

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. XII, No. 4

DECEMBER 1960

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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 (1949-58):

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.

ALL CORRESPONDENCE re the above should be addressed to the Business Manager, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne.

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

TWENTY-SECOND EDITION JUST PUBLISHED

THE
Australian Commonwealth
Specialists' Catalogue
1961

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 ¾ 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

VOL. XII, No. 4

DECEMBER 1960

QUESTION OF VALUES

A Problem for Judges

Each age produces its changes. Those changes naturally react on established things, although balance is seldom achieved until a respectable interval has elapsed after the introduction of the change. We tend, always, to move from one extreme to the other.

The stamp world—like all other worlds—has seen many such movements but only one need concern us here. That is the growth of interest in postal history and in the collecting of postal history items, in contradistinction to or cumulatively with the study of stamps as stamps and the classification of such stamps according to the distinctions established by that study.

It follows that many collectors now show *both* sides extensively in their collections. It also follows that collectors of relatively small countries, for example (to quote two of many such), St. Vincent and Cook Islands, regard cancellations as a *sine qua non* since, if they are to rank for a particular medal award in competition, they feel (and many judges agree with them) that they must have the *plus* value that only the cancellations can give. Take another class of collection—a collection of Czechoslovakia or Israel—in which (for a collector with a certain concept of history) it is essential to show the “fore-runners”—covers used in the one case from places then under the Austro-Hungarian monarchy or, in the other case, under Turkish suzerainty, including the various European post offices or agencies then established in Palestine. There is no question here—whatever one’s personal point of view—that these are now widespread and well-established trends in collecting and that such material is often just as difficult of acquisition as purely stamp rarities. I think all senior collectors concerned for the welfare of the hobby will agree that it is unwise to tell people what or how they should collect so long as they are enjoying themselves. And yet that is precisely what it seems that two schools of judges are now, doubtless without any intention in that direction, doing. On the one

hand, there are those experts of an older generation (sometimes—rather unfairly, I think, in view of their knowledge and balance—referred to as “the old guard”) whose natural tendency—according to their critics—is to overvalue stamps and undervalue “postal history.” On the other hand, there are the members of the newer school who tend, once they see the postal history items they feel should be present, to have little or no regard for the stamps and are apt to be excessive in the rewards given to purely postal history collections, which often contain no stamps at all, or if so, only stamps on cover. At any one exhibition abroad one or the other group is in the ascendancy and that is reflected in the awards made. This means that the same collection may well receive substantially different gradings at different exhibitions—not a very desirable advertisement for the wisdom of judges. To me such differences only spring from the application of extreme views, and there is only one way open to relieving the onus on judges and of curbing the dissatisfaction of certain other sections.

It seems to me that once an exhibition entry is accepted by the executive it should be judged as it is submitted, i.e., as a philatelic holding. While judges are entitled not to give credit for what they feel is over-emphasis in any section of a collection, they are equally not entitled to reject a section *in toto* which, although its inclusion follows established collecting habits, is not a field to which they personally attach importance. On this side of the picture most judges, for instance, find it easy to give plus values to small countries containing a good postal history section, but find it impossible to give any plus values whatever to collections of “modern” countries which have an extensive historical introduction showing their postal history (often of superb quality) before independence.

The writer knows of at least two recent cases where, if the stamp section only had been exhibited (instead of the *toute ensemble*) the same class of medal would have been awarded as was awarded in fact for the whole!

Judges, I feel, should judge what is put before them. If it has been acceptable to the executive it should (in *some* degree) be acceptable to them. Otherwise it might well be said that an entry has been accepted on false pretences since part of the exhibit has received no consideration at all.

I suppose, both on the grounds of age and taste, that I belong more to “the old guard” than to the new guard. I feel also that any “digging in” by the old guard on this question has perhaps been contributed to by the over-enthusiasm of the new guard. Nevertheless, I feel that each has a contribution to make and, given a relaxed atmosphere, that a balanced commonsense will prevail. Neither of the two schools should, however, be allowed to dominate exhibitions. That they have so dominated them certainly reflects on the strength of the personalities involved but creates a puzzle for the layman.

In conclusion, these problems can, in my view, only be solved by private discussions amongst those concerned, not by over-ventilated criticism (biased in one direction or the other) in the philatelic press. There are so few people who really know stamps and postal history that we can ill afford to discourage them to the point of not desiring to judge at all.

J.R.W.P.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

REV. J. C. W. BROWN RELINQUISHES "THE TRAIL"

Pressure on his time has forced Rev. J. C. W. Brown reluctantly to relinquish responsibility for "The Trail of Commonwealth," after conducting it with great distinction for eight years.

In this time, he has made this one of the outstanding features of *Philately from Australia*. His extensive knowledge and enthusiasm has been of help and value to many Commonwealth specialists and of great interest to a wide range of other collectors, both in Australia and overseas.

Mr J. P. Meara, of Brisbane, has undertaken to take over "The Trail."

With his friend and colleague, Mr Charles O. Dunn, he is widely-known as a frequent and valued contributor to this journal. He will have the backing of Mr Dunn, with access to his collection.

Mr Brown's consultative services will still be available and Mr Meara has expressed his intention of utilising them so that "The Trail" will be maintained at its high level of authority and usefulness.

Mr Meara, who plans to conduct "The Trail" on the same lines as Mr Brown, will begin his task with the next issue.

The thanks and good wishes of many philatelists go to Mr Brown for the great and unselfish help so gladly given through the years.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Qantas Anniversary

Qantas 40th anniversary jet mail around the world last month was machine post-marked with the special cancellation "40th Ann Qantas. Winton. Qld. Aust. 2 pm Nov 16 1960" with the slogan Commemorative Flight "Round the World" behind the plan view of an old-time aircraft.

Winton was Qantas's birthplace.

They were backstamped with the double-lined circular date-stamp, Qantas Empire Airways—London, and in the centre 19 Nov 1960.

On arrival back in Sydney a similar machine postmark was used: "40th Ann Qantas Sydney. NSW. Aust. 11 am 23 Nov 1960," but the aircraft is a Boeing 707 jet.

Qantas has supplied the following details:

The covers left Winton on 16 November, Brisbane the following day, and arrived in London on 19 November.

They were flown in the Boeing VH-EBG (*City of Hobart*) to London, the captains being Sydney-Singapore, J. N. B. Snodgras; Singapore-Karachi, A. A. E. Yates; Karachi-Rome, I. R. Wyndham; Rome-London, K. D. Meares.

The westbound flight then continued in the *City of Sydney* (VH-EBB), leaving London on 21 November and arriving in Sydney on 23 November. The pilots were: London-New York, Captain A. B. Young; New York-San Francisco, Captain K. G. Jackson; San Francisco-Honolulu, Captain J. N. Murray; Honolulu-Sydney, Captain B. I. Henderson.

DATES OF ISSUE OF THE HIGH VALUE KANGAROOS

W. M. HOLBEACH, F.R.P.S.L.

In studying the high value bi-coloured Kangaroo issues of Australia, a project on which I have been engaged for some time, the establishment of the correct dates on which changes of watermark, shade and imprints occurred would be of considerable assistance.

There is no doubt that in the early days of our Australian Commonwealth stamps the study and reporting of new issues, changes, etc., was not as detailed or accurate as it is nowadays. This is unfortunate as the matter of ascertaining the dates of issue of these high value stamps is now complicated by the scarcity of material to work on and the fact that only a small proportion of available used stamps carry a postmark with a decipherable date.

I have searched through a number of Australian philatelic periodicals, catalogues, etc., and, surprisingly, find that in a number of instances there is considerable variance in these vital dates.

The following is a summary of the information found. Where a source is not quoted, this indicates no date is reported.

I have used the following symbols to denote the source of data obtained:

- G. Stanley Gibbons Catalogue, Part I.
- R. *The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia*, by A. A. Rosenblum.
- C.S.C. *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*.
- A.P. *The Australian Philatelist*.
- A.S.J. *The Australian Stamp Journal*.
- A.P.R. *The Australian (and Victorian) Philatelic Record*.
- W. "Commonwealth Issues," an article by E. D. E. van Weenen in the June 1919 issue of *The Australian Philatelist*.
- A.S.M. *The Australian Stamp Monthly*.

5s.

1st wmk.

- G. Grey and yellow, March 1913.
- C.S.C. Grey and yellow, 20.3.1913.
- R. Issued 25.3.1913.
- A.P. Chrome yellow and grey, reported in April 1913 issue.
- A.S.J. Yellow and grey, issued in Sydney, 1 April 1913.
- W. "Appeared" on 20 March 1913.

2nd wmk.

- G. Grey and yellow, 1915.
- C.S.C. Deep grey and yellow, 12.2.1915.

- R. Printed August 1914.
- R. Grey and chrome yellow, issued 1917.
- A.P. Reported "first noticed" 12 February 1915.
- A.S.J. Reported in April 1915 issue.
- W. Appeared in August 1915, although printed six months earlier.

3rd wmk.

- G. Grey and yellow, 1915.
- G. Grey and orange, 1920.
- G. Grey and pale yellow, 1928.
- C.S.C. Grey black and chrome, -.4.18, "first printing only."
- R. Grey and yellow, first issued March 1916.
- R. Deep grey and chrome, 1917.
- A.P. Reported in May 1918 issue.
- A.P. Orange shade, reported in August 1919 issue.
- A.P. Pale orange, reported in September 1919 issue.
- A.S.J. Reported in May 1918 issue.
- A.S.J. Orange shade reported in August 1919 issue.
- W. Appeared in April 1918.

Small mult. wmk.

- C.S.C. Grey and orange yellow, 30.11.29.
- R. Grey and orange yellow, issued 30.11.29.
- A.S.J. Grey black and orange yellow, reported appearance in December 1929.
- A.P.R. Issued in Melbourne 31.11.1929.

C of A wmk.

- C.S.C. Grey and orange yellow, -.12.1932.
- R. Issued December 1932.

10s.

1st wmk.

- G. Grey and pink, March 1913.
- C.S.C. Grey and pink, 20.3.1913.
- R. Issued, 25.3.1913.
- A.P. Grey and pink, reported in April 1913 issue.
- A.S.J. Pink and grey, issued in Sydney, 1 April 1913.
- W. Appeared 20 March 1913.

3rd wmk.

- G. Grey and pink, 1917.
- G. Grey and pale aniline pink, 1928.
- C.S.C. Grey and pink, 5.2.17.
- R. Grey and pink, first issued 29 March 1916.
- R. Grey and bright pink, 1917.
- R. Grey and bright aniline pink, 1918.
- R. Grey and pale pink, 1920.

- R. Grey and pale rose pink, 1922.
 A.P. Printed 12 months ago but it was only placed on sale at G.P.O. Sydney on 5 March 1917.
 A.S.J. Reported in March 1917 issue.
 W. Appeared 5 February 1917.

Small mult. wmk.

- C.S.C. Grey and pale pink, -.2.29.
 R. Grey and pale pink, February 1929.
 A.S.J. Reported in April 1929 issue.
 A.P.R. Reported in February 1929 issue.

C of A wmk.

- C.S.C. Grey and pink, 31.7.1932.
 R. July 1932.
 A.S.J. Reported September 1932 issue.
 A.S.M. Issued in Queensland, July 1932.

£1

1st wmk.

- G. Brown and blue, March 1913.
 C.S.C. Brown and blue, 20.3.1913.
 R. Issued 25.3.1913.
 A.P. Brown and blue, reported in April 1913 issue.
 A.S.J. Imperial blue and brown, issued in Sydney, 1 April 1913.
 W. Brown and blue, issued 20 March 1913.

3rd wmk.

- G. Chocolate and dull blue, 1916.
 G. Chestnut and bright blue, 1917.
 C.S.C. Purple brown and blue, -.7.16.
 R. Purple brown and blue, 28.3.1916.
 R. Chestnut and blue, June 1917.
 R. Light brown and pale blue, February 1920.
 A.P. Reported August 1916 issue.
 A.P. Pale blue and orange brown, reported in July 1917 issue.
 A.S.J. Brown and blue, reported in August 1916 issue.
 A.S.J. Yellow brown and deep ultramarine, on sale in Sydney, 4 July 1917.
 W. Appeared in July 1916.
 W. Orange brown and different shade of blue, June 1917.

£2

1st wmk.

- G. Black and rose, April 1913.
 C.S.C. Black and rose, 8.4.1913.
 R. Issued 10.4.1913.
 A.P. Issued in Sydney, 28 April 1913.

A.S.J. Issued 28 April 1913.

W. Appeared 8 April 1913.

3rd wmk.

G. Grey and crimson, 1920.

G. Purple black and pale rose, 1924.

C.S.C. Black and rose, -.12.1919.

R. First issued (?) 1918. Black and rose.

R. Grey black and crimson, 1920.

R. Purple black and rose, 1924.

A.P. Reported in March 1920 issue.

A.P.R. Reported in February 1920 issue.

A.P.R. Kangaroo now purple brown, reported in August 1925 issue.

Small mult. wmk.

G. Black and rose, 1930.

C.S.C. Grey and rose crimson, -.11.30.

R. Grey and rose crimson, November 1930.

C of A wmk.

G. Black and rose, 1934.

C.S.C. Grey and rose crimson, -.6.1934.

R. Grey and crimson, June 1934.

A.S.M. Rose and black, reported in July 1934 issue.

The above information shows some extraordinary disagreement regarding the dates of issue, notably in the following:

The 5s. 3rd wmk., where the dates vary from 1915 to 1918.

The 10s. 3rd wmk. vary from early 1916 to 1917.

The £1 3rd wmk., March 1916 to August 1916.

The £2 3rd wmk., 1918 to 1920.

It will be noticed that in several cases the time that the stamps were printed is quoted. For example, "R" in reference to the 5s. 2nd wmk. does not quote the date of issue but states that this stamp was first printed in August 1914. "W" states that the same stamp was issued in August 1915 but was printed six months earlier. The "A.P." reports that the 10s. 3rd wmk. was placed on sale on 5 March 1917, but was printed 12 months previously.

From a student's point of view, the establishment of the actual dates on which the printings were made would be very much more useful than the dates of issue, as the varying periods between printing and issue are likely to confuse any conclusions made.

Establishment of the dates of issue of sheets of stamps bearing the imprints of the various printers is also of considerable value. Information on this point was found to be very meagre. I found no information at all on the appearance of the Harrison imprint on any of the values. The Ash imprint was only reported on the 5s. 3rd wmk. in the "A.P.R." for December 1928, and in the "A.S.J." for August 1929, and on the 10s. 3rd wmk. in the "A.S.J." for August 1929.



The Other Side of the Picture



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

VICTORIA

"Too Late" and "Registered" Stamps—An Appeal

If anyone had asked me, two years ago, what could be done with these stamps—by a student—my reply would have been "very little." However, in spite of this thought I have, over the years, patiently accumulated sufficient material wherewith to prosecute a study. More recently, I have made a prolonged and determined attack on the citadel and my optimism has been confirmed by some most interesting—and somewhat unexpected—results. More material *may* add to these and I am therefore making an appeal to collectors to make their copies available to me for examination. In no case will the items be retained for more than two days. In particular I would like to see any multiples (these, of course, are excessively scarce), any copies showing the edge of a neighbouring stamp, any copies showing wide margins on one or more sides. Postage will be paid both ways and I will be grateful for any assistance, however small.

(b) *The Camberwell "Home-Made"*

It may not be generally known that for some four or five years between 1898 and 1902 Camberwell used a type of cancellation unique amongst Victorian postmarks. This, like the preceding normal "barred numeral" type, showed the number allocated to the post office, viz., 488, but in this case the bars (over and under the figures respectively) were *vertical*, and not horizontal. No other "official" production of this kind has been sighted to date, hence the term "home-made" for this unusual type, which may well have been of "local" origin.

(c) *5s. "Postage" 1901-1912: Some Holes Filled In*

Some years ago I contributed a detailed study of this value, from 1867 to 1912, to the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.

At that time there were certain prominent constant varieties in the "overprint" (*blue* portion) the sheet position of which (the sheet was of 100—10 x 10) I had not been able to ascertain. Thanks to the acquisition of two more blocks of four I have now ascertained the position of all varieties, with one exception, as follows:

- (i) A third "no top to crown" variety (illustrated on p. 180 of the issue of May 1956). This is No. 48 in sheet, the three varieties thus occurring in a vertical strip of three,

- in positions 28, 38, 48. Found only in the Crown A printings, like its two companions.
- (ii) Not mentioned in the article but found in *all* printings. Shows a circle—not a stop—to the left of the "V" of "VICTORIA." This occurs on No. 43 in the sheet.
- (iii) Another variety, only found in the Crown A printings, first showing the top right half of the "V" and the top half of the "E" of "FIVE" missing. Later printings show this damage *repaired*. This is No. 56 in the sheet.

The one exception is the prominent variety (it seems to occur in all printings from 1902 on, and is almost certainly the result of *repair*) which shows the letters "E SHILL ---" larger than usual and somewhat distorted. If by any chance any reader possesses this variety in a block (or even a pair) I would be grateful for the chance of inspecting it because it should enable me to close this particular chapter.

QUEENSLAND

The Numeral Cancellations

Mr Campbell and the writer have continued to work away on these and while the volume of new information is reduced the gains are still substantial.

(a) *Corrections*

- 188 TORBANLEA. Originally chronicled as 88.
- 260 WARRA. A sufficiently distinct example of this "tie" has been shown us by Mr Dallimore which makes it doubtful whether the number (293 or 273) previously ascribed can be correct.

(b) *Confirmations*

37 HEBEL, 107 KILKIVAN, 145 ROLLESTON, 194 BRANDON, 244 HENDON, 259 JIMBOOMBA, 272 DINMORE, 304 KURANDA, 324 CRESSBROOK, 339 BURDEKIN, 401 IRVINEBANK, 461 ZILLMERE, 483 FOREST HILL, 468 NOCUNDRA, 485 ARRILALAH, 521 BOULIA, 578 OOLBUN, 586 IRVINGDALE, 589 STAMFORD.

(c) *New "Ties"*

Here we have fifteen to chronicle, as follows:

- 56 CORFIELD (4). A *re-allocation*. See p. 30.
- 88 SPRING CREEK. See p. 16. TORBANLEA, at present given as 88, turns out to be 188.
- 140 KINGSBOROUGH (2). A *re-allocation*. See p. 30.
- 262 MOUNT BRITTEN. A *re-allocation*. See p. 23.
- 320 LISTOWEL DOWNS (4). See p. 22. This was previously only a "probable."
- 329? COORPAROO. See p. 22. The number is somewhat indistinct and requires confirmation.
- 337 ARGENTINE. See p. 23.
- 355 BOULDERCOMBE. See p. 24. Shown us by Mr Dallimore.
- 381 SOUTHWOOD. See p. 24.
- 391 DALBY (3). A *re-allocation*, also used 96.

- 432 OONTOO. See p. 26. A *re-allocation*.
417? TABLE TOP. See p. 26. Middle figure is indistinct.
482 STAMFORD. Name not found in Porter. Originally used 589. This is a replacement, and probably a re-allocation from JONDOWAIE, which now used 150.
555 GIROFLA (3). See p. 29. May be a change of name from MUNGANA (see p. 34). Girofla was on the Mungana goldfields.
610 TOOLBURRA. See p. 31, at top.

THE FIRST DATESTAMPS AND OBLITERATORS OF THE COOK ISLANDS

By A. R. BURGE

From a study of a relatively large number of covers dated from 1892 to 1896 we are able to determine to some extent the period of use of the various date-stamps and obliterations of the Cook Islands that came into use with the issue of the first stamps in April 1892.

The double-lined rectangular datestamp (Collins type 4, Pixies 1A) appears to be the first mark used as it is recorded on stamps with the date 19 Apr 92 and on unaddressed postcards of the same date and that of 21 May 92.

In June 1892 this datestamp was used in conjunction with a roughly circular obliterator of nine irregular spaced bars (Collins —, Pixies 3A?), while in July and August its use with the familiar "PO Rarotonga" obliterator (Collins 2, Pixies 2A), is noted.

October that year brings us the first use of the small coin type dater with "RAROTONGA" and the date either above or below (Collins 3, Pixies 6A), and this appears to have been used as the dater with the "PO" mark as the obliterator up to June 1893. The regular use of the "PO" mark appears to have been discontinued about this time (although it turns up again in March 1894), the small dater being used to cancel the stamps from then on until early 1896.

December 1893 records the first use of the A39 (with 9 reversed) obliterator (Collins type 7, Pixies 7A), that mysterious mark formally used at Ngaruawahia, near Hamilton, N.Z. This is later recorded cancelling covers prepaid with the 1d. blue Makea surcharged "ONE HALF PENNY" in 1899.

April 1896 saw the first use of the large "COOK ISLANDS RAROTONGA" datestamp (Collins type 9, Pixies 12A), that remained in use for so long.

Registration facilities appear to have been introduced about April 1893 and the first mark used was a large manuscript "R" in blue pencil followed by the registration number. These numbers are also found used in conjunction with the Cook Islands Government frank stamp, the small coin type dater, and the "PO RAROTONGA" obliterator.

Early in 1894 we find the first use of the large "R" in an upright oval usually in purple. This mark continued until April 1895 when the third type was introduced. This took the form of a rectangle with corners cut off containing a large "R" on the left and with the words "COOK ISLANDS RAROTONGA" in two lines followed by the date below.

We have not been able to tie down the use of the following marks that have been recorded as being used at Rarotonga:

Collins type 1, Pixies 5A—Oval of six horizontal bars containing the word "RAROTONGA" which has a short bar at each end

Collins type 5—Oval bar obliterator with eight horizontal bars.

Collins type 6—Oval bar obliterator with seven horizontal bars.

Pixies type 4A—Circle of eleven bars, the three centre bars interrupted for a distance of 1 mm.

From the evidence of the covers we have seen it would appear that the rectangular datestamp must have been sent over with the first supply of the stamps that arrived in Rarotonga on 19 April 1892. Moss did not return from New Zealand until 19 May and it could be he brought over the odd obliterating marks that seemed to have been used at odd times pending the receipt of the regular datestamps.

Why it became necessary to use these at all may well remain a mystery, and their scarcity indicated that they were seldom used. Moss may have brought them with the idea of supplying them to the post offices of the other islands—Aitutaki, Atui and Mangaia—which had post offices established in 1891.

These offices probably received their "PO" marks shortly after that for Rarotonga was received (in July 1892?). In fact, we have a cover that originated in Aitutaki late in September 1892 with the "PO AITUTAKI" cancellation. Moss had earlier received a letter dated 10 December 1891 from the postmaster at Aitutaki in which he said: "Please send me as soon as you can some stamps, a seal and some tape . . ."

We are anxious to determine as far as possible the exact use of the various marks and would greatly appreciate if any collector in possession of Cook Island covers would send details of all the marks and numbers to me at PO Box 1568, Wellington, N.Z. Due acknowledgment will be made in "the fifth volume" now in course of preparation by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand.

AUSTRALIA: 6d. KOOKABURRA, PERF. 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 14

By J. P. MEARA

As with other values in this Animal/Bird series, the 6d. Kookaburra plates during their eighteen years' use have richly rewarded students and these notes are my record of the "Kooka."

Although the design first appeared on 2 August 1937, on paper perforated 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ x 14, a new master plate with a closer margin of 2.75 mm. between units, was prepared for the change of perforation to 14 $\frac{3}{4}$ x 14.

Pertinent dates associated with this issue are:

C of A Wmk, McCracken Imprint	Type I pips	o	o	6.42
C of A Wmk, Authority Imprint	Type I pips	o	o	1.49
C of A Wmk, Imprint removed	Type I pips	o	o	12.52
Unwatermarked paper introduced	Type I pips	o	o	18.8.56
Perf. pip variation (Brisbane)	Type II pips	O	o	8.7.57
Perf. pip variation (Brisbane)	Type III pips	O	O o	16.9.58
Rendered obsolete by 6d. Banded Anteat				30.9.60
Last sales in Brisbane—early 1961 (anticipated)				

Master Plate: This comprised 640 impressions arranged to provide four sheets of 160 stamps in two panes of 80 (8 x 10) with a two-line central gutter of stamp width between panes.

The quartering lines consisted of a close series of fine dots which may be observed equidistant between the upper and lower sheets, and 19 mm. equidistant between sheets "A" and "B" at the extreme top and opposite row 2, also between sheets "C" and "D" opposite row one.

Layout dots appear on the central horizontal layout line in the line of the vertical perf. columns and $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. to the right of such dots there is invariably a short vertical dash, construed as being of some assistance in the then layout technique.

At the base of sheet "C" and more so, sheet "D," the layout dots may be seen between the lower corners of each unit and in this respect off-centre perforations are an aid.

A fine dotted line also extends from corner to corner of the adjacent stamps across the top ends of the gutter lines on sheet "B," and the lower ends of these lines on sheet "C."

Markings on the "middle selvedge" definitely link sheets "A/C" and "B/D" and the wide left selvedge of linked "B/D" sheets with vertical layout line correctly determines the sheet disposition.

All sheet layout markings are of variable clarity, and their nature is different in several respects from those appearing on sheets from later master plates (*Philately from Australia*, June 1958, p. 37).

One further interesting feature may be found on sheet "D," columns 6, 7, 8 left pane and 1, 2, 3, 4 right pane, where an excess of colour appears in the angle formed by the left side of the stump and the lower frame. It is suggested this is a roller flaw which occurred during the transfer process.

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

I N D E X

VOLUME 12, 1960

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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The design was transferred singly as evidenced by the horizontal mal-alignment of many units.

Many scratches and some spots are found on the printed sheets, most of which are of electro derivation, and for conclusive deduction the clarity of such scratches is frequently affected by inking density, paper and the constant attention to the electros whilst in use.

A fine range of shades exists—brown, reddish brown, dark brown and intermediate shades.

Reverse perforations have been encountered on several occasions and only Plate No. 7 is known to date.

Varieties: The master plate varieties are in two main categories: (a) Weakness to (i) first shading line for 1 mm. in top left corner; (ii) the shading from "LIA" to top right corner manifest on a number of units; (iii) shading under "GE" to lower right corner. (b) Roller shifts, although the term "re-entry" is often loosely applied.

The electro varieties are of far greater interest, particularly the retouched imprints, also the several worthwhile recuts which appeared early in 1960.

SHEET "A"—UPPER LEFT

Plate Varieties

Left Pane

- R1/6: First line weak for 1 mm. top left corner.
- R2/5: Major weakness to base of stamps. Good.
- R3/3: Roller shift over top frame from left corner to "RAL."
- R9/5: Weak shading top right corner.

Right Pane

- R2/7: Shading weakness in both top corners.
- R4/1, 4/8, 5/4, 10/1: Shading weakness top right corner.

Gutter Lines

- Top: Right slightly longer than left.
- Base: Right line heavy and thick for 3 mm. at end, with slip of graver.

Electro Varieties

Electro 7

- L.P. R10/1: Weakness below 6d. to stump and under "POSTAGE."
- R10/2: Slightly lighter at base with irregular 4½ mm. line 6½-7 mm. below frame under "OSTA." Plate fracture.

Authority Imprint at Left: Letters in centre weak with "HE AUT" and "MMoNW"

Electro "X"

- R.P. R2/1: Spot immediately below frame under "AG."

Electro "Y"

- R.P. R4/2: *Recut* to shading lines joining left frame opposite underside of beak. Type III pips, 1960.

SHEET "C"—LOWER LEFT

Plate Varieties

Left Pane

- R3/6: Shading weakness top right corner.

Right Pane

R2/1, 3/3, 4/8, 5/3, 6/3, 6/6, 7/3: Shading weakness top right corner.

Gutter Lines

Top: Left slightly longer than right.

Base: Left slightly longer than right. Right forked.

*Electro Varieties**Electro 7*

L.P. R10/1, 10/2: Weakness below 6d. to stump and under "POSTAGE."

Authority Imprint at Left: Letters in centre weak with "HE AUT" and "MMoNW" at least *recut*.

Authority Imprint from gutter showing Plate 7—late 1954.

Electro "X"

R.P. R3/1: Extensive *recutting* of shading lines:

(i) between left frame and bird's breast commencing 9 mm. from top frame and extending to bush top;

(ii) from tip of heavy leaves in top centre to and into leaves of bush below.

Earliest dated copy AP 60 (?1) held by Mr E. Robinson, Brisbane. Some sheets show (i) rather heavy probably due to wear with resultant spread of ink. Type III pips, 1960.

R.P. R4/1: The left side and lower portion of leaf nearest the bush behind bird and shading immediately below and into leaves *recut*. Type III pips, 1960.

R.P. R10/2: (i) Spot on shading line at left 2½ mm. in, 9 mm. down. C of A wmk also. Type II pips, 1957.

(ii) Light *recutting* of five lines 1½-2½ mm. in, 9 mm. down, Type III pips, 1960. The attempt to remove the spot which should therefore exist with Type III pips.

Electro "Y"

R.P. R3/1: (i) Spot between shading lines at left, 3 mm. in, 10½ mm. down.

(ii) Light circular area 1½ mm. diameter in above position with one line *recut* for ¼ mm. commencing 2½ mm. in, 10.3 mm. down. Type III pips, 1960.

Electro unknown (?P)

R.P. R1/1: 2 mm. oblique dash under "A" of "AUST." Reported *A.S.M.*, April, 1952. May exist only on C of A paper.

*SHEET "B"—UPPER RIGHT**Plate Varieties**Left Pane*

R2/1, 3/1, 4/6, 6/5: Shading weakness top right corner.

R6/3: Roller shift between frame and first shading line from left corner to "RAL."

R8/3: Roller shift top left portion of stamp, strong between frame and first line, noticeable on letters "AU RA," shading lines below "AUSTRALIA" and under beak.

Gutter Lines

Top: Of equal length with dotted line across tops.

Base: Left slightly longer than right.

*Electro Varieties**Electro "X"*

R.P. R6/2: Upwards sloping scratch through "ALIA." Type III pips. Reported *A.S.M.*, May 1958, p. 273, prior to my record of Type III pips so should exist with Types I and II pips and possibly on C of A paper.

Electro "Y"

L.P. R2/2: Shading lines *recut* from under "US" to bird's beak. Type III pips, 1960.

L.P. R10/1: Colour dash joining centre of leaf nearest bush behind bird to heavy leaf on right thereof. Type III pips, 1960. Appeared in association with R2/2 *recut*.

L.P. R10/2: 5 mm. almost vertical scratch commencing 11½ mm. below "ST" and extending to top of sheet "D." Noted in Brisbane 18.1.56 on C of A paper, subsequently on plain paper, and was removed by burnishing late 1956 or early 1957, before insertion of large pips.

Roving Pip: This single large pip is positioned at normal pip level, but 10½ mm. from left frame alignment of column on left pane, and was undoubtedly an error of judgment which occurred when Type III pips were being inserted, although the "Rover" was not noted in Brisbane until 7.1.59.

SHEET "D"—LOWER RIGHT

Plate Varieties

Right Pane

R3/4: Strong roller shift affecting lower portion with duplication to shading through lower half of 6d., Kookaburra and panel, Postage and shading on right thereof.

R10/2: Traces of roller shift in letters "A" and "G" of "POSTAGE."

R10/8: Shading weakness top right corner.

Gutter Lines

Top: Right slightly longer than left and both incline to left for final 2 mm.

Base: Right slightly longer than left.

Electro Varieties

Early Electro

R.P. R3/3: Large ink flaw on bird's head giving appearance of "Top Hat"—a printing vagary consistent for limited period early in 1950, and caused by hard foreign matter adhering to the impression roller. R4/2 was slightly affected at the same time as there is stripping between "IA" and branches.

Electro "X"

R.P. R10/1: Sloping dash through mid-left of "6."

Electros: The perf. pip variations of 1957 gave much impetus to electro study and taken in conjunction with the various sheet markings, some results have been achieved.

First, reference is made to the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, November 1951, p. 594, wherein Mr Stanley, of Melbourne, reported two imprints each with coloured flaws of smudge appearance on the letters "RNM" and "NW." It was not stated whether these were left or gutter imprints, or from upper or lower sheets, but this item is kept in mind in case there is any relation to the retouched imprints on Electro 7.

Electro 7: The Authority Imprint first appeared in January 1949, and I am unaware of any McCracken sheets which show the retouched left imprints from sheets "A" and "C," or the weakness to the base of the two units above. As such blocks are by no means scarce, I believe there is no prior state but the imprints were recut prior to printing from this electro which was prepared during 1949-1952, and from which Mr C. O. Dunn holds a strip from sheet "C" showing the left corner varieties in association with Plate No. 7 (his report to this effect appears in *A.S.M.*, December 1954, p. 759). In fact this electro may have been prepared late in 1948—the first to bear the impersonal imprint on this issue.

However, if there is a prior state, it is difficult to reconcile the recutting of

only several small letters and no attempt to strengthen the weakness which persisted after the removal of the imprints in late 1952 until final printings from this electro.

During late 1953, the plate fracture appeared at the lower left corner of sheet "A," developed only slightly during 1954, and at the end of that year or early 1955 I believe Electro 7, used only for unwatermarked printings, was discarded.

Electro "P": This was the opposite to Electro 7 in use in 1954. "A" sheets on C of A paper without imprint, bore a series of sloping electro scratches at the lower left corner, the most prominent being 5 mm. long and 10½ mm. below the left corner of L.P. R10/2. I cannot trace a "follow through" to plain paper, nor does it currently appear. It seems this piece is also from an electro discarded about 1955, but there is no conclusive proof. Positional pieces held from other sheets represent an insufficiency for study purposes.

Electros "X" and "Y": These are the last two electros in use. Both successively bore pip Types I, II and III and as initial printings were on watermarked paper, they were obviously prepared when Electros 7 and "P" were discarded, i.e., during late 1954 to early 1956.

I have tentatively grouped the sheets indicated as belonging to either Electros "X" and "Y" because of the fewer scratches on sheets from "X" and the multiplicity of scratches on sheets from "Y," of which my earliest recording is 18.1.56.

As the imprints were inserted on the master plate, they would be burnished or, more correctly, filed off the electros before use, and although I have not seen any trace remaining on watermarked sheets from these two electros, there was a short period when unwatermarked "C" and "D" sheets from Electro "Y" showed appreciable traces of the removal of the imprints in the form of long irregular colour patches with clear indication of the right to left upward filing motion. Such pieces as I hold bear Type I pips which places the appearance of these patches during the period August 1956 to July 1957.

Both electros were given close attention late in 1959 or early 1960, as the several recuts listed were first noted early in 1960, due largely to the keen eye of Mr Lance Skinner of Sydney.

Diagramatic positioning of the recutting will indicate that several nice pieces could grace one's album, particularly inverted "L" pieces from sheet "B" showing Type III pips, the "Rover," the prior and recut state of L.P. R2/2 and the roller shifts on R6/3 and R8/3.

It is difficult to assess the reason for all the recutting, as no apparent prior flaws appear to exist, although in two instances spots were seemingly removed by bump recutting. It will be recalled several spots were removed by recutting on the 4d. Q.E. II of 1957 (*Philately from Australia*, September 1959, p. 63).

In concluding these notes I cannot stress too strongly the importance attached to sheet markings and pip variations in recent research, and would welcome sound comment through these columns from those students conducting research on this issue, or other recent issues.



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

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

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

PAPUA

The "Small Papua" Lithographed Issue

The lithographic flaw occurring on No. 11 on the sheet, often described as the "spot on the hill," is found on all values of the sideways watermark issues of the small Papua series.

But we believe that no previous record has been published of the exact incidence of this flaw.

The earliest printing of the 2½d. value, with sideways watermark, did not show the flaw, thus proving that it was the first value printed with the watermark sideways. This printing was normally perforated 12½, single line.

The next printing of the 2½d. with sideways watermark showed the "spot on the hill" on No. 11 and so did all printings of all the other values of the small Papua series, printed subsequently.

This printing of the 2½d. was all perforated 11, single line. Thus it is not possible to find the 2½d., perf. 12½ and showing the "spot on the hill."

However, a very few sheets are known perforated 11 and yet not showing the "spot on the hill."

These must have occurred in one of two ways:

- (a) a few sheets of the earliest printing were left unperforated at the time of printing and were perforated 11 with the second printing, or
- (b) the flaw actually developed during the second printing after a few sheets had been printed from the stone without the flaw. In this case they would, in the normal course, be perforated 11 single line.

The variety being due to the lack of the flaw, it is only of interest in a positioned block.

Only one complete sheet and one half sheet are known to the Circle. So this, the fourth state of the vignette stone, on the 2½d. perforated 11, appears to be one of the scarcest varieties of the small Papua series.

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

The Fiji Provisionals and "Pandanus" Issues of 1911

An order for Fiji stamps was placed by the Crown Agent with De La Rue on 30 March 1910, of which ½d., 1d., 2d., 2½d., 5d., 6d. and 1s. were required overprinted "Gilbert & Ellice Protectorate."

A proof was submitted on 10 May and approved on 30 May. De La Rue felt that an overprint in red would show to better advantage on the 1s. value, and they submitted an Appendix of 30 June for selection by the Crown Agent. Whilst they preferred the red, they requested that a proof be made with the overprint covering the word Fiji. This was submitted on 12 July. The Crown Agent nevertheless approved the original overprint of 30 June on 15 July 1910.



Material was then supplied to De La Rue for the designing of a stamp for the definitive issue. An essay was submitted to the Crown Agent on 10 June 1910, with the recommendation that, as quantities were likely to be small, stamps should be produced by the copper-plate process, but with wider duty tablet to accommodate higher duty values. The essay and recommendation were approved on 30 June, and the blank duty die proof was approved on 12 August 1910.

Stamps of the values of $\frac{1}{2}$ d., 1d., 2d. and $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. were printed and sent out to the Protectorate in 1911, all being of the "pandanus" type. It may be assumed that stocks of the 5d., 6d. and 1s. in the Fiji provisional overprinted issue were ample, as there was no printing of these values in the "pandanus" type.

It does not appear to have previously been known to philatelists that steps had actually been taken to prepare the dies of a definitive King Edward VII issue to replace the three higher values of the Fiji provisional overprinted issue.

A die was prepared to replace these values, to be used concurrently with the values of the "pandanus" type which had reached issue stage.

A proof was completed on 2 November 1911 on the standard De La Rue card for designs and submitted to the Crown Agent, and approved on the 17th of the same month. It consisted of a proof of the Edward VII key plate then in use throughout the Crown Colonies, with a proof of the subsidiary name die let into the top label. It is thought that it was probably intended to make an integral die for the Edward issue by preparing a new die with the name plate included, instead of using a duty plate for the name of the Protectorate as well as the values. Pulls were also approved of three duty plates for which the issue was to have been made—5d., 6d. and 1s.

We illustrate from photographs: the proof with overprint covering the word Fiji and that of the adopted design; the essay and blank duty die proof of the "pandanus" type; and the proof, which is of unusual interest, of the definitive King Edward VII issue which was not made because of the death of the King.

TASMANIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

By O. G. INGLES

(Continued from September 1960, p. 79)

PART II

In this part, which will attempt the listing of newspaper wrappers and embossed envelopes, even the new information which has been elicited is probably insufficient to disentangle the confusion of private and official printings until the relevant records can be discovered. Records of the Government Printing Office appear no longer to exist for this period; other sources, however, may yet provide more details than are at present known.

NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

- P1* 1891 Earliest date noted 18.4.91.*
(a) $\frac{1}{2}$ d. red embossed on various coloured papers (orange, rose, deep blue, green, lilac, buff, grey-green, yellow, pale blue, flesh, deep blue-green, rose-lilac, deep red, blue, fawn, puce, red-orange, deep red. Also white, yellow, light blue, in surfaced paper).
(b) 1d. red embossed on white and blue papers.
- P2* 1892 1d. red embossed on salmon Advertisement Sheets. (Also recorded on white and yellow.)
- 1* 1897 Queen's Head in serrated oval, embossed. Double red lines at right and left. Yellowish hemppaper. Earliest date so far noted, 16.2.99.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Orange. (a) 110 x 320 mm. (b) 150 x 320 mm.
- 2* 1897 Queen's Head in smooth oval, embossed. Double red line at right and left. Yellowish hemppaper.
1d. Red. 110 x 320 mm.
- 3* 1897 Queen's Head in beaded oval, embossed. Double red line at right and left. Yellowish hemppaper.
2d. Bright Green. 110 x 320 mm.
- 4* 1902? As type *1*, but without border lines and on surfaced, off-white paper.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Orange. 110 x 280 mm.
- 5* 1902? As for type *4*, with type *2* embossing.
1d. Carmine-red. 110 x 280 mm.
- 6* 1902? As for type *4*, but with type *3* embossing.
2d. Bright Green. (a) 110 x 280 mm. (b) 130 x 250 mm.
- 7* ? As for type *5*, but with embossed stamp now horizontal on the wrapper (embossings *1* to *6* were vertical).
1d. Vermillion-red. 110 x 280 mm.
- 8* 1906 Bust of King Edward VII (later type, with "Postage" at each side of the head, the whole in heavy frame). Surfaced white paper, with surface printed stamp.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Blue-green. 110 x 290 mm. (a) Variety: same, but on grey-yellow paper.

*Postage on newspapers was first imposed on 1.1.89. Private embossed wrappers may have originated soon after.

- 9 1906 Earliest date noted 31.1.06. As for type 8. Surfaced white paper.
1d. Rose. 110 x 290 mm.

NOTE: Each wrapper may vary slightly in length and is given to nearest 10 mm. to average. Wrappers 6(b) and 8(a) may have been private issues.

EMBOSSSED (and Surface Printed) ENVELOPES

- 1 1883- Queen's Head in beaded oval, embossed. At reverse a sharp pointed flap (not 1912 rounded). White envelope. Earliest date so far noted, 3.7.85.
2d. Dark Green to Green. 140 x 78 mm.
- 2 1898 Surface printed, embossed on reverse "Waterlow and Sons Limited, London Wall." Six different views covering most of the front of the envelope, from sketches by D. Warry.
2d. Green (Queen's Head). 140 x 78 mm.
"Mount King William from the West"
"In Denison Gorge near Launceston"
"Lake Sorrell from the Diamond Beach"
"Mount Wellington in Winter, from Huon Road Hobart"
"Leven Bridge and the Dial Range"
"On the North Esk near Launceston"
- 3 1898 As above, but different value and six different views, also by Warry.
2½d. Red-purple (Queen's Head Tablet). 140 x 78 mm.
"Mount King William"
"Diana's Basin and St. Patrick's Head"
"Government House, Hobart"
"The South Esk River at Launceston"
"Lake Crescent and the Old Man's Head"
"Lake St. Clair and Mount Olympus"

NOTE: Only 1500 (2) and (3) are reputed to have been issued.

Private embossed envelopes are found in great diversity of coloured papers, envelope sizes, and embossed stamp combinations. The following gives a brief summary, although it is almost certainly far from complete.

- P1 With *one* embossing.
½d. Orange-yellow, or red.
1d. Red, or green.
2d. Green (and shades).
- P2 With *two* embossings.
½d. + ½d. Orange, red, or combination.
1d. + 1d. Red, or green.
½d. + 1d. Red, or orange and red.
½d. + 2d. Green with green, red, or orange.

(The envelope in the abovenamed issue is frequently the officially issued 2d. green. The additional ½d. embossing is very probably, however, equally as "spurious" as the other private embossings. See remarks in Part I of this series.)

- 1d. + 2d. Red and green.
2d. + 2d. Green.

P3 With *three* embossings.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + 1d. Orange and red, or red.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + 1d. + 1d. Orange and red, or red.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + 2d. Orange (2) and green (1), or orange (1) and green (2).
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + 1d. + 2d. Orange red and green.
1d. + 1d. + 2d. Red and green.

P4 With *four* embossings.

- $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Orange.
 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + $\frac{1}{2}$ d. + 1d. + 1d. Orange (1) and red (3).

The great majority of the *used* private issues which the writer has inspected have all been addressed to two or three addresses only, in Germany or Austria. Many cards bearing additional (private) embossing also bear the same addresses and frequently bear no writing on the card other than the address.

CHECK LIST OF PLATE FLAWS

Since, in some cases, there are many minor identifying flaws, only the principal flaws (sufficient for identification) will be listed.

Lettercard 1 (Numbering left to right, top to bottom. Three rows of 2.)

- 1 No lower front serif to "L" in "Letter." Thickened, convex, top bar to "T" and hook at top left leg of "M" in "Tasmania." White dot before foot of "T" of "Two" on the stamp. Hollow stop after "letter" in the instructions.
- 2 Top of "R" in "Letter" slightly deformed (sloped). On the stamp, a marked projection on top right corner, a white dash after the top of the last "A" of "Tasmania" and white spot in front of "C" of "Pence." Foot of "T" of "This" in the instructions severed.
- 3 Constancy of flaws not yet proven here.
- 4 Top serif to "R" of "Card" partly bent downward, and no top to "E" of "Letter." Very blunt top right corner to stamp. Left upright of "M" of "Tasmania" bulges slightly outwards (deformed).
- 5 Toe of "L" in "Letter" severed, also bottom serif of "A" in "Card." Spot of colour under "B" of "Basin" and break under "N" of "Diana" in bottom frame line of scene.
- 6 Last "A" of "Tasmania" an inverted V. Deformed right foot serif to "M," and wavy left upright to "N" of "Tasmania." On the stamp a white dot after top of "T" in "Tasmania." In the instructions, colour dot in "a" of "place" and "u" of "without" half missing.

Registered Envelope 1(a)

- a Distance "R"-text $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Top left of "R" heavily nicked. "T" of "it" misplaced downwards. No stop after "Co".
- b Distance "R"-text $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. No stop after "Here". Two stops after "Co". Length of blue line on the back above the crossline 34 mm.

- c Distance "R"-text $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Length of blue line on back above the crossline 37 mm. Single stop after "Here" and "Co".
- d Distance "R"-text $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Stop after "Here" displaced down $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. 1 mm. break in rear blue line 4 mm. from intersection. Length of blue line on back $35\frac{1}{2}$ mm. above crossline.

Registered Envelope 2(a)

- a Length of blue line on back above the crossline 33 mm. Comma after "M" of "M'Corquodale" reversed.
- b Very flat top to "G" of large "Registered." Dot between "Officer" and "of," and in "D" of "and."
- c Blue line on front broken at the base of the intersection. Blue lines at back also show three characteristic distortions, $3\frac{1}{2}$, 17 and 66 mm. from intersection and is 34 mm. high above crossline.

Registered Envelope 2(b)

- a Nick on the top of "P" of "Post." "Be" so heavily inked as to be illegible. Nick on the right of the blue line intersection at the front. Comma instead of stop after "Limited." $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. Between comma and stop after "Co".
- b Slightly flattened top to "G" of large "Registered." Dot in loop of "R" of small "Registered." Bottom half of front blue line very thin, tapering. 1 mm. between comma and stop after "Co".

Registered Envelope 3(a)

- a Break in top front blue line 39 mm. from intersection.
- b Second "E" of small "Registered" minus centre bar. Apostrophe after "Patent."
- c No readily identifiable flaws.

Registered Envelope 3(b)

Although only one plate position appears to exist, there are two distinct states of the plate.

Early printings: Bottom bar of "E" in large "Letter" intact.

Late printings: Bottom bar of "E" in large "Letter" broken at left.

The plate is characterised throughout by the two "T"s in small "Letter" being of uneven height, and by breaks top and bottom of the line intersection at rear and at left of it in front, and by a small thickening on the inside of the oval immediately below the right foot of the "R."

BOOK REVIEWS

Edwin Mueller's Handbook of the Pre-Stamp Postmarks of Austria, 200 pp. 6½ x 10 ins. Published by The Collectors' Club, 22 East 35th Street, New York 16, N.Y., U.S.A. Price: \$12.50.

Little more than a year ago, when reviewing the first part of Mr Mueller's *Handbook of Austria and Lombardy-Venetia Cancellations*, we praised his energy, and now he has produced a companion work covering the earlier period. It lists 2154 postmarks and has 800 illustrations, including many covers.

The book covers the century 1751—the year of the first known postmarks—to the introduction of stamps in 1850.

The first section covers the postal history phase, giving the historical background, the postal rates, the story of the markings, a description of the types of postmarks, town, registration, offices abroad, fieldposts, dis-infection markings, and others.

The second part is a catalogue listing all known postmarks, including those of the Danube Steam Navigation Company agencies, with valuations, and statistical data.

The illustrations are especially noteworthy and much time can be spent in studying some of the ornate marks recorded and cogitating on the imagination and efforts spent to make postal markings attractive in design a century or two ago. It is also interesting to note, for example, that the oval within an oval used in South Africa at the time of the triangulars had a forerunner at Schwarzwasser.

This is the sixth handbook published by The Collectors' Club, under the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund, and the most lavishly produced of the series.

Mr Mueller is the foremost living authority on early Austrian philately and postal history and this production undoubtedly enhances his reputation.

It will be of value, service, and interest to a wide range of collectors.

Early Days of the New Zealand Post Office, R. M. Startup, 24 pp. 8 x 10½ ins. Mimeographed. Published by Laurie Franks Ltd, 567 Barbadoes Street, Christchurch, N.Z. (Tasman Stamp Handbook No. 6). Price: 6s. (N.Z.)

High printing costs are unable to deter

New Zealand's postal history enthusiasts such as Mr Startup and Mr Franks. They have resorted to the duplicator to produce a series of postal history brochures, which, however important, could attract only a limited market at present.

One of the fascinations of N.Z. postal history research has been to what the progress of the research and discoveries relating to the foundation of New Zealand's postal service and its mail markings.

Early Days of the New Zealand Post Office opens with the usual historical review, and then covers the postal history period up to the introduction of stamps in 1855.

This considerably amplifies some of the data given in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Vol. III*.

Mr Startup also adds to the knowledge regarding the mysterious two-line marking "New Zealand Ship Letter" which, the N.Z. handbook says, is found on "letters posted in 1844 to the United Kingdom." Mr Alan W. Robertson expressed the opinion that this was applied in New Zealand.

Now Mr Startup confirms this but dates it from June 1842.

Later, he shows that New Zealand's first stamps and numeral cancellers were distributed among the provinces in proportion to the average total revenue for the two preceding years and traces their geographical distribution.

His work shows the fascination of the subject, the progress that is being made, and the gaps in our knowledge still calling to be filled.

The Anglo-Boer War Philatelist, Vol. 3, No. 2. 20 pp. 8 x 10 ins. Mimeographed.

Official publication of the Anglo-Boer War Philatelic Society, C/- J. H. Rathbone, "Allways," Rudheath, Northwich, Cheshire.

Australians should have an especial interest in the Boer War, for historical reasons, and some interesting covers of that period should be lurking somewhere in the Commonwealth awaiting discovery.

The society, founded two years ago, already has a world-wide membership and its journal has a wide range of contributions, notably Army Telegraph Cancellations; The Pietersburg Issue of the Z.A.R.; Bibliography of the Boer War.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1960

December

- 6 Library and Conversation
- 15 Mr J. R. W. Purves: Impressions of London and Johannesburg.

1961

January

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February

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- 23 Sale by Tender

March

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- 16 Dr L. Abramovitch: Commonwealth
- 30 Mr E. C. Creed: British Honduras

April

- 4 Library and Conversation
- 20 Mr J. H. Hawker: U.S.A. Miscellany

Afghanistan

Mr John M. Wilkins displayed Afghanistan at the September 15 meeting, and provided an interesting commentary on the collection.

He mentioned that the earlier issues brought out the Orthodox Moslem influence in the country, as it was not until 1931 that anything other than inscriptions appeared on the stamps.

All the first issues of Amir Sher Ali were characterised by a Tiger's Head design in the centre. "Sher" being Persian for tiger.

All the earliest issues were hand-drawn, one subject at a time, and lithographed from stones of from four to 60 subjects. Another peculiarity was the frequency with which the various denominations occurred on the same stone. The "tear-off" type of postmark was another peculiarity.

Mr Wilkins showed a good representation of the earlier issues, and was strong from 1890, with a great deal of specialisation in the 20th century issues.

The scarce 1880 Amir Abdur Rahman issues, printed primitively in watercolours on flimsy white and coloured papers were well represented.

From the imperf. issues of 1907-8 to 1950 there were few gaps.

Particular attention was paid to the postal history, where the postmarks were decipherable and translations of the Persian and Pushtu writings and postmarks were shown adjacent to the stamps.

The collection also included officials, parcels post, registration and tax stamps and a sheet of forgeries of the 1874-6 issues.

Mr Wilkins mentioned that the collection had been made in four years and that at least 70 per cent of it had been obtained in Australia.

Tonga

The display of Tonga on 29 September by a country member in J. P. C. Tresise, of Serpentine, included a mint and a used copy of almost every stamp issued by this interesting country and was particularly strong in the early King George I and II issues.

All perforation and shade varieties were in-

cluded, with all types of the first issues listed in Rosenblum's Handbook.

In the overprinted issues, various settings and faults in the overprints were shown, including several settings of the typewritten surcharges of 1896 and the Royal wedding overprints of 1899.

Highlight of the display was a block of the 2d. on 1s. Queen Salote overprints showing "no hyphen" variety of which only 103 copies could exist. All stamps were fully described, and the numbers of each stamp printed or issues down to 1000 or so were given.

The "Official" series of stamps, both mint and used and with all varieties were a display in themselves and were complete with shades and overprint varieties.

Another feature was the research being done on the 2d. and 2½d. Queen Salote head stamps, with shade varieties, die varieties, plate wear progress and repairs, including the "hand-painted" retouch to "2" in value on one stamp per sheet.

The collection of types of postmarks on these and earlier issues included some hand cancellations and rare island and New Zealand cancellations.

Imprint and plate blocks of the later issues were shown.

Two registered covers to Germany with the 1897 set to 1s., with rare Tongan registration stamp, New York Exchange registration label, and other U.S.A. and German transit markings were real gems, and other covers with registration labels as against rubber stamp impressions included Queen Salote's Jubilee sets.

Postcards of 1908 were shown, and a variety of Tin Can Mail covers included a last day manuscript cancel and several "Inwards" covers (including one "Official" cover).

Gold Coast

Mr Peter Jaffé displayed Gold Coast at the October meeting and presented some notes covering the dates of opening, from 1852 to 1896, of the first 34 post offices in the colony and suggesting that the total printings of S.G.1, 2 and 3 were 37,380, 21,420 and 20,760 respectively, all being made in 1875 and perforated 12½ line.

The display included mint, used including covers, and specimen items with especial strength in "seal" obliterators and village date-stamps, in black and colour, and in ship-marks of British, French and German origin.

The mint items included the block of six four-pence line-perforated 14, Crown CC watermark, ex G. H. Boucher collection.

The used included the 1883 one penny blue, Crown CA watermark, with a red Dixcove date-stamp and both spacings of the 1889 one penny surcharge.

Mulready Covers

Mr L. Van Straten, connoisseur of classics, whose collection of imperforate Earlies of the British Empire is internationally known, presented a new facet of his collecting—Mulready covers—to the November meeting.

In addition to a fine array of One Penny and

Two Penny Mulreadies, Mr Van Straten showed series of Fores, Southgate, and Spooner caricatures, Hume's Nemesis envelopes, and Menzies' Envelope.

Another item was a House of Commons envelope signed by Robert Wallace, who was politically responsible for the introduction of the Penny Post. He was chairman of the committee appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the project, and it was on his casting vote that it carried penny postage.

He supplemented the display by showing a menu of the Herts Philatelic Society dinner of

4 May 1909, with a copy of the New Zealand Full Face, inscribed H.P.S., 4 May 1909 in vermilion, an invitation with a reproduction of the unlettered Ceylon dies in green, and a 1910 invitation card with a similar die reproduction of the Tasmanian Chalon Head in purple.

Other items were unrecorded specimen cards of Perkins Bacon Ltd, showing engravings of the heads of many of its classics. Attractive classic die reproductions on Stanley Gibbons Ltd directors' Christmas cards completed the display.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

1961

January

10 Postal History and Stamps of Ireland: Mr J. H. Powell

February

14 Canada: Mr M. Dankin

March

14 Some Highlights from the British West Indies: Mr P. Jaffe

April

11 Annual Competition
Philatelic Literary Review

New Hebrides

Members were fortunate to view a display of "New Hebrides" provided by Mr Phil Collas at the September meeting. Unfortunately, he was unable to come from Melbourne to join us at the meeting, so Mr Croaker read the paper prepared by Mr Collas and introduced the display.

Noted among the items displayed were many N.S.W. stamps used in the New Hebrides; a fine showing of the locals; forged postmarks; "Specimens" of the Postage Dues; and many other interesting items. The care taken in presentation and the stamps themselves were greatly appreciated.

Annual Competition Night

The Annual Competition, the main feature of the October meeting, was won by Mr A. J. Ciaffone's entry of "A Study of the Third Sun Yat Sen Issue of China." Second place went to Mr F. V. Thompson's entry of "Great Barrier Island and Victoria Land." The most disappointing feature of the evening was that only six entries were received for the competition. However, the standard was not disappointing and some very fine items were seen. Members expressed their thanks to the above award winners and the other competitors—"RAAF Post Office-Uranquinty" (Mr M. L. Challen); "Study of the 150th Anniversary of Australian Post Office Issue" (Mrs H. I. Ellis); "Byrd Antarctic Expedition and Little America" (Mr D. Colville); and "Croatia" (Mr R. H. Markham).

Prior to the competition display, Mr D. B. Moloney spoke on "Some Basic Aspects of Philately" and gave valuable hints to the not-so-advanced collector. It is intended to continue this series of talks during the coming year.

As a "wind-up" to the evening, Mr T. H. Stone displayed 30 sheets of "Queensland" in honour of the Centenary Year of that State. This display included proofs and colour trials of the 1860 issue; complete "blocks of four" electrotypes of the 1879-

80 issue; misplaced roulettes; postally used fiscals; double print of the Registered stamp; and many other fine items.

Modern Trends in Philately

The November meeting was devoted to a discussion of the paper presented by Sir John Wilson to the recent congress in London, as reported in *Stamp Collecting*.

In his paper Sir John discussed a theme which has been exercising the minds of philatelists for some time now—the modern trend away from general collecting. Much of the blame for this state of affairs is attributed by Sir John to the greatly increased interest in Postal History and Postal Markings.

In the first two prepared papers, Mr A. J. Ciaffone contended that postal history was overdone in Australia, instancing the many displays he had seen during his short stay in Australia and the paucity of the number of entries usually received in Club contests which "stamp collectors" failed to enter because of the emphasis placed on postal history by competition judges usually. He contended also that the "fetish" towards postal history was tending to discourage and dismay potential followers of the hobby and he pleaded for a separation, competition-wise and generally, between "stamp collecting" and "postal history." "They can make a very bad cocktail and appear to be the cause of many local philatelic headaches," he said.

On the other hand, Mr R. H. Taylor, in espousing the cause of the "postal historians" pointed out that it is impossible to study postage stamps in a vacuum, divorced of postal history. There could be no denying that philately could not exist without postal history. The secret of the popularity of the hobby was in its *freedom*—freedom to collect according to your tastes and fancy without the enforced moulding of standards and fashions into those which would have the acceptance of international judges.

Primarily we collected for relaxation—we collected what we liked because it pleased us—but the barrier was placed in our way; we had to have uniformity, said the pundits. The answer appeared to be that competition rules should conform to what people wanted and should be wide enough to cover all, or, at least, as many as possible.

General discussion followed the paper and opinion was rather divided on the subject.

On behalf of the president and committee of the Club we wish all our readers a very happy Christmas and further good philatelic hunting in the New Year, be you "Postal Historian" or "Stamp Collector."

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

★ **MEETINGS** held on the third Thursday of each month at 7.45 p.m. in its own premises, 8 Avoca Street, South Yarra, Melbourne, SE1.

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

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★ **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.

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FOUNDED 1890

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DECEMBER 1960

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