that I have never seen the flaws on the rough paper printings. We are told that the rough paper was gummed *after* printing, and this, of course, would make impossible any "printing on the gum." *I feel quite certain myself that Mr Watson has found the true explanation for these "tin-shed" flaws.*

Varieties Found With Single-line Perforation

In an article published some time ago in *Philately from Australia* I emphasised the extreme rarity of Die 2 and "Thin G" with single-line perforation. Through the kindness of Mr H. J. Carter, of Melbourne, I now possess undoubted specimens of each. Not only is the single-line "appearance" right, but the gauge is also right — 14 $\frac{1}{5}$ along a vertical edge as opposed to the 14 of the comb perforation.

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Mr Carter has handled more 1d. reds than most of us, and others might be interested in his experience with some of these rarities. So far as he can recollect he has found:

- 9 copies of Die 2, single-line perf.
- 2 copies of "Thin G," single-line perf.
- 4 copies of "CNE."
- 19 copies of the "pre-substituted clichés."

No exact mathematical ratio of occurrence can be based on figures so small, but they do give a rough indication of comparative rarity. Mr Carter incidentally tells me that the stamp in his collection about which he feels really conceited is a 1d. red single-line perf., inverted watermark. I forgive him.

ANOTHER CHAPTER IN THE 3d. BLUES AND BROWNS (DIE 3)

By C. O. DUNN

It is strange that with all the excitement over the 3d. Blues very little attention has been paid to the individual stamps.

The Die 3 plate proves on examination to be most interesting. It would be almost an impossibility to produce a plate in which each of the 640 impressions would be identical, but the variations would be few, and our Stamp Printing Branch are to be congratulated on their uniformly high standard.

In the case of the 3d. Die 3, variations are considerable and have created several worthwhile varieties, plus a host of minor ones.

There is such a considerable difference between the type of flaw on the four post office sheets of 160 making up the full plate as to raise the speculation, were changes of operatives made during the preparation of the plate? This was feasible, for a plate takes time to prepare, and this particular plate may well have been used as a training ground for future technicians.

We are able to divide the four sheets into upper and lower, but in the absence of "turned corners" cannot yet say with certainty if they are left or right-hand sheets. We will, therefore, arbitrarily designate the upper sheets as "A" and "B" and the lower as "C" and "D," and will endeavour to indicate the positions of the major varieties and some of the minor ones as representing the particular type of flaw peculiar to that sheet. It must be realised, however, that many more borderline flaws may be discovered than are listed herein.

These varieties are to be found not only in the recent Brown, but in the surcharges, and of course the Blue Die 3.

Incidentally, is the so-called "retouch" to bottom frame on both the 3d. Die 1

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and the 1s. 4d., a "retouch"? Personally I rather doubt it, and am inclined to think it is in both cases nothing more than a weak entry.

If it was a retouch, would it not show an increase of colour rather than an increase in white? The act of retouching would be to cut into the metal and this would take up a greater amount of ink. It could, of course, be a retouch to the "alto" plate, but this I doubt, for in the case of the 3d. these thin frames have been consistent throughout all electros.

"A"

This sheet contains a splendid roller-shift covering practically the whole of the south-west quarter of the stamp, colour being heavy and encroaching on the white background, particularly noticeable in left frame, "3d.", and "AUSTRALIA." Its position is right pane, No. 18.

In my opinion this is definitely a *major* variety. With this exception the preparation of this portion of the plate is good, including the alignment.

"B"

On this sheet the only noticeable variety is on left pane, No. 53, which shows a definite doubling to the tip of the crown.

"C"

The varieties on this sheet fall roughly into two groups, the first showing a weak entry to crown and upper lines. The most prominent are: Left pane, Nos. 10, 28, 41, 42, 52, 55, 58 and 77.

The second group have a thin left frame, and the positions are: Left pane, Nos. 70 (this is the most prominent one) and 78. Right pane, Nos. 5 (thin at top) and 32.

A stamp on this sheet I cannot quite classify is right pane, No. 23. The horizontal lines at the right are extended on the right side. It may be a re-entry. I would like the opinion of other collectors.

This sheet is noteworthy that, with the exception of the weak entry to crown, there is a tendency for the top frame lines to be joined to the cross on the crown.

"D"

This sheet also has its own characteristics. These consist of a thin base line and a weak entry to the scroll at the right of "AUSTRALIA." Positions being: Left pane, Nos. 10, 16 and 58. Weak entry crown: Left pane, No. 70; Right pane, Nos. 19, 23, 48, 79 and 80. Thin left frame: Right pane, No. 75.

The alignment on this section of the plate is rather uneven.

Summing up, the most representative varieties are on Sheet A: Right pane, No. 18; Sheet B: Left pane, No. 53; Sheet C: Left pane, Nos. 70 and 77; Sheet D: Left pane, No. 10.

A collector could if he wished extend this list still further, but these suggested would be the most prominent varieties of each type.



The Other Side of the Picture



Conducted by J. R. W. PURVES, F.R.P.S.L.

NAURU

The 13½ mms. Overprint of 1923

Small flaws often give the key to an important truth. Happening to have sheets of 120 of the ½d. and 1½d. values (the other values issued were the 1d. and 2d.) in my hands, I thought it might be possible to work out how the overprint forme was made.

The evidence shows that it was built up from an original of 10 impressions (2 x 5). This is proved by the fact that *No. 6* in each such block of 10 (in each sheet) showed the lower left half of the left limb of the second "U" of "NAURU" thinned on its inside. I do not think this fact has been noted before.

Incidentally, the top right group of 10 (2 x 5) in the sheet is noticeably *lower* than the overprints at its left.

NEW ZEALAND

(i) 1d. "Second Side-Face": the Earliest "Die State"

Further material examined by me in March last, while on holiday in New Zealand, confirmed the findings set out in our last number. Actually I learnt while viewing the collection of Mr S. R. Dacre, of Christchurch, that *he* had noted this die-state *several years ago* but had never published the fact to any one. Mr Dacre is an exceptionally fine student and a very modest man, but I can't let this opportunity go without asking him, in future, please not to hide such light behind the proverbial bushel.

Mr Dacre's 1d. Plate 1 material comprised two horizontal strips of four, one of three, a block of four, two vertical pairs and six horizontal pairs. Save for one item (a horizontal strip of four with "gutter" down the middle) each piece showed *either* Die 1 *or* Die 1a (as it now is). In all Die 1 was represented 14 times, and Die 1a 18 times, a close approximation to my own finding that the proportions found are about 3 to 4. The strip, however, with the gutter down the centre is *very* interesting. Here the two stamps on the left are Die 1a and the two on the right Die 1. This is what one would expect (the *right-hand* stamps belonging to the *left* half of the plate) and with the proportions found suggests that the *left pane* of the sheet was probably *all* Die 1a — while the *right*

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pane was mainly Die 1, with a few Die 1a's (some ten or less). Most of the Die 1a's in the *right pane* will probably be found in and near the *base* of the sheet.

A die proof of this value in the collection of Sir Joseph Ward shows *no* sign of the Die 1a breaks. Various proofs seen from Plate 1 (in the unmistakably "pinkish" shade of the first printing) showed either Die 1 or Die 1a.

(ii) 1s. "Second Side-Face": Two Plates and Two "Die-States"

I made this discovery while going through some material loaned me by my good friend, R. J. G. Collins. Ray Collins, as all New Zealand collectors know, is a wonderful student and a tremendous enthusiast, and I would like to take this opportunity here of thanking Mrs Collins and himself for making my holiday thoroughly worth while in every sense of the word, and that, of course, includes the philatelic sense.

Coming to this 1s. stamp, the *Handbook*, Vol. I, at p. 124, says:

"The original plate for this value was used from 1882 to 1888 when a *second* plate was put into commission. . . .

"The first printings from the second plate were made in 1888 on the *second* type of paper."

To make our story as short as possible let me say that *all* stamps examined from Plate 1 showed both the outer right and outer base frame line *unbroken* at the lower right corner of the stamp (Die 1). All *subsequent* printings to 1898 (the earliest dates I happened to strike were 1890) showed *breaks* in *both* those frame lines in that corner of the stamp (Die 1a). These breaks operate in a diagonal direction across the inner frame lines and, on all clearly printed Plate 2 stamps, are *very* marked. In more heavily inked stamps there is a tendency for them to fill, but an examination under a glass leaves no doubt that the breaks are there, more particularly as the lower right corner is invariably *rounded* in the "cracked state," whereas in Plate 1 stamps it is practically *square*. A die proof of this value in the collection of Sir Joseph Ward shows *no* sign of the breaks referred to.

This discovery adds yet another point of interest to an issue already full of fascination for the student.

(iii) 1s. "Second Side-Face": A Major Retouch in Plate 1

While examining a quantity of these 1s. stamps lent me by Ray Collins for the purpose of checking the incidence of the two "die-states," I came across a truly *major* example of a surface-printed *retouch*. The repair here affected the whole south-east corner and all the ornaments in the triangle under "ING." At the moment there is no need to describe it because, as Ray said, "it just sat up and hit you." The stamp was from the *right* of the sheet (it showed a "line" watermark and a "deep edge" down its right side). It now remains to find a second and other copies and, if possible, to determine whether it was there from the start in 1882 or was a *later* development, the rapid wearing of which (and perhaps of *other* retouches) might well have created the necessity for Plate 2. Since, however, there were 240 stamps in each sheet, and these Plate 1's are not exactly common,

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it may be some time before a second copy emerges. Quantities of fiscally cancelled copies do exist and these should prove the most likely hunting ground.

I also found another, but more minor, retouch, affecting the lines under "HI" of "SHILLING," and it seems highly probable that these 1s. Plate 1 stamps will provide us with yet more surprises.

QUEENSLAND

(i) 2d. 1887-93

I am at present doing some work on the above stamp with the idea of achieving a real finality as to the exact procedure adopted in the production of the blocks of four, 30 of which, clamped together, made up the printing plate (or forme). A good deal in this case depends on the reconstruction of the plates used *before* late 1893 when the last plate (which did not show the "LA joined" varieties, etc.) was introduced. I shall be glad to acquire *multiples*, used or unused, postally or fiscally cancelled, and will be glad to hear from anyone holding such material or who knows someone else who holds it. I do not require multiples from the *last* plate, of which numerous complete sheets exist.

(ii) *The Numeral Cancellations*

We have recently received for publication, from Mr H. S. Porter, F.R.P.S.L., a detailed study of the above subject. The paths here are long and thorny but the results are remarkable, incomplete as they are. As the author states, *no* official list of the Post Offices and the numbers they used has survived. The information has had, all the time, to be obtained the hard way and it is to be hoped that as a result of its publication other collectors may be able to step forward and fill in some of the details. At any rate, a notable job has been done, which will form the basis of this Section of Part II of the "Queensland" Handbook now in course of preparation by the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

TASMANIA

(i) *The Earliest Australian Postmarks*

We reproduce in this number the two covers to which previous reference has been made, viz., that from LAUNCESTON (letter dated 9/11/1822) and the other from HOBART TOWN (letter dated 2/6/1823) respectively. I have to thank Mr J. C. Thompson, of Sydney, for the opportunity of showing the latter.

(ii) *Cancellations on the Pictorials*

To Mr L. C. Viney belongs the credit of having unearthed another of the "*possibles*." This is NEW RIVER. The cancellation is dated 1907 and is of the Commonwealth (single-line date) type.

VICTORIA

(i) *A Bibliography of Published Work*

I am very pleased to say that a start has now been made by Mr J. C. W. Brown on this most important work. It will aim at a comprehensiveness not often found

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and in addition to listing the many articles and books which have been produced (over the last sixty or so years), will include two features not usually met in such a work. These comprise notes which will indicate the more important contributions and in particular will give credit to the pioneer workers and will also include references to the more important Auction Sales of Classic Victorian material. It is hoped to complete the task well before the end of the year and the work will then be published by the Royal Philatelic Society at a price which will certainly be within the range of all.

(ii) *A New "Barred Oval" Cancellation*

Mr Tom Landell-Mills, of Devon, England, an enthusiastic collector of Victoria, more particularly of the 2d. "Queen-on-Thrones," reports that he has a fine, clear example of "65," a number not so far seen by me, on a 2d. Engraved Queen-on-Throne. The numerals are of a larger type, like the "26" of Border Post.

(iii) *"Reversed" Watermark Varieties — Their Background and Significance, Together with a List of the Reversed V over Crown and Crown over A Varieties Discovered to Date*

This subject is rather a fascinating one. The first thing to note is that a "Reversed" watermark is *not* an "Inverted" watermark. For instance, looking through the *front* of the stamps, the V over Crown watermark *normally* shows the *double* portion of the "V" at the *left*. If the watermark is reversed, this portion shows on the *right*. In short, "reversed" *means* "reversed," in the literal sense.

In general the background is this:

Following the manufacture of the paper (in which of course the watermark has been included) a "finish" is given to the surface on which it is proposed to print. In other words that surface is "milled," becoming smoother, more even (and more shiny) in the process. This means a better printing result and less "ink-spread" than would be the case had no "milling" been done.

A reversed watermark springs from one of *two* general causes. Either it is due (a) to the milling having been effected on the *wrong* side. This is, I should imagine, a rare occurrence although it does happen. In this event, except for the reversal of the watermark, there are *no other* ways of spotting the variety, as there are in (b) following — or —

(b) to the stamp being *printed* on the wrong (i.e., the unmilled) side of the paper. This need not necessarily be due to any carelessness on the printer's part. For example, before about 1884, the paper was supplied by De La Rue's in bound books of 500 sheets, each numbered. If a sheet, a group of sheets, or even the whole 500 were bound (and numbered) the *wrong way up*, the printer would naturally take and print them just as they were supplied.

In the same way, after 1884, when paper was supplied packed in *unbound*

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reams, an occasional packet was *packed* the wrong way up and was therefore taken and used by the printer, for printing, precisely in the manner it was received. In other cases a sheet or a pile of sheets may have inadvertently been turned over in the Printing Office and so printed, but this last possibility, in my view, was a factor operating seldom, if at all.

The main points to note, with the (b) class of reversed watermarks – and, as I have said, it is the usual class – is that it provides us with *two other* infallible means of picking out such varieties at sight, viz.:

(i) Since the stamp has been printed on the unmilled side, the *back* of the stamp shows the *smooth*, shiny, milled surface.

(ii) For the same reasons, the impression of the stamp, which is on the unmilled (i.e., unsurfaced) side, is rather *coarser and streakier* than it normally should be.

(i) is, I think, the best test and makes it possible to pick out reversed watermarks at the same time as one is searching for the “inverted” and “sideways” varieties.

Status: Bearing in mind what has been said about the practice of “milling” the printing surface, the specialist should regard this class of variety as a desirable and collectible error. This is particularly so when we consider the reversed V over Crown watermarks found on the stamps of Victoria printed on the “glazed” De La Rue paper introduced in 1878 and used up to 1896, when the contract for the supply of paper was taken over by Waterlow’s.

In nearly all cases found in that period it is most noticeable that *parts, often large parts, of the stamp’s design are missing.*

When I first discovered such a variety I thought that it was a case of a *printing on the gummed side*, but subsequently my perusal of the archives proved that this *could* not be so, since, prior to the supply in 1912 of the thin, *ready-gummed* paper from England, *all* the gumming in Victoria was done *after* printing.

The *explanation of the loss of parts of the design* is to be found in a letter, dated 10/12/75, written by De La Rue’s to Mr S. Yardley, then Agent-General for Victoria in London. This letter, which was set out in an article I wrote for the *P.J.G.B.* in June, 1929, had reference to some samples of a new, specially-surfaced paper the firm were submitting for trial (and which was later adopted and first went into general use in April, 1878). In the course of the letter there is the following passage:

“The most important function of *the preparation which we apply to the back of the sheets* is that it prevents the gum from soaking through when it is applied to the back, but in addition to this it enables us to impart to the *face* of the paper a peculiar *glaze* most favourable for the reception of a surface-printed impression. . . .”

If, therefore, the stamp was printed on the side which had already received the “preparation,” it is obvious that, with the presence of moisture or water (more particularly *soon* after the stamp was printed), *it was this “preparation”*

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that came away, bringing the design of the stamp with it, and giving the superficial impression of the stamp having been printed on the gummed side. At the same time the "glaze" makes the reversed watermarks of this period more obvious from the back than those of the previous period. Another factor to note is that if the normal stamp curls *towards* you in one position, a stamp with reversed watermark, in the *same* position, will curl *away* from you, and vice-versa.

Certain examples of reversed watermark may be met in the issues of 1860-67 (watermarked with words or figures of value), but for the moment I am only concerned to list the varieties so far found on the V over Crown and Crown over A papers. With the exceptions marked * they are all rare to very rare.

1. *V over Crown: De La Rue* — On "unglazed" paper, 1867-78: "Laureated" Types: 1d., 2d. (shades), 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 5s. blue on yellow, 5s. red and blue; 1873-79, 2d.; *Stamp Statute*: 5s., £1, £5.

2. On "glazed" paper, 1878 on: "Laureated" Types: 4d. (1879); 1885 *Issue*: ½d., 1d.; 1886 *Issue*: ½d. (grey and red), 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d.;* 1890 *Issue*: 1d.; "Stamp Duty" Types (1879 on) — *Litho*: 6s., 30s.; *Typo*: 2s., 5s. (1896); *Engraved*: £25.

3. On first *Waterlow paper*, 1896-99: 1d., 2d., 5d.

4. On second *Waterlow paper*, 1899-1905: Inscribed "STAMP DUTY": 1d., 2d.; 1901-1905 *Issues*: 1d. (Die 1 and Die 2), 1s. (thick "POSTAGE").

5. On paper watermarked *Crown over A*: 1d., 3d., 6d., 9d.* rose (1909-10).

Note — In the case of the Crown over A watermark, the *double* part of the "A," looking through the front of the stamp, normally appears on the *right*.

6. On *fiscal paper watermarked V over Crown* (1912): ½d., 1d., 2d., 9d.

Note: I have met precisely similar instances of reversed watermarks (on a similar De La Rue "glazed" paper) in the New Zealand, New South Wales (Postage Dues) and Queensland issues of the 80's and 90's. *Doubtless they are to be found also in many other countries.*

PHILATELIC JOURNALS OF YESTERYEAR

By H. M. CAMPBELL

A new adherent to the hobby, finding that Australian philatelic journalism comprised, in effect, one monthly and one quarterly, the one twenty-two years old and the other merely in its fourth year, might be pardoned for thinking that serious philatelic study in this country was of comparatively recent origin. Such an assumption would be very wide of the mark, for we have to go back to the '80's of last century to find the beginnings of philatelic research in Australia, and since the '90's there has been a steady and gradually increasing stream of articles, published locally, dealing with the stamps of the Australasian region. It is a matter for regret that none of the journals in which the early work appeared are still on the active list.

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For the benefit of present and future students a cumulative index of these earlier journals would be of inestimable value, and it is to be hoped that such a project will one day be achieved, but in the meantime it may be of interest and assistance to our readers if we give some account of them and the subjects with which they dealt.

In *The Australian Journal of Philately* for 17 October, 1904 (Vol. V, No. 1), an article on Australian Philatelic Journals appeared from the pen of Mr J. H. Smyth. This quotes a statement in the *New South Wales Stamp Collector's Magazine* for August, 1882, that seven philatelic magazines had previously appeared in "these colonies." These were all small of size, short of life, and contained little of reference value. In fact we can put a name to but two of them, an earlier publication under the same name, of which three numbers appeared at long intervals, in November, 1879, April, 1880, and April, 1881, and *The Australian Stamp Collector's Journal*, published in Adelaide, which ran for four numbers in 1879. The reference to "these colonies" may, however, cover also New Zealand, in which case the seven earlier journals would include *The New Zealand Stamp Collectors' Quarterly*, which did not survive the first number in October, 1880, and *The Philatelic Times of New Zealand*, which expired after four issues in 1881.

The revived *N.S.W.S.C.M.* died at birth, and its successor, *The New South Wales Philatelist*, published only two issues, the last in 1883. In other States some attempts were made to establish philatelic journals, such as *Barry's Philatelic Monthly* in Melbourne (6 issues, 1887-88), *The Australian Stamp News* in Brisbane (22 issues, 1893-98), and *The Australian Stamp Collector and Philatelic Advertiser* in Melbourne (28 issues, 1893-96), but they were all extinct by 1900. Further details of these can be found in Mr Smyth's article, and the New South Wales ones were also dealt with in a paper by Mr Romney Gibbons published in *The Australian Stamp Journal* in 1936.

This high mortality rate reflects the unsettled state at the time of philately in Australia, where it was rather later in establishing a foothold than in Europe and America. The earlier philatelic societies had a very shaky existence. The Philatelic Society of Sydney was founded in September, 1885, but had a very short life, while its successor, The Philatelic Society of Australia, founded in June, 1887, was disbanded in the following year. Likewise in Melbourne, The Philatelic Society of Victoria, founded in October, 1887, did not survive a year. The Philatelic Society of South Australia, the first of the societies still extant to be formed, held its first meeting in 1888, The Sydney Philatelic Club was formed in 1890, while The Philatelic Society of Victoria (later the "Royal") was not refounded until 1892. The number of serious philatelists at that time was consequently small, and it was not until January, 1890, that the first Australian publication devoted to serious philatelic research saw the light of day.

This was *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, published and edited by Mr A. F. Basset Hull of Hobart, a famous name in Australian philately, who even before that date had been a regular contributor to overseas journals. The *F.A.P.* was a

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quarterly, initially of 26 pages, and dealt entirely with the stamps of the Australian States and New Zealand. The States were then, of course, separate colonies, but Mr Hull was a Federalist, at least so far as postal matters were concerned, for he says in his first editorial: "*The Federal Australian Philatelist* hopefully looks forward to a practical federation of the postal systems of these colonies; to a uniform inter-Australian Penny Postage . . . and the mutual exchange of postal notes; hence the name . . ." The *F.A.P.* published the results of the first research into postal archives by Dr Andrew Houston in New South Wales and Mr David Hill in Victoria, as well as other important contributions, and we can regret that it ran for only two years. However, Mr Hull found that such a journal, being in advance of its time, could not pay its way on subscriptions — and he accepted no advertisements — so *The Federal Australian Philatelist* was absorbed in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*.

The latter publication had, in fact, preceded the *F.A.P.*, the first number being published in August, 1887, but its first three volumes were issued at somewhat irregular intervals and were little more than an advertising medium for the publishers, the Sydney stamp dealing firm of D. A. Vindin & Co., who had previously been responsible for the abortive revival of the *New South Wales Stamp Collector's Magazine* and for *The New South Wales Philatelist*. The proprietor, Dawson A. Vindin, was a philatelist as well as a dealer, but he later had the misfortune to be innocently involved in the scandal over the New South Wales Laureated "remainders."

The first volume of *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* consisted of twelve numbers, published sporadically from August, 1887, to January, 1889; the second of twelve, February, 1889, to February, 1890; and the third of five numbers, from March to July, 1890. The subscription was the modest one of 2s. per annum, but its size was modest too — eight pages for most of the numbers in the first volume, and four pages only in the second and third. In August, 1890, perhaps inspired by the example of *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* took on a new lease of life. A new series was begun, the first number being styled Vol. IV, No. 1. The size was increased to 16 pages, and the price was fixed at 3d. per copy. However, the articles were mainly of a general nature until the *F.A.P.*, as previously mentioned, was absorbed at the end of 1891, and the writers for that publication began contributing to *Vindin's*. Mr Hill continued his long serial on the stamps of Victoria, Mr Basset Hull wrote on the stamps of Queensland, while Messrs A. J. Derrick and E. D. E. Van Weenen were other prominent contributors.

After his unfortunate experience with the Laureated "remainders," Mr Vindin departed for England, and Mr Fred Hagen, who began as a collector, and then joined the firm as a sleeping partner, found himself compelled to take over the business, and with it the publication of the *Monthly*. However, he left most of the editorial work to Mr Basset Hull, who had moved to Sydney. Consequent upon these changes, the name of the firm was altered to Fred Hagen, and that of the journal, after the conclusion of Volume VII, to *The Australian Philatelist*, beginning again at Volume I, in August, 1894.

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At the beginning of Volume V, Mr Hagen relinquished the publication of the *A.P.* to Oscar Schultz, but again took it over with Volume VII. Mr Basset Hull continued as editor during the Schultz regime, but then resigned, owing to his removal from Sydney, and his place was taken by Mr E. D. E. Van Weenen, who had been a frequent contributor, both in his own name and under the pseudonym of "Timbrologist."

These early volumes do not contain so much original research as did the last volumes of *Vindin's*, but the Oceania Catalogue, published in serial form, contains some useful material, both on the Australian States and the Pacific Islands.

In August, 1905, Fred Hagen Ltd. was floated as a limited company, and Mr J. H. Smyth, who had previously conducted his own stamp dealing business, joined the new company as Secretary, and became editor of *The Australian Philatelist*. *The Australian Journal of Philately*, to be mentioned later, which had previously been published by him, thereupon ceased publication. Mr Smyth continued as editor until August, 1910, when he severed his connection with Fred Hagen Ltd.

Mr Van Weenen again took over with the beginning of Volume XVII, and remained editor during the remaining life of the journal. Those thirteen years, although they included the First World War, saw a great development in Australian philately, which is reflected, not only in an increase in the size and number of pages of *The Australian Philatelist* (and an increase in price to 6d.), but also in the greater number of specialised articles, principally on States and Pacific Islands stamps.

In 1921 Mr Hagen retired, the company going into voluntary liquidation, and although the business was carried on by Miss N. Pines, trading as Fred Hagen, she did not desire the additional responsibility of publishing *The Australian Philatelist*, which accordingly ceased publication in August, with the end of Volume XXVII. It was revived again in November as a collectors' journal, with Mr H. Gordon Russell as Manager and Publisher, and Mr Van Weenen still as Editor, but the writing was on the wall, for few philatelic journals have been successful unless published by a firm of stamp dealers or a philatelic society in a sound financial position. Accordingly, when Mr W. T. Trahair purchased the business of Fred Hagen, the publishing of *The Australian Philatelist* was undertaken by him, from May, 1923, but he was not greatly interested in the literary side of philately, so the journal, after a long and honourable life, ceased publication in October, 1924, with the end of Volume XXX. In that year Mr Van Weenen was added to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, but he died in the following year.

We have mentioned Mr Smyth's connection with *The Australian Philatelist*, but earlier, as we have said, he was connected with another philatelic publication. *The Australian Journal of Philately* was first published by the Sydney firm of Smyth and Nicolle in September, 1900, Mr Smyth acting as editor. The partnership was dissolved in 1902, but Mr Smyth, trading as J. H. Smyth & Co., continued the publishing and editing of the journal. It comprised twelve pages, and

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though most of the articles were of a general nature, those entitled "Federal Prospects" give a vivid picture of the struggles towards the issue of the first Commonwealth stamps. The journal had a short life, ending with No. 11 of Volume V (August, 1905), when Mr Smyth joined the firm of Fred Hagen Ltd.

Mr Smyth had a five-year contract, at the end of which he retired from the company and resumed business on his own account. J. H. Smyth Ltd. was formed soon afterwards, with Mr Smyth as Managing Director, and Miss E. West as Secretary. The firm began the publication of a new periodical, *The Australian Stamp Journal*, in November, 1910, which for just over forty years was an essential part of the Australian philatelic world. Mr Smyth carried on the editorship until his death in July, 1923, when Miss West became Managing Director of the firm, and Editor of the *A.S.J.* Mr Romney Gibbons became associated with her as joint editor in January, 1925, and these two successfully piloted the journal through the depression years and the Second World War. However, to the regret of all philatelists, *The Australian Stamp Journal* ceased publication in June, 1951, after exceeding the length of life of any other Australian philatelic periodical.

Always of smallish size, varying between twelve and sixteen pages, it was also moderate in price, being at first 2d. per copy, and later 4d. The contents of its earlier volumes were mainly of a general nature, aimed at pleasing a wide circle of readers, but as the number of specialists in Australia increased, so did the number of specialised articles. While there have been some Commonwealth articles, the majority have been on the Pacific Island Group, and many well-known names, such as Romney Gibbons and J. R. W. Purves, to mention but two, have appeared as contributors. Of recent years the work of the Pacific Islands Circle of the Sydney Philatelic Club has appeared in serial form, as also did Mr H. S. Porter's monograph on the A.I.F. Postal Service in Malaya.

We have seen that philatelic journalism became firmly established in Sydney in the 1890's, and that for most of the first twenty-four years of this century, two monthly periodicals were in existence there. It is therefore strange that in Melbourne, after the abortive attempts of the '90's, local philatelists were entirely dependent upon outside sources until 1918. However, in October of that year *The Australian Philatelic Record* appeared, jointly published by Mr William Ackland, the well-known Melbourne dealer, and the Rev. H. T. Hull, a brother of Mr Basset Hull, Mr Hull acting as editor. After the first number Mr Ackland withdrew, and Mr Hull carried on alone as publisher and editor until the end of 1919, when he disposed of his interest to the firm of Orlo-Smith & Co., Mr S. Orlo-Smith taking over as editor. The partnership between Messrs Orlo-Smith and P. Weisz was dissolved at the beginning of 1922, the former carrying on the business, and also the publication of the *A.P.R.* However, because of the work entailed by the dissolution, Mr A. A. Rosenblum acted as editor pro tem, from February to May, Mr Orlo-Smith resuming in June. Nevertheless, he found the publishing of the journal too much for one individual, so he reluctantly ceased publication in September of the same year, with the end of Volume IV.

In November, 1922, publication was resumed, with Mr Rosenblum as editor,

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the Philatelic Society of Victoria, Prahran Philatelic Society and Melbourne Philatelic Club being jointly responsible. The name was changed to *The Victorian Philatelic Record*, but the first number under the new arrangements was Volume V, No. 1, thus continuing the earlier series. In July, 1929, Mr Rosenblum resigned the editorship, being succeeded by Mr J. R. W. Purves, and at the same time the name reverted to *The Australian Philatelic Record*. However, the days of the journal were numbered, for with the onset of the depression it was found increasingly difficult to carry on a collectors' journal, and in consequence the *A.P.R.* ceased publication in November, 1930.

During the Hull regime the *A.P.R.* was a modest affair of eight pages, which Mr Orlo-Smith increased to twelve, and later to sixteen, with some numbers even more. In the later volumes the size of the pages was enlarged, and the number of pages varied between sixteen and twenty-four. Originally 2d. per copy, the price was later raised to 4d., and finally 6d., but the annual subscription was never more than 4s. 6d.

This publication in its twelve volumes probably contains more articles of permanent reference value than any other Australian philatelic journal, particularly in the field of Australian Commonwealth, in which Messrs Purves and Rosenblum were the main contributors. The States were not forgotten, however, and Mr Purves wrote on many aspects of their stamps, while Mr W. R. Rundell published some valuable work, based on official records, on the early stamps of Victoria. Our friends, Messrs Bromfield and Thirkell, were other contributors to the *A.P.R.*

Brisbane had a small philatelic journal, *The Australian Stamp News*, in the 1890's, but this was absorbed by *The Australian Philatelist* in 1898. After that, it was not until 1922 that a journal again appeared in the northern capital. This was *The Queensland Philatelic Review*, which, although it ran for four years only, is of sufficient importance to warrant description.

The *Q.P.R.* was first published in March, 1922, by two members of the Queensland Philatelic Society, Messrs B. J. Grace and A. H. Young, the former acting as Business Manager and the latter as Editor. In December the name was changed to *The Australian Philatelic Review*, and in March, 1923, at the beginning of the second volume, the journal became the property of the Queensland Philatelic Society. Mr G. I. Dickson became joint editor with Mr Young, and from May onwards acted alone in that capacity, until he was succeeded by Mr J. H. Burgess in March, 1924. The *Review* ceased publication in February, 1926, with the end of the fourth volume.

The journal published some very useful information on Queensland, not only the stamps, but also the numeral cancellations and first air mail flights. Originally of eight pages, later issues varied between twelve and twenty-four. The annual subscription was 3s. 6d., single copies being at first 6d., later 4d.

There have, of course, been other magazines published in Australia for stamp collectors, but the ones we have described are those which, apart from publications still current, are most likely to assist the student of the stamps of Australasia. Though they are no longer published, their value as works of reference remains.

NEW ZEALAND: THE SECOND SIDE-FACES (1882-1900)

FURTHER NOTES ON THE DIE-STATES AND PLATES OF THE 1d. AND 2d. VALUES

By K. J. McNAUGHT, F.R.P.S.N.Z.

(Continued from page 25)

Constant Plate Varieties. 2d. Value

Plate 1 (Die 1) – April, 1882, to circa April, 1885.

Flaws (iii) and (v) not yet noted. Variety (i) is in top row. From my evidence (ix) is Plate 2.

Add (ix) Small white dots between base of "D" of "LAND" and "P" of "POSTAGE" and between "O" and "S" of "POSTAGE." Also short coloured diagonal line in shading below "S" of "POSTAGE" (1882-5 dates).

(x) Short coloured line between inner circle and shading lines below "S" of "POSTAGE." No. 1 in row. (1884 dates).

(xi) Coloured spot touching lower part of bridge of nose (1884 date and earlier print).

(xii) Small white flaw at join of chin and throat. Row 1, No. 6 (1884 dates).

(xiii) Damaged electro – fuzzy impression about "TW" of "TWO" (early print and 1885 date).

(xiv) Coloured spot in point of triangular frame design below "EN" of "PENCE." No. 1 in row. (1882-5).

(xv) Ink run together in frame lines below "OP" of "TWO PENCE" (dated 1884). Two copies both showing watermark line and top of watermark letter "A." (One of right panes, Row 10, possibly No. 2 or No. 4).

Plate 2 (Die 1) – ? April, 1885, to November, 1886.

Flaws (ii), (vii), (viii) not yet noted. Varieties (i) and (iii) are No. 1 in row; (vi) is Row 1; (x) is Row 1, No. 6. Variety (iv) – examples are found with frame line missing at right side as well as top.

Add (xii). Add Mr Purves' variety "Plate 1 (ix)."

(xiii) Break in top frame about 2 mm. from right corner. (October, 1885, to June, 1886).

(xiv) White flaw in filling base of "S" of "POSTAGE" (1885).

Plate 3 (Die 2) – November, 1886, to July, 1889. There are many flaws in this plate, some outstanding. Date evidence, especially from flaws 3, 9, 10, 14, 18, 22, 25 and 27 in the following list, shows clearly that there was *only one* plate over this period.

(1) Top frame "worn" at right (probably several positions – one is No. 1, one is in Row 10 (March, 1887-1889)).

(2) Slight break in top frame at right above "&" (1887-9).

(3) Ditto above "R" of "REVENUE" (February, 1887-1889).

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- (4) Coloured flaw (with "halo" in early prints) produced by a projection on the electro just below the top frame above "AN" of "ZEALAND"; also a small coloured dot on top of first "A" of "ZEALAND" (November, 1886, to 1888).
- (5) Break in lower frame of triangle above "D" of "ZEALAND" (6 and 7 mm).
- (6) Large white oval flaw near top right corner (1887-9).
- (7) White flaw in centre of first "A" of "ZEALAND" (August, 1887-1889).
- (8) Slight downward extension of left side of "D" of "ZEALAND" (August, '87).
- (9) White dot under "D" of "ZEALAND" and large white flaw on centre of crown. No. 1 in row. (Dated March, 1887, to January, 1890, and also an undated copy from a very early exceptionally clear 1886 print).
- (10) Round white flaw breaking inner circle under "P" of "POSTAGE" (early prints, 6 mm. paper, to 1889).
- (11) Diagonal coloured flaw in front of forehead, and damaged right frame opposite first and last "E's" of "REVENUE." No. 6 in row. (1887-9).
- (12) Slight damage showing as coloured blots and slight white flaw between central orb and second thistle on band of crown (1887-9).
- (13) (a) Round white flaw in shading just to right of "Z." No. 1 in row (Sept., '87 to Oct., '88).
(b) 1889 prints show an additional flaw in the form of a marked diagonal white cut under the ear.
- (14) Large round white flaw on bridge of the Queen's nose. No. 1 in row (March, '87-1889).
- (15) Slight vertical white flaw on second thistle on crown (1887-9).
- (16) Line of shading missing in front of lower lip (1887-9).
- (17) Vertical cut below "G" of "POSTAGE" and broken line below curl of hair to right corner of neck (late prints only - 1888-9).
- (18) Horizontal shading lines missing between "N" of "NEW" and base of chin or top of neck. Stamp No. 3 in row. (1887 early print to 1889).
- (19) Break in inner circle to left of "EV" of "REVENUE" (1887-9).
- (20) Slight diagonal cut in frame to right of "V" of "REVENUE" (late prints only).
- (21) Slight break in outer circle right of "VE" of "REVENUE" (noted only in late prints).
- (22) White flaw in shading lines above "T" of "TWO." Row 1. (Early print to 1889).
- (23) Small white flaw on base of neck above "N" of "PENCE." No. 6 in row. (1887-9).
- (24) Break in shading line at left end of base of neck, and short extra line of colour above "N" of "PENCE" (1887-9).
- (25) Extraneous projection giving short coloured line with "halo" from ornamental dot near "T" of "TWO" into shading lines above "T" (1887 early print to June, 1888).
- (26) Blotchy flaw about ornamental dot near "T" of "TWO." "T" has long left serif (1887-9).
- (27) Numerous fine white spots or breaks in shading lines on cheek and in front of neck, also small white dot behind eye. No. 6 in row. (January, 1887 to 1889).
- (28) Small white flaw between bases of "W" and "O" of "TWO." No. 6 in row (1887-8).
- (29) Break in upper line of triangular frame design below last "E" of "PENCE." No. 6 in row. (6 and 7 mm. papers).
- (30) Small coloured dot in bottom left corner (two positions, one No. 6), (1887-9).
- (31) Slight break in frame line at base below "P" of "PENCE" (1887-9).

Plate 4 (Die 3) - July, 1889, to December, 1890; May to September, 1892.

Only three characteristic flaws have been noted in *all* printings.

- (1) Oval white flaw on neck vertically below lobe of ear, level with chin. Top left pane. Row 7, No. 2.
- (2) Large coloured blot behind eye. Top right pane. Row 8, No. 6.
- (3) Small coloured spot and indentation into base of "E" of "POSTAGE."

The re-issue from May to September, 1892, however, provides a large number of major

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flaws. Some of these have been dealt with by Mr Purves, but as there are some important omissions, a revised list is given below.

- (4) Crinkle in left frame line opposite top of "T" of "TWO." Top left, Row 6, No. 3.
- (5) Very similar flaw but crinkle slightly lower. Top left, Row 6, No. 5.
- (6) Series of vertical white lines in front of chin. Top right, Row 2, No. 6.
- (7) Notch in outer diagonal line of triangular design above "E" of "POSTAGE." Top right, Row 5, No. 1.
- (8) Dent in frame at base below "NC" of "PENCE." Bottom left, Row 10, No. 1. (*Not* 9/1 or No. 49 as recorded by Mr Purves, Vol. III, p. 24).
- (9) Small white flaw on back of neck at level of chin. (Not plated).
- (10) Nearly horizontal broken white flaw across right of lower part of neck. (Not plated).

Plate or plating cracks. Mr Purves records nine such "hairline" varieties from an examination of the proof sheets (Vol. III, p. 23), but in the issued stamps 16 are readily identifiable. They fall into five groups: (a) Top right, Row 6, Nos. 1-5; (b) Bottom left, Row 6, Nos. 4-6; (c) Bottom left, Row 10, Nos. 2-3; (d) Bottom right, Row 6, Nos. 1-3; [continuation of (b)]; (e) Bottom right, Row 7, Nos. 1-3. The essential features of these 16 cracked plate varieties are as follows:

(11) to (15). Top right, 6/1, line through eye; 6/2, across crown and through "R"; 6/3, through first "A" of "ZEALAND" across crown and through first "E" of "REVENUE"; 6/4, across head and through "V"; 6/5, through "Z" across ear to second "E" of "REVENUE." All except 6/1 show severe denting of the frame lines at left.

(16) to (18). Bottom left, 6/4, dark horizontal line often bordered by a white line in shading to right of "N" of "NEW"; 6/5, broken line from "W" of "NEW" across face and ear to between "E" and "N" of "REVENUE"; 6/6, similar to last, but less distinct; cuts slightly lower across ear and does not extend beyond the head.

(19) to (20). Bottom left, 10/2, three horizontal lines (a) "Z" across head to second "E" of "REVENUE"; (b) from "W" of "NEW" to nose; (c) from "E" of "NEW" to "U" of "REVENUE"; 10/3, slight horizontal line through top of ear.

(21) to (23). Bottom right, 6/1, slightly diagonal cracks (a) across top of ear; (b) from right of top of "T" of "TWO" across neck towards last "E" of "REVENUE"; Bottom right, 6/2, four slightly diagonal cracks (a) in front of chin; (b) from right of "N" of "NEW" across neck to shading behind neck; (c) from back of neck towards "U" of "REVENUE"; (d) from near bottom left corner to "O" of "TWO"; Bottom right, 6/3, three slightly diagonal cracks (a) right of "Z"; (b) across chin; (c) across back of neck towards "UE."

(24) to (26). Bottom right, 7/1. Marked line through "L" of "ZEALAND" across top of crown to "&"; 7/2. Close parallel lines through "LA" across top of crown to foot of "E" of "POSTAGE." 7/3. Distorted bases of "N" and "D" of "ZEALAND."

Though not conspicuous in the black proofs, and hence omitted by Mr Purves, BR, 7/1, 7/2 and BL, 10/2, are quite the most prominent plate crack flaws in the issued stamps.

Plate 5 (Die 3) – December, 1890, to May, 1892; September 1892 to 1900.

The following notes should be added to those compiled by Mr Purves (Vol. I, pp. 127-9. Vol. III, p. 24).

Top left pane. Mr Purves' variety (iv) is Row 9, No. 1 (Nov., 1891 to 1894, but not later. No sign on proofs).

Add (1) Row 5, No. 1. Nearly horizontal white line from top of "N" of "NEW" cutting base of chin in clear prints (all prints to 1896).

(2) Row 10, No. 1. Flaw in shading behind bottom right of neck, above "CE" of "PENCE" (all prints to 1893, only faint traces after 1893).

Top right pane. Row 6, No. 4 (No. 34), (*Handbook*, p. 120), is an ink clog only, as suggested by Mr Purves, and is not found in issued stamps. The *Handbook* reference to Row 7, No. 1 (No. 37) is correct, but should be described as "Flaw in bottom left corner of neck," as indicated in Vol. III, p. 24. (1893-1900).

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Mr Purves' variety (iii) is Row 7, No. 5. Horizontal white line between bases of "A" and "N" of "ZEALAND" (1893-1900).

Add (3) Row 1, No. 1. White streaky flaw across top of cheek from nose across top of ear and hair to "V" of "REVENUE." Seen only with 1893 advertisements (? faulty makeready).

(4) Row 1, No. 6. Short vertical white line from lower tip to point of chin. (February, 1893 to 1900).

(5) Row 6, No. 6. Extra coloured line about 2 mm. long parallel with and close to the right frame line opposite "VE" of "REVENUE." (All prints to 1894. Not in Post Office proofs).

(6) Row 9, No. 6. Short vertical white cut just below point of chin (1894-1900). Varieties 1/6, 5/6, 7/1 and 7/5 are not found before 1893.

Bottom left pane. Mr Purves is correct in describing No. 2 (misprinted as 8), as only an inking clog. It is not found in issued stamps. The description of No. 7 (Row 2, No. 1) requires revision. In stamps with advertisements, the hairline is usually *not* broken, and there is no fine cut in the base line near the south-west corner till after 1896. No. 13 (Row 3, No. 1) is *less* distinct, *not* more. So far I have noted this only in 1893 and 1894. The hairline extends to No. 19 (Row 4, No. 1) — see (7) below.

No. 23 (Row 4, No. 5) is a late flaw, as all copies so far noted are dated 1900.

No. 40 (Row 7, No. 4). I have not seen this in late stamps with advertisements (dated January and February, 1894). Earliest noted is June, 1894.

No. 45 (Row 8, No. 3) and 51 (Row 9, No. 3) — earliest date December, 1892.

No. 53 (Row 9, No. 5) is found only in later advertisements, i.e., it arose late in 1893 or early in 1894 and continued to 1900.

Add (7) Row 4, No. 1 (No. 19). Continuation of hairline on Nos. 7 and 13. Faint line through cheek below eye across left corner of neck to curved frame below "OP." Noted 1893 only.

(8) Row 8, No. 1. Broken diagonal white line in shading to right of "N" of "NEW" towards middle of neck. Similar to top right, Row 5, No. 6, but starts slightly higher and is longer (noted 1895-1900).

Bottom right pane. Nos. 7 and 16 reported by Mr Purves have not yet been noted in issued stamps. I have many copies of the variety Row 1, No. 6, from beginning to 1900, and hence the *Handbook* reference (p. 120) appears to be correct. Row 1, No. 1 sometimes shows a similar variety.

Mr Purves' variety (viii) is Row 1, No. 4 (December, 1891 to 1900) — Two stages (a) 1891 to early 1894; (b) June, 1894 to 1900. In latest advertisements on, there is a white flaw to left of base of "Z" of "ZEALAND."

Mr Purves' variety (vi) is Row 2, No. 4 (September, 1891 to 1900).

Add (9) Row 1, No. 1. Top frame line missing, especially at right — apparently faulty makeready.

(10) Row 4, No. 2. Breaks in shading behind neck to left of "UE" — forming an irregular broken vertical flaw. (Noted September, 1891 to 1900, faint after 1894).

Not plated.

(15) Nearly vertical short hairline from base of "O" of "TWO" to diagonal heavy line above base frame line (1899-1900). (Not located in Post Office proof).

(16) Slight diagonal break in base frame line below "C" of "PENCE" (not to be confused with the more prominent dent and cut in frame in bottom left 8/3), (1895-1900).

(17) White flaw on cheek halfway between ear and point of chin (Purves' ix). Not yet noted in advertisements, though I have examples from 1892-1900. Is Row 10 in one pane, but not No. 1 or No. 6.

As noted before, the 1890 plate (previously known as "1891 plate") was withdrawn after being in use for 15 or 16 months, and for about four months the 1889 plate was re-used in spite of the presence of 16 defective electros. No flaws of serious magnitude have yet been noted in the 1890 plate printings before May,

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1892, that are not also found after the plate was again put into use in September, 1892. Why then was the plate withdrawn for these four months and the defective 1889 plate re-used? The only likely explanation is that the 1890 plate suffered some serious damage which necessitated its immediate withdrawal for repair. When again used later in 1892, we find a group of four impressions now showing new and similar flaws in Rows 9 and 10, Nos. 2 and 3. These varieties had been described as substituted electros by Mr Purves because of the similarity of the flaws in all four electros, and because Mr Purves was then under the impression that the stamps with the plate cracks were from the 1891 plate (Vol. I, No. 4, p. 128). The fact that these latter varieties were from the 1889 plate has raised a doubt as to the true nature of the "substituted electros," but I suggest the substitution theory could still be correct, as this appears to be the only likely explanation consistent with the history of the use of the plates. It is, unfortunately, not possible to check this theory from an examination of the plates themselves, as these were destroyed after the proofs were run off, but a search of the Printing Office records might be fruitful.*

Work still remains to be done on these stamps. The layout of plates 2 and 5 of the 1d. value, and the exact plating of the constant plate varieties of all the early plates before 1899 remains to be worked out. For this purpose complete sheets, panes, blocks or selvedge pieces are required, and it is hoped that owners of such material will co-operate by submitting the stamps for examination or contributing information.

Acknowledgments

I wish to express grateful thanks to the Post Office, Wellington, per medium of Mr C. W. Watts, F.R.P.S.N.Z., of the Stamp Branch, for making available the proof sheets of the 1889 and 1890 plates for examination on several occasions. Dealers who have assisted with material include especially my brother, Mr C. M. McNaught, also Messrs A. J. N. Lusted, R. A. Rowell, A. G. McLachlan, L. E. Vernazoni, E. R. Steel and the late P. E. A. Curtis. Mr G. W. Sides, of Timaru, co-operated by submitting his collection of flaws and varieties for examination.

It is with great pleasure that I acknowledge the inspiration and generous assistance of Mr J. R. W. Purves, with whom I spent two very pleasant, and withal instructive evenings in January, 1949.

* *Note:* May not the withdrawal of the "1890 plate" have mainly been for purposes of "nickelling" or "re-nickelling," irrespective of the question of "substitution?" The substitution might, in fact, have been consequent on a happening during such "plating." — J.R.W.P.

(Concluded)

THE COOK ISLANDS

By the Pacific Islands Circle of the Sydney Philatelic Club

[The Pacific Islands Circle was the brain child of the late John Hambly, a name well-known in Australasian philately. Under his guidance and that of Romney Gibbons, the present Chairman, the Circle, which comprises about a dozen prominent Sydney philatelists, has prospered. It has carried out much careful and painstaking research into the philately and postal history of various Pacific Island groups, the results of which previously appeared in "The Australian Stamp Journal." As this publication is now defunct, we have the privilege of publishing the Circle's latest contribution to Pacific Islands research.]

PREFACE

During the sixty years in which postage stamps of the Cook Islands have been in existence, they have engaged the attention of several well-known philatelic writers. In 1901, the late Mr A. F. Basset Hull contributed a series of articles to *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* (Vols. XI and XII), including much valuable information obtained from the official records in the possession of the New Zealand Post Office. Before his death, Mr Hull handed over his file containing copies of this correspondence and other memoranda to the Pacific Islands Circle, to whom it has naturally been of the greatest use.

Mr B. W. H. Poole, in his handbook, *The Stamps of the Cook Islands*, which, after appearing in serial form in *Mekeel's Weekly Stamp News*, was published about 1910, was, we believe, the first to record that the stamps of the first issue each existed in six types, which could be more or less readily identified. This feature has been elaborated by Mr Owen C. Limmer in a paper published in *The Stamp Lover* during 1933.

Finally, we have the articles on the stamps of the Cook Islands written by Mr R. J. G. Collins for *The New Zealand Stamp Collector*, Vol. I (1920), *The Oceanic Dependencies of New Zealand* (1921), and *The Stamps of the Pacific Islands*, Vol. I (1924).

To all the above writers we express our acknowledgments and hope that in the following notes we have been able to carry the philatelic history of the Cook Islands a stage forward.

The section dealing with the early history originally appeared in *The Australian Stamp Journal*, Vol. XXXVIII. It is now reprinted with additions and corrections.

CHAPTER I

The Pre-Stamp Period

The Cook or Hervey Islands are a group situated in the Pacific and intersected by the 20° South and the 160° West parallels. They lie to the north-east of New

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Zealand, of which today they are a Dependency, and were discovered by Captain James Cook, on his second voyage in 1772-75, who named them after the then First Lord of the Admiralty. However, of recent years, they are better known by the name of their illustrious discoverer. The inhabitants are Polynesians, closely akin to the Maoris of New Zealand. Today the population is about 65,000 people, only some 250 of whom are non-native.

The first white residents were the Rev. John Williams and Rev. Charles Pitman, accompanied by their wives, who landed at Rarotonga on 6 May, 1827. Both men were pastors of the London Missionary Society. Williams' stay was brief, but Pitman and the Rev. Aaron Buzacott (who arrived a few months later) resided there for many years. Later famous missionaries who joined them were the brothers George and William Gill; but the latter must not be confused with the Rev. William Wyatt Gill, who was a later arrival and no relation. Our knowledge of the Islands, at that period, is largely due to the writings of these gentlemen.

During the early years long periods passed without a vessel calling at Rarotonga, but it gradually became known to the whaling fraternity and, in the fifties, as many as a hundred vessels called there every year for provisions.

There was no organised postal system, and the only means of communication was by chance opportunity, and governed by arrangements made by the individual with the captain. A number of letters, of solely secular interest, from their missionaries in Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mangaia to the London Missionary Society, came under the hammer in 1938-40. The only indication of origin is the manuscript address of the sender. These were entrusted to the post at the first port of call where such facilities existed, often at Sydney and Auckland, although we have heard of a case where a letter came through Boston, Mass.

The first mention of a foreign representative is the appointment, on 3 March, 1875, of Charles Edward Goodman as British Vice-Consul (unpaid) for the Hervey Islands with residence at Rarotonga. Goodman was promoted Consul in 1881 and resigned on 23 September, 1883, although he left the island some months previously.

The post of Consul at Rarotonga is shown as vacant in the Foreign Office Lists of 1885 to 1888, but in 1889 Richard Exham is listed as having been acting Consul, without salary but with £20 per annum allowances, as from 31 March, 1883. Presumably this appointment was due to a petition, signed by the British residents in Rarotonga and dated 31 March, 1886, requesting that a British Consul be appointed, as Goodman had left and only an acting Consul, appointed by him, remained.

Other traders existed earlier, but the first merchant firm of importance to open in Rarotonga was Messrs Donald and Edenborough of Auckland, the probable date being 1880. Exham was a partner in the firm and in charge of their Rarotonga branch.

A momentous milestone in the postal history of that part of the Pacific is recounted in the Yearly Report of the New Zealand Post Office for 1885. This reads: "With the especial object of fostering trade with the South Sea Islands, a

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contract for two years has been entered into with Messrs Donald & Edenborough, at a subsidy of £4200 per annum, for a service from New Zealand to Tonga, Samoa, Tahiti and Rarotonga." The service started in May, 1885, and a representative of the Post Office accompanied the vessel on the maiden voyage to enquire into postal matters.

Unfortunately, we have not succeeded in finding this official's report, but it is significant that an organised postal system in Tonga dates from 1886 and that Davis' Post Office at Apia (Samoa) commenced to function in the same year. In both cases the first supplies of stamps were printed by New Zealand.

One of the passengers on the second trip of the *Janet Nicol* (Donald & Edenborough's steamer) was a representative of the Auckland Chamber of Commerce, whose mission was to enquire into the trade possibilities. This gentleman's report was subsequently published, and an appendix gives the postal tariff to the islands served. Letter postage from New Zealand to Rarotonga is stated to be 2d. per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. and from Rarotonga the same amount.

In 1888 a British Protectorate over the Cook Islands was declared, but this did not become de facto until the appointment of Mr Frederick J. Moss as British Resident. Although Moss was the representative of the British Government, he was chosen by the New Zealand Government and reported through the Governor to London.

The date of Moss's official arrival at Rarotonga was 22 April, 1891, and one of his first official acts was to issue a Public Notification, which contained the following extract: "By permission of Mr Exham, late acting British Consul, the Post Office will continue at his office till permanent arrangements can be made by the Native Government. Mr J. H. Garnier has also consented to act as temporary Postmaster." Garnier was an employee of Donald and Edenborough.

In a letter to the Government of New Zealand, dated 16 October, 1891, Moss states: "The Post Office is still an agency of the New Zealand Post Office and brings no revenue to the Cook Islands. I hope to make arrangements on this subject when in New Zealand."

The above brief outline of the position between 1885 and 1891 appears to establish beyond doubt that a properly organised postal service existed between New Zealand and Rarotonga during this period. Furthermore, the Post Office at Rarotonga must have been under the control of Mr Exham, in the triple capacity of British Consul, local manager of the subsidised steamer, which gave the only regular means of communication, and as appointee of the New Zealand Post Office.

Many philatelic writers have enlarged upon "Exham's (or Exhorn's) Private Post," which fell into disrepute owing to irregularities and was discontinued. The facts as above, all culled from official sources, should make the historical background clear in future.

Whether stamps were used on letters originating from Rarotonga is still a matter for surmise. Collins says that it has been stated that both British and New Zealand stamps were used. The source of supply of British stamps is difficult to imagine, but it is possible that a stock of New Zealand stamps was carried, as

THE COOK ISLANDS

they were at the New Zealand Postal Agency at Fanning Island in later times. We have seen a folded letter sheet from the Rev. James Chalmers, then missionary at Rarotonga, dated June 8th, 1874, and addressed to the London Missionary Society in London, which bears two 3d. New Zealand stamps of the period cancelled by the Auckland duplex mark with date "JY 8 74." The letter is back-stamped in London 31/8/74. As this is prior to the existence of a British Consulate at Rarotonga, it may well be that the stamps only paid the postage from Auckland to destination, but whether the missionaries carried a stock of New Zealand stamps to affix to their letters or whether the stamps were put on at Auckland is mere conjecture.

The archives of the London Missionary Society relating to the Cook Islands and covering the period 1884-92 were systematically gone through by one of our members in the hopes of discovering evidence of the use of stamps or of any mark being applied to the outward mail at Rarotonga. Unfortunately the result was negative, as evidently the letters had been enclosed in envelopes, which were not on the files.

An example of the use of New Zealand stamps is given in an article by Van Weenen in *The Australian Philatelist* of April, 1917. The author states that he then had an envelope sent from Moss at Rarotonga to Mrs Moss at Auckland, which has two 2d. New Zealand stamps on it. Unfortunately, he does not give particulars of the postal markings on the cover.

Collins says that, "Prior to the introduction of the 1892 issue of stamps, official letters were franked with the Consular hand-stamp, consisting of the Royal Arms with 'H.B.M. CONSULATE' (above) and 'RAROTONGA' (below) enclosed in a double-lined circle, the outer lines of which are broken at each side." This would naturally apply to the period prior to the arrival of the Administrator on 22/4/91, which automatically meant the closure of the Consulate. Again search has been made of the files of the Rarotonga Consulate at the Records Office in London, and although the above mentioned Consular stamp frequently appeared, the absence of the envelopes made it impossible to say whether it had been used as a frank.

It can only be hoped that material may turn up to throw further light upon the postal arrangements at Rarotonga prior to the issue of Cook Island stamps. Meanwhile we can only record the evidence collected to assist future students.

At the time that the Cook Islands Administration assumed responsibility for the running of the Post Office, the tariff was fixed as follows:

	<i>Within the Federation</i>	<i>Beyond the Federation</i>
Letters, closed (per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz.)	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.
Letters, open (per oz.)	1d.	1d.
Postcards	1d.	—
Newspapers (per each)	Free	1d.

These charges remained unaltered until the Cook Islands became a Dependency of New Zealand in 1901.

(To be continued)

QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

By HARRY S. PORTER, M.C., F.R.P.S.L.

The master mind responsible for the introduction of adhesive stamps was greatly exercised by the problem of how to ensure against their re-use. The first obliterator was what we call today the "Maltese Cross." As a logical sequel, Rowland Hill aimed to be able to trace the culprit, should the wielder of the obliterator fail in thoroughness — so, from March, 1844, each of the stampers in the London Chief Office was issued with a Maltese Cross with his number in the centre.

The next step was to provide each subsidiary Post Office with an identifiable numbered obliterator, so that the office cancelling the stamps could be traced by its number, combined with the shape or design of the obliteration mark. This practice extended to many countries — it occurs to me that an interesting "Subject Collection" would be a study of the types of Numeral Cancellations used throughout the world.

Among the countries to adopt this practice was each and all of the Australian Colonies. I would re-iterate that the basic idea of the use of a Numeral Obliterator was to make it possible to identify the office of origin which cancelled the stamps; and yet I know of no instance (except Victoria) where an official list has been handed down of the Number issued to each office. It follows that the whole *raison d'être* of going to the trouble and expense of providing these for each new office was defeated. Speaking from the viewpoint of the latter-day Postal History Student, this is just as well — what a lot of fun we of the brotherhood would have been denied, if all that was necessary was to look up a list!

Another example of the failure to appreciate the object of the Numeral Cancellation is that in Queensland, in later years, when a Post Office grew to needing more than one obliterator, it was not given a second with the same number but apparently the next in rotation awaiting issue.

As far as I am aware, the line of research into our subject, in the case of Queensland, has been limited to collecting as many covers as possible and so "tying" the numeral on the obliterator, which cancelled the stamp, with the name on the date-stamp appearing elsewhere on the cover. From time to time lists of these "marriages" have been published; notably in 1924 when Mr J. H. Burgess (B), editor of the *Australian Philatelic Review*, started the ball rolling with a list of some thirty from his own collection. This raised some interest and Messrs Oxnam (O), L'Éstrange (L), and McVea (V), of Queensland, and J. H. Chapman of England, (C), sent lists for publication. The furore was short-lived and I can find no record of further published interest until an article by Mr Charles Jewell, F.R.P.S.L., (J), appeared in *The Philatelist* of October, 1946. Jewell not only recorded his own researches but those of Ginger (G), Oxnam (O), Snowden (S), Mervyn Hall (M) and another authority (A), who is so far un-

QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

identified. A postscript to Jewell's article (*The Philatelist*, September, 1947) gives additional data supplied by Mr Whitehead of Melbourne, (W), and subsequent information from the latter is similarly designated.

Mr D'Arcy (D), of Queensland, one of the younger generation of Postal History enthusiasts, has also manfully contributed, and where I have been fortunate to obtain evidence the letter (P) appears. Another contributor is Mr Pickering of Sydney, (Q), and certain information taken from the White Collection in the Mitchell Library at Sydney is labelled (Y).

It will be noted that each name is followed by a letter in brackets, which letter will appear in the List as the authority for ascribing a certain Numeral to the given Post Office. If more than one student, working independently, has reported the same "tie," then the evidence should be conclusive. When only one initial is given, then confirmation is desirable — as Jewell says in his article "a cover may be wrongly interpreted, moreover the numerals are not always clearly struck."

In dealing with this problem, I decided to combine the approach already mentioned with a second line of attack, this being to try and discover the name and date of opening of every Post Office which has functioned in the State, together with the date when it was closed (if it no longer existed) and alterations in names (if they occurred). This was facilitated by the fact that the annual report made by the Postmaster-General of Queensland (published in the Parliamentary Papers) gives a list of Post Offices and usually the dates of opening and closing, if they occurred during the period. These lists were by no means free of mistakes and misprints, but the most tedious job has been the tracing of changes in name, when no mention thereof appeared in the reports. Eventually one reached a position where a certain number of Post Offices disappeared and certain others existed, but the dates of opening were not recorded. The gap was bridged by noting the names of the Postmaster and his salary. As an example, the Postmaster at North Branch in the list of 1881 might be Jonas Jones, who received £12 per annum for his pains: but there was no North Branch in the list of 1882 and Jonas Jones, still getting a quid a month, was Postmaster of Kincora — deduction, North Branch has been renamed Kincora. Sounds simple, my dear Watson, but when you have to trace through forty years of reports, it takes quite a time.

The result was the compilation of three Lists or Indexes, covering the Post Offices of Queensland from the period 1860 to 1899, this being the last year covered by a report before the Post Office became nominally Federal. These Lists comprised (a) an alphabetical list of Post Offices, (b) a list of Post Offices in the order of their opening and (c) a Numerical List, with such Post Offices as have been "tied" entered against their respective number.

It then became evident that my task was not complete. The highest number which could be "married" to a Post Office opened in 1899 was 580, whereas the highest number I have seen cancelling a stamp is 730, so we had a long way to go yet. In my simplicity, I thought that once the gap between 1899 and 1901 was bridged, it would be plain sailing, as the Post Office was one of the Government services which became federalised from the inauguration of the Commonwealth of Australia, the Jubilee of which we celebrated last year. It was a shock to find

• PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

that the first annual report of the Australian Post Office covered the year 1910 and that the transition to Federal control was a gradual and lengthy process. I will not weary by giving here the various sources through which information (more or less authoritative) was amassed. Details are given at the beginning of each section of the List.

The highest Numeral which has been tied is Middle Ridge, which is No. 713, and the highest known number is 730, so the period during which these obliterators were issued in Queensland could not be long after the opening of Middle Ridge, which proved to be between September, 1910 and March, 1911. As to the date of termination of their use, this is given by an Instruction which appears in the *N.S.W. Monthly Circular* of August, 1915, "POSTAL OBLITERATORS – ABOLITION OF: It is hereby notified that it has been decided to discontinue the use of hand obliterators. The date-stamp is to be used in future for cancelling postage stamps in place of such obliterators. Postmasters and others concerned will please note and forthwith forward all obliterators to Comptroller of Stores." As this instruction was inspired on the Federal level, it may be presumed to have operated simultaneously in Queensland.

Although the Numeral Cancellations have aroused so little enthusiasm, there is one phase which did receive considerable attention. When Queensland was separated from the parent State (New South Wales), there were already 15 Post Offices functioning within the borders of what became the new State. Naturally Queensland specialists wanted to collect the first stamps used in their pet country, and, in order to recognise these, it was necessary to know what obliterations were used in these offices prior to the partition and immediately after. A number of students took part in this research, the best known name being Mr George Ginger, F.R.P.S.L., of Manchester (England).

These Post Offices were:

<i>N.S.W. No.</i>	<i>Post Office</i>	<i>Opened</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
74	Goondiwindi	1850	Called Calandroon until 1861
81	Warwick	1848	
85	Drayton	1850	
86	Gayndah	1850	
87	Ipswich	1846	
95	Brisbane	1841	First called Moreton Bay
96	Maryborough	1850	
108	Nanango	1851	First called Goodes Inn, then Burnett Inn
110	Surat	1852	
131	Gladstone	1854	
133	Dalby	1854	
151	Condamine	1856	Moved from Tierreboo
152	Taroom	1856	
201	Rockhampton	1858	
214	Toowoomba	1858	

QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

Except in the case of Brisbane, which became the G.P.O. of the new colony, the other Post Offices continued to use their old Numeral Obliterations. However, this was sometimes overlooked in allotting Numerals of the Queensland series; which fact is the chief cause of duplication. In order to emphasise these duplications, when known to me, I have inserted these pre-separation Post Offices in the List in the position in which they would appear if the numbers had been allotted by Queensland, and not at the beginning, where they rightly belong – as being the most ancient.

As a hazard, it seems to me not unlikely that the original intention was to allot the low numbers to these existing Post Offices. This may have been the reason why the lowest number assigned to any Queensland Post Office after separation was apparently 21. At first I could not reconcile this with the fact that Jewell's List gave the numbers 14 and 19 as existing, although no Post Offices were tied to them. It occurred to me that 19 is indistinguishable from 61 and this number was omitted from the list. No. 14, however, was a bird of another feather as the numeral 4 remains only distinguishable as figure four, whether standing on its head or its feet. I wrote to my friend Mr Jewell and asked him to again examine the example in Mr Snowden's collection. A reply, by return, nominated me for the role of the world's worst nuisance, but he kindly and promptly went to a lot of trouble and reported that (in the light of what I had told him) he was sure that 14 was really 214 badly struck. This cleared the air.

As far as I know, Brisbane never used No. 95 from the time of separation, but generally employed an obliteration with the letters QL within rays. Until recently I thought that this QL mark was only used at Brisbane, but I now have evidence that it was used in the 'nineties on a duplex at Maryborough.

I hesitated a good deal before deciding upon the form of presentation of the following List, as (for space reasons) it is impossible to give more than one. I have emphasised already that a major object of this study has been to try and discover the pattern used in allocating the Numeral Obliterators. I have, therefore, decided to list the Post Offices in chronological order of creation, or as near so as possible in the periods when the actual day and month of opening have not been ascertained. This method of listing will make it more laborious to find the name of a Post Office, more especially in cases where changes of name have taken place, but it will make the "pattern" easier to follow and assist future students in verifying new numbers which may be reported. As already mentioned, reports, though made in all good faith, may be mistaken owing to impressions of the Obliterators being indistinct.

(To be continued)

REVIEWS

The New South Wales Philatelic Annual, 1951. Edited by Romney Gibbons. 40 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, Box 601, G.P.O., Sydney, N.S.W. Price 2s. 6d.

In this annual publication of our sister Society we have come to expect a really good selection of interesting and authoritative articles, and this latest one is no exception.

We are given tangible evidence of the thriving condition of the publishing Society's European Circle in three papers originally read before the Circle, and we are pleased to have this proof that not all Australian collectors are either Commonwealth fanatics or new issue devotees.

Our readers with interests in the Australasian field will find two articles to their liking — "Ship Letters of the South Seas," by J. Whitesed Dovey, and "The Forgery of the New South Wales 2d. Emu," by Romney Gibbons.

Various notes and reports make up the balance of the Annual, which we confidently recommend to all our readers.

The Amateur Collector's Stamp Catalogue of Switzerland, 1952. Edited by Edward H. Spiro. 48 pp. plus vi. 7¼ x 5 in. Published by The Amateur Collector Ltd., 97 Westbury Rd., Woodside Park, London, N.12. Obtainable in Australia from Stanley Stamp Service, 62 Swanston St., Melbourne. Price 4s. (Aust.).

This handy-sized catalogue, printed in English, will be enthusiastically welcomed by the numerous and ever increasing number of collectors of Swiss stamps. It supplies a wealth of information in a concise form, very easy to follow and understand. This is the first catalogue of Swiss stamps printed in English, and will fill a long-felt want, and render a very important service to collectors of Swiss stamps throughout the English-speaking world. The numbers used, are those which appear in the Zumbstein Catalogue. All prices are in the £ Sterling and are based on the average market prices ruling in 1951 in London, New York, and Switzerland. All issues, including

Pro Juventute, National Festival, League of Nations, etc., are listed under their respective headings, and are clearly illustrated. Most major varieties, plate flaws, retouches and shade differences are included, while controls, differences in paper, watermark and perforation, are fully listed. It is quite up-to-date, having listed that latest discovery of a few months ago — the Die 2 printing of the current 20c. — H.A.C.

The Postage Stamps of Nepal. By E. A. Smythies, L. E. Dawson and H. D. S. Haverbeck. 46 pp. Published by The Collectors Club Inc., 22 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y. No price stated.

From time to time eminent collectors in this country and abroad have emphasised the desirability of "side line" or "second string" collecting to give variety to and assist in maintaining interest in our hobby. It has been suggested that to get the greatest benefit from this scheme, the "second string" should be one of the neglected or unpopular countries, but preferably one with a good handbook. This gives one a more or less open go and a cheap start. In Australia, with its over-whelming number of "Commonwealth only" collectors, the collecting of the stamps of India, the Native States, and the Independent States surrounding it, Nepal and Afghanistan, which form a fascinating group, is neglected.

The publication of this most thorough and readable handbook provides an excellent opportunity to take up one of them, Nepal, the land of the Ghurkas, as that "second string." In its 46 pages, with many full-page plates and numerous illustrations, the subject is fully and authoritatively covered, from a description of the various issues of the Sripech and Crossed Kukris Type, 1881-1918, and of succeeding issues to 1949, to forgeries, cancellations, postal stationery and a list of Post Offices. The authors state that their object is to put the available information in a clear and more accessible form for the use both of the specialists and non-specialists — this should be the object of the authors of every handbook. It is fully achieved here. — F.A.L.

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