

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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## CONTENTS

<i>THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND NOW AT VOLUME IV</i>	79
THE TRAIL OF COMMONWEALTH .....	82
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE .....	84
DR W. P. HESLOP IS HONOURED .....	86
PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS .....	87
QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY .....	89
NEW TASMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY .....	95
REVIEWS .....	98
REPORTS .....	100

## INDEX

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## “THE POSTAGE STAMPS OF NEW ZEALAND” NOW AT VOLUME VI

*The Postage Stamps of New Zealand, Volume VI.* Edited by D. E. G. Naish and K. J. McNaught. Limited Edition, 1000 copies. 479 pp. 6¾ x 10 ins. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Inc., Box 1269, Wellington, NZ. Price: \$NZ35.

The advent of a new volume, the sixth, of *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, is an event, for philatelic literature has no counterpart of this publication.

It is the product of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand, with the co-operation of the Post and Telegraph Department, and aims at being both a philatelic and departmental record.

Volume I was published in 1938, edited by Mr R. J. G. Collins and Mr H. T. M. Fathers; Volume II, by Mr Collins and Mr C. W. Watts, in 1950; Volume III, dealing with postal history, by Messrs. Collins and Watts, in 1955; Volume IV, by Messrs Collins and Watts in 1964; Volume V, devoted to the Island Dependencies, by Messrs A. R. Burge, Collins and Watts, in 1967; and now Volume VI, by Mr Naish and Dr McNaught.

The new volume maintains the binding, format, dust-jacket and editorial plan of the series.

But it has been published in a new economic and technical environment. The publisher is now Whitcoulls Ltd, the merger of the original Whitcombe and Tombs, and Coulls, Somerville, and Wilkie.

It is the first volume printed by offset. The type face is smaller. The new process is perhaps not so kind to illustrations as half-tone, but the overall effect is a clean one.

Volume VI has two new editors, but the traditional foreword by the Society's president is written by Mr S. R. Dacre, who was an author in Volume I, thirty-nine years ago.

It deals with New Zealand's stamps, 1961-74, and covers the change to decimal currency, besides updating the material in previous volumes, except the Islands volume.

The edition is limited to 1000 copies, the same as Volume V, but less than the 1150 of Volume IV, the last comparable "New Zealand" volume.

The new volume is the product of the normal system of study circles, with the convenor writing the appropriate chapter.

It is a tribute to the writing strength of the Society. There are twenty-four authors compared with fourteen for Volume IV. But the number of those recorded as having provided information or material has fallen, compared with Volume IV — New Zealand nineteen (thirty-one), Overseas three (eight).

Mr Dacre mentions that the sheer volume of stamps issued in the period covered has made it impossible to deal with them in the same detail as previously, but generally the philatelic detail has not suffered, and the writing has maintained its clarity.

The volume contains chapters on Railway, Newspaper and Parcel stamps and fiscals, not merely the postal fiscals, but beer duty, unemployment relief, employment, social security and wage-stamps, the Council of the Society having decided that the interest taken in them justified inclusion. Explanation of the terms used on the fiscals, such as "Denoting", "Counterpart" and "Not Liable" are given.

New material on the Full Faces includes a table listing sixteen types of Davies' imperforate 2d stamps of 1862-64, with their approximate dates of issue, based on colour, shade, and plate wear.

The Fourpence was first printed in rose, then in yellow, and one of the recognised rarities has been the 4d orange-yellow, watermarked large star, perf. 12½, showing traces of rose on top of the yellow. It has been considered that these resulted from the imperfect cleaning of the plate before the change of colour.

Now, however, Mr M. C. Stanley has established the red ink was added to the yellow, and under magnification appears evenly over the stamp.

"It is now thought that stamps with the rose ink . . . distributed regularly over the surface are fraudulent — a common yellow stamp having been treated with rose ink or paint to simulate the rare orange-yellow or so-called 'orange'."

Another of Mr Stanley's discoveries is that two 12½ comb perforation heads were used simultaneously, from late 1864 to the end of 1866.

Dr McNaught, in a revision of previous data on the 2d Newspaper stamp, has established that substitution of worn cliches was not used extensively and suggests that new cliches made in 1872 and 1880 could have been used for newspaper wrappers.

He also found that there were five printings from the Penny Universal Reserve Plate, instead of three.

Of great interest is the discovery by Mr M. S. Burberry that the "4 o'clock flaw" on the right rosette of the Penny Universal was a progressive master die flaw.

Another previously recognised rarity has been blackballed: "The conclusion that the 8d King Edward VII stamp with NZ and star watermark upright, line perf. 14, does not exist now seems inescapable."

The Expert Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, concurs with this finding, which follows the availability of test proofs of the perforations of

the comb and line machines. These have enabled any stamp to be assigned to its comb and position along it.

Hitherto, two pairs and four singles of the "Perf. 14 line" were recorded. One of them, in the Rhodes collection, has been established as comb perforated and another stamp seen was found to have been comb perforated with forged vertical perforations. For some years every example of the stamp advertised as the rarity has been examined and, in well-known New Zealand words, "no candidate has satisfied the examiners".

Both the printers of the 1960 pictorials, Harrison and Sons Ltd, and Thomas De La Rue and Co Ltd, stated they had never used two cylinders with the same number for the same design, but NZ philatelists have proved both did, and that it occurred on four occasions — 2d Kaka Beak, two green cylinders Number 1; 3d yellow Kowhai, two dark blue 1; 4d Puarangi, two blue 1 (De La Rue) and 2½d Titoki berries, two black 1A (Harrison).

However, the volume does not distinguish the large and small De La Rue imprints on the 2½c and the small imprints on the 3c of the 1967 decimal issue, and it does not list cylinder number groups with which they are associated.

Departmental revaluations of Australian interest are that initiatives for the Commonwealth Pacific Cable and Churchill stamps came from Australia. (The previous joint design, the 1958 Tasman Flight, was a New Zealand idea.)

The first stages of the ANZAC 1965 issues were NZRSA-Australian RSL-Australian Post Office. One unsuccessful proposal was that Australia, New Zealand and Turkey should each issue a set, with three common designs.

Later chapters cover postal stationery, proofs and essays, and postal history, and the appendices include excellent explanations of printing processes and papers. Illustrations are, as usual, well-chosen and extensive.

Looking to the future, one suggests that the planners and editors might consider introducing cumulative chapters covering all the material on the proofs and essays, where the information is brief but complex and scattered, and the postal history covering the pre-stamp era and the cancellations of the Full Face period. The many discoveries in recent years will warrant a single, readable, definitive record.

A cumulative index will eventually become essential, too. The work now totals 3643 pages.

Editors, writers and all associated with the volume have undertaken and carried through another great task and *Philately from Australia* is happy to extend to them the praise and thanks they have richly earned.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by *BILL EUSTACE*

## *Australia, 18 Cent Flower, Non-Helecon*

While checking a parcel of used material for stamps with the orange-brown lamp reaction mentioned in September "Trail" I was lucky enough to come across a single copy which was not only uncoated but also completely "Non-Helecon".

Unfortunately, it was only on a small piece and had a slogan postmark so that its origin could not be identified but the remainder of the parcel had been accumulated during September-October and it seems a reasonable inference that the "Non-Helecon" example came from the start of the reel of paper which produced the orange-brown lamp reaction stamps.

## *Australia, 15 Cent Christmas 1977*

First supplies bought at the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Section gave a strong bluish-white lamp reaction and, as Mrs Van Tenac, of Adelaide, pointed out, the legs on Santa were a much paler pink than those which were on general sale at other Melbourne post offices. The latter also differed in giving a pale pink lamp reaction instead of the bluish-white of the original Bureau supply.

Within a few days the original batch at the Sales Section had gone and was replaced by supplies with the pale pink lamp reaction, but these still differed from those on general sale in having the pale pink legs on Santa.

Unfortunately all supplies seen in Melbourne city post offices have been the "A" sheet, and I do not know yet whether there are any worthwhile varieties on the other two sheets.

## *Australia, \$10 Painting*

As might have been expected on a stamp produced by a commercial printer instead of at the Note Printing Branch, this issue has produced a few surprises: first, in the long skinny sheet format and, secondly, in the sheet markings.

All sheets have a portion of the colour bars at the top left corner and, at first glance, one could be forgiven for assuming that one printing plate of fifty images was used to produce what presumably must have been a fairly limited run. It would have been a rather small-sized printing cylinder and it was not long before the Adelaide Study Group established that there appeared to be four different sets of colour bars, which suggests that the sheet format as printed could be four panes of fifty side-by-side.



I think that we all expected to find some sheets with partial colour bars at the top right to match with those having the bars at the top left, but this did not happen.

Sheet serial numbers in Melbourne also behaved in an odd manner, some being directly over Row 1, No. 2, while others were shifted slightly to the right so that the last two figures of the sheet number extended over stamp No. 3. According to the Adelaide Study Group some sheets from Queensland also had partial numbers at the foot of the sheets.

Evidence that there is more than one pane of fifty is confirmed by the fact that a large blue blob on the tackle at the top right-hand side, inconveniently located on Row 6, No. 3, is not present on all sheets.

Sheets from Queensland are said to have a nice flaw above the air vent on Row 10, No. 4, but I have not yet had the opportunity to see this item.

The dearth of new issues, or even identifiable reprintings of existing stamps, coupled with the fact that this column has had to be compiled earlier than usual, has led to a very sparse column for this quarter; let us hope for better things next time. Meanwhile, may I wish my readers a joyous Christmas season and many interesting philatelic finds in 1978.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *H.M.N.Z.S. Endeavour*

All of New Zealand's four Antarctic supply ships, *Rotoiti*, *Pukaki*, and the two *Endeavours*, have gone into the tropics, at least so far as the Tokelau Islands, according to tables in Mr A. H. Burgess's new book *The Postal History and Postage Stamps of the Tokelau/Union Islands*.

The details of the two *H.M.N.Z.S. Endeavour* he gives will be of interest to Antarctica specialists:

*Endeavour* No. 1: ex-U.S.S. "AN 76"; *H.M.S. Pretext*; m.v. *John Biscoe*. *H.M.N.Z.S. Antarctic* supply ship, sold 1961.

*Endeavour* No. 2: ex-U.S.S. *Namakagon*, AOG 53 Patapsco class, *H.M.N.Z.S.* replacement *Antarctic*, Antarctic supply ship, loaned to New Zealand, October 1962.

### *Friedrich Wilhelmshafen Postmark on G.R.I.*

During the AIF Occupation in World War I the seal of the Imperial District Court at Friedrich Wilhelmshafen (now Madang) was converted to a postmark, "Kaiserliche Bezirksgericht", the central eagle being scored out. John H. Powell, in *The Postal History of the Territory of New Guinea*, p. 19, says, "It has not been seen on any G.R.I. overprinted issue".

A copy of the G.R.I. 2d on 10 pf. with the cancellation in black was sold at the Robson Lowe auction in Melbourne on 24 November.



# The Other Side of the Picture



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

## TASMANIA

### 1900-12 c.d.s. Cancellations

Mr P. B. Edwards has supplied me with a careful list of all *his* amendments to the part II list, pursued with his usual care for detail.

One thing does occur to me — might it not be a good idea *now* for some person or group to commence (in the one file) a *collation* of all the *new* items chronicled in *P from A* which are either corrective of or additional to Parts I and II? If ever a Part III was justified it could then be put together in a reasonable time.

#### BEULAH

I have "2nd Office" with a part cancellation dated 8.8.11. The early date for the LOWER BEULAH c.d.s. is 18.8.11, so the transfer of the BEULAH c.d.s. from LOWER BEULAH (previously BEULAH) to BEULAH (previously BEULAH UPPER and also probably the "2nd Office") may have taken place in mid-August 1911.

#### BRACKNELL

Found in greyish colour April/July 1911.

#### BREADALBANE STATION

Name changed to RELBIA in 1913. Type 1 is RRRR post-1912, with late date -.6.13.

#### BREAM CREEK

Type 1a. Late date 27.6.10.

#### BRIDGEWATER SOUTH

Name changed to GRANTON 5.5.14. Type 1 *should* be found post-1912, but so far has not turned up.

#### BURNIE

(ii) Was used from 1906 to 1920 for general counter work — receipts, telegrams, Commonwealth Bank work and registrations — as well as for normal mail work.

(iii) Blue also in December 1906.

(iv) Late date 13.11.06.

(v) "Used almost always in March" should be deleted from Part II as I have dates Feb., Apr., Sept. and Oct., but only one in March.

(vi) Blue 14.10.12.

- CHESUNT PARK  
later MONTANA
- CRANBROOK
- DARWIN
- DELORAINÉ
- DEVONPORT WEST
- DUNDAS
- FRANKLIN
- GOSHEN
- LATROBE
- LYMINGTON NORTH  
later NILE
- MAGRA
- PLENTY
- QUEENSTOWN
- RIDGEWAY
- RUSSELL
- SCOTTSDALE
- SURGES BAY
- TREWELLA
- ULVERSTONE
- VERONA
- WYNARD
- The earliest date for the MONTANA c.d.s. is now 17.8.18.
- Type 1a. I have a 3d stamp duty overprinted REVENUE (SG F34) with a very clear date reading NO 30/1900.
- Late date 7.7.03. Therefore must have closed *second* half of 1903.
- (ii) I have many examples from 1907 to 1933 of this struck on postage dues, so it *was* almost certainly used mainly for non-mail work.
- (iii) Late date 12.3.06 used as a backstamp. One isolated use 15.4.15.
- (iv) Grey merging over the months to green December 1909 to November 1911.
- (i) Late date first period 10.10.03.
- (ii) Late date 30.10.11.
- (iv) Also used 1914 to 1917.
- (ii) Early date 14.10.10.
- Also blue 6.12.09.
- Type 1 is known post-1912.
- (iii) used to 5.8.31.
- (ii) Early date 1.8.10.
- Two types of provisional rubber cancellers are known, used from 1915 to the 1920s.
- "RIVER PLENTY" c.d.s. has only ONE dot stop – at the left.
- (iv) Known used again in 1914. Early date 15.10.01.
- Late date before closure 2.1.03.
- Early date 11.1.10.
- (i) Used sporadically to December 1921 at least.
- (i) Late date 10.10.03.
- Known in manuscript to 7.4.15.
- (iii) Blue in September 1911. Used at least to 19.7.16.
- (v) Blue in September 1911. Early date 6.5.09.
- (i) Early date 20.7.05.
- (i) Late date 3.7.08.
- (ii) Used to 1.1.10 and again 1915 to 1917.

*Ref. P from A, March 1977*

93	Purple.
220	Violet.
298	I have on Pictorial, so it <i>must</i> have been re-allocated.
NEWSTEAD	Is known in the Commonwealth period. My latest is 15.11.10.
HIGHTHORPE later ASHWATER	Name changed 1.5.19. Type 1 was replaced by ASWATER, Type 2B (RRRR). Closed 19.5.25.

## DR W. P. HESLOP IS HONOURED

The respect and affectionate regard with which Dr W. P. Heslop, the senior member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, is held was evidenced when the society tendered him a complimentary dinner at the Hotel Windsor on 24 November.

Dr Heslop, who has been a member for fifty-seven years, is retiring to Wangaratta.

The president, Mr D. N. Baker, said the Society could not let Dr Heslop leave Melbourne without showing its appreciation of his long membership and of his status as a philatelist.

Dr Heslop had joined the Society in January 1920, but had been a member of the Prahran Philatelic Society since 1908, and had represented that society at the First Australasian Philatelic Congress and Exhibition in Sydney in 1911, when he was seventeen.

Since then he had gained many awards, including a number of gold medals, at subsequent exhibitions, and had gained the championship at the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition in 1963.

He had also given memorable displays to the Society from 1922 onwards.

Mr Baker wished him many years of happy retirement and assured him of the welcome he would receive at any time it was possible to visit Melbourne and come to a Society meeting.

Dr Heslop said his first Gibbons' Catalogue was 1905, when Penny Blacks were sixpence, Fiji Times Express were common, and Mr H. W. Johnston carried a pocket stock book full of Sydney Views.

He passed round a picture of the 1911 Congress and named all the personalities there.

Dr Heslop, who was a pilot of No. 3 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps, in World War I, showed a picture of himself on a Bristol, one of Australia's first military aircraft, while learning to fly at Point Cook.

Several other members also spoke appreciatively of him.

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# PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

(Convenor's address: 44 Kamlaroy Road, West Pymble, NSW 2073)

*Conducted by the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Philatelic Club*



*Fig. 1*

## BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

### *New 'Surcharge Omitted' 1966-67 and Other Varieties*

Varieties in the decimal overprints of 1966-67 are few. However, in addition to the "Surcharge omitted" in the 35c on 2d S.G. 149a (Fig. 1), already reported and catalogued, a similar variety is found on the 7c on 3d S.G. 138 (Fig. 2) of the same issue.

These omissions of overprint were not discovered until the sheets, bought in the ordinary way at the local Post Office by a bank in Honiara, were being broken for use on mail.

So far as can be ascertained, few of these interesting varieties have survived.

A major colour variety occurs on the same issue, before the decimal overprint was applied. This is in the 6d, the fish in the design being printed in grey instead of in jet black. The grey shade appears in the left vertical row of stamps in the sheet, from Plate 1A, and from the second row the colour deepens until in the right-hand row it is in black but not in the intense black of the normal issue.

This shade variety was found in a consignment received from the printer at the Honiara Post Office and was not seen until one sheet had been broken up and sold over the counter. Six sheets were found thus, so that the number of stamps in the grey shade would not exceed sixty.



*Fig. 2*

# QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

(Continued from September 1977, p. 72)

By P. COLLAS, F.R.P.S.L.

PART TWO – 1898-1912

The present part is a continuation of the narrative from 1898 to the end of the State period.

This second study has posed far more difficulties than was the case earlier, one reason being that from about the onset of Federation the Australian philatelic press, for the most part, ignored postal stationery changes. The serious inadequacies in catalogue listings add to the problem. These might be attributed to a degree to the marked decline of collector interest which became manifest in the early years of the present century. Symptomatic of this was the decision by Stanley Gibbons Ltd in 1900 not to purchase or chronicle in its journal in future any postal stationery items, a move followed in 1903 by the discontinuance of the Gibbons catalogue of postal stationery. The scarcest items belong to the period from 1898 and, overall, postal stationery of this same period is more difficult to secure than for the years to 1897.

In this part, wrappers are being described first, followed by envelopes and letter cards. The last and largest part of the study is concerned with post cards.

## *The 1898 Wrappers*

Adverse public and philatelic criticism levelled at the ½d stamp design (S.G. type 15), which appeared on wrappers and adhesive stamps from 1895, prompted the Queensland Post Office, in the early part of 1898, to request the Government Printing Office to provide a new design. The design, as approved, with fractions of value in each of the four corners, was drawn around the circular medallion motif which had been evolved by Mr W. Knight, the chief engraver, some years earlier and first employed for the 2½d adhesive stamp of 1890.

It is highly probable that the artist responsible for the balance of the work on the new ½d design (S.G. type 20) was Frederick James Elliott, a lithographic artist appointed to the Government Printing Office staff on 16 July 1896. Elliott was, in fact, the first artist to be appointed to the permanent staff and it may be seen, from later reports by the printer, that he, the printer, regarded the appointment as proving distinctly successful.

At this time, and earlier, the moulds in use for adhesive stamp production could reproduce only four replicas of the original die at the one time and, likewise, four stamp sub-types developed. The characteristics are equally evident in both the adhesive and wrapper versions of the stamp.

The new ½d design was used for postage stamps and wrappers first issued in October 1898, both items being chronicled in the *Australian Philatelist*, 24 December 1898. In the official Post Office collection is an approved proof dated 18.8.98. Both the Robson Lowe and Higgins and Gage catalogues indicate that the year of issue for this particular wrapper was 1897 which, to say the least, is misleading.

The text on the wrapper was spelt out and was designated (b) in Part One of this study. Initially, the lines were 76 mm long, as previously, but in a later setting in slightly different type they are found to be 76.5 mm long. On some copies of the second variety of wrapper is to be found, centred above the text, a short line in colour comprising eleven dashes, this almost certainly being a guide for guillotining. A similar line has not been found, as yet, on wrappers with the text 76 mm long.

A prominent variety which has been noticed in the text (76.5 mm) was due to the use of a larger, wrong font "o" for the normal first "o" of "communication", the intruding letter being the more conspicuous because of being broken at the top. One also finds in some instances that parts of other letters of the text generally have not been registered.

The text, and stamp impressions, can be found in green and blue-green shades. The left edge of the stamp impression was either 1, 2, 2.5 or 3 mm to the right of the text. The sizes of these wrappers, like all earlier wrappers, varied considerably, but appear to fall within the limitations stated in Part One, between 125 and 140 mm wide and from 280 to 300 mm deep. The paper, vertically laid, was of buff shades.

The companion 1d wrapper (S.G. type 21) is thought to have been issued late in 1898, although confirmation is lacking. The lines of text (b) on examples seen are variously either 76, 76.5 or 77 mm long. The stamp impression was placed 6 mm to the right of the text and printing colours varied from dull to bright vermilion. Unused wrappers are to be found with and without gum. Sizes seem to fall within the limits indicated above for the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d wrapper and the laid paper was of deep buff shades.

#### *The 1899 Wrappers*

During the early part of 1899 the text of the wrappers was reset in larger type, the effect of this being to alter the positions of the words which hitherto had invariably appeared at the end of the lines in the text (b) format. This varied setting, which might here be called text (c), is quickly distinguishable by reason of the words "rule be" appearing at the end of the penultimate line, instead of the word "statutory". Text (c) was the final form of the wrapper inscription and was continued on all wrappers printed to the end of the State period. The presentation of text (c) was:

This Wrapper may only be used for Newspapers,  
or for such documents as are allowed to be sent at  
the Book-rate of postage, and must not enclose any  
letter or communication of the nature of a letter  
(whether separate or otherwise). If this rule be  
infringed the statutory penalty will be enforced.

The  $\frac{1}{2}$ d wrapper (S.G. type 20), with text (c) and with the lines of the text 77 mm long, had a comparatively short life, the stamp being replaced by the  $\frac{1}{2}$ d (S.G. type 26) late in 1899, as subsequently related. This  $\frac{1}{2}$ d wrapper (S.G. type 20) had the other general characteristics of the 1898 wrapper. The left edge of the stamp impression is generally just over 2 mm to the right of the lines of text. Shades of buff papers were employed. This is the scarcest of all the wrappers.



# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

## I N D E X

*Vol 29, 1977*

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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<i>Australian Stamp Monthly</i> : Cumulative Index, References to Australian States, 1930-66 (R. L. Lloyd-Smith). Manuscript in R.P.S.V. Library	50
Croaker, H., Member of the Society of Postal Historians	14
Gates, Mrs M. E.: \$500 Bequest to R.P.S.V.	57
Gibbons, Stanley, Ltd; Australian Exhibitions, 46, 50; Auction	52
Heslop, Dr W. P., honoured	86
Lowe, Robson, Retires from Board of Robson Lowe Ltd	25
Minshall, Lt-Commander Merlin (Original of James Bond), "Stamp Collector"	40
Philately: Voluntary Effort in Philately, 1; Album Musings, 27; Official "handouts" on new issues should give full data, 57; Where does listing of shades end?	61
<i>Philately from Australia</i> :	
Miss Joyce Buchnan business manager, 10; Silver Medal at PANPEX '77	28
Pocock, D. A., F.R.P.S.L.	14
Rocke, W., obituary	20
Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria: \$500 bequest from Mrs M. E. Gates, 57; Social Evening: Mr J. R. W. Purves on Viennese Operetta, 2; Former Presidents' sons join fathers in society, 50; Twenty years at Headquarters, 50; To celebrate Twenty-one years at Headquarters on 4 March 1978, 57; Dinner to Dr W. P. Heslop	86
Taylor, R. H., Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians	14

#### *Features*

Pacific Paragraphs (Pacific Island Circle)	87
Trail of Commonwealth, The (Bill Eustace)	3, 29, 56, 82
Other Side of the Picture, The (J. R. W. Purves)	5, 33, 58, 84

#### *Reports*

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria	26, 51, 76, 100
Royal Sydney Philatelic Club	78

### COUNTRIES

#### *Airmails*

The First Airmail Items for Australia (London-Windsor Coronation Air Mail, 1911; First South African Aerial Post, 1911) (H. L. Chisholm)	7
Australia, Commonwealth of:	
Commonwealth Parliament Talks About Stamps (H. L. Chisholm)	15, 37, 67
18c Flower. Uncoated paper	57
45c Flower. Rembrandt Press skid marks	4
55c Wittenoom Gorge. Pale blue patch extending to selvage on upper pane sheet	56
60c Performing Arts series. Two papers; Variety on Sheet 4, Row 3, No 6	3
70c Barrier Reef. Varieties from registration problems	56
\$10 Stamp, 1977 Details	72

#### *Commemoratives*

18c ACTU. Printed on Chambon Press. Perforation variety	29
Silver Jubilee 1977 issue	3
18c Uncoated paper	29

#### *Air Mail*

The First Airmail Items for Australia (London-Windsor Coronation Air Mail, 1911; First South African Aerial Post, 1977) (H. L. Chisholm)	7
---	---

#### *Christmas Issues*

15c 1976 Bluish and cream gums	4
--------------------------------	---

#### *Postal Stationery*

The 1916 military envelope. New type found; another possible (A. W. Bunn)	62
Pre-stamped Picture Postcards, 35, 30; New printing, new type of heleon	57

#### *Postal History*

Victorian Postal History. Article in <i>Stamp Collecting</i> noted	14
--	----

Great Britain		
Coronation Air Mail 1911, items addressed to Australia (H. L. Chisholm)		7
Nauru		
New printing of low values; new plates used for flower series		4
New Caledonia		
Kaga Bird overprint. Article in <i>American Philatelist</i> noted		14
New Guinea		
Friedrich Wilhelmshafen Postmark on G.R.I.		83
New Zealand		
The two H.M.N.Z.S. <i>Endeavour</i> distinguished		83
Norfolk Island		
Stamp planned for last DC4 air service		4
Queensland		
Queensland Postal Stationery (P. Collas)	21, 41, 70,	89
Article on Undelivered Mail in <i>Stamp Monthly</i> noted		50
Samoa		
Palm Trees: Captain R. P. Odenweller receives <i>Collectors Club Philatelist</i> Medal for articles on this issue		61
Ex-Powell gems stolen		61
Ship Letters		
Australia-Britain cover, "p. Boomerang"		50
South Africa		
South African Aerial Post, 1911. Items addressed to Australia		9
South Australia		
Work by J. R. W. Purves on the "Long Stamps, 1902-12" being published by R.P.S.V.		58
Switzerland		
Engelbert (Hotel-Pension Sonnenberg) No 1 deleted from Catalogue. Previous description recorded	25, 97	
Tasmania		
Pictorials. Oddities and Varieties in the Perforations (K. E. Lancaster)		11
<i>Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings, Part II</i> , Silver-Gold Medal at PANPEX '77		28
Numeral Cancellations, First Allocation. 60 in red found		66
Second Allocation. No second type of No 16 or 31. Handbook corrected, 33;		
New items and ties	5, 33	
Postmarks, 1900-12. Late dates, 5; c.d.s. Cancellation		84
Two new Crown Seals (P. B. Edwards)		55
New postal history (L. C. Viney)	64, 95	
Victoria		
Half-lengths. 2d Fourth copy of lilac-rose shade found		6
6d Calvert, 1854-58 (S.G. 47)	6, 34	
1d Olive and 3d Slate-green (S.G. 361, 362)		59
1½d, 1901-12. Complete sheet of Plate B found. Varieties positioned		35
1905-12. Watermark Crown over A. Official dates of issue		36
4d and 5d 1901-12. More plate varieties		34
<i>Postal Stationery</i>		
2d Letter-card with "Postage" 1901 on chalk-surfaced buff paper		59

*Postmarks and Postal Markings*

Barred Numeral 702 (Lingham's Flat) found	59
Barred Ovals. No. 69 was <i>Warringal</i> (renamed <i>Heidelberg</i> ). Numbers not seen; 45, 71, 84, 96, 98	58
TPOs 13 and 15. Earlier dates found. TPO 12 "Small Duplex" survived to 1883	36

*REVIEWS*

Amos Press Inc: <i>Linn's World Stamp Almanac, 1977</i>	73
Campbell, H. M.: <i>Queensland Cancellations and Other Markings</i>	53
Collas, P., and Williams, E.: <i>Northern Territory: A Postal History, 1824-1975</i>	98
Davidson, A. S. and Dix, V.: <i>Commonwealth of Australia: The George V Threepence</i>	73
Lawson, Gerald: <i>Xth British Commonwealth Games, 1974</i>	77
Lloyd-Smith, R. L.: <i>Supplementary Library Index</i> (Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria)	14, 50
Mortimer, David: <i>The Colour Catalogue of Australian Stamps</i>	75
National Postal Museum (Canada): <i>The National Postal Museum</i>	99
Philatelic Publishers Company: <i>1978 Canada Specialised Stamp Catalogue</i>	98
Pope, Brian: <i>Western Australia: The Introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps and the Colonial Printings, together with Numbers Received and Issued, 1864-77</i>	48
Robson Lowe International Ltd: <i>Robson Lowe Review, 1975-76</i>	74
Shipman, L. H.: <i>The Stamps and Postal History of North Borneo, Part I, 1883-1893</i>	48
Startup, R. M.: <i>Information Stamps</i> [N.Z.]	74
Vernon, D. H.: <i>Cancellation Study of Gilbert and Ellice Islands</i>	99
Wajer, R. M.: <i>Guidelines to Philatelic Research and Essential Philatelic Tools</i>	49

The 1d wrapper (S.G. type 21) with text (c) had the lines approximately 77 mm long. In fact, by close examination, one can discern two settings of the text, in slightly different font sizes. In one case the lines measure just over 77 mm and in the other just under 77 mm. The printing colours seen are dominantly shades of vermilion, with some dull reds, but having in mind that this wrapper continued to be printed, on different shades of buff papers, over quite a number of years, a considerable variation in printing colours is to be expected. The sizes of this wrapper seem to be within the limitations expressed earlier. Remarkable differences are noticed in respect of the placing of the stamp impression, this being as close as half a millimeter to the text in some instances. Other spacings found are .75, 1, 2, 5 and 6 mm. The electrotypes made for the printing of the adhesive stamps and minor varieties noticed in the adhesives can frequently be found in the 1d wrapper stamps. Later, in 1910 or 1911, the text was reset in larger type and lines measure 81 mm.

#### *The ½d Wrapper, 1899*

All of Queensland's ½d stamp designs had been criticised in one way or another but the strongest condemnation seems to have been levelled at that of the ½d of 1898 (S.G. type 20). As a consequence, that particular design had a life of only one year, being replaced in 1899 by S.G. type 26, this having a single large fraction "½d" below the royal head. This latter design had, in fact, been considered two years earlier but not then adopted. It is thought, on the little evidence available, that the wrapper bearing an impression of this new stamp was issued late in 1899 but to the time of writing a reasonable date has not been established.

The wrapper bore text (c), the lines being at first 77 mm long. Somewhat later, probably about 1904, the text was reset in slightly smaller type and lines then measured 76 mm long. Later on again, in 1910 or 1911, the text was again reset in larger type, resulting in lines 81 mm long.

On all three variations of wrappers one finds the stamp impressions at distances varying between .5 and 3 mm from the right side of the text. The most significant type variety seen (76 mm text) is the omission of the stop after "enforced". There are also various minor type weaknesses of lesser significance. On some wrappers a marker line is to be found at the top, as a guillotine guide. In most instances the line is comprised of small dots, frequently inked together, so that the actual number is not clear.

Sizes of wrappers seem to be within the limitations expressed earlier. This type of wrapper, with a change in the length of the lines of text, was continued in use until replaced by the uniform Australian wrapper. Overall, printings occurred in various shades of green, sometimes tending to blue-green, and upon a number of different shades of paper, both laid and wove.

It has not been practicable to give adequate statistics of the quantities of each type of wrapper issued and the following figures embrace all that have been ascertained.

#### (i) Distribution of wrappers from G.P.O. Brisbane to post offices:

1898	— ½d,	2,168,176	1d,	126,066
1899	— ½d,	2,458,116	1d,	130,544
1910	— ½d,	305,892	1d,	78,249

- (ii) Quantities of wrappers delivered from the Government Printing Office to G.P.O. Brisbane (values not separated):

1898 - 1,769,520	1899 - 3,209,860	1900 - 2,456,080
1901 - 3,435,000	1902-03 - 1,084,000	

### *Envelopes*

Stamped to order envelopes, these bearing impressions of the 1d and 2d, both S.G. type 21, were noted in Part One. Quantities of private and business envelopes continued to be handled in the years from 1897. Undoubtedly, various kinds and sizes of envelopes were impressed with stamps but it is not possible here to describe differences in detail due to the lack of reference material. I have one envelope, 152 x 89 mm, buff paper, from the Queensland branch of the New Zealand Insurance Co., Brisbane, addressed to its agent at Toowoomba and bearing an impressed 2d stamp (S.G. type 21), postmark date being 12 October 1904. It might well be that from 1908 the 2d stamps were of S.G. types 30 and 32, but to the time of writing evidence to support such an assumption is lacking. In 1900, in response to specific requests, probably philatelic, envelopes commenced to be impressed with the ½d green of 1899, S.G. type 26.

All stamped to order envelopes are difficult to secure used and undoubtedly the greatest number of such envelopes were sent overseas in unused condition to meet dealers' and collectors' orders. But, as earlier remarked, there was genuine local usage by some business houses. I have several such examples.

While it has not been practicable to ascertain the quantities of the different categories of envelopes handled through the Post Office where the initial orders had to be lodged, one can gain some appreciation of the demand by reference to Government Printer's reports, these indicating the overall quantities of stamped envelopes supplied to the Post Office. In 1897 the figure was 5500 and in 1898 was 4000. There are no references in the 1899 and 1900 reports but in 1901 it is seen that 17,000 were supplied and in 1902-03 the quantity was 22,900. Statistics for subsequent years were not published.

During the colonial period the Queensland Post Office had never provided ordinary stamped envelopes for sale at post offices and although the question of introducing this class of stationery was considered after the amalgamation of the six colonial postal systems into the Australian Postmaster-General's Department, it was not thought that the costs and organisation needed to introduce such a facility would be adequately compensated by the volume of sales.

### *Registration Envelopes*

The passage of the *Postal Rates Act 1910* by the Federal Parliament, this coming into force on 1 May 1911, brought, for the first time, uniform postal rates for the whole of Australia.

It had been tentatively planned to present the Bill to Parliament some years earlier but this intention was frustrated by the fact that the original financial clauses of the Constitution, intended to terminate after five years, were extended on several occasions, so that it was not practicable to proceed with the new postal bill until a firm date had been fixed for the expiration of the temporary financial provisions.

As a further move towards the equalisation of postal facilities in all States, additional to the now uniform postal rates, it had been decided that in States where distinctive registration envelopes were not currently on sale at post offices they were to be provided.

The Queensland administration of the Post Office had been aware of the intention for some two years or more before the passing of the Act and at that time had made some progress towards procuring supplies, although final arrangements were not concluded until 1909.

Years earlier, in 1879, as related in Part One, the Queensland Post Office had on sale, for one halfpenny, an unstamped specially printed registration envelope, supplies having been obtained from McCorquodale and Co., London. For the new requirement the Queensland administration turned to the same firm for quotations and advice, it being necessary that a 3d registration stamp be impressed on the envelope flap, this particular position being widely favoured at the time. Sample envelopes were considered and also proposed forms of the registration stamp.

A rough proof for the latter, contained in the official Post Office collection, shows a three-quarters presentation of King Edward VII — much in the style that can be seen on the 1901-02 £1 and £2 adhesive stamps of Victoria — this proof being dated 5.10.08. The shield shape and background appearing in this proof were the same as later adopted. However, for ease of production, an embossed profile of King Edward VII was accepted in lieu of the portrait earlier proposed.

The impressing of the stamp on the flap of the envelope was effected by surface printing, combined with embossing. "Queensland" appeared above the royal head and "Three Pence" below. These expressions, as well as the profile head and decorations within the shield, were all embossed, the background printing being in red colour. This same type of registration stamp, with necessary variations in names and values, with either the profile heads of Queen Victoria or King Edward VII, was used for registration envelopes provided for a number of British possessions.

The envelopes supplied by McCorquodale and Co. were basically a stock line and with the same form of presentation, or "formula", as those which had been supplied in 1879, as earlier related, and sold for a halfpenny each. They were made of stout deep buff linen-lined paper and measured 150-151 x 95 mm. The general printing, in red, comprised the usual cross lines, back and front. On the front of the envelope was the admonition, "This Letter must be given to an Officer of the Post Office to be Registered and a Receipt obtained for it". Just below, at the left within a panel, was the word "Registered". Within a square at the top left part of the flap (which folded over to become part of the front) were the words, "The Stamp to Pay the Postage must be Placed Here". It is noticed that a wrong font "s" was used in "Must". In the centre of the flap, and facing inwards, was the impressed registration stamp. The name of the contractor appeared beneath the flap. The printing on the envelope exhibits two variations, being found with and without the stop after "it" in the words "obtained for it".

Among the consignment of McCorquodale envelopes were some made of a lighter fawn paper. There were probably only a few of them and I have discovered only one unused example to date. This envelope exhibits the stop after

"it" variety. However, the most remarkable characteristic is that the royal head in the stamp impression is featureless and completely flat, the appropriate raised head embossing die apparently having been omitted from the forme during the printing process. Strangely, the lettering was embossed as before.

The registration envelope was first issued in 1910. I have a used example which bears the Ipswich postmark of 5 March 1910. Statistics relating to 1910 indicate that 4230 such envelopes were distributed to post offices in that year, these certainly being all of McCorquodale and Co. stock. It has not been possible to obtain a note on the quantity ordered and supplied by the contractor. But, apparently, the initial order was not substantial as in 1912 very similar envelopes, this time supplied by De La Rue and Co., London, were placed on sale.

There were some differences between the two envelopes, apart from the fact that the name of the second contractor can likewise be found printed beneath the flap. The De La Rue envelope has a flap more strongly curved than before and the stamp impression differs slightly, although being of the same design.

The registration envelopes continued to be on sale at Queensland post offices until well into the uniform period, and after Australian registration envelopes had become available so that it would appear that stocks continued to be sold until exhaustion. Mrs P. L. Turnbull has reported that she possesses the McCorquodale envelope postmarked at Roma on 26 September 1912 and the De La Rue envelope at Brisbane on 30 December 1912. It may be remarked that in unused condition the De La Rue envelope is the scarcer. Used, both are very difficult to find.

A third type of envelope, uncatalogued, was recently discovered and reported by Mr Carl L. Stieg, to whom I am indebted for particulars. Generally, it resembles the McCorquodale and De La Rue envelopes but it does not have a contractor's name under the flap. The size is slightly smaller (146 x 88 mm) and it is not linen-lined. The stamp impression is in salmon pink colour, instead of red. This particular envelope was postmarked at South Brisbane on 11 February 1913. Mr Stieg suggests that it was printed in very small quantity to fill the gap before the uniform Australian envelope became available. I am not aware of the existence of other examples of this envelope.

*To be continued*



# NEW TASMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY

By L. C. VINEY, F.R.P.S.L.

(Continued from September 1977, p. 66)

## *Informative and Instructional Markings*

1. LATE LETTER, Type 2. On entire from Launceston to Hobart. The c.d.s. of Launceston is 19 March 1903.

2. LATE LETTER . . . To Pay (Fig. S26, Part 1).

On entire to Hobart with T.M.L Ry No. 3 dated 18 March 1903 with "1" in mss before "d". The postage due stamp is cancelled Hobart 19 March 1903.

3. UNCLAIMED. Type 3 (Fig. S34, Part II).

Another example struck in *blue* ink on cover from Hobart dated 5 Oct 1906. The envelope is an official "On Public Service Only", addressed to Miss C. L. Denby, Teacher, State School, Penguin, and readdressed to Blythe Road and subsequently to Burnie. There is a mss endorsement in pencil, "Not known at State School Burnie". The letter was then returned to the Dead Letter Office, Hobart, in November 1906, and back to the Education Department.

4. NOT KNOWN, Type 1.

On entire from Hobart to Launceston dated 22 February 1895 with backstamp "Dead Letter Office, Hobart", Type 1, in *blue*, dated 5 April 95.

5. DEAD LETTER OFFICE. Type 1.

Struck in *violet*, 13 August 1898.

6. MORE TO PAY.

(i) Type 1. Figure S39.

Two examples with value expressed 1d and 4d respectively. On entires from England, one being backstamped Hobart 18 May 1899.

(ii) Type 2.

Value 4d, on entire from Hobart to Hamilton dated 27.12.1911.

7. "T" in Oval. Type 3.

On entire from Melbourne to Launceston dated 28 Jan 98. Value 4d.

8. "T" in Oval. Type 4.

A new type similar to Type 3. Measures 31 x 21 mm but the value is only 7 mm high as against 10 mm in Type 3. The value is out of alignment to the "T" and appears to have been applied at a *second* operation.

One example only, from Scottsdale to Hobart dated 12 Oct 1903.

9. LIABLE TO PACKET RATE ONLY.

A new handstamp similar to S42, Part II, measuring 75 mm x 10 mm, with words in one line, the letters being 3 mm high. Struck in *red* on entire from Montague River dated 20 Jan 1903 addressed to The Hon. The Minister of Education, Hobart.

It has a transit date stamp of Stanley 20 Jan. 1903, together with a Hobart c.d.s. 28 JA 1903 on front and back.

The envelope is also stamped with "T" in Oval, Type 1, and has a "4d to pay" in manuscript. The "4" is scored across to cancel the fee and "2" inserted to

make the tax rate 2d. The handstamped "REFUSED" has been applied on the face but this is likewise cancelled by a manuscript wavy line in *black* ink. Dead Letter Office Hobart, Type 1, in *red* dated 28 Jan. 1903 was also applied.

The "Liable To Packet Rate Only" has the initials of an official at the right-hand side.

Another part example also has the same initials following the handstamp, this being on a 2d Pictorial with a c.d.s. of 1906. The office of origin is not on the stamp.

£10. "D More to Pay" in Oval.

A mss 8 is the highest rate sighted.

#### *Provisional and Abnormal Cancellations*

1. "M.O.O. & S.B. Tasmania."

This was definitely used at Hobart, as entires in the writer's collection prove. Latest date 30 Nov. 1899.

2. "M.O.O. Tasmania."

The letters "& S.B." have *been* removed from this canceller. One example only, dated 30 Nov. 1904, on entire from England to Hobart.

It is handstamped "LONDON SEP 27 1904 M.O.D." in box 30 mm x 30 mm, struck in *black*. The "M.O.O. Tasmania" is struck on the face of the envelope.

3. "Military Camp." Fig. 62, Part II.

Also struck in *blue*, April 1911.

4. *Crown Seals*.

North Dundas has now been found, and one other rather indistinct strike of a seal which is probably Lune River.

#### *Comments on Part II*

The following comments are made:

Page 127. "Transmission and Delivery Prohibited."

The words "used by postal employees not enamoured of the Tattersall undertaking" are in my opinion facetious and out of place in relation to known facts.

The writer has examples from Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia and Queensland, dates from March 1902 to June 1904. The example from New South Wales was returned to the sender in an official envelope from the Dead Letter Office, Sydney, after it had been returned from Hobart.

The envelope from Queensland is also stamped in two lines struck in violet ink measuring 75 mm x 11 mm. Letters 4 mm high, "POSTED IN CONTRAVENTION OF SECTION 57 POST AND TELEGRAPH ACT 1901". This was evidently applied in Brisbane as the Dead Letter Office, Brisbane, c.d.s. of 10 April 1902 is struck in the same coloured ink.

On the Federation of the States into the Commonwealth of Australia, to meet objections made by certain politicians the postal regulations *prohibited* the transmission of mail addressed to George Adams or Tattersalls.

Letters so addressed on arrival at Hobart were returned to the Dead Letter Office of the state of origin to be returned to the sender. Employees of the Post

Office would only have been carrying out their correct and proper duty in returning such letters.

Generally they did find their way back to Tattersalls *but through various addresses established for that purpose*, or by special arrangements such as "Manager, Commercial Bank", etc. In this way the regulation was circumvented.

Page 123. Police Late.

Maybe the word "Late" is a misreading. Police officers on official duty had the right of endorsing mail for *free* postage. The writer has an example with "Police Clerk".

*Parcel Post, Fig. S.47. Page 128-129*

This canceller was in common use from about 1930 onwards, and it is probable that the date is an error. It is well known that Mr T. Petterd, the stamp dealer of Hobart, often used Tasmanian Pictorial Stamps from mixed printings on parcels in that period.

*Circular Date Stamps 1900-1912*

Gravelly Beach, Type 3.

Two copies, one of which is in the writer's collection dated 23 October 1912, were found in a dealer's stock in London in the 1950s. The dealer stated that he had the bulk stock for many years. The copies are on the paper and in the shade of the stamp in common use in late 1912.

While the usage of this c.d.s. in 1912 must remain somewhat of a mystery there is, in my opinion, no doubt that it is a genuine usage of the time and must still be rated RRRR and not deleted from the listing.

## REVIEWS

*Northern Territory: A Postal History, 1824-1975*, by E. Williams and P. Collas. 178 pp, 8½ x 11 ins. Multigraphed. Published by the Society of Australasian Specialists. Available from Edward A. Williams, Nichols Road, 1250 Amherst Street, Buffalo, New York, 142216, USA. Price \$US10.

This book immediately awakes one to the rarity of philatelic or postal history books whose authors realise that history is basically about human beings.

The book is an exceptionally well-written, deeply-researched, intensely-readable book, telling of the Northern Territory, its conquest and its mails, and the mailmen and other post and telegraph men who devoted their lives to, or sacrificed their lives for, the mails — and sometimes did both.

Happily the authors have remembered Mrs Aeneas Gunn's classic, *We of the Never Never*, with her word-picture of "The Fizzer" (Henry Ventlia Peckham), "unlike every type of man excepting a bush mailman. Hard, sinewy, dauntless, and enduring. . . . A thousand miles on horseback . . . into the Australian interior and out again".

He did it eight times a year, although fearful that he would die of thirst, as did F. A. Stibe, his predecessor on the route.

He changed his run, and was drowned on the return leg of his first trip while trying to save the mailbags when his horses were swept away at a flooded river crossing.

Thirty years before, in 1874, James Stapleton, telegraph station master at Barrow Creek, was speared by blacks, and E. E. S. Flint, his assistant, wounded. Flint died of rheumatic fever at the infant Alice Springs thirteen years later.

Nine postal officials died when the Japanese bombers destroyed Darwin Post Office in 1942 in the first air raid on Australia.

Cyclone Tracy destroyed all postal facilities in the Darwin area, fortunately without loss of life.

The book tells the story of the three military settlements in the Territory from 1824 to 1849.

The first civil settlement was made at Adelaide River in 1864 and lasted two years. Ebenezer Ward, the first postmaster, fell out with the Official Resident and later Premier of South Australia, B. T. Finnis,

was sacked and accompanied his first bags on the journey home. He had South Australian stamps, a postmarker, "P.O. North<sup>n</sup> Territory — SA" without an outer ring and numeral canceller 201. Official stamps were Departmentals, the "C.L." (Crown Lands) overprint. "N.T." overprints were not available until 1872 or early 1873.

In 1869 a permanent settlement was made at the future Darwin, and the postmark was "Northern Tery — SA — with numeral 184.

Then the story goes through the changing fortunes of the territory, The Overland Telegraph, a pony express between the two ends of the line, gold, Chinese migrants, railways, cattle, troops, services, and the North-South highway.

The philatelic-postal history section is a thorough cover, each location and its postmarks being dealt with separately, with the appropriate postmark reproductions, and a five-step table of rarity — extremely rare, rare, scarce, uncommon, and common. For the hunters, there are nineteen postmarks listed as still not seen.

World War II postmarks of navy, army and air force occupy twenty-pages, and the work is completed with comprehensive indexes of persons and places.

*Northern Territory* is another successful example of happy international co-operation between Mr Collas of Australia and Mr Williams of USA.

It must remain the standard work for many years.

*1978 Canada Specialised Stamp Catalogue.*

128 pp. 4½ x 8½ in. Published by Philatelic Publishers Company, Toronto, and available from Philatelic Supply Company, 4015 Chesswood Drive, Downsview, Ontario, M3J 2R8.

The Canadian Specialised Catalogue is an attractive production which covers not only Canada but Newfoundland and all British North America.

It does not give the amount of background information contained in its Australian counterpart but has to cover more than a century and a quarter of issues. All major varieties are clearly listed.

The special feature of this year's issue, the fifth is a listing of all Canadian booklets

complete. The list goes back to Canada's first booklet, the 1898 Queen Victoria "Numeral".

There is also a full listing of Canada's unique type of semi-official airmail stamps, generally issued by the operating companies, 1918-34, which include some tremendous rarities, of which only two or three copies are known.

A feature of the catalogue is that the degree of listing varies with the period. The pioneer issues are given as mint without gum, used, and on cover. From the 1870 "small queen" or "small cents" issues, mint and used, blocks of these and covers, and from 1931, the covers are First Day Covers. Postage Dues are unused, used, and unused blocks. Semi-official air mails are listed as mint singles, sheets, and on cover.

Similarly, there is a system of differential premiums; for the classics, very fine and original gum; from 1870, the unused are expected to have original gum, with premiums for centred and never hinged; and from 1947, hinged stamps are at a discount from list prices.

Plate number and inscription blocks from 1927 to 1973 are listed with differing prices for the various positions where they appear on more than one position on the sheet or plate.

It will be of great interest to all aware of the attractions of Canadian stamps.

*The National Postal Museum* (Canada), 52 pp., 9 x 6 in. Published by the Museum, Sir Alexander Campbell Building, Confederation Heights, Ottawa, Ontario, KIA, OB1, Canada. Price 50c (Canadian).

This is a stylish production with an eye-catching cover which not only catches the eye but captures the detailed attention; one of the best limp-cover designs of its type seen.

An enlargement of the 3d Beaver is surrounded by an array of the types of transport used for mail, headed by a yellow seaplane as the next major feature. Then, left to right, a horse-drawn sledge on the ice at sunrise, a twin-funnel steamboat, a railway engine, and a Canada Post mail van, with a red bird, letter in beak (late fee?) above.

All illustrations are in colour and the text is in English and French.

The text consists of chapters on Canada's postal history, sections of the museum, or items in it.

It notes that Canada's first stamp, the 3d Beaver, was designed by a young civil engineer, who became Sir Sandford Fleming, engineer-in-chief for the building of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Fleming paid his allegiance to the Queen with the Crown and VR, and then gave the world one of its earliest pictorial stamps.

Elaborate design has gone into the display frames and lighting, so as to allow study, and specially tempered non-acid glass and shielded lighting has been provided to protect stamps from fading.

Only 1510 12-Penny blacks were issued and the museum has the only known mint marginal pair. It also has one of the four mint copies of the 1/- Newfoundland orange on laid paper.

Eventually the collection will cover perfins, revenues, first day covers, proofs, essays, and officials.

Many stampless covers are already held.

The overall impression given is that the museum is under intelligent and enlightened direction, and that this is the forerunner of much more ambitious publications.

*Cancellation Study of Gilbert and Ellice Islands*, D. H. Vernon. 22 pp., 8½ x 11½ in. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, 58 Livesay Crescent, Worthing, Sussex, England. Price £1.60.

This is the third publication of the Circle on the same subject in nine years, evidence both of the interest in the subject and the enterprise of the society. Its first cancellation study was published in 1968. This was followed by a book in 1974 which was quickly sold out. Now, in July 1977, comes the present work.

After the normal historical and postal history summaries of the group, the work deals separately with each of the thirty-four islands that have, or have had postal facilities.

There is a description and history of each island, and then a list of known postmarks and dates, matched by six pages of postmark illustrations.

The systematisation of the multitude of cancellation styles is excellent and the book will interest many who are not cancellation collectors.

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *Members' Diary*

1977

December

- 7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 15 Pioneer Australian Air Mails, Mr A. W. Bunn

1978

January

- 19 What the Society Means to Me. Senior Members of the Council

February

- 1 (12.30-3.00) Open House
- 13 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 16 Barbados, Mr E. G. Creed.
- 18 Sale

March

- 1 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 4 Society Celebrates Twenty-one Years at Headquarters
- 13 Library closed.
- 16 West Indies, Mr P. Jaffe
- 30 The Baltic. Group display organised by Mr M. Zitron

April

- 4 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 10 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 20 Some of My Victorian Favourites. Rodney Perry

## *Four-Man Display*

Four members gave a varied display at the first September meeting — Mr J. R. W. Purves, Victorian postal stationery and Saxony; Mr J. Gartner, Bangkok; Mr E. G. Creed, Canadian Revenues; and Mr P. Jaffe, Gambian postmarks.

Mr Purves' Victorian selection included registration envelopes, and a die proof of the 4d embossed stamp used on registration envelopes (the die was engraved by Arthur Williams), the 4d stamp duty in violet instead of pink, and the recently-discovered variety of the letter card of September 1901, buff instead of very pale grey.

The Saxony portion featured the shades of paper of all values.

Mr Creed's display emphasised the beautiful engraving of the Canadian revenues. Noted were plate number blocks of 12 of the 50 cent and \$1 Gas Inspection issue, war tax stamps overprinted inland revenue, electric light inspection, gas and electric light inspections, inland revenue and customs stamps.

Specially attractive was a page of 1864-65 "Widow" Bill stamps.

Mr Gartner's showing of the twenty-three stamps of Straits Settlements overprinted for the British post offices in Siam, 1882-85, included the 8 cents orange and the rare "chessboard" cancellation in brown.

Mr Jaffe showed the postmarks of Gambia's post offices from the Cameos onwards, Registered, TPOs, and paquebot.

A special additional item was a sheet showing two Mauritius 1d Post Paid, of the exceedingly rare printing before the 1859 Sherwin re-engraving, with the 124 cancellation of Aden. Both were position 12 on the sheet.

## *Malaysia*

Beautiful reproductions of the postal markings were a feature of the display of Malaysia by Mr F. D. J. Clayton at the second September meeting.

He also prefaced the display with a carefully compiled historical summary and introduced the display with a 1806 Penang cover with the hand-stamp PO/PW1 and another with the very rare Prince of Wales Island. An India Letter cover of 1822 was matched with an India Letter Dartmouth cover of the same year.

An early impression, 1830, of the circular red cachet Prince of Wales Island Post Office was one of the few clear strikes of this marking.

An April 1855 cover with two four annas India Die II, Frame I, had a R.P.S.L. certificate.

An 1819 cover from Samarang to Batavia had a Java PO circular fee marking in red.

A later cover had a Brunei local and a Labuan stamp and registered marking.

Another notable item was Straits Settlements 12c on 4a green, S.G. 10, unused but genuine (not an issued variety).

India used abroad included covers with the B172 (Singapore) and B147 (Penang) cancellations.

The whole display was of similar class and included later issues complete to the high values.

## *South Australia*

Rarities of the South Australian "long stamps" were a feature of the display of Mr J. R. W. Purves at the October meeting. The display aroused intense interest.

Among the specially interesting items were Specimen overprints on the original 1886 printing of the £2 and £5, each with the error "Ponnds". These were unique and unevenness of the type of the overprint showed that they came from the same position on the sheet.

Another 1886 item was a die proof of the frame plate with the inscription "Before Hardening".

In the Thin Postage section, the lower right quarter sheet of the 3d illustrated in the handbook by Mr A. E. Fryar was a classic item.

Also present was the error 'Eight Pence' in block of four and several copies of the 3d second printing, watermark sideways, of which only about twelve copies are known.

The first and second 8d, compound perforation 11½ and 12½, was shown, with the 9d imperf between and partially imperforate.

Other items were the unique first £1, Thick Postage, Plate 2, on De La Rue paper, and the 1/-, almost as rare, with the "Suoth" error of watermark in the margins.

Members also saw the only copy of the Thick Postage 1/- which has been found with the extraordinary series of flaws which caused Plate 1 to be withdrawn. The flaws were caused by the peeling of the nickel plating.

Two of the five known copies of the 9d Postage, watermark Crown over A, perf. 11, were in the display.

Other features included several imperforate between and mixed perforation items and unique value page numbers from the books of stamps, printed in the margins for accounting purposes, English numbers in various colours, local numbers in black.

The display was a prelude to the publication of Mr Purves' book on these issues by the Society.

*Sperati*

Mr Ray Kelly provided a surprise for the November meeting. This was a display of the original specimens and illustrations, page by page, of the handbook on the Sperati forgeries.

These had been sent out from London by Mr Robson Lowe, with a commentary.

This gave a biography of Sperati, and described the means by which he developed his knowledge and skill. It told how the Sperati material was bought for safe hands and safeguards established to ensure that his methods could never be disclosed or transferred to other people.

More than five hundred issues, from all parts of the world, were in Sperati's field.

He kept a "Book of Gold" containing specimens of his work which had been guaranteed by experts and expert committees.

His activities came to light during World War II when he sent a package of eighteen "stamps" to

Ell, Portugal, and it was opened by the French Customs. Sperati was charged with exporting stamps worth 212,000 francs without declaring them.

It was the first of the cases in which Sperati was involved from 1942 to 1952.

Sperati said the stamps were forgeries and had no value.

A famous criminologist, Edmond Locard, testified that the stamps were genuine.

Sperati replied by producing five identical sets. He was acquitted.

Mr Kelly showed the set of stamps seized.

Among the many other "Speratis" shown were the £2 Kangaroo forgery and a Spanish piece bearing three stamps and Cadiz markings, signed "Fulpius", which was once sold for £700.

*Annual Competition*

Mrs P. L. Turnbull's entry in the annual competition was Thursday Island Postmarks.

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5 (Bournemouth)

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18 (London)

**BRITISH EMPIRE**, mainly comprising two large properties and including good sections of Australia with Kangaroo high values; Bahamas; British Guiana 1852 4c black on deep blue used; Canada; Cyprus with KGV £5 mint; Gibraltar; Malta; Newfoundland; New Zealand; and a fine collection of Western Australia.

19 (London)

**GREAT BRITAIN** with Mulready envelopes (four used on 6 May); 1d blacks (including a good VR); 1841 and later line-engraved. KGV high values include £1 green seahorses unmounted pair. There are three House of Commons envelopes. A small section of Ireland concludes the sale.

26/27 (Bermuda)

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