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PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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*Official Organ of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria
and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

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DECEMBER 1981

THE J. R. W. PURVES BEQUEST TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY

Under the terms of the late Mr. J. R. W. Purves' will, his magnificent philatelic library has been presented to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

This is a gift of great importance and lasting value, and its continuing use by members will be a constant reminder of his generosity.

Although the books were delivered to the Society's rooms in late 1979, it has taken the librarian, Dr. G. N. Kellow, almost two years to integrate the collection with the Society's holding.

Mr. Purves actively accumulated philatelic literature of the whole world, and not only those areas in which he was collecting, over the whole of his lifetime. The resultant library was the largest private one ever formed in Australia, indeed it was probably the largest library in Australia apart from this Society's, and the amalgamation of these two collections has resulted in a society library of exceptional quality, unequalled in the southern hemisphere, and only bettered elsewhere by the great societies — the Royal Philatelic Society, London, the National Philatelic Society, and the Collectors Club, New York.

A total of 574 new titles have been added to the library from Mr. Purves' bequest. In addition about 200 volumes of periodicals, mostly bound, are new to the Society's library.

Australasia, as might be expected, was well-represented. Other strengths were the United States of America, South America, and a number of European countries.

The most impressive volumes, and perhaps the most impressive philatelic work ever published, is Tracy Woodward's two-volume *The Postage Stamps of Japan and Dependencies*. Other important and valuable works are *The Postal Service of the Confederate States of America* by A. Dietz, *The Postage Stamps of Uruguay* by E. J. Lee, and *The Stamps of Turkey* by A. Passer.

Amongst the periodicals are complete files of two of the earliest English magazines — *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* and *The Philatelist*. The latter includes a series of articles on stamp forgeries, "The Spud Papers", by E. L. Pemberton, which were illustrated with the actual forgeries. Mr. Purves' copies still have the forgeries in place.

There are, of course, many duplicates left over, and these have been priced and are available for purchase by members. The proceeds from these sales will be used to improve the library in accordance with Mr. Purves' wishes.

Apart from the published works, and of great importance to Victorian students, the library also received all the manuscript notes left by Mr. Purves. These are devoted almost exclusively to Victorian philately. Mr. Purves himself unfortunately did not leave a great deal, since much of his research was written on to the album pages, or otherwise not put down on paper until articles or books were prepared.

Of great importance are all of Mr. W. R. Rundell's extracts of the Victorian Post Office records. Mr. Rundell, an employee of the Post Office, obtained these in the early years of this century, and the original records are believed to be almost totally destroyed. The extracts include much unpublished information on the stamps and postal history of Victoria. It is the policy of *Philately from Australia* that this information will be made available to all collectors by publication in these pages.

EDITORIAL NOTES

AUSIPEX 84

The preparations for Australia's, and Melbourne's, first International Philatelic Exhibition for 21 years are well under way.

AUSIPEX 84 will be held at the Royal Exhibition Buildings from September 21-30, 1984, and coincides with the sesquicentenary of the settlement of Victoria. The President of the Exhibition is Mr. John Gartner, RDP, FRPSL, Immediate Past-President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The first Bulletin was published in September and contains full and up to date information on the Exhibition and the fund-raising efforts inaugurated by the organisers. It is reviewed elsewhere in this issue of *P. from A.*

An exhibition of the size which is envisaged for AUSIPEX 84 has an urgent and continuing need for funds, even at this early stage, and R.P.S.V. members are urged to give their full support.

The Aussie Club

One of the features of the Exhibition will be The Aussie Club, a supporting collectors group which will have a special area reserved at the Royal Exhibition Buildings for their exclusive use. Subscribers to The Aussie Club will receive all the AUSIPEX 84 publications and an entrance ticket. Two classes of membership are available — Members, who subscribe \$50, and Patrons, who subscribe \$250. Patrons also receive any philatelic souvenirs produced by AUSIPEX 84. Membership will be limited to 2000 Members and 250 Patrons.

Souvenirs

Several souvenirs have already been produced and are available for purchase.

AUSIPEX 84 seals, featuring the logo in full

colour, have been produced in sheets of 20 for affixing to correspondence. The cost is \$1 per sheet of 20.

An AUSIPEX 84 tie is available. It is in navy blue, with narrow red and white stripes, and with the AUSIPEX logo in colour. For the fairer sex, scarves have been produced in white silk with the logo twice in diagonally-opposed corners. Price of both the ties and scarves is \$12.50.

Drink coasters featuring the AUSIPEX logo are available in gold, silver and bronze metallic finishes. Attractively presented in boxes of four, the price is \$10 per box.

Top quality, refillable, ball-point pens carrying a message from AUSIPEX 84 are \$5 each.

Auction

The organisers intend to hold several auctions of donated material over the next three years. The date of the first auction will be Saturday, May 8, 1982, and it will be held at the Society's rooms at 6 Avoca Street. Donations of stamps for the first auction are required urgently, and collectors are requested to send in any duplicate or unwanted material they may have.

The Executive Officer for AUSIPEX 84, to whom all applications for The Aussie Club and souvenirs and any donations of stamps should be sent, is Miss Myra Farley. The address is The Executive Officer, P.O. Box 8484, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001.

Nauru: The 1924 Issue

In Mr P. Collas' article "Nauru: The Circumstances of the First Definitive Series, 1924" in *P. from A.*, September 1975, Mr M. Williamson points out that the number of 5d stamps ordered by the Administrator of Nauru on 28 March 1922 was omitted. This figure should have been 15,000.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

Australia — 22 cent Apex Commemorative

In September "Trail" I listed two varieties, reported by the editor of a catalogue published in England, which I had confirmed by locating a couple of sheets with serial numbers around 67150. It was not until about a month before the issue was withdrawn that fresh stock with the varieties was available at the Melbourne Philatelic Sales Section, and I found that sheet numbers alone were not a reliable means of determining whether a particular sheet would contain the varieties or not.

Australia — 2 cent Flower Coil

Also in September "Trail" I commented, in the penultimate paragraph, on the grey being out of register on a coil of these stamps, to the extent that an extra grey leaf appeared above the "R" of "AUSTRALIA". Subsequently, I found several more coils from the same printing all with the grey cylinder misplaced, and it would seem that this item is fairly common.

Australia — Yachting Series

Readers of Australian Stamp Bulletin No. 157 will have noted that denominations other than the 24 cent in this set are printed on a new paper designated "APWH" ("Australia Post With Helecon"?), which, it is stated, will have a different reaction under ultra-violet light to the old type. I have tried two different wavelength UV lamps without finding anything sufficiently notable to be worthy of record, and would be pleased to hear from anyone else who has had better luck.

Speaking of papers, I have noticed on the more highly surfaced papers now in use that there is a greater tendency for mint stamps to take on a "grubby" appearance in storage. Extra care will be required in laying "stock" for the future to ensure that the stamps are not subjected to pressure by being stored in a stack, or there is a risk of serious losses amongst those at the bottom of the heap, especially if there are extensive white areas in the design.

So another year draws to a close, and again I take this opportunity to wish my readers a Merry Christmas and a prosperous 1982.



The Other Side of the Picture

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









VICTORIA: SHEET POSITIONS OF THE RETOUCHES IN HAM'S FIFTH PRINTING OF THE 3D. HALF-LENGTH

[This article was found amongst Mr. J. R. W. Purves' papers and is presented with only editorial alterations. The illustrations have been kindly supplied by Mr. R. A. Perry.]

The retouches on this stamp have been described in *The Half Lengths of Victoria* on pp. 110-111. There are nine of these (designated "A" to "I") and their descriptions, together with the evidence of their plating, was presented. The acquisition or sighting, over the years, of material previously not seen, prompted a renewed effort to take our knowledge a little further.

This task has now been completed and it is now possible to say (i) that the "E" to "H" retouches on Types 1 (two) and 7 (two) comprised the one vertical strip of four at the lower left corner of the sheet, and (ii) that the retouches on Types 6 (two) and 12 (two) likewise formed the one vertical strip of four at the lower right of the sheet.

The new results are indicated by the diagrams below. The same designations — "A" to "H" inclusive — are used as previously, with the sheet number of each variety placed alongside.

73		Type 1	84		Type 6
85		Type 7	96		Type 12
97		Type 1	108		Type 6
109		Type 7	120		Type 12

The proving pieces are now set out.

I. "E", "F", "G", "H": (a) The block of 4 (Types 1, 2 over 7, 8) and the vertical pair (Types 1 over 7) mentioned in the handbook. Type 1 is "E" and Type 7 "G". Singles of each have been seen with wide left margins.

(b) The block of 6 (Types 7, 8, 9 over 1, 2, 3) in the Royal collection in which Type 7 is "G" and Type 1 "F".

(c) There is a copy of "F" in the Purves collection showing that the retouching extended to the stamp below ("H").

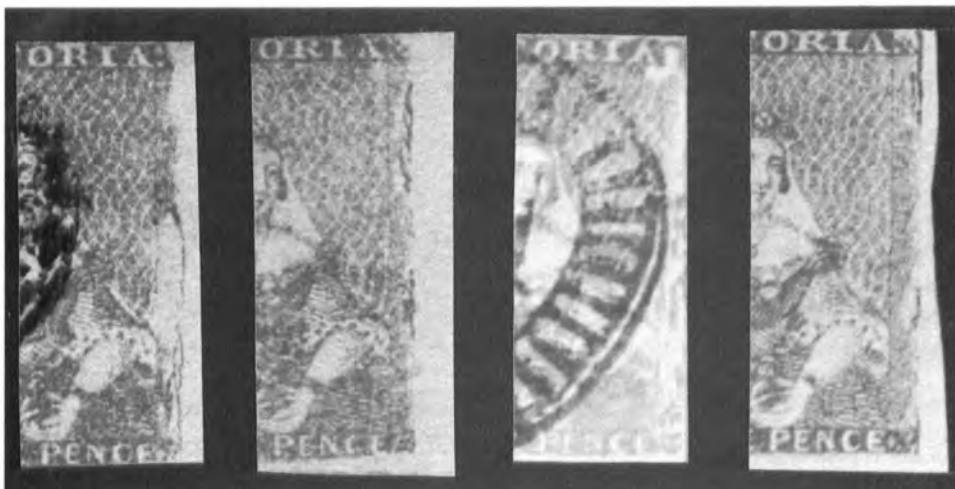


*Retouch "E":
No. 73 on the sheet.
Upper left latticework
redrawn.*

*Retouch "G":
No. 85 on the sheet.
Corner letter "E"
obliterated.*

*Retouch "F":
No. 97 on the sheet.
Lower left latticework
redrawn.*

*Retouch "H":
No. 109 on the sheet.
Upper left corner
ornament obliterated.*



*Retouch "B":
No. 84 on the sheet.
Right latticework
crudely redrawn.*

*Retouch "D":
No. 96 on the sheet.
Right outer latticework
largely redrawn.*

*Retouch "A":
No. 108 on the sheet.
Right latticework
crudely redrawn.*

*Retouch "C":
No. 120 on the sheet.
Right outer latticework
largely redrawn.*

(d) In the Purves collection retouch "H" is represented by a single and in a strip of three (Types 7,8,9). Only the top left corner is affected but it was possible to identify these two examples beyond question with the portion of "H" visible on the copy of "F" mentioned above.

(e) The single of "H" has a very wide base margin, and the stamps in the strip have also wide base margins.

That still leaves retouch "I", but there is no evidence on its position in the sheet. It is on a Type 1 stamp.

II. "A", "B", "C", "D": (a) The block of twelve on cover from the Pack collection, and the block of four (Types 5,6, over 11,12) in the Royal collection, both mentioned

in the handbook. The latter shows a wide right margin. These show retouch "B" (Type 6) over retouch "D" (Type 12).

(b) The vertical pair (Types 6 over 12) showing retouch "A" over retouch "C", formerly in the Wawn and now in the Purves collection. Here there is sufficient base margin to prove that "C" came from the base of the sheet. Likewise copies of both "A" and "C" in the Purves collection with wide right margins, in one case nearly 4 mms.

(c) A block of six (Types 11,12 over 5,6 over 11,12) once in the collection of Mr. P. Jaffé and inspected by the author. No. 4 in this block is retouch "B" and No. 6 is retouch "D". Fragments of two lower stamps show in the base margin of this block and there is a sufficient showing of the top right corner of the right hand stamp (under No. 6) to identify it, beyond all question, as the top right corner of retouch "A", since certain peculiarities of this retouch repeat themselves exactly. Thus, it is possible to reconstruct a vertical strip of four "B" over "D" over "A" over "C" from the lower right corner of the sheet.

NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES

By G. N. KELLOW

5 — 1d "EMBLEMS", WATERMARK STAR, PERFORATED 12

This stamp is the least scarce of a number of rare perforation varieties in the "Emblems" series. I would suggest about two dozen copies are extant, but while I have gathered together a large number of references to this variety, I have photographs of only nine different stamps (assuming all are genuine), so no attempt will be made to compile a chronicle of the known copies. Nonetheless, a few interesting observations, additional to those made by Mr. J. R. W. Purves (*The "Emblems" of Victoria, 1857-63*, pp. 18-19) may be made.

The perf. 12 variety has been recognised from earliest times, and appears in a check list of Victorian stamps in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, November 1865, and in two lists prepared by Mr E. L. Pemberton, published in the *Philatelist*, December 1866 and June 1868. However, no copy could be cited by the compilers of *Oceania* (Philatelic Society, London, 1887) and it was chronicled there on the basis of its appearance in J. B. Moens' catalogue.

When David H. Hill began publishing some official P.O. records, it became apparent that the stamps on Star wmk. paper should not exist perforated, as they were exhausted by the time the perf. 12 machine came into use in early 1859 (*Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, February 1893, p. 96), and some doubts were cast on the genuineness of this stamp, especially as no copy apparently existed in this country.

It was Robert Yardley who first put forward what is undoubtedly the correct explanation — the perforation by Robinson of a very few remainder sheets (*London Philatelist*, December 1918, pp. 303-4).

The earliest record I have of any actual copy of this stamp is in 1896. (A 1d "Emblems", wmk. Star, perf. 14, had been reported in the *Australian Philatelist*, March 1895, p. 112, but was probably a private production.)

In that year, Mr. W. Davies displayed an example at a meeting of the Philatelic Society of Victoria (*Australian Philatelist*, August 1896, p. 11), and other copies were shown at the same society shortly after by Messrs. W. Brettschneider and A. McDonald (*Australian Stamp Journal*, November 1922, p. 169). The first example of the stamp mentioned in overseas sources was a copy in the Henry J. Duveen collection (*London Philatelist*, July 1899, p. 183).

Remarkably enough, considering its rarity, this stamp exists unused. The Duveen copy is unused, and this stamp is probably the one now in the Royal collection (Sir John Wilson, *The Royal Philatelic Collection*, 1953, p. B. Aus. 66).

Another unused example was sold at auction in 1912 for £9 (*London Philatelist*, April 1912, p. 109), and this may be the one which was in the Ferrary collection (Lot 522, 8th sale, 7-9 November 1923), and was acquired by Mr. C. L. Pack, to be auctioned eventually in the 6th Pack sale in 1949 (Harmer Rooke, New York, Sales 475-7, Lot 791).

Also remarkable is the survival of at least a couple of multiples. I know of the present location of only one — the used strip of 3 in the Purves collection ("*Emblems*", p. 19), but there are records of others. To begin with, there was a used strip of 5 which was auctioned for £53 in 1911 (*Philatelic Record*, May 1911, p. 11). This may, of course, now be broken up, or is partially represented by one of the strips of 3 now described. A strip of 3 was auctioned for £40 in 1908 (*London Philatelist*, January 1909, p. 29 — obviously not from the strip of 5), and was bought by Mr. Henry Grey (*London Philatelist*, March 1909, p. 85). I do not know the fate of Grey's collection, but by late 1911 there was a strip of 3 making a brief visit to Australia, being exhibited by Mr. C. L. Pack at the 1911 Sydney Exhibition (Exhibition Catalogue, p. 18). It was sold in the 5th Pack sale in 1947 (Harmer Rooke, New York, Sales 370-2, Lot 1286) and was acquired by J. R. W. Purves. It is a horizontal strip, centred left, and cancelled with Barred Numeral 5 (Ballarat). However, there must be a second horizontal strip of 3, since one was sold at auction in 1929 for £40 (*Australian Philatelic Record*, August 1929, p. 145), when the first strip was still entrenched safely in the Pack collection. (Henry Harvey, in a letter to the *Australian Philatelic Record*, December 1929, p. 204, refers to the strip of 3 as not unique, he having seen two others, but it is not obvious whether he is referring to two other strips of 3, or to other perf. 12 stamps).

The Pack collection also contained three used copies, making an amazing total of seven examples in the collection. There are two used stamps in the Royal collection (Wilson, 1953, p. B. Aus. p. 66), one of which must have come from Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, June 1906, p. 106), and there were also two in the collection of Dr. W. P. Heslop (Apex 1950 Exhibition Catalogue, p. 53). Single copies have been recorded in the collections of A. G. Kelson (*Gibbons Stamp Weekly*, 9 December, 1905, p. 393), J. Gartner (R. A. Perry, Sale 5, Lot 336), J. Englander, A. D. Price, P. T. Berry and C. H. Edmondson (Melbourne 1921 Exhibition Catalogue, pp. 20, 21, 33, 34).

Relative to used copies, Purves implies that all genuine copies are cancelled Barred Numeral 5 (Ballarat), and warns against fakes. For what it is worth, I have photographs of six stamps, apart from the strip of 3, and four have indecipherable Barred Numeral cancellations, one is cancelled Barred Numeral 3 (Castlemaine) and one is cancelled Barred Oval 1 (Melbourne).

From the number of copies known, it is fairly certain that more than one sheet was perforated, and these could easily have gone to different post offices.

THE FIRST MACHINE CANCELLATIONS OF AUSTRALIA

By J. TURNBULL

Australia began using machine cancellations in 1901, and up to 1908 had experimented with at least 20 types.

An American invention, the "Barr Fyke" automatic postmarking machine, had been used in New Zealand from 10 October 1899 when a sample machine was obtained on trial, and later purchased on 11 May 1900 (see *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Vol. III, pp. 152-3). The New Zealand Post Office was an innovative administration, and the use of these machines led to enquiries from Sydney, Melbourne, Hobart, London and Rome.

As far as I can find Victoria was the first Australian user of this "trip operating" machine, which could cancel up to 40,000 letters per hour. In a trip machine the operator placed the letter in the machine, this operated the trip and the cancel was applied.



The New Zealand prototype.

Following the New Zealand example, a flag type design was adopted for Melbourne, and there appears to be four distinct sub-types from 1901 to 1906. New South Wales and Queensland followed with a three flag design, the State name being displayed on the centre flag, flanked with vertical lines representing flagpoles.

In 1903 Victoria had a second design of much thicker lines and with no flagpole, of which there are two distinct types.

Western Australia introduced a straight line design in 1904 similar to the New Zealand type. A similar design was also used in London.

In 1906 Victoria amended its design to three sets of straight lines.

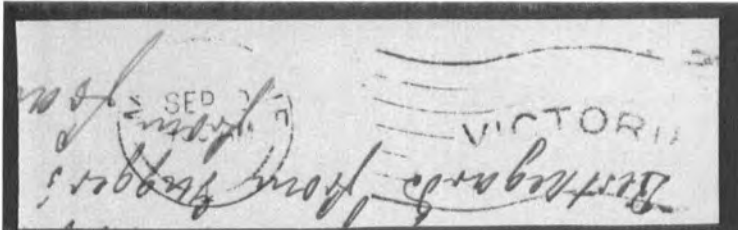
Although I have been through many thousands of letters and postcards, I have yet to find a trip cancel for South Australia or Tasmania.

Many of the trip machines were not successful in the experimental stage and were discarded. However, some were retained and at the advent of the roller types were transferred to provincial towns. One such machine (Type 3a) appears in Ballarat in 1910.

The Australian trip machines of this early period have been classified as follows:

Type 1

Sub-type A. Seven wavy lines, VICTORIA inset in the fourth line, 23mm c.d.s. containing MELBOURNE at top with arcs each side, and numeral 1 with sloping serif at base. The date in centre is SEP 9, without year. The only example seen of this



Type 1 Sub-type A



Type 1 Sub-type B



Type 1 Sub-type C



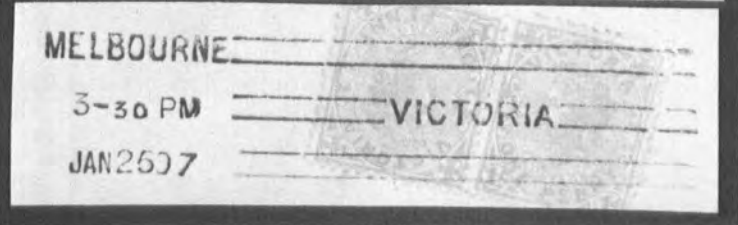
Type 1a



Type 2



Type 3



Type 3a

cancellation is as a backstamp on a 1901 postcard, which may indicate experimental usage. (Illustrated).

Sub-type B. VICTORIA in 4mm letters between sets of wavy lines, with vertical bars above and below R of VICTORIA. Flag 48mm long, with flagpole close up at left. 23mm c.d.s. containing MELBOURNE at top with arcs each side, and numeral 1 with sloping serif at base. The date in centre includes time and year. In use 1902-03. (Illustrated).

Sub-type C. Flag 56mm long, without vertical bars or flagpole. 23mm c.d.s. as before but with dot only between the arcs at base instead of numeral. In use 1903. (Illustrated).

Sub-type D. Flag 58mm long. VICTORIA in 3mm letters, with 5mm bars on flag above and below space between O and R of VICTORIA. 23mm c.d.s. as before but with numeral 1 at base with straight serif.

Type 1a

23mm c.d.s. containing SYDNEY or BRISBANE, date, time and year, and numeral at base. The wavy lines are in three sections with a total length of 60mm. The sections are divided by pairs of vertical lines 16mm high, and resembles three flags and two flagpoles. The State name is inserted in the centre section. (Illustrated).

Type 2

23mm c.d.s. containing MELBOURNE and date, time and year. Six wavy lines in three sections. In the centre section VICTORIA, 6mm high, is inserted at the third and fourth lines. (Illustrated).

Type 2a

As Type 2 but the c.d.s. is 24mm, and VICTORIA is 5mm high.

Type 3

24mm c.d.s. containing PERTH, date, time and year. Seven lines 3mm apart and 66mm long. WESTERN AUSTRALIA inset at fourth line. (Illustrated). Another type is noted in the Western Australia handbook with two arcs at the base of the c.d.s.

Type 3a

Unframed datestamp reading MELBOURNE/time/date. Three pairs of lines, each pair 4mm apart, total length 62mm. VICTORIA inset in central pair of lines. (Illustrated). This type is also seen on mail from London.

In 1907 continuous roller type machines were brought into use and several experimental types were tried.

With this type the operator fed the letters into a trough, they were picked up by the roller and passed through the machine picking up the cancellation on the way so that a letter could have several impressions.

The continuous roller machines have been classified as follows:

Type 4

Six lines 3.5mm apart. 21mm single circle containing MELBOURNE, date, time and year at 60mm intervals. (Illustrated).

Type 5

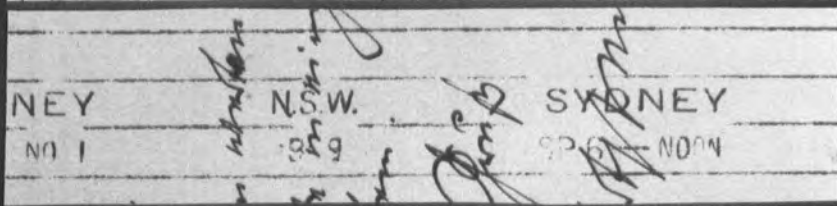
Six lines 3mm apart. MELBOURNE, date and time between the third and sixth lines at 37mm intervals. In use 1907.

Type 6

Six lines 3mm apart. SYDNEY N.S.W., date and time between fourth and sixth lines. Numeral 2 above 1907 at 26mm intervals.



Type 4



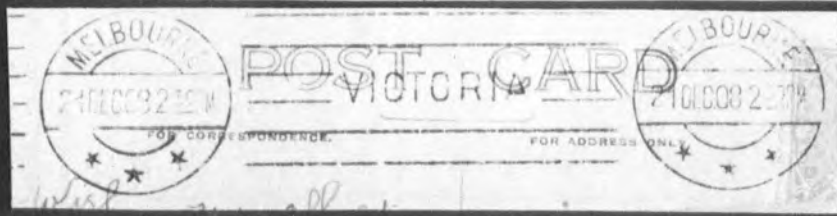
Type 7



Type 10



Type 12



Type 13



Type 13



Type 16a

Type 7

Four lines 6mm apart. SYDNEY, date and time between the second and fourth lines. N.S.W. over year (1908, 1909, 1910) at 23mm intervals. (Illustrated).

Type 8

Six lines 2.5mm apart. ADELAIDE, time, date, and 1908 covering top to bottom line at 44mm intervals.

Type 9

Six lines 4mm apart. ADELAIDE, date and time between third and sixth lines. ADELAIDE to ADELAIDE distance 73mm, with S.A./1910 between.

Type 10

Six lines 4mm apart. MELBOURNE, date and time between third and sixth lines. MELBOURNE to MELBOURNE distance 55mm, with VICT./1908 between.

Type 10a

As Type 10 but smaller lettering, and MELBOURNE to MELBOURNE distance 57mm. (Illustrated).

Type 11

Four lines 6mm apart. MELBOURNE, date and time between third and fourth lines. In between is VIC./1910.

Type 12

Six lines 3mm apart. 25mm single circle containing MELBOURNE, date, time and year (1910). VICTORIA between third and fourth lines 15mm from c.d.s. (Illustrated).

The Western Australia handbook lists a scarce type for Perth used in 1910.

The "Krag" type cancel, characterised by double circle datestamps, came into use in the eastern States in 1908, and it became the standard type for all States in the Commonwealth. In the initial stages it differed in each State. Some of these differences are set out below.

Type 13

25mm c.d.s. MELBOURNE in top half. Date, year and time between centre lines. Three stars in lower half. Six lines, with VICTORIA inset at the third and fourth lines. Distance between c.d.s.'s 53mm. (Illustrated). This type has also been seen for Toowoomba, and for Hobart, which is a sub-type with only four lines (illustrated).

Type 13a

23mm c.d.s. BRISBANE in top half. Date, year and time between centre lines. QUEENSLAND in lower half. Six lines 4mm apart, with QUEENSLAND inset at third and fourth lines. Distance between c.d.s.'s 52mm.

Type 14

25mm c.d.s. HOBART in top half. Date, time and year between centre lines. TASMANIA in lower half. Four lines 6mm apart, without State name inset. Distance between c.d.s.'s 53mm.

Type 15

24mm c.d.s. PERTH in top half. Date, time and year between centre lines. W.A. in lower half. Four lines 4mm apart, with open space between filled with WESTERN AUSTRALIA. Distance between c.d.s.'s 53mm.

Type 16

25mm c.d.s. MELBOURNE in top half. Date, time and year between centre lines. Two stars on each side of a numeral 2 in the lower half. Six lines 4mm apart, with VICTORIA inset at the third and fourth lines.

Type 16a

As Type 16, but the six lines are composed of a series of 4mm bars forming dotted lines. (Illustrated).

What I believe to be the first type of slogan was in fact a message from the Government of the day, to the troops of the First World War, via the Post Office. In a Melbourne "Krag" cancel (Type 16) each alternate VICTORIA was removed and A. I. FORCES/POSTAGE FREE inserted (see illustration). The only date seen is 14 MAR 15.



The first slogan. (Reproduced by courtesy of Mr. J. Tyler.)

This early type was followed two years later by the complete eradication of the State name and the insertion of other wartime messages between the c.d.s.'s (HELP WIN THE WAR/BUY WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATES; INVEST IN THE/7TH WAR LOAN; FINISH THE JOB/BUY PEACE BONDS). The centre portion of the c.d.s. was reduced to give a large date line space, and in the lower portion there were only two stars.

EDITORIAL NOTES

R.P.S.V. Library

Recent accessions to the Society's library include:

- Australia Christmas 1974* by D. McCleary.
- Commonwealth of Australia King George V Check List* by the British Society of Australian Philately.
- The Netherlands 1852 5 Cent Plates I-VI* by G. C. van Balen Blanken, B. Buurman and J. Poulic (six volumes).
- Classic Mauritius* by H. Kanai.
- Picton's Priced Postcard Catalogue and Handbook 1981* by R. Mead, J. Venman and Dr. J. T. Whitney (presented by K. Scudder).
- Postmarks of the Date Impression Books. Post Office Records. Section 1* by W. R. and H. Wellsted.

Hyderabad Philatelic History by Dr. M. A. Nayeem.

Local Publicity Slogan Postmarks by C. R. H. Parsons, C. G. Peachey and G. R. Pearson (presented by G. Kellow).

Handbook of Irish Postal History to 1840 by D. Feldman and W. Kane.

Franks of Western Expresses by M. C. Nathan.

Postal Forgeries of the World by H. G. L. Fletcher.

Specimen Stamps and Stationery of Great Britain by M. Samuel and A. Huggins.

All books reviewed in *P. from A.* are also placed in the library.

Nearly all books in the library, including those listed above, are available for borrowing by country and interstate members, postage both ways being paid by the borrower.

QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER POSTAL MARKINGS: NEW REPORTS AND DISCOVERIES

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

My article in the December 1980 and March 1981 issues was actually written before I departed for overseas in April last year, so that this one covers information gathered in Britain, or discoveries made by myself or my collaborators in the meantime.

One discovery, or re-discovery, makes an interesting story. In his monograph, *Queensland Numeral Cancellations*, on which Part I of my book is based, the late Capt. Harry Porter illustrated some numeral cancellers — the actual instruments, not merely strikes from them. Porter gave no indication where he came across them, and does not say in whose possession they then were (1954). About the middle of 1979, Mr. Jim Lightfoot, who is in charge of the Postal Museum in Brisbane, was offered a number of numeral obliterations by a gentleman living near Toowoomba, who had discovered them in a box of odds and ends he had bought at auction. To cut a long story short, the numeral cancellers, and also some circular date-stamps, a circular Railway canceller and a Crown Seal, were acquired by the Postal Museum, and late last year Mr. Mort Stevens sent me photocopies of strikes from them. Some time later, looking up Porter in pursuit of another vein of thought, I was surprised to find that the cancellers acquired by the Postal Museum were precisely those illustrated by Porter! Unfortunately, there is no indication of the post offices that had used these obliterations (there is obviously no relation with the date-stamps acquired at the same time); this would have been useful, as some of them have not been "tied", and one of them, No. 296, has not been recorded either on stamp or cover. The list of obliterations, in numerical order, and the last post office known to have used them, is:

34 ?	247 ?
83 COPPERFIELD	253 TOOGOOLAWAH
87 (Type 2a) IPSWICH	296 ?
87 (Type 1f) IPSWICH	450 URANDANGIE
212 RAVENSWOOD JUNCTION	587 INNOT HOT SPRINGS
(now MINGELA)	622 MACKNADE

The known "ties" cover a wide range of country, so it is not possible to say that the "unknowns" must have been situated in a particular area.

Other fascinating discoveries have been made by Mr. Perc Meara in connection with the Railway parcels obliterations. As a result, Chapter VIII on the Railway Station Post Offices should really be completely re-written, but I shall try to summarise the new information here.

Railway parcels stamps were first issued in 1875, with a second issue in 1888; so far as I know, numeral obliterations were not used on these issues. In 1891 new arrangements were made, and from then until 1901 Railway stamps were used only in connection with newspapers, and I believe that the cancellers with a numeral in three concentric circles came into use. At all events, such cancellations can be found on the impressed ½d stamps on newspaper wrappers of the period, and on the 1894-1900 Railway stamps. In 1901 it was recommended that Railway stamps be used on parcels, and a new issue was made. It was suggested that these be cancelled with numeral obliterations similar to the current postal obliterations (the 10-bar type), and

on 6/1/02 100 of these were despatched to those stations having the largest volume of parcels traffic, according to the following list:

Copy of List attached to Requisition dated 4th Dec. 1901, ordering obliterating stamps:

No. Station.	No. Station.	No. Station.
1. Brisbane (2)	54. Spring Bluff	331. Wallangarra
1R. Roma Street	55. Toowoomba	332. Morven
4. Bowen Hills	58. Gowrie Junction	343. Boonah
5. Mayne	62. Cambooya	344. Dugandan
6. Albion	63. Greenmount	349. Bundaberg
7. Wooloowin	65. Clifton	356. Pittsworth
8. Eagle Junction	68. Hendon	375. Bald Hills
9. Clayfield	71. Warwick	376. Strathpine
10. Ascot	75. Dalveen	377. Northpine
11. Nundah	77. Stanthorpe	378. Charleville
12. Nudgee	78. Gowrie	393. Beaudesert
14. Sandgate	79. Oakey	397. Caboolture
15. Milton	80. Jondaryan	432. Southport
16. Toowong	83. Dalby	455. Monkland
17. Taringa	84. Macalister	458. Cooran
18. Indooroopilly	85. Warra	463. Nashville
20. Sherwood	86. Chinchilla	466. Nerang
21. Oxley	87. Miles	480. Cleveland
24. Goodna	91. Yeulba	500. Brunswick Street
25. Redbank	92. Wallumbilla	505. Palmwoods
27. Bundamba	94. Roma	506. Woombye
28. Booval	95. Toolburra	507. Nambour
30. Ipswich	97. Meringandan	520. South Brisbane
39. Peak Crossing	100. Mitchell	521. Park Road
41. Harrisville	107. Swan Creek	525. Bundaberg North
43. Walloon	109. Yangan	561. Gladstone
44. Rosewood	110. Emu Vale	568. Pialba
48. Laidley	116. Corinda	571. Allora
49. Forest Hill	120. Maryborough	572. Pinkenba
50. Gatton	140. Gympie	577. Sandgate Central
51. Grantham	157. Beenleigh	579. Wyandra
52. Helidon	301. Esk	597. Enoggera
53. Murphy's Creek	318. Kilkivan	609. Cunnamulla

A further 35 stations at least were supplied between September 1903 and August 1907; other stations used manuscript cancellations. The trouble with this arrangement was that about half the stations on the 1902 list also served as post offices, and the postal numeral was different from the Railway one, but the two obliterators were similar. It is not surprising that we find a number of the Railway ones used for postal purposes. This was probably the reason for the change to an obliterator of rectangular shape, with the numeral in a series of vertical bars, which was thenceforth used for the Railway obliterators. Mr. Meara has been unable to trace the exact reason for the change, or the date when it occurred.

Mr. Meara was also fortunate enough to find in the Railway Department a box of handstamps; some of these were rectangular obliterators, while others were seals used at various stations. However, there were also some postal-type obliterators; some of these belonged to the batch of 100 issued to stations in 1902, while others were obviously postal obliterators, of various types. These evidently came from Railway Station post offices. The numbers found were:

"Ray" type (postal): 113.

9-bar type (postal): 242, 364, 648, 667, 721, 726.

10-bar type (postal): 499.

10-bar type (railway): 5, 14, 39, 95, 107, 157, 432.

That new "ties" and unrecorded numerals should turn up from time to time is only to be expected, likewise new dates, and in the case of Brisbane, new code letters and figures, but at this late date that an entirely new Brisbane date-stamp, a previously unrecorded T.P.O. marking, two previously unknown instructional markings, and machine "PAID" markings should all turn up since the last article was written is to say the least surprising. The full list of new discoveries, with references to the page in the book (and later articles where appropriate) is as follows:

Chapter III

- P. 11. In the list of duplex cancellations, after '(2) Charters Towers (a) 165 3X May/93', add '-Feb./94'.
- P. 12. After 'red' at the top of the page, add '138' and '148 ("ray" type)'. In the third last line, Nos. 48 and 53 should be added to the list of cancellers in Type 2b made for railway purposes, but sometimes found cancelling postage stamps. On page 10 of the book I mentioned Porter's reference to No. 568 used at Pialba in the bar type. I discounted this, then believing it to be a misreading, but Porter was probably right, as 568 was Pialba's Railway number, and it appears in the list of bar-type obliterations issued to stations in 1902.
- P. 14. In the second column, after '62', delete the brackets round '1c' and add '(5½)', and after '78', delete the brackets round '1f'.
- P. 15. In the third column, after '253 2a', add '(7½)'.
- P. 16. In the first column, after '296 (2a)' add '(7)', and after '310', delete the brackets round '2a', and in the second column, after '356' delete the brackets round '2a' and in the third column, after '364 (2a)' add '(6½)'.
- P. 17. In the first column, after '408' delete the brackets round '2a'.
- P. 18. In the third column, after '667 (2a)' add '(7)'.
- P. 19. In the first column, after '680' delete the brackets round '2a'; in the third column, after '721 (2a)' add '(7½)', after '724' alter the notation to '2a (7)', and after '726 (2a)' add '(7)'.
- P. 20. (and December 1980, p. 99). From the list of NNS, delete '78', '310', '356', '408', '680', and add to the list of RRRR; also in the latter alter '645' to '648' (typographical error in December).
 From the list of RRR, delete '594', '616', '701'.
 From the list of RR, delete '62', '157', '164', '352', '427', '471', '495', '538', '614'; and add '616', '701'.
 From the list of R, delete '183', and add '157', '164', '352', '427', '471', '495', '538', '614'.
 To the list of common, add '62', '183', '594'.

Chapter IV

- PP. 23-4. The entries for PORT DENISON and BOWEN should be combined, as both used No. 29.
- P. 33. Before EMERALD, add '309'.
- P. 37. 393 CUMBERLAND. As Cumberland still used No. 393 after re-opening, the entry on p. 44 is unnecessary.
- P. 43. Before INNOT HOT SPRINGS, add '587'.
- P. 47. Before MOUNT LARCOM, add '701', and in the Remarks column add "Datestamp reads 'MT. LARCOM'."
- P. 48. Before MUNGALLALA, add '724'.

(To be continued)

PRE-FEDERATION PROPOSAL FOR COMMONWEALTH STAMPS

The permanent heads of the Post and Telegraph Departments met at the Post and Telegraph Conference, Sydney, in November and December 1900 to discuss matters involved in the transfer of the State Departments to the future Commonwealth Government.

Mr. P. Collas has sent a copy of the sections of the Conference Report relating to stamps:

8. SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE POSTAGE STAMPS

Several suggestions respecting the issue of Federal Postage Stamps have been made, and one proposal was that a special set of postage stamps would be issued, the design of which should be symbolical of the birth of the Commonwealth; that these stamps should be procurable for a period of, say three months, and the proceeds from their sale, or a portion thereof, be devoted towards the establishment of a Public Institution, such as a Hospital in the Federal City.

We beg to point out that under the Washington Convention, so-called commemorative postage stamps of temporary validity, such as those for hospital purposes, could not be used for correspondence outside the Colony of origin, and in our opinion there are obvious financial difficulties in the way of issuing Federal Postage Stamps before the transfer of the Postal Departments to the Government of the Commonwealth.

9. PRINTING OF COMMONWEALTH POSTAGE STAMPS

We are of opinion that the Commonwealth Postage Stamps should be printed in the Commonwealth, by, within, and under the control of the Federal Postal Department.

10. ISSUE OF A NEW HALF-PENNY STAMP

We recommend for the favourable consideration of our Ministers the issue of a new half-penny postage stamp in each Colony to commemorate the contemplated visit of His Royal Highness the Duke of York to Australia; and that the design of the postage stamp be a bust of the Duke of York.

11. POSTAGE STAMPS AND POSTAL NOTES

We recommend (1) that, pending the introduction of special postage stamps and postal notes upon the transfer of the Post Offices to the Federal Government, all postage stamps and postal notes of the Federating Colonies be valid within any part of the Commonwealth; and (2) that all such postage stamps and postal notes be over-printed with the letters "A.C." (Australian Commonwealth).

17. DUTY STAMP BUSINESS

Postage stamps are, in New South Wales, available for duty stamp purposes; whilst in Victoria and certain other colonies, revenue stamps are valid for the pre-payment of postage; and in most other colonies postmasters sell duty stamps. We desire to point out that, as the Stamp Duty Department will not be under the Federal Government, it will be necessary to have special legislation to prevent the use of any but postage stamps for postal purposes, or postage stamps for duty purposes; and we recommend that, as in the case of the Savings Banks, the several State Governments might make arrangements with the Federal Postmaster-General for the use of the Post Office as an agent for the transaction of duty and revenue stamp business, on such uniform terms and conditions as may be agreed upon.

[By proclamation dated 12 February 1901, published in the *Commonwealth of Australia Gazette*, No. 8, 14 February 1901, "the Departments of Posts, Telegraphs, and Telephones of each State shall be transferred to the Commonwealth" on 1 March 1901.]

THE FRANK STAMPS OF VICTORIA 1864-1902

By G. N. KELLOW

Based on the researches of Mr. J. R. W. Purves, and the Rundell extracts of P.O. Records.

The frank stamps of Victoria are an important phase in the postal history of the State. They represent Victoria's answer to a problem faced by many postal administrations in the mid-19th century — the misuse of postage stamps provided for official government business by individuals for private purposes — and are the equivalent of South Australia's famous Departmental stamps. Thirty-three government departments or other privileged persons were issued with these franks. From their introduction in 1864 till 1888 the impressions were handstamped, and these are most properly classified as "official paid" markings (just like the Tasmanian and Western Australian franks). From 1888, however, departments could requisition printed franks on departmental envelopes from the Government Printing Office. These are postal stationery in every sense of the term, and are best described as stamped-to-order official issues. Nineteen departments availed themselves of this service.

Impressions were originally struck in blue, but later shades of red, shades of violet, and black ink was used. For many departments more than one type (die) of frank was used. The same die often exists both handstamped and printed. The printed impressions were made from electros, and characteristic flaws demonstrate that a large number of electros were used in some instances (for example, about 40 in the case of the Chief Secretary).

The present article is a survey of all previously published information on this subject, together with a large amount of new and important work found amongst the papers of Mr. J. R. W. Purves. This consists of the following:

(a) Notes made by Mr. Purves himself, particularly with regard to dies, colours and periods of use.

(b) Notes and correspondence from Rev. J. C. W. Brown, an authority on Victorian postal stationery, and compiler of the listing in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia.

(c) Extracts from the official records of the Victorian Post Office, and notes compiled from these, made by Mr. W. R. Rundell.

The part played by the present author has been no more than the amalgamation of all this information into a continuous narrative.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FRANKING SYSTEM

The introduction of frank stamps was provided for under the Post Office Statute 1864, 27th Vict. No. 226, Section 14:

The Postmaster-General shall cause to be made for the use of every responsible Minister of the Crown a stamp to be called a "frank stamp", with the title of such Minister thereon, and also frank stamps with an appropriate title for the officers in command of any portion of Her Majesty's land and sea forces, and the officers of Her Majesty's ordnance or commissariat respectively, and every letter and packet "On Her Majesty's Service", and so described on the outside thereon if attested by the signature of the Governor, or impressed with a frank stamp not obliterated or defaced, shall for the purposes of this Act be deemed to be contained in an official envelope or cover (as the case may be) and shall be exempt from postage.

The Act was passed on June 2nd, 1864, to come into effect August 2nd, 1864.

For the earliest mention of frank stamps, however, we must go back several months to a minute from the Postmaster-General (the Hon. Thomas Howard Fellows) dated March 17th, 1864:

The practice of using postage stamps on letters from this office appears to me to be unnecessary and not required by the Acts in force. It may be necessary to check the unauthorized transmission of letters and that may be done by an "official stamp". For this purpose a stamp should be made which will save postage stamps and serve also as a pattern for a "frank stamp" (if the new Bill passes) for the other offices.

17/3/64

G.P.O.

T.H.F.

Appended to this minute was a drawing of the proposed stamp — a circle containing a crown with "FRANKED" above, and "Victoria/Postmaster-General" in two lines below.

Next comes a minute from Mr. W. Turner (the Secretary of the P.O.):

A stamp with the above words (i.e., those on the drawing — GNK.) on it to be made and the Imperial Crown in the centre. The Chief Secretary is of the opinion that the stamp should not be used until after the New Postal Bill about to be brought in is passed.

W.T. 13/4/64

The pattern stamp was made by the firm of de Gruchy and Co., for which service they were paid £3.

The Stores Requisition Book under date June 28th, 1864 records the requisitioning of the frank stamps:

Steel Frank Stamp, one for each responsible Minister, and one each for Officers Commanding H.M. Forces, The Commissariat, and Col. Commandant, and Officer Commanding Royal Artillery.

A further entry on July 19th, 1864 adds a frank stamp for the Officer Commanding H.M. Sea Forces.

Meanwhile, on July 11th a circular was sent to all Postmasters advising the introduction of frank stamps and bearing an impression in blue. On July 19th a letter was sent to all departments, covering despatch of the frank stamps:

I have the honour by direction of the Chief Secretary to forward herewith a frank stamp with the title of your Office for stamping the envelopes or covers of letters or packets "On Her Majesty's Service" to be exempt from postage under 14th Clause of 27th Vict. No. 226 to come into operation on 2nd proximo.

An impression of the stamp is made in the margin with mazarine blue printing ink, and I would suggest that ink of a similar kind be used in your Department.

The stamp when clogged can be cleaned by the application of common soda.

I beg that you will forward an acknowledgement of the receipt of the stamp at your earliest convenience.

(Sgd.) Wm. Turner

No correspondence can be found concerning the manufacture of the frank stamps, but the contractor was apparently Mr. G. T. Leverett (who at that time was also producing the barred numeral obliterators). On October 18th, 1864 he wrote requesting the return of the frank stamps for the purpose of having the temporary handles removed and replaced by the ivory handles originally ordered. On October 24th Ministers were asked to return their stamps and a minute of November 11th, 1864 notes that "ivory handles have now been put to all the Frank Stamps."

A letter from the Secretary of the Post Office to the Attorney-General on July 26th, 1864 announces the date of introduction of the franking system: "... Franking of letters under 14th Clause of the 27th Vict. No. 226 will come into operation on 3rd August next."

Finally, a Circular issued by the Treasury, dated July 30th, 1864 instructed departments as follows:

... on receipt of your first supply of stamped envelopes you will at once return to the P.O. (under cover of a letter of advice) the stock of stamps then on hand to be credited to your account and advise the Treasurer that you have done so.

No list of the original allocation of frank stamps is available, but the Stores Requisition Book entry of July 19th, 1864, together with the evidence of dated copies, makes it quite certain that the original issue consisted of fourteen frank stamps, as follows:

Attorney-General
 Chief Secretary
 Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey
 Minister of Justice
 Minister of Mines
 Postmaster-General
 Commissioner of Public Works
 Commissioner of Railways and Roads
 Treasurer
 Commander of H.M. Land Forces
 Commander of H.M. Sea Forces
 Commissariat Staff
 Officer Commanding Royal Artillery
 Colonel Commandant of Volunteers.

The subsequent changes to this list will be considered under the individual departments.

The first mention of frank stamps in philatelic literature was in *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* of February 1865, p. 29, when a correspondent reported and described the frank stamps of the Chief Secretary, the Commissioner of Trade and Customs, and the Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey. Later the same year (November 1865, p. 168) several other departments were reported.

USERS

The original 1864 allocation, we have seen, was to the nine government ministries plus five for various military personnel — a total of fourteen. The inscriptions on the frank stamps were varied as the title of the ministers or their departments altered, and as new ministries were created.

Additionally, amendments were made to the 1864 Act to provide for the following:

1. By Act No. 781, section 45, provision was made for a frank stamp for the use of the Governor. This amendment came into force on January 1st, 1884. The 1864 Act required only the signature of the Governor on letters to permit their free carriage. However, a handstamp inscribed "FRANK STAMP" is recorded for the Governor from as early as 1874, and the Stores Ledger for 1865 records the provision of such a frank stamp. The 1884 amendment may have been the correction of an oversight when it was realised that the Governor's frank stamp was not provided for under the 1864 Act.

2. By Act No. 1042, section 7, The President of the Legislative Council and The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly were provided with frank stamps. This amendment came into force on January 1st, 1890.

After the Commonwealth was formed the Governor-General was also provided with a frank stamp. (This was, of course, additional, and not in place of, the Governor's stamp). This frank stamp has received some publicity as the first Commonwealth stamp (*Australian Stamp Monthly*, May 1967, pp. 33, 35; July 1967,

p. 25) and indeed it is inscribed "AUSTRALIA" and not "VICTORIA". However, it was undoubtedly, from its pattern, manufactured in Victoria and used under the provisions of Victorian postal legislation, and should be classed with the Victorian franks. It is unique in that it was used outside Victoria, at least one cover from Sydney being known, even though New South Wales never used or authorised frank stamps. The handstamp must have accompanied the Governor-General around the country. Like all other frank stamps its use was discontinued after October 31st, 1902.

The Royal Mint, Melbourne, was supplied with a frank stamp at least by 1898. This was not a department under a minister and no authorisation for its usage can be found, although this may have been done. It was the only sub-department to be issued with a frank stamp. The Royal Mint was the responsibility of the Treasurer.

Published listings of frank stamps include entries which are no longer recognised as frank stamps. The main point to remember is that, while there are minor variations in design, all frank stamps contain the words "FRANK STAMP" and the Royal Arms. Similar impressions used by some offices to indicate the origin of letters were sometimes inadvertently postmarked by the post office, and this has led to their misidentification by collectors. These "frank stamp-like" impressions are:

1. Government Printer/John Ferres. This appears in all published listings, including the most recent one by Higgins and Gage. The Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia indicates its doubtful status. The Rev. J. C. W. Brown had no doubts it was not a frank stamp, for the following reasons:

(a) There is no statutory authorisation for its use (which, as we have seen, is the case for every other frank except Royal Mint).

(b) In the J. R. W. Purves collection are three used wrappers (dates 21.1.1871, 4.10.1875 and 6.1.1885) for posting the Government Gazettes which show the Government Printer "frank" (at left, instead of the normal position for frank stamps at top right). In Rundell's extracts is an 1872 Return showing the frank stamps issued to that time. This does not include the Government Printer "frank", even though one of the wrappers is dated 1871. There is no other frank stamp on these wrappers, but it is believed that the Government Gazette needed no stamp to pass through the post.

(c) The impression is inscribed "GOVERNMENT PRINTER" in a curved line at top, enclosing "JOHN FERRES" in two lines below. It has no Royal Arms and does not contain the words "FRANK STAMP". It is printed in blue, well before printed franks were introduced in 1888.

(d) The Government Printer was part of the Treasury, and would have had no need of a frank stamp of his own. There are wrappers known used for the posting of Parliamentary Debates and Parliamentary Papers in 1897-8, which would have been despatched by the Government Printer, and these bear the frank stamp of the Treasurer.

This "frank" was simply John Ferres' imprint, mistaken by postal officials for a frank. Its non-postal status was correctly identified as early as 1865 when *The Stamp Collector's Magazine* for February 1865, p. 29, called it a "trade advertisement."

2. Curator of the Estates of Deceased Persons. This is listed in the 1897 Stanley Gibbons catalogue. This is a personal handstamp and was in fact in use prior (at least by 1863) to the introduction of frank stamps. It is sometimes found cancelled inadvertently. The Curator was part of the Treasury.

3. Distilleries and Excise. This is listed by Stanley Gibbons in their 1897 and 1900 postal stationery catalogues. It is another office of origin handstamp, and any mail would have received the frank of the Department of Trade and Customs.

In Rundell's extracts there is an entry of August 23rd, 1864, stating that "the Chief Commissioner of Police was informed that a Frank Stamp would be furnished him in

a few days." No such frank stamp is known, and the stamp referred to must have been inscribed "CHIEF SECRETARY", who was responsible for the police force.

These deletions leave thirty-three departments or persons for which there is archival or philatelic evidence of the use of frank stamps:

1. Department of Agriculture
2. Attorney-General
3. Chief Secretary
4. Colonel Commandant of Volunteers
5. Commander of H.M. Land Forces
7. Commander of H.M. Sea Forces
8. Commissariat Staff
9. Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey
10. Minister of Defence
11. Governor of Victoria
12. Governor-General
13. Minister of Health
14. Minister of Justice
15. Minister of Lands and Agriculture
16. Minister of Lands and Survey
17. Minister of Mines
18. Officer Commanding Royal Artillery
19. Postmaster-General
20. The President, Legislative Council
21. Minister of Public Instruction
22. Commissioner of Public Works
23. Department of Public Works
24. Commissioner of Railways
25. Minister of Railways
26. Commissioner of Railways and Roads
27. Royal Mint, Melbourne
28. Solicitor-General
29. The Speaker
30. Commissioner of Trade and Customs
31. Department of Trade and Customs
32. The Treasurer
33. Minister of Water Supply

USAGE

No list of regulations concerning the usage of frank stamps has been found. The 1864 Act says that franked covers were "exempt from postage" and this would seem to infer that both internal and external mail was carried free. A letter from a Prof. Frederick McCoy on August 6th, 1864, enquired whether franked envelopes were available to places beyond the Colony, but unfortunately Rundell could not find the reply.

The question of the postal rates paid for by frank stamps was also raised by Mr. L. G. Shepard in *The Australasian Informer*, May 1975, pp. 49, 52-53. He gives details of four covers bearing the Postmaster-General's frank. An internal cover of 1888 is fully paid. Three external covers, however, show varying treatments. An 1898 cover to New York is fully paid; a 1901 registered cover to New York has ½d. and 5d. stamps added; and a 1901 registered cover to New Zealand is fully paid. Mr. Shepard's

explanation of the 1901 cover to New York is that the added adhesives pay the 3d. registration fee plus 2½d. for the second half oz. of an overweight letter to U.S.A. Thus the frank stamp paid only 2½d., for the single rate charge to U.S.A. But why was registration of the New Zealand cover apparently paid by the frank stamp? Details of any other stamped franked covers would be appreciated.

The only official information on the usage of frank stamps was found by Rundell in P.O. Circular 88/8 of October 31st, 1888, and concerned weight limits on franked mail:

From this date the use of the Frank Stamps is limited to Letters not exceeding 16 oz., Packets 16 oz., Books 3 lbs.

The 1864 Act provided that frank stamps must be impressed on envelopes bearing the inscription "On Her Majesty's Service". These printed envelopes (and in some cases postcards and wrappers) were produced for each department, and come in a wide variety of sizes, colours and inscriptions. The inscriptions provide an indication of the various persons and offices within each department but have no postal status whatever, since their production, while undertaken by the Government Printing Office, was under the control of each department and not the Post Office. The different envelopes, and the different coloured papers on which frank stamps occur, are therefore considered outside the scope of this article.

The introduction of frank stamps did not entirely put an end to the mis-use of departmental postal privileges. The following warning to public servants was published in Government Gazette No. 6 of 1881:

Persons are hereby cautioned against the improper use of Frank-stamped envelopes.

Any person who knowingly and fraudulently posts, with a "frank stamp", any letter, packet, or newspaper not on Her Majesty's service, is liable, on conviction, to a penalty of not less than 5.

G. D. LANGRIDGE,
Acting Postmaster-General.

Following Federation each State continued its own system of official mail. These various systems were standardised by the Post and Telegraph Rates Act of 1902, which came into force on November 1st, 1902. This discontinued the use of frank stamps and called for their substitution by stamps with official punctures. The last day of legitimate use of frank stamps was therefore October 31st, 1902.

However, not every frank stamp was immediately returned. In *The Australasian Informer*, June 1969, pp. 74, 76, Mr. L. G. Shepard described a 1904 cover from Rutherglen with the Minister of Mines frank in black. The cover has been (properly) taxed 2d. and has a 1d. postage due affixed.

(To be continued)

EDITORIAL NOTES

Kindness Begets Kindness

The late Lieut.-Colonel John Walton, of Melbourne, a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, corresponded with Mr. C. Jackson Selsor, F.R.G.S., of San Diego, U.S.A.

Now, Mr. Selsor has sent a study containing complete sets of the genuine and three types of forgeries of the British North Borneo 1888-92 issue to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria for its forgery collection "in memory of our mutual friend John Walton, from whom I learned so much."

The gift will undoubtedly help many collectors of this issue, as some of the forgeries are most inviting — and deceiving, as Mr Selsor remarks that most of them are sold as genuine every day.

The study covers the Careme, Fournier, and Third Type forgeries, a total of 28 false stamps as well as the genuine set.

Philately from Australia is pleased to make public the Society's gratitude and thanks for such thoughtfulness.

BOOK REVIEWS

Postage Stamps and Postal History of Western Australia, Volume One, The De La Rue Printings, 1862-1900, Three Postmasters General 1847-1903, by Mogens Juhl, F.R.P.S.L. 104 pp. 14.5 x 21.5 cm. Obtainable from Svemo Trading Co Pty Ltd, 8A Clifton Street, East Balmain, 2047, New South Wales, \$12.75, including postage.

This book, attractively printed and produced, deserves attention from all readers of the 1979 Handbook, its 104 pages being the first study of this period undertaken, and a virtual re-write of the major part of Chapter 8 by a keen and observant student in the light of information located in the archives at the Battye Library, Perth, by Brian Pope in 1977.

While in no way detracting from the handbook, there is much to be said for the publication by a knowledgeable individual of new data, free from any committee restraint, inevitable in a compilation with a publication deadline.

Mr Juhl brings together all aspects of the work of De La Rue, perforated officials, perforation varieties, and the stationery, remainders, etc. right through to the end of the period. The flow of the stamps in all their usages makes easier reading than separate treatment, and follows careful study of a great deal of material of his own and others, taking into account the results of a detailed study of new postmarks coming into use in the period, as dated postmarks of most of the issues are surprisingly hard to locate.

The late Mr. A. F. Basset Hull was the first to research the archives in London, and wrote in *London Philatelist* in December 1944 at the age of 72, late in his busy philatelic life.

Mr Hull, a wise and experienced researcher, said in his final paragraph, "there is still much to be done — it is unlikely that all records of the Postal, Lithographic, Treasury, Audit and other departments — have been wholly and utterly destroyed". It was to be another 33 years before Brian Pope unearthed the data which made Mr Juhl's present work possible, and we are indeed fortunate that a philatelist of his stature applied his logical enquiring mind to the task and has placed at our disposal the results. The reviewer has not the material to evaluate all the conclusions reached, some of them being surprising.

There is a most interesting section dealing with the careers of the three postmasters of the period, and the author is proud to note that Mr Helmich was a fellow-Dane.

A supplement gives a reasonable estimate of the valuation which he feels should apply to each item.

The whole study should command the respect and attention of all users of the handbook, and all those who collect Western Australia at all seriously.

R. LLOYD-SMITH.

AUSIPEX 84, Bulletin 1, September 1981.

Edited by G. N. Kellow. 32 pp. 17.5 x 25 cm.

Published by AUSIPEX 84, Box 8484, G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic., 3001.

AUSIPEX 84, so much thought about and a little talked about, is now an entity. It has produced Bulletin 1, the first of four Bulletins which will lead up to the opening of the exhibition, three years in the future.

AUSIPEX (Australian International Philatelic Exhibition) 84 will be the first major philatelic exhibition in Melbourne since MIPEX 1963 — a break of 21 years.

It will coincide with Victoria's Sesquicentenary, and will be held in the historic Royal Exhibition Buildings, 21-30 September 1984.

The basic building was built by David Mitchell, Dame Nellie Melba's father, for the International Exhibition in 1880, the architect being Reed and Barnes, who also designed the Melbourne Town Hall. It was here that the Commonwealth Parliament was officially opened in 1901 by the Duke of York, later King George V, and it was the home of the recent CHOGM (Commonwealth Heads of Government, Melbourne) meeting.

The exhibition, held under the auspices of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, The Victorian Philatelic Association and other philatelic societies, the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council and the Australasian Stamp Dealers' Association, will be with the co-operation of Australia Post.

Bulletin 1 sets new standards for Australia for such a production with a beautiful four-colour cover.

The President of the Exhibition is Mr John Gartner, RDP, FRPSL, and Miss Myra Farley is the Executive Officer. They are two of Melbourne's best-known philatelists.

Mr Gartner has undertaken to visit every international exhibition in the world between

LONDON 80 and AUSIPEX 84, to study the organisation, and as this is written he is at PHILATOKYO.

The AUSIPEX logo, as the advertising fraternity calls it, but perhaps more happily the AUSIPEX symbol, is a happy design. It is in the form of a circular date-stamp, with an inner circle.

The central space has the map of Australia and flag, as on the 22c Australia Day 1981 stamp, in colour. Between outer and inner circles, Australia Post artists have put AUSIPEX 84 in heavy lettering at the top and MELBOURNE 21-30 SEPT at the bottom.

The result is both attractive and effective.

In the President's Message, Mr Gartner notes that it is the first Australian exhibition under Fédération Internationale de Philatélie auspices.

The Bulletin gives full details of a special supporters' group, The Aussie Club, and lists the first 34 Patrons and 105 Members.

It also lists other AUSIPEX souvenirs now available.

An appeal is made for donations towards the exhibition, particularly for meeting the early expenses, and for donations of stamps for the two auctions a year that are planned.

But Bulletin 1 is not occupied solely with AUSIPEX 84 matters. It includes some articles of lasting value and interest. Mr D. N. Baker has written on "Early Settlement and Postal Development in Victoria, 1837-50", with little-known pictures; Mr P. Collas, FRPSL, links past, present and future with "Australian Philately — Where is it Going?"; and there are other articles on previous philatelic exhibitions in Melbourne and the 150th anniversary of settlement in Victoria.

The international aspect of AUSIPEX is emphasised by articles on the exhibition in French and German.

Donations of money and stamps, applications for membership of The Aussie Club, and for souvenirs, should be made to The Executive Officer, Box 8484, G.P.O. Melbourne, Vic., 3001.

H.L.C.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

U.S.A. Specialists' Society

The display for the August meeting was provided by eight members of the U.S.A. Specialists' Society, and demonstrated the many and varied aspects of American philately. The sheets were introduced by the Society's President, Miss Barbara Nielsen.

The first topic was Confederate States postal history. One of the most interesting covers was a stampless one from Milledgeville with a patriotic seal inscribed "NOW'S THE HOUR".

Three of the exhibitors covered various aspects of the stamp issues. Amongst the items displayed were a set of plate proofs in colour of the 1869 issue, and a study of the shades of the same issue. The Columbus set was shown used, and the Pan American Exposition issue was also covered. The famous error of the 5c cliché in the 2c plate was shown in a block of 6.

The unusual were also in evidence. These "sidelines" included a comprehensive display of precancels, newspaper stamp proofs, Post Office Seals, and carrier and local stamps.

Airmails were represented by a display of zeppelin covers, which included the 1930 set mint and on cover.

A totally different approach was a thematic exhibit portraying the naval history of the United States with stamps.

Nauru and British Solomon Islands

The stamps of Nauru and the British Solomon

Islands were the subject of the September display provided by Mr. J. Taylor.

The display of Nauru consisted largely of a detailed study of the Great Britain overprints.

The major overprint plate variety, "NAUP,U", was shown on nearly all the values on which it occurs, and the minor overprint varieties were also well represented.

The well-known double opt., one albino errors on the low values were represented by a mint block of six of the ½d, and single copies of the 4d and 5d.

The different printings of the high value Seahorses were shown, including mint copies of the two key stamps of Nauru, the 5/- and 10/- Waterlow printings. A copy of the 2/6 with double opt., one albino was also shown.

Mr. Taylor also included covers bearing the overprinted stamps. One bore a strip of five of the 1d.

The smaller display of the British Solomon Islands concentrated on the King George V issues, and included the high values and SPECIMEN sets.

Pacific Islands

Mr D. H. M. Clarke travelled from Colac to provide a varied display from his extensive collection of Pacific Islands for the first October meeting.

From Christmas Island came examples of the local stamps, including scarce covers.

Cook Islands was represented by a display of the Queen Makea postal stationery, and a number of commercially used pieces were shown.

Tonga included examples of the official franks on cover, and plate varieties, amongst which were mint blocks showing the no hyphen on the 1897 1/-, and the 1889 error on the 1899 Wedding overprint.

The Australian territories were well represented. The Norfolk Island included the very rare 72 numeral obliterator on the Tasmania 4d Octagonal. The sheets of Nauru covered the use of the NWPI overprints, a range of Seahorse overprints, and a study of the cancellations.

Several aspects of New Guinea philately were comprehensively covered. These were the German colonial period, including scarce covers; the NWPI overprints, with interesting forgeries; and the different types of cancellations employed.

United States of America

The stamps of the United States of America were featured for the second time within three

months when Mr. G. Tighe travelled from N.S.W. to present the second October meeting.

Mr. Tighe's display covered the period from 1847 to about 1910. He opened with a few postmasters' provisionals, including a Brattleboro and a se-tenant pair of the Providence Rhode Island 5c and 10c.

The 1847 issue included three mint copies of the 5c, and one of the 10c, and both the values used on covers. The 1851 issue had a mint pair of the 10c, and a mint copy of the 1857-60 90c was also there.

Mint sets of the 1869 issue, the 1893 Columbus issue and the 1898 Trans-Mississippi issue were notable for their fine condition and excellent centring.

The 20th century material included two blocks of the 1917 2c containing a 5c impression in error. One block had a single error, while the other contained a vertical pair. Amongst later stamps were the 1926 White Plains souvenir sheet for the New York Philatelic Exhibition, a complete 1927 Lindbergh stamp booklet and the 1930 Zeppelin set.

Plate proofs were featured throughout the display and examples were shown from the 1851, 1861, 1869, 1870 and later definitive issues, as well as from officials, postage dues and newspaper stamps.

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