

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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MARCH 1977

VOLUNTARY EFFORT IN PHILATELY

If "love makes the world go round" — and even if it doesn't — voluntary effort makes it run more smoothly.

What would the world's charity be if it were not for voluntary effort? And in the religious world unpaid work for church and charity is more universal than agreement on the creeds of Christianity. What sport would there be but for the voluntary work of enthusiasts? And what a dominating place silent work plays in philately and philatelic societies.

Is there a word in the English language that can express the sheer volume of voluntary work that mankind performs? One can scarcely comprehend the magnitude of it.

But who stops to think of it; to think that there are degrees of motive that drive or affect voluntary effort? Work for church and charity develops from the message of Christianity and for human sympathy and understanding of other people's plight and needs.

There is a difference in the drive towards voluntary work in sport and in philately. One cannot be a football team by oneself, or play tennis with yourself. But one can be a philatelist alone. In sport some social activity is necessarily involved, but not in philately. One can be a happy stamp collector in solitude, as thousands of philatelists who have to live in isolation, or who are disabled, well know. The individuality of philately, enhanced by the fact that one can collect what and how one pleases, over an ever-widening field, should make it harder to invite the sacrifice of time and self for the benefit of an objective or an ideal.

Yet the multitude of philatelic societies in almost every country shows that voluntary workers are ready to play their part in working for progress.

The bigger and more active a society is, the greater is the amount of thought and labour put into it. As the square of the size and/or activity of it?

Beyond the work of secretaries, treasurers, exchange superintendents, sales superintendents, auditors, editors, business managers, authors, librarians, press correspondents, publication managers, designers of display frames, and members of committees there are exhibitions and congresses superimposed on the society

structure. Both of these involve a vast amount of work, entailing new heights of detail, organisation, vision and goodwill, and, often, real worry.

Only those involved know the cost in time, work and physical and mental stress – and self-denial.

There is rarely thanks for this. No other hobby makes such a call upon its devotees. Fortunately the manpower and womanpower necessary has always been forthcoming.

One has marvelled not only at the skills but at the amount of ability within the philatelic ranks.

Philately has often been called the world's greatest hobby. What hobby has so many adherents? What other hobby can mount regular international – really world – exhibitions?

The reasons generally given are the wide appeal of stamps to people of every country, creed or colour, their immense variety, or the strange ability of the hobby to provide fields of interest that appeal to all types of mind.

But unseen workers tend to be forgotten people and they are overlooked in this regard.

Yet they and their unnoticed contributions will always be a supremely vital factor in the place and permanence of philately.

MR PURVES RETURNS TO MUSIC

The Royal Society of Victoria's annual social evening, on 5 February, was another happy occasion. Two of the audience came from Geelong.

Mr J. R. W. Purves continued his series of talks on Viennese Operetta, which have been the feature of previous evenings. This time his subject was 'A Night with Leo Fall'.

Leo Fall, an Austrian composer born in 1873, died in 1925. He was a contemporary of Franz Lehár and wrote a number of celebrated operettas, the last being "Madame Pompadour", produced in 1922 and played in Melbourne in 1924.

Mr Purves presented selections from "Der Fidele Bauer" (The Merry Peasant), 1907, "Der Lieber Augustin" (1912), and "The Rose of Stamboul" (1916). The singers were all members of the Vienna State Opera.

The concluding item was a selection from "Du Barry", by Carl Millöcker, given by members of the Berlin State Opera.

Mr Purves dealt with Fall's place beside Strauss and Lehár, and the quality and characteristics of his music, and contrasted Viennese operetta with English musical comedy. He said Fall's music was not so well known as that of the others because of the shortness of his life.

A delightful supper completed a memorable evening.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by *BILL EUSTACE*

Australia Performing Arts Series

Whilst all four denominations of this issue appeared on a similar paper with a slightly creamy face and cream gum, a portion of the printing of the 60 cent "Opera" stamp is to be found on a much whiter paper with bluish-white gum and the design almost visible from the back of the stamp. I was able to secure "Candy Bar" blocks of the two papers and the brown colour is very obviously deeper on the cream than on the white paper version; the two types are also easily separated under U/V light both by the differences in the purple colour of the design and the much brighter backs of the white paper version.

On Sheet 3, Row 3, Stamp 6 – now there's a nice awkward one for the collectors of positional blocks! – there is a fairly minor but constant variety – distorted "T" of "AUSTRALIA" and of course you will want to show it on both white and cream papers.

Australia 1977 Silver Jubilee Issue

So far I have found only three different sheets of each denomination, identifiable both from the position of the registration "T" and the sequence of colours in the colour proof, but Mr B. Darke of Canberra confirms that they were, in fact, printed "400-up". The sheets of stamps as issued to the Post Offices are in the conventional layout for vertical format stamps; that is to say, five rows, each of twenty stamps, with a wide gutter between the tenth and eleventh stamps. The sheets, when printed, consist of four of these post office sheets which I will describe as "upper" left and right and "lower" left and right, but to confuse matters nicely the colour busts, which are unlike any we have seen before, run the length of the *middle* of the printed sheet so that they appear along the bottoms of the "upper" sheets and along the tops of the "lower" sheets. Are you still with me?

The colour busts on the lower sheets are made up of small squares of tonings of blue, yellow, black and magenta, plus colours from the combination of two or more of these. At regular intervals the words "GRETAG-UGRA Switzerland © 1969" appear alternately in magenta and blue together with the word "POS" always in blue. Although the two stamps are in quite different colours, the colour busts on the "lower" sheets of the 18 cent and 45-cent follow the same sequence: on the "upper" sheets the colour busts are related to the colours of the respective stamps and thus differ for the two denominations.

After playing with the sheets for twenty minutes I was still finding new points of interest about the sequence and layout of the colour bar and registration guides but rather than overburden the column with details of marginal markings I will summarise by saying that:

The lower right sheet has a portion of the registration "T" in the bottom left corner and a green square in the top right corner.

The lower left sheet has a portion of the registration "T" in the bottom right corner and a blue square in the top right corner.

As indicated earlier this applies to both the 18 cent and 45 cent denominations.

The upper right sheet of both values has a portion of the "T" at the top left corner and presumably the upper left sheets, which I have not yet had time to locate, have the "T" at the top right corner.

I have not seen any significant varieties so far but the number of panes of fifty of the 18 cent stamp issued to post offices suggests that there may have been problems in attempting to perforate at the Note Printing Branch stamps which had been printed elsewhere.

Australia 15 Cent Christmas 1976

As we have almost come to expect, there were considerable variations in the shade of blue of the background and at least two different coloured gums — bluish and cream.

Australia 45 Cent Flower Definitive

In June 1976 "Trail", under the heading "Australia 3 Cent Marine Life", I referred to a report by Mr J. Heath of Mulgoa that the Rembrandt feed board skid marks could be found on the 45 cent Flower definitive. Recently I saw three or four very clear examples of this on Sheet C Row 5 Stamp 2 where there was a huge area of disturbance along the stem of the lowest bottlebrush bloom.

Nauru Definitive Reprints

Recently it was announced that the seven low values (from 1 cent to 8 cents inclusive) had been reprinted. All except the 7 cent are now available at the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Centre. In the case of the Flower series there are marked variations in the colours of the flowers or leaves and it is not hard to see that fresh plates have been used. U/V lighting discloses that the former brilliant white paper has been replaced by one which is almost totally inert; the gum has also changed colour.

Norfolk Island Last DC4 Service

Stamp Collecting, in the issue of 3 February, disclosed that there would be an overprint on the 7 cent Norfolk Island building definitive to mark the last Qantas DC4 service.

On consulting the timetable I find that this takes place on 27 February. So if a stamp is to be issued there will be many Australian collectors who are going to be too late; however, I understand that the Norfolk Island Bureau has since issued a bulletin referring to special postmarks rather than an actual new stamp, so perhaps there has been a change of plan.



The Other Side of the Picture



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

TASMANIA

(i) *Second Allocation Numerals: Addenda and Corrigenda*

Mr Askeland has now completed the review of his material under this head and in the process reports many interesting items, duly checked by the writer. I deal with them, in order of numbers as follows:

14. Second type – must, of course, be a *re-allocation* since Burgess was closed in 1873. This second type has now been seen on the Queen's Heads as well as the Pictorials. Incidentally, 14, 103 and 210 (see later) were set out on p. 43 of Part II as *likely subjects for re-allocation*.
16. *Second* type. Sufficient items have now been compared to satisfy us that there is *no* 'second' type, the items to be classified being 91's. This and the following were true cases of optical delusion.
31. '*Second*' type. The same applies here. The items so classified are unquestionably badly struck or worn examples of 34.
103. A 'tie' has now been seen, proving that this number was re-allocated to LLEWELLYN.
210. Now seen on Pictorials. *Must* be a re-allocation.
267. Has been seen *tied* to FOREST.
348. Now seen on both Queen's Heads and Pictorials. Becomes RRRR but is no longer NNS.
358. 360 now seen on piece '*tied*' to SCAMANDER. This means that 358 was 360. the number allocated to PRESTON.

The following additional *coloured* cancellations can also be recorded: VIOLET: 9; BROWN: 24, 43, 70, 73, 101, 144, 250; BLUE: 42, 138; GREENISH BLUE: 362.

Mr Askeland makes this comment on 298. He says "it is found on the Pictorials and, unless it continued in use with the other numeral (152), must have been re-allocated". Another mystery to be resolved.

(ii) *1900-12 Period*

Referring to certain points recently raised by Mr Avery, Mr Askeland records some *late* dates as follows:

ILFRACOMBE: 4.8.10
NEWSTEAD: 24.9.08
WHYTE RIVER: 22.7.12

He adds another problem, that of HIGHTHORPE. This cancellation has not been seen from 1913-on period. Latest date known is 12.12.12, but we have no information of the closing date.

Mr Askeland, who was the purchaser of the HARFORD Crown Seal previously referred to, has another strike of the seal from the 1950s and reports that there can be no argument about the genuineness of the earlier strike. He adds:

"As Green's Creek became Harford in 1896 I suspect that is the period to which the seal cancellation belongs."

VICTORIA

(i) *2d Half-Length: The Newly-suggested S.G.2*

In December 1976 I reported a third copy of this rare *lilac-rose* shade. Mr Jaffe has now shown me a *fourth* which was originally in Mr White's collection. The cancellation is again the *blue* Butterfly 27, and the stamp is my (xv) - Stone 1, of which I have seen two other copies. This was one of several types identified *after* the Half-Length book of 1953 appeared and therefore is not described in that book.

(ii) *6d Calvert, 1854-58*

Some new light on S.G.47 - serrated 18-19, compound with serpentine 10½

One often speculates on the difficulties in the way of making further discoveries in the older issues. Readers of this and other journals will, however, agree that they are still being made.

In the present case the evidence had been lying dormant over many years but existed under *several* heads. For various reasons I had never done (until recently) the sum adding these heads together and finding that they only admitted of one answer, now presented here.

Let me say by way of introduction that some years back I plated all my 6d Calvert material very carefully before mounting it for the second time. Recently in the course of re-mounting the section comprising the stamps "perforated" by Calvert in the second half of 1857, certain features sat up and looked at me. On such occasions we are amazed that we didn't see them before but these experiences are shared by most of us. Here are the respective findings:

(i) All the genuine compounds (i.e., S.G. 47) that I have seen and plated (some thirty in all) have the serrate on *three* sides and the serpentine on *one* (the other) side, either along the *top* or the *bottom* (not along the sides).

(ii) All these stamps were printed from two woodblock plates, each of 25 (5 x 5) impressions, placed side by side. The left half of 25 (looking at the sheet) comprises Types 1 to 25 and the right half Types 26 to 50. The spacing between the two blocks shows little or no difference to the spacing between the stamps inside the 25 groups. In brief, there is no distinguishable vertical "gutter" spacing. However, the sheet actually printed was of 100 stamps, being one impression of the clamped together 50 plate *over* a second impression of that plate, the two impressions being divided by a *wide horizontal* "gutter".

That means that the top row of each 50 block comprised types 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, and that the bottom row comprised types 21, 22, 23, 24, 25 and 46, 47, 48, 49, 50.

Applying this to the "compounds" all of them, without exception, belonged to one or other of these 20 types. If the stamp is a top type the serpentine is along the top, if a bottom type it is along the base.

THE FIRST AIRMAIL ITEMS FOR AUSTRALIA

By H. L. CHISHOLM

Mr W. M. Holbeach's article on his Siege of Paris Balloon Post cover – almost certainly the first piece of airmail to come to Australia (*P from A*, March 1974, p 7, June 1974, p 32) raises the question of what was the first item flown by aeroplane – the first airmail in the modern sense – to come to Australia.

Thanks to the kindness of Mr Francis J. Field, of Sutton Coldfield, England, the doyen of aerophilately, and to Mr D. D. Edwards, of Reading, England, it has been possible to undertake the listing of the first mail carried by aeroplane known to come to Australia and to New Zealand. [The New Zealand section will follow.]

On being told of our interest, Mr Field wrote to Mr Edwards, who sent details and photostats of the items in his comprehensive specialised collection.

Mr Edwards has three cards sent to Australia and one to New Zealand flown on the Coronation Aerial Post of September 1911.

Thanks for information and help are also given to Mr G. Deeprise and to Mr A. I. Bailey, of Stanley Gibbons Auctions (England), Mr D. G. Cornish (Auckland), Mr E. J. Garrard and Mrs D. Garrard (Sydney), Mr A. G. Salisbury (Canberra) and Mr R. Chapman (Melbourne).

Nine cards sent to Australia have now been found, with addresses in New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and South Australia. Others may yet be found, but, so far, none to Western Australia or Tasmania have been traced.

All discovered have been London-Windsor cards of the one type, although there is a range of colours.

So far, only one flown Windsor-London is known, but it is a London-Windsor card.

Five have the first day postmark, 9 September 1911, and are therefore the first airmail items known to have been posted for transmission to Australia, as we think of airmail.

The Coronation Aerial Post, organised to mark the Coronation of King George V, comprised a number of flights from London to Windsor, between 9 and 16 September 1911, by Messrs Clement Greswell, C. Hubert, E. F. Driver, and G. W. Hamel, and flights by Greswell and Hamel from Windsor to London on 17 and 18 September.

The pilots, all associated with the Grahame White Flying School at Hendon, with their Royal Aero Club Aviator's Certificate numbers and dates (the names are as they appeared on the certificates), were:

26	C. H. Greswell	15 November 1910
57	C. L. A. Hubert	14 February 1911
64	Gustav Hamel	14 February 1911 (he had also taken an Aero Club de France certificate on 3 February)
110	E. F. Driver	1 August 1911

Cards and envelopes with the famous design of a Farman biplane passing over Windsor Castle were printed in various colours.

There were three basic types of the design, which may be designated a, b, and c, by features of the inscription at the foot of the design. Cards and envelopes were prepared for the flights in each direction, the inscription being

For conveyance by AEROPLANE from LONDON to WINDSOR

or

For conveyance by AEROPLANE from WINDSOR to LONDON

There were two types of the London to Windsor design, distinguished by the word at the left of the inscription panel, so the types may be listed as follows

(a) Copyright	LONDON to WINDSOR	D.L.P. Inv
(b) Lendon	LONDON to WINDSOR	D.L.P. Inv
(c) Copyright	WINDSOR to LONDON	D.L.P. Inv
(d) Lendon	WINDSOR to LONDON	D.L.P. Inv

(Mr D. Lewis Poole, an architect, made the original sketch of the design, and the finished product was the work of Mr William Warwick Lendon, an artist).

The special First United Kingdom Aerial Post postmarks were used as follows:

London, Nos. 1 to 4 – Wimpole St Post Office.

5 and 6 – Hendon Aerodrome.

Windsor, Nos. 1 and 2 – Windsor Post Office.

Postmark dates were – London Sp 9 to 15. Windsor, Sp 16.

Only privileged mail (violet envelopes or cards) is identifiable as flown on the day of the postmark, and the mail was not necessarily flown in the direction shown by the inscription on the card or cover. (It was flown from the place of the postmark.)

TO AUSTRALIA

LONDON – WINDSOR

Item No.	Type	Colour	Postmark	Address	Remarks
1	Card (a)	Green	SP 9 Die 1	Mrs Ralph Verney Wallaroy Woollahra Sydney N.S.Wales Australia	Franked with 2d stamp; 1d postage due marking on face; large 1d and T10 in six-sided border L below. Signed Lissie. Sold: Stanley Gibbons Auctions, London, 3 Sept. 1976
2	Card (a)	Dark Brown	SP 9 Die 2	Miss Olive Peck "Iorana" Alma Road Caulfield Melbourne Australia	Signed Hugh

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------|------------|-------------|--|--|
| 3 | Card (a) | ? | SP 9 Die 2 | Miss Dorothy Tindal
"Tatiara"
Glen Innes
New South Wales
Australia | Illustrated in
<i>Australian Stamp
Monthly</i> ,
June 1953 |
| 4 | Card (a) | Red-Brown | SP 14 Die 3 | Mr A. Down
C/o Dr Dawes
Gawler
South Australia | Backstamped
Adelaide
October 21 |
| 5 | Card (a) | Green | SP 9 Die 4 | Chas. W. Lloyd
"Chelsea"
Roslyndale Avenue
Woollahra
Sydney
Australia | One and a half
strikes of the
Cancellation |
| 6 | Card (a) | Red-Brown | SP 9 Die 5 | Miss Enid Gainsford
"Garnavilla"
Edward Street
Woollahra
Sydney, N.S.W.
Australia | Only card of
group so far
known posted
at Hendon
Aerodrome
Pair of 2d
KGV stamps
Two overlapping
strikes of the
canceller |
| 7 | Card (a) | Dark Green | SP 11 Die 1 | Mrs W. Hendrick
"Kingsmead"
Mary Street
St Kilda
Melbourne
Australia | Signed
Kath |
| 8 | Card (a) | Green | SP 14 Die 3 | Mrs Alfred May
Gawler
South Australia | Arrival Marking
Adelaide, Oct 21
Signed RSMD |

WINDSOR - LONDON

- | | | | | | |
|---|----------|-------|-------------|--|--|
| 9 | Card (a) | Green | SP 16 Die 2 | Leslie Gordon
Corrie
Kosonui
Bowen Terrace
Brisbane
Australia | Sender:
J. E. Corrie
Itchen Abbas
Alresford
Hants.
(London-
Windsor
card flown
Windsor-
London) |
|---|----------|-------|-------------|--|--|

SOUTH AFRICA, 1911

Three months later, the "First South African Aerial Post" was flown, and the mail comprised specially-designed cards and postmarks.

There were four flights between Kenilworth and Muizenburg, a distance of

eight miles, by one of the Coronation Aerial Mail pilots, E. F. Driver, who had returned home.

The first flights in each direction were made on 27 December 1911.

The second flights were to have taken place on 30 December but were delayed by bad weather.

The Kenilworth-Muizenburg flight was made on 2 January 1912, and the return on the following day.

This return flight had the smallest mail of the series – 179 cards – and at least two of them were addressed to Australia.

They bear the special airmail cancellations of both Kenilworth and Muizenburg “Dec 30 11” and the ordinary arrival mark Muizenburg “3 Jan 12”.

The handwriting of the addresses shows that both were sent by ladies to ladies.

Item No.	Address	Remarks
SA 1	Mrs P. Bell Munro Albury New South Wales Re-addressed to Glenahru Queenscliff Vic	Was in the Dr Philip G. Cole collection and was sold by F. W. Kessler, New York, 19 January 1940
SA 2	Mrs Geo Cain Lantaro Manningtree Road Hawthorn, Melbourne, Australia	Sold by Collectors Mail Auctions Pty Ltd, Bergvliet, Cape, South Africa, on 6 May 1974.

Details of any other 1911 airmail items addressed to Australia or New Zealand, or of any collectors having them, would be appreciated. Also of any “Wizard” Stone Melbourne-Sydney (1914) cards.

MISS J. BUCHANAN IS NEW BUSINESS MANAGER

Miss Joyce Buchanan took up the position of Business Manager of *Philately from Australia* in December.

She succeeds Mr John Trowbridge, who has had to resign because of pressure of business.

Miss Buchanan, who joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1950 is one of Melbourne's best-known philatelic personalities.

She was treasurer of the society from 1959 to 1962, has been a constant and consistent worker for it during the whole period of her membership, and was an original recipient of the Purves Medal.

She is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the Women's Philatelic Society, and the United States Specialists' Society.

Her interests range widely: Persia, New Zealand, and United States.

ODDITIES AND VARIATIONS IN THE PERFORATIONS OF THE TASMANIAN PICTORIALS

By K. E. LANCASTER

The Tasmanian Pictorials, current from December 1899 to 1912, provide philatelists with one of the most interesting fields for study in that four different types of printing took place, four different watermarked papers were employed, and four different gauges of perforation were used. These gauges, with mixtures of the perforations plus double perforations and imperforates, add further to the interest of these stamps.

The engraved stamps, printed by Messrs De La Rue & Co. of London, comprised the original issue. Printed in late 1899 and covering all values, they are the only stamps printed on the paper with the multiple "TAS" watermark and were perforated by the printers on a machine gauging 14. As usual with De La Rue, good workmanship and careful checking appears to have produced no perforation varieties. However, at a relatively recent date, some imperforate sheets were released from the printer's archives and have appeared on the market and, as well, there are proof copies on unwatermarked paper imperforate.

The next printing of the pictorials was made at the Victorian Government Printing Office at Melbourne in 1902, when the ½d, 1d, and 2d values were printed by lithography from stones on which transfers were made from the De La Rue plates. The printing was on a paper being used for Victorian stamps with the watermark V over Crown.

Two gauges of perforation were employed by the printer, 12½ and 11. Both can be found with three different-sized holes: (a) large holes (sharp teeth), (b) medium holes (medium teeth), and (c) small holes (blunt teeth). These variations in hole size were once listed by Stanley Gibbons and, though such catalogue status no longer exists, some collectors still recognise them.

The 12½ gauge perforation is the more common of the two gauges and proved the better method of separation. However, the ½d and 2d values were also perforated on the 11 gauge machine, and in both cases varieties have resulted, giving compound or mixed perforations.

These compound varieties would obviously be brought about after an inspection and revealed missing lines of perforation in the sheet. It would then be sent back to the perforator who might not necessarily employ the same machine originally used. Naturally such varieties are rare and do not always occur in true symmetry with one gauge top and bottom and the other on the sides. The operation was a repair to correct an omission and was applied only to the portion affected.

Another form of perforation repair was to run an extra line of perforation more accurately through the sheet when the original line was badly misplaced. Almost invariably this was done during the normal perforating process and thus by the same machine using the same gauge, the result being double perforations.

At least one sheet of the ½d value must have escaped the scrutineers and arrived in Tasmania imperforated at the bottom where it was apparently detected

by the authorities and sent to the Tasmanian Government Printing Office, the old 12 gauge machine being used to remedy the defect.

I have also seen a 2d value from the lower left corner of the sheet with both outer sides imperforate with margins of 3 mm extending from the outer frame of the stamp. This seems fairly strong evidence on which to accept the stamp as a part imperforate, but it is not entirely conclusive.

Later in the same year a further printing of the 1d value was made by the Victorian Government Printer, but on this occasion from two electros. Here again, the same V over Crown watermarked paper was used and the same perforating machines, giving the same two gauges and size variations. Compound perforations comprising both gauges have been found and also double perforations.

I have seen a single stamp of these 1d electrotypes completely imperforate with margins ranging from $1\frac{1}{2}$ to $2\frac{1}{2}$ mm, but providing insufficient evidence to be acceptable confirmation. However, I have seen rather definite evidence of part perforation in a stamp from the base of the sheet (No. 56 with the "big tree" retouch) with a 6 mm imperforate margin below the base frames of the stamp and otherwise perforated 11.

In April 1903 the Victorian Government Printing Office produced another printing of the 1d value, on two new electros, using the same watermarked paper and method of perforation. The printings from these electros can be distinguished from the former printings as the watermark is normally found vertically upright or inverted. On the earlier printing, the watermark was normally found sideways and the colour was much paler. The compound perforation combining both gauges occurs in this second printing and double perforations of both gauges. I have also seen the lower right stamp of one sheet imperforate at the base with a $3\frac{1}{2}$ mm margin showing below the base frame line.

Crown over A Paper

In September 1905 a new paper, watermarked Crown over A, superseded the V over Crown paper for all issues. The Victorian Government Printer still adhered to lithography for printing the 2d value and continued to use this process when printing sheets of the 3d, 4d and 6d values in the succeeding years. Both the $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 11 gauge machines still carried on with the perforation, although an adjustment to one of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ gauge machines provided a perforation with much smaller holes than before. The 2d again possessed both gauges separately and occasionally in compound formation.

A further and much rarer variety appeared when some sheets escaped the scrutineers but were detected by the authorities in Tasmania as possessing missing lines of perforation, invariably along the sides of the sheet.

These sheets were then despatched to the Tasmanian Government Printing Office at Hobart and the omission corrected on the local 12 gauge line machine. As far as I am aware, the 12 gauge perforation appears only on an outer edge of the sheet and all examples of its use show only one side of the stamp so perforated. The combination of the $12\frac{1}{2}$ and 12 gauges is very rare, and that of the 11 and 12 extremely rare. Double perforations are encountered and I have

seen one questionable imperforate at base specimen with a 3½ mm margin showing below the base frame line.

The 3d value was printed by lithography in 1905 and stamps were perforated by both the 12½ and 11 gauge machines. Compounds are extremely rare.

The 4d was printed by lithography early in 1907 and the printings from the initial stones were perforated by both the 12½ and 11 gauge machines, with compounds of both eventuating.

In 1911 printings were made from a new stone and these are distinguishable as they are printed on paper with the watermark always sideways as distinct from all other printings. Both the 12½ and 11 machines were used and compounds of these must be rare indeed. I have seen only one.

In 1912 a further printing was made from a new stone in the orange-yellow colour and both gauge perforations were used as before and compounds exist.

The 6d was produced by lithography in 1908 and stamps were perforated by both the 12½ and 11 gauge machines. Compounds are extremely rare.

During the period that some values were being printed by the lithographic process, other values were being printed by the Victorian Government Printer from electros processed from the line-engraved stamps. The ½d value was printed thus in 1909 and both the 12½ and 11 gauge machines dealt with the perforation. Compounds and double perforations exist and the Tasmanian Government Printer's 12 gauge perforation occurs allied to the 11 gauge, but I have never seen it combined with 12½ gauge.

The 1d value, which had previously been printed on the V over Crown watermarked paper from the second pair of plates, was also printed on the Crown over A watermarked paper. These stamps were perforated both 12½ and 11 gauge with double perforations and compounds of both eventuating. The Tasmanian Printer's 12 gauge perforation also exists in conjunction with both the 12½ and 11 gauges.

Some remarkable perforation varieties occur from the late printings from these plates. In the 11 gauge, perforation sheets have passed through imperforate (i) at base and (ii) at right side, both with full width margins. One sheet from Plate 3 (Ref. "The Technique of the Tasmanian Pictorials", J. R. W. Purves, *London Philatelist*), with inverted watermark found its way on to the market completely imperforate and is probably the outstanding perforation variety of the issue.

In 1909 a third pair of electros were produced for the 1d value, the printing being generally of a brighter colour with sharper lines of shading. These exist with both the 12½ and 11 gauge perforations and with double and compound perforations.

The Tasmanian Government 12 gauge perforation also occurs in conjunction with both the 12½ and 11 gauge perforations. The 11 gauge perforation is found imperforate (i) at the base and (ii) at the left side, both with full width margins.

The 2d was electrotyped in 1907 and the 12½ and 11 gauge perforations were used for separation. Compounds of both exist and the Tasmanian Government 12 gauge perforation may be found mixed with both 12½ and 11 gauges. I have seen one 11 gauge perforation stamp imperforate with full width margin at base.

In 1911 the 2d value was printed from stereos in bright violet and was

perforated both 12½ and 11 gauge, with the joint compound being very rare. I have seen one copy with the 12½ gauge perforation (three sides) mixed with the 12 gauge perforation at base.

A similar set-up applies to that section of the same printing that was overprinted "ONE PENNY" in 1912, except that I have heard of no association between it and the 12 gauge perforation.

The 3d value was printed from electros in 1909 and the 12½ and 11 gauge perforations apply again, with the compound of both quite rare. The 6d value was given electrotype treatment in 1911 and the 12½ and 11 gauge machines once more did the perforation and compounds of both exist.

Another variation of some interest is the patching strip which occasionally was used to cover a misplaced line of perforation when that line was superseded by a more accurate line. These strips are found rarely on other than unused stamps as the repair strip is usually soaked off with the removal of the other adhering paper from used stamps. This type of repair occurs both with normal double perforations and very occasionally with mixed double perforations, but its appearance is too irregular for me to feel the need to list each appearance separately.

SUPPLEMENTARY INDEX TO R.P.S.V. LIBRARY CATALOGUE

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has now published a Supplementary Library Catalogue, compiled by Mr R. Lloyd-Smith, its librarian for twenty-three years and the author of the original Library Catalogue.

Duplicated, it is in similar format to its parent, and maintains its style and standards.

The supplement covers additions from 1 May 1965 to 31 December 1976 and totals 29 pages of listings.

It is available for \$1.50.

The main index is also available from the society for \$1.50.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dr D. A. Pocock, F.R.P.S.L.

Dr D. A. Pocock, of Perth, has been elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

Australians in Vietnam

"The Australian A.P.O.s in South Vietnam", written by Mr G. Stirton, appears in *Stamp Collecting* for 25 November 1976.

Besides dealing with the location of the post offices, he deals with the postmarks and Defence Forces Postal Concession cachets.

New Caledonia Overprint

An article on the Kaga Bird overprint on early New Caledonia, by Clyde Carriker, appeared in the *American Philatelist*, September 1976, p. 687.

Postal Historians

Mr R. H. Taylor, of Sydney, has been elected a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians.

Mr Hamilton Croaker, of Sydney, has been advanced from Associate to Member.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

Members of the Commonwealth Parliament have expressed a livelier interest in stamps than is generally realised.

Words enshrined in the Commonwealth Hansard provide many details, now forgotten, of the early years of the Federal period, but which will be of interest to present-day philatelists.

Here are sidelights on the reasons why it was thirteen years before the first Australian set of stamps, the Kangaroo, appeared.

We can look back now on "other days, other ways". And the philatelic significance of "Tattersall's" is not confined to the treasure trove of postmarks and postal history data found about fifty years after Federation.

The first reference to stamps in the Commonwealth Parliament came on 3 July 1901 — Parliament sat first on 9 May — Senator Lieut-Colonel J. C. Neild (Free Trade, NSW) asked the Postmaster-General, Senator J. G. Drake (Protectionist, Q) on notice:

1. Can he indicate when Federal postal stamps will be issued?
2. Does he deem it desirable that postage stamps in use in the Commonwealth should bear some indication that Australia is federated?
3. Can he say whether it is intended to establish interstate penny postage, and, if so, when?
4. Is it intended that the Commonwealth shall obtain the benefit of universal postage and, if so, when?

Senator Drake: The answers are as follows:

1. Not at present. Federal postage stamps will probably not be issued until after the expiration of the bookkeeping period prescribed by Sections 89, 93 of the *Commonwealth Constitution Act*.
2. It is not considered desirable to overprint the postage stamps of the several States, but when the issue of any new stamps is authorised, such an indication will be considered.
3. These are matters of policy which have not yet been determined.

Next day there was a long discussion when Section 118 of the *Post and Telegraph Act* was in the committee stages in the Senate. The main provision of the Section was that selling or exposing for sale postage stamps without a licence to sell them should be liable to a penalty of £5.

Senator Drake said there was no charge for a licence and Senator Sir Josiah Symon (Free Trade, SA) said the commission on sales was 2½%. Several speakers opposed licensing.

Senator Drake said stamps were easily stolen and it would be very dangerous to allow them to be sold by anyone. That was why licenses were issued. He continued:

Dead in the teeth of this clause, which exists, I believe, in every Postal Act, unobliterated stamps can be seen exposed for sale in the windows of philatelists.

Senator E. D. Millen (Free Trade, NSW): Then what is the good of the clause?

Senator Drake: The honourable Senator must see that unless we have some restriction there is nothing to prevent persons who have stolen stamps from their employers disposing of them.

Senator Symon: The point as to the possibility of stamps being stolen did not occur to me, but there is nothing in the Bill to prevent stolen stamps from being sold.

Senator Drake: But the persons who are licensed to sell stamps are selected and we know they can be trusted . . .

Senator Classey (Protectionist, NSW): I have often sold them very often to oblige a friend.

Senator Sir William Zeal (Protectionist, V) . . . I think it should be controlled because every honourable Senator is aware that a postage stamp is a mere piece of paper with an impression on it and only possesses a certain value because it is issued by the Department. . . . Like Senator Classey, I have sold postage stamps but that is not breaking the law in the sense in which it is intended here.

Senator Sir Josiah Symon: Yes, it is, and the honourable Senator has it on his conscience.

Senator Neild: Artemus Ward once remarked, "The wages of sin is death and postage stamps."

If this is passed we should find that it would be an offence to discharge small debts with postage stamps.

Senator S. (later Sir Simon) Fraser (Protectionist, V.) (grandfather of the present Prime Minister): I have often paid my tram fare with stamps.

Senator Neild: I have certainly known newsboys to give stamps for change and I have seen the evening papers bought from the boys with stamps. Surely these little trumpery transactions of every day should not be constituted punishable crimes.

Senator Drake: Senator Neild, in a joking way, quoted Mark Twain: The wages of sin is death and postage stamps.

But when that was said it was about the time of the American Civil War when specie was very scarce, and for this people came to use postage stamps as currency. The expression was used because at that time postage stamps had become recognisable currency.

Senator Drake said it was not desirable that small amounts should be paid in postage stamps because "we have a very admirable system of furnishing small amounts in the form of postal notes and money orders and we thought it better that that means of transmitting small amounts should be used".

"I may say that a very great number of postage stamps are used in the way suggested. We ascertained the other day from Tasmania that the proprietor of Tattersall's sweeps received £10,000 or £11,000 a year in postage stamps."

Where a number of stamps were, in that way, sent out of one State to another, he continued, they were returned to the State of origin and the post office took them back at a small discount, under certain conditions — for instance, they must be in one strip — and they were then sold again in the usual way in the post office. If the provisions were struck out and anyone allowed to become a dealer in postage stamps, these stamps would be much more freely used to send small amounts.

Senator Sir Frederick Sargood (Free Trade, V.): The remarks of the Post-

master-General certainly throw a new light on the matter. The main objective of the Minister is to restrict the free issue of stamps. He wishes to compel those persons who desire to send small amounts of money through the post to take out postal orders. That may be all very well from the Postmaster-General's point of view and may bring grist to his mill, but there is such a thing as the convenience of the public. It is infinitely more troublesome to the public to have to go probably some distance to take out a postal order for which they have to pay than to put a few postage stamps to the amount required in an envelope.

Senator J. H. Keating (Protectionist, T), questioned the information about Tattersall's stamps and his motion, as finally passed, was that a return be laid on the table showing the annual number and value of unused stamps repurchased by the Postal Department of each State, to find out, as nearly as possible, the number and value of the stamps repurchased from the principal of Tattersall's, in any year from 1890 to 1900.

Senator Drake: The foundation of the matter was that before Federation there was a conference of permanent heads which sat to consider a Postal Bill.

One of the recommendations of that conference was that as soon as Federation was accomplished, the stamps of each State should be interchangeable throughout the Commonwealth and should be overprinted with the letters AC or CA. When the proposition came before me I suggested that if it were adopted we could not give effect to the bookkeeping clause of the Constitution because stamps purchased in one State could be used in another. I made inquiries as to what the effect would be, from a monetary point of view. At first it was thought it would be a matter of a few pounds, one way or another — that it might be an advantage of a few pounds in favour of one State or a few pounds in favour of another. But after more careful inquiries were made I was informed that it would make a difference of between £10,000 or £11,000 to Tasmania, solely on account of the institution in that State known as "Tattersall's".

That was the foundation of the statement I made to the Senate and I am very anxious to see whether it can be absolutely borne out. That was the information given to me on which I decided at once that it would be impossible to make the stamps of the States interchangeable. . . .

I do not speak with certainty, but I am informed that at the present time no note is made of the persons from whom the stamps are repurchased. We can, beyond doubt, get information as to the number and value of the stamps that are repurchased because a small discount is charged in the transaction, except in New South Wales, where, for some time past, it has been the custom to cash stamps received. . . .

There can be no doubt as to the meaning of the information because it was accepted by me as a reason why it would be absolutely impossible to make the stamps interchangeable. If that were done, Tasmania would be the loser to the extent of £10,000 or £11,000 a year. It may perhaps be an exaggeration, but that was the information that was given to me and it could mean nothing else than that there are £10,000 or £11,000 worth of stamps annually sent to Tasmania from the other States. . . .

Senator O'Keefe (Labor, Tasmania): The procedure so far as I can remember

is that stamps are not taken for the value of the tickets. . . . Tattersall clearly lays it down that he will not accept stamps for tickets. The procedure is to send two stamps, one for reply and the other for results.

The return showed that New South Wales estimated that the value of stamps repurchased directly at £200 a year, and about £2600 for stamps affixed to postal notes cashed for "Tattersall". The number of stamps could not be given.

Victoria answered that there was no data from which an average could be struck. The stamps had apparently been disposed of through banks and other agencies.

Queensland reported that only three lots had been repurchased directly, the total value being £50/10/- between 1 December 1900 and 19 July 1901. Stamps repurchased from the Bank of New South Wales and thought to be from Tattersall's averaged £47/15/- a year and the value of stamps affixed to postal notes cashed for him during 1900 was £935/4/6.

South Australia, Western Australia, and Tasmania said none had been repurchased and they had no record of the value of the stamps affixed to postal notes cashed for him or his agent.

On 2 August 1901, it was ordered on a motion by Senator J. Macfarlane (Free Trade, T) that a return be laid on the table of the Senate containing copies of all the telegrams between the Postal Conference that sat in February last and any officer of the Post and Telegraph Department in Tasmania with regard to the estimated loss of postal revenue that would be sustained by Tasmania if the postage stamps of the various States were made interchangeable when the Departments of the States were transferred to the Federal Government.

These were:

Bayly Melbourne to D'Emden Hobart 15.2.01

As it is thought stamps should be valid throughout Commonwealth, do you think we could obtain a return from "Tattersall" as to value of stamps received from other colonies. Say what you think.

D'Emden Hobart to Bayly Melbourne 15.2.01

If stamps valid throughout Commonwealth we would lose approximately fourteen thousand pounds.

Bayly to D'Emden 15.2.01

I do not understand your estimate. Is it obtained from "Tattersall" or how? Give particulars.

Bayly to D'Emden 15.2.01

When telegram respecting loss to Tasmania under proposal of Federal stamp was received

If stamps are valid all over Commonwealth "Tattersall" will ask his constituents to stamp their own envelopes and we will not obtain any benefit therefrom. Our loss will therefore approximate the amount named. "Tattersall" was consulted.

Letter from Bayly DPMG Tasmania to Principal Secretary Office of Postmaster-General,

Melbourne 24 July 01

it was thought that those who wrote to "Tattersall" by means of money order and postal note would stamp their envelopes instead of adding amount for postage to the money order or postal note forwarded, when this State would then lose the £14,000 mentioned — this being the estimate of what Tasmania was then receiving for sale of postage stamps for this purpose. The copy telegram is forwarded herewith.

(Telegram sent to DPMG Hobart asking for copy telegram sent from his office to him during the 1900 Sydney conference showing effect on Tasmanian revenue by adoption of

uniform postage stamps through Commonwealth. Also any information on such likely to be of interest to Postmaster-General. HBV 23.7.01.)

Hobart to Scott Melbourne

Re stamps, Hobart telegram of 15 February. Will now forward reply to yours. Bayly 23.7.01.

Hobart to Scott Melbourne

Re stamps, As I fear wire may be in form of memo, it would be well to ask Sydney if original and reply is in that office with conference paper of 19 February. I will search here. 23.7.01.

First Philatelic Question

The first philatelic reference in the House of Representatives came on 23 August 1901 when Mr Henry Willis (Free Trade, NSW) asked:

1. Whether it is a fact
 - (a) That the Melbourne post office is a philatelic department for the sale of obliterated postage stamps that have never been used in the ordinary course of business.
 - (b) That some of the sets for sale include high value stamps up to £100, are sold at £5 a set, others containing lower values at £1 a set, one recent issue representing a face value of about 10/- at 4/- a set.
 - (c) That the Postmaster-General is about to issue of a set of stamps lightly postmarked, to order, which will include new £1 and £2 stamps at 10/- a set, having on them a portrait of King Edward VII.
 - (d) That sets of £1 and £5 Victorian stamps lightly postmarked to order have been sold to a dealer "at a price" as a job lot.
2. Whether, if it is a fact that the Postmaster-General is conducting a philatelic business in competition with dealers in legitimate used postage stamps, he will discontinue the practice.

Sir Philip Fysh: The following information has been supplied:

1. (a) The Melbourne office is not a philatelic department. Sets of current postage stamps postmarked, that have not been used in the ordinary course of business are sold.
- (b) The only sets on sale are those from a halfpenny to four shillings in value and the price is four shillings.
- (c) A recommendation has been made that the sets of current stamps, including those referred to, be sold at one pound per set but this has not yet been approved.
- (d) No such transaction has ever taken place.
2. In accordance with the regulations on marketing of the States, sets of current postage stamps, postmarked, are sold at prices fixed by the regulations. The matter of the continuance of this practice is under consideration.

Mr R. A. Crouch (Protectionist, V) asked the Minister representing the Postmaster-General on 4 September whether the PMG was aware that postage stamps sold before 1 July by the Victorian postal department as good for postal purposes were now valueless unless the buyer was prepared to pay a heavy discount for them to be repurchased by the department and whether he would direct that the post office officials should exchange them for stamps useful for postal purposes without discount.

Sir Philip Fysh (Protectionist, T), said he had been supplied with an answer which said the Postmaster-General was not aware of any such practices. Stamps sold before 1 July for postal purposes and not now available for postage were exchanged without charge, for stamps of the present issue available for postage.

Mr H. Mahon (Labor, Coolgardie, WA), a future Postmaster-General, asked on 14 November, whether postmasters in some States were allowed to buy unused stamps from the public, whether the practice existed in WA, and if

not, would the PMG consider the advisability of extending this convenience to the public and rendering the practice uniform.

Sir Philip Fysh answered a week later that the postmasters in two States were permitted to purchase unused stamps from the public, but the practice did not exist in Western Australia. The PMG would consider the advisability of making the practice uniform.

On 11 February 1902, Mr Thomas (Labor, Barrier, NSW) asked:

In view of the statement made by the Rt. Hon. the Prime Minister on 21 August 1901 re the issue of a Commonwealth stamp when does the Government propose issuing the said stamp?

To which Sir Philip Fysh replied:

The bookkeeping clause is the real difficulty. The Postmaster-General has not been able to see his way to the adoption of a uniform stamp without seriously interfering with revenues of the smaller States. On consideration, it has been found that the difference is greater than was at first apparent.

It was more than fifteen months after Mr Thomas's question that the issue of a Commonwealth stamp was again raised in Parliament, on 3 June 1903:

Mr F. Clarke (Protectionist, Cowper, NSW), asked the Postmaster-General:

1. Whether the Government has yet considered the possibility of introducing a uniform Commonwealth Postage Stamp.
2. If so, what is the result of such deliberations?
3. If not, will he consider the matter as soon as possible?

The Prime Minister (Mr Barton) replied:

1. Yes, so far as the postage stamps can be made uniform during the bookkeeping period.
 - (a) A decision will shortly be arrived at and made public.

(To be continued)

OBITUARY

MR W. ROCKE

One of the best-known members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Mr W. Rocke, died in December.

Mr Rocke joined the Society in 1952 and was its secretary from 1954 to 1965.

A kindly man, he always went out of his way to see that new members were made to feel at home, and for that especially he will be appreciatively remembered by many.

In business life, he was Melbourne representative of Ballarat Woollen Mills until his retirement.

His philatelic interests were Japan and the United States.

Mr Rocke's son is a valued member of the Society.

QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

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

(Continued from December 1976, p. 92)

ENVELOPES

One may read, in the Queensland Postmaster-General's Report for 1879:

A new envelope for registration purposes whereby greater security can be obtained was issued during the year and is sold at a cost of one half-penny. It is desirable that the use of this envelope should be generally resorted to in lieu of the flimsy covers which are frequently used, and have to be patched up when passing through the Post Office.

The envelope, specially printed for registration use, was supplied by McCorquodale and Co, London. A quantity of 5000, ordered by the Queensland Post Office, was received on 2 October 1879 and placed on sale shortly afterwards. Although Mr Basset Hull described the envelope in *Vindin's Stamp Monthly*, 23 July 1894, application of his description to an unused example I hold has disclosed some minor orthographical deficiencies. Accordingly, the original Basset Hull description has been very slightly amplified and corrected to read as follows:

The envelopes were made of stout wove lined linen paper, the face and back were each divided into four departments by lines which cross at right angles, and are continued from the face to the back of the envelope. Overall size was 154 x 97 mm. On the face, in the upper part, is an inscription in two lines in capitals, "This letter must be given to an Officer of the Post Office to be Registered and a Receipt obtained for it." The vertical crossing line falls between the words "Officer" and "of" and "Receipt" and "obtained" in the two lines of inscription. In the upper left compartment, below the lines of direction, is the word "Registered", followed by a square stop, in thick block capitals, enclosed in an oblong single lined frame. In the upper right compartment occur the words, "The Stamp to Pay the Postage must be Placed Here", in thin capitals in five lines, enclosed in a single lined rectangular frame. The whole inscription is printed in vermilion, rounded flap, yellowish gum. The name of the contractors is printed on the envelope beneath the flap.

The printing on the envelope is somewhat ragged and blurred in parts.

It would seem that the public failed to respond markedly to the Post Office plea to use the envelopes and they were withdrawn in 1883. Undoubtedly, very few survived the years and I have yet to hear of a used example.

Although not within the scope of the present study, it may be mentioned that a similarly inscribed type of unstamped envelope, of foolscap size, was apparently available at some stationers' shops in Queensland some years later. These would have been imported directly from England.

Additionally, the Post Office itself used specially printed registration envelopes, unstamped, on official business.

Stamped-to-Order Envelopes

Moving now to ordinary stamped envelopes, it is to be noticed that such envelopes were never provided for post office sale in Queensland. There were elements of uncertainty at the time associated with the appearance of the first

stamped-to-order envelopes in 1891 or 1892. This doubt, in my view, still persists as the real circumstances surrounding the creation of the envelopes have remained unknown.

One commences with the following extract from *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, 30 April 1892:

QUEENSLAND — We gather from *Le T.P.* that 1d envelopes and wrappers have been issued in this colony. Our contemporary does not describe the type of the stamp upon them; we presume therefore that it is that of the current adhesives.

Envelopes 1d, red on *white laid*; 137 x 78 mm. 1d, red on *blue laid*; 137 x 78 mm. 1d, red on *buff wove*; 142 x 78 mm. Wrapper 1d, red on *white*; 280 x 112 mm.

And it is perhaps advisable to repeat a brief comment which appeared in the same journal of 31 August 1892:

Queensland — A correspondent in this colony informs us that the stamped envelopes recently chronicled are unknown at the Post Office there.

The *London Philatelist*, April 1892, also had something to say:

QUEENSLAND — We hear of a wrapper and envelopes in more than one variety of size and paper, with the type of the current stamp impressed, probably like their Tasmanian predecessors, of unofficial origin and stamped to order.

One finds also in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, 10 September 1893, that the envelopes as earlier described in *S.G.M.J.* were listed as an "1892 happening".

Commenting in *Vindin's Stamp Monthly*, 20 August 1892, Mr Basset Hull wrote:

English philatelic journals have recently catalogued some stamped envelopes for Queensland. Such, however, do not exist so far, nor is there any apparent intention of issuing them.

The fact is that envelopes were impressed with the Queensland 2d stamp (*S.G.* type 12), probably late in 1891, and such envelopes are presently contained in a number of collections. The item is listed in the Robson Lowe, Higgins and Gage, and Ascher catalogues. To the extent of the denomination the original chronicle appears to have been at fault, 1d impressed stamps then being noted. Still, it was within the bounds of probability, in the light of circumstances to be explained, that some envelopes may have received 1d stamp impressions despite the fact that such have not been catalogued and no examples have come to attention.

It seems remarkable that in a listing in *Vindin's Stamp Monthly*, 23 July 1894, concerned with Queensland postal stationery to that time, Mr Basset Hull did not revise his previous comment and refer to the stamped envelope. It is still more remarkable, taking into account a pertinent Post Office regulation gazetted in 1895, as later detailed, that again in his *Oceania Catalogue of Queensland*, published in the *Australian Philatelist*, 26 October 1896, Mr Hull did not mention stamped envelopes at all.

In 1892 there was no Post Office regulation concerning the impressing of stamps on envelopes. A revised set of postal regulations, dated 6 January 1892,

had been promulgated in that month and it is seen there, as was earlier mentioned, that the impressing of 1d stamps on private post cards was permitted, this being a continuation of an 1889 authority. While various amendments to the regulations generally were published at intervals in the *Queensland Government Gazette* over 1892 none of these touched upon the impressing of stamps on envelopes.

While therefore, in 1892, and earlier, there was no Post Office authority for such a practice, the fact that stamped envelopes had come into being obviously pointed to misfeasance at some official level, either within the Post Office or at the Government Lithographic Office. Until the gazettal of the 1892 regulations, private post cards could be lodged at the Lithographic Office for the impressing of 1d stamps thereon; thereafter they were required to be lodged at the G.P.O., Brisbane.

It seems a reasonable assumption that a "smart operator" had prevailed upon a government officer, either in the Lithographic Office or the Post Office, to arrange for a quantity of envelopes (and possibly also private wrappers) to be regarded as private post cards and impressed with 2d stamps (and perhaps some quantities with 1d stamps). Possibly Mr Hull became aware eventually that such chicanery had occurred but neither he nor the Queensland Post Office, so far as the present writer is aware, ever made public reference thereto.

One inclines to the view that the offence was within the province of the Government Lithographic Office and that the circumstance was a major factor contributing to the transfer of that office to the Government Printing Office in 1894. Another aspect was that a new and dynamic Government Printer, Edmund Gregory, had been appointed in December 1893, replacing James Charles Beal, who had held the position from December 1866. Gregory had earlier criticised the existence of the separate Lithographic Office and undoubtedly the situation was then favourable for placing it directly under his control.

The Post Office certainly knew, because of the incident, that there was a philatelic demand for stamped envelopes and, no doubt, had received representations from dealers that an adequate facility to that end should be provided. However, because of the earlier instance, the Post Office was reluctant to move quickly and not until August 1895 was positive action taken in that direction.

There are in the official Post Office collection two plain white envelopes, impressed respectively with the 1d orange-red and 2d blue (S.G. type 16) which were submitted to the Post Office by the Government Printing Office as examples of the standard of impressing. Both are marked "Approved 17.8.85". Public attention was drawn to the facility by a notice, dated 25 September 1895, and gazetted three days later. It read:

It is hereby notified, for general information, that Postage Stamps of the values of 1d and 2d will be printed on envelopes for the public under the following conditions, viz:

Applications, accompanied by the envelopes and a fee of 3s. per 1,000 for printing, together with the value of the stamps to be printed, must be sent to the Under Secretary and Superintendent of Electric Telegraphs, Brisbane.

The envelopes must be of a suitable size and quality. No fewer than 500 envelopes of any size will be received for printing.

John McDonnell
Under Secretary and Superintendent of Telegraphs.

When private envelopes were stamped the blocks employed were electrotypes derived from the groups utilised for the printing of the companion adhesive stamps so that in many instances it is possible to exhibit the same flaws in both forms.

For 1895 one records the appearance of the 1d orange-red to vermilion and deep red and the 2d blue (both S.G. type 16), the envelope stock being varied. I have seen only white and blue-coloured envelopes (138 x 79 mm) but there were other sizes and colours. In view of the shade variations mentioned in respect of the 1d stamp there must have been a number of separate orders spread over a period. Although the service did not become available until September 1895, records disclose that in that year the Government Printing Office impressed and delivered to the Post Office 7000 envelopes, the separate values thereon not being indicated. No such envelopes had been handled in 1894, according to the available statistics, as the appropriate regulations had not then been in force.

For 1896 is noted the appearance of envelopes impressed with the 1d lilac rose to deep red (S.G. type 19; figures in lower corners only). It is strange that the Robson Lowe catalogue lists a 2d blue of this type. Such an adhesive stamp never existed and it was most unlikely that a 2d S.G. type 19 would have been specially made for envelope use. In any case no reference to such an item has been found in the philatelic press and is not known to me.

As to 1d envelopes the only examples seen are in shades of red on white paper but other envelope stock was probably used. I have a large white envelope, 278 x 122 mm, with a printed inscription, "Printed Matter Only", in the top left corner. Impressed with a 1d stamp (S.G. type 19), it was postmarked at Rockhampton on 9 December 1896. This form of envelope was probably sold at newsagencies.

The comparable Higgins and Gage list is also misleading as it suggests that the 1d and 2d envelope stamps of this time, 1896, were S.G. type 21. It is almost certain that electrotypes of the 1d and 2d S.G. type 21 were not available for envelope usage in 1896. In S.G. type 21 the 1d adhesive was issued in August 1897 and the 2d in April 1897. It will also be noticed that a 1d wrapper, S.G. type 21, was issued about February or March 1897. One might find adequate answers from dated covers.

On the above basis it is appropriate to note, as having issued in 1897, the 1d vermilion to red and 2d blue (S.G. type 21) on various kinds of envelopes. It is not known if some private envelopes were impressed with the stamps before or after the issues of the adhesives. It is suspected, however, that the 1d may have been impressed as early as April 1897. The Government Printing Office delivered to the Post Office 13,500 stamped envelopes in 1896 and 5500 in 1897 to meet the specific orders but details of the break-up are lacking.

It is remarked that all ordinary stamped envelopes are extremely scarce in used condition. Undoubtedly, the great bulk of the executed orders had a philatelic basis and would have been sent abroad, unused, to meet dealers' requests. By and large, there would have been very little local distribution. It is significant that few stamped business envelopes have been recorded, although business use was the reason given for providing the facility.

However, some Queensland business firms did have envelopes impressed with stamps. The only published information I have found in this regard appeared

in the *Australian Philatelist*, 26 July 1897. There it was recorded that supplies of envelopes for the Mount Morgan Gold Mining Company and for B. D. Morehead and Co, Brisbane, were impressed with 1d stamps. It was further stated that among the envelopes impressed for the first-named company a few packets were found with the 1d stamp printed in orange-yellow and a few in rosy-pink. The Mount Morgan Co must have been one of the early customers of the Post Office for impressed envelopes. Mr C. Stieg (U.S.A.) has reported having a large white envelope impressed with the 1d orange-red (S.G. type 16) and bearing a representation of that company's seal on the flap.

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL NOTES

Historic Name Re-appears

Australia's new Stamped Picture Postcards bring two classic names back to the philatelic scene.

They are printed by Mercury-Walch Pty Ltd, of Moonah, Tasmania.

J. Walch, of Hobart, began perforating stamps in 1864 and the Hobart *Mercury* was the descendant of the *Courier*, where Tasmania's first issues were printed.

The cards are printed by multi-colour offset lithography, on one-sided Cast Coated Astralux Card 265 and the luminiscence is 15 per cent Derby CPS 39 R in clear varnish.

Australia Post originally described them as "Stamped Picture Postcards". Now they are "Pre-stamped Pictorial Postcards".

They are the converse of maximum cards, which are an enlargement of the scene shown on the stamp. Now the stamp is a miniature of the scene shown on the card.

Mr Robson Lowe leaves Board

Mr Robson Lowe, well-known to so many Australian philatelists from his visits here, retired from the board of the company he founded and which bears his name, on 1 November last.

A crowning retirement happiness was that

in October his firm sold £1,000,000 in stamps at auction — in the month £1,074,429.

It was the first British company to achieve this.

Mr Lowe will continue to be active in the technical departments of the company in which he has a particular interest and will remain a director of Christie's and of Woods of Perth (Printers) Ltd.

Sir Peter Horsley is the new chairman of Robson Lowe Ltd, Robson Lowe International Ltd, and the Regent Stamp Co. Ltd.

Swiss Hotel Stamp

The review of the *Switzerland Catalogue, 1977* in the December issue (p. 97) mentioned that the Engelbert (Hotel-Pension Sonnenberg), No. 1 had been deleted from the catalogue because the publishers doubted its existence.

It may be useful to record the catalogue's previous description of the stamp:

"1880 View of hotel, litho on coloured paper, black/dark green with black border."

The former No. 2 now has become No. 1, and the description of the old catalogue is, "1880 View of hotel, slightly smaller than No. 1, litho on coloured paper."

There are various varieties of this, one being Perf. 11½ black/green with black border.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1977

March

- 2 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 14 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 17 Cyprus and Gibraltar, Mr E. G. Creed
- 31 Canada, the 1967-73 Issue, Messrs J. Paul Hughes and F. W. L. Keane

April

- 6 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 21 Middle Europe. Organised by Mr M. Zitron

May

- 4 (12.30-4.00) Open House
 - 9 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
 - 19 Victoria: Calvert 6d and 2/- 1854, Mr J. R. W. Purves
- Entries for Annual Competition close

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 (12.30-4.30) Open House
- 8 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 18 New Zealand, Mr H. L. Chisholm

Interpex, Philadelphia

A most interesting address on Interpex, Philadelphia, the Seventh USA International Philatelic Exhibition, was given by Mr John Gartner at the December meeting.

Mr Gartner spoke of the immensity of the show and the awe-inspiring wealth of material on display.

He spoke of the organisational problems involved in mounting an exhibition of its magnitude and standard, and contrasted British and American methods of handling them.

Mr Gartner told of the new features introduced, the pitfalls to be avoided, and the lessons learned.

Meetings like this, when a senior member can talk entertainingly and significantly about philately and philatelic matters in other parts of the world, are important in developing awareness of the advance of the hobby as well as varying the normal society routine.

Australia

Another welcome Sydney exhibitor was Mr Lance Skinner, at the January meeting, when he gave the year's Commonwealth display.

It was, as the proposer of the vote of thanks said, "a most delightful evening".

Starting with the King George V Penny Reds, he showed the substituted clichés in their most advanced stage with Harrison one-line imprint, and the pre-substituted clichés. Many seldom-seen varieties included the white flaw over wattles (Plate 3).

There was a sheet of the ½d yellow showing the substituted cliché, No. 37, right pane.

The number of plate number blocks — usually not merely blocks of four — of the later issues shown with varieties, was a further feature of the exhibit.

The 4d koala, no watermark, cracked electro, and the 1/- small lyrebird, cracked electro were noted, and also the 1/- 'Green Mist', matched by a 50c retouched across the whole of the top of the stamp.

The 2d K.G. VI, Die 2, plate -11- no lines in gutter, made one wonder how many of the plate numbers of this issue had been linked to the no lines, one and two-line gutters.

This was one of the few known specimens of the variety, and Mr Skinner commented on the care taken in fitting the faulty stamp into place without noticing that the substitute was upside down. It was Ash imprint, electro 9.

The basic stamp is, of course, noteworthy because the ½d on C of A paper appeared overprinted O S seven months before the normal stamp.

Rhodesia

Australians are traditionally fond of Double Heads and there was a large and appreciative audience at the February meeting when Mr D. E. Napier showed Rhodesia's Double Heads and Admirals.

The beauty and charm of these issues were obvious and Mr Napier's display, based on the shades, perforations and dies, proclaimed their philatelic interest.

It showed both issues right to the £1, mint and used.

Notable were the 5d purple-brown and ochre error, mint, and a block of ½d Double Heads, imperforate.

Seven copies of the Gash in Queen's Ear flaw (Row 1, No. 2, on all values to the 1/-) were shown.

But much more interesting were the mysterious Clandestine Roulettes. These were printed from the genuine plates, on unofficial paper, with forged roulettes, apparently done by sewing machine.

Mr Napier showed the 2½d (2), 3d, 3/- (2), 5/- (2, and block), and 10/- (2).

Also seen was an Eldorado Mine cancellation, and very nice, too.



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