

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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Editor: H. L. CHISHOLM, F.R.P.S.L., F.R.P.S.N.Z.

Committee: MESSRS J. R. W. PURVES, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. (*Chairman*), D. N. BAKER, H. M. CAMPBELL, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. J. GARTNER, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., Dr G. RUSSELL JONES

Business Manager: MISS JOYCE BUCHANAN

Editorial Correspondence: Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria 3001

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JUNE 1977

ALBUM MUSINGS

Philately is a forward-looking pursuit. Its devotees are always seeking things or knowledge, always building one or more collections and, perhaps, thinking about new frontiers for their specialty. And their acquisitions are always bought with a view to continuing future happiness.

But there is also pleasure in going through one's albums and dwelling in the past, in happy and, most likely, grateful remembrance of people and events the stamps and covers unconsciously recall by personal associations.

The happinesses of philately are past, present and future.

The visual images that return are maybe those of long-dead dealers, who, more than half a century ago, gave guidance, encouragement and advice to small boys with only pennies to spend — memories that will endure until the beneficiaries are no more.

Certainly there will be memories of other collectors whom one has known, or from whom one has acquired stamps or knowledge, or were fellow society members.

One might pass to the stamps. How did one become interested in particular specialties? How do collectors develop interests? What stamps, covers or segments of the collection have given the greatest pleasure?

Again, as you turn the pages over, there will be memories of collectors and dealers. Inevitably, one will be reminded of incidents that brought delight; the item that was sought for ten or twenty years; the one or more that reached you in a fantastic manner; your own discoveries.

Pause, too, to think of those who sent or received these stamps and covers. How did they live? What were their occupations? And what was in the letters? We can never know. But one might well think that they would not have survived if they had brought unhappiness.

Then one can think of their previous owners, not necessarily the builders of great collections, but maybe valued friends. These stamps and covers have given pleasure to successive possessors — and will continue to do so.

The mind moves to the broader field, with a question that you may think about

for years. How did so many classics survive mint? Particularly in items like the 1d Blacks and 2d Blues. Especially in multiples? It is an intriguing question.

Early stamps were bought to pay postage, and explanations that the early unused stamps that we have can be accounted for as those used as bookmarks, found in the old cupboards and attics of stately homes or enclosed in letters and left by their recipients, being found after their deaths, seem inadequate for the numbers that still exist.

There cannot have been many collectors before 1847, when the United States issued its first stamps, and stamps began to flow across the Atlantic in both directions.

Probably the great advancement of early collecting began in the 1849-50 period, with the great spread of stamp issues that France, Belgium and Bavaria began, and which by the opening days of 1950 had spread to Australia, bringing the strange, colourful symbols of far-off lands to the recipients of letters.

Album write-ups suggest study. How many important countries are without an up-to-date standard work? How uneven is the depth of philatelic literature over the field? How adequate are the standard works? How long does a "standard work" remain comparatively adequate? Is the current philatelic publication dealing with the most important subjects?

Publication of knowledge is basic to philately, and with today's costs what is the future of philatelic publishing?

Are there many authors with worthwhile works that cannot be published? Also, how can the immense amount of research done by people who are indifferent to putting it on the record be preserved? These are all very present problems.

And will there be, one day, a computer bank of philatelic information, on an international basis?

A final thought: What psychological law should a dealer follow when seeking a lady assistant? Should he follow the Law of Complementaries – a beautiful girl to sell beautiful stamps? Or should he have regard to the Law of Competing Wants – might a client prefer to take out a beautiful girl than a beautiful stamp?

PAN-PACIFIC EXHIBITION MEDALS FOR R.P.S.V.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria was awarded a silver-gold medal at the Pan-Pacific Philatelic Exhibition (Panpex '77) in Christchurch, NZ, in March for its most recent publication, *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings – Part II*.

Philately from Australia gained a silver medal.

Members of the Society received five gold medals, eight silver-gold, thirteen silver, eight bronze and four Certificates of Merit.

The Society also provided two of the five-man jury – Mr J. Gartner, RDP, FRPSL (chairman) and Mr A. W. Bunn, FRPSL.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by *BILL EUSTACE*

Nauru Definitive Reprints

In "Trail" of March 1977 I reported that all values of the reprints except the 7 cent were available from the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Centre.

Australia Post responded quickly to a special request to make the complete set available and the missing 7 cent reprint is now on sale.

Australia 18 Cent Silver Jubilee

Mrs I. Van Tenac of Adelaide sent me two corner blocks for inspection, one of which gave a pale pink reaction under the U/V lamp and the other a quite deep pink reaction. Use of a "Wratten" filter confirmed that the normal amount of "Helecon" was present so it seems likely that it is the white top coating, applied to improve printing quality, which is missing or present only at a much diminished level.

Readers may recall that the 25 cent Olympic Games stamp of 1968 was also found on uncoated paper but in that case the lamp reaction was orange-brown.

It is likely that a number of sheets of uncoated stamps would have been printed and a quick scan of a supply of commercially used on paper Silver Jubilee stamps might prove rewarding.

Australian 18 Cent ACTU Commemorative

Contrary to indications given in *Stamp Preview*, No. 2, earlier this year this stamp was produced on the Chambon and not on the Rembrandt Press.

Most readers will have noted a double perforation hole at the top left end of every third stamp across the sheet and may also have observed that on one stamp (usually the eighth stamp in the row) there is a missing pin in the same area.

It seems that there was a change of plan part way through the production process and that the switch from Rembrandt (37.75 mm x 24.15 mm) to Chambon Press (37.5 mm x 25 mm) caused problems at the perforation stage. Even a superficial glance at the backs of the stamps will reveal that the stamp with the "missing pin" is significantly longer than the adjacent "double pin" stamp; a fact which is readily confirmed by comparing the amount of white surround either end of the "missing pin" stamp with that of its neighbour. The difference in length seems to range up to 1½ to 2 mm.

As noted, on most sheets which I have seen the "missing pin" has been on Stamp 8 (i.e., Right Pane No. 3), but on one piece which I found it was on the Left Pane on Stamp 2. Without having seen the untrimmed sheets it is difficult to know whether two different perforating heads were in use or it was simply a matter of feeding some of the sheets through upside-down.

Australia Bird Definitive

Recently I was fortunate enough to go on a conducted tour of the Note Printing Branch and in the course of the tour we were shown the artwork for the 18 cent stamp of this issue. Whether, in view of the postponement of this issue till later in the year, this denomination will ever see the light of day remains to be seen, but if the artwork is any guide to the finished article the set promises to be a most attractive one.

Australia 18 Cent Pictorial Postcards

The postcards described on page 93 of December 1976 *P from A* have now reached the market after a reported last-minute recall from post offices to replace one of the cards depicting the wrong scene. Wallets of the thirty-six cards have been selling strongly to philatelists despite the high "face" value of \$10.89.

My local post office was unable to tell me whether cutouts of the "stamp" from a postcard would be accepted as valid franking on a normal letter, but at 30 or 35 cents each I doubt whether many collectors could afford to use them for postage anyway.

STANLEY GIBBONS TO STAGE FURTHER EXHIBITIONS

Following their highly successful March exhibition in Sydney and Melbourne, Stanley Gibbons, the world-famous stamp dealers, have agreed, because of an enormous public demand, to bring an extensive display of fine and interesting philatelic material and banknotes of the world to six States of Australia in September-October 1977.

Particular features of the exhibition will include major rarities and invited exhibits, incorporating special Silver Jubilee material not previously shown.

Gibbons have received many requests to bring an exhibition for collectors to see in their own State, and this new series will include exhibits particularly allied to each area visited.

The show will start late September in Perth and proceed to Adelaide, Hobart, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.

VITAL NEW BOOK ON WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

The Introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps and the Colonial Printings, together with numbers received and issued, 1854-77. By Brian Pope. Printed by Fagott Press, 36 Reserve Street, Claremont, WA 6010.

An Appreciation

First of all let me say that I am fully aware that my friend, Mogens Juhl, has contributed a review of this book, which review, for the moment, I have been careful not to read. Secondly, I believe that his contribution and my own will inevitably be on distinctive lines and, since they emanate as wholly individual products, may well be the more interesting for that.

Let me say, very definitely, that this book represents one of the most important contributions made to the philately of the classic issues of the Australian States over the last twenty-five years.

As is well known, these Western Australian issues fall into three categories. In the first are the cases of stamps printed in London from plates made by Messrs Perkins, Bacon and Co, in the second are the lithographs prepared and printed in the Colony (but using the "Swan" portion of the Perkins, Bacon design) and in the third are the stamps printed in the Colony from the Perkins, Bacon plates.

Prior to Mr Pope's work the Perkins, Bacon, i.e., the London end, had been well covered, particularly when the *Perkins Bacon Records* were published. But little work had been done in respect of the Colonial end. There were (and still are) many problems which can only be resolved by correlating the two ends. What had been published (before Mr Pope's book) on the Colonial Records was relatively small, which is rather amazing since there were, particularly in the twenties and thirties, several well-informed philatelists living in and collecting WA who should have been in the position (assuming they were interested) to hunt for and find these records. No such records having been published, it has rather been assumed by collectors, over the last forty years, that they were either non-existent or unavailable. That was until Mr Pope came along.

Brian Pope is well and favourably known to me as a good student of certain Commonwealth issues, in particular on the technical side. However, over the last couple of years he has, luckily for us fuddy-duddies, become more and more immersed in the stamps and postal history of his own State. In the present case he tells me that the work occupied the whole of his spare time for six months to the exclusion of all his other projects. This dedication, however, was far from wasted. The new archival material now revealed and published for the first time will give WA collectors here and abroad a great deal — over a long period — to get their teeth into. The work has already thrown much light on some of the problems concerning WA classics and further developments are certain.

Let us now take a more detailed look at the book. Mr Pope has uncovered most of the new material in the Battye Library and the Australian Archives in Perth. The work commences with a list of the principal officials involved. The

whole of the correspondence from WA, from 8.6.52 on, in relation to stamps, is then set out, with well-chosen comments in relation to the *Perkins, Bacon Records*, following which the "Postage Stamp Ordinances" of May and June 1854 are reproduced.

In Part II all the records of the Local Printings from 1854 to 1860 are set out. Useful comments are again made and interpretations given.

Part III is concerned with the numbers received and issued from 1854 to 1877. Again, all the relevant documents are reproduced with critical comment, followed by a complete table of the dates and numbers of receipts and issues – under the head of each value – for the period 1854 to May 1877. The transcribing, analysis and arrangement done in this groove was a truly colossal job, but the results will give every specialist collector information which he never dreamed he would possess. It can be added that it is obvious that the author has worked throughout on a standard of precision and care worthy of an important subject.

The last portion of the book relates to Mr Pope's comments on some of the major unanswered problems and the light his researches throw on them. This section is of tremendous interest, though I will only deal briefly with it as follows:

4d Lithograph: Earlier students, including the writer, imagined that *two* printing stones only were used. Mr Pope proves, in my opinion, conclusively, that there were *four*. I will comment on two aspects only. It seems, although Mr Pope does not raise the question, that there must have been a first "intermediate" stone used only for the scarce first printing and a second intermediate stone (with an inverted frame) used for the second printing. I agree with Mr Pope's finding that the inverted errors must belong to the second printing. The same second intermediate stone (with the inversion corrected) must have been used for the third and fourth printings.

Even now work remains to be done on the 4d, e.g., in relation to the identification of the distinctive shades according to the printing stones used. Mr Pope assumes that the other rare "secondary" errors, e.g., the "PEICE", belong to the second stone, but this remains to be shown. They *could* belong to the first.

Local printing of 1d black: The author proves that in 1854 a *local* printing was made of which 108 sheets (25,920 stamps) were issued to the public. The means of identification of this printing remains to be established (if in fact it varies substantially from the London product). This printing is also tied up with another problem:

Which plate was re-entered by Perkins, Bacon & Co in 1860? I think Mr Pope here makes out an excellent case in favour of the 1d plate, and he further expresses the opinion that the damage which occurred (and which created the necessity for repairs which could not be effected in the Colony) happened during the local printing of the 1d black and was the factor which resulted in such a small quantity of stamps emanating from that printing. Whether any of this second lot of re-entries provided any *visible varieties* – which of course would *not* be found in the 1d blacks – remains to be seen and can only be determined after the examination of much material.

This work has to be read – and read carefully – if its worth is to be thoroughly appreciated. It is undoubtedly – and I speak from some experience – a work of the highest class and a great credit to Australian philately.



The Other Side of the Picture



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

TASMANIA

(i) *PRE-PAID* Markings: *New Early Dates* (1855)

Mr Dale Forster, of Eugene, Oregon, has kindly sent me a photostat copy of a cover in his possession bearing *both* the *PRE-PAID* types illustrated, as Figures 30 and 31 respectively, on page 16 of Part I, and again referred to on pages 13 and 14 of Part II. These markings are very clear indeed on Mr Forster's cover and must, in both cases, closely approach the date of issue. The details are as follows:

Fig. 30 (Hobart): New date 17.4.55; old date 3.5.55.

Fig. 31 (Launceston): New date 16.4.55; old date 2.5.55.

(ii) *The Second Numeral Allocation:*

New "Ties" and Other Notes

Once again I am indebted to Mr Askeland, the page references being to the relevant portions of the Handbook.

New "Ties":

103: Tied to LLEWELLYN. A re-allocation.

267: Tied to FOREST.

360: Tied to SCAMANDER. This incidentally makes it certain that

358: Was PRESTON.

An Error Corrected: Mr Askeland has submitted to me a number of copies with 16 and 31 cancellations. We are now well satisfied that (i) there is no second type of 16 and (ii) likewise there is no second type of 31. Corrections must therefore be made in the text (see Part II, at p. 43). In both cases poor strikes, etc, had produced optical delusions of a type found occasionally among philatelists who, in their desire to discover the new, do not always give the object the sustained examination which is required. I am free to acknowledge that I was one of those concerned in what now turns out to have been a "howler".

In relation to Mr Avery's article in December 1975 Messrs Askeland and Edwards have supplied new late dates as follows:

ILFRACOMBE: 4.8.10

NEWSTEAD: 15.11.10

WHYTE RIVER: 22.7.12

Coloured Numeral Cancellations: Mr Askeland records the following: *Violet:* 9; *Brown:* 24, 43, 70, 73, 101, 144, 250; *Blue:* 42, 138; and *Greenish-Blue:* 362.

VICTORIA

(i) 6d Calvert, 1854-58

What follows is a continuation of (and must be read with) the notes on these stamps which appeared in the March number.

(iii) No stamps showing the serpentine perforation on all four sides belonged to these 20 types.

(iv) I have a few examples of the 20 types with the serpentine on three sides but with a *straight edge* at top or bottom, as the case may be.

It may be added that these two stamps (S.G. 47, 48) come in the same shade and all the covers I have seen (of either) emanate from November 1857 or slightly later.

The ANSWER must be that the *serpentine was applied through the middle of each sheet of 100 as an easy method of separating the top half from the bottom half.*

It also seems likely that the tops of the top row of the top 50 and the bases of the bottom row of the lower 50 were left in an *imperforate* condition.

I have found an analogous case in the 4d "Emblems", perf. 12. Here the plate of 120 was printed *twice* on the original sheet and examples can be found with a wide *rouletted* top or base margin which clearly indicate a *division* of the two halves of the original sheet of 240 (120 x 2) before they were handed over by the printer.

In regard to S.G. 47 and 48 it seems clear that out of every 50 group 30 stamps showed *serrates* only, on three or four sides, as the case might be, while 20 showed *serrates* on three sides and *serpentine* on the fourth side (top or bottom).

This would mean that the 'compound' variety (S.G. 47) is *at least* one and a half times (2:3) scarcer than the *serpentine* (S.G. 48) — i.e., if the *serpentine* was applied also to the top and bottom of the 100 sheets. But if it (the *serpentine*) was only applied between the panes of 50 then it would be *four* times as scarce (20:80) as the *serrate*. Only further experience can indicate which of these two proportions is the correct one.

What I have said in this note should make these varieties easier to expertise, although it must be admitted that fakes do exist and must be borne in mind.

Calvert "perforated" a total of 163,000 stamps. My guess would be that the *approximate* proportions issued were as follows:

Rouletted (various) — 90,000; *serpentine* only — 35,000; compound *serrate* and *serpentine* — 14,000; *serrate* only (three or four sides) — 21,000 (*or* Compound 7,000 — *serrate* 28,000).

(ii) *More Plate Varieties in the 4d and 5d 'POSTAGE' Values, 1901-1912*

About a year ago Dr Russell Jones showed me two copies of a plate variety in the 4d value and two others in the 5d value which I had not seen previously and consequently had not been described in my monograph on the 3d, 4d and 5d values of this period.

Now, some time *after* that publication appeared, I acquired a large stock of this 4d (over 2000 stamps) and a fair stock of the 5d (about 600 stamps). But it was only some two months ago that I had the opportunity of going through this material for plate flaws. Not only did I hope to find Dr Jones's 4d variety (now numbered (ii), the old (ii) having been positioned in the meantime) but there

seemed a chance of locating *other* constant varieties not reported previously. And so it proved. New varieties *were* found and a little more information gathered. It is now recorded:

4d Plate 1 Sheet: No. 73 exists in *two* states. In the second, seemingly found only in the *olive* shades, there is an additional, and rather prominent, flaw, viz: a break or dent in the outer left frame-line to the lower left of the "P" of "POSTAGE".

4d Plate 2 Sheet: The following additional flaws have been located, as follows:

No. 8: Has a blunted top right corner, but also shows a white patch in the shading, nearly resting on the edge of the neck at its centre. This turns out to be the same stamp as is presently described as (vi) in the monograph. Therefore *delete* (vi) and substitute the foregoing in the Plate 2 descriptions.

No. 9: Shows another white flaw (not so prominent) resting on the top of the left of the neck and a weakness, a whitish patch, in the right frame, opposite the letters "OST". This turns out to be the same stamp as is presently described in the monograph under (ii). Therefore, *delete* this (ii) and insert the foregoing in the Plate 2 descriptions.

No. 97: Small but clear. Has a break in the shading to the left of and rather above the base of the neck.

Additional unplaced flaws

A new (ii) This is the variety first shown me by Dr Jones. It has a white horizontal line running through the top of the letters "RI", from the middle of the "R" to the right of the "I".

A new (vi) Shows a break in the coloured line over the top left of the second "T" of "VICTORIA".

(vii) A diagonal white flaw (not a white spot, which is normal) to the left of the base of the head portion of the top left corner ornament. Cp. (iii) and (iv).

(viii): A small white nick in the solid colour to the right of the top right corner of the "S" of the right-hand "POSTAGE".

(ix) A small white nick in the curved coloured line to the left of the "A" of the right-hand "POSTAGE".

(x) A nick in the outer left frame at lower left corner and two small dents in the base frame, the right-hand dent being under the "F" of "FOUR".

(xi) A small nick in the edge of the solid colour over the "IA" of "VICTORIA". I believe this to be in the top row of one sheet.

I have found several of each of the above varieties so that there is no doubt of their constancy.

5d Value: Here Dr Jones referred me to two varieties (both of which I subsequently found), as follows:

(i) Shows a hairline cut in top frame over the left of the "V". Is somewhere down the left of a sheet and can now be added as 31.

(ii) A rather fine pear-shaped flaw between the "I" and the "V" of "FIVE". This turned out to be No. 8 in the Plate 1 Sheet described as "2" in my monograph since it also showed the more prominent break in the top frame over and to the left of the "A" of "VICTORIA".

Incidentally, this break does not seem to be found until 1909 and there are therefore three stages to be found: (a) pre-break with pear-shaped flaw; (b) break and this flaw; (c) break only, other flaw having disappeared, probably by reason of wear and over-inking.

Also *add* 33: Diagonal cut across base frame-line under "P" of "PENANCE". Is No. 120 in one sheet, though sometimes obscured by over-inking.

(iii) *The 1½d Value: 1901-1912*

Most of the Plate Flaws are now accurately positioned

I recently acquired a complete sheet (10 x 12) of this value which came from Plate "B", whereas the sheet first in my possession came from Plate "A". Comparison of the marginal watermarks in the two cases showed that "A" (viewed sideways, i.e., with the watermark *upright*) was the upper sheet and "B" the lower. Viewed looking directly at the printed stamps "A" would therefore have been the left-hand sheet and "B" the right.

In what follows some other additional information is now given.

Sheet "B": The references are to the descriptions on page 8 of the monograph.

- (i) This is No. 56 in the sheet which showed the variety in its original (flawed) condition.
- (ii) This is No. 24 in the sheet.
- (iii) Is No. 111 in the sheet, as already chronicled.
- (iv) Is No. 117 in the sheet.
- (v) Not seen in the sheet acquired. Presumably the result of later damage.
- (vii) A new and quite prominent flaw. Shows a practically vertical (though slightly curved) scratch running down through the lines of shading to the left of the "V" and into the top of the value tablet. This is No. 51 in the "B" sheet.

(iv) *The Stamps Watermarked Crown over A: 1905-1912.*

The official dates of issue for all values excepting the 2½d and 5/-

When the writer produced his monographs on the above values he possessed, from Mr Rundell's mss, the first dates of issue for all values on this paper, with the exception of the 2½d, 3d, 6d, 5/-, £1 and £2.

At a later stage he unearthed a reference in the *Australian Philatelist* for 1 October 1907 (at page 16) which set out the dates of issue obtained from official sources. At this stage neither the 2½d nor the 5/- values had appeared, hence their omission from the list, which did, however, include the dates for the 3d, 6d, £1 and £2 values which had previously been missing. The list was as follows:

½d:	21.10.05	6d:	25.10.05
1d:	16.7.05	9d:	11.12.05
2d:	13.9.05	1/-:	13.2.06
3d:	11.11.05	£1:	12.2.07
4d:	15.1.06	£2:	18.7.06
5d:	14.8.06		

Mr Rundell's dates were of course the same as in the above list (apart from the omissions noted). In relation to the 2½d my earliest date is April 1908 and the 5/- almost certainly made its appearance in September 1907, being first reported in the *Australian Philatelist* for 1 October 1907.

How this reference was missed the first time around I do not know, but at least the miss has now been redressed.

(v) *Travelling Post Offices*

Some new and much earlier dates

TPOs 13 and 15

I have recently acquired some used postcards which bear dates substantially earlier than those previously listed in the monograph of 1955. The dates given in the second column are the previous dates and the page reference is to the monograph in question:

TPO 13	4.10.82	9.4.83	p.33
TPO 15	11.6.85	31.8.86	p.34
		later 19.11.85	

TPO 12: I have also acquired two cards, both dated in August 1883, and both showing the "small duplex" type. These indicate that this type survived in use rather longer than I indicated at page 33.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

(Continued from March 1977, p. 20)

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

The first major discussion on Commonwealth stamps was on 28 August 1901, when the basic clause in the *Post and Telegraph Bill* dealing with stamps — Clause 28 — was in the Committee stage in the House of Representatives.

Clause 28 was:

The Postmaster-General shall with the approval of the Governor-General cause postage stamps to be made and sold indicating such amounts of postage or fees as may in that behalf be directed by the Governor-General.

Mr Josiah Thomas (Labor, Barrier, NSW), a miner before he entered politics, moved an amendment to add the words

And shall within six months after the passing of this Act issue Commonwealth stamps.

The Prime Minister, Mr Edmund Barton (Protectionist, Hunter, NSW): It cannot be done in that time.

Mr Thomas: One of the great advantages of federal union promised by its advocates was that we were to have a uniform stamp. Such a stamp would certainly be a great convenience to those who live in our border towns. Now that the Commonwealth Government have assumed control of the Post-office, surely it is time that we had a federal stamp.

I venture to say that it has come as a very great surprise to the community generally to find that the Government are hesitating about adopting the course which I now suggest.

We have been told that the bookkeeping clauses will prevent the adoption of a uniform stamp for the Commonwealth, but I fail to see any substantial grounds for that objection. I am not asking that the postage should be uniform, because I recognise that a difficulty presents itself on account of Victoria having adopted the penny postage system. An interchangeable stamp would satisfy me.

Mr G. B. Edwards (Free Trade, South Sydney, NSW): How could the accounts be kept?

Mr Thomas: It seems to be that every State could have credited to it the stamps sold within its borders. There will be very few stamps purchased in one State and used outside of that State. But if a person travelled from Sydney to Adelaide it would be a matter of convenience to him to be able to post a letter in Adelaide with a Sydney stamp, and *vice versa*, the difference which would be made to the revenue being very trivial indeed.

It seems, indeed, from a controversy which has recently taken place, that the bookkeeping clauses are not the real difficulty in the way of the adoption of the course which I now suggest. The great difficulty is "Tattersall" of Tasmania.

The *Age*, on Monday last, points out that the Postmaster-General in referring to some documents which he had received from Tasmania, says that the figures quoted by him in the Senate in this connection had been exceeded by £14,000. He stated in the other Chamber that the result of introducing an interchangeable stamp would mean a difference of £10,000 to Tasmania. Owing to communications between himself and the Deputy Postmaster-General of Tasmania, he found that these figures were exceeded by £4,000.

The *Age* goes on to state that but for "Tattersall's" it would be possible to introduce interchangeable stamps much sooner than there now seems any prospect of doing. I cannot say whether that is Senator Drake's opinion or the opinion of his interviewer; but it reads as if it were Senator Drake's opinion.

To me it seems playing pretty low to suggest that the Commonwealth Government have to depend on "Tattersall" to the extent of saying whether they will introduce an interchangeable stamp or not. It is rather an added argument why we should destroy "Tattersall's" sweeps. One of the telegrams stated that "Tattersall" was to be consulted. It is rather humiliating that he should be consulted before an answer can be given in such a matter.

I understand it is possible for the bookkeeping period provided for in the Constitution to be renewed at the end of five years. If that be so we may have to wait ten, fifteen or twenty years before we can get this very necessary reform. I venture to say that the people generally expected that as soon as the Federal Government took charge of the Postal department, we should have the advantage of a uniform or interchangeable stamp.

Mr G. H. [later Sir George] Reid: If we look at this matter with a microscope, there may seem to be some technical difficulty about having a uniform stamp, but when we come to consider the operations of business, there would be a very slight variation in the results, as compared with what they are under the present system.

There are very few people who trouble themselves about postage stamps when they are moving from one State to another, and certainly great inconvenience is experienced, now that the Commonwealth is united, in having six different kinds of stamps. It is an unnatural state of affairs, and it should not be allowed to prevail longer than necessary.

I do not wish to see anything put into the Bill to bind the Government, but I would rather make my observations in the form of an appeal to the Prime Minister, that the difficulties about bookkeeping should not be allowed to stand in the way of making this change.

Mr Barton: That will not stand in the way.

Mr Reid: I think I am right in saying that the Postmaster-General indicated that the bookkeeping difficulty was the principal obstacle in the way of the proposed change.

Mr Barton: It makes some sort of an obstacle, but not an insuperable one.

Mr Reid: Then I do not see the necessity for mentioning it. We do not intend to keep our Commonwealth accounts as a grocer would keep his books. Our accounts ought to be kept on a "give and take" principle, and a few pounds one way or the other should not be worthy of the consideration of the Commonwealth Government or of a Commonwealth State. I hope, therefore, that the Government will give themselves the pleasure and satisfaction of making this change.

I would look upon it as a great distinction if I had an opportunity of initiating a Commonwealth stamp.

I do not think that a Bill is the proper place to deal with a matter for Executive action, but I strongly support the object that the honourable member for the Barrier has in view, and I hope the Government will speedily bring this change about.

Prime Minister's Appeal

Mr Barton: I would ask the honourable member for the Barrier not to press his amendment to the vote.

He may rely perfectly upon the desire — more than that, the determination — of this Government to issue Commonwealth stamps as soon as we can get over any preliminary difficulties that may stand in the way.

There is one difficulty, as has been pointed out, in connection with the booking clauses of the Constitution Act. For my own part, although that matter has been referred to a good deal in conversation and in press paragraphs, I do not think that it forms such an insuperable obstacle as some people suppose. But, dealing quite fairly with the matter, I do admit that it rests considerably upon the "Tattersall's" clauses in the Bill.

Investigation has shown that the stamps which are forwarded in letters and which are placed on letters sent from Tasmania in connection with "Tattersall's" sweeps, amount in value to £14,000 a year.

If the "Tattersall" sweep clauses of the Bill are not carried in their present form the revenue will be ear-marked, and will, therefore, have to be put to the credit of the revenue of Tasmania. If, however, the clauses are carried, we may be able to do something in the direction indicated by the honourable member at a very early date.

I would ask my honourable friend not to put his proposal to the vote, because I do not think it is a kind of provision that ought to be in a Bill of this character, which should be composed of enactments of law, and not mere directions to the Executive.

If the honourable member will take my assurance that — assuming the difficulty which now arises in connection with "Tattersall's" sweep to be got rid of — as soon as departmental

action can be taken it will be taken, for the issue of Commonwealth stamps, I think the general sense of the committee will be with me in asking him to refrain from pressing his proposal.

I have looked into this matter of the stamps, and I think that we may very soon make a Commonwealth stamp issue if the clauses of this Bill go as we expect them to go in reference to "Tattersall's" sweeps. Pending a decision upon that matter, I think it is better not to press the amendment.

Mr Thomas's Answer

Mr Thomas: If I have the assurance of the Prime Minister that if the "Tattersall's" clauses are carried we shall have these interchangeable stamps within this year I shall be quite satisfied.

Mr Barton: My belief is that probably it will be well within this year when the change is made.

Mr Thomas: I do not wish to say anything discourteous, but at the same time the Government seem to shilly-shally on most matters, and I would like a distinct statement upon the question.

Mr Barton: I cannot tell the honourable member more than anyone can know.

Mr Thomas: I do not place much reliance in promises that things will be done when it is possible and so on. We have seen a good deal of reference in the press and elsewhere to the difficulty arising from the bookkeeping clauses.

Mr Barton: The Postmaster-General does not set up the bookkeeping clauses as a very great difficulty.

Mr Thomas: I am very glad to hear it, because there was an impression that it was the bookkeeping clauses that created the difficulty. The Federal Government ought to be able to deal with this matter irrespective of "Tattersall's", and an important change of this kind ought not to depend upon whether the Post-office is to be used for conducting racing sweeps.

I will withdraw my amendment as it seems to be the general wish of the committee, but I am rather glad that the question has been raised, because we know now the full importance of the clauses dealing with "Tattersall's" sweeps.

If it comes to a question as to whether we are to allow sweeps to be conducted through the Post-office, or to have interchangeable stamps, I will vote in favour of having interchangeable stamps.

I think the committee will take it that the Prime Minister has assured us that if the "Tattersall" clauses are passed, there is a strong probability that before the year is out we shall have an interchangeable stamp. I am not asking for a uniform stamp, because there might be a difficulty about that owing to the large loss that might be incurred under a penny postage system.

Mr Barton: If the Bill takes the direction we expect it will, I believe that within six months it will be possible to issue these interchangeable stamps, and if it is possible, it will be done.

Sir Edward Braddon (Free Trade, Tasmania): I hope the honourable member for the Barrier will not be moved to take any particular action with regard to clause 55 by reason of the perfectly beautiful Machiavellian suggestion that the issue of a new stamp depends upon the passage of that clause. I hope the honourable member will not be befooled by the suggestion which is based on utter moonshine, and is about as ridiculous as can be.

Mr E. Solomon (Free Trade, Fremantle, WA): I would like the Government to consider that each State is to be held responsible for any loss upon the working of its post and telegraph system, and I hope that he will take into consideration the possible effects of the issue of an interchangeable stamp upon the States of smaller populations as compared with those that have large populations when reviewing the matter.

Current Stamps Interchangeable?

Mr Joseph Cook (Free Trade, Parramatta, NSW): I would like to know from the Prime Minister whether there is any objection to making the stamps interchangeable at once. When we are in Melbourne why should we be compelled to use a Victorian stamp when we have a New South Wales stamp in our pocket? The suggestion, if carried out, would be a great inconvenience to travellers.

Mr F. W. Piesse (Free Trade, Tasmania): Subscribers to newspapers published in the larger States are found in the smaller States, and even at the present time subscriptions are in some cases sent in stamps, which the proprietors of the newspapers have to arrange to transmit to the state of issue. By this arrangement no harm is done, but if the stamps were made inter-

changeable a considerable difference would be found in the revenue derived by the States from the sale of stamps.

Mr Reid: It will work both ways.

Mr Piessé: The Prime Minister should not be asked to pledge himself before he has consulted the State Treasurers, who are especially interested in the terms of the bookkeeping sections of the Constitution.

Mr Barton: I was not on the point of giving any pledge in a difficult matter of the kind, because it is quite obvious that the Postmaster-General and the Treasurer will have to be consulted about the financial incidence of the proposal. If stamps were made interchangeable there would be difficulty in assessing the portion of the revenue that would flow into the States as postal revenue. That difficulty might be got over, but in the meantime it is impossible to make any promise.

Mr Edwards: We should all desire to adopt a uniform stamp tomorrow if we could, but the difficulties are even greater than the Prime Minister has contemplated.

Three or four of the States might adopt a uniform stamp on reciprocal terms; but it is inevitable that there must be one or two of the States which would meet with a distinct loss, and there would at once be a cry raised that there had been an invasion of the State rights and of the Constitution, which preserves to the States their postal revenue for a series of years.

The amendment was withdrawn and the clause passed.

Strangely, this passage was not indexed in *Hansard*. It occurred two days before Mr Henry Willis's question about the sale of postmarked stamps at Melbourne post office (*P from A*, March 1977, p. 19), and was the statement mentioned in Mr Thomas's question as to when the Government planned to issue a Commonwealth stamp (p. 20).

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL NOTES

Stamps and Spying

References to stamps and stamp collecting crop up in the most unexpected places.

Take *G(u)ilt-Edged*, the autobiography of Lieutenant-Commander Merlin Minshall, R.N.V.R., the original of James Bond, who had Commander Ian Fleming, the brother of Bond's creator, Peter Fleming, as his boss in World War II. Minshall did murder on the Orient Express.

Minshall relates that when pulled up by a military patrol while crossing the Sahara, the French officer examined his passport "like somebody wondering if the Penny Black he has just purchased from Stanley Gibbons could, after all, be a fake".

On one of Minshall's four trips on the Orient Express his seat companion had a superficial resemblance to him. The traveller said he was making the trip because he was a botanist. Minshall replied that he was

doing it because he was a stamp collector.

Believing he was unobserved, the botanist took an opportunity to go through Minshall's luggage. But he was not looking for stamps.

Later, as he drew Minshall's attention to some trees, Minshall slipped a little red pill into his companion's red wine.

Soon after, the botanist retired to the men's retiring room. After a decent interval Minshall followed.

We bring nothing into the world. We can take nothing out of it. Earth to earth. Ashes to ashes. Dust to dust. The dust and ashes of the speeding express and the earth beside the line.

And a self-proclaimed stamp collector had a *complete* new outfit, including a Monegasque passport (which he later used) and a coat with a German diplomatic/Gestapo passport sewn in the lining.

QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

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

Continued from March 1977, page 25

WRAPPERS

A new Post and Telegraph Act became operative in Queensland late in 1891. This Act, among other things, gave authority for a newspaper rate of ½d per 10 oz. within the colony, and intercolonially, and also permitted the introduction of letter cards.

Until this time newspapers had been carried free in Queensland, their transportation representing considerable cost to the Post Office. As to letter cards, the Queensland authorities had endeavoured to provide these on the Victorian pattern some years earlier, but found at a late stage that legislative approval was first necessary.

By reason of the new Act, the Post Office was able to issue two new items of stamped stationery — wrappers and letter cards. The wrappers were placed on sale on 25 November 1891 (*Australian Philatelist*, 26 October 1896) although catalogues list the year of issue as 1892. The public had to wait until June 1895 before being able to obtain letter cards.

The immediate effect of the imposition of the ½d charge for newspapers, effective from 1 January 1892, was a marked reduction in the numbers of newspapers posted during that year. But subsequently the volume increased to the average normal of previous years. However, the departmental wrapper was employed for only a proportion of newspaper mail, many people preferring to continue to use homemade wrappers and to affix ordinary stamps.

Fortunately for this purpose a ½d adhesive stamp had become available in 1890, its usage, as officially announced, being "to make up the necessary amount in connection with other stamps". Its issue was a consequence of the reduction of postage to 2½d for letters to Great Britain.

A problem which had beset the Queensland Post Office during the years in which newspapers were carried free, and which became accentuated when the ½d rate was introduced, was the frequent concealment in wrapped newspapers of letters, merchandise and other articles upon which higher postage should have been paid. Many offenders were prosecuted, or otherwise dealt with by the Post Office, but undoubtedly a large number were never caught.

The Post Office took care to emphasise the limited availability of the wrapper from the outset, there being printed thereon the following:

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 packet will be charged as a letter.

As the text, and the words ending the several lines, constitute a basis for identification, it has been printed as originally appearing. For the purpose of later

description it is termed text (a). No variations of the wording, nor of the length of the lines (77 mm) have been noticed on wrappers of the initial issue.

The stamp impression, in the same green colour as the text, appeared below and extended to the right, beyond the limits of the text. One will find that its top edge is at varying distances from the nearest part of the text — 10.5 mm, 11 mm, 11.5 mm and 13.5 mm. The stamp blocks were electrotypes, derived from the group made for the first definitive ½d stamp of 1890 (S.G. type 13). Undoubtedly, a number of wrappers would have been printed together in sheet form in the one operation, and subsequently guillotined to size. When gumming took place this may have been done before, rather than after the separation.

Adhesive ½d stamps of 1890 can be readily divided into four sub-types, these coming into being by reason of the transfer process then employed, it being practicable at the time only to make moulds for four stamps. The four sub-types were therefore secondary states of the original die. The differences are described in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia. The electrotypes used for the stamps on the wrappers were derived similarly so that the four sub-types are equally evident here.

The production of the wrappers was a normal surface-printed operation and, because of the nature of the papers used, the stamps on the wrappers generally had a poorer appearance than the companion adhesive stamps.

The overall sizes of the wrappers varied considerably, the differences no doubt being due to inexact guillotine settings. The measurements given in the Robson Lowe list, metrically converted, are 127 mm to 139.7 mm by 291.1 mm to 304.8 mm. In the Higgins and Gage list the sizes are indicated as 125 mm to 140 mm by 290 mm to 300 mm. These limits may not be adequate as far as width is concerned as the writer has one wrapper only 120.5 mm wide. But this may have been cut down after purchase, although such is not evident.

The wrappers were printed on different wove and laid papers, described in the Higgins and Gage list as "various types and shades of buff papers", and in the Robson Lowe list as being on buff or yellow-green paper. Ink colours have been recorded as emerald-green, dark green and yellow-green although paper stock colours would have affected the visual appearance.

With respect to gumming, the Robson Lowe list carries the note, "Found with or without gum at bottom edge". This statement needs clarification. Some wrappers were in fact issued entirely without gum and, in one printing at least, the top corners, adjacent to the text, were cut off, presumably to facilitate handling. This variety is recorded as having been issued on 5 December 1892.

According to *Vindin's Stamp Monthly*, 23 July 1894, wrappers could be purchased either with or without gum and one of the latter was listed as being available in 1892-94. While in the *Australian Philatelist*, 26 October 1896, it is recorded that only the initial issue was un gummed, I have examples, cancelled to order, with 1893 dates.

With wrappers, in my experience, the correct and proper place for gumming is at the top, behind where the text and stamp appears. On the wrappers under examination, gumming took place along the top edge above and behind the printed area. Wrappers have not been found with gum at the bottom edge and it is suggested that if any were so gummed it would have been in error.

The first issue of the wrapper is known with "Specimen" handstamped across the stamp impression. As indicated in an earlier cited extract there is some

possibility that private wrappers, impressed with 1d stamps, exist. Such, however, have not been noted in the catalogues, nor have I seen any.

While quite substantial quantities of wrappers were issued over 1891-95 they do not seem as plentiful as might be supposed and, again, seem to be much scarcer used than unused. In the days when postal stationery had a strong following, wrappers were always on the lowest rung of popularity.

The ½d Wrapper, 1895

As the 1890-94 series of adhesive stamps had evoked some public criticism, because the designs were thought to be dull, and other complaints originated within the Post Office, action was taken to effect an improvement. Thus, one reads in the Postmaster-General's Report dated 1 August 1895:

In consequence of the marks of official defacement not being easily seen on the coloured backgrounds of the postage stamps hitherto used, when the articles bearing such stamps were dealt with under artificial light, it was considered desirable to make a slight alteration in the design by substituting a white background, on which any marks can be easily discerned. The general design of the stamps has not, however, been altered.

The intended change was reported in the *Australian Philatelist*, 25 February 1905, and, no doubt, had been published earlier in the general press. Adhesive stamps with the royal head on a white background began to appear in 1895, among them the ½d green (S.G. type 15) which the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia records as having first issued on 11 May 1895. But it would seem that the wrapper bearing the new stamp issued much earlier, in January or February 1895. One finds in the *Australian Philatelist*, 25 February 1895, chronicled under "Queensland" the note: "Wrapper: ½d (new type) green on manila". The electrotypes used in the wrapper forme were as the groups used for printing the adhesive stamps.

Comparison shows that at this time the advisory text (a), earlier quoted, remained unchanged, the type face being the same, with lines 77 mm long.

However, no doubt because the lettering blocks commenced to show signs of wear, the text was later reset, with identical wording, in a somewhat finer type, the lines now being 76.5 mm long.

Some wrappers with the first setting (77 mm) are to be found with a short line, comprised of sixteen dots, at the very top of the form and centred above the text. The line has not been found on the wrappers with text 76.5 mm long. Indeed, it has not been seen on any of the earliest wrappers. Its probable purpose was to mark a point for guillotining.

As before, the stamp blocks were normally set below and generally extending beyond the right of the text although there are examples of the stamp being immediately below the text and not extending beyond the text limits. One finds that the position of the stamp, in relation to distance from the text, was variable, being 10 mm, 11 mm or 12 mm. There were possibly others.

Again, different shades of poorly surfaced buff-coloured laid papers were employed so that generally the reproduction of the stamps was only fair. The overall measurements of the wrappers varied but, as far as can be seen, from examples held, these are within the general limitations expressed earlier.

All wrappers seen have been gummed at the top, above and behind the

advisory text. The four sub-types of the adhesive stamps, as described in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia, are to be found on the stamps printed on the wrappers.

The 1d Wrapper, 1897

As from 1 January 1897 the rate for intercolonial newspapers was altered from $\frac{1}{2}$ d for 10 oz to the Universal Postal Union rate of $\frac{1}{2}$ d for 2 oz. This brought about a need for a 1d wrapper, this becoming available at post offices in January or February 1897. The item was chronicled in the *Australian Philatelist*, 25 March 1897. The stamp used in this instance was of S.G. type 21, with figures in four corners, and printed in rose to dull red colours. It did not appear in adhesive stamp form until August 1897. As a background to this, and other stamps of the series, one may read in the Postmaster-General's Report dated 1 July 1897:

A further improvement, without altering their distinctive design, has been made in the small adhesive postage stamps by placing the value in figures at each of the corners. This will apply to stamps ranging from 1d to 2s. The large stamps of 2s6d, 5s, 10s and 20s have already the figures at each corner.

The insertion of the figures will be of considerable assistance to officers when sorting correspondence, especially at night. Previously, owing to the postal obliteration, the value was not easily discernible.

The inscription on this wrapper was the same as that shown on $\frac{1}{2}$ d wrappers previously described, text (a), although it is seen that there were new type settings, the lines being 76.5 mm long. The stamp impression was placed below the text and to the right and its distance from the nearest part of the text is either 15 mm or 16 mm. The electrotypes used in this instance came from the same groups which were in course of preparation for the similar adhesive stamps to be issued later. The wrappers varied in measurement between 125 mm and 130 mm in width and 276 mm and 292 mm in depth. The gumming was as before. The paper has been found both vertically and horizontally laid. Wrappers of this type are found with a short line in colour centred above the inscription and close to the edge of the form. It was probably a guillotine marking.

The $\frac{1}{2}$ d Wrapper, 1897

Later in 1897 the advisory text on the wrappers was altered to read:

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 lines of text are 76 mm long. For reference this text can be noted as (b). Additionally, and for the first time, the stamp impressions were re-positioned immediately to the right of the text.

The ½d wrapper, in this new presentation, now printed on laid paper in blue-green colour, rather than the brighter green used earlier, carried the same ½d stamp, S.G. type 15, as previously and the same sub-type characteristics are evident. A change of design for the ½d stamp had not been mentioned in the official statement earlier quoted so that the usage of S.G. 15 was in accordance with the situation at the time. Indeed, when referring to the same official statement in its issue of 25 November 1897 the *Australian Philatelist* expressed the opinion: ". . . from which we may infer that the poorest looking stamp of the set, viz, the halfpenny green, is to remain in all its ungainliness without alteration."

It has not been possible to ascertain a time of issue for this wrapper, although the catalogues list the year as 1897. It is thought that it appeared quite late in that year, as it was not chronicled in the *Australian Philatelist* until March 1898. It is noticed in this wrapper that the extent of gumming at the top is deeper than before. The paper might be described as buff, or perhaps manila. The form also tended to be broader than before (130 mm) with the depth (192 mm) about the average.

While the two catalogues cited so frequently in this study list a further ½d wrapper, bearing a stamp of S.G. type 20, as being issued in 1897, such was not the case. The ½d adhesive and companion ½d wrapper stamp (S.G. type 20) were not issued until October 1898. There are also strong indications that an accompanying 1d wrapper, also listed as having appeared in 1897, likewise did not issue until the following year. These two items, therefore, will be described in Part Two.

(To be continued)

STANLEY GIBBONS AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITIONS

The veteran Stanley Gibbons Ltd has made Australian philatelic history by bringing an International Stamp Exhibition to Melbourne and Sydney.

The exhibition, comprising selections of great collections from many parts of the world, contained sections from Australian collectors.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria showed items from its forgery collection and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club portion of its archives.

The Melbourne exhibition, in the Hilton Hotel from 21 to 24 March, was opened by the president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (Mr M. B. Watson), and the Sydney exhibition, in the Wentworth Hotel, by the president of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club (Mr E. J. Garrard).

Both societies provided stewards for the exhibition, of almost one hundred frames.

The fifty exhibitors included Prince Rainier of Monaco, two past presidents of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, Lieut-Colonel S. E. Hands (Bolivia) and Ewart Gerrish (Netherlands); two vice-presidents, Mr A. R. Butler (Queensland) and Mr G. South (Colombian airmails), and the Keeper of the Queen's Collection, Mr John B. Marriott (Rare Australasian and Asian Covers).

Twenty-eight were Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, and six were signatories to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Australian participants included Mr J. R. W. Purves (Victoria and South Australia), J. Gartner (Western Australia), E. R. Slade Slade (New South Wales and Tasmania), R. P. Hyeronimus (Commonwealth), Col. F. V. Thompson (Nauru), E. G. Greed (Falkland Islands) and J. S. White (New Zealand).

Mr Marcel Stanley, of Wellington, also exhibited New Zealand and Mr J. B. Williamson, of England, Early Commonwealth. Mr M. A. Bisang, of Switzerland, contributed Rare England-Australia Airmails, including the cover sent by Ross Smith to his C.O. in No 1 Squadron, AFC, now Air Marshal Sir Richard Williams.

Each exhibitor received Stanley Gibbons Australian Award, a bronze medal. The obverse bore a portrait of Stanley Gibbons with the surrounding inscription, "Stanley Gibbons, London. Philatelists and Publishers. Established 1865", and on the reverse an updated Kangaroo design, the surround reading, "Stanley Gibbons International Exhibition. Sydney & Melbourne 1977". The kangaroo has eaten the sparse but super-nutritious Central Australian grass, grown up, and occupied Australia, from Wyndham to Sydney.

TASMANIA — T.P.O. WESTERN LINE

By P. B. EDWARDS

Mr H. S. Porter on page 159 of *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings* (1962) states:

It occurred to me that two postmarkers with identical lettering "WESTERN LINE" might have existed, but measurements of available examples do not allow me to be dogmatic either for or against.

Over the years I have been able to accumulate seventeen reasonably complete and clear strikes of this T.P.O., and examination of them has shown that there are *three* types, which fits in with the known train manning of *three* mail guards, who had previously used the *three* postmarkers T.P.O.'s Nos. 4, 5 and 6.

The types are all 28 mm in diameter and can easily be distinguished as follows:

Type K(i)

The "O" of "T.P.O." is egg-shaped — wider at the top than at the bottom — and has a solid stop after it. The lettering is noticeably smaller than in (ii) and (iii).

The dash at the left of "TAS" measures nearly 2.5 mm and that at the right, 1 mm. The measurement from the base of the "T" of "T.P.O." to the nearest bottom part of the "E" in "LINE" is 15 mm. "WESTERN" measures 17 mm across the base.

My earliest and latest dates are 10.3.24 and 9.4.31.

Type K(ii)

The "O" of "T.P.O." is oval but smaller than in (iii) and has *no* stop after it. The lettering is noticeably larger than in (i) and very similar to that in (iii).

The left dash measures 4 mm and the right one 1.5 mm. "T" to "E" and "WESTERN" again measure 15 mm and 17 mm respectively.

My dates are -. 24 to 13.5.32.

Type K(iii)

The "O" of "T.P.O." is oval and larger than in (ii) and it has *no* stop after it.

The left dash measures 1.5 mm and the right one 1 mm. "T" to "E" and "WESTERN" measure 13 mm and 16 mm respectively.

My dates are 14.3.24 to -.2.31.

The three were possibly not introduced at the same time, as I have the following strikes:

T.P.O. No. 5 (type D) on a KGV 1½d green which was issued on 7.3.23, but unfortunately the date is indecipherable.

T.P.O. No. 6 (type C) also on a KGV 1½d green with the date very clearly reading 25 OCT - -, the year being blanked out. So the latest date for this canceller must be 25.10.23 at the earliest.

I have what is possibly a unique cover from LIENA to DELORAINÉ franked with a LIENA type 1 cancel of 8.4.31. It also has a T.P.O. WESTERN LINE cancel type K(i) of 9.4.31 and is manuscripted vertically on the left in pencil, "Missent to T.P.O. West".

REVIEWS

Western Australia: The Introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps and the Colonial Printings, together with Numbers Received and Issued, 1854-1877, by Brian Pope. 78 pp. 8½ x 12¼ in. Limited edition, published by Fagott Press, 36 Reserve Street, Claremont, WA 6010. Recommended price, \$3 (plus postage).

For years it has persistently been claimed that every stone in Perth has been turned over in search of information about the stamps and postal history of Western Australia.

Therefore, it comes as a marvellous surprise that Brian Pope has located in the Battye Library and the Australian Archives in Perth the material covering the ordering and printing of postage stamps, their receipt by the Treasury Department, and their issue to the General Post Office, with detailed information about dates and quantities from 1854 to 1877.

Here we learn, for the first time, that the Black Swan was not only printed in London but also in Perth — a small printing of 108 sheets or 25,920 stamps.

It is even more interesting that the 1854 lithographed Four Pence appeared in four printings from three different stones, which is two printings and one stone more than reported previously.

Mr Pope argues that the so-called Inverted Swan is from the second stone used for the second printing, a point that surely will be up for discussion for many years to come.

Also, that the One Shilling turns out to have been produced from two stones, as before, but in four instead of two printings is less surprising considering its four distinct colour groups.

The 1857 lithographs emerge as three printings of the Two Pence issued from February 1858 and two printings of the Six Pence issued from August 1857 in 144,000 and 77,520 copies respectively. This about doubles previous estimates.

The Two, Four and Six Pence plates received from Perkins Bacon were used for printing in August 1860. The Two Pence was promptly issued, while the Six Pence was held back until July 1861. It was actually preceded by the perforated Six Pence purple-brown. It is common knowledge that the Four Pence used is a very rare stamp. Here we now learn that perhaps only one single sheet of 120 stamps was ever issued of the total printing of 70 sheets, 50 of which, I suggest, were destroyed.

The greatest surprise among the perforated stamps is the record showing that on 16 November 1864 the Treasury received a consignment of the five values printed on Crown CC watermarked paper, perf. 12½. The despatch of this first delivery does not appear in the De La Rue Records.

As Mr Pope says, we have been working with the incomplete data. We are now forced to start a fresh look at Western Australia and dismiss certain previous writings as being incomplete. Unfortunately, it also pertains to some of my writings, which were based on earlier research.

Brian Pope's work opens up a whole new era in Western Australian philately as a lot of the information leaves a number of problems open for detailed study and discussion. Just as well, because that is the bread and butter for research philatelists. Anyone wishing to contribute to the fresh look at the postal history of the colony and its postage stamps must necessarily familiarise himself thoroughly with this excellent and well-presented account with the author's comments.

Through patient work in the archives Brian Pope has opened up a whole new era in Western Australian philately. He deserves our thanks for this great effort and also for having undertaken the additional burden of publication. There are still problems to discuss and anyone wishing to contribute to the fresh look at the postal history of the Colony and its postage stamps must familiarise himself with this excellent and well-presented account.

M. JUHL

The Stamps and Postal History of North Borneo. Part 1 — 1883-1893, by L. H. Shipman, A.I.F., F.R.P.S.L. 347 pp. 7¼ x 9¼ ins. Duplicated. Published by The Sarawak Specialists' Society, 77 Ingram Ave, Bedgrove, Aylesbury, Bucks., HP21 7DH, England.

When one has cause to look over the world philatelic literature scene, one sees with surprise the number of countries without an adequate or up-to-date standard book.

Any author, publisher, society or study group that undertakes to fill the gap in its area deserves notice and thanks.

The Sarawak Specialists' Society, which published its Sarawak handbook in 1959, and subsequently widened its field of interest,

has undertaken a multi-volume work on the Stamps and Postal History of North Borneo. Cost has decreed that it must be duplicated, and it is a massive undertaking.

The president of the society, Mr L. H. Shipman, has undertaken the co-ordination of the contributions of the society's members, now numbering two hundred, in eighteen countries.

Part 1 covers the Arms types, leaving the pictorial issues for Part 2.

The introduction is a useful history of North Borneo and the first sentence of the work brings the first surprise: No pre-stamp covers of North Borneo are known.

Mr Shipman wrote that after going through the records of the Chartered Company.

S.G. No. 1 has its full share of mysteries. The catalogue gives the designer as T. Macdonald: the book says he was the engraver.

The date of issue is not known. The *North Borneo Herald* of 1 March 1883 reported, "A postage stamp has been issued". But the chairman of the company (Sir Rutherford Adcock) wrote to the Governor (Mr W. H. Treacher) on 25 January 1883 that 12,500 stamps had been printed and would be sent in the next case — and it took six to eight weeks for ships to sail from London to Borneo.

Nor is the number of the first printing known. A later letter from London says: "The error in the number of postage stamps advised to you was due to Messrs Blades, East and Co, who gave it to us as 12,500, the parcel being packed by them."

The first postage rate table was published in the *North Borneo Herald* of November 1883, but it has been cut out of the copy in the Public Records Office, and Mr Shipman has been unable to trace another.

The first postmaster was appointed on 12 July 1883, but the earliest known cover is postmarked 28 January 1884.

The two 8 cent surcharges, with their problems of authenticity, receive a chapter.

Plating lists of all transfers of the various issues are given, although sheets of some no longer exist. Die and plate proofs, flaws and overprint varieties, postmarks and cancellations, and postal stationery are covered.

The postal history section provides details of the offices, postage rate schedules and other documents, and chronology.

The text throughout is both comprehensive and lucid.

It is important to record, too, that there is a section on Labuan to 1893.

A cover, addressed to Edward W. Staf-

ford, Nelson, New Zealand, apparently written from Labuan on 28 July 1863 and postmarked "Auckland Nov 4 1864", is illustrated.

Guidelines to Philatelic Research and Essential Philatelic Tools, by B. M. Wajer. Australian Commonwealth Philatelic Group Monograph No. 1. Duplicated. 8 pp. 13½ in. x 8 in. Published by the Australian Commonwealth Philatelic Group, 196 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville, S.A. 5081.

Mr Wajer has been thinking about research, "a careful hunting for relevant facts or truth about a subject", what, why, and how? The "how" part leads on to a consideration of the instruments involved in philatelic research.

He says that many stamps of Australia have, at best, been researched "in some slipshod manner".

One may query the statement that "very few books have been written in Australia to aid today's and future philatelists."

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and The Hawthorn Press have been and are active in this field.

But it is true that the need for many more is clear. The twin problems are authorship and production costs, and both problems are growing in magnitude.

Nobody can disagree with Mr Wajer as to the need to extract the expert knowledge of philatelists who are loath to share it with their fellow collectors.

He also advocates a reading of papers published in nineteenth century journals for facts that may have been forgotten.

Research should be systematically recorded, with a positional order (which might have been defined) and a chronological order, and any recording system must be (a) Easy to follow for the non-expert, and (b) Easy to expand, as further findings are made.

How true this is. And how seldom do philatelic writers think about the first, particularly.

The section on "Tools", much more thorough than the usual treatment, deals not only with the instruments but their relative merits and demerits, prices, and places where they may be bought in Adelaide.

Mr Wajer stresses that "the basic tool of any philatelist is his eyes", and warns against careless use of small magnifiers, fluorescent lamps, and especially, ultra-violet lamps. Particularly he warns against the use

of plastic as the shade over the ultra-violet lamp since plastic breaks down when exposed to ultra-violet light.

The three pages on magnifying lenses, disclosing considerable scientific knowledge, are especially interesting.

Mr Wajer and the Group are to be thanked for a valuable little work.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Supplementary Library Catalogue, Covering Additions from 1 May 1965 to 31 December 1976, by R. Lloyd-Smith. 29 pp, 8 x 10 in. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001. Recommended price, \$1.50.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has long had good reason to be proud of its library, which now comprises 2250 titles, another 1300 volumes of bound periodicals, and a vast range of unbound journals, mostly in complete years.

It has long had good reason to appreciate the work, dedication and worth of Mr Lloyd-Smith, its librarian for twenty-three

years, who has steadily built it up to a point where, last year, he serviced 348 borrowings.

But the extent of its development, demonstrated by the size of this supplementary listing, covering the past eleven years, comes as a dramatic surprise.

Now as the culmination of his period, Mr Lloyd-Smith has updated his original index so that members can find quickly the book they seek or that may be useful, whether it is the sale catalogue of Col. H. R. Danson's collection of the Nigerias, *The Revenue Stamps of Mexico*, or USA cancellations: *Comparative Value of Ghost Towns*.

Nestling inconspicuously in its place is the entry for Cumulative Index, *Australian Stamp Monthly*, 1930-1966. References to Australian States (Manuscript), R. Lloyd-Smith,

So now the Society is doubly indebted to him for works of enduring value, each of which took much time, care and effort. Users, present and future, will thank him sincerely for them.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sons Join Fathers

The sons of two officers of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria have joined their fathers in the Society.

Mr G. D. Watson is the son of the president, Mr M. B. Watson, and Mr J. M. Lester the son of the Sales Superintendent and former president, Mr T. C. Lester.

Mr J. M. Lester is a company executive and Mr G. D. Lester a law student.

Twenty Years at Avoca St

Miss Myra Farley recalled at the first March Council meeting that it was twenty years before that the Society had met at its headquarters for the first time.

The president, Mr M. B. Watson, mentioned the anniversary at the Society meeting afterwards.

Stamp Security

Stamp security is an increasing problem for both dealers and collectors. A warning of the gravity of the problem overseas is underlined by an unusual advertisement in *Stamps*, by Jack Molesworth Inc, of Boston:

"We have just been notified that a signi-

ficant portion of the stamps we lost in an armed robbery in March of 1971, recovered by the FBI from 1973 to 1975, will shortly be returned to us.

"This material, valued at well into six figures . . ."

The Stanley Gibbons Exhibition was patrolled by uniformed professional guards.

Undelivered Mail in Queensland

Mr H. M. Campbell had an article on "Undelivered Mail in Queensland" in the December 1976 issue of *Stamp Monthly*, the Stanley Gibbons' magazine.

Boomerang Mail

Covers sent airmail "there and back" have long been known as "Boomerang covers".

But they were foreshadowed by a mid-nineteenth century cover from Australia, apparently to Britain.

Postscript, the October-December number of the magazine of the Society of Postal Historians, reports that the cover was "endorsed 'p. Boomerang', which could have been a charming way of asking for a prompt reply (but probably wasn't)".

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1977

June

- 1 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 13 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 16 Annual Competition
- Nominations for Office-bearers close
- 30 Switzerland, Dr G. R. Zambelli

July

- 6 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 11 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 21 Annual Meeting
- Presidential Display, Mr M. B. Watson

August

- 3 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 8 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 18 New Zealand, Mr H. L. Chisholm
- 20 Sale

September

- 7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 15 American Revenue Stamps, Mr G. T. Turner (USA)
- 29 Malaysia, Mr F. D. J. Clayton

Gibraltar and Cyprus

Unusual features of Gibraltar and Cyprus, two of his most recent interests, were highlighted in Mr E. G. Creed's display to the first March meeting.

Mr Creed, in comprehensive introductions, which demonstrated that a great deal of study had been done, explained the background of the material shown, particularly with regard to the rural services.

His Gibraltar began with the 1886 Bermuda stamps overprinted Gibraltar, including one with A26 postmark.

He mentioned the difficulty of finding out why Bermuda stamps should be used for Gibraltar. He said he had concluded that when the Crown Agents were asked for stamps they had looked at their stocks of the various colonial stamps and chosen Bermuda because that word could be most easily covered by the word "Gibraltar".

The first definitive set was complete, and the Spanish currency set included the varieties of the 25 centimos. The re-issue of the British currency set in differing shades led on to the 1904-07 set, including the £1, and the 1907-11 with the scarce top value.

The 1922-24 set was up to the £1 and the 1925-32 set included the £1 with plate number.

A selection of covers included one sent from England to Belgium which acquired the cachet — which must be rare — "Missent to Gibraltar".

The Cyprus began with a nice copy of No. 1, the Great Britain ½d rose, plate 15, followed by various plates of the overprinted 1d, and the value overprints before the first definitive issue.

Following the succeeding issues to £1, Mr Creed turned to postal history with an extensive presentation of covers carried on the rural services. One was from Kyppo Monastery, which dates from 1100, and one from Kissousa, a village with a population of fifty.

Canada

The second March meeting was an historic event in the Society's history. Two Canadian philatelists, Messrs J. Paul Hughes and F. W. L. Keane, of Victoria, British Columbia, sent the display.

They are the authors of the standard book, *The 1967-73 Issue of Canada*, and the display was part of their collection sent to Melbourne as the exhibit, which Mr T. R. Morgan compered.

The display totalled one hundred and forty sheets.

They showed all the chief features of the issue, with all plate number-imprint blocks, of the Canadian Bank Note Company, and the British American Bank Note Company, the two producers of the issue.

Full panes showed the methods adopted by the two banknote companies in recording their plate numbers.

Booklet and coil issues were included and the display covered the papers, gums, the three types of tagging, and major shades. The pre-cancels and postal stationery of the issue completed it.

The final section dealt with the tagging. Thirteen grades of fluorescent brightness have been recognised to show the intensity range.

These were clearly distinguishable under the ultra-violet lamp.

The evening clearly demonstrated the remarkable interest inherent in the issue and made it clear that the stamps of our day may rival the classics in philatelic popularity.

Middle Europe

Five members joined in one of the popular Group Display evenings for the April meeting. The theme was Middle Europe and it attracted a large attendance despite the petrol famine.

Mr C. Davis showed Austrian and Hungarian air mails, beginning with a World War I Siege of Przemyśl cover and piece and the 1918 overprints. The later issues included the beautiful colours and superb designs of the 1925-26 issues.

These were matched by the corresponding issues of Hungary, from the two values issued for the Budapest-Vienna-Cracow-Lemberg air service which lasted nineteen days before being closed because of accidents. They were accompanied by an early registered cover, flown Budapest-Vienna. The later issues were also shown with covers.

Mr B. McHugh's Bavaria concentrated on the arms type, showing them imperforate and perforated, with the range of perforations, watermarks and papers.

Mr J. A. Viersen's Hungary began with Austrian stamps used in Hungary and with Hungarian cancellations. His first issue of Hungarian stamps, 1871, included the 3kr green, used, with Royal certificate, and stamps on cover. The Krazsar numeral types were extensively presented, with appropriate attention to the various plates.

Finally, Mr G. T. Houston's Austrian Postal History was an on-cover display of Austrian Currencies and Postage Rates, with pre-stamp covers of 1827 and 1835, and of the six classical issues from 1850 to 1974, with rare postmarks and usages.

Victoria Woodblocks

In introducing his display at the May meeting, Mr J. R. W. Purves first urged members aspiring to senior philatelist status to be articulate — to talk and write about their stamps for the benefit of other collectors, both present and future.

To promote this ideal, the Society now required entrants in the annual competition to preface their entries with a descriptive statement.

Turning to his display, Mr Purves referred to the high standard of craftsmanship achieved in

the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries by artists who engraved on hardened boxwood, and showed fine examples illustrative of this technique.

Samuel Calvert, one of the great names in wood engraving, was the contractor for the 1854 6d and 2/- postage stamps of Victoria. These, with the "Too Late" and "Registered" issues, also by Calvert, were the only examples in the whole world of stamps printed from woodblock plates.

The 6d, issued in sheets of 100, was produced from two woodblock plates, each of 25 individually engraved impressions, printed twice. The 2/- was similarly printed, but in sheets of 50 from a single woodblock, in the same 5 x 5 format.

Mr Purves outlined his new work on the 6d issues, a progressive study of plate flaws caused by poor cleaning of the woodblocks before each printing.

Examples of the 6d on display included choice multiples, some on piece and on cover, of the three colour groups. The 1857 roulettes — line, serrate and serpentine — and the serrate serpentine

compounds described in the March 1977 *P from A*, were well represented, including covers. Numerous mint and unused copies were also seen.

In the 1861 emergency printing from the same plates, in black on paper watermarked "SIX PENCE", the many examples shown included a reconstruction of the value inscription overprinted in the gutter, and the overprint on the actual stamp design.

The display included rare strips of the imperforate 2/- green, with examples of the two units substituted for a damaged part of the plate. There was also a spectacular cover bearing a fine example of the very rare rouletted 2/-.

Mr Purves described the nineteen different printings of the 2/- blue on green he had identified. The sheets of 30, in two 3 x 5 panes separated by a gutter, were printed from eighteen of the original woodblock units and a single electro, which was a duplicate of twelve of those eighteen woodblocks. Proof of these findings was given in the reconstructed sheets and other items on show.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Second Gibbons Australian Auction

Following the tremendous success of their first Australian auction in Melbourne in March 1977, which realised A\$274,500, Stanley Gibbons are to hold a major auction of stamps and banknotes in Melbourne on 19 October at Noah's Hotel.

Lots from the auction will be available for viewing not only in London, but in the six major cities of Australia prior to the auction so that collectors in all States will have an opportunity of viewing the sale of

over one thousand lots.

Whilst the auction will contain material of philatelic interest for the whole world, emphasis will be given to Australasia, including the States and some more popular European areas. An additional feature of considerable interest will be the international banknote section.

Well-known stamp and banknote experts from London will be present during the viewing in Perth, Adelaide, Hobart, Brisbane, Sydney and Melbourne.



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★ **SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is posted free to all members.

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★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** It has always been Society policy to obtain the best available collections for display at Society monthly meetings, Lectures and Discussions by leading Philatelists enable members to improve their philatelic knowledge.

★ **PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE:** This Society includes experts on almost all branches of Philately, whose advice is always available.

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★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** Displays of interesting collections and philatelic items are a feature of the monthly meetings of the Club. It is the policy of the Club to bring to the members the best available displays, while lectures and Discussions help to further the philatelic knowledge of members. The advice of members, experts in most branches of philately, is always available when requested.

THE CLUB'S FEES are: City members, \$5.50; Country members, \$4.00.

Subscriptions are due 1 July yearly. There is no entrance fee payable.

AUSTRALIA IN LITERATURE

The Encyclopaedia of Empire Postage Stamps, Volume IV, Australasia, by Robson Lowe, reprinted in three volumes by H.J.M.R. as Vols. 41, 42 and 43 of Billig's Handbooks (complete with supplements), **A\$25.**

Contents cover Postal History with details of postal routes and postal rates, lists of post offices, pre-adhesive handstamps, illustrations of cancellations, stamp issues, with information about essays and proofs.

There are chapters on Australian Commonwealth, States and Dependencies, New Zealand and Dependencies, and the Crown Colonies and Protectorates. A separate section deals with Campaigns. Over 600 pages.

The collector who already owns a copy of Volume IV will want a copy of the Supplement, including all the new information which has come to hand since publication of the original work. **Price A\$2.50.**

MORE ON AUSTRALASIA

Postal History of the Australian Antarctic, 1911-1965, by Roy M. Milner.

Published for the Polar History Society of Great Britain. The author tells the story of that part of Antarctica under Australia's postal administration from Mawson's 1911 expedition to the mass invasions triggered off by international Geophysical Year 1957-58. Cancellations, covers, cachets, stamps and labels are numerous and well illustrated; there are copious check lists, expedition scenes from 1911, and three maps. **Price A\$5.25.**

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