

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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Philately from Australia

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JUNE 1981

LUNCHEON HONOURS TWO LONG-SERVING MEMBERS

A luncheon was held at the society's rooms on March 11th to honour two members who have made very significant contributions, over many years, to the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria — Mr. E. G. Creed, F.R.P.S.L. and Mr. H. L. Chisholm, F.R.P.S.L., F.R.P.S.N.Z.

Twenty-three members attended. Also present were Mrs. Creed and Mrs. Chisholm, who is also a member.

The luncheon was hosted by the President, Mr. J. Gartner, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. who outlined Mr. Chisholm's contributions to the society.

Horace Chisholm joined the society in 1947. He was President in 1967.

In June, 1955 he became Editor of *Philately from Australia*, succeeding the founding editor, Mr. H. M. Campbell, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. He filled that post for 26 years only retiring very recently for medical reasons. His last issue was the previous one, March 1981.

During his term of editorship *Philately from Australia* gained a world-wide reputation for philatelic scholarship, and gained many awards at exhibitions both in Australia and overseas.

In 1972 Mr. Chisholm was one of the original recipients of the Purves medal, and last year he was made an Honorary Life Member.

The Vice-President, Mr. M. B. Watson, gave a summary of Mr. Creed's contributions.

Eric Creed joined the society in 1946. He has been president twice, in 1952 and 1964.

For more than 30 years he has been Chairman of the Sales Branch, and also the associated Deceased Estates Committee, and his leadership has played a major part in the success of this aspect of the society's activities.

Mr. Creed was a major force behind the society's acquisition of its own Headquarters.

In 1957 he was elected an Honorary Life Member, and in 1972 he received the Purves medal.

Last year Mr. Creed was awarded the David H. Hill medal, the society's highest award, becoming only the fourth recipient of the medal.

Both Mr. Creed and Mr. Chisholm have been valuable members of Council for many years.

Dr. G. N. KELLOW IS EDITOR OF *PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA*

Mr. H. L. Chisholm, Editor of *Philately from Australia* for 26 years, has resigned on medical orders to ease his workload.

Dr. G. N. Kellow, librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, is the new editor.

He is the magazine's third editor, following Mr. Chisholm, whose first issue was June 1955, and Mr H. M. Campbell, R.D.P., who was the founding editor in 1949.

Mr. Chisholm writes:

May I express my heartfelt thanks to all who provided articles or illustrations for *Philately from Australia* during my editorship.

Please give the same support to Dr. Kellow.

The usefulness of a journal to its readers, present and future, depends on the articles and illustrations it can publish.

Many collectors have unreported items in their collections, or have made studies or discoveries they have not written about.

I appeal to them to do so.

Knowledge not published is lost, although other collectors are eager for it.

Dr. Kellow will be grateful, always, for articles, ideas, or suggestions.

Articles must contain new material. *Philately from Australia* cannot publish articles already published elsewhere.

But it has important features to commend it to authors. It is printed beautifully. It has a wide circulation and has readers who are really interested in what it provides.

It has space for serials and for illustrations (no charge to author).

Its annual and 10-yearly detailed cumulative indexes ensure that the knowledge is always near at hand.

Because almost all issues over a period of more than 30 years are available and because the policy of providing copies for stock will continue into the future, articles published in *Philately from Australia* are assured of a long life.

Again my sincere and most appreciative thanks.

Please remember: Dr. Kellow is waiting hopefully.

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

Australian Antarctic Territory — 1 cent Ship

Due to intense speculation this stamp was sold out at Philatelic Sales Sections within a relatively short time after issue, and has not been available for some months.

A fresh printing has now gone on sale which fortunately seems to be an excellent match to the original. I fancy that the black is a trace more intense, perhaps best detected in the rigging of the ship, and that the side of the vessel is slightly more inclined to brown, but only a specialist would need both printings.

Australia — Pre-stamped Postcards Series III

Either the authorities seriously misjudged the demand or, as is more likely, this item is another victim of attempted speculation. Supplies dried up at all Post Offices within days of release despite the fact that there was no official "first day".

I understand that some of the cards for every individual State (which are sold separately at normal Post Offices) are being recalled, so that when a re-release is made the contents will all be identical to the original supply. To defeat the speculator it will only be necessary to ensure that the outer boxes are an identical match to the original. If a re-release does take place and you buy one it would be advisable to check the contents of the boxes in case the returned cards have been mis-sorted and "misbound".

Australia — 22 cent Apex

It is quite a long time since we have seen a commemorative stamp printed by the Reserve Bank with sheet numbers and the distinctive colour blocks in the centre gutter.

I have not had the time to check whether they are fully constant, but I have several examples, from consecutive sheets, of a large weak area in Western Australia on Row 1, No 4 in the right pane; and of a horizontal scratch across the width of the map on Row 3, No 1 in the left pane. If constant, the first-mentioned item is a potential candidate for the catalogue.

Australia — 22 cent Pharmacy Pre-stamped Envelope

There is quite a range in the shade of brown on these envelopes, best seen in the top frame of the "stamp" and in the coloured area behind the wrought iron. This is evidently due to loss of control during the print run rather than a second printing, as I have found examples from the two extremes with first day postmarks.



The Other Side of the Picture

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

VICTORIA — LETTER CARRIER MARKINGS

These markings are now known to have first been introduced in July 1857 or earlier. There appears to be several reasons for their use. Of the examples seen to date I liken the Letter Carrier to C. S. Forester's Captain Horatio Hornblower and imagine the letter carrier stamping the mail with his canceller to certify that he had done his duty for Queen and country. The following examples will illustrate the point.

A cover dated 24th July 1857 has an oval canceller with L.C. above JU 24, and 1857 below on the bottom line. Apparently it has been used to certify that the letter carrier has collected 2d. for local delivery of an overseas inwards letter.

Another example illustrated in *Victoria — The Postage Dues* by Purves shows the same type of canceller — there are slight differences so there must have been at least two used — dated Nov. 7, 1860. In this case the letter was unclaimed and probably sent to the Dead Letter Room after the 'L.C.' stamp was applied to indicate that the letter carrier had done his duty.

Another type is a boxed rectangular 'L.C.' stamp, first recorded as used on Postage Dues from 1.7.1891 to 1902. 'L.C.2', 'L.C.3' and 'L.C.6' are known. Several months ago Mrs Bonnie Lyons of America surprised me by sending photostats of the 24.7.57 cover mentioned above and the cover next described.

The cover travelled from India to New Zealand in 1868-69. Upon arrival it was re-addressed to Melbourne, received an oval '6d More to Pay' stamp and a 'L.C.5' canceller dated 23.2.69. This cover is remarkable for several reasons a few, which concern us, being:—

(i) The N.Z. authorities endorsed it with a '6' and the Melbourne G.P.O. added its '6d More to Pay' stamp and gave it to a letter carrier to collect the 6d and then deliver the letter. To explain this action I quote from the Victorian *Postal Guide* of July 1867 which says:— 'Letters, packets etc. may be re-directed to the U.K., S.A., W.A., N.Z., Tas. & Q. without prepayment of additional postage which will however in the case of letters re-directed to U.K., N.Z., W.A., & Q. be charged on delivery.' In Feb. 1869 the postage was 6d per ½oz. and assuming reciprocal arrangements apply the reason for the stamps is explained.

(ii) Having collected the 6d the letter carrier then endorsed it with his stamp. This was the 'L.C.5' stamp, so far unrecorded, and I will describe a distinguishing feature of it. The oval of the '5' is diagonal (the elliptical axes are at 45 degrees) whereas the oval of '3' of 'L.C.3' is almost horizontal. The top of the '5' is slightly imperfect but the oval should identify it. The cover does not give details of its point of delivery other than Melbourne.

(iii) The date 23.2.69 is over 22 years earlier than previously reported for use of this type of "L.C." stamp.

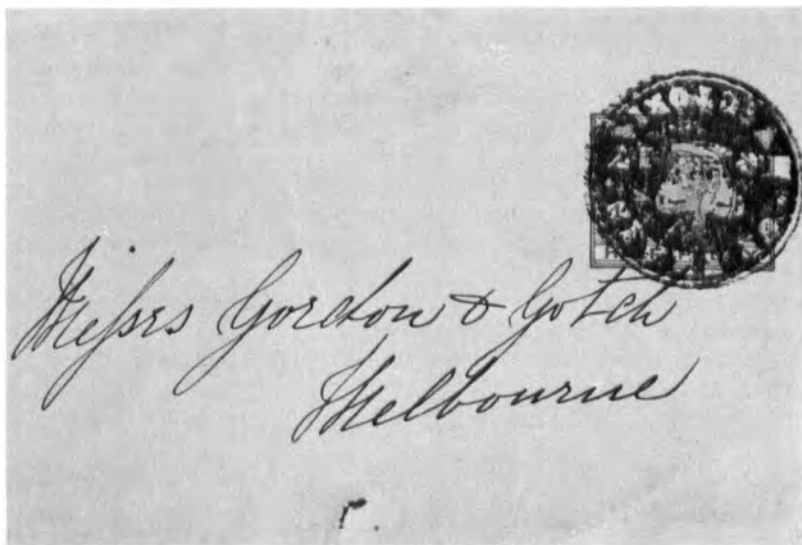


Another example, which is illustrated, shows a faint, but clear 'L.C.3' datestamp of 22.11.72. This cover is endorsed on the back 'Refused at Sewerage & Water Supply Office. 21.11.72' and signed. Next day the letter carrier added his canceller to it and finally it was stamped unclaimed and entered the Dead Letter Room on 26.5.73 with code-letter 'U'. This last datestamp is in green.

Two questions which remain to be answered are:—

- 1) Will the missing 'L.C.1' and 'L.C.4' turn up?
- 2) Can these datestamps be given any permanent allotted area? (See *The Postage Dues*, page 63.)

Finally, Ballarat is known to have used an oval "L.C." canceller in 1863 with the date and 'Ballarat' within an oval. The date is on two lines, AU 12/63, making four lines within the oval.



Up Train No. 17 Crown Seal

VICTORIA — AN UP TRAIN CROWN SEAL

Another unusual item has been sent to me by Mr Roy Holland of England. It is a photograph of a wrapper of 1895 cancelled by a crown seal 'Up Train No 17 Victoria'. As the photograph shows it is quite clear and may be an explanation of those unidentifiable crown seal 'smudges' that are sometimes seen.

In conclusion I feel it would be fair to say that this is a case of improper use of the crown seal for postal purposes other than for what it was intended.

NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES

By G. N. KELLOW

3.—9d. on 10d. LAUREATE, DOUBLE SURCHARGE

This error has been listed in the catalogue since about the turn of the century. Its existence was once questioned by Mr. J. R. W. Purves (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, March 1930, p. 49), but he must have since been convinced because it is still listed. In fact, when writing in 1930, all Mr. Purves had seen were examples of slipped prints, which were certainly not the catalogued item. There does exist, however, a true double surcharge, but it is extremely rare — I know of only three copies:

1. Originally in the collection of Mr. L. L. R. Hausburg (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, June 1906, p. 106; *Australian Philatelist*, January 1910, p. 61). The Hausburg collection was acquired by King George V, and the stamp now resides in the Royal collection (see *The Royal Philatelic Collection*, Sir John Wilson, 1953, p. B.Aus. 68, and Plate B Aus. 8). It is cancelled with a Melbourne duplex cancellation, the date not showing. This stamp has one surcharge in the normal position, and a second surcharge misplaced vertically upwards over 1 cm., to such an extent in fact that the figures "9" are almost completely missing.

2. A second copy of the stamp was in the Ferrary collection. It was in a mixed lot of stamps, Lot 602 in the 8th Sale. It was acquired by Mr. E. H. Collins, and when his collection was auctioned by Plumridge's on February 28th-March 1st, 1929, this stamp realized £11. The cancellation on this stamp is also a Melbourne duplex, with the date not showing. There is one surcharge in the normal position, and a second one misplaced vertically upwards and a little left, by some 5 mm.

3. There was a copy of this stamp in the Henry Duveen collection (see *The Duveen Collection of Rare Old Postage Stamps*, C. J. Phillips, 1922). This cannot be either of the first two examples.

There is documentary evidence indicating that the surcharge forme covered six stamps at a time (i.e., twenty operations were required to surcharge a complete sheet) (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, March 1930, p. 48). The two stamps of which I have photographs (1 and 2) are obviously from different sheets, and indicate that at least twelve double surcharges were originally produced.

W. A. DUPLEX POSTMARKS WITH INITIAL OF POST OFFICE

By MOGENS JUHL, F.R.P.S.L.

In *P from A* for March 1974, (p. 9), published an article covering the Duplex Postmarks from Perth. As a natural continuation, this article deals with duplexes showing the initial of various Post Offices.

Duplex Postmarks used in Western Australia consist of a left marker-part indicating place and time of mailing and a right canceller-part defacing the stamp. As covers are scarce to rare and pairs and other multiples are hard to come by, it is difficult to obtain complete strikes. Usually collectors will only have a stamp showing the canceller-part, and as the same letter has been used for 2 or 3 duplexes in the same office or even for more offices, it is necessary to describe the canceller-parts in detail.

I state period of use of the various duplexes to the extent that I have been able to determine the periods. These are subject to minor adjustments in cases where earlier or later use are reported. Strikes are in black except in the few cases mentioned.

Duplexes with block capitals

There are only 3 postmarks in this sub-group — Fremantle and Albany in use from 1883 and Kalgoorlie from 1895.

The two first are very similar and apparently the work of the same engraver. In these the canceller-part is set at a right angle to the marker-part, which is in type 3, inscribed with the name of the office at top and W.A. at bottom, within a circle. The rather crude Kalgoorlie instrument also has the marker-part in type 3 but set parallel.

F. from FREMANTLE

F. is 3 mm tall in a circle with a 5½ mm diameter and surrounded by 9 bars forming a transversal oval.

Earliest date recorded is 27.4.1883. It was in extensive use to 1891 and in occasional use to 1895/96 on busy days.

K.G.S from ALBANY (King George's Sound)

K.G.S is 3 mm tall placed between 9 bars forming a transversal oval.

I have not seen an 1883 date, but it is almost certain that duplexes were brought into use at Fremantle and Albany at the same time. It also seems that their period of use follows the same pattern.

K from KALGOORLIE

K is 5 mm tall and placed between 8 bars forming a vertical oval.

It was in use 1895 to 1897.

Duplexes with serif capital

This sub-group consists of 21 different duplexes used by 14 different Post Offices. All have the marker-part in type 1 inscribed with the name of the office at top and WESTERN AUSTRALIA at bottom without an outer circle.

The earliest recorded use is a Duplex-G from Guilford 30.6.1886. It is likely that also the first duplexes supplied to Vasse and York were issued that year, though no firm dated evidence has been seen by me. These were followed by a batch of 3 issued in 1891 to Albany, Fremantle, and Perth. Last came Bunbury in 1897 and Coolgardie in 1899. They might be subdivided in several different ways, but it would not serve any practical purpose as the letters speak for themselves.

A from ALBANY

A in a circle with a diameter of 12½ mm, surrounded by 12 bars (2 above + 8 on sides + 2 below the circle).

In use from 1891 to 1896.

B from BUNBURY

B in circle 13½ mm, 12 bars (2+7+3), 10th bar has thin centre.

In use from 1897 to 1909.

D from COOLGARDIE

D in circle 10½ mm, 12 bars (3+6+3), 3rd and 10th bar with thin centre.

It is peculiar that Duplex-D was used by Coolgardie. However, the explanation is perhaps quite simple. A way in which to sub-divide this sub-group would be to separate those having 12 bars (3+6+3) as they obviously form a batch. Those issued to Geraldton 2., Gingin, Newcastle, York 3., and the unknown Duplex-R are apart from this D for Coolgardie. The earliest seen is Geraldton 2. dated 5.10.1892. The others may also have been issued in that year as Gingin, Newcastle and York 3. were certainly in use in 1893. Duplex-D in the batch of 6 may well have been intended for either Dardanup, Derby or Dongarra but held back and in an emergency issued in 1899 with a new marker-part to the then busy gold-town Coolgardie. It remained in use to 1906.

F from FREMANTLE

1. F with 2 mm long centre limb, circle 12½ mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

It was in use from 1891 to 1895.

2. F with 3 mm long centre limb, circle 11½ mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

In use 1895-96.

G from GERALDTON

1. G 11 mm tall, the vertical serif points to the centre of the horizontal bar, circle 13½ mm, 11 bars (2+7+2).

In use 1891 to 1893.

2. G 7½ mm tall, circle 10 mm, 12 bars (3+6+3).

In use 1892 to 1895.

G from GINGIN

G 9 mm tall, circle 12 mm, 12 bars (3+6+3), 3rd and 10th bar thin center.

In use 1893-94. It is likely that it was also in use 1892.

G from GREENOUGH

G 10½ mm tall, the vertical serif pointing to the right of the horizontal bar, circle 13½ mm, 11 bars (2+7+2).

In use 1892 to 1906.

G from GUILDFORD

1. G 9½ mm tall, the vertical serif pointing to the right of the horizontal bar, circle 13 mm, 13 bars (2+8+3), the 11th bar with thin centre.

As mentioned above, the earliest known date, 30.6.1886, is also the earliest known in the sub-group. The date is very close to the estimated date of issue of the 11-bars Letter Cancellers, c. April 1886.

P from A, March 1975. So far I have only seen the duplex struck on engraved stamps, including remainders of the old stock of CC12½, 6d. This means that it was retired from use not later than early 1890.

2. G 9½ mm tall, rounder than 1., the vertical serif pointing to the centre of the horizontal bar, circle 12 mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

In use 1892 to 1895.

N from NEWCASTLE

N in circle 11 mm, 12 bars (3+6+3).

In use 1893 to 1910. Maybe it was issued in 1892, see Duplex-D.

P from PERTH

1. P 9 mm tall, 6 mm wide, circle 12½ mm, 12/13 bars (2+8 left of circle /9 right of circle+2).

In use 1891 to 1893.

2. P 9 mm tall, 6½ mm wide nearly touching circle 11½ mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

In use 1893 to 1897, during the last year also struck in blue with a rather fluid ink giving unclear strikes.

1. and 2. are identical with Type D.1 and D.2 in the article dealing with the duplexes from Perth.

P from PRESTON

P 9 mm tall, 6½ mm wide nearly touching the circle 12 mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

Only one strike dated 16.1.1895 is known, a tracing of it is on page 137 of *Western Australia: The Stamps and Postal History*. The measurements are taken from that tracing.

R from Rockingham (?) or Roebourne (?) or (?)

R in circle 11 mm, 12 bars (3+6+3).

No complete strike of this duplex is known, hence it is not possible to establish at which Post Office it was used. I have the canceller-part and I have seen one more.

It belongs to the 12 bar group mentioned under Duplex-D.

V from VASSE

1. V has pointed bottom, circle 13 mm, 11 bars (2+7+2).

The duplex was most probably put into use in early 1886, see Duplex-G 1. from Guilford. It remained in use to 1903.

2. V has flat bottom, circle 13½ mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

In use 1904-06.

Y from YORK

1. Y is 9 mm tall, circle 13 mm, 12 bars (2+8+2), 11th bar thin centre.

The duplex was most probably put into use early in 1886, see Duplex-G 1. from Guilford. It was in use during two periods: 1886 to 1889 and 1900 to 1906.

From the first period strikes in blue are known as is the case also with York's 16/12-bars, (*P from A*, Sept. 1975, p. 75).

From the second period violet strikes are known, c.1900.

2. Y is 9½ mm tall with thicker stem and left arm, circle 13½ mm, 12 bars (2+8+2).

It was in use 1892 to 1903. Strikes in violet are known, c.1900.

3. Y is 7½ mm tall, circle 11 mm, 12 bars (3+6+3), 3rd and 10th bar thin centre.

Use has been seen from 1893 to 1900, but, as mentioned under Duplex-D, 1892 is the likely year of issue. Blue and violet strikes are known from about 1900.

ADDITIONS TO "DUPLEX POSTMARKS OF PERTH"

Some amendments to the article on the Duplex Postmarks of Perth in *P. from A.* for March 1974 (p. 9) can now be made:

Type A.4: It has still not been possible to pinpoint the time of use of this duplex as I have yet to see a dated marker-part. The nearest I now can come is 1879 because of a strike of the canceller-part on the Colour Error 2d mauve which we know was used just around New Year 1879.

Type B.8: I have now use from February 1892.

Type B.12: As shown in *The Black Swan*, No. 8/1977, this duplex was in use 1894-95.

Type C.2: Use has been seen to July 1893.

Type E.3: Black strikes are also known from 1898.

Type G.2: Violet strikes are known from 1898.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Dr. C. W. Lloyd-Smith

Mr. C. W. Lloyd-Smith, son of Mr. R. L. Lloyd-Smith, former president and for 23 years librarian of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has gained the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in the University of Adelaide.

Dr. Lloyd-Smith, who joined the society on his 21st birthday in 1973, is senior lecturer in mathematics in the university and the degree was in pure mathematics.

Queensland S.G. 71

A challenge to the existence of Queensland 1s Dull Claret, Watermark small truncated star, Perf 13 (S.G. 71) has been made by Mr Geoffrey Adams in the *Royal Philatelic Society London, Australian Study Group Newsletter* for January 1980.

In the November issue, the president of the society (Mr. Ronald Butler) supports the challenge.

"I have never seen one and can confirm that there is no such stamp in the Tapling Collection. More important perhaps is the absence of Claret stamps in The Royal Collection and this has been checked by examination of the actual album pages. (The book by Sir John Wilson listing the content of the Collection records Claret stamps, proofs, and specimens, but John Marriott, the present Keeper of The Royal Collection, agrees that this is an error in the listing.)

"Stanley Gibbons red catalogue has listed a claret stamp since at least 1897."

He mentions that the date 13.11.72 was added to the listing in 1920, from information available to Basset Hull and with the S.G. 73 (mauve) date 19.2.74. The Basset Hull book on Queensland published in 1930 made no mention of Claret, and the date was applied to "Fawn or Grey" stamps. The 13.11.72 should be ascribed to S.G. 72 Brownish-Grey.

Mr. Butler also noted that Scott had listed No. 29 Dull Claret from sometime after 1902.

From Sydney, Mr. John S. White reported that the claret shade was not in the H. L. White Collection in the Mitchell Library, nor in the Vickery Collection in the Australian Museum, and he had never seen one.

Despite its absence from the major collections mentioned above, an examination of auction catalogues shows the Dull Claret stamp to have been offered on several occasions.

There was an unused copy in the Arthur Hind collection. It was Lot 2529 in the (cancelled) New York sale.

Two unused examples were in Mr. C. L. Pack's collection — Lots 808 and 809 in the sale of March 11-13, 1947.

Another unused copy was in Mr. F. C. Krichauff's collection. This was Lot 134 in Robson Lowe's sale of November 19, 1947.

It would be interesting to be able to examine these stamps.

WHEN 'A' OR 'B' MEANT 'R'

By P. COLLAS, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.

A puzzling problem associated with a type of registration label of R.A.A.F. World War II pattern concerns the replacement of the normal indicator letter 'R' by the letters 'A' or 'B'.

The late Captain Harry S. Porter recognized and made reference to the variants in his fine account of the Royal Australian Air Force Postal Service (*P. from A.*, September 1950, p. 70; March 1951, p. 12, and June 1951, p. 62). But he could only conjecture how they came into being, regarding them as being the result of a misunderstanding.

Noting that it was common to find registration labels from R.A.A.F. post offices with a letter in manuscript before the numbers, apparently to distinguish one series of registration labels from another with the same numbers, he suggested that there had been an instruction to print labels with 'A' or 'B' in front of the numbers.

This had been mistaken for an order to substitute 'A' and 'B' for the registration 'R'. (*P. from A.*, March 1951, p. 14).

The particular registration type involved was peculiar to the R.A.A.F. and was larger than contemporary Postmaster-General's Department labels. In its normal form, with the 'R' indicator, all printing, was in red except the numbers, which were in black, in varying sizes. The various series of the type all included the expression 'R.A.A.F.', followed by the appropriate locality names — Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane, Adelaide, Perth, Townsville and Darwin.

The intention was that these labels should be employed at the R.A.A.F. Base Post Offices so designated. Such proved to be the case in general, although two of the offices, at Townsville and Darwin, had other designations and Darwin, varying locations.

'A' or 'B' instead of 'R', occurred only in respect of the label inscribed 'R.A.A.F. Melbourne'.

In his listing, Porter grouped these with the normal registration labels used at R.A.A.F. Base Post Office, Melbourne.

Such, however, was clearly not the situation. The evidence of covers seen to this time indicates that the 'A' and 'B' labels were used within the Department of Air, Melbourne — which embraced R.A.A.F. headquarters — certainly in 1946, but possibly also in preceding years. The fact that R.A.A.F. Base Post Office Melbourne closed at the end of 1945 may have been an influencing factor.

The significance of the letters 'A' and 'B' have not been discovered, but it would seem that the change was made to distinguish them from the labels appropriate to the R.A.A.F. Base Post Office, Melbourne.

Probably the person responsible for the change would have been unaware that the use of the letter 'R' on registration labels generally was not only traditional but was in accordance with the U.P.U. convention.

In the circumstances of the times the civil postal authorities apparently condoned the irregularity.

The selection of the letters 'A' and 'B' may have been an arbitrary choice. Or they may have had reference to particular directorates, branches or sections within the Department.

Perhaps of significance is that a registered cover I possess, bearing the 'A' label, originated in the Allotment Section, Department of Air, Melbourne. This cover



Was this a mistake, and if so, whose? Certainly it is not a "Printer's Error," 'B' for 'R'.

carried the normally required postage, a 5½d stamp, and was postmarked in the registration section, G.P.O. Melbourne, on 19 May 1946.

This type was illustrated in *P. from A.*, March 1951 (p. 15).

Mr. H. L. Chisholm has a cover with the 'B' label, and a 5½d stamp, similarly postmarked on 25 June 1946.

On the back is a smudged single-lined rectangular datestamp in blue:

AIR MINISTRY REGISTRY
OVERSEAS SECTION
1(?) 8 JUN 1946
W H I (&?) T . . . 4

Although it seems certain that these 'A' and 'B' labels were used only within the Department of Air, and that the relevant covers then passed directly into the civil postal system the original puzzle remains — why was the R.A.A.F. Base Post Office label varied in such an unusual manner?

It seems unlikely that this question will be satisfactorily answered unless a researcher is fortunate enough to find adequate reference in archival files.

'C' for Courier?

Another peculiarity associated with a class of registered article from R.A.A.F. headquarters may be mentioned.

I possess a part cover which bears the impression of a rubberstamp registration cachet. This has the usual 'R' indicator and the inscription 'R.A.A.F. Registry, Melb.'. Below, in the area where the number normally appears is 'C', as part of the

impression, immediately followed by the serial number in handwriting. As the separate word 'Courier' was rubberstamped elsewhere on the cover one can presume that a special procedure related to the handling of registered 'courier' mail. There were no postage stamps affixed and the cover bore the postmark of R.A.A.F. Base P.O. No. 1 Melbourne, 28 1944.

THE HAWTHORN PRESS CEASES TO BE A BUSINESS

By H. L. CHISHOLM, F.R.P.S.L.

Australia's greatest philatelic publisher — and one of the world's great publishers of philatelic literature — as well as one of the Commonwealth's best known book publishers, ceased commercial operations on 13 November last.

It will continue as a Private Press.

The Hawthorn Press was founded by Mr. John Gartner, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., current President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 45 years ago.

It has been the publisher of all the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's publications since 1950, when it produced J. R. W. Purves' *Postal History of the Port Phillip District, 1835-1851*.

Then it began The Hawthorn Press monographs in 1953, took over *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue* in 1955, and in 1970, established another series, The Hawthorn Press Philatelic Publications, hardback books, each intended to be the standard work on its subject.

Although its philatelic publications were only a minor part of the press's output, which grew to 40 titles a year, it is appropriate that a record of The Hawthorn Press should be in philatelic literature.

John Gartner was apprenticed to hand and machine composition when he was 14 and on completion of his course was employed as a linotype operator. As he was on piece-work he worked four days a week and spent every Friday at the Melbourne Public Library on research which formed the basis of his intense bibliographical knowledge.

He has had a particular interest in and predilection towards the work of North American craftsmen and has throughout his life been in close communication with these leaders in the book field, and Private Press movements throughout the world.

In 1931 John Gartner produced his first brochures and small pieces, hand-printed from hand-set type and in 1936 produced his first work Ben Fryer's *Internationalism in Typography* and so launched The Hawthorn Press as a Private Press.

A Private Press is devoted to the advancement of the printing art by the production of limited editions of beautiful books.

Ben Fryer was a noted American typographer who had visited Australia.

He thus joined the international fraternity of private and exclusive presses.

John Gartner produced 52 items before The Hawthorn Press moved to 15 Guildford Lane, Melbourne in 1945 and began work as a commercial press.

In 1968 The Hawthorn Press went to much larger premises at 601 Little Bourke Street, Melbourne. And on 13 November 1980 The Hawthorn Press ceased commercial publishing and reverted to a Private Press.

John Gartner was a foundation member of the Australian Book Publishers' Association and has been active in the protection of the standards and the promotion of Australian publishing.

The Hawthorn Press device was designed by a famous Australian artist, Adrian Feint. Engraved in wood, the design incorporated the anchor of Aldus Manutius (the fifteenth century Venetian printer who invented italic type) around which is a Hawthorn bush. The original Manutius device was an anchor entwined by a dolphin with the motto *Festina Lente* — Hasten Slowly. This motto of Hasten Slowly has been the over-riding characteristic of the Press since the middle Thirties.

The Press has always maintained that there is more of loving craftsmanship and the simple joy of publishing for publishing's sake at the Press than in the glossy commercialism of many of the larger publishing houses. The result has been an odd collection of offbeat titles, with the emphasis on Australian history, poetry, philately and numismatics.

The Hawthorn Press was for many years the only Australian publisher of philatelic works as such. It has a reputation for high-class typography and craftsmanship, and in the books and monographs printed by it these qualities have been consistently associated with philatelic performances of high standard.

In the publication of such technical works as these there was little prospect of any profit and there was often considerable loss.

The printing craft has a pride peculiar to itself, built up through the centuries, and few people outside it know the devotion and love — from all concerned — that goes into the making of such books.

Mr. Gartner says it has given a wonderful sense of achievement to have produced the works of The Hawthorn Press.

The Hawthorn Press philatelic productions have been:

THE HAWTHORN PRESS MONOGRAPHS

- 1 NORTH-WEST PACIFIC ISLANDS, J. R. W. Purves, 1953; Second Edition, 1966.
- 2 CHRISTMAS ISLAND AND ITS POSTAL HISTORY, The Pacific Island Circle of The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, 1953.
- 3 QUEENSLAND NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS, Harry S. Porter, 1954.
- 4 VICTORIA: 1901-12 ISSUE, THE 1½d, 2d and 2½d VALUES, J. R. W. Purves, 1954.
- 5-6 VICTORIA: THE TRAVELLING POST OFFICES AND THEIR MARKINGS, 1865-1912, J. R. W. Purves, 1955; Second Edition, 1979.
- 7 SHIP LETTERS OF THE SOUTH PACIFIC, J. Whitsed Dovey, 1955.
- 8 POSTMARKS OF BRITISH NEW GUINEA AND PAPUA TO 1942, Hamilton Croaker, 1956.
- 9-10 THE POST OFFICES AND POSTAL CANCELLATIONS OF FIJI, H. M. Campbell, 1957; Second Edition, 1968.
- 11-12 THE COOK ISLANDS TO 1919, The Pacific Island Circle of The Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, 1958.
- 13 THE POSTAL HISTORY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, 1829-1901, George E. Owen, 1959.
- 14 VICTORIA: THE 1901-12 ISSUE, THE 3d, 4d and 5d VALUES, J. R. W. Purves, 1961.
- 15 THE LOCAL POSTS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA, P. Collas, 1960.
- 16 WESTERN AUSTRALIA: THE PERKINS BACON PRINTINGS 1854-

- 1861 AND THE DE LA RUE PRINTINGS 1864-1902, A. F. Bassett Hull, 1963.
- 17-18 THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE TERRITORY OF NEW GUINEA FROM 1888-1942, John H. Powell, 1964.
- 19 VICTORIA: THE V OVER CROWN WATERMARKS, J. R. W. Purves, 1964.
- 20 THE 1897 ISSUE OF TONGA, Eric W. Mann, 1968.
- 21 VICTORIA: 1901-12 ISSUE, THE 6d, 9d and 2/- VALUES, J. R. W. Purves, 1967.
- 22 SARAWAK: THE DE LA RUE ISSUES OF 1918 to 1928 AND THE ASSOCIATED PRINTINGS, L. H. Shipman, 1970.
- 23 THE POSTAL HISTORY OF BARAKOMA AIRFIELD, The Rev. A. H. Voyce, 1966.
- 24 NORTH BORNEO: THE FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY ISSUE OF THE BRITISH NORTH BORNEO (CHARTERED) COMPANY, 1 JANUARY 1931, L. H. Shipman, 1970.
- 25 SOUTH AUSTRALIA: THE SQUARED CIRCLE CANCELLATIONS, Donald G. Cox, 1975.
- 26 THE EARLY COOK ISLANDS POST OFFICE, A. R. Burge, 1978.
- 27 THE AIRMAILS OF NEW GUINEA 1911-42, Dan Hare, 1978.
- 28 VICTORIA: THE 5/-, 1867-1901 AND THE 1/-, 5/-, £1, £2, 1901-1912, J. R. W. Purves, 1979.
- 29 QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY, P. Collas, 1979.

PRIVATELY PUBLISHED BY THE HAWTHORN PRESS

- WHOLLY CONFIDENTIAL [Exhibition Judging] (J. R. W. Purves), 1950.
- ART AND THE POSTAGE STAMP, J. R. W. Purves, 1954.

THE HAWTHORN PRESS PHILATELIC PUBLICATIONS

- FIJI: THE STAMPS AND POSTAL HISTORY 1870-75, J. G. Rodger and R. F. Duberal, 1970.
- ON THE STAMPS OF FIJI, John Gartner, 1973.
- THE AUSTRALIAN AIRMAIL CATALOGUE, Nelson Eustis, 1976.
- THE ROSS SMITH AIR STAMP, Nelson Eustis, 1979.
- COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA: THE POSTAGE DUE STAMPS 1902-1963, R. P. Hyeronimus, 1980.
- THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH SPECIALISTS' CATALOGUE. Commenced publishing with the Sixteenth Edition 1955, edited by Eric Norden. The Rev J. C. W. Brown was appointed editor in 1955 and was responsible for Editions 17 to 25. J. P. Meara was appointed editor in 1965 and was responsible for Editions 26 to 40, when publication was sold to Seven Seas Stamps. [Mr Gartner says that on the basis that the catalogue cost 10/- (\$1) for 96 pages in 1954 when printers' wages were £15 (\$30) a week, the 1980 edition, 280 pages with the wages at \$220, should have been \$25 instead of \$7.95.]

PUBLISHED FOR THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

- POSTAL HISTORY OF THE PORT PHILLIP DISTRICT, 1835-1851, J. R. W. Purves, 1950.
- THE EMBLEMS OF VICTORIA, 1857-1863, J. R. W. Purves, 1957.

- CUMULATIVE INDEX: COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, W. M. Holbeach, 1960.
- VICTORIA: THE POSTAGE DUES, J. R. W. Purves, 1961.
- TASMANIA: THE POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAL MARKINGS, Part I, H. M. Campbell, J. R. W. Purves, L. C. Viney, 1962.
- VICTORIA: THE BARRED NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS, 1856-1912, J. R. W. Purves, 1963.
- VICTORIA: THE BUTTERFLY AND BARRED OVAL CANCELLATIONS, 1850-1855, J. R. W. Purves, 1965.
- VICTORIA: THE REGISTERED AND TOO LATE STAMPS, 1854-1858, J. R. W. Purves, 1966.
- TASMANIA: THE POSTAL HISTORY AND POSTAL MARKINGS, Part II, John Avery, P. B. Edwards, J. R. W. Purves and O. G. Ingles (Editor), 1975.
- QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER MARKINGS, 1860-1913, H. M. Campbell, 1977.
- SOUTH AUSTRALIA: THE 'LONG' STAMPS OF 1902-1912, J. R. W. Purves, 1978.
- PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA, Published from 1949 to June 1980 — more than thirty volumes.

VICTORIAN MILITARY FRANKS, 1864-1902

By P. COLLAS, M.B.E., F.R.P.S.L.
(Continued from December 1980, p. 96)

Since writing the material in the December issue, I have obtained some further information from a list of covers formerly owned by Mr. Carl L. Stieg, of U.S.A.

This list indicates that the COMMANDANT LOCAL FORCES frank was noted as being impressed on a blue envelope bearing the printed inscription 'Office Artillery Corps/Victoria Barracks, 187-' and, again, on a blue envelope with the inscription 'H.Q. Victoria Barracks, 18- -'. But the most significant aspect to emerge is that the same frank was impressed on other blue envelopes, of differing sizes, which bore the printed inscription 'Victorian Naval Forces' and, in one instance, the further printed date of '188-'.

This supports the opinion, expressed earlier, that the COMMANDER OF H.M. SEA FORCES frank did not have usage beyond 1884. Indeed, as the COMMANDANT LOCAL FORCES frank was introduced late in 1881, it appears almost certain that the COMMANDER OF H.M. SEA FORCES frank was superseded at the same time.

With regard to THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE frank, the Stieg list indicates that this was applied to a wide variety of different sized envelopes, blue and white, and even orange.

Additionally, the frank was recorded as being used on various postcards and wrappers.

As actual dates were not given, probably because of the absence of postmarks, it is not possible to separate the listings into colonial and federal periods. But it is of interest to note that the frank was used on envelopes, cards and wrappers bearing, among others, the printed names of the Victorian Naval Forces, the Victorian Rifle Association, individual rifle clubs, the United Services Institute of Victoria, various Branches at Defence H.Q. and the names of many different army units.

CODE-LETTERS USED BY VICTORIAN POST OFFICES

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

(supplemented by extensive notes collected over many years by the late J. R. W. Purves, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.)

At various times during the period 1854-1912 and sometimes later, code-letters were used by some Official Post Offices.

These letters were used inside the datestamp and used on covers, postcards, etc., to signify the period of the day or night that this mail was despatched, in transit, or to note its arrival.

The despatch cancellation was usually a duplex which cancelled the stamps and the datestamp part of the duplex included the code-letter. It is these despatch cancellations which usually appear on stamps that I mainly deal with in this article.

The "transit" stamps usually appear on the back of letters. Arrival stamps were used on either front or back of a letter or card and were usually applied before delivery.

It is important to remember that these code-letters were only used at some 66 P.O.'s and not always continuously. The list below represents details of despatch markings as seen on stamps and covers. For example, Carlton 'D' is common as an arrival mark on mail from Melbourne but not as a despatch code-letter (and therefore is not included).

The first code used by Melbourne from 1854 and by Geelong from 1855, is known as the simple code and consists of the letters A,B,C,D,E, and H, each letter representing a segment of the time of day. A portion of this code, for example, only A,B,C, & D, was used by the majority of country Post Offices in the list. Exactly what times these letters represented probably varied somewhat between Post Offices and many offices had their own idiosyncracies; for example, some used numbers and others letters the meaning of which was probably not generally known outside of the local area, a case in point being the letter 'N' which was used at Maryborough and Sandridge. (I have a very strong feeling that I have seen this letter used in the suburbs of South Yarra, Toorak and either Prahran or South Melbourne; all these places are close to Sandridge [Port Melbourne]; however, when assembling the list of letters used on cancellers I have not been able to verify this statement.)

A later series of code-letters used by Melbourne from mid 1861 to 1899 used up to fifteen letters at various times. Some of our Post Offices being considered here used similar codes. Apart from Melbourne, Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong, the P.O.'s of Castlemaine, Prahran, South Yarra and South Melbourne appear to have used this code or one very similar, even if for only a short period. It is proposed to publish at a later date more detailed lists of the code-letters used by Ballarat, Bendigo and Geelong.

Due to the apparent careless use of code-letters at some Post Offices, it is very doubtful if the exact meaning of the codes used at every P.O. can ever be determined; however, the period of use of the codes at some P.O.'s can be guessed at.

As an example of "cracking" a code, consider the following case. From the beginning of 1900 Melbourne did not use a code, but included a time within the datestamp. In the following example three different code-letters are used as arrival cancellations at Northcote. (Note that Northcote is not in the following list of despatch cancellations which used a code). Assuming this code is a time code

signifying equal segments of the day, 'A' could cover from 6-9 a.m. and 'B' from 9-12 a.m., and so on, or the clock could be rotated so that 'B' represents a period from 10.30 a.m. to 1.30 p.m.

The datestamps on three letters sent from Melbourne to Northcote are as follows:—

Melbourne despatch 1 p.m. 17.3.00; Northcote arrival 'C' 17.3.00.

Melbourne despatch 2.15 p.m. 26.7.02; Northcote arrival 'B' 26.7.02.

Melbourne despatch 5.45 p.m. 17.2.04; Northcote arrival 'A' 18.2.04.

Mail for Northcote closed at about 4.30 a.m. (yes a.m.) and about 2.00-2.30 p.m. depending on the year considered; the first arrived about 6.30 a.m. and the other about 3.20-4.15 p.m. From this we can conclude that if 'B' represents 10.30 a.m.-1.30 p.m. then the first and last case are in agreement with the hypothesis, but if it means 'B' represents 9-12 a.m. then the first two cases have the wrong time code. I favour the former.

Note: Very recently a book "*The Cancellation of Melbourne 1861-1912*" by D. G. Davies and G. R. Linfield in collaboration with J. R. W. Purves has been published and is reviewed elsewhere in this issue. This work explains the code-letters used by Melbourne in some detail.

Time-Code letters and numbers used in despatch datestamps at Victorian Offices other than Ballarat, Bendigo (Sandhurst), Geelong and Melbourne.

The name of each Post Office is followed by the number of its Barred Numeral cancellation.

ABBOTSFORD (1622) A,B,C,D, and 1A,2B,3C,4D; sometimes with letters preceding numbers.

ALBERT PARK (1383) A only seen.

ARARAT (93) Numbers 1-5 and Z to prefix the code-letters A,B,C,D, and E, which are also used alone.

ASCOT VALE (1624) B only seen.

BAIRNSDALE (174) A,B,C,D,E,H.

BALLARAT EAST (139) 7 (solo) and A,B,C,D, and E.

(159) B and D only have been seen with this duplex.

BEECHWORTH (9) A,B.

BENALLA (18) A,B,C.

BRIGHTON (19) A,B,C,E

BRUNSWICK (22) 1 (solo) and A,B,C,D,E,K.

BRUTHEN (383) A,B,C.

CANTERBURY (722) A only seen.

CAMBERWELL (488) B,X.

CARLTON (538) A,B,C,H,V and numbers 1-4 (solo).

CARLTON NORTH (970) C only seen.

CASTERTON (28) C, 2 (solo).

CASTLEMAINE (3) A,B,C,D,H,K,L,O,S,T,V,X,Z.

CHARLTON (86) A,B,C,D.

CITY ROAD R.H. (1936) D only seen.

CLIFTON HILL (1384) A,D.

COLLINGWOOD (158) A,B,C,D.

CUDGEE (889) A sideways only seen.

DAYLESFORD (173) 3 (solo), also inverted. And A,B,C,D,E.

DUNOLLY (239) A,C,D,F,H.

EAST MELBOURNE (1414) B only seen.

ECHUCA (40) A (also used with numbers 3 and 5), B.

ELSTERNWICK (300) A,B,C,D,F.

ELSTERNWICK R.H. (1877) D only seen.

EMERALD HILL (148) A,B,C,D,E,F.

FITZROY (824) A,B,C,D.

FLEMINGTON (42) A,B,C,D.

FOOTSCRAY (149) A,B,D.

HAMILTON (46) A,B,C,D,E. Also 1,4,5, sometimes used with code-letters.

- HAWTHORN (48) A,B,D,F,H. Also 8 (solo).
 HORSHAM (51) A,B,C,D,F,H, and 1 (solo). 1,2,3,5 used after code letters. Also AB,DF,2B,2C,3D have been seen.
 HOTHAM (289) A,B,C,D. Note that the North Melbourne duplex has not been seen with a code-letter.
 INGLEWOOD (296) A,D.
 JAMIESON (340) 1A only seen.
 KERANG (207) A,B,D.
 KEW (125) A,B,C,D.
 KYNETON (57) A,B,C,D,E,F usually seen with numbers 1-4.
 LANCEFIELD (160) D only seen.
 MARYBOROUGH (61) A,B,C,D,F,H,L,N. Numbers 1,2,5 (possibly 3), 9 used without code-letters.
 MOONEE PONDS (330) C only seen.
 PORTLAND (8) A,B,C,D.
 PORT FAIRY (6) A only seen.
 PORT MELBOURNE (73) A,B,C,F,H.
 PRAHRAN (69) A,B,C,D,E,F,T,Y,Z. Also 1,2,3,4 seen without code, and following code-letters.
 PUBLIC OFFICES R.H. (1481) A only seen.
 RICHMOND (71) A,B,D,X. Also XA and XB have been seen.
 RUSHWORTH (144) A only seen.
 ST. ARNAUD (94) A,B,C,D,E,F. Also used 1 followed by letter. A1 and 9 (solo).
 ST. KILDA (78) A,B,C,D,E,Y.
 ST. KILDA R.S. (1124) A,B,C. Also 2 (solo).
 SALE (72) A,B,C,D,F,H, and also combined with numbers 1 (A,B,C); 2 (A,B,C,D); 3 (B,C,D); 4 (B,C,D); and also 34 (?) and 43 apparently in error (19/5/91).
 SANDRIDGE (75) A,B,C,H,K,N,O, and 1 (solo).
 SHEPPARTON (170) A,D.
 SOUTH MELBOURNE (148) A,B,C,D,E,F,H,I,K,O,V,X,Y,Z.
 SOUTH RICHMOND (753) D only seen.
 SOUTH YARRA (200) A,B,C,D,K,O,S,V,X,Y,Z. Also numbers 2,8 (solo).
 STAWELL (265) B,C,D,E,F,H. Also 1 with A,B,F, and B1 seen.
 (285) 1E and 1F seen in 1890.
 TERANG (254) B only seen.
 TOORAK (201) A,B,C,D,K,O, and Z reversed.
 WARRNAMBOOL (10) A,B,C,D,F,O. Also 1E.
 WARRACKNABEAL (355) D,E.
 WILLIAMSTOWN (11) A,B,C,D,E,F,K.

EDITORIAL NOTES

From Earnest to Jest — With Lamentations

ZEAPEX '80 Magazine One (p. 20) has a cartoon of a husband tearing the stamps off a pile of letters, putting them on the arm of his chair, and casting the remains into the fire.

In front of the fire a weeping wife is sitting and a further couple of bundles of letters, tied with ribbon, await attention.

The artist could never have guessed that he was depicting with remarkable accuracy a domestic drama that occurred in America more than 90 years ago.

Here is how the Sydney-published *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for September 1891 told the sad and moving story, taken from the *Philatelic Magazine*:

"An interesting story was lately told us by one of our visitors. It seems that his wife was a Brattleboro lady and that the period of their courtship was 1845-6; a few years ago he heard of the Brattleboro stamp, and remembering that he still had some of his wife's old letters he hastened home to examine them, and, as he tells it, he

found no less than twenty odd-looking small oblong stamps among the letters from Brattleboro, and he carefully laid them on the mantle-shelf intending to take them to a dealer the same evening.

"Meantime the wife espied the package of her old love letters thus brought to light, and with grave propriety she quickly consigned them to the flames, together with four thousand dollars' worth of Brattleboro stamps."

Surely that should have made her weep.

British Solomon Islands

Collectors of Pacific Islands may be pleased to have their attention drawn to a series of articles on the first issue by Major F. R. Howard-White, M.C. in the *London Philatelist* during the past nine years.

Each deals with one value. The dates are: ½d, November, 1972; 1d, December, 1974; 2d, May 1975; 2½d, March-April, 1977; 5d, September-October, 1978; 6d, May-June, 1979; 1/-, November-December, 1980.

1981 PRESIDENTIAL RECEPTION

The Presidential Reception of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria on 7 March was another happy occasion, in the tradition of these annual occasions, when members, wives, and friends meet.

The President, Mr John Gartner, and Mrs Zelma Gartner, both members, were host and hostess.

Mr Gartner had invited members coming to the reception to bring some possession of which they were especially proud and/or had an interesting story associated with them.

It was a happy and successful idea.

One member brought "The Film That Could Not Be Shown." (Nor was it). After a long flight, nature had called for urgent action the moment he landed and a newsreel photographer had filmed it.

Another member produced a mounted cricket ball. He had done the "Hat Trick" against the last three batsmen of the opposing team and thus allowed his team, which had batted first, to win by one run.

The story behind a wartime wedding breakfast menu was that the member had been radio officer on a merchant ship. He and his fiancée had a code in their letters which told her where his ship was going. When it was at Auckland, she wangled a flying-boat trip across the Tasman and they were married there. The Captain was Best Man and the ship's printer produced the menu card, printed in silver.

The story behind a copy of Lincoln Ellsworth's *Beyond Horizons*, was that the member had met the famous American Arctic and Antarctic explorer and had asked him to autograph the book. Years later, he was offered from England, an Airship Norge polar cover "Autographed Ellsworth" and had been able to return it saying the autograph was a forgery. The flying explorer had autographed the book, not near his name on the title-page, the usual place, but in big, open letters at the top of the page.

Another book shown was an 18th Century book with a picture painted beneath the gilding on the edge, so that when the book was opened or the binding thumbed, the picture appeared.

A lady member's contribution was a whale tooth, the badge of a Fijian chief.

Other items were an heirloom gift of silver spoons, handed down on a Silver Wedding anniversary, the first stamps given to a member by his father, which set him on the road to becoming a philatelist, and the first stamp album given to a lady member when she was very small.

Another member presented W. G. Swift's *The History of Northcote*, based on material provided by the member's paternal great-grand uncle, who farmed Thornbury Park from 1856 to 1885, and a copy of the 1934 edition of *Georgiana's Journal: Melbourne A Hundred Years Ago*, edited by Hugh McCrae.

A member's pride was two types of orchids he had grown and a lady had a set of china plates, showing flowers for the seasons of the year.

A photograph of a racehorse in which two members had shares winning at Ballarat was also shown.

An old coaching horn, as used by the English mail coach drivers, and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee number of the Illustrated London News, 1897, were among many other items of great interest displayed.

QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS AND MARKINGS: NEW FINDS

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

(Continued from December 1980, p. 101)

Chapter VIII

P. 89. In the list of Railway Obliterators found on postage stamps, add: '351 NOBBY'S SIDING (NOBBY) 513'

In September 1978, p. 67, I mentioned No. 53 in the ten-bar postal type as a possible Railway number (Murphy's Creek). Confirmation of this has come with a stamp with this obliterator and portion of a date-stamp showing 'K' of the end of the name, and 'ND' of QUEENSLAND; this portion is identical with the same part of the MURPHY'S CREEK c.d.s.

Two examples of No. 48 in the 10-bar postal type have been reported. If this is a Railway number, it is LAIDLEY; the post office was not at the railway station in 1893, but it could have been moved there later.

Chapter XI

Southern & Western Railway

P. 100. *Type 2*, No. 1. Latest date now July 1914, with 'DN' before the date.

Type 3, No. 2. The earliest date is now March 1894 and the latest November 1896. All the known dates in 1896 (4) have the three centre lines inverted. Two 'UP' have been found.

P. 101. *Type 4*, No. 4(a). Latest date now November 1909. Four 'DOWN' known. No. 6. Latest date now July 1930.

Type 5. Add: 'No. 6: Dated February 1916'.

Type 6, No. 1. Three more examples have been found, the earliest dated December 1926. One of the new examples shows 'DOWN'.

P. 102. *Type 6*, No. 7(b). Latest date now June 1932.

Central Railway

Pp. 102-3. *Type 6*. An example with 'UP' has been found on cover.

P. 103. (c) *Great Northern Railway*

Type 2, No. 2. Latest date now December 1930.

(d) *North Coast Railway*

Type 2, No. 1. Latest date now January 1930.

No. 2. Latest date now October 1930.

P. 104. *Type 2*, No. 3(a). The amendment of December 1978, p. 85, is unnecessary, as it is due to a misreading. The original dates should stand.

No. 3(b). Dates now range from October 1921 to January 1932.

Chapter XIII

P. 112. (D) *Unidentifiable Markings*

The second sentence under (2) should now read: "Six examples have been reported to me."

Chapter XIV

P. 113. Near the bottom of the page, add:
Miallo 7/4/98 & 12/8/99

P. 114. Near the top of the page, add:

Moowera 16/2/06 Name appears as 'Moowera Ro' San Jose. The range of dates should now read '1896/1899'. (B) *Stamps Cancelled with Crossed Diagonals and Name on Cover*. At the end add: "Mr. Collas has a postcard originating at Kulgun on 17/8/10, with the stamps cancelled with crossed diagonals in blue, over stamped at Ipswich. Kulgun does not appear in the 1909 list of offices, but it could have been opened later."

Chapter XVI

P. 121. *Type 2a*. Code letter 'a' is now known on cover dated SP 24, 76.

P. 123. *Type 7*. Alter the beginning of the second sentence to read: "About a dozen examples have been seen", and alter the third sentence to read: "The figures above BRISBANE are 2, 3, and 5 to 9 inclusive; no doubt all at least up to 9 should exist."

P. 124. *Type 12*. Add 'O' and 'P' to the code letters found.

Chapter XVII

P. 131. *Type 6*. This should probably be clarified by adding at the end: "but a considerable number of others are known on stamps off cover."

Chapter XX

P. 140. (B) *Dead Letter Office*

Type 1. Two more February 1864 dates have now been seen.

Type 4(a). The latest date is now 31 MY 05.

PP. 143-4. (G) *Postage Due*

An earlier marking is now known, with just DEFICIENT POSTAGE in one line, unframed, with 4d. added in manuscript. The dimensions of the handstamp are 52½ x 3½ mm., used in February 1864. This is on a cover bearing an uncancelled 6d. Victorian stamp, which was not accepted by the Queensland authorities, and there is a D — L — O c.d.s. on the back, showing that insufficiently franked letters were at that stage held in the Dead Letter Office until the postage and fine had been paid. The 'DEFICIENT POSTAGE' was obviously applied in Brisbane.

I have now collected a number of covers, and have photocopies of others, showing a DEFICIENT POSTAGE — FINE marking. These show that not all of these were applied in Brisbane, as stated in the book, as some of the covers did not go anywhere near Brisbane. They were almost certainly applied at the office of origin, or, in the case of re-addressed letters, at the office of re-posting. There were also more than the one type as illustrated on page 144. Some of them had the amounts of Deficient Postage, Fine and the total incorporated in the handstamp, either framed or unframed. Probably each post office had one of these handstamps, of one type or another, but more work needs to be done on them.

Although some of these handstamps are still in existence (Mr. Beston has obtained strikes of a few per favour), they appear to have been replaced in many instances by "tax" markings — these may have been a "Commonwealth" issue, as the earliest seen dates from 1903. One such marking is mentioned in the book, showing 'TAX 4D' within a horizontal oval, with the suggestion that it might have been applied at Brisbane in transit. Later research suggests that it was applied at the office of origin, and that there were a number of these, similar but not completely identical. Another

group of markings can be found in the same period with just the capital letter 'T', either unframed, or within a circle or triangle. Here again more work needs to be done.

Finally, there were markings applied in the "Commonwealth" period to insufficiently franked mail addressed to overseas. There is a three-line marking, unframed, inscribed 5 — CTMS — T unserifed, with '5' 5 mm. high, CTMS 4 mm. high and 16 mm. long, and T 4½ mm. high; there is a space of 2-2½ mm. between the lines. Only one of these has been reported, on a postcard from Brisbane to Connecticut in 1903. Mr. Shepard has another, inscribed 10 — CTMS — T, but this on an item of 1920, so may or may not date from our period. In this, all figures and letters are 4½ mm. high, and 'CTMS' is 14½ mm. long.

I hope to write an article later dealing more fully with these Queensland Postage Due markings, and to track down the office of origin where possible.

P. 148 (& September 1979, p. 74). (*K*) *Unclaimed*

Type 2. A third example, dated 31 JA 88, has been seen on a Brisbane local O.H.M.S. cover.

Type 3. This has now been found on a cover, dated MY 5 05, which extends the usage from 1891 to 1905 at least.

The straight-line marking NOT CALLED FOR and the two-line marking NOT KNOWN BY — LETTER CARRIERS also occur on the O.H.M.S. cover mentioned above, extending the known range of usage of these.

In December 1978 (p. 88) and September 1979 (p. 74), I discussed a two-line POSTAGE PAID — IN COIN — used at Wompah in 1896, and a straight-line POSTAGE PAID CASH used at Millchester in 1874. The explanations of these which I suggested are not convincing, but Mr. Brian Pope has suggested one that is much more plausible. He says that in Western Australia, if a postmaster ran out of stamps, there was a regulation which permitted him to accept postage in cash, and as the postal regulations of the Australian Colonies were all very similar, he suggests that a similar regulation may have applied in Queensland. Some such handstamps as those described could well have been supplied to post offices, particularly those distant from Brisbane, to meet such an emergency. Stampless covers of the nineteenth century have only survived by a fluke, which explains why they are so rare.

I acknowledge the help of Messrs. F. Anderson, P. Collas and N. Hobbs (Victoria), B. P. Beston and M. W. Stevens (Queensland), J. L. Amiet (N.S.W.), G. E. Owen and B. Pope (W.A.), A. R. Butler (U.K.), L. G. Shepard, E. G. Tinsley and E. A. Williams (U.S.A.), and A. H. Hewitt (Canada). Mr. Hewitt also advises that much of the information on the T.P.O's reported on page 85 of the December 1978 issue was derived from items in his own collection. I am also indebted to Messrs. Rex and Fair for finding many items for me.

EDITORIAL NOTES

A Victorian Imperforate Variety of 1866

In the extracts of the Victorian P.O. Archives made by Mr. W. R. Rundell appears the record of an imperforate error not known to modern collectors.

Mr. F. W. Robinson, the Stamp Printer, in a letter of 5.11.1866, reported the loss of a sheet of 2d stamps "either stolen by workmen repairing the roof or carried away by rats."

He adds that "the missing sheet must be an unperforated one and this is the only means of identification, for unfinished stamps are never issued by the Dept."

The stamp involved is the 2d Laureate, but the watermark at that date is anyone's guess.

Imperforate 2d Laureates have never surfaced. Presumably the rats (or rather their descendents) are holding the sheet for investment purposes!

BOOK REVIEWS

The Cancellations of Melbourne 1861-1912, by D. G. Davies and G. R. Linfield in collaboration with J. R. W. Purves. 63 pp. 20 x 27 cm. Published by the Australian States Study Group, Royal Philatelic Society, London, 41 Devonshire Place, London WIN IPE. Price £8. The RPSV has a few copies available to Australian readers.

A truly remarkable book; not only for its listing of nearly all the Melbourne cancellations, but also for the details it gives of the two early time codes used by Melbourne.

From a study of the book it is clear that there were well over 300 cancellers used in the period considered (if we include datestamps, etc. the figure must be nearer to 500).

All these 300 odd cancellers are illustrated and listed into type, numerical order, date of usage.

The first section devotes a few pages to the fascinating subject of the first two time codes used by Melbourne; the use of code-letters is very rarely ever mentioned in philatelic literature and possibly this work will help collectors of other countries which used them. The meaning of these code-letters is given for the period 1854-61 (and probably a little later on backstamps) followed by an expanded code from 1861 to about 1880, when it was again changed, possibly as a result of the G.P.O. going onto double shift.

There is one criticism that I believe should be noted by all users of the book; it is that in spite of a remark on page 10 to the effect that all illustrations are actual size, this is not the case. Most illustrations are such that diameters of the datestamp part of a canceller are more or less 1mm larger than natural size. However, the work does allow any reasonable copy of a cancellation to be classified.

G. T. WHITE.

Philately from Australia, Cumulative Index to Volumes XXI-XXX, (1969-1978), by H. L. Chisholm. 26 pp and 2 pp introduction. 18 x 25 cm. Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Price \$5.00, plus postage.

This index, the third to be published, covers the third decade of the journal, from the pen of a professional journalist, philatelist of note, and close observer of the New Zealand and Australian philatelic scene. Horace has been associated with the journal as writer and editor from 1955 until early this year.

The journal, now in its 32nd year, the brain-child of the late J. R. W. Purves, still carries out the function laid down by its founding committee although Bill laid down his pen soon after the end of the period now reviewed. There have been changes, but the foundation editor, and Phil

Collas, acting editor for a period in 1950, are still actively writing.

It is interesting to note that 18 contributors provided articles for the first time in the current period; half of these may not have ventured into print without the editorial policy.

The journal, and this index, now appears in offset with a new printer. The type face is smaller, but clear, and there are nearly 1500 references; rather more than preceding indexes. These again draw attention to a wealth of detail with thoughtful internal indexing of articles, and the reviewer has read again with interest numerous articles recalled on perusal of this publication. Surely this is the purpose of intelligent indexing, as attention is drawn to a possibly overlooked facet.

The contents of the ten year period could be epitomised as "the mixture as before", approximately half the references are to stamps of Australia, New Zealand and the Australian colonies.

A close examination, alongside its predecessors, would suggest that some States and periods have been widely neglected. This suggests possible fields for further investigation, for few collectors take the trouble to mine new fields. There are new fields in all States and Commonwealth which have been barely touched. Possibly the middle and later periods of New South Wales have been most neglected, although some good work is being published elsewhere.

New readers will need the earlier indexes, and if some are encouraged to dig deeper, publication will be worth while. All our readers should be grateful for a most useful publication, which is uniform in size with the parent journal.

R. LLOYD SMITH.

Robson Lowe 1979-80 Review. 16 pp. 17 x 24 cm. Published by Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JZ, England.

The turnover for the year (Mr. Robson Lowe's 60th in the stamp business) was £6,056,823, a significant decrease over the previous season attributable in part to the recession experienced in the Great Britain market.

Nonetheless, the highest realization for the season was for a G.B. item — the recently-discovered cover bearing the 1840 1d and 2d, and 1841 1d (the world's first three stamps). It sold for Swiss Francs 135,000 (£35,571).

Another unique G.B. item, the 1880 1d Venetian red wmk Orb, realised £4,750.

The major Australasian collection offered was Sebastian Earl's Tasmania. The total realisation was Swiss Francs 498,820 (£129,564).

Australia's auction buying for the season was £215,155, putting it in sixth place behind G.B.,

Switzerland, U.S.A., Italy and Germany. In the 1978-79 season Australia was in fourth place with £327,567. The change may be due to the increasing number of sales being held in Europe, in Basle, Geneva and Zurich.

The Pitcairn Islands Stamp Catalogue. Second Revised Edition. Compiled and Edited by Bill Hornadge, Postal Markings List compiled by Cy Kitching. Cover Design by Jennifer Toombs. 224 pp. 12 x 20 cm. Published by Review Publications, Ltd., Sterling Street, Dubbo, N.S.W., 2830. Recommended Price, \$9.

One of the a reviewer's pleasures is the happiness of an arrival that surprises him. This is a publication that qualifies for that category.

The first edition of five years ago has grown from 128 pages to 224, the catalogue has become a catalogue-handbook, and there is a four-colour cover by Miss Jennifer Toombs, the designer of many Pitcairn stamps. Further, the book is Perfect (square) bound.

A feature is a 60-page section on the Postal Markings of Pitcairn, compiled by Mr. Cy Kitching, the English expert. It covers all known markings, with a numbered and illustrated checklist.

This covers official and unofficial markings, early handstamps, cancellations, First Day handstamps, airmail markings, registration and censor markings, ship marks and postage dues.

Chapters on Pitcairn history and Pitcairn postal history show their inter-relation.

The stamp section has all the normal specialist data, including the identification of the 10 printings of the first issue, with major varieties illustrated.

Pricing is for mint and used, First Day covers, and imprint blocks.

Mr. Hornadge says prices are based on a cross-section of retail prices operative within Australia during 1980.

He has not provided separate prices for mint unhinged stamps. Because, he says, he believes the considerable price differential between hinged and

unhinged is a transitory phase that may be eliminated when the speculators ultimately leave the market.

"Whether you pay these premiums for the privilege of acquiring a stamp with full gum on the back is a matter for your determination."

The Catalogue of Australian Pre-Stamped Envelopes, by C. Parker. 64 pp. 18 x 24 cm. Published by Philatelic Consulting Services, P.O. Box M35, East Dubbo, N.S.W., 2830. Price \$5.95, plus 50c postage.

Every collector in Australia must have heard of pre-stamped envelopes, and most collectors are apparently buying them. The appearance of a priced catalogue is only to be expected.

The first part of this work, detailing the various definitive and commemorative issues (up to the Sturt envelope) is excellent. It provides a concise account of the extensive research which has been carried out on this postal stationery.

The second part is a listing of the cancellations and cachets applied to these envelopes, divided into two sections — Official and Semi-Official. The author admits that the classification of these items is controversial. Official cancels are those that were available at the time of their issue at face value. Semi-Official cancels were available at, well . . .

It is arguable whether most of these items should be given the space many would agree they do not deserve. Their listing may only serve to encourage such idiotic trends as the multiple cancel envelopes which are not now, and can never be, of any philatelic significance or of any philatelic value. Even the Post Office has succumbed on two occasions to the production of limited issue gimmicks.

Despite this criticism, it is encouraging to see publications on postal stationery. Older collectors in this field no doubt wish that the current level of research had been matched in earlier times, and then Australia's previous foray into pictorial stationery — the lettercards of 1911-25 — might be somewhat better documented.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

South Australia

At the February meeting Mr. L. Malin travelled from Adelaide to display his well-known collection of South Australia. The sheets shown covered the whole period 1855-1912, but Departmentals were excluded since these had

been displayed at the society last year by Dr. Pearce.

The 1855 London Prints included a die proof of the 2d, and an unused pair of the same stamp.

A selection of the 3d on 4d surcharge included a used imperforate copy (cancelled Port Adelaide

10.1.1871) and a used example of the very rare surcharge omitted.

A rare proof was an imperforate pair of the 1/- in red on Broad Star paper.

The high values had a set 15/- — £20 cancelled-to-order, and the £4- — £20 with *Specimen* in mss.

Another beautiful proof was the artist's hand painted essay for the 1898 ½d showing the G.P.O. Adelaide.

The "Long" stamps of the Commonwealth period included the EIGNT error in a mint block, and also a used single (cancelled Angaston, 28.4.1904). A recent discovery, the 10/- error of colour in pale grey-olive, was also seen (cancelled with the Adelaide Registered c.d.s.).

The Officials included a pane of 60 of the 1899 1d showing a major progressive misplacement of the opt.

Victoria

Mrs. M. Rodwell showed a selection from her Victorian collection at the March meeting. The display concentrated on two aspects of our home State which have not been seen much at society meetings in recent years — the "Laureates", and postal stationery.

The star item had to be the 4d Laureate error of wmk 8, recently chronicled in *P. from A.* (September 1980, p. 56).

Another very rare error of wmk was the 6d wmk single line 4 — a used copy cancelled 69 (Pahran) was shown.

The later issues included the 1878 2d on lilac paper cancelled at Ballarat.

Amongst the covers shown was an 1882 one to London showing on the reverse R.M.S.S. *Hobson's Bay* postmark.

The postal stationery included a number of wrappers in uncut sheets of 4. These comprised the 1873 ½d on 1d, 1880 ½d, 1885 ½d pink, 1885 ½d and 1d opt Stamp Duty, and 1886 ½d grey-lilac. Other wrappers shown were the 1885 ½d on N.S.W. paper without border; and another showing two copies of the 1885 ½d, presumably stamped-to-order.

An uncatalogued post card was RL CP31 but with OS in colourless dots. The 1d and 1½d American fleet post cards were shown mint, and also the 1½d used.

Postage Dues

For the first April meeting Mr. R. P. Hyeronimus overcame an airline strike to come down from Canberra to display his collection of Australian postage dues.

The collection forms the basis upon which Mr. Hyeronimus wrote his book *Commonwealth of Australia: The Postage Due Stamps, 1902 — 1963*, recently published by The Hawthorn Press. The sheets displayed were selected to illustrate some of the interesting and occasionally unique procedures used to produce the postage due plates and print the stamps.

Sheets of the monocolour (all green) issues demonstrated the differences between primary, secondary and tertiary flaws. An unusual block of the ½d showed double perfs. and additional multiple rows of blind perfs.

In the bicoloured (red and green) issues a number of blocks showing CA and JBC monograms, and the imprints of successive printers were shown. Other blocks showed the various combinations of frame plate and value plate flaws which occur because the value plates were not continuous, and the blocks were grouped together differently for each printing.

Recess frame plates were introduced in 1938. Examples of the plate nos. were shown, and a study was made of the various Ash and By Authority imprints.

Retouch, Re-entry and Double Prints

The second April meeting was presented by three members — Dr. G. Russell-Jones, Mr. G. T. White and Mr. P. Jaffé.

The subject, "retouch, re-entry and double prints" was prefaced by short talks by each member explaining the distinguishing features of each type of variety, followed by a comprehensive display illustrating these features.

Dr. Russell-Jones showed a wide range of British Commonwealth issues. Surface-printed re-entries and retouches were explained by a range of Australian King George V issues. Retouches due to errors in using the pantograph included the Brunei "5c" retouches and Tonga's Queen Salote series.

Mr. White displayed the issues of Tasmania and Victoria. The Tasmanian Chalon Heads included a number of examples of blurred prints. There was a distinct double print of the 4d Octagonal. Amongst the Victoria was a possible unrecorded retouch on Ham's third 1d Half-Length.

Mr. Jaffé showed several very rare double prints, including Sicily 1g, and Tasmania's 1870 2d. Amongst a number of South Australian stamps printed both sides was possibly the rarest, the 4d wmk V over crown. Re-entries were illustrated by examples on Perkins, Bacon plates of the various West Indian islands.

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