

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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## CONTENTS

COMPREHENSIVE WORK ON QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS .....	53
TASMANIA — TWO NEW CROWN SEALS .....	55
THE TRAIL OF COMMONWEALTH .....	56
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE .....	58
THE 1916 MILITARY ENVELOPE — A NEW TYPE .....	62
NEW TASMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY .....	64
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS .....	67
QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY .....	70
REVIEWS .....	73
REPORTS .....	76

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# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

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## COMPREHENSIVE WORK ON QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS

*Queensland Cancellations and Other Postal Markings*, by H. M. Campbell, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., 161 pp., 7½ x 11¼ in. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001. Recommended price \$20 (post. \$2).

Nearly half a century ago, the Royal Philatelic Society of London published a monograph, *The Stamps of Queensland*, by A. F. Basset Hull. This study dealt with stamp production, dies, plates, types of printing, papers, watermarks, perforations, etc. It was, and still is, after all these years, the first authoritative work on the postage stamps of this State. There is very little mention of Postal History as such in this study before 1879 other than a brief summary of the New South Wales Postal Administration, and of the use of stamps of that State as "provisionals" before Queensland issued its own stamps.

This is not to say that there was no interest shown in the Postal History of Queensland prior to 1930, the year of publication of the Royal's book, as a "List of Numeral Ties" appeared in the *Queensland and Philatelic Review*, in various issues in 1924.

Ten years later, in 1940, further interest was demonstrated in *The Australian Stamp Monthly* when an article by A. A. Gavin on "The Travelling Post Offices of Queensland" appeared. This was followed by more articles in *The Philatelist* during 1946 and 1947, when "Queensland Numeral Cancellations" by C. Jewell appeared. Three years later other articles in *Stamp Collecting* by Harry S. Porter, "Travelling Post Offices of Queensland" and "Queensland Pen Cancels" were published.

In 1954, however, The Hawthorn Press, of Melbourne, published a slim booklet, restricted to 300 copies, *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*, by Captain Harry S. Porter and although it has been shown that others had studied Queensland cancellations and other phases of its postal history nothing ap-



proaching this work had previously been published. As Dr K. Pennycuick said in the Introduction, "This is the research worker's account of progress in an original study when he feels that help from other sources is required to make appreciable progress, but when the foundations of a study are well laid".

The advent of this latest book published in June 1977, *Queensland Cancellations and Other Postal Markings, 1860-1913*, is a major contribution and a giant step forward in the philatelic knowledge of this State. It is also an outstanding tribute to the application and knowledge of Hugh Campbell W.P., an eminent Postal Historian, who has collected and collated, with his own years of research, the material of other dedicated students. Apropos of the mention of lack of material in the Introduction to Porter's monograph, the present author gives due credit when he says: "This book could not have been written if it had not been for the 'Tattersalls' Find', consisting as it did of many thousands of covers and pieces . . . for the period 1897-1907."

He goes on to say that the book is a result of team work, and that may be, but when one realises how far and wide the net has been cast to encompass the vast amount of knowledge presented in this volume, one must be astonished at the patience, application and erudition of the author.

The book is divided into four parts. Part I covers the Numeral Cancellations; the patterns of Allocation; Types of Obliterators; Chronological List of Post Offices and their Numeral Obliterators; the Numbers and the Offices using them in strict numerical order, and Date-Stamps and Other Markings.

Part II, the Postal Service and the Railways; the Railway Station Post Offices; pre-T.P.O. Handling on the Railways; the Travelling Post Offices.

Part III, Receiving Offices and their Postal Markings; Various Stamping Instruments; Manuscript Cancellations and Endorsements. These three Parts have been written as a result of the stimulus given by Harry Porter's pioneer work, and as such can be regarded as a tribute to his memory.

Part IV, Postal Markings of the G.P.O., Brisbane, 1860-1912, covers the beginning of the G.P.O.; the Circular and other Date-Stamps, Single Obliterators, Duplex Cancellations, Machine Cancellations and other Special Purpose Date-Stamps and Other Markings. The author has not himself studied this field, and this part was written from notes provided by Mr Phil Collas, who was responsible for the research, and most of the information. This Part is therefore almost entirely new.

This book produced by The Hawthorn Press runs into 161 quarto pages, closely and clearly printed, and is bound in green bookcloth with gilt titling.

One minor criticism concerns the presentation of the Types of Obliterators on page 13. The Duplex Cancellations, particularly to those not familiar with them, are not very obvious from the presentation. I suggest that it would have been better to have given more space between the first and last vertical columns of illustrations leaving the Duplex Cancellations more clearly defined in the centre. This is a small matter and in no way detracts from this extraordinarily worthwhile book which fully complements the earlier work by Basset Hull.

If we use the analogy of the stamps being the bricks or building blocks, then the Postal History is the mortar which binds the whole philatelic structure together, and indeed Queensland now has a four-square edifice on solid foundations. There may still be gaps in the walls due to lack of bricks and mortar,

and the top floor may never be completed, but it will not be for want of trying by the all too few devoted students.

In conclusion, the Publications Committee of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria must be congratulated on their wisdom and initiative in producing this study, particularly in view of the present and presumably future economic climates.

Will any Society, no matter how well endowed, be able to afford the cost of printing such books in the future, and — probably of more import — will there be students of the calibre able to write them? Perhaps we now approach the end of an era.

B. HARMAN

## TASMANIA—TWO NEW CROWN SEALS

By P. B. EDWARDS

I have been fortunate enough to be allowed to inspect two Crown Seals that have been mislaid by the Post Office for many years. They were in process of being returned to P.M.G. Archives by a long-retired Postmaster. They are:

**DUCK RIVER** which was the early name for SMITHTON, the latter name being gazetted on 1.7.1895. The seal is a small oval, 19 mm by 16.5 mm with small dot stops. It is neatly engraved with 2 mm high letters and reads "POST OFFICE/ (crown) /DUCK RIVER". It is Type 1 as classed by John Avery on page 39 of *P. from A.*, June 1969.

**STANLEY RIVER:** This seal is also oval, measuring 28 mm by 22 mm, with large dot stops. It is roughly engraved with broad, uneven lettering about 3 mm high, and reads "POST OFFICE — (crown) — STANLEY RIVER". It is Type 1b. "In Zeehan area. Opened 1.3.11, closed 30.4.12. No cancellations known" is the entry in *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings* (1962), so this find has some importance. It leads to the supposition that there *may* also have been a c.d.s., as seals and cancellers were usually ordered at the same time.

This seal is also oval, measuring 28 mm by 22 mm, with large dot stops. It is roughly engraved with broad, uneven lettering about 3 mm high, and reads "POST OFFICE / (crown) / STANLEY RIVER". It is Type 1b.

I have been able to glean a little information about this P.O. Stanley River is a northward-running tributary of the Pieman River, some miles upstream of Corinna. Alluvial gold was discovered there in 1910, causing a minor gold rush. *Walch's Almanac* for 1912 lists the Postmaster as W. J. Allen, who, I believe, was a well-known prospector whom I met in 1937 at Whyte River.

Mail would almost certainly have gone up the Corinna track to Waratah and not to Zeehan or Queenstown as suggested in *Tasmania* (Part II).

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

*Conducted by BILL EUSTACE*

*5 Cent, Richmond Bridge*

On the lower pane of Sheet A – on Row 10, No. 1 – there is an extra dark stone in the right-hand pier vertically below the “5”. Naturally this can be found with both the cream and bluish-white gums.

*35 Cent, Wittenoom Gorge*

On the upper pane from Sheet C there is a large pale blue patch which runs from the south-west corner of Row 2, No. 1 diagonally up to the extremity of the registration “T” in the selvedge midway down Row 1, No. 1, and which then passes back through the north-west corner of Row 1, No. 1 and into the top selvedge. The result of this is that the surround on the left side of Rows 1 and 2, No. 1, instead of being white, is a pale blue. Although virtually impossible to pick up on single stamps this is quite a pleasing little item as a positional pair or block of four, since the blue patch shows up best on the white selvedge.

Mr B. Darke, of Canberra, first drew my attention to this item and I have found a number of examples in Melbourne, but I am not sure whether it is due to an accidental light etching of the printing cylinder or just a surface patch of foreign matter which was removed the next time the cylinder was properly cleaned. Again it can be found with the two different coloured gums.

*70 Cent, Barrier Reef*

More or less in the centre of the design are two brown and green pieces of coral and to the right of the upper and more round of these is a patch of pink. On the lower pane of Sheet B serious problems seem to have arisen with the making and registration of the pink cylinder because there are a number of stamps with large white patches between the brown coral and the pink. Of these the most prominent and easily accessible as a positional piece can be found on Row 9, No. 1, Row 10, No. 3, and Row 9, No. 4. The best example is to be found on Row 5, No. 2, but unfortunately this is impossibly expensive as a positional piece whereas the double row across the bottom of the sheet picks up all three of the other items, proves that they are from Sheet B, and fully locates their positions all in the one piece.



*18 Cent, Flower*

Mrs I. Van Tenac, of Adelaide, sent me some mint examples on which the top-coating of the paper is absent, resulting in the stamps showing an orange-brown Helecon lamp reaction instead of the usual bluish-white.

Subsequent examination of a supply of bulk used 18 cent Flower stamps from mail over the past three or four months indicates that they were fairly widely distributed and that perhaps a whole reel of the uncoated paper went through the press. Used will thus be more plentiful than mint examples.

*18 Cent, Pictorial Postcards*

After a period in which they were unavailable from the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Centre, fresh supplies were put on sale. I understand that the reprints — which is what they appear to be — have a different type of "Helecon" in the bars beside the imprinted "stamps" which now glow with a yellowish reaction under ultraviolet.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

*\$500 Bequest by Mrs M. E. Gates*

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria received a \$500 bequest under the will of the late Mrs M. E. Gates.

Mrs Gates, who joined the society in 1956, died last year. She was a dedicated, popular and much-respected worker for the society and a foundation recipient of the Purves Medal.

*Annual Competition*

The Society's Silver Medal for the annual competition in June was won by Mr P. Jaffé for an entry of St Vincent.

Mr Ray Chapman won the Bronze Medal for a study of the 1927 Canberra stamp.

Other entries were: Mrs P. M. Turnbull, First A.I.F. Postmarks; Mr A. E. Molander, Belgian Congo; and Mr C. Davis, French Air Mails.

*Past Issues of P from A*

Recent subscribers to *Philately from Australia* may be interested to know that all back issues of the journal are obtainable from the Business Manager, Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001.

They may be bought as a complete set, or as single numbers.

Ten-year indexes, 1949-1958 and 1959-1968, are also available. These list not only articles but material of permanent interest within the articles, and each contains more than one thousand references to its period.

*Headquarters Celebration*

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will complete twenty-one years at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, in March and the society proposes to mark the occasion.

A celebration will be held at Headquarters on Saturday, 4 March.

*Sheet Content*

Many stamp-issuing countries issue press releases or pamphlets about new issues. These give the data collectors are thought to want.

Most of them are compiled from the departmental view rather than that of the philatelist.

The number of countries whose announcements gives only the number of stamps in a sheet, whether a sheet of 50 is 5 rows of 10 or 10 rows of 5, is surprising.

Is a sheet of 100 made of 10 rows of 10, or 5 rows of 20, or 20 rows of 5, or 2 panes of 50? If the sheet is made from panes, are the panes 5 rows of 10 or 10 rows of 5?

Thousands of collectors of any philatelicly important country want to know these details for their writing up.

Inclusion of this point would be a greatly appreciated improvement.

Postal Department philatelic publications should give all the standard information necessary for the collector to write up his new issue acquisitions.



# The Other Side of the Picture



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

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA

### *The Forthcoming Work on the "Long" Stamps of 1902-1912*

Readers could be pardoned if they wondered whether the writer had not fallen down completely on the above job.

However, as this is written, save for the second half of an Appendix now in course of preparation, the whole of the writing (twenty-six chapters plus) has been completed and has been set up in print. The preparation of the illustrations will follow. All of which means that completion is in sight.

When he first looked at this project the writer believed that all he had to do was to revise the study published in 1947. However, it was soon evident that a great deal more was required. The whole field had to be studied afresh, with all the new material available. That has taken over two years to complete.

Writers are of course the worst judges of their own work, but on this occasion it is hoped that the result will please "State" collectors. At least half of the work represents studies in fields previously either neglected or only briefly noted. A great deal of thought has gone into presentation, arrangement and accuracy.

Technically it is a study in depth of the surface-printing methods used, in Australia, in the "Edwardian" period.

## VICTORIA

### (i) *Discovery of "Barred Oval" 69 on two tying covers*

Mr R. W. Moreton, of Stockport, Cheshire, England, a keen collector of Victoria, has recently written me with details of some recent finds, of which I now record the two most interesting.

He has located two covers, both bearing the 69 cancellation, both tied to WARRINGAL, later HEIDELBERG (1865). It will perhaps be recalled that I wrote a note on this number in *P from A* for March 1975 (p. 13). Mr Moreton has kindly forwarded me photostats of both front and back of each cover. They are the first to be seen *tying* this number, although the allocation was definitely established from the records (see p. 31 of the 1965 monograph). Both covers bear — *inter alia* — the well-known "AUSTRALIAN-LIVERPOOL-PACKET" markings and the WARRINGAL dates are 20.8.55 and 7.9.55 respectively.

As I write, the following numbers of this series are *still* NNS, viz, 45, 71, 84, 96, 98.

(ii) *Another "NNS" Barred Numeral turns up: 702*

Mr Moreton's second discovery is likewise of interest. He has found a De La Rue 2d (issue of 1870-73) with a clearly struck 702 of which he has kindly forwarded a photostat. This number was allocated to *Lingham's Flat*, an office opened 14.3.70 and closed 31.8.72 — see *Handbook*, p. 111.

It is of some interest here to record that, over the fourteen years elapsing since the publication of the "Barred Numeral" book, no less than thirty-one numbers then described as "NNS" have been found and duly checked.

This progress may to some seem slow but it should be remembered that some forty years of keen collecting had already preceded the publication of the book. At least it is a tribute to the vein of interest in this field which has proved so attractive to many collectors, particularly in this State.

(iii) *The Interest of Postal Stationery*

While the writer has published little in this field he has certainly collected it, and over many years. Recently he spent some happy hours studying and re-arranging his own holdings. His previous "revision" took place some seven years ago, but the recent overhaul confirmed, for him, the very wide interest this field possesses. So much so that he hopes to contribute an article to this journal on the subject, particularly stressing the history of postal stationery collecting, methods of study, methods of collecting and some comments on his experience in relation to scarcity.

On this subject one should add that collectors, or potential collectors, have *two* excellent listings available for reference. First of all there was the listing, compiled by the Rev. J. C. W. Brown, in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia (for Australasia), published in 1962, and in more recent years there arrived the much larger Victoria list in the Higgins and Gage (Los Angeles) catalogue of Postal Stationery of the world which, incidentally, can be purchased in sections.

(iv) *2d Letter-Card Discovery of a New Item*

The writer recently discovered a mint 2d Letter-Card, that of September 1901 (*with* the word "POSTAGE") on chalk-surfaced *buff* paper and not on the normal "very pale grey" paper. The latter is LCP 14 in the Robson Lowe list of letter-cards and 14 in the Higgins and Gage list, but so far as is known the "buff" (which is most distinctive) has never been reported.

(v) *1901: The 1d Olive and 3d Slate-Green, S.G. 361, 362 — The Facts*

These notes were prompted by an enquiry from English collectors as to the background of these two stamps. My own impressions being a trifle blurred, I reinvestigated the matter and in the process uncovered at least one fact of which I had previously been unaware.

One curious aspect must first be mentioned. The *earliest* reference in the philatelic press — to the 1d — appeared on 7.7.01 but the first authoritative reference to the 3d did not appear until 30.4.04 — and then not in an Australian publication! We shall deal with each value in turn.

*The 1d Olive:* The following appeared, at p. 127, in the *Australian Journal of Philately* for 7.7.01:

In order to complete the separation of the Victorian Postage and Revenue Departments the 1d stamp of the 1887 issue [this was a mistake for 1890 — J.R.W.P.] has been *re-issued* in olive-green with the words 'STAMP DUTY' as before. This is intended for fiscal purposes only but as the Departments were not to be separated until the 30th June it was available for Postage for 3 weeks prior to that date.

It will be remembered that the first specific issue for postal purposes only appeared at the very end of January 1901. From that date on the previous 1d 'rosine' inscribed 'STAMP DUTY' continued in use for fiscal purposes although until 30.6.01 its use for postal purposes was *permitted*. The sale of this value for postal purposes was, however, restricted to the new 1d red inscribed 'POSTAGE'.

It seems obvious that the supplies of the red 'STAMP DUTY' 1d must have run out towards the end of May 1901 and that when considering a further printing — and since the new 1d 'POSTAGE' was a *red* stamp — it was decided to alter the colour of the 1d DUTY stamp. This is corroborated by the continued use of the *olive-green* colour for the larger size of 1d duty stamp (value in circle in centre) which appeared very early in 1902.

From a legal point of view there was nothing to prevent *any* stamps inscribed 'STAMP DUTY' being used, for postal purposes, prior to or on 30.6.01. That was the arrangement made with the Commonwealth and there was nothing that the postal administration of Victoria could do about it. All of which adds up to this.

So far as the authorities were concerned there was no hocus pocus of any kind. The only element of hocus pocus — a rather innocent one — was the haste with which local collectors and dealers purchased 1d olive-greens and had them cancelled (or used them on mail matter or made-up envelopes) on or before 30.6.01.

The first date of issue was 6.6.01 (as the Catalogue has it) and I have a cover postmarked on that date and sent to himself by W. R. Rundell. Many other dates, over the twenty-five-day period of availability, can be found and C.T.O. copies can be met with the special Melbourne type used for that purpose dated 13.6.01.

*The 3d slate-green:* Here the first reference I can find is in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* for 30.11.01, at p. 85.

After referring to the 1d olive-green and the 3d slate-green a well-known Melbourne dealer of the day, Mr C. B. Donne, referred, specifically, to 'the 3d which we gather appeared in its new colour *too late to be passed through the post*'.

This reference rather stumped me since this 3d has been listed in the Catalogue, and accepted, over many years. I therefore continued looking and in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* for 30.4.04, at p. 206, found the following:

Mr James Duncan, of Williamstown, shows us a Specimen, on the original envelope, of a Fiscal Postal which has not, so far as we are aware, been chronicled as such. It is the 3d (then) Type 29, changed in colour in 1901, when the Fiscal and Postal issues were separated, but available for postage for a few days after its issue, as shown by the following official letter.

G.P.O. Melbourne  
1.7.02

Postmaster, Williamstown.

This is the latest 3d Duty Stamp issued. It is of the same design as that of the immediately previous issue, but *the colour was changed so as not to clash with the present fourpenny Postage Stamp*. The date of issue is 20.6.01, and it would thus be available for Postal purposes for eleven days only.

(Signed) G. Miller

Comptroller of Stamps

The passage in italics (mine) is emphasised because it is the only official explanation of the colour change found to date.

The 3d cancelled in those eleven days *is*, of course, infinitely scarcer than the Catalogue indicates. In fact it is far, far scarcer than the *mint* stamp.

Quite a number of 3ds have been seen, cancelled, with a Melbourne 'Commonwealth' type of cancellation (date in *one* line) 26.6.01. I have no doubt whatever that these cancellations were procured by favour, *years later* than 26.6.01 (? 1910). The type in question (without a 'number') was only introduced towards the end of the 'Commonwealth period'.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *The Listing of Shades*

Where does the listing of shades end? Take, for example, the New Zealand Full Face issue of 1864, perf. 12½, and the number of shades for each value in three catalogues:

	Stanley Gibbons	Verne Collins	Campbell Paterson
1d	3	5	5*
2d (I)	1	2	4
(II)	2	5	7
3d	3	4	10
4d (Red)	1	1	2
(Yellow)	2	2	7
6d	2	2	5
1/-	3	3	7
	17	28	47
Changed Colours			
1d	2	3	5
2d	2	5	4
6d	2	4	6
	6	12	15
Grand Total	23	40	62

\*A shade is accompanied by the reference (shades).

One cannot discuss shades, of course, without Australia's One Penny King George V, surface printed, the "Penny Red".

Gibbons lists eleven individual shades, *The Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* thirty-five and six shades are given as groups.

### *Samoa Palm Trees*

Captain Robert P. Odenweller has received the Collectors' Club Philatelist medal for *Samoa: The Palm Trees Issues, 1896-1900*, a series of articles in that journal. The first of these appeared in January 1975.

The club plans to issue the articles as a handbook.

### *Ex-Powell Samoa Gems Stolen*

Many of the notable items from the Samoan collection of the late John Powell, of Sydney, were among the thieves' booty when they stole the collection of the new owner, Mr Floyd Fitzpatrick, of Honolulu.

They include the "Five Pence" on four pence surcharges as illustrated in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. 5, p. 573, the "5d" on fourpence illustrated on p. 575, and the block of 16, the largest block known, mint, on p. 577.

Also missing are at least ten files containing complete sheets of all "Palm Tree" issues, perf. 11, and several perf. 12 x 11½ and perf. 12, and complete sheets of the surcharged issues of 1895-1898 and hundreds of other stamps. Most of these also came from the Powell collection.

Detective Wilford Ahue, of the Honolulu Police, is handling the investigations and Mr Fitzpatrick has offered a \$500 reward for the return of the collection.




# THE 1916 MILITARY ENVELOPE— A NEW TYPE

By A. W. BUNN, F.R.P.S.L.

It is exciting to discover a new item of Australian postal stationery more than sixty years after its date of issue. — Type 1 of the Military Envelope issued in March 1916.

In a Melbourne stamp auction I recently saw an envelope with a second setting of the type which must have been prior to the introduction of Type 2 in September 1916.

<b>MILITARY ENVELOPE.</b>	
<hr style="width: 20%; margin: auto;"/>	
<i>Regimental Number</i> .....	
<i>Rank</i> .....	
<i>Full Name</i> .....	
<i>Brigade or Unit</i> .....	
<i>Squadron, Battery or Company</i> .....	
<i>Regiment or Corps</i> .....	
<b>AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.</b>	
<small>NOTE.—Above address sufficient. Additions may delay delivery.</small>	

## *Type 1*

The first type of envelope was printed in red on cream paper and bore the outline address in six lines with the words "AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE" at the foot. The top line bearing the "Regimental Number" was on a level with the base of the impressed stamp.

Confusion occurred when the envelope passed through a postmarking machine, often obliterating the number so that it was almost indecipherable.

In September 1916, this type was modified and a new type, known as Type 2, with several textual alterations, was issued. The outline address was in five lines instead of six and the format altered so that no part of the address could be obscured by a postmarking machine.

In the type discovered, which I shall call Type 1A, there are still six lines in the outline address, but the top line has been lowered by 5 mm from the base of the stamp. The second and third lines reading 'Rank.....' and 'Full Name.....', are transposed in Type 1A and now read 'Full Name.....' and 'Rank.....' respectively.

**MILITARY ENVELOPE.**

---



*Regimental No.*.....*Rank*.....  
*Name (in full)*.....  
*Company, Squadron or Battery*.....  
*Battalion, Regiment, etc.*.....  
*Brigade (or unit)*.....

**A. I. F., ABROAD.**

**NOTE.**—Above particulars are sufficient. Additions may delay delivery.

*Type 2*

This discovery also presents a query as to whether there may also be two settings of Type 2. In the publicity poster issued by the P.M.G.'s Dept. and dated 11 September 1916, an illustration of Type 2 is shown with the fourth line of address reading "Battalion, Regiment, &c." while on the issued envelope it reads "Battalion, Regiment, etc."

I will be pleased to hear from others who have similar items.

**MILITARY ENVELOPE.**

---



*Regimental Number*.....  
*Full Name*.....  
*Rank*.....  
*Brigade or Unit*.....  
*Squadron, Battery or Company*.....  
*Regiment or Corps*.....

**AUSTRALIAN IMPERIAL FORCE.**

**NOTE.**—Above address sufficient. Additions may delay delivery.

*The New Type IA*

# NEW TASMANIAN POSTAL HISTORY

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

Publication of Part II of *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings* has led to the unearthing of still more material:

## *Receipt for Money Letter*

An interesting item in manuscript — a forerunner of a receipt for registered letters — reads:

Post Office, Campbell Town  
22nd June 1833

Received from John Leake Esq, a letter addressed

William Millikie Esq.  
Genl Post Office  
London —

Containing two bills —

1st No. 134 dated Swan River 14 Feby 1833 drawn by John Lewis D.A.C. Esq. on Lords of Treasury for £800.

2nd dated Launceston 20th May 1833 drawn by James Henty on Cockrill & Co London for £200 —

The above letter for transmission by this days post to Launceston.

E. K. Horneman

Postmaster.

## *Accounts for Postage*

A committee consisting of three members of the Legislative Council was appointed in 1827 at the instigation of the Governor, Colonel George Arthur, to investigate the Post Office establishment.

Among other matters, they reported that “the messengers, in violation of the regulations, carried letters from places between Hobart Town and Launceston without postage being charged; that the charges had not been rigidly exacted by the Post Masters, or punctually paid by the public, and that the Post Masters had formed contracts with several individuals for delivering their mail rather than levy each letter singly.”

It appears that, in addition, some postmasters, on their own account, gave credit for postages to certain wealthy landowners.

I have three examples of “Accounts for Postage”:

1. Dated 30 June 1829, for what appears to be a year's postage to that date amounting to £5.5.11.

It is addressed to John Leake, Esq, of Campbell Town, from John Thomas Collicott, of Hobart Town, who acknowledged payment.

2. Dated 3 April 1844 for postage for the quarter ended 31 March 1844, amounting to £1.17.1.

3. Dated 30 June 1846. This is a detailed account of postage for unpaid inward letters and paid outward letters since 1 April 1846, amounting to 16/-, to which a booking fee of 2/6 was added.

The later two are from a local postmaster and acknowledgment of payment is made.

The postmasters granting this facility would have had to account for the postages in their returns to the General Post Office, and in the event of any default would have been out of pocket.

### *Manuscript Postal Markings*

#### 1. *Post Office Name Endorsements.*

Additional manuscript endorsements are:

Buckland: 22.6.49.

Hamilton: 5 Feb. (letter dated 1849).

Spring Bay: 4.2.49. Two examples.

Some earlier and later dates noted are:

Longfd. (for Longford): 8.2.49.

Oatlands: 9.8.36.

Ross: 29.11.52.

#### 2. *Money Letter.*

One example only, on unpaid letter addressed to Hobart with the Post Office name endorsement New Norfolk 19.2.49 and is also endorsed on the bottom left-hand corner

Money Letter

New Norfolk

The postal rate, 4d, has been overwritten in heavy black ink, 8d.

#### 3. *The "Paid's"*

(i) "Paid on entire from Oatlands dated 8 Sept. 1836.

(ii) "Post Paid" on entire from Bothwell dated 12 Sept. 1836.

(iii) Paid A/c }  
J. Grant } on letters from J. Grant, Fingal dated 9 and 11 November 1842.

These endorsements are in different handwriting to the writers of the letters, so are assumed to be endorsements by postmasters.

#### 4. *Manuscript Endorsements not of Post Office origin*

(i) "Per John Collicott – A Free Man."

On letter from St. Paul's Plains dated 28 Jan 1836 to Campbell Town.

This endorsement is of historic interest. There is no doubt that the letter was carried by private messenger, and the endorsement would verify the messenger's legal status if he was an emancipist and happened to be queried on his journey by police or other officials.

It is coincidental that the messenger's name happens to be the same as that of the Principal Postmaster at Hobart!

(i) "To be left at the Post Office."

On entire from Tunbridge to Campbell Town dated 1 May 1851. There is no postal rate endorsement on the letter, and if it was left at the Post Office it should still have been subject to postage.

*Manuscript Cancellations on Postage Stamps*

## (i) "Not Properly Cancelled."

This is in black ink in three lines on a 1d Chalon Head with numeral watermark.

Two examples, both with a faint date on the stamps, 10.10.68 and 16.10.68 respectively.

As the date only was a valid fiscal cancellation it is assumed that this endorsement represented a postal usage.

(ii) "WESTERN CREEK" with date 23 Jan. 1904 can be added to the list of post office names on pictorial stamps.

(iii) "X" in ink, period 1900-1912.

(a) Also found with transit or arrival date stamps of Devonport West, December 1909.

(b) In *red* pencil with an unidentified c.d.s. dated 30 November 1903.

(c) In *black* on an entire addressed to Cressy from The Head Teacher at Corinna, Pieman Bridge, with evidence in manuscript of posting on 17 May 1900, and with transit date stamp of ROYENRINE, 19 May 1900.

(iv) Oblique lines in *black* ink.

No evidence of usage or transit markings, on 2d Pictorials.

(v) Lines in *red* ink across stamps.

No apparent pattern but is on a registered envelope from Weldborough. Has manuscript endorsement in *red* ink, Weldboro 18.5.01 in addition to the word "Registered".

(vi) CANCELLED.

In *black* ink dated 5.7.10 with signature under "G. W. Hannaford". On reconstructed strip of 1d Pictorial. Another example on single stamps has the initials "G.H." under the CANCELLED. This has a Launceston date stamp of 2 May 1910.

The initials "G.H." also appear on another example over a part word in *red* ink, but it is indecipherable.

(vii) . . . YED IN MY PRESENCE.

On a reconstructed pair of 1d Pictorials with a signature underneath, which is not however decipherable.

*Numeral Cancellations – First Allocation*

No. 60. One example on a 4d Chalon with numeral watermark struck in *red* has been found. No doubt this was an accidental occurrence.

*(To be continued)*



# COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

*(Continued from June 1977, p. 37)*

## *The 9d Commonwealth Stamp*

The press announcement on 23 June 1903, of the impending issue of the 9d Commonwealth stamp, aroused new interest in the subject — not only the stamp, but the question of where the Commonwealth's stamps were to be printed.

Sir Langdon Bonython (Protectionist, Barker, SA) asked the PMG whether arrangements could be made for printing in Adelaide a portion of the new Federal stamps which the Postal Department proposed to issue.

Sir Philip Fysh (Protectionist, T.) replied that inquiries would be made and the desired information furnished as early as possible.

Next day, Senator E. Pulsford (Free Trade, NSW) asked:

First, how the design for the new ninepenny postage stamp was arrived at, and secondly, seeing that the names of the Federated States are not arranged either in alphabetical order or in accordance with their respective populations, what plan was adopted.

Senator Neild: Nor are they arranged in accordance with the manner in which the States are named in the Constitution.

Senator Pulsford: I believe that New South Wales, the largest State in the union, is named last in the stamps.

Senator Drake: The design was taken from a medal in my possession. It will be found that the name of the State which was founded earlier is placed nearest to mother earth. That is the order in which, I think, the stones in a building are generally placed.

Senator Keating (Protectionist, T.) asked the Postmaster-General:

Does he intend at an early date, as announced in the public press, to issue Commonwealth postal stamps to take the place of present stamp issues? If so, will he call for competitive designs . . . and if not, why not?

Senator Drake (Protectionist, Q.):

The Postmaster-General is issuing a postage stamp of a distinctively Commonwealth character. If such a stamp is adopted it will eventually take the place of the existing State issues as they are exhausted.

He will await the issue of stamps now in course of preparation to supplement those in use in two of the States before determining whether he will invite competitive designs for a new general issue.

Sir Joseph Cook (Free Trade, Parramatta, NSW), who was to be Prime Minister when the Kangaroos were issued, was caustic about the new stamp:

The net result of Federation in this Department seems to have been the evolution of a stamp which none save the Postmaster-General is able to appreciate. I read this morning that he was in a glowing state of fervour over the beauties of that stamp, and was wondering why he was born into a world which needed, as this world undoubtedly does, to be set right artistically. That stamp is one of the results of the centralised control of the post office for which we ought to be profoundly thankful.

Senator Gregor McGregor (Labor, SA) asked on 12 August whether it was the intention of the Postal Department to print a Commonwealth stamp which would be available in every State, and, if so, whether it would be printed in any one place or in the different States.

Senator Drake's answer was: "I may say on behalf of the Postmaster-General that there is no present intention to issue a Commonwealth stamp."

Commonwealth Postage Due stamps had been in use since the previous year and now they provided an interlude among the questions on a real Commonwealth issue:

Mr F. Clarke (Protectionist, Cowper, NSW) for Mr Crouch asked the PMG:

Whether the Postal Department refuses to sell to collectors postage due stamps at their face value?

Why similar stamps are sold by the Department to dealers?

Is the Postmaster-General aware that these stamps are for sale by dealers and can be bought in stamp shops, and can he explain how this happens?

What reason does he give for not selling the stamps to the public?

Mr Deakin: The Postal Department sells to all applicants sets of postage due stamps lightly postmarked at their face value.

Nearly six months passed before Senator Keating asked the Vice-President of the Executive Council, on 14 April 1904, "When does the Honourable the Postmaster-General intend to adopt a uniform design for postage stamps to replace the present State stamps? Will he, before doing so, call for competitive designs?"

Senator T. Playford (Protectionist, SA): "No determination has yet been arrived at on the subject. Before any definite action is taken he will consider the advisability of inviting competitive designs."

### *Not When, but Where*

It seemed that Parliament was tired of the subject. Then, eighteen months later, it was revived at a new and more intense stage.

Where would the Commonwealth stamps be printed?

That was a question! All the other questions had drawn a blank. They had been questions of interest. Now they would be questions of importance — State rivalries were involved.

Mr J. Page (Labor, Maranoa, Qld) fired the first shot on 6 September 1905:

I should like some information as to the reason why the printing of postage stamps, postal notes, money orders and similar papers is to be taken from the Brisbane Printing Office. The State of Queensland has gone to a lot of expense to obtain a printing plant second to none in the Commonwealth and I do not understand the reason for the change.

Postage stamps, money orders and postal notes being the equivalent of money should, of course, be in the hands of the Treasurer. No Department should be able to issue its own paper money.

Mr Page: £1 worth of postage stamps are as valuable as a sovereign and the Treasurer should be the only man to control their issue.

Mr A. Deakin (Protectionist, Vic.): I hope we shall have the opportunity to consider this question on Tuesday next.

On 8 November Mr W. E. Johnson (later Sir Elliot Johnson) (Free Trade, Lang, NSW), an artist, also asked the Postmaster-General (Mr Austen Chapman):

1. Is it a fact as stated in the Press that as soon as the new stamp printing machine, the purchase of which was authorised by the Parliament, arrives, it is the intention of the Government to have the whole of the postage stamps required for the Commonwealth printed in Adelaide?

2. Is it a fact that the stamp room of the Sydney Government Printing Office has the most complete and up-to-date machinery for printing stamps?

3. Will he give information as to the amount of revenue derived from the sale of stamps in

- (a) New South Wales
- (b) Victoria
- (c) Queensland
- (d) South Australia
- (e) Western Australia
- (f) Tasmania.

Mr Chapman:

1. The matter referred to has not yet been definitely determined but it is considered desirable that all postage stamps should be printed in one office and that the selection of that office must depend on the cost and quality of the work required:

2. The Postmaster-General has not the information nor the technical knowledge to enable him to reply to this question. He is, however, aware that the postage stamps supplied to this Department by the office referred to cost 7½d per thousand while those supplied by the Victorian Government Printing Office, though costing hitherto 5d per thousand, are now provided for 3½d per thousand and 4d per thousand for those printed for use in Western Australia and Tasmania, which, prior to the transfer to the Department, were printed in England.

3. The revenue derived from the sale of postage stamps in the various States is as follows:

New South Wales	£787,660	5	6
Victoria	543,879	13	9
Queensland	271,517	1	1
South Australia	196,013	13	2
Western Australia	186,801	17	1
Tasmania	93,349	1	11
	<u>£2,079,221</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>

*(To be continued)*

# QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

(Continued from June 1977, p. 45)

## LETTER CARDS

As early as 1890 the Queensland Post Office had examined the practicability of the extension, intercolonially, of the letter card system then existing in Victoria, where 1½d cards were being currently sold at 1s3d per dozen. It was considered that such cards could be introduced with advantage in Queensland, and have intercolonial usage, but at that time the Queensland authorities were of the opinion that the charge should be 2d each.

Not until the passage, in October 1891, of the new Post and Telegraph Act did the Queensland Post Office have the authority to issue letter cards, although at that time did not consider it expedient to provide them immediately. The Government Printer, in the meanwhile and subsequently, made enquiries from his counterparts in New South Wales and Victoria concerning technical production and other aspects of letter cards, while designs were also put in hand.

One reads, in the Postmaster-General's Report dated 1 August 1895:

In accordance with the almost universal system, it was resolved to issue a Letter Card, and, the Postmaster-General having approved of a suitable design, one has been issued bearing a two-penny stamp, which entitles it to transit through the various Colonies.

The emphasis which eventually brought about the appearance of the letter card without doubt stemmed from a resolution agreed upon at the Intercolonial Postal Conference held at Wellington, N.Z., in March 1894. This was to the effect that the Australasian colonies would each issue on 1 July 1894 a 1½d letter card for intercolonial use. While agreeing in broad principle, the Queensland authorities maintained the attitude adopted in 1890 and fixed a 2d rate. Moreover, the issue date was delayed until 1 June 1895, for technical reasons associated with its production.

The main heading of the letter card was derived from the original design evolved for the 1888-91 post card series, this having been modified, as related, for the 1½d post card of 1891. The further modification now made in the heading involved the substitution of the title "Letter Card" in lieu of "Post Card" and the dropping of the text, above the heading, which had appeared on the 1½d post card. The coat of arms at the left was the same. Four dotted lines were provided for the address and the word "To" was not now included. The stamp impression was normally positioned, at the right of the main heading.

On the back of the letter card appeared, in the top centre, the arms of the colony, with "Queensland", below. Underneath this, in sloping letters, was the inscription: "This Card may pass through the Post to any place within Queensland, New Guinea, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia, Western Australia, New Zealand, Tasmania & Fiji." And below this again was the admonition: "If any thing is enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter."

The design of the 2d letter card stamp was a modification of that of the 1½d

post card stamp, the head now being on a colourless background. The expressions in the panels at the left and right of the head, and in the bottom corners, were appropriately altered and an ornamental device placed below the head, instead of words, as had appeared in the 1½d. Close examination will show that the head was redrawn and it is thought that the whole design, prepared on a larger scale, was photographed down to the required size.

A characteristic of the head, and found on all examples I have seen, was a break in the outline of the neck, a little below the junction of the line from the chin. There are varying secondary characteristics, such as "LA" of QUEENSLAND" sometimes being joined, and without doubt this and other slight differences that are to be found can be attributed to the transferring process employed. No variation has been noticed in respect to the distance of the stamp impression from the main heading and it is concluded that the one master was utilised, without change in this particular area, for all the lithographic transfers required.

The size of the letter card, when folded and in unused condition, was variable, width being from 150 to 153 mm and depth from 90 to 92 mm. There may have been more extreme examples. Printing was in blue and, in respect of the first issue, on a greenish tinted stock, the writing area inside being of a cream tone.

There was a vague indication in the overseas philatelic press of 1895 or 1896 – the reference has been mislaid – that in the initially issued letter card the expression "Western Australia" was inadvertently omitted from the names of colonies on the back of the card. However, I have not seen or had reports of letter cards having this characteristic, and there is a reasonable doubt as to whether such an error occurred. I have an example of the normal card with a Maryborough postmark of 26 June 1895 so that if faulty cards had been issued they would probably have carried dates of early June.

In October 1895 printings were being made on a greyish blue stock and by 1896 on stock tinted pale blue, and on white stock.

The perforating of the letter cards was carried out on the "C" machine, earlier mentioned. The normal perforation 12 was first used for the letter cards and from about October 1895 one finds the paired perforations, every third pin in the perforating line having been removed. It seems likely that letter cards on the two different stocks were printed about the same time and quantities of each first treated with the normal perforation and later with the paired perforation.

However, the Government Printing Office would seem to have distributed all of the greenish stock first, commencing with the normal perforation, so that cards of the greyish blue stock, with both categories of perforations, did not appear until some time later. One finds that in the Robson Lowe table the 2d on greenish and 2d blue green – the latter a stock which I tend to distinguish as greyish blue – are both listed with normal and paired perforations, the same obtaining in the Higgins and Gage list.

The letter cards noted in this study were in use until 1902, being then replaced by a modified form. They thus had a reasonably short life and, as with other classes of stationery earlier mentioned, are much scarcer used than unused. They were never particularly popular with the public. While the number distributed to post offices during 1895 was 11,448 it is seen that by 1898 the demand was such that only 3218 were distributed.



### A Footnote

Two other items which appeared during the period embraced by this Part are sometimes grouped with postal stationery, although they cannot be classified as part of the normal stationery listings.

The first, issued on 28 October 1880, was a hybrid that could be used either as a postal note or a telegraph form, the latter being printed on the back. In green colour, it carried a stamp impression which showed the Chalon head with "Fee Stamp" above. Its value as a postal note was 1s and on payment of this amount, and a premium of ½d, it could be alternatively employed to "frank both by wire and post an inland telegram of ten words".

The second was a stamped telegraph form of 1s value issued in July 1882 and intended exclusively for telegraphic usage. An illustration of the upper part of the form is to be found in the Higgins and Gage catalogue. The form was in very little demand and was withdrawn in August 1890. Over the period of availability a total of only 1500 forms was recorded as having been sold.

Both the items were adequately described by Mr Basset Hull in the *Australian Philatelist*, 25 August 1894.

END OF PART ONE

## AUSTRALIA'S \$10.00 STAMP

Australia's \$10 stamp — the highest value stamp issued by the Commonwealth — will be an addition to the Australian Paintings series of high values.

It will feature Tom Roberts' *Coming South*, which depicts a group of nineteenth-century immigrants on the deck of a liner.

The stamp, which will be issued on 19 October, will be in the vertical format of the £1 *A Sergeant of Light Horse*. It will not be printed by the Reserve Bank of Australia, as the other values of the series, but by Asher and Co, Melbourne.

It will be produced by multi-colour photolithography on a two-colour Roland Rekord press on KP6T unwatermarked paper incorporating heleon and will be issued in sheets of 50.

Tom Roberts will then be represented by two pictures in the series. His *Shearing the Rams* is on the \$4.

## REVIEWS

*Commonwealth of Australia: The George V Threepence*, by A. S. Davidson and V. W. Dix. 41 pp. and 44 pp. illustrations. 8 x 9½ ins. Published by the British Society of Australian Philately, 8 Shandon Close, Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3HE, England. Price £5.

The King George V Threepence is one of the most interesting Commonwealth stamps and Mr A. S. Davidson and Professor V. W. Dix have followed their 1973 volume on the King George Fourpence with a matching study of this value.

The description of the new work as a matching study is accurate because the two studies have the same format, system, thoroughness and clarity of expression, and because of the great attraction which both values hold for large numbers of specialists.

During its thirteen-year career there were eight plates, two (or three) dies, three printers, three watermarks, and two perforations. But only one colour.

Not only is the Threepence especially interesting, but it is also one of the most enigmatic stamps of the issue. Points of major importance still unsettled are: Did Mullett retouch Harrison's die before he made his plates (3 and 4)? Were Ash's plates electrotypes? What was the process for reproducing the master plate? What is the status and explanation of the intermediates of Type A and B in the Mullett Plates? And there are sixteen constant varieties still unpositioned.

Where there are differences in terminology, etc. between authorities, Mr Davidson and Professor Dix have adopted that of the *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*, the most up-to-date authority. They have made no new listing of shades but have cited the comparative listings in Rosenblum's handbook and the catalogue.

When authorities differ, their views have been mentioned without an expression of opinion where there is no conclusive evidence. For the less experienced student this is useful, and for the more experienced it is a reminder.

An immense amount of work has gone into the forty-four pages of illustrations. These cover all the primary flaws and those of the individual plates, as well as the marginal lines of all plates. Finally, there is a set of composite illustrations for the preliminary identification of varieties.

Another King George V stamp has a

volume all to itself and all students must now "take it from here". All specialists in the issue have good reason to be grateful to the two authors. Their appreciation should also go to the anonymous workers responsible for all stages of the production of the work.

*Linn's World Stamp Almanac, 1977*. First Edition. 718 pp. 6 x 9 in. Published by Amos Press Inc, Box 29, Sidney, Ohio, 45365, USA. Price \$10 (US).

*Linn's Stamp News* is the world's largest weekly philatelic journal and with its vast background resources and enterprise one should not be surprised that it has decided to serve collectors with an annual.

Now it has produced a weighty volume, making available a vast range of materials which will interest a wide range of philatelists, from modest collectors to advanced specialists, or be of use to them.

First of the twenty-five chapters is a chronological list of news events from 1975 back to 1970, with dates on which the item appeared in *Linn's Stamp News*.

The American Bicentennial as commemorated in the United States and other nations on stamps is a topical feature in both the normal and philatelic senses. There is a full record of Interphil '76, the philatelic commemoration, and the largest international stamp exhibition held in the United States.

Other special American features include the history of US Postal Communications, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, including details of its presses, and the American Bank Note Company.

But if *Linn's* is American, it is also international. The international part opens with a history of the world's postal communications and a gazetteer of stamp-issuing countries and postal agencies, with subsequent lists of their printing establishments.

The Stamp Section proper is introduced by a feature on basic knowledge, types of stamps, the care of stamps, the preparation of exhibits, and the Ten Commandments for Judges.

There is a well-illustrated chapter on Famous Gems, followed by details of reference collections libraries, and postal museums.

United Nations issues also receive prominence.

Details of philatelic organisations of international importance are not easily available, and this has been recognised by the inclusion

of comprehensive information on the American Topical Association, and the International Federation of Philately, with its regulations for F.I.P. patronage.

There is a chapter on world literature, often with the prices at which the various items are available in the United States, and a listing of currently-published philatelic journals on a world scale.

It has been a wide-ranging, far-seeing project that includes not only a glossary of philatelic terms but a multilingual guide covering English, German, Dutch, French, Spanish and Italian.

*Linn's World Stamp Almanac* is obviously an endeavour to help collectors, and it deserves success.

*Xth British Commonwealth Games, 1974*, by Gerald Lawson. 13 pp. 8½ x 11½ in. Duplicated. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 25-105, St Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand.

This is the Postal History Society of New Zealand's Study No. 7 and is a comprehensive coverage of the 10th British Commonwealth Games, held at Christchurch in 1974, and of all the postal telegraphic and telephonic services provided.

The historical introduction notes that New Zealand was represented at a festival with Australia, Canada, Great Britain and South Africa in 1911, but does not say where it was held. It lists the ten Empire (Commonwealth since Kingston, Jamaica, 1966) Games held since the series began in 1930.

The study lists the commemorative stamp issues of New Zealand, Cook Islands, Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa and details the slogan, postmarks, Games date-stamps and miscellaneous markings, as well as telegraph forms. There was no special aerogramme, but there was a souvenir pack.

An interesting point is that the 5c value in the New Zealand set, from which the Games symbol was omitted, was in commemoration of the Fourth Commonwealth Paraplegic Games, held in Dunedin.

One does, however, look in vain for the name of the designer of the striking Games symbol used on stamps, slogan postmark and date stamps.

It was an imaginative design — the letters NZ right side up and then upside down — to form a Union Jack design, with the diagonals forming the X of the Xth British Empire Games, and finally reading NZ, whether it is looked at from top, bottom or either side.

Mr Lawson mentions that the special skills

of four men enabled the symbol to be reproduced in the slogan cancellation. One thinks they deserved to be named.

The study records that there were 105,512 articles postmarked with the three pictorial date stamps, but does not say how many were marked with each.

It does note, however, that the opening day postmark, inscribed Commonwealth Games Main Stadium, was not used there but at the Christchurch Chief Post Office.

The 30,000 articles posted that day at special boxes and venues included 10,000 advertising circulars.

*Information Stamps*, by R. M. Startup. 17 pp. 8½ x 11½ in. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 25-105 St Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand.

The discovery and recording of postal markings, other than cancellations, would seem to be an unending pursuit, but Mr Startup has long been on the trail and now has been able to obtain sample impressions of the rubber stamps used between 1973 and 1975 at what appears to be virtually all post offices in New Zealand.

This is a preliminary report on them, as a prelude to a classification based on purposes and types or places of use. Earlier dated examples will then be co-related to the master list.

The present work is an alphabetical list of "rubber postal markings" and also unofficial postal markings from various identified Defence Services, Government Departments, and businesses.

Mr Startup's title does raise questions. "Stamps", one feels, should be those sold at the stamps counter of post offices, or their official and revenue offshoots. This is the classical meaning, for stamps were collected and studied before postal markings.

"Rubber stamps", as a differentiation, would be inappropriate, as some of those used may be metal, so it would seem wise to use the words "postal markings" for those inscriptions impressed by postal officials. It is not usually the "rubber stamps" or "metal stamps" that are being recorded, studied and written about. It is the impressions from them.

*Robson Lowe Review, 1975-76*. 12 pp. 6½ x 9½. Published by Robson Lowe International Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JZ.

Colour reproductions are a feature of this issue of the *Review*, which reports another

## **NEW ZEALAND**

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## *Philately from Australia*

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# THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

## *Members' Diary*

1977

September

13 Mr A. G. Salisbury, Tibet.

October

11 Display by lady members, compered by Mrs Shirley Jones.

## *Iceland*

Miss Helen Sergeant White, from Melbourne, presented to the March meeting a paper and portion of her collection of the stamps of Iceland.

The issue of stamps began in 1872 when a post office was established in Reykjavik. Danish stamps were issued until 1873 when the country issued its first stamps, known as the Skilling stamps, which are exceedingly rare on cover. In 1876 the currency unit was changed and this brought about a new issue. At this time a circular cancellation was used showing the name of the post office, but crown and posthorn postmarks were used from 1893

Iceland continued to send letters under this form in very limited numbers until 1919 when it became a full member of the U.P.U. On 17 June 1944 Iceland became a Republic and with it emerged more colourful stamps.

Among Miss White's collection were examples of the Skilling issue, along with home forgeries of this period by Spiro, the issue of 1897 and their overprints, and the issues up to recent years, including covers from American and British troops stationed there during World War II.

## *Fiji*

The paper and display for the April meeting were given by Mr John Gartner, of Melbourne, and were part of his collection of Fijian stamps, which is thought to be the best in the world.

We were treated to an excellent display dating back to the *Fiji Times* issue of 1870, which he has been able to build up from various collections which became available to him, including that of the late Walter Finigan, a member of Royal Sydney. The second issue of *Fiji Times Express* in 1871, was followed later that year by the first Fiji issue.

Mr Gartner's covers of the 1880s included some from the Leper Colony at Makogai, which had free mail. One, cancelled M.O.K., which had been researched, was assumed to mean Medical Officer, Kadavu.

Mr Gartner then gave a short talk on the Panpex Exhibition in Christchurch, and what a wonderful success it was. He said the quality of the exhibits was surprising and he felt that Australians who proposed to put on international exhibitions could learn much from this exhibition.

He was particularly impressed by the fact that all award winners, even those who won only a certificate, were presented with their awards personally at a banquet at the close of the exhibition.

## *Medal Winners*

The Curator of the J. Whitsed Dovey Collection, Mr E. J. Garrard, presented Volume 8 of this collection to the May meeting, and Mr N. Hopson also showed us some examples of recent issues from the Crown Agents.

The awards for the Club's Medal Competition were announced:

General — "North Point", an entry of Greek stamps by Mr G. A. George.

Topical — "Munchkin", an entry of the 1972 Olympic Games at Munchen by Mrs Shirley Jones.

The winning entries were then displayed.

The Business Manager of *Philately from Australia*, Miss Joyce Buchanan, reported a very active year, the main activity being bringing subscriptions up to date and recouping arrears.

"In response to letters sent to subscribers who were in arrears, it was most gratifying to read how much *Philately from Australia* is valued by collectors in Australia and overseas", she reported.

The Treasurer, Mr L. W. Buchanan, said the year had been a heavy one financially, having started with a balance of \$3240 and finishing with a balance of \$246, after redeeming some short-term loans.

The main item of expenditure had been the cost of the two books undertaken.

There had been a large jump in the cost of *Philately from Australia*. This was expected to ease in the current year.

Repairs and maintenance were only a third of the previous year, but it was still a sizeable sum. "We cannot have a property such as this unless we are prepared to keep it in a reasonable state of repair", Mr Buchanan warned.

The values of property and contents had been increased, but were still below current rating and market values.

"I believe that the Society is still in a sound financial position, and if we keep a close watch on increasing costs will stay that way", he said.

The Librarian, Mr G. N. Kellow, reported forty-three accessions, bringing the total number of books to 2286 with 1300 volumes of bound periodicals.

Mr R. L. Lloyd-Smith's supplementary library catalogue, detailing the accessions of the past ten years, had also been published.

Officers elected: President, Mr D. N. Baker; Vice-President, Mr D. E. Napier; Immediate Past President, Mr M. B. Watson; Secretary, Mr J. A. Sinfield; Treasurer, Mr L. W. Buchanan; Council: Misses J. Buchanan, M. Farley and H. Serjeant White, and Messrs H. L. Chisholm, J. Gartner, P. Jaffé, T. C. Lester and J. R. W. Purves; Librarian, Mr G. N. Kellow; Superintendent, Sales Branch, Mr T. C. Lester; Superintendent, Exchange Branch, Mr T. R. Morgan; Press Correspondent, Mr H. L. Chisholm.

### Presidential Victoria

The presidential display featured Victorian postmarks and postal history, supplemented by some early New South Wales items.

The first half of the display was a study of the Barred Numeral cancellations, No. 1, Melbourne, was represented by a very fine entire to London posted on 22 December 1855, this being the earliest known, and probably "first day", use of a Barred Numeral.

Wherever possible, the cancellations were shown

on cover, or used in conjunction with other markings and scarcer stamps, or to unusual destinations. Many RRRR numerals were exhibited, including several previously listed as NNS, and some possibly unique "ties".

Included in the second half were covers with Detained for Postage, Paid At, Unclaimed, Dead Letter Office (Butterfly 14 in red), and No Address markings. Also noted were Returned "More To Pay" Letters, the newly-discovered dated rectangular Craigieburn (15.3.1879), the rare Exhibition duplex (1197) and a City Express Messenger Co on front.

Another highlight was a 1922 cover from Hawkesdale showing late usage of the oval "Not Known by Letter Carriers Melbourne" and a mystery rectangular "Returned to the Post/Office Melbourne from . . . . .".

TPO covers included the first "UP" and "DOWN" types, and one with the scarce "DOWN" 14 cancellation used on an undoubted "UP" journey ("UP" 14 is unknown).

Two interesting covers to England bore prominently retouched 3d Half-lengths.

The display concluded with several choice New South Wales entire of the period 1832-1849.

### New Zealand

Mr H. L. Chisholm chose "The Fascination of New Zealand Stamps" as the theme for his display at the August meeting.

The display aimed at showing the wide variety of attractions offered by New Zealand's issues.

It opened with an engraving of the Chalon Head as on the first issue, introducing a selection of the Davies printings with their striking colours.

The 1863 2d provisionals were shown, imperforate and Perf 13.

Examples of the deterioration of the Perf. 12½ printing head and Full Faces affected by the atmosphere of the thermal regions, which caused the 1871 colour changes, were shown. A pair of 2d Plate 1 from the proof sheet sent to Perkins Bacon when ordering Plate 2 was matched by a pair of proofs from the new plate.

An interesting cover from the Burrus Collection bore twelve 2d Plate 2 Full Faces.

The provisional printings of the 1898 Pictorials led on to the 1d Universal slot machine experiments and the Royal and Waterlow plate numbers.

The beautiful George V issues were represented by two-perf. pairs.

Mr Chisholm drew attention to the superb engraving of the 2½d and 1/- 1935 pictorials and the 1/- Centennial, and contrasted the stately 5/- Mount Cook with the roaring Pohutu geyser of the 1960 £1-£2 — both truly magnificent stamps.

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *Members' Diary*

1977

September

- 7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 15 Combined Display
- 29 Malaysia, Mr F. D. J. Clayton

October

- 5 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 10 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 20 South Australia, Mr J. R. W. Purves

November

- 4 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 14 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 17 Philatelic Miscellany, Mr R. Kelly
- 19 Sale

December

- 7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 15 Barbados, Mr E. G. Creed

1978

January

- 19 What the Society means to me. Senior Members of the Council

February

- 1 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 13 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 16 Pioneer Australian Airmails, Mr A. W. Bunn
- 18 Sale

March

- 1 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 4 Society celebrates twenty-one years at Headquarters
- 13 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 16 West Indies, Mr P. Jaffé
- 30 The Baltic, Group display organised by Mr M. Zitron

## *Switzerland*

Dr G. R. Zambelli presented a comprehensive display of Switzerland at the second June meeting. He began the Cantonal period with two copies of the Zurich 6 rappen on pieces.

The transitional period was represented by some 5c Geneva on pieces, and these led on to the first Federal stamps, the Orts-Post.

Rayon I, Rayon II and Rayon III were shown in their various papers, with several pieces, and together formed an extremely impressive showing, as they were supported by examples of the various cancellations.

The later issues were all shown in mint blocks and used blocks with the much-sought-after central cancellations, complete to the high values.

Noted among these were the 1932 Disarmament Conference first day of issue, with central cancellation, the two types of paper of the Olympic Games, all possible combinations of the 1945 Peace issue, the first airmails, miniature sheets, and tete-beche items.

League of Nations international organisations provided the finale.

## *Annual Meeting*

The president, Mr M. B. Watson, reported to the annual meeting in July that the society had had another very successful year, with seventeen new members elected, compared with eleven in the previous year.

Membership was now 248 (232) — Metropolitan, 145 (140), Country Interstate and New Zealand, 80 (75), Overseas, 23 (17).

Mr Watson said the Council, recently and reluctantly, had decided to increase the subscriptions. Faced with ever-increasing costs, the Council felt it better to take this action now rather than contemplate an even higher increase next year.

"I am sure we all believe that the Society is still very good value", he said.

The long-awaited book on Queensland Cancellations had been published and Mr Purves' study on the "Long" Stamps of South Australia was almost finished. Publication was expected shortly.

"Publication of philatelic works is a very important aspect and one of the things that sets this Society apart from a great many others", Mr Watson said. "It is a truly philatelic activity and one which, it must be admitted, very few societies can do."

"Through the efforts of members of the calibre of Mr Purves, Mr Campbell and others, this has been achieved and it has kept the Society in the forefront of philatelic publishing.

"It is up to the people who can do so to put the results of their researches in writing and it is up to the Society, if it can, to publish them. In this way a great deal which might otherwise be lost will be recorded for the benefit, not only of the present collectors, but those who will come after them.

"With rising costs, publication will become increasingly difficult."

During Stamp Week a non-competitive exhibition was staged in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall, an effort which reflected great credit on the Society and its members.

After careful thought the Council had decided to withdraw from the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council and the federal body. The Council was by no means unsympathetic to their aims, but felt its objectives were somewhat different and that there was little value in retaining the direct connection.

"Although we believe that full involvement is not necessary, I am sure it is understood by the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council that the assistance and co-operation of the Society will be forthcoming whenever it is required," he said.

The Convenor of the House Committee, Mr C. G. Skewes, said the extensive maintenance done on the property during the previous two years meant that less had been required this year.

The Superintendent of the Sale Branch, Mr T. C. Lester, reported another record year, with a total realisation of \$48,279. The increase was largely due to the inflationary trend. A total of 1496 lots was offered with 89.84 per cent sales. The surplus to the Society, \$2834, was slightly lower than the previous year because of higher running costs.

The Exchange Superintendent, Mr T. Morgan, said that at least six books had completed their circuits during the year, with another eight in circulation. The number of contributors had risen by fourteen. Several contributors with substantial sales had been paid in advance.

record year with a turnover of £4,284,000 — more than 50 per cent upon last year's record of £2,848,721.

Top price for the season was £29,545 paid in Basle for a Lombardy-Venetia combination piece, the 50c fiscal used for postage with the 15c and 30c postage stamps of 1850-54.

The same day £25,000 was bid for a cover with a block of eight of the 45c 1850-54 Lombardy-Venetia.

A block of 3d pale olive Kangaroo, first watermark, the bottom pair imperforate on three sides, was sold in Geneva for an Australian collector for £4108. This was part of an Australian Commonwealth sale which realised £69,595, in which a block of £2 Kangaroo, Crown C of A watermark brought £4540.

Melbourne's sales for the year totalled £364,568 (£254,942).

Highest number of bidders at a sale was 519, at Bournemouth, 3 June 1976, compared with 684 last season.

Australia stayed in sixth place as a London buyer, although it cost her more than twice as much as in the previous year to do so — £114,600 compared with £47,146.

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

Great Britain, £1952 (£1437); British Empire, £70,416 (£26,196); Other Countries, £4,595 (£10,315); Postal History, £3695 (£3749); General, £34,196 (£18,024); Basle, Geneva, Bermuda, £5968 (£5975). Total, £148,570 (£74,288).

*The Colour Catalogue of Australian Stamps.*

First edition. 32 pp. 6 x 8½. Published by David Mortimer, Box 2, Burwood, Vic. 3125 Price \$2.90.

Colour is one of the great primary attractions of stamps and now a catalogue list has been produced with the illustrations enlivened by colour.

It is the first colour catalogue of Australian stamps and the listing takes no account of plate varieties, apart from die distinctions, or inverted watermarks.

But this conciseness gives an added attraction to the ever-varying range of designs, and it should draw many recruits to the hobby besides giving much pleasure to youthful collectors.

## THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

The Philatelic Society of Victoria, which was founded in 1892, and which in 1946 had the privilege conferred upon it of the use of the prefix "ROYAL", is a Society to which you, as a collector, should belong. Among its many advantages are:

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

★ **MEETINGS** held on the third and fifth Thursday of the month at 7.45 p.m. in its own premises, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, Melbourne, 3141.

★ **EXCHANGE BOOKS** circulate regularly within Australia to interested members.

★ **THE SALES BRANCH** enables members to buy and sell stamps not considered suitable by the vendor for exchange sheets. Postal bids accepted from members for any item.

★ **COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY** is open to members on Meeting Nights and one other night monthly or by arrangement with the Librarian. Also 12.30 on first Wednesdays.

★ **CURRENT FILES** of the leading overseas philatelic journals printed in English are available on the tables at the Society's rooms.



★ **QUARTZ LAMP & MICROSCOPE** and a Reference Forgery Collection are available.

★ **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.

★ **THE SOCIETY'S FEES** are: Entrance Fee: \$15.00; Annual Subscription: City and Metropolitan Members, \$12.50; Country and Interstate, \$8.00; Overseas, \$10.00.

★ **ALL COMMUNICATIONS** should be directed to Mr DONALD NAPIER (Sec.), Box 222, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001, 819 2466.

## THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

FOUNDED 1890

★ **OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is available to members at special subscription rate.

★ **MEETING ROOM:** The Club meets at 7.30 p.m. on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the No. 1 Hall, 7th Floor, G.U.O.O.F. Building, 149 Castlereagh Street, Sydney.

★ **EXCHANGE BRANCH:** Members are entitled to receive the Exchange Books which circulate regularly within Australia.

★ **LIBRARY:** A library, comprising over 1000 volumes, is available for use of members by arrangement with the Librarian.



★ **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.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to—

**Mrs Nita M. Wilson, Hon. Secretary - Box 1751 G.P.O. Sydney 2001**



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October 25 (*Basle*) Sperati's 1913 Kangaroo £2, including black prints from the original clichés.

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