

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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CONTENTS

PAGE

CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON	1
MR H. M. CAMPBELL SELECTED FOR R.D.P.	3
AUSTRALIAN GEO. V 1d GREEN, DIE 2 ON NEWSWRAPPERS	5
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE	6
SAMOA: THE PALM TREES ISSUES (PARTICULARLY THE 6d PERF 12½)	9
PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS	16
TASMANIA: THE 1854 TO 1861 POST OFFICES	18
GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS: 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAISING OF THE FLAG AND NEW CONSTITUTION, 1967 . .	21
REVIEWS	26
REPORTS	28

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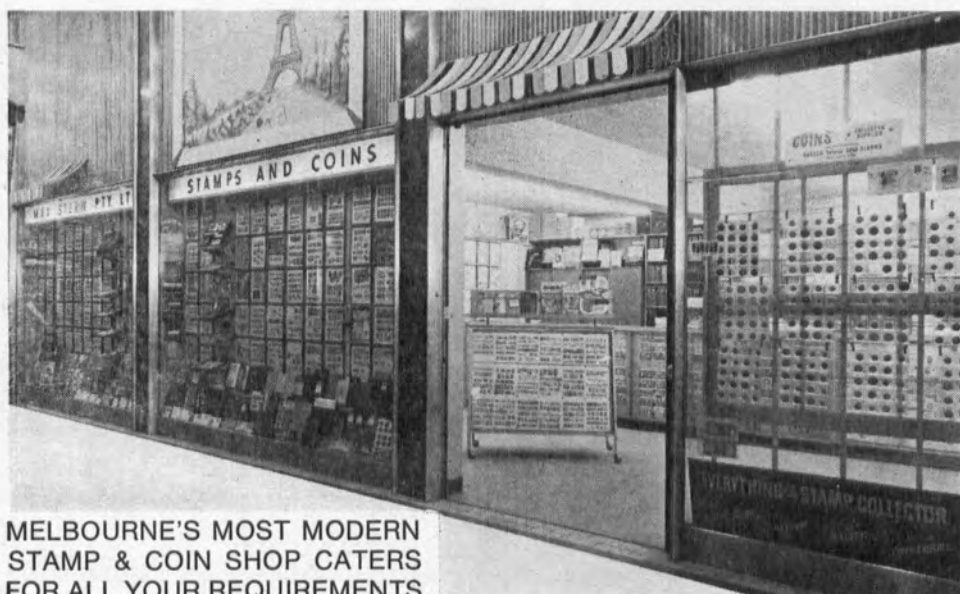
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*Official Organ of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

Vol. XXI, No. 1

MARCH 1969

CENTENARY OF THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY, LONDON

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, will celebrate its centenary on 10 April, the first philatelic society in the world to attain 100 years of continuous existence. *Philately from Australia* extends its heartiest congratulations, expresses its sincere admiration, and sends its warmest good wishes for the Society's future.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, is the world's premier philatelic society, not merely in years but in achievement. It was founded as The Philatelic Society, and a century later is recognised over all the world as *The Philatelic Society*.

The foundation meeting was held at 93 Great Russell Street, and an account of it appears in the diary of Lieut. Joseph Speranza:

"... After lunch had a chat with Furze [presumably, Mr P. Furze] about stamps then at 3¼ p.m. walked with him to the Victoria Station to a Buss and landed at Great Russell Street, W.C. walked to No. 93 Wilson's rooms and there met Sir D. Cooper, Mr D. Atlee, Dr Viner, Mr Philbrick, Mr Erskine, Mr Haines.—Sir D. Cooper took the chair and we proceeded to lay the rules and frame the codes of the 'Philatelic Society' and elect the Officers—The proceedings will be published next month in the *Philatelist* and *S.C. Magazine* The annual subscription was fixed to 6/- which was paid in advance by each of us.—At 6 p.m. the meeting broke up. . . The day was very fine."

The prime mover in the society, according to Messrs L. N. and M. Williams, was Mr W. Dudley Atlee, who became the first secretary.

Mr Philbrick (later Mr Justice Philbrick) moved and Mr Haines seconded the motion that the amateurs present at the meeting constitute themselves The Philatelic Society, London.

From the outset, the society was an energetic one. It held its second meeting a week after its foundation and the third, on 1 May, showed that lady members were expected by raising the subscription to 10/- but retaining the 6/- rate for ladies.

The first papers were read on 29 May—Sir Daniel Cooper, Bt, "Earliest Sydney Stamps and Proofs of the Sydney Views", and Mr W. Dudley Atlee, "A New Russian Local Stamp".

The society's international aspect began in December with the selection of Frederick Jeppe, Postmaster-General of the South Africa Republic, and more and more famous names entered the membership lists.

In April 1870, the society's reference collection began and in 1892 *The London Philatelist* was established. The Expert Committee came later.

On 10 May 1893, it was announced that H.R.H. the Duke of York—later George V—was graciously pleased to intimate his desire of joining the society and was elected an honorary vice-president.

The future king took an active part in the society. On 29 May 1896 he was elected president, and held the office until his accession in 1910. On 4 March 1904 he read a paper, "Notes on the Postal Issues of the United Kingdom During the Present Reign". In 1906, King Edward VII granted the use of the prefix Royal.

In so many of its activities, the Royal Philatelic Society has been an exemplar and an inspiration to other societies. In particular its scholarly articles and papers published in *The London Philatelist*, and its book publications have been of lasting benefit to collectors. Their standard has never faltered.

It acquired its home at 41 Devonshire Place, W.1, in 1925 enabling it to enjoy excellent facilities, to develop its great library and house a museum which includes the plate of the Post Office Mauritius and the dies of the India 1854 issue.

Where the Royal has led, many other societies have been glad to follow. It has been actively associated with the organisation of the International Philatelic Exhibitions in London where so many philatelic students have met.

In its association with Royalty, personal as well as titular, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, is a specifically British institution. But it has never been insular.

It is at once a British and an International organisation. It has attracted members from all parts of the world, of every nation, creed and colour, uniting them in a brotherhood of students of stamps, and in turn, has aroused a pride in membership of itself. Members of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, resident in Sydney, hold an annual dinner, and members in many countries are happy to act as its official representatives.

The little band who met together on that fine spring afternoon in 1869 is now a society of 1200 members dedicated to the advancement of philately.

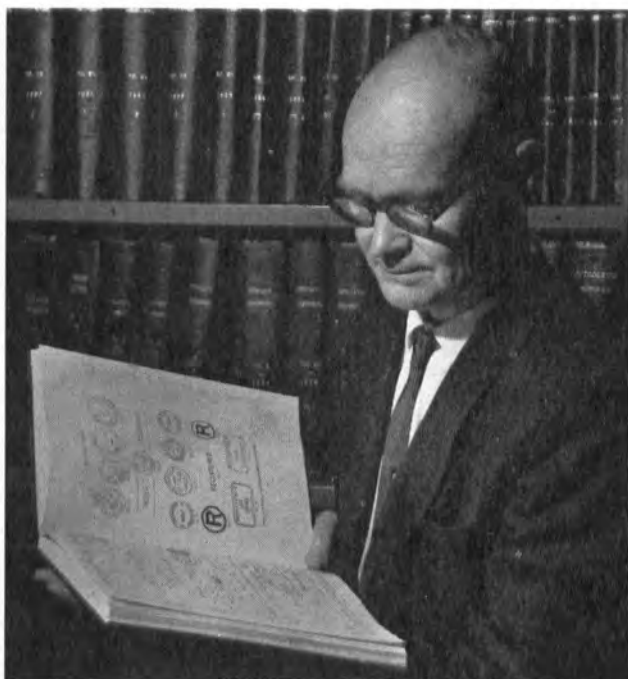
In Britain, where tradition counts for so much, the society has established a tradition and it has spread across the earth. Certainly, it will never perish.

MR H. M. CAMPBELL SELECTED FOR R.D.P.

Mr H. M. Campbell, of Melbourne, has been selected to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. With Mr J. R. W. Purves, also of Melbourne, Australia now has two members of philately's most elite group.

Both are Fellows of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, and past presidents of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Hugh Campbell has had a wide range of collecting interests and a distinguished record as a philatelic writer.



His first major collection was the stamps and postal history of Hong Kong and Treaty Ports. He also formed collections of St Helena and Ascension and in more recent years has been most actively interested in the cancellations of Fiji, Tasmania, New South Wales, Queensland, and Ceylon.

He joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1945 and The Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1947. He was president of the Victorian society in 1949-50. He was the foundation editor of *Philately from Australia* and during his

period from 1949 to 1955, set its editorial standards and tone. He has also written extensively on most of his interests in British and Australian Journals, the most recent contribution being an article on Queensland Duplex Numeral cancellations in *Gibbons Stamp Monthly* for January.

He wrote the handbook *Post Offices and Cancellations of Fiji*, published by The Hawthorn Press, and was general editor of another, *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*, by H. M. Campbell, J. R. W. Purves, and L. C. Viney, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1962.

In the following year he became the second recipient of the David H. Hill Medal, the senior award of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, named after the first president of the society, who was also a foundation signatory of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Mr Campbell's exhibition awards have included a bronze medal for Hong Kong at the London International Philatelic Exhibition in 1950, a silver medal for St Helena and Ascension at ANPEX 1950 (Melbourne), a silver medal for the Fiji book at ANPEX 1959 (Sydney), and silver medals for his exhibit of Cancellations of the Australian States and for the Fiji work at MIPEX 1963 (Melbourne).

Formal election to the Roll will be at the Philatelic Congress of Great Britain in June.

Election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists is international philately's highest honour and recognition. Five Australians have achieved the distinction: Mr Hill, Mr A. F. Basset Hull, Mr Purves, Mr W. H. Blomfield, and Mr Campbell.

Mr Campbell graduated from the University of Melbourne with an M.A. degree in Classics and also gained the Diploma in Education. He is Senior Librarian of the British Petroleum Company (Australia) Ltd.

EDITORIAL NOTES

R.P.S.V. Sale

Date of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's next sale has been advanced by one week, because of circumstances. Instead of being held on 24 May, it will be on 31 May.

R.P.S.V. Library Notes

The following gifts have been gratefully received by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Library:

Germania, magazine of German & Colonies Philatelic Society. Gift of Mr J. Kay.

Malta Newsletter, gift of Mrs J. Turnbull.

VPA Newsletter, complete file. Gift of Mr K. A. Robertson.

Mexico Successes

Four members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria gained medals at the International Philatelic Exhibition held in Mexico last year.

Mr E. W. Gerrish, of Britain, gained a silver-gilt medal for Netherlands; Mr P. Jaffe, a silver for St Vincent; Mr E. G. Creed, a silver-bronze for Falkland Islands, and Mr E. B. Doery, a bronze medal for Egypt.

AUSTRALIAN GEO. V 1d. GREEN, DIE 2 ON NEWSWRAPPERS

By A. M. LEITCH

This variety does not appear in any listing of postal stationery that I know of, but it undoubtedly exists. I have a mint copy on an entire which I showed to Rev. J. C. W. Brown for an opinion when he was writing "The Trail of Commonwealth" in *Philately from Australia* (June 1959).

This item was a 1923 vintage and there was just the possibility that the Die 2 spur could have been an accidental fleck in the printing and its occurrence in the exact shape and on the exact spot might have been a coincidence. He therefore could not give a definite opinion, one way or the other, but stated that he knew of no reason why the Die 2 should not exist in this period as some of the earlier electros may still have been on hand.

He also stated that the listing of the 1d Geo. V Die 2, in red, on earlier wrappers was based on one cut-out from a rather rough printing. It was hoped that the publicity might have brought some response from other collectors but it did not.

In the meantime the search has continued and I have acquired two more copies—another mint entire and a cut-out. There was also a fourth copy, on a mint entire, offered in the *Australian Stamp Monthly* by a Melbourne dealer a few years ago.

Now a correspondent in Adelaide has sent me another on a mint entire. This makes five clear examples and must definitely establish this variety.

EDITORIAL NOTES

TARAPEX 1969

The closing date for provisional entries for the New Zealand National Philatelic Exhibition, Tarapex 69, has been extended to 31 March.

The exhibition will be held in New Plymouth from Monday 6 October 1969 to Saturday 11 October.

Final entries will close on 31 May. The secretarial address is Box 491, New Plymouth, New Zealand.

ANPEX 1970

It has been learned indirectly that the site of ANPEX 1970 has been transferred from Australia Square, Sydney, to the Prestige Ballroom, Wentworth Hotel, and will be from Monday 27 April 1970, to the following Friday. It is hoped that this will not affect the success of the exhibition.



The Other Side of the Picture



QUEENSLAND

Fassifern, Engelsburg, Kalbar

Mr Bernard Harman of Oxley South, Queensland, has kindly shown me a cover of April 1887 which "ties" Fassifern to the 92 numeral cancellation. He has also had access to certain records which prove that the site of the Post and Telegraph office at Fassifern was transferred in January 1897 to nearby Engelsburg, and that in July 1916 the latter name was changed to Kalbar. Mr Harman adds that the original Fassifern was about $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles south west of Kalbar (formerly Engelsburg), the latter area having originally been opened up—about 1860—by some German settlers.

VICTORIA

(ii) 1d "Half-Length": Campbell and Fergusson "pinks" More major "creased transfer" varieties

In my work on the "Half-Lengths", at pp. 155-58, I described no less than 55 of these. Many of them also were illustrated in the plates included in the book.

Over the past five years I have found *another* 14 varieties which can be described as follows:

Type 3: (a) A "major". The letters "ONE P" are noticeably lower in level than the letters "ENNY". The "E" of "PENNY" is very squeezed, being only about half normal size and the top left of the first "N" of the same word is missing. *Two* copies seen.

(e) The north-west corner and the "V"—also the "IC" (though these not to the same extent) are badly squeezed downwards. *Two* copies seen.

Type 10: (d) S.E. corner is prolonged towards the S.E., the "Y" is smaller than normal and its right stroke is shortened at top right. *Two* copies seen.

Type 11: (b) Rather interesting. The level of the eye on the left is noticeably *below* that of the eye on the right, and there is some (corresponding) distortion in the shape of the face. *Two* copies seen.

Type 12: (c) A squeeze in the top label, the "VICT" being on a rather higher level than the "ORIA". *One* copy seen; (d) letter "E" in SW corner is squeezed, also "ON". *One* copy seen.

Type 14: Add (b) major. The letters "RIA" (the "R" has been obliterated, as the result of a white flaw passing through it) are higher in level than the "VICTO". *Two* copies seen, one in a pair under 8(a).

Type 15: (d) Major. "NY" noticeably below level of "PEN". *One* copy seen.

Type 16: (c) Rather interesting. The lower right portion of the face has been "pushed in", the chin becoming smaller than normal as a consequence. *One copy seen.*

(d) Major. The "IA" is decidedly below the level of the "VICTOR". The face is narrower than normal. There is a major "squeeze" variety in the stamp *above* which so far I have not found outside this off-centre single of 16. *One copy seen;* (e) top left corner slopes downwards to left, "P" of "PENNY" has shortened downstroke and slopes backwards. *One copy seen.*

Type 17: Major: affects base. The letters "ONE" slope downwards to the right. The base portion below "ONE PEN" presents a notably concave appearance, and the letters "NY" have been squeezed to half their normal height or less. *One copy seen, on complete cover.*

Type 18: (c) Slight but interesting. The stem of the staff is divided by colour at its centre, the top half is slightly to the left of and *not* in the same groove as the bottom half. *One copy seen.*

Type 22: (a) Top frame slopes downwards to right over "ORIA", the "RIA" being of shorter height than normal. *One copy seen.*

Note that (a), (b), etc., above, each signify a different variety.

It is, I think, now quite certain that the pinks, roses, rose-reds (described under S.G. 22) came from *two* stones of 400, i.e., Stones 4 and 5, and therefore that there *was* a fifth printing stone. (See footnote on p. 130 of the book.)

(ii) 4d "Beaded Oval", wmk. "FOUR PENCE"

A new "damaged dandy-roll" variety

Those interested in Victoria may remember that I reported a damaged "6" watermark variety which I had found in *both* the 2d and 6d "Laureated" stamps, and which is found on the *same* position in the sheet in both cases.

I have recently discovered a similar case in the 4d "Beaded Oval" wmk. "FOUR PENCE". In this case the position affected is D17 (there were four panes of 30 (6 x 5)—A, B over C, D). Seven of the eighteen copies of D17 examined show the variety, the other half being normal. It is therefore obvious that the damage occurred *during the use of the dandy-roll* to impress the pulp.

The damage (or misplacement) shows up as a badly *dropped* "F" in "FOUR". In many early cases (like this one) each watermark was *individually* made and attached to the wire gauze. The workman, of course, followed a model and there is, therefore, from watermark to watermark, a good deal of variation. This particular damage has, however, resulted in a highly prominent variety which is worth looking for.

So far as I can ascertain it is the *only* worthwhile variety of this nature occurring in this stamp of which—over the years—I must have "plated" about three thousand copies, either for myself or for others.

(iii) Another "Reversed" Watermark Found; 5/- S.G. 197a

The writer has located a single copy of this stamp which is from the base of a sheet and shows the marginal watermark "AGE" (of "POSTAGE"), and only a fraction of the V over Crown watermark above. These letters, looking at the back of the stamp read—in *positive*—"AGE", hence its identification as a *reversed* watermark.

(iv) "STITCH" Watermark Found on 2d Laureate, S.G. 174 and 4d Laureate, S.G. 119

Those who have a copy of the writer's monograph on the five V over Crown Watermarks of Victoria may remember that he then reported the discovery of a solitary "stitch" on the first De La Rue V over Crown paper (Type V1). This was on the 2/- type inscribed "STAMP DUTY" of 1886.

He has now found a second example (the stitch is *horizontal*) on the 2d Laureated on lilac paper of 1868.

It seems clear now that other examples, whether on white or coloured paper (the visibility of the stitch on the latter is much superior), may well be looked for. The implications, however, are still that they will take a lot of finding and that the size of the sheets as originally manufactured (and before cutting) must have been many times that of the single sheet containing 120 watermarks. However, one must start somewhere and this is a "lead" at least.

In the case of the "stitch" on the 4d Laureate, S.G. 119, this is a variety which, in view of the comparative commonness of the stamp, I would have expected to find (with one or other shade or perforation) long ago. The "stitch" is *vertical*, like the other "Laureated stitches". It brought the total of different stamps of Victoria—found to date with a "stitch"—to 50! "Love's labour lost", some may say, but a new variety—to a specialist—is always fun.

(v) T.P.O. Markings: Discovery of a New "Duplex" Cancellor

The writer has to report finding two copies of the 2d (in the *last* shade) of the 1885 issue showing a "T.P.O." over "6" cancellation which he has not seen before, and which unquestionably forms part of a "duplex". This particular shade was in use from June to July 1886.

He has a copy of the previous type canceller (for No. 6), in badly-worn condition, dated 16.12.85 and the earliest date of his *present second* canceller with this number is 4.11.86.

It is clear, therefore, that the new find comes between the present first and second cancellations, that it can be dubbed rare but that other examples are bound to turn up.

(vi) "Barred Numeral" Cancellations: Recent Discoveries

The writer has made three finds recently which he has not seen before, as follows:

81: TARRAVILLE: Now seen in blue, used about 1890.

208: CARLSRUHE: Type 2, on a 4d Emblems perforated of 1859-60 period, has now been seen. Previously NNS.

871: YAWONG: *Another* type, also with large numerals but with thicker figures, well spaced, has been found. Period of stamp found with this new type is 1890.

SAMOA: THE PALM TREES ISSUES (PARTICULARLY THE 6d PERF. 12½)

(By A. R. BURGE, F.R.P.S.N.Z.)

Volume V of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* contains an account of the issue of the Palm Trees stamps by Mr John Davis, as well as particulars of the various printings made by the New Zealand Government Printer during the currency of the stamps.

Mr Davis had been appointed postmaster by King Malietoa Laupepa on 20 December 1886, after having acted in that capacity with the tacit approval of the Consuls of Great Britain, the United States of America, and Germany, from the previous year. The issue of the Palm Trees stamps, with that of the later 2½d. Malietoa and 5d. Flag stamps, remained on sale at Apia until the partition of Samoa between the United States and Germany which took effect from 1 March 1900.

Although much information, the result of considerable research, appeared in Volume V, a number of questions remained in doubt and certain statements in the Volume, particularly concerning the 6d. value perf 12½, which it was suggested was a proof, have been questioned by Samoan specialists. Mr John Powell, of Sydney, who has a copy of the stamp, has persisted that his stamp is not a proof, and an article on the subject appeared under his name in a recent issue of *Stamp Collecting* (3 October 1968).

Because of the uncertainty of the status of the 6d. perf 12½ I decided some time ago to try to clear the matter up by further research into this and other problems concerning the Palm Trees issues that it had not been possible to do prior to the publication of the Handbook. This has resulted in some measure of success and I feel sure Mr Powell will be happy to know that I think he has an issued stamp and not a proof. But it wasn't because of a suggestion in the article mentioned above that the Samoan sun was too hot and Davis too lazy to stack the second printing of this value (317 sheets) under the remaining supplies of the first printing, if any (200 sheets originally), that held the key to the puzzle: it was merely a question of what paper the stamps were printed on; and the solution was there right before our eyes all the time. It is necessary, however, to start at the beginning and see what papers and perforating machines were then being used by the New Zealand Government Printer.

From the outset it must be realised that in addition to Samoan stamps, large quantities of contemporary New Zealand sideface and other issues, and also stamps for Tonga and the Cook Islands were being printed by the Government Printer. The same papers and perforating machines were being used for all these stamps from 1877 to 1900 and later.

During the currency of the Palm Trees issues five different papers were used with three main types of NZ and star watermark:

- (a) White opaque paper with horizontal mesh and a distance of 6mm between the bottom of the letters and the top of the star. In use to 1888. The star and letters are noticeably wider than in the vertical mesh papers.
- (b) From 1887 to 1890, and again from 1891 to 1897 a soft vertical mesh paper with a distance of 7mm between the NZ and star was used.
- (c) Thin hard vertical mesh paper with a distance of 4mm between the NZ and star. In use 1890-91. Generally known as "Life Insurance" paper as it was used for the first printings of these stamps.
- (d) A toned paper was used in 1898 for a printing of the 1s. and 2s.6d. values with the same watermark as (b). This paper was also used for a printing of the Torea stamps of Cook Islands. In the records it is referred to as "postal note" paper.
- (e) In 1899 a paper with a rather rough surface and distinct vertical mesh was brought into use. It had the same watermark as (b).

The main perforating machines used for the island stamps were:

- (a) 12½ line machine, in use for New Zealand stamps from 1866 to 1878 and spasmodically until 1897, and used for the island stamps between 1886 and 1892.
- (b) 12 x 11½ comb machine introduced in 1878 for New Zealand issues and subsequently used for printings of the island stamps from 1887 to 1895.
- (c) Perf 11 rotary and treadle machines, the former from May 1895, the latter from 1899 until February 1900, and for later issues not covered here. It is known that these machines were used at times in conjunction with one another for the final printings of the Palm Trees stamps. Although both gauge 11 the characteristics of each machine can be distinguished.

Although the records of the Government Printer had been examined some years ago, a further search of the stamp printings books became necessary when an endeavour was made to allocate by the sheet serial numbers particular printings of the island stamps to specific batches of paper.

When an order for stamps is placed with a manufacturer it is specified that the sheets be numbered consecutively. From the table below it would appear that each paper firm numbered the sheets from 1 onwards for their particular order, whereas in more recent times the sheets were numbered 1 to 999,999 irrespective of which firm was the successful tenderer. The paper was bound in books of 500 sheets and when issued to the Government Printer the serial numbers were recorded but, unfortunately, not always details of the particular stamps to be printed. However, the various issues of paper could be followed through by the serial numbers, and, if one is lucky enough to possess a numbered block, the batch from which it came and the particular printing could be identified. It is remarkable that so few numbered blocks or pairs of New Zealand side-face issues have survived considering the quantities printed, whereas quite a few of those for Samoa and the Cook Islands, mainly perf 11, are known. Unfortunately one record book with particulars of the NZ and star paper issued for the printings of postage stamps between December 1879 and October 1890 is missing from the archives. The following particulars cover the periods 1876-79 and 1890-1900, with an estimate for the intervening period. (Paper issued for other than postage stamps—fiscals, Government Life, Newspaper stamps, etc.—is not considered here.)

Period of issue	Sheet numbers	Watermark	Remarks
Nov 1876-Mar 1879	1-101,000		End of batch
Mar 1879-Dec 1879	1- 76,500		Record ends
1880- 1882	76,501- ?		Thin white paper
1882- 1888	1- ?	6mm (a)	
1887- 1890	1- ?	7mm (b)*	
Oct 1890-Nov 1890	42,501- 58,470	4mm (c)	Life Insurance paper
Nov 1890-Aug 1895	18,501-995,000	7mm (b)*	
Sep 1894-Mar 1897	6- 24,000**	7mm (d)	Postal Note (Lt. buff) paper
Sep 1895-Mar 1898	1-700,000	7mm (b)	
Mar 1898-May 1900	1-390,000**	7mm (e)	

* The 7 mm. paper was first used for New Zealand stamps as early as December 1887, so there must have been another batch in use prior to November 1890.

** Not the end of these two batches of paper.

It is stated in Volume V (p. 570 and p. 569, 2½d) that various values of the Palm Trees stamps appeared on the several papers as follows (dates refer to Samoa issues only):

Perf	(a) 6mm. 1886-88	(b) 7mm. 1888-99	(c) 4mm. 1890-91	(d) 7mm. 1898	(e) 7mm. 1899-1900
<i>12½ line</i>					
Oct 1886-	½d, 1d, 2d,	—	—	—	—
Jul 1887	4d, 1s, 2s6d				
Jan 1892	2½d				
<i>12 x 11½</i>					
Sep 1887-	½d, 1d, 2d,	½d, 1d, 2d,	½d, 1d, 2d,	—	—
Feb 1894	6d, 1s	2½d, 6d, 1s, 2s6d, 5s	4d, 6d, 2s6d		
<i>11</i>					
May 1895-	—	½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 4d, 6d,	—	1s, 2s6d**	½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 4d, 5d, 6d, 1s
Feb 1900		1s, 2s6d*			

* 2s6d violet—watermark inverted.

** 2s6d deep purple—watermark reversed.

From the evidence of actual stamps the following discrepancies in the above list are apparent:

- The 2d. and 6d. perf 12½ exist on the 7mm paper (b);
- the 2½d. perf 12½ is only known on the 7mm paper (b);
- the 4d. perf 12 x 11½ exists on both the 7mm and 4mm papers (b and c);
- the 1s. perf 12 x 11½ has been reported on the 6mm paper (a) but exists on the 7mm paper (b) as well as the 4mm paper (c).
- the 5d. perf 11 exists on the 7mm paper (b);

the 2s.6d. perf 11 with upright watermark in deep mauve exists on the 7mm paper (b).

Note that the 6d. perf 12 x 11½ exists on all three papers (a, b, and c).

From the printing records it would appear that there were not sufficient printings of the various values to account for all the above paper varieties, unless in one or two cases paper from different batches was used. This would not normally happen but could occur at the end of one batch and the start of a new one.

About 1890-91 the side-face issues of New Zealand appeared on the 4mm paper then being used for the Government Life Insurance stamps. This could be the odd batch of paper referred to in the records (42501-58470) and which was used for the New Zealand "postage" stamp issues pending the receipt of a new batch of paper which was brought into use in November 1890, and which had the 7mm watermark (b). However, the earlier batch, of which we have no precise record, must have been a similar paper with the 7mm watermark. As pointed out above, the side-face stamps were first issued on this paper late in 1887. The printing of the Palm Trees stamps of 9 May 1890, could therefore have been on paper from the last sheets of this batch of the 7mm paper as well as some from the Life Insurance paper (4mm) issued about the same time for the "postage" stamps. This would explain the existence of the 4d, 6d, and 1s values on both the (b) and (c) papers. A numbered block would certainly prove or disprove this supposition.

Although it has been accepted that the second printing of the Palm Trees stamps of 6 July 1887, on the 6mm paper was perforated 12½, it should be noted that the second printing of the Tongan 1d. and 2d. values printed on the 15th of that month were perforated 12 x 11½ by the comb machine. It is possible therefore that this printing of the Palm Trees was actually perf 12 x 11½. The only way of proving this is to sight copies of the 4d., 1s. and 2s.6d. with this perf on the 6mm paper but so far none have been reported to our knowledge.

The most important discovery that resulted from this additional research concerns the 6d. perf 12½. We recently examined a copy of this stamp, the first we have actually handled. The evidence concerning it published in Volume V was mainly circumstantial. Dated covers proved that the first printing (24,000 copies, not 2400), of 24 September 1887, was perf 12 x 11½. This being so, it was deduced with some justification that the five or six copies known perf 12½ must be from a proof sheet, even though watermarked paper was seldom used for proofing purposes. There seemed to be no other explanation.

To our surprise the 6d. perf 12½ stamp examined was found to be on the 7mm paper (b)—we certainly had expected it to be on the 6mm paper to be of proof status. A second copy of the stamp has now been seen and this is also on the 7mm paper. This was a major find and paved the way for the stamp to be considered a normal issue and not a proof.

In the table of printings of the 12 x 11½ stamps on page 569 of Volume V a small printing is listed under the date of 7 March 1891. It comprised the following: ½d., 600; 1d., 600; 2d., 600; 4d., 360; 6d., 360; 1s., 240; 2s.6d., 120.

It was thought at the time that this small printing was made up from damaged sheets from the earlier printing of 9 May 1890, similar to that which occurred with odd quantities of the first issue of Cook Islands. A further examination of the

printing records of the Government Printer showed that this was, in fact, a definite separate printing and did not consist of salvaged sheets of stamps. The reason for such a small printing is not known and can only be the subject of speculation at this late time. Perhaps Davis may have wished to execute a special order for the stamps. In any event, it seemed likely that this small printing of 24 sheets of 120 stamps each was perforated $12\frac{1}{2}$ by the line machine, and the 6d value in question was part of this printing. To prove the point it was only necessary to find examples of the other values on the 7mm. paper perf $12\frac{1}{2}$. A hurried examination was made of our small selection of the perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ stamps and much to our delight we found a copy of the 2d value similar in all respects to the 6d. Both these stamps were shown to Mr K. J. McNaught who has confirmed they were printed on the 7mm. paper. No wonder the 6d has been so elusive when only 360 were printed.

To find other values on the same paper with the same perforation is going to be even more difficult, and that they have not been recognised earlier is due of course to the fact that they are already well-known perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ on 6mm. paper. No separate listing has been made of the papers used for these issues but now that we know the story of the 6d the other companion values should be listed separately. The check list in Volume V will therefore require amendment.

A comparison of the actual numbers of the stamps in the various perms and papers known to the author was made and, not unexpectedly, the scarcest of them all, other than those perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ on the 7mm. paper, were the stamps perf $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ on the 6mm. paper. This seemed to confirm that the relatively small printing of 6 July 1887 was perf $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ and not $12\frac{1}{2}$ as earlier thought. Only one or two copies of the $\frac{1}{2}$ d, 1d, and 2d values have been seen and none so far of the 4d, 1s, and 2s6d. In view of this, the printings of the three low values of 5 November 1887, were probably on the 7mm. paper.

Most values perf $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ on the 4 mm. (c) paper are much scarcer than the same values on the 7mm. (b) paper, and it seems obvious that the printing of 9 May 1890 contained sheets from both the 4mm. and 7mm. papers. The main exception is the 4d denomination which is commoner on the 4mm. paper. This was an odd value and not in great demand postally, and it was because of this that the stamp was chosen to be surcharged "FIVE PENCE" and "5d". The two types of surcharge appear to be more plentiful than the ordinary unsurcharged issue, and this is no doubt due to the fact that supplies of the surcharges were in the hands of collectors or dealers prior to the great fire at Apia, now referred to.

It must be remembered that although the total number of the stamps perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ was fairly substantial for those days, practically the whole stock held on 1 April 1895, was lost in the fire that razed the business centre of Apia, including the Post Office. A few sheets of the 1s perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ somehow escaped the blaze and it was stamps from these sheets that were bisected by Davis and used for postage on overseas letters. (Bisected copies of the 1s perf 11 were later made by Davis to satisfy a philatelic demand.) Covers are known bearing the early stamps dated after the fire, but these could have been in private hands at the time of the fire.

This accounts for the main discrepancies in the perf $12\frac{1}{2}$ or $12 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ stamps, except for the isolated example of the new $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. Malietoa first printed on 7 June

1892. Printed on the 7mm. paper and perforated 12½ it seems out of place in the middle of the printings which were perforated 12 x 11½, and just goes to show what can sometimes happen. Although not the main perforating medium after the introduction of the 12 x 11½ machine, the 12½ line head was in use as a stand-by machine for various purposes right up to 1897, mainly for New Zealand stamps.

After allocating actual stamps to particular printings by the paper and perforation, the various colours and shades in which the stamps were printed seemed to sort themselves out in most instances. Due to lack of material at the time of compiling information for Volume V it was not possible to identify a particular shade with a specific printing as was possible with the perf 11 printings.

The following is a summary of the printings of the stamps perf 12½ or 12 x 11½ on the various papers in accordance with the above information. Corrections to the list may have to be made in the light of new discoveries.

Check List

A. Perf. 12½

	6mm. paper (Oct-Nov 1886)	7mm. paper (7 Mar 1891)
½d	purple-brown (12480)	? (600)
1d	yellow-green (12480)	? (600)
2d	brown-orange (12480)	yellow (600)
4d	deep blue, blue (12480)	? (360)
6d	—	brown-lake (360)
1s	rose-carmine (12480)	? (240)
2s6d	violet (12480)	? (120)
2½d (Jan 1892)	—	rose (24,600)

B. Perf 12 x 11½

	6mm. paper (6 Jul 1887)	7mm. paper (Nov 1887-Feb 1894)	4mm. paper (May 1890)
½d	purple-brown (9600)	purple-brown, purple-black	deep purple-brown, purple-black
1d	yellow-green (9360)	green, blue-green	yellow-green
2d	yellow (9600)	orange, brown-orange	orange-brown
4d	? (9600)	blue	37800* blue, deep blue
6d (24 Sep 1887)	brown-lake (24000)	brown-lake	38040* maroon
1s	? (9360)	rose	37920* rose
2s6d	? (9600)	violet (60240)	bright violet (13200)
2½d	—	rose, pale rose (59880)	—
5d	—	red, dull red (60720)	—

* The figures for these values printed on the two papers on 9 May 1890.

The Perf. 11 printings

Following the fire of 1 April 1895, in which Davis lost his stock of stamps, he was obliged to order further supplies from Wellington and these were printed by 11 May, except for the 2½d Malietoa and the 5d Flag stamps. The former was not printed until July and the reason for this was that a new plate had to be made with a consequent delay in printing. It was during the examination of the New Zealand Government Printer's records for this study that the existence of

the second plate was discovered, and this was first reported in the *New Zealand Stamp Collector* for November 1968.

It has been possible from the table of the paper issues and the existence of sheet number blocks to identify all the printings of the perf 11 issues. During the period between May 1895 and February 1900, three different papers with the 7mm. watermark were used—the soft vertical mesh paper (b), the toned paper (d), and last of all, the rather rough paper with the distinct vertical mesh (e).

One or two peculiar things happened during the printing of these stamps. Although the 5d Flag stamp is known on the (b) paper, no record of a printing of this value appears in the records until February 1900, and the stamps from this printing are on the (e) paper. It appears likely that a printing was made in May 1895, but somehow was not recorded.

Both printings of the 2s6d denomination were different from all other values. That of May 1895, violet on the (b) paper, had the watermark inverted, and that of May 1898, in deep purple on the toned paper had the watermark reversed, the stamps being printed on the wrong side of the paper. The 2s6d, however, is also known on the (b) paper with upright watermark in deep mauve, but like the 5d there appears to be no record of it.

The toned, or postal note, paper on which the 1s and 2s6d were printed in May 1898 was probably used because of the gap between the completion of the third batch of the (b) paper in May 1898, and the start of the first batch of the (e) paper shortly afterwards.

The printing of the 2½d on 16 June 1896, was in black and not the normal rose. Although it has been described as an error of colour (whether Davis or the printer was responsible for the change is not known), it is a fairly common stamp in its normal perforation of 10 x 11. It is the only value of the whole series that has a compound perforation. Copies of the stamp perf 11, the normal perforation of the other values, are extremely scarce. Volume V records an unusual perforation variety in this stamp. It is from a sheet perf 10 x 11 which had a block of stamps patched in to replace damaged ones, and the sheet was subsequently reperfed along the patching strips with the 11 machine resulting in stamps from the top and bottom left corners having double perfs vertically and mixed perfs horizontally on the outer sides.

All values of the perf 11 issues exist with varieties of double perfs due to the bad alignment of most of the perforations which was common with the rotary and treadle machines. Most of these are from the printings on the (e) paper and perforated by the treadle machines, the perforation holes being rather large and clean cut. In some cases one of the rotary machines, where the holes are smaller and not cleanly cut, was used to correct the bad alignment of the treadle machines. In the last printings of some values the horizontal rows were perforated by a treadle machine and the vertical rows by a rotary machine. Mr R. P. Odenweller, of Glen Cove, N.Y., U.S.A., has a sheet of the 1s with this combination and the writer has examples of other values.

The final printings of the Davis stamps were completed by 7 February 1900, and it is believed they arrived at Apia on the SS *Hauoto* on 16 February or on the *Mariposa* on 23rd. These printings included a special printing of the 2d red-

orange surcharged "R3d" in green, and the 2d yellow "Surcharged 1½d" in pale dull blue, which only carry a footnote in the Catalogue.

It is possible that some of these stamps were genuinely used for normal postal purposes prior to the closing of the office on 29 February. Undoubtedly many were later cancelled to order by Davis. Fortunately they can be distinguished as they were printed on the (e) paper. These stamps have been described as being reprints similar to the Express reprints or facsimiles as Volume V describes them, but unlike these, the Palm Trees stamps had been printed and were in stock when the post office closed. The most that can be said against them is that they were remainders.

It has not been possible within the scope of this article to deal with the various surcharged and overprinted Palm Trees stamps. It is evident that further study is required in some of these issues and this may be the basis of a later article.

The table that follows lists the complete numbers printed of the Palm Trees stamps in accordance with the records of the New Zealand Government Printer. The paper and perforation details are based in the main on actual stamps as explained above. [See next page.]



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

S.S. "MATUNGA" MAIL

Members of the Pacific Island Circle recently examined two covers which formed part of the mail carried by the S.S. *Matunga* of the Burns Philp Line when that ship was captured by the German armed merchantman, *Wolf*.

The *Matunga* was subsequently sunk and the *Wolf*, after sinking further Allied shipping, managed to return to Germany.

Both covers are addressed to a member of the A.N.M.E.F. (Australian Naval and Military Expeditionary Forces), Rabaul, and one bears a Sydney G.P.O. cancellation of 23.7.1917.

The other cover bears Sydney G.P.O. cancellation of 28.7.1917.

The *Matunga* sailed from Sydney on 27 July 1917 and called at Brisbane (where she presumably collected the cover posted from Sydney dated 28.7.1917) en route to Rabaul, where she was due on 7 August but was captured on the previous day. The mail on the *Matunga* was taken aboard the *Wolf* and examined, as the covers have been resealed by the German equivalent of an "Opened by Military Censor" sticker.

The mail was apparently held in Germany until after the Armistice in 1918 and was eventually cleared through Denmark as the covers bear a Copenhagen cancellation of 3.2.1919.

SAMOA – PALM TREES, MALIETOA AND FLAG ISSUES – PRINTINGS

Date	Paper	Perf	½d	1d	2d	4d	6d	1s	2s6d	2½d	5d	Notes
1886 Oct/Nov	(a) 6 mm.	12½	12,480	12,480	12,480	12,480		12,480	12,480			
1887 6 July	(a) 6 mm.	12 x 11½	9,600	9,360	9,600	9,600		9,360	9,600			
24 Sept	(a) 6 mm.	12 x 11½					24,000					
5 Nov	(b) 7 mm.	12 x 11½	24,240	24,240	24,240							
1890 9 May	(b) 7 mm.	12 x 11½	60,720	61,560	60,600 ²	37,800 ¹	38,040	37,920	13,200			
	(c) 4 mm.	12 x 11½										
1891 7 Mar	(b) 7 mm.	12½	600	600	600	360	360	240	120			
27 Oct	(b) 7 mm.	12 x 11½	79,440	80,040	78,600							
1892 7 Jan	(b) 7 mm.	12½								24,600		
22 Nov	(b) 7 mm.	12 x 11½								59,880		
1893 24 Mar	(b) 7 mm.	12 x 11½							60,240			
1894 26 Feb	(b) 7 mm.	12 x 11½									60,720	
1895 11 May	(b) 7 mm.	11	18,360	18,480	{ 18,480	18,360	18,360	18,360	18,360 ³			1/4/95, Fire at Apia
9 July	(b) 7 mm.	11			{ 36,000 ⁴							New plate
1896 20 Jan	(b) 7 mm.	11			83,400 ⁵					18,360		
16 Jun	(b) 7 mm.	10 x 11								118,080		Printed in black
1897 11 Jan	(b) 7 mm.	11	47,880	46,800 ⁶	47,280							
5 Aug	(b) 7 mm.	11	118,800	119,400 ⁶	119,280					119,160		
1898 17 May	(d) 7 mm.	11						70,680 ⁶	71,880 ^{6 7}			Toned paper (d)
1899 18 Jul	(e) 7 mm.	11	119,160	119,280								New colors
1900 7 Feb	(e) 7 mm.	11	71,880	71,400	70,800	71,760	59,400	71,040		72,200	119,400	1

1 4d—sheets from this printing on (b) and (c) papers were surcharged "FIVE PENCE" or "5d".
 2 2d brown-orange—sheets from this printing on (b) paper were surcharged "1½d" or "R3d".
 3 2s6d—this printing had the watermark inverted.
 4 2d orange—the special printing of this value was surcharged "1½d" or "R3d".
 5 2d yellow—sheets from this printing were surcharged "1½d" or "R3d".
 6 1d, 1s, 2s6d—sheets from these printings were surcharged "2½d".
 7 2s6d—this printing had the watermark inverted.

TASMANIA: THE 1854 TO 1861 POST OFFICES

By P. B. EDWARDS

What may be the last uninvestigated sources of information have now been consulted in an effort to fill in some of the gaps in our knowledge of the 1854 to 1861 post offices, dealt with in Chapter IV of *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings* by Campbell, Purves and Viney. (References in brackets in this article are to pages in this handbook.) The sources are the Tasmanian Almanacs published under various titles and editors as follow:

- Wood's Tasmanian Almanacs*, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856 and 1857.
- The Guide to Tasmania*, Hull, 1858.
- The Royal Kalendar & Guide to Tasmania*, Hull, 1859 and 1860.
- The Tasmanian Almanac*, 1862.
- Walch's Tasmanian Almanacs*, 1863 onwards.

The 1853 to 1857 *Almanacs* contain lists of post towns with Postmasters. In some issues, Receiving Houses are listed as such, and in others they are shown in brackets as being attached to a particular post office. In the 1858 *Guide*, post towns only are listed. The 1859 and 1860 books list post towns (only a few R.H's are identifiable) together with postmasters, counties in which the post towns were located, and the mileages of some of them from Hobart. The 1862 *Almanac* is quite brief, the post office section merely giving a timetable for the departure of mails from Launceston, with a list of post towns served as at November 1861.

As far as other dating is concerned, it can only be assumed in the case of the 1853 to 1857 *Almanacs* that the data given refers to the position at the end of the preceding year. The Prefaces to the 1858, 1859 and 1860 books are dated 1 July 1858, Eve of Christmas 1858 and December 1869 respectively. Tentative dating of the opening and closing of many post offices is therefore possible within the following broad periods: 1852 or earlier, 1853, 1854, 1855, 1856, 1857 to mid-1858, last half of 1858, 1859, and 1860 to the end of March 1861 when the second allocation of obliterators was made (44).

As to accuracy, it appears that both Wood and Hull went to official sources for their information, Hull in the 1859 *Almanac* stating ". . . The utmost care has been taken to obtain information so as to obtain a correct guide . . . the Postal Regulations (having been revised) by the Secretary to the Post Office. . ."

The best way of presenting the information gleaned is probably to follow the order of Post Office listings in Chapter IV of the Handbook and to avoid repetition by using the year of publication of the particular Almanac with the information briefly set out alongside. All opening and closing dates given are "probable", i.e., as indicated by this study.

PEPPERMINT BAY

1855 Post Town. 1856-60 Post Town, Henry Byrne P.M. Not listed as a Receiving House. Opened 1854.

TORQUAY

1855 Post Town, John D. Jowett P.M. Opened 1854.

"THE CASCADES"

CASCADES, 1853 Post Town, J. H. Milne P.M. 1855-56 Post Town, P. Smith P.M. There is no mention of "THE CASCADES". OUSE, T. Stace P.M. is listed 1853-56 and PORT ARTHUR, T. Brown P.M., 1855-56.

It appears that "THE CASCADES" was a re-opening of CASCADES. It could have been more important than OUSE, and first allocation obliterator 48 could have been *transferred* to CASCADES (not OUSE *altered* to CASCADES) on 13 October 1854 (27) 22 days after "THE CASCADES" P.O. was gazetted (40). Mr Basset Hull's list is possibly correct and the explanation set out here is more credible than the various alternatives given in the Handbook (32). Obliterator 48 could have been finally re-allocated to HOBART in 1856 after the second closure of CASCADES.

The argument about the location of "THE CASCADES" is partially answered in the Handbook where on page 27 appears ". . . on 31.10.53, the Post Office on Tasman's Peninsula was transferred 'from *the Cascades* to Port Arthur' . . .". The italics are mine and the quote concerned is presumably from an official document.

Incidentally, while the statement on page 32 of the Handbook that ". . . the Hobart suburb . . . is normally spelt in the singular (CASCADE road, CASCADE Brewery)" is correct, the area has always been referred to as "The Cascades". The earliest reference that the writer has found is on page 34 of *A Narrative of a Visit to the Australian Colonies* by James Backhouse, 1843. Backhouse says that in 1834 ". . . here the bed of the brook is rocky and so nearly flat as scarcely to deserve the name of 'The Cascades' by which the place is called. . . ."

GREAT SWANPORT

1853, 54, 57 R.H. attached to WATERLOO POINT, W. Lyne P.M. 1859 APSLEY and 1860 APSLAWN, both Post Town, John Lyne P.M. "APSLEY" is an obvious error. "APSLAWN" is the property originally owned by the Lyne family at the headwaters of Great Swanport. GREAT SWANPORT, also later called APSLAWN therefore operated at least as early as 1852 until at least as late as 1860.

BICHENO

1859 Post Town, A. Glover P.M., is the first entry. It is not in the 1857 and 1858 lists of R.H's. Although gazetted on 1.1.55 it may not have opened until the last half of 1858.

at DOUGLAS RIVER COMPANY'S WORKS

In 1857 only, DOUGLAS RIVER is in the R.H. list and is shown as attached to WATERLOO POINT. It had a brief existence from 1856 to not later than mid-1858.

PORT ESPERANCE
SHIPWRIGHT'S POINT

Are both shown in 1858 as Post Towns and therefore opened between the end of 1856 and mid-1858.

SOUTH ARM

1859, 60 Post Town, J. R. Bailey P.M., with mails departing HOBART TOWN "as boats offer". An opening last half 1858 is indicated.

HADSPEN

1853 and 1857-62 Post Town. A closure in 1853 and a re-opening in 1856 is indicated (40).

TUNBRIDGE

1857 Post Town, C. Sutton P.M., indicates an opening in 1856 after gazettal.

BRUSHY PLAINS

1857 R.H., John Murphy P.M., attached to RICHMOND. PROSSER'S PLAINS was a P.O. in the 1857 list, T. Perkins P.M. BRUSHY PLAINS was, therefore, distinct from PROSSER'S PLAINS (40), and operated briefly from 1856 to not later than mid-1858. My guess is that its location was in the area of Runnymede where the Brushy Plains Rivulet crosses the Sorell to Buckland road.

HAGLEY

1857 Post Town, D. Parry P.M., indicates an 1856 opening.

IMPRESSION BAY

1857 Post Town, J. W. Roberts P.M., is its only listing, indicating that its maximum operating period would have been from mid-1856 (after gazettal) to mid-1858.

MONTACUTE

1855, 56 Post Town, W. Osborne P.M. and 1857 Joseph Hinchey P.M., are the only entries. It operated from 1854 to not later than mid-1858 on its first opening and Hinchey would have been the new P.M. gazetted on 3.7.56 (40).

BURGESS

1857 Post Town, Geo. Robson P.M., confirms an 1856 opening after gazettal.

LITTLE SWANPORT

1857, 59, 60 Post Town, J. Bradford P.M., indicates an 1856 opening. It could *not* possibly have been "the same as the P.O. referred to as EASTERN MARSHES" (40). See also EASTERN MARSHES.

CRESSY
LYMINGTON
EXTON

are all first listed in 1857 as Post Towns, indicating that they opened in 1856.

To be continued

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS: 75th ANNIVERSARY OF THE RAISING OF THE FLAG AND NEW CONSTITUTION, 1967

By *THE PACIFIC ISLAND CIRCLE OF THE ROYAL SYDNEY
PHILATELIC CLUB*

In 1967 the Gilbert and Ellice Islands Colony celebrated two major events in its political history. The 75th Anniversary of the Raising of the Flag fell on 27 May, and, later in the year, a New Constitution was inaugurated giving the people a much greater voice in their own affairs.

Three stamps were issued in commemoration of both these events: 3c, depicting H.M.S. *Royalist*; 10c, an island scene, and 35c, a family group "looking with confidence into the future". Each stamp bore the same caption: "1967 75th Anniversary of the Raising of the Flag and New Constitution".

We are of opinion that the three stamps intended to commemorate these two milestones in the history of the Colony failed to give them the emphasis they deserved. Here was a rare opportunity to tell the story more effectively on two separate commemorative issues, as both are of equal importance. The combination of the two commemorations on one issue of stamps, with a caption common to all



three, was confusing to a world-wide audience beyond the confines of the Colony, as the New Constitution came into being 75 years after the proclamation of the Protectorate.

Had it been made known that it was the intention of the Administration to commemorate these two major historical events, suggestions such as the following might have been submitted to the Stamp Design Committee for consideration:

(1) A map of the Protectorate showing its location in the Pacific, as no map has yet appeared on the stamps of the Colony. (2) H.M.S. *Royalist*, as she appeared when rebuilt and refitted for service on the Australian Royal Naval Station at Sydney in the 1890s. (3) A reproduction of an historic photograph of the ceremony, taken by Captain E. H. M. Davis, R.N., who was commissioned to proceed to the Gilbert Islands to hoist the Flag and read the Imperial Declaration of a Protectorate on behalf of Queen Victoria. This ceremony took place at Butaritari on 27 May 1892.

Only one stamp (3c) in the three refers to the Anniversary commemoration, and that bears a representation of H.M.S. *Royalist*. It is understood that the ship depicted was reproduced from a photograph supplied by the Imperial War Museum. It may be assumed that this photograph was made prior to the rebuilding and refitting of the ship for service in Australian waters and as she appeared when commissioned to proceed to the Gilbert Islands. This is revealed upon comparison with a photograph from the files of the Mitchell Library, Sydney.

The island scene on the 10c stamp is irrelevant to either commemoration. It has nothing to do with the two events it is intended to commemorate, and may be regarded as a design having no purpose and wasted. The family group (35c) would have adequately served in marking the setting up of the New Constitution in 1967, without any mention of the 75th Anniversary in the caption.

It is apparent that Stamp Design Committees, not having at hand facilities or access to necessary research, might be well advised to invite suggestions from outside sources before coming to final decisions in the matter of the adoption of designs, especially those intended to commemorate historical events. No stone is left unturned in striving for perfection in the preparation of the art work, the plates and in the process of printing the stamps. This goes for nought if the subject matter in the designs is not presented with intelligence and accuracy in detail, especially in the portrayal of historic events.

The *Sydney Mail* of 6 August 1892 contains a report of the *Royalist's* voyage, which may be of interest:

THE GILBERT ISLANDS

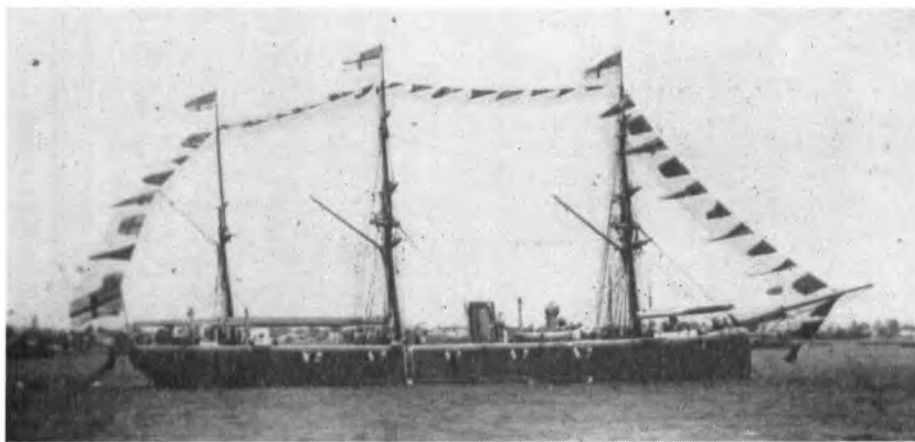
The Latest British Acquisition in Oceana

In another page we give an illustration of the hoisting of the British flag over the Gilbert Islands, by Captain E. H. M. Davis, of H.M.S. *Royalist*, who was commissioned by Her Majesty the Queen to proceed to the islands and declare a protectorate in her name. We are indebted to Captain Davis for the photo, from which our engraving was made. The Gilbert Archipelago is one of the most pro-



The hoisting of the British flag and proclamation of a protectorate over the Gilbert Islands. From a photograph by Captain E. H. M. Davis, of H.M.S. Royalist, published in the Sydney Mail.

ductive clusters of islands in Polynesia. Every one of the 15 or 16 principal islands is teeming with vegetation and with population. The total number of inhabitants is estimated at 60,000, and the natives are peaceable and friendly. For many years past the Gilberts have been visited by American traders as well as by vessels from



H.M.S. Royalist, as refitted for service at the Royal Naval Station, Sydney, in the 1890s. (Courtesy of the Mitchell Library, Sydney)

Australia and New Zealand. Its proximity also to the Marshall Archipelago, which under the protectorate of Germany has advanced into one of the most important island possessions in the Pacific, enhances the value of latest British acquisition. With the Marshall Islands Germany has built up a considerable trade. Vessels from Hamburg come via Sydney with part general cargoes for the headquarters of the German company in Jaluit, and return to Europe with full cargoes of copra



The 3c of the commemorative set, showing H.M.S. Royalist, from a photograph supplied by the Imperial War Museum.

and other products from the group. By the schooner *Flink*, which arrived from the Marshall Islands on Friday last, the first news was received that the British flag had been hoisted in the Gilbert Archipelago. The Gilberts are divided into three groups—the Kingsmill Islands, consisting of Bishop or Drummond Island, and their subordinates; the Simpson Group, Woodle, Henderville, and Hoffer; and the Scarborough Range, Marshall, Knoy, Matthew Islands, &c. They possess many good harbours. Hurd's Island, the southernmost of the group, is 6 or 7 miles long, 1 to 1½ wide. Byron Island is about 4 leagues in length. Peru Island 10 miles long, and about the same in width. Onutu or Clerk Island is smaller. Drummond Island is 30 miles in length, about half a mile to a mile in width. Good whaling ground exists in the vicinity of the Kingsmills, which form part of the group. There are also Nanouti, or Sydenham Island, 19 miles long; Nanouki or Henderville Island, 6½ miles in length, 5½ wide; and Woodle Island, of about equal size. Apamama is one of the finest and most productive in the Gilberts and is 10 miles in length and of less width. Then there are Maiana or Hall Island; Tarawa, thickly wooded; and Maraki. Aparong and Butaretari, two very fine islands, complete the list. It was at Butaretari that Captain E. H. M. Davis, on the 27th May, hoisted the British flag and, in the presence of the King and his counsellors, as well as with the full

authority of his Majesty, read the Imperial declaration of a British protectorate over the Gilbert Islands, and went through the necessary ceremony attending the auspicious event. Captain Davis has become almost celebrated in his dealings with Polynesians, and the accounts which have reached here of this latest Imperial commission are highly complimentary to his tact and judgment. The proceedings were enthusiastically carried to a successful issue, and the *Royalist* left Butaretari for the island of Jaluit, in the Marshall Group, cheered to the echo by the natives from the shore. Before leaving, however, Captain Davis was called upon to take part in the capture and punishment of two criminals. Some nine years ago a Chinaman named Ah Sam was murdered, and Arthur Eury was tried for the crime and acquitted. Captain Davis succeeded in getting hold of the real culprit, and had him arraigned on the charge before the King and his chiefs. He was convicted and sentenced to be shot. The penalty was carried out in the presence of the captain of the *Royalist*. The murderer confessed his guilt before it was carried out. A trial also took place of a Chinaman, Sa Kong, for shooting and wounding a native. Sa Kong claimed to be a British subject from Hongkong, and he was found guilty and sentenced to a year's imprisonment and to pay a fine of £50. Thus ended one of the most interesting and important cruises made by a British warship on the Australian station for several years past. The *Royalist* went to the Marshall Islands hoping to obtain a supply of coal, but there was none there, and she would likely have to proceed to Fiji under sail. The barque *Speculant*, with coal on board, was wrecked, as already reported, close to Jaluit.

REVIEWS

Australian Postage Stamps: The Early Commonwealth Period and the Kangaroo and Map Series. Anonymous. 16 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by the Australian Post Office. 50 cents.

The Postmaster-General's Department, which entered philatelic publication with its Bulletins sixteen years ago, has now started a new project: to publish a series of booklets to provide a general background and descriptions of all Commonwealth stamps. This is the first volume, and its purpose is "to provide an official account of the main events which preceded the introduction of a uniform series of postage stamps for the Commonwealth of Australia and to describe the development of the well-known Kangaroo and Map stamp design".

The booklet then divides the Kangaroo series into seven series: the original issue; the second watermark; the third watermark; the colour changes of the 6d, 2/- and £1; the multiple Crown A; the multiple C of A; and the final 1945 redrawn 2/-.

The production of the first issue, including the design, is covered in more detail than in any publication yet.

Dealing with Blamire Young's part, the booklet says, "One of the Young designs, picturing two kangaroos within an outline map of Australia, a Departmental design which had a similar theme, but showed only one kangaroo, and certain of the competition designs, were then viewed with the purpose of having prepared a new model design. This model became the basis of the final approved design.

"The original pilot design does not appear to have survived, nor is the artist responsible known. However the illustration at Fig. 5 (the Kangaroo, with value plaques at both sides) is believed either to represent the pilot design or the first development therefrom. Whilst the design accorded generally with the Postmaster-General's wishes, he desired that further modifications be effected." His instructions to Mr Cook, the stamp printer, regarding the design with "Baldy's 'Roo" in the coastline of Australia, etc., and subsequent amendments, follow.

Another interesting disclosure is that the

proofs of the tentative Kangaroo designs were made by Rudolph Steel, lithographer, artist, and designer, of the Block, Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, and not by Samuel Reading, who was not involved until afterwards.

Much hitherto unpublished information is now given and makes the publication one which will be keenly read by everybody interested in Commonwealth stamps.

In view of the importance which the various papers play in the story, one would have liked the papermakers' names to have been included.

The new publication is one which will be greatly appreciated and its successors will be eagerly awaited.

Postal History of United States Forces in British Solomon Islands Protectorate During World War II, by Stanley C. Jersey. 90 pp. Published by the American Philatelic Society, Inc.

Tracing, identifying, and recording Service cancellations of wartime mails is one of the most complex of postal history/philatelic undertakings. Yet it is vital if covers are not to be discarded and interesting stories, valuable items, and real rarities are not to be lost beyond recovery.

Those who undertake it are indeed dedicated philatelists and Mr Jersey is clearly entitled to be numbered among them. The task demands enthusiasm, industry, initiative, patience, perseverance, and accuracy, all above normal.

The collector essaying it faces a task with built-in difficulties:

The postmarks, for the most part, are designed to conform to an official system, details of which may be secret; the postmarks are mainly designed to yield a minimum of information to the enemy or anybody else; postmarks and censor marks were transferred from unit to unit, for security purposes; units were moved from place to place; and datestamps, with records, are sometimes the only means of ascertaining whether a cover originating with a known service post office and unit, was postmarked at either of two places thousands of miles apart.

Mr Jersey has dealt with three postal services, the United States Marine Corps Postal Service and those of the Army and the Navy.

The difficulties can be shown by the series which Mr Jersey has assembled on the 1st Marine Division. He notes that postmarks seen on mail from the rear echelon at Wellington, New Zealand, bore the same unit number as the forward element on Guadalcanal-Tulagi.

A blind Navy datestamp was applied to Marines' mail from New Zealand; the date block was inserted after the Solomons Landing, but the mail was sent from New Zealand, as the sender remembers; that used at the Sub-Office bore the slogan "Anchors Away" implying that the Marines had left for Guadalcanal. Next is a U.S. Navy cancellation with a pointing finger in the date block, drawing attention to the slogan "Marines Mail". Finally, there is the slogan, "Praise de lord/Pass the Ammunition".

The systems of handling mail are traced in detail.

The Second Marine Division's date stamps in New Zealand bore the slogans, "Tojo is a Bum/Hitler a Heel".

"Philatelically, the campaigns of the Solomons produced many different and varied slogan postmarks, miscellaneous datestamps, and provisional cancellers", Mr Jersey says. "The postal systems in force, especially during the early stages of the operations, were only tentative in nature and ended in a tangled mailing procedure. . . .

"American armed forces served in numerous theatres of war during the struggle of 1941-45. Of all, none employed the postal arrangements that were peculiar to the Solomons Protectorate."

Mr Jersey has done a monumental amount of work and achieved a worthwhile and indeed, notable, book.

It is regretted that the publishers should not have adopted a more vigorous and enlightened plan of publicity for it.

Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World, 1968. First edition. Section 11 Labuan to Luxemburg. Edited by Edward

G. Fladung. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by Higgins and Gage, Inc., 23 No. Santa Anita, Pasadena, California, U.S.A. Price \$1.50.

Another part of this massive undertaking has been published, apparently bringing the half-way mark in sight. It includes revision, additions, and new prices, for countries previously dealt with.

The H. R. Harmer Organisation's 43rd Annual Resume, for the Season 1967-68. 36 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Published by H. R. Harmer Ltd., 41 New Bond Street, London, W.1.

This was H. R. Harmer's 50th Anniversary Year and it sold £2,173,211 (\$US5,215,706) worth of stamps. All three centres again returned record figures (London, £932,025, New York, \$2,784,160, Sydney, \$105,000). The Sydney total was up 30 per cent on the previous season, and included Australian-owned collections which brought \$18,100 and \$10,550.

Highlight of the firm's year was, of course, the opening sale of the Louise Boyd Dale-Alfred F. Leichtenstein collections, the star of which has been the cover with the two 1d Post Office Mauritius which brought \$380,000 (£158,333).

Other great prices were \$21,000 for a marginal block of Canada 10d thick wove paper, and \$15,500 for a pair of 12d black, laid paper, on cover. U.S. inverts sold well with \$41,000 for the 1869 15 cents and 24 cents, centres inverted, and 30 cents flags inverted, and \$8500 for the 2-cent Pan-American 1902, inverted centre.

The remarkable 10 1d Blacks on FDC, brought £4800. Realisations like these overshadow the impressive figures for items of special Australasian interest, notably £1100 for a Western Australia 4d 1854, frame inverted, £600 for a complete sheet of 5/- Sydney Bridge, and \$1100 for a Ross Smith vignette. £650 for a New Zealand 1/- Chalon head, bisected on large part of envelope; £600 for a Samoa G.R.I. "One Shilling" with part gum; and \$925 for the error 4d instead of 3d on 40 pf, unused.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- 1969:
March
10 Library and Conversation
20 China, Mr G. V. Browning
April
14 Library and Conversation
17 What Should I Collect? Mr G. T. Houston
May
12 Library and Conversation
15 Tasmanian Pictorials, A Fresh Approach, Mr J. R. W. Purves
29 Commonwealth of Australia, Dr L. Abramovitch
31 Sale
June
9 Library and Conversation
19 Annual Competition
July
14 Library and Conversation
17 Annual Meeting
Presidential Display, Mr G. T. White
31 Canada, Large and Small Cents Issues, Mr E. G. Creed

Mexico

Mr A. G. Brown presented a remarkable display of Mexico at the December meeting.

He explained that there were 255 collectable varieties in the first year of the first issue. Each value was overprinted with the name of the district of issue. Later a numbering system was adopted with the year added.

One sheet in the display showed every type issued in one year.

Other fine items were a 1 real with the 2 reales imprint, which had not been burnished off the plate, below it.

The 1857 issue was shown with reprints, forgeries of the reprints, and imitations of the forgeries.

Two of the rare manuscript overprints of Zacatecas, isolated during the Civil War were shown and bisects and quadrasects of the 8 reales arising from the same cause were present on cover.

There were British stamps with the C63 and C64 cancellations of Tampico and Vera Cruz.

Covers included a pre-stamp cover of 1790 to Guadeloupe, covers of the period of French occupation and from the American marines in 1914, and stampless covers from Mexico City during the Civil War.

An innovation was the exhibition of stamps printed on both sides in plastic envelopes as used by coin collectors, with the annotation alongside.

Library

The Society's Librarian (Mr R. L. Lloyd-Smith) spoke on "Know Your Library" at the first January meeting.

He said the library now comprised 1834 books, 1008 bound volumes of journals, and about 10,000 unbound numbers of journals.

It possessed both the *Standard Index of Philatelic Literature, 1879-1925* and Jex-Long's *The Philatelic Index* to about the same year, and the indexes to current philatelic literature in *The American Philatelist* 1937-40 and 1953 to date, and *The Stamp Lover* since 1950.

It also held printed cumulative indexes to nine other philatelic journals and manuscript indexes to four Australian journals.

It also had Mr W. M. Holbeach's cumulative index to Commonwealth material in Australian journals to 1954.

The library also had a card index of holdings to 215 periodicals with 50 titles still to be indexed.

Mr Holbeach's index, and the Index to the first 10 years of *Philately from Australia*, both published by the society, and the 50-page listing of the society's library, to 1965 were all available for sale.

Locals

Miss J. Resch provided a remarkable selection from her collection of Locals for the second January meeting.

It ranged from a Great Barrier Pigeongram Service flimsy and a 1/- red Marotiri Copper Mines, of which 600 copies were printed, to an impressive selection of Wells Fargo cards, and franked envelopes.

There were U.S. P.O. carriers' stamps and American Letter Mail Co. on cover, with proofs and forgeries. Other U.S. carriers included Blood's Penny Post, Philadelphia, and Boyd's City Dispatch, on covers.

Chinese locals, including Chin-Kiang, inverted overprint, Tibet, Mafeking, Uganda typeset on cover to Ballarat, Mount Currie Express, Kermadecs, and Pacific Steam Navigation Company, were all represented.

Unusual Places

Out of the way rarities were again in evidence at the February meeting when the display was Unusual Countries. Exhibits were contributed by members and the feature was compered by Mr J. H. Dunn.

Mr Dunn's own contribution included South Australian Departmentals, Transvaal First Republic, and British Occupation Nieuwe Republiek, Pietersberg, and Madagascar. An interesting item was a strip of Pietersberg proofs of stamps prepared for issue in 1900 taken from the Boer Government Printing Office.

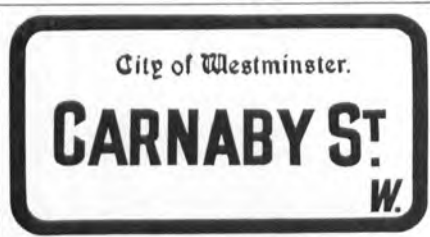
Mr P. Jaffe showed Taxis covers, Tobago, and Paraguay stamps used at the New Australia settlement.

Mr T. E. Ross presented Orange Free State with some nice varieties of overprints.

Miss Helen Serjeant-White showed scarce U.S. Naval and Marine covers from Iceland.

Mr Lloyd-Smith's feature was the Alexandretta issues of Syria, with many postally used.

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Campbell, F.R.P.S.L. A \$1.50. (First supplement A 75c.) The original work by *Alan G. Brown* and *Hugh M. Campbell, F.R.P.S.L.*, with an introduction by *J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L.* was published in 1963 jointly by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Australia and Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, S.W.1. A \$5 including postage.

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