

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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## THE PHILATELIC CONSEQUENCES OF BRITISH CONQUEST

Given parallel circumstances, the historian will always compare and contrast the reaction and effects that resulted.

The dominating events of the first half of the twentieth century were two unprecedented world wars.

In both, the United States, Western Europe, and Russia were arrayed against an aggressive Central European bloc led by Germany. There were notable differences in the positions of Holland, Italy, Turkey, and Japan, but in both, the Western allies emerged victorious, after conquest of enemy colonies.

The dominating feature of World War I's stamps were the stamps of German colonies overprinted G.R.I.; the most noteworthy feature of World War II's occupation stamps for the British territories was the absence of corresponding inscriptions.

In World War I, the war in the Mesopotamian area produced "British Occupation" overprints on enemy stamps at Baghdad, Batoum, and Bushire, and in Africa, "Anglo-French Occupation" in Togoland and "C.E.F." for the Cameroons Expeditionary Force in that area.

But English, South African, Australian, and New Zealand forces spontaneously produced G.R.I. issues for Long Island, German East Africa, New Guinea, Marshall Islands, and Samoa.

In World War II, British stamps overprinted with the initials of the forces involved were used in the captured colonies.

Possibly the reason for the situation was that the need for stamps was foreseen in World War II, but not in World War I.

The history of the types of overprint are not without interest either. The Royal initials were first used in the Transvaal in 1877 and were used again in the South African War,

The use of initials associated with the force had as its precedents, the C.E.F. (China Expeditionary Force) issue of India in 1900 and its I.E.F. (Indian Expeditionary Force) in 1914.

The Royal Cypher overprint does not appear again until the post-World War II period — in North Borneo in 1946 and Sarawak in 1947.

In these cases, the Royal Cypher has a new significance. Before World War II it had been used by occupation forces; but now it is the recognition of a new constitutional position; it is used to create a provisional issue for a changed but permanent status of the territory for which the stamps were issued.

Finally, philatelists may note that their beloved leader, King George V, is uniquely commemorated in their albums by the G.R.I. issues. It is noteworthy that the overprint should be on stamps portraying his enemy's yacht, and named after his House. When they were issued, they were prophetic in that they symbolised the Hohenzollerns' oblivion. Today and in the future they stand as dramatic proof of an historic fact.

## QUEEN-ON-THRONE DESIGN FOR MIPEX MEDAL

Victoria's Queen-on-Throne design has been chosen as the subject of the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition (MIPEX) medals.

Gold, silver-gilt, silver, and bronze medals will be awarded.

Arrangements for the exhibition, which will be held in Melbourne Town Hall and Preston Motors Pty Ltd from 7 to 12 October, are well in hand.

Besides the competitive displays there will be a massive court of honour, from some of the world's greatest collections.

It will be the greatest assemblage of rare stamps yet seen in the Southern Hemisphere.

At least four distinguished overseas philatelists have accepted judges' positions.

Collectors considering exhibiting are reminded that the prospectus is available from the Executive Officer, MIPEX, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne.

Note these dates:

30 June: Entries close, with fees and 150-word description of exhibit.

18 September: Closing date for receipt of exhibits.

7-12 October: Exhibition.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. P. MEARA

5d. CHRISTMAS ISSUE, 17.10.62

Once again the Christmas stamp provided a good medium for research, and in appending our findings, Mr Dunn and I remain amazed at the number of minor spots and dots that are considered to merit the application of the graver and burin. Such attention strengthens our belief that soft printing surfaces frequently form the printing base for many of our issues and the student should be ever alert for bumping up and/or recutting to remove any type of minor flaw.

The master plate was 480-on to provide four sheets of 120 (10 x 12) with the design in vertical position.

In the sheet disposition which follows, we have treated the design as facing left so that the perforation pips remain at the top and base of the plate, similar to the master plate for 640-on. Master plates of 480-on and 640-on are approximately the same size and the "grip indicators" of sheets "A" and "B" are in more or less identical positions. However, we believe that uniformity should prevail in the matter of sheet disposition hence our decision, therefore, to allot the Christmas issue sheets as viewed thus:

- Upper sheet with pips on right as Sheet "A"
- Lower sheet with pips on right as Sheet "B"
- Upper sheet with pips on left as Sheet "C"
- Lower sheet with pips on left as Sheet "D"

### SHEET "A"

Electro 1 - Large pip has "plus" sign as position guide.

R3/1 - Left to right sloping dash below "2."

R4/10 - Spot adjoins vertical line adjacent top of 5d.

Electro 2 - Three scratches radiate from inside of the large pip towards top of sheet.

R9/6 - White area below "96" ? removes minor spot.

R11/10 - Recutting of diagonal lines inside lower left corner and through "CH" probably to strengthen weakness.

### SHEET "B"

#### Plate Markings

Grip indicator - A vertical line commencing 10 mm. below and 7½ mm. from L.L.C. of R12/1.

- Unit 9, Rows 10, 11, 12 — These three vertical units are noticeably twisted to right of perpendicular, resultant from the malalignment when rolling the master plate and shows to advantage in block of 12 (3 x 4).
- Electro 1 — No markings around large pip.
- Electro 2 — Scratches above and to lower left of large pip.  
R4/8 — Very minor spot right of babe's head.
- Electro 3 — Series of tentacle-like scratches from left of large pip.  
R4/8 — Small white area 1 mm. to right of babe's head — an attempt to remove an insignificant dot believed to be of plate derivation.
- R12/4 —  $\frac{1}{2}$  mm. dash in margin 7 mm. below centre of frame.
- R12/8 — (a) Fine horizontal line from arm of chair to inner right frame,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  mm. up  
(b) Bump-up which partially removes line, leaving a strip of lighter appearance.

### SHEET "C"

#### Plate Markings

- Dotted layout line  $3\frac{1}{2}$  mm. to left of column 1 units extending into top selvage.
- Vertical lines (layout markings) in top selvage in parallel of left frame R1/1 and right frame R1/2.
- R1/1 — Spot off lower left frame, 5 mm. up.
- Unit 7, Rows 8 to 12 inclusive — Five vertical units showing marked twist to the right.
- Electro 1 — Sheet apparently normal. Guillotined close on left. Unable to state if any markings around large pip, or if this sheet is a prior state of any of those following.
- Electro 2 — Vertical line through centre of large pip.  
R6/6 — (a) Small fleck of colour above and almost touching serif at right of "5."  
(b) Recutting of diagonal lines above 5d. to remove fleck.
- R7/4 — Recut to diagonal lines joining centre of babe's head. Removes what?
- R7/6 — Weak area immediately below babe's head — probable attempt to remove fine dot.
- Electro 3 — No apparent markings around half centre pip.  
R7/6 — Recut to some five diagonals below babe's head to remove a minor flaw.
- R10/1 — Minor recut to portion of three diagonal lines immediately below "M" of "Christmas," probably to correct the apparent weakness in this area.
- Electro 4 — Short horizontal line above right of large pip.  
R3/2 — Strong recutting of diagonal lines above 5d. with area around "d" and adjacent ornaments in right frame pale and weak. A good example of bump and burnish to remove or correct a flaw unknown as yet.
- R6/10 — Circular or "atoll" flaw in selvage  $3\frac{1}{2}$ - $4\frac{1}{2}$  mm. out, 7-8 mm. up from right corner.

### SHEET "D"

- Electro 1 — Many scratches above and below large pip.  
R7/9 — Recut to some seven diagonals below "62."
- Electro 2 — Pips guillotined from left side.  
R6/4 — Spot below "C" of "Christmas."

Although reference is made to electros 1, 2, 3 and 4, it must not be taken for granted there are four electros; nor that the "B" sheets listed as Nos. 1, 2 and 3 belong to the same electros as the "C" sheets so numbered. There are, very obviously, many flaws of a minor nature on the master plate and the electros and it is equally obvious we have covered only a portion of what might exist. It is hoped other students will answer the call to provide further details.

#### Sydney Cove Issue, 1.10.37

Regarding the "Trail" of June 1962, Dr L. Abramovitch informs me the distance from the corner stamp to Plate No. 1, lower right corner of the 2d. value, Type II, is 20 mm. He further reports his possession of an upper left block of the 3d. value bearing Plate No. 2, 20 mm. from the corner stamp, an item which seemingly has not been previously recorded.



*4d. Queen Elizabeth II, 13.3.57*

An article on this value appeared in *Philately from Australia*, September 1959, and the persistence of Mr L. Skinner of Sydney has been rewarded by the discovery of a previously unknown but excellent item. This is an extensive recutting of practically all lines between the base of the Queen's neck and the right frame commencing with the line immediately above 4d. The several used copies found offer no clues which might assist in positioning, but this item may be considered as perhaps the best recut so far found in this issue. Can anyone position this item?

*5d. Australian Inland Mission 5.9.62*

This emission evoked a certain amount of criticism, but it must be conceded it was our first attempt at photogravure and a parallel might be drawn with the change from typography to recess printing in 1932 with attendant initial problems.

The design is 27 mm. x 22 mm. and the stamp over perforations is  $30\frac{1}{2}$  mm. x  $25\frac{1}{4}$  mm. with 3 mm. between units. Perforation gauges 13.2 x 13.4 and the surfaced paper was pre-gummed.

The screen is believed to be 250 at about 45° but the impression is shallow, which contributes to the "washy" appearance.

The multi-positive comprises 120 units with a plain gutter division of stamp width between the left and right sheets (or panes) of 60 (5 x 12). At the centre base of the gutter there is a 10 mm. cross.

The stamps were printed on a continuous roll of paper — in the web — and the sheets of 60 were automatically perforated and guillotined by electronic processes as the web left the printing press. Each sheet is serially numbered by the letter-press method in red in the left margin opposite row ten, and evidence of the web printing is provided by the numerous doctor blade lines carried across numbers of consecutive sheets.

Although there is a large colour range, varieties are minor and occur as follows:

*Left Sheet*

R1/5 — Vertical blue streak between TR through branches.) Cylinder  
R10/3 — Red spot left of Flynn's tomb. ) flaws

*Right Sheet*

R1/3 — Aura in front of nurse's face (gelatine flaw).  
R3/5 — Figures 1912-1962 thick, thin on R6/2, thick R8/4. (Photo-transfer flaws.)  
R9/4 — White flaw top left corner — probable attempted retouch.  
R9/5 — Blue spot over tree under first A (cylinder flaw).

*11d. Rabbit Bandicoot — 3.5.61*

A further item brought to notice by Mr L. Skinner, of Sydney, and one which requires no glass to perceive is a major weakness affecting the base below "RALIA" on sheet "B," right pane, R6/5. This weakness is believed to occur only on one electro and, having regard to recent corrections to some insignificant flaws on other values, this unit might merit attention sooner or later.

# PLATE NUMBERS OF THE TASMANIAN SIDEFACE QUEENS

By B. EASTERBROOK

*Mr Easterbrook, who lives in Hobart, is secretary of the Tasmanian Philatelic Society and a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. He specialises in Tasmania, including fiscals.*

In these notes the term "sideface Queens" is restricted to stamps of the sideface Queen design which first appeared in 1870, and does not include the later sideface Queen tablet series.

With the one exception of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. value, all the sideface Queen plates were made by De La Rue & Co. They were relief plates prepared as electrotypes from steel dies, thus using the relief or surface printing method. Each plate consisted of 120 impressions in two panes of 60. At first each plate bore two sets of marginal numbers — a number in white in a solid circle of colour occurring over the second last stamp on the right on top and below the second stamp from the left on the bottom; and a number in a crimped square over the second stamp from the left on top and below the second last stamp on the right on the bottom.

The first plates were prepared in 1870 for the values of 1d., 2d., 4d. and 10d. and sent to Hobart for local printing. In 1871 plates were made for the values of 3d., 9d. and 5s. and again sent to Hobart for printing. Plate numbers for these values are as follows:

Value	Plate Numbers	
	In square	In circle
1d.	41	1
2d.	42	2
4d.	43	3
10d.	44	4
3d.	47	5
5s.	48	6
9d.	50	7

Mr J. R. W. Purves, in his article "Tasmanian Stamp Dies and Plates" (*P from A*, June 1954, p. 53), suggests that the numbers in circles referred to Tasmanian requisitions to De La Rue and those in squares referred to the total number of electrotypes plates made by De La Rue for any colonies; hence the missing numbers 45, 46 and 49 would refer to plates made during this time for some other colonies. The numbers in squares appear to have been put on all plates intended to be despatched from London.

In 1878, dissatisfaction with local printing caused the Tasmanian authorities to place requisitions for printing overseas. In that year De La Rue & Co. prepared new plates for the 1d. and 2d. from the existing dies and a plate for the new value of 8d., and printed a supply of stamps from each of the plates.

Both Basset Hull, in *Stamps of Tasmania*, and Purves state that these 1878 plates bore numbers in circles only. However, this is not correct for the 8d. plate. It has been known for some time that the 8d. plate, when used in Melbourne in 1907, had the number 11 in a crimped square, in the same positions as in the plates prepared before 1878. I have recently found an 8d. stamp of the 1878 printing with the selvedge attached along the top, bearing the number 11.

Mr J. Easton, in his *The De La Rue History of British and Foreign Postage Stamps*, states that it was intended to send the 8d. plate to Tasmania after the initial printing but to retain the 1d. and 2d. plates in London for further printings. This would explain why the 1d. and 2d. plates of 1878 bore no numbers in squares and why the 8d. plate did. The numbers on the 8d. plate show that a new sequence of numbering must have been begun by De La Rue.

Basset Hull states that the 1d. and 2d. plates of 1878 both bore the number 1 in circle. Easton records the plates of 1878 as being the first prepared for London printing, but does not say what numbers they had. However, the second 1d. and 2d. plates prepared for printing in London that he records are those of 1882 which he states were Plates No. 3, while the 2d. plate of 1887 and the 1d. plate of 1892 were both Plates No. 4. By simple deduction, therefore, the plates of 1878 should have been Plates No. 2, not No. 1 as Basset Hull stated.

This appears to be feasible, since the 1d. and 2d. plates of 1878 would have been the second plates to be prepared from the dies, the plates of 1870 which were sent to Hobart being the first to be made from the 1d. and 2d. dies.

Having sorted things out thus, I was disturbed to find a pen-cancelled 2d., a De La Rue printing, with the date 25.11.76. This, of course, does not prove anything, since a document could have been backdated for some reason, or a mistake in dates made. However, it does create a faint suspicion that there might have been printings by De La Rue, at any rate of the 2d., before 1878. In this connection, I notice that Basset Hull quotes the number of stamps printed at Hobart in the 1870s on paper watermarked barred "TAS" as follows:

1d.	2d
5,880,000	5,040,000

In my experience, which admittedly is quite limited, the 2d. is decidedly scarcer than the 1d., which we would hardly expect if the numbers quoted by Basset Hull are correct. It would be interesting to find out if any postmarked material is known of the 2d. De La Rue printing with a date before 1878. If there were any printings of the 2d. De La Rue before 1878, it is likely that the last of the Hobart printings of the 2d. would have been the yellow-green variety of 1875.

Easton quotes the numbers of stamps printed by De La Rue from 1878 to 1892 as follows:

2d.	1d.
Plate 2 (1878+)	Plate 2 (1878+)
2,409,480 plus 6 further large printings	2,409,600 plus 6 further large printings
Plate 3 (1882+)	Plate 3 (1882+)
167,560 impressions = 20,107,200 stamps	84,500 impressions = 10,140,000 stamps
Plate 4 (1892)	Plate 4 (1887)
1,200,000	1,224,000

As there were no new 1d. or 2d. stamps issued until the scenic set appeared late in 1899, it seems likely that there would have been later printings from Plate No. 4 of both 1d. and 2d. values. Hence the final dates on which these stamps were printed must remain in some doubt at present.

There remains the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. plate of 1889, made in Melbourne. This apparently bore no plate numbers or marginal markings of any kind.

In summary, the plate numbers of this series of stamps are now clearly known, with the exception that there is some doubt about the numbers on the 1d. and 2d. plates prepared in 1878 for printing in London; it is assumed that they were both No. 2. There is also a faint possibility that there may have been a plate, at any rate for 2d., prepared and printed from in London before 1878.

In addition, there is a distinct possibility that there may have been later printings of both 1d. and 2d. from Plates No. 4 than those so far recorded.

## CORRESPONDENCE

### *Western Australian Postal Stationery*

Several errors have been found in the text of our recent article, which could confuse a reader, and we feel it would be advisable to list the following corrections:

September 1962

Page 76: The third paragraph should commence — "The De La Rue printings of the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. and 1d. cards . . ."

Page 77: Check List of Postcards. Card No. 16 — End of line should read "See

note n9" (9 for queen).

December 1962

Page 101 — Last line of note (r) should read — "of 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. postcards (Melbourne Records)."

Page 103: Line six should read — "(No. 11) with a rather similar inscription."

Page 104: The caption under the upper illustration should read — "Reply Card No. 8: 1902 Melbourne printing."

Yours, etc.,

G. E. Owen and R. Lloyd-Smith.

# QUEENSLAND REGISTERED MARKINGS

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

The REGISTERED handstamps used in Queensland had no counterpart in any other Australian State, nor, so far as I am aware, in any other country. Similar handstamps were, however, supplied by Queensland to British New Guinea at the time when Queensland stamps were used in that territory. They were two-line stamps, with the word REGISTERED in the top line, and the name of the post office beneath. There is a general family resemblance between those issued at any particular time, but each stamp was evidently cut individually, as there are slight variations in stamps of the same period. In general, they can be divided into two main groups:

- (1) REGISTERED, 32 to 41 mm. long and 3½ to 5 mm. high, issued up to about 1872.
- (2) REGISTERED, 46 to 51 mm. long and 5 to 6½ mm. high, issued from about 1873 onwards.

The word REGISTERED is always in sans-serif capitals, and usually the name of the P.O. is in similar type. However, in a few cases, all from the early period, the name is in serified capitals. Those known to me are: Nanango, Surat, Tambo; but there may be others. I have examples or partial examples of just over 200 of these markings, but that is probably less than 25 per cent of those that probably existed (not including replacements), so any assumptions must be treated with a certain amount of reserve.

It is hard to say exactly when these handstamps were first introduced, as registered covers from the early period are extremely rare. The earliest dated piece I have with one of these markings is from Goondiwindi, dated 24 October 1871, but it is quite likely that the introduction dated from some years earlier, and even from the date of Separation. Again, the latest date of issue of such markings is not known, as covers from the 1907-1912 period are scarce. The latest to be issued that I have is from Gurrumbah, which was opened in May 1906, and such markings were certainly still in use a year or two later.

It is likely that all post offices, except possibly Brisbane, were issued with these handstamps originally. However, at the period from which most of the extant registered covers and pieces come, some of the larger offices (e.g., Rockhampton, Townsville, Toowoomba, Bundaberg, Maryborough) used special REGISTERED circular datestamps or other markings. It is only a guess, therefore, that they too originally had the two-line type. In the later period, too, we find St George using a different type unlike any other Queensland marking. This consists merely of the

word REGISTERED (no name) within a rectangular frame 43 x 7½ mm. It is possible that St George also had one of the normal handstamps originally.

These two-line handstamps were apparently well made and capable of standing up to a considerable amount of use, as many of those issued in the pre-1872 period were still in use in the 1900s. However, it would appear that some from a number of the larger offices needed replacement at some stage, as the examples known to me from the 1890s and 1900s are in the second (larger) type. I have examples of both types only from Goondiwindi, but it is probable that the following should also be found in both types: Allora, Banana, Charleville, Cunnamulla, Inglewood, Ipswich, Leyburn, Roma, Sandgate, Springsure.

Adavale is an odd man out. Although it was not opened until the beginning of 1881, the word REGISTERED on the handstamp measures only 38 x 5 mm. I have no explanation for this, unless it could be a recut of an earlier stamp, but I have struck no similar instances.

These REGISTERED handstamps were evidently intended merely to mark the fact of registration, and not to indicate the post office of departure (this was done by the normal circular datestamp), as if there happened to be a slight change of name, this was not often accompanied by a change in the REGISTERED stamp. Thus we find, after the change of name, two versions on the *same* cover or piece. Those known to me are:

<i>Earlier Name on REGISTERED Stamp</i>	<i>Name on Datestamp</i>
Bundamba	Bandamba
L. Coomera	Coomera
Mount Esk	Esk
Geraldton	Geraldton
Lappa Lappa	Lappa Junction
Mossman River	Mossman
Thorgomindah	Thargomindah

On the other hand, when Richmond Downs became Richmond in 1899, a new REGISTERED handstamp was provided, so both versions can be found.

Handstamps of this type were provided for the Travelling Post Offices as well as for the fixed post offices. I have not seen examples of every number of each railway, but I have seen at least one number of each, so presumably every number should exist.

Like the other postal markings, the REGISTERED handstamps were normally struck in black, but I have examples in the following colours:

*Red*

Ayr (with other markings in black).

Duaringa (used as a canceller).

*Blue*

Dunwich (other markings also in blue).

*Violet*

Childers (other markings also in violet).

Mossman River (other markings also in violet).

Westwood (other markings also in violet).

If the postmaster was conscientious in dealing with registered mail, he had to use *four* different implements: the numeral obliterator to cancel the stamps, the circular datestamp to denote the place and date of posting (usually placed somewhere near the stamps), the REGISTERED handstamp to denote registration (often somewhere on the left side), and pencil or pen to write the registered number of the article (in the top left corner). There was also sometimes the "R in oval" marking, well known on registered covers of other States, but only infrequently used in Queensland in conjunction with the two-line marking. It may be that where the "R" markings were issued in Queensland they were intended to replace the earlier type.

To use all the implements must have been quite a time-consuming job, particularly if there were several registered articles to be prepared for a mail, so if a postmaster were pressed for time, it would be natural for him to look for short cuts. Occasionally the application of the circular datestamp was omitted, sometimes the datestamp was used to cancel the stamps instead of the numeral obliterator, but the favourite time-saver was to use the REGISTERED handstamp as an obliterator. This proved quite a useful device (particularly with the larger type) in the case of the multiple frankings frequently found on registered covers, as the REGISTERED handstamp could effectively cancel at least two stamps at one application. Neither the numeral obliterator nor the circular datestamp could really deal effectively with more than one stamp at a time. The practice was widespread, as is shown by the list of examples that follows, all from my own collection. They include only cases where the REGISTERED handstamp was the *only* implement used as an obliterator, and omits instances where the handstamp happens to fall partially on the stamps in addition to the numeral obliterator or circular datestamp.

Adavale	Cressbrook	Donors Hill
Allora	Croydon	Duarina (both black and red)
Aramac	Cunnamulla	Dungeness
Augathella	Bundamba	Dunwich
Ayr	Burdekin	Eagle Junction
Ayrshire Downs	Cairns	Eidsvold
Barcardine	Calcifer	Fortitude Valley
Beenleigh	Capella	Emerald
Blackall	Charleville	Geraldton
Bogantungan	Childers	Gladstone
Clermont	Chillagoe	Golden Gate
Cloncurry	Degilbo	Goodwood
Cooran	Dirranbandi	
Corinda	Donaldson	

Goondiwindi (both types)	Morven	St. Lawrence
Gracemere	Mossman River	Saltern
Grantham	Mount Esk	Selheim
Gurrumbah	Mount Garnet	Southport
Halifax	Mount Morgan	Stanthorpe
Hebel	Mount Shamrock	Springsure
Herberton	Murphy's Creek	Stonehenge
Homestead	Muttaburra	Surat
Hughenden	Nambour	Tallebudgera
Ingham	Nanango	Tambo
Ipswich	Normanton	Tangorin
Irvinebank	North Killarney	Taroom
Isisford	North Rockhampton	Tate Tin Mines
Jericho	One Mile Creek	Texas
Jondowaie	Parliament House	Thorgomindah
Kilkivan	Peak Crossing	Toompine
Kuranda	Pialba	Torrens Creek
Laidley	Pine Hill	Windorah
Leyburn	Pittsworth	Winton
Longreach	Prairie	Woodford
L. Coomera	Pratten	Woolgar
Lowood	Queenton	Yandilla
Macalister	Ravenswood Junction	Yuleba
Mackinlay	Richmond	T.P.O. No. 1 Central
Mareeba	Richmond Downs	T.P.O. No. 2 Central
Mitchell	Rolleston	T.P.O. No. 3 Central
Monal Creek	Roma	T.P.O. No. 2.N.C.R'way
	Rosedale	T.P.O. No. 5 S & W.R.

A collection of these makes an interesting sideline, but such usage is to be regretted from one point of view, as it has probably deprived us of identifications of several numeral cancellations. Of the names on the above list we still have no "ties" for Calcifer, Gurrumbah, Tallebudgera, T.P.O. No. 2.N.C.R'way. In addition, there are several others for which confirmation would be desirable, and I also have a piece from Tent Hill with the circular datestamp and the REGISTERED stamp, but no numeral.

I hope that I have said sufficient to indicate the interest that can be found in these markings. Any additional details that other collectors may be able to supply would interest me, and no doubt other collectors of Queensland.



# THE FRANK STAMPS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1898-1902

By R. LLOYD-SMITH

There are some additions and amendments which should be made to my recent article, and include three more "possibles."

Mr A. G. Brown has shown me a cut-out "CLERK, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY" clearly cancelled Perth, No. 12, 1894.

Rev. J. C. W. Brown has shown me the following:

"DEPARTMENT OF MINES" in a new size, struck in blue on a complete wrapper, headed in four lines, O.H.M.S. / Department of Mines / Perth / Western Australia, cancelled My 21, 1897.

"HARBOUR MASTER'S OFFICE," struck in purple.

"BUREAU OF AGRICULTURE," struck in violet.

Mr E. Alderman of Bexley, England, reports a similar "DEPARTMENT OF MINES" wrapper, cancelled 8 Jun, 1897.

## *Period of Use*

Evidence is accumulating that there were some users of Frank Stamps a good deal earlier than I thought, and it is strange that there is no earlier mention in the *W.A. Post Office Guide*. "GENERAL POST OFFICE" has also turned up, De 22, 1897.

## *The Status of Circular Impressions without "Frank Stamp"*

Mr G. E. Owen does not agree that these should be omitted from the list. He may be right, but I doubt the status of some of them. I know impressions of circular stamps, very similar to listed Frank Stamps of the same departments, for "POLICE DEPARTMENT" and "PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT," on envelopes bearing a Frank Stamp or postal adhesives.

Mr Owen correctly questions my use of the term "ordinary branch stamp" at the foot of page 47, where I should have said "departmental stamp."

The status of the oval stamps appears to be quite clear. They are branch or department stamps, and often appear on an envelope which bears a Frank Stamp, certifying that the correspondence is on official business.

## *Additions to Check List*

No.	Type	Inscription, Upper/Lower	Diam. mms.
2a	1.	Bureau of Agriculture / Western Australia	33
6a	1.	Clerk, Legislative Assembly / Western Australia	33
11a	1.	Department of Mines / Western Australia. (Small size)	33
30a	1.	Harbour Master's Office / Western Australia	33

Mention should also be made of a two-line mark struck in blue-green, "QUARANTINE STATION" (sans-serif) over "POSTAGE FREE" (serif) with Fremantle cancellation FE 23, 1897.

# THE CHARMS OF VICTORIA

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

*NOTE: It is not usual in this journal to find "reprints" of earlier articles. On this occasion the Editor has "unearthed" (that is the only word which describes the position) an article written by J.R.W.P. in 1931 and published in the "A.S.M." at that time. Since most of it is still true today, and since the writer's enthusiasm for this field has been maintained unabated, it is believed that a repeat performance is justified.*

The average stamp collector is like the average housekeeper — provided he is told often enough and loudly enough to collect a certain article, he will almost invariably follow the advice.

Rarely does he ponder on the basis of this advice, more rarely still has he the courage to strike out for himself and collect something, not because every dealer advertises it or because his collector friends tell him it is a good investment, but simply because he feels that it will suit his own individual tastes, kindle his further interest in the particular country or countries, and generally give him something which he can develop along his own personal lines.

If there is a text to this article, it is that stamp collecting offers an abundance of room to the collector who desires to express his own personality. Alas, such collectors are few and far between.

The true collector absorbs the charm and fascination of our hobby from the study, in one degree or another, of stamps which possess an interest, historic or philatelic, which is peculiar to themselves. Once he has absorbed even a fragment of that charm he is lost, he remains a collector.

One asks — Does the collection of modern "pretties," with the mass-production methods of today, encourage the type of collector who remains faithful to his hobby?

The answer is that it cannot, because the interest is purely evanescent, and is like one of those "assets" in a bankrupt estate, which, the moment one has the temerity to really look it in the face, vanishes into thin air.

What have I to offer in substitution for these gorgeous examples of the designer's and engraver's art, lacking though they may be in any background which has not received the full glare of publicity from a hundred quarters other than philatelic, and lacking, too, any except the most superficial philatelic interest?

Actually I have nothing new to offer, except to remind Australian collectors of a fact that for the last 40 years seems to have been largely forgotten — that if they are looking for fields rich in historical and philatelic interest they need go no farther than the stamps of their own States and Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth aspect has already been stressed — it is the States that require more publicity, and in treating Victoria in this article it is simply because I feel better qualified to deal with that State than the others.

Victoria, from the student's and specialist's point of view, is one of the biggest countries, philatelically speaking, in his world. It will, in my opinion, stand right

up even to countries like Great Britain, the United States of America, Mexico and Columbia.

Whatever unkind remarks may be made about the designs of our stamps, the State possesses a record that is unique in the British Empire since, with three exceptions — the 1d. and 6d. Queen on Throne, which were prepared and printed in England, and the 2d. De La Rue of 1870-3, the plates for which were prepared in London, but which were printed here — every stamp — its die, its plates and its printing — was a local production.

Colonial appliances, methods and plant being usually far behind those in England, their stamp productions were cruder and more liable to abnormality than in the case of, say, the English printed stamps of the same period, resulting in a field of huge and varied technical interest. Our issues embrace the whole compass of lithography, line-engraving and electrotyping, each in many forms and techniques.

Practically every stamp before 1870 and many afterwards can be "plated," and there are enough plate, shade, watermark and perforation varieties to give the most hardened variety hunter plenty of scope. On the other hand, such varieties may be avoided or reduced by the more moderate collector if so desired.

Historically, likewise, the country is a fascinating one. Starting with the postmarks on the old pre-stamp covers, passing through the stages of "New South Wales" and "Port Phillip" to that of "Victoria," we come to the postmarks of the "Gold" days, quaint old names of even quainter old places, long since forgotten by generations that knew them not. One could well elaborate the historical aspect at great length.

We can, for instance — from the study of the 6d., 8d., 9d. and 10d. values to 1880 — build up the whole story of the "P. & O." Company's mail contracts. Then there are the "Fee" and "Duty" stamps — a most fascinating but comparatively neglected field which, for the student, divides Victorian stamps into three groups — first the "Postage" group to 1884, with distinct "Revenue" series from 1871 on; secondly, the "Postage and Revenue" group of 1884 to 1901; and thirdly, with the formation of the Commonwealth, a reversion back to the separate systems in use before 1884.

Apart from their tremendous historical and philatelic possibilities, there is a sentimental motive which impels many collectors to take an interest, however restricted, in the stamps of their own State. I am not suggesting that this motive alone is a good and sufficient reason, but I do suggest that I know of no other stamp issuing country in the globe where collectors take so little interest in their own stamps. In the United States of America it is said that out of every three collectors at least two specialise, to some extent, in the stamps of their own country. They are proud of their country, and the study of its stamps in no wise dulls that pride — rather it accentuates it. Specialism can, of course, be overdone — and in any case as to how far it is "done" depends upon the individual.

Such a lack of interest, one might imagine, would indicate a lack of affection for the land of one's upbringing. That, I believe, is far from being the case. There are other reasons which afford adequate explanation, even if they fail to wholly excuse.

Victoria is a country which has absorbed — and only as to a few of its issues —

the keenest efforts of some of the finest philatelists of a past age, men such as Hill, Pack, Hausburg, Horsley, Rundell, Harvey and others.

It is well known, too, that the "Victoria" portion of the Royal collection is one of its greatest gems and has been a continued source of interest to its well-beloved owners.

The championship of the London International Exhibition of 1923 was won by Mr C. L. Pack with his Victoria collection. Since that date many other issues, for instance, the "Beaded Ovals," "The Laureates," the "Stamp Statute" and "Stamp Duty" series have been intensively studied and have proved that the interest of these issues is in no wise inferior to that of such series as the "Half-Lengths," "Queen on Thrones," "Wood-Blocks," etc. Every period is full of intriguing varieties, and one could quite easily spend all one's available time studying merely one of them.

There is, of course, the "condition" difficulty. There are few countries in the world in which it is as hard to find really well conditioned stamps as Victoria. The difficulty is not so much in the "centring" as in the "cancellations," which are usually heavily applied, the result being certainly satisfactory to the Post Office of the time, but not so pleasing to collectors. Such difficulties, however, should only spur us on. We have a country which philatelically is one of the real "giants," whose every period is full of problems and interest.

Further, since the Melbourne Post Office was established in 1837, the history of the Post Office in Victoria is practically synonymous with every other portion of the history of this State. We can thus watch the State grow, through its stamps, from the period of private contractor to Government monopoly, from State to Commonwealth, from 43 post offices in 1850 to something like 2100 in 1907!

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *More Fellows*

Two members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria have been elevated to Fellowship of the Royal Society, London. They are Mr E. G. Creed and Mr P. Jaffe.

Also elevated are Mr J. S. White of Sydney, and Mr Ian Ash, secretary of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain.

### *Pacific Study Circle*

The Pacific Island Study Circle of Great Britain (*P from A*, September 1962, p. 83) is now officially established.

Dr J. L. Grumbridge, of Gilberts fame, is chairman, Mr D. H. Vernon, editor of the bulletin *Pacifica* (reviewed in this issue), editor, and Dr R. B. Parker, 42 Oldway, Bishopston, Swansea, Wales, is secretary.

### *Port of Call*

Copies of the November 1962 bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society of Great Britain, posted in London on 30 October, arrived in Melbourne on 18 February. The envelopes were backstamped "Honiara British Solomon Islands 5 Jan 63 9 00 am."

### *Ranfurly New Zealand*

The name of Ranfurly will command instant attention from any New Zealander, because the Earl of Ranfurly was the Governor who gave the Ranfurly Shield, the Dominion's rugby premiership trophy.

Consequently, the entry in the H. R. Harmer *Résumé* for the past season, "The Earl of Ranfurly New Zealand, sold by private treaty," was specially noteworthy.

# THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BARAKOMA AIRFIELD

By REV. A. H. VOYCE

The history of mails from the Barakoma area is very colourful and covers a much longer period than that of the post-war postal agency known as *Barakoma Airfield*. It began with the onset of the Japanese invasion of the British Solomon Islands, and lasted until the postal agency was finally closed, namely, a period from the beginning of 1942 until 11 March 1958.

1. The era of the Coastwatchers and others who lived in the hills of Vella Lavella whilst the Japanese controlled the coasts, from early 1942 until the Allied landing in August 1943, a period when mails were sent out by surreptitious ways and means.
2. The period of the Allied occupation of the island from August 1943 until the middle of 1944, when all military forces were withdrawn. Items of interest comprise a coverage of mails to and from Japanese, U.S.A., Fijian and New Zealand forces.
3. Mail originating from Vella Lavella in the early civilian occupation era prior to the re-opening of Barakoma Airfield for the Qantas Empire Airways service.
4. Commencement of the Qantas Empire Airways service to Barakoma Airfield in 1950, and through to the setting up of the postal agency, a period when mails were taken to Honiara for cancelling; or to Lae per "safe hand" of the pilot; and when the Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, who was appointed British Solomon Islands Customs Officer at Barakoma Airfield, and who was also appointed the representative of Qantas Empire Airways, used the H.M. Customs rubber stamp.
5. The institution of the postal agency which came to be known as Barakoma Airfield, commencing with the outward mail to Lae and Sydney on 22 September 1953, and which continued until the postal agency was finally closed on 11 March 1958. This very colourful era comprised:
  - (a) The period of the manuscript cancellations.
  - (b) The period when a line dater only was in general use.
  - (c) The period of the *small* Barakoma Airfield canceller.
  - (d) The period of the *large* Barakoma Airfield canceller.
  - (e) The period of the "*boxed*" Barakoma Airfield canceller.
6. Various ship cancellations of that period, including the rare manuscript cancellations, and showing also various mail receipt forms.

These are discussed at length, with full recorded details, and are supported by a very full and extensive collection of covers, aerogrammes and other materials, including letters, radiograms and other materials.

### SECTION I

#### *The Era of the Coastwatchers*

Apart from the Coastwatchers (men of the Royal Australian Naval Volunteer Reserve), who were the European civilians who remained on Vella Lavella, and from whom spasmodic mail was received, there were two missionaries who refused to leave:

1. The Reverend A. W. E. Silvester, who stayed through the Japanese occupation of Vella Lavella, and who was there to welcome and assist the invading Allied forces when the time came, and who helped them plan to build Barakoma Airfield and to establish Allied camps in various parts. Mr Silvester was later awarded the United States Congressional Medal of Merit for "extraordinary fidelity and exceptionally meritorious conduct."

Major-General Robert B. McClure wrote the citation accompanying the award: "I certify that during the period from 12 August 1943 to 5 September 1943 as Commanding-General of the Northern Landing Force I had personal knowledge of the many activities of the Rev. A. W. Silvester . . . was extremely helpful by accompanying patrols on many dangerous missions . . . rescued many pilots who had made emergency landings in adjacent waters."

Mr Silvester had been instrumental in saving scores of American sailors prior to the Allied landings, following upon the naval battles in Kula Gulf, when numbers of American vessels, including the cruiser *Helena* were lost.

2. The other was a nurse, Sister Merle Farland, who for similar aid to Allied forces was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire — a very heroic lady.

It is believed that virtually all the envelopes received by the members of the families and friends of these two are included in this survey of the period, and are included in the collection of the writer.

The variety of postal cancellations and censor markings make a living segment of Solomon Islands history, and because no information is available as how such letters "got through" we have to be content to imagine what went on.

There are stories of native canoe trips past Japanese occupied positions in order to get mail out to Segi, the coast-watching base on Vangunu Island, southern New Georgia, where Lieutenant Donald Kennedy operated, and to which base Nurse Merle Farland was ultimately taken by canoe by loyal natives when an American instruction was issued for her evacuation. She tells the story of how the natives required her to lie down prone in a large canoe, covered with coconut fronds, when passing Japanese posts, lest attention of Japanese be attracted, and of how mail and papers were carried tied to heavy stones, so that, if any investigating patrol came out, the bundles could be quietly dropped overboard in deep water.

There are stories of visits by Catalina aircraft; of night visits by Allied submarines; of fast night trips by patrol boats to isolated areas, where rendezvous were previously arranged by wireless messages.

Take your pick!

What did happen is that mail did get out from time to time, via Guadalcanal, or to Australia.

Such covers at these are living items of postal history from the grim period when all internal postal services of the British Solomon Islands had ceased to function, and when the seas around Vella Lavella were in fact Japanese controlled and patrolled, and when Allied contacts could only be by "hit and run" visits.

At first these missionaries used up the few remaining stamps they had in their possession, but soon mail came to be despatched "sans stamps." To begin with, a return address on envelopes was noted, but no doubt considerations of safety soon led to this practice being abandoned.

The first mails were no doubt taken out by small vessels which called at various points as they dashed for safety in fleeing from Japanese occupied islands farther north, from New Ireland and from Bougainville, to name some of the known points from which such craft came.

The Japanese had by-passed Vella Lavella as of little importance, and landed at Tulagi and on Guadalcanal, but when they became hard-pressed at such forward bases they began to concentrate on points farther north-west, at Munda on New Georgia, and they set up a radio post on the hills of north Vella Lavella, looking out towards their main base at Kihili, on southern Bougainville Island.

The covers from these two intrepid missionaries, camped for the most part at a place called Minga, two miles behind Barakoma in the hills, and west of the airfield, are here noted in rotation, with whatever details there are of postal cancellations, or censorship markings.

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Censor marks</i>	<i>Postmarks</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Cover. Miss Farland	N.Z.	Nil	M/s marked stamps.	No postmark.
Cover. Miss Farland	N.Z.	Nil	M/s marked stamps.	Transit cancel: Newton NZ. 2 MR 42.
Cover. Miss Farland	N.Z.	Red "Opened by Censor" sticker, violet "2 Passed by Censor 1391"	BSI stamps PAQUEBOT SYDNEY 7 AP 42.	Believed taken Sydney by small evacuee vessel.
Cover. Miss Farland	N.Z.	Blue "Opened by Censor" sticker, "Boxed" "Passed by Censor" R/S.	Tulagi 7 DE 42. Vila, New Hebrides, 8 JA 43.	Return address M. S. Farland, B.S.I.P. Letter written 24 April 1942.

<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Censor marks</i>	<i>Postmarks</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Covers A.W.E. Silvester (Several)	N.Z.	Same Censorship markings	Same cancels, Tulagi 7 DE 42. Vila, both Br. Fr. postmarks 8 JA 43.	Also some covers with same markings and re-addressed by Mr Silvester from Vella Lavella as "undeliverable" via there! Covers of A. W. E. Silvester were written from 25 April to 22 June 1942, but all cancelled Tulagi 7 DE 42.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	"PASSED NAVAL CENSOR"	Nil.	Cover been stapled. Written 2.12.42.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	M/s Censor mark. Sub-Lieut. J. R. Keenan, RANVR.	U.S. Navy.	Written Vella Lavella 4.2.43, received N.Z. 4.3.43.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	A. H. Voyce c/o USAFISPA. (Noumea) APO 502.	"1. Opened by Censor" and "1. Passed by Censor 39"	Nil.	Written 27.4.43, and received in N.Z. 19.7.43. Well-censored letter still shows by veiled references to new contacts and friendships, that even on Vella Lavella Mr Silvester knew of my contacts with U.S.A. Intelligence.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	M/s Censor H. E. J. Also Censor mark R.N.Z.A.F. as used at Guadalcanal. (Note: Sub-Lieut Henry E Josselyn, Coast- watcher on Vella Lavella!)	Marked in a different hand: "On Active Service".	Written 28.4.43, received N.Z. 29.5.43. Compare previous cover, which took two months longer though written a day earlier.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	M/s Censor "H. W. Bullen, B.S.I.P.D.F." and usual Aust. Censor marks.	Brisbane, Queensland. Posted Pillars. 17 May 1943.	Written 4.6.43. H. W. Bullen, now General Secretary for Melanesian Mission in Auckland, states he was on Guadalcanal at the time censoring was carried out, but has no memory of how the cover reached there.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	Usual Australian "opened" and "passed" Censor markings.	Postmarked with "dumb" PASSED FREE SURFACE POSTAGE. BRISBANE QUEENSLAND 14 JE 43.	Written 24.5.43. On arrival Brisbane found open and sealed with official sticker.



<i>From</i>	<i>To</i>	<i>Censor marks</i>	<i>Postmarks</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	M/s H. E. J. and usual Aust. "Opened" and "Passed" Censor marks. (Note: H. E. Josselyn)	Postmarked "dumb" PASSED FREE SURFACE POSTAGE with wavy lines right.	Written 3.6.43, and received N.Z. 3.7.43.
Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	M/s H. E. J. (Note: H. E. Josselyn) R.A.N.V.R.	U.S. Army Postal Service A.P.O. 709 AUG 2 1943.	Written Vella Lavella shortly before Allied landings, 27.7.43.

The first Allied landing on Vella Lavella was a U.S. reconnaissance force, which landed at Barakoma on 12 August 1943, and which was met as pre-arranged by the Rev. A. W. E. Silvester and native leaders. This reconnaissance force remained at Barakoma area until the main landing took place on 5 September 1943.

Cover. A.W.E. Silvester	N.Z.	M/s 1st. Lieut. N. C. Patrick.	U.S. A.P.O. 709 AUG 28 1943.	Lieut. N. C. Patrick was the officer in charge of the U.S. landing force conducting the reconnaissance. Letter travelled to Guadalcanal by an unreported route.
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The reconnaissance force, and later the New Zealand General Officer Commanding, had their headquarters at Mr Silvester's "hide-out" at Minga. There was good water and a cave here, and small buildings had been so erected that they would not be easily seen from the air. The place was easy of access, and certain personal possessions of the missionaries were moved to this site. Later, this site was evacuated when military camps were established on the coastline, and this site was left unguarded and afterwards some troops began looting, so it was decided to transfer the goods stored there to one of the established camps on the coast. Mr Silvester by this time had been evacuated to New Zealand, and I was in charge. Amongst papers which suffered in the looting there were found scattered around on the ground certain mails which had apparently been sent to Mr Silvester during the Japanese occupation period in the hope that some method of delivery might be found, but none occurred. Some of these covers are of considerable interest.

There is a much-battered cover written by Mrs J. Binskin, of Bagga Islet, West Vella Lavella, addressed to Sydney and postmarked GIZO 20 NOV 41. Reaching Sydney, it was found to be undeliverable, and was passed through the Dead Letter Office. It bears many Australian cancellations and is re-addressed a number of times. The cancellation dates range from 4 DE 41 to 24 AP 42. It bears on the reverse the rubber stamp mark "NOT TRANSMISSABLE SERVICE SUSPENDED". One of the most interesting cancellations is the one in red-ink manuscript: "UNDELIVERABLE N.G.F." with initials and date 10.8.42. The letters N.G.F. stand for New Guinea Forces, and similar covers in my possession by their backstamps reveal that these covers went to Port Moresby. Below this endorse-

ment, also in red-ink manuscript, is the endorsement "SEE OVER" and on the reverse side of the cover all other addresses are crossed out except "MRS BINSKIN BAGGA B.S.I." How this mail reached Vella Lavella again is an unexplained mystery.

For comparative purposes I make mention of a cover addressed by Mrs Silvester to her husband on Vella Lavella, dated, WAITO N.Z. 4 JE 42. This cover also went to Port Moresby, and in the same red-ink manuscript it bears the endorsement: "UNDELIVERABLE N.G.F. 10.8.42" and carries on the reverse side the cancellation FIELD P.O. 0140 10 AU 42, and the Sydney N.S.W. 23 AU 42. It is noted that in Sydney it was re-addressed from the Solomon Islands Government Department, Sydney, to Mrs Silvester's address in New Zealand.

Another confirming cover in this regard is one addressed to Buka Passage, Bougainville, but which could not have been delivered because of Japanese occupation of that area, but which must have been despatched to the "hide-out" at Minga, on Vella Lavella, for from there it was re-addressed in the *unmistakable handwriting of Mr Silvester* to a New Zealand address, and as a "proving piece" the cancellations are of considerable interest in that it is proved that the mail went to Vella Lavella during 1942! The postmarks are TULAGI 7 DE 42, and VILA 8 JA 43!

Another cover similarly addressed to Buka Passage, Bougainville, bears postmarks covering three years, and this, too, is *re-addressed by Mr Silvester!*

KATIKATI N.Z. 29 DE 41.

TULAGI BRITISH SOLOMON IDS. 7 DE 42.

VILA NEW HEBRIDES. 8 JA 43.

AUCKLAND N.Z. 12 FE 43.

Another cover is mentioned in the belief that the form of address, and the person care of whom it was addressed, may be of interest. It is addressed care of Sub-Lieut. J. R. Keenan (who censored one of the early covers out from Vella Lavella, as noted above, during February 1943). This cover was an attempt to get a letter to her husband, but the attempt failed, and the cover was returned to New Zealand. Cover was addressed "Rev. A. W. E. Silvester, Care Sub-Lieut. J. R. Keenan, R.A.N.V.R., C.O.D.S.I.O., Vila, New Hebrides". The cover was "Opened by Examiner" and bears the backstamp "NOUVELLE HEBRIDES PORT VILA 31 JUL 43".

Note: C.O.D.S.I.O. stands for Commanding Officer Deputy Supervising Intelligence Office.)

One other cover found at the Minga hide-out is of interest, in that it is addressed to a native on Choiseul Island, and was postmarked VANIKORO BRITISH SOLOMON IDS 27 FE 42. Thus it would appear that the mail which was sent to Mr Silvester at Minga was sent between the months of *March 1942* and *December 1942*, and judging by the mail ex-Port Moresby some of it must have been after August 1942!

(To be continued)

# A NEW GUINEA FORCE MARKING

By H. L. CHISHOLM

Philatelists are forever widening the scope of their interests and so an army datestamp that had nothing to do with the Post Office, but was used in connection with a letter service, may be noted.

It is a postmark-type datestamp used at New Guinea Force headquarters in connection with its Despatch Rider Letter Service.

It is the usual Army Signals datestamp, 35 mm. in diameter, but instead of the usual code letters in the date tablet, it has the letters NGF.

The central portion of the datestamp, 13 mm. high, carries the inscription NGF 12 VIII 44. Above and below the arc of an inner circle, 21 mm. in diameter, are the word ARMY SIGNALS, with serified letters for ARMY (top) and unserified letters for SIGNALS (bottom).

The cover I have has two other rubber stamp markings, in purple: D.R.L.S. (36 x 5 mm.) and CERTIFIED OFFICIAL (67 x 4 mm.). The space between the arcs and the tablet is filled in by vertical lines.

New Guinea Force Headquarters was then in Butibum Road, Lae.

## REVIEWS

*The Burrus Collection* (three vols.: British North America, British Empire, Brazil), with separate photo plate volumes for British North America and British Empire. 6½ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1. Price 10s. a vol. (stg.).

These volumes form the catalogue of the second series of London sales of the fabulous Burrus collection, which will be held on 2, 3 and 4 April.

Notable in Canada are two mint copies and a used copy of the 12d. black on laid paper, 1851; and mint marginal pairs of the 7½d. pale yellowish green and 10d. blue, 1855-57; and the 6d. purple-brown, 1858-59. Also available is Vancouver 1865 5 cent deep rose, mint, "probably the world's finest copy."

In the Empire section there are a Ferrary copy of the Dominica One Penny on 6d. green, 1886; a corner block of Gambia 6d. blue, 1869, and a similar block on the Crown CC paper.

Highlight of the Ceylon is a brilliant mint copy of the 4d. deep rose, 1857-59. Other eye-catching items of the first issue are a mint block of 20 of the ½d. lilac on white paper, a mint block of 14 of the 2d. deep green, and a used block of 16 2d. yellow-green on blued paper.

Complete used panes of the 60 and 90 reals "Bull's Eyes," intermediate impression, dominate the Brazil collection, but it would be impossible to overlook the mint strip of four 180 reals "Goat's eyes."

*Western Samoa Postal History*, by R. M. Startup. 27 pp., 2-pp. supplement. 8 x 10 in. Mimeographed. Printed by Laurie Franks Ltd, Christchurch, and distributed by the author, P.O. Box 275, Masterton, N.Z. Price 7s. 6d. N.Z.

The attainment of independence by Western Samoa last year has led Mr Startup to present another postal history brochure reviewing the postal history of the territory

from the Samoa Express Service of 1877 to date. It is No. 8 of the Tasman Stamp Handbooks.

The work pays particular attention to postmarks of the German period and after and is particularly valuable for its information regarding the markings and postal history of the little-known sub-post offices.

The patience and industry required to provide this deserved sincere commendation and the book is essential to anybody who has a real interest in Samoa.

The two-page supplement deals with affairs since independence and it is noted that the Independence issue is on paper water-marked "NZ and star."

*Stamp Collectors' Annual, 1963.* Edited by Tom Morgan. 88 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Harris Publications Ltd, 27 Maiden Lane, Strand, London WC2. Price 4s. (stg.).

Mr L. E. Scott, besides giving his choice for the best 10 stamp designs of the year, lists all the stamps he has chosen since he began his famous feature in 1948. He also discloses that many people are making collections of the stamps he chooses. He may be the only man who has created a thematic "theme" himself.

Incidentally, Australia did not get placed this year.

The stamp centenary subject is maintained with a listing of the dates of the first issues of the various countries to 1950, so readers can see what centenaries to expect each year.

Spain, Seychelles, and Sweden, Madagascar and the Ryukus provide articles, besides Italy in Africa, and Tristan and Tonga overprints. The story of the U.S. Project Mercury stamp is recorded and vintage and veteran cars are featured.

All the standard features are retained and the annual is another winner.

*Pacifica*, Vol. 1, No. 1. Edited by D. H. Vernon. 8 x 10 in. Mimeographed. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, 42 Oldways, Bishopston, Swansea, South Wales.

This recently-formed group has lost no time in getting down to business and produced its first bulletin. This will be quarterly and Mr Vernon hopes that sufficient material will be forthcoming to make it a bi-monthly.

Its first two projects are the bringing up to date of Major Tomkins' "Desert Island Discs," articles on postmarks and philatelic bibliographies of the various Pacific groups.

*Philatelic Societies' Yearbook, 1962-63.* 54 pp. 4½ x 7¼ in. Published by the British Philatelic Association, 3 Berners Street, London W1. Price 3s. 6d. stg.

This is a hardy annual. That is a true description, and its hardiness derives from its usefulness. It lists the various societies in Britain, the meeting nights, officials and, where the secretary is live enough, the year's syllabus. The number of specialist societies is growing and this list could repay study by Australian philatelists.

*The Stamp, Factor of the National Economy*, by Moses C. Constantinis (in Greek). 12 pp. Published by the Hellenic Philatelic Society, 57 Akademias Street, Athens, Greece. Price \$1.

This is a study of stamps as a factor in the Greek and the international economy, and was written on the occasion of the entry of Greece into the Common Market. Mr Constantinis is an economist as well as secretary of the society.

*The Thirty-Seventh Annual Resumé of the H. R. Harmer Organisation*, Season 1961-62. 36 pp. 7¼ x 9½ in. Published by H. R. Harmer Ltd, 41 New Bond Street, London W1. Price 2s. (stg.).

The word that comes through this year's Harmer *Resumé*, loud and clear, is "Fantastic" and it applies to the remarkable rises in price recorded last season for top rarities, multiples, or covers, many of which came from the Caspary sales of 1958.

Harmers' total realisation again exceeded £1 million sterling. London, £420,687; New York, \$1,232,589; Sydney, £22,000, which was down £2000 on the previous year, but considered satisfactory in view of Australia's financial position.

Two items brought more than £3000 each this year, and some of the notable realisations (with those of recent years for the identical items in parenthesis) were: Bermuda, One Penny Perot, black on bluish grey, uncanceled on piece, £3200 (1954, £950); Straits Settlements, 1910 \$500, mint, £3100 (1957, £1700), world record for British Commonwealth 20th century stamp; Mauritius, 1848 2d., indigo blue on thick yellowish paper, on cover, £1550 (1961, £1100); Ceylon, 1857-59 4d. dull rose and 6d. purple-brown, on cover, £1450 (1958, £982; 1961, £1400); Luxemburg, 1852 1sgr. deep shade, used block of eight, £1350; Newfoundland

1919 Atlantic Manuscript overprint, on cover, £1200.

One of the most frequent callers among Harmers' ever-welcome guests was not quite her usual outstanding success — British Guiana, 1858-59 1c. dull red, vertical strip of four on cover, £1300 (1957, £500; 1959, £1100; 1961, £1600).

Items of special Australian interest included two Sydney View items: 3d. yellow-green on bluish grey, block of four on OHMS letter-sheet, £825 (Caspary, £450), and 1d. reddish rose on soft yellowish paper, Plate 1 block of four, £420 (Caspary, £310).

*D. S. Bolaffi's Roman States, Romagna, and Vatican City Postage Stamp Specialised Catalogue, 1963*. Third Edition. 54 pp. 7½ x 10 in. Published by the Philatelic Publishing Co., Via A Genovesi 2, Turin, Italy.

This comparatively new specialised catalogue continues to prosper. Last year Romagna appeared for the first time and this year that section has been improved by the addition of previously unpublished photographs of great rarities. The Romagna list has also become more detailed.

Major price advances are in Roman States and Romagna, the price increase being matched among the rarest sets of Vatican City.

*Sports and Recreation Check List*, by Robert M. Bruce. 36 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by the American Topical Association Inc, 3306 North 50th Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Price \$3.00.

With the Perth Empire and Commonwealth Games right in our minds, this handbook could not have a more topical appeal.

Probably sport is the most rapidly growing subject for thematic collections, and the extent of the field is evidenced by the close-

set lists which fill almost the full space of this booklet.

It ranges over all adult competitive sports and active recreations, with Scott catalogue numbers for all stamps issued to the beginning of this year.

The volume, the Association's 35th handbook, covers competitive sports, active recreation, specific athletic competitions and sporting subjects.

*Topical Issues of 1962*, by G. Frank Freedner. 20 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by the American Topical Association Inc., 3306 North 50th Street, Milwaukee 16, Wisconsin, U.S.A. Price \$1.

This is Topical Handbook 35A in the publishing society's list.

The brochure lists the 4150 stamps (183 a week) issued during the year, and catalogued by Scott, which can be classified for topical or thematic collecting.

They are recorded under 50 headings and make it easy for thematic collectors to keep abreast of the new issues in their particular fields.

*Hotel Posts of Hungary and Roumania*, by L. N. and M. Williams. 12 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by L. N. and M. Williams, 30 Dunstan Road, London NW11. Price 6/-(stg.).

Compared with the Swiss hotel posts, those of Hungary and Roumania are almost unknown, and now the Williams brothers have put their story between covers and added an illustrated, priced-catalogue.

The stamps were issued by resort hotels in Hohe Rinne, Magura, and Bistra, in the Carpathians, between 1895 and 1924, and paid postage to the hotel owners for the transport of mail to the nearest posting facility, usually by horsedrawn vehicle.

The catalogue section indicates by prices ranging to £50 mint and £80 on cover how rare some of these items are, and once again philately is indebted to the authors for providing a record of them.

# ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## Members' Diary

1963

### March

- 11 Library and Conversation
- 21 United States: Mr J. H. Dunn

### April

- 8 Library and Conversation
  - 18 Egypt: Mr G. T. Houston
  - 13 Library and Conversation
  - 16 Great Britain: Mr D. N. Baker
  - 25 Auction
  - 30 Papua and New Guinea: Members of the Papua and New Guinea Philatelic Society
- Entries for annual competition close

### June

- 10 Library and Conversation
- 20 Annual Competition

### July

- 8 Library and Conversation
  - 18 Annual Meeting
- Presidential Display: Mr R. Lloyd-Smith

### August

- 12 Library and Conversation
- 15 Early Canada: Mr E. G. Creed
- 24 Auction
- 29 New Zealand: Mr H. L. Chisholm

## Services Cancellations

Australian Navy, Army and Air Force postal cancellations of World War II, in an amazing variety, were present in the display by Mr P. Collas at the December meeting.

He said that about 300 post offices conducted by the Postmaster-General's Department were established at military and R.A.A.F. establishments in Australia, and many hundreds of other postmarks and postal markings belonged to the postal services of the Navy, Army and Air Force.

One of the basic problems was to determine where they were used. Although a great deal of research had been done, there was still much to be discovered. Many postmarks were used progressively in several war theatres and until one could establish the name of the unit controlling the postmarker, it was very difficult to relate particular dates to particular localities.

Mr Collas said very few post offices were established at naval stations in Australia by the P.M.G.'s Department, and beyond Australia there were very few Navy-run post offices. Markings which were applied at unit levels had the greatest interest because of their tremendous variety.

The R.A.A.F. conducted a considerable number of post offices, both in Australia and abroad, and also had base post offices.

The largest part of the display concerned Army markings, and used abroad covers were strongly represented. Most of the Middle East types were represented, many of which were used later in the Pacific.

Mr Collas said that omitting the specially inscribed Army postmarks, used in the Middle East, the main types were: A.I.F. P.O., Aust F.P.O.,

Field Post Office, Aust Army P.O., A.I.F. Army P.O., and Army P.O.

In addition there were Unit Postal Station marks, mainly applied by variously shaped rubber stamps, and their successors, Aust Unit Postal Stn.

## Japan

Stamps of Japan's Dragon issue of 1871, the Sakuru or cherry blossom, issue of the following year, and the Syllabic issue of 1894, were shown by Mr W. Rocke at the second January meeting.

He also showed a few forgeries of the third issue, with the forgers' identification marks indicated.

Later issues included the 1923 emergency issue, printed by private firms, and issued without gum or perforations, after the earthquake had partially destroyed Tokyo's G.P.O. and Government Printing Office.

Mr Rocke also showed the attempts made to lighten the 1 yen Mount Fuji, of 1946, originally issued in a very dark blue which sometimes masked the cancellation and allowed the stamps to be used again.

The airmails were complete and there were two 1920 covers with cancellations.

Showing three sheets of revenue stamps, Mr Rocke remarked wryly that they were the only issue of Japan's early stamps that had never been forged.

The postal stationery section included some early cards with postmarks. These included genuine three-five-six cards of 1876-77.

The City of Dairen cards, with special 1935 cancellation, and those of Kwantung Leased Territory and Manchuria, as well as a sheet with the Naval Review cancellation of 1905 and the British-Japan Exhibition in London in 1910, were noted.

Other items included a New Year card sent to friends by Mr Kohima, a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, cards showing New Year, Greeting, and Lottery Ticket, and a Tiger card, one of the small prizes in the lottery.

## New South Wales

Dr W. P. Heslop presented a selection of his great New South Wales collection at the February meeting and the display was bright with gems.

The exhibit covered the full period of N.S.W. issues, with emphasis on Sydney Views and Laureates.

The Sydney Views on cover were especially notable: 1d. Plate 2, hard greyish or bluish paper, Nos. 11-14 on cover; two pairs of the 1d. gooseberry red on cover, with the Newcastle Crown Seal as a cachet; 3d. Plate 4, the bright full blue, on cover. There was also S.G. 13, "Crevit" omitted, on cover, and S.G. 34, ultramarine "Sigillum" error, and a strip of four 3d. S.G. 42.

Another item of interest was a 9d. "Commonwealth" Crown over A watermark, 1907, compound perf. 12, 12, 11, 12½. This item, once listed in Gibbons, has been omitted as non-existent.

The collection of 2d. Diadem retouches was another highlight.

# THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

## Members' Diary

- 1963  
April  
9 Medal Competition. Paper and Display — The Chalons Heads: Mr J. S. White, F.R.P.S.L.  
30 Commonwealth of Australia—Facets of Postal History: Mr J. E. Leek, Guest Exhibitor  
May  
14 J. W. Dovey Memorial. Brains Trust: Royal Sydney Philatelic Club v. Philatelic Society of N.S.W.  
June  
11 U.S.A. — Compered by Miss Salier  
July  
9 Annual Meeting. President's Night

### F.R.P.S.L.

Congratulations are extended to Mr J. S. White of Wahroonga, N.S.W., who was recently elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London. Mr White's "New Zealand" collection received a Gold award at ANPEX 1959, while he is also well known for his researches in the Australian States field.

### Commonwealth Varieties

The display at the December meeting was provided by Mr Lance Skinner, who showed many varieties from the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II issues of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Mr Skinner pointed out that good varieties did not cease with the George V issues. Essential difference is that George V varieties were mainly plate varieties while the later issues have brought many electro varieties which last only the life of the electro. He suggested that not enough research is being done with current issues, and said that the 4d. claret Queen Elizabeth II could well repay research.

Among the stamps shown were many varieties of the ½d. Kangaroo (bar to "O," foggy hills, etc.); the 2d. Medallion flaw (coil strips); striking retouches on the 2s. 6d. Aborigine; extra island, etc., on 1s. 6d. Hermes; ink stripping on various values; re-entries on the 3½d. Queen; all electro varieties on the 5d. Queen; various retouches on Booklet panes; various retouches on different electros of the 8d. Tiger Cat; plate fractures on the 1960 Christmas issue; and many others.

### January Meeting

The first January meeting display was provided by six members of the club committee and proved a very varied and entertaining evening.

From Mr Hamilton Croaker's collection we saw 10 sheets of stamps and covers with early cancellations of New Caledonia, while Mr E. J. Garrard also provided ten sheets — these displaying marginal markings on stamps of the Pitcairn Islands, including two plates of the 10s. "Wedding" and four plates of the U.P.U. issue.

Miss M. Salier provided 11 sheets of Modern Sweden, mostly used and with many varieties on the "posthorn" and "King Gustav" issues, all neatly annotated. Mr R. H. Markham showed 16 sheets of varieties on various issues of the Queen Elizabeth II

series of Great Britain, while Mr F. V. Thompson provided ten sheets of most interesting items, including many varieties in strips of three (some rare) of the N.W. Pacific Island overprinted issues; "Kokopo" postmark with "Queensland" leaded out; 1d. red (rosine), Dies 1 and 2.

The display concluded with Mr V. Frankenstein's offering of nine sheets showing "Cancellations of N.S.W." with some beautiful strikes on many of the earlier issues, Tramway stamps, various paquebots "loose letters" used on New Hebrides and New Caledonia.

### Queen Elizabeth II

The display at the meeting on 29 January was also a joint one, provided by five members of the club and presented by Mrs Garrard. Devoted to outstanding items issued during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, many interesting stamps from widely dispersed areas were included.

Dr E. H. Freidman showed some of the very rare (and costly) varieties which have emanated from the New Zealand definitive issues — colour shifts, missing colours, perforation varieties, etc. Mr Lance Skinner showed more of his varieties, including many items which have been the subject of published researches in various philatelic publications; while Mr Russell Stern showed a very representative lot of booklets.

Mr B. H. Markham displayed further from the varieties section of his collection, including some from the Leeward Island, the photogravure issues of Ghana, and Malta "George Cross" issues.

Mr F. V. Thompson included British Solomon Islands covers with marine markings, while Mrs Garrard's share of the display, entitled "Pretty Elizabethans," included the beautiful Annigoni portraits and other delightful items which have been issued during the present reign.

### Australian States

Mr V. Frankenstein introduced a combined display by various members who contributed some notable items from the issues of the various Australian States at the February meeting.

No less than ten members included material in the display. Mr F. V. Thompson showed N.S.W. Governor's franks and covers, "Hexham" postmarks with the original postmarker; De La Rue proofs were supplied by Mr Croaker; while Mr Ashworth Spreat contributed some interesting early New South Wales stamps and covers.

Mr E. J. Garrard presented covers showing the postal history of the Melbourne-Sydney overland mail, while Mr J. S. White's "South Australia," featuring the design and brilliant colouring of these stamps, was also very much appreciated.

Mrs Rock featured the different printings of the One Penny Tasmanian pictorial, while Mr F. H. Stone showed many general items, perhaps the most interesting of which were the retouches on Ham's sixth printing of the 2d. value of Victoria.

Mr M. Dankin showed the earlier imperforate stamps of Tasmania, and Mr J. C. Thompson included N.S.W. used in Queensland featuring the numeral bar cancellation.

Mr V. Frankenstein showed more early N.S.W. on cover, and rounded off a most successful evening.

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