

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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Philately from Australia

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JUNE 1961

SOMETHING NEW UNDER THE SUN

Who would have thought to see a book devoted entirely to Postage Dues, and the Postage Dues of one country at that? Probably only our friend, Bill Purves, would ever have thought of writing such a book, and having thought of it, have carried it through to its conclusion.

However that may be, we have in this book* something which has never been attempted before for *any* country. Its seventy pages cover the story of the collection of deficient postage in Victoria from the beginning up to the issue of Commonwealth Postage Dues, and a fascinating story it turns out to be. The limitations of philatelic journals are such that only a small amount of space can be devoted to original research and work such as this might never be published unless appearing in this form. The book is full of interesting technical study and the remarkable thing is that *none* of it has been told before.

Part I deals with the Victorian Postage Due stamps, with chapters devoted to—

- (a) extracts from the official records relating to the genesis of the issue and its usage;
- (b) various general subjects such as watermark positions, perforations, "Specimens," etc.;
- (c) the various printings;
- (d) the constant flaws.

Part II covers postal history and cancellations, one chapter dealing with the collection of deficient postage before the issue of Postage Due stamps, and the

* *Victoria: The Postage Dues*, by J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L. 70 pp. and 8 pp. plates. 11 x 7½ in. Published by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Available from The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne C1. Price: £3 3s. (postage 2s.)

final chapter dealing with the postal markings found on letters from this period, and the cancellations actually found on the Postage Dues.

A recital of the bare bones cannot, of course, convey the absorbing interest of the story which Mr Purves has to tell, an interest that will not be confined to collectors of Victoria. Any serious philatelist, particularly if he is also a bibliophile, should be glad to add this volume to his philatelic library.

The set-up, printing and binding are even better than the standard we have come to expect from The Hawthorn Press, and the eight pages of illustrations on art paper are very good indeed. *An innovation is the pocket in the back cover containing an extra set of illustrations, for the benefit of those who wish to cut them up and mount them in their collections.*

Even the most knowledgeable and finicking searcher would find little to cavil at in Mr Purves' arguments, which always have a weighty assemblage of facts to back them up. He has, on rare occasions—as with all researchers—been caught out in the past, but not, I imagine, on many points concerning his beloved Victoria. The only comment on the text which I would like to make is not a disagreement but a suggestion. This is in connection with the "P.B. ROOM" cancellation with code letter, described by Mr Purves under (ii) on page 64. These code letters are a feature of the cancellations of many British countries, and have never been satisfactorily explained. Mr Purves suggests that they probably indicated the time of day, and there seems little doubt that in some countries they were so used. However, in others, such as Tasmania, it seems more likely that they were allotted to different postal clerks. In the case of this Victorian "P.B. ROOM" cancellation, the fact that the letters found are spread sporadically through the alphabet, and that they are apparently not all found at the same period, would seem to indicate that they may have been used in the latter manner.

From a librarian's point of view, I should have liked to have seen the year of publication on the title page, but that is a minor point. My friend, Major Adrian Hopkins, would probably say that the price should also appear thereon, but I do not agree with him in the case of quality publications, as this undoubtedly is.

No book to delight a bibliophile can ever be cheap, even less so one designed for the book-buying stamp collector. Nonetheless, if you *do* buy this book, you will never regret it.

H.M.C.

EDITORIAL NOTES

N.Z. Exhibition

An unusual idea has been adopted for the stickers of the New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition which will be held in Christchurch on August 21-26.

The exhibition is organised by the combined Christchurch philatelic societies and each of the four bodies has a sheet of stickers symbolising itself.

The stickers are 6d. a sheet, 2s. (N.Z.) a set, plus postage, from the secretary, Mr J. P. Malcolm, Box 2336, Christchurch, N.Z.

Entries for the Exhibition close on 1 July, exhibits must be in hand by 7 August.

Intending exhibitors are warned of the urgent importance of complying with Customs formalities before despatching their collections to New Zealand.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. P. MEARA

6d. KOOKABURRA, Perf. $14\frac{3}{4}$ x 14

Due to a typographical error and the purchase of further material subsequent to the return of the proof to the Editor, the following amendments should be made on page 103 of my article in *Philately from Australia*, December 1960.

Sheet "A"—Upper Left—Electro Varieties

Electro 7

Authority Imprint at Left: the reference should read: "Letters in centre weak with "IN" of PRINTED recut.

Electro "Y"

Substitute in entirety the following electro varieties in relation to Right Pane, R4/1 and R4/2, sheets with Type III pips, appearing early and later in 1960.

Phase (i)

R4/1—1 mm. horizontal dash joins right frame $5\frac{3}{4}$ mm. from top.

R4/2— $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm. oblique dash sloping upwards from left frame between lines six-four under beak tip and directly opposite dash on R4/1.

Phase (ii)

R4/1—No dash.

R4/2—*Recut* to about six shading lines adjoining left frame—an ineffectual attempt to correct phase (i), but oblique dash still discernible.

Phase (iii)

R4/1—No dash.

R4/2—Oblique dash entirely removed leaving broken white spaces close by left frame on lines 4 to 7 below tip of beak.

I understand this value ceased selling in Sydney about Christmas 1960, and my record of final sales in Brisbane is 6 January 1961.

2s. 6d. ABORIGINE, NO WATERMARK, 30.1.57

May I refer to my notes in "The Trail," March 1961, particularly the reference in the fourth paragraph to an "appearance" of retouching between "P" and "O" on R12/8 with a colour fleck above "O."

Through the kind co-operation of Mr L. Skinner of Sydney, I am inclined to the opinion that this item is found on Sheet "A" of Plate (electro) No. 2.

Mr Skinner forwarded me for sight a block of eight, no watermark, with Plate No. 2 on the left and 13 mm. above the number there are five Xs spaced at 5 mm. intervals. No $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. dash appears between the number and the first X but this is not necessarily a regular feature to be expected.

However, on R7/1 the lines of the cross-hatching running s.w. to n.e. in the lower left corner from 2/6 to PO are all doubled, indicative of a shift which of course is of master plate derivation.

Inspection of a full sheet revealed both the doubtful retouch to R12/8 and the doubling on R7/1 which tend to support my opinion, and at the time of preparation of these notes, I am awaiting the reappearance of the sheets with the definite retouch to R12/8 in the hope that the position in regard to R12/8 may be clarified.

5d. QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 1.10.59—PLATE FRACTURE

Since the issue of this definitive six 5d. commemoratives have appeared and the effective sales periods of the 5d. blue have been confined to October 1959, about seven months to 18 August 1960, and from April 1961 a total of some ten months until 30 June 1961 which, by and large, and allowing for 5d. booklet issues, does not indicate very extensive use of electros, despite that 5d. is the most used stamp, and perhaps some four electros might have been prepared to date.

Yet on 3 May, I was fortunate and somewhat amazed to obtain Sheet "A" of this value, with a very extensive plate fracture adjoining each side of the large centre pip, very similar to the two fractures on the 5d. Christmas 1960, referred to in the "Trail," March 1961.

In this instance the pip is entirely sound—it was punctured for perforation purposes—but the fracture, some $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. in average width, extends for 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. on the left and 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm. on the right of the pip, and has the appearance of being rather deep. Below the pip itself, there is an arc of light colour 10 mm. wide and almost 2 mm. thick.

I expressed amazement because plate fractures are far scarcer than plate numbers and three large fractures appearing within several months raises the question, *why?*

Possibly earlier states will be found and Sheet "A" is distinguishable by the large layout arc below L.P. R10/1-2 and the "indicator line" opposite L.P. R10/1. Sheet "A" from the opposite electro also shows a corona of colour around the centre pip and should not be confused as being a prior stage of the fracture.

NEW ZEALAND-SAMOA PLATE NUMBER SERIES OF 1907-1926

By H. L. CHISHOLM

The plate number series which centred on the King George V issue of New Zealand and spanned a gap of almost 20 years has always held an interest for me.

Although the last plate was made about 35 years ago and the last N.Z. stamps printed from them a quarter of a century back, their full story has still to be discovered.

To me, they are more than a list of numbers, differentiating plates as they were made, and showing how many plates were used for a given stamp.

In 1907-8, Perkins Bacon Ltd, of London, produced the "Redrawn" issue of the 1d., 3d., 6d. and 1s. of the 1898 New Zealand pictorials and a surface-printed 1d. Universal.

The engraved plates, which were distinguished by a small dot between the stamp impressions, bore plate numbers, from 1 to 8, above Row 1, No. 1.

The engraved plates for the Edward VII issue were made by W. R. Royle and Co., although the surface-printed plates, the ½d. and the 1d. Dominion, were by Perkins Bacon. Plate designations on the engraved plates were dots.

Perkins Bacon made the plates for the surface-printed halfpenny and the line-engraved plates for the King George V issue of 1915, and the plate number series were resumed at 14 (1½d.).

The First Mystery

What plates, then, were designated 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13?

Surprisingly, the point has never been raised in philatelic literature. I conjectured that they were the five surface-printing plates manufactured by Perkins Bacon between 1907 and 1915—the surface-printed 1d. Universal of the 1907-8 issue, the two plates for the ½d. Edward VII, and the two for the 1d. Dominion.

The King George V engraved plate-numbers ran through from 14 to 27, but none appear on the surface-printed values. Was this because none were engraved on the plates? Or was it because, if they were engraved on the plates, they would be below the printing surface, and thus would not show on the sheets?

Collins and Fathers: *The Stamps of New Zealand* (Vol. 1, p. 299), say that the two ½d. King George V plates were "registered" as 28 and 29. They were thus listed after the engraved plates, and I thought this would tend to confirm that the surface-printed 1d. Universal would have been "Plate 9."

I then wrote to Mr R. J. G. Collins, of Christchurch, N.Z., in this and other

matters raised in this article. He contacted Mr A. R. Burge and Mr C. W. Watts in Wellington. Later, Mr Collins and Mr Watts were able to inspect the plates and this is what they found:

Plate 9—the surface-printed 1d. Universal. The number is in the top right-hand corner of the plate; that is, opposite Row 1, No. 1 of the sheet.

Plate 10—one of the ½d. Edwards, with the number in a similar position.

Plate 11—½d. Edward. No marking. Probably removed in bevelling.

Plate 12—1d. Dominion (identified by Mr E. R. Wilson, of Hawera, as that called "Plate 2" in *The Stamps of New Zealand*). The plate-number appears below the first stamp on the bottom row (plate), or the last stamp in the sheet (Row 10, No. 24). The figures are 22 mm. below the stamp impression. The bottom of the figures had been removed when the edges of the plate were bevelled.

Plate 13—1d. Dominion ("Plate 1" in the handbook). Plate-number in similar position to that of Plate 12, but 2 mm. closer to the stamp impression, and is thus complete.

Other markings found were:

Plates 30 (1½d. K.G. V), 31 (2d.): plate numbers on top right corner of plate.

Plate 32 (3d.): bottom left-hand corner.

Plate 33 (½d. Booklet): top right-hand corner.

The Second Mystery

There is no record of the date of receipt of Plates 32 (3d. K.G. V surface-printed) or 33 (½d. K.G. V London Booklet Plate) and the date in the records for Plate 34 (1d. Universal London Booklet Plate) is 1919. This is out of order, as Plates 35 and 36 (1½d. and 2d. surface-printed plates) are 1917. What is the explanation?

It was suggested that there might have been a mistake in the records but Mr Watts has found that the proof sheets of the two booklet plates are dated 7.5.18, which would confirm the 1919 date.

Were instructions for these plates sent in 1916 and the ship carrying them sunk, necessitating a second order later?

The Third Mystery

The handbook lists the plate-numbers assigned to the other Perkins Bacon produced surface-printing plates of the King George V issue, bringing the numbering to 36. When replacement plates for the 6d. and 1s. and plates for the 8d. were ordered in 1920, they bore the plate-numbers 37 to 42.

Then New Zealand ordered plates for the Samoa Fale (Hut) issue of 1921 and the plate-number series was carried on, 43 to 54.

In 1922, New Zealand added a 5d. to the King George V issue and this bore the plate-number 43—the series had been carried on from the end of the New Zealand plates, and there was thus a doubling with the Samoan plate-numbers.

This was continued with the 4d. replacement plate, ordered in 1925 and supplied in 1926, the last plate of issue, and the last plate ordered by the Stamp Duties Department.

How did this happen? Did whoever ordered the plates look up the number of the last plate received and then give instructions that the Samoan plates were to be numbered consecutively from then on? And when the new New Zealand plates were required, did the man responsible look back at the last N.Z. plate number and then, in ignorance of the Samoan issue, again order that the series be carried on from 42?

Mr Collins and Mr Burge think the Samoan plates may have been recorded in a different part of the Register Book to the N.Z. plates, and were thus overlooked.

The Fourth Mystery

It has been normal to think of the plate-numbers as being engraved on the plates by Perkins Bacon when they were made. To this stage all the evidence suggests that they were.

But the compartmented minds that the catalogues have given us have blinded us to the fact that the Samoa issue was produced by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. Ltd, and bears its imprint at the foot of the plates and sheets.

This raised the question whether the plate-numbers were engraved on the London-made plates in New Zealand.

The plate-numbers on the line-engraved plates vary in length and in style of figure, obviously cut by different hands during the 19-year period, but they do present a uniformity of position and style—finely-cut distinctive figures, in the same general position on all plates.

Mr Burge has been able to find no reference in the records of the Islands Department, but Mr Watts says it is quite clear that the numbers on the 1907-8 Pictorials were punched in by the plate-makers and he is certain that the makers of subsequent plates were asked to number them for identification purposes.

He also thinks it unlikely that the plate-numbers would be put in the plates in New Zealand, as they would then be hardened with a chrome surface.

Mr Collins says that the removal of the bottom of the figures on Plate 12 during bevelling would seem conclusive evidence that the numbering was done by the plate-makers at the instigation of the Stamp Duties Department.

It would seem then that the plate-numbers were engraved by the plate manufacturers in Britain, at New Zealand's order, and from the similarity between the Perkins Bacon and Bradbury numberings, that New Zealand sent them a stamp sample of the Perkins Bacon numbers.

It may be recorded again here, too, that Plate 40 (8d. K.G.V) was the only numbered plate from which stamps were not issued.

The plate-number series, with the numbers of the surface-printed plates in parenthesis, is:

- | | | | |
|------|--------------|---|-------------------------------|
| 1 | ½d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 2 | ½d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 3 | ½d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 4 | ½d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 5 | 6d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 6 | 6d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 7 | 3d. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| 8 | 1s. | Pictorial (1907) | |
| (9) | 1d. | Universal, surface-printed (1908) | |
| (10) | ½d. | King Edward VII (1909) | |
| (11) | ½d. | King Edward VII (1909) | |
| (12) | 1d. | Dominion (Plate 2) (1909) | |
| (13) | 1d. | Dominion (Plate 1) (1909) | |
| 14 | 1½d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 15 | 2d. | King George V (both colours) (1915) | |
| 16 | 2d. | King George V (both colours) (1915) | |
| 17 | 2½d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 18 | 3d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 19 | 3d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 20 | 4d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 21 | 4½d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 22 | 6d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 23 | 6d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 24 | 7½d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 25 | 9d. | King George V (1915) | |
| 26 | 1s. | King George V (1915) | |
| 27 | 1s. | King George V (1915) | |
| (28) | ½d. | King George V (1915) | |
| (29) | ½d. | King George V (1915) | |
| (30) | 1½d. | King George V surface-printed (London plate) (1916) | |
| (31) | 2d. | King George V surface-printed (1916) | |
| (32) | 3d. | King George V surface-printed | |
| (33) | ½d. | King George V London Booklet Plate | |
| (34) | 1d. | Universal London Booklet Plate (1919) | |
| (35) | 1½d. | King George V surface-printed (1917) | |
| (36) | 2d. | King George V surface-printed (1917) | |
| 37 | 6d. | King George V (1921) | |
| 38 | 6d. | King George V (1921) | |
| 39 | 8d. | King George V (both colours) (1921) | |
| 40 | 8d. | King George V (not used) (1921) | |
| 41 | 1s. | King George V (1921) | |
| 42 | 1s. | King George V (1921) | |
| | <i>Samoa</i> | | |
| 43 | ½d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 44 | 1d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 45 | 1½d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 46 | 2d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 47 | 2½d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 48 | 3d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 49 | 4d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 50 | 5d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 51 | 6d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 52 | 8d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 53 | 9d. | Hut (1921) | |
| 54 | 1s. | Hut (1921) | |
| | | | <i>New Zealand</i> |
| | | 5d. | King George V (1922) |
| | | 4d. | King George V (purple) (1926) |



The Other Side of the Picture



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

VICTORIA

(i) *Some Light on the "Bendoc-Bruthen" Travelling Post*

The marking of this rare and interesting T.P.O. was described and illustrated in the writer's monograph on the T.P.O.s of this State.

Mr J. H. Dunn has been making enquiries for some time relative to obtaining further details of the route and method of conveyance. He has now, somewhat miraculously, established contact with an old gentleman of 90 years old, living at Bairnsdale, who has written him on the subject, as follows:

"I am in receipt of yours of 18.4.61. I will first give you the year I was born—1871. I went to school at Bendoc. Sandy Scott, as we all knew him, ran the mail on horseback from Delegate, N.S.W., to the top of Black Mountain once a week. Starting from Delegate via Bendoc and Bonang to Tubbutt—a distance of about 35 miles—he stayed at Tubbutt for the night and next day rode to the Snowy River, where he left his horse. The Government paid a man named McKellar to cross the river in a boat. Scott carried the mail on foot and walked up the mountain about six miles and met the mail carrier from Buchan and changed mail bags and walked back to the boat, crossed the river, got his horse, continued on to Tubbutt and stayed the night. Next day he proceeded via Bonang and Bendoc—where he would hand in the mail bag to the school teacher—and then on to Delegate with the Delegate bag. I may say the bags were small. There was no road after six miles on the Bonang side of Bendoc; it was only a bush track. My father told me Scott only missed one trip owing to scarlet fever and his brother took the mail. Sandy Scott gave twenty-one years wonderful service. That is about all I can tell you.—Yours, etc., H. R. REED."

Mr Reed has since informed Mr Dunn that he believes this service ceased in 1889.

Anyone who looks at a map and is interested in our local history can only, after reading this letter, marvel greatly at the tasks our pioneers were prepared to undertake.

(ii) *Early Use of the Letter Carrier "Boxed" Markings Found on the Postage Dues*

No sooner had his book on the Postage Dues emerged from the press than the writer, through the courtesy of his friend, Mr Alan Brown, acquired some *additional* data on the above markings. These were obtained from three "fronts" of the 1866-68 period. All were addressed to Melbourne and bore both "UNCLAIMED AT MELBOURNE" and "Letter Carrier" markings. In the one case the latter marking was of the first *oval* type, dated 9.8.66. This type is illustrated, on a cover, in the book. In the other two cases the markings were "L.C. 3" and "L.C. 5" respectively, both in the "boxed" type later employed—from 1891 on—to obliterate Postage Due stamps. These were both dated 1.4.68. (Note that "L.C. 5" has not been found on the Postage Due stamps.) This "boxed" type of marking would therefore appear to have been introduced some 23-24 years prior to its first employment as an obliterator.

(iii) *Discovery by Mr T. S. G. Ward of a New (and first) "GEELONG, NEW S. WALES" Marking*

The writer had two new Geelong markings reported to him practically simultaneously and being, at the time, "up to his ears" somehow managed to successfully confuse (in his March notes) one with the other.

Mr Ward's and Mr de Righi's respective discoveries are quite distinct and the latter has already been described and illustrated.

Mr Ward's marking is on a letter sent from Geelong to Rochdale, Lancashire. The date of the letter was 21.7.1841 and it received, en route, the second type of "Melbourne, New South Wales" marking dated AU. 1, 1841, the London date-stamp being 26.12.41. This newly-found Geelong marking is in the form of a single-lined oval (30 × 25 mm.). Inside the oval, around the top (and slightly curved), is the word "GEELONG," in the centre is a Crown, and around the base is "NEW S. WALES." An illustration of this marking will appear at a later date.

QUEENSLAND

The Numeral Cancellations

Mr Campbell and I have now completed the examination of the last of the material so kindly made available to us by Mr T. E. Petterd of Hobart. Our warm thanks to him.

The coverage of this material, in respect of numeral cancellations, was most extensive. It is hard, in fact, to imagine any institution, *other* than a lottery, attracting such widely-spaced enquiries. The amount of new information this find has added is formidable indeed, more particularly in relation to New South Wales and Queensland, two of the States for which no official allocation of numeral cancellers has survived. It is unlikely that a similar "find" now remains in this country and that means that any further progress must be slow—and relatively small. Further progress there certainly will be and if we learn of it

we will report it. For the moment it is sufficient to say that we have, independently of the Porter work, tied some 450 numbers, gathered much new geographical and archival information, and been able to make a number of amendments.

The examination of the last quantity of material has brought more substantial additions, as follows:

(a) *Corrections*

- 49 See under "Q.L." later. Cannot, we think, be LEYBURN.
 112, 231 MURPHYS CREEK. Is spelt *without* an "E."
 182(?) NEARDIE. Previously reported as 192, the number given by Porter to WEST END (Brisbane). It seems more likely that the "9" is not a 9 but a badly struck "8."
 402 STAMFORD. Previously reported as 482.
 431 Not, we now think, ISIS JUNCTION, as recently reported, but ROCKHAMPTON, for which the number has already been reported.

(b) *Confirmations*

87 EAGLE JUNCTION, 137 BIGGENDEN, 144 YATALA, 212 RAVENSWOOD JUNCTION, 245 SHERWOOD, 246 TANGORIN, 312 DULACCA, 313 RAGLAN, 347 LAURA, 370 SOUTHBROOK, 371 NORTH ROCKHAMPTON, 380 EMU VALE, 381 SOUTHWOOD, 387 YERONGPILLY, 416 WEST END, 432 OONTOO, 459 GUNALDA, 474 CORINDA, 487 SPRING BLUFF (see *P. from A.*, Sept. 1956), 490 TEXAS, 512 MONAL CREEK, 569 MANLY.

(c) *New Ties*

Here we have some 22 to record, these including a correction and some probables, as follows:

- Q.L. Used at LEYBURN(2). See top p. 13. Yet further confirmation of the theory previously advanced (see previous *P. from A.* of March 1961). One wonders now whether MOGGILL (opened 1.2.61) *also* used a "Q.L." obliterator. This evidence, however, suggests that 49 (see *P. from A.* of March 1961) was *not* used at LEYBURN, but somewhere else.
 81 MILMERRAN. This was the same office as DOMVILLE—see p. 27—the name being changed on 16.11.94. The number was a Queensland number and *differs* from the New South Wales 81, allocated to Warwick.
 115 BREAKFAST CREEK. See p. 28. A re-allocation.
 158 NORTH PINE. See p. 18.
 197 CAMBOON. See p. 19.
 238? BELMONT. See p. 20. Only the last "T" shows.
 299 ENOGGERA(2). See p. 21.
 334 ANNERLEY. See p. 28 (and note second "E"). This was the same office as BOGGO (see p. 23), the name being changed in 1892. ANNERLEY

- was closed in 1903, and we have some evidence to show that the 334 canceller was then sent to GIN GIN, replacing the 203 canceller which had become badly worn.
- 352 EUDLO. See p. 27. Evidently a re-allocation.
- 402 STAMFORD(2). See also under "corrections." This was probably a replacement canceller, the original 589 canceller having worn badly.
- 407? BETHANIA. See p. 25. The figures "40" are sure and the "7" probable.
- 411 T.P.O. ----. Probably No. 2 CENTRAL RAILWAY in view of the previous "ties" found of 410 and 412.
- 417 TABLE TOP(3). See p. 26. A re-allocation. Now sure.
- 421 (?) SAMFORD. See p. 25. Found, as a transit marking, on a piece with nearby STRATHPINE (462) c.d.s.
- 433 AITKEN VALE. See p. 29 and note spelling. A re-allocation.
- 452 KABRA. See p. 26.
- 506 MUMBILLA. See p. 28 (501 was YANDILLA).
- 523 TOOMPINE. See p. 29.
- 540 (?) OPALTON(2). See p. 29. Last "N" only is visible in each case but its width and position under the "ED" of "REGISTERED" make this "tie" reasonably certain.
- 545 ROCHFORD. See p. 29.
- 550 KEDRON(3). See p. 29.
- 563 (?) EXCHANGE. Only last "E" visible. *Might* be KENMORE but EXCHANGE seems more likely.

In addition to the above we have a "TATE TIN MINES" with a numeral cancellation in the 400s but unfortunately only the "4" is sure. We also have c.d.s. cancellations of HILL GROVE (see p. 26, where it is spelt as one word) and HOWARD offices which so far have not been tied to a numeral.

THE PRINTINGS OF THE FIRST ISSUE OF COOK ISLANDS

By A. R. BURGE

In listing the printings of the first issue of the Cook Islands, the Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (*The Cook Islands to 1919*, p. 12) omit the printing of 9 February 1893, and their reasons for so doing may be tied up in the fact that they rely for much of their early information on the notes left to them by the late Mr Basset Hull.

Those notes include extracts from the official files of the G.P.O., Wellington, and, of course, are accurate so far as they go. With respect, however, we would point out that to obtain his information Basset Hull wrote to the N.Z. postal authorities asking to be supplied with relevant extracts from the files, and those that the postal officials considered might be of interest were marked and copied

by a typist (for whose services Basset Hull paid 30s.). It is clear though that much matter of a philatelic nature was never copied and consequently the extracts he secured do not tell the whole story.

The printings listed by the "Pixies" are in accordance with "the Invoice of the Stamp Printing Branch of the New Zealand Government at Wellington." However, the Record Book of the New Zealand Government Printer, which would not be available at that time for philatelic purposes, lists all these and also that of 9 February 1893 which was as follows:

<i>1d.</i>	<i>1½d.</i>	<i>2d.</i>	<i>10d.</i>
39,060	40,140	37,380	24,060

This printing was the largest made, the face value being £1805 10s. and brought the total face value of the stamps supplied to £4931 3s. 9d.

Moss was in New Zealand for the second time that year, in October-November 1892, and had authority to arrange for the second issue, and it was while there that he must have stepped up the monthly printings of the first issue from £250 (6000 of the 1d., 6000 1½d., 6000 2½d. and 3000 10d.) to three times those figures for November, six times for December, and more than six times for the last printing.

It has been suggested that the last printing was never sent to Rarotonga, but the following extract from the G.P.O. files seems to prove that it was:

7.3.93. Moss to Colonial Secretary "...also that no further supplies of the present issue be sent, *there being ample in store for all purposes.*"

The printing of 9 February would have been posted to catch the *Richmond* that left Auckland on 18 February and arrived at Rarotonga, via Tahiti (28 Feb./1 Mar.) on 7 March, leaving again the next day for Auckland. Moss's letter of 7 March was therefore written after receipt of the printing of 9 February.

Concerning the extract, we are particularly interested in the words "there being ample in store for all purposes."

Moss at that stage had received, as noted above, stamps with a face value of £4931 3s. 9d., and although, as Mr R. J. G. Collins reports in the Verne Collins' *Catalogue of Stamps of Dependencies of New Zealand*, £754 8s. 9d. were officially destroyed, it is very difficult to accept that the balance of £4176 15s. were sold at face value for postal purposes. In fact, the accounts of the administration for the period to 30 June 1893 show that gross sales amounted to only £345 5s. 9d., while the total net sales 1892-1900, which includes the Makeas and Toreas, were £1764 18s. 3d.

Apart from sales to dealers and collectors which one would expect to be included in the revenue figures of £345 5s. 9d., what other "purposes" had Moss in mind?

THOUGHTS ON COMMONWEALTH RESEARCH

By J. P. MEARA

Certain developments associated with Australian Commonwealth issues in recent years should provide a much needed impetus to research and I refer to—

- (a) The removal of the imprints.
- (b) Introduction of unwatermarked paper for values below 5s.
- (c) The positional variation and size of the perforation pips.
- (d) Variations in the master plate layout procedure.

Some students are fully aware of the implications but I feel there are many who so far have failed to fully appreciate the extent to which these developments assist research, and this aspect cannot be overstressed.

While the present policy exists whereby no information is released by the Stamp Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia, students can rely only on their own observation, reports in the philatelic press, and information contained in the Philatelic Bulletin released by the Postmaster-General's Department.

My theory on the laying out of the Australian Master Plate was propounded in *Philately from Australia*, June 1958, page 37, but the number of actual printing plates, i.e., electros, prepared is not officially released. Thus our only resort in this respect is close sheet study applied in conjunction with reports of any plate numbers.

However, unless one is the possessor of a sheet or large piece bearing a plate number, the published details of plate numbers are almost always totally inadequate as a means of assistance to other students as insufficient, or no reference is made to any plate or electro varieties, gutter line characteristics or other markings.

For practical research purposes, the few sheets which occasionally "bob up" bearing plate numbers or portions thereof, should be purchased and/or held *in toto* as far as possible, and it would be most interesting and informative to have published the essential and accurate details of all such pieces held by various philatelists, only some of whom report their good fortune, e.g., the position—upper, lower, left or right sheet; the plate number and whether on either one side or the other of the number there appears a dash, three lines of some 35 mm. length spaced about 1 mm. apart, or a series of four, five or six Xs; gutter line and/or other distinguishing characteristics.

Such details may be advantageously related by other students to their own research as exemplified recently when sight of Plate 7 with three 35 mm. lines on right from an upper sheet of 4d. Koala, no watermark, kindly forwarded to me by Mr W. Hansen of Sydney, resulted in my having to rearrange my sheet disposition of this value.

The reference to specialists as "dot and dash fiends" is by no means as jocular or derogatory as is inferred, because from experience such minutiae as dots, dashes, fine scratches, even hairlines in some cases, have proved to be of extraordinary importance in sheet and electro study, due to the fact that each electro has or develops with use some distinguishing features.

Electro study is not ultra-specialization; it is an essential phase of research and

I believe that with the use of plate numbers as a guide and a practical approach to the scope unfolded by the above-stated developments, discerning students will obtain a reasonably accurate assessment of the number of electros used for some issues, and in some instances be able to determine that certain varieties or features belong to a particular electro.

The humble efforts of Mr Dunn and myself are disseminated mostly through this journal; the Specialist Group in Sydney under the keen chairmanship of Mr W. Hansen are currently working under difficulty on several early King George VI values following publication in 1956 of their treatise on the $\frac{1}{4}$ d. Kangaroo. The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain have an extremely enthusiastic coterie of students who have contributed greatly in a number of fields; but generally there is a disappointing lack of concerted efforts by many individual students to feature the results, however incomplete, of any King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II research in the philatelic press. One might be pardoned for inquiring exactly how much study is being conducted while this material is still readily available and point out that King George V students are still encountering problems associated with those issues for which material is not quite so readily available.

The present is the time for study of current and recent issues culminating in the promulgation of results through this journal; the coming and future generations of students will have far less opportunity to confirm or discount our findings.

Had we known then what we have since learned, the imprints may have assisted our studies to some extent when those sheets were on issue, and it is a reasonable assumption that most, if not all, imprints were removed from electros then in use; consequently, sheets from the relevant electros will feature certain markings constant to both imprint and no-imprint sheets, and in addition any burnishing-off traces and other markings that may have been occasioned in the removal process, e.g., 6d. Kookaburra and 2d. green Queen Mother both showed ample evidence of the removal of the imprint.

The introduction of unwatermarked paper was a matter of policy but again the "follow through" idea applies.

However, strong emphasis must attend the perforation pip variations. The pips were initially inserted on the master plate, but subsequently the existing electros of certain values were utilized apparently for experimental purposes during 1957-59, before decision was made on the final arrangement of the pips, as with some of these particular issues successive variations of the pip arrangement can be traced on the one electro.

In fact, as indicated in my article on the 1s. Lyrebird in *Philately from Australia*, June 1960, page 39, the gutter lines were incised on the electros and a series of gutter blocks proves that one electro at least was in use from the watermark, imprint days with Type I pips until final printings, no watermark with Type IV pips. Concerning the $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Queen Elizabeth II Carmine-red of which I hold a "B" sheet, no watermark, type IV pips, bearing Plate No. 12 with five Xs on right, several electros with Type IV pips may be distinguished by the various different markings found in the region of the large centre pip. The same process applies equally well with other issues, e.g., the recently obsolete 6d. Kookaburra, and as inferred there is ample scope for all students.

Variations in the master plate layout procedure present yet another absorbing phase in recent research. For some years there was a regular method of layout, then followed the slight variations to be found on such issues for instance (i) Queen Elizabeth II 4d. claret and 10d. blue; (ii) 4d. Birth of the Post Office, 4d. Queensland Self-Government; (iii) 1d. Queen Elizabeth II of 1959, 8d. Tiger Cat; (iv) 1s. 6d. Christmas Bells.

Whilst layout procedure has no bearing on electro discrimination, at least it does provide specialist interest and reflects the individuality of the technicians and possibly the staff rearrangement upon the retirement of that master-craftsman, Mr Frank Manley.

Physical and financial limitations are the main restricting influence on the ability of any student or group of students to fully cover all issues, but where the greater interest lies and in general the "Brisbane Pair" have endeavoured to keep apace as far as possible, and we still miss a great deal! It is to be regretted though that many collectors who may have the requisite links in the chain of research do not co-operate as they might, and others pursue the attitude of "you find, I'll buy" instead of taking the initiative in finding, then sharing the knowledge. Those remarks do not intend offence to anyone, but in the interests of specialization, all students should consider the mutual advantage to be gained by reporting pertinent information and worthwhile discoveries in full but concise detail.

Finally, to stimulate and promote interest and as an invitation to "get cracking," I am furnishing two tabulations of dates pertinent to the developments mentioned. Some of this information is from my own record which is not necessarily correct, and anyone who may have more accurate dates might kindly let me know.

Tabulation "A" is an enumeration in chronological order, from 1 January 1957, of the values which show the several pip arrangements, and is intended to reveal a pattern during the experimental stages, and the indecision in the use of Types IV and V pips, both of which types currently appear although all new issues since 1 October 1959 are Type IV pips. For this purpose I have also included in this tabulation, the dates of appearance of the pip variations of some values appearing in Tabulation "B." (D is definitive, C commemorative.)

Tabulation "B" is in composite form to show the dates of imprint changes and removals; introduction of unwatermarked paper; variation of the perforation pips; plate numbers known, with references to the authority for such dates.

TABULATION A

YEAR	ISSUE	PIP TYPES				
		I	II	III	IV	V
		o o	O o	OOo	oOo	O
1957	10d. Blue Q.E. II	D				
	4d. Claret Q.E. II	D				
	1s. 7d. Q.E. II	D				
	4d. Resp. Govt. S.A.	C				
	6d. Kookaburra	D (a)	8.7			
	4d. Claret Q.E. II	D (a)	28.7			
	7d. Flying Doctor	D	non est.	21.8		
	3½d. Carmine Q.E. II	D (c)				3.9
	3½d. and 4d. Christmas Child	C				6.11

YEAR	ISSUE		PIP TYPES					
			I o o	II O o	III O O o	IV o O o	V O	
	7½d. Violet Q.E. II	D	13.11					
	3½d. Carmine Q.E. II	D (a)		27.12				
1958	2s. Qantas	C				6.1		
	5½d. War Memorial	D				10.2		
	1s. 6d. Hermes Black	D (c)				22.2		
	½d. Kangaroo	D (c)				20.3		
	2s. Aboriginal Art	D (c)				18.4		
	4d. Claret Q.E. II	D (b)			22.4	30.4 (c)		
	2d. Green Queen Mother	D (c)				23.5		
	7d. Flying Doctor	D (b)			5.6			
	2s. 6d. Aborigine	D (c)				22.7		
	9d. Platypus	D (c)				26.8		
	8d. Kingsford Smith	C					27.8	
	3½d. Carmine Q.E. II	D (b)			8.9			
	4d. Broken Hill	C					10.9	
	6d. Kookaburra	D (b)			16.9			
	1s. Lyrebird	D (c)				22.10		
	3½d. and 4d. Christmas Nat.	C					5.11	
	6½d. Orange Q.E. II	D (c)				18.12		
	1d. Purple Q.E. II S/f.	D (c)				22.12		
	2½d. Blue Q.E. II	D (c)				29.12		
1959	1d. Q.E. II Portrait	D					2.2	
	4d. Q.E. II Lake	D					2.2	
	7d. Flying Doctor	D (c)				10.2		
	3½d. Q.E. II Dark Green	D				18.3		
	2s. Flannel Flr.	D					8.4	
	4d. P.O. Anniversary	C					22.4	
	3d. Q.E. II Blue Green	D					20.5	
	4d. Self Govt. Qld.	C					5.6	
	5s. and 10s. Arms	D (c)				17.6		
	7½d. Q.E. II and £2 Arms	D (c)				mid 59		
	3s. Waratah	D					15.7	
	£1 Arms	D (c)				1.9		
	1s. Platypus	D					9.9.	
	2s. 3d. Wattle	D					9.9.	
	5d. Blue Q.E. II	D				1.10		
	9d. Kangaroos	D				21.10		
	5d. Christmas Magi	C				4.11		
1960	1s. 6d. Christmas Bells	D				3.2		
	2s. 5d. Banksia	D				16.3		
	8d. Tiger Cat	D				11.5		
	5d. Girl Guide	C				18.8		
	5d. Northern Territory	C				21.9		
	6d. Banded Anteater	D				30.9		
	5d. Melbourne Cup	C				12.10		
	5d. Qld. Stamp Centenary	C				2.11		
	5d. Christmas Bible	C				9.11		
1961	11d. Rabbit Bandicoot	D				3.5		

(a) Variation to Type II pips

(b) Variation to Type III pips

(c) Variation to Type IV pips

TABULATION B

VALUE	IMPRINT		Removed	NO WMK PAPER		PERF. PIP TYPES APPEARED			PLATE Nos. KNOWN	
	McCracken	Authority		ex N.P.B.	P.O. Issue	O	o	O O o	o O o	W-Wmk
½d. Kangaroo		28. 1.42	12.53	9. 9.49	15. 9.49				20. 3.58	1, 2 W; 1, 4 N
1d. Pr. Elizabeth		20.11.47		23. 7.48	8.48					8 N
1½d. Q.M. Green F/face		1.12.42		8. 8.49	29. 8.49					19, 20, 21, 23 N
2d. Gumtree		4.12.44		20.12.48	12.48					
2d. Q.M. Green		28. 3.51	2.55	initially					23. 5.58	
4d. Koala		10.42	2.55	10. 8.56	18. 8.56					7 N
6d. Kookaburra	6.42	1.49	12.52	31. 7.56	18. 8.56	8. 7.57	16.9.58			7 W
9d. Platypus		12. 9.43	3.53	26.11.56	13.12.56				26. 8.58	3 W
1s. Lyrebird Ash	29.3.41	? when	2.54	31.10.56	12.56				22.10.58	4 W
5s. and 10s. Robes Ash	1.4.38	? when								
1s. 6d. Hermes Black		1. 9.49	12.54	23.11.56	6.12.56				22. 2.58	1, 2 W
2s. Abo. Art		16. 2.48	12.52	27. 6.56	21. 7.56				18. 4.58	1, 2, 4, 7 W; 7, 9 N
2s. 6d. Aborigine		19. 3.52	5.53	19.12.56	30. 1.57				22. 7.58	2 N
5s. Arms		11. 4.49)	12.52						17. 6.59	
10s. Arms		3.10.49)	to						17. 6.59	
£1 Arms		28.11.49)							1. 9.59	
£2 Arms		16. 1.50)	2.53						mid 1959	
<i>Queen Elizabeth II</i>										
1d. Purple S/face					19. 8.53				22.12.58	
2½d. Blue					23. 6.54				29.12.58	
3½d. Carmine-red			(21. 4.53) (C of A)	21. 5.56	2. 7.56	27.12.57	8.9.58	3. 9.57		2, 7 W; 12 N
4d. Claret					13. 3.57	28. 7.57	22.4.58		30. 4.58	
6½d. Orange			(23. 6.54) (C of A)	22. 8.56	9.56				18.12.58	
7d. Flying Doctor					21. 8.57	initially	5.6.58		10. 2.59	
7½d. Violet					13.11.57				mid 1959	

NIUAFO'OU (OR TIN CAN ISLAND) AND ITS MAILS

By CAPTAIN A. R. NANCARROW

All over the world, wherever there are stamp collectors, they will have among their treasures an unusually-marked envelope and a stamp on it showing that it was posted in the Tonga group of islands, the one specially shown being Niufo'ou, or, as it is better known, Tin Can Island. This island is situated in latitude 15° 33' s, longitude 175° 39' w, and is the most northerly of the Tongan Islands, being in fact closer to Fiji and Samoa than to islands of its own group. It is nearly circular and has an area of 19 square miles with lakes in the interior covering six square miles. It also has a volcano which occasionally erupts, and since the island was first known it has erupted in 1853, 1867, 1912, 1929, and the last time on 9 September 1946. Sometimes there has been no loss of life, as at the last eruption.

The main export of the island is copra, and the only landing at Agaha on the northern coast. Here, there is always a big swell, and on the extreme point is a mast with a derrick which keeps surfboats a reasonably safe distance from being smashed on the rocks.

Several passenger steamers have made regular calls at this out-of-the-way island, some being well known like *Upoto*, *Ovalau*, *Horoto*, in the early part of the century, and later, from 1921 onwards, *Tofua*, *Marama*, *Maunganui*, *Monorwai*, *Mariposa* and *Monterey*.

Of interest to philatelists is the story of the Tin Can Mail. In 1921 Mr C. S. Ramsay decided to swim off half a mile to meet the steamer, deliver and pick up the mail and bring it ashore. This he did till 1931, making 112 swims in that time until a Tongan companion was killed by a shark, and from then on the mail was taken out in a canoe.

The method of taking the outward mail was to wrap it up in waterproof material, and securely lash it to a fau pole about eight feet long. After throwing the pole into the raging surf at the landing, Ramsay and his two or three companions jumped into the surf and the undertow took them and the pole to calmer water. They could then swim steadily out to the rendezvous, and if there too soon could rest (more or less) on the fau pole. When the steamer came along sailors would cut the mail from the pole and take it aboard, and the incoming mail would be dropped over the ship's side in a watertight tin, sometimes a kerosene tin, and towed ashore. Great care had to be taken in getting ashore again and many times the swimmers suffered injuries on the rocks.

In 1932 Mr Ramsay left the island but returned as a cruise director in 1934 on the tourist ship *City of Los Angeles*. On the two occasions that this ship visited Niufo'ou, Mr Ramsay was given permission to dive over and take the mail ashore.

Mr W. G. Quensell, a friend of Mr Ramsay, succeeded him as Tin Can Mailman, but never at any time swam out. He was always a Canoe Mailman. Mr Quensell was a German, and had been to sea in sailing ships when he decided to

"swallow the anchor" at Niufo'ou in 1931. He soon saw an opening to popularize the Tin Can Mail and had various rubber stamps made for use in marking the envelopes. One of his markings in 1933 was the straight line TIN CAN MAIL with Niufo'ou in an oblong box. On the reverse side of the cover

W G QUENSELL
TONGA
NIUAFOOU

also in a double circle, 24½ mm. in diameter, he had Tin Can Mail in three lines.

In 1933-34 the stamp canceller was oval, 26 mm. long by 19 mm. wide, and contained six thick bars.

Later in 1934 this canceller was superseded by an oblong one 35 mm. by 11½ mm., with six straight thin lines and a broken one, in the middle of which was the word "Niufoou." Then again in 1934 a circular datestamp was used, 25 mm. in diameter, with one circle, "Niufoou" being at the top, "Tonga" at the bottom, and the date in the middle in one line and between two blocks. Up to now several of the ships previously mentioned made regular calls at the island and Quensell devised his first large rubber stamp, a fancy box:

Original TIN CAN CANOE MAIL COVER
W G QUENSELL
T.C.C.M. Man

and then signing it in ink, "W. G. Quensell, T.C.M. Man."

In 1935 a larger circular datestamp was used, 34 mm. in diameter, with the same words as the previous smaller one, but this had the date and time in one line in the middle. Also on each side there was a long curved bar between the two words.

During the years following, Quensell increased his rubber markings to at least seven on the front and up to 17 on the reverse side, several of these being in various foreign languages. It also seems that he must have been kept busy when getting the mail ready for departure as on numerous occasions, with the same mail, he has changed the colour of his ink from black to red, green, blue or purple. In the earlier part of 1935, a mishap to his Tin Can Canoe Mail caused the word "Canoe" to be left out of the frame but by February 1936 the word "Island" was introduced, and the word "Canoe" added in 1937 making it now "Tin Can Canoe Mail Island." It appears as if Quensell had special "Tin Can Canoe Mail Island" envelopes printed, as the first one seen is on 12 October 1938. This cover also has a photo of a canoe being paddled, and flying two flags, also a round tin with a stick and flag on top with "Wm. Quensell, T.C.C.M." below the time. These were in use till at least May 1940, or maybe later.

In 1935 again, there was another mistake in spelling, the word "Inward" was spelt with a "b" instead of "d," and this was not rectified till March 1938.

In 1938, on one of the specially-printed envelopes bearing the date 12 October 1938, there are three Tongan stamps commemorating the accession of Queen Salote to the throne, and here Quensell has said it was a "last day" cover instead of "first day" cover, also the word "Jubilee" was spelt with a "d" instead of a "b." The "last day" was soon removed and jubilee spelt correctly early in 1939.

The *Marama*, *Maunganui* and *Monowai* had a special cachet rubberstamped

on the face of the envelope worded like this: "This letter, enclosed in a water-tight container, was put into the sea from the cruise steamer *Marama* off Niuafou'ou or Tin Can Island, in the Tongan group in Lat. 15° 33' south, Long. 175° 40' w. G. B. Morgan, Commander."

The ships of the Matson Line, *Monterey* and *Mariposa*, had specially-printed envelopes with these words: "Tin Can Mail put overboard in open sea from Oceanic liner *Mariposa* (or *Monterey*) off Tin Can (Niuafou'ou) Island of the Tongan group 15° 33' s. Lat., 175° 39' w. Long. while on regular run between California and Australia. Carried ashore by native swimmers, it bears royal Tongan postage, and brings to you a faint touch of romance of the South Seas through which we are now passing."

Later Quensell had a sketch of the island made in rubber and between 1936 and 1939, besides all his other markings, applied this where space and time allowed.

Then came the war years when all ships were otherwise engaged, and from 1940 onwards covers are quite rare. Occasional ones are seen up to September 1942 but this one, although beautifully datestamped, has none of the usual markings, although an "Inward" one early in June has the usual number.

On 9 September 1946 the volcano erupted and although no one was killed the people were homeless and short of food, so Queen Salote gave instructions that the inhabitants were to be evacuated. On 21 December 1946, the motorship *Matua* arrived off the island at daylight in the morning, and over 1250 men, women and children were removed before dark. It says something for the work that day when it is known that two dinghies had a "ferry service" from the landing at Agaha to the *Matua's* lifeboats, a little further out, and no one was injured.

As the official datestamp had been lost in the eruption, and there was still mail on the island, the postmaster endorsed across the stamps in ink, "Niuafou'ou—21.12.46—Malekanui P.M." When the mail arrived on the *Matua* it was all rubber-stamped on the back with an oval in blue with "Purser's Office" at the top, "m.v. *Matua*" at bottom, and 21 December 1946 in the middle. Next day the *Matua* arrived at Nukualofa where some of the mail was backstamped "22.12.46." Other envelopes were backstamped "Suva Fiji 27.12.46." So ended the Tin Can Canoe Mail, and in 1956 news came that Mr W. G. Quensell, T.C.C.M.M., had passed on earlier in the year in Tonga.

In 1957 about 20 men were allowed to return to Niuafou'ou to collect coconuts for copra, and as recently as 1960 several families have returned to their native land. But up to the time of writing the Tin Can Mail has not been revived as a tourist attraction, or philatelic drawcard.

There is a story told by Mr J. D. Whitcombe, of Tonga, that on a beautifully calm fine Sunday about 11 a.m., the s.s. *Horoto* arrived off the island. Knowing there would be some delay because everyone was at church, and the mail being small, the Captain decided to stand in close and send the mail ashore by rocket. He did this, but unfortunately the rocket landed on the roof of the church setting the thatch on fire. The congregation rushed out of the blazing church and went home. So that was the first and last time that Tin Can Island tried a Rocket Mail.

CORRESPONDENCE

Australian Army P.O.s in the Solomons

Sir—I was interested in Rev. A. H. Voyce's article in the March issue of *P. from A.* Because of the non-availability of official records, it has always been difficult, in regard to Australian Army postal markings generally, to indicate positive usage at particular locations, over specific dates, and Mr Voyce is to be commended for clarifying the position regarding the postmarks specified in his article.

However, I do not think that Mr Voyce made it sufficiently clear, except perhaps to B.S.I. enthusiasts, that although geographically the island of Bougainville is part of the Solomons group, politically it is within the Territory of New Guinea.

Mr Voyce referred to Bougainville in his article but listed postmarks having usage only within the Protectorate. While not questioning this limitation, I do think that as Bougainville was within the Solomons war theatre, it is somewhat unsatisfactory to utilize the Protectorate boundary to exclude reference to other postmarks which certainly had as much association with the Solomons campaign as those used in the Treasury, Shortland and Fauro Islands, all of which happen to lie on the Protectorate side of the boundary, s.-e. of Bougainville.

I therefore put forward the following tentative list of other Australian Army postmarks associated with the Solomons campaign and have indicated what I believe to be points of usage.

<i>Postmarker</i>		<i>Remarks</i>
AUST. ADV. BASE P.O.	No. 7 A B C	Torokina, late in 1945 Bougainville Bougainville (Possibly pmkrs. D to F also used)
A.I.F. FIELD P.O.	No. 12 No. 13 No. 14 No. 15	
FIELD POST OFFICE	068	Nissan Island
FIELD P.O.	069	Bougainville
AUST. F.P.O.	084	Torokina
	158	
	159	
	160	
	161	
	167	I have a cover from 167 dated 3 Oc. 45 franked with B.S.I. stamps. Another cover from 167 has backstamp of AUST. ADV. BASE P.O. No. 7
AUST. F.P.O.	184	Bougainville
	185	Rear Ech. 23 Brigade
AUST. UNIT POSTAL STN	305	Torokina. 2/1 A.G.H.

Yours, etc., P. Collas.

"Small Papua" Lithographs

Sir—While in England 3 years ago I was the fortunate guest of Mr Evan R. Gill in Liverpool. I spent some delightful hours looking at his outstanding collection of Papua, probably the world's finest.

I especially noted his copy of the 2½d. Perf. 12½ watermark sideways "retouch on hill" variety because it was only the second

specimen I had seen. In my own collection is a *full sheet* of the 2½d. same perforation and watermark and No. 11 on the sheet clearly shows the "retouch on hill" variety. I therefore support Mr Gill's contention that the "Pixies" have been led astray in forming the opinion that such a variety is not possible.

Yours, etc., A. G. H. Briskham.

NEW SOUTH WALES ESSAYS OF 1852

*By E. J. Garrard, F.R.P.S.L., in collaboration with T. H. Stone,
for the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club's States Study Circle*

In April or May 1852, T. W. Levinge (a clerk in the P.M.G.'s Dept., Sydney), accidentally saw some recently-prepared essays obtained by the Post Office for 6d. and 1s. value postage stamps.

Writing nearly seven years later, Mr Levinge admits that he was very critical of the submissions and, as a result, was requested to prepare some drawings.

He stated, "...of five sketches which I made on leaving the office that evening the two enclosed were selected. Duplicate copies were sent to England for the engraver. Unfortunately, either from want of perhaps instructions to the Colonial Agents or want of ability in the engraver, the designs instead of being improved, as was expected, were not even copied, and it can be seen at a glance that whatever the faults of the drawings the stamps are inferior." (Enclosed with this letter to the State Treasury Dept., on 12 January 1859, were the original drawings he submitted.)

For quite some time the Post Office had contemplated the issue of 6d. and 1s. stamps. From the following correspondence written by the engraver, John Carmichael, it is evident there was some dilly-dallying:

"Sydney 22 Feb. 1852. I shall be obliged by your informing me if I am to commence the sixpenny postage stamps. The copper plate is quite ready and I now only wait your answer." (written to R. P. Raymond, Esq., Inspector of Stamps.)

On 1 March 1852, Carmichael again wrote to R. P. Raymond:

"I shall feel obliged if you will inform me as soon as possible if I am to commence the sixpenny postage stamps. If not begun at once I shall not be able to deliver the plate at the time I stated. If they are not to be done at present I had better get on with the steel plate now in hand."

The 6d. stamp issued in April 1852 bore the same design as the 2d. Q.V. Laureate engraved by Carmichael. The 6d. value, however, did not have "stars" in the corners.

The 5d., 6d., 8d., and 1s. values issued between 1855 and 1872 bore either the hexagon or octagon shaped inner frames and resemblances of the designs submitted by T. W. Levinge.

The original designs of Levinge are illustrated by A. F. Basset Hull in *The Postage Stamps of New South Wales*, published in 1911.

(The historical data is taken from original manuscripts in the Mitchell Library, Sydney, by permission of the Trustees.)



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

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

(Convenor's address: 26 Redgrave Road, Normanhurst, N.S.W.)

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS

We wish to clarify our paragraphs under this heading in the last issue.

Upon the occupation of Ocean Island by the Japanese in 1942, the Treasurer of the Colony removed his office to Sydney where he remained some months until his office was transferred to Suva, Fiji, and housed in the Government Offices there.

Official mail was then impressed with a rubber frank stamp consisting of a single-line circle enclosing the following in block lettering in four lines:

FIJI
OFFICIAL
G.E.I.C.
PAID

It was first used about December 1943.

Upon the return of the Administration to Tarawa in 1944, "FIJI" was deleted by cutting the lettering from the rubber stamp, and it was used thus till 1948:

OFFICIAL
G.E.I.C.
PAID

Late impressions of the latter show degrees of deterioration due to the perishing of the rubber, and it was not until impressions became almost illegible that it was discarded. The Fiji impressions are in purple stamp pad ink, and those from Tarawa in black.

Three official covers with the early "Fiji" impressions of this official frank stamp have been seen by us. Two bear the registration datestamp of Suva of 31 May 1944 and of 30 June 1944 respectively, and the other the Suva postmark dated 17 June 1944. Owing to the short period during which it was in use at Suva, it would be of interest to learn whether any other Fiji or G & E I C collectors possess examples of it.

PAPUA

The "Small" Papua Lithographed Issue

We were interested to read Mr Evan Gill's letter in the March issue of *Philately from Australia*, wherein he stated he had a copy of the 2½d. perf. 12½, sideways watermark, showing the "spot on the hill." We are unable to explain its existence and look forward to the discovery of further copies which may throw more light on this subject.

REVIEWS

The Philatelic and Postal History of Hong Kong and the Treaty Parts of China and Japan, by F. W. Webb. 11½ x 8½ ins. xvi + 400 pp. 93 plates. Published, in conjunction with the Hong Kong Study Circle and the Postal History Society, by The Royal Philatelic Society London, 41 Devonshire Place, London W1. Price: £12 12s. (stg).

The remarkable thing about Hong Kong philately is the intense interest it has aroused and that it is better served in the literature than most other British colonies. This was not always so, as Hong Kong had no early primitives or imperforate classics to attract the attention of the early platers, and it is only within the last thirty-five years that this interest was born and has grown. We can thank Surgeon-Capt. Bishop and the Rev. C. S. Morton for starting it all, but I doubt if it would have culminated in this book of four hundred pages if Hong Kong stamps had not been used in the Treaty Ports, and if these Treaty Ports had not used "letter and number" obliterations, for it is with the Treaty Port markings that much of the literature deals. This accident of use on the Postal History side is paralleled on the philatelic side by an accident of production—the use of a local overprint to celebrate the Jubilee of the colony in 1891. Much has been written on this overprint and Colonel Webb's own studies of it have led him on to research on the various surcharges on the Queen Victoria issues.

From the Postal History point of view, the book expands and adds to the information in the pioneer work by Bishop, Morton and Sayers, and its successor by Lobdell and Hopkins, though the latter will remain a text-book for the history of Hong Kong and its relationship with China which it contains. For the great increase in information on postal markings to be found in the present book, we are indebted to the work of the Hong Kong Study Circle, under Colonel Webb's chairmanship, and the encouragement and leadership of Mr P. A. Wilde, of Cardiff. Colonel Webb has done the final writing, but he fully acknowledges his debt to other members of the Circle.

Research on the purely philatelic side is covered in book form for the first time, as the early works by Menearini and Poole were little more than simplified handbooks.

Colonel Webb is personally responsible for much of this, as apart from amending and adding to earlier research on the Jubilee overprint and the 1898 10c/30c surcharge, and adding to Captain Bishop's list of varieties in the King George V issues, he has done much research into the settings and plating of the surcharges.

There is one point where I disagree with Colonel Webb's treatment, and that is merely a question of nomenclature. On page 22 appears the heading, "The Fiscal Issues," under which the stamps given "F" numbers in Gibbons' Catalogue are dealt with. While this may be a convenient way of dealing with the stamps incorporating the word "Stamp Duty" in the design, the fact remains that some of these were issued for postal purposes only, and were never used for fiscal purposes, while others had originally been issued for fiscal purposes, but were obsolete for this purpose when introduced for postage.

As Messrs Robert MacLehose and Company Limited were responsible for the printing and binding, it goes without saying that these leave nothing to be desired. The plates of half-tone illustrations are particularly good.

All in all, this is a book on which the author and the London Royal are to be congratulated. It may be trite to say that it is a volume which no Hong Kong collector can afford to be without, but it is nonetheless true. No philatelic research covering a wide field is unlikely ever to be finally complete, but this book approaches it very nearly.

H.M.G.

The New South Wales Philatelic Annual, 1960. Edited by Romney Gibbons. 28 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, Box 601, G.P.O., Sydney. Price: 2s. 6d.

What can one buy for half a crown in these days of inflation? The *N.S.W. Philatelic Annual*, of course. For Mr Gibbons has, as usual, ensured that buyers will receive their money's worth.

The star contribution this year is an article by Mr V. Frankenstein to prove that the 2d. Sydney View, Plate I, had been retouched in the top row and twice re-

touched in the bottom row, the retouchers being H. Carruthers and H. C. Jervis.

Mr J. S. White, lauding the pleasures to be found in collecting Queensland, suggests that it should be possible to reconstruct the 4d. lithographed Full Face plate, since it was made from the threepenny plate, not, as Stanley Gibbons says, from the die.

Mr R. A. Baldwin and Mr Gibbons question the theory that the New Hebrides Condominium overprint on Fiji was a single setting of type to cover complete sheets. Mr J. H. Powell reviews the Samoas and Mr Gibbons the French colonies in the Pacific.

Exhibitions are again a theme this year, with the leading article Mr Powell's report on London 1960, and reports of successes of society members at London, Johannesburg, and Warsaw.

The Great Britain Philatelist, Vol. 1, No. 1 (February 1961). 16 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by The Regent Stamp Co. Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Subscription: 10s. per year.

Great Britain specialists have been presented with a new quarterly devoted to research, edited by Mr Marcus Samuel, who promises articles in each issue on postal history, the line-engraved issues, the surface-printed stamps, and postal stationery.

Highlight of the initial issue is the first instalment of Mr Robson Lowe's study of the coloured Maltese Crosses, the product of examination of more than 1000 covers and pieces, over the years. From eight basic headings he has identified 76 colours and now promises to match them with their towns and periods.

Other feature articles, well-illustrated, include Hand-drawn Pictorial Envelopes, the "Free" stamps by C. J. Potts, and a continuation of Rowland Hill's Post Office Journal from *The Philatelist*.

The new publication, which is free to subscribers to *The Philatelist and Postal Historian* will obviously be of great interest and value. The diversity of the material it covers makes it plain that a cumulative index at appropriate intervals will add to its usefulness.

Stamps of South Africa Handbook Catalogue, Golden Jubilee Edition. Edited by W. N. Sheffield, S. J. Hagger, Dr T. B. Berry, and Sam Legator. 400 pp. 5½ x 8½

in. Published by the Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa, Box 375, Johannesburg, South Africa. Price: 37s. 6d. (stg)

The Philatelic Federation of Southern Africa produced a one-volume handbook-catalogue in 1952, and added Volume II in 1955. Now that time has brought further information, new issues, and increased prices, it has produced a new edition, which is a complete re-writing of Volumes I and II, with some re-arrangement for greater convenience, and condensed into a single volume.

To accomplish this the editors had to omit the larger illustrations and consequently recommend that those possessing the earlier volumes should retain them for reference.

The compactness makes even clearer the attractiveness and interest which South Africa holds as a collectable country, and the high standard of illustration and presentation has been maintained.

The work has been produced to mark the Union of South Africa's Golden Jubilee, and it provides a completely up-to-date handbook.

Prices, current market prices, are now given in the new decimal currency—Rands and cents, the Rand representing 10s. (stg), and 10 cents equalling 1s.

Of interest to Australians is the ready-reckoner method of conversion: Visualise the decimal point one place to the right, and read the result in shillings (e.g., R1.25 = 12s. 6d.).

The Catalogue of Postage Stamps Stolen from Shaban's Stamp Auctions Ltd, on the night of 9/10 May 1959. 64 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published on behalf of the Official Liquidator, G. W. O'Brien, F.C.A., by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1.

Photo-Plates for The Catalogue of Postage Stamps Stolen from Shaban's Stamp Auctions Ltd, on the night of 9/10 May 1959. 76 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published on behalf of the Official Liquidator, G. W. O'Brien, F.C.A., by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1.

These twin brochures constitute one of the future curiosities of philatelic literature, and a memorial of an event which preceded the disclosure of one of the most notorious philatelic frauds on record.

The first emphasises the magnitude of the theft—2654 lots—and the second—75 full auction catalogue-size photoplates of the missing stamps and covers—amazes and shocks by its pictorial revelation of the treasures that have disappeared—perhaps tragically, for ever—such as European classics in mint panes and sheets.

Comparatively little of the missing material is Australasian—a Ross Smith vignette, mint, and three high-value Kangaroos; a few early N.S.W. and recent New Zealand.

The catalogue also indicates the lots which have been recovered—94 lots recovered intact and 14 recovered in part, which includes pairs and blocks that have been severed to facilitate sale or reduce the possibility of identification, or both.

The imagination shown in preparing such catalogues and their world-wide distribution and the manner of preparation deserves praise.

All philatelists will hope that the maximum success attends this attempt to identify and recover so much of the loot as possible, and that the perpetrators of the crime will be caught and punished with exemplary severity.

D. S. Bolaffi's Italy Postage Stamp Specialised Catalogue, 1961. 122 pp. 7½ x 10 in. Published by the Philatelic Publishing Co., Via A, Genovesi 2, Turin, Italy. Price: \$1.75.

D. S. Bolaffi's Roman States and Vatican City Postage Stamp Specialised Catalogue, 1961. 44 pp. 7½ x 10 in. Published by the Philatelic Publishing Co., Via A, Genovesi, Turin, Italy. Price \$1.25.

The larger work is the first specialised catalogue of Italy published in Italy and Mr Bolaffi has produced it to coincide with the centenary of Italian unity.

It is also the outcome of his residence in New York from 1939 to 1953 when he became aware of the reluctance to use Italian specialised catalogues because of the language difficulty and the fact there was sufficient interest in Italian stamps to make a catalogue in English a market proposition.

Great care has been taken in the production, which has more than 800 illustrations.

Singles, blocks, covers, first day covers, flown covers, essays, proofs, ornamental

corner blocks, and varieties are listed, with current Italian market prices presented in U.S. currency.

A great deal of useful information is also included and the catalogue numbers equated with those of Stanley Gibbons and Scott where possible.

The illustrations reveal the high artistic quality of the stamps and the production of the catalogue matches it.

The Roman States and Vatican City catalogue is uniform with the Italy catalogue.

Mr Bolaffi decided to publish it because of the great interest in Vatican City stamps, and because of the associated interest in Roman States, he provided a specialised section on them also.

The Roman States section quotes prices for pairs, blocks, gutter blocks, covers, splits, postal forgeries and every recognised variety, and gives a complete list of Roman States post offices open during the stamp period.

Vatican City prices are for singles, blocks of rarer items, covers, F.D.C.s, gutter pairs, ornamental blocks and varieties.

Subject Index, First Through Twenty-fifth American Philatelic Congress Books. 15 pp. 7 x 10 in. Published by the American Philatelic Congress Inc. (Robert B. Brandeberry, 58 W Salisbury Drive, Wilmington 3, Delaware, U.S.A.). Price: 25c.

This latest of cumulative philatelic indexes is a very welcome production—an index to the 25 books produced by the annual American Philatelic Congress. The articles are divided into general articles, articles dealing with various countries, and Congress matters. The subjects are world-wide in their range and the index concludes with a bibliography of the 25 books.

The Philatelic Press in Greece, by Moses C. Constantinis. 8 pp. 6½ x 9 in. Published by Moses C. Constantinis, Patisson 126, Athens. Price: \$2.

This bibliography, in English, lists 32 periodicals, and 42 catalogues and postal studies. It is a translation of the literature section of the author's Annals of 100 years of Hellenic Philately, and thus increases the usefulness of the parent work.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- June
6 Library and Conversation
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Myer Philatelic Society Visit
- July
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21 Meeting
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19 Meeting

Australia

Dr L. Abramovitch, of Sydney, provided the display for the March meeting, a well-chosen selection of items from his extremely fine Commonwealth collection.

Dr Abramovitch combined rarity with philatelic interest in the items he chose for display and he dealt, in a preliminary paper, with various aspects of his exhibit.

He was the second member of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club to travel to Melbourne to give a display in recent months.

His display attracted a large attendance who felt well-rewarded by the sight of the treasures Dr Abramovitch provided and his stimulating commentary.

A few of the gems were: Kangaroos—a die proof of the 10s. in black; 1d. no control block of 24 with sideways watermark; 3d. first watermark imperf. three sides; 6d. control and no control strips containing the substituted cliché; 9d. second watermark, mint block with inverted watermark. £1 third watermark, chestnut and blue, mint block; £2 third watermark, Harrison imprint pair; £2 C of A watermark, mint block and imprint block of four rows.

George V: 3d. blue, single watermark strip of three, imperf. three sides; 1½d. red, small multiple watermark, 13½ x 12, imperf. at base. Large Lyrebird, imperf. left side, K. G. VI, 7½d. imperf. three sides; Q.E. II 6d. imperf. at right; the three Canberra imperf. varieties; and a die proof of the 3d. airmail.

British Honduras

Mr Eric Creed, at the second March meeting displayed British Honduras. It is believed to have been the first time this country has ever been displayed to the society.

His display opened with a pre-stamp cover, Belize Sep. 29 1855, followed by British stamps

the AO6 cancellers, small and large figures of 1856 and 1857, on piece and a 6d. Great Britain on 1858 cover, with the Guatemala origin franks.

The stamps included the 1d. 1882 bisect on piece, 2c and 6c bisects on cover.

Malta

The lady members of the R.P.S.V. make sure, with all their feminine charm, they rank equally with the men. Their prestige was certainly upheld when Mrs P. L. Turnbull, a prominent lady member, surprised and delighted with her display of Malta, at the April meeting.

Her display covered both postal history and stamps, and included many items acquired during her visit to last year's London exhibition.

She opened with a letter of 1614, the second earliest letter known from Malta. Another, with wafer seal was dated 1630, and a third item was a leave pass of the Knights of St. John, with the seal of the Grand Master. Eighteenth Century letters led up to an 1842 Paquebot marking and Itlaian and French mailboat cancellations.

Other early postmarks were M and A25 on Great Britain.

The standard of the stamps was set by a page of Malta No. 1, and there were specimens of the 1d. bisect and ½d. forgeries.

Tasmanian Markings

Mr L. C. Viney, of Launceston, sent a section of his Tasmanian postal markings collection over as the display for the May meeting.

This included the earliest recorded Hobart Town marking, the George Town marking of 1823, only discovered two years ago, and the small oval handstamps of Hobart and Launceston.

There were the rare town names C. Town and Macquarie Plains Post Office, and the first town letter handstamps of Hobart and Launceston.

Mr Viney said these were all difficult to find and the handstamp showing date on oblong frame, used at Hobart, with the date of the month before the letters, indicating the month only was very rare.

A "Free" handstamp of 1837 was the only known example. A 1840 "Free" in black was interesting because handstamps usually applied in red were struck in black in that year only.

Mr Viney also showed a barred obliterator with 16 vertical bars struck on a 4d. Chalon Head, serrated 19, saying he had never seen another example on cover.

Rare modern items including a Launceston "Free" circular datestamp and "Loose Ship Letter . . . More to Pay."

Examples of forged cancellations and documents of interest completed the display.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

July

- 11 Annual Meeting, President's Night

August

- 8 Australian States Circle Night (Convenor:
Mr V. Frankenstein)

September

- 12 Group Night
Europe: Mrs P. Rock; Africa: Mr G. L. Rogers; North America: Miss M. Salier; South America: Mr H. Croaker; Oceania: Mr W. Finigan.

October

- 10 Pacific Island Circle Night (Convenor:
Mr E. J. Garrard)

British West Indies

Mr Peter Jaffe presented the display at the March meeting of the club. He showed mainly Grenada, with minor emphasis upon items from other sections of the British West Indies area.

Among the many interesting items were British stamps with Grenada numeral cancellations; the Chalon portraits of Grenada and Bahamas; the major re-entry on the 1d. Chalon of Grenada; Die and plate-proof of Grenada Chalons; 1s. overprinted Chalon with "Specimens"; Hamburg forgeries of Grenada 1d. and 6d. "full face"; "Postage" overprints on fiscals ("full face"); 1829 and 1.45 postmarks of St. Lucia; various Town cancellations; 1d. surcharge on 6d. St. Vincent perforated for bisecting; Cover with 1856 cancellation of Turks Island; Numeral cancellations from various islands in the group; 1829 and 1854 postmarks of "Antigua" and a "Virgin Islands" cover with 1825 postmark.

Annual Competition

The 1961 Club Competition was decided at the April meeting. Twelve entries were received and the judges' awards were as follows:

- 1st Line Engraved issues of Great Britain,
Mr K. Rosenberg.

- 2nd European Classics, Mr Louis Frank.
3rd Travelling Post Offices,
Mr M. L. Challen.

Although praising the general standard of the entries the judges pointed out the importance of adequate annotation of the collection, a factor which somewhat detracted from some of the entries.

J. W. Dovey Memorial Collection

The first half of the "double-bill" at the May meeting was provided by a showing of portion of the J. Whitsed Dovey Memorial Collection. The "miscellaneous" section of this very well-known "Philatelic Terms Illustrated" collection was shown on this occasion.

Philatelic Quiz

The remainder of the May meeting was given to a most interesting Philatelic Quiz devised by Mr E. J. Garrard. A very varied set of questions thoroughly tested the philatelic knowledge of members and visitors present. The sectional winners, visitor Ron Tucker and Mrs J. A. Clayton, tied in the elimination series of questions and were declared equal winners. The Quiz engendered a great deal of interest during the meeting, and this novel feature should find a place in future programs.

Annual Meeting

Members are reminded that the Annual Meeting of the Club will be held in the usual meeting room, 155 King Street, Sydney, at 8 p.m., on Tuesday, 11th July 1961.

Subscriptions Due

Members are also reminded that Annual Subscriptions fall due on 1 July 1961. The present subscription rates are £1 10s. per annum for City Members and £1 per annum for Country and Interstate Members—and members are asked to remit their subscriptions to the Hon. Treasurer, at Box 1751, G.P.O., Sydney, as soon as possible. Early payment greatly assists the Treasurer. Thank you!

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