

# 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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"All changes, nought is lost; the forms are changed, and that which has been  
is not what it was, yet that which has been, is."

Thus quoted William Whewell in the introduction to his *History of the Inductive Sciences* that was published by John W. Parker of West Strand, London, in 1837. Those words are equally applicable today, as we have pleasure in announcing the amalgamation of the Argyll Stamp Co Ltd with Eric Etkin Ltd to form

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# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

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## R.P.S.V. EXHIBITION IN SEPTEMBER

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will stage an exhibition in the Lower Town Hall, Melbourne, from Monday, 27 September, to Saturday, 2 October.

It will be part of National Stamp Week activities.

Exhibits will be non-competitive, anonymous, and by invitation.

It is being planned to show all those facets of the hobby which provide its appeal for dedicated philatelists.

Emphasis will be upon the Australasian area, but there will be a large representation of other British Commonwealth material, as well as interesting foreign displays.

All the society's publications will be on display and will be available for purchase.

The exhibition will require considerable preparation and three committees have already begun work.

It will be the first important philatelic exhibition held in Melbourne since MIPEX in 1963.

A number of members will be available during the exhibition to take visitors round, explain the exhibits, and answer queries.

Further details will be provided in the next issue.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by *BILL EUSTACE*

### *Australia 1 Cent Marine Life*

Supplies of a new printing on KP6T paper with PVA gum have been made available through Philatelic Sales Sections. There have been at least two earlier releases on gum arabic paper – one more or less the standard KP5D paper and the other with a brilliant mirror-like gloss to the gum. The two earlier printings provided good shade variations, with the new PVA printing falling somewhere in between.

### *Australia \$2 Painting, Gum Arabic*

Some dealers have been asking a significant premium for this item which, at the time of writing, is still available from the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Centre.

### *Australia 3 Cent Marine Life*

In "The Trail" of March 1975 I referred to a curious flaw to the body of the crab on Sheet A, Row 6, Stamp 2. Subsequently we found a similar damaged area on Sheet C, Row 5, Stamp 2 and again it was noted that the extent of the damage varied considerably from sheet to sheet. In fact, on roughly half the sheets there was no sign of any damage at all.

In an official explanation given by the Post Office the smear flaws were attributed to the Rembrandt Feed Board wheels skidding and causing a slur.

This would explain the fact that the damage was not constant, but the interesting thing is that Mr J. Heath, of Mulgoa, then reported finding similar skid marks on the 1 cent shrimp and 45 cent flower definitives and now I have just received a block of the 2 cent crab definitive from Mrs I. Van Tenac, of Adelaide, showing traces of a skid mark on Sheet A, Row 6, Stamp 2.

Discussing this with Mr P. O'Brien, he reminded me that we had found two or three sheets of Prime Minister Page on gum arabic paper with a long scratch flaw on Row 8, Stamp 2 running above the word "Australia" from the "U" to the "L". Again these were not constant through the one group of sheets. However, if you line up Row 6, No. 2 of the small marine life definitives with Row 8, No. 2 of the larger format Prime Minister commemoratives it becomes obvious that the two are very much in the same area. Obviously there is a case for checking other Rembrandt productions as well as the small format Marine-Gemstone-Flower definitives.

*Australia 18 Cent Explorer Gosse*

There has been insufficient time for the "grapevine" to get into gear before this column had to close off but I did come across quite a nice item on Row 4, Stamp 5 where there is an extra black rock on top of the mountain under the "U" of "Australia".

*1 Cent Cocos (Keeling) Ship*

A somewhat minor variety is to be found on Row 6, Stamp 4, in the form of a dark blue patch in the sky beside the flag. At least it does have the merit that for the enormous outlay of 4 cents you can get yourself a very bright and attractive positional strip with the colour blocks in the centre gutter.

*20 Cent Cocos (Keeling) Ship*

The right pane of this denomination provides us with two varieties. On Row 9, Stamp 8 there are two black heads bobbing in the water beside the boat in the foreground (rather minor) and further up the pane on Row 3, Stamp 6, the "N" of "Keeling" is broken – a variety which should achieve catalogue status.

*25 Cent Cocos (Keeling) Ship*

Three rather unusual and similar varieties can be found on this denomination. They take the form of an oval/circular string of pale blue dots in the sea on Row 5 Stamp 8 (directly below the bow); on Row 6, Stamp 3 (above the "on" of "Honisset"); and on Row 7, Stamp 3 (almost touching the bottom edge of the design). Although all three are quite large, you really need a glass to see the detail.

*Nauru 25 Cent Stamp Anniversary*

I thought that I had found a splendid variety on Row 1, Stamp 1 of this denomination when I came across four sheets with a large circular white patch between the "E" and "P" of "Republic", but unfortunately it proved to be one of those transient varieties.



# The Other Side of the Picture



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

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

*5/- value, 1902-12: a correction following a fresh investigation*

Early this year a collector drew the attention of Stanley Gibbons to apparent "discrepancies between the illustrations and listings covering the two 5/- types of South Australia 1902-12 issue".

The editorial staff of the catalogue – appreciating these discrepancies – then referred the matter to the writer who, quite correctly was, with the 1976 Catalogue in front of him, as nonplussed as his predecessors. There was only one possible way out for him and that was to make a fresh investigation. This was done, the material available being adequate.

The result was a little dramatic. There were *three* types of the FIVE SHILLINGS overprint, not two. Originally the writer (see p. 65 of the Handbook) had described *two* types only and the Catalogue followed that classification. Both the writer's study and the Catalogue therefore require amendment.

There is no point here in describing the distinguishing features. These will, in any event, be incorporated later in the new Handbook already under way. However, the position, in relation to the Catalogue, can now be set down and it is not hard to follow.

**TYPE 1 overprint:** Not at present illustrated in the Catalogue. This came from the original electrotyped plate sent out by De La Rue's in 1886. It is to be found on S.G. 196 and 196a ('POSTAGE & REVENUE' type) and on S.G. 277 (first 'POSTAGE' type).

**TYPE 2 overprint:** Is found *only* on S.G. 290. Is the type illustrated in the Catalogue as 'Z'.

**TYPE 3 overprint:** Is first found on S.G. 290a, then on 290b and 305. Is the type illustrated in the Catalogue as 'Y'.

The above findings have, of course, been communicated to the Catalogue editors. The discovery was, in the first place, made possible by collectors' greater interest in State stamps. Discovering, after such a long period, that one was *wrong*, is a matter of no great regret.

## VICTORIA

(1) *1d 'Emblem': discovery of a new major variety*

The 4d 'Emblem', S.G. 86, of December 1859 – a relatively scarce stamp – was printed on a distinctive *no watermark* paper which was handmade, thick and tough. Until recently no other stamp had been met printed on this paper.

A copy of the 1d value has now been found by the writer on this same paper. It is in a *pale yellowish green*, a shade wholly *different* from the previous 1d shades found under S.G. 83, 85, 85a, etc, but absolutely *identical* with the shade found with S.G. 96, printed on the Saunders 'ONE PENNY' paper. The cancellation is 2" (Geelong). It seems, in view of the obvious rarity of the new variety, that a few sheets must have been included with the first or a slightly later printing of S.G. 96, the earliest date known for that stamp being 23.7.60.

Nearly all the 'Emblem' rarities owe their existence to 'left-overs' of one kind or another. The new discovery is just such a one. Now that it has been found it seems very unlikely that other examples will not turn up.

(2) *The type V3 paper: some new information concerning its introduction in 1896*

When in London last year the writer paid two visits to the Post Office Archives and through the courtesy of Mr Tony de Righi, the Curator, was able to locate certain information (from the De La Rue records) which was new to him. Further, he was able to obtain photostats of the relevant material.

The document which concerns us here is the "Specification of white and coloured postage stamp paper required for the Government Printing Office, Melbourne, Victoria". This official document would have been received in London late in 1895 and was then distributed by the Agent-General to potential contractors, his letter being dated 17.12.95. There is, at the moment, no point in making a full quote here. However, there are a number of extracts which possess a certain significance in themselves and are worthy of comment. They are, in order:

1. "It is specially pointed out that one side of each of the samples is much more highly finished than the other."

This, of course, refers to the "milling" procedure adopted for most surface-printed stamps to afford a "glaze" to the side of the paper on which the stamps were to be printed, thus giving them a finer impression.

2. "The dimensions of the sheets to be 24½ inches x 24½ inches."

This is the first specific reference to the whole sheet of 480 (120 x 4) watermarks being a *perfect square*. In particular it explains how easy it was to insert sheets at right angles in a ream of 500 and thus produce *sideways* watermarks in the normal size stamps.

3. "The Dandy Roll to be provided by the Contractor."

In the writer's monograph on the five V over Crown watermarks certain reasons were set down for his belief that the V2 type dandy roll was the property of Messrs De La Rue. This, of course, meant that if *another* tenderer was successful in winning the contract a new dandy roll, almost certainly employing a *different* pattern of watermark, would be produced. Waterlows won the contract and the V3 paper (in use from June 1896 to August 1899) was the result. The *conditions* to the contract were to provide that "the dandy roll, as soon as produced or procured, was to become the property of the Government of Victoria."

4. Two hundred reams of white paper "were to be shipped not later than the

27th February 1896". Presumably this paper would have been received in Melbourne at the very end of March 1896 and slightly later. The early dated copy known on this paper shows 12.6.96.

De La Rue's replied to the Agent-General's letter on 23.12.95 and stated: "We do not propose to tender for the supply of stamp paper. . . ."

(3) 2/-, 1901-12 *wmk. sideways*

The writer has found a pair showing this sideways watermark, a variety he has no recollection of having ever encountered previously.

FRANK STAMPS

(4) "*Commander of H.M. Land Forces*"

The writer has to report that he has unearthed a *second* copy of this frank, also cut to shape, but in better condition than the first copy. (*P. from A.*, March 1976, p. 7.)

(5) BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

(i) *More 'NNS' varieties are now known*

The writer has often speculated on the discovery rate of items so far ranking as NNS (number not seen). Over the last six months he has discovered *five* more, viz, 536, 616, 825, 1605, 1669.

There is no possible doubt about any of them. They are all clear strikes, and emerged from wholly virgin forests!

208 has now been seen Type 2 (previously NNS) on a 'Beaded Oval' 4d.

(ii) *A new 'tie' seen: MELTON-107*

This number was noted in the Archives (see p. 77 of the Handbook) as having been issued to MELTON (which later received 189). No 'tying' piece had been seen until recently when the writer found a cover (Melton 28.1.57, Melbourne 28.1.57) addressed to Wonwondah, and bearing a 1d Queen on Throne and a 3d 'Half Length' S.G. 24, cancelled 107.

(6) *Victorian 'Perfins'*

Dr Pocock's article in our last issue provided much of interest. But he should not think that students in this State have ignored this field. The writer, for instance, has been studying them, on and off, for some fifteen years, and another friend (Mr Max Watson) also for a considerable time.

However, in view of what we deemed greater priorities, neither of us has yet put pen to paper. We are now in process of a collaboration which should carry the matter a great deal farther. It is, in fact, our hope to produce a mimeographed study over the next six months.

'Perfins', in this case, provide a fascinating commentary on the economic history of a great city and are one field in which the best results are more likely to be attained by local students, who know the history of their local concerns (or can ascertain it) so much better than a person living elsewhere.

This is no criticism of Dr Pocock's work because, if his article had not appeared, Mr Watson and the writer's work might well have stayed in the cupboard!

# SAMOA: THE 1s BISECT, PERF. 11

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

Reference to the 1895 1s bisect perf. 12½ was made in my article "Samoa – Palm Tree Problems" which appeared in the March 1973 issue of *Philately from Australia* (Vol. XXV, No. 1, p. 12). Notes on these stamps by the Pacific Islands Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club have also appeared in this journal for December 1972 and December 1970.

It was pointed out in the March 1973 article that to be of some standing the bisect should be perf. 12½ on cover or piece and cancelled in blue to distinguish it from the later bisected perf. 11 1s stamps which were cancelled in black and produced to fulfil a philatelic demand. Mention was made, however, of two examples of the perf. 11 bisect cancelled in black on registered covers to England, and the question was asked on whose authority were they issued as, by that time, the new supplies of stamps had been received from New Zealand.

The two examples quoted (one was the top half of the cover) were two of several covers posted to the same addressee, Herbert Hawkins, of Richmond. They were dated at Apia on 28 May 1895 and were received in London on 14 August that year, an elapsed time of about two and a half months. Because of this time factor – the normal route for mail from Samoa to England being through San Francisco and taking about 4-5 weeks – Mr Robert P. Odenweller, of New Jersey (with whom I have been corresponding on this and other matters), considers that the Apia date stamp may have been "adjusted" by Postmaster John Davis to make the bisect "look good". That is, if the covers had gone by the normal route via San Francisco, to arrive in London when they did, they would have been posted in Apia about the middle of July rather than late May.

(Mr Odenwaller is the author of a serial on the Samoan Palm Tree Stamps now appearing in the *Collectors Club Philatelist*.)

One would hesitate to accuse the Postmaster of deliberately turning back the date-stamp, particularly on registered mail, philatelic or otherwise, to justify the use of a bisected stamp, although that such a practice may have been adopted by him was indicated in Volume V of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand* (p. 586). It is doubtful whether Mr Davis would have appreciated at that time the fact that the new supply of stamps he received in May following the fire on 1st April 1895 were perforated by a different machine and consequently had a different gauge. But it is a fact that, to satisfy the demands of overseas dealers and others when they learnt of the provisional some time later, Davis did supply 11 bisected stamps with dates more or less coinciding with the period the genuine ones were issued. The former can be

identified as they were bisected vertically and not diagonally, corner to corner. In addition, the dates used do not always correspond with those of the mail steamers leaving Apia.

Another curious feature of these perf. 11 covers is that, although the London registration date-stamp and the Richmond date-stamp appear on the face of the covers, there are no other date-stamps to indicate the route taken which would have explained the length of time it took the letters to reach London from Samoa.

We had been endeavouring to find a possible solution to this problem for some time when, quite recently, Brian Purcell, of Bristol, compounded the matter by sending me details of another perf. 11 bisect on cover, this time dated 22 May 1895 and addressed to San Francisco "via London". The cover was backstamped London 22 June and San Francisco on 4 July, and also appeared to be one of several to the same addressee, A. P. Dryden, care of the Foreign Mail Agent at San Francisco.

To send a letter to San Francisco by way of London when the former place was only about 16 days away by mail steamer seemed a bit strange to say the least, so I decided to check the mail despatched from New Zealand and Samoa by searching the Auckland papers of the period.

Mail by San Francisco route, from Samoa to London, took about 29-32 days, and the three fast steamers (*Mariposa*, *Alameda* and *Monowai*), then operating the service for the Oceanic Steamship Company and the Union Steamship Company on a pretty tight schedule, called at Honolulu, Apia, Auckland, Sydney and returned to San Francisco the same way.

Mail was also sent from Samoa via Auckland, Sydney and Suez but took longer — about 47 days — to reach England.

Local vessels trading between the islands also carried mails. One of these was the *Ovalau* which was on a regular monthly run between Auckland, Tonga, Samoa, Tonga, and Auckland. There was also at that time a direct connection from Sydney with Tonga, Fiji, and Samoa by the *Taviuni* every four or five weeks.

It is possible to tie in dated covers and pieces of the bisect issue, both perf. 12½ and perf. 11, with ships calling at Apia as the table at the end of this article shows.

It will be seen that covers dated 28 May 1895 could possibly have been carried on the *Ovalau* which left Apia on 16 June, arriving at Auckland, via Tonga, on 25 June. A mail for England via Sydney and Suez left on the *Flora* on 2 July and was due in London on 14 August.

This would explain the time difference question by Mr Odenweller if the Apia date-stamp had not been tampered with, although he could ask why the letters were not sent on the *Mariposa* to Auckland, which left Apia three days earlier on 13 June, Auckland on 19 June, and Sydney 26 June, the mail arriving in London on 31 July.

Then again there was the mail that left Apia on 17 July by the *Mariposa* on her return voyage to San Francisco which was also due to arrive in London

on 14 August. But in this case the date-stamp must have been tampered with unless the letters were over-carried on the *Mariposa* after her first call at Apia.

To reach London on 22 June the covers dated at Apia on 22 May could only have been carried on the *Monowai* which left Apia that day, arrived in San Francisco on 8 June (two days later because of bad weather), and London on 22 June. The letters must have been sent back to San Francisco where they arrived on 4 July.

Most mail from Apia to America and Europe went through the Foreign Mail Agent in San Francisco and was backstamped at that office. To bypass the Mail Agent and go direct to London, these letters may have been included with letters from New Zealand in a closed bag for that place made up by the mail clerk on the *Monowai*. But it seems strange that the letters were not backstamped on board the *Monowai* with the New Zealand Marine Post Office date-stamp which was usually applied to all loose ship mail posted at Apia.

By this time, of course, letters from Samoa franked with Samoan stamps were accepted in foreign countries without the necessity for additional postage to be added for destinations beyond Auckland, Sydney, and San Francisco.

It has been assumed that the *Monowai*, which left Auckland on 18 May 1895, arrived at Apia on 23 May, six days later. She carried the new supply of stamps which the New Zealand Government Printer had completed printing on 11 May. How then can the covers dated 22 May be explained?

The actual date the mail steamers from Auckland arrived in Apia has been difficult to determine. As the Southward voyage to Auckland usually took six days (judging from the reports of the Ships' pursers in the Auckland papers), it had been assumed that the Northbound trip would also take the same time. But do these things take into account the day lost and gained when crossing the International Date Line?

It would appear the actual average steaming time between Apia and Auckland may have been five days — stretched to six days on the Southward run and reduced to four days on the Northern run. This would then explain the odd discrepancy of a day here and there that crops up now and again when dealing with early Samoan and Cook Islands covers, and would confirm that the *Monowai* would have arrived at Apia on 22 May, not 23 May as previously sought. (Note: the International Date Line was adopted in 1883.)

Although not fully explained satisfactorily, it does appear that some of the bisected perf. 11 1s stamps could legitimately have been used to frank letters in May or June 1885. But why was it necessary for Davis to bisect the new 1s stamp?

When he unpacked the new supply Davis must have been surprised to find that none of the 2½d had been sent. (It will be remembered that the original 2½d plate had been damaged and a new one had to be made, supplies from which did not reach Davis until late July.) Consequently he may have felt justified in continuing to use the bisected 1s stamps as a franking medium for the overseas rate of 2½d until the new supply arrived, even although combinations of the ½d, 1d, and 2d stamps would have done just as well.

## MAILS FROM SAMOA APRIL-JULY 1895

Known covers and pieces date-stamped at Apia	Destination	D/S Perf Colour	Mail Steamer	Left Apia on	Route via Suez, Auckland, Sydney, London	Route via San Francisco	Route via London
1895			<i>Arawa</i> (left SF 6 Apr)	20 Apr	26 Apr (w'drawn)		
			<i>Mararoa</i>	—	1 May, 5 May, 12 June		
24 Apr		12½ Blue	<i>Mariposa</i> (left Auck 20 Apr)	24 Apr		9 May	22 May
25 Apr	Sydney	12½ Blue	<i>Ovalau</i> <i>Tarawera</i>	25 Apr —	4 May (via Tonga) 9 May, 13 May, 19 June		
29 Apr		12½ Blue	<i>Taviuni</i> (left Auck 20 Apr)	29 Apr?	via Tonga & thence to Sydney on new timetable		
16 May	Sydney NZ	12½ Blue	<i>Alameda</i> (left SF 2 May)	16 May	22 May, 27 May 3 July		
19 May	NZ	12½ Blue	<i>Ovalau</i> (left Auck 8 May)	20 May	30 May (via Tonga)		
22 May	L'pool	12½ Blue	<i>Monowai</i> (left Auck 18 M'y)	22 May			21 June (L'pool)
22 May	SF via London	11 Blue				8 June (2 days late)	22 June (Lond) SF 4 July
13 June	NZ	11 Black	<i>Mariposa</i> (left SF 30 May)	13 June	19 June, 26 June, 31 July		
28 May	London	11 Black	<i>Ovalau</i> (left Auck 5 Jun)	16 June	25 June (via Tonga)		
15 June	NZ	11 Black	<i>Flora</i>	—	3 July, 9 July, 14 Aug		
20 June		11 Black	<i>Alameda</i> (left Auck 15 Jun)	20 June		3 July	17 July
25 June		11 Black	<i>Monowai</i> (left SF 27 Jun)	11 July	17 July, 21 July 28 Aug		
			<i>Ovalau</i> (left Auck 3 July)	—	27 July (via Tonga)		
			<i>Tarawera</i>	14 July	5 Aug, 11 Aug, 18 Sept		
			<i>Mariposa</i> (left Auck 13 Jly)	17 July		31 July?	14 Aug.

The cancelled to order pieces seen with the 1s stamp bisected vertically bear dates in 1895 as follows: 6 April, 16 April, 8 May, 11 May, 12 May, 26 May, 6 June.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA—CROWN/PAID TO FRANK STAMPS

By A. G. RIGO de RIGHI

The scarcity of O.H.M.S. covers for the period 1875-1899 has meant that little certain information was available on the sequence of the procedures used for franking official correspondence during the last quarter of the nineteenth century.

Previous articles on this subject by Messrs G. E. Owen (*Postal History*, 1969) and R. Lloyd-Smith (*P. from A.*, June 1962 and September 1964) have established that Crown over Paid handstamps were in use from 1875 and that Frank Stamps were introduced at least as early as November 1894.

A number of O.H.M.S. covers acquired during the past ten years now enable me to add some fresh information on the procedures used for franking; they also bear some hitherto unrecorded relevant markings.

## *The Crown/PAID Period*

Two covers sent from Government House, Perth, in October 1877 to Singapore and in April 1883 to Adelaide, and both struck with a Crown/PAID handstamp, reveal that two different types of these handstamps were used (figs. 1 and 2). The second type which appears to have been brought into use between 1877 and 1883 was still being used in May 1892. Even the 1883 impression is blurred and the illustration is therefore partly conjecture, but the Crown is certainly larger and differently shaped and the lettering taller.

Both letters were addressed to Sir William Francis Robinson, GCMG, who was three times Governor of Western Australia (January 1875-September 1877, 1880-February 1883, and September 1890-1895). In each case the "Governor" certifying handstamp struck in the lower left hand corner of the cover has been crossed through as in October 1877 Sir William had just become Governor of the Straits Settlements and in April 1883 he had recently gone to South Australia. As he also served as Governor of both Victoria (twice) and South Australia he obviously went down well in Australia.

The 1875 regulations laid down that O.H.M.S. covers should be certified by a handstamp and signature; two different types of the "Governor" handstamp were used on the 1877 and 1883 covers and are illustrated here for the record (figs. 3 and 4).

## *Exceptional Franking Procedures*

Though the 1892 cover noted confirms that the Crown/PAID marking went on being used until the early 1890's (as suggested by Mr Lloyd-Smith) there were cases when this procedure was not used.

The local Volunteer Forces, for instance, had apparently their own method of franking. A printed card bearing the notice of a forthcoming parade of the Fremantle Rifle Volunteers was posted locally on 25 September 1888. The address side has "On Her Majesty's Service" printed across the top and bears in the lower left corner a printed unit designation and manuscript initials (see fig. 5), but no Crown/PAID handstamp.



1



2

GOVERNOR

3



4



5



6



7

**OFFICIAL PAID**

8



9

Mr Lloyd-Smith recorded in *P. from A.* June 1962 that from November 1899 letters sent by Government Departments to addresses within the Colony could be "franked" with the Departmental handstamps and initials.

However I have a cover dated 13 August 1897 from the Legislative Assembly to a Member at Northampton, W.A. which is franked only by the rubber handstamp illustrated as fig. 6, struck in purple in the top right hand corner. The Clerk to the Legislative Assembly later used a normal-type Frank stamp so the use of this rubber handstamp may well have been a temporary expedient while the Frank was being manufactured.

#### *The Frank Stamp Period*

The earliest usage so far recorded of a regular Frank Stamp is on 14 November 1894 (*P. from A.* September 1964) but two examples have come to light of what was a temporary (unrecorded) Frank Stamp used at a very early date by the Private Secretary's Office. My copy (fig. 7) is dated Perth 31 July 1895 and addressed to Fremantle. A conventional-type Frank Stamp came into use for this office somewhat later.

Another official body which acquired a Frank Stamp early — in the period between May 1892 (when it was using a Departmental rubber stamp) and March 1896 — was The (Geological) Museum at Perth.

#### *Franking of External Mail*

Although both the 1877 and the 1883 Crown/PAID covers were addressed outside Western Australia, they carried no special marking to frank them overseas. This was in line with the practice at that time in Victoria and Tasmania.

However Western Australia (and both other colonies) introduced in the late 1890s special supplementary "Official Paid" markings for use on external letters. Two types were recorded by Mr Lloyd-Smith in his 1964 article. I think it would be useful to illustrate them now (figs. 8 and 9) and to record some early dates of usage. I have type 8 used — in addition to a "The Museum" frank stamp — on a letter from Perth to London dated 2 July 1898. The circular type 9 was also in use during 1898 (September 1898 cover with Coolgardie Exhibition frank to London) and again in December 1899. Both 1898 dates are earlier than those recorded by Mr Lloyd-Smith.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *Stanley Gibbons Exhibitions in Australia*

Stanley Gibbons will hold international exhibitions in Melbourne and Sydney during the Queen's visit next March.

These will inaugurate a series of international exhibitions in the year of the Queen's 25th Anniversary of her Accession and will be specially linked with the event.

The exhibitions will be selected exhibits of international standard from well-known collections from all over the world and will also feature Australian material.

Stanley Gibbons, the world's oldest and most famous of international stamp dealers, has held Crown appointments since 1914, when King George V made the first appointment.

# SEPARATION METHODS EMPLOYED ON TASMANIA'S CHALON HEADS

By K. E. LANCASTER

The methods employed in severing, both unofficially and officially, the various values of the Chalon Head stamps of Tasmania still provide a fascinating and far from complete study. On few occasions, if any, have so many systems of separation been employed, and the lack of recorded information, particularly regarding unofficial and semi-official systems, only heightens confusion.

As time passes less and less material remains for research, but a fortunate factor in this respect is that the postage stamps of this period were also valid for stamp duty and other fiscal purposes. Where no value of the official fiscal denomination was available – and the only low value fiscal was the 3d – it was customary to use the postage stamp. Thus the 1d V.D.L. postage stamp probably had more use for stamp duty than for postal purposes. Couple to this the fact that a greater number of these used fiscally would be more likely to survive destruction than those postally used, as they would be retained on receipts for an indefinite period, and one can understand why quite a number still exist and provide our best current field for research.

The plates for all stamps bearing the Chalon Heads were made by Messrs. Perkins, Bacon & Co. of London, who were responsible for the earlier printings. In August 1857 printings from these plates were made by Mr. Henry Best, of Hobart, for the Government and, except for the initial printings from the 6d and 1/- plates in 1858, all subsequent printings were made by him and his successors.

The local printings left much to be desired and, as the printer had to account for every sheet of watermarked paper allocated to him, no room was permitted for error or disposal of sub-standard printings. Thus, not only were very weak printings replaced in the press for a second strike (see Mr. J. R. W. Purves' "Tasmania: Chalon Heads" (*Philately from Australia*, December 1975, p. 89), but other smudged and indifferent printings would be passed on to the post offices for sale.

The rolling in of the two hundred and forty units on the printing plate was very irregular and apparently never intended to allow for perforation, as some units in the horizontal rows were touching whilst others were up to 2 mm apart. The distance between rows was also irregular and varied from a little less than 1 mm to over 2 mm. This accounts for the great difficulty in obtaining imperforate copies with four clear margins during the imperforate period. It is easy to imagine just how much more difficult it is to obtain a well-centred perforated copy.

From the outset of local printing appeals from the public and postal officers alike were made for some mechanical means of simplifying the separation of the stamps. This was not lost on the local authorities, but was probably deferred owing to the high cost of purchasing a suitable machine from England. Offers

were made to the Government by local contractors to undertake the separation and samples of proposed work forwarded.

In the interim, while awaiting the decision of the authorities, several firms employed their own mechanical means of stamp severance. It was not until 1869 that the Government contracted to have the stamps perforated by Messrs. J. Walch & Sons and thus the majority of stamps perforated by this firm, or a least a very substantial proportion, would have been done unofficially.

Probably the earliest of these unofficial perforations would have been made by Robert Harris, of Launceston, who was the first to seek a contract from the Government (May 1864). Gibbons' Catalogue lists the Harris perforations among the official, although I have never seen recorded evidence confirming it. However, the perforation was widely used and, after the Walch perforations, is the only other one found in quantity. The perforation gauged  $12\frac{1}{2}$ , 13, which is the perforation listed by Gibbons until the early 1970s, after which a typographical error has persisted over recent years to list it erroneously as " $12\frac{1}{2}$ , 12". Of all forms of stamp separation, that of Harris appears the most workmanlike. The utmost endeavour to keep each perforation line inside the narrow gap between stamps was made and the outer margins of stamps on the outer row of each sheet was perforated. Consequently, reasonably well-centred copies are the rule rather than the exception.

The Walch machine gauging 10 was in use from 1864 and was by far the most abundantly used. It was initially used concurrently with their roulette machine gauging 8. The roulette machine, giving a line of straight short cuts, was not extensively used as it was found less satisfactory for the work. Their other machine, gauging  $11\frac{1}{2}$ , came into use later and eventually superseded the 10-gauge machine as the finer gauge gave better severance. However, blunt cuttings from both perforating machines gave poor separation performances at times. Quality of workmanship varied considerably and good well-centred stamps are not plentiful. On many occasions the line of perforation is well astray and some oddly shaped stamps exist. Double perforations are found and incompleated lines of perforation often mitigate against a clean severance. At times the perforation has been too far off line for the postal officer, as the scissors have been re-introduced to give a more complete coverage of the stamp design. The compound perforation of  $10 \times 11\frac{1}{2}$ , 12, coupling the two Walch machines, is an extreme rarity.

In all perforation methods employed by J. Walch & Sons it appears that the sheets were guillotined on all four sides just clear of the stamps before perforation was commenced. As a consequence, stamps from the upper row were left imperforate at the top, those from the bottom row imperforate at bottom, and stamps from each side of the sheet imperforate on their outer side. As evidence of this, wherever you find the marginal line of watermark showing on the stamp, you will find that the stamp is imperforate on the side adjacent to the marginal line. As a consequence, stamps that are imperforate on one margin as a result of this, and perforated on all other sides, must conform as a complete product of this perforation. And, of course, a corner stamp would be imperforate on two adjoining sides.

Of the remaining forms of separation employed unofficially, but apparently

with official approval, the serrated perforation (*perçé-en-scie*) gauging 19 would rank next in quantity, although quite scarce. It was quite a neat performance, well and accurately executed, and the resultant product pleasing, but the origin of the work is unknown. From postmark evidence available (a 52 numeral cancel and a c.d.s. of Launceston and a T.M.L.Ry. No. 1 cancel) it could have been carried out at Launceston, but greater corroboration is required.

A pin-perforation gauging  $5\frac{1}{2}$  to  $9\frac{1}{2}$  (certainly a wide variation is listed by Gibbons as a product of Longford, a small town twelve miles from Launceston. I have one stamp with the variable roulette and two fiscals which conform to the finer portion of the gauging, and none give a very clear separation, as could be expected. Another fiscally cancelled item I possess has three sides with the pin-perforation (approx. 9) along with the serrated perforation gauging 19 at the bottom. I have compared the larger gauged pin-perforations with other copies of the serrated perforation, and feel convinced that the larger gauged pin-perforations are not due to a defect in, or otherwise poor strike of, the serrated perforation machine. Is it possible the two machines were both used at the same place?

I have located copies of a pin-perforation gauge  $14\frac{1}{2}$ , synonymous with Gibbons' listing, and its separation is just fair. Another pin-perforation I have found gauges 12 and has a reasonable separation. An unlisted pin-perforation (or could it be a roulette with very short cuts?) that I have unearthed gauges  $7\frac{1}{2}$  and would not be a strong competitor in the best separation class. A perforation variety gauging  $10\frac{1}{2}$  with very tiny holes (almost a pin-perforation) was another find.

In the catalogued roulettes I have found an oblique roulette gauging  $14\frac{1}{2}$  and cancelled with the numeral postmark 22 (Cleveland) which I assume to be the 14-15 gauge roulette used at Deloraine. I have seen only one copy and the separation was extremely bad.

I have not yet made contact with Gibbons' listed oblique roulette of 10,  $10\frac{1}{2}$ , but have discovered several other roulettes. One gauging about 7, with substantial cuts approaching 2 mm in length, bears the numeral postmarks of 42 (Hamilton) and 101 (Sheffield) and separation is fair. Another gauging 11 and bearing the numeral postmark 64 (Oatlands) are not good efforts at separation and lack detail in cutting. Yet another, with tiny oblique cuts, gauges approximately 12 and was apparently only cut on the sides, leaving the top and bottom imperforate. It has a fiscal cancellation.

It may be argued that some of these previously unchronicled perforations and roulettes are forgeries and not deserving of philatelic recognition. However, as most of these separations are found on fiscally used stamps, it is unbelievable that a forger, in his right mind, would waste his "talents" on such an inferior article when a much higher reward would be obtainable by using an unused or postally used stamp for his efforts.

Information from other philatelists regarding sightings of other forms of separation than those listed here, on these particular stamps, with details of any legible postmarks, would be greatly appreciated.



# PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

Conducted by the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Philatelic Club  
(Convenor's address: 44 Kamilaroy Road, West Pymble, NSW 2073)

## KIETA MYSTERY CANCELLATION



The solution to the mystery of the Kieta 26 February 1942 cancellation – after it had been officially announced that Kieta had been occupied by the Japanese – was featured in Pacific Paragraphs in *Philately from Australia* for June 1975 (p. 41).

We are indebted to the Rev A. H. Voyce, of Auckland, for the reproduction of these two historic events, bearing superb strikes of this rare cancellation – a matter of great interest in the study of Pacific wartime postal markings.

The first cover was sent from Kieta and the second, an inward letter, received the Kieta datestamp and was included in the outgoing mail after being re-addressed, as Sister Common had already left the area.

## MUSIC INSTEAD OF STAMPS

Stamps were forgotten at the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria on 6 March when the president, Mr J. R. W. Purves, presented another of his much-appreciated musical evenings to a gathering of members and their wives.

This time his subject was “French Operetta Without Offenbach”.

Featured were selections from “The Little Duke”, by Charles Lecocq, and from “Monsieur Beaucaire”, by Andre Messager.

The recordings were introduced by talks on the composers and the items chosen to represent their work and style and the musical background of the time.

A well-organised supper concluded another very happy evening.

## DINNER FOR MR JOHN GARTNER

Friends of Mr John Gartner within the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria tendered him a dinner to celebrate his election to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

The dinner was held at the Windsor Hotel on 8 April just before his departure for the United States and Britain.

The Loyal Toast was proposed by Mr Eric Creed. That to the guest of honour was proposed by Mr J. R. W. Purves and Mr Ray Chapman.

## PACIFIC FLIGHT MAILS NOT SEEN

Two "mails" from pioneering ocean flights do not appear to have reached philatelic circles.

In *Pacific Flight*, the story of Kingsford Smith's Sydney-San Francisco flight of 1934, Sir Gordon Taylor (navigator) wrote:

"I climb into the rear cockpit and stow my remaining gear. Jack Percival hands me a packet of envelopes: they are twelve special ones he has had prepared with etchings of the machine. The block has been destroyed so that when we have these stamped at Suva, Honolulu, and California, they will be valuable souvenirs." (p. 74).

All covers from this flight seen have been envelopes of Kingsford Smith Air Services Ltd., Mascot Aerodrome, Mascot, N.S.W. They bear Australian, Fiji, and U.S.A. stamps, cancelled Mascot 18 October, Suva 22 October, and Honolulu 1 November, and are backstamped Los Angeles 5 November. The covers are autographed by Kingsford Smith.

The Lockheed Altair *Lady Southern Cross* took off from Sydney on 19 October 1934, flew from Brisbane to Suva on 21 October, took off from Fiji on 29 October and arrived at Honolulu on 30 October, left on 3 November, and landed at San Francisco on 4 November.

In *The Sky Beyond*, Sir Gordon Taylor, writing of the Australia-Chile-Australia flight of 1951, said:

"Jack [Percival] had been ashore most of the day. He had ridden a pony over the island to deliver the Easter Island mail to the postmaster. The official mail, of course, passed through the regular postal procedure; but we had a few souvenir envelopes with the stamps of each place visited, and these were becoming really colourful by the time we reached Easter Island. At Easter Island we had them cancelled with the seal of the Isla de Pascua." (pp. 272-73.)

The official mail is dealt with in *Philately from Australia*, December 1964. (p. 83).

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *F.R.P.S.L. for Two*

Mr Mogens Juhl, of Sydney, and Mrs P. L. Turnbull, of Melbourne, have been elected Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Mr Juhl's serial in *Philately from Australia*, "A New Look at Western Australia", has been a joy for the past four years.

Mrs Turnbull is the first Melbourne lady to achieve the honour.

### *Early Air Mails*

Would collectors having the following items please write to the editor, *Philately from Australia*, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001, Australia:

London-Windsor Coronation Air Mail cards or envelopes addressed to Australia or New Zealand.

Any other early air mail items addressed to these two countries.

"Wizard" Stone Melbourne-Sydney air-mail cards.

News of other collectors owning these items would also be appreciated.

### *Headquarters Is Admired*

No. 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, continues to attract artistic and architectural interest.

It figures now in *Colonial Australia* — Drawings by Eric Thompson (Clarion Press, Sydney). This is a collection of 29 representations of period architecture from all States.

The accompanying text discusses "Melbourne Lace", the ornamental ironwork for which the city is famous. It concludes:

"The delightful row of terrace houses in Avoca Street, South Yarra, shows the blending of Victorian architecture with iron lace at its finest. The unusual three-storey end terrace now houses the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria."

### *Overseas Specialist Societies*

Not all specialists interested in a country live there.

*The B.P.A. Philatelic Societies' Directory* reports the membership of the British

Society of Australian Philately as 400 and the New Zealand Society of Great Britain as more than 300.

### *The London Philatelist No. 1000*

With the March-April issue, *The London Philatelist*, published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London, achieved its 1000th number. No. 1 was issued in January 1892.

In its eighty-four years it has had seven editors: Mr M. P. Castle, Mr T. W. Hall, Colonel H. Wood, the Rev A. C. Larmour, Mr H. R. Holmes, Mr Arnold Strange and Mr Stuart Rossiter.

The 1000th number bears testimony that the hope expressed by the editor of the 500th number (August 1933) has been fulfilled: ". . . we hope that the *London Philatelist* will complete its 1000th number with as good a record as it owns today, and that it will ever uphold and maintain the prestige of the Royal Philatelic Society, London."

There are two articles of special interest to Australians in the 1000th number:

Mr A. R. Butler, the society's librarian, has written on The Specimen Stamps of Tasmania and Mr Donald McDonald and Mr J. R. W. Purves continue their serial on The Viking Ship Stamps of Estonia.

### *Stamp Forgery "A Dying Art"*

"An inspector in the Philatelic Squad is minutely examining a stamped envelope. 'This is a good one', he tells [Superintendent Ray] Connor admiringly. A genuine mint stamp stuck on an envelope made from paper 80 years old, and a rare cancellation forged so skilfully that a dealer paid £250 for it. Actual stamp forgery is a dying art; modern counterfeiters find it more profitable to transform a stamp worth a few cents into a collector's prize by faking postmarks or overprints." — Geoffrey Lucy, "Inside Scotland Yard" in the *Reader's Digest*.

(There should not be any shortage of recruits for the squad. The Metropolitan Police Philatelic Society has 400 members.)

## REVIEWS

*The Pitcairn Islands Stamp Catalogue.*

Compiled by Bill Hornadge. 128 pp. 5¼ x 8¼ in. Published by Review Publications Pty. Ltd., Sterling Street, Dubbo, 2830, N.S.W. Recommended Price, \$4.50.

*Pitcairn Historical Prints.* Set of 12, 8 x 6½ in. Published by Review Publications Pty. Ltd., Sterling Street, Dubbo, 2830, N.S.W. Recommended Price, \$5.00.

Pitcairn is a popular island speciality, and Mr Hornadge has provided a specialist catalogue, which will be welcomed by all present or potential collectors of its issues.

The stamp catalogue section covers 53 well-illustrated pages.

It lists and prices the stamps individually and in sets, imprint blocks, and first day covers. Enlarged drawings of varieties are a feature.

The story of the mysterious 1940 booklets and the background of the air letters post-marked at Pitcairn in 1950 are also given, as well as details of other items. There are also details of perforated Specimens and of the forgeries of them.

Other sections deal with registration, postal markings, ship markings, and air cachets.

A historical summary and a postal history survey further attest the great amount of work that has gone into the new production.

Review Publications have also produced a set of 12 19th century historical prints showing people or places associated with the "Bounty" Mutiny or the settlement of Pitcairn.

These are distinct from the catalogue, but the publishers see them as suitable for mounting as frontispieces to a Pitcairn collection or highlighting various stamps.

They are also attractive as reproductions of the work of noted 19th century artists and engravers.

*New Zealand Relief Datestamps, 1925-1974,* by Alan Jackson. Postal History Society of New Zealand. Study No. 3. Limited Edition. 17 pp. 8¼ x 11¼. Duplicated. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 1605, Auckland, New Zealand. Price \$0.55.

The study, an updating of Mr R. M. Startup's *New Zealand's Relief Cancellations*, published by Laurie Franks in 1960; starts with the introduction of skeleton-type datestamps for emergency purposes, in 1925.

This type of datestamp has blank slots in a circular steel face into which loose type may be fitted as required.

The study notes eight common reasons for the use of reliefs: Repairs to datestamps; inspection of worn datestamps; replacement of year wheel when its range of years expires; burglaries; fires; change of office name: special post offices, including special uses or supplementing regular datestamps.

Burglars, who removed the safe, have been responsible for relief datestamps at 26 offices, and three offices appear to have been bereft of their datestamps twice. Tahuna had two types of reliefs following the post office being broken into. Nine of the missing datestamps were recovered.

Another 29 offices had to use reliefs after fires.

The study lists the datestamps of military and air force stamps, those used in telephone offices, and errors and varieties.

This type of publication requires a tremendous amount of enthusiasm, patience, and systematic classification, and one must commend sincerely, this work on a New Zealand subject, published in New Zealand, and written by a resident of London.

*Bougainville Police Runner Mails,* by Rev. A. H. Voyce. Postal History Society of New Zealand Study No. 4. Limited Edition. 11 pp. 8¼ x 11¼ in. Duplicated. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 1605, Auckland, New Zealand. Price, \$0.55.

Anybody who has been in Papua New Guinea has a high respect for the police boys in their navy blue and red uniforms.

One of the duties of this force in remote areas has been the carriage of mail and Mr Voyce has gathered what he could to gain details of the routes thus operated on Bougainville.

Few details of the services are, in fact, available, and Mr Voyce thinks that it

probably dates from the inception of the Papuan Native Constabulary.

But the services ceased in 1959, following a reorganisation of the police force, when Police Headquarters ordered that police were no longer to be used for any duties other than those connected with police work.

The services were operating on foot and by canoe, and sometimes by bicycle.

Mr Voyce cites a case of a 1927 mail being delivered by a native policeman who had come 40 miles alone, and delivered mail dropped by a ship at Kieta, 120 miles away, a week earlier.

Mr Voyce's earliest example dates from 1948.

Covers bearing the police runner endorsements must be rare and it is good that Mr Voyce has been enterprising enough to seek out what details he could and to have published them.

*A Review of 1974-75.* 12 pp. 6½ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, LONDON, SW1 Y 5JZ.

Robson Lowe Ltd., had another record last year, with a turnover of £2,848,721, compared with £2,591,596 in the previous season.

Highest number of bidders at a sale was 684 at Bournemouth, 29 October/1 November 1974. (Last year, Bournemouth, 524.)

Overseas buyers were less successful than in the previous year, providing 50.6% of the realisations, a drop of 8.2%. They lived in 88 countries. Australia maintained her sixth place as a London auction buyer, spending £47,146, compared with £40,890.

Australian buying, with the previous season's figures in parentheses, was:

Great Britain, £3440 (£1437); British Empire, £26,196 (£17,990); Other

Countries, £10,315 (£10,249); Postal History, £3749 (£1388); General £24,613 (£18,024); Basle, £5975 (£847). Total, £74,288 (£49,935).

Melbourne totalled more than £110,000, most of which came from the sales of the late John Powell's Pacific Islands collections.

The Treasure Trove sale, consisting largely of a family collection of envelopes brought to Robson Lowe's in London in a fishing basket, realised £20,826.

The famous pair of 2c British Guiana Cotton Reels on cover sold for £75,00 and the unique unused block of four 1848 1d Post Paid Mauritius, £55,000. An 1859 Parma cover brought £55,667 and the Baltimore Postmaster's Provisional on 1846 cover, £41,666.

A 1d Black first day cover brought £1900.

A New Zealand 1884 entire from Paihia with a forwarding agent's cachet, "Wm. Clunie, Ship Agent, Bay of Islands", was sold at £1000.

*B.P.A. Philatelic Societies' Directory, 1976.* 127 pp. 4½ x 7¼. Published by the British Philatelic Association, 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE. Price, £1.

The heart of this annual is a directory of all philatelic societies and specialist societies and circles, of Britain which have sent details and dealer members.

This gives date of foundation, membership number, subscription, meeting place, and secretary's name and address.

The articles deal with the B.P.A., its expert committee, Value Added Tax, and forming a society, and there is a note on the Trade Description Act, 1968, as it applies to exchange books.

A welcome is extended to the new editor, Mr Herbert Grimsey.

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *Members' Diary*

1976

July

- 7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 15 Annual Meeting  
Presidential Display, Mr J. R. W. Purves
- 29 Canadian Air Mails, Mr D. G. Cox

August

- 4 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 9 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 19 Ladies' Night
- 21 Sale

September

- 1 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 6 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 16 Recent Acquisitions and Others, Mr P. Jaffe
- 27 Exhibition Opens, Lower Town Hall, Melb.
- 30 Persia, Miss Joyce Buchanan  
(The Society will meet as usual, although the exhibition is being held at the same time.)

## *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*

Mr H. H. Campbell gave a display on Queensland Numeral Cancellations to the March meeting as a prelude to the publication of a book on the subject.

Mr Campbell said that before separation in 1859 fifteen post offices had been opened in what became Queensland and used NSW numeral cancellers. All except Brisbane continued to use them when Queensland stamps were introduced.

Three new post offices were opened on New Year's Day, 1861, Cleveland, Leybun and Marlborough, with "ray" type obliterations including the letters "Q.L".

Then came "Ray" type numeral cancellers. The late Captain H. S. Porter considered that no numeral below 21 was issued, but Mr Campbell showed No. 14 (on cover) and No. 15. He said No. 13 was also known.

This type went to No. 177 and from No. 178 they were a bar type, and Mr Campbell showed covers and stamps with them up to the 200s on Chalon Heads.

Chalon Heads post cards continued in use until 1889 and Mr Campbell displayed a selection with cancellers up to 450.

Then came covers with numerals into the 640s. Crown Seals were used as postmarkers at eight offices and Mr Campbell's selection included an office not in the list, "----ford".

Another item was one with the marking used on mail posted on the Southern and Western Railway, before the Travelling Post Offices.

The comprehensive Registered markings included "Unclaimed" used as "Registered" (similar design) on cover.

In many small places the railway station was the post office, and the stationmaster also postmaster. Both railways and post offices had numeral stamps, and sometimes the railway markings were used on stamps by mistake.

A number of these completed a most interesting display.

## *Tonga*

Mr David Benson, of Sydney, visited the Society on 15 April to give a display of Tonga.

Last year he came down to Melbourne to give a superb display of Niger Coast Protectorate, and this year his exhibit was equally memorable.

A well-thought-out introduction explained the significance of what he was showing, and the material, particularly of the classic period, was outstanding.

## *Postal Stationery*

Mr Keith Freebairn, of Adelaide, presented the first display of Australian Postal Stationery seen by the society for many years at the second April meeting.

Many beautiful and scarce items were shown during an evening devoted to the Commonwealth period and the exhibit provided new insights into the interest and attractiveness of this neglected specialty.

Perhaps the highlight was a card with a 1d Kangaroo perforated OS, overprinted Two Pence, in two lines.

Included in the display were scenic letter cards, proofs of letter cards, World War I Prisoner of War items from Liverpool camp, A.I.F. envelopes and letter cards, and stamped to order items, one of which had three embossings.

## *Australia*

Mr R. P. Hyeronimus came from Canberra to give a Commonwealth display to the May meeting which ranged from a first day cover of the 1d Kangaroo to one of three known imperforate blocks of the 3d Kookaburra.

The kookaburra block was from the bottom right of the sheet, and Mr Hyeronimus mentioned that he was seeking to establish the history of this famous and beautiful item.

Features of the exhibit included studies of the plate crack and flaws of the 1d Kangaroo, the Wattle Line flaw of the 1d K.G.V, and Postage Dues.

Kangaroo items shown included the 6d First Watermark, retouched E, and the substituted electro, the Broken Leg in blue, in pair with normal, a pair of 2d Double Perf. on three sides, and an Ash imprint block of the £2.

The King George V section opened with a die proof of the engraved 1d, marked "Original Design", and then proofs of the three stages of the surface printed issue and the accepted stamp.

The 1d Green was shown imperf. at top, the Harrison 3d in imprint pair imperf. on three sides, and the 4d Die II was shown in cancelled imprint block (N over N).

Coronation post cards of 1911 were shown with different colours and frames, followed by scenic post cards of Victoria issued in the following year.

There was also a rough proof, signed J.B.C. 16/4/17 of a Double Letter Card.

Later items included aerogrammes with cachets for special flights, official types, and Specimens, as well as O.S. Stationery.

Finally, there was a 1901 frank "Governor-General Australia", postmarked at Melbourne.

The Green mist retouch to the 1/- small lyre bird was present in mint block of six.

Imprint-plate number blocks of 12 of all four

plates of the 6d Kookaburra formed another beautiful section.

They led to the complete 12 plate number blocks of the 1½d Canberra, the double perf. and the imperforate between pair.

The Postage dues included Ash imprint blocks of the 1d, N over N, N over A, and N over E A, and the 1d C of A, imperf. at right.

## THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

### *Members' Diary*

1976

July

13 86th Annual Meeting and Election of Office-Bearers. President's Night, Mr E. J. Garrard, F.R.P.S.L.

August

10 Mr H. K. Knott, North West Pacific Islands.

Over the past three months our Club has seen the following presentations:

### *Coil Stamps and Aerogrammes*

At the March meeting Mrs Nita Wilson, secretary of the Club, presented a display of the "Coil Stamps and Aerogrammes of Australia", which was a very well-presented display. Mrs Wilson is to be highly commended for her time and effort.

### *Thematic Night*

The thematic night in April was compered by Mrs Dal Brown and the displays were provided by the following members:

Mrs Del Garrard, "Japanese Royalty".

Mr Ed. Garrard, "N.S.W. Postal History".

Miss Adrienne Fusselle, stamps dealing with the

Universal Postal Union.

Mrs Dal Brown, "Great Composers".

Mrs Nita Wilson, "Birds, Flowers, etc" on the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia.

Miss Marguerite McNeill, "Spanish Provincial Costumes".

We would like to thank Mrs Brown for compiling such an interesting night and hope that a similar night will be produced in the future.

### *Tonga*

The display of Tonga by Mr David Benson at the May meeting was outstanding. To use the words of Colonel Frank Thompson, who proposed the vote of thanks, it is perhaps the best collection in the world of this early period of Tongan stamps.

Mr Benson has won much recognition on account of this collection and he should be very proud to be the possessor of such an outstanding display.

### *For the Record*

The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club meets on the second Tuesday of each month on the 7th floor, GUOOF Building, 149 Castlereagh Street, Sydney. Visitors are always welcome.

Enquiries may be sent to Mrs Nita Wilson, Secretary, Box 1751, G.P.O., Sydney 2001.

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