

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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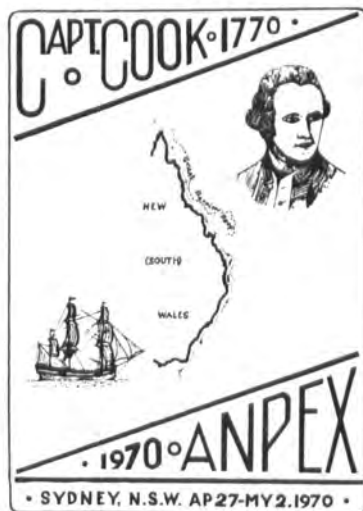
ANPEX 1970

CHANGE OF DATE AND PLACE

The Philatelic Exhibition Council of N.S.W. has changed the date of ANPEX 1970 to 27 April-2 May 1970. This will coincide with the public holiday on Wednesday, 29 April, and the Cook stamps release date.

The Exhibition will now be held in the Tower Building, Australia Square, where the 6th and 7th floors will be required to house all aspects of the events.

A special sub-committee at the present time is preparing plans to accommodate the competitive section, Court of Honour, Post Office and approximately 30 dealers' stalls. The 6th floor is one floor above the George Street level. The change



to Australia Square has met with the overwhelming approval of all interested parties.

Australia Square, set on one-and-one-half acres between George and Pitt Streets and close to Hunter Street, Sydney, has been described as 'A city within a city'. It has also been described as the most comprehensive, self-sufficient, commercial development in this country. It is within the normal view of a quarter of a million people. Between 5,000 and 6,000 people are located in the Square.

The Tower Building is 600 feet tall and comprises 50 floors. A 13-storey rectangular building together with the circular Tower Building occupy only 40 per cent of the site and stand in an open space. Nineteen lifts serve the Tower Building on a staggered level basis. Interesting facilities include the 50th floor Skywalk with a 60-mile radius view, the Summit revolving restaurant, a shopping area of thirty-six shops and two restaurants. Visitors to the Exhibition will thus be able to enjoy many added attractions.

The design of the Exhibition motif has been taken from Cook's chart of the East coast of Australia with a portrait of Cook and a picture of his ship *Endeavour* superimposed.

The Exhibition Council for ANPEX 1970 in Sydney is planning to hold an auction sale of stamps, postal history and anything else donated, during November. Mr Harry Jackson, of Sydney Stamp Auctions, has offered to conduct the sale. A catalogue will be prepared and issued.

But, first, stamps are needed to enable the auction to be held.

The Council appeals to all collectors to send stamps as soon as possible. Stamps should be sent to the honorary secretary, ANPEX 1970, P.O. Box E166, St James, N.S.W. 2001.

They may also be left with Mr Ron Brett, J. Shaiak & Co., Shop 8, Wesley Arcade, Pitt Street, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000; or A. C. Campe, 25 Royal Arcade, Sydney, N.S.W. 2000.

Donations of money are also required.

THE STATUS OF QUEEN VICTORIA N.Z. POSTAL FISCALS

By K. J. McNAUGHT, F.R.P.S.N.Z.

When we open a Stanley Gibbons catalogue we cannot help but notice the contrast between the list of Postal Fiscals in this catalogue and that recognised in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Volume I, and in N.Z. specialist catalogues which follow the lead of Volume I. Twenty-five years after Volume I appeared, however, Gibbons still list all the varieties as before. This difference in treatment reflects the real uncertainty about these stamps.

After Volume I appeared, the late Mr J. H. W. Wardrop contended that the editors were wrong in refusing recognition of all the first type "postal fiscals", the 1/- Law Courts and Lands and Deeds stamps and the 4d, 6d, 8d and 1/- and the values above £1 of the second type (1881 issue). This viewpoint was presented in the *New Zealand Stamp Collector* 1941, Vol. 22, pp. 30-31; 1942, 23, 13-15, 30-32; 1944, 24, 12-14; 1945, 25, 30-31. Mr S. R. Dacre vigorously defended the editorial view in Volume I in replies in 1943, 24, 12-13; 1944, 25, 14-16, and in his Congress paper at Christchurch in 1956, pp. 8-16 of the published proceedings. Clearly his views coincided closely with those of the senior editor, Mr R. J. G. Collins, except that he would delete the small 1d lilac stamp-duty issue also.

I propose first to summarise the arguments for and against the recognition of the postal fiscals listed in Gibbons but rejected by Mr Collins. First, what did Mr Collins say in Volume I? After quoting opposing views about these stamps, Mr Collins went on to state on p. 517:

(1) "The attitude of the Post and Telegraph Department was expressed in the Postmaster-General's Report of 1882. In recording the issue of the series of combined postage and revenue stamps, he reported that 'the two shilling and five shilling postage stamps have been replaced by duty stamps of similar values, and *the higher* values of duty stamps are now accepted in prepayment postage.'" The words 'the higher' were put in italics by Mr Collins.

(2) "Though some envelopes bearing low value fiscal stamps passed through the post, there were instances where similar envelopes, posted at chief offices, were taxed as though no stamps had been used."

(3) "In 1882 because of a temporary shortage of the 1d postage stamps, special authority was granted for the provisional use of the 1d duty stamp of 1878. If the Act of 1881 had validated the use of all values of fiscal stamps, the special authority in this instance would not have been necessary."

(4) "Because of the difference of opinion that exists regarding this subject, it has been considered advisable, in compiling the check-list that follows, to be guided here, by the Post and Telegraph Department. Accordingly, only those stamps are mentioned that are accepted as having been available and used for postal purposes."

Mr Collins also stated, "Not until the institution of the airmail services in 1930

had the maximum charge on any one postal packet, posted in New Zealand, been high enough to require the use of a £2 stamp." It was the Post Office itself which supplied Mr Wardrop with the information that there was no limit to the weight of articles sent by letterpost before 1921. Overseas parcel post was not introduced till 1888 and parcels for overseas could not be registered or insured till 1901, hence in 1882 valuable articles had to be sent by letter post. Before 1891, the letter rate was 6d (or 8d) per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz., hence a registered packet of gold weighing for example 10 lb. would require at least £8 postage in the 1880's. The rejection of the values above £1 or 25/- on the grounds given in Volume I would appear to be erroneous. It is significant that Mr Dacre had no answer to this criticism, yet the error has not been corrected in subsequent volumes.

The most important point which Mr Wardrop brought to light, through the co-operation of the Chief Postmaster, Nelson, and the Director-General of the P. and T. Department, was the information that on 22 April 1882, an instruction, which was contained in a general memorandum issued from the G.P.O. to all post offices in conjunction with the 1882 side-face issue of stamps, read as follows: (Note the words "all values").

"The N.Z. stamps of *all values*, except the impressed and beer duty stamps, can be used for any purpose, other than beer duty, to which stamps can be applied."

This significant instruction indicates that Mr Collins' interpretation of the attitude of the Post and Telegraph Department must be revised. It should be noted that this instruction came *after* the authorisation in February 1882 of the use of the 1d duty stamp of 1878.

When this instruction of April 1882 was reported by Mr Wardrop, Mr Dacre argued that it was *intended* to apply only to the series of stamps created after the passing of the Stamp Act 1875, Amendment Act, 1881, which provided for the creation of a single form of stamp which may be used either for postal or fiscal purposes. (Actually two forms of stamp were produced.) Mr Dacre contended that this authority applied only to the new postage and revenue stamps to 1/- value and the 1881 Duty design stamps of 2/- value upwards. In his opinion it did not validate the use of obsolete fiscal stamps or of Law Courts and Lands and Deeds stamps or of the 4d, 6d, 8d and 1/- duty stamps of the 1881 series.

Commenting on the April 1882 instruction, Mr Dacre made this statement: "It was beyond the powers of the Post Office to authorise the use of fiscals for postage without statutory authority and it was equally outside the jurisdiction of the Stamp Office. Further, the Post Office could not issue instructions as to the use of fiscal stamps, *whatever the circumstances might be* (my italics) as the Post office was only an agent for distribution of some values." Yet Mr Dacre states "It would be generally conceded that if the Postmaster-General or the Chief Postmaster or even a branch postmaster had been faced with an emergency and had issued an instruction to use (duty) stamps for postage or acted to meet the emergency the results would be interesting philatelic material and regarded as being *issued under valid authority* (my italics). These two comments on the instructions of February and of April appear to be mutually contradictory. If the February authorisation was valid then so was that of April. (Note that all Mr Dacre could quote of the 'Special authority' mentioned by Mr Collins was merely a notice in the newspapers informing the public that the 1d duty stamp

can now be used for postal purposes)." (See F. H. Jackson, *N.Z.S.C.* 1961, 41, p. 14.)

Mr Dacre is no doubt correct in his *legal* opinion that the Act of 1881 excluded fiscal and postage stamps in use prior to the issue of the one form of stamp authorised by the Act, but the Postmaster-General's instruction of 22 April 1882, following the appearance of the postage and revenue stamps on 1 April, rightly or wrongly gave approval for use of all values of New Zealand stamps for fiscal or postal purposes. The only restriction related to the use of impressed and beer duty stamps. It did not specifically exclude the use of obsolete fiscal stamps, or of Law Courts or Lands and Deeds stamps or of the low values of the 1881 series, but it did include an instruction to Post Offices to the effect that "Law Court stamps now held by postmasters should at once be returned . . . to be exchanged for stamps of the current issue". Commenting on this, the postmaster at Nelson stated, "Although Law Court stamps were withdrawn from sale, there was no restriction on the postage use of quantities held by members of the public. Prior to the issue of the instructions quoted above, the use of duty stamps for postage was specifically disallowed."

The instruction of 22 April 1882, therefore, could be interpreted and apparently was interpreted by Postmasters as authorising the use of *all* fiscal stamps other than beer duty and impressed stamps for postal purposes.

What evidence have we that use was made by Postmasters of this April authority?

There seems to be no disagreement that the values of the second type fiscals (1881 type) from 2/- upwards were used for postal purposes, though 1882 or even 1883 dated copies with undoubtedly genuine postal double (or duplex) cancellations or even coin cancellations are decidedly scarce. I have only the 2/- dated October 1882 and the only other value dated 1882 I recall seeing is the 2/6 stamp. By contrast I have seen many more examples of the 4d, 6d, and 1/- stamps of the 1881 series with unquestionably genuine postal cancellations dated 1882. Mr I. J. Mackersey some years ago had the following, ex the Wardrop collection: 6d Greymouth double cancellation ?19 MY 82; 1/- (? Sanson) 4 OC 82. Also two copies of the 4d with apparently postal obliterations or "killers"—Kaikoura "9" in bars (Vol. III, p. 64); I in vertical oval of bars (Invercargill double cancellation, Vol. III, p. 81, No. 13); 1/- "10" (Hamilton) in oval of bars (Vol. III, p. 47, No. 38). I have the following: 4d Invercargill double cancellation 30 JU 82; Wellington double cancellation 19 AU 82; Masterton double 31 AU 82; 6d Auckland double April 82; also 29 AP 82; New Plymouth double 15 SP 82; 1/- Auckland double JU or AU 82; Wellington double — 82; Christchurch double 27 JA 83. I have an 8d with genuine double cancellation of Lyttelton 17 JA — (year is missing). Also I have the 4d with 9 in circle of bars (Kaikoura), 6d horizontal oval of bars (figure not identifiable) and 1/-, T over 3 in oval of bars (Patea) (Vol. III, p. 55, No. 8). These obliterator markings seem to have been used exclusively for postal purposes, but they could well have been used much later than 1882. I have not included stamps with coin cancellation only (De Lacy type), nor with "squared circle" markings as the latter especially were extensively used for fiscal as well as for postal purposes.

These examples could well indicate that the Post Office itself made use of the

4d, 6d, 8d and 1/- duty stamps (1881 type) during the stamp shortages in 1882-83. The very diversity of places at which these were used together with the fact that I have yet to see a postally used copy dated after January 1883, seems to dispose of any suspicion that these might have been merely philatelic. In other words, 1882-83 dated copies of the 4d, 6d, 8d and 1/-, especially with double cancellations, are in my opinion examples of genuine provisional postal use and not just philatelic use. There is a significant note in Volume I, p. 112-13, that a return of stock held by postmasters in 1884 showed that some full faces and first side-faces were still in stock. A request was then made that postmasters should return to Head Office all unsold stocks of all stamps other than those of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d Newspaper type and of the 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d and 1/- values of the 1882 issue. Note there was no mention of the 3d or 8d values. It could well be that the 8d duty type filled the need for this value till 1884.

The 1/- Law Courts and Lands and Deeds stamps present some difficulty. I have a genuinely used pair of the former on a piece together with the 2d and 3d first side-face and the 1d second side-face, with double cancellation of 18 MY 82 at Blenheim, and I have seen other examples with genuine postmarks of 1882, but I do not recall seeing any postal examples of Lands and Deeds stamps. You will notice the specific instruction to recall Law Courts stamps. This suggests that Law Courts stamps were held by Postmasters but not Land and Deeds stamps. It is possible that some postmasters retained sufficient stocks of Law Courts stamps for use pending the receipt of replacement postage and revenue stamps. These could have been philatelic use, but the early dates are consistent with provisional Post Office use. I feel there is a case for recognising the 1/- Law Courts stamp, but not the 2/- listed by Stanley Gibbons. I am not satisfied about the Lands and Deeds stamps.

The scarcity of postally used copies dated 1882 should not be used as a blanket condemnation of these stamps, as I have found the greatest difficulty in locating second side-face queen postage and revenue stamps, other than the 1d and 2d values, with 1882 dates. I have yet to see either a 3d or 8d second side-face with postal markings before 1884, though the Postmaster General's report of 24 June 1882 mentions these values among the stamps issued in April 1882.

Now, what of the first type postal fiscals? Obviously none of the imperforate stamps were still on sale in 1882, consequently all such stamps with genuine postmarks must be exclusively philatelic. If a fiscal stamp, obsolete at the time of the authorisation for use of fiscal stamps for postal purposes is used and accepted for prepayment of postage, does this justify its inclusion in a catalogue or Handbook list? Mr Wardrop contended that it does, Mr Collins and Mr Dacre held the contrary view with which I fully agree. The Glossary of Philatelic Terms in Vol. IV does not help as it defines "Postal Fiscal" as "A stamp inscribed 'Stamp Duty' and available for postal use or used postally." This definition appears to support Mr Wardrop's view, and Mr Collins should have substituted "and" for "or" to make it comply with his ideas.

In my opinion a fiscal stamp must be available for purchase at the time of despatch of a postal article and actually used postally to qualify as a postal fiscal. On this basis all imperforate fiscals can be rejected outright. However, there is some doubt whether all the perforated first type fiscals were obsolete at the time

of the April 1882 authorisation. The 2d value on the large New Zealand paper was likely to be still in use and it is quite possible that stocks of values such as the 4/- and 6/- on this same paper were still on hand in many Post Offices. I know of no evidence that these were withdrawn when the new type stamps appeared in 1881 or later. Even some of the stamps printed on small New Zealand paper such as the 4d value, which apparently did not appear on large New Zealand paper (see check list *N.Z.S.C.* 1955, 36 (1), 11-12), could still have been in stock in April 1882, in spite of the appearance of the new type in 1881. This could explain the occurrence of postally used examples of all these values. I have a 4d with genuine Nelson double cancellation of 21 JU 82 and a 6/- Perf. 10 x 12½ on a parcel address label and cancelled with an Auckland coin date stamp of 27 MR 83. The Wardrop collection included a copy of the same 6/- stamp dated 8 DE 82.

The number of genuinely used examples of the first type stamps with 1882 and 1883 dates is so small, however, as to suggest that these might just be philatelic. The evidence, in my opinion, is not strong enough to justify their inclusion in catalogue or Handbook lists.

To sum up, I consider that the 4d, 6d, 8d and 1/- second type duty stamps and possibly the 1/- Law Courts stamps should be reinstated in the Handbook list of Postal Fiscals, and the 1d lilac small type removed from the list as exclusively philatelic.

The high value fiscals (30/- to £10) are problematical. In theory they should occur, but I have yet to see really convincing examples.

It is most unfortunate that this section of New Zealand stamps is a serious trap for the unwary. Numerous examples are found of cleaned fiscals fraudulently used for postage, or with forged cancellations, or cancelled by favour, or with fiscal cancellations indistinguishable from postal markings. There are also many examples of 'postmarks' different from those found on low value postage stamps of the period, and these could be forgeries.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES: MALAYAN CAMPAIGN, 1939-42

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

There is little to be found, in the files that I have seen, relating to the Malayan Campaign. I record here all that I have come across.

To most of the questions that I have asked about this campaign I have received the same answer, "All records would have been destroyed before Singapore Forces capitulated."

From the first file mentioning the Malaya Campaign here is an extract:

25 Nov 1941

A.D. Posts.
H.Q. AIF in Middle East.

Postmarkers—Supply of

Postmarkers with identifying numbers 17, 18, 19 and 20 are in use in 8 Div., and it is noted in a current list of Postmarkers in Middle East held here, that these numbers have been duplicated. A note associated with the list indicates that the offices concerned will later be closed and not re-opened; when this stage had been reached it is desired that the Postmarkers be destroyed and any replacement later undertaken continue to series of numbers from No. 55 inclusive.

To avoid further duplication, it is proposed that any additional postmarkers which may be required for Malaya Field Offices shall commence with No. 70, thus leaving a substantial margin for increase in Middle East requirements should local manufacture of such be necessary.

L.C. Lieut-Colonel
Director of Army Postal Services.

UNIT DADPS AIF
MALAYA
1.12.41

Director Army Posts
Victoria Barracks
Melbourne

S.M. 15188 21.11.41 Postmarkers and Sealing Press

Identifying numbers of Postmarkers and Sealing Press held in Malaya are:
8 Div Postal Unit 17, 18, 19 and 20 Sealing Press 2, 12, 17, 24.
Base Postal Unit 25, 26, 27, 28.

D.A.D.P.S. AIF MALAYA.
Harris Capt.

19 Dec 1941
Secret

H.Q. AIF
Middle East
Copy for HQ AIF in MALAYA.

S

(Extract from File M 16777)

Postmarkers in use in Malaya Theatre are numbers 17, 18, 19, 20 (8 Div) and 25, 26, 27, 28 (Base) and as previously advised, later addition will be numbered in series commencing at 70. (Vide SM 15296 of 25th Nov 1941).

The following information, in a File from the Middle East, ties in with the Malaya Campaign:

A.I.F. (ME)
H.Q.
9th Dec 1941

Secretary Department of the Army,
Melbourne S.C.1.
for Director of Army Postal Services.

Postmarkers 18 and 19 have been received, but No. 8, 17 and 20 were missing from the case of Postal Stores, when received from B.O.D. No. 18 has been altered to No. 12 and 19 will not be issued.

Field Post Offices operating in the Middle East as 18, 19 and 20 respectively have now been closed. Field Post Office No. 17 has never operated. Nos. 17 and 20 inclusive will not be re-opened.

G.O.C. AIF ME.

Regarding the "Meters" and "Franked" envelopes and "Letter Cards", I have been assured by all whom I have questioned that these were not issued to the troops, but that they paid for them. They seem to have been used when the post offices ran out of stamps.

Among the franked envelopes and letter card in my own collection are the following:

Frank, double circle, in red, with "POSTAGE PAID" at the top, between the two circles and "MALAYA" at the bottom of the circles, with 25 cents across the centre of the circles. Posted at the following AIF FIELD P.O. on the dates stated:

- P.O. No. 19 . . . 21 SE 41.
- P.O. No. 19 . . . 5 OC 41
- P.O. No. 20 . . . 23 OC 41



Frank as above but with "JOHORE" at bottom of circles

- P.O. No. 17 . . . 24 Oc 41
- P.O. No. 17 . . . -9 DE 41
- P.O. No. 18 . . . 10 OC 41
- P.O. No. 18 . . . 23 OC 41
- P.O. No. 18 . . . 18 NO 41
- P.O. No. 18 . . . -8 DE 41
- P.O. No. 19 . . . 23 SE 41
- P.O. No. 19 . . . 12 OC 41



- AUST BASE P.O. 26 . . . 23 NO 41
- AUST BASE P.O. 26 . . . 29 NO 41



Frank "Postage Paid—Johore" 12 cents on Air Mail Letter Card:

"A.I.F. FIELD P.O. No. 19 . . . 16 DE 41



"Meter" marks "MALAYA":

A red rectangle . . . 23½ mm. x 27½ mm. (inner frame) with a serrated edge: (25 cents).



U 19 . . . dated-postmark A.I.F. FIELD P.O. No. 17 . . . 27 AU 41

U 52 . . . postmark A.I.F. FIELD P.O. No. 18 . . . 27 JY 41

U 52 . . . postmark A.I.F. FIELD P.O. No. 17 . . . 18 JY 41

U 52 . . . postmark A.I.F. FIELD P.O. No. 18 . . . 30 JY 41

"Meter" marks "JOHORE":

A red rectangle . . . 23 mm. x 26 mm. (inner frame) with serrated edges: (25 cents).

These meters have no number and have been "cut out" and used as adhesives along with some "Johore" and "Straits Settlement" stamps. The postmark covering these cut-out meters and stamps is "AUST BASE P.O. 25" date "23 DE 41". The paper, with these meters and stamps, was on a parcel sent from Malaya to Australia.

I cannot find any references to either "Meters" or "Franks in the official files.



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

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

COOK ISLANDS

½d Torea (1st setting), 1893

Part V of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, on page 94, describes the first setting of the ½d Blue Torea value plate which was discarded after a trial printing because the value symbols did not fit the standards in the Torea plate. This setting, discovered by a member of the Circle, was recorded in *P.F.A.* in Sept. 1954.

The discovery consisted of three mint blocks each of nine stamps and a used block of 12. The blocks all show the characteristic flaw found on the Torea plate. In addition to the blocks a pair and a few mint and used singles were found in the same collection and search in other collections in Australia disclosed other copies. Only one cover has been recorded which has a copy of the first setting, together with other stamps. It is a registered philatelic cover, addressed to J. F. Hambly, Mosman, N.S.W., and dated 20 AU 20, a very late use of this stamp.

The circle was very interested to read of Mr Simmons' block of 15 with the "d" missing in the top right corner, on stamp 5 in row 2, also the item from the "Burge" collection which has the "2" and the "d" missing.

It will interest Mr Burge to learn that his variety appears in one of the blocks of nine referred to above and is row 1, No. 9.

NAURU

10/- Waterlow 1916 Albino

Recently catalogues have listed many of the 1916 overprinted issues of Nauru with double impressions—one albino. Hitherto the two Waterlow printings of the 5/- and 10/- stamps have not been recorded with this variety.

The fact that only 120 of the 5/- and 60 of the 10/- were issued, would seem to preclude the possibility of the variety occurring in such a small printing. However, the unexpected has happened in the 10/- Waterlow.

The stamp in which this variety is now recorded is the upper stamp of a vertical pair in the possession of a member of the circle, and the albino impression is seen to be 1 mm below the ordinary inked impression. The lower stamp of the pair is normal.

The absence of the albino impression in the lower stamp is accounted for by the fact that the pair comes from the middle of the sheet. The proof of this is in the variation of the vertical spacing of the overprint which normally is 27 mm but in this instance is 30.5 mm.

It is a well established fact that the type for the overprinting was set up in five rows of four and was applied twice to complete the overprinting of the sheets. The overprints are also 2 mm out of vertical alignment, further supporting the location of this most interesting pair of very rare stamps.

V.R. WINGED PARCELS STAMPS

By ALEX J. PETRIE

Prior to July 1897, parcels were carried on the Victorian Railways at either owner's risk or Commissioners' risk, the rate for the latter being about 33 per cent higher.

Stamps were used in prepayment of freight on parcels carried at owner's risk, and they were evidence of payment of freight. The sender was expected to sign the stamps as an indication that he accepted the conditions. However, the stamps were seldom signed.

This system was abolished in July 1897, mainly because of fraudulent use of the stamps, but, at a few of the larger stations, the use of stamps in prepayment of freight was retained, principally owing to firms preferring to purchase stamps in quantity rather than entrust carriers with cash. The stations concerned were Melbourne A Shed, Spencer Street, Flinders Street, Princes Bridge, Richmond, Prahran, Glenferrie, Westgarth, Bendigo, Ballarat and Geelong. Each of those stations had a special cancellation stamp showing the date as well as reference letters to indicate the station name.

By 1914 the problem of "unentered traffic" had grown and was causing concern, and in August of that year a committee was appointed to "deal with the questions of unentered traffic and the re-introduction of freight stamps for general use."

["Unentered traffic" was defined by the committee as "any consignment of goods or any parcel which arrives at its destination without a waybill to indicate whether the freight has been prepaid at the forwarding station or requires to be collected at the receiving station. In which case, if application be made for delivery before a waybill comes to hand, the freight is collected on the understanding that a refund will subsequently be allowed should the circumstances so warrant." The committee pointed out that unentered traffic was more or less prevalent on almost every railway system.]

After very full consideration of a variety of proposals, the committee came to the conclusion that "to again make use of stamps in prepayment of parcels freight in general is the most practicable solution." A stamped parcel would be its own proof of payment of freight.

Having decided this, the committee set out to detail the general use of stamps and the precautions to be adopted against their re-use.

Under the old arrangement, stamps could be used at any station, and this was probably one of the causes of fraud. To counter this, the committee recommended the issuing of stamps with the name of the forwarding station printed on them.

The design of stamp had been under discussion prior to appointment of the committee. Mr A. Valentine, the Victorian Railways Superintendent of Printing, had discussed with Mr T. Harrison, the Australian Note Printer, the main features of what a design should include. These were laid down as:

1. that cancellation marks stand out plainly;
2. that it should not be possible to remove or erase cancellation marks;
3. that stamps of different denomination should be quickly distinguished from one another;
4. that fraudulent reproduction be made difficult.

Mr Harrison had considered the current stamps as completely lacking in all these respects, and expressed his willingness to devise a colour scheme. This was agreed to, and a sketch of a proposed stamp was submitted by Mr Harrison.



Design submitted by Commonwealth Note Printer, but with "Melbourne" substituted for the letters "V.R."

The design of stamp submitted and approved at that time had space for a cancellation mark.

On 22 October 1915, the General Superintendent of Transportation wrote a memo to the Superintendent of Printing and asked for "samples of freight stamps printed on paper of distinctive colours for the following denominations, viz.: ½d, 1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d, 10d, 1/-, 1/6d, 2/- and 3/-."

He asked that the paper should be of light tints and as distinctive as possible for each denomination. The stamp was to be in accordance with the design



Colour proof. There were 14 different colours submitted.

submitted by the Commonwealth Printer "but in lieu of the letters 'V.R.', the name 'Melbourne' should be substituted." He asked also for an expression

of opinion as to the type of paper which should be used and any marking necessary on it for the prevention of fraud.

In his reply, the Superintendent of Printing pointed out that much expense would be involved in printing samples of stamps of various denominations, and suggested that using the Commonwealth Note Printer's design would be much cheaper. He also recommended printing in colour on white paper, as it would be more effective than attempting to use coloured papers, especially if the denomination were clearly shown. He considered that Commonwealth postage stamp paper, with a railway watermark, would be suitable.

The parcels stamps, then in limited use, were: ½d, 1d, 1½d, 2d, 3d, 5d, 6d, 8d, 9d, 10d, 1/- and 2/-.

The committee, in its report of 7 August 1915, recommended elimination of the 1½d value and the addition of 4d, 7d, 1/6 and 3/- stamps.



1d stamp, Die 1, as issued.



1d stamp, Die 2, as issued.

The method of cancelling the stamps was given a great deal of attention by the committee. Type of cancellation, colour of cancelling ink, and place of cancellation were discussed. The recommendation included the cancellation of stamps at both forwarding and receiving stations, and the use of black ink for cancelling.

The committee's report was addressed to the heads of the four branches concerned.

On 22 February 1916, the branch heads forwarded the report to the Commissioners with their own recommendations which, in general, were in similar terms, except that the branch heads recommended that coloured ink of light tints, and white paper with the watermark "Victorian Railways" be used until coloured papers became available; and that, "while white paper is used, the circle in the centre of the stamp be not coloured so that the denomination will show up on a white ground." They added another value, 11d, because of an alteration in freight rates.

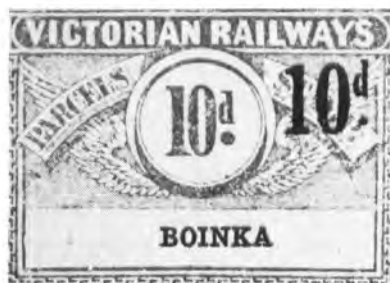
Attached to this submission were a number of appendices covering sample cancellation stamps, copies of the then current issue of Victorian parcels stamps, the current issue of N.S.W. railways parcels stamps, the proposed design submitted by the Commonwealth Note Printer, and colour proofs of this design.

On 25.5.17, the Commissioners approved the scheme and directed that every effort be made to bring it into force on 1.7.17. However the stamps could not be supplied by then, and the scheme eventually came into operation on 1.12.17.

The new stamps were of horizontal format, 2 in. x 1 7/16 in., and were rouletted. They were printed in six rows of five, on paper watermarked V over crown. Safety printing, with the words "State of Victoria" in an oval, was used, also. This safety printing is very faint on some issues.

There appear to have been two dies, differentiated by the lines around the value circle, and the type of figures. In Die II there are twin lines part way round the value circle.

The 1/2d stamp does not appear to have been printed—there was no 1/2d included in the parcels rates—and a 5/- value was added at some stage.



10d overprinted on 10d stamp. The reason for this is not known.

Values known to exist are:

Die I

- 1d purple
- 2d blue
- 3d green
- 11d red on buff paper

Die II

- 1d purple 1d red
- 2d blue 2d green 2d pale blue green
- 3d green 3d green on pink paper
- 4d purple on blue paper
- 5d orange 5d pink
- 6d olive green 6d red on pink paper
- 7d brown 7d purple brown
- 8d purple 8d red on yellow paper
- 9d pink 9d pink on purple paper
- 10d olive 10d blue green
- 10d overprinted on 10d blue green
- 11d red on buff paper
- 1/- yellow orange
- 1/6d grey 1/6d green 1/6d red on grey paper
- 2/- orange 2/- red
- 3/- grey purple 3/- black
- 5/- blue

TASMANIA: THE SOMERSET, RIVER CAM POST OFFICE

By P. B. EDWARDS

A second strike of the Somerset, River Cam private hand stamp (Campbell, Purves and Viney: *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*, p. 14), has been located on a cover addressed to Werribee, Victoria, and clearly tied to two strikes of the 110 obliterator. The stamp reads "Somerset" over "River Cam" with the date 4.6.74 in ink underneath. Its overall dimensions are 23 mm. by 7 mm. and the letters are 3 mm. high. The cover is backstamped with a Launceston (Fig. 12) outward ship letter stamp (p. 12) dated 6.6.74 and with a Melbourne c.d.s. dated 9.6.74.

The finding of this rarity prompted me to speculate on the reasons for the existence of this handstamp and to do some local sleuthing. The scattered pieces of information now set out have taken about two years to bring together.

The first lead was the finding of records which showed that for 1869 and some years following, the Postmaster at Somerset (River Cam) in the Port Sorell district was T. D. Wragg. Then, among the sparse records of the Postmaster-General's State Archives, was found a handwritten letter of Wragg's appointment, signed by S. T. Hardinge. Hardinge was postmaster at Hobart Town, having been appointed in 1832, and was also secretary of the Post Office Department. His salary, in 1859, was £450.

The letter is:

Hobart Town 2nd Nov 1864
General Post Office,

Sir,

I have to acquaint you that the Governor has been pleased to approve of the establishment of a Post Office at Sommerset, River Cam, and to your being appointed Postmaster on the understanding that you perform the duties gratuitously, to take effect from the 5th Instant.

I therefore forward by this afternoon Mail the Books to enable you to dis-charge the duties, and request that you will be good enough to take the enclosed oath of Office before a magistrate and return it to me at your earliest convenience.

I am,

Sir,

Your Obedt. Servant
S. T. Hardinge,
SECRETARY

Mr Thomas Dodd Wragge,
River Cam

P.S. Your obliterating stamp and seal of office have been ordered, and will be forwarded to you as soon as they are engraved, together with your apparatus. S.T.H.

In the margin of the letter are listed the materials forwarded:

"1 Book Outwards

1 Book Inwards

- 2 Registered receipt Books inward and outwards
- 1 Dead Letter Book
- 1 Missent and redirected Book
- 1 Money Letter Book
- 1 Book of Instructions
- 3 Bags
- Twine. Ink. Pen. Paper. Wax"

There is no mention in the letter of one of the most essential items for the operation of the Post Office—postage stamps.

The handbook, in discussing the five country post offices known to have used "private" handstamps asks, "Did the postmasters at these offices, being irked by the necessity of writing the Post Office name on each letter, overcome the difficulty by having a handstamp made privately for their use?"

The first part of the question can be answered by analysing *the number of letters in the names* of the 119 country offices up to and including obliterator 120 in the Second Allocation. No office had more than 16 letters in its name. Two had 16, and one (Somerset, River Cam) had a "private stamp", the other being Shipwright's Point. Of three offices with 15 letters, one (Macquarie Plains) had such a stamp. There were 48 offices in the 10 to 14 letter group and three (Campbell Town, New Norfolk and Port Arthur) had similar stamps. None of the 66 offices with nine letters or fewer in their names is known to have had a private name stamp.

Summarising:

16 letters in name:	50%	with private name stamp.
15 " " "	33 1/3%	" " " "
10-14 " " "	6 1/4%	" " " "
9 " " "	Nil	" " " "

Obviously, the longer the Post Office name, the more irksome the task of writing it, and the greater tendency there was to acquire a handstamp.

The second part of the question (on *the making* of the handstamps) can now almost certainly be answered—in the case of Somerset River Cam—as a result of information supplied by one of Wragg's grandsons.

Mr Thomas Dodd Wragg arrived at Somerset from England in 1861. He was an engraver by trade and he carried on this occupation part time to supplement a meagre income, mainly working for publishers in Launceston and Melbourne. My examination of scientific and other prints of his work leaves no doubt that making the Somerset River Cam handstamp would have been a simple task for him.

How much more dilatory the Post Office Department was in supplying a handstamp "with moveable dates" (*Handbook*, p. 60) than the almost 10 years between the opening of the Office and the date of this second strike may never be known. The gap has been narrowed to a maximum of a further 10 years by the sighting by the writer of the Somerset-Cam c.d.s. backstamped on a cover from England to Somerset. The English cancellation is dated 11.8.84, the Somerset-Cam backstamp 25.9.84, and an accompanying backstamp Launceston Type 4(a) with new code letter K, 23.9.84 (p. 94).

Just after this article was forwarded for perusal to Mr Purves, I learnt that another cover from this Office, with the "private stamp", was exhibited at the Royal Philatelic Society, London, late last year, by Mr Sebastian Earl, when displaying sections of his Tasmanian collection. Mr Earl has kindly provided information about the cover which is addressed to Launceston. The "private stamp" is dated 14.12.69, the 4d blue postage stamp is cancelled with the Launceston 52 obliterator and there is a Launceston (Fig. 32) backstamp dated "16 DE 1869".

PASSING OF PROMINENT PHILATELISTS.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has suffered the loss by death of three prominent members, Messrs W. Orchard, H. A. Clarkson, and G. G. Cole.

Mr Orchard, of Hobart, was one of the best-known figures in Australian and New Zealand philately. He was the oldest member of two Royal Philatelic Societies, and a life member of both. He was 96.

He joined the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand in 1889, soon after its foundation, and the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1903.

He was an early enlistment in the A.I.F. in World War I and was a member of the force sent to capture German New Guinea in 1914. He was in the army postal unit in Rabaul and was thus an early student of the G.R.I. issues.

Mr Orchard was a stamp dealer for well over half a century and for many years conducted a shop in Elizabeth Street, Hobart. He suffered a robbery there which was a severe shock to him. Nevertheless, he maintained the business until he was in his nineties.

Mr Clarkson joined the society in the 1920s and was a popular hard-working and much respected philatelist. His main interests lay in Australian Commonwealth, Egypt, Belgian Congo and Switzerland. He was a member of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society, which grew out of the Air Mail Society of Australia, of which he was a member in the 1930s, and of the Masonic Philatelic Society.

He had been in failing health for some years but attended a meeting of the Commonwealth Specialists' Society a few days before his death.

Mr Clarkson was also a lay preacher of the Methodist Church.

His genial presence at meetings is greatly missed.

Mr G. G. Cole was also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and the Commonwealth Specialists' Society. He was a prominent worker at ANPEX 1950. He was a good student of Commonwealth issues and the Silver Jubilee series. One of the items in his collection was a mint copy of the 1d King George V Eosine, which may have been unique.

POSTE RESTANTE DATESTAMPS OF PERTH

By A. G. RIGO DE RIGHI

One of the problems of the postal history of Western Australia (up to 1913) which has caused quite a lot of speculation is the circular datestamp inscribed "P.R." This small State-type c.d.s. was similar, except for the inscription, to others reading "S.M.R." (Ship Mail Room) and "L.C.R." (Letter Carriers Room) both used at the G.P.O. Perth.

It therefore seems reasonable to think that it also was used at the G.P.O. and that the "R" stood for Room, while it seemed plausible that "P.R." might be an abbreviation for "Poste Restante" as other datestamps so inscribed were known to have been used at Perth. However, it was a fact that the PR datestamps had been recorded on mail which was fully addressed and conversely had never been seen on a cover addressed "c/o Poste Restante, Perth."

I have recently had the opportunity of examining a batch of 38 covers and cards, all to various addresses in Perth between 1896 and 1909; of these 22 bear "PR" or "Poste Restante" datestamps. I have also records of several other examples, on and off cover, of these datestamps. On the basis of these, it is possible, I think, to state, with some degree of certainty, that "PR" does in fact stand for "Poste Restante" and to attempt to record the various datestamps and their usage.

The Datestamps

The G.P.O. Perth used at least four c.d.s. of this type up to 1913. These are:

1. "POSTE RESTANTE PERTH"—with code numbers, of which I have recorded Nos. 1, 7, 8, 10 (fig. 1).
2. "P.R./PERTH W.A." with code numbers from 1 to 9 (fig. 2).
- 2a. A sub-type of 2 with the same but slightly smaller lettering, but no code numbers.
3. "POSTE RESTANTE PERTH/WESTⁿ. AUSTRALIA", a larger Commonwealth type c.d.s. with time slugs but no code number (fig. 3).

I have recorded the following periods of use: Type 1, 1896 to 31.1.1901 (in black and blue); Type 2, 6.7.1901 to 1906 (in black); Type 2a, August 1905 (in



Fig. 1



Fig. 2



Fig. 3

black); Type 3, 17.8.1908 to 1918 (or later) in black. Type 1 has not yet been recorded as a cancellation; type 2 is known both as a transit or sorting mark and as a cancellation and type 3 as a cancellation or c.d.s. of origin only.

Use as Transit Markings

I have seen 25 covers or cards bearing strikes of types 1 and 2 used as sorting or transit markings. Of these, nine were of type 1, two being dated 1896 and 1897, the other seven bearing dates between 25 April 1900 and 31 January 1901. The other 16, bearing strikes of type 2, are dated between 6 July 1901 and 28 July 1903. Essentially these 25 covers and cards have one thing in common, they are all addressed to persons or firms in Perth. On some cards the address is in full, in a few it is just "Mr So and So, Perth." It is significant that though the c.d.s. of origin is mostly "L.C. Room, Perth", in two cases it is other towns in Western Australia (Freemantle and Kanowna) and in one case it is Melbourne. To judge by the markings, etc. on the 25 cards they were all passed as a final stage of handling at the G.P.O. Perth to the Poste Restante branch (abbreviated to P.R. in the c.d.s. used after mid-1901) where they were struck with the special c.d.s.

The routing through the G.P.O. branches may well have continued after 1903 but there are not further examples of the special c.d.s. (whether types 2 or 3) being used as a transit mark. Indeed the evidence of 11 covers or cards, all to Perth addresses, from 1.1.1904 to 1912, but not bearing this transit mark, suggest that the practice was abandoned.

Use as Cancellations

From 1902 to 1906 five examples of type 2 and one of 2a are recorded cancelling adhesive stamps—in every case postage dues. Two of these, in August and November 1902, are on covers, possibly self-addressed, to a "Senator Matheson, Perth." The covers were posted completely unfranked, probably deliberately, as I suspect the Senator must have been a philatelist. The covers were struck in the top right corner with an "LC Room" duplex datestamp and also with a "T" marking. The appropriate postage due stamp was affixed and cancelled by the type 2 "PR" c.d.s. of the same day. The presumption might be that the letters were taxed in the L.C. branch and payment collected by the Poste Restante branch. The four other examples of type 2 used as a cancellation are on loose stamps. Three are low value postage dues and so may well have paid deficient postage. In the case of the fourth, a 5s. postage due, this seems unlikely. Postage due issues are however used in Australia to collect various other charges, including poste restante charges (if any) and customs duties. The same reasoning applies to the many examples of postage due adhesives cancelled with the type 3 "Poste Restante, Perth" c.d.s.

Cancellation of Origin

I know of only one case in which a Poste Restante c.d.s. (in this case type 3) was used as the datestamp of origin. (The "Correspondence Branch, G.P.O. Adelaide" c.d.s. has been recorded similarly used.) It was not used as a cancellation as the "cover" in question is a printed OHMS card from the G.P.O. to a gentleman in Perth and being a Post Office message required no postage stamps (unlike all other Government Departments). The date is 30 August 1909. The printed

message deals with the addressee's request to have his letters re-addressed and says "Letters addressed to you care *R. Bechtel and Co.* would be placed in a private box at this office, and under the present system, the private boxes are cleared during the sorting of mail; the Department cannot therefore undertake to intercept your letters" (the italicised words are filled in by hand).

This suggests to me that mail for any private box holder in Perth was dealt with by the Poste Restante section, even if the contents of the boxes were subsequently delivered in the normal way by the Letter Carriers. This would account for postage and other due charges on such correspondence being collected by the Poste Restante and the use of the types 2, 2a and 3 c.d.s. to cancel the postage due adhesives but never ordinary adhesives. It would also account for the use of these datestamps as transit/sorting marks.

In Victoria, at about the same period, postage due stamps are frequently found with (sorting) cancellations reading "PBR" (Private Box Room). I think that the evidence, taken as a whole, shows that in Western Australia "P.R." stands for Poste Restante, that this branch of the G.P.O. Perth handled private box mail, and that the cancellers of the three types described were used as transit marks until late in 1903, and from mid-1902 also, when appropriate, as cancellers on Postage Dues to collect various charges. Type 3 was also used to date, and frank for transmission, official correspondence from the Poste Restante Branch.

TASMANIA: THE SPRINGS POST OFFICE

By Dr JOHN CLEMENTE

The existence of the Springs Post Office was mentioned briefly by Campbell, Purves and Viney in their handbook, in the section on Second Numeral Allocations, as likely to be the same as Cairns Bay Post Office. However, for some time the author has been aware of the existence of a postmark Springs dated 14.9.1926. The postmark is of the type 2a of Campbell, Purves & Viney: it is similar in many respects to that of Chester. This brought on the hypothesis that this postmark had possibly been introduced during the period 1900-1912. It is to be mentioned that at that time, Cairns Bay used a crown seal to cancel mail, this postmark being rather rare. However no c.d.s. for this period from Cairns Bay has been found.

Through a fortunate set of circumstances, I have been able to interview a descendant of one of the early postmistresses of the Springs.

The Springs post office was not in any way connected with Cairns Bay. It was situated in the foothills of Mt Wellington, about four miles from Fern Tree. It was in operation as early as 1899 and closed in 1942. The post office was eventually transferred to the Springs Hotel in the same area, and eight persons served as postmasters during the span of its life. The post office, in the early days, was open only in summer from December to March, and between 1923 and 1937 it was only a telephone office.

The volume of mail handled during the summer season of the 1906-1912 period, was about six letters daily, the mail bag being taken to and from Fern Tree post office on foot.

There are two postcards in existence, one bearing the full postmark Springs, 22.12.1912 on a One Penny overprint on 2d pictorial together with the Hobart postmark dated 21.12.1912. The second postcard is addressed to "The Springs, Mt Wellington, near Hobart"; it was posted at Oakland, California, on 2.12.1912 and bears the arrival postmark Springs 10.1.1913.

As this office opened in 1899, it is possible that it never had a numeral canceller allotted to it.

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC PERIODICAL LITERATURE

A SUMMARY 1879-1966

By R. LLOYD-SMITH

(Continued from March 1968, page 24)

- (8) *The Australian Stamp Collector & Philatelic Advertiser*. (October 1893-September 1896). Published monthly by Mr T. Webb, stamp dealer and printer since 1870, of 248 Brunswick St., Fitzroy, and later of 18 Eastern Arcade, Melbourne. 8 pages and coloured cover. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 5 $\frac{3}{4}$ ". 3d per copy, 4/- per annum.

Twenty-eight numbers were published, serially numbered throughout, 196 pages in all.

The first ten numbers appeared, eight pages per issue, October 1893 to July 1894, and numbers 11 and 12 appeared within the one cover, called August and September 1894 of eight and four pages. Numbers 13-14, January-February 1895, was a combined number of 8 pages, the delay being due to the illness of the publisher.

Number 15 appeared in March, and combined numbers 16-17, April-May 1895 had illustrations for the first time, but contained only three pages of reading matter in its eight pages. Numbers 18 and 19 appeared in November and December 1895 and numbers 20 and 21 of eight pages each, January and February 1896, were issued in the one cover. Number 22 was made in March, and combined numbers 23-24 in May 1896. Regular issues of eight pages each followed for the final four numbers June to September 1896. Advertising, which included such well-known firms as Mekeel of U.S.A., Stanley Gibbons, and William Ackland, fell away from five pages in number 17 to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ pages in the two final issues.

Articles were general in nature, with new issue notes giving reasonable detail of Victorian issues, and reports of this society, then the Philatelic Society of Victoria. From 1895, the journal claimed to be "the only philatelic advertising medium in Australasia", this being the time that Mr Newell Bull's *Australian Stamp News* in Queensland was dormant.

Publication ceased without warning in September 1896 when the journal appeared to be soundly established. However, at this stage the proprietor was arrested for dealing in cleaned stamps, and convicted. The story is told in *The Australian Philatelist*, Vol. 3, p. 68, January 1897 and p. 86, March 1897.

Some odd copies are in the Society library, and an almost complete file is in the Public Library of Victoria. A complete file is in the Earl of Crawford Library.

No further stamp journal is recorded in Victoria until October 1918.

- (9) *The Australian Philatelist*. (August 1894-October 1924). Published monthly by Mr Fred Hagen, stamp dealer, 74 Elizabeth St., Sydney. 12-24 pages and

coloured cover. 8½" x 5½", from Vol. 12 9¼" x 6". 3d per copy, 3/- per annum.

This journal was really a continuation of *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* (see under 4), Mr Vindin's association with the firm having ceased in October 1893.

Regular monthly publication commenced with a 20-page issue on 25 November 1894, in which Mr A. F. Basset Hull continues his serial on "The Stamps of Queensland", and Mr A. J. Derrick wrote on "The Diadems of N.S.W." Following numbers of 12 or 16 pages appeared regularly completing the first volume in July 1895, the final number outlining the career, with a photo, of Mr D. H. Hill who founded the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Volume 2 continued the page numbering from pages 167 to 318, generally with 12-page issues. Mr A. F. Basset Hull became editor from Vol. 2, No. 7, February 1896, having acted as co-editor for some time, contributing most of the unsigned material.

Serial page numbering in each volume commenced with Volume 3, August 1896, indexing of each volume being provided from the inception of the journal.

The Oceania Catalogue serially published listings of Australian States and Pacific Islands through the early volumes.

With the commencement of Volume 5, Mr Hagen relinquished control of the journal to Mr Oscar Schulze, of 113 Pitt St., Sydney, who planned to continue it as a collectors' journal, Mr Hull continuing as editor. Volume 5, Number 6, January 1899 announces the incorporation of *Australian Stamp News* (see under 7).

In August 1900 with the commencement of the seventh volume, the journal again became the house organ of Mr Hagen, "Timbrologist" (Mr E. D. E. Van Weenen) becoming editor. Mr Hull's departmental duties had taken him away from Sydney. A slight adjustment in publishing dates commenced with the first number published on 2 September 1901 instead of late August. This practice became the normal. The career of Mr Hull, with a photo-plate appeared in this volume.

In September 1905, the first number of volume 12 announced that Mr Hagen had floated his concern into a limited liability company, Fred Hagen Ltd., purchasing the business of J. H. Smyth & Co. (formerly Smyth & Nicolle) and incorporating the *Australian Journal of Philately* (see under 11, in *The Australian Philatelist*). The firm moved to 182 Pitt St., Sydney, Mr J. H. Smyth taking over the editorial function and incorporating some of the features of his former journal.

Mr George Blockey's important *Priced Catalogue of South Australia* ran serially through volumes 11 to 13.

Publication continued regularly with 12-page and the odd 16-page issue, mostly at this period publishing articles of a general nature. Volume 16, September 1909 to August 1910 ran a serial by Mr Smyth, "A History of Early Australasian Philatelic Societies".

At this stage, Mr J. H. Smyth having completed five years in partnership, withdrew to commence his own firm, J. H. Smyth Ltd. He was soon to commence his own journal, *The Australian Stamp Journal* (see under 14).

(To be continued)

REVIEWS

Stamps: A Collector's Guide, Bill Hornadge. 214 pp. 7" x 4". An Original Sun Book, published by Sun Books Pty Ltd, Melbourne. Price \$1.50 Aust.

Mr Hornadge, a stamp dealer and publisher of periodicals and other writings on stamps since 1936, the head of a large stamp enterprise in Dubbo, N.S.W., should be able to write on this theme. And he finds new things to say, though dozens before him have written books about it from England and America.

The first section deals with stamp designs that have stirred up troubles, and collecting restrictions in various places and times. It goes on to portray some collectors among the high and low, avoiding the oft told tales, but emphasising the value of stamp collecting as relaxation to heads of States—and housewives.

The second section gets down to the *do it yourself* level; how to start, collecting Australia, topicals, and the art of being complicated, which would describe most readers of our journal.

Good advice is given on early pitfalls, collecting fields and the usual things from albums to societies and exhibitions. The collector is warned against "the most stupid economy of all" in not buying and reading books.

Later sections include a short glossary, help with stamp identification, meanings of foreign language inscriptions and overprints, currencies of the world, and a listing of Australian commemoratives.

The author makes it clear that his choice would lie with one of the popular fields, but his comments are fair. He indicates the rewards and pleasures to be found by those who venture out into the different world of more advanced collecting where "the vast proportion of writing . . . has been performed as a labour of love by eminent philatelists . . .".

This is a good book attractively produced. Minor inaccuracies are noticed as is almost inevitable in a broad-brush picture, but these do not detract from the value of the book. It deserves a wide circulation.

R. L. L.-S.

Franklin's Guide to Rare Australian Stamps, by Mark Franklin. 72 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by A. H. and A. W. Reed Pty Ltd, 51 Whiting Street, Artarmon, N.S.W. 2064. Price \$1.50.

This is basically a modified priced catalogue of Commonwealth stamps with emphasis on rarities and their major varieties. The introduction shows that it is planned for the junior and newcomer to the collecting ranks with its explanations and advice.

Differing types and varieties are well illustrated. Tables give numbers issued of the commemoratives and the definitives since 1947 and watermarks of the various values of the Kangaroo and George V issues.

Papua-New Guinea and Norfolk Island are given selective treatment.

Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, 1968. First edition. Section 9, Iceland to Ivory Coast. Edited by Edward G. Fladung. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Higgins and Gage Inc., 23 No Santa Anita, Pasadena, California. Price \$5.00 (U.S.).

Editor and publishers are pushing ahead with this great work. Featured in this part are India and Italy, which has 32 pages. Included are 14 pages of addenda to previously-published sections.

Handbook of Irish Philately, by David Feldman. 176 pp. 5½ x 9 in. Published jointly by David Feldman Ltd., 22 Rathfarnham Park, Dublin 14, and The Dolman Press Ltd., 8 Herbert Place, Dublin 2. Price 50/-.

The revival of interest in Irish stamps during the 'sixties has now produced a comprehensive handbook, written by the managing director of David Feldman Ltd., which deals primarily in Irish stamps.

It is the product of Mr Feldman's interest, the quantity of material he has been able to inspect and study, and the co-operation of the most prominent Ireland specialists.

The work opens with the forerunners, dating back to the Fenian 'issue' of 1865-67 and moving through to the Irish Republican Army issue of 1922. It covers the stamp issues and goes on to essays, booklets, air-

mails (including flight covers and etiquettes), and postal stationery.

The overprints are thoroughly dealt with in a clear and systematic manner and throughout the work the illustrations are excellent both in selection and clarity.

Varieties are carefully tabulated and much of the material in the book is published for the first time.

"The great merit of this handbook is that it will encourage more collectors to expand their interests into the fascinating sidelines of philately and erinnophilia" says Mr F. E. Dixon, who is regarded as the highest

authority on the stamps of Ireland, in the foreword.

He adds a footnote "Erinnophilia has nothing to do with the Erin which is Ireland. It is a word of German origin coined in the last century to describe the hobby of collecting non-postal labels."

Perhaps that might represent the depth of study that has gone into the book and the clearness of its expression. Collectors of Ireland, present and future, will be grateful for Mr Feldman's book and he plans to supplement it with a list pricing all the items recorded.

EDITORIAL NOTES

R.P.S.V. Library

The following books have been bought for the library:

The Postage Stamps of Ireland, 1922-27 (4th Edn.). W. G. Meredith, London, 1927.

The Postage Stamps of Ascension Island, John Leonard (London, 1958).

La Poste Maritime Française, Tomes IV, V and VI, Raymond Salles (Paris, 1962-65).

Gifts have been:

File of *Papua and New Guinea Stamp News* and bound *New Guinea Auction Catalogues* by Mr E. G. Creed.

Three missing numbers *Collectors Club Philatelist* and 16 numbers *Australian Stamp Collector and Philatelic Advertiser*, Melbourne, 1893-96, Mr E. A. Williams, of Buffalo, N.Y., U.S.A.

Philatelic journals from Messrs A. W. Bunn, L. E. Kay and J. Landau.

N.Z. 2/- Pictorial, Laid Paper

The earliest known date for this stamp (S.G. 377) is now Wellington, 5 March 1903. This is five days earlier than that recorded in *P from A* for September 1963 (p. 66).

50 Years' Membership

Mr J. H. Dunn achieved 50 years' membership of the Royal Philatelic Society of

Victoria in August and was accorded sincere and hearty congratulations.

Presidential Honors

The president of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (Mr J. H. Powell) was awarded a silver medal for Samoa at the Czechoslovak Philatelic Exhibition, Praga 1968.

The president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (Mr G. T. White) received a bronze-silver medal for Victoria, 1850-1860.

R.P.S.V. honors Mr T. C. Lester

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has elected Mr T. C. Lester an honorary life member.

Mr Lester has been sales superintendent and a member of the Council for many years and it is recognition of these services that the Council has honored him.

Mr Lester's position as sales superintendent is a very arduous and responsible one and has involved him in considerable self-sacrifice.

The Society's constitution provides that there shall not be more than 10 honorary life members at the one time and Mr Lester fills the vacancy occasioned by the death of Mr A. T. Orchard.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1968:

October

- 14 Library and Conversation
- 17 Poland, Mr I. Gust
- 31 Australia, King George V One Penny, Mr G. Dallow

November

- 11 Library and Conversation
- 21 Italy, Mr H. W. Walker
- 23 Auction

December

- 9 Library and Conversation
- 19 Mexico, Mr A. G. Brown

1969:

January

- 16 Know Your Library, Mr R. L. Lloyd-Smith
- 30 Locals, Miss Julie Resch

February

- 10 Library and Conversation
- 20 Unusual Countries, Mr J. H. Dunn
- 22 Auction

Presidential Report

The president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (Mr H. L. Chisholm) in his report to the annual meeting in July said 21 new members had been elected during the year.

There were eight deaths and six resignations, the membership now standing at 222.

The chief feature of the year had been the 75th Anniversary Exhibition held at headquarters in October 1967. Nearly 400 sheets were on display and the quality had been very high.

"The impetus imparted by the 75th Anniversary Celebrations must be maintained and I ask all members to keep their eyes open for prospective members," he said.

A total of 114 items had been added to the library which now had 1803 titles in the main reference section and 874 volumes of bound journals.

Balloon and Pigeon Posts

Mr Chisholm's presidential display comprised Siege of Paris Balloon and Pigeon Posts and Great Barrier Pigeon Posts.

The French items included the red Paris SC cancellation, the cachet Republique Francaise I Aerostiers Durouf Nadar Dartois, which was impressed on letters handed in at the aeronauts' headquarters and carried by the pilot of the balloon, instead of being posted, and a selection of mail carried by the various balloons.

Among the Pigeon items were a flown pellicule, on which the messages were photographed for

transmission and a message by pigeon voyageur as delivered to the addressee.

All the Great Barrier Pigeonpost stamps were shown mint and there were several flown flimsies of both the rival concerns. Most of the cancellations were also shown on piece.

The Great Barrier Pigeongram Service stamps included the Pigeongram overprint and both forgeries of the first issue. The Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency was represented by plated sheets of both values of its triangulars, a forgery of the 1/- value, and the only known copy of the first cancellation without MS date.

The Service's subsidiary, the Marotiri Copper Mines Syndicate was represented by mint copies of both stamps, a mint sheet of six with full margins, of the 1/- red, and a copy on unflown flimsy.

Annual Competition

Mr E. G. Creed was awarded the Societies' silver medal and Miss Julie Resch the bronze medal in this year's competition in June.

There were only four entrants.

Mr Creed's entry was a study of the Canadian 5 cent Beaver, with varieties, imprints, and postmarks.

Miss Julie Resch's offering featured rare Austrian locals.

Mr H. W. Walker showed early French pre-stamp markings.

Mr H. A. Clarkson entered a selection of Egypt.

Postmarks of Melbourne

An outstanding display was given by Mr J. R. W. Purves at the first August meeting. His subject was "The Postmarks of Melbourne" and the exhibit was rich in material which most members did not know existed, or of which they did not realise the significance.

Particular interest was taken in tables dealing with the letter and figure combinations, the letter indicating the time the mail was sorted and the number the person who did the sorting. His findings were the result of going through 8000 examples.

Mr Purves traced the years of issue of the various numbers and worked out tables of rarity of both numbers and letters, which he circulated.

Other rarities include the first machine cancellation.

Channel Islands

A comprehensive collection of Channel Islands was presented by Mrs M. Gates at the second August meeting.

Specially desirable items included early covers with British numeral cancellations. The wartime issues and provisionals, including bisects and imprints, were another feature of the display.

Boite Mobile and other unusual covers attracted much attention.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Pacific Islands

Six members of the Pacific Islands' Study Circle presented the display at the June meeting of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club.

Under the leadership of the President, John H. Powell, F.R.P.S.L., who doubles as Convenor of the Study Circle, a most varied programme was presented.

Mr Powell opened with 10 sheets of the German Empire issues overprinted "SAMOA"—including forgeries of the overprints.

Mr R. A. Baldwin followed with Gilbert and Ellice Islands including covers of unusual interest connected with the four Post Offices on Tarawa Atoll from 1956-64. Col. F. V. Thompson's contribution covered the pigeograms of Great Barrier Island and the overprints for the Scott and Shackleton Antarctic Expeditions.

British Solomon Islands shown by Mr E. C. Pike included the unauthorised reprints and the Fournier forgeries. A combination cover from Tulagi to Germany, dated before the islands were admitted to the U.P.U., with the large canoe design paying postage to Sydney and N.S.W. stamps paying the postage through to its destination, attracted a great deal of attention.

Mr N. Allen showed a variety of covers ranging all over the Pacific area.

Mr N. Riddle brought the display to a close with a specialised collection of the cancels of Papua-New Guinea. These included Shows, Societies and Trade Fairs, Conferences, Regional Meetings, Seminars, the Goroka Museum, Kokada, and the Amelia Earhart Commemoration. Each cancel was well illustrated and described.

Annual Meeting

Officers elected at the annual meeting in July, were: President, Mr John H. Powell, F.R.P.S.L.;

senior vice-president, Mrs P. M. C. Rock, F.R.P.S.L.; vice-president, Mr V. Frankenstein, F.R.P.S.L.; hon. president, Col. F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L.; secretary, Mr D. Clarke; treasurer, Mr H. Rubin; exchange superintendent, Mr H. K. Nott; librarian, Mr E. Pike; committee, Mr V. Brown, Mr E. J. Garrard and Lt.-Cmdr. A. J. Savage.

After a great deal of discussion it was decided that the entrance fee to the Club should be dropped and the annual subscriptions amended to: City Members, \$3.50, Country Members, \$1.50.

A vote of thanks to the retiring committee members, Miss J. Allan, Miss D. Osborne and Mr M. L. Skinner was carried with acclamation.

The evening was rounded off by a display of Ireland, ranging from pre-stamp through to the Free State overprints, given by Mr Powell.

Inter-Society Quiz

The fourth annual meeting of this club with Philatelic Society of Australia and Philatelic Society of New South Wales in a Triangular Quiz, was held in August.

The meeting was unfortunately marred by poor attendance from all three clubs, a total of 41 members and visitors only being present. The Philatelic Society of New South Wales, defending the trophy, got away to a good start (aided by a series of questions on B.W.I.) and were never headed. They came out clear winners after an exciting contest.

Of this Club's representatives, two were substitutes for the original contestants who could not be with us, and dark murmurings were heard afterwards from the panel that it was a bit hard expecting three chaps who collect from Stanley Gibbons Part 3 to answer questions based on Part 1. It was agreed, however, that superior knowledge won the day.



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Samoa: 1914. S.G.104a on cover, locally used, with S.G.104. \$26.00

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Samoa: 1914. S.G. 133a. £2 mauve. Superb and fine mint. \$108.00

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