

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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MARCH 1959

ANPEX AND AFTER

The Australian National Philatelic Exhibition, Sydney, 1959, is a memory, and for thousands of philatelists who exhibited, worked, and viewed it, a happy memory.

An exhibition is no mere display of possessions, no flaunting of rare, expensive, elusive treasures to excite the envy of those of similar tastes and to impress those who cannot aspire to such philatelic greatness.

It is, as *Philately in Australia* has already said, a credo, a belief that philately is worth while; it is a presentation to the public of what the hobby is and does, how widespread are its devotees, a revealing of the things that attract us and are prized.

It is a declaration of the status of our hobby; the only collecting hobby that could make such a show and fill Sydney Town Hall; the hobby of kings and men, not merely of enthusiastic schoolboys.

Above all, it is a bringing together of collectors and collections, of interest and knowledge, that would never meet otherwise.

How many Sydney philatelists have become friends because they worked together for, or at, ANPEX? Melbourne philatelists were happy to meet so many Sydney collectors whom they had not known personally; were pleased to help in the exhibition; and were far from unappreciative of the kindness of their Sydney hosts.

The value of an exhibition is not in medals won or missed, but in the knowledge gained, the enthusiasms rekindled, the friendships made and renewed, and in the public interest generated and condensed into new and keener philatelists.

The new task in Sydney is for the societies who combined to stage such a wonderful ANPEX to reap the harvest, gathering the new collectors into organised philately, teaching them the rudiments of the game, leading them along the right paths and introducing them to the philatelic pleasures so many have known for so long.

Philatelic societies have not previously thought of a follow-up campaign to follow an exhibition, but the potential threat of television, as programmes improve and habits form, indicates that societies should now take positive action in this regard. No organisation ever suffered for being alert to the menace of a prospective rival.

In Melbourne, whose turn it will be to stage the next ANPEX—probably in 1963—philatelists must turn their thoughts towards staging an even better Australian National Philatelic Exhibition. How doubly welcome our Sydney friends will be.

R.P.S.V. BUILDING FUND

The social evening held at the R.P.S.V. headquarters last December raised £21 2s. 6d. for the building fund.

Further donations to the building fund are:

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Anonymous donor, an electric clock.

Stamps have been donated by:

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The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

The K.G.V. ½d. Green, "Cracked Electro," Single Wmk

I had the very great pleasure earlier this year of meeting Mr Alan Davidson, who was spending a few days in Melbourne before moving on to Sydney for ANPEX. Mr Davidson is a member of the A.C.S.S. of Great Britain, and is known to readers of this journal as a student, among other things, of the 4d. K.G.V Harrison Plates.

With some satisfaction I showed my visitor a used specimen, found by myself only three weeks earlier, of the K.G.V ½d. green, "cracked electro," on *single* wmk. I was a little taken aback when Mr Davidson produced a further specimen (also used) of the identical variety. Both our specimens show the flaw in an apparently early state, extending down only as far as the first "A" of "AUSTRALIA." Mine is perforated OS.

Mr Davidson also had with him two proof sheets, in black and red, from the lower left pane of the 1d. K.G.V. Certain aspects of these proofs seemed to me of considerable interest, but I have no doubt that Mr Davidson will himself be ultimately writing them up fully.

The K.G.V 2d., Die 1

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Dr Gordon Ward personally but I strongly suspect there is a twinkle in his eye as he sends up some of his balloons. At any rate I am quite certain he would agree with me that controversial discussion of methods of stamp production is more than justified if it induces only a few more collectors to take an interest in such matters.

That I fear is about as far as our agreement extends. I am certain his theories advanced in the last number of *P. from A.* are entirely wide of the mark.

It has hitherto always been believed that the K.G.V 2d., die 1, was printed from electro plates, the copper shells of which had been grown on a forme of stamped lead moulds. Dr Ward has come to the conclusion that the impressions on the plates were laid down by transfer roller in the same manner as on the steel plates of the K.G.V 1d., the 1½d. die 2, the 2d. die 2, or the 2d. die 3. I shall discuss first the arguments on which he bases this view and then advance certain others which to me seem conclusively against it.

The more deeply coloured horizontal row of twelve stamps across sheets from his Plate Watts can in Dr Ward's view be explained only on the transfer roller hypothesis, these impressions, he suggests, having been "rolled in" more lightly. I cannot myself see how this row of twelve stamps constitutes in any way a decisive argument against the use of *electro* plates. After an electro shell has been grown and backed, the resulting plate is never flat and true, and its levelling is an important and critical stage in the process of manufacture. This levelling is done by hammering from the back. An explanation, at least as feasible as Dr Ward's, for the prominence of a row of stamps across the sheet could be found in the work of the "slab hand" as he straightened out a somewhat buckled plate.

Dr Ward's second argument for the employment of the transfer roller process rests upon the existence of occasional lines and irregular coloured flaws between the stamps. I would not myself dignify these flaws with the title "compartment lines," but they are certainly there. The argument based upon them however is no more conclusive than the first.

Extensive non-printing "downs" on a surface printing plate constitute just as great a problem with an electro as with a rolled-in steel plate. In commercial electro work at any rate they are routed out, and the cutters on the type of machine used for such work range from one inch down to one thirty-second of an inch. If these 2d. plates were electros and this process was used, the same factors would operate which are responsible for the "compartment lines" we find on some steel plates. The existence of such lines cannot be used as an argument either way. Mr A. E. Hammond has already dealt with this aspect of Dr Ward's theory very adequately in the September 1958 *Bulletin* of the A.C.S.S. of G.B. I would only add further that reference to the use of the routing machine in the commercial preparation of electro plates can be found in any trade manual on the subject.

Dr Ward regrets that "no-one seems to have laid down any definite signs by which one may identify an electro printing." I am prepared to suggest one such piece of evidence, the "cracked electro" variety. My use of the name in this context is not an attempt to beg the question. It is the accepted name for a type of flaw which can be found as early as the famous example in the Victorian 1d. "Emblems" of 1859. In its extent and irregularity of line this type of flaw is absolutely distinctive and quite different from the common scratch. It is *never* found on stamps which we know were printed from steel plates, like the K.G.V 1d., the 1½d. die 2, or the 2d. die 2 and 2d. die 3. On the other hand there is a well known example on the Kangaroo 1d. which we *know* was printed from electros. Cooke actually explained the process of manufacture to the editor of the *Australian Stamp Journal* (*A.S.J.*, February 1913). On other Commonwealth stamps that we have always believed to be electro-printed there are three examples on the K.G.V ½d. and four on the 1½d. die 1. On the 2d. die 1, the stamp we are discussing, I have seen *five*, two of them extending almost from top to bottom of the stamp.

Specimens of such flaws in their developed state are never very common, since the stamp printer was always forced to do something about them, either by

substitution as on the 1½d. red, die 1, or by abandonment of the plate. In the Victorian case mentioned above he used tacks to prevent the crack widening, having no spare electrotype units available, and no die from which to make them.

From what we know of this type of flaw, its occurrence in these issues is to me conclusive proof that they *were* printed from electro plates. That this was so has always been taken for granted in the country where the plates were manufactured and used. It has to be remembered that there was a period when our stamp printers were reasonably generous in making current technical information available. In June 1926 for example (when two of the 2d. die 1 plates were still in use) the editor of the *Victorian Philatelic Record* is able to tell his readers

- (a) that in a few months a new multiple watermark is to be introduced.
- (b) that a new perforating machine, "13 x 12½," is soon to be installed.
- (c) that for the 1½d. value "a hardened steel plate, similar to that used for the 1d. value, is being prepared." "For the preparation of this new steel plate it has been found necessary to engrave a new die."

In all essentials this information proved absolutely reliable. With such relations existing between stamp printers and leading philatelists, the unquestioned belief of the latter that the 2d. die 1 was being printed from electro plates was not necessarily mere assumption.

The editor referred to above was Mr A. A. Rosenblum. His criticism of Dr Ward's theory can be found in the December 1958 *Bulletin* of the A.C.S.S. of G.B.

In theory it does remain possible that the printing electros were derived from a rolled-in steel master. Until, however, someone can produce indisputable evidence of master plate flaws in these 2d. die 1 stamps, as distinct from printing plate flaws, and until someone can explain (on the master plate hypothesis) why the alignment of the stamps differs from one printing plate to another, there can be no serious consideration of this possibility.

I shall mention only one further difficulty in Dr Ward's claim. Mr James Dunbar Heath, managing director of Perkins Bacon & Co., told the R.P.S.L. in 1913 that the production of a surface-printing steel plate by the transfer roller process was a very difficult undertaking (*L.P.*, Vol. XXII, Nos. 261, 262). John Ash in an address delivered in 1932 (*A.S.J.*, June 1932) emphasised both the difficulty and the expense, but explained that this was justified by the long life of such plates. The story of those plates which we know to have been of steel bears this out. The four 2d. die 3 plates for example were retired after seven years constant use only because the design of the stamp had to be changed. Dr Ward fails to explain why Harrison should have persevered with such a difficult and expensive process to the extent of seventeen 2d. die 1 plates within three years.

I have at times been something of a philatelic rebel myself, but it must be emphasised that a reasonable and established belief can only be overturned by the production of overwhelming evidence to the contrary. Dr Ward has not succeeded in doing this. All he has done is to produce an alternative theory that bristles with difficulties and improbabilities.

CHRISTMAS ISLAND

THE PRINTING PROCESS—AND OTHER NOTES

By L. N. and M. WILLIAMS

From time to time in the pages of *Philately from Australia* (March 1956, p. 24; December 1957, p. 119), notes have appeared supplementing the information published in *Christmas Island and Its Postal History* by the Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (The Hawthorn Press, 1953).

While we have long collected the stamps of Central Pacific Cocomat Plantations Ltd, it is only recently that we have seen (and acquired) a copy of the brochure. When reading through it we were struck by the reference, on page 11, to the method of production of the stamps. The authors state:

Where and by whom the stamps were printed are problems which still require solution, and we welcome any information on these points. There is no doubt, however, that they were printed by a form of chromolithography and that the "parent" stones for the main portions of the design consisted of blocks of four stamps arranged thus:

1	2
3	4

Each of these four stamps shows a "primary" flaw, which will be found on all issues . . . The make-up of the last (the 4th) issue consisted of two sets of transfers placed side by side with a gutter separating them, thus making a sheet of eight stamps in two panes of four. The make-up of the earlier issues is not yet finally determined. . . .

Regrettably, we have no information to add about the place where or the firm or person who printed the stamps, but we submit that there is no room for doubt that the stamps were not printed by chromolithography. The whole character of the impression militates against the suggestion that lithography played any part in the actual printing.

An examination of the design under magnification reveals many traces of squash or "squeeze" and small accumulations of colour typical of relief printing, or "letterpress printing" (or, as philatelists misuse the term, "typo."). Indeed, such examination of the face of some stamps reveals noticeable "bite" into the paper, and the backs exhibit the characteristic protuberance of, especially, the outer frame-line.

The evidence is, overwhelmingly, that the stamps were relief printed, and from half-tone blocks of zinc or copper, made by the (in the printing trade, usual, but philatelically unusual) colour-separation process involving three colours in printing—yellow, red and blue.

Briefly, this somewhat complicated procedure may be summarized by stating that a coloured original is exposed three times to three photographic plates, a different colour-filter being used on each occasion. From the three photographic negatives, three different half-tone blocks are produced—one for each colour—with the half-tone screen rotated to a different angle for each colour. These three

half-tone blocks are then printed in register in different coloured inks upon one piece of paper, thus giving the appearance of a continuous tone in colours.

The "type" characteristics result from imperfections in one or other of the three half-tone blocks. As there are four "types" it follows that (whatever the sheet make-up) the half-tone blocks were four-set. Whether this setting was obtained by separately exposing the light-sensitive material in different positions four times to one original colour drawing, or by one exposure to four coloured reproductions of one original drawing, or by some other method, must (in the absence of further evidence) remain a matter of speculation; it is, we think, of little philatelic importance. Such differences as we have remarked between one "type" and another are all explicable by reference to variations inherently possible in all half-tone colour work that falls short of perfection, and are no safe guides to a solution of the problem.

By no means does it follow, as a matter of course, that the maker of the half-tone blocks was the printer of the stamps.

From what has been stated it will be apparent that three-colour half-tone work necessarily implies that the paper is put into the press once for each colour that has to be printed from the series of blocks. Difficulties arise in registering one colour with another. On most copies of the stamps we have seen, registration leaves something to be desired; and we have, and have seen, stamps on which the red and yellow printings are out of register by as much as 0.75 mm. or more and the blue is out of register with the red by over 0.5 mm.

The accompanying illustration (made from a photograph taken by us through a tricolour blue filter to emphasize the yellow which is rather difficult to see) shows a stamp of the first issue with the colours badly registered.

THE FIRST AND SECOND ISSUES

Of the first issue (perf. 12½), we possess a cover addressed: "Mademoiselle M. Pugeault, Kaieu, Christmas Island," postmarked with cancellation Type 2 dated "JAN 15 1918." This pre-dates by nearly a month the cover similarly addressed, referred to on page 8 of the brochure.

Of the second issue (perf. 11½), the printing characteristics, doubtless, vary. We possess a mint stamp which, contrary to the statements on page 14 of the brochure, is more finely printed and of which the colours are more closely registered than any we have encountered from other issues; and the colours, far from being paler than those of the first issue, are more intense.

THE THIRD ISSUE

In the first and second issues the figure "5" appeared on only the yellow and red half-tone blocks. These figures and the background of red dots in the corner squares do not appear in the third issue. The question arises, therefore, whether the same half-tone blocks altered, or new half-tone blocks, were used in the production of the third issue.

The evidence—the persistence of the "type" characteristics, and other minutiae—

is in favour of the proposition that the same half-tone blocks were used for all three issues, and that the unwanted raised portions were excised, probably by routing (a simple and every-day practice in block-making), before the third issue was printed.

The excision of these figures and background, causing an emphasis on the blue colour at the corners, coupled with different make-ready for the actual printing, satisfactorily accounts for the appearance of seemingly new areas of colour, referred to on page 16 of the brochure as "additional" distinguishing features of "type 1" and "type 2."

In the third issue the figures "10" in the corners, and the "10 CENTS" across the top of the centre, are unbroken areas of colour and completely different in



character from the rest of the design which is, of course, broken into dots of varying sizes by the half-tone screen. These figures and words present characteristics typical of letterpress printing. These factors give rise to the question: "How were these symbols of denomination applied to the stamps?"

The remote technical possibility that additions were made to the "red" half-tone block can be rejected for two reasons: the fiddling nature of the work necessary; and the fact that close examination of the "10 CENTS" reveals an occasional overlapping of the denomination and the red dots in the sky.

Of the remaining alternatives—typesetting or a line-block—we favour the likelihood that, in view of the difficulties of registration involved in typesetting, these symbols of denomination appeared on a separately produced line-block—of course, in a setting of four. Unfortunately, lack of material at our disposal prevents our being able to form a more decided view.

However, the superimposition of "10 CENTS" on the red dots of the background, clearly indicates that, in the production of each block of four of the third issue, no fewer than four separate printing operations were performed; thus:

Design—yellow, red, blue;
Denomination—red.

THE FOURTH ISSUE

The stamps of the fourth issue appear, superficially, to differ so greatly from those of the other issues as to indicate a new method of production and printing. However, a close examination of the stamps suggests that the differences are more apparent than real, and that the fourth issue was printed from the same set of blocks as was used for the previous issue. Such differences of appearance as exist between the third and fourth issues are attributable to different inks, different paper, different make-ready and more attentive printing. Indeed, the persistence of the "type" characteristics is almost conclusive on this point.

Of course, the denomination appears in blue in this issue. The characteristics superimposition of the "10 CENTS" and some of the blue dots of the background makes it clear that the denomination was printed at a separate operation. Again, each block of four of the fourth issue resulted from four separate printing operations; thus:

Design—yellow, red, blue;
Denomination—blue.

The only feature about this issue which has caused us a certain amount of puzzlement is the reported existence, on page 17 of the brochure, of "secondary" flaws by means of which the stamps in the left and right panes are said to be distinguishable. In *Philately from Australia*, vol. 9, page 119, the penultimate paragraph implies that the "secondary" flaws are inconstant. Perhaps because of lack of material at our disposal we have not encountered on these stamps any flaws that can be classed as "secondary" in the sense of denoting "sub-types." (If any such exist, technical theory could account for the production method.)

Make-up of the Sheets

From what has been written, it will be seen that we are clearly of the opinion that all the stamps stemmed from a single block of four on one series of plates.

With the exception of the third issue, all the stamps have been reported in sheets of eight, comprising two blocks of four side by side; it is as well to add that, in the second issue, the two blocks of four are *tête-bêche*. There would seem little reason to doubt that the third issue exists, or existed, in a similar state.

It is noteworthy that, for the first and second issues, each sheet of paper was put in the press six times, and for the fourth (and perhaps third) issue, no less than eight times.

Is this a, philatelic, record?



The Other Side of the Picture



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

VICTORIA

(i) *New "Half-Length" Information*

So much has come to light in the last five years in the way of new pieces, cancellations and the like that the writer proposes to compile a "supplement" which will add to both the main book and the monographs on the first two types of cancellation. He is happy to say that to date not one major finding in the main work has required to be disturbed. On the contrary, a host of new pieces have confirmed the theories, sheet "make-ups," etc., set out in the book. The work will be of relatively modest size and price but should be useful to all collectors of our old issues. No definite arrangements have been made in respect of publication but when they are readers will be informed. A few notes on the subject have already appeared in this journal but most of the new information will be published for the first time.

(ii) *The "Emblems"—An Omission from the Book. The Marginal Imprint Found in the 2d. Value*

How one fails to record something one has and has studied can only be ascribed to human frailty, but it does need another collector to point it out. Mr Iain Jex Long, of Glasgow, an enthusiastic collector of Victoria, sent me recently a copy of the 2d. Emblem, wmk "2" (SG 110) showing part of the marginal inscription running up its left side and informed me that, although I had mentioned and illustrated those on the 1d. and 4d. values (see p. 36, etc.), I had not described such an inscription for the 2d. This has rather shocked me and I hasten to repair the omission.

Such an inscription (reading up the left side and down the right side) was first introduced by Robinson with his first printing on "TWO PENCE" paper (SG 98) and thence continued to the end of the chapter. The inscription was similar to that of the 1d. and 4d. (though the letters were rather *larger*) and read:

"One hundred and twenty stamps in each sheet. Value One Pound."

The inscription further differed from those described for the 1d. and 4d. in that it only appeared at the sides (and not at top and bottom as well) and that it was "centred," both at left and right. On the left (where it reads up) it starts

opposite position C7 and continues on C1 and across the "gutter" to positions A25 and A19, finishing opposite the latter. On the right (where it reads down) it starts opposite position B24 and runs along B30 and across the "gutter" to positions D6 and D12, finishing opposite the latter. I have portions of it—on single stamps—in the cases of SG99b, 108a and 111c (in the last case opposite two stamps in an unused block).

(iii) 6d. "Beaded Oval" 1860. A Die Proof Discovered

In a lot of about 50, recently purchased, of these stamps the writer's eye quickly alighted on an unused perforated stamp of such blackness, clarity and brilliance of impression as to only mean one thing—an inference quickly confirmed by a more detailed examination. The apparent stamp was on *no water-marked* rice paper, and showed a *perfect* design, i.e., it lacked any of the "double strikes," "partial strikes" and flaws found in the issued sheet (of which the writer has completed the reconstruction). It was obviously a die proof, perforated—alas—by some dealer of the old time in the hope that commercial value thereby would be added to it (and he probably saw to it, at the time, that it was). As far as is known it is the only die-proof discovered of this stamp.

It is also of peculiar interest for the following reason. It must be a *contemporary* die-proof because in 1862 the centre (head) of this die was cut out and used for the centre of the so-called "adapted design" (SG Type 11), being "plugged in" to a new frame die. The other "beaded oval" dies (3d. and 4d.) survived to a much later period and in those cases die-proofs exist which were struck in the early '90s. In 1891, of course, *those* dies were used to strike the moulds for the "Reprint" plates. There was no reprint of this 6d. design for the simple reason that only a part of the die was in existence, and that was part of the die for Type 11.

(iv) 1s. Overprinted "STAMP DUTY" in Blue, SG 235

About 20 years ago the writer acquired a genuinely postally used copy of this stamp and recently he was lucky enough to obtain a second copy. Particularly interesting is the fact that both stamps have the same numeral cancellation, viz., 138, HEXHAM. Even fiscally used copies of this rarity are seldom seen. The note on p. 713 of the SG Catalogue should, however, be read by collectors before any finality is reached.

(v) "Money Order and Savings Bank" and "Money Order" Cancellations

Mr Malcolm Blume, of Castlemaine, who is one of our really solid "cancellation" students, sent me some details of dates *earlier* (or later) than those given by me in the article of September 1958, as follows:

KORUMBURRA: S2 (Aug. 1909)	NUMURKAH: S1 (Jan. 1899)
MALDON: S1 (Jan. 1899)	SEYMOUR: S1 in <i>blue</i> (Dec. 1900)
MALMSBURY: S1A (1905, 1910)	WALHALLA: S1 (Oct. 1903)
MITIAMO: S1 (Mar. 1901)	YARRAWONGA: S1 (1905)
MURTOA: S2A (Mar. 1908)	

FIJI

The "Fournier" Forgeries of the 1s. Queen's Head

Mr Val McFarlane, of Auckland, whom I was delighted to meet again at the recent ANPEX, finds that the above forgeries (with others) were the subject of a short note in the *Australian Philatelist* of 3 May 1913. We quote as follows:

"*Fakes*: A correspondent submitted for our inspection three sheets of stamps he received from F. Fournier, Geneva, Switzerland, who calls himself Editor of the Fascimiles of obsolete stamps.

"For forgeries of stamps and faked postmarks these sheets beat anything similar of the kind that has come under our notice.

"The imitations in several instances are cleverly done, and are likely to take in an inexperienced collector and in the matter of cancellations, some of the experienced.

"Some, for instance, *the 1s. Fiji Brown*, German stamps surcharged 'Karolinen' diagonally, and old German States with various postmarks, are dangerous counterfeits."

Had the writer encountered the above passage when researching for his "Fiji" book in 1937 the "mystery stamp" would not have enjoyed even that doubtful status.

QUEENSLAND

Numeral Postmarks

Dr K. Pennycuick, a well-known English student, has sent me an interesting note on the above subject. In the first place he reports the following six new "ties":

498	WYNNUM	519	ALOOMBA
499	CAIRNS	522	KYNUNA
515	TAROOM	534	CLONCURRY

He also reports confirming covers in respect of 98 (NERANG CREEK), 125 (CAPELLA), and 201 (EIGHT MILE PLAIN) and he informs me that Harry Porter had recorded 357 as HEWITTVILLE though that fact was not recorded in his *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*.

Finally, Dr Pennycuick has drawn my attention to two points arising out of my own notes on this subject in the December 1958 number.

In the first place, on p. 85 of the number of September 1956, it was explained that the allocation of 281 (SOUTHPORT) to PIKEDALE REEFS was a *misprint* and that number was then correctly allocated to SOUTHPORT. In the second place, EMERALD was noted and given its correct number (492) in Porter's monograph. (See p. 21, at bottom of page.) I had entirely missed this reference.

It is good to know that students are still looking for the "fill-ins" in this large—and obscure—subject. I hope Queenslanders realise that much of this material must still be extant in their own State—if only it can be found!

(vi) *T.P.O. Cancellations*

Mr J. Tyler, another local postmark enthusiast, has found copies of No. 8 "Up" in the *Commonwealth* type dated respectively in July, August and September of 1909. His earliest date is 5.7.09. The earliest date previously recorded (Purves: *The Travelling Post Offices and Their Markings, 1865-1912*, p. 31) was 15.11.09.

The same correspondent has also No. 4 "Down" in the *Commonwealth* type, on a 1d. Kangaroo, dated 1.12.13. It remains to be seen whether this cancellation was introduced before or after the end of 1912 (see p. 38 of *Monograph*, at base).

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

A New "Grid" Number, Later Use

The writer has located the "grid" type with number 13, on a 1d., CA, perf. 14 (SG 81). This is an addition to the numbers described to date by Mr George Owen, viz., 1, 10, 11, 12 and 15 (*P. from A.*, September 1958, p. 73)

EDITORIAL NOTES

ANPEX 1959

ANPEX 1959, Sydney's first philatelic exhibition for 21 years, attracted 437 entries, almost doubling the 238 entries at ANPEX 1955 in Adelaide. It was a stimulating, memorable, and attractive display, which drew eager visitors from all parts of the Commonwealth.

The championship was won by Mr Louis Frank, of Sydney, whose European classics richly deserved the honour.

The 16 gold medal awards were: Messrs W. M. Holbeach (2), Australia and France; J. A. Kilfoyle, Australia; C. Frankenstein, N.S.W.; W. P. Heslop, N.S.W.; J. S. White, New Zealand; H. McRae, Papua; E. G. Creed (2), New Guinea and Canada; J. C. Thompson, Tonga; L. Frank, European Classics; J. Poulie, Europe; H. S. Thirkell, Greece; J. D. Todd, Chile; F. W. Hill,

Air Stamps; and J. R. W. Purves, Research.

The trophy for the most meritorious exhibit by a woman collector, an innovation, was awarded to Mrs P. M. Rock, for her silver-gilt medal France.

Undoubtedly one of the happiest features of ANPEX was the success of the social side of the exhibition. Everybody who attended any of the gatherings will remember, with gratitude, the fine work of the social committee, led by Mrs Campe, who can well be proud of a difficult job superbly done.

Silver Medal

Philately from Australia was awarded a silver medal at ANPEX 1959. It received a similar award at ANPEX 1950. There was no class for philatelic literature at ANPEX 1955.

NEW CALEDONIA — THE FIRST ISSUE

By F. B. HOWARD-WHITE, M.C.

||| Almost a century after its issue, New Caledonia's first stamp has been plated. This has been accomplished by F. B. Howard-White, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, from a complete sheet in his collection. The sheet, illustrated, has R.P.S.L. certificate No. 45,302.

The first stamps of New Caledonia, the French colony in the Pacific, were produced lithographically by a sergeant in the Marines named Triquérat, who was garrisoned on the island and who prepared the stone from a piece of local grey, close-grained, limestone (*The Stamp Collectors' Magazine*, 1 November 1868, pp. 166-7).

Triquérat is the spelling used by Stanley Gibbons in the catalogue. It appears, however, as Triquéra in *le Collectionneur de timbres postes* (June 1889, pp. 331-4 and January 1893, pp. 201-4).

The design consists of a left-facing, bearded portrait of the uncrowned head of Napoleon III, set in an octagon edged with small pearls, and enclosed in an outer, double-lined rectangular frame.

The inscription between the two top lines is:

NLE CALEDONIE

and within the two lines at the bottom are:

10C POSTES 10C

In each corner square is a white cross.

The stamps, which measure 19×23 millimetres each, are arranged in 5 horizontal rows of 10.

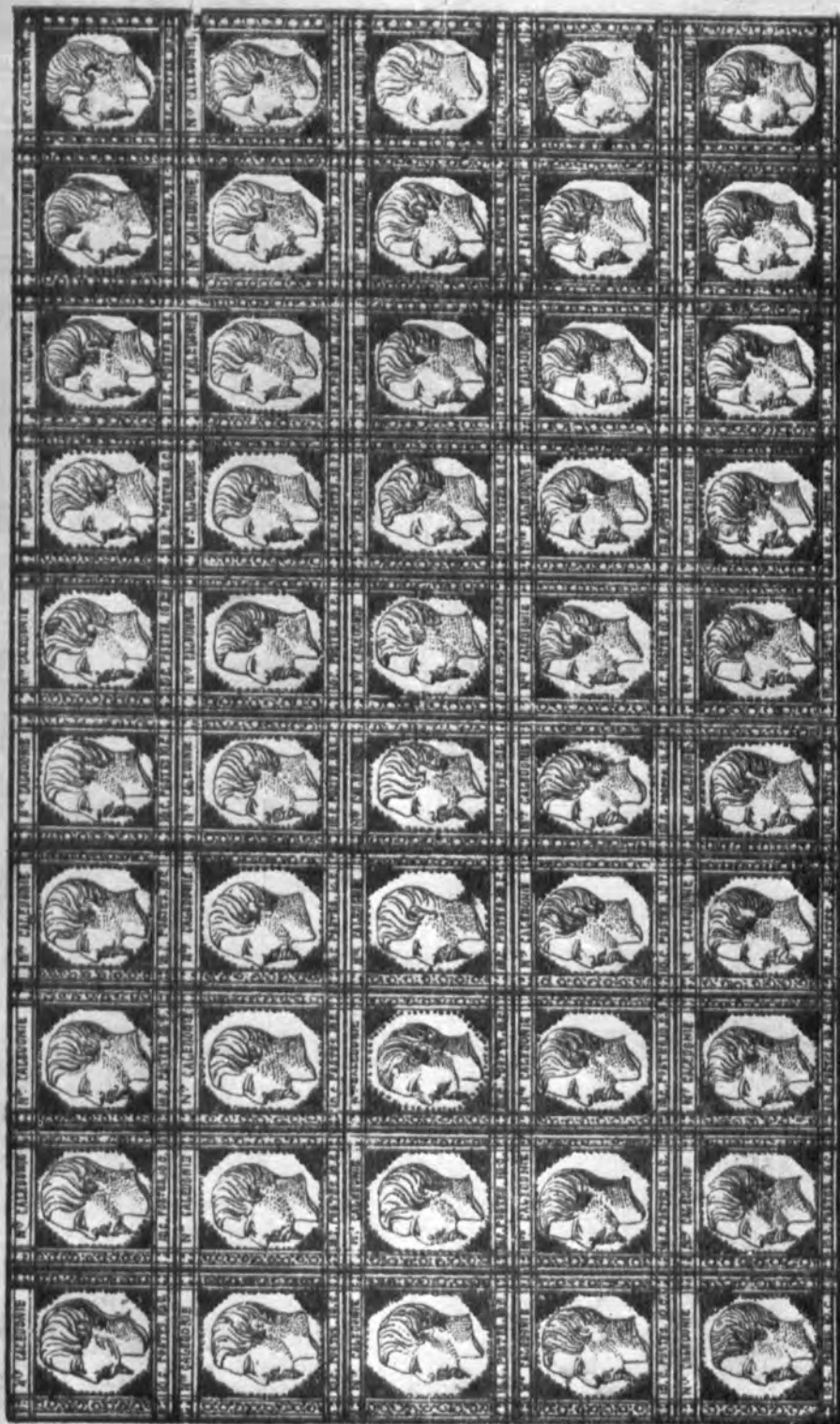
Printing of this issue, which first found authority in the *Moniteur Imperial* of New Caledonia and its dependencies, dated 18 December 1859 (*Stanley Gibbons Monthly Magazine*, April 1905, pp. 214-5), took place on a "papier mou, légèrement jaunâtre." The stamps are imperforate and grey-black in colour. Both gummed and ungummed specimens are recorded.

There was a rumour that one of the prisoners in this French penal settlement had surreptitiously introduced into the paper used for this first issue a watermark injurious to the Emperor, Napoleon III. It has, however, been verified, through the courtesy of the Conservateur of the Musée Postal in Paris, that such was not the case. No watermark was used.

While from time to time reproductions of the whole sheet of 50 have appeared in certain catalogues, notably Moens, Scott, Yvert and Tellier, the explanatory notes do not go beyond stating that no two stamps are exactly alike.

The artist, lacking facilities for multiple reproduction, had perforce to draw the design separately 50 times and consequently there are as many distinct specimens as there are stamps in the sheet.

Moreover, as there do not appear to have been published anywhere in the philatelic press plating particulars of this first issue of New Caledonia, the follow-



ing notes may be of research interest to those specialising in the stamps of this little-known group of islands in the Pacific.

The issue came into service on 1 January 1860 and was withdrawn on 17 September 1862 (*ibid.*).

NEW CALEDONIA

1860 (January)

10 cents

(* = beard touches octagon)

1st Row

No.

- 1 Faulty "P" in "POSTES." Cheek formed by lines instead of dots.
- 2 Long "I" in "CALEDONIE." Short "TES" in "POSTES."
- 3 *Pearls above head like "NNJOS." Beard embedded in s.w. side of octagon. Moustache like "am."
- 4 *"J" instead of "T" in "POSTES." Clear space between lips.
- 5 *"CA" in "CALEDONIE" joined. Beard, nose and back of head all touch 2 pearls.
- 6 Figures in first "10c" joined. "O" in "POSTES" like "S." Top of head touches 2 pearls.
- 7 *"DO" in "CALEDONIE" joined. Line missing above "POSTES 10c." Black mass over front of ear.
- 8 No "le" in "Nle." "D" in "CALEDONIE" like a large "O." Short "E" in "POSTES." Figures in second "10c" almost joined.
- 9 Pearls missing on s. side of octagon. Mark like "5" under jaw.
- 10 "Nle. CALEDONIE" in different capitals. Whole of crown of head touches octagon. Ear like a heavy black question mark.

2nd Row

No.

- 11 Faulty "L," "D" and "N" in "CALEDONIE." "STES" in "POSTES" barely legible. Wing growing out of top of ear.
- 12 "CA" like "GR" in "CALEDONIE." Figures in first "10c" joined and faulty. Break in line above "T" in "POSTES."
- 13 "D" in "CALEDONIE" like "IL." "O" in first "10c" like a bent pin. "O" in "POSTES" like a heavy "I."
- 14 *Short "T" in "POSTES." "O" in second "10c" like "C." Break in head line. Nose touches pearl.
- 15 "AL" in "CALEDONIE" joined and blurred. First "10c" like "1cc." Nose touches pearls.
- 16 In "Caledonie" first "E" illegible and "D" like "IL."
- 17 Broken line below "CALEDONIE." In "POSTES" faulty "P" and first "S" like "8."
- 18 Faulty "O" in "CALEDONIE." Both "S"s in "POSTES" like "8."
- 19 "E" and "N" in "CALEDONIE" imperfect. Short and hardly legible "TES" in "POSTES."
- 20 First "S" in "POSTES" unreadable. "O" in first "10c" like a "C." Figures in second "10c" like "IH." Pot-hook mark behind back of neck.

3rd Row

No.

- 21 "C" for "D" in "CALEDONIE." First "S" in "POSTES" like a reversed "C." Moustache like "om."
- 22 First "E" in "CALEDONIE" faulty. First "10c" blurred. Black blob in hair at top of head.
- 23 *Missing "P" in "POSTES" and whole word unreadable. Pearls stand clear of octagon all round. Nose line thick and broken.

- 24 "IE" of "CALEDONIE" joined and faulty. Nose touches pearl. Black mass between back of neck and octagon.
- 25 In "CALEDONIE," "AL" joined and "D" like "O." Line broken under "T" in "POSTES." Black blob below lobe of ear.
- 26 "EDON" in "CALEDONIE" illegible. Small "O" in "POSTES." Black forelock on head.
- 27 Back of head rests on a black cushion. Behind eye, a mark like "L" projects from hair.
- 28 *"ON" in "CALEDONIE" blurred. Head touches n.e. side of octagon.
- 29 *First "10c" blurred. Short "T" in "POSTES." Heavy black line around nose and mouth.
- 30 "DO" in "CALEDONIE" joined. Line broken under "PO" in "POSTES." Overlapping line above second "10c."

4th Row

- No.
- 31 *"O" in "CALEDONIE" broken. "TE" in "POSTES" joined.
- 32 In "CALEDONIE," first "E" like "I," and three vertical marks above second "E."
- 33 Small "O" in "POSTES." Forehead touches 3 pearls.
- 34 *First "E" in "CALEDONIE" blurred. "ES" in "POSTES" blurred. Pearls in n.e. corner between double lines.
- 35 "POSTES" in minute letters. Head touches pearls. Gap between nose and moustache.
- 36 "D" in "CALEDONIE" like a "U." Second "10c" too near the centre. Top and back of head touch pearls.
- 37 First "E" in "CALEDONIE" like an "8." "P" and "O" joined in "POSTES." Three pearls below head between double lines.
- 38 In "CALEDONIE," flaw in first "E" and "D" like "U." Figures in first "10c" joined. Second "10c" imperfect. Five pearls on top of head.
- 39 Line broken under first "10c." Short "P" and "T" in "POSTES." Head touches octagon.
- 40 First "E" in "CALEDONIE" like "6." Figures in first "10c" joined and illegible. "c" in second "10c" missing.

5th Row

- No.
- 41 *"POSTES" hardly legible. Figures in second "10c" joined. Heavy profile line on nose.
- 42 *"C" instead of "D" in "CALEDONIE." Vertical line on top of bar of "E" in "POSTES." Head appears cracked and spots above eye and on nose.
- 43 *First "E" in "CALEDONIE" like "P." First "10c" faulty. Forehead and beard pressed into pearls.
- 44 *In "CALEDONIE," "D" like "U" and "N" faulty. Second "10c" obliterated.
- 45 *In "CALEDONIE," second "E" heavy and with extended centre bar. "O" in "POSTES" like a thick "T" and small second "S."
- 46 "POSTES" almost unreadable. Line broken above first "10c" and "c" in second "10c" distorted.
- 47 "O" in "CALEDONIE" like "A." separate line below base of neck. First "c" imperfect. "P" of "POSTES" defective.
- 48 "N" in "CALEDONIE" like "M." Mark like "T" in lobe of ear. In moustache mark like inverted "T."
- 49 "D" in "CALEDONIE" like reversed "C." Short "T" in "POSTES" and "E" imperfect. First "10c" joined and illegible. Several pearls on head.
- 50 *"A" like "F" in "CALEDONIE." "ES" in "POSTES" and second "10c" unreadable. Outline of head broken in several places.

It will be observed that, wherever an asterisk appears in this list, the beard of Napoleon III touches the surrounding octagon. This noticeable feature enables the 16 stamps concerned to be put into a group (GROUP I) by themselves and their particular characteristics are:

GROUP I

Beard of Napoleon III touching octagon

(a) Inscription

	Stamp No.
(i) CALEDONIE	
"CA" joined	5
"DO" joined	7
"ON" blurred	28
"O" broken	31
First "E" blurred	34
"C" instead of "D"	42
First "E" like "P"	43
"D" like "U" and "N" faulty	44
Second "E" heavy and with extended centrebar	45
"A" like "F"	50
(ii) 10c (first)	
Blurred	29
Faulty	43
(iii) POSTES	
"J" instead of "T"	4
Line missing above	7
Short "T"	14, 29
"P" missing and whole word unreadable	23
"TE" joined	31
"ES" blurred	34
Hardly legible	41
Vertical lines on top bar of "E"	42
"O" like a thick "I" and second "S" small	45
"ES" unreadable	50
(iv) 10c (second)	
Line missing above	7
"O" like "C"	14
Joined	41
Obliterated	44
Unreadable	50

(b) Surround

(i) Octagon	
Stands clear of pearls all round	23
n.e. side touches head	28
(ii) Pearls	
Above head like "NNJOS"	3
Touch beard, head (back) and nose	5
Touch nose	14
Stand clear of octagon all round	23
In n.e. corner between double lines	34
Forehead and beard pressed into	43

(c) Head of Napoleon III

(i) Beard	
Embedded in s.w. side of octagon	3

	Touches 2 pearls	5
	Pressed into pearls	43
(ii)	Ear	
	Black mass over front of	7
(iii)	Eye	
	Spots above	42
(iv)	Head	
	Back touches 2 pearls	5
	Break in head line	14
	Touches n.e. side of octagon	28
	Appears cracked	42
	Forehead pressed into pearls	43
	Outline broken in several places	50
(v)	Lips	
	Clear space between	4
(vi)	Moustache	
	Like "am"	3
(vii)	Mouth	
	Heavy black line around	29
(viii)	Nose	
	Touches 2 pearls	5
	Touches 1 pearl	14
	Nose line thick and broken	23
	Heavy black line around	29
	Heavy profile line on	41
	Spots on	42

(To be continued)

QUCEX

The Queensland Centenary Stamp Exhibition, a non-competitive exhibition, will be held in Brisbane City Hall on 5 and 6 June. It will be the first exhibition the Queensland Philatelic Society has held for 21 years.

The 4d. Centenary stamp will be issued on the first day of the exhibition, and specially-prepared jacaranda ink will be used for first day cancellations at the special post office. Special registration labels and first day covers will be available.

Collectors wanting the only official first day covers should send their remittance and order to the exhibition secretary (Mr G. J. Poulter), Post Office Box 4, Brisbane North Quay, Queensland.

Servicing costs are: cover with one stamp, posted to addresses within the British Commonwealth, 1/3; foreign mail, 1/7; airmail within Australia, 1/7; Registered, 1/4 extra. (This is made up of four of the commemorative issue.)

JOTTINGS FROM A COMMONWEALTH NOTEBOOK

By C. O. DUNN and J. P. MEARA

Recent developments in Australian issues and a number of factors, philatelic and otherwise, have precluded compilation of a suitable article, but we trust the following paragraphs on little-known items will prove of interest.

2d. Harbour Bridge Recess

This value was printed in sheets of 80 (10 × 8) and the plate dots have intrigued us for years. The *A.S.M.* of August 1932 records reference to these dots and dashes as identification marks which are found 15 mm. from the stamp frame on Plate 1 and 14 mm. from the stamp frame on Plates 2, 3 and 4, in line with the perforations between fourth and fifth rows.

Why does Plate 1 appear on the left side of the sheet with the dot above the line, whereas the other three are on the right selvedge with the dots below?

Many a time, Plate 4, if guillotined short, may be called Plate 3, but no confusion will be caused if one realises the line of dots on Plate 4 are not in a straight line but drop towards the right.

4d. Koala

Towards the end of its life in early 1957, the "Koala Plate" provided two worthwhile items, viz.:

(i) Plate Fracture: This extended for 18 mm. at an average 13 mm. below R10/2 right pane of an upper sheet (tentatively "A").

A limited number were available in Brisbane in June 1957, in perhaps the last distribution, and only slight development in the fracture was observed.



(ii) Electro Retouch: This appears to have resulted from slight damage in the top right corner of R10/1 left pane of a lower sheet (tentatively "D"). Four shading lines above last "A" of "Australia" to the inner frame comprise the main recutting but attention has also been given the border lines between the frames in the corner.

This position sheet, whose gutter lines extend fully 3 mm. into the top selvedge, also has a small circular colour flaw 4 mm. from L.L.C. and $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. below the

frame of R9/2 left pane. This flaw persisted from the early Authority imprint issues and was possibly an electro flaw unless it was a plate flaw removed from the electro when the above recutting was effected.

Other items obtained just prior to discontinuance of sales were a double perforation of the first vertical column and pieces with strong ink stripping to present a "White Bear."

6d. Kookaburra

The Roving Pip: Sheets of this value were recently available in Brisbane with Type III pips—two large and one small—but sheet B which contains the re-entries on left pane R6/3, R8/3 surprisingly featured the "Roving Pip." In Types III and IV one 3 mm. diameter pip is located centrally above or below the gutter lines, but an error of judgment is the probable explanation for the appearance of a 3 mm. diameter pip diagonally opposite the top left corner of R1/1 left pane, that is, midway between the central vertical layout line and the first perf. column.

The necessarily large piece with re-entries and four pips in combination makes a nice album page.

9d. Platypus

About April 1953, the imprint was removed from this value but it is perhaps pertinent to recall the notes in a contemporary journal (*Australian Stamp Monthly*, November '55, p. 700) and inquire the results of any research. As a stimulant, may we instance sheet D, so called because (i) perf. pips are on right, (ii) the central vertical layout line—corresponding to the central horizontal line on current issues—and guide dots appear on the left and are duplicated towards the bottom of the sheet, (iii) a strip of base selvage $21\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide shows no layout line. Three watermarked imprint blocks from the lower corner offer the following in regard to the shading around "Platypus" on R10/1 and R10/2:

- (a) Shading lines light and of regular normality.
- (b) "Platypus" surrounded by white area but the only two lines above the lower frame of each unit are of the greater strength suggestive of recutting.
- (c) Shading lines tend to normality but three and four lines respectively above the lower frame are rather indicative of recutting.

Some blocks, with and without imprint, from other positions also suggest recutting to the lower lines and it is possible the last two electros produced prior to 1953 may have shown original weakness in the areas referred to.

3d. Queen Elizabeth II

How closely do we examine our stamps, although we consider ourselves fortunate in our finds? The recent reports in *Australian Stamp Monthly* of the retouch to the Queen's hair on R1/7 right pane prove that many of us fail to observe completely.

This retouch, neat but difficult to describe, occurs on sheet D and is best taken in a block of nine preferably, or six, to include the weak entry top left corner on R3/8.

It is an electro retouch, current from 1956 at least, and from material in our possession there would appear to be four types of recut to this unit.

3½d. Queen Elizabeth II Booklets

In our study (*P. from A.*, December '56, p. 122) it was recorded certain booklets were found in which the top pane of six stamps was from the left set of panels, whereas the lower pane was from the right group of panels and that "the reason for this isolated departure from the normal procedure is not quite apparent."

The explanation is extremely simple, viz., a collating table. A collating table is a circular table revolving around a central axis and on this table are placed the piles of the component sheets for the booklets, first the back cover, then "Special Postal Services, followed by stamps, postal rates, stamps and finally the front cover, and, where appropriate, interleaving for tropical booklets.

As the table revolves the assembler takes one sheet from each pile, and when as in the above case the stamps come from different groups, one bundle of stamp sheets comprises a quantity of left sheets placed with a number of right sheets.

10d. Queen Elizabeth II

Sheets of various values are frequently distributed for sale in left or right panes only, the balance being guillotined off. These panes are referred to as "spoils" and about Christmas 1958 a number of spoils were in evidence in Brisbane, including panes of the 10d. value.

One right pane of 10d. sheet A guillotined left of the left gutter line bore the ineffectively erased pencilled "94 spoils" immediately over the gutter lines and the first stamp.

It is wondered how often pieces of such philatelic interest pass unnoticed.

Referring to our article in *P. from A.*, September 1957, in which reference was made in the last paragraph (p. 74) to the recut to R1/1 right pane sheet B. Further study indicates that the recutting to the top of the inner left frames of every fourth unit on sheet B was effected on the master plate, but in the instance of R1/1 the recutting of the ends of the shading lines 14-16 and 14-18 was obviously done on the two electros used.

3½d. Christmas 1957

A neat electro retouch to weak cross-hatching above 3½d. occurs on R1/7 sheet C. The seventh and eighth horizontal lines and five diagonal lines in an area 2 mm. and 1½ mm. high have been somewhat strengthened, the original weakness being slightly apparent. The sheet from a second electro is quite normal and the identifying plate features of sheet C are:

R1/6 Broken scratch 7 mm. above frame extending from star to child's head.
R2/4, 6/2, 6/3, 7/3 Weakness to shading lower left corner.



REVIEWS

Philately from Australia. Cumulative Index to Vols. I-X (1949-1958), by H. L. Chisholm. 23 pp. 6½ x 9½ in. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. 7/6.

Compilers of bibliographies and of such indexes as this place all of us under a deep debt of gratitude. From time to time articles or items of information that we do not wish to forget appear in one or other of the philatelic journals. Many of us no doubt have some rough and ready system of noting them, but notes seem inevitably to get mislaid, and systems get out of hand. Apart from all this is the great wealth of information that appeared in such journals in the years before our interest in philately began. The only satisfactory solution to the problem is a cumulative index to each journal. We now have such an Index for *Philately from Australia*.

In this Index, containing more than 800 references, Mr Chisholm has provided us with a clear and logical listing of everything of permanent value that has appeared in *P. from A.* in its first ten years. With its system of cross-references it is designed to help the enquirer in search of information. It is a list not only of articles but also of references within articles.

This reviewer has been associated with *P. from A.* since its inception, but on working through Mr Chisholm's Index two things struck him very forcibly. One was the disquieting fact that over the years he had completely forgotten about certain items dealing directly with his own special interests. The other was the amount and range of material that has been published in the journal. Commonwealth specialists will find this Index invaluable. But so also will collectors of Pacific Islands or Australian States.

The book is uniform in size and cover with *P. from A.* It is planned to issue similar cumulative indexes each succeeding ten years.

J.C.W.B.

Philatelic Societies' Year Book, 1958-59. 130 pp. 4¼ x 7¼ in. Published by the British Philatelic Association, 3 Berners Street, London, W.1. Price 2/- (stg).

No unbelieving Philistine who picks up this pocket-size annual can have any doubt

as to the breadth, depth, or permanence of philately.

Here are listed hundreds of societies and groups, from, for example, Arboath and District and Glazo societies to the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Incidentally, Cambridge University can now boast a philatelic society but not Oxford University.

Its lengthy list of specialist circles and study groups and their secretaries will be of especial interest to Australians and New Zealanders.

The Year Book should not be forgotten by those going to Britain, as it will enable them to locate the society nearest their abode, and enjoy the goodfellowship which will surely await them.

United States RF (Republique Francaise) Overprints on Air Mail Stamps and Stationery, 1944-45 by Henry M. Goodkind. 64 pp. 7 x 10 in. Published by The Collectors' Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N.Y., U.S.A. Price \$2.

The indefatigable Mr Goodkind has put the fruits of 14 years intensive study of the RF overprints which appeared on U.S. air stamps and postal stationery during the latter part of World War II.

Like an Intelligence Officer, he has collected all available specimens of the stamps—which were never "issued"—gathered with the help of other specialists, all the information available, collated it, and with patience, intelligence, and skill, has deduced and established the story of these intriguing stamps.

How deep was their mystery may be gleaned from the facts Mr Goodkind has found:

The rubber-stamp, potato, or manuscript overprints, were applied to airmail for the United States and Canada by the men of Free French warships and dockyards.

They were authorised by the Chief of the French Naval Bureau of Oran, at Algiers, at the request of the American Fleet Post Office at Casablanca.

They were used to distinguish French air mail from U.S. air mail, which had priority.

Of 355 covers examined, only 200 were genuine, the others "questionable."

There were only 10 types of genuine overprint (Sanabria lists 13 types) and

several of the Scott listings could "not be accepted without question."

"Unused stamps and stamped envelopes with RF overprints do not seem to be genuine" although catalogued.

Genuine, fake, and "doubtful" covers are extensively illustrated and annotated.

The brochure is a splendid example of the intellectual character of philately. The study was clearly a worthwhile one. Mr Goodkind has carried it out more than admirably, and the production testifies to the fact that the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund is being worthily used.

Thirty-third Annual Resume of the H. R. Harmer Organisation, Season 1957-58. 36 pp. 7 1/4 x 9 1/2 in. Published by H. R. Harmer Ltd, 41 New Bond Street, London W1. Price 2s. stg.

Harmer's New York auction turnover for the season was \$1,874,801, the largest in philatelic history, and without the Caspary sales, was \$887,575—10% above the previous non-Caspary record. London's total, £292,085, was "appreciably below the previous season" but the level of prices was "more than satisfactorily maintained."

Sydney reported an increase in the demand for unusual items in first class condition and an increased market for foreign issues, notable commemorative and pictorial issues of the 20th century. The Montgomery Hamilton New Zealand brought £5295.

Noteworthy prices were: the famous cover with 2c and 5c Hawaiian Missionaries and pair of U.S. 3c 1851 (*P. from A.*, Dec. 1957, p. 104) \$25,000 (highest amount ever paid for a cover at auction); Belgium 1850 unique panes of 100 10c and 20c \$48,000 (record for philatelic auction lot), Mauritius unique unused block of 1d Post Paid, earliest impression, which was reproduced on the preliminary auction brochure \$18,500.

Mauritius-Seychelles Study Group Occasional Papers, Nos. 1-5. Duplicated. Published by George R. Wren, 437 30th Street NW, Canton 9, Ohio, U.S.A.

Since June 1957 the "occasional papers" of Mauritius-Seychelles Study Group have been sent by Mr Wren quarterly, giving news of this unusual and geographically

widespread group. Its research works, which cover the "B53" cancellations of Port Louis (a subject more complex than that of Kingston "AOI" but seemingly less complex than that of Hong Kong "B62"), supplements Mr H. V. Farmer's "Seychelles: Postage Stamps and Postal History" including notes on the 5c and 45c 1957 provisional and on marks, including German shipmarks (the gap noted in the *P. from A.* review is narrowed, not closed) and a useful bibliography of Mauritius.

Considering that Mauritius has been for generations the goldfield, or the Fort Knox, of classical philately within British areas and that Seychelles, in spite of too frequent surcharges, has a good popularity classification among collectors, it is sad to note how limited is the membership of this "no subscription" group.

Unfortunately, what costs nothing is perhaps slightly ill-regarded and a subscription, such as the 10s. 6d. sterling required by the British West Indies Study Group, might help in providing for an advance on Ditto masters as a bulletin process, since illustrations are required. Incidentally, the Hong Kong Study Circle has made use of transparencies for circulating postmark information.

Progress will be watched with sympathetic interest both by specialist interests and by those who hope to see co-operative philately progress on a wider basis than is possible in such hard-working but necessarily geographically compact circles.

Mr Wren has shown great enterprise and deserves credit for his skill in selecting different co-ordinators for each project.

We may well wish it all good fortune, on both sides of the Atlantic and the English Channel. Considering the old sugar connection between Melbourne and Port Louis, Australian membership ought to increase. Or begin?

P.J.

Early Channel Islands Postal History and Notes on Other Material, by William Newport. 40 pp. 4 1/4 x 7 1/4 in. Published by the Channel Islands Specialists' Society, Farm Cottage, 33 Halfway Street, Sidcup, Kent. Price 7/9 (stg).

This is both the beginning and the end. It is the final booklet in the series of nine

that, together, form a comprehensive handbook on the posts in the Channel Islands. But it is the first section, if the booklets be arranged as chapters in a handbook, to provide, so far as possible, a chronological story.

This booklet covers the letter forwarding agents, from 1673, the establishment of the postal service in 1794, postal markings to 1830, ship letters, the Channel Islands Packets, wrecks, the handstruck Penny and Twopenny stamps, and roadside letter boxes. The "Other Material" section includes the Edward VII £1 forgery, with forged Jersey postmark, the Jersey P.O.W. camp, 1915, the regional stamps, and a guide to values.

Interesting quotation: "In November 1852 the first letter boxes in the United Kingdom were erected experimentally in Jersey, at the instance of Anthony Trollope, the novelist. Trollope was a post office surveyor and his district at that time included the Channel Islands."

One can pay the same tribute to this booklet as to the work as a whole. It is a remarkably detailed and comprehensive study, quite beyond reasonable expectations. Mr Newport is deserving of thanks and congratulations and the society has good reason to be pleased with the results of its foresight and enterprise.

The Mails Went Through, by R. M. Startup. 186 pp. 8 x 10 in., 2 plates, mimeographed. Limited edition. Published by the author, Box 275, Masterton, New Zealand.

Korean War: N.Z. Military Postal Services, 1950-57, by R. M. Startup. 30 pp. 8½ x 10¼ in., mimeographed. Limited edition. Published by the author, Box 275 Masterton, New Zealand.

In these two books, Mr Startup has presented the full history of the N.Z. wartime postal services in World War II, B.C.O.F. and the Korean War. He is a worthy member of that band of enthusiasts, like the late Captain H. S. Porter, whose researches have torn away the screens of security to disclose the story told by the postmarks and give a meaning to wartime covers.

With characteristic New Zealand thoroughness, the books cover the organisation of the

postal services, stamps and stationery used, transport of mails, N.Z. navy, army and air force, prisoners of war, and the American forces in New Zealand.

Based on an intensive study of official records and a large number of covers, Mr Startup's works give a full picture of the postal services, including the evacuations of Greece and Crete, and presenting also, useful non-philatelic information such as a list of New Zealand Squadrons in the R.A.F. and a map showing the ebb and flow of the war in Korea.

The Mails Went Through amplifies the information in Vol. III of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* and all philatelic details are clearly set out, including the list of stamps of all countries known to be used by the New Zealanders on active service.

Mr Startup reinforces the statement that the letters "KW" in New Zealand army postmarks were not a contraction of "Kiwi." "In the official records there is definite denial of this . . . but the choice of KW for security appears rather useless," he says. The letters were chosen as being simple to reproduce.

A discovery is that of KW17, a military post office in Egypt, not recorded anywhere in the official records, or in the N.Z. handbook. Details of the cancellation are given.

On the other hand, Mr Startup says the postmark of the N.Z. Civil Construction Unit in Fiji has not been recorded. He thinks it probably bears the inscription "C.C.U. Post Office, Namaka, Fiji."

These two examples testify to the energy and patience with which he has worked to give collectors two books that will be of lasting usefulness to them.

A Philatelic Study of the Olympic Games, Part Two, by Ernest Trory. 9 iv pp. 9½ x 10¼ in. Published by Crabtree Press Ltd, 57 Tivoli Crescent, Brighton 5, Sussex, England. Price 8/6 (stg).

Anything to do with Olympic Games will always have a special appeal for Melbourne, whose 1956 Games have received philatelic recognition on a scale previously undreamed.

This beautifully printed work, on heavy art paper, is designed for loose-leaf binding

and is punched with holes to fit any standard British or American peg-fitting album.

Part One dealt with 1896 and 1906 Greek issues. Part Two deals with London 1908, Stockholm 1912, Antwerp 1920, and the Games that were to have been held in Berlin 1916. It presents a complete catalogue of all the stamps, postmarks, and special labels in connection with them, and current market valuations of items mentioned in both Parts now published.

It was inevitable that the Olympics would form the subject of a philatelic book. It is fortunate that the task should have been undertaken by so thorough and careful a philatelist.

Zumstein Europa Katalog, 1959. 42nd Edition. xvi 1416 pp. 8 x 5 in. Published by Zumstein & Cie, Berne, Switzerland.

Zumstein appears again, 40 pages larger than before, and containing about 120,000 prices. All the features that have won its unique international reputation have been maintained.

It lists in great detail the stamps of Europe, European post offices abroad, and former German colonies, a field receiving increasing interest and attention in Australia.

Heavy price rises are noticed in important Italian and Vatican commemorative issues. Germany, Saar, and France show many marked rises, and of course, Switzerland shares in the upward trend.

The attention paid to miniature sheets and to issues not listed elsewhere add to the usefulness of the catalogue.

The introduction is in English; the text in German, and prices in Swiss francs, easily convertible into terms of Australian currency.

The Eagle. Vol. 1, No. 1. 20 pp. 8½ x 11 in. Mimeographed. Published by the Study Circle of the French Colonial General Issues, a Chapter of the France and Colonies Group. Leo F. Goerth, 386 East York Street, Akron (10), Ohio, U.S.A.

A philatelic periodical whose raison d'être is uncompromisingly the classic "Eagle" stamps of the first French Colonial general issues undoubtedly reflects the un-

bounded faith of the co-editors in a chosen field.

Of recent years there has been demonstrated a strong upsurge of interest in French Colonial issues, and early issues particularly, to the extent that a specialized study circle within a group has emerged.

The Eagle's contents comprise mainly a translated article by Dr Bouvat on Reunion and, more extensively, a well-illustrated and descriptive catalogue of cancellations associated with the 10c. Eagle stamp, and from a group of colonies.

With shorter articles and notes the journal is admirably reflective of its aim and is a noted entrant in the very small field of specialized philatelic publications. We would wish it every success.

—P.C.

Rotary International on Stamps, by Daniel F. Lincoln (Editor). Topical Handbook No. 17. 36 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by the American Topical Association, 3006 North 50th Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Price \$3.

With immense care and the world-wide resources of Rotarian philatelists, Mr Lincoln has collated virtually all available information about the philatelic aspects of Rotary International's golden anniversary in 1955.

The handbook opens with Rotary's early philatelic recognition, beginning with the Rotary Day postmark at Cleveland, Ohio, in 1929.

Twenty-seven countries issued stamps for the Rotary anniversary and all details are listed—designers, engravers, printers, quantities, and varieties.

Postmarks, cachets, commemorative envelopes and miniature sheets are all listed and figure among the hundreds of illustrations.

The French section merits special attention as it records imperfs, presentation sheets, artists' proofs, and colour trials.

As a footnote to each country, details of its Rotary movement are recorded.

Those responsible for a fine production deserve congratulations for having gathered the information while it was available, and published it so comprehensively, so quickly.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- April
7 Old Victoria Group
Library and Conversation
16 Mr W. M. Holbeach: Commonwealth
Balwyn Philatelic Society Visit
30 Miss J. Resch: Commonwealth—Four electros
in the 1½d. George V
- May
5 Old Victoria Group
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2 Old Victoria Group
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Annual Competition entries close
18 Annual Competition

Social Evening

Stamps are the main interest of a philatelic society, but they are not the only one. That was clearly evident at a social evening held at the new headquarters early in December.

A very happy evening was spent by a large number of members and their wives, who were received by the president (Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson) and Mrs Hodgkinson.

The main item was a screening of colour slides made by members. These, besides being of high quality, revealed the travels and interests of those who made them.

The exhibitors and their subjects were:

Miss J. Resch, Alice Springs and Ayers Rock; Mr R. Hake, his voyage from England to Australia; Mr E. G. Creed, London by night and the Panama Canal; Mr E. B. Doery, Australian scenes; Mr F. A. Ladbury, Victorian scenes; and Mr J. Gartner, general European.

A sumptuous buffet supper was provided by the ladies' committee. The evening was a double success: the Building Fund benefited substantially and the members became more closely acquainted with each other—and liked the experience.

Great Britain

Mr R. Hake presented portion of his extensive Great Britain collection at the December meeting.

He chose postal markings for the backbone of his display, which began with six sheets of early town postmarks of different types. The oldest was 1738. These were followed by three early London Post covers, a scarce Sunday mark and five free letters of the Parliamentary System; a returned letter folder, 1837, and early missent marks.

There was a Mulready letter from Ireland; 1d. Black, Plate 11; London postmark No. 2 in Maltese Cross on 1d. black, a scarce item; and 14 sheets of the 1841 1d. red-brown.

Then came examples of Penny Post stamps used as name stamps after the introduction of stamps, a scarce blue village postmark without date, Wessex cancellations, and Uniform Penny Post marks.

Numeral cancellations (British Isles) were 023, B36, C33, D57, E77, F36, and J19. Four covers with examiners' marks were shown and one of the little-understood V.R. cancellations.

The stamps included the Oxford Union Society overprint, 1d. Venetian Red, 1L80, imperf., two strips of surface printed essays giving a total of six designs, the K.G.V. (1912-22) 1d. scarlet with "Q" flaw and the 1½d. with "F" for "E" in "Halfpence."

Air Mails

The January display was Historic Air Mails by Mr H. L. Chisholm.

The exhibitor said the progress of aviation was recorded in the albums of philatelists. The first stage—the precursors—were the balloon and pigeon posts of the Siege of Paris, 1870-71; and the Great Barrier Pigeon posts of 1896-1908. The second stage was the pioneer aeroplane and airship flights, from about 1910 to 1919, when the airmail had become international. The third stage was the great long distance flights such as Hawker, Ross Smith, Cobham, and Kingsford Smith; and the fourth was the great trunk airliners flying regular services over the routes they had pioneered.

He opened his display with Paris Ballon Montes, including one with the special red postmark "Paris (SC)," the only postal marking of the Siege, and a pigeon pellicule.

The aeroplane section began with a registered cover from the world's first official air mail, Allahabad-Naini, 1911, and one of the rare autographed cards, but with the postmark applied in black instead of magenta and then applied again in the correct colour as a cachet; Windsor-London 1911, Guillaux and Basil Watson, Capetown 1918, and Toronto-New York 1919.

The long-distance flights included Ross Smith; Cobham, Calcutta-London, 1925; Lemaître and Arrachard, Paris-Dakar, 1925; Balbo, Rome-Rio, 1930, autographed by him and 18 of his pilots and bearing his official seal; and Rome-New York, 1933; Graf Zeppelin and Dornier Do.X. covers, and the first flights between France and New Caledonia, that from Noumea being from the Governor to the Minister of the Colonies.

Switzerland

A fine used copy of the 6 rappen Zurich cantonal, 1843, black with horizontal red lines, was one of the highlights of Mr H. A. Clarkson's display of Switzerland at the February meeting.

The 1850-52 Federal issues were notable for several nice copies of the 10 rappen black and red on yellow paper, and two most attractive 1853 covers. One bore a single, and the other a pair of this stamp.

The specimens of the 5 rappen light blue and red included a nice pair.

Mr Clarkson also showed various "silk thread" stamps of the 1854-62 "Sitting Helvetia" period.

Later issues included a 1fr. 20c. lake and rose HPLVETIA variety.

There were complete mint sets of the 1941 historical, 1942 salvage campaign, 1945 peace, and 1947 railway centennial issues. The railway issue included the broken wheel variety of the 5c. in block.

The airmails were complete, mint and used. They included a FDC of the beautiful 1949 1fr. 50c. purple and yellow glider and symbol of aerodynamics.

Miniature sheets included the Naba used, Life-boat, mint and used, and Lunaba.

Children's Fund issues include coats of arms, costumes and portraits, alpine flowers, butterflies and insects, and garden flowers.

National festival and publicity issues, mint and used, completed the display.

Library Notes

Prior to acquiring our own home, space was a major obstacle to any programme of library expansion. Now that we are adequately housed, every effort is being made to fill the gaps in handbooks and periodicals.

Much progress has been made in the past two years, and valuable contributions by Mr P. Collas of Melbourne, and Mr Romney Gibbons, of Sydney, form a substantial part of a supplement to the Library Catalogue which it is hoped to publish later this year.

The librarian would welcome assistance in filling gaps, and would welcome offers, or correspondence with fellow librarians with a view to exchange, addressed to him at Box 222, Melbourne.

Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

We need complete volumes 23, 33, 38, 53 and the following numbers:

- Vol. 24—January, September 1914
25—December 1915
27—May to September 1917

- 28—February, March, September 1918
29—August 1919
30—February, March, June, 1920
31—March, September 1921
32—July 1922
52—October-December 1942.

We can offer spare volumes of 47, 51 bound, and 56, 60 to 65 inclusive, all unbound, and about 150 copies ranging over volumes 28 to 59.

The Philatelist

We need complete volumes 1 to 7 inclusive, and the following numbers:

- | Vol. 8 | Nos. 5, 8, 10, 12 |
|--------|-------------------|
| 9 | 3, 6, 9 |
| 10 | 2, 3, 9, 12 |
| 12 | 1, 2, 3, 6, 12 |
| 14 | 3, 8, 9, 10 |
| 18 | 11 |

Collectors' Club Philatelist

We need complete volumes 1, 2, 15, 17, 18, 21 and the following numbers:

- | Vol. 3 | Nos. 1, 3 |
|--------|-----------|
| 6 | 1 |
| 8 | 2, 3 |
| 11 | 3, 4 |
| 12 | 4 |
| 13 | 1 |
| 14 | 1, 4 |
| 16 | 4 |
| 20 | 2, 4 |

Mercury Stamp Journal

We need numbers 7, 10 and 19.

The library has a good deal of duplicate material in Australian journals, and enquiry is invited.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

- April
14 Mr G. L. Rogers: Cape of Good Hope
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- May
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Mr D. Colville: Falkland Islands
- June
9 Mr T. H. Stone: Victoria
- July
14 Annual Meeting

Annual Meeting

Members are reminded that the annual meeting of the club will be held on Tuesday, 14 July. In accordance with the rules, nominations for office for the 1959-60 year should be lodged with the Secretary, Box 1751, G.P.O., Sydney, not later than Monday, 29 June.

ANPEX

Congratulations are extended to all members of the club who gained awards at ANPEX 1959. The standard of entries was generally very high and the many visitors to the exhibition were enthusiastic regarding the strength of the entries as shown by the display sheets on view at the Sydney Town Hall. Tributes were paid to the manner in which the sheets were displayed and to the lighting.

Ladies' Night

Once again, the lady members of the club combined to produce an excellent display at the December meeting.

The items were introduced by Miss M. Salier and comprised: Christmas Seals, Miss R. Gourley; France, a study of SG 508, with various Stamp Day Covers and Maximum Cards, Mrs J. A. Fell; "Tin Can" Mail, Antarctica and First Flight Covers, Miss E. M. Kendall; Cape of Good Hope triangulars, Mrs R. Ross; Cyprus and Malta King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II issues, Miss V. Zowe; U.S.A. covers and postcards, air mail covers and reply cards of the 1958 revaluations, Miss Salier; Astronomy, Mrs J. A. Clayton; Afghanistan, Mrs J. S. Haddon; and Flora and Fauna, Miss M. Dunkin.

Supper was served at the conclusion and the Christmas Cake, prepared by the President's daughter, Mrs W. J. Carter, was again a feature of the evening.

New Zealand

Mr J. S. White presented a portion of his notable collection of New Zealand at the January meeting.

He concentrated on the "Full Face Queens" and produced a remarkable showing.

Beginning with two sheets of pre-stamp covers, Mr White very thoroughly traversed the back-

ground of the stamps shown. He traced the various papers, inks and watermarks, including beautiful examples of the Perkins Bacon London prints and the locally printed Richardson items in all their aspects.

Air Mails

The February meeting was devoted to a display from the remarkable collection of Air Mails put together by Mr Frank Hill. The following items were noticed in the sheets displayed: The mint issue of 1921-22 of Memel with a number of varieties including surcharge inverted and the rare 2M. with transparent overprint; 1930 Bolivia mint with one showing the rare double overprint (both inverted); the Balbo flight issue of Iceland both

mint and flown; the Ile de France issue with 10 Fr. on cover; the Mexico University set of 1934 mint; varieties of the 1928 Lebanon issue; the mint 1940 set of French West Africa with key plate showing name vacant; and cover flown by Aviator Roffey from New Caledonia (26 May 1931) with French stamps overprinted "Par Avion," one with double overprint.

Sale by Tender

A Sale by Tender of material from the collection of the late Harry S. Porter will be held on Tuesday, 28 April, in the club's meeting room. Catalogues will be available shortly. Country and interstate members are asked to make early application to the secretary for their catalogues.

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

GUY ROUND probably handles better stamps than he collects (his collecting is confined to Papua and New Guinea) for he is the representative of Robson Lowe Ltd in Australia. His hobby, aside from stamps, is racing. As a matter of fact he used to be quite a horseman—Steeplechase, Point-to-Point, Flemington, and so on. Army type, too. He was in the Indian Army, from which he retired with the rank of Major. Flew during World War I. How many airmen who were in the 1914-18 dust-up are there who collect stamps? (Doc Heslop is one, we know!) Guy has been around a bit. He was in Malaya as a boy. England, France, India, Malaya, and now Australia.

Canon W. G. THOMAS, of Elsternwick, retired, (superannuated is the term, we believe!) now acts as Chaplain of the Chinese C. of E. Mission of the Epiphany, Melbourne. He also acts as Hon. Canon of the Mission of St. Peter and St. Paul in Dogara, New Guinea. At one stage he was Victorian Secretary of the Australian Board of Missions, but is now a private member, and on behalf of the Board has visited many parts of the Pacific, including Fiji, Tonga, Samoa, Nauru, New Guinea and New Caledonia. He can even natter in the Dogara dialect of Papua, and has a working knowledge of Chinese. Tells us he has been collecting stamps since boyhood, but let things slide until about 10 years ago when he started seriously to collect Great Britain and Australia (he's a penny-red fan). Always has a thought for his grandchildren—who collect stamps also—when the exchange sheets are sent round. In his spare time (ye gods!) he is a gardener with a special yen for irises.

JOHN TRESISE was a pioneer of the motor transport industry in a place called Serpentine, Victoria, where he now runs a poultry farm and does some grazing as a full-time job. As a sort of diversion, he is also an officer of the Water Commission for the Loddon River. Has been actively engaged in the development of irrigation from the Cairn Burrow reservoir, so, as you can see, he has little time for hobbies. Yet, this year, he is president of the Bendigo Philatelic Society, has been collecting stamps since 1914, has a good collection of Tonga, Fiji, Gilbert and Ellice and the Solomons and is now starting on his sixteenth album. John is, or has been, an executive of almost all local activities. If you want to find a busy man, that's John!

REG FERGUSON is one of our interstate members, hailing from Brisbane. He has a property out at Quilpie, Q., also, on which he grazes stock—when he can get grass and water! Has been collecting stamps for 10 years, and specialises in pennyposts. Reg is really a wool classer, and an Honour Graduate of the Sydney Technical College. To use his own words, he has a lifetime pastoral background, is hard-working, but poor! Served with the 2/9th Batt. A.I.F. in the 2nd World War, and came out of it totally and permanently disabled, although not an obvious invalid. He loves stamps for the clean hobby they represent, and says he is single, sober, and not a nice person to know. We don't agree with him! And if ever he's down this way, we'll be happy to see him.

The writer of this column has written to a number of our country and interstate members, but so far they have not all replied. For their information, may we inform them that our address is now 1495 High Street, Glen Iris? W.L.R.

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THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The Philatelic Society of Victoria, which was founded in 1892, and which in 1946 had the privilege conferred upon it of the use of the prefix "ROYAL," is a Society to which you, as a collector, should belong. Amongst its many advantages are:

★ **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.

★ **EXCHANGE BOOKS** circulate regularly within Australia to interested members.

★ **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.

★ **COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY** is open to members on Meeting Nights or by arrangement with the Librarian. Library Catalogues are sent to all members.

★ **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.

★ **THE SOCIETY'S FEES** are: Entrance Fee: £5/5/-; Annual Subscription: City and Metropolitan Members, £3/3/-; Country and Interstate Members, £1/10/-.

★ **ALL COMMUNICATIONS** SHOULD be directed to Miss M. FARLEY (Hon. Sec.), Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, C.1.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

FOUNDED 1890

★ **OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is posted free each quarter to all members.

★ **MEETING ROOM:** The Club meets at 8 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Board Room, 1st Floor, Trust Building, 155 King Street, Sydney.

★ **EXCHANGE BRANCH:** Members are entitled to receive the Exchange Books which circulate regularly within Australia.

★ **LIBRARY:** A library, comprising over 1000 volumes, is available for use of members by arrangement with the Librarian. Periodical supplements to the Library Catalogue are issued to members.



★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** Displays of interesting collections and philatelic items are a feature of the monthly meetings of the Club. It is the policy of the Club to bring to the members the best available displays, whilst Lectures and Discussions help to further the philatelic knowledge of members. The advice of members, expert in most branches of philately, is always available when requested.

★ **THE CLUB'S FEES** are: Entrance Fee £1/1/-; Annual Subscription due 1 July. Members residing within County of Cumberland £1/1/- (Juniors, i.e., under 18 years, 12/6). Members residing outside County of Cumberland 17/6 (Juniors 10/6).
(Subscriptions are payable in advance)

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H.B., Toronto, Canada

It only remains for me to thank you for the efficient way in which the whole transaction was carried out.

S.D-P., Torreón, Mexico

I appreciate fully what you have done in the past and confide fully in the activities of your firm, which I consider topmost ranking in the world.

J.J., New Zealand

May I also compliment you at this time on the composition of your auction catalogs. I thought the descriptions of the lots were particularly concise, thorough and complete.

J.G.V., Grand Rapids, U.S.A.

My compliments to you on getting this price and thus exceeding your estimated value. I am very pleased.

J.H.G., Devizes

I must say that this is the most personal service I have ever met and must really appreciate it in the highest way possible.

M.D., Malmo, Sweden

CAN WE HELP YOU?

Agent in Australia: *Guy Round*, 414 Toorak Road, Victoria

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