

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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DECEMBER 1959

STAMP DESIGN IN THE AGE OF DISSATISFACTION

In democracy we still retain the right of expressing our opinions without the intervention of a firing squad. That is admirable. What is not so admirable, as far as our press—public and philatelic—is concerned, is that most of this expression, with hardly an exception, is in a destructive groove. We are told that there is no news value in the expression of praise, approval or happiness. If this be true it is a sorry state of affairs and we are becoming a sorry set of people. Officialdom, in this instance, cannot defend itself but it is possible, in these columns, for one who has a semi-official standing to put a few thoughts forward relative to producing a more balanced and less embittered outlook.

In the first place, let us underline the fact that in the recent 9d. Kangaroo design we have something of exceptional artistic merit (it is not an isolated example) and that to date no statement, favourable or unfavourable, appears to have been published about it. Is one to say then that the merit of a design can, these days, only be indicated by the lack of unkindly criticism? I am afraid this is true and we can't be very proud of the fact.

The few views expressed below are based on the belief that in any subject justice will be achieved by balanced consideration and not by mere violence of expression.

In the first place, you must realise that a stamp design is finally the joint responsibility of a number of persons of widely differing outlook and that, wherever the circumstances make it possible, much time and thought has been expended in an attempt to produce something suitable for and worthy of this country.

You are all entitled to your personal opinion and whatever the design there *will* be differences of opinion. Before, however, you make up your own mind it is suggested *you look at the stamp itself*. Black and white reproductions, in a newspaper, of enlargements of the design, are hardly fair criteria. The recent 1s. design—which I thought, personally, was unusual, attractive, and of good colour—received a rich “panning” in the press which was wholly undeserved.

In the second place, you should remember that no man is a prophet in his own country. In all those countries, for instance, whose stamps our critics consider so admirable, the same panning is dished out by the press as is dished out here. Just what the critics want is never indicated but it is also true—as it is here—that their fangs are only bared on the smaller proportion of designs.

What *do* we want—I am sometimes asked—and it is a question not easily answered. One can, however, say that we are not interested in slavishly imitating the designs of other countries, more particularly those of older countries in which a particular art tradition, peculiar to that country, has been developed. We always have in mind the idea of producing something worthy but also something that is authentically Australian and could belong nowhere else. In a young country this is not easy but it is an effort well worth making and it will continue to be made. In this connection an Australian philatelic newspaper of considerable circulation has strenuously promoted the claims of a stamp designer who has migrated to this country after having produced a number of successful designs in another country. Why, we are asked, can't Australia use this man to produce some of its designs? There are (this is my personal view only) two main reasons. One I have given—that he will need time to move into an Australian groove, and the other that to date he has designed solely for photogravure, a field far removed from our line-engraving. These reasons won't, of course, satisfy our lobbyists but nevertheless they are good and valid reasons.

If one desires to be a fair critic the difficulties of putting something attractive on a square inch of paper should be sufficiently understood. Apart from the basic necessity for lettering, value, etc., it is not generally recognised that stamp design committees only get a "straight go" in a proportion of cases. Quite unavoidable circumstances make this impossible on other occasions. Political considerations (e.g., the wishes of Ministers or of bodies promoting the issue of a Commemorative), the need for speed (e.g., caused by certain changes in the rates of postage), the size of stamp that can be economically produced for certain values—all these and other "frustrations" frequently cast their shadow, in no uncertain way, on stamp design.

It is also certain the best designs possess an inspirational quality. That quality, try as one may, cannot always be found. One is lucky, if only in what I can call the "straight go" jobs, to score 50% of bulls-eyes. The mere fact of criticism often indicates that the individual (as well as the journalist) is *looking* at the stamps, maybe even that the stamps are forcing him to look at them. This, at least, indicates a departure from the commonplace and the possession of some character, even if it be not acceptable, wholly or in part, to the critic.

There is, of course, very little on this earth that does not possess both good and bad qualities. A critic's job should be to see both in their just proportions.

Trial by newspaper may, for some, enliven the tedium of life but the sense of perpetual dissatisfaction engendered thereby does nobody any good. Let us, in forming our own judgments, show more humanity and less sourness, more good humour and less omnipotence, more willingness (when the occasion arises) to be proud of something Australian and to give those views some expression. Above all let us have a sense of proportion. What we want is fewer steam-hammers and more nut-crackers.

J.R.W.P.

DATING THE COOK ISLANDS FIRST ISSUE

By A. R. BURGE

Mr Burge, who now appears in Philately from Australia for the first time, is a keen Pacific Islands student and Convenor of the Islands Dependencies Study Circle of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. In this article he puts his views on the intriguing problem.

There still appears to be some doubt concerning the exact day the first issue of the Cook Islands was placed on sale.

Three dates are claimed:

- 29 February 1892—Stanley Gibbons in their catalogue (the actual date of the first printing).
- 19 April 1892—*The Philatelic Record* of August 1892; *Te Torea*, the local news sheet (the usually accepted date).
- 7 May 1892—Claimed by the Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club ("Pixies") in their monograph *The Cook Islands to 1919* (The Hawthorn Press, Melbourne).

The "Pixies" have dealt with this question very thoroughly, and at first sight the evidence appears to be strongly in favour of the date they claim—7 May 1892, as the following extract suggests (page 11):

"The Chief Postmaster at Rarotonga, Mr Garnier, in a footnote to the statement of Accounts of the Government of the Cook Islands for the year ending 30 June 1892 states: 'The use of Cook Island Government stamps did not begin until May 7th, and the revenue is from that date.' Moss, writing on 30 September 1892, to the Secretary of the New Zealand Post Office, also mentions 7 May as the date of issue of the postage stamps. These two official statements, made so soon after the stamps appeared, are to us conclusive evidence that the stamps were not placed on sale until 7 May 1892."

Stamps are known cancelled (with Collins type 4, "Pixies" type 1) on 19 April 1892, but our friends maintain that these were probably from presentation sets cancelled "to prevent their use," a rather naïve idea. More evidence is required before this date—7 May—can be finally accepted, but in the meantime it may be fruitful to examine again the evidence supporting the earlier date.

Moss went to New Zealand in December 1891 (*N.Z. Parliamentary Papers*, A3, 1892) to arrange, among other things, for the production of the first issue. His letter to the New Zealand Government on 27 January 1892, seeking validity for the proposed stamps must therefore have been written in New Zealand. He was able to arrange for a suitable design, in which he had some part. The plates were made and the stamps printed by 29 February. They would have been dispatched on the *Richmond*, the monthly trading and mail steamer, that left Auckland on 26 March and arrived at Rarotonga, via Tahiti, at dawn on 19 April. She left again that evening for Auckland. Moss must have been still in New Zealand, for he did not arrive back in Rarotonga until 19 May (*N.Z. Parliamentary Papers*, A6 1893), probably on the next trip of the *Richmond*, although he

is not listed as a passenger on the *Auckland Star* of the period for this or the previous voyage.

Garnier, the part-time Chief Postmaster, was, no doubt, advised by Moss that the stamps had been ordered and would thus be expecting them. He would, of course, have a busy day on that 19 April, not only in distributing incoming mails and despatching outgoing mails, but he also had a new issue of stamps to contend with—the first issue by the Cook Islands in general and Rarotonga in particular, and he would not have been human had he not sold some that first day, as, in fact, he must have done—as evidenced by the dated copies.

Although the "Pixies" say that "no entire covers have ever been recorded postmarked on 19 April," this is not proof that they did not exist at some stage—early island covers are extremely scarce anyway. In fact, Collins has intimated that there was such a cover in the Kenderdine collection and another in the Bate collection that had been addressed to the Secretary of the New Zealand Post Office. Perhaps these still exist. There would have been a use for the stamps. Traders and others in receipt of letters that may have required an early answer had most of the day in which to get their replies away (and why not prepaid with the new stamps?). Otherwise, as they knew, they would have to wait until the next trip a month later.

But why did Garnier quote, "the use of Cook Island Government stamps did not begin until 7 May and the revenue is from that date"?

We have mentioned that Garnier's position as Chief Postmaster was part-time—he was also license officer, Customs officer, and an employee of Donald and Edenborough. His most busy time as Chief Postmaster would be on mail days, and after the excitement of 19 April he would have to take stock of the position. Probably, he realised that he had some accounting to do in keeping the records of the sale of the new stamps, and consequently got busy and reorganised his office, and his RECORDS commenced from 7 May, two weeks before the next mail day.

In concluding these rather rambling notes it might be of interest to quote the following, which appeared in two printed issues of *Te Torea* of 21 and 28 September 1895. This paper was established by Moss and, as he took some part in the editorial work, there would seem to be some authority for the dates quoted:

26 October 1821—Mission opened by Rev. J. Williams at Aitutaki.

July 1823—Missions opened at Atiu, Mauke, and Mitiaro.

August 1823—Papehia landed by Rev. J. Williams at Rarotonga and opened missions.

July 1824—Mission opened at Mangaia.

6 May 1827—Rev. J. Pitman landed (at Rarotonga).

27 October 1888—Capt. Bourke, H.M.S. *Hyacinth*, hoisted the British flag over the Cook Islands.

April 1891—First chief postmaster appointed.

17 July 1891—Post Office organised.

19 April 1892—First postage stamps issued.

28 July 1893—New stamps with likeness of Makea Ariki issued.

SOME OBSERVATIONS ON THE GEORGE V HALFPENNY STAMP

By V. W. DIX

The following observations on the George V halfpenny stamp are all derived from a study of the first three electros. One of them describes a unique stamp of the first electro; and the other three are new facts about the provisional electro, which is the third in the series and is also known as Rosenblum's second plate and as the 1916 electro.

The Sixth Stamp of the Right Pane of Electro I

This stamp is unique among George V halfpenny stamps. The illustration (Fig. 1), which was kindly drawn for me by Dr Gordon Ward, shows clearly

Normal



Fig. 1: Dr Gordon Ward's drawing of 1R6.

that the lowest leaflet on the right of the right wattle spray is entirely missing and the leaflet above is not of normal shape. The shading lines which are prolonged to fill the site of the missing leaflet are usually normal, but occasionally slightly thickened. In some copies there is also a scratch running downwards from right to left from the white margin at the right of the fourth bloom towards the emu's back.

How can the occurrence of this unique variety be explained? The appearance of the affected area almost suggests that a different die was used for stamping the lead mould; but this does not seem to be possible. Speculation must therefore be confined to the stage of manufacture at which such a skilful repair or retouch could have been made. Was it made on the lead mould before plating? Or on the copper shell?

I have shown the stamp to the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain but no entirely satisfactory explanation of its origin has yet been made.

The Use of Electro III

Since this is an upper electro, it might have been used in four different combinations: (1) alone, without a lower member; (2) as the upper member of a

pair of which the lower member is still unknown; (3) as the upper member in pair with electro II; and (4) as the upper member in pair with the lower electro of the third set. These possibilities were discussed by Mr A. W. Rowntree and Mr J. R. W. Purves in an article by Mr Rowntree describing a left pane of the electro which is still in my collection (*Philately from Australia*, 1951, p. 38).

I think I now have good evidence that it was in fact used as the upper member of a pair of which electro II was the lower member.

In all the Cooke printings of the halfpenny value it is not uncommon to find that traces of the "JBC" and "CA" monograms of the upper sheet appear on the upper margin of the lower sheet. When the upper electro is electro I, these cut-off monograms occur over the second column of the left pane and the fifth column of the right pane. The illustration (Fig. 2) shows a block from the



Fig. 2: Left upper corner block of eight from electro II showing trace of monogram over third column.

upper part of the left pane of electro II (easily identified by three flaws and the marginal line) in which the traces of the monogram are over the third column. The upper member could not therefore have been the normal electro I, but must have been an electro with the monogram under the third column. There are only two such electros—the "provisional electro" (III) and the upper electro of the third set. The earliest dated copy of an electro III flaw in my collection was used on 25 November 1915, which is compatible with the use of electros III and II together as the upper and lower members of a pair. The earliest dates for flaws from the third set are four or five months later, and it does not seem possible that the upper electro of this set was used first as the upper companion of electro II.

An additional point in favour of the association of this electro with the first set is that one sheet at least was perforated with the single-line machine (see below).

Electro III: The Grille of Dots

The two characteristics of the marginal lines commonly described are the very thin lines over the monograms and a grille of dots in the marginal lines below the left and right corner stamps. The very thin lines do occur both over "CA" on the left (Fig. 4) and "JBC" on the right; but the grille of dots occurs only at the left end of the marginal line below the 60th stamp of the right pane (Fig. 3). In the marginal lines below the left pane there is *no grille of dots at all* (Fig. 4).



Fig. 3: *The grille of dots.*



Fig. 4: *Lower two rows of left pane of electro III showing absence of any grille of dots.*

The repetition of this error is understandable in view of the great rarity of large pieces from this electro.

Clubbed Fraction Bar at Left

This prominent flaw (Fig. 5), which is catalogued as F2f, occurs on the 11th stamp of the right pane of electro III, and not of electro I, as stated in the



Fig. 5: Clubbed fraction bar at left of III R11.

Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue. This is of some importance since the only known mint specimen of the halfpenny value perforated with the single-line machine is a corner block of four including this flaw. It was described and illustrated in *Philately from Australia* (1953, p. 75) and is now in my collection.

EDITORIAL NOTES

"The Trail of Commonwealth"

Because of pressure of work, Rev. J. C. W. Brown has been unable to provide his feature for this issue. "The Trail" will be picked up in the March issue.

Queensland Stamp Centenary

The Centenary of Queensland's stamps will occur on November 1 next and the Queensland Philatelic Society plans to hold another non-competitive commemorative exhibition in the Brisbane Town Hall about that date.

This decision follows the success of

Quecx, the exhibition staged there last June, as part of the State's Centenary celebration.

Queensland was the last of the States to issue stamps.

½d. Kangaroo

Captain H. A. Hammond writes that the comment "all stamps in right vertical column of this pane have right frames strengthened" in his article (*P. from A.*, June 1959, p. 37) should apply to the Lower Plate, Right Pane, not Left Pane. (The sentence should come after the sub-heading, not before it.)



The Other Side of the Picture



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

VICTORIA

(i) *The Completion of the Reconstruction of the Plates, each of 120 (12 × 10) impressions of the 8d. (1864-69 and 1877-84) and 10d. (1865-73) "Laureated" Stamps*

There can't have been many tasks in stamps which have taken a student over 30 years to complete but perhaps one of the greatest thrills of my philatelic career has been the completion—within the last two months—of the two tasks above.

It was in 1928 that I seriously commenced the accumulation of pairs, strips and blocks of all the stamps issued in the period 1860-66, with a view to completing the reconstruction of all plates as well as of the *different* settings of electrotypes found in certain stamps. As it stands today, this work has been completed—with the exception of *one* stamp—the 3d. of 1866-1883. In that case some 50 sheet positions of the 120 have been established and another 50 are represented in pairs, blocks and small reconstructions. The differences and abnormalities, however, are smaller than in the other values and the "oranges" and "yellows" are necessarily harder to work on than other colours. However, a number of blocks exist (there are four or five in the Royal collection) of which I have not yet photographs and I believe, with the progress recently made, first in the isolation of the 120 varieties and then in the plating, that this 3d. job *can* be completed.

Overall—and this may of some interest to philatelic statisticians—the work has involved the plating of over 2400 sheet positions from 22 plates used, for all values between 1d. and 5s.

Views of the writer's sanity (or otherwise) in pursuing this literally enormous job will vary, but he has felt an obligation to build a monument to the tremendous interest of these issues from his own State and if the work had not been fascinating he would not have pursued it as arduously—over all these years—as he has done.

In the case of the 8d. and 10d. stamps referred to it must be remembered that these values were issued for definite purposes. 8d. was, from July 1876 to 1880, the normal rate for letters sent "via Brindisi" and 10d. (from 1863 to 1871) the rate for letters sent "via Marseilles." In the interim, from April 1871 to July

1876, a "via Brindisi" rate of 9d. (for which the 9d. on 10d. and a new 9d. were issued) prevailed. Used multiples of any kind are, in these cases, hard to find, existing only because of double, triple, quadruple rates, etc. A few—very few—mint blocks exist—the survival of the extremely limited "new issue" services (e.g., that of Theodore Moens, of Brussels, which started about 1863) in existence in the earlier days of collecting. Off-centre singles, showing sufficient of a neighbouring stamp to identify it, have been sought for as eagerly as multiples. Likewise a study has been made of *watermark spacings*. In these cases the dandy-roll comprised four groups of 30 (6×5) watermarks, each separated by "gutters." Inside each group of 30 the spacing of the figures was even and remarkably constant but the "gutter" spacings are sufficiently wider than the normal to permit of their certain recognition when found on a stamp. The stamps themselves are far from common and it has meant the acquisition of over 1200 copies of each value (in the various printings) to achieve completion, a result which has been carefully checked over, position by position, for accuracy. In these cases—as compared to the common values, e.g., the 1d., 2d. and 4d. (where it has been possible to accumulate sufficient multiples to themselves perform the reconstruction)—it has been necessary to employ every possible method and device which could possibly achieve results. These I hope to discuss more fully in another time and place.

(ii) 5s. "Postage," 1901-1912—*Two Interesting Discoveries:*

(a) *The Variety Perf. $12\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ (S.G. 398)*

This stamp was first discovered and shown by a Victorian collector to Mr Fred Hagen, the Sydney dealer, in 1918 and the item was acquired by the writer some 25 years later. It was unused but damaged and until the last month or so he had never seen another copy. In a collection, however, of this State recently purchased from England was *another* copy, this time with gum, although it was somewhat heavily mounted. Both stamps are identical in shade, being from the last V over Crown printing (the sixth), first issued either late in 1904 or early in 1905. The frame of this printing was in a distinctive *salmon-rose* (aniline) and the rest in *blue*. It may seem curious that the only copies known to the writer are in mint state but the stamp was certainly not discovered by philatelists when it was on issue, and it seems quite likely that a used copy or so may still turn up.

(b) *The Same Constant "Blue" Variety found in Two Different Positions in the Sheet, According to the Printing*

I have, for a long time now, possessed copies on Crown over A paper of a flaw in the *blue* portion, as follows:

A rather cut-down right side to crowns with some semi-detached colour at top right.

These copies, on Cr. A paper, were from position 24 in the sheet (indicated by a constant frame flaw). The same position in the sheet of the 1903-4 printings showed no flaw but I recently acquired a copy of this identical blue flaw from the 1902 printing. This time the stamp showed a *different* small white flaw in the

red portion, only characteristic of position 35 in the sheet. This occurrence illustrates the *moveable* nature of the electrotypes in the "overprint" plate. I had previously shown that certain flaws occurring only in the first or first and second printings were *replaced* by less faulty units but this is the first time I have found the same "blue" variety on two different "red" positions.

Generally, the shiftings of the "blue" electros could only have been slight. Some were probably caused as the result of the cleaning of the plate prior to a printing—in the course of which one or more units were dislodged and were replaced but *not* in exactly the same position.

Note: Collectors may be interested in the writer's original study of this value (from 1867 to 1912) published in the *Collectors' Club Philatelist* in Vols. 34 and 35 (1955-56). The "red" plate was an electro of *continuous* surface containing 100 (10 × 10) impressions.

QUEENSLAND

(i) *More "Ties" in Numeral Cancellations*

Mr A. G. Brown and myself have recently, thanks to the kindness of friends, had access to an accumulation of common values torn off envelopes in the period 1897 to about 1902. The portion made available comprised stamps of Victoria, Queensland, New South Wales and South Australia. Some time ago we decided to divide these States between us, he to take the New South Wales and South Australia, and the writer the Queensland and Victoria. While the labour involved has been rather heavy, sufficient new postmark material has come to light to make the effort worth while. In relation to Queensland the writer can provide 27 more confirmations of cases where only one collector had reported the "tie," two cases of corrections in the number reported, and no less than 37 *new* number "ties." This makes nearly 75 new "ties" which have been reported since the publication of Harry Porter's book.

(a) *Confirmatory Pieces—Additional to Previous Reports*

Note: The numbers are given generally in the order in which the post office name appears in the book.

24 (Banana), 25 (Oxley), 36 (St. George), 100 (Cunnamulla), 103 (One Mile Creek), 127 (Upper Coomera), 229 (Morven), 221 (Geham), 274 (Chinchilla), 275 (Muttaborra), 317 (Yuleba), 90 (Windorah), 21 (Adaville), 349 (Mungarr), 265 (Yeppoon), 360 (Camooweal), 363 (Homebush), 368 (Richmond), 384 (Alpha), 50 (Jericho), 419 (Torrens Creek), 101 (North Killarney), 486 (Petrie Terrace), 458 (Longreach), 501 (Yandilla), 539 (Golden Gate), 605 (Mount Usher).

(b) *Corrections*

(Made from new pieces with better impressions)

116 is MACALISTER (see p. 22—previously wrongly noted as 176).

161 is WOOROOROOKA (see p. 25—previously wrongly noted as 167).

(c) *New Ties*

(References are to pages in book, figures in brackets indicate number of pieces seen)

- 58 ALICE: see p. 14 (Alice Downs), p. 25 (Alice River), etc. Which is this?
 61 WATSONVILLE: see p. 20—a second piece shows the backstamp of Cairns
 (? transit postmark)—and p. 23 under RAMSEY.
 97 TAMBO (2): see p. 16.
 150 JONDOWAIE: see p. 27.
 186 LAKE'S CREEK: see p. 23.
 194 BRANDON: see p. 24.
 232 MAIDA --- (? VALE). This name not mentioned in Porter. Also seen used
 at BELL, see p. 29.
 242 SWAN CREEK: see p. 20.
 252 JUNDAH: see p. 20.
 259 JIMBOOMBA: see p. 20.
 261 WINDORAH (2): see p. 22, was first called STONY POINT and used
 No. 90.
 265 HODGSON: see p. 20.
 272 DINMORE: see p. 25.
 277 COEN. This name is not noted by Porter. Was there an earlier name?
 328 BURKETOWN: see p. 23. Number was also used by KYNUNA.
 343 BIRDSVILLE (3): see p. 23.
 347 ?LAURA: (in blue) see p. 26, only "LAUR" shows.
 353 AYR: see p. 24.
 359 BURDEKIN: see p. 14, under No. 40.
 389 DIAMANTINA LAKES (2): see p. 24.
 398 STONEHENGE: see p. 24.
 430 BOLLON: see p. 23. Number was also used by DARKEY FLAT (see p. 21).
 449 COORAN: see p. 27.
 453 DUGANDAN: "---ANDAN" on piece. See p. 26 (also used 107).
 454 EIDSVOLD (2): see p. 26.
 461 ZILLMERE: see p. 26.
 469 ALLORA: ? see LAURA (p. 26). Did the Department record an earlier
 spelling or is this a different place?
 479 MIRANI: see p. 27.
 494 BIRKDALE. I can't find this name in Porter.
 510 MAREEBA: see p. 28. Not certain previously whether MAREEBA or
 KYALBA.
 543 PRAIRIE: see p. 29. Evidence is "PR ---" on piece.
 547 G(OWRI)E: Piece shows a "G" (beginning) and "E" (ending) of a six
 letter name. May be "GOWRIE" (see "GOWRIE JUNCTION," p. 19).
 553 WYANDRA: see p. 29.
 557 DIRRANBANDI (3): see base p. 26.
 561 BOROREN: (in blue), see p. 29.
 578 OOLBUN (2): see p. 30.
 581 KANGAROO POINT (2): see p. 30.
 588 PLAIN CREEK: see p. 30.

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

I N D E X

VOLUME 11, 1959

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club

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(ii) *Numbered Cancellations Under 21*

I possess several copies of *earlier* Chalon head printings showing numeral postmarks 14 and 15 respectively, and have seen several others. I am quite convinced these *are* Queensland markings and Harry Porter, to whom I once showed them, agreed but for some reason forgot them and omitted to refer to them in his work.

Their existence suggests that numbers 1 to 20 inclusive *were* manufactured, that they were only put to early and limited use and that most of them were not used at all. Porter refers (p. 9) to Jewell's reporting of 14 and 19 as existing. 14 and 15 do exist (my examples of 14 are very clearly struck and *are* 14, and *not* 214). Also, the "61" recorded (in this issue) for Watsonville appears to me—from the serif on the 1—to be 19, and not 61, though there are some signs of tampering which suggest it was converted and used as a "61." It therefore seems that Jewell was certainly right and my old friend Harry certainly wrong about the existence of these numbers under 20, and in particular of 14, 15 and 19. The finding of a cover with one of these numbers would take us a long way towards elucidating the mystery. The three numbers in fact mentioned may well have been used at three of the first 15 P.O.s described by Porter on p. 8.

TASMANIAN CONVICT LETTERS

By LEWIS C. VINEY, F.R.P.S.L.

The recording in *Philately from Australia*, September 1959, by Mr P. Jaffe of the Tasmanian convict cover in his possession is of special interest to students of Tasmanian postal history and adds to our limited knowledge of this aspect of the field.

One correction is necessary to Mr Jaffe's deductions on the markings on this cover. The diamond-framed FREE, used in this instance as a transit marking, was struck on the cover at Launceston. The letter reached Launceston the following day after its posting in Hobart, and would have been forwarded to Torquay (now East Devonport) at the first opportunity, probably by ship.

It is quite understandable that few convict letters have survived. This applies to other Australian States, as well as Tasmania, and who could blame people for being rather sensitive in this regard. Only two examples have come into my possession in many years of collecting Tasmania. Whilst they provide no answer to Mr Jaffe's queries, they do provide some information of interest.

The earliest is an internal letter written by a convict (a deduction from the contents of the letter) which is headed BRIDGEWATER 6 December 1835 and addressed to CAMPBELL TOWN. The only marking on the letter is a manuscript 6d. in black ink indicating an unpaid letter and that the addressee had to pay the amount of the postage.

One presumes this letter was written and posted without official sanction as the Act of 1834 which laid down postage rates and regulations states:

"VII. And it be enacted that every letter sent by or addressed to any person being here under sentence or order of transportation and not holding a ticket-of-leave (if concerning his or her private affairs only) shall be received conveyed and delivered free of all postage whatever PROVIDED that every such letter shall be written on a single sheet of paper only and be marked "Convict's letter" and the same shall be franked by or in the case of inland letters be directed under cover to the Principal Superintendent of Convicts or some Police or Assistant Police Magistrate."

The other example is a letter from Great Britain addressed (we will not record the unfortunate woman's name)

For Mary W. Convict
Hobart Town
Van Diemen's Land

It was written on 17 July 1843 and reached Hobart where it received the oblong-framed "Ship Letter and date" marking on 20 November 1843. It is endorsed in manuscript on the obverse "Price, Supt"* and this would indicate that letters for convicts were examined by officials before delivery.

The circular "Prisoners Letter" marking described by Robson Lowe and referred to by Mr Jaffe, is a very elusive handstamp, and over many years only one example has been sighted. It is therefore impossible to answer Mr Jaffe's query on its usage.



Recently, a resident of Launceston informed me that there was in existence a handstamp which was used at the Penitentiary at Port Arthur. I was able to examine this brass handstamp and to obtain impressions struck from it. It is an unframed circular stamp 22 mm. in diameter with a Crown in the centre around which is inscribed "PRISONERS LETTER, PORT ARTHUR."

As far as is known, this marking has not previously been recorded, and no examples on original cover or letter have been sighted to determine the period of its use.

* John Price, born Cornwall, England, 20 October 1808, migrated to Van Diemen's Land in 1835 and took up farming. He was made a Police Magistrate at Hobart in 1838 and when Norfolk Island became a dependency of Van Diemen's Land in 1844, Price succeeded Major Childs as Commandant at Norfolk Island. In 1853 he was made head of the Penal Department at Melbourne, where on 26 March 1857 he went among a group of convicts who had refused to work to find the cause of their dissatisfaction. They attacked him with their tools, and as a result of the injuries inflicted on him he died the following day.



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Contributed by the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club

(Convener's address: 42 Park Road, Burwood, N.S.W.)

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

Combination Cover from Kieta

An amusing combination type cover has been seen recently, carrying the stamps of three countries, all of which were incorrect for the place of origin of the cover.

The cover is addressed to London and on the front bears a pair of British Solomon Islands $\frac{1}{2}$ d. K.G. V, S.G.18, also a bisected copy of Australia 2d. Kangaroo.

On the reverse side is a block of six $\frac{1}{2}$ d. K.G. V British Solomon Islands similar to those on the front, also a bisected copy of a 2d. Papua lithographed issue S.G.84.

All of the above stamps are cancelled "KIETA" with the genuine c.d.s. October 1917. Blue registration lines are drawn on the reverse side of the cover but there is no registration label or number shown. A notation has been made to the effect that the cover left Kieta in October 1917 and arrived London, February 1918.

Although the c.d.s. is genuine, it is doubtful if this cover ever passed through the mails. It is interesting to note that in October 1917 the correct stamps for use in Kieta were the N.W. Pacific Islands overprint on the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia.

NAURU

The Overprint Settings

It is well established that the overprint "NAURU" measuring $12\frac{1}{2}$ mm., found on the stamps of Great Britain, including values $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d., 2d., $2\frac{1}{2}$ d., 3d., 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., and 1s., comprising the first issue for Nauru was set up in one group of 120 and applied to each of the two panes of 120 stamps with "pillar gutter" between. Proof of this is found by inspection of the overprints which are regular in alignment, both vertically and horizontally. Furthermore such varieties as have been found in the overprints, such as "Short N," "NAUP.U," etc., occur only once in the pane of 120 subjects.

Such is not the case with the "NAURU" overprint measuring $13\frac{1}{2}$ mm., applied to the second issue which appeared in 1923, comprising four values— $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., $1\frac{1}{2}$ d.,

and 2d. (Die II), as we find that certain varieties in the overprint occur six times in the pane of 120 stamps.

Outstanding in this regard is the shaved left foot of the letter "R" which is found on stamps 49, 53, 57, 109, 113, and 117, indicating that the unit was a group of 20 overprints, four across and five down; six of these groups being clamped together to provide the overprinting medium. However, it would seem that the clamping together was somewhat irregular, as there is considerable variation in the alignment both vertically and horizontally.

A further minor variety occurs on the first stamp in the bottom row in which the lower portion of the left leg of the letter "N" is shaved. This flaw was probably caused to the individual group of 20.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

War Tax, 1918

War Tax stamps were issued for Gilbert and Ellice Islands in common with other Crown Colonies. The current 1d. George V issue, from Plate 5, was overprinted "WAR TAX" in black, in sans-serif capitals.



Both white and grey papers, with stamps printed in shades of scarlet and carmine, were used. The overprint is well centred and is above the value tablet. No varieties have been noted.

We illustrate an imperforate pair, said to be one of six made to serve as a proof of the overprint. Of the six we are informed that two pairs and two single copies exist.

THOUGHTS ON QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

By H. M. CAMPBELL, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from page 81)

Before continuing, it is desirable to correct three *lapsus calami* which occurred in the list on p. 80 of the previous issue, as they materially affect the argument. They are:

Bungeworgorai	Closed 31.12.63, <i>not</i> 31.12.64.
Kilkivan Junct.	Opened 20.10.85, <i>not</i> 28.10.85.
Urandangie	Opened 1.10.90, <i>not</i> 1.10.91.

(3) The Rocklands-Camooweal and Kanyan-Kilkivan Junc. equations, as well as that of Curriwillingham-Hebel mentioned by Mr Porter, are beyond dispute.

(4) In the case of Carrandotta and Urandangie it will be seen that there is an overlap of three months. However, it seems reasonably certain that Urandangie received No. 450 from Carrandotta, and as two post offices would not have been required in that remote area, one or other of the dates may be incorrect.

(5) The writer has been unable to locate Gebangle, but if it was the original location of the post office subsequently situated at Paradise, it would explain the usage of No. 463 at the latter place.

(6) Perhaps the most surprising of all the movements to come to light is the double move from Broweena to Biggenden (about 18 miles), and from Biggenden to Degilbo (another 4 miles further on), all within four years. That the same numeral obliterator was passed on from one to the other is the only logical explanation for the use of No. 477 at Degilbo.

(7) The South Brisbane Post Office was apparently known as Melbourne Street during 1890 and 1891, but we may never find No. 215 "tied" to Melbourne Street, as the South Brisbane date-stamp may have been used all through.

The above equations remove some of the difficulties raised by an analysis of Mr Porter's lists. Others can be explained by the inadequacy of the records available to Mr Porter for the later years. Mr Collas' researches have assisted greatly in solving many of these, particularly relating to the year 1898, as it appears that many more post offices were opened in that year than are listed in Porter. It was at this period that Nos. 565-570 (which were giving us trouble) were issued, and apparently early in the year there was a small group of re-allocations. The 565-570 group were particularly puzzling, as although "ties" had been reported for each of these six numbers, the only one which really fitted satisfactorily into the Porter list was No. 567 (Queensport). However, Mr Collas' additional dates explain two more, and suggest reasons for others, as follows:

(1) No. 566 has been reported and confirmed as being used at Gilbert River,

but Mr Porter showed this as opened in 1871, which is far too early for No. 566 to have been the original allocation. Mr Collas has found that Mr Porter's date was wrong, and that Gilbert River was actually opened in 1898, which fits exactly.

(2) No. 569 was recently reported for Manly, which Mr Porter does not mention at all. Mr Collas has again come to the rescue with a 1898 opening date which also fits.

(3) Mr Porter had a cover "tying" No. 568 to Pialba dated 1902, but his list shows Pialba opened 1.9.89 and closed 31.12.97, at which period it used No. 342. It must therefore, have been re-opened, and Mr Collas confirms that it was in fact opened later, though he has not as yet produced a 1898 re-opening date. It is a reasonable assumption, however, that it was re-opened during that year, and was then allotted No. 568.

(4) No. 565 has been reported for One Mile Creek. According to Porter this post office was opened on 15.4.68, and was reported (and has since been confirmed) as using No. 103. However, No. 103 has also been reported for Avondale, opened 1898. Although the records so far have not yielded confirmation, the sequence of evidence would appear to have been as follows:

- (a) One Mile Creek was closed about the end of 1897.
- (b) Avondale was opened early in 1898 (during the brief re-allocation period), and received the old No. 103 obliterator.
- (c) One Mile Creek was re-opened later in 1898, and received No. 565 in the ordinary sequence.

(5) No. 570 was a duplex, issued to Townsville either as a replacement or an additional canceller.

Mr Collas's discovery of additional openings in 1898, taken in conjunction with the fact that certain re-allocations took place in 1898, also explains some other mysteries, e.g.:

(1) Taroom was one of the original New South Wales post offices, and used No. 152. However, it has been reported and confirmed as also using No. 515. Mr Collas has found that Taroom was closed at some stage and re-opened in 1898, when it no doubt received No. 515 as a re-allocation from another closed office (possibly Kyabra).

(2) Gunalda was originally opened as Eaton on 1.9.82, and, after closing on 6.11.90, was re-opened on 1.12.92. However, neither of these opening dates fitted the number Gunalda was reported as using (No. 459). Mr Collas has shown that this post office was closed for a second time on 31.12.94, and again re-opened in 1898, and it was no doubt at this time that it received No. 459 as a re-allocation.

(3) No. 24 was originally used at Banana, but has been reported and confirmed as also being used at Miriam Vale. This latter post office was opened on 1.4.77, well before the time when the Queensland authorities had thought of re-allocating old numbers to new offices, so Miriam Vale evidently did not receive No. 24 at this stage. The post office was closed on 21.10.97 and re-opened on 11.3.98, when it might well have received No. 24 as a re-allocation. The only fly in the ointment is that Mr Porter says that No. 24 was in use at Miriam Vale in 1894. It is

possible, however, to misread dates, and this could have happened here, so the writer is tentatively assuming that Miriam Vale received No. 24 in 1898.

Proceeding into the twentieth century, Mr Collas has been able to solve another mystery, that surrounding the use of No. 171 at Kingaroy. In the Porter list there are two Kingaroy post offices mentioned:

(1) Kingaroy (also known as Kingaroy Township, called Taabinga Village from March, 1905), opened 1902. This was not an established re-allocation period, and this post office should have received a number between 610 and 630.

(2) Kingaroy Rly Stn, opened March 1905. 1905-06 is a definite re-allocation period, but one would not expect the date-stamp to show Kingaroy only (unless it was passed on from the other post office mentioned above).

Mr Collas has found that there was a *third* post office, opened in 1905, at what is today the town of Kingaroy, and it was undoubtedly this post office which received No. 171 as a re-allocation. Later, it apparently received No. 644, either as a replacement or additional canceller.

In spite of Mr Collas' searches, the twentieth century period is bristling with difficulties, which are not made easier by the problem of Receiving Offices. These apparently did not normally have numeral obliterations, but if one became a post office for a short period (which might not be apparent in the records) and then reverted to a Receiving Office, then a puzzle could well develop if it became a post office again. A "tie" could exist to a number which it received at its first short existence as a post office, and this would throw the lists out if the only record was of the subsequent upgrading. The 1910 period is particularly difficult, and although Mr Collas has been able to amend the list on pages 33 and 34 of Porter, we are still left with the problem of why Atherton used No. 621, Stannary Hills No. 624, and Cape York No. 643. We know that there were certain re-allocations late in 1910 (it was probably at this period that Richmond Downs received No. 368, and not at any of its earlier openings), and it is just conceivable that Cape York inherited No. 643 from Teutoburg, opened January 1907 and closed March 1910. However, both Nos. 621 and 624 belong to the 1902 period and all the post offices known to have been opened in 1902 were still open in 1910, so these two numbers could not have been re-allocated in that year. Why, then, did Atherton and Stannary Hills use them? Now, both these offices (and Cape York also) were shown as Receiving Offices in the Queensland Post Office Guide for 1902, and the only possible explanations appear to be:

(a) That for some reason these two offices received numeral obliterations as Receiving Offices; or

(b) That they were full post offices for a short period in 1902, and retained their obliterations when reduced to Receiving Offices.

If the latter is the explanation, then this could also be the explanation for the use of No. 643 at Cape York, which could have become a full post office for a period in 1907.

(To be continued)

DINNER CELEBRATES COMPLETION OF BUILDING FUND

Full ownership of the Royal Philatelic Society's new headquarters was celebrated at the Hotel Windsor on 2 October, when 40 members, wives and guests attended a dinner.

An attractive feature of a very happy evening was the two-colour menus printed by the president (Mr John Gartner) at The Hawthorn Press. Each bore a photographic reproduction of the Victoria One Penny Half-Length Die, and on the back was the printed inscription: "This menu was printed for as a keepsake of the Celebration Dinner," with the diner's name.

Mr Gartner welcomed the guests.

Mr J. R. W. Purves proposing "The Building Fund" toast, named Mr E. B. Doery and Mr E. G. Creed as the founders of the plan and extended thanks to the donors, inside and outside the Society, and in all parts of the world, who had given donations to the fund.

He said possession of the new building, besides its importance and usefulness to the Society was a demonstration to the public that philately was worthy of respect as a responsible form of adult hobby.

The Society had every right to be proud of the fact that £11,000 had been raised in five years, "It is perhaps the greatest philatelic event I have been associated with," Mr Purves said.

He added that he was now aiming at a £500 publication fund, but was not making a general appeal. Approximately £200 was already assured.

Mr J. H. Powell, who came from Sydney specially for the occasion, brought greetings and congratulations from the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club and the Philatelic Society of New South Wales.

"If Mr Purves had put into politics the drive, energy, and ability he has put into philately, the Premier of Victoria would not be Henry Bolte—and the Right Honorable Robert Gordon Menzies might have been a bit uneasy," he said, amid laughter.

Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson, past president, joined in thanking the donors and expressed his pride that the project had been completed during his term of office.

REVIEWS

The Early Stamps of Venezuela by Lieut.-Gen. Cornelius W. Wickersham. 156 pp. 7 x 10 in. Published by The Collectors' Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N.Y. Price \$3.95.

It is always a pleasure reviewing a book when one knows the author personally. General Wickersham has enjoyed distinguished legal and military careers and he is an enthusiastic, highly-competent, although extremely modest, philatelic student.

Early Venezuelas provide, like many other early South American countries, a wonderful field for the student of *lithographed* stamps. Great philatelists of the past—Hall, Fulcher, Schiff and H. R. Harmer, to name a few—have all given the early issues serious attention. This book takes over where they left off. This country, from being of interest to few, is now—largely because of its extraordinary economic rise, first due to oil and then to iron—receiving attention from many more collectors, both in North and South America. All the lithographed stamps from the first issue of 1859 to the “large Escuelas” of 1879 receive their mead of attention. The work, as with most Collectors' Club publications, is very fully illustrated, particularly striking being the many large pieces shown, mostly from the author's collection. Each issue is first treated technically and the balance of each chapter devoted to the cancellations found on the stamps of the particular issue. This is typically American procedure and while it has, of course, drawbacks, it does greatly help collectors in the arrangement of their collections. It may be added that early Venezuelan cancellations are curious, interesting and highly individual. A great deal of new information and the analysis of new material is now made available. While there are still holes to fill in relation to some settings, the picture is now approaching an overall completeness we had not previously thought possible.

The subject of “dates of issue”—particularly contentions in this field—has received careful attention throughout, likewise the errors, tête-bêche varieties, bisects, marginal inscriptions, printers, etc. There is also an interesting chapter on the La Guaira “ship” stamps (centavo values)—

already given considerable attention by Sir John Wilson.

The book concludes with a bibliography and a most useful index. Sincere congratulations to both author and publisher. This is the first study on Venezuela published in book form. If one can guess by the interest it has created in the Americas it will certainly not be the last.

J.R.W.P.

Pakistan: Overprints on India (1948-49) by Col. D. R. Martin. 92 pp., 4to, with illustrations. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price 30s. Stg.

There is a tendency for students of earlier issues to imagine that there are, in really modern stamps, no problems comparable (from the study angle) with their own field. In this study Col. Martin—for long a notable student of classic issues—witness his collaboration with Smythies on the 1854-5 Lithographs of India—has found a very modern field worthy of his gifts and attention. The issues in question owe their being almost entirely to the unavoidable happenings of history and to geographical and sociological circumstances. The intrusion of philatelic promotion (e.g., in cases like the error “PAXISTAN”) is practically minute and with time and the publication of this book the chances of successful forgery have been greatly reduced.

The book, as one would expect, is clearly presented, well arranged, and adequately illustrated. The story is a complicated one and indeed the author admits that much still remains to be uncovered. The philatelic impact of the new nationality was, in this case, terrific. There were large quantities of Indian stamps available throughout the country when Pakistan achieved independence, but Pakistanis just wouldn't use them unless overprinted. The original Nasik supply of overprinted stamps wasn't sufficient, neither were the large supplies printed at Karachi and Peshawar (from plates, copies of the Nasik, made at Lahore). It therefore happened that, duly authorised by some authority (high or low), individual printings were made at all sorts of other places, in both West and East Pakistan. The overprints were variously machine printed, handstamped, typed, and in manuscript. The

author, with painstaking care, plots his way through this labyrinth and provides means for the collector of distinguishing the greater part of the overprints. Where there are gaps in the information he says so. Likewise if he has doubts of the status of an "error" (of which there are many, mostly very rare) he expresses those doubts. He acknowledges his debt to certain Pakistani philatelists for their contributions.

All this is in the best traditions of scholarship. The author served the new Republic during the years 1947-53 which put him in an unrivalled position to get the "low-down" on these stamps. Philately is fortunate that an enthusiast, as well as an expert, was on the spot. Highly recommended for those who don't like it too easy and to whom mere completion is no fetish.

J.R.W.P.

The Australian Stamp Catalogue, 1960. First Edition. 24 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Review Publications Pty Ltd, Dubbo, N.S.W. Price 2s. 6d.

This simplified catalogue of Australian Commonwealth stamps is welcome as providing another useful introduction to Commonwealth stamps and a handy assembly of information regarding the various issues.

It will also be valuable to juniors and thematic collectors, but its omission of watermarks, so very important to Commonwealth collectors, and perforations from the listings does limit the field of usefulness.

The Ross Smith and *Herald and Pals* air mail labels, the Lord Howe Island provisionals, and the "special adhesives" are listed as semi-officials.

World's First Air Stamp, Italy 1917 by L. H. Harris. 16 pp. 5 x 9¼ in. Published by J. C. Crimlisk, 9 Victoria Avenue, Filey, Yorkshire, England. Price 3/6 (stg).

The world's first official air stamp, issued by Italy for the Turin-Rome and Rome-Turin flights of 1917 has long awaited an adequate chronicler.

Mr Harris explains the origin of the experiments and quotes the descriptions of the flights by the pilot, Lieut. (later Major) Mario di Bernardi, a future Schneider Trophy winner. Unfortunately, the full story of the northward flight does not seem to be on record.

The author has listed and illustrated the special postmarks and cards, some of which are rare, and dealt painstakingly with the forged Turin-Rome postmarks and the fake Rome-Turin card on which they appeared.

It is a praiseworthy little work. May we look forward to a sequel on the Naples-Palermo-Naples air stamp of the following month?

Polska 60: Biuletyn 1. 36 pp. 9¼ x 6½ in. Published by the Executive Committee of the International Philatelic Exhibition, Polska 60.

This is the initial bulletin regarding Polska 60, the international philatelic exhibition which will be held in Warsaw from 3 to 11 September 1960. English text is provided throughout.

The exhibition celebrates the centenary of Poland's first issue, and the bulletin contains an outline of Poland's philatelic history.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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Ringwood Philatelic Society guests

Double Feature

A double display, the two parts as different as it was possible to be, but both interesting, was the entertainment at the September meeting—Mrs M. E. M. Gates presented Newfoundland and Mr R. L. Lloyd-Smith Turkish postal stationery.

Mrs Gates' display was a general collection of Newfoundland, almost complete by Gibbons, except for some of the earlies and the great air rarities. The popular Humphrey Gilbert, the publicity issues, and the Newfoundland Contingent set were attractively presented.

Also included were a selection of flight covers, notably of 1931.

Mr Lloyd-Smith's display comprised 140 items. It included virtually all the postcards from their beginning to 1919. Many of them were postally used. The envelopes included the first issue, unused, and some of the less common ones, mostly used. Almost all the early letter cards were also shown.

Empire Classics

Mr L. Van Straten's famous collection of the first imperf. stamps of the British Empire, which gained a medal at the London International Philatelic Exhibition, 1950, was the display at the October meeting.

It would be a highlight in any year, for it is a presentation of beauty allied with both rarity and condition.

The collection comprised a critical study from the viewpoint of design, artists, craftsmen, and techniques of the first designs of Britain and the Colonies to the advent of perforation.

There were many rarities, both on and off cover, with proofs and pertinent forgeries. The beautiful Great Britain section was specialised, including comparisons from the 1d. plates in both black and red and examples of repaired impressions. All plates of the first Great Britain issues were represented.

One of the charms of the display was that it provided a width of presentation of classics seldom seen anywhere in this day, 100 years or so after their issue.

The scope of the collection may be judged from these items: Cape Triangular woodblocks, superb early Mauritius, a glorious block of proofs of the first Nova Scotia 1d., in black, some nice early Canada, Sydney Views, and a completed reconstructed plate of the Victoria 2d. engraved Queen on Throne.

Tasmanian Shades

Mr O. G. Ingles successfully and interestingly tackled a difficult subject, "Tasmania—The Shades of Gibbons" at the November meeting.

Mr Ingles dealt chiefly with the shade variations in the early and middle issues "where the catalogue descriptions are frequently difficult to follow and even, at fault," and showed examples of shades which were well established but not included in the listings.

He showed the variations of shades and perforations, and double prints, associated with each particular printing, and demonstrating that in the early and middle issues there was a characteristic shade for each printing, with few exceptions.

A special feature was the tracing of the printings of the 4d. Chalon Head.

Another feature was the first constant flaw discovered in the 8d. de la Rue plates, a "Weeping G."

Mr Ingles said the colour classification, generally, was good after 1890 but before that they were frequently bad, particularly that of the 6d. Chalon Head. The dull claret of the 'Seventies was not issued until 1891.

Another stamp included in the display was a forged overprint of the 1912 "One Penny."

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

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12 U.S.A.: Combined display arranged by Miss M. Salier

New Caledonia

Syllabus item for the September meeting was a display of Postal History of New Caledonia, by Mr Hamilton Croaker, who is widely known for

his part in the Pacific Island Circle and for his array of beautiful material in the fields he collects.

Mr Croaker did not disappoint, and his knowledge matched his material.

Annual Competition

Eight entries were received for this year's competition, the feature of the October meeting.

The standard was again high. First prize was awarded to Mr G. L. Rodgers for his British New Guinea. The second award went to Mr J. H. Powell, who displayed items from Rabaul.

The other display for the evening was by Mr A. H. Foster, of Queensland, who was visiting Sydney and showed his thematic collection, Music and Musicians.

Social Evening

A Sale by Tender for ANPEX funds and social evening took the place of the November meeting and proved a great success.

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

We are happy to announce that Miss JOYCE BUCHANAN has accepted the position of Treasurer of Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, recently vacated by Harry Tobin. Joyce is a partner of Miss Farley (our Hon. Sec.) and as such she and Myra make a good team. Joyce is no mean collector, either, although her collecting activities are mainly confined to N.Z. and Canada.

Dr G. KERFOOT turned up at a recent meeting. He has been living in Wagga, N.S.W., and has not been at a meeting of the R.P.S.V. for 23 years. You're right, his sub. has been kept going all that time. Now, living in North Balwyn and practising dentistry, he feels he can take time off to see something of us. This is, providing golf and gardening don't take up too much of his time! Welcome, Doc!

We said a regretful "good-bye" in October to RON HAKE who is now on his way home to Glorious Devon. Ron has been in Aussie just on two years. In the Society that long also! We are sorry to lose one who is such a good clubman and such an enthusiastic collector.

Met HENRY RUBIN at the "Royal" recently. Henry is a member of the Sydney Royal and was looking us over. He is an Australianised Czech who, not liking what he saw in Prague of the Communists, made his escape, leaving quite a bit of property behind. He is an avid collector of the stamps of New Zealand, together with its depen-

dent islands; also Austria and Czechoslovakia. Likeable chap, too. Served on the Jury at ANPEX, Sydney.

ERIC CREED, who has recently returned from a business trip overseas, managed to cover quite a bit of territory, visiting Canada, U.S.A., Great Britain, Holland, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal. Eric is in the wholesale dress goods business and claims there is an affinity between the colours of stamps and those of the piece-goods he sells! His stamp collecting includes Canada, the West Indies, Newfoundland, and New Guinea. Enjoys golf and billiards—when he can get the time.

The October display by LEON VAN STRATEN was one of the choicest examples of philately it has been our pleasure to view. Leon is a perfectionist and, although he apologised for the state of a couple of stamps, we could not find much the matter with them. Leon is the sort of character who, if offered the No. 1 British Guiana as a gift, MIGHT accept it—and then grumble about it being cut a bit too close! Leon was born in Amsterdam, educated in England, and studied music in Paris. Accordingly, he is tri-lingual. A perfectionist in more than stamps, too. Disdains the ubiquitous cigarette and the homely pipe, and goes for choice cigars. Like his stamps, they must also be the best! An osteopath by profession, and a good one!

W.L.R.

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and

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★ **SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is posted free to all members.

★ **MEETINGS** held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.45 p.m. in its own premises, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, Melbourne, SE1.

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★ **SALE BY TENDER BRANCH** enables members to buy and sell stamps not considered suitable by the vendor for exchange sheets. Postal bids accepted from members for any item.

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★ **CURRENT FILES** of the leading overseas philatelic journals printed in English are available on the tables at the Society's rooms.



★ **QUARTZ LAMP & MICROSCOPE** and a Reference Forgery Collection are available.

★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** It has always been Society policy to obtain the best available collection for display at Society monthly meetings. Lectures and Discussions by leading Philatelists enable members to improve their philatelic knowledge.

★ **PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE:** This Society includes experts on almost all branches of Philately, whose advice is always available.

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