

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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Philately from Australia

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SEPTEMBER 1960

THE CLASSICS A CENTURY LATER

This, as we said in our last leading article, is 1960. It is the year that marks the close of the first 20 years of stamp centenaries, a time to review and reflect on the manner they have been commemorated on stamps.

Great Britain had, of necessity, to set the example, and war conditions may not be greatly blamed for her failure to match the immortal brilliance of 1840. The artist's solution was to take the heads of the respective reigning monarchs, as reproduced on the stamps of the day.

Mauritius, whose Post Office design was so clearly indebted to the Penny Black, chose to reproduce the stamp commemorated with the sovereign's head, a pattern followed by Bermuda, Barbados, Ceylon, and St. Helena.

New South Wales and Victoria issued their first stamps virtually simultaneously at the opening of 1850 and Australia's centenary recognition was the issue of stamps, printed in pairs, that were adaptations of the original designs.

Canada's artists portrayed the progress of transport over the century. Her engravers made the most of the opportunity but the set was marred by making the highlight of the set, the stamp bearing a replica of the 1851 Beaver, smaller than the others.

The progress of transport theme was followed by Pakistan (whose design included a Scind Dawk), India, Ceylon, and New Zealand.

South Africa, called upon to commemorate the greatness of the Cape Triangulars, failed badly. Her design, featuring a reproduction of the original two values, against a background indicating splendour or honour, was spoilt by rotogravure printing and a more than unfortunate colour choice. She had, in fact, commemorated the Triangulars more suitably 25 years earlier.

Australia continued her adaptation of the original designs to commemorate Tasmania's locally-produced issue but for Western Australia broke new ground.

Western Australia's first stamp is known to philatelists as the "Black Swan." And that is precisely what the designer chose to commemorate, using the recess printing process to give the impression of a fine wood-cut to get the intensity of colour.

New Zealand reproduced her Full Face with Queen Elizabeth's crowned portrait replacing that of Queen Victoria, a happy achievement of a very difficult task, and Queensland's commemorative will do this, also.

For South Australia, the Commonwealth responded with a design built on the first issue, reproducing Jeen's famous head of Queen Victoria beautifully.

Grenada could not wait for its centenary (1961) but issued her original design with the head of Queen Elizabeth on a white background in 1953 and Bahamas copied the example for its centennial this year.

Changed political status prevented several Centenary commemorations but why was British Guiana so heedless of her philatelic heritage? By contrast, Bermuda has been capitalising her Perot, not only by commemorating its centenary but by including it in the regular issue, and, more recently, by using Perot's Post Office as the design for another commemorative.

The strangest commemoration was that of the Ionian Islands. With the islands under Greek sovereignty, Greece honoured the centenary of a British stamp.

Brazil's "Bullseyes" entitled her to lead the non-British field, and she adopted a 20th Century approach by reproducing a "Bullseye" on a miniature sheet, as well as in the normal issues.

Switzerland's effort was to place replicas of the 4r. and 6r. Zurich in a single design, and she adopted this doubling of the basic design for her memorials to the Basle Dove and the first Federal issue. Then it was the United States' turn. She followed the miniature sheet precedent and inaugurated the transport theme for the normal commemorative, coupled with the portraits of her 1847 issue, providing a production little more inspired than Britain's.

One hundred years ago, Canada had gone to the United States for the production of her stamps, and now she accepted the underlying thoughts of the United States commemoration.

France, having adapted her initial design to her changing constitutional pattern and rulers in the quarter century that followed their appearance, clung closely to the original, in vertical strips with the current design, and Luxembourg matched the old design with its present counterpart. Belgium and Spain used the design within a frame.

Italy commemorated the Tuscany, Sardinia, Modena-Palma, and Sicily stamps issues by reproductions on a background as their centenaries arrived. Portugal, uniquely, made no reference to her old stamps in her design, but Norway, Sweden, and Finland made the old design the main feature of the 100th year issues. Poland made history by including a postmark in the design.

Down in South America, Chile and Argentine adopted the design on background theme, but Uruguay showed more imagination by reproducing her "Diligencias" and stamps showing a Diligencia.

What will designers and philatelists think of these stamps 100 years from now? How will the unborn designers of that day commemorate the 200th anniversary? What new processes will be used to print those commemoratives? What will the philatelists think of their efforts? We will all be dying to know the answers.

PAPUA - NEW GUINEA'S POSTAL CHARGES PROVISIONALS

Details of the quantities of the initial Papua-New Guinea Postal Charges issue have been supplied to *Philately from Australia* by the acting Director of the Department of Posts and Telegraphs, Port Moresby (Mr T. D. Sexton).

These provisionals were made by overprinting obsolete values of the 1952 issue with the words POSTAL CHARGES and a new value. This was done at the Government Printing Office, Port Moresby.

They were issued on 1 March 1960 and were withdrawn on 30 June. The definitive issue, printed by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne, was issued on 2 June.

Mr Sexton was unable to furnish details regarding the 6d. on 7½d. (carmine overprint) with the value and POSTAGE obliterated but the totals of the other values sold were:

1d. on 6d.	(black overprint)	19,774
3d. on ½d.	(black overprint)	19,060
6d. on 7½d.	(carmine overprint)	18,648
1s. 3d. on 3½d.	(vermillion overprint)	17,483
3s. on 2½d.	(black overprint)	15,055

Mr Sexton's letter, dated 22 August 1960, is:

I refer to your letter dated 4 August 1960, in which you requested the numbers of Postal Charges stamps sold.

Particulars are listed hereunder:—

(1) Sales at Territory Post Offices for official purposes.

1d.	2364 stamps	1s. 3d.	5040 stamps
3d.	6261 stamps	3s.	2829 stamps
6d.	3912 stamps		

(2) Sales at Philatelic Bureau, Port Moresby, for philatelic purposes.

1d.	17,410 stamps	1s. 3d.	12,443 stamps
3d.	12,799 stamps	3s.	12,226 stamps
6d.	14,736 stamps		

The blocked out variety of 6d. was used for official purposes and no sales were made to the public, therefore, the figures are not available for publication.

Authority for the printing of stamps is given in the Posts and Telegraph Ordinance 1912-1951; however, legislation which became effective on 1 December 1959 made provision for Customs Clearance Charges and demurrage to take effect from 1 March 1960.

Prior to the printing of special stamps, postage stamps were used on taxed mail matter, and parcels which attracted a special air surcharge; but the increased need for special stamps from 1 March 1960 made it necessary to have provisional Postage Charges.

The legislation providing for the customs charges and demurrage was the New Guinea (Postal) Regulations, 1959 (No. 38 of 1959) and the Postal (Papua) Regulations, 1959 (No. 39 of 1959). Notification of these appeared in the *Territory of Papua and New Guinea Government Gazette*, No. 55, 30 November 1959, and stated that these would operate next day.

AUSTRALIA: 3½d. QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 1953

By J. P. MEARA

The design of this stamp features a sideface portrait of the Queen wearing a diadem and looking left, which was prepared from a photograph No. 0.15957F by Dorothy Wilding Ltd, London (*Gibbons' Stamp Monthly*, August 1955), and was the first of five Australian Queen definitives of similar design, being issued to coincide with Her Majesty's birthday on 21 April 1953.

The Master Plate comprised the usual 640 impressions to provide four sheets of 160 stamps in two panes (8 × 10), prepared for recess printing at the Note Printing Branch of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia (now the Reserve Bank of Australia).

This value first appeared on paper watermarked Crown over C of A but subsequently unwatermarked paper was used in conformity with policy, and in the latter two years of issue was, as with the 4d. Q.E. II of 13.3.57, the subject of experimentation in the size and position of the perforation pips.

The colour, carmine-red, ranges from pale to deep and the dates of issue and of pip variations are:

C of A watermark	21. 4.53	Type I pips	o	o
No watermark	2. 7.56	Type I pips	o	o
No watermark	27.12.57	Type II pips	O	o
No watermark	8. 9.58	Type III pips	O	O o
No watermark	3. 9.57	Type IV pips	o	O o

The dates shown for pip variations are those of appearance in Brisbane, but are not necessarily the order in which they were varied, as factors such as storage and distribution must be considered.

Layout dots in horizontal spacing appear on the upper and lower selvages 11½ mm. from the frames at the opposing top and bottom ends of the plate, and on "middle" selvedge at points equidistant between upper and lower sheets, but all in line with vertical perforation columns and units were laid down singly.

The central vertical layout line between left and right sheets was clearly incised, but only odd portions of the horizontal layout lines at top, centre and base may be observed.

Traces of layout arcs appear on top left corner of sheet "A"; top right corner of sheet "B"; lower right corner of sheet "D"; at right top of right gutter line on sheet "B"; and at the outer lower ends of both gutter lines on sheet "D" the arcs are plainly discernible.

There are no traces of "grip indicators" opposite "A" LP R10/1 and "B" RP R10/8, but sheet disposition has been effectively confirmed from some dozen pieces with the sufficiently wide left or right selvages.

Plate Nos. 2 and 7 are known on watermarked paper, Plate 7 having been reported in *Australian Stamp Monthly*, August 1956, by Mr J. L. Teague, McKinnon, Victoria, as appearing on an upper sheet and positioned centrally

some 10 mm. from the ends of a series of three 40 mm. horizontal lines about 1 mm. apart, incised on either side.

Plate No. 12 on plain paper, type IV pips, purchased by me on 1 May 1958, is on upper sheet "B" and has five Xs spaced at $4\frac{1}{2}$ mm. intervals and commencing $11\frac{1}{2}$ mm. on the right of the number. This sheet also shows the central layout line on the wide left selvedge.

The first pip variations appeared in July 1957, and the sheets for the 4d. Q.E. II booklets of 13.3.57 had three 35 mm. lines on the left and right of the left and right sheet Plate Nos. respectively (*Philately from Australia*, September 1959, p. 67), therefore the changes in the nature of the markings associated with Plate Nos. and the experimentation with the perforation pips may have some common relation. The collation of available detailed information from students holding the requisite pieces would decidedly add to our knowledge of this phase of Australian philately.

This issue was available for about seven years, the last sales in Brisbane being effected early in 1960, concurrently with the $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. Green Q.E. II issued 18.3.59 and rendered obsolete by the increased postal charges from 1 October 1959, which was also withdrawn from sales in Brisbane in January 1960.

However, it was not until the pip variations appeared that interest was shown in the possibility of distinguishing between electros and the question immediately arises whether the experimentation with perf. pips for this value actually followed the order of appearance, viz: Types IV, II, III or was similar to the order II, III, IV for the 4d. Q.E. II of 13.3.57. Some difficulty was experienced, too, in endeavouring to discern "follow through" markings which would confirm that Types II and III followed in that order on electros initially bearing Type I pips and though results were inconclusive I believe the order I, II, III was correct.

Plate 7 reported in August 1956 was presumably purchased several months earlier and as plain paper printings appeared on 2 July 1956, it is probable that printings from Plate 7 were made on plain paper with Type I pips, as I hold a strip from sheet "B," plain paper purchased 5.7.57 with the tip of a plate number which could be 7. It is also conceivable that this electro may subsequently have borne Type II and perhaps Type III pips.

From material held by Mr C. O. Dunn and myself, pip variations can be established as under:

Pip Type			Pieces from Sheets			
			"A"	"B"	"C"	"D"
II	O	o	1	—	1	1
III	O	O o	1	1	1	1
IV	o	O o	5	4	3	3

The Type IV pips on Plate (electro) 12 are distinguished by a cross some 7 mm. overall, the intersection of the lines being the centre of the 3 mm. diameter pip.

Although not discounting that Type IV pips could have been inserted direct onto an electro bearing Type I pips, I believe all Type IV pips appeared on new electros.

It would seem then that possibly up to 15 electros may have been prepared for this value, bearing in mind the annual requirements and the lapse of almost two years between the purchase of Plate 12 and withdrawal of the issue.

Varieties: I am unaware (either from study or reports) of any retouching and apart from a number of useful miscellaneous plate and electro scratches, the main varieties are roller shifts and certain "mechanical" flaws which could occur with any issue.

SHEET "A"

Left Pane

R10/2 Horizontal plate scratch 15 mm. long, 9½ mm. below.

R10/7-8 Sloping plate scratches immediately below.

Right Pane

R1/1 Broken 2 mm. sloping line 5 mm. s.w. of small right pip—a master plate marking.
 R1/4 (i) 1 mm. acutely angular colour flaw the ends commencing on fraction bar with spearhead point in white curve of 3—electro flaw, no wmk., Type IV pips, Aug. '58.
 (ii) Colour spot in white curve of 3 opposite head of 2—flaw on different electro, no wmk., Type IV pips, Aug. '58.

On both these electros is a 5 mm. scratch 6½ mm. from top frame of this unit over the crown, but the scratch is not evident on a strip from an electro with Type III pips.

R8/4 Medium roller shift upper half left frame.

SHEET "C"

Left Pane

Column 1 Most units affected by roller shift left frame, strongest on 2/1, 4/1, 8/1, 9/1, with 4/1 and in particular 9/1 having duplication of diagonal lines in crown. A nice strip.
 R10/1 One electro current in June 1956, had a 2 mm. boomerang colour marking 15 mm. s.w. of lower left corner, but this was not sighted on plain paper.

Right Pane

R9/2 Slight roller shift upper third left frame.

SHEET "B"

Left Pane

R9/4, 9/8 Minor roller shift right frames.

SHEET "D"

Left Pane

R4/7 Strong roller shift, left frame, 3½d., AU. Good.

R6/1 Colour spot ½ mm. diameter off left frame 7½ mm. down, 3½ mm. out, current October 1956, no wmk. Probably transient electro spot.

R6/3 1 mm. vertical line in colour in "3" at junction of diagonal and curved portions. Plate variety.

I hold one strip of three, plain paper (no record of date), which shows only slight trace of the line at the lower end. Being in the white portion of 3, a neat bump retouch would account for this condition. Was this the case?

From the pieces having wide side selvages and corner folds, some interesting information is derived, although not pertinent to this particular study.

(a) *Central Vertical Layout or Quartering Line*—On Sheet "C" right pane opposite R10/8 there appear (i) a ½ mm. dash 16 mm. from right frame, 8 mm. up, and (ii) a 1 mm. sloping dash 17 mm. from right frame, 1 mm. below the

lower corner, that is, to the left of the vertical centre line which is $19\frac{1}{2}$ mm. from the right frames. A Sheet "D" corner fold $28\frac{1}{2}$ mm. wide from the lower left corner also shows these dashes in the relative positions on the left of the centre line thus proving—if indeed proof is required—that the centre line vertically divides the plate.

(b) *Guillotining and Perforation Operations*—A fold 27 mm. wide opposite rows 5 and 6, left pane of Sheet "D" indicates the sequence of these operations which are:

(i) The first guillotine operation divides the printed sheet of 640 units into left and right halves of 320 units comprising an entire upper and lower sheet. In this case the cut was made 7 mm. to the left of the centre line.

(ii) The paper was accidentally torn more or less horizontally for 17 mm. opposite the Queen's forehead of R6/1, then creased upwards and inwards so that the centre line rested at an angle of 25° right of vertical, and the sheet was perforated with the fold in this position.

(iii) After perforation the fold became turned under the sheet and so escaped the second guillotining which divides the upper and lower sheets and trims the other selvages.

(c) *Mechanical variety*. This is an "embossed" effect in the form of seven long and short "dashes" extending for 22 mm. vertically through rows 2 and 3 of Sheet "C," $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. inside left frames and mechanically caused as the sheet was perforated from left to right. Several kinds of mechanical varieties may be found occasionally and these stimulate interest in the mechanics of perforation and speculation regarding the cause of such "varieties."

Apart from hairlines, constant over a short period, which run from upper to lower sheets, and Sheet "B" with flush perforation at base due to missing pin (25 May 1956), there is little else to recount, but other students may be in possession of further information which I would be pleased to see published in these columns.

A GIFT FROM OVERSEAS

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has much reason to be grateful to its overseas friends.

The latest occasion is the kindness of Dr W. E. Neff, of Cheshire, Connecticut, U.S.A., who has presented an embossed seal to the society's expert committee. The seal will be impressed on the committee's certificates.

Dr Neff is also remembered as a generous contributor to the building fund which established the society's headquarters.

THE STATUS OF THE LOCAL STAMPS OF THE AUSTRALIAN NEW HEBRIDES COMPANY

By *HAMILTON CROAKER*, F.R.P.S.L.

The student of postal history in the Pacific, of necessity, spends a good deal of his time sorting the postal history sheep from the philatelic goats.

This is because most of the Pacific area started its postal history late—after that golden age when any genuine cover is certain to have done postal service with the minimum of expenditure, whether pre-paid or collect, that was necessary to ensure delivery by the route selected.

However, once the philatelists start sending letters to themselves the fun begins. I have not seen many of these prior to 1890, but from then on perhaps the majority of Pacific covers are of "philatelic" origin and many of them are spoiled, to a degree, by over-franking.

This deplorable practice lessens the value of such covers in a study of postal rates. On the other hand it is sometimes hardly possible to find examples of certain postmarks, except on such covers.

So the inclusion of these in a postal history collection seems unavoidable. However their recognition for what they are would, I think, disclose the calibre of their owner as a postal historian.

With this introduction we come to the subject of my essay—the status of the Australian New Hebrides Company's local stamps. I mean their status from the point of view of necessity of use. There is no doubt that they were genuinely issued with the intention of their franking letters for the prepayment of postage—but were they ever so used? I have not been able to find any conclusive evidence that they were.

In the *London Philatelist*, Vol. 6, No. 66 (June 1897), the following appeared under New Issues:

NEW HEBRIDES

Mr A. F. Basset Hull sends us the following information regarding a postal service instituted in these islands:

"The stamps—two in number—are of the same size as those in use for the Congo state and are described herein.

The Australian New Hebrides Company was founded in 1887 and its operations, at first very small, have grown to an enormous extent.

During 1892-3 a steamer belonging to the Australian United Steam Navigation Company ran through the New Hebrides group carrying cargo, passengers and mails. This service was subsidised by the Governments of New South Wales and Victoria, but the subsidy ceased in 1894. At this time the operations of the Australian New Hebrides Company had increased to such an extent that they purchased a steamer and inaugurated an inter-island service.

Subsequently, a direct steamer service to and from Sydney and Port Vila was added and the steamer now leaves Sydney at intervals of three weeks, connecting with the inter-island steamer, which makes a tour of the group, occupying the three weeks between visits of the direct steamer.

The New Hebrides are at present neutral ground, under the joint control of England and

France but these powers, as a rule, only take action in criminal matters. The Australian New Hebrides Company, being the only British company in the group, and controlling almost the whole of the commercial operations, is looked to by the residents to push the British interests in the islands. There can be little doubt that the absolute control of the New Hebrides group will fall to the nation which makes the greatest commercial progress within its limits.

This company has just issued two stamps for the prepayment of postage on letters carried between the islands by their steamer. On and after the 1st June they will require all letters from the islands to Sydney to bear an inter-island 1d. stamp in addition to the 2½d. New South Wales stamp, which carries the letter to any destination. Of course, all letters from one port in the islands to another will be prepaid solely by the Company's stamps.

The following are the inter-island rates of postage:

Letters—for ea. ½ oz. or fraction thereof	1d.
Packets and magazines—not ex. 4 oz.	1d.
Packets and magazines—every add. 4 oz. or fraction thereof	1d.
Parcels—every 8 oz. or fraction thereof	1d.
Newspapers—every 8 oz. or fraction thereof	1d.
Registration	2d.

The stamps bear the view of Port Vila, Sandwich Island, New Hebrides. Lithographed by John Sands and Co., Sydney: white wove paper, no wmk., rouletted:

Adhesives 1d. magenta and (centre) black.
2d. red brown and (centre) blue."

We are of the opinion that these stamps are at present of a local and private nature, but time only will show how far this description is justified.

The above also appeared in *The Australian Philatelist* for 26 April 1897 with, in addition, a list of the ports at which the steamer called, and the following:

These stamps, issued on the 17th March, were lithographed, etc., etc.

There are two cancelling stamps, one inscribed PORT VILA for use at the terminal station, and the other "TRAVELLING POST OFFICE" for use on the inter-island steamer. This issue, though of the nature of a private local, is on the same footing as the stamps of Samoa and the original Fiji Times Expresses. We understand that the Company are determined not to permit any speculative element to find its way into their postal affairs and no applications for "cancelled to order" supplies will be for a moment entertained. Negotiations are now pending for an official recognition of the franking power of these stamps within the Australian colonies. . . .

In *The Australian Philatelist* for 26 July 1897 the following appeared:

New Hebrides: The island steamer *Ysobel* brought up a number of letters franked by the inter-island stamps in combination with 2½d. in New South Wales adhesives. . . .

The inter-island correspondence is every day increasing in quantity and the stamps are very popular.

The *Philatelic Record* says: "These stamps seem to us to be fully entitled to be classed as postal issues." *Meekel's Weekly Stamp News* remarks: "While the stamps are local in their origin and use, not being recognised except on the boats of the Company, they are certainly postage stamps and well deserve a place with like local issues of the U.S. and others of the same class. We consider that they are really on the same plane with the other Oceanic pioneers of postal development, and rank equally with the Fiji Times Express and the Samoan stamps. It is only a question of time for the recognition of their franking power outside the sphere of the Company's operations."

Now, in spite of the interesting events of the next few months in the history of the Company no further mention is made of these stamps in the *Australian*

Philatelist until 1 March 1902, when a somewhat superficial description of the whole affair is given and it is admitted that the Australian New Hebrides Company fizzled out later in 1897.

The first two extracts quoted above were published at a time when Mr Basset Hull was editor of the *Australian Philatelist*.

It is difficult to understand with whom the locals proved "very popular," unless it was with philatelists. As will be seen, letters could be sent equally well without them and few, I think, but philatelists, would pay more than necessary to send a letter—as witness the outcry against increased postal charges today.

Without taking up too much space with full quotations it is necessary to put down some facts from the authoritative article which appeared in *The Australian Post Office Philatelic Bulletin*, Nos. 13, 14, 15 and 16.

Here it was correctly stated that the subsidy to the shipping company did not cease until 1894 and that an annual payment for the delivery of letters (£50) plus the payment of a charge for carrying letters was made from then on to the A.N.H. Co., which undertook the transport of the mails.

It should be particularly noted that the local stamps bear the inscription "INTERISLAND POSTAGE" and it was clearly the original intention for them to serve for this purpose only. The rates quoted by Basset Hull are for inter-island postage only.

The remark, by Basset Hull, that the 1d. local was required on letters from Vila to Sydney is the only mention I have been able to find and was not official (i.e., not from the Company).

It was, no doubt, the desire of the Company, decided upon after the stamps were printed, to make such a charge, but the suggestion was turned down flatly by the N.S.W. government. (See *A.P.O.P.B.*, Nos. 15 and 16.)

However, the N.S.W. government agreed that the Company could make an inter-island delivery charge on letters from Sydney to islands beyond Vila if they so desired.

It therefore becomes clear that if the local stamps ever did any real postal service it must have been in one of the following ways:

- (a) As franking on inter-island letters, from one island to another.
- (b) As partial franking (in combination with N.S.W. adhesives) on letters from one of the islands or ports other than Vila to places beyond Vila.
- (c) As a collect charge or postage due on letters from Sydney or elsewhere abroad, to ports in the New Hebrides, other than Vila.

Now, over the years, I have made a note of various covers I have seen bearing the local stamps and of those appearing in auction catalogues, sometimes with illustrations. These do not usually give details of backstamps, if any.

In category (a) I have no record of any cover, nor has Mr Romney Gibbons, with his incomparable experience of Pacific covers, dating back into the first decade of this century.

In category (b) I have a record of one possible cover. It should be noted that in this category the adhesives would be cancelled with the T.P.O. cds provided by the Company specially for such inter-island letters.

In category (c) I have no record of any cover.

The cover referred to under (b) above is one addressed to Capt. D. Calder

(Dan was both a philatelist and a sea captain), whose self-addressed covers are frequently met with dated about the period under consideration.

I have only seen a photograph of the front of this cover and from that alone it is not possible to decide if it went through the post at all. The auction description did not mention any back stamps.

The cover bears a 2½d. N.S.W. adhesive, a strip of three and a pair of the 1d. local and a 2d. local. All the adhesives are cancelled with the T.P.O. cds dated 19 June '98.

This cover is obviously "philatelic" in origin, being very late in date (over six months after the company went bankrupt) and heavily overfranked with the local stamps. Even if it did pass through the post I do not think it can be accepted as conclusive evidence that the locals were necessary to prepay postage on this particular letter. In any case the N.S.W. adhesives should not have been cancelled by the T.P.O. cds but should have been cancelled by the Vila cds of the N.S.W. post office.

Let us now examine some other covers that exist, bearing the local stamps. They have, nearly always, two things in common. First, they are addressed to known philatelists and, secondly, they are cancelled by the Vila cds of the N.S.W. post office. Generally they are addressed to Sydney or via Sydney to places beyond, and all had their origin at Vila.

Although no rate was given for letters from Vila to Sydney it seems clear that the rate that would have been charged by the Company would be 1d. per ½ oz. for letters, had the N.S.W. government given its consent.

Consider a cover from Vila to N.S.W. bearing N.S.W. adhesives of ½d. and 2d. and a pair of the 1d. locals all cancelled with the Vila cds dated 30 (?) Oct. 1897. If this cover required 2d. in locals it needed 5d. in N.S.W. adhesives. However it was not taxed at Sydney.

Consider another cover franked by a 2½d. N.S.W. adhesive and one 1d. and one 2d. local. There has been an attempt to justify the 3d. in locals by marking this a registered cover but in that case it would have required 5½d. in N.S.W. adhesives or it would not have been accepted at the Vila P.O.

The first of the above is typical of many such covers. Let us examine some covers of similar dates to non-philatelic addressees. For instance a cover from Vila to London, also of October 1897 and bearing a 2½d. N.S.W. adhesive but no local—carried in the same month, perhaps by the same boat and certainly by the same Company. I have records of two other covers, both of July 1897, franked only with N.S.W. adhesives and carried from Vila to London.

To me, the above is sufficient evidence that the local stamps, in the cases cited, served no postal purpose whatever. However, if they were put on a cover they received the Vila post office cancellation along with the legitimately required N.S.W. adhesives. So also, I venture to suggest, would any other label that had been affixed to the envelope.

Proof of the willingness of the Vila postal officials to cancel anything and everything on a cover is available in the many envelopes addressed to a well-known Melbourne dealer, now deceased. These may be found bearing copies of the locals in combination with a wide variety of the Condominium issues, all are postmarked by the tireless Vila postal clerks, even as late as 1914.

I think it is not unreasonable to conclude that all covers bearing the local stamps, of the kinds I have described above, would have been carried without tax or charge of any kind if the locals had not been put on.

This does not finally mean that the locals were never used for postal purposes but until a cover or covers are produced in one of the categories (a), (b) or (c) I think their status should be "issued but not used for postal purposes."

I should be interested to hear from any readers who have covers that differ in principle from those I have described for I feel that all I have seen must be placed among the "philatelic goats."

EDITORIAL NOTES

London Exhibition Successes

Australians and New Zealanders who entered for the London International Philatelic Exhibition had good reason to be proud of the results. Awards won were:

Gold-Silver—J. A. Kilfoyle (N.S.W.), Australian Commonwealth; Silver-Gilt—Dr L. Abramovich (N.S.W.), and Mr W. M. Holbeach (Vic.), Australian Commonwealth; V. Frankenstein (N.S.W.), J. Gartner (Vic.), Victoria; E. G. Creed (Vic.), British New Guinea.

Silver—W. M. Holbeach (Vic.), France; L. Frank (N.S.W.), Netherlands; L. C. Viney (Tas.), Tasmania; Sir Joseph Ward (N.Z.), Dr J. W. Avery (N.Z.), and K. J. McNaught (N.Z.), New Zealand; J. H. Powell (N.S.W.), New Guinea; E. R. Gibbs (N.Z.), Antarctica; and J. S. Langa-beer (N.Z.), Airmails.

Bronze—F. W. Cours (N.Z.), New Zealand; S. A. Wood (N.Z.), Newfoundland; and J. H. Powell (N.S.W.), Samoa.

Death of Mr A. G. Kelson

Mr A. G. Kelson, a former president of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, and a Melbourne stamp dealer for 60 years, died in August. He was 88.

Mr Kelson joined the Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1897. He became a member

of the committee in 1907 and was president in the following year. Generations of collectors knew him and benefitted from his knowledge and advice.

His business, Kelson and Co., is being carried on.

N.Z. Christmas Issue

New Zealand is following Australia's lead and is producing a stamp to emphasise the spiritual significance of Christmas.

As the issue dates of N.Z. Health stamps have been moved forward it will be interesting to see whether her Christmas stamps will become an annual feature there also, and whether, in due course, they are not sold with an additional charge for some cause deemed worthy.

It is understood that neither country claims any spiritual significance for the departmental profits earned by the Christmas issues.

Christmas Stamp Designer

The designer of Australia's first Christmas stamps, 1957 and 1958, was Mr Donald Cameron. He was a member of the staff of the Commonwealth Bank Note Printing Branch for 13 years, and left it in 1958 to become art teacher at Caulfield Technical School, Melbourne.

QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

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

(Continued from June issue, p. 38)

Continuing my list of comments on ties, I add "corrections" to the previous lists:

(b) Corrections

Some of these can be regarded as tentative, as they are based on my own findings only, since Mr Purves' original pieces cannot be checked until his return.

- 273 WARRA. Previously reported as 293.
- 284 DONALDSON. Previously reported as 434 (see also No. 434 in the new "ties").
- ?598 PLANE CREEK. Previously reported as 588, but this is definitely MOUNT GARNET (see later), so 598 is more probable for Plane Creek.

(c) New Ties

- 59 BALD HILLS. See p. 21. This must be a re-allocation, and from its place in the list it is probable that Bald Hills originally had a number in the late 200s, and that 59 was a replacement.
- 89 WESTWOOD (2). See p. 13. This P.O. was apparently open for some years before it received a numeral cancellation.
- 102 DINGO (2). See p. 20. This was not the original number used at Dingo (No. 224), so was evidently sent as a replacement at some stage, probably from Rockhampton, which also used it at one stage.
- 113 PIMPANA. See p. 16. This was reported several years ago in an American journal, but to the writer's knowledge has not been given in these pages. It is included for the record.
- 145 ROLLESTON (2). See p. 18. Reported by Mr Collas.
- 217 LYTTON. See p. 20.
- 300 WESTBROOK SIDING. See Westbrook, p. 23. The name was changed to Westbrook Siding in 1897. A re-allocation.
- 304 KURANDA. See p. 28. A re-allocation. Reported by Mr Williams.
- ?364 NORTH ROCKHAMPTON. See p. 24. The number is not entirely clear.
- 397 MUCKADILLA. See p. 24.
- 401 IRVINEBANK (2). See p. 25.
- 403 MONTALBION (3). See Silverfield, later Mount Albion, p. 25. The P.O. was moved from Mount Albion to Montalbion in 1888.
- 434 EAGLE FARM. See p. 26.
- ?437 MOUNT SHAMROCK. See p. 26. Originally reported by Mr Groves of Warwick, the piece in question now being in the writer's possession. The middle figure is not clear, but being curved at the bottom, is almost certainly a "3," which fits.
- 448 ROCKHAMPTON. See p. 19. A replacement canceller. Reported by Mr Gartner.
- 468 NOCCUNDRA (2). See p. 27. This is probably a re-allocation.

- 488 DONOR'S HILL. See p. 27. This is probably a re-allocation from Kynuna, which was also in the Cloncurry area. No. 488 was originally reported as "ADOONA," which does not exist, and Mr Porter thought it might be CANOONA. We now know the correct location and "488?" opposite Canoona should be deleted.
- 504 ALDERSHOT (2). See p. 28.
- 516 MACKINLAY (2). See p. 28.
- 521 BOULIA (several). See p. 22. This must be a replacement canceller.
- 582 HAMBLEDON. See p. 29.
- 584 TUMMAVILLE. See p. 30.
- 588 MOUNT GARNET (3). See p. 30.
- 599 AMBY. See p. 30.
- 601 BAUHINIA DOWNS (3). Shown in Porter on p. 33 as opened in 1910, but it was certainly opened before 1902 (probably in 1900).
- 2604 STONEHOUSE. See p. 30. Number is not entirely clear.
- 606 LOCHNAGAR. See p. 30 (where it is spelt "LOCKNAGER").

(d) *Probables*

Mr Purves has been very conservative in reporting new "ties," but the stage has now been reached that so many of the offices that were open during the 1897-1904 period have now been tied to a numeral, that a reasonably accurate guess can be made at some of the others. This is so where we have a number and a few letters of the name, particularly if the opening date of the probable name fits the number in the normal sequence. Some of the following can therefore be taken as well-nigh certainties.

- 176 Long name ending in "E." This is likely to be HARRISVILLE. See p. 18.
- 268 ----AVILLE. Mr Purves mentioned in the last issue that this was either Floraville or Tummaville. As we now have a "tie" for Tummaville (see above), 268 must be FLORAVILLE, see p. 24. A re-allocation.
- 318 ----D RIVER. Certainly REID RIVER. See REIDSVILLE, p. 22. The name was changed to Reid River on 25.7.84.
- 320 -----WNS (2). Very likely LISTOWEL DOWNS. See p. 22. Most of the other "Downs" have been accounted for.
- 387 YEER----. This is certainly YEERONGPILLY. See p. 24, opposite LOGAN JUNCTION.
- 412 ----o. 3 CENT----. This must be T.P.O. No. 3 CENTRAL RAILWAY (not in Porter). Other cancellations from this T.P.O. were found in the same batch, but without numerals.
- 427 ----IAM V----. This must be MIRIAM VALE, and the number must be a re-allocation, issued when the P.O. re-opened in 1898. See the note on p. 20 opposite MIRIAM VALE.
- 2429 ----X. The name must be HALIFAX, as I know of no other Queensland post office ending in "X." Unfortunately, the final figure on the piece is indecipherable, but I have another piece from the same batch with a clear "429," which appears to be identical with the numeral on the "X" piece. See p. 25.
- 474 ---IN---. Probably CORINDA. See p. 27.

- 477 WOOW ----. At first sight this seems to conflict with the confirmed "tie" of 477 to DEGILBO (see p. 28), but I have ascertained that the Degilbo P.O. was known as WOOWOONGA from 1894 to 1898, so we now have 477 "tied" to both names.
- 511 ----DIGGINGS. Mr Purves reported this in the last issue. The only "Diggings" it could be is MAREEBA DIGGINGS (not in Porter, but opened in 1894).
- 512 ----REEK. Most of the "Creeks" have been accounted for, so this is almost certainly BREAKFAST CREEK. See p. 28.
- 591 ----UR. Certainly SEYMOUR. See p. 30.
- 596 ----DA. This is probably KALLANDA. See p. 30, where it is incorrectly spelt "KALLANDRA." Porter shows 174 opposite this, but he also shows this number opposite the re-opening in April 1906, where it probably belongs, as this was during a re-allocation period.

REVIEWS

Fundamentals of Philately, by L. N. and M. Williams. Section 1, 110 pp. and Section 2, 120 pp. 6½ x 9¾ in. Published by the American Philatelic Society, P.O. Box 800, State College, Ohio, U.S.A. Price, \$1.50 each Section.

Philately from Australia has consistently urged the importance and value of international co-operation in philately and here is a magnificent example of what it can achieve.

Fundamentals of Philately is a series of soft-covered brochures on all basic aspects of stamp collecting and study. Its mode of production and presentation makes it possible to escape the all-too rigid boundaries imposed by the normal one-volume work, of which there are so many examples.

The work was suggested by David Lidman, who has just relinquished the editorship of *The American Philatelist* and written by the British leaders, L. N. and M. Williams, from their matchless knowledge, experience, and sources of reference. It is a development of a series of articles now being published in *The American Philatelist*.

The work met instant and well-merited success, Section 1 running into a second edition before Section 2 was published.

Section 1 deals with philatelic trends, the aims of philately, paper, watermarks, stamp

design, and then from design to issued sheets.

Section 2 starts the treatment of printing. This covers printing problems and varieties, characteristics of the various processes. The detailed examination of the processes starts with line engraving and gravure.

Each chapter closes with a full description of the technical and philatelic terms involved.

The work is adequately—in fact, profusely—illustrated with well-chosen photographs and diagrams. These show processes and machinery, plates, stamps, and enlargements of stamps to make clear unmistakably the points discussed in the text.

There is plenty of interest that is not technical, for example the opening chapter covering the development of philately and philatelic standards as we know them today, or the warnings not to use certain traditional liquids for watermark detection on modern or comparatively modern stamps.

It could be said that the work had been compiled with almost loving care. The range and thoroughness of it forces a realisation of the vastness of philately and the limitations of the normal enthusiastic philatelist's knowledge.

Section by section, a classic of philatelic literature, destined for many years of service, is being produced.

TASMANIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

By O. G. INGLES

PART I

Few check lists of Australian States Postal Stationery have ever been published. Even the best of the known listings (Ascher: *Ganzsachen Katalog*) is very inadequate through no fault of the compilers, but because of the scarcity of certain items.

It is now proposed to give a listing of Tasmanian Postal Stationery which is, for the items below, believed definitive; and for those to be listed in the second part of this series, very nearly definitive. This strong claim is founded on the fortunate conjunction of several major collections of the Postal Stationery, together with the uncovering of important relevant files in the records of the Postmaster-General's Department, portions of which have been published both in the *Philatelic Bulletin* (No. 5, p. 3) and *Philately from Australia* (June 1954, p. 53).

An important feature of the Tasmanian Postal Stationery is that it falls into three groups, one being those items issued officially to the public, another those issued for official use, and the last being private issues which were accepted officially for postal transmission, but were never available to the public at large through the postal facilities. Acceptance of these private issues led to considerable abuse, and they rapidly assumed the role of a "gimmick" to exploit the philatelic market. This, in turn, caused collectors to shun the postal stationery field, with the result that some later official issues now rank among the rarest of all Tasmanian philatelic issues. In the following lists only the chief private issues are noted since, naturally, artificial "rarities" abound in the private field. They will be designated by a "P." Issues for the specific use of Government Departments are designated "O" (official).

LETTERCARDS

Illustration (i)

P1 Circa 1887 (one copy, author's collection, dated 10.10.87) 112 x 89 mm. Superscribed "Tasmanian Letter Sheet" (2 lines). Known with subscriptions (below the bottom perforation line):

- (a) J. Walch & Sons . . . (black on green or mauve).
- (b) Walch Bros. & Birchall . . . (black on buff).

Illustration (ii)

1 1898 (November). Earliest date noted 22.11.98. Printed with 2d. Queen's Head type, superscribed "Tasmania Letter Card" in two lines, reverse side showing a view of "Diana Basin and St. Patrick Head."

1 plate of six cards was used (both front and back on the same plate), as verified by a full plate proof in the author's collection. All six positions are readily identified. Two sizes were issued, one of which (160 x 85 mm.) corresponds to the plate mounting sizes and the other (145 x 85 mm.) presumably is the result of a later official decision to reduce the writing area.

2d. Blue-green on White. (a) 160 x 85 mm. (b) 145 x 85 mm.

Illustration (iii)

- 2 1900. Earliest date noted 9.8.00. Printed with 2d. Pictorial type, superscribed "Tasmania Letter Card" in one line, the reverse side showing 12 different unframed views, as follows:
- "River Derwent, New Norfolk"
 - "Cataract Gorge, Launceston"
 - "Mount Gould-Lake Marion"
 - "Lake George-Mount King William"
 - "Launceston"
 - "Great Lake (A Fisherman's Paradise)"
 - "Entrance Island, Macquarie Harbour"
 - "Lake Hartz"
 - "Mount Lyell Mine, Gormanston, Tasmania"
 - "A Peep at Barn Bluff from Lake Windermere"
 - "Mount Ida and Lake St. Clair—from North Shore"
 - "Lake Agnew and Cradle Mountain—from South East"

According to official P.M.G. records, these cards were disposed in two plates of six each, rather laconically described as "Mines" and "Views." They were held at Hobart in May 1911, and no further record of them appears unless concealed under the entry "6 copper $\frac{1}{2}$ tones" destroyed at Melbourne in July 1950.

2d. Violet on Blue. 140 x 90 mm.

Illustration (iv)

- 3 1903. Earliest date noted 14.6.03. As above, but with larger coat of arms and closer lettering; also views on the reverse sides are now enclosed in an oval frame. Apparently the subscript lettering at front and rear of the cards was changed during the issued life of the cards, since two varieties of this type 3 card are found, viz.:
- Front subscript length 80 mm.; rear subscript length 92 mm.
 - Front subscript length 86 mm.; rear subscript length 98 mm.

The views on these cards, unlike those of type 2 above, are found in several different colours. Those noted are: black, brown, red, blue, green.

2d. Violet on Greenish-grey. 150 x 93 mm.

- 4 1911. Earliest date noted 4.1.12. As for type 3, but bearing an oblique red surcharge ONE PENNY across the value stamp from lower left to upper right.

REGISTERED ENVELOPES

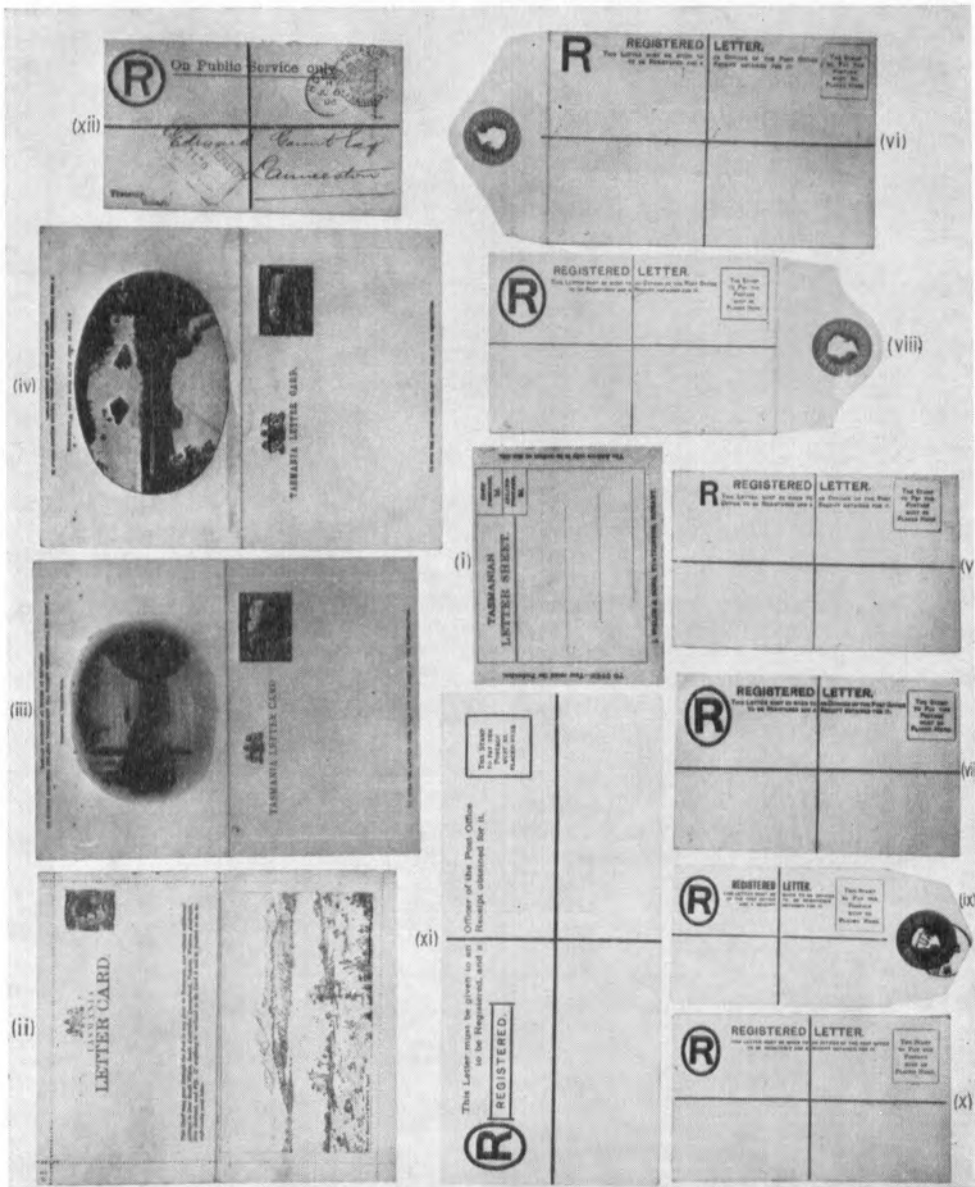
Illustrations (v) and (vi)

- 1 1883. Issued 2 April. Printed by M'Corquodale & Co. Ltd. The envelope is superscribed "Registered Letter" and bears a large capital R at left. The envelope flap is at left, bearing an embossed Queen's Head in circular surround, with the inscription "Tasmania Registration Four Pence." The printer's name appears on the reverse. The whole is printed in blue. Two sizes were issued, bearing differently set out superscriptions and size of R. Hence there were at least two plates, and the author has identified at least four positions from the smaller plate, but only one from the larger plate. One of the positions from the smaller plate was described by Ascher as a separate variety since an increased separation between the R and the small text makes this plate position more noticeable superficially than the others.

4d. Blue on Off-white. (a) 132 x 82 mm. (b) 152 x 98 mm.

Illustration (vii)

- 2 1884. April and July. Printed by M'Corquodale & Co. Ltd. As for type 1, but now with the embossed flap at right instead of left. The capital R is now set in a heavy oval line. Printing is now in deep ultramarine, the embossed value stamp however



remaining in blue. Again two sizes were issued, from two separate plates. From the smaller size the author has so far identified three positions, and from the larger, two.

4d. Deep Ultramarine and Blue on Off-white. (a) 132 x 82 mm. (b) 152 x 98 mm.

Illustration (viii)

- 3 1892. Earliest date noted 11.1.93. Thos. De La Rue & Co. As for type 2, but with the new printer's name on the reverse. The embossed stamp on the right-hand flap now bore the legend "Tasmania Registration Fee," but otherwise resembles that of types 1 and 2. The first printing was made in pale ultramarine with blue-grey embossed stamp. Later printings are found in pale ultramarine with grey embossed stamp, in grey with blue-grey embossed stamp, and finally (earliest date noted 22.10.00) in grey with grey embossed stamp.

Two sizes, from two separate plates, were issued. The author has identified three positions from the smaller plate but only one position from the larger. The larger plate was clearly used throughout all printings, and there appears some reason to believe that it comprised one unit only.

No value. Pale Ultramarine and Grey on Off-white. (a) 132 x 83 mm.

(b) 152 x 96 mm.

Illustrations (ix), (x) and (xi)

- 4 1903. Melbourne printing? As for type 3, but with no printer's name on the reverse. Both printing and embossed stamp are in bright ultramarine. Three sizes were issued, the smallest being of such rarity that Ascher suspected it to be a trial strike. It is now established to have been issued officially. Two varieties of the envelope reverse are found. The earlier has a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch V-neck to the reverse side, the later has a straight reverse side under the flap. Only one position for each envelope has been noted, and as the author has personally examined between six and ten examples of each separate size, it seems reasonable to presume that the plates for these issues of 1903 onwards were all single unit plates.

The smallest envelope is distinguished further by the superscript instructions being set in three lines, whereas the intermediate size envelope has a two-line setting. The large envelope does not bear the normal superscript "Registered Letter," but contains the word "Registered" in a rectangular frame at left.

No value. Bright Ultramarine on White. (a) 100 x 64 mm. (straight)

(b) (i) 130 x 78 mm. (straight)

(ii) 127 x 78 mm. (V-neck)

(c) 230 x 100 (V-neck)

The embossing dies were destroyed at Melbourne on 2.7.1913. The same list refers to "1 Zinc Plate (Registered Envelope)" destroyed. The reference is tantalisingly vague, since at least three plates (or, most unlikely, one plate of three different clichés) were required for the final issue of type 4.

Illustration (xii)

- OI Earliest date noted 6.6.96. Prepared for the Treasury, Hobart. The reverse is that of a normal envelope, the top flap being embossed (colourless) with the Government of Tasmania crest. Postage was free, by application of the Treasury's frank.

No value. Bright Red on Off-white. 137 x 79 mm. (Very rare.)

(To be continued)

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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 Port Moresby Overprints of 1906

In the *Australian Stamp Monthly* for July 1946 (p. 361) appears a letter from Squadron Leader G. Muir. In the letter Mr Muir says that, when the name of the territory of British New Guinea was changed in 1906, Mr J. Wood, the Government Printer at Port Moresby, tried out two settings of the word Papua on stamps of the 1d. value on thick paper, vertical watermark. One consisted of capital letters, and the other of upper and lower case letters, the latter being finally adopted.

Five stamps are known with the capital letter overprint, of which one exists with both overprints. A slip of paper inscribed, "Printer's proofs, J. Wood, 1906," was attached to a stamp bearing the upper and lower case overprints.

The impressions vary in position on the stamps and have the appearance of having been applied by hand. All overprints are in black. Mr Muir was unable to supply illustrations of these items to the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, but we are fortunately now able to remedy that omission.

It appears from the photographs we have been shown, that the trial overprints were applied to the top row of the sheet.



NORFOLK ISLAND UNDER TASMANIA

By A. G. RIGO de RIGHI

The rarity of early letters and covers from Norfolk Island is such that our knowledge of the postal arrangements up to the end of the Tasmanian era (1856) is far from complete.

Four letters only have been recorded for the whole of the period 1805-1856. [See *Philately from Australia*, March 1949 (Captain H. Porter); December 1956 (Mr J. R. W. Purves); and September 1957 (Mr L. C. Viney).] Three more letters, all from the same source, have now come to light, and should, I think, be described as they cover part of the period between Mr Viney's cover of 1845 and Mr Donald Forster's stamped cover of 1854 described by Mr Purves. One of the newly found entires is in my possession, the other two are described by kind permission of Mr Angus Parker, of the Argyll Stamp Company, London.

The new Norfolk Island items are part of a series of letters written by a young man, W. H. Thomas, to his father, a London solicitor, during a prolonged stay in the Australian colonies between 1850 and 1856. After visits to Adelaide and Melbourne, Thomas proceeded to Hobart, where he had letters of introduction, and started looking for suitable employment. He found a position apparently fairly quickly, not in Van Diemen's Land but on Norfolk Island, then a convict settlement under Tasmanian administration. As far as can be ascertained Thomas's employment was of an administrative or clerical nature.

Since Thomas followed the contemporary custom of numbering his letters it is possible to say that he wrote only five letters to his father from Norfolk Island: on 3 December 1851, 12 March 1852, — May 1852, 5 August 1852, and 13 January 1853. The second, fourth and fifth of these have survived. Their postal markings, etc., are as follows:

No. 1 Entire letter dated (internally) "Norfolk Island, 12 March 1852" and addressed to London. Endorsed by the sender on the obverse "per First Ship" and "via Hobart Town." Rate markings in manuscript, are (a) "5" in red, (b) "2" and "8" in black. In Hobart the letter received the "Paid" stamp then in use, in red, dated 5 April.

The letter was delivered to the addressee on 4 October 1852 having received a London circular arrival mark dated ?/Oct./1852.

No. 2 Entire letter dated by the writer "Norfolk Island, 5 August 1852" and addressed to London. Endorsed by the writer on the front "per first ship" and "via Sydney." Rate markings in manuscript are (a) "5" in red, (b) "8" in black.

The letter was carried to Sydney by an American vessel which called at the island for a day on the way. In Sydney a ship-letter handstamp was applied dated 25 August. It was back-stamped: London 7 December.

No. 3 Part entire letter addressed to London dated by the recipient as having been sent on 13 January 1853. From internal evidence it was almost certainly written on Norfolk Island and this is confirmed by the postal markings. Endorsed by the writer on the front "per first steam opportunity." Rate markings in manuscript (a) "5" in red, (b) "1/4d." in black.

The letter went via Hobart and received there the same "Paid" mark as letter

No. 1, but dated (?) 9 February 1853. The letter was backstamped in London on 2 July 1853 and delivered the same day.

The three letters show interesting points both of similarity and difference with the letter of 1845. In the first place, all the four letters were prepaid in Norfolk Island at a 5d. rate. In the case of the 1852-53 letters this almost certainly represented the 4d. ($\frac{1}{2}$ oz.) outward ship letter charge from Hobart, plus a surcharge of 1d. for a letter coming to Hobart from another post office in V.D.L.

Secondly, neither the 1845 cover nor the 1852-53 entires, received the "Paid, Norfolk Island" handstamp used on the 1843 letter noted by Porter and on the 1854 letter described by Purves. This suggests that the "Paid at Norfolk Island" handstamp was not normally used from about 1845 onwards.

A possible explanation for its use in 1854 lies in the instruction issued to postmasters at the time of the first introduction of adhesives (Nov. 1853), to the effect that covers must be endorsed by postmasters with the name of the office of origin and the date. The postmaster in Norfolk Island, probably faced by the need to endorse a large accumulation of letters going by the government brig *Lady Franklin* on 8 August 1854 (the previous sailing had been some time before December 1853), may have remembered and used the old N.S.W. type "Paid" handstamp used in the early 1840s.

The main differences between Mr Viney's 1845 cover and the 1852-53 entires are the absence on the latter of any "P" or "office and date of origin" manuscript endorsements. I can offer no explanation for the omission of the mss. "P"; but I can't help wondering if the "Norfolk Island, June '45" on the 1845 letter was not perhaps an endorsement by the recipient rather than by the postmaster at Norfolk Island; it also seems to be in a less sloping hand to the "P" and "5."

It is perhaps worth noting that of the three 1851-53 entires the first and third were marked with the 5d. rate in the same hand, the second being in another, different, hand, thus suggesting more than one person handling the mail.

One final point on the markings. Letter No. 3 paid 1s 4d. inward ship letter charge on entry into England, this being the rate on a double (1 oz.) letter. The postmaster at Norfolk Island was either lenient or without scales as he charged only 5d.—the rate on a $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. letter!

So much for the postal aspect of the three letters. They do, however, contain a few sentences about life on this remote convict settlement, as seen by young Thomas, which are perhaps worth recording. On 12 March 1852 he writes that the Colonial Government (in V.D.L.) had raised the salaries of their officials by 25% to 50% and that he continued to like his employment but asked his father to procure a brace of good serviceable pistols with holsters. "The time has been and may possibly be again when people went to church here with pistols in their belts. . . . As my occupation takes me to all parts of the bush where men are working I require some defence." In the letter of 13 January 1853 Thomas writes, "Of my stay here I know nothing certain. Mr Price, the Civil Commandant, goes away this ship and is succeeded by a Captain Deering; this place will therefore be under a Military Government."

Shortly after this date, Thomas married a young lady named Fanny whom he had met on Norfolk Island, and within a few months the young newly-weds had left the island for Hobart, where they were still living in 1856.

MORE TO PAY LABELS

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

The article on "Postage Due Memoranda" in "Pacific Paragraphs" in the last issue of *Philately from Australia* called to mind that there were two labels of a similar nature among the post office forms which I have collected as forming part of the Postal Stationery of Tasmania.

These labels were found in an accumulation of material evidently collected in the 1890s and early 1900s. Neither of the labels can be dated, but they are described in the hope that more information may be forthcoming regarding their use and period of usage.

Both labels are similar in design, as each consists of a single lined oblong frame, with the wording underneath the top frame line, leaving a blank space of approximately two-thirds of the label below the wording.

The first label is of white paper measuring 88 x 51 mm. and is printed in red. The frame is 65 mm. wide by 37 mm. in height, and underneath the words "More to Pay label" is an ornamentation consisting of a small oval with straight lines on each side, and measuring 19 mm. overall. The gum on the label is colourless. In the space underneath the wording is a manuscript 6d. in black ink beside which is affixed a 6d. Tasmanian tablet issue adhesive stamp which is cancelled with a LAUNCESTON Barred Oval obliterator.

The other label is on light buff paper with brown gum, and measures 75 x 52 mm. The frame and wording is printed in black. The frame measures 64 x 39 mm. in size and the wording "More to Pay Label" differs from the other label in the letters being smaller and the use of a capital "L" for label. Underneath the words is a more elaborate ornamentation 22 mm. in length. In the top right-hand corner of the label are small capital letters P.P.D., and underneath the bottom left-hand corner is the inscription C15157. A manuscript 10d. in blue crayon pencil is inscribed on the blank space of the label.

There seems no doubt that the first label described is of Tasmanian origin, and it is probable that the second one is also Tasmanian. The second label is attached to a manilla tag from a business house in Melbourne and is addressed to Launceston. The tag has no postage stamps attached to it or postmark from either Victoria or Tasmania.

As Tasmanian envelopes sighted which were insufficiently stamped do not have these labels attached, it is possible they were only used on parcels or packets on which insufficient postage was prepaid.

BOOK REVIEWS

The Stamps of New South Wales, by G. J. Hutson, F.R.P.S.L. 152 pp. 11 x 8½ in. Limited edition de luxe, 120 numbered copies. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, 41 Devonshire place, London, W1. Price, £10 15s. (Stg.)

Notwithstanding the enormous bibliography on the stamps of New South Wales, Mr Hutson has produced yet another volume on these ever-popular issues. It is one that will appeal to, and be welcomed by, an increasing army of "States" enthusiasts.

Basset Hull's great two-volume standard work was published 49 years ago. It has been out of print and almost unobtainable for many years.

Hence Mr Hutson's new work is more timely. It is the more valuable for having been based on all the literature since Mr Hull's day, Mr Hutson's own great collection, and his personal examination of famous collections in both Britain and Australia.

Mr Hutson's primary object, he states, has been to bring all available information within easy reach—and this has been achieved in a masterly manner.

Foreword is by Sir John Wilson, Bt.

The Introduction on behalf of the Publications Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, gives a quick and sufficient summary of the postal history, official records, correspondence, etc., and Mr Hutson covers all issues from "Views" and "Laureates" to "Specimens" and "Reprints."

The 1838 Embossed Letter Sheet is dealt with in Chapter 1.

In a detailed and yet concise and crisp manner Mr Hutson enumerates the plates and retouches of the "Views" and the "Laureates" and due emphasis is placed on the various errors of commission and omission perpetrated by the engravers of these hand-engraved plates; errors which make these issues, philatelically, so interesting.

Excellent collotypes of the reconstructed plates are included.

However, I fail to find any reference to the painstaking and wonderfully detailed stamp-by-stamp plating guides on the "Laureates" by Mr C. F. Williams, published in 1913 and March to August 1914.

The 2d. Diadem retouches are illustrated with enlargements on which retouch details

are hand-drawn. This greatly clarifies the points discussed.

Mr Hutson's detailed studies bring new interest to the De La Rue issues, so often overshadowed by the glamour of the classics, and complete the story of N.S.W. stamps issued after Mr Hull wrote his book.

The perforation varieties of the first and second Crown/NSW watermarked stamps are exhaustively dealt with and the accompanying tables show at a glance very clearly where the varieties occur and their relative rarity.

The "numeral postmarks" are not extensively dealt with, and I find no reference to the articles in the *Australian Stamp Journal* in May, June, October 1933, and April 1947. As in the case of Victoria, there are over 2000 of these but present progress in completing these lists lags behind the Victorian list.

The entire work represents altogether excellent consolidated philatelic fare.

Plates in colour and monochrome of rarities in Mr Hutson's collection enrich a very fine production.

W.P.H.

The Australian Specialists' Catalogue, 1961.

Twenty-second edition. 128 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 10s. (Aust.).

The major alteration in the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* this year is the reduction of the Kangaroo numbers from 185 to 55.

This follows the pattern of previous years in delegating shades to capital letters and is gradually bringing consistency to the Catalogue as a whole.

This opportunity of re-numbering (which all major catalogues do at times) has been extended to a re-arrangement of listing from that of "under watermarks" to that of "value." It certainly is more convenient and logical, and allows the collector to follow the one value through the various watermarks and changes of colours. Most collectors using the *A.C.S.C.*, I believe, place their sheets by value rather than in chronological order.

In the 1d. Kangaroo the "AUSTBALIA" variety has been deleted, there being some doubt as to its consistency. Slight re-arrangement has been made in the 1d. Kangaroo and valuable space saved through

condensation which certainly clarifies the three dies.

The very rare 1s. Lyrebird "green mist" retouch has not been listed probably because publication of this variety was made too late for insertion.

In a quick look through, I have noticed a few price alterations, the major one is a jump from 7s. 6d. and 3s. to £6 and £3 of F2f. This is the result of the extensive research undertaken by Messrs Dix and Rowntree on the George V halfpennies having proved this variety comes from the scarce "provisional plate."

One factor in pricing that will require attention in the future is what should be the minimum price? On the one hand the dealer may buy the more common stamps at 1s. or 2s. a hundred, but he will probably find he cannot get more than a dozen to measure up to the Catalogue's definition of used. I quote: "The term 'used' implies 'fine used' condition, in other words reasonable centring, light cancellation, and no stains, creases, thins, or other forms of damage."

In these days of inflation the dealers' labour costs of selecting a want list for a number of stamps at one penny each will be greater than the amount he receives. On the other side the young collector thinks his collection is worth more than it is because the catalogue value is so much higher, forgetting the hobby's fascination is not the monetary value but the pleasure, knowledge, and relaxation it affords, and, in addition, the lasting friendship it creates even between people who have never met.

I do not envy the Catalogue editor's job trying to satisfy both the collector and the dealer.

C.O.D.

An Airmail Collector's Notebook. Extracts made by L.N. and M.W. 132 pp. 7½ x 10 in. Privately printed.

Aerophilatelists who live in Britain or who have been privileged to visit there know the airmail collection which now rests opposite the Tapling Collection in the British Museum.

The notebook of the lady who made that collection is in the library of the Junior Philatelic Society and the well-known philatelic writers "L.N. and M.W." have now produced a volume of extracts from it. The lady herself produced Notebooks on France and on Italy which were

greatly valued by their owners and the new volume is in uniform format with them.

The new production ranges the world. It illustrates many classic items, both covers and stamps, some of almost amazing rarity. These are accompanied with descriptions, transcriptions of letters contained in the covers, that are often of historic interest, newspaper cuttings, and notes which this painstaking collector has made or collected.

They relate not merely to items in the collection but to many matters of philatelic importance that might well be lost or forgotten if not put on record.

Aerophilatelic catalogues are the basis of most collectors' information and as most of them are out of date as well as suffering from the abridgement necessary for space reasons, the Notebook is doubly welcome.

No matter how deeply or widely read in his speciality the airmail collector may be, it contains much that is new to him, and a great deal that is bound to interest him.

Notes about the personalities involved are also included and the volume offers the prospect of many happy hours.

Specially interesting to the reviewer were the details of Marc Pourpe's flights in Egypt, the correspondence regarding the 1919 Atlantic air mails, and the matter relating to the early United States balloon mails.

One regrets the becoming modesty which kept the compiler's name from the covers and title pages of her works, but the careful reader of this book will find a clue to her identity. She has been happy in her editors also, for they have preserved and presented the very spirit of the collection of data she created.

The fact that the volume bears Harrison and Sons Ltd imprint is itself a testimony of the quality of the production. The Notebooks are, indeed, the finest examples of aerophilatelic books yet.

The Stamps and Postal History of Sarawak, by W. R. Forrester-Wood, 576 pp. 1 map. 6¼ x 8 in. Published by the Sarawak Specialists' Society, 15 Worcester Road, Sutton, Surrey. Price, £2 10s. (Stg).

A few years ago, the reviewer had the privilege of seeing Mr Forrester-Wood and Major C. A. Pogson present their collections of Sarawak before the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

The mover of the vote of thanks said

that as an old Sarawak collector himself, he could say that the meeting had seen almost everything in Sarawak it was possible to see.

His remarks might well be adapted to the review of these 576 pages, for the book obviously contains almost everything on Sarawak known.

The book starts from the first recorded letter from Sarawak, sent by James Brooke, first Rajah, in August 1839, conveyed by native boat to Singapore.

It records the undated establishment of a post office and illustrates the first known cover and marking, the double circle post office, Sarawak, hand-dated 1 May, 1858.

The intriguing problems of the first and subsequent early issues, including the bogus provisional, are well presented, with the inclusion of plating lists, and set the standard for the book.

Of special value is the comprehensive chapter on the Japanese Occupation. Australians will be interested in the section on the A.I.F. postal arrangements even though the signature of the Captain, O.C. 9th Aust. Div. Postal Unit could not be deciphered.

The story of the typed Marudi labels, originally published in an American journal, is not well known here but it is important to record that "although none appears to have survived, it is believed that '8 cents' labels were also manufactured."

Altogether, the book is a fine memorial to Mr Forrester-Wood and it is pleasing to know he was spared to see its completion. The society is also to be commended for its initiative and courage in this big venture.

The Maritime Postal History of London, 1766-1960 by Alan W. Robertson. 68 pp. 9½ x 11 ins. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price: 35s. (stg).

To mark the occasion of the recent London Stamp Exhibition, Robson Lowe Ltd have added a new volume to the already impressive list of philatelic works that they have published.

The new publication is *The Maritime Postal History of London* by Alan Robertson. Mr Robertson has already made world reputation as the author of *The Maritime Postal History of the British Isles*, a sumptuously produced loose-leaf volume, limited to only 600 copies and already comprising more than 600 large pages.

Naturally, a comprehensive work of this nature is expensive to produce, and the

Robson Lowe publication is really a condensation of the major work, to provide an authoritative handbook on a subject which has been virtually untouched before by other writers, and at a price attractive to all.

To collectors who specialize in the ship letter handstamps of London, this book is a "must," but actually its scope is considerably wider than this, as the information it contains can to a large extent be applied to the other ship letter ports of Great Britain.

As the title suggests, the handstamps dealt with all emanate from the Port of London, but as Britain's principal port, and the headquarters of the Ship Letter Office, London has provided a great range of maritime handstamps, most of which have been duplicated by the other British ports. Apart, therefore, from a relatively small number of local handstamps used at certain ports, this book provides an excellent guide to the majority of types of maritime handstamp employed in Britain. Although the period of use of each type of handstamp will vary slightly with different ports, the reader should be able to form some idea as to the period and order that various handstamps were issued.

The first (and major section of the work) is the catalogue, which includes all the known handstamps connected with London maritime mail. Each handstamp is illustrated by full size drawings, and in many cases supplemented by large half-tone plates. They include Paid and Unpaid Ship Letters, Packet Letters, India Ship and Packet Letters, India Soldier Letters, Naval Mail, and Special Purpose Handstamps, including the scarce "Rebate," "Exempt Ship Letter," "Mobile Box" and "Post Paid Withdrawn Ship Letter."

A special section deals with the history of the London Ship Letter Office, and a third section details Rates and Charges, showing how the charges on a ship letter were assessed.

Four appendices are included, comprising sketch maps of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland (showing location of all ports known to have employed maritime handstamps), and finally a map of the Southampton mailcoach road, originally published in 1806.

The work is printed on fine art paper, and includes 74 large half-tone plates, and almost 200 full size drawings of maritime handstamps.

D.N.B.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

September

- 15 Afghanistan, Mr J. M. Wilkins
- 29 Tonga, Mr J. P. C. Tresize

October

- 4 Library and Conversation
- 20 Gold Coast, Mr P. Jaffe

November

- 1 Library and Conversation
- 17 Mulready Covers, Mr L. van Straten
- Visit by Caulfield Philatelic Society
- 24 Sale by Tender

December

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

1961

January

- 19 South Australia, Dr W. P. Heslop

Annual Meeting

The president (Mr J. Gartner) in his annual report, said the efforts of members had been devoted, with single-minded purpose, to paying the debt on the new headquarters. This had been accomplished and the committee had been working in an endeavour to give more benefits to members.

"It is a great boon to own our own premises, but as the leading philatelic society in Victoria, we must maintain our high standards and make the meetings philatelically interesting," Mr Gartner said.

A celebration dinner, to mark the occasion of the completion of payment on the society's premises had been held at the Hotel Windsor in October.

The membership was now 231, including six new members during the year. Mr J. Englander's passing, after 50 years' membership, was the only death.

Mr Gartner said that, by invitation, he had represented the society at a special meeting of the National Art Gallery and Cultural Centre Building Committee in March.

The society's Publications Committee had published the 10-year Index to *Philately from Australia* during the year and had two projected books ready for printing.

The library was now one of which the society might be proud.

The society had benefited by £184 from the Sale by Tender Branch and £55 from the Exchange Branch.

Mr Gartner expressed special thanks to the ladies, led by Mrs M. Gates, who supplied the suppers that formed one of the enjoyable features of meetings, to the secretary, Miss M. Farley, and the treasurer, Miss J. Buchanan.

The revenue account showed an increase in the society's credit balance of £229, after redemption

of Gas and Fuel Corporation Debentures returning £150, and the reblocking of the meeting room floor which cost £295.

The consolidated balance sheet showed an excess of assets over liabilities of £12,803.

Officers elected: President, Mr A. W. Bunn; vice-president, Mr A. G. Brown; immediate past president, Mr J. Gartner; secretary, Miss M. Farley; treasurer, Miss J. Buchanan; council, Messrs E. G. Creed, E. B. Doery, C. G. C. Hodgkinson, P. Collas, R. Lloyd-Smith, and T. C. Lester.

Mr Gartner's presidential display was from his collection of Western Australia.

It opened with early stamped covers of Perth and Fremantle in the middle 50s and a specialised section of the 1d. black and 4d. blue of 1854. A mint block of four of the 4d. blue with two major transfer varieties was shown, followed by some scarce material in the later issues.

Some thirty die proofs of Perkins Bacon, essays, and plate proofs, and forgeries were also shown, as well as the Electric Telegraph form of the 1870s with the impressed 1s. stamp.

A special feature of the display was the unique collection of the Local stamps of the Coolgardie Cycle Express Company (of 1894 and 1896) and the Lake Lefroy Goldfield Cycle Mail. These were shown on cover, on original postcards and mint and used.

The vote of thanks was moved by Mr H. M. Campbell and seconded by Mr R. Lloyd-Smith.

Medal Competition

The annual competition for the society's medal, at the June meeting attracted seven entries.

The silver medal was won by Mr J. M. Wilkins, who provided a surprise display of Afghanistan. This included many scarce items and displayed his knowledge of this little-understood speciality.

Miss Julie Resch was awarded a bronze medal for an entry demonstrating some of her intensive research work on the 1½d. King George V Commonwealth.

The other entries were presented by Messrs D. N. Baker (Great Britain), H. M. Campbell (Tasmania), Mrs M. Gates (Channel Islands), Mr J. S. Griffiths (Saar), and J. P. Tresize (Tonga).

Portugal

The display at the August meeting was pre-stamp covers of Portugal from the well-known postal history collection of Mr Hamilton Croaker, F.R.P.S.L., of Sydney.

Mr Croaker was unable to attend himself but sent a paper to accompany the display.

It was the first time for many years that a display of Portugal had been given before the society, and there was a large attendance.

Mr Croaker's display included many rare covers, particularly Trans-Atlantic ones, and the write-ups enabled the markings on the covers to be understood and the significance appreciated.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

- October
11 Annual Competition
Some Aspects of Basic Philately, Mr D. B. Moloney
- November
8 Modern Trends in Philately—Discussion of recent paper by Sir John Wilson, B.T., K.C.V.O., led by Messrs R. H. Taylor and A. J. Ciaffone
- December
13 Ladies' Night and Christmas Social Meeting 1961
- January
10 Postal History and Stamps of Ireland, Mr J. H. Powell

British Solomon Islands

Members at the June meeting saw a most interesting display of The British Solomon Islands, Their Stamps and Postal History, from the collection of Mr R. H. Taylor, which won a silver award at ANPEX 1959.

Prior to the display, Mr Taylor read a comprehensive paper setting out much of the history of these islands and their post offices.

The display itself tended toward covers. Stamps shown covered from the "Large Canoe" issue to the Elizabethans. Examples of practically all known cancellers from the various post offices were seen including some previously relatively unknown from Honiara and the so-called "unauthorised" Barakoma Airfield. Some of the less frequently encountered cancellations of the U.S.A. Forces and cancellers of the N.Z.A.P.O.s were shown, as were a very nice selection of Shipmarks and Paquebots.

The display was rounded-off with various postage dues (with memorandum slips), registration receipts, air letters and the recent booklets.

Election of Officers

Officers elected at the Annual Meeting were: President, Mr F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L.; Vice-Presidents, Mr C. Ashworth Spreat and R. H. Taylor; Secretary, Mr R. H. Markham; Treasurer, Mr W. P. Cahill; Librarian, Mr H. Croaker, F.R.P.S.L.; Exchange Superintendent, Mr W. Finigan; Committee, Miss M. Salier and Messrs G. L. Rogers and A. J. Ciaffone.

Annual Subscriptions

The Annual Subscription to the Club was increased to £1 10s. for City Members and £1 for Country and Interstate Members as from 1 July 1960. Junior Subscriptions have also been increased to 15s. (City) and 12s. 6d. (Country).

Generally increased costs in the day-to-day running of the club necessitated the increases, as was pointed out by the Treasurer in a detailed survey of club finances.

Pacific Islands

Once again, the August meeting was devoted to a combined display by members of the Pacific Islands Circle. As is usual with these displays, some

choice items from various parts of the Pacific area were shown. These included the rare first printing of the 6d. on 7½d. Papua and New Guinea Postal Charges Issue (imprint pair); various country post offices in Fiji; and trials of the 1st overprint on the "Papua" stamps.

The display comprised items from the collections of Messrs Romney Gibbons (Aitutaki), W. Finigan (Falkland Island Dependencies), N. M. Reid (Fiji), R. H. Taylor (Christmas Island), R. A. Baldwin (Modern Rarities), J. H. Powell (German Colonies and Atoll Covers), H. Croaker (Papua), R. Simpson (Papua), F. V. Thompson (P.N.G. Postal Charges).

70th Anniversary Exhibition

A display, which included many of the gems of the classics of New South Wales, was mounted to mark the beginning of the 70th Anniversary celebrations of the club.

Unfortunately, the attendance was very much below that which might have been expected to see such a wealth of philatelic material. It was indeed disheartening to the organisers who spared no pains to see that the exhibition was first class in all respects, philatelically.

The display, in eight frames of 24 sheets each, included Port Phillip pre-stamp covers (Messrs Ashworth Spreat, Stone, White, Taylor and Slade); N.S.W. pre-stamp covers (Messrs Slade, White, Dankin, Taylor, Ashworth Spreat and Dr Freidman); "Sydney Views" with pairs and some covers (Messrs White and Dankin, Dr Freidman); "Laureateds" with covers, unused strip of four Plate II 2d. and die proofs of all values (Messrs Dankin, White, and the late C. Nauthe); "Diadems" with most of the retouches on imperf. and perf. (Messrs White, Dankin and the late C. Nauthe); Used in Queensland (Messrs Stone, White, Taylor, and the late C. Nauthe); Later issues, with many proofs and scarce varieties (Mr Dankin); Officials (Mr Dankin); and Postmarks, including used in New Caledonia, New Hebrides, Nauru and Norfolk Island (Mr Garrard).

Study Circles

Members who are interested in the serious study of the Stamps of the Pacific Islands or of the Australian States (at present concentrating on New South Wales) are asked to contact the convenors of the respective circles who will give them full details of the meetings.

Pacific Islands: Mr W. Finigan, 42 Park Road, Burwood, N.S.W.

Australian States: Mr V. Frankenstein, 25 Beresford Road, Rose Bay, N.S.W.

Wanted to Buy

WANTED—P.M.C.'s *Philatelic Bulletins*, Nos. 1, 2, 4 and 9. Will pay reasonable price. C. A. McKeown, 16 Carisbrook Drive, Orinda, Calif., U.S.A.

THE "ROYAL" ROUND-UP

HAROLD TERNES is one of those characters who have been collecting stamps for at least 50 years. Yet his stampic activities today are confined to Australian Commonwealth and the Pacific Islands. No sidelines for him, he says! He is an Optometrist by profession, living in Box Hill, and is a Past President of the Victorian Optical Association. Outside of stamps he has four activities that keep him hustling for his corn flakes; bowls, gardening, recorded music, and Rotary—he is secretary of the Rotary Club of Camberwell.

Rev. HAROLD P. K. GORDON, Methodist Minister at Mont Albert, is a recently-joined member of the "Royal." Philately, he says, is his only hobby, and the only one he's ever had—even if he did start late in life! But then, he's got six children, four of whom also collect stamps. Matter of fact, it was the kids who started him off in 1957. Collects Australia, U.P.U., United Nations, N.Z. Healths, and stamps of Rotary. Beyond stamps his chief interests are educating his children and gardening.

JOHN CHAPMAN of East St. Kilda has a collection of stamps of Australia which he has put together over the past 15 years, so it should be fairly good. Has a few odds and ends in addition, but the Commonwealth is what interests him most. A dentist by profession, he dabbles also in "Australiana," of which he has a biggish collection.

Also restores oil paintings (what a man!). It is of interest to note that he's done a lot of work with ultra-violet light, particularly so far as stamps are concerned.

Mrs PHYLLIS TURNBULL of West Footscray is one of these practical bodies. She does dressmaking for her own amusement. Has been a member of the "Royal" for two years. She has been collecting stamps for approximately ten years, principally those of Malta. Is a member of the Malta Study Circle in London—a foundation member—and when we interviewed her she expected to go there this year. Also collects Thematics dealing with children. Her husband caught the philatelic bug from her and does a bit of stamp collecting now and then.

ALEC PETRIE is a good chap to know. He has always done things the hard way. Case in point, he used to collect guns until about the middle of the last war, and that's no slouch of a job, believe us! Then he sold the guns to the Americans and took up stamp collecting. Of all the difficult countries, he chose Thailand, and has a pretty good collection, too. Alec is the business manager of this journal and makes a first-class job of it, too. He is in the Victorian Railways, so naturally he is also interested in TPOs.

W.L.B.

VICTORIA:

The Postal History of the Port Phillip District 1835-1851

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

This remarkable work, the first of its kind in Australia, easy to read and attractively presented, particularly in respect of the illustrations, which are varied and numerous was published in 1950 on the occasion of the Centenary of Victorian Stamps. It has received very favourable comments wherever philatelists can be found. It could not be published today at double the price.

Price 21/6 (Aust.)

*It can be obtained, post-free from the
Publishing Society, by writing to*

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