

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



*Published Quarterly by*  
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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JUNE 1966

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# Philately from Australia

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## A MASTERPIECE ON VICTORIA'S SPECIAL ISSUES

*Victoria: The "Registered" and "Too Late" Stamps, 1854-58*, by J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L. 88 pp. 11¼ x 7¼ ins., and 10 plates (with duplicate set).

Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Box 222 G.P.O. Melbourne. Price \$10.50.

*By* PETER JAFFE, F.R.P.S.L.

Mr Purves rates this study as the most difficult he has undertaken. Probably the greatest single discovery is that of the two "Dies" (and plates) used for the "Registereds". These were never recognised — nor guessed at — before.

Difficult as the study was, the book is easy to read.

The stamps have the distinction of being the first British stamps used for a special purpose, the first British stamps printed in two colours, among the first such in the world, and among the first stamps to incorporate two printing processes.

The two stamps and a one colour sixpenny postage stamp were included in a single contract awarded to Samuel Calvert of Melbourne. He also secured a contract for a two shilling stamp.

These four stamps are all based on boxwood plates, in turn prepared by inked

paper transfers from a boxwood die or master. The combination of transfer work and cutting of the plate produces a series of designs or types which differ but yet betray a common origin.

The identification of types by small differences either in the engraving or caused by irregularities in the printing surface has been of major interest to philatelists from the early days of stamp collecting. Generally the engraved plates, such as those used in Mauritius or New South Wales, gave up the secrets of construction first. Also the smaller size plates proved easier tasks than larger plates. Irrespective of printing process, once the types or variations from normal were identified the next philatelic task was to place these in the order of the original sheet or pane. This work was made easier if blocks, strips or pairs existed.

In the case of the Victorian boxwood stamps of Calvert, Mr L. L. R. Hausburg had completed the reconstruction of the 6d. in two 5 x 5 plates side by side and of the 2s. in one such plate before the First World War. He had, one must presume, decided the "Too Late" and the "Registered" were too difficult either because of the general shortage of material or because of the absence of blocks, strips or other multiples. Mr C. L. Pack, another student of early Victorian stamps, did note that the "Registered" existed without a full stop after the word Victoria. He did not discover the other types.

Mr Purves has not completed the plating work, but he has taken a tremendously difficult task many steps forward. In his study, spread over many years, he has discovered a very great deal about how Calvert did his work. Calvert proves to be one of the few who utilised a larger plate for his overprints than for his backgrounds. To a reader watching Calvert, it seems that he began his task carefully and confidently, only to find his deadline looming, compelling hurry so that the printing quality fell. Then a succession of steps were taken to increase productivity, by cutting down from six to three the number of times the paper had to go to press to produce a sheet of 100 stamps.

Calvert overprinted the background designs by stereotypes in formes to show the type of service and the cost of this service. Had he had the physical resources at the time, he would presumably have electrotyped both background plates and overprints.

In order to produce 250,000 "Too Late" and one million "Registered", Calvert made one printing of the first and three of the second stamp, of which the third printing was the largest.

Mr Purves studied material, partly through photographs, existing in Australia and overseas. This is in numbers an insignificant proportion of the total printings, largely because of official destruction of remainders in 1860.

If the reconstruction tasks are ever completed, it will be because of his remarkably skilful work on the material available to him and because fresh material comes into the hands of a person or persons able to build on the generous and firm foundations he has set.

To give an idea of the extent of the foundations here is the Purves philatelic achievement, in addition to the Registered dies:



The Die 1 backgrounds (Die 1 used for all Too Lates and for first printing of Registered)	25 types on the plate identified 22 located – remaining 3 two possibilities
The Die 2 backgrounds (Die 2 used with Die 1, for second and third printings of Registered)	11 identified by white flaws 7 otherwise identified (7 unknowns) 6 located on the plate 2 possibilities located – one with two possibilities
The Too Late overprints	Each of 25 pairs A and B described
The Registered overprints. [The general make up used in all three printings identified.]	
Die 1	1 A, complete as to identification (25 first and 1 second state)
Die 1 and 2	1 B, all identified (25)
Die 1	2 A and 2 B, 32 out of 50 identified, plus 1 suspected substituted stereo.
Die 2	2 C and 2 D, 20 identified out of perhaps only 25 since remaining 25 may be I B in different order.

When it is considered how scarce the material is and how large a proportion has left Victoria, the scale of the success is remarkable.

A study of the Die 2 reconstruction suggests that some extra wide margin copies may assist the work.

The book, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, and printed by John Gartner at The Hawthorn Press must be regarded as one of a series on all aspects of Victorian philately, including postal history and cancellations, by Mr Purves. Of these publications some have been published in London by The Royal Philatelic Society.

In spite of the limited field – two stamps – it is a worthy model of presentation. The 10 plates of half-tone engravings bound with a duplicate set enclosed in a pocket, supplement the descriptions in the text. To show the overprints, the backgrounds have been faded. The whole is a product of which author, printer and publisher can be proud.

It covers much more than the plating study of the two stamps, and the author's method of work. The use, normal and abnormal, is analysed and Mr W. R. Rundell's figures of distribution reprinted after checking. Special attention is paid to the scarce variety 'rouletted about 7' at the G.P.O., Melbourne.

Here experts can find valuable guidance and the postal historians pointers to the economic growth of Victoria in the gold rush and the keen cancel collector can find the first of all penmark provisionals.

The tabulation on monthly issues of the "Too Late" and "Registered" stamps is classified under G.P.O. windows, country post offices, Government departments and licensed vendors (from October 1855). The totals for September 1855 show under Government Departments 6 "Too Late" and 16 "Registered". This establishes the provenance (in the collector's sense) of the strips of three of each of these stamps sent by Governor Sir Charles Hotham from Toorak with his

reply dated 3 September 1855, to Sir George Grey's circular letter to the Colonial Governors dated 12 April 1855 and now in the Public Record Office, London. (An article by L. E. Bradbury and a photograph appears in the *London Philatelist* for 1924, pages 214 and 244.)

[The survival of the Victorian documents and the triplets of stamps contrasts with the New Zealand items which were "liberated" in London, and of which it seems, with one exception, the stamps came into the possession of Mr H. Gordon Kaye. It is tempting to wonder if another set of Victorian triplets still exists, in public or private ownership.]

Analysis by cancellation shows that the "Too Late" was used almost entirely in Melbourne and Geelong, though the survival rate a century later is better for Geelong. By contrast more than two thirds of the "Registered" stamps were originally distributed to country post offices at a rate of about 5,000 a month.

The book appears to have three aims:

1. A description of types of backgrounds and overprints, so that the reader can identify and classify the known types and so isolate the strangers or new discoveries. Following on this work of analysis and classification, the positioning of the background engravings is undertaken.
2. A portrayal in reasonable compass of the methods of work which proved rewarding in this task, and which may have general application to much other philatelic work.
3. Modelling an ideal form of presentation, including text and illustrations, of a complicated story.

Inevitably author and reader will have views which differ on a number of points; the author has devoted much thought to his choices of presentation, related to his degree of success and his priorities. Had he been able to complete the plating study and had this study have been the sole aim he might have simplified the task of printer and reader by abandoning his type numbers and using position numbers. But by taking this method of presentation, he would have destroyed the historical sense of this record of investigation and some of the charm of the book.

The law of averages has developed a popular meaning and its value has correspondingly diminished. Small samples are dangerous bases for mathematical analysis, particularly if selection has taken place. It is dangerous to use quantitative results from examination of even quite large numbers of stamps as a basis for comments on all stamps used. Qualitative results are much more reliable. Two cases may be enough to establish a type as against a break; with more cases of identification certainty can be reached. Mr Purves does not draw attention to the remarkable fact that all the known unused multiples of both stamps come from inter-pane pieces — this is just a remarkable coincidence, while he does draw attention to the different methods of separation used at Melbourne and Geelong, for which the evidence is more numerous. Since "perfection belongs only to the gods" and there is some tradition that praise alone is insufficient there are some omissions, such as the gum which, unlike the later gums used in Victoria and New South Wales, is philatelically innocuous, brownish, and easily removed.

The Geelong 15 butterfly postmark (illustrated), found rarely on the Registered, probably indicated a point of origin other than Geelong, but evidence is lacking.

Everything cannot be included in a book of modest size or price. There is no check list, much less a valuation scale, and few collectors will miss these. There is no scale on the excellent enlarged photographic plates; this may hamper some later research.

The scientific critic may dislike the use of such measurements as 16.75 mm. Perhaps we should accept the decimal system and call this 16.7 mm. or be more honestly anglophile and write 16 $\frac{3}{4}$  mm., if we believe that judgment more exact than  $\frac{1}{4}$  mm. is impossible.

A source of philatelic confusion arises when positions on the plate rather than positions on the sheet are dead and described from left to right. Mr Purves uses sheet numbers.

It is hoped that the response to this book and the use to which it is put in the years to come will be rewarding to a remarkable effort to promote serious adult philately. Plating targets grow scarcer, because of the successes of the past, but if in the future philately is to provide the change rather than the rest for the active and inquiring mind then the skills must be developed by observation and reading and one can hope that, in this at least, of the making of books there will be no end.

The next best thing to completion of a job in research is to give the next man or woman every possible assistance to do better. This has been done, and well, in the case of two fascinating Victorian stamps used in a romantic and important period.

## SUCCESSSES AT SIPEX

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria had three successes at the Sixth International Philatelic Exhibition, at Washington, in May.

Mr J. R. W. Purves received a vermeil (silver-gilt) medal, with felicitations, for his new book, *Victoria: The "Registered" and "Too Late" Stamps, 1854-58.*

*Philately from Australia* was awarded a vermeil medal also.

At the Fifth International Philatelic Exhibition, New York, (FIPEX), in 1956, *Philately from Australia* received a bronze medal.

Under Federation Internationale Philatelique rules, vermeil is the highest award for literature.

Mr J. H. Powell received a silver medal, with felicitations, for his collection of Samoa, and a bronze-silver medal for his book, *The Postal History of the Territory of New Guinea*, published by The Hawthorn Press.

# STAMPS OF GREAT BRITAIN PUNCTURED "C of A"

By G. T. HOUSTON

*Mr Houston, widely known for his collection of Egypt, and for his range of philatelic knowledge, surprised his fellow members of the Royal Philatelic Society recently when he displayed unusual Australian Commonwealth items. This article is the result of that event.*

Stamps of Great Britain punctured for any other use but that of a British Government Department must be classified as "Perfins" (Perforated Initials) and this means of protecting Government or company property is widespread. Under this system a "perfined" stamp is only recognised and admitted by the postal authorities if it conforms to the licensed pattern approved and used exclusively by the licensee organisation. Should such an organisation suspect thefts of "perfined" stamps the postal authorities will co-operate in trying to establish the identity of the illegal user.

The status of stamps of Great Britain punctured "C of A" is similar in many respects to the ordinary "perfins", but the main difference is that in this case the permit to puncture is not issued to a private firm but to another government or its representative.

The "C of A" puncture therefore assumes the status of an official stamp for Australian Government mail matters emanating from Australia House, London. This must necessarily be so as Australian Official stamps would, if they existed, be invalid in another country.

## *Usage*

In my search through various handbooks and catalogues I have found nothing even hinting at the existence of these official stamps. Only Holbeach's *Cumulative Index* gives the three following groups of references in journals:

1. 'Australian Philatelist' July 1916 – regarding wounded soldiers' franchise.
2. 'Australian Stamp Journal' September and October 1925 – on the same subject.
3. 'Australian Stamp Monthly' January, February, March and May 1947 – elaborating on the above and mentioning a block of 8 G.B. K.E.VII 2½d.

It would appear that these stamps were used on all official correspondence emanating from Australia House, London. In the three journals readers' letters reported that these stamps were *also* used by wounded soldiers who were inmates of A.I.F. Hospitals in Great Britain during World War I. This must have been an

extensive usage, as each wounded soldier was allowed six 1d. stamps (punctured "C of A") per week, free of charge, by the Commonwealth Government. To avoid abuses, letters were handed in at the post office of the hospital and the stamps affixed by the postal clerk. (Australian Naval personnel also obtained such stamps from Australia House, London, during W.W.I.)



1. C of A horizontal. 2. C of A vertical, showing the two punches. 3. The C of A vertical, with the missing dot at top of A in both punches and the "reversed L" in the left punch. It can be seen that the group of stamps were folded over before being punctured.

During World War II A.I.F. H.Q. London again used such special stamps.

In 1937 the Australian Coronation Contingent borrowed the "C of A" die from Australia House for puncturing stamps for the numerous invitations it sent out.

#### Checklist

The Commonwealth of Australia was established in 1901 and the office of High Commissioner for Australia in Great Britain came into existence shortly afterwards.

Until recently I had in my collection only "C of A" punctures going back to the Georgian issues of 1918 - 1922. But some months ago I acquired an interesting cover (with a black border) with a new "earliest date" for these punctures: the postmark: "London 10.2.1911" cancelling a King Edward VII S.G.231, 2½d, blue

which shows the puncture reversed. The use of envelopes with black borders was due to the State Mourning period for King Edward VII who died on 6.5.1910.

As well as this single K.E. VII stamp, I have in my collection:

#### King George V

- (i) 1912-1922, Watermark Royal Cypher: ½d. - 1d. - 6d. - 9d. - 1/- - 2/6 - 5/-.
- (ii) 1922-1926, Watermark Crown over GVR: 1d. - 1½d. - 2d. - 2½d. - 6d. - 9d.
- (iii) 1934-1936, Photogravure issue: 1d. - 2½d. - 9d.

However it is reasonable to assume that all denominations of each definite issue from King George V onwards, except the reign of King Edward VIII, exist with the puncture.

#### Production

There are two different arrangements of the lettering — one in a horizontal line and the other in a vertical arrangement.

My holdings of K.E. VII and K.G. V stamps which show the horizontal line puncture are not substantial enough to form an opinion on the production of this type of puncture.

The vertical arrangement of the puncture occurs during the reign of K.G. V concurrently with the horizontal arrangement, but from the photogravure issues onwards exclusively so here the material in my collection is more plentiful and multiples render certain deductions possible.

A rather primitive method was used for the puncture of the stamps. It appears that two punches, each forming by means of perforation pins an identical group of letters *C of A* in the vertical arrangement, are fixed on a metal base to form a single die and this die produces two punctures "C of A" in a single strike. The distance *between* these punctures is *invariably* 20¼ millimetres. This distance *between* the two punches of the die, is measured from centre to centre of the punches.

The two punctures may either strike two small size stamps separately or one large high value stamp, the same stamp in two places.

For the small size stamps of up to 1/- face value the sheets are normally separated into vertical strips of 2 stamps' width, these being then either folded to form a vertical strip one stamp wide, or left unfolded (2 stamps wide). Then they are inserted into the perforator (already fitted with the die of two punches). The perforator is then either hand or foot operated for one, two, or four stamps at each strike. Depending on the way the strips of stamps are inserted into the perforator, the puncture may be found in 4 positions: Normal, reversed, inverted, inverted/reversed.

Distances between consecutive strikes of the die vary both horizontally as well as vertically and this would point to the fact that the strips of stamps are inserted and moved by hand.



*General*

*Reign of King Edward VIII.* Perhaps due to the short reign of this monarch and possibly also due to large stocks of punctured stamps (K.G. V) being held by Australia House, London, "C of A" punctures of K.E. VIII are either extremely rare or non-existent. I have chased these for the past 15 years without success.

*Reign of King George VI.* During this reign there appear to be two periods of these punctures, the first period characterised by a "Flat A" and the second period by a normal or "Pointed A". The extraordinary thing is that the missing puncture hole (or perforation pin) at the top of the letter "A" should be missing on both punches of the die. During this period the perforating pin forming the crossbar of the letter "F" in the left hand punch of the die was somehow broken or lost and thus the letter "F" appears as a reversed letter "L". During the latter part of this reign the punches in the die were repaired and this resulted in the long-overdue completing of the damaged lettering. Both letters "A" have now the correct pointed top and the reversed letter "L" disappears.

Perhaps due to the activities of a philatelically-minded clerk at Australia House one can meet quite a number of varieties, apart from the four different positions of the puncture mentioned earlier, such as double or triple punctures of which one or two may be inverted, reversed, etc.

However I have one joined pair, one stamp without puncture, of the King George VI 1d (SG 486), postmarked London 12 SP 47. This seems to me to be a genuine "variety". At least it is dear to the heart of its owner.

*Reign of Queen Elizabeth II.* The punches of the die remain complete.

Because most of the copies examined have been made from parcels, it has not been possible to establish dates of the various types with any degree of accuracy.

Up to the end of 1939, at least, the perforation pins of both punches of the vertical arrangement showed the top of the A complete. Available dates of the damaged punches were 1946-47.



# The Other Side of the Picture



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

## NEW SOUTH WALES

Mr H. M. Campbell and I (in the first case) have three "ties" to report, additional to those given in the Handbook (Brown and Campbell: *New South Wales Numeral Cancellations*).

- |       |     |           |  |
|-------|-----|-----------|--|
| p. 20 | 185 | ST MARK'S | This confirms the supposition in the book. |
| p. 30 | 521 | TAEMAS    |  |
| p. 33 | 631 | CUDAL     |  |

The list of known types on pp. 8-13 must therefore be altered as follows:

- |       |     |                        |
|-------|-----|------------------------|
| p. 9  | 185 | Add "3a".              |
| p. 11 | 521 | "3a" is now confirmed. |
| p. 12 | 631 | "3c" is now confirmed. |

## QUEENSLAND

The writer has located four new "ties" as follows:

- 188: UNBIRAM: (See Porter: *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*, p. 22): This office is recorded as having been closed on 31.10.97. The date on this cover is 2.1.87. The cancellation is rather blurred but the identification is probably correct.
- 336: UNION CAMP: (See Porter, p. 22): In this case only the letters "MP" of the name on the date stamp are visible. The right figure (of which only the left side shows) *must*, I think, be a "6" since 330, 333, 335, 338 and 339 have already been found tied to other offices.
- 460 (or 466): GOODNA: This office was previously called WOOGOOROO and had first probably used 26 (see Porter, p. 13).
- 464: TURALLIN: This office was originally called PINE CREEK (see Porter p. 26). We had two "false starts" here (both 305 and 306 having been previously erroneously reported). 464 would appear to have been the obliterator originally issued.

### *Another Nulalbin Cover*

Through the courtesy of Mr Campbell the writer has been able to acquire the *second* cover which has been located with the stamp cancelled with the "14" obliterator — see *P. from A.* for March 1963. Whereas the first cover found by Mr Campbell was dated 30.10.61 this second cover (which came from an entirely different source) is dated 28.7.66, which suggests that the 14, 15 (and 13?) obliterators were all in use over a substantial period.

## TASMANIA

*(i) Numeral Cancellations: Five New "Ties".*

Five more "ties" have been unearthed, the first two by the writer and the latter three by Mr Parise, an indefatigable huntsman from Glenorchy. They are as follows:

- 160: Original allocation: The writer possesses a vertical pair cancelled "160". Superimposed over this is a circular c.d.s. on which the letters U . . . . . RS RIVER are visible. This can only be "UPPER PIPERS RIVER", which was the office already *believed* to be the original user (see p. 72 of Campbell, Purves and Viney: *Tasmania - The Postal History and Postal Markings*).
- 193: Seen on three covers, the latest being dated 23.11.96. This turns out (they are all tied) to have been used by STRAHAN No. 2 (West Strahan), and *proves* that the suggested original allocation of this number (see top of p. 74 of book) to MACQUARIE HARBOUR (later STRAHAN) is *correct*. That office closed in 1893 and "WEST STRAHAN" was opened on 25.1.93 (see p. 81). The new office therefore took over that canceller from the older office when it closed, and used it for some four years when - presumably owing to wear - it was replaced by the c.d.s. obliterator of STRAHAN No. 2. The name "WEST STRAHAN", though used in various references, does not seem to occur as a postal marking. The words in the book at p. 81 - "The latter used no numeral" - must therefore be deleted.
- 197: The writer has a strip on a piece cancelled with this number. A portion of the adjoining date stamp containing the word "HARBOUR" is clearly visible. Obviously the office is BOAT HARBOUR, which was previously though likely to be 198 (see p. 74 of book).
- 243: Has now been found on cover tied to FENTONBURY, the office which dates of opening suggested was the likely one (see p. 76 of book). This "tie" makes the previous tentative "ties" of 240, 241 and 242 to BERRIE-DALE, UNDERWOOD and PARKHAM respectively practical certainties.
- 332: Has been found on two covers tied to PELHAM (see p. 81 of book). This discovery further suggests - with some certainty - that 328 was HIGHTHORPE.

The writer will be glad to hear of more finds in this field which - now the hunt is on - seem sure to occur.

*(ii) Four More Numbers of which Two Varieties are found.*

At the top of p. 60 of the book some 14 numbers (from the *second* allocation) are listed each of which is to be found in *two* varieties. This is apart altogether from the first allocation numbers of 10-75 used in the period 1853-61.

The writer can now add four more numbers to this list, viz., 54, 119, 137, 185. They are dealt with in that order.

- 54: LONGFORD: By 1899 the original canceller was in a badly-worn condition. It was evidently replaced (at a very late stage) by a *second* 54 canceller

because I have this on a 1d. De La Rue Pictorial. In the second canceller (which is seemingly *rare*) the figures are taller and narrower and the "4" has no serif.

- 119: LEIPZIG, originally ORMLEY (see top p. 70 of Book and note). *Two* types are found, the second type (found also on the Pictorials) having taller and larger numerals.

I am inclined to think that these two types can be accounted for only if we suppose that they were manufactured as the *last* number supplied in one batch and (inadvertently) the *first* manufactured in the following batch respectively. The second 119 resembles Nos. 120 and the following numbers.

- 137: This number (see p. 71) is believed to have been originally allocated to BACK CREEK, an office closed in 1871 and re-opened in 1876 (see p. 73) when it received 175. All the stamps the writer has seen with 137 come from the '80's and '90's. It has now been established that this number was used at BOOBYALLA — clearly a re-allocation — see *P. from A.* for March 1965. The shapes of the numbers in each case are very similar but in one case the numbers are noticeably thicker and larger.

- 185: This number (see p. 73) was almost certainly allocated to BLUE TIER JUNCTION (later LOTTAH). More than one piece is known with 328 "tried" to a LOTTAH c.d.s. and it may well be that the change of name in July 1895 also involved a *change of site* and that LOTTAH *did*, in fact, receive 328. 328 is not a rare cancellation and Lottah was a substantial settlement. If that be the case then the second 185 may indicate another *re-allocation*. In the second type the figures are *wider apart*, shorter and thinner than in the first. That it is the second is proved by the stamps on which the first is found (they are earlier) and by comparing the cancellations with other numbers of the "run" i.e., 183, 184, 186, etc.

(iii) *Certain of the Common Numeral Cancellations do not exist on the Pictorials.*

In view of the fact that numeral cancellations remained in general use for only some 5 months after the issue of the Pictorials in mid-December 1899 a number of us have interested ourselves — as a sideline — in the numerals to be found on the Pictorials. There is also, of course, the fact that certain *higher* numbers (see p. 83 of the book), in particular those numbers (377-390) belonging to offices opened *after* the introduction of the Pictorials are, generally speaking, only to be looked for amongst the Pictorials.

A recent perusal of his own collection satisfied the writer that at least seven common numbers, viz., 29 (Burnie), 51 (Latrobe), 52 (Launceston), 64 (Oatlands), 70 (Lovett), 84 (Triabunna) and 87 (Wynyard) are *not* to be found on the Pictorials. The reason will be clear from a perusal of the second column of the tabulation of the Pictorial cancellations given in the book.

In all these cases (and perhaps also 73, 79 and 98) the numeral obliterators were replaced as cancellers — by reason of their worn condition — by c.d.s. types well *before* the middle of December 1899. They had therefore disappeared before the new issue made its appearance.

*(iv) Faked Numeral Postmarks.*

These have been known for a long time. The writer, for instance, has 49, 86 and 310. They were employed many years ago, in cancelling *cleaned* V.D.L.'s and "Dragons", to give them the authentic appearance which purchasers required. The writer will be glad to have details of any *other* numbers known to have been faked — with the idea of presenting these, along with illustrations of the genuine markings, more adequately before readers of *P. from A.*

## VICTORIA

*(i) 2d. Laureate Wmk "8" found with "Stitch" Watermark*

For no apparent reason although the 2d Laureate was, from August 1866 up to August 1867 (when the V Crown paper first appeared), the *commonest* of the values printed on the De La Rue paper watermarked with single-lined numerals, the writer had not previously located an example of this value (watermarked 2, 4, 6 or 8) showing a "stitch" watermark. Now he has discovered a single, wmk."8", which shows a clear *vertical* "stitch" running up the middle of the stamp, the mesh of this paper being *horizontal*. Sooner or later all the commoner stamps printed on these papers are bound to turn up with such a watermark although it must be admitted that in terms of numbers a "stitch" copy only occurs about once per 1000 stamps of the kind in question. (And see comments in my *Victoria: The V over Crown Watermarks.*)

*(ii) 2d 1885, with Wmk. Reversed*

Having, long since, turned up both the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d and 1d of this issue printed on the wrong side of the paper, i.e., with *wmk. reversed*, I have been expecting, some time, to find the 2d (the commonest value) in a like condition. This I have now done. The stamp is from the *first* printing which J.R.W.P. (but not S.G.) calls *violet-mauve* and the cancellation is 873 (Rupanyup).

*Cancellations: Some New "Barred Numeral" Discoveries**(a) Discovery of 67 (Coburg) in 1R Type*

I have acquired a cover (from Coburg to England) backstamp "Coburg 25.4.70". This shows a 6d Laureated stamp cancelled with 67 Type 1R (i.e., all the side bars have been cut away). It was only recently that Type 1 from this office was discovered (see *P. from A.* for December 1964) and now comes the re-cut state. 67 should therefore be added to the (b) list of numbers given on p. 56 of the handbook, *Victoria: The Barred Numeral Cancellations, 1856-1912.*

*(b) More Coloured Cancellations*

The writer has recently been through a further accumulation of some 50,000 or more of the 1d and 2d values, dating mainly between 1890 and 1899 (in the case of the 1d) and between 1887 and 1900 (in the case of the 2d). While only two numbers previously "NNS" have turned up specimens have been located of most rankings and generally speaking the rarity classification set out in the Book remains a reasonably sound one.

Perhaps the most interesting feature was the discovery of a further 21 numbers in *blue*, 10 numbers in *violet*, and 1 number in *magenta*, *additional* to those noted

on pps. 45, 46 of the Handbook and the further numbers in these colours described in *P. from A.* for December 1963 and December 1964. These are as follows:

**BLUE:** 12 (1896), 22 (1897), 35 (1892), 38 (1896), 69 (1892), 87 (1892), 125 (1892), 260 (1900), 438 (1894), 722 (1893), 743 (1896), 804 (1896-7), 1061 (1895), 1228 (1896), 1453 (1892), 1532 (1895), 1588 (1895), 1671 (1892), 1705 (1894), 1718 (1893), 1861 (1894).

1361 has also been found in blue circa 1899.

**VIOLET:** 100 (1894), 114 (1896-7), 370 (1894), 680 (1892), 1061 (1895), 1132 (1900), 1225 (1895), 1392 (1893), 1663 (1894), 1685 (1900).

**MAGENTA:** 366 (1890).

Numbers now *seen*, previously NNS—1300, 1604. The 1300 shows MCC over C.

*New Types:* The writer has found 710 in thick, spaced figures on a 1d red of 1901 or 2. This number in the original type is very rare (it is classified as 'RRR' and possibly should rank even higher) so that it seems curious that a *second* (and probably equally rare type) should have been found.

A second new type found is 1511 (1895). Since the office concerned (Cruikston) was closed in 1898 this type — which shows the four figures side by side — is likely to be rare. It is not to be confused with the 1311 obliterator which it strongly resembles.

Consequential amendments will require, of course, to be made to the Main Tabulation in the Handbook, as well as on pps. 45 and 46.

## MARINE P.O., SOUTH AUSTRALIA, MARKING

By A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI.

Most students of South Australian postal history probably will have come across at least one example of the "Marine P.O./date/S. Australia", cancellation.

There are two species of this marking:

- (a) A circular unframed type, used in the 1870's and early 1880's.
- (b) A medium-sized "square-circle" type used later.

Suggested usages have included cancellation of stamps paying a late fee for posting on board mail steamers and by a maritime T.P.O. on board the steamer plying between Adelaide and Port Lincoln.

Now a cover has been found and it fails to support either of these theories.

Franked with a 6d. Chalon head and addressed to Liverpool, England, the letter was posted at Koorunga on 3 January 1873. It is backstamped Adelaide on the same date and reached Liverpool on 26.2.1873. On the obverse is "Marine P.O./S. Australia" also dated 3.1.1873, obviously on the way out of South Australia.

I suggest, in the absence of further evidence, that this might be a transit or sorting mark applied at, possibly, Port Adelaide, and under very unusual circumstances, to some of the mails leaving that port. Perhaps someone else can confirm or disprove this, or better still, produce a cover which gives positive evidence of the purpose of this marking?



# WHAT VICTORIAN POST OFFICE HAD "BARRED OVAL" POSTMARK No. 7?

By G. T. WHITE

*Mr. White is a member of the Council and a former secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. He is a leading member of the Old Victoria Group.*

Mr J. R. W. Purves's new brochure, *Victoria: The "Butterfly" and "Barred Oval" Cancellations, 1850-55*, has incited me to attempt to identify the post office which was allocated No. 7 in the "Barred Oval" series of cancellations.

The monograph shows there are 15 unknown allocations between the numbers one to 50. One of these is No. 7, not yet recorded on cover.

My collection contains a cover clearly cancelled with Barred Oval 7. It is not a proving cover. But it is dated as received in Adelaide 26 Feb. 1852. The bottom half of the back has been cut off but it is backstamped "G.P.O. South Australia 26 Feb. 1852", and I decided to see if anything could be deduced from it.

First light dawned with the date, which eliminated several candidates. It could not be Elephant Bridge (later Darlington), which closed in 1.1.52 and re-opened 1.1.53; nor Violet Town which first opened 1.7.1852.

It could only be one of the towns that previously used a "Butterfly" or one which had a post office before 26.2.1852. The only office in the latter category was Ballarat, opened 1.11.1851, but this was quickly eliminated as it was allocated No. 24.

This reduced the field to the "Butterfly" offices. No. 7 was also used throughout the period, as it appears on 2d. Half-lengths issued from 1851, and on stamps of 1854 onwards, i.e., 1d. pink Half-lengths and 6d. Woodblocks.

I now list the possible "Butterfly" offices for which no "Barred Oval" cancellation is known and give reasons for eliminating many of them because of their closure, or because Mr. Purves' work determines that the "Butterfly" cancellations are so rare that this fact tends to exclude them:

<i>Post Office</i>	<i>Rarity of Butterfly Cancellation</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
Broken River (Benalla)	RR	Possible
Campaspic (Elmore)	RRRR	Very Rare
Dandenong	RRR	"
Alberton	RRR	"
Mt. Alexander (Lockwood)	RRRR	"
Swan Hill	RRR	"
Timboon (Camperdown)	R	Closed 1.1.52
Elephant Bridge (Darlington)	R	" 1.1.52
Ballan	RR	" 1.7.52

Wimmera	RRR	Combined total of all (3) cancellers is regarded as too rare for consideration.
The Glenelg (Casterton)	R	Possible
Lake Wallace (Apsley)	RR	"
Wardy Yallock	N.N.S.	Closed 1.7.52
Crowlands	N.N.S.	

Listing the five most probable candidates for No. 7 cancellation we have:

1. Broken River.
2. Ballan.
3. The Glenelg.
4. Lake Wallace.
5. Wardy Yallock.

Ballan and Wardy Yallock are eliminated because both were officially closed on 1.7.1852, and their period of use does not correspond with the obvious period of use of the canceller. Ballan was later given No. 63.

One rare post mark (The Glenelg) and two very rare ones remain. The very rare ones (Broken River and Lake Wallace) might be eliminated for the following rather slim reasons which, when considered together, place these offices in the unlikely category.

(a) They are rarer than "The Glenelg".

(b) Lake Wallace had a date stamp in 1853 (see Purves — *The Postal History of Port Phillip*) and the cover being considered has either the date-stamp missing or no date-stamp and Glenelg seems to have had no date-stamp (see remarks later in this article).

(c) Broken River is remote from South Australia and people there would be less likely to be writing to Adelaide than people living at The Glenelg.

(d) On the envelope under consideration is a mirror image (presumably picked up from another letter) of a date stamp showing "Mount Gambier South Australia". I feel that mail for Adelaide via Melbourne and perhaps "The Grange" would either be in a separate packet or bag, or tied in a bundle before being placed in a general mailbag which might have contained small parcels and newspapers.

(e) All No. 7 cancellations in my collection on stamps issued prior to 1854 appear upside down.

At this point I looked at a cover written from "Pearson's Station" with the inscription "Glenelg Victoria, 6 April '53" on the back. It would thus appear possible that the office did not have a "The Glenelg Victoria" date-stamp. This cover has a pair of Ham's Queen-on-Throne with two rather rough barred oval cancellations on them. These appear indecipherable but I think I can see the 7 in one of the cancellations. In any case the numeral seems to be a single figure which can only be 7 as Mr Purves has accounted for all the other single numerals.

Hence "The Glenelg" is my odds on favourite for No. 7 barred oval cancellation.

If anyone checks my work he will probably ask why Wardy Yallock is in the table and given a rarity listing of "number not seen"? The answer is again one of probability. "Butterfly" numerals 44 and 45 were used by either Bulla Bulla or Wardy Yallock. In Mr Purves' rarity classification, 45 is rated as "R" and 44 as N.N.S Now Wardy Yallock was closed 1.7.1852, presumably for lack of activity. This suggests that Wardy Yallock used number 44 "Butterfly".

The idea of comparing rarity of the cancellations "Butterfly" "Barred Oval" and/or "Barred Numerals" to get indicators of the numbers allocated can only be used with the utmost caution. It is possible that some post offices could be given a greater chance of being allocated one number in preference to another. For example, I believe that when considering the "Barred Oval" cancellations 71 and 73, Flemington has an 80% chance of being 73. Brunswick the other possibility then would have 71. Briefly my reasons for this are:

(i) In the rarity table 73 is RR or RRR but 71 has never been seen.

(ii) In W. H. Archer's *Statistical Register of Victoria* of 1854, Flemington is listed as a post office to receive correspondence for the following places: Essendon, Footscray, Glenroy, Kensington, Moonee Ponds, Saltwater River.

Brunswick was a receiving post office for Blaydon and Phillipstown. Both of these names are unknown to me but all the names listed under Flemington are now suburbs (cities) of Melbourne or at least a known place.

(iii) Flemington was on the north-western postal route and people going to Ballarat passed through it. Brunswick is listed as being on the north-eastern (Sydney) route. However I believe that at this time the main Sydney route still passed along the Plenty Road (i.e., through Epping) and may have at this early stage been a little off the main route – although larger sums were being spent in building this road. This last point is what I think is possible; but a little more historical research may be needed to verify it.

While our allocation of Brunswick as 71 and Flemington as 73 cannot be finalised the above points tend to give preference to this allocation.

# “TRANSMISSION OF TINSELLED POST CARDS PROHIBITED”

By Dr JOHN CLEMENTE

*Dr Clemente is a Member of The Royal Philatelic Society, London and Vice-President of The Tasmanian Philatelic Society.*

A post-card found recently, bears the marking “Transmission of Tinselled Post Cards Prohibited”.

The postcard was posted in a pillar receiver in Hobart on 12 Sept. 1908, and was addressed to Middleton, a village on the D'Entrecasteaux Channel. It carries the oval “Dead Letter Office” marking in red ink, dated 12 September 1908, and the informative marking “Transmission of Tinselled Post Cards Prohibited”, while two lines have been pencilled across the address.

The marking is in italic lettering, capitals and lower case, in red ink. It is in two lines, and is not surrounded by a frame. The top line is 48 mm. long, the second line is 42 mm. long, the capital letters are 3¼ mm. high, and the small letters are just over 2 mm. high.

The post card on the reverse, shows a view of Melbourne in the moonlight, with tinsel applied along the rooftops.

As this marking has not been listed either by Basset Hull, or by Campbell, Purves and Viney, and as I have seen other tinselled post cards of the time, which have gone through the mail and do not bear this marking, I decided to investigate the matter. Through the courtesy of the Director of Posts and Telegraphs in Hobart, Mr Gilson, and his Archives Officer, Mr Walker, I have been able to collect the following information.

In May 1907, apparently a complaint was made to the Postmaster General, to the effect that tinselled post cards were injurious to the health of postal officers, and the Acting Postmaster General in a document dated 24 May 1907, states:

It is represented to me that Tinsel post-cards are being transmitted through the Post, and it is complained that the handling of this matter is very injurious to the health of the Officers who have to deal with them. Dr Norris, Health Officer, has informed me that the Tinsel is very harmful to health.

Apparently a meeting of the Deputies Postmaster-General was held late in 1907, and in a circular memorandum (No. 451) it is stated that the conference decided that no restriction be placed on these cards passing through the post. The same document says that if such cards were received from overseas, they had to be handled under the existing international agreement and that “If the cards in question were injurious, then action should be taken by the State health authorities, to prohibit their sale.”

However, on 13 January 1908, in a circular memorandum (No. 10) to the Deputy Postmaster-General in Hobart from the Secretary of the Postmaster-General, it is stated that a communication had been received from the G.P.O. London, to the effect that:

Cards bearing tinselled ornamentation are prohibited from transmission by post in this Country, unless enclosed in covers, as it has been found that the tinsel or other powdered

material becomes detached in transit and creates dust which is injurious to the health of the staff.

The International Bureau at Berne has been requested to notify the prohibition to the various countries of the Postal Union.

In the same circular it is stated that the New Zealand postal authorities had decided to prohibit transmission through the post of tinselled post cards unless enclosed in an envelope.

The only direction given is "Please note and act accordingly".

Therefore in 1908, transmission of tinselled post cards through the mail was prohibited, and all tinselled post cards in Tasmania were removed from the mail, stamped and sent to the Dead Letter Office. It is possible that the actual marking was applied at the Dead Letter Office, as both markings are struck in red ink.

Tinsel, being a powdered metal, usually brass or tin, could cause skin lesions in mail handlers, and if handled in a large quantity, could be inhaled and cause fibrotic lesions in the lungs.

## PASSING OF MR P. W. SIMONSON

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria mourns the loss of Mr P. W. Simonson, one of its leading personalities, and an enthusiastic member for more than 40 years.

Paul will be widely remembered as a kindly friend, and an exceedingly knowledgeable philatelist. He was one who obviously loved his stamps and was always eager to help his inquiring fellow-collector.

He collected from boyhood and his philatelic interests were both wide and deep, extending over the whole British Commonwealth and Empire. Australian Commonwealth and Egypt were perhaps his chief collections. Others included Papua and New Guinea, the Pacific Islands, Great Britain and Canada.

His Egypt contained many items from King Farouk's collection.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria remembers him as its president in 1941. He was a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, of many years standing and attended the International Philatelic Exhibition, London, in 1950.

He was a member of several other societies, including the Commonwealth Specialist's Society and the Papuan Philatelic Society, the Old Victoria Group, the Prahran Philatelic Society and the Masonic Philatelic Society. He was also a member of Philatelic Lodge No. 552.

He left Australia in World War I as a private in the 46th Battalion and became a Major, General Staff, and A.D.C. to General Sir John Monash. He was awarded the O.B.E.

Mr Simonson joined Legatee in its foundation year and remained an active Legatee throughout his life, serving on most of the committees and being Sergeant-at-Arms for a period.

He was a member of the Naval and Military Club, the Melbourne Cricket Club, the Melbourne Football Club, and the Kooyong Tennis Club. In recent years he was keenly interested in the theatre.

Mr Simonson, as one of the society's most popular figures, is sadly missed. His two sons, Donald and Robert, are both members.



# PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

(Convenor's Address: 30 Warrane Road, East Roseville, N.S.W.)

## NEW GUINEA

### *Sub - District Office Cancellor*

Readers who have studied the excellent monography, *The Postal History of the Territory of New Guinea from 1888 to 1942*, the result of considerable research by Mr J. H. Powell, F.R.P.S.L., into this most interesting subject, will recall illustrations and references to the use of District Office rubber stamps of various types as cancellers on the postage stamps of New Guinea. The following are included in the various references to this type of canceller:

EITAPE.	AITAPE.	KAVIENG.	KIETA.	GASMATTA.
AMBUNTI.	ANGORAM.	MADANG.	MANUS.	TALASEA.

A member of the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club has recently brought to notice a hitherto unrecorded marking:

C.D.S. consisting of two concentric circles of 42 mm. and 29 mm. diameters, inscribed between the circles "SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE" above, "LAE" below, the two separated by stops and the date in one line in the centre, is "2 JAN 1940". This marking is on piece, cancelling a 2d. New Guinea stamp S.G.179.

This is an interesting discovery and differs from previously recorded markings of this type in that it is from a Sub-District Office and thus opens up a new avenue of research as it is possible other Sub-District markings exist.

In his reference to the District Office c.d.s. for Gasmata, Mr Powell mentions the District Office rubber stamp as consisting of two concentric circles 44 mm. and 29 mm. respectively, with "DISTRICT OFFICE" above and "GASMATA" below. This Circle has seen an impression of an earlier District Office marking consisting of two concentric circles, 38 mm. and 25 mm. respectively, with "DISTRICT OFFICE" above and "GASMATTA" below and date, 26 July 1928, one line in the centre. This impression is on a piece cut from a registration envelope with part of the address visible.



## REVIEWS

*United States: The 5c. Beacon Air Mail Stamps of 1928*, by Henry M. Goodkind. 62 pp. 6½ x 9¼ in. Published by The Collectors Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York 16, N.Y., U.S.A. Price \$2.00 (U.S.).

Mr Goodkind, well-known as the Editor of *The Collectors Club Philatelist*, *Scott's Monthly Journal*, and *The Aero Philatelist Annals*, is one of the busiest philatelists in the United States. In addition to his editorial labours, he is a Governor of The Collectors Club and has now written three books published under the auspices of the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publication Fund.

At the moment of writing, he was prominent in the organisation of SIPEX, 1966, Washington, and his name has been added to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

In his latest work he notes that the United States used to produce a two-colour air stamp every 10 years – the original 24c airmail in 1918, the Beacon in 1928, and the Eagle in 1938 – as publicity for the airmail.

With his colleague, Mr Philip Silver, Mr Goodkind has identified the siderographers (who make the transfer roller from the die) and the plate makers whose initials appear on many of the plates.

He has separated three printings and reports that small experimental plates were prepared as a means of overcoming the problem of paper shrinkage, but none of the stamps from them have been found.

One nice item from his collection is a mint block of six showing the marginal 'F' for finished, chrome finish, placed in the wrong position on Plate 19605 and double top on plate 19597.

Other interesting items are Plate 19626, the last number of the group having been incorrectly entered, burnished off, and corrected, and the 'open door' of the storehouse below the beacon, due to wear.

Mr Goodkind shows from notations on the back of the two known large die proofs on Indian paper that three must have been printed. The missing one would be a pleasant 'find'.

He then goes into exhaustive study of covers bearing the stamp, showing its usages,

and cancellations, including fancy cancellations, such as the cowboy and bucking bronco and the dancing Indian.

And for anybody who finds one cancelled Sydney, 19 March 1930, he has the explanation also.

A. C. Roessler, a pushful American dealer of the early air mail period, who also specialised in novelties, sent a batch of covers to Port Moresby bearing a 3d. Papua airmail and a 5c. Beacon stamp. Since the 3d. was insufficient for airmail postage, Moresby post office sent them surface mail and at Sydney the postmarker was whacked on the U.S.A. stamps.

The production is right up to Mr Goodkind's established standards. The research is American in its scope and thoroughness. It included examinations of more than 5000 copies of the stamp and more than 1000 covers.

*Squared Circle Cancellations of New Zealand*, by A. J. Robinson. 27 pp. 8¼ x 10¼ in.

Published by The Postal History Society of New Zealand, Inc., P.O. Box 1605, Auckland, New Zealand. Price, 12/- (N.Z.).

Mr Robinson has taken the multitude of Squared Circle cancellations, so familiar to collectors of New Zealand, for a thorough and careful study. He has distinguished six types and traced the various cancellers, from their introduction in the early 1880's through their peak in the early years of this century, to the present when one is still working cheerfully at Eureka.

He classifies their usage from the four main centres, then issues to replace combined obliterator/date-stamp cancellers; issues to replace other date-stamps; and issues to new offices. Paid date-stamps, those used in Marine Post Offices and telephone and telegraph offices follow.

Discovery of two new forgeries of this type of cancellation, brings the number known to five.

Mr Robinson will send New Zealand cancellation collectors hunting – I almost said furiously – but the right word is eagerly.

*A Review of 1964-65*. 44 pp. 8¼ x 7½ in.

Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1.

Robson Lowe Ltd has sold more than £1 million (stg.) worth of stamps in a season for the second time this year's glossy resume informs us. It also records a new peak of 467 bidders at one sale.

The Burrus German and Italian States helped to reach the figures achieved, but there was not nearly so much of that famous collection in the year's offerings.

Again the publication is bright with beautiful reproductions of the eye-taking pieces that have passed through the auction rooms to bring joy to a new set of owners.

After Britain, the leading buyers were Italy, Germany, Switzerland, and U.S.A., with Australasia filling 10th place in the export table.

Top price was £21,000 for the unique mint original inter-panneau pair of Naples Cross of Savoy deep blue. Other five-figure prices were £18,330 for a mint block of 12 Oldenberg 1/3 gr, black on green; and £10,500 for a vertical strip of five Tuscany 2s. scarlet on cover with spider's web cancellation in red.

Thirty of the items that brought upwards of £1,000 are illustrated.

Australasian interest centered around the Western Australian collection of the late T. W. Hall, and Rev James Mursell's South Australia. Mr Hall's 'Inverted Swan', a cut to shape copy, brought £650. Mr Mursell's set of the original four South Australia with 'cancelled' obliteration sold for £420 and his unissued 1/- violet, £380.

Of the Departmentals, 1866-69 2d. vermilion and an 1868 2d., both rouletted and overprinted "C. Sgn." (Colonial Surgeon), the first being the only known", £26, would be a worthy nomination for the bargain of the year.

Of the £1,102,990 sales, Australasia bought £14,643, compared with £13,379 in the previous year. Her buying was: Great Britain, £133 (nil); British Empire, £7679 (£5499); Foreign, £923 (£3059); Postal History, £511 (£373); General (Bournemouth), £5390 (£4374).

*The Postal Markings of Spain*, by Theo Van Dam, 74 pp. 6 x 8½ in. Vol. 13 of Billig's Handbook on Postmarks. Published by Fritz Billig, 168-39 Highland Avenue, Jamaica, New York 1143. Price \$4.00 (U.S.).

This is probably the most comprehensive

book on the postal markings and cancellations of Spain yet published in English. The author uses a systematic and very convenient method of classifying the wide range of matters dealt with. He uses three main groupings:

- (a) town marks, under which he includes pre-stamp marks, numbered and mute obliterations, and the modern types of town/date cancellations as well as rural and branch offices;
- (b) markings used for railway stations, ships and air mail, and travelling post offices;
- (c) various miscellaneous groups of administrative marks, such as government department franks, registration, postage due, second, third and fourth class mail, fiscal and telegraph cancellations, and foreign post marks on Spanish mail. For special commemorative postmarks the reader is referred to other publications. Considerable detail is given under each type of mark.

The book is a mine of valuable information and is to be recommended for the specialist in this field.

There are, however, a few minor sources of irritation. For instance, the book could have been greatly improved by closer attention to spelling. For example, Paquebot is invariably spelt "Paqueboat" even when quoting the title page of a book in which it is correctly spelt.

The title page lists "Part I General Classification" and the reader cannot tell whether there is to be a subsequent volume or whether the author omitted similar "Part" headings later in the book.

—A.L.S.

*The Papua and New Guinea Stamp Catalogue*. First Edition, 1966. 48 pp. 3 x 5¼ in. Published by Review Publications Pty. Ltd., Sterling Street, Dubbo, N.S.W. Price 25c.

*Decimal Stamps of Australasia*, First Edition, 1966. 24 pp. 3 x 5¼ in. Published by Review Publications Pty. Ltd., Sterling Street, Dubbo, N.S.W. Price 25c.

These two new pocket-size catalogues mark a new departure in Australian philatelic publications.

The first is a simplified catalogue of the stamps of New Britain, North-West Pacific Islands, New Guinea, Papua, and Papua-New Guinea.

The publishers are right up to the minute

with the second publication, which lists and prices the decimal stamps issued on February 14.

*Philatelic News from Papua and New Guinea, No. 1 of 1966*, 8 pp. 6½ x 8½ in. Published by the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Port Moresby, T.P.N.G. Gratis.

Papua and New Guinea collectors are being intelligently looked after by the authorities there and this publication is devoted to the Folk Lore Issue released on 8 June.

It explains the stories represented by the designs and tells something of the designer. The full write-up details given will be widely welcomed, and it would be useful to add the number of rows to the sheet in future.

Details of the pictorial postmarks at Territory Shows add to the usefulness of a bulletin which will certainly develop.

*Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, 1966*, First Edition, Section 2. Baden to Bushire. 5½ x 8½ in. Edited by

Edward Fladung. Published by Higgins and Gage, Inc., 23 No. Santa Anita, Pasadena, California. Price \$3.00 (U.S.).

Section 1 of this work, which aims at providing a comprehensive and up-to-date catalogue of the world's postal stationery was reviewed in *P from A*, for September last (p. 75). The same standard of care is evident in this section and all interested in this specialty will look forward to the part dealing with their particular field.

It is a loose-leaf production.

*The Australian Dependencies Stamp Catalogue*, Second Edition, 1966. 28 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Review Publications, Ltd., Sterling Street, Dubbo, N.S.W. Price, 50 cents.

This edition differs markedly from the first edition in 1964. It now covers only the present dependencies; Australian Antarctic Territory, Christmas Island, Cocos Islands, Norfolk Island, Nauru, and Papua-New Guinea, from 1952, but all listings have been brought up to date, including the decimal stamps where issued.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *Golden Jubilee of Membership*

Mr A. E. Layton last month completed his half-century of membership of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. He was elected on 18 May 1916.

The president (Mr C. G. Skewes) made reference to the occasion at the appropriate meeting.

The society now has three members who have been with it for more than 50 years. The others are: Mr W. Orchard, of Hobart, who was elected in December 1903 and who has been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand since its founding year, 1889, and Mr C. G. C. Hodgkinson, 17 September 1914.

### *R.P.S.V. Library*

The following have been added to the library as a result of exchange:

Bound volumes "British Philatelist", Vols. 1-28, completing the run.

Most missing numbers "Philatelic Adviser," Vols 9-17.

Most missing numbers, "The Philatelist", Vols. 1-8.

The missing numbers, "The West End Philatelist," completing volumes 42-54.

"Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Year Books," 1953, 1954, 1958, 1959, 1961, 1962, 1964.

The Librarian (Mr R. Lloyd-Smith) has donated the complete run, Volumes 1-3, "The Holy Land and Middle East Philatelic Magazine," 1957-9.

### *New Zealand King George VI: Plate 1 Official*

Mr R. D. Samuel reports, in the May issue of the *New Zealand Stamp Collector*, the sale in Christchurch of a Plate Number block of the New Zealand ½d Green King George VI, Plate 1, overprinted "Official".

Plate 1 printings were not previously known overprint and the find is therefore an addition to the list of Plate Numbers of the issue in *Philately from Australia* (December 1965, p. 91).

# ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## Members' Diary

- 1966  
June  
30 Western Australia; Postal Stationery and Frank Stamps, Mr R. Lloyd-Smith.  
July  
11 Library and Conversation.  
21 Annual Meeting  
Presidential Display, Mr C. G. Skewes.  
August  
8 Library and Conversation.  
18 Falkland Islands, Mr E. G. Creed.  
27 Sale by Tender.  
September  
12 Library and Conversation.  
15 Perkins Bacon Selection, Mr P. Jaffe.

## Grenada

Dr Russell Jones provided a display of Grenada at the first March meeting which was aptly described as "distinguished".

Opening with a selection of pre-stamp markings from 1786, the display centred on the 1d and 6d of the first type, but covered the classic stamps of the island thoroughly. It concluded with a study of the shades, perforations, and printings of the K.G. VI 10/-.

Royal Philatelic Society, London, certificate items included January 1883 overprinted with Crown and "One Penny" and "Postage" on half of the 1d (S.G. 29).

The most notable item was the 1876 6d deep vermilion, double impression.

Other varieties included 1d on 1½d 1886 with double surcharge (S.G. 37b) used and the 2½d on 8d 1891 with inverted surcharge (S.G. 47b) and with treble surcharge (S.G. 47e).

Even more interesting was the 1d Postage and Revenue overprints, 1890, with both surcharges inverted in pair, and the "SHLLIING" error of the Shilling deep mauve.

Notable in the later issues were the range of War Tax varieties.

## Fiji

Rev A. R. Tippett was to have displayed Fiji at the second March meeting but was overseas and Mr John Gartner filled the gap with a selection from his collection.

It was a display which conveyed the varied attractions of Fiji as a country, from the first issue, the type-set Fiji Times Express to the eye-catching Cake Fair stamps.

There was a nice selection of the genuine issues and all three imitations were shown in full sheets.

A comprehensive study of the various V.R. overprints with many varieties and some full panes, included many rarities.

Items noted included the 2d. on 6d. 1875 with overprint double, the 4d. on 3d. 1877 imperf. and imperf. between and the 4d. on 2d. dull mauve, Type B, 1888.

War Stamps included a full strip of 12 of the 1d. 1916-19 bright scarlet, with misplaced overprint, the last stamp being without overprint and inverted overprints on both ½d. and 1d. values.

The rarest postage due, 1d. January 1917, was shown both mint and on cover, and finally, the Cake Fair scarlet on yellow was shown in tete-beche pair.

## Victoria "Queen on Throne"

Mr J. R. W. Purves displayed Victoria's "Queen on Coronation Chair" stamps at the May meeting.

These were the 2d. engraved stamp of Thomas Ham of 1852, the Lithographs of Campbell and Co., of 1853, and of Campbell and Fergusson of the following year; the 1d. green Perkins Bacon Imperf. of 1856 and the 6d. blue Perkins Bacon rouletted, of 1859.

Mr Purves showed proofs of a New South Wales essay of Perkins Bacon which predated the Victorian issue, and to which the Victorian design owed something. It was, he said, one of the most beautiful and original designs on stamps. The display showed the superb engraving and beauty of the colors enduring after approximately 110 years.

Featured on the display were the re-entries, which Mr Purves had assigned to their position on the plates. Other items included two unofficially rouletted copies of the 1d. and a copy of the 6d., imperforate, and with the "Cancelled" markings, supplied to Sir Pearson Hill by Perkins Bacon.

Highlights of the locally-produced 2d. were reconstructed plates of 50 of various types and printings, and a proof sheet of the 2d. engraved, lacking only a corner pair, but showing the imprint.

There were stamps showing creased transfers from various stones, and a selection of the so-called errors of transfer, including a pair once owned by David Hill, first president of the society and a pioneer student of the stamps of his State. There was also a rouletted 2d.

## Palestine

At the April meeting Mr G. T. Houston gave a display of the stamps and postal stationery of the British Mandate of Palestine and its forerunners.

Numerous items were shown of Turkish stamps used in the Holy Land as well as a good representation of Levant stamps issued by European powers enjoying special privileges in the Turkish Empire under the so-called system of capitulations and maintaining their own post offices in the Holy Land.

Rare Turkish strikes seen were the "Boxed Townmarks" of Jaffa, Jerusalem ("Koods" - The Holy), Nablous and Acre, the tri-lingual seals of the Jewish Quarter's post office of Jerusalem, and the Turkish Field Post markings of the German High Command in Jerusalem in 1917.

Among the European Levant markings the best were Jaffa and Jerusalem strikes on Austrian Lombardy, and the "Boxed Jaffa" mark in French on Russian Levant stamps.

The British Mandate display was highlighted by the rarest stamp of that period, the 9 Piastres S.G.13 with the part embossing due to plate damage, as described in Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia, and three mint copies of another 9 Piastres stamp, S.G.82a.

# THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

## Australia

At the first meeting in March, Mr Charles Ashworth-Spreat presented a display of Prominent Commonwealth Varieties. Mr Spreat covered a considerable amount of ground with his display.

The first sheets viewed covered B.O.A.C. Crash Covers of 1954 at Kallang, Singapore, and a nice cover of the "City of Khartoum" episode at Alexandria, Egypt in 1936.

In a section covering early air mails, was a London to Windsor cover dated 9 September 1911 - this being a first U.K. air mail item. Another first air mail was a M. Guillaux, Melbourne to Sydney, 1914. Both these items were in excellent condition.

An interesting item was a sheet showing Commonwealth C. of A. high values, overprinted SPECIMEN, in blocks of four.

The one penny and six penny engraved issues of 1913-14 were shown complete in plate number blocks.

Mr Spreat also showed the cracked electro variety in the ½d. Green, Geo. V Head issue. The "Line through Fourpence" variety was seen in both orange and violet in the 4d. value and a forgery of this variety was also shown in the violet colour.

A cancelled to order imprint block of the 4½d. violet, Die 2, was stated to be one of the only two known in this condition. Imprint blocks of 8 of the 4d. blue were seen and one of these was noted to be with inverted wmk.

## France

Mrs. P. M. C. Rock, F.R.P.S.L., charmed us with a display of "France" on 29 March.

Most members had been fortunate to see some of Mrs Rock's collection of this country previously and the depth of her knowledge and research of the subject had become more apparent at each viewing.

On this occasion she gave some history of the "Ceres" design, used in the first issues. We learned that Ceres was one of the 12 Gods of Olympus - known to the Greeks as Demeter and to the Romans as Ceres. Ceres was the daughter of Kronos and Rhea and the sister of Zeus. She was the Goddess of Agriculture. Mrs Rock pointed out that the design appeared as a perfect symbol for the country, which, at the time, was so much in need of peace and prosperity.

The display covered stamps issued to 1876. Plate proofs and colour trials of the 1849, 1853 and 1863 issues were seen and reconstructed panes of the 30c., 40c. and 80c. Bordeaux issues of 1870-71, with detailed drawings of the various plate varieties of each value.

Covers from 1849 to 1853 illustrated the different types of cancellations used during that period. Examples of the small, medium and 'Grande' cachets were seen. Various roller cancels were presented and this group covered the 'Stars', the Grill (used in Rome), Paris Sub-stations, Sub-stations of cities other than Paris and other Paris cancellations. The Railroad cancels were excellent and a profusion of Maritime marks, Military postmarks, small numerals etc., etc., were much enjoyed.

In the section covering French Post Offices Abroad, we saw a Reunion cancellation on the 5Fr. dated 1.5.77 and cancellations effected at various

cities in Egypt, Turkey, Spain, Syria, Algeria and Switzerland. Notable was a tete-beche pair used at Oran, Algeria.

A coverage of this display would not be complete without mentioning a cover, postmarked at Paris on 21.5.51 by a continuous or roller grill, and signed by E. Diena.

## Fiji

Our meeting on 12 April drew a good attendance to view the display of Fiji by Col. F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L.

The display opened with some information on the events which led to the first issues being made. We saw essays of the 5/- value, die proofs of the 3d. value which was used as an essay for the new die of the 2½d. value.

The 1871, Fiji Times issue of 1d., 3d., 6d., rouletted, on laid batonne paper was shown and the first imitations of these issues were also tabled for our viewing.

A page of the Spiro forgeries of stamps and cancellations was most informative.

The various issues from 1874 to George VI were seen in a remarkable degree of completeness, these covering all the overprints, perforations and varieties in the overprints, examples of worn plate printings, the 1881-1890 1/- value mint and used, and the 1882 5/- value mint and used.

A strip of 4 postmarked Levuka 3 Dec 85, was noticed and a registered cover Suva 1894 was a gem.

George V and George VI issues were completely covered, many of the values being shown with plate numbers and imprint blocks.

## Malta

Mrs P. Turnbull, of Melbourne, visited us on 10 May to show, by invitation, her collection of "Malta".

Mrs Turnbull opened her display with early letters of the Knights of St John and included the second earliest letter known (dated 1614). The fourth earliest, dated 1623, with a Maltese Cross wafer seal, was also shown and this was followed by a 1630 letter also with wafer seal.

A 1655 Leave Pass with the rare portrait seal of the Grand Master de Lascaris was appreciated as also were a number of entries showing Marseille/De Malthe (each line struck separately), the same postmark struck in one handstamp, a letter written by the navigator D'Entrecasteaux in 1774 and two rare Malta Ship Letters.

Other items of particular interest were the colony's first arc type handstamps with and without Paid, straight line Malta Post Pair and Malta Post Office, Malta Boite Mobile etc.

Mrs Turnbull also showed stamps and covers with the British Post Office first "M" cancel. The used abroad items featured some very rare plate numbers and forwarding agents' cachets.

The 1860 halfpenny yellows opened with a fine plate proof block of 4, 2 mint copies of S.G.1, plus one on cover and one with the "M" cancel. Later printings of the type included many scarce dated copies and covers.

The 5/- value with inverted watermark was seen and one of the 5 known copies of the farthing, red-brown, S.G.36, imperf. brought the display to a delightful conclusion.





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