

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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VOL. XV, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1963

THE DOUBTFUL PRIVILEGES, NOT TO SAY POSITIVE DISADVANTAGES, OF BEING AN "EXPERT"

There *are* moments when even philately can look grim. The present, with our Exhibition only a few weeks off, is one of them. The suspense of not knowing whether one is to undertake the role of Wellington or Napoleon is enough to daunt the bravest heart. 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, has been prompted, indirectly, by a delighted peek at that most modern of satires *How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying*. Let us say, at the start, that no one can acquire the reputation of an "expert" without really trying. That requires the toil of many misspent years, of observation, reading and study.

The awful thought that arises, however, from it all is what *is* worthwhile? For instance, I should, personally, just hate to succeed in big business, whether I got there by trying, by being trying, or otherwise. Likewise, on reviewing my long career of crime in philately, I'm beginning to wonder how much of *it* was worthwhile, more particularly whether such recognitions of worth as one has received are not completely overshadowed by the responsibilities they entail. There is, of course, nothing at all new in these thoughts. To have privileges one must undertake responsibilities and you can't take without giving in like measure.

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. Their customers expect them to rove over many fields. Two alternatives only are therefore open to them. Either they

should know a little about everything or nothing about nothing. Their choice is largely dictated by the degree of fondness they have for work. In either event, in his particular fields, they are liable, in modern times, to make more and more approaches to the "expert."

His news, if it is good news, means money to them, and he may help them often. He, misguided man, might suppose that if he gives substantial help they may occasionally reciprocate by showing him material in his particular fields when they run across it. But do they? Most of them, I am afraid, reason that "experts," knowing far more, pay much less and that the "sucker" market is far more profitable. This is, of course, excellent business however lousy it may be morally.

In short, once you attain the stature of an "expert" you have to accustom yourself to the inarguable fact that you are there *to be used* — by Tom, Dick and Harry, all operating in an utterly selfish, ruthless groove despite their entire ignorance of the matter upon which your advice is sought. These fellows, even if your views made them £500 richer, wouldn't stand you the price of a lunch. The utter rapaciousness of such gentry, not to say their entire freedom from good manners, leaves even a cynical lawyer, on occasion, breathless. Having sucked your blood they can't leave you quickly enough.

Then there is the matter of "fan mail," seeking information — invariably free, gratis and for nix — on all manner of philatelic subjects. In about 20 per cent of these cases a stamped and addressed envelope is sent to soften, to a small extent, the burden of a reply. In many cases three pages or more of your correspondent's letter are spent building up to a climax of minnow-like proportions. Why, oh why, are collectors so windy? (The writer, of course, has conveniently forgotten the day when he could be windy with the best of them.)

Even worse, however, than Mr Windy, is the bloke who won't take "no" for an answer. It is in vain that you inform him that his highly pedigreed bitch is a mongrel of very doubtful ancestry. He has built his hopes high and he comes back and back at you. *This* sort of thing is "really trying." To be fair to these good people I can only recall about two occasions on which an unfavourable opinion was received in an *insulting* manner. No doubt this would not have occurred had the gentlemen concerned not been ardent followers of Australian Rules Football.

Looking at the effect on yourself it would be fair to say that about 60 per cent of the material shot at one in this country is in the nature of a damp squib. Philatelically it has little or no significance. Of the remaining 40 per cent only perhaps five to ten per cent has any real interest for you. The remainder is largely routine, involving a simple "yes" or "no."

You just have to give service — and to go on giving it — to the best of your ability. I will be doing it till I drop. What I'm saying to you, however, is — don't be too eager to become an "expert." You need unlimited patience, a heart of gold, incredible industry and the ability to listen, always about the other fellow's interest. The opportunities an "expert" has of being listened to — on his own pet subjects — are rare indeed. This, of course, may be, like 1066 etc., a good thing.

Curiously enough, perhaps, the expert's *easiest* job is the maintaining of the stamp public's "image" of him as an "expert." Once this "image" is established it

is rather like playing a couple of times in the Australian Eleven. It's awfully hard to get the sack after that.

Summed up — if you have talents of an "expert" nature — two courses are open to you. Either you hide them under a bushel or, in the full light of day, take what's coming to you. That, as I have gently indicated, will be plenty.

A minor observation that one could make on Australian collectors and dealers concerns their infinite reluctance, except under the greatest of pressures, to pay for the opinions of an Expert Committee. Such things make good items easy to sell, but I suppose the idea here is that if you don't want to sell yourself your estate will, no doubt, on a later occasion, pay for these opinions. Insufficient of my collector acquaintances, however, have passed away to test this theory.

My friends all know that this particular "expert" makes no personal charge for his views. There are occasions, however, when he suggests a donation to some suitable philatelic cause. This is the only way he knows by which the resistance of blood-sucking collectors can be offset.

His expiring thought is that honour and glory are splendid things — to keep away from.

J.R.W.P.

DAVID H. HILL MEDAL AWARDED TO MR H. M. CAMPBELL

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has awarded the David H. Hill Medal to Mr H. M. Campbell, F.R.P.S.L.

It is the second award of the medal, the first recipient being Mr J. R. W. Purves, on its establishment in 1957.

The medal is "for distinguished service, whether of a cultural or administrative nature, done in the cause of adult philately."

It was founded with the desire that it should be recognised as Australia's premier philatelic award.

Mr Campbell is a widely-known philatelic writer. He is co-author, with Mr A. G. Brown, of *The Numeral Obliterators of New South Wales*, just published, and one of the authors of *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*, published last year.

He was also the author of *The Post Offices and Postal Cancellations of Fiji* and of "Ship Cancellations of Fiji" in J. Whitsed Dovey's *Ship Letters of the South Pacific*.

Mr Campbell was also the first editor of *Philately from Australia*, which he edited for more than six years, and has been a frequent contributor throughout its life.

David H. Hill, whom the medal commemorates, was the foundation president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, and one of the original names on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. He was also a pioneer student of Victoria's stamps.

MIPEX 1963

The Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition, 1963, sponsored by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, the Victorian Philatelic Association, and the philatelic societies of Victoria, will open in the Melbourne Town Hall and Preston Motors, Russell Street, on Monday, 7 October, and continue until Saturday, 12 October. The Court of Honour will be at Preston Motors and the competitive classes in the lower Town Hall.

The British High Commissioner, Sir William Oliver, will officially open the Exhibition at noon on 7 October.



The medal design will feature the Queen-on-Throne, of Victoria's second stamp issue, 1852-54, on the obverse, with the Melbourne skyline from Princes Bridge on the reverse.

Medals will be in gold, silver-gilt, silver, and bronze, and the championship trophy, a silver salver, will be the gift of the Postmaster-General's Department.

Season tickets, admitting to both venues over the full period of the Exhibition, will be 30/-. Single admission charges (admitting to both venues also) will be 12/6. The two halves can be used on different days if desired. Children under 16 will be admitted at 3/-. A copy of the Exhibition Catalogue, with the list of awards as an insert, is included in the season and adult ticket charges. Further copies of the Catalogue will be available at 5/-.

The Exhibition Post Office will be at Preston Motors, and there will be two Exhibition postmarks, featuring the "Barred Oval" and "Barred Numeral" cancellations of Victoria's classic period. This follows the use of the "Butterfly" cancellation, Victoria's first cancellation, at Melbourne's Australian National Philatelic Exhibition 1950. Three different inks will be used: First day (7 October), green; second to fifth days, black; last day (12 October), purple.

The registration label is printed in red, green, and blue.

MIPEX envelopes will be on sale at the information bureaux at 4d. each.

Two new stamps, the 5d. green Queen Elizabeth and the 4/- blue Tasman, will be issued on 9 October and will be available at the Exhibition Post Office.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by J. P. MEARA

MIPEX 1963

As "The Week" draws nigh the arduous task of the organisers reaches its zenith and one of the primary objects is a successful exhibition which will act as a rejuvenation tonic in the many fields of philatelic enterprise, greater individual effort and more concerted Society activity. As Australians generally are renowned for their sporting and gambling propensities, so MIPEX will be a golden opportunity for us to promote our philately to far greater heights. The atmosphere of Australia's first "International," the philatelic fellowship pervading and the success of MIPEX will, it is hoped, be sufficient inducement for as many readers as possible to converge on Melbourne for the occasion.

1d. QUEEN ELIZABETH II, 2.2.59

To date only two electros appear to have been used for this value, the upper right sheet "B" being the subject of these notes.

On the left pane R10/7 master plate recutting affects the left ends of the horizontal lines from the top of "1" to a point opposite the Queen's neck.

On the right pane of what I designate Electro 1 purely for expediency, I refer to two units, viz.:

R1/8 - Minor recutting detectable by a whitish area, of some six lines, immediately left of the Queen's hair, the lines being slightly bent. The prior state was a colour spot.

R9/7 - The crooked appearance of "1" is an indication that the recutting is more extensive than a casual glance suggests. The lower right outline of "1," the adjacent short diagonals, left side of the stop, the short horizontals between "1" and the stop, and some four lines below have been recut, and Mr W. Hansen of Sydney advises the correction removed several spots in the affected area. The flaw was seemingly short-lived as my earliest date for both recuts is September 1960.

The recut electro may be distinguished *inter alia* by (i) spot off lower right of large pip; (ii) two spots lower left corner of sheet; (iii) diagonal scratch below left corner of R.P. R10/1.

On Electro 2, so-called, both units are normal and one distinguishing feature is a heavy spot 10½ mm. above and 4 mm. in from top right corner of L.P. R1/7.

Some beautiful shades exist. Initially the colour was slate-purple; September

1959, slate-grey; September 1960, dull purple; early 1961, bright purple-violet; March 1962, rich deep purple-violet; July 1963, purple. Although intermediate tonings may be found, the best contrast is offered by the shades mentioned.

3d. QUEEN ELIZABETH II COIL PLATE

The 3d. blue-green Queen was issued on 20 May 1959 and the Postmaster-General's *Philatelic Bulletin* of December 1961 advised that coils of 20-join from sheets of 320 had been introduced.

This design, horizontal in format, faces left on the plate providing sheets of 160. So also with the coil master plate of 640-on, which provides left and right sheets of 320 units arranged 16 across by 20 down if sheets are arranged so that the pips are at top and base with the design facing left, and these notes have application on that basis.

Coil plate Nos. 3 and 5 are held and additional proof of the design facing left is the appearance of the "grip indicator" on the selvedge of the left sheets as a roughly circled spot 26½ mm. left of R9/1. The spot is intersected by a horizontal line running from the edge of the sheet and finishing short of R9/1, 9¼ mm. from the top left corner. Between left and right sheets the vertical centre layout line is 26 mm. equidistant from the frames of adjacent columns. No trace of an "indicator" exists in the corresponding position opposite R9/16 of the right sheet.

The left sheet features weakness to the centre of left frame of R1/4, and on R5/4 in addition to a similar weakness there is doubling of the inside of the outer frame line. (Rows 4/16, and 4/20 if design viewed upright.)

Sheets bear Type IV pips (oOo) but it is the plate numbers and associated markings which intrigue.

Plate No. 3 on the left sheet is 8 mm. (centre to centre) above and below the large pip at top and base respectively, but is incised horizontally in relation to the facing left design. At top, three somewhat wavy lines 35 to 36 mm. long, roughly 1 mm. apart, extend to the left from a point 12 mm. from the top of the sideways "3." At base, the three lines are correspondingly placed 11½ mm. on the left of the number, but the first 6¼ mm. are very fine compared with the width and depth of the remaining length.

The right sheet has yet to be secured.

Plate 5 presents the unorthodox in that the number on both left and right sheets is vertical to the facing left design, furthermore is out of normal position.

At top of the left sheet, the number is 10½ mm. left of the large pip and 9½ mm. above, and 3 mm. to the right of the "5" are the three wavy lines, heavy for only 11 mm. and faint for 2 mm. upper line, 4 mm. centre and 4½ mm. lower. Immediately on the left of the lines faint arrowheads point to the alignment of the three practically horizontal lines of the figure.

At the bottom of the left sheet, the plate number is 9 mm. left and 9½ mm. below the large pip, and the only visible line is 10½ mm. long commencing 3½ mm. right of the figure.

On the right sheet, without belabouring the measurements, the reverse situation applies in that the "5" is right of the large pip with the bars on the left.

My only conclusion for these unorthodox positions is the individuality (and perhaps inexperience) of the technician responsible for incising the numbers and bars.

So far as this value is concerned we have:

Plate 1 – Obviously on first electro for sheets of 160.

Plate 2 – Sheet "B" (160), purchased 18.4.63, shows the figure sideways and preceded by five Xs.

Plate 3 – Coil sheets purchased 21.9.62.

Plate 4 – Sheet of 160 or coil?

Plate 5 – Coil sheets purchased March 1963.

Plate 6 – Yet in use?

Does this prove the contention of Brisbane and Sydney students that electros are numbered consecutively irrespective of whether the master plate format is for post office sheets, coils or booklets, according to the particular value concerned?

5d. RED CROSS, 8.5.63

Mr G. A. Laker of Brisbane recently showed me a copy of this stamp, post-marked "Beaudesert 3 JE 63," with attached selvedge bearing the dark blue electronic guide, which positions the copy as R1/1 lower sheet. The lamp on this copy is completely white. The grey colouring on this issue does vary in intensity even on the same sheet and a hasty conclusion would be that this is a "missing colour" variety, although I have no report of other similar copies.

Photogravure is a photomechanical intaglio process involving considerable interesting technical detail and the recessed printing base is rather shallower than that of the engraved recess base. The absence of grey in this case is probably due to the action of the doctor blade and wipers completely removing the ink from the shallow cells when the grey colour run was made.

A noteworthy variety on the lower sheet occurs on R4/12, which had a white spot 1 mm. in diameter in the centre of the bowl. A faint dark area reflects the retouch made and it is to be noted that a similar retouch to this unit occurred on sheets of the Papua and New Guinea issue which were available in Brisbane, although I have not seen the spot flaw on this issue.

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

Since my collation of then information in "Trail," June 1962, research still indicates a 240-on master plate, and over a long period only two electros, and the discovery in January 1963 by Mr L. Skinner, of Sydney, of a further exceptional retouch, merits a brief recapitulation of events, viz.:

Left Sheet R12/8

Plate ?1 (Expediency)

- (a) Weak "Postage" – reported *A.S.M.*, April 1959.
 - (b) Light recut top of "POS" and between "TA" (December 1959).
 - (c) Worn state of (b) (March 1962).
 - (d) Extensive heavy recut Postage panel (March 1962).
- Common features:
- (i) Markings near large pip.
 - (ii) Recut line joining top of "TA."
 - (iii) Spot 9 mm. left of "2" of R12/1 (plate layout).

Plate 2 (Plate No. Evidence)

- (a) "POS" weak, colour fleck above "O" (January 1959).
- (b) As (a) with "inverted T" and boomerang mark below unit; ? result of overhaul.
 - (i) Colour fleck persists.

- (c) Worn state of (b) (early 1962).
 (d) Moderate recutting around "POSTAG" and through lower curve of "S" (March 1962).
 Common features: (i) Pip markings.

Right Sheet R10/4

Plate ?1

- (a) Weak lower portion of "Postage." ? Plate.
 (b) Strong recutting of diagonals, doubling right of "E" (March 1962).
 Common features: (i) Pip markings.
 (ii) Spot 4½ mm. left of top of "2" of R12/1.
 (iii) Two close spots 5 to 5½ mm. below "O," R12/1.

Plate 2

- (a) Weakness lower portion of "Postage"? Plate?
 (b) Light recutting base of letters and diagonals (March 1962).
 (c) Worn state of (b).
 (d) Extensive recutting of diagonals, very strong with greater doubling right of "E" (January 1963).
 Common features: (i) Pip markings.
 (ii) Spot under right "2" of R7/10.
 (iii) Short dash 5½ mm. below "P" of R12/1.
 (iv) Spot and traces of layout arc 12¼ mm. left of base of R12/1 (plate).

Pertinent dates:

- 19.3.52 — Issued Authority imprint, C of A wmk. facing left.
 May '53 — Imprint removed.
 19.12.56 — No wmk. paper distributed from Note Printing Branch.
 22.7.58 — Type IV pips appeared in Brisbane.

The Plate No. 2 block from a left sheet held by Messrs W. Hansen and L. Skinner, Sydney, is on no wmk. paper, Type I pips, but despite my humble efforts I am not wholly satisfied with the set-up as presented. Can and will anyone assist with further details, particularly prior to 1959?

EDITORIAL NOTES

Oval N.S.W. Embossed, 1838

In the 1961 issue of the *New South Wales Philatelic Annual* the editor, Mr E. J. Garrard, solicited information about an oval N.S.W. embossed design on a newspaper wrapper which had been found by Mr Robson Lowe.

He illustrated the design, and Mr E. R. Slade Slade of Sydney has found a complete wrapper. Details are given in this year's annual, just published.

N.Z. 2/- Pictorial, Laid Paper

The 2/- N.Z. Pictorial on laid paper was issued in March 1903. The editor has a copy postmarked "Ashburton 10 March 1903." Is an earlier date known?

That Young?

From Carol Brahm and S. J. Simon, *Don't, Mr Disraeli:*

At Sandringham a lovely Princess is sitting at her writing-table. At her knee a little boy, in a starched white frock with blue ribbons at his shoulders, precariously clutches the edge of the table. He is pointing to an envelope. It has a tiny plum-coloured picture on it.

"Oo?" he asks cleverly.

"Grandmamma," says the Princess kindly. "Isn't it like her?"

"Gimme," says the little boy.

Indulgent the lovely Princess hands him the envelope, and he toddles away to gloat over it.

King George V has started his stamp collection.

BRISBANE POSTMARKS FOR PAPUA AIRMAIL

By H. L. CHISHOLM

The interesting inter-relationships between the Queensland and New Guinea postal administrations, which have existed for nearly 80 years and provided philatelists with a number of intriguing records, came under notice again last year with the introduction of a unique late fee airmail arrangement. This has provided two special markings already.

Under a system inaugurated on Saturday, 25 March 1962, airmail posted in a late fee box on Port Moresby airport is cancelled with a special postmarker on arrival at Brisbane.

Details of the service have been kindly provided by Mr G. J. Poulter, Public Relations Officer of the Postmaster-General's Department, Brisbane.

The new service originated from a request by the Director, Post and Telegraphs, Port Moresby (Mr W. F. Carter) to Australian post office headquarters, Melbourne, for approval of late fee posting facilities at Port Moresby airport on Sunday mornings.

Approval was given, subject to certain conditions, which the Papua-New Guinea administration accepted. The Director, Post and Telegraphs, Brisbane (Mr B. J. O'Brien), then asked headquarters in Melbourne for a special postmarker to be used on this New Guinea airmail.

Insufficient time being available for the engraving of a steel postmarker, a circular rubber postmarker was obtained. This was a 32 mm. circular marker with the following inscription: G.P.O. BRISBANE (at top) 25 MAR 1962 POSTED LATE FEE (in the middle) PORT MORESBY (bottom) (illustrated *Philatelic Bulletin* (Australian P.M.G.), April 1962, p. 35).

The service operates one way only, Port Moresby to Brisbane, and provides for mail articles upon which the correct postage has been prepaid and which are addressed to offices within the Commonwealth of Australia only.

These are collected by Trans-Australia Airlines personnel from the late fee box and put in a small, light mail bag, which is handed into the personal custody of the captain of the departing aircraft operating Flight 1303. This leaves Port Moresby at 11 a.m. on Sunday and arrives at Eagle Farm Airport, Brisbane, at 4.15 p.m. This mail, with the ordinary airmail carried by the aircraft, is handed over to P.M.G. personnel and reaches Brisbane G.P.O. at 5 p.m.

The mail closes at 9 a.m., with a late fee at 9.15, daily, except Monday, on which day there is no flight out of Port Moresby.

Provision of the airport late fee system minimises the amount of mail having to wait until Tuesday.

The route is flown by Douglas DC6B aircraft.

The first mail totalled 254 articles (185 ordinary postal articles and 69 official first day covers).

Production of a steel postmarker was then undertaken, because of the wear and tear on a rubber one, and this was introduced on 13 May 1962, replacing the first type, which was in use for seven mails.

The new postmarker was a 32 mm. square, the wording being G.P.O. BRISBANE (top) 13MY62 POSTED LATE FEE PORT MORESBY (illustrated *Philatelic Bulletin*, August 1962, p. 7).

From 1885 to the introduction of British New Guinea stamps in 1901, there were New Guinea postmarks on Australian stamps, the cancellers being of the Queensland pattern.

With the resumption of civilian postal services after World War II, in 1945, Port Moresby's first postmarker was P.M.G.'s DEPT C1/QLD-AUST, applied to Australian stamps.

This was followed by Papua-New Guinea postmarks on Australian stamps until the first issue of Papua-New Guinea stamps, in 1952.

Now we have a Brisbane postmark on Papua-New Guinea stamps.

REVIEWS

The New South Wales Philatelic Annual for 1962-63. Edited by E. J. Garrard. 32 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales, Box FJV, G.P.O., Sydney. Price, 2/6.

This is the fourteenth of the series of annuals published by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales and, as usual, it is an excellent production, of infinite variety.

Dr L. Abramovich heads the authors with an article on Commonwealth Die Proofs, Mr T. Stone writes on the interest of Victoria, and Mr D. B. Moloney discusses the Pacific Islands similarly.

Mrs P. M. C. Rock summarises the Postal History of France, and Mr Garrard has a paper on Philatelic Frauds in which he recounts that Australia has had its share of fakers and forgers.

Once again, it is sincerely recommended.

The Burrus Collection (New Zealand, Bahamas, Bermuda, Cyprus, and Hong Kong). 60 pp. 6½ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1. Price 10/- (stg.).

Unfortunately this volume of the hand-book-catalogue being produced by Robson Lowe in connection with the disposal of the great Burrus collection reached us after the auction.

But it again evidenced the remarkable extent of the collection.

Highlight of the sale was, of course, the 1854 Bermuda cover bearing a superb one penny Postmaster, which brought £11,000, a world record price for any British Empire stamp sold at auction.

The New Zealand section brought £25,770, and some of the items it contained, with prices realised, were: 1d. London Print, S.G. 1, mint pair, £2400; 2d. mint pair, £620; five used 1d. singles brought up to £750 each and a creased unused one, £320. Blocks of 20 of the 1862 star watermarks sold for £750 (1d.), £1000 (6d.) and £1550 (1/-).

In the Perf. 12½ issue, a mint block of 60 1d. carmine brought £175, and a block of 95 in pale orange-vermilion, £180.

The unique block of 60 Fourpence on Saunders paper was passed in.

Price List of Philatelic Literature, 1963. 80 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Avenue, Jamaica 32, N.Y., U.S.A. Price \$1.50.

Mr Billig again offers thousands of philatelic works in his latest list. These include many items from the Dr Carroll Chase library. They are listed under 55 headings and include many unusual and rare items.

The list is worth study by specialists in any country.

TWO NEW BOOKS PUBLISHED

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has published two new works to coincide with the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition.

They are *Victoria: The "Barred Numeral" Cancellations 1856-1912*, by Mr J. R. W. Purves, and *New South Wales Numeral Cancellations*, by Mr Alan Brown and Mr Hugh Campbell.

Both will be standard works on their subjects. The volume on the New South Wales numeral cancellations is published by the society jointly with Robson Lowe Ltd, of London.

Both will be available at MIPEX.

They are reviewed below:

Victoria: The "Barred Numeral" Cancellations, 1856-1912, by J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L. 211 pages and 11 plates. 11 x 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ in. Published by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Price £5.5.0.

Every student of the postal history of Victoria has been eagerly awaiting the appearance of this book, which incorporates the results of more than thirty years of collecting and study on the part of the author.

Mr Purves had already covered the period up to 1856 in his three earlier studies, *The Postal History of the Port Phillip District 1835-1851*, *The Butterfly Postmarks*, and *The Second Type of Obliteration (The "Barred Oval," 1851-56)*. These were extremely difficult fields to work in, but at least the periods covered, and the number of offices concerned, were somewhat limited.

Some aspects of the study of the third type of numeral cancellation, the "Barred Numeral," are every whit as difficult, but the field to be covered is enormous. The numbers themselves range from 1 to 2100, and we are fortunate indeed to possess a 1906 post office list of numbers and the offices using them. The list, however, is by no means complete, and in other ways also is only a starting point for further study. These barred numeral obliterations were issued over a period of fifty years of change and development. Both the gold rushes and the building of the railways, for example, had far-reaching effects upon the postal history of the time. Offices were opened, re-named, closed or moved. One is filled with admiration at the form and order Mr Purves has imposed upon the great mass of material he has had to handle.

He begins with a chapter on the history of Victorian postmark collecting. There are chapters on the documentary evidence available for research, on the growth of the post office establishment, on the methods used in allocating numbers to post offices, and on the progress made in identifying the 62 blank numbers in the 1906 list. Fifty-one of these, incidentally, have now been definitely identified. There is also a well illustrated chapter on the various types of barred numeral cancellation, and their manufacturers.

Half of the book is occupied with the listing of the numbers in order against the offices using them, with dates of opening, change of name, types of cancel-

lation used, and other details. This is a masterpiece of arrangement and condensation, and it had to be if the list was to be kept within reasonable compass.

This list is balanced by the equally important index, where the names of offices in alphabetical order are listed against the numbers they used. Those who have worked in this or similar fields will know what it means to have such an index conveniently to hand.

There are further chapters on the duplex numeral cancellations and on post offices opened between November 1906 (when numeral obliterations ceased to be issued) and January 1913. And there are three invaluable chapters for the would-be collector and student, on degrees of rarity, collecting methods, and work that remains to be done on Victorian postal history and markings.

Mr Purves is generous in his appreciation of his fellow workers in this field of Victorian postal history. It might be well to place on record the fact that most of them today, with the exception of a veteran like Mr J. H. Dunn, entered that fascinating field only as a result of Mr Purves's own infectious enthusiasm, and under his guidance. Victorian philately owes him a debt of gratitude on many counts, but not least for the years of work that lie behind this book, and for the labour involved in its compilation. Collector and student now have their textbook, and if as a result others are enabled to fill in some of the remaining gaps in our knowledge, I am sure no-one will be better pleased than its author.

In the clear setting out of the material in a book such as this the printer has necessarily played an important part. The typography is well up to the standard we have come to take for granted from The Hawthorn Press.

J.C.W.B.

New South Wales Numeral Cancellations, by Alan G. Brown and Hugh M. Campbell, F.R.P.S.L. 79 pp. 7¼ x 9½ in. Published jointly by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, and Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price £2 (stg.), £2/10/- (Aust.).

New South Wales has 2089 numeral cancellers, brought into use between 1850, with the Sydney Views, and 1903. The two authors have undertaken the task of identifying them with their post offices.

Before this work only 250 were "tied" with their offices and this total included most of the 96 of the original allocation.

The joint authors have brought the total of known or probable "ties" to more than 1300 — about two-thirds of the total — and a gain of more than 1000 — an achievement by any standards.

Besides this, the authors have established the patterns of allocation — the original allocation, four re-allocations and their periods, and the issues to post offices, roughly in order of establishment, between the re-allocations.

They have ferreted out 11 general patterns of allocation and it is interesting to find that the original allocation was on the basis of lines of road, as with the Butterfly cancellations of Victoria issued at the same time.

The obliterations of the period are also divided into five types, of which two have three sub-types, and a list of exceptions is given.

Only six manuscript cancellations have been found.

Prior to the introduction of stamps the markings were usually in red. With the advent of the Sydney Views black ink was used, and it is interesting to note that

the authors have not found a single red cancellation among the abnormal colours. These in order of apparent popularity were blue, brown, violet.

The known types of each numeral, including sub-types, are given in a table and then follows a chronological list of post offices and their numeral obliterators, with notes as necessary.

Finally, there is an alphabetical list of post offices.

The names are a joy. Some perpetuate the names of overseas places — there was even a Reno. Others, like Kangaroo Creek, Blue-Gum Flat, Emu, Bookookoo-rara and Blucy, are as Australian as Bandiwallop.

There is The Dairy, The Vineyard, and The Woolshed.

World War I's mark is identifiable: Germantown (Holbrook, 1916), German's Hill (Lidster, 1917) and German Creek (Empire Vale, 1915).

Men and women have made their hontes at Home Rule, Guy Fawkes, Frying Pan, Come-by-Chance, Jawbone, No. 1, North Berry Jerry, Porter's Retreat, Gentleman's Halt, and Willson's Downfall.

Were they embarrassed at inviting friends to visit them at Dirty Swamp, or Lunatic Reefs?

Groundwork of the study was made possible by the now famous find of a huge quantity of pieces from envelopes addressed to Tattersall's between 1897 and 1904.

The many gentlemen of the cloth among the philatelic fraternity may regret the widespread patronage accorded to that famous Australian institution. But here is proof of the text "Out of evil cometh forth good."

EDITORIAL NOTES

Mr W. H. Wilcock

Mr W. H. Wilcock is the new general manager of the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank of Australia, and the printer of Australia's stamps. He succeeded Mr W. G. C. McCracken, who retired recently.

Cook Islands

The Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand is anxious to establish the periods of use of the various postmarks used on the first issue of Cook Islands.

Would all collectors who have covers bearing stamps of this issue or dated stamps or pieces send full details of them to Mr A. R. Burge, Box 1269, Wellington, New Zealand.

The information is wanted for the society's forthcoming volume on the Island Dependencies of New Zealand.

Tenth Birthday

The Australian *Philatelic Bulletin*, issued by the Postmaster-General's Department, has now completed ten years' publication. Throughout its life it has been edited by Mr P. Collas, head of the department's philatelic branch and a former editor of the *Australian Stamp Monthly*.

It has published many new facts about the Commonwealth's and the States' stamps hitherto buried in departmental records, and it is clear that more will follow.

A second cumulative index, covering the past five years, will be issued soon.

KULUMADAU AND BONAGAI—THE POST OFFICES ON WOODLARK ISLAND, PAPUA, 1899-1942

By *EVAN R. GILL*, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from page 44)

John Finn continued as postmaster at Kulumadau until 1 July 1905, when the post office was transferred to Bonagai despite a certain amount of local protest. Finn handed over to the Assistant Resident Magistrate there, now Francis Gill [no relation of the writer's], who was to combine the duties of postmaster with those of A.R.M. and Warden. We quote from Mr Gill's Report dated from Bonagai 31 July 1906:

"The dissatisfaction expressed at the transfer of the post office from Kulumadau to Bonagai has quite subsided, and all are now satisfied or reconciled with existing arrangements, and I do not think a change to the old system would be now welcomed.

In addition to the Busai delivery, I have since the opening of the new road established a delivery at Karavakum on the arrival of each mail, a service which is much appreciated by the residents of that place and Suloga.

During the year 36 ship mails were received, and 32 despatched."

Alas! the A.R.M.'s optimism was not justified, for when the Royal Commission on Papua visited the island in October of that same year witnesses objected to the transfer on the grounds that Bonagai was too far away and that they should not have to walk 1½ miles to buy stamps or obtain parcels which had to be signed for. They pleaded also that Woodlark should have a direct mail service such as was maintained with Port Moresby and Samarai. That is to say, that the mails for Woodlark should be made up at Cooktown or other Australian post offices, and not enclosed in bags for Samarai as was the current practice. Both objections were ultimately met.

In his Report for the year ended 30 June 1907 Mr Gill (still writing from Bonagai) said:

"The want of a timetable regulating the arrival and departure of mail steamers calling at Woodlark Island causes a considerable inconvenience and annoyance. As a port of call, Woodlark Island does not appear to have been provided for in the Mail Contract, the term of which is just completed, and it is hoped that in the next contract provision will be made for calling at Woodlark in accordance with a timetable. As it is now, we never know when to expect the arrival or departure of a mail steamer, and when they do call, the master of the vessel never thinks of conforming to the provisions of section 71 of the Commonwealth Postal Act. . . . During the year there were 41 oversea mails despatched and 40 received; of these, 40 were carried by mail steamers and 41 by other vessels. The number of ordinary letters despatched outward was 2955 and the number received 3944. Registered letters, inward 57 and outward 175."

Most unfortunately, the Report for 1907-08 was not received in time for publication with the other Reports for that year, so we have no published record of the date the post office was transferred from Bonagai back to Kulumadau. All we know is that this was made "late in 1907."

The first c.d.s. for Bonagai (Type "e") was similar to Kulumadau's (Type "d") in so far as it showed "BRITISH NEW GUINEA" in full. (It might here be noted that those two and that used at Kumusi were the only datestamps showing the name of the Territory in full, the whole set within a circle, which were ever introduced.)

We do not know the precise date this stamp was brought into use. It was probably during the latter part of July 1905. We know the Kulumadau c.d.s. (Type "d") was brought along to Bonagai and was in use there at all events as late as 18 July. (The reader should be reminded that it cannot be assumed that the date of opening of a post office and the introduction of the first stamp bearing its name necessarily coincided.) What we do know is that examples of both "d" and "e" are rarely seen, for both had comparatively short lives — the latter, as will be seen from Table A, the shorter of the two. Thanks to the courtesy of the Rev. H. A. Voyce we are able to reproduce a splendid example of this *rara avis* (appropriately enough the reverse of this postcard depicts *The Magnificent Bird of Paradise!*). This strike is dated 23 NOV 06.

Both "d" and "e," together with the "WOODLARKS" c.d.s. ("a"), were returned to Port Moresby under cover of a letter dated 3 January 1907.

It might here be mentioned that this "BONAGAI" datestamp was destined to achieve distinction much further afield (at Nepa) as a "Relief" c.d.s. — the letters "BONAGAI" having first been removed.

Here we must digress for a moment to record something of major interest



concerning the datestamps of the two other post offices of the South-Eastern Division, viz., Sudest and Nivani. To his letter of 3 January 1907, M. H. Moreton, the Resident Magistrate and Postmaster, Bonagai, attached a sheet of impressions of the implements he was returning. This showed not only the three used on Woodlark Island referred to above but also the circular datestamp and "REGISTERED" stamps and seals formerly in use at those other two offices. Clearly, Mr Moreton must have brought these along to Bonagai with him when he moved his headquarters from Nivani in January-February 1902.

The Papua Act 1905

1 September 1906 saw the coming into force of this Act whereby British New Guinea came under Commonwealth control as Papua, hence the introduction of entirely new cancellations throughout the Territory.

The first to be sent to Woodlark Island was the "BONAGAI.S.E.D. - PAPUA" c.d.s. (Type "f"). As receipt of this was acknowledged on 26 November 1906, we may assume it came into use on or about that date. This stamp was the first to show the letters "s.e.d." denoting the administrative division.

Though fairly common (if that may be said of any Woodlark Island postmarks), its life at Bonagai was relatively brief, for in July 1907 the post office was transferred back to Kulumadau and it spent by far the greater part of its working life there. It follows, then, that whether it was used at Bonagai or at Kulumadau can only be determined by the date.

Kulumadau

As just noted, the post office was transferred back to Kulumadau in July 1907. But, as we shall see, it had to wait a long time for its own "signature tune." It re-opened with Bonagai's Type "f," which was to be joined in 1911 by yet another stamp lettered "BONAGAI" but without the "s.e.d." (Type "g"). Examples of this type are rare. The only one I have seen is on a cover dated 16 December 1911, in the collection of W. A. Henderson, Armadale, West Lothian. It seems passing strange that, lettered as it was, it should ever have been manufactured at all, let alone sent along to Kulumadau four years or more after the office at Bonagai had been closed. Be that as it may, it, together with its predecessor, remained in use until early in 1912 when, on the arrival of datestamps lettered "KULUMADAU S.E.D.", they were returned to Port Moresby.

We have an interesting item illustrating this late use of Type "f" of Bonagai in a receipt for a Registered letter here reproduced (p. 76). It will be seen that A. H. Symons signs as "Postmaster Kulumadau" beneath a clear impression of the Bonagai c.d.s. dated 1 AUG 09.

There must have been some reason for thus withholding a "KULUMADAU" stamp for so long a period. Reading between the lines of the Annual Reports of the period, we believe the explanation may be found in the dissension that existed between the two mining communities of Bonagai and Kulumadau. The following extract from a letter written by Francis Gill, the Resident Magistrate and Postmaster, addressed to the Chief Postmaster, Port Moresby, dated 9 April 1908, is revealing:

"Bonagai has become known to the shipping and postal officials, and perhaps an alteration would not be expedient, [it had been made some nine months previously!—E.R.G.] but if such be considered necessary I suggest that 'Woodlark Island' be adopted, this name is even better known than 'Bonagai'."

Unfortunately we have no knowledge of the reply (if any) to this letter.

In November 1911 a member of the Legislative Council inquired:

"Will the Government have steps taken to alter the Postal Regulations so as to make Kulumadau the Post Office for Woodlark Island instead of Bonagai?"

As we know, the post office had already been located at Kulumadau for something like $4\frac{1}{2}$ years! We can only surmise that what the Hon. Member was really objecting to, quite rightly and properly, was the continued use of dating stamps which led the outside world to believe that it was still at Bonagai. At all events, the Hon. Member seems to have won his point for at long last, early in 1912, Kulumadau was supplied with, so it is said, *two* datestamps (our "h" and "i"), and the Bonagai stamps were returned to Port Moresby.

Why, we might well ask, should two stamps, lettered identically, have been supplied simultaneously? Our informant (a P.O. official) informed us that they were so supplied, but admitted that his information was based on slender evidence. Such evidence as I have suggests that Type "h" preceded "i" by a matter of some five years. (It is singularly unfortunate that the only impression of the latter I have available for reproduction should bear the same date as its mate!) My earliest Type "h" is dated 23 May 1912, and I have no example of it later than July 1918. On the other hand, I have no example of Type "i" earlier than 31 May 1917. Thus a relatively brief *overlapping* period is shown. "Conjecture!" the reader may well exclaim. Well, we must leave it at that and hope that others will produce evidence either to support my theory or to debunk it.

The two strikes are so similar that to distinguish one from the other is not easy. So much depends upon the clarity of the letters "S.E.D." The shapes of the two letters "s" differ and the space between the top right point of the "s" and the top left corner of the "d" is less in "h" than it is in "i." Further, the terminal "A" of "PAPUA" in Type "i" is asymmetrical.

Alas, lean times throughout the whole of the mining industry on Woodlark Island were to come. In May 1918, the principal company at Kulumadau went into liquidation and the other companies were practically at a standstill for the next four years. Mining on Misima Island, on the other hand, had prospered to such an extent that in December 1919 the Government decided to transfer the Headquarters of the South-Eastern Division thither, i.e., to Bwagaioia, so Kulumadau lost its status as a fully-functioning Post Office. We quote the Treasurer, Port Moresby, writing under date 21 October 1920:

"Post Offices. Little alteration has been effected in the postal service, the only item of note being the change at the Kulumadau office. Previously Savings Bank and Money Order business were carried on here, but with the withdrawal of the permanent Government Officer in April last, the postal work had to be handed over to a Receiving Postmistress, hence the cessation of the services referred to at that centre."



REGISTERED
WOODLARKS B.N.G



UNCLAIMED AT
KULUMADAU

TAX

MISSENT

Regd. No.

619



REGISTERED a Letter for *E. A. Staples*
North End.
from *Postmaster*
Kulamadaw Groydon
Surry
England.
A. D. Staples
Postmaster.

In September 1922 the Misima Gold Mining Co. closed down and during the following year a measure of prosperity returned to Woodlark Island. The post office at Kulumadau was re-opened 15 November 1923, when N. G. Imlay was appointed Assistant Resident Magistrate and Postmaster.

It would appear that during the interregnum the Receiving Postmistress had been empowered to use the cancelling stamp (Type "i") (you will have noticed that the Treasurer only spoke of the Savings Bank and Money Order business as having ceased) for we either have, or have seen, nine examples showing its use on dates ranging from 1 June 1921 to 21 October 1922.

Our story closes with the cessation of Civil Government in February 1942, when the post office at Kulumadau, in common with many others, was closed. Unlike others it has never been re-opened.

Sources: The Annual Reports of the Territory from 1894 onwards and communications from a former Chief Postmaster, Port Moresby.

Table A. Types of Cancellation and their Usage

(a) WOODLARKS-B.N.G. (c.d.s.)

Kulumadau: Prob. December 1899 to late 1903.

(b) B.N.G. (10-barred obliterator)

Kulumadau: Prob. December 1899 to July 1905.

Bonagai: July 1905 to late 1907.

(c) REGISTERED-WOOLARKS B.N.G.

Kulumadau: Prob. December 1899 to July 1905.

Bonagai: July 1905 to late 1907.

Kulumadau: Late 1907 to February 1942.

(d) KULUMADAU-BRITISH NEW GUINEA (c.d.s.)

Kulumadau: November 1903 to July 1905.

Bonagai: July 1905 to late in that month (?).

(e) BONAGAI-BRITISH NEW GUINEA (c.d.s.)

Bonagai: July 1905 to prob. end of 1906.

(f) BONAGAI S.E.D.-PAPUA (c.d.s.)

Bonagai: November 1906 to July 1907.

Kulumadau: July 1907 to early 1912.

(g) BONAGAI-PAPUA (c.d.s.)

Kulumadau: Late 1911 to early 1912.

(h) KULUMADAU S.E.D.-PAPUA (c.d.s.)

Kulumadau: Early 1912 to c. 1918

(i) KULUMADAU S.E.D.-PAPUA (c.d.s.)

Kulumadau: c. 1917 to February 1942.

Notes: Types "a," "d" and "e" were returned to Port Moresby 3 January 1907.
Types "f" and "g" were returned to Port Moresby early in 1913.

Table B. *European Mining Population*

(With the exception of the first three years the figures represent the population as it was on 30 June of the year shown.)

1896	July	160	1915	58
1897	Aug.	250	1916	48
1898	Apr.	160	1917	36
1899		62	1918	25
1900		76	1919	12 (Alluvial only)
1901		150	1920	3
1902		100	1921	(Mining practically at a standstill)
1903		120	1922	(Mining practically at a standstill)
1904		56	1923	8
1905		89	1924	8
1906		80	1925	7
1907		69	1926	7
1908		69	1927	11
1909		48	1928	13
1910		65	1929	12
1911		110	1930	9
1912		89	1931	10
1913		109	1932	6
1914		39		

No figures were published in subsequent Annual Reports. Instead we read such phrases as "Mining on a very moderate scale" (1934); "Practically at a standstill" (1935). This for 1936: "Gold dredging areas on Woodlark Island (Murua Goldfield) which were taken up last year were abandoned. However, some of the old gold mines were re-opened and worked on a moderate scale. Old mining residents of Woodlark Island are confident that there will be an active revival in gold-mining on this field in the not very distant future."

Alas — their confidence was misplaced, for in the following year's Report we read: "Gold-mining was carried on sporadically throughout the Territory, but the only important developments were on the island of Misima in the Louisiade Goldfield."

No reference to mining on Woodlark Island, of any great significance, appears in any subsequent Report to date.

NEW LIGHT ON TASMANIAN HANDSTRUCK MARKINGS, 1837-75

By A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

The long-awaited appearance in 1962 of *Tasmania – The Postal History and Postal Markings* by H. M. Campbell, J. R. W. Purves and L. C. Viney (referred to in this article as the *Postal History* for short) provided specialists with an authoritative work based on prolonged research and containing all the information then available on this subject. Inevitably this publication has stimulated further research in the field, and this article records the new information on the 1837-70 period which I have obtained from three main sources in the past year.

The most important source is an almost complete set of the Appendices to the Report on the Van Diemen's Land Post Office, compiled in 1845 for the Postmaster-General of the United Kingdom. Together with an original manuscript copy of the Report itself, the Appendices, which give detailed statistical and other information, were discovered in the G.P.O. archives in London. The copy of the Report in the G.P.O., Melbourne, apparently is missing. These Appendices, among the most important of which are a sheet bearing strikes of all handstamps in use at the G.P.O., Hobart, on 11 November 1845 (together with manuscript notes on usage), and lists of Tasmanian post offices operating in 1845. The two other principal sources of new information are the archives of the Methodist Missionary Society (see article on "Australian Handstruck Markings," *P. from A.*, June 1962) which have been re-examined in greater detail, and finally, recently acquired or noted copies of many handstruck markings bearing dates earlier or later than those recorded in the *Postal History*.

From these sources it has been possible to establish the existence of four new handstruck markings and to suggest that the handstamps of the 1837-75 period were issued, not haphazardly, but in definite groups at specific dates. The articles also list the post offices operating in 1845, and the volume of correspondence each handled during the year 1844.

New Handstruck Markings

The most important discoveries consist of four new handstruck markings whose existence, as yet unrecorded on letters, is evidenced by the Hobart "strike sheet" of 11 November 1845 (Appendix 23 to the 1845 Report). The first of these new markings is a handstamp reading "Missent to Hobart Town" struck in red on the strike sheet. This is the earliest known Tasmanian instructional handstamp. A similar marking reading "Missent to Hobart" was mentioned by Basset Hull as having been prepared in 1855 but is unknown used before 1907.

The other three new handstamps are the 10 o'clock, 1 o'clock and 4 o'clock "Paid" markings of the Launceston City (twopenny) post. The *Postal History*

lists the "unpaid" stamps of the Launceston City post (on page 15, Figure 23 — references to the various types of handstamps listed and illustrated in the *Postal History* are given throughout this article, thus: "Fig. 23" means Fig. 23 on page 15) but not the "paid" stamps — presumably because no examples have been recorded. The Hobart "strike sheet" of 1845, while carrying strikes of the three "Paid" and three "unpaid" handstamps of the Hobart City post (Figs. 22 and 28 in the *Postal History*), does not carry impressions of the corresponding Launceston handstamps. On the "strike sheet" there is, however, a manuscript note reading "Stamps are used at Launceston, but only for the twopenny post letters — they are similar to the twopenny post stamps at Hobart Town with the exception of their shape which is round." It is not really surprising that no examples of the Launceston "Paid" stamps have yet been seen since all the city post handstamps are exceedingly rare, some only being known by single copies.

Furthermore (a) Launceston only handled less than half as many such letters as Hobart and (b) the proportion of "paid" to "unpaid" letters was very small. In the first week of July 1845 the Launceston P.O. received for delivery 1618 "unpaid" as compared to 134 "paid" country letters. Finally it was both logical and necessary that Launceston should have "paid" as well as "unpaid" stamps for its two penny post — when examples *do* turn up they will almost certainly be identical with the recorded Launceston "unpaid" stamp (Fig. 23) but with the addition of the word "PAID" and struck in red instead of black.

The Hobart "strike sheet" also provides evidence of the existence on 11.11.1845 of "Paid" twopenny post handstamps (as Fig. 28) for Hobart inscribed "10 o'clock" and "4 o'clock" (only "1 o'clock" had hitherto been recorded). An example dated 30 June 1847 of the Hobart "unpaid" two penny post handstamp (as Fig. 22) inscribed "4 o'clock" is in my collection — this was also unrecorded.

The Manner of Use of the Handstamps at Hobart in 1845

The Hobart "strike sheet" of 11 November 1845 not only shows an impression of each handstamp in use at the time but carries in manuscript notes on the manner of use and purpose of the various markings. Unfortunately the original document is too large to illustrate, but the important information it conveys may be summarised as follows:

- (1) *Handstamps to be struck in red:* "G.P.O. Hobart Town crowned oval" (Fig 7). "Free" (Fig. 36); "Paid," two types (Figs. 24 and 26), and paid twopenny post stamps (Fig. 28). A note at the bottom of the "strike sheet" reads: "The impressions of the above stamps [also including the 'Missent to Hobart Town stamp' mentioned above] are made on the face of the several descriptions of letters."
- (2) *The remaining handstamps were to be struck in black:* These are: Ship letter (Fig. 42), the "unnamed" circular and rectangular handstamps (Figs. 20 and 21), and three "unpaid" twopenny post stamps (Fig. 22). The manuscript note below these reads: "Impressions of the first three are made on the backs of the letters and the other three [the twopenny post stamps] upon their faces."

- (3) The "purpose for which used" noted in manuscript against certain handstamps:

G.P.O. Hobart Town (Fig. 36), "Pre-paid ship letter outwards."
Paid (oval, Fig. 24), "Stamp for pre-paid letters despatched from Hobart Town by the inland mails."
Paid (semi-circular, Fig. 26), "Stamp for pre-paid letters arriving at Hobart Town from the interior."
Unnamed (circular, Fig. 20), "Stamp for unpaid letters posted at the General Post Office, Hobart Town, for the interior of the Colony."
Unnamed (rectangular, Fig. 21), "Stamp for unpaid letters arriving at the General Post Office, Hobart Town, by the internal mails."
Hobart City Post (Fig. 22), "Twopenny-post unpaid letter stamps."

Apart from the precise identification for the first time of the purpose of each of the two paid and two unpaid stamps struck on letters to and from other V.D.L. offices, the most interesting identification arising from the above manuscript notes is that of the relatively common "G.P.O. Hobart crowned oval" HS as intended exclusively for use on outward ship letters, although it carries no inscription to this effect.

Chronology of the Handstruck Markings, 1837-75

The new evidence noted at the beginning of this article has yielded fresh earliest and latest recorded dates of usage for a considerable number of the handstruck markings listed in Chapter II of the *Postal History*, and has so narrowed the gap between successive handstamps of similar type that a pattern of dates of issue has emerged. While no conclusive proof may ever be found for the theories advanced, the table of revised dates of usage given below appears to me to afford strong evidence of the correctness of the deductions made.

I suggest therefore that approximately in January 1840, November 1846 and early April 1855 all the handstamps in frequent use at the G.P.O., Hobart, and (from 1846) at the Post Office, Launceston, were withdrawn and replaced by new ones. In 1855 the change was a major one involving alterations in the actual wording of the handstamps to bring them into line with current postal conditions. Taking these dates one by one, I suggest that this is what probably happened:

1837-39

The undated primitive handstamps of Hobart (Fig. 4) and Launceston (Fig. 5) have not been recorded in use later than 1832 and February 1836 respectively. In May or at the very beginning of June 1837 five dated handstamps were brought into use at the G.P.O., Hobart (but none at Launceston). They were for use on inward and outward ship letters (Figs. 41 and 6), paid and unpaid "country" (i.e., Tasmanian) letters (Figs. 25 and 19) and finally official "free" letters. Though a Hobart City post was started in 1834 no special handstamps have been recorded for this class of letter at this period, though one might turn up.

The various crown oval and crown circle handstamps reading "General Post Office, Hobart Town" and the crown in lozenge handstamp reading "Post Office

Launceston" used between 1840 and 1875 were almost certainly *all* outward ship letter markings.

January 1840

Between the end of November 1839 and 1 February 1840 all these five handstamps were withdrawn and replaced by closely similar ones serving the same purposes. These are ship letter inwards (Fig. 42), ship letter outwards (Fig. 7), "paid" country inwards (Fig. 26), "unpaid" country outwards (Fig. 20), and "free" (Fig. 36 — replaced in early 1842 by a very similar handstamp, perhaps owing to wear or damage).

Postal services were developing rapidly at this time and by 1845 it was official policy to record separately all the various categories of letters passing through the G.P.O., Hobart. For these or other reasons, some time between 1840 and 11 November 1845 (all are shown on the "strike sheet" of that date) a further eight new types of handstamps were brought into use in Hobart. Since at least one of these has been recorded for as early as August 1841 and others for 1843 and 1844, all may well have been introduced as early as 1840. The new types are: "paid" country outwards (Fig. 24), "unpaid" country inwards (Fig. 21), three "paid" twopenny post stamps — for 10 o'clock, 1 o'clock and 4 o'clock (Fig. 28), and three corresponding "unpaid" stamps (Fig. 22). These eight handstamps, together with that used on unpaid letters outward to country post offices (Fig. 20) continued in use after the next change in 1846; the six twopenny post stamps and the "paid" outward probably until March 1855, the other three probably until November 1853 when, pre-payment of letters having become compulsory, "unpaid" handstamps would become obsolete. Surviving examples of all these handstamps are so rare that the absence of any recorded usages after 1850 for, say, Figs. 20 and 24, does not necessarily prove that they had been withdrawn.

An under-inked example of (probably) Fig. 24 has now been found on a letter from Hobart to Launceston dated 5.5.1854.

Handstamps for the Launceston twopenny post were also brought into use between 1840 and 11 November 1845 — consisting, on the evidence (see above) of the manuscript note on the Hobart "strike sheet," of six circular stamps corresponding exactly with their Hobart equivalents. At least two of these are known to have continued in use after 1846 (to 1848 and 1854) and it is likely that all six were used up to some time between November 1853 and April 1855.

August-December 1846

Sometime between 30 July and 12 December 1846 the two "ship letter," one of the "paid" and the "free" handstamps in use since 1840 were withdrawn and new ones brought into use at Hobart. These new handstamps are: "ship letter" inwards (Fig. 43), "ship letter" outwards (Fig. 8), "paid" country inwards (Fig. 27), and "free" (Fig. 37). This latter was withdrawn and replaced by a very similar stamp at the end of 1848. Three of these four stamps probably continued in use until March 1855; but sometime in 1853-55 the inward ship letter stamp, which was an "unpaid" struck in black, was replaced by a handstamp reading "Inwards Ship Letter Free" (Fig. 44) struck in red. This change was probably a consequence of New South Wales, the United Kingdom and Victoria adopting compulsory pre-

payment by adhesive postage stamps in 1852, 1853 and 1855 respectively. The vast majority of ship letters arriving in Tasmania came from those three countries.

The first general usage handstamp for Launceston since 1836 (Fig. 10) was also brought into use immediately prior to 12 December 1846. It wore rather badly and was replaced by a rather similar handstamp (Fig. 11) between September 1851 and March 1852. This continued in use until 1855.

April 1855

By early 1855 almost all letters handled by the Tasmanian Post Office were prepaid and it was evidently decided by the postal authorities that a new issue of handstamps was required. All the existing handstamps were therefore withdrawn and at the very beginning of April 1855 sixteen new markings were brought into use. All the handstamps for use on internal (city post and "country") letters bore the word "Pre-paid," while the inwards ship letters were inscribed "Inward ship letter free."

(to be continued)

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1963

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Mr J. R. W. Purves
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December

- 9 Library and Conversation
- 19 Discussion. Aspects of Philatelic Publication:
Messrs Campbell, Creed, Gartner and Purves

Presidential Report

"The society is fortunate in having so many members prepared to put back something into the hobby, and give of time, talents and substance in serving the society," Mr R. Lloyd Smith said in his presidential report to the annual meeting in July. "So long as this is so will we prosper."

He said the year had passed smoothly, thanks to the splendid assistance given by members of the Council and others.

Membership had been maintained at a satisfactory level, with thirteen nominations for the year, and the loss by death of Messrs W. H. C. Bromfield, R.D.P., J. A. Kilfoyle and H. J. Asker.

Officers elected without a ballot were: President, Mr J. R. W. Purves; vice-president, Mr E. G. Creed; immediate past-president, Mr R. Lloyd-Smith; secretary, Mr G. T. White; treasurer, Mr G. W. Trevor; council, Messrs L. W. Buchanan, E. B. Doery, J. Gartner, G. T. Houston, T. C. Lester, A. J. Petrie and C. G. Skewes; librarian, Mr D. N. Baker; superintendent, exchange branch, Mr E. B. Doery; superintendent, sale by tender branch, Mr T. C. Lester; press correspondent, Mr H. L. Chisholm.

Turkey

Mr Lloyd-Smith's presidential display was Turkey, the first time the country has been shown at the society for many years.

He showed four entires with postal seals of the pre-stamp period, 1840-62, from Damascus, Beyrouth, Alexandretta and Aleppo. This was followed by a range of the first issue. These included a fine pair of the 20 paras, second setting, on entire.

The involved history of the second period, 1865, from Duloz dies, was traced and three full sheets, very rare now, were exhibited. They were the 10 paras, 20 paras and 1 piastre. The settings were identified.

The third period, 1876-90 was covered by a representative selection.

Annual Competition

The Silver Medal at the society's annual competition was won by Mr G. M. Leon for a study

of the first ten years of Perkins Bacon British Colonials, and a bronze medal was awarded to Miss J. Resch for a study of the Sydney Cove stamp, 1937. Other entries were:

Post Offices and Postmarks of Dutch New Guinea, Mr J. P. C. Tresize; The Full Faces of New Zealand and Their Cancellations, Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson; Jersey Cancellations, Mrs M. E. Gates; Postal Forgeries, Mr G. T. Houston; Hamburg; Postal History of the Free City, 1805-70, Mr P. Jaffe; and Development of the British Postmark, Mr D. N. Baker.

Early Canada

Mr E. G. Creed showed a selection from his Canada collection at the first August meeting.

This opened with pence issue proofs and 1891 specimens and De La Rue Edwardian Essays.

Two of the seven known copies of the Louis Riel Rebellion stamp of 1885 were shown.

Highlight was the 12d. black, laid paper, 1851, the supreme Canadian rarity.

The 7½d. 1857 was there with retouched imprint, and there were two recuts of the Threepence 1851.

The 10d. thin wove, 1855, with major re-entry.

All values of the 1859 cents issue were shown, notably the 10 cent black-brown, the 10c. bright red-purple, with certificate, and a large range of flaws of the 5c.

A special item was the imperf. block of 12½d. reproduced in Boggs' book.

The large and small cents, on the various papers and by the different printers, included three copies of the Three Cents Indian red, small head (S.G. 83), and the 10c. brownish grey, imperf. pair, with marginal inscription.

New Zealand

Mr H. L. Chisholm displayed Modern New Zealand at the second August meeting.

Beginning with the George V issue, he provided a survey of the main issues of the period, with the major varieties.

The central feature of the exhibit was the 1935-42 Pictorial issue, the history of which was covered in some detail.

An almost complete set of the George V plate numbers preceded proofs and color prints, and, notably, a strip of four of the 1d. Dominion, Jones paper, from the sheet of which only a half was surfaced. The strip, three on surfaced paper and one on unsurfaced paper (S.G. 520, 520a) had a R.P.S.N.Z. certificate. There was also a pair of the 5d. with the top stamp imperf. and the bottom perf. on three sides.

There was an imperf. pair of 1d. Cowan paper and a couple of imperf. at top varieties.

The hand-printed "2" of the 2d. on 1½d. King George V was shown, and the recent Elizabeth 2d. overprint error.

Health stamp varieties included the "Boys" showing jubilee line on the London plate, the 1933 before and after retouching, in blocks of 12, and the Poaka pink printing to left (S.G. 777b) in miniature sheet of six.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

1963

October

- 8 Sweden: Miss M. Salier
29 Combined display by members of the Royal Philatelic Society, London

November

- 12 Classics of the British Commonwealth:
Messrs V. Frankenstein and M. Dankin

December

- 10 Christmas Meeting — Display by Lady
Members: presented by Mrs J. A. Clayton

Election of Officers

Officers elected at the annual meeting were:

President, Mr R. H. Taylor; hon. vice-president, Col. F. V. Thompson; vice-presidents, Mrs P. M. C. Rock and Mr V. Frankenstein; secretary, Mr R. H. Markham; treasurer, Miss D. Osborne; librarian, Miss J. Allan; exchange superintendent, Mr L. Skinner; sale by tender superintendent, Mr C. Ashworth Spreat; committee members, Mrs I. Campe, Miss M. Salier and Mr E. J. Garrard.

Col. F. V. Thompson (president) and Mr Hamilton Croaker (librarian) did not seek re-election this year and the annual meeting placed on record its appreciation of the services rendered to the club and to philately by both members.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting was again well attended and reports from the secretary and treasurer were very encouraging. Membership again increased and the financial position showed a very improved outlook. The exchange branch was still functioning well but suffered from lack of suitable material for the exchange books. The exchange superintendent (Mr L. Skinner, 19 Lord Street, Mt. Colah, N.S.W.) would be very pleased to hear from members who wished to sell their duplicates.

Members who had not sent their 1963-4 subscriptions were asked to assist the club by forwarding to the hon. treasurer (Box 1751, G.P.O., Sydney).

U.S.A.

The display at the June meeting was presented by Miss Mary Salier, who showed a representative selection from her United States collection.

Among the stamps shown were sheets of early issues with their interesting postmarks and a few modern ones which included the Dag Hammarskjold misprint together with normal on same cover; 1 cent and 5 cents replacement designs for current regular issue; booklet pane, new style in same cover; airmail gutter strips, and two types of current 15 cents on same cover. There were also a few sheets of Bureau precancels, from various States and showing a variety of types.

Nauru

The retiring president (Col. Thompson) presented a magnificent display of Nauru at the annual general meeting — commencing with a brief history of the island's postal services, he then

showed a complete coverage of the stamps of Nauru, including many varieties in the various overprints.

Although Gibbons' catalogues only show some 60-odd stamps (plus about a dozen "a" numbers) the variety and depth of the collection displayed was most fascinating.

Europe Before 1900

Five members of the club combined to present a very varied display of European classics and near-classics at the 30 July meeting.

Mrs Rock showed the first issue of France and a selection of the 1849-1876 issues — a block of four on the "Grande" paper and the "Peace and Commerce," Types 1 and 2 in pair, were notable items. Mr G. Jurk displayed cancellations on the stamps of Baden, showing many fine items.

Various covers from Switzerland were shown by Mr L. Challen, and Mr H. Croaker's contribution included ship postmarks of the Northern Italian Lakes, Austria and Italy shipmarks and Italian postmarks on the stamps of Sardinia.

Mr H. Rubin displayed newspaper stamps of Austria used on entire and on bands.

Pacific Islands

Members of the Pacific Islands Circle combined for the August display.

Mr H. Croaker presented New Caledonia covers showing the triangular cachet of 1876-7 when stamps were unavailable, and crude wood c.d.s.

P.N.G. and Fiji shipmarks and paquebots were shown by Mr J. Gibson, and Mr F. V. Thompson featured early overprints of Tonga.

Mr R. A. Baldwin showed British Solomon Islands and Gilbert and Ellice postmarks, Tarawa, etc., and sub-station postmarkings.

Mr E. C. Pike showed British Solomon Islands large canoes in various printings (strips of six), and forgeries of each of the values.

Queensland used in Port Moresby, and Kokoda registered envelope were included in Mr J. H. Powell's display. Mr E. J. Garrard showed Army Post Offices, mainly featuring N.Z. and A.I.F. markings.

British Honduras

Mr E. G. Creed, who could not be present owing to illness, sent his collection of British Honduras for display at the September meeting.

The items displayed featured mainly the period from Queen Victoria to King George VI and included Queen Victoria bisects on piece, postmarks in different colours and with different types of "BELIZE" on war stamps, oval numerals and circular datestamps, covers during the period from 1850 when the stamps of Great Britain were withdrawn and 1866 when the Colonial commenced.

Obituary

During the past two months members were shocked to hear of the deaths of Miss E. West and Mr Walter Grave. The loss of both these members is a severe blow to philately in New South Wales.

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