

from
AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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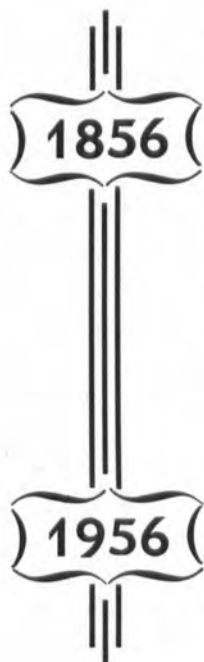
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VOL. VIII, No. 3

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TELEVISION AND PHILATELY

The advent of television is upon Australia and its impact upon their hobby must have engaged the minds of many thoughtful members of the philatelic fraternity.

The moment when 268,000 visitors have attended the great international exhibition in New York and when English auctioneers are reporting near records for the season just concluded might seem a singularly inopportune one to suggest that philately had much to fear from television.

But although stamp collecting is reported to be booming at all levels in the United States, some British philatelic traders and society officials are seriously concerned at falls in trade and society attendances which they attribute to television.

Television and philately have these factors in common — their initial appeal is visual; both offer relaxation; and both can be enjoyed at home.

Television and stamps are therefore, to some unascertained extent, psychological competitors.

Television can never provide the individual satisfaction of philately. It can never satisfy the acquisitive urge; it cannot satisfy the psychological needs of men of high training and intelligence who find their happiness in switching their thought and study to interests that are completely personal.

But television has its points, too. It invites the viewer by its nearness and its appeal to inertia — a flick of the switch and the work of the evening is done — and there are no continuing calls on the purse.

There will also be the family influence and atmosphere, perhaps with the arrival of visitors to “view,” and it would be unwise to equate with that, the escape opportunities of a philatelic society meeting.

But the real threat of television is probably its habit-forming properties, and the conflict, if any, might well be the habit v. the hobby.

In any case, television offers a potential challenge to both organised branches of philately, the societies and the dealers, which neither can afford to neglect.

Societies may have to devise ways of making their meetings increasingly attractive and dealers may have to take longer views about fostering the hobby that represents their livelihood.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, with its own home, will be specially well-placed to meet the challenge, but this is said with no sense of complacency. Television will invite more and more creative thought from all sections of the stamp-loving community, and that, in itself, cannot fail to be a good thing for philately.

EDITORIAL NOTES

82 Years a Collector

The passing of Sir R. Heaton Rhodes, veteran president of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, aged 95, closes the career of one who was a stamp collector for 82 years.

Sir Heaton Rhodes amassed the first collection of New Zealand and Dependences ever gathered together, and was appointed to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1949. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London and of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

As Postmaster-General, he sent the artist, H. Linley Richardson, a Penny Black, and told him he wanted the N.Z. King George V issue designed along the same lines. The result was the beautiful Perkins Bacon engraved issue.

Sir Heaton Rhodes came of a pioneer New Zealand family and his first collection, stuck down in an old Lallier album still exists, bearing his note that he had finished that style of collecting on 6 September 1877, and had 1230 stamps.

He graduated M.A. (Oxford) and was admitted to the Inner Temple in 1887. But it was in horticulture, agriculture and politics that he interested himself on his return to New Zealand. He was a member of the House of Representatives from 1899 to 1925, and a member of the Legislative Council from then until 1941.

He bequeathed his collection to the Canterbury Museum, Christchurch, where its 1000 sheets will be given a special room. It has an estimated value of £50,000, the Chalon Heads being worth £30,000.

Sir Heaton Rhodes' reason for the bequest was that he wanted the collection to be kept intact and available for study in the country in which its interest was centred.

He married Miss Jessie Cooper Clark, daughter of Mr Walter Clark, of Kerraburru, N.S.W. and Glenara, Vic. She died in 1929.

Unusual Items

Unusual Australian Commonwealth items which have changed hands in Melbourne recently include a 4d. violet, line through value (catalogued £200), £245; Canberra, block of six imperf. at left (catalogued 100), £110; 1d. K.G. V, Die III, perforated OS NSW, block of six imperf. at base, £35.

Auction items included a Canberra proof, of which only four are known, £130; a 3d. Air Mail Presentation proof, £70; a retouched "Man with Tail" 2d. sesquicentenary sheet, £110; a pantaloon flaw (which could be found on the same sheet), £10. All items were mint.

Again - and Again

The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand has begun work on *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand - Volume IV.* This will be a 57-chapter book on the New Zealand Dependencies, and the preliminary target date for publication is 1959.

Mr Collins says, in the *New Zealand Stamp Collector*, the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand has also decided to consider a fifth volume.

This would bring Vols. I-III up to date to the end of 1959.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

K.G.V 3d. Blue, Die 1 (1924-29)

As opportunity offers I hope to carry further a detailed study of this stamp. The following few notes may be of interest.

Dates: The Mullett plates replaced the Harrison in 1926. The first printing from the Mullett plates is dated by Mr Rosenblum "December, 1926." My own earliest date for a Mullett plate variety is 30 *September* 1926. The *Australian Stamp Journal* of October 1926 says that sheets from these plates appeared "about the middle of September."

Earliest date known to the *Victorian Philatelic Record* for the issue on small multiple watermark paper, perf. $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$, was 26.2.28. I recently found a specimen postmarked SYDNEY, 23.2.28.

Shades: Students have always known that the Harrison plate printings were distinct in shade from the later Mullett plate printings. For purposes of comparison the Harrison plate shade is best described as a violet-blue, varying from pale and dull to bright and deep. The *first* printing from the Mullett plates was in a similar shade, but most single watermark stamps from the Mullett plates are in the plain blue shade of subsequent printings.

The Die: Mr Rosenblum finds evidence of the die's having been retouched before production of the Mullett plates, and even speaks of "Die 1" and "Die 2" in this connection. I have never been able to distinguish these die differences between the Harrison and the Mullett plates — certainly not in the letters of value, where the chief of them are supposed to be found. I have yet to be convinced that they exist.

Types A and B: The two types form an interesting feature of the Mullett plates, Type B being distinguished by the *extra colour* which joins the shading in front of the eye to the shading by the nostril. In any other surface-printed electrotyped issue the normal theory for such a type difference would be that a small piece of lead had adhered to the die during the stamping of certain of the

moulds. This piece of lead on the die would cause an extra indentation in the mould. This, in turn, would result in a small extra protuberance on the electro, the final effect being a spot of extra colour on the stamp printed from that particular unit.

Is there any reason why this should not be our working theory for the Type B stamps on these 3d. Mullett plates? The gradual wearing away of the hypothetical piece of lead would explain the existence of the various stamps intermediate in type between A and B.

The K.G.V 1½d., Die 2. Stamps 4 L 53 and 4 L 54

4 L 53 is one of the well known re-entries on the 1½d. steel plates, having been re-entered twice, first in Type B and secondly in Type A. It is true that in recent years an attempt has been made in some quarters to explain the puzzling features of this and certain other stamps on these plates by discarding the theory of re-entry altogether, and by substituting for it a simple theory of re-plating. This latter theory, however, is unnecessary, and the facts are against it.

These plates were certainly of steel (vide *P from A.*, Vol. IV, No. 4), and apart from the extreme unlikelihood of steel surface-printing plates requiring plating there is one fact in the history of 4 L 53 which simply *cannot* be explained by any theory of re-plating. After the change from Type B back to Type A the alignment of this stamp is significantly different, its position having rotated slightly in an anti-clockwise direction. Only a theory of re-entry (more properly of "fresh entry") can explain this. Substitution is not a possibility, since there are certain features common both to the Type B and the later Type A states of the unit.

Granted this Type A re-entry to 4 L 53, a simple explanation can be found for certain very interesting features of 4 L 54. These have been described by Dr Gordon Ward on p. 30 of his *King George V 1½d., Die 2*. The upper and lower sections of the white border at left are wider than normal, while in the lower section are two (sometimes three) coloured dots. The SW corner of the left value tablet shows a clear trace of duplication. Had these features appeared on 4 L 54 from the beginning, one would naturally ascribe them to a shifted transfer in the original laying down of the plate. In actual fact however they first make their appearance at the same time as the type A re-entry to 4 L 53, and it is a safe assumption that they are a direct consequence of it.

One is immediately reminded of the "accidental re-entries" on the K.G.V 1d. plates which I described in an article in *P. from A.*, Vol. 1, No. 3, each of them a consequence of deliberate re-entry to an adjacent unit. I then explained these "accidental re-entries" as due to the presence of two impressions on the transfer roller. While one of these was engaged in rolling in a fresh impression on one unit, a little overdoing of the rocking action caused part of the other impression to come momentarily into contact with the next unit on the plate.

An exactly similar explanation would account for the re-entry to 4 L 54. For the Type A re-entry to 4 L 53 recourse was apparently had to the original transfer roller that had been used for the laying down of the plates. I believe this to have been a six-impression roller of the type described in the *Trail*

of *Commonwealth* in our last issue. With such a roller, units would be entered from the side, the rocking action of the roller on the plate being in an east-west direction. The connection with the changes to 4 L 54 now becomes understandable. While one of the impressions on the roller was engaged in rocking in the fresh entry to 4 L 53, an adjacent impression on the roller came into contact with the left side of 4 L 54, resulting in the features described above.

Support for this theory is found in the fact that the trace of a new impression at SW corner of left value tablet of 4 L 54 is *higher* than the original impression, and corresponds therefore to the new alignment (referred to above) of 4 L 53 after its Type A re-entry.

2½d. Kangaroo

In our March issue I noted the plate position of the 2½d. Kangaroo "Missing 1 in fraction," and remarked that I did not think it had been recorded in print before. In actual fact it had been recorded only a few months previously in the Bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain. My note, like many others in the *Trail of Commonwealth*, was prepared some considerable time before publication, but I must apologise for any claim to priority I might have made.

OBITUARY: MR. R. R. SNELL

Mr Reginald Rutledge (Rex) Snell, exchange superintendent of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria from 1953 to 1956, died on 1 August. He was 61.

Mr Snell, who was an accountant of the Country Roads Board, joined the society in September 1945 and had a fine Pacific Islands collection. He won the society's bronze medal in 1954 for his study of the Makea and Torea types of Cook Islands, and a bronze medal at Anpex in 1955 for Cook Islands and Samoa.

Mr Snell served in both World Wars — Light Horse in 1914-18 and Field Security officer in 1939-45. His death followed a considerable period of ill-health.

Courteous, amiable and efficient, he was an invaluable officer of the society and his presence will be greatly missed.

N.S.W. EXHIBITION COUNCIL

The Philatelic Exhibition Council of New South Wales has been set up to conduct the next exhibition in Sydney, possibly in October 1958.

The Executive Council is: President, Mr F. V. Thompson; vice-presidents, Messrs D. B. Moloney and F. W. Hill; secretary, Mr R. H. Markham; treasurer, Mr G. W. Trevor; publicity, Mr R. Gaze; committee, Mrs I. Campe and Messrs B. R. Leak and W. W. Wade.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH

K.G.V. 2d., DIE I

By *GORDON WARD*, M.D., F.R.P.S.L.

My researches into the Australian George V 2d., Die I, have reached a stage at which I should be very glad to have assistance from others.

It should perhaps be explained that any one would have to adopt some definite mode of procedure, since the primary aim is to have some sort of representation of each of sixteen different plates. I have chosen to make an attempt at procuring sixteen different top right corners, from the right pane. One of my corners is only a single stamp and three others contain only four or five stamps. I seem to lack only two corners in Group 2 and two in Group 3, i.e., I have twelve different corners, and hope one day to acquire the remaining four. In the meantime, information about blocks with top right corners from the right pane, or the loan of them, would be very welcome.

Starting with Rosenblum as a basis, I have endeavoured to check his statements and I make out that there should be four groups into which the sixteen plates ought to be arranged, four to each group.

The first group contains the four plates which were printed from in orange-brown, a distinct shade which is common and quite easy to identify. Of these four plates I have two complete sheets, and have seen a third, all different. Of the remaining sheet I have the two bottom rows and a left pane block of 30. In this material I can position most of the common varieties, and Fig. 1 shows some of these — but the numbers ascribed to the plates are entirely provisional. Those that remain I hope to place some day in the fourth plate, which is as yet incomplete. My difficulty is this: Is there perhaps another pair of plates which was also printed in the orange-brown shade? It is true that Rosenblum does not allow for any such extra pair but his wisdom is not exhaustive, since it is certain that the first four plates were later used for printing in red, but he makes no mention of this fact.

The next group contains Plates 5 to 8 and all of these seem to have been printed from in yellow only. This may be deduced from the fact that there are certain well-known varieties assigned by Rosenblum to Plate 7, and these varieties are known only in the yellow shade. I have not seen a single sheet, or even pane, from this group, and, in addition to Rosenblum's varieties, have only eleven stamps which are positioned. If any of your readers have a sheet I should be very much obliged for any information about the varieties it contains and their positions.

There is also a question of the dating of this group. Rosenblum says that the LIA and GE varieties are from Plate 7 and are therefore in this group, which he says appeared in September 1921. I have both these varieties dated in July 1921. Which date ought to be accepted?



Fig. 1

My third group is almost as blank of material as the second. It should comprise Plates 9 to 12. Rosenblum says that 9 and 10 occurred in both "red and orange." He also says that Plates 8 to 12 appeared in February 1922. We have already noted that the first four plates were sent back to press for red printings and now we learn that, if copies from these plates can be excluded, all red stamps dated earlier than 1923 (in which year the later plates appeared) must fall into this Group 3. I have a lot of material which comes thus into this group but almost none of it is positioned. Fig. 2 herewith shows a number of flaws which belong



Fig. 2

somewhere in this group. I should be very glad of any information about which flaws come from the same plate, whether an upper or lower plate, and so forth.

Finally we come to Group 4. Rosenblum says that all of these plates, i.e., 13 to 16, were printed from in brown as well as red. I have found no brown copies which come from other plates than 15 and 16. I have seen 16 complete and I think other varieties in brown must belong to 15, but of this plate I have much of the right pane but only the top and bottom rows of the left. Positioned varieties in brown would therefore be very welcome, i.e., information about them. 15 has

a large splash of colour in the NE corner margin of the right pane, and 16 a similar splash at the SE corner. The other two plates 13 and 14, are of great interest because one of them was damaged or repaired, producing the re-cut face. I have not yet learned which plate this is. The two plates, 13 and 14, have the peculiarity that one finds no copies earlier than 1923. If one has a dozen or so copies of a variety, and no 1922 date among them, this variety is probably from 13 or 14, unless it also occurs in brown. I possess or have seen the left panes of both plates and the top and bottom rows of the right panes, but building up the whole pane is remarkably slow work.

The "brown" plates are full of interest. 15 L 4 shows a large white flaw in the left numeral shield. Rosenblum says this was repaired. I have seen no example of repair but there is a stage in which the flaw is much less distinct and this occurs in both red and brown. It is therefore an early state which is followed in brown by the fully developed flaw. Can anyone carry the story further? The bottom rows of 16 are often much "worn," i.e., large parts of the frames are absent on some sheets. 16 R 59 shows the whole of the centre part of the lower frame missing. So long as this was noted only in brown it was possible to regard it as due to wear of the plate. I have now seen it in red dated 19.2.23. This is not only an early date. It is actually before the date of issue as reported by Rosenblum. It is, in any case, rather early for evidence of wear to appear since most of the brown prints do not show this absent margin. One is thus inclined to believe these "worn" varieties of Plate 16 are really under-inking varieties which may occur at any stage. Has anyone any views on this question?

Finally there is the question of the plate which is described by Rosenblum as giving copies "with the letters of value thicker and more uneven than usual." Such copies are very common and their plate should be in Group 3. Early stages may be found showing no signs of wear, e.g., the stamp showing variety 52 in the illustration herewith. Can anyone produce evidence of whether this is from an upper or lower plate, and of its position in the lower row — it is not a corner stamp?

It will probably be evident from what is written above that my researches are still very far from complete, and that I have dozens of unasked questions. I should be only too glad to beg, borrow or purchase blocks of Die I, and I invite the assistance of readers in my endeavours.

THE TASMANIAN OVERPRINTS

PART 2: The 1d. on 2d.

By O. G. INGLES

In part 1 it was shown that the 1½d. on 5d. overprint of 1904 was applied from a stereo plate. Indeed, this method was commonly used for overprinting prior to 1900, although the mode of build-up of the plate frequently varied from place to place.

Eight years, later, however, the stereo plate method for all its ease and simplicity was abandoned under peculiar conditions. It is not within the scope of this article to attempt an explanation of the fantastic stamp printing conditions in 1912. I note here simply the salient events of that year.

In 1912, stamp printing for Victorian, Tasmanian, West Australian and the pending first Commonwealth issues was in the hands of the Commonwealth Note Printing Branch, Melbourne. Late in 1912 a desperate shortage of 1d. stamps in all these States forced the overprinting of higher values, as the 'Roos were not yet scheduled for release. In Tasmania, the situation was particularly complicated. In the last six months of the year, no fewer than four separate 1d. issues appeared, as follows:

1d. red Pictorial, Plates 5, 6 — up to September '12.

ONE PENNY overprint on 2d. violet Pictorial — October '12 to November '12.

1d. red Pictorial, thin paper — December '12.

1d. red 'Roo — January '13.

The method for overprinting of ONE PENNY on the 2d. value was simply to set up a complete plate of type (the same method was adopted for the Victorian overprint). Presumably the 1d. value on thin paper, from the old plates, which appeared fleetingly in December, represented a stop-gap to meet continuing shortages at a time when the 'Roos were still being distributed, and after the overprint sets of type had been demounted.

Both the Tasmanian and Victorian overprint plates of type consisted of 120 overprint units "ONE PENNY," the Victorian being arranged in one plate of 120 and the Tasmanian in two plates of 60 each. Both were set up from the same font of type, the Victorian in bold, the Tasmanian in the corresponding italic. The plate for the Victorian overprint was more carefully set up than that for the Tasmanian, in which alignment errors sometimes amount to 1½ mm.

That these plates were, in fact, completely set up from type and the following evidence:

- (a) Spaces between the overprint units, either vertical or horizontal, show random variation throughout the sheets.
- (b) No constant variety is found common to more than one unit of the overprint.
- (c) In some units individual letters are found slightly displaced, as might be expected for rough and ready type composition.
- (d) All flaws noted are "white" flaws, consistent with damaged type.
- (e) The overprint leaves an impression on the paper.

The constant overprint flaws are as shown. Only those which the writer can prove constant by repetition of copies in proved sheet positions are listed. Although several complete sheets have been examined, it has not yet been possible to confirm the whole of sheet A in this manner, and an exception to the rule has therefore been made in the case of one prominent flaw in that sheet which would, by the simple test of repetition alone, be judged constant. The flaw in question is appropriately indicated.



Sheet A

3. Upright bar of E of ONE distorted.
18. Y of PENNY notched just below the crotch.

Sheet position not rigidly proved: Overprint seriously displaced to the left, so that O is bisected by the picture frame.

Sheet B

16. Top right arm of Y slightly short.
17. Nicked top to N of ONE.
18. Top bar of E of ONE shortened.
19. E of PENNY misaligned (the same sort of error, for a different letter, occurs on No. 19 of the Victorian issue).
23. Thin N in ONE.
60. First bar of the second N of PENNY badly dented.

A striking feature of this overprint issue is the shockingly bad colour combination — a red overprint on a violet stamp. This leads to poor legibility (and makes study of the overprint a difficult task). Why was this done? And were these overprints contemporary with the printing of the first 'Roo issue, so soon due for release? In attempting to answer these questions I decided to examine the inks used for their printing.

A simple and effective way to do this (involving the sacrifice of a few torn or damaged stamps) is by paper chromatography. In its simplest form, it requires little more than some alcohol, although an ultraviolet lamp is of great advantage.

In this way it can be clearly proven that, among the four issues appearing in Tasmania between September 1912 and January 1913, at least three red inks, different not merely in proportions but in composition, were used. These may be summarised as shown:

<i>Issue</i>	<i>Major ink components</i>	<i>Minor components</i>
1d. Pictorial, thick	Fe/Al Lake (X')	—
ONE PENNY Overprint	Acidic organic dye (Y') + Fe lake (X'')	—
1d. Pictorial, thin	Al/Fe Lake (X''')	—
1d. 'Roo	Neutral organic dye (Y'')	Fe
X'	Alc. insol.; cold 72% H ₂ SO ₄ ♦ orange, turning violet to KOH (possibly a lake of carmine, or permanent red)	
X''	Alc. insol.; cold 72% H ₂ SO ₄ ♦ dark brown, turns red to KOH	
X'''	Alc. insol.; cold 72% H ₂ SO ₄ ♦ orange-brown, turns violet to KOH (apparently same as X', but fixed with a smaller proportion of iron)	
Y'	Alc. sol.; carmine by U.V.; alkali-sensitive, turning orange-yellow by U.V., restored by acid.	
Y''	Alc. sol.; carmine by U.V.; unaffected by alkalis.	

It is interesting that so many different red inks should have been in use in the Note Printing Branch virtually at the same time. A difference in ink composition frequently implies the use of different printing processes or machines. Thus, although the printing of the 1d. 'Roo and the Tasmanian ONE PENNY overprint may well have been simultaneous, this was not the reason for the use of a red ink overprint, and the cause of the colour choice remains obscure.

One further point, of considerable interest to Commonwealth specialists, was a side observation that from copies of all the major shades *in all dies of the 1d. 'Roo, no difference whatsoever in the ink has been detected*. It follows that listed shade varieties in these issues are merely due to oversufficiency, insufficiency, or dry ink and cannot be deemed varieties in the real sense of a change of ink composition.

Addendum:

For details of paper chromatography, see book *Paper Chromatography* by Block, Durrum & Zweig; also papers by Pollard *et alia*, *Fara. Soc. Disc. No. 7*, 1949, 183; *Endeavour* vol. X, 1951, 213; *Nature* 163, 1949, 292.

My chromatographic results on Whatman No. 1 papers by either (a) direct development over a stamp fragment insert, or (b) development of a 1 : 1 HCl solution of the stamp fragment. Developers, either pure alcohol or n-butanol/5% HCl; with or without an oxine pretreatment of the paper. Detection of spots by oxine, U.V., ammonia, or specific spot reagents.

POSTSCRIPT ON QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

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

My former article on the Queensland numeral cancellations subject plodded its weary way through Vols. IV and V of this journal. As marathons will shortly be topical, I may mention that its 26 pages made the trip in 1½ years, a truly remarkable endurance test!

In 1954 it was produced in pamphlet form, with the addition of notices of a number of marriages between Post Offices and Numerals which had been performed since the article was originally set in type in May 1952. It was the subject of some reviews in periodicals in England and the United States; and most of the writers applauded my contention that progress could only be made by publication of incomplete results, when the author had reached the end of his tether. One good friend of mine, in a review in the London *Daily Telegraph*, referred to the work as "recondite." After a hasty look at the dictionary, I decided that it was not a case of pistols for two and coffee for one, but that he was a good friend!

A review in the U.S.A. brought me an airletter asking for a prompt sending of a copy of my chef-d'oeuvre by air. Sensing a collaborator, I accompanied it with a letter welcoming the help of a fellow enthusiast. In due course acknowledgment came and I heard that the pamphlet was needed to accompany a collection to a forthcoming Exhibition, as the owner had heard that judges were impressed by such proofs of erudition!

I am glad to say that some help has been forthcoming, notably in the direction of shattering some of my cherished theories.

I held the opinion that no lower numbers existed than 21, the units and tens having been reserved for the post offices existent at the time of partition, which had already been provided with numeral obliterators in the New South Wales series. Alas — one of the princely illustrations in Robson Lowe's catalogue of the Snowdon Queensland Collection, in February 1953, gave visual proof that No. "14" has lived. Since then, Mr. J. R. W. Purves kindly allowed me to see examples he has of Nos. "14" and "15." The position is, therefore, that these exist and others may.

In excuse for my contention, since the pamphlet's appearance I purchased the collection of Queensland Numerals made by an old-time collector and therein were examples of all the numerals from 1 to 20. After examination of these, I am still of the opinion that none of them existed! As an example, "10" was a defective strike of "QL." This sample of my anecdotage is given to stress how necessary it is to eliminate wishful thinking when tackling problems such as the present.

Another statement I made was that the use of "95" at Brisbane was discontinued from the time that it became the General Post Office of the new Colony. This



Claremount, 37 rays. Brisbane, 18 rays. Maryborough, 20 rays.



Bowen, 32 rays. Beenleigh, 32 rays. Gympie, 24 rays.



Nerang Ck, 24 rays. Thursday Island, 24 rays. Saltern.



Gayndah, 24 rays. Thursday Island, bars. Landsborough.

"95" was the number assigned and issued by N.S.W. at the time of the original allocation in 1850.

Mr R. H. Taylor recently gave me proof that I was mistaken, in the form of an example of the Chalon Head 6d. yellow-green of 1865 (S.G. 45) decorated with a clear strike of 95 in a "sunburst" of 18 rays – very distinct from the "95" used at Beenleigh, which is surrounded with 32 rays. Tracings of these are shown in the illustration.

In the pamphlet there were several instances of two offices being issued with the same number. One of my avenues of pleasure and endeavour has been to study these anomalies. A short time ago, Mr D'Arcy of Brisbane sent me the evidence of new ties which he had collected. One of these consisted of a stamp, on piece, cancelled with either 86 or 98, surrounded by 24 rays, with adjacent a smudgy but readable strike of NERANG CREEK in the year 1902. Consulting the pamphlet, I found that Nerang Creek came into existence in the list of 1865-6 and was shown as discontinued in 1875. Also I had proof which tied 86 with 24 rays to GAYNDAH.

Originally, when I compiled the lists, the only copies of the Annual Postal Reports known to me were bound in the yearly Proceedings of the Queensland Parliament (housed in the Public Libraries) and months were consumed in extracting the information. Since then I discovered another consultable source, where the whole of the Reports were bound in two volumes.

It was therefore comparatively simple to check the information regarding Nerang Creek and I found that the statement of its demise in 1875 was wrong. Nerang had merely moved a few hundred yards and continued to meet local needs uninterruptedly.

Tracings made of the two competitors to be classed as "86" proved that, whereas that tied to Gayndah had overall dimensions of 28 x 23 mm., the new aspirant measured 33 x 26 mm. This would seem to prove that Nerang Creek is "98" which, incidentally, fits chronologically.

In the illustration accompanying this screed are shown two examples of "63" used at Claremount (37 rays) and Bowen (32 rays). Also a pair of "96," from Maryborough (20 rays) and Gympie (24 rays).

Another example of duplication is "568." I have proof that it was in use at Pinalba in 1903 – this obliterator being the same bar type as 489, which is illustrated. Also I have examples proving the same number appearing on a "duplex" postmark used at Chartres Towers.

It is curious that these duplex marks, the obliterator half of which has a number surrounded by rays (sometimes continuous and sometimes interrupted) appear in the sequence haphazardly. To cite only some of them, 473, 509, 514 and 583 were used at Rockhampton, 626 and 647 at Toowoomba and 528 and 570 at Townsville. 568 is the only case of the same number appearing in two types used at different post offices. Only important offices were supplied with duplex marks and, because of this and also their inherent design, they are the most easily found ties.

I have also illustrated two marks used at Thursday Island; the more ancient, with the number 148 surrounded by 24 rays, has the peculiarity that the rays resemble a row of pearls, instead of the usual interrupted straight lines. This

number was originally assigned to Bundaberg and I think it likely that this particular canceller was first in use there. Why it went "walk-about" and got to Thursday Island is a tale yet untold. This mark is known decorating stamps of both German New Guinea and Papua — but they have so far eluded me.

Number 336 in nine bars (three interrupted) was later sent to Thursday Island and again is known on stamps of Papua as well as those of Queensland. I imagine the explanation of the appearance of these two numbers on Papuan stamps is mainly due to odd traders and planters living in the area round the Fly River entrusting letters to Thursday-bound luggers, for posting there.

Other Queensland numbers reported on Papuan stamps are 165, 178, 497 and 609. 165 is Chartres Towers and 178 is Cooktown and the explanation is probably that letters posted on board were cancelled at destination. 497 and 609 have not been tied. It is perhaps surprising that none of the numbers used at Townsville or Rockhampton have yet been reported cancelling the stamps of Papua.

Another cause for curiosity was that two post offices, opened within a month in 1890, had both been reported as tied to "489." I myself had seen the evidence that 489 in ten horizontal bars (four interrupted) was used at Saltern. The tie of 489 to Landsborough was reported many years back by Mr Oxnam, one of the old school of collectors of Queensland. In my collection of numerals I have two quite different obliterators with the number 489 on Queensland stamps. One is of the 10 bar type described above, but the other is notably different, as the bars are vertical in relation to the numerals.

One day I was looking at some Queensland Government Railway stamps and noticed that a number of these were inutilised with numeral cancellers with vertical bars and figures of a format similar to my example of 489. I was aware that, during a period of poverty in the early 'Nineties, the Queensland Government hit on the scheme of closing post offices in small townships where a railway station existed and paying the Station Master one salary for duplicating his railway duties with those of Postmaster. As the post-cum-station master would have two numeral cancellations in his possession, it seemed possible that one might accidentally deputise for the other on occasions. I wrote to the Railways and asked for a list of stations and their numbers, but was informed that "this was not available." However, through a friend of a friend who had a friend, I gathered that if I wanted to know the station corresponding to any particular number — it might be possible to find out. I asked where 489 was and the reply came "Landsborough" — so it looks as if my theory works.

Only one other example of a postage stamp cancelled with the obliterator with the vertical bars is known to me, and this bears a script cancellation of Targinnie Gold Field with a strike of "657" superimposed. The "grapevine" told me that this number was used at Yarwun railway station, 539 miles north of Brisbane, between Gladstone and Rockhampton. At that period, Yarwun did not have a post office so the station master must have given it a slap with his obliterator without any particular postal significance.

Of late I have been trying to form a collection of the numerals and it has surprised me how hard many are to find. Looking through my list of those between 21 and 96, it seems that examples of 22, 28, 30, 45, 60, 62, 66, 70, 75, 76,

78, 89 and 94 have never been reported. The post offices of that period which have not been tied (and to which these numerals must have been allotted) mostly died in infancy and it would seem that their obliterators perished with them. However, some obliterators do appear likely to have become casualties before the post offices to which they were issued. An example of "75" in manuscript adorning a yellow registered stamp (withdrawn on 1.7.73) decorates an article in *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* of May 1954. The use of script numerals lends colour to the idea that the obliterator with this number was lost in or before 1873.

I now give a list of the new ties which have been discovered since the appearance of the pamphlets. This shows some progress, but disappointingly little. At the same time the opportunity is taken of correcting certain mistakes in the information which progress has unearthed. A particularly cunning attack by the gremlins occurred on page 21, which persisted through the article and the subsequent pamphlets without their ravages being discovered until my good friend Dr Pennycuick unearthed a tie of Southport to the same number erroneously attributed to Pikedale Reefs.

Page	No.	Auth.	POST OFFICE	Opened	Closed	Rays	Remarks
16	98	D	Nerang Creek	1865/6	—	24	Date of closure and removal to be omitted.
17	114	AT	Norman River	13.6.68	—	19	Later called NORMANTON. Later used 632(D)
19	201	BDOPR	Rockhampton	N.S.W.	—		Add to list of "Later used" 102 (25 rays) authority White and Williams
21			Pikedale Reefs	1.2.78	14.4.79		Cancel tie with 281
21	430	OP	Beaudesert	9.2.78	—		
21			Darkey Flat	1.3.78	—		Cancel tie with 430, Called PRATTEN from 1897
21	281	OPR	Southport	2.3.78	—		
22	368?	P	Richmond Downs	5.6.79	—		Evidence is stamps with 368 and "HMON" and "MOND"
23	125	D	Capella	5.12.82	—	20	
24	357	DEP	Hewettville	12.11.83	—		Omit closing date and add "Called EMU PARK from 1.1.90
26	435?	D	Yeronga	17.11.86	—		
26	87	RZ	Eagle Junction	1.12.88	Late/10	24	Add "Later used 631(D)"
27	487	E	Spring Bluff	1.3.90	—		
27	485	E	Arrilalah (sic)	14.3.90	—		
28	501	Purves	Yandilla	14.3.92	—		
28			Mumbilla	1.9.92	—		Omit previous ite with 501 and evidence
28			Kyalba	1893	—		Omit previous tie with 510 and evidence
28	510	Brown	Mareeba	1893	—		
29	585	D	Broadmount	1899	—		
31	253	E	Toogoolawah	Jul. 05	—		
31	115?	P	Duckworth	Sept. 06	—	18	Evidence is stamp with 5 in rays and ...TH
34	323	E	Gargett	1910-11	—		
35	712	E	Yungaburra	1910-11	—		

A hypothetical method of allocating those numbers which were re-allotted has occurred to me. It will be noticed that re-issue of old obliterations was often resorted to in the period around 1880 and sporadically at later dates. When one of these apparent re-allotments was tied, I amused myself by searching for a post office in the list which fulfilled the dual requirements of having been closed not long before the tied office was opened and also was itself opened on a date when the number would fit the sequence. I was interested to find that an office which complied with these conditions was often forthcoming. I have therefore compiled the following table, which shows the results of such wishful thinking. The offices actually tied are shown in capitals and those which are merely deductions in lower case. As a backing to my reasoning it will be noticed that, in two cases, a tie of both the original allocation and the re-allocation has been forthcoming.

Number	ORIGINAL ALLOCATION			RE-ISSUE	
	On	To	Closed	On	To
79	1865-6	GAINSFORD	24.5.74	20.11.80	HERBERTON
90	1866	Crocodile Creek	1.1.80	8.10.80	STONY POINT
135	1.1.70	Mount Wheeler	30.6.71	4.8.80	WOOLGAR
183	1.4.74	Lutwyche	30.4.88	15.10.88	LOWOOD
187	1.3.74	Tingalpa	Sept. 09	1910	MOUNT ALFORD
253	20.6.77	Imbil	Jul. 05	Jul. 05	TOOGOOLAWAH
286	17.6.78	Cootharaba	30.11.92	1.2.93	WALLUMBILLA
323	1.1.80	NORTH BRANCH	Nov. 08	1910-1	GARGETT
369	28.2.84	Koomala	31.12.92	1894	PARLIAMENT HOUSE

May I again appeal to my fellow collectors to look at any old bundles of covers or used postal stationery, which they may have tucked away, and let me know if they unearth anything to forward this study. From the time that the Postal Stationery section was eliminated from Stanley Gibbon's Catalogue in 1905, interest in this branch of philately fell to zero and undoubtedly much material was destroyed. However, some remains and the prices realised for such material at the Sales by Tender of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria show that interest is increasing. No tie of a numeral to its post office is more satisfactory than that on a postcard, as the writer generally gives the place where he is, thus making a double check possible or a result obtainable, even should the date-stamp be unreadable.

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH
GEORGE V 4d.
(HARRISON PLATES—BLUE AND OLIVE)

By ALAN S. DAVIDSON and ERIC E. WATSON

Following upon Mr W. S. Tinsley's Check List of the George V 4d. value from the Cooke Plates (*Philately from Australia*, Vol. IV, No. 4, and Vol V, No. 1), we have drawn up a tentative Check List of the units from the Harrison Plates. This does not presume to be complete as the material — the first printing in blue, in particular — is difficult to obtain.

Being a Check List, it is essential to include many small constant flaws of little philatelic interest beyond their value, for identifying units. We have adopted the system of numbering the panes as used for the George V 1d. The Cooke 4d. Panes are numbered I to IV, so the Harrison Panes become V to VIII to avoid confusion.

Regarding Mr Rosenblum's Handbook:

1. Page 118 (5th edition) "H.P. Retouches" — the note under the list of three retouches is rather misleading. The "horizontal flaw" referred to (VIII 60) is seen as an elongated white spot, whereas his Retouch No. 1 (VI 60) has a large white horizontal flaw $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above the Bottom Right Corner.
2. Page 119 — under "Change of Perforation $13\frac{1}{2} \times 12\frac{1}{2}$ " are two additional varieties, VIII 42 and 48: the former he has already noted on the opposite page as H.P. Retouch No. 2 and the latter is present on the Blue printing and is still present on C of A.

We should like to draw attention to the following:

V 23 and VI 48 — Retouches not listed in the Handbook.

We believe that considerable retouching to existing flaws took place in late C of A and we shall be interested to hear of other units besides the following ones: V 9 and 10; VI 21, 37 and 60; VII 18; VIII 5, 6 and 42 — all constant flaws until retouched — mostly during C of A — the last two being retouches listed in the Handbook and retouched again.

VIII 52 and VI 49 appearing in two and four different states respectively.

An interesting feature of the plates is that the evidence of the damage is sometimes present in the early printings, e.g., VII 18. The top of the cross has been nearly ripped off but instead of just leaving a broken top to the cross, the missing piece (to use an Irishism) is still there attached to one corner of the cross until retouched. Again, VI 58 would be just a small notch in the bottom frame but the piece chipped out is lying across the mouth of the notch.

VI 49 is an example of a "movable corner," i.e., the corner was broken but the piece sliced off remained for some time making the corner look different every time it had a major move. (cf. VIII 60 of the K.G.V 1d., except that in the case of the 4d. the loose piece actually came adrift.)

"Poached egg" varieties are interesting because they persisted for so long. VIII 59, commencing on the blue printing, carries on, albeit getting more and more faint until C of A. On the other hand VII 55 (also on blue) — a white flaw with a dot in its centre — keeps well until it suddenly disappears in C of A. VI 53, so far only seen on Cr/A, has the Roo's head and 1st "A" of AUSTRALIA completely blacked out. This does not last very long but it can be found in various states of disintegration.

There is reasonable evidence, we think, of the use of make-ready in the case of VIII 6 — Rosenblum's "Blurred Wattle."

There is also reasonable evidence of "Stacking" which makes dating rather difficult: dated specimens on Cr/A and SMCA (both perms.) are common from 1929-1933 with perf. 14 coming in strongly in 1936.

We should like to thank Mr Chas. O. Dunn for his help in confirming many of the varieties in blue and to members of the ACSS of G.B. for providing material for study and for their help in compiling this list.

Nc. Blue Cr/A SMCA C of A

PANE V (Upper Left Pane)

1	x	x	x	x	a. LEFT WATTLES. White flaw, diagonally R-L, appearing to join two top wattle blooms at left.
				x	b. TOP FRAME. Two small cuts at 1½ and 2¼ mm. to right of Cross. Subject to inking.
2	x	x	x	x	a. LEFT WATTLES. A blot of colour or thickening of the lower left portion of the top wattle bloom. Similar units: V 48 and 56; VIII 6, 36 and 42.
				x	b. TOP FRAME. A slightly L-R downward scratch nearly 5 mm. from TLC, cutting up to five shading lines.
				x	c. SHADING ABOVE RIGHT WATTLES. L-R scratch 1 mm. long cutting through the 2nd, 3rd and 4th lines of shading, 3½ mm. from RF.
4				x	a. POSTAGE. Top serif of "S" joined to diagonal. Late C of A.
6	x	x			a. SHADING BEHIND EMU. Coloured dot 11½ mm. down, 2 mm. in.
7	x	x	x	x	a. SHADING BEHIND ROO. Small coloured flaw between 3rd and 4th shading lines below wattle stem, ¼ mm. from back of Roo's neck
9	x	x	x	x	a. TRC. Truncated, 1 mm. across.
				x	<i>RETOUCHED</i> to normal. <i>Late C of A.</i>
	x	x	x	x	b. FOURPENCE. Dot below "RP" of Fourpence, ½ mm. up, 10½ mm. from left. Subject to inking.
10	x	x	x	x	a. TLC. Damaged. Largish, roughly circular white flaw at tip (and above) of white border.
				x	<i>RETOUCHED</i> . Point of top left leaf now shortened, leaving more white showing in the corner than on normal specimens.
11	x	x	x	x	a. LEFT WATTLES. Shading missing on left side of corner leaf, 1 mm. from top — making a white flaw.

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|---|---|---|--|
| | x | x | x | x | b. TOP LEFT CORNER. A small, R-L downward split in top frame at corner, giving the appearance of the corner being slightly raised. |
| | x | x | x | x | c. LEFT VALUE TABLET. Left frame of tablet broken at its top angle, 5 mm. up, 1½ mm. in. |
| 12 | x | x | x | x | a. CROWN, Jewel band. Colour flaw on central Maltese Cross (Croix patee), above the jewel band. |
| 17 | | x | x | x | a. RIGHT SHADING. 6th line below right wattle stem broken midway between Emu's neck and RF, 14½ mm. from BF. Late Cr/A. |
| 19 | | x | x | x | a. LEFT FRAME. Two small notches at 3 and 4½ mm. from BLC. |
| 22 | | | | x | a. EMU'S HEAD. Downward cut in top of head resulting in an apparent crest. <i>Late C of A.</i> |
| 23 | x | x | x | x | a. LEFT WATTLES. 2nd leaf down has its right half missing for 1½ mm. from the tip, and the lines of shading are extended into where the leaf should be, as far as the midrib. Appears to be a retouch. |
| 28 | x | x | x | x | a. SHADING UNDER RIGHT VALUE TABLET. A 1 mm. scratch running down from L-R, starting in the colour band ½ mm. to right of the white tip of the RVT and cutting the 4th shading line up, 1½ mm. from tip. |
| 29 | | | | x | a. SHADING BELOW LEFT VALUE TABLET. Coloured dot on right end of lowest shading line. |
| 34 | x | x | x | x | a. RIGHT FRAME. Downward L-R white spur from inside of the white frame, 2 mm. from BRC. |
| 40 | x | x | | | a. SHADING RIGHT OF LEFT VALUE TABLET. White line 2½ mm. from BF, extended to right above "F" of FOUR. |
| 46 | x | x | x | x | a. EMU. White patch above rear leg, 9 mm. up, 1½ mm. in. |
| 48 | x | x | x | x | a. EMU'S HEAD. Line of shading broken or missing between the right wattle stem and Emu's head. |
| | | x | x | x | b. RIGHT FRAME. A break, 12½ mm. from the BRC, opening in inside of frame and curling downward (sometimes shows only as a white dot in frame). |
| | | x | x | x | c. LEFT WATTLES. Blot of colour or thickening covering lower left portion of the top left wattle bloom. Similar units: V 2 and 56, VIII 6, 36 and 42. |
| 49 | x | x | x | x | a. ROO'S NECK. Break in outline on back of neck, 11 mm. from TF, giving appearance of a ½ mm. upward diagonal line. |
| | | | | x | b. LEFT VALUE TABLET. 1 mm. upward spur from the lower left corner of the value tablet. |
| 52 | | x | x | x | a. LEFT VALUE TABLET. Thickening of lower right side of the frame similar to the "merged" Die 2 flaw of the 1d value. |
| | | x | x | x | b. PENCE. Dot between PE, 1 mm. up, 11½ mm. from left. |
| 54 | | x | x | x | a. LEFT VALUE TABLET. White flaw under left end of crossbar of "4". In SMCA and C of A not so noticeable but crossbar appears thin and bent upward. |
| 55 | x | x | x | x | a. LEFT WATTLES. Coloured, circular flaw, in upper left portion of the white centre of the 4th wattle bloom, ¾ mm. in diameter. |
| 56 | | x | x | x | a. LEFT WATTLES. Blot of colour or thickening of lower left portion of top wattle bloom. Similar flaw on units: V 2 and 48; VIII 6, 36 and 42. |
| 59 | | | x | | a. TOP RIGHT CORNER. White flaw, ½ mm. long in frame below tip of white border. |
| | | | x | | b. RIGHT FRAME. A nick, ½ mm. above BRC. |

PANE VI (Upper Right Plate)

1	x	x	x	x	a. "G" OF POSTAGE. A small downward white flaw or swelling in the middle of the bottom curve of the "G".
	x	x	x	x	b. RIGHT VALUE TABLET. Small swelling on top of the "d".
	x	x	x	x	c. LEFT WATTLES. Spot of colour joining the 3rd and 4th shading lines to right of the topmost leaf of the wattle spray, nearly 5½ mm. from LF and 1 mm. from TF.
				x	d. TOP LEFT CORNER. A 1¼ mm. vertical white flaw in left frame commencing just above the tip of the white border and just filling the space between the tip and the left frame line. Only seen on one printing in greenish yellow about 1932-33.
4	x	x	x	x	a. BOTTOM LEFT CORNER. Rounded.
	x	x	x	x	b. TOP LEFT CORNER. White border swollen slightly below its tip.
5		x	x	x	a. RIGHT VALUE TABLET. Breaks in the shading lines across the bottom right corner of the VT making an irregular dotted line in a SW direction.
6		x	x	x	a. RIGHT VALUE TABLET. Right side of VT blurred and widened.
		x	x	x	b. SHADING BELOW LEFT VALUE TABLET. 3rd line up broken 2 mm. from left frame, ¾ mm. from bottom frame.
8	x	x	x	x	a. OVAL. Shading below King's neck has a colour spot between 4th and 5th lines up, 9 mm. in from RF.
9	x	x	x	x	a. RIGHT FRAME. Dented from 1½ to 3 mm. from BRC.
15	x	x	x	x	a. BOTTOM FRAME. Diagonal break in frame nearly 5 mm. from BRC
	x	x	x	x	b. PENCE, final "E". The white shading line to right of the bottom arm of the "E" is extended towards, but slightly below, the arm and the two appear to merge.
		x	x	x	c. PENCE. FINAL "E", MIDDLE ARM. A minute white flaw under the arm gives the appearance of the arm being blurred.
16	x	x	x	x	a. "G" OF POSTAGE. Is broken by a coloured line.
	x	x	x	x	b. TOP RIGHT CORNER. Slightly blunted.
18		x	x	x	a. FINAL "A" OF AUSTRALIA. The right end of the serif at foot of the left leg is pointed and extends towards the serif of the right leg.
19	x	x	x	x	a. RIGHT VALUE TABLET. Two white flaws, at times rather smudgy and indefinite: i. ½ mm. semicircle around the tail of the "4". ii. ½ mm. below the tip of the tail of the "4".
21	x	x	x	x	a. "U" OF FOUR. Right hand leg shortened. Corrected — late C of A.
23		x	x	x	a. BOTTOM FRAME. White dot in frame 1¼ mm. from BRC.
25		x	x	x	a. RIGHT VALUE TABLET. White dot ¾ mm. below tip of the tail of the "4".
		x	x	x	b. SHADING LINES ABOVE LEFT WATTLES. The lines are irregular; the first line below the long one is curved upwards and frequently broken, the 2nd is faint and is also broken.
		x	x	x	c. TOP WATTLE BLOOM. Is also affected, the outline on top is irregular and frequently missing at right.
31	x	x	x	x	a. SHADING LEFT OF RIGHT VALUE TABLET. 8th line above apex of v-scroll partly missing towards the left side, 2½ mm. up. (VII 47 has the 9th line broken towards the right end.)

No.	Blue	Cr/A	SMCA	C of A	
34	x	x	x		a. LEFT VALUE TABLET. Small white horizontal flaw just touching the inside of the white border of VT, 4½ mm. from LF and 1½ mm. from BF.
35		x	x		a. PENCE. Circular white flaw at tip of the bottom bar of final "E".
37	x	x	x	x	a. LEFT WATTLES. The white centre of the 2nd bloom is continued upwards as a white blur. RETOUCHED. In C of A. The wattle bloom now has a flat outline at top and the two lines of shading above it are weak or broken.
	x	x	x	x	b. PENCE. Very small upward notch under "NC" of PENCE, 8½ mm. from BRC. (Note: Other units have been noted with a small white dash around this point.)
38	x	x	x		a. BOTTOM FRAME. Small notch ½ mm. from BLC.
40	x	x	x		a. BOTTOM FRAME. Split through frame to white border, 2½ mm. from BLC. May not reach the white border in Cr/A.
41	x	x	x		a. AUSTRALIA. Rectangular white flaw in solid shading over right leg of "U". Faint in C of A.
48	x	x	x		a. RIGHT VALUE TABLET. Lines of shading between the top of the right hand side of VT and the white border disorganised. Probably a retouch.
	x	x	x		b. BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER. Vertical wavy line in right segment, 1 to 2½ mm. from BRC. Similar unit VI 60.
	x	x	x		c. BOTTOM RIGHT CORNER. Horizontal wavy line in bottom segment, 1½ to 2 mm. from BRC. Similar unit VI 60.
	x	x	x		d. WHITE BORDER AT RIGHT. Lower tip shorter than normal. Similar units in same vertical column.

(To be continued)

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PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

*Contributed by the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club
(Convener's address: 42 Park Road, Burwood, N.S.W.)*

NEW HEBRIDES

British Resident Commissioner's Seal

The fact that stamps of the 1938 issue are known bearing an impression of an oval mark, with the inscription "H.B.M. RESIDENT COMMISSIONER / NEW HEBRIDES" surrounding the Royal Arms, has caused speculation. We have consulted Mr B. F. Blackwell, who was stationed at Vila as Assistant Resident Commissioner during the early years of the second World War, and whose memory for events appears most vivid.

Mr Blackwell assures us that the Post Office at Vila functioned uninterruptedly during the whole war, so there is no question of the mark we are discussing being used as an emergency cancellation. The three examples of this mark we have examined show that it appears on stamps which have also been cancelled by the current date-stamp reading "NEW HEBRIDES" at top, "VILA" at foot and the date in one line in the centre. In all cases the date is "-8 DEC 41," the day after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour, but Mr Blackwell says this can have no special significance (such as the institution of emergency censorship) as censorship had been in force since September 1939.

Although we have no direct proof, it is thought highly likely that these pieces came from letters addressed to a firm in Sydney who were at that time Australian agent for the New Hebrides Government. This would explain why they would have letters from a source which had access to the mark in question.

Official letters sent by the British Resident Commissioner were not liable to pay postage and their eligibility for free postage was established by an impression on the cover of the mark we are discussing or of a round one with similar wording. The presence of this mark on postage stamps is therefore still unexplained, as such letters should not have borne stamps. However, it would seem certain that it has no postal significance.

Mr Blackwell tells us that the only period when any postage was paid on official correspondence originating from the British Resident Commissioner's Office at Vila was between the date of the inauguration of the regular air mail service between Sydney and London in December 1934 and the institution of the "all up" air mail on the same route in August 1938. During this period it was arranged that official correspondence, sent by air mail, should bear New Hebrides stamps to the value of the difference between the surface and the air mail rates of postage.

Some years ago a number of copies of the British and French issues of 1938 for the New Hebrides were found cancelled with the word "NOUMEA" in a single-line mark. These marks seem to vary very considerably in the spacing of the letters and also in the size of the letter "M."

Enquiries elicited information to the effect that a vessel of this name was trading from New Caledonia between 1938 and 1940 and hence it was assumed that the mark "NOUMEA" on the stamps had been applied on board this vessel. Subsequently the same mark was found on a number of Australian stamps of the period.

Within the last year, however, conclusive evidence has come to hand that this mark is now applied at Noumea, the capital of New Caledonia. We have seen a cover posted on board the vessel *Polynésien*, on the run between Sydney and Noumea. The Australian stamp is cancelled with the mark under discussion and the face of the cover also bears the paquebot mark of Noumea and the current Noumea date-stamp of 6.10.54.

The Circle would be glad to know if any reader can throw further light on the use of this mark around the period 1938-40 and, in particular, would be glad to see any cover of that time bearing this cancellation.

The late J. Whitsed Dovey informed us that, pending definite evidence that this mark was ever applied on board ship, it was omitted from his monograph, *Ship Letters of the South Pacific*, reviewed in the December 1955 number of this journal.

REVIEWS

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, 1957. Eighteenth Edition. 108 pp. $8\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 10s. (Aust.).

Each new edition of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue is eagerly looked forward to, and the 18th edition now before me, has been radically changed from previous editions.

Under the editorship of the Rev. J. C. W. Brown it is being revised section by section; a task that will take many years to complete. Many pages of useful notes have been added, greatly increasing its value and in future years, it will become not only a catalogue but a handbook as well, thus following the method of some overseas specialists' catalogues.

Information formerly the close preserve of the specialist is now concisely made available to the general collector.

A start has been made on the re-arrangement and the re-lettering of varieties, a

retouched or re-entered item being coupled directly with its flaw. This makes it easier for the collector to follow the history of a stamp. The re-numbering of the stamps in one's collection is a very small price to pay for the vastly improved systematic numbering.

To list only a few of the changes in this edition — the McCracken 2/- 'Roo has been revised and a new classification made of the engraved stamps of 1913-1914, dropping minor varieties and giving tests for separating the two printings of the 1d. I am glad to see the three dies of the 2d. King George V are correctly numbered; formerly Die 1 was un-numbered, whilst 2 and 3 were erroneously listed as Die 1 and 2.

In the Penny Reds, always a popular group, the nomenclature of some of the colours has been changed; this together with the added notes should greatly assist the collector in his classification of this difficult group.

A new section has been created covering

Other large variety issues. This consists of the 1932 6d. Kookaburra, the large 1/- Lyrebird, and the various 1/6 Hermes. The former section covering "Air Issues and Miscellaneous" was certainly a mixed bunch.

The O5 white-faced 3d. K.G.VI has been reduced to a variety of O6, the price remaining the same. This is consistent with the listing of the other white-face varieties.

Among the Commemoratives, the listings of the 1935 K.G.V Jubilee have been completely re-written and will surprise anyone who has collected this issue "a la cat." The 2d. stamp is full of interest with distinct shades and flaws for which it is possible to find the subsequent retouch. Some of the retouches, in view of their scarcity, seem very reasonably priced.

Other improvements include the addition of sheet positions for the varieties so dear to the collector's heart, and dates of issue where known. A request is made to collectors to help with further information.

An enormous amount of work has been put into improving this edition, and I venture to say that no other edition has shown as much improvement over previous catalogues as this. The Editor and Publisher are to be congratulated. We are promised further improvements in succeeding editions and I, for one, will be looking forward to the 19th.

— C.O.D.

A Study of the ½d. Kangaroo 1938-1956
Prepared by the Commonwealth Specialists' Research Group (N.S.W.). Under the auspices of the Commonwealth Specialists and Stationery Club (Sydney), c/- W. C. Hansen, 7 Macquarie Street, Pymble, N.S.W. 40 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Price 7/6 (Aus.)

This comprehensive treatise is the first publication of this very active philatelic group and conveys the story of the ½d. Kangaroo of 1938 from its initial issue to the present, throughout the changes of perforation and paper. It traces the development and use of the various electros in a very full and complete manner and reflects very great credit upon all who were associated with the study.

Approximately 40,000 specimens of this stamp were inspected during the two years' study of the issue, and the publication is based upon information obtained from actual sighting of the supporting material

and confirmation thus obtained on all matters dealt with.

The group appreciates that the last word has not been published on this most interesting stamp which is due for replacement in the not far distant future and would be very pleased to receive any additional information which may be in the hands of collectors.

This valuable addition to Australian Philatelic literature, setting out such detailed study of this particular issue, is to be commended, an dit is hoped that it will be the forerunner of similar studies of current issues whilst they are still readily available.

— R.H.M.

The Cancellations of the Falkland Islands and the Dependencies, by James Andrews, F.R.P.S.L. 64 pp. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd, London. Australian price 26/-.

This scholarly and well-illustrated work does full justice to a slight but fascinating subject that should appeal to Australian readers, if only because of the Antarctic flavour, the background of wool, whales, and lonely hardships, and the influence of Cook, who named South Georgia for his Sovereign.

The early services to and from Britain, generally via Uruguay, are described and the greater part of the book is a descriptive catalogue of the cancellations — some made in London and some unfortunately produced locally — and date-stamps used at Stanley and the outstations.

This is preceded by a chapter on the two hand-struck marks which have somehow reached the standard catalogue under the mis-title of franks. Details are given of the underprints and date-stamps of the Dependencies used before and after the issue of separate sets of adhesives.

Guides are given as to which are scarce, those moved from office to office, and the way in which the date-stamp can assist the study of printings of the adhesives.

Early covers of the Falklands are really rare and at times Mr Andrews has to rely on deductions from scanty evidence. Occasionally, his reasoning appears hard to follow. For example, why is he so sure that the Government House oval, which appears centrally on a ½d. Edward adhesive, is fiscal?

The rate is an odd duty and it was only in the King George V period that "revenue"

was added to the design of the adhesive. Surely that troublesome swarm of live bees sent by post in 1898 was an interisland parcel, not a parcel post to outside the colonial territory, and it was for this parcel post that the 1898 high values were provided.

What a pity Mr Andrews did not deal, even in a note, with the romantic pen cancellations on the Queen Victoria classics, the St Andrew's Cross in ink, and the initials of estate owners and others — almost the only examples of postage due payments in advance.

His dismissal of code letters as meaningless prompts questions on the reversed "C" found on cancelled-to-order Queens.

Even if the Falkland Islands underlined "Paquebot" has not come to light, it seems a pity that other paquebot cancellations found on Falklands adhesives were not listed. Incidentally, the flying-boat was a Hythe, not a Hudson.

Inevitably, in the story from 1868 to date, much space is devoted to "the postmark is mightier than the sword" propaganda of Argentina and Chile against Britain.

Mr Andrews, a student of classic adhesives, as well as of postal history, hands these over to the thematic collector, after careful recording and illustration.

Generous acknowledgement of help received underlines the gratitude that should be given to Mr Andrews and Mr Lowe. It would be unfortunate if the unavoidably substantial price of this excellent book restricted enjoyment.

— P.J.

The Commonwealth Catalogue of King George VI Stamps, 1956 Edition. 157 pp. 5 x 7½ in. Published by the Commonwealth Stamp Coy, 7 Leather Lane, Liverpool. Price 6/- (stg.).

Price increases in the new Commonwealth catalogue show the George VI issues are as popular as ever and that those who predicted a slump in them when the Elizabethan issues appeared were but false prophets.

The catalogue has been changed to a two-column arrangement and a number of new shades and varieties have been added. The section on the varieties of Great Britain will have special value for Australians interested in these issues, and the illustration and description of varieties generally are both splendid.

The listing of Australian imprint blocks differs from that of the Specialist catalogue, in that it lists shade varieties, but it does not differentiate between the wide and narrow gutters of the 1937 1d. or long and short Ash imprints of the 1/- of the same issue. The imprint numbering system is geared, or keyed, to the stamps in the general lists.

Billig's Philatelic Handbook, Volume 25. 206 pp. 6 x 9½ in. Published by Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Avenue, Jamaica 32, New York, U.S.A. Price \$5.

This latest addition to the Mr Billig's famous series contains an excellent article on the Stamps of the North-West Pacific Islands by Mr William H. Buckley, a member of the American Philatelic Society and vice-president of the Society of Australian Specialists.

This gentleman has read with care all previous writings, studied his stamps carefully, and written a clear and informative picture of these interesting issues. The four different settings are explained in detail with full reference to varieties of lettering, stones, and ink colours.

A check list giving numbers overprinted in each value and watermark, and a priced list which gives all major varieties really completes the most comprehensive survey it has been our privilege to read.

Another feature of the volume is a reprint of the late Stephen H. Smith's booklet, *Indian Airways*, part III.

Other items include a Saar catalogue and sections on German and United States locals, including the Wells, Fargo Pony Express. A comprehensive index to the whole series of Billig handbooks completes a valuable volume.

— E.G.C.

R.P.S.V. BUILDING FUND

Collectors contributed nearly £1000 to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's Building Fund during the past year.

The Revenue Account of the fund for the year ended June 30 showed that donations from members, philatelic societies and associations, dealers, and friends totalled £429/15/- and stamps donated to the fund realised £539/4/6.

During the year the society paid the balance of £750 owing on the property, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, invested £900 in Industrial Acceptance Corporation debentures and had a bank credit in the Building Fund account of £884/17/10.

Rent and interest received totalled £180 and legal expenses, rates, and interest on mortgages amounted to £159.

Further donations have been received as follows:

Allen, T. (England)	£12 10 0	Holmes, H. R. (England)	£5 0 0
Boker, J. R. (U.S.A.)	45 0 0	Jephcott, Dr C. M. (Canada)	22 10 0
Burghard, George E. (U.S.A.)	67 10 0	Nearing, C. Turner (U.S.A.)	2 5 0
Connett, Eugene (U.S.A.)	4 10 0	Weill Bros. (U.S.A.)	11 5 0
Dale, Mrs John D. (U.S.A.) (second donation)	22 10 0	Wickersham, Lt.-Gen. C. W. (U.S.A.)	22 10 0
Denton, B. K. (U.S.A.)	4 10 0		
Hoffman, Senor Robert (Argentina)	90 0 0		

Donations of stamps or philatelic material for sale have been received from:

Cole, Ezra (U.S.A.)	Sellers, Dr David (U.S.A.)
Greene, V. G. (Canada)	Wise, Paul (U.S.A.)
Jarrett, Fred (Canada)	Kenton, B. K. (U.S.A.)

Sales of stamps donated:

Chisholm, H. L.	£1 5 0	Purves, J. R. W.	9 16 0
Cole, G. G.	1 2 6	Rogers, G. L.	1 5 0
Creed, E. G.	2 10 0	Schofield, J. A.	3 5 0
Gawler, H.	1 15 0	Smith, J. S.	14 6
Greenwood, G. S.	1 17 6	Wawn, R. N.	2 5 0
Hawker, J. H.	3 5 0		

A STUDY OF THE $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ORANGE KANGAROO

By J. P. MEARA

(Concluded from Vol. VIII, No. 2, p. 55)

"B" Sheets — Upper Right

- Plate Varieties:* L.2 — Roller shift frames lower right corner.
L.53 — Weak entry top right corner.
L.66 — Spot between lines 7-8 TLC 3 mm. from LF.
R.9 — Weak entry TRC, also nice R/shift to POSTAGE.
R.28 — Bush flaw (variable).
R.48 — Two lines from O to ear.
R.80 — Dot in front of and at base roo's ear.
- Group 1:* B1 Imprint, no wmk. (Feb. 51).
B2 Imprint, no wmk. (Feb. 51).
R.48 — B1 O-ear lines as above.
B2 Foggy Hills retouch.
R.56 — Dot LRC.
R.57 — Dot front roo's nose.
R.64 — Dot below roo's paw.
R.68 — Spot over roo's head.
- Group 2:* B3 Imprint, no wmk. (early 51).
B5 No imprint, no wmk. (Aug. 54). Shows tip probable Pl. 7.
B5a No imprint, no wmk. (9.9.55).
B5b No imprint, no wmk. (12.10.55). Flush perf. base, missing pin.
L.73 — 3 mm. heavy line 6mm. below, between LLC and Aus (B5a, B5b; very narrow selvedge B5).
R.33 — Spot near gutter line $6\frac{1}{2}$ mm. out, 5mm. down.
R.75 — Vertical hairline from base under Aus $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from LLC (B3 only).
- Group 3:* B4 Imprint, no wmk. (29.6.53). Coil.
B7 No imprint, no wmk. (Dec. 53).
B8 No imprint, no wmk. (Dec. 53). Coil.
L.9 — Spot $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. out, $6\frac{1}{4}$ mm. down from LF.
L.18 — Spot $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. out, $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm. down from LF.
L.53 — Apparent neat RETOUCH to W/e TRC.
- Group 4:* B6 No imprint, no wmk. (July 55).
B6a No imprint, no wmk. (5.9.55).
L.73 } — Large curved scratches in selvedge below (B6a only).
L.75 }
R.40 — Spot LRC margin.
- Group 5:* Corner block of four. No imprint, no wmk.
L.73 — Upwards sloping line from LLC $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. up to selvedge 13mm. distant.

"D" Sheets — Lower Right

- Plate Varieties:* L.33 — Spot inside lower curve of G; dots in sky.
L.49 — "Dilly Bag," curved flaw below roo's paw.
R.66 — Spot in margin LRC.
R.68 — Spot in sky over hill under A.
R.74 — 1mm. spike joining inside RF, acutely $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. down TRC.

- Group 1:* D1 Imprint, no wmk. (March 51).
 L.53 - Double spot left trunk, "Trunk flaw."
 R.2 - "Bird's Nest" bend at top of right branch of main trunk.
 R.72 - Line from middle roo's ear to left frame.
 R.74 - In addition to spike as above, weak entry top right corner.
- Group 2:* D2 Imprint, no wmk. (early 51).
 D2a Imprint, no wmk. (Aug. 55); purchased in Sydney.
 D4 No imprint, no wmk. (Aug. 55).
 D5 No imprint, no wmk. (July 54). Wide top selvedge.
 L.22 - Spot right margin $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. out, $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. down.
 L.56 - Two short curved lines $1\frac{1}{2}$ -4 mm. from RF, 9 mm. down.
 L.64 - Dot adjacent first gutter line and in line with lower frame.
 L.71 - Dot lower margin 1mm. in from LLC (not on D2).
 R.3 - Vertical hairline from top frame $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from TLC (D2 only).
 R.24 - Short R-L spike joining top frame acutely between TA (D4, D5 only).
 R.42 - Short thick line or heavy spot LF $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm. down.
- Group 3:* D3a Imprint, no wmk. (June 53). Coil.
 D7 No imprint, no wmk. (Jan. 54).
 D7a No imprint, no wmk. (Aug. 55). Coil.
 L.49 - D3a, "Dilly Bag."
 D7, D7a, DOTS RETOUCH to "Dilly Bag."
 R.41 - Spot right margin $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. out, $3\frac{1}{4}$ mm. down.
- Group 4:* D6 No imprint, no wmk. (5.9.55).
 D6a No imprint, no wmk. (1.9.55). Left selvedge 20 mm. wide shows vertical layout line as row of dots $19\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from left frames first column.
 L.1 - Short spike L-R joining top frame acutely between TA. Two vertically curved 6 mm. scratches and shorter one from point 4mm. over S. 12 mm. horizontally curved scratch above aforementioned, $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above frame.
- Group 5:* D3 Imprint, no wmk. (June 53, Aug. 55).
 D8 No imprint, no wmk. (Feb. 54).
 D8 { L.4 - Vertical hairline from top frame 1 mm. from TRC.
 only } L.49 - DASHES RETOUCH to "Dilly Bag."
 Re Group 5: Refer notes on "Sheets B and D."

Left Sheets "A" and "C"

On the selvedge between these sheets are a number of plate spots about midway and these are found on both sheets when the selvedge is sufficiently wide.

Left Pane - Single dot $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to left of left frame line first column.

Two dots between columns one and two.

Dot about 6mm. from LF line in column three.

Dot between columns three and four.

Dot about 4mm. from RF line in column six.

About 5mm. of horizontal layout line on right of column eight gutter lines.

Right Pane - Spot between columns one and two.

Two spots, one $5\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from RF line column five and one between columns five and six.

Mated Sheets - The hairline from L.78 on sheets "A2b," "A2c" and L.6 on sheet "C5a" is continuous, proving the sheets in Groups A2 and C2 are from the same electro. ("Bird in Sky" on A sheets and L.29 diagonal lines and retouch on C sheets).

Sought - A "C" sheet with top selvedge showing the scratches appearing below L.76 and L.78 on the Group 4 "A" sheet.

With the exceptions listed, I have not yet endeavoured to determine the plate, electro or transient spots and lines between these sheets.

Mated Sheets — The sheets in each Group 2 are from the one electro because —

(i) The vertical hairline under R.75 on sheet "B3" continues to R.3 on sheet "D2."

(ii) The heavy line under L.73 on sheets "B5a, B5b" also shows on the top of the wide selvage of sheet "D5" together with sundry other scratches, some of which also show on the narrow bottom selvage of sheet "B5" which has the tip of probable Plate 7 at top.

The sheets in each Group 4 are from the one electro as the curved horizontal scratch over L.1 on sheets "D6, D6a" also shows on the bottom selvage of sheet "B6a."

Sought — "B" sheets showing the following markings appearing on the top selvage of "D" sheets:

(i) "D7, D7a" — above L.2 there is an angular scratch arms 5 mm. long facing left and 11½ mm. above the frame GE to TRC.

(ii) "D8" — The vertical hairline, probably transient, from L4 must also show on the corresponding "B" sheet.

Group 5 "D" Sheets — I am not wholly satisfied with this grouping. Close examination reveals these sheets remarkably free of the necessary "clues" to prove continuity from Imprint to No Imprint. There is an apparent link in Group 3 sheets. Consequently the imprint sheet prior to the No Imprint "Dashes" retouch to "Dilly Bag" should have some feature common to both.

Electro Grouping

May I now suggest possible electro grouping of the aforementioned sheets, being completely aware that it is more or less impossible to substantiate any such theory from mere sheet study.

By "possible electro combinations" I mean that four particular sheets and states thereof possibly belong to the same electro. A group itself consists of sheets having a common electro feature, such as dots, lines, flaws, etc. The sheets comprising a group may have an electro retouch which follows through from Imprint to No Imprint, or an added feature such as wide selvage or an important hairline — something which, in my opinion, places them in that certain group.

As my study progressed and I saw that sheets from each position seemed to belong to a certain group, I found I had about five different groups, which, by dates of purchase and availability I considered might belong to five different electros, and tried to put them into a logical sequence.

Electro 6—The Foggy Hills retouch occurred on Electro 6—an imprint electro—which was discarded towards mid-1951, as during those months all sheets in each Group 1 went off sale and have not reappeared. This electro was in use in 1946 as I hold a watermarked copy of the "Branch Flaw" "A"-R.51 dated that year. I also have a copy dated "NO 43" of "D"-R.74 W/e TRC and spike. This latter is an interesting unit and I question whether the weak corner is an electro weakness, or a plate weakness which was very skilfully re-entered. A close study of this cliché reveals nothing to resolve the matter and obviously six electros would not be required within two years of adoption of this particular plate set-up.

Electro 7 — This electro, I conclude, was introduced in late 1950 to assist in meeting the demand for ½d. stamps resultant from the increased inland letter rates

operative from 1 Dec. 50 and later 9 July 51, and consists of the sheets in each Group 2. It has been shown from marginal markings that three pairs of sheets mate, viz.: Imprint sheets B3 and D2 (early 1951), No Imprint sheets B5a, D5 (July 1954), and A2b, A2c and C5a (Dec. 1955), and I suggest this electro was rested from about mid-1952 until mid-1954 when it was again utilised to date after removal of the imprints.

I rather think of the bare $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. of the number on sheet B5 as Plate No. 7 as there is a trace of sloping and, of course, Electro 7 suits my theory! Nevertheless, the "Bird in Sky" on "A"—L.65 is unknown to me on watermarked paper or prior to 1951.

Electros "X" and "Y" — To these electros I allot Groups A3, C4, B3, D3 (Electro X) and Groups C5, D5 (Electro Y). The corner block ("B" Group 5) could belong to one of these electros, both of which bore imprints when the sheets appeared in 1953. Each of these electros is allotted one of the sheets with the respective retouches to the weak entry on "C"—R.67 (retouched on imprint sheets late 1953) and to the "Dilly Bag - D-L.49" (retouched when imprints removed about December 1953). The no imprint sheets from each electro disappeared early in 1954 and have not been available since.

I cannot mate any "A"/"C" or "B"/"D" sheets, nor connect any of these sheets with other imprint sheets on watermarked or unwatermarked paper. These sheets may come from an earlier electro which was retouched and quickly discarded, but I am inclined to think these are two new electros, perhaps at present resting. Moreover, I cannot see that two states of the one retouch exist, but, to date, the retouches from these electros are scarce.

Electro "Z" — With this electro I associate the no imprint no watermark sheets in Groups A4, C3, B4, D4 — the latter two groups contain mated sheets — as they have been available from early 1955 to date and concurrently in Brisbane with sheets from "Electro 7" although not in the same quantity. I cannot trace these sheets to imprint days, but again do not overlook the possibility of an old electro brought into use. Is this also a new electro?

In an informative article on Australian Stamp Production, Mr I Ash, editor of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain Bulletin (December 1951) refers to nickel electros and chroming process and states, "nowadays a new plate can be so easily grown that re-surfacing is becoming somewhat less popular. . . ." This followed his remark that a chrome face will give up to 200,000 impressions. The only figures I have for annual output of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps is shown at front hereof, but averaging the number of electro-sheets printed (perhaps kindly) at 36,650 annually, the aggregate over the 14-year period to December 1955 is 513,000. Yet for this value there are at least six, probably seven, and possibly more electros which would indicate electro use for up to say 75,000 impressions.

Therefore in dealing with electro-grouping I have not favoured the strip and re-chrome method of continuing the life of an electro, but if it has been used I have failed to find and apply the evidence. I have definitely missed some sheets, particularly in 1952. Nevertheless I invite comment on these notes whether it be in partial agreement or strongly critical, as the opportunity to perfect the study of a particular issue is best taken while the stamps are available.

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

"The society has done more than retain stability; it has gained additional strength; and its prestige in the philatelic world — in Australia and beyond — has never been higher," said the president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (Mr P. Collas) in his presidential report to the annual meeting on 19 July.

"It is abundantly clear that the society is maintaining its many and varied activities to the greatest extent

"This society is what its members have made it. When a fellow-member moves to greater philatelic heights we, as the society, share in the triumph. We are always proud of the achievements of our members, so many of whom have added lustre to our name. It is perhaps opportune to say now, in his absence, that a great deal of the prestige the society now enjoys is due entirely to the personal efforts of Mr J. R. W. Purves. In the past year his work as Chairman of the Juries at the Auckland and Adelaide Exhibitions, and as a member of the jury at FIPEX, New York, apart from his many other positive contributions to the hobby, has enormously improved the status of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in international philately.

"Not only did society members gain high distinctions at the Exhibitions just named, but at other international Exhibitions where the competitive standards were very severe.

"ANPEX, Adelaide, was of course the event of the year, and it is inspiring to recall that 26 members gained awards, including the Championship and five gold medals. Their gains, while representing personal triumphs, collectively represent a society objective, adequately attained.

"Perhaps the most outstanding aspect of ANPEX was the overwhelming support given it by members of the society, particularly on the panel of judges. The president of the Exhibition, Mr Alex Briskham, has paid tribute to this support — you will recall that he attended our December meeting and presented the awards — and, as a measure of appreciation, his Council also presented £50 to our building fund.

"In the international field we achieved honour by the award at FIPEX of a bronze medal for *Philately from Australia*, the only non-American philatelic journal to be so recognised."

"The position regarding the society's occupancy of its building in South Yarra is static at the moment but the sub-committee responsible for the matter is working on the several associated problems to be solved before the society can move in," Mr Collas continued. "I believe it will be practicable for a satisfactory solution to be arrived at in the near future and, of course, members will be kept abreast of developments.

"I must express my own satisfaction at the good response made during the year by members — and many non-members — to the society's building fund appeal. This sound and essential assistance expresses the donor's confidence in the future of the society — a confidence which we all share.

The society's revenue account and balance sheet will be published in the next issue.

The report of the Sale by Tender branch showed 820 lots were disposed of at the four sales. Total realisations were £2496, yielding the society £74/7/10 commission.

Postal bids have averaged 221, covering 127 lots from 34 persons per sale.

The annual meeting was notable for the election of Miss Myra Farley as secretary.

Miss Farley is not only the society's first woman secretary but the first woman to become secretary of a Royal Philatelic Society.

Officers elected were: President, Mr P. T. Masters; vice-president, Mr J. R. W. Purves; immediate past president, Mr P. Collas; secretary, Miss M. Farley; treasurer, Mr H. T. Tobin; council, Messrs A. W. Bunn, H. M. Campbell, E. G. Creed, E. B. Doery, J. Gartner, A. J. Petrie and W. L. Russell; librarian, Mr R. Lloyd-Smith; superintendent, Exchange branch, Mr T. C. Lester; joint superintendents, Sale by Tender branch, Messrs C. G. C. Hodgkinson and F. M. Wallace.

Presidential Display

Mr Collas's presidential display was a selection of "special" types of postmarks, with some postal stationery, chosen to show that Australia had a postmark field offering unlimited opportunities for collecting and research.

The first group was R.A.A.F. Post Offices in Australia. The post offices using these forms of postmarks were mainly official; that is, staffed by full-time P.M.G. staff. However, some were non-official but staffed with civilians, and a few, particularly the Base P.O.s, were staffed by serving R.A.A.F. personnel. For security reasons, most of the "named" postmarks were replaced by others carrying a security number instead of the name.

In the second group were the R.A.A.F. Post Offices, termed Air Force P.O.s. These were under R.A.A.F. control and staffed by its personnel, in Australia and beyond.

A third group of service post offices were "named" military P.O.s in Australia, which, like the R.A.A.F. offices had varying status.

Mr Collas also included a few franking machine impressions, used by the defence authorities, but did not display his A.I.F. Army, and Field P.O.s, and limited his naval covers to postmarks of predominant interest. This included a "Japanese Surrender" and "killer" and "security" items.

The postal history material included N.S.W. Jubilee postcard, a private postcard postmarked on 1 January 1901, the day of Federation, and a military envelope of World War I, the only used example known to Captain H. S. Porter.

The display concluded with aerodrome post office postmarks, an Indian Coronation Durbar postmark of 1911, Boer War covers, and specimens of the Sydney Tramway and Beaudesert Tramway stamps.

Medal Competition

Seven entries were received for the society's annual medal competition and were the feature of the June meeting.

The field was a varied one and provided a most interesting display.

Mr D. M. Baker presented British Postal History; Mr P. Jaffe, Grenada; and Mr G. L. Rogers, Cape of Good Hope. Mr F. E. Wood demonstrated the history of perforation, Mr P. T. Masters showed Highlights of Spain, and Mr J. S. Griffith, Cologne Cathedral. Mr Jaffe also entered Dominica.

The judges awarded Mr Jaffe a silver medal for his Grenada and a bronze medal to Mr Masters.

Fiji Cancellations

Mr H. M. Campbell, F.R.P.S.L., presented "The Post Offices and Cancellations of Fiji," a subject in which he has done considerable research, for the August meeting.

Mr Campbell recalled that there were no postal markings for either the first period of the Nineteenth Century, when missionaries and traders were establishing themselves in the group, or during the period from 1858 when a British consulate was established at Levuka.

The *Fiji Times* established a service and issued its Express stamps in 1870. The stamps were usually cancelled by pen-strokes, and the only identifiable cancellation was a solid eight-pointed star used at Bua.

King Cakobua, with certain Englishmen, organised an official postal system in 1871. The first cancellation was obviously locally made, possibly carved from boxwood, and was used only on the

first issue, which was on sale for 41 days. Other places used manuscript cancellations, and rubber stamps, sometimes ordinary traders' stamps. Official obliterators were provided for Suva in 1882, but other offices had to wait until the turn of the century for official circular date-stamps.

"Unfortunately," said Mr Campbell, summarising his display, "I cannot show you the Bua star but I have the rare first type of Levuka complete on a rejoined pair, together with other early types from that office. For Suva I have picked out some interesting cancellations, then the "Sunburst," which is mainly used on packets of newspapers, in various colours."

Other Suva types included the 1924 British Empire Exhibition slogan postmark, which was a rubber stamp, the American-provided cancellation, used on one day only for Pan American Airways' first flight to the United States, and special usage types, notably "SHIP SIDE."

Mr Campbell also showed manuscript cancellations, rubber stamps and other locally made types, and straight-line cancellations for the country offices.

Other interesting items were Crown seal cancellations, T.P.O. and ship cancellations, N.Z. service markings, and a Western Pacific High Commission frank stamp, used when the Commission was established at Suva after the Japanese capture of Tarawa.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Switzerland

The display at the June meeting was in the hands of Mr C. Flessner who showed a magnificent collection of Modern Swiss stamps.

He prefaced his display with an outline history of the country and then showed an almost complete mint collection featuring the stamps from 1907 to the present time. Included were the ordinary issues. Air Mails, Tete-beche booklets, Postage Dues, Franks, and Pro Juventute, in excellent condition. Many samples of the various rough and smooth gums and paper varieties were noted. He concluded with the stamps of International organisations having their headquarters in Switzerland—the League of Nations and the International Labour Office.

Annual Meeting

Another very successful year was reported by the Committee at the Annual Meeting in July. Membership increased by six during the year and the financial statements showed a very satisfactory result.

The Exchange Superintendent asked members to continue to give to the Exchange Branch their wholehearted support by ensuring that books are forwarded on with the least possible delay and by periodically supplying sheets of stamps for inclusion in the books. He suggested that particular attention be paid to condition, pricing and secure mounting of stamps intended for sale through the Exchange Branch.

The Librarian pointed out that members did not appear to use the library to its best advantage.

The number of borrowings had diminished during the year. Recent additions to the library included Volume III of the New Zealand Handbook; The Sperati Forgeries (3 volumes); reprints of "the Spud Papers" and other early classics on Forgeries.

Officers elected were: President, Col. F. V. Thompson; vice-president, Mr Louis Frank; secretary, Mr R. H. Markham; treasurer, Mr J. W. Gale; Exchange superintendent, Mr W. Finigan; librarian, Mr H. Croaker; committee members, Messrs R. Duncan, A. G. Gerrand and R. H. Taylor. Members passed a very hearty vote of thanks to retiring officers, Mrs J. A. Fell, Miss E. M. Kendall and Mr C. Ashworth-Spreat, who did not seek re-election.

Papua

Following the formal business of the Annual Meeting, the president (Col. F. V. Thompson) gave a most interesting display of the stamps of Papua. It included all the issues from the Lithographed stamps of 1907 to 1910 with the small and large "PAPUA" in all the different perforations and placing of watermark, through the mono-colour stamps of 1911 to 1917, the typographed issues of 1919, the overprints of 1929 and 1931 and finally the definitive 9d. and 1/3 values of 1932.

Particular stress was placed upon the method of producing the lithographed issues and how these linked with the mono-colour plates, with the perpetuation of varieties.

Many examples of the varieties to be found in both frame and vignette plates were displayed, particularly in those issues produced by lithography.

Noticeable among the sheets showing used stamps were many scarce postal and ship markings.

The display at the August meeting was in the hands of the members of the Pacific Island Circle, who again combined to present a most attractive showing.

After giving a short history of the Boxer Rebellion, Mr H. S. Porter displayed some very interesting covers associated with that event. Mr J. H. Powell, as well as showing German Samoa Cancellations, included a complete mint sheet of the 1 mark "Yacht" type. Postmarks (including some rare items) of Queensland stamps used in New Guinea formed Mr H. Croaker's share of the display. Col. F. V. Thompson included some very fine items from Nauru, Cook Islands and British Solomon Islands. Mr. R. A. Baldwin displayed some rarely seen covers from Washington Island, and stamps of Wallis and Futuna Islands were shown by Mr Romney Gibbons. A study of the

2/6 issue of the Papua "Lakatois" was the contribution from Mr R. Simpson, and Mr W. Finigan concluded the evening's display with cancellations on New Hebrides and New Caledonia.

Many items in the display illustrated researches undertaken by the Group recently and previously reported through *Philately from Australia*.

Coming Events

Members are asked to again assist in making an outstanding success of the Annual Competition which will be the feature of the October meeting. Ten sheets, which have not won an Award at a National Exhibition, are eligible for the competition.

The November meeting will be shared between a display of stamps featuring the Olympics, compiled by Mr J. O. Critchlow, and "Channel Islands" presented by Mr R. H. Markham.

The feature for the December meeting will be in the hands of the lady members of the Club.

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

(There is no truth in the rumour that the writer of the "Round Up" has been on a six months' jag, or in gaol. He's been enjoying one of those compulsory rests prescribed by the medicos for all of us poor mortals who fall by the wayside. — ED.)

JIM CRITCHLOW, one of our Sydney members, foregathered with us in Adelaide and, over a dish of tea, discussed his collecting activities. Besides early Russia and Russian Postal History (in which he is very well informed), he has superb collections of Yugoslavia and Poland. We happen to know, too, that he has some nice Czecho material as well! Jim also admits to a yen for 'Thematics (stamps on Stamps, and Sport) and P.O. Booklets. Secretary of the Australian Cable Makers' Association by profession, he enjoys historical reading and is either a gardener or a garden-lover (the two terms are by no means synonymous!). Jim did well with gongs at Anpex.

JACK GARTNER, who prints *Philately from Australia*, is at present making what used to be known as The Grand Tour. He was making straight for England, then up to Norway, Sweden and Denmark, on to Germany, Holland, Belgium, France, Austria, Switzerland, then down to Portugal, Spain, Italy — and back to France for a further visit to the *Folies Bergères!*

JIM SAWYER is one of our good country members, resident at Horsham. Last year we saw, at his home, part of his extensive collection of Australian Commonwealth and British Colonies. Very nice material, too! Jim is a Real Estate Agent, a Rotarian, and used to play the clarinette in his early days. Extremely fond of music, he won the baritone solo at the Ballarat Competitions in 1909. Nowadays, outside of bowls, tennis and golf, he just lives a comfortable life in a large room entirely filled with stamps, into which only he and his friends go!

THEO LESTER, of Blackburn, is the new Exchange Superintendent of the "Royal" and he

does it very well. His collecting activities include the stamps of Jamaica, Hong Kong, India, and the Commonwealth. He was in the Middle East during the war, and as a result his collection also includes Syria and Lebanon, of which he has some choice specimens. Theo is a surveyor with the C.R.B. Tells us he has no other hobbies, except gardening.

LON WYMOND, who was a pilot with the RAAF during the war, bucketing around New Guinea and Borneo, naturally collects North Borneo and Sarawak and also the Pacific Islands generally. Insists that he's a collector, and not a philatelist. We don't observe the difference, really, since "Philately" means "love of stamps." Lon is a Research Officer with CSIRO (Division of Forest Products). You generally see him taking stamps from the exchange sheets — because he has two sons who also collect! Plays golf at Flinders for relaxation.

JACK JAMES is another RAAF type. Flew Stirling bombers over Germany during the war. He is now Aviation Officer with the Shell Co. Before the war Jack was a member of the Boy Scouts movement for many years. Also wielded the willow for Kew Cricket Club and played football with the Hawthorn Seconds. Now his escape valves are golf and stamps — the latter including Papua, Fiji, and the Pacific Islands generally. Oh yes, Commonwealth also!

RAY JEWELL, of Middle Park, has an extremely creditable collection of Commonwealth. You may have noticed that he collected a Silver-Gilt for it at Adelaide. Outside of stamps, he is interested in coins and banknotes (aren't we all?) and is Vice-President of the Numismatic Association of Vic. Tells us his "hobby" (outside of stamps and coins) is his wife and two children. Having met his wife, we can well understand it!

— W.L.R.

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