

Philately from Australia

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PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

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THE
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1959

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THE HAWTHORN PRESS

15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne

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By John Easton

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PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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A PHILATELIC DECADE

With this number we complete our first ten years.

Ten years, to be sure, for most things, is not a long time. For a stamp journal of a specialised nature, covering the one national field, it represents a lifetime.

Enthusiasm started this journal and enthusiasm keeps it going. Take, for instance, our contents. It isn't easy to find, all the time, sufficient contributions, of a sufficiently high standard, to fill our pages nor, what is more, to balance those contributions in any one issue. We have, of course, endeavoured to make friends of all our contributors. We like to think we give their efforts the best of presentation and that we introduce them to all those collectors equipped to appreciate their work.

The lot of a serious journal is indeed far from easy. There is, first of all, "nothing in it" for anybody. The very best one can hope for is that it can be run at a modest profit—more often that it will be run for the relatively small loss which its publishers can afford.

In earlier days a large proportion of our steady advertising came from important overseas firms who, purely from motives of good will and not with any expectation of rapid profit, thought well enough of Australian philately and of its devotees to keep their firm names before them. We still have such people with us, a few of them. The fact that, for some years now, currency controls and import restrictions have effectively frustrated local collectors in searching a road for the material they require has not entirely damped the spirits of these overseas friends of ours. Our warm thanks to them. Likewise to those constant Australian advertisers who have remained with us. They have had, with a Quarterly, to take

a long view. Advertising in this journal must, of necessity, generally be good will advertising but at least the journal reaches a public of sufficiently concentrated purchasing power to make its presence felt. Frankly, we could do with a little more support from local advertisers. The charges are certainly not excessive, for 1958, and the results, as we know from experience, are often quite surprising.

Criticism is frequently levied at us—we are living, don't forget, in the age of criticism—for not embracing a larger field, for not having more popular articles, or for not catering for juniors—to name a few of our omissions. All these things, of course, *are* worth doing and *other* journals do them. We have chosen a niche of our own and we have stuck to it. We are read by nearly all those who are interested in our Australian fields, and we are generally respected, we believe, here and overseas.

There is nothing of the glossy magazine nor the stridency of a dance band about *Philately from Australia*. Our strings are muted, our music is of limited appeal, but that it has an appeal—and a permanent one—is shown by the ever widening circle of our readers. We have at times even induced collectors in this country, who have never touched Australiana of any kind before, to embrace it now, and in no case do we know of a dissatisfied customer. There is still lots of room in our Australian fields and there are still not enough cows (one should perhaps say philatelists) grazing in them.

It is safe to say, in the present conditions, that we should survive the next ten years as we have done the past ten, still giving our own particular brand of service to Australian philately.

We have been lucky to date in our printer, our editors, our business managers, and our committee. We have been lucky also to have had the constant and encouraging support of our publishing societies.

It is, in the nature of things, certain that some of us will, as time goes on, disappear from the scene but there will be others to fill our places, imbued with a similar enthusiasm and a not dissimilar outlook.

To everyone who likes this journal well enough to advertise in it, to write for it, or to read it we look forward to the pleasure of your company for the next ten years.

J.R.W.P.

TEN YEAR INDEX AVAILABLE

The *Cumulative Index to Philately from Australia, Vols. I-X*, will be published a few days after this number. The 24-page brochure is a comprehensive index to all the material published.

All items regarded as of permanent value have been indexed and cross-referenced where this has been considered justified. Not only have articles been indexed, but references within articles have been included, so far as practicable. The index is a must for Australian or Pacific students.

The index will be a limited edition and the price is 7s. 6d. Australian (6s. sterling), or \$1.00. Order from Business Manager, *Philately from Australia*, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

The K.G.V 1s. 4d. Single Wmk, "Deep Turquoise"

For some years Mr W. M. Holbeach has been waging a lone campaign against the present manner of listing this variety. Readers of *The Philatelist* (October 1957, p. 4) will have noticed that he has now succeeded in convincing Mr Robson Lowe (a member of the Expert Committee of the B.P.A.) that there are a number of distinctive deeper shades in the 1s. 4d., single wmk, and that it is not possible to say which of them is the catalogued "deep turquoise."

Mr Holbeach drew my attention to the problem presented by this stamp some time ago. My subsequent approach to the problem has perhaps not been identical with his, although it has led me to substantially similar conclusions. At the same time I do not think the note of despair evident in *The Philatelist* is altogether justified. The "deep turquoise" is certainly not an easy shade to catalogue satisfactorily, but I feel that if due regard is had to the *original* listing of these shades in Australia, and if the existence of certain shades intermediate in depth is recognised, then the present confusion can be put right.

The *Victorian Philatelic Record* of November 1922 reported the "deep turquoise" as having been found the previous month in a part sheet at the St. Kilda P.O. (Victoria). Apparently up to that time collectors had not seen any shade at all comparable with it. It was listed by the late Mr S. Orlo-Smith in his catalogue (the present *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*) as "deep turquoise." The term "deep," as always in the catalogue listing of shades, was used comparatively, i.e., in contrast to the generally pale, washed-out shades of this issue.

From the Second to the Fifteenth Edition of the Catalogue (1928-1953) the shade was listed as being known both mint and used, and also perf. OS, used. Such listing clearly implied that certain stamps which did *not* come from the St. Kilda sheet were nevertheless recognised as being the listed "deep turquoise."

In the Sixteenth Edition the listing was changed. The "deep turquoise" was listed as being known only unused, and the present note about the part sheet procured from the St. Kilda P.O. was inserted. The implication of these two changes was clear. It was an assertion that only stamps coming from the St. Kilda part sheet could be recognised as *the "deep turquoise."*

There had always been some who maintained this. The change in listing, however, did nothing to resolve the difficulties that collectors and dealers were experiencing with the variety. In fact it rendered them more acute.

The 1s. 4d., single wmk, remained on issue for a further five years after the discovery of the St. Kilda part sheet. During that time shades which can quite justifiably be grouped with the original "deep turquoise" undoubtedly made their appearance at other places. I have a specimen (perf. OS) postmarked at Port Adelaide, --.12.22, and Mr P. W. Simonson has a perfect mate to it (apart from the postmark). Mr Holbeach has several shades, some a little greener or bluer or deeper than others, but all belonging to this same "deep turquoise" shade group.

All such stamps are scarce. Why should the St. Kilda sub-shade be singled out for honourable mention (and stiff pricing)? Why not the Port Adelaide, which is a little bluer and actually a little deeper? Why in fact should any sub-shade be singled out?

The answer is of course that the St. Kilda sub-shade was the first to be noted and publicised. Vested interests were set up, and led in turn, as recounted above, to the laying down of the quite unphilatelic (and unworkable) condition that only such stamps as came from the St. Kilda part sheet could be recognised as being *the* "deep turquoise."

A highly-priced catalogue item *must* be capable of definite identification. A dealer handling a "deep turquoise" today may have excellent grounds for believing that it comes from this sheet, but can he *prove* it? I myself have very good reason for believing that the pedigree of the block of four in the Royal Collection is above suspicion. It really did come from that St. Kilda part sheet. But how can one prove that a stamp identical in shade with this block came from the same source? And even if one *could* prove it, is the shade so much different from certain other "deep turquoises" in this issue, and so much scarcer, as to justify separate and differential listing? Mr Robson Lowe would evidently be in agreement with Mr Holbeach that it is not, and I am of the same opinion.

If it is decided to retain the "deep turquoise" in the next edition of the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* it would be necessary to restore the *original* listing, and to delete the note referring to the St. Kilda part sheet. The variety would be listed both mint and used, and also perf. OS used. F68 D could perhaps be defined as including any stamp that in shade (allowing for a touch of grey) and depth lies between the Langite Green (full hue 53) and the Jade Green (full hue 54) of the Wilson Colour Chart. Reference would also need to be made to certain shades intermediate in depth. The really deep shade can be preserved as a catalogue item only in some such way as the above.

It may help to prevent confusion if it is borne in mind that *all* shades in this issue could in theory be described as turquoise or turquoise blue. In fact, the very distinctive "bright blue" is practically identical with the "turquoise blue" of the Gibbons Colour Guide, although not so deep. The old names however, are useful as a means of distinction and there is nothing to be gained by changing them.

Incidentally, the small mult. wmk, perf. 14, issue also has its "deep turquoise" (hitherto uncatalogued). Mr Harry Wheeler has shown me a beautiful mint strip of three, as deep as anything I have seen with single wmk, but greener. Mr Holbeach has a mint single, not quite so green as this but just as deep.

PHILATELY IN NEW SOUTH WALES

By ROMNEY GIBBONS

At 12 noon on Friday, 20 October 1911, there was unwonted animation in Phillip Street, Sydney, then as now the resort of the legal profession. There, in the King's Hall, the first competitive philatelic exhibition to be held in Australia had just opened its doors to the public.

On 2 February 1959 another philatelic exhibition, the fourth to be held in Sydney, will get under way. It may be worth while glancing at the progress that philately has made in New South Wales during a period of nearly half a century.

First, some statistics. In 1911 only one society, the Sydney Philatelic Club (now the Royal Sydney), with a membership list a little in excess of 120, was functioning in this State. Today there are between 20 and 30 active societies, some of which have membership lists which probably exceed the total number of collectors believed to be in existence in the whole of Australia in 1911.

The growth, at first, was slow. In 1928, just 30 years ago, only four societies, one in Newcastle and three in Sydney, were represented at the fourth (and last) Australian Philatelic Congress.

Today it is hard to find a Sydney suburb without an enthusiastic body of collectors, and, apart from Newcastle, many country centres, such as Wollongong and Grafton, have their own vigorous societies. Attendances at meetings have, of course, grown in the same manner. Where, 40 years ago, an attendance of a dozen members was considered "a good roll-up," today at the larger societies, an attendance of less than 50 is looked at as "a poor show." Inevitably, in this change there will be found some loss. Meetings have become more formal and there is less of that camaraderie and exchange of ideas that can only be found in a small company sitting at a round table.

Some attempt at recapturing this earlier atmosphere has been made by the Study Circles, of which the Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (nicknamed by the late John Hambly, one of the founders, the "Pixies") and the Commonwealth Specialists' Society, whose task it is to uncover the secrets of our Australian issues, are noteworthy examples. If, as some think, the future of organized philately is in the hands of the Study Group, there is room for many more of these bodies in New South Wales.

Now let us look at some of the changes in philatelic fashion that the past 50 years have witnessed. In 1911 thematic collecting was not even in its infancy in this State—it had not been born! Ten years later "educational" collections, as they were then called, began to be shown at philatelic gatherings, where they were viewed with good-natured toleration, not unmixed with feelings of superiority. Today this branch of our hobby bids fair to outstrip all others in popularity.

During the first decade of this century the New South Wales collector was interested mainly in the stamps of the Australian States, of which the frequent changes in watermark and perforation then occurring provided the needed speculative incentive for their acquisition. Other British Colonials, particularly the

issues of King Edward VII, were popular, but "foreign" stamps were little regarded. The Commonwealth stamp was not yet, and when it did come it made but the faintest ripple on the philatelic ocean. Later, when the Commonwealth "boom" took place, it was mainly Victorian collectors who led the way in uncovering the philatelic interest hidden in our stamps.

A Melbourne visitor to Sydney in 1930 had this to say about our philatelic habits: "What struck me chiefly about Sydney collectors was their keenness for 'Island' stamps and the large number of general collectors one met. . . . Commonwealth, naturally, has many adherents, though not quite, I should say, to the same extent as in Melbourne." This is still true and, as the years pass, collectors in New South Wales appear to be growing more catholic in their collecting proclivities. Foreign stamps are becoming increasingly popular, due in part, no doubt, to the influx of migrants from European countries, and such formerly "difficult" countries, as Manchuria, Mongolia and Tibet, all have their supporters.

It is unfortunate that the amount of philatelic research and study carried on in New South Wales is hardly commensurate with the number of active collectors in this State, despite the encouragement given by philatelic societies in the form of annual competitions and the like. Perhaps it is largely a matter of climate; the out-door attractions of Sydney are not conducive to philatelic study.

Another reason may be the present lack of philatelic literature published in this State. For many years Sydney was pre-eminent in this respect; *The Australian Philatelist* and *The Australian Stamp Journal* with lives of 30 and 40 years, respectively, have preserved many valuable records that may be needed in the future, but increasingly heavy costs (and the reluctance of collectors to support philatelic literature) have brought this vigorous publishing period to an end—let us hope only for the time being.

Finally, a few words about the "sources of supply." New South Wales is well served with stamp dealers, not only in Sydney, but in several country towns. If the old-time dealer, who was more than half a collector, has gone for good, it is because the leisurely business methods of half a century ago are no longer suitable in the atomic age. "Stamp Alley," by which name the Royal Arcade in Sydney is known to philatelists, remains the place where dealers and collectors most do congregate.

One feature of the stamp trade in Sydney that has come into prominence during the past decade has been the establishment of stamp auctions on a firm basis. Collectors have now a much more accurate guide to values than they had in the past, as well as a ready market for any philatelic material.

As already mentioned, three important philatelic exhibitions have already been held in Sydney, the first in 1911, the second in 1932 at the height of the depression, and the third in 1938 as part of the State's sesquicentenary celebrations. The writer has been present at each and hopes to meet many of his friends at next year's function. Sydney has much to offer the philatelic visitor, who may study the "White" collection of the Australian States, housed in the Public Library, or spend hours among the "Vickery" collection of British Colonials at the Australian Museum; he, or she, will be most heartily welcomed.

2d. GEO. V DIE 1-AN INTERIM REPORT

By GORDON WARD, M.D.

There were at least seventeen plates made from Die 1 and, some while ago, I rashly embarked upon an attempt to obtain the top right corner of the right pane of each plate. Fourteen different examples have been obtained and it has been possible to build on these until seven plates have been completed together with considerable portions of others. Whether the task will ever be finished time alone can show but, in the meantime, this attempt to present the picture which they make may, one hopes, be of assistance to others.

Because numbering or lettering might seem to place these plates in order of issue or in order of manufacture each plate was given a personal name and these have been incorporated in the summary below because their usefulness is not finished. It should eventually be possible to show the dates of usage of each plate so certainly that it will be possible to place them in order of issue, and this study has already progressed some way in the case of plates of which many stamps can be identified. The 16 or 17 plates in question fall into fairly well-defined groups.

Group I: Two plates (Kilfoyle and Watts) which are the only two from which copies dated in 1920 can be found. Both occur in the orange-brown shade and both were reprinted in red. Full sheets of both have been seen.

Group II: Four plates whose characteristic is that they are found only in orange, not orange-brown, shades and never in red or brown. These plates are Solus and Sheargold which seem to occur early in 1921, and Birmingham and Rosenblum's Plate 7 which seem to occur a little later.

Group III: Plates Davis and Davidson-McNess which resemble Group I in that they occur in orange-brown and later in red. They are dated, however, mostly in 1922 and in any case long after Group I. It seems that Plate Exe may belong here. It agrees in colours and dates.

Group IV: Plates Ward, Wheeler, Recut and First Brown. These never occur in orange and the red which is their normal shade never has the deep richness of the next group. The dates are in the second half of 1922 and the first half of 1923.

Group V: Plates 13, Rutter, Second Brown, and one other. None of these are ever dated earlier than 1923. They occur in deep red.

Group VI: Two plates printed from in brown. They are mentioned above, having already been included in previous groups.

It is sometimes said that these plates were printed from electros, and that the electros were made from groups of clichés clamped together. This is Rosenblum's opinion and he also says that certain individual clichés, e.g., that with the flaw "TWC," were used in more than one electro. It has not been possible to verify these opinions. The multitude of compartment lines and other signs show that these plates were laid down with a transfer roller. The case of Plate Watts is,

as I see it, conclusive. The ninth horizontal row in both panes appears more deeply coloured than others, both in orange and red. This can only mean that the impressions in this row were rather less deeply impressed than those in other rows. There would result less white and more colour in the prints. This could hardly have happened if this row was made up of clichés chosen at random. It could well happen with a transfer roller operated from side to side of the plate.

Granted that the basis was a metal plate laid down with a roller, it would still be possible to use it for making electros, especially if it was of soft metal. Did this happen? Official information says "there is unfortunately no information on record concerning the method adopted for the preparation of the printing plates." We must deduce the answer from the stamps themselves, but I cannot provide it. No-one seems to have laid down any definite signs by which one may identify an electro printing.

The most interesting item discovered in searching through some thousands of these stamps was not from any of the above plates. It was a cut-out from a wrapper with a 2d. orange stamp upon which were imposed the letters O S in white—all being printed from one die. This sort of thing has been seen on the 1d. value, and perhaps on others, but is evidently rare and little known.

Brief Notes on Plate

1. (Kilfoyle) Whole sheet collected. Perf. guide hole top right (2 sheets). R. gives the date of issue as "September 1920" but I have seen no earlier date than 7.10.20, in orange-brown. Few, if any, orange copies issued after 1920. Re-issue in pale red early 1922, most copies being postmarked about the middle of 1922. Scratch or cut through right numeral shield and frame on R.50. Prominent "tache" running N.E. from lowest right wattle flower on L.58. Thin scratch, difficult to spot, across value, sloping to right, on R.24.

2. (Watts) Two sheets seen. Perf. guide hole top right (2 sheets). Issue and re-issue in red as last, but this is possibly a little earlier for there are fewer copies dated in 1921. White vertical "tache" lower left side on L.20—by "tache" I mean an irregular or somewhat indistinct linear mark like a touch with a paint brush. The cross on crown is deeply undercut on the left on L.34. On L.57 the area in front of the roo, in the lower part, is often indistinct and less coloured than normal. This latter shows small faults in top right frame, on both inner and outer sides. R.29 has a broken frame behind roo's shoulder. R.58 shows the well-known "TWC" flaw.

3. (Solus) Only six stamps seen, 3 by 2 from top right corner of sheet. Dated copies in first half of 1921. R.5 has a fine curved compartment line stretching from crown and curving down slightly to R. corner. Known only in orange.

4. (Sheargold) Six stamps only. Top right corner of R. pane, 2 by 3. Perf. guide hole top right. Used copies too few for comment but probably as last. Orange only.

5. (Birmingham) Right pane and 26 stamps of left pane seen. Perf. guide hole top left. Orange only. Dates of use July 1921 to January 1922. Double spot flaw on

right of left wattles on L.1. "U" of AUSTRALIA has an extra serif on the right on L.7. Square white spot under serif of "L" on R.6. "AUSTRAZIA" on R.49.

6. ("Seven," Rosenblum) I have not the top right corner of right pane for this plate but R. says that the fifth stamp has the "L" flaw (illustrated) and this occurs on no other plate of mine. If someone has this flaw with the stamp to the right of it I should be glad to know whether this (R.6) shows any compartment lines or other variety. I assign to this plate, not without reason (which falls short of certainty), the "GE" joined flaw on R.36, the blunt spear-headed "I" on R.30 and the "U" with bulge or extra serif on left on R.55. Used copies as last. Perf. guide hole bottom right. Orange only.

7. (Davis) Two sheets collected. Perf. guide hole bottom left. Dated copies April 21 to May 1922, but mostly in or after December 1921. Usually in orange but re-issued in red in 1922. L.16 shows a large white flaw on emu's neck but this varies in size and may be absent on some orange copies. It is possibly a very shallow flaw often inked over. The left lower serif of "T" is joined to the white line below on L.41 and the "R" has a bulge or hook on the left side on L.31.

8. (Davidson-McNess) Lower six rows of right pane and corner block (4 by 2) from lower right corner of left pane seen. All in the hands of H. F. McNess, who has kindly sent a photo. Orange-brown, rarely orange. Re-issued in red 1922. Dates of issue as last plate. R.32 has the left numeral smaller than normal due to weak impression of the roller and R.33 has a broken left frame behind the roo's rump. R.45 has a marked "split" running down and in from towards left end of top frame.

8a (Exe) Complete sheet collected, in orange. It occurs also in orange-brown with dates apparently as last, and re-issued also in red in 1922. Perf. guide hole top left (2 sheets). This very annoying sheet turned up when I supposed that I had identified some stamps at least from each of the sixteen plates mentioned by R. This makes No. 17, or else I have gone wrong somewhere, which is very disquieting, for it is surely not the same as any other of the four sheets printed in both orange and red. There is a small but typical flaw on L.2—a nick about one third of the way down the right frame, with the piece nicked out turned down but not removed. On L.59 the roo's chest is whitish with one coloured spot in the middle of it. The second dot from the left of the crown is fused with the line below on R.23, and the right serif of the "T" with the line above on R.24.

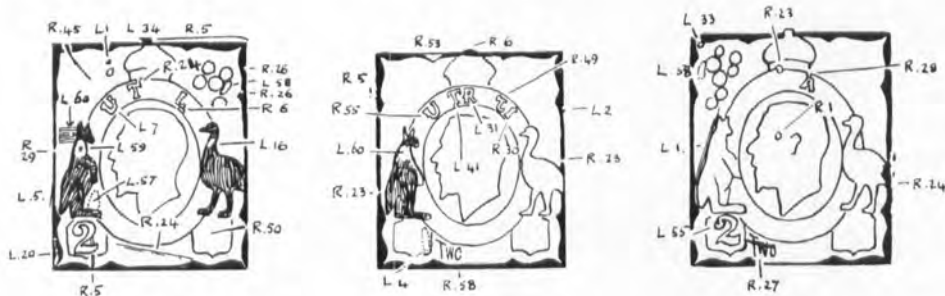
9. (Ward) 5 stamps only collected, i.e., top right corner of R. pane, vertical strip of 4 and R.5 in a pair. Perf. guide dot not seen, POSTAGE watermark on right. Pale red. Dates in second half of 1922. R.24 shows a distorted frame behind emu with two short red lines outside the frame.

10. (Wheeler) Two right vertical rows of right pane, except R.17 and 18, collected. Perf. guide hole bottom right. Pale red. Dates from April 1922 to May 1923, mostly December 1922 to February 1923. R.5 has vertical white line through left numeral. R.23 has broken frame behind emu, above his body.

11. (Re-cut) Block of 20 (4 by 5) from top right corner R. pane collected,

plus a few others. R.10 has the recut nose which is the only warrant for so naming this plate. Pale and deep red. Issues as No. 10. White spot midway between ear and eye on R.1.

12. (First Brown) Complete sheet collected. Mostly pale red, August 1922 to April 1923. Re-issued in brown. This re-issue was in a second state of the plate, a large coloured square having been added at the top right corner. Perf. guide hole top right. The brown shades vary considerably. L.1 has a long white scratch mark along roo's back, difficult to spot since it appears almost as if it were a normal part of the design. L.55 shows the upper part of the numeral considerably



distorted and the adjacent white line of the shield thinned. This is sometimes known as a "re-cut." L.33 has a circular white flaw at point of top left leaf. R.27 has a sloping line through "TWO." The middle "A" of AUSTRALIA is joined to white line above on R.28.

13. (No name) Complete sheet collected. Perf. guide hole top left. Mostly pale red. Dates from February 1923 onwards, mostly in first half of year. L.60 shows roo's chest white but without the central coloured dot of No. 8a. There are many other minor flaws but none very striking.

14. (Rutter) Complete left pane. "POSTAGE" watermark, no perf. guide hole. Deep red. Dated copies from February to end of 1923. L.5 has a short guide line with its upper end fused to frame behind the roo. L.12 is entirely normal in the first state of the plate but was later damaged and/or recut to form the well-known "Recut face" variety. L.58 has a large white flaw between left wattles and frame. L.60 has a minute cut through two shading lines behind the roo's head. If anyone has an imprint block showing this flaw I should be extremely glad to know what it can tell us about the *right* pane of this plate, for I have a complete pane which belongs to this or the next plate but do not know which.

15. This plate undoubtedly exists and I have many copies which belong to it but I have not been able to position them. They are all dated in 1923 only.

16. (Second Brown) Complete sheet collected. Perf. guide hole bottom left. Deep red. Dated copies as 13 and 14. Re-issued in brown. The triangular part of the upper frame, near the crown on the left, is badly flawed on R.53. The crown

is missing on R.6 and the upper left margin distorted on R.5. On L.4 there is a white vertical patch on the right side of the left shield. This is sometimes dull and obscured by minute traces of colour and at other times very large and white, and extending below the shield. I have two copies in red, both of which show the smaller flaw but have the same also in brown. My red sheet shows no trace whatever of it. This, therefore, seems to be a slowly developing flaw. Quite different are the multiple white flaws, amounting at times to complete absence of frame lines, seen on some copies from the lower row of the sheet, usually in brown. These seem to be some sort of printing flaw since they are not constant in either the red or the later brown printings. To discuss them fully would require much room.

The diagrams of the flaws mentioned above should not be taken to exact representations.

R.P.S.V. BUILDING FUND

Further donations to the Building Fund have been received from:

C. F. Bulley	£10 0 0	Estate V. S. Hewett	155 0 0
T. M. Elliott	12 6	C. G. Skewes	6 0 0
J. Englander	3 0 0		

Gifts towards the furnishing of building have been received from:

Mr E. G. Creed and Mr J. R. W. Purves, two crystal chandeliers.

Anonymous, an electric clock.



The Other Side of the Picture



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

QUEENSLAND

(i) *Numeral Cancellations: Some More "Ties."*

It is always pleasing to students when they are able to fill in a few more holes in a difficult field. The writer some time back acquired an old-time Queensland accumulation of 1882-95 issues, including a number of covers. Amongst the latter he found no less than *seven* new "ties." All are on complete covers and generally fit into the picture as Harry Porter presented it. The dates given are the year dates of the covers concerned. The new items found were as follows:

- 146: GRACEMERE, 1894: See Porter, *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*, p. 18
- 281: SOUTHPORT, 1887: Originally allotted to PIKEDALE REEFS. See Porter, p. 19
- 357: HEWITTVILLE, 1889: See Porter, p. 24
- 361: PINE HILL, 1895: See Porter, p. 24
- 405: DULBYDILLA, 1886: See Porter, p. 25. In that list the P.O. name is given as "DULVADILLA."
- 492: EMERALD, 1895: This name seems to be missing in Porter's work (see p. 27). It is, of course, possible that "Emerald" was the second name of one of the P.O.s set out on that page.
- 501: YANDILLA, 1900: This P.O. was originally issued with No. 137 (see Porter, p. 17). It was re-opened 14.3.92 (p. 28) and (as ITHACA which was opened 11.7.92 (see p. 28) received 502) it seems certain that 501 was the number allotted to YANDILLA on its *re-opening*. Porter referred (p. 28) to a "piece with 501 . . . LLA" and assigned this number, not unreasonably, to MUMBILLA (opened 1.9.92). Such numbering now requires correction.

I can also confirm 103 (ONE MILE CREEK), 198 (ARAMAC) and 203 (GIN GIN)—numbers previously only reported from one source.

(ii) *2d.; 1887-90 Period; Perf. 12*

The writer has, over the past couple of years, been making a study of this stamp. If any reader knows of any large blocks (six or more)—postally used or fiscally used—he will be grateful for the chance either of examining or of purchasing.

TASMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY

The Forthcoming Book

Steady progress has been made and more revisionary work done incorporating further findings. Publication is for this reason—and also for ever-present financial reasons—liable to be considerably delayed. Such infants are inevitably associated with a long and painful confinement but rest assured a happy ending will be in sight before too long.

VICTORIA

Barred Oval Cancellations—Further Discoveries of Interest(i) *Melbourne Types*

I have now given the Melbourne “1’s” further consideration and find that there were *four* separate types in all. They each contain 28 “spokes” but can be distinguished fairly readily by differences in the height, shape and serif of the figure “1,” in the size of the “V,” in the position of the “1” in relation to the “V,” and in the width of the “spokes.” At a later stage I hope to illustrate the four types and give some further particulars as to their usage.

(ii) *Kilmore “10.”*

In my monograph (p. 5) I indicated that *two* types of obliterator should be met. Two types *have* now been met. The first (which is the scarcer and of which I have to date only seen five examples) has a taller “1” and a narrower and taller “O” than the second. The second canceller (received about 18.2.54) eventuated as the result of a fire which destroyed this post office on 23.12.53.

(iii) *No. 58 is Crowlands:*

I have not previously seen this number but I have now turned up a full cover with the cancellation, emanating from the above post office. Reference to the monograph (on p. 8) will show that this post office was re-opened on 22.2.53. Cavendish (opened 1.4.53) is 57 and Prahran (also opened 1.4.53) is 59.

(iv) *Date of introduction of this type of cancellation*

I have examples of the “Butterfly” cancellations used up to early November 1851 but I don’t appear to have seen or noted any *stamped* covers dated between that period and March 1852, the latter being the earliest period at which I have

found the "Barred Oval" cancellers. I would be very pleased to hear from readers either of later dates of use of the "Butterflies" or of earlier dates of use of the "Barred Ovals."

(v) *The "Too Late" Stamps, 1855-57: Where They Were Used*

I suppose I have seen about 350 or more of these stamps. We know that while 250,000 were printed only some 41,000 in all were issued. Of those seen about 98% bear Melbourne (Barred Oval "1" or Barred Numeral "1") or Geelong (Barred Oval "2" or Barred Numeral "2") cancellations. The small remainder bear a Barred Numeral "3" cancellation, i.e., Castlemaine. It would seem therefore quite likely that issues of this stamp were made to these *three* post offices only, in marked contrast to the comparatively wide usage of the 1s. "Registered" of the same period.

(vi) *2s. and £1 Values, 1901-1912: Two interesting sub-types*

Students of surface-printed stamps will realise that this term is applied to a constant coloured variety wherever it appears *more than once* in the sheet. Such a variety owes its presence to the adherence to the die of a particle of foreign matter, the adherence persisting over the stamping of more than one mould, and, of course, being reproduced on the electrotype impressions emanating from the moulds in question.

(a) In the 2s. value, for which only the *one* plate of 120 impressions (12×10) was used throughout, at least *four* stamps in the sheet show the same quite prominent sub-type, viz:

Colour just above the base of the north-east triangle, joining that triangle to the inner vertical frame-line at its right.

Two of these varieties are found on Nos. 14 and 25 in the sheet respectively (the latter being, of course, down the *left* side), another somewhere down the *right* side of the sheet, and the fourth somewhere along the *top* of the sheet.

(b) In the £1 value, for which likewise only the one plate of 80 impressions (10×8) was used throughout, there are *three* examples in each sheet of the same prominent sub-type, viz:

Extra colour along the right hand edge of the ornamental circle under and to the right of the "D" of "POUND."⁵

This sub-type occurs on Nos. 51, 67 and 77 in the sheet and I am indebted to Mr P. Collas, of our Philatelic Bureau, for affording me the chance of examining material which enabled the exact location of these sheet positions.

Both the above varieties are easily seen and bear further witness to the many interesting features found in these rather neglected issues. Sub-type varieties are also to be found in other values, and those in the 2d., 2½d. and 5s. have already been written up.

*BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS*New Yacht *Belama* Cancellation

The Circle recorded, some time ago (*P. from A.*, September 1954, p. 97), the first finding of a date stamp inscribed H.M.G.Y. *Belama*, found on King George V adhesives of British Solomon Islands. All copies of this cancellation, so far seen by the Circle, are dated after the *Belama* had sunk.

We are now able to show, in an enlarged illustration, a 2½d. small canoe, cancelled in green with a straight line mark reading "*Belama*," in old English type,



upper and lower case letters. The whole of the word shows and the following inverted commas but there may be a prefix initials which do not show.

The Circle would like to hear of the existence of other copies of this ship mark, particularly if the first part shows or if on cover, when a date-stamp may fix its period of use more exactly.

ANPEX REMINDER

Dates to remember in connection with the Australian National Philatelic Exhibition:

January 19: Limit date for receipt of collections by the secretary (Mr R. H. Markham), Box 1751, Sydney.

February 2-7: Anpex 1959. Sydney Town Hall.

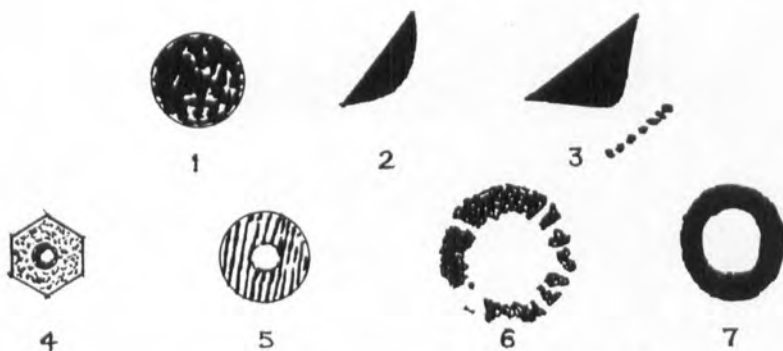


PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

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

"DAUB" MARKINGS

Samples of the "Daub" markings Pacific, as discussed in the September issue of *P. from A.* (p. 71), are illustrated below.



1, 2, 3 appear on Tonga 1897 issues; 4 on Papua (1911-15); 5 Papua (1925);
6 Papua (1932); 7 Commonwealth, Cover said to originate in Port Moresby.

SHIP MARKING

In *Ship Letters of the South Pacific*, there appears the following reference: "S.M.S. *AEOLIUS*: German warship. MS cancellation with date and initials found on Gilbert and Ellice Islands stamps, Pandanus type (1912)."

One of our members recently turned up some notes, made by the late Mr W. Blaesing, indicating that this marking is also to be found on German Marshall Islands stamps.

First, it may be noted that the spelling of the name should be "AEOLUS," not "AEOLIUS." In Grecian mythology, of course, Aeolus was regarded as the god and king of the winds.

Covers in Mr Blaesing's possession, most of which were addressed to the District Commissioner at Jaluit, were dated as follows: 7.9.05 (arrived at Jaluit, 10.9.05); 20.5.07; 26.1.08; 27.1.08 (arrived at Jaluit, 28.1.08); 20.5.08; 26.5.08 (arrived at Jaluit, 3.6.08).

LOCAL POSTS AND POST OFFICES OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN GOLDFIELDS, 1892-1897

By P. COLLAS

(Continued from September 1958, p. 61)

The Second Issue

Because of the arid nature of the region, camels were brought in as a means of transport and early in the history of the Coolgardie area large camel teams, mainly owned by Afghans, were located at various centres. The camels were employed on a variety of jobs and one of these was the transport of mails on certain routes from about 1895.

At this time Mr Healy found that further denominations of stamps were a necessity but because many of his cyclist routes had been taken over by the government and he was now employing camels on the distant routes, he decided to introduce new stamps with a camel rather than a cycle motif. These new stamps were of large rectangular shape with a central design of a camel and rider crossing a desert. The vignette was surrounded by an oval band bearing the words "Coolgardie Cycle Express Company" and at the base a straight label enclosed the value in words.



THE
Coolgardie Cycle Express Co.
HUNT STREET,
(Opposite Post Office)
SPECIAL CYCLE MESSAGES.



HAVING engaged the services of the following Special Cyclists:—
F. P. HOPE, H. YEATES, F. W. WILSON, F. W. BROOKMAN, W. H. HAMBLIN,
J. H. C. BAMLETT, & C., we are prepared to convey messages to any part
of the Field, by day or night, at shortest notice.

**Mining Notices put up on Claims, Wages Paid, Claims Pegged and taken up at
Warden's Office, and all Mining Business transacted.**

*Regular Cycle Mail leaves this office for Hannans, (daily) Menzies, Niagara,
Yerilla, Pindinni, Mt. Margaret, Norseman, Dundas, &c.*

JAMES A. HEALY, AGENT.

N.B.—SPECIAL MESSAGES GUARANTEED.

*The information on this business card of the Coolgardie Cycle Express Co. is now his-
torical data.*

This series was also lithographed by George Vindin, of Coolgardie, on unwatermarked white paper and perforated 12. There were three denominations— 6d. brown and green, 2s. brown and yellow and 5s. brown and violet.

Although ordered in June 1895 they were not available for issue until June 1896, but by this time more of the routes pioneered by the Coolgardie Cycle Express Company had been taken over and only the Mount Margaret and northern areas were left to the cycle and camel posts.

Because of the Company's restricted operations, the routes were not a paying proposition, despite the heavy letter fees, and the service was only maintained by subsidies paid by the mining companies with interests in the area.

History records that the last route was closed to Mr Healy's operations in December 1896 but there is some evidence (*vide Australian Stamp Journal*, March



1925 and *Record of Philately*, November 1935) that the camel design stamps were actually in use as late as June 1897.

It is noted that the Hurt and Williams' *Catalogue* gives the period of usage of the stamps "for only about two days," which period does not accord with facts.

Mr. W. Bromfield (in the *Record of Philately*) has stated:

"There are, however, in existence covers bearing dates in 1897 to which have been affixed the 'Camel' stamps, the latter cancelled with the obliterating stamp of the Company, and these suggest that the service was continued on certain routes after Mr Healy retired.

"I have in my collection an envelope . . . which bears the postmarks 'Sydney 9th June 1897' and 'Coolgardie W.A. 21st June 1897,' as well as 'Eastern Goldfields T.P.O. 19th June 1897,' and the violet stamp impression of the Company over a 2s. stamp of the Camel type. The words 'Cycle Express Agency, Coolgardie' (endorsed on the cover) were crossed out and 'Viner's' written in lieu, with the initials 'P.B.'"

With respect to the quantities printed of the second series, the *Australian Philatelist* records 2000 of 6d., 12,000 of 2s. and 1000 of 5s., while remainders are given as 350 of 6d., 300 of 2s. and 280 of 5s. The latter figures, however, lack authentication and observation indicates that unused stamps are far more plentiful than the figures suggest. It has been noted that the printing figures given in the *Record of Philately* are 2000 of each denomination. Like the first issue, the stamps are most desirable used, preferably on entire.

Finally, it may be mentioned that most stamps used on cover were cancelled with an unframed two-line metal stamp reading "Per Coolgardie Cycle Express Co.,/Hunt-Street" although some are known in pen-cancelled form while others inadvertently received official post office postmarks.

The Lake Lefroy Local Stamp

Although Government action suppressed the Coolgardie Cycle Express Company's stamps in December 1896, this official warning to potential operators of private mail services went unheeded in one quarter—the Lake Lefroy goldfield.

Lake Lefroy field was located some 40 miles from Kalgoorlie, formerly Hannan's, and about the same distance south-east of Coolgardie. While the



government services had taken over practically all of the routes formerly operated by the Coolgardie Cycle Express Company, it had to this time provided no regular service to and from Lake Lefroy.

Two local men, H. Lacy-Hillier and Frederic E. Maskell, who had had experience of the Coolgardie Cycle Express service, therefore decided to organize a local cycle service of their own, this decision being made before the Govern-

ment had completely taken over the balance of the Coolgardie Cycle Express Company's routes.

The two men, following local precedent, decided that a local stamp was a necessity and it would seem that this was designed late in 1896 and issued in February 1897.

The first mention of the stamp was made in the *Australian Philatelist* in its issue of December 1897, the brief paragraph reading in part:

"Another Westralian Local: We have seen a large stamp issued by the proprietors of the Lake Lefroy CYCLE MAIL. The words 'Lake Lefroy Goldfield' on a lined ground occupy the upper portion of the design. Below this is a swan in an oval frame, inscribed 'Cycle Mail' above and 'Western Australia' below. At the base of the design is the word 'Postage' with '6d.' in each of the lower angles. A scalloped frame surrounds the whole design, which is very roughly executed, and apparently lithographed. The stamp is printed in red on green wove paper, perf. 12."

In the April 1898 number of the same journal appears another reference to this local post, Mr Frederic E. Maskell, one of its founders, being recorded as having written to Mr J. F. Hambly, of Sydney, as follows:

"The mail service is not now in existence. We were running from February to June 1897, since which date there has been a Government service. We had only one issue of stamps, consisting of 1000, after which the block was defaced."

Another small reference in the March 1900 number of the same journal which likewise comprised an extract from a letter written by the "late proprietor,"—almost certainly Frederic E. Maskell again—to Mr J. F. Hambly, is also worth citing as confirming information previously supplied. Further, the values placed upon the stamps at the time are of interest.

"I regret that we are not able to continue to sell our cycle stamps at face value, as there is only a limited number, and the mail service is not still in existence. We were running from February to June 1897 after which there has been a government mail service. We are selling now the unused stamp at 2s. 6d. each, and the used of which we kept very few, at 5s. We could let you have a dozen stamps, including one used, for 20s., but as we have not many left we could not hold to this long. We have only had this one issue of stamps, consisting of 1000 after which the block was defaced."

These three small references in the *Australian Philatelist* and a short account in the *English Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* of 6 August 1898, represented, for many years, all that was known concerning the Lake Lefroy local, and subsequent references in Australian and overseas philatelic journals were merely based on these original sources, although in an article in the *Stamp Review* L. N. and M. Williams stated that the service was between Lake Lefroy and Kalgoorlie, but the route was actually between Lake Lefroy and Coolgardie.

During 1943, Sir John Wilson, Curator of the Royal Collection, was able to publish in the *London Philatelist* some valuable additional information.

This took the form of an account of the stamp written by H. Lacy-Hillier, one of the proprietors of the Lake Lefroy local post, together with two other letters, to which reference will be made. These papers came to the knowledge of Sir John Wilson and he was able to purchase them for the Royal Collection.

Mr Lacy-Hillier's account discloses that the stamp was designed by him and Mr Maskell at the end of 1896 and that a zinco block was made. It confirms the statement, twice given in the *Australian Philatelist*, that 1000 stamps were "printed off in sets of four, dark pink on green paper." This indicates, of course, 250 sheets each of four stamps.

The account further confirms that the zinco block was defaced, this being done by "cutting with a knife a deep line across from corner to corner making it quite impossible for others to be printed off without showing a line on the printing."

The account continues:

"These stamps were used in connection with the 'Cycle Mail Service' from Lake Lefroy to Coolgardie and several hundreds passed through the post, being affixed to letters in the right-hand bottom corner with the Govt. (Government) stamp being in the usual place. The face value of these stamps was 6d. Some time after they had been in use the Chief Postmaster, Mr Scholl, Perth, W.A., early in 1897 wrote a letter to the proprietors of the 'Mail' pointing out that they were infringing the postal regulations by issuing a private stamp, his attention having been drawn to the fact, also informing us that we must desist or a penalty would be enforced for the offence . . . Soon after this, a notice warning people not to affix these private stamps to their letters in future was posted up conspicuously at every post office on the W.A. goldfields, having the effect of well advertising our stamps, with the result that fancy prices were offered for specimens, 2s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. being obtained. However, we held on to the remainder. I must mention that 50 stamps were given to a man named Albert Green employed at the Kalgoorlie P.O. in consideration of his getting our stamp placed in the London Catalogue, although he assured us at the time that that had been done, we found out it was not the case. The Postmaster, Coolgardie, Mr Thompson, handed us several letters he had received, asking him to procure for the writers specimens of our stamp. Of the two of us who ran 'Lake Lefroy Cycle Mail' F. Maskell died early in 1900; what became of the few hundred stamps and the defaced zinco-block he had in his possession I cannot say."

The first letter, which accompanied Mr Lacy-Hillier's account, is dated at Kalgoorlie on 14 September 1898, is addressed to Mr Lacy-Hillier and signed by Albert Green, Registration Branch, Kalgoorlie.

It refers to the Lake Lefroy stamp being mentioned in the *Stamp Collector's Fortnightly* but this particular reference was little more than repetition of the information which appeared in the *Australian Philatelist* of December 1897.

It also states that Bright and Son proposed to list it in the next edition of their catalogue. However, this was not done and apparently Mr Green obtained his 50 copies for doing very little.

The second letter is a request from one C. A. Phillpotts to the Postmaster at Coolgardie to obtain him two copies of the Lake Lefroy stamp.

ADDENDA

Since the first part of this article was written, Mr George E. Owen, who had read the manuscript, has had access to archival records not previously known.

Through his research, it is now practicable to list exactly the dates of opening of most of the post offices noted in *P. from A.*, September 1958 (p. 59). In doing this, opportunity is also taken to correct some discrepancies, and to provide some additional data. "R.M.B." signify "Receiver of Mail Bags."

Boulder: P.O. was originally opened on 12.4.97 under name of *Great Boulder*.

Dundas: P.O. opened 1.4.95.

Dunnesville: R.M.B. 1.9.95 to 31.3.99. P.O. not established.

45-Mile: R.M.B. January 1896 to December 1897.

Hawkes Nest: This was listed in P.O. Guide as a stopping point on mail route but no P.O. was actually established there.

Menzies: R.M.B. from 1.3.95 until opening of P.O. on 1.10.95.

Mount Malcolm: R.M.B. from 1.3.97 until opening of P.O. on 15.6.97.

Mount Margaret: R.M.B. from 20.8.96 until opening of P.O. on 17.5.97. P.O. closed 7.9.99.

Niagara: R.M.B. from January 1896 until opening of P.O. on 13.7.96.

Ninety-Mile: R.M.B. from 1.9.94 until opening of P.O., renamed *Goongarrie* on 26.11.95.

Pindinnie (not *Pindinni*): P.O. open from 1.4.97 to 10.12.00.

25-Mile: R.M.B. from 1.1.95 until opening of P.O. on 15.11.95 under name of *Coonalion*, immediately corrected to Kunanalling. At no time was this place termed *Niagara*, as had been stated.

Widgiemooltha: R.M.B. from April 1896 until opening of P.O. on 18.10.96.

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THE COOK ISLANDS

By the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club

(Continued from September 1958, p. 78)

CHAPTER XI—Continued

AITUTAKI

Post office opened 1891.

- 1B Type II, but with AITUTAKI instead of RAROTONGA; circles: $24\frac{1}{2}$, 23, 15 mm.; in black, purple, and red.

14 AU 02 AU 27 03

- 2B Type XII: Double-lined circle, $25\frac{1}{2}$, $23\frac{1}{2}$ mm., and an inner circle, $15\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; between the circles: AITUTAKI (above), N.Z. (below) separated by curved bars; in centre: date in two lines with code number above; in black and violet.

(a)	2	2
	AU 27	JE 13
	03	04
(b)	1	1
	FE 13	AP 1
	04	09
(c)	1	(d)
	21 AP	19 JE
	13	13

- 3B Type XIII: Single-lined circle, $25\frac{1}{2}$ mm., enclosing AITUTAKI (above), N.Z. (below) separated by curved lines; across the centre is the date and time; in black.

JL 14 9AM 18 FE 44

- 4B Single-lined circle, $29\frac{1}{2}$ mm., with AITUTAKI (above), NZ in a straight line (below); in black; across centre is date, 10 MR 27. We believe this cancellation on a cover we have is a forgery.

- 5B Type X; but with AITUTAKI instead of RAROTONGA; circle, $33\frac{1}{2}$ mm.; in black.

23 AU 49 9

- 6B Type X: Similar to 5B but with slightly larger letters and shorter curved bars; in black; first used August 1955; latest date seen, 15 OC 56 3.

ATIU

Post office opened 1891.

- 1C Type II, but with ATIU instead of RAROTONGA; in black.

- 2C Type XIV: Single-lined circle, 25 mm., enclosing ATIU (above), N.Z. (below) separated by curved lines; date in centre; in black.

AU 14 12 MY 1 36

- 3C Type XV: Single-lined circle, 33 mm., enclosing ATIU (above), COOK ISLANDS (below) separated by long curved bars; in centre: above and below the date and time (in one line) are two parts of a circle, 18 mm. diam.; in black and purple.

17 AP 39 4 2 JE 44 6

MANGAIA

Post office opened 1891.

1D Manuscript cancellation; examples: Mangaia 6/1/03 in two lines, and Mangaia 7/3/03 C. F. Proctor in three lines.

2D Type II, but with MANGAIA instead of RAROTONGA; in violet and red.

3D Type XII, but with MANGAIA instead of AITUTAKI; circles: 26, 24, 15½ mm.; in black.

(a)	1	1
	MY 2	JE 22
	05	10
(b)	1	1
	10 OC	9 AP
	12	23

4D Type XVI: Single-lined circle, 29½ mm., enclosing MANGAIA (above) and N.Z. flanked with curved lines (below); date with code number in one line; in black and purple.

20 AP 39 1 13 MY 44 (no code number)

5D Type X, but MANGAIA instead of RAROTONGA; circle, 33½ mm.; in black.

6 SP 49 12

MANIHIKI

Post office opened 1916.

1E Type XIV, but with MANIHIKI instead of ATIU; circle, 28 mm.; in black.

31 AU 26 28 AP 44

MAUKE

Post office opened 1899.

1F Type XVII: Two concentric circles, 25 and 16 mm.; between circles; MAUKE with a dot on each side (above) and N-Z (below); centre: date in one line; in black.

3 DE 02 MY 44

2F Type X, but with MAUKE instead of RAROTONGA; circle: 32 mm.; in black.

1 AU 49 7

MITIARO

1G Type XVIII: Two concentric circles, 27, 24½ mm., and an inner circle, 16 mm.; between the circles: MITIARO, flanked with crosses (above) and COOK ISLANDS (below); in centre: POST OFFICE in two lines; in purple.

2G Similar to 1G, but with the outer circle ornamented, circles 30½, 29, and 20½ mm., stars instead of crosses, a hyphen after POST, and a full stop after OFFICE; in purple.

3G Type X, but with MITIARO instead of RAROTONGA; circle 29½ mm.; in black.

25 NO 37 11 MY 44

4G Similar to 3G, but circle 33 mm.; and code number added.

3 SP 49 9

NIUE

Post office opened 1901.

1H Manuscript cancellation of date; in black.

4 JAN 1902 11 JAN 1902



XII



XIII



XIV



XV



XVII



XVI



XVIII



XIX



XX

NIUE ISLAND

NIUE ISLAND

4 ——— MAY ——— 1946 ———

- 2H Type XIX: Double-lined circle, 27, 26 mm., containing NIUE (above), NEW ZEALAND (below), and date in one line in centre; in red and purple.
31 MAR 1902 23 JUL 1903
- 3H Type XX: Single-lined circle, 24½ mm., containing N.Z (first line), NIUE (second), date (third), and code number (fourth); in black. Code numbers seen: 2, 4, 5, 6, 9.
27 AU 03 14 MY 25
- 4H Type XVI, but with NIUE instead of MANGAIA; circle 27½ mm.; in black. Code numbers seen: 1, 6, 8, 9, 12 (is this time?).
5 JL 28 8 25 MY 53 1
- 5H Similar to 4H, but circle 29½ mm. Code numbers: 8, 9.
15 AP 30 9 5 NO 35 8
- 6H Type IX, but with NIUE instead of RAROTONGA, and code number instead of time; outer circle 33½ mm.; in black. Code numbers: 8, 9.
31 DE 37 9
- 7H Type XXI: Roller cancellation; in black; used on parcels; see illustration.

PENRHYN ISLAND

Post office opened 1901.

- 1J Manuscript cancellation; date 4/5/2.
- 2J Type XIX, but with PENRHYN instead of NIUE; circles 30½, 28½ mm.; in black.
7 MAY 1902 7 OCT 1903
- 3J Type XII, but with PENRHYN ISLAND instead of AITUTAKI; circles 25½, 23½, 15 mm.; code number, 1; in black.
(a) JE 26 MR 12
17 32
(b) 13 JE 31 MR
22 36
- 4J Type X, but with PENRHYN ISLAND instead of RAROTONGA; circle 33½ mm.; in black.
10 SEP 42 4 30 DEC 48 12

PUKAPUKA OR DANGER ISLAND

Post office opened 27 June 1925.

- 1K Type XVI, but with PUKAPUKA instead of MANGAIA; cancellation in use from June to December, 1925.
- 2K Type XIV, but with DANGER ISLAND instead of ATIU; circle 29½ mm.; in black.
12 NO 28 1 20 JL 39
- 3K Type X, but with PUKAPUKA ISLAND instead of RAROTONGA; circle 33 mm., in black.
11 DEC 56 1

RAKAHANGA

Post office opened 1 April 1916.

- 1L Type XVI, but with RAKAHANGA instead of MANGAIA; circle 29½ mm.; in black.
12 AU 37 1 27 AP 39 1

SUWARRO

- 1M Single-lined circle, 29 mm., enclosing SUWARRO (above); date in one line in centre.
17 DE 26; in black. (Bogus)
- 2M Manuscript cancellation, SUWARRO ISLAND 30th June 1950 C.I.; cover arrived WELLINGTON, N.Z., 8 SEP 1950. (Authenticity questioned)

THE POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTMARKS OF THE COLONY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA 1829-1901

By *GEORGE E. OWEN*

(Continued from September 1958, p. 76)

Duplex Cancellers

These handstamps comprised a Type 2a, 2b, 3 or 3* date-stamp at left and a canceller or obliterator at right. They were used at the G.P.O. from the early 1870s at least, at other offices of importance from the early 1880s.

The obliterator portion of an early "duplex" used at Perth was inscribed "WEST AUSTRALIA" in two lines, three horizontal bars above and below completing a vertical oval. Others were inscribed "P" (see ii and iii below) but more commonly the inscription was "GPO" and, later, "GPO", "GPO" or "R".

D R

The significance of "D" and "R" is uncertain; they may mean "Despatch" and "Receipt"; "R" certainly does not mean "Registered." A duplex used in the Letter Carriers' Room had a Type 3* date-stamp (inscribed "L.C.R" and which included the time above the date) whilst the obliterator was a vertical oval of 12 bars enclosing the letters "WA."

Duplex cancellers were used at numerous offices with the obliterator inscribed "P.O." The letters exist in several shapes and sizes, within an oval or a circle or horizontal bars, and are sometimes enclosed in a circle. The most interesting of these was used at Norseman: on the date-stamp, the diagonal of the first "N" is reversed and runs downwards from right to left; on the obliterator, the letters "P.O." are much displaced to the right, as if it had originally been "G.P.O." Those used at Boulder and Southern Cross had no inscription in the centre of the obliterator.

Some obliterations give an indication of identity, usually by the use of the initial letter of the office concerned. There were three distinct types and one "lone wolf."

- i. The earliest type consisted of a Type 3 or 3* date-stamp, and an obliterator of small sans-serif letters in an oval of nine thin bars which was set at right-angles to the date-stamp so that the letters read upwards.

ALBANY 21½ mm. datestamp. Obliterator KGS (= King George's Sound).

FREMANTLE 23 mm. date-stamp. Obliterator "F" in a circle.

NOTE: At least one duplex used at the G.P.O. also had the obliterator set at right-angles to the date-stamp.

- ii. The date-stamp was Type 2a and as some offices were supplied with more than one handstamp a distinguishing number was inserted above the date in such cases. The obliterator consisted of a large serified letter in a 12 to 13 mm. circle, enclosed in a circle of 12 horizontal bars, 21 to 23 mm. in diameter.
- A = Albany
 B = Bunbury, distinguishing numbers 1 to 4.
 F = Fremantle. The F has a short centre limb, distinguishing numbers 1 to 5.
 G = Greenough and Geraldton (tall, slender G) or Guildford (large rounded G).
 P = Perth
 V = Vasse. V with square base, no number; V with pointed base, numbers 1 and 2.
 Y = York. Distinguishing numbers 1 to 4. Also found in purple.
- iii. Generally as ii but the letter in the obliterator was smaller and in a $9\frac{1}{2}$ to 11 mm. circle, enclosed in a circle of 12 horizontal bars, 20 to 22 mm. in diameter.
- D = Coolgardie, distinguishing number 1 to 8. Perhaps "C" was not used on account of its resemblance to "G," and "D" (not required otherwise) was allocated to Coolgardie.
 F = Fremantle. The F has a long centre limb, distinguishing numbers 1 to 4.
 G = Geraldton. Small rounded G. Nos. 1 to 3.
 N = Newcastle
 P = Perth
 Y = York. Nos. 1 to 4. Also found in violet and blue.
- iv. The "lone wolf" was used at Kalgoorlie. The date-stamp was inscribed "KALGOORLIE P.O." in the upper arc, Type 3*; the obliterator was a bold sans-serif K in a vertical oval of eight thick bars.

Registration Marks



The registration of letters containing valuables was introduced on 20 October 1847, but I have no knowledge of a special mark for such articles prior to August 1854 when one arrived, as we have seen, in the Colony from England. It is

assumed that this is the stamp illustrated above, which was taken from one found in the Mandurah office in 1937. As the use of similar stamps is known on letters from Perth, Fremantle, Albany and Bunbury, several copies must have been made. Strikes are occasionally found on adhesives.

From the late 1880s a variety of rubber stamps was employed:

A. A large "R" within a *double*-lined circular frame, with a number of square dots between the circles. This type was used at Fremantle and elsewhere.

B. A large "R" within a *single*-lined circular or vertical oval frame. There were several of these stamps varying slightly in the size of the frame or in the size and shape of the letter.

C. A large *unframed* "R" with a curved and pointed toe; used at Coolgardie.

D. A horizontal *oval* with *double* frame line and date centrally in one line. The office name appeared at foot. The stamp used at Coolgardie was inscribed "REGISTRATION BRANCH" in the upper curve; another, used at Albany, was inscribed "REGISTERED LETTER BRANCH."

E. As D, but with a *third* inner oval composed of short curved lines. Used at Coolgardie and Kalgoorlie, the latter being incorrectly inscribed "REGRISTRATION BRANCH."

F. A horizontal rectangle, sometimes with inward curves at the corners, or a horizontal octagon. Single or double-lined frame. Three line inscription: "REGISTRATION BRANCH" or "REGISTERED/Date/Office-name." Later marks of this type included provision at the head of the inscription for the registration number, No . . . , the actual number being in manuscript. Examples have been seen from Perth, Fremantle, Geraldton, Northam, Coolgardie, Kalgoorlie, Kanowna and Mount Malcolm. Doubtless others exist.

G. Single-line types inscribed "REGISTERED."

Offices which were not supplied with special registration marks appear to have used oval rubber stamps for the purpose, similar to D and E above except that the upper inscription was usually "POST & TELEGRAPH OFFICE"; less frequently "POST OFFICE" or "TELEGRAPH OFFICE." These were also used to cancel ordinary mail at times — officers postmarking letters were not very fussy and almost any handstamp sufficed so long as the adhesives were obliterated.

All these rubber stamp marks are most commonly found in violet or purple; blue, green, red and black inks were used also.

There were a few steel registration date-stamps. They are known for Boulder and Kalgoorlie (circular); Perth (oval).

Frank Stamps

A stamp of the same type as the registration mark illustrated in the previous sub-section, but inscribed "FREE," was supplied in August 1854. Later a "Crown

over PAID" type came into use and both were used on letters free of postage for many years.

During the 1890s a large number of rubber stamps were issued to Government departments and officials and to a few organisations, all of which were entitled to frank letters. Generally, these were similar to the illustration, but there were a number of exceptions, e.g., some were inscribed "PERTH W.A." in the



lower arc, others were oval in shape, one was inscribed "WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION/COOLGARDIE 1898" and a Swan facing right replaced the Royal Arms, etc., etc. Impressions were usually struck at the upper right corner of envelopes and in a variety of colours. The rubber stamp initials of a department authorising officer were usually impressed also.

The postal history data contained in this article has been obtained from official documents preserved in the State Archives and the G.P.O. Perth. The author desires to record his keen appreciation of the courtesy and assistance given by Miss Lukis, the State Archivist, and her staff; and by Mr C. G. Friend, Deputy Director of Posts and Telegraphs, and a number of officials at the G.P.O.

Diving into records is not "as dry as dust." At times a good story comes to light, of which the following is an example. In 1861, the postmaster at Fremantle reported that the quantity of mail for the southern districts was so much that the mail carrier sometimes could take only the letters and that the newspapers had to be left behind, to be despatched by sea when a ship was available. He was then empowered to hire a native on such occasions "to carry the newspapers to Bunbury at an expenditure of 2/6." History does not disclose if a horse was employed. Would *you* take a bag of newspapers (and all mail bags were of leather in those days) over 100 miles for half-a-crown, particularly into territory regarded by another tribe as theirs and which it would be desirable to leave as soon as possible if one wished to retain a whole skin?

Finally, if any reader can add anything to our knowledge, particularly regarding the non-duplex obliterations, information would be greatly appreciated.

Amendment: The 12-bar Type Cancellor 5 (not 6) was issued to Gascoyne (1882) and Carnarvon (renamed 1884) (*P. from A.*, September 1958, p. 74).

REVIEWS

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, 1959. Twentieth Edition. 128 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 10s. (Aust.).

Rationalisation is the key word to the alterations in the new catalogue.

So well begun in the 19th Edition, it has now been extended to the revision of the Steel plate printings of the George V 1½d. and 2d.

The introduction rightly states: "The George V 1½d. Die 2 has always been a favourite with Commonwealth specialists and requires no recommendation. What has sometimes been overlooked is that the red printings show a very attractive range of shades. Some of these are by no means easy to acquire."

It goes on to say: "Past neglect of the George V 2d. Die 2 is difficult to understand . . . the new lists aim to remedy the injustice."

The George VI ordinary issues have been set out differently and will make this section more readable. Many changes in numbering have been made, but all except two are in this section. This is a small price to pay for the improvements.

In spite of the interest in "coil stamps," I am indeed glad to see the listings of many deleted to a footnote. This is really for the protection of collectors. Many coins of earlier issues can and have been faked.

Unknown to most collectors, major retouches exist in current stamps. Some in the 5½d. and 1s. are published for the first time and the positions given. (Another scoop for the Catalogue.)

The intriguing "CENTRE OF WORK" (*Philately from Australia*, September 1957, p. 73), is now listed as a major item; whilst not a stamp, but marginal markings indicative of layout procedures, it is hard to come by in a clear and distinct condition.

Another new listing is an aniline printing in the 10s. Robes. (*P. from A.*, September 1958, p. 56).

Pricings generally are steady, with minor alterations here and there. Certain items which have had the attention of the "Bulls," particularly overseas, have been maintained at a fair and reasonable price, *consistent with the quantities printed and available.*

Stamps still remain a wonderful invest-

ment, and with the marked gain in the popularity and consequent rise in price of industrial shares, we can expect the really good and scarce items of stamps, particularly of fairly recent date, to share also in the rise when the discriminating buyer acts.

The editor (Rev. J. C. W. Brown), has put an enormous amount of time into improving the catalogue, and is to be congratulated.

—C.O.D.

Bohemia, Moravia, Slovakia, by Frank J. Kovarik (editor). 104 pp. Published by the Czechoslovak Society of North America. Obtainable from G. C. Kobylka, 1433 South Cuyler Avenue, Berwyn, Ill., U.S.A. \$4.50.

This is the first handbook published in English, dealing with what may be termed a wartime period of Czechoslovakia.

Although we are happy to see it, it seems a pity that the first handbook should treat with one section only. Would it not have been better to deal with the complete subject from 28 October 1918 onwards—even if it only went as far as the Protectorate?

We have nothing but praise for the book as it stands; it is well printed, adequately illustrated, and solidly bound. Its contents are clearly arranged, in good, readable type. The front and back inside covers show a map of the Republic, together with position in relation to surrounding countries, whilst the foreword faces a map showing the partitioning of the Republic during World War II.

It is a handbook that will be avidly sought by all collectors of the stamps of Czechoslovakia, for it contains information that appears in neither Gibbons nor Scott.

Incidentally, a "point" system of values is given against each item, which is invaluable for arriving at the worth of such items as plate-blocks, tête-bêche pairs, gutter blocks, and so on. Scott may price a particular item at two cents. The handbook lists a gutter tête-bêche pair of this stamp at 200 points. Therefore the value of the pair is four dollars.

Included in the handbook are the regular issues, semi-postals, commemoratives, newspaper stamps, dues, officials, and postal stationery.

—W.L.R.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- December
8 Social Evening
18 Mr R. Hake: Great Britain
- January
15 Mr H. L. Chisholm: Historic Air Mails
- February
3 Old Victoria Group
Library and Conversation
19 Mr H. A. Clarkson: Switzerland
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19 Mr F. A. Ladbury: India

New Guinea

Mr E. G. Creed provided the display for the September meeting, presenting selections from his New Guinea collection.

The display was also enjoyed by a large contingent of members of the Williamstown Philatelic Society, who were the guests of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria for the evening.

Mr Creed chose a range of items from all stages of New Guinea's philatelic history.

Notable among the many gems displayed were Rabaul covers with the two-line rubber-stamp postmark, without ornaments, dated Oct 13 1914, and with ornaments, dated Nov 21 1914, discussed by the Pacific Island Circle in *P. from A.*, March 1958, p. 17, with an extensive mint range of G.R.I. overprints, and the settings of the North-West Pacific Islands on Australia. These included a block of 30 £1 Kangaroo, first watermark, fourth setting, first state. There was a full sheet of £1 birds, and £2 and £5 in blocks, and many similarly impressive pieces.

Czechoslovakia

Mr W. L. Russell's internationally famous collection of Czechoslovakia highlighted the October meeting.

After explaining the historical and philatelic aspects of the various issues, Mr Russell presented his superbly-annotated sheets.

Among the items shown were some of the comparatively rare provisionals, used immediately after the Revolution, a page of choice official essays, postmarks when the Czechs were nationalising all cancellers and omitting the German names of the towns, Austrian and Hungarian stamps used in Czechoslovakia in the three months after the Revolution, some colour trials, and the famous "Hymn" sheets.

Other features were scarce covers from the Sudaten area, showing the Swastika overprint, and a cover with the one-day stamp of the Carpatho-Ukraine (only 57 of which are known).

But the highlight of the evening was the com-

plete story with stamps and covers—of the Siberian Military Mail.

This was the mail of the battalions of Czechs sent against the Russians in World War I, who marched across to the Russian lines and surrendered, and after the Russian Revolution, formed themselves into a Czech Legion, which fought both the Germans and the Russians, marched across Russia, seized the Trans-Siberian Railway, and made their way to Vladivostok.

W.A. Postal History

Mr G. E. Owen, of Perth, whose remarkable study of the postmarks and postal history of West Australia has been appearing in *P. from A.*, sent a display of the original material which formed the basis of his work for the second October meeting.

This collection was notable for the immense range of markings and cancellations brought together and for the fine condition of the often extremely rare strikes.

Mr Owen's fine annotation, the lucidity of his identifications and explanations, and the special interest of the early period added to the attractiveness of a greatly appreciated display.

Early correspondence of the Bussell family, with ship letter and pre-stamp markings, attracted special attention.

N.S.W. Classics

Dr W. P. Heslop displayed the Sydney View and Laureate portion of his Apex Gold Medal collection of N.S.W. at the November meeting.

The collection included more than £0 Sydney Views and 400 Laureates.

Highlights of the 25 Sydney Views on cover were the magnificent strip of four of the 1d. plate II, and an equally fine strip of four 3d.

Features of the Laureates were 1d., no watermark, block on cover, no leaves, two leaves, and laid paper. The watermarked included "No leaves" and "WALE." 2d.: nearly reconstructed plate of the fine impression, several double prints of the coarse impression, and two copies of the "WAEES" in the stars section.

The watermarked included a complete reconstructed sheet. 3d.: "Waces" both watermarked and unwatermarked. 6d.: Plate I, "WALLS" and one Plate II; 8d.: three copies and a complete reprint sheet.

The 26 copies of the registered stamp included nine imperforates.

The display was specially well received because, not only did it present rarely-seen rarities in profusion, but it was an opportunity to make close acquaintance with the various plates and the varieties of engraving omission and commission.

Other features were Sydney Views and Laureates with Queensland numeral cancellations and postmarks "Brisbane N.S.W." and "Ipswich N.S.W."

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

1959

January

13 Mr J. S. White: New Zealand Classics

February

24 Mr Frank W. Hill: Airmails of the World

March

10 Display by ANPEX Award winners

(Members are specially requested to note the altered date for the February meeting.)

Europe

Seven members combined to present an excellent display of European Classics at the September meeting.

Mr J. O. Critchlow showed some very fine items from the first issue of Russia and included the first stamp of Poland (1860) on cover. Mr L. Challen's contribution featured some beautiful examples of the first issue of Hungary.

The "Hermes Heads" of Greece, in a great variety of shades, with plate flaws and control numbers and including evidence of much research were presented by Mr A. Kersten. Mr Hamilton Croaker displayed pre-adhesives of Portugal, notably from some of the small post-offices—material rarely seen in local displays.

Mr Louis Frank showed his plating of the first three stamps of Holland including all six plates of No. 1, the ten plates of No. 2 and the single plate of No. 3. His contribution included also some very fine items from Sicily, Naples, Thurn and Taxis, Saxony, Hanover, Mecklenburg (on cover), France Nos. 1, 2 and 3 on covers, and reconstructed plate of the 25c Bordeaux issue.

Mr Schagen presented some excellent material from the early issues of Switzerland and Mr H. Rubin (who compered the display) showed mixed frankings from Austria and Austrian Italy, rare early cancellations from Trieste, together with Austrian Levant, and included a beautiful cover dated Christmas 1899 from Jerusalem, signifying the close of the "Classical" period in Europe.

Annual Competition

The Annual Competition, which was held in conjunction with the October meeting, proved very disappointing so far as the number of entries was concerned, only seven being received. However, the judges (Messrs Hamilton Croaker, W. Finigan and Louis Frank) were faced with considerable difficulty in selecting the winner owing to the general very high standard of the entries.

Mr J. C. Thompson's entry "A Specialised Study of the Two Pence Diadem Imperf. of N.S.W." was awarded first place. Second place went to "A Study of the large Queen 15 cents issue of Canada" entered by Mr M. Dankin.

Other entries received were: "British Solomon Islands—Large Canoes" (Mr N. M. Reid); "British Solomon Islands Postal History" (Mr R. H. Taylor); "Austria—Newspaper Stamps" (Mr H. Rubin); "Byukyu Islands" (Mr A. J. Trice) and "Czechoslovakia—illustrating the devaluation of the Czechoslovakian Crown in 1953" (Mr M. L. Challen).

ANPEX

The November meeting of the Club was devoted to a sale by tender of items which had been donated for the benefit of ANPEX funds by many philatelists throughout Australia. The thanks of the Club go to these people who were so instrumental in making such a success of the evening.

Prior to the sale, an attractive musical programme was presented to the very large gathering (approximately two hundred were present) and this was thoroughly enjoyed by all. Songs from Robert Montana, music by Albert Miller, and comedy from Jimmy Haines were greatly appreciated.

Mr Richard Gaze gave a short talk, illustrated by some beautiful colour slides on "Why I Collect Stamps" and gave a very humorous account of how he commenced to collect the stamps of Tibet in which he now specialises.

Proceeds of the sale, which was conducted by Mr Harry Jackson, amounted to £191/11/6; a total of 140 lots changing hands during the evening. In addition to this amount, a net amount of £62/18/- from door receipts, etc., will be handed to the organisers of ANPEX so that the Exhibition will benefit to the extent of £254/9/6 from the evening—a magnificent effort on behalf of all concerned: the organisers, the donors and all who came along to assist to make the evening such a success. Prizes in the competition run in connection with the function were won by Messrs M. J. Blume, of Castlemaine, Victoria, and D. Encarnacao, of Bellevue Hill, N.S.W.

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I N D E X

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AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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