

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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Philately from Australia

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VOL. XIV, No. 2

JUNE 1962

FIFTY YEARS OF AIR MAILS

Earlier leading articles in *Philately from Australia* have reviewed the centenary of the world's classic stamps, and now we can survey the fiftieth anniversary of the world's aeroplane mails, flown in 1911.

The two beginnings – the use of the postage stamp to prepay mail charges and the use of the aeroplane to transport mail – had these things in common: they were new concepts; they both received world-wide acceptance; and they marked new eras in the progress of human communications.

One created philately; the other, its branch, aerophilately, whose twigs are entwined with postal history.

The airmail achieved far quicker acceptance than the adhesive postage stamp. But the postage stamp recorded it, and the airmail, in turn, produced its special type of postage stamp.

The year 1911, which saw the birth of the airmail, was one of the great years of aviation history – one of the four great years of aviation effort – 1843, which saw the plans for Henson and Stringfellow's aerial steam carriage, the Ariel, "to carry mails and troops to China in a few days" and which showed the shape of the aeroplane 60 years before the first aeroplane was built, and other prospective flying machines; 1911, the airmail year; 1919, which saw the successful flights across the Atlantic, including the two-way crossing by an airship, flights from England to Australia and South Africa, precursors of the famous and historic Cairo-Baghdad airmail, and the establishment of civil air routes in Europe and across the English Channel; and 1931, which yielded the opening of the London-Capetown air route and experimental flights between Europe and Australia by British, Dutch, and Australian companies.

There were two remarkable facts about the airmail of 1911 – the speed with which the idea spread and the geographical distribution of those first airmails.

The first official mail by aeroplane was a six and a half mile flight from Allahabad

to Naini, organised by Sir Walter Windham, in connection with the United Provinces Exhibition on 18 February 1911.

On 9 September, again organised by Sir Walter Windham, the London-Windsor and Windsor-London Coronation Aerial Post was established, and could be described as the first airmail service because mail was flown in both directions.

Four days later, *Le Petit Journal* sponsored an experimental flight across Morocco to Fez, a journey that took eight days.

On 23 September, Earle Ovington flew the first airmail in America, seven miles, from Nassau Boulevard to Mineola, Long Island, N.Y.

On 30 and 31 October, experimental mail flights between Milan and Turin were made, and on 27 October, Mr E. F. Driver began South Africa's Kenilworth-Muizenberg airmails.

Within the year, there were thus six aeroplane mail experiments in four continents.

India led last year's commemorations with an issue of stamps, including on two of them reproductions of the world's first airmail cachet, and depicting the 1911 aircraft in comparison with a Boeing 707 intercontinental airliner of today, and South Africa issued a stamp.

Re-enactments of the flights were made in India, Britain, the United States and South Africa, and the most notable feature of them was that the last three were by helicopters, a type of aircraft unthought of when the 1911 mails made their perilous journeys, and in Italy helicopter flights between Milan and Turin were made earlier in the year.

Collectors took an enthusiastic part in the Indian, British, and American commemorations, at least, and the establishment of the British Air Mail Society a few years ago, and the Aerophilatelic Society of Southern Africa recently, may indicate a revival of interest in this branch of philately.

The detailed future of aerophilately is arguable, but it has seemed that in recent years aerophilately has been becalmed, and however beneficial calm may be to flying, it is no use to philately.

Throughout, it has been enthusiastically followed by an eager band of devotees, mostly enjoying other philatelic interests, and to some extent they have thought of flying in the national confines of stamp collections without realising that the significance of aviation, like its greatest service, is international.

In the fast-growing field of postal history, collectors have been busy discovering the expanse of their domain and, naturally, concentrating on their classic period, without paying great attention to the developing airmail services of their lifetimes.

Will aerophilately continue as a field of its own? Will philatelists become more and more attracted to it, as more air commemorations are recorded in stamp issues? Or will it become more closely linked to postal history?

We have just seen the golden jubilee of the airmail; the diamond jubilee, in ten years' time, may indicate the answers.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. P. MEARA

8d. Tiger Cat, 11 May 1960, Second Master Plate

One must be as quick as a cat to keep pace with the peregrinations of this animal, particularly on Sheets "A" and "C," in which current interest has heightened.

Sufficient sheets have now been examined to enable a tentative electro set-up to be determined, and as sheets from the first master plate were referred to as A1, A2, B3, B4, C5, C6, D7 and D8, it is proposed to differentiate the sheets from the second plate by numbering them A9, A10, B11, B12, C13, C14, D15, D16 and, for expediency, to treat the odd-numbered sheets as belonging to one electro, the even-numbered sheets to the other electro.

The existing electros no doubt will receive continual close scrutiny at the Note Printing Branch and, pending further "finds," the several recent developments are recorded:

Sheet "A," Left Pane, Row 1/1

- A9 - (i) Column of weakness 1 mm. wide from cat's back to top, 2 mm. from left corner.
(ii) Recutting of some 20 lines which ineffectually corrects the weakness, also to the ends of some 10 lines below the branch adjacent to the cat's tail. (Reported by L. Skinner, December 1961.)

A10 - Normal.

Sheet "B," Right Pane, Row 3/7

- B11 - Weak top left corner; roller shift to right of right frame and "IA."
B12 - Top left corner normal; roller shift as before.

Sheet "C," Right Pane, Row 7/8

- C13 - (i) Normal.
(ii) Heavy bar of colour 1 mm. long through the centre of "S" of "AUSTRALIA."
(This item could prove to be scarce.)
(iii) Strong local retouch to remove the bar. 1½ mm. of frame above "S," central outline of "S" and surrounding cross-hatching strengthened, haphazardly on left, heavy on right. (Reported by L. Skinner, April 1962.)

C14 - Normal.

Sheet C13 has as a distinguishing feature a series of 11 dots at least, extending in a rough curve on the right of the large pip and upwards under "AU" of R.P. R10/1. Sufficiently large pieces to include this feature are desirable to complete the phases of normality, flaw and retouch.

Sheet "C," Right Pane, Row 9/6 and 7

C13 - Both units normal.

C14 - R9/6: Strong recut to 10 broken lines over the cat's ear from neck to frame. (Reported by L. Skinner, 8.2.62.)

R9/7: Top of "8" weak, "d" very thin with upper portion of downstroke weak. Some 30 dashes of shading over "8d." also have been strengthened.

Both these recuts were executed to correct weakness which seemingly developed, although I am not aware of the prior state.

2s. 6d. Aborigine, No Watermark, 30 January 1957

In the "Trail" for March and June 1961, reference was made to left sheet R12/8, and those students who continued to watch this value have been more than amply rewarded by the appearance of some excellent retouches, the like of which I have not seen for several years. Two units only are concerned, and I see the story as follows:

Left Sheet, Row 12/8

(a) Cross-hatching surrounding "POS" weak with colour fleck above and to right of "O" (August 1960).

(i) No apparent marginal electro marks on block of six (3 x 2).

(ii) Electro markings appearing under R12/8 consist of an inverted "T" 2 mm. long and 5 mm. below "A," and 11½ mm. below "OS" a boomerang line some 5 mm. long.

(b) Moderate recut to (a) (ii). Many diagonals in the whole panel between the figures of value have been strengthened, and two lines have been heavily cut SW to NE through the base of "S." (Purchased 30.3.62.)

In addition to the electro link provided by the "T" and boomerang lines, the Type IV pips on the left show a similar ray of lines below the large centre pip, which I believe to be constant to these three phases from Plate No. 2. The electro markings of phase (a) (ii) could have appeared accidentally or during an overhauling operation, but I would prefer to have further definite evidence.

(c) (i) Light recut to diagonals inside "O" and to each side at top, also to the line from the right of "T" to the top of "A," which line now tends to slope slightly towards "A." (Purchased 5.8.60, used copy dated DE 59.)

(ii) A worn state of phase (i) particularly obvious round "POST." Even the unit above, R11/8, is weak in the same position. (L. Skinner, 19.3.62.)

(d) An exceptionally heavy recut to practically all the cross-hatching between the figures of value, accentuating the outline of the letters of "POSTAGE," and with doubling of several lines SW to NE between "E" and "2/6." (Purchased 5.3.62, also reported at the same time by L. Skinner, Sydney, and R. Salisbury, Goondiwindi.)

I believe (d) to be a further recut to (c) because the recut line joining "T" and "A" shows no point of dissimilarity whatever. The large pip from sheets with (c) has radiating lines above and below different from those on retouches (a) and (b), but unfortunately the guillotine removed the pips from all sheets I have seen with retouch (d).

Plate markings found on each block of six of the above four items are:

R11/10 - Spot 13 mm. out, 8½ mm. up from lower right corner.

R12/9 - Spot 14 mm. below lower right corner.

R12/10 - Sloping dash 4 mm. out, 5½ mm. up from lower right corner. Sloping double dash (vertical) 16 mm. below "A." Vertical line commencing 16 mm. below left of right "2." Dash 11½ mm. below lower right corner, 1½ mm. out.

It is worthy of mention that a number of units on the sheets from this position

show weakness to the lower portions of "POSTAGE," with indications of electro wear, so be warned, and wish 2s. 6d. could be devalued to 2½d.!

Right Sheet, Row 10/4

- (a) (i) Some time ago (early 1961) I purchased an inverted L piece from the lower left corner of this sheet because I considered the weakness to the base of "POSTAGE" was more striking than that of any other unit, and I have reaped excellent dividends.
 (ii) An extensive recut to the cross-hatching to normalise the effect, the heaviest recutting being between "E" and "2/6" with one SW-NE line duplicated. (Purchased 1.3.62.)

Sloping lines NW to SE above and below the large pip provide proof that (ii) is an electro recut to (i).

- (b) A lighter recut to the diagonals SW to NE at base, also to the base line between letters, giving a partially corrective effect on the opposite electro, as evidenced by the different line positions near the large pip. (Purchased 7.3.62.)

Without being dogmatic, I incline to the view that these retouches, which are "musts," occur on electros as under:

	Left R12/8	Right R10/4
<i>Electro</i>	(<i>Heavy recuts</i>)	(<i>Light recuts</i>)
Plate 2	(a), (b)	(a) (ii)
Plate ?	(c), (d)	(b)

The views of other students would be welcomed.

While discussing the 2s. 6d., I mention a point at the suggestion of Mr W. Hansen, Sydney. Not all students may be aware that this value, also the 1s. 6d. black and 2s. Aboriginal Art, which were printed from plates of 480-on to provide four sheets of 120 (10 x 12), originally bore Type I pips on *both* left and right selvages, but when Type IV pips were introduced, the large pip was inserted only on the selvages corresponding to the sides of the plate, i.e., the side of the sheet which was pierced for perforation alignment purposes. The 2d. blue Australian Antarctic Territory of 27.3.57 was another value with Type I pips on opposing left-right selvages, and it was a study by Mr Dunn of this issue which enabled us to position the four sheets by pierced pips and wide selvages.

However, in the instance of the recent flora issues, 1s. 6d. to 3s., also 480-on, the pips, Types IV and V, were positioned only on one side of the sheets.

The Sydney Cove Issue, 1 October 1937

Consequent upon the notes in "Trail" for March 1962, further details since received will, I trust, provide a fresh approach to this issue.

Dr L. Abramovitch, Sydney, kindly furnished a measurement on Plate 5; also was fortunate to acquire recently a Plate 1, Type II, lower right corner of the 2d. value.

The previous tabulation can now be recast, viz:

<i>Value</i>	<i>Plate No.</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>Imp. Position</i>	<i>Distance Plate No. to corner</i>
2d.	1 Upper left	II	Left	20 mm.
	1 Lower left	II	Left	20 mm.
	1 Lower right	II	?	?

	5 Lower left	I	?	23 mm.
	6 Lower left	I	Centre	23 mm.
9d.	1 Lower right	I	Centre	20½ mm.

Mr W. Hansen, of Sydney, again co-operated by forwarding for inspection a 2d. lower sheet, Type I, imprint left, on which the following markings were noted:

The central horizontal layout line is incised 15½ mm. above the frames, being particularly evident on left pane over R1/2-3 for 36 mm., and R1/4 for 14 mm.

Perforation pips, pierced, appear on left and right selvages, 11½ mm. distant, opposite the value circles, with centres located by a large cross.

Left Pane, R9/1 - A 2½ mm. sloping line off the left frame, 5 mm. out opposite the boats.

Right Pane, R10/2 - A 3 mm. vertical line between frames at lower right corner, which could be trace of a re-entry.

Mr C. O. Dunn holds a corner imprint block which shows the sloping line opposite L.P. R9/1, but the lower left corner, which has not been diagonally guillotined, shows no plate number. As the plate numbers were positioned at each corner of the plate, i.e., the corners of the printed sheet of 320-on, it is reasonable to assume Mr Hansen possesses Sheet "D."

The disposition of the other three sheets can thus be readily determined, and students who hold full sheets and plate numbers could materially assist in the task of plating the 2d. value, Types I and II.

INTERNATIONAL EXHIBITION IN 1963

An International Philatelic Exhibition will be held in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, from 7 to 12 October 1963.

Melbourne's last ranking philatelic exhibition, Anpex, 1950, marked the centenary of Australia's first stamps, the Sydney Views and Victoria Half-Lengths. The new exhibition will be in the Golden Jubilee year of the Kangaroo issue.

The exhibition may be known as MIPEX, 1963.

It is almost certain that there will be at least one judge from Britain and one from the United States, and possibly some from New Zealand.

A special feature from overseas is also expected.

The standard of entries is expected to be at least as high as anything Australia has seen.

It has been found impossible to book the main Town Hall for the period required for a philatelic exhibition, despite its international status, and no suitable alternative being available, the lower Town Hall was booked.

The limited accommodation has meant that the field of the exhibition will have to be limited to collections of stamps and postal history.

Collections of postal stationery, thematics, and other classes, as well as junior collections, have had to be omitted for lack of space.

This decision, reluctantly arrived at, will, however, provide the opportunity for a later exhibition, perhaps confined to the classes absent from this exhibition, at a later date.

EARLY AUSTRALIAN HANDSTAMPS

THE ARCHIVES OF THE METHODIST MISSIONARY SOCIETY

1818-1847

by A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

Perhaps the major problem facing students of the early handstamps of the Australian States has been the difficulty — owing to the scarcity of such early correspondence — of assigning accurate periods of usage to each marking. Another, less important, difficulty lies in determining the normal conditions of usage, or purpose of any specific handstamp, where several were in use concurrently, e.g., in Sydney or Hobart.

The archives of the Methodist Missionary Society in London, which I have recently examined by kind permission of the society's secretary, provide much important information on both these counts. The society was amongst the very first to send preachers and missionaries to Australia, to minister to the spiritual needs of the civil, military and convict populations of the new colonies. Each minister had the duty of keeping a journal and of sending, in the form of a letter, a copy of the latest section thereof back to the society's headquarters by each available ship. These letters, which have been filed in the archives, constitute an almost unparalleled run of correspondence, starting in 1818 from Sydney and continuing until the mid-1840s, when the Methodist congregations of Australia became autonomous.

The interval between letters was dependent naturally on the available homeward bound sailings, but even in the very earliest years it was rarely more than two or three months, and later dwindled to only a few weeks. This gives, therefore, a fairly reliable guide not only to the period of usage of particular handstamps, but also provides negative evidence, in the shape of letters bearing no markings, to the fact that there were apparently long periods, often several years, during which the post offices of Hobart, Launceston and Sydney appear *not* to have used any handstamp whatsoever.

NEW SOUTH WALES

The archives contain some three hundred letters from Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor, Richmond and the Hawkesbury River area which, when analysed, yield the following information:

(1) *First Type Handstamp*, "Sydney New South Wales" in single-line circle.

Six examples, all in black, on letters dated: April 1818, May 1818 (two), 13 February 1819 (from Parramatta), 22 February 1819 and 17 March 1819, respectively. A seventh letter, also dated May 1818, bears no Sydney marking.

The only example of this handstamp recorded hitherto was dated 1819 and noted in *Philately from Australia* (September 1953, p. 81) by J. R. W. Purves.

The missionary letter of April 1818 would therefore seem to be the earliest known example of an Australian handstamped postal marking.

(2) *The "Blank" Period*

Between 9 June 1819 and 13 November 1827 the Methodist preachers in New South Wales sent home no less than 107 letters, none of which bear *any* Australian handstamped postal markings. Though some of these letters were written from Windsor and Parramatta, all must have passed through the Sydney General Post Office. This evidence seems to me to show *prima facie*, that there can have been no handstamp in use in Sydney during most or all of the period 1820-27. The reason for the abandonment of the usage of the 1818-1819 handstamp remains unexplained.

(3) *Second Type Sydney Handstamp*. "Sydney, N.S.W." and date, in ringed circle.

The archives contain 19 letters bearing this marking in various colours:

In red: 1 letter dated 5 March 1828

In black: 3 letters, from 27.3.1828 to 25.5.1828

In green: 8 letters, from 8.10.1829 to 2.4.1830

In red: 6 letters, from 23.9.1830 to 20.4.1831. (The writer possesses a letter with an example of this handstamp in *red* dated 30 June 1830.)

In black: 1 letter dated 7 June 1831.

(4) "Sydney Post Paid" in boxed rectangular, in red.

The archives contain nine letters bearing this marking dated between 21.10.1829 and 7.6.1831.

(5) "Sydney Post Paid Ship Letter," crown and date, in unlined oval.

In red: 51 letters dating between 27.7.1831 and 31.12.1838

In black: 6 letters dating between 2.7.1836 and 1.12.1836

(6) "General Post Office, Sydney," Type 1.

The archives contain 13 letters bearing this handstamp in black, dating between 5.9.1833 and 18.10.1838.

(7) "Sydney Paid Ship Letter," crown and date, in unlined oval, in red.

There are numerous examples in the archives, the earliest being dated 19 May 1838.

(8) "General Post Office, Sydney," Type 2, in black.

There are numerous examples in the archives, the earliest being dated 19 March 1839.

(9) *Other "Post Paid" markings* (similar to Fig. 3) all struck in red.

"Parramatta Post Paid": Five letters, dating between 30.3.1830 and 6.10.1840.

"Windsor Post Paid": Seven letters, dating between 14.10.1835 and 8.9.1839.

"O'Connell Post Paid": One letter (from Orton Park) dated 18.4.1837.

"Bathurst Post Paid": Five letters, dating between 17.10.1837 and 7.3.1840.

(10) "Windsor, NSW" in black.

The archives contain four letters bearing this scarce marking (of a type unique in Australia) dating between 5.9.1833 and 18.10.1838.

(11) "Parramatta, NSW" in lined circle. (Struck in black.)

Two letters, dating 3.12.1835 and 6.10.1840. Other letters from Parramatta between these dates do not bear this marking.

Letters in the Methodist archives from Parramatta, Windsor, Bathurst and Richmond, outside the periods for which local hand-struck markings are recorded as above, provide more or less strong evidence that no such markings were in use in those small towns before the dates recorded. There are 41 letters in the archives originating from Parramatta between 22.2.1819 and 15.10.1829, none of which bear any local office of origin handstamp. Similarly, 20 letters originating from Windsor, dated between January 1821 and 10.8.1832, bear no local handstamp markings. Three letters from Richmond between 25.4.1827 and 8.1.1828 and one from Bathurst dated 2.7.1836 also bear no local markings.

The Methodist archives also give some evidence of the type of usage of the various N.S.W. handstamps mentioned above. It should be noted that all the letters were addressed to London.

Sydney, Type 1 (1818-1819). Used on letters from Sydney and Parramatta.

Sydney, Type 2 (1828-1831). Used on letters from Sydney, Parramatta and Windsor, sometimes in conjunction with the "Sydney Post Paid" or "Parramatta Post Paid" markings.

Sydney Post Paid Ship Letter (1831-1838). Probably introduced in June-July 1831 to replace the Sydney, Type 2 marking. Used on letters originating from Sydney, Parramatta, Windsor and Bathurst. Never (in this correspondence at least) used in conjunction with the markings of the sub-post offices.

General Post Office Sydney, Type 1 (1833-1838). This marking seems to have applied exclusively to letters arriving in Sydney which had already received a handstruck marking from a sub-post office. In the Methodist archives it is found in conjunction with one or more of the following markings:

"Windsor/N.S.W."; "Parramatta Post Paid"; "Parramatta N.S.W."; "O'Connell Post Paid"; "Bathurst Post Paid"; and "Windsor Post Paid."

Paid Ship Letter Sydney (1838 onwards). Probably replaced the earlier type of Ship Letter marking gradually during the second half of 1838. Unlike the earlier marking, this handstamp is found used both alone and in conjunction with other markings on letters originating from outside Sydney. It was applied to all letters leaving Sydney for London.

General Post Office Sydney, Type 2 (1839 onwards). Replaced the earlier type between October 1838 and March 1839. Used as a transit or sorting mark on letters arriving in Sydney from elsewhere in N.S.W. A characteristic up-country letter of this period (from Parramatta to London, dated 6 October 1840) bears the following Australian markings:

- (a) "Parramatta/NSW" in single-lined circle, in black.
- (b) "Parramatta, Post Paid" in red.
- (c) "General Post Office, Sydney" Type 2, in black
- (d) "Paid Ship Letter, Sydney" in red.

PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT, N.S.W. (VICTORIA)

With one exception, all the 28 letters from Victoria contained in the Methodist archives originated from Melbourne or Geelong. It is the correspondence from Geelong to London which is of particular interest as it covers the first four years of this settlement's postal history, from August 1838 to December 1842. Geelong Post Office was opened in June 1840 and the first official postmaster was appointed on 1 July 1841, the mails having previously been handled by a storekeeper seconded from the Melbourne Post Office.

The first letter from Geelong to London, dated 9 September 1838, bears no Port Phillip District markings, having probably been sent by ship direct from Geelong to Hobart, and thence to London. The sole Australian marking it bears is the contemporary crowned oval handstamp of the General Post Office Hobart, in black, dated 16 October 1838.

Of the following 16 letters, three (dated 21.1.1840, 22.9.1840 and 7.8.1842 respectively) bears no Australian handstruck whatsoever; the remainder all passed through the post office at Melbourne. Letters dated 29.8.1839, 28.4.1840, 27.5.1840, 30.9.1840 (five letters), 30.10.1840 and 16.6.1841 bear no Geelong markings but were handstamped in transit with the oval Melbourne, Port Phillip name and date stamp (Purves, Type 2) in black, and with the boxed rectangular "Melbourne Post Paid" in red. But two letters within this period were struck instead with the original Melbourne, N.S.W. handstamp (Purves, Type 1) in black, in addition to the Melbourne Paid marking. These letters are dated 14.1.1840 and 21.1.1842 respectively. The letter of 21.2.1842 bears a boxed "Paid at Melbourne" instead of "Melbourne, Post Paid." The following letter, dated 23.6.1842, received a later type of Melbourne, Port Phillip name and date stamp (Purves, Type 3) and the boxed rectangular "Paid at Melbourne" in red.

It is only on the last letter in the series, dated December 1842, that a Geelong marking appears for the first time. The letter bears the second Geelong, Port Phillip name and date stamp (Purves, Type 1) in black, together with a boxed rectangular "Paid at Geelong" in red.

The archives contain only nine letters written from Melbourne; the interest of these lying in the type of name and date marking used. The first three letters (October 1840, 5.1.1841 and 6.3.1841 are struck with the first oval Melbourne, Port Phillip handstamp (Purves, Type 2) in black, and the rectangular boxed "Melbourne Post Paid" in red. Then follow two letters (dated 3 and 8 September 1841) struck with the second type of oval Melbourne, Port Phillip handstamp (Purves, Type 3) in black. These and the remaining letters also bear the "Paid at Melbourne" marking.

For the next two letters, dated 28 and 29 December 1841, the circular undated "Melbourne, N.S.W." marking (Purves, Type 1) was brought back into use; and finally, the last two letters (dated 3.2.1842 and 1.8.1842) revert to the use of the second type of oval Melbourne, Port Phillip handstamp (Purves, Type 3).

The only other letter from Port Phillip District was sent from Port Jackson on 30 February 1841 and was struck with the original Melbourne handstamp (Purves, Type 1) and with the rectangular "Melbourne Post Paid" in red.

It is of interest that the periods of usage of the first three types of Melbourne office of origin handstamps as evidenced in this correspondence are:

Oval "Melbourne, Port Phillip" (Purves, Type 2), 29.8.1839 and 28.4.1840 to 16.6.1841.

Circular "Melbourne, N.S.W." (Purves, Type 1), 14.4.1840, 30.2.1841, 28-29.12.1841 and 21.1.1842. The only other examples of this marking used before 1841 are one cover illustrated by Purves (*Postal History of the Port Phillip District*) and dated November 1837, and a letter from Melbourne to London dated 22 April 1838, which I have seen. This letter also bears the red "Melbourne Post Paid."

TASMANIA

The Methodist Missionary Society's archives contain 114 letters written from Tasmania to London between 1820 and 1847, the majority falling in the period 1822-41. Though not quite so significant as that from New South Wales or Victoria, the Tasmanian correspondence has yielded some important new information on the early markings.

Hobart

(1) The first three letters, which are all from Hobart and are dated August 1820, and April and June 1823, bear no Australian handstruck markings.

(2) The first type of Hobart marking, "Hobart Town" in a single-lined circle, is found struck on three letters, dating from 2.9.1823 to 6.3.1824.

(3) The second type of Hobart marking, "Hobart V.D.L." in small-lined oval, is found struck on 36 letters, dating from 1.10.1824 to 10.3.1832, and all originating from Hobart, with one exception. This is a letter from Launceston via Hobart to London, dated 13.7.1825, which bears contemporary handstamps of both V.D.L. post offices.

During the period 1822-32, a number of letters (13) and a copy of the Hobart Town *Gazette* were sent from Hobart to London without being struck with a Hobart marking.

(4) From 27.7.1832 to the end of December 1836, no handstamp seems to have been used at the General Post Office, Hobart, judging by the evidence of no less than 20 letters in the archives written between the above dates. This agrees with my own experience, as I have yet to see any Hobart markings dating from between mid-1832 and mid-1837.

(5) Following on a number of letters from Hobart, mostly bearing the first type of "General Post Office Hobart, V.D.L. and date" in a crowned oval, and dated from mid-1837 to the end of 1839 (the normal period of use), we come to a number of letters from 1.2.1840 to 2.5.1845, all struck with the second type of "G.P.O. Hobart" in crowned oval marking. This marking is known struck in both red and black, the latter being much scarcer. The Methodist archives, consisting of a large number of letters pretty evenly spaced over most of the six-year period, provide, in my opinion, the clue to the respective uses of the red and black inks.

All the letters sent from Hobart in 1840, comprising 17 letters, dated from 1.2.1840 to 25.11.1840, plus one from Port Arthur (dated 23.10.1840), bears this marking struck in *black*; all subsequent letters, the first (from Ross) being dated 9.2.1841, which bear this marking are struck in *red*. As will be seen below, the

"Paid" handstamp used during this period at the G.P.O., Hobart, was also struck in black during the year 1840 only.

Launceston

(6) The archives contain only three letters originating from Launceston prior to 1834. Of these, the first, already mentioned above, is dated 13.7.1825 (late usage) and bears a strike of the first type Launceston handstamp ("Launceston" in single-lined circle) and a Hobart marking. The other two, dated 20.2.1826 and 2.6.1826, bear no Australian handstruck markings.

(7) Three letters in the archives are struck with the second type of Launceston handstamp ("Launceston" in double-lined oval) in black. They are dated 30.12.1834, 27.7.1835 and 25.2.1836, confirming the short period of usage of this handstamp.

(8) The two following letters from Launceston are dated 12.5.1836 and 20.8.1836. Neither these nor any of the later letters from Launceston to London up to 1846 bear any Launceston handstamp.

The third type of Launceston marking (Launceston and the date in a single-ringed circle) is usually held to have come into use only in 1847.

"Country" letters and the "Paid" markings of Hobart

(9) A number of letters in the Methodist archives bear strikes of the first two types of Hobart "Paid" markings instead of the contemporary General Post Office Hobart crowned oval handstamps. In every case, these letters originated from "country" post offices or places outside Hobart or Launceston; and it therefore seems reasonable to conclude that the use of the "Paid" handstamps was confined to country letters and served instead of corresponding manuscript endorsements. Corroborative evidence is provided by the use of the Hobart "Paid" handstamp on two of the Norfolk Island letters, described in my article "Norfolk Island Under Tasmania" (*Philately from Australia*, September 1960, p. 81), and on a number of "country" letters in my collection dating in the 1860s.

The converse is not, on the evidence of the Methodist archives, always true. That is, a few letters to England from Ross and Longford and Port Arthur dated within the period of use of the "Paid" handstamps (1839 onwards) either bear no markings at all or else are struck only with the G.P.O. Hobart crowned oval.

The four earliest letters in the archives from places other than Hobart or Launceston are three from Macquarie Harbour (Port Macquarie was set up on the uninhabited west coast of Van Dieman's Land as a penal settlement. It was abandoned in 1833 and replaced by the Port Arthur Penal Settlement), dated 13.12.1830, 7.3.1831 and 1832 respectively, and one from Port Arthur dated 24.4.1835. None of these, not unnaturally, bear any local handstamp, nor for that matter any transit mark from Hobart.

With the few exceptions mentioned above, the remainder of the "country" letters in the archives received in transit through Hobart one of two types of "Paid" handstamp as follows:

"Paid" H.S., Type 1 in red.

Seven letters from Ross, Longford and Port Arthur dated between 18.8.1838 and 21.11.1839.

"Paid" H.S., Type 2.

In black: Two letters from Port Arthur, dated 18.2.1840 and 4.12.1840.

In red: Seven letters from Port Arthur, Campbell Town, Longford and New Norfolk, dated between 1.6.1841 and 21.11.1845. The last, a New Norfolk letter, also bears a manuscript endorsement (? by the postmaster) of the town name and date.

Convict Settlement Mss. Endorsements

(10) Two of the letters with "Paid" markings, mentioned in paragraph (9), also bear interesting manuscript endorsements, and both originated in Port Arthur. The first, dated 18.2.1840, is endorsed in mss. "Augustus W. Northey, Ensign 51 Regt." The second, dated 19.5.1841, bears lower left a mss. endorsement reading: "E. Barclay, Sgt. 96 Regt./?/Country Detachment."

It is possible that these letters from Methodist ministers working at the Penal Settlement were subjected to a form of censorship. This theory receives some support from the fact that two contemporary private letters (25.9.1838 and 15.6.1840) from an official on the Port Arthur Penitentiary civil establishment (in the collection of J. A. Dennett of the Society of Postal Historians) bears no such endorsements. Also, letters written by convicts at Port Arthur in the 1856-57 period, although stamped with adhesives, were endorsed by the prison superintendent in manuscript, presumably after being censored.

THE MYSTERY OF TASMANIA'S MISSING MAIL CAN

By ALAN G. BROWN

I believe the only way to obtain information is to advertise in *Philately from Australia* under the guise of an article on some aspect of postal history.

As a keen searcher for the unusual postal markings of Australian States, I have come across one which has so far baffled the experts.

The marking in question appears on the pictorial stamps of Tasmania (S.G. 247 – period of issue from 1905 to 1911) and consists of the words "MAIL CAN" and portion of a date – and on a second copy the letters "MC," which I take to be an abbreviation of "Mail Can" and which are written in indelible pencil.

These first two examples were both found in the same bundle of stamps, which led me to think they could be allied to each other. In addition, both cancellations are made with the same type of indelible pencil.

When a subsequent copy cancelled "MC" in ink on S.G. 230 turned up I became more interested and started to pester my friends for information – alas, no one knew anything!

I then turned to the Postmaster-General's Department for assistance and sent a tracing of "Mail Can" to the Hobart office with a plea for identification. The Department came to light with the cute idea that it was probably meant to be "Mail Van" and suggested that it was applied in a travelling post office.

However, the word "Can" seemed quite clear and not to be mistaken for "Van," and I therefore did not accept the P.M.G. theory.

Now, through the courtesy of two Tasmanian enthusiasts (Messrs J. H. Harrison and L. C. Viney) I have been informed of the following article which appeared in an illustrated magazine, either *Pix* or *Post*, some few years back. The article has a photograph of a large tree stump with a notice board on it reading "Post Office Tree." The caption underneath states:

"This used to be a giant stringy-bark. Lorinna (Tas.) used it as a post office in the old days."

The following story appears beside the picture:

"Stamp Memories in This Stump—A stump is all that is left of Tasmania's famous Post Office Tree in the State's back-of-beyond mountain forest country near Lorinna.

"In the early days a postman rode a horse there once a week and, at a box nailed to the giant old stringy-bark with 'Middlesex Post Office' printed on it in bold letters, he would transact all the usual P.O. business.

"If there was some mail not collected when it was time for him to ride back out of the forest, he'd leave it in the unlocked box, where oldtimers say it was as safe as a bank."

The towns mentioned above are in the north-west of Tasmania. Another enthusiast (Mr O. G. Ingles) has now informed me that in searching through a bundle of stamps which were all postmarked at towns in this area, he found two copies cancelled "MC" in indelible pencil.

The article above mentions that "a box" was nailed to the tree. To my mind it is quite conceivable that at some time this box was replaced by a tin can in order to make it weatherproof. I have seen several such nailed to trees in country districts which are used as letter boxes, bread tins, etc.

Can it be that this is the solution of the "Mail Can" cancellation, or has some reader got the true solution hidden away?

I'd be delighted to be informed.

THE FRANK STAMPS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1898-1902

By R. LLOYD-SMITH

The Western Australian frank stamps are not mentioned in the Australian philatelic press of their day. The only published reference known to me is in *Philately from Australia*, December 1958, at p. 110, in George E. Owen's serial article, "The Postal History of Western Australia, 1829-1901." This was later published as a monograph by The Hawthorn Press, the reference being on p. 23.

Little is known of them by present-day collectors, so it would be wise to set down what I have found out about them over the last few years. In doing so, I gratefully acknowledge the assistance of Mr Owen, who has placed at my disposal information gleaned from official records, and helped to list specimens held by collectors resident in Western Australia.

Historical Introduction

In compiling this introduction, I quote from pages 111 and 141-2 of Mr Owen's typescript "History of the Colonial Post Office, Western Australia, 1829-1901," copies of which are in the libraries of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Franking, i.e., the carriage free of postage of official letters ceased as from 1 January 1856 and from that date all letters had to be pre-paid with postage stamps. Franking was re-introduced on 1 November 1875, subject to certain conditions. The designation of the Department had to be printed or written at the lower left corner of the envelope, which was to be initialled by a responsible officer. The inscription "On Public Service" or "On Her Majesty's Service," had to appear centrally at the top of the envelope.

A list of departments and officials allowed to avail themselves of franking was promulgated by the Colonial Secretary on 8 October 1875, and a further list on 6 January 1886. (These lists look rather like that of the frank stamps, which we will meet later.)

Official letters were impressed with a metal stamp, crown over "PAID." There was an amusing procedure whereby the Post Office charged departments the postage due on all articles so franked! This practice must surely have broken down under all the demands on the Post Office following on the discovery of gold.

The first edition of the W.A. Post Office Guide appeared in February 1893, but no mention of franking is made in this or later editions until April 1898. It was then stated that official frank stamps must be used on correspondence to addresses within the colony or to the other Australian colonies. Letters to other countries must bear postage stamps.

The October 1898 edition extended the validity of frank stamps to letters addressed to the United Kingdom.

The November 1899 edition announced that official letters to the Australian colonies, the United Kingdom or the colonies, must bear the departmental frank, but letters to Western Australian addresses could bear either the frank stamp, or the ordinary branch stamp of the department. This instruction appeared in all later editions of the guide up to July 1901, the last to be published by the colonial administration.

A list of officials permitted to send telegrams "On Service" is given in the April 1898 guide, with additions up to the edition of July 1901. This list must agree reasonably with the users of frank stamps, and includes some for whom I do not know of a frank stamp.

The use of frank stamps in the final period of the colonial administration must have provided free postage for State officials and departments, which practice carried on into the Commonwealth period. It is known that late in 1902, the Federal Postal authorities instructed that the use of frank stamps should cease. There is little doubt that the continued use of frank stamps was giving State departments free postage at the expense of the Commonwealth.

Western Australian stamps perforated W.A. superseded the frank stamps and were in general use during the period 1903-5.

Description of the Frank Stamps

The frank stamps were normally circular rubber stamp impressions, containing in the text the words "FRANK STAMP." These are usually impressed at the top right-hand corner of envelopes which are known to me, but most specimens I know are "cut-outs."

Two exceptions are known to me, and these are letterpress impressions in black on official envelopes.

1. "EDUCATION DEPARTMENT" on envelopes headed, "Head Office Correspondence."

2. "ELECTORAL" impressed at the left of an official envelope headed "On Her Majesty's Service." The envelopes I have bear also an oval rubber stamp impression at the top right-hand corner, "Electoral Registrar's Office, Perth" (or Fremantle).

Both the above departments also used rubber frank stamps.

I classify all specimens known to me, bearing the words "FRANK STAMP," into the following types:

Type 1. The Normal Type: Triple circles, overall diameter 34-37 mm. Royal arms, centrally, varying considerably in size, with "FRANK" above, and "STAMP" below, curved around the inner circle. The title of the user is in the upper arc, and usually "WESTERN AUSTRALIA" in the lower arc. There is a good deal of variation in lettering. See Fig. 1, printed, "EDUCATION DEPARTMENT"; Fig. 2, rubber stamp, "INSPECTING SURVEYOR, CUE, W.A."

Variants

- 1a. As above, but "FRANK STAMP" in horizontal lines, above and below the Royal Arms. Not illustrated.
- 1b. As above, but "FRANK" curved above the Royal Arms, "STAMP" in horizontal line below. See Fig. 3, "ROYAL CELEBRATIONS."
- 1c. As the normal type, but inner circle scalloped. Not illustrated.
- 1d. Inner circle scalloped, but "FRANK STAMP" in horizontal lines, above and below the Royal Arms. See Fig. 4, "INSPECTOR OF SURVEYS, COOLGARDIE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA."

Type 2: Triple circles, as Type 1, Royal Arms centrally, small or large. Inscribed in upper arc, "GOVERNOR OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA," in lower arc, "FRANK STAMP." See Fig. 5.

Type 3: As type 2, but Crown forms central design instead of Royal Arms. See Fig. 6.

Type 4: As Type 1, but swan facing right forms the central design. Only frank, "WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITION" in upper arc, "COOLGARDIE 1898" in lower arc. See Fig. 7.

Type 5: Triple circles, overall diameter 32 mm. No symbol in inner circle, but "FRANK STAMP" in single line. Only known example, "PRIVATE SECRETARY'S OFFICE, PERTH, W.A." Not illustrated.

Type 6: Triple circles, with small Royal Arms centrally, and "FRANK STAMP" above, curved around within the inner circle. Facsimile initials, "R.R.G.D." below the Royal Arms. The title "ELECTORAL" is in the upper arc, and "WESTERN AUSTRALIA" in the lower arc.

There are two forms of this frank stamp:

- (a) Printed, 42 mm. overall diameter, with scallops within the inner circle. See Fig. 8.
- (b) Rubber stamp impression, 39 mm. diameter, the inner circle being scalloped. Not illustrated.

Type 7: Triple circles, inner circle scalloped. Very small Royal Arms over date, over curved "FRANK STAMP." Not illustrated.

Rubber stamp impressions are found in black, violet, blue, red, mauve, and occasionally in green.

I omit from this classification all impressions which do not include in their designs the words "FRANK STAMP." These must, in my opinion, be regarded as "ordinary branch stamps" whose use was permitted in the Post Office Guide.

Fig. 9 shows one of these which was in regular use, as I know a number of envelopes from 18.8.97 to 23.1.02, a true frank stamp being used concurrently.

A number of other circular and oval impressions are known to me, undoubtedly used to frank mail, but in most cases I do not know a corresponding frank stamp.



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3



Fig. 4



Fig. 5



Fig. 6



Fig. 7



Fig. 8



Fig. 9

Period of Use

More information is needed to speak with certainty of this, but use by a number of departments in July 1898 is clear from legible postmarks, and there were some users at least until October 1902.

The earliest date I find is 2.7.96 at Perth of "RAILWAY DEPARTMENT," but this could possibly be an error in setting on the circular datestamp, as I can find no other strikes prior to July 1898. There is little doubt that "DEPARTMENT OF LANDS & SURVEY" frank stamp was in use in July 1897, and it could be that these two departments were the earliest users.

Frank stamps issued for special events would have a restricted period of use, and, obviously, "COMMONWEALTH MILITARY FORCES" would not be in use until 1901.

Much of the material handled has been "cut-outs," and do not yield a cancellation date. I would be pleased to see any further material, or hear from any collector who has further information.

Just before publication, I have found a reference in *London Philatelist*, December 1902, p. 289, quoting the *Daily Telegraph*, Sydney:

"The fifth clause of the Postal Rates Act will have the effect of putting a stop to the present practice of franking official letters and telegrams . . . and will come into effect on 1 November 1902."

This would apply to all Australian States, and confirms postmark evidence.

Check List

A check list appears below of all franks known to me.

No.	Type	Inscription. Upper/Lower	Diam. mm.
1.	1a	Aborigines' Department / Perth W.A.	37
2.	1	Assistant Inspector of Mines / Kurawa W.A.	40
3.		Central Board of Health / Perth W.A.	40
4.	1a	Charitable Institutions Dept. / Perth W.A.	38
5.		Chief Justice of Western Australia. (Listed by Bromfield)	
6.	1	Clerk, Legislative Council / Western Australia.	33
7.	1	Colonial Secretary's Office / Western Australia.	34
8.	1	Commonwealth Military Forces / Western Australia.	34
9.	1	Crown Law Offices / Western Australia.	34
10.	1	Department of Lands & Survey / Western Australia.	34
		(Two types: Large Arms and Frank Stamp.	34
		Small Arms and Frank Stamp.)	34
11.	1	Department of Mines / Western Australia.	
		(Two types: Bold inscriptions.	37
		Small, slender inscriptions.)	37
12.	1a	Department of Mines / Western Australia.	43
13.	1	Education Department / Western Australia. Printed.	35
14.	1.	Education Department / Western Australia.	
		(Two types: Frank Stamp in small or large letters.)	33
15.	7	Education Department / Western Australia.	39
16.	6a	Electoral / Western Australia. Printed.	42
17.	6b	Electoral / Western Australia.	39
18.	1	Engineer-in-Chief's Office / Western Australia.	34

19.	1	Fremantle Infantry.	37
20.	1	Fremantle Infantry / D Company.	37
21.	1	Fremantle Royal / Celebrations Committee. W.A.	34
22.	1	General Post Office / Western Australia.	34
23.	1	Glasgow Exhibition Commission / Western Australia.	37
24.	1	Government Analyst / Western Australia.	34
25.	1	Government Geologist / Western Australia.	36
26.	1	Government Printing Office / Western Australia.	34
27.	1	Government Storekeeper / Western Australia.	34
28.	2	Governor of Western Australia / Frank Stamp.	37
29.	2	do. Small Arms.	38
30.	3	Governor of Western Australia / Frank Stamp.	33
31.	1	H. M. Customs / Western Australia.	37
32.	1	Inspecting Surveyor / Cue, W.A.	34
33.		Inspector of Mines / Eastern Goldfields	36
34.	1	Inspector of Prisons / Western Australia	33
35.	1d	Inspector of Surveys, Coolgardie / Western Australia.	43
36	1	Land Titles Department / Western Australia.	34
		(Two types: Frank Stamp in small or large letters.)	34
37.	1	Local Court / Perth, Western Australia.	37
38.	1	Medical Department of / Western Australia.	34
39.	1	Military Office / Western Australia.	34
40.	1	Mining Registrar / Peak Hill, W.A.	37
41.		Mining Registrar / Nannine, W.A. (Listed by Bromfield)	
42.	1c	Official Receiver in Bankruptcy / Western Australia.	34
43.	1	Paris Exhibition Commission / Western Australia.	40
44.	1	Police Department / Western Australia.	34
45.	1a	Police Department / Western Australia.	34
46.	1	Police Magistrate's Office / Perth, Western Australia.	33
47.	1	Poor Relief Department / Perth, W.A.	37
48.	1	Premier's Department / Western Australia.	37
49.	1c	Premier's Department / Western Australia.	34
50.	1	President, Legislative Council / Western Australia.	33
51.	5	Private Secretary's Office / Perth, W.A.	32
52.	1	Public Works Department / Western Australia. (Inner circle 19½ mm.)	34
53.	1	do. Royal Arms quite different. (Inner circle 23 mm.)	33
54.	1	Railway Department / Western Australia.	34
		(Two types: Extended or compressed lettering.)	
55.	1	Railway Department / Western Australia.	37
56.	1c	Railway Department / Western Australia.	37
57.	1	Registrar of Friendly Societies / Perth, W.A.	34
58.	1	Registrar General / Western Australia.	34
59.	1	Resident Magistrate / Swan, Western Australia.	34
60.	1b	Royal Celebrations / Western Australia.	34
61.	1d	Royal Mint / Perth Branch.	32
62.	1	Speaker, Legislative Assembly / Western Australia.	34
63.	1	The Museum / Perth, Western Australia.	34
64.	1d	The Warden / Kalgoorlie, W.A.	37
65.	1	Treasury / Western Australia.	34
66.	1	Victoria Public Library / Perth, Western Australia.	37
67.	1a	Warden's Office / Kanowna, W.A.	37
68.	4	Western Australian Exhibition / Coolgardie 1898.	39
69	1	Woods & Forests Department / Perth, W.A.	37
70.	1	Works & Railways / Western Australia.	34



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

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

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

TONGA CANCELLATIONS

Contemporary records of the early cancellations of Tonga have described the duplex canceller. However, we repeat it here. The left portion is a single-line circle of 21 mm. diameter enclosing the following in four horizontal, straight lines:

"F - 1 / TONGA / date / time"

The right half of the canceller consists of an upright oval of eleven bars, each $1\frac{1}{4}$ mm. wide, the whole measuring $19\frac{1}{2} \times 31$ mm., with the figure in a cut-away space in the middle. "NUKUALOFA" does not appear on No. 1, but the names of the other places appear on their respective numerals.

This type of canceller is recorded as having been used at Nukualofa, Vavau and Haapai. The respective figures in the cut-away space have been recorded as Nukualofa, 1; Vavau, 2; and Haapai, 3. Recent research, however, has established that the figures should be Haapai, 2, and Vavau, 3.

It has now been discovered that a similar type of canceller was used at Keppels (known at Niuatobutabu) with the figure 4 in the oval of bars, and also at Niufoou (Tin Can Island) with the figure 5.

COOK ISLANDS

This is in reply to Mr A. R. Burge re "The Printings of the First Issue of Cook Islands" in *Philately from Australia*, June 1961.

We have the hand-copied invoices of the Stamp Printing Branch listing the charges for the 1892 and January to 31 October 1893 printings. The detailed charge under date of 14 December 1892 was for a greatly increased total number of stamps. The next charge listed on the invoices is July 1893.

On page 12 of our monograph, *The Cook Islands to 1919*, we have listed all stamps charged during the above mentioned period by the Printing and Stationery Department, Wellington. We possess a photostat of the page of the "Record Book" referred to by Mr Burge. This particular page has the heading "Cook Island Federation stamps delivered to T. G. Moss, per Government Printer." This page has an entry for 9 February for stamps and postcards, but such items

are not included on the invoices. The invoices agree with the "Record Book" in every other respect.

If these stamps were delivered to Mr Moss we are at a loss to discover why they were not charged. It is an established fact that accounting records are usually accepted in preference to production records. We are wondering if the "Record Book" might be a production record despite the use of Mr Moss' name.

If the stamps were printed, what happened to them? Did an accounting error creep in? Was the parcel of printed stamps mislaid in the despatch department? Were despatch instructions revised?

It would be most interesting if Mr Burge could discover a letter from Moss acknowledging receipt of the printing of 9.2.1893. When writing the Cook Islands monograph it would have been more appropriate for us to have used the word "issued" rather than "printed," on the third line in the fourth paragraph of page 12.

We feel that information so far produced does not completely solve this problem.



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TASMANIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

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

(Continued from March 1962, p. 24)

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REVIEWS

The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps, 1788-1952, Vol IV, The Empire in Australasia. 624 pp. 5½ x 9 in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price £44s. (stg.).

The long-awaited fourth volume of the *Encyclopaedia of Empire Postage Stamps*, devoted to Australasia, has arrived. The Oxford Dictionary describes an Encyclopaedia as "a book giving information on all branches of knowledge or of one subject," and this volume's 624 pages deal with the postal history, hand-struck stamps, cancellations, adhesive stamps to the end of the reign of King George VI, essays, proofs, colour trials, specimen overprints, postal stationery, forgeries, and a bibliography of the British Colonies in Oceania. It really lives up to its name.

Special features are to be found in the New South Wales section, where there is a table giving comparative rarity of numeral cancellations on Sydney Views, the stamps of New South Wales and Victoria used together and in each other's territories, the illustrations of all the retouches on the Diadem 2d., the various "official" perforations, telegraph and railway stamps and the history of the Travelling Post Offices.

The Queensland section contains a catalogue of New South Wales stamps, both handstruck and adhesive, used in Queensland when it was the Moreton Bay District and during the provisional period, the history of T.P.O.s from 1867-1932, the real postal fiscals, a most comprehensive guide to plating the 1881 lithographs and a catalogue of the railway stamps.

In South Australia there is a history of the T.P.O.s, listing of the numeral cancellers, catalogue of the departmental overprints and the railway parcel stamps, complete information on the "long stamps," the pioneer work on which was done by Mr J. R. W. Purves, is also included.

Tasmania includes a fine postal history and postmark section, and there are descriptions of the early newspaper and government railway stamps, although it is noted that the first railway stamps are not listed and the third issue has been placed ahead of the second issue.

Victoria receives very full treatment, including a catalogue of the interesting locals,

while the collector of the half-lengths will be more than satisfied with the very full descriptions and the illustrations of each printing in colour. The 84 pages devoted to Victoria give the most complete coverage of all aspects of Victorian philately ever assembled in any publication, and is a fitting tribute to Mr Purves.

Among the Western Australian features are the lithograph varieties of the 4d. and 6d., a photograph of the 4d. "Inverted Frame," a catalogue of the postal fiscals and telegraph stamps used provisionally for postage, T.P.O.s and postal history sections, as well as the railway and the local stamps.

These six original Colonies fill the first 296 pages, the Commonwealth a further 52, and the Dependencies another 46. The special features in this section include Queensland used in New Guinea, constant varieties on the Papuan lithographs, the G.R.I. errors, and N.S.W. used in Norfolk Island.

The next section deals with New Zealand and Dependencies, covering 129 pages, and the special features include a detailed catalogue of the 1866-73 provisional imperforate issue, the "O.P.S.O." overprint and Reefton provisionals, the slot machine issues and early meter marks, railway stamps and postal fiscals. The outlying islands — Auckland, Chatham, Great Barrier (pigeongrams), and Kermadec Islands — are listed.

The Dependencies include Antarctica and the various expeditions. The intricate early issues of Samoa are carefully listed.

The section dealing with the Crown Colonies and Protectorates covers 64 pages and includes the transfer varieties of the Solomon Island lithographs, the manuscript provisionals of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands, the Christmas Island locals, and N.S.W. used in New Hebrides.

The final part deals with Campaigns, including the three Maori wars, the Sudan 1885 and South African 1899-1902 wars, as well as the two World Wars, and the Korean Campaign.

The appendix illustrates the 30 SPECIMEN and the three types of CANCELLED which may be found.

For the first time in recent years, collectors now have available to them a comprehensive listing of postal stationery items and, although the values allotted to some items may not be in accord with local thinking,

it must be remembered that the valuations listed are based on prices realised at auction in England.

The book surpasses the standard set by the previous volumes, and is one which should be on the bookshelf (and will probably be more frequently in the hands) of every serious collector.

A.G.B.

The New South Wales Philatelic Annual for 1961, edited by E. J. Garrard. 32 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, Box 601, G.P.O., Sydney. Price 2s. 6d.

After 13 years of meritorious and appreciated effort, Mr Romney Gibbons has vacated the editorial chair of this well-known annual, and as the new editor, Mr E. J. Garrard, has made his first task to pay tribute, it is fitting that the review should begin similarly.

Mr Gibbons has made the annual a valuable feature of the philatelic year and Mr Garrard is following his example.

The contents are as diversified as ever, Mr Peter Jaffe opens with B.W.I. Numeral Cancellations, and Dr L. Abramovich reviews the Kangaroo issues, and notes an uncatalogued ½d., with triple perforation.

Dr E. H. Freidman writes on the Japanese occupation issues of the Netherlands East Indies; Canada figures prominently, Mr D. G. Cox writing on the Trans-Canada Air Mail, and former Sydney philatelist, Mr. A. Cronin, on life in a Canadian Postal Agency.

Finally, the editor solicits information on the New South Wales 1838 oval Embossed Design on a newspaper wrapper found by Mr Robson Lowe.

The Triangular Stamps of Cape of Good Hope, Second Supplement, by D. Alan Stevenson. 2 pp. 8 x 10½ in. Published by H. R. Harmer Ltd, 39-42 New Bond Street, London, W1. Price 1/- (stg.).

This supplement brings up to date the Crawford Medal winning handbook on these most famous stamps, with a bibliography and remarks on new discoveries.

It also "acknowledges with pleasure" that Dr Enrico Aghib had discovered the "E" stroke and the dot between the 4d. pair in 1929, and notes that the discovery had not been mentioned in either English or American philatelic literature.

A Review, 1960-1961 and a Preview, 1962-63. 28 pp. 8½ x 7½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price 2/6 (stg.).

Robson Lowe's past season yielded £338,127, the third highest on record.

Australia's buying was sharply down, and with last year's figures in parentheses was: Great Britain £21 (£45); British Empire, £2870 (£7882); Foreign, £101 (£255); Postal history, £470 (£718); General (Bournemouth), £1470 (£1789); Total, £4933 (£10,700).

In the only area where more detailed figures are given, the British Empire section, the returns show that the lower total was due to a steep dive in New Zealand buying from £5651 to £758. Australia's saleroom victories cost £2112, compared with £2231.

Highest price was £900 for a Sicily cover, with 50, 20, and three 2 grano stamps. Other interesting prices included: Canada, St Lawrence, with inverted centre, mint, £650; Great Britain, 4d. King George VI, double print, used, £475; 1910 King Edward VII unissued Tyrian plum, with much original gum, £440; Straits Settlements, 3c on 32c surcharge omitted, the only known used copy (on entire), £270; New South Wales, 2d. Sydney View, Plate I, on first day cover, £100 (first day cover of Britain's Penny Black brought £74); Tasmania, 1853 1d. early print, with part imprint, mint, £145; Western Australia, 1854 1d. black, unused block of 16, £170; New Zealand, George V 4d. violet, block, upper pair perforated only at top, £110.

Malaya, Jap. Occupation, by James M. Gallatly. 20 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by Regent Stamp Co. Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price 5/- (stg.).

Malaya, Japanese Occupation, A Catalogue of the Single-Line Chops, by James M. Gallatly. 20 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by Regent Stamp Co. Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price 5/- (stg.).

The Japanese Occupation of Malaya, The Double Line Chop, Its Types and Forgeries, by James M. Gallatly. 12 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by Regent Stamp Co. Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London. Price 5/- (stg.).

These three brochures, a consolidation of articles which have appeared in *The Philatelist and Postal Historian* from 1957 onwards, virtually constitute a handbook on the overprints of the Japanese occupation of Malaya.

Surely there are few instances in the vast array of philatelic literature where such a vast amount of work has gone into the production of such a small concentration of accurate, detailed information.

Mr Gallatly says of the "double line chop" that "it is scarcer than you think."

Mr Gallatly warns that impressions range from the poor to the impossible, and that the "double line chop" "got off to a bad start with catalogues using forgeries to illustrate it and disagreeing about its size."

Undaunted by the complexity of the subject, he has listed the various types of chops, with their all too abundant crop of forgeries, and listed the various Malayan States, and the stamps used, the chops, and their colours, with dates of overprinting and a substantial amount of postal history of the occupation, including a list of post offices open during the occupation.

In such a study, the illustrations are vital, and those provided come up to requirements in both number and quality.

Catalogo Galvez Pruebas y Ensayos de Espana, 1960, by Manuel Galvez Rodriguez. 162 pp. 7½ x 8½ in. Published by M. Galvez, Principe 1, Madrid 12, Spain. Price £3/3/- (stg.).

This work, published posthumously, is a worthy memorial to its author, and to, as the beautiful cream dedication page says, "A life devoted to philately."

Mr Galvez Rodriguez has left a complete listing of proofs, essays and stamp projects of his country, in this de luxe limited edition.

These start with a 1949 essay, by an unknown artist, on from which Spain's first stamp was produced.

No expense has been spared, and there are about 600 illustrations, printed on rich calendared paper. Prices are given for proofs of normal postage, airmail, revenue, telegraph, war tax, airmail, and welfare stamps, and for blocks of four and sheets where applicable.

Nobody who appreciates either the stamps of Spain or philatelic beauty can fail to enjoy it.

The Cinderella Philatelist, Vol. 2, No. 1. Edited by L. N. and M. Williams. 20 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published for the Cinderella Stamp Club by L. N. and M. Williams, 30 Dunstan Road, London, NW1. Subscription 7/6 (stg.).

This is the first printed number of this quarterly, which began publication a year ago, produced by photo-lithography.

The interests of the Cinderella Stamp Club are locals, telegraph stamps, fiscals, bogus issues, Christmas seals, registration labels, and advertisement and exhibition labels.

This January 1962 journal deals with Gauthier Freres et Cie, French transatlantic steamship venture of a century ago, modern bogus stamps, modern U.S. locals, and the Polish Underground Postal issue.

World Stamp Exhibition, Praga 1962, 1. 24 pp. 6¼ x 9½ in. Published by the Central Office of Czechoslovak Philatelists.

An article on "The Oldest Prague Postmarks on Stamps" is a feature of this first bulletin for the Exhibition, which will be held at Prague from 18 August to 2 September. Another article deals with the stamps issued for the Exhibition.

The Value of a Classic, by John Robinson. 8 pp. 7 x 9¼ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall London, SW1.

This is an intriguing little publication, of interest to all collectors of classics. Mr Robinson took 21 used N.Z. Chalon Heads — a test group of three superb copies, and 18 with various faults, combinations of faults, or fault and compensating factor.

Then he invited nine dealers and two collectors to value them, as a percentage of catalogue, the dealers being asked to value them as for an approval selection, and the collectors at the top figure they would be willing to pay, assuming they wanted them.

The figures were then averaged, to give the value.

One could spend cheerful hours in an analysis of the results. Of the three superb specimens, the valuations ranged from 64 to 100 per cent, 44 to 200 per cent and 55 to 160 per cent, the averages being 81, 91 and 83 per cent respectively.

But in the "fault" specimens, the stamp for which the lowest value was given (4 per cent by a dealer) another dealer marked 57 per cent, and the collectors were prepared to buy at 17 and 29 per cent. Average value was 27 per cent.

Mr Robinson discusses the results interestingly, and the tabulated figures themselves invite the reader to see what he can deduce about the philatelists from their ratings.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

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- July
3 Library and Conversation
19 Annual Meeting
Presidential Display: Mr A. G. Brown
- August
7 Library and Conversation
16 Iceland: Miss H. Sergeant-White
30 Victoria: Mr J. Gartner

Egypt

Mr Paul Simonson provided a selection from his wonderful Egypt collection for the March meeting, a display enjoyed not only by members of the society but by members of the Brighton Philatelic Society, who were our guests.

The most remarkable feature was the showing of essays and die proofs, many of which are very rare, particularly those of the "Nile" design which were never issued.

All issues were well represented, the 1874-75 issue being highlighted by rare tête-bêches.

Modern rarities included some varieties of the 1922 Crown overprints, the "wrong colour centres" of the 1929 Prince Farouk issue, the 1934 U.P.U. Congress set and the very scarce "1493" overprint error of the Princess stamp.

There was also a nice array of the Foreign Posts in Egypt, among which the Jubal Island Telegram cover and the pre-stamp cover of the British P.O. at Cairo were the rarest items.

South America

Mr J. R. W. Purves, who is always expected to produce a surprise, did not fail for the second March meeting when he presented selected items from Central and South America.

Many were the classic items in fine condition, which members had seen only in catalogue and handbook illustrations, that were presented for our inspection and enjoyment.

Notable among the galaxy were Montevideo Suns and Diligencias, Argentine early issues, including Buenos Aires, Brazil Bull's Eyes and Goat's Eyes, and Mexico.

The display concluded with a Hayti study.

Czechoslovakia

Mr W. L. Russell chose the overprints and surcharges for his Czechoslovakian display at the April meeting because, he said, they covered the whole history of the Republic, from its birth in 1918, through many stages of its period, up to the Nazi occupation and through to the Liberation.

The opening sheets showed the overprints on Austrian stamps, issued unofficially in flare of patriotism two days after the birth of the Republic. These were allowed to frank mail from 30 October to 18 November 1918.

They were followed by the only official Revolutionary overprints issued by the Government, for use while Slovakia was being brought into line. They are known as the Srobar issue and were in use from February to April 1919.

All stocks of Austrian and Hungarian stamps in Czechoslovakia were returned to Prague, overprinted

and sold at a 50 per cent surcharge, and these were shown.

After the provisional airmails and the Red Cross surcharges, Mr Russell's display turned to the provisionals used when the Nazis marched in, followed by the overprints for the Protectorate.

Some of the stamps issued with either American or Russian connivance by each town after it was liberated were next displayed.

Also included were the Plebiscite stamps for Eastern Silesia, the surcharged "Lion" stamps of the Siberian Army, the provisional newspaper and postage due stamps and Slovak overprints.

Pitcairn and Norfolk

Mr E. J. Garrard, convener of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club's Pacific Island Circle, came to Melbourne to provide the first May meeting display.

Equally welcome was Mrs Garrard.

Notable items in the Norfolk Island section were: Free Norfolk Island handstamp on 1842 cover, a Paid at Norfolk Island on 1843 ship letter, a 1931 Chichester flight to Lord Howe Island cover, N.Z. APO cancellations used at Norfolk Island, a 1906 postcard with N.S.W. stamp, and 1d. Ball Bay imperf. at left.

Pitcairn representation included a cover franked with U.S. stamp, with San Francisco arrival postmark, February 1891, and single-line Pitcairn handstamp in red, a 1940 stamp booklet with singles of the values from ½d. to 2/6, a 1939 Byrd Antarctic Expedition cover, and 1944 cover with typewritten censor label.

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THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

- July
10 Annual Meeting
Fiji: Mr F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L.
31 To be arranged
- August
14 Thematics: Open Night, compered by Mrs P. M. C. Rock, F.R.P.S.L.
- September
11 Kangaroo Highlights and Commonwealth Die Proofs: Dr L. Abramovich (Guest Exhibitor)

Annual Meeting

The annual general meeting of the club will be held on Tuesday, 10 July, in the Assembly Room, Education Department Building, at 7.30 p.m.

The election of officers and committee will take place at that meeting. Attention is again drawn to Rule 10, which provides that nominations for office must reach the secretary 14 days before the meeting.

Subscriptions Due

In accordance with Rule 20, annual subscriptions fall due on 1 July. It would be greatly appreciated if members would co-operate by remitting to the treasurer at their earliest convenience. This will assist both the club and the treasurer. Subscription rates are £1/7/6 for city members and 10/- for country members and junior members.

If members wish to receive *Philately from Australia*, please add 15/- to the above amount when sending remittances.

Film Night

A very varied and interesting programme of films was shown by an officer of the Postmaster-General's Department at the March meeting.

Main interest was centred around the new film, recently produced by the Department, entitled "Philatelic Portrait."

This film, excellently produced, gave an entertaining insight into the production of Australian postage stamps and is recommended to all societies.

The supporting programme, which included a film depicting scenes in the operation of the Dead Letter Office, was also much appreciated by the members.

Following the films, short displays of Japan and Indian States were shown by Miss V. Zowe and Mr G. Jurk respectively.

Miss Zowe's display was limited to recent issues and included a very interesting representation of the most attractive stamps now being issued by the Japanese postal authorities. Mr Jurk's display was a representative one of the stamps issued by the various Indian States.

Vastly different, of course, from the modern Japanese issues sharing the display, the many often crudely-produced stamps were nevertheless of great interest. These stamps are rarely shown and members were greatly appreciative of the opportunity afforded them.

Annual Competition

The first competition for the club medal was conducted at the April meeting. Unfortunately, only

five entries were received, but the judges (Messrs Finigan, Frankenstein and Rosenberg) admitted to very great difficulty in locating the winner, who proved to be Mr F. V. Thompson for his entry of Fiji. Other entries were Ship Letters (Mr Hamilton Croaker) — second place — Holland (Mr Louis Frank), Canada (Mr Dankin), and Melbourne and Port Phillip, N.S.W. (Mr Ashworth Spreat).

All entries displayed the results of much research and reflected very great credit upon the exhibitors.

It is hoped that this aspect of philately will attract many more supporters during the coming years and that future medal competitions will bring together much of the results of members' efforts.

Brains Trust

Mr Bernie Moloney, with his "Brains Trust" panel (comprising Messrs G. J. Croyston, Louis Frank, E. J. Garrard and J. H. Powell) answered many interesting questions posed by members, also at the April meeting. The great store of knowledge from the members of the panel was drawn on in an absorbing and entertaining manner.

Philately — Whither?

A very interesting and informative paper by Mr E. J. Garrard entitled "The Changing Face of Philately" was presented at the first May meeting. Our thanks to Mr Garrard, who put an enormous amount of time and effort into his paper, which was strikingly illustrated by a chart he had prepared. Mr Garrard traced collecting trends from the issue of the first adhesive postage stamp up till the present day. By the means of his chart, compiled from statistics regarding collectors and collecting, Mr Garrard was able to illustrate graphically the rise in volume of collecting and the growth in the variety of collecting, caused, of course, by the vast accumulations of postage stamps being issued by the hundreds of postal authorities throughout the world. The various stages in the development of specialisation (in its various forms) was clearly traced and members were left with the thought as to what future trends will be.

Following Mr Garrard's paper, a further selection from the J. Whitsed Dovey Memorial Collection was shown by Mr Ashworth Spreat, the curator of the collection. This collection, entitled "Philatelic Terms Illustrated," is well-known, but there are always new stamps to be seen and information to be obtained from its showing.

German States

The second May meeting brought before members some of the gems from Mr Louis Frank's German States collection. Many of the classics from Baden, Bavaria, North German Confederation, Hamburg (including Locals), Wurtemberg, Lubeck, Saxony, Schleswig and Thurn and Taxis were shown. A very striking feature of this collection is the excellent condition of the vast majority of the stamps. In view of the difficulty in obtaining well-centred copies owing to the very small space between stamps in the sheets, the general all-round excellence of Mr Frank's collection was the more remarkable.

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