

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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CONTENTS

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE R.P.S.V. IN TORONTO	55
THE TRAIL OF COMMONWEALTH	56
THE FIRST AIRMAIL ITEMS FOR AUSTRALIA — PART 2	58
C. M. WOODFORD, PHILATELIST	59
THE HISTORY OF 6 AVOCA STREET, SOUTH YARRA	61
QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS: ADDITIONS, AMENDMENTS, AND AFTERTHOUGHTS	63
QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY	71
REVIEWS	75
REPORTS	78

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and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

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SEPTEMBER 1978

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE R.P.S.V. IN TORONTO

An unscheduled dinner meeting of members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, held in the library of the Royal Canadian Military Institute, Toronto, Canada, on Friday, 16 June, was indeed an extraordinary meeting.

The excuse for the meeting was CAPEX '78, the International Stamp Exhibition held in Toronto from 9 to 18 June.

The purpose was to honour the presence there of Mr J. R. W. Purves as a senior member of the panel of judges.

There were no formal speeches and no minutes of the previous meeting, but there was a lot of good food, fellowship and conversation.

Mr Purves was joined at dinner by "local" members, Wm. Hagen (Michigan), Robert Odenweller (New Jersey), Gene Tinsley (Los Angeles) and, directly from London where he had just signed the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, George Turner (Washington, DC). Ontario members Ed Williams (Ridgeway) and Owen L. White (Toronto), and "home-town" members Vice-President Don Napier and John Trowbridge completed the roll call. Mesdames Hagen, Odenweller, Tinsley and White accompanied their husbands.

Apologies were received from Pierce Doyle (New Mexico), James Dwyer (South Carolina), Leo Elliot (Texas), Dale Forster (Oregon), William Neff (Connecticut), Lester Shepard (Connecticut), Dewey Simons (Rhode Island) and Hugh Wynn (Virginia), all of whom sent their greetings to the members assembled and especially to the guest of honour.

Dale Forster, as well as Tim Morgan, from Melbourne, were in Toronto for CAPEX earlier in the week but both had to leave before the dinner.

It was a great night and, for many, a real highlight of CAPEX. There may not be another CAPEX for many, many years and there may not be such a gathering of Society members in Toronto again for a long time.

OWEN L. WHITE

[Dr White extends a hearty invitation to any member of the Society passing through Toronto to contact him.]

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by *BILL EUSTACE*

Australian Aviators

In the general comments on the Australian Aviator series in the June "Trail" a "gremlin" crept through undetected at the end of the second paragraph. As a correspondent pointed out, it should have been the "Hawker" stamp which has only been seen with four coloured circles at the right.

18 Cent Tree Stamp

When this issue first appeared it was on a paper with a very light lamp reaction so that the background seemed to be a light pinkish colour. A friend rang me to say that he had found some sheets with a totally different U/V reaction so I started on a tour of the city post offices and soon came up with some stamps on which the background was very dark — almost a blackish mauve. Interesting, I thought, but not exactly world-shattering. It was not until a couple of weeks later that my original informant showed me the stamp he was talking about, which was something quite different again — an orange-brown lamp reaction paper similar to the uncoated 18 Cent Flower Stamp referred to in the September "Trail" last year. Now we have three versions of this stamp for the U/V collector!

The stamp with orange-brown reaction was fairly widely distributed and about half the stamps examined from one batch of commercial mail were on this paper.

20 Cent Bird Definitive

This stamp can also be found with the two different papers — one giving a bright white reaction under U/V, the other the orange-brown lamp reaction. Evidently a substantial "make" of the orange-brown reaction paper has been put to press as one post office received three or four requisitions of the 20 Cent Bird Stamp without sighting a single copy with bluish-white reaction.

45 Cent Tree Stamp

A dealer friend from England sent me an example from a small batch which he received which was on white instead of the usual cream paper. I immediately started on a survey of the Melbourne city post offices and soon found that there was someone else on exactly the same mission meeting with equal lack of success. We should have saved our breath and shoe leather, for a couple of days later I

was in the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Section and the clerk on the counter said that they had had a fresh supply of the 45 Cent Tree Stamp which seemed to be on a different paper!

It would seem that in the coming weeks those who are interested in variations of paper / gum / U/V reaction should keep a close watch on all issues and take them up whilst they are available. Presumably one of the papers will become standard and the others will become difficult to locate. The orange-brown reaction paper seems, so far, to have been used for issue on the Rembrandt press.

30 Cent Bird Definitive

Again we have two different papers — cream and white — which can also be distinguished under the lamp, but it is easy enough to separate the two papers usually without recourse to the lamp.

18 Cent Tree Series

A correspondent tells me that there are two distinct U/V reactions of the paper under the lamp but unfortunately I have not had time to verify this. Certainly I have seen quite a marked variation in the red of the flowers and a lesser difference in the stone colour of the background and this may be related to a difference in the paper surface.

Norfolk Island Guides Issue

There is a clear constant variety, of catalogue status, on Row 2 stamp 2 consisting of a white spot on the "L" of Norfolk. Also on Row 3 stamp 3 there is a white spot on the Queen's throat. A correspondent in the UK says that he has several sheets where this latter variety is absent but it is certainly constant on all sheets which I have seen in Melbourne.

EDITORIAL NOTES

CAPEX Awards

Sixteen medals came to Australia and New Zealand from CAPEX '78, held at Toronto, Canada, from 9 to 18 June.

Mr J. S. White, of Sydney, gained the top award to come to Australasia — a large Gold Medal, with a special prize, for his New Zealand Full Faces.

Gold Medals were awarded to Mr J. J. Bishop (Auckland) and Mr G. J. Elliott (Auckland) for their Early New Zealand Postal History entries.

Vermeil Medals were won by Mr J. B. Trowbridge (Melbourne) for his exhibit of Mails between Europe and North America and Mr L. J. G. Franks (Christchurch), Hong Kong.

Large Silver Medals went to Mr R.

Duberal (Perth) for Fiji, 1870-1970, and Miss M. Lambe (Melbourne), the Baden Powell Story.

Silver Medals were won by Mr D. E. Napier (Melbourne), Rhodesia; Dr D. Pocock (Perth), British North Borneo; and Mr R. C. Curtis (South Australia), Channel Islands.

Australians who won Bronze Medals were Messrs T. R. Morgan, Canada, The Large Queens; J. J. R. Lucaci, French Air Meetings, 1910-1940; and E. W. Prince, Railway Mail and T.P.O. Cancellations of Victoria.

New Zealanders with Bronze Medals were Messrs R. Marshall, NZ. Postal History, and T. W. Claridge, N.Z. R.T.P.Os and Combined Offices, and also for Railway Postmarks of Britain and France.

THE FIRST AIRMAIL ITEMS FOR AUSTRALIA—PART 2

By H. L. CHISHOLM

Four more Coronation Air Mail 1911 cards addressed to Australia have been found since publication of "The First Airmail Items for Australia" (*P. from A.*, March 1977, p. 7).

This brings the number of items from this historic service known to have come to Australia to thirteen.

So far, no cards or covers addressed to Western Australia or Tasmania have been recorded.

Mr E. J. Garrard, curator of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club's J. Whitsed Dovey Collection, has found one in it, and Mr J. H. Hawker, of Melbourne, editor of the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, has traced the first Windsor-London card to have come to Australia. This was flown Windsor-London. (The only other card recorded in the list flown Windsor-London was a London-Windsor card.) Thanks are also due to Mr A. W. Bunn (Melbourne).

The postmark on the Dovey Card, a bad strike, does not show its day or die number. Details of the new items are:

LONDON-WINDSOR

Item No.	Type	Colour	Postmark	Address	Remarks
10	Card (a)	Dark Brown	SP 9 Die 2	Gordon James C of E Grammar School Melbourne Victoria Australia	½d KE VII and ½d KG V stamps. Message signed Olive. 2 September 1911
11	Card (a)	Red-Brown	SP 9 Die 3	Miss Dixon "Grosvenor" Malvern Victoria Australia	Sender: Mr and Mrs H. Andrews
12	Card (a)	Dark Green	SP 16 Die 2	Mrs Walker "Hurworth" Campbell Street Hunters Hill, NSW	Arrival Mark (on face) Hunters Hill 11 OC 1911. Message on back of card starts: London Sep. 9th 1911 (in J. Whitsed Dovey Collection)

WINDSOR-LONDON

Item No.	Type	Colour	Postmark	Address	Remarks
13	Card (c)	Dark Green	SP - Die -	Mr Geo Fowler c/o J.R. Fowler, Esq Osmond Terrace Norwood South Australia	Franked with two ½d KG V stamps

Mr Hawker also reports that Item No. 3 in the list, a Coronation Air Mail card addressed to Miss Dorothy Tindal and illustrated in the *A.S.M.*, June 1953, was red-brown.

C. M. WOODFORD, PHILATELIST

Few philatelists have had the good fortune to issue, legitimately, a country's first stamps — stamps designed by the collector himself.

But this, it seems, was the luck of Mr C. M. Woodford first Resident Commissioner of the Protectorate, who instituted the first issue of British Solomon Islands, the "Large Canoes", on 14 February 1907.

The second issue, the "Small Canoes" of 1 November 1908, also followed his design.

Evidence that he was a philatelist is provided by covers in Captain R. P. Odenweller's famous Samoan collection which was sold by Richard Wolfers Inc, in San Francisco, in June.

The collection contains four items addressed to Mrs Woodford and Miss Woodford, presumably his daughter, three of them bearing the 1/- bisects issued in Apia after the fire in the post office on 1 April 1895.

All have Palm Tree issue stamps and all have their philatelic interest.

Samoa's postmaster, Mr John Davis, a photographer, lost all his stamps except the 1/- in the fire. Some of the 1/- he bisected diagonally and used as 2½d stamps to meet the overseas mail rate, issuing them on 24 April 1895.

Circumstances surrounding the creation of this provisional still remain a matter of study and speculation, as little documentary evidence is available. (R. J. G. Collins, A. R. Burge, and C. W. Watts, *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. V, pp. 582-83; *P. from A.*, December 1970, 103; December 1972, 102; March 1973, 13; June 1976, 32.)

The first item is a pre-fire item, the front of a registered cover addressed to

Miss Woodford
The Grove
Gravesend
England

The Samoan "Registered", in capitals handstamp, is at the top left corner. At the lower left corner is the manuscript inscription

C. C. M. Woodford
British Consul
Samoa

The stamps are the R over 3d in the shade described by Scott as brown-orange and a pair of the 5d on 4d blue, red surcharge. The stamps are tied with strikes of the Apia postmark, Mar 27 95, and there is an oval Registered London date-stamp of 26 Ap 95.

Next is a foolscap official envelope, "On her Britannic Majesty's Service", with Western Pacific High Commission at the lower left corner. Endorsed below this in manuscript is "Samoa 24 April 1895".

This is also addressed to Miss Woodford.

It bears a similar R over 3d stamp in the same shade, one of the bisects (top part of stamp predominating), and a bottom-margin pair of 5d surcharged in red on 4d blue, the left stamp having the bullseye marking below.

These bear the Apia postmark of Apr 24 95 in blue.

Other markings are a blurred strike of the Samoan "Registered" handstamp and the Registered XII London oval datestamp of 24 Jy 95.

The second cover is also addressed to her, and the only stamp is a single copy of the bisect (bottom half of stamp predominating), with the Apia Apr 24 95 postmark.

The sale catalogue says: "One of seven covers recorded with first day use of the shilling bisect."

Mr Woodford therefore sent at least two of the seven known first day covers of the bisect.

The fourth item is a cover endorsed at the top with the underlined word "Paid" and has a bisect (bottom half predominating). It is addressed to Mrs C. M. Woodford at the same address.

Diagonally, at the lower left corner, Mr Woodford has written

Posted on board the
mail steamer at
Samoa

The Apia postmark is Jun 19 95. This is in black, instead of blue, following the change of printing inks known from 22 April, the day the *Monowai* arrived from Auckland, with another supply of 1/- stamps, but perf. 11, instead of 12½, and presumably a new ink pad (*P. from A.*, March 1973, p. 12; June 1976, p. 34).

This cover would have left Apia in the *Alameda* on 20 June, which arrived at San Francisco on 3 July, mails reaching London on 17 July. (*P. from A.*, June 1976, p. 36).

The sale catalogue has the last word and described it as, "Latest recorded use of the one shilling bisect".

EDITORIAL NOTES

Icelandic Saga

One might not expect a display of Iceland to an Australian philatelic society to have personal interest to any of its members.

But the display by Miss Helen Serjeant White and Mr J. Hitch to the second June meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria had personal associations for two of those at the top table.

Mr Hitch was stationed in Iceland for a period during World War II while serving with the RAF. He mentioned ruefully that he had not been a collector then.

President D. N. Baker was torpedoed three times during the war — once off the coast of Iceland on Christmas Eve.

Mr H. D. London, MBE

Mr Harold London, of Turangi, a well-known identity in New Zealand philately for more than fifty years, received the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for his work in establishing the Whakatane and District Museum.

Mr London was the founding secretary of the Donbank, now Wellington, Philatelic Society in the early 'twenties, and a foundation member of the committee of the Air Mail Society of New Zealand after his transfer to Christchurch, then president. He was secretary of the New Zealand Air Mail Exhibition there in 1938 and was first editor of *New Zealand Air Mail News* in 1936.

THE HISTORY OF 6 AVOCA STREET SOUTH YARRA

By D. N. BAKER

(Continued from June 1978, p. 43)

The man responsible for the construction of Lee Terrace, of which No. 6 Avoca Street is part, was David Lee, Melbourne's first city organist.

He occupied No. 5 Avoca Street, almost opposite the "Royal", between 1887 and 1891.

David Lee was a musician of international repute, being an accomplished organist, and having conducted a great many choral groups. He was born in Armagh, Ireland, of English parents, in March 1837 (a second source says 1840).

When only four years old he entered the Armagh cathedral school, and, at seven, was selected as a chorister in the cathedral choir.

By the age of twelve he was an accomplished organist, and had been appointed deputy organist for the cathedral. His father was the proprietor of several large music stores in the principal cities of Ireland, so that quite early in life David became adept in tuning pianos and organs.

He came to Melbourne in July 1864, and shortly after his arrival was appointed organist at St Luke's Church, Emerald Hill (South Melbourne). While there he founded the Emerald Hill Philharmonic Society. He subsequently became organist at St Stephen's, Richmond, and at the Independent Church, Collins Street, where he remained for eight years.

Organ Builder and Organist

About this time he entered into partnership with Samuel Kaye, manufacturing, installing and repairing organs. One of their organs was installed in Scots Church.

When the great organ now in the Melbourne Town Hall was purchased at a cost of £6500 (\$13,000), a team of experts was sent out from Britain to install it. The firm of Lee & Kaye was able to engage this team after the organ was installed, and were then able to extend the scope of their work greatly.

In April 1877 David Lee married Mary Johnson of Toorak, and in the same month he was appointed by the Melbourne Corporation as City Organist. He gave organ recitals at the Town Hall every Thursday afternoon and every Saturday evening.

During the Melbourne Exhibition of 1880-81 he gave frequent organ recitals on the huge instrument installed in the Exhibition Building.

Early in 1887 David Lee made a tour of Europe, South Africa and South America, where he gave many organ recitals and received wide acclaim. He was particularly popular in London and Paris. He returned to Melbourne in the latter half of the year, and it was then that he took up residence at No. 5 Avoca Street. This house had been occupied a little earlier by Professor T. H. Guennett, a professor of music, so perhaps the professor recommended the house to David Lee.

The decision of the local council to subdivide the various sites in Avoca Street during 1890 no doubt dismayed some residents, who could have felt that doubling the number of houses in the street would lower its status. This no doubt caused several families to sell their property and move out, and David Lee, who was looking for an investment, was thus able to purchase several adjoining sites opposite to No. 5 (including the site now owned by the "Royal") for the purpose of building Lee Terrace.

David Lee obviously spared no expense in obtaining a first-class architect and a builder of good reputation, and he must have been pleased with the result to have allowed his name to be directly associated with the buildings he caused to be erected. Unfortunately, the general economy entered a period of depression just about this time and some of the houses, including No. 6, remained unsold for nearly four years, and no doubt provided financial worries for their owner.

David Lee left 5 Avoca Street in 1891, and moved to 12 Grant Place, South Melbourne. He remained in South Melbourne until 1895, when he moved to 4 William Street, South Yarra, just a few streets away from Avoca Street.

Mr Lee died in May 1897. The *Weekly Times* of 15 May 1897 reported that the deceased had been in indifferent health for some time, and had never fully recovered from the shock he suffered earlier when he broke an arm whilst leaving a train at South Yarra Station. The *Weekly Times* stated that David Lee was in his sixty-first year, and said he left no family, and that Mrs Lee had passed away thirteen years earlier.

Avoca Estate

My earlier notes on Avoca Street apparently interested our editor sufficiently to carry out some research of his own at the Public Library, and as a result he was able to provide me with some interesting clues as to how Avoca Street received its name. It seems fairly certain that the choice of "Avoca" when our street was named in 1861 was influenced by the nearby estate of that name, which was located in Domain Road, South Yarra. This estate, on the south bank of the Yarra, was acquired by George Kirk, a successful stock and station agent, in 1860. George Kirk was a native of Yorkshire who emigrated to Melbourne in December 1839.

While tracing the activities of David Lee, when he was living at 5 Avoca Street, I came across a very familiar surname associated with the house next door — No. 3. This was Thomas Purves, who occupied No. 3 during the year 1885. It was a fascinating thought that possibly the grandfather of our own J. R. W. Purves had once lived opposite the building that is now the headquarters of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria! Unfortunately, it was not so. His father was James G. Purves, and his grandfather was James L. Purves, KC — three generations in the legal profession. The scanty information available indicates that Thomas Purves may have owned a chemist shop in Sydney Road, Brunswick.

So ends the saga of 6 Avoca Street. I am hopeful that some day we shall be able to complete the story by discovering the name of the architect and the month the building was actually completed.

QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS: ADDITIONS, AMENDMENTS AND AFTERTHOUGHTS

By H. M. CAMPBELL, F.R.P.S.L.

My *Queensland Cancellations and Other Postal Markings*, published last year, has brought in a gratifying amount of new information.

Some of this derives from Mr Ed Williams' collection of numeral cancellations, which he sent me to dispose of for him. We have been in constant correspondence, but Buffalo, N.Y., is a long way from Melbourne, so it was virtually impossible for me to know all that he had, or for him to know what might be unknown to me.

Oddly, one of the items is a "tie" which was mentioned in Captain H. S. Porter's *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*, but which I omitted, as I believed that it must have been a misreading of a poor strike. On the authority of one report, Porter had "tied" No. 90 to STONY POINT, later WINDORAH (opened 8.10.80), but all the Windorah "ties" we found in the Tattersalls' material were to No. 261, while No. 90 was found "tied" to TANNYMOREL (opened Dec. 06).

However, in Mr Williams' material I found an 1895-96 1d with a ray-type canceller and part of a datestamp ending in "-- RAH", this being identical with those letters in the Windorah c.d.s. The first digit of the obliterator is not clear, but the second is a clear "O", and the obliterator seems identical with a clear "90" on an 1890-94 2d in the same material.

Neither of these stamps could have been used at Tannymorel, which was not opened until more than ten years later, so it seems clear that Stony Point first received No. 90 (a re-allocation), but later, after the change of name, this was replaced by No. 261 (another re-allocation), while No. 90 finished up at Tannymorel.

No. 488 has always been a problem. One of Porter's predecessors had it "tied" to ADOONA, but there is no record of a post office of that name, so Captain Porter believed it must have been meant to be CANOONA (opened 18.9.89). However, Mr Purves found a Tattersalls' piece which "tied" No. 488 to DONORS HILL (opened 1.4.91) which would have been a re-allocation (DONORS HILL later received No. 598 as a replacement, but this was in 1900). Now I have found a Tattersalls' piece in Ed Williams' material showing a clear "488", but the c.d.s. is not clear. It is certainly not Donors Hill, and I do not think it is CANOONA, though it has the right number of letters, but Canoona was closed in 1896, and what I can make out looks more like "-- LCONA", or possibly "-- LOONA", but I cannot trace a post office that fits, so it is still a mystery.

In examining my own material, I found a cover from FINCH HATTON with a numeral which I had originally misread. It looked to me like 436, but as this was certainly Yeronga, I thought that this Finch Hatton number must be 435 (a re-allocation). After further examination, I am certain now that the number is 636.

Apart from this, Messrs John Amiet and Phil Collas have supplied me with long lists of new information, and other items have come from Messrs Geoffrey Adams (England), Inslee Greene (USA), C. R. McGuire (Canada), J. R. W. Purves, Kenneth Sargeant, and Lewis Viney. Mr Williams has also sent me a list of new T.P.O. items held by members of the Society of Australasian Specialists.

Much of this consists of new dates, or new code letters and figures in some of the Brisbane markings, but there are also some items that are new. No less than seven numbers shown on page 20 as NNS have now been reported, and Mr Amiet points out that No. 367 is not in any list (this was my mistake — it should be RRR).

In Chapter VI there are several more c.d.s. to be found in both "State" and "Commonwealth" types, a "REGISTERED" c.d.s. used at Gympie, three new "UNCLAIMED" markings, another "LATE FEE", a "PAID" c.d.s. used at Warwick and a "PARCEL POST" c.d.s. used at Rockhampton.

In Chapter VIII what appear to be three more railway numbers in the 10-bar postal type have been reported — unfortunately none are "tied", but the railway numbers were all used at railway station post offices, so are probably right. In Chapter XI there is what appears to be a previously unreported North Coast Railway T.P.O. marking.

In Chapter XIII there are two new rubber stamp markings used at Receiving Offices, and another unidentifiable marking.

In Chapter XX, Section (E), "*Paid*" Markings really needs rewriting, as two new types have turned up, and the description of what appears in the book as Type 1(b) needs revision.

The catalogue of Mr Rodney Perry's sale of 30 June 1977 had an illustration of an 1896 cover to Sydney with a Wompah c.d.s. and the two-line "REGISTERED — WOMP AH". There are no adhesive stamps, but there is a two-line "POSTAGE PAID — IN COIN", with "5d" added in manuscript.

This is presumably a Queensland marking, as it has affinities to the two-line "REGISTERED" and "UNCLAIMED" markings, but I have not seen one before. There were many times, I imagine, when the driver of a mail coach would pick up letters on his run, and cash for the postage if the writers had no stamps on hand, but generally the appropriate stamps would be affixed at the next post office he came to. Wompah was a border post office, which might have something to do with the explanation of this marking, but unless and until other examples turn up, it remains something of a mystery.

To bring the book up to date, and correct such errors as have crept in, following are the appropriate addenda and corrigenda:

Contents

In the title of Chapter XIV for "Endorsments" read "Endorsements".

Preface

P. ii. Add: "Some of the illustrations are taken from various articles mentioned in the Bibliography, but the majority are the work of Mr Bill Harman, to whom I am most grateful for his painstaking and accurate penmanship."

Chapter III

P. 11. In the table of duplex cancellers alter the range of dates as follows:

(2) Charters Towers	(b) 165	"July/96 — Feb/10"
(4) Ipswich	626	"Dec/10 — Oct/11"
(7) Rockhampton	(b) 473	"Dec/91 — Mar /93"
	(e) 514	"Apr/02 — May/08"
	(f) 583	"Oct/99 — May/12"
(8) Toowoomba	(a) 214	"Aug/84? — Dec/01"
(9) Townsville	(a) 59	"Dec/87 — Oct/95"

P. 12. Alter the second paragraph to read as follows: "Manuscript numeral cancellations are even rarer; in fact, the only one of which I am reasonably certain is 75. Most of the manuscript numbers which appear on stamps I believe to be the registration number of the article, certainly those appearing on the Chalon Head 'REGISTERED' stamp (I have seen 25, 35 and 48). To be certain that a manuscript number represented the post office numeral, one would need a cover, or at least two examples of a number in the same handwriting on individual stamps."

P. 14. For No. 49 in the first column, after "1d" add: "(5½)", and for No. 55, after "1c" add: "(6½)".

P. 16. After No. 358 in the second column, for "(2a)" read: "2a (6½)".

P. 18. After No. 634 in the third column, for "(2b)" read: "2b (6½)"; after 648, for "(2a)" read: "2a (6½)"; after 662, for "(2a)" read: "2a (6½)"; and after 665, for "(2a)" read: "2a (6½)".

P. 19. After No. 678 in the first column, for "(2a)" read: "2a (6½)"; after No. 697 in the second column, for "(2a)" read: "2a (6½)".

Near the foot of the page, after "NNS", for "121" read: "114", and after "RRRR", for "114" read: "121".

P. 20. Delete "358", "634", "648", "662", "665", "678" and "697" from the list of "NNS" and add to the list of "RRRR". To the list of "RRR" add: "367".

Chapter IV

P. 25. In the Remarks column after No. 90, alter to read: "Later re-allocated to STONY POINT, 8.10.80 (q.v.), and later still to TANNYMOREL, Dec/06 (q.v.)".

P. 32. From about the middle of the page, the entries should read as follows:

(277) MILLUNGERA	1.2.78	Closed 10.11.81; re-opened 2.4.84 (q.v.). 277 re-allocated COEN, 23.7.93 (q.v.).
PIKEDALE REEFS	1.2.78	Closed 14.4.79; re-opened 19.6.80 (q.v.).
BEAUDESERT	9.2.78	Later used No. 430.
285 DARKEY FLAT	1.3.78	
later PRATTEN	1897"	

P. 34. Before "STONY POINT 8.10.80" for "R.261", read: "R.90", and in the next line in the Remarks column add: "Later used No. 261, and No. 90 re-allocated again to TANNYMOREL, Dec/06 (q.v.)".

- P. 39. Before "FERNLEES 29.11.86", delete "(435)", and in the Remarks column delete "No. 435 re-allocated to FINCH HATTON, Dec/06 (q.v.)".
- P. 46. Before "FINCH HATTON Dec/06", for "R.435", read: "636".

Chapter V

- P. 52. After No. 90, alter subsequent allocations to read: "(1) STONY POINT (WINDORAH) (2) TANNYMOREL".
- P. 60. After No. 435, substitute "?" for "*Fernlees*", and delete 'FINCH HATTON'.
- P. 64. After No. 636, substitute "FINCH HATTON" for "?".

Chapter VI

- P. 67-68. To the list of post offices with both "State" and "Commonwealth" types, in the appropriate places add: ALBION, BOROREN, CRESSBROOK, GOOMBUNGEE, KYNUNA, RED HILL, and alter the note after FORTITUDE VALLEY to read: "(2 C'wealth, the 1st with 'VLY', the 2nd with 'VALLEY')".
- P. 69. Near the foot of the second column, after MAPLETON, add: "MARIAN".
- P. 70. In the second paragraph under (b) *Registration Markings*, 6th line, after "Townsville, 24 mm", add: "In 1893 Gympie was using a similar marking, 28½ mm in diameter like Maryborough, but with Maltese Cross stops at the sides."
- P. 73. In the list at the foot of the page, after CAIRNS, add: "CHARTERS TOWERS X X".
- P. 74. For the tabulation as printed at the top of the page (with headings repeated from the previous page) read:

<i>'Post Office</i>	<i>'R' Used as Cancellor</i>	<i>'R' on Cover</i>
MARYBOROUGH	X	
NEBO		X
PORT DOUGLAS	X°	X°
RAVENSWOOD		X°
RICHMOND		X
ROCKHAMPTON	X	
ST GEORGE		X
SPRINGSURE		X
TAMBO	X	X
TEXAS		X°
THURSDAY ISLAND	X	X
TOOWOOMBA	X	X
TOWNSVILLE	X	
WALLANGARRA		X
WARWICK		X
WINTON	X	X
WOOLLOONGABBA	X°	X
T.P.O. No. 3 S. & W.R.		X
T.P.O. No. 4 S. & W.R.		X"

- P. 77. Under (D) *Unclaimed*, after "MOUNT PERRY (41 x 5)", add: "NORMANTON (42 x 5)".
- P. 78. In the second paragraph, between "applied at" and "Charleville", add: "Bundaberg (40½ x 5 approx)". At the end of the third paragraph, after "Townsville." add: "Since this was written, another 'NOT KNOWN BY — LETTER CARRIERS' has been reported, but without an outer frame. This was used at Bundaberg, and measures approximately 41 x 12 mm."

Alter the last sentence of this section to read: "At any rate, I have or have seen several samples where 'Unclaimed' is written in manuscript, at Belmont, Burketown, Engelsburg and St Lawrence."

- P. 79. In the "LATE FEE" markings, after Maryborough, add: "PORT DOUGLAS: 39 x 7 mm (on piece with stamp cancelled '256')."

Add the following sections:

"(F) *'Paid' Markings*

A framed circle with 'PAID' round the top, 'WARWICK' round the foot, and circle stops at the sides; the date is in one line in the centre. Struck in error on a stamp, dated 17 MR 09. Markings of this type were probably used at other post offices."

"(G) *Parcel Post*

A framed circle approximately 24 mm in diameter, with 'PARCEL POST' round the top, 'ROCKHAMPTON' round the foot, and stops at each side; the date is in two lines in the centre — month and day (or the reverse) in the middle, and the year in two figures below. Dates seen are DE 18, 99 and 31 OC 00. Again, this type may have been used at certain other post offices."

Chapter VII

- P. 85. In the second-last line of the first paragraph, for "Normantown" read "Normanton".
- P. 86. In the column headed *Rail Section Opened*, near the foot of the page, alter the following dates after the name shown:

Wondai	For "20.6.87" read: "14.9.03"
Sandown	For "8.10.88" read: "20.6.87"
Laura	For "1.8.83" read: "8.10.88"
Mareeba	For "15.3.10" read: "1.8.83"
Yungaburra	For "7.5.89" read: "15.3.10"
Haydon	For "1.2.90" read: "7.5.89"
Landsborough	For "14.9.03" read: "1.2.90"

Chapter VIII

- P. 89. At the end of the last paragraph, add: "Since this was written, at least two and possibly three more railway numbers in the 10-bar postal type have been reported. Unfortunately, none are "tied", but as they were all numbers used at railway station post offices, we can be fairly certain of their origin. The first two — 17 (Taringa) and 53 (Murphy's Creek) — are on postage stamps. The third, 458 (different from the 458 used at Longreach), has only been seen on a railway stamp, but it could turn up on postage stamps, as the user (Cooran) was also a railway station post office."

(To be continued)

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

(Continued from June 1978, p. 46)

Uniform Issue Urgent

"The Board desires to draw special attention to the pressing necessity for securing at the earliest possible date, the issue of a series of postage stamps which shall be valid for the prepayment of postage throughout the entire Commonwealth," it reported.

"It is indisputable that, in a Commonwealth the existing condition of affairs, under which postage stamps are valid for the prepayment of postage only within the State of issue, is not only inconvenient and a source of irritation to the public, but also retards the realisation of the true ideal of a Federation."

The Board said it understood that the only difficulty in the way of a uniform issue of stamps was the bookkeeping provision of the Constitution and suggested that the Commonwealth Parliament use Section 94 of the Constitution. (After five years from the imposition of uniform customs duties the Commonwealth may provide, on such basis as it deems fit, for the monthly payment of all surplus Commonwealth revenue to the States.) This would remove the limitations regarding the validity of stamps and permit one Commonwealth issue.

The apportionment might be by finding the average revenue derived from stamps for the past three years in each State and also the average annual rate of increase. It could then give each State the average revenue plus its share of increase.

If this recommendation was not adopted it would necessitate a distinctive mark being placed on the stamps being used in each State.

This would entail the cost of a large number of sub-master dies and plates and the printing of one hundred and fourteen kinds of stamps.

There should also be one issue of postage due stamps for the Commonwealth, similar to those used in Victoria, but with the name "Australia".

Best Quality Wanted

The Board recommended:

- (a) That the character of the issue be the best of its kind that art, skill, machinery, and the latest appliances can produce.
- (b) That all of the stamps be printed from steel plates.

The cost of such an issue would be greater than if it was produced from electro (relief) plates, but the advantages more than outweighed the question of cost. Monetary returns from philatelic sales were estimated to amount to at least five times the difference between the cost of the alternative processes.

"The only practical security against forgery that can be given to a postage stamp is in the fineness and excellence of the engraving, and the finest engraving can be secured only by the use of steel plates.

"On the other hand, it is a fact that the electro or relief method actually lends itself to imitation by photo-lithography and other easy and cheap processes used in forgery, and it may be pointed out that a successful forgery of a Commonwealth stamp would result in a loss to the Department, which might be greater than the extra initial cost of the method herein recommended.

"Of still greater importance is the fact that a highly artistic issue of postage stamps will furnish an excellent, if not indeed, the best, advertisement obtainable by the Commonwealth. All of the best stamps hitherto issued, and those which have attracted the most attention, have been produced from steel plates.

"While expressing neither approval nor disapproval of the philatelic art, and while assuming that it is undesirable to *seek* revenue from stamp dealers and collectors, it must be admitted that philately is a fact, and the resultant advertisement and profits, though unsought, are none the less real.

"Thus apart from the advertisement, which has an actual though not determinable monetary value, the returns from sales to philatelists, *provided the issue be of the finest character*, will, according to Mr Hull's estimate, amount to probably £400,000 during the first year of issue and £20,000 annually thereafter. These figures, however, would be reduced by probably more than half the amount, if the issue be of an inferior character.

"It is, therefore, apparent that the issue recommended by the Board will result in returns largely in excess of the difference between the cost of the steel plate and the electro-plate method, and that consequently any idea of economy by the use of the electro-plate process would be false economy, and would indeed result in a considerable loss to the Department and to the Commonwealth."

World Design Competition Urged

Competitive designs should be invited throughout the world, and in case the open competition failed to produce a sufficient number of suitable designs, Bradbury Wilkinson and Co, Waterlow and Sons Ltd, The American Bank Note Engraving Co, and Perkins, Bacon and Co be invited to submit designs and estimates for engraving (outside the competition).

Technical details followed.

"Much depends upon excellence and originality in design as a poor design, however skilful the engraving and printing, will give a poor result," the Board warned. "Moreover, the reasons which make it expedient to incur the extra cost of the best methods of engraving and printing apply equally to the payments recommended for securing the best designs."

The Board recommended six prizes of £100 for the designs selected as best, whether used or not. The Department might buy, at an agreed price, any other designs.

The engraving firms should receive £100 for a set of six stamp designs and one for postal notes.

All accepted designs should become the property of the Department.

The five-member board to adjudicate on the designs should consist of representatives of art, philately, printing, and engraving, and an officer of the Postmaster-General's Department.

Philatelic Annexe to the Report

In an annexe, Mr Hull said the Board asked him to report on the probable purchases of the proposed issue by philatelists.

"It is extremely difficult to get exact information on the subject, as dealers, being the largest buyers, are naturally reticent as to the extent of their purchases, especially when such information is sought by one of the fraternity," he wrote.

From his own knowledge, he was inclined to give an estimate of approximately £10,000 a year by dealers throughout the world, £1000 from local collectors and £1000 from tourists, a total of £12,000. . . .

"Should the new issue contemplated be of poor design, or produced by inferior methods, this figure would not be exceeded and in future years would grow less as the issue continued. Were the designs, however, of a beautiful and artistic nature and printed in the finest possible manner they would safeguard the Department against fraud, act as a magnificent advertisement for Australia and the purchases for the first few years by philatelists would, I have no hesitation in saying, be £40,000 and approximately £20,000 per annum in succeeding years."

But even while the Committee was sitting, a premature Press speculation kept the theme of a prospective design before the Parliament, with a question from Mr C. E. Frazer (Labor, Kalgoorlie, WA), on 22 October:

Mr Frazer: In this morning's newspapers it is announced that the committee appointed to consider a design for a Commonwealth postage stamp had submitted a report in which it is stated that the first important recommendation is fully concurred in by the Postmaster-General and that it was to the effect that a representation of the King's head must appear on the new stamp. I wish to ask the Postmaster-General if it is his intention to afford Parliament the opportunity to decide whether the stamp shall bear a representation of the King's head or something emblematic of Australia?

The Postmaster-General, Mr S. Mauger (Protectionist, Maribyrnong, V.): I see no obstacle to having on the stamp a good emblem of Australia and also a representation of the King's head. That is my intention.

Mr Frazer: Has the honourable gentleman any objection to saying whether or not the Parliament will be afforded an opportunity of expressing an opinion with regard to the design approved by him?

Mr Mauger: It is my intention to instruct that a part of the design should be a representation of the King's head and the Parliament can overrule that decision at any time if it thinks fit.

(To be continued)

QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

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

(Continued from June 1978, p. 47)

Reply Letter Cards

The 1d Cards, 1898: List "A" Series

The cards of this series carried the scenes Nos. 1 to 18, as shown in the list in the last issue, the names being in line generally with the list in the *Australian Philatelist*, 25 August 1898. As will be seen from a subsequent quoted extract from the same journal, the issue was quickly exhausted, although judging by variations in the card stock, and printing varieties noted, there were several printings, all in 1898.

The separate illustrations which were used for the series varied considerably in size and shape and although all were placed at the lower left of the cards, some extended to and past the centre, leaving little room for the address. The previous decorative headings which had been a feature of post cards to this time were dropped and at the top were simply the words, in capitals, "POST CARD, QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA." with the admonition: "The Address only to be written on this side" in italics below.

The stamp impression was placed in the usual position. Its design was adapted from that of the 2½d adhesive of 1895 (S.G. type 17), the major modifications affecting the area below the royal head. The die for the 2½d had, in fact, served as the basis for several subsequent adhesives and had earlier been used for the 2½d of 1890. In the new post card stamp the value was indicated by the expression "1d" within circles in the lower corners and "ONE PENNY" was in an arc below the head. Because of the variety of cards printed a substantial number of electrotypes would have been required.

The stamp impression is to be found, on most cards, at a distance of 24 mm from the stop after "AUSTRALIA" but on a few cards is 23.5 mm or 24.5 mm. Printings were in brown to chocolate shades on buff and yellowish stock and card sizes varied, being within the limits of 135 mm to 137 mm in width and 87 mm to 91 mm in depth. As a quick means of identification, it is remarked that all scenes of this List "A" series have square-top corners.

The cards of this group are difficult to obtain unused and even more so when used. Overall, the total of the printings must have been comparatively small.

The 1½d Cards, 1898: List "A" Series

This series of cards was issued at the same time as the 1d, described above, and bore the same scenes. The heading, however, was different. This read, in capitals, in the first line, "UNION POSTALE UNIVERSELLE CARTE POSTALE", with "QUEENSLAND" and "AUSTRALIA", also in capitals, immediately below. Beneath was the admonition regarding the address as on the 1d.

The stamp design was of the same type as for the 1d and printings were in black or brownish black on buff stock. Card sizes varied within the limits of

136 mm to 139.5 mm in width and 88.5 mm to 90.5 mm in depth. The stamp impression was placed 21 mm to the right of the comma after "POSTALE" and only minute variations from this position have been seen. All views on this series, as has been remarked, had square-top corners.

The 1½d post card was continued, using the same "A" group of scenes, in subsequent years, the rate of 1½d being that of post cards addressed to member-countries of the U.P.U., except for Australia and certain other areas where the rate had become 1d. Usage of this card would not seem to have been particularly high at any time.

The 1d Cards, 1898: List "B" Series

The supply of 1d cards of the "A" series was probably exhausted at most post offices by October 1898. Thereafter, that group of scenes was employed exclusively for the 1½d cards. The new printings of the 1d cards carried the illustrations noted earlier under the heading of List "B" (Nos. 18 to 35) and became available about October or November 1898. My earliest dated examples are November. Views of this series had rounded-top corners.

A number of different printings were made over the years to 1904, when a heading change took place, as later recorded. The printing colours varied from light to deep brown, verging sometimes to chocolate. The paper stock was of shades of buff. Card sizes varied greatly. Limits may be expressed as being 137 mm and 142 mm in width and 87 mm to 91 mm in depth. Various scene caption and other varieties came into being as a result of subsequent settings. Varieties also developed in some of the stamp electrotypes.

So far as the stamp impressions are concerned, a prominent continuing flaw is to be found on card No. 34, this being a white area in the lower left border of the stamp, absorbing several of the white dots. Another flaw, a heavy white line cutting through the lower part of the arabesques at the right, is on card No. 35. Defective right and top frames are associated with the stamp impression on card No. 22.

The 1d + 1d Reply Card, 1899

So far as can be seen, the item designated by the heading is not listed in the catalogues earlier cited. There is a one-line note in A. F. Basset Hull, *The Postage Stamps of Queensland*, p. 41, where "perforated" stationery is listed, to an 1899 reply card, no value stated, perforated 10 regular. I have been unable to discover a chronicle of this particular reply card in the Australian philatelic press but have found a relevant description in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, 30 November 1899:

We find that the 1d + 1d card has appeared in a second variety. In the earlier type the total length of the formula, including the Arms and the stamp, is about 112 mm, and the card is perf. 6 along the fold; in the second the Arms and stamp are brought closer to the central device, the length being about 108 mm and the perforation gauges 10 . . . 1d + 1d rose on buff.

The first form of the card had been the 1d + 1d reply card of October 1891, described in Part One of this work. I have not previously encountered the word

"formula" as being significant of the overall presentation on the card but find that the measurement of 112 mm is certainly applicable to the 1891 card and 108 mm to the 1899 card. As was also indicated in Part One, a further printing of the 1891 card, 9600 copies, had been made in May 1892 and it can be presumed that by late 1899 this supply was exhausted, necessitating the further printing.

As to this 1899 printing, my first conclusion was that components of the master plate employed for the 1891 1d reply card had been dispersed so that a new master was reassembled, the process bringing into being the obvious differences.

However, taking into account aspects of the 1d reply card of 1904, to be described later, it became apparent that the components for the 1899 printing were derived from one or other of the several master plates which had been made for the 1d single of 1888, particularly as the need for this card disappeared with the issue of the 1d pictorial cards in 1898.

Examination of the 1899 card, printed in a rose shade as previously, disclosed that in the reassembly the coat of arms was elevated above its previous level and moved slightly inward so that it was distant only 2 mm from the nearest point of the main heading. In the 1891 card the similar distance is over 5 mm. In the 1899 card the stamp impression, on each half, is 2.5 mm from the right side of the heading. The word "REPLY", in capitals, is slightly over 10 mm long and in somewhat heavier lettering than before. The perforation gauges 10. Following analysis of Government Printers' reports it is concluded that the total printing was only 2200 cards. The item may therefore be regarded as being very scarce.

The 1d Cards, 1904

In 1904 the 1d pictorial cards appeared with an additional inscription below the address admonition. This read, in two lines, "Available only for the Commonwealth, British New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji. If used for any other place a halfpenny stamp must be affixed".

Apart from this addition, the cards were generally as before and carried the "B" series of scenes. Printing was in mid-brown to chocolate shades, on varying kinds of white and buff stock. Sizes were within the limits of 135 mm to 139 mm in width and 87 mm to 90 mm in depth. The earliest postmark date I have on a card of this group is 15 June 1904.

The 1d + 1d Reply Card, 1904

Reference to this card has not been found in the contemporary Australian philatelic press, although the item is listed in both the Robson Lowe and Higgins and Gage catalogues, and at particularly high prices, so that it must be considered as being a very scarce item.

The card closely resembles that of 1891 and does not exhibit the variations apparent in the 1899 card. One inclines strongly to the view that this, the 1904 card, was derived from a refurbished master plate of 1891 with, however, the word "Reply" inset in smaller type, now being 6.5 mm long as compared with the same word, 10 mm long, in the 1891 card. Additionally, the address admonition was reset in finer type than before. The positions of the main components were the same as in the 1891 card.

A further major distinguishing feature is that the means of separation was normal perforation gauging 12. This was carried out on the "C" machine referred to at length in Part One in relation to the 1891 cards. A misleading point is that the Higgins and Gage catalogue indicates that the perforation gauged 18.

The Robson Lowe List notes the item as resembling the 1891 card but places it under the same main heading as the 1d single pictorial of 1904. One might assume, for that reason, that it would have the additional inscription indicated earlier in respect of the 1904 pictorial card, but this is not the case.

The 1d Cards, 1905

A variation in the additional inscription which had appeared on the 1904 pictorial cards came about in July 1905, this being the result of an agreement between the United Kingdom and Australia to exchange post cards at the penny rate, instead of 1½d, the U.P.U. rate, as had earlier been the case. A side effect of this was a subsequent marked decline in the public demand for 1½d post cards.

The inscription now read: "Available only for the Commonwealth, United Kingdom, British New Guinea, New Zealand and Fiji. If used for any other place a half-penny stamp must be affixed." "Half-penny" is hyphenated.

Apart from the slight variations noted, the cards were generally as before, with the "B" series of scenes. Printing was in shades of brown and, generally, on a deep buff stock. Card sizes appear to fall within the limits expressed for those of the 1904 issue. It has not been practicable to ascertain a date of issue for this group of cards but in view of the circumstances they must have appeared during the second half of 1905. My earliest postmark date is 18 December 1905.

(To be continued)

The Departmental Stamps of South Australia

By A. R. BUTLER

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REVIEWS

China – The Large Dragons, by Philip W. Ireland. 130 pp. 7½ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe, Ltd. 50 Pall Mall, SW1Y 5JZ. Price, £15.

This is a splendid book. Many, many collector students of the past have delved into this subject and their work is duly acknowledged.

The whole picture, however – both philatelic and postal historical – has now been reconsidered and put together "under the one roof" with a view to updating the whole of it as it was at the end of 1977.

The author himself probably leans more towards the postal history aspect, but the question of the settings of the three values has also received a thorough going over and important assistance has been given in this regard by Messrs Paul Hock and M. Chen, the leading living experts on this aspect.

The illustrations (coloured or black and white) are excellent. Every chapter has obviously received a great deal of attention. They are all carefully written and easy to read.

One point that I particularly like is the many references to the work of past students in the gradual approach to the near-finality of 1978. Such people should not be forgotten. They contributed their own interest to an already interesting study.

If anything of substantial importance has been missed in the nine chapters, appendices and bibliography, I have yet to notice the omission.

It may be that a few more plating details will come to hand, although very slowly.

On every other aspect, this work is likely to remain the authority for many years, if not for ever.

J.R.W.P.

All the Stamps of New Zealand, by Laurie Franks. 145 pp. 7½ x 9½ ins. 8 Colour Plates. Published by A. H. and A. W. Reed, Box 6454, Wellington, New Zealand. Price, NZ\$8.50.

The growing complexity and variety of printing processes and the rapidly increasing number of stamps issued creates the need for simplified books to match the specialised works and catalogues which are too in-

volved for those starting their philatelic careers.

Unfortunately, few of those who set out to write simplified works do so successfully. But Mr Franks, a well-known Christchurch dealer, has.

The opening chapters covering how to start a collection, how to develop it, buying and selling, the byways of philately and New Zealand Cinderellas, are unusual in a book of this type but will be worthwhile to many of its buyers. A list of the twenty-nine societies in the New Zealand Philatelic Federation and their addresses is included.

Then the book covers all New Zealand issues in strict chronological order, commemoratives, airmails, healths, Christmas stamps, officials, and express deliveries, all in their proper places in the procession.

When one decides to simplify, one has to decide to what extent one is to simplify, and how it is to be done. Mr Franks has decided to come down to basics and then build up. Except where necessary or interesting, he has omitted watermarks, perforations, flaws and varieties. But he has included details of design and designers, and reasons for issue. There are explanations of scenes and people and reasons for commemoratives.

Then he explains the reasons for the relative scarcity of various sets or particular stamps within an issue.

Finally, he gives his views on the artistic merits of some of the designs, and if one does not always agree with them, they invite young collectors to realise there is more to stamps than merely gathering them.

It is all clear, easy reading.

Postage due is always charged as double the deficiency. Why, then, was there a ½d postage due? There is a two-fold answer: Government departments were charged only the actual deficiency, and UPU regulations fixed postage due in French currency, which sometimes converted to the odd ½d.

Dealing with the 1963 railways centenary, Mr Franks says, "The designs were prepared by the publicity section of the Railways Department, which may be gathered from their appearance".

Regarding the original 1/3 aerial topdressing of 1960, he writes, "The colour of the stamp would make it appear a waste of time topdressing such country as it

would seem the hills had not seen any rain for several years".

He is also critical of the full colour replacement: "It looks as if the plane is pouring out smoke and not top dressing material, which is suspended in the air more and is not so white."

One misses a reference to the "Ghost Train" missing colour in this issue.

Dealing with the 1898 Pictorials, Mr Franks remarks that Lake Taupo, on the 1d, was almost inaccessible in those days, access being only by dusty pumice roads that were a nightmare to travellers, and that the tourist would have been a hardy soul to visit Milford Sound, on the 2d and 2/-, for it could have been reached only by a three-day walk or around the southern end of the South Island by sea.

It is strange, too, after vainly asking various New Zealand dealers at the time of issue and for more than thirty years afterwards, for the first-day cover of the 1939 Express Delivery stamps, and then happily finding one obviously sent by a postal official to his wife, in an auction lot, to learn that "first-day covers are more plentiful than subsequent commercial usage".

One of the advantages of the chronological treatment is that it brings into greater prominence "back of the book" rarities such as the 2d chestnut Government Life Insurance, 1905 mint, "undoubtedly one of New Zealand's rarest stamps on a simplified basis, if not the rarest".

Two small errors have crept into the text. Wellington College is not Wellington Boys' College and the rudder retouch on the 3d Peace is not the "rudderbar" flaw. A pilot flies with his feet on the rudderbar.

With eight pages of stamps in colour and two more on the covers, it is an excellent birthday or Christmas present for a young stamp collector.

It will also be useful for their elders, particularly those overseas who are unfamiliar with New Zealand.

Pakistan, 1947-48. Machine Overprints on Indian Stamps, Part II; Service Stamps and Service Postcards, with Catalogue, by Mogens Juhl. 56 pp. 5½ x 8½ in. Offset. Limited Edition. Obtainable from 132 Underwood Street, Paddington, NSW 2021. Price \$4.50.

This modern field presents many problems for the student. The author explains that he has published Part II before Part I (which is concerned with the normal postage stamps) for the simple reason that he has been unable to solve certain problems in

the Part I field, whereas in the Part II field a substantial finality has been reached. Mr Juhl, who once served in Karachi as Danish Consul, has maintained his philatelic connections with the issuing country. He came to Australia twelve years ago. What he says is invariably authoritative, as was his work on the Danish issues of 1947.

It is admirably concise and the illustrations are adequate. Anyone seeking a not too popular field where prices are still reasonable (and rarities can still be found) could do worse than consider collecting these stamps. The many points of interest raised by the author and the largely "provisional" nature of these overprinted issues make this very clear.

J.R.W.P.

The Confederate States Five-Cent Green Lithograph, by Brian M. Green. 12 pp., 4½ x 9 in. Published by The Philatelic Foundation, 99 Park Avenue, New York, NY, 10016, USA. (No price stated.)

This slim volume, by one of the United States outstanding authorities on the philately of the Civil War, deals in considerable detail with Scott No. 1 of the Confederate States of America.

After briefly summarising the proposals for Confederate stamps, and the correspondence from Hoyer and Ludwig concerning this 5c stamp, Mr Green gives the technical details of its production, followed by excerpts from newspapers showing the approval of the public.

Details of usage, and some of the more unusual cancellations are given. Among the illustrations some forgeries are included, with genuine stamps for comparison. The photography is by Ernest A. Kehr and five of the covers depicted are from the Philatelic Foundation's "Alfred H. Caspary" Reference Files.

It is an invaluable booklet for anyone interested in stamps of the Confederate States.

H. SERJEANT WHITE

Robson Lowe Review, 1976-77. 20 pp. 6½ x 9½ in. Published by Robson Lowe International Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JZ.

A famous Australian Prime Minister once made an election promise "to put value back into the pound".

Years later he was later to say publicly that "scarcely a month goes without some rude fellow reminding me of it".

The memory comes back unbidden when one picks up this review and reads that

£9000 was paid for the glorious 1661 cover with the marking, "Send Answer by the Post at the Round House in Love Lane neare Billingsgate" which Robson Lowe had sold to the vendor for £26 in 1938.

The fact that Robson Lowe would report another record for the year is almost not news. It is the figure that matters. The new total was £5,321,000, 25 per cent up on the previous year's £4,284,000.

Major prices were £16,000 for a mint block of thirty 1855 2d blue Plate V, found in an old desk in the Channel Islands; £15,000 for a Sicily cover with strip of four and pair of the ½ grano yellowish orange, cancelled in blue, and £11,000 for another cover with pairs of twenty gr. slate and two gr. blue, Plate I; £13,000 for a beautiful 13c H.I. and US Postage Hawaiian "Missionary" with red Honolulu US Postage Paid cancellation; £12,790 for a sheet of 11 Palestine 1 piastre deep blue, 1918; and £10,000 for a block of 17 Brazil 1843r. "Bull's Eyes".

Other interesting realisations were: Cape of Good Hope 4d black Triangular, used, £5500, and 4d vermilion Woodblock error of colour, used, £3780; with a 1d pale milky blue error of colour, £1400; 4 annas India 1854, First printing, Die I, with Inverted Head, £1800; and a May 6 1840 Mulready letter-sheet, sent from Leeds to London, with an error of date "My 6 04", £900.

Of Australian interest were a mint marginal pair of New South Wales 8d orange, 1860-63, £2000, and a Great Britain 1885 pink embossed postal stationery envelope to NSW inscribed "W. Grant, A Company, N.S.W.1 Soudan" and signed by the O.C. of the N.S.W. Contingent, £1620.

For the first time in years, Australia has dropped out of the first ten buying countries, after being in sixth place.

Australasian buying, with the previous season's figures in parentheses, was: Great Britain, £3688 (£1952); British Empire, £20,823 (£70,416); Other Countries, £3422 (£4595); Postal History, £3922 (£3695); General, £40,684 (£34,196); Basle, Geneva, Bermuda, £15,576 (£5968); Total, £88,115 (£148,570).

Switzerland Catalogue, 1978. Editor: H. L. Katcher. 124 pp., 5½ x 7½ in. Published by

The Amateur Collector Ltd, 24 Great North Road, Highgate, London N6. Price £5/10.

This year's *Switzerland Catalogue* is as interesting as any of its predecessors. Although there are no specifically new features this year, the edition has an extra 195 pages.

Swiss stamps continue to rise in price, although there has been a flattening of the rate compared with last year. The majority of price rises are in the 10-25 per cent area, compared with 30-40 per cent last year. The number of price rises is 7555 compared with 9547. Unchanged prices are 3410 (1330).

The publishers note that a cross-section of sixty Swiss stamps bought from the first edition in 1952 for £213 would now cost £7834, a rise of £1036 on a year ago.

The catalogue also lists the surprising number of stamps issued in Switzerland for international organisations and projects. First day covers of these are also priced.

An interesting and perhaps unique way of pricing first flight covers is provided in this section of the catalogue. The price quoted is the basic, shall we say, "flight price" for the item. The catalogue prices of the stamps on it are then added to establish the value of the cover.

The Postal History Society of Canada Journal, No. 15. 28 pp., 7 x 8½ in. Offset.

Published by the Postal History Society of Canada, Box 564, Cambridge, Ontario, N1R SW1, Canada. Subscription, \$C5.00.

This is the first copy seen of the journal, which was formerly *The Postal History Society of Ontario Journal*, and which is devoted to British North America postal history.

The story of the establishment of Lively, Ontario, Post Office, shows that the bureaucratic mind is international. Another article relates the history of Tagish Lake P.O., Yukon, a North-West Mounted Police station.

Serials include Post-Confederation, British Columbia Notes, Arctic Notes, and The Meter Corner. A feature is The Postal Scene, dealing with recent post office openings and closings and new handstamps. This will be widely watched.

The *Journal* could develop into a major publication.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Members' Diary

- 1978
September
6 (12.30-4.00) Open House
11 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
21 Transatlantic Mails. Mr J. B. Trowbridge
- October
4 (12.30-4.00) Open House
9 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
19 Highlights of Victoria Postal Stationery.
Mr J. R. W. Purves
- November
8 (12.30-4.00) Open House
13 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
16 Fiji. Mr John Gartner
18 Auction
30 Malaya, with Emphasis on the BMA Issue.
Mr E. D. Lyon
- December
6 (12.30-4.00) Open House
10 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
21 Australia, George V. Mr L. W. Buchanan
- 1979
January
15 Forgeries. Mr J. R. W. Purves. Display of
Society's Forgery Collection. Mrs P. L.
Turnbull
- February
7 (12.30-4.00) Open House
12 (6.30-9.30) Library and Conversation
15 Canada, The Pence and Other Issues.
Mr E. G. Greed
24 Auction

Annual Competition

For the first time the Society's Silver Medal for the annual competition has been won by an overseas member.

This year's winner was Mr Dale Forster, of Eugene, Oregon, USA. Mr A. Molander won the bronze medal.

Mr Forster's entry was a study of the postal history of the Riverina from the pre-stamp period to 1875, including the ship letters.

This illustrated the varying usages for different routes and combination frankings such as Sydney Views and Victorian Half-Lengths on the same cover to ensure that no postal regulations were violated.

Mr Molander's exhibit featured the Belgian Military Occupation of Ruanda-Urundi, from 1916 with local overprints, Le Havre overprints and Typographed overprints, handstamps on agricultural stamps, varieties and cancellations.

Mr E. D. Lyon chose Brunei, making an examination of the single working plate of the 1c green, in 50 and 60 stamp formats, and of other values. The entry included enlargements of the retouches and re-entries.

Mr A. J. White's entry was a comprehensive study of Australia's 4d Georgian Cooke Plates, with shades and varieties. This was extensively illustrated.

Iceland

An unusual approach to their subject was made by Miss Helen Serjeant White and Mr J. Hitch, who displayed Iceland at the second June meeting.

Mr Hitch opened with a description of Iceland and its mail services and its history and geography.

He said the postal service was established by the King of Denmark in 1782.

The first stamps of Iceland were a rejected Danish design.

Mr Hitch then examined the designs of succeeding Icelandic issues against a set of criteria covering conception, artistic merits, and functional qualities.

His display opened with maps of Iceland and a chronology of its history against a corresponding table of the events of British history.

The stamps followed.

Miss Serjeant White showed early postal stationery, including 1879 and 1880 postcards, 1919 emergency issues, and one of the 1925 reply-paid cards of which only 2125 were issued.

The display then passed to the postmarks of the collecting offices, the three types of Crown and posthorn markings, 1894-1903, and numeral cancellations.

The cover section showed the paquebot and arrival markings of English and Scottish ports, Bergen, Copenhagen and Hamburg.

Mail from RAF and British Military Post Offices, United States Army Post Offices and First Marine Brigade were a comprehensive cover of the status and importance of Iceland during World War II.

Annual Meeting

The President (Mr D. N. Baker) told the Society's 86th annual meeting that the Society continued to grow in strength, the number of new memberships being well in excess of losses through death or resignation.

In spite of steadily rising costs, the Society had published *The Long Stamps of South Australia* by Mr J. R. W. Purves.

With the celebration of twenty-one years' occupancy of 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, the Society might well be said to have attained maturity among the select group of philatelic societies of the world which owned their own headquarters.

The high standard of displays had been maintained and many members had been successful at international exhibitions overseas.

Two social gatherings had been held — a dinner at the Windsor Hotel to Dr W. P. Heslop, who had joined the Society in January 1920, and who was then leaving Melbourne, and the 21st anniversary evening at 6 Avoca Street.

Dr Heslop's fifty-eight years' membership was a record for a living member.

Annotation of the slide selection at the anniversary evening had been pre-recorded commentary, electronically coupled with the projector.

The hall of the first floor of the building had been painted and the rear garden had been professionally landscaped. The result was most attractive and little maintenance would be required.

The Sales Branch had been a valuable financial asset, under Mr T. C. Lester, who had managed the branch for twenty years, and had now asked to relinquish the position from next year. Mr Alan

J. White had volunteered to succeed him.

Mr Baker commended *The Long Stamps of South Australia*.

V.S.P.C. Grant

"I am pleased to tell you that the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council has recently made a grant of \$1000 to the Society, to assist it in its publishing programme," Mr Baker said.

"We are most appreciative of their generous action.

"The V.S.P.C. has also intimated that it will consider further grants in the future, and this is great news for all serious philatelists because the steadily rising costs associated with publishing threaten to curtail seriously our future publishing activities unless strong financial aid from other sources becomes available.

"We can only hope that the Australian Stamp Promotion Council in Sydney will follow the fine example set by the V.S.P.C."

The Expert Committee had been very busy.

The Deceased Estates Committee had also consistently augmented the Society's funds by providing valuations of stamp collections for probate purposes.

The Treasurer (Mr L. W. Buchanan) said membership appeared to be down because he had included only members who had paid or part-paid their subscriptions.

Large donations had been received from the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council, the estate of Mrs M. E. Gates, an American member, Mr Dale Forster, and from some senior members who did work on behalf of the Society and donated monies received for their services.

Publication costs of two books had been met.

Eighteen new members had been elected (17 last year). Membership was 233 (248) — Town 137 (145), Country Interstate and New Zealand 83 (80), Overseas 13 (23).

The credit balance was \$1482, after beginning the year with \$246. Publication costs were \$3016. Donations totalled \$2307.

Sales Branch Records

The Superintendent, Sale Branch (Mr Lester), reported that total sales were a record — \$55,455, \$7200 above last year's record. The May sale total, \$17,064, was also a record.

A total of 1371 lots were sold, 85 per cent of the offering. This was slightly lower than the previous year, 89.84 per cent.

Surplus to the Society was \$3201.

The chairman of the Deceased Estates Committee (Mr E. G. Creed) said three estates — the Middleton, Hale, and MacFarlane collections — had been entrusted to the Society for disposal.

The Exchange Superintendent (Mr T. R. Morgan) said eight books had completed their circuit and seven books were currently in circulation.

The number of contributors had fallen, after an increase of fourteen in the previous year.

The Business Manager, *Philately from Australia* (Miss J. Buchanan) reported a successful year.

Circulation increased and the sale of back numbers rose to \$250 (\$182).

All back numbers are still available.

Sales of Society publications through the branch totalled \$895.

The Librarian (Mr T. C. Kellow) said forty-four volumes had been added to the library, bringing the total of books to 2330.

There had been 326 borrowings during the year and increasing use of library nights and Wednesday afternoon openings.

Officers Elected

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

Presidential Display

Mr D. N. Baker's Presidential display was "The Maritime Mails of Great Britain", featuring a comprehensive collection of packet-boat and ship letter markings.

In his introduction he explained why heavy letters were often without envelopes — covers would have made them overweight.

He explained the difference between ship letters and packet-boat mail — packet-boats were speedy armed mail-boats which involved higher postage rates.

A map showing packet and ship ports preceded a truly wonderful showing that ranged over five centuries.

Earliest item was a 1420 letter from Venezia to Britain 'by the ship from Cavarzere'. This was a small manufacturing town and seaport. It was followed by London-Turin, 1459, and London-Venice, 1485.

An 1806 letter was carried from London to Philadelphia by a member of a ship's company.

Historic and attractive Ocean Penny Post envelopes included a blue unused and a white used, and one of the J. Valentine, of Dundee, design.

A cover by the famous *Great Britain* on her first voyage to Melbourne in 1853 with London Ship Letter postmark in red was included.

A letter from London to Geelong, 1852, had four 2d blue, white lines, with Ship Packet, London, in red and Melbourne Ship Letter markings.

A selection of Bills of Lading, "via Suez", with their attractive pictures of ships, and embossed stamps, were a novel feature.

Ending the display, there was an unrecorded Southampton Ship Letter marking.

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