

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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This collection is now rapidly being broken up and specialists interested are invited to contact us without delay stating sections in which they are mainly interested.

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THE 1955 EDITION OF THE
**AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH
SPECIALISTS' CATALOGUE**

IS NOW AVAILABLE FROM ALL LEADING
STAMP DEALERS



**THE HAWTHORN PRESS
MONOGRAPHS**

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- No. 2: Christmas Island and Its Postal History
- No. 3: Queensland Numeral Cancellations
- No. 4: Victoria: 1901-12 Issue (1½d., 2d. and 2½d.)



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*Official Organ of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

VOL. VI, No. 4.

DECEMBER 1954

A GOAL WORTH ACHIEVING

One of your publishing societies, some six months back, embarked upon what, in its own way, is unquestionably the biggest project yet entered upon by a collector group in this country. Briefly, it opened an appeal for donations, in money and/or stamps, towards a Building Fund wherewith to purchase a *home of its own*. It plans to spend about £7000, but once £4500 is in hand it proposes to go ahead and purchase a suitable property. This project is no half-baked dish. It has received a great deal of concentrated thought, particularly on the business side, and we believe that ultimate success is assured. Naturally the less finance that is required on a mortgage or an overdraft basis the better and if any reader who is not a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (and to whom the appeal now comes for the first time) feels like contributing his generosity will be gratefully acknowledged, in these columns and elsewhere.

By the time this number reaches you the first and main line of approach, that to the Society and its members, will, if not entirely exhausted, have at least been well plumbed.

As this is written a total of approximately £3000 has been reached and by the date of publication (six weeks later) it should certainly have reached £3500 or more.

A wider appeal is now being made to all those people who recognise the value of the Society's work for the hobby and would like to be associated with it.

The Society has, particularly over the past fifteen years, established a reputation for solid, honest, enduring work. If the traditions established are to be maintained and the best interests of our adult collectors safeguarded what

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better method can be found than this, what better advertisement can we give our hobby?

When the continued leadership of bodies like the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the Collectors Club of New York is analysed it is apparent that a great deal of it springs from their having a *permanent address*, a fine home of their own. They are not at the beck and call of landlords, or subject to the stresses and strains of re-building operations or to the use, by persons other than members, of club property, or to many other uncertain factors. THEY HAVE SECURITY. That is what the Royal of Victoria wants, too.

The purchase of buildings in London and New York was rendered mainly possible by the munificence of certain persons who deemed the requirements of the hobby to be at least as important as the requirements of their own collecting. In particular (in both the cases cited) one recalls, with gratitude, the notable gifts of the late Mr Alfred Lichtenstein of New York.

We, of course, are after something much more modest and few of our collectors are of the financial calibre of certain of the gentlemen who did so much for London and New York. We have to date, however, met with so many unselfish and generous responses from members of the Society that we are emboldened to think, contrary to the general belief, that there *are* many people in this generation who "think big" and are prepared to look forward. The times may to some extent have sapped their pockets but not their hearts and not their energies. Seven members of the Society, for instance, have contributed £100 each and many others amounts down to £3 3s. to say nothing of very numerous contributions of worthwhile stamps which will later be disposed of in aid of the cause.

Knowing what the writer does know of all these gifts he can say – very candidly – that most of them involved sacrifices. Realising that he is more certain than ever that the goal will be reached. These members have not paused to ask "what is there in it for me?" They believe that this business is worth while and they are pleased to contribute to it.

The writer hopes that at some future stage a similar project will be launched by our friends in Sydney. If it is he will have great pleasure in working for it to the best of his ability.

J.R.W.P.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Once again we come to the end of a year, and we take the opportunity of wishing our readers the compliments of the season. We thank them, our advertisers and our contributors for their support during the year.

We would remind readers who are not members of the publishing societies that subscriptions for 1955 are now due, and should be forwarded to the Business Manager as soon as possible.

After several years of faithful and meticulous service, Mr Remington is handing over the reins as Business Manager to a younger man. The new Manager, Alec Petrie, has already shown that he will be a decided asset, and is fully capable of building on the foundations so firmly laid by his predecessors. All correspondence relating to subscriptions or advertising should be addressed to the Business Manager, at Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

The 2d. Red, King George V., Single Wmk.

An article by Mr J. M. Chapman in the September number of the *Australian Stamp Monthly* was a welcome reminder of the interest to be found in this issue and I append a few notes on matters that may be fresh to some readers. The first concerns the pane position of the "Retouched Nose" variety. Some years ago Mr George Cole showed me a booklet page which placed this variety in the third vertical column from the right edge of a pane. A block now in my possession shows that it was also in the second row from the top of the sheet. Its position therefore was stamp No. 10. The earliest dated specimen I have seen is postmarked —.5.22. In studying the history of major varieties a knowledge of adjacent minor flaws is essential, and it may prove useful to know that the stamp immediately above the "Retouched Nose" has a constant abnormality which appears as a fine white horizontal flaw between the point of the beard and the oval.

Like Mr Chapman I am not altogether happy about the statement in *The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia* that electros 13 and 14 (on one of which appeared the "Retouched Face" variety) were "prepared apparently in February, 1923, proved very unsatisfactory and were quickly replaced by others." Of the eight dated specimens of the "Retouched Face" that I have seen or possess all were postmarked in *August* or *September*, 1923, the earliest postmark being "Melbourne/ 1.8.23." The "Retouched Face" variety was No. 12 on a pane, a position established by a block on one of Mr F. Welford's sheets at ANPEX 1950.

Of the third well known variety in this issue, the "Recut 2," the earliest specimen I have seen was postmarked 28.7.22. The stamp immediately below "Recut 2" shows the upper line of the crown top prolonged to the left, and some thickening of the upper frame below this.

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I shall be happy to acknowledge on this page any dates earlier than those noted above.

Two "Cracked Electros"

Quite recently I came across two "cracked electros" in these issues. The first is on a 2d. orange, and of this I have only a single mint specimen. The crack appears as an irregular but well defined and comparatively wide flaw extending through the upper frame, at a point $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to the right of the crown top, down to the white oval above the L of "AUSTRALIA."

In the second example, on a 2d. red, the flaw passes through the upper frame at a point 2 mm. from the N.W. corner, and extends to the top of "S" of "AUSTRALIA." The stamp affected is No. 45, right pane, on a lower right sheet. Stamps at the top and bottom of this sheet show advanced signs of the wear typical of these Harrison plates, which had no protecting marginal lines. Furthermore in the area adjacent to the "cracked electro" there is clear evidence of unevenness in the printing level of the plate. The bottom portion of stamp No. 32 is so heavily inked that the lines of shading are obliterated and the letters of value partly so. On No. 38 the reverse is the case, the right frame being thin and faint. On No. 39 the left frame is heavy, and the lines of shading being thin over behind the lower half of the kangaroo and to the left of the value tablet. The crack in No. 45 was evidently the result of buckling or heavy retouching in its immediate vicinity. The general state of the plate is such that it could scarcely have been retained much longer in commission.

The important problem is of course the dating of this sheet. I am still working on this, but at the moment I should be inclined to place it early in 1922.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH:

A PROBLEM IN THE PENNY 'ROO

By O. G. INGLES

[Owen Ingles claims to be a scientist rather than an author — he is with the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation in Melbourne — but in this short article he raises a problem which will cause a few headaches for our Commonwealth specialists. We shall be delighted to hear from anyone who can suggest a solution.]

In running through a collection from the stores of correspondence of a large Tasmanian firm (a job which is still only very partly done), I have noted with interest that the 1d. 'Roo, first issued in January 1913, does not appear at all commonly on Tasmanian mail until several months after that date; and indeed from some up-country centres, Tasmanian Pictorials were not displaced until as

A PROBLEM IN THE PENNY 'ROO

late as July or August of that year. Even more interesting is the fact that, when the Pictorials were displaced late in the year, the 'Roos appearing were not those which by that time had appeared on the mainland, but were from the first issue plates. With this background therefore, I would invite the assistance of any reader in solving a problem of a most peculiar constant variety which has turned up from this collection. I should add that the strip in question has been examined by Major Dormer-Legge, who finds himself at a loss for an explanation. The explanation, however, may well prove of importance to theories of the 1d. dies if one can be suggested. The writer also finds himself at a loss to suggest one however, and therefore invites comment, and if desired could arrange for inspection.

The constant variety referred to is one not at present listed in Major Legge's Handbook, although Major Legge personally confirms it from his private collection. It consists in a red line, immediately below the "P" of "PENNY," joining the inner and outer frame lines. The line is not only constant in position but also in slope (there is a slight but distinct slope from left to right, top to bottom). From a number of single used copies, it could be shown that the stamp was undoubtedly Die 2, non-marginal in the sheet, and probably Plate D. Major Dormer-Legge confirmed from his own collection that the flaw was definitely Plate D, Die 2, and non-marginal, but was unable to assign a precise pane position. The interesting point, however, is that the writer's collection provided one single strip of three, the third stamp of which unquestionably shows the flaw described, identical in position and slope, and in which the first stamp is left marginal (thus placing the flaw in the third column) but in which *all stamps of the strip are Die 1!* (Illustrated herewith, together with typical Die 2 stamp showing the flaw.)



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Each stamp of the strip, moreover, shows *all* the characteristics of Die 1, whereas the Die 2 stamps always show all the characteristics of Die 2. The strip shows no particular tendency either to over- or under-inking. How then can this occurrence be explained? If, for instance, Plate D originally had a Die 1 plate in its place, of which this strip is a printing (as might seem a logical conjecture from most of the evidence) how could a constant flaw appear both in the original plate and the replacement plate? No theory, including the current theories, seem to fit the facts. Any suggestions, anyone?

Table of flaws

	The Die 2 stamps with plated flaw	The Die 1 strip		
		1	2	3 (flaw)
The "Die 1" break	—	x	x	x
Break under "Y"	x	x	x ²	x
Break in left frame opp. Darwin	x	x	x	x
Break in coastline of Q'land. . .	x	x	x	x ²
Break under "N" of "ONE" . . .	x	—	—	—
Break over "N" of "ONE" . . .	x	—	—	—

A CUMULATIVE INDEX OF REFERENCES TO THE STAMPS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

Compiled by W. M. HOLBEACH, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from page 75)

Erratum. On page 75 under *1d. QUEEN ELIZABETH: Green, perf. 13½ x 14.* Announcement of issue. Mar. 27 — p. 36. *Should read* Mar. 37 — p. 36.

THE AUSTRALIAN STAMP JOURNAL (Cont.)

2d. KING GEORGE VI.

Red, Die 1, perf. 13½ x 14½. Announcement of issue.

	Mar. 37 — p. 36, Apr. 37 — p. 54, May 37 — p. 69,	May 37	74
" "	First day covers, Official	Apr. 37	54
" "	Plate No. 2 upper left corner, Plate No. 4 bottom right corner.	Aug. 37	115
" "	Plate No. 1 in top left and top right corners.	May 40	74
" "	Plate No. 11.	Apr. 46	45

CUMULATIVE INDEX OF COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

„	<i>Die 2, perf. 14½ x 14.</i> Announcement of issue.	Jul. 38 – p. 99, Aug. 38 – p. 119, Sep. 38 – p. 134,	Sep. 38	137
„	„	„	Oct. 38	146
„	„	„	Jan. 39	6
„	„	„	Mar. 39	40
„	„	„	Apr. 39	54
„	„	„	Mar. 40	38
„	„	„	May 40	74
„	„	„	Nov. 40	165
„	„	„	Sep. 41	135
„	„	„	Mar. 45	28
<i>Mauve</i>	„	„	Jan. 42	5
„	„	„	Feb. 42	20
„	„	„	Jul. 42	102
„	„	„	Aug. 44	90
„	„	„	Mar. 45	28
„	„	„	Jul. 45	76
„	„	„	Apr. 45	42
„	„	„	Aug. 45	88
„	„	„	Dec. 44	139
„	„	„	Feb. 47	19
„	„	„	May 47	53
„	„	„	May 48	54
„	„	„	Feb. 49	15
„	„	„	Jan. 49	7
<i>2d. QUEEN ELIZABETH. (Side face).</i>				
<i>Green.</i>	Announcement of issue, 28th March, 1951.	Jan. 51 – p. 7,	Apr. 51	43
<i>2½d. Surcharge on 2d. KING GEORGE VI. Provisional issue.</i>				
„	Announcement of issue, 10th December.	Dec. 41 – p. 180, Dec. 41 – p. 186,	Jan. 42	5
„	„Medal” flaw.	„	May 45	28
„	Number printed, 32,366,400.	„	Feb. 48	15
<i>2½d. KING GEORGE VI.</i>				
„	Announcement of issue.	Jan. 42 – p. 5, Feb. 42 – p. 19,	Feb. 42	27
„	Booklet containing 12 stamps; half with inverted wmk.	„	Sep. 42	138
„	Flaw below “POSTAGE.”	Dec. 42 – p. 188,	Jun. 43	66
„	Booklet stamps in much paler shade.	„	Aug. 44	90
„	Colourless flaw at right, freak.	„	Apr. 45	42
„	With diagonal crease.	„	Jun. 50	65
<i>2½d. KING GEORGE VI. (Side face).</i>				
<i>Red.</i>	Announcement of issue, 12th April, 1950.	Feb. 50 – p. 19,	May 50	56
„ Mar. 50 – p. 29,, May 50 – p. 52,				

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<i>Brown.</i> Announcement of issue, 23rd May, 1951.	May 51 — p. 52,	Jun. 51 65
<i>3d. KING GEORGE VI.</i>		
<i>Blue, perf. 13½ x 14.</i> Announcement of issue.	Jun. 37 — p. 87, Jul. 37 — p. 103, Aug. 37 — p. 115,	Aug. 37 122
“ “ Early printings show “whiteness” in design.		Sep. 37 131
“ “ Now issued in sheets of 80 stamps, impressions seem to be rolled in more deeply.		Jun. 38 84
“ “ Unsurfaced paper.		Feb. 39 22
“ “ Comment on four varieties of printing issued to date.	Feb. 39 — p. 22,	Feb. 39 26
“ “ “White Wattle” variety, explanation of possible cause.		Sep. 39 138
“ “ Die 1, type 1, and Die 1, type 2, both to be found on imprint block of 16.		Apr. 46 45
“ <i>Perf. 14½ x 14. New Die</i> (large epaulettes).	Dec. 40 — p. 182,	Dec. 40 187
“ “ Describing the various Dies issued to date.		May 41 68
<i>Brown</i> “ “ Announcement of issue.	Dec. 41 — p. 180, Dec. 41 — p. 186,	Jan. 42 5
“ “ “By Authority” imprint, Sydney, March.		May 44 55
<i>3d. KING GEORGE VI. (Side face).</i>		
<i>Red.</i> Announcement of issue, 28.2.1951.	Jan. 51 — p. 7, Mar. 51 — p. 27,	Mar. 51 31
<i>3½d. surcharge on 3d. KING GEORGE VI. Provisional Issue.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Dec. 41 — p. 180, Dec. 41 — p. 186,	Jan. 42 5
Notes on the method of overprinting.		Aug. 42 115
Number printed, 2,946,080.		Feb. 48 15
<i>3½d. KING GEORGE VI.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Jan. 42 — p. 5, Apr. 42 — pp. 56 and 58,	Jun. 42 88
<i>4d. KOALA.</i>		
<i>Perf. 13½ x 14.</i> Announcement of issue.	Jan. 38 — p. 5, Feb. 38 — p. 19,	Feb. 38 27
Correction of previous misreporting of perforation.		Mar. 38 36
Block of 16. Normal at left, dense green at right.		Apr. 46 45
<i>Perf. 14½ x 14.</i> Announcement of issue.	Nov. 42 — p. 170,	Dec. 42 188
Blocks with “By Authority” imprints in the upper margins, above the stamps. Due to faulty guillotining.		Aug. 48 87
<i>5d. RAM</i>		
<i>Perf. 14 x 13½.</i> Announcement of issue.	Nov. 38 — p. 164, Dec. 38 — p. 180,	Dec. 38 186
“ “ W. C. G. McCracken imprint.		Feb. 41 22
<i>Perf. 14 x 14½.</i> Announcement of issue.	Apr. 46 — p. 39,	Apr. 46 43
<i>5½d. surcharge on 5d. Ram. Provisional Issue.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Dec. 41 — p. 180, Dec. 41 — p. 186,	Jan. 42 5
Overprint varieties noted.		Feb. 42 21
Break in “2” of “½”		Apr. 42 56
Number printed, 3,820,500.		Feb. 48 15
<i>5½d. EMU</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Mar. 42 — p. 43,	Apr. 42 56

CUMULATIVE INDEX OF COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

Absence of shading in background, etc.		Mar. 43	29
<i>6d. KOOKABURRA (small)</i>			
Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Announcements of issue.	Jun. 37 - p. 87, Aug. 37 - p. 115,	Aug. 37	122
Paler shade now on issue.		Mar. 40	38
Only one imprint on sheet.		Jun. 42	88
Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Announcement of issue.		Jul. 42	102
"By Authority" imprint issued 1st Dec. '48.		Jan. 49	7
<i>8½d. ABORIGINE.</i>			
Announcement of issue, 14.8.50.	Aug. 49 - p. 77, Jun. 50 - p. 65, Jul. 50 - p. 77,		
	Aug. 50 - p. 93,	Sep. 50	100
Hair-line variety.		Sep. 50	100
<i>9d. PLATYPUS</i>			
Perf. $14 \times 13\frac{1}{2}$. Announcement of issue.	Jul. 38 - p. 99, Sep. 38 - p. 134,	Sep. 38	137
Perf. $14 \times 14\frac{1}{2}$. Announcement of issue.	Sep. 43 - p. 104,	Oct. 43	110
<i>1s. LYRE BIRD</i>			
Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Announcement of issue.	Jun. 37 - p. 87, Aug. 37 - p. 115,	Aug. 37	122
New plates reported, alteration in size and position of imprint.	Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$.	Dec. 37	179
Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Announcement of issue.	May 41 - p. 68,	May 41	74
Plate No. 2.		Apr. 46	45
"By Authority" imprint, new make up of plates		Sep. 47	99
Perf. $14\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Now on sale in full sheets of 160. "By Authority" imprint.		Mar. 48	27
„ Blocks with "By Authority" imprints in the upper margins, above the stamps. Due to faulty guillotining.		Aug. 48	87
„ Inverted watermark.		Mar. 51	27
<i>1s.3d. BULL.</i>			
Announcement of issue, 16.2.48.	Feb. 48 - p. 15, Mar. 48 - p. 27,	Mar. 48	31
Thinner paper and deeper shade.		Sep. 49	90
<i>1s.4d. KING GEORGE VI.</i>			
Perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 14$. Announcement of issue.	Jun. 38 - p. 84, Sep. 38 - p. 134, Oct. 38 - p. 134,	Oct. 38	155
Flaw on King's check		Jun. 46	63
Rosier shade.		Jun. 46	63
<i>2s. ABORIGINAL ART.</i>			
Announcement of issue, 16.2.48.	Feb. 48 - p. 15, Mar. 48 - p. 27,	Mar. 48	31
Not generally on issue yet.		Apr. 48	43
<i>5s. QUEEN ELIZABETH</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Mar. 38 - p. 36, Apr. 38 - p. 57,	Apr. 38	58
Retouch at right		May 38	72
Two plates exist.		Jan. 39	6
Flaw on left hand "5"		Apr. 39	54
Rosier shade.		Jul. 46	74
"By Authority" imprint.	Aug. 47 - p. 91,	Sep. 47	99

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On thinner paper.		Feb. 48	15
On thin paper with white surface instead of tinted as previously.		Aug. 48	87
<i>5s. COAT OF ARMS.</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Mar. 49 – p. 28, Apr. 49 – p. 43, May 49 – p. 55,	Jun. 49	64
<i>10s. KING GEORGE VI.</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Mar. 38 – p. 36, Apr. 38 – p. 57,	Apr. 38	58
Two plates exist.		Jan. 39	6
“By Authority” imprint.		Oct. 47	111
On thinner paper, issued in Sydney in November.		Dec. 48	137
<i>10s. COAT OF ARMS.</i>			
Announcement of issue.		Aug. 49 – p. 77,	Oct. 49 100
<i>£1 KING GEORGE AND QUEEN ELIZABETH</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Oct. 38 – p. 146, Nov. 38 – p. 164,	Nov. 38	169
On thinner paper. “By Authority” imprint. Issued at Sydney G.P.O. 4.4.49.		Apr. 49	40
<i>£1 COAT OF ARMS.</i>			
Announcement of issue.		Oct. 49 – p. 100,	Dec. 49 126
<i>£2 COAT OF ARMS</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Nov. 49 – p. 114, Feb. 50 – p. 19,	Feb. 50	20
“AIR MAIL” ISSUES			
<i>3d. AIR MAIL. Green.</i>			
Announcements of issue.	Apr. 29 – p. 52, Jun. 29 – p. 89,	Jun. 29	90
May only be used for repayment of airmail fee.		Jul. 29	101
Perf. O.S.		Sep. 29	132
Numbers perforated O.S. 10,000.		Dec. 29	183
Booklet of 12 stamps.		Sep. 30	133
<i>6d AIR MAIL. Brown.</i>			
Announcements of issue.	Jun. 31 – p. 85, Nov. 31 – p. 164,	Nov. 31	170
Overprinted O.S.	Dec. 31 – p. 182,	Dec. 31	186
Details of Aeroplane pictured.		Jan. 36	4
<i>1s. 6d. AIR MAIL. Claret.</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Jul. 34 – p. 100, Dec. 34 – p. 187,	Dec. 34	180
<i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue. Alteration of position of imprint.		Nov. 37 – p. 170,	Dec. 37 179
McCracken imprint.	Jan. 42 – p. 7,	Feb. 42	20
Semi-constant flaws and indentations in paper.		Dec. 45	138
On thinner paper.		Feb. 48	15
<i>1s. 6d. AIR MAIL. New design.</i>			
Announcement of issue.	Aug. 49 – p. 77, Sep. 49 – p. 90,	Sep. 49	92
B.C.O.F. – JAPAN. OVERPRINTS.			
Preliminary rumour of possibility of issue.		Oct. 46	115
Announcement of first issue of 1d. and 3d. values 12th October. Withdrawn from issue 14th October.		Nov. 46	123

CUMULATIVE INDEX OF COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

Report that these are to be reissued.	Dec. 46	135
Articles on the issue.	Feb. 47 — p. 19,	Mar. 47 27
Values from ½d. to 5s. to be issued at all Occupation P.O.s on 8th May.	Apr. 47	38
Copy of Official notice regarding issue.	May 47	53
Announcement of issue, 8th May.	Jun. 47	68
Details of overprints, varieties, etc.	Oct. 47 — p. 111,	Nov. 47 122
Date stamps in use by British Commonwealth Occupation Forces.	Oct. 46	115
5s. varieties. No stop after "F" and no stop after "O."	Mar. 48	29
½d. New setting of overprint.	Jul. 48	75
2s. variety. Wide space between the "B" and the full stop.	Jul. 48	75
2s. variety. No stop after "O."	Sep. 48	99
5s. On thinner paper. "By Authority" imprint.	Sep. 48	99
Official list of numbers sold. Sale discontinued 12.2.49.	Apr. 49	40

THE COMMEMORATIVE ISSUES

<i>Canberra Commemorative.</i>		
Rumours of forthcoming issue.	Apr. 26	49
Article on proposed issue. Announcement of competition for designs.	Jul. 26	101
Result of competition for designs. Die being prepared by Messrs. Waterlow & Sons, London.	Oct. 26	148
Reported that printing plates will be received in Melbourne on 8th January.	Dec. 26	179

(To be Continued)

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
Philately From Australia.

Early Mail Services in Fiji

Dear Sir,

Referring to the article by Mr Tippert in the March issue, I have in my collection a letter sent from Somosomo by Messrs R. B. Lyth and J. Hunt, the first missionaries there. It does not quite tally with the article, which says that "The same vessel (*Letitia*) returned again on 15 July (1840) and this time took Messrs Lyth and Hunt, etc." The letter I have is a report from Somosomo on the missionary work there in 1840 and refers to "cannibalism during the past year," and gives the im-

pression that they had been there for some time and were gradually converting the natives, chiefly as it is put "that they may possess bodily health." The report is not dated but is marked "Duplicate" and bears a clear Hobart crowned oval strike in black date "2? OC 25, 1840" and reached England in March, 1841. When it left Fiji or how is not known but it would appear that Hunt and Lyth were in Somosomo before 15 July, 1840. The original letter may well have been sent back to England by a direct ship and this duplicate one via Hobart.

Yours, etc.,

W. ALLEN.

Woking, Surrey, England.



The Other Side of the Picture



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

FIJI

The Fournier forgery of the 1s. Queen's Head.

Readers will recollect that the "mystery" stamp referred to in the writer's work on the 1878-1902 issues was, comparatively recently, identified as a Fournier forgery.

In this connection Mr V. McFarlane, of Auckland, New Zealand, has submitted to me a most interesting item. This is a complete *imperforate* sheet of *sixteen* (4 x 4) of the forgery. Across the whole face of the sheet, in diagonal lines, are printed in capital letters the words "SIMILE - FAC" repeated many times. The paper is machine-wove, without watermark. A study of the sheet shows Fournier's method of building up the plate, viz., by the duplication of an electrotype of eight impressions (4 x 2), since Nos. 4 and 12, 5 and 13, 6 and 14 and 8 and 16 respectively show the same "primary" flaws, as follows:

- Nos. 4 and 12: Both show a break in the outer left frame near base, on a level with the middle of the "S."
- Nos. 5 and 13: Both show the same break, this time in the outer right frame, just above its middle.
- Nos. 6 and 14: Both show a white flaw in the colour in the middle of the left portion of the ornament at top left, and another white flaw inside the colour at the top right of the same ornament.
- Nos. 8 and 16: Both show a nick in the outer left frame opposite and just under the level of the top of the south-west triangular ornament.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Re-entries found in the 2d. Perkins Bacon,

Plate 1, 1855 - Aug. 1864

Some time ago the writer alluded to some of the sparsely explored fields amongst the "classic" issues of the States - the above being one of them.

He has himself garnered oddments of this nature over the years, but before describing any of them in print had to satisfy himself that each *was* a plate variety (not a "kiss" print, etc.) and therefore constant. The only way to do

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE

this was to compare material in some one else's collection with that in his own and to find two or more identical copies of each variety. Our good friend Mr Robson Lowe, who has also been searching, quite independently, for such varieties, was good enough to submit his material to the writer for examination and comparison. In the result no less than *six* different re-entry varieties have been isolated, and one interesting "weak entry" variety. These stamps were, of course, printed from a plate of 240 (12 x 20). The varieties are to be found in S.G. Nos. 2, 3, 8, 9, 15, 24a and 25, but stand out best on Nos. 2 and 3 which were easily the best printed of these stamps. The characteristics of the six varieties isolated are as follows:

1. *Three* copies seen. Shows (a) a coloured line running through the left of N.W. corner-square between top and middle, through middle of head of "P," right of "O" (above middle) and on right of right stroke of "A" (above middle); (b) extra vertical colour down right of N.W. corner square; (c) traces of a horizontal coloured line in shading under "PO:" (d) traces of doubling around "S" and "O" (outside - at S.E. and S.W. - and inside of "S") and between "U" and "T;" (e) traces of a coloured line through "T" of "TWO" (through bases of serifs), across "W" (just above middle) and on right edge of "O" (just above middle).

2. *Four* copies seen. Shows (a) a coloured line at top running through the vertical stroke of the "P" just under its head, through both sides of the "O" (just below middle), on left portion of left of "G" (just below middle) and across vertical stroke of "E" (also just below middle); (b) traces of extra horizontal line in shading under "PO" (lower than in Variety 1), this continuing through to the right of the top of "H" of "SOUTH;" (c) traces of doubling around bases of "S," "O," between bases of "U" and "T" and between bases of "T" and "H;" (d) a coloured line at *base* going through vertical stroke of "T" (below middle), right of "W" (below middle), left of "O," vertical strokes of "P," "E," right of "N," left of "C," vertical stroke of second "E" (just below middle), also a coloured line across N.W. portion of "N."

Note that in varieties 1 and 2 the original impression was too *low*.

3. *Four* copies seen. Here the re-entry marks are found only in the *base* of the stamp and in my opinion represent part of an original impression (laid down too *high*) for the stamp *below*. It shows (a) a coloured line through the top of the second "E" of "PENCE," and a spot on the vertical stroke of the same "E" (between middle and base), this letter being further obscured by colour across its lower right portion; (b) in the same area as (a), a noticeable colour patch which protrudes out into the base margin at the right end of the same "E;" (c) an extra horizontal coloured line going through the S.E. corner-square (just above middle) and also extra vertical and horizontal lines (making a "corner") right under S.E. corner. The vertical line concerned continues past the "corner" into the top of the stamp below.

4. *Two* copies seen. Is rather minor and affects *base* only. Shows (a) a coloured line going through the tops of "T," "W" and first "E" of "PENCE;" (b) the lower half of the right side of S.W. corner square obscured by colour, a blob of colour protruding out into the base margin at that point.

5. *Two* copies seen. Again, as in 3 and 4 above, it is only the *base* of the stamp which is affected. This shows (a) an extra horizontal coloured line across base of shading, immediately above letters "ENCE;" (b) extra colour in base of "N" (at S.E. corner), "C" (at S.W.); (c) a coloured line through base of vertical stroke of second "E," also traces of colour on "O" of "TWO."

6. *Two* copies seen. This stamp, as the watermark and margin on one item prove, was somewhere down the *right* of the sheet. It shows (a) a horizontal coloured line at base going

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

through the left three-quarters of the down stroke of the "T" (just above middle), the left half of the left stroke of the "W" (just above middle), left of right side of "O" (trace only), down stroke of first "E" (just above middle) and down stroke of second "E" (just above middle); an extra curved coloured line in the shading over "TWO" about $\frac{1}{4}$ mm. outside thick circle line; (c) traces of doubling along outside of forehead and nose, and at various points in the left portion of the white circle line.

Several copies have been examined of a rather interesting constant "*weak entry*" variety, possibly the result of a hard spot on the plate. This shows (a) very thin colour under "ENCE;" (b) the "OS" of "POSTAGE" bigger and whiter than normal, the top half of both these letters containing little colour; these characteristics also apply to the "ENCE."

I have also a copy from Plate 2 (bright vermilion, Aug. 1864 on) which appears to show a re-entry but more material from this plate would require to be examined before pronouncing finally on this.

Time without number in recess-printed stamps, one sees "kiss" prints erroneously described as "re-entries." These (kiss prints) are particularly common amongst the early issues of South Australia and Tasmania. In the true re-entry variety all lines (original and new) are of an equal *sharpness*, whereas in the "kiss" print the extra doubling is invariably of a *blurred*, and *not* of a sharp character.

TASMANIA

(i) *The 2d. wmk. 2 (S.G. 139). Printed twice.*

Since I wrote my note on this variety which appeared in the last number (at p. 79) I have seen *another* copy in the collection of Dr W. P. Heslop of Melbourne, and have been informed of a *third* copy in the possession of Mr F. Wright of Yarram. The "displacement" in Dr Heslop's copy appears to be very similar if not identical with that in the copy in my own possession. Mr Wright states that in *his* copy, "the fainter image is 4 mms. away from the darker image but is *higher* and to the *left*" so that his copy would appear to have come from *another* sheet.

He also suggests that the fainter image was the result of the printer printing a sheet (or sheets) without freshly inking the plate (which however would have retained *some* ink from the previous "pull") and that the impression not being sufficiently clear, the operator inked and re-printed, but did not accurately position the paper. This may well be. It is certain, in all three examples, that the *paler* image was the *first* printed, which is yet another reason for excluding any possibility of this being a mere "kiss" print.

(ii) "*Tasmanian Dies and Plates*" Article. *De La Rue Bi-colours*

I quote below a letter received by the Editor from Mr Owen G. Ingles of Mentone, Melbourne — a Tasmanian enthusiast — who writes as follows (the description "excellent" is Mr Ingles', not mine!—J.R.W.P.):

"I was most interested in Mr Purves' excellent article on the Tasmanian Stamp Dies and Plates (Vol. 6, p. 53), but I cannot allow one remark on page 57 to pass without comment. Mr Purves states, 'Since the frame plate was almost certainly of 120 impressions (in two panes of 60, 6 x 10 . . .)', when referring to the tablet issues of 1892-99; but, on the contrary, in the present writer's opinion, this is almost certainly *not* the case. On what basis, for

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instance, would Mr Purves explain the existence of two kinds of left panes? There is no doubt that two left panes exist, though one is considerably harder to come by than the other. The principal feature of difference is that one carries an upper control, whereas the other does not carry any control; but there are also quite a number of distinctive, though very minute, frame nicks, etc., which enable blocks or individual stamps from the panes to be identified. I myself, in material which I should imagine is much more limited than Mr Purves', find abundant evidence for at least 240 impressions, consisting of an upper and lower plate, which were printed as a pair, each plate having a right and left pane of sixty, 6 x 10. Why the one plate should be scarcer (though not rare) than the other nowadays is admittedly difficult to understand, but this may simply reflect a local condition, as the writer has drawn his present material largely from a limited area.

"I would also be very interested if Mr Purves could enlighten me on the strength of the evidence for 'nine TASMANIA plates' for this issue. I can't say I know anything very convincing myself, and maybe I'm overlooking something. Undoubtedly, of course, there were nine 'Tablet of Value' plates, but that is a completely different matter."

In commenting on the above, I would mention that I have *no* bi-coloured material (save some singles and blocks of four of the later Melbourne printings of the 1s. and 10s.), otherwise I would probably not have made the error which Mr Ingles has uncovered. Having met Mr Ingles and knowing his penchant for scientific study I fully accept his finding (although I have not seen his material) that *two* frame plates, each of 120, were used to print the bi-coloured stamps. As I have said I do not collect these stamps (save for the Melbourne printings) but there is little doubt that sufficient material in the $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value would be readily available for others to corroborate Mr Ingles' contention.

The description of "nine 'TASMANIA' and 'Tablet of Value' plates" (in top line of p. 57) *should* read "nine 'Tablet of Value' plates." The error was mine, almost certainly due to a temporary mental aberration in imagining that the "TASMANIA" was printed in the *same* colour as the value tablet, whereas it is, of course, part of the frame design.

VICTORIA

(i) 3d. Half-Length: Fourth printing ("Shaded Veil"):

A New "Record Date"

Included in some recent items acquired by the writer was an envelope sent from Melbourne to Adelaide franked with a single of the above stamp, effectively tied to the cover by a Melbourne "Barred Oval" 1 cancellation. The three post-marks appearing on this item are MELBOURNE 13.12.52, "SHIP LETTER" (red) 13.12.52 and G.P.O. ADELAIDE 23.12.52.

This date (13.12.52) is a new "record," antedating the previous record (19.1.53) by over a month. Such a find was to be expected sooner or later and on p. 112 of his *Half-Lengths* work the writer stated that the figures showed that the *third* printing became exhausted some time in December 1852 and, a few lines later, in referring to the issue of the fourth printing, he used the words "assuming some were issued in December 1952." Assumptions are no longer necessary. Once again, the last word is never said, in anything.

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(ii) *The Engravers of the Various Dies, 1849-1903*

I think it will be of interest to set out here, for the first time as a whole, the identity of the engravers of the various dies. Most of these names appear in the State Archives but we find there no mention of Williams, Jackson or Reading, and it is only through the unearthing — over the years — of engravers' die proofs from the families of these three gentlemen that the facts of their participation in the story have come to light. As it will be seen there *are* gaps in our knowledge and these are dealt with at the end of this note.

1. 1849-1852: *Thomas Ham*. He (with one of his assistants, E. Wilkinson) engraved the die for the 1d., 2d. and 3d. "Half Lengths." This was on steel, the impressions being side by side, in the order (looking at the plate) 1d., 3d., 2d. Ham also engraved on steel, impression by impression, the plate for the 2d. "Queen-on-Throne," of 50 impressions, 10 x 5.

2. 1853: *Perkins, Bacon & Co.* Identity of actual engraver not known, although some student of Perkins, Bacon designs by *known* engravers ought to be able to make a good guess. The design in this case was almost certainly produced from one (a 2d.) originally made for New South Wales but not used (See *Perkins Bacon Records*).

3. 1854: *Messrs. Campbell & Fergusson*. Identity of actual engraver not known. The 1s. Octagonal.

4. 1854-1857: *Samuel Calvert*. He engraved, impression by impression, the "wood-block" plates for the 6d. and 2s. and also the 1s. "Registered" (the latter being also used for the 6d. "Too Late"). He later engraved the "dies" (they were all "wood-blocks") for the 1d., 2d. and 4d. "Emblems" designs of 1857 on.

5. 1860-1867: *Frederick Grosse*. He engraved all the dies of the "Beaded Oval" design (3d., 4d., 6d.), also the *frame* die for the 6d. Black of 1862-65. He also engraved all the dies of the "Laureated" design (1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 6d., 8d., 10d., 1s., 5s.).

6. 1861: *De Gruchy and Leigh*. Identity of actual engraver unknown. 1d. "Netted Corners."

7. 1869: *De La Rue's*. 2d. of 1870 and first 2d. embossed envelope. Identity of actual engraver not recorded but Joubert was almost certainly responsible for the head of the Queen in the 2d. of 1870.

8. 1870-1876: *William Bell*. His first work was the dies for the 1d., 4d., 6d., 1s., 2s., 5s., 10s., £1 and £5 of the "Stamp Statute" series of 1871. He was also responsible for the "little ½d." (1873), 1d. (1875), 2d. (1873), 9d. (1873), 1s. (1876) and 2s. (1874 — design, however, not appearing until 1881).

9. 1876-1879: *James Turner*. He was responsible for the dies of the 3d. and 2s. 6d. values of the "Stamp Statute" series.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE

10. 1879-1897: *Arthur Williams*. He was responsible (being employed for the purpose by Messrs. Sands and McDougall) for the dies of the following values of the "Stamp Duty" series, viz., 6d., 1s. 6d., 2s., 3s., 4s., 5s., 5s., 6s., 35s., £2, 45s., £8, £10 and for certain *unissued* values of the same series, viz., 7s., 8s., 9s., 11s., 12s., 14s., 15s. (in an unissued design), 16s., 17s., 18s., 19s. Later, he engraved the *frame* die for the Postage Dues of 1890 and also the *centre* die for each value ($\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 10d., 1s., 2s., 5s.). Later again, in 1897, he was responsible for the die for the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. value.

11. 1879: *Charles Jackson*. He (likewise employed by Messrs. Sands and McDougall) engraved (in *recess*) the dies for the £25, £50 and £100 values of the "Stamp Duty" series.

12. 1880-1885: *Charles Naish*. He engraved the dies for the 2d. of 1880, the 4d. of 1881, and the 1d. of 1883, also the die for the 1d. "Stamp Duty" (second design) of July 1880. Later, in 1884, he engraved the dies for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 8d. and (larger) 2s. 6d. values of the 1885 series. For this issue certain other values were "derived" from the Naish dies. I shall have more to say about this later — i.e., the 1d. and 6d. from the 3d., the 1s. from the 2d., and the 2s. from the 8d. He also engraved the die for the 1s. 6d. value of 1886.

13. 1886-1901: *Samuel Reading*. This gentleman, of course, is well known to Commonwealth and Papua collectors as the engraver of the "Kangaroo" die (and the value "plugs") and also of the monocolour design for Papua of 1911 (and the value "plugs"). He did a lot of engraving work in connection with Victorian Stamps. First of all, as an employee of Fergusson and Mitchell, he engraved the Queen's Head centre die used for the high values of 1886-1888, also the frame dies — £5, £6, £7, £8, £9 and the unissued £10 — used for these stamps. Then he engraved the dies for the $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d. and 6d. of 1886 and the 1s. of 1887. He also, almost certainly, "lined" the Naish dies for the 2d. and 4d. of 1885 to produce the new 2d. and 4d. of 1887. Later on, as an engraver on his own account, he engraved the 1d. of 1890. Later still, in 1900, he produced the two dies for the Boer War "Charity" stamps and, in 1901, he was employed in the conversion of certain designs which did not contain the word "POSTAGE" and in which the word "POSTAGE" required insertion. Of these we *know* he produced the 1d. Die I and the $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. and he may well have been responsible for the others. His best work at this period, however, was the engraving of the dies for the £1 and £2 "POSTAGE" (King Edward design).

14. 1903-1912: *James Oliver*. He produced the zinc line-block used as a die for the 1s. "POSTAGE" (second type) of 1903. He also produced most if not all of the dies for the new (and general) type of Victorian "Duty" stamp (for values to 2s.) first issued at this time. (As is well known, he produced the various line-blocks used as dies for the Tasmanian Pictorials.) He was then an engraver in the employ of the Victorian Government Printing Office.

Unknown Engravers: Apart from the identities of the engravers under 2, 3 and 6 above, we have no information whatever about the engraving of the following, viz.:

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The 2d. "double-lined oval" of February 1879 (conversion from "single-lined oval"); the alteration in 1881 of Grosse's 5s. die to make a frame die and the production of a new inscription die for the same value; and also regarding the following values of the "Stamp Duty" series of 1879, viz., 1d. (i.e., first design), 1s., 10s., 15s., £1, 25s., 30s., and the £5, £6, £7 and £9 (i.e. first designs), also the unissued 13s.

Although we know that Mr Tannenburg of Troedel and Co., designed the 2½d. and 5d. stamps of 1891 we do not know who was the engraver, nor do we know who was the engraver of the dies for the two "Hospital" Charity stamps of 1897.

We may never know these things but it is quite possible that some day engraver's proofs for these items, too, will turn up and that their source will reveal the engravers responsible.

THE COOK ISLANDS

By the Pacific Islands Circle of the Sydney Philatelic Club

(Continued from page 87)

ERRATA. In the last issue on page 86 the heading should have read CHAPTER VI and not Chapter V. On the same page, in the penultimate line, read ½d. for 6d. On the inset Plate, the stamp at left illustrates the first setting and the two stamps at right show types A and B respectively of what is now regarded as the second setting.

CHAPTER VII

THE "MAKEA" AND "TOREA" ISSUES; PRINTINGS AND VARIETIES

In 1901 an extremely valuable article appeared in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* by Basset Hull, the latter part of which dealt with our present subject. This work is based upon copies of correspondence supplied to the author by Grey, then Secretary to the New Zealand Post Office, and also by the Government Printer. Furthermore, additional corroboration comes from copies of some official correspondence, sent to Basset Hull by a then employee in the Post Office at Rarotonga.

Shortly before his death, Basset Hull gave to our Circle all his papers relating to Cook Islands. It is upon this data, which occasionally conflicts with the printed article, that we have based our study of the early printings.

For the period not covered by Basset Hull we are largely indebted to Collins' *Dependencies Catalogue* and also to him for certain additional information kindly supplied.

To the best of our present knowledge, the following are the dates and numbers of the various printings:

Date	½d.	1d.	1½d.	2d.	2½d.	5d.	6d.	10d.	1s.	Paper	Wmk.	Perf.	Sheet Nos.
3.7.93	—	Brown 10,320 Blue	9,120	—	Red 8,040	7,200	—	7,200	—	White	NZ star apart	12 x 11½ comb	—
26.2.94	—	7,440	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	—
7.4.94	—	2,880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	—
31.5.94	—	10,920	7,200	—	7,320	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	—
17.9.94	—	6,000	4,000	—	2,000	12,000	—	—	—	"	"	"	—
23.10.94	—	6,240	2,040	—	2,040	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	—
27.7.96	—	(y)	—	—	23,760	—	—	—	—	"	"	11 single line	(a)
2.8.96	—	24,000	23,260	—	—	9,600	—	9,600	—	"	"	"	(b)
7.6.98	—	—	—	12,000	—	—	10,200	—	6,960	Toned	"	"	(c)
31.3.99	—	Brown 12,000 Blue	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Cream	"	"	—
2.9.99	22,740	(z)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	White	"	"	(d)
10.2.00	23,640	23,880 (z)	11,880	23,520	12,000	23,520	23,760	24,000	11,520	"	"	"	(e)
26.5.00	—	14,280 Green	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	(f)
25.1.02	23,520	Red 23,520	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Cowan	None	"	None
May/02	30,000	30,000	—	—	Blue 15,000	—	—	—	—	W'low Cowan white	None NZ star close	"	None
Sep/02	47,400	47,880	23,880	23,520	24,000	11,520	11,880	5,760	5,820	"	"	"	(g)
1909	—	152,960	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	14 rotary	(h)
1911	91,440	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	14½ x 14 comb	(i)
Jul/13	—	71,280	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	Chalk	"	14 rotary	(j)
1914	—	224,880	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	14½ x 14 comb	(k)
1915	20,800	—	98,160	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	14 rotary	(l)
1916	22,320	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	"	(m)
1916	—	—	69,600	—	—	—	—	—	—	"	"	14 x 15 comb	(n)
1918	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,440	—	"	"	"	(o)
1919	—	—	—	11,040	—	—	—	—	10,800	"	"	"	(p)

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

SHEET NUMBERS

- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>(a) 2½d. — 240520/240573</p> <p>(b) 1d. — 253185/253265
1½d. — 240574/253160
5d. — 253070</p> <p>(c) 2d. — 32549/32583
6d. — 32519
1s. — 32611</p> <p>(d) ½d. — 187512/187690 } These may be
(e) ½d. — 350569/350671 } transposed.
1d. — 187720/187860
1½d.—Said to have been printed on
left half of sheet, so no number.
2d. — 209005/209200
2½d. — 187908/187975
5d.—Said to have been printed on left
half of sheet, so no number.
6d. — 209202/209295
10d.—Said to have been printed on left
half of sheet, so no number.
1s. — 209321/209350</p> | <p>(f) 1d. — 387550</p> <p>(g) 1d. — 187770/187790
No sheet numbers seen on other
values of this printing.</p> <p>(h) No sheet numbers seen on stamps</p> <p>(i) of these two printings.</p> <p>(j) 1d. — E840673/E840789</p> <p>(k) 1d. — F743551/F743614</p> <p>(l) ½d. — E840821/E876174
1½d. — H73131</p> <p>(m) ½d. — G931081</p> <p>(n) 1½d. — H940538</p> <p>(o) 10d.—No sheet numbers seen.</p> <p>(p) 2d. — J264514/J264527
1s. — J462010/J462013</p> <p>(y) Of these, 10,800 were surcharged
"ONE HALF PENNY."</p> <p>(z) Of these, 2,400 received the "crown"
overprint.</p> |
|---|---|

Notes On Sheet Numbers

In the case of the chalk-surfaced paper, which is distinguished by a letter prefixed to the sheet number, the information gathered raises certain conjectures.

We take it that the numbering of the sheets was done by the paper-makers before the watermarked paper was shipped to New Zealand, the object being to permit strict control of this "security" paper at the Government Printing Works. This being so, it would be logical to issue the paper seriatim — so that sheets lettered "E" would be used before those lettered "F" and so on. The numbering should consequently give the chronological sequence of usage.

It will be observed that in the case of the ½d. stamps delivered under (1), sheet numbers have been seen differing by 35,353 — equivalent to over three million stamps. This indicates either that a printing exists of which we have no record or that the sheets used at one time came from two out-of-sequence batches. There is some evidence that the former may be the case, as the highest sheet number known to us of the 1d. value in delivery (j) is E840789 and the lowest of the ½d. value in delivery (l) is E840821 (only 32 sheets apart). It may be that a printing was made of the ½d. value in 1913, but that it was not issued, or its issue was not reported, until 1915.

The new information regarding the numbers printed, which Collins gives in *Catalogue of the Stamps of the Dependencies of New Zealand, 1952*, awakens the hope that still more details exist in the archives. We trust the discrepancies here disclosed will point the direction in which further enquiries may be fruitful.

(To be continued)

CONVERSATION PIECE

By HAROLD THIRKELL

"Would it distress you unduly," asked Mr Hinge, "if I started a thematic collection?"

"I should recommend you to see an alienist immediately," said Mr Gauge.

"In these remote but luxurious rooms," said Mr Hinge, "you live in monastic seclusion. No one barges in on you. When occasionally you invite some of the small fry in, they enter a-tip-toe, say 'Yes, Mr Gauge,' 'No, Mr Gauge,' grab their handout of stamps, and go. At my place it's different. Hordes of family friends constantly invade us, and about three times a week some nitwit chirps, 'You're the famous stamp-collector, aren't you, Mr Hinge? How many have you got? *Do* let us see some of them!' Then Mrs H. chips in with, 'Yes, Harry, you must show them!' — pure malice because she knows darn well they'll be bored stiff. The fact is that stamps, as such, do bore the non-collector, and that includes Mrs H."

"I don't quite see where this is leading," said Mr Gauge.

"No?" said Mr Hinge. "Well, thematic collecting isn't philately, but I think we must admit that it qualifies as 'stamp collecting.' It uses stamps as pictures to illustrate a subject. A really ingenious 'thematelist' can find the most extraordinary relevancies. I wouldn't put it past an enthusiast for ships on stamps to include an empty seascape on the ground that there must be a ship or two somewhere over the horizon."

"The point still escapes me," complained Mr Gauge.

"If I come to it too soon," explained Mr Hinge, "this conversation could well be too brief to get into print. However, here it is. I propose to establish a thematic collection solely as an instrument of propaganda. Stamps as such bore the philistine, but most people can have their attention held by little stories about this, that, or the other. All right, I'll give them little stories, illustrated with stamps. You know, there are some really juicy anecdotes about some of the ladies and gents now immortalised on stamps."

"On the grounds that the end justifies the means," said Mr Gauge, "you intend to use this debased form of collection as a means of breaking down the resistance of non-collectors?"

"Look," said Mr Hinge, "manure is stinking stuff, but an invaluable aid to growing beautiful flowers. My little lot of thematics, plus my encyclopaedic knowledge of my subject, will enthral my audiences. Never again will they turn up their noses at stamp collecting. They'll become sympathetic. They'll examine strange stamps on their mail with new eyes. The seed will have been sown. In no time at all, some of them — say one in a hundred — will join our ranks. I hope."

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"My poor simple friend," said Mr Gauge, "what service will it be to philately to encourage a fresh crop of these — er — thematelists? Horrible word!"

"Any stamp collector," said Mr Hinge, "is superior to a non-collector, and a potential philatelist. The non-collector hasn't even the germ of virtue in him. That's my answer."

"Beware," said Mr Gauge solemnly, "lest this dabbling with evil contaminate you! There might come a day when you would be so misguided as to sell your classics and buy a clutter of 'statesmen' or 'insects'."

"Do I detect some connection between the two in your mind?" asked Mr Hinge. "No, neither statesmen nor insects for me. I shall assemble a gallery of beautiful women, complete with case histories."

"I might have guessed that!" said Mr Gauge.

VICTORIA — PROVISIONAL TYPES OF CANCELLATION, 1850 - 1912

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

This is an intriguing subject as those of us who have been gathering this class of item know very well.

At the start it will be necessary to understand precisely what is understood by the word "Provisional."

In this period the *normal* procedure was to issue each Post Office with an "obliterator" for use on the stamps themselves, *plus* a town and date stamp for use on the back of the envelope or cover *plus*, of course, all the "special service" stamps required, e.g., "Registered," "Too Late," etc., etc. For the obliterators *three* general patterns were employed — the "Butterflies" (1850-51), the "Barred Ovals" (1851-55), and the "Barred Numerals" (1856-1912). Since the first two types named only occupied 5 years out of 62 I propose to leave the few "emergency" cancellations found in that period until the finish so that in all *other* sections of this monograph (unless some specific reference is made) it may be taken that I am speaking of the "Barred Numeral" period.

"Duplex" obliterators were introduced in Victoria just after the middle of 1861 but their use was confined to the *larger* P.O.s. They were planned as a labour-saving device for the despatching staffs at larger P.O.s who, with a "duplex," had only to impress it *once* across the stamp or stamps instead of performing the *two* operations (otherwise laid down for them by regulation) of impressing the numeral obliteration on the stamps and the "town and date" postmark on the back of the letter or card. The number of offices to which "duplex" obliterators were supplied was, compared with the final total of 2100 different numbers of the "Barred Numeral" type, *small*, so that for the majority

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of offices the *two* different markings were required to be used in the respective manners indicated.

All of which brings us to our definition of a "provisional" cancellation. This means any cancellation used to cancel postage stamps, at any period, which was *other* than the obliterator normally supplied, during the period in question, for that purpose.

Quite a variety of "provisional cancellations" were used and the types will be dealt with in the order of the *size of the field* they represent—1 being the biggest and 7 the smallest. Their particular significance will be treated under each head.

It should also be stressed, at this introductory stage, that there is little or no archival record of the use of such cancellations, but that the accumulation and study in this field of material of the same kind has enabled many inferences, of decided interest, to be drawn.

In *general*, the usual reason for the introduction of a "provisional" obliterator was the loss of the normal canceller which, besides being occasionally lost in the literal sense or damaged in a fire, often wore out (or had to be sent for repair). An order was placed for a new obliterator (or for repair) but if delay ensued between the last use of the old and the arrival of the new or repaired obliterator something had to fill the gap, hence the "provisionals." In certain cases, as we shall see, a "provisional" thus introduced became more or less "permanent," either because an economic policy forbade its replacement or because the post-master concerned did not put in a requisition for a new canceller.

It must also be understood that this class of cancellation forms a *necessary* part of a comprehensive collection of *numeral* cancellations since, very frequently, they fill in (for the one post office) the gap between two different varieties of the numeral obliterator.

The various classes of "Provisional Cancellation" found are dealt with sectionally as follows:

1. "Town and Date" cancellations
2. "Belt and Buckle" cancellations
3. "Money Order" and "Money Order and Savings Bank" cancellations
4. "Home-made" cancellations
5. Straight-line cancellations
6. Manuscript cancellations
7. "Seal" cancellations
8. Odd types of cancellation not included in 1-7 above
9. Types of cancellations found on the "Postage Dues."

1. "Town and Date" Cancellations

This class is by far the *largest* but I do not propose to treat it in detail here since the various instances of its occurrence will be referred to under the head of the post-office concerned in a comprehensive work on the "Barred Numeral" cancellations of Victoria upon which Mr J. C. W. Brown and the writer hope to embark shortly.

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It is enough to say here that the post offices concerned under this head were, in general, *not the larger post offices*. These (save in the earlier portion of the period with which we are concerned) were supplied with "duplex" types of canceller. Offices normally using a "duplex" canceller, once *that* was not available, had to employ some medium *other* than a "town and date" cancellation, *unless* they possessed such a canceller as a "left over" from a period when they were not using a "duplex."

The first instance found of this class of "Provisional" cancellation was the use (in 1851) of the "Wimmera, Port Phillip" town and date marking as an obliterator in place of the No. 25 "Butterfly" which had been issued for that purpose and was used for a time until its loss or damage necessitated a "provisional" obliterator. A similar instance found in the 1854-5 period is the "town and date" marking of Glenorchy, Victoria, used in replacement of a Barred Oval. As the years rolled on a large number of such instances may be found, many of them, by reason of the period of their usage, becoming of a "permanent" nature.

2. "Belt and Buckle" Cancellations



This type is illustrated above. The design is probably that of the ceremonial garter but most people, I think, will agree that the term "belt and buckle" is more descriptive. It was probably issued (the earliest "Provisional" use I have of it is 1880) to all "*Post and Telegraph*" offices in the late '70's.

It was intended for use as an official "cachet" on telegrams and other documents of record kept inside post offices which required such a stamp. It was *not* intended as an obliterator of postage stamps.

However, it *was* so "provisionally" used as an obliterator at *many* post offices (the writer has a record of 71 to date) between 1880 and 1894 after which date it does *not* appear, presumably because the type was no longer issued to Post and Telegraph Offices, except in one case to be noted later.

The use of the 2 type of provisional cancellation is practically *exclusive* to that of the 1 type. 1 is nearly always found with *smaller* P.O.s and 2 is almost entirely restricted to *larger* P.O.'s which, presumably because they had only a "town and date" marking inside a "duplex" had no stamp of the 1 variety available when the "duplex" could not be used.

Below I give an alphabetical list of the post offices found to date with this type of cancellation. In each case I have also added the year or *period* of years over which the cancellation has been found. Although I have been looking for

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these items for many years it is, of course, certain that *other* markings will turn up as they will do also under the other heads with which this monograph deals. I will appreciate obtaining details of new markings and will, of course, give the necessary acknowledgment.

A list of the items found to date follows:

ABBOTSFORD	90	MARKET STREET	91
ARARAT	86, 94	MARYBOROUGH	93
BAIRNSDALE	89-90	MORWELL	92
BEAUFORT (blue also)	92-94	MURTOA	85-86
BEECHWORTH	93	NHILL	89-90
BENALLA	91	NORTHCOTE	90
BIRREGURRA	92	NORTH MELBOURNE	88-91
BOURKE ST. EAST	93	NUMURKAH (blue also)	92
BRUNSWICK	91	OMEO	92-94
CAMPERDOWN	91	PORTLAND	91
CARLTON	82, 91, 94	PORT MELBOURNE	92
CASTERTON	90	PRAHRAN	93
CHILTERN	92	QUEENSCLIFF	86, 89, 92-94
CLIFTON HILL	94	RICHMOND SOUTH	91
COLAC (blue also)	85, 91-94	RUTHERGLEN	91-92
COLERAINE	90	SALE	87
COLLINGWOOD	80	*SANDHURST (Bendigo)	93
DAYLESFORD	91-93	SEYMOUR	90
DIMBOOLA	92-93	SHEPPARTON	86, 92-93
DONALD	90-91-92	SOUTH MELBOURNE	91-94
EAST MELBOURNE	90-93	ST. ARNAUD	85
ECHUCA	89-90, & 93	ST. KILDA	92-93
ELSTERNWICK	92	TARNAGULLA	90-93
ESSENDON	91-93	TRARALGON	92
EUROA	90-91-92	TUNGAMAH	91
FITZROY	94	WALHALLA	89
FOSTER	90	WANGARATTA	85 (blue), 89
HAWTHORN	91	WARRNAMBOOL (blue also)	92
HORSHAM	85	WARRAGUL	90-92
*HOTHAM (Port Melbourne)	87	WEDDERBURN	92
KERANG	90-93	WILLIAMSTOWN	90-, 94
KORUMBURRA	93	WINDSOR	92
KYNETON	84	WODONGA	92-93
LAW COURTS	92	YACKANDANDAH	93
MALDON	90-93	YARRAM YARRAM	
MALMSBURY	90	(blue only)	90-92

* Note that in these cases the name found was the *early* name which had *already been superseded* in the *normal* obliterations.

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It will be observed that most of the above are dated in the early 90's and that, in not a few cases, the cancellation was in use for *some years*. This has an interesting historical aspect, since the delay in replacing the old *normal* obliterator with a new one was almost unquestionably due to the restricted economic policies forced upon the Department as a result of the collapse of the "Land Boom," and the very restricted finance available in consequence. Likewise, the relatively common occurrence at this period of *blue* ink (used also with many normal obl iterators) is indicative of the same thrifty policy.

One exception, not included in the printed list above, has been found right outside the period in question. Mr Brown has located for me four copies of the 1d. red (1901-1912), dated between the 13th and 31st October 1904, with a "STOCK EXCHANGE" (there is no "VICTORIA") "belt and buckle" obliteration. This again almost certainly represented a provisional usage pending the introduction of a new canceller for that office.

The most interesting way to show these "belts and buckles" is on "entire" but such examples (since they belong to a late period most of the entire of which have been destroyed long since) are, in my experience, rare.

REVIEWS

The Postage Stamps of Great Britain (Part Three): The Embossed Issues, The Surface-Printed issues of Queen Victoria and King Edward VII. By K. M. Beaumont and H. C. V. Adams. 179 pp., plates. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London. Price 20s. (stg.)

This book is the third of a trio which commenced in 1950 with the publication of Part 1 by the late J. B. Seymour. The typography, arrangement and illustrations of the present volume are admirable and there is no gainsaying the authority of the authors, both well known alike as keen students and as the possessors of magnificent collections of the stamps in question. If the reviewer has a fault to find — and it may seem ingracious, with a work of this calibre — it is that too much space, as regards the surface-printed stamps, is devoted to rarities of one type or another and too little to the differences, e.g., shades, plate varieties, etc., which the ordinary collector may expect to find. Granted that the De La Rue standards of production were high indeed, these types of variety can still be found by the hunter. For instance constant plate varieties may be

found in which — on certain positions in the sheet — the white plate numbers may be found *partly doubled*. Mention is made of some of these (e.g., pp. 64, 66) but no comment made on their causation or extreme interest, from a technical point of view. Likewise little attention is paid to the "repairs" to be found in the Edward VII. 2d. and other values. These are small blemishes indeed and when one finds how much information the authors have contrived to give us in a moderate space, set out in a manner to attract both the modest collector and the nabob (there still seem to be a few — very few — of these gentlemen surviving) one remains grateful that The Royal of London still continues to encourage her student members by promoting the publication of their efforts.

— J.R.W.P.

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue 1955. Sixteenth Edition. pp. 96. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 10s. (Aust.).

This catalogue has now been purchased by The Hawthorn Press, already well

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known to philatelists for its series of monographs on the stamps of Australia and the Pacific Islands. Mr C. E. Norden, philatelic consultant, and proprietor of Australian Stamp Auctions, has been appointed sole editor. In the Fifteenth (1953) Edition an important step forward had been made in the re-writing and thoroughgoing revision which the catalogue so badly needed, but the subsequent change of ownership has left little time for any immediate further recasting or revision on a large scale in the present edition. Much however has been done, and the new edition makes interesting reading.

The general presentation remains as before, but imprints in the Kangaroo and King George V issues are now (as in the other issues) listed immediately after the particular stamp concerned. This makes for much greater ease of reference. The King George V surface-printed issues, apart from the One Penny Reds, are now numbered consecutively F1 to F274, the numbering of all other issues remaining as before. Almost all items previously marked with an asterisk are priced in this edition. This is particularly noticeable with the Cooke monograms on the Kangaroos, more than fifty per cent. of which had previously been unpriced. Many of them, of course, are of extreme rarity and the prices now given reflect this. Incidentally the use of the term "control" for these monograms seems questionable. The usage is, of course, long and well established, but in no sense of the word are these monograms control letters. They are simply the Cooke equivalent of the later Harrison, Mullett, and Ash imprints.

Several flaws are listed for the first time, the most notable being the "pantaloons" flaw in the 2d. Sydney Cove. This flaw and its retouch are priced at £5 each, used or unused. Collectors will also welcome the listing and pricing of the "SPECIMEN" overprints in the high value Kangaroos.

There are a number of price changes, mostly in an upward direction. Among the Kangaroos the high values remain as before, but increases will be noted in the 1d., the 6d. first wmk., and the 9d. small mult. On the other hand the 5d. unused moves from 15/- to 12/6. Among the King George V issues there are increases in the 1d. carmine pink, Cooke mult., the 1½d. red brown,

small mult., the 3d. blue, small mult., perf. 14, and others. The 1/4 small mult., perf. 14, jumps from 7/6 to 15/- used. Other stamps to appreciate in value are the 5/- Bridge, 1/- Anzac, and the 1/- South Australian Centenary. In the so-called "Special Adhesives" the 3/7 marone goes up from £15 (£12) to £25 (£25). Increases will also be noted in Os 6, 9, 10, 11, 19 and 20. O 22 unused moves down from 30/- to 25/-.

There has been some rationalisation in the pricing of varieties. In the 2d. Kangaroo, first wmk, "map broken" goes down from 40/- (15/-) to 20/- (7/6), with corresponding decreases in the other watermarks. E5a (1d. engraved, imperf. between, vertical pair) is reduced from £45 to £25. The 2d. Sydney Cove, retouch to "Man with Tail," is reduced from 80/- to 50/- used. Other changes are in the reverse direction and those who have had much to do with the stamps concerned will heartily agree with them. In the King George V issues the "cracked electro" in the ½d. green, single wmk., moves from 60/- to £15, used or unused. The 1d. green, C of A, wmk. reversed, moves from 40/- to £5 used, and the 1½d. red, single wmk., wmk. inverted, from 10/- (5/-) to 20/- (10/-). The above list is not exhaustive.

The editor and publishers would be the first to insist that much yet remains to be done before Commonwealth philately has the catalogue it needs and deserves. Its development, however, is now in safe hands, and collectors can securely await its ultimate appearance.

— J.C.W.B.

Victoria: 1901-12 Issue, The 1½d., 2d. and 2½d. Values. 29 pp. 9½ x 7 in. By J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 7s. 6d. (Aust.).

This is No. 4 in the series of monographs being published by THE HAWTHORN PRESS on the stamps of Australia and the Pacific Islands, its three predecessors being *North-West Pacific Islands*, *Christmas Island and Its Postal History*, and *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*.

The first issues of a country, quite apart from the romance and sentiment which

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attaches to them, are frequently of considerable philatelic interest, and at times have a beauty and distinction all their own. The prestige which they enjoy is understandable. Unfortunately with the greatly increased number of collectors today the majority of us can never hope to have more than a very modest showing of such stamps. It is well therefore, for the future good of our hobby, to realise what a wealth of interest and what a rewarding field is offered by some of the middle and later issues.

In the present study Mr. Purves turns from the Half-Lengths to three stamps of the late Victorian (and early Commonwealth) period, dealing exhaustively with papers, printings, die states, and plates and plate varieties. The book can confidently be recommended to those many collectors of Victoria who have hitherto regarded the 1901-12 period as more or less devoid of interest, except for an occasional rare perforation. It is the type of exact and thorough study one would expect from the author of *The Half-Lengths of Victoria*, and Australian philatelists are under a further debt of gratitude to Mr John Gartner of The Hawthorn Press for the way he has printed and produced it.

It is to be hoped that there will be sufficient demand for it to justify the preparation and printing of the further studies on this late Victorian period mentioned in the introduction.

—J.C.W.B.

The New South Wales Philatelic Annual, 1954. Edited by Romney Gibbons, 40 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, Box 601, G.P.O. Sydney, N.S.W. Price 2s. 6d. (Aust.).

It is always a pleasure to receive the annual publication of our sister Society, and this seventh issue maintains the previous high standard. In fact, it achieved a new peak.

The contents are remarkably well balanced; there being an excellent assortment of general articles, articles on British and foreign stamps, and Society news and notes. Of particular interest to our readers are "Commonwealth Varieties," "Twentieth Century New Zealand," "Tonga 2d. King George II. and Queen Salote," and "Scope for Research in Commonwealth."

We congratulate the Society, and Mr.

Gibbons in particular, on a very fine half-crown's worth.

Forged Stamps of Two World Wars, by L. N. and M. Williams, 52 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by the authors, 30 Dunstan Road, London, N.W.11. Price 6s. (stg.).

We have received a copy of the above book, which is a description of the postal forgeries and propaganda issues of the various belligerents.

This handbook is of absorbing interest to collectors of forgeries and war issues, especially as the forgeries were not made to deceive collectors, but were used to assist secret agents, and to deceive an enemy; while the propaganda angle was aimed at belittling enemy leaders, and attempting to undermine enemy morale.

The book is profusely illustrated with reproductions of forged stamps along with genuine ones for comparison; and the main differences are clearly shown and fully explained. Collectors of this interesting and historic phase of philately will find this work invaluable.

— J.H.D.

Penfriend, Vol. II, No. 3, October, 1954. Edited by M. K. Shah. 60 pp. 9¼ x 7½ in. Published by the Nations' League of Penfriends, No. 1 Round Building, Kalbadevi, Bombay 2, India. Price 1 Rupee.

This is a Special Stamp Centenary Number, designed as part of the celebrations connected with that event. The articles deal with philately in general, the stamps of India and Indian philately, and amongst the authors we notice such well-known names as Jal Cooper and Dhirubhai Mehta.

We congratulate the publishers on a very interesting issue, which we commend to all interested in the stamps of India.

Zumstein Europa Katalog, 1955, 38th Edition, xvi. 1264 pp. 8 x 5 in. Published by Zumstein & Cie., Berne, Switzerland. Price 14.50 Swiss francs.

This catalogue, covering the stamps of Europe, European post offices abroad and former German colonies, is so well known as to need no commendation from us. Although the text is in German, the introduction in German, French and English makes the catalogue reasonably easy to use by those who cannot read the language.

The new edition contains forty more pages than the last, and there are numerous price changes.



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Contributed by the Pacific Islands Circle of The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club

NAURU – IMPERFORATE VARIETY

A good friend has sent us for examination a horizontal pair of the recently obsolete "Ship" type 2½d. Nauru stamp – imperforate between. The paper is of the super-calendered type which first came into use in 1937. The story of the acquisition reads like a tale out of the Arabian Nights. Our correspondent wrote casually to Nauru to send him some of the higher values. "I sent a money order in excess of the value of the stamps required and asked that any surplus cash should be sent in low value stamps. Among the odds and sods – was the 2½d. imperforate between pair. Unbelievable almost, but a fact."

Owing to the format of the sheet, there must originally have been ten of these pairs imperforate vertically.

To prevent waste of postage, we may mention that the postmaster subsequently wrote, "I regret that there are not any more of the imperforate 2½d. old issue stamps."

FIJI – AN APPARENT VARIETY

Mr Terry Jones, of Sydney, has brought to our notice an apparent variety on the current 1s. value. The lower right-hand portion of the figure of value, and the lower point of the oblique stroke after it, show heavier inking encroaching on the normal white area adjacent thereto. On one part sheet inspected most of the stamps show this peculiarity; however, another sheet, with marginal markings which prove it to come from the same plate, is normal. This evidence suggests overinking in the case of the first sheet, but the Circle is further considering the matter.

COOK ISLANDS – SUSPICIOUS POSTMARKS

We have been shewn an example of the "ONE HALF PENNY" on 1d. blue (S.G.24) cancelled by what appears at first sight to be the ordinary date-stamp, which did duty at Rarotonga between the years 1896 and 1922. Scrutiny reveals that the lettering is appreciably larger than in the real date-stamp, as shewn by the two illustrations herewith (Figs. 1 and 2). The forgery is so struck that no portion of the date appears.

Given the relative catalogue values of this stamp in mint and used condition,

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

the production of a faked postmark seems purposeless. However we chronicle its existence and would be interested to hear if any of our friends can produce other examples of its use — i.e. misuse!

Since the "First Day Cover" and "Superb used" became desiderata, there has been an incentive for vendors to forge postmarks to get their goods on the market without awaiting officially serviced covers from afar. At the time of the Silver Jubilee issue the New Zealand Postal Administration pronounced as forgeries certain cancellations of Cook Islands and Niue and, in 1936, forwarded reproductions of these to the philatelic press.



Fig. 1 Forgery



Fig. 2 Genuine

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

(i) A new Post Office

Following the opening of offices at Yandina and Barakoma, a post office has now been established at Kira Kira, on the north coast of San Cristoval Island, in the Southern District of the Protectorate.

The postal markings in use are a date-stamp, in the uniform style as adopted in the other Protectorate Post Offices, and a rubber stamp for the registered mail. The earliest date that we have seen is 8 May, 1954, but we have not been informed whether this was the opening date of the office. We understand that neither official "franks" nor "postage due" marks have yet been supplied to Yandina or Kira Kira.

(ii) Forged Cancellation on Forged Stamp



An hitherto unrecorded forgery of the "TULAGI-BRITISH SOLOMON IDS" postmark, with date in two lines, has been brought to notice. It appears on a forgery of the 6d. British Solomon Islands stamp and is almost a complete circle. We show a tracing of the cancellation (at left) and it will be seen the circle is $\frac{3}{4}$ mm. wider than the genuine postmark of this type. Other points of difference are — base of "L" in "TULAGI" is 1 mm. longer, and the space between "A" and "L" is wider, and the top of the letter "A" is broader and flat — the figure "2" has a shorter and less curved top, the "0" in the date is rounder than in the normal postmark.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Of Mail By Air

Owing to a late change in the programme the display at the August meeting was given by Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson, who showed a selection of air mail stamps of the world and a number of pioneer first flight covers. In his introductory talk, the exhibitor gave an interesting account of the growth of aero-philately and referred to the earliest issues of semi-official and official air mail stamps. He outlined in some detail the scope of this branch of the hobby and indicated briefly the most important of the pioneer Australian flown covers. The sheets which were then passed around included practically all the first official air mail stamps of all countries, as well as many of the earlier semi-officials, particularly of Canada, and included specimens of the pigeongram stamps associated with the Auckland-Great Barrier Island service in New Zealand. Of special interest in the flown cover section was the fine showing of Australian pioneers, these including the Guilleaux of 1914 (Melbourne-Sydney), a Basil Watson cover of 1917 and a 2nd Peace Loan cover of 1919, the latter a particularly rare item. The whole display of both stamps and covers was extremely rich in desirable items and indicated the exhibitor's discrimination in his subject. Both the mover (Mr P. Masters) and the seconder (Mr H. Chisholm) of the vote of thanks paid tribute to the excellence of the display.

Ship Letters of the Seven Seas

The feature of the September meeting was a display of stamps and covers bearing ship marks, indicative of letters posted at sea. As the exhibitor, Mr J. Whitsea Dovey, President of The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, was unfortunately unable to be present, the introduction of the display was undertaken by Mr J. R. W. Purves, who read Mr Dovey's prepared talk. Mr Dovey explained that the full field of stamps used abroad on letters at sea included those bearing ship marks, paquebot marks and datestamps of the ports where the letters were handed in to shore post offices. He said that the ship marks being shown comprised two broad groups. The first covered the marks applied by official Marine Post Offices on various ships belonging to Great Britain, France, Germany, New Zealand, and other countries. The second group included cancellations by rubber stamps of all kinds, pen marks, cork cancellations, also ferry and lake steamer postmarks.

The sheets shown were fully illustrative of the outlined field and contained a remarkable variety

of material. The earliest item was a cover sent from Samoa on the 15 October, 1839. A "Paid Ship Letter" mark was applied in Sydney on the 2 December and the mark "India Letter Penzance" in England on the 30 May, 1840. As might be expected, the Pacific field was strongly featured but in general the stamps and covers were from all parts of the world and every item had its points of interest. The whole display was one of the most unusual ever presented to the Society and it was very fully appreciated. When moving the vote of thanks Mr P. Jaffé referred to many of the separate items and paid a fine tribute to the exhibitor. In this he was supported by Mr A. Bunn.

The First Issue of Holland

The attraction at the October meeting was a display of the first issue of Holland, and the exhibitor, Major-General Shortt, F.R.P.S.L., took considerable pains to ensure that members became aware of the salient aspects of the issue. He had prepared a number of small cards, each containing a 5c., 10c. and 15c. stamp, with points of interest indicated. With these before them, members were able to appreciate the introductory talk, in which Major-General Shortt outlined the philatelic history of the issue, and explained fully the circumstances leading up to their printing. He also dealt briefly with details of the six plates of the 5c., the ten plates of the 10c. and the single 15c. plate. He explained the aids which were useful to the plater and indicated that while generally retouches were of the greatest assistance, various regular blemishes and marks had value. Postmarks proved helpful to some extent.

The sheets which followed amply demonstrated the exhibitor's mastery of his subject. The wealth of material included many pairs and strips while the pages devoted to postmarks proved most illuminating. The reconstructed plates which were included demonstrated the very advanced nature of the collection. Particular interest centred in plate VII. (10c.) with the well-known "Horn" variety, and plate VIII., in which this peculiarity had been touched out. The arrangement of the material on the album sheets presented several novel features which undoubtedly assisted in the arrangement of material to best advantage. In moving the vote of thanks, Mr J. R. W. Purves described the collection as being most distinguished and touched upon its many features, as well as mentioning the work of other pioneers in the field of Holland's first stamps. In seconding, Mr W. L. Russell referred to the presentation and arrangement as of outstanding quality.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Congratulations are extended to members, Messrs Hamilton Croaker and Louis Frank, who have been elected, recently, to membership of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Our best wishes for happy voyage and safe return go to Messrs G. F. V. Cole (Vice-President of the Club), H. T. Peirce, and M. W. Asher, who are at present touring in England.

Pacific Islands Circle

An excellent display by the Pacific Islands Circle was the feature of the August meeting. In introducing the display, Mr Romney Gibbons, who showed an interesting lot of the "Samoa Express" issues, gave members an insight into the variations between the original issues and the later reprints. He showed the principal difference by means of blackboard sketches and pointed out methods for distinguishing the various printings.

Mr H. S. Porter, who displayed the first issue of the Cook Islands, gave members a brief description of the methods adopted by the printer in setting up the sheets of 60 indicating how the primary and secondary flaws came into being.

Official franks from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands were shown by Mr R. A. Baldwin, whilst Mr Hamilton Croaker displayed Die Proofs of British New Guinea 1st issue Plate proofs of the 1/2d. 1st issue and a study of the Postage Dues.

Mr J. H. Powell showed Australian Commonwealth used in New Guinea during 1914-15 and various types of Rabaul cancellations. Penrhyn, Aitutaki and Niue were featured by Col. F. V. Thompson whilst Mr Walter Finigan gave an excellent display of the postmarks of Tonga. Dr E. H. Freidman rounded off the evening with a display of Japanese overprints on the Marshall German Colonial type; "G.R.I." overprints on German New Guinea; and "G.R.I." overprints on the Marshall Islands Colonial Types.

A vote of thanks to the exhibitors was moved by Mr Rex Snell, who was over from Melbourne, and was carried with great enthusiasm.

President's Display

Another large roll-up of members at the September meeting heard a most interesting lantern lecture from the President, Mr Dovey, who took as his subject "Tales from the East," illustrated, with reproductions of stamps, many legends and other fascinating stories from the Eastern Countries from India to Japan by way of Java, China, Korea and the Philippines.

Vasco da Gama; The Taj Mahal; Temple of the Tooth (Kandy); Javanese Musicians and Dancers; Confucius; The Temple of Heaven (Peking); Falconry; Commodore Perry; Fujiyama; Nagoya Castle; The Diamond Mountains (through which runs the 38th parallel) were all featured by Mr Dovey who was able to bring to his listeners firsthand information gleaned by him during his years of residence in Shanghai and his visits to many of the places shown on the various stamps.

The thanks of all present were conveyed to the President and to Mr R. M. Knight (who supplied and operated the lantern) by Mr D. B. Moloney.

Annual Competition

The judges (Messrs Romney Gibbons, F. V. Thompson and H. Croaker) commented very favourably on the standard of the ten entries which were received for the Annual Competition at the October meeting. These comments were echoed by the members when the hundred sheets were passed round for inspection.

First place went to Mr C. Nauthe's entry of "New South Wales" and second place to "Antarctic Posts" entered by Mr E. J. Garrard of Newcastle. The judges were unable to separate Mr R. Duncan's entry of "Israel Army Posts" and Mr J. Critchlow's "Russian P.O.'s in the Turkish Empire" for third place.

Our thanks are extended to all members who combined to make the evening such a success.

During the course of the evening, the President spoke on "The Lives of the Forgers" basing his talk on a magazine article by the late F. J. Melville, published some years ago. He gave brief insights into the nefarious doings of the Spiro Brothers; Samuel Allan Taylor and the rest of the "Boston Gang"; Jeffries; Benjamin and Sarpy; Fournier and others. A copy of a Jeffries forgery of the "Sydney View" and a circular from Fournier regarding his "Philatelic Clinic" were passed round for inspection during Mr Dovey's talk.

Coming Events

Copies of the new syllabus and rules, as revised at the last Annual Meeting of the Club, have recently been forwarded to each member of the Club. Any member who has not received his copy may do so by contacting the Hon. Secretary.

Members are asked to particularly note that the printed syllabus has been varied in respect of the meeting scheduled for 8 March next. Major-General A. C. Shortt, C.B., O.B.E., F.R.P.S.L., has very kindly accepted the Committee's invitation to present a display to members of the Club. He has promised to show "Holland" at this meeting.

The Postal History display originally set down for the March meeting will be carried forward to a later date which will be advised to members.

The January display is in the hands of Mr Walter Finigan and the Hon. Secretary who will take us round the British Isles with some unusual material.

Europe will be the feature of the February meeting when Messrs J. O. Critchlow, A. Cronin and W. Skalla will show, respectively, "Russian Occupation of East Germany;" "Carpathia Ukraine;" and "Early Issues of the German Empire and Norway."

Members of kindred societies in Sydney and the metropolitan area are invited to our special meeting on 16 March, 1955. Arrangements have been

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

made with the Trustees of the Public Library for an inspection of the H. L. White Collection and the Catalogue of "The Royal Philatelic Collection." Mr Frank Hill will give a brief introductory description of the White Collection, whilst Mr H. S. Porter will introduce the inspection of the volume describing the Royal Collection.

Apex Auction

Members are reminded that a Stamp Auction will be held, in conjunction with members of the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, at the meeting of that Society which will be held on 1 February, 1955, when, it is hoped, as many as

possible will attend and snap up the bargains — Bernie Moloney will be in charge of proceedings.

We look for a great success at the auction as the proceeds will aid a great occasion — the National Philatelic Exhibition at Adelaide in 1955.

Would members willing to donate stamps suitable for sale by auction please note that their donations should be addressed to the Hon. Secretary and may be left at either Messrs Baker and Moloney in the Royal Arcade, or J. H. Smyth Pty. Ltd., 4th Floor, 114 Castlereagh Street, Sydney? A prompt response from members would be greatly appreciated and it is requested that donations be forwarded prior to 15 January, 1955.

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

Two very regular attendants at all "Royal" meetings are Misses MYRA FARLEY and JOYCE BUCHANAN. They are usually found together, for they are partners in a typing service at South Melbourne, and both are keen supporters of the Melbourne Football Club (tough luck this year, girls!). In the stamp field Myra collects principally France and U.S.A., whilst Joyce devotes her attention to Canada and New Zealand.

Most of us already know PAUL SIMONSON quite well, and have seen and appreciated his displays from time to time. But few know that he went to World War I as a private in the 46th Batt. and finished up as a Major on the General Staff and A.D.C. to General Monash. Fewer still, that among his war decorations is the O.B.E. Paul collects Egyptian Commems., Papua and New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, Great Britain, Canada, and the British Empire generally. He tells us he's been collecting since he was a boy. Paul was President of the P.S. of V. in '41-'42. Very keen on Legacy.

You wouldn't think, to look at him, that Archdeacon J. A. SCHOFIELD, M.A. (OXON.) was a Professor of Sanscrit. Fact! He spent four years in India, where he held a professorship in that subject at Madras University. The Archdeacon still plays a good game of golf, and has collected stamps since he was a boy. His collecting activities revolve around Victoria, Great Britain, and N.Z.

JACK HAWKER is the editor of *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, one of the world's popular philatelic journals. His collecting, which goes back many years, has during the last decade been confined to the stamps of U.S.A. Jack has one of the most cleverly arranged thematic collections of that country we've ever seen. Outside of stamps he is a member of the Amateur Soccer Association, and also Honorary Secretary of the local branch of the Baden-Powell Guild of Old Scouts.

HARRY CLARKSON is a genial soul, and worth talking to if you are interested in the stamps of Egypt, Switzerland, Australia, Belgian Congo, etc. Or even if you are just interested in stamps! He tells us he's been collecting for the past 55 years, less the time he spent with the 7th Batt.

on Gallipoli and elsewhere. A keen Churchman, and a Past Master in the Masonic Lodge, Harry's interests — outside of philately — are gardening, music and choral singing.

THEO STONE believes in collecting the hard way! His first collection was run jointly by him and his eldest son, Philip. When Philip, who was a Lancaster pilot, was shot down over Holland, someone in London took the collection without even a "by your leave." A second collection, started by Theo in Singapore, disappeared when the Japs took that city. Undiscouraged, Theo has started again and his principal interests are Malaya, Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland. Born in India, Theo was taken to England when two years old. Later he went to Singapore where he spent 35 years, 3½ of them in Changi as the unwilling guest of H.I.J.M. A life member of the Royal Singapore Yacht Club, Theo used to be very interested in sailing, rowing, swimming, and Rugby football. Today he's an amateur carpenter of no small merit.

Amongst the "Royal's" country members is KEITH DITTERICH. Keith, who is the Methodist Minister at Benalla, is a "penny red" fan, and has some extremely choice material. He also possesses a thematic collection dealing with religion. He was a Padre with the R.A.A.F. during the last war and was in Darwin when it was blitzed. He was also in the Milne Bay stunt and other hot spots in the islands.

Major-General A. C. SHORTT, F.R.P.S.L., of the British Army, is a popular figure in the "Royal" menage. Collects first issue of Holland, and gave a display recently that opened our eyes. Mr. Purves described it as "distinguished." It's more than that! It's epic, begad! Showed us a few new tricks in annotation, too. The General, who is head of the U.K. Service Liaison staff, served in both wars and was Director of Military Intelligence in the last one. His decorations include the C.B. and O.B.E. A member of the M.C.C. both here and in London, he is terrifically interested in cricket. Naturally enough, he expects England to win the Tests. He could be right, too — but we hope not!

—W.L.R.

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