

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



Published Quarterly by
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

VOL. XXI. No. 4

DECEMBER 1969

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Philately *from* Australia

SUBSCRIPTIONS

(a) From *Australian* residents: \$2 per annum.

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Cumulative Index, Vols. I-X (1949-58):

Price, post free, 75c. U.K. 7/6 stg. U.S. \$1.00

ADVERTISING RATES

	Single Insertion	Full Year Four Insertions
Covers	\$30.00	\$26.00
Full	\$25.00	\$22.00
Half	\$15.00	\$13.00
Quarter	\$10.00	\$9.00

Advertisements from non-dollar areas are at the sterling equivalent of the Australian currency.

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Editor: H. L. CHISHOLM

Committee: MESSRS J. R. W. PURVES, F.R.P.S.L. (*Chairman*), D. N. BAKER,
H. M. CAMPBELL, F.R.P.S.L., J. GARTNER, F.R.P.S.L., A. J. PETRIE

Business Manager: D. N. BAKER, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria, 3001

Editorial Correspondence: Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria, 3001

*Official Organ of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

VOL. XXI, No. 4

DECEMBER 1969

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

Not even a power strike that halted both trains and trams prevented about 115 members and wives from attending a "non-stamp night" at the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's headquarters on the raining, blustery night that was 27 November.

Nor did the ban on electric lighting and heating foil those who were responsible for organising the occasion. Tilley lamps and portable heaters and a portable record player proved adequate and, in fact, the lighting added to the atmosphere of the evening.

Mr J. R. W. Purves gave a delightful talk on Viennese Operetta, 1867-1907, speaking with the same clarity, erudition, and enthusiasm the Society is accustomed to associate with his addresses on philatelic topics.

The talk was augmented by long-playing records of Von Suppe's *Boccaccio*, Karl Millocker's *Gasparone*, and Johann Strauss' *A Night in Venice*.

The meeting room was draped with an Austrian flag; Austrian literature was on the seats, and a colourful and enjoyable Viennese supper in the Council room completed the night.

Some of those present came from Geelong, Ballarat, and Traralgon, involving journeys of up to 100 miles in each direction.

The arrangements were in the hands of Misses Myra Farley and Joyce Buchanan.

The vice-president, Mr L. W. Buchanan, moved a vote of thanks to Mr Purves and Misses Farley and Buchanan, Miss Z. Rowley and Mr C. G. Skewes, which was carried by acclamation.

The evening was planned as a social get-together. Good fellowship has always

been a characteristic of the society and experience has shown that everybody benefits when wives can meet their husband's friends and their wives.

The occasion was thoroughly successful in every way.

ANPEX 1970

Closing day for entries for ANPEX 1970 has been altered to 15 January 1970, an extension of six weeks on the period during which entries will be received.

The exhibition will be held in the Wentworth Hotel, Sydney, from Monday 27 April to Friday 1 May 1970.

Prospectus, entry forms and other particulars may be obtained from the secretary (Mr R. H. Markham), Box E 166, Post Office, St James, NSW 2000.

Special interest attaches to the definition of Postal History adopted by the Philatelic Exhibition Council of New South Wales, the body sponsoring ANPEX 1970:

"Postal History is the study of the growth and development of the postal services of any country, territory or institution, and includes the usage of stamps (handstruck or adhesive), the purpose for which a stamp was used and how a particular postal article was carried."

All entries under the heading of Postal History will be judged on their merits. The following notes have been prepared for the guidance of entrants in this category:

Every article must be related chronologically to the remainder of the entry and carry in itself an explanation of why and how it was brought into service.

The following material may not be recognised as relevant to a postal history study:

- 1 Unused stamps or postal stationery except as an example of a proposed issue or a change in postage rates provided it is attached to the relevant document.
- 2 Material concerned with the design of postage stamps.
- 3 Thematic material.

The following material will be recognised as relevant to a postal history study:

- 1 Entire covers and used postal stationery.
- 2 Covers, complete envelopes or fronts.
- 3 Clearly used postage stamps including locals.
- 4 All maps, documents or copies of such documents relating to the posts, postal rates and routes.
- 5 Labels, Vignettes, cachets and postal markings.
- 6 Photographs relating to the state of the posts at any time, the means of transport of the posts and such postal facilities as post offices, pillar boxes, etc.

Vice-Regal Patronage

The Governor General (Sir Paul Hasluck) has granted Vice-Regal Patronage to ANPEX.

The Grand Jury will comprise the President (Col. F. V. Thompson), and Messrs Robson Lowe (London), Marcel C. Stanley (Wellington) and John Gartner (Melbourne).

Season Tickets for the Exhibition are now available at \$3, entitling the purchaser to a free Exhibition Catalogue and providing for application for reservations for the President's Reception and the Exhibition Dinner, prices for which are \$5 and \$10 respectively.

Applications for Season Tickets and reservations, should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary, Miss M. Hawkins, 33/18 Springfield Avenue, Potts Point, NSW 2011. All cheques should be made payable to the Philatelic Exhibition Council of New South Wales.

The proximity of the dates for ANPEX 1970 to Easter and the Royal Easter Show with the fact that the Queen will arrive in Sydney on 28 April, makes it certain that there will be an unusually large influx of visitors into Sydney from overseas, interstate, and the country districts of NSW. These facts make it a necessity that intending visitors to ANPEX 1970 make firm and early arrangements for their accommodation in Sydney.

Bookings can be arranged through the Social Committee for ANPEX, c/o. Mrs P. M. C. Rock, 129 Bower Street, Manly, NSW 2095; or preferably, Mr Halliday, Travel Department, Head Office, Bank of New South Wales, Sydney 2000.

Applications should give:

- (a) Dates of arrival and departure from Sydney.
- (b) Type of accommodation desired (*Hotel or Motel).
- (c) Some indication of the maximum distance from the centre of the city of the desired accommodation, or any indication of a favoured district.
- (d) Whether single or double accommodation is required.
- (e) Whether private facilities are required.

* A deposit is usually required to finalise the booking.

The Travel Department of 'The Wales' will also be pleased to arrange tours and sightseeing trips.

Qantas has been appointed official carrier to ANPEX 1970. Council therefore would be pleased if overseas exhibitors air freighted their entries to Sydney, from countries and places served by Qantas, through this airline.

ANPEX Council has been in negotiation with the Customs Authorities regarding the passage through Customs of all entries and materials for display at ANPEX. The Customs Authorities have said they foresaw no difficulties in the expeditious passage through Customs, both in and out of Australia, for this material. There are no Customs charges on the entries of ANPEX material into Australia.

Court of Honour exhibits promised include: The Royal Philatelic Society,

London, England; Mr Robson Lowe, England; Mr J. R. W. Purves, Melbourne, Victoria; Mr M. C. Stanley, Wellington, New Zealand; Mr John Marriott, Surrey, England; Mr J. D. Risdell, London, England, Mr P. Pearson, London, England; Mr Wallace W. Knox, Oakland, California, USA; Mr W. R. Wellstead, Waltham, England; Mr H. W. Fisher, London, England; and Courvoisier, Switzerland.

The Exhibition Council has decided to invite individuals or groups to donate medals. Medals are costed at \$3 each.

Suggested groupings are:

16 Medals (1 gold, 2 gold/silver, 6 silver and 7 bronze), \$48.

8 Medals (1 gold/silver, 3 silver and 4 bronze), \$24.

6 Medals (2 silver and 4 bronze), \$18.

4 Medals (4 bronze), \$12.

Individuals and societies desiring to assist in this way should write to the Secretary.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Tarapex Successes

Members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria had some happy successes at the Cook Bicentennial National Stamp Exhibition (Tarapex 1969) at New Plymouth, New Zealand, in October.

Thirteen of the twenty-one medals which came to Australia were awarded to members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. They included six silver-golds.

Mr J. H. Harrison, of Launceston, received two silver-golds, for Papua and for German and Occupation New Guinea. Mrs P. L. Turnbull, a silver-gold for Malta and a silver for Malta postal history; Mr A. W. Bunn, a silver-gold for Finland and bronze medals for U.S. Freemasons and Masonry on stamps; Mr H. L. Chisholm, a silver-gold and the American Air Mail Society Award for Historic Airmails; Mr R. Lloyd-Smith, a silver-gold for Western Australia.

Mr R. J. Kelly received a silver medal for Papua and a bronze for British Solomon Islands; and Mr J. P. C. Tresise, two bronze medals, for Tonga, the George I and II issues, and for West New Guinea, and two

certificates of merit, for Tonga, Queen Salote issues, and for Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Golden Wedding

Mr E. B. Doery, exchange superintendent of the Royal Philatelic Society for many years, and Mrs Doery, celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary in November. Mr Doery was the recipient of congratulations from the Council at its meeting soon after the occasion.

RPSV Booklet

A new edition of *What The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Offers* has been published. It has been attractively produced by The Hawthorn Press.

The booklet outlines the facilities the Society provides and details of the benefits of membership.

It is available from the secretary, Miss Helen Serjeant-White.

Members are invited to give copies to philatelists whom they think might well join them in "The Royal".

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by O. W. (BILL) EUSTACE

From the comments I have received, there is evidently considerable interest in the varieties on current issues being reported in this column even if they are only of a relatively minor nature. Unfortunately contributions from specialists in the earlier periods are still notable for their absence.

Australia—5 Cents ILO Commemorative

Pride of place this month goes to a fascinating observation from Messrs Bill Harman and J. P. Meara, of Brisbane, who have drawn my attention to some curious features of this issue.

On a large proportion of the stamps bounded by the third and eighth stamps in the third to eighth rows of each sheet, there are shaded areas outside the grey rectangle of the actual stamp design. To the naked eye these appear as light pencil marks, but under magnification they take the form of some sort of screen mesh and, in places, small white oval unscreened patches are visible.

The screened effect is clearly seen on Row 4, stamps 6 and 7; on Row 5, stamp 7 and on Row 6, stamp 6. The oval white patches can be discerned without a glass under "AB" of Labour on Row 4, stamp 6 and under the "R" of Labour and "OR" of Organisation on Row 4, stamp 7.

I have discussed this with a couple of printers but they have been unable to offer a satisfactory explanation as to why the screening shows most prominently in the central area of the sheet but is not visible in the corners. I have written to the Postmaster-General's Department but unfortunately there will not be time for their reply to arrive before this issue must go to press.

5 Cents Blue, Queen Definitive

When this stamp was first issued a few sheets were found with Plate Numbers 1 and 3; now, after a prolonged gap, I can report a full Plate 36 lower plate. The white patches (see June 1969 Notes) are present on the even numbered stamps of the bottom row, the right selvedge is perforated, and there is a weakness near c of 5c on Row 9, stamp 4.

In the September Notes reference was made to the discovery of mint stamps lacking Helecon. These early examples were on a paper which had received neither the Helecon application nor the coating of whitener, with the result that the stamps appear inert under the ultra-violet lamp. More recently I have recovered examples where the Helecon is still missing but the white topcoat is present giving

a quite different appearance under ultra-violet. In one case the first 8½ stamps in the row were without Helecon and the last 1½ stamps normal, there being a clear line where the Helecon started.

\$1 Pioneer Booklets

Shortly before the release of the Prime Minister \$1 booklets, a number of Pioneer \$1 booklets were found with plain back covers and advertising matter on only one side of each interleaf. It is surmised that this was an emergency Edition prepared in such a manner that it could be released in any State should supplies run short. It is noted that the last Victorian Pioneer booklets were Edition V69/1 and that the new Prime Minister series are Edition V69/3.

Australia 25 cents Christmas 1969

A couple of minor blemishes have been noted in the bottom righthand corner of Row 10, No. 10 of this stamp. There is a plate scratch near the figure 25 and a small flaw between the leaves nearby.

Cocos-Keeling Island 1 cent

An inexpensive little variety is to be found on Row 10, No. 5 in the form of a series of vertical purple scratches over most of the word "Keeling". This is easily visible without a glass.

Norfolk Island 5 cents Ship

On current stocks at the Russell Street Philatelic Sales Section the vignette seems inclined to sage green in place of the yellow olive of early supplies. Although probably only due to wandering of the shade during the course of the run, the difference is quite marked.

Norfolk Island \$1 Provisional on 10/-

I do not recall having seen a report of the broken top of 1 on the black \$1 overprint on this stamp. It is to be found on Row 1, No. 5 but only on that part of the printing with the narrow obliterating bar.

May I take this opportunity to wish my readers a Merry Christmas and a Philatelically satisfying New Year.



The Other Side of the Picture



By J. R. W. PURVES

QUEENSLAND

Numeral Cancellations

Mr Hugh Campbell has provided the writer with details of some new finds, contributed by Messrs Buchester (Brisbane), Rev. A. H. Voyce (Auckland) the main contributor, and our good friend Ed Williams from the US. Here they are:

- 13: WOLFRAM. *A reallocation*. Porter, p. 34. Previously a query, now confirmed. This P.O. obviously was opened long before 1910 (probably in 1902).
- ?42: BIRRALEE. *A reallocation*. Porter, p. 23. The number is not clear, but is a two-figure "ray" type.
- 155: GREENMOUNT. Porter, p. 18. Porter's comments on this office were not correct. It was moved to the site of EMU CREEK SIDING in 1879, *still* called GREENMOUNT and *still* using No. 155. It later used No. 291 as a *reallocation*. The name was changed to GREENMOUNT R.S. in 1901, but it continued to use 291.
- 158: HATTON VALE. A reallocation in a *new* bar-type. Porter, p. 34. I think that this P.O. was opened about 1902, like Wolfram.
- 171: TINANA. See Porter, p. 18.
- 324: MOORABOOL. *A reallocation*. Porter, p. 31.
- 435: FINCH HATTON. *A reallocation*. Porter, p. 32.
- 451: AYTON. Porter, p. 26. Previously a probable.
- ?476: CHRISTMAS CREEK. Porter, p. 27. The last figure is not clear, but there are not many of the 470-479 group that are not "tied". This is certainly not 471, and it looks more like 476 than 478.
- 571: FRIEZLAND. Porter, p. 30. I think this office was probably opened in 1899, not 1900.
- 635: WOOROOLIN. Porter, p. 32.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Later use of "307" cancellation

Mr Glen Clifford of Penola, South Australia, tells us that he possesses two newspaper wrappers (1899, WO6, Robson Lowe, Vol. IV, p. 158), each with this cancellation. He believes that this means that the canceller was, at that time used to cancel *bulk postage*.

The writer has also found a "piece", ex the Tattersall's correspondence to Tasmania, which has this cancellation (307) superimposed over (i.e., "killing") a faint c.d.s. The date is undecipherable but, judging from its former "mates", it emanates from the 1899-1901 period. The stamp used was the normal 2d violet.

What does seem certain is that this number was held at the G.P.O. Adelaide and used from time to time, for *more than one* purpose.

TASMANIA

Due to Mr Ingles having been abroad and to the writer having been laid up, further delay has been encountered with the preparation of the "Supplement" to the Handbook. However, the work is proceeding again, though completion is still some time away.

What readers must understand is the difficulty of sorting out and checking suggested alterations and additions received from numerous collectors. This involves, as a preliminary, finding out what has already been reported by someone else, or has been discovered (and already noted) by the two editors. The work, interesting though it is, is therefore apt to become a little tedious at times.

That is not to say we are ungrateful for all the help we have received. We have been lucky indeed in the response that has been made and we merely ask our co-enthusiasts to forbear with us. It might not, of course, be so bad if we did not both have other things to do.

VICTORIA

"Half-Lengths"

(a) *Progress with the first 1d and the first two printings of the 2d*

The writer has, as the result of a chance acquisition, now finally isolated *all* the thirty items printed from the stone of 6 x 5 impressions used to print our first 1d. This has taken him some twenty-five years!

The *plating* itself, however, has not yet been completed, only some nineteen out of the thirty items having been accurately positioned to date. Should any reader possess multiples or off-centre or marginal singles of this stamp (S.G. 1, 1a, 1b) which the writer has not seen a loan would be greatly appreciated.

In the 2d—in Stone "A"—the writer has now seen two or more copies of twenty-four different items and one copy each of another five different items.

In Stone "B" (which is slightly less rare) he has seen two or more copies of twenty-eight different items and one copy only of a twenty-ninth item.

This means, for the 2d "Fine Border and Background", that fifty-eight of a total of sixty items have been isolated and identified. This position, likewise, has only been reached after the same twenty-five years of keeping one's eyes open.

Once again, the writer would also appreciate seeing *any* copies of these 2d stamps that he has not been able to record to date.

(b) *1d Campbell and Fergusson, Stone 2. A new "abnormal" combination (4, 1).*

On p. 159 of my "Half-Length" book (under Types 1-(a), 2-(a), and 4-(a)) I described four very faulty items (all showing extensive scratching, etc.), which undoubtedly comprised a strip of four (Types 1-4) from this stone.

I had not then (nor have I since) seen any similar defects on Types 5 or 6

although I have seen at least four copies (over many years) of each of the four varieties described as above.

I have now acquired a pair (3a, 4a) with a wide *right* margin showing a substantial vertical section of the stamp on the right of this pair. Examination of this section shows, with certainty, that

- (i) It *cannot* be Type 5 since the alignment is wholly different from the 4, 5 alignment found inside the group of twenty-four types (6 x 4);
- (ii) It *is* Type 1, because it clearly shows, on the top left side, one of the constant abnormalities associated (and only associated) with Type 1.

I think that we are justified on this evidence in saying that this combination 4, 1—now to be looked for in a pair (!)—represented, so far as the Type 1 (and probably also the Type 2) were concerned a “*substitution*”, due to the adjoining transfers of Type 5 (and probably Type 6) having been so badly damaged by the scratching that they were erased from the printing stone and new transfers laid down in their place.

Two new T.P.O. Cancellations found

(a) Type 1, Up Train, 4

When my monograph on the “Travelling Post offices” was published in 1955, I wrote (see p. 29, top): “It is therefore *certain* that the ‘large oval’ type of 4 will be found. . . .”

It *has* been found. I have been shown a 6d “Laureate” blue (period 1866-67) with the cancellation by a gentleman whose name escapes me. This omission will be remedied in the March number.

(b) Large “T.P.O.” over 19 in bars

This type of cancellation was first found for No. 18 (see Monograph at p. 35) and later for No. 17.

Dr Jones has now shown me a similar type of handstamp with the number “19”, on a 1d I consider to be of 1890-91 vintage.

The “Double-Circle” canceller used at the Melbourne P.O. made its appearance, coincidentally with the new century, on 1 January 1900

While the writer has played some part in what follows, the main credit for this discovery goes to an English collector of Victoria—Mr Keith Harrison of East Molesey, Surrey—who really woke the writer up to something he *should* have seen much earlier in the proceedings.

Mr Harrison sent me two stamps (one a ½d green and the other a 1d rosine) with this cancellation, each clearly dated 1.1.00.

It suddenly occurred to me that I too had located two such dates some time back but, with the idea of that New Years’ Day having been a *complete* holiday, had somehow imagined the datestamps might be *errors*, and had given no further thought to the matter. But at least I had retained them and I *was* able to locate them.

Both Mr Harrison’s stamps had the time “AM” over 12 1, over the date in the bottom line. One of my two stamps had “AM” over “12” (centred) and the other the same time in the same form as Mr Harrison’s. The cancellations involved here (i.e., the distinguishing number at mid-base) were 5, 7, 9.

Two points then stood out:

- (i) The same time period AM, 12 to 1 was involved throughout;
- (ii) The two times met (12 and 1) have been seen by me on *no* other stamps of the period.

These two facts made it quite certain that *some* postal service was provided on that day and that (unless evidence to the contrary turned up—which seems unlikely) the mail posted for transmission at the G.P.O. on that day was all cancelled between the hours of 12 a.m. and 1 p.m.

I then set out to look at contemporary files of the *Government Gazette* and the *Argus* newspaper respectively and found the following:

In the Victorian *Government Gazette* of 22 December 1899—notifying the observance of certain Public Holidays (including New Year's Day 1900)—the concluding paragraph read as follows:

In the Departments of the Customs, Post Office and Telegraph and Railways arrangements will, however, be made to obviate any public inconvenience which the total suspension of business might cause.

In the *Argus* of Friday, 29 December 1899—under the heading "General News"—the first paragraph read as follows:

On Monday next (New Year's Day) all Post Offices will be closed to the public at 10 a.m. The first delivery only by letter carrier will be effected in Melbourne and suburbs but all Country Mails will be received and will be despatched. No money-order business will be transacted. Telegraph Offices will be open from half past 8 till 10 a.m. and from 6 to 7 p.m. Only the first mails in the morning will be sent from the General Post Office to the Suburban Offices, and from the suburban offices to the General Post Office. Receiving pillars in the suburbs will be cleared in time for the first mails from the Suburbs and the midnight clearance will be made as usual.

In a list of closing times for the various mails received at the G.P.O. extracted from the same number of the *Argus* (29.12.99) there is no "12 a.m." included.

The above quotations do not of course give us the whole story and in any event the public would not have been greatly interested in hearing about the internal arrangements at the G.P.O., Melbourne. But it does *underline* the fact that (within the limits described) postal facilities *were* available on that day.

The rarity of these "first day" cancellations can be explained by the absence of most Melbournians on summer holidays and the necessarily small number of people who would, in any event, have been in the city on the holiday *and* further have availed themselves of these postal facilities.

I have recently completed a mss. on the Melbourne handstamp cancellations of 1895 to 1912. There the date given for the introduction of the first twelve cancellers of this type (Nos. 1 to 12) had been given as 2.1.00. This will now have to be amended, at least for the three numbers quoted.

If other readers have found other first day cancellations I will be glad to hear from them. Perhaps it is oversentimentalising (whew!) but the coincidence of a new type and a new century makes a most attractive tit-bit for a Postal Historian.

The previous type of handstamp cancellation can be met up to 30.12.99, which meant a clean break between the old and the new.

Once again our thanks to Mr Harrison for opening up a fact of substantial interest.

TASMANIA: CANCELLATIONS OF THE 8-MILE, 13-MILE, AND 16-MILE CAMPS

By O. G. INGLES

In *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*, pages 114 and 133 refer to "Camp, 8 mile. Listed in 1909 only. No cancellation known." and "Thirteen mile Camp. In St Mary's area. Listed in 1910 only. No cancellation known." By a fortunate coincidence, and the assistance of Mr Paul Edwards, I believe I can now explain the history and cancellation of these offices.

Some years ago I was able to acquire a few thousand Tasmanian pictorials untouched since their accumulation in 1900-20. All the cancellations in this accumulation were from north-east Tasmania, that is from Launceston eastwards, and northwards of St Mary's to Ross. Among them were seven manuscript cancels, all in blue pencil and in the same handwriting, presumably originating from one of the untied offices of the North-East. The cancellation appeared to read "RC" and accordingly I checked—without success—for postmasters of those initials. Moreover, not only these copies, but also all the other known copies with this blue pencil "RC" were *perforated T*, the official Tasmanian Government cancel. This would be unusual, to say the least, for an ordinary, small, upcountry post-office. The clue to the mystery was provided by Mr Edwards, who obtained the following information from the Public Relations Officer, PMG Department, Hobart (Mr C. F. Perkins, 25.7.67):

There was only one Post Office, which was moved twice. No cancellers were issued to it. The first position of the Post Office was at the 8-mile peg, 8 miles east of Scottsdale on the North-eastern railway line. It opened on 19-7-09. The second position of the Post Office was at the 13 mile Camp, 13 miles east of Scottsdale, and it opened on 1-12-09. The third position was at the 16 mile Camp, 16 miles east of Scottsdale, where it opened on 1-10-10. This Post Office was closed on 1-5-11."

The positions refer to the fact that at this period the North-eastern railway line was being extended beyond Scottsdale, and the P.O. was moved as construction work progressed. The Office at the sixteen-mile Camp has not hitherto been reported. The eight-mile Camp would be a few miles past present-day Tonganah, the thirteen-mile Camp would be near Tulendeena and the sixteen-mile near Legerwood.

The origin of the manuscript cancels now became clear. "RC" stands for "Railway Camp", the same postmaster serving at each of the eight, thirteen and sixteen-mile stations of the Office. The T puncture of these stamps reflects the fact that almost all the business was transacted by State Government employees.

Since no canceller was issued, the necessity for the manual cancellation is obvious, and their general locality of usage agrees with the three railway camps.

One further important confirmation was provided by the stamps themselves. Those stamps known with this cancel fall into three groups (a) 1d pictorials from plates which were first issued about January 1910, (b) 2d pictorials from plates which were first issued about April 1910, (c) 2d pictorials from plates which were first issued 23 February 1911. Knowing the opening and closing dates of the three Railway Offices, it is clear that not only do the stamps themselves coincide with the required period of usage, but that types (a) and (b) must have been used at the thirteen-mile or sixteen-mile Post Offices, whereas type (c) could only have been used at the sixteen-mile Post Office. No stamp used at the eight-mile Office has yet been seen, but considering the short (four-month) life of that office, this is perhaps not surprising.

Perhaps this cancellation also qualifies as the only known manuscript Australian railway T.P.O. The Post Office did travel, albeit rather slowly!

EDITORIAL NOTES

Afer Seventy Years

It was a cover postmarked Ferny Creek 27 January 1850, bearing a copy of the 2d Half-Length, grey-lilac, *second* state of the die (S.G. 6a), which proved that the second die state appeared in the same month as the first.

Mr J. R. W. Purves, who showed it, said it was reported by Mr W. R. Rundell in 1899 or earlier.

It is on record that it was shown to the Society in that year.

From the Rundell Collection it passed into the Pack Collection in the United States and then to the Landell-Mills Collection in Britain before it returned home to the Purves Collection.

R.P.S.V. Library

The following have recently been added to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Library:

Volume 1 to 56 of *American Philatelist* (1887-1943) less volumes 6, 20, 26, 31, 33 and 34, through the assistance of Mr George T. Turner, of Washington, DC, USA.

Further numbers of *Collectors Club Philatelist* completing Volumes 1-48 (1921-1968) with the exception of Volume 18, number 4; the gift of Mr E. A. Williams, Buffalo, USA.

A large accumulation of English and foreign language periodicals, the gift of Mr J. Landau.

Fundamentals of Philately, Sections 3 to 5, L. N. and M. Williams, State College, Pa., by purchase.

The Romance of the Post Office, Arch. G. Bowie, London, 1897, the gift of Mr John High, Acton, W.3, England.

Philatelic Calendars

Mr Robson Lowe, as everybody knows, is a man of ideas, and the latest product of his imagination and enterprise is *The Philatelist Calendars* (two types) for the coming year.

The first is a large calendar for individual collectors. This consists of six pages 16 in. x 11½ in. Each page has the calendar for two months in large figures that can be easily read from the wall. The remainder of the space is occupied by illustrations in full colour of famous stamps, pieces and covers with appropriate write-ups and a panel of famous stamp dates for the months featured.

The professional philatelist's calendar, also in full colour, is 9 in. x 7 in., with twelve pages each featuring a cover. These range from British Guiana to Roumania. There is also a frontispiece of British rarities. The design provides a space for a dealer's imprint or greeting.

The collector's calendar is priced at 12/6 (\$1.35). For the professional philatelist's calendar there is a minimum order of fifty for £12/10/.

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

I N D E X

VOLUME 21, 1969

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



Editor: H. L. CHISHOLM

Committee: Messrs J. R. W. PURVES, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. (*Chairman*),
D. N. BAKER, H. M. CAMPBELL, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., J. GARTNER, F.R.P.S.L.,
and A. J. PETRIE

Business Manager: D. N. BAKER

MELBOURNE

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

Box 222, G.P.O.

(i)

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ROADSIDE DELIVERY SERVICES MAKING POSTMARKS SCARCER

By *DEREK N. BAKER*

During recent years, there has been a growing tendency for the Australian Post Office to replace many of its outlying non-official post offices by a roadside delivery service. These small country offices are usually associated with a general store, though quite often they are located in private homes, at schools, or even in the local hotel.

In most cases the residents are farmers, and the population is small and scattered, making it uneconomical to provide a delivery service. To overcome this, residents are invited to provide a letter-box at a convenient point along a selected mail route, where letters can be picked up or deposited by the mail contractor serving the area. This is much more convenient for the residents, who previously had to collect their own mail, but it has sounded the death knell for scores of tiny post offices, many of which can trace their history back to the gold-rush days of a century ago.

The steady closure of so many of these small offices throughout Australia—offices which at the busiest of times handled only very small quantities of mail, provide present-day collectors of Australian postmarks with an excellent opportunity of securing many future scarce items. Perhaps the following brief notes about a few of the Victorian offices closed in recent years, will be of interest.

FRENCHMANS. This small settlement, some thirty-six miles south of St Arnaud, received its name from a Frenchman named D'Averney, who established an inn at that locality. D'Averney's Inn, was however, better known by coach drivers as "The Frenchman's", and Frenchmans Post Office was opened on 2 February 1880. This office closed in 1895, but had re-opened again by 1909. It finally closed on 30 June 1966.

BUNGBONG AND BUNGEET. Both of these names mean "Swamp" in the Aboriginal language. Bungbong, about 10½ miles south-west of Maryborough, opened its first post office on 1 February 1864. The office was reduced to Telephone Office status on 31 January 1961, and was finally closed on 1 July 1962. Bungeet, located to the north-west of Wangaratta, had a post office established there on 1 August 1882. The Bungeet Post Office was finally closed on 31 August 1967.

SOUTHERN CROSS. A post office first opened at Southern Cross during September 1880, and it was operated in conjunction with a small general store owned by a Mr M. Coghlan. The store and post office were acquired by the Howden family in 1898, and the post office remained with this family for seventy-one

years, until the office was finally closed on 14 June 1969. Southern Cross is a small farming settlement, chiefly dairying, potato and onion growing, and it is located two miles east of Koroit, on the main Koroit-Warrnambool road.

HIAWATHA. This office, which was located in a private residence situated on the southern slopes of the Strzelecki Ranges, approximately fifteen miles from Yarram, was opened on 1 March 1933. It served sheep and dairy farmers in that area. The office was finally closed on 31 October 1968.

MACK'S CREEK. Located about five miles from the Hiawatha Post Office, and ten miles from Yarram, Mack's Creek Post Office first opened on 7 August 1930. Like Hiawatha, it served a community of sheep and dairy farmers. The office was finally closed on 8 October 1968.

ST HELENS. The St Helens Post Office was first opened on 1 May 1877, at which time the population numbered approximately 170. The post office closed on 8 June 1895, but had re-opened again by 1909. St Helens is located about fifteen miles north-west of Port Fairy. The post office was finally closed on 30 June 1967.

JUMBUK. The Jumbuk Post Office opened some time between 1906 and 1909. It was located in the Strzelecki Ranges, south of Morwell, the country being of a very mountainous nature. Jumbuk is the Aboriginal name for sheep, but few sheep were ever kept there, due to the dingo menace which necessitated yarding the sheep each night. Most of the settlers, therefore, kept cows. Due to the rugged nature of the countryside, packhorses were frequently used to bring in supplies. Most of the area has now been taken over by the Australian Paper Mills, and the post office was finally closed on 13 December 1966.

TASMANIA: MIDDLESEX PLAINS, CAMPBELL'S REWARD CLAIM AND LORINNA POST OFFICES

By P. B. EDWARDS

I became interested in these rather obscure Post Offices because of the article "The Mystery of Tasmania's Missing Mail Can" (*P. from A.*, June 1962, p. 43) and curiosity about unsolved manuscript cancellations such as "M.C." and "MAIL CAN" on Pictorials (*Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings* by Campbell, Purves and Viney, p. 153).

The handbook states at the end of the list of Second Allocation Offices (p. 83) that Campbell's Reward Claim was operating in 1900. In the 1900-12 list of offices, Middlesex Plains is shown as an Allowance Office, closing in 1907 (p. 124), and Campbell's Reward Claim is also shown as an Allowance Office with the later name of Lorinna which was a Receiving House (p. 114).

The information now presented shows that Lorinna was the only genuine P.O. (from 1910 onwards) and that it also existed in the 1890's; that the earlier Lorinna, the Campbell's Reward Claim, and the Middlesex Plains "offices" were serviced by a mail contractor; that from 1910 to 1912, the Middlesex Plains contractor also serviced the Lorinna P.O. which had no c.d.s. at this stage; and that Lorinna and Campbell's Reward Claim were separate entities with the Lorinna P.M. also for a time at least servicing the "delisted" Campbell's Reward Claim "office".

Lorinna is shown as a Post Office in alphabetical lists in 1911 to 1914 Walch's Almanacs, and the three "Offices" are given as Post Stations in the lists published in the years shown as follow:

Campbell's Reward Claim	1891-1910
Lorinna	1892-1900
Middlesex Plains	1891-1912

Information from various sources, verbal, written and published has revealed that the following five people were connected with these three "Offices":

T. J. Clerke, who was a resident of Sheffield and evidently a man of some substance. He owned the largest General Store in Sheffield and was, in 1899, Registrar of Births, etc., and Secretary of the Kentish Butter Company. He is shown as "Postmaster" for Campbell's Reward Claim and Middlesex Plains in 1899 to 1910 district lists of Post Offices and for Middlesex Plains only, in a 1911 list.

Obviously, Clerke, the man of substance, was not Postmaster for places some twenty to twenty-five miles away, but almost certainly was the successful tenderer for a mail service to Middlesex Plains, Campbell's Reward Claim being included in the run. Hence these two "Offices" were called Allowance Offices in government lists.

Duncan Sloane, contractor, also lived in Sheffield. He is given as Mail Contractor for Middlesex Plains in the 1907 and 1908 Tasmanian Post Office Directories. It can reasonably be assumed that he was, for these years at least, doing the mail run under sub-contract to T. J. Clerke.

George Sloane, farmer, lived at Lorinna. In a 1912 district list, —. Sloane, and in 1913 and 1914 lists, G. Sloane, are listed as Postmasters at Lorinna. Eyewitness accounts describe him as riding to Campbell's Reward Claim, some two miles or so distant from Lorinna, to collect the mail.

C. T. Davies, formerly of Staverton, was the son of D. Davies an early Staverton Postmaster and had the Middlesex Plains mail contract, operating out of Staverton, for some years up to 1913. Unfortunately, Mr Davies died before he could be questioned.

F. T. Hart-Smith, now of Devonport, had the Middlesex Plains contract from 1913 to about 1919, also operating out of Staverton. He says:

- 1 His run was twice weekly and he serviced miners, hunters, prospectors and timber getters, as well as the Lorinna P.O.
- 2 There never were P.O.'s at Middlesex Plains or Campbell's Reward Claim.
- 3 There was a box at the end of the Middlesex Plains run, but in his six years no mail was ever left in the box. There was always someone waiting at the box for him.
- 4 About halfway between Lorinna and Middlesex Plains, there was a "Mail Can" owned by an old chap called O'Rourke.
- 5 He did not manuscript cancel stamps, nor did he hear of previous contractors doing so. All mail was taken to Staverton for cancellation of stamps.
- 6 There may have been a c.d.s. at Lorinna but he was quite uncertain about this.

Further reliable information has revealed that there is knowledge of a c.d.s. being supplied to Lorinna in the 1920's. A Lorinna manuscript cancellation is known dated 2.10.22 (*P. from A.*, March 1968, p. 12) and the earliest c.d.s. strike known to me is dated 22 or 23 No. 22.

To sum up:

MIDDLESEX PLAINS while appearing in lists of Post Offices from 1891 on and also in P.O. estimates, was an Area serviced by a mail contractor who had an "Allowance" under the estimates for the contract, which began in 1890. Mail was franked, probably until 1910 at Sheffield, and afterwards at Staverton.

CAMPBELL'S REWARD CLAIM was a collecting post. It is listed as operating from 1890 until 1910 during which period it was serviced by the Middlesex Plains mail contractor. After de-listing, it was serviced for some time by the Lorinna Postmaster who lived about two miles away.

LORINNA was a collecting post from 1891 to probably 1900 and was also serviced by the Middlesex Plains contractor. It re-opened in 1910 as a Receiving House without a c.d.s. and serviced the de-listed Campbell's Reward Claim at least for some time. Lorinna R.H. was, in turn, serviced by the Middlesex Plains contractor.



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Contributed by the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club

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

BOGUS CANCELLATIONS

Members of the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club have been shown certain stamps from the Pacific area with cancellations showing segments only of what purports to be "fine used".

The marking is crude in the extreme and shows no sign of lettering or figures.

The stamps with bogus cancellations have been seen in approval books emanating from the southern States.

DEATH OF MR J. H. DUNN

Mr J. H. (Bert) Dunn, a former president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, and one of its best known personalities, died recently.

Mr Dunn joined the society in August 1918 and was a very knowledgeable philatelist. His main interest was United States, but he collected early issues of all countries with their postmarks. For many years he was curator of the Society's forgery collection.

In professional life, he was a partner in a leading Melbourne firm of public analysts and he specialised in food analysis.

Mr Dunn was a friendly man of deep sincerity who loved to be able to help an inquirer with knowledge or advice.

AUSTRALIAN MILITARY FORCES POSTMARKERS USED IN THE NORTHERN TERRITORY IN WORLD WAR II, 1939-46

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

(Continued from September 1969, page 71)

2 Jan. 44:

ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIT POSTAL STATIONS IN NT. (An up-to-date list showing the allocation of Unit Postal Stations postmarkers in NT Area.)

<i>Unit Postal Station (Div)</i>	<i>Postmarker</i>
38 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 346
40 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 347
1 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 348
12/50 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 350
24 Aust Coy AASC	UPS 353
103 Aust Tk A Regt	UPS 356
5 Aust Fd Regt	UPS D.10
11 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 345
16 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 355
28 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 358
Adv HQ NT FORCE	UPS 354
6 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 352
5 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 359
2/8 Aust Cav (Commando) Sqn	UPS 419
8 Aust Cav Regt	UPS 418
Spares held by 12 Aust Div Postal Unit (AIF): UPS 351, 416, 417, 420, S.75.	

Unit Postal Stations (L of C)

107 Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 349
101 Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 357
13 Aust Detention Barracks	UPS 421
7 Aust A Tps Coy	UPS 422
108 Aust Con Depot	UPS 423
Spares held by DADAPS NT Force 424 to 431.	
Spares held by 2 Aust L of C Postal Unit (AIF): UPS D.5, W.32, D.9.	
Unservicable postmarkers to be returned to DAPS: UPS W.14, W.15, W.16, S.76, S.77, S.79, S.84, D.2, D.13, N.8 106, 140.1008, S.99.	

2 Jan. 44:

Allocation of Field and Army Post Office Postmarkers in NT Area:

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Postmarker</i>
<i>12 Aust Div Postal Unit (AIF):</i>	
FPO Adelaide River	FPO 072
FPO 12 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 089
FPO 13 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 0136
FPO 2 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 163
FPO Adv HQ NT Force	FPO 189
Spares: FPO 190, FPO 0137	

2 Aust L of C Postal Unit (AIF):

APO Darwin	APO 065, APO 230
APO Noonamah	APO 0117
APO Berry Springs	APO 227
APO Batchelor	APO 231
" "	APO 232
APO Rear HQ NT Forces	APO 0127
APO Fenton	APO 229
APO Pine Creek	APO 066
APO Katherine	APO 0128
" "	L of C X1
APO Mataranka	APO 0126
APO Larrimah	APO 0129
" "	L of C X3
APO Elliott	APO 0134
APO Banka Banka	APO 50
APO Barrow Springs	APO 0135
APO Alice Springs	APO 49
" " "	APO 228
APO Mt Isa	APO 0144

Spares: Nil.

28 Jan. 44:

In an Allocation list of this date the following were deleted or changed from the list of 2 Jan. 44 (UPS APO's and FPO's):

Deleted: 103 Aust Tk A Regt	UPS 356
" 38 Aust Cav Commando Sqn	UPS 419
Changed: 5 Aust Fd Regt	UPS D10 changed to UPS 417

Spares now held (by 12 Aust Div Postal Unit, AIF): UPS 351, 416, 420, 356, 419.
No alteration to the APO's or FPO's of the list of 2 Jan. 44.

29 Feb. 44:

ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIT POSTAL STATIONS IN NT. Showing allocation of Unit Postal Stations in NT.

<i>Unit Postal Stations (Div)</i>	<i>Postmarkers</i>
38 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 346
40 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 347
1 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 348
12/50 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 350
2/11 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 351
6 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 352
24 Aust Coy AA SC	UPS 353
Adv HQ N.T. Force	UPS 354
16 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 355
28 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 358
5 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 359
19 Aust M.G. Bn	UPS 416
5 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 417
Spares held by 12 Aust Div Postal Unit: UPS 345, 356, 418, 419, 420.	

Unit Postal Stations (L of C)

107 Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 349
101 Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 357
13 Aust Detention Barracks	UPS 421
7 Aust Army Tp Coy	UPS 422
108 Aust Con Depot	UPS 423

Spares held by DADAPS NT FORCE: 424 to 431 inclusive.

3 Mar. 44:

Reception acknowledged of three Army Post Office steel postmarkers:

These postmarkers have been allotted as follows:

APO 233	APO Katherine
APO 234	APO Larrimah
APO 235	APO Larrimah

15 Mar. 44:

Three Army Post Office postmarkers were forwarded to NT Force.

APO 236, APO 237, APO 238

16 Mar. 44:

Returned to HQ from NT Force: Two unserviceable rubber postmarkers.

X1 and X3 (L of C)

13 Apr. 44:

Postmarker APO 0129 is still in use at APO Larrimah.

5 Apr. 44:

In a list of postmarker allocations the following were deleted from the similar list dated 22 February 1944:

1 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 348
16 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 355
28 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 358
19 Aust M.G. Bn	UPS 416
5 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 417
Added to spares	UPS 416

29 Apr. 44:

In a list of that date the following numbers were added, in the UPS postmarker allocations (other allocations as in 29 Feb. and 5 Apr. 44):

11 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 345
N.T. L of C Area WKSP	UPS 416

30 Apr. 44:

Allocation of Army and Field Post Offices in NT Area:

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Postmarker</i>
<i>12 Aust Div Postal Unit (AIF):</i>	
FPO Adelaide River	FPO 072
FPO 12 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 089
FPO 13 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 0136
FPO 2 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 163
FPO Adv HQ N.T. Force	FPO 189
Spare	FPO 190
<i>2 Aust L of C Postal Unit (AIF):</i>	
APO DARWIN	APO 065
" "	APO 230
" NOONAMAH	APO 0117
" BERRY SPRINGS	APO 227
" BATCHELOR	APO 231
" "	APO 232
" REAR HQ N.T. FORCE	APO 0127
" FENTON	APO 229
" PINE CREEK	APO 066
" KATHERINE	APO 0128
" "	APO 233
" MATARANKA	APO 0126

APO LARRIMAH	APO 0129
" "	APO 234
" "	APO 235
" ELLIOTT	APO 0134
" BANKA BANKA	APO 50
" BARROW CREEK	APO 0135
" ALICE SPRINGS	APO 49
" " "	APO 228
" MT ISA	APO 0114

Spares held by DADAPS NT Force: FPO 0137, APO, 236, APO 237, APO 238.

29 May 44:

In a similar list of Allocations to that of 30 Apr: 44 the following was added:
APO DARWIN Postmarker APO 236

29 June 44:

In a similar list of Allocations to that of 30 Apr. 44 the following was added:
APO DARWIN APO 236
APO Alice Springs APO 237
Spares held now FPO 0137
APO 238

30 Jul. 44:

In a list of this date the Allocations are as the list of 30 Apr. with the additions of 29 May 44 and 29 Jun. 44.

31 Jul. 44:

In an allocation list of UPS postmarkers of this date it is similar to that of 29 May 44 with the following amendments:
UPS 419 added to spares

31 Aug. 44:

Allocation of Unit Postal Stations in NT Area:

<i>Unit Postal Stations (Div)</i>	<i>Postmarker Allotted</i>
40 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 347
1 Aust Fd Regt	UPS 348
12/50 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 350
6 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 352
Adv HQ N.T. Force	UPS 354
5 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 359
10/48 Aust Inf Bn	UPS 420

<i>Unit Postal Stations (L of C)</i>	
107 Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 349
101 Aust Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 357
13 Aust Detention Barracks	UPS 421
7 Aust Army To Coy	UPS 422
108 Aust Con Depot	UPS 423
N.T. L of C Area WKSP	UPS 416

Spares held by DADAPS NT Force: UPS 424 to 431; UPS 418, 419, 417; UPS 345, 351, 355, 358, 346, 353, 356.

31 Aug. 44:

Allocation of APO and FPO postmarkers in NT Area:

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Postmarkers Allotted</i>
<i>1 Aust Postal Unit (AIF):</i>	
Adelaide River	FPO 072
12 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 089

13 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 0136
2 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 163
Adv HQ N.T. Force	FPO 189
Spares	FPO 190
<i>2 Aust L of C Postal Unit (AIF):</i>	
Darwin	APO 232
"	APO 236
"	APO 238
"	APO 065
"	APO 230
Noonamah	APO 0117
Berry Springs	APO 227
Rear HQ N.T. Force	APO 0127
Fenton	APO 229
Pine Creek	APO 066
Katherine	APO 0128
"	APO 233
Mataranka	APO 0126
Larrimah	APO 0129
"	APO 234
"	APO 235
Elliott	APO 0134
Banka Banka	APO 50
Barrow Creek	APO 0135
Alice Springs	APO 49
" "	APO 228
" "	APO 237
Mt Isa	APO 231
Spares held by DADAPS NT Force: FPO 0137.	

25 Nov. 44:

Amendment No. 2 to DADAPS NT Force:

Delete FPO 13 Aust Inf Bde FPO 136 . . . now under control ADAPS First A.A.
 ADD APO Winnellie . . . APO 066 . . . New APO opened 16 Nov. 44.

2 Jan. 45:

Allocation of Postmarkers in NT Area (APO's, FPO's, UPS):

<i>Unit</i>	<i>Postmarker Allotted</i>
<i>2 Aust L of C Postal Unit (AIF):</i>	
APO DARWIN	APO 065
	" 230
	" 232
	" 238
APO WINNELLIE	APO 066, 0127
APO NOONAMAH	APO 0117, 231
APO ADELAIDE RIVER	APO 236, 235
APO KATHERINE	APO 0128, 233
APO Larrimah	APO 0129, 234
APO ELLIOTT	APO 0134
APO BANKA BANKA	APO 50
APO NEW BARROW	APO 0135
APO Alice Springs	APO 49
" "	APO 228
APO MT ISA	APO 0114
FPO 12 Aust Inf Bde	FPO 089
UPS 107 Aust Gen Hosp	UPS 349
" 12 Aust Detention Barracks	UPS 421

(To be continued)

REVIEWS

British Empire Review, 1961-1968. 92 pp. 7 x 10 in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. Price 30/-.

Many philatelists will have wondered why the annual Resumes of Robson Lowe Ltd, suddenly diminished in size in the past two years. Now they have the answer.

This is a lavish resume of stamps of the British Empire and their covers sold by the firm during the past seven years. Companion volumes for Great Britain, Europe, and Postal History will follow, to form a very valuable series.

Qualification for entry is a value of £10, as shown in the auction room, and the prices realised over the period show not only the latest prices for mint, used, and on cover, but the trend of prices over the period, assuming that the item has appeared in the sale room.

There are more than 240 illustrations of stamps and covers, headed by a complete mint pane of the £2 Kangaroo, multiple watermark, which was sold for £1200 in September 1961. They include the unique 1d and 2d Post Office Mauritius cover which achieved £28,000 in October 1963, and the British Guiana cover bearing two 2c rose cottonreels, which brought £25,500 a month later.

If one cannot own them, one can at least admire them. Besides providing a permanent record of a great range of rarities and varieties, the series will provide philatelists with something akin to the bibliophile's Book Prices Current.

The conception is heartily approved and the execution sincerely admired. It is a most attractive volume.

Zumstein Schweiz Liechtenstein, 1970. 264 pp. 5 x 8 in. Published by Zumstein et Cie. Zeughausgasse 24, Berne, Switzerland. Price \$1.

Zumstein's specialist catalogue of Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Campione and United Nations, Geneva, is bi-lingual with German and French in parallel columns. The Geneva UN is a new section.

The comprehensive listing provides prices for mint and used blocks of four, for stamps hinged or unhinged, and for first-day covers.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Year Book, Bristol, 1969. Edited by Ernest F. Hugen. xxxiv 100 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, 3 The Woodlands, London Road, Brighton, BN1 8WA, Sussex, England. Price 15/-.

This is the Congress's Diamond Jubilee year book, and records the 51st Congress (the first Congress was held in Manchester in 1909). It contains all the usual reference records, including the Rules Governing the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the list of those elected, and the citations of those elected at the 1969 Congress.

The articles are Congress Number One, What's So Special About Stamps?, Developments in Postage Stamp Production, and The Post Office, Philately, and the Future.

Stamp Stories, by Monty Wedd. 32 pp. 7 x 9 in. Published by Review Publications Pty Ltd, Dubbo, NSW 2830. Price \$0.30.

The Story Behind the Stamp is a familiar theme, but Monty Wedd's cartoon-type stories which have been published in *Stamp News* for sixteen years are unique. They have also proved extremely popular.

This book contains a selection of more than thirty of them, covering about 100 stamps. The range of information is astonishing and the book can be recommended as a worthwhile gift to stamp collecting children and as interesting reading for much more advanced collectors.

ATA—The Dream That Worked, by Edna B. Cummins. 6 pp. 5½ x 8½. Published by the American Topical Association, 3306 50th Street, Milwaukee, Wis., 53216, USA.

This is the story of the American Topical Association and its founder, Jerome D. Husak, then twelve, who got the idea after visiting a stamp exhibition in 1944, and established the Association on 12 September 1949. It is a story of what an energetic and co-operative nucleus can do. In twenty years the membership has grown to nearly 9000.

Interestingly, Husak's Master of Business Administration thesis at Marquette University was a study of the marketing of postage stamps.

Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, 1968. First Edition. Section 12, Macao to Muscat; Section 13, Natal to Orange River Colony. Edited by Edward G. Fladung. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Higgins and Gage, Inc., 23 No. Santa Anita, California, U.S.A. Prices, Section 12, \$6.00; Section 13, \$4.00 (U.S.).

This mammoth undertaking has now passed the half-way mark.

The major item in the M section is Mexico, which has an 85-page listing. But of special interest to collectors in this part of the world is the addendum, a very carefully revised section on Australia, which now covers twenty-two pages.

The highlight of section 13 is that it contains twelve pages of N.S.W. and twenty-two pages of New Zealand. There is also a new price-list for Commonwealth of Australia letter sheets.

The Australasian Stamp Catalogue, 1970 Edition. 63 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Published by Review Publications Pty Ltd, Sterling Street, Dubbo, NSW, Australia. Price \$1.

The latest edition of this semi-specialised catalogue contains no spectacular price-rises but there has been a steady rise in values over a wide area, particularly in the low to medium price ranges, in this the stamps of the Commonwealth dependencies are predominant.

The catalogue covers Australian States, Commonwealth and its dependencies including Papua and New Guinea and Nauru.

The notes on the various issues are detailed and for stamps issued in recent years, where a standard book has not been published, they are especially useful. They will save much searching in other fields when preparing write-up material.

The New Zealand Stamp Catalogue, 1970 Edition. 51 pp. 5½ x 8 in. Published by Review Publications Pty Ltd, Sterling Street, Dubbo, NSW. Price \$0.50.

The wide interest in New Zealand stamps is reflected in fairly general increases in the prices of 20th century issues in this edition of the catalogue.

Again the detailed footnotes are very useful. One might prefer a better caption for the 10 cent Otago University, as Conferring a Degree rather than "an internal view", but this is a minor thing. Incidentally, the price of the catalogue is down, the reduction being made possible by demand allowing a larger printing.

Ryukyu Specialized Catalogue, Part 1, Provisional Postal Stationery. Edited by Commander Melvin Schoberlin. 85 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by the Society of Philatelic Americans, Box 9086, Cincinnati, Ohio 45209, U.S.A. Price \$3.00.

The Ryukyus, of which Okinawa was one of the island groups, have a band of dedicated and enthusiastic philatelic students on both sides of the Pacific and Commander Schoberlin, in Hawaii, has undertaken the compilation of a specialised catalogue of their stamps and postal history under United States Administration.

This is the first section of the task, and covers the postal stationery from the American conquest and occupation in 1945 until 1953.

Commander Schoberlin makes it clear that the complexity of the issues arose from the inadequate resources which the American officers possessed, and much of the misleading or fragmentary information published has been due to inadequate or missing post office records.

The items range from Japanese cards found there, and used with or without validating seals, then handstamped validations on simple cards and new issues, new printings, and new denominations as postal use and postal rates required.

The book covers the Amami, Miyaka, Okinawa and Yaeyama island groups and Commander Schoberlin has evolved a code for identifying and listing the multitude of items which will become basic for students of the group, as well as providing tables showing the dates, postal rates, issues and explanations.

Zumstein Europa, 1970. 53rd Edition. 1204 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Published by Zumstein et cie, Zeughausgasse 24, Berne, Switzerland. Price \$8.85.

Zumstein this year reflects a movement towards consolidation of the market, with some of these countries in which sharp price-cuts followed heavy speculation showing signs of recovery. Classic prices show sharp advances and there is an upward movement among the moderns.

The illustrations now total 28,000, a rise of 1000 on last year and there are 3000 more prices, a total of 144,000.

Zumstein is valued as a genuine guide to market values and the editors give an assurance of the care with which they have studied the market.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- 1969:
December
8 Library and Conversation.
18 Australia, King George V 1½d Reds, Miss J. Resch.
- 1970:
January
15 Papua, Early Issues, Mr J. H. Harrison.
29 Talks and discussion on three topics important to the Society's future. Three Council members.
- February
9 Library and Conversation.
19 Mexico, The Civil War Issues, Mr A. G. Brown.
28 Auction.
- March
9 Library and Conversation.
19 Guest Exhibitors, The Women's Philatelic Society.
- April
13 Library and Conversation.
16 Metered Adhesives, Mr H. M. Campbell.
30 Tasmania, Postal History Discoveries Since the Handbook, Messrs O. G. Ingles and J. R. W. Purves.
- May
11 Library and Conversation.
21 Fiji, The Pre-1878 Issues, Mr J. Gartner.
30 Auction.

Samoa

Mr J. H. Powell, a long-time member from Sydney came down to show a striking collection of German and Occupation Samoa at the first October meeting.

The earliest piece was a ship letter of the N.D.L. Line operating between Sydney, Auckland, Tonga, and Apia, dated 17 February 1887. Then there were twelve sheets of German Consular mail.

The official German issues included a complete sheet of twenty, Plate 1, of the 1 Mark yacht type, and covers up to the 5 mark.

There was also a wonderful selection of covers from the outlying post offices and a cover from the N.Z. Marine P.O. 25 Dec 1899 R.M.S. Moana.

The G.R.I. issues of the N.Z. Expeditionary Force were represented by twenty-six pages. These included three copies of the 5/- on 5 marks, five copies of 3/- on 3 marks, of which the printing was 458, and three copies of the "One Shillings on 1 mark, of which only 100 were overprinted.

A splendid range of varieties was highlighted by a pair of 2½d on 20 pf., one inverted overprint, mint, with "Royal" certificate and finally there was a cover to Coff's Harbor with the provisional registration label No. 12.

Victoria, The 2d Half-Length

Mr J. R. W. Purves, at the second October meeting, presented the Ham 1850 printings of the 2d Half-Length. The 2d Half-Length, he said, was "The" Classic of Victoria. It was one of three first issue stamps, but was in use for only three

years, compared with five years for the 1d and ten years for the 3d.

There were many unique items and, proposing the vote of thanks, Mr J. Gartner said he thought it was probably the finest display he had ever seen at the "Royal".

Among the highlights were the Rundell cover (mentioned in the Editorial Notes), a proof of the dies of the three values and an extremely fine mint copy of the 2d in the original state of the die. Rare covers included one postmarked 17 January 1850, a week after the first Half-Length had been sold.

There were many reconstructions and a complete range of shades, printings, and varieties. The "void-corner" (S.G. 13d) of which only three or four are known, of the third state of the die and the "No Value" retouch of the sixth printing (S.G. 15d), in different shades, were especially noticed.

There were also "gutter" pairs of the seventh and eighth printings and three strips of three of the eighth printing, as well as four copies of the unofficial "roulettes". The condition was, for these stamps, remarkably good.

Mr Purves also showed Butterfly cancellation 22 in red, the only one he had seen.

Chile and Italy

Another valued Sydney exhibitor was Mr H. Croaker, who displayed diverse sections of his collections—Chilian "EST" postmarks and Italian Maritime markings—at the November meeting.

The "EST" postmarks included covers, postal stationery and single stamps including examples of the imperfs, the first perforated issue and the two first rouletted issues. There were two imperfs actually cancelled by the "EST" postmarks and eight of the first perforated issue.

An unusual item was a registered cover from Pemuco showing EST postmarks of "departure" and "arrival" together with a boxed "CERTIFICAD" mark. The cover was signed by the addressee as a form of receipt.

The Italian maritime marks covered the period 1717-1930. The first covers were of 1717 and 1718, addressed to Venice and marked "Ven da Mar" on arrival. This was the first handstruck ship letter mark of any country and was introduced by the Republic in 1717.

There followed a series of covers carried by private steam ship companies bearing cachets such as "Vapori Toscani", "Vapori Sardi" and "Navigazione Napolitana" and one cover with the cachet of the steamboat "L'Etrusco".

Some covers followed showing the maritime marks of the State postal systems with "VIA DI MARE" of ports such as Genova, Roma and Ancona as well as "Vapori Postali" of Naples and "Pacchetto a Vapori/Sicilia" put on at a port unknown.

Several sheets had examples of the Austrian ship marks, while Northern Italy was under Austrian domination, including those used by steamers on the Italian Lakes such as "Riva Vapore", "Inp-Reg/Vapori" and "I. R. Piroscalo Sal Lago Maggiore".

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FOUNDED 1890

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★ **THE CLUB'S FEES** are: City members, \$3.50; Country members, \$1.50. Subscriptions are due 1 July yearly. There is no entrance fee payable.

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