

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*),
D. N. BAKER, H. M. CAMPBELL, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., R. LLOYD SMITH

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*

Vol. XXXI, No. 3

SEPTEMBER 1979

MEMORIALS PLANNED FOR MR J. R. W. PURVES

Two permanent appreciations of Mr J. R. W. Purves are being planned.

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's Council has invited members to submit suggestions as to ways of perpetuating the memory of its most illustrious and most deeply-loved and respected member.

It has also appointed a sub-committee to consider the project.

Members with ideas are invited to write to the Secretary, Miss M. Farley, at Box 2071, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001, or ring her at 51 8178 during the day or 354 1776 at night. A letter would be preferred.

Council will consider the matter on 30 October 1979.

The Australian Stamp Promotion Council, of which the Society is not a member, but works in close co-operation with it, has instigated the establishment of "The J. R. W. Purves, F.R.P.S.L., Foundation".

The Council represents the philatelic bodies in each State, the Australasian Stamp Dealers' Association, and the Stamp and Coin Dealers' Association, with Australia Post as an observer.

"One of the reasons why the A.S.P.C. feels it is its duty to establish a foundation is that at the moment it is the only Australia-wide philatelic body in existence," said Mr Albert Isaacs, Public Relations Officer of the Australian Stamp Promotion Council.

The Council's scheme is for the establishment of a Foundation that would provide scholarships and/or prizes for works of philatelic scholarship.

These would be awarded as the Governors of the Foundation decided.

The three Governors should be a representative of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, a representative of the Australian Stamp Promotion Society, and one elected by interested philatelic bodies.

They would meet each year at the time and place of the Council's annual meeting. The Council has offered to pay all expenses involved in attending the meeting, including travel.

It is proposed that the Governors' first meeting should be at Adelaide in November this year.

For the inaugural term, the Governor appointed by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, Mr John Gartner, would hold office for six years; that appointed by the Australian Stamp Promotion Council, four years; and the elected Governor two years.

After that a Governor's term would be six years, so that one Governor's term would expire each two years.

Any philatelic body interested in supporting the Foundation is invited to contact the secretary of the Australian Stamp Promotion Council, G.P.O. Box 9800, Sydney 2001.

The A.S.P.C. suggests that any club or other body interested in making a nomination for the elected Governor could show their interest by expressing their support.

GIFT TO COMMEMORATE HIS SERVICES TO PHILATELY

When Mr John Farthing, managing director of Stanley Gibbons Ltd, visited Australia in August he brought with him an eight-sided silver platter, which had been prepared for presentation to Mr Purves.

It is inscribed "1929-1979. Presented to Mr J. R. W. Purves by the Stanley Gibbons Organisation to commemorate his Fifty Years of Service to Philately".

The platter was to have been presented during Mr Farthing's December 1978 visit to Australia, but circumstances prevented this.

It was presented privately to Mrs Purves.

Mr Purves' first term as president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria began in 1929.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Crawford Medal Award

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, has awarded the Crawford Medal for 1977-78 to Mr A. R. Butler for his book *The Departmental Stamps of South Australia*.

New Zealand Full Face Serrate Rarity Found

Campbell Paterson's Newsletter, May 1979, reports that this Auckland dealer has found a New Zealand 1d Orange, Star Watermark, 1862-64 issue, serrated 13 (at Dunedin) in a collection bought in Britain.

The only other known copy is in Mr Marcel Stanley's collection in Wellington.

"Forwarded by Air Mail"

In 1926 the Australian Postmaster-General's Department began using rectangular cachets, with "Forwarded by Air Mail" in two lines

above a circle, which was postmarked with a c.d.s.

Philately from Australia would like to compile a list of all offices using these cachets, with their colours and dates.

Would collectors having any of these please send details to The Editor, *Philately from Australia*, Box 2071, Melbourne 3001, Australia?

1932 Australian Postal Forgeries

The *Australian Stamp Bulletin*, April 1979, contains the story of the postal forgeries of the 2d King George V and 2d Sydney Harbour Bridge stamps in 1932.

It is illustrated with coloured reproductions of the original and forged stamps.

The article, by Mr P. Collas, is written from Australian Post Office records.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by *BILL EUSTACE*

40 Cent Performing Arts – White Paper

Although the existence of this variation has been known for a considerable time, it is only recently that I acquired a specimen to examine for myself.

From the back the difference between the white and cream papers is very marked in daylight and still readily apparent under artificial light, but it is the effect under ultra-violet lighting which is perhaps the most interesting.

As might be expected, the back of the “white paper” gives a bright-white reaction whilst the cream paper is dull. When the face of the stamps is examined the background colour of the cream paper version is a pinky-mauve, whereas on the white paper type the background is very distinctive – almost a blackish-purple.

20 Cent Mount Field National Park

I have seen a commercially used copy, said to be one of two, but unfortunately “off paper”, on which the green area of the trees and waterfall was a deep blue. If it was not a chemical changeling then it was a most remarkable shade variation and one well worth collecting. If mint copies can be found this would settle the question whether the colour was changed accidentally during soaking.

Christmas Island – Christmas 1978

I have seen a sheetlet of this issue on which a perforation “hiccup” has resulted in the bottom three stamps being foreshortened by a little over 2 mm – a freak, but presumably there are three or four similar sheets in circulation somewhere.

Australia 20 Cent Pre-stamped Envelopes

When the original Bird Series envelopes were released the outer wrappers of the bundles of ten were “end-opening”. In recent months the wrappers have been reprinted and are now “top-opening”. This prompted me to wonder whether the envelopes themselves had been reprinted, but the only evidence which I could find was that the paper stock now seemed fractionally whiter.

My search did, however, bring to light a couple of examples of the “Rainbow Lorikeet” without any “Helecon” in the surrounding frame and also a partially “Non-Helecon” copy of the “Rose Robin”. I have also heard rumours of missing colours among the commemorative envelopes, so it pays to keep one’s eyes open.

TASMANIA 1913-70: THE MISSING LINKS

By JOHN AVERY

A comprehensive published study of the postal history of Tasmania for the period 1 January 1913 to the present day – at this stage excluding instructional and slogan cancellations – is closer than many might suspect.

Together with Messrs R. L. Askeland (Launceston) and P. B. Edwards (East Devonport), I have long been piecing together data on this period, which has proved quite as troublesome as the State Period cancels, set out in the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's two publications, *Tasmania: The Postal History and the Postal Markings, Parts 1 and 2*. This is because, in the 1913-on field, there were no former reference works on which to lay foundations. At least, this was the case until I was given access to a formerly known "labour of love" in the form of a complete (as far as records allowed) list of offices and their opening and closure dates, compiled by former P.M.G. Archivist Mr Max Walker (Hobart); Mr Walker, now retired, had transferred to Telecom but maintained his interest – and his list – and has greatly assisted the study.

But there are missing links. Many offices listed during the Commonwealth Period and which must have been issued with date stamps have yet to have these cancellations noted.

The list below contains what information is relevant in guiding the reader to the period of stamps on which the cancel, if it exists, would be found. Some offices were telegraph/telephone offices only and sources would be old forms.

Anyone who can assist is asked to write to: John Avery, c/o Box 152, Goulburn, New South Wales 2580. All letters will be answered and photocopies paid for.

NO MARKING KNOWN

ANSON'S BAY, receiving office, 15.12.13 - ?.

ARCADIA, telephone office, 1.1.15 - 19.5.19 when renamed Moorden.

ARTHUR RIVER FERRY, ? (apparently post-1912 Dec.) - 29.8.29.

AYR, ? (post-1912 Dec.) - 1.8.22 when renamed Telita (known c.d.s.).

BACALA, apparently 1913 only and renamed Paraka same year. Suspected only a free bag service, in which case probably only a crown seal would have been issued.

BEECHFORD, telephone office, 18.1.66 - 30.9.70. Even at this late stage evidence is scant. Probably a "pastoral office" which would not have had a date stamp issued.

BRADY'S MARSH, listed as a P.O. in Walsh's Almanack 1959-61 but surely in error, as backtracking through official channels produced no knowledge of such an office. It is included here in case (as often happens) the officials were wrong.

BROADWOOD, telephone office, ? (post-1912 Dec.) - 2.8.22.

CAPE PORTLAND, telephone office apparently open well before 1913 - 30.6.20.

CAPE WICKHAM, opened and closed in 1918. On King Island.

CARDIGAN RIVER, telephone office, 2.6.47 - 5.4.48.

CATAGUNYA, no date known. May have been scheduled to open but for some reason was not proceeded with. (A similar case is Loongana.)

CLOVERDALE, telephone office, ???.48 - 11.11.48 when renamed Upper Esk (known c.d.s.). Unlikely to have had a date stamp.

COCKLE CREEK, references are vague. The P.M.G. list states "ex-Catamaran" (but this long-term office closed in 1955) and gives operation as in 1950. Another highly unlikely.

CRAIGBURN, opened 1907, renamed Hillwood (c.d.s.) 23.6.20. No date stamp appears to have been issued pre-1913 but researchers feel a squiggly manuscript then was used; it remains to be seen if a date stamp was issued later, since there is a big time-lag between 1913 and the renaming.

- DASHER, renamed from Staverton Rly (known c.d.s.) 3.1.17 and was renamed Roland (known c.d.s.) 2.9.19.
- EDEN, ??.15 - 19.8.15.
- ELMSWOOD, telephone office, 1.8.24 - 19.7.28.
- ETTRICK, telephone office, 1.5.18 - 28.2.23.
- FIRWOOD SIDING, telephone office, 1.9.50 - 31.3.58.
- FLOWERDALE RAILWAY, ???.16 - ??.20. Dates indicate it could not have been Flowerdale or Flowerdale Upper.
- FRASER ROAD, receiving office, 9.5.21 - 31.12.23. On King Is.
- FRASER ROAD WEST, 1.12.23 - 30.4.26. Not stated as a R.O., but probably was. Also King Is.
- FRASER RIVER, receiving office on King Is. 1.12.20 and renamed Naracoopa same year. c.d.s. unlikely.
- GLENORCHY RAILWAY, no dates known. Suspect a rubber 1920s "Glenorchy" date stamp was in fact that used at the station but would appreciate confirmation.
- GREAT BAY, telephone office, 8.12.13 - 31.3.18; reopened 1.3.27 - ?.
- HEEMSKIRK, 1.6.20 - 31.12.30.
- HEEMSKIRK SOUTH, 6.12.21 - 31.8.27.
- HIGHTHORPE, renamed Ashwater (known c.d.s.) 1.5.19. The date stamp is known used up until 12.12.12 (ref. *P from A.*, March 1977, p. 5) which is tantalisingly close. It should turn up.
- HOBART EAST, brief (1.11.24 - 1.10.25) renaming from Battery Point, which, as a date stamp, isn't known until the late 1950s!
- KANGAROO FLAT, probably a receiving office or T.O. Opening date unknown, closed 31.7.21.
- LOCHLEA, 1.12.42 - ?.
- LOORANA, 1.3.18 - 28.2.26. On King Is.
- LOWANA, a listed name for Loyetea. Very unlikely there was a date stamp.
- LUGHRATA, ???.18 - 31.3.48. Walch lists as a T.O. in 1955 but probably in error.
- MELTON MOWBRAY RAILWAY, 16.11.16 - 15.2.18. A puzzler, since Melton Mowbray is and always has been small and its P.O. has continued throughout from State to Commonwealth period. But definite P.M.G. lists suggests for a period this second P.O. at the rail station. Maybe on a T.P.O. basis? (Refer to notes on Flowerdale Railway also, as same situation could have existed.)
- MERSER (or MERCER), telephone office, 1.5.50 - 8.7.53.
- MOORDEN (see Arcadia notes). Closed 17.5.35. T.O. only.
- MOUNTAIN RIVER, telephone office. No dates available. Mountain River was a P.O. very pre-1913, so this would be a reopening after a long period. Walch's list it as a T.O. at least from 1959-62. All inquiries have so far proved negative.
- NICHOLLS RIVULET UPPER, 1.12.25 - 18.2.29.
- NIREE, 28.6.26 - 31.5.32.
- NUGHRATA, telephone office, 16.11.23 - 1.2.24 when renamed Locotta (known c.d.s.). On Flinders Is.
- OSMIR, telephone office, 8.8.23 - 22.5.25.
- PAMENA, telephone office, 1.4.14 - 15.5.14 when renamed Lanaba (see note under section 2 this article). Maybe a manuscript, but almost certainly no c.d.s.
- PARAKA (see Bacala notes).
- PARKHAM EAST, 21.4.25 - 8.10.25.
- PEGARAH ROAD, telephone office, 1.2.18 - 30.4.26. (Later, in 1954, a new T.O., Pegarah, opened in this region. Its c.d.s. is known.) On King Is.
- PINEGA, 16.5.16 - 30.11.16.
- RANGA, ??.17 - *circa* July 47. Later a R.A.X. station, although Walch lists as T.O. in 1955 (perhaps in error). On King Is.
- REMUTTA, telephone office, 1.7.24 - 1.5.32.
- ROCKY SIDING, listed vaguely in 1919 with a reference to Lutana (a known c.d.s.) which was a P.O. from 1948-55.
- SHEEPWASH, receiving office, 18.3.12 - 31.12.18. State period specialist have long pursued this one. Possibly a bag service with no postal marking.
- SPREYTON RAILWAY, opened ??.25 - ?. Meanwhile, the Spreyton P.O. continued its operation (see comments for Flowerdale and Melton Mowbray Railways).

STONEHAVEN RIVER, telephone office, 2.6.47 - 9.1.48.

STRAHAN WHARF RAILWAY, closed ?7.21. Suspect a bag service with cancels at Strahan P.O.

SUMMERSHALL, named changed from Westwood (c.d.s. not known in Commonwealth Period!) 1.8.19 - 30.6.59. There surely must have been a c.d.s. at some stage.

SURPRISE BAY, 1.3.18 - 31.8.37. On King Is.

TANINA, 15.11.10 - 30.9.24.

TEMLIH, telephone office, 1.10.23 - 14.7.26.

TULLOCHGORUM, receiving/railway office, 16.3.16 - 2.12.16. Probably bag service (T.P.O.?).

VANSITTART ISLAND is listed in the Wise's *Guides* but no more information is known. Possible pigeon mail flimsies?

WEELATY, telephone office, 20.12.24 - 31.7.48.

WESTWOOD, became Summershall 1.8.19 (see Summershall notes). Westwood c.d.s. is very rare pre-1913 and unseen afterwards, yet should exist.

WHYTE RIVER, closed Oct. 1912 but later reopened. Closed 1.9.29. The latest recorded c.d.s. date is 22.7.12 (ref. *P from A*, March 1977, p. 5). Date stamp would normally have been reissued.

MARKING KNOWN, BUT NO C.D.S.

NOTE: Many offices are known only as what might be termed "provisional" rubber circular and/or oval date stamps. Because it is known these were the only such c.d.s. (eg, Nive Road, West Coast Road, Florentine) these are not included in this list, which deals with manuscripts and/or crown seals and labels:

BADGER CORNER, 1911 - 2.4.28. Known only as a manuscript over the period (undated) c.1914 - 1916/18. Date stamp most unlikely.

BIRRALEE WEST, Free bag service from 21.7.47. Reported in *P from A*, March 1978, p. 10, by L. C. Viney (Hobart) as existing as a crown seal reading: WEST BIRRALEE F.B./ (crown)/TASMANIA (Avery type 3). No date stamp would be expected to be issued, but the Crown seal (probably withdrawn in the early 1960s and replaced with a lead type bag sealer) indicates any other offices listed as "Free Bag" up to the 1960s might have had such seals, and, as with Mr Viney's courtesy cancellation, could turn up. It must be understood a Crown seal impression is a postal history marking of an office or service and deserving inclusion in such a collection.

FROGMORE, 30.10.14, but became Penna 3.11.14. A Crown seal in the writer's collection clearly was struck much later than that on official P.M.G. documentation, indicating this seal continued in use at Penna. No Penna seal is known. The chances, however, of a Frogmore c.d.s. would be remote.

LANABA, 15.4.14 - 30.6.16. A single manuscript, dated 16.6.14, is in my collection. Its existence indicates neither Lanaba or Pamena (see section 1, this article) would have a c.d.s.

MILABENA, 1.6.20 - 30.9.34. This office was my pet "hobby horse" during some nine years working on the north-west coast of Tasmania. Despite tracking down the Postmaster's daughter and many others from the district and beyond, the cancellation used remains unknown. A single proof of this office is a printed red registration label in the collection of Mr Tom Swan (Sydney). The Postmaster's daughter recalled seeing her father use the date stamp, but could not indicate its composition (ie, type). It was in use for thirteen years, yet no copy has been sighted so far by me. It surely should turn up soon.

An important aid to the study would be the notification of any known cancels. Also needed is information about:

(i) Manuscripts of the Commonwealth Period of Tasmania held. Dates information (or, if undated, the A.C.S.C. number to date the stamp) would be vital. Also, if pencil, indelible pencil or ink or biro; and

(ii) Information, with dates of *rubber* cancels which were fairly widely used after World War I up until the mid-1930s.

The sooner this information comes to light, the sooner a major study on the Tasmanian postal history for 1913 to current times can be put to print.



The Other Side of the Picture



NOW IS THE TIME FOR ALL GOOD MEN (AND WOMEN) . . .

"The Other Side of the Picture", a feature dealing with new discoveries and other interesting matters in the philately of the Australian States, was conducted by Mr J. R. W. Purves from the inaugural issue of *Philately from Australia* until his death.

Mr G. T. White, F.R.P.S.L., a former president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, has undertaken the task of continuing the feature.

The value and quality of a column such as this depends to a great extent on co-operation. It is essentially a mutual-help creation.

Would all correspondents of Mr Purves — and any others — who have material or views which they think might interest their fellow collectors please write to Mr White, Box 2071, G.P.O., Melbourne 3001?

The invitation is open now and throughout the future.

ANTIQUÉ MAP GIFT TO R.P.S.V.

Mr John Farthing, the managing director of Stanley Gibbons Ltd, has presented a gilt-framed antique map of Australia to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The gift is a memento of his visit to the December meeting of the Society (*P from A*, March 1979, p. 6).

Mr Farthing presented the map to the President, Mr P. Jaffé, at a small invitation gathering at the Old Melbourne Motor Inn on 13 August to meet the company's first manager in Australia, Mr Victor Walker. Stanley Gibbons has established its office in Melbourne.

He said he had noticed that there was no map of Australia in the building and he thought that one might be acceptable.

Mr Jaffé thanked him for his thoughtfulness and said the generous and unexpected gift was indeed welcome and the Society was most grateful to him.

The map now adorns the meeting room, and has been much admired.

The map, 13 x 10 inches, has coast outline colour and other markings in hand-coloured yellow, red, blue and green, and five vignettes.

These show "Natives of the Tribe of Bogan, Sydney, Kangaroos, Natives of Australia Felix, and Australian Parrots and Cockatoos".

Inscriptions at the foot are "The Illustrations by J. Marchant and Engraved by J. B. Allen" and "The Map Drawn and Engraved by J. Rapkin".

COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

(Continued from June 1978, p. 46)

New Rumpuses

The report of the Board of Experts on methods of obtaining a suitable initial issue of Commonwealth stamps itself created two new rumpuses.

On 27 November 1907, the Premier of New South Wales, Mr C. G. Wade, wrote to the Prime Minister (Mr Alfred Deakin) protesting against the manner of appointment of the committee and of the proposal by the Treasurer (Sir William Lyne, NSW) to print stamps for all States in Melbourne.

Mr Wade, who could not spell Mr Bassett Hull's name correctly, nor that of J. B. Cooke, wrote:

. . . I wish, on behalf of the State of New South Wales, to protest strongly against such a proposal being adopted. . . . Indeed, I make bold to say that the whole history of the proceedings in connexion with the appointment of this Committee evidences a want of consideration for this State.

In the first instance, Mr Bassett Hull was the only gentleman from New South Wales who was asked to join the Committee. He is no doubt possessed of qualifications as to the merits, designs and values of stamps, being a prominent officer of the Philatelic Society, but if your Government required useful information, Mr Gullick, the Government printer, was pre-eminently the man to be of service upon the Committee. . . .

Moreover, whilst Mr Hull was applying for leave of absence from the Public Service Board, and inquiry was being made of your Government as to the scope or powers of the Committee, another gentleman, also named Hull, was appointed without any consultation with this Government, and, so far as we knew, whilst the matter of Mr Bassett Hull's appointment was under consideration.

Now that the report has come to hand, which contains a proposal to use steel plate printing, Mr Gullick, the State Government Printer, points out that the modern Power Plate Press for the printing of postage stamps on the lines suggested by the Board, has been in use in the Government Printing Office, Sydney, for the past nine years, and in no other office in Australia, and although a sum of £2000 would supplement the plant of this State to an extent sufficient to enable it to turn out the entire postal issue of Australia, the Board has recommended the Commonwealth to enter into an expenditure which is probably underestimated at £30,000.

The effect upon this State will probably be to render useless expensive plant which has been in operation for some years past, to throw out of employment a large number of men, to increase the cost to the taxpayer generally, and cause the transfer of the work from a responsible officer who has proved himself eminently fitted for these duties, to some other person whose qualifications cannot be higher, but will very probably be lower.

Mr W. Hull, the substitute for Mr Bassett Hull, is of opinion that the purchases by stamp collectors will amount to a very large sum which will go largely to reduce the increased cost if the work was carried out in Melbourne. Other philatelists in this State, however, are of a different opinion, and state that Mr Hull's figures are very largely over-estimated.

For the reasons above mentioned, and in view of the fact that this State has in no way been consulted officially from first to last with regard to this matter, I would ask that the matter shall be re-opened, or at all events not finally determined until the views of this State and the capabilities of the Government Printing Office in Sydney are made known to your Government in detail.

[Mr Walter Hull was a brother of Mr Bassett Hull.]

The letter went unanswered, although apparently Mr Wade had an interview with Mr Deakin, and on 9 January 1908 Mr Wade wrote again:

Adverting to my letter of date 27th November last, protesting against any proposal to concentrate in Melbourne the printing of stamps for the various States of the Commonwealth, I have the honour to state that certain announcements which have been made since by your colleagues — particularly Sir William Lyne — compel me to again approach you on that subject. . . .

Yet on the 28th of the same month [December now], Sir William Lyne is reported to have stated in regard to this question of stamp printing as follows:

"I can only repeat that the only matters so far settled are that the best type of stamp shall be printed, that our officer, Mr Cook, shall have charge of the printing operations, and that all postage stamps shall be printed at the headquarters of the Treasury, which at present, of course, are in Melbourne. . . . The postage stamps will probably be produced in a section of the State Government Printing Office in Victoria, under Federal control."

. . . Another matter in which I am sure you will admit I am entitled to more explanation is the following. You stated, in an interview on 24th December, that you could not reply to my letter of protest of 27th November until advice from the Treasury had been obtained on the point whether the proposals of the Stamps Committee should be adopted or deferred. Up to the present moment I have received no further communication from you on the subject. Yet, in accordance with Sir William Lyne's statement made at the end of December, it appears that it has been settled that the printing of stamps shall take place in Melbourne. If this is correct, was I not entitled to the courtesy of a reply as soon as Sir William Lyne was in a position to make this announcement to the public?

It may be that this announcement refers to the future, and not to the immediate present, but I venture to ask, in the interests of peace and good feeling between our respective Governments, that you see your way to give an assurance that no step will be taken to transfer the work of printing stamps from New South Wales to Melbourne.

If your Government decide to take this action in view of the protests of this State, and of your promise to deal with the Federal Capital without delay, I fear such action will tend to undermine seriously the confidence which should exist between Commonwealth and States.

Mr Deakin replied four weeks later, on 7 February:

In acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 9th January, 1908, relative to your protest against any proposal to concentrate in Melbourne the printing of stamps for the various States of the Commonwealth, I have the honour, at the instance of my colleague, the Treasurer, to inform you that the report of the Stamp Printing Committee has not yet been considered by this Government, and that, even should it be decided to adopt the Steel Engraving process, it will be a considerable time — say two years — before the necessary designs would be approved, dies cut, &c. In the meantime there is no intention of making any fresh departure so far as your State is concerned.

The Second Rumpus

In the Senate on the same day as Mr Deakin wrote, Senator Needham (Labor, WA) asked the Minister representing the Postmaster-General:

(1) What is the date on which the report of the board appointed to deal with the question of a uniform stamp for the Commonwealth was completed?

(2) What is the date the Minister received it?

(3) Has the report been circulated among Members?

(4) If not, why not?

Senator J. H. Keating (Protectionist, T.) replied:

(1) On the 30th October 1907.

(2) On the 31st October 1907.

(3) No.

(4) It is not usual to circulate such reports. I have no objection to a copy of the report being laid on the table of the Parliamentary Library for the information of Honourable Members.

Seemingly innocent questions and seemingly innocuous answers. But Senator Needham had lit the fuse of his bomb.

On the motion of Senator J. C. Stewart (Labor Q.) it was agreed that a copy of the report be laid on the table of the Senate.

Speaking in a Supply debate six days after his question about the Stamp Committee's report, Senator Needham said:

It is a remarkable thing that the report was completed on 30 October and the Minister only received it on 31 October and yet it was published in the Sydney *Bulletin* of 31 October. I have no objection to the report being published by any newspaper so long as the Minister receives it before its publication. The *Bulletin*, which is a very important Australian paper, arrives in the Parliamentary Library on Thursday of each week. The 31st October this year fell on a Thursday. The paper, to arrive on a Thursday, must necessarily leave Sydney by Wednesday night's express. Consequently the *Bulletin* must have had the information at the very latest on 30 October. The report was only completed on 30 October. It was an extraordinarily clever feat of journalism if the report of the board which sat in Melbourne was printed in a Sydney newspaper and circulated in Melbourne on the very day on which it was received by the Minister. It must be patent to everyone that a leakage has taken place somewhere.

I am not complaining of the publication of the report in the Sydney *Bulletin*. If the members of the Government cannot directly get the report of a committee appointed by the Government surely it is right that the Minister for the Department should have the report before it is published to the world by a newspaper.

If the publication of such a report is to take place before it is received by the Minister, why is it not supplied to all the newspapers?

Senator Stewart: The question is how did the *Bulletin* get the report.

Senator Needham: That is what I want to elicit. Did the Minister know that the report was going to be before it was received by him officially? If he did, did he sanction the supplying of the information to the *Bulletin* and if not, did any member of the Board do it? If no member of the Board furnished the report to the newspaper, did any officer of the Minister's Department do so?

These are the points on which I want to be enlightened. Honourable Senators generally should share my anxiety.

Senator Stewart: We are the last persons to get official information.

Senator Needham: The matters to which I have referred are worthy of the serious attention of the Minister. If he ascertains that any leakage took place so far as that particular report is concerned, it will be his duty to punish those who have been guilty of a breach of confidence.

Senator Lynch (Labor, WA): There should be a vacancy next day if he can fix the responsibility on anyone.

Senator Needham: I should not have brought forward the question but for the official reply I received from the Minister. If such a state of things is to continue there will be no use for an official head of the Department.

Senator A. J. J. St Ledger (Anti-Socialist, Q.): Off with his head!

Senator Needham: I do not want any person to be removed, nor do I want anyone to be punished. I merely desire a stop to be put to such a leakage as has been described.

Senator Stewart: I have seen evidence of it often.

Senator Needham: If Honourable Senators have seen evidence of leakages, I ask them to join with me in urging the Ministerial head of the Department to take immediate steps to institute a better state of things.

Senator R. W. (later Sir Robert) Best: With respect to the publication of the report of the Stamps Board before it actually reached the hands of the Minister, I regard that as a matter of serious moment. I fully sympathise with the Honourable Senator's denunciation. Ministers endeavour as far as possible that Parliament shall be first advised in connection with such matters, before they are published in the Press or elsewhere.

Senator Stewart: They very seldom succeed.

Senator Best: I think the Honourable Senator can hardly say that. As a matter of fact, as well as the desire of Ministers is that Parliament shall, as it is entitled to, have first knowledge in connection with reports and Parliamentary papers. I will bring this particular

matter to the notice of the Postmaster-General who, I am sure, will deem it his duty to make the fullest investigation to see who is at fault.

That evening Senator Needham asked whether Senator Best had received any information regarding the leakage.

Senator Best: I have made inquiries and received some information confirming the statement made by the Honourable Senator respecting the publication of the Report of the Stamp Board.

I understand that Mr Hull, a member of the Board, and not a Government official, disclosed the information concerning the report. I may add that the Postmaster-General naturally feels very indignant about it, and is at present calling on Mr Hull for an explanation.

On 21 November Senator Needham asked if Mr Hull had furnished an explanation.

Senator Best said he would inquire.

And that was the last Parliament heard of the matter.

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL NOTES

Philately Reaches the Antarctic

A United States Antarctic cover dated 29 January 1979, from McMurdo Station, is backstamped with a new cachet in magenta:

McMurdo Philatelic Club * Philately is alive and well in Antarctica. *

The cachet includes a "killer" handstamp "U.S. Navy FPO 96692 McMurdo Station Ant." with the date "Nov 8 1978 AM".

Presumably this is the date of establishment of the club.

Central design of the cachet is a penguin with a handbag inscribed "US Mail DF '79" on the left flipper and the bars of the killer penetrating her white vest. She is saying, "Arrrgghh! The 'Killers' Got Me!" — a reference to "killer" whales.

Library Gifts

Recent gifts to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's library include: Miss J. Resch, *Reference Manual of German Forgeries*; Mr Wim Smits (Western Australia), *The 1854 Fourpence and One Shilling Red Brown*; Dr D. N. Pocock, *The Stamps and Postal History of North Borneo, Part 2*, by L. H. Shipman.

Mrs L. M. Chisholm, *Amphilex 1977 Catalogue*; Mr H. L. Chisholm, *Set of Robson Lowe Melbourne Catalogues, Catalogue, ANPEX, 1973.*

Forged Postmarks on ex-German Colonies

The January 1979 issue of *Pacifica*, the journal of the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, warns of recent forged postmarks on German Colonial stamps.

The Pacific Islands list records:

SAMOA: Apia 9.1.09 9-10V and 24.7.04 12-IN and, letters with serifs, Apia 2.7.07 9-10V.

MARSHALL ISLANDS: Jaluit 8/6 00 and 12/3 01, Jaluit/Marschall-Inseln 22.11/99, and Nauru Marshall-Inseln 11.8.08.

MARIANA ISLANDS: Saipan 26/3 02 and 13/9 01.

CAROLINE ISLANDS: Yap 6/11 99, Ponape (Karolinen) 11/11 05, Ponape/Karolinen 2/6 01.

Mr J. B. Cooke Addressed Society

The first Commonwealth Stamp Printer (Mr J. B. Cooke) was guest speaker at the (Royal) Philatelic Society of Victoria on 20 May 1915.

He spoke on *The Production of Stamps*.

Mr J. R. W. Purves mentions this in his examination of the "Eight" error in his new book, *South Australia: The 'Long' Stamps of 1902-1912* (p 81).

The address is not mentioned in Mr A. J. Derrick's *The Philatelic Society of Victoria, 1892-1926*, so it is worth recording it here, too.

THE FLOW OF TRIBUTES TO J. R. W. PURVES CONTINUES

New tributes to Mr J. R. W. Purves, his character, and his work, continue to emphasise the esteem and respect in which he was held.

From Mr Ernest ("Ernie") Kehr, Trustee of The Philatelic Foundation, New York, "in the name of the entire Board of Trustees":

What shockingly tragic news your letter of 15 May conveys!

The loss of Mr J. R. W. ("Bill") Purves is as saddening to the world of philately as it must be to Australia in particular.

Those of us who knew him personally over the decades never ceased to marvel at and appreciate his innumerable contributions to the serious pursuit of our wonderful avocation.

It was especially gratifying that his superlative philatelic knowledge was coupled with a personality unrivalled in stampdom's history.

All of us who met him, either here, in Australia, or at the many international exhibitions to which he contributed, will consider his passing with deep sorrow.

We send to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, his colleagues and family, our heartfelt sympathies.

Very sincerely,

From Mr J. E. Crowley, Secretary of the Queensland Philatelic Society:

On behalf of the members of the Queensland Philatelic Society I wish to convey to the members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria our condolences on the loss of one of your members, Mr J. R. W. Purves.

Bill Purves was well known to some of our long-standing members and his contributions in the field of philately have been extensive. His passing will be a sad loss to us all.

From Mr R. K. Jablonski, Secretary, The Polish Philatelic Society of Australia, Melbourne:

We were sad to learn about the sudden death of Mr J. R. W. Purves, the tragic news being conveyed at our meeting on 15 May.

Not only your Society, but indeed the whole philatelic world has lost one of its most dedicated enthusiasts.

One minute's silence followed a memorial eulogy delivered by one of our members.

At the request of the President and members of our Society, I am conveying this message.

From Mr Lewis C. Viney, F.R.P.S.L., Hobart:

May I be permitted to add my tribute to the memory of the late "Bill" Purves.

Bill was the outstanding Australian Philatelist of all time, but was always so modest about it all.

My philatelic friendship with him extends back to 1928 when, shortly after the Exhibition in that year, I joined the Melbourne Philately Club. Early in the 1930s Bill was instrumental in directing my attention to the Pictorial Issues of Tasmania and I recall many happy occasions over a cup of coffee, after meetings of the Philatelic Society of Victoria, when we discussed problems associated with this issue and printing techniques in general.

The Second World War saw us both in the Australian Army Ordnance Corps — and I recall meeting Bill in Lae a few days after it was captured from the Japanese.

Living in Tasmania since 1948 meant we corresponded frequently on matters of common interest and I have memories of his visits to Hobart when my wife and I were able to show him something of the countryside in Southern Tasmania.

To have known Bill enriched one's philatelic life — and his passing leaves one the poorer.

From Dr Donald Pearce, Glendore, South Australia:

J. R. W. Purves was the epitome of a philatelist who painstakingly and unremittingly sought the truth, insofar as it was possible to deduce it. One of the things which made Bill particularly special was that he cast his net so widely and was an expert in so many philatelic fields all at once. When I saw him last he was delighted with a recent purchase of plate proofs of Guatemala, which would enable him to answer the few remaining questions regarding the stamps subsequently printed from those plates. He was equally thrilled with a rare piece of Victorian postal history he had just acquired not long before.

His books on the Victorian stamps are well known, but what other man could write with equal authority on the Viking Ship stamps of Estonia as well?

I first met Bill in 1975 at a Stanley Gibbons Exhibition preview in Melbourne. He had a small group enthralled with his knowledgeable comments and his sparkling humour was readily apparent. When others drifted away and I spoke to him briefly, I was amazed to learn that he knew the details of my collection almost better than I did, even though I had never exhibited it where he could possibly have seen it.

The next time I met him was in Adelaide, as he had come over to have a look at the Murray Collection and the Krichauff collection in the Art Gallery of South Australia. He came to my home one evening and we had a cosy chat and a thumb through my albums, after which I delivered him back to the Adelaide Club on North Terrace.

A couple of days later I received a delightful note from him thanking me for the pleasure of my company and for allowing him to see my stamps.

I began a correspondence with him which gave me much pleasure as he was a very lively and direct writer and very prompt to reply to any of my letters.

I regarded Bill as a friend and the very fountain of wisdom and knowledge, tempered by a very subtle sense of humour. The last time I saw him in Melbourne, on 3 May, I wondered at his energy as we walked (or rather almost ran) together down to Collins Street from his office at lunch time.

I will miss him.

THE OUTSTANDING RESEARCH PHILATELIST

By Dr K. J. McNAUGHT, R.D.P.

I first met Bill Purves in Melbourne in 1948 to discuss Die states of the 1d and 2d New Zealand Second Side-faces.

I had closely followed the controversy between Alex. Rosenblum and Bill on the 1d George V stamps of Australia, and Bill seemed the most likely person to help in unravelling the problems I had met in my studies of the New Zealand Side-faces.

Bill's interest was immediately aroused and he made an intensive study of these stamps, published in *Philately from Australia* in 1949-51.

I was intensely impressed both by the techniques used to unravel the problems posed and by Bill's penetrating ability to interpret the evidence presented by the stamps themselves in a sound and logical manner. It was an object

lesson, which I will never forget, on how to carry out philatelic research, and, as a research scientist myself, this is the greatest tribute I could pay to any philatelist.

Bill, too, was an outstanding Judge and Chairman of Juries. I had the privilege of working with him on the Jury at the International Stamp Exhibition in Auckland in 1955 and on the Panel of Judges at Melbourne in 1963. His briefing of the Judges at both Exhibitions was systematic, logical, and thorough, and he gave a masterly analysis of the basis of medal award standards.

Bill's studies were not confined to the stamps of Australasia and he will be sadly missed in Europe and America as well as in Australia and New Zealand.

It is my considered opinion that Bill must rank as the most outstanding research philatelist of all time.

OBITUARY

Mrs P. L. TURNBULL, F.R.P.S.L.

One of Australia's best-known lady philatelists, Mrs P. L. Turnbull, of Melbourne, died in August, after a painful, courageously-borne illness.

Mrs Turnbull, who had been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria for about thirty years, was the first lady to win the Society's Silver Medal.

As Commissioner for the coming ZEAPEX '80, Auckland, she was the first lady to be a Commissioner for an overseas exhibition.

Mrs Turnbull was elected a Fellow of the Royal Philatelic Society, London, which she joined in 1970, in 1975.

She had twenty-seven philatelic awards and was best known for her collection of Malta, which had gained six gold medals in Australia and abroad.

The collection, nearly fifty volumes, is one of the largest single-country collections in the Southern Hemisphere.

Other award-winning collections were Ryukyus and Children on Stamps. She also collected Australian Air Mails, Queensland, and Thursday Island.

She had displayed Malta at The Collectors Club, New York, and had received a gold-silver medal at Interphil, Philadelphia, in 1977, following a silver medal at Philympia, London, in 1970.

Mrs Turnbull accomplished the first plating of Malta, No. 1, the ½d buff, an achievement which was recorded in the *London Philatelist* (March 1972, p. 54).

Until her illness compelled her to resign, a few months before her death, she was Curator of the R.P.S.V. Forgery Collection. She displayed in March, knowing it would be her last display, a fact she hid from all her friends.

Mrs Turnbull was a foundation member of the Malta Study Circle, Great Britain, and of the Women's Philatelic Society, Melbourne. She was also an invited member of the Society of Postal Historians, Britain.

Other affiliations in Melbourne, dating back many years, included the Footscray Philatelic Society and the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Society.

Outside her family, philately was her great interest in life and she will be remembered as one who took an active part in every society with which she was associated.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended to her husband, Mr J. Turnbull, who is also a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

TASMANIA — A PRIVATE HANDSTAMP

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

An unframed four-line handstamp may be found on entires of Tasmanian origin which reads:

BOURNBANK
Parish of
Wellington
1865

So far as is known, no information on this handstamp has been published.

The overall measurement of the handstamp is 22 mm by 13 mm and only the word BOURNBANK is entirely in serified capitals measuring approximately 2 mm high. The handstamp appears to have been made of metal with no provision for the year figures to be changed to indicate the particular year of use.

Two examples on entires have been in my collection for many years and recently a third item was sighted on which advice was sought.

All three examples have the adhesive stamp cancelled with the second allocation numeral obliterator 63 used at New Norfolk. Other particulars of the entires are:

1. Addressed to Hobart with the handstamp applied in red ink with the year 1865 plainly decipherable. The arrival marking is dated 14 Sept. 1867.
2. Addressed to Hobart — handstamp struck in red, with only 18 of the year decipherable. The date of arrival handstamp is only partially struck and the date has not registered.
3. Addressed to England with the handstamp struck in black, with only the 18 of the year decipherable, and the appearance of defacement of the other two figures. The Hobart transit mark is dated 4 Nov. 1869.

All three examples have the signature Molesworth Jeffery with double lines above and below the signature on the bottom left of the envelope.

Other examples of letters from the same source have the signature so enclosed but without the handstamp.

Captain Molesworth Jeffery arrived in Tasmania in 1836, settling first at Ross, but before 1841 he had bought land at Brushy Bottom, later called Lachlan, a short distance from New Norfolk, and named his property BOURNBANK.

Further information concerning this eccentric gentleman can be found in *A Short History of New Norfolk and the Derwent Valley*, by K. R. von Stieglitz, and *New Norfolk Sketchbook*, text by Joan Woodberry.

THE LATEST FINDS OF QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS AND MARKINGS

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

There is no doubt that the best way to find out how little one knows of a subject is to write a book about it. New information continues to come in, a great deal of it dates extending the known range of usage, but some is new.

Messrs Amiet, Buchester and Williams and myself continue to put in our contributions and Mr A. G. Rigo de Righi, England, and Mr M. Stevens, Hill End, Queensland (through Mr Harman) have sent in their news.

In Chapter III of *Queensland Cancellations and Other Postal Markings* I have been shown photocopies of five numbers, previously unrecorded, by Mr Amiet from the collection of Mr J. Pender, of Armadale, Western Australia. Two others are mentioned by Mr Purves (*Philately from Australia*, December 1978, p. 84) as in the collection of Mr Geoffrey Adams. The third number he mentions, No. 662, has already been recorded by me in this journal. Unfortunately, Mr Purves does not note the type of No. 28, or the height of the figures in this or in No. 257, so those details will probably have to wait until I visit Britain next year.

For Chapter IV, Mr Stevens has come up with a new "tie": 108 — JIMNA. This is in the Queensland Type 1f, quite different from the Type N2a used at Nanango. I knew of the existence of Type 1f, as I have it on a loose stamp, but Mr Stevens, having it on an 1869 cover, proves its origin. This means, of course, that the tentative allocation of No. 116 to Jimna on page 27 of the book is wrong. There is quite a batch of post offices which could have had numbers somewhere round 116, and which were closed before the opening of Macalister, the subsequent possessor of No. 116, but I am inclined to plump for CARPENTARIA DOWNS (later LYNDHURST) as the probable original allocation.

Mr Williams has sent me a stamp with 444 and portion of a datestamp showing that the name begins with "T", and also showing the "Q" of "QUEENSLAND" and a stop in between. The portion showing is identical with the same portion of the TORBANLEA c.d.s., so I think we are justified in raising the status of the 444-TORBANLEA identification from a possible to a probable.

There are several new items in Chapter IV (thanks to Mr Amiet), including several additions to the list of post offices using both "State" and "Commonwealth" types, a new machine cancellation, a new "Registered" datestamp, and a number of additions to the list of post offices using the "R" in oval. In Chapter VIII we have another Railway numeral used on a postage stamp, unfortunately not on cover, so we cannot definitely confirm it, and in Chapter XX we have an entirely new "ADVERTISED" marking (there is no "UNCLAIMED" on this one).

We now come to the detailed listing of the new material, with the additions and alterations required in the book (or in the previous follow-up articles). Where follow-up articles are referred to, to save space, I merely give the date of issue of *Philately from Australia* referred to, and the page therein.

Chapter III

P.11. In the table of duplex cancellers further extensions to the ranges of dates are:

(7) Rockhampton	(b) 473	"Jan/91 – Mar/93"
	(d) 514	"Apr/94 – Jan/10"
(9) Townsville	(b) 528	"Aug/97 – Oct/07"

P.14. For No. 28 in the first column, after "?" add: "1b".

P.15. For No. 257 in the third column, delete the brackets round "2a".

P.16. For No. 354 in the second column, delete the brackets round "2a" and add: "(6½)".

P.18. For No. 620 in the second column, delete the brackets round "2b" and add "(7)", and for Nos. 641, 666 and 671 in the third column, delete the brackets round "2a", and add respectively: "(6½)", "(6½)" and "(7)".

P.19. Near the foot of the page, the numbers after "NNS" should now read "107", and after "RRRR", "128".

P.20. Delete "28", "257", "354", "620", "641", "666" and "671" from the list of "NNS", and add to the list of "RRRR".

Chapter IV

P.27. After the first entry, "BOWEN DOWNS 1/3/68", add in the Remarks column: "Closed 1/11/84".

After the second entry, "100 CUNNAMULLA 1/3/68" delete "Closed 1/11/84".

Before "JIMNA 1/7/68", substitute "108" for "(116)", and in the Remarks column delete the reference to the reallocation of 116.

Before "CARPENTARIA DOWNS 3/12/68", add: "(116)", and after the references in the Remarks, as another line, add: "No. 116 later reallocated to MACALISTER, 1/7/80 (q.v.)."

P.39. Before "TORBANLEA 1/4/87", delete the brackets round "444", and add "?" in front of it.

Chapter V

P.52. After "108 (Q'ld)", delete "?" and add: "JIMNA".

After "116", delete "Jimna" and substitute "Carpentaria Downs (Lyndhurst)".

P.60. After "444", delete "Torbanlea", and substitute "? TORBANLEA".

Chapter VI

P.67. In the list of post offices with both "State" and "Commonwealth" types, in the appropriate places make the following alterations and additions: BLACKALL (2 C'wealth), BOWEN (2 C'wealth), LAKES CREEK, MOUNT PERRY (2 C'wealth).

P.70. *Machine Cancellations.* Add Townsville to the list of post offices using these.

P.60. After "444", delete "Torbanlea", and substitute "? TORBANLEA".

In the second paragraph under (b) *Registration Markings*, 7th line, after "one line." add: "In 1905 Bundaberg was using one similar to this, but with

the time at the beginning of the date-line, the year in full, and without stops at the sides."

P.72. In the list of colours, under "Blue" add: "WINDORAH (used as a canceller)".

P.73. In the list at the foot of the page, add in the appropriate places:

BARCALDINE		X*
BLACKALL	X	
CLONCURRY	X*	
COOKTOWN	X	
DALBY	X	
DIRRANBANDI		X*

P.74. In the first paragraph under the list, after the first sentence, add: "However, a home-made looking "R." (without the oval) is known on a block of four 1d's bearing also the 'REGISTERED - ROCKHAMPTON' c.d.s. dated in 1902."

P.79. In the new section "(F" *Paid* Markings", (September, p. 67), a second copy of the WARWICK marking has turned up on a stamp. Like the first, it is also dated in March 1909 (23rd).

Chapter VIII

P.89. Another Railway number (in the Railway type) has turned up on a postage stamp. This is 346, which was used at COOMINYA. As the post office here was not opened until December 1907, I have been unable to check that the post office was in fact at the Railway Station.

Chapter XI

P.101. *Southern & Western Railway, Type 4*, No. 6. Alter the earliest date to "November 1906".

Type 4, No. 7. Alter the date at the end of the second line to "January 1908".

Type 5, No. 5. A dated copy has been found (21 MR 32 - with "3" inverted).

Type 6, No. 4. Alter the second sentence (already altered in December, p. 85) to read: "Four copies are known, dating from January 1931 to January 1932."

Type 6, No. 6. A later date has been found (February 1932).

P.102. *Central Railway, Type 5*, No. 1. Alter the latest date to "October 1909", and add: "Four examples with 'UP' are known."

P.103. *Great Northern Railway, Type 1*, No. 2. Alter the latest date to "April 1909", and add after "DOWN": "except for the last, which shows 'UP'."

North Coast Railway, Type 1, No. 1. The note on this has already been altered once (December, p. 85), but alter it again to: "Most have 'DOWN', with dates ranging from November 1900 to November 1907, but several examples with 'UP' in 1903-4 are known."

Type 1, No. 2. Again this must be altered. Ignore the addition of December, p. 85, and alter the last sentence to read: "Dates range from August 1900 to February 1913."

Type 1, No. 3. A further alteration must be made here too. It should now read: "This is rare, some six examples having been recorded, most with 1901 dates, but one is known dated January 1903. Most have 'DOWN', but one has 'UP'."

Type 2, No. 2. Alter the last sentence to read: "Dates range from June 1916 to August 1930."

P.104. *Type 2, No. 3(a).* In the alteration of December, p. 85, alter the earliest date to September 1903.

Type 2, No. 4. Alter the earliest date to November 1908.

Type 2, No. 5. Alter to read: "Most have 'DOWN', but two 'UP' are known. Dates range from January 1914 to March 1918."

Chapter XVI

P.120. *Type 2, Third line.* Alter the second sentence to read: "Dates seen range from 1867 to 1879."

P.121. *Type 2, No. 2.* Add: "FE 6, 79."

P.124. *Type 10, Fifth line.* For "rate" read: "range".

Type 12. To the code letters in the third line, add "N" and "P".

P.126. *Type 14.* (a) Add "B" and "L". (b) Add "N".

Type 15. To the code letters in the fourth line, add "E".

Chapter XVIII

P.133. *Type 4.* An example of this with code number "36" has turned up, so the first line of the second paragraph should read: "The range of numbers appears to have been from 1 to 36 . . ."

P.134. *Type 6.* Alter the sentence beginning in the ninth line to read: "The earliest date seen is NO 21, 95, while an example four days later is on an Official envelope . . ."

Chapter XIX

P.140. (B) *Dead Letter Office. Type 1.* A second example of this has turned up, which shows that this marking was in use for nearly ten years. Alter the sentence beginning in the third line to: "The only known dates are FE 17, 1864 and AP 15, 1873, struck in black . . ."

Type 3. After (a), alter to read: "in red, dated 24 NO 87, 11 MA 89 and 21 SE 91."

Type 4(a) (March, p. 17). Alter the last sentence to read: "Struck in purple, dated 18 NO 03 and 21 AP 04."

P.145. (H) *Registered. Type 3.* Alter the last date in the sixth line to "July 1902".

Type 7. The last sentence was altered in December, p. 88. Alter again to read: "Dates range from November 1910 to February 1913. Most examples are in blue or blue-black."

P.148. (K) *Unclaimed.* Two covers, one a local Ipswich cover of 1873, described to me by Mr Buchester, and the other a cover from Britain to Brisbane of 1887 which I have just acquired, plus some strikes on stamps shown me by Mr Amiet, add considerably to the information provided in the book. Mr Buchester's cover shows an entirely new marking, which although it does not include the word "UNCLAIMED", undoubtedly performed the same function as those that do, which were introduced later. I am therefore including it here, and describing it as "Type A".

At the top of the page, add: "*Type A.* A horizontal framed oval, approximately 33 x 25 mm, with 'ADVERTISED' round the periphery, joined by an arc round the foot, and the date in two lines in the centre (month and day

in the top line, with the year in full below — AP 10, 1873). Struck in black.”

Type 2. Alter the sentence beginning in the third line to: “Found on a cover from Britain to Brisbane, and on an Official cover from Brisbane to Mount Perry, which had been returned to the Dead Letter Office. The dates respectively are 30 NO 87 and 31 MA 89.”

Type 3. Add: “Several portions of the mark on stamps have also been found, two with the date DE 18 91, which put the date of introduction much closer to the later known date of Type 2.”

The straight-line marking “NOT CALLED FOR” also occurs on the first cover referred to under Type 2, by which time it had become very worn.

In September, I referred to a two-line marking “POSTAGE PAID — IN COIN” used at Wompah, and suggested that its use might have something to do with Wompah being a border post office. However, Mr Rigo de Righi has sent me a photocopy of a stampless cover with a marking of similar import, which tends to throw my original theory quite out of court. The cover was posted in Millchester on 16 June 1874, addressed to “Mr On Chong & Co., Merchants, 205 George Street, Sydney”, and there is a Chinese inscription at left, presumably added in the office of the recipients. Instead of adhesive stamps, there is a one-line inscription “POSTAGE PAID CASH” within a rectangular frame 49 x 5½ mm, and “2” added in manuscript. Millchester was nowhere near any border, being in the vicinity of Charters Towers, so if there is any connection between the two markings, it is not that previously suggested. I am wondering whether these markings are forerunners of the “PAID” markings used later for bulk postage, but I have no idea when bulk postage or similar system was introduced in Queensland, so this theory may be as way-out as the earlier one. This is only one of the many problems that Queensland cancellations and postal markings pose, and if anyone has any ideas, or other similar covers that might help, I should be delighted to hear from them.

This is enough — more than enough, you may think — but I should be very surprised if there are not further discoveries to be made.

MIPEX VICE-PRESIDENT DIES

Mr Kenneth A. Robertson, vice-president of the Melbourne International Philatelic Exhibition, 1963, and a former president of the Victorian Philatelic Association, died recently.

He was a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria of many years' standing and was foundation president of the Box Hill Philatelic Society in 1954. Later he took over the secretaryship.

Mr Robertson had been an invalid for about ten years before his death and suffered the additional affliction of having his voice affected by surgery. Despite these burdens, he retained his active interest in philately.

BOOK REVIEWS

Victoria: The Travelling Post Offices and Their Markings, 1865-1912, by J. R. W. Purves. Second Edition. 66 pp. 18 x 25 cm. Published by The Hawthorn Press, 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne 3000. Recommended Price, \$10.

This book is a second edition of the work published by The Hawthorn Press in 1955, which has long been out of print.

The first edition was reviewed by the Rev. John Brown in the March 1955 issue of *Philately from Australia*, and I strongly recommend readers to get this review if they can, as it was written by a man who knew the subject thoroughly, and so could do the book far more justice than I can to the new edition. A quotation from this review is worth repeating here, as it still holds good today:

"This book is one of the most thorough studies ever to be made of such a field, but thorough as it is, and widely as the author has cast his net for information, there inevitably remain some gaps in our knowledge, and he has been careful to point this out. It is to be hoped that publication will bring to light new material that may help us to fill them."

This new edition is no mere reprint of the first. The number of pages has been increased from fifty-five to sixty-six, and working students will find the stiff card cover much more durable than the cover of the original.

Two of the new pages are devoted to new illustrations, and another bears a map of the Victorian Railway system as it was in 1879 — very useful, as it marks all the stations then in existence.

There is a short new chapter which gives a useful assessment of rarity of the normal cancellations, but there seems to be something wrong here, as Mr Purves mentions in his detailed description of the various markings (p. 37) that 19 (2) 'UP' is one of the rarities of the series (apparently only one example known), but it does not appear in the assessment of rarity (on the other hand, 19 (2) 'DOWN' is mentioned twice).

The chapter on sea-mails has been considerably expanded, particularly in regard to the cancellations used on the English Mail T.P.O. Many earlier or later dates of usage of the normal T.P.O. markings are given, and three new types have been found.

However, perhaps the most important discovery since the first edition is that T.P.O. 10 ran on the Melbourne-Ballarat Line (via Geelong), and not on the Western District Line as earlier thought.

Another mystery solved is that of the wording of the then unidentified double-circle type discussed on p. 45 of the first edition; the top inscription has now been shown to read 'G. STHN UP TRAIN' (the South Gippsland Line).

A new discovery is a Commonwealth type c.d.s. with 'T.P.O.E' round the top, which Mr Purves discusses under No. 18 on p. 36; the significance of 'E' is still a mystery — there is some intrinsic evidence that it was applied on a train between Geelong and Warrnambool, but 'E' could refer to 'English', and Mr Purves promises further reference in the later section dealing with the 'English Mail T.P.O.', but he apparently forgot to include it.

In a Foreword to this edition Mr Purves acknowledges his debt to information and help from many quarters in preparing it.

In his review of the earlier edition, Mr Brown points out some errors of fact and *lapsus calami*, but unfortunately these are not corrected in the new edition. On p. 14, the direct route from Melbourne to Ballarat was opened 17.3.90, not 22 December 1886 as stated in lines 8-9. On p. 14, under 'B. South Gippsland Line', the date in the last line should read '13.1.92', not '1.10.88'. On p. 15, under 'T.P.O.'s 5 and 6', second paragraph, third line, 'Avalon' should read 'Avenel'; and on p. 41, under 'No. 3', in the description of 1. 'Large Octagon', the first date in the third line should evidently read '23.5.66', to agree with the first illustration on the opposite page.

A few typographical errors have crept into the new edition, but this was almost bound to happen, as if one is reading proofs from a previously printed page, one is apt to read into the proofs what one expects to find there; I do not think that any of these errors will confuse readers.

As reviewer of the new edition, I have nothing concrete to add, but have one or two suggestions.

On pp. 21 and 22, under 'T.P.O. 17' (Goulburn Valley Line), Mr Purves discusses a postcard sent from Melbourne to Yarram with a 17 'Down' cancellation. Could the explanation be that this card was part of

the mail from a business house which got into the wrong batch, and was posted on the *wrong* train? This would explain the 'Down', and the fact that it did not reach Yarram until the next day.

Secondly, on p. 61, Mr Purves mentions markings of the German Norddeutscher Lloyd Line found on mail addressed to Victoria, and the code letters found on the datestamps; if these have the same significance as the code letters on the datestamps used on this Line on the African runs, then they indicate a particular ship. Somebody could have some fun tracking down which ships used the 'd', 'f' and 'g' mentioned by Mr Purves.

All in all, this is a most absorbing study, and even readers who do not collect Victorian T.P.O.'s will find it worth while acquiring. I can thoroughly recommend it.

H. M. CAMPBELL

The 1854 Fourpence Blue and One Shilling Red Brown, by Wim Smits and Brian Pope. Limited Edition. 6 pp. 21 x 31 cm. Published by Wim Smits, 20 London Court, Perth, Western Australia.

In January this year Mr Wim Smits, a Perth dealer, acquired two lithographic stones. One was the intermediate stone for the 4d and 1/- Lithographs of 1854, with blocks of 60 of each, one inverted in relation to the other.

The other bore what was apparently the original design for the 6d Lithograph of 1857, drawn directly on to the stone, which also bore a Western Australia bank pay-in slip and two Royal Arms, with centres horizontal and vertical.

Remembering that the printing plate of the 6d cracked when proofs were being taken for the Duke of York (King George V) during his visit to Australia in 1901, the first stone was photographed.

A printing plate was then prepared, printing plates made, and prints for this publication made.

The set comprises the 4d block in blue and the 1/- in red-brown, actual size, on separate sheets, and the stone, with the stamps half-size, plus the same three prints in black and white for study purposes, in a folder.

Mr Brian Pope's notes on their philatelic importance are on the back of the appropriate sheets.

The Inverted Frame appears, distinctly self-effacing, as Row 8, No. 1 on the 4d block.

It was an imaginative and far-seeing idea

to produce a publication such as this. Those responsible hope that the sales will help to raise the sum needed to retain the stones in Western Australia.

If it is planned to organise a companion production for the second stone, would it be possible to include a history of the stones from the time of their use to the production of this publication? Also the three dimensions of the stones. Such a wonderful find deserves to be recorded in detail in such an appropriate place.

This piece of Western Australiana is a credit to all who planned, printed and published it.

The Swiss Philatelist, 1979. Edited by R. F. Bulstrode. 12 pp. 15 x 22 cm. Published by The Amateur Collector, Ltd, Box 242, Highgate, London, N6 4LW, England. Price £0.75 for three numbers.

In the chaos of post-World War I Europe transport fared probably worse than anything else because it crossed international boundaries — if anybody really knew where they were.

Landlocked, neutral Switzerland had the double necessity of organising its international trade and getting home those citizens who had been isolated in other countries. Such inter-country trains as ran were subject to bandit attack.

So Switzerland organised armed trains with Swiss Army guards to Austria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia and Poland and back.

Wing-Commander R. F. Bulstrode has traced two of the Escort Commanders of these trains and they have enabled him to write the major article in this issue on Swiss "Guarded Train" Mail.

Three of these trains had their own "stamps" and there were also cachets, and the explanation of these and the various datestamps provides an intriguing story.

Other articles deal with the E and F Thin Paper Strubels, the large plate flaws of the 50c Standing Helvetia, and Bern Cantonal Revenues.

The Story of the Postal Services and Stamp Issues of Anguilla, by the Department of Information and Broadcasting, Anguilla. 9 pp. 17 x 21 cm. Multigraphed. Published by John Lister, Ltd, 37 Bury Street, St James's, London, SW1.

This is a reprint of an article in the Anguilla Government Information Service Monthly Bulletin.

It outlines the tangled constitutional history of Anguilla, from 1861, when Nevis issued its first stamps. This includes the events surrounding the island's Unilateral Declaration of Independence in 1967 and its effect on its postal services.

The article then records Anguilla's stamp issues.

Registration Markings of the Solomon Islands, by Colin Hinchcliffe. 4 pp. 21 x 30 cm. Published by the Pacific Islands Study Circle of Great Britain, 58 Livesay Crescent, Worthing, Sussex, England. Price £0.50.

The study, which covers registration labels and markings, is a supplement to the *Cancellation Study of the British Solomon Islands Protectorate*, published by the Circle in 1973.

It covers thirteen offices and illustrates fifty Registration identifications, all in actual size.

Mr Hinchcliffe has given each a provisional number (PR-), so that a definitive numbering will be made when news from other collectors enables the Circle to feel that it is justified in providing a set of standard numbers.

Foundation Bulletin, March 1979. 4 pp. 22 x 28 cm. Published by the Philatelic Foundation, 270 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y., 10016.

This is the first issue of a new quarterly by the Philatelic Federation, but it revives a *Bulletin* which faded away many years ago.

The chairman of the Foundation, Mr William H. Miller, Jr, promises that it will announce new activities of the organisation and record new discoveries, counterfeits 'and other philatelic facts'.

Chief item in the inaugural issue is a short history of expert committees. The first was London's Philatelic Protection Association, which was operating in 1891. This appears to have been mainly a trade group, and The Royal Philatelic Society, London's Expert Committee was established as a collectors' body in 1894. The Philatelic Foundation's Expert Committee dates from 1945.

It notes that The Royal Philatelic Society's Expert Committee has now been operating for eighty-five years.

Another article deals with the Foundation's new premises, its third in thirty-four years, necessitated by the increased activities.

Foundation Bulletin is tastefully printed in brown on cream paper.

EDITORIAL NOTES

New Zealand Ink Puzzle

An article in *The Philatelist*, January 1979, on De La Rue's Ink Recipe Book, Vol 1, reproduces parts of it. Each Ink Recipe was matched by a Queen Victoria "stamp" with the inscription De La Rue & Co at top and London at bottom.

In the fugitive ink section with a "New Zealand" heading is the note "A quality of this ink was supplied in March 1867".

The colours, with the firm's name for it in brackets, are:

Apple-Green (Light Green)
Blue-Green (Green)
Pale Blue (Pale Antwerp Blue)
Blue (Italian Blue)
Brown (Italian Brown)
Brown
Brown-Orange
Yellow
Golden Yellow

Mauve

Kremnits Flake White

There is also a record that quantities of Green and Italian Blue were supplied in April 1873.

Another entry is:

New Zealand 1d Postage
Scarlet Chrome
Orange Lead
Cochineal Red
To the best imitation

after a March 1873 entry.

The anonymous author of the article notes that the Full Faces on issue at the time approximate these colours. But the stamp colours are fast, not fugitive.

Did John Davies, the printer, mix his dry colour with some solvent that made the colours fast? That is the question he asks.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Malta

Members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria were shown another superb segment of Mrs P. L. Turnbull's Malta collection at the first March meeting. It featured Malta's early postal history.

A selection of the Knights of St John letters of 1614, the second earliest known, 1623, and 1630 to 1795, culminated in one from Grand Master Emmanuel De Rohan, with the seal of a Knight in Armour in black sealing wax.

Other letters from Malta to France included a 1761 struck with the first type of Marseilles and De Malthe, struck separately, and a 1774 one with the words in one cachet, also from a Grand Master.

Another of this year was from the explorer D'Entrecasteau.

Other gems included covers bearing the rarest Malta postmark, the straight-line Malta, believed to be one of two known, the earliest known date of the earliest arc Unpaid handstamp, 1806, and a companion of 1809.

The Paid Malta (1808) was followed by a later type, of 1823, unlisted in Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia.

Handstruck postage stamps showing Malta Paid and a circular date stamp of 28 March 1842 in black and one of 29 May 1944 in red were both the earliest recorded in their colours.

Other interesting items were the round double circle marking with Maltese Cross below date and a 1847 cover from Zante to London re-addressed to Boston, U.S.A., with oval Received and forwarded P. Eynaud and Co., Malta, and transatlantic Ship 6 in red.

Baden-Powell

Miss Mary Lambe had the honour of presenting the first thematic display ever shown to the Society at the second March meeting.

Her subject was "The Baden-Powell Story" and she showed part of her Baden-Powell Collection which has won awards in both Australian and overseas exhibitions.

It was a beautifully presented display, with nothing stereotyped, and showed she had done an immense amount of research into his life.

The material ranged from the Mafeking locals to letters to and from Lord Baden-Powell, and the collection showed the changes in his style and titles.

She aimed to show as wide a variety of philatelic elements as she could, and in forming the collection planned to keep items shown to those with postal relevance.

Many of the classics of scout philately were present, including the African Jamboree of 1936.

Australian Surprise

Mr G. T. Houston labelled his display for the April meeting in the syllabus as "Surprise".

In his introductory remarks at the meeting he defined it as "Australian material displayed by a collector of many countries — a collector who likes to collect stamps and issues with a facet that appeals to him".

A surprise it was, too, for there were the rare and the unusual in stamps, covers, locals, postal stationery, perfins, forgeries, and postal forgeries.

Mr Houston's display covered all States and the

Commonwealth, and was indeed a most enjoyable surprise in the range and interest of the material.

Australian Airmails

The interstate visitor this year was Mrs D. D. Brown, of Sydney, a welcome guest, who displayed some of the items from the collection of Australian Airmails formed by her late husband, Mr Vincent H. Brown, at the first May meeting.

The collection was alive with rarities.

A London-Windsor cover in brown was addressed to Melbourne and then re-directed to London.

The "Wizard" Stone card was addressed to C. G. Grey, famous editor of *The Aeroplane*, at his office, from "V. P. Taylor-Penfold, aviator, aeronaut, Australia".

The Guillaux Melbourne-Sydney 1914 was followed by a Harry Butler Minlaton-Adelaide 1919 and a *Herald* Melbourne-Traralgon.

Qantas' opening was a cover flown unofficially Longreach-Cloncurry and then officially Longreach-Charleville on the company's opening flight, 1922.

An autographed Woolnough Geological and Survey Expedition, 1932, posted at Forrest, was matched by an Ulm flight of the Duke of Windsor from Sydney to Lismore, 1934.

The overseas flights included a Ross Smith cover autographed by Sir Keith Smith, and a mint vignette, and a 1928 first Tasman flight cover signed by Ulm. A Brisbane-Noumea flight, 1932, said to be one of ten, and a Cobham, Melbourne-London, autographed, one of two reported, were other highlights.

Malaya

Dr W. G. Wells took, as he said, a liberal interpretation of his subject, "Some Interesting Malayan Items", but he took a very strict view of the word "Interesting" when he exhibited at the second May meeting.

He described his display as sheets from a "working collection" but they demonstrated a wide range and the depth of his knowledge.

His first section on Straits Settlements began with the 1867 provisionals and the other provisionals.

Of interest were the 1880 "10" surcharges, and the selection included two with varieties, and the 1884 with large "3" in the blue trial printing.

The George V issues included the \$500 "Specimen" with the "broken crown and scroll" variety and the same variety in Nyasaland.

BMA highlights were the \$25 with variety, a \$5 forgery, and a 50 cent postal forgery.

The second section, Christmas Island and Cocos, began with items of 1897-1958 when Malaya was in control. These included a 1906 cover, a 1911 piece, and an unusual 24 mm double ring c.d.s.

Cocos items included the postal agency period, 1933-37, and Straits stamps with Cable and Wireless postmarks.

Covers included a "Guba" flight, one from 1942, Indian F.P.O. 46, and R.A.F. Post F.P.O. 301 covers. The Service post offices each operated for a year.

Unusual items were a 1951 Qantas Survey Flight cover and Tin Can Mail of the same year.

The Sarawak section was headed by a waste sheet of the 1895 issue overprinted in "Pence" as a trial for Rhodesia, and a bogus 1899 4c overprinted "Ultramar" by Portuguese.

Annual Competition

Dr G. Russell-Jones won the Society's Silver Medal at the annual competition in June, with a beautiful entry of Grenada.

Although there were only four entries, the standard was high.

Dr Russell-Jones' entry began with the construction of the Leeward Islands Key Plate, the design sketches, and the original watercolour as for an 8d value.

He then showed the progress to the "Postage" tete-beche plates of 1883, and the 1887 "Postage and Revenue", and then to the "Revenue" plates.

An interesting item was a sheet of 160 of the tete-beche Postage and Revenue 1d, with thirty-two varieties identified.

He demonstrated the construction of the value strips of the 6d and showed abnormal positions of the watermark.

Mr Ray Chapman presented a comprehensive study of the 8d Tiger Cat. This began with the exquisite sketches of the designer, Miss Eileen Mayo.

He then showed that the denomination was to have been ½d, 6d, and 7d, before it became 8d.

There were two dies, the first being unacceptable.

Mr Chapman went through the issued stamps, showing a total of 120 varieties.

Particularly interesting were the stages of the "Typhoon" retouch.

Mr Gary Watson's offering was a study of the postal usage of Victorian Money Order Cancellations during the Commonwealth Period.

Using a revised classification scheme, he showed the usage of the various types of postmarkers employed.

Mr Hamilton Croaker, of Sydney, entered a study of the postmarks of Iceland.

This was an examination of the history of usage of the postmarks from 1873.

A notable item was an example of the 1891 "Bridge" cancellation — two years before the date given in official publications.

President's Report

"Nearly every activity has had a successful, if not record, year," the president (Mr D. E. Napier) told the annual meeting.

"I would appeal to all members to face the future of the Society with confidence and to work together, because, only if these two requests are met will we be able to go any way to overcoming the severe loss suffered by the Society in the passing of Bill Purves."

The standard of displays had been maintained, although increasing costs of travel and insurance had made it difficult to arrange interstate displays, and nigh impossible to arrange overseas displays, he continued.

During the year the Governor, Sir Henry Winneke, had received the call of the president and vice-president, and subsequently returned the call.

Membership was 263, with nine new members, six resignations, and three deaths.

Mr Napier thanked Mr Sinfield for his work during the past two years as secretary and Miss Myra Farley for again accepting the position; Miss Joyce Buchanan as Business Manager for *Philately from Australia*; Mr T. C. Lester, who had retired as Superintendent of the Sales Branch, after twenty-one years; Mrs Turnbull as Curator of the Forgery Collection; and Miss Helen Serjeant White for her Open Days.

Miss Buchanan reported that *P from A* had again held its own financially. Subscriptions, sales of back numbers, and sales of publications were slightly less than last year.

But *P from A* advertising had risen from \$784 to \$1271.

The financial result was most gratifying in view of a rise of \$276 in the cost of printing the June issue.

For many years The Hawthorn Press had heavily subsidised the production costs of *P from A*, but because of continuing increases in wages reluctantly had to increase its charges.

The chairman of the House Committee (Mr Napier) reported that Headquarters had been maintained to the highest possible standards during the year and the front garden remodelled.

Security

Security had been carefully considered and a number of changes made.

The Superintendent, Sale Branch (Mr Lester) said each of the four sales had made successive records, with a total of \$75,859, an increase of \$20,404 on the previous year. Surplus to the Society was \$3460.

Lots sold were slightly under 83 per cent — 1541 out of 1863. This was lower than previous years, but a far greater number of lots had been offered and they included some difficult material from the last parts of some large collections.

The Exchange Branch Superintendent (Mr T. R. Morgan) said continued mail delays were the main reason why only five books had completed their circuits, compared with eight in the previous year.

Financial results had been fairly satisfactory.

He appealed to members to contribute suitable material as soon as possible, particularly for the benefit of country members.

The Librarian (Dr G. N. Kellow), said thirty-eight items had been added, bringing the number of books to 2368. The library had 1300 volumes of bound journals, and a number of others had been lodged with the sheltered workshop of Yooralla for binding.

There had been a record 394 borrowings, an increase in the number of members borrowing, and continued popularity of the Second Monday night openings.

The chairman of the Deceased Estates Committee (Mr E. G. Creed) said only one collection had been handled, but Mr J. R. W. Purves had valued several collections, resulting in \$400 being given to the Society.

The chairman of the Expert Committee (Mr P. Jaffé) said its efforts had produced \$3229. It had issued 161 certificates.

The Treasurer (Mr L. W. Buchanan) said it had been a year in which the Society had consolidated its finances to meet the cost of known and unknown works that would be occurring in the future.

One book, and possibly a second, would require publication, and it would not be much longer before the building became due for a complete external painting.

The balance was \$4529, compared with \$1482 at the start of the year.

Insurance was double the previous year, and would rise again in the new year, as would rates. Repairs and maintenance, at \$2648, were \$800 up, and the post office box now cost \$150.

Donations, \$1689, were \$1300 below the previous year.

Officers elected: President: Mr P. Jaffé; Vice-President, Mr J. Gartner; Immediate Past President, Mr D. E. Napier; Secretary, Miss M. E. Farley; Treasurer, Mr L. W. Buchanan; Council, Misses J. Buchanan and H. Serjeant White, Messrs D. N. Baker, A. W. Bunn, H. L. Chisholm, E. G. Creed, M. B. Watson, and G. T. White; Librarian, Dr G. N. Kellow; Superintendent, Sale Branch, Mr

A. J. White; Superintendent, Exchange Branch, Mr T. R. Morgan.

Presidential Display

Mr Napier's Presidential Display was a wide-ranging one, covering Rhodesia in the British South Africa Company period, Northern and Southern Rhodesias, and Nyasaland, and ran through to the Unilateral Declaration of Independence.

There were many unusual, even unexpected items, such as a forgery of the first British South Africa Company issue, and a forgery of the Matabele Rebellion Provisional.

From the U.D.I. period came a cover to Mozambique endorsed "No Service" and an aerogramme to England surcharged 1/9.

Northern Rhodesia included a complete set of specimens of the last issue, and then the stamps, with missing values, misplaced values, and the double eagle.

Southern Rhodesia was represented by a series of printers' samples in unissued colours.

Nyasaland included a range of early high values.

The airmail section had a first Bulawayo-Lusako flight, Imperial Airways' Christmas delivery-flight airmail, prior to the opening of the London-Capetown service with "Experimental Flight" cachet, 1931.

There were two covers from Rhodesia to Australia by the first London-Brisbane service, Imperial Airways Envelopes, thus pre-dating the war-time "Horseshoe Route" around the Indian Ocean. An-

other item was a French airline connection to Madagascar.

Tasmanian Postal History

Mr R. L. Askeland came from Hobart to give a magnificent display of Tasmanian Postal History at the first August meeting.

He prefaced his display with a comprehensive explanation of the various Tasmanian cancellation systems and mentioned that after the issue of numeral cancellers some postmasters disregarded them, considering that the old pen cancellation method was easier. Some postmasters continued with their old markings, such as a cross, and some wrote the number of the canceller of their office.

Possibly the best method of conveying the extent of the collection is to record that it included both the Campbell and Purves collections.

Mr Askeland apologised to anybody who had come to see stamps. But he need not have done so. There were many remarkable items such as a cancelled strip of four of the 1d Blue imperforate.

Many of the markings were unique or extremely rare.

Mr Askeland gave each office a page, with the names of the successive postmasters and their dates in the top left corner.

Introduction and display combined to provide a superb demonstration of the interest which Tasmanian postmarks hold, and which have captivated so many enthusiastic students.

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3. Very rare cancellation Macquarie Plains with date — 4/10/ '55 in ms. placed on stamp! Canc. rare in itself, but only two ex. known on stamps! Front of letter to Hobart, fresh, with 4d. (1853), dull orange, Plate II. Stamp is cut to shape and has closed tear. (See Campbell, Tasmania, p. 12). **\$1250.**
4. One Penny blue, 1853. First reprint 1879 on thin white paper, perf. 11½. Complete sheet of 24 stamps, defaced with two chisel cuts over each impression. Fresh sheet, neatly stuck down to white card. Very rare! **\$1250.**
5. Four Pence orange, 1853. First reprint 1879 on thin white paper, perf. 11½. Full sheet of 24 stamps, neatly stuck down to white card. Each impression defaced with two chisel cuts. Reprint of Plate I, in brownish-yellow. Very rare! **\$1250.**
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