

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



*Published Quarterly by*  
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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# Philately from Australia

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## TEN YEARS AT HEADQUARTERS

Although members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria may not have realised it, 10 years have passed since it officially opened its headquarters on 16 March 1957.

The first gathering was at At Home on 23 February 1957 and the first meeting on 21 March.

Today nobody could doubt the wisdom and success of the acquisition. Displays are given under near-perfect conditions, and suppers provided by the self-sacrificing lady members have completed the enjoyment of the evenings and facilitated greatly the friendliness between members which the society believes to be one of its most important distinguishing characteristics.

It has also allowed the library to be properly housed. The growth of the library since headquarters has been established is obvious to all who attend meetings and the important part which it is playing was shown by the fact that there were nearly 300 borrowings last year.

The facilities available also allow the library to become a repository for records of Australia's philatelic history which may well become of national scope.

The meeting room has already been used for an exhibition, the quarterly sales, and for social gatherings. Its possession also means that special meetings can be arranged without having to consider the availability of a room.

It is also a financial asset, and its possession augments and testifies to the size, status, importance, and permanence of the society.

The acquisition of such a headquarters was not achieved without work and sacrifice and purposeful, far-sighted, endeavour.

Proud and happy in its possession as we may be, we must not come to take its presence and facilities for granted. The spirit which made the attainment possible must be kept alive. Let not some future historian write, "This was our

finest hour." Rather must he be given reason for saying: "From the time the headquarters was proposed, the society went ever forward."

## ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA'S 75th ANNIVERSARY

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will celebrate the 75th anniversary of its foundation on 7 July.

The occasion will be marked by a dinner at the Hotel Australia that night.

The Society traces its foundation to a dinner attended by a number of philatelists at the invitation of Mr Charles Hesselmann at the Vienna Cafe, Collins Street, on 7 July 1892 when a new society to be called the Philatelic Association of Victoria was formed. It was then decided that Mr David H. Hill should be president and Mr Hesselmann, secretary, but the election was deferred to a formal meeting.

This was held in the boardroom of Prell's building, 60 Queen Street, at the corner of Collins Street, on 10 August. Mr F. R. Godfrey presided in Mr Hill's absence, and the name the Philatelic Society of Victoria was adopted.

The society became the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1946.

The Council of the society has made plans for the commemoration to extend throughout the anniversary year.

The commemoration will start with a display at the 29 June meeting, Victoria in 1892, compered by Mr G. T. White.

At the August 31 meeting Mr R. Lloyd-Smith will speak on Early Australian Philatelists.

Later in the year an exhibition will be held in the Society's headquarters, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, and a social gathering is also planned.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *B.C.O.F. Japan*

Mrs P. M. Rock's article on the Australian Military Forces Postmarkers of B.C.O.F., in the last issue, contained a typographical error in the final paragraph. "APO 512 first listed at a reserve at Det 34 Inf Bde, Kaitaichi", should have read "first listed as a reserve".

### *New Zealand Exhibition, Whakatane*

Australian exhibitors had some successes at the New Zealand National Stamp Exhibition, Whakatane, 19-22 April: Mrs P. L. Turnbull, Melbourne (Malta), Mr J. S. White, Sydney (NZ. 2d Full Face) and Mr J. H. Harrison, Launceston (Papua) won silver-gold medals; Mr J. P. C. Tresise, of Serpentine, Vic. (Tonga), and Mr G. S.

Bernhardt, of Hahndorf, S.A. (Germany), silver medals; Mr R. J. Kelly, of Dean, Vic. (British Solomon Islands), R. G. May, of Hawthorne, Qld. (Airgraphs), and Mr E. A. Barnes, of Mount Yokina, W.A. (Australia K.G.V. and Ceylon), bronze medals.

Mr White also exhibited New Zealand Full Faces in the Court of Honor.

The Grand Award went to Dr A Hunter, of Invercargill for N.Z. pre-stamp covers and cancellations of the Full Face period. The only other gold medal went to Mr J. J. Bishop, Auckland, for pre-stamp and stampless N.Z. covers.

Rev A. H. Joyce, of Auckland, received a silver medal for Postal History of Barakoma Airfield.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

CONDUCTED BY J. P. MEARA

*2s 3d Wattle, Green on White, 28.10.64. ACSC Q23½*

In "The Trail", March 1966, I referred to the minor recutting of several dashes of shading some 3-3½ mm directly above the last "A" of Australia but was unable to give position.

I have since sighted a block of six held by Mr I. Mastins of Brisbane which positions the variety as R10/9 of sheet (tentatively) "D". Both this copy and that held by Mr Dunn were purchased in November 1965.

*4c Queen Elizabeth II 14.2.66. ACSC Q52*

Since my notes in "The Trail", March 1967, relating to plate numbers and perforation pips, there has been opportunity to better evaluate the position and to hazard some answers to the pertinent questions insofar as sheet disposition and perforation is concerned.

It will be recalled the Australian Post Office in its *Philatelic Bulletin* of February 1967 (Vol. 14, No. 4, Whole No. 82) referred to "4c Stamps on Experimental Helecon Papers" and stated it was considered the several such printings were quite suitable for general postage purposes.

It would also seem the technicians at the Note Printing Branch experimented, *inter alia*, with the perforation pip arrangement, and confirmation of my previous remarks is, I feel, to be found in this article.

In what I refer to as the "20 series" of plate numbers, three electros Nos. 20, 21 and 23 were produced, in all probability per medium of a plastic alto and although it does not necessarily follow that they were numbered in strict order of production, I incline to the opinion that 20 was first produced, then 21 and 23 together. These three electros bear rather more similarity by way of easily recognisable features constant to each, whilst 21 and 23 appear to have been treated together so far as certain recutting is concerned.

I cannot see any reason or evidence to indicate that the electros are other than one entire of 600 units—a replica of the master plate, i.e., the electro was not built up per medium of plastic components of 100 or 300 units, as some features such

as flaws or scratches found on one/upper sheets would also appear in the same position on other/lower sheets.

The upper sheets "A, B, C" and the lower sheets "D, E, F" have been available bearing plate numbers with a dash each side, a dash at left, and numbers without dashes, and may be summarised briefly as under:

1. Sheets with two-dash numbers are all imperforate right selvedge and the Type V pip is in the upper/lower left corner.
2. Sheets with dash-left numbers are perforated both left and right selvedges and Type I (small) pip appears in the upper/lower left corner, except that on lower sheets -20 and -23 this pip is below the left frame of R10/1.
3. Sheets with plain numbers are imperforate right selvedge and the Type V pip is in the upper/lower left corner.

For probable identification purposes during checking at the Note Printing Branch, if for no other reason, it was deemed expedient for each sheet to bear a number, and it is obvious from the perforated selvedges that the sheets in category 2, are from the centre position, i.e., sheets B and E.

The question to be resolved is: Which are the left and right sheets? It must be remembered that the electro itself has the impressions in recess and reversed, and it would be feasible for an engraver to start incising (figures in reverse) from the left side with for instance 20, the centre -20, and the right -20-. On the printed sheet before guillotining these numbers will appear in the reverse positions, viz., Left -20-, centre -20, right 20. And it is interesting to note the various sizes and engraving of the numbers with the supporting aids for positioning.

By way of supporting this suggestion, I would point out that on many sheets with the wider left or right selvedges, there may be seen the commencement of horizontal layout lines opposite the top frames of R1/1 or R1/10 of the upper sheets, and the lower frames of R10/1 or R10/10 of lower sheets. The centre sheets may have these lines on either side, but on sheets with two-dash numbers I have only seen the lines on the *right* selvedge, and on sheets without dashes only on the *left* selvedge.

If the sheets or strips of 20 are arranged systematically in numerical sequence to accord with the above, the six sheets from each electro will be positioned so that two-dash numbers are on the left sheets A/D, one dash are centre sheets B/E and plain numbers are right sheets C/F.

Furthermore, I suggest the first guillotining severs the pair of left sheets A/D and did so since the inception of this value. For perforation the unsevered centre and right pairs BC/EF are stabilised on the feed table by pins piercing the large pips which seem to be slightly right of centre between these two "panes", and the comb proceeds across the sheets from right to left design viewed upright. The small pips apparently play no part in this process and their exact purpose I do not know. The left pair of sheets A/D would then be similarly fixed and comb perfed from the right.

In the "Teen series" a further three electros Nos. 16, 17 and 22 were produced

from a different alto plate again probably per medium of plastic, and electros 16 and 22 conform in all respects to the same pattern as the "20 series".

Electro 17 whilst conforming broadly to the pattern differs in that the lower left sheet "D" bears a plain number without dashes, and the upper centre sheet "B" is perforated both sides, bears the plate number in the upper right corner, and what is believed to be a small pip in the upper left corner.

It is still the practice to trim all sheets after perforation which would account for only portion of 17 being seen on sheet "B", nevertheless, there are many sheets with wider selvages than that on 17 which previously bore no number. Incidentally lower 16 and upper 17 (portion) are on helecon paper.

Some of the constants which tend to support the plastic alto theory or plastic medium at some point in the production process, and the main varieties on the respective sheets, are enumerated below:

#### *"20 Series"*

##### *Upper Sheets*

- 20-, -21-, -23-: Imperf right, ordinary paper: a 1 mm diagonal dash appears 9 mm above the gutter between R1/6-7.
- 21-, -23: Perf sides, ordinary and helecon III paper respectively: A 3 mm sloping dash NW-SE appears some 6 mm above TRC of R1/5. Pl. -21, R4/9 has weakness upper left frame.
- Pl. -21, R4/9 has weakness upper left frame.

##### *Lower Sheets*

- 20, 21, 23: Imperf right, helecon III, Ordinary, helecon III/ordinary paper respectively.
- R1/9 Recut between 4 and c and surrounds,-
  - 20 - About six diagonals SW-NE between 4 and c.
  - 21 - Crosshatching below and right of 4c.
  - 23 - Between 4 and c with excess white.
- R9/4 Recutting top left corner, -
  - 20 - The "Red Corner" particularly outstanding under a glass, with diagonal projecting into 4 and at corner.
  - 21 - Southeast of 4 to between A and hair. Two states exist.
  - 23 - Again southeast of 4 but identified by small red dash in right side of liA. Two states exist.

These recuts are undoubtedly the result of some imperfection in the plastic medium.

#### *"Teen Series"*

##### *Upper Sheets*

- 17 TRC, perf sides, helecon paper:
  - R5/10 Spot on jaw and identifying spot right selvedge.
  - Quite likely of master plate origin rather than from this particular alto, as this spot, its removal, then minor recut were reported previously—refer *The Trail* September 1966, page 56.
  - R6/4 - Electro recut to hair above eye at right.

##### *Lower Sheets*

- 16-, 1.7, -22-: Imperf right, helecon, helecon, ordinary:
  - A 3 mm colour "bubble" below left corner R10/1.
  - Dots 8½ mm to left, and 12½ mm to right of centre point of number (and pip, see below).
- 22- Perf right, ordinary paper:
  - R2/1 Weak upper portion left frame.
  - R9/8 Spot forehead over eye at right.
  - R10/8 5 mm sloping scratch 5-6 mm below centre.

The "bubble" is not as extensive as that appearing on an unnumbered sheet with Type V in centre base surrounded by many horizontal scratches and with a spearhead projecting to the northeast. (Now regarded as a left sheet "D").

The features on -22 also appear on a sheet without number or pip (now regarded as a centre sheet "E").

Electros 17 and 22 perhaps could be termed transition electros, as "normal" sheets from 22, i.e., sheets with Type V pip instead of number were available concurrently with sheets bearing number 22. Moreover, this electro appears to have been numbered 22 some time after its initial use and possibly after the advent of electros 21 and 23.

Electro 17 may be the key electro in the transition in that a number displaced a pip in the centre of lower left sheet "D", also the number was inserted intermediate, if not equidistant, between upper sheets centre B and right C. Apparently this set-up proved unsatisfactory and alteration was made to the now familiar symmetrical pattern.

It may be of interest, too, to refer to my article "Laying Out The Australian Master Plate" in *Philately from Australia*, June 1958, in which I considered the width of the old 640-on master plate was 725 mm perf to perf across two sheets of 160 with central spacing of 36.075 mm; also during 1957-59 there was experimentation in relation to the size and position of the perf pips, and there was a transition from the standard left to right perforation to a right to left practice for some time prior to decimalization.

The subject value is three sheets wide, i.e., 30 stamps each 20.25 mm wide over perf centres equalling 607.50 mm, and if it is accepted as could be the case, that spacing between each sheet is two stamp-widths (40.50 mm), then the total overall width perf to perf is 688.50 mm. This is approximately 90 mm shorter than the overall working width of the 640-on master layout, but it cannot be said whether the 4c master plate which I believe and accept is 600 units is smaller, or whether paper size with its initial high cost and inevitable loss by trimming has any bearing on the matter.

With the ever-increasing requirements of the basic letter rate stamp, it is conceivable that if plastic is the alto medium, it would not produce as many printing electros as would the electrolytically grown metal alto, thus requiring greater use of the master plate, which would now be subject to minor flawing. Although there is no official confirmation, it is regarded as fact that plastic is used as some stage of the process thus enabling very quick and economic production.

These notes on some 80 per cent of material are by no means final, but it is hoped that before the advent of further commemoratives or 5c postage other students will provide some condiment for any meat in this particular sandwich.

# BOYD'S EXPRESS MESSENGER CO. AND ITS LOCAL

By *FREDERIC E. WOOD*



*Boyd envelope with Hussey type design – boy in page-type jacket, long trousers, boots and peaked pillbox cap, running to the right. The coat as worn by the messenger in the streets of Melbourne was light blue, with navy blue trousers, black cap and black shoes, leather belt and pouch.*

Fitz. A. Boyd's grandfather, John T. Boyd, established an express messenger service in the United States in 1830, initially for delivery of printed matter. This became a local post in 1844 and a two cents postage stamp was issued (Scott's 6281-6368). It competed with the United States Government mail until 1883 when it was suppressed.

This sudden end to the family business after more than half a century of effort left the young man at a loose end and his interest in Australia was awakened when Alfred Deakin became associated with George Chaffey. Chaffey had come from California to Victoria in 1886 to look over the Murray Valley as an irrigation project. Young Boyd was further impressed by the reports of the 1888 Melbourne Exhibition.

Arriving in Melbourne, he became associated with Mr H. S. Hayling, who was manager of the Express Messenger Company, 325 Collins Street. This venture

had operated since 1889, having been founded by Mr Hayling at the Federal Stock Exchange, 375 Collins Street.

It was the first company to establish such a service. In 1890 Mr H. E. Bennett replaced Mr H. S. Hayling as manager and in the following year, he was succeeded by Mr C. Hoskyns, who moved to 243 Collins Street.

In 1894 Boyd became managing director of the Express Messenger (City) Co., Ltd., City being a word used by his father in the United States.

Boyd had a stamp printed resembling that of Hussey's Special Messenger Service local in U.S.A. (Scott 87155-87172), except that Boyd had his messenger running to the left.

The inscriptions were CITY EXPRESS MESSENGER CO., LTD., — a title the company never seems to have used — and DESPATCH STAMP. There was no indication of place of origin — and no value. Used copies are much scarcer than mint.

For many years Boyd's stamp was considered of American origin and was accepted as a U.S.A. local. When its Australian origin was established there was no direct confirmation that the stamp was ever used until items found by Mr W. M. Holbeach and myself showed that it has been used in Melbourne.

The stamp, 30 x 36 mm, was printed in green from electrotypes (*P from A*, December 1949, p. 120), on white unwatermarked paper, and perforated 12. Two printings can be distinguished. The second printing is lighter in shade and building in the right background is not so sharp. The printer has not been identified.

The first printing is believed to have been made in 1894 and used to 1902. The second printing appears to have been in the period 1900-1904.

Neither the sheet formation nor the quantities have been established. I have examined 27 copies and know of a total of 53, of which eight are from the second printing.

Many of the second printing have recurring flaws:

Broken top of S.

Dot right of top end of ornament in left panel.

In the first printing many items have a lower broken frame.

It is believed to have been first used in 1894 and this view is supported by the many cancelling stamps used. Use varied with the changing addresses:

1894 Express Messenger (City) Co. Ltd.

Fitz. A. Boyd, Director

J. L. Nye, Secretary

243 Collins St., Melbourne (Type 1 in use).



Type 1



Type 2

1895 Ditto, but at 256 Collins St.

1896-7 Express Messenger (Boyd's American) Despatch  
Fitz. A. Boyd, Manager.  
323-325 Collins St. (Type 2 in use).

1896-7 Ditto. It is believed that cancellers numbered 2 and 3 were  
in use towards the end of 1897.



*Type 3*



*Type 4*

1898-1905 Express Messenger Despatch and Cycle Bureau  
Fitz. A. Boyd, Manager  
114 Elizabeth St., Melbourne (Type 4 in use).

This canceller was used at the address shown but its period  
is not known. Two stamps cancelled with it are known.

**BOYD'S - DESPATCH**  
114 ELIZABETH ST.

*Type 5*

**BOYD'S - DESPATCH**  
88 ELIZABETH ST.

*Type 6*

1906-10 Cancellation Number 6 was used at the address shown but  
the registered name was changed to Express Messenger  
Despatch and General Agency. Fitz. A. Boyd, Manager.  
88 Elizabeth St. (Type 5 in use).

(The illustrations of the circular cancellers are not strictly accurate, as it  
has been impossible to obtain a clear facsimile from cancellations on pieces. The  
outer circle of the circular cancellations is 33 mm in diameter and the inner  
circle 29 mm. The rectangular cancellations measure 58 mm x 7 mm.)

I have been fortunate in viewing recently an item on piece in the collection of  
Mr John Gartner which shows an excellent strike of cancellation Type 3. The  
finding of this item has shown the size of type used in the circular cancellers  
and the cancelling ink color. Mr Gartner's 13 copies included one of the second  
printing.

Because of the rarity of the material and the fact that much of it has faded, it  
has not been possible to establish cancellation colors for all types used. Type 3  
has been seen in a bluish-green ink and Type 6 in violet.

A Boyd's Express Messenger Despatch envelope, addressed to Hobart, with the Melbourne postal cancellation of 16 September 1907 and backstamped at Hobart the following day, with a fine strike of cancellation No. 6, from my collection is illustrated. This was used from 88 Elizabeth St. (Type 6 in use).

1911-12 Boyd moved back to Collins St.—this time to No. 436.  
The registered name was changed to Express Messenger Co. Nothing is known of the cancellers used in this period.

1911-15 Express Messenger Co. (Fitz. A. Boyd)  
436 Collins St.  
(Original trading name as used by H. S. Hayling in 1889).

1916 Ditto. (No mention of Boyd)  
44 Elizabeth St.

There was a seventh type of cancellation, an example of which is in Miss J. Resch's collection. This is a double lined oval, the outer frame being 52 mm wide and 36 mm deep, the inner frame 50 mm wide and 34 mm deep. The stamp and the cancellation are both faded, so that the stamp cannot be assigned to either printing, nor the color and wording of the cancellation identified. The period of use cannot, therefore, be established.

No less than 42 private posts in U.S.A. used the word "City" in their names but Boyd never used the word after 1896 in his changes in registered name.

This could be because in 1896-7 he had a competitor, Newton E. Jennings, secretary to the City Messenger Co. Ltd., which operated from 256 Collins Street, from which Boyd had conducted his service in 1895. Jennings' competition was short.

Boyd was unfortunate in having chosen the busting of the "land boom" as the



*Type 3*



*Type 6*

period to set up business in Melbourne. It was a very difficult time and this may have been the reason for the firm's five changes of name and eight changes of address.

There are no records of what happened to Boyd after his disappearance from the company.



# PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Convenor's address: 30 Warrane Road, East Roseville, N.S.W.

## PAPUA

### *Queensland Postmark*

We are able to record a Queensland numeral duplex cancellation on Papuan stamps previously unknown to members of the Pacific Island Circle.

This appears on a pair of 1d Large Papua lithographs and shows a complete strike of the numeral 570, in solid rays, and a partial strike of the c.d.s. The portion of the c.d.s. showing reads . . . SVILLE above and . . . LAND below with only a small part of the date visible. The numeral 570 referred to has been checked with the *Numeral Cancellations of Queensland*, written by the late Harry S. Porter and published in this journal in 1953-54, and found to have been allocated to Townsville, and thus checks with the portion of the c.d.s. visible on these stamps.

## NEW GUINEA

### *Pre G.R.I. Postcard*

Writings on the postal history of New Guinea following the occupation of the territory on 11 September 1914 by Australian Forces, has suggested that German colonial stamps overprinted G.R.I. and value were available as early as 1 October, but the evidence seems to indicate that the earliest authenticated use of the overprinted stamps was 17 October. However it is obvious there must have been mail matter intended for transmission to Australia much earlier than this date. We have records of covers "unfranked" with dates as early as 13 October 1914. These were endorsed "no stamps available".

It can be expected that members of the expedition would wish to let their relatives know they were safe as early as possible and regardless of the fact that stamps were not available and postal facilities had not been established, interim arrangements would have been made to send mail matter by ships of the expedition returning to Australia. Little seems to be known of this interim period from 11 September to 17 October, but covers no doubt exist in private records from this period.

Recently we were privileged to see such a postcard by the courtesy of Mr D. H. M. Clarke, of Colac, Victoria. The postcard (bearing a scene in Aden) was written by one "Allen" from Rabaul, New Pommerania, on 14 September 1914 and addressed to Trangie, N.S.W., giving details of the landing at Rabaul on 12 September. There is no postal marking from Rabaul, but on arrival in Sydney it was taxed 1d and the tax was discharged by affixing a 1d postage due

stamp cancelled 5 October and subsequently postmarked at Trangie on 6 October 1914. The card was endorsed "On Active Service —No Stamps Available".

### COOK ISLANDS

In the March issue of this journal we drew attention to two territories which in our opinion were spoiling their philatelic image by the production of issues, some with avoidable varieties, obviously for the purpose of exploiting the unwary collectors. When we wrote this article we assumed the ultimate had been reached with the issue of the 1966 Air Mail series of the Cook Islands.

How wrong we were can be judged from consideration of the six values, being part of the decimal series for the same territory, now in the hands of stamp dealers. In this part issue of six values there are no less than 12 varieties in the overprint, which are repeated two and three times in the sheet and include — small letters, thin letters and figures, small fractions, large fractions, broken and damaged letters and figures—all in all a sorry mess and totally unworthy of the administration which sanctioned its production and issue to the public.

## DEATH OF MR C. F. BULLEY

Mr C. F. Bulley, one of the most highly respected members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, died recently.

Mr Bulley enjoyed an international reputation for his collection of New Zealand. This won gold medals at ANPEX, 1950 and MIPEX, 1963.

Poor health prevented him from attending society meetings in recent years but he was a very active member for many years.

His son, Mr Max Bulley, is widely known in philatelic circles and is an energetic secretary of the Papuan Philatelic Society.

# AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES POSTMARKERS OF THE PACIFIC CAMPAIGN 1940-46

*By Mrs PATRICIA M. C. ROCK, F.R.P.S.L.*

## THURSDAY ISLAND

An Army Field Post Office was established at Thursday Island on 14 August 1942. In addition to servicing troops concentrated on Thursday Island this FPO handled mail to and from Horn and Goode Islands. The following lists are from the Official Files:

FPO 0101 . . . Thursday Island.

On 22 October 1942 FPO 0101 was still listed as operating on Thursday Is. by First Aust. Army Postal Unit.

28 December 1942 another FPO . . . FPO 094 was listed as operating vice S698 and servicing all troops "Jacky Jacky Area."

*S101 was listed as "Closed 31.10.43 Thursday Island."*

On 13 November 1944 two other postmarkers are listed as being allotted to Thursday Island:

FPO 094 . . . Thursday Island

UPS VA 54 . . . Thursday Island (Higginsfield)

In an order dated 3 July 1945 the following appears: "Forwarded under separate cover rubber postmarkers No's VA 51 to VA 68 inclusive, which have been returned by O.C. 11 Aust Div Postal Unit as no longer required."

January 3 1945 FPO 094 was listed as postmarker allotted to FPO HG Torres Straits Area, and again on 30 June '45 this same postmarker (FPO 094) was still in use at HQ Torres Straits.

A revised list dated 1.9.45 has FPO 094 still in use at Thursday Island. 14 May 1946 FPO 094 was returned to Base Postal Unit, Brisbane.

## NAURU AND OCEAN ISLANDS

In a list of postmarkers allotted in 1945 the following appears:

NAURU ISLAND . . . UPS 313 . . . 11 Div Postal Unit.

OCEAN ISLAND . . . UPS 314 . . . 11 Div Postal Unit.

This is the only record that I have been able to find on Postal Units at these two islands.

## BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

Australian troops took over from the American troops in the Solomon Islands in November 1944.

Official files show:

- 15 NOV. 1944 FPO 068 (HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde) commenced to operate at Bougainville Area.
- 16 NOV. 1944 FPO 12 commenced to operate in the Bougainville Area. AIF FPO 12 in use at that office.
- 17 NOV. 1944 FPO 13 (NG Details Depot) commenced to operate in the Bougainville Area. AIF FPO 13 in use at that office.
- 17 NOV. 1944 FPO 161 (2 Aust Fd Regt Area) commenced to operate in the Bougainville Area . . . postmarker FPO 161 in use.
- 6 DEC. 1944 UPS 366 established at D.I.D. on Numa Numa Trail as from 0001 hours 5 Dec. 1944. All mail for troops in forward Areas will be despatched through FPO 068 (HQ 7 Aust Inf Bde) to UPS 366.
- 4 JAN. 1945 UPS AC37 was installed at Numa Numa with Rear Esch 26 Aus Inf Bn.
- 15 JAN. 1945 List of disposition of postmarkers:  
 7 Aust Adv Base PO "A" . . . Bougainville  
 7 Aust Adv Base PO "B" . . . Bougainville  
 7 Aust Adv Base PO "C" . . . In reserve, Bougainville.  
 AIF PO 7 In reserve . . . Bougainville  
 AIF PO 8 In reserve . . . Bougainville  
 AIF PO 12 . . . HQ 2 Aust Corps . . .  
 FPO 13 . . . HQ 2 Aust Corps . . . Registered Section  
 FPO 14 . . . 58 Corps Fd Pk  
 FPO 15 . . . Reserve  
 FPO 16 . . . Reserve
- 31 JAN. 1945 Postmarker 7 Aust Base P.O. "C" was put into use at Aust Adv Base PO Bougainville (Letter Section) on 31 Jan 1945.
- 31 JAN. 1945 Postmarker 7 Aust Adv Base PO "A" disposition now 'Counter'
- 31 JAN. 1945 UPS 407 closed down on 30 Jan '45. In reserve.
- 4 APRIL '45 FPO 158 closed Adek River ,
- 5 APRIL '45 PFO 158 reopened Toko Area — 11 Aust Fd Coy
- 11 APRIL '45 Listed in disposition list:  
 FPO 167 . . . HQ 11 Aust Inf Bn , .. Anzac Beach — FPO 13 commenced
- 4 APRIL '45 FPO 158 closed Adele River.  
 FPO 180 . . . HQ 4 Inf Bde  
 FPO 182 . . . 11 Div Postal Unit  
 FPO 185 . . . Torokina
- 14 JUN '45 UPS operating 3 Aust Div Recpt Camp Motupena Point closed 13 Jun '45, FPO 161 opened in lieu as from 14 Jun '45
- 19 JUN '45 FPO 185 opened Torokina
- 20 JUN '45 FPO 159 closed Torokina . . . postmarker FPO 159
- 27 JUN '45 FPO 13 closed down . . . postmarker FPO 13 (Held in reserve by 2 Aust Corps PU)
- 27 JUN '45 Disposition list:  
 FPO 158 held at Toko  
 FPO 159 Reserve . . . Rusei Area  
 FPO 160 HQ Inf Bde  
 FPO 161 3 Div Reception Motupena Point

30 JUN '45 FPO 159 closed down Torokina . . . held reserve 3 Aust Div PU  
23 May 1946 Bougainville Det. 7 Adv Base PO "A" . . . 8 MD Postal Unit

## TIMOR

On 28 February 1946 the Postmarker UPS 416 was allotted to 12/40 Aust Inf Bn at Timor. This did not seem to have a long use as on 31 March 1946, in a memo from Darwin the following statement appears, "Forwarded today under separate registered cover, by surface mail, UPS 416, which was previously in use at UPS 12/40 Aust Inf Bn Timor."

## FAURO ISLAND

26 October 1945 listed UPS as being allotted to Fauro Island.

12 February 1946 (disposition list):

UPS 366 . . . Fauro Island - HQ of Base Postal Unit

FPO 0102 . . . Fauro Island - HQ of Base Postal Unit

## EMIRAU ISLAND (New Ireland)

In a list of April 1945 the following appears:

FPO 183 . . . Emirau Island . . . 2 Aust Corps Postal Unit (23rd Bde).

(This FPO also handled mail from Treasury Island and Green Island.)

## TASMANIAN MANUSCRIPT CANCELLATIONS ON COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

By JOHN AVERY

Manuscript cancellations of Tasmanian post offices on Commonwealth stamps are extremely rare, and in several years of hunting, I have located examples from only nine offices.

In all except two cases, the manuscript markings were probably used to cancel stamps because the post office was waiting for a proper date stamp.

The exceptions are Loira and Lapoinya, where stamps would have been manuscripted because the normal date stamp had been damaged or mislaid.

The details are:

OFFICE	DATES	REMARKS
HOWTH	14-10-24	Blue pencil on 1½d red Geo. V. Clear.
LAPOINYA	16-10-13	Blue pencil on 1d Kangaroo on Map. Faint. The stamp has also been cancelled by the Flowerdale Upper c.d.s. (17 Oct 13). What would probably be the arrival mark is Ulverstone (Oc 18/13), beside the stamp.

LOIRA	2-11-22	Ink, on Geo. V 2d red. Loira c.d.s. is found before and after this mss. Datestamp probably being repaired or temporarily misplaced.
LEGUNIA	undated	On 1d Geo. V. Ink. Seen in mainland collection.
MELLA	Nov. 7-15 and May 16-18	Ink, on Geo. V 1d red.
MOOGARA		Copies are known.
OLDINA	29-7-16 and 2-6-17	Found also on State stamps. A c.d.s. was introduced, probably at the beginning of 1918. Writer has copy dated 6 FE 18. Mss in ink on Geo. V stamps.
PELVERATA	24-2-20	Ink, on Geo. V 1½d red-brown.
ROBIGANA	12-5-16, 3-11-16 and 14-2-19 or might be 19??	Blue pencil on Geo. V 1½d black-brown. Writer's earliest Robigana c.d.s. is 31 JL 23.
TANGANA	8-11-18 and 4-2-20	On Geo. V stamps. 1918 specimen also has very faint Upper Castra c.d.s. Writer has superb Tangana c.d.s. (23 MR 22) on 2d red Geo. V on cut-out. Part of the Upper Castra c.d.s. is on this as well.

The only manuscripts listed here not in my collection are Moogara and Legunia.

This list cannot be comprehensive. Much more research is needed to relate dates to the changing or introduction of date stamps. With this basic list as a guide, more examples should turn up. Perhaps then a comprehensive list may result.

Manuscripts of Strickland, in different handwriting, are found on State stamps. The writer has located a cut-out from a registered cover from Strickland.

The registration label has the name of the office written on it in one of the handwritings found on Tasmanian stamps. But the stamps (strip of three Geo. V 1d reds) have been cancelled at Ouse (12 AU 15). The writer has never seen a Strickland c.d.s. Strickland was only a receiving house and it is unlikely it ever received one.

The problem manuscript is Lapoinya. Circular date stamp cancellations from this office have been reported on Tasmanian pictorials. Why then do we find this lone October 1913 manuscript? The discovery of Lapoinya on Tasmanian stamps was only made recently, and I believe only three strikes are known. The only solution is that the date stamp was mislaid. In the short time it had been used, it would seem unlikely that it would need repair.

# AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC PERIODICAL LITERATURE

A SUMMARY 1879-1966

By R. LLOYD-SMITH

Over the years, a good deal has been written on the subject of our periodical philatelic literature, notably from the pens of the late J. H. Smyth, well-known Sydney stamp dealer, Romney Gibbons of Sydney, and P. Collas of Melbourne. H. M. Campbell, then editor of *Philately from Australia*, wrote in 1954 an excellent outline touching on the pioneer journals, and indicating the publications likely to be of value to the student. No one has attempted to produce a connected account of the whole range of stamp journals, good, bad and indifferent, which have appeared, some very briefly, on the Australian scene.

Some years ago Mr P. Collas gave a large portion of his philatelic library to this society, and this included a selection of the more ephemeral periodicals. This prompted me to make notes, and gather all possible information and what files that could be assembled for the Society library. Time, and wastepaper collections have taken heavy toll of some of the small journals not retained for philatelic reference.

I acknowledge the assistance of Mrs Marjorie Hancock, Deputy Mitchell Librarian, Sydney, and Miss Patricia Reynolds, Deputy Latrobe Librarian of Melbourne, who checked their holdings, and that of other Australian libraries, as disclosed by the Union List, Social Sciences and Humanities. Many short-lived publications are not represented in Australian public libraries, even in the States of origin. Representation is little better in the three main philatelic society libraries in this country.

As no abler pen has attempted this history, I offer these notes in the hope that some reader can fill some of the gaps, or locate for preservation copies or files of some of the less known journals. The early Australian literature is admirably catalogued in the Earl of Crawford Catalogue, available in the Public Library of Victoria and the library of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club.

Collectors with a historical turn of mind have cause to thank our early dealers who largely pioneered our periodical literature, publishing original research, describing personalities and the collecting scene, often with candid comments on their rivals, particularly if from other colonies. From the whole body of their writings a clear picture emerges of trends, fashions, personalities, and the state of the hobby.

The *Australian Stamp Journal* has the honoured place for endurance, with a life exceeding 40 years ending in mid-1951. The name of its founder, J. H. Smyth, the Sydney dealer, was a household word with Australian collectors.

Only five other journals at this date have survived 15 years; indeed only twenty-four of seventy publications known have lived more than five years. Twenty-two journals produced six numbers or less, at least four having a single

issue. Long life has not been normal with Australian stamp periodicals, and a similar story could be told of the New Zealand philatelic press.

There are reasons for this; collecting took hold in Australia much later than in Europe, collecting centres have been few, and there have been few strong societies. Prior to 1900 societies languished even in Sydney and Melbourne, meetings lapsing for want of a quorum. All the early journals foundered. There has been no leisured class, and most collectors have been busy people. Long distances between collecting centres had hindered effective co-operation, and inter-colonial jealousies died slowly in post-federation days. Publishing efforts received little support outside the centres of origin, Australian philately suffering as a consequence.

Attempts at launching periodicals had been made in all states except Western Australia before 1894. Of nine recorded, only one, *The Australian Philatelist*, published by Sydney dealer, Fred Hagen, survived in the twentieth century, and with a life of 30 years holds third place for longevity.

In Victoria, surprisingly, no attempt was made to publish a journal between September 1896 and October 1918, when the *Victorian (Australian) Philatelic Record* began its twelve-year run.

It is only in New South Wales that a tradition of publishing has endured unbroken from 1879 to the present. Collectors are indebted to stamp dealers, Dawson A. Vindin & Co., Fred Hagen, Smyth & Nicolle and J. H. Smyth who gave us *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, *The Australian Philatelist*, *The Australian Journal of Philately*, and *The Australian Stamp Journal*, the main stream of journals until well after the first world war, and a significant segment until 1951.

In Victoria, dealers have not been notable in the publishing field, but collector effort commenced *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, salvaged *The Victorian Philatelic Record*, and has produced *Philately from Australia* for eighteen years to date.

Tasmania has the distinction of producing A. F. Basset Hull's *Federal Australian Philatelist* in 1890. It lasted only two years, but was of a very high standard, and acted as a catalyst when amalgamated with *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*.

Queensland's major contribution was the four-year run of *The Queensland (Australian) Philatelic Review*, produced by collectors between 1922 and 1926.

Western Australia made its only venture in 1921 and 1922 with *The Hemisphere's Stamp Collector* lasting 14 months.

South Australia produced three minor publications.

Throughout Australia, the period 1918 to 1939 was one of great activity in which at least 29 journals commenced, only two of which survived the war, *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, in its 37th year, is the lone survivor to the present day.

This was the era of the correspondence and exchange clubs, two commencing from this field being worthy of note, *The Southern Cross Collector* from Victoria lasting twelve years, and *The Month* from New South Wales, five years. There may be omissions in my listings of this period, as it is hard to draw the line between those omitted and those passed over. Some barely qualify, but I have included those where title *or* contents make any bid for recognition.

Many journals of this period were doomed from the start, and had little to

commend them from any standpoint, while others achieved a modest following; inability to attract advertising or depression and war laid even the best of them low.

All learned that publishing, collector or dealer, needed continuous effort and financial resources.

Since the end of the second world war, 18 journals have commenced, of which nine survive in 1966. These are:

1. *Philately from Australia*, a quarterly 18 years old.
2. *The N.S.W. Philatelic Annual*, published regularly since 1949.
3. *The P.M.G. Bulletin*, an official bi-monthly in its 14th year.
4. *Stamp News*, a lusty monthly of 12 years from Dubbo, N.S.W.
5. *Transpacific*, the journal of the United States Specialist Society of Australia, published quarterly since 1957.
6. *The Victorian Philatelic Association Newsletter*, published monthly for nine years.
7. *The Bulletin of the Brighton Philatelic Society*, published since 1959, soundly established as a monthly.
8. *The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of N.S.W.*, published monthly since 1962.
9. *The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club Quarterly Journal*, in its second year.

*The Australian Stamp Monthly* alone survives from before 1939.

The approximate number of journals current at any particular period is set out in the following table. Very short-lived publications are usually omitted, and it is difficult to classify those publications which had monthly, quarterly and irregular periods during their life.

Year	No. of Journals					Remarks
	Monthly	Bi-monthly	Quarterly	Annual	Irregular	
1879-80	2		1		1	
1881-83	1				1	
1884-86	Nil					
1887	2	2				<i>Vindin's</i> commenced
1888	2	1			1	
1889	1	1				
1890-91	2	1	1			<i>F.A.P.</i>
1892	1	1				
1893-94	3	3				<i>Aust.</i> <i>Philatelist</i> commenced
1895-96	2	2				

Year	No. of Journals		Monthly	Bi-monthly	Quarterly	Annual	Irregular	Remarks
1897	1		1					
1898	2		2					
1899	1		1					
1900	2		2					<i>A.J. of P.</i> commenced
1901	3		2				1	
1902-03	3		2		1			
1904-06	2		2					<i>A.J. of P.</i> expires 1905
1907	2		1				1	
1908-09	1		1					
1910-11	2		2					
1912-17	3		3					<i>A.S.J.</i> com- menced 1910
1918-20	4		3				1	<i>V.P.R.</i> com- menced 1918
1921	5		4				1	
1922	7		5				2	
1923-24	6		4				2	<i>A.P.</i> expires 1924
1925-26	5		3		1		1	
1927	5		2		1		1	
1928-29	7		4		2		1	
1930	11		5		2		4	<i>A.S.M.</i> com- menced
1931	8		4		1		3	<i>V.P.R.</i> expires
1932	7		2	1			4	
1933	7		2				5	
1934	6		2				4	
1935	5		3				2	
1936	6		4				2	
1937	5		3	1			1	
1938	5		4	1				
1939	6		4	1			1	
1940-41	2		2					
1942-45	3		2		1			
1946	6		5		1			
1947	8		6		2			
1948	10		7		2		1	
1949	9		5	1	2	1		<i>PFA</i> com- mences <i>N.S.W. Phil.</i> <i>Annual</i> commenced
1950-51	7		3		3	1		<i>A.S.J.</i> expires

Year	No. of					Remarks
	Journals	Monthly	Bi-monthly	Quarterly	Annual Irregular	
1952	5	2		2	1	
1953-55	7	3	1	2	1	PMG Bulletin commenced 1953
1956-57	9	3	1	4	1	
1958	8	2	1	4	1	
1959	8	3	1	3	1	
1960-61	9	4	1	3	1	
1962	11	5	2	3	1	ACCC N.S.W. commences
1963-64	10	4	1	3	1	
1965	10	5	1	3	1	
1966	11	5	1	4	1	

#### The Major References

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- "Avancez" (D. H. Hill), "Philatelic Literature", *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, Vol. 1, No. 6, Jan. 1888.
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- E. D. E. Van Weenen, "Early Australian Philatelic Records", *Australian Philatelist*, Vol. 29, p. 174, 1923.
- Romney Gibbons, "Philatelic Periodicals of N.S.W.", *Australian Stamp Journal*, Vol. 26, p. 67, 1936.
- P. Collas, "Philatelic Journalism in Australia", *Australian Stamp Monthly*, Vol. 25, p. 771, 1954.
- H. M. Campbell, "Philatelic Journals of Yesteryear", *Philately from Australia*, Vol. 4, p. 49, 1954.

#### The Publications in Chronological Order

The space devoted to each is not to be taken as an indication of its importance. Some are so well known as to require little description; others attracted little attention in their lifetime, and I supply more details for the record.

- (1) *New South Wales Stamp Collectors' Magazine*. (November 1879-August 1882). Published in Sydney by Mr Edward Buckley, stamp dealer, since 1870. 8 to 16 pages. 8½" x 5¼". 6d per copy, 5/- per annum.

The first number appeared on 1 November 1879 with 16 pages, of which 12 were reading matter, the balance being advertising. Issue was to be monthly, at a subscription of 5/- per annum, 1000 copies being printed.

Number 2 followed in April 1880, the publishers now being Messrs Buckley, Blunsum & Co., with a printing of 1500 copies of an 8-page journal priced at 2d per copy.

Number 3, April 1881, had four pages of reading matter in an 8-page number. The editor made his third appeal for subscribers willing to pay 2/- per year for a quarterly publication, thanking the 32 subscribers. 3000 copies were printed. The first three numbers had colored wrappers.

Mr Dawson A. Vindin took over the business at 88 Elizabeth St., Sydney, reviving the journal in August 1882 with Volume 1, Number 1, New Series. There were eight pages, quarterly publication being again offered at 2/- per annum, the editorial stating that there was no other journal devoted to philately in Australia. No other issue followed.

Refs.: *Australian Journal of Philately*, Vol. 5, p. 2, 17 October 1904. *Australia Stamp Journal*, Vol. 3, p. 185, 12 December 1921.

No. 1, November 1879, is in the library of The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, and the Mitchell Library, Sydney. No other copies are listed in Australian libraries, but a complete file is in the Earl of Crawford Library.

- (2) *The Australian Stamp Collectors' Journal*. (November 1879-February 1880). Published monthly in Adelaide by Mr Fred Stanley. 8½" x 5½".

Mr J. H. Smyth states in *The Australian Philatelist*, Vol. 16, p. 70, February 1910, that four regular monthly issues were made, which is confirmed by catalogue of the Philatelic Library of The Earl of Crawford. No copies appear to be in Australian libraries. There is an early reference to the gift of a complete file to this society, then the Philatelic Society of Victoria, by Mr D. H. Hill, but this was destroyed with the library in the fire of 21 November 1897.

There are references in Australian journals to a publication of the same name published in Melbourne in 1879 or 1880, which appear to have their origin in a statement by Mr Hill in *The Australian Journal of Philately*, Vol. 5, p. 2, 17 October 1904. I have no doubt that this is the journal published in Adelaide which is described, and the Earl of Crawford Catalogue seems to confirm this.

- (3) *The New South Wales Philatelist*. (November 1882-January 1883). A quarterly journal for stamp collectors, published by Mr Dawson A. Vindin, 88 Elizabeth St., Sydney. Approx. 9½" x 7". 2/- per annum.

This was Mr Vindin's second attempt to found a journal, numbers 1 and 2 of 15 November 1882 and 30 January 1883 were the only numbers published, and the only copies known to me are in the Earl of Crawford Library.

(To be continued)

## REVIEWS

*Victoria 1901-12 Issue 6d, 9d and 2/- Values*, by J. R. W. Purves. 36 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Limited edition 500 copies. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne. Price \$1.

This is the third monograph of the series covering the issues of Victoria during the Commonwealth period, which Mr Purves has produced.

The others are Hawthorn Press monographs No. 4 (1½d, 2d, 2½d) and No. 14 (3d, 4d, 5d).

The stamps are dealt with in sufficient detail to interest the serious collector and help him place his stamps correctly in his collection. All printings of these stamps, with their distinguishing features such as colour, approximate date of use, perforations, etc., are listed; as are constant plate varieties. Specially interesting is the information on the various repairs made to the plate.

Details of the 9d "Commonwealth" stamps of similar design issued both in New South Wales and Queensland in 1903 include some interesting new facts regarding their design and production. For example, the order of the States on the pillars was arrived at by placing the older States (New South Wales and Tasmania) at the base of the arches thereby signifying the earliest foundations of the Commonwealth.

In the appendix Mr Purves explains the reasons that made him change his opinion as to the material used for the moulds of the Victorian stamps.

He also gives a key to location of the constant varieties of the 6d value which will save specialists many hours of labour (even though it be a labour of love).

His knowledge and depth of study of these issues will once again impress all who read this work.

G.T.W.

*Canada: The Admiral Stamps of 1911-1925*, by Hans Reiche. 136 pp. 6 x 9 in. Obtainable from Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW.1. Price \$4.50.

Using as a basis for his study, "Notes on the 1911-1925 Issue" by the Hon. George C. Marler, the author has made a very comprehensive survey of this issue which com-

prises values from one cent to one dollar. These stamps (the first of the George V reign) cover the first World War period when supplies of paper and steel were difficult to obtain and skilled craftsmen hard to find.

The early part of the book covers fully the technical details of design, production, method, perforations, paper, gum, etc. Each value and colour is analysed separately with complete coverage of printing quantities, plate numbers with dates, shades, re-entries, retouches, etc. the booklets and coils are given full attention and there are very good illustrations of the re-entries.

These were the years when the typewriter was just coming to the fore and the volume of letters increasing tremendously. This is evident by the numbers of stamps of this issue printed in the lower denominations, running into thousands of millions. Naturally so many stamps must produce innumerable errors and varieties and the author lists a great number of them.

The Admiral issue offers a wonderful field for the specialist, with abundant material available at very low prices and now there is an excellent book to help in his studies. Hans Reiche is to be complimented on a fine piece of study.

E.G.C.

*A Review of 1965-1966*. 44 pp. 8¼ x 7½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW.1.

For the third successive year, Robson Lowe Ltd. has sold more than £1 sterling worth of stamps.

Most interesting event of the season was the picturesque stamp auction on the Queen Mary which was carrying collectors to SIPEX, with radio links to London, Paris, Basle, Milan and New York. Despite atmospheric interference with the radio, £85,070 was recorded in two hours. This included the season's highest price, £20,000 for a mint block of U.S.A. 90 cents, 1860.

The Uncommon Market continued to operate with six sales at Basle, and the private treaty department set a new record for itself at £176,929.

Special interest attaches to the sale of the E. G. Creed New Guinea, in Basle. The set

of first printings, on covers, with a certificate that they were one of the 16 sets issued on 1 October 1914 brought £389. The mint 5s on 5m, second printing brought £433 and the matching value on Marshall Islands, £275. Highest price was £550 for the complete row of 3d on 80 pf.

Australasian bidders' successes cost them £11,851, compared with £14,643 in the previous year. Their buying: Great Britain, £339 (£133); British Empire, £6,869 (£7679); Foreign, £742 (£923); Postal History, £280 (£511); General (Bournemouth), £3,610, (£5,390).

*Zumstein Europa Katalog, 1967.* 50th edition. 1060 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Published by Zumstein et Cie, Berne, Switzerland. Price \$7.50.

Special congratulations go to Zumstein et Cie on the Golden Jubilee of their catalogue and for the reputation which it has achieved.

The publishers note that the philatelic market in Europe is "influenced not only by collectors, but in an ever-increasing way, also by speculators and investors".

They report significant price moves in Italy, Spain, and recent issues of France, Britain, Gibraltar, Malta, Belgium and the Netherlands.

A new feature is a complete listing of Europa issues, which continue popular.

*The Western Mails*, by James W. Milgram. 62 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by The Society of Philatelic Americans. Available from Mrs Hilda P. Yant, 1937 Shriver Avenue, N.E., Canton, Ohio, U.S.A. 44705. Price \$1.50 (U.S.).

Dr Milgram's book centres around a group of covers illustrating the major usages in America's "West". Each contains a letter of historical interest, which is reproduced. The first is a letter from Knoxville, Tennessee to Sandusky, Ohio, giving a Judge's

account of the tavern brawl in which the future president, Andrew Jackson, was severely wounded.

Other items include letters from the Indian Territory, and the Express Mail of 1836-39, and one carried by the Steamboat Pizarro in 1839 is believed to be the earliest handstamped steamboat marking, another was carried by military express from Santa Fe to Independence, Missouri, and there are Californian letters carried east overland and by sea.

The express and steamer covers are especially interesting. The same must be said of a cover endorsed "Robbed Mail", a cover with a blue "R" marking of Philadelphia which is the forerunner of registered mail and a unique frank of Hinkley and Co's Express Mail "Paid Through".

*Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, 1966.* First Edition. Section 5, East Africa and Uganda to Ethiopia. Section 6, Falkland Islands to Funchal. Edited by Edward Fladung. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Higgins and Gage, Inc., 23 No. Santa Anita, Pasadena, California, U.S.A. Price \$1.50 and \$3.00 (U.S.) respectively.

This comprehensive work progresses, and every part impresses with the amount of work that has gone into its compilation. In this latest section, France proper occupies 26 pages and Finland 15.

*Filatelia Cubana.* Year 1, No. 1, October-December 1965. 52 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by La Federacion Filatelica Cubana, Paseo de Marti No. 451, Havana, Cuba. Subscription \$3.00 (U.S.).

This handsomely produced newcomer is a quarterly and the initial number is devoted entirely to Cuba. It is published in Spanish.

The most interesting article is one on the foreign postal agencies in Cuba during the 19th Century.

# ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## Members' Diary

- June  
12 Library and Conversation  
15 Annual Competition.  
Nominations for office-bearers close.  
29 Victoria in 1892, Mr G. T. White.
- July  
7 75th Anniversary Dinner, Hotel Australia.  
10 Library and Conversation.  
20 Annual Meeting.  
Presidential Display, Mr A. J. Petrie.
- August  
14 Library and Conversation.  
17 Australian Commonwealth, Mr J. P. Meara.  
26 Auction.  
31 Early Australian Philatelists, Mr R. L. Lloyd-Smith.
- September  
11 Library and Conversation.  
21 New Zealand, Mr J. S. White.
- October  
9 Library and Conversation.  
19 Russia, Mr J. Shadur.

## United States

Dr W. E. Neff, Jr., of Connecticut, U.S.A., a generous donor to the Building Fund and the library, provided an interesting display at the 30 March meeting.

He sent a set of slides of his U.S.A. 1847 issue with a written commentary, which was read as the items were screened. This was the first occasion on which the society has had such a display and there was a large and appreciative attendance.

It was the first occasion on which a display has been given before the society on slides and although, as Mr Neff emphasised, it was not possible to reproduce shades exactly, the evening showed the possibilities latent in this form of reproduction.

The exhibit concentrated on the five cents value, but some fine 10 cent issues were seen.

It dealt chiefly with the many varieties, but shades, printings, and cancellations, including some rare and beautiful railway and steamship markings, were included.

The vote of thanks expressed appreciation not only of Mr Neff's material but of his thoughtfulness and the readiness with which he made his slides available to his fellow philatelists "Down Under".

## Italy 1860's-1920's

At the April meeting, Mr G. T. Houston displayed Metropolitan Italy complete unused and used where more elusive thus. A chart showing the dates of demonetisation of the various Italian States stamps and a map of the Italian Peninsula prior to unification, each State being identified by one of its postage stamps alongside, gave essential information.

The Neapolitan States issue included one of the postal forgeries. One cover of the transition period bearing Roman States stamps, showed the peculiar usage of the first Italian postage due stamps, whereas others bore mixed frankings, early markings of T.P.O. and shipmail.

Essays and their history introduced some of the early issues. The 1863 issue was explained in

great detail and characteristics of the De La Rue and two following printings were given. Italian stamps were shown cancelled with Austro-Venetian postmarks, after the annexation of this province, when Italian postmarkers were not yet available.

There were also Italians cancelled with either types of the Roman "Pontifical Grill". A unique marking consisted of the Roman figure VII in a rectangle of dots, representing one of the field post offices during the war of liberation. The third postage due issue was shown complete unused.

The reign of King Humbert I. brought the high-light. Two copies of the postal forgery of the 5 Lire S.G. 87. Today this is the most valuable Italian stamp. The 1922 Trieste Philatelic Congress and the Manzoni commemoratives wound up the display.

## Special Meeting

Mr Robson Lowe, of London, was the guest of honor at a special meeting on 11 April, while he was passing through Melbourne on his way to New Zealand.

Five members combined to produce a display of material which they believed would interest the visitor.

They were: Messrs E. G. Creed, G. T. Houston, H. W. Walker, J. Gartner and P. Jaffe.

Mr Lowe gave a premiere reading of the paper he was to present at the New Zealand National Stamp Exhibition and Congress at Whakatane, "The Diseases of Philately", which was greatly enjoyed.

"It appears to me that 'stamp collecting' is a hobby, that 'philately' is the science of 'stamp collecting', just as 'postal history' is the humanity", he said.

Mr Lowe said the diseases of philately fell into three classes, physical, criminal and personal. He then dealt with the ravages caused to stamps by humidity, heat, and hinges and the appropriate treatments; remainders and reprints; clandestine reprints, forgeries and fakes and their symptoms; and finally the human diseases—greed, hoarding, envy, and selfishness, with cases which he had seen.

"Remember that our hobby brings companionship to the lonely, adventure to the adventurer, consolation and forgetfulness to the bereaved, relaxation to the busy mind and the antidote to 'being out of it' for those who have retired from professional life", Mr Lowe said. "This is a hobby of happiness."

He also showed a selection of Chichester flight covers from the early "Thirties" when Chichester was making headline news in the air, and displayed reproductions of paintings of famous Pacific mailships.

## Israel

Brigadier E. J. Briggs, a visitor, provided a much-enjoyed display from his Israel collection for the May meeting.

Brigadier Briggs, who was in Palestine during World War II and visited the area recently had the stamps of Israel virtually complete from 1952 to date, every stamp having the tabs.

The write-up, of the display, which was not a specialised one, brought out the beauty of the designs and the quality of the printing.

# THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

## *United States*

At the March meeting, the Vice-President, Mr Victor Frankenstein, F.R.P.S.L., gave a most interesting display of the stamps of U.S.A.

Mr Frankenstein said "The first postage stamps were issued on 1 July 1847, but prior to that there were the 'provisional issues by postmasters' which began at New York City in July 1845 and several other postmasters followed suit, operating until the Government, on 1 July 1847, issued its own stamps which superseded the provisional stamps of the postmasters. These provisional stamps were recognised by postmasters as indicating postage prepaid. On many of these postmasters' stamps, the signature-vouchers of the postmaster, in the form of signatures, or initials are seen, attesting to their legitimate usage.

"Carrier Stamps — this term applies to certain stamps used to defray postage from a post office to the addressee in the P.O. district of the addressee or vice versa. During the period when these were in use the ordinary postage fee defrayed the carriage of mail matter from P.O. to P.O. only. In many of the larger cities the private posts delivered mail from the P.O. to the addressee or vice versa for a fee of one or two cents and adhesive stamps were employed."

Mr Frankenstein also spoke on Local Stamps, Confederate States, Postmasters' Provisionals and Official or Departmental Stamps.

## *Pitcairn Island*

At the April meeting, Mr E. J. Garrard, F.R.P.S.L., presented "Isles of Bounty" — in other words the Stamps and Postal History of Pitcairn. Although only a part of his extensive collection of Pitcairn was shown, we were able to see illustrated the three distinct periods associated with the postal activities: The Pre-Stamp and Pre-Post Office Period; New Zealand Postal Agency 1927-1940; and The Island's own postal administration, established in 1940.

The earliest piece displayed was from 1890. The rubber stamps of both fixed and adjustable types used in the first period to indicate that the article of mail was "posted at Pitcairn" and further that no stamps were available, were shown. The New Zealand Postal Agency was well represented with cancellations of the 1930's.

The current period which commenced in 1940 had something from every conceivable angle—postmarks and cachets, registration, booklets, specimens, printing varieties, and shades.

## *Australian States*

The May meeting was devoted to a combined display by the Australian States Study Circle of the Club, of which Mr Frankenstein is the Con-venor.

Mr Frankenstein displayed Sydney Views, 1d, 2d and 3d, used and unused, all plates, including various retouches in singles, pairs and blocks.

Mr J. S. White showed Queensland including N.S.W. used in Queensland, notably a fine 8d Laureate cancelled 95; a page of colour trials of the Chalon issue; a mint block of 18 with full original gum of the 1d no wmk 1862; mint blocks

of six and four of the 2d and 1d of the 1876-78 perf. 12 issue; and Bradbury Wilkinson high value colour trials. His Western Australian material included a die proof of the 4d Perkins Bacon, and plate proof blocks of the same in black; a strip of four S.G. 1 unused; S.G. 25; an unused strip of 7; and the 4d and 6d, type 1, colour trials in blocks.

Mr T. H. Stone showed Victoria, comprising two complete platings of the transfer for Ham's fifth printing of the 1d Half-Length—(a) the reddish brown (SG 12), (b) the Bright Pinky Red (SG 12d). A similar plating of Ham's 5th printing of the 2d Half-Length, plus three of the six secondary varieties of Stone B. S.G. 15d the Value Obliterated—Ham's 6th printing 2d Half-Length. A page of the "Registered" stamp showed Types I and II, and the roulette.

Specially interesting was a page of 2d Reprints made in 1922 from the defaced Calvert Dies which remained in the Calvert family.

Mr Mark Dankin, F.R.P.S.L., presented Tasmania. There was a page of the 1d Courier, and two pages of the 4d octagonal from plates I and II. The Perkins Bacon engraved stamps contained some of the rarest Tasmanian stamps. The 1d carmine, star wmk, 1d and 2d no wmk and 1d on palure paper belonged to this category. Among the 6d imperfs, the scarce coldish mauve shade, especially rare unused, was noted.

## *The Club Medal*

Mr Graeme Campe's entry of "Cayman Islands" was the winner of the 1967 Club Medal.

This entry, beautifully annotated and presented, concentrated on the unusual postal items associated with these small islands, covering the postal history and provisional issues.

The first section was devoted to the pre-stamp era when the stamps of Jamaica were the only ones used. A few examples of the various Obliterators on varying stamps, and postal rates, including Official stamps, were also included.

The second section showed the various provisional issues when the philatelists of the world caused a great demand for the normal definitive issues, and the stocks of urgently needed postal rates (overseas registration and sea mail to Jamaica) were exhausted. This necessitated the many overprints, examples of which, in mint and used condition, were submitted. Also shown was an example of the manuscript provisionals, of a later vintage, when the postmistress was told not to issue overprints.

The final section comprised items showing the use of unusual postal rates: genuine usage of scarce postal stationery, and examples and description of the internal postal arrangements of Grand Cayman, commonly called the Rural Posts.

## *Whitised Dovey Memorial Collection*

The Curator, Mr C. Ashworth Spreat, presented an interesting sideline of this collection. It comprised postmarks emanating from Australian towns, bearing an aboriginal name, and underneath the English translation. The curator said there were about 2000 of these postmarks.

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