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

Vol. XXXIII, No. 1

March 1981

AUSIPEX '84 FOR MELBOURNE

R.P.S.V. GIVES THE FIRST DONATION, \$1000

Melbourne will stage a great international philatelic exhibition from 21 September to 30 September 1984.

It has been named AUSIPEX '84.

There will be more than 2000 frames, a selection from The Royal Collection and a considerable Court of Honour.

It will occupy the Western and Eastern Annexes of the Exhibition Building, Centennial Hall, and the Convention Centre.

This will cover 120,000 square feet.

There will be lounges around the hall where people may rest.

Associated with the exhibition will be THE AUSSIE CLUB, which will have an upstairs lounge and restaurant on a carpeted area.

The club will have 200 patrons, who subscribe \$250 each, and 2000 members who contribute \$50.

The organisers of AUSIPEX '84 are representatives of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, the Australian Stamp Dealers' Association, the Victorian Philatelic Association, the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council, and Australia Post.

Mr J. Gartner, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, is President and the Vice-Presidents are Mr R. H. Gamble (Australia Post), Miss I. E. Kerry, (V.P.A. and V.P.S.A.), and Mr R. P. T. Chapman, M.B.E.

"It will be the greatest philatelic exhibition ever held in Australia and it will be an exhibition that will be remembered for a long time," Mr Gartner promised when making the first public announcement at the March meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

The Council of the Society has given the first donation, \$1000.

AUSIPEX '84 will be the first major philatelic exhibition in Melbourne since MIPEX, 1963; the first for 21 years.

The Treasurer, Mr A. W. Bunn, F.R.P.S.L., will be glad to receive donations to the Exhibition and applications for membership of THE AUSSIE CLUB.

The Executive Officer, Miss M. Farley, says that donations of stamps for the first AUSIPEX '84 auction will be gratefully received.

The AUSIPEX '84 address is G.P.O. Box 8484, Melbourne, 3001, Australia.

The Officers will be:

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President: Mr J. Gartner.

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M.B.E.

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EDITORIAL NOTES

Engraver of N.Z. Newspaper Stamp Still a Mystery

The die for the ½d New Zealand Newspaper Stamp issued on New Year's Day, 1873, was a woodblock cut in Melbourne, but there is no philatelic record of who the craftsman was.

It occurred to the editor that since New Zealand had used papers watermarked Sands and McDougall (1855-57) and Invicta, a trade name of the company (1872), for Chalon Heads, it might have approached Sands and McDougall, a Melbourne firm, with the order for the die, and

the engraver would have been an employee or one commissioned by it.

He wrote to Sands and McDougall asking whether they had any record of the matter.

The chairman of the company (Mr P. K. MacDougall) replied:

"Thank you for your letter. I regret however that our records are not sufficiently complete to enable us to identify the unknown craftsman. It was during the middle 70s that we had a disastrous fire and it is known that all records which had been accumulated to that date were unfortunately destroyed. I regret I am unable to help you with this important matter."

TWO DESPICABLE THEFTS CARRY URGENT WARNING

Australia has been suffering a plague of stamp thefts and among recent victims have been two of Melbourne's most respected lady philatelists, Miss Julie Resch and Miss Helen Serjeant White.

Both are in advanced years. Both live alone.

Miss Resch's stamps were stolen while she was having Christmas dinner with a relative; Miss Serjeant White's collection while she was attending the annual meeting of the Women's Philatelic Society.

In one case it appears that a dog was silenced.

Miss Serjeant White's loss included the Victorian Charities of 1897 form reproduced in the December 1980 issue of *Philately from Australia* (P. 87).

Theft of a stamp collection is a contemptible thing because a collection usually represents a lifetime of effort and in these two instances, it was almost as contemptible a theft as can be imagined. The personal sympathy of every philatelist who knows them intimately has gone out to the victims. Their suffering is the greater because the robber or robbers, in their hunt and in their haste, made each of the homes a mess that had to be cleared up.

Their consolation, inadequate though it must be, must be the realisation of the amount of pleasure their collections have given them, and the vast circle of friends they have made in philately, all of whom sincerely hope that their stolen collections will be restored to them.

Other philatelists are already marked down as potential victims.

A philatelist who gave a display to a suburban society as guest exhibitor some years ago has been the recipient of bogus telephone calls, to see whether he was at home ever since, and in one instance, an attempt was made to lure him away.

The caller represented himself as being from a major commercial radio station, which he said, was conducting a general knowledge contest: "Answer the question correctly and you're on an overseas trip."

Obviously there was more to it than that — a contest at the studio with other winners for a "Grand Final" or to receive the prize — leaving the home empty.

The answer he got was "It's a hoax" and a receiver hung up in his ear — but this has been no deterrent.

Philately from Australia appeals to all philatelists to take measures to safeguard their treasures, preferably by placing them in safe deposit, and visiting them regularly to air the pages.

This is particularly important when owners are deterred from insuring them by the high premiums consequent upon ballooning prices in the stamp market, the need to revise values continuously, and the possibility that the company may demand proof satisfactory to itself, that the insurer was still the owner of all the material insured at the time of the theft, and that it was in the place from which the booty was stolen.

Philatelists naturally like to have their collections near at hand, for the pleasure they give, for study, and for the purpose of working on them.

But current circumstances demand that the valuable stamps kept at home be limited to those needed for use.

The house should also be made as difficult to enter as possible by the fitting of security locks and the keys carried on the person or planted — not in the first or second top drawers, which is where thieves look first.

Photostating of the important sections, with the photostats kept in another place, has been widely recommended, or, a detailed list with identification characteristics, such as postmark dates and position on stamps, or addresses on covers, should be compiled.

Collectors should not talk about their stamps in public.

With the current boom in collecting, philatelic societies should be prepared to forego the pleasure of watching a rapidly swelling membership in favour of the wisdom of being careful in examining the credentials of those seeking membership.

Law enforcement bodies at all levels should be made to appreciate that the harm done by the theft of a stamp collection is far in excess of the monetary value, so that the gravity of the offences is understood and the sentences be made deterrent ones.

Otherwise philatelists will have to face the possibility that a greater number of criminals may be attracted to the stamp theft field, and that some of them may be prepared to use violence.

THE THIRD TEN-YEAR INDEX TO PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA COVERS 1969-1978

The third 10-year cumulative index to *Philately from Australia* has now been published.

Its publication means that more than 3500 references are available to the vast amount of material published in the journal during its first 30 years.

The new index covers the years 1969-1978 (Volumes XXI-XXX) and, like its two predecessors, has been compiled by the editor, Mr H. L. Chisholm.

It contains about 1500 entries, considerably more than either of its forerunners, each of which had more than 1000 entries.

In style and format it matches its two companion indexes and *Philately from Australia* itself.

The system followed in the first indexes has been maintained, and provides a quick and easy reference to the vast amount of material published during the period. All items regarded as of permanent value have been indexed, and cross-indexed where this has been considered justified. The index applies not only to titles but to material within articles.

Publication of this index is a renewed declaration of the belief that as *Philately from Australia* is basically a journal of record, material published in it must be as easily available to students as possible.

All indexes are available from the Business Manager, *Philately from Australia*, Miss Joyce Buchanan, Box 2071, Melbourne, Vic., 3001.

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has made a recommended price of \$5.00 for the new index. That for the earlier indexes is \$3.50 each. Postage is extra in all cases. The society is offering the set of three volumes at \$10.00, plus \$2.00 for postage and packing (local).

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

Australia — 28 cent Christmas 1980

In my recent travels I was shown a sheet of this stamp in a considerably deeper shade than normal. Unfortunately I was unable to secure a sample to check whether there were any differences of paper or perforation, nor have I seen any further examples. It may prove to have been nothing more than one of a small number of sheets from the early part of the run, while the press was being adjusted, that was considered "near enough" for delivering against the printing order.

Australia 22 cent Aircraft

From Row 6, No 3 of the lower part of the sheet where the left selvedge is imperforated comes a variety which is likely to be listed in the next Commonwealth QE II catalogue.

It takes the form of a magenta dot on the port wing midway between the roundel and the fuselage.

I have seen the variety at three or four different Post Offices and well over 100 examples of it, so that it is certainly semi-constant. Supplies from the same sheet at the Philatelic Bureau have no trace of the red spot and at those Post Offices which did have sheets "with" and "without" the variety could be found distributed at random through the same "lift".

At first I thought that this must have been due to cylinder damage before or during the printing run and subsequent introduction of a second magenta cylinder, but according to the latest Philatelic Bulletin only one cylinder was used for each colour. Certainly a minute black spot on another stamp from sheets "with" and "without" the magenta spot confirms that there was no change of the black cylinder at that time.

Mrs. Van Tenac of Adelaide, has told me there were two papers available there and also sent me blocks of the 22 cent Australia Day Stamp on cream and a whiter paper which I feel would be of specialist interest only.

A NEW QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY ITEM

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

A hitherto unrecorded item of Queensland postal stationery, was offered for sale at the Stanley Gibbons (Australia) Pty. Ltd. postal sale in Melbourne in January 1981 and has been acquired by a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

This item is a 1d postcard, basically of the type of 1888-91, but with an impressed 1d stamp, S. G. type 21. This combination has hitherto been unknown.

A further intriguing feature, also unique so far as Queensland postal stationery is concerned, is that the stamp impression was punctured 'OS'.

The back of the card indicates that it was a printed form of acknowledgement from the Department of Public Lands, Brisbane, and was addressed to Normanton, being postmarked at Brisbane on 3 August 1910.

As this type of postcard, without the 'OS' puncture, was never issued to the public — other forms of 1d cards always being available over post office counters — one may presume that this official card would not have been printed had not the initial order comprised a reasonable quantity. Other examples may therefore exist.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Annual Index

Because of production difficulties associated with the offset process it is not possible now to publish the annual index to *P. from A.* in the December issue.

The index to Vol. XXXII (1980) appears in this issue and from now, the index will appear in the March issue of the following year.

6 Avoca Street

Mr D. N. Baker writes that in addition to various artists' sketches specifically depicting 6 Avoca Street, there is one by Arno Roger-Genersh that concentrates on Lee Terrace as a whole, just showing part of No. 6.

The sketch is one of twenty-nine provided by Mr. Roger-Genersh to illustrate interesting architecture in the Toorak and South Yarra area, in a book in the popular *Sketchbook* series published by Rigby Ltd. in 1974, entitled *Toorak and South Yarra Sketchbook*.

The text accompanying each illustration is provided by Brian Carroll.

The first two paragraphs of the text relating to Lee Terrace are of particular interest to members of the "Royal" who are familiar with our headquarters building. They read:

"Lee Terrace is a good example of how people can live together in architectural unity yet still manage to express their individuality. None of its occupants has felt it necessary to tear down the traditional cast iron or to paint his facade purple, yet in the pocket-sized gardens that front their individual houses, the people of Lee Terrace have adopted quite independent stances. One has opted for hollyhocks and a wild rose bush. One has lawn where another has white pebbles. Still another has a native garden interspersed with red brick paving.

"Perhaps the most interesting examples of the cast-iron work at Lee Terrace are the steps leading up to the first floor balcony on the end house (No. 6), and the balustrades which have been curved to match the projecting window."

American Visitor to SYDPEX 80

Among the overseas visitors to SYDPEX 80 was Mr Dale E. Forster, of Oregon, U.S.A.

Mr Forster displayed early N.S.W. in the Court of Honour.

A King's Coup

Details of great events are related in the most unlikely places.

Here is a story from Douglas Collins' *P.O.W.*, the record of his 10 escapes from prison camps.

He was a British Army sergeant taken prisoner at Dunkirk, and whose break-outs and subsequent transfers to other P.O.W. camps took him across Europe, to within 20 miles of Constanta on the Black Sea, where he had hoped to get a free and unofficial passage to Turkey.

At the time the event related occurred, he was in a prison camp in Rumania, caught when about to make his 11th attempt, for which he was badly beaten up, and saved by a courageous Rumanian Lieutenant when in front of a firing squad.

Here is his story of the downfall of the Rumanian dictator, General Ion Antonescu:

"Rumania's defection from the side of Germany was due to the long-awaited Russian offensive in Bessarabia, which had started three days previously. King Michael and everyone else except the Iron Guard recognized that further resistance would be useless, and on the night of August 23 Antonescu was invited to attend on the king in his palace.

"He expected he would be present at a council of war. Instead, he found Michael alone.

"The young man talked about his stamp collection, which ranked among the finest in the world, and the surprised dictator was too polite to cut the conversation short.

"Unsuspectingly he stepped into a small room to view the best stamps and as he did so the king banged the door shut and locked it and Antonescu's period of power was gone."

The Other Side of the Picture

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

VICTORIA Two Remarkable Finds

Mr. Robson Lowe has sent photographs of two recently-found Victorian items of great interest.

The first is a mint block of 24 of the octagonal 1/- blue imperf of 1854 (S.G. 39). Previously the largest mint block known was a block of four. A used block of 12 is on record.

The block, the bottom three rows of eight, has full margins, and is from the early state of the stone, in dull slate blue.

It was found by an Adelaide doctor. (*See p. 9*).



Recently found Victoria cover, with an inter-panneau strip of three of the first state of the 3d Half-Length (Two stamps from the left pane and one from the right) as well as a 1d with Butterfly 23 (Burnbank) cancellation.

The second is a letter with an inter-panneau strip of three of the first state of the 3d Half-Length. The strip consists of two stamps from the left pane and one from the right.

They are position numbers 4, 5, and 1 of the intermediate stone of the Second printing.

The cover also has a 1d Half-Length from the right-hand side of the intermediate stone of the Second Printing.

The letter was written at Glenmona on 7 June 1850 and cancelled with Butterfly 23

at Burnbank on 16 June. Other cancellations are Melbourne 17 June and Sydney 25 June and it has a manuscript note on the front recording that it was received on 26 November 1850.

The letter was addressed to Miss Arabella Shore, (care of) the/ Revd I Shore/ Elmer's End/ Beckenham/ Kent.

Miss Shore received a warm, affectionate letter from her married son.

It was found among a few family letters in an old cigar box.

Both items will be sold with the third part of the Purves collection at the Robson Lowe auction at Zurich on 12-15 May.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Small scratches on Perkins, Bacon Steel Plates.

Further to this subject in 'The Other Side of the Picture' in the December 1980 issue (p. 84) Mr. Brian Pope, of Perth, writes:

I have looked at the photographs of the sheets of Western Australia 1d. 2d. 4d. 6d. and 1/- held in the National Postal Museum, London. The original sheets are no longer complete but much of the selvages remain and I can see no line or scratch on any of the values that I can associate with a plate layout guide mark.

The photographs in general are quite sharp and well defined so I would expect any such markings to show.

There is a prominent dot over the 'W' of Western on Unit R1/7 which fits your description. The flaw near the Swan's beak is not apparent on the photograph but I have seen, what seems like the same thing, on a stamp and conclude that it was due to corrosion and was not a roller flaw.

MR H. M. CAMPBELL REGAINS HIS R.D.P. MEDAL

Mr H. M. Campbell, R.D.P., is a happy and grateful man. After more than 4½ months his lost R.D.P. Medal is in his possession again.

When someone writes a history of the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, the story of Mr Campbell's medal should surely find a place.

Mr Campbell signed the Roll at Cambridge on 22 August last (*P. from A.*, Dec. 1980, p. 80) and afterwards made a European tour on his way home.

At Bullund on Jutland, he gave a suitcase containing the medal to Denair to go with him to Copenhagen and then be transferred to his Iraqi Airlines aircraft for the flight to Athens.

When he reached Athens, the case did not appear.

Repeated Telex messages from Athens and Melbourne to Baghdad over a period of months brought no result.

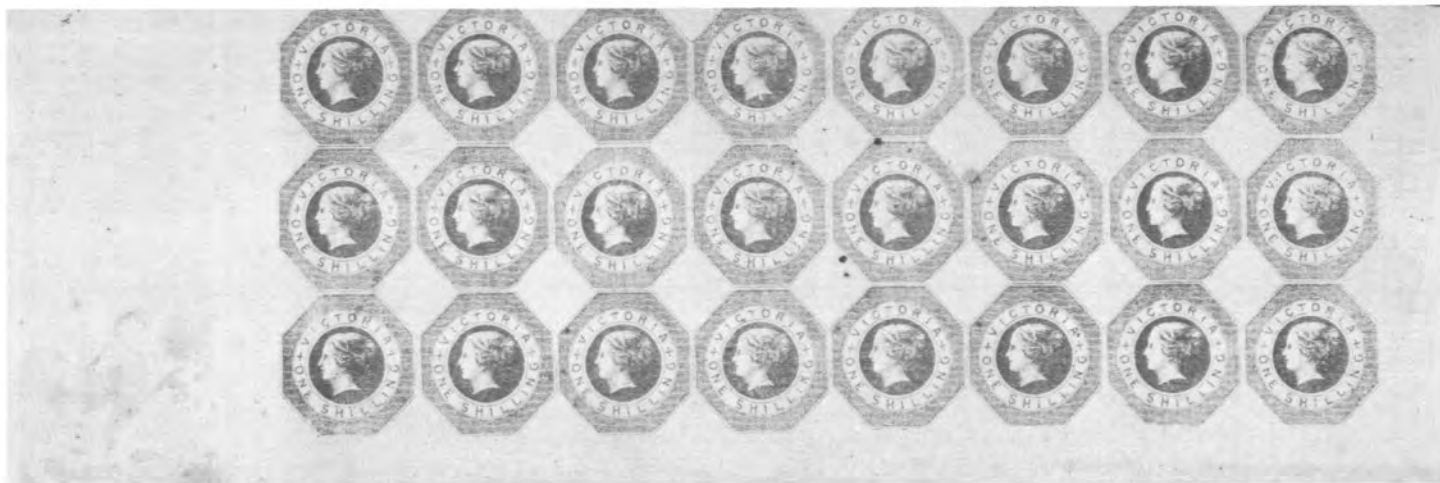
Then, apparently, somebody found and opened the case, and seeing that printed matter in it was in English sent it to British Airways at Heathrow.

Mr Campbell's Melbourne telephone number was in it and British Airways rang him from London to check that the case was his.

Receiving his assurance that it was, they flew the case to Melbourne and then telephoned him from Tullamarine, saying he could pick it up at the Ansett Terminal in Franklin Street.

Finding the medal was in it was pure delight.

WORLD-CLASS FIND AFTER 126 YEARS



6

This block, the bottom three rows of a sheet of Victoria's first 1/- stamp, the octagonal blue imperforate of July 1854, raises the size of the largest known mint block from four to 24. It is the early state of the stone in dull slate blue.



P.D. REGISTERED
P.P.

ANGLO-FRENCH ACCOUNTANCY MARKINGS ON AUSTRALASIAN MAILS AFTER 1 APRIL 1862

By Dr. K. J. McNAUGHT, F.R.P.S.L.

In January 1862, Additional Articles to the Convention of 1856, to be implemented on 1 April 1862, were signed at London and Paris governing the exchange of closed mails between France and the Australian Colonies and New Zealand.

Article 1 of this agreement refers to the British Possessions of Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland and New Zealand and specifically to the offices of Melbourne, Geelong, Sydney, Brisbane, King George's Sound (Albany), Auckland and Wellington.

For details see P. C. Pearson, *The London Philatelist*, 1972, pp 123-7; also *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*, Volume VI, 1978, pp 385-7.

Article 2 set out the options of pre-payment of postage or payment by the recipient. For mail carried by British Packets to France the French Post Office undertook to pay the British Post Office one franc sixty-two and four-tenths centimes per ounce or 30 grams for paid letters from France to the Australian Colonies and New Zealand and for unpaid letters from the Colonies to France. (This was made up of 1F20c seamount, two and four-tenths centimes for Suez transit and 40c local postage).

The rate for newspapers and printed matter was 1F80c per kilo.

The rate for unpaid mail from Foreign Countries forwarded in the closed mail from the colonies (for example from New Caledonia through Sydney, or from Tahiti through New Zealand) was one franc twenty-two and four-tenths centimes. On such unpaid mail carried by British ships, the British Post Office was clearly entitled to recover the seamount rate of 1F20c plus the Suez transit charge, but **not** the local postage rate of 40c per 30 grams which was payable by France to the country of origin.

The rates for part-paid (PP) mail are not clear, but it would appear logical to treat mail from the Australian Colonies and New Zealand to France, on which only the local postage had been paid (2d per ½ oz, that is 4d per oz or 40c per 30 grams) as equivalent to unpaid mail from Foreign Countries and therefore to be credited to the British Post Office at the rate of one franc twenty-two and four-tenths centimes. If this conjecture is correct, it could explain the occurrence of Chalon stamps of New Zealand of about 1864-6 obliterated with the GB accountancy handstamp showing this rate.

The few examples I have seen are all 2d or 1s stamps, star watermark, perf. 12½ (2d local rate per ½ oz for normal letters, 1s 2d for registered).

Information additional to that already published has been found in *PACKET 810R/1866 — Exchange of direct mails between New Zealand and France* in the archives of the British Post Office. The regulations governing the treatment of mails

are indicated by the instructions of 20 January 1862 to the Postmasters-General at Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia, Queensland, and New Zealand. All registered letters must be stamped with the word "REGISTERED".

Distribution of Handstamps

"All unpaid letters and Printed Papers must bear a stamp showing at what rate per ounce or per kg the French Post Office is to account for the British Postage of such letters or Printed Papers. Paid letters must invariably be stamped in red PD or PP according as they are paid to destination or paid to a certain point."

"The several stamps above referred to are sent herewith." These stamps clearly refer to the six handstamps GB 1F62 and four-tenths c, GB 1F22 and four-tenths c, GB 1F80c, PD, PP and REGISTERED.

The distribution of the sets of handstamps was as follows: "Victoria" (Melbourne) 2 sets; Geelong 1 set; New South Wales 2 sets; Western Australia 2 sets; Queensland 2 sets; "New Zealand" (Auckland) 2 sets; Wellington 1 set, total 12 sets. Proof impressions taken from each of these handstamps except the REGISTERED appear on pages 183 and 184 of Volume 8 of the G.P.O. proof impression books in London. Each of the 12 impressions of the accountancy handstamps differs from its companions except in the case of the GB 1F22 four-tenths c markings where there is one extra impression duplicating an adjacent imperfect strike.

On both pages of the impressions book there is a manuscript endorsement "Australian Colonies" under the printed heading "To what Place" and "November 19th 1861" under the heading "Date when sent." In view of the memo of 20 January 1862, this must be the date when the handstamps were sent to the Secretary, G.P.O. London, for despatch. Proof impressions of the six markings are among the "Dunedin Proofs" found by R. J. G. Collins *New Zealand Stamp Collector* — 1965, pp 82-3.

On 9 April 1862, the Postmaster-General at Auckland advised Sir Rowland Hill, Secretary of the G.P.O., London, that circular instructions in New Zealand were being sent out in April to be put into effect on receipt. The letter acknowledged receipt of printed forms and of three sets of stamps (six in each set).

"These (forms) have been distributed to the Chief Postmasters for their use and one set of the stamps entrusted to a firm of die-sinkers in order to prepare copies of them for each chief office." This firm was probably Ferguson & Mitchell, Dunedin.

On 16 April 1862, the Postmaster-General at Perth advised the receipt of the handstamps and that the regulations had been put into operation from 1 April 1862.

The Postmaster-General at Brisbane advised similarly by memo dated 19 May 1862.

Through no correspondence with Melbourne appears on this file, Victoria must also have complied with the requested arrangements, as indicated by markings on covers recorded by Mr Pearson.

In New South Wales, however, there were endless delays in instituting the new arrangements, but finally the Sydney Act was passed to operate from 24 January 1868 allowing optional payment and mutual accounting. By this time the Suez rate had been increased to 6c, necessitating the use of new handstamps GB 1F66c, GB 1F26c and GB 1F90c.

The implication behind this delay is that the accountancy markings of 1862-6 should not be found on New South Wales covers but only the replacement markings. However, Mr Pearson states:

For some reason, perhaps they were forgotten or just not distributed, Australia does not appear to have been supplied with revised accountancy marks at this date (1 January 1866) and carried on using the now obsolete charge marks at least until 1872. This state of affairs does eventually appear to have been corrected and the author has an example of the GB 1F66c handstamp on a letter from Sydney dated 30

October 1875 — only a few months before the ratification of the U.P.U. agreement by Great Britain and France made all the accountancy handstamps obsolete.

The evidence, not quoted, for the statement that the obsolete charge marks continued in use at least until 1872 is, presumably, an 1872 cover from Victoria known to the author or to M. Raymond Salles.

No evidence has been noted in the New Zealand files, or from any other source, to suggest that handstamps with the revised rates were sent out to New Zealand. A search of the comparable files in London dealing with correspondence between London and the Australian Colonies may reveal more information on the 1866 to 1876 period.

Although there is clear documentary evidence that Western Australia received two sets of the 1862 accountancy markings and instituted the requested arrangements on 1 April 1862, presumably no covers with these markings have yet been reported from Western Australia, as no reference to this subject has been noted in the recently published handbook, *Western Australia. The Stamps and Postal History*.

Hopefully, envelopes from Western Australia, Queensland and New Zealand to France, with accountancy markings, will eventually be found.

ADELAIDE'S FIRST TWO POSTMARKERS

By Dr. DONALD PEARCE

Searching through the Government Archives, I have found two interesting letters about Adelaide's two earliest postmarks.

For those unfamiliar with the markings under discussion, I will attempt to describe them. The first consists of a double ringed circle, the inner ring being 2 cm in diameter, and the outer just over 3 cm. Between the two circles are the words POST OFFICE at the top and ADELAIDE at the base. A crown surmounted by a lion is inside the centre circle.

The second type is an oval shaped stamp with a double outer frame line surmounted by a crown, measuring 5 cm long by 4 cm across (ignoring the crown). The oval contains the words GENERAL POST OFFICE ADELAIDE S.A. and the date.

In the Colonial Secretary's incoming letter file for 1837 I found this letter:

Adelaide,
16 September, 1837.

The Hon.
T. B. Strangways,
Colonial Secretary.

Sir,

The accompanying Post Office Seal entrusted to my care by His Excellency is without the name of the Province and I beg to suggest, should it meet with the sanction of His Excellency, that it should be sent back to Sydney for alteration by the *Anne* now proceeding there. The enclosed seal I forward for the guidance of His Excellency should it be deemed expeditious to do so.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,
Thomas Gilbert,
Post Master.

I have not been able to locate any evidence of the nature of His Excellency's reply and I doubt whether one was written as I have been through the letter books for

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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Vol. 32, 1980

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AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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September 1837 (and a considerable time afterwards). However, it is clear that His Excellency's decision was to use the seal exactly as it was.

Secondly, in the Audit Office incoming letter file for 1842 the following letter appears:

Colonial Secretary's Office,
15th April 1842.

The Auditor General,
Sir,

I beg to request that you will have a Warrant prepared for the accompanying account, the amount of which should be regarded as an Outstanding Claim.

It would be convenient, in this instance, that the mode of payment should be by draft on England at par, the draft being in the name of Edw. Manning Esquire, which will be received by Captain Sturt under the authority annexed to the account.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,
John Alexander Jackson,
Colonial Secretary.

The outside of this file is marked:

Audit Office,
14th April, 1842.
Colonial Secretary,
Authorizing the payment of Stamps for the use of the Post Office to Edw. Manning of Sydney.

These two letters prove beyond any doubt that both the first two types of Adelaide post office postmarkers were made in Sydney. At least the second one (if not the first, also) was probably made by Edward Manning.

The fact that the P.M.G. (Mr. Gilbert) referred to the first as a "Post Office Seal" is of note and certainly it was not used on all mail passing through the G.P.O. as I have seen a very large number of letters which passed through the G.P.O. in the period of use of this seal (1838-42) which did not bear an impression of it.

This suggests to me that the seal was in fact not primarily for applying a mark to letters at all, but more likely a mail bag seal which was only used occasionally on letters.

The Robson Lowe catalogue listing for this item is type 2 H.S.8 and dates of use are given as 1836-40. The first date (1836) is patently too early, (based on an assumption that the postmarker was made in England). The earliest I have seen was dated early 1838 and the latest early 1842.

The second postmarker used at the G.P.O. (Robson Lowe type 4, listed as H.S. 18, with dates of usage given as 1840-46) has been seen from early 1842 to 1846 frequently struck on the back of the entire or cover as a form of additional seal.

There was one similar postmarker to the first type which read POST OFFICE PORT ADELAIDE in lieu of POST OFFICE ADELAIDE and was (presumably) obtained concurrently with the G.P.O. postmarker. This is known as Robson Lowe H.S.9 and dates known are 1841 to 1851.

There was also a similar postmarker to the second type made for the PORT LINCOLN office and used from 1845 to 1857. No others are known.

Those not vitally interested in the South Australian questions may or may not have noticed the similarity between H.S.20 of New South Wales, H.S.12 of Victoria, H.S.11 of Van Dieman's Land (Tasmania) and H.S.31 of Western Australia, and the second type of South Australian postmarker. All these were more or less concurrent with the South Australian type and, unless a degree of coincidence exceeding the normal exists here, were probably all made in Sydney, perhaps by Edward Manning.

Should anyone possess dated examples of these postmarkers outside the range of dates I have noted, or wish to discuss the questions I have raised, I promise a prompt reply, and can be reached at 512 Cross Road, Glandore, South Australia, 5037.

MR W. M. HOLBEACH DIES

Mr W. M. Holbeach, a former president of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, and the author of the famous index to material regarding Commonwealth stamps in the major Australian philatelic journals to 1954, died in January.

He was a well-known personality in Melbourne philatelic circles for many years.

His Australian Commonwealth collection won Gold Medals at ANPEX 1950 (Melbourne), ANPEX 1955 (Adelaide), where it won the Championship, and ANPEX 1959 (Sydney) and was in the Court of Honour at MIPEX 1963 (Melbourne).

His collection of Classic France won a Silver-Gilt Medal in 1950 and Gold Medals at the four succeeding Exhibitions, the last being ANPEX 1970 (Sydney).

Mr Holbeach was also a Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London, which he joined in 1945.

He won the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's first Medal Competition in 1943 and was the president in 1944.

The Society published his *Cumulative Index: The Commonwealth of Australia* in 1960. At the society's 75th Anniversary Dinner in 1967, Mr D. B. Moloney, of Sydney, predicted it would still "be used when we are all forgotten."

More recently he reduced his philatelic interests, selling his Commonwealth collection and resigning his society memberships.

To its regret, he has not been a member of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria for some years.

Mr Holbeach was a sociable man. He held definite opinions and was an individualist. His stamps were mounted on special leaves without quadrelle. The sheets had a neat orange-brown border, with his initials in small letters at the lower left corner.

He also collected French paperweights and was a keen angler.

MUST INVESTMENT DESTROY PHILATELY?

The question of whether investment must destroy philately was the subject of a discussion at the first January meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

After the three major speakers, Messrs E. G. Creed, F.R.P.S.L., P. Jaffé, F.R.P.S.L., and Mr. G. Fair, of Rex and Fair, had concluded their addresses, the meeting was opened for questions and the expression of other views. The President, Mr. John Gartner, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L., was in the chair.

Mr. Creed said many people, particularly overseas, had been buying tremendous quantities of stamps. Some had obtained advice from the best dealers and collectors and had been buying very good stamps and putting them away.

This was harming philately by taking from the market many good stamps collectors wanted to buy, and pushing the prices up.

In Australia people were buying stamps at post office counters and were in for a very sad awakening. They also were doing some harm to philately.

"We have a great hobby. It has a very sound foundation over all the world. It is too big to be spoilt. It is too deeply entrenched to be spoilt by people who do not know anything about stamps," he said.

"It is these people who will have their fingers burnt.

"People who really enjoy stamps have nothing to fear if they carry on as they are doing.

"I do not advocate speculation by collectors in any circumstances.

"While investment speculators gambling in stamps must do some harm to philately, they cannot ruin a wonderful hobby or science like philately."

Mr. Jaffé said investment must destroy philately.

"I draw no distinction between speculation and investment because the object of both is to withdraw stock from the general pool, to achieve a profit," he said. "The time scales differ, the selected targets may differ, the proportions of mixed motives between greed and fear may differ, but the result is the same for the collector. He has to pay more for his hobby, and the fact that some collectors may make shrewd investments need not blind us to this truth."

Desirable singles, blocks, strips, covers moved into vaults as stores of value for corporations and individuals. They were lost to the student and an increasing number of worthwhile philatelic studies would be closed by cost or by lack of access to material.

The pressures would strike at friendly meetings — rich collectors were often as security conscious as diamond merchants.

Sadly, some stamps were now as remote from the normal collector as were master paintings, important sculpture, and other beautiful and valuable objects from those who would gain from exposure to them.

"Investment is taking the fun out of a wonderful hobby — and with the fun gone, the hobby must die," he said.

"Ponder on the removal of a central stamp from a block of nine to procure an investment example, and the addition of two unused stamps to a stampless cover, ruined by the painted ties.

"Investment, the accumulation of assets by the uninformed, promotes the faker, repairer, and forger, and the damage to confidence can extend well beyond his victims.

"Repainting is not confined to portraits — Post Paid Mauritius stamps and New Zealand Chalon repaints deceive more often than do second-hand golf-balls."

Mr. Fair started his talk by quoting an advertisement:

Stamp collecting . . . is an investment and often a very valuable investment. There is no doubt that stamps are ever increasing in value, anyone who invests his money will in the course of years, receive a much larger interest on his expended capital than he could in any other investment whatsoever.

Not unusual?

Except that it was printed in a philatelic journal in 1888.

So let us forget that misconception that stamp investment is a modern phenomenon.

"Having said that, I want to differentiate between investment and speculation," Mr. Fair continued.

"Speculation in any commodity, or in any field, leads to much price instability, which, in turn, leads to a decline in confidence in the market place — which causes continual booms and slumps."

Although Australians were prone to spasmodic bouts of speculation whether it be shares, coins, gambling, or other things, philately here had been relatively immune from the harmful effects of speculation, excepting the new issue market where everybody had seen unprecedented quantities of stamps bought at philatelic bureaux.

It was a common lunch-time sight to see large queues with many people buying their mint blocks in multiple sheets.

10,000 \$4 Paintings

One extreme case is a man who bought 10,000 \$4 Paintings just before their withdrawal.

"I am sure he will provide us dealers with an abundance of stamps for registration purposes — and the day when a registered letter will cost \$4 cannot be far off."

Mr. Fair recalled that it was not the first period of stamp speculation. So much black market money went into stamps just after World War II and the disastrous financial consequences to those who participated. Gloucesters, Peace, and Mitchell issues could be bought by dealers at face value until quite recently.

"So much for speculation. But after considerable thought I feel there are some worthwhile points to be made for the investor — who to me is someone willing to place his capital for a considerable time — for philately, a minimum of five years," he said. By doing this the risk of significant market fluctuations is reduced.

These points may be advanced for the existence of the investor:

The investor had brought stamp collecting to the public's notice. Public awareness had increased greatly during the past 10 years and this must bring in new collectors. Certainly, statistics would tend to support this contention. No longer is philately a schoolboy hobby.

On a slightly more controversial note, Australia Post has upgraded its services considerably during the past five years and much of this expansion could be attributed to the incredible sales growth, in which both the speculator, especially, and the investor have contributed.

One should not overlook the number of new collectors who have started their collections from the philatelic counter. Perhaps some of these will advance sufficiently to specialise and become serious philatelists.

It is easy to criticise Australia Post for its policies, but remember Australia Post is a business and, like all businesses, thrives on increased sales and profits.

The new issue policy, I think, on balance, is responsible and we cannot blame it for stupid people who engage in speculative behaviour.

Probably a point not generally appreciated by collectors, which is beneficial in theory (and sometimes in practice) is that the investor has enlarged the philatelic market. This has given dealers higher turnover and the use of additional capital to buy more stamps for collectors.

Some investors will be converted to collecting through close contact with philately and the pleasure they receive from their investment, whether it be aesthetic or educational, or in some other way.

"Collecting is very infectious.

"This can only strengthen the collecting market and promote the hobby.

"Investors and collectors have been together in philately for many years — almost since the inception of the hobby — and they are not as unlikely bedfellows as is commonly thought," he continued.

Wanted — Sydney Views, Mint Unhinged

"Nevertheless investors often differ in taste in stamps from collectors.

"Many investors, especially the lesser informed and educated, prefer unmounted mint stamps. Full-stop.

"A doctor who is in the throes of being converted from an investor to a collector, inspected an unused 1d Sydney View.

"His first question was: 'Is it mint unhinged?'"

Mr. Fair said that obviously, the investor must be encouraged to learn, as every other philatelist. Dealers must play an important role in encouraging investors to develop their philatelic knowledge.

Changes in philatelic taste had led to substantial and sustained price increases for mint stamps. Gibbons' catalogues from 1908 to 1978 showed that mint stamps increased in value at a much greater rate than used. This was a world-wide trend.

This had attracted investors' attention, and this, in turn, accelerated the price increases for mint material, but it was wrong to blame the big price increases solely on the investor.

Although the world stamp market was still healthy, it was worth looking at the recent United Kingdom speculative bout, which was caused by an unprecedented amount of money being made available for stamp investment.

Unfortunately, the amount of money proved too much for the collector, who no longer could support the investment-orientated stamp like the £1 Postal Union Congress, which was sold by an investor to an investor. This reached £1600.

These trends were from large companies looking for capital growth which was not available in more conventional investment areas, owing to the very poor economic prospects of the country.

But there had to be a buyer for every seller and when these funds dried up, stamps like the £1 P.U.C. fell in value to around £650.

Those who paid £1600 would certainly be licking their wounds, but fortunately the speculative or poorly advised investments were confined to G.B. High Values. Collector items were selling well at present.

"There is a lesson for Australia from the U.K. experience, and that is that we must not see an imbalance of collectors and investors; that there is enough collectors to absorb investment holdings. Investors should always buy material that collectors and dealers will want to buy back.

"Summing up, we can say that the investor will be a permanent feature in the philatelic world, although his participation will vary from time to time.

"After all, how many of you have never bought a stamp because you felt it was priced attractively? All of us have, at some time or other, and this in itself, is a form of investment.

"My observations tell me that Australia has not encountered the speculative problems that besieged the U.K. market.

"Our market is healthy and, speaking generally, comparatively free from serious speculation. Although I must admit I have seen a few rather disturbing signs during the past few years, I remain confident that the speculator will be driven from our market, especially those hoarders of new issues who will burn more than just their fingers.

"Philately in Australia is healthy and will continue to prosper. I am sure you will be glad to hear that."

ARTIST OF THE *MELBOURNE* TELLS ABOUT HIS PICTURE

The anonymous donor of the painting of the ship *Melbourne*, which now hangs near the presidential table in the meeting room of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria (*P. from A.*, March 1980, p. 1), has now followed his gift with a description of the painting and the ship by the artist, Lieutenant-Commander D. G. M. Gardner.

Lieutenant-Commander Gardner has written:

R. and H. Green & Co. of London built this magnificent vessel for the Australian trade and launched her in June 1875.

She was named the *Melbourne* and for thirteen years she sailed under her original name before it was changed in 1887 to *Macquarie* by her new owners, Messrs. Devitt & Moore of London.

She was iron built on a registered tonnage of 1857 tons and a length of 270 feet. She cost £42,000 to build, a great sum in those days. When she came out as a passenger liner she was considered to be a great advance on any previous ship. Her cabins were bigger and lighter than was up to then the usual run of things and in addition they were completely furnished, an unusual state of affairs in those days, when passengers making long ocean voyages were expected to provide many of the amenities for their comfort which later generations have taken for granted. Wash basins, linen and so on were items which passengers were expected to provide themselves.

She was the last passenger ship to retain the large stern windows, so well-known a feature of the old East-Indiamen and it may be surprising to think that this fine ship was still afloat and trading as late as 1909. Stern windows at sea in a sailing ship well into the 20th century!

Her poop was 70 feet long below which was the first class accommodation consisting of the saloon with cabins opening directly into it on either side. Greens were never owners who looked for advertisement from record-breaking passages and although the *Melbourne* was a splendid sea boat and noted for her dry decks even in bad weather, she was never driven, the comfort and safety of her passengers being the Company's chief concern.

That she was no slow-coach was shown on her maiden voyage when she went out from the Channel to Melbourne in 86 days despite the loss of her foretop mast and main topgallant mast in a squall three weeks or so after she sailed. In 1877 she made the voyage in 77 days.

In 1887 she changed owners as already mentioned and her name was altered to *Macquarie*, the name by which she is best remembered, though why this should be I do not really understand as Greens had her for almost thirteen years and Devitt and Moore only for six before they sold her to the Norwegians. Anyway it is as *Macquarie* as she is generally remembered and a fine ship she undoubtedly was — handsome, seaworthy and successful.

The painting shows her as she was when Devitt and Moore had her in the Australian trade in the late eighties and early nineties. She is depicted on a misty morning outward bound in the Channel with two of the famous Brixham trawlers passing across her wake as they go out to the fishing grounds.

In 1920 she became a coal hulk in Sydney Harbour and was still afloat I believe up to the last war, an advertisement if nothing else for the long lasting qualities of the iron hulled vessel.

D. G. M. GARDNER

NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES

2. — 2d. STAMP DUTY LINED BACKGROUND, WMK. V OVER CROWN (V2) IMPERFORATE

By G. N. KELLOW

There are only two totally imperforate errors listed in the catalogue for Victoria: this stamp, and the 2d. Bell design, Die 2. Other imperfs. have been reported, but only these two stamps satisfied Mr. J. R. W. Purves as to their genuineness. Mr. Purves never wrote about this 1890 2d. imperforate, and I am not sure whether there is an example in his collection. I have been able to identify positively five examples (two pairs and a single) of the error, but there are problems with four of them.

It was reported originally in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly*, September 1892, p. 22 by Mr. A. J. Derrick. He had acquired a used single cancelled Barred Numeral 249 (Mortlake), and at first thought it was a postal stationery cut-out, but on finding it to be watermarked he made enquiries and received a reply from the former postmistress of Mortlake, Essie T. Corvey. She explained that an imperforate sheet (or sheets?) had indeed been sold at the post office early in 1890.

Thus, any copies cancelled at Mortlake are well-credentialed. However, the only copy I know of is this single copy, which was purchased with the Derrick collection in 1904 by Mr. W. H. Terry (*Philatelic Record*, July 1904, pp. 104-105), and was auctioned shortly afterwards (together with the correspondence mentioned) for 3 (*Philatelic Record*, March 1905, p.63). I have no further records of this stamp, and do not know its present whereabouts.

Other imperforate stamps are known, but these would appear to be in a very different class, although at this late date it is unlikely their value will be affected by their dubious origin. In the *Australian Philatelist*, October 1895, p. 206, there is a report of the complaints made by the Philatelic Society of Victoria to the Postmaster-General relative to the production of reprints of the ½d. grey and 1/6d. blue Stamp Duty. These had been obtained illegitimately by some person with influence in the Stamp Printing Office. The report also mentions that "not very long ago" the same person obtained (or caused to have printed) an imperforate sheet of 2d. stamps, and that stamps from this sheet had been offered for sale. No unused examples appear to have survived, but I am fairly certain that all the references which follow refer to stamps from this source, so some must have been put on envelopes and posted. They are characterized by having Melbourne cancellations, dated a few years (1894 in the example seen) after the Mortlake incident. The earliest record I have is a pair reported in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, July 1895, p. 122, which had been seen by the American journal, the *Metropolitan Philatelist*. In *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, November 1902, p. 101, Mr. C. J. Phillips reported the variety in a British collection. This was quite possibly the pair displayed by Mr. M. H. Horsley in 1911 (*Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal*, March 1911, p. 108). The Horsley collection was acquired by A. H. Caspary, and the pair realized £32 in the Caspary sale in 1958 (H. R. Harmer, London, Sale 15). It is in fact a rejoined pair, cancelled with a Melbourne c.d.s., 19 JY 94. A second pair was in the Ferrari collection (Lot 600 in the 8th sale, November 7th-9th, 1923), and this may be the pair now in the Royal collection, which is described as being cancelled by a "Melbourne dated cancellation" (Sir John Wilson, 1952, *The Royal Philatelic Collection*. p. B. Aus. 70).

BOOK REVIEWS

VICTORIA: The 5/-, 1867-1901, and the 1/-, 5/-, £1, £2, 1901-1912, by J. R. W. Purves, 76 pp, 18 x 25 cm. Published by The Hawthorn Press, "Viewfield", Mount Macedon, Vic., 3441. Recommended price, \$10.

Another fine work on the stamps of Victoria from the pen of the master, the late J. R. W. Purves, has been published by Hawthorn Press in its excellent series of monographs.

Two-thirds of the book — which is really two monographs in one — is given to the fascinating story of the 5/-, from its introduction in 1867 until the demise of the stamps of Victoria in 1912. The 1/- value, from 1901-1912, receives similar detailed treatment. Finally, a full coverage is given to the £1 and £2, Australia's only postage stamps to bear the likeness of King Edward VII.

Based largely on his earlier articles published in overseas and local philatelic journals, this publication accurately reflects Mr. Purves' fascination with these issues and is the fruit of many years' research.

Introducing Part I, he states that the story of the 5/- has been taken as far as he was able to take it, although there are some holes remaining to be filled in. With his characteristic thoroughness, he has left little for others to say. It is all there, from the proof of his exciting discovery that there were two printings of the 5/- blue-on-yellow from two distinct plates, through the sheet sizes, plate manufacture, plating analysis, and description, to the printings and quantities of the final red and blue "Postage" design.

The story of the 1/- is no less interesting, particularly the ingenuity exercised by the printers in plate and die production. The constant flaws are described in detail, the various printings, watermark abnormalities, and the rare perforation varieties.

Even more remarkable than the stamp production methods themselves is the unravelling of their mysteries by one whose outstanding "detective" work has contributed so very much to the science of philately and the understanding and enjoyment of collectors.

There are a few puzzles for the reader. For example, although the plate sizes for the 5/- first and second printings seem to have been established beyond all doubt, the theory that each sheet of watermarked paper was cut into quarters prior to printing may bear further investigation. Did each numbered sheet of the canary paper contain only 120 watermarks? The white paper had 240 (two panes of 120). Was it then a case of the sheets being cut into eighths, and not quarters? If so, and the portion containing the sheet number was reversed in the first printing, there should only have been 150 stamps with

reversed watermark instead of 300. Perhaps there is another explanation for the higher ratios to be found, compared with the normals.

In Chapter 2, the suggestion of possible stacking and indiscriminate usage by the printer of the 'deep canary' and 'pale canary' papers seems at variance with the reference in Chapter 1 to sequential usage from the bound books. Was this a later finding?

The work would have been enhanced by the inclusion of illustrations. Although there are references in the text to illustrations, unfortunately none have been included.

Under other circumstances any necessary adjustments would have been made, no doubt, but Bill Purves died during the production of the book.

Sadly, this was his last publication. The next monograph he proposed to publish, on the 'No "Postage" ' issues, and works on the 1901-12 ½d. and 1d., for both of which much of the research and writing had been done, must await the attention of other knowledgeable and dedicated philatelists.

The current interest in the stamps of Victoria will be further stimulated by the appearance of this book by the great scholar who so often, and so self-effacingly, referred to himself as a student.

M. B. WATSON.

The Railway Stamps of Mainland Australia, by Owen G. Ingles, Anthony D. Presgrave, and William D. Craig, 56 pp. 17 x 26 cm. Published by Revenue & Railstamp Publications, G.P.O. Box 1248 M, Hobart, 7001. No price stated.

This second publication in the series which began with Tasmania in 1978, lists the railway stamps of all the mainland railways, promising another volume to cover mainland revenue issues. The main author is well-known as a student and writer on his native state, and editor of *Tasmania, The Postal History & Postal Markings, Part II*, published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1975.

Mr. Presgrave compiled listings of the Railway Stamps of Victoria and South Australia published in 1979 as supplements of the *Bulletin of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of N.S.W.*

The well-illustrated work continues the pioneer serial of the late A. F. Basset Hull in *Australian Stamp Monthly* during 1934-5. It is surprising that his famous Tasmanian name is mis-spelt at each reference in a Tasmanian publication.

The railway stamps have been generally neglected by postage stamp collectors, and the authors venture into the unknown in assessing scarcity and value. Background descriptions are

concise but should be adequate for those unfamiliar with our rail systems.

I am most familiar with the issues of Western Australia, and find this listing excellent. I would add to the Sixth Issue, at p. 41, a 1/3d sepia used in Perth about 1931, and that the Third Series issued in August 1951 was announced in *The West Australian* of 1 Aug. 51. I have not seen the 1/2d value.

The listings of other States appear to be good but I am not qualified to comment.

The final nine pages deal with private issues, some of which were speculative; others possibly did not have stamps. The local posts of the Western Australian goldfields are included here, but the data given is sketchy, and much fuller information is published elsewhere.

The Coolgardie Cycle Express stamps are not so rare as indicated, particularly the Camels, which the lapse of time has made respectable. These are part of our history, and more sought after than the railway stamps by the traditional Australian philatelist.

Authors and publisher are to be congratulated for a useful contribution to a neglected field.

R. LLOYD-SMITH

New Zealand Squared Circle Cancellations, by Patricia E. Capill. 33 pp. 29 x 21 cm. Published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand, Box 25105, Auckland, New Zealand, Price, \$NZ5.

The Squared Circle cancellations were widely used in the Victorian and Edwardian periods and New Zealand had its share of them. The late Jack Robinson wrote a book about them which was published by the society in 1965 and now Mrs. Capill has revised and expanded it.

Mrs Capill is one of New Zealand's rising research philatelists, who came into prominence with her studies of the last pence and first decimal pictorial issues.

She has found that the squared circle design was first used in 1879 and New Zealand adopted it in 1883. The zenith of their usage was in the late 1900s, and Eureka, in the Hamilton district, used one until February 1975. This had been used since April 1904.

The number of offices "from which no strikes have been recorded but which were probably supplied with squared circle date stamps" has now been reduced to five. Three other offices are known to have had them but no strikes have been found.

Only one or two strikes are known from some offices.

Mrs. Capill shows the stages in the manufacture of squared circle datestamps, and the three basic types used in New Zealand.

The most notable advance on the previous work is the inclusion of a scarcity scale.

The major section lists post offices issued with squared circle date stamps, their district, opening and closing dates, the rating of the cancellation on the scarcity scale, date stamp type, date of proof impression, index numbers, earliest and latest known dates, and remarks.

For PAID Squared Circles, the scarcity scale is omitted but the colours are listed.

The *Maunganui* and *Monowai* marine cancellations follow.

Then there is a list of squared circles from Telegraph and Telephone Offices. Karekare (Auckland district), 1941, was used on philatelic mail until June 1974.

Seventeen forgeries, allegedly from 10 different offices, have been located and described.

Finally, stylised versions, for philatelic bodies, complete the work.

Altogether New Zealand has provided a remarkable array.

In recent years there has been great interest in them, and this book will be of great interest to those who collect them now and to those who collect them in the future.

1981 Yearbook and Philatelic Societies' Yearbook. 144 pp. 15 x 21 cm. Published by The British Philatelic Federation, Ltd. 1 Whitehall Place, London, SW1A 2HE. Price, £2.60.

The arrival of this publication, one of the most useful reference books published, is always an event of great interest.

Here is the list of all those philatelic societies in the world that care to send their names, and addresses to the Federation, whether members or not.

Also there are details of other philatelic bodies in Britain, the B.P.F. Expertising Committee, the Cambridge Congress and all the other Federation activities.

The full Roll of Distinguished Philatelists is an annual pleasure, which details all the new signatories and, this year, photographs of them.

A list of British philatelic journals, other than society publications, and their addresses, is another innovation.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Postal History of Kent

The major display at the December meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria was from an interstate member.

Mr. H. M. Melville-Smith sent from South Australia an exhibit of his Postal History of Kent, including covers that were posted two centuries ago.

The earliest was a Deal letter with 1772 Bishop mark. Next was a Tenterton of 1796 with mileage mark, and a soldier's letter posted at Hithe 5 August 1798.

An 1802 letter bore the mileage marking Hithe over 83 in a square and there was a Paid mark of Hythe SP 28 1840.

Of particular Australian interest was a cover with an 1841 circular datestamp addressed to Rev. Julien Drake-Brockman, Chariton, certainly an associate of the well-known Australian family of that name.

Dover was represented by a 1802 mileage mark, Dover over 82 in a square.

Ashford produced an Ashfield 58 mileage mark.

Blackheath had a Mulready cover and Canterbury a Mulready wrapper.

Other items came from Maidstone, Deal, and Tonbridge, to complete an interesting and comprehensive display which disclosed prolonged and careful study.

Early Competition Entry

The presentation of the 1945 R.P.S.V. medal competition entry of the late Sheila Macfie was a Christmas surprise, sent by the U.S.A. Specialists' Society.

Miss Macfie, a member of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra, was well-known in philatelic circles until her death on 10 May 1949. She was a foundation member of the Caulfield and Malvern Philatelic Society and of the U.S.A. Specialists' Society of Australia. Their early meetings were held in her home.

Her collection was bought by Mr F. H. Fiebes, prominent Melbourne dealer for many years, and when he found the medal entry intact he remounted it and presented to the U.S.A. Specialists as a tribute to a foundation member.

The entry was Portraits of Queen Victoria on the Stamps of the British Commonwealth.

The Wyon head on the 1d Black was followed by its various forms by De La Rue, the Chalon Heads, the painting by Thomas Sully, for the North American Colonies, and on through the years to the Widow's Weeds and the Canadian 1897.

Miss Helen Serjeant White, the compere, remarked that Queen Victoria was always willing to come forward with a new portrait and had no scruples in depicting her advancing years.

More than 100 stamps were shown, and Miss Macfie classified some (including some Victoria), as caricatures.

Four-Exhibitor Display

Four members shared in providing the second January meeting display. There was a large attendance of members and each of the exhibitors, Miss I. E. Kerry and Messrs T. Carter, D. N. Baker, and A. J. White contributed 15 sheets to a varied and well-balanced display.

Miss Kerry showed how Philately is Kept Before the Public in Austria. She exhibited Day of the Stamp issues from 1955 to 1975, with designs such as a philatelist, an engraver at work, and mail services. They were followed by the WIPA 1965 and WIPA 1981 issues.

Mr. White's exhibit of Commonwealth K.G.V. included the 1d Engraved imperf between in vertical pair, ½d emerald green watermark Crown A, perf 14 (single-line), 1d substituted cliche O.S. mint and the Dies I, II, II, I strip in green.

A lower half of the pane of Plate IV, showed varieties, the "Secret Mark" and retouch.

The 4d included the Line through 4, Left frame broken, and "Weeping 4" in various colours.

Mr. Carter showed a reconstructed P.M.G. Booklet, set including the 10/- Kangaroo O.S. from a recalled set, 5/- Bridge, and 4½d K.G.V., Die II. The postmarks were also identified.

Mr. Baker produced a selection of Great Britain items which he had not shown to the society. Among them were King George VI Silver Wedding £1 on First Day cover, two £1 P.U.C. used, the first K.G.V. ½d offset, mint, Wembley 1924 F.D.C., and 1925 Postal Stationery, both values.

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