

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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JUNE 1968

RARITY AND VALUE

However fantastic prices may seem at times to collectors it is certain, like everything else, that they are conditioned by the universal laws of supply and demand. If the demand is uninformed, speculative or ignorant a rapid decline in price follows but nevertheless it is only fair to say—in general—that high prices follow a high demand, however temporary that demand is. It is not our purpose here to explore the modern practice in certain countries of exploiting collectors by directly inducing and pressurising in advance to create a highly artificial demand (which would never exist without this pressure), always making sure that there will be sufficient of the stamps printed to meet that demand. Rather we are going to look at the elements in or around a rare stamp, which today create its value. We will also restrict our remarks to stamps issued up to about 1930.

The basic principle, of course, is that two equally rare stamps seldom fetch the same price. One may well be worth 10, 50, 100 times what the other is.

Perhaps the first question to be asked is—is the stamp a “straight” stamp—attractive to collectors of all types? Into this class fall the many rare British colonial stamps of a high face value. These are space fillers, by *any* standard, and before casting too much scorn on recent rises in catalogue prices one should remember that when such stamps were issued few indeed were the collectors who could afford to buy stamps through New Issue Services which were of a face value of more than 5/-. Hence their rarity mint, irrespective of their used scarcity. In 1968 the number of collectors who want such high value stamps may well be quadruple (or more) the number there were in 1910. Whether recent rises have been overdone is a matter of opinion. It is, however, quite certain that earlier catalogue figures completely failed to do justice—by comparison with the lower values in the same set—to the rarity of such stamps.

The next aspect is that of the stamp which though a major “error” (of various kinds) is not the class of item that could possibly be listed in any simplified

catalogue since it is not a "straight" stamp. These classes of stamp comprise the "major varieties" of the specialist. They vary from items which are very expensive indeed to something which can be procured for just a few dollars. In the top class, for instance, are items like the 4d "Inverted Frame" of Western Australia. This rarity has had a long and glamorous history, much publicity and, philatelically, a great deal of technical interest for the specialist. All this has in fact now made it acceptable (whatever its condition) to the millionaire collector, which in turn has made it almost impossible for the collector specialist of Western Australia to procure, unless he too be a millionaire. Even with all this thrown in, however, the value of the finest copy of this 1854 rarity will not compare—today—with the value of some of the "straight" rarities we have noted. A London dealer once said to me that at any one time the value of "specialist" rarities depended in the main on the number of well-to-do (or infinitely desperate?—J.R.W.P.) collectors of that country at the time in question. A typical instance of this was the earlier stamps of Hong Kong which, after a period of much competition between well-to-do collectors, underwent a recession, from which they are only now beginning, slowly, to emerge. This principle still applies but now has to be qualified by the increasing number of prosperous gentlemen who acquire "rarities" because they are rarities and who, if they can't find one rare item, will always be glad to buy another. Some of these people really have no love for stamps. Their regard for them stems from what they paid for them, or what they eventually hope to get for them, or the mere fact that they own something that other collectors do not possess. All these things are rooted in human nature however much the real lover of stamps (without a similar bank account) may decry them. They are among the hard facts of philatelic life—and—they have come to stay. If we have dwelt overlong on this factor it is because it has (particularly in recent years) had, and continues to have, a substantial effect on values.

Another element is the relative unpopularity of certain countries with specialist collectors. While there are few of the older issuing countries which do not now have their band of devoted admirers the number of these varies greatly. For instance in the British world one could say, in 1968, that countries like Canada or Great Britain or even Commonwealth of Australia have at least fifty times as many serious supporters as say countries like Queensland, South Australia, New South Wales and Victoria (if one excludes in all these cases the early classics). In these countries difficult and complicated issues, appealing only to the more dauntless philatelists, keep the general demand low. But for those dauntless few it does mean, as I have said many times, the acquisition of infinitely more philatelic knowledge, and also the purchase of rare items for a fraction of the cost at which a similar rarity, in a more popular country, could be acquired.

These few thoughts, on a subject on which an encyclopaedia could be compiled, all point to one thing. That is, that nearly everything is based on reason but that if one is, in any market, to operate with one's eyes open it is necessary to do a little homework and to explore the reasons in question.

J.R.W.P.



The Other Side of the Picture



By J. R. W. PURVES

PAPUA

The philatelic proof that the identical frame-plates used to make the B.N.G. printings in London were also employed to make the lithographic printings of 1907 on

It is not often that I insert a note on Island stamps but as I have, at various times, done some research on these issues in company with our late friend Mr Evan Gill, I may be permitted to emphasise a few points.

The facts given in the heading are already *known* because they are proved by the official correspondence of the time. It has also long been recognised that several major "*secondary*" varieties, viz., No. 17 on the sheets of the 2½d value (deformed left "d" in 2½d), also the "re-cuts" of the "white leaves" found on Nos. 27 and 28 of the sheet of the same value and finally No. 18 on the sheets of the 4d value (deformed left "d" in 4d) occur in *both* the engraved ("British New Guinea") and lithographed ("Papua") stamps. There is no point, at this stage, in describing the "white leaves" varieties, etc., because they originated on the *master-plate* (in blank). The only way, philatelically, to prove the use of the same frame plates for both sets of printings is to find the same constant "*secondary*" varieties in the lithographs as are found in the original engraved stamps.

Many years ago in 1950, Mr Gill asked me to examine the sheets of the *other* values in detail to see whether I could find similar cases to those already recognised in the 2½d and 4d. I did find such cases and have re-checked these findings (on other material) recently. Here are the results:

- ½d: No such recognisable "*secondary*" flaws were found.
- 1d: No. 1 in the sheet of the original engraved series showed a distinct excrescence on the base of the curved line under the left end of the "N" of "NEW". This same fault (which is *not* microscopic) persists throughout, in the identical position, on No. 1 in the sheet in all the 1d lithographs although the inscription "British New Guinea" had then been replaced (doubtless by "masking") by the word "Papua".
- 2d: There are two rather small but recognisable "*secondary*" varieties, as follows:
No. 18 in the sheet (in *both* the engraved and the lithographed stamps) shows a deeper dent than usual into the middle base of the "d" of the "2d" at right.

- No. 26 (the lower left corner stamp) shows the inner oval line over the top left portion of the righthand "2" noticeably *thinner* than on the other 29 stamps in the sheet.
- 6d: No such recognisable "secondary" flaws were found.
- 1/-: No. 29 in the sheet (the stamp at left of S.E. corner stamp) shows (in *both* the engraved and the lithographed stamps) a weak top to the inner oval line over the "1/-" at the left. This is quite marked.
- 2/6: No. 14 in the sheet shows a dot of colour just above the outer frame at base, to the immediate S.W. of the tip of the lowest leaf at right. This likewise occurs in *both* the engraved and the lithographed stamps.

These varieties, shown in *both* forms of printing employed, are worthy of the specialist collector's attention.

TASMANIA

1d Pictorial: De La Rue imperforate proof sheet of 60, on paper watermarked

"TAS"

At SIPEX (Washington) in 1966 a complete imperforate sheet as described above was exhibited by Robson Lowe Ltd. It was subsequently acquired by the writer who retained a portion for his own collection and later disposed of some of the balance. Mr Lowe told me when I was in London last year that this particular sheet was one of a sample set of all values once retained by De La Rue's, presumably for reference purposes. All the other values were represented by a normally perforated sheet in exactly the same shades, *watermark* and general condition as the issued stamps. For some reason the 1d sheet alone (which bears a pencil date January 24, 1901) was *imperforate* but it was printed on the "TAS" paper, from plate 4 (that number being found in the lower left margin) and was in the identical (and distinctive) *pink-red shade* (quite different from the typical *carmines*) first issued in Tasmania in July 1901. The sheet was ungummed but whether it was in that condition before I purchased it I do not know.

Its great interest—exclusive of its uniqueness (no other such sheets, of any value, are known) lies in the fact that, apart from its being imperforate, it seems (like the other values) to be identical with the stamps as issued. I also know of no other pictorial plate proof, nor of any die proof, on the "TAS" watermarked paper. All the die proofs known are on paper without watermark.

Two Pigeongram Services

Mr J. H. Harrison, of Launceston, has kindly submitted an article from an American magazine written by Mr Frank E. Adams. Briefly, Mr Adams, in a lot purchased from England, found a Tasmanian Pigeongram flimsy dated 3.6.18. This was illustrated in the article in question. Mr Adams then wrote to the Tasmanian authorities and was supplied by the Regional Controller of Shipping and Transport (Hobart) with a history of this service, a service which was not connected with the post office.

From this it appears that in 1891 a lighthouse was established on Maatsuyker Island, about 80 miles south-west of Hobart. Later, in 1906, another lighthouse was established on Tasman Island, about 43 miles south-east of Hobart. Since

there was only a regular steamer visit to these islands at quarterly intervals it was necessary to provide some kind of communication over the interim periods. This enabled the "keepers" to advise the Department of their requirements from time to time. I now quote from the balance of the article.

"Tenders were called annually for the provision of pigeons by local fanciers and racers, which resulted in a different contractor almost every year. Twelve pigeons were sent to each island every quarter by the lighthouse steamer. Any pigeons left over from the previous batch were released as they tended to lose their homing instinct near the end of a three-month period and stayed on the island, where they became such a nuisance that they had to be destroyed.

"One pigeon was released with a message at a time unless hawks were known to be in the area. If that were so, more than one would be released carrying the message.

"When a bird returned to the home loft the owner immediately carried the message to the Lighthouse Department. Mr Williams further states that the fresh water supply on the islands was maintained by catching rainwater that drained from the roof of the station.

"The message on my Pigeogram was flown from Maatsuyker Island on 3 June 1918. Now I am on the hunt for a message carried from Tasman Island so that I can have my tale completed.

"All service of this nature was discontinued in 1930 when radios were installed. Mr Meech, who signed the message on my Pigeogram, was known to be a lighthouse keeper. Two of the keepers are still living but neither have any of the Pigeograms. Mr Williams advises me that he has not been able to find any others."

While not a form of official postal communication such a service as this merits attention if only for its rather fascinating background. Some of our readers may be able to supplement the information given above.

VICTORIA

The "Registered" stamp now found used early in December 1854

Here I have managed to find two more "missing links", of a different kind to those mentioned in our last number.

In the book I wrote on these stamps the official date of issue was shown to be 1.12.54 (see p. 11). The earliest date that I had myself then met on a cover was 26.2.55. An earlier date of 30.12.54 had been reported, many years ago, by Henry Harvey. My theory—strongly based on a number of other considerations—was that the *first* printing (made in November 1854)—was from the Die 1 woodblock plate only, in *lilac-pink*, and that the blue overprint consisted of both groups 1A and 1B. The only remaining philatelic corroboration of this theory I had yet to find were examples of the "Registered" stamps on piece or cover, used in December 1854 (see book under 2(a) on p. 56) or January 1855.

I have now found—and acquired—two such items as follows:

(i) A large piece with a 1/- "Registered" cancelled Barred Oval "1", with an endorsement in mss. "13th Decr. 1854" (probably the date of sailing of the

mail) and bearing the Melbourne date stamp of 12.12.54. This is certainly a "record" date. The stamp itself is a *lilac-pink*, Die 1, Type 19, with blue "overprint" 1A.

(ii) A complete envelope addressed to Switzerland bearing a 1/- octagonal and a 1/- "Registered" stamp. It shows the Melbourne date stamp of 11.1.55 and the cancellations are as with (i), the 1 "Barred Oval." The stamp also, as in (i), is a *lilac-pink* and Die 1. It is Type 25 and the blue "overprint" is 1B.

This evidence is now, of course, conclusive in itself but when added to the other evidence presented puts the accuracy of the analysis of printings presented on p. 61 of the book beyond all question.

"Barred Numerals"

(i) Two more "NNS" are found

Mr Max Watson of Heidelberg, a keen collector of these cancellations, has shown me a new number, formerly NNS. It is 959 (Fort Cameron) on a 2d of 1873-79. Mr Watson has also shown me 1385 (on a $\frac{1}{2}$ d of the 1885 issue) in Type 13B. This number was used at Parkville. Previously only the 1385 "duplex" had been seen, though *The Handbook* (p. 142) had anticipated the finding of a Type 13B. Finally Mr Watson has a "Budgerum West" c.d.s. The finding of that office's number (1965) was, rather curiously, only reported in our last number.

(ii) Three more "ties" to report

Mr E. T. Currie of Monbulk, who has already furnished much valuable information to this column, has shown me letter-cards "tying" three numbers, not previously seen in "ties", as follows:

1155: THORPDALE SOUTH (dates are 1893 and 1895 respectively). These "ties" are particularly interesting since they suggest that when the original P.O. named "Thorpdale South" (see 1656) was re-named "Thorpdale" (in about 1891) the office at "Thorpdale R.S." was re-named "Thorpdale South."

1277: BYADUK NORTH (date is 1893).

1487: OFFICER (date is 1895). This letter-card shows that the "Officer R.S." marking introduced about 1888 (see *Handbook*, p. 146) was later changed to "Officer."

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

(a) Two New Frank stamps found

Mr R. Lloyd-Smith has kindly furnished me with the following note:

"Mr H. F. McNess, of Mount Lawley, W.A., reports two *unrecorded* frank stamps which he acquired in the collection of the late Mr Arthur Kildahl, a veteran W.A. collector.

"They are: Government Resident, Geraldton, W.A.; Inspector of Mines, Kurawa, W.A.

"These should be added to the check lists published in this journal in June 1962, p. 45; March 1963, p. 13; and September 1964, p. 62."

(b) *Date of Issue of the Frank Stamps*

Mr Lloyd-Smith has also found in *The West Australian* for Wednesday, 17 August 1902, the following Official notice:

"Postage on Official Letters"

"In future all letters and other correspondence sent through the post office by State Departments must be prepaid by the officials fixing postage stamps, the Federal postal authorities having decided that the practice which has hitherto been adopted of *franking* this official correspondence and charging the postages to the departments at the end of the month, must be discontinued.

"It appears . . . that departments only received intimation . . . within the last day or two and they complain of the shortness of the time given them to make the arrangements necessitated by the decision of the Federal P.M.G."

It should now be of interest to look for *late* dates on W.A. franks and for *early* dates on Western Australian stamps punctured O.S. or W.A.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Later use of the "307" cancellation

This cancellation was one of a very few numeral cancellations which persisted in use *long after* the system of numeral cancellation was abandoned.

Mr Heinicke (see *P.F.A.*, June 1956, p. 42) was unable to "tie" this number or to supply any clue as to its use. Mr Lloyd-Smith now points out that in Vol. VI of his work *La Poste Maritime Francaise*, Monsieur Raymond Salles states that this canceller was employed as a "Paquebot" marking in South Australia (presumably Adelaide) around 1910.

Monsieur Salles must, one thinks, have seen a cover or covers proving this usage. Corroboration of such a usage is supplied by two copies of Western Australia (S.G. 139a), with this cancellation, in the possession of Mr Lloyd-Smith.

THE FOUR POST OFFICES ON TARAWA ATOLL, 1956-1964

By *RAYMOND A. BALDWIN*



The postal markings of the four post offices on Tarawa atoll and the combinations of datestamps and registration markings, occasioned by the transfer of the Central Post Office from Bairiki to Betio on 19 February 1964, open another chapter in the fascinating study of the postal history of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony.

ABAOKORO

Unlike the offices in South Tarawa, the Post Office at Abaokoro is an "island" post office, i.e., it comes under the direct control of the District Administration. Abaokoro is the Native Government centre of North Tarawa which is still very like the outer islands and does not possess all of the services and amenities provided in the south. It is situated on a small islet. The old hospital is now the leprosarium.

Abaokoro Post Office was opened on 13 December 1956. An old Tarawa datestamp with thick, worn lettering "POST OFFICE TARAWA" was provided for postmarking mail, together with a rubber registration stamp with lettering "G. & E.I.C. ABAOKORO-TARAWA" (Type 1). The old Tarawa datestamp was in use until the arrival of a new metal datestamp on 1 August 1958. The new metal datestamp was of the type with an asterisk over the date, and bore the lettering "ABAOKORO TARAWA G.E.I.C." It was in use throughout

1963, and in June of that year the original rubber registration stamp was replaced by one of a new type (Type 2). In January 1964, the datestamp with the asterisk was superseded by a metal datestamp of a new type issued throughout the Colony, with lettering "ABAOKORO TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS." (Type 3).



Type 1



Type 2



Type 3

BETIO

Betio is an islet at the extreme western end of the chain of islets forming the southern coastline of Tarawa atoll. It was the scene of the Battle of Tarawa on 20 November 1943.

It is the seat of the District Administration. Here are housed the Department of Posts and Telecommunications, the Police, Agriculture and Co-operative Departments, the Wholesale Society, the Copra Board and two local business enterprises. It is the port of entry for all shipping. The islet has an area of about two square miles, being about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles long by 800 to 1200 yards wide on average, with a population of about 4500.

A sub-post office was opened at Betio on 5 April 1957, a metal datestamp having been provided with lettering "BETIO-TARAWA G.E.I.C." A rubber registration stamp (Type 1) with lettering "G. & E.I.C. BETIO TARAWA" also came into use. A new metal datestamp with lettering "BETIO TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS" replaced the original datestamp on 7 December 1962, and about 3 June 1963 a new rubber registration stamp (Type 2) with lettering "G. & E.I.C. BETIO-TARAWA" substituted the original.

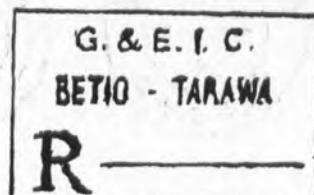
The transfer of the Central Post Office from Bairiki to Betio necessitated the erection of a new building at Betio to meet the requirements of the Central Post Office. This was first occupied on 12 February 1964. It was not until the close of business on 18 February that the Betio datestamp was withdrawn, and the two datestamps with identical lettering "TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS", one each for the counter and sorting office, hitherto in use at Bairiki, were substituted on the following day. The "BETIO-TARAWA" rubber registration stamp however, was continued in use at Betio, now the Central Post Office, until 28 December 1964, when it was withdrawn and replaced by the "G. & E.I.C. TARAWA" rubber registration stamp from Bairiki.

BIKENIBEU

Bikenibeu is one of the main islets at the eastern end of the chain of islets forming the southern coastline of Tarawa atoll. Here are situated the Medical and Education Departments. A weekly airmail service from Suva, Fiji, stopped overnight at Funafuti, arriving next day at Bonriki Airport, at the extreme south



Type 1



Type 2

eastern tip of the atoll. The incoming airmail was conveyed by motor transport to Bikenibeu sub-post office where it was sorted into four groups only, Bikenibeu, Bairiki, Betio and outer islands, with 85% being disposed of to the first three. Sorting completed, the motor transport continued to Bairiki, passing through the village of Eita and crossing the causeways, finally reaching the wharf where it was conveyed by special launch to Betio, arriving about midday. The outgoing airmail was flown next day from Bonriki Airport direct to Suva along the same route, a distance of about 1500 miles.

A Postal Agency was opened at Bikenibeu on 1 July 1958. It was situated in the Medical Department's general office, and was under the control of the chief clerk of that Department. The Postal Agency was supplied with a rubber registration stamp (Type 1) and a rubber stamp with lettering "POST OFFICE TARAWA G.E.I.C." with no date type, with instructions that this stamp be struck away from the postage stamps.



A similar rubber datestamp with lettering "BIKENIBEU-TARAWA G.E.I.C." was sent to the Postal Agency on 26 August 1958, and from the date of receipt, it would have replaced the rubber stamp without date type. A metal datestamp with lettering "BIKENIBEU TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS" was received during November 1962 from Robert van Houten Ltd, of London, who made all of the datestamps of this type used throughout the Colony, but was not immediately put into use. Much to the relief of the Medical Department, the existing sub-post office, staffed by postal personnel, was opened on 1 February 1963. Although it is not officially recorded, the Postal Agency commenced cancelling stamps with the metal datestamp with effect from 13 January 1963. Up to that date they had been cancelled at the Central Post Office at Bairiki. About that time a new rubber registration stamp (Type 2) replaced that originally in use.

BAIRIKI

The Secretariat, Treasury, Public Works, Audit, Justice and Information Departments are at Bairiki. So too was the Department of Posts and Telecommunications until February 1964, when it was transferred to Betio, i.e., the Central Post Office was transferred from Bairiki to Betio. On 19 February the two datestamps with identical lettering "TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS" came into use at the Central Post Office at Betio, and the "BETIO-TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS" datestamp was withdrawn at close of business on the previous day. As Bairiki accepts so many registered items from the Government offices there, the preparation in manuscript would have been too laborious. It was therefore decided to retain the "G. & E.I.C. TARAWA" registration stamp at Bairiki temporarily, whilst the "G. & E.I.C. BETIO-TARAWA" was to continue in use at the Central Post Office. Although not strictly correct, as a temporary measure it was acceptable from a postal viewpoint since it adequately identified the two offices. This arrangement continued until 28 December 1964, when a new "G. & E.I.C. BAIRIKI-TARAWA" registration stamp replaced the "G. & E.I.C. TARAWA", in use at Bairiki, which was sent to the Central Post Office, the "G. & E.I.C. BETIO-TARAWA" registration stamp being suppressed.

Pending receipt of a new metal datestamp for Bairiki sub-post office, a rubber datestamp, used for stamping incoming correspondence was authorised as a temporary or provisional datestamp for the postmarking of mail. It bore the lettering "G. & E.I.C. POST OFFICE", date in centre, and below "BAIRIKI TARAWA" enclosed in a single line circle. It came into use on 19 February 1964.

This provisional datestamp is to be found in two states, the first when it was in perfect condition, and the second when its condition had deteriorated, a bulge appearing on either side of the circle enclosing the lettering. Early impressions in its first state are rare. It is known to have been in perfect condition from 19 February to 25 February, and in the next recorded impression dated 29 February there is a slight bulge on the left side only. It could be considered that the deterioration had set in about 28/29 February. It was used in its second state until 17 July 1964, when it was withdrawn and replaced by a new metal datestamp with lettering "BAIRIKI TARAWA GILBERT & ELLICE ISLANDS."



Slight pressure had to be applied to ensure that the date and lettering would show clearly, resulting in the spreading of the rubber lettering and "heavy" cancellations. This provisional cancellation was made in black, and on rare occasions in purple.

In its first state, on cover, it may be regarded as one of the rarest of G. & E.I.C. postal cancellations.



EDITORIAL NOTES

R.P.S.V. Library

Thanks are expressed for the following gifts to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria library:

Raymond Salles: *La Poste Maritime Française, Tome VI, Les Paquebots de L'Océan Indien*. (Gift of the author.)

Hakkı T. Okday: *Ottoman Public Dept. Fiscal Stamps Used by the Post Office*. In Turkish, interleaved with abbreviated hand-written translation. (Gift of Mr R. Lloyd-Smith.)

Facit, 1965 Special Katalog, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Finland. (Gift of Mr H. W. Walker.)

The Aero Field (New Series), from 1937. Complete file with index; sale catalogues and prices realised: "Dr J. Pringle", Flown Covers, July 1941 (Harmer, New York); History of Aviation Air Post Covers, Feb. 1948 (Harmer, New York). "P. H. Oakey", Air Mail Stamps and Covers, Oct. 1948 (Harmer, London). "Sir Lindsay Everard", Air Stamps, Oct. 1953 (Harmer, London); Rothschild Collection Pioneer Air Stamps and Covers, June 1959 (Harmer, London); Matthews Collection, Air Stamps, Four

Parts, Oct. 1960-Oct. 1961 (Kessler, New York). (Gifts of Mr H. L. Chisholm.)

Postal History Honors

The first Nugent Clougher Award, the international award instituted by the Postal History Society has been awarded to M. Raymond Salles for his works on French Maritime Markings.

The society also decided to recognise the work done by postal historians who could have won the award in the past, had it existed, by the presentation of Certificates of Honor.

Two members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria were among those honored—Mr J. R. W. Purves, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., and Mr H. M. Campbell, F.R.P.S.L.

Another certificate went to Mr A. G. Rigo de Righi, a consistent contributor to *Philately from Australia*.

Designer Honored

Mr James Berry, New Zealand's most distinguished stamp designer, and the designer of her decimal coinage, was awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year Honors.

NEW ZEALAND: THE CASE FOR THE REEFTON PROVISIONAL OFFICIALS

By H. L. CHISHOLM

(Continued from March 1968, page 11)

The handbook suggests the Reefton postmaster, by slightly decreasing other requisitions, could have filled the police order or could have allowed the police sufficient stamps to meet requirements until further supplies could have been obtained. But this explanation fails to take into account the element of time. It assumes that several requisitions were being dealt with together, whereas the evidence indicates that it was the last requisition in, because of the delay caused by sending the document to Greymouth and back.

The book says:

Further evidence of irregularity is provided by the existence of the stamps in unused condition and of the disposal of such items contrary to the expressed prohibition in the regulations of December 1906.

I do not think this a valid argument. Whether stamps that were in use for about four months are found unused, contrary to regulations, has no evidentiary value in deciding whether they were an official issue or not. And as for them existing contrary to regulations, it matters not a feather. The regulation can be described as short-sighted and stupid and, in fact, it was later repealed.

Both the copies of the 1d. Reefton Official I possess are on pieces of obviously official envelopes. One is postmarked "Reefton 31 JA 07" — the earliest date mentioned in the Phillips article—and the other is unpostmarked. The inference from this is that sometimes, and possibly at first, the stamps were treated as being already cancelled by officials doing the postmarking. (The earliest dated postmark noted is almost a month after the presumed date of issue.)

Off paper, stamps without the Reefton postmark might have been described as "unused, no gum."

As the handbook says "all used copies had the Reefton postmark," the "unused" copies it mentions may have been some of these.

Both types are illustrated in the *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* article.

Mr Bate

And now we come to Mr Bate. The letter I have was written to Judge Montgomery Hamilton, of Sydney, who had sent Mr Bate, a Wellington stockbroker, one of the 1d. Provisionals now in my possession, for opinion.

This is the letter:

Wellington, 20 July 1916

Dear Judge Hamilton,

Glad to hear from you again.

I had quite forgotten about the 2d London Print I am sorry to say, but I have looked up my duplicates and send you the only one I have left which is on the original, and dated 30th Oct. 1856. It is on the bleute paper. Perhaps you meant the white paper but I have never seen a satisfactory copy of this. In any case I think the white paper is due to a "drier" print which did not give the coloring matter a chance of soaking through the stamp.

The "Reefton officials" were used all right to frank letters from the Police there, but it was without the authority of the Post Office Dept. In fact had the matter been properly submitted, it would have been refused. The issue seems to have originated (so it is urged by the officer responsible) through a misunderstanding of the P.O. circular as to the use of the official stamps from a certain date. He thought stamps used must be "official" and as the supply of overprinted stamps had been received at Reefton, the police authority there, in conjunction I believe with a post office official, manufactured some—"Entre nous." I have never been satisfied that a certain Stamp Collecting member of the Force had not something to do with it. I enquired into the affair at the time the stamps having been forwarded to me to give a "cachet" to the issue. The Secretary to the Post Office gave me some of the information as to the issue never having been sanctioned. The number of stamps so used was very limited. I believe I have the figures of each value somewhere but I cannot say what the stamps are worth. If they were strictly official they would of course be very valuable.

Unfortunately all the blocks I had of the W & R issues were sold with my collection of N.Z. and I really don't know whether any of the dealers have any — have you tried Hagen or Smyth?

I sold a number of the least important of the Samoan G.R.I.'s but have kept all the rarities until I can see some record of sales. The stamps are not my own and so I have to be doubly careful.

I wish I could have taken the German New Guinea you had on offer for me. It was a case of want of spare cash.

This war has paid the dickens with Share Invest business. No war profits for us.

I have been feeling much better thanks, but my blood pressure is still dangerously high, so I have to be very careful. Office work ought really to be avoided, so the Doctor says, but one cannot live altogether on one's debts.

With kind regards.

Sincerely yours,
Arthur T. Bate.

I return your Reefton Official stamp.

Philatelists are a happy band of brothers. But once one, by a lucky stroke, is in the right position at the right time, he automatically becomes compromised in the eyes of some collectors. That, it seems, was the fate of Inspector Wilson.

It is interesting to find Mr Bate confirming my view that the postal officer responsible "thought stamps used must be official," and also that the stamps were made at Reefton.

But examine the explanation for the stamps which Mr Bate gives in this letter:

As the supply of overprinted stamps had been received at Reefton, the police authority there, in conjunction I believe with a post office official, manufactured some.

This, I submit, is fantastically improbable. The sentence shows that the word "manufactured" is used in a derogatory sense.

And how could they be physically created in this sense? Did the police authority bring the stamps to the post office with "official" written on them in red ink and ask the post office official to put the paid stamp on them? Did

the postal officer give the policeman the stamps, tell him to write "official" on each, and then took the stamps back to apply the 'Greymouth Paid 3' marking, or did he lend him the rubber stamp? What postal official would do any of these things?

The postmaster might have shown the sergeant the regulations and asked whether he agreed that the instruction was mandatory. If he had, it seems likely that the sergeant would have agreed with him. But how could collaboration go further?

And if Inspector Wilson was the "certain Stamp Collecting member of the Force," as might be inferred, how could he have "had something to do with it?"

Reefton was in his district and he signed the requisition. But he was 47 miles from where the action took place. There is nothing in his published correspondence to show he was "in the know." He says specifically he "was surprised to find hand-made provisionals had been issued," and he "then made enquiry." He was ready to give information to Mr Bate.

The fact that he said he collected all he could is not against him. What he said was "needless to say I collected all I could" which is what any philatelist would have done — and written — in similar circumstances.

The only line that could possibly raise a doubt is "I enclose a copy of the original requisition I have kept by me." It might be suggested that he must have known when he kept a copy of the requisition that the provisionals would result. The answer again is: How could he? The sentence merely means that he kept a copy when he found they had resulted, and that, again, is what any intelligent philatelist would have done in the circumstances.

Earlier I suggested that Mr Bate was writing with a preconceived view when he made inquiries. He says himself, "I have never been satisfied that a certain Stamp Collecting member of the Force had not something to do with it." Further, his letters are addressed to "Mr C. O. Wilson, Inspector-in-Charge of the Greymouth District, at Reefton Station." But the headquarters of the Greymouth District were at Greymouth.

The Inspector's invitation to ask for the names of the officers is surely evidence that Inspector Wilson had nothing to hide, and that he believed the issue to be beyond reproach.

Inspector Wilson

I have taken some trouble to identify "Inspector C. O. Wilson."

N.Z. Police Headquarters wrote:

The only information recorded in our register in respect of the named person refers to Edward Wilson, who joined the New Zealand Police 15 August 1871 at the age of 19 years.

The Turnbull Library, Wellington, answered:

Unfortunately, we do not hold electoral rolls for the early 1900's. However, I have checked Wise's Post Office Directories for the period and found listings under Greymouth for Edward Wilson, police inspector. No C. O. Wilson appears in the directory. *The Cyclopaedia of New Zealand* Vol. 5, 1906, also gives Edward Wilson as "inspector of police for Nelson and Greymouth since 1902." No almanacs or indexes list a C. O. Wilson of either Reefton or Greymouth, so the evidence seems to be in favour of "Edward."

The circumstances also make it highly improbable that Inspector Wilson would have been a party to any irregularity. First, his Service was the Police Force. Secondly, *The New Zealand Official Year Book, 1906* shows that the New Zealand police force then had only 15 commissioned officers — the Commissioner, eight inspectors and six sub-inspectors. Inspector Wilson had climbed a long, hard road. He had come to the top. Is it likely he would jeopardise such a career for the value of a few stamps? Moreover, the Inspector in charge of New Zealand's wild, wet, West Coast, predominantly a mining area, would be a strong character. Inspector Wilson must be regarded as a man of probity.

Inspector Edward Wilson's subsequent career can be traced in the Police List in the *Year Book*. From Greymouth he went to Wanganui and when he disappeared, presumably on retirement, he was the senior inspector. The rank of superintendent had been inserted between commissioner and inspector during the period and it appears he did not attain this, but there may have been conditions attached to the rank which he could not fulfil.

Review

Nobody has disputed the existence of the shortage of official stamps at Reefton. The handbook concedes it. How then can it be validly said that official stamps issued by a postal official to fill an official requisition, and which paid postage on Official mail were not official?

The time factor has been ignored in previous studies of the circumstances of the issue and if the fact that no head office authorisation for the stamps exists, is held against them, there is another overlooked factor in their favour. The Post and Telegraph Department received payment for the Reefton Provisionals from the Police Department in the same way as it received payment for the other official stamps supplied to other police offices or other Departments.

The stamps were never queried because they had "Official" written on them and not printed. They paid postage and in due course and in authorised routine, the Police Department paid for them. The Postal Department never rejected payment on the Reefton Requisition. It was unaware of their existence until April 1908 — fifteen months after their issue and a year after they had been used up.

Now, having surveyed all the available evidence, the task is to examine the conclusion in the handbook:

Because of the conflicting evidence and the absence of any recorded authorisation of the issue it is not possible to recognise these stamps as regularly issued.

Consideration of the requisition shows the conflict of evidence to have resulted from Inspector Wilson misunderstanding the facts he was given, or being misled, and from the motives of the postal officials who were asked to explain. The requisition provides the key to the true, the mistaken, and the evasion.

If it is still argued that the absence of any recorded authorisation is a fatal bar, then search must be made for precedent. The standard for accepting one provisional issue must be the standard for another.

An adequate precedent is available. One of the best-known New Zealand philatelic rarities is the bisected shilling Chalon Head. Because there were no sixpenny stamps to meet the reduction in postage rates for letters via Southampton, the postmaster at Dunedin, Captain Elles, cut 1/- stamps in halves, stuck the bisect on the envelope and cancelled it with his canceller. He did this in preference to using three 2d stamps, of which there was no shortage, and did so from 1857 to 1859.

And this is what *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* says (Vol. I. p. 60):

Captain Elles did not request authority for his action from headquarters in Auckland, but this cannot reasonably be considered as invalidating the use of the bisected stamps.

Unless further evidence is found, I submit, some future volume of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* must review the story and status of the Reefton officials and include a passage that will say, in effect:

"There is no record of the Chief Postmaster at Greymouth or the postmaster at Reefton requesting authority for his action from headquarters in Wellington, but this cannot reasonably be considered as invalidating the use of the endorsed stamps."

CORRESPONDENCE

History of Philatelic Society of Western Australia

Sir,—Reference is made to *Philately from Australia* (December 1967, p. 90), in which you publish that this society was re-formed in 1916.

Our society was re-formed in 1912. Mr A. Johnston was president from 1912 to 1915 and the secretary was Mr F. Tipping from 1912 to 1921.

This article was written by Mr R. Lloyd-Smith who apparently is not aware of the correct dates.—Yours, etc.,

C. J. HALL

Secretary, Philatelic Society
of Western Australia

[The statement that the society was re-formed in 1916 was taken from advertisements in the *Australian Stamp Monthly* during the 'Thirties—Editor.]

MORE TASMANIAN "COMMONWEALTH" PERIOD MANUSCRIPTS REPORTED

By JOHN AVERY

Since my first article (*P. from A.*, June 1967, p. 43) the Tasmanian manuscript markings on Commonwealth stamps field has widened.

An example of the most recent case of manuscripting the mail in Tasmania, together with the unusual reasons which caused it, was recently discovered in a wad of old envelopes in the deepest bin of a dealer's stock.

Among the envelopes was a cover bearing a 5d blue 1959 Australian Christmas stamp, over which was written "E. E. MOORE/WEYMOUTH/24-12-59".

It proved well worth the 5c purchase price, as can be seen from the following letter written by Mr Eric Moore, who runs the Weymouth post office.

The original post office serving this district was known as Back Creek, and the oldest records I have seen date back to 1892.

In 1959, in accordance with the requirements of the growing seaside resort of Piper Heads, it was decided to close the old office and transfer the postal and telephone facilities to the new site, five miles distant.

In order to avoid confusion with the adjacent districts of Pipers River and Pipers Brook, I suggested to the then District Postal Inspector (Mr H. Cummings) that the new office be named Weymouth, after the gazetted name of the Piper Heads area.

After some correspondence with the Nomenclature Board in Hobart, this suggestion was adopted, and the D.P.I. issued instructions for a new date stamp to be cut and issued to me in time for the opening of the new office, on Saturday 24/12/59.

The new date stamp did not arrive in time, and the obsolete (Back Creek) date stamp had already been handed in: therefore I obtained official permission to cancel any stamps on outward-going mail by the old method of pen and ink.

As it was the first mail day for the new office, there were only a few covers despatched: not more than seven or eight, I think, including a newspaper or two.

Ironically enough, the new date stamp arrived soon after the mail was despatched. It had been sent down per the foreman of a line gang which was installing the telephone, and was handed to me personally on my way out with the sealed (mail) bag.

Therefore, through this odd combination of circumstances, the cancellation of the first outward mail from Weymouth was entirely official, if unusual.

The previous list may now be further filled out with:

<i>Office</i>	<i>Dates</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
BADGER CORNER	Undated	Ink, on strip of four 1d red Geo. V. Found in an accumulation of the 1916-18 period. This is the first postal item known from this Cape Barren Is. office.
DEVIOT	Date undecipherable	Ink, on 1½d green Geo. V.
GROVE	22.12.14	Indelible pencil on 1d red Geo. V.

Office	Dates	Remarks
JUDBURY	Undated	Red ink on 2d and 3d McArthur Commemoratives (issued Nov. 1.34). Judbury opened 18.12.22. First c.d.s. from this office seen by writer is dated 24 OC 35.
LADY BARRON	Undated	Ink on strip of four 1d red Geo. V. From same batch as the Badger Corner find (see notes at end of list).
MOOG(ARA)	25.11.1?	Indelible pencil, ½d green Geo. V. All Moogara mss known by writer are incomplete.
MYALLA	9.1.15	Ink on 1d red Geo. V. First canceller known from this office is a large provisional rubber stamp, early date JUL 26 16.
PALANA	Earlier date 7.6.51	Ink, on 1/6 Hermes.
PETCHY'S BAY	18.10.20	Ink across 1½d brown and ½d green Geo. Vs.
SURGES BAY	17.11.20	Ink, on 2d orange Geo. V.
WEYMOUTH	24.12.59	Ink, on Christmas stamp. Reads "E.E.MOORE/ 24-12-59/WEYMOUTH". Manuscripted on that day only.

The most fascinating finds were that of Badger Corner and Lady Barron, offices which were about four miles apart. The writing on the stamps—coincidentally strips of four 1d George V issues—is slightly similar.

Who, then, cancelled the stamps? Was it the Lady Barron postmaster, who cancelled the Badger Corner in ink, naming the office of origin, or was it the mail carrier? It would be unlikely that the manuscripts were done at Badger Corner, as this was only a receiving house and lower down the scale of importance than Lady Barron. Unfortunately, as these are the only copies known of manuscripts from either office, this may be tough to clear up.

In the case of Badger Corner, Judbury, Lady Barron, and Petchey's Bay, it certainly been the result of the office cancellers being temporarily misplaced, or damaged, as we find the same c.d.s. before and after the manuscripts.

In the case of Badger Corner, Judbury, Lady Barron, and Petchey's Bay, it would seem these offices had not yet received cancellers.

Palana is thought to have been applied while a new date stamp was being made, but I know nothing yet about the reason for these manuscripts which have now been found extending over a considerable period. Did Palana have a c.d.s. before the one used there at present? It is only a telephone office.

The late date of Robigana has been confirmed as 4.2.19 on the writer's copy.

A correction to my previous article is also in order. On the basis of a piece containing a registration label bearing the manuscript of Strickland in the same handwriting as is known to have cancelled stamps in the State Period, with the stamps themselves cancelled at Ouse, and failure after extensive hunting to locate a Strickland circular date stamp, the writer wrongly assumed the office had not been issued with one. Since making this error, he has seen several examples of the c.d.s. covering a long period.

VICTORIAN PHILATELY LOSES TWO PERSONALITIES

Death has claimed two well-known Victorian philatelists, Mr W. L. Russell and Mr Guy Round, both well-known members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Mr W. L. Russell, a past president of the society, had been a member for more than 40 years. He built silver-medal collections of Egypt and Czechoslovakia, and was famous for the beauty of his writing-up.

He took a very active part in philatelic administration and was a member of the society's council for many years, as well as a member of the *Philately from Australia* committee from its foundation. For five years he conducted a valued column *Royal Round-Up*, giving the background of members of the society, as a contribution to greater mutual understanding between its members.

He was chairman of the publicity committee for ANPEX 1950 and designed the beautiful etiquettes line-engraved and printed by the Commonwealth Stamp Printer for the exhibition.

For some years he was a philatelic representative on the Stamp Advisory Committee.

Prior to his retirement, Mr Russell was advertising manager of The Myer Emporium, and he was also a keen member of Rotary.

He served in World War I and lost his two sons in World War II. He is survived by his wife and daughter, Mrs E. K. Ditterich, whose husband, Rev. Ditterich, is a member of long standing in the society.

Philately has lost a stalwart who gave willingly of his time and ability to its cause and his loyal friendship to his fellow collectors.

The other well-known and respected member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria who died was Mr Guy Round.

Mr Round, who also had been a member for many years, served in the Royal Flying Corps as a fighter pilot in World War I and retired from the Indian Army as a major. He was a prisoner of war in Malaya and suffered during the captivity. He served later at Victoria Barracks and then became a stamp dealer, being the Austrian representative of Robson Lowe Ltd., and operating a business in Toorak.

He is remembered for his friendly helpfulness, his unfailing good humor, and his sincerity.

REVIEWS

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume V: The Stamps and Postal History of the Pacific Islands under New Zealand Administration, Samoa and the Ross Dependency, by R. J. G. Collins. Edited by A. R. Burge and C. W. Watts. Limited Edition, 1000 copies. xxiv 818 pages. 7 x 10 in. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Box 1269, Wellington. Price, \$17.20(N.Z.).

First we would like to say that this is a monumental task and the authors are to be congratulated on the amount of research and study which has been put into the work.

It is understood that upwards of 15 years has been devoted to achieve this objective. The result will be a decided asset to collectors of the issues dealt with.

It is appropriate to give some comment on each section of the work.

Cook Islands: It is noteworthy that some 350 pages, almost half of the complete volume embraces the stamps and postal history of these islands and takes in all issues from 1892 to 1965.

This might well have been published as a separate volume for ease of handling for constant reference.

Particular attention has been paid to the inclusion of essays, proofs, artists' original drawings. Many are in colour and these will prove of great interest to students specialising in these issues.

The historical and political survey of these islands which opens this chapter is complete and most informative.

Aitutaki—Here again is a record of the various stamp issues of this group and its postal history. Brief though it is, it brings into proper perspective the importance of this island.

Penrhyn—The stamp issues and postal history of this island are dealt with in a similar manner to Aitutaki, but in this instance many interesting varieties are listed. Most of these are rare.

Niue—Comment on this island cannot be lightly dismissed as it includes the first issue of a hand-stamped overprint on the 1d Universal stamp of New Zealand which is exceedingly rare. This stamp appeared in 1902 and was only in issue a short time. It

was followed by a number of issues overprinted on the stamps of New Zealand. The first pictorial definitive issue did not appear till 1920.

The stamps and postal history of this island are dealt with comprehensively.

Samoa—This important group of islands has been extensively covered in 220 pages and special mention must be made of the 34th chapter dealing with the "Express" issues by Jack R. Hughes of California.

Mr Hughes has been collecting and studying this issue for over 30 years and has been the first collector to correlate all the facts of this issue since the "Royal" of London published Mr Yardley's book on the Samoa Express Issues in 1916.

The "Express" issues used in combination with U.S.A., N.Z. and N.S.W. stamps are extremely scarce and some of these covers are illustrated. "Palm Tree" issues are fully covered and many illustrations of die proofs are shown. The "Palm Tree" issues in combination with the U.S.A. stamps are also illustrated fully. G.R.I. issues are profusely illustrated and the German Consular cancellations fully dealt with. The postal history is completely covered, with postal markings to the date of publication.

Tokelau Islands, Antarctica, King Edward VII Land, Victoria Land, Ross Dependency, Kermadec, Pitcairn, Fanning, Washington, Auckland and Campbell Islands and lastly, air services, are dealt with in detail.

Pacific Island Circle,
Royal Sydney Philatelic Club

The New Hebrides. Postal Stamps and Their History, by Nathan Hals and Phil Collas. 176 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by The Collectors' Club, 22 East 35 Street, New York, N.Y. 10016. Price \$US10.00.

Mr Nathan Hals of New York, and Mr Phil Collas, of Melbourne, recognised authorities on the New Hebrides, have combined to produce the first real study of the stamps and postal history of the Anglo-French Condominium, and the Theodore E. Steinway Memorial Publications Fund has enabled the work to be Collectors' Club Handbook 20.

This international collaboration follows

upon the inclusion of Mr Jack R. Hughes' work on the stamps of the Samoa Express in Vol. V of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* and both publications are symptomatic of the rapidly increasing interest in the stamps of the Pacific. Each will also provide a stimulus to it.

A great deal of material has been written about the stamps of the New Hebrides but is widely scattered through periodicals published over a range of 70 years.

The study opens with especially interesting chapters on the French and Australian Postal Services, the Australasian New Hebrides Company and Burns Philp and Co. Ltd. These have been done with evident care and thoroughness.

The Australasian New Hebrides Co. inter-island locals are shown to have fulfilled postal service and are differentiated from the Syndicat Francais des Nouvelles-Hebrides locals which were disowned by that concern, but which were "processed" with cancellations.

From then on the Condominium issues are dealt with in order of date, with full explanations for the various provisionals.

The history of the de Gaulle "France Libre" overprints is given.

Chapters on airmails, postal markings, ship marks, and registration labels complete the book.

The forgeries and forged markings, more prolific than the unknowing would imagine, are dealt with.

Particularly interesting is the Bonnet imitation of the 15 centimes French local. Bonnet was a forger in France given a life sentence to New Caledonia, and paroled after 10 years, who then came to Australia. While here he did this imitation. Are the authors being merciful in their remark "It was probably made purely to assist Bonnet to regain his proficiency after being away from the graving tools for so many years?"

The forgery, not a dangerous one, is illustrated for the first time.

The book promises to be a standard work for many years.

The Ross Smith England-Australia Flight—A Postal History, by Col. Leonard H. Smith, Jr. 177 pp. 8½ x 11 in. Limited edition, 200 numbered copies. Duplicated. Published by N. H. Smith, P.O. Box 4993, Clearwater, Florida, 33518, U.S.A.

A unique project undertaken by Col. Smith, has been the "reconstruction" of the

mail carried on the Ross Smith flight, nearly 50 years ago.

The mail is generally regarded as having comprised 130 items, and Col. Smith has found a note to this effect in Sir Edward Denny Bacon's handwriting in the Royal Collection. He surmises, justifiably, that the information came from Sir Ross Smith. Other figures mentioned are 123 and 131.

The author plans to issue a supplement or supplements later as further information comes to hand.

Reproductions of the letters contained in the mail make further interesting reading. One from Ross Smith reveals that he had asked the Prime Minister (Mr W. M. Hughes) to provide the special stamp applied to the mail.

Col. Smith pays some attention to the three-line "Per Vickers 'Vimy' Aeroplane to Australia" and disproves the published statement that it was applied only to covers which completed the whole journey.

The cachet is found in blue, violet, and in one case, black.

Col. Smith has identified 78 covers, notes a piece in the Royal Collection, and records 18 unidentified covers, a total of 97 of the 130 covers presumably carried.

He has illustrations of 72 covers, the piece, and parts of 15 unidentified covers, a total of 88.

Such an achievement—and an achievement it is—is the result of a prodigious and persistent effort.

Col. Smith's own collection contains four Ross Smith covers, perhaps a world record.

Col. Smith mentions "a fully competent source" had suggested that the colours other than violet were the result of light and time. Col. Smith has seen only violet impressions. As one who has seen the Gilbert cover (black) and several examples of both violet and blue cachets, the reviewer says definitely that they were from three different rubber-stamp inkpads.

In the course of his researches, Col. Smith has also uncovered much philatelic lore associated with the various items and this makes interesting reading.

He has listed the covers in alphabetical order of the addressee's name, providing an instantaneous reference to the items and allowing immediate proof of whether a cover has been listed or is unknown to fame. Where possible he gives the present whereabouts of the cover.

The book also contains details of the race,

for the £10,000 prize, the route and dates of Ross Smith, and a summary of the great flight.

It is a valuable contribution to the literature of philately, aerophilately, postal history, and aviation, and is certain to be sought by collectors of Australiana also.

Commemorative Postage Stamps of Great Britain, by L. N. and M. Williams. 206 pp. 6 x 9½ in. Published by Arco Publications, distributed by Hicks Smith and Sons Pty. Ltd., 301 Kent St., Sydney. Price \$6.40.

The rapid increase in interest in Britain's stamps following the Post Office's new policy of commemorative issues of varying attractiveness has induced the Williams Brothers to produce a full-size book on Britain's commemoratives for the general booksellers' market.

It is clear that it will be a successful venture for authors, publishers and purchasers.

The authors introduce their subject with the Penny Postage Jubilee cover and card of 1890 and run through the commemorative stamp issues from the inaugural Wembley 1924.

Full details of all issues are given with varieties and errors listed and explained, and commemorative cancellations recorded.

The circumstances of issue provide interesting reading for philatelists and non-philatelists alike. The Williams Bros. have included the story of the Foreign Office vetoing the World Cup stamp, because the North Korean flag was shown, when North Korea was not recognised diplomatically by Britain. Although the North Korean team played, the British post office bowed to the Foreign Office whim and issued an amended design.

Likewise there is the full story of the "England Winners" speculative boom and bust. Incidentally, the words were not an overprint but were etched on the cylinders.

Another good story is that when Harman, "King of Lundy" took possession of his island he persuaded officialdom to close the post office there on the ground that "a post office on Lundy is not required." Then he established his own private postal service and issued his own stamps.

Appreciating that many of the readers will be comparative newcomers to philately,

the authors have provided lucid explanations of recess printing, surface-printing, and photogravure and a glossary of philatelic terms.

HJMR Priced Guide to Philatelic Literature. First edition. 232 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by HJMR Co., P.O. Box 2368, Miami Beach, Florida 33140, U.S.A. Price, \$1.00 U.S.

More than 16,000 listings are contained in this somewhat massive literature catalogue, which the publishers base on their stock. This, they claim, is the world's largest stock of philatelic literature.

The publishers have acquired the Billig stock and have adapted the style of Mr Billig's philatelic literature catalogues to their new requirements. The list of contents of all the Billig Philatelic Handbooks has been retained, and the new section includes several thousand tear sheets on specialist material. The guide will be useful to all interested in what has been written and published about their specialities or are interested in broadening their knowledge.

The New Zealand Stamp Monthly, Vol. 1, No. 1. April 1968. 32 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by N.Z.S.M., Box 513, New Plymouth, N.Z. Subscription, \$NZ2.80.

It is many years since New Zealand had a monthly stamp journal, apart from society newsletters and dealers' bulletins. Now an effort is being made to fill the gap.

A warm welcome is extended to the newcomer which features New Zealand, the Islands and the Commonwealth of Nations. Background articles are provided on the New Zealand Maori Bible stamp and the Cook Islands Hurricane which gave the opportunity for the overprinted issue. There is a stamp market corner and illustrations of New Zealand varieties, besides a special four-page insert illustrating recent and forthcoming issues. The president of the Federation of New Zealand Philatelic Societies writes nearly two pages on it and Mr L. E. Vernazoni, much-respected veteran dealer, contributes an open letter to the Federation on the controversial "Rules for Philatelic Exhibitions" it has proposed.

Again, we wish it a long, successful and useful life.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

May Meeting

The meeting was not as well attended as recent meetings, only 20 members and two visitors being present. This seems to have been a bad month for sickness as most of the apologies for absence were for that reason. Mr John Powell, F.R.P.S.L., the club's president, gave a special welcome to Col. Frank Thompson who has recently spent a spell in Concord Repatriation Hospital for an eye operation.

The meeting had a double attraction, in that the first part of the display was devoted to Vol. 1 of the Dovey Memorial Collection and the second part to the club's annual competition.

Dr Challen, the curator of the Dovey Memorial Collection, opened his remarks with a tribute to the late Mr Dovey, a prominent member of this club and president for many years. The collection consists of eight volumes of material devoted to the illustration of Philatelic terms and several hundred cards with zoological cancellations. Volume one is devoted to general terms and consists of some 55 sheets. Dr Challen placed a further 50 cards with cancellations before the club members, in addition to Vol. 1.

The whole collection has been remounted by Dr Challen, who is just completing Vol. 8, on sheets

which have proved resistant to foxing and a number of items replaced. Mr Dovey's system has been retained in the new sheets, which have been re-numbered to take into account the volume and position of the sheet in that volume.

In thanking Dr Challen for his display Col. Thompson drew the members' attention to the bequest made by Mr Dovey, saying the club is extremely fortunate to have possession of such a fine collection. Also, a point of the bequest was that it should be displayed to members during the month of May, the anniversary of Mr Dovey's death.

In introducing the entries for the annual competition, Mr Powell commented upon the closeness of the average of the marks awarded by the four judges. Mr Morgen Juhl was awarded the medal for 1968 with an entry devoted to the "Lahore" overprints of Pakistan on the Indian Service stamps. Thanking the judges for their award, Mr Juhl spoke of the difficulties he had experienced in finding specimens and then, having found them, the difficulties met in identifying the overprints.

It was announced that Mr Vincent Brown has been awarded the "Annie Powell Memorial Cup" by the Philatelic Society of New South Wales.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Well, Well

Recently a copy of *Zolar's Encyclopaedia and Dictionary of Dreams* (Frederick Muller, London) passed through our hands and with the demands of this column in mind, we looked up the "meaning" of dreams about stamps. For what interest it may have, here are the details:

Of stamps: Bankruptcy.

Buying stamps: Misery.

Selling stamps: Will be making good money.

Collecting stamps: Big joy.

Receiving stamps: You have a faithful friend.

Giving stamps away: Reconciliation with an enemy.

Putting stamps on letters: Will be criticised by the press.

Putting stamps in an album: Will associate with a high official.

Now, be certain you dream the right dreams.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1968:

June

10 Library and Conversation

20 Annual Competition

Nominations for office-bearers close

July

8 Library and Conversation

18 Annual Meeting

Presidential Display, Mr H. L. Chisholm

August

12 Library and Conversation

15 Postmarks of Melbourne, Mr J. R. W. Purves

P.M.G. Philatelic Staff as guests

24 Auction

29 Channel Islands, MBr M. Gates

September

9 Library and Conversation

19 Canada, Mr M. Dankin (Sydney)

October

14 Library and Conversation

17 Poland, Mr I. Gust

31 Australia, King George V One Penny, Mr G. Dallow.

Stamp Printing

The society was fortunate in having Mr M. Brown, works manager of the Commonwealth Bank of Australia's Note Printing Branch, as its guest speaker at the March meeting.

It was in line with other historic meetings of the society, Mr J. B. Cooke, the first Commonwealth Stamp Printer, having addressed the society in 1915 and Mr John Ash, one of his successors, in 1932.

Mr Brown, who was works manager for Waterlows for 15 years before coming to Australia, dealt with stamp printing processes, and showed examples of a die for part of a banknote, specimen "stamps" from various processes, ink, gum, varnish, and perforating pins.

Mr Brown said photogravure, which had thrived on excellent German designs, was being used more and more in Europe. Intaglio was a most faithful process and generally produced beautiful stamps.

The Chambon Press for photogravure at the Note Printing Branch had a capacity of four cylinders, each with a different color. A rotary cutting head cut the sheets from the reel.

Mr Brown also mentioned that the Chapman Transfer Press operated at a pressure of 80 tons per square inch.

Papua

A comprehensive display of stamps, postal history and postal stationery introduced by several

covers and pieces of Queensland used in BNG, including a rare Tax letter to Switzerland, were included in the display of Papua by Mr Ray Kelly at the April meeting.

The extensive "Lakatoi" section commenced with a copy of the original photograph used for the vignette and four copies of the Die Proofs in colour.

The many printings with overprints, surcharges, papers, watermarks and perforations were included with examples of double overprints, double perforations, frame and vignette varieties and sheet reconstruction as well as numerous complete sheets including ½d. McCracken Pictorial.

The 1932 Pictorials, Commemoratives and Air-mails were also shown.

The Postal History section held covers, piece or stamp from Nepa, Hisiu, Tahira, Kanosia, Tamata, Ronagai, etc., plus several internal First Flight covers, numerous Ship Letter and Port of Arrival cancellations which included "Deutsche Seepost Neu Guinea Line" cancels showing both code letters a and b on 1914 Monocolor issues.

Postal Fiscals included copies of "Stamp Duty" authorised for postal use at Samarai 1912 while unused copies of the 1d and 1½d British New Guinea postcards were shown.

The display concluded with the World War II section showing many Army, Navy and Air Force Field P.O. cancellations from the various Papuan sectors.

Western Australia

A copy of the "Inverted Swan" 4d of 1854 was a highlight of the display by Mr John Gartner at the first May meeting. It was the first time this stamp has been shown at a meeting of the society. His copy was Williams No. XI of the 14 copies known.

Also shown was a die proof of the 1/-, on the back of part of an offset sheet of the 4d, showing a partial strike of the inverted frame, of the commonly called "Inverted Swan" identifiable by the two "Westerns" together.

There was also a unique copy of the "Four Pence" and the unique cover Castle Collection, with two 1d Black and 4d Blue, the 4d being deep dull blue (first printing) with P.O. Fremantle marking.

Other 4d items were a mint pane of 60 (pane 2), and a block of 24 from pane 4, showing four transfer flaws.

There were three copies of the 6d golden bronze, and a plated setting of 12 of that value. The 2d brown-black on blood red, rouletted 9-14 and compound, was shown with two of the three known copies of the 4d Carmine 1865 double-print. Finally there were two mint, and one used of the 6d mauve error of color.

Especially attractive was the artist's design for the definitive issue.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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FOUNDED 1890

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