

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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*and*  
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★ I have been appointed Commissioner for Australia for the International Stamp Exhibition in Stockholm in July 1955. This Exhibition, organised by the Swedish Post Office in close co-operation with the Swedish Philatelic Society, celebrates the centenary of the Swedish postage stamp, and is under the patronage of His Majesty King Gustaf VI Adolf.

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*Business Manager:* Mr J. H. REMINGTON, Nash Street, Gardiner, Melbourne, Victoria

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

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## COLLECTING NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

The writer is naturally conservative and he is not ashamed of the fact. His point of view on this particular subject *has*, however, changed over the years so that at least he cannot be accused of sheer rigidity.

While he still holds the view that the truest philately is that associated with the study of the stamp as a stamp, and also that that type of study demands more knowledge, more training and often more perseverance than the other branches of philatelic study he has, gradually, also become interested in studies of Cancellations, more particularly those used *on* stamps. Since the most "dinkum" item, as far as the Australian collector is concerned, is a stamp which has done genuine postal service, it follows that the cancellations found on that stamp, the indications that it *has* done that service, are part and parcel of the stamp itself and, historically, speak for the circumstances and conditions under which the stamp was used.

*Numeral* cancellation systems are now largely (save in some isolated cases) a thing of the past but years ago (more often indeed than not) such a system was in vogue in *most* countries, large and small.

It is, however, only comparatively recently that the British collector has interested himself, on an extensive scale, in the cancellation field. The earliest in the field, unquestionably, were the Germans who, from the early 80's of last century, pursued this type of study with a truly Germanic thoroughness. The "Cart-Wheels" of Bavaria, the "double circles" of Baden, Thurn and Taxis, etc. gave them plenty of scope, all the more because they were less interested in the problems of stamp production than their British confreres. The same held true

### PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

over most of Europe — Belgium, France, Greece are examples that come readily to mind. In short, long before the British collector was interested, the Continental specialist paid special attention to the collection of cancellations. The interest of the British collector, particularly in our Australian field, has increased over the years but the study of *numeral* cancellation systems (particularly those of countries of *more than microscopic size*) has generally been the *last* to be pursued.

In the main the objection has been a certain *monotony*, due to the use of precisely the *same* design over many numbers. This, of course, is undeniable, but it is purely an *aesthetic* — and certainly not a philatelic — objection.

Without further dissecting this angle let us look for a moment at the various points of positive interest in this type of collecting. In the first place, for the ordinary collector, there is the fascinating goal of completeness — a very clearly defined goal in this case. *He must have every number*. Except in the tiny fields (so beloved of many collectors) no one of course ever attains this goal but there it is, right in front of us, and we go on trying. In the various Australian fields a reasonable degree of completeness is harder to attain than in most European cases. Here the population was and is *less evenly distributed*. In Tasmania, for instance, it wouldn't be too much to say that 16 out of every 20 stamps in the period of the "numerals" bore Hobart and Launceston cancellations. About another 20 Post Offices are met fairly frequently, and the balance of some 370 Numerals verge from uncommon to screamingly rare. The case is similar with the other States but in all cases this makes the hunt more attractive since every day one is liable to dig up the unexpected.

For the student and specialist the fascination is even greater. There *are* cases here (e.g. Victoria) where official lists of numerals allocated have survived, but in most instances few or no records survive. Even where they do survive they are often fragmentary and incomplete. To work on the "*patterns*" employed in making the original allocations, to search what Governmental Records there are (*outside* the Post Office), to comb the country for old postcards, entires and the like is an engrossing and fascinating pursuit. One will never achieve completion but if one can create, for the first time, *the general picture*, then it is time to publish the work for the benefit of fellow collectors.

The writer is at the moment engaged in *three* such endeavours. In conjunction with Mr J. C. W. Brown he has commenced work on a book on the "Barred-Numeral Postmarks" of Victoria, 1856-1912. In conjunction with Messrs H. M. Campbell and L. C. Viney a great deal of work has been done preparatory to producing a book on "The Postmarks and Cancellations of Tasmania, 1822-1912" which may also incorporate Mr Lancaster's and the writer's work on the cancellations found on the "Pictorials." Finally, and probably very shortly, will appear the writer's own work on "The Travelling Post Offices of Victoria, 1865-1912." This will be published as a booklet by Mr Gartner. All these works, necessarily, will leave many holes unfilled, but they should certainly arouse interest, give many collectors who want it a "start" in these subjects, and thus produce, in due course, information that is now missing.



## EDITORIAL NOTES

The amount of interesting geographical and historical knowledge the student acquires en route are amazing. The early days of emigration, of gold and the "ghost towns," of the building of railways and of many other old colonial scenes pass before the eye, one by one. Once they inspired a tradition. Now they only speak to the few. This country indeed has nearly everything but the inspiration which only tradition can give. Many people talk about our traditions. Few know what they are.

J.R.W.P.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

At a special meeting of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria held on 15th April, the members, by an overwhelming majority, passed a motion which makes *Philately from Australia* the official organ of that Society, so that, commencing with the current issue, all members of the two publishing societies will receive this journal as part of their subscription. Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria who have paid a subscription to the journal for 1954 will receive an adjustment on their 1954-55 Society subscription. Our aim will be to include something of interest to everybody, and topical news and notes from each society, as well as reports of meetings, will be regular features in future issues.

This year the centenary of the first Western Australian stamp will be celebrated and will be marked, not only by the issue of a special stamp, but also by a State exhibition in Perth in September. This is being organised by The Philatelic Society of Western Australia, and our old friend, Mr W. H. Bromfield, is playing a prominent part in the arrangements.

1955 will bring a further crop of stamp centenaries, and already we have notice that in connection with these there will be a National Exhibition in Adelaide (of which more anon) and International Exhibitions in New Zealand and Sweden. Messrs J. R. W. Purves and C. E. Norden are the respective local Commissioners for the two latter, and further details may be obtained from them.

We regret to report the deaths of two prominent South Australian philatelists, Messrs F. C. Krichauff and N. R. James. Mr Krichauff, who was 93, was the doyen of Australian philately, being a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and our oldest signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. He was renowned

for his studies of the stamps of his own State, and his collection of these is now in the National Gallery in Adelaide. Mr James was a well-known collector of British Colonials, and had held office as President and Secretary of The Philatelic Society of South Australia.

A further loss sustained by Australian philately is that of Dr Mervyn Hall, who was recently killed in a glider accident. A Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, Dr Hall was a prominent collector of the stamps of his own State of Queensland.

We were shocked to hear of the sudden death of Mr Stanley Phillips, Managing Director of Stanley Gibbons Ltd. Being also joint editor of *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, he was one of the fast-vanishing race of professional philatelists with a thorough knowledge and love of stamps, and his passing is all the more to be regretted on that account. His loss, following as it does on the recent death of another Director, Mr F. B. Smith, is a sad one for the firm.

Some seven years ago The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria conducted a study course in philately, the lectures being given by prominent philatelists. The results were so successful that a further course is currently being conducted by the Society, the lecturers being Messrs J. R. W. Purves, J. C. W. Brown, P. Collas, J. H. Dunn and W. L. Russell. Indications are that similar results will be achieved.

We have received advice that the Third Part of the *Postage Stamps of Great Britain* was published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London, on 20 May. This is a new edition of Seymour's Part Two rewritten and extended from 1865 to 1910. The price is £1 sterling, and application should be made to the Secretary of the Society at 41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

## SOME EARLY DATES

*5d. K.G.V., Die 1.*

My earliest specimen with comb perforation is now 8.11.17, posted at the G.P.O., Sydney.

*½d. green, K.G.V.*

I recently found a specimen of No. 58, left pane, "Second" Plate (described by Mr A. W. Rowntree in *Philately from Australia*, June, 1951). This was clearly postmarked 24.3.16, at Melbourne. Identifiable specimens from this plate are unfortunately extremely rare, and dated specimens even harder to find. Nevertheless our only hope of elucidating the story of the plate would seem to lie in the comparison of dates found on such specimens with earliest dates from the Third Plates. The earliest record I know of for the latter is 13.5.16, but whether this applies to the upper or lower plate is not stated.

Incidentally the earliest date I know of for the Fourth Plates is 29.10.18.

*1d. red, K.G.V. The alleged "pulls" from the substituted clichés.*

These "pulls," roughly perforated and postally used, have been reported from about 1926, and the story given is that they must have been irregularly removed from the Stamp Printing Branch by an employee and subsequently used by him. I am myself absolutely convinced that they are no more than postal stationery "cut-outs," and that their author would never have succeeded in his imposition had postal stationery been more seriously studied and collected in this country. At a display given some time ago before the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

## CONVERSATION PIECE

Mr Kilfoyle gave me an opportunity of examining the specimen in his collection. This specimen, apart from the normal "die 2" spur, offers not the slightest evidence of having come from the "die 2" substituted cliché. On the other hand, it does show two flaws which immediately identify it as coming from one of the "die 2" electros used for stamping envelopes. There is a white spot on the head vertically below the "L" of "AUSTRALIA," and a larger white flaw about half way down the left frame of the left value tablet. From material in my postal stationery collection I could manufacture half a dozen identical such items.

The particular specimen in Mr Kilfoyle's collection is illustrated on pages 89 of Major Dormer Legge's *The Line Engraved Issues of 1914, and the Essays, Die and Plate Proofs of the Georgian Id.* The illustration shows clearly the flaw on the left value tablet and also the spot on the head.

Mr Holbeach and Mr Purves tell me that all specimens of these alleged "pulls" which they have seen over the years have been dismissed by them as fakes. Foisting disguised postal stationery cut-outs on the unwary is an old philatelic industry.

## CONVERSATION PIECE

By HAROLD THIRKELL

### *Hinge Wings*

"There are," said Mr Hinge, "some low forms of life parasitic on the body philatelic."

"Meaning?" asked Mr Gauge.

"Look at this exchange book," said Mr Hinge, tossing the package on the table, "franked with a dirty big wad of threepenny-ha'penny stamps! Wouldn't you expect a bloke to put useful stamps on a parcel to another collector? What are two-bob commemoratives for, anyway, or the half-dollar Abo. for that matter? With a two-and-sevenpenny slug every time you post one, the least you should expect is something useful when you receive one."

"Perhaps," suggested Mr Gauge mildly, "he hadn't access to anything else."

"My foot!" retorted Mr Hinge, "I happen to know that this feller works in a post office."

"In that case," agreed Mr Gauge, "it's either laziness or thoughtlessness, or else for some reason he doesn't like you."

"A couple of months ago," continued Mr Hinge, ignoring the suggestion, "I got a book with a *damaged* two-bob Coronation, obviously damaged *before* it was stuck on the parcel — looked, in fact, as if it had spent a week loose in the man's pocket among his petty cash. Would any really clean-minded person serve a fellow-collector like that?"

"I wonder," mused Mr Gauge, "just why you are so heated about this, seeing that we're supposed to be the protagonists of the classics?"

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"I've observed," said Mr Hinge slyly, "that *you* snip all the worthwhile stamps from your mail. Periodically you tenderly clean them, and tuck them away in that big black stock-book of yours. Your heart being a great deal less stony than you like to pretend, you make frequent hand-outs of them to the lesser fry — otherwise the stockbook would have burst its seams long ago. The fact is, of course, that no stamp is too humble for the attention of a collector, even if it's only a passing interest. That does not prevent him from being highly choosy about his own pet fancies, and snooty about other people's. After all, a man can breed Borzois and still like to give a pat to every friendly mongrel that comes along with a wagging tail."

"I am rebuked," said Mr Gauge, "for a pose of philatelic snobbishness."

"The real menace," continued Mr Hinge, "is the bloke who mistakes my courteous interest in, say, his South American airmails for a profound devotion equaling his own. I can sit through any display at a meeting and be reasonably interested. At an exhibition I take an intelligent look at everything before I return to browse and brood over the frames housing my favourites, so often, alas, outstripping my own poor possessions in number and beauty. But Heaven defend me from the cove who shanghai's me to his flat, and inflicts four hours and fifteen albums of Commonwealth imprints on me. As you know, I like to sit in the park on Sunday afternoons and watch the people — but does that betray a hankering to clasp any or all of them metaphorically to my bosom?"

"I imagine," said Mr Gauge, "that a recent experience is rankling."

"How right you are!" agreed Mr Hinge. "Perhaps at the moment I am somewhat soured — even the sunniest nature has its cloudy days. Normally I admit that it is sometimes a duty to smother one's yawns and simulate a burning interest in tripe — when, for instance, it's a matter of encouraging a newcomer to our ranks. Those first stumbling steps . . . and the neophyte may be young, feminine, and attractive . . ."

"Ah," said Mr Gauge, "the fair sex intrudes into the conversation — as usual."

"You know," said Mr Hinge dreamily, "my susceptible heart must have cost me a swag of nice stamps over the years. It's *so* difficult not to be generous to some tender bud just launching herself on the philatelic sea — if I may so put it."

"Bah!" snorted Mr Gauge.

## PUBLICATION RECEIVED

*A Review, 1952-1953, Private Treaty and Auction Sales.* 48 pp. 9½ x 7½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. Price 2s. (Stg.).

A hardy annual this, well worth the price asked.

Results achieved showed a substantial in-

crease over the previous season, thus reflecting the steadiness of the market for classics and rare pieces.

In the Australasian field, four-figure collections included the "J. W. Adams" New Zealand; "C. J. L. Snowden" Queensland—Used, "John Leask" Papua, and a further portion of the "Wawn" Victoria.

# 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 24)

## THE AUSTRALIAN STAMP JOURNAL (cont.)

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>3d.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Feb. 13 — p. 63,	Feb. 13 72
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue		Dec. 15 32
"    Now slightly greener shade		Aug. 16 182
"    Olive green.	Apr. 17 — p. 112,	Apr. 17 120
"    Sage green		Jul. 18 163
"    Retouch to final "A" of AUSTRALIA, etc.,		Jan. 28 3
"    Break in coast line to left of numeral.		Nov. 46 124
<i>4d.</i>		
Announcement of issue.		Mar. 13 93
<i>5d.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Feb. 13 — p. 63,	Feb. 13 72
Retouch to bottom of frame.		Jan. 28 3
<i>6d. Blue.</i>		
1st wmk: Announcement of issue.	Feb. 13 — p. 63,	Feb. 13 72
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3rd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Feb. 16 66
<i>6d. Brown.</i>		
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Dec. 23 189
"    A. J. Mullett imprint.		Dec. 16 179
"    John Ash imprint.		Sep. 27 141
"    Retouch North of Tasmania.		Jan. 28 3
Sm: Mult.: Announcement of issue.	Sep. 29—132, Oct. 29—p. 146,	Oct. 29 155
"    Listing several retouches.		Nov. 29 163
C. of A. wmk: Announcement of issue.	May 32—70 & 75,	Jul. 32 101
Sm: Mult: Overprinted O.S.	Jun. 32 — p. 90, Jul. 32 — p. 101,	Jul. 32 107
C. of A. Overprinted O.S.	Nov. 32 — p. 164,	Nov. 32 171
3rd wmk: Bearing wmk. from left hand marginal inscription.		Apr. 29 52

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	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>9d.</i>		
1st wmk: Announcement of issue.	Mar. 13	93
2nd wmk: Announcement of issue.	Jul. 15	146
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue.	Aug. 16	182
"    A. J. Mullett imprint.	Nov. 26	174
"    John Ash imprint.	Nov. 27	170
"    Retouch to final "E" of "PENCE."	Jan. 28	3
Sm. mult. wmk: Announcement of issue.	Mar. 29	42
C. of A. wmk: Announcement of issue.	May 32 - p. 70 & 75,	Jul. 32 101
"    Now brighter and deeper in shade.		Feb. 37 20
 <i>1/-.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Feb. 13 - p. 63,	Feb. 13 72
1st wmk: Perforated O.S.		Sep. 13 208
2nd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Sep. 15 178
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Aug. 16 182
"    Pale blue green shade.		Aug. 17 212
"    A. J. Mullett imprint		Nov. 26 174
"    Sideways wmk: Mullett imprint, 20 sheets sold.	Jan. 28 - p. 10,	Jan. 28 12
"    Ash imprint, deeper and brighter shade.	Feb. 28 - p. 19,	Mar. 28 39
"    Sideways wmk: Further quantities on sale.		Mar. 28 38
Sm. mult. wmk: Announcement of issue. Ash imprint, previous flaws corrected.	Jul. 29 - p. 101,	Jul. 29 105
 <i>2/-.</i>		
1st wmk: Announcement of issue.	Feb. 13 - p. 63,	Feb. 13 72
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Illustration of block of 30 overprinted N.W. Pacific.		Mar. 16 86
3rd wmk: Brown. Announcement of issue.		Jul. 16 165
"    Plum. Announcement of issue.		May 24 75
"Dollar S" flaw on 2nd and 3rd wmk. Described.		Sep. 26 129
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"    Maroon. John Ash imprint.		Oct. 28 150
Sm. mult. wmk: Announcement of issue.	Apr. 29 - p. 52,	Apr. 29 58
This value has not yet appeared overprinted O.S.		May 33 68
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"    "Cut throat" and "Chopped neck" varieties reported.	Oct. 39 - p. 147,	Nov. 39 171
"    "Cut throat" flaw retouched.	Jan. 40 - p. 5,	Feb. 40 52
"    Uncoloured flaw under "LI" of "AUSTRALIA," also retouch to same.	Dec. 45 - 138, Jul. 46-74,	Aug. 46 86
"    NEW DIE. Announcement of issue.	Jan. 46 - p. 3,	Apr. 46 39
"    "    White flaw above "TW" of "TWO."	Jan. 46 - p. 3,	Feb. 46 20
"    "    Describing varieties to 'Roos head.		Feb. 46 20
"    "    Alteration in Plate. Gutter between panes now wider.		May 47 53
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<i>5/-.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Sydney, April 1st. Ap. 13 — p. 105,	Apr. 13 111
1st wmk: Inverted wmk.		Feb. 15 61
2nd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Apr. 15 96
" Double print of orange part.		Nov. 15 10
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue		May 18 122
" "Broken tail."	Aug. 18 — p. 172,	Aug. 18 178
" Now orange and grey shade.		Aug. 19 195
" Ash imprint.		Aug. 29 119
" Retouch to left frame. (op. N.W. Pac.).		Nov. 29 163
Sm. mult. wmk. Announcement of issue. Comment that imprint should be scarce.	Ash Jan. 30 — p. 2,	Jan. 30 10
1st wmk: Retouch to left frame, used copy dated December (See 3rd wmk. above).		Feb. 30 31
3rd wmk: Roo badly distorted.		Sep. 30 133
C. of A. wmk: Announcement of issue.	Feb. 33 — p. 24,	Feb. 33 26
C. of A. wmk: Paper very transparent.		Apr. 33 59
<i>10/-.</i>		
1st wmk: Announcement of issue.	Sydney, April 1st. Apr. 13 — p. 105,	Apr. 13 11
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Mar. 17 91
" Sideways wmk.		Aug. 20 162
Sm. mult. wmk: Announcement of issue.	Apr. 29 — p. 52,	Apr. 29 58
" On issue in Sydney. Ash imprint, varieties.		Aug. 29 119
C. of A. wmk: Announcement of issue.	Sept. 32 — p. 135, Oct. 32 — p. 153,	Oct. 32 155
<i>£1.</i>		
1st wmk: Announcement of issue.	Sydney, April 1st. Apr. 13 — p. 105,	Apr. 13 111
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue.		Aug. 16 182
" Yellow brown and deep ultramarine.		Jul. 17 182
" Grey, Announcement of issue.		May 24 75
" Deeper shade on issue now. Harrison imprint.	"Slate in place of grey."	Oct. 29 147
" Still bearing Harrison imprint.		Mar. 33 36
C. of A. wmk: Announcement of issue.	Nov. 35 — p. 165,	Nov. 35 169
<i>£2.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	28th April. May 13 — p. 120,	May 13 126
Decision announced to discontinue issue, as "bulk postage over £1 to be paid in future." See Mar. 20 — p. 86.		Sep. 17 214
3rd wmk: Announcement of issue. Reference to apparent reconsideration of above decision to abandon the issue of this value. (lake & black)		Mar. 20 86
" Purple and rose.		Jun. 25 91
" Purple and rose. Earliest copy seen date 14.8.24.		Apr. 27 53
Sm. mult. wmk: Announcement of issue. Ash imprint.	Dec. 30 — p. 183,	Dec. 30 186
C. of A. wmk: Announcement of issue. Melbourne June.	Aug. 34 — p. 116,	Aug. 34 122
Comments on the probable discontinuance of this value.		Jan. 39 6

## PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

### THE ENGRAVED ISSUES

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
Report that the Dies for the new stamps bearing the King's head were being cut by Mr. Harrison, Commonwealth Note Printer.	Sep. 13	193
<i>1d.</i>		
P.M.G. reports that these are being printed. One million will be ready for circulation in a few days.	Nov. 13	2
Announcement of issue. 9 December. Mention of <i>Double perf.</i> and <i>imperf.</i> one side. Only six stamps being sold at one time to any one person.	Dec. 13	31
Article condemning issue of only one million stamps. Report that a second million is to be issued.	Jan. 14	39
Article criticising P.M.G. for suggested printing of one million engraved stamps.	Oct. 13	216
P.M.G. states that a second million of these stamps are being printed and will be available in ten days.	Feb. 14	57
Article criticising the manner of issue.	May 14 — p. 61,	May 14 111
Second million stamps put on sale through Commonwealth on 20th March. Details of varieties.	Apr. 14	95
Perf. 11 x 12½ reported.	Mar. 17	94
Reported in two sizes also imperf. down one side.	Jul. 18	162
<i>6d. KOOKABURRA.</i>		
Announcement of issue. 2nd September. Illustration.	Sep. 14 — p. 186,	Sep. 14 190
Report that 1000 sheets were printed.	Oct. 14	199

### KING GEORGE V. SURFACE PRINTED ISSUES

<i>½d.</i>		
Green. <i>Single Crown wmk.</i> Emerald green. Announcement of issue.	Mar. 15 — p. 68,	Mar. 15 78
	Illustration of a block of 30. (op N.W. Pac.)	Mar. 16 85
„ <i>Pale yellow green.</i>	Aug. 18 — p. 172,	Aug. 18 178
„ <i>Crown missing.</i>		May 20 112
„ <i>Large Mult. wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.		Feb. 18 74
„ „ Varieties described.		Sep. 18 193
„ „ Sideways wmk.		Mar. 28 37
Orange. <i>Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.		Dec. 23 189
„ „ Inverted wmk.		Aug. 24 120
„ <i>Sm. mult. wmk. perf. 14,</i> announcement of issue. Mullett imprint.	Mar. 27 — p. 37,	Mar. 27 42
„ „ This is printed from same plate as before, variety.		Apr. 27 53
„ <i>Single wmk.</i> Old stock, Harrison imprint, on sale again.		Sep. 27 141
„ <i>Sm. mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue. Previous varieties still present.	Dec. 28 — p. 186,	Dec. 28 187
„ „ Varieties now corrected.	Sep. 30 — p. 133,	Oct. 30 152
„ „ Retouch to lower left corner.		Dec. 30 184
„ <i>C of A wmk.</i> Overprinted O.S.	Jul. 32 — p. 101,	Jul. 32 107
„ „ On sale in Victoria.	Apr. 33 — p. 101,	Apr. 33 59

## CUMULATIVE INDEX COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
Brown. A copy is stated to exist in the Records Branch of the P.O. in Brisbane.	Aug. 26	113
Orange. Op. O.S. inverted. Probable cause explained.	Sep. 33	138
<i>Id.</i>		
Report that order for Die placed with Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co., London.	Feb. 14	61
Red. <i>Single Cr. wmk. Single line perf. 14.</i>		
Announcement of issue, Sydney, 17th July. Illustration.	Aug. 14 - p. 163,	Aug. 14 173
Comb. perf. 14. Issued Melbourne 8th Aug.	Aug. 14	173
" White "J" flaw in front of King's forehead.	Apr. 15 - p. 96,	May 15 110
" Issue without gum.	Apr. 16 - p. 101,	Sep. 16 196
" <i>Unsurfaced paper</i> , locally gummed now on issue.		Jan. 17 53
" " Pale carmine.		Aug. 17 202
" <i>Large mult. wmk</i> : Issued Melbourne 8 Dec.	Feb. 18 - p. 74,	Feb. 18 76
" <i>No wmk</i> : From bottom row with CA control under.		Feb. 18 74
" RA joined variety.		Mar. 18 83
" Harrison imprint.	Aug. 18 - p. 172,	Aug. 18 178
" <i>Die 3</i> . War Savings paper.	Aug. 18 - p. 172,	Aug. 18 178
" " Description of difference to Die 1.		Mar. 20 73
" <i>Large Mult. wmk</i> : Only 150,000 issued, and all these were sold in Victorian P.O.'s.		Nov. 18 5
" " To be reissued.		Apr. 19 111
" " On sale again.		Jan. 20 50
" <i>Single Cr. wmk</i> : Inverted wmk. Carmine.		Nov. 19 13
" "Freak" overprinted "50" in black, also "½" in violet ink.		Nov. 20 101
" " Also "½" in violet ink.		Nov. 20 201
" " White flaw on back of Emu.		Jan. 27 4
" " Retouch to top right corner, and "Penavy" flaws.		Feb. 28 20
" " <i>Die 2</i> . Single line perf.		Nov. 32 165
" " Pre-substituted cliché. Inverted wmk.		Mar. 38 37
" <i>Die 3</i> . Article describing issue and varieties.		Apr. 26 54
Violet. Announcement of issue.	Mar. 22 - p. 41,	Mar. 22 46
" Imperf. at sides and bottom.		Dec. 23 189
Green. Notes by A. A. Rosenblum on retouches and re-entries.		Jun. 28 85
" <i>Single Cr. wmk</i> : Announcement of issue. 1st May.		May 24 75
" " Mullett imprint.		Jun. 26 81
" " Inverted wmk.		Sep. 26 i
" " Old stock on sale again, Mullett imp.		Sep. 27 141
" <i>Large Mult. wmk</i> : Announcement of issue.		Jun. 24 92
" " Report that six weeks supply has been printed on this paper.		Jul. 24 98
" <i>No wmk</i> : Announcement of issue, about half a million printed.		Sep. 24 141
Green. <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14</i> . Announcement of issue. Still printed from		
" " Old plates.	Nov. 26 - 174	Dec. 26 179
" " Inverted wmk.		Dec. 26 179
" " Still on sale.		Mar. 27 37
" " Double perf. at top.		July. 27 112

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	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
" " Inverted wmk. Ash imprint.	Nov. 27	170
" " Notes on left hand plate flaws.	Sep. 29	132
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue. Feb. 27 — p. 21	Feb. 27	26
" " Some of the flaws on the lower plate retouched.	Jun. 27	83
" " John Ash imprint.	Aug. 27	122
" " Blotchy printings.	Sep. 27	122
" " "Neck" flaw re-entered.	Nov. 27	170
" " Shortly after these stamps were issued with this perforation, sheets were issued from printings that showed that the plates had been overhauled, and various flaws removed.	Apr. 28 — p. 57,	May 28 67
" " Printings on issue from left-hand plates again. Describing varieties, Ash imprint details, etc.	Aug. 28 — p. 115,	Aug. 28 120
" " Distortion on bottom of right-hand frame. Present on all printings.	Aug. 28	115
" " Die 2.	Aug. 28	120
" " Letter commenting on article in May with special reference to "Wattle line" flaw.	Sep. 29	139
" " Imprint now in "sans serif" capitals.	Apr. 31	52
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.	Oct. 31 — p. 155,	Nov. 31 164
" " Overprinted O.S.	Mar. 32 — p. 36,	Mar. 32 43
" " Being printed from steel plates of 480 units.	Jun. 32	84
" " Reversed wmk.	Jun. 32	84
" " " Overprinted O.S.	Jul. 32	102
" " Punctured O.S.	Jun. 33 — p. 83,	Dec. 35 182
" " "	Jan. 36	3
" <i>sm. mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Duplication of shading to right of crown.	Jan. 31	7
 <i>1½d.</i>		
<i>Sepia. Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.	Nov. 18 — p. 5,	Nov. 18 12
" <i>Large mult. wmk.</i> " "	Feb. 19	111
This stamp is to be printed in a lighter shade.	Apr. 19	111
<i>Purple Brown. Single Crown and Large mult. wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.	May 19	132
" <i>Crown missing.</i>	May 20	112
<i>Green.</i> Announcement of issue. 7th March, '23.	Mar. 23	43
<i>Scarlet. Single wmk.</i> Announcement of issue. 1st May, '24.	May 24	75
<i>Carmine. No wmk.</i> Announcement of issue, 13,000,000 printed.	Sep. 24	141
<i>Scarlet. Single crown wmk.</i> Inverted wmk. (used).	Mar. 26	47
" " Imprint. removed.	May 26	47
" " Mullett imprint. On sale Sydney.	Jul. 26	97
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14.</i> Announcement of issue. Printed from new plates. Description of marginal lines. A. J. Mullett imprint.	Nov. 26	174
" " New plate made from a new Die. Description, marginal plate		
" " Inverted wmk. All from plate No. 3.	Dec. 26 — p. 179,	Feb. 27 21
" " Nos. etc.	Dec. 26	179
" " Double perf. at top.	Dec. 26	179

## CUMULATIVE INDEX COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue.		
	Feb. 27 - p. 21,	Feb. 27 26
" Perf. 14 still on sale.		Mar. 27 37
" <i>Perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Heavy retouch to upper right-hand corner.		Aug. 27 122
" " John Ash imprint.		Nov. 27 170
" Numerous retouches listed, in all colours. Single Crown wmk. and No wmk.		Jan. 28 3
" " Strip of three imperf. at foot, etc.	Feb. 30 - p. 21,	Jan. 23 13
" Design not considered satisfactory by Postal Dept.		Jun. 30 86
" Lord Howe Island Provisionals. Report that some of these stamps were surcharged by hand for use as 2d. stamps.		Oct. 30 151
<i>Brown. Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue.		
	Oct. 30 - p. 151,	Oct. 30 154
" " Being printed from steel plates of 480 units		Jun. 32 84
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.	Nov. 36 - p. 171,	Feb. 37 20
" " Large "1" in right value tablet.		Mar. 37 36
<i>Scarlet. Sm. mult. wmk.</i> Booklets, make up, varieties.		Feb. 29 23
 <i>2d.</i>		
<i>Brown orange. Single crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.		Oct. 20 197
<i>Scarlet.</i>	Mar. 22 - p. 41,	Mar. 22 46
" " " " " " " "		
" Pale red shade, punctured O.S.		Dec. 22 187
" Retouches described.		Jan. 28 3
<i>Brown.</i> Announcement of issue.		May 24 75
" Deep redbrown, thin paper.		Dec. 24 188
" Retouches described.		Jan. 28 3
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14.</i> Announcement of issue.		
	Sep. 27 - p. 138	Sep. 27 141
" " Retouches described.		Jan. 28 3
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½. Die 2.</i> From new steel plate.		
	Announcement of issue, <i>Die 2.</i> May 28 - p. 67,	May 28 83
" " Deeper and brighter shade.		Nov. 29 163
<i>Scarlet.</i> " Announcement of issue.	Sep. 30 - p. 132,	Sep. 30 137
" " <i>Die 3.</i> Oct. 30 - p. 152, Nov. 30 - p. 167,		Nov. 30 170
" " " Booklet containing 12 stamps.		Nov. 30 167
" " Varieties listed. <i>Die 3.</i>		Feb. 31 22
" " Description of different dies.		Nov. 30 168
" " " Overprinted O.S.	Mar. 32 - p. 36,	Mar. 32 43
" " " " Inv. wmk.		Jun. 32 86
" " " " Punctured O.S.		Jan. 36 3
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue. Also in booklet form in which half of stamps have inv. wmk., also op. O.S.	Jan. 32 - p. 11,	Feb. 32 18
" " Overprinted O.S.	Apr. 32 - p. 56,	Apr. 32 58
" " Printed from steel plates of 480 units.		Jun. 32 84
" <i>"Sydney Forgeries"</i>	May 32 - p. 70, Jun. 32 - p. 36,	Jul. 32 101

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
<i>TWO PENCE overprinted on 1½d.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Aug. 30 — p. 115,	Aug. 30 122
Cut "O" of TWO on surcharge, on plates 3 and 4.		Sep. 30 132
Punctured "T"		Dec. 30 184
<i>3d.</i>		
<i>Blue. Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue		May 24 75
" " New plate, A. J. Mullett imprint, with marginal lines round each sheet, but not between panes.		Oct. 26 145
" " Strip of eight stamps, imperf. at sides and bottom, with Harrison imprint.		Oct. 26 159
" " Old stock on sale again. Mullett imp.		Sep. 27 141
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14.</i> Announcement of issue. Marginal lines outside sheet.	Jan. 27 — p. 4,	Jan. 27 11
" Harrison and Mullett plate retouches.		Jan. 28 3
" Single Cr. and sm. mult. wmk. description of Type 1 and Type 2.		Feb. 28 19
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue. Retouch mentioned.	Mar. 28 — p. 38,	Mar. 28 39
" " Perforated O.S. inverted wmk.		Dec. 32 182
" " <i>New Die.</i> Description of method of producing plates.	Oct. 29 — p. 147, Oct. 29 — p. 151,	Oct. 29 155
" " " Retouch to "ST" of Australia.		Dec. 29 183
" " " Retouch to "ALI" of Australia.		Jan. 30 3
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.	Oct. 32 — p. 155,	Nov. 32 164
" " Notes on varieties and imprints.		Dec. 32 182
" " Overprinted O.S.	May 33 — p. 68,	May 33 75
<i>4d.</i>		
<i>Yellow. Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue. G.P.O., Sydney, 6th January. Orange yellow shade.		Jan. 16 42
" " Pale orange shade.	Mar. 15 — p. 67,	Mar. 15 78
" " Pale yellow shade.	Apr. 16 — p. 101,	Apr. 16 110
" " Orange yellow shade.		Aug. 17 212
" " Orange. New shade.		Feb. 18 74
" " Pale orange shade.		Jul. 18 163
<i>Violet.</i> " Reports that colour is to be changed.	Mar. 21 — p. 45, May 21 — p. 80,	June 21 93
" " Announcement of issue.		Jul. 21 113
" " "Line through 4d." flaw, only six copies known to exist		Jun. 45 69
<i>Blue.</i> " Announcement of issue in 20/- booklet.		Apr. 22 58
" " On sale Sydney, 13th April.		May 22 77
" " Deep blue shade.		Dec. 22 187
<i>Olive. Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.		May 24 75
" " No imprint. Bistre shade.		Jun. 26 92
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14.</i> Ash imprint. Announcement of issue.	Feb. 28 — p. 19,	Feb. 28 25
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Ash imprint. Announcement of issue.	Jul. 29 — p. 101,	Jul. 29 105



CUMULATIVE INDEX COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

	<i>Issue</i>	<i>Page</i>
" " Overprinted O.S.	Mar. 32 — p. 36,	Mar. 32 43
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue. Varieties mentioned.	Mar. 33 — p. 36,	Mar. 33 43
<i>4½d.</i>		
<i>Violet. Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.		May 24 75
" " A. J. Mullett imprint.		Nov. 26 174
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14.</i> Announcement of issue. John Ash imprint.	Nov. 27 — p. 170,	Nov. 27 171
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue.	Feb. 29 — p. 23,	Feb. 29 26
" " Used copy dated 11.2.29 reported.		Apr. 29 52
" " Perf. 14. sm. mult. wmk. still on sale.		Sep. 29 132
" " <i>Die 2.</i> Issued in cancelled to order sets.		Jan. 31 7
" " " Report that large stocks on hand.		Dec. 32 198
<i>5d.</i>		
<i>Brown. Single Crown wmk.</i> Single line perf. 14. Announcement of issue.	Mar. 15 — p. 68,	Mar. 15 78
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Pale yellow brown. Announcement of issue.	Oct. 30 — p. 151,	Oct. 30 154
" " Retouch across lower portion of stamp.		Nov. 30 168
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.	Mar. 32 — p. 36,	Mar. 32 43
" " Overprinted O.S.	Jul. 32 — p. 101,	Jul. 32 107
" " Brighter and more yellowish shade.		Jun. 34 85
<i>FIVE PENCE overprinted on 4½d.</i>		
Announcement of issue.	Aug. 30 — p. 115 and 116,	Aug. 30 122
Printed from new 4½d. plate ( <i>Die 2</i> ). "E" of PENCE on surcharge narrow.		Sep. 30 132
<i>1/4d.</i>		
<i>Blue. Single Crown wmk.</i> Announcement of issue.		Jan. 21 10
" " A. J. Mullett imprint.		Jan. 27 4
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 14.</i> Mullett imprint. Announcement of issue.		Oct. 27 155
" " Deformed "1" on No. 57. Right pane still in evidence.		Nov. 27 170
" <i>Small mult. wmk. perf. 13½ x 12½.</i> Announcement of issue. Thick "1" still present.	Dec. 28 — p. 186,	Dec. 28 187
" " Reported on issue last September.		Feb. 29 23
" " Thick "1" flaw retouched.		Dec. 31 183
" <i>C of A wmk.</i> Announcement of issue in Adelaide in August.	Sep. 32 — p. 135,	Dec. 32 182
" " Still not on sale in Sydney.		Nov. 32 165
" " Now issued in Sydney.	Feb. 33 — p. 24,	Feb. 33 26
" " Inverted wmk.		Oct. 34 148

(To be continued)



# The Other Side of the Picture



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

## THE PERKINS, BACON RECORDS

### *New Problems for States' Students.*

This time I propose to devote most of the space available for this feature in commenting on certain facts, *not generally known* to students of States' stamps, which have been brought to light by the recent publication (in two volumes) by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, of this truly splendid work. Priced at £6/6/- sterling, I honestly believe that for anyone interested in the Classic Perkins, Bacon issues of any colony it represents quite remarkable value. In the notes that follow I comment only on the *new* facts (and the scope they offer for new research) — as far as they appear to me. I have, of necessity, had to omit reference to other matters of considerable interest in this record, but I shall be pleased to hear from other collectors and to record their comments here.

## NEW SOUTH WALES

### *The early "Errors of Watermark"*

It has always been my belief that the rare errors of this kind (found also in Tasmania and Victoria), *all* occurring with various papers supplied by Perkins, Bacon, arose through a sheet of the *wrong* watermark being bound in a book which purported to contain *another* type of watermark only. The records show that for say the New South Wales 1d. and 2d. "Diadems" (see p. 79, etc.) Perkins, Bacon & Co. *stitched* up the sheets supplied, according to watermark, in *Books* of 150 each. Note also that these "errors of watermark" are not found with stamps *printed* by Perkins, Bacon, *all* the stamps in question being printed in the Colonies. Basset Hull was always loth to accept such a basis though he could not offer any better theory of their causation, but that this sort of thing *was* possible is fully demonstrated by a letter from the Firm to Mrs Wise (who made their paper) date 18.6.55. This is quoted on p. 69. It refers, with some dismay, to a *mixing up* of sheets of different watermarks, and says—

## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE

"Today, by mere accident, we have discovered 121 sheets (*i.e.*, of 2d. paper) mixed in the reams with the threepenny, and how much more there is we cannot yet tell, and the twopenny being at press we cannot yet ascertain how that is, but have already found several of the threepenny among that . . ."

The firm then proceeds with some severe admonitions and concludes "we expect to see no more shameful mixtures of two denominations in the same ream."

Nothing now seems more likely than that Perkins, Bacon (particularly during periods of stress, and these were many) *did* fail to catch up on all Mrs Wise's errors, and so *did* occasionally bind a sheet of wrong paper into a book intended for *another* value.

### (ii) 6d. "Diadem," Plate 2.

On pp. 94, 95 some new facts are brought to light in connection with the *second* plate for this value which was received in Sydney late in 1864. It is now shown (the reasons are very interesting) that this *second* plate was (as compared with the first) laid down from an entirely *new* transfer-roll. It will be interesting to see whether students can now find any reliable test for distinguishing between stamps printed from these two plates, as it has been found possible to do in the cases of the 2d. Queensland, first type, printed from Plates 1 and 2 respectively.

### (iii) 2d. Queen-in-Coronation-Chair Essay

The fact is now made quite clear that this essay was prepared for New South Wales in November 1853 and thus *ante-dated* the Victorian 1d. and 6d. Dies which (although of rather *similar* design) were *separately* engraved in February 1854.

Another interesting point is that certain modern "reprints" made by the firm (see *London Philatelist* for 1929) and previously attributed to Victoria are now shown to have been produced via this 2d. *New South Wales* Essay Die.

Further, the story of the 1877 reprint of this Essay has now been clearly set out. (pp. 98-99).

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The most interesting fact, in the writer's opinion, now emphasised is that Perkins, Bacon produced *two* plates (each of 240) for the 2d., 4d. and 1s. values.

He had, himself, in a study of the re-entry varieties found on the 1s. (see *P.J.G.B.* for Jan. 1937, etc.) pointed out that this was a necessary inference in the case of the 1s. value, and further that Plate 2 probably did not come into use until 1894. The Records show that *both* these plates were prepared at the *same* time in 1856 and were *both* received in Adelaide at the same time.

The *second* plate for the 2d. value was ordered late in 1863 and received in Adelaide early in 1864 and it is shown that it was laid down from an entirely *new* transfer-roller. Here again it may be worthwhile for students to see if tests

## PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

can be evolved to distinguish satisfactorily between the stamps printed from each plate.

In regard to the 4d. value, the Records (pp. 148, 149) show that the first plate was ordered on 20.7.66 and a *second* plate (presumably a reserve) on 23.11.66. Once again students have the problem of determining whether and when both plates were used, and whether any distinction can be made (this is very unlikely) between them. The 4d. value was in use for some 24 years (as compared with 45 years for the 1s.) and it may be, of course, that the *one* plate served throughout.

It does not appear that there is one student of these issues to be found in South Australia today — a sad commentary indeed — but perhaps some of those English collectors who are interested will pursue these matters.

The *numeral cancellations* are shown to have been supplied by Perkins, Bacon & Co. in 1856 (70) and 1862 (80) respectively (see pp. 139, 146, 844).

## TASMANIA

The writer — who has recently completed (in conjunction with Mr. V. J. Colbeck, of Hobart) a study of the plate varieties of the 2d. and 4d. V.D.L. (Perkins, Bacon) stamps — was disappointed (though not exactly surprised) to find that the Records contained no reference to certain technical problems that were obviously encountered in the making of these plates.

Reference is, however, made to a number of interesting points. In particular, it is shown that the *first numeral cancellations* (ordered in 1854) were almost certainly supplied by Perkins, Bacon & Co. (see at p. 114). Those prepared in connection with the "*second allocation*" certainly came from *another* source.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Here, the most interesting question concerns the return of the 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. plates late in 1860 to Perkins, Bacon for repairs. The 1d. plate (along with 1,000,000 1d. stamps printed in London) had been forwarded to the Colony late in 1853 and the other plates on 31st March 1860 so that few stamps of those values *other* than the 1d. *could* have been printed in the Colony *before* their return to England. To add insult to injury they appear to have sustained further damage on the voyage home. Perkins, Bacon in a letter of 31.1.61 (p. 395) stated — referring to the repair of the damaged plates —

"As they had been hardened in the ordinary course of business, it was necessary to de-carbonise them before repairing, then to re-enter the defective stamps, and afterwards harden the plate again."

There is nothing to show *which* plate was re-entered nor how many impressions were re-entered but it seems (from other evidence) that at least 14-15 impressions on *one* plate were affected since the whole of the repairs to the other

## THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE

four plates (p. 396) only cost £2/5/- whereas the cost of repairing the one plate was £15/15/-.

Which plate *was* repaired and are the repairs reflected by the presence of varieties? The writer and other students described (see *London Philatelist*, Vols. 43 and 44) certain *constant major re-entries* in the 1d. and 2d. values. Since, however, the re-entries found in the 1d. frequently turn-up in the "*blacks*" and since the first printings from the plate after it had been received back in London took place on 17.1.61 and was in *red* it is certain that these 1d. varieties were *on* the plate when it was sent to the Colony in 1853. Likewise the 2d. varieties have been found from the first printings of the 2d. in orange (i.e. before its return to London) and must have also been there from the start, since the first printing from the repaired plate on 17.1.61 was in *blue*.

My own guess — based on a number of constant varieties showing white around the swan where shading should normally occur — is that the plate mainly concerned in the 1860 London repairs was the 4d. Maybe Mr Bromfield and other W.A. enthusiasts can throw further light on this subject. Considering the repairs (re-entries) effected by the firm on the 2d. Diadem Plate of New South Wales in 1859 (which are practically *indistinguishable* as varieties) one is not surprised that no obvious re-entry (that can be ascribed to the repairs in question) has turned up to date.

## TASMANIAN STAMP DIES AND PLATES

(1853 - 1950)

### THEIR HISTORY AND SAD END

*An Analysis and Some Comments on the Lists Recently Found by Mr Collas.*

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

Mr Collas has unearthed, in the Commonwealth Postal Archives, and recently referred to in the *Philatelic Bulletin* for April, 1954, certain lists and records as follows:

1. A list of Stamp Dies and Plates held in Hobart, Tasmania, dated March 1904. This list contains five columns, viz: No., description, value of stamp, number of impressions, year of issue.
2. A list of "Obsolete Stamp Plates held at Hobart in May 1911." Here only a very brief description, followed by the value, is given. Note that the list is of *plates* only, and *not* of dies.
3. "List of *Lithographic* Plates held (Hobart) March 1925." Here the final analysis reveals that the title heading is certainly a *misnomer*. The *only* "lithographic plates" which *could* possibly have been held were the stones for certain St. George and Dragon lithographic printings for which litho transfers were

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taken from the original 5s. and 10s. recessed copper plates. *These* lithos were only available for Revenue purposes. I think it extremely unlikely that these St. George and Dragon stones *were* included in the list because the practice here was always to rub the impressions off the stone after every lithographic printing.

My considered opinion is that this title should read "Typographic and Other Plates" – not "Lithographic plates" – since the items it lists (also listed in the *other* lists) embrace only *recessed* and *typographic* productions, with the exceedingly doubtful exception of the 5s. and 10s. St. George and Dragon just noted. The use of the expression "Plates" also weighs against the correctness of the description "Lithographic."

4. "Lists of Dies, etc., and Electros destroyed at the Stamp Printer's Office, Melbourne, on 2 July 1913."

Here there is a "denomination" column, then a column for "dies, etc.," then a "no." column. A *second* description column headed "Electros" and a corresponding second "no." column is on the right of the first three columns.

5. "Obsolete Printing Instruments destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, July 1950."

Here there are general descriptions of various items under the heads of "Steel Dies," "Cylinders," "Steel Plates," "Copper Plates" and "Miscellaneous" respectively.

To identify and reconcile all the items in the above lists has required a great deal of research and analysis, not to say time. Not only are many of the descriptions insufficient of themselves to identify the item listed with certainty, but in certain lists (particularly the 1913 list) there is no doubt that *different* designs of the *same* denomination have been thrown together without any distinction.

The following analysis is the result. It takes each issue in chronological order and embraces all that is already known on the philatelic side and its significance or otherwise in relation to the lists. In the result it is believed that every item in the lists has been successfully identified and, so to speak, disentangled. Quite a number of *new* facts have come to light in the process.

The only sad fact that emerges is that, as late as 1950, there was so little appreciation of the historic and philatelic interest of the unique early Hobart – Perkins, Bacon – and De La Rue plates, etc., that they were sentenced to death without a thought as to the desirability of preserving them for posterity.

*1853 Plates:* These were of copper. There was *one* for the 1d. blue of 24 impressions and *two* for the 4d. orange, each also of 24 impressions. They were held in Hobart in March 1904. Described as "mutilated," they were held in Hobart in May 1911. They were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

*Note:* Complete proof sheets from the defaced plates have, of course, long been known to collectors.



## TASMANIAN STAMP DIES AND PLATES

### 1855-58: Perkins Bacon Designs.

1. *Plates:* 1d., 2d., 4d., 6d. and 1s. These were of steel and were originally all of 240 impressions (12 x 20), but Basset Hull tells us (*London Philatelist*, 1901, at p. 198) that in 1891 the 6d. plate was cut into *two* halves, giving two plates, each of 120 impressions (12 x 10) for that value, i.e., six plates in all. These plates were held in Hobart in March 1904, in May 1911, and March 1925 respectively. They were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne in July 1950.

2. *Flat Steel Dies* for the same: All five were held in Hobart in March 1904 and May 1911 respectively. They were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

3. *The "transfer-roller"* (described as "1 steel cylinder") for the 1s. value was held in Hobart in March 1904 and May 1911. It was destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

### 1864: "St. George and Dragon" series: 3d., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s. Copper plates made by Alfred Bock, Hobart.

Here the 3d. and 2s. 6d. plates were of 240 impressions (12 x 20) each, but Basset Hull (*London Philatelist*, 1894, at p. 169) informs us that the 2s. 6d. plate (like that for the 6d. Perkins, Bacon design) was cut into *two* — giving us *two* plates, each of 120 impressions (12 x 10) for that value. The plates for the 5s. and 10s. values were of 120 impressions (12 x 10) each. The five plates for these values were held in Hobart in March 1904, May 1911 and May 1925 respectively. They were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

*Note:* For all printings of the 2s. 6d. value *subsequent* to the date of cutting up (Aug. 1888), only the *upper* half plate appears to have been used and, in fact, the writer, a few years ago, amused himself by reconstructing this upper 120 with fiscally used material.

### De La Rue: Queen's Head types of 1870 on.

(a) *The Steel Dies* for the 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 8d., 9d., 10d., and 5s. (8) were held in Hobart in March 1904 and those for the 1d., 2d., 3d., 8d., 9d., 10d. and 5s. were destroyed at the Stamp Printing Office, Melbourne, 2 July 1913. The 4d. is missing from the latter list, but should probably have been included.

(b) *The Copper Electrotypes Plates* for the 1d., 2d. (these were the "local" plates), 3d., 4d., 8d., 9d., 10d. and 5s. appear in the list of March 1904. The 9d. entry is curious since a printing of that value (unquestionably from the original 1871 plate with "7" and "50" markings — see later) had been made in Melbourne in December 1902 and was issued early in 1903 and, of course, this value appeared later on Crown over A paper. The 8d. plate (which was the London plate of 1878 — the markings are identical) must have been sent to Melbourne some time before 1907 when the first Melbourne printing of the 8d. (on Crown over A paper) appeared.

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The 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 10d. and 5s. plates appear in the 1911 list (i.e., the 8d. and 9d. plates were then in Melbourne) *and* in the 1925 list.

The 8d. and 9d. plates were destroyed in Melbourne on 2 July 1913, and the 1d., 2d., 3d., 4d., 10d. and 5s. at the Note Printing Branch in July 1950.

The *marginal markings* on the earlier De La Rue Plates are interesting. Each plate had two numbers, each in white on a coloured circular background, and each occurring twice in the sheet in top and bottom margins respectively. The *smaller* one had some reference to the order of the relevant Tasmanian requisition on the firm and was also perhaps the order in which the plates were manufactured. Thus the first plates received (1870) were for the 1d., 2d., 4d. and 10d., and these were numbered 1, 2, 3 and 4 respectively. Then followed in 1871-2 the 3d., 5s. and 9d. in that order, and these were numbered 5, 6 and 7 respectively.

The *larger* number presumably referred to the *total number* of electrotype stamp plates then produced by De La Rue's for any Colony, but exclusive of those for Great Britain. Thus these Plates also received the numbers 41 (1d.), 42 (2d.), 43 (4d.), 44 (10d.), 47 (3d.), 48 (5s.) 50 (9d.). Presumably the missing larger numbers (45, 46, 49) referred to plates produced by the same firm in the same period for a country or countries *other* than Tasmania.

The London printings of the 1d., 2d. and 8d. (1878 on) were from plates with just *one* number on. The 8d. had a "1" in circle, the 1d. "2" and "3" respectively, and the 2d. a "4."

### *½d. Electrotype (Melbourne Manufacture) of 1889.*

1. The copper electrotype plate of 120 impressions (12 x 10) was held in Hobart in March 1904, May 1911 and March 1925 respectively. It was destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.
2. The Steel Die (it was also made in Melbourne) was held in Hobart in March 1904, but I am unable to find any further reference to it in the later lists.

### *De La Rue (Small Queen's Head Type) Series of 1892-99.*

- (a) *Dies*: Only one value (the 2½d.) was monocoloured and for this stamp a special die was engraved and plate prepared. The die was held in Hobart in March 1904 and was destroyed at the Stamp Printing Office, Melbourne, on 2 July 1913.

For the other values (½d., 5d., 6d., 10d., 1s., 2s. 6d., 5s., 10s., £1) there was only the *one* frame-die (and plate) for all, and *separate* dies (and plates) for the "TASMANIA" and "tablet of value" portion.

The frame-die (termed "key die" in the List) was held in Hobart in March 1904 and was destroyed in Melbourne on 2 July 1913.

The other *nine* dies do not appear in any of the lists and *may* have been retained by Messrs. De La Rue, since they are not in the 1904 List.

## TASMANIAN STAMP DIES AND PLATES

- (b) *Plates*: These plates (the 2½d. plate, the frame-plate, and the nine "TASMANIA" and "Tablet of Value" plates) must also have been sent to Melbourne before March 1904 (they do not appear in the 1904 List), since they all appear amongst the items destroyed at Melbourne on 2 July, 1913.

Printings were only made in Melbourne of the 1s. (on V over Crown and Crown over A paper respectively) and 10s. (on Crown over A paper). Apart from the paper (which may have been in part responsible), these printings have a much *coarser* appearance than the earlier De La Rue printings, from which they are easily recognisable.

The frame plate and all the "tablet of value" plates were destroyed at the Stamp Printer's Office, Melbourne, on 2 July 1913.

*Prepared for use, but not issued*: 2s. 6d. and 10s. values. Plates prepared and surface printed by De La Rue's in mauve and green respectively (Queen's head — Key Design — see S.G. Catalogue page ix) and black. Specimens of the printed stamps are to be found in a number of collections. The "overprint" plates ("TASMANIA" and the words of value) (of 60 impressions each, 6 x 10) were held in Hobart in March 1904, May 1911 and March 1925 respectively. These were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950. Since the frame plate was almost certainly of 120 impressions (in two panes of 60 — 6 x 10), it appears that the "overprint" was applied *twice*, once to each pane.

"*Embossing Dies*" for 3d. and 4d. registration envelopes. These were held in Hobart in 1904 and were destroyed at the Stamp Printer's Office, Melbourne, on 2 July 1913.

### *Postal Stationery:*

(1) *Queen's Heads*: (a) 1d. Postcards: 56 "Postcard Electros" and one plate for Postcards of 21 impressions were held in Hobart in March 1904, May 1911 and March 1925 respectively. The 56 probably represented two-thirds of the dismantled formes of 21 electros. The 1950 list indicates that these were numbered 1/56. This has reference to their De La Rue production (see above).

The 1d. Postcard, which (after the London Prints of 1882) was printed locally from 1884 on to 1900 or so, went through many printings and is found in many shades. Presumably several printing plates (or "formes," since they meant the clamping together of 21 electros) were required. Both the 56 and the 21 were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

(b) *1½d. Postcards*. These were apparently printed from a forme of 6 electros, since 6 "fronts and backs reply cards" were held in Hobart in March 1904, May 1911 and March 1925 respectively. They were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

(2) *King Edward 1d. Postcards*: One plate of 45 electros was held at Hobart in March 1904, May 1911 and March 1925 respectively. They were destroyed at the Note Printing Branch, Melbourne, in July 1950.

(3) *½d. "King Edward" Wrappers*: See under *½d. Pictorial*.

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*Pictorial Lettercards:* These were printed in "sixes" and there were *two* series. The two plates (of six each) were held in Hobart in March 1904 and May 1911. They do not appear specifically in the later lists, but the "6 Imprints — Postcards — Electros" and the "6 Copper  $\frac{1}{2}$  Tones" which were included in the items destroyed at the Note Printing Branch in July 1950 undoubtedly comprised the plate for one series, the "copper  $\frac{1}{2}$  tones" containing the Pictorial portions.

### *Pictorials*

1. *De La Rue Recessed Dies:* These dies (for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d.,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d. and 6d. values) were held in Hobart in March 1904. In that list they are each described as "1, Original Steel, Pictorial." No figure is given in the "number of impressions" column and there is no doubt, therefore, that we are dealing with "dies" and not plates. They were destroyed at the Stamp Printer's Office, Melbourne, on 2 July 1913. In the latter list they are each, individually, described as "Steel Plate (Master) 1" or "Master Steel Plate 1." In that list all the items called "dies" have been identified as *typographic* so that the *recessed* originals were apparently not referred to as "dies."

2. *De La Rue Recessed Plates:* Apparently only one *steeled electro* for each value was sent to Melbourne by Messrs. De La Rue in 1901. They are described in the 1913 List, for each individual value, as "Steel Plate 60." (They were not, of course, steel plates in the true sense of the term.) They also were all destroyed on 2 July 1913.

3. *Zinc Dies for Melbourne Typographed (Electrotyped) Stamps.* The writer, twenty years since, showed that these were produced via *zinc dies* ("line-blocks"), and this fact is now further corroborated by the description (in the 1913 List) of "Zinc dies 1" for each of the 2d., 3d., 4d. and 6d. values. The 4d. zinc die, incidentally, was *never used*, and this value was printed throughout by lithography. In the case of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value *two* zinc dies are listed, but only one is the Pictorial, the other presumably being the die for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "King Edward" Wrapper. In the case of the 1d., *three* zinc dies are listed. One of these was the Pictorial and it is possible that the other two were *both* dies for the 1d. "King Edward" Postcard. The writer has authentic information that at least one zinc die for the 1d. "King Edward" design was engraved by Mr Oliver (who also "finished" the Pictorial Zinc Dies). It is possible that the first printings of this Postcard may have been from a first zinc die and the later printings (1905 on) from a second zinc die in which the "whites" had been "opened up" a little more. These "Zinc Dies" were also all destroyed in Melbourne on 2 July 1913.

4. *Typographic (Electrotype) Printing Plates used for the Melbourne Printings.*

These are included in the July 1913 list under the descriptions "Electros" — "Nos."

$\frac{1}{2}$ d. value: Here the description is "Electros 256." These would have com-

## TASMANIAN STAMP DIES AND PLATES

prised  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. De La Rue (Value Tablet Plate) 120, the 2 Electrotypes Plates (in use 1908-12) for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Pictorial - 120 (2 x 60) and 16 Electrotypes for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. "King Edward" wrappers.

*1d. value:* Here the description is "Electros 480." These would have comprised the six electros used for the 1d. Pictorial (1, 2 in 1902-3 - 3, 4 in 1903-10 and 5, 6 in 1910-12), i.e., 360 impressions, and a De La Rue 1d. London plate (of 1878-1899) of 120 impressions (in two panes of 60) which was apparently sent out to Melbourne in 1901 with its companion 2d. Plate and those of the contemporary series of 1892-99 (which did not include a 1d. or 2d. value). The plates for the 1d. King Edward Postcards were listed elsewhere, so cannot be included here.

*2d. value:* Here the description is "Electros 248." These would have comprised the two electros used for the 2d. from 1907 to 1911 (120 - 6 x 2) and the De La Rue London 2d. plate (of 1878-99) of 120 impressions (in two panes of 60) - see above. If the "8" is correct, these eight probably comprised some electros for Postcards (Pictorial type) not otherwise included in the various lists. As to why the plate used for the 1911-12 printings of the 2d. is not included here will appear in a later article. It makes an interesting story.

*2½d. value:* This stamp only appeared recess-printed and the description in the list "Electros 120" can only refer to the 2½d. De La Rue Queen's Head of 1892-99.

*3d. value:* Here the description is "Electros 120." These comprised the two plates (60 x 2) in use 1908-12.

*4d. value:* The *absence* of any reference to "Electros" for this value confirms the truth of the finding long since made, viz: that all Melbourne printings were *lithographic*.

*5d. value:* As with the 2½d. this value only appeared recess-printed and the description in the list "Electros 120" can only refer to the De La Rue Plate (Tablet of Value) used for the 5d. of 1892-99 of 120 impressions (in 2 panes of 60).

*6d. value:* Here the description is "Electros 180." These comprised the De La Rue Plate (Tablet of Value) for the 6d. value of 1892-1899 *and* the electrotype plate of 60 impressions (only the *one* plate was used in this case) used for the 6d. Pictorials of 1910-12.

All the above plates were destroyed at Melbourne on 2 July 1913.

Mr Collas' find is opportune, particularly in relation to the confirmation it provides for the modern classification of the Pictorial printings as well as for the numerous other points of interest we have noted. Further, the Department has rendered a notable service to students of States' stamps in making these lists available.



# THE COOK ISLANDS

*By the Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

*(Continued from December Issue)*

## *The 5d. Plate*

We have been able to inspect several sheets and panes of the 1902 issue of this value. Available material of the earlier printings is, however, small and we are therefore unable to state whether all the secondary varieties we have noted existed on the plate from the outset. We record them, therefore, with reserve in this respect.

On stamps of the 1902 issue there appears to be some evidence of a sub-type on the right-hand pane. This consist of a spot of colour joining the two lines above and to the left of the "C" of "COOK," and occurs on Right pane, Nos. 21, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, 29, 31, 41 and 42. This spot does not, however, appear on blocks of earlier printings from the same position which we have examined and which, incidentally, are much more clearly printed than the stamps of the 1902 issue.

Secondary varieties are distinguishable as under:—

### *Left Pane*

1. A spot of colour on the bridge of Makea's nose.
5. A spot of colour to the right of Makea's mouth.
7. A large patch of colour near the parting of Makea's hair.
10. A spot of colour above and between the two "O's" of "COOK," joining the two inner lines.
13. A spot of colour under the right leg of the "A" of "ISLANDS."
15. A spot of colour over the second "O" of "COOK" and also at the right-hand end of the third and fourth horizontal lines in the right-hand spandrel.
22. A spot of colour to the right of Makea's left ear.
23. A spot of colour inside the circle in line with Makea's eyebrow.
26. A spot of colour to the left of the top of the "C" of "COOK."
29. The top right-hand corner ornament is joined to the top frame.
30. A spot of colour between the two top frame lines.
31. A spot of colour under the left leg of the "A" of "POSTAGE."
33. There are breaks in the centre of the top frame-line over the second "O" of "COOK;" a break in the top line of shading over the "S" of "POSTAGE;" a spot of colour inside the top frame line at left.
35. A large patch of colour joins the right-hand top corner ornament to the outer top frame.
37. A patch of colour to the left of Makea's head at the level of the forehead, and a spot of colour in the lower left-hand corner.
38. A large patch of colour on the hair on the left-hand side of Makea's head.
- 41.\* A break in the heavy line under the second "O" of "COOK."
42. A break in the top shading line under the "C" of "COOK," and a spot of colour to left of Makea's right ear.



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45. A break in the vertical line at the right of the right-hand spandrel.
46. Spots of colour to the left of the top of Makea's head and inside the circle at right.
47. A small spot of colour under the "C" of "COOK."
48. A small spot of colour over the first "S" of "ISLANDS."
49. A small spot of colour under the "G" of "POSTAGE."
50. A small spot of colour under the "S" of "POSTAGE."
- 55\*. A flaw on Makea's upper lip.
58. Spots of colour to the right of Makea's mouth and in the top right-hand corner.
59. A spot of colour under the "C" of "COOK;" spots of colour inside the circle at right opposite Makea's eye; and one on the lower edge of the fourth sloping ornament at right.
60. A spot of colour under the "G" of "POSTAGE."

### *Right Pane*

1. A patch of colour appears under the "I" of "ISLANDS."
7. A patch of colour in the left lower corner.
- 8\*. A spot inside the outer frame, near the ornament at the top left.
- 10.\* A spot of colour appears inside the circle at left side. (Similar to No. 53, Right Pane).
- 14.\* A spot of colour at the edge of the hair, opposite Makea's right eye; and a small spot inside the left frame, near tenth sloping ornament at left.
- 22.\* A small spot on the shading lines to right of "F" of "FIVE."
- 23.\* An uncoloured spot to the left of the "P" in "PENCE."
31. A break in the circle under the "G" in "POSTAGE;" and the second sloping ornament on the left is joined to the vertical line.
33. A patch of colour over the first "S" of "ISLANDS;" also a small spot over the "S" of "POSTAGE."
36. Two small dots are found, one in the top right corner and the other to the left of the "E" of "POSTAGE."
39. Spots appear, one over Makea's head and the other between the third and fourth sloping ornaments on the left.
43. A white spot on Makea's left eye.
47. The first "I" of "ISLANDS" is joined to the line under it.
48. A spot of colour between the horizontal lines over the first "O" in "COOK."
50. A spot at the right end of the third and fourth horizontal lines of shading.
51. A spot under the "T" of "POSTAGE" and a break in the centre of the line over and between the two "O's" in "COOK."
53. A spot of colour appears inside the circle at left. This is similar to No. 10, Right Pane.
54. A patch of colour under the vertical stroke of the "K" of "COOK."
56. A spot to left of the "C" of "COOK" and a break in the top frame at right.
60. A spot inside the circle at the right.

\* In cases where the number is followed by this mark, it indicates that this variety has been proved to exist in earlier printings.

All the issued stamps are in the usual sheets of 120, two panes of sixty, each consisting of ten rows of six stamps, separated by a gutter.

Plate proofs exist in the issued colour.

### *The 10d. Plate*

The material available to us is so scanty that we have been unable to reconstruct a pane or sheet of this denomination.

The only varieties of which we have knowledge are recorded in *Gibbons' Stamp Weekly*, Vol. X, page 9, and Poole's Handbook, page 19. No. 46 in

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the left pane has a flaw on the right-hand value tablet, close to the frame line. A second flaw consists of an irregular patch removing most of the trefoil ornament in the upper right spandrel and extending in an upwards direction to the frame at the right. This, according to Poole, probably appears on the right pane and all copies seen by him have been perforated 11.

We have seen two examples of the last-mentioned flaw, both on stamps perforated 11 and watermarked NZ and star, apart, (S.G.22). In one case it appears on the right-hand bottom stamp of a block of four with wide margins at top and right – thus proving the position on the sheet to be number 12, right pane. There may be significance in the fact that every example reported of this most noticeable flaw is perf. 11, which suggests the possibility that another cliché was substituted before the last printing of this value, which was on chalk paper.

Our search for confirmation of the first flaw mentioned by Poole has been unsuccessful.

The printings on ordinary paper are in the usual sheets of 120, two panes of sixty, ten rows of six, separated by a gutter. Lack of material prevents us from knowing whether the gutter was eliminated, to form a compact plate of 120, before the printing on chalk-surface paper was made.

Plate proofs exist in the issued colour.



### CHAPTER VI.

#### THE "TOREA" ISSUES, 1898-1919: DESIGN AND PLATES

As early as May, 1896, Moss, the British Resident, had written to Gray, Secretary of the New Zealand Post Office, saying that there was a need for  $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 6d. and  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps and enquiring whether these denominations could be provided from the dies of the existing values. He was informed that this course was not practicable and it was suggested that some of the current stamps should be surcharged to provide the required values. However, Moss did not approve of this procedure and nothing further was done at that time.

## THE COOK ISLANDS

Towards the end of August, 1897, Moss reopened the matter and wrote to Gray with a request for 2d., 6d. and 1s. stamps. In order to minimise expense, it was decided to adopt the "key-plate" method, by which the whole of the stamp with the exception of the value was printed from one plate, known as the "key plate" and the values inserted by a subsequent printing from further plates, known as "duty plates." Although this method entails a slight increase in the cost of printing, there is a great saving in the cost of the original dies. As an example of this form of production Gray submitted to Moss a copy of a 6d. Barbados stamp, probably of the "seal" design of 1892.

The task of engraving the die was again entrusted to A. E. Cousins.

### *The Design*

Moss asked that principal feature of the design should consist of a representation of a well-known Cook Islands bird known as the Torea (*Totanus Cancellatus*). As he had no photograph of the bird, he submitted, as a guide to the engraver, the heading of the current Cook Islands newspaper *TE TŌREA* (see illustration). This was a very rough drawing and neither Gray nor the engraver were able to identify the bird at all accurately. Mr Cousins suggested the addition of a scenic background.

In September 1897, Gray forwarded six drawings (the work of Cousins), for Moss to make a selection. These drawings, numbered 1 to 6, are described by Collins in the *New Zealand Stamp Collector* for June, 1948, (Vol. XXIX, page 24), as follows: Number 1 for a 2d. value is in brown wash, No. 2 for 6d. is in red wash, No. 3 inscribed 1s. is in pale purple, No. 4 inscribed 2d. has the frame in green and the centre in pale purple, No. 5 for the 6d. value is in pencil and No. 6 for a 1s. value is in blue wash. Moss selected the drawing marked No. 1 but enclosed another photo of scenery — "pretty and characteristic" — which he wished used for the background.

The design, as finally adopted, shows the Torea in flight above the sea (which Basset Hull remarks looks curiously like Makea's braided hair) with the island of Rarotonga, as viewed from the north, in the background. Conspicuous are the twin peaks of Mount Ikurangi and Mount Te Atu Kuva, but the settlement of Avarua on the sea shore can only be distinguished by a lively imagination. An octagon frame surrounds this centre, and is inscribed "COOK" at top, "ISLANDS" at the base, "POSTAGE &" at the left and "REVENUE" at the right, all in white on colour. The four shorter sides of the octagon are occupied by star-shaped ornaments, also in white on colour, which separate the words of the inscription. Ornamental strips along the four long sides of the octagon complete the design, and the four corners, in which the figures of value are printed, at a second operation from the "duty" plate, are lightly shaded.

### *Proofs*

During the engraving of the die for the key-plate, progress proofs were made and Collins, in the *New Zealand Stamp Collector*, says that apparently there

## PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

were originally seventeen of these, but that numbers 1 to 4 are missing. No. 5 was printed in deep dull blue and in pale green, Nos. 6 to 14 inclusive in black, No. 15 in deep dull blue, No. 16 in ultramarine and No. 17 in brown and in deep blue.

Cousins also engraved three dies for the "duty" plates, of 2d. 6d. and 1s. respectively.

After the dies had been hardened, a series of colour trials were made. Those which we have seen or have been recorded by Collins are as follows (the figures of value being in the second colour):—

- (a) On thick white card. 2d. in deep red-brown and grey-black and 6d. in the same colours.
- (b) On thick white wove paper. 2d. carmine and purple, bistre-brown and red, chestnut and red, grey-brown and red, pale brown and red, green and red, blue and red, purple and yellow, black and red; 6d. carmine and blue, grey-brown and blue, pale brown and green, green and blue, blue and purple, purple and blue, pale purple and pale blue, purple and red; 1s. carmine and blue, carmine and brown, carmine and sepia, deep grey-brown and green, pale brown and green, pale brown and sepia, green and purple, blue and brown, purple and green.

It would seem from the trials that it was suggested that the stamps be bi-coloured; but this course was not adopted.

### *The Key Plate*

The dies were delivered to the Government Printer on 7 April, 1898, and plates therefrom were prepared at the Government Printing Office, Wellington, New Zealand, the method of manufacture being similar to that described in Chapter V.

The Key Plate consisted of sixty impressions arranged in six horizontal rows of ten. No sub-types are apparent, but there a number of interesting secondary flaws, some of which probably existed upon the plate from the beginning and some of which appeared during the time that it was in use. On No. 9 there is evidence of considerable recutting or touching-up of the breast of the Torea and the mountain peak below, before the plate was put to press, and another example of recutting occurs on No. 13. A very prominent uncoloured flaw below the tip of the beak of the Torea on No. 18 has earned for this variety the popular title of the "message in beak."

Curiously enough, some of these flaws tend to become less noticeable in later printings. In one instance, the first flaw on No. 16, this is undoubtedly due to retouching, but in others it is probably due to the employment of a better quality paper and to the use of "decoupage" or "make-ready."

In order to show the incidence and development of these varieties we give the following table showing the condition of the plate at various periods of its existence:

THE COOK ISLANDS

No. Nature of Flaw	1898	1899	1900	1913	1919
1. Dots on "V," colour dot in sky to left of second "E" and third "E" distorted, all in "REVENUE". . . . .	No	No	No	No	Yes
2. Thickening of right hand lower limb of "N" in "ISLANDS" . . . . .	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
3. Spot on wing . . . . .	D.	P.	P.	V.P.	M.L.N.
8. Spot of colour on tip of lower tail feather . . . . .	No	No	No	No	Yes
9. Recutting of breast of bird and mountain peak below . . . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
10. Weakness in right hand border to right of "REVENUE" . . . . .	No	D.	Yes	Yes	Yes
11. Curved line over right hand border design broken at left . . . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
13. Retouch of curved line over right hand border design . . . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
16. Break in top of two upper lines of shading in lower right hand value tablet . . . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Retouched
Flaw under "S" of "ISLANDS," extending into stamp below . . . . .	No	No	No	No	Yes
17. Flaw on ornament and white spot on sea over "IS" of "ISLANDS" . . . . .	D.	P.	P.	P.	L.N.
18. Message in beak . . . . .	D.	P.	P.	P.	L.N.
26. See second flaw in No. 16 . . . . .	No	No	No	No	Yes
35. Line of shading missing above bird's foot and small break in shading below and to right . . . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
37. Spot of colour in second ornament from top in right border. (Opposite first "E" of "REVENUE") . . . . .	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
41. Branched foot to bird . . . . .	No	No	No	Exists in some printings	No
46. Scratch extending from peaks through bird towards left of second "O" of "COOK." . . . . .	No	No	No	Yes	Yes
51. Spot of colour in front of bird's beak . . . . .	No	No	Yes	No	No

Code: D—Developing, P—Prominent, V.P.—Very Prominent, L.N.—Less Noticeable, M.L.N.—Much Less Noticeable.

In addition to these varieties, printing flaws, some of which are very extensive, are to be met with. However, as these are not constant, they do not merit description.

(To be continued)

## REVIEWS

*Queensland Numeral Cancellations*, by Harry S. Porter, F.R.P.S.L. 35 pp. 9½ x 7 in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne, 1954. Price 7s. 6d. (Aust.).

This is the third in the series of philatelic monographs being published at regular intervals by The Hawthorn Press, and paper and typography maintain the high standard established by its predecessors.

There has always been some interest in the early Queensland numeral obliterations due to the desire of collectors to identify N.S.W. stamps used within the borders of the new State of Queensland prior to the issue of its own stamps late in 1860. Such obliterations remained on issue for some fifty years after that date and the highest numeral known is 740. A study of the whole period of their use is fraught with considerable difficulty since no official allocation lists from any period are known. Numerals can only be "tied" to the offices using them by the discovery of entires or pieces large enough to show both the numeral and an identifiable portion of the office date stamp. If one adds to this the fact that post-offices are sometimes closed and re-opened with a different numeral, that names are changed, that numerals from closed offices are sometimes issued to new ones, and that (in Queensland) large offices sometimes used two different numerals in the same period, then even those who have never engaged in such research will appreciate its difficulty and fascination.

Mr Porter is able to tie over 270 of these numeral obliterations to their offices, and gives in addition a chronological list of all post-offices known to have been opened in Queensland up to 1912, together with changes of name and dates of opening and closing. This list has been compiled from a study of parliamentary annual reports, and where these failed, from all other available sources. The labour entailed in its compilation is abundantly justified by the help it has given Mr Porter, and will give to others, in this particular field of postal history.

Mr Porter's study is characterised by the caution and thoroughness, and the generous appreciation of the contributions made by others, which we have long since learned to expect from him. It has an interest incidentally even for those who confine themselves to the field of Commonwealth since some of these Queensland numeral cancellations can be found on the early Kangaroos and Georgians. The study is introduced by Dr K. Pennycuik, F.R.P.S.L.

—J.C.W.B.

*A Catalogue of Cylinder Flaws on King George VI Great Britain Commemorative, 1954*. 20 pp. 8¼ x 5½ in. Published by Crabtree Press Ltd., 57 Tivoli Crescent, Brighton, 5, England. Price 4s. 6d. (Stg.)

This small booklet will prove of considerable interest to students of stamps printed by the photogravure process.

A feature of the production is the excellent illustrations, which clearly illustrate the flaws referred to in the lists.

This is the second edition of the Catalogue, and contains much new material not included in the 1953 edition.

*The Stamp Collectors' Annual, 1954*. Edited by Tom Morgan. 96 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by Harris Publications Ltd, 29 Buckingham Street, Strand, London, W.C.2. Price 2s. 6d. (Stg.).

This annual is so well known that little is needed in the way of criticism from us.

While the student will not find as much of a specialised nature as sometimes, yet there is the usual excellent mixture of sound sense and good fun, together with the usual features such as "Books of the Year," "Currency Guide of the World," "Directory of Literature," and so on.

We especially commend to readers L. E. Scott's usual article on the best designs of the previous year, in which some may be surprised to see the high place given to the current Australian Queen's Head design, and "First Day Cover Nonsense," by "Philatelia." Taken all round, a good half-crown's worth as usual.



# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *An Evening with "Half-Lengths"*

The President, Mr J. R. W. Purves, gave the display at the meeting of 14 April. This encompassed the Campbell and the Campbell and Ferguson printings of the "Half-Lengths" of Victoria and, like the Ham printings of the same series, which Mr Purves showed before the Society last year, was intended to illustrate the exhibitor's published study of these stamps which was magnificently produced by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, but a short time ago.

By means of blackboard sketches Mr Purves was able to explain the make-up of the printing stones and the origin of the abnormal combinations. This introductory talk, which also covered other aspects of the issue, proved of great value in enabling members to gain an appreciation of the material, this comprising a full display of all printings under the two contracts. Dates of use were illustrated from entires and reconstructed transfer groups shown from each printing stone, in some cases in each of the principal shades from the one stone.

Amongst the many pieces showing abnormal combinations those from the Three Pence Campbell were particularly noteworthy. Flaws and retouches were well represented, and amongst the most interesting were perhaps the fingerprint flaws, and the display of creased transfers from the fourth and fifth One Penny stones. In the section illustrating the Calvert roulettes and Robinson perforations were several specimens of the extremely rare greenish-blue Three Pence perforated, stone B. The display concluded with forgeries in sheets and blocks, ranging from the crude to the moderately skilful.

Outstanding condition was a feature of all material shown and the whole display earned the full appreciation of members, as expressed in the vote of thanks moved by Rev J. C. W. Brown and seconded by the guest of the evening, Mr W.

Ewart Gerrish, Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

## *The Early Issues of China*

Mr G. V. Browning gave the display at the meeting of the 29th April, his subject being the issues of China from 1878 to 1900. The exhibitor is an acknowledged expert in these issues and his introductory talk surveyed briefly the development of services in China in more recent times, from the first adhesives of the local posts of Shanghai and its agencies, and the later Treaty Port locals.

The display opened with the issues of the Maritime Customs Post of 1878, which supplanted the local posts, and Mr Browning was able to explain to members in a few words how this post, under the direction of Sir Robert Hart, Inspector-General of Customs, gradually spread from Chingkiang and Shanghai to Tientsin and beyond. The first part of the display, covering the Large Dragon series of 1878, was fully illustrative of the four settings which, however, varied in make-up, resulting in the creation of unusual combinations, many of which were shown. The second group, the Small Dragons, covered the three settings employed. Much material of exceptional interest was contained in the final group of the Customs issues, the Dowager Empress series of 1894, in which outstanding items were noticed.

Further sheets were concerned with the issues of the Imperial Chinese Post, from 1897, and the display concluded with sheets illustrative of the various types of postmarks employed. The whole display was admirably annotated and was indicative of the exhibitor's sound knowledge of his subject. The Society's vote of thanks was expressed in a motion moved by Mr F. Neale and seconded by Mr Harry Porter.

## THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Philatelists everywhere will be very pleased to know that our President (Mr J. Whited Dovey, F.R.P.S.L.) is gradually recovering his health following his recent operation and stay in hospital. We trust that we will be seeing his cheery self at our meetings again in the very near future.

The vacancy on the Committee caused by the recent election to the position of Vice-President of Col. F. V. Thompson has been filled by Mr R. Duncan, a young and energetic member of the philatelic world of Sydney, who brings to the Committee an excellent philatelic knowledge.

I would like to take this opportunity of reminding members that the Annual Meeting will

be held on 13 July. Nominations for the various offices of the Society should reach the Hon. Secretary no later than 29 June in accordance with the Rules. Nomination forms are available by contacting the Hon. Secretary.

The past quarter has seen some very fine displays. Mr Walter Skalla's display of German States and Liechtenstein proved up to expectations. First we were treated to a representative collection of the first and second issues of Baden, Bavaria, Bremen, Hanover, Mecklenburg, Oldenburg, Prussia, Saxony and Wurttemberg. From there Mr Skalla turned to modern Liechtenstein

## PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

and the country was almost complete, including rare miniature sheets and complete sheets of some issues.

The combined display with the Philatelic Society of N.S.W. in honour of the Royal Visit was a most successful event. Forty-eight exhibitors gave of their best and all visitors were loud in their praise of the excellent offerings. They ranged from the early classics of Great Britain and the Australian States to Airmails and thematic collections depicting various topics. Our thanks are again extended to all who made this the most outstanding general display seen in Sydney for a very long time.

Once again members rose to the occasion at the March meeting which was of a general nature. An excellent paper on T.P.O.'s prepared by the President was read by Mr Ashworth-Spreat in Mr Dovey's absence. A very complete range of T.P.O.'s displayed in conjunction with the paper was much appreciated. Mr Critchlow presented a very thoughtful paper on the subject of "Side-line" collections. This was supported by various illustrations of side-line collecting including Stamp Booklets, Postal Stationery, Special Air Freights, and many other items. Other very interesting items were provided by Mrs J. A. Fell and Mr J. H. Powell. Following the displays our old friend Bernie Moloney conducted a "Brains Trust" session which unravelled some very knotty philatelic problems.

Messrs J. S. White and W. Williamson pre-

sented the display at the April meeting. The subject was "New Zealand" and here again we were presented with two excellent displays. Mr White's offering of Full Face Queens in their many varieties of printing, etc., were very well received as were Mr Williamson's studies of the 1d. Universal and the ½d. Mount Cook of the 1900 issue. The display was rounded off with a showing of the Health issues including many varieties.

The display at the July meeting will be provided by the incoming President whilst the August meeting will be the hands of the very capable "Pixies" of the Pacific Islands Circle. Members are always assured of an excellent display by this very happy band of philatelists. Owing to the illness of the President, the display set down for September has been transferred to the May meeting whilst the President's Lantern Lecture will now be the feature of the September meeting.

Mr W. E. Gerrish, Vice-President of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, passed through Sydney recently. Although he was unable to attend any of the meetings of the Club, he was able to see a few of the members during his visit.

A very prominent member of the Club, Mr Louis Frank, is leaving Australia on 24 May for a business trip to Europe.

Another member of the Club, Mr E. J. Garrard, of Newcastle, has recently received the news that he has been elected a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

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