

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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# Philately *from* Australia

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

*Publications Committee:* MESSRS JOHN GARTNER, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. (*Chairman*),  
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*Business Manager:* Miss JOYCE BUCHANAN

*Editorial Correspondence:* Box 2071, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria 3001

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and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

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## LITERARY MEMORIAL FOR MR J. R. W. PURVES

A large society... is naturally expected to lead – to launch projects for the general good... Publication is essential to the healthy continuance of the hobby since, unless there be a regular and permanent dissemination of knowledge, that knowledge will die and be known no more... It is obvious that we have at the present time to look to our societies more and more to provide publications of permanent reference value.

– Mr J. R. W. Purves, *Philately from Australia*, March 1951, p. 1.

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has decided on a literary memorial to Mr J. R. W. Purves, world-famous philatelic author, senior signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and fifty-six years a member of the Society.

It has adopted a unanimous recommendation from a special committee, with Mr John Gartner as chairman, set up to consider the establishment of a worthy memorial to him.

The committee's decision was that as Mr Purves was the leading research philatelist and, first and foremost, was concerned with philatelic publication, the society could best express its appreciation by publication and that all books be issued under the general title of "J. R. W. Purves Philatelic Series, No. 1," etc, the series to be a continuing one.

The first of these has already been chosen:

*Bibliography of the Writings of Mr J. R. W. Purves*, by Dr G. N. Kellow.

Dr Kellow is the librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The manuscript of this work has been virtually completed.

It has been suggested that the second should be a Philatelic Bibliography of Victoria, which Dr Kellow has compiled.

As a "Flowers for the Living" recognition, the society has already expressed appreciation of Mr Purves' work for the society, of which he was eight times President, by establishing in 1970, The J. R. W. Purves Award for Distinguished Service to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

Twenty of these medals have been awarded, Mr Purves being the first recipient of the honour which bore his name.

In the light of the quotation at the head of this article, could any memorial better epitomise the spirit of the J. R. W. Purves we have known so intimately for so many years?

This literary commemoration has three other virtues:

It ensures that the name of J. R. W. Purves will live.

It maintains the tradition of authorship which he so wonderfully established.

It ensures the preservation and dissemination of philatelic knowledge in the years ahead.

One feels it is the remembrance he would have wished.

## THE FLOW OF TRIBUTES CONTINUES

(Continued from September 1979, p. 68)

Still more tributes to Mr J. R. W. Purves are being received by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, which he loved so dearly:

From Mr Ian T. Hamilton, Ewell, Surrey, England:

The June issue of *Philately from Australia* has arrived and I want to let you know that I feel a personal loss with the death of Bill Purves.

What a unique person he was, devoid of all snobbery.

My tribute to him in "Review of Reviews" may seem rather late, but it is none the less sincere.

Bill Purves was a greater ambassador than any of your "Thommos" or Brothers Chappell.

["Review of Reviews" is a regular feature in *The Philatelist*.]

From The Rev J. C. W. Brown, Melbourne:

Death is no stranger to me, but I still find it difficult to grasp the passing of such stalwarts as Bill Purves and Bert Doery.

Bill was such a vital personality. I know how much he did for me as a philatelist. I think also it was due to his initiative that the Society was granted the title "Royal".

From Mrs Patricia Rock, Sydney:

I'm so sorry about the passing of Bill Purves and know just how much you will all miss him.

# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

*Conducted by BILL EUSTACE*

Despite the considerable number of new stamps issued there seems to have been a dearth of worthwhile constant varieties to report this quarter and most of the items noted have been of interest only to the gum/paper enthusiasts or postal stationery collectors.

### *Australia – Bird Definitives Part II*

Most of the denominations in this release have turned up on more than one paper.

The 1 cent shows up distinctively under the lamp with one paper being quite dull and the background colour much darker than the "white paper" version – the backs, however, were not markedly different.

The 2 cent has been reported on a white paper but only from certain packs and I have yet to see this item.

The 15 cent is perhaps the most distinctive of the set under the lamp with a strong white reaction from the back and a much brighter reaction from the front.

The two papers of the 20 cent and 40 cent are probably best identified from the back, although the "white paper" version of the 40 cent is also fairly obvious when viewed from the front.

### *Australia – Year of the Child, 20 Cent*

There are cream and white paper versions, the latter producing quite a brilliant white reaction from the back under U/V whilst the cream paper gives only a dull reaction. The background colour and the green of the grass show considerable shade variations through the length of the run.

### *Australia – Christmas 1979*

The 25 cent and 55 cent values can both be found with dull and bright lamp reactions on the back, but so far I have only found one version of the 15 cent which is surprising, as one might have expected some change in what must have been quite a substantial printing run.

Once more the time has come for me to wish my readers, "A Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 1980".

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S FIRST 4d, 6d AND 1/-

## WHAT THE NEW-FOUND STONES REVEAL

By BRIAN POPE

One hundred and twenty-five years ago, on 13 June 1854, the Colonial Secretary of Western Australia, Mr W. A. Sanford (he of the appropriate initials) issued instructions to the Surveyor-General (Mr J. S. Roe) to "... direct the lithographer to take the necessary steps for striking off Sixpenny and Shilling Stamps for the Post Office...."

The lithographer in the Survey Department was Mr Horace Samson, and he duly produced the required stamps after the proposed Sixpenny value had been amended to a Fourpenny.

The manner in which these were produced has been the subject of much investigation in the philatelic press over the years and several distinguished philatelists had directed their minds to the problems before I made a small contribution to the debate in *P. from A.* (March 1978, p. 5). Little did they, or I, know that Samson's intermediate stone was still in existence and in remarkably good condition.

### *The Stones are Recovered*

That such is the case became known on 22 January 1979 when Mr. Wim Smits, a well-known Perth dealer, acquired two lithographic stones. Mr Smits was conducting an extensive advertising campaign seeking material in connection with a proposed two-day auction of philatelic items and Western Australiana to be held in April.

He tells me a man telephoned and said he had an original printing plate and could he bring it in for inspection. As the man used the word plate, Wim was somewhat disbelieving that it could be anything of importance but a meeting was arranged.

One can imagine Mr Smits' surprise when the man staggered in carrying a very heavy lithographic stone, and, what is more, said he would get the other one from the car!

The large stone turned out to be the Intermediate Stone for *both* the 4d. and 1/- Lithographs made by Samson in 1854.

The smaller stone bore, in addition to a Western Australian Bank Perth pay-slip and two Royal Arms long and short, what I believe is the original single design for the 6d. Lithograph of 1857, drawn directly on the stone, and is therefore, the 6d. Primary Stone.

The larger stone is 43.5 cm by 33.5 cm by 33.5 cm and 5.5 cm deep ( $17 \times 13\frac{1}{4} \times 2$  inches) and the smaller 33 cm by 27.5 cm and 3.5 cm deep ( $13 \times 10\frac{3}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches).

In 1857 the lithographic section of the Survey Department was transferred to the newly formed printing establishment at Fremantle where the office was under the supervision of "... one of the Sappers". The identity of this particular



gentleman has eluded me so far, but whoever he was, he certainly stuck closer to traditional lithographic technique than Samson had done. This single impression is a beautiful piece of work and the stamps as printed do not do it justice.

Mr Smits hopes to arrange for reproductions to be available in due course.

I am told that the two stones have been in the possession of "a family" for years and in my opinion this can only mean Mr Hillman's descendants. He seems to be the only official who, (1) had an interest, (2) knew the stones would not be required again, and (3) was placed highly enough in the hierarchy to have the stones written off.

Be that as it may, Mr Smits' offer to purchase the stones was accepted and they have since been displayed at his auction and again at WAPEX '79 where we had the pleasure of seeing an Inverted Frame, and the Stone, together again after all these years. The stones was also shown at the National Stamp Week display in Melbourne.

#### 4d. and 1/-

The Samson Stone has a group of 60 (12 rows of 5) of each value, well separated and with one group upside down in relation to the other. The singular importance of this find is enhanced by the fact that the 4d. group is actually the 1A state, with Hillman's addition of the Inverted Frame still there in all its glory!

The place of the 4d.—1/- Intermediate Stone in the scheme of things may be made clear by this summary of the production process used for these stamps:

1d. Black Swan Engraved Plate

4d.

Transfer of Columns 16-20

This block of 60 (12 rows of 5) on the lithographic stone had the frames erased. A lithographic stone containing one frame design was prepared and 60 individual transfers taken and placed around the 60 Swans to produce INTERMEDIATE STONE 1.

Four transfers of this block of 60 were laid side by side — 12 rows of 20 — to produce PRINTING STONE 1.

On Intermediate Stone 1, Frames 34 and 36 were replaced, yielding new varieties, namely the Tilted Frame and the Inverted Frame, and producing INTERMEDIATE STONE 1A.

Four transfers of this block of 60 were laid side by side — 12 rows of 20 — to produce PRINTING STONE 2 containing four examples of each of the above varieties.

Four new individual unit transfers from positions 31, 32, 33 and 26 on the Intermediate Stone were used to replace the four Inverted Frames directly on Printing Stone 2 to produce PRINTING STONE 2A.

1/-

Transfer of Columns 10-14

Similar sequence to produce INTERMEDIATE STONE 1.

Similarly, to produce PRINTING STONE 1.

No change.

No change.

In November 1855 an unknown number of impressions were retransferred directly on the Printing Stone to produce PRINTING STONE 1A.

Thus, the newly-found stone is the 4d. Intermediate Stone 1A and the 1/- Intermediate Stone 1, and was originally the Intermediate Stone 1 for both values made by Horace Samson in 1854.

I have been privileged to examine these stones by courtesy of Mr Smits and the Fourpenny varieties listed by Chadwick in the *London Philatelist* for January 1965 and hitherto presumed to exist on the Intermediate Stone because they appear four times on the printed sheet, can now be confirmed.

- Row 1, No. 1 Bulge in the frame over TE of WESTERN  
 Row 4, No. 2 Dots below F, U and C of FOURPENCE  
 Row 6, No. 1 Dot in margin below CE of PENCE  
 Row 7, No. 2 Small inside loop of the P of POSTAGE and small crossbar in the F of FOURPENCE  
 Row 7, No. 4 The Tilted Frame  
 Row 7, No. 5 T of Postage shaved off at the foot  
 Row 8, No. 1 The Inverted Frame  
 Row 8, No. 4 Broken right leg in first A of AUSTRALIA  
 Row 9, No. 1 E of WESTERN open to the margin  
 Row 9, No. 3 S of AUSTRALIA open to the margin  
 Row 11, No. 1 A of POSTAGE open to the margin  
 Row 11, No. 2 First A of AUSTRALIA has broken right leg.

The other Chadwick varieties either do not show clearly or may be seen on several units. The Tau below P of PENCE is clearly seen under Row 5, No. 1 and not so clearly under Row 7, No. 1. The Tau is a mark like a small inverted T as an aid to layout and it appears that a guide line was first drawn on the stone at the relevant distance below the Swan and the Tau were aligned on this line to provide the desired spacing. Traces of the guide line remain below Row 3, Nos. 2 and 3; Row 4, Nos. 1 and 2, and Row 7, No. 1 and there is no obvious reason why these and the remaining "Tau" were not completely erased.

#### *The Shilling Value*

For the Shilling value, the absence of large blocks has inhibited research into Intermediate Stone varieties, but one, suspected for some time and only recently confirmed, is the flaw on the A of Postage clearly seen on Row 3, No. 5.

Perhaps the most interesting impression of the Shilling is Row 9, No. 1 because the original Swan is one of the Double Tail re-entries (Row 9, No. 10) from the Penny Plate and this can be seen on the Shilling.

Chadwick has recorded varieties with frames displaced to the left and therefore showing portion of the original Penny frame as a vertical line.

This can be seen on several units, including Row 1, No. 4; Row 2, No. 3; Row 4, No. 3; Row 5, No. 4; Row 6, No. 5; Row 9, Nos. 4 and 5, and Row 11, No. 5. Of equal interest are units such as Row 1, No. 1; Row 5, Nos. 1 and 3, which show white inside the oval frame as a result of too much of the Penny design being removed.

One question still unresolved is that of the upright offset impressions of one value on the back of the other value with both in black. In my earlier contribution I expressed doubts as to whether these "proofs" had any relativity to the printing situation. Now we know that both values are on the one stone and one is inverted in relation to the other, it seems to me that the procedure required to produce such offsets involves the stone being turned around after the blanket gains the offset impression and before the actual proof pull.

This appears to be unreal in relation to a printing situation and I still feel these "proofs" were "manufactured" at a later date and have nothing to do with the printings.

The unique philatelic importance of the stone is obvious. Considerable thought was given to the practicability of making pulls from them available for all to study.

Bearing in mind that the 6d. Printing stone No. 1 cracked when pulls were

taken for the Duke of York during his visit to Perth in 1901; and that neither of these newly-discovered stones is a printing stone, and both are now of great age, it was realised that lithographic printing was out of the question as there could be no possibility of putting the stones at risk.

Technical advice was sought with the result that a photograph was taken and processed to produce the utmost clarity and definition and a printing plate prepared in reverse from this photograph.

No decision has been made for the 6d. impression but Mr Smits, (Box C100, Perth 6001) has made 1000 numbered sets of reproductions from the Samson Stone. These are on quality paper in a presentation folder and comprise three black and white study aids and three coloured souvenir prints for \$14.50. In addition, there are 2000 numbered sets of the three coloured prints in a folder at \$9.25. Postage is \$1 extra in each case. There will be no further printings and Mr Smits hopes that proceeds from the sale of these sets will enable the stones to remain in Western Australia on permanent display.

In the philatelic euphoria surrounding this discovery we should not lose sight of the tremendous philatelic perspicacity displayed by students such as Sir Edward Bacon, writing in the 1890s, and Messrs Frank Chadwick and J. R. W. Purves writing in the 1960s. Although researching within what we now know to be severely limited parameters they were, remarkably, almost "spot on".

## J. H. SMYTH MEDAL AWARDED TO MRS DELL GARRARD

The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club has awarded the J. H. Smyth Medal for service to philately over a long period to Mrs Dell Garrard.

This medal was established in 1923 and during that 56-years since then only twenty-three medals have been awarded.

Mrs Garrard's medal was the third awarded to a lady member. Only eight of the recipients are now living and these include all three ladies.

Mrs Garrard is the wife of Mr E. J. Garrard, F.R.P.S.L., immediate past president of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club.

They are the parents of Dr Denbeigh Garrard, who received the Club's Annual Medal at the November meeting for his entry of New Zealand TPOs, with Mr Harry Nott, who won the thematic section of the competition with an entry on the Kookaburra issues.



# The Other Side of the Picture



By G. T. WHITE, F.R.P.S.L.

VICTORIA

*Advertising Envelopes of the 1890s*

Victorian Advertising Envelopes of the 1890s are seldom seen, but they are listed in Robson Lowe's *Encyclopedia of Empire Stamps* (Vol. IV).

He dates their introduction as 1895, but I have acquired a most interesting booklet used to advertise these envelopes, and it is itself contained in one of them with the postmark "MELBOURNE NO 2 94."

I think this could well be the start of their use.

The front cover of the booklet has a sketch showing that advertising space is to let by "The Patent Postal Envelope Advertising Co. Ltd. J. Bear, Manager".

The text of the booklet shows the idea behind the scheme:

An assured circulation is a *sine qua non* in all advertising media.

The aid of the Postal Delivery Service is enlisted in distributing and circulating the advertisements with the sanction of the Postal Authorities.

A Two-penny Postage Stamp, Envelope and Writing Material to be Sold for One Penny! ! !

A One-penny Stamp and Envelope for One Half-penny! ! !

The Manager of the above Company, in presenting his compliments to advertisers, craves leave to call their attention to 'The Patent Envelope Advertising Booklet, as the most novel, interesting, and valuable advertising medium ever offered to them for the following reasons:

1. That the mere fact of an Envelope and a two-penny stamp being purchasable for one penny — and similarly, but with a one penny stamp, for a half-penny, must create universal attention, interest and amusement.
2. That inseparable from every envelope so sold (and enclosed therein) will be one of the Advertising Booklets — every leaf of which will bear a portion of the postage stamp embossed.
3. That these booklets will be interleaved with splendidly drawn comic pictures and funny rhymes so arranged as to draw attention to — and not detract from — the advertisements.
4. That the Envelope, with booklet enclosed, will not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  an ounce in weight, leaving a full half ounce for the enclosure as a sealed letter — and an ounce and a half in the penny ones for accounts, circulars, monthly statements, etc.
5. That a newspaper dies, practically, in twelve hours, whereas the booklet is always alive and current, and always interesting... It must also be borne in mind that although the circulation of a newspaper is large it goes to, and is read by the same persons day by day.
6. That for the above reason it is a fair assumption that a 10,000 issue of the Booklet will be passed from hand to hand until it has been seen and read by at least 100,000 persons and taken into thousands of homes where it will remain a constant source of amusement to young and old.

7. That the amusing illustrations and letter-press will be varied in every issue dealing with local and topical subjects, so that each issue will be looked for and eagerly read.
8. That the advertiser is assured of the number and rapid circulation; the Postal Department being the distributors.
9. That the scheme is being carried out with the full sanction of the Postal Authorities.
10. That the advertiser, while he is not bound to use the Patent Envelopes, can by doing so, save a large portion of the cost of his advertisement. For instance: "Say he pays £4 for a page advertisement, and the Co. supply him with 300 of the 2 penny stamped envelopes, at one penny each, he will recoup himself £1. 5s., thus reducing the cost of his advertisement to £2. 15s.

For further particulars, apply to the Manager personally, by letter or telephone.

Note the address —

Telephone, 1246

101 QUEEN STREET  
MELBOURNE.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

*Mr Campbell Paterson, M.B.E.*

Mr Campbell Paterson, of Auckland, New Zealand, producer of the unique loose-leaf *Catalogue of New Zealand Stamps* and well-known specialist dealer, received the M.B.E. in the Queen's Birthday Honours.

*Guillaux's Aircraft in Sydney*

Dr Lindsay Sharp, Director of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney, disclosed during an ABC Science Show recently that the Bleriot monoplane in which M. Marcel Guillaux flew the first Melbourne-Sydney airmail in July 1914 was in storage at the Museum.

The aircraft is depicted on the 5d and 2/3 stamps issued in 1964 to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the flight.

*"The Colombo"*

How many New Zealand collectors know of the Full Face Queens once called "Colombos"?

Mr L. N. Williams restored them to philatelic notice in an article on The Cape Triangular 4d Black in *Stamp Collecting* on 1 February 1979.

These were the stamps on the mail recovered from the wreck of the *Colombo* on Minicoy Island, southernmost of the Laccadive Islands, in the Indian Ocean, on 19 November 1962.

"The penny vermilion was dirty black, the twopence blue red became a very dark blue, and the shilling green nearly black," he wrote — see *The Stamp Collector's Magazine*, vol 1, p. 158 (November 1963).

The discoloured stamps were known at the time as "Colombos".

The *Colombo* wreck was thirty-two years before the wreck of the *Wairarapa* on the Great Barrier Island, New Zealand, on 28 April 1894, which emphasised the need for better communication between the island and Auckland and in the days before the Great Barrier Island pigeon-posts.

# THE MISSING PENNY REDS

BY E. KEITH DITTERICH

Thirty years ago, when there was a dearth of variety in the designs of Australian stamps, many collectors specialised in the issues of the late King George V, perhaps more in the penny red issues of 1914 forward than in any other value.

By the time of the issue of the 1952 *Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue*, a very full analysis had been made of the many shades and printing varieties that could be located if a collector cared to buy used penny reds in quantity, say, at 2/- a hundred.

Then came a reaction. To collect penny reds, one had to be a student with very sharp eyes, not only for shades but also for plate varieties. Nevertheless, the search was usually worth while, for those with the time and the patience to undertake it.

For most, however, there were too many new issues, not only in Australia, but in the Territories overseas.

Consequently, it was felt that a simplification of the catalogue might make the task of the collector less arduous. The 1979 C.S.C. for example, eliminates quite a few of the old numbers; 14, 15½, 20, 20½, 21½, 28½, 32½, 61, 62½, 67, 69, 70, 70½, 72, 72½, 76 and 78.

Thus, the modern collector has less choice in his classification; but the snag is that whereas, under the old classifications, a place could be found, if one searched hard enough, for any penny red; now the collector will find many specimens difficult to place, for the simple reason that the appropriate numbers are no longer listed.

More than that, whereas the old classification had many sub-shades, the new one simplifies to extremes.

The early G.11, a late issue of 1914, bright red (aniline), sub-shades pale red, scarlet red, red pink, is now shown as "bright red group, some shades aniline". The old G.12, "salmon red (aniline), sub-shades scarlet salmon, light salmon oily ink, is now simply "pale red group".

The fact is that the old classification is correct; and is verified by D. M. Neil's monumental listing of the dates and shades issued during the 1914-18 war and afterwards.

Indeed, the lists could easily be made more complex; G.12 has many shades of salmon; but, at any rate, a collector will, sooner or later, find a place for his stamp, using the old list.

## *Variations Due to Shortage of Red Dye*

There are many "penny reds" which, in fact, are not red, the immense varieties in shading being due to the fact that the original red dye could not be obtained from Germany, because of the war. Consequently, it was necessary to mix in with the red dye many other inks, but always in the hope that some sort of red would eventuate.

The early classic illustration of this fact is the appearance, in December 1914 of the rose lilac shade, formerly listed as G.14. Dated copies of this stamp exist;

it is somewhat similar to another stamp issued in early 1918, classified as lilac pink (G.28½, also dropped from the catalogue, often inverted watermark). Both stamps are very unusual, and both are recognised by D. M. Neil. Orlo-Smith's list, dated August 1939, verifies and prices G.14 at 20/- (dated). 28½ was listed at 30/- in the 1952 catalogue.

A dark red (July 1915) is also listed as 15½; there are two shades of this number, which is distinctive, but not so far off the "beaten track" as G.14.

Two others, well worth a place in the list, are the former numbers 20 and 20½. The first is a deep scarlet aniline on semi-surfaced paper; listed by Colenso Blogg as December 1916; not quite the same as the rough paper issue known as G.60. G.20½ is a bright red salmon, not rare, but quite different, also from December 1916.

No. 21½ was pale or bright lilac rose; a dull shade which appeared in April, 1917; another shade in July. In my classification these appear to relate to the rough paper issue known as G. 62½, pink carmine, issued in August 1917. It is a quite distinctive shade of G.21; and lilac rose is quite a different kettle of fish from the G.14 rose lilac! Also, it has no similarity to the next missing shade; the lilac pink issue known as 28½, issued in January, 1918 according to D. M. Neil, and February by Colenso Blogg. The stamp lacks the robustness of G.28 or G.29, although the catalogue used to record various depths of shade. Those I have seen are inverted watermark. Ignoring the 28½ classification, they would need to be regarded as a shade of G.28, now simply classified as "pink group" as compared with the former alternatives of "pink (pale, bright, dull rose pink, cerise, orange pink)."

Then the old 32½, plum or maroon shades, is certainly not carmine, nor is it brownish red. Undoubtedly it was issued around August, 1918 in shades of maroon, bright, deep, plum, brownish plum. Stamps with postmarks relating to Digger Loan Bonds or dated in late 1918 are often a puzzle, unless 32½ is recalled.

#### *The Rough Paper Issues*

The present G.60, red group, aniline, pale to intensely deep, covers the old G.60: "scarlet aniline, bright, deep and dull"; also G.61 which is "deep red, aniline, brown rose, deep blood red." These are very attractive shades, parallel to the G.18 scarlet group, and are worthy of some classification.

Likewise, the old G.62½, pink carmine, issued in August, 1917, according to Colenso Blogg, is certainly not carmine; nor is it to be confused with the still-listed brown pink. (G.64).

So far as the 1918 rough papers are concerned, G.67 was a rose pink of February 1918; 70 was a deep rosine, of February 1918; they were helpful classifications, but are not a great loss, but the old G.70½, damson is quite distinct and was one of many shades coming from February 1918, when the shortage of red dye was considerable. There were dull reds, known as G.72 (quite common in March 1918); but the major loss is the old 72½, salmon, dull or bright, a very different shade, my copy of Die 1 dated May and the Die 2 not clear, but both were verified by the late Mr Frank Thornhill. These are scarce and would be impossible to place in the present list. My copies are very fluorescent when lamped.

As far as Nos. 76 and 78 are concerned, they were originally "red brown (dull, deep and bright)" and "orange brown (yellow-brown, venetian red,

chocolate red).” The absence of 76 does not matter much, but G.78 covered many shades, getting to the ultimate near-end-of-the-war stage, when penny reds had turned into penny browns! Colenso Blogg listed eleven shades in the G.77, G.78 issues; many are not maroon; G.78 is worth keeping if only for the orange-brown shade. We may differ in the words we use to classify the shades; but the fact that there are many variations remains.

#### *Used or Unused?*

The unused shades are more attractive, but the dates and slogans on the used often verify the classification. G.13½, rose red, a 1914 shade, is better confirmed by a pre-1917 postmark, to make sure it is not a shade of G.21; a G.14 dated Feb., 1915 is certain; what appears to be a mint G.14, rose lilac, could be confused with a G.28½, lilac pink; also, checking through a selection of plate varieties, like the Run N fault, is not only useful in seeing how the plates were subject to change, but the stamps themselves varied in shade at the different stages. Colenso Blogg listed 375 shades, but most, if not all could be placed in the 1952 listing of the *Specialists' Catalogue*; but with the present catalogue, many would be problem cases.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

#### *New Zealand Ink Puzzle*

The September issue of *P from A* contained an editorial note on New Zealand Inks drawing attention to an article in *The Philatelist*, January 1979, on Vol 1 of De La Rue's Ink Recipe Book, with reference to fugitive inks supplied to New Zealand, 1867-73.

The author of the article noted that the Full Faces on issue at the time approximated these colours, and asked, "Did John Davies, the printer, mix his dry colour with some solvent that made the colours fast?"

Mr Marcel Stanley, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., of Wellington has answered in the August number of *The Philatelist* (p. 340).

He says he is sure that the mystery developed from some of the headings in the book, which read "New Zealand Postage". The inks sent in 1867 were, in fact, used, for N.Z.'s first revenue stamps.

#### *Design of Victoria's Engraved "Queen on Throne"*

The July-August issue of the *London Philatelist* (p. 90) has a joint article by Messrs Robson Lowe and J. R. W. Purves. "Victoria: The Queen on Throne Designs, 1852-56. A Clarification."

This is an analysis of what is known about the designs for what became the

Line-Engraved Queen on Throne, (1d Yellow-green, 6d Bright-Blue, 1856-58 (S.G. 42, 43.), based on events in England and Victoria.

Their conclusion: "So all we can say of these two designs (the 1d and 6d) is that they were 'engraved by Perkins Bacon after a design by Henry Corbould.' Corbould, incidentally, had died in 1844."

A negative result? No. An intriguing article.

#### *Corroborative Evidence*

The Royal Aircraft Establishment, Farnborough, is Britain's major aeronautical research centre. One Division investigates aircraft accidents.

From Stephen Barlay, *Aircrash Detective*:

"These puzzle-solving exercises at Farnborough lack all the elements of heroism and romanticism to be found in other kinds of life-saving detective work. The sobering graveyard of sometimes hundreds of aircraft wreckages under the window will always see to that, and the men who do such work are merely fighting for the preservation of sanity. There is constant and intense activity about the place. There is plenty of gaiety, too. Anything goes that keeps the mind away from tragedy."

The R.A.E. Philatelic Society has two hundred members. It meets fortnightly.



# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA INDEX

*Vol. 31, 1979*

A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS  
AND THEIR COLLECTORS



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

*Publications Committee:* JOHN GARTNER R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. (*Chairman*),  
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and R. LLOYD-SMITH

*Business Manager:* Miss JOYCE BUCHANAN

MELBOURNE  
The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria  
Box 2071, G.P.O.

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# MYSTERIES OF THE N.S.W. POSTAGE £1

By ROBSON LOWE

Recently Mrs Grace Gordon Kaye showed me a page of New South Wales stamps overprinted SPECIMEN among which was the £1 with the 19 mm overprint double, a variety I had not seen before.

The late G. J. Hutson recorded that 100 of this stamp was overprinted SPECIMEN in this type. Mr A. R. Butler, in his article "Specimen Stamps of New South Wales" in *The London Philatelist* (February 1967, p. 45) records 100 copies issued in May 1886. Mr Butler observes that the type face and Specimen issuing policy of that time support this statement.

The first 10/- and £1 values of New South Wales were the fiscal stamps overprinted POSTAGE which were printed in October 1885. They were intended for use on telegrams but were used for postage. Up to the discovery of this example, this stamp overprinted SPECIMEN has only been known to us with the 13 mm overprint in lower case type of which the records state that 1200 were made in March 1892 and 200 in May 1894. At the same time 1200 and 200 stamps of the original printing were overprinted REPRINT.

The basic stamp was printed in sheets of 100, in two panes of fifty. It is possible that the overprint was applied to one pane at a time.

The 1886 £1 is one of the rarest stamps in the British Empire but far from being the most valuable. With black POSTAGE overprint it is only known used (and overprint SPECIMEN or REPRINT). With blue overprint it is only known unused.

Printings according to Basset Hull's records were as follows.

1 Oct. 1885	100 sheets of 100 perf. 11½, 12 × 10	10,000
11 May 1886	10 sheets of 100 overprinted perf. 11½, 12	1,000
		<u>11,000</u>

None was issued until May 1886.

Disposal of the above:

<i>Sold to the public:</i>	1886 41 1887 11 (5 of these were overprinted OS)	
	1888-30 — all black POSTAGE overprint	82
<i>Presentation copies</i>	blue POSTAGE overprint	100
<i>Overprinted SPECIMEN 19 mm long</i>		
	May 1886 black POSTAGE overprint	100
<i>Overprinted Specimen 13 mm long</i>		
	(a) March 1892 1200 (all blue overprint)	
	(b) 18 Jan. 1894 100 with a further overprint OS (printing I)	
	(c) May 1894 200 (all black overprint)	1,500
<i>Overprinted Reprint</i>		
	(d) March 1892 1200 (blue overprint)	1,200
	(e) May 1894 (black overprint)	200
<i>Destroyed 1897 approximately</i>		7,900
		<u>11,082</u>

This is 82 stamps more than the numbers printed if the records are correct. Of course it is possible that the approximately 7900 destroyed was really 7818. Mr Butler, who has made a detailed study of both Specimen overprints and reprints of the old Australian colonies, tells me he has yet to see examples of either varieties (a) or (e).

The late G. J. Hutson, in his masterly work *The Stamps of New South Wales* proved that the first printing of 10,000 must have been with blue overprint and the second and rarer printing in black.

It might be worth noting that five of the blue POSTAGE were further overprinted OS with the single postal stationery die. Three of the five copies ordered are known to still exist, two of which are in the Royal collection, one having the overprint double; all are grossly off centre.

The £1 fiscal stamps overprinted POSTAGE were only in issue a short while as the Centenary 20/- was issued on 27 April 1888. The demand cannot have been great, and in the two years they were on sale only 77 copies are recorded as having been sold, plus five overprinted OS.

Further questions to which we would like to know the answers are:

1. As the first printing was not issued until May 1886 (during which month 24 copies were sold, 2 in July, 5 in September, 10 in November), why was the second printing made in the same month? Mr Butler thinks the answer may be to match the number of 5/.

2. As there was such a large stock, why were 2450 reprints made and further overprinted OS in black in July 1895? These are the second NSW watermark and the surface of the paper calendered.

Mr Butler thinks that these were current revenue stamps and only the OS and POSTAGE overprints were reprints and it is possible that the package of 79 sheets had been mislaid. In any event the 1895 sets were designed to be attractive colours and saleable and stamps on the later paper lent themselves to this object.

3. Why was a second reprint of 2000 made in July 1897 (again the second watermark) when there was still a remainder of 7900 of the original printing in stock which were destroyed shortly afterwards?

4. Both Mr Hutson and Mr Butler record that 100 copies of this 19 mm SPECIMEN overprint were made in May 1886 but they had not seen the stamp with SPECIMEN double. Therefore, there are two possibilities to be deduced from its existence — either there were two sheets of 100 overprinted SPECIMEN instead of one sheet or the SPECIMEN overprint was only applied to two panes of fifty.

5. 100 each of the 5/-, 10/- and £1 are recorded with the 19 mm SPECIMEN. It is unlikely that the printers would set up this overprint 100 times or even 50 times to provide such a small quantity. I would suggest that this SPECIMEN overprint was set up in fives and each horizontal row of each pane overprinted separately.

Mr Butler thinks that this theory is probably correct. The survival rate of SPECIMEN overprint is high and the double overprint would have been recorded earlier if there had been more. In the Hutson collection there is an example of the £1 with the word POSTAGE slightly double.

If any reader has examples of this value which would extend the known knowledge we would like to hear from them. The £1 with black overprint perforated 13 instead of 12 has been chronicled, but those few examples that I have seen had forged POSTAGE overprints.

Recently, there was occasion to examine a used £1 with black overprint for authenticity. The basic fiscal stamp was genuine but it had been fiscally used, black POSTAGE had been forged and forged cancellations added.

The examination of this stamp attracted my attention to the genuine POSTAGE overprint causing me to record two facts which I had not previously noted. Firstly, the bar through POSTAGE is part of one overprint and by the constant breaks should be easily plated. Secondly, the horizontal bar on the genuine is below the horizontal bar of the A, the central serif of the G and the central tongue of the E. On such forged examples that I have examined, the bar runs exactly half-way up the letters.

*And the 3d 1885 with OS in Red*

While I was writing these notes two blocks of the 3d second Crown/NSW watermark line perf. 12 × 11 issued December 1885 overprinted OS in red arrived for an opinion. The normal but rare 3d perf. 13 with this overprint was issued in December 1879 at the same time as the 8d yellow.

There is no doubt that the two blocks are from the same sheet, the centering of both stamps and watermark establish this. Without the overprint, the stamps are common (Gibbons 225d). My curiosity was aroused by Gibbons' statement, "*Other stamps are known with the red overprint but their status is in doubt*". I wondered what the "status" could be. Forged overprints would not invite such a comment and there is no record of the 3d. being reprinted. The red OS is genuine without doubt as one stamp has the misplaced s variety.

David Parsons did some research in the library and in the *London Philatelist* (March 1903, pp. 56, 58), finding some notes by M. P. Castle which throw some light on the matter but make it more confused. An 1886 letter from S. H. Lambton, Secretary to the Post Office, Sydney, was quoted concerning the os overprints.

At first the whole series, with the exception of the 1d., were surcharged in red, but only as an essay, it being found that on many of the series the red was not suitable. When the time came for the issue the black series were sent out (the 1s. in red), but owing to the demand at first being so great, the Government Printing Office was obliged to issue some of their proof sheets in red, hence what I have called "essays". The officials there only acknowledge the issue of the 2d., 3d., and 8d. in red, but I have other values postmarked — the 4d., 5d., 6d., 9d., and 10d., though the 5d., 9d., and 10d. were never subsequently issued with the black surcharge.

With the letter, Lambton enclosed his official circular dated 17 December 1879 giving notice of the issue of the stamps overprinted os.

So what is the status of these 3d. with the red overprint? As the basic stamps were not issued until December 1885 they cannot be confused with the red trial overprints which came out when the os were first issued in December 1879.

So are they old stock with a reprinted os in red made in March 1892 or July 1895 with the 5/- Map watermark 5/-?

In the reference collection there is the contemporary 8d. line perf. 11 (December 1885) and the 1/- perf. 10½ × 11½ (not known issued) both overprinted in red. Both stamps have the three ovals cancellations in one corner and I suspect that the basic 1/- is actually a reprint.

The reprints (Hutson, p. 106) comprised 158 sets of thirty-two cancelled NSW in three ovals, 100 sets cancelled with GPO in three ovals, fifty of the last being further overprinted "Specimen". Nearly all the basic stamps were originals and in some case, so were the os overprints.

My verdict on the two blocks of 3d. is "*genuine basic stamp with reprinted os overprint in red, made July 1895*". They lack the oval cancellation but I can see no other category in which they logically fit.

## OBITUARY

*Mr G. T. HOUSTON, F.R.P.S.L.*

One of Melbourne's best-known philatelists, Mr George T. Houston, has died after a long illness.

Mr Houston, who was 67, was born in Budapest, and for nearly 20 years had charge of a family company in Egypt manufacturing cotton derivatives.

He came to Australia in 1949 and established E. Houston of Australia Pty Ltd, general importers and distributors.

A large, cheerful personality, with a magnificent philatelic knowledge, he was known to most of the collectors of the city.

Mr Houston had noted collections of Egypt and Austria, and, as he told the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria at his last display, in April, he was "a collector of many countries — a collector who likes to collect stamps and issues with a facet that appeals to him."

On that occasion he had his display listed in the syllabus as "Surprise", and it was. It embraced Australian Commonwealth and all States, and ranged from stamps and locals to perfins and postal forgeries.

Postmarks were another particular interest.

Exhibition awards included a silver medal for Egypt at ANPEX 1950, and ANPEX 1970, and silver-gilts at MIPEX 1963 and ANPEX 1972, where he also gained a silver medal.

He joined the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria soon after his arrival in Melbourne and served a term on its Council. He was prominent in the Victorian Philatelic Association from its foundation, was its public relations officer from 1952 to 1955, vice-president, 1955-57 and president from 1966 to 1969.

He gave displays to many societies and worked for the popularisation of the hobby, particularly by Moomba exhibitions.

Mr Houston joined the Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1954, becoming a Fellow a few years later, and a Life Member. He was also a member of the Egypt Study Circle, London.

Besides stamps he collected Chinese porcelain, ivory, and jade, and Oriental carpets.

His son, Mr Geoffrey Houston, is a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.



# TASMANIAN CROWN SEALS AND WESTERN LINE T.P.O.s

By JOHN AVERY

The new date on Tasmanian Crown Seals produced by Mr L. C. Viney (Hobart, *P from A*, March 1978) included one of particular interest.

This is West Birralee F.B. (Type 3 in my classification, *P from A*, June 1969, p. 39).

This designates the Free Bag service to Birralee West, which began on 21.7.47.

It is a gem, since free bag services naturally had no other "cancellation". This per favour strike indicates that many other free bag services may have had similar seals.

Mr Viney brings up the point of a possible "new type" in reference to my Type 3 classification of circular seal, NAME, CROWN/TASMANIA, and this deserves an explanation which I failed to make in the original article.

In fact, the void area of which he speaks is, for *type* purposes, the *Crown* area.

These seals had the Crown impression deeply recessed. Some per favour examples strike — perhaps on a deep backing of blotting paper — occasionally depict part of the Crown. But when struck normally, that area appears as a circular void. Type 3 therefore stands.

My DAISY BELL seal (with the WEST BIRRALEE F.B. seal cited by Mr Viney) is the only type introduced at that office.

A considerable revision of the knowledge of Tasmanian Crown Seals is under way, following my acquisition of a considerable number of examples, struck in the Commonwealth period.

Mr P. B. Edwards (*P from A*, June 1977, p. 47) separated three types of T.P.O. WESTERN LINE/TAS cancellations. I can now add the following T.P.O. Commonwealth period dates:

T.P.O. WESTERN LINE K(ii): Later date, 21.6.32.

T.P.O. WESTERN LINE K(iii): Early date 7.2.24; late 9.5.32.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, 1980.* Edited by J. P. Meara. 274 pp, 14 × 22 cm. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000. Recommended price, \$7.95.

The opening paragraph of Mr Meara's introduction to this issue of the increasingly valuable catalogue deals with matters good and bad.

The good things, first: This is the 40th edition of the catalogue, founded by the late S. Orlo-Smith in 1926, and it is also Mr Meara's 15th catalogue since he took over in 1965.

The bad things: the advent of stamp investing and "the mint unhinged obsession".

"Stamp investing now is big business, fuelled by all world governments, and in Australia we have the deplorable practice of classic imprint pieces being broken down to singles for monetary gain and their study value destroyed forever," Mr Meara says, emphasising the remarks made in the Review of the last year's edition of the catalogue, (*P from A* March 1979, p. 22).

"With investor demand dominating a market of depleted material, today's aspiring specialists can only wonder in what areas and to what extent they may afford to specialise," he adds.

Mr Meara reports a complex marketing scene, with some issues comparatively static and the 5/- Sydney Bridge stabilising. Kangaroo and George V continue to rise, the O.S. faster than the ordinary issues. The immediate pre-decimals are up too, and the earlier decimals even more so.

"Future pricing must lean towards a virtual mint-unhinged and superb fine used level," he concludes.

There is an increased number of varieties of the bi-coloured Kangaroos listed, with new illustrations and diagrams.

There are also new notes on the 35 cent Christmas 1974 and on the National Stamp Week 1978 productions, with another diagram explaining the two formats.

Mr Meara's notes on the techniques and other features of the Christmas 1974, Elizabeth II Silver Jubilee, National Stamp Week 1976 and 1978 and the Famous Australian Aviators issues, by bringing their attractions before the philatelic public, may have been responsible for at least some of the sudden interest in decimal issues.

The re-writing of the Postage Dues section continues with a new introductory note of the 1909-38 issues and a new diagram of the frame-plate flaws.

These are the result of international studies by Dr A. Nicholson, of Victoria, and Mr P. R. W. Bolton in England, who are discovering the unperceived wonders of these stamps.

One wonders if the ACSC of the future will not include such things as colour markings and tonal step wedges.

Our new issues no longer provide the great number of flaws which emerged in the Kangaroo and King George V issues to give delight to so many collectors for so many years. But will not the increasingly deeply technically trained collectors of the Scientific Revolution want more items of technical interest in their albums?

*Queensland Postal Stationery: The Backgrounds and the Issues,* by P. Collas. 51 pp. 18 × 25 cm. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000. Recommended price, \$10.

It is probably a sign of the times that this work should have been written, let alone published, particularly as the bulk of it has already appeared as a serial in *Philately from Australia* from September 1976 to March 1979.

Not many years ago, Queensland was a "dead" country, and those who collected postal stationery, even of their pet countries, were few and far between.

This is probably why Basset Hull's *The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Post Cards and Telegraph Forms of Queensland*, published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1930 has never been completed by a second volume dealing with the postal stationery.

Now, the Australian States are enjoying a resurrection of their popularity, and collectors are once again turning their attention to postal stationery, so Mr Collas' monograph is timely, and goes a long way towards completing the Basset Hull work.

Since its publication in serial form, Mr Collas has taken the opportunity to include reference to essays and proofs in Mr Ron Butler's collection, and additional items in the collections of the late Mrs Phyllis Turnbull and of Mr Bernie Beston.

The work is divided into two parts. The first, dealing with the period 1880-97, covers, in different chapters, postcards (including reply cards), envelopes, wrappers and letter cards; Part Two, covering 1898-1912, leaves the postcards to the last, as it is the period of the Pictorial Cards, of which Mr Collas gives a full description in two chapters, "The Scenes" and "The Issues".

This work is no mere catalogue of the various issues, as Mr Collas adds interest to his story by filling in the official background to each issue, and the reaction of the philatelic press and the general public to them. He also takes the opportunity to correct some errors in issue dates in the catalogues.

One might have thought that the story was now as complete as it is ever likely to be, but Mr Collas indicates in his Final Note that this is not so, if one includes the postcards produced for the Franco-British Exhibition in 1908, and the "Intelligence and Tourist Bureau" series.

These cards had no impressed stamp, but they were printed by the Queensland Government Printer, so they had some official status, although they were not an Australian Post Office issue. The fact that they were pictorial cards adds to their interest, and I hope that Mr Collas will later write an article on them.

The work is remarkably free from typographical errors, so that it seems almost churlish to mention those noted. I do so only in order that they may be corrected should there be a second edition published. In the 18th line on page 4, the last sentence reads "Border measurements are 13.15 × 85 mm."; it is evident that this should read "131.5 × 85 mm." On page 39 there are a few errors carried over from the serial form: in the notes on card No. 4, 'top' in the first and third lines should read 'stop'; and in the caption of card No. 9, 'Charlesville' should read 'Charleville'.

Anything that Phil Collas writes is always carefully researched and eminently readable, and this work is no exception. The Hawthorn Press has done its usual excellent job in producing it, No. 29 of its Monograph series.

This, and No. 28, show a "new look" for The Hawthorn Press Monographs, with white plastic-coated card covers, on which the title, author, and a series of vertical lines of decreasing thickness near the spine are in green. The change at first is rather startling, but it grows on you. Both author and publisher are to be congratulated.

H. M. CAMPBELL

*The Ross Smith Air Stamp*, by Nelson Eustis. 65 pp. 14 × 22 cm. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3001. Recommended price, \$20.

No one has done more for aerophilately in Australia than Mr Nelson Eustis, of Adelaide. Therefore everyone will feel he deserved the joy he must have felt when he discovered in Canberra, at this late date, a list of the addresses of the 364 letters Sir Ross Smith and Sir Keith Smith brought with them on the inaugural England-Australia flight of 1919.

The list, with each address numbered, is put on record in Mr Eustis's new book.

The list does not include any covers picked up and delivered during the journey, but all of those delivered to the postal authorities in Melbourne appear. Not all of them made the complete journey.

Mr Eustis has analysed the destination — Australia, 321; Britain, 34; New Zealand, 3; Burma, 2; India, Papua, Sudan, and Newfoundland 1.

From the grouping of associated names or addresses, it seems that the covers were listed as they had been tipped out of the bag — and perhaps more than one person had the task of noting the addresses.

There were some surprises. There were no covers for the King, the Governor-General, or any State Governor. But the Prime Minister (Mr W. M. Hughes) received three (45, 57, 168) and there were singles for members of the Federal Cabinet.

The Smith Brothers each sent two letters to themselves (Ross, 22, 364) and Keith (23, 355) and they sent two to their father (48, 52) and two to their mother (25, 354).

This makes it clear that the scope of the book extends far beyond its title.

Mr Eustis covers the £10,000 prize air race, the fate of the competitors, and the records of any mail they are known to have carried.

The Postmaster at Darwin, (Mr E. J. Cook) made up an official mail of apparently three letters for conveyance south. These were to the Postmaster-General, from the Administrator to Hon. W. A. Watt and to the Deputy-Postmaster-General, Adelaide.

The central theme of the book is the Ross Smith "stamp" — postmark and adhesive label — of the differing interpretations of the word "stamp" in telegrams from Ross Smith and "Billie" Hughes and how we gained both.

Mr Eustis also discloses that there were

two printings of the label, because the mail was larger than originally thought.

He also reveals that a paragraph he wrote in the *Australian Stamp Monthly* in 1938, regarding the origin of 22 labels on sale in New York, allowed the Auditor-General's Department and others to busybody themselves with the matter for ten years.

And then to achieve in 1948, as the climax and culmination of their efforts to find where they came from (the source was dead by the time they found out), the "destruction by defacement" of an historic item that should have gone into the Australian War Museum — the block from which the stamps were printed, which had been preserved for 28 years.

It was a fit item for the war museum because the airmen made the flight in Australian Flying Corps uniform.

The acknowledgments to people and printed sources consulted make it clear that Mr Eustis has been involved in this project for years.

It is therefore strange that he apparently had not seen *The Ross Smith England—Australia Flight—A Postal History*, by Col. Leonard H. Smith, Jr., of Florida (*P from A*, June 1968, p. 49) and its *Supplement* (*P from A*, June 1970, p. 56) in which he listed 94 covers, two pieces, and 16 unidentified items, a total of 112, with illustrations, in his unique effort to "reconstruct the mail."

The literature of the flight, begun by Sir Ross Smith's *14,000 Miles Through the Air* has now been enriched by three philatelic volumes.

Mr Eustis has given us a most interesting book. All aerophilatelists and postal historians involved in this field will be indebted to him, and will undoubtedly enjoy what he has written.

*The De La Rue Key Plates*, by Robson Lowe, 36 pp. 16 × 25 cm. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JZ. Price, £3.

De La Rue's Key Plate issues are second only to Perkins Bacon's line-engraved Chalon issues, as features of British Empire issues.

They have never enjoyed such appeal, nor therefore such prominence in philatelic display; and perhaps they have not enjoyed their fair share of philatelic literature.

Now Mr Robson Lowe points out, without mentioning Perkins Bacon, that in fact they had a far wider usage than his — and

our — beloved Chalon heads.

He has found that 79 British colonies subsequently used the key-plate designs.

His historical introduction shows that Sir William Congreve invented a machine which made key-plate printing possible. De La Rue began printing revenue stamps by this method in 1863.

The first wholly typographed key plate stamps, made possible by improvements in the accuracy of registration, were the 1865 New South Wales Stamp Duty issue. The first postage stamps were St. Christopher, 1870.

In 1888, De La Rue produced some key plate essays with Imperium (Empire) and the value, either on plain or lined ground, from the duty plate.

The idea was that these could be used by Colonies requiring only small numbers of stamps which could be recognised as Empire issues; and as bi-colour trials for colonies using this type.

Mr Lowe began corresponding with Mr J. R. Whitfield, the owner of the best collection of these extant, last year, regarding a work on these, but Mr Whitfield died in January and Mr Lowe finished the task.

"It would be misleading to record my name as the author, for although I have pushed the pen, the inspiration was Jim Whitfield's," he wrote.

These Imperium essays, seldom seen in Australia, were produced with the inscriptions Postage Postage and Postage Revenue and in a modified design, Revenue Revenue, for both Victorian and Edward VII issues, up to 1907. The same same duty plate could be used for all types.

They were then followed by "Nyasaland" types, with Thos. De La Rue & Co. as the name of the issuing country.

The company also interested itself in essays for Africa — Africa, South Africa, and State of North Africa, among others.

The State of N. Africa essays, produced in 1894, featured the camel-riding postman, pre-dating the Sudan stamps of 1898 by four years.

Tables showing the usage of the various key plate types, with colonies, values, watermarks and perforations are given as appendices.

Once again Mr Lowe has expanded our knowledge and given us an enjoyable work. But for him, would philatelists ever have had such a book?

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *New Zealand*

A valued friend and member from Sydney, Mr J. S. White, brought a display from his Grand Award collection of New Zealand, for the September meeting.

It was a varied display of the full face period, containing many major rarities and remarkable covers, and covering both stamps and postal history.

A highlight was the matching mint blocks of 10 of plate proofs of the 1d, and the 1d brown, of 1872, with the re-entries showing in the proofs still visible in the stamps, after 17 years and printings of 66,666 sheets from the plate.

The display opened with engraving of the Chalon portrait and its head, and the amended die reprints for the famous but now regrettably defunct Herts Philatelic Society's dinners.

Another large block showed the irregularity with which the impressions on the early plates were laid down.

The retouches to the 2d plate had been re-constructed in both colours on star watermark paper, and there were interesting studies of the re-entries of the 1d, and of the deterioration of the perforating pins until stamps could be almost imperforate.

Single items noted included the Jeffrys forgery on blue paper, with forged cancellation, and a 2d 1872 with part of WT & Co watermark.

A wide-ranging section on New Zealand's postage rates and routes of its overseas services included many covers with more than one value. This culminated in a cover to London via Marseilles bearing a 2d., 6d. and 1/-.

## *Air-linked Empire*

Illness prevented the scheduled display for the second September meeting and Mr H. L. Chisholm filled in with a display of covers showing how Imperial Airways, its associated companies and B.O.A.C. linked the empire by air.

The display began with Imperial Airways' first overseas route, the Cairo—Basra link of 1927, when the company took over the R.A.F.'s Cairo—Baghdad Desert Air Route and extended to Basra.

Then came the double extension, to inaugurate the first Empire Air route, England—India, in 1929, with official cover and cachet, with the autograph, "A. S. Wilcockson, Pilot First Stage".

The building of the Cape route, with the restricted "Sunrise" cover for the London—Mwanza stage, and the England—Australia experimental flights showed what a remarkable aviation year 1931 was.

Eastward extensions of the Indian route preceded the introduction of the Empire flying-boats in 1937, and replacing the landplane services. Then the successive conquest of the oceans, Atlantic 1939, Indian 1943, and Pacific 1946; with the final service, extension to Japan in 1951.

Imperial Airways and Pan-American Airways had agreed that they would open the Atlantic route simultaneously, but because of the flying-boats needed to operate the "All-Up" Scheme, the British company had to waive reciprocity.

An interesting cover was one by the first Atlan-

tic service, New York—Marseilles, from the head of Pan-American Airways, Mr Juan H. Trippe, to the Managing Director of Imperial Airways, Mr G. E. Woods Humphreys, which Mr Chisholm found in a New York stamp shop in 1963.

## *Commonwealth Postal Stationery*

Postal Stationery exhibits are not a frequent feature of philatelic society meetings, but Mr J. A. Sinfield treated members to an impressive introduction to their interest at the October meeting when he showed Commonwealth Postal Stationery.

The display was preceded by a comprehensive explanation of the historical and philatelic aspects of his subject. It covered lettercards, postcards and aerogrammes. These included many rarities.

Mr Sinfield said it was accepted that Commonwealth postal stationery began in 1911.

Nobody knew how many of the illustrated lettercards of the 1911-1914 there were but the most recent listing, in 1976, totalled 191 items.

Postcards—also beginning in 1911, had a total of 67 known varieties.

There were probably 40 cards of the Coronation post cards of that year, the first commemorative Australian stationery prior to 1979, except aerogrammes.

The display included the full set of six Victorian scenes from an Australian series issued late in 1911.

Jumping to the 1976 series of 36 prepaid postcards, Mr Sinfield recalled that 16 cards had been withdrawn for various reasons, and replaced with others. He showed a complete set of the unissued cards. Probably no more than 20 sets exist.

Mr Sinfield said an Iraq form of 1933 was the pioneer of the aerogramme, and Australia's first were the World War II service issues from 1941.

Civil aerogrammes began in 1944

Norway adopted the word "Aerogram" in 1947 and Israel made it "aerogramme" in 1951.

## *New South Wales*

Mr Mark Dankin, another valued interstate exhibitor from Sydney, provided a majestic display from his New South Wales collection at the first November meeting.

It ranged over the whole of N.S.W.'s issues, but concentrated on a remarkable range of Sydney Views, gathered over 35 years. These covered all papers and plate states, and many varieties.

First was a 1d lithographed essay by Robert Clayton, then Plate I on yellowish paper, Specimen, and Plate I on cover.

Other covers early in the display included a strip of three 3d on cover, two being the "No Whip" variety, and the 1d, Plate I on bluish paper.

The other values were similarly shown, and the standard was upheld with such items as a beautiful pair of plate proofs, in colour, of John Carmichael's head for the oval Registration stamp.

The 5/- coin design included mint marginal-decoration block, perf 12, and an imperf. vertically

mint block, perf 11, as well as die and plate proofs.

Plate proofs of the N.S.W. Centenary series, were shown in a range of colours, then both the 5/- and £1 overprinted Specimen, and a used strip of four 5/-, on piece.

The 1897 Consumptives Homes charities were

together on cover.

The O S issues were also featured, to complete the display. They included many rarities such as two copies of the 3d 1897 O S in red, the Coin O S, one of 550, and one perf 10, O S sans serif in red, one of 100, and one with both reprint and specimen overprints.

## THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

### *Members' Diary*

- 1980  
 January  
 8 U.S.A. Highway Post Offices from 1941, Mr Robert Kennedy  
 February  
 12 Popular Choice Competition. Ten sheets a member. Two sections (a) General (b) Topical Commonwealth. Ten sheets a member. Compere, Mrs Nita Wilson, F.R.P.S.L.  
 March  
 11 Stamps and Postal History of the Falkland Islands, Mr John S. Gibson

### *German-Austrian Stamp Club*

Mr H. Mittag, president of the German-Austrian Stamp Club, introduced the display at the June meeting.

Mr Hans Jaschke showed stamps of the German Colonies and Post Offices abroad, the 1920 era, U.P.U. issues, and flight covers.

Mr B. Manger chose Plebiscite District issues, Upper Silesia and the German Occupation of Belgium.

### *Annual Meeting*

For the Club's 89th annual meeting, the retiring president, Mr E. J. Garrard, presented the Postal History of New South Wales.

His display included early covers, G.N.R.P. covers, Southern and Western Queensland T.P.O. and markings from appropriate Post Offices in Queensland.

President, Mr E. J. Garrard, F.R.P.S.L.; Vice-Presidents, Mr H. K. Nott and Mr V. Frankenstein, F.R.P.S.L.; Secretary, Mrs Shirley Jones; Treasurer, Dr D. E. C. Garrard; Exchange Superintendent, Mr H. K. Nott; Assistant Exchange Superintendent, Mrs Dalmas Brown; Librarian, Mr D. Benson; Solicitor, Mr K. L. Addison; Committee, Mrs Dell Garrard, Mrs Nita Wilson, F.R.P.S.L., and Mr H. Rubin, F.R.P.S.L.

The convenors of the two Study Circles are: Pacific Island Study Circle, Col. F. V. Thompson, F.R.P.S.L.; Australian States Study Circle; Mr V. Frankenstein, F.R.P.S.L.

### *Year of the Child*

August meeting was to have been a Ladies' Night but because of unforeseen circumstances, this had to be cancelled.

To fill the gap, the display on view at Philas House was used for the meeting. This consisted of stamps dealing with the "Year of the Child", compiled by Mr R. A. Browne, of Australia Post.

Australia Post also presented a series of philatelic films from their record, with Mr Iain Campbell as projectionist.

### *Seychelles*

Mr Lea Addison's display for the September meeting was Seychelles.

Mr Addison said the isolation of these islands had resulted in very little material being available.

The first post office was established in 1861 and until 1890 the islands were administered from Mauritius. The first cancellation was B64.

The first issue of the islands' own stamps, produced by De La Rue were used from 1890 to 1939.

A number of these were overprinted locally and this produced many errors, giving the stamps their great interest.

In 1957 Seychelles produced a famous overprint, which had a short-life second printing. Its particular feature was that the errors which occurred in the first printing were repeated in the second, but they appeared in different positions in the sheet.

The 1978 overthrow of the government meant there were no stamps on issue for three months, as those with the old president's head had been withdrawn from sale. Covers of the period were stamped with a rubber stamp bearing the words "Postage Paid".

Mr Addison's display also included postal stationery and postal history, including inwards mail to Chitty and Co., traders on the islands.

### *United States*

Early pre-stamp covers were among the items in the display of 19th-century United States by Mr Arthur Levett at the October meeting.

Featured were the early classic issues, specimens and proofs, and Newspaper Stamps up to \$100.

### *The Netherlands*

A full range of Netherlands material from the pre-stamp era to modern times was exhibited by Mr Eric Dreikurs at the November meeting.

His earliest material was a pre-stamp cover dated 3 July 1677 and a 1687 ship cover.

The first issue was the beautiful 5c blue, 10c red and 15c orange of William III, the stamps displayed showing the various plates used, and essays and proofs.

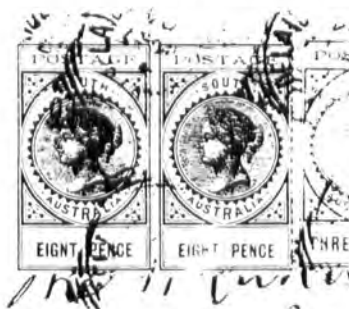
There was a full range of the succeeding definitive issues.

Then followed special issues, including the Tuberculosis Charity Stamps issued on 3 January 1907, the remainders of which were later sold to dealers but cancelled 31 January 1907.

Of special interest were those issued imperforate during a printers' strike in 1923.

Other items were flight covers, World War I prisoner of war stamps, interrupted perforation stamps for vending machines and the modern computer-designed stamps.

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- 2 Entire letter, dated 22 February 1845, from Adelaide to Ireland, bearing very fine strike of the **second** postmark of Adelaide (Crown/oval "General Post Office/Adelaide/SA") Arr. pm. on reverse. Fine condition. **\$500.**
- 3 Very clean entire letter from Macclesfield to Adelaide, dated 12 September 1851. Very clear strike of rare cancellation! Arr. pm. 13 Sept. 1851 G.P.O. — South Australia in blue and without crown. Very neat strike of scarce postmark. **\$500.**
- 4 1886-96. Postage & Revenue, long stamps. Plate **proof** in mauve. An **imperforate** cornerblock of four, without value on gummed unwatermarked paper. With plate number 1. Minor crease in selvage, not affecting stamps. The block is MUH! Rare and attractive. **\$500.**
- 5 Something VERY special!!! 1902-1904. Wmk. Crown SA, thin "Postage" S. G. 272a. 8d. ultramarine pair with **famous error EIGHT pence**, in pair with normal 8d. Used, with 3d., **on piece!** Commercially used, exceedingly rare! Error completely free from cancellation. See illustration. According to Purves in "The Long Stamps," Melbourne 1978, only 35 copies of this error were "rescued" from being destroyed by the postal authorities, who recalled all sheets held in stock and removed the error (pos. R2/9) before making the sheet available for sale again. Of the estimated salvaged 35 some **five** only would be **used**. This one must surely be **unique**, commercially used in pair! **\$2000.**

## Interesting NEW SOUTH WALES

- 1 **The 1838 Post Office Embossed Letter Sheet**, bluish laid paper, 8 x 12½ inch. Very Rare! Used as envelope. With framed "6 O'Clock" and red "Crowned Free" cancellation. In Ms., O.H.M.S. and "Colonial Sect. Office", dated 14th Dec. 1849. Very late use! Addressed to Rev. W. B. Clarke, St. Leonards Parsonage, North Shore. A bit soiled and torn, but neatly repaired, free of embossed seal. **\$575.**
- 2 The 1897 **Charity pair, used together on registered envelope** from Sydney to St. Peters, Adelaide. Good condition. Extremely scarce on cover, certainly used together! These first charity issues were scorned by the public (and philatelists) as the selling price of these stamps was 12 times the postal value! This is a commercial (charitable) cover with appropriate franking to a Reverend. No philatelic product. Stamps are fresh with full perforations. **\$875.**
- 3 Entire letter from **Parramatta** to Yorkshire, U.K., dated 29th June **1833!** With **earliest** recorded circular postmark (in black) of Parramatta. And octagonal postmark in red: "Parramatta-Post Paid". Also Sydney unframed crowned oval canc. in red 3 July 1833 (with scroll). Arr. pm. 9 Nov. 1833. Up till now this black circ. pm. of Parramatta had been recorded only between 1837-1840! **\$500.**

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## THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

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

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

★ **MEETINGS** held on the third and fifth Thursday of the month at 7.45 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, \$US16.00).

★ **ALL COMMUNICATIONS** should be directed to Miss MYRA FARLEY (Secretary), Box 2071, GPO, Melbourne 3001.

## THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

FOUNDED 1890

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★ **MEETING ROOM:** The Club meets at 8 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month First Floor Meeting Room, Philas House, 17 Brisbane Street, Sydney.

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

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



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

★ **THE CLUB'S FEES** are: City members: \$6.00; Country members, \$4.50.

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