

# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



*Published Quarterly by*  
**THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

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# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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## ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA HONOURS THREE MEMBERS

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria honoured three prominent members of the society in October.

### *Honorary Life Members*

Miss M. Farley and Miss Helen Serjeant White, both former secretaries, and devoted members and workers over many years, were elected Honorary Life Members.

Miss Farley was the society's first woman president in 1974.

Both have been recipients of the Purves Medal.

Miss Serjeant White now joins those Honorary Life Members whose work she recorded in an article in *Philately from Australia* last December.

### *Purves Medal*

Mr P. Jaffé was awarded the Purves Medal.

Mr Jaffé, who was president in 1972 and treasurer for a number of years, has been a consistent worker for the Society.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

*Conducted by BILL EUSTACE*

## *18 Cent Stamp Week Commemorative*

There are quite a number of rather minor blemishes on the sheets of one hundred of this issue and I have selected two which I believe may have catalogue potential.

On Row 3, Stamp 9, there is a quite large brown "island" off the Queensland coast which is easily visible without a magnifying glass.

The other variety is a rather curious one on Row 2, Stamp 4, where there is a pale blue patch at the back of his coat collar. On the adjoining stamp (Row 2, Stamp 5) there is a black fuzzy patch in the same area and I am led to wonder whether the variety on Row 2, Stamp 4, arose from an attempt to "clean up" the wrong stamp.

## *18 Cent Stamp Week Miniature Sheets*

The standard of production of this issue is not particularly high and suggests that it was something of a rushed job. It is possible to identify a number of different sheets and to deduce at least part of the master-sheet layout prior to perforation and guillotining into the individual mini-sheets. Usually any bundle of five hundred of the mini-sheets all comes from the same position on the master-sheet.

The most marked variety, and one likely to achieve catalogue status, is on Stamp No. 1, where there is a nick in the black box containing the words "National Stamp Week", resulting in a yellow spot under the "L" of "AUSTRALIA". Occasionally there is a slight misplacement of the sheets during perforation and guillotining, and it is possible to find traces of two colour bars in the selvedge toward the top left, thus pinpointing the position of the mini-sheet with the "yellow spot" variety in relation to the master-sheet.

I have heard reports of, but not seen, other sheets with the same displacement resulting in traces of colour bars in the selvedge toward the bottom left. There are two other mini-sheets to be found with portions of the registration "T" in

the bottom right and top right corners of the selvedge so that we now have four sheets "plated".

There are a further pair of mini-sheets with fairly easily distinguished faults on the "blue" stamp — Stamp 3 — where on one of them there is a cluster of pink dots in South Australia and Western Australia and, in the other, in Victoria and New South Wales.

The sheets were packed in bundles of five hundred between two squares of heavy cardboard and tied with plastic twine before being sealed with a packing slip indicating that

This parcel contains  
500 sheets, 4 on  
18c NATIONAL STAMP WEEK 18c  
MINI SHEETS  
POSTAGE STAMPS

*Christmas Aerogrammes*

The packing slip for this year's Aerogramme is similar in layout and wording to that for last year except for the substitution of "CHRISTMAS 1976" printing is in red.

*20 Cent Wombat Reprint*

A convenient little variety to be found on Sheet C of the reprint is a little black mark between the ears on Row 2, Stamp 1. This is a potential candidate for the catalogue.

*18 Cent Gould Commemorative*

There are several items to be found on Sheet C Lower — in this issue there is a part "T" at the top left and a full "T" at the bottom left of the sheet.

The best variety is a grey line in the hair by *his* right cheek on Row 6, Stamp 8 — clearly visible without a magnifying glass.

Next comes a dark spot in the hair above *his* left ear on Row 8, Stamp 4, and if you take this as a positional block of twelve then you will also include a very minor item on Row 9, Stamp 2, where there is a bluish fleck under his right nostril.

*\$4 Printing — Green Gum*

This version is now widely distributed and would be available from most post offices, although not on sale at the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Centre at the time of writing.



# The Other Side of the Picture

By J. R. W. PURVES, F.R.P.S.L.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*The 'Long' Stamps of 1902-12. Two "Value Page Number" "Holes" remain to be filled in for the 1/- and 5/- Values.*

The writer is fully embedded in the work on these stamps to be published by the Society some time in 1977. The manuscript is over half completed and this includes all the more difficult chapters. The whole will be a *complete re-write* of all that has gone before. It follows on some thirty years of additional study (on and off) following the appearance of the *Handbook* published by the Philatelic Society of South Australia in 1947. It is aimed at showing that these issues rank with the Pictorials of Tasmania as the most interesting of the State stamps of the Commonwealth period.

A great deal of new information has resulted from the study of the "value page numbers". The supplier stamped these (for each value ordered) on the *right* end of the *top* margin of the *upper* sheets, the "pages" supplied being double-sized and subsequently guillotined to produce the single sheets (upper or lower) on which the stamps themselves were printed.

There are still *two* stamps which I have never seen with these numbers nor, so far, have I any record of anyone else seeing them. With an optimism that is perhaps unjustified I still hope to hear they do exist since, particularly in the case of the 1/-, there seems no logical reason why all the others have been found and they have not. They are as follows:

1. 1/- "*Thin POSTAGE*", *first* printing – S.G. 275 and 275e.

This printing is easily distinguished by the *clarity* of its impression, whether of the main design or of the value (the latter in either of the listed colours). I believe that it was printed on 1000 sheets of 1/- paper supplied by De La Rue's in 1902, that 120,000 stamps were printed, and that the numbers should go from 1 to 1000. The *colour* of the De La Rue numbers *varied* according to the value ordered. There were as many different colours as there were values ordered. In this case, including the five values of the smaller size, a total of sixteen *different* colours would have been employed for the "page numbers".

I have never seen one for the 1/- value on the De La Rue paper, so do not know *what* colour was employed in that case.



2. The £1 Value: "Thick POSTAGE", Perf. 12, of 1904, on De La Rue paper, S.G. 292.

In the case of the later printing of this value, perf. 12½, on Detmold paper, a few page numbers (very few) are known. That does not help us, however, because *all* the Detmold page numbers, irrespective of the value for which the paper was ordered, were in the *same* colour, a brownish-vermillion.

I have yet to hear of a top right corner single or block of S.G. 292 with the number, and therefore I don't know what colour was used for the 1/-. I do know that 500 double sheets were provided and that the numbers (if they are found) should be in the range from 1 to 500.

There remains one possible source which might record these numbers; that is *Ewen's Stamp Weekly*, an English journal which was published by one of the leading new issue dealers of that day (L'Estrange Ewen). We have this journal from 1910 on in the library of the local "Royal" but not the numbers for the years 1902-05, which would be the volumes, if any, to contain the information required. Can anyone help?

## TASMANIA

### *The Second Allocation Numerals.*

*Two NNS Numbers now seen, also Two New "Ties".*

Reference to the Part II Handbook, at pp. 56-57, will show that few numbers – they totalled *ten* in all – remained to be seen at the date of publication.

But we are still advancing and the total of NNS items, as I write, is now reduced to *eight*. There are now four points to make:

(i) In the first place the "60" formerly reported as a second allocation numeral has now been independently examined. Alas, it is not the Mackay and this "60" therefore *remains* "NNS".

(ii) "Pictorial" stamps have been seen clearly struck with the numbers 384 and 387 respectively. These numbers therefore leave the NNS group but join the RRRR group.

(iii) The 384 is in a pair, 384 being struck on one copy and the "GUNN'S PLAINS" c.d.s. on the other. 'Nuff said.

(iv) 382 has been seen on piece tied to REGATTA POINT.

These items have been duly checked by the writer and are precisely as they are recorded above.

For the discovery and sighting of the (ii), (iii) and (iv) items we are indebted to Mr R. W. Askeland, of Launceston. We expect him to produce much more of interest for us in the future but we do hope he doesn't expect us to produce a Part III too soon!

## VICTORIA

(i) *2d Ham's first, Stone 1. Discovery and further authentication of a FIRST colour, a most distinctive lilac-rose, not so far listed in the Gibbons' Catalogue.*

In the *London Philatelist* for July 1975 (at p. 159) I described having owned a copy of this stamp for a number of years but not having reported it until another copy or copies turned up. Turned up it then had, in the Vickery collection in the Australian Museum in Sydney.

I have now been shown a *third* copy by Mr Dale Forster, of Oregon, USA, in precisely the same *colour* (this is much more than a mere "shade"). All three copies are from Stone A, Mr Forster's being Pack's 38 as described in his book.

Mr Forster's copy has another point of interest. It is cancelled, in *blue*, with Butterfly 27 (Fiery Creek) which is rare indeed in blue. Looking at my own copy again — which was also struck in blue and which I had identified as Butterfly 37 (the first figure being overinked) — I am satisfied that I made a mistake and that the cancellation is the same as on Mr Forster's copy, i.e., 27.

Perhaps if more search is made for this very rare stamp (to date it appears to be about twice as rare as the first Ham 1d in *vermilion*) other copies will turn up.

It is enough to say that its separate — and striking — personality has now been fully authenticated. It should now be listed as S.G. 2, in which event the present *lilac-mauve* would become S.G. 2a.

(ii) *2d S.G. 13e.*

Mr Forster also showed me a used pair of this rare stamp (Ham's fifth in red-lilac). There were two points of interest here. In the first place it is the first pair I have seen, and in the second it is cancelled with Barred Numeral 54 (Kilmore) which means that, at the *earliest*, it must have been used in January 1856 or later. The other known copies are cancelled with "Barred Oval" cancellations and the only example seen on cover is dated in July 1854.

Mr Forster tells me that the pair was originally mounted as a red-lilac, *sixth* printing, but something seemed unusual about it and when he saw the fine border he knew what it was.

(iii) *More about Melbourne's First Two Duplexes*

It will be remembered that I dealt with Mr Linfield's discovery of what must have been the *first* variety in this journal for March 1976. Mr Linfield's cover in question was dated 25.7.60.

The writer has now been fortunate enough to acquire, (a) a cover sent from Melbourne to Geelong with this duplex, bearing a 4d "Beaded Oval" no watermark, and dated 24.7.60; (b) a piece showing the whole of the duplex, also the *same* stamp and the *same* date as (a); (c) a cancelled single, bearing *both* parts of the duplex (one on top of the other), the date stamp portion exactly corresponding with that on Mr Linfield's cover and on the (a) and (b) items above. Here the date is 23.8.60.

When we consider the close relation of the dates, the use of the no watermark, variety in all cases seen to date, the fact that the earliest 4d FOUR PENCE date is 1.8.60, it would look as if this first duplex only had a life of a month or so when it was taken out of use almost certainly because it was regarded as unsatisfactory.

(iv) *The Second Melbourne Duplex Type – Date Stamp at left and VICTORIA in Bars at right*

Mr Geoff White has shown me a copy of the 1d "Emblems" (watermark ONE PENNY) bearing the datestamp portion of this duplex, and on which the date is 8.7.61. This is a "record" date. Previously the earliest known date was 9.7.61.

(v) *"Barred Numeral" 52: Janefield: a "tying" cover has been seen*

Wonders will never cease and, of course, that assumes one maintains a constant lookout for them. I have now been shown a cover by Mr G. Fair which, to the best of my knowledge, is the *only* one seen to date. It bears fine copies of the 1d Half-Length (S.G. 20) and the 3d Half-Length (S.G. 25b) – i.e., the 4d internal rate. Across these stamps is the clear "52" cancellation, the figures being in the somewhat fancy, large format we have already encountered on the few known used singles seen with this number.

On the back are the Janefield and Melbourne datestamps, both of 25.4.56. Certain pencilled evidence suggested that this cover was originally in the Pack collection and this was confirmed by reference to Pack's book published in 1923. There, on page 96, we find the heading:

"Some others [he is referring to post offices] that have been found with 'barred numeral' only are as follows:"

And the second description in the list is "Janefield. Barred 52".

'Nuff said, but hunting for a pedigree certainly adds to the interest of a rarity.

## PICTORIAL FIRST DAY POSTMARK FOR RAROTONGA

Cook Islands introduced a new pictorial postmarker for its \$1 National Wildlife and Conservation Day stamp on 15 November.

The new postmarker has a palm tree flanked by four waves to the right. This is broken by the c.d.s. "Rarotonga/15 Nov 76/Cook Islands", the wave motif being continued in the lines above and below the date. The right of the postmark has the wording "First/Day of/Issue" between the waves.

Measurements are: Height, 27 mm; length, 71 mm, with the date portion, which extends below the bottom wave, 28 mm.

# MORE TASMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY

By JOHN AVERY

As the co-authors of *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings, Part 2* realised, that second book has not wound up the research. Like *Part 1*, it will – and has – served to invigorate discoveries.

Research, properly, is a continuing exercise, and *Philately from Australia* must from now on be the forum for future Tasmaniana finds as we cannot expect another publication of the magnitude of *Part 2* in many of our lifetimes.

Perhaps this will spark further contributions. In dealing with them, the appropriate page numbers of *Part 2* are quoted so these may serve more or less as addenda items:

## *The Second Allocation of Numeral Cancellers*

Pages 53, 84, 86: Long Island (also illustrated on page 119) was newly recognised as a probable altered canceller. The reallocation of numeral 246 from Clarke's Island to Long Island does not help matters because, if you add up the letters, and look at the illustration, it is clear the alteration is the "Long". Even allowing "Clarke's" to be "Clark" on a hand stamp, it is still too long. So what was it? The writer had for a while inquired about the office, Long Bay, but no one seemed to have an example of this one.

## *The Post Offices in operation 1900-12 and their Circular Date Stamps*

Page 90: Crotty reopened 12.5.13. On this page it was said no cancellation from this second reopening (although out of the period under review) was known. One, on a 1d-on-2d pictorial now has been located, dated 6.10.13.

Page 93: The Harford seal information (see p. 132 reference below) could be added here also.

Page 97: Magra's listing details a c.d.s. known from the 1920s. The writer accidentally overlooked that this should have been amended to read "steel" c.d.s. A provisional rubber date stamp was introduced at this office c.1915.

Page 99: Insert.

[NEWSTEAD] [1 (circle stops)]. Probably was returned to stores and destroyed about late 1910 or early 1911. The office closed at some time between this and the reopening date of 2.6.19, when it was renamed Kawallah. Late date information should be welcome. The final "Guides" information indicated the postmaster for 1910 was W. E. Evans (see p. 166, pt. 2). Lack of documentation of a further postmaster after that date, however, does not indicate conclusively this was the final year of operation. Like Windmill Hill, Newstead could have performed telegraph/telegram duties for some time afterwards before eventually closing. At the time, pillar delivery probably caused this office to become, for a time at least, redundant.

Page 108: [WHYTE RIVER] [2]. The office closed 31.10.12, reopening at a date so far unknown, with final closure 1.9.29. No cancellation is known from the

second period. Late date information, therefore, may help establish the closure/reopening period.

Page 110: Long Island should be added to this list. General editor O. G. Ingles' copy, illustrated on page 119, was not assessed when the list of date errors (starting page 109) was compiled.

Now, proof emerges that Long Bay c.d.s. was not the one altered to Long Island. The illustrated example of the date stamp (JU 29/85) shown on this page shows why. The "Long" is wider and bigger than that of "Long Island". So it's back to the drawing board.

Two suggestions: (1) Long Island c.d.s. was irregularly handcut and this accounts for the irregular lettering; or (2) The canceller was altered, perhaps *twice* (because the "Island" lettering does not really conform with the "Tasmania" section). The canceller, incidentally, of Long Bay is known dated February 15, 1885 also. Long Bay (later Middleton from 1892) received Second Allocation numeral 98. The type (type 1) may thus also be added to the tabulated list, on page 62 of *Part 1*. The canceller has a dash between "Long" and "Bay".

*Part 1*, Page 120: ILFRACOMBE (type 1a) is a puzzle. It opened 1903 and for 1903-04 the postmaster listed (*Part 2*, page 162) is a Miss Gilbert. Significantly, no postmaster is listed later until 1912. The likelihood of business being absorbed in the Beaconsfield postal district may be confirmed if late date information can be provided. The question is: When?

#### *Provisional and Abnormal Cancellations*

*Part 2*, Page 132: Harford "Crown Seal" must be added to the list under Section A (iii). The marking was auctioned by Webster this year, and illustrated on the catalogue front cover. It sold to a Tasmanian collector. It is on a ½d QV tablet design on piece, superbly struck. The issue was used beyond the "Second Allocation" period and this strike may well also be included under 8 (iv).

Page 134: The fact, though, is the seals were withdrawn about the early 1950s and even if this cancellation was manufactured beyond the period of usage of the stamp, there is no way of determining it.

# QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

By P. COLLAS

(Continued from September 1976, p. 68)

## *The 1d, 2d and 3d Post Cards, 1888*

This series resulted from a resolution adopted at the Intercolonial Postal Conference held in Sydney in January 1888. The resolution proposed that an exchange of post cards be arranged between the Australian colonies and Great Britain at the following rates: for transmission via Italy, 3d; wholly sea-borne, 2d.

A year earlier, on 30 January 1887, the Queensland Postmaster-General had approved a design for a new 1d post card but decided not to go ahead with its issue for the time being. Following the Conference resolution, and when it was seen that the arrangements then proposed had been confirmed, and commencing dates established, Mr Knight was asked to prepare 2d and 3d post card designs along the same general pattern already approved for the 1d card, with lettered additions indicative of the new route arrangements. The two designs were submitted for approval early in December 1888 and thereafter printing was put in hand.

The three cards became available at post offices on 20 December 1888, the 1d being a single form only. The double, or reply card, as later described, was not issued until 1891. Catalogues erroneously give the year of issue of the three cards as 1889.

The cards of the series were of a uniformly smaller size than previously. A new decorative heading, embodying the same wording as before, was the main feature and, as previously, was flanked at the left by the royal coat of arms and at the right by the stamp impression. There were normally four lines for the address, prefaced by "To". The 1d card was printed in shades of rose.

The 2d card, with printing in blue, was of the same overall pattern, with the addition of the words, "Via Direct Route", printed below the stamp impression. This form of card was intended to be used by correspondents writing to Great Britain and would be carried by the all-sea route.

The 3d card, printed in violet, was also of similar design, with the words "Via Brindisi or Naples" below the stamp impression. Such cards were intended to be carried by sea to Italy, being off-loaded at one or other of the two ports named on the card, and then transported by special mail train through Italy and France to Calais. Mail despatched by this service usually reached Great Britain a week earlier than by the all-sea route.

It might be mentioned here that both New South Wales and Victoria issued 2d and 3d post cards, appropriately inscribed, for the same route variations.

The exchange of post cards between Queensland and Great Britain, via Italy, at the 3d rate, commenced in January 1889 and by the long sea route through Torres Strait (2d) from 1 August 1889.

*Design and Production*

The presentation of the royal head on the stamp impressions of the three cards of the series was the same as that of the contemporary Queensland adhesive postage stamps. The basic die for all adhesive stamp issues after 1882 was the steel punch die which had been received from Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co. in that year and its further use, as a basis for the three post card stamp designs, was a practical extension.

For the three stamp designs considerable new work was required around the Bradbury, Wilkinson head. It is thought that all the additions were the work of Mr Knight and that the finished dies, following practice, were of copper.

The word "Queensland" did not appear in the new stamp designs. Instead, in heavy lettering, "Postage" was placed at the top and the value in words below the head.

Between the two expressions, on the 1d design only, there were on each side finely drawn arabesques, in a pattern reminiscent of that on the 1880 post card stamp. The heavy oval frame in all three instances was ornamented on the outer edge by a fine hair-like fringe. On the 2d and 3d designs the arabesques were omitted, the spaces being left blank.

The new requirement, three slightly differing post card stamps, necessitated a departure in method from that outlined earlier in respect of the 1880 card. In the present instance the base master was made up without permanent inclusion of stamp dies. As required, the particular stamp die was inserted in place in the master and lithographic transfers taken.

It is noted in respect of the 1d card that the stamp impression can be found at four different distances from the nearest point of the card heading — 1.5mm, 2mm, 2.5mm and 3mm. Variations in the placement of the stamp have not been found in respect of the 2d and 3d cards. Here, the similar distance is 1.5mm and it is thought that in these instances there was only one printing of each.

It can be concluded that while the one arrangement of the lithographic plate in each instance sufficed to print the quantities required of 2d and 3d cards, there were at least four different arrangements for the 1d single card, as well as others for the outward and reply portions of the later 1d reply card, as noted later. It might also be mentioned, as further distinction, that on the 1d card the length of the line referring to the address varies, being either 58 or 59mm.

As with the first issue of post cards various differences are to be found in respect of the paper stock used, particularly for the 1d. Such stock varied in quality and thickness and was in shades of buff colour. In some instances it would seem that the address lines were not printed but they might well have been so faint that they have been obliterated by time. In others, the lines are quite heavy. Considerable differences in overall card sizes occurred, within the limits of 118-128mm by 75-82mm, probably for the reason earlier noted. One single type of heavy buff stock was associated with the 2d and 3d cards and a variation has not been seen.

As to quantities of cards, the table included earlier indicates that while there was a good continuing demand for 1d cards such was not the position

in regard to the 2d and 3d cards. All three cards of the series are known with "Specimen" markings. Mrs P. L. Turnbull, who possesses examples, has stated that the word "Specimen" is in blue and measures 21 x 2.5mm.

#### *The 1d Reply Post Card, 1891*

Queensland's first identifiable reply post card was a late addition to the 1888 series although it had, in fact, been printed about the same time as the other cards of the group. Its issue was delayed as the then existing legislation, the Act of 1880, had not expressly indicated that the reply card was intended only for use within the colony. This aspect was made clear in debate in the Queensland Parliament in August 1891, when a new Post and Telegraph bill, amalgamating all previous relevant legislation, was under consideration. Specific indication was then inserted in the bill that 1d reply post cards were to be used only within the colony. The actual date of issue of the reply card at the G.P.O. Brisbane, and possibly at a few other offices, was 14 October 1891, the date upon which assent was given to the new Post and Telegraph Act.

The 1d outward half of the reply card had the same general appearance as the 1d single card of 1888. The reply half, separable by means of a line of perforation, differed only to the extent that the word "Reply", 10mm long, appeared below the address admonition. Printings were in rose shades. In respect of both stamps of the 1d reply card the stamp impressions would seem to be positioned uniformly at a distance of 5mm from the nearest point of the card heading.

Separate distribution figures have not been found for the reply card in the Post Office statistical reports of the time so that they were probably included with the 1d single card, particularly as the quantity was small. More expansive information in this regard is to be found in *Vindin's Stamp Monthly*, 23 July 1894 where Mr Bassett Hull recorded:

49,440 of the two pence, and 49,569 of the three pence were printed between 8th December, 1888 and 15th June, 1889. In October, 1891, when the colony entered the Postal Union, and the rates were consequently changed, 38,039 of the two pence, and 40,671 of the three pence were destroyed. 3000 of each value were retained as specimens, and a balance of 440 and 240 respectively remained on hand. The numbers actually surviving therefore were 11,001 of the two pence, and 8898 of the three pence, inclusive of the 3000 of each value retained and cancelled as specimens.

On 14th October, 1891, 200 penny reply cards were issued, but met with little demand from the public, and it was intended to withdraw them from issue, but orders for supplies arriving from outside the colony in May 1892, a further supply of 9,600 were printed, and they are still on sale.

It is not possible to indicate differences which would definitely distinguish cards of the first issue of 1891 from those of the 1892 printing referred to in the above extract although it is remarked that the card is to be found on two distinctly different papers, (a) a heavy smooth ivory coloured stock and (b) a thinner drab stock.

The make-up of the reply card was that the blank back of the reply portion was above the printed front of the outward half, the halves being separable by a line of perforation. This would have necessitated a special arrangement whereby both halves could have been printed simultaneously, or in immediate



# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

## I N D E X

*Vol 28, 1976*

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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MELBOURNE

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

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sequence. As various methods could have been adopted a particular means cannot be surmised.

All cards are thought to have been provided with the same means of separation, an interrupted perforation gauging 12 when normal but here giving an actual measurement of 6. This is at variance with the indication in the Higgins and Gage catalogue that the cards were perforated 15. No cards with perforations gauging 15 have been found.

It appears certain that the machine used for perforating the reply cards was that described in A. F. Basset Hull's Queensland handbook<sup>o</sup>, at page 47, as the "C" machine, this machine having been obtained by the Lithographic Office in 1874. The pins of this machine gauged 12 x 12¼. One reads, in the general description concerning the machine:

A point of peculiar interest lies in the irregular section of about 7 inches from one end of the line of holes . . . which was probably caused by the further use of the machine for post cards and letter cards.

In order to prevent the perforations tearing apart too readily, this part of the line was modified by temporarily removing some of the pins. For the 1891 postcards [sic] every alternate pin was removed, every third pin being removed for the letter cards issued about October, 1895 . . .

It is to be noted at this time that two further 1d reply post cards of the same general appearance are not part of this issue. These are: (a) perforated 10, issued in 1899 and (b) perforated normal 12, issued in 1904. Both will be described in Part Two.

#### *The Climate of the Times*

In the late 1880s and through to the early years of the present century there was a strong collectors' demand for the stamped stationery of most countries. It is safe to assume that a large proportion of the issued quantities of Queensland post cards of the 1880 and 1888-91 series were bought by dealers and collectors and never postally used, thus explaining the present position as regards availability, and indicating also why 2d and 3d cards continued to be in some demand after 1891, when the postal need for these disappeared because of the introduction of a 1½d rate in lieu.

Another general circumstance of the late 1880's was the rise of privately produced post cards and these continued to be published in ever-increasing quantities throughout the world, including of course, the Australian colonies. Undoubtedly, the private illustrated cards lessened demand for post office stamped stationery but this change of emphasis would scarcely have worried postal administrations as adhesive stamps were still required to be affixed.

The growing importance of privately produced post cards at the time is illustrated also by a new regulation mentioned in the Queensland Postmaster-General's Report for 1889:

\* The title of this work is *The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Forms of Queensland*, published by the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1930. However, despite its title, the volume does not include descriptions of the postal stationery. This field was intended to be embraced by a second volume which, as yet, has not been published. But the existing work does describe the perforating machines used over the whole period, for adhesive stamps and postal stationery, hence it has been possible to refer to the handbook as an authority in this area.

Private post cards, according to an improved pattern and size, may be impressed with a penny stamp at the Government Lithographic Office, for transmission within the Colony, provided they are required in quantities of not less than five hundred at any one time.

The word "improved" in the regulation really meant "approved", as became clear in the subsequent revised Postal Regulations of 6 January 1892. These regulations also stipulated that only post cards issued by the Post Office, and private post cards impressed with penny stamps, were eligible for carriage at the 1d rate when they bore communications "of the nature of a letter".

The private post cards, as indicated in the 1892 regulation, had to be handed in for impressing at the G.P.O. Brisbane, and were required to be in large sheets. The regulation would have undoubtedly have come into being as a result of representations made by a post card publisher. Because of the sheet requirement, only a printer or publisher would have been able to comply. Overall, there would have been comparatively few applicants although, interestingly enough, a fee for impressing was not charged, just the cost of the stamps impressed.

I have not found anywhere in the philatelic press a reference to the existence of private post cards with impressed stamps and such cards, as may now exist must be regarded as being rare items.

As earlier mentioned, the need for 2d and 3d post cards subsequently disappeared. The first card to be affected was the 3d, this because at the Intercolonial Postal Conference held in Adelaide in May 1890 it was agreed that the rate on post cards to Great Britain should be reduced uniformly to 2d by any route. This came into effect as from 1 January 1891. There was thus no need for 3d cards to be used for correspondence to Great Britain, although there was a small limited usage for this card if addressed to other places to which the post card system then applied. Later on, this latter requirement also vanished, for reasons subsequently explained.

*NOTE: From this time other classes of postal stationery moved into the picture and for easier understanding the several categories have been grouped. Thus, the immediate narrative, so far concerned with post cards, will continue with the 1½d post card of 1891. Thereafter, the several sections will describe respectively the envelopes, the wrappers and the letter cards.*

*The period of 1897 was selected, as a convenient half-way point, to close the present Part.*

#### *The 1½d Post Card, 1891*

The Australian colonies entered the Universal Postal Union on 1 October 1891, a move which then, and subsequently, had a profound effect upon postal rates structures throughout Australia. One immediate effect, and operative from the entry date, was that the rate for post cards to Great Britain and to foreign places was reduced to 1½d for single cards by all routes and a 3d rate for reply cards was instituted. These rates also applied at the time in all Australian colonies except Western Australia. The change removed the requirement for 2d post cards.

The Queensland Post Office had been aware, in advance, of the new rates and earlier in 1891 had arranged for the production of new 1½d single and 1½d plus 1½d reply cards. Supplies of both items were issued on 4 November 1891.

Reference to the table published earlier will show that the quantities of 1½d post cards – and single and reply were grouped under the one heading – did not attain high figures in any of the years to 1895.

The central design of the 1½d single and reply cards was basically the same as that for the 1888 series, as comparison shows. However, the ornamentation immediately over the expression "Post Card" was removed and "Carte Postale" inserted in the area. The expression "Universal Postal Union - Union Postale Universelle" was additionally placed in an arc above. The same royal coat of arms as before appeared at the left and an entirely new form of stamp impression at the right. There were the usual four lines for the address, prefaced by "To".

In respect of the reply cards, the outward half had printed in the lower left corner, in both English and French: "The annexed card is intended for the answer". The only addition on the reply half was the word "Reply" below the address admonition. So far as can be seen, all reply cards were separable by means of the interrupted perforation, gauging 12, the work of the "C" machine mentioned earlier.

The stamp impression on both single and reply cards was the same. Of vertical rectangular format, the royal head was contained within a small beaded circular frame, flanked at the left by a panel containing the expression "3 Half" and at the right by a panel containing the word "Pence". At the top was the name "Queensland" and the value in figures, "1½", appeared in the bottom left and right corners. In the panel between the two expressions of value along the base were the words "Post Card".

It is thought that the design was not the personal work of Mr Knight, although it would have been produced under his direction. It is believed that the design was drawn around a transfer of the royal head, as it appeared on the 1888 cards, and contemporary postage stamps. The transfer impression itself was re-lined substantially to give emphasis to detail which previously had not reproduced satisfactorily and the whole resulted in a hand-drawn stamp design larger than the required size. This was then photographed down to stamp size and etched on copper.

The stamp impressions on the issued cards are to be found at different distances from the right point of the card heading - 7mm, 7.5mm and 8mm. Again, while it is found that the stamp impressions vary considerably in intensity, from light to dark, such effect is not usually apparent elsewhere on the relevant cards.

It would seem that at least three distinct stamp units developed by reason of the transfer process and were used to complete the master units. They can be distinguished as follows:

- (a) Broken outer left frame, there being a gap nearly 3mm long towards the top.
- (b) The outer left frame line is complete.
- (c) The outer left frame line has a slight gap towards the top; at the base of this line another gap exists where this and the outer base line fail to join.

The distinctions can readily be seen in both single and reply cards.

The cards were lithographed variously in light and deep shades of brown, tending somewhat at times to red-brown, and in other shades which might be termed light and deep chocolate. As far as can be seen, two kinds of paper stock were used, cream and buff. The former seems to have been associated mainly with the reply cards. Sizes of cards generally are quite variable, ranging

from 133 x 89mm to 128 x 87mm, with other combinations in between. As the earlier table will illustrate, the 1½d card was not used to a great extent to 1895 and used copies of both single and reply cards are relatively scarce. Unused, they can be secured quite readily. The single post card is known with the word "Specimen" handstruck horizontally in violet across the stamp impression. Essays for this card in several colours have been reported, but I have not seen any of them.

(To be continued)

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *R.P.S.L. Membership*

More than twice as many overseas members as United Kingdom members were elected to the Royal Philatelic Society, London, last year.

Twenty-seven new members resident in Britain were elected and these were matched by an exactly equal number from the United States, which included one from Hawaii.

Thirty-two came from other parts of the world: Canada, 4; South Africa, 3; Austria, 3; Belgium, 3; Finland, 3; Greece, 3; Switzerland, 3; Australia, 2; India, 1; Singapore, 1; Swaziland, 1; Abu Dhabi, 1; Hong Kong, 1; Holland, 1; Denmark, 1; Japan, 1.

The figures emphasise the international recognition of the society as the world's premier philatelic body.

It is a particularly happy note that the society is as valued in the USA as in its home country.

Incidentally, the society held an Overseas Meeting at the Civic Centre, Philadelphia, during Interphil, Philadelphia. Eighty-four members and twenty-seven visitors attended.

### *Missing N.Z. Full Faces*

Three bags of mail went missing between Auckland and Thames recently.

Mr John J. Bishop, 25-085, Auckland 5, N.Z., asks anyone offered covers, part covers or pieces bearing perforated Full Faces addressed to Donald McLean or Hon Donald McLean, at either Napier or Wellington, to contact him.



# NEW TYPE OF POSTAL STATIONERY FOR AUSTRALIA

Australia Post is introducing a new type of postal stationery – Stamped Picture Postcards.

It is a development of the maximum card idea – a coloured scenic postcard, with the stamp on the reverse. This is a printed miniature of the scene, in full colour, below which is the wording “Australia 18” in black.

The name of the subject appears in black in the top left corner of the reverse and the words “Australia Post” preceded by its symbol, and followed by a code/date group, officially “key number”, are vertically before the address lines.

There are thirty-six designs. They will be sold in full sets in a gold embossed velour-like wallet at \$10.80. Single cards will be 35 cents.

The cards will be on sale at about 150 post offices, including all philatelic sales centres, but, according to the official announcement, “Single cards will show scenes of the area in which they will be sold”.

There will be no official date of issue, the postcards being put on sale at different places at varying dates, probably before Christmas.

The Key Number is to allow identification throughout the production process, but it is clear also that it has a geographic basis, and perhaps represents the area of sale for single cards.

Australia Post refer to it as “the first series”. The subjects are:

- SI.1.76 El Alamein Fountain – King’s Cross, Sydney.
- SI.2.76 Palm Beach viewed from Barrenjoey Head with ruins of old lighthouse in foreground, showing the Pacific Ocean and Pittwater.
- SI.3.76 View of Sydney – Australia’s largest city.
- SI.4.76 The Sydney Opera House and Harbour Bridge.
- SI.5.76 Sydney Opera House on Bennelong Point.
- SI.6.76 Sydney’s famous Harbour Bridge.
- CI.1.76 Cotter Dam, near Canberra, ACT.
- CI.2.76 The Carillon at sunset – Canberra, ACT.
- CI.3.76 The Australian War Memorial, Canberra, ACT.
- CI.4.76 National Academy of Science, Canberra, ACT.
- CI.5.76 Parliament House viewed across Lake Burley Griffin.
- CI.6.76 Water Jet on Lake Burley Griffin with Captain Cook Memorial in foreground.
- MI.1.76 Government House and Melbourne’s Botanic Gardens.
- MI.2.76 Melbourne viewed from Williamstown across Port Phillip Bay.
- MI.3.76 The lights of Melbourne at night.
- B1.1.76 Poinciana trees are a feature of the city of Brisbane.
- B1.2.76 The Story Bridge viewed from Brisbane wharf area.
- B1.3.76 Captain Cook Bridge, Brisbane.
- GC1.1.76 Surfer’s Paradise viewed across the Nerang River.
- GC1.2.76 Surfer’s Paradise showing the canal network.
- GC1.3.76 Surfer’s Paradise Beach.
- GC1.4.76 Dolphin jumping through ring of fire at Marineland on the Gold Coast.
- GC1.5.76 Water skiing on the Gold Coast.
- GC1.6.76 Feeding the parakeets at Currumbin Bird Sanctuary.
- GC1.7.76 Surfboard riding on the Gold Coast.
- GC1.8.76 View of Coolangatta looking towards Mt Warning.
- GC1.9.76 Coolangatta Beach looking towards Snapper Rocks, with Kirra Point in the foreground.

- A1.1.76 Festival Theatre beside the Torrens River, Adelaide.  
 A1.2.76 The beautiful Victoria Square Fountain in Adelaide.  
 NT1.7.76 Ayers Rock, the largest monolith in the world.  
 P1.1.76 King's Park, Perth, and Narrows Bridge at night.  
 P1.2.76 Pleasure crafts riding at anchor in Matilda Bay, Perth.  
 P1.3.76 Perth skyline viewed from King's Park.  
 T1.1.76 Batman Bridge, near Launceston, Tasmania.  
 T1.2.76 Tasman Bridge and Mt Wellington viewed from Rosny Hill.  
 T1.3.76 The Pioneer Village Museum, Burnie, Tasmania.

## CENTRE PLATES WEAR FASTER THAN FRAME PLATES

By H. L. CHISHOLM, F.R.P.S.L., F.R.P.S.N.Z.

Centre plates wear faster than frame plates. This appears from an examination of New Zealand's bi-coloured line-engraved stamps that have been printed from a multiplicity of plates.

The 4d (Mitre Peak) of the 1935-36 Pictorial set was printed from three frame plates and six centre plates

The difference is also shown strikingly in the Centennial issue of 1940:

	Frame	Centre
1d	6	10
1½d	2	3
2d	10	12

The same phenomenon occurs in the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II high-value bi-coloureds, but this is not a true parallel because the frame plates were value plates, and the centre plates were used for all values.

In the Peace Issue, printed by Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co, two frame plates and two centre plates were used for all two-coloured values, except the ½d and 8d where one centre plate sufficed.

But with such low numbers of plates, this is not a real contradiction. It could be explained by second plates being found defective or simply not used. Gaps in the list of the makers' serial plate numbers as reconstructed from Collins and Watts: *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. II, suggest that this may be so.

The 1935-6 Pictorials were the products of De La Rue and Co; the Centennials were the work of Bradbury, Wilkinson and Co, so the phenomenon is not peculiar to one company. Faster centre plate wear must therefore be a fact of recess-printing. Why should this be? I would suggest that it is a consequence of bi-coloured stamp design.

The frame plate usually carries the border, the name of the country, and the value — the essential features of the design. This is also the largest amount of lettering. For these reasons, the frame plate is more boldly and deeply cut.

The vignettes of the centre plates, usually pictorial, require more delicate engraving and the shallower grooves show wear more quickly.

## REVIEWS

*The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, 1977.* Edited by J. P. Meara. 237 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000. Recommended price, \$5.95.

*The Australian Specialists' Catalogue* is now aged fifty, although this is only its 37th edition. And as we shall have to wait another thirteen years before its 50th edition, it is appropriate that the Golden Jubilee should be recognised now.

The catalogue is far different from the slim, soft-covered volume Mr S. Orlo-Smith produced from his "Stamp Salon" in Collins Street, Melbourne, in 1926. But he would recognise it, and, one is sure, approve it, with its vast array of new issues and technical detail about stamp printing process which had not then been invented.

It was then a simple price-list, with appropriate data, and first cataloguing of the important varieties. Now it is more than a catalogue, it is an essential handbook.

Year by year, with the wide range of literature dealing with the subject, and the increasing number of auction catalogues, advertisements and prices realised to be scanned, in addition to recording the normal data of new issues, varieties and technical details, the editor's task becomes more complex.

Both editor and printer have problems of getting all the details into the available space.

This year's catalogue is twenty-four pages thicker than last year's.

The great feature of the new catalogue is the inclusion of a new 14-page section on technical and other data regarding Australian stamp production. This includes up-dated material that has appeared throughout previous editions, but the catalogue also includes some new diagrams.

Revision has been concentrated on the latter part of the catalogue, decimals, 1-7c Queen Elizabeth, coils, pioneer life, and commemoratives.

The re-pricing of the postage dues has also been begun and will continue in the next edition.

Also, Mr Meara has had to cope with the recent "perforation-paper-gum explosion".

Looking at the future, one wonders whether he might not consider dividing the

cumbersome all-in listing of the George VI ordinary issues that he inherited into appropriate issues, as was done in the *Philately from Australia Cumulative Index, 1959-1968*.

This was based on the premise that when the first value of the original issue was superseded a new issue had been begun.

Nobody collects this section according to the catalogue, and one thinks the change would be welcomed.

Also, since singles and strips of the Kangaroo monograms are listed, would not the plate number-imprint blocks of eight of the 1913-14 issue deserve listing also?

Again, our thanks to Mr Meara for the way in which he has faced his daunting task.

*The Postal History of Perth*, by Neil Blair, 27 pp., 74 x 94 in. Published by Woods of Perth (Printers) Ltd, Box 3, Perth, Scotland. Price, £3.

In Australia it is necessary to state at once that this is Perth, Scotland, and not her Antipodean daughter.

Col. Blair writes first of Perth's postal services from 1689 to 1900, and then of its postmarks for the same period.

In 1689, Robert Anderson, a glove maker, and Burgess of Perth, was appointed the first postmaster. He held the post until 1704, when Gilbert Gardener, a weaver, took over. He was succeeded by a post-mistress, Mrs. Graham, in 1732.

Anderson's appointment followed that of John Blair (an ancestor of the author?), a little earlier, as Postmaster-General for Scotland.

Anderson does not appear to have left any philatelic memorial, but Gardener's memento is a letter to Edinburgh of 4 August 1731, with the rate-making "Pth 2" in manuscript.

Mrs Graham, about whom nothing else is said, has the distinction of introducing the first handstamp, Perth, in capitals in 1738.

Other types of this were introduced in 1772 and 1788. All these dates are earliest known strikes.

Very interesting is the "Perth Lamb", a shield with the word Perth below. The motif on the shield is a lamb and banner, the device of St John the Baptist, from whom Perth's alternative name, St Johnstone, originated.

Earliest known dates are 30 March 1780 and June 1751. Robert Morison, who kept

a stationer's shop, was postmaster then. Few examples are known. Col. Blair says that the first "Perth" marking was in use at this time, and the mystery is some letters were stamped with the "Perth Lamb" and others not.

Another interesting point, of the next century, is that seven examples of the first Perth Maltese Cross (it had two) struck in black before the instruction to change from red to black are known.

This is a fair sample of the interest to be found in this very valuable work.

Col. Blair deals with the establishment of the horse post, the mail coach era, the railways, local penny posts, and uniform postage.

Thirty-two handstamps and eighteen cancellations are illustrated and there are three maps.

*Cancellation Study of the British Solomon Island Protectorate*, by D. H. Vernon. 22 pp., 8½ x 11½ in. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, 58 Livesay Crescent, Worthing, West Sussex. Price £1.50 (post free).

The Pacific Islands are geographically and philatelically unique. Spread comparatively thickly over earth's greatest ocean, they are an entity without parallel.

And, one is tempted to say, the smaller the group the larger the number of cancellations and postal markings. Few, indeed, have not been touched by war, with its philatelic consequences.

The Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain has been actively and energetically engaged in studying, and promoting the study of this material, and even more fortunately, in publishing the results of the research in permanent form.

The latest of the eleven publications currently available is the new production, compiled by Mr. Vernon. It follows Cancellation Studies of Nauru, Cook Islands, New Hebrides and Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

The Solomons have a special interest to Australia and much material on the group has been published in *Philately in Australia*.

This study is a thoughtfully conceived project. After the normal historical introduction, it deals with each office or agency in alphabetical order, giving location, significance, post office history and cancellation data.

Then follow fake and forged cancellations, including a tabulated comparison between

the Tulagi genuine and two forged cancellations.

The Cancellation types section lists twenty-six types, with seventy-three varieties of the oval Postal Agency type, all given with earliest date, colour and other data.

A full-page map showing the location of agencies and the reproductions of the Cancellation types, covering another two pages, complete a fine, conscientious and methodical study.

Now it is an essential publication for any collector interested in the area.

*Register of New Zealand Registration Labels, Types A to L*, by Professor I. D. Campbell. Limited Edition. 84 pp., 11½ x 8 in. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 25-105, Auckland 5, New Zealand. Price, \$NZ4.50 (postage extra).

This is a register of New Zealand registration labels of Types A to L, a companion to that of Types N and P, published by the society in 1974. A register of Type M is now planned.

In addition to the New Zealand labels of these types it includes the appropriate type N.Z. labels used in Fiji, Samoa and other islands.

A total of 7248 labels is recorded. They cover all those known in this field to the end of June last, except Post Office Savings Bank and Public Trust Office labels, of which too few have been issued to justify a listing.

This work is another example of the intensive study being carried on in New Zealand into all aspects of the hobby and the co-operation between collectors of kindred interest. One does not know of any other country where such a thorough listing has been undertaken, and certainly those with this interest are fortunate in the way their present and future needs are being met.

*Philatelic Congress of Great Britain Year Book, 1976*. 84 pp., 5½ x 8½ in. Published by the British Philatelic Foundation Ltd, 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1. Price, £1.50 (post free).

This year book for the 58th Congress at Plymouth includes the papers delivered at the Congress, "An Approach to Aerophilately", by Major A. W. Hilton; "Exhibitions, Exhibitors and Judges", by Mr. G.

South, former secretary of the Royal Philatelic Society London, and "Communication in Philately", by A. J. Branston.

Signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists chosen this year were John Gartner (Australia), Max Guggenheim (Switzerland), Mrs Sybil Morgan (Great Britain) and K. Wolter (West Germany).

Production is very attractive.

*Switzerland Catalogue, 1977.* 5½ x 7½ in. Published by The Amateur Collector Ltd, 24 Great North Road, Highgate, London, N6, England. Price, £4.45.

This year's catalogue has a double importance. It is its twenty-first edition and its coming-of-age coincides with the thirtieth anniversary of the publishing firm.

Once again the pattern is an average price rise of 30-40 per cent, but with many 50-60 per cent rises and some have doubled.

This year the number of rises is up to 9547 (8974 last year), with only 12 (33) devaluations and 1330 (1889) prices unchanged.

Again, too, the publishers warn that the prices (sterling) will be affected by the shrinking value of the £, and that price change bulletins will have to be issued during the life of the catalogue.

A price list of available Swiss literature is a valuable inclusion.

Dealing with the Swiss Hotel Posts, the catalogue mentions that the first stamp issued was that of the Rigi Scheideck in 1867. This was recorded in philatelic literature, but the publishers do not believe a copy exists today.

This consisted of the name "Rigi Scheideck" embossed in colourless relief on red glazed paper.

They have also deleted Engelbert (Hotel-Pension Sonnenberg) No 1 from the catalogue because they doubt its existence.

The catalogue, besides the basic qualities of completeness, accuracy and proper pricing, has the other major attributes of a catalogue of its type: it is at once an introduction to the interests to be found in its stamps and a specialist catalogue.

*The Swiss Philatelist, 1977.* 12 pp., 6½ x 8¼ in. Published by The Amateur Collector Ltd, Box 242, Highgate, London M6 4LW, England.

Front page news of this year's issue is the discovery of a horizontal tete-beche pair of the 15c Cross of the Confederation above

Numerals, 1882-99. It is the third pair of the variety known.

It was found in a philatelic society's forgery collection.

Other features include articles on the UPU 1900 issue and the Revenue Stamps of Basle City.

*New Zealand Mails to England, Via Brindisi*, by Gerald F. Elliott. Postal History Society of New Zealand Study No. 6. Limited edition, 16 pp., 8¼ x 11¼ in. Mimeographed. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 25-105, St Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand. Price, \$NZ1.

For New Zealanders of a century ago, sending a letter "Home" was no simple matter. There were various routes, different rates of postage, and different estimated times for the journey, and with transit fees having to be paid to other administrations.

Mr Elliott has examined the history of the "via Brindisi" route introduced on 1 January 1870, with an initial rate of 1/3 for the first half-ounce, compared with the then current rate of 10d per Marseilles.

He has been through the *New Zealand Gazette* and reproduces the various notifications of alterations in the rates.

The *Gazette* notices are not only interesting because of the changing fees, with their bearing on the stamps used on covers, but for the explanations of the reasons for the changes and the advice given to prospective letter-senders.

For example, a notice of 11 April 1871 advises "that in consequence of the transfer of the British Mail Packets from the Marseilles line that between Alexandria and Brindisi, it is no longer desirable, with a view to prompt delivery, that correspondence for *Belgium* should be forwarded in the mails to France as hitherto, and it is recommended that such correspondence for transmission by the Suez route should be addressed to be sent direct 'Via Brindisi'."

So the reader is back in the nineteenth century, with all its rival routes, and the realisation of how high its postage rates were, compared to average earnings.

Nevertheless, there are still questions to be answered and Mr Elliott, who illustrates seven covers from his own collection, asks those possessing "Via Brindisi" covers to send the details, preferably with photostats of front and reverse of the covers, to him at Box 59090, Mangere Bridge, Auckland.

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *Members' Diary*

- 1976  
December  
1 (12.30-4.00) Open House  
11 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation  
16 Ponderings on Philadelphia, Mr J. Gartner
- 1977  
January  
5 (12.30-4.00) Open House  
20 Commonwealth Studies, Mr L. Skinner
- February  
2 (12.30-4.00) Open House  
5 Social Evening, Viennese Operetta, "A Night with Leo Fall", Mr J. R. W. Purves  
14 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation  
17 Rhodesia — Double Heads and Admirals, Mr D. E. Napier  
19 Sale
- March  
2 (12.30-4.00) Open House  
14 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation  
17 Cyprus and Gibraltar, Mr E. G. Creed  
31 Canada, the 1967-73 Issue, Messrs J. Paul Hughes and F. W. L. Keane
- April  
6 (12.30-4.00) Open House  
21 Middle Europe. Organised by Mr M. Zitron

## *All the World*

Mr Peter Jaffé provided what Mr Purves described as "an overpowering display" at the first September meeting. It comprised selections from his collection, mainly British Empire material — proofs, classic stamps, postmarks and covers.

The die proofs were led by one of the NSW 5/- "Coin" with manuscript notation "Engraved by Fredk A. Heath" on card. Others included the St Vincent 5/-, matched by a "Specimen"; Mauritius Britannia 6d, with plate proofs; St John's Newfoundland 1/- and South Australia 4d.

The Mauritius section featured Imperforate Britannias, mint, covers with B53 cancellation and a stamp with a "Free" cancellation, and the Crown G.P.O. cancellations of 1859-65, including one authenticated by the Colonial Postmaster.

Notable was a mint block of ten.

A Nova Scotia 3d on a fancy cover attracted 10 cents postage due and was endorsed "All or None".

Also present was a Turks Island 1/- plum, with Royal Certificate.

The Pence Canada included a page of 3d, including one with imprint.

Another beautiful item was an Engraver's Sketch of the Queen's Head for South Australia, St Lucia and St Vincent, with the note 'Engraved by C. H. Jeans'.

A group of rarities included a 12c blue British Guiana "Cottonreel" and a pair of the 1c black on magenta, 1852, and an unused Trinidad "Lady McLeod".

One of the three recorded copies of the St Vincent 5d on 6d, double overprint, with Royal

Certificate, was on display with 5/- and £1 specimens.

Australian-area items included the Western Australia 2d violet error of colour, and no less than ten South Australia printed on both sides, one with and without overprint.

Victoria was handsomely represented by a £100 Stamp Duty, 1890, mint — an early miniature sheet — one stamp in the sheet.

"Foreign" material included a Zurich 6 rappen, 1843, and a selection of Geneva and Federal Rayon types, New York 5c postmasters, an Adams Express Montezuma, Cal. cover, and New Caledonia Shortage of Colonial Stamps cachet on piece of newspaper.

## *Persia*

Miss Joyce Buchanan gave an unusual and exceedingly pleasant display of Persia at the second September meeting.

The standard issues were well covered, but the abnormal issues were the feature of the exhibit.

There were two pages of the oft-forged Meshed Provisionals, used there in 1902 because of the non-arrival of stamps from Teheran, with genuine covers.

The four issues of the (compulsory) charity or famine relief stamps were all shown, with covers. These had to be affixed to mail in addition to the normal postage.

Finally, there were the highlights, the Rebellion issues — provisionals, overprints and surcharges — in infinite variety, produced during the various rebellions. Seen together, they were strangely attractive.

## *Victoria*

Two displays of more unusual Victorian collections provided an attractive double-bill at the October meeting.

Mr K. F. Scudder showed Stamp Duty and Stamp Statute stamps of Victoria and Mr G. T. White Victorian Postmarks.

Mr Scudder presented a selection from the Postage and Revenue period, 1884-1901 to the Commonwealth Administration of the Post Office and explained their legal status and usage.

His display featured the Stamp Statute Series of 1869-1884, the Stamp Duty series produced by lithography, those produced by typography to 1883, and those from 1884 onwards.

He noted that the £5 was issued in sheets of 30, plate of 15, turned around, thus giving tete-beche pairs, and equal numbers of normal and inverted watermarks.

Reprints had been made in 1891 from new plates, except £5, from the original dies, several of which were damaged, but the shades were different from the originals.

The high values, £25, £50 and £100 Stamp Duty were recess-printed directly from the die in sheets of one, with selvage all round.

Mr White's display was equally specialised. It began with the Butterfly cancellations, and moved on to the "time code" of letters begun in 1856 at Melbourne, and then that of 1861-1900 by other cities and towns. These were shown in detail and

the codes explained.

One sheet showed cases where mistakes had obviously been made — "errors" — as shown from studies of the postal guides, railway and coach time-tables.

Other interesting items included manuscript cancellations from Bruthen-Wickeliffe and Nine Mile in the same handwriting.

#### *Tasmanian Postal History*

Mr R. L. Askeland came from Tasmania to present a remarkable display of Tasmanian Postal History and Cancellations at the November meeting.

In his introduction, he mentioned that the earliest handstamp known was 1819. He explained the systems governing the use of the earliest handstamps and dealt with manuscript cancellations.

Mr Askeland's display showed the undated handstamps of Hobart, 1831, and Launceston, the dated

town handstamps of Hobart Town 1838, G.P.O., Hobart Town, 1843, and the scarce circular types that followed.

A page of numerals on the first issue, most of the 4d being cut square copies, was followed by an equally attractive showing of manuscript cancellations on Chalon Heads.

Another interesting feature was the non-official or private handstamps from Campbell Town.

Paid, pre-paid and free handstamps led on to prisoners' letters, including that with the Crowned Convict Letter, Port Arthur, of 1807, in red, and two Seal cancellations.

Other interesting sections were ship letter handstamps, and other endorsements of various kinds. Notable was a beautiful "Insufficiently Stamped" on a pair of ½d sidefaces, matched by "Late Letter" on a 6d Chalon Head.

Finally there was a Postmaster-General handstamp that may be the only one known.

Fiji: The Stamps and Postal History, J. G. Rodger and R. F. Duberal	\$12.50
Fiji Post Offices and Postal Cancellations, H. M. Campbell	\$4.00
Western Australia: The Perkins Bacon Printings 1854-1861; The De La Rue Printings 1864-1902, A. F. Bassett Hull	\$4.00
The 1897 Issue of Tonga, Eric W. Mann	\$4.00
North-West Pacific Islands, J. R. W. Purves	\$4.00
Sarawak: The De La Rue Issues of 1918 to 1928 and the Associated Printings, L. H. Shipman	\$4.00
The Postal History of Barakoma Airfield, A. H. Voyce	\$4.00

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