

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



*Published Quarterly by*  
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA  
*and*  
THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

VOL. XI, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1959

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Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical

# Philately from Australia

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

- (a) From *Australian* residents: 12/6d. per annum.  
(b) From *Overseas* residents: 10/6d. sterling for British Empire (ex. Canada) and \$2 for United States of America and Canada.

Orders for *back numbers* shall be at the above rates for full volumes and for single copies 3/6d. (Aust.), 3/- sterling (B.E.) and 75 cents (American). All back numbers can still be supplied.

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Cumulative Index, Vols. I-X (1949-1958):

Price, post free, 7/6      U.K. 6/3 stg.      U.S. \$1.00

## ADVERTISING RATES

	Single Insertion		FULL YEAR FOUR INSERTIONS	
	Aust.	Dollars	Aust.	Dollars
Covers	£10 0 0	40	£8 15 0 ea.	35 ea.
Full	8 15 0	30	7 10 0 ea.	25 ea.
Half	4 17 6	17	4 10 0 ea.	14 ea.
Quarter	3 10 0	10	3 5 0 ea.	8 ea.

Advertisements from non-dollar areas are at the sterling equivalent of the Australian currency.

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TWENTY-FIRST EDITION JUST PUBLISHED

THE  
Australian Commonwealth  
Specialists' Catalogue  
1960

PRICE 10/-



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*Published on behalf of the Royal Philatelic Society, London by  
Faber and Faber Limited, 24 Russell Square, London, W.C.1*

Price 75s. net (postage to the Commonwealth 3/4 extra) sterling

# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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*Editorial and Business Correspondence:* Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria.

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

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VOL. XI, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1959

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## ANTIPODEAN CONTRAST

Australia and New Zealand last year issued identical stamps to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the first air crossing of the Tasman Sea. A similar joint issue to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of Anzac is projected.

Hitherto they have been content to commemorate great imperial occasions in common, and remember together, yet separately, the 25th anniversary of Anzac.

The new degree of association invites an examination of their philatelic and postal policies; a comparison and a contrast between the Dominion of New Zealand and the Commonwealth of Australia, the two members of the Commonwealth who have most in common.

The two Dominions' stamp-issuing policy is naturally dominated by accessions to the Throne; and by the commemoration of great events affecting both.

Both commemorated the Silver Jubilee of King George V. Both had issues for Queen Elizabeth's Coronation and the Royal Tour of 1954.

Other mutual philatelic remembrances have been: the foundations of the two nations; Australian State and New Zealand Provincial Centenaries; stamp centennials, Anzac 1936, Pan-Pacific Scout Jamborees, and the Red Cross. Neither issued "Silver Weddings."

Beyond these occasions, the two nations who share so many similarities of geography, history, constitutional position, and currency, are philatelically almost as different as it is possible for them to be.

Australian philatelists have mainly surface-printed stamps to study; New Zealanders line-engraved ones.

Australia tends to manufacture her stamps herself; New Zealand to have dies and plates made abroad, at least—sometimes in Australia.

New Zealand generally produces a complete issue at the one time; Australia puts her sets out gradually.



New Zealand alternates an issue bearing the monarch's head with a pictorial issue; Australia now incorporates the two types within the same issue.

New Zealand, with its tendency to lower postage rates than Australia, makes 10s. the highest value of her ordinary postage stamps, whereas Australia has had £2 stamps since 1913. New Zealand uses fiscals for higher amounts.

She has also been the more conservative in her commemorative issues—no U.P.U., Rotary, Y.M.C.A., Young Farmers' Clubs, or Florence Nightingale issues, no Produce Food stamps and no special aerogrammes, although she issued War and Victory stamps for World War I and a King George VI Coronation set. But she levies toll on collectors with the annual Health stamps and has fallen from grace with her miniature sheets.

When the overseer in charge of the jobbing department at the N.Z. Government Printing Office was asked to provide a design for postage due stamps, he, apparently unwittingly, adopted the two-colour idea used in Victoria. And when Mr W. R. Bock was asked to submit an improved design, he based it on the Victorian set. Did Australia, when she adopted the Victorian design and value plates, take the green and red colour pattern from the other side of the Tasman?

And now New Zealand has followed Australian precedent by having a Mr J. Ash as her stamp printer. Like his Australian namesake, he understands the interests of philatelists, and he has accepted an invitation to address the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

But however they differ, however much they are alike, both countries will continue to provide philatelists with the things they love—beautiful and interesting stamps—the controversy and the conversation that go with them, and the opportunity for bigger, better, collections.

For these things, we thank them both.

## ANPEX 1963

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will conduct a National Philatelic Exhibition in the Melbourne Town Hall during September-October 1963.

The Council has appointed Mr J. R. W. Purves as chairman and will later appoint an executive council and chairman of sub-committees.

The Exhibition will commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the issue of Commonwealth stamps. The first definitive issues, the Kangaroos, were issued in 1913.

The control and ultimate financial responsibility for the Exhibition will be in the hands of the Society.

Opportunity, however, will be given to all Victorian and indeed interstate societies and collectors generally to co-operate and assist in making this Exhibition (ANPEX 1963) at least as great a success as any of its predecessors.

To ensure this, representations on sub-committees will be open to all, irrespective of society affiliations.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. C. W. BROWN

*An Early Booklet*

The 2s. booklets of 1910, containing eighteen 1d. and eleven  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. stamps, are scarce items. The only two specimens of which I have had first-hand knowledge had covers "black on white." Mr Frank Thornhill, Snr., has recently acquired one such booklet (containing N.S.W. stamps) with a cover "black on yellow."

These booklets often date themselves conveniently by the postal information given on their covers. On the back of Mr Thornhill's booklet the letter rate to the United Kingdom is given as 2d. per  $\frac{1}{2}$  oz. This places the booklet earlier than 1 May 1911, when one penny postage was established throughout the Commonwealth and Empire.

With the approaching increase in our letter rate this year one hears nostalgic references to the days of "penny postage." What few of us realise is that the Commonwealth of Australia enjoyed penny postage for less than eight years. It is true that for some years prior to 1911 individual states charged only one penny for letters to addresses within their own borders, but the rate for interstate letters was 2d. Penny postage in the full sense lasted only from May 1911 to November 1918.

### *More Kangaroo Early Dates*

Some time ago I expressed the opinion that the dating of a number of the Kangaroo issues could be improved upon. The following notes are some evidence of this.

*3d. Kangaroo, 3rd wmk (Cooke Plates):* The *Australian Philatelist* of December 1915 could only say of this stamp that it had "appeared recently." The same journal in its number of August 1922 gives November 1915 as the earliest date known. Mr W. M. Holbeach has recently shown me a specimen with the Adelaide Railway Late Fee postmark, clearly dated 27.10.15.

*3d. Kangaroo, 3rd wmk, Die 2B:* My earliest date for this stamp is now 27.1.23, but Mr Holbeach can beat this with a specimen dated 11.1.23.

*6d. Blue Kangaroo, Die 2B:* I now have this stamp dated 23.7.21 and 27.7.21,

both at Sydney. An interesting point about these two specimens is that both are in the "milky blue" shade of the previous issue, not the "violet blue" which has hitherto been considered the shade of the first Die 2B printing.

Incidentally, I have never been much enamoured of the term "milky blue" as applied to these stamps. Would not a better name for the shade be "pale lilac"? Such a name would have the further advantage of showing more clearly the relationship of the shade to the "violet blue" that followed it.

*1s. Kangaroo, 3rd wmk, Die 2B:* Mr Holbeach has this stamp dated 9 DE 20, at Sydney. The month in the postmark looks very much like "JE," but the only safe rule in reading postmarks is to be cautiously conservative. My own earliest is 31.12.20, at Melbourne.

## DINNER WILL CELEBRATE BUILDING FUND SUCCESS

The Royal Philatelic Society will hold a dinner at the Hotel Windsor on Friday, 2 October, to celebrate its attainment of full ownership of its new headquarters.

The dinner will begin at 6.30 p.m., with sherry at 6 p.m. Dress will be informal. Each member may bring one guest. Tickets, £3.

Repayment of the mortgages was finalised in July and the president (Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson) made the announcement that the society really owned its own headquarters at the annual meeting.

### *Sale of stamps donated realised:*

A. G. Brown	£2 12 6	C. G. C. Hodgkinson	1 12 6
Mrs I. Campe	10 0	A. E. Layton	8 10 0
Mrs H. Cass	10 6	J. Madden	2 10 0
P. Collas	5 0	C. McNaught (N.Z.)	1 0 0
E. G. Creed	73 8 0	K. J. McNaught (N.Z.)	6 5 0
J. Englander	12 2 6	J. R. W. Purves	37 1 9
F. H. Feibes	2 10 0	Purves and Gartner	1 7 0
S. Fountain	1 5 11	Mrs P. Rocke	11 10 0
L. Frank	2 19 6	H. Seligman	2 10 0
E. Gill (Britain)	8 0	T. H. Stone	10 0
Hamilton Estate	3 6 10	H. Taylor	1 17 6
H. V. Heinecke	10 0	Exchange Sheet Remainers	2 2 6
Hewett Estate	6 17 6	Unknown origin	3 1 0

### *Stamps have been donated by:*

Archdeacon Schofield, and Messrs A. G. H. Briskham, W. H. Bromfield (W.A.), J. R. W. Purves and Max Bulley.



# AUSTRALIA'S Q.E. II FOURPENCE, 1957

By J. P. MEARA and C. O. DUNN, in collaboration with R. F. ROLFE

This stamp was issued, unwatermarked, the colour claret varying from pale to rich deep, and became obsolete on 2 February 1959. In its short life of two years it presented an absorbing study from the technical viewpoint in that a variation of the general layout principle was involved. As with the 3½d. Q.E. II of 1953, it was subjected to the experimental changes in perforation pips.

*Master Plate.* This comprised 640 impressions arranged in the usual format to provide four sheets of 160 units in two panes of 80 (8 x 10) with stamp width NO LINE gutter between panes.

*Plate Layout.* Layout arcs of 13 mm. radius appear in each of the "inner" top corners of the upper sheets and in both lower corners of the lower sheets, the radial point being the adjacent stamp corner.

Hitherto, the horizontal layout guide dots have appeared in the line of the perforation columns at a more or less regular 13.5 mm. from the frames but with this value the method employed in laying out the plate and the absence of gutter lines strongly suggests that a new siderographer performed the work (refer also 10d. Q.E. II—P.F.A., September 1957).

The following table shows the irregularity of layout dot positions:

Sheet	Distance from frames		Dots in line with frame on
	Top	Bottom	
A	6mm.	2½-4mm.	Left
B	3-5mm.	3-4mm.	Left
C	2½-8mm. LP RP	8½-10mm.	Right
D	3-4mm.	6½mm.	Right

Vertical guide lines were drawn through the layout dots from top to bottom of the plate as on overlapping "middle" selvages, there are instances of guide lines in 3 mm. (stamp gutter) parallel, and traces remain on the sheets as extraneous vertical frames.

Additionally on sheet C the layout dots above RP 1/2 and below LP 10/3 and RP 10/2 are partially encircled by broken lines some 3-4 mm. in radius—a feature also observed on several other issues.

A further interesting point is the two arcs in the lower right corner of sheet C. The 13 mm. radius arc is vertically intersected in the line of the right frame and to the right of this vertical line portion of another arc is observed. The distance from the central vertical layout line to the adjacent frames is 19.5 mm. and using this radius a point on the centre line but 4 mm. below lower frame alignment will position this arc, thus adding further information on the layout procedure.

There are many hairlines and scratches on the sheets but reference is made to the series of scratches above the top left corner and centre of sheet A, also the strong group which extends below units 4 to 7 row 10 right pane of this sheet in the first printings.

The "grip indicators" are also evident opposite LP 10/1 of sheet A and in the opposing position on sheet B although on the latter two dots only appear on some electros.

While there is 3 mm. vertically between impressions horizontally there is alternatively 3 mm. and 2½ mm. indicating that the plate was laid down in vertical pairs.

*Perforation Pips.* The initial perf. pips (Type I) were the usual 1.5 mm. diameter circles with .5 mm. open centre punched at the top and bottom of the plate above and below the space between the first and second columns of impressions on each side of the central gutter between panes, with centres 13.4 mm. from the frames. For normal perforation the left pip was pierced by the pin when centring for perforation. The three successive variations which occurred were regarded as an experimental phase in an endeavour to determine a more suitable position to afford better centred stamps, the variations and dates of purchase in Brisbane being:

- Type II 28.7.57 A 3 mm. diameter inked circle with 1.5 mm. punchout was substituted for the small pip on the left.
- Type III 22.4.58 Additional to the Type II arrangement, a similar large pip (pierced) appeared in the same line but centrally above and below the gutter.
- Type IV 30.5.58 A reversion to Type I with the large pip (pierced) positioned in the centre.

It is likely the variations have earlier appearance dates.

#### VARIETIES

##### Left Pane

##### SHEET A

- Row 4/6 Outer left frame thinner for lower 7½ mm.—plate.  
5/6 Outer left frame very thin for lower 7½ mm.—plate.  
*RETOUCHED* to almost normal, tending to thickness, mid-1958, Type IV pips—electro.
- 6/6 Outer left frame thicker at top and irregular—plate.  
7/6 Outer left frame thinner upper half—plate.  
8/6 Outer left frame thin lower 7½ mm., irregular towards top—plate.  
10/6 Outer left frame thin centre—plate.

##### Right Pane

- Row 1/1 (a) Normal.  
(b) Vertical hairline apex of second A to base of Queen's neck, late 1958, Type III pips—electro.  
(c) Hairline removed, three lowest lines below neck *RETOUCHED* late 1958, Type III pips—electro.  
(A hairline similar to (b) was transient on stamp 1, booklet 5 of Panel I.)

##### SHEET B

##### Left Pane

- Row 1/8 (a) Heavy ¼ mm. colour flaw on seventh line up under Queen's neck with weak surrounds, possibly late 1957, Type III pips—electro.  
(b) Lowest ten lines heavily *RECUT* to remove flaw, used copy 20 FE or JE 58, Type III pips—electro. A worthwhile item.

*Right Pane*

- Row 2/6  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. circular colour flaw adjoining I of LIA on right, late 1958 or early 1959, Type IV pips—electro. (Earliest 12 MY 59.)
- 8/8 (a) Between "4" and "d" there are normally six short lines. On this unit the lowest two appear as one of double thickness. Probably *RECUT*—plate.
- (b) Left ends of lines 7 to 13 in front of neck lightly *RECUT* with some duplication. On same sheet as "I flaw" R2/6 above, late 1958 or early 1959, Type IV pips—electro. (Earliest used 4 MY 59.)

## SHEET C

*Left Pane*

- Rows 1/1, 1/5, 2/1, 2, 5, 6, 3/1 Minor roller shifts affecting left frame, also front of Queen's neck, best on column 1 units—plate.

*Right Pane*

- Row 1/3 Double-lined scratch above lower inner frame—variable but strong on first printings—probably plate.

## SHEET D

*Left Pane*

- Rows 6/5, 8/5 Fine vertical line inside outer right frame, probably unerased guide lines—plate.
- 7/4 1 mm. vertical line between left frames at lower corner, probably trace of badly placed entry—plate.

*Right Pane*

- Row 1/1 (a) Small colour blob between third short line at left and fourth line in front of neck—plate.
- (b) Three short lines at left and fourth line *RECUT*. Used copies 15 AP 59, 6 MY 59, most certainly Type IV pips—electro. (Identified by scratches above top frame.)
- 3/1 Four lowest lines in front of neck broken in centre instead of normal three—plate.
- 6/7 Left ends of lines 6 to 12 in front of neck *RECUT*, copy heavily machine cancelled Brisbane 18 MAY 59. Type III pips—electro.

## UNLOCATED RETOUCH

Lowest short line at left and lines 4 to 7 in front of neck *RECUT*, the short lines and line 7 strongly so. Copy dated Wardell, NSW, 18 JY 59. Most certainly electro recut and found on sheets with Types III or IV pips.

All the above eight recuts are readily discernible and it would appear the plate and/or electros were closely examined as the prior states were seemingly minor colour flaws or weaknesses.

*Electros.* In attempting to deduce the number of electros employed by the study of perf. pips and other markings, it is to be borne in mind:

(a) The initial perf. pips (Type I) were punched on the master plate and had an apparent availability of about four months before experimentation began;

(b) Type II was merely the super-imposition of a large pip on the left and Type III the addition of the large centre pip to Type II, therefore, the question arises whether the first three types might be found on sheets from the same electro, also whether Types II and III might possibly appear on new electros;

(c) As Type IV consists of the insertion of the large pip centrally between the two initial small pips, it follows that this type would probably exist only on new electros, though conceding the possibility that this large pip may also have been inserted on Type I electros as was the case with some other values;

(d) The number of these stamps printed is estimated at roughly 560 million, which would be equivalent to barely 900,000 full sheets of 640 units. Although a chrome surfaced printing plate may provide up to 200,000 impressions, its life can only be measured in terms of pressure and wear and assuming that 100,000 impressions is an average output there would be nine electros for this value. This is purely incidental cross-checking of what research reveals.

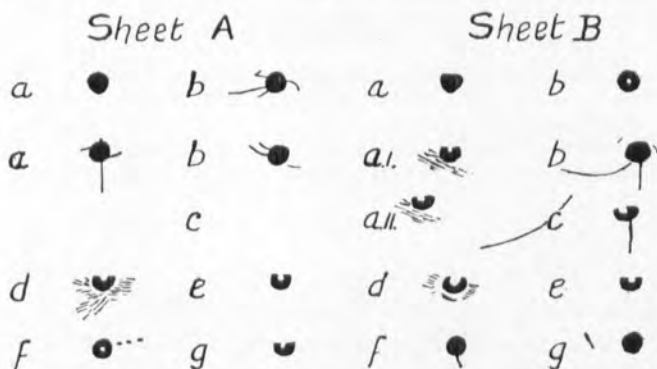
(e) Dates of appearance of pip varieties would differ by short periods according to supply from the various bulk distribution offices and it is worthy to compare the dates quoted with the dates of issue of the following commemoratives produced during the currency of this value thus reducing electro use, viz.:

<i>Date of Issue</i>	<i>Ad. Commemorative</i>	<i>Master Plate of</i>	<i>Pip Types</i>	<i>Number Issued</i>
17- 4-57	Cent. Resp. Govt. in S.A.	320	I	31,246,440
6-11-57	Christmas stamp	320	IV	94,333,200
10- 9-58	Broken Hill	320	V	38,091,680
5-11-58	Christmas Stamp	480	V	107,408,040

(f) Study in the main has been confined to the relevant "pip" blocks of eight which obviously limits scope so far as markings are concerned—the excuse is inability to "keep up" with everything philatelic.

(g) Factors associated with the production of and printing from each electro results in variable clarity of reproduction of the fine plate and electro markings and faint or non-appearance of these leads to fallacious conclusions (and disappointment!).

(h) There are no reports of known plate numbers.



As a greater quantity of upper sheet blocks is held, the electro study is concentrated on sheets A and B as follows:

<i>Pip Type and Appearance Date</i>	<i>Sheet A</i>	<i>Sheet B</i>
I o o 13.3.57	(a) Tiny circular flaw 12 mm. diag. opp. TRC. LP 1/8 (electro).	(a) Series short vertical lines (plate) above TLC RP 1/1 (very clear, see (g) above).

			(b) No distinguishing electro features.	(b) Only one faint line—see (g) above.
II	O o	28.7.57	(a) As above.	(a) As above, left pip flat s.e. corner.
			(b) As above.	(b) As above.
III	O O o	22.4.58	(a) As above. RP 1/1.	(a) As above, LP 1/8.
			(i) Normal.	(i) Neck colour flaw.
			(ii) A-line.	(ii) Heavy recut.
			(iii) Recut.	
			(b) As above.	(b) As above.
			(c) ? ?	(c) No features as (b).
IV	o O o	30.4.58	(d) See illustration.	(d) See illustration.
			(e) See LP 5/6 recut.	(e) See illustration.
			(f) See illustration.	(f) See illustration.
			(g) See illustration.	(g) See illustration. RP 8/8 electro recut.

For the initial printing, three electros would be prepared, two for affixing to the rotary press, one spare for emergency and at least one of these electros successively bore Types I, II and III pips—sheet A (a) above. If sheet B (a) does not belong to the same electro as A (a) then two initial electros bore three types. It is reasonable to infer that the first three electros were impressed with Type I, II and III pips as they would hardly have had sufficient use for any one to be discarded. Again assuming that Type IV pips were inserted on newly prepared electros, which is quite likely, a total of seven electros is accounted for. Alternatively, are there some we did not see?

A strong appeal is therefore made to all students to follow up with whatever information they might have.

### BOOKLETS

(This information is derived from our own research, observance of material in the PMG displays at ANPEX 1959 and QUCEX, and notes kindly furnished by Mr W. M. Holbeach, Melbourne. Research was much less comprehensive than that on the 3½d. Q.E. II booklets.)

*The Master Plate* comprised 576 units arranged in left and right panes of 288, 54 mm. apart, each pane with six panels of 48 units (16 x 3) and 9.5 mm. depth between panels. The base of each panel, also the outer pane margins and each alternate vertical column were imperforate so that the booklets were imperforate on three sides. Circles of 3 mm. diameter for assembling purposes were punched in line with the imperforate columns 17½ mm. above frames at top and 11½ mm. below frames at base of panes.

Type I perforation pips, 1.5 mm. diameter 40 mm. apart, were positioned centrally on each pane and in line with the fourth and fifth vertical perf. columns 12½ mm. distant from frames, while Plate No. 1 appeared at top and base 20 mm. and 21 mm. respectively from frames. The right pane displayed by the PMG Dept. also showed 1 mm. dashes 4½ mm. on either side of the plate number, and 12½-13 mm. on the right of the number both at top and base there were three horizontal lines 35 mm. long and spaced about 1 mm. apart. It is understood the left pane showed the three such lines on the left side of the plate number but NO dashes.

At the opposing corners at the base of each pane, i.e., the sixth panels, F and L, there appeared—seemingly after a short period—vertical lines whose tops were 1 mm. below and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to the left and right respectively of the adjacent stamp corners. If there were similar lines at the top corners of each booklet sheet some  $7\frac{1}{2}$  mm. above the frames, booklets which might have shown such were not encountered. It was observed that vertical guide lines extended from the top left and top right corners of the extreme opposing units in the first horizontal row of Panel "A." The lower "corner" lines were not in evidence on the displayed PMG material and their exact purpose remains to be ascertained.

Guide dots appeared between the lower corners of the extreme base units and were also noted between some top units of panel "A."

*Make-up and Covers.* Except for the stamps, the changed layout of the outside front cover and the amended rates of postage, these booklets were otherwise initially similar in composition to the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. Q.E. II booklets.

Three settings of the booklets exist due to amendments to the inset text as follows:

1. 13.3.57 The words "British Empire" appeared twice on the inside front cover and in five places in the text relating to Rates of Postage on the obverse of the first inset leaf.
2. 3.6.58 The word "Commonwealth" was substituted for "Empire" in the above seven instances.
3. late 58 Amendments to second setting by deletion of "over 1 lb. parcel rates apply" from second paragraph relating to merchandise on the reverse of first inset leaf.  
(Dates of appearance of second and third settings are not definite.)

The cover sheet of 48 impressions was produced as formerly described for the  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. Q.E. II booklets as was proved by the following cover "varieties"—

<i>Panels</i>	<i>Booklets</i>	<i>Details</i>
A, D, G, J	2 and 6	The last A of Australia in the Coat of Arms is joined by heavy colour to top of scroll.
C, F, I, L	2 and 6	Deformed second A of Australia in Coat of Arms.

It was also observed in two instances of abnormal remakes that portions of the dark blue price circle appeared at the top of the booklet cover viewed lengthwise.

Minor differences also distinguished the indicators on the cover of each No. 1 panel booklet but these were not closely pursued as all booklets were not plated.

*Abnormal Remakes.* Early in 1958 a bundle of first setting booklets was obtained, the component leaves of which, due to ineffectual stitching, were placed between fresh covers and the whole stapled with wire.

On 30 July 1959 a quantity of second setting booklets purchased were found to be predominantly from Panel I but the fresh covers in this instance were affixed with metal staples  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mm. wide.

It was very interesting to note that the cover sheets were first guillotined, then the individual covers stapled to the previously ineffectually stitched components irrespective of the relative normal cover and booklet pane positions in the full



sheets, e.g., No. 1 covers with panel indicators thereon were affixed to booklets Nos. 7 and 8 of panel "L."

As both stamp panes came from the same panel position, these booklets were actually abnormal remakes and are extremely rare.

*Varieties.* As with the post office sheets of 160, booklet stamps abound in scratches and while helpful in many respects are not listed. Limited research found two panels to be of interest, the other panels examined contained nothing of import, viz.:

PANEL "I"—THIRD PANEL, RIGHT PANE

Booklet No.	Stamp No.	Details
1	1	Series of horizontal scratches over top frame.
2	6	Unersed guide line outside lower portion left frame—plate.
5	2	Doubled cross-bar of "4"—roller shift—plate.
	4	Roller shift above top frame from right corner where heaviest for 4½ mm. Traces of shift also on right of 4, inner and outer right frames—plate.
	6	Roller shift for 6 mm. on outside of right inner and outer frames at top, also for 1½ mm. over top right corner—plate.
2 4 6		Below alignment of units 1, 3, 5. (This combination of roller shifts and horizontal mal-alignment confirms that the transfer roller bore three vertical impressions and the master plate was rolled accordingly.)
7	2	(a) Colour spot in centre of fifth shading line up in front of Queen's neck—plate. (b) <i>Retouch</i> to lines 4 to 9 to eliminate (a)—electro. Used copy "58."
8	5 6	Colour spot midway between 3¼ mm. up.

PANEL "F" or "L"

1	5	Margins of greater than 1½ mm. width are necessary to observe "corner"
8	6	lines which are distinguishable by minor differences.
3	3	Heavy <i>retouch</i> to left ends of lines 6 to 17 in front of neck to correct weakness—electro. Copies dated Gympie 27 AP 59, Nanango 19 MY 59, Brisbane 14 JY 59.

Complete panels "I" showing flaw and retouch are in the second setting, as also was Panel I with flaw purchased 3 June 1959, with BLANK outside back covers and booklets 1 to 4 of panel "F" or "L" with the above retouch.

At the time of preparation of this article the last of the sheet and booklet stock was being sold and it is not known whether the booklet retouches were available in third setting booklets as these were not available in Brisbane.

As closer study was made rather belatedly there are probably other students who could assist in furthering the story and their comments are awaited.

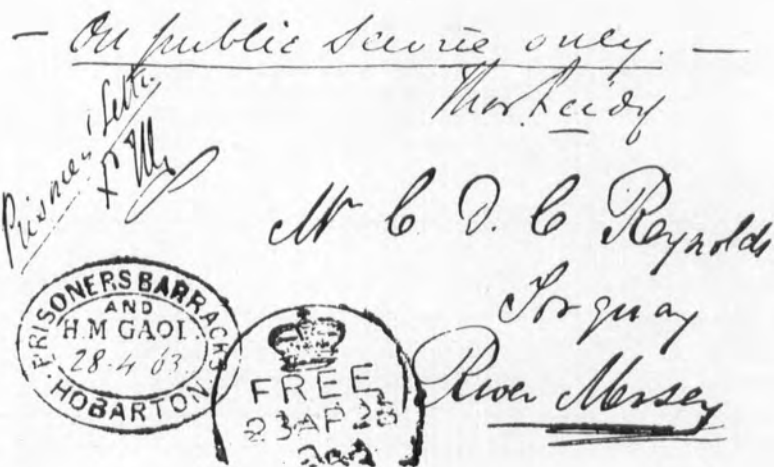
# TASMANIAN CONVICT COVER

By P. JAFFE

One of the results of some years of philatelic scavenging is an outer cover of what was once a prisoner's letter.

The cover is endorsed—"On Public Service only"—and is signed by Thos. Reidy, who probably also wrote "Prisoner's Letter" on behalf of the Governor. The double oval mark in black, "Prisoners Barracks and H. M. Goal, Hobarton," carries a manuscript date 28 April 1863.

On the same day, the post office struck the red frank (circular crown over "FREE"), which was used according to Robson Lowe's *Handstruck Postage*



*Stamps of the Empire*, from 1845. On the reverse appears in red the diamond framed crown over "free" for the next day, which probably dates from the late 1850s. Since the recipient, Mr C. D. C. Reynolds, lived in the north of the island on the River Mersey, it seems unlikely that this second frank was other than a Hobart despatch mark.

Robson Lowe makes mention of a series of circular marks with a crown in the centre inscribed "Prisoner's Letter" struck in black and used between 1855 and 1865, often in conjunction with stamps. This prompts these questions:

- (a) Are all these addressed to outside Tasmania, or indeed, overseas?
- (b) How did the prisoners purchase the adhesive stamps?
- (c) Are any of these interesting relics preserved in Australia, or have all been destroyed by some over-sensitive people?

The writer believes that interstate official correspondence could be franked at this period. Also that the "convict punch" used on stamps at Port Arthur in the mid-1850s may have been designed to prevent any enterprising person pilfering the official supply of adhesives kept for the Governor and his staff and through suitable cut-outs exchanging these for tobacco or other requisites. In the absence of evidence, the myths die hard.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *London 1960*

"Medals" for the London International Stamp Exhibition, 1960, will be round dishes in gold, silver-gilt, silver, and bronze, with the Tudor Rose embossed in the centre, with the winner's name and London 1960 engraved around the rose.

The Grand Prix will be a solid gold oval dish with the Tudor Rose hand-chased in the centre. *Stamp Collecting*, from whom these details are taken, comments, "As an example of British craftsmanship, it will be unique; as the major award at an exhibition held in Britain's capital it is an inspired choice."

### *Pigeon Post*

The Diamond Jubilee of New Zealand's Great Barrier Pigeon post had an unusual commemoration in London. A pigeon post was established between Central Hall, Westminster, and the office of "The Racing Pigeon," Doughty Street, Bloomsbury, on the opening day of the National Stamp Exhibition (STAMPEX, 1959), 13 March 1959.

Special flimsies, an adaptation of the Great Barrier Pigeon Agency's 1903 flimsy, bearing the Royal Arms, with a representation of the 1s. triangular Barrier stamp, in blue, were used.

Flown flimsies had the "stamp" cancelled with a circular cachet "Stampex Pigeon Flight Fee 5s. Paid" in a pinkish ink.

These were then posted in special envelopes, which were backstamped with a

rectangular black cachet "Conveyed by Pigeon 'Stampex' Pigeongram."

The first pigeon was released by the Solicitor-General (Sir Harry Hylton-Foster), with a message addressed to the Queen:

"The British Exhibitors and collectors assembled at the opening of the National Stamp Exhibition, held in the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Great Barrier Island Pigeonpost Service humbly take leave to send Your Majesty by pigeon post their loyal greetings and an expression of their Happiness at the knowledge that Your Majesty, in the possession and maintenance of the Royal Collection, shares their interest and pleasure in Stamp Collecting."

*Mr C. W. Watts, R.D.P.*

Mr C. W. Watts, co-editor with Mr R. J. G. Collins, R.D.P., of Volumes II, III and IV (in preparation), of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* has been elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

He is the fourth New Zealander to achieve philately's supreme honour, the others being: A. T. Bate (one of the inaugural group), Sir R. Heaton Rhodes, and R. J. G. Collins.

Mr Watts, who has headed New Zealand's Stamps Division since its formation, has recently retired from the Post and Telegraph Department and is now secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand. He joined the society in 1934 and was elected a Fellow in 1947.

## A CHECK LIST OF 2½d. KANGAROO

By CAPTAIN H. A. HAMMOND

The 2½d. Kangaroo was first issued on 27 January 1913 and the last printing was made at the beginning of 1923 in which year the value was discontinued; after the introduction of the 2d. letter postage in 1920, very little use had been found for the 2½d. value.

Two plates, one upper and one lower, each containing 120 units in two panes of 60, were made by Cooke from the Kangaroo die in its second state—Die 2. The design differed from other Kangaroo issues in that both the words and figures of value were in colourless relief against a solid coloured background instead of coloured letters on a white ground. The official colour was indigo but many blue shades appeared from time to time, particularly on 3rd watermark papers.

On the whole, the 2½d. plates were well produced and it was an attractive stamp in its very definite colour. Printing was by Cooke from 1913 till the middle of 1918 when Harrison took over and continued till the value was discontinued in 1923.

The stamp appeared on normal papers in 1st, 2nd and 3rd watermark; only one watermark variety is found—the 3rd wmk inverted in a dark indigo printing by Harrison. The perforation, which is listed by Stanley Gibbons as 12 and by the A.C.S. catalogue as 11½, actually gauges 11.7 x 11.8 as in other Kangaroo issues.

Imprints follow the usual pattern; in 1st wmk printings, the CA and JBC monograms were inserted in the lower margin of the lower plate only, and in 2nd and 3rd wmk, the monograms also appeared below the upper plate. When Harrison took over he removed the monograms, replacing them by his single-line imprint in both plates, centred under the gutter between the left and right panes. The marginal and gutter lines are really immaculate and apart from the rather hesitating and tapering joining of the vertical with the horizontal lines there are very few flaws in them to record.

On the stamps themselves several major plate flaws appeared with the first printing but the variety which has caught collectors' imagination and is most sought after—the "missing 1 in fraction"—was caused by a mere ink-clog. In an article on the 2½d. Kangaroo in the *Australian Stamp Record* of October 1930, Mr J. R. W. Purves writes:

"The 1920 indigo printing had a number of flaws due to ink 'clogs.' The best known but not the most prominent was the 'missing 1 in fraction,' with which it is always possible, by means of a glass, to distinguish the figure 1 underneath. These ink-clog flaws are found in this printing only and in no other printing before or after. Their importance is absolutely nil and the 'missing 1' should never have been listed by Stanley Gibbons."

In the writer's collection are three examples of an outstanding and much more prominent flaw, known to be from the same printing (see No. 55 (k), lower left pane, in list) which has never attained catalogue status and supports Mr Purves's contentions.

A puzzling minor flaw is the minute spot of colour often seen in the centre of "N" of PENCE. It is more often present than not and a plotting of its occurrence on three mint blocks, each comprising units Nos. 1 to 36 of the upper right pane and of two similar pieces from the upper left pane, all Harrison's printings, has shown that its presence or absence is constant in 66% of the units examined and also that it is seen more often in blue than in indigo shades. Further, a study of eight mint examples of No. 54, upper right pane (extra patch of grass), shows the tiny dot present on "N" of PENCE in seven of them; conversely, ten examples of No. 55, lower left pane (thick west coast), are found without the flaw as against one with it. The flaw must have been on the value plug and whether it appeared on any unit was influenced in the first place during the making of the plate and later by the actual printing.

In compiling this check list, several complete sheets and very many mint blocks and large pieces have been available for study; much help also has been received from Mr Geo. V. H. Godin, of East St. Louis, Illinois, whose large collection of "N.W. Pacific Islands" overprints contains many mint panes of the value.

#### UPPER PLATE—LEFT PANE

No.

2. Break of  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. in top shading line over "R" of "AUSTR."
9. Slight retouch to shading lines above and between "AU."
10. Ink dot joining 6th and 7th shading lines above "WO" of "TWO."
12. In deep indigo printings, a break in 7th shading line above "W" of "TWO."
13. (a) Ink spot joining 8th and 9th shading lines from bottom of Bay of Carpentaria, near E. coast of Bay. (b) Ink spot joining shading lines, 4 mm. from right inner frame and 7 mm. from top of stamp.
15. In 1st wmk printings, colour spot joining 5th and 6th shading lines below "G" of "POSTAGE."
27. Short retouches to 6 lines of shading off W.A. coast, diagonally downwards from Geraldton to left inner frame.
35. In 3rd wmk printings, 5 shading lines from 2 mm. under "U" of "AUST" thickened for 1 mm.
51. Ink spot joining 5th and 6th shading lines under "I" of "LIA."
54. Shading lines above and below "LIA" thickened with letters heavier than normal, variable.
55. In late (blue) printings, small white flaw in top frame,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from left end.
56. In 1922-23 printings, a spot of colour in sea off W.A. coast,  $11\frac{1}{2}$  mm. from bottom of stamp, touching left inner frame.
57. In Cooke's 3rd wmk printing, a notch 18 mm. long and 1 mm. deep was cut in lower edge of marginal line under this unit and CA monogram inserted in margin under. Harrison removed the monogram but the notch remained.
60. Right outer frame weak; in last printings it is seen very thin at bottom with s.e. corner rounded.

#### UPPER PLATE—RIGHT PANE

No.

2. In last (blue) printings, two small white flaws in sea, E. of Cape York with the upper one 6 mm. from top of stamp and 1 mm. from right inner frame.
9. Three shading lines touching W.A. coast at Broome have ends thickened.
12. (a) Right frame weak in lower half with inner frame weak and with breaks (variable), sometimes blotchy at this part. (b) All shading lines above "NNY" up to Sydney retouched, some with blots at right inner frame.
18. (a) Shading lines above "I" of "LIA" thickened for  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. (b) All shading lines in Bight down to top of value circle thickened.

21. Shading lines under "HALF PEN" thickened with frame under heavier than normal, variable.
24. Shading above "TRALIA" retouched with these letters heavy in some printings.
30. (a) Right frame heavy at bottom with ink blot inside and just above corner. (b) Shading lines from over last "A" down to Brisbane thickened at right for varying lengths. (c) Inner right frame thick for 3 mm., centred at Halifax Bay, variable.
36. As (a) in No. 30, ink blot sometimes joins inner and outer frames.
42. (a) Break in top shading line over right member of "U." (b) Four short shading lines between E. coast below Brisbane and right inner frame retouched.
47. Colour flaw off E. coast at Townsville, formed by thickening of 3 shading lines for 1 mm., not in 1st and 2nd wmk.
48. (a) Shading above, between and below "LIA" retouched. (b) Heavy coastline to C. York and Queensland. (c) Shading between E. coast and right inner frame retouched from Brisbane down to Cape Howe, variable.
53. (a) Ink dot on 3rd line of shading above C. Londonderry, 6 mm. from left inner frame, inconstant. (b) Break inner left frame at 9 mm. from bottom of stamp, variable.
54. (a) Extra patch of colour in grass off Kangaroo's left foot. In some late printings joining and giving effect of "long foot." (b) Shading above "LIA" retouched. (c) Retouched shading above and touching top of C. York and down E. coast. (d) Retouched shading above "CE HA." (e) Coastlines of C. York and Queensland thickened, variable.
56. In last blue printings, diagonal white dash through lines of shading under "C" of "PENCE."
58. In Cooke's 3rd wmk printings, a notch 19 mm. long and 1 mm. deep was cut in lower edge of marginal line under this unit and JBC monogram inserted in margin. Harrison removed the monogram but the notch remained.
60. (a) Retouched shading above and below right side of last "A." (b) Slight cut in throat of Kangaroo opposite top of shoulder. (c) Coastline of C. York and Queensland thickened.

#### LOWER PLATE—LEFT PANE

In the left marginal line of this pane several flaws are seen: opposite stamp No. 1 there are many vertical white lines or dashes of varying lengths, one of which detaches or slices off the left edge of the margin for a length of 8 mm.; more but shorter white dashes are found opposite No. 7 and the outside edge of the marginal line is irregular for the length of the two stamps; opposite the top of No. 43 (retouch to first "A") are four white spots arranged vertically in a line 3 mm. long, near the left edge of the margin.

All units of the left vertical column of the pane present some abnormality or flaw and this is thought in most cases to be due to a slight buckling of the plate at this edge during its manufacture rather than to any work by the retoucher or otherwise.

No.

1. (a) Heavy coastline to Western Australia. (b) Left frame heavy for 3 mm. (approx.) opposite W.A. coast above Perth, with slight outward bulge here, variable. (b) Deep indigo printings have ink spot joining two top shading lines above "S" of "AUST." (d) Last blue printings show ink dot between left outer and inner frames, 6 mm. from bottom of stamp.
2. Ends of 5th, 6th, 7th and 8th shading lines under "A" of "LIA" thickened. Late printings have all lines under "IA" heavy for 2 mm. down.
4. Break in 2nd shading line over "RA."
5. Diagonal white hair line or scratch s.w. from C. Leeuwin, 1½ mm. long.
7. As (a) and (b) on No. 1.
11. (a) Two white flaws, 1 mm. long, at ½ mm. from right inner frame with upper flaw 5 mm. from top of stamp. (b) In heavy printings, a spot between shading lines over junction between "TR" of "AUSTR."
13. As (a) and (b) on No. 1. (c) "A" of "AUST" heavy.
17. In 3rd wmk printings, a break in shading over middle of "U" of "AUST." In 1922 printing this has been retouched.



18. (a) White spot in shading, 1½ mm. below right member of "A" of "AUST." (b) Heavy coastline to Queensland, N.S.W. and Victoria. (c) Shading heavy at s.e. of N.S.W.
19. As (a) and (b) on No. 1 but (a) slight. (c) as No. 13 (c).
24. (a) In early printings, a break in shading line in middle of Bay of Carpentaria. (b) Heavy coastline to Queensland and N.S.W. (c) As (c) on No. 18.
25. As (a) and (b) on No. 1. (c) as (c) on No. 13. (d) Small ink spot in 4th line of shading above C. Londonderry.
30. (a) Two white flaws in sea at 1 mm. from left inner frame, the larger 2 mm. above "T" of "TWO." (b) Heavy coastline to C. York, Queensland and N.S.W., variable.
31. As (a) and (b) on No. 1. (c) as (c) on No. 13. (d) Breaks in shading line under "IA," variable. (e) In earliest 1st wmk printings, a scratch running s.e. from left inner frame, at 9 mm. from bottom of stamp, to top of "E" of "PEN," afterwards repaired by retouching shading lines. (f) Upper part of right frame heavy. (g) Coastline of C. York and Queensland heavier than normal.
32. Scratch from "W" of "TWO" diagonally s.e. to middle of value circle. In last printings repaired by retouch to shading.
33. In an early 1920 deep indigo printing an ink clog obliterated the figure 1 of the value fraction. This "missing 1 of fraction" flaw had a very short life as the plate soon resumed normal printing. Other ink clog flaws appeared at the same time, an outstanding example is noted under No. 55 of this pane.
37. As (a) and (b) on No. 1 but (a) slight. (c) "A" of "AUST" heavy with adjacent shading thicker than normal. (d) Small break in left outer frame, 15½ mm. from bottom of stamp.
38. Thickening of upper frame and shading lines over "ST" of "AUST."
39. In late printings, four shading lines over "T" of "AUST" retouched, variable.
40. Break in 16th shading line over "W" of "TWO."
43. As (a) and (b) on No. 1. (c) "A" of "AUST" retouched, not found in early 1st wmk printings. The retouch formed a blot of colour at top left of "A" and a horizontal white flaw joining middle of letter to inner frame.
44. Top frame over "TR" irregular.
48. Short retouch to 5 shading lines at and to s.w. of C. Londonderry.
49. As (a) and (b) on No. 1. (c) as (c) on No. 37.
51. Shading above "RA" retouched with upper frame thickened at this point.
54. (a) Heavy coastline to C. York, Queensland, N.S.W. and Victoria. (b) In most printings upper frame thickened above "IA."
55. (a) Very heavy coastline to Western Australia, an outstanding flaw. (b) As (b) on No. 1. (c) As (c) on No. 37. (d) Letters "TWO" smaller than normal. (e) Break in bottom shading line under left member of second "N" of "PENNY." (f) Minute colour dot adjacent to coast above C. Leveque. (g) Large figure "2" joined to white value circle at s.w. (h) Shading lines above "TWO" up to W.A. coast heavy, variable. (i) Deep indigo printings (3rd wmk) usually show weakness between "ST" of "AUST" and "PO" of "POST" and often (j) ink spots to s. and s.w. of value circle, variable. (k) Large horizontal colour flaw from left inner frame to coast just below Broome, due to ink clogging between lines of shading, found in an early 1920 deep indigo printing only and co-eval with the "missing 1 of fraction" flaw on No. 33 of this pane.
57. (a) Colour spot breaking white value circle at s.w. (b) In Cooke's printings CA monogram in margin under this unit.
59. In 3rd wmk printings, scratch from 4th shading line under right member of "A" of "AUST" running s.e. for 3 mm.
60. Heavy coastline to C. York, Queensland, N.S.W. and Victoria.

#### LOWER PLATE—RIGHT PANE

No.

1. Left frame heavy for approx. 3 mm. opposite just above Perth, with slight outward bulge, variable.
2. As No. 1.
4. Break in 4th shading line under right member of "A" of "AUST" with small inkspot at right of break.

5. (a) Faulty top to C. York forming small island. (b) Shading lines in Bight at E. heavy with small colour flaw off Cape Catastrophe.
6. Break in inner frame line at top over between "A" and "L."
13. (a) As No. 1. (b) W.A. coastline heavy.
19. (a) As No. 1. (b) As No. 13 (b).
21. Thickening of 4 lines of shading over "TWO," variable.
25. (a) As No. 1. (b) As (b) on No. 13.
31. W.A. coastline slightly heavy.
32. Break in top inner frame line above left member of "U" of "AUST."
33. Top shading line over "L" of "AUSTRALIA" thickened or retouched for length of 1 mm. with corresponding thickening of upper frame above.
34. In 1922 blue printing, an almost horizontal patch of heavy shading, 4 mm. long by  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. tall, at N.E. of C. York, 2 mm. below "IA."
36. Small blot of ink at lower end of right inner frame, variable.
37. (a) As No. 1. (b) As No. 31.
40. Thickening of 6 lines of shading over "T" of "TWO."
43. (a) As No. 1. (b) As (b) on No. 13.
48. In late 3rd wmk printings, a large white flaw over and to w. of Broome, caused by a number of scratches. In 1922 printing, flaw removed by retouching shading lines.
49. (a) Upper frame thickened for 5 or 6 mm. from left end (b) As (b) on No. 13.
55. (a) As No. 1. (b) As (b) on No. 13.
58. In Cooke's printings, all wmk, JBC monogram in margin under this unit.
60. Break in 2nd shading line above "P" of "LIA."

## ORGANISATION OF POSTAL SERVICES IN THE NEW HEBRIDES BY THE NEW CALEDONIAN POST OFFICE

By *HAMILTON CROAKER*

I have lately been able to examine the full text of all decrees relating to postal matters in New Caledonia from 1901 until 1908.

By a decree of 20 March 1903 it was arranged that a postal agent would be on board the boat from New Caledonia calling at ports of the New Hebrides, to accept and deliver letters and to give a postal service. He was to have postage stamps for sale and was to be supplied with postmarks and other equipment.

By a decree of 14 December 1904 a post office was established at Port Vila, New Hebrides.

By a decree of 24 March 1906 the policy was announced of establishing post offices in the New Hebrides, other than that at Port Vila.

No subsequent decree appears to have been issued actually opening further post offices. In 1908 the postal affairs of the New Hebrides were taken over by the Condominium and the fact that this was pending may have prevented the 1906 decree from being put into operation.

A list of post offices open occurs in one of the official annual publications of New Caledonia during the early years of the twentieth century. In 1904 the following note appears after the list:

Nota – Un agent embarqué assure  
le service postal avec  
les Nouvelles-Hebrides.

This note appeared after the list of post offices also in 1905, 1906, 1907 and 1908.

However, in 1906, for the first time, the list of post offices included Port Vila (Nouvelles-Hebrides). It was also included in 1907 and 1908.

Port Sandwich does not appear in the lists of post offices. However, date-stamps were used reading Port Vila and Pt. Sandwich.

The reasonable deduction from the above seems to me to be that a postal agent was on board ships from New Caledonia to the New Hebrides, supplying a postal service at the ports. He was supplied with date-stamps for Port Vila and Port Sandwich, with which he postmarked letters handed to him at the respective ports, until 1904.

In the year 1904 a land post office was established at Port Vila but the postal agent continued to act as before at Port Sandwich.

It appears also that no further post offices on land were opened in the New Hebrides, in spite of the decree of 1906 foreshadowing them.

In 1908 the postal matters of the New Hebrides became the responsibility of the Condominium authorities. The post office at Port Vila continued to use the same date-stamp as had been in use under New Caledonia as well as one with English wording. Also the Port Sandwich date-stamp continued in use for a short time. Whether this was used at a land post office opened by the Condominium authorities or by "an agent on board" but under the Condominium post office, I have not been able to determine from official sources. I suspect that the latter was the case, as overprinted stamps of the Condominium postmarked Pt. Sandwich are very rare and the date-stamp was certainly not in use for very long. Also, and most important, I think, was the fact that no subsequent types of date-stamps were issued for Port Sandwich and there was never one with English wording. Had there been a land post office at Port Sandwich I feel sure that the British half of the Condominium would have demanded such a date-stamp to be used side by side with the French one!

The above facts are of great interest because they mean that all New Caledonian adhesives with the Port Vila cancellation dated prior to 1904 and the Pt. Sandwich cancellation throughout, are really ship cancellations, but the New Caledonian adhesives on which they appear were used abroad in the New Hebrides.

It should be noted that the same cancellation of Port Vila may be found on New Caledonian adhesives but dated after the Condominium. These were arrival marks, put on at the first port of call, and so also were from ship letters. However, such New Caledonian adhesives were not used abroad in the New Hebrides.

The Pt. Sandwich date-stamp was also used with dates after the Condominium for the less legitimate purpose of cancelling, by favour, the French local adhesives.

# THOUGHTS ON QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

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

The writer does not collect Queensland cancellations, but because of his labours in the corresponding field of Tasmania, he has always taken a lively interest in the reports of progress in "tying" Queensland numerals, and has kept his copy of Mr Porter's monograph, published by The Hawthorn Press, up to date.

In view of the many new "ties" reported over the last twelve months, it occurred that the time might be ripe to attempt to bring some order into the apparent inconsistencies to be found in contemplating the list. After making some progress with the work, the writer learned that Mr Collas had been working on the official records, which had enabled him to amend and add to the opening and closing dates (and changes of name) listed by Mr Porter. Mr Collas very kindly lent the writer the alphabetical list of Queensland post offices which he had compiled, but as this, of course, is Mr Collas' "pigeon," the new information it contains is mentioned in this article only where it affects the various points dealt with.

The Queensland field is far more difficult than that of Tasmania—Mr Purves has referred to it as "boggy"—not only because of the greater number of post offices and numerals involved, but also for the following reasons:

(1) The official sources on which Mr Porter was forced to rely in compiling his list of post offices opened and closed in Queensland were far less complete and accurate than those which we were fortunate enough to find for Tasmania. Mr Collas has found additional records which apparently were not available to Mr Porter, but even now the list is not as complete and accurate as we should like.

(2) There was no original alphabetical allocation in Queensland to set things off to a good start.

(3) Although the allocation usually follows numerically the dates of opening, this is only true in a general sense, as the allocation was apparently made in groups, not one by one. Thus, because one post office got numeral "X," it does not necessarily follow, as it usually does in Tasmania, that a post office opened a month later (with no others intervening) got numeral "X +1." It could just as well have been "X-5."

(4) In certain cases the same numeral was used at two post offices at the same time. This is particularly so in the case of numbers originally allocated by New South Wales.

(5) When the older and larger post offices required replacements or additional obliterators, in many cases these bore new numbers of the numerical group of the period, not the old number of the post office. Hence, Mr Porter's purely chronological listing does not portray the full picture. Take, for example, this group:

- 547 Gympie
- 548 Mackay
- 549 Charleville

These were all replacements or additional obliterations for existing offices, and in consequence were not available for allocation to any of the offices shown in Mr Porter's chronological list of post offices opened at that period.

As in Tasmania, there were certain periods in Queensland, some of them fairly well defined, when numbers from closed offices were re-allocated to new ones, but there are other numbers which turn up in the lists obviously out of course, without any apparent rhyme or reason. It occurred to the writer that some of these may have been due to a post office being moved to a new site in the same area, with a different name, but still using the old number. Mr Porter had ferretted out one or two of these cases, e.g., Curriwillingham moved to Hebel, and Hewettville to Emu Park, so it appeared likely there would be others, and it is mainly in this sphere that the writer has devoted his researches.

To make any progress, it was necessary to be able to pin-point on a map as many as possible of the names on Mr Porter's list. The excellent road maps issued by BP Australia Limited gave a good start, as they show all the larger places and many of the smaller ones, including such exotic names as "Innot Hot Springs," "Tate Tin Mines," "O.K. Mine" and others. The Report of the Commissioner for Railways gives the names and locations of all the railway stations in the State, most of them being shown on the accompanying map. For the smaller settlements the Census publication, "Population and Occupied Dwellings in Localities" proved invaluable, although it does not pin-point places as well as the others do, merely indicating the municipality in which they are situated, but this is usually sufficient for our purpose. The State Electricity Commission Report gave a few more names, but as it merely states by which Regional Electricity Board or other authority the place is supplied, it is not so valuable. One or two more were located with the help of Mr Groves of Warwick, and from other sources, but there are still a goodly number of names which have eluded the writer. Some of these are no doubt old names for places known to us in another guise, and have long since been forgotten in the mists of time, but some of the many "Creeks" and "Mounts" would probably be shown on large-scale ordnance maps. However, a sufficient proportion of the numerous post offices was located to make a start on the work possible.

Now, if we find that one post office was closed on one day, and that another post office located a few miles away was opened on the *next* day, it is a reasonable supposition that the second took over the work of the first. If we *also* find that the second post office used a number which would more appropriately belong to the first, then it is also a fair assumption that it inherited the obliterator together with the duties. In some cases the proposed equation must remain in the realms of probability only, either because no "tying" numeral has yet been reported for the second name, or because the writer has been unable to trace the location of the first name. There may well be other transfers of locations which have not come to light, owing to lack of information as to the location of one or both names, or through the inadequacy of the records.



For what they are worth, the following are the movements of locations discovered by the writer:

<i>Original Location</i>			<i>Second Location</i>	
<i>Name</i>	<i>Opened</i>	<i>Closed</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Opened</i>
Port Denison	1.4.61	?	Bowen (63)	c. 1865
Nulalbin	1.7.61			
(moved to Knebworth)	1.1.64	end 1865	Gainsford (79)	1866
Gainsford (79)	1866	24.5.74	Boolburra (199)	25.5.74
Bungeworgorai	1.9.61	(31.12.64)	Roma (23, 46)	1.1.64
Curriwillinghi	1864	16.8.89	Hebel (37)	17.8.89
Natal Downs	1865	1.1.68	Cape River Diggings	1.1.68
Lynd	1866	1869	Lyndhurst (also called Carpentaria Downs)	1869
Norley	1.3.68	31.12.69	Thorgomindah (spelled Thargomindah from 1882) (134)	1.1.70
Isis Downs	1.6.68	1876	Wittown (called Isisford from 1.1.78) (111)	1876
Kilkivan	8.6.68	27.9.76	Neureum (called Kilkivan from 1.1.80)	28.9.76
Yandina (called Maroochy from 1883) (109)	6.7.68	1891	Yandina	3.2.91
Owanyilla	1.10.68	21.9.81	Neardie	22.9.81
Cania and Kroombit	18.6.70	7.10.72	Kariboe	8.10.72
Benowa	2.4.74	28.11.75	Bundall	29.11.75
South Brisbane (215)	27.3.76	1889	Melbourne Street	1890
Melbourne Street	1890	1891	South Brisbane	1892
Moolboolamon	1879	18.7.81	Gillan's Siding	22.7.81
Cherry Gully	1.1.80	16.5.81	Dalveen (202)	16.5.81
Taldora	23.1.81	1.4.84	Millungera	2.4.84
Mellum Creek	23.2.81	23.3.90	Landsborough (141)	24.3.90
Macrossan Bridge	25.7.82	1900	Burdekin (called Macrossan from April '05)	1900
Rocklands	1.7.83	26.4.85	Camooweal (360)	27.4.85
Hewittville (date-stamp spelled Hewettville) (357)	12.11.83	31.12.89	Emu Park (357)	1.1.90
Kanyan	23.12.84	19.10.85	Kilkivan Junct. (called Theebine from 1910 (386))	28.10.85
Silverfield (called Mount Albion from 1887)	1.6.85	1888	Montalbion	1889
Stafford	19.10.86	1897	Kedron	1897
Carrandotta	10.7.87	31.12.90	Urandangie (450)	1.10.91
Kamerunga	10.7.87	24.6.91	Kuranda	25.6.91
(?) Gebangle	23.4.88	2.4.90	Paradise (463)	3.4.90
Haydon	21.5.89	14.12.90	Blackbull	15.12.90
Broweena	23.12.89	15.5.91	Biggenden	16.5.91
Biggenden	16.5.91	1.4.93	Degilbo (477)	1.4.93
Mount Eerwah	1890	31.7.91	Eumundi	1.8.91
Donaldson	1895	c. 1910	Mount Cuthbert	1910
Mount Molloy	July/05	Dec./05	Molloy	Dec./05
Eagle Farm	1910	1911	Eagle Farm Racecourse	1911

A study of this list, and particularly the earlier movements, will show that in the early days, say up to about 1875, the second location normally received a new number, and did not use the number of the old location. Bowen apparently received No. 63 as Bowen and not as Port Denison, and Gainsford's No. 79 was



almost certainly not used at Knebworth. The later move from Gainsford to Boolburra was the occasion of the issue of a new number (No. 199), so that No. 79 was released for subsequent re-allocation to Herberton. Thorgomindah, also, certainly received No. 134 as a new number when it opened on 1.1.70, and did not inherit it from Norley. Another similar case is probably No. 84, which is shown in Porter opposite Rainworth, moved to Springsure in 1864 (January). Now, the "tie" is to Springsure, and it is almost certain from the dates that the numeral was allocated to this Post Office, and not earlier to Rainworth (manuscript cancellations are known for this). The case of Roma is interesting, as it apparently received No. 46 in its own right, but also used No. 23 from the old site at Bungeworgorai (there was one report that No. 23 was used at Murphy's Creek, but the writer believes this may have been incorrect; Murphy's Creek certainly did not receive this number at its opening on 18.5.68). No. 202, used at Dalveen, was certainly a re-allocation from a closed office, but whether it was re-allocated direct to Dalveen, or first to Cherry Gully, is not clear from the lists.

More useful in tidying up the lists are the later cases, after the principle of passing on the numeral obliterators to a new site had been established. That the practice *was* firmly established after about 1875 seems proved by the number of cases in the list where the second location is found using a number belonging by rights to the first, and regarding these the following comments are offered:

(1) The proving case is Hewittville-Emu Park, as No. 357 is known "tied" to both names, and thus establishes the principle. Another proving case, at first sight, would seem to be No. 111 for Isis Downs-Wittown (Isisford), as Mr Porter shows it reported for Isis Downs, and it has since been reported for Isisford. However, a check of Mr Porter's source for the first report shows that in this case also the "tie" was to Isisford. Nevertheless, the similarity of the names leaves no doubt that No. 111 was originally used at Isis Downs.

(2) The equation of Landsborough to Mellum Creek finally solves the problem of what numeral was used at Landsborough and why. It was originally reported as 489, but, as Mr Porter later pointed out in *Philately from Australia*, that was in fact a Railway number, the postmaster-cum-stationmaster having used the wrong stamp. Recently, Landsborough was reported as No. 141, obviously a re-allocation, and we were left with the problem of why there should have been a re-allocation at a time when the numbers appeared to be running straight ahead. The writer could not find Mellum Creek on a map, but the Census publications showed a settlement named Mount Mellum in Landsborough Shire. When we find that Mellum Creek was opened during a fairly well-defined re-allocation period, the story of what happened is clear. (In Mr Jewell's article in *The Philatelist*, which was part of Mr Porter's source material, a "tie" of No. 141 to Colloroy Creek was reported. Neither Mr Porter nor Mr Collas found reference to a post office of this name, and Mr Porter ignored the report in his monograph. However, if we knew the whereabouts of Colloroy Creek, we *might* be able to discover the name of the post office which originally used No. 141.)

*(To be continued)*

## THE COBB STAMPS COACH MAIL

Cobb and Company Limited, of Toowoomba, as inheritors of the historic name of Cobb and Co., could not let the issue of the Cobb and Co. stamp pass without appropriate notice.

The 3½d. and 2s. stamps bearing a reproduction of Sir Lionel Lindsay's famous etching "Cobb and Co" were issued on 6 July 1955 as a tribute to and in commemoration of the pioneers of the coaching era.

On that day a special coach mail went from Moorooka post office to the G.P.O. Brisbane, by an old Cobb and Co. coach. The ten-mile journey took 50 minutes, and was completed 10 minutes ahead of schedule.

The coach carried a mail of 3000 specially-printed foolscap covers. These bore the inscription "First Day Cover Cobb and Co. Limited This Letter was delivered to G.P.O., Brisbane, by Cobb and Co. Coach on 6th July 1955" in nine lines of script type. Many of them also had a printed blue airmail "etiquette." The airmail envelopes bore 2s. Cobb stamps and the others the 3½d.

The 90-year-old coach used ran for many years on the Charleville-Thargomindah and Cunnamulla-Thargomindah runs, and is owned by Cobb and Co.

It was driven by Mr Thomas Lawton, one of the staff, a descendant of the scrub-dashers of the Dawson Country. His off-sider was Doug Rynne, a Queensland bushman who was with John French, v.c., at Milne Bay, when French was killed.

Passengers in the coach were:

The Deputy-Premier and Minister for Transport (Hon. J. E. Duggan);

Mr Tommy Thompson, who drove the last coach to run in Queensland until its sale, from Yuleba to Surat. (This is the vehicle now in the Canberra Museum);

Mr Ted Parsons, an old Cobb's coachdriver from Central Queensland;

Mr E. Richards, the youngest of the Cobb and Co. old drivers, who was driving one of their coaches from Mitchell in 1918, when he was 18.

Mr C. Jarvis, of Lismore, who was 82.

Mr Gordon Studdert, the last manager for Cobb and Co. in Queensland, who carried on the name for many years in the Surat store which he purchased from Cobb and Co. at its liquidation in 1929.

Mrs Nancy Bolton (no relation of Mr W. R. F. Bolton, managing director of Cobb & Co. Ltd, but Mr Studdert's daughter).

At the G.P.O. the coach was met by the Director of Posts and Telegraphs, Brisbane (Mr C. Faragher), and he and Mr Duggan spoke from a dais. The mail was delivered and handstamped with twin strikes of a 30 mm. circular postmark: "G.P.O. BRISBANE-QLD AUST"—around the circumference and two horizontal lines "S.M -6JY55."

"S.M." stands for Superintendent of Mails. The postmarker is his personal property. It is usually used for checking purposes. The acting Superintendent (Mr R. Wardrop) personally cancelled the mail.

The route from Moorooka was chosen so that the coach would pass over the Victoria bridge because the first vehicle to cross the original bridge in June 1874 was a Cobb and Co. coach. It also passed the site of Queensland's first post office, now occupied by Edwards and Lamb's store, Queen Street.

## REVIEWS

*The Numeral Cancellations of The British Empire* by Rev. H. H. Heins. 63 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price 21/- (stg).

Rev. Heins has presented a listing of 4000 letter and/or numeral obliterations and date-stamps, used mainly in Britain, in her consular offices overseas, and in her Empire during the nineteenth century.

Listing in strict numerical order makes this a useful work of reference. Authorities are quoted and references made to listings of numeral series omitted, such as Great Britain (available in Brummell's *British Post Office*), New Zealand (in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol. III*), and Australian States (*Philately from Australia*).

Let it be made clear that a few minor faults do not vitiate the great utility of this pioneer assembly of information. A general criticism is the lack of a listing of the countries covered and the lack of information as to the range of numerals known in each series, such as "Transvaal, 1 to 33 inclusive." We are neither told what New Brunswick "35" is, nor if this is the highest number.

Although some works such as Jamaica "C" and "D" are listed without origin, the Transvaal series is not so treated, and the owner cannot fill the gaps without marginal notes.

On British Guiana the letter and numeral marks used from 1855 at least are date-stamps, but none of those included here—which confuses W.C. and W.C.B(erbice)—have the asterisk, used correctly for St. Vincent, St. Lucia, Grenada, and St. Kitts.

The "P" for Plymouth Montserrat is also omitted as is the "D.P. in oval" found on Dominica. No mention is made of the numeral date-stamps of Bermuda, nor of the "coded" date-stamps used in Hamilton, etc., as cancellations.

It might have been worth mentioning that the code letters in the date-stamps of Cape Colony, Malta and Trinidad are time codes and not marks of origin. The Seychelles numeral village date-stamps for the first local post are ignored.

In Cyprus obliterations both 942 and 098 were subsequently used in the Rural Post and the Railway marks include numerals, both cancellers and date-stamps.

In Ceylon, the fact that a period occurs after 6, to differentiate it from 9, is ignored.

In Mauritius, a tentative allocation of "10 in bars" to Souillac is probably more justified than putting "0 in bars" of British Honduras to Orange Walk, since a proving cover for Belize exists for "0."

If the Panama transit numeral killers in U.S. type are to be listed, why not the New York arrival "12" in the same series? If some of the French numerals are to be listed why omit Boulogne, that most commonly found on British stamps?

The important "TO" British series is not included, though the diamond framed letters, like P in upright shape bar mesh are included.

Perhaps some of these minor points can be met in the next edition, for surely this useful book will lead to progress of research and to fresh recruitment of code and numeral postmark enthusiasts all over the world.

—P.J.

*A Specialised Priced Catalogue of Indian Stamps.* Compiled by Jal Cooper, F.R.G.S. Published by Jal Cooper, Standard Building, Hornby Road, Bombay. Price 10 Rupees.

Two years have elapsed since Jal Cooper converted his "Priced Catalogue of Indian & Convention States" into a "Specialised Catalogue of Indian Stamps" in which all stamps are numbered according to Stanley Gibbons.

In the seventh edition, a number of new features include the pricing of the 1854 issues on cover and in used multiples. Other additions are the listing of the Andaman Islands stamps issued under Japanese Occupation, and the pricing of First Day covers from the Independence issue of 1947 onward.

The chapter on Postal Stationery has been revised and includes a number of additions.

Prices generally show an upwards trend, chiefly in the mint Queen Victoria issues, and range from 12½% upwards. The only exception in the modern issues is the 1954 issue for use by the Custodian Forces in Korea, which has doubled in price, to 30 rupees.

—A.W.B.

*The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, 1960.* Twenty-first edition. 129 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 10s. (Aust.)

The appearance of the 21st edition of *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* is a milestone in Australian philately and we should pause and consider the growth of the catalogue over the past 33 years.

The early editions consisted of 60 pages, including several pages of flown covers, since dropped: whereas the 21st has 129 pages. The price increase over the years from 3s. 6d. to 10s., surely does not represent the full rise in the cost of printing.

Generally the lay-out conforms to that of the earlier days, but the King George V section is much easier to follow, the rearrangement having stamps by face value instead of date of issue. In the light of later studies many corrections have been made: during the years some "fly-speck" varieties crept in and it is to the credit of the present editor that his endeavours to make this Catalogue equal to any in the world, by holding a fair balance between the ultra-specialist and the general collector who likes to add a few additional worthwhile varieties to his showing, are now bearing fruit.

The latest re-write covers the King George V 4½d., 5d., and 1s. 4d. The treatment of the 1s. 4d. "deep turquoise" (F68F) will create some controversy. It will be remembered that a part sheet of a particularly deep shade was purchased at the St. Kilda Post Office, Victoria, many years ago, and was then listed at 50s., subsequently rising to £20.

It is safe to say more stamps have been sold as the rare "deep turquoise" than ever existed (particularly to our overseas friends who were here during wartime). Many collectors, including myself, have cherished dark specimens as being the rare item. Inasmuch as shade variations tend to run into each other, the editor has taken the drastic step of grouping closely related shades, which, after all, is logical.

The Catalogue would become unwieldy if every slight variation were listed, and throughout his listings the editor has endeavoured to strike a happy mean. Outstandingly rare items will always receive a premium over catalogue.

Not so many price alterations have been made this year, but they are chiefly in the recent obsolete issues, and in some of the imprints, which may indicate a revival of interest in plate markings. I noticed a reduction of 10s. in the 6d. chestnut 'roo, broken leg. Would this be due to recent weakness in auction results? In this reviewer's opinion Australian stamps are full of philatelic interest and a fine hedge against inflation.

Comparison with earlier editions indicates the editor has done a splendid job, well backed up by The Hawthorn Press in using better quality paper and a stiffer cover to improve the Catalogue's appearance.

C.O.D.

*The Postage Stamps and Postal History of Tibet* by H. D. S. Haverbeck. Revised and enlarged edition. 80 pp. 7 x 10 in. Published by The Collectors' Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York, N.Y., U.S.A. Price \$2.00.

The first edition of Mr Haverbeck's book (*P. from A.*, Mar. 1953, p. 29) was sold out by 1956, and The Collectors' Club has now published a revised edition, including much material never published between covers.

Four more usages of the Typewritten "Tibet" overprint on India from Khamba Jong P.O. are listed, bringing the total to 10, and several new Younghusband Expedition postmarks are recorded. Plating tables for the 1933-39 issue of Tibet are included in a re-writing of much of this chapter.

Other additions are the Officials, a new section on the Posts of the People's Republic of China, and many new illustrations.

*I Congreso Internacional de Filatelia, Barcelona, 1960, I.* 12 pp. 6 x 8 in.

The Spanish Government has convened the First International Congress of Philately at Barcelona, for March 26-April 5, next year. This is the first bulletin.

The Congress will comprise the congress proper, a meeting of stamp-manufacturers, and an exhibition. "By Decree of the Spanish Government, 2 April 1959, the Organising Committee and principal norms for the event have been determined," reports the bulletin.

# ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *Members' Diary*

### September

- 8 Old Victoria Group  
Library and Conversation
- 17 Newfoundland, Mrs E. M. Gates; Turkish  
Stationery, R. L. Lloyd-Smith

### October

- 2 Dinner, Hotel Windsor, 6.30 p.m. (Sherry,  
6 p.m.)
- 5 Old Victoria Group  
Library and Conversation
- 15 Classics of the British Empire, L. Van  
Straten
- 29 Sale by Tender

### November

- 3 Old Victoria Group  
Library and Conversation
- 19 Tasmania—The Shades of Gibbons, O. G.  
Ingles

### December

- 1 Old Victoria Group  
Library and Conversation
- 17 Fiji, Mr John Gartner

## *Competition*

Mr P. Jaffe won the Society's silver medal in the annual competition, entries of which were displayed at the June meeting.

He showed early issues of Ceylon, featuring the perforations and watermarks, paying special attention to postmarks. Highlights of these were the Aden seal cancellation and the Aden Steamer Point postmarks on these issues.

Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson presented studies in the ½d. Sprinbok and 1d. Van Riebeeck's Ship, values of the Union of South Africa's 1923 issue.

Mr O. G. Ingles made a three-phase display of Tasmania—postal markings; the history of the 9d. Queen Victoria; and the development of the Volcano flaw of the One Penny pictorial, from the initial crack, through the retouches, to the development of the second "volcano" about 1908.

## *Annual Meeting*

The president (Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson) in his report said 28 members living in Melbourne received 52 awards at ANPEX and 11 interstate members gained 20 awards.

He expressed pride at the fact that the society had achieved the "unencumbered ownership of the new headquarters, and congratulated Mr Purves on having achieved his objective of having the mortgage repaid in full by July, and referred appreciatively to Mr H. F. McNess's great kindness.

Noting that a large proportion of the donations received this year had been from non-members, Mr Hodgkinson said, "Our sincere thanks go to all those members and others, both in Australia and overseas, who have given so generously."

He expressed special thanks to the retiring treasurer, Mr H. Tobin, and the secretary, Miss Myra Farley.

Mr A. G. Brown also expressed appreciation of Mr Tobin's long period of service and of his work in handling the building fund.

The librarian (Mr R. Lloyd Smith) said the library now had 909 books and pamphlets and

579 bound volumes of publications, with 16 awaiting binding. More than 300 books and 69 bound volumes had been added during the year, including donations by Messrs P. Collas, Romney Gibbons (Sydney), G. E. Owen (Perth), E. R. Long, and H. L. Chisholm. Mr M. Bulley had also undertaken book binding.

A record number of 1:0 volumes had been borrowed during the year. The library would continue to be open on the first Tuesday of each month, as well as on meeting nights.

The new officers are: President, Mr J. Gartner; Vice-president, Mr A. W. Bunn; Immediate Past President, Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson; Secretary, Miss M. Farley; Treasurer, Miss J. Buchanan; Council, Messrs A. G. Brown, P. Collas, E. G. Creed, E. B. Doery, T. C. Lester, and J. R. W. Purves.

Mr Hodgkinson chose to exhibit his Belgian Congo collection as the presidential display. It was the first time for many years that this subject had been exhibited before the society and he demonstrated that Belgian Congo's stamps were as interesting as they were colourful.

The earlier ones were well represented and the Congo Belge overprints were distinguished between Brussels and Boma handstamps and the typographed overprints. Types and printings of the pictorials were shown and annotated, giving a well-balanced presentation.

## *South Africa*

Lieutenant-Colonel A. R. Etheredge provided the display for the August meeting, South Africa, and did not confine himself to the issues of the Union.

Features of his display were the inter-provincial stamps of 1910-13, included scarce Natal used in Transvaal, die proofs of the Union 1d., 1938, in black and the exceedingly rare 1d. 1933 in the very deep aniline carmine and black (Plate V) and varieties of the 1939-49 high values.

Two copies of the first embossed issue of Natal were shown—1d. buff with first cancellation Pietermaritzburg and the 3d. rose with first type of date-stamp.

The opening issue of Transvaal, rouletted 15½-16 on thin transparent paper was well represented, as were Pietersburg 1901 and Mafeking Besieged.

Orange Free State items included the rare Boer Occupation issue, "Commando Brief" of October 1899.

The Union section of the display was a well-chosen selection showing many interesting varieties and comparisons.

Mr John O'Connor, president of the Philatelic Society of Western Australia, was a welcome visitor.

## *Obituary*

The society recently suffered the loss of Mr J. Englander, a much-loved and greatly respected member, who died at the age of 85, after more than 47 years' membership.

Mr Englander joined the society on 19 October 1911, and throughout his long association was a consistent attender at meetings and one who took a keen interest in the society's affairs. He had wide philatelic knowledge and interests. His son, Mr D. M. Englander, is also a member.



# THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

## *Election of Officers*

The club's officers this year were elected unopposed: President, Mr F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L.; Vice-presidents, Messrs C. Ashworth Spreat and L. Frank; Secretary, Mr R. H. Markham; Treasurer, Mr F. Hawdon; Librarian, Mr H. Croaker; Exchange Superintendent, Mr W. Finigan; Committee, Miss M. Salier, Messrs A. G. Gerrand and R. H. Taylor.

On medical advice, Mr J. W. Gale relinquished the position of Hon. Treasurer. The thanks of all members are extended to him for the fine work performed by him during his long term of office and we all trust that his health will be fully restored before many more days have passed.

Thanks are also extended to Miss Mary Salier, who so capably acted as Secretary during the three months' absence of the Secretary whilst he was attending Session 5 of the Australian Administration Staff College at Mount Eliza.

## *Victoria*

At the June meeting Mr T. H. Stone displayed portion of his collection of Victoria, which gained for him a Silver-Gilt medal at ANPEX 1959. Mr Stone gave a resumé of the early history of Victoria and of its first stamp issues. He told also of the types of printing used, of the printers and engravers, and concluded with some notes on Victorian cancellations. All the points made by Mr Stone were then illustrated by the beautiful sheets of stamps, many almost complete. A feature of the display was the evidence of the great amount of detailed work performed by Mr Stone in the replating of these early issues, the amount of information contained in the writing-up, and the extremely high standard of condition of the stamps.

## *Annual Meeting*

Reports presented at the annual meeting in July told a story of steady progress during the past year. Although so many of the officers and members of the club had devoted considerable amounts of their time and energies to the successful staging of ANPEX 1959, the club had also progressed most effectively.

The committee were very happy to report that 21 new members were elected and the finances were in a relatively healthy state, following a series of successful sales-by-tender conducted on behalf of the estates of the late J. Whites Dovey and H. S. Porter.

Members were also reminded of the continued need of support for the Exchange Branch and

encouragement given to make more use of the library, to which many new items were added during the year.

A tripartite display was presented. The first two sections, a tribute to the Queensland Centenary Year, comprised Ship Letter Postmarks of that State from the collection of Mr Hamilton Croaker and the stamps of New South Wales used in Queensland during the transitional period, when Statehood was attained in Queensland, from the collection of Mr T. H. Stone. The final section featured many fine items from the Gilbert and Ellice Islands collection of the president (Mr F. V. Thompson).

## *Pacific Islands Circle*

At the August meeting, seven members contributed to a combined display which was introduced by Mr J. H. Powell. As is usual with these eagerly-anticipated showings from collections of members of the Pacific Islands Circle of the club, the stamps displayed on this occasion were right up to the very high standard set by the Circle.

Mr W. Finigan showed items from Hawaii, whilst Mr Romney Gibbons presented stamps from various of the Islands in the Pacific. Mr H. Croaker included some of his stamps from French Oceania, and Mr J. H. Powell chose N.W. Pacific Islands for his share of the display. Fiji Postal Markings were shown by Mr F. V. Thompson, Mr N. M. Reid contributed British Solomon Islands and an anonymous member presented ten sheets from various islands.

## *Annual Competition*

Competition Night will be the feature of the meeting to be held on 13 October. Members are asked to make the competition this year the most successful yet. Only 10 sheets are required, but the collection is not eligible if it has won an award at a National Exhibition. Collections which won awards at ANPEX are, therefore, "out" but there are many members whose collections were not so fortunate and it is to them that we are looking for a very good batch of entries this year.

## *Obituary*

The club has suffered two very severe losses during the past few months. Mr F. Haddon, who devoted a tremendous amount of his energies to the success of ANPEX, died suddenly early in June. Mr J. E. Frost, a former vice-president and secretary of the club, died a short time later.

The sympathy of the Committee and members is extended to the relatives of both.



## THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

Miss JULIE RESCH, who resides in Hawthorn, has been a collector of stamps for a quarter of a century, her favourite countries being Germany, Japan, and Australian Commonwealth. She must have some nice material, too, for she was awarded the American Philatelic Society's "International Award for Philatelic Achievement" not so long ago, and one doesn't get THAT for just being nice! She has two other loves—colour photography and Iris growing.

GEOFF WHITE, of Canterbury, tells us he has been collecting stamps since he was a kid, but seriously only these past two years. Is putting together a collection of Australian States (big job!) and also Canada. Geoff was a RAAF bod in the war, flying Lancasters over Germany. Is married and has a family, but still manages to spend some time fishing at Barwon Heads.

JOHN DU FAUR, also of Canterbury, is another chap who is interested in fishing. He is Assistant Director of the Telecommunications Branch in the Dept. of Supply. Is a Bachelor of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering (Sydney University), also a Corporate Member of the Institute of Engineers (Australia) and Senior Member of the Institute of Radio Engineers (Aust.). So far as stamps are concerned, he has been collecting seriously since 1955, with a particular yen for Australian Commonwealth, Australian States, and the Pacific Islands. Also gathers in British Empire and U.S.A.

GRAEME INGLES is senior Research Officer in the C.S.I.R.O. (which is no slouch of a job!) and in addition he plays chess for Australia. Now, we've noted all sorts of recreations in this column, but never before an international chess player. Lives in Mentone and has been interested in stamps in an adult way since 1950, collecting mainly Australian Commonwealth and Tasmania, but also endeavouring to build up a collection showing chess on stamps. Can anyone help him?

It is some time since we referred in this column to GEORGE SKEWES. George is a Life Member of the "Royal" and, in addition to stamps, is Toc H's Honorary Area Commissioner for Victoria. Collects New Zealand, Canada, and Australian Commonwealth and has some nice items in his albums. George is an engineer with the M.M.B.W.

We reluctantly accepted HARRY TOBIN'S resignation from his post of Hon. Treasurer of the "Royal." He has held it for a long time, and exercised his right to retire from the job. Not only does Harry produce an easy-to-read Balance Sheet but, when called on to do so, expounds it in a clear and understandable way. A Life Assurance officer with the T. & G., Harry's stamp collecting activities are confined to Australia, with special emphasis on State Government Officials and Postal Stationery.

—W.L.R.

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