

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



Published Quarterly by
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

VOL. XXIII, No. 4

DECEMBER 1971

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Registered for posting as a periodical - Category "B"

Philately from Australia

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In spite of an increase in printing costs late in 1968, the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has continued to maintain the subscription rates for *Philately from Australia* at the old prices. Recent sharp increase in postal rates, however, which in some instances have doubled, now force the Society regretfully to make postage an "extra". Subscribers residing within Australia should therefore add 25 cents for postage, to their subscription, and overseas subscribers, 50 cents.

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PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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

VOL. XXIII, No. 4

DECEMBER 1971

“NOT WANTED ON VOYAGE”

UNPOPULAR, UNSUNG BUT INTERESTING

In every Western country today there is a nationalistic urge in stamp collecting. This is a natural thing and sometimes can be most desirable. At other times it becomes exaggerated and is liable to become a minor frenzy.

At the moment many local collectors are regarding our own Kangaroo series (and, to a lesser extent, our Georgians) as if these were the only stamps ever issued, and certainly the only stamps worth *their* attention.

No one, I hope, can accuse me of being unfaithful to the Commonwealth cause. I may no longer collect its stamps but I do follow developments and still help where I can.

Nevertheless I would like to see a little more balance in the situation and it is the notes I have made in this number, following a small study of the 2d Queensland of 1906, which have prompted these remarks.

There *is* still an awful lot to be found out about the middle and later issues of the States' stamps and if we don't start looking at them soon the task—by reason of the unceasing dispersal of material—will become more and more difficult.

Note that I am not talking about Postal History and Cancellations. We have plenty of enthusiasts in those fields and, sooner or later, the truth will out. I am talking about straight philately—shades, watermarks, perforations, plates, plate varieties, etc.

Here there are still large fields for investigation.

The biggest of all are the Queensland issues of 1882-1912. Next follows the New South Wales of 1888 on (and before) although in this section one aspect—the perforations—have been pretty well covered. There are smaller but equally inter-

esting fields in South Australia (the *smaller* size stamps of 1899-1912) and Western Australia (the Commonwealth period). In none of these cases is material unavailable. It has, of course, to be chased and unearthed (it won't come without an effort on your part) but it is there and it is not particularly expensive.

The approach made should be a *two-fold* one:

In the first phase these issues should be attacked, or re-attacked—on a modern basis, with the technical information now available to us. It is quite certain that new results and new perspectives will emerge if this be done.

In the second place, apart altogether from the noting of new issues in the journals of the time (both Australian and English), there *are* already many notes and some articles on the fields noted.

Once a student selects one of these fields his *first* port of call should be the journals. An orderly extraction from these of the relevant matter will, very soon, circumscribe his task, even make it easier. Why there should be, even among first-rate students, this reluctance to look at the past record is beyond comprehension. It is *so* rewarding.

Books on these subjects are, at the moment, too much to hope for and financially they could not be justified. But useful monographs could emerge and form a basis for the future. The *collation of existing knowledge* on such subjects is an essential. Until such a collation is distilled you will never produce order out of what, at the moment, is comparative chaos. This chaos has itself suggested to collectors difficulties extending far beyond the facts in these cases.

In conclusion might the writer say that if there *are* forthcoming any disciples of this cult he would be delighted to assist them if it is in his power.

J. R. W. P.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Thanks

Fifteen members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria rolled up for the recent Saturday working bee. Will they each accept this note as an expression of the Society's thanks, please?

500 Issues

The August 1971 number of our valued contemporary, the *Australian Stamp Monthly* was its 500th and our sincere congratulations go to it and to its editor, Mr J. H. Hawker. The issue, Vol. 42, No. 8, was nearly 200 pages and contained much interesting historical material.

It has provided knowledge, interest, and news to at least two generations of philatelists and we send our good wishes for a long, prosperous, and successful future.

Certificate for Medal

A unique item of historic interest to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria was shown by Mr W. M. Holbeach at the August meeting.

In 1943, the Society's annual competition was established and he was the winner of the first competition. But the silver medal had not been struck and he was given the certificate, which was hand engrossed. It was signed: F. H. Keane Davis, President.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by O. W. (BILL) EUSTACE

Another year is drawing to its close and I would like to take the opportunity to wish my readers a Merry Christmas or, if I am too late for that, Good Health and a philatelically prosperous 1972.

Australia—1 Cent Queen's Head

Early in October I sighted a single used copy, posted from Dandenong, which lacked all traces of "Helecon"; unfortunately efforts to secure mint copies were not successful.

Australia—6 Cents Queen's Head

In the June 1971 "Trail" I reported finding a "Non-Helecon" example of this stamp. Three further examples turned up in quick succession late in September from Dandenong, South Oakleigh and Ferntree Gully but again efforts to obtain mint specimens were unavailing. A search through several pounds of bulk "on paper" brought to light two further copies. In the same parcel of bulk I came across an amusing freak which was so badly centred that the perforation on one side ran through the adjacent stamp.

Australia—7 Cents Queen's Head

Within days of this stamp being issued I had seen two examples which were partially "Non-Helecon" and by the end of the first week I had found my first completely "Non-Helecon" copy. This time I was fortunate enough to recover a few mint specimens before the balance of the sheet had been used. Under ultra-violet light the paper had a greyish appearance lacking, as it did, both "Helecon" and the white coating. Early in November I recovered a few more mint copies from a different source which were on a paper that had been coated but still lacked "Helecon" giving a markedly different appearance under the lamp. There seems to have been a tremendous variation in the paper used for printing this issue and the effect of throwing a handful of used copies under the lamp is quite startling.

I have heard reports of, but not seen, some imperforate copies of this denomination.

Australia—2 Cent Coil Desert Rose

Initial supplies were distributed in coils of 500 and the wrapper read "500 Coil Stamps Two Cent—Desert Rose. Value \$10" in capitals, but within a week supplies were on sale in coils of 1000 with appropriate adjustments to the wording on the wrapper.

There is an extensive weak entry involving the letters "AUSTR" and the leaves over "USTR" which, as to be expected, recurs very fourteenth stamp when the appropriate coil is found.

Australia—5 Cent Coil Golden Wattle

It will be recalled ("Trail", June 1970) that the wrappers for the original issue of this denomination were those used for the 5 Cent Queen's Head coil stamp modified by being inscribed "Floral" manually. When this stamp was re-issued in October fresh wrappers were printed reading "500 Coil Stamps Five Cent—Golden Wattle. Value \$25" in capitals. More recently coils of 1000 have been issued to Postmasters for use in vending machines.

The stamps themselves are a fair match against the original printing, such differences as can be discerned—principally in the green colour—probably being due mainly to the change in paper brightness which shows up very clearly under the lamp.

Australia—7 Cent Coil Desert Pea

Again the initial supplies came in coils of 500 and the wrapper read "500 Coil Stamps Seven Cent—Desert Pea. Value \$35" in capitals. Later in the month coils of 1000, with appropriate adjustments to the wording on the wrapper, started to appear, but were very hastily withdrawn from sale when some examples turned up lacking the green portion of the printing. After a few days sales of coils of 1000 were resumed. Again it is possible to distinguish between stamps from coils of 500 and those from coils of 1000 by the brightness of the paper under the lamp.

Several coils have been reported with one or more stamps officially joined on at the start of the roll.

Australia—8 Cent National Development

Two very distinct shades of green—one quite yellowish—can be found on this stamp. From any smaller countries these would be of catalogue status but in this case it may be no more than normal variation during a long printing run on different reels of paper.

Australia—6 Cent Famous Australians Booklets

Shortly before the change in postal rates took effect I received reports of Edition N 71/2 being circulated in New South Wales. Two different slogans were to be found on the inside of the back covers reading respectively, "Find it Fast" and "Like to Improve your Exam Marks".

Australia—7 Cent Christmas 1971

Two types of paper were used for the printing of these stamps. Initial supplies to most Victorian Post Offices were on a cream paper with the sheet numbers in black but the Philatelic Sales Sections also had sheets available with red-purple numbers printed on a white paper. It is understood that the white paper is experimental at this stage but the result could be interesting if it is used for reprinting other photogravure issues.

There is a small flaw over the middle head on Row 8 No. 5 of the printing on cream paper which is absent on the white paper sheets; similarly there is very minor damage near the 7c on Row 4 No. 8 of the white paper sheets which does not occur on the cream paper printings.

Australian Antarctic Territory—1 Cent

A third printing is now on sale with black sheet numbers under stamp No. 7 (the first printing had red sheet numbers under Stamp No. 11 and the second printing lacked sheet numbers). Shade variation is fairly minor especially when the spread of shades across individual sheets of the earlier printings is taken into consideration. Perhaps the black is a trifle more intense on the latest printing. Individual copies of the third print can easily be identified from the back under u/v lighting because they are much whiter.

Australian Antarctic Territory—2 Cent

A second print of this denomination is now on sale and the variation in shade of the penguin and of the rock in the foreground are so great as to almost certainly qualify for catalogue listing. The "Blue Tailed Penguin" variety on Row 1 Stamp 12 remains uncorrected but the inscriptions "J. Mason" and "R.B.A." are almost unreadable.

There are no sheet numbers visible as these would have been trimmed off when sheets were guillotined.

Norfolk Island Birds Folder

The long-delayed folder is now available at Philatelic Sales Points.

Redfern Mail Exchange Coding Marks

The normal marks imprinted on the backs of envelopes encoded at Redfern consist of a series of parallel fluorescent bars with a three-digit number to the right of the bars. Since mid-October I have noticed odd examples where the bars have been replaced by circular dots and, on enquiry, learned that this is part of an experiment to see if the dots give better "read-out" on the sorting machines than the bars. More recently I have seen an envelope with dotted coding marks and the three digit number with larger figures placed at right-angles to the former position.



The Other Side of the Picture



By J. R. W. PURVES

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

1d: Notes on the 1902-12 Issues

Below is appended a list of *constant* plate varieties which I picked out, quite a few years ago, from a large quantity of the penny value which I then had the opportunity of examining. *Two* plates at a time were used for printing this stamp so that for any one printing (be the watermark *sideways* or *upright*) 50 per cent of the watermarks face in the one direction and 50 per cent in the other. For all the V over Crown printings the *same* two plates were used throughout. These were from "Die 1". The same was true for the Crown over A printings save that in their case two *other* plates were used, this time from "Die 2".

This distinction between "Die 1" and "Die 2" comprised one of the writer's earlier original discoveries and was published (and illustrated) in the *Victorian Philatelic Record* for May 1922. The main differences are the larger dot of color (in "Die 2") in the base of the triangular ornament under the "ALI"; a well defined horizontal white "wave" over the "EO" at base (nearer to the "O") which is found in "Die 2" and not in "Die 1"; the ornaments down the left and right sides which look more than arrow-heads (i.e., they are more hollowed out) in "Die 2" than in "Die 1".

These differences are attributable to the use, as dies, of two *different* line-blocks. Incidentally, for both "Die 1" (V over Crown) and "Die 2" (Crown over A), a "working-master" of four (2 x 2) was used as the basis for building up the plate. The writer later found other instances of this procedure in the Pictorial Tasmanias and also in the commoner values of Victoria from 1897 on. None of the four 1d "Master" units possessed any distinguishing feature but a study of large blocks will show a repetition of the same *difference of levels* between impressions which proves the repetition, throughout any sheet, of a block of four. The "line-blocks", in any event, would not have stood up to the stamping of many moulds although a copper electrotype (or electrotypes) produced from four moulds stamped from a line-block could have been so used and, in the writer's opinion, most certainly was. Here are the lists:

*The Plate Varieties, 1902-12**(a) V over Crown: Die 1 Only*

- (i) and (ii) Both these show a white outwards swelling at the right end of the top white line to the immediate s.e. of the last "A" of "AUSTRALIA". There are *two* of these, both from the *right* of one sheet and I have a note, based on a block I possess, that they are Nos. 30 and 40 respectively. One variety (on No. 30) has a small flaw in the shading to the left of the middle of the Swan's neck which the other (No. 40) does *not* have.
- (iii) Shows a white flaw near the top of the shading under the "N A". This is found in the *bottom* row of one of the two sheets.
- (iv) Shows a white flaw inside the top right portion of the first "N" of "PENNY".
- (v) Shows the top left of the "P" of POSTAGE" shaved off; also a pronounced dent in the outer right frame to the n.e. of the "Y". Is the *lower left stamp* (No. 111) in one of the two sheets.
- (vi) Shows a nearly vertical white flaw under (and just to the left of) the "P" of "PENNY".

All these flaws have been found in *both* the earlier and later printings and there is no doubt as to their constancy. The *rose* shade of the earlier printings is most characteristic as also those in the later printings which are in a *pale red* or *rosine*, in both cases of a markedly *aniline* quality.

(b) Crown over A: Die 2 Only

- (i) Shows a break in the shading at the left, about mid-way down, and just inside the left edge.
- (ii) Shows a diagonal white flaw protruding upwards (and to the right) from the top of the first "E" of "WESTERN". Is down the *left* side of one of the two sheets.
- (iii) Shows a white flaw in the shading just under the tip of the swan's beak.
- (iv) Shows a prominent "break" flaw in the thick inner colored line under the "TE" of "WESTERN".
- (v) Shows a marked break in the thin, inner line to the immediate n.w. of the "R" of "WESTERN".
- (vi) Shows a diagonal white flaw going across the middle of the swan's neck. This flaw, incidentally, I mentioned in the 1922 article. This is in the *top* row of one of the two sheets.
- (vii) Shows a break in the top frame, over the left side of the "R" of "WESTERN".
- (viii) Shows a white flawed area in the top of the shading under the "ST" of "AUSTRALIA", also a small dent in the base frame line under the "ST" of "POSTAGE".
- (ix) Shows a white flaw (smaller than that in [viii]) one line in from the top of the shading, this time under the right edge of the "S" of "AUSTRALIA".
- (x) Shows the outer left frame hollowed out downwards for about 9 mms., beginning at a point about 3.5 mms. down from the n.w. corner. This is the top left stamp (No. 1) in one of the two sheets, and I think is only found in the *later* printings (1911-12).
- (xi) This is an example of a *repair*, rather imperfectly executed (since some of the original flaw is to be seen through the shading under the "TE" of "WESTERN"). Nevertheless it is a highly interesting variety. Its other features are a *distortion* of the colored lines over and under the "TE" respectively, with the result that the level of the "S" is now markedly *below* that of the "T". I have this variety with dates from 1910 onwards but it may well be found earlier. Perhaps the *original* (flawed) state may be found!

I have several other varieties (including a likely repair to the left frame) of which I only have one copy but won't list them here although I suspect that they also are constant. Certainly the *eleven* varieties recorded are constant.

I hope readers in the possession of blocks of these stamps can position the varieties reported or discover additional varieties. I shall be pleased to hear from them.

Watermark Sideways and Watermark Upright

I am quite certain, as with the Tasmanian Pictorials, that in these stamps the whole of the *one* printing, normally, showed the watermark in the one position (sideways) *or* the other (upright). All over, the former position seems the commoner although at least *two* of the V over Crown printings and at least two of the Crown over A printings had the watermark *upright*.

There remains therefore quite a lot to explore in the WA issues of 1902-12 and it is to be hoped that one of our keener students will tackle it. I have only indicated a few "fringe benefits".

NEW SOUTH WALES

3d 'Sydney-Views': An Unlisted Rarity

Mr H. R. Holmes, a doyen amongst English collectors and students, has found, in his papers, a note—in the handwriting of P. L. Pemberton—which speaks for itself and which we reproduce below:

"Some years ago Miss Vickery called to see us at South Molton Street. As it happened we had just acquired, in a small stuck-down collection, a 3d Sydney on laid, of such transcendent beauty that when Miss V saw it she clutched convulsively at her cheque-book. That stamp must be a record copy. Large, equal margins, fresh, light postmark, and good colour. The fact that it was in *myrtle-green*, was on *laid* paper, and was from the earliest possible state of the plate, marked it out still further from all others. The myrtle, by the way, has never been catalogued on laid [that remains the position—J. R. W. P.]—but there it was right enough. A stamp to warm the cockles of your heart. Miss Vickery blanched some but with very little hesitation, and no argument, she wrote out a cheque for £75—on the spot. We thought it a good price then, but I would like to buy it back now for £100—and this shows what a wonderful flair she had for 'the goods'."

Is this stamp, presumably in the collection at the Australian Museum, still of the same "transcendent" beauty? I wonder. At least it seems clear that another copy or copies have not been noted since and that perhaps, so far as is known, this is really a "unique" stamp. Mr Pemberton died in 1949. Miss Vickery's visit probably took place in the mid-thirties.

Our thanks to Bob, who is an old friend, for this amusing sidelight.

Has any reader any further information or comment to make on this stamp?

QUEENSLAND

2d, Types 2 and 3, 1906-12

I have recently had the opportunity of going through a large number of these issues, dating from 1904 and going through to about the middle of 1910. This little study has opened up the necessity for making several amendments to the Stanley Gibbons listings, as follow:

(i) For S.G. 281, Type 30, Watermark Crown over Q the *date* should be altered from "1907" to "September 1906". I have some 20 copies dated in September, October, November and December of 1906, the earliest being 12 September 1906. The new Type 30 was, so far as I can ascertain, first reported in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain* for 25 January 1907.

Here also there are two very distinct shades, *blue* and *bright blue*, the latter being much the scarcer. This difference is sufficient to warrant a sub-listing, as 281a.

(ii) For S.G. 289, Type 30, Watermark Crown over A there should be inserted, in brackets, the *date* December 1907. I have several copies dated in that month the earliest being 9 December 1907. The first stamp to appear on Crown over A paper was the 9d which seems to have been issued in September 1906 or earlier (see *Australian Philatelist* for December 1906). The 1d on Crown over A paper was duly reported in the *Australian Philatelist* for 1 August 1907. The same journal of 1 January 1908 reported that *most* of the values (and *specifically* the ½d, 1d, 2d, 4d and 6d) had appeared on this paper. Therefore it is clear (save for the 3d, 4d grey-black, 1/- and 2/- values) that 1907 *was* the year of issue. The *heading* for this issue should therefore be altered from "1908" to "1907-08". As with (i) above there are *two* very distinct shades of Type 30—*blue* (pale and deep) and *bright blue*. Again the latter is so distinctive (and it is much scarcer) as to warrant a separate listing as 289a. It seems possible to the writer that the suggested 281a and 289a were parts of the *one* printing.

If there *were* any current interest in these issues S.G. 289 (on issue for some five months only) would not hold its current price.

(iii) S.G. Type 32. The earliest date I have found here is 21 April 1908, and as I have a number of Type 30 dated in the same month I should imagine this is fairly near the date of issue. It is suggested that (in brackets after S.G. 290) should be inserted "April 1908", by way of comparison with the Type 30 stamp. Type 32 seems to have first been reported in the *Australian Philatelist* for 1 July 1908 where it was said to have appeared at the beginning of June.

The easiest method for distinguishing Type 32 from Type 30 is the *white* forehead of Type 32 as against the *shaded* forehead of Type 30. It is therefore suggested that in the descriptive matter before S.G. 286, for the description, "the forehead is again plain," be substituted the description, "the forehead is plain (white) and not shaded". Certainly it was originally "plain" in Type 21 but by this time Type 21 had been supplemented, successively, by Types 30 and 32.

QUEENSLAND WANTED

Note: Mr Purves has been engaged, for some time, on a study of the 2d value of Queensland of 1887-93, and is anxious to acquire (or examine) blocks of these stamps, large or small, mint, used or pen-marked. He does *not* require examples from the so-called 'retouched' plate of 1894 on—this does not show the 'LA joined' and 'long P' varieties, etc.

TASMANIA

*A "Reconstruction" Completed**4d S.G. 244c: Brown-ochre, Watermark Sideways*

This stamp, incidentally, did *not* appear until 1911 (the Catalogue says 1907) and a new printing-stone of 60 impressions (10 x 6) was used for it.

I have been working on the reconstruction of this sheet for a long time, having long since completed that of the *orange-yellow* of 1912. Now, through the kindness of Mr A. R. Butler of the "Royal", London, I have acquired a strip of four, another of three and several pairs of the brown-ochre, all punctured "T". These contained the two "missing-links" I was after, and the plating is now complete.



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

SAMOA

Stamp Shortages During Consular Period

The postal history of Samoa during the last century included many changes, due to varying circumstances.

One of these was the occasional shortage of postage stamps in the post agent's office, which was situated in the same building as the German Consul.

A scarcity of all values in postage stamps occurred in January 1893 because various warships of the Imperial German Navy had visited Apia and many officers and men sent postcards and letters to the Fatherland thereby depleting the stock of the lower values, 5, 10 and 20 pf. German Empire issues held by the post agent.

A requisition had been made to Bremen in Germany for a supply of 5, 10, 20 and 50 pfennig values as well as the 2 Mark value.

This order was due at Apia on 15 February 1893 and when it eventually arrived it was found that the order had been drastically reduced. Consequently, when the small supply of stamps became exhausted emergency measures were adopted.

The method adopted until the stamps were available was:

The post agent wrote the word *Bezahlt* and the amount paid in cash, usually in red ink in the top right-hand corner of the letter and this was cancelled with the circular date stamp of the post agency, in use at the time.

Bezahlt means Postage Paid and the amount paid was generally 20 pf. for ordinary letters and 40 pf. for registered letters.

On 5 December 1894 the agency at Apia was able to frank only part of the mail for Germany with postage stamps, so the remainder was cancelled manuscript as described above in 1893.

Again on 2 January 1895 all mail despatched to Germany was marked *Bezahlt* in manuscript as in 1893.

On 30 January 1895 the mail for Germany was held back awaiting the arrival of a vessel with postage stamps for the Agency.

Some letters had already been cancelled with the manuscript *Bezahlt* and 20 or 40 pf. and cancelled with the c.d.s. of Apia dated 20.1.95.

When the vessel eventually arrived, about a month later, postage stamps were affixed to the value required and cancelled Apia 27.2.95 with the c.d.s. of the period.

In this period from 1893 to 1895 covers exist with the manuscript markings only and cancelled with the Apia c.d.s. and also covers with the manuscript and postage stamps both cancelled with the Apia c.d.s.

The writer has seen two covers from Apia addressed to Sydney in this period, the first being a manuscript in red ink reading '5 cents paid' and cancelled 'Apia Kaiserl Deutsche Postagentur, 9.8.94', the second in manuscript 'Paid 2½d' in red ink and cancelled similarly, '2.4.95'.

Any reader who can assist with other manuscript markings of this period giving full details of covers they have seen or have in their possession would be appreciated by the Circle members and by writing to the convenor at the address given at top of page.

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I N D E X

Vol. 23, 1971

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
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MELBOURNE

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
Box 222, G.P.O.

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FIJI: AN EARLY CAKOBANU COVER

By INSLEE B. GREENE

The monumental work of J. G. Rodger and R. F. Duberal *Fiji: The Stamps and Postal History, 1870-75* (The Hawthorn Press) suggests that the first Cakobanu pence issue was issued in October 1871, not November, as given in recent issues of Gibbons' Catalogue.

It may be interesting to record how the date was changed from 3 December 1871, which had been shown since the publication of Charles J. Phillips' *The Postage Stamps of the Fiji Islands* in 1908.

The reason for this change is a cover in the Robson Lowe sale of 11 December 1963 (Lot 1278) which is addressed "To HBM's Consul", Noumea, New Caledonia with undated circular postmarks "G.P.O. Fiji" (Type C in Rodger's and Duberal's work and Type 1 in Campbell's *The Post Offices and Postal Cancellations of Fiji*), used at Levuka and applied to a sixpence CR. This combination cover has two New South Wales 3d stamps added in Sydney to cover postage to New Caledonia. The Sydney postmark reads "No 15 '71." (RL Type C12 with N.S.W. in four-ring oval as duplex).

Rodgers and Duberal in the chapter on "Paid" and "Loose" letters, show that further prepayment of postage at Sydney was required before a letter could be forwarded beyond New South Wales; and that the cost of stamping such "Loose" letters was covered through payment of five guineas by Fiji's Under-secretary and acknowledged by the Postmaster-General in Sydney on 17 November 1871, in correspondence on record.

When I noticed the cover which was illustrated in part in the sale catalogue, I brought it to the attention of Mr F. S. Wall, a director of Stanley Gibbons Ltd, who replied:

It will be interesting to see what the New Caledonia date is but since this Fiji issue has been so thoroughly studied in the past, I cannot help feeling that we may eventually come to the conclusion that the Sydney postmark is an error of date.

After examining the cover, Mr Wall wrote on 3 January 1964:

I have now discovered that the Noumea arrival postmark is dated December 5th 1871. In view of the Sydney cancellation of November 15th, it therefore seems quite certain that our catalogue date of December 3rd is wrong and I shall see that in the next edition we give November 1871 for the first "C.R." issue.

Accordingly, Gibbons' 1965 catalogue showed this new date.

THE "COMMONWEALTH TYPE" CIRCULAR DATE-STAMPS OF MELBOURNE

By Dr RUSSELL JONES

(Continued from September 1971, page 74)

[21]

- 21A Type 2a: 25 mm. VICTORIA, no space bars, 10 mm bar, 3 mm plain figures.
11 DE 06 8 12 09
- 21B Type 2c: 28 mm. VICTORIA, no space bars, 12 mm bar, 3 mm plain figures.
5 JL 09 7 NO 17
- 21C Type 10: 30 mm. VIC, no space bars, 13 mm bar, 4 mm serified figures. The bar is notched above 'I' of 'VIC', this becomes more marked later, the frame also is dented at several points, both these damages being present in 1920.
8 DE 20 1 AU 30
- 21D Type 14b: 30 mm. VIC with stop, '21' at end of date.
18 MR 25 23 FE 38 (overlaps number 21C)
- 21E Type 20: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, '21' with stop at end of date.
MY 45 JE 46
- 21F Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, plain 3 mm figures.
15 FE 49 10 AU 51
- 21G Type 21: 31 mm. VIC-AUST, MELBOURNE-C.1 at top, 3 mm figures above date.
21G(i) as issued: 7 AP 54 9 DE 63
21G(ii) with 'C.1.' removed.

[22]

- 22A Type 4: 28 mm. VICTORIA, no space bars, 12 mm divided bar, 4 mm serified figures originally well formed but thickening with use.
22A(i) original state: 3 FE 09 11 JE 24
22A(ii) bar to left of central dot disappears: 2 SE 24 21 OC 29
22A(iii) the rest of the bar except for 1 mm at the right end disappears: 12 DE 30
8 JL 31
22A(iv) oblique damage to the figures so that the lower half of the left '2' and the extreme left of the base of the right '2' disappear: 28 JL 31 27 MY 33
This canceller had a lot of use for 25 years and becomes generally worn after about 1923.
- 22B Type 17: 30 mm. VIC with stop, no bar, plain 3 mm figures.
27 JL 33 3 MY 38
- 22C Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, 3 mm figures.
22 JE 54 18 NO 57

[23]

- 23A Type 4: 28 mm. VICTORIA, no space bars, 12 mm divided bar, 3 mm serified figures:
7 JA 11 29 AP 15

- 23B Type 10: 30 mm. VIC, space bars, 14 mm bar, 4.5 mm plain figures:
 23B(i) original state: 11 FE 18 16 OC 18
 23B(ii) right 10 mm of bar disappears: 8 JE 19 13 JL 21
 23B(iii) only 1 mm at left end of bar remains: 30 NO 21 10 JL 28
 23B(iv) no bar remains; figures intact: 12 FE 29 13 JE 29
 23B(v) horizontal base of '2' missing: 7 AP 32 27 FE 33
 23B(vi) base of '2' repaired, figures thin: 7 MY 37 22 DE 37
 23C Type 19: 20 mm. VIC-AUST, 3 mm plain figures: — 40 19 JE 53

[24]

- 24A Type 9: 29.5 mm. VIC, 10 mm bar, 2.5 mm plain figures.
 15 MR 13 5 JA 24
 24B Type 14b: 30 mm. VIC with stop, '24' at end of date, frame largely missing from 1927.
 4 DE 25 1 SE 30
 24C Type 17: 30 mm. VIC with stop, no bar, 3 mm plain figures.
 2 AP 34 20 DE 40

[25]

Since the publication of the first part of this article I have found a single copy of number 25 on a 3rd wmk. Kangaroo. Unfortunately only "BOUR" of Melbourne and the number are legible. However these letters and the figure 2 correspond exactly with canceller 26A and canceller 25A is therefore almost certainly of Type 8.

Several copies of the original state of canceller 10B have been discovered. The relevant listing on page 72 should therefore read:

- 10B Type 10: 30 mm. VIC, 3 mm. figures 1 has serifs at top and at foot.
 10B (i) original state 24 JA 23 10 MY 23
 10B (ii) bases of both figures missing 12 JY 24 24 NO 27

[26]

- 26A Type 8: 29 mm, VICTORIA, 4 mm space bars, 10 mm bar, 3 mm plain figures. One copy: 16 OC 15
 26B Type 12: 30 mm. MELBOURNE at top and '26' at base, 'M' and 'E' below line of date with space bars 4 mm long, no bar, the base and oblique bar of '2' form a sharp angle:
 26 JA 28 14 DE 34
 26C Type 12: 30 mm, as 26C but 'M' and 'E' are level with date and space bars are longer (8 mm), the basal point of '2' is almost square.
 8 AP 37 17 DE 37
 26D Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, no bar, plain 3.5 mm figures, the '2' has a short foot and there is a stop between '2' and '6'.
 15 SE 38 10 AP 42

[27]

- 27A Type 17: 30 mm. VIC with stop, 5 mm bar, plain 2.5 mm figures.
 6 DE 29 4 NO 37
 27B Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, 3 mm plain figures.
 4 MR 42 7 MR 68

[28]

- 28A Type 17: 30:5 mm. VIC ? with stop, 5 mm. bar plain 2.5 mm. figures. ? MY 30 16 SE 30
 28B Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, 3.5 mm plain figures, '2' is same as 26C.
 16 AU 39 30 DE 42

[29]

- 29A Type 17: 30 mm. VIC with stop, 6 mm slightly curved bar, 3 mm plain figures.
 29 OC 30 14 MY 37
- 29B Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, 3 mm plain figures.
 7 AU 38 8 JY 56

[30]

- 30A Type 17: 30 mm. VIC with stop elongated in vertical direction, 6 mm bar, 3 mm plain figures.
 3 SE 30 25 SE 38
- 30B Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, 4.5 mm space bars, 3 mm plain figures.
 29 AU 40 26 JY 48
- 30C Type 19: 29 mm. VIC-AUST in smaller letters than 30B and space bars are longer (7 mm), 3 mm figures.
 10 DE 49 - JY 60 (on first day cover).
- 30D Type 21: 31 mm. VIC-AUST with MELBOURNE C.1. at top.
 13 MR 57 - JY 60

[31]

- 31A Type 17: 30 mm. VIC with stop; one slightly doubtful copy dated 29 JE 31
- 31B Type 19: 30 mm. VIC-AUST, 3 mm plain figures.
 1940 17 NO 47
- 31C Type 21: 30 mm. VIC-AUST with MELBOURNE C.1. at top, 3 mm figures below MELBOURNE.
 11 NO 53 18 JY 57
- 31D Type 22: 30 mm. As number 31C but with figures '31' at base above VIC-AUST.
 10 JY 58 28 DE 69

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: THE SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS

By DONALD G. COX

(Continued from September 1971, page 76)

Since this article began publication (*P from A*, March 1971), I have added a great deal of new material. Mr C. R. Walters, of Broken Hill, has also reported some new items.

This addenda has a listing of 46 more offices, bringing the total listed in these notes to 505. I am also amending eight others to show additional types (now totaling 777), and the sizes of three handstamps, not shown before, are now given. There are three alterations and two deletions.

I feel the terminal dates of the types which had the corner bars removed to convert them to circular date stamps should also be noted, so the time of their alteration may be narrowed down as further information comes to hand.

The 100 or so items already chronicled where I have extended my time markings and dates, are omitted as they would take up far too much space.

Mr E. R. Slade reports he has a URAIDLA sc cancellation of 23 Sept. 1882, which is 43 days earlier than that of my Mt Gambier example.

At the other end of the scale, Dr L. Challen reports he has a registered cover bearing the POLDA sc cancellation of 16 August 1949, almost 12 years later than the Warratta Vale listed by me.

Three T.P.O. SC markings previously noted but not mentioned in my list—G. N. Railway, P. A. Railway, and Kadina Railway will be found in "Travelling Post Offices of South Australia" by the late Captain H. S. Porter (*P from A*, September 1955) and Mr A. G. Rigo de Righi, writing of "Marine Post Office Markings of South Australia" (*P from A*, June 1966) mentions a medium-sized SC marking of this usage.

One item in this listing I must comment on is that of TIDNACORDOONINNA which surely must be one of the longest place names of a single named post office in Australia, and, I venture to say, also possibly one of the least known!

<i>Office</i>	<i>Diameter of Circle in Millimetres</i>	<i>Time Markings</i>	<i>Range of Usage</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
ALDINGA	27½	—	1904-34	
BARUNGA NORTH	26½	—	1909	
BLACK SPRINGS	27½	—	1914	
BLACKWOOD RAILWAY	24	—		
BOOLCUNDA EAST	24	—	1895	
BOOL LAGOON	25	—		
CARAWA	25	—	1902	
COLTON	27	—	1910	

<i>Office</i>	<i>Diameter of Circle in Millimetres</i>	<i>Time Markings</i>	<i>Range of Usage</i>	<i>Remarks</i>
CORCONDO	27	—	1903	
DAWSON	28	—	1900-29	
DULWICH	27	2	1916	
ELLISTON	27½	—	1915	
FINDON	27	—	1907	
GLANVILLE	25	—	1900	
GLENCOE	27	—	1929	
GRANGE	27	—	1916	
KANGARILLA	28	—	1903-05	
KLEMZIG	27	—		
LAMMEROO	28	—	1912	Now spelt LAMEROO
LANGHORNE'S CREEK	28	—	1929	
LORNE	28	1	1902	
LOXTON	28	—		
MAYLANDS	23	3		
MOOROOK	27	—	1915-24	
MURRAY TOWN	28	—	1917	
NANGKITA	24	—	1935	
NARRIDY	26	—	1903	
OAKBANK	28	—	1906	
O.B. FLAT	27½	—	1909	Named after Brand on Cattle which used to graze there.
OVINGHAM	27	—	1922-30	
PALMER	27½	—	1909	
POINT TURTON	28	—	1920	
ROCKY RIVER	23	—	1904	Kangaroo Island
TEA TREE GULLY	28	—	1906-11	
TIDNACOORDOONINNA	26	—		Location unknown by me
TOP CAMP	24	—		Northern Territory
TUNGKILLO	27½	—	1912	
UNDALYA	26	—	1906-07	
WINNECKE	27	—	1902-03	Former Goldfields in McDonnell Ranges, N.T.
YARRANDALE	27	—	1904-07	
YULLUNDA FLAT	28	—	1921	
<i>Reported by C. R. Walters:</i>				
BETHEL	26	—	1935	
INQUIRY OFFICE, ADELAIDE			1915	In Red; cut-out from Memo from G.P.O.
<i>Reported by E. T. Currie:</i>				
FULLERVILLE	24	—	1906	
PERCYTON	26	—	1902	
PORT CLINTON	26	—	1902	
<i>Towns previously Listed but now showing New Types:</i>				
APPILA-YARROWIE Type 1	27	—	1901	Spacer bars between Ap- pila-Yarrowie and S.A. 8 mms. long
Type 2	27	—	1915-17	Spacer bars 4 mms. long

Office	Diameter of Circle in Millimetres	Time Markings	Range of Usage	Remarks
BELAIR				
Type 1	25	1, 2	1897	Compact Lettering
Type 2	27	—, 2	1910-30	Spaced Lettering
KYBUNGA				
Type 1	25	—	1883-96	
Type 2	28	—	1902	
MAGILL				
Type 1	24	1, 2, 3	1885-1905	Small Lettering
Type 2	27	1	1909	Large Lettering
OWEN				
Type 1	24½	—	1893-94	Small Spaced Lettering
Type 2	27	—	1907-29	Large Compact Lettering
PARACHILNA				
Type 1	23	1	1900	
Type 2	27½	—	1927	
SECOND VALLEY				
Type 1	23½	—	1892-1902	
Type 2	27½	—	1906-22	

Earlier Type reported by C. R. Walters:

BLINMAN				
Type 1	22½	—	1887	
Type 2	25	—	1892-1907	

Sizes of Cancellations now Recorded:

BRUCE, Type 2	27	—	1921-31	
EDEN VALLEY	27	—	1934	
PENNESHAW	28	—	1908-15	Kangaroo Island

Deletions: (Due to my misreading part-cancellation)

KILKERRAN (Was South Kilkerran)
 WARCOWIE (Was Willowie)

Alter:

LOXTON'S to LOXTON'S HUT First name of LOXTON
 PORT PIRIE, in remarks of Type 3, should read PT. PIRIE
 SALISBURY, add in remarks after "S-A" Type 1 Bar 2½ mms. Type 2 Bar 1 mm.

Removal of Squared Corner Bars:

	Type	My Latest Date with Them Intact	My Earliest Date with Them Removed
BORDER TOWN	2	3/4/1912	2/9/1912
GEORGETOWN		15/9/1907	24/8/1909
PORT PIRIE	4	24/1/1901	17/2/1902
PORT PIRIE	5	17/8/1900	June 1901
PORT PIRIE	6	Removed prior to 13/6/1904	
PORT PIRIE WEST	2	26/2/1901	6/10/1904

NEW ZEALAND: THE 4d PICTORIAL, 1903, INVERTED CENTRE

By H. L. CHISHOLM

Circumstances suggest that a record of all the facts relating to this stamp should be put together on record.

Only one copy has been found. It was not discovered until twenty-seven years after the date of issue. Its present whereabouts are unknown.

It is a used copy. But the Aden State of Quaiti, in its Stampex, London, set of 1967, pictured the stamp unused and it is listed in Stanley Gibbons Catalogue as New Zealand 387c 4d deep blue and deep brown bluish, Centre Inverted.

It is priced at £600 unused, unpriced used.

About 1930 an English country farmer who had been introduced to stamp collecting was looking through some old letters from his brother in New Zealand. The stamp appeared abnormal to him and he showed it to another philatelist, who pronounced it an inverted centre.

The stamp is heavily postmarked, with portions of two strikes but shows "NZ PICTON 21 MR." *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. I, puts the year at 1904.

The stamp was submitted to the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, which certified it in December 1930, giving it certificate No. 14,764, bearing the following opinion:

This stamp is a variety unchronicled and hitherto unknown to the Expert Committee. Having regard to the lapse of time (twenty-seven years) since this stamp was issued, the Committee hesitate to express a very decided opinion upon one specimen, but after close examination they believe it to be genuine.

The stamp printed at the Government Printing Office, Wellington, is on Cowan paper, watermarked NZ and star, Perf 14.

It was auctioned by Plumridge and Co, London, in April 1931 and was bought by M. Theodore Champion, the Paris dealer, for £61.

His firm recently wrote, "We have great regret we could not trace what happened to it."

The stamp is pictured in *Stamp Collecting*, 21 February 1931.

Thanks are due to Mr R. A. G. Lee, ssecretary of the Expert Committee, for providing the details of the Certificate.

REVIEWS

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue 1972. Edited by J. P. Meara. 33rd Edition, 188 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic. 3000. Price \$1.50.

In the face of steep rises in paper price and printing costs it is a pleasure to find that the new catalogue will still cost the same as last year's.

Glancing through the price changes one notes strong gains, from 15% to 25% fairly generally, amongst the first and second watermark Kangaroos. The corresponding used prices are either static or the increases have been smaller, ranging up to 15%. Most imperforate varieties have been marked up strongly as have the Specimen stamps for which a steady demand continues. One startling increase noted was in F13c which moved from \$3.75 to \$30 with the used price being deleted.

Improvements, especially illustrations, were noted in the listings of the 5d Red and 5d Green Queen definitives and the 5d "Export consciousness" issue. New varieties of the \$1 Navigator are shown.

It was personally pleasing to see some of the "Helecon" varieties accorded the dignity of full catalogue numbers complete, in some cases, with prices.

It is refreshing, but possibly out of touch with market conditions, to see stamps still listed at 1 cent; offsetting this the 5 cent and 6 cent Queen's Head designs are over-priced at 3 cents each used. Mint prices of some of the latest short-term definitives are higher than those of the corresponding obsolete flower definitive.

The deletion of prices for souvenir packs would appear to be a retrograde step although the Royal Visit pack (S172 z) seems somehow to have eluded the axe.

A useful feature is the provision of two blank leaves at the back of the catalogue for notes.

Your \$1.50 will be well spent.

O. W. EUSTACE

The Australasian Stamp Catalogue, 1972 Edition. 46 pp. 8½ x 11 in. Published by Review Publications Pty Ltd, Sterling Street, Dubbo, N.S.W. Price \$1.25.

More than 300 price changes appear in the Australian Commonwealth section of this catalogue, notably for specimens, plate numbers, postage dues and officials. Other rises are in the pre-war issues and the more elusive post-war items. The 1968-70 period of Papua New Guinea has also attracted attention.

The catalogue covers the Commonwealth, the States, and the Dependencies, and the mass of background information has been kept up to date.

Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Year Book, Folkestone 1970. Edited by Ernest F. Hugen, xl. 104 pp. 5¼ x 8¼ in. Published by The Philatelic Congress of Great Britain, 3 The Woodland, London Road, Brighton, BN1 8WA, Sussex, England. Price 75p.

This was featured as International Year and the articles are The Importance of International Exhibitions by Mr Ewart Gerish and International Aspects of Philately by Mr M. A. Bojanowicz.

The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, it is noted, includes names from 27 countries. Of the 194 signatories, 1921-1970, 90 came from Great Britain, 28 from the United States, Australia and France being in third place with 11 each.

U.S.A. Consular Post Offices in Japan, 1860-75, by John D. and Sheila Riddell, 12 pp. 6¼ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1. Price 40p.

This is a scholarly story of the services operated by the U.S. Consular Agencies at Kanagawa (later at Yokohama), Nagasaki, Hiogo (afterwards at Kobe), and Hakodate (then called Hakodadi).

It is also a story where the authors can say in at least two instances, no cover has been found, and in another illustrate the only one known, as well as report another unique item.

The study of the shipping services has been thorough and the postal rates are also explained.

The 22 covers illustrated make it the most complete record of these letters yet compiled.

Advanced Philatelic Research, by Patrick Pearson. 140 pp. 8 x 5 in. Published by Arthur Barker Ltd., 5 Winsley Street, London W1. Price £1.75.

This is the fourth of this publisher's Philatelic series, another volume of which, Robert Bateman's *Specialised Stamp Collecting* was reviewed in our last issue (p. 87), and adequately maintains the standard.

Mr Pearson, a member of the Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and of the Council of the Postal History Society, opens his book with an interesting summary of the development of philatelic research and matches this with illustrations of early philatelic publications which are especially interesting. He then discusses various fields of research and suggests areas where new research might well be carried out, with advice derived from his own experience.

The book is the product of his obviously extensive reading and study, and throughout there are items of interest which will be new to most philatelists.

For example, Mr Pearson produces the first aerophilatelist known to the reviewer. He does not claim, as he might, that this collector was the first aerophilatelist, but he has certainly made him a claimant for the title. The pioneer is Herr Schwanenberg, who displayed a "very interesting lot of the Balloon Letter Post envelopes of Paris" at the Leipzig International Exhibition in 1897.

Australians will be interested in the first plating study of the Sydney Views by Dr J. E. Gray, in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* for March 1863. And if *Scott's United States Specialized Catalogue* in 1922 (p. 19) or 1923 (p. 115 and p. 131) was the first one-country catalogue, *Verne, Collins' Catalogue of the Stamps of New Zealand* was not very far behind.

"For those collectors who are actively seeking a subject to study . . . the first to come to mind are the unpopular countries, in particular those who have been out of favour for some years . . . examples being some Australian and Indian States. There is still considerable potential for research into the issues of Queensland, South Australia and Tasmania and into the postal history of all the States."

Insofar as there is a distinction, Mr Pearson balances his interests between philately and postal history.

But there are some things that might be

attended to in future editions. There is praise for The Hawthorn Press monographs, as invaluable to collectors of Australasia, but they are attributed to "The Hawthornden Press" (p. 18 and p. 133).

The reference on p. 46 to Australian imprints should be changed from "John Ash . . . in 1929 he placed his own name in the margin beneath the centre of the pane" should be to "T. S. Harrison . . . in 1913 placed his own name in the margin beneath the centre of the pane or sheet"; and balloons were used for mail carriage before 1859.

Finally, a work as wide-ranging as this, deserves a much more detailed index.

But it is a book which will be both useful and pleasurable to any philatelist.

Handbook on U.S. Luminescent Stamps, 1970-71 Edition, by Alfred G. Boerger and John S. Stark. 112 pp. 6 x 8½ in. Published by Alfred G. Boerger, Box 23822, Fort Lauderdale, Fla, 33307, U.S.A. Price \$4.00.

These two pioneer students of the luminescent stamps, whose initial work, *Luminescent US Stamps* was reviewed in *P. from A.* (December 1965, p. 96), have now produced an extended and elaborated work.

It now contains virtually everything known about these stamps, from the experimental items to "errors" that have escaped the luminescent treatment. Many items exist "plain" and on a range of types of luminescence.

The book is convincing evidence that more and more attention will be paid in the future to developments in this field. It could well be that present established practices will be looked at in future as being in an experimental period, as the years bring new developments perhaps not yet thought of.

The extensive range of items listed have also been priced.

Zumstein Europa, 1972, 55th Edition, 1284 pp. 7 x 9½ in. Published by Zumstein et Cie, Zeughausgasse 24, Berne, Switzerland. Price, 35 fr (Swiss).

Zumstein grew by another forty pages this year and the editors say that the output of new issues is forcing collectors to narrow their activities, and this has brought more attention to specialisation.

As a result, perforation and shade varieties rose more than the average. Speculative in-

fluences had worked themselves out, and auction results had been good throughout the season.

Revised sections included recess-printed issues of Denmark from 1933, the landscape stamps of France 1929-33, and the Austrian Building series, 1949-60.

The Royal Mail Steam Packets to Bermuda and the Bahamas, 1842-59 by M. H. Ludington and Geoffrey Osborn, 24pp, 7½ x 9½ in. 5 maps. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1, price £1.25.

Royal Mail Steam Packets, and the feeder services by schooner, linked the Caribbean area with the United Kingdom in succession to the Falmouth Admiralty packets.

Although Bermuda was included only for nine years from 1842 and Bahamas for eighteen years, the scheme developed in August 1850 was that used with variations for much longer in other islands. Except for the French services there was no other comprehensive packet service. From late November 1850 Bermuda was served by Cunard, as it had been earlier.

Full information on basic routes and changes in routes is provided, with 11 half-tone illustrations of covers carried, and a list of ships.

This slim volume packs a load of information about ships and mails of the Caribbean and not only Bermuda and Bahamas services. A critic anxious to encourage serious philatelic writing and generally uneconomic publication fears to "criticise", but hopes that his motives will be understood and accepted as constructive.

The book is well produced and, either as a supplement to *Bermuda* by one of the authors or as a "trailer" for *Encyclopaedia Volume V*, is useful.

The title suggests both more and less than the actual scope. This is just an outline of Royal Mail Steam Packet activities and route changes and does not log voyages as does Mons. R. Salles, on the *Messageries Impériales* and *Maritimes*. The enlarged maps and the schedules at various dates will fill many student needs.

The display of Crowned Circles on the back cover prompts the question of dates of creation (not of first use) based on types—single border, curved "paid", various sizes and varied crowns. Studies of similar variations in cancellations have helped students

to "date" items. Why did Belize, British Honduras, alone have the consular rather than the post office *size*? Guatemalan nationalism was not, more than a century ago, worthy of British consideration.

Had the logical step of combining schedule tables 4 and 5 for January 1842—Barbados to Turks Islands and return—been followed, part of the missing four hours noted by the authors might have been allocated to implied calls at Ponce, Tortola, Nevis and Montserrat on the return voyage.

The first of the five album-size enlarged maps (which are unbound) is for the January 1842 services and is not sufficiently enlarged to illustrate the fine points of inter-island navigation. Perhaps too much accuracy of outline and scale has been attempted. The companion maps and printed routes refer to September 1842, July 1843, November 1847, and August 1850.

The story of a private enterprise service is full of fascination when covers are examined. While your reviewer hates to think of ships as "them" and rates "Carribean" as horrible on the cover, his heavier anxieties are involved when the authors seem to ignore background. The Admiralty was ever involved with the Merchant Navy, both as troopers and as armed auxiliaries, and mail subsidies were secret votes; the R.M.S.P. was not alone and the Falmouth (later Plymouth) calls were not just to speed the mails. The reference to non-sorting by British Consulates is interesting but no mention was made of sorting at sea which was possibly operating by 1859.

It is to be hoped that other enthusiasts, possibly helped by London sources, will carry on the good work.

Since the names of vessels, such as of British rivers, were transferred to replacements an alphabetical list of R.M.S.P. ships with dates of service would assist. The present lists of paddle and screw steamers purchased or built runs from 1841 to 1860.

More important would be a summary of changes in mail services from 1859 to at least 1914.

The work shows how the old sailing routes influenced the steamers and how economics influenced the first grand plan.

In all it is a noteworthy assembly of information not easily otherwise available, well and interestingly presented and illustrated.

P. JAFFE

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1971

December

- 1 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 13 Library and Conversation, Philatelic Film
- 16 Canada, Pence Issues, Mr E. G. Creed
- 30 No meeting

1972

January

- 20 Science on Stamps, Dr K. T. H. Farrer

February

- 2 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 14 Library and Conversation
- 17 The Case for Another School of Philately, Mr J. R. W. Purves
- 26 Sale

March

- 1 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 13 Library and Conversation
- 16 Women's Philatelic Night. Compere, Miss Helen Serjeant White
- 30 Switzerland, Leichtenstein, Monaco

April

- 5 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 10 Library and Conversation
- 20 Egypt-Philatelic Problems, Mr G. T. Houston

New Members

September: Mr Keith Harrison, England; Mr J. L. Williams, Victoria. November: Miss B. Lyster, Mrs M. Paine, and Mrs David Sims, all of Victoria.

Rhodesia

Mr D. E. Napier, a member resident in Sydney, came down to present the first September display—a most interesting exhibit of Rhodesia.

The design of the write-up added greatly to the enjoyment of the display. It was brief, but contained all the relevant background necessary for a thorough understanding of the collection.

The first definitive issue included three £1, two £2, and the £10 value used.

The Bulawayo provisionals used during the Matabele rebellion when the stamps supply was captured were shown mint and used and also a forged surcharge.

Rhodesian stamps were also shown on currency cards, with two types of the handstamp Administrators' Office, Bulawayo.

The fifth definitive issue included the £1 used and the sixth £1, £2, and £10 mint and a used pair of £2.

The overprinted "Rhodesia" issue included £1 with purple overprint, used.

But there were more highlights in the King and Queen issues—the 5d error of colour (S.G. 142) mint and used and an unlisted but distinctive shade, mint, and the £1 mint and used in various shades and perforations.

A block of the ½d Double Head, yellow-green, imperforate was most attractive.

The later Admirals included the Die III £1 used.

The clandestine roulettes of the 2½d, 3d, 3/-, 5/- and 10/- were featured.

King George V 1d

For the second September meeting, Mr C. G. Skewes chose the King George V 1d Perkins Bacon Plate Printings of Australia for his display.

Throughout it was a student's study. All stages of the die production were represented and the four states of the design, followed by colour proofs.

From the extensive range of 1d red shades, it passed on to the purple and green. The 1d reds included a study of the various papers, with many dated copies.

A specially interesting section was the substitutions. The pre-substituted clichés were shown on both surfaced and unsurfaced papers and the first and rare second substitutions.

Other items noted included Crown A double perf; 1d green, no watermark, and 1d green, a beautiful offset; and the "Secret Mark" retouched.

New South Wales

Dr W. P. Heslop's gold medal collection of New South Wales proved a big attraction to the October meeting and neither those who had seen it before and wanted to see it again or those who knew only by repute and wanted to see it, were disappointed.

The Sydney Views in profusion, included the 1d, Plate II on cover, with Newcastle seal on two pairs and a strip of four hard grayish or bluish paper.

The 2d included Plate 1 on cover with Melbourne postmark, Port Phillip, Feb. 1850, also very early prints and No Trees on Hill, Plate II; pick and shovel omitted; worn impression, pair on cover, one "CREVIT" omitted. Plate III on cover; Plate IV on cover "CREVIT" omitted, and Plate V unused and on cover, and dull ultramarine on blue paper on cover.

Threepence: Strip of five. Pair and single with two strips of three twopence Laureates; one of the three known strips of five; a strip of four yellow-green on bluish to grey wove paper.

A range of Queensland numerals included all plates of the Sydney Views and Laureates, with many of the major engraving errors.

Laureates included a block of 1d on cover and a pair of 6d Plate II on cover; and the 2d, fine impression, ultramarine mint, a block of four, on cover fine impression, blue or greyish medium paper, double print on cover. There was also a complete sheet of the 8d reprint.

Dr Heslop also showed a pre-stamp cover of 1844 postmarked Geelong NSW.

Australian Commonwealth

Superb selections from Mr W. M. Morgan's Australian Commonwealth were greatly appreciated at the November meeting. They ranged from the Kangaroos to modern missing colours.

The gem was the 3d Kangaroo control block, imperf three sides. But the bi-colour Kangaroo issues were shown with imprints and varieties to the £2.

Another interesting item was the 2½d 2nd watermark, with double perfs at top, mint.

The King George V issues, included the 4d Mullett, block without imprint, a used pair of the pre-substituted clichés and a block of the 4½d Die II.

The engraved issues included the 1d imperf right double perfs, double print, and a range of

varieties, including the re-entry and retouch, as well as all 6d Kookaburra plate numbers in blocks of four.

There was a Queen Elizabeth VI 1½d double print in mint block, and a range of rarities in the commemoratives.

These included the Canberra imperf between, block, and a block with flag half-mast, postmarked Parliament House on day of issue, the Walter Burley Griffin stamp imperf at side, and the Hargrave, No value.

Another outstanding item was the YMCA, Re³ Triangle missing, on cover, postmarked "Caulfield 20 Sep 1955".

Finally, there was a study of the B.C.O.F. issue, with trials and the 5/- imprint blocks, ending with registered covers from all sixteen post offices, with locations identified.

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