

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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MARCH 1978

A ROLL OF NOT SO DISTINGUISHED PHILATELISTS?

For nearly sixty years The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists has been internationally recognised as Philately's supreme honour.

Now a proposal for an Australian Roll of Distinguished Philatelists has been put forward in the Australian Stamp Promotion Council. It invites the gravest objections.

The most immediate and important objection is that it violates the sanctity of the title of The Roll of Distinguished Philatelists.

Are we to have the Australian Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the American Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the New Zealand Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the Canadian Roll of Distinguished Philatelists? This would clearly debase the most respected institution of the philatelic world: "He is on the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists." "Which roll?"

It is a most unfortunate proposal.

The next objection is that, if a Commonwealth-wide honour is to be created, the Australian Stamp Promotion Committee is not the body to do so.

A philatelic honour should be conferred only by a body of philatelists.

Such a body must be comprised of the most respected philatelists available and must be truly representative of philately throughout Australia.

The Australian Stamp Promotion Council fails on both counts.

Also, it is primarily a sales promotion and public relations body.

It could well be that Australia's most respected philatelists would feel themselves bound to decline election to such a roll — which would become a list of names — with those of Australia's philatelic "Greats" conspicuously absent.

The concept of an ultimate Australian honour can be readily understood but the need for such recognition may be questioned. The leading societies and State organisations have their awards which have achieved status over the years and none of them has thought it necessary to propose anything else.

Basically, all philatelic endeavour revolves around societies or State organisations. Because of their nearness to the candidates for such honours, they are the ones most able to judge true worth.

Most philatelists who might be considered for such awards are members of philatelic societies in more than one State and if a philatelist in another State is deemed worthy of interstate honour, the societies are able to honour him, or to ensure that he is so honoured.

Again, a philatelic honour should be awarded only by philatelists.

And, above all — let "The Roll" remain "The Roll".

EDITORIAL NOTES

Honours

Two prominent members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria have featured in recent Honours Lists.

They are Mr Ray Chapman and Mr George Skewes.

Mr Ray Chapman, a personality of Radio Station 3AW, Melbourne, and one of the leading figures in the radio world, has conducted the Royal Women's Hospital Easter Appeal for twenty-eight years. He has raised \$3,750,000 for the hospital.

To undertake this, he relinquished the post of Chief Announcer.

Mr George Skewes, Victorian President of Toc H, with which he has been associated for twenty-seven years, received the Medal of the Order of Australia (O.A.M.) "for services to the community, particularly in connection with the Emergency Alarm System".

The Emergency Alarm System, a Toc H activity, was introduced into Australia by Mr Skewes.

It is a press-button, battery alarm for people who are ill or who might need the services of a neighbour urgently. It consists of a flashing light in a window or a light or audible alarm in a neighbour's house.

Details of the person's doctor, address of family or friends, and other vital details are filed at the district police headquarters,

which will send a mobile patrol car on receiving word of "a flashing light", etc.

There are 3500 of these installations in Victoria and another 3000 in other parts of Australia.

British Honour for Col. F. V. Thompson

The British Philatelic Federation has granted its Award of Merit to Col. F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L., Hon. President of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club and Convenor of its Pacific Islands Circle.

Col. Thompson was one of the initial nominations for the award, which is a certificate.

The names of recipients will be inscribed professionally in the Federation's Book of Merit.

Research Medal for Mr P. Collas

The Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of New South Wales Research Medal for 1977 has been awarded to Mr P. Collas, F.R.P.S.L.

The award recognises his editorship of the *Australian Stamp Monthly* when "he wrote and encouraged a vast number of articles dealing with philatelic matters", his founding of the *Philatelic Bulletin* after establishing the Philatelic Bureau, and his authorship of *Australian Postage Stamps*, and the Australian Post Office philatelic series.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

Whilst this column is perhaps not altogether the appropriate place to "sound off" about philatelic ethics, I cannot help but express my dismay at the news that the Christmas 1977 Miniature Sheet for Christmas Island is being reprinted long after Christmas and is not expected to go on sale until well into March, and furthermore that the reprint will differ from the original in being on CA watermarked paper.

Another surprise item is a reported shortage of some values of the Nauru definitives and the overprinting of remainders of the Nauru House commemoratives with denominations 4 cent and 5 cent on the 15 cent value and 8 cent and 10 cent on the 30 cent value.

The shortage is said to have arisen from delays to the release of the new definitives and I can only hope that the provisionals will be available in sufficient numbers to fully satisfy the market.

It is a curious fact that somehow I have ceased to collect the issues of almost every country which has appointed a commercial enterprise to operate their philatelic agency within a few months of the agent being appointed. Nauru has recently established a London firm as its philatelic agent and I am hoping that this will not lead to the elimination of yet another country from the list of those which I collect.

Which having been said, I suppose it sounds a trifle odd to complain of the dearth of new issues and the absence of worthwhile news items to report.

Australia Day 1978 — 18 Cent Commemorative

When this issue was released the Philatelic Sales Sections were supplied with two different coloured gums/papers which were available on demand. It was also noted that the order of the colour bars across the tops of the sheets differed.

Sheets with greenish gum have the bars, reading from left to right, deep blue, red, black and pale blue, whereas on sheets with pink gum the order is black, red, deep blue and pale blue. Also, the black and blue bars are much thicker.

The paper of sheets with pink gum appears to have a slightly pink tone from the front and that of the green gum sheets seems much whiter.

Surprisingly, therefore, the pink gum sheets have much the brighter white reaction under ultra-violet light both from front and back.

Initial supplies in the Melbourne City Post Offices seemed to be all of the green gum paper but on later supplies the gum was white, giving rise to a third

type. From the front, lamp reactions of the green and white gummed paper are fairly similar.

There are a number of constant minor breaks in lettering, common to the three different papers, of which the chipped "C" of 18c on Row 1, No. 8, and the damaged "U" of Australia on Row 2, No. 1, are both obtainable in reasonably priced positional blocks.

Australia — 45 Cent Cricket Commemorative

A nice little variety which only recently came to my attention is to be found on Row 10, No. 5, where the lowest of four black lines running across the red on the left-hand end of the pavilion stops short — an item destined for eventual catalogue listing.

Australia — 25 Cent Aerogramme Packing Slip

It is a long time since I had access to aerogramme packing slips and on one which I obtained recently the colour of the printing had been changed from purple to red. The type had also been reset since both 25s had been moved slightly downward and toward the outer edges of the slip. The two horizontal lines between the 25c's had gone and been replaced by (4 x 250's) but this, in turn, had been obliterated by a solid block of red. It would be interesting to know whether there was ever a period when the packs of 1000 aerogrammes sent to the distributor were subdivided into blocks of 250. If so, this would have taken place between the end of January 1976 and the end of December 1977.

EDITORIAL NOTES

PEX '80

Three major philatelic exhibitions will be held in 1980 — in London, Sydney and Auckland.

The ten-yearly International Philatelic Exhibition will be held in London from 2 May to 10 May.

The New Zealand Stamp Exhibition, ZEAPEX '80, will be held at Auckland from 23 to 31 August 1980.

The Sydney Philatelic Exhibition (SYDPEX '80) will follow, in Sydney Town Hall, from Monday 29 September to Monday 6 October.

The two Australasian Exhibitions have both adopted the idea of Supporting Memberships, costing \$10 in their country's currency.

This will entitle the subscriber to receive all exhibition bulletins and other items issued by the promotion bodies.

Both bodies have budgets of \$100,000 and are appealing for donations.

The secretary of the New Zealand Stamp Exhibition is Mr K. A. Griffiths, Box 27339, Auckland 4, New Zealand.

The secretary of SYDPEX '80 is Mr R. C. Peck, Box 85, Drummoyne, NSW 2047, Australia.

New Cook Islands First Day Cancellations

Rarotonga has introduced a new variation of its "First Day of Issue" cancellations (*P from A*, December 1976, p. 83) for its Bicentenary of the Discovery of Hawaii covers.

The new postmark, applied in green, has a ship instead of the palm tree at the left of the marking. Dateline is 20 Jan 78.

A similar postmark, with a bird replacing the tree, was used for the 1977 National Wildlife and Conservation Day, the date being 15 Nov 77. This differs from the others in that only two wavy lines link the illustration subject and the c.d.s. part of the design, whereas the others have four lines. The earlier markings were in black.

It would appear that Cook Islands have adopted the idea as a permanency.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA: FURTHER LIGHT ON THE 4d AND 1/- LITHOGRAPHS

By BRIAN POPE

When was the "Inverted Frame" printed?

In my book *Western Australia: The Introduction of Adhesive Postage Stamps and the Colonial Printings together with Numbers Received and Issued, 1854-77*, I concluded, from a consideration of the daily work pattern of Samson and Hillman, that the "Inverted Frame" belonged to the printing of 97 sheets on 5 January 1855. In his review (*P from A*, June 1977, p. 31) Mr Purves commented:

"It seems, although Mr Pope does not raise the question, that there must have been a first 'intermediate' stone (with an inverted frame) used for the second printing. . . ."

"Mr Pope assumes that the other rare 'secondary' errors, e.g., the 'PEICE', belong to the second stone, but this remains to be shown. They *could* belong to the first."

Mr Purves is correct on both counts.

Unfortunately for my other activities, these comments proved somewhat potent, impelling me to re-read the available literature and tackle the problem afresh from the viewpoint of knowledge recorded and that provided by the stamps themselves. Now I have arrived at exactly the same conclusion regarding the printing of the "Inverted Frame".

We know:

1. There are two distinct "sets" of so-called "transfer varieties":
 - a. "rare" S.G. b, ba and bb
 - b. "common" S.G. c to s inclusive
2. These two sets are *not* found on the same sheet and therefore were printed from *different* printing stones.
3. The four "Inverted Frame" positions (141, 146, 151 and 156) were substituted respectively by four fresh transfers from positions 31, 32, 33 and 26 of the Intermediate Stone of 60 (5 x 12). Therefore it was on the *printing stone* that the four substitutes were effected, and *not* by way of one substitution on the Intermediate Stone.
4. The four substituted transfers occur on the same sheet as the "common" transfer varieties.
5. Therefore the "Inverted Frames" must occur on the same printing stone (and therefore sheet) as the "common" transfer varieties, but at an *earlier* stage.
6. Therefore the "Inverted Frame" does *not* occur on the same sheet as the "rare" transfer varieties.
7. From the number of "Inverted Frames" and "rare" transfer varieties surviving, they cannot be from the larger last or second last printings and therefore they must be from the smaller first and second printings.

8. Since the "common" transfer varieties are found in the last printing they must come *after* the "rare" transfer varieties.
9. Therefore the "rare" transfer varieties *must* have come from the *first* printing, and the "common" transfer varieties together with the "Inverted Frame" in four positions *must* have come from the *second* printing. The "common" transfer varieties, together with the four substituted positions, must therefore come *after* the "rare" transfer varieties.

The "Inverted Frame", therefore, belongs to that portion of the second printing undertaken on Friday, 5 January 1855, namely 97 sheets, giving a theoretical maximum number of 388 (97 x 4) copies. The known survivors now total 15 complete specimens and one part specimen in a damaged vertical strip of three, making 16 in all, or a little over 4 per cent of the total believed printed.

One Printing Stone only for the 1/-?

My earlier suggestions regarding this value now need modification as a result of the recent appearance of an example of the flaw on the "A" of "Postage" in *deep red brown*, a shade known to be from the *first* printing. This flaw was hitherto known to me only in "grey brown", "chocolate brown" and "pale brown" as described in the sale catalogue of the "A.P. Collection" in 1943. As the "red brown" is the first printing and the "pale brown" is the last printing it follows that the flaw was present throughout *all* printings.

From the small number of this variety known to me, it seems it occurs only once in a sheet and therefore was on the printing stone and not the intermediate stone. If such were the case, then *one* printing stone only could have been used, at least until 30 November 1855, when Durlacher commented, during the course of the fourth printing, "The heat of the weather has much retarded this day's work, it having been necessary to make a fresh re-transfer of the impressions". As the printing of a further 59 sheets of the 1/- was recorded on the *next* day I consider it highly unlikely that the "re-transfer" can have involved the laying down of a complete new printing stone. I believe that *one* stone was used throughout for the 1/- and that it had some impressions "re-transferred" (i.e., substituted) in November 1855. To make any further progress in this direction it is essential to establish the position and occurrence of the "A" flaw on the sheet. Can anyone help?

Proofs or Pulls?

The existence of proofs of both values in black with an *offset* impression of the *other value* on the back has always puzzled me. Firstly, the *survival* of proofs from this period, under the conditions of printing as they are now known, seems a dubious proposition, and secondly the existence of the inverted frame as an offset indicates a fourpenny proof, that, *if it was pulled at the time*, would surely have resulted in the *correction* of the inverted frame on the intermediate stone *before* the printing stone was laid down. Having now established the likelihood of only *one* printing stone for the 1/- value, the *necessity* to proof the 1/- did not exist at the time the inverted frame was on the 4d intermediate stone. Intermediate Stone 1A, with the inverted frame on it, was *not used again*

after January 1855 and thus the inverted frame impression remained unaltered from that time until whenever the stone was erased. It follows that a proof showing the inverted frame could have been pulled *at any time* after January 1855. Bearing all these factors in mind, I suggest (bearing in mind the practical certainty that the single inverted frame variety on the intermediate stone was never corrected) that the proofs with offsets on the back were in fact pulled at a *later* date, and thus have no relevance to the printing situation.

How were the Stones Prepared?

Here I differ from previous students, notably Messrs Chadwick and Purves, in the *London Philatelist*. I find it difficult to accept the *practicability* of *cutting out* centres of the frame transfer. It would be bad enough trying to provide the octagonal shape of the 4d, but cutting *internal* ovals for the 1/- seems quite impracticable even with a template. The other difficulty I have is with the concept of pasting frame transfers "... face upwards on a *transfer* taken from the selected part of the penny plate". (*L.P.* May 1967, p. 104.) As the centre vignettes would be at a *different* level to the frame, I do not understand how the composite could be transferred, or even inked, properly.

As I see it, Samson's first step was to take a transfer from the engraved plate and to lay down blocks of 60 (5 x 12) directly on to two intermediate stones, one for each value. Dr Osborne established that columns 10 to 14 were used for the 1/- and columns 16 to 20 for the 4d. Samson then removed enough of each impression as would ensure that nothing would show *outside* or *through* the proposed octagonal and oval frame designs respectively, after these were applied. Mr Purves told me that if I was correct this removal would have been done with an acid brush and would have been a painstaking and rather lengthy procedure.

The next step was to make a lithographic stone with *one* original frame impression for each value. These originals would have been drawn on the stone in lithographic ink. The two sets of 60 transfers each were then individually taken from the stone, *one frame* at a time, on *transparent* transfer paper. This technique is described by Melville in *Postage Stamps in the Making*, and it will be apparent there is *no* cutting involved. These transparencies were then readily transferred around the central swan, *one at a time*, to complete the Intermediate Stone.

The final step involved making a normal lithographic transfer from the Intermediate Stone four times to build up the Printing Stone. Thus Samson made:

4d Intermediate Stone No 1 and 4d Printing Stone No 1

1/- Intermediate Stone No 1 and 1/- Printing Stone No 1

The 4d Printing Stone No 1 had the "rare" transfer varieties and the 1/- Printing Stone No 1 had the "Flaw on the A of Postage". The first printing of both values in July 1854 was made from these printing stones.

Samson resigned shortly after completing this first printing and when a fresh printing was undertaken it was done by Hillman. For some unknown reason Hillman had to make a fresh 4d printing stone. It will be noted that on 2 January he produced only three sheets of 4d before stopping for several days, so possibly the stone broke, or he was unable to produce a satisfactory result. I suggest that when he inspected Intermediate Stone No 1 of the 4d (in order

to make the necessary transfers for a new printing stone) he found damage was apparent in two positions — 34 and 36 — and he replaced the frames (only) by the above technique. One frame however was applied tilted (No 34) and the other inverted, but the error was not noticed and a printing stone was prepared. (The “tilted” frame may in fact have been on Intermediate Stone No 1, but this makes no difference to the conclusion expressed.) This new stone was Printing Stone No 2 and had the “common” transfer varieties, the four Inverted Frames and four Tilted Frames. The 97 sheets of the second printing made on Friday, 5 January 1855 are from this printing stone. The three sheets produced on Tuesday, 2 January were from Printing Stone No 1. Thus Hillman made:

4d Intermediate Stone No 1A and 4d Printing Stone No 2.

Intermediate Stone No 1 with only two positions altered (34 and 36) became Intermediate Stone No 1A. The second printing of the 1/-, undertaken at this time, was made from Printing Stone No 1 with no alterations.

Hillman undertook the third printings in October 1855 and it will be noted that Thursday, 25 October was occupied with “. . . lithographing postage stamps” but produced *no* stamps. It is at this point I suggest that the four “Inverted Frame” impressions were removed from Printing Stone No 2 and replaced by fresh impressions. Note that in two of the four instances — positions 146 and 151 — traces of the *underlying* impression remain in view outside the new impression. This produced 4d Printing Stone No 2A. It should be noted that the 4d Intermediate Stone No 1A — with the Inverted Frame on it — was *not* involved in the production of 4d Printing Stone No 2A, and that the “common” transfer varieties are still present. This stone was used for the third printing of the 4d. For the third printing of the 1/- Stone No 1 was used again.

For the fourth and final printings in November/December 1855 4d Printing Stone No 2A was again used with no change, and for the 1/- 275 sheets were printed from Printing Stone No 1 and 59 sheets from Printing Stone No 1A, which was Stone No 1 with certain “re-transfers” made on 30 November. 1/- Printing Stone No 1A may or may not still have had the “Flaw on the A of Postage”.

What I called in my book 4d Intermediate Stone No 2, 4d Printing Stone No 3 and 1/- Printing Stone No 2 now become No 1A, 2A and 1A respectively, and there was, I now believe, no 1/- Intermediate Stone No 2 prepared at all.

Summary of the Stones

Fourpenny

Samson made

Intermediate Stone No 1 from which he made Printing Stone No 1.

Hillman altered

Intermediate Stone No 1 to

Intermediate Stone No 1A from which he made Printing Stone No 2.

which he later altered to Printing Stone No 2A.

Printing Stone No 1 has the "rare" transfer varieties.

Intermediate Stone No 1A has the Inverted Frame (Pos. 36) and the Tilted Frame (Pos. 34).

Printing Stone No 2 has the Inverted Frame (four) and the Tilted Frames (four) and the "common" transfer varieties.

Printing Stone No 2A has the Substituted Frames (four) and the Tilted Frames (four) and the "common" transfer varieties. The "Crawford" Sheet is from this stone.

One Shilling

Samson made

Intermediate Stone No 1 from which he made Printing Stone No 1.

Hillman used

Printing Stone No 1.

which he later (Nov/Dec 1855) altered to Printing Stone No 1A.

Printing Stone No 1A may or may not have the "Flaw on the A of Postage".

TASMANIAN CROWN SEALS

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

The publication of Mr P. B. Edwards' article (*P. from A.*, September 1977, p. 55) on two new Crown Seals prompted me to examine my collection of impressions taken from Crown Seals.

In 1956, by courtesy of the PMG's District Inspector in Launceston, fifteen of these brass seals were examined and strikes taken from them in violet ink using a normal office rubber stamp pad. From memory, I believe, they were destined to be converted to scrap metal. Fortunately today the policy is to preserve such equipment.

The following seals have not previously been recorded (types in accordance with John Avery's listing, *P. from A.*, June 1969, p. 39):

BOOBYALLA	Type 1
BRADSHAW'S CREEK	Type 1
HENRIETTA	Type 1
ST PATRICK'S RIVER	Type 1
WHITEFOORD HILLS	Type 1, Dot Stops
MOWBRAY	Type 1, Dot Stops
STAVERTON	Type 2, Cross Stops (?)
ENGLISH TOWN	Type 2a, Dot Stops
FLOWERDALE	Type 2a, Dot Stops
LEBRINA	Type not previously recorded
WEST BIRRALEE F.B.	Type 4, Dot Stops

Lebrina is an oval, similar to Type 1a, but the impression reads (Post Office Name)/Crown/POST OFFICE TAS.

To fit into the sequence of types it should be designated Type 1b, Avery Type 1b becoming 1c.

West Birralee F.B. (F.B. no doubt for Free Bag).

The type, not previously described, is circular, similar to Avery Type 3, but the impression reads (Post Office Name)/Blank Circle in Centre/Tas.

An impression of DAISY DELL listed by Mr Avery as Type 3, i.e. with impression reading (Post Office Name)/Crown/TASMANIA, is also held, but the impression reads as for WEST BIRRALEE F.B. seal, and this raises the query whether there are two types of DAISY DELL seal. Strikes of circular Crown Seals from other States held certainly have a crown in the centre, but only these two circular Crown Seals of Tasmanian origin have been sighted.

Several strikes are also held — the impression taken in black ink, the source of which is unknown, but only one has not previously been recorded, being:

BROADMARSH UPPER	Type 1a
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Impressions held of seals which Mr Avery stated exist only in the PMG archives are BEULAH, DUNORLAN, FLORENTINE, NORTH HOBART and YOLLA.

Examples of other seals, impressions in bluish ink, evidently used at the GPO Hobart, are also of interest:

1. Circular Type 4. Impression reading M.O.O. HOBART TAS. Dash stops between HOBART and TAS. The three letters before HOBART are indistinct but appear to be M.O.O. The first letter is wider than the other two, ruling out, in my opinion G.P.O.
2. Circular, but no outer line approximately 30 mm diameter.
Impression reading: CROWN
FOR
LONDON
G.P.O.
3. Horizontal Oval with outer line 29 mm x 22 mm.
Impression reads: STAMP BRANCH/COAT OF ARMS/GENERAL
POST OFFICE.
4. Crowned Vertical Oval, 25 mm x 41 mm, which consists of an inner oval surrounded by an oval band 4 mm wide with an outer line. The crown is in a tombstone appendage at the top of the oval band. The inscription on the oval band reads GENERAL POST OFFICE HOBART with circle stops. The inner oval has the inscription CUSTOMS across the centre in large letters.

Correction: In a previous article it was stated that NORTH DUNDAS could be added to the list of Crown Seals used as a canceller. It was overlooked that NORTH DUNDAS RD had been recorded in *Tasmania — Postal History and Postal Markings, Part I*. Although the strike appeared to be complete, further examination of the examples held has revealed that the letters RD had not registered.

BOGUS "REGISTERED ADELAIDE" SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELLER

By D. G. COX

Collectors are warned to be on their guard against a bogus squared circle canceller of South Australia. It reads, "REGISTERED ADELAIDE SA/19/JU 4/90", and, to date, I have seen it on three items, all being on long 'POSTAGE & REVENUE' stamps.

The fact that it is bogus is clearly evident as one of the examples is on a £1 Blue stamp with the Crown, Wide "SA" watermark. This stamp emitted only in a reprinted series which were overprinted SPECIMEN.*

This particular copy had had SPECIMEN expertly removed and the fake canceller applied.

Another example is on a 10/- Green stamp which obviously had been cleaned of its fiscal marking.

The third noted is on a £3 Sage Green stamp in a Melbourne auction catalogue. Seeing this example (illustrated in the catalogue) well after the sale, I was very suspicious as it appeared to be so different from any of the three types I had noted in my study of these markings.

Firstly, it is not rectangular, several of the corners being out of line; secondly, the code "19" appears above the date. In the hundreds of "REGISTERED ADELAIDE" examples I have seen the code number does not exceed "10". In the Northern Territory both "18" and "19" were used in some offices as a century mark above the date — "18" for the 19th century and "19" for the 20th century. In this context it was wrong, as it should be "18" for "1890" and not "19" (the only example I have seen away from those of the Northern Territory is of "CUSTON" on a 1d Red King George V issue of 1915 date). Thirdly, there is the poor setting of the lettering, with no full stops between "S" and "A" and with a spacer bar on the left side of "SA" and missing on the right.

Visiting Mr E. R. Slade Slade, I mentioned my suspicions to him and he showed me, in his collection of South Australia, the 10/- and £1 stamps previously mentioned, which he had already noted as having forged cancellations. The £1 stamp had a clear date ("19/JU 9/90"). The 10/- was slightly indistinct, although "19/JU ?/90" could be observed.

It does appear this bogus canceller has a fixed date, but collectors should be careful in case the date is from movable type.

**The Postage Stamps of South Australia*, published by the Philatelic Society of South Australia, page 91: "All Postage and Revenue stamps printed on paper watermarked Crown SA (Close) are originals. All those, including the Postage and Revenue stamps, found on paper watermarked Crown SA (Wide) and overprinted either 'REPRINT' or 'SPECIMEN' are reprints."



PACIFIC PARAGRAPHS

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

Conducted by the Pacific Island Circle of the Royal Philatelic Club

BRITISH SOLOMON ISLANDS

Amendments to Harold G. D. Gisburn's Handbook

In the Foreword to his handbook the late Harold Gisburn acknowledges the assistance given by Mr Raymond Baldwin, a member of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of the Royal Philatelic Club ("The Pixies").

It had been arranged that Mr Gisburn would submit the manuscript of his handbook to the Pixies for comment and, if necessary, for amendment, before being sent to the publishers, but owing to the author's sudden death on the night he returned home from a vacation in Italy this was not done.

As the handbook is an essential book of reference for anyone interested in the subject, the Circle has been urged to make known, while Mr Baldwin is still able to assist, certain observations which would have been made had the manuscript been submitted to them prior to publication of the handbook.

The observations relate only to the period covered by Mr Gisburn's handbook (up to the end of 1955) and do not deal with stamps issued after 1955 or the postal history of the country after that year.

It is known that Mr Gisburn intended that a portrait of Mendaña should be incorporated as a frontispiece to his book. With this in mind Mr Baldwin carried out much research in the Mitchell Library in Sydney and succeeded in finding, in a German book, a reproduction of a conventional portrait which hangs in the Ministry of Marine in Madrid. A small reproduction of this portrait appears on page 14 of the handbook, but had Gisburn's intentions been given effect to it would have appeared as a full-page frontispiece, with the caption "Alvaro de Mendaña de Neyra — Leader of the Expedition which discovered the Solomon Islands".

On page 16 of Harold Gisburn's book is an illustration of the prizewinning design for the 5/- Elizabethan stamp and on page 73 details of the design are given. Without detracting from the artistic merit of the stamp the Circle considers the depicting of a Spanish galleon may convey a wrong impression of the size of the ships under Mendaña's command, details of which are given on page 14. The ships in question were of a type known as "Barque de Guerre" and were built for use in the perpetually smooth waters of the Peruvian coast. Surely Mendaña's voyage must rank as one of the most outstanding voyages in Pacific navigation and one comparable with the crossing of the Atlantic by Columbus.

Although no representations of any of Mendaña's vessels are known, a design for a stamp depicting the arrival of Mendaña at Santa Ysabel in 1568 was submitted to the committee which selected the designs for the issue. This design, reproduced below, included two vessels of the type known as "Barque de Guerre".



The Pacific Islands Study Circle makes the following observations:

LARGE CANOES

Forgeries

The Circle has no knowledge of forgeries made to defraud the revenue. The Fournier emissions were regarded by him as "facsimilies" which collectors could use, if they so desired, to fill blank spaces in their collections. In addition to the bogus MUNIO postmark, other markings purporting to be postal cancellations have been seen on Fournier facsimiles. In addition to the perforation varieties of the Large Canoes listed on page 36 of Gisburn's book the following are now known:

½d Value

Imperforate at top and also between stamp and left and right-hand margins and also double perforations vertically.

1d Value

Double perforations vertically. The Circle has also seen two postmarked copies which have no perforation between stamp and right-hand margin.

2d Value

Perforation missing between third and fourth vertical row. On close examination of the known imperforate-between pairs, it seems that they come from only one sheet of stamps. Consequently there would be ten horizontal pairs imperforate between. Five such pairs have been traced and the remaining five pairs are thought to have been lost to philately as the pairs from horizontal rows four and five are known to be badly damaged. It is possible that the bottom half of the sheet was damaged and the stamps were not issued.

A recent discovery is the variety imperforate vertically at right with full sheet margin. Two stamps with this variety have been seen and as the margins at right vary in width it appears that at least two vertical strips each of ten stamps originally existed.

5d Value

Double vertical perforations. From all examples it appears that this variety occurs on one sheet of stamps only.

6d Value

Although there was only one printing of these stamps, there are two mixtures in the printing ink. The first mixture produced a purple-brown colour (as confirmed by Sheet No. 8 which has been seen in that colour), and as printing progressed a fresh mixture of ink was used resulting in a chestnut-brown colour which was used to complete the printing. Vertical pairs without the horizontal perforation-between exist in purple-brown colour and their centring may indicate that the horizontal perforation was omitted from two sheets.

SMALL CANOES

The only comment the Circle has to make concerning this attractive issue is to mention the scarcity of the ½d value on thin paper bearing a postmark within the period of issue. The stamps on thin paper were sent to the Protectorate in March 1913 and the George V issue was placed on sale in April 1913.

George V Series

The check list on page 50 of Gisburn's book should be amended by adding under the heading "1914-23 inscribed Postage Revenue" after ½d Green (March 1914) the following:

- ½d Yellow green (1917)
- 1d Carmine red (July 1914)
- 1d Scarlet (1917)
- 2d Slate grey (July 1914)

Reference to 1d slate grey (July 1914), which is in error, should be deleted.

U.P.U. Issue

The Circle reports the existence of the following Plate numbers appearing on the bottom selvage of each sheet:

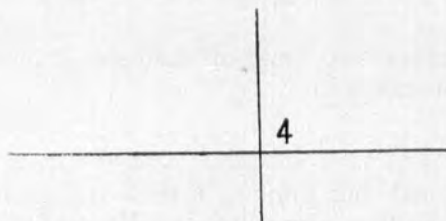
Printed by Bradbury Wilkinson & Co. Ltd.

- 3d Value 1 and 1a
- 2 and 2a
- 5d Value 1 and 1a

Printed by Waterlow & Sons

- 2d Value 1
- 1/- Value 1

The stamps printed by Waterlow and Sons sometimes appear with a number in crossed lines at top right corner of the sheet:



These are thought to be vignette plate numbers and were usually guillotined from the sheets.

Harold Gisburn mentions on page 79 of his handbook the very rare "L.P.P. GAVOTU" postmark. There are other rare cancellations: "S.S. KULUMBANGRA" and the "PACIFIC PLANTATIONS LTD SUPERCARGO". In view of the rarity of these cancellations the Circle considers it desirable to refer to its article in the September 1957 issue of *Philately from Australia* (p. 87).

It is clear that page 96 of the handbook where it refers to Fig. 30 should be amended by deleting the words "enclosed in an outline of a shark" and substituting "enclosed in a scroll".

Postal Markings

On page 89 details of four postmarks of TULAGI are illustrated. The following should be added:

1. A postmark similar to Fig. 2 but with "TULAGI" spelt "TULACI" ("C" instead of "G").
2. A postmark similar to Fig. 2 but with an infinity symbol (an elongated 8 on its side) under the date line.

MORE ON FINDS OF AUSTRALIAN LATE FEE MARKINGS

By LESTER G. SHEPARD

Thanks to Messrs B. Beston, of Queensland, and A. L. Simmons, of ACT, I am able to report the following changes and additions to lists of Late Fee Markings previously published:

VICTORIA (*P from A*, December 1973, p. 102)

No. V-1 Early date now June or July 1904 — also T.P.O. MG-11

What may be an unreported marking from the Stock Exchange has been discovered by Mr Jeffrey Marchant, of Buxton, England.

This is similar to the marking illustrated as "V-3" but larger. The rectangle

measures $37\frac{1}{2} \times 11$ mm and has rounded corners. The marking was found on a registered cover addressed to London, dated 7 AU 13 with Stock Exchange registration label.

Although there is a possibility that this marking could have been used by some firm which made frequent use of the Late Fee service, as the latest example seen of the V-3 marking was 12 OCT 1910, it could have been a replacement for that marking.

NEW SOUTH WALES (*P from A*, December 1975, p. 97)

No. N-11 Early date now 20.12.34

QUEENSLAND (*P from A*, September 1976, p. 58)

The following new straight-line markings have been reported:

No.	Used from	Remarks
Q-1	Aramac	40 x 7 mm
Q-3	Babinda	42 x 10 mm
Q-3	Bell	40 x 8 mm
	Biloela	Discarded when damaged
Q-3	Booyal	42 x 10 mm
Q-1	Brookstead	41½ x 7 mm
Q-3	Cambooya	41½ x 10 mm
Q-1	Capella	40 x 7 mm
Q-1	Childers	40 x 7 mm
Q-3	Collinsville	42 x 10 mm
	Georgetown	Size not known
Q-1	Gladstone	39 x 7 mm
Q-1	Greenmount	38 x 7 mm
Q-3	Kolan South	44 x 9 mm
Q-2	Longreach	30 x 7 mm
Q-2	Lowood	29 x 7 mm
Q-3	Marian	44 x 10 mm
	Mungar	Returned 1973, size not known
Q-2	Pittsworth	30 x 7 mm
Q-3	Ravenshoe	43 x 10 mm
Q-2	Rosewood	29 x 7 mm
Q-1	St George	38½ x 7 mm
Q-3	Texas	40 x 8 mm
Q-2	Theebine	48 x 4 mm
Q-1	Yeppoon	39 x 7 mm

Should any reader have copies of the marking reported by Mr Marchant, or any other unlisted Late Fee Marking, a report of it would be appreciated.

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

(Continued from September 1977, p. 69)

The question of where Commonwealth stamps would be printed moved promptly into the Senate where Senator A. J. (later Sir Albert) Gould (Free Trade, NSW) followed up next day (9 November 1905):

I wish to ask the Minister for Defence whether any arrangement has been made for the printing of stamps for the Commonwealth at Adelaide, as stated in the press, and if so, on what conditions and terms.

Senator Playford: I am not sufficiently acquainted with the subject to be able to answer the honourable Senator, but if he will give notice I shall be pleased to get the information.

The following day, Senator E. D. Millen (Free Trade, NSW), for Senator Gould, repeated Senator Gould's question and Senator Keating, representing the Postmaster-General, replied that no arrangements had been made.

Two "old style" questions on the day of Mr Johnson's question brought "old style" answers:

Mr F. W. Bamford (Labor, Herbert, Qld): Is it true as stated in the Press that the Postmaster-General's Department contemplates accepting for the Commonwealth Postage Stamp a design incorporating the King's head?

Mr A. Fisher (Labor, Wide Bay, Qld): I hope that the King's head will not be accepted.

Mr Bamford: Will the Postmaster-General ask this Parliament to ratify any decision that may be come to on this subject?

The Postmaster-General (Mr Austen Chapman, Protectionist, Eden-Monaro, NSW): Designs for this stamp are now under the consideration of the Department. I think that the King's head would be very suitable.

Mr C. McDonald (Labor, Kennedy, Qld): Why not have something Australian?

Sir Joseph Cook followed up with:

Has the attention of the Postmaster-General been drawn to the design of the New South Wales 2½d stamp and if he has formed any opinion as to its suitability for the Commonwealth postage? I understand that the design has been declared by experts to be one of the most outstanding of the world.

Mr Chapman: I shall be very glad to look into the matter and to give the Honourable Member a reply later.

On 7 December Mr Page, for Mr Culpin (Labor, Brisbane, Qld) asked the Postmaster-General:

1. Whether he will give each State owning efficient stamp printing and perforating plant the opportunity to printing its own stamps, paying to each State one uniform price?
2. What is the present cost in each State (a) for printing, (b) for gumming, (c) for perforating, (d) for paper.
3. What is the rate of wages paid in each State and the total cost per 1000 stamps resulting.
4. What size of paper and its weight, with number of watermarks per sheet is used in each State.
5. What is the cost of ink in each State?

Mr Chapman replied:

1. This matter is now under consideration and a definite reply cannot be given at present, but the decision must depend to a great extent upon the price and even more upon the question of a proper and adequate control by the Commonwealth.

2. The information necessary in order to reply to this question and also to those following, can only be supplied by State Governments controlling the offices where the postage stamps are produced.

A question by Mr Culpin on 14 June 1906 as to why British ships trading between Australian ports used British stamps on mail posted abroad, instead of "Australian" ones, seemed like a parenthesis:

Mr Culpin: I understand that letters posted aboard the vessels of the Orient Royal Mail Steamship Company when travelling between Australian ports bear British stamps, but it seems to me that as the company is under contract to this Government for the conveyance of mail, that arrangement is a very strange one. I should like to be informed by the acting Postmaster-General whether it is in accordance with the regulations.

Mr Ewing: I shall be glad to make inquiries into the matter and will be able to get Honourable Members some information on Tuesday next.

The reply was:

In the Universal Postal Union Principal Convention (Washington revision) it is provided that letters posted on the high seas in the letter box aboard a packet or placed in the hands of the commanders of ships, may be prepaid by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff to which the said packet belongs or by which it is maintained, but if the posting on board takes place during the stay at one of the two extreme ports of the voyage or at any intermediate port of call, prepayment can only be affixed by means of the postage stamps and according to the tariff of the country in the waters of which the ship happens to be.

In April last the General Manager of the Orient Company was informed in reply to a question as to whether letters posted on board the company's mail steamers between Fremantle and Adelaide should bear Commonwealth stamps, that the postal articles posted on board these vessels, while on the high seas, or which are in any port of the Commonwealth should, in accordance with the above-mentioned provision, be prepaid by means of Commonwealth postage stamps.

[Of which none had been issued. Only State stamps were available.]

Then Mr E. L. Batchelor (Labor, Boothby, SA) wanted to know (20 June 1906) "the reason for the delay which has taken place in connection with the purchase of machinery for the Commonwealth Stamp Printing Office?"

"An amount for the purchase has been on the Estimates during the last two or three years," he said.

Mr T. T. (later Sir Thomas) Ewing (Protectionist, Richmond, NSW): As I do not know definitely the mind of the Postmaster-General in this matter, I am unable to give the Honourable Member an answer but the amount to which he refers, £1300 I think, will be again placed on the Estimates this year so that if it is decided to complete the purchase, there need be no further delay.

(To be continued)

QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

(Continued from December 1977, p. 94)

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

LETTER CARDS

The first letter cards, issued in 1895, were described in Part I. Printed by lithography, they were continued until 1902. In that year, with several changes affecting their general appearance, they were produced by surface printing. It has not been practicable to ascertain an actual date of issue, but it is thought that they appeared about August or September 1902.

The alterations made touched almost all the elements within the overall design. The Royal coat-of-arms at the top left had become a more modern version; the central "name" piece had been photographically reduced to a width of 62 mm, as compared with 63 mm previously, and the stamp design had been partly redrawn. On the back of the card the State (formerly Colony) coat-of-arms was as before, and of the same size, but the ugly comma after the word "Queensland", under the coat-of-arms, had been dropped. The general text which followed had been revised and was now in upright type. It read:

This card may pass through the Post to any place within the Commonwealth of Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji. [Below this was the further inscription:]

If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter, if not already prepaid at that rate.

Overall measurements of the letter card, folded, have been found to vary from 145 to 150 mm in width and from 90 to 92 mm in depth. All printing was in blue colour. Light and dark shades may be found.

The changes made in the stamp design comprised the shortening of the shading lines so that the head became much lighter in appearance, and the facial area more distinctive. The figures of value were also redrawn in much thinner form. This work was poorly done as the outlines were weak. Also, the figure "2" in the lower right corner seemed smaller than its companion on the other side and the figure was malformed.

All stamp impressions seem to be the same distance from the main heading and it is most likely that the one master served as the basis for the number of electrotypes needed to make up the printing plate. The paper stock used for the cards was slightly off-white in tone and might be called ivory. The first printings were perforated 10. According to the Queensland handbook, previously cited, this perforation was actually 10, 10%. It is surmised in the handbook that the particular perforating machine used was within the Government Printing Office proper and not the Lithographic Office.

Later in 1902, in an effort to improve separation qualities, "paired" perforations were introduced. These were effected by the removal of one pin in three on a machine which normally provided gauge 12 perforation. The particular machine employed, described at page 47 in A. F. Basset Hull's Queensland handbook, was the "C" machine. It was mentioned in Part I in connection with the 1891 reply post card and the 1895 letter card (*P from A*, December 1976,

page 91; September 1977, page 71). It is noticed that the Higgins and Gage catalogue lists a variety of the 1902 letter card without perforation.

The new letter card was first chronicled in the *Australian Philatelist*, 1 November 1902, so probably issued in September or October of that year. As it was on sale for a comparatively short time, copies are not particularly easy to acquire. Used examples may be considered as scarce.

The Post Office was not satisfied with the stamp presentation on the 1902 letter card and asked the Printing Office to improve this aspect as early as practicable. In the meanwhile a substantial quantity of the cards had been printed so that the changes which were then effected did not become evident until 1903, when the revised cards appeared. It has not been practicable, to this time, to ascertain when the cards were first issued in that year.

The stamp impression on the 1903 card now closely resembled that of the earlier cards, prior to 1902, except of course that the 1903 presentation was prepared for surface printing. Another change made in the 1903 card was to depict the State arms on the back in larger form. It now had a height of 32 cm as compared with 27 mm previously. Additionally, one finds that the large comma had reappeared after "Queensland" under the coat-of-arms. The text below remained unchanged.

Over the years the colour of paper stock varied slightly, from ivory to cream, while sizes seem to have been within the measurements stated for the 1902 card. A further point of difference in printings of the 1903 cards is that the lines for the address may be found comprised either of heavy short dashes or of fine dots. It is thought, from the evidence available, that the first form was from the initial 1903 issue.

The 1903 cards continued on sale without substantial change until 1911. Over the years, from 1895, when the first letter cards were issued, the rate had been maintained at 2d, although elsewhere in Australia the letter card rate was sometimes only 1½d.

The passage of the Federal Postal Rates Act 1910 brought to an end, from 1 May 1911, the varied postal rates which had been in force in the several States and, from this time, uniform rates prevailed throughout Australia. The rate for letter cards became 1d and, in consequence, the stocks of the 2d letter cards then held in Queensland had to be withdrawn and subsequently destroyed. According to the available information, no letter cards had been distributed to post office in 1910.

The 1911 Letter Cards

The Queensland Government Printing Office had, in the meanwhile, been seeking information on better methods of perforating letter cards and for this purpose a special machine was acquired. In the Queensland handbook it was suggested that the machine was built by the engineering staff of the Printing Office and it seems very certain that it was first introduced into use for the 1911 letter cards. It is perhaps appropriate at this point to complete the available information concerning the perforating of the letter cards by the expedient of quoting from an article by Mr S. Dalby (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, 20 July 1913):

... there are two short and perfectly straight lines of punches for perforating letter-cards; one line, used for the sides of the cards, is 160 mm long, consisting of 83 pins gauging 10-10½; the other line is 125 mm in length, consisting of 76 pins gauge 12, and is used for the tops

and bottoms of the letter-cards. The writer is uncertain if both sections of the punches are in one extended line on the same machine, but thinks that probably such is the case. If so, the full line is 313 mm long with a blank space of 28 mm between the two sections.

This same information was included in the Queensland handbook at pp. 55-56. Unfortunately, it has not been practicable to ascertain the exact date of issue of these letter cards but they appeared sometime between May and July 1911. My earliest dated copy is postmarked 26 July 1911. This updates both the Robson Lowe and Higgins and Gage catalogues, which indicate the year of issue as 1912.

There were two major versions of the letter card, single and reply. The single could be sent to any place to which the 1d letter rate applied. The reply letter card, in respect to either portion, could be used only within Australia. The printing colour on all letter cards was red, varying to shades of vermilion.

The main features of the 1d single card were the same as those of the 1903 letter card, the central heading being 62 mm wide, with the coat-of-arms at the left and the 1d stamp impression at right, this being as SG type 21. On the back of the card the arms of the State was in smaller size, 24 mm high, and the word "Queensland" underneath was without a following comma. The text below now read:

This Card may pass through the Post without additional postage to any place to which the penny letter rate of postage applies. [and following] If anything be enclosed in this Letter Card it will be treated as an insufficiently paid letter, if not already prepaid at that rate.

The perforations on the single letter cards have been found to vary slightly as to the length of line mentioned in the extract quoted above and some examples held have the lines of perforation at the sides measuring 165 mm in length. In this particular kind of letter card, the perforations top and bottom normally meet to enclose a rectangle. In all previous letter card issues the lines of perforation crossed. The different placements of the perforations resulted in the used cards being of varying sizes. The paper used for both categories of letter cards was in shades of grey. In one instance seen part of the manufacturer's "name" watermark appears in the particular paper employed. I have examined many cards and have found only this one example. Overall measurements, when unfolded, vary from 137 to 147 mm in width, with depths of 176 to 180 mm.

(To be continued)

REVIEWS

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, 1978. Edited by J. P. Meara. 38th Edition, 256 pp. 8½ x 5½ in. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000. Recommended price, \$6.95.

The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue continues to grow in size and usefulness. There are seventeen extra pages this year and the amount of explanatory data increases steadily, so that for many Commonwealth collectors it is their major reference work.

The catalogue is also in process of continuous revision, which is as it should be.

Mr Meara says, "Whilst it is not intended to transform this catalogue into a handbook", it is, more and more, fulfilling that very important role. The prospect of a worthy comprehensive handbook on Australian Commonwealth seems to be receding as the basic material, in stamps and literature, becomes more and more scattered, and the number of new stamps to be studied grows greater and greater. The inflation rate is an additional handicap.

This year the anomalous pricing of the 3d Kangaroo Die I and Die II pairs, on the first and third watermarks, has been corrected, and these items, with inverted watermarks, are now listed.

The 1½d King George V Die II "void corner" and Mullett imprint have received major revision and revision of the Postage Dues progresses.

Mr Meara has decided that nothing would be gained by relisting the scrambled King George VI issues. As a compromise he has tabulated the issue of the period in the introduction.

Similar introductions have been given the Kangaroo issues and the King George V surface-printed issues.

Sections 3 and 4, "The Penny Reds and The Other Issues In George V" design have been combined as the "King George V Typographed Issues, 1914-1937".

Two pages are devoted to technicalities of last year's Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee issue and these will certainly be studied with interest.

Mr Meara has also enhanced the volume by more of his delicate sketches for the KGV 1½d revision and to show the plate layout for the 1976 National Stamp Week miniature sheets.

He summarises the market as remaining buoyant "with a trend to some stability" in the Kangaroos and some other issues.

Mr Meara will begin work on his next edition in the knowledge that thousands of collectors will be waiting for it.

New Zealand Post Offices, R. M. Startup. 241 pp. 8½ x 12 ins. Limited Edition, 1000 copies. Photolithographed. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 25-105, St Heliers, Auckland 5, New Zealand. Price, \$NZ15.00.

Happily there seems no end to the publishing enterprises of the Postal History Society of New Zealand.

The latest production, Handbook No. 13, is a hard-cover, photolithographed production of almost 250 foolscap pages, which contains about 8000 entries.

"Listed in alphabetical order, are all Post Offices, Telegraph Offices, or Telephone Offices ever open within New Zealand, or overseas under the NZ Post Office Department's jurisdiction, with the dates they opened, closed, or changed their names," says the introduction.

"Included and cross-referenced are all other names borne by that locality, as well as official errors or variations in the approved name. Each office is located and the basic reason for the existence of that locality given."

It is the third publication on the subject by the society, updating and expanding R. M. Startup: *New Zealand Post Offices* 1967, R. M. Startup and F. Watters: *New Zealand Telegraph and Telephone Offices*, 1973, and the parent, A. S. Helm's chapter in *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. III, "New Zealand Post Offices" (to 1955).

Mr Startup also remarks that "New Zealand is possibly one of the few postal administration in the world without reasonable archives".

Almost all Head Office records were destroyed in the 1887 fire at Wellington G.P.O. and only one year's records survived when the Post Office Archives Store was destroyed in the Aotea Quay (Wellington) fire in 1961.

Hence the awesome list of secondary sources studied, reaching down to school histories and correspondence with local historians.

A map gives the post districts with their abbreviation, which appear in each entry.

Western Samoa (WS) was a postal district and Apia a New Zealand post office from 29 August 1914 to 31 December 1961.

Scott Base, Antarctica, and the sub-antarctic Campbell Island, are part of Christchurch Postal District. So were King Edward VII Land (Shackleton Expedition), 2 January 1908 - 4 March 1909, and Victoria Land (Scott Expedition), 20 November 1910 - 12 February 1913.

Wellington Town Hall registration labels were used twice - with twenty years between - for the Empire Chambers of Commerce Conference, 1-7 October 1936, and the Junior Chamber International, 8-15 November 1956.

Drybread was a goldmining post office in the Dunedin district from 1867 to 1924. Donnelly's Crossing was a relief cancellation for Donnelly's Crossing. Pig Hunting Flat did not have a post office until its name was changed to Adair. For a similar reason there is no Promised Land postmark (Arapito).

Finally, one may note Mr Startup's opening remark that, "In New Zealand's social history, the Post Office forms a vital though often overlooked role". He then points out that establishment of a post or telephone office has often meant

The nucleus of a community has been decided.

An assured means of transport has come. An influence in the economic growth of that community.

The Post Office has been an important factor in determining the name of the community, and has had "a large part" in deciding the spelling or punctuation of the placename.

One might well say that Mr Startup's book is not only a post office record - it is a social document.

Thanks and congratulations are due to him. The society deserves the gratitude of present and future postal history students for providing the record. Particularly, admiration must go to Mr Startup for carrying to completion the fantastic amount of work involved.

The Postal History and Postage Stamps of the Tokelau/Union Islands, by A. H. Burgess. 147 pp. 8½ x 13½ ins. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, 57 Livesay Crescent, Worthing, Sussex, England. Price, £8.75.

One does not expect a 25-chapter book on the Tokelau Islands, but it is here. Mr

Burgess is the foremost authority and it is a development of an earlier work by him on the subject in 1971.

In the interval, he has visited the islands.

The historical survey is a chronology from the settlement of Nukunonu by the original Tokelau people about 1500, the arrival at Fakaofu by another people about 1650, and the destruction of the originals by them about 1720, forty-five years before Commander Byron, of HMS *Dolphin*, discovered the first of the group's islands, which lie about 250 miles north of Samoa.

There are geographical and postal details of each island with lists of the postmasters. Mr Burgess knows only five covers from Swain's Island.

Details are given of ships and aircraft known to have carried mails, with their markings, and of other vessels known to have called at the island. Transit backstamps applied to island mails at Apia are listed.

Earliest known item is a copy of the 1½d King George V Fiji overprinted Gilbert & Ellice Protectorate (SG1), postmarked 21 Feb 11, at Atafu, the first post office.

The Group used Gilbert and Ellice, Samoan, and Western Samoan stamps for thirty-seven years until its own first issue in 1948.

There are full details of official stationery and souvenir covers and postage rates since 1911.

Illustrations include five pages of enlarged reproductions of varieties of the Tokelau issue, seven of postmarks and other postal markings, four maps, three pages devoted mainly to pictures of the post offices, and fourteen pages of covers and other items.

Mr Burgess notes an increase in the popularity of the Tokelau and old and new collectors, as well as their band of brothers who collect other Pacific Islands, will find this book of great and lasting interest.

Stamp Talk, Vol. 4, No. 1 (February 1978), 19 pp., 8½ x 11½ in. Published by The Australian Commonwealth Group, 196 Walkerville Terrace, Walkerville, South Australia, 5081. Subscription, \$3.00.

The Group's journal has now moved to offset production and now joyfully presents a detailed article on the rejected and substituted Pre-stamped Pictorial Postcards, by Mrs B. I. Van Tenac and Mr R. Nicholson.

Plates reproduce seven of the rejected and new designs, and the reasons for the rejection of these and of nine other cards discarded for technical reasons are recorded.

Issue dates for the cards in the various

States are given. Western Australia and Victoria won the race to put them out after the hold-up by achieving a sale date of 30 December 1976.

An analysis of new cylinders of the 18c flower, an appeal for more research into the Queen Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee issue, more data on the challenging \$10 stamp and an examination of the Christmas Island 1977 miniature sheet develop into an excellent number.

The Private Post, 1977, New Series, No. 1. 20 pp., 5½ x 8½ in. Published by the Cinderella Stamp Club, 35 Smith Street, London, SW3 4EP, England. Price, £1.

The Cinderella Stamp Club has established a British Private Post Study Group and this annual will be the Group's publication.

It follows a publication of the same name, the plastic-bound journal of The British Private Study Circle, of which only two numbers were published in 1975-76. The new publication matches the format of the *Cinderella Philatelist*.

The major article is the Keble College, Oxford, Centenary College Stamps.

Others include East Yorkshire Omnibus Stamps, Printed Stamps of Britain's Carrier Companies, and the Lundy Radiogram Service.

Strike Posts appear to be becoming a feature of our times and there are notes on three — the Twickenham Express Service, the Hertford Emergency Postal Service, and a Sweden-London one.

Ability to assemble such a variety of topics indicate that the new annual will have great appeal to those who prefer the byways of philately to its highways.

The Swiss Philatelist, 1978. Edited by R. F. Bulstrode. 12 pp., 6½ x 8½ in. Published by The Amateur Collector Ltd, Box 242, Highgate, London, N6 4LW, England. Price, £1.80.

In this year's number Mr R. F. Bulstrode continues his serial on Swiss Proofs and Essays. In another article he deals with The Revenue Stamp of Basle City.

Mr S. S. Kahn's story of the Courvoisier firm, from the *American Philatelist*, is a

feature of the issue.

The market performance of Swiss stamps from January 1975 is analysed and there is a prediction that prices will continue to rise.

The Henniker Heaton Essay, by Robson Lowe. 4 pp., 6½ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JZ, England.

Henniker Heaton, a sixteen-year-old Englishman, came to Australia and became a journalist in Parramatta, Goulburn and Sydney, and briefly, town clerk of Goulburn, aged twenty-one.

After twenty years he returned to London and a year later, in 1885, became Conservative Member for Canterbury.

In 1886 he moved an unsuccessful motion in the House of Commons recommending Universal Penny Postage. It was the start of the long campaign that led to Imperial Penny Postage, which Australia was the last country to adopt.

On the adoption of England-Australia Penny Postage in 1905, fifteen London banks presented him with an illuminated address to mark the event.

In 1911, when Australia had woken up and joined the other countries, he received another address, in similar terms, but adding, "We are now receiving Penny Letters from Australia".

This address was produced by Waterlow's, and the feature was a large representation of a 1d "British Empire" stamp, with Australia below the portrait of the new king, George V, obviously an essay for an omnibus Empire-wide design.

Whether Waterlow's or Henniker Heaton designed it is not known, but Henniker Heaton visited Australia in that year and also received a Baronetcy.

While in Sydney, he received another illuminated address from the Governor-General, the Prime Ministers of Australia and New Zealand, and the State Premiers.

This bore eight stamps of the design on the 1911 address, six in green and two in red. These essays have been unknown until now.

Sir Henniker Heaton's granddaughter has given the 1911 and 1912 addresses to Robson Lowe Ltd for sale.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

1978

March

- 1 (12.30-3.00) Open House
- 3 Society celebrates Twenty-one Years at Headquarters
- 13 Library closed
- 16 West Indies, Mr P. Jaffe
- 30 The Baltic. Group display organised by Mr M. Zitron

April

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

May

- 3 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 8 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 18 Hong Kong. Mr John Gartner
- Entries close for Annual Competition
- 20 (2.00) Sale

June

- 7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 15 Annual Competition
- Nominations for Office-Bearers close
- 29 Iceland, Miss Helen Serjeant White and Mr J. Hitch

July

- 5 (12.30-4.00) Open House
- 10 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
- 20 Annual Meeting
- Presidential Display, Mr D. N. Baker

Australian Airmails

Mr A. W. Bunn provides an outstanding display of early Australian Airmails at the December meeting.

Beginning with the "Wizard" Stone card issue for his proposed first flight from Melbourne to Sydney, in 1914, Mr Bunn followed it with the card of the French aviator Guillaux, who accomplished the feat in 2½ days a few weeks later. An accident prevented Stone from attempting the journey.

The matching card from Basil Watson's Adelaide-Melbourne 1917 trip was succeeded by a Harry Butler Adelaide-Minlaton, 1919.

A Ross Smith cover and one flown by Ray Parer, the second England-Australia pilot, stressed the dawn of the new world-ranging aspect of aviation after World War I.

A unique Sydney-Brisbane cover flown on a Perdiar Rubber Co Ltd aircraft, 1920, and a Peace Loan cover of the same year led on to a Perth-Derby 1921 cover flown on Australia's tragic first regular air service. The pilot was killed in a crash at Carnarvon.

Later items included a cover flown during the Queensland Rail Strike, 1927, and by Bert Hinkler at Bundaberg in 1928, and the Mackay Aerial Survey Expeditions of 1933 and 1935, as well as a flight on which the Duke of Gloucester was the passenger.

Long-distance items included the rare Brisbane-Noumea, 1932, one of ten flown; Bertram, Melbourne-Darwin; and Scott, Darwin-Sydney, one of eight.

Pioneer Tasman flights were followed by MacRobertson Melbourne Centenary Air Race covers of Parmentier, Roscoe Turner, and Hewett and Kay, and a selection from Mrs Hilda Bonney's marvellous Sydney-Capetown flight of 1937.

Looking at the Society

Stamps are never shown at the January meeting because of the likely weather conditions, and this year the evening was given to addresses by four senior members of the Council on What the Society Means to Me.

Speakers were the President (Mr D. N. Baker), Miss M. Farley, Mr P. Jaffe, and Mr J. R. W. Purves.

There was a good attendance and members found it most interesting to hear how the Society affected the speakers and to compare it with their own experiences.

Speakers said they found it an antidote to the strain of everyday life, a means of cherished contact with people of kindred interest, and as a means of advancing the hobby to which they were all devoted.

Mr Purves said the Society desired to attract members who would be "as interested in the Society as in their own collections".

Barbados

The impression after seeing Mr E. G. Creed's display at the February meeting was that one had seen one of the world's great collections of Barbados.

A set of die proofs of the first issue and the inaugural blued paper issue, all mint, introduced S.G.4b, the bisected 1d on cover.

A feature of the display was the number of large mint blocks. Of the unissued blue, there were blocks of 16 and 25, and 50 of the slate blue, with "patch on sail" variety, matched by a block of 20 of the slate, possibly the largest block known.

There was a block of 18 of the 1/- 1858 and a remarkable showing of the rough perf. 14-16 — a block of 20 of the deep green 1d, two wonderful copies of the green shade with plate numbers, a block of 20 of the blue green, and a block of six of the blue, plus a block of 15 of the 1/- black.

A 1d blue, perf. 11 to 12, was a distinguished item but did not compare with the 1/- blue error of colour of the second type, S.G.38, with American Philatelic Society certificate.

The 1873 issue included blocks of 6d and 1/-, as did the 1875-78, of which there was also an outstanding copy of the 1/- aniline violet, mint.

The pair of the ½d red, perf. 14 x 12½, is possibly unique. (Gibbons notes: "Very few specimens have been found.")

The large 5/- was represented by plate proofs in black and claret, with four copies of the issued stamp in varying shades and one used.

The 1d on 5/- bisect was liberally represented, including an unsevered pair of two types.

The later ½d on 4d overprint was represented by the variety surcharge double, one red, one black.

Another highlight was a die proof of the centre of the Nelson Monument issue.

Covers dating from 1781, and sets of the early numeral cancellations, were other features of the exhibit.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

Members' Diary

1978

April

- 11 The Postal History and Stamps of France, by Mr Paul Storm. Visit from Castle Hill Stamp Club.

Closing date for Annual Medal Competition.

May

- 9 Dovey Collection — Vol. 1. "General Terms", by the Curator, Mr E. J. Garrard, F.R.P.S.L.

Winning entries of the Annual Medal Competition.

June

- 13 Display by members of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of NSW.

July

- 11 88th Annual General Meeting.
Display by the President.

Queen's Silver Jubilee

This display was for the November meeting, prepared by Mrs Dell Garrard and Mrs June Phillip, who had compiled a very interesting display of the Silver Jubilee Year of the Queen.

A great deal of time had obviously been put into this display and they are both to be congratulated on the completeness of the topic.

It comprises proof sets of Australian Jubilee coins, covers issued on Royal Visits during Jubilee Year, postmarked numismatic covers, Jubilee issues and Jubilee issues overprinted Royal Visit.

Further sheets showed local issues from such small island communities.

The Pacific Island Study Circle

The Pacific Island Study Circle, which dates back forty years, is a small group of enthusiastic philatelists whose main interests are the Pacific Islands.

The display was compered by Colonel F. V. Thompson and those who displayed were:

Mr Merv Riddle, with a collection of US Forces mail used in the Pacific including Fiji, New Georgia, New Britain, Western Samoa, Admiralty Islands, Tonga, and a scarce item from Aitutaki.

Mr Errol Pike, who displayed British New Guinea and Papua with postal cancellations of Post Offices opened prior to World War I.

Colonel Thompson showed portion of his collection of Papua and New Guinea Postal Charges.

Mr David Benson brought along stamps from the first issue of Tonga.

Mr Bob Fernside displayed some of his collection of the stamps and postal history of Papua and New Guinea dealing with the last German New Guinea issue of 1900 through to the period when they were overprinted with GRI and various values during the Australian occupation from 1914.

Finally, Mr Neville Allen showed part of his collection of British Solomon Islands stamps.

After the display Mr Andy Cronin, a former member of Royal Sydney, gave a slide talk entitled "Canada and the Balkan Connection".

As this was the last meeting for the year Royal

Sydney combined with the Philatelic Society of New South Wales for a special Christmas supper.

The Armidale Circle

Annually at this time the display for the evening is provided by the Armidale Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club.

Those who provided sheets for this meeting were Mr Ron McKnight with Commonwealth of Australia 1977 Jubilee stamps and 1974 Christmas stamps; Mr John George with the early issues of Canada; and Mr David Olsen with the Queen Elizabeth II issues of Nigeria.

Popular Choice Competition

This year there were six entries in the Popular Choice Competition — two in the General Section and four in the Topical Section. The winners were: General, Mr Erik Dreikurs with his entry of Dutch stamps, Topical, Mrs Dell Garrard with her entry of "Miniature Sheets".

After the judging of the competition Mr Max Cohen acted as moderator in an open discussion.

The main discussion centred on General collecting as against Topical.

Some of those who participated were very strong in their opinions, especially those for general collecting, but perhaps the best way of looking at philately was summed up by a quote from Mr Erik Dreikurs who said, "Stamp collecting is one freedom which is still left to human beings".

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★ **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 pm 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: \$17.50; Annual Subscription: City and Metropolitan Members, \$17.50; Country, Interstate and New Zealand, \$12.00 Overseas, \$12.50 (USA, \$US15.00).

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★ **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.

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