

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



Published Quarterly by
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Vol. XV, No. 4

DECEMBER 1963

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

Philately from Australia

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) From *Australian* residents: 17/6d. per annum.

(b) From *Overseas* residents: 15/- sterling for British Empire (ex Canada) and \$3 for United States of America and Canada.

Orders for *back numbers* shall be at the above rates for full volumes and for single copies 4/6 (Aust.), 4/- sterling (B.E.) and \$1 (American). All back numbers can still be supplied.

We regret that owing to a change in postal regulations British Postal Orders are not now negotiable in Australia. Please make payment by bank draft or money order.

Cumulative Index, Vols. I-X (1949-58):

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

ADVERTISING RATES

	Single Insertion		FULL YEAR FOUR INSERTIONS	
	Aust.	Dollars	Aust.	Dollars
Covers	£12 10 0	50	£11 0 0 ea.	45 ea.
Full	11 0 0	36	10 0 0 ea.	30 ea.
Half	6 15 0	22	6 0 0 ea.	18 ea.
Quarter	4 10 0	14	4 0 0 ea.	12 ea.

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

ALL CORRESPONDENCE re the above should be addressed to the Business Manager, P.O. Box 42, Mentone, Melbourne, S11.

PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

TWENTY-FOURTH EDITION JUST PUBLISHED

THE
Australian Commonwealth
Specialists' Catalogue
1964

PRICE 10/6



Obtainable from all Leading Stamp Dealers or

THE HAWTHORN PRESS

15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne



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

VOL. XV, No. 4

DECEMBER 1963

MIPEX AND ITS MEMORY

Leading articles reviewing national or international philatelic exhibitions usually begin with the statement that they are over and *Philately from Australia* dutifully pays its respects to convention.

MIPEX, the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition, 1963, with its £1,500,000 worth of stamps, and its magnificent Court of Honour, will be an enduring memory for every true philatelist fortunate enough to view it, whether he or she be an advanced philatelist or an intelligently interested collector.

It suffices to say here, as proof of its quality, that the exhibition included the unique cover bearing two copies of the 1d. Post Office Mauritius; the 2d. on dated piece; the 1d. and 4d. Cape triangular "Woodblock" errors in used singles, and the 4d. in block of four with three one penny normals, on cover; the three varieties of the Bermuda Postmasters of which only 11, 4 and 3 copies are known; the finest existing copy of the Western Australian "Inverted Swan"; and Trinidad's Lady McLeod.

It was perhaps inevitable that those who worked hardest for MIPEX so often had the least opportunity to enjoy its wonders. It also happened that a number of well-known philatelists left their first visit until comparatively late in the week, and regretfully admitted they had gravely underestimated its attractions.

It was a prime misfortune that the Melbourne City Council, which so strongly backs the image of "Melbourne, Big, Rich, Beautiful" should refuse to grant the main Town Hall for a week for a world-scale philatelic exhibition.

This forced the holding of the exhibition in the lower Town Hall and in Preston Motors, fortunately available a city block back. The difficulties of conducting an exhibition in two locations are evident, but it was done successfully.

Acceptable evidence that this appreciation of MIPEx is not mere self-congratulation is already available.

Mr R. H. Taylor, president of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, said at the MIPEx banquet:

"You do not need me to speak to you of the exhibition. It speaks for itself.

"As a philatelist, it fills me with awe; particularly the knowledge that it has afforded me the opportunity of seeing gathered in the one spot, and that in my own country, material, the like of which few of us can ever hope to see again.

"As an Australian, it fills me with pride to think that my fellow Australians can mount such an exhibition.

"As a New South Welshman and president of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club and vice-president of the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, it fills me with admiration and gratitude that our Victorian brothers and sisters have overcome the almost insuperable problems, that I know from personal experience must have beset them, to stage an exhibition such as this.

"It has been my great privilege to have participated in this exhibition in a way that I am never likely to forget and this has made me understand how true are those words which appeared in relation to ANPEX, 1950:

"Exhibitions bring together philatelists of every degree and afford them the opportunity to appreciate forms of collecting outside their individual partialities. This common ground where collecting in its many fields is demonstrated on a high plane, engenders a better understanding and appreciation of the hobby and does much to remove any suggestion of intolerance, any tendency to deprecate the attainments of others in different philatelic fields."

And from the October issue of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand's newsletter:

"The score or so of New Zealanders who were fortunate enough to be able to visit MIPEx and that beautiful city of Melbourne — claimed by Victorians to be the most beautiful in Australia, when not in the hearing of Sydneyites — vote the exhibition an outstanding success."

It is not only in the stamps displayed that the benefits of such an exhibition are found. It is not only a gathering of rare stamps, but a gathering of collectors and students.

As New Zealand's greatest living philatelist, Mr R. J. G. Collins, said publicly, one of the great pleasures of attending MIPEx had been the meetings with collectors whom he had known previously only as names at the head of philatelic articles.

Much advantage is gained by face-to-face discussions of problems of mutual interest.

Exhibitions also provide an opportunity of kindling or fostering interest in the hobby and an opportunity of making contact with organised philately.

Inquiries at the information desk about linking up with philatelic societies are reported to have been satisfactory and the fillip given to society enthusiasm by the exhibition should be capitalised by active and intelligent committees so soon as the holiday period is over.

In this way, MIPEx can have a living memorial.

THE DOUBTFUL PRIVILEGE OF BEING AN EXPERT

The privilege of being an expert seems even more doubtful than would appear from the leading article on this subject, by Mr Purves, in the September issue.

The editorial has evoked a number of comments, all but three being by way of commendation. Two of the critical letters were from the same person.

His article, although intended to provoke some thought, was conceived in a spirit of fun, without aiming at specific individuals or organisations.

The more critical of the letters says:

"My attention has been drawn to the astonishing attack on stamp dealers made by Mr J. R. W. Purves in the September issue of *Philately from Australia*. . . .

"I am well aware that every calling has its 'black sheep,' but to lump all dealers as 'playing the sucker market,' having 'lousy morals,' being 'utterly rapacious' and 'sucking the blood of experts,' etc., as Mr Purves does so indiscriminately, is both unfair and untrue. . . .

"While Mr Purves and I disagree (sometimes very strongly) on many matters, our collector/dealer relationship has always been excellent and I know this applies to many of my dealer friends in this country and overseas. The extravagant language of the article in your journal is, therefore, all the more surprising, especially coming from the president of the organising committee on the eve of MIPEX. In the article, of course, Mr Purves was only expressing, in unusually forceful terms admittedly, opinions which have gained very wide circulation among collectors in Melbourne in recent years. In view of the widespread nature of such views, at times openly and vocally expressed, it is little wonder that Victorian dealers displayed such a lack of enthusiasm for MIPEX. . . ."

It seems that the correspondent has taken the article to mean rather more than it did, for it was professedly written in light vein:

"There *are* moments when even philately can look grim," it opens. . . . "The balance can only be redressed by casting that occasional wry look at oneself that most of us, all too seldom, do occasionally take.

"The present essay, in lighter vein than many . . .

"My grouse — you will gather it is not a very serious one — springs largely from the fields of petty annoyance.

"For instance, take our friends the dealers."

"The extravagant language of the article," so far as critical passages are concerned, must be read in balance with the sentence in which Mr Purves speaks of "my long career of crime in philately." Mr Purves' world reputation is testimony to his integrity, so that passage is an obvious, deliberate and cheerful exaggeration.

Only four of the sixteen paragraphs in the article *could* apply to dealers.

Most dealers would agree, we are sure, that it would be a sad day for collecting if comment was to be stifled by pressure of vested interests, however worthy.

Philately is a source of pleasure, happiness and friendship for thousands.

It is a hobby that does not necessarily thrive on controversy. A friendly exchange of views is more useful.

EDITOR

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J .P. MEARA

I extend to all readers every best wish for a happy Christmas and prosperity and happy hunting in the new year.

MIPEX 1963

As coverage is given elsewhere in this issue and in other philatelic press I can only say that those who were fortunate to view the vast display of rare, classical and high-class material in the Court of Honour and in the exhibit frames will carry the pleasure and remembrance forever. One could not absorb completely the whole of the material on display but there is no doubt MIPEX was an unqualified philatelic success of which the promoting bodies and Australia may well be proud.

It is not out of place to say that generally societies should profit by the success of MIPEX and over a specific period of years plan to move out of local ruts and intensify individual efforts, give every encouragement to study circles, disseminate knowledge and endeavour to lift their activities and displays to higher levels and so achieve a reformation in Australian philately which will compare rather favourably with that in recognised world philatelic centres.

Decimalisation

According to press reports the proposed date for the introduction of decimalisation in Australia is February 1966, and no doubt the Postmaster-General's Department, like commercial enterprises, has already taken steps to meet the changeover and has begun to assess the requirements of the Australian postage stamp programme. It may be opportune to warn philatelists that in a bare two years or so "dollars and cents" postage will be with us, a number of high values are to be issued early next year, 1964, and to repeat once again that the best time to study stamps is *while they are current*. The wise ones will no doubt see that they secure necessary requirements of the "£.s.d." series while they are sold at the post offices as the trade cannot be expected to tie up excessive capital by keeping surplus stocks "on the shelf."

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

From the philatelist's point of view there has appeared in the past year or so several "mighty" retouches which far surpass all but a few of those known in the earlier typographed Kangaroo and George V issues. It is also considered that suitable reference could be made in the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* to present this value in its proper perspective. The present listings in the 1964 edition – Q27 (d), (e) and (f) refer to the first master plate, which was discarded and superseded in September 1961. Listing Q27 (g) is from the second master plate and these notes are additional to those appearing in "The Trail," *Philately from Australia*, June 1962.

Sheet "A" Left Pane R1/1

A.9: Phase III: The whole of the top left corner, the upper left frame, the branch between the left frame and the cat and the area below is now considerably lighter in appearance, but I have grave doubts that the recut horizontal shading lines differ in any respect from Phase II. It seems the corner was treated by slight bumping and burnishing with a view to minimising and lightening the appearance of Phase II. (Piece secured by L. Skinner, Sydney, 21.10.63.)

Sheet "C" Right Pane R9/6 and R9/7

C.14: Phase I, early 1962: R9/6 was a strong recut to eight horizontals above the cat's ear, leaving a weak area abutting the right frame and in which some five odd lines were recut.

R9/7: The branch between left frame and cat's tail was slightly weak.

Phase II, late December 1962: R9/6 – Secondary recut to Phase I. Heavy recutting of 11 lines above the ear, some 30 lines joining the right frame, and several curved lines of the neck above the ear.

R9/7: Several horizontals in the weak branch strengthened.

Phase III, 21.10.63: R9/6 – The cat's head and above and to the right are lighter in appearance with much recutting less obvious. The very noticeable heavy recutting of Phase II was bumped up and burnished and finer recutting executed with a sharp burin. There is some duplication and a number of diagonals have been recut, also the curves forming the outline of the animal's ear and neck. The branch above the cat's head is practically *non est*, except for a mere "stump" which has been strengthened. (L. Skinner, Sydney, was a few days ahead of Brisbane with this discovery.)

R9/7: As Phase II. In each phase the retouched dashes above "8" and the weak top of "8" and "d" remain constant.

On these C.14 sheets there are three close spots forming a slight arc some 11 mm. below "TR" of R.P. R10/3 which are regarded as an electro marking, and I may say it is seldom indeed that we find three attempts at correction to the same unit on the one electro, minor in the case of "A" L.P. 1/1, and major in the case of "C" R.P. 9/6.

Incidentally, the bar "S" flaw on sheet C.13 R.P. R7/8 had only about four months' existence before it was recut and is indeed very scarce.

There is also the possibility that a new electro has been prepared for the 8d. value as on 6.11.63 Mr Skinner secured an "A" sheet (L.P. 1/1 normal) with many heavy scratches round the large centre pip, so it may repay to watch this value closely.

5d. Export, 28 August 1963

The master plate consisted of 320 impressions to provide four post office sheets of 80 (8 x 10) and for once sheet disposition was difficult to determine, but the left sheets "A" and "C" have transferer's guide dots in the selvages in the parallel

of the lower frames, and the right sheets "B" and "D" have such dots in the parallel of the top frames. The word "Export" is apt too, because students "exported" much money in search of various lower sheets, although those upper sheets seen gave reward which was negligible in comparison to the lower sheets. I will therefore deal with the lower sheets from a probable five printing plates (electros), and the numbering of these electros is purely for expediency in the case of each sheet.

Sheet "C"

Electro 1

- R9/1: Cross-hatching recut in angle below jib and lifting cable.
- R10/3: (i) Primary recut to diagonals of Africa.
(ii) Secondary more extensive recut diagonals of Africa.
- R9/8: Semi-circular colour fleck in front of foot of first "A" of "Australia" (electro distinction).

Electro 2

- R9/1: Cross-hatching recut similar to El. 1. End of jib recut removing the pulley.
- R10/3: White Africa (weakness).
- R10/1: Short oblique colour line commencing 5 mm. below frame under 5d. (electro distinction).

Electro 3

- R9/1: Recut cross-hatching as in El. 1, and over guy wire and end of jib, also to end of jib which is thickened slightly, pulley removed.
- R10/1: Recut to Arctic area of globe.
- R10/3: Pale Africa.
- R10/8: Horizontal line 8 mm. below frame under "IA" running through right selvage (electro distinction).

Electro 4

- R9/1: Recut cross-hatching as in El. 1, also to end of jib with a short extension, pulley removed.
- R10/3: Pale Africa. (No apparent electro distinction.)

Electro 5

- R9/1: Recut wing tip, cross-hatching left of wing tip and guy wire, which is broken in pulley position (no pulley) with diagonal line cutting the void.
- R10/3: Pale Africa.

Sheet "D"

- R1/3: (ii) Spot before first "A" of "Australia."
(ii) Spot removed by bump-burnish.
- R5/4: Considerable recutting to cross-hatching over top left of crate and to two lines between sling and crate on left, also just right of hook.
Spot in shading at right, 1½ mm. in, 9 mm. up.

Electro 2

- R5/8: Spot off lower left corner of crate.
- R10/2: Spot off crate in lowest section of hatching at left.

These notes are by no means complete and it is hoped that further details will eventuate from other students, or when any stock held pending the cessation of sales of the Christmas issue is released for sale.

5d. Christmas Issue, 25 October 1963

It is early at time of writing to assess this issue fully, but it promises to contain more interest than might be expected. There is ample evidence of recutting on

many units in the same localised area, viz., from two to four lines under the left point of the star, particularly on left sheets "A" and "C." There are too many instances to pad the album and the problem is which section of a sheet to select by way of illustration.

On the other hand, sheet "D" (tentative) appears free of such recutting except that on R11/10 there is a bump and burnish recut at the base of the globe and above "TR."

The little I have seen of the Norfolk Island "twin" issue appears normal.

5d. Q.E. II Green, 9 October 1963

Little opportunity has presented to examine all sheets of this value but the light shading surrounding the oval will no doubt lend itself to many spots and dots if the instance of one sheet "C" is any criterion. On this sheet, L.P. R7/6, seven dashes of shading between the eye and the hair have been strengthened by recutting — believed to be an electro job.

Cocos (Keeling) Islands, 11 June 1963

As these issues are valid for use within Australia (an interesting article appears in a recent issue of the *American Philatelist*), it may have been observed that with the exception of the 2s. value, the letters of the imprints have tiny serifs. Such letters with serifs also appear on the Imprints of the 8d. and 2s. 3d. Papua-New Guinea issues of 11 May 1963. Imprints are generally only 36.5 mm. wide — the width approximately of two small-size Australian stamps — and presumably would be cut into an "imprint" die, taken up on a transfer relief and rolled into the master plate. The feasible explanation for the serified letters is a new "imprint" die, and perhaps some member of the Pacific Islands Study Circle would oblige the editor with some comment for the March issue.

EDITORIAL NOTES

MIPEX 1963

The Championship at the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition, held at the Town Hall and Preston Motors, Russell Street, from 7 to 12 October, was won by Dr W. P. Heslop, of Melbourne, for his collections of all Australian States.

It was a very popular award. Dr Heslop attended the first Australian Philatelic Congress and Exhibition in Sydney in 1911.

The American Philatelic Society award went to Mr G. V. Browning, Campbell's Creek, Victoria, for his China, Shanghai and Treaty Ports entries; and the trophy presented by Mr Dhirubhai Mehta, of Bombay, to Mrs M. E. Gates, Melbourne, for Newfoundland.

Col. F. V. Thompson, of Sydney, compiled the following analysis of the medal awards, which shows that 122 medals were given for the 201 entries.

	Entries	Gold	Silver-gilt	Silver	Bronze	Total
N.S.W.	52	3	8	7	15	33
Vic.	83	3	5	18	21	47
S.A.	9		1	2	1	4
Qld.	3				2	2
Tas.	3				2	2
W.A.	1				1	1
Canberra	3			1		1
G.B.	20	3	1	4	7	15
N.Z.	6	1	2	1		4
S. Africa	2			1	1	2
S. Rhod.	1			1		1
India	3	1	1			2
U.S.A.	8			1	4	5
Neth.	4		1			1
Chile	2		1		1	2
	201	11	20	36	55	122

WHAT PUBLICATIONS MEAN TO A PHILATELIC SOCIETY

By J. R. W. PURVES

People join adult philatelic societies presumably because they desire to collect stamps in an adult fashion. What is, or should be, an adult fashion?

Most of the members of a society such as the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria have been successful in their own trade or profession. They have given study and thought to it and most of their success is due to the fact that they perform their tasks in an above-average manner. Adult collection should, in my view, if one is to get the best out of it—be carried on in precisely the same manner.

It remains a fact, however, that 19 out of 20 adult collectors are simply collecting stamps in the same way that a reasonably intelligent girl or boy of 15 years of age could, or does, collect them. The only difference when one is older is that you have a cheque book at your command.

The screaming need in Australian collecting today — and stamp collecting is now one of the number of traditional hobbies competing with many newer hobbies — is to maintain, much less increase the number of senior collectors in the hobby. Comparatively few adult collectors become senior collectors and that is why, after pursuing the hobby for a while, so many give it away. They have merely pursued it in the common way, common to all collectors from the age of about eight years upwards. With or without catalogues, it soon has nothing more to offer them.

The type I would designate as a senior collector never stops learning and new possibilities are always opening up for him. The hobby is an integral part of his life, all his life.

If ways and means are not found of breeding senior collectors in this country all sorts of things are liable to happen, which may well spell disaster for us. For instance, if present trends continue, MIPLEX might well be the last large exhibition in this country because there just will not be sufficient collectors with the experience, knowledge and incentive to run another. Although, on this occasion we had the necessary manpower, we encountered numerous difficulties — all part of the times in which we live — which we had never experienced before. Many people screamed for action but the action had to come from very few.

All this has a great deal to do with publications. People often have asked me how I have acquired such information as I possess — in fact am still constantly acquiring. The answer lies in reading about stamps and studying stamps. I have now been a subscriber to serious journals for some 45 years.

Reading authoritative works supplies information on stamps, methods of study, methods of presentation, fields of interest, methods of mounting and many other

aspects. It does not matter whether you collect the field in question or not; and here I come up against one of the dominant habits of adult collectors that really annoy me. That is the habit of reading, if at all, only books directly concerning their own subject. This may, at first sight, suit many but it only encourages one to pursue the chase along a very well-beaten path. Reading outside one's subject broadens the mind, brings your own subject into its true perspective, and stimulates the collector with new ideas.

If stamp study is sufficiently attractively presented, it provides a wealth of suggestion for the collector who wants to get more out of his collecting, or the student who wants to study effectively.

Most of the adult writers on philately have been through a mill of much experience. To have no contact with the springs which flow out of such clefts is to deprive oneself of a good deal. Those who do so deprive themselves regard serious stamp-reading, or perusal, as a bore. But once you summon the energy — and, I might say, the stomach to have a go at it — perusal produces such results so far as the enjoyment of our own collecting is concerned that you continue to read.

Serious philatelic reading is indispensable to the creation of serious philatelic stature, which is something not very conspicuous in Australia today.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is a "Royal" Society and is, at the moment, the most important society in the country. Its position, I think, we would all want to maintain.

As a "Royal" society also it behoves us to do a great deal for the hobby which is not required of other societies. It has to speak to the world for the best quality Australian collecting and Australian study. If we continue so to speak and the quality is maintained, many advantages in turn come to us. We receive, for instance, a great deal of assistance, in many projects, from leading collectors elsewhere, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and the Collectors' Club, New York.

Likewise, leading collectors from overseas who are visiting here make this society a port of call and, in their turn, pass others on.

Our own members — when travelling — are welcomed by both societies and collectors abroad.

I can think of nothing more likely to demonstrate the quality of Australian collecting and study so much as the publication of authoritative works on Australian stamps — on stamps or on postal history. These works are vital enough for the present, but for the future they are essential. If, indeed, they are not published in the near future, and the job is left to a succeeding generation, holdings may have become so scattered that a substantial study and an effective collection become impossible.

All technical works are expensive to produce and so far as a work of any size is concerned, the plain truth at the moment is that this society is the only body in Australia that can find both the men and the money to make their publication possible. That state of affairs may, of course, not continue.

It is equally certain, once they are published, that they can only serve to main-

tain, if not enhance this society's prestige and reputation. Quality, quality, quality. That is all that ultimately counts in the world of the senior collector.

Comparatively few — it is fair to say — realise the amount of study, work, love, labour and money that goes into the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's publications. Few of its members support those publications, principally because the field covered is not an immediate source of interest to them. Nor are they alone in that. The same is true of the senior Royal society, in London. Take, for instance, our own society's recently published textbook on Tasmania. To date, about 18 copies out of 202 copies sold have been purchased by members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. This, compared with the society's membership total, gives no particular encouragement to its publication committee.

Each new publishing venture, however, brings information of use and value to the society for its next publishing venture. We are gradually building a list of collectors, societies, libraries and bookshops, the world over, who are likely to buy our publications. Our friend John Gartner has been a tower of strength in this department and the work is still going ahead. Not only are we finding buyers for new publications but we are, at the same time, publicising all our wares by "brochures" attracting purchasers for all those earlier publications of which we still hold not inconsiderable stocks.

If collecting is to maintain its hold for more-than-average adults, it must offer an authoritative — and attractive — literature. Every one of our books sold will make the society's publication job for the future easier.

If the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has given you anything, perhaps you will think, sometimes, of reciprocating. If you do, I am sure the society will not be the only one to benefit.

Regarding *Philately from Australia*, where smaller study offerings continue to appear, let me say one or two things:

Such a journal must necessarily be run at a loss unless we are better supported by advertising, and that goes for both local and overseas dealers. That advertising must largely be of an institutional nature and it is not easy to get. The position has, however, improved considerably recently. Some of you may not realise, however, the amount of worthwhile and often expensive literature which accrues year by year to the society's library by reason of the review copies received. These represent a quite substantial saving of monies which would otherwise have to be expended.

Our journal is now in its 15th year, it is recognised as "quality" goods and does its part in keeping the society in the place which belongs to it. Those who read it enjoy it, and may I say that whatever criticism is levelled at its inability to make a profit — and to achieve this would be a miracle — it is necessary. And we can afford it.

Just as an absence of reading means an absence of quality of collecting or study, so an absence of publications means an absence of quality in a Royal society. Help us, by buying and reading these publications, to maintain our quality.

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PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Convener's Address: 26 Redgrave Road, Normanhurst, N.S.W.

INTER-ISLAND POSTMARK OF RAROTONGA

Recently a member of the Circle reported a cover bearing a seldom used cancellation from Rarotonga. This is an official envelope addressed to one of the Resident Agents of the group and has the stamp on it cancelled with a dumb mark consisting of an oval with two intersecting pairs of parallel lines inside its circumference. The mark is struck in black ink and measures 30 mm. in length



by 17 mm. in width. The accompanying Rarotongan postmark which appears on the envelope is dated 9 June 1960.

The following is an extract from a letter from the postmaster, Rarotonga, concerning this cover:

"This mark is held here at Rarotonga and is used to cancel stamps which have been affixed to letters posted in some of the more distant islands of the Cook group where no post office is established. You may have noted that the Rarotonga datestamp appears beside the stamp marked in this way. Such letters usually reach Rarotonga by trading schooner or some such vessel and are not actually in the post until received in this post office. I understand the practice of marking such letters in this manner is of fairly long standing but I can see little reason for such action."

NEW GUINEA G.R.I. REGISTRATION LABELS

One of our members has had the privilege of viewing a collection of New Guinea G.R.I. Registration labels. In this collection is a sheet of 50 (ten horizontal rows of five) labels of Kawieng (S.G. 37). The sheet has a selvedge on the lower edge 13 mm. wide with the inscription "c35 Blatt 1" in the right hand corner. The units forming the sheet were numbered from 1 to 50, commencing in the lower right hand corner and progressing to the left. The bottom row was numbered from 1 to 5.

The major varieties noticed in the G.R.I. overprint are listed as follows:

No. 49 (i.e., top row, fourth from right) shows a circular stop after "G"; shaved at left hand corner; the stop after "R" is oval shaped and the punctuation mark after "I" is like a comma with a very short tail.

These varieties are repeated on stamps immediately below No. 49 (i.e., numbers 44, 39, 34, 29, 24, 19, 14, 9 and 4).

No. 48 (i.e., top row, third from right) top left serif of "I" is missing.

This variety is repeated on stamps immediately below No. 48 (i.e., numbers 43, 38, 33, 28, 23, 18, 13, 8 and 3).

No. 47 (i.e., top row, second stamp from right) shows comma for circular stop after "d" in "3d." and is repeated on stamps immediately below No. 47 (i.e., numbers 42, 37, 32, 27, 22, 17, 12, 7 and 2).

From this evidence we can conclude the overprint was set up in a horizontal row of five and repeated ten times.

EDITORIAL NOTES

75th Anniversary

A novel feature of the exhibition to mark the 75th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, held at Parliament Buildings, Wellington, in September, were Court of Honour displays by other Royal Philatelic Societies.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, provided essays of the King George V issues; the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, pre-stamp covers; the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, stamps of the Australian States; and the Royal Philatelic Society of Capetown, pre-stamp covers dating back three centuries.

The New Zealand Postmaster-General's Department produced mint sheets of the 1d., 2d., 6d. and 1/- Chalon Heads, from its archives.

From the anniversary dinner, a message of greeting was sent to Mr W. Orchard, of Hobart, who has been a member for 74 years.

The society issued a special blue embossed envelope, and the Post and Telegraph Department provided a special cancellation at the exhibition post office: "Royal Philatelic Society, 75th Anniversary 19 Sp 1963 N.Z. Parliament Buildings."

The New Zealand Stamp Collector reproduced one of the envelopes, prepared for use but not posted, addressed to Sir Phillip Doolittle, F.R.P.S.N.Z., Philatelic Ombudsman, Watermark Flats, Perforation Avenue, Chalon Heads, New Zealand.

David H. Hill Medals Presented

The first presentation of the David H. Hill Medal, established by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, were made at the MIPEX Dinner at Menzies' Hotel on 10 October to Messrs J. R. W. Purves and H. M. Campbell.

David H. Hill was the founder and first president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and one of the original names on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (*P. from A.*, March 1957, p. 9; September 1957, p. 77; September 1963, p. 61).

New N.G. Post Offices

Seven new post offices are being opened in Papua-New Guinea. Opening dates are: Laiagam, 9 December 1963; Koroba, 30 December; Tari, 3 January 1964; Kagua, 14 January; Erave, 16 January; Pangia, 18 January; Ialibu, 24 January.

Laiagam is in the Western Highlands; the others in the Southern Highlands.

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

I N D E X

VOLUME 15, 1963

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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MELBOURNE

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

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The Other Side of the Picture



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

It is now a long time since this feature appeared. Its apparent death is not due to any lack of fuel but only to the writer's recent inability, so far as philately is concerned, to look beyond the tasks of MIPEX and the preparation of his own book.

On this occasion *all* the information relates to numeral cancellations – Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria.

In the case of Queensland, Mr Campbell has seen more material since the subject was last ventilated (September 1962) and his consolidation of this new material is presented below.

In the cases of New South Wales and Victoria, the appearance of the two recent books has provoked a searching among existing material, revealed a few errors, and added a substantial amount of new information, which probably would not have seen the light of day had not the books appeared and suggested the pattern and likely significance of such material. Speaking as one of the authors concerned, this is a warming experience. I hope yet more information will come to light over the next year or so. Authors have frequent doubts as to whether their toil has been worthwhile and responses such as we have received – and received relatively quickly – certainly help to stem such doubts.

QUEENSLAND

(a) *Confirmations*

59 BALD HILLS; 88 SPRING CREEK; 325 EWAN; 355 BOULDERCOMBE; 372 BEDOURIE; 442 WOODY POINT; 505 COOROY; 582 HAMBLEDON JN.; 598 DONORS HILL; 602 EBAGOOLAH; 611 KINGAROY; 614 PALMWOODS; 629 SILVERSPUR; 639 LOWER TULLY.

(b) *Corrections*

225 MILLMERRAN (*not* 235).
332 CLARE (*not* 407).
409 BETHANIA (*not* 326).

(c) *New Ties*

92 ENGELSBURG. Porter, p. 29. Probably a change of site from nearby FASSIFERN (Porter, p. 16).

- 95 TOOLBURRA. Porter, p. 31. A re-allocation *and* replacement (in a new bar type).
- 97 MERINGANDAN. Porter, p. 24. A re-allocation *and* replacement (in a new bar type).
- 109 YANGAN. Porter, p. 24. A replacement (in a bar type) apparently used contemporaneously with the "ray" type 109 at YANDINA.
- 234 T.P.O. No. 4, S. & W. RLY. Porter, p. 20, shows this as a T.P.O., but not the specific number.
- 235 T.P.O. No. 3, S. & W. RLY.
- 251 EMUFORD. Porter, p. 31. A re-allocation.
- 323 KINCORA. Porter (p. 22, opp. NORTH BRANCH) shows this as a probable, on the evidence of 323 and "NC." Now confirmed.
- 381 VICTORIA ESTATE. Porter, p. 31. A re-allocation.
- 415 WONDAL. Porter, p. 31. A re-allocation.
- 470 KARUMBA. Porter, p. 27.
- 482 WELLINGTON POINT. Porter, p. 27.
- 538 INNISPLAIN. Porter, p. 31. Almost certainly a change of site from nearby TELEMONT CROSSING (Porter, p. 29).
- 556 PORT DOUGLAS. Porter, p. 21. A replacement. Two examples.
- 575 T.P.O. No. 2, N.C. R'WAY (NORTH COAST RAILWAY). Two examples.
- 616 ROADVALE. Porter, p. 31.
- 618 HOWARD. Not in Porter.
- 643 FORTITUDE VALLEY. Porter, p. 20. A replacement.

(d) *Other Items of Interest*

- 291 This is well known "tied" to GREENMOUNT (Porter, p. 21, opp. EMU CREEK SIDING). We now have it "tied" to GREENMOUNT R.S. (railway station). The change of name took place about 1902.
- 346 This is also well known "tied" to GERALDTON (Porter, p. 23, opp. JOHNSTONE RIVER). Mr A. E. Williams has shown us a postcard showing the "tie" to the later name of INNISFAIL.
- 101 This has been confirmed as used at KILLARNEY NORTH (Porter, p. 27). We now have it on a 1907 cover "tied" to KILLARNEY. The change of name took place in November 1905.
- 565 Well known as used as a replacement at ONE MILE CREEK (Porter, p. 16). We now have it on a 1905 cover "tied" to ONE MILE. The change of name took place about 1897, but the datestamp was not altered for some years.

Travelling Post Offices

- (a) We now have Nos. 233, 234 and 235 "tied" to T.P.O.s of the Southern and Western Railway, but according to the *Queensland Government Gazette* four T.P.O.s were opened on this group of lines on 1.1.77. It is very likely, therefore, that No. 236 was also allocated to a T.P.O. Porter (p. 15) reports that Maryborough used that number, but, if this is correct (we have not seen it), it must be a re-allocation.

- (b) We now know that No. 575 was used by T.P.O. No. 2 on the North Coast Railway. There were, however, three T.P.O.s on this railway, so it is likely that No. 574 was allocated to T.P.O. No. 1, and No. 576 to T.P.O. No. 3.

NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr Campbell reports a number of new ties (or confirmations of probables) as follows, the pages being those of the Brown-Campbell book:

- p. 29 507 TOCUMWAL.
 p. 32 619 CARRICK (now certain).
 p. 35 737 LITTLE BILLABONG (now certain).
 p. 38 845 HARRINGTON (*not* 846).
 p. 41 967 WOODLANDS (*not* 968).
 p. 41 974 WHITE ROCK (*not* 976).
 p. 45 1141 YURRUNGA.
 p. 51 1383 DOREE (later DORA CREEK).
 p. 53 1465 BLACK RANGE.
 p. 54 1530 MOUNT IDA (now certain).
 p. 60 1782 LAKESLAND.
 p. 61 1853 BIRRIWA.
 p. 63 1944 CENTRAL RALEIGH (latest figure uncertain).
 p. 65 2027 BOLARO.
 p. 67 2089 WAKOOL CROSSING (name does not appear in the book; we evidently didn't take the chronological list far enough).

He has also received some highly interesting new information from Mr A. G. Rigo de Righi, of England, which is summarised below:

CHAPTER III

- p. 6, 1st para. Apparently *not all* the Type 1 obliterators were recalled in April 1857, as Mr Rigo de Righi has covers from Shoalhaven (June 1857), Raymond Terrace (December 1857) and Moama (July 1859), with obliterators of this type.
- p. 7, penultimate para. Mr Rigo de Righi has a manuscript "67."
- pp. 8-9 The following types, shown as not seen by us, have now been seen:
- 22 Type 1.
 - 27 Type 1.
 - 103 Type 1.
 - 110 Type 2a.
 - 151 Type 1.

CHAPTER IV

- p. 17 103 OPHIR. "Tie" now certain.
 p. 23 292 CHARCOAL CREEK. c.d.s. read "CHARCOAL."
 p. 32 609 BARRANJOEY. New "tie."
 p. 55 1561 SHELLHARBOUR RAILWAY STATION (later DUNMORE). New "tie."

VICTORIA

One "NNS" found. Mr Rensky, of Melbourne, has shown me 1416 (in Type 14). He pointed out to me at the same time that I had *illustrated* 1416. This was a shock since I had checked the "NNS" list carefully. 1416 *was* (then) an NNS. Further investigation solved the mystery. I had, when retouching my photographs, made a 1416 out of a 1410! No explanation save a very late infusion of midnight oil (take that any way you like) seems possible for this aberration.

Two new "ties": (a) One was an envelope shown me at the Exhibition by a lady from Geelong showing the cancellation 582, *tied* to POINT HENRY. (b) The other was a 787 cancellation on a piece shown me by Mr Rensky *tied* to DIAMOND HILL (or at least sufficient of that name to make it a certainty).

The greatest volume of new material came from Mr E. T. Currie of Monbulk, who, like the others concerned, submitted it all for checking. His new material is summarised, in terms of additions and alterations, as follows:

- p. 71 45 Add "and in *blue*, 1891."
 p. 73 62 Add "and in *violet*, 1891."
 p. 87 247 First Duplex (3) seen dated 15.7.78.
 247 Second duplex (4) seen dated 31.5.89.
 p. 91 314 Add, at end of (2), "in *blue*, 1891."
 p. 98 442 Add "(2) smaller figures, 1892 or earlier."
 p. 103 547 Add — after "Type 5" — "Also in *violet*, 1892."
 p. 120 893 Add — after "Type 8" — "In *blue*, 1898."
 p. 129 1083 Add — at end — "and *violet*, 1891."
 p. 130 1097 The Beaconsfield "star" cancellation also occurs in *black*, about 1897. Incidentally, the bottom ornament is a six-pointed star, not a maltese cross as with Narre Warren.
 p. 129 1096 Add — after "earlier" — "Also in *violet*, 1898."
 p. 146 1493 Add — "and *violet*, 1898."
 p. 150 1607 Add "Also in *violet*, 1893, and *magenta*, 1894-6."

Consequential alterations, in respect of the coloured markings given above, will also have to be made on pages 45 and 46.

Mr Currie has also supplied some new c.d.s. dates as follows:

- p. 79 127 Here some type has fallen out. The name CROYDON should appear under "WARRANTYTE." Mr Currie has a "CROYDON" framed c.d.s. in 1907.
 p. 213 Mr Currie has Betley dated 6.9.11 and Merbein dated 27.8.11.

THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BARAKOMA AIRFIELD

By REV. A. H. VOYCE

(Continued from June 1963, p. 53)

SECTION 5

THE BARAKOMA AIRFIELD POSTAL AGENCY

A. *The Period of the Manuscript Cancellations*

In 1953 the residents of Vella Lavella, one of whom was a member of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate Advisory Council (Mr Leslie F. Gill of Lambu Lambu), began to press for permission to have mails despatched from Vella Lavella after the receipt of the inwards mail. Up till that time, mail received from Australia could not be despatched until the following week, when it had to go down to Honiara on the incoming plane, and periodically there was a two-weeks lag as the mail came by plane weekly for three weeks and the fourth week was without a service. Thus residents found that urgent mail and orders were greatly delayed.

Permission was ultimately granted for mail to be despatched from Barakoma Airfield in a sealed bag for Sydney direct, so mail could be accepted at Barakoma right up until the time for departure of the airliner, thus giving residents a chance to answer mail received the previous day on the incoming aeroplane. There was a precedent for this, in that Yandina, in the Russell Islands, had been operating a similar service for some time!

This is the story of how this came about. On Saturday, 19 September 1953, while in the British Solomons, as Acting-Chairman of the Methodist Missionary Society of New Zealand, I was passing through Gizo when the District Commissioner, Western (as the Government representative in Gizo was called), notified me that a member of the Methodist Mission staff at Bilau, Miss Winifred B. Poole (a nurse), was being authorised to despatch mail from Barakoma Airfield, beginning with the outwards flight on 22 September 1953, and asked, if I had no objection to this procedure, would I notify her to that effect, as I was intending to call at Vella Lavella on my journey north to Bougainville; and would I tell her that she would be officially notified, and that a native constable would be sent over with the necessary equipment, and he would give instructions regarding procedure. Mail was to be dealt with by a manuscript marking "BARAKOMA," date, and initials or signature. The whole procedure was to assist local residents in answering mail immediately upon receipt from Australia, instead of having to await the next plane, and, upon arrival at Balua, Vella Lavella, despatch mail via Honiara.

I duly passed on those verbal instructions to Miss Poole that afternoon, and, as I was leaving that evening for Buin, I arranged that she should despatch to me on Bougainville a number of covers and air letter forms.

The promised native constable duly arrived with mail despatch forms and other equipment in time for the mail to be despatched, but without any letter from the Government officer giving detailed instructions. A few days later the promised letter arrived, which stated that only air letter forms on which there was a uniform postage rate could be despatched.

No such limiting instruction had been given me to pass on to Miss Poole, but simply that an airmail bag could be made up and despatched direct to Sydney from Barakoma, hence that first mail on 22 September was made up of both letters and air letter forms.

The fact that this despatch was to be made from Barakoma Airfield was not widely known, and therefore the number despatched on that first service was extremely limited.

I have in my possession the original letter received by Miss Poole from the District Officer, Gizo, which I quote in full:

42/2/132.

Office of the District Commissioner,
Gizo.
19 Sept 1953

Dear Sister Poole,

I have had a reply from the Protectorate Postmaster regarding the despatch of outward airmail direct to Sydney, rather than on the inward plane via Honiara. The Postmaster has agreed that, if you would kindly be willing to undertake the small amount of bureaucracy involved, residents of Vella Lavella may despatch airmail letter cards only per the outward plane in a bag made up at Barakoma. This will give the opportunity of replying to inward mail by the return of the plane. The arrangement will, at least initially, be confined to airmail letter cards only, the postage of which is a flat rate of 8d. and for which there are no complications about weights. The cancellation of the stamps can be done by writing the date across them, or by a datestamp. The amount of work involved in making up and despatching the mail is quite simple, and I have sent Sam Alehehala across, with a small supply of the necessary forms, etc., and he should be able to give you any information you may need. Copies of the letter bill and mail receipts should be kept, and the copy of the Way Bill should be sent to the Protectorate Postmaster as soon as possible after the despatch of the mail. The labels should be attached to the bag, which should be as small and light as possible, and the mail No. starting from 1 onwards, the office of destination (Postmaster, Sydney) and via Lae should be inserted on each label. Should you so desire, the new arrangements may start with this plane. I would be most grateful if you could let me know whether the above is self-explanatory, and that you would inform me whether any further information is required. Incidentally, the original of the letter bill should be enclosed in the mail bag. This is the most important document, as it is the only indication of the place of origin.

Hoping the arrangements will be of service to the residents of Vella Lavella,

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

District Officer, Gizo.

The document bears an impression of "BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS H.M. CUSTOMS" applied over the text of the letter upon its receipt at Bilua, as was the normal practice with such official documents.

The first mail despatched by Miss Poole was endorsed in black manuscript:

BARAKOMA
22/9/53
W. B. Poole.

and the items addressed to me on Bougainville were backstamped upon receipt:

BUIN
PAPUA-NEW GUINEA
1 OC 53

As Miss Poole was shortly due for furlough, she serviced only the following mails:
22.9.53; 28/29.9.53; 5/6.10.53 (no service); 12/13.10.53

Thus it will be noted that only three mails were serviced by Miss Poole, and, so far as I have information, the only "reported" surviving examples are those of the first mail out, 22.9.53.

Upon the departure of Miss Poole, the resident minister at Bilua, the Rev. Trevor Shepherd, was authorised by the Protectorate Postmaster to carry out the postal duties at Barakoma Airfield. But Mr Shepherd was also soon to go on furlough, so his term as postal officer was quite brief:

<i>Possible Service Dates</i>	<i>Signature or initials</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
19-20.10.53	No signature or initials	This is a "piece" only of cover, with 1/5 in stamps. Ms. cancelled in hand of Mr Shepherd "BARAKOMA 19/10/53." Collection D. J. Paul of N.Z.
26-27.10.53		No example reported.
2-3.11.53 (No service)		No example reported.
9-10.11.53	T. Shepherd	Aerogramme ms. "BARAKOMA 16/11/53." To Shepherd, in collection J. B. Jaffray of U.S.A., and Adyess-Scott of G.B. Backstamped Relief
23-24.11.53		No. 6 of "BUIN, Papua-N.G."
30.11 & 1.12.53 (No service)		No example reported.
7-8.12.53	T. Shepherd	Aerogramme backstamped Relief No. 6 "23 DE 53." M/s "BARAKOMA 8/12/53." T. Shepherd
<p>This downward flight was the first flight from the newly opened airfield at Buka, near Sohano (7.12.53), replacing Torokina. An aerogramme postmarked "SOHANA 5 DE 53" is addressed Barakoma Airfield, and bears the manuscript endorsement "FIRST FLIGHT D.C.3 'BIRD OF PARADISE' SOHANA - BARAKOMA. 7.12.53." Thus the return flight was the following day, and the aerogramme is addressed to Buin, Bougainville, and is manuscript cancelled "BARAKOMA DEC 8, 1953. T. Shepherd" over a block of four 2d. Coronation stamps, and it was backstamped on arrival "Relief No. 6 PAPUA-N.G. 23 DE 53."</p>		
14-15.12.53		An aerogramme from T. Shepherd with Australian stamps postmarked "LAE 16 DE 53." Why per "safe hand" of the pilot with Australian stamps, and not with B.S.I. stamps ms. cancelled? Did Shepherd have some Australian stamps he wanted to use up?
21-22.12.53	T. Shepherd	An aerogramme with ms. cancellation in red ink "BARAKOMA DEC 21 1953." T. Shepherd, but backstamped on arrival "BUIN 4 MY 54." Why?

Was it cancelled for despatch 21.12.53 and then for some reason could not be despatched? Aerogramme was not written until 11.4.54 by the mission medical officer.

28-29.12.53 (No service)
4-5.1.54

No example reported.

The rarest of the Barakoma Airfield manuscript cancellations is that of the Chairman of the Mission District, the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, who spent some weeks on Vella Lavella when the Rev. Shepherd departed on furlough, and so was authorised to be the Barakoma Airfield postal agency official for the despatch of mails. He was postal official for only two mails.

11-12.1.54

No example has been reported.

18-19.1.54 J.R.M.

Ms. "BARAKOMA JRM 19/1/54." An aerogramme addressed to Bougainville, backstamped Relief No. 6 "PAPUA-N.G. 20 JA 54."

Mr Metcalfe wrote to me under date 19.1.54: "This epistle is largely to let you have a wonderful stamp to add to your collection. You will never get another like it, since I am off duty after tomorrow. Trevor departed last week, Davinia should be taking on a fortnight hence."

A single stamp has come to light in the collection of D. J. Paul of N.Z. It is a 2d. George VI and has in the handwriting of Miss D. J. Clark the inscription "BARAKOMA 19/1/54," but bears the initials and "hand" of the Rev. J. R. Metcalfe, "JRM." Probably Mr Metcalfe was "instructing" Miss Clark in the mail procedure, for she had returned from furlough the day before (18.1.54) and was, according to the text of Mr Metcalfe's letter quoted above, to attend to the following mail out from Barakoma, for he wrote: "Davinia should be taking on a fortnight hence." But she could not officially "sign" as she was not "authorised."

And so Miss D. J. Clark came to be authorised to despatch mails from Barakoma Airfield and despatched her first mail:

1-2.2.54 D. J. Clark

Aerogramme in collection K. B. Jaffray of U.S.A. Relief No. 6 "BUIN Papua-N.G." backstamp.

8-9.2.54

No example reported this plane. Plane delayed at Lae with wheel trouble, and made trip in and out on 9.2.54.

15-16.2.54 D.J.C.

Aerogramme, backstamped "BUIN 5 MR 64" (error for 54!). Ms. "BARAKOMA 16/2/54 D.J.C." Another aerogramme addressed to New Zealand came through without any cancellation.

22-23.2.54 (No service)
1-2.3.54

Aerogramme. Example reported in collection K. B. Jaffray, U.S.A., with Relief No. 6 "BUIN" backstamp.

For some time, pressure was being brought in the Solomon Islands for permission to have airmail letters and small airmail packages transmitted through Barakoma.

(To be continued)

REVIEWS

The Australian Specialists' Catalogue, 1964.

Edited by J. C. W. Brown, 25th edition, 132 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price 10/6.

I must confess to some slight disappointment on checking the 25th edition of *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* with the previous one. Perhaps I expected too many changes and revisions to celebrate a Silver Jubilee issue. Noteworthy changes there certainly are.

The introduction opens with a comparison of the prices quoted in the first edition of this catalogue, 1926. The rises are amazing and indicate that good items not only give a lift to the quality of one's collection but also have proved a remarkable investment and a hedge against inflation.

There has been some re-writing in the Kangaroo issues with the 2½d., 3d., 4d., and 5d. values. Attention has been drawn to the interest in the postage dues, and, now that they have been discontinued, perhaps we may see these re-written on specialist lines.

In a quick glance through I notice price alterations in the following:

Rises in the 4d. 'roo, O.S. 5/- first watermark monograms up £5, £1 first watermark a rise of £10 and £15; substantial rises in the 1d. red K.G. V, die 2, mint.

Falls: 5/- third watermark monogram down £5; with the imprints, Harrison dropping from £45 to £20, and the Ash from £55 down to £30 (I always thought the Ash imprint was the scarcest of the various 5/- imprints). £1 grey, third watermark, down from £65 to £50, with the same value but with C of A watermark showing a drop of £10.

The high value 'roo imprints are extremely scarce, many of the dealers I contacted have not had any of these in stock for a long time; why, then, the drop?

In the Commemoratives, most of the 3d. blue issues have had reductions in the mint pricings, bringing them down nearer the market.

O64, 1/- green, no wmk, mint, listed at 2/-, is too low, as dealers are willingly paying that. The "green mist" variety listed at £5: in a block of eight this sold at an

October auction in London for £11.10.0 sterling.

One question: A5, the 6d. airmail brown, lists plate number dots – to be consistent, should not the plate dots of the 5/- Harbour Bridge also be listed?

In Q20, 5d. blue Q.E. II 1959, there are probably more than 30 retouches, most of them minor, but there are certainly several major ones worthy of listing. Similar remarks could be made to other recent issues.

In this reviewer's opinion, it is easier and more preferable to write-up stamps while they are recent or current than to handle issues 40 years old.

The printers have done their best for the silver jubilee edition by using a better quality paper.

C.O.D.

The Australian Stamp Catalogue, 1964, fifth edition, 32 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Review Publications Pty Ltd, Dubbo, N.S.W. Price 3/6.

This simplified catalogue is now established and shows continued improvement. Besides the official issues, it lists the Ross Smith, Herald and Pals airmails, and the food parcel adhesives.

The extensive notes regarding what commemoratives commemorate grow more important as the number of commemoratives increases.

Zumstein Europa Katalog, 1964, 47th edition.

1650 pp. 8 x 5 in. Published by Zumstein et Cie, Berne, Switzerland. Price Fr. 22 (Swiss).

Zumstein's annual chronicles the onward march of prices and the publishers remark that the upward trend which has prevailed for several years has shown no signs of slackening.

Specially notable rises include San Marino 500 lira airmail 1951 from 70/75 fr. to 175/200 fr., and Vatican City 1931 set from 60/42 fr. to 160/100 fr.

The republic of Cyprus enters Zumstein this year, but French Morocco has been ejected as not pertaining to European post offices abroad.

Zumstein's vital statistics are an increase of 50 pages; more than 22,000 illustrations; and more than 124,000 prices, a rise of 3000.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1963

December

- 9 Library and Conversation
- 19 Aspects of Philatelic Publication: Messrs H. M. Campbell, E. G. Creed, J. Gartner and J. R. W. Purves
Presentation of MIPEX awards.

1964

January

- 16 The Sydney Forgery Prosecution, 1963:
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Detective-Sergeant J. Biggs

February

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- 20 Fiji: Mr J. Gartner
Ringwood Philatelic Society, guests
- 29 Auction

March

- 9 Library and Conversation
- 19 Western Australian Postal History:
Mr George Owen

April

- 13 Library and Conversation
- 16 Hong Kong: Mr R. H. Taylor
- 30 Argentine: Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson
Finland: Mr A. W. Bunn

N.S.W. Numeral Cancellations

Mr H. M. Campbell, co-author with Mr A. G. Brown of the book on the New South Wales numeral cancellations recently published, spoke of the background of the book at the September meeting.

Mr Campbell dealt extensively with the patient research which resulted in more than 1000 new "ties" being established.

He explained the 11 general patterns of allocation and the five types of obliterations, with their sub-types and noted the exceptions.

Mr Campbell spoke of some of the more amusing aspects of the study and provided an interesting introduction to a field that was unknown to most members.

The book was reviewed in the September issue of *Philately from Australia*.

MIPEX Court of Honour

The display given at the October meeting, a few days after the closing of MIPEX, was probably the most valuable ever given before the society — selections from the fabulous Court of Honour.

Mr J. R. W. Purves provided the commentary, explaining the points of particular interest and giving glimpses of the personalities who owned them.

Ocean Penny Postage

Mr F. E. Wood provided the display at the second October meeting, featuring items which had attracted much attention in his MIPEX exhibits.

The chief feature of the display was his collection of covers tracing the Ocean Penny Postage campaign. The range of attractive and picturesque covers stressed the efforts of Elihu Burritt, Montgomery Blair, Adam Kasson, Heinrich von Stephan, Sir William Muloch, Sir Henniker Heaton, and Sir Joseph Ward, from 1850 to 1901.

The other section of the display was concentrated on the local posts of Australia.

These included the Coolgardie and Lake Lefroy cycle posts of W.A., the Murray River Steam Navigation Co. locals, and Boyd's special delivery, Melbourne.

The different dies of the Cycle Posts, clearly marked, excited especial interest.

Highlight was the unique Murray River local on cover. This, Mr Wood said, was unearthed in the United States.

Barred Numerals

At the November meeting, Mr J. R. W. Purves displayed some of the material which formed the basis of the handbook on the "Barred Numeral" cancellations of Victoria, which the society published for MIPEX.

These ran from 1856 to 1912 and the selection presented came from Mr Purves' 25 volumes of them. Prior to the display he explained the origins of the "Barred Numerals" and the development and changes in the series during its period.

Stamps on which the "Barred Numerals" were seen ranged from Victorian half-lengths to the Commonwealth King George V Penny Red.

The display included a copy of the final number 2100 on 1d. Kangaroo.

He mentioned in passing that the series starting MCC had nothing to do with either the Melbourne Cricket Club or the Melbourne City Council — they meant 1200.

Society's Building

The value of having a headquarters for the society was clearly seen during MIPEX.

It was the locale for a well-attended society cocktail party during MIPEX, both the council room and the meeting room being well filled with guests.

Many visitors, interstate and overseas, commented upon the advantages of headquarters, and to many of them its amenities were an unexpected and pleasant surprise.

The far-flung but enterprising Papuan Philatelic Society also took the opportunity to hold a meeting.

The building was also open throughout MIPEX, with committee members to show visitors over it.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

1964

January

- 14 The Channel Islands and other interesting places around the British Isles: Mr R. H. Markham

February

- 11 Danish Postal Stationery: Mr A. C. Jamieson. (Guest Exhibitor)

March

- 10 A Display of Thematics: Mrs J. A. Clayton
31 Sarawak: Mr C. M. C. Symes, F.R.P.S.L. (Guest Exhibitor)

Entries for Medal Competition to be delivered to the Secretary

April

- 14 Medal Competition. Entries will be judged prior to the meeting and displayed.

It is expected that the printed syllabus for 1964 will be posted to members before the end of December.

Sweden

Miss Mary Salier presented a display of items from her collection of the stamps of Sweden at the regular October meeting. The display, mainly of postally-used stamps, with few mint issues, was very representative of this most interesting country.

Many varieties, well illustrated by line drawings and excellently annotated, were included in the stamps shown as were many interesting postmarks.

Italy and Other Places

Six members of the Club, who are also members of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, provided a "London Royal" display at the second October meeting.

Mr Hamilton Croaker showed Italian Ship Letters and included in his section of the display were rare cancellations on Italian, Greek and Egyptian stamps, together with the Lloyd Triestino stamp on cover.

Mr E. J. Garrard included New Zealand cancellations of World War II on Norfolk Island, and Mr H. H. Rubin featured various New Zealand items including the Scott Antarctic Expedition of 1910; Chatham Island cancellations; First Flights of early airmails; and Auckland Exhibition issue forgeries.

Cook Islands, including the 1892 issue, both mint and used with various postmarks, and full panes of the 1898 Cook Island issues, were shown by Mr F. V. Thompson.

Mr R. H. Taylor included U.S.A. Naval cancellations, Barakoma Airfield various cancellers, Tulagi "Blue Pencil" and "Paid" cancellations, manuscript cancellations of the Japanese Occupation period of the British Solomon Islands, a letter from Bora Bora (French Oceania) dated 1833, and Pitcairn Islands "No Stamps available" markings.

The sixth member of the group, Mr J. S. White, showed from his New Zealand Full Faces including original plate proofs. His display also included provincial cancellations, Richardson's printing on cover, and the 1/- bisected and used as 6d. on cover.

Commonwealth Classics

The November display included many items from the classic issues from various parts of the British Commonwealth and was presented by seven members of the Club.

Mr J. S. White showed further examples from his New Zealand collection, and Fiji was featured by Mr F. V. Thompson. Mr D. Benson's share of the display came from Natal and St. Vincent, and Mr Mark Dankin showed Canada.

Great Britain from Mr K. Rosenberg, Victoria from Mr T. Stone, and New South Wales and Ceylon from Mr V. Franks completed the display.

The "gems" were too numerous to single out, but they made a glittering combination.

MIPEX

Congratulations to the organisers of MIPEX — all who were present agree that it was the most outstanding exhibition of philately staged in Australia to date and worthy to take its place among the great philatelic exhibitions of the world.

Congratulations also to the award winners, many of whom are members of this club. Major awards won by club members were:

Gold: Messrs V. Franks and F. W. Hill.

Silver-Gilt: Dr Fee, Messrs Baldwin, Bulley, Dankin, Rubin, Simpson, Slade Slade and Stone (2).

Silver: Messrs Baldwin (2), Challen, Colville, Croaker, Garrard and Rogers.

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