

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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Our Private Treaty Department has been instructed to sell a wonderful "find" of these sample stamps. Nearly all are overprinted "WATERLOW & SONS LTD./SPECIMEN" (there are some eighteen overprint types), they are mostly punched with small holes as an additional measure of security, and mostly printed on unwatermarked paper which is sometimes ungummed.

In addition to printings made from plates which were used for the issued stamps, many are printed in charming *miniature sheets*, usually of nine, from plates which were specially laid down from stamp rollers. An interesting consequence is that many of these proofs show re-entries or other plate varieties which are not to be found on the issued stamps. Some of the miniature sheets are printed from composite plates of several different denominations. Many of these items have not been recorded before.

In the find are sample stamps of the *Waterlow produced* postage and revenue stamps of many *South and Central American Republics*, of which we hope to complete a catalogue in about six

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PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETIES

On the occasion of the 75th anniversary of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, it may be noted that seven philatelic societies have been honored by the grant of the Royal prefix.

They are listed below, in order of the conferring of the distinction, with their addresses, for those wishing to communicate with them.

The details are as accurate as can be obtained from society records now available.

	<i>Formed</i>	<i>Prefix</i>	<i>Address</i>
The Royal Philatelic Society, London	27 July 1869	28 November 1906	41 Devonshire Place, London, W.1
Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand	5 September 1888	January 1946	Box 1269, Wellington, C.1, New Zealand
Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria	7 July 1892	December 1946	Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, Australia 3001
Royal Sydney Philatelic Club	21 July 1890	16 March 1953	Box 1751, G.P.O. Sydney, Australia 2001
Royal Philatelic Society of Cape Town	3 May 1911	30 July 1953	Box 1793 Cape Town, South Africa
Royal Canadian Philatelic Society (Canadian Philatelic Association, 1887, Canadian Philatelic Society, 1919)	1887	May 1959	P.O. Box 3144, Station C, Ottawa 3, Canada
Royal Philatelic Society of Rhodesia	1910	12 November 1962	P.O. Box 803, Bulawayo, Rhodesia

Coming of Age as Royal Society

Besides being the 75th anniversary year of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, the year also marks the society's Coming of Age as a Royal Society.

The announcement that His Most Gracious Majesty King George VI had approved the grant of the "Royal" prefix to the society was made by Mr J. R. W. Purves at the meeting in January 1947.

At the meeting for January 1968, the president (Mr H. L. Chisholm) stated that it was the society's 21st Birthday as the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

He also mentioned that the secretary (Mr G. A. F. Evans) had informed him that he (Mr Chisholm) had been elected to membership of the society on the night of the 1947 announcement and was thus the first member elected to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The anniversary was commemorated at supper with a cake, the gift of a society member. The professional cake-maker had iced it with a representation of a Penny Black.

EDITORIAL NOTES

R.P.S.V. Library

Gifts to the library of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria acknowledged with thanks are:

From Mr H. L. Chisholm: Dr J. H. Harvie-Pirie, *Antarctic Posts*; Richard W. Bagshawe and John Goldup, *Postal History of the Antarctic, 1904-49*; H. E. Vesper, *Die Post in der Antarktis*; Richard W. Bagshawe, *Postal History of the Falkland Islands Dependencies*; A. G. Fisher, *A New Approach to the Postmarks of the Falkland Island Dependencies Survey Bases*.

From Mr P. Collas: Fragoso, Trincao, Ferreira and Barata, *100 Anos de Selo do*

Correio Portugues, 1853-1953; Luigi Piloni, *Bibliografia Della Posta E. Filiteia Italiana*.

F.R.P.S.L. Certificates

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, has this year begun the issue of certificates to members elected to Fellowship.

The certificates are similar in design to the Perkins Bacon-engraved Certificates of Membership but are printed in a different color.

Overseas philatelists who are already Fellows may obtain Fellowship Certificates, which record their date of election to the honor, upon payment of 10/-.



The Other Side of the Picture



By J. R. W. PURVES

A RE-ENTRY

The writer has been out of the literary field for some 12 months. That is a long time when it is the field he loves most of all. However, philatelically, the period has been far from unproductive. Both abroad and locally he has made some important "finds" and he has also been "tooling up" in relation to a number of projects on which he has been working for many years with the idea of producing books setting out the results of his studies. The most important of these projects are:

The Queen-on-Throne stamps of Victoria.

The Pictorial stamps of Tasmania.

A supplementary volume to the "Barred Numeral" cancellations of Victoria. This will include an introductory study of the cancellations of Melbourne 1860-1912, the special usage and other cancellations not dealt with to date, as well as additional information relating to the "Barred Numeral" period of 1856-1912.

A monograph on the 1/-, 5/-, £1 and £2 values of the period 1901-1912.

This winter, it is hoped, a good start will be made with all of these jobs. The following notes will, at any rate, serve to prove there is life in the old dog yet. If there is too much of his own findings it is only because he has not, as yet, fully re-established correspondence with collectors of this kind of material.

QUEENSLAND

Numeral cancellations: new "ties"

Out of what is probably the final survival from the "Tattersalls" find the writer has located the following six new ties:

222: PENTLAND The number (probably a re-allocation) used by this office before it received 333, see Porter p. 24.

595: LAPP LAPP Lappa Junction, see Porter p. 30.

596: KALLANDA Succeeding 174. Spelling "Kallandra" is incorrect, see Porter p. 30.

597: MIRIAM VALE Previously used 24, see Porter p. 20.

603: BOONMOO

615: HILLVIEW (See Porter p. 34. ? a re-opening.)

TASMANIA

The "Not-Stamped" marking now seen

On page 146 of the Handbook reference is made to this marking which was mentioned by Mr Basset Hull but which none of us had seen prior to publication.

The writer has now located an example on a cover sent from Victoria (probably Melbourne) to Hobart Town in June 1857. This cover bore a 6d Woodblock of Victoria (S.G. 44). The following markings appear, all on the front:

At the top left, in one line, in plain unserifed letters, are the words "NOT-STAMPED" (with hyphen between) in *black*. Also in black on the stamp is the "60" Launceston cancellation of the time. Besides these two black markings are three *red* markings. Two are from Launceston—the diamond-shaped ship marking dated 9.6.57 and the "Pre-Paid" diamond-shaped marking dated 16.6.57. Finally, at lower right, is the Hobart "Pre-Paid" marking of 17.6.57 (see Fig. 30, p. 17). Evidently—or at least in this case—"not stamped" meant stamp not cancelled. The delay of a week in sending the letter on from Launceston may have arisen from some doubt as to what to do with this letter and *might* therefore indicate that this was an unusual use of the marking. It will be necessary to see other examples to solve this problem. But at any rate the marking *has* now turned up and another hiatus has been filled. Likewise, at least two examples have now been discovered of the "Cannot be found" marking—another described by Mr Basset Hull but not seen before the book was published (see p. 145 of Handbook).

*Pictorial and Numeral Cancellations**Pictorials*

In the Pictorials at least 20 new dates (mostly *early*) have been found by the writer and these will in due course be added to the Supplement to the Handbook which Mr Ingles has agreed to edit.

Three new *coloured* cancellations have been found, as follows:

BLUE For Derby (August 1912), Macquarie Plains (December 1912).

VIOLET For Kimberley (May 1912).

Numerals

In the Numerals several numbers have now been found which had been labelled NNS in the list given in this journal in September 1966. These are 99, 324, 336 and 363. These numbers of course remain RRRR.

Two new "ties" have been added, as follows:

254: WHITEFOORD HILLS.

This was previously a "probable" and now makes 253 *certainly* West Kentish (see p. 77 Handbook).

325: ARGENTON (see p. 81 Handbook).

Here the "tie" was on two covers dated 1892. Since this office was closed in 1893 and the number is known used on the Pictorials it must have been (following the closing of Argenton) re-allocated to some other office. A piece has now been found "tying" the number to QUE (Travelling Post Office). The "tie" is in mss.

VICTORIA

The first Ham 1d: only one item from the 30 stone remains to be identified

When the work on the Half-Lengths was published in 1953, 25 of the 30 items had been isolated and were duly described. As I write 29 different items have been identified and of these two or more copies have been seen of 24.

The *plating* has also advanced to the stage that 24 of the 30 varieties can only be found in one of two possible arrangements.

It would be nice to write *finis* to the plating of a rare but historic stamp. Oh, to see a few more pairs or marginal copies! There must be some, somewhere, that I haven't seen.

"Too Lates" and "Registered": The completion of the plating of the "Die 1" woodblock sheet of 25 (5 x 5)

This gave the writer the biggest stamp thrill he has had for many years. At p. 43 of the book he wrote on these stamps are two diagrams which then represented the only two possibilities for the plating of the sheet of 25 (5 x 5). The left-hand diagram is now proved to be the *correct* one since two "missing links" were located by the writer during his last English visit. One was a "Registered" stamp and the other a "Too Late" stamp, as follows:

(i) A "Registered" having a very wide top margin showing the base of the stamp on top. The main stamp was Type 25 with the blue flaw from the 1B group illustrated facing p. 66. The base of the top stamp showed a blue flaw always characteristic of Type 8, 1B group. This flaw was not described (on p. 65) but it has now been found to be a constant characteristic of this position and can in fact be detected in the same illustration facing p. 66. It consists of (d) a distinct hollowing out of the base frame at the SE corner.

(ii) A "Too Late" stamp with a very wide right margin showing the full length of the stamp at right and some of that stamp's interior. The main stamp is again Type 25 and the stamp at the right, in all certainty, is Type 22. As well as the "hollows" exactly coinciding with all the Type 22's seen it also shows the flaw to the left of the left leg of the "M" described on p. 33.

These two pieces represented a miraculous culmination to a seemingly hopeless task. They are the sort of thing that can only happen once in a lifetime and must necessarily make me very, very grateful.

"Stamp Duty" Series of December 1879

The unissued values

These were once described in print, by Henry Harvey, in the *London Philatelist* for August 1924. Many years ago the writer acquired a set of engraver's die proofs of these values at a stage or stages before the corner letters, etc., were added.

In these *eleven* cases—7/-, 8/-, 9/-, 11/-, 12/-, 13/-, 14/-, 16/-, 17/-, 18/- and 19/-—the plates were actually prepared and the stamps printed but both plates and stamps were destroyed at the beginning of 1880 following the decision not to issue these values.

The writer when in England was lucky enough to acquire a complete set of perforated proofs of these stamps in the *colours* in which they were printed, and which tally with the descriptions in the 1924 article. These were included in a book of "Specimen" stamps (starting in January 1880) once the property of a former director of Messrs Sands and McDougall, the firm responsible for producing the dies of this first "Stamp Duty" series of our State.

S.G. 421: 9d, perf 11

Discovery of another copy

In philately, as we all know, it is dangerous to use the word "unique." But this is a case where, so far as the writer knows, only the one copy of a stamp had turned up in 35 years.

A *second* has now been found by Mr Jex Long of Glasgow. This bears the dated P.P. (Parcel Post) cancellation of Melbourne and the date is 30 August 1911. The cancellation on the writer's copy (the top half is missing) is dated 26 July 1 (the last figure is missing), which is surely also 1911. The two cancellations are quite different and this and the dates indicate the issue of at least two sheets. Further copies may well therefore be located.

Progress made in the "Barred Numerals" field

Since the handbook was published a good deal of new material has been unearthed. In all some 19 new numbers, formerly NNS, have been located. Of these the five most recent—and not previously reported—are 606, 1300, 1734, 1931, 1965.

Likewise some 28 new "*ties*" have been found. The latest of these—also not previously reported—are:

323	CAMPBELLTOWN	1824	MORANDING
626	BULLENGAROOK	1919	BOHO
858	GRAHAM'S HILL	1978	KENMARE
998	BROKEN CREEK	2007	MASSEY RAILWAY
1423	KERRISDALE	2034	KILSYTH
1450	FAWCETT	2073	WARANGA BASIN
1508	MOLLONGHIP		

NEW ZEALAND: THE CASE FOR THE REEFTON PROVISIONAL OFFICIALS

By H. L. CHISHOLM

On 2 January 1907, Official stamps came into use in New Zealand – the current stamps overprinted with that word in capitals – for the mail of Government Departments.

But the Police Department at Reefton, an inland mining town in the West Coast area of the South Island, used stamps with a manuscript "Official" in red ink, on which was superimposed the "GREYMOUTH PAID 3" postmark.

These "Reefton Officials" or "Reefton Provisionals" are listed by Stanley Gibbons (S.G. P1-P7) and Robson Lowe, ignored by Joliffe in his 1913 *History of New Zealand Stamps*, and condemned in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (Vol I, p. 473):

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. Mr Bate arrived at this conclusion after his investigations, and, as a member of the committee responsible for the *History of New Zealand Stamps*, he recommended the omission of any reference to these stamps as the easiest way of dealing with them.

The Postage Stamps of New Zealand – referred to as the handbook – then omits them from the checklist of official issues. The three specialist New Zealand catalogues, Verne Collins, Pim's, and Campbell Paterson's, all rejected the issue until Campbell Paterson admitted them in 1965.

I have always been doubtful whether the reference in the NZ handbook about the issue was adequate and my doubts have been strengthened by the acquisition in recent years of two copies of the 1d. Provisional and a letter written by Mr A. T. Bate, whose views seem to have been the dominant influence against recognition. Mr Bate was a noted New Zealand philatelist and his was one of the original names on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, but I have to suggest that his conclusions were not unbiased.

The time has come, I believe, to review the evidence in connection with the Reefton stamps.

The circumstances of the issue and the survey made in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* may be fairly summarised by the following account:

In August, 1906, Cabinet decided that from 1 January 1907, public service postage should be paid by Official stamps and regulations were Gazetted which stipulated that with certain exceptions

. . . all Government letters, packets and telegrams, . . . shall be paid for by means of postage stamps to be affixed to the letters and packets before posting or to telegrams before presentation . . . But Government Departments posting more than 100 pieces of mail at any one time may, by arrangement with the Post Office, hand such letters, etc., unstamped over to a responsible postal officer, together with a certificate of posting. All mail matter . . . shall be stamped by the Post Office with a stamp bearing the words "Official Paid," and such stamping shall entitle the mail matter to delivery without surcharge . . .

Postage stamps to be used by Government Departments shall bear the overprint "Official" and shall be distributed, under existing Stamp Office regulations, to Chief Postmasters, who in turn will supply on a voucher signed by the permanent head or local head of the Department requiring the stamps . . .

Any officer disposing of unused "Official" stamps for stamp-collecting purposes or otherwise, shall be liable to a fine of £5 for the first offence and to dismissal for any subsequent offence.

The New Zealand handbook also says

In 1912, an article written by Mr C. J. Phillips, in *Stanley Gibbons' Monthly Journal* (Vol. XX, page 24) gave a detailed account of the stamps.

It leaves it at that, which is unfortunate, for the article contains a reproduction of part of the basic document, the official requisition for the stamps:

Requisition:

REEFTON, NEW ZEALAND

The New Zealand Government,
Department } Police
of Service }

Dr to the Postmaster, Reefton.

Date of Service
or Supply
1906
29 Dec.

Particulars in Full
To postage stamps supplied as per particulars below.

<i>No. of Stamps in figures</i>	<i>No. of Stamps in words</i>	<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Amount</i>
24	Twenty-four	At ½d	1 0
50	Fifty	" 1d	4 2
50	Fifty	" 2d	8 4
50	Fifty	" 3d	12 6
25	Twenty-five	" 6d	12 6
20	Twenty	" 1/-	1 0 0
5	Five	" 2/-	10 0
		Total	<u>3 8 6</u>

Another point in the story is that the Inspector of Police in Charge of Greymouth District, which covered Reefton, who signed the requisition, was a philatelist.

Some time appears to have elapsed before the provisionals became known in philatelic circles. This is not surprising in view of the small numbers, the fact that some of them were used on telegrams, and the fact that most police correspondence would be the posting of files from one police station to another or to police headquarters.

Inquiries

On 23 June 1908, Mr Bate wrote from Wellington to "Mr C. O. Wilson, Inspector-in-Charge of the Greymouth District, at Reefton Station":

Dear Mr Wilson,

Mr Mason tells me you have been good enough to state that you will supply me with full information respecting the provisional official surcharges used by the Police Dept. When I first mentioned the matter to Mr Robertson, secretary of the G.P.O., he did not think

that the use of the written surcharge had been authorised, but he now says it was authorised on application pending the supply of printed surcharged stamps being received.

Postal records do not contain any note of authorisation of the written "overprint."

Inspector Wilson replied on 26 June:

The history of the Provisional issue of Official Stamps is as follows:

In Dec. 06, the Gov. decided to abolish the Franking system, and regulations were published in the Gov. Gaz., see page 3286/06; in accordance with that notice, and special instructions from my own Dept., requisitions were made out for stamps required to commence the New Year (07) with. I approved and signed a number of such; these were forwarded to the different Chief Postmasters. In January 07, I started collecting Official stamps, and I was surprised to find handmade Provisionals had been issued; needless to say I collected all I could; unfortunately most of the large values were used on telegrams. I then made enquiry with the result, I found that £3.8.6 worth had been prepared at Greymouth and forwarded to Reefton, the local postmaster issued them to the Sergeant of Police and they were used from Reefton. I enclose a copy of the original requisition I have kept by me, it will give you particulars of values and quantities.

Mr Bate immediately asked for more details and on 1 July, Inspector Wilson replied

I learnt in Jan. 07, that the Chief Postmaster had been instructed in case of non-arrival of "Official" stamps, to get some prepared in their office . . . Evidently such a difficulty was foreseen as in addition to the word "Official" in writing, a handstamp, rubber, with two circles, with the word Greymouth between the circles and the figure "3" in the centre of the inner circle was prepared . . .

I think I can supply the names of the officers who actually prepared this issue if required.

Mr Robertson then called for reports from the Greymouth and Reefton Offices, the answers being, briefly,

Greymouth

At small offices where only an occasional letter required marking "Official paid", the words were written in red ink on the envelope and this may have been misunderstood and wrongly applied in the case quoted.

Reefton

There was no positive knowledge of the stamps but "it was quite possible that stamps so marked did pass through about that time, although there was no recollection of such, and, had the stamps so marked been noticed, the irregularity would have been queried."

After the article in *SCMJ* of 31 January 1912, Mr Robertson tried again, with the following results (1913):

Reefton

The Old Government Paid rubber-stamp was still at Reefton and that it was understood that at one time this stamp was impressed on ordinary postage stamps affixed to official correspondence.

Another officer: The Paid rubber stamp was supplied at the same time as the official stamps.

The officer who had been Reefton postmaster at the time: It was so long ago that he could not recollect how the Paid stamp came to be used.

The handbook is explicit that that is all the records show.

It may be said that despite the quantity of inquiry, the quality was low. When a postal official at one of two offices had written "Official" on 224 stamps it should have been easy to identify him and obtain a complete explanation.

There is no admission of the issue of the "Reefton Provisionals" by the postal officials; and therefore no claim that they were authorised. Their replies are rather obvious "standing from under" but this does not prove guilt; their wording is equally consistent with the desire to cover up action that might have been a mistake.

The Requisition

Now examine the requisition.

It is made out at Reefton on 29 December 1906, for presentation to the Chief Postmaster there. It thus becomes possible to reconstruct a probable course of events.

29 December was a Saturday. From Reefton the document had to be sent to Greymouth, 47 miles away, for approval and signature by Inspector Wilson. It would not have been delivered to him before Monday, 31 December. He thereupon signed it and it was posted back to Reefton. As New Year's Day was a holiday, it would not have been received and presented to the Post Office before 2 January.

Obtaining the new stamps would be a routine task and it may have been done when the mail was taken to be posted.

So, on 2 January – when Official stamps had come into use – the local police sergeant went into Reefton Post Office and presented his requisition for official stamps. But the postmaster had none. He had already exhausted the supplies sent to him in coping with earlier requisitions from other Departments.

To the postmaster, the wording of the *Gazette* notice would appear mandatory:

... all Government letters shall be paid for by means of postage stamps to be affixed to the letters.

Postage stamps to be used by Government Departments shall bear the overprint "Official."

I think it likely, from Inspector Wilson's letters, that the Reefton Postmaster contacted the Chief Postmaster, Greymouth, and explained his difficulty. It is clear that Inspector Wilson relied on his memory for his replies to Mr Bate and this was not completely reliable. For example, his description of the Greymouth Paid stamp was inaccurate in detail and he may not have remembered accurately what he learned from his inquiries about 18 months earlier. Perhaps he had been told that Reefton had consulted Greymouth before making the provisionals.

Whether Reefton consulted Greymouth or not, somebody had the task of writing "Official" in red ink on 224 stamps and then stamping them in the blocks with the "Paid" marker, one impression to each stamp. The Reefton police mail could then be posted.

Indications that the stamps were prepared at Reefton, despite Inspector Wilson's statement are:

1 The explanation in the handbook that the manuscript overprint could not have been mistakenly applied at Greymouth because it was the practice at small

offices to write "Official Paid" on envelopes, as rubber stamps had been used at Greymouth.

2 The probable sequence of events outlined above.

3 The police mail could not be kept waiting until further supplies of official stamps arrived.

4 The presence of the "Greymouth Paid 3" rubber stamp at Reefton.

5 The statement in the handbook by Inspector Wilson's clerical officer that after signature the requisitions were sent to the sergeants in charge of the sub-districts — and not, as the Inspector says, to the Chief Postmasters.

Checking back, the "explanations" given by the postal officials become intelligible. They are exactly what they might have written if the circumstances were as stated here and the officials did not wish to disclose the full facts for fear of possible censure for exercising initiative.

The handbook (Vol I, p. 473) remarks on the difficulty of understanding why the "Greymouth Paid 3" handstamp was sent to Reefton. But what might be difficult to answer in 1938, when Vol I was written, might be answerable about 15 years later, when Vol III was being produced and a possible, even likely, explanation is provided in Vol III (p. 420), when dealing with the "Paid" markers:

Chief offices were supplied, in 1893, with rubber stamps of the types of Nos. 1 and 2, bearing the name of the postal district. These stamps were intended for issue to sub-postmasters for use when circulars posted at their offices were pre-paid in cash instead of by postage stamps. In order to keep a check on their use, a stamp bearing a particular number was, as far as possible, to be confined to one office.

Type No. 2 was "Greymouth Paid 3".

It had been stated that this handstamp arrived at Reefton with the Official stamps. The suggestion is that the Chief Postmaster, Greymouth, did not have an "Official Paid" handstamp to send to Reefton and he sent the "Paid" stamp as a substitute, possibly with the instruction that the word "Official" was to be added in manuscript.

Red ink had been used to endorse letters "Official Paid" and in some offices the Official stamps were cancelled with an "Official Paid" postmarker (Vol III, p. 463).

It is thus possible to see the influences working on the mind or minds behind the "design" of the provisionals, and the reasoning . . . The regulations say the stamps are to bear the overprint "Official", so "Official" must be written on some stamps . . . Because of the "Official Paid" usage, use red ink . . . If the stamps are written on, it must be shown that the writing is official . . . put the "Paid" postmarker on them . . . The marking will read "Official Paid."

(To be continued)

TASMANIAN MSS CANCELLATIONS ON COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

By LEWIS C. VINEY, F.R.P.S.L.

The article by John Avery on Tasmanian manuscript cancellations (*Philately from Australia*, June 1967, p. 43) prompted the search for a small accumulation of such material put aside over the years, to supplement his information. Quite a number of items can now be added to the list. Except for Oldina, examples are not at all common.

A number of the examples came from an accumulation of many thousands of Commonwealth stamps from a commercial house in Launceston. All dates and Post Office names are clear examples and are in ink or indelible pencil (I.P.).

<i>Office</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
BALFOUR	Undated Piece	1½d KGV Wmk. Large Mult. C.A. I.P.
CALDER	4-10-21	I.P. on 2d Orange KGV.
DOUGLAS RIVER	12-8-15	Ink on KGV 1d Red.
GLEN HUON	18-12-39	Registered Cover. Stamps mss. date.
HOWTH	21-11-23	I.P. on 1½d KGV Green.
KAMONA	9-8-39	I.P. on pair 1d Queen.
KIMBERLEY	Undated	Ink on 5d KGV Chestnut.
LAPOINYA	Undated Piece	Ink on KGV 1d Violet and 1½d Green.
LILICO	3-5-33	I.P. on KGV 1d Green Perf. O.S.
LORINNA	2-10-22	I.P. on 3d Roo and 2d Red KGV.
MELLA	12 Sep 18	Ink on 1d Red KGV.
MONTANA	9 Ju 14	Ink on 1d Roo.
MOOGARA	28-3-19 to 10-6-19	On KGV ½d, 1d, 1½d Issues. I.P. (3 Pieces).
NABOWLA	21-12-18	Ink 1d Red KGV. 2 Examples.
NIETTA	19-2-10 on	Ink and I.P. on 1½d Brown KGV.
OLDINA	1915 to 9-17	Ink Common.
ORFORD	6-9-45	I.P.
PALANA	4-10-49 to 28-2-57	Ink on various issues. Small P.O. on
PELVERATA	23-9-19 and 30-9-19	Ink. [Flinders Island.
ROBIGANA	2-1-18 to 29-11-18	I.P.
SPRINGFIELD	Undated Piece	On 4d Roo I.P.
TANGANA	15-1-18 to 8-4-20	I.P.
TENALGA	20-11-17 to 6-27	I.P. and Black Ink. 2 copies have rubber date stamp June 27, and on 1½d Canberra.
WATTLE GROVE	21-12-39	Ink. Facsimile CDS LWR WTTLE
LOWER		GROVE. Also registered cover Stamp cancelled two horizontal pen strokes. Backstamped CYGNET 20AP66.

THE COOK ISLANDS PROVISIONAL DECIMAL ISSUE, 1967

By *A. R. BURGE*, F.R.P.S.N.Z.

Prior to the issue of the new definitive decimal stamps which were to have been placed on sale on DC Day, 10 July 1967, the Cook Islands Government decided to surcharge all the current stamps then available with the decimal equivalent. The main object was an educational one—to help prepare the Cook Islanders for the change over to decimal currency. The old denominations in £.s.d. were not obliterated so that the values were shown on each stamp in both currencies. It was a good idea and had the added advantage of using up most of the remainders of the 1963 and other issues still current.

It was fortunate that the issue was made as, due to shipping and other problems, the new decimal definitive issue was delayed and the first series was not placed on sale until 31 July. The educational series thus became more of a provisional decimal issue.

The work of surcharging the stamps was entrusted to the Cook Islands Government Printer, Mr Ian A. Forbes, who had been responsible for the earlier Churchill and Air Mail issues. Mr Forbes has kindly made available, through the Philatelic Bureau of the Cook Islands Post Office, some notes on the printing of this issue, of which the following is a summary.

The stamps were surcharged on the old 1889 Platen machine used previously for the Churchill and Air Mail issues. It had been hoped to do this work on a new vertical V50 Meihle printing press which was on order but the machine did not arrive in time.

The stamps were transported from the Post Office by the postal officer in charge of the overprint under a police guard, and at no time were any stamps in the Government Printing Office without the postal officer. It was difficult to make up each forme because of this strict procedure and a lot of time had to be spent on positioning the stamps for close register when they arrived with the clerk. On completion of the surcharging of each value the forme was defaced with a hammer and broken up under the supervision of the postal officer.

It had been arranged to issue the surcharged stamps in three stages for issue on separate dates as follows:

1. 3 April 1967: *1d (1c); 2d (2c); 3d (2½c); 4d (3c); *5d (4c); 6d (5c); 8d (7c); 1s (10c); 6d (5c Solar).
These were to be surcharged in black.
2. 4 May 1967: *1d (1c); *5d (4c); 1s6d (15c); 3s (30c); 5s (50c); 10s on 10d Self-Government (\$1.00).
3. 6 June 1967: The old high value arms type definitives—£1 (\$2.00); £3 (\$6.00); £5 (\$10.00). To be surcharged in red.

* These two values could not be completed in time and were transferred to Stage 2. (See later.) Apart from the 1d and 5d (black) these values were to be surcharged in red.

Stage 1: The Cabinet of the Cook Islands Government, at a meeting held on 10 March 1967, authorised the Government Printer to proceed with the first stage. On the following Wednesday, 15 March, the first forme was ready. This was for the 2d denomination, the surcharging of which was completed that day and presented no printing problems.

Thursday, 16 March, saw the 3d (2½c) stamp finished. This stamp presented one serious problem. There were only two "½" fractions in linotype matrix available and both of these differed. It was not practicable to cast-up only one at a time because the linotype "slug" was too small (6 ems) for the machine to handle. By casting two-up a slug length of 12 ems could be used which was very satisfactory for better register, and the linotype could handle this as the right "mould-liners" for the size were available.

The 6d (5c) Hibiscus stamp was completed on Monday, 20th, and the 8d (7c) Bonito on Thursday, 23rd, with no printing problems. On Tuesday, 28 March, the 1s (10c) orange stamp was finished, and the following day saw the completion of the 6d (5c) Solar Eclipse stamp. In both cases the humidity caused the sheets of stamps to stick together. The 4d (3c) Self-Government stamp was completed on Thursday, 30 March.

As Friday, 31 March was the traditional stocktaking day for all Government Departments, the 1d and 5d stamps could not be surcharged in time for them to be issued on 3 April. Although the 31 March was calculated in the printing programme, no allowance had been made for Easter falling in March and this upset the tight schedule of printing.

The 1d (1c) and 5d (4c) stamps were completed on 3 and 4 April respectively but were withheld from sale until the second issue.

Stage 2: On Wednesday, 5 April 1967, the Cabinet authorised the Government Printer to surcharge the following definitive stamps:
1s 6d (15c); 3s (30c); 5s (50c); 20s (\$2.00); 60s (\$6.00); 100s (\$10.00); plus the 10d Self-Government to 10s (\$1.00).

On Monday, 10 April, the 10d (10s/\$1.00) was surcharged. This stamp presented many problems in cancelling out the old value of 10d. Several proofs were made before the three solid bars were decided upon by the Postmaster. It was not possible to obtain the solid ink actually required for opaquing the "10d" and this was the next best thing that could be done. Other colours of inks were tried but the red covered the best.

As the issue was an educational one it was important to have the 10s (\$1.00) stamp, as this was the basic unit of the whole decimal scheme.

The 3s (30c) stamp was completed on Tuesday, 11 April and the surcharge came out clearly in red. The following day the 5s (50c) was done. The problem found here was that the sheets of stamps had not been trimmed to the same size and the margins were not of the same width. Variations as much as ¼" showed up and this presented difficulties in registration. Consequently the surcharge was shifted accordingly.

Great pressure was required to place the surcharge on the 1s 6d (15c) engraved stamp and this can be seen from the embossing effect on the reverse of the stamps. The margin widths also varied in this stamp and proper registration was difficult.

Stage 3: Thursday, 20 April, saw the completion of the £1 (\$2.00); £3 (\$6.00); and £5 (\$10.00) Arms types. The only dollar signs available in the Cook Islands in any type of the size required were the double stroke, so there was no option but to use those particular dollar signs. Two *Style Manuals* were consulted for verification. The Australian Commonwealth Government Printing Office *Style Manual* 1966, page 35, Section 9:

"The symbol for the dollar is the \$ (double-stroke) but the single stroke sign is acceptable where the double-stroke is not available . . ."

From the *Style Manual* of the New South Wales Government Printing Office 1966, page 155, Section 7.30:

"The symbol adopted for the Australian dollar is a capital S with two vertical strokes . . . subject to availability . . ."

(The New Zealand *Style Manual* was not available.)

Mr Forbes completed his notes by saying that "the usual secret marks went into each overprint as a protection for authenticity." This no doubt refers to the wrong font letters and figures that occur in the surcharge of most values. However one is bound to ask—were these secret marks really necessary?

As with the Air Mail issue it was not possible to surcharge complete sheets of the various denominations on the old Platen press. The sheets were accordingly halved and surcharged in this manner. The Arms type stamps however were probably surcharged in complete sheets of eighty.

The table showing the main setting varieties in the various values—including the secret marks appears at the foot of this article:

It is not known if any wrong font varieties occurred in the three Arms type stamps (\$2.00/£1, \$6.00/£3, \$10.00/£5). A badly broken third "O" is found on Row 9/9 of the \$10.00.

A complete list of the printings of the 1963 Pictorial issue and of the Solar Eclipse, Churchill and Air Mail issues appears on page 244 of Volume V of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*—the "Islands Handbook", which contains full details of these issues. This table is repeated below with the addition of the figures of the provisional decimal issue. Also given are the complete figures for the Internal Self-Government, Eclipse and Arms type stamps overprinted or surcharged.

Notes:

Sheets from both plates (1 and 1a) of the Internal Self-Government issue were overprinted for the Churchill and Decimal series, and sheets from both printings of the Eclipse issue were surcharged with the decimal currency.

Both printings of the various values of the Pictorial issue can be distinguished but are not marked enough to warrant special attention except in three cases. These are the 8d (black and dull blue, black and light blue), 2s (grey-brown and grey, chocolate and grey), 3s (black and pale yellow-green, black and yellow-green). It is known that stamps from both printings of the 3d, 8d, 2s, 3s, and 5s were overprinted AIRMAIL, while it is understood that sheets from both printings of all values (except the 2s) were surcharged with the decimal equivalent.

The stock of the Arms type stamps sent to Rarotonga when internal self-government was attained contained sheets from printings with the multiple

watermark upright and inverted, but the local authorities did not appreciate this fact. The £1 stamps overprinted AIRMAIL came from both supplies and as a result no stock with the watermark inverted was left. Consequently the stamps surcharged \$2.00 came from the earlier printing with the watermark upright. The normal £1 stamp with inverted watermark is now very scarce. The \$6.00/£3 stamps all had the watermark inverted while the \$10.00/£5 stamp was issued with the watermark either upright or inverted in approximately equal quantities. Not more than 450 copies of either watermark can therefore exist.

The stock withdrawn and destroyed comprised the stamps held by the Chief Postmaster, Rarotonga, when the new decimal definitive issue was released at the end of July 1967. Included were the stamps sent back from the sub-offices in the other islands.

SETTING VARIETIES

<i>Denomination</i>	<i>Sheet size</i>	<i>Wrong font letter "C" and figure together</i>	<i>Wrong font letter "C"</i>	<i>Wrong font figure</i>	<i>Condensed "C"</i>	<i>Damaged letters and/or figures</i>
1c/1d	10 x 8	R3/7, 8/3	R3/8, 8/1	R3/6, 8/2	R2/4, 3/8, 6/2, 8/4	
2c/2d	10 x 8	R2/1, 8/8	R8/5	R8/7	R4/8, 5/4	R2/7, 3/7
2½c/3d (Alternate vertical rows have different "½")	10 x 8	R3/4, 6/5, 9/2				R1/3, 9/4, 9/6
3c/4d	6 x 10	R3/6, 4/10, 5/7, 6/3				R1/9, 2/2, 4/1
4c/5d	10 x 8	R2/8, 5/4, 7/5				R1/3, 2/1, 3/1, 4/1, 4/2, 4/4
5c/6d	10 x 8	R2/8, 6/4, 8/7				R3/1, 3/2, 3/3, 3/4
5c/6d Eclipse	6 x 10	R4/5, 5/10, 6/6			R2/4, 3/9	R6/10
7c/8d	10 x 8	R3/8, 6/4, 7/1, 8/5				R4/2, 5/2, 9/7
10c/1s	10 x 8	R3/4, 5/5, 9/8				R3/6, 6/1, 7/2, 8/3, 9/3, 9/4, 9/6
15c/1s 6d	4 x 15					R1/6, 2/11, 3/8, 4/4, 4/9
30c/3s	6 x 10	R3/10				R2/4, 3/6, 4/2, 5/8, 8/3
50c/5s	6 x 10	R2/1, 3/7, 4/10, 5/4				R1/5, 2/2, 2/3
\$1.00/10s/10d	6 x 10					R3/2, 5/7, 5/8, 6/4
\$2.00/£1	8 x 10					R2/3, 5/3, 5/8
\$6.00/£3	8 x 10					—
\$10.00/£5	8 x 10					R4/6, 4/8, 7/9

Denomination	Initial printing	Second printing	Total	PRINTINGS			Available for normal postal or revenue purposes	Withdrawn and discharged* £.s.d
				Overprinted for Churchill	Airmail	Decimal currency		
<i>1963 Pictorials</i>								
1d	240,000	160,000	400,000			19,857 (1c)	380,143	4,230
2d	240,000	160,000	400,000			57,730 (2c)	342,270	30,583
3d	480,000	80,000	560,000	33,600		75,556 (2½c)	450,844	10,060 + 22,800 (2½c/3d)
5d	80,000	160,000	240,000			32,136 (4c)	207,864	21
6d	80,000	160,000	240,000	20,480		48,780 (5c)	170,740	393
8d	80,000	160,000	240,000	20,480		46,377 (7c)	173,143	676
1s	80,000	160,000	240,000	24,000		44,109 (10c)	171,891	3,031
1s 6d	60,000	80,000	140,000	20,400		14,085 (15c)	101,915	233
2s	60,000	60,000	120,000	30,000	16,200	—	73,800	970
3s	60,000	60,000	120,000	30,000	20,400	9,056 (30c)	60,544	960
5s	60,000	60,000	120,000	30,000	20,400	14,318 (50c)	55,282	— + 5,400 (50c/5s)
<i>Eclipse</i>								
6d	114,480	60,000	174,480			25,684 (5c)	148,796	6,220 + 10,518 (5c/4d)
<i>Internal Self-Government</i>								
4d	330,000		330,000	60,000		67,822 (3c)	202,178	37,211
10d	120,000		120,000	30,000		8,724 (\$1)	81,276	—
1s	120,000		120,000	30,000			90,000	—
1s 9d	60,000		60,000				60,000	—
<i>Arms type</i>								
	(Upright wmk)	(Inverted wmk)						
10s	3,600	12,000	15,600		6,000	(not issued)	9,600 (Both wmks)	—
£1	12,000	12,000	24,000		15,200*	1,098 (\$2)*	7,702 "	—
£3	800	4,000	4,800			863 (\$6)*	3,937 "	—

TASMANIAN NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS: THE SECOND ALLOCATIONS

By Dr JOHN CLEMENTE

More information is now available regarding Tasmania's Second Allocation Numeral Cancellations. The c.d.s. types referred to hereunder are the ones described by *Campbell, Purves and Viney*, in their study on numeral cancellations.

- 3 A cover has now been found with this numeral tied exclusively to Cranbrook (see *Philately from Australia*, March 1967, p. 21), on a registered cover, Cranbrook c.d.s. (type 3) Sept. 6, 84, and back-stamped Hobart Sept. 9, 84. This finding raises a number of questions over the use of this numeral, which in the past was thought to be used exclusively for Bicheno. The fact that this is a registered cover tends to favor the view that No. 3 was at some stage used at Cranbrook. A close examination of all the covers in existence bearing No. 3 cancellation, may provide useful information.
- 10 Known to be tied to Pontville c.d.s., found on a cover tied to Brighton c.d.s. (type 1) Apr. 84.
One Brighton c.d.s. type 3 dated Feb. 11, 86 has been found as a transit strike on a cover, which suggests that No. 10 will be found tied to a c.d.s. type 3 also.
- 12 Known to be tied to Broadmarsh, found on a public service cover tied to Lower Broadmarsh (type 3) Feb. 10, 86, backstamped Hamilton Feb. 12, 86.
- 139 Found on a fragment with partial c.d.s. showing ES-ANIA. A check reveals that the size and the spacing of the letters of this partial strike match exactly the c.d.s. of Steppes. 139 was thought to have been allocated to Black Boy, later Reedy Marsh Black Boy, later Mathinna. However in 1899, 297 was allocated to Mathinna, while 139 was known to have been re-allocated after 1891. Steppes was opened on 1.10.97. Therefore, from the above evidence, it could well be that it had 139 allocated to it. The possibility that Steppes could have been a transit strike may be kept in mind.
- 215 Found tied to Heemskirk c.d.s. (type 3) Dec. 11, 84 on a registered cover, back-stamped Hobart Dec. 17, 84.
- 246 Re-allocation. Found on the front of a public service form addressed to Scottsdale and bearing on the reverse, a Launceston transit strike Feb. 4, 99, and a Scottsdale arrival strike Feb. 4, 99. The form is signed by Thomas William Barrett, Postmaster, Long Island. 246 had been previously found on cover tied to Clarke's Island (an island of the Furneaux Group), which post office was the oldest in existence in 1899. It appears therefore that 246 was re-allocated to Long Island (also in the Furneaux Group) and that the absence of a c.d.s. on the cover is possibly due to the fact that no c.d.s. had, as yet, been issued to this office. *Walch's Almanac* confirms that Mr Barrett

was the postmaster for Long Island in 1899. It appears also that this office was open only intermittently according to the timetable of arriving and departing vessels.

- 339 This numeral on a Queen side-face, has been found tied to a very clean strike of North Franklin c.d.s. (type 3) Ja 30, 00, back-stamped Hobart Ja 30, 00. It was thought that the correct numeral for North Franklin was 338, but it is possible that this was based on a bad strike, the "9" being thought to be an "8".

Examination of a large number of covers of the period 1861-99 is showing a definite pattern of c.d.s. types for the various post offices. In many cases two c.d.s. types have already been found, and it can be forecast that many post offices will be found to have used two or even three different types of c.d.s. during this period. It is also now possible, in many cases, to assess when the names of the post offices on date stamps, were changed—such as in the case of Broadmarsh and Lower Broadmarsh, but more study is necessary before an accurate disclosure of relative dates can be made.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Because of business pressure, Miss Joyce Allen has resigned from the Secretaryship of the club. At the March meeting Mr Derek Clarke, of Sylvannia, was appointed to fill the vacancy.

The display of the evening was in the care of our Melbourne guest, Mrs Marjorie Gates, who brought some of her collection of stamps and postal history of the Channel Islands.

We noticed a cover dated 1701 with the St Malo, France, cancellation. This date was 93 years prior to the establishment of a post office on Guernsey.

The scroll type cancellations of Jersey and Guernsey used during the early 1800's were represented on several covers.

Weymouth, England, ship letters dated 1814 and 1815 and addressed to the Channel Islands were

desirable items in the postal history section.

The use of Great Britain numeral cancellations on the Channel Islands from 1844 was illustrated by numbers 324 for Guernsey and 409 for Jersey. A Boite Mobile letter dated 1863 and air mail covers, including the first official flight in 1937 completed the postal history section.

The occupation issues of World War II, including the Guernsey bisects and a cover with an imperforate strip of 3 x 1d. Guernsey—being one of four recorded—were the outstanding pieces of the portion of the collection devoted to stamps.

The club indicated its appreciation and gratitude to Mrs Gates for travelling to Sydney to show such an interesting collection from a very small corner of the Eastern Hemisphere.



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Convenor's address: 30 Warrane Road, East Roseville, N.S.W. 2069

OCEAN ISLAND

First Air Mail

An interesting cover was sold at Harmer's Auction in July 1967. It was one of the 50 air mail covers carried by Catalina flying boat from Ocean Island to New Zealand on 2 June 1948.

There was a strike by natives on this phosphate island, and the Resident Commissioner, Mr H. E. Maude, was flown in to settle the dispute. The following is an extract from a letter dated 19 October 1950, written by a resident of Ocean Island giving details of this rare flight: "I am enclosing a cover which is of interest as it was sent by the first and only air mail from Ocean Island. There were about 50 covers only, and a Catalina arrived here with Mr Maude at the time of the native strike. It took off immediately only waiting for the mail to be put aboard."

Permission was granted for mail to be carried on the return flight, hence the 50 letters. Covers were franked with the current 1s (Air Mail postage) stamp, and cancelled with the datestamp "POST OFFICE OCEAN ISLAND / 2 JU 48". Each cover was inscribed by typewriter "First AIR MAIL from OCEAN ISLAND", and above typewritten "Postmaster" appear the Postmaster's initials. Over this inscription was struck an additional impression of the datestamp.

PAPUA

1/- With Inverted Air Mail Overprint

Students of Pacific philately are greatly indebted to *The Australian Stamp Monthly* for the recent publication in serial form, of *The Stamps of Papua*, one of the major works of Mr Alec A. Rosenblum.

Mr Rosenblum mentions the 1s with aeroplane overprint in carmine red, inverted, of which 40 copies exist. We have been shown a copy of this stamp, which is impressed with the authentication markings on the reverse of Stanley Gibbons Inc., New York, Sanabria and Frank Godden. In the *Philatelic Magazine* of 11 March 1932, the late H. R. Harmer told the story of its discovery. It is in the form of a letter, and after a lapse of 36 years the story is worth recalling:

Sir,—On page 98 of your 29 January issue, "Philatelia" refers to the 1/- Papua Air Mail with inverted overprint. This is the 1/- on the Harrison printing with the red aeroplane overprint, and actually only one sheet of forty has been discovered.

"Philatelia", because of a letter from the Postmaster, warns collectors against this stamp, but you can take it from me that there is absolutely no doubt as to the authenticity of it. I have seen the whole of the correspondence dealing with it, and I have in my possession a photograph of the complete sheet before it was broken up.

The circumstances were roughly that a certain American gentleman, a speculator I gather, on hearing that these Papuas were coming out with air mail overprints, sent over a few

pounds to the Postmaster with instructions to forward him certain quantities, and I have seen the letter of dispatch from the Postmaster at Port Moresby.

By the time the stamps arrived in New York the American referred to had unfortunately died, and this selection of stamps was taken over by one of the banks or trust companies who were acting as his executors. In due course, when they came up for inspection, whoever attended to the matter had some idea of stamps, and was astonished to find this complete sheet with the overprint inverted, the other sheets naturally being normal.

They were realised privately, and the sheet sold intact to a New York dealer, and gradually broken up, most of them being sold as single copies at round about \$300 a stamp. The bottom block of ten, two rows of five with the margin bearing the imprint, is in a well-known American collection, and most of the others have been absorbed in the States. A few copies only were marketed here, and it will probably be rather disturbing to the holders to hear their property is written down as waste paper. It seems to me, therefore, necessary to place on record the real facts.

6 Old Bond St., W.1

H. R. HARMER

"Philatelia" did not write down these stamps as waste paper. He quoted a letter from the Postmaster at Port Moresby, dated 6 November 1931, stating: "The 1/- air mail stamp inverted can only be looked on with suspicion. Exhaustive enquiries have shown none issued here", and "Philatelia" put the question: "Is it another case of printer's waste leaking out?" We are very glad to have the question answered so authoritatively by Mr Harmer, whose letter sets all doubts at rest.—Editor, "P.M."

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

Irrelevant Designs

We are of the opinion that the British Solomon Islands Stamp Design Committee were not fully aware of the importance of commemorating the fourth centenary of Mendaña's historic voyage in the manner it deserves.

The voyage ranks with that of Columbus's crossing of the Atlantic in 1492, and the story of Mendaña's voyage of discovery might have been told on the four stamps, instead of being merely mentioned on one (moreover Mendaña arrived off Point Cruz in two ships, not in one as depicted). The subject matter of the other three stamps refers to events during the quatercentenary, and are irrelevant. The designs have nothing to do with Mendaña and his historic voyage, and might have proved useful as commemoratives at a later date. They are: 8c, Arrival of Missionaries, 35c, Allied Pacific Campaign, 1942, and \$1 Proclamation of the Protectorate. The separate commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Protectorate seems now out of the question in 1968.

It is felt that had the Committee been fully aware of the importance of worthily commemorating this rare anniversary, full emphasis would have been given to Mendaña and his "astonishing voyage."

The Stamp Design Committee responsible for the adoption of these designs, tripped over the essential tilde which is omitted over the second "n" of "Mendaña." This entirely alters the pronunciation of that word—it is "Men-dahn-ya", not "Mend-dahn-a." This is in no sense pedantic—the "n" with the tilde is an entirely separate letter in Spanish. A minor point it may be thought, but it is not so to anyone who reads or speaks Spanish.

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC PERIODICAL LITERATURE

By R. LLOYD-SMITH

(Continued from June 1967, page 50)

- (4) *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*. (August 1887-July 1894). Published monthly by Dawson A. Vindin & Co., 88 Elizabeth St., Sydney. 4-22 pages. 8½" x 5½". 2d per copy, 2/- per annum.

Mr Vindin's third and successful attempt to found a stamp journal was no doubt inspired by the formation of The Philatelic Society of Australia in June 1887 of which he was a committeeman, details of the society appearing on the first page of Number 1, August 1887.

This consisted of eight pages of which four pages were house advertising. Twelve numbers appeared in the first volume, all being of eight pages excepting Number 6, January 1888, New South Wales Centenary Year, which included in its 16 pages, an article on N.S.W. issues by Dr A. Houison. Monthly issues were regular to Number 10, May 1888, numbers 11 and 12 appearing in December 1888 and January 1889.

The Philatelic Society of Australia had been disbanded in mid-1888.

Numbers 13 to 24 constituted the second volume, 12 issues of four pages in 13 months, half being advertising matter and the volume with serially numbered pages, ended in February 1890.

The third volume had five regular issues of four pages to June 1890, which like the previous volume contained little of value.

The fourth volume commenced on 20 August 1890 with a coloured cover plus 16 pages, of which four pages had house advertising. The sub-title read "New Series. A Journal for Australian Stamp Collectors. Price 3d."

It was announced that the newly-formed Sydney Philatelic Club had appointed *V.P.M.*, as its official organ.

Twelve 16-page issues containing up to eight pages of advertising completed the volume in July 1891, and included photo plates of Messrs Fred Hagen and E. D. Van Weenen.

Volume Five, commencing in August 1891, stated the subscription as 2/- per annum. Number 3, November 1891, had 22 pages of reading matter, excluding advertisement pages from the serial numbering for the first time, incorporating *The Federal Australian Philatelist* (see under 6).

The journal was now greatly improved, and writers from *F.A.P.* contributed. Mr M. P. Castle provided a serial, "The Officials of South Australia", Mr D. H. Hill continued his serial on Victoria, Mr A. J. Derrick wrote on "Early Dates" of Victoria, and Mr A. F. Basset Hull wrote on "The Stamps of Queensland" and other aspects of Australian stamps, as did Mr E. D. Van Weenen.

The firm had previously moved to 11 Victoria Arcade in November 1889, and again to 74 Elizabeth Street in June 1892. Mr Basset Hull undertook most of the editorial work from November 1891, having moved from Hobart to Sydney, and 16-page issues continued regularly to the completion of the seventh volume in July 1894.

In the later numbers, Mr Vindin makes explanations about the New South Wales Laureate "remainders", and being involved in the scandal over them, resigned from the firm and returned to England. Mr Fred Hagen, who had been a sleeping partner, had perforce to take over the business and the journal.

With the alteration in the structure of the firm, *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* ceased publication and was succeeded in August 1894 by *The Australian Philatelist* (see under 9).

The first three volumes have little reference value, but the final four volumes are of reference value and are well known in philatelic libraries.

- (5) *Barry's Philatelic Monthly*. (November 1887-April 1888). Published monthly by Mr V. A. A. Barry, stamp dealer, Box 201, Melbourne. 4-8 pages. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". 2/- per annum.

The first number appeared on 1 November 1887, consisting of four pages, three pages being reading matter. The formation of the first Philatelic Society of Victoria in October 1887 is reported and no doubt led Mr Barry to produce his journal.

Six regular issues were made to April 1888, later issues being of eight pages. Both society and journal expired at this stage from lack of interest.

Ref.: J. H. Smyth, *Australian Journal of Philately*, Vol. 3, p. 77, 16 March 1903.

The only file known in Australia is in a private library in Melbourne, another being in the Earl of Crawford Library in London.

- (6) *The Federal Australian Philatelist*. (January 1890-October 1891). Published quarterly at Hobart by Mr A. F. Basset Hull. 16-26 pages and covers. 8" x 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". 1/- per copy. Vol. 2, 1/- per annum.

In the first number, January 1890, Mr Hull outlined his policy. It was to be a journal for philatelists, not stamp collectors, devoted to the Australian colonies and New Zealand. There would be no advertisements if sufficient support was forthcoming. The editor looked forward to federation and uniform postage.

The first volume, with four issues, ran to 104 serially numbered pages completed in October 1890, there being some advertisements outside the numbered pages in all but the first number.

In January 1891, with the second volume the price was reduced to 1/- per annum and more advertisements were accepted, the text remaining at 26 pages, except the final number, October 1891, which had 16 pages, and the volume 94 pages.

The *Federal Australian Philatelist* was a collector's journal, decades ahead of its time. In its short life it published important articles by Mr D. H. Hill on "Victorian Postal Stationery", and the commencement of a long serial on the stamps of Victoria (continued later in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*). Mr Hull

wrote on Tasmania, Mr M. P. Castle on "The Double-Lined Numeral Watermarks of N.S.W.", and Dr A. Houison wrote on his researches into the N.S.W. Postal Archives.

In the final number, Mr Hull said that he reluctantly ceased publication as he did not have the necessary time, but there is no doubt that he found the publication expensive and that there was little support at the time for a journal of this nature.

The *F.A.P.* was incorporated with *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* (see under 4) in November 1891, leading to a considerable improvement in the latter.

Mr Basset Hull's *F.A.P.* remains a valuable reference source, and is well known to Australian collectors.

- (7) *The Australian Stamp News*. (July 1893-December 1898). Published monthly at Gungalda, Queensland, by Mr J. E. Newell Bull, of Brisbane, stamp dealer. 4-12 pages of varying format, 11½" x 8" to 8½" x 5½". 1/6 per annum.

The first number appeared in July 1893, and regular 4-8 page issues, mostly advertising, completed the first volume of 12 issues in June 1894.

The first number of the second volume appeared in July 1894 with 12 smaller pages of which six were reading matter. After number 2 on 12 August 1894 publication lapsed until April 1898. These two numbers had coloured wrappers. In the meantime, Mr Newell Bull seems to have moved to Gympie, 106 miles north of Brisbane, and was vice-president of the newly-formed Philatelic Society of Gympie in June 1895.

The renewed publication, in April 1898, was labelled "New Series" No. 1, published from Kilkivan Junction (Gympie), in quarto size, with eight pages. Eight issues appeared to December 1898, making 22 numbers in all.

An announcement in *The Australian Philatelist*, Vol. 5, page 61, January 1899, states, "The publishers have acquired the only other philatelic paper published in the colonies, the *Australian Stamp News* conducted by Mr Newell Bull of Queensland."

Nothing of permanent value was published, Mr Bull's desire being to establish a Federal Philatelic Association. No complete files appear to be held in Australian libraries, but a complete file is in the Earl of Crawford Library, and a partial file in The Public Library of Victoria.

It was not until March 1922 that any further Queensland periodical was attempted.

The Australian Stamp News Quarterly.

A prospectus for a journal to be published in December 1894 was issued by Mr Newell Bull late in 1894, but no issue followed. (Crawford.)

(To be continued)

REVIEWS

The H. R. Harmer Organisation's Forty-Second Annual Resume for the Season, 1966-67. 36 pp., 7 x 9½ in. Published by H. R. Harmer Ltd, 41 New Bond Street, London W.1.

The H.R.H. Organisation reports princely results—record sales in London, New York, and Sydney last season with a grand total of £1,742,365 stg. (London £749,217, New York \$2,112,802, Sydney \$73,800). The Australian result is almost \$7000 dollars above the previous year.

Top prices were all in New York: Hawaii, 2c Missionary, Type 1, used, ex-Ferrary, \$30,000, and H.I. and U.S. 13c, Type 1, on cover, \$21,000; Finland 1856, small pearls, 10-cent block of six, three terebeche, unused, \$17,000 and 5 k., similar block of four, with part gum, \$13,000; United States 4c Columbus, error of colour, deep blue, mint strip of four, with imprint and plate number, \$12,500.

Top prices in London were for covers, £3500 for a Swedish cover bearing a vertical pair of the 24s 1855, 4s, grey blue, 6s grey, and 8s orange; £3000 for a Newfoundland Transatlantic manuscript overprint on cover, and £3250 for a similar item by private treaty a month later. A newly discovered Bermuda Postmaster (Hamilton, red on greyish blue laid paper), brought £2000.

Items of particular Australian interest were £625 for a used block of 1d Sydney View Plate I, reddish rose on soft yellowish, £370 for a strip of the 2d ultramarine, Plate III, with cancellation "35" and £330 for a 1d, Plate I, pale red on greyish and 3d yellow-green on soft yellowish, strip of three, two "no whip" variety, on large part letter.

A Ross Smith cover, addressed to the airman's mother, and bearing a stamp of each country landed in, with the vignette, all cancelled with the special postmark, sold for \$1150. A vignette brought \$1000.

Identify Your Stamps, by Ervin J. Felix. 256 pp. 5 x 7 in. Published by Whitman Publishing Co, Racine, Wisconsin, U.S.A.

The Whitman concern is going into the philatelic publishing business in earnest, fol-

lowing its link with Gibbons. This is evidenced by the attractive production authored by the editor of the new *Gibbons-Whitman Stamp Monthly*.

Identify Your Stamps centres on nearly 120 pages of stamp illustrations, with details of their country of origin, use or political status. (A Hawaiian Numeral is described as a Missionary.)

But beyond this there is a wealth of information and interest for a range of collectors, from beginners to fairly advanced specialists. The well-known British Colonial key plate illustrations from the catalogue lead on to illustrations of the various type of United States issues, the various types of Ukraine trident overprints, Japan's Peacock overprints on Burma, the framelines of the bicoloured stamps of Denmark and the Danish West Indies, and the distinctions between the stamps of Russia, Finland and Poland.

A 26-page glossary, a gazetteer and alphabets and numerals of two dozen languages, follow.

Lithographic and line-engraving processes are explained diagrammatically and a series of maps show the location of grouped states such as the countries of the Persian Gulf area, the native feudatory States of India and its Convention States

PRAGA 1968, Bulletin 1. 40 pp., 6½ x 9½ in. Published by the World Postage Stamp Exhibition, Prague.

The exhibition will be held from 22 June to 7 September under Federation Internationale Philatelique patronage.

The Bulletin contains a passage from a forthcoming book, *Czechoslovak Stamps*, dealing with the first issue and its designer.

Internationale Flugpostausstellung, Wien, 1968. Bulletin 1.

This International Airmail Exhibition (IFA Wien 1968) will be held in Vienna from 30 May to 4 June. A set of three stamps is being issued in connection with the exhibition, which is under the auspices of the Fédération Internationale des Sociétés Aérophilateliques, and which commemorates the 50th anniversary of the first Austrian airmail stamps.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- 1968
March
11 Library and Conversation
21 Stamp Production, Mr M. Brown, of the Note
Printing Branch
April
18 Library and Conversation
Papua, Mr R. J. Kelly
Members of A.S.D.A. as guests
May
13 Library and Conversation
16 Western Australia, Mr J. Gartner
Closing date for entries for annual competition
25 Auction
30 Queensland T.P.O.'s, Mr H. M. Campbell
June
10 Library and Conversation
20 Annual Competition
Closing date for nomination of office-bearers
July
8 Library and Conversation
18 Annual Meeting. Presidential Display, Mr H. L.
Chisholm.

Philately Abroad

Mr J. R. W. Purves provided another of his memorable addresses on Philately Abroad, following his recent nine months' visit to Europe, at the first February meeting.

He dealt with the types of collectors operating overseas, noting that the number of serious collectors in Britain had doubled in the past four or five years, with three times the number of serious collectors of Great Britain.

He covered philately in Britain, France, Holland, Italy, Greece and Scandinavia.

Mr Purves said Continental practices were creeping into British philately and the British quality of integrity was being exported.

There were also a large number of very rich men, whose only interest in stamps was monetary, or the acquisition of a gold medal.

The Royal Philately Society, London, was still the greatest in the world.

Mr Purves said experts were disappearing faster than philately could afford to lose them. Because of the activities of the rich collectors, few potential experts saw enough rarities to be expert. The R.P.S., London, had six or eight good men for its expert committee, but on the Continent, where expertising was done not by committees, but by the individual expert, the collection of knowledge, except in families like the Dienas, was in danger of disappearing.

Tasmanian Postal Stationery

The display of Tasmanian postal stationery by Mr O. G. Ingles at the January meeting included not only a complete showing of the scarce registered envelopes, but a chosen selection of the more uncommon items among the newspaper wrappers, the lettercards, the postcards and reply cards,

the envelopes and the privately embossed stationery.

In addition, Frank stamps and "Free" endorsements from the 1820's onwards illustrated the various means by which mail could be forwarded without the need to affix any adhesive stamp.

At least three of the items shown, including the 1912 registration envelope, had not been hitherto reported. They are believed to be unique. Other items of particular interest included the U.S. Fleet card mint and used, several used privately embossed envelopes with quadruple embossing, plate proofs, official (Treasury) registration envelopes, the stamp duty die embossed newspaper wrappers, and the private advertisement sheets of 1892. Various post office stationery such as "Returned Letter" envelopes and "officially sealed" affixures were also included.

Sudan

Mr E. J. Phillips, of Bendigo, a guest exhibitor, showed Sudan at the second February meeting.

The display opened with Egyptian stamps used in Sudan (1879 and 1884 issues), and Egyptian Interpostals, leading to Sudan's first issue, 1897, in which were shown the different types and settings in vertical mint strips of six, a reconstructed half sheet; varieties and forgeries.

Highlights of the Camel issues were the 1903 5 m. on 5 piastres overprint inverted, mint and used. The used copy had a Royal Philatelic Society, London, certificate.

Included in the Airmail issues were a die proof of 10 mill. 1931 issue; varieties of the 1935 issue showing the small fraction $\frac{1}{2}$, damaged 5 and missing Arabic letter "Wow".

Among the Departmental officials were the Perforated issues showing the normal, inverted, inverted and reversed perforations.

A sheet of O.S.G.S. had the square stops and the oval "O".

The Military official stamps included the variety Army 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ mm, official 13 $\frac{1}{2}$ mm, and the exclamation mark in lieu of first "I" of official. The three printings of these stamps were also shown as well as the Military Telegraphs series.

To finish, a number of First Flight covers, soldiers' letters, and town cancellations were passed round.

Maritime Mail

A letter of 1413, bearing a Gild Mark and a 1420 letter endorsed "By Ship", perhaps one of the earliest known thus inscribed, were shown by Mr D. N. Baker at the December meeting.

Mr Baker's subject was British Maritime Mail and the exhibits included a letter franked by Sir Robert Walpole, early foreign post office hand-stamps, a Ship Letter Advice Note, a selection of port markings including some rarities, and examples of various rates for various routes.

Of special Australian interest were a cover by the first voyage to Australia of the *Great Britain*, an Australia-Liverpool packet marking and an 1852 cover to Geelong franked with four 2d Blue.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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By J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L., R.D.P.

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