

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



Published Quarterly by
THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Vol. XXV I, No. 1

MARCH 1974

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Registered for posting as a periodical — Category "B"

Philately from Australia

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(a) From Australian residents: \$2.25 per annum.

(b) From overseas residents: £1.50p. sterling for British Empire (except Canada), \$2.70 for New Zealand, and US\$4.00 for United States and Canada.

Most back issues are still available at 60 cents per copy (Australian); 40 pence, sterling (British Empire); 70 cents (New Zealand); and \$1.10 (United States and Canada). All prices include postage.

Please make payment by bank draft, cheque, or money order.

ADVERTISING RATES

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

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

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

Vol. XXV I, No. 1

MARCH 1974

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AFTER

This quarterly journal made its first appearance in March 1949. Our editor, with his usual generosity, has asked the writer (who contributed the first "leader") to step forward again.

That first leader has been carefully re-read and will be referred to later, since much of what was then said remains perfectly valid in 1974.

Perhaps the first comment that one should make on this occasion is that although twenty-five years, in terms of general history, constitutes a relatively short period it is — over the history of philately — quite a long one. There are of course journals like the *London Philatelist* which has now been in continuous publication for 82 years! Our own *Australian Stamp Journal* (Sydney) lasted just on 41 years, and the *Australian Stamp Monthly* is now in its 44th year. These, however, are the exceptions and not the rule. Most journals emerge on a wave of enthusiasm but die relatively quickly, encountering either an inflow of desert air in relation to potential readers or some other factor, such as a shortage of suitable personnel to keep things going or, more generally, a lack of finance and the inability to incur loss.

Journals, of course, are either house organs run on a commercial basis by the proprietors or they are published by a Philatelic Society which specifically speaks for a certain type of collector or for a certain kind or area of collecting.

In these latter cases it is quite obvious, by comparison with the more commercial endeavours, that the circulation will be limited, that a great deal of unpaid but necessarily enthusiastic labour will be required, and that the chances of making profits (when one has related the overheads to the revenues) are small indeed.

Just to make one point. Advertising is hard to get, and for a quarterly harder than for a weekly or a monthly. It is, in fact, largely a matter of good-

will when any journal of limited circulation receives paid advertising. It speaks well for the Society and the respect in which it is held by the professional element that we continue to receive the support of so many advertisers who really matter.

There are, I think, two policies that are basic to the conduct of a journal such as ours. The first concerns the necessity, being the type of Society we are, for producing a publication which offers something *different* from other publications. To imitate other journals, particularly those who can do certain things very much better than we could, does not assist in maintaining that distinct individuality which the Society has built up over so many years.

To restrict our published studies to the stamps and postal history of Australasia – criticised as it was at the time – has proved a good decision. At the moment nationalism in stamps is a fact in most countries, while there is also no doubt that interest in Australasian fields has substantially increased overseas.

The second policy rests in a determination to attempt the making of a profit, with the understanding that if a loss is made it is a loss that the Society can afford. That was the position in 1949, and it remains the position today. Considered, for instance, on ordinary accountancy principles, there is (despite what one can truthfully say is now a reasonably efficient organisation) a small and regular loss. But when certain other factors are taken into account, e.g., the receipt of review copies (all of which go to the Society's Library), the sale of back numbers, etc, there is often a small profit. To expect a commercial profit from this type of undertaking is, literally, to expect the impossible.

To date the journal has been blessed with a fine printer, with two first-class editors, with many excellent studies (and some useful philatelic philosophy) and with two regular and interesting features which relate to new developments in the study of Commonwealth and States' stamps. Add to this the more usual items, such as Society reports and reviews of books and monographs, and you have something which appeals to the more seasoned collector. In fact we referred, in that first leader, to the journal being intended for the more than average collector. That is still true today.

We also mentioned our hope that it would play its part in developing the talents and judgment of that class of collector on "balanced, informed and enjoyable lines". Judging from the writer's observations of the collecting progress, inside the Society, made over the years by so many of our members that hope seems to have been justified and that progress continues to be made.

Keeping the journal going into the future at the levels we believe it has now reached will be no easy matter. Rest assured, however, that its continued well-being rates high in the priorities of the Society. Every effort will be made, in the future as in the past, to ensure that you get the best we can give you.

It has never been "popular" in any literal sense. It has been and will continue to be selective, to a small extent exclusive, and generally a little more "high-brow" than some would like it.

Despite all that it has already had twenty-five years of life, and should, acts of God apart, last a great deal longer than that.

Journals of record – and reliability – are few. We need your continuing help and sympathy to keep it that way.

J.R.W.P.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by O. W. (BILL) EUSTACE

Australia, 7 Cent Queen Definitive

In June 1973 "Trail" reference was made to finding a number of sheets of this stamp on "yellow lamp" paper. The late Mr A. A. Rosenblum suggested that this yellow lamp reaction might be due to an unusually high Cadmium content in the Zinc Sulphide of the "Helecon" and it was decided that this theory would be tested by conducting an analysis. Unfortunately Alec passed away before the results were available but it is evident from the Table below that the Cadmium content is not the controlling factor.

For the record, the analysis of the yellow lamp paper (C) is shown compared against "bluish-white" and "pink" lamp papers (A) and (B).

Although there is a margin for error in the absolute values, the *ratios* of a particular element in samples (A) (B) and (C) should be quite accurate. Perhaps the most interesting set of figures is that for Titanium where the concentration in the yellow lamp paper is less than one hundredth of the bluish-white.

<i>Element</i>	<i>Sample (A) Per Cent</i>	<i>Sample (B) Per Cent</i>	<i>Sample (C) Per Cent</i>
Barium	0.1	—	—
Strontium	0.08	0.06	0.04
Zinc	4.0	3.2	5.4
Iron	0.4	0.1	0.1
Titanium	2.4	0.4	0.02
Calcium	0.6	0.4	0.4
Potassium	1.0	1.2	1.0
Sulphur	1.4	0.8	1.2
Chlorine	0.2	0.4	0.4
Silicon	0.6	0.4	0.06
Aluminium	0.2	0.1	0.02

In February Mr P. O'Brien located a number of used examples of a new type of "Non-Helecon" on this stamp. So far, all came from the one addressee and were used by the Melbourne and Brisbane branches of a Department store but unfortunately it proved impossible to recover mint copies.

Previously we have recorded coated "Non-Helecon" examples and "Non-Helecon faced/Helecon backed" varieties; the latest appears to be "Non-Helecon" but possibly on the same paper as part of the 7 cent Famous Australians issue in that white fibrous flecks show up under the lamp.

Australia, 7 Cent Agate - PVA Gum

Supplies of this stamp with the new PVA gum were placed on sale at Philatelic Sales Points early in March. Whilst it is possible to distinguish them from the back, especially in blocks and multiples, the difference from the earlier gum arabic version appears to me to be rather slight. One can only hope that some enthusiastic Promotions Officer in the Post Office does not think up the bright idea of releasing the new high value paintings definitives first on Gum Arabic paper and then with PVA gum.

Australia, 5 Cent Xmas 1968

A used copy of this stamp, still "on piece", was shown to me by Mr P. O'Brien. It appears to be on uncoated paper since it reacts in the same manner under the lamp to some sheets of the 25 Cent Olympic Games stamp (Trail, June 1969) in glowing orange-brown instead of bluish-white.

Australia, 5 Cent Hudson

Another used-on-piece item from Mr P. O'Brien is what appears to be an uncoated example similar to the 5 cent Xmas stamp described above.

Australia, Rehabilitation 12 Cent

Still from Mr O'Brien is a used copy on piece which is completely "Non-Helecon", the first "Non-Helecon" photogravure item of which I have heard.

Australia, 6 Cent Lindsay Gordon

A "Non-Helecon" used copy of this stamp completes the "quartet" for this issue. The Duigan Bros "Non-Helecon" item reported in December "Trail" is confirmed by Dr H. A. S. Van Den Brenk of London who has also found a used copy.

Australia, 14 Cent Aerogramme

The packing slip for bundles of the new Aerogramme is similar to that for the old Aerogrammes except that 12 C has been replaced by 14 C. Some are printed in peacock blue (I have seen an example with date counted shown as 26/11/73) yet another, counted on 29/11/73, was printed in navy blue ink.



The Other Side of the Picture



By J. R. W. PURVES

VICTORIA

- (i) *The 8d Laureate, Wmk. V over Crown, on the "glazed" paper (1880), perf 12¼-12½ all round. A new discovery*

I found the above stamp in a mixed lot late in 1973 and have no doubt whatever of its genuineness.

It must be exceedingly rare in view of the considerable quantities I have examined over very many years. The *normal* stamp (perf 11½-12) is SG 195.

These great rarities of all round perforation – and in Victoria, in the period 1880-1910, there are many such – all owe their being, in my view, to a common cause.

I believe that they emanate from the discovery of an old sheet in *imperforate* condition well after the perforating of the printing concerned. This sheet (or sheets) was then perforated with whatever machine was conveniently to hand. Owing to only one (or at the best very few) sheets being concerned a *single-line* machine must, almost invariably, have been used for this purpose. If the gauge of this was substantially different to that found for the rest of the printing a new variety was created. This particular stamp should then become SG 195a.

- (ii) *Another abnormal single-line 12½ perforation found – 1d V over Crown, 1903 printing*

I have turned up an undoubted copy of this variety. It is a 'long' stamp from the base of the sheet and there is no doubt about its individuality. Again, like the 8d Laureate variety just described, it can only owe its being to an emergency of the nature first described.

(iii) *4d (1901-12): two new plate varieties found*

To the list of these constant flaws so far unplaced in the sheet (but almost certainly from Plate 2) given on p.28 of *Victoria: 1901-12 Issue, the 3d, 4d and 5d values* can now be added the following two flaws:

- (vii) This variety shows a horizontal white line going through the top of the second 'I' of 'VICTORIA'. This was shown to me by Dr Russell Jones.
(viii) Another variety, found by the writer when searching for (vii) above. This shows a marked break in the curved coloured line over and to the left of the second "I" of "VICTORIA".

Several copies have been seen of each of these plate flaws so that there is no question of their constancy.

(iv) *The first Commonwealth bi-coloured Postage Dues (1909). The ½d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/- values, and the details of the re-cutting of the various Victorian dies used for those values prior to preparing new centre plates for the Commonwealth series*

It is of course well known that for the first 1d and 2d bi-coloured Commonwealth Postage Dues the same value (centre) plates were used as had previously been employed, since 1890, for the Postage Dues of Victoria. Further that these were succeeded by *new* centre plates for which re-cut dies ("Die 2") were employed.

It is not equally well known that the old centre dies, for all the *other* values continuing in use with the Commonwealth border design *Viz.* the ½d, 4d, 6d, 1/-, 2/- and 5/-, were *similarly* treated and that *new* centre plates (the old Victorian plates not being used in any of these cases) were introduced.

In the case of the 1d and 2d stamps it seems certain that a supply was required urgently but that the new centre plates were not then ready. Hence the preliminary emergency use of the old Victorian (Die 1) plates.

I think it is of some interest to record the other re-cuttings because — whether one collects the Victorian or the Commonwealth Postage Dues or both — it is instructive to compare the results in the two cases.

In general the object of the re-cutting was to give a *lighter* appearance to the background around the figure, thereby putting a greater accent on the figure itself. This involved re-working many white (recessed) lines with the graving tool but in what follows I only emphasise the more notable differences as compared with the corresponding Victorian designs.

½d: The edge of the solid colour down the right of the fraction has now been "lined", a white line now dividing this solid colour from the shading lines to its right. Another similar piece of "lining" has been effected along the SW edge of this solid colour. Likewise the right edge of the "D" has also been "lined".

4d: The white diagonal frame at top left and the white left vertical frame have both been widened and the corresponding outer coloured frames substantially *thinned* in the process. The NE, E, SE, and the centre and SW edges respectively of the solid colour down the *right* of the "4" have now all been "lined" i.e. a white line now comprises the edge of the figure in those parts. Similar work has also been done on the shaded triangle inside the figure, this now being *defined* by white lines.

6d: Here the top horizontal white frame has been *thickened*, this being more noticeable towards the left end. Likewise the top *inner* horizontal white line has also been thickened (and the colour "cleared"), mainly over the "D".

A "die flaw" is now found on all stamps (not seen on the Victorias) — a *break* in the outer left circumference of the "6", just over half way down.

1/-: In this case it does not appear that *any* specific re-cutting work was done on the Victorian die. However — whether or not the damage arose while the die was being prepared for stamping the moulds for the new plate — the fact remains that all stamps from the new plate show a clearly distinguishable "die flaw" not to be seen in the Victorias — a break at left centre going through the outer and inner left vertical frame-lines.

2/-: The top half of the right edge of the figure "2" and also the left edge of the figure at its centre have been "lined" as in previous cases.

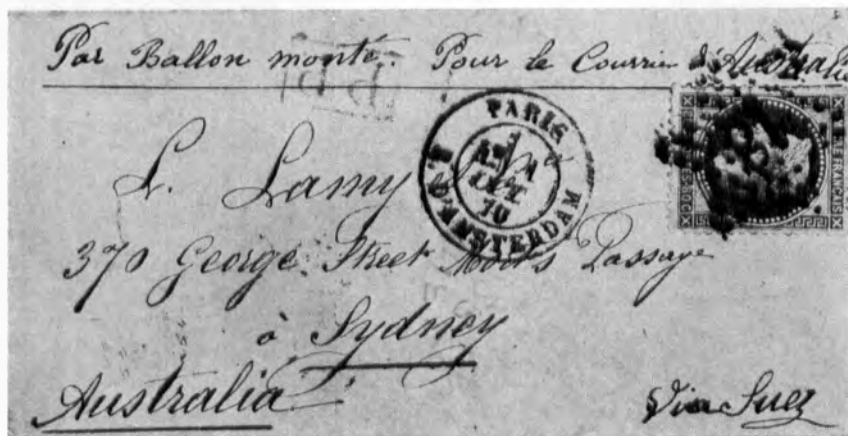
There is likewise a new "die flaw" here — a break in the upper diagonal (inner) frame-line just below its top — not found in the Victorias.

5/-: The outer edge of the diagonal line at the left centre of the "5" has been "lined", as well as the whole of the *right* edge of the "bar".

There are also two new "die flaws" *Viz.* breaks (at and below the centre respectively) in the inner left vertical frame of the octagon. These are not found in the Victorian stamps.

A SIEGE OF PARIS BALLOON COVER TO AUSTRALIA

By W. M. HOLBEACH, F.R.P.S.L.



The cover flown out of besieged Paris by Balloon post to go to Sydney. The letter it contained has not survived.

Of all the letters sent out of Paris by the balloon post during the Franco-Prussian siege of 1870-71, only one is known to have come to Australia.

It is a cover – not a letter sheet – inscribed by the sender “Par Ballon Monté pour le Courrier d’Australie” at top.

The address was

L. Lamy and Co
370 George Street Mort’s Passage
à Sydney

At the bottom, the address continues, “Australia”, and at the right, “via Suez”.

It bears an 80 centimes Laureate (S.G. 121) cancelled with the Etoile 18 (18 in a six-pointed star of dots), with the postmark “Paris R. D’Amsterdam 4E/1 Oct 70”. Etoile 18 is the cancellation of that office.

The cover is backstamped “Marseille (12) 1E/11 Oct 70” and “Sydney L De 23 1870 P NSW”.

The framed PP marking is in red, and has been applied upside down.

Postmark and backstamp identify the cover as having been carried by the *Armand Barbes*, which took Léon Gambetta, Minister of the Interior, out of Paris to establish the Government of National Defence at Tours.

Armand Barbes was the fifth manned balloon to take mail out of Paris, and the sixth, counting an unmanned balloon that did not get very far and fell into the Prussian lines.

The *Armand Barbes*, with J. Trichet as pilot, ascended from the Place St Pierre at 11 am on 7 October 1870, watched by a crowd shouting "Vive La Republique" and "Vive Gambetta". Among the spectators was Victor Hugo, some of whose pamphlets, *Aux Allemands* and *Aux Francais*, were in the cargo. It was recorded that Gambetta looked very pale.

With Gambetta was his private secretary, Eugene Spuller, and sixteen pigeons, twelve of which were owned by M. Traclet and four by M. Cassiers. The mail was 100 kilograms (220 lb) in two sacks.

The *Armand Barbes* left in company with the *George Sand*, which did not carry any mail. They were the first balloons specially made for the service, and had a cubic capacity of 1200 mc.

The balloons were carried northward, and just after clearing the fortifications, at about 2000 feet, *Armand Barbes* was shot at and nearly came down in a turnip field before rising again.

Near Creil it was fired at again and Gambetta slightly wounded in a hand.

It landed in an oak tree in Favier Wood, Epineuse, near Amiens, 61 miles from Paris, at 3.30 pm.

Peasants helped the party to the ground.

The balloonists were given a succession of welcomes at Tricot, near the landing place, Montdidier, and Amiens, despite reports that Prussian patrols were looking for them. A special train took them to Rouen, and again by train to Tours.

One of M. Cassiers' pigeons made the first of its five trips into Paris with Gambetta's news of the landing.

The cover reached Australia in R.M.S. *Rangoon*, a 1200 ton P. and O. ship, commanded by Captain Skottowe, which ran between Point de Galle, Ceylon, and Sydney.

It took 2½ months to reach Sydney from Europe. Now, more than a century later, first-class surface mail may take longer. Such is progress!

A NEW LOOK AT WESTERN AUSTRALIA

By MOGENS JUHL

(Continued from September 1973, p.76)

THE DUPLEX POSTMARKS FROM PERTH

The use of two different postmarks on outgoing letters, a *canceller* to deface the stamp and a *marker* to identify the Post Office, became a rather tedious process in many busy offices. To rationalise Denmark introduced in 1852 the world's first postmarks combining the two instruments.

These *duplex postmarks* consist of a left marker-part indicating place and time of mailing and a right canceller-part defacing the stamp.

Ideally, duplexes should be collected on piece showing the complete postmark. However, this is not always easy and luckily with regard to duplexes used at Perth and elsewhere in Western Australia we are able to identify the various duplexes with relative ease. It just happens that nobody has made a serious effort before this article.

The duplexes from Western Australia fall in three main groups, (1) Duplexes used at Perth with which this article deals, (2) Duplexes with letter giving the initial of the Post Office, and (3) Duplexes with the letters PO in the canceller.

In the following tabulations I do not go deeply into a description of the marker-part of the duplexes. They were not meant to deface stamps and within the two main types – without and with framing circle – they vary so little that an accurate description requires a lengthy list of points for identification. Also, I do not consider it worthwhile to form collections of this part of the duplexes only. The dated marker-part is very useful when it concerns collecting stamps in their various printings, but that is a different matter.

Identification

It is no problem to divide the duplexes from Perth in the types A-I and several of the subtypes stand out very clearly. To take an example we can look at type A. It is obvious that A.4 and A.5 need little explanation to separate them from A.1-3. These in turn are not too difficult to separate either, as A.1 has 15-bars (3 above+9 on either side of the circle+3 below), while A.2 has 17-bars (3+11+3) and A.3 also 17-bars but distributed 2+13+2. In addition A.3 – which is the most common – has the stop between P and O standing close to O. Obviously, it should be possible to pick A.1-5 at a glance.

Only when in doubt it is necessary to measure the size of letters and circle. When measuring I strongly advise collectors to use a transparent ruler enabling them to measure along vertical lines and not the inaccurate way from point to point with a ruler of metal or wood.

The duplexes were made from steel and strikes only vary with fractions of a millimetre even under adverse conditions. Full and half mm are easy to measure

especially if a magnifier is used. Quarter mm should only be measured using this means and it must be understood that $\frac{1}{4}$ and $\frac{3}{4}$ mm are not exact measurements.

Colour of Strikes

Unless otherwise stated, strikes are *in black*.

Blue strikes exist from two periods, 1864-65 and 1896-98. Only type A.1 is known from the former years, i.e., the end of the period when Perth and some other offices used blue ink. The problems in this regard will be dealt with in later articles about the Numeral postmarks.

The blue strikes from the latter period vary a good deal. Mostly, the blue has a greenish tinge. *Magenta strikes* I have so far only from 1897 on type E.3.

Period of Use

The years the various duplexes were in use is stated to the extent that I have been able to establish them. In a number of cases I suspect that they were in use slightly earlier or later.

TYPE A: GPO in Block Letters in Circle

<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
A.1 GPO 12 x 3½ mm Circle 13½ mm 15-bars (3+9+3) No bar on G O is round	Inscribed PERTH at top and WESTERN AUSTRALIA at bottom without framing circle	Blue 1864-65 Black 1864-70
A.2 GPO 12 x 3 mm Circle 13½ mm 17-bars (3+11+3) No bar on G O is oval, close to circle	As A.1	1867-?? and 1883-85
A.3 GPO 11 x 3½ mm Circle 14 mm 17-bars (2+13+2) Bar on G Stop between PO close to O	As A.1	1871-80
A.4 GPO 10 x 4 mm Circle 12½ mm 9-bars (2+5+2)	As A.1	No dates on record
A.5 GPO 7 x 3 mm Circle 10½ mm 13-bars (3+6+4) 10th bar thin centre With stop after O	Inscribed PERTH at top and W.A. at bottom, in a circle, 23 mm diameter	1887-90

Mr P. C. Pearson records a dated strike of A.1 in blue, July 1864. Considering its scarcity I presume that the duplex was brought into use about that time. The earliest known strike in black, recorded by George E. Owen, is dated Dec. 1864.

The only dated copy I have from the early period of use of A.2 is 14.12.1867. It seems that the duplex was in little use during the initial period. For many years it was apparently not used but it came back during 1883-85. It is noteworthy that from this period I have only seen it used on stamps with Wmk. Crown CA, perf. 12.

A.4 resembles the numeral cancellers of the 9-bars type and was presumably

delivered with these in 1869 or 1870. A.4 is the scarcest of type A and I can only venture the guess that it was used occasionally during the 1870s.

In type A the canceller-parts are set in right angle to the marker-parts.

TYPE B: GPO in serif Letters in Circle, 12-bars, (3+6+3)

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
B.1	GPO 10 x 4 mm Circle 12½ mm Stop after O dropping	Inscribed PERTH at top and WESTERN AUSTRALIA at bottom, without framing circle	1878-89
B.2	GPO 9½ x 4 mm Circle 12 mm 3rd and 10th bar thin centre Stop after O	As B.1	1883-90
B.3	GPO 9 x 3½ mm Circle 12¼ mm 3rd and 10th bar thin centre Stop after O	As B.1	1887-90
B.4	GPO 9 x 4 mm Circle 10½ mm Top serif of G vertical 3rd and 10th bar minor thinning Small nick on inside of lower part of loop where it meets stem of P	As B.1	1888-90
B.5	GPO 9 x 4½ mm Circle 10½ mm Top serif of G slanting b same in 2nd state: Foot of P curving or defect	As B.1	1888-93
B.6	GPO 8 x 4 mm Circle 10 mm Fine, small loop on P	As B.1	1894-95
B.7	GPO 9 x 4¼ mm Circle 10½ mm Heavy loop on P	As B.1	1893-94
B.8	GPO 10 x 4 mm Circle 11½ mm Wider O than previously	As B.1	No record, c. 1892 likely
B.9	GPO 10¼ x 4 mm Circle 12 mm O as B.8	As B.1	As B.8
B.10	GPO 9 x 4 mm Circle 10 mm Vertical cut through bars left and right	As B.1	1891-93
B.11	GPO 8 x 4½ mm Circle 10 mm Rather coarse, letters deformed	As B.1 Rather coarse	Black 1895-96 Blue 1896
B.12	GPO 10½ x 5 mm Circle 12¼ mm Largest of type B	Inscribed as B.1 but within circle, 23 mm diameter	No record c. 1895 likely

It should be noted that B.4-12 have stop after G and P only, that B.1-4 were only used during the period of the engraved stamps, that B.5 was used on these and surface-printed stamps and that B.6-12 were only used on the surface-printed stamps.

TYPE C: WEST AUSTRALIA in Block Letters in two lines between 3+3 bars

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
C.1	Distance between 3rd and 4th bar 10½ mm Distance from 3rd and 4th bar to circle of marker 5 mm	Inscribed PERTH at top in a circle, 20 mm diameter. With code 1 A above date and year	c. 1870-73
C.2	Distance between 3rd and 4th bar 10 mm Distance from 3rd and 4th bar to circle of marker 3½ mm	Inscribed PERTH at top in a circle 22½ mm diameter Without code	1872-90

The type C duplexes were obviously produced in Melbourne as they are similar to a type used in Victoria (from 1861), South Australia and Tasmania. Note the mistake WEST instead of WESTERN.

The marker is rather similar to that of type A.5 but this is also inscribed W.A. at bottom and has time-code in one figure. In C.1 the figure stands for the mail and the letter for the clerk, but I and A seem to have been used constantly.

C.2 was apparently only used occasionally during 1872-90 and mainly during 1872, 1884-85 and 1890.

TYPE D: Serif P in Circle

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
D.1	P 6 × 9 mm Circle 12½ mm 12-bars (2+8+2) at left 13-bars (2+9+2) at right	Inscribed PERTH at top and WESTERN AUSTRALIA at bottom, without framing circle	1890-93
D.2	P 6½ × 9 mm Circle 11½ mm 12-bars (2+8+2)	As D.1	Black 1893-97 Blue 1897

In D.2 the upper curve of P's loop is close to the circle, about ¾ mm distant, while the distance in D.1 is about 1½ mm.

TYPE E: GPO with Letter below, Block Letters, No Circle

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
E.1	GPO 7½ × 4 mm P 2 × 2 mm 13-bars (4+5+4) 6th and 7th bar close to marker.	Inscribed PERTH at top and W.A. at bottom, in a circle, 25½ mm. diameter.	Black 1896 Blue 1896
E.2	GPO 7½ × 4 mm D 2½ × 1¼ mm 12 bars (4+4+4) Distance 2 mm. to marker	As E.1, but in a circle, 23 mm diameter.	Black 1896 Blue 1897

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
E.3	GPO 11 × 4½ mm D 3½ × 4½ mm 13-bars (3+7+3) G's upstroke bending out	Inscribed PERTH at top and W.A. at bottom, without framing circle	Blue 1897 Magenta 1897 Black 1897
E.4	GPO 11½ × 4½ mm D 4 × 4½ mm 13-bars (3+7+3) G's upstroke vertical P's loop squarish	As E.3	1899-1903
E.5	GPO 7½ × 2½ mm R 4 × 4½ mm 9-bars (2+5+2)	As E.3	Black 1897 Blue 1897-98
E.6	GPO 7 × 2½ mm R 5 × 5 mm 8-bars (2+4+2)	As E.3	1898-1903

The meaning of the letter below GPO has not been established, but P can hardly mean anything but Perth. D and R I presume stand for Dispatch and Receipt similar to Out and In used by several foreign Post Offices. However, they were not used in accordance with this intention.

The tiny P and D in types E.1 and E.2 often makes separation difficult and care is recommended.

E.3 and E.5 are more common in blue than in black.

TYPE F: R alone in Block Letter, No Circle

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
F.1	R 6 × 7 mm 7-bars (2+3+2)	Inscribed PERTH at top and W.A. at bottom without framing circle.	1898-99
	<i>b</i> same in 2nd state: Back and front of R's loop curved, later broken		1899, from April
F.2	R 4½ × 5 mm 12-bars (4+4+4)	Inscribed as F.1, but in a circle, 25 mm. diameter.	1903

The meaning of R is not known. If it stands for Registered it was not used for this kind of mail only.

TYPE G: GPO in Block Letters, No Circle

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
G.1	GPO 10 × 4½ mm 9-bars (2+5+2)	Inscribed L.C. ROOM at top and PERTH at bottom with- out framing circle.	1898-1902
G.2	GPO 10½ × 5 mm 8-bars (2+4+2) G's upstroke long-bar high	Inscribed SHIP MAIL ROOM at top and PERTH W.A. at bottom, without framing circle	Blue 1898 Black 1898-1904
G.3	GPO 10½ × 5 mm 8-bars (2+4+2) G's upstroke short-bar low.	As G.2	1898-1900

G.4 GPO $10\frac{1}{2} \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ mm As G.2 1901-04
8-bars (2+4+2)

G.1, G.2 and to a lesser degree G.3 became coarse and blurred as the years went by. The measurements are taken from early strikes.

L.C. ROOM, and L.C.R. in type H, stand for Letter Carriers' Room.

TYPE H: W.A. in Serif Letters, No Circle, 12-bars

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
H.1	Distance between 4th and 9th bar $10\frac{1}{2}$ mm Distance from 6th and 7th bar to marker $1\frac{1}{2}$ mm	Inscribed L.C.R. at top and PERTH W.A. at bottom, in a circle, 27 mm. diameter.	1903-05
H.2	Distance between 4th and 9th bar 10 mm Distance from 6th and 7th bar to marker 1 mm	Inscribed SHIP MAIL ROOM, in a circle, 28 mm diameter	1904

TYPE I: P.O in Serif Letters in a Circle, 12-bars (3+6+3)

	<i>Canceller-part</i>	<i>Marker-part</i>	<i>Period of use</i>
I.	P.O $7 \times 5\frac{1}{2}$ mm Circle $9\frac{1}{2}$ mm.	Inscribed L.C. ROOM at top and PERTH W.A. at bottom, without framing circle	1902-03

Duplex postmarks with the canceller-part in this type were used also at several other Post Offices. I. is rather difficult to separate from 3 used elsewhere unless all or part of the Perth marker is visible.

The Numeral 80 in a barred diamond is also a double instrument. It was used at Perth, but because it does not have a marker-part I prefer to deal with it in connection with the Numeral cancellers.

(To be continued)

QUEENSLAND REGISTRATION FRANKING, 1897-1907

By H. M. CAMPBELL, F.R.P.S.L.

When the first batches of the 'Tattersalls' Find' came on the market over ten years ago, they consisted mainly of large pieces torn off envelopes of the period 1897-1904, with a few later. Many of the pieces came from registered covers, as they contained cash, and by postal regulations had to be registered.

It was noted that on the great majority of these pieces the combined postage and registration fees were made up of multiples of the common values, 1d and 2d, and this gave rise to the supposition that before the batches came into the hands of myself and my fellow students, they had been gone through, and the pieces with higher values removed. Whether this was so or not I do not know, but it is certainly not the entire explanation.

The second group of Tattersalls' material to come into our hands consisted of complete covers, of the period 1901-1907, and again many of them were registered. As our main concern was cancellations, and particularly the task of "tying" numeral cancellations to their post offices, we did not pay much attention to the adhesive stamps. It was only after I acquired just over a year ago Rev A. H. Voyce's collection of selected Queensland covers from the Tattersalls' find, including a good proportion of registered items, that it occurred to me to study how the postage and registration were made up. I had already disposed of some of the Voyce covers, but I found that with what I had previously in my own collection, I had 418 registered covers to study, from 204 different post offices and eight Receiving Offices.

At the period in question, the basic postage rate to Tasmania was 2d, and the registration fee was 3d, so the minimum charge for a registered letter was 5d. However, a good proportion of these registered letters to Tattersalls' contained coins that made them double weight, and even triple weight, so we find 7d and 9d rates chargeable. Then, we find a smaller proportion on which an additional late fee of 1d had apparently been charged, though there is nothing on the covers to indicate this except the additional franking. We therefore have 6d charged for a normal weight registered letter, 8d for double weight, and 10d for triple weight.

At this time Queensland had stamps valued at ½d, 1d, 2d, 2½d, 3d, 4d, 5d and 6d (and 9d from 1903), so for any of the rates, 5d, 6d, 7d, 8d, 9d or 10d, it was possible to frank the letter with one or at the most two stamps, but it did not often work out like that. One would have expected the majority of normal weight registered letters, costing 2d postage plus 3d registration, to be franked by a 5d stamp, but of the 323 covers of this rate examined, only 42 (or 13 per cent) were so franked. In fact, the 5d rate was made up in eleven different ways, but almost half the covers bore a pair of 2d and one 1d. The franking of the different rates was as follows:

<i>Rate</i>	<i>Franking</i>	<i>No. of Covers</i>	<i>Total Covers</i>	
5d	1d + (2 x 2d)	154		
	5d	42		
	(5 x 1d)	41		
	(3 x 1d) + 2d	22		
	2d + 3d	22		
	(2 x 2½d)	14		
	1d + 4d	12		
	(2 x 1d) + 3d	9		
	(2 x ½d) + (2 x 2d)	3		
	½d + 2d + 2½d	3		
	(2 x ½d) + (2 x 1d) + 2d	1	323	
	6d	(3 x 2d)	14	
		(6 x 1d)	1	
		(4 x 1d) + 2d	1	16
7d	1d + (3 x 2d)	34		
	1d + 6d	7		
	1d + (2 x 3d)	6		
	(2 x 2d) + 3d	6		
	(5 x 1d) + 2d	4		
	3d + 4d	4		
	1d + 2d + 4d	3		
	(7 x 1d)	2		
	(3 x 1d) + (2 x 2d)	2		
	2d + 5d	2		
	(2 x 1d) + (2 x 2½d)	1	71	
8d	(4 x 2d)	3		
	2d + 6d	1		
	(2 x 4d)	1	5	
9d	(7 x 1d) + 2d	1	1	
10d	(5 x 2d)	1		
	(2 x 5d)	1	2	
			<u>418</u>	

Adding these, we find the rates made up in 31 different ways on the 418 covers examined. It will be noted how frequently combinations incorporating the 1d and 2d were used. The other values (ignoring the ½d) occurred in the following frequencies:

<i>Value</i>	<i>No. of Stamps</i>	<i>No. of Covers</i>	<i>No. of Post Offices</i>
2½d	33	18	15
3d	53	47	39
4d	21	20	18
5d	46	45	32
6d	8	8	8

We therefore find the 5d, which we would expect to be commonly used on registered covers, used at only 32 out of 204 post offices from which these covers came. None were used at Receiving Offices — the only values we find used from such offices are the 1d and 2d, apart from a solitary 4d. One can only conclude that Receiving Offices and many of the smaller post offices did not keep a regular stock of higher values. Even from some of the larger offices we find franking made up in a number of different ways — seven from Cairns, six from

Ayr, Charleville and Normanton, five from Croydon, Ipswich, St George and Townsville.

The ordinary use of the 2½d stamp was to pay normal postage to foreign countries, so when we find it used on these covers, it is mainly in pairs. The 3d is the most frequently met of the higher values on these covers, both as regards the number of stamps used, and the number of post offices at which it was used. As it represented the registration fee, this perhaps is not surprising. The 4d was an awkward value to use for registration, and the 6d could only be used on registered letters of double weight or more. The normal usage of these two stamps would probably be on packets and parcels.

The 5d may also have been used to some extent for this purpose, but I should say that the main purpose of its issue (stamps of this value were first issued in 1895) was to pay normal weight postage plus registration. However, as we have seen, only 13 per cent of the 5d frankings bore 5d stamps.

If these 418 covers are representative, and the 5d stamp was mainly used for registration, I am inclined to believe that the 5d purple-brown (S.G. 246) is under-priced in relation to the other values. At all events, my study has revealed that the stamp occurred on only a small proportion of the covers on which it could have been used, and that whether the first batches of the Tattersalls' material had been picked over or not, there were not many higher values to find.

OBITUARY

Mr A. A. ROSENBLUM

A philatelist whose name has been a household word to collectors throughout Australia and to collectors of Australian Commonwealth stamps throughout the world for half a century, Mr A. A. Rosenblum, died in Melbourne in December. He was 78.

Mr Rosenblum was the man primarily concerned with initiating, about 1920, the serious study of Australian Commonwealth stamps.

In 1922 he became editor of the *Victorian Philatelic Record*, holding the post until 1929. In 1930 he founded the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, editing it until 1935, when he sold it to Horticultural Press.

In 1922 he published *Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia*, which has now had six editions and been the basic text on Commonwealth stamps ever since.

In 1930 he published *The Stamps of Tonga*, followed by *Australian Air Mails* in 1931, and *Stamps of Papua* in 1966.

Mr Rosenblum made many notable discoveries, but some of his theories have remained controversial.

Honours he received included the initial award of the J. H. Smyth Memorial Medal from the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club in 1930, the President's Cup of the British Society of Australian Philately, and the Research Medal of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales in 1966.

Mr Rosenblum joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria on 13 December 1913, 60 years before his death, and was its president in 1922, but had not been associated with it for a number of years.

He became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1969.

Mr Rosenblum was a research chemist by profession and also wrote a book on the conduct of meetings.

His death is a loss to the philatelic world.

PLATE NUMBERS ON PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Announcements regarding recent Papua New Guinea issues have not mentioned that some of them have plate numbers below the bottom row of stamps.

The 9 cent of the 75th Anniversary of stamps in Papua New Guinea set, featuring a representation of the British New Guinea 1/- lakatoi, has the plate numbers 1A1A2A under the first stamp in the row and 1A under the second. The 2A is for the orange frame of the British New Guinea stamp and the 1A on its own is in black for the lakatoi.

With the exception of the 25 cents and 30 cents values, which were printed by the Note Printing Department of the Reserve Bank of Australia, which bear no identification, imprints appear below the last two stamps in the bottom row of the sheet BUNDESDRUCKEREI BERLIN on the 1 cent (in green), 6 cents (in blue) and 7 cents (in red) and THOMAS DE LA RUE & CO. LTD. (in red-brown) on the 9 cents.

The Royal Visit 1974 pair have the five colour markings under the bottom row, stamps one and two, with the imprint HARRISON AND SONS LTD LONDON centred under stamps four to seven for each value. The plate numbers, 1A 1A 1A 1A 1A for the 7 cents and 2A 1A 1A 1A 1A for the 30 cents are under the last stamp in the row, No. 10.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Grateful Thanks and Remembrances

In this 25th Anniversary number of *Philately from Australia*, the leading article has been written by Mr J. R. W. Purves, who wrote the inaugural leader. His Australian States feature 'The Other Side of the Picture' has run from the start, and Mr H. M. Campbell, the first editor, also has an article in this issue.

This is a time when we thank, with sincere gratitude and appreciation, all those who, by their articles or their advertisements throughout its career, have made *Philately from Australia* a living journal.

We would especially remember and thank Robson Lowe Ltd, who have occupied the back cover from the first issue to date.

Arnold Wheeler and Co have also advertised in every issue.

F. H. Feibes is another advertiser in this number who took space in the foundation issue.

New Fellows

Four Australasian philatelists have been elected Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London:

Messrs P. Collas and H. L. Chisholm, Melbourne; Lieut.-Commander A. J. Savage, Sydney, and Dr K. J. McNaught, Hamilton, New Zealand.

Mr Collas has been prominent in Australian philately for forty years. He has been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society

of Victoria since 1933 and was president in 1940 and 1955. He was assistant editor of the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, 1932-35, and editor from 1935 to 1951, except during his war service, and founded the *Australian Post Office Philatelic Bulletin*.

He was author of a number of philatelic books, notably *The Local Posts of Western Australia*, *Australian Postage Stamps*, and the series of booklets on Australian stamps now being published by the Australian Post Office. He was co-author, with Mr Nathan Hals, of *New Hebrides: Their Postal History and Postage Stamps*, published by The Collectors Club, New York.

Mr Chisholm was an early member of the Wellington Philatelic Society in 1923, and joined the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand in 1936. He has been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria since 1947 and was president in 1967. He became a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1966, and is also a member of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club. He has edited *Philately from Australia* since 1955.

Lieutenant-Commander Savage is a former Vice-president of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club. He was elected to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1966.

Dr McNaught is a leading student of New Zealand stamps, and was a judge at ANPEX 1970. He has been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand since 1939, and is co-editor with Mr D. E. G. Naish of the forthcoming Volume VI of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*. He is a Doctor of Science.

Professor O. G. Ingles

Mr O. G. Ingles, of Melbourne, a former member of the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, has been appointed Professor of Civil Engineering Materials in the University of New South Wales.

His chair is the first of its kind in Australia, and he is the inaugural occupant.

Before his appointment he was with the Soil Mechanics Division of the CSIRO.

Professor Ingles, a Tasmanian, is the general editor of *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings, Part II*, which the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is publishing.

Mr W. E. Gerrish, R.D.P.

When *Philately from Australia* rejoiced that Mr John Hubbard, president of the Royal Philatelic Society of London, and a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, had been elected to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists (June 1973, p. 47), it said the Society's current membership now included three signatories to the Roll.

It now finds that it overlooked one of our most distinguished members, a most respected signatory of the Roll, Mr W. E. Gerrish, a former President of the Royal Philatelic Society of London.

Mr Gerrish joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1954 and signed the Roll in 1958.

He attended a meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in the old Stamp Centre when he visited Australia, and has always been a staunch supporter of Australian philately and in particular of this Society.

We apologise sincerely for our oversight, and we take just pride in reporting that we now have four R.D.P.s in the Society.

Papua New Guinea Now "Foreign"

Airmail letters from Australia to Papua-New Guinea cost 10 cents per 10 grams, instead of the 7 cents Australian internal rate.

Up to Self-Government, all ordinary size letters automatically went to Papua New Guinea by air.

"Not so now," *Australian Post Office News* for February 1974 says. "With self-government, Papua New Guinea asked to be treated as a foreign country for postal purposes, and an airmail charge now applies if your mail is not to go by ship."

Letters up to 20 grams go surface for 7 cents, but the mail "could take up to six weeks".

More Provisionals This Year?

Problems facing stamp makers this year are mentioned by Mr Kenneth R. Lake in a London press release for Nauru. He says:

"Current world shortages of paper produced to the high specifications required for security printing, world gum shortages, and the impossibility of obtaining adequate stocks of certain polymers used in the production of specialised gums, all pose severe problems for the world's security printers, and this will be reflected in many delays in stamp printing during 1974. The energy crisis, added to short-time working and power cuts, may also have a serious effect on security printing."

REVIEWS

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue 1974. Edited by J. P. Meara, 34th Edition 200 pp 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000. Recommended price \$3.95.

It is two years since this catalogue last appeared, and to collectors spoiled by the former modest cost of \$1.50 the new price may be something of a shock, but it must be remembered that it was necessary to re-set the type completely and make fresh blocks. Printing and paper costs have skyrocketed and the new price is not out of line.

Prices have been widely reviewed, and most of the Kangaroo and K.G. V issues marked up substantially both mint and used, but the corresponding OS issues appear, in the main, to have been left severely alone.

In the introduction the assistance of a Stamp Dealers' Committee in setting the prices is acknowledged. This is an arrangement not without its dangers since, like the share market, the stamp market may hoist itself up by its own shoe-laces if dealers are allowed to set the catalogue prices at the highest current selling price marked up by a margin that will enable all to sell at a discount from catalogue.

Collectors, who are notoriously unwilling to spend money on philatelic literature, are going to demand more than just price revisions if it is hoped that they will buy a new catalogue every year. New material must be added and, of necessity, most of this will concern recent issues. This year many new decimal items have been added and a copy of the new catalogue is a "must".

O. W. EUSTACE

New Zealand: One Penny Dominion, 1909-1926, Printing Flaws, by George G. Fisher. 38 pp. 7¼ x 9½ in. Limited Edition, 750 numbered copies. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, Box 1269, Wellington, New Zealand.

Probably New Zealand's most used stamp was the Penny Dominion, which paid penny postage on letters for much of its twenty-seven-year life.

It was printed from two surface-printing plates of 240 (10 rows of 24) at the Government Printing Office, Wellington.

These were once known as Plates 1 and 2, identified mainly by two large flaws occurring on each.

It was disclosed in *Philately from Australia* (June 1961, p. 36) that the plates, in fact, bore numbers which did not appear on the printed sheets, and that Plate 1 was Plate 13, and Plate 2 was Plate 12.

Plate 13 ceased to be used from about 1918. It was shown in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. IV, that the two plates were laid down from separate transfer rolls and that each developed flaws as the making of the plates progressed.

Now Mr Fisher has presented a study of the flaws of the individual impressions and has identified and positioned 219 of them — 95 on Plate 12 and 124 on Plate 13.

In some cases he has shown three stages in the development of a flaw.

Mr Fisher's book, besides listing the flaws illustrates them by 192 illustrations, each sufficiently large to allow clear recognition of the flaw.

The two plates are dealt with separately and the flaws are grouped according to the section of the design in which they occur.

Each photograph is numbered and the stamp position given as Row and Stamp Number, with the roller flaw type and secondary characteristics of the stamp. These details face the illustrations.

This is the second book on a specific topic that the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand has published to supplement its series of famous handbooks and matches *The Penny Universal of New Zealand*, by G. R. Lee, published in 1953.

It does not deal with the booklet plates for the stamp but it has shown that the Penny Dominion, virtually overlooked in New Zealand for more than a quarter of a century, is as worthy of study as its line-engraved companion.

One must give praise to the countless hours of patient study of the thousands of stamps that must have been gathered and examined to achieve the results enshrined in this work.

Interestingly, Mr Fisher does not live in New Zealand but in Florida.

Italian Stamps, by Roy A. Dehn. 278 pp. 7½ x 8¼ in. Published by William Heinemann Ltd, 15 Queen Street, Mayfair, London, W1X 8BE. Price, £5.50.

Until now, no book on the stamps of United Italy has been available in English. Now Mr Dehn, pointing this out in his opening sentence, has filled the gap with a new title in the Heinemann Philatelic Series.

It is not a book written by a philatelist for philatelists, but one written by a philatelist — and a very fine one, who is also knowledgeable in many non-philatelic fields — for a very much wider audience.

It is a book that will attract newcomers to the hobby in the casual way he himself began collecting, that will interest collectors generally, and that provides philatelists with a vast field of knowledge, much of which is not readily available to them.

Mr Dehn is a Cambridge graduate who finished World War II in Italy, in command of an army unit, half of whose personnel were British and half Italian. He became interested in philately when an Italian friend asked him to obtain a copy of an English auction catalogue.

His handbook, founded on the Stanley Gibbons catalogue, surveys Italy's stamps, with virtually all the basic information that a specialising philatelist needs.

Perhaps this is a type of book we may expect or hope to see more. Certainly it is a fine example of what can be done.

Its limitations are largely those of space. For instance, Mr Dehn summarises the Repubblica Sociale Italiana overprints on the Fascist War Propaganda stamps because they are not listed in Gibbons, and then goes on: "For the allied landing in Sicily, special stamps were prepared (S.G. 583-591). These are adequately covered in English-language catalogues so no further treatment is necessary, except to mention that, although intended for Sicily, all values are known used in Italy (Calabria), as are mixed frankings with stamps of the Imperial issue."

Beyond the philatelic data, Mr Dehn explains the historical background of the

issues, the meaning of the commemoratives, and gives translations of many of the inscriptions on the stamps.

One may note that the inscriptions on the lire values of the Virgilian series of 1930 apply perfectly to the R.A.F. Bomber Command types repaying the Regia Aeronautica's visit to the Battle of Britain a decade later:

Italy! with happy cries the crews exclaim (Aeneid III 524) L.1.25.

Here is the hearth and the resinous twigs, here the abundant flame (Eclogues VII 44) L.5 & L.1.50.

Ours is the force, ours the youth still intact (Aeneid XL 419) L.10 & L.2.50.

The book also covers design, printing, and the technical aspects of Italian stamps, locals and private posts, forgeries, and essays.

There are 568 illustrations and the typography is, of course, excellent. A defect is the occasional paragraph of more than a page. That beginning on p. 86 and finishing on p. 88 is equal to about half a column of a newspaper. These long passages relate to detailed matters where shorter paragraphs would lead to easier assimilation.

Mr Dehn's style is clear and succinct. His book is admirable and one is tempted to equate it with its closing sentence: "The stamps of Italy reflect many aspects of Italian life . . . and their study can be as varied as it is intellectually rewarding."

The Postage Stamps of Brunei, 1895-1941, A Philatelic Outline, by Brian J. Cave, Box 2234, Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei State, Borneo.

After many years in the background, the stamps of Brunei are recovering some belated recognition with Robson Lowe's *Brunei Star and Crescent — The 1895 Issue*, and now an article in the *Brunei Museum Journal* by Mr Brian J. Cave, who contributed to Robson Lowe's history of the 1895 issue.

Although called a philatelic outline, the article deals in some depth with the issues from 1895 to 1941. The Provisional Issue of 1906, overprinted and surcharged on stamps of Labuan, is dealt with extensively, as is the postal history of that time.

In 1907 the Brunei river scene was introduced as a type and this continued as the main definitive issue type until 1952.

The colour changes in this series, the use of key and duty plates, and later a single die are dealt with.

Brunei changed the colours of its first definitive issue to comply with UPU standards between 1908 and 1911, even though the State did not actually become a member of the Union until 1916.

The Malaya Borneo Exhibition issue is described and the numbers of each denomination are recorded.

The various perforation differences which occurred between 1924 and 1941 are mentioned.

The second definitive type, that showing a panoramic view of the water village with Brunei Town (now Bandar Seri Begawan) in the background, is described.

The fact that the major retouch of the 5c value — the only retouch catalogued by Gibbons — was not discovered until 1951, almost 35 years after it first appeared, shows how long the stamps of Brunei were in the doldrums.

Mr Cave's article is an asset to philatelic literature, an excellent introduction to the philately of Brunei and because of its publication in the *Brunei Museum Journal* will reach a public different from and rather wider than if it had appeared in a philatelic journal.

J. G. WALTON

Cochin Postmarks and Cancellations, by G. B. Pai. 110 pp. 8½ x 10½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1 Y 5JZ. Price, £5.

The range of Robson Lowe publications is a graciously wide one and it is not limited to countries with high-density global popularity. For this, philately is the richer and philatelists the more deeply indebted to him.

Now he has published another volume on an out-of-the-way country. Coming hard on the heels of Lankaster's *China. 1927-1949*, it seems to emphasise the fact that the indebtedness is real.

The work provides a history of the stamps and postal stationery, 1892 to 1949, and the pre-stamp handstruck stamps, before presenting more than 80 types of cancellations and postmarks and more than 350 markings.

Appendices list the Anchal (State) Post Offices and their grouping under each taluk (administrative division), with the types used at each office.

Railway and T.P.O. enthusiasts may find one Cochin marking unique: Posted in Wrong Train. It comes in two types.

The book is printed in New Delhi and there are nine plates in colour, matching the first-class typography.

Treasures of Philately. Second Edition, 1973. 130 pp. 5½ x 9 in. Published by Irwin Weinberg Rarities, United Penn Building, Wilkes-Barre, Pa., 18701, U.S.A.

Irwin Weinberg became world famous with his purchase of the British Guiana 1856 1c magenta a few years ago.

This is a catalogue of rarities he has for sale, with more than 250 illustrations, two full colour plates, and adequate descriptions.

Star item is a U.S.A. 24 cent airmail, inverted centre, at \$42,500. Next is an imprint plate number block of the \$2 Trans-Mississippi, 1893, the finest of the five known, at \$27,000.

A complete set of plate number imprint strips of the Columbus issue is available at \$25,000 and a complete set of Atlanta plate proofs prepared for the International Cotton Exhibition at Atlanta, 1881, at \$22,500.

There are five other items, that something more than \$10,000 would not buy.

Australia is represented by an imprint pair of the £2 Kangaroo, small multiple watermark, at \$1675.

The last word of a beautiful and interesting production is: The world's most valuable stamp available through Irwin Weinberg Rarities.

Post Offices and Cancellations of Fiji. Anonymous. 9 pp. 8 x 10 in. Duplicated. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, 58 Livesay Crescent, Worthing, Sussex, England. Price, £0.40.

A note at the beginning states that this publication is produced so that it can be used as a supplement to Chapter V of this reviewer's book, *The Post Offices and Postal Cancellations of Fiji* (The Hawthorn Press, 1957). Much of the information was supplied by Mr R. F. Duberal, then of Fiji, now of Western Australia, so it can be taken that, so far as possible, it is complete and accurate.

The publication comprises an alphabetical list of all Fijian post offices in existence when the original work was published, with additions and alterations that have occurred since then, together with any new cancel-

lations noted. In the case of new offices, the location is usually indicated. There are one or two typographical errors, e.g., 'Somos' should read 'Somo Somo', but these will not worry anybody using this supplement in conjunction with the original book.

This is a valuable little work, and will be essential to anybody interested in modern Fijian cancellations.

H. M. CAMPBELL

The Postmarks of Naval, Military and RAAF Post Offices in Australia (Under the Control of the Postmaster-General's Department), 1939-1947, by P. Collas. 41 pp. 11½ x 8¼ in. Duplicated. Published as Supplement No. 17 to the *Bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales* (August 1973), by N. J. Sheppard, 1045 Canterbury Road, Lakemba, N.S.W., 2195.

The Service postmarks of World War II are a vast and complicated field which has attracted interest in many countries, and the success which has attended the massive and intricate recordings necessary prove that the postal historian is dauntless.

In Australia, Mr Collas has been one of the pioneers in the field and was publishing about them as early as May 1946. This work is virtually as complete a listing as possible, but Mr Collas warns that others, particularly rubber stamp types, may yet be found.

He has listed more than 470 postmarks, from 220 offices, and there are six pages of illustrations of major types of markings.

Mr Collas gives the opening and closing dates of the offices and the postmark types with their distinguishing marks.

In 1943 'security' numeral postmarkers were introduced for RAAF post offices and one notes that 7406 was used at Mitcham, S.A., and Springbak, S.A., that 5212 (Cressy, Vic.) was not used, and that a Victorian number, 5208, was apparently not allocated.

An appendix provides a brief listing of similar offices 1948-67, and a list of amend-

ments bring the knowledge up to date to the end of 1973.

Mr Collas's work does not include the post offices controlled by the three Services themselves. One hopes he will provide a sequel that will deal with them.

Switzerland Catalogue, 1974. 116 pp. 5 x 7½ in. Published by The Amateur Collector Ltd, 151 Park Road, St John's Wood, London, NW8. Price, £1.60.

More than 7424 prices — more than 70 per cent of the listings — have risen in this year's edition of this well-known specialist catalogue, and the editors (Messrs L. N. and M. Williams) say there is every indication of another boom in Swiss stamps.

The number of price rises is double that of the previous year.

"The upheaval of both market movements and currency changes have made the past twelve months the most turbulent on record for Swiss stamp prices," the Williams brothers report. "Not only have the floating pound and dollar resulted in sharp de facto devaluations, the Swiss Franc has conversely been revalued upwards." In addition there has been considerable upward market movements.

The catalogue is, as usual, beautifully produced, and it is a boon to have a specialised catalogue of a European country published in English and with quotations in sterling.

The Premier Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps, 1974 edition. 28 pp., 4½ x 7 in. Published by Len Jury Ltd, Box 174, New Plymouth, New Zealand. Price \$0.45.

The latest catalogue of New Zealand stamps is a simplified one, with miniature sheets and most First Day Covers from about 1935 priced. This is very useful when so many covers are available and postal administrations issuing official FDCs. For a number of higher values, the used is priced above the mint.

ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1974

March

- 6 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 11 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 21 South America, Mr F. M. Wallace

April

- 3 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 8 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 18 Queensland and New Zealand, Mr John S. White

May

- 1 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 13 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 16 Malaysia, Dr W. G. Wells
- 18 (2) Auction
- 30 Roumania, Mr John Paor

June

- 5 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 10 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 20 Annual Competition
- Closing date for Nominations

July

- 3 (12.30-4) Library and Conversation
- 8 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 18 Annual Meeting
- Presidential Display, Mr John Gartner

Mail to England 1850-57

Mail arrangements from Victoria to England a century and a quarter ago were explained by Mr J. R. W. Purves in a lecture to the first January meeting.

Mr Purves said too many collectors interested themselves in only one aspect of a cover. Everything on a cover was significant.

Until the P. and O.'s second contract in 1858, a voyage might take eight or nine weeks, or 122 days — four months.

There were two types of shipping available.

Packets — Ships whose owners had a mail contract with the Government.

Private ships — Ships whose owners were asked to carry mails.

Packets were the faster, but sailed relatively infrequently.

Different postage rates were levied for

packets and private ships. That was the reason the name of the ship was endorsed on envelopes.

Victorian postage only put a letter aboard ship. But the sender's choice of vessel determined what the recipient would have to pay in Britain.

The passage rate was what the letter would have cost to send from England to Australia and appeared in black on covers. If the postage was double the Victorian rate, the addressee had to pay double the English rate.

Mr Purves, who showed 33 covers, including a number of registered covers, said it was harder to find English covers to Victoria than Victorian covers to England.

Until January 1855 it was not compulsory to use stamps.

Steamship services were introduced in 1852, but during the Crimean War the services from Singapore to Australia were cut out and the ships used to carry troops. During 1855-56 there was no steamship service to Australia, the mail being carried by White Star and Black Ball Clippers.

Current Problems

Three senior members of the Society spoke on current philatelic problems at the second January meeting — Mr P. Jaffé on protection, Mr E. G. Creed on insurance and Mr J. R. W. Purves on investment.

Mr Jaffé said every collector was strikingly bad at security. 'If you lose your collection, you will be very lucky if you regain any of it through police action,' he said.

'Prevention is your job, and it is far better than a pious hope of recovery.'

One known local thief burned anything bearing a postmark because he considered it increased the risk to him.

No collections would be stolen if nobody could be found to buy stolen stamps.

Proof of ownership was a difficulty. Expert committee certificates or a photostat record might be better than nothing.

Another risk was that whoever did a

valuation for insurance might leave a copy for anybody who broke into his office.

If a collection was in a safe that had been through a fire, it should be at least 60 hours before the door was opened.

Mr Creed said there was no really satisfactory answer to the problem of insurance at present.

It was now very difficult to arrange cover. Most companies would not touch stamp insurance unless the collector had other business for them.

Companies had also required owners to revise the values annually and list every stamp valued at £20 or more in Gibbons. This task could take a month.

But if you have had insurance, keep it.

If possible, one should divide the risk by keeping the parts of the collection in different places, and reducing very considerably the number of valuable stamps kept at home.

If a collection was put in safe deposit one should look at every stamp at least once a year and give them some air.

Mr Purves said collectors should buy wisely of the stamps they were interested in. As Mr Robson Lowe had said, 'Love of stamps is an investment in happiness.'

'You are going to kill everything that makes for the enjoyment of philately if you let finance be uppermost in your mind,' he said.

Mr Purves said collections should not be specifically mentioned in wills.

But philatelists should treat the problem of realisation realistically. They should not leave disposal to people who had neither the incentive nor the knowledge to do the task effectively.

Great Britain

Mr H. M. Melville Smith came from Adelaide to give the display at the February meeting. From his collection of Great Britain, he chose to display 'The Postal History of Kent'.

Highlight of the exhibit was a 1d Mulready cover postmarked May 6 1840.

Mr Melville Smith concentrated on Folkestone, Hythe and New Romney, but there were covers from many other towns.

Among the items shown were Hythe

covers of 1798, 1807, and 1812, and a mile-age mark of 1802.

There was also a 1d Black cover at Hythe on September 28 1840.

Covers bearing a New Romney Ship Letter marking of July 1842 and Deal Ship Letter markings and a Bishop Mark of September 1772 were noted.

Other eighteenth century covers were from Ashford 1790, and Tenterden, 1796.

The clear and concise write-up, embellished with reproductions of the various markings in black, green, brown and red added richly to a very enjoyable display.

Tonga and Gilbert and Ellice Islands

The Pacific Islands display on this year's syllabus was given by Mr J. P. C. Tresise, who brought selections from his notable collections of Tonga and Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

Mr Tresise, who recently wrote a monograph on Tongan Registration markings, emphasised the registration markings of both countries.

Tongan items included a 1896 official registration envelope to N.Z. carrying five of the ½d typewritten surcharges with some of the scarce settings, another cover to N.Z. with a 2d and bisected 1d for 2½d, and one to Samoa with a pair of the 2½d George II, one without fraction bar in value.

Almost all known registration markings were shown on cover.

A Tin Can Mail cover from The Tin Can man, W. G. Quensell, conveying 1934 Christmas greetings to the master of the Mariposa and some bisected stamps on piece completed the Tonga section.

The Gilbert and Ellice section included a unique cover bearing both M.V. *Tulagi* and M.S. *Sinkiang* ship marks and manuscript Paquebot Sydney in red ink, apparently exchanged between ships at Tarawa.

The rare cancel "Customs Office, Beru" was shown on piece and a range of Canton Island markings. Other islands represented included Abiang, Fanning Island, Gardner Island, Hull Island, Sydney Island, Ocean Island, Washington Island, Christmas Island, and Tarawa.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Papua

At the March meeting of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club a display of British New Guinea and Papua was given by a Victorian visitor Mr D. H. M. Clarke.

Beginning with the 8, 9 and 10 bar cancels on Queensland, the display included a cover with the cancellation Granville, the temporary name for Port Moresby and another cover with two different bar cancels from different offices,

one probably being on postage due stamps.

The collection contained stamps and postal history through to 1941.

Other items of interest were a F.D.C. of the 1½d B.N.G. Postcard July 1, 1901, the O.S. perforation, a full sheet of the 2d pictorial on chalk surface paper prepared for the Silver Jubilee Overprint and a full sheet of the 2d McCracken printing of 1941.

A vote of thanks moved by Mr Ray Baldwin was carried with acclamation.

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