

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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SEPTEMBER 1952

THE POST CARD

ITS PLACE IN POSTAL HISTORY

It is no secret that the Post Card is again coming into its own. Time does not permit here of our giving the reasons for and the attractions in the collecting of Postal Stationery. It is only desired, briefly, to emphasise the *indispensable* nature of the Post Card in certain classes of philatelic study.

A most prominent instance arises in relation to the problem of allocating a certain T.P.O. cancellation to a particular "route." An entire envelope, unless it *also* contains the original letter enclosed in it, would only be of assistance if *both* the place of despatch and the place of arrival were indicated by their postmarks. The town of despatch, because of the affixing of the T.P.O. cancellation (the posting having been done at the T.P.O.) is *not* indicated. Nor, in more recent times, except in the case of registered letters, has the postmark of arrival been affixed. It is in such cases that the lowly Post Card steps into the breach. True, the postmarks of despatch or arrival, or both, may be absent, but on the back of the card one finds a note headed with the address of the writer and in the front the address of destination. The accuracy of the route inference can easily be corroborated from *other* cards with the *same* T.P.O. marking. Even more interesting, with Railway T.P.O.'s, is to find a number of cards, with the *same* T.P.O. marking, but posted from *different* places along the *same* line of route.

In the case of the Railway T.P.O. postmarks of Victoria (1865-1912), for instance, there are no records extant (except in respect of Numbers 1 and 2) respecting the allocation of the various "UP" and "DOWN" train cancellers to their respective routes. These were distinguishable by the allocation of a separate

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number to *each* train on a particular route. Each T.P.O. was issued with an "UP" and a "DOWN" cancellation, both bearing the *same* number. The numbers found run from 1 to 19. As new routes were opened new T.P.O.'s were established, to which new cancellers with *new* numbers were issued.

Thanks to the collecting of Post Card material over many years (coupled with a study of Railway Records, dates of opening of routes, etc.) it has now been possible for Mr J. H. Dunn and the writer to write a practical "finis" to the problem of route allocations in Victoria. No other class of material, short of actual records, could have given us these answers.

Another field in which the Post Card gives a far more complete picture than the envelope is the Postal History of Military Campaigns, as well as in the study of postal procedure, in Prisoner-of-War Camps, Training Camps, etc. The Boer War, the Herero Rebellion in South-West Africa, the Great War of 1914-1918, and the recent World War are good examples in this regard.

Yet another field — and one which has attracted the attention of some eminent philatelists — is the case (it has occurred on limited occasions, in many countries) where, owing to alterations in Post Card rates, a special adhesive stamp (usually an overprint) which was not generally available to the public, was affixed to the Post Cards, prior to their sale, by the Post Office. Two instances that come readily to mind are found in Hong Kong and the Orange Free State.

Enough has been said, at any rate, to show that Post Cards *can* possess a *unique* interest for the philatelist. At the moment we are far too prone to throw them into the wastepaper basket as so much junk. — J.R.W.P.

NOTES BY THE EDITOR

We regret to announce that Mr C. E. Norden has resigned from his position as conductor of our feature, "The Trail of Commonwealth," for business reasons. Mr Norden has added a philatelic department to his other business activities, and while we regret that this has meant the severance of his regular connection with our journal, we wish him all success in his new venture, and we hope that he will find time for occasional contributions to our columns.

We have fortunately been able to prevail upon the Rev. J. C. W. Brown to succeed Mr Norden in conducting "The Trail of Commonwealth." Mr Brown is already well known to our readers as a keen and careful student of Australian Commonwealth stamps, and we hope that they will give him the necessary assistance and support. Readers are requested to send their queries and notes on items of interest to Mr Brown, 94 Station Street, Malvern, S.E.4,

We have in hand or have been promised a number of important articles, and readers may be interested to have advance notice of them. They include "The Barred Numeral Obliterators of Tasmania," by L. C. Viney; an article on the New South Wales Coin Type 5s. by Robson Lowe; "The Bar Obliterators of British New Guinea," by Gerald T. Muir; and an article on the early postal history of New Caledonia by P. Collas. These will be appearing over the next few issues.

In May last Messrs Robson Lowe Ltd. sold at auction the magnificent collection of the Ham printings of the Victorian "Half-Lengths" formed by Dr R. N. Wawn, of Melbourne. With the assistance of Mr J. R. W. Purves, the firm produced a guide to the classification of these stamps, which appeared as an eight-page supplement to the May *Philatelist*. This should prove invaluable to collectors of these issues.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

For the past three years this feature of *Philately from Australia* has been enlivened by Mr C. E. Norden's invigorating comment and distinguished by his very extensive knowledge of Commonwealth stamps, particularly of the rarer items. Unfortunately with the establishment of the Expert Philatelic Service now provided by C. E. Norden and Company he has felt it necessary to relinquish responsibility for "The Trail of Commonwealth." Our very good wishes go with him and we trust that his knowledge and experience may not be altogether unavailable to us in the future.

The policy and purpose of "The Trail of Commonwealth" remain as before. There is nothing quite so satisfying to the student as the feeling that he has made some contribution, no matter how small, to the sum total of our knowledge. Many discoveries, pieces of philatelic research, or other items of interest, are too short for a full-length article. This is the place where they can be recorded. And send us your queries. If we do not know the answer we may by publishing your query perhaps find someone who does. Finally it might be well to make clear that by the term "Commonwealth" we understand not only the adhesive stamps of the Commonwealth but also its postal stationery and postal history.

The Enduring Interest of Commonwealth

It seems a far cry today to the year 1921 when the Reverend James Mursell, on a visit to England from Australia, read a paper entitled "The Scientific Interest of Surface Printed Stamps" at the Eighth (Harrogate) Philatelic Congress of Great Britain. The time had come, he urged, when the interest of the surface-printed stamp, both for collector and student, should receive due recognition. He expressed the conviction that the permanent interests and world-wide progress of philately were vitally involved.

This recognition is now received in full measure, and in the achievement of it students of Commonwealth have played no small part. The field, so far as Commonwealth is concerned, is by no means exhausted. Exciting things can still happen, like Dr Gordon Ward's discovery that the unit employed in laying down the 1½d. King George V, Die 2, plates was the row of six, or Mr C. E. Norden's

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of the use of primary and secondary electro-groups in the make-up of the Provisional Postage Due plates. Last year Mr A. W. Rowntree reported substitutions in the 1½d. King George V, Die 1, and found a complete pane of the mysterious Second Plate (or Plates) of the ½d. King George V. This year comes Mr Norden's discovery of a batch of Die Proofs among the effects of the late Mr Samuel Reading, the Melbourne engraver. Fresh attempts are still being made to explain the puzzling re-entries of the 1½d. Die 2, and the Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain are continuing their patient task of revising and supplementing the late Mr D. M. Neil's history of the varieties of the 1d. King George V. Other fields remain to be exploited. Not all of us perhaps are in a position to undertake research on the high-value Kangaroos, but the 2d. King George V steel plates, both dies, are still awaiting really systematic study.

A word of warning is perhaps necessary. Mr Mursell's paper was directed to an older generation of philatelists so taken up with the interest of the classic line-engraved and lithographed issues that they were blind to what the surface-printed stamps had to offer them. The wheel has now come full circle, and the danger is that we who have grown up on the study of the surface-printed may be blind to what the rotary recess-printed stamp has to offer us. It has been in this country now for eighteen years and there is abundant evidence of the interest it can provide. Some of us may have felt that with the end of surface-printing the light was fading from our philatelic world. If it does it will be our own fault.

Make-ready

I feel strongly that far too little attention has been paid to the importance of "make-ready" in the production of a satisfactory surface-printed sheet. Mr Norden has stressed the same thing. In surface-printing, as opposed to recess-printing, only very slight pressure is employed in bringing the paper into contact with the inked plate. Extreme care must therefore be taken to compensate for any irregularities in the printing level of the plate. The process has been often enough explained. What principally concerns us here is the production of the "overlay." Several trial sheets are printed, and one of these used as a base. Examination of this sheet reveals perhaps a white patch, indicating a depression on the plate. The corresponding white patch is cut out of another of the trial sheets and pasted over the patch on the base sheet. This is then affixed, in careful register with the plate, to the impression cylinder. As a result, when actual printing commences, the portion of each sheet lying above the depression on the plate will receive extra pressure from the cylinder and be forced far enough down to take the ink.

This description indicates only the principle of the process. In actual fact "making-ready" requires a very high degree of skill and experience. In the *Australian Stamp Monthly* for April, 1930, John Ash contributed an article called "Avoiding Varieties." In this article he stressed the careful scrutiny to which each stamp on a trial sheet is subjected so that high lights may be reduced and broken lines eliminated. Making-ready, he said, might occupy a full week before the production period could begin.

PLATE 1a OF THE GEORGE V. 1½d. DIE 2

All this, I am convinced, is very relevant to our old friend the "Void Corner" on the 1½d. King George V, Die 2 (2L59). In discussing this protean stamp Dr Gordon Ward omits reference to one very interesting state of which I have seen two copies, perf. 13½ x 12½, with Mullett imprint (in Mr A. E. Luehmann's collection). In this state not only is there no trace of a void corner but the outer coloured frame in the upper right portion of the stamp is heavily built up. At first sight it look like a heavy "bumping-up" retouch. In the *Australian Stamp Journal* for August, 1927, it is actually described as a heavy retouch. Further examination however shows that the *adjacent* portions of the design are completely *unaffected*. Furthermore the correction was not permanent. It was upon these facts no doubt that Mr A. A. Rosenblum based his theory of "added metal." The use of make-ready provides a far more satisfactory explanation of the whole story, up to the time of Ash's final correction. At the beginning of a printing run make-ready sometimes more than compensated for the weakness of the plate at this point, thus causing the state described above. As the printing run continued, and the make-ready wore down, the "void corner" variety would become more and more apparent. I personally can see no necessity to look further for an explanation.

PLATE 1a OF THE GEORGE V. 1½d. DIE 2

By I. ASH

[Ian Ash is Hon. Librarian of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain, and editor of their Bulletin, and so is not unknown to Commonwealth collectors, both here and in England. He has, moreover, another tie with the stamps of this country, as he is the son of John Ash, a former Commonwealth Note and Stamp Printer. In this article he carries a step further a subject begun by Dr Gordon Ward a year ago in this journal.]

I was very surprised by — and keenly interested in — the disclosure by Dr Gordon Ward, in the September, 1951, issue of *Philately from Australia*, of the existence of another Plate 1 of the G.V. 1½d. Die 2, which is distinguishable by the size of the dot in the marginal line at the top right-hand corner of the plates. In an endeavour to confirm Dr Ward's notes I searched through my own collection for specimens from this newly discovered plate, but without result; however, I was fortunate enough to be able to borrow Mr Allan Deane's collection, and to find several blocks upon which to work. (Mr Deane comes from Adelaide and is at present in this country). The following additional notes, though scanty, may be of some interest to other students of this stamp.

Before proceeding further, it is necessary to correct an error in paragraph two of Dr Ward's notes, in which it is stated that the Plate 1b (the normal, common plate) dot was 1 mm. in diameter, thus making it appear to be larger than the

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$\frac{3}{4}$ mm. dot of Plate 1a. The dot on Plate 1b is, in fact, approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in diameter.

The statement that Australian specialists have long been aware of this further plate (1a — with larger dot), caused me to search through the Society's Library for any past references. I only succeeded in finding one which was a letter from a Mr F. N. Robertson of Adelaide, in the December, 1948, *A.S.M.*, who drew attention to the differences between two Plate No. 1 pairs, one with small dot, and the other with large dot in the marginal line. I confirm the differences already given by Dr Ward and also the following additional differences given by Mr Robertson:

- | LARGE DOT — 1a (Rare Plate) | SMALL DOT — 1b (Common Plate) |
|--|--|
| (a) Space between top frame and marginal line is 3 mm. | (a) Space between top frame and marginal line is $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. |
| (b) Width between first and second top marginal panels is 1 mm. | (b) Width between first and second top marginal panels is $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. |
| (c) Nick in lower edge of marginal panel above and to the right of Crown on stamp No. 5. | (c) No nick in marginal panel. |
| (d) Bottom frame of No. 5 even. | (d) Bottom frame very thin under "HALF," and white margin above thinned. |

I notice in the report of the Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Melbourne, in February, 1952, *A.S.M.*: "Mr H. F. McNess of Western Australia, asked the Society's opinion about the large and small dots of the G.V. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., indicating the plate numbers. It was suggested that the large dots were used by the printer, A. J. Mullett, and the small dots by John Ash. However, the only possible theory arrived at was that the small and irregular dots were caused by the hole becoming filled with ink." This is, of course, at variance with the details given by Dr Ward and Mr Robertson regarding the two types of marginal lines, and the position of the dots, and I can assure readers that Dr Ward and Mr Robertson are correct. Further, I would draw attention to the constancy of certain features of the right marginal line of Plate 1b. On early Mullett printings it is shaved in on both sides at the top, and this persists right through to the final Ash printings in brown. Likewise, the small dot remains throughout above the *outer* edge of outermost wattle flower, and it retains its shape — round on the N.W., and flat on the S.E. sides. The large dot, however, is positioned above the *inner* edge of the outermost wattle flower.

In Mr Deane's collection I found two blocks of four showing the Plate 1a large dot, two imprint blocks of four, and a block of four, 47/48 and 53/54, from the right pane. The latter three blocks can be assigned to this plate on the following evidence:

(a) The two imprint blocks are *not* from Plates 1, 2, 3 or 4, and in shade, flaws, etc., are identical with the imprint pair mentioned by Dr Ward. The imprint is in a slightly different position in relation to the units, and the left end of the marginal line to the right of the imprint is cut off diagonally, instead of square as in Plate 1.

PLATE 1a OF THE GEORGE V. 1½d. DIE 2

(b) The other block is identifiable by the narrow marginal line in the selvedge. The position in the sheet was marked in ink on the selvedge by the original owner, the late Mr J. H. Johnson of Adelaide.

Among the following details of positioned varieties I have included several minor inking flaws to serve as a further means of identification, these being constant on the stamps seen.

L.54. Left frame dented for 2 mm. down from 'roo's tail. Coloured dot between 2nd and 3rd shading lines over 'roo's ear. Inking-in of two lines of shading to right of right value tablet.

L.60. Coloured spot in oval below "AU."

R.5. Right frame split through tip of upper triangle, this continues in the form of a scratch through 3 or 4 lines of shading in a direct line below.

R.6. (Reported by Dr Ward). Two front shading lines on King's neck broken or absent in their lower half.

R.11. Break in 4th shading line over 'roo's ear.

R.47. Break in 2nd shading line under left value tablet, ½ mm. from right end. 6th and 7th shading lines up below base of King's neck joined by colour dot.

R.48. First "E's" of "THREE" and "PENCE" joined. (When reporting this flaw in the *V.P.R.*, 10/2/27, Mr Rosenblum stated: "A variety, of which I have unfortunately lost the position, occurs on one plate. This shows, in addition to two lines of shading under the neck having run together, a white line joining the first 'E' of 'THREE' and the first 'E' of 'PENCE'").

R.49. Coloured spot in Left "2."

R.53. Break in centre of 6th shading line below left wattle stem. Break at right end of 3rd and 4th shading lines below left wattle stem. Break in top shading line to left of Crown.

R.54. Marginal line notched on inside for 2 mm., from above bottom of unit. Diagonal dash of colour joining 1st, 2nd and 3rd shading lines above 'roo's ear.

R.55. Coloured spot between 4th and 5th shading lines to left of Crown.

Mullett Imprint - First "A" of "AUSTRALIA" is small, narrow and shaped like an arrow-head. It is solidly inked-in, and falling over to the left.

A striking feature of these stamps is the large number of coloured dots on the units, which seems to point to the impressions on the plate being extremely shallow. The colour of all the copies which I have seen, including Dr Ward's, is one of the early Mullett shades of red; the fact that there is no noticeable difference in shade, suggests a somewhat limited printing. Like Dr Ward and Mr Robertson, I have only found Plate 1a in perf. 14. Mr Rosenblum's reference points to its early issue; its rarity is only too evident.

(I think that Dr Ward's unpositioned variety [4] is not from Plate 1a. Mr E. N. Palmer has shown me a specimen with "Short white line joining the lower wattle flower to 'roo's shoulder, also white line which follows the outer side of left numeral shield, from 'roo's tail inclining slightly to left" - this stamp is golden scarlet in colour).

CONVERSATION PIECES

Recorded by HAROLD THIRKELL

No. 11 — The Prostitution of the Postmark

"If I collected modern issues," remarked Mr Gauge, "I should take them mint."

"And horribly boring they'd be," said Mr Hinge, "page after page of gaudy shiny labels, masquerading as stamps. Impostors, every one of them — never done a stroke of honest postal work, never even threatened with the possibility. Conceived, produced, and sold, to the sole end of fleecing the collector!"

"You are a little too vehement, and your accusation far too sweeping," said Mr Gauge, "but essentially I agree. Still I repeat, if I collected modern issues — which I have no intention of doing — I should take them mint, for the simple reason that a postmark is no longer evidence of postal usage."

"Ah," said Mr Hinge, "our old friend, 'postmarked-to-order.'"

"Exactly," said Mr Gauge, "and I apply the term not merely to stamps handed over the counter for postmarking in bulk, but to ninety per cent of these 'philatelic covers.' They may have passed through the post, but have nothing inside but a blank sheet of paper. They come on the market unslit, as often as not."

"With postmarks so meticulously applied," added Mr Hinge, "that they diffidently kiss no more than one-eighth of an inch of one corner of each stamp. But, you know, you're setting quite a problem — when is a stamp to be accepted as genuinely postally used? Are we to condemn every used copy that is lightly cancelled? After all, in the normal course of the mails, some proportion of the stamps get a postmark which can only be called a near-miss."

"The very reason I should take mint," replied Mr Gauge. "A mint stamp at least cannot be accused of pretending to be what it isn't."

"I'm inclined to think," said Mr Hinge, "that one should be able to develop an eye, an instinct, for the genuinely used stamp, assisted of course by certain other factors."

"Such as?" invited Mr Gauge.

"First of all," elaborated Mr Hinge, "I'd give preference to stamps showing quite a lot of postmark, providing it is clean and clear-cut, and does not seriously deface the design. Secondly, I'd select those originating from minor post offices, rather than from the country's G.P.O. I'd view with suspicion any stamp that appeared to have been part of a block neatly postmarked in the centre, but, if I had to accept one of these, I'd choose a copy with a rather indistinct postmark. Postmarks applied to order are generally very neat, clean, and legible. For the rest, I'd trust to the instinct I've mentioned."

"You'd make some very unjust decisions," said Mr Gauge. "Many genuinely used stamps have postmarks that fulfil all your specifications for a postmark-to-order, and vice-versa."

"I know," admitted Mr Hinge, "and that's the devil of it. The honesty of the postmark has been so undermined that even the pure merino is suspect."

CONVERSATION PIECES

"What about first-day covers and exhibition postmarks and the like?" asked Mr Gauge. "Do you condemn these also?"

"Perhaps not quite so whole-heartedly," said Mr Hinge. "They can have some historical value for those that care for them, especially when they are a memento of some definite event. First-day covers made to order, as they mostly are today, leave me cold. They smell of exploitation. The issue date of practically every modern stamp is on record; there's no need of a cover to authenticate it. How different with the old classics, where the early cover is part of the history of the stamp, and often the only source of an approximate issue date."

"Talking of the classics," said Mr Gauge slyly, "reminds me of ancient Greece. Would I be inviting grievous bodily harm by postulating that the postmarked-to-order racket originated among your beloved Large Heads?"

"Alas," admitted Mr Hinge, "I don't know about 'originating,' but it certainly raised its ugly head then. You know what happened — in the '80's or '90's some smart Greek collectors tumbled to the fact that many of the small post offices in that country still held stocks of obsolete printings, even of Paris prints. With this treasure trove in their hands, occasionally in full sheets, they fell to temptation and quantities were postmarked to order. A crime against posterity!"

"We have talked too long," said Mr Gauge, "it's time we went to the meeting."

"Before we go," said Mr Hinge, "there's a question I'd like to ask Commonwealth collectors. This imprint business, why is it necessary to have a block of four and, particularly, why is a used imprint so despised? Where they'll pay pounds for some mint imprints, they only offer shillings for the same thing used. After all, a used imprint pair records the printing history of the stamp just as adequately as a mint block — sometimes more accurately, if the date of the postmark happens."

"Maybe you'll get some answers," said Mr Gauge, reaching for his hat. "You know, Hinge, this conversation has been remarkable in one way — it's the first in which you have failed to make a wise-crack, or refer to the fair sex."

"Well, what do you know about that!" said Mr Hinge.

A Century of Stamp Production, 1852-1952.

By L. N. & M. Williams. 44 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by Waterlow & Sons Ltd., London. Not on sale to the public.

Anyone who is fortunate enough to secure a copy of this booklet will find it well worth perusal.

On the introductory page appear illustrations of two stamps printed by the firm of Waterlow, one the 4 cents British Guiana of 1852, and the other the current £1 of Great Britain. This booklet passes briefly in review over the century of development in the art and practice of stamp production by the firm which lies between these two.

The booklet concludes with the list of the postage stamps, British, Colonial and Foreign, produced by Waterlows from 1852 to 1952 inclusive, and this list should prove of value to students of stamp production.

Perhaps, however, the most interesting contents of this booklet are the illustrations. As well as half-tone illustrations interspersed throughout the text, there are two pages of collotype reproductions in colour, and three pages of labels (in colours, but not always those of the issued stamps) printed from the actual plates for postage stamps. These have a small hole punched in them, and are overprinted "WATERLOW & SONS LTD. — SPECIMEN".



The Other Side of the Picture



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

Owing to the weight of other contributions – and the Journal has never been so well off on that score – I am compelled (not very reluctantly) to shorten this feature for the present number.

However, I am able to include some further notes received from Mr McNaught covering some recent work he has been doing on the “Second Side-Faces,” more particularly in the values *over* 2d. This work carries the story yet further to completion and emphasises what we have always maintained – that these issues are well worthy of the attention of any specialist collector.

NEW ZEALAND

Further Research Notes by K. J. McNAUGHT, F.R.P.S.N.Z.

(i) 1d. “Second Side-Face”: Earliest “Die State”

All four stamps in my proof block from Plate 1 show the recently described “Die 1A” sub-type (Vol. IV, No. 1, p. 12, No. 2, p. 44). I have a block of four of the issued stamps all Die 1, and a block of four and a block of six all from a left pane and all Die 1A. All pairs so far examined are both 1 or both 1A. This confirms the theory that the left panes were Die 1A and the right Die 1 (or mainly Die 1).

(ii) *Second Side-Faces: History of the Plates of the Higher Values*

About eighteen months ago, in a letter to Mr Purves reporting on the progress of my studies of the 1d. and 2d. plates, I mentioned that I had found some good flaws in the 4d., 6d. and 1s. values. Among these was a copy of the major retouch referred to in the last number (pp. 45-6). I was hoping to secure further evidence on these plates before reporting this and other varieties, but now may be an opportune time to report progress.

2½d. and 5d. These were issued during the period when post office records are complete and clearly *only one* plate of each is involved.

3d. One flaw has been found *both* in an early print (p. 12 x 11½, 6 mm. paper, dated 1889, but probably printed earlier) and in a very late print (fourth paper, p. 11). In this electro (? bottom left pane, row 7, No. 6) two flaws appear, a white spot between the “W” of “NEW” and the “Z” and a white patch in front

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE

of the Queen's eye and forehead. The clarity of the latter flaw appears to be dependent on the amount of makeready used. The *Handbook* (Vol. I, p. 113) states that a *new* plate was prepared in 1887. However, the post office proof pull taken from the so-called 1887 plate about 1906 is dated "1882." The *Handbook* references on p. 113 and p. 121 to the use of *two* plates therefore require checking.

4d. One flaw has been found both in early and late prints. This is from the top right pane (row 9, No. 3) and consists of a triangular shaped white flaw which fuses together two of the ornamental balls to the left of the bottom right value tablet vertically above the second "E" of "REVENUE." The earliest dated copy met is dated October, 1885 (6 mm. paper) and I have other copies dated 1890, 1892 and 1894. The *same* flaw is present on the post office proof pull which is dated "1881." Here again the *Handbook* reference on p. 113 to two plates re-examples in later prints. I have been unable to locate these in my reconstructed sheet of 4d. Advertisements or on the post office proof pull. Wear of the plates could of course result in the disappearance of these varieties, assuming them to be regular. On the whole the evidence is in favour of *one* plate only.

6d. Die 1. I have examples of *five* different and distinct flaws in *early* prints quires further investigation. I have found single copies of two other plate flaws and a double strike in early prints (dated 1882 to 1886) but have not yet found (1884-7 dates) and two copies each of two of these. *None* of these flaws are present in the post office pull of the 6d. Die 1 and it appears certain therefore that there were *two* Die 1 plates. We have no exact evidence of the date of introduction of Plate 2, but in the *Handbook*, p. 113, the date is given as 1888. My earliest dated *unworn* print on 7 mm. paper is March, 1889, and this confirms the *Handbook* date. The post office pull is from this later plate (not Plate 1 as implied on p. 122 of the *Handbook*), but it is undated.

6d. Die 2. The post office pull is dated 11/92 and this is in agreement with dated copies of the issued stamp. There was clearly *only one* Die 2 plate.

8d. I have no clear-cut evidence from stamp flaws but the post office proof is dated 1882 and there appears to be no doubt that *only one* plate was used.

Date of issue. In the *Handbook* (Vol. I, p. 113 and p. 123) it is stated that the 8d. value was not issued till 1885. This requires amendment as I have two post-marked copies dated AP 84 and 4 JY 84 respectively and have seen others with 1884 dates. In addition I have many *pencancelled* stamps dated between 29/2/84 and December, 1884, and one *clearly* dated 31/10/83.

1s. I have *ten* different flaws in *early* prints (6 mm. paper, dates 1883-90) none of which have been noted in prints dated later than 1891, or in the post office proof. This evidence clearly points to *two* plates. The *Handbook* refers to the second plate as appearing in 1888 but the post office proof sheet is dated 26/8/89 and there is no reason to query the reliability of this date which was scratched on the plate.

Plate 1. Major retouch (Vol. IV, No. 2, pp. 45-6). My copy is *pencancelled* 29/11/84. An examination of the post office pull in Wellington was made about a year ago for this variety and needless to say it was not present.

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Die States. My evidence confirms Mr Purves' observation that Plate 2 stamps have (unless this be obscured by the inking) a vertical crack (actually two cracks close together) in the right frame line at the bottom right corner ("Die 1A").

As a result of discussion between us, Mr Purves agrees that "rounded S.E. corner" is not a wholly satisfactory criterion for Plate 2 stamps, since in many of these (where the inking is generally heavy or where the stamp is from the *right* of a sheet or pane) this corner roundness is largely obscured and superficially presents a squarer appearance. Also there are one or two constant "secondary" varieties in Plate 1 that have a dented or rounded S.E. corner.

New Sub-Type. My studies revealed another unrecorded "sub-type" which is present only in a proportion of *Plate 1* stamps. The vertical white arm on the right side of the scroll design above the last "E" of "REVENUE" is normally separated from the white space inside the inner frame at the top right by a narrow coloured strip. In this sub-type there are spurs of colour projecting from the top and bottom of this vertical coloured strip to join the inner frame line. About 12% have this variety which was evidently due to extraneous metal on the die during the process of stamping out some of the moulds. Dates of the sub-type so far noted range from 1884 (6 mm. paper) to 1889 (7 mm. paper) and indicate that only *one* plate was used over this period.

TASMANIA

Name and Date Cancellations on Pictorials

Yet another of the "possibles" has turned up. This is "PIEMAN BRIDGE" which Dr K. Pennycuick tells me he has found on a 1d. Pictorial dated 24/3/00. Incidentally Dr Pennycuick asks what is the *highest* numeral canceller found. He has 390 on a Pictorial.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
Philately from Australia
Dear Sir,

NEW SOUTH WALES 1861 5s.

For some years I have been making a specialised study of this stamp in an endeavour to correctly plate it.

So far I have succeeded in plating thirty-three of the fifty sheet positions by the various re-entries, guide-lines, guide dots and second state varieties.

I have also endeavoured to complete the study of the printings, and have divided my own collection into twenty-one main groups.

In order to complete my studies as far as possible I need to see more copies (I possess only 500), and would appreciate hear-

ing from any of your readers who would be willing either to lend or sell me any material relative to the study.

The field is a large one, for I need to see proofs, mint and used (including multiple pieces), covers, reprints and "SPECIMEN" overprints.

The interest to be found in the study of this stamp is considerable. Few others can possibly combine such a wide range of printing, obsolescence, reprinting and finally re-issue — in all covering a period of fifty years, and the reigns of Queen Victoria, King Edward VII and King George V.

Yours, etc.,

ROBSON LOWE.

50 Pall Mall, London.

VICTORIA

THE 2d. "POSTAGE", 1901-12

By J. R. W. PURVES, F.R.P.S.L.

I: ITS DIE AND PLATE VARIETIES AND PRINTINGS

A. (i) *The Die Varieties, Cause and Effect*

This stamp is relatively common although — owing to the altered scale of postal rates prevailing (the Internal Rate throughout Victoria became 1d. from 1/4/01) — it is nothing like so common as its predecessor of 1887-1901.

Over the years I have made a study of all the Victorian stamps of the "Commonwealth" period. The methods used (as well as the varieties found) are similar in nature to those found in the various Electrotyped Kangaroo and Georgian Issues of the Commonwealth. I intend in due course to present my findings on the other values — all values save the 3d., 4d. and 5d. possess significant technical interest — but shall start with the 2d. value, as it demonstrates clearly but fairly concisely the features of these stamps.

In the first place the stamp was printed, at any one time, from two electrotype plates of continuous surface (clamped together), each of 120 (12 x 10) impressions. To obtain the "shells" for a plate, 120 lead moulds were struck from the steel die, grouped together and placed in the electrolytic bath. The "shell" which was then grown, duly soldered and backed, became the printing plate — a precisely similar procedure to that adopted for the Kangaroos and Georgians.

It is in this case, I think, best first to crystallise the findings and then to take the matter step by step in detail. There are technically *three* divisions of this stamp, as follows:

1. Printings from *Plates 1, 2, Die 1* (approximately 228 stamps) and *Die 1a* — the *second* state of the die (approximately 12 stamps in Plate 2). These two plates were employed for all printings of this stamp from June, 1901 (date of issue was July) to April, 1904. They were *without* marginal lines.

2. Printings from *Plates 3, 4, Die 1a* (approximately 12 stamps in Plate 3) and *Die 1b* — the *third* state of the die (approximately 228 stamps). These two plates were employed from April, 1904, for all printings of this stamp until January, 1908, first on paper watermarked V over Crown and later (from October, 1905) on paper watermarked Crown over A. Like Plates 1 and 2 these two plates were also *without* marginal lines.

3. Printings from *Plates 5, 6, Die 1b* only. These two plates were employed for all printings from January, 1908, onwards, first on the normal Crown over A paper and later (1912) on the *thin* Crown over A and the Fiscal ("*Reissue*") V over Crown papers respectively. Both these plates were distinctive in that they *had* marginal lines and were also *denoted* by three and four white dots respec-

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tively in the marginal line at top over the right third and right two-thirds respectively of stamp No. 11 in the sheet, i.e., the stamp to the left of the north-east corner stamp.

These matters will now be treated in more detail.

It would appear that after the stamping of the 120 moulds for the first plate (which I shall call Plate 1) and of the first 108 moulds (or so) for the second plate (which I shall call Plate 2), *the die sustained two small fractures or cracks*, probably crystalline in character. The additional "die flaws" so created *persist* thenceforward on all moulds struck *after* the damage first occurred, i.e., for about 12 moulds for Plate 2, 240 moulds for Plates 3, 4, and another 240 moulds for Plates 5, 6.

The description of these "*die flaws*," enlargements of which are illustrated, are as follows:

1. There is a *break* (i) in the outer right frame line about $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. down from the north-east corner of the stamp. This break is occasionally, in the more heavily inked printings, partially or even wholly hidden but is quite apparent on all clearly printed stamps.

2. The solid colour (containing the "E") in the south-east corner, which normally is not only squared-off but finishes in something like a point, has been *blunted* at its south-east corner (ii). This feature can seldom fail to be distinguished.

In *addition* to these two pieces of damage to the die, *Die 1a* shows us a *third* distinguishing feature, viz.:

3. A small but clearly distinguishable *coloured* excrescence on the top of the hair under the "CT" of "VICTORIA."

This last feature is *also* found on about 12 stamps from Plate 3!

What I believe to be the explanation is as follows: The die picked up a small piece of foreign matter (perhaps a fragment of lead) which adhered to it over the stamping of some 24 moulds (12 in 1901, for Plate 2 – and another 12 in 1904, for Plate 3) when it left *or* was removed from the die. All subsequent moulds stamped *after* the disappearance of this foreign matter therefore produced *Die 1b* stamps which *only* showed characteristics 1 and 2 above.

Further, it seems probable that the adhesion of this piece of foreign matter was such that it immediately, on the first stamping, imposed an additional strain on the die which *caused* the slight cracks we have described. This is the only theory which seems to measure up to the facts.

The start of the chain of discovery recorded above was the finding by me (in 1944) of pairs with *both* *Die 1* and *Die 1a* se-tenant, and further, of large blocks (from the early printings) *all* *Die 1*, and of other large blocks (from later printings) *all* *Die 1b*. Since that time I have been looking, carefully, for material to complete the story, but really large blocks (from either of Plates 2 and 3) have so far eluded me. However, the material found from Plates 2 and 3 has been sufficient to tell us a good deal of the story.

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(ii) *The Occurrence of Die 1a*

(a) *In Plate 2*

It must be realised that there are *many distinctive shades* of this stamp, so many that one can, almost infallibly, assign any single stamp to its correct year. This means that it is also possible (as will be seen from the list of shades to be given later) to assign any copy of Die 1a either to Plate 2 (i.e., to a printing from Plates 1 and 2) *or* to Plate 3 (i.e., to a printing from Plates 3 and 4).

Since the material available is not sufficient to give us any finality in relation to the precise occurrence of Die 1a (one would require complete sheets of Plate 2 or Plate 3 for this), it has been necessary for me to use *two* methods to gain an *approximate* idea of the proportionate numbers of Die 1a to be found in either printing. These are as follows:

(i) Take the total number of stamps from Plates 1 and 2 examined at any time, take the total number of Die 1a found in that lot, and work out a sum in proportion to see how often, on that basis, Die 1a should occur in 240 stamps. This has been done several times with several lots and according to those calculations Die 1a should occur about 12 times in 240.

(ii) Stamps in *both* the Plate 2 (1, 2) and Plate 3 (3, 4) printings will be found showing, in *addition* to the "die-flaw," constant "secondary" flaws. Two such flaws can be distinguished in the Plate 2 stamps, one in the Plate 3 stamps (see later). It is then a matter of comparing, in any given lot of Die 1a's sorted-out, the number found of the particular constant "secondary" flaw with the total number of Die 1a in the lot in question. This method has, likewise, given an answer approximating to 12 in 240.

Occurrence: Apart from a number of used pairs and strips, I possess a block of nine stamps showing a "line" watermark from the *left* of the sheet. This block shows Die 1a in three positions.

From a comparison with other material, I believe these *three* 1a positions are Nos. 50, 61 and 63 in the sheet, although it is *possible* that they are 26, 37 and 39. I have two lower left corner blocks which show it also occurring on No. 97, and I think it probable that it occurs on yet a *third* unit from the *left* of the sheet, judging by the number of examples found from that side.

It *also* occurs on at least *two* units from the *base* of the sheet. *One* of these shows a constant "secondary" flaw, viz., breaks in the shading on top of and over the Queen's head under the "C" of "VICTORIA." There is also *another* "secondary" flaw to be found (*not* from either the left or base of the sheet) showing a spot of colour (with a white flaw on its S.W.) in the right border shading, opposite the middle of the top of the two scrolls at lower right of stamp. This accounts for *eight* Die 1a varieties and, as I have already said, the material examined indicates that there are at least four more.

I have copies of Die 1a with dated postmarks from September, 1901, right through to the middle of 1904, in all the shades of the period. The best way one can show these die varieties is in multiples with Die 1 (original state).

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(b) *In Plate 3*

Here again the same methods of study and calculation were used, and again an answer of about 12 Die 1a's in the 240 was arrived at. In this case, however, at least 80% of the Die 1a's found are from the *left* of the sheet (distinguishable by a "line" watermark at left and/or the "deep edge" down left side). Mint blocks in my possession show that Die 1a occurred on Nos. 1, 13, 73, 85, 97, 99, 109 and 111 in the sheet and, almost certainly, also on Nos. 25, 37, 49 and 61 in the sheet, since I have other blocks from the left of the sheet showing 1a at left which are *not* from the first positions noted.

One position from the *left* of the sheet shows a *constant* "secondary" flaw, viz., a white flaw inside the top right portion of the upper of the two scrolls at the lower left of the stamp.

The best way to show the Plate 3 Die 1a's is in multiples with Die 1b (i.e., the third and last state of the die).

It seems likely that somewhere there repose complete sheets, or at any rate blocks, which might enable us to position *all* the Die 1a varieties. If any reader locates such material I shall be delighted to hear from him.

B. *Constant "Secondary" Varieties*

(No variety is noted of which two or more copies have not been seen)

(i) *Plates 1, 2 (July, 1901, to April, 1904)*

Date of Issue: The *exact* date of issue does not appear to have been chronicled (it was certainly some time in July, 1901; my earliest dated copy is postmarked 13th July, 1901).

(a) *Retouches*

(i) Shows an abnormal frame, with much of the coloured shading – which is normally present at its right – missing, opposite "POSTAGE" and also on top of and below that word respectively. A glass reveals this variety, which is from the *left* of the sheet, as a skilfully executed repair.

(ii) and (iii). This is an interesting case because, although we are dealing with *two* stamps, both varieties are a result of the *one* repair, affecting the right side of the left-hand stamp (I have them both in a pair), and the left side of the right-hand stamp.

(ii) *left* stamp in pair: Shows the letters "STAG" at right rather deformed and *thicker* than usual; the two short coloured lines which are normally across the white to the N.E. of the "P" of the right-hand "POSTAGE" are now *one* solid blob of colour; the right frame is swollen outwards at lower right corner; the lower two horizontal lines to the south-east of the "E" of the right-hand "POSTAGE" do not appear, but there is extra colour in that part.

(iii) *right* stamp in pair: Here the main feature is the top of the two scrolls at lower left. The coloured spike at its top is much thicker than normal and the area to the S.W. appears to have been re-drawn; the "POSTAGE" at left is rather *thicker* than normal and there is a small white hook (at left and pointing up) at the lower end of the curved white line to the left of the same "POSTAGE." This stamp also shows a small dent in the outer left frame, just below the top left corner.

(iv) Shows the coloured outline of the top scroll at top right thicker than normal and solid colour to right of this scroll. The scroll in question also shows a "nick" at left middle and thickened lower right ornament in N.E. corner.

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(v) Another variety showing a thickening of the same scroll and also the same ornament as in (iv) but not the other features noted.

(b) Flaws

(vi) Shows a white flaw between the legs of the "A" of "VICTORIA." Is No. 1 (top left-hand corner stamp) in one sheet.

(vii) Shows a marked break in the left side of the triangle over the left end of the "V." Is No. 2 in the same sheet as (vi).

(viii) Shows a marked break in the outer left frame opposite the "A" of "POSTAGE." The break has a coloured spot in the middle. This is No. 109 (lower left-hand corner stamp) in the sheets from Plate 1.

(ix) Shows breaks in the base frame under the right of the "N" and under and just to the left of the "E" in S.E. corner respectively. This is No. 112 in the Plate 1 sheets.

(x) Shows breaks in the lower left and base of the "G" in the left-hand "POSTAGE." This is No. 113 in the Plate 1 sheets.

(xi) Shows a white diagonal cut in the shading, forming a lower outline, so to speak, for the right portion of the base of the neck. This is No. 114 in the Plate 1 sheets.

(xii) Shows a break in the base frame under the "W." Is from the *top* of the sheet.

(xiii) Shows a break in the base frame under the "TW."

(xiv) Shows the base shaved for about 2 mm. from its south-west corner. Is from the *base* of the sheet.

(xv) Shows a flawed area in the shading to the right of the left frame, to left of lower scroll of the two scrolls at top left. Is from the *left* side of the sheet.

(xvi) Shows a small dent in the left frame, opposite the middle of the lower left ornament at top left. Is from the *right* of the sheet.

(xvii) Shows two nicks in the outer left frame, to the left of the top of the "G" and "E" of "POSTAGE" respectively.

(xviii) Shows a shallow dent in the right frame, opposite the "PO."

(xix) This is an interesting flaw. It shows a strong, nearly vertical, white scratch running down the shading at top from under the "V" as far as the eye. Is from the *right* of the sheet. I have found two copies, *both* in a 1901 printing. It is at least curious that I have not, in the quantities examined, found it in the later printings. It seems therefore possible that this damage was corrected by retouching, although to date I have not discovered such a retouch.

(ii) Plates 3, 4 (April, 1904, to January, 1908)

(These flaws may, of course, be met with on *both* papers, V over Crown and Crown over A)

My earliest date for a stamp which is unquestionably from the new plates is 22nd April, 1904. This, I think, would have been very close to the actual date of issue, since amongst the Records of Stamp Manufacture (they extend from 1886 to May, 1904) extracted by me at the Victorian Government Printing Office; there is a reference to "one steel punch" being issued from the Strong Room on 4/3/1904 and returned there on 21/4/1904.

Such an entry (taking all similar entries into consideration) invariably meant the issue of the die for the purpose of stamping new moulds whereon to grow

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new electros. This is the last entry for the 2d. value that I have. Previous entries (and see "shades" later) show that "240 electros" (i.e., two plates) were invariably issued for each printing of the 2d. "POSTAGE."

I have encountered *no* instances of marked retouching in these printings, although there seems to be one case of a minor nature (see [vii] below). The flaws are described roughly in the order of their prominence or otherwise:

(i) Shows a diagonal white flaw inside the "C" of "PEN~~CE~~," making it look rather like a tilted "E."

(ii) Shows (a) the "P" and "O" of the right-hand "POSTAGE" shortened (doubtless by a cut or scratch) at top; (b) a vertical line through colour in S.W. corner. Is from the *base* of the sheet.

(iii) Shows a marked break in the lower left portion of the "O" in the right-hand "POSTAGE," making that letter appear like an inverted "G." Is from the *right* of the sheet.

(iv) Shows a white spot to the left of the middle of the "T" of "TWO."

(v) Shows a circular white flaw in the left-hand border shading, opposite the middle of the head of the top of the two scrolls at lower left. Is from the *right* of the sheet.

(vi) Shows a white excrescence (jutting out to the left) on the curved white line to the left of the left-hand "POSTAGE," opposite the "A."

(vii) Shows a break in the shading (and a coloured flaw at its S.W.) between the chignon and the "T" of the right-hand "POSTAGE."

(viii) Shows a flaw in the back of the hair, opposite the "S" of the right-hand "POSTAGE."

(ix) Shows a break in the curved coloured line under the right of the "N" of "PEN~~CE~~" and another and larger break in the top side of the triangle under the middle of the "C" of "PEN~~CE~~." Is from the *left* of the sheet of Plate 5 and appears, faintly, to show the 1a characteristics.

(x) Shows a break in the curved coloured line (at middle right) of the top half of the top of the two scrolls at lower left.

(xi) Shows breaks in the thin inner coloured curved line at right opposite the left end of the "S" and over the left half of the "T" of "POSTAGE" respectively. Is from the *left* of the sheet.

(xii) Shows a vertical flaw down the inside of the right frame-line, to N.E. of the "P" of "POSTAGE." Is from the *right* of the sheet.

(xiii) Shows a small break in the curved coloured line to the left of the "A" in the left-hand "POSTAGE." Is from the *base* of the sheet.

(xiv) Shows the right half of the top of the "T" in the right-hand "POSTAGE" rather malformed.

(xv) Shows a horizontal white patch on edge of shading to S.W. of "E" of right-hand "POSTAGE."

(iii) Plates 5, 6 (January, 1908, to December, 1912)

Here the earliest date that I have for stamps unmistakably printed from these plates is 29th January, 1908, although I expect slightly earlier dates to turn up. In these printings I have been able to find relatively *few* constant flaws, although those found (and the shades of the printings on which they occur) are sufficient to prove the use of Plates 5 and 6 throughout the above period.

These plates have, unlike their predecessors, *marginal lines all around*.

One apparently curious feature to be noted is that the two sheets are numbered

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3 and 4 respectively, i.e., there are *three* small white dots in the top margin over No. 11 in the *one*, and *four* small white dots in the top margin over No. 11 in the *other*. The dots in both sets of 1d. plates, for which there *were* dots, were *larger*, but similar *small* dots (*one* and *two* in number respectively) are found, in the left marginal line near its top, in the little $\frac{1}{2}$ d. green, for the plates introduced late in 1909. Beyond making these comments, I can advance no particular reason for using the numbers 3 and 4 rather than *other* numbers.

The *constant* flaws met are as follows:

(i) Shows a diagonal hair-line in the shading over the head, jutting out to the right from the head (under the middle of the "C") and going as far as the level of the middle of the "T."

(ii) Shows a dent in the frame-line, opposite the middle of the top of the two scrolls at lower left. This is No. 105 in the sheet from the plate numbered with *four* dots.

(iii) Shows a dent in base frame, just in from S.E. corner, to the immediate S.W. of S.E. "E." Is from the *right* of the sheet from the plate with *four* dots.

(iv) Shows a small white flaw in the shading to the immediate left of the "E" of the right-hand "POSTAGE." Is No. 107 in the same sheet as (ii) above.

(v) Shows a short, almost vertical hair-line in the shading over the "T" of "TWO," also a fine (and longer) vertical hair-line through the cheek to the left of the ear. Is No. 72 in the sheet numbered with *three* dots.

(vi) *Later flaws:* When these plates were cleaned preparatory to the printing in late 1910, the bulk of which was perforated $11\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, there is little doubt that the abrasive used resulted in considerable *general* wear to the plate as well as in creating a number of "worn patch" flaws, on various positions in the sheet, which appear in the 1d. on 2d. "Provisional" and the subsequent printings. No good purpose could be served by detailing these "worn patch" flaws but, to give two examples, we find the following two varieties on Plate 6 (*four* dots) sheets, viz., a worn patch in the shading over the "TWO" on No. 9, and another inside the base of the right of the neck on No. 97.

(To be continued)

REVIEW

Catalogue of the Stamps of the Dependencies of New Zealand, 1952. 8 pp. $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ in. Published by Verne, Collins & Co. Ltd., T. & G. Buildings, Hereford St., Christchurch, N.Z. Price 15s. (N.Z.),

This booklet is designated a catalogue, and it merits that title in that an attempt is made to assess the market value of the stamps listed, but it almost deserves to be called a handbook, as all that would be found in such a work, except certain classes of minor varieties, are to be found here.

The book covers the issues of the Cook Islands, Aitutaki, Niue, Penrhyn Island, Samoa, Tokelau Islands and the Shackleton

and Scott Antarctic Expeditions, listing the stamps and giving statistical information on them, and also supplying information on postal history and cancellations. The latter information is also given for Fanning Island, Washington Island, Hull Island, Pitcairn Island and other islands in the orbit of New Zealand.

Any work that Ray Collins tackles can be taken as authoritative, especially when, as in this instance, he has the assistance and co-operation of the Stamps Division of the Zealand Post and Telegraph Department. We therefore have no hesitation in recommending this book to all collectors of Pacific islands stamps.

RE-ENTRIES OF MODERN FIJI AS EVIDENCE

Their Bearing on the Master Plate/Working Plate Hypothesis

By A. R. TIPPETT

For the purpose of this article the field of research before us covers the modern issues of the British Crown Colony of Fiji. The subject is made relevant, firstly because what applies to Fiji may well apply to other colonies whose stamps are printed by the same firms, and also because of the increasing number of overseas writers who compile notes or write studies on the varieties of George VI Fiji. Most of these articles have concerned the numerous plate scratches and colour flaws which have appeared and disappeared throughout the reign. They are usually written up as "plate deterioration" and "plate retouching," and to a certain extent this is so. The fact that one overseas writer has now begun speaking of "states of the plate" shows that sufficient material is being accumulated to bring home the truth that the matter is far more complex than the above simple explanation would allow. This is only part of the evidence. There are other facts that do not fit. A recent article of mine in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* brought some correspondence — enough to show that there is some interest in the subject in England. This was not simply because of the subject it purported to discuss — Waterlow Setting Marks — but because it showed that there still remains much to be discovered concerning the technique of plate production. Some time before this I wrote an article for the *Australian Stamp Monthly* regarding the 2d. U.P.U., showing that two completely different plates existed, both with the number "1," and that these were found to be left and right panes.

This represents but a fragment of a great mass of evidence that has been collected over the last 10 or 11 years. This evidence concerns marginal devices, some there for all to see and some revealed only by faulty guillotining, plate colour flaws, hairlines, retouches, weak entries and re-entries. The evidence all points in a general direction. It is cumulative and it is immense. It is my intention now to take but one strand of that evidence for our present examination — viz., re-entries and fresh entries.

Prior to the investigation I must state certain basic facts. I myself started at the other end. I accumulated evidence and studied it to see where it pointed. After sifting the evidence and consulting a good many authorities on printing and philately, the explanation is, to a certain point at any rate, quite clear. I am asking the reader to make that finding his starting point.

The basic assumption is that *both* "Master" and "Working" Plates are in use. I am not speaking of the die, or transfer roller. I mean a Master Plate of 60 impressions and a Working Plate of the same number. The cumulative evidence indicates that there are plates, clearly different, but bearing the same number, and obviously coming from a *common* origin — a common plate origin. For example: the first Waterlow 1d. frame plate (un-numbered, but differentiated from the

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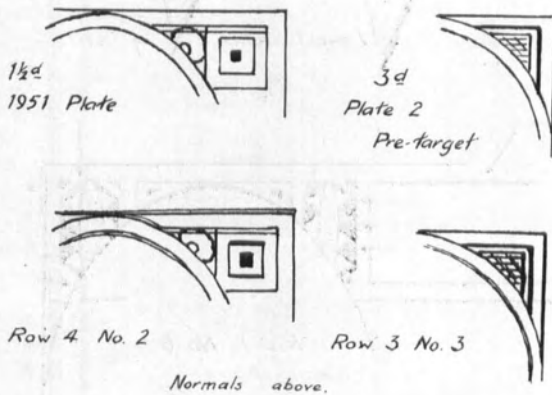
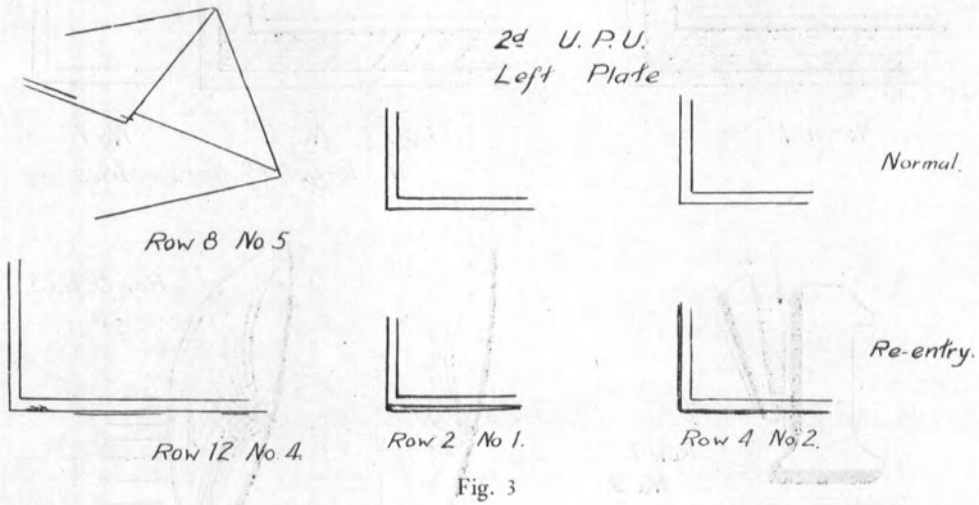
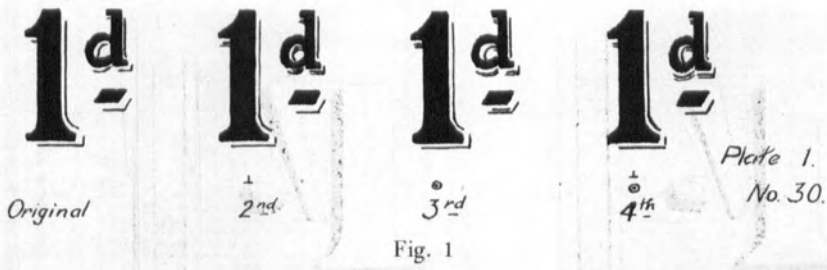
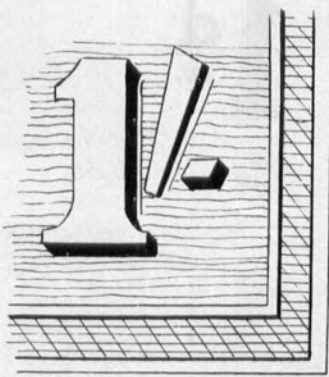


Fig. 2

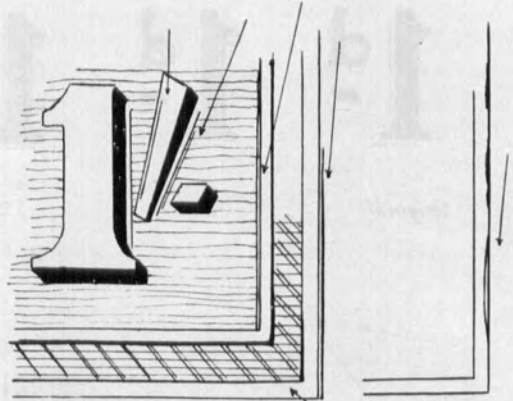
3^d Canoe
Plate 2
Pre-target



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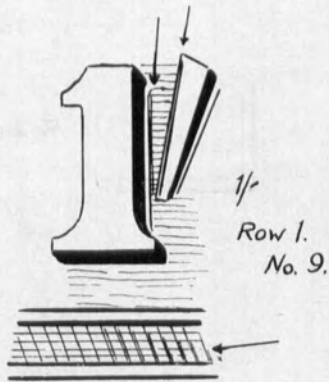


Normal.



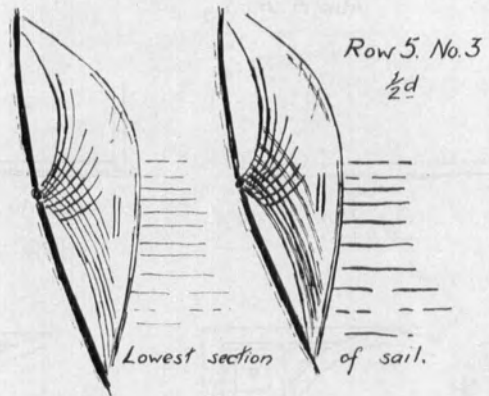
Row 1 No 6 No 7
1/ Target Plate Re-entries

Fig. 6



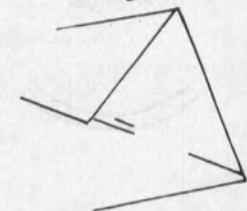
1/
Row 1.
No. 9.

Fig. 7



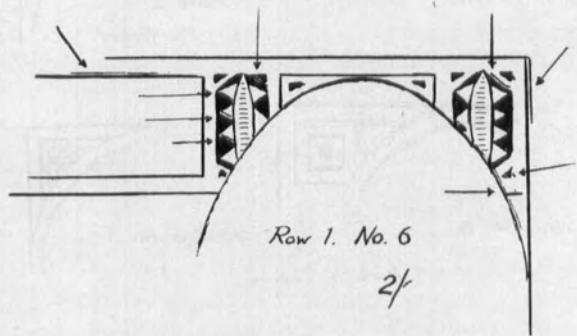
Lowest section of sail.

Fig. 8



2d U.P.U.
Right Plate
Row 2. No. 5.

Fig. 4



Row 1. No. 6
2/

Fig. 9

RE-ENTRIES OF MODERN FIJI AS EVIDENCE

one in use at present by the existence of the plate number "2" on the latter) has certain common microscopic evidence that appeared on the day of issue and continued throughout until Plate 2 appeared, when it disappeared. Yet of that earlier plate we know *four* completely different forms. These may be most simply differentiated at a glance in the following way. The margins of the first are clear. The second has a setting mark over No. 10, the third has targets but no setting mark, and the fourth has both devices. There may well have been others, but these four at least have been isolated and the stamps from them were used in the Colony. This marginal evidence is supported by that of the plate varieties. In the *G.S.M.* article mentioned above some microscopic evidence was illustrated which proves a *common* origin of these four forms. This evidence of different forms from a common origin can only be explained by the existence of Master and Working Plates, and from this point on I shall use the symbols M.P. and W.P. For the Master Plates I shall use numerals and for the Working Plates letters. (Therefore, if I refer to a stamp as 1c, R.2, No. 5, this means the fifth stamp of the second row on a sheet printed from the third W.P., taken from the first M.P.). I shall retain the use of this system in any further notes I compile, for it is quite impossible for the student of George VI Fiji to grasp the importance of the varieties he studies without some such system of classification. I could show the reader, for instance, the complexity of the green and brown map stamps which all spring from a common die origin; but up to date I have isolated 13 different W.P. combinations — and most of these can be plated.

Now I am fully aware that some who read this article will have questions to ask about the methods of plate production. It is not primarily the purpose of this article to discuss the "how" of the matter, but rather to show how the evidence points to the fact. I am, of course, greatly interested in the "how," but from purely direct philatelic study it is difficult to discover this. Security printers must safeguard their secrets, not only from forgers but also from rivals. With this qualification I offer the reader some possibilities of the "how" for what they may be worth, but would point out at the same time that evidence is evidence, and the M.P./W.P. evidence stands, whatever may be its explanation.

The M.P./W.P. hypothesis, as far as I can see, offers three possible explanations, and we must remember that it must be a process that will stand modern rotary recess-printing production.

- (i) The use of a large transfer roller plate — 60 impressions.
- (ii) The taking of moulds from a steel master and growing of electrotypic shells on them, eventually to be nickel or chromium-plated and made into printing plates.
- (iii) The rolling in of a copper plate which is chromium-plated. When the plate wears, or the chromium chips or flakes off, the whole of it is removed and the original copper plate re-plated.*

* There is some evidence which suggests that in certain instances, doubtless to prevent cracking in the chrome and any consequent damage to the Master, the "Master" is de-chromed after a printing, regardless of the then condition of the chrome. — J.R.W.P.

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In the first case the M.P. would be the transfer roller plate, a positive like the stamps, and the W.P. would be the new plates rolled from this. This would be a variation of the Perkins process in all probability, but whether the required evenness could be obtained with such a large transfer roller is a matter on which I am not able to speak. A theory was put up recently, with some evidence, in a completely different connection, for the use of a transfer roller of a row of 6 impressions, and though this was for surface and not recess-printing, it concerned steel plates. However I do not favour this possibility – I merely state it.

In (ii) above the M.P. would be the (presumably) steel original plate laid down from the transfer roller, and the W.P.'s used for the actual printing would be the "plated" electrotype plates. This has the advantage of being a well-known and well-used method, with a long tradition of experiment behind it, and one in use today.

In the case of (iii) the M.P. is its copper core, which throughout its history is plated, wears, cleaned, plated again, etc. Thus each time it is re-plated it becomes an entirely *new* printing plate, with its own peculiarities, yet retaining the characteristics of the copper core. The copper core is the M.P., and the chromium-plated product is the W.P. The number of W.P.'s will depend on the number of times it is re-plated.

In the case of Fiji we are concerned mainly with the workmanship of two firms – Waterlow and De La Rue. Both have admitted the use of copper plates somewhere in the process. The later firm prints its modern Fiji pictorials from chromium-plated copper plates at present, but this is not to say they have done so throughout the whole reign – especially during the war period. We do not blame them for not disclosing the short cuts they took at that time to enable them deliver the goods, but I must point out that that particular period had its own peculiar variety characteristics – among them the weak entry, which was *common* then but which is not common today. These bear remarkable similarity to certain contemporary Australian weak entries that are known to be printed from nickel-plated copper electrotypes taken from engraved M.P.'s – a method introduced into Australian recess-printing for stamps during the time of the De La Rue-trained John Ash.

Coming now to our direct study of the re-entries themselves, it should be pointed out that mostly these appear in the Waterlow stamps. I have only found *one* prominent re-entry in the De La Rue values, but this is a very good one. It is on a 1½d. Die 2 – 1c, R.4, No. 2. It is most clearly picked up from the top frame doubling at the right corner. There is also doubling on part of the oval frame, the top right corner ornamentation, the lines round the value and the sea lines in the lower right corner. One does not even need the glass to pick up the top frame doubling.

All the other examples we will consider are Waterlow stamps. Indeed I should say it is a characteristic peculiar to the stamps of this firm. One does not find hairlines, weak entries and many prominent colour flaws in Waterlow stamps – but one does find two other types of flaw, the setting mark and the re-entry. This firm has now the use of the Stalins-Igdedi process, which was developed in

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France between the two world wars, and which they acquired towards the end of that period. Whether or not they are using this process with the stamps of Fiji is a matter of conjecture, but the large number of re-entries strongly suggests that it is so. I understand that the peculiarity of this process is the direct application of the roller to the cylinder.* This obviates the distortion caused by having to bend a flat plate for rotary-printing, but at the same time must, I think, greatly increase the probability of a doubling in the design during the process of rolling-in. This evidence is quite apart from the M.P./W.P. evidence, though it has its bearing on this also.

The existence of the 1d. Plates 1a, 1b, 1c and 1d has already been mentioned, and the reader is now asked to examine the rough sketches accompanying this article. Observe the doubling round the 1d. value (Fig. 1). This sketch sets the points for comparison side by side. In the original form the stamp was flawless — however with the appearance of the second W.P., identified by the setting mark in the margin, it is observed that the stamp has been re-entered. With the third and fourth we find that the re-entry persists — BUT, though these are obviously the same re-entry, there are also certain evident differences, and these differences are quite constant in their respective W.P.'s. All this suggests that there was damage to the cylinder against No. 30 (i.e., R.3, No. 10). This unit then was buffed and re-entered — on the Master. It must have been thus as it continued to appear in subsequent W.P.'s. The difference in the various W.P.'s could be accounted for by different jobs of chromium-plating. This point is of course not certain proof, but it is strong evidence. For the similarities observe the points of doubling against the "1" and "d." For the points of variation, note the doubling in 1c (target plate) underneath the rhomb below the "d," and contrast the extent of the doubling under "d" in 1b and 1d.

This highly interesting stamp is worthy of study and the 1d being a much-used value, the variety is not really rare. In passing, let me add that it shows how such a variety may appear *during* the use of a plate. New Zealand collectors, for example, have the same phenomenon in Plate 2 of the 5d. Swordfish. The same applies also to the 1½d. Die 2, 1c, R.4, No. 2, the De La Rue stamp mentioned above (Fig. 2). This plate 1c is most quickly identified as that used with the perforation 12. The previous W.P. was so badly knocked about that every stamp on the sheet had its peculiarity before the plate was discarded. Some of these flaws must have been deep, because although the plating had been removed and the core re-plated, a few are still evident in a reduced form. Observe for instance, the colour flaw in the centre of the top frame ornamentation of the stamp first in the imprint pair (1c, R.10, No. 3), and compare this with 1b, R.10, No. 3. This proves a common plate origin for 1b and 1c, which the reader may distinguish quickly either by shade or perforation of the stamps, the re-entry having appeared in the interim. (*Note:* Since writing the above Mr Tippett has located quite a number of other re-entries in this value. — ED.).

* This process has been used in recent years for the recess-printed stamps of Switzerland and also for many of the recent recess-printed Germans. — J.R.W.P.

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That different plates may exist with the same plate number I established in my *A.S.M.* article mentioned above in connection with the Waterlow 2d. U.P.U. of Fiji. This finding was based partly on flaw study and partly on marginal evidence exposed by faulty use of the guillotine. By flaws and re-entries I have isolated the plates as two, and by these marginal marks have discovered which is left and which is right. The left plate shows three clearly different frame re-entries in the lower left corner and one envelope re-entry (Fig. 3). These are peculiar and constant to the left plate or pane. The right pane is fairly clear, but in my rough drawing a very faint and small envelope re-entry may be seen (Fig. 4). This is the *only* re-entry on the right pane, and I have never found it anywhere but in the right pane nor a right pane without it. Though microscopic, it represents a unit in the chain of evidence.

Somewhat different is the case of the 3d. Waterlow Canoe re-entries from Plate 2a (pre-target plate), (Fig. 5). In re-entries R.4, No. 2 and R.3, No. 3, we have items which disappeared in subsequent working plates, of which we know at least two to exist, although there is evidence that these two are two panes of a double plate. Just where this evidence leads us is not quite clear at present. R.4, No. 2 could have been retouched without danger to the design, as it represented a protruding part of the oval in the form of an arc against the white background, but R.3, No. 3 cannot be explained away in this manner. As a re-entry it was not nearly as prominent, although with the aid of a strong glass there was plenty of doubling to be seen. To the naked eye it looked more like a thickening of line, and the doubling was so close that it could not have been retouched without leaving evidence of the fact. The simplest explanation is that the M.P. was buffed and re-entered as far as that stamp was concerned, this being well done and leaving no trace. Furthermore the marginal evidence is against the likelihood of simple retouching. There is a new W.P.

One of the best re-entries of the whole series is found in the 1s. value, R.1, No. 6 (Fig. 6). It has much doubling in the lower right section of the stamp, and is found in the ornamentation, framelines, cross-hatching and the stroke after the value. This too I have tried to illustrate. Used accumulations of shilling material are not as common as those of the penny and I have not found enough to work out fully the history of the 1s. re-entries, nor have I early unused material from this part of the sheet. It is essential that we establish when that re-entry first appeared. Full sheets, large strips, and dated postally or fiscally used copies would help. By paper and gum study I should say it existed as far back as 1944. Perhaps some reader can take me back further.

Beside No. 6 is No. 7, with a slight doubling to the right outside frame and in R.2, No. 5 there is slight doubling to the cross-hatching, similar but less extensive to that in R.1, No. 6. What I have said of No. 6 applies to these also.

There is also another nice re-entry in the Waterlow 1s., somewhat similar to R.1, No. 6. The sides of the triangle of shading between the "1" and the crossbar of "1/-" are doubled and also some cross-hatching along the base to the right. This is R.1, No. 9 (Fig. 7). As with the other 1s. re-entries I picked it up in the current target plate (1b) which appeared here about 1949, but as this stamp falls

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in the corner block and/or pair, we are more fortunate in having preserved the material for study. The un-numbered sheets of 1944 show it, and likewise an early block which I acquired in 1941 as an original printing. From its paper, gum and manner of numbering I believe this to be from the original printing – which would mean that this re-entry is both 1a, R.1, No. 9 and 1b, R.1, No. 9. This similarity of these 1s. re-entries leads me to suspect they *all* go back to the start. The top row of the 1s. sheet – Nos. 6-10 – is thus a piece worthy of any collection, with three re-entries and a sheet number.

Actually the re-entries in the 1s. Waterlow are 13 in all, and though some are very slight there is a similarity which may be taken as characteristic. Paper study supports the impression that they are all “primary” varieties. About five or six I have traced back into the pre-target plate.

Another primary re-entry is met in the De La Rue $\frac{1}{2}$ d. R.5, No. 3 which has been described hitherto as a “heavy impression.” An ordinary glass leads one to suspect that that is all it is, but a microscope reveals a definite doubling, and this may be detected in the shading on the lowest section of the sail of the canoe (Fig. 8), which qualifies for inclusion in this study. It is primary and has existed throughout.

There are a couple of re-entries in the 2s. value, one of which I have illustrated (Fig. 9). Again from paper study this may be traced back to the pre-target plate, and is supported by the study of the sheet numbering.

The fact that these varieties occur in both plates (with and without targets) is strong evidence in favour of the Master Plate/Working Plate hypothesis.

THE COOK ISLANDS

By The Pacific Islands Circle of the Sydney Philatelic Club

(Continued from page 63)

CHAPTER II

THE FIRST ISSUE

It has been noted in the previous chapter that, in October, 1891, the British Resident (Mr Frederick Moss) was planning to set up an independent postal service in the Cook Islands. Accordingly, on 27 January, 1892, he wrote to the Colonial Secretary, Wellington, N.Z., informing him that a Post Office had been established at Rarotonga, and asking him (1) if the New Zealand Government would be willing to allow supplies of stamps to be printed at the Government Printing Office for use in the Islands, and (2) if the stamps would be recognised by the New Zealand Post Office.

Both requests were readily acceded to and it was suggested that communications should be opened up with other countries to find out if the proposed stamps

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would be accepted for the prepayment of correspondence to their respective destinations. Moss, acting on this suggestion, wrote on 12 February, 1892, to the Postal Administrations of India, Germany, and the United States respectively, asking for their co-operation. All three Administrations sent satisfactory replies. Thus, from the first, the stamps were available not only for local use but also, to a great extent, for international correspondence.

It was decided to order from the New Zealand Government Printing Office four postage stamps, of the denominations of 1d., 1½d., 2½d. and 10d. respectively, and one Post Card, of the denomination of 1d. The stamps and Post Card were in a uniform design, which, according to Collins, was the joint work of Moss and a member of the staff of the Printing Office, Mr Rogers.



The Design

As will be seen from the annexed illustration, the design was adapted from the impressed "Frank" stamp of the Printing and Stationery Department of New Zealand. It is, however, considerably larger than the original "Frank." Briefly, it consists of a single-lined outer frame enclosing a Greek Border with an ornamental fringed pattern within. In the enclosed centre appears, at the top, the words "POSTAGE" and "COOK ISLANDS" with a line between them, and, at the bottom, the words "FEDERATION" and the value, also with a line between them. The central space is occupied by an arrangement of seven eight-pointed stars, or asterisks, disposed 2 : 3 : 2, the centre asterisk being larger than the others and of slightly different design. This portion of the design was taken from the seal of the Cook Islands Administration and the asterisks represent the seven inhabited islands of the Group.

On this seal the seven stars were of equal size, and it would seem that the larger central star on the stamp was meant to emphasise the pre-eminence of the island of Rarotonga, which caused much heart burning among the chiefs of the other islands at the time of their appearance.

Manufacture

The stamps consist of four denominations, ONE PENNY (black), 1½ PENCE (mauve), 2½ PENCE (blue) and TEN PENCE (carmine). All values were printed in sheets of 60, ten horizontal rows of six, with no marginal markings.

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From a study of the flaws and other marks on the stamps we can deduce the method of their manufacture.

Every stamp, for instance, shows two wide breaks in the bottom outer frame line (as well as other less prominent features), from which it is evident that the design was first set up in type, including the central ornaments and ornamental border but omitting the words and figures of value. From this a matrix was taken and four subsidiary dies cast therefrom, into which the values were inserted in type. There was, therefore, one subsidiary die for each denomination and, from each of these, six impressions were taken and arranged in two horizontal lines of three. To form the printing plate these groups were each reproduced ten times, and disposed as under:

1	2	3	1	2	3
4	5	6	4	5	6
1	2	3	1	2	3
4	5	6	4	5	6
1	2	3	1	2	3
4	5	6	4	5	6
1	2	3	1	2	3
4	5	6	4	5	6
1	2	3	1	2	3
4	5	6	4	5	6

It is difficult, with this method of production, to attain absolute uniformity in the impressions taken from the subsidiary dies. In fact, it has been possible to identify the six impressions of each denomination, with the exception of the 1½ PENCE value (in which two impressions do not appear to have any constant identifiable features). These primary flaws, each of which appears ten times on every sheet, can be plated as follows:

ONE PENNY (black)

TYPE I – The left extremity of the line under “POSTAGE” is broken and has a slanted appearance.

TYPE II – There is a nick out of the centre of the top arm of “T” in “POSTAGE.”

TYPE III – There is a small nick in the first “O” of “COOK” about the inner lower left curve, also there is a minute white spot on the second horizontal bar of the Greek border, below the second “N” of “PENNY.”

TYPE IV – There is a nick in the top of the second horizontal bar of the Greek border below the “E” of “ONE.”

TYPE V – There is a nick in the lower side of the top bar of the Greek border above the “S” of “POSTAGE.”

TYPE VI – There is a nick in the lower side of the bottom horizontal bar of the Greek border directly below the down stroke of the “Y” of “PENNY.”

Note: In many cases there is a tendency for the nicks referred to to fill up on the plate with excessive ink but generally they appear on the stamps.

1½ PENCE (mauve)

TYPE I – There is a nick in the top of the line below “AT” in “FEDERATION” and a coloured flaw in the left lower Greek border.

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TYPE II—There is a small break in the inner fringe opposite the top of the "F" of "FEDERATION."

TYPE III—No satisfactory identification yet found.

TYPE IV—There is a nick in the top of the lowest horizontal bar of the Greek border under the figure "1" of the value.

TYPE V—No satisfactory identification yet found.

TYPE VI—The left outer frame line is broken away above the level of the lowest horizontal bar of the Greek border, and in some cases there is a thin line joining the left frame line to the point of the lower left corner of the Greek border.

2½ PENCE (blue)

TYPE I—There is a nick in the top of the upper horizontal bar of the Greek border over the "P" of "POSTAGE."

TYPE II—There is a broken point in the upper left star at about 10 o'clock, and there is a hairline break in the top of the left arm of the "E" of "POSTAGE."

TYPE III—There is a nick in the bottom of the upper arm of the "E" of "POSTAGE."

TYPE IV—In the third star the point at 4 o'clock is broken at its base.

TYPE V—There is generally a bulge of colour on the upper edge of the lowest horizontal bar of the Greek border in the lower left corner. The bulge occurs almost at the right extremity of the bar and varies with the inking.

TYPE VI—There is a nick in the top of the lowest horizontal bar of the Greek border above the "E" of "POSTAGE."

TEN PENCE (carmine)

TYPE I—In the fifth star about half the point at 3 o'clock is broken off.

TYPE II—There is a nick in the lower edge of the horizontal bar of the Greek border opposite the left extremity of the line below "FEDERATION."

TYPE III—There is a nick in the lower horizontal limb of the Greek border at right opposite the "S" of "ISLANDS."

TYPE IV—There is a small dot of colour in the fringed pattern to the right of the "E" of "POSTAGE." This is not entirely constant, but when not present the type can be identified by a process of elimination.

TYPE V—There is a nick in the lower edge of the horizontal line above the "CE" of "PENCE."

TYPE VI—There is a small nick at the top of the first stroke of "N" in "PENCE."

We next come to the consideration of the secondary flaws, i.e., those flaws which are constant and peculiar to only one stamp in the sheet of sixty. Poole gives a list of a number of these, which we will now recapitulate, adding our remarks in cases where the material we have examined fails to accord with his findings. We also list certain additional flaws pointed out to us by Limmer and which our material confirms, unless so stated.

ONE PENNY (black)

No. 13—The "P" of "POSTAGE" broken at foot. Greek border broken in second section from right at top.

Poole records that the "F" and "N" of "FEDERATION" are shorter than usual. It is true that these letters are generally short on this stamp, but we find that this is not constant, and

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is more pronounced on other stamps, such as Nos. 19 and 35, which Poole does not mention.

No. 20—Similar to No. 13, and also has several extra lines in the fringed border at the right, just above the "N" of "FEDERATION."

No. 33—The Greek border broken under "Y" of "PENNY."

No. 40—The Greek border broken in the second section from the right at top.

No. 44—Top of "C" of "COOK" is missing.

1½ PENCE (*mauve*)

Poole lists no less than eight stamps (Nos. 1, 8, 9, 17, 28, 43, 52 and 58) on which either the "1" of the "½" is malformed, the second "E" of "PENCE" has abnormally short limbs, the top of the "F" of "FEDERATION" is broken, or the second down stroke of the "N" of "FEDERATION" is dropped at top. Material we have examined indicates that these can be ascribed to wear of the plate during successive printings, and so cannot be regarded as constant.

No. 28—There are flaws in the outer border, opposite the final "S" of "ISLANDS."

No. 44—There is a coloured flaw in the left inner border, opposite line over value.

2½ PENCE (*blue*)

No. 3—There is a smudge of colour near the right-hand side of the central star. We have not been able to verify this from material seen.

No. 25—There is a flaw on the inside line of the Greek border at the right, opposite the last "S" of "ISLANDS."

No. 26—There is a coloured dot on the fringed border at the left near the top of the "F" of "FEDERATION."

No. 29—The second "O" of "COOK" contains a large coloured dot.

No. 54—There is a coloured dot at the right-hand end of the central row of stars. Material seen fails to confirm this flaw, so that is not constant.

No. 57—Limmer reports a coloured flaw in the outer border, bottom right side. We have no material to verify this.

TEN PENCE (*carmine*)

No. 2—The "R" of "FEDERATION" is shorter than usual.

No. 23—There is a coloured flaw on the dotted border at the base below the "T" of "TEN." Lack of material has prevented verification.

No. 30—The right-hand border is broken near the top. Again material has been lacking to confirm this.

Poole mentions the following additional varieties but is unable to allocate the positions on the sheet. We have been similarly unfortunate.

(a) The "I" of "ISLANDS" is broken in the centre and the "N" of "FEDERATION" is short. (On Type II).

(b) The Greek border is defective at the bottom of the left-hand side. (On Type VI).

(c) Similar to (b), and the fourth section of the Greek border at the base, counting from the left, is broken. (On Type II).

(*To be continued*)

QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

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

(Continued from page 67)

A few words as to the types of Numeral Obliterators used in Queensland, which can be classed under three main headings:

TYPE "R". The oldest type, consisting of numerals surrounded by a number of rays, forming an oval, with major axis horizontal. The number of rays varies considerably and each ray is divided into a number of dots or dashes. This type is identical with that contemporaneously in use in New South Wales, both before and after separation. It may well be that they were made by the same contractor in Sydney who supplied N.S.W. In the List, I have given details of the number of rays, when I have seen examples, as this may help others to identify numbers which are difficult to decipher.

TYPE "B". This we may call the "bar" type and it first came into use in 1874. It consists of a number of parallel bars, forming an oval with major axis horizontal. Mr Whitehead has been collecting the Numeral Cancellations of Queensland for many years and reference to his collection makes it clear that the early bar obliterators were formed of nine bars, the centre three being interrupted for the numerals. This type runs from 178 to 454, exceptions being 256, 419, 424, 430 and 438 which have seven bars, four interrupted. From 458 upwards the interrupted bars number four, exception being 497 which has three only. The formation of the figures varies considerably in different epochs and this is often a guide to the identification of badly struck examples. However, cases occur where this is not so. Mr Whitehead had told me that he had an example proving 892 to be the highest number — which considerably shattered my theory that the highest number was 730. On his allowing me to examine the stamp, I countered by saying that I thought it was 368 which he had read upside down. Whitehead parried that this was unlikely as all the numbers neighbouring 368 had svelte figures, whereas 368 (if it was 368) was obese. Eventually he agreed to go quietly, as we found another unmistakable 368 in his collection which displayed fashionably "curvaceous" figures.

TYPE "D". These are duplex stamps, i.e., the obliterators and date-stamp are combined and struck together. This type was only used in the big offices. It came into use later and generally reverts to the ray type, but the rays are more numerous and continuous.

The scope of this study is not meant to include the minutiae of the types of Numeral Cancellations, so I have only recorded the earliest known type supplied to each Post Office.

To summarize the results of the investigation, it would seem that about 695 Post Offices were opened in Queensland up to the time when the issue of Numeral Obliterators was stopped: and of these 308 were closed and 53 re-

QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

opened. There were 85 cases of the name being altered. Thanks to the united efforts of the several students mentioned, 239 Post Offices have been tied to their Numeral Obliterators, or roughly one third – and obviously the easiest third, as it includes the large offices with big movement. A glance at the List will reveal that the number of offices tied to their Numerals in more recent years is small compared with the early ones. In the case of the first 200 or so numerals such a comparatively large proportion have been tied that it is often possible to give a shrewd guess as to the allocations of a number of the remainder.

Previous reference has been made to the “pattern” of allocation of the Numerals. Even a brief glance makes it manifest that they were allotted in approximate order of opening. It would seem that the storekeeper forwarded the Obliterators on receipt of advice that a new Post Office had been opened, which advice was not always given immediately – thus explaining the word “approximate” above and the conditions which the List discloses.

When a Post Office is shown as using too high a number for its sequence in the List (e.g., 430 – Beaudesert – 9/2/78; 492 – Emerald – 5/6/79) it can only be presumed that the Obliterator with the lower number, which was originally issued, must have met with some mishap and been replaced – in fact the number on the replacement may give some clue to the date when the emergency happened.

Periods seem to have occurred, notably in the decade 1886-95, when it was not infrequent to re-issue to new Post Offices Obliterators which had become spare owing to the closing of the P.O. to which they had been originally given. There are again instances of this being done in 1906. In connection with this practice, the following extract from the *Monthly Notices* for Queensland for August, 1909, may be significant: “SEALS & OF CLOSED OFFICES – In future, when an office is closed, the date and other stamps, seals, letter balances, &c, are to be sent to the Comptroller of Stores instead of being kept at the nearest official office, as heretofore, All such property now held in any office should be returned to the Comptroller of Stores forthwith.”

It may well be that, in the past, the head local office had, on its own initiative, issued an old obliterator to a new office, to save the time and trouble of ordering a new one. This may well have happened too, in the case of sudden emergencies, such as a local office being burned out, etc.

While progress in filling in the blank numbers will undoubtedly be made and it is hoped that this article will stimulate interest in that direction, yet the only prospect I see of attaining completeness lies in the possibility of unearthing Lists of Allocations among the Official Archives.

No.	Auth.	Post Office	Opened	Closed	Rays	Remarks
		Leyburn	1/1/61			
		Marlborough	1/1/61			
	D	Cleveland	1/1/61			From cover seen use of 21 here is suspected
		Moggill	1/2/61	Mch./10		

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

No.	Auth.	Post Office	Opened	Closed	Rays	Remarks
21	W				34	Re-issued to ADAVALE, see 1/1/81
		Port Denison	1/4/61			Became BOWEN from about 1865 (see 63)
		Westwood	1/4/61			
		Nulalbin	1/7/61			Moved to KNEBORTH from 1/1/64 and closed at end of 1865
23	JP	Bungeworgorai	1/9/61		33	Moved to ROMA from 1/1/64
23	O					Re-issued to MURPHEY'S CREEK, see 18/5/68
24	J	Banana	1/9/61			
24	LQ					Re-issued to MIRIAM VALE, see 1/4/77
25	P	Oxley	1/10/61			
		Woogoaroo	1/10/61			Moved to GOODNA in 1865
<p><i>Note:</i> Unfortunately, the Reports covering the period 1862 to 1867 were issued irregularly and only give the names of the Post Offices opened and closed, omitting dates.</p>						
27	G	Fort Cooper	1862/4		37	Moved to NEBO on 1/1/64
	DJ					Re-issued to INGHAM, see LOWER HERBERT 1/7/71
28						
29					38	
30						
31	GP	Allora	1862/4		18	Later used 469 (MW)
32	OPW	Laidley	1862/4		18	
33	BJP	Mackay	1862/4		18	Later used 548 (W)
34		Curriwillinghi	1862/4	10/8/89		Circumstantial evidence only
35	M	Logan Reserve	1862/4		18	M states LOGAN RIVER but no such Post Office. Renamed WATERFORD, 31/3/77
36	P	St. George	1862/4		18	
37					18	
38	SW	Alice Downs (Barcoo)	1862/4		18	Renamed BLACKALL, 1/1/69
39	G	Calliope	1862/4		18	
40	GX	Burdekin	1862/4		18	Renamed DALRYMPLE, 1868
41	BDG	Yaamba	1862/4		18	
42						
43	GOW	Sandgate	1862/4		31	
44						
45						
46	ACLP	Roma				Refer to No. 23
47	BMQ	Cardwell	1862/4		18	
48					18	
49					18	
50					18	
51	J	Somerset	1862/4		18	Moved to THURSDAY ISLAND in 1878. Later used 148 (P) and 336 (P)

(To be continued)

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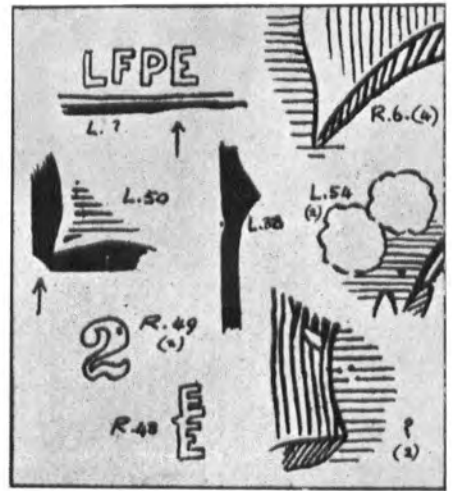
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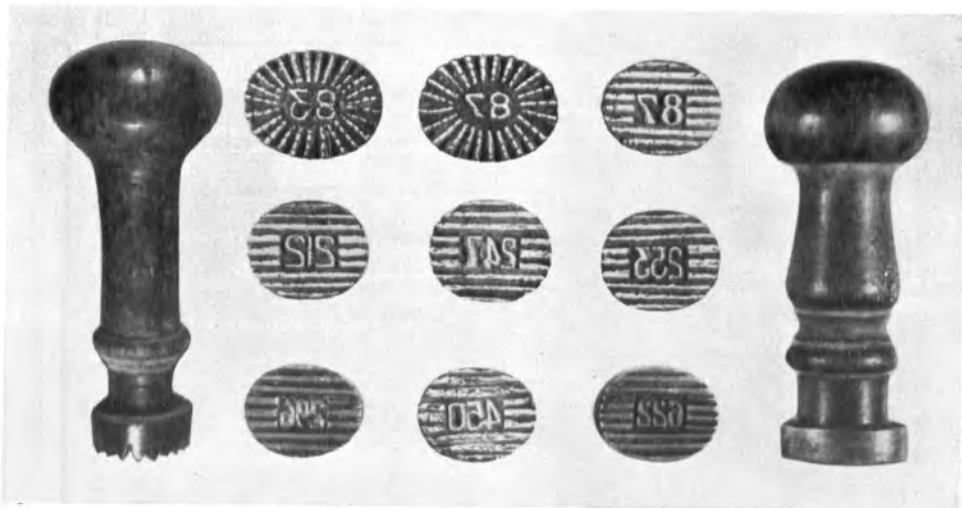
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