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# PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

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

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## A TABLET OF BRONZE

The Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has decided to place a memorial plaque to the late J. R. W. Purves in the Council Room at Headquarters.

This is now fitted below his portrait, a feature of the room that bears his name. The inscription engraved is:

J.R.W. PURVES  
LL.M., R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.  
1903-1979

ONE OF HISTORY'S GREAT PHILATELISTS

HE WAS THE SOUL OF THE  
ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY  
OF VICTORIA

FIFTY-SIX YEARS A MEMBER, 1923-1979  
AND EIGHT TIMES ITS PRESIDENT

HE LOVED THIS SOCIETY, WORKED FOR IT,  
AND BUILT ITS REPUTATION

HE MADE IT A SOCIETY DEDICATED TO  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILATELY,  
THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF STUDY AND THE  
SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE, AND TO  
FRIENDSHIP

THIS PORTRAIT AND TABLET BEAR WITNESS  
THAT ITS MEMBERS HOLD HIM IN ENDURING  
RESPECT, ADMIRATION, AND ESTEEM, AND  
EXPRESS THEIR LASTING GRATITUDE AND  
UNDYING AFFECTION

The beautiful plaque, 160 mm by 200 mm, is dark brown Florentine bronze, the body-lettering a classical Roman lettering, brought out in bright, sparkling gold.

The lines

J. R. W. PURVES

ONE OF HISTORY'S GREAT PHILATELISTS



*Portion of the south wall of the Purves Room at 6 Avoca Street showing Audrey Snell's portrait of Mr J. R. W. Purves with the plaque beneath.*

in pillar-box red, stand out boldly, making them at once a commanding epitaph and an invitation to read the tribute from the Society.

Mr. H. L. Chisholm wrote the words and Mr. E. D. Lyon designed the plaque.

The plaque is a grateful and loving remembrance and its words of tribute are something with which, one likes to think, Mr. Purves would be happy.

But reflecting, one realises, suddenly, that it goes beyond that.

Enshrined within its wording is a unique formulation of the Society's creed: a proclamation of what the Society is and the ideal it must maintain throughout the future — something that every visitor and every new member may read and remember, and which, hopefully, may impress them.

It is a declaration, graven in letters of gold on a plate of imperishable bronze, that the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is

... A SOCIETY DEDICATED TO  
THE ADVANCEMENT OF PHILATELY,  
THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF STUDY AND THE  
SHARING OF KNOWLEDGE, AND TO  
FRIENDSHIP

H. L. C.



# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

## *Australia — 22 cent Apex Commemorative*

In the June "Trail" I mentioned two varieties on this issue, one of which I felt might achieve catalogue status if constant, and later submitted an example to one of the catalogue publishers in the U.K. The editor replied that he had examined his stock and could find no sign of my item, but countered with two constant varieties on his own stock of which I have since been able to locate a couple of examples.

On Row 1, No. 4 there is a small blue dot above the "y" of "Anniversary". On Row 10, No. 3 there is a very good variety which could be called "extra bay at top of Bight" — a pin-head sized white spot taken out of the coastline. Both varieties occur on the left pane.

The two sheets which I saw with the new varieties had serial numbers around 67150, whereas the sheets with the varieties I reported earlier were numbered around 72600. It would appear that at some point between those two numbers a new blue cylinder has been introduced.

## *Australia — 2 cent Flower Coil*

The need to keep an eye on long-running definitive issues was brought home to me forcefully a few weeks ago when, after a break of a couple of years, I walked round the city with a pocketful of 2 cent pieces to see what was in the vending machines. From four sources I got four distinguishable coils.

Starting with the Philatelic Sales Counter I bought some from the end of one coil with a cream-coloured gum which had a slightly pink heleon reaction on the face of the stamps under my UV lamp. A couple of days later the Philatelic Sales Counter had a new coil with a greenish tinge to the gum and the heleon reaction on the face was now quite white without a trace of pink.

Next was a call to Degraives St. P.O. where the vending machine was dispensing a coil with white gum — visibly different from either of the coils from the Philatelic Sales Counter — and with a strong white reaction to UV light from the back (much whiter than any of the other coils described here).

From there I went to the G.P.O. vending machine to find a coil with white gum (somewhere between that at Degraives St. and the new Philatelic Sales coil), but the green printing of the stamp was much deeper and the lettering heavier. The purple of the rose was deeper and the yellow centre of the flower was paler.

The coil from the machine at Russell St. was basically similar to the first item found at the Philatelic Sales Counter, but with a huge grey "halo" up to 2 mm wide round most of the design on the 5th, 6th and 7th stamps from the join of the cylinder.

In addition the grey was so badly centred that there was an extra grey leaf above the "R" of "AUSTRALIA" on every stamp.

It will be interesting to see what will be done about future supplies of coil stamps for vending machines, as I understand that the Reserve Bank is closing down its stamp printing operations.

#### *Australia — Pre-Stamped Postcards Series III*

In the June "Trail" I advised of an expected re-release of the postcard packs, which I thought would probably be assembled from supplies of the original cards which had been retrieved from P.O.'s in the various States. The release duly took place but from the uniformity of the heleon surround to the "stamps" on the new cards, which differs from that on my original pack, I suspect that the cards may all have been reprinted especially for the extra packs.

I believe that it is possible to distinguish the original packs from the re-release without opening them by examining the fabric tab which protrudes from the cardboard box. If it is chocolate-brown it is from the original release, but if the tab is purple-brown then it is the re-release. Additionally the diagonal cut at the end of the tab runs in the opposite directions on the two types.

## MORE QUEENSLAND LATE FEE MARKINGS

By L. G. SHEPARD

*Philately from Australia* listed straight-line LATE FEE markings of Queensland in issues of September 1976 and March 1978.

Now, thanks to information supplied by Messrs B. Beston, H. M. Campbell and J. L. Amiet, I am able to list the following additions and date changes:

Type Number	Used From	Date	Remarks
Q-1	Lowood	8.12.36	39 x 7mm
Q-1	Springshure	14.6.35	39½ x 7mm
Q-1	Proserpine	2.12.38	38 x 7mm
Q-1	Blackall	31.5.37	38½ x 7½mm
Q-3	Longreach	9.12.34	41½ x 9½mm
			(This is an earlier marking than the 30 x 7mm one reported from this town in <i>P. from A.</i> , March 1978)
Q-1	Wowan	14.11.38	40 x 7mm
Q-3	Southport	27.9.37	39½ x 7½mm

We have also recorded later dates of use than those reported previously for

Q-1	Kingaroy	late date 12.5.75
Q-3	Mt. Surprise	late date 24.12.76
Q-2	Normanton	late date 27.9.34
Q-1	Rockhampton, we now have a late date of 11.4.42 and the early date is now 24.8.34.	



# The Other Side of the Picture

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

## VICTORIA: THE 2d WILLIAM BELL DESIGNS OF 1873-80

Two major retouches to the double-lined oval 2d of 1879-80 were described and illustrated in the first issue of *P. from A.* in March 1949. Dr. Russell-Jones has shown me two more major retouches, this time in the single-lined oval of most probably an 1879 printing. In each case the previous state of the cliché can be identified by damage to a corner.

The first retouch is to the left side of the stamp and consists of retouching to the central half of the frame. The top right corner shows a small "rectangular" notch, being about a third of the outer frameline thickness and horizontally about the thickness of the frameline. This notch is present on the original state of the electrotype concerned.

The second retouch is to the base and here the top left corner has been rounded.

In both cases the flaws requiring retouching are unknown as is also their positions on the sheet.



*Retouch No. 1*

*Pre-retouch state of No. 2*

*Retouch No. 2*

## VICTORIA: 4d LAUREATE WATERMARK 8 — CORRECTION

One aim of this column is to supply factual information for the record. I must apologise for making a mistake in describing this stamp in the September 1980 issue. The single line 8 watermark paper was supplied by De La Rue and *not* Saunders.

My thanks to Mr Ken Scudder as being the only reader to point this error out to me. He also states that watermark 8 paper was delivered in the first half of 1864 and suggests the stamp could be listed under S.G. 119.

## VICTORIAN BARRED OVALS: A NEW TIE

Mr J. R. W. Purves, in *Victoria: The "Butterfly" and "Barred Oval" Cancellations 1850-1855*, published in 1965, was able to allocate only 50 of the 109 Barred Oval obliterations to the post offices which used them. Since that time he was able to locate only five further tying covers (for Nos. 30, 69, 74, 85, 92). The slow progress emphasises the rarity of covers from the smaller P.O.'s during this period.

Mr Allan A. Levy has now found a cover which ties No. 13 to Pentridge (later Coburg). The obliterator cancels a 6d Woodblock on a cover to London. On the reverse, in manuscript, is "Pentridge/26/12/55" in two lines, and the Melbourne c.d.s. for the same date. There can be no doubt that the cover was sent from Pentridge. The use of the manuscript endorsement is explained in an article elsewhere in this issue of *P. from A.* ("Two Provisional Geelong Postal Markings of 1849", by A. A. Levy and G. N. Kellow).

## TASMANIA: AN INTERESTING REGISTERED COVER FROM HOBART

Mr W. E. Tinsley of America sends information on a government issue 2d. green postal stationery envelope with ½d orange embossed to order and a 3d. adhesive added. It was sent registered from Hobart to the well known Paul Kiderlen in Ulm, Wurttemberg, cancelled with Hobart duplex Type 3, code letter B dated JU 22 94. The cover also bears the R ellipse (B.4) and the REGISTERED/2350/Hobart in violet box (B.6 Type 2).

This is the earliest reported use of the R in ellipse, by two years, the earliest use of the boxed Hobart by six months, and the first reported use of code letter B.

## SOUTH AUSTRALIA: THE COLOUR ERROR 10/- THICK POSTAGE IN PALE GREY-OLIVE

By DR DONALD PEARCE

Mr Mogen Juhl's comments on this evidently rare stamp (*P. from A.*, December 1980, p. 89), provokes me to speak up as, like him, I am convinced this is a major and as yet uncatalogued error.

The only copy of this stamp in the "Slade-Slade" South Australia sale was a used copy dated 26 OCT 1911, which was acquired by myself. It was on display at Sydplex, where I saw (but did not purchase) another mint copy amongst dealer's stocks.

We therefore have this item mint, postally used, and cancelled-to-order. The colour matches so precisely that of the 3d that I feel the printer must have mixed up the two shades by simple error. Perhaps the 10/- printing immediately followed the 3d, and the ink (particularly when mixed) would have looked very similar indeed.

South Australia has one other rare error of colour, the 3d on 4d Prussian blue (S. G. 66), which may well have arisen by the printer commencing to print 4d stamps (later changed to 3d by overprinting) in the shade of the current 6d. Very few of these are about, and they generally bear G.P.O. Adelaide marks of 1871 or the 25 numeral cancellation of Gawler.

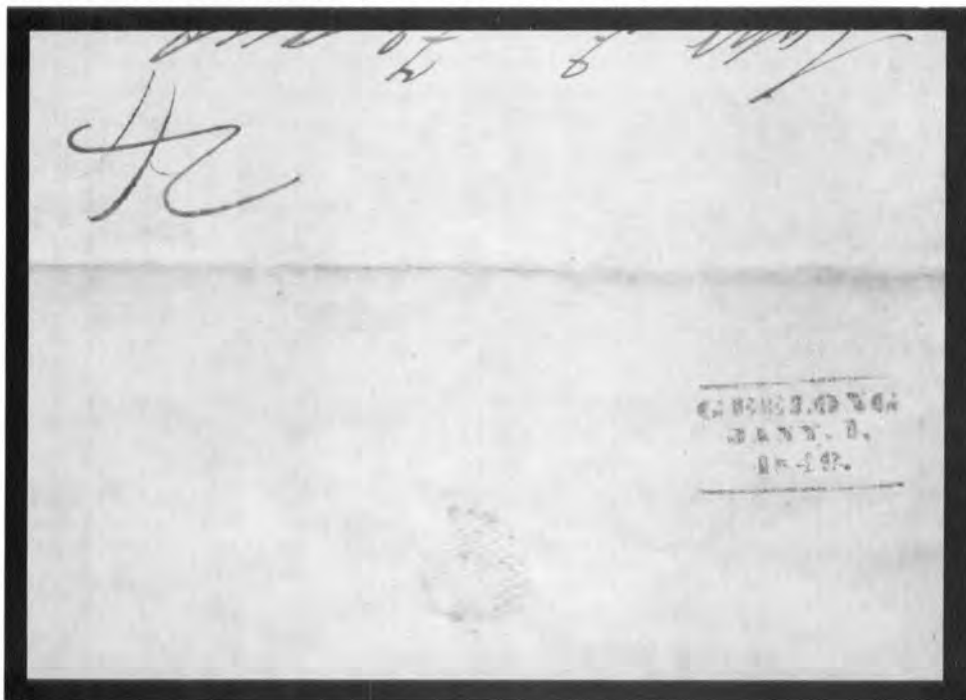
## TWO PROVISIONAL GEELONG POSTAL MARKINGS OF 1849

By A. A. LEVY and G. N. KELLOW

The two markings described here have been recorded previously, but the subject is being reopened because some documentary evidence has been uncovered which explains their existence, and suggests that further discoveries may be made.

Geelong has a somewhat unique character in Victoria's stampless period, since apart from the two abnormal types illustrated here, the first Geelong marking, an undated crown in oval, was used by no other office, and from 1850 it was the only P.O. in the colony to employ handstruck rate stamps.

The first of the Geelong "abnormals" considered here was first reported by Mr. A. Rigo de Righi in *P. from A.*, March 1961, p. 9. This was a boxed marking, 30 x 14 mm, inscribed "GEELONG/JANY 1/1849" in three lines. It was struck in red on an entire from Geelong to Middlesex headed "31 December 1848", and arrived in London on 25.4.1849. Several years ago one of us (A. L.) acquired another entire bearing this marking (illustrated). It is headed "Melbourne December 28th 1848" and addressed to "Capt. J. Fyans, Geelong". The rate marking is "4", 4d being the normal ship rate. The boxed marking, unlike the first cover, is struck in black, the letter being unpaid. This handstamp differs in several respects from the tracing provided by Mr. Rigo de Righi but is undoubtedly the same one, and the differences are attributable to the rather poor strike on the first cover.



*An unusual boxed Geelong town stamp of 1.1.1849.*



*The Geelong Crown Seal used as a town stamp, 31.12.1849.*

The second illustration shows the other abnormal type, used exactly one year less one day later. This entire, from Geelong to London, is struck with the oval intaglio P.O. seal inscribed "GEELONG/NEW S. WALES" with the date "31/12/49" added in manuscript in the centre. It arrived in London on 7.4.1850. This entire is from the Purves collection and was sold by Robson Lowe in Zurich on 18.5.1981. There is a second strike in the Purves collection, with the same date, which is illustrated in *The Postal History of the Port Phillip District*, Plate 6.

No usages resembling these two are known for any other Victorian P.O., and the natural conclusion is that they were emergency usages when the normal datestamp was mislaid or otherwise employed. However, two references have been discovered in Mr. W. R. Rundell's extracts of the P.O. records which explain their employment.

The first is an account (date not recorded) from Thomas Ham, Engraver:

23 daily stamps altered from 1848 to 1849 @ 2/6 each = 2/17/6.  
Account returned to Clerk of Works 11 July 1849.

The second is a Circular to all Postmasters in the District of Port Phillip dated 14.12.1849:

Let your daily stamps be immediately sent to Melbourne for alteration of the year and in the meantime the day of the month and office must be carefully written upon every letter passing through the office.  
H. D. Kemp, Chief PM.

Rundell adds underneath that the circular was sent to the following P.O.'s: Kilmore, Seymour, Broken River, Ovens, Bertram's Inn, Maiden's Punt, Dandenong, Flooding Creek, Alberton, Mt. Macedon, Mt. Alexander, Serpentine Creek, Swan Hill, Albury, Yass, Geelong, Barwon, Colac, Timboon, Elephant Bridge, The Leigh, Ballan, Bunnenyong, Burn Bank, Crowlands, Four Posts Inn, Horsham.

The datestamps of the Port Phillip period thus apparently had fixed year dates which had to be cut out and changed at the end of each year, and the workman responsible, at least in 1848, was none other than Thomas Ham, of Half-Length fame.

Thus, at the end of each year up to that time, for a period of 2-3 weeks the postmasters were without their datestamps. The circular states quite plainly what was to be done — covers were to be endorsed in manuscript — but the postmaster at Geelong (Mr. W. H. Thacker in the period concerned) had other ideas, and made provisional use of the markings illustrated here. The volume of mail handled at Geelong may have prompted Mr. Thacker's actions.

There are several questions posed by the Rundell extracts:

1. The account for the 1848/1849 alterations quotes 23 datestamps. However, on 31.12.1848 there were 26 P.O.'s in the Port Phillip District (excluding Melbourne). Purves considers that Bacchus Marsh may have closed some time before 1850, but that still leaves 25 offices, which does not tally with Ham's account.

2. The 1849 circular went to 27 postmasters, including those at Yass and Albury, not of course part of the Port Phillip District, but not surprising since the District was still governed from Sydney. However, on 14.12.1849 (the date of the circular) 36 P.O.'s (excluding Melbourne, Bacchus Marsh, Yass and Albury) were open. The offices which did not receive the circular were The Glenelg, The Grange, Muston's Creek, Portland, Port Fairy, Fiery Creek, Warrnambool and Border Post. The datestamps of these offices were of diverse types, so it is not a matter of these offices having changeable year slugs. These datestamps must have been changed, so this remains a mystery. On the other hand, the circular was sent to Crowlands, a P.O. Purves says did not open until 23.5.1851 (and for which no Port Phillip marking is known)!

3. Melbourne has been excluded from the above calculations. Its datestamps were also presumably in need of alteration, though the changes may have been done *in situ* by Ham at the P.O., so that the datestamp was probably out of action for only a small part of one day. The absence of any Melbourne marking on the entire bearing the boxed marking indicates the datestamps were unavailable on the last day of 1849. The "4" rate marking on this entire proves that the cover was posted in Melbourne. No "provisional" covers (such as the usage of an obsolete marking) are known, so what did Melbourne use during the changeover?

4. Some covers must have survived from country P.O.'s showing the manuscript endorsement in the last two weeks of the year. We have been unable to trace any, but three later covers have been seen which indicate that the same need to alter the datestamps at the end of each year persisted with the first types inscribed "VICTORIA". These three covers show manuscript endorsements dated in December of 1854 or 1855, exactly as prescribed by the 1849 Circular, as follows:

(i) A cover from Portland to London with a 6d Woodblock cancelled with Barred Oval 18. On the reverse, in manuscript, is "Portland/21/12/55" in two lines. This date is corroborated by a London arrival c.d.s. of 24.3.1856. This cover is in Mr Rigo de Righi's collection.

(ii) A cover from Pentridge to London with a 6d Woodblock cancelled with Barred Oval 13. On the reverse, in manuscript, is "Pentridge/26/12/55" in two lines. This date is corroborated by a Melbourne c.d.s. of 26.12.1855 and a London arrival c.d.s. of 19.4.1856.

(iii) A cover from Queenscliff to Williamstown, with the boxed "PAID AT/QUEENSCLIFF" (unusually in black) and in manuscript in three lines "Queenscliff/December 5th/1854." On the reverse in manuscript is "WmsTown/7/12/1854" in two lines. This cover is in Mr. M. B. Watson's collection.

This third cover is corroborated in a most satisfying way by a second cover in Mr. Watson's collection. This cover travelled from Melbourne to Williamstown. It has a Melbourne Paid oval datestamp of 27.12.1854, and on the reverse the Williamstown datestamp for 28.12.1855, with the second "5" of the year changed to "4" in



manuscript. The explanation is inescapable. The Williamstown (and Queenscliff) datestamp was sent to Melbourne some time before 7.12.1854 to have the year date recut. It was returned shortly before the end of the year and was used for the last few days of 1854 with the date altered back in manuscript.

Can readers produce any other such covers, particularly from the pre-stamp period?

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *The Presidential Badge of the British Society of Australian Philately*

Mr A. G. W. Scott, Secretary of the British Society of Australian Philately, has written to *P. from A.* seeking information on the background to the Society's recently-adopted Presidential Badge — a bronze medal presented to the former Australian Stamp Printer, Mr John Ash, at the 1934 Sixth Australian Philatelic Exhibition.

Mr Scott writes as follows:

"The British Society of Australian Philately will, in 1983, celebrate its Golden Jubilee, and for this and other reasons it was thought it was about time it had a Presidential Badge of office.

"It so happens that last year, 1980-81, the President of the Society was Isaac Ash, more often called Eric, over 80 years of age, and the son of John Ash, Commonwealth Note and Stamp Printer. Eric has been very good to the Society and although he had previously been the President, he was asked to take the office again, the first man to hold it twice. He devoted great energy to his duties, which he carried out with conspicuous success.

"It occurred to him that he had something, which he treasured, but which he thought would make a suitable basis for the Presidential Badge we were so anxious to have; he therefore presented to the Society a bronze placquette which had been presented to his father. We think we know some at least of its history, but we hope that members of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will be able to add to our knowledge, especially if they are old enough to remember the Sixth Australian Philatelic Exhibition of 1934. If this is the case I shall be very anxious and happy to hear from them.

"So far as we know, the placquette was presented to John Ash for services rendered to Philately, on the occasion of the 1934 Melbourne Exhibition. On one side there is a view of the skyline of Melbourne and the words "Victorian Centenary and Sixth Australian Philatelic Exhibition" — these at the top. At the foot the words "Melbourne 1934". On the other side there is a representation of an aborigine, alongside which is the date "1834" and at the foot "VICVI" which presumably means Victoria and the Sixth

Exhibition — but does it mean that or something else?

"What the Society is anxious to have is any factual information there may be relating to the time of presentation to John Ash, what was said when the placquette was actually presented to him, where it took place, and most of all what John Ash really did to deserve this honour? Did he, for instance, install the machines at the 1928 Exhibition on which the 3d. miniature sheet was printed, and was this one of the reasons for the presentation?"

Mr Scott's questions can be answered, at least in part.

A perusal of the 1934 Exhibition Catalogue, on the title page, shows that among the Patrons was "The Manager, Note and Stamp Printing Branch, Commonwealth Bank" — none other than John Ash himself. It seems likely that, as a Patron, he received a memento of his participation in the form of a bronze medal.

Mr Ash's services to the Exhibition were not entirely nominal, however. In the report of the Exhibition in the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, December 1934, p. 362, it is mentioned that on November 14th and 15th parties of philatelists were shown over the Commonwealth Note and Stamp Printing Works. The tours were conducted personally by John Ash.

### *Words that Survive*

"The Evil that Men do lives after them," as Shakespeare said. But so also do the thoughts they pen, when their letters fall into the hands of philatelists and postal historians.

Consider the case of a letter posted in Sydney for transmission by the ship *Sarah Sands* (which appears to have given its name to a hotel in Brunswick, a Melbourne suburb), to Melbourne on 28 January 1853.

The letter has a 1d and 2d N.S.W. Laureate, with a ship letter Sydney postmark of JA 28 1853 and an oval Melbourne backstamp of FE 4 1853.

The writer began:

"My Dear Uncle,

"For many a long day, nothing has occurred to occasion me so much surprize and vexation as the perusal as your letter of the 15" Inst. . . ."

But uncle kept the letter.



# QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT PICTORIAL POSTCARDS

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

I had included in a footnote at the end of the serial article, "Queensland Postal Stationery" (*P. from A.*, March 1979, p. 20) some information concerning a type of postcard provided by the Queensland Government for distribution, it is thought, at its Court at the Franco-British Exhibition held in London in 1908. I also briefly mentioned other cards printed for the Queensland Intelligence and Tourist Bureau.

The footnote was slightly amplified in the later form of the article, republished as a booklet, (*Queensland Postal Stationery*, Hawthorn Press, 1979), but it was not then possible to include the great amount of additional information which had become available.

My interest in the cards initially developed from the fact that the central heading adopted for the printings of all series of the cards, as later described, was identical with that which had been employed by the Queensland Government Printer for various Post Office cards, commencing with the 1d (single), 2d and 3d of 1888 and the 1d (reply) of 1891.

The same heading, with an additional inscription in French and some added ornamentation, was also to be found on the 1½d cards, single and reply, of 1891. On the subsequent 1d reply cards of 1899 and 1904 there was again the same heading, in the earlier presentation. When in 1898 a new style of 1d and 1½d Post Office cards appeared, most of the previous printing blocks used for the heading became redundant and passed into storage at the Printing Office.

The Government Printer of that time, Edmund Gregory, retired at the end of 1901. His successor, George Arthur Vaughan, held the appointment from 1 January 1902 to 1 June 1908 and his name appears on a small group of the cards later described.

Following Vaughan's retirement, a new Printer was not immediately appointed. The records disclose that Anthony James Cumming became Acting Government Printer on 23 July 1908 and was permanently appointed to the position on 1 August 1909. The majority of the cards with which this article is concerned show his imprint. Cumming retired on 1 July 1930.

## *Franco-British Exhibition*

This Exhibition was held at the Fine Arts Palace, London, in August 1908. No doubt, most of the countries of the then British Empire were represented and so far as Queensland was concerned, I discovered, in a Queensland Parliamentary paper, that the cost of the State's participation, a "Queensland Court," totalled 15,533.

It has not been practicable, to the time of writing, to discover who was responsible for arranging for the production of a special series of pictorial postcards, apparently made available at the Exhibition, and elsewhere, but it seems likely that the cards were printed on the initiative of the Queensland Intelligence and Tourist Bureau, Brisbane.

The address side of the Franco-British Exhibition cards carried at the top centre the form of heading noted above which had been used for various earlier Post Office cards. The State coat of arms appeared at the top left corner and in the top right corner was a vertical rectangle containing an incomplete outline map of the State with "Queensland" printed across. Above, was the word "Stamp". Immediately below the main heading was printed in capitals "Franco-British Exhibition", with "1908" centred underneath.

A vertical line divided the lower portion of the card into two parts. The left side was headed "Correspondence" and immediately below this there was, for the most part, one or two lines of descriptive publicity. The space at the right was headed "Address".

As far as can be ascertained, six different scenes on subjects were utilized for the backs of the cards. I am indebted to Mr. B. Beston of Redcliffe, Queensland, for particulars of cards in his possession, thus enabling the list below to be evolved.

While there may not be a doubt that the cards were actually sent to and distributed from the Queensland Court at the Exhibition, adequate proof has not yet come to attention. Neither Mr. Beston nor I have been fortunate in securing or even learning of an example of any such card, bearing a British stamp, and posted at the Exhibition Post Office. The special postmarker used there was inscribed "Franco-British Exhibition" with "London" at base.

Mr. Beston and I possess unused examples of the cards and I also have one card posted at Rockhampton, Q. This situation would indicate that the cards were distributed in Queensland, although a basis cannot be surmised.

Details of the six cards so far known of this group are as follows:

*Franco-British Exhibition 1908.*

All cards without imprint. Listed in alphabetical order of captions on view side; colour of scene or subject; printing colour on address side and publicity inscription.

"A Settler's First Crop, Gogango Scrubland, Central Queensland". In black and white. Address side printed in brown. Without publicity inscription.

"Cows ready for milking, Central Queensland". In colour. Address side printed in green. Publicity: "Selections (Farms) taken up in Queensland in 1906 aggregated 3,190,257 acres."

"Flying Fish Point, Johnstone River, North Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The area of Queensland is 429,120,000 acres." Card used at Rockhampton. Date not clear.

"In the famous Hinchinbrook Passage, North Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in green. Publicity: "The Population of Queensland in 1906 was 535,110."

"Pure Bred Shorthorn Cows, Central Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in light green. Publicity: "Selections (Farms) taken up in Queensland in 1906 aggregated 3,190,257 acres."

"Travelling Fat Cattle, Central Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in light green. Publicity: "The quantity of milk obtained in Queensland during 1906 was 51,990,548 gallons."

Additionally, Mr. A. R. Butler has informed me of a further card depicting in muted colour "View on Cairns Railway, North Queensland" with publicity information on the address side reading: "Queensland has 3,137 miles of Railway open for traffic in 1906."

*Intelligence and Tourist Bureau*

This group of cards may be divided into types and sub-types according to imprint wording and other variations. A few of the cards are without imprints; a small number have the G. A. Vaughan imprint, indicating that they had been printed before his retirement on 1 June 1908, but the majority have forms of the A. J. Cumming imprint.

The cards without imprint may have been Vaughan printings, following directly upon the printing of the Franco-British Exhibition cards, which were without imprint, or they may belong to the period from 2 June to 22 July 1908, when there was no designated Government Printer.

In the subsequent list the cards without imprint have been designated as Type 1.

The overwhelming number of cards seen have been in unused condition. This brings up again the question of how they were distributed. So far as overall availability was concerned, it would seem that they first appeared by at least the middle of 1908 and were probably continued until 1915, or thereabouts, the latter period being suggested by printed publicity information on some of the cards and in which 1913 statistical figures were quoted.

The types are classified and described as follows:

- Type 1. (i) With "Intelligence and Tourist Bureau" (curved) and "Executive Buildings" (straight) and three decorative scrolls each side, the whole set above the central heading, this latter being as used for the Franco-British Exhibition cards and Post Office cards, as earlier described.  
 (ii) State coat of arms at top left, 26 mm high.  
 (iii) Vertical rectangle at top right with a full outline map of State, with "Queensland" printed across, and "Stamp" above.  
 (iv) Vertical dividing line with left side headed "Correspondence" and right side "Address".  
 (v) Without publicity matter below "Correspondence".  
 (vi) Without imprint.
- Type 1a. As for type 1 above except in respect of paragraph (v) which is varied to read:  
 (v) With publicity matter below "Correspondence".
- Type 2. (i) As in type 1 above.  
 (ii) State coat of arms at top left, 23.5 mm high, with "Queensland" (curved) below.  
 (iii) and (iv) as in type 1 above.  
 (v) With publicity matter below "Correspondence".  
 (vi) With imprint "G. A. Vaughan, Government Printer." reading up on right side of vertical dividing line.
- Type 3. (i) to (v) inclusive as type 2.  
 (vi) With imprint "A. J. Cumming, Acting Government Printer." reading up on right side of vertical dividing line.
- Type 4. (i) With "Intelligence and Tourist Bureau" (curved) and "Brisbane" (straight), and decorative scrolls each side, set above same central heading as before.  
 (ii) State coat of arms at top left, 26 mm high, with "Queensland" (curved) below.  
 (iii) and (iv) as in type 1.  
 (v) With publicity matter below "Correspondence". Some variations in typefaces to be found.  
 (vi) With imprint "A. J. Cumming, Govt. Printer." reading up on right side of vertical dividing line.

### *The Listing*

The majority of cards listed below are in the possession of Mr. B. Beston. Overall, there are very few used cards and these have been noted. The order in the list commences with the type number. Then follows the caption of the scene or subject, and colour. Then in respect of the address side the printing colour is stated and the publicity matter quoted. The list embraces more than 60 cards, but it is certain that there were many others.

### *Type*

4. "Barnard Island North Queensland". In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "In 1912 over 7,000 immigrants from Great Britain and Europe settled in Queensland."
4. "Barron Falls". In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland produced 139,250,802 lbs. of wool in 1910, valued at 5,998,000."
3. "Barron Falls, Cairns Railway, North Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in mauve. Publicity: "The value of Pastoral Products exported from Queensland during 1906 was 5,638,520."
4. "Blackall Range, South Queensland." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland produced 2,952 tons of tin in 1910, valued at 243,271."
4. "Bon-Accord Falls, Montville." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The waters in the thermal baths at Barcaldine (Central Queensland) Muckadilla (South-Western Queensland) and Innot Springs (Herberton, North Queensland) have curative properties for rheumatism."
4. "Botanic Gardens, Brisbane." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland has room in its vast territory for millions of settlers."
4. "Botanic Gardens, Brisbane." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The value of sugar produced in Queensland in 1909 was 2,152,862."
4. "Botanic Gardens, Maryborough." In colour. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The waters in the thermal baths at Barcaldine (Central Queensland) Muckadilla (South-Western Queensland) and Innot Springs (Herberton, North Queensland) have curative properties for rheumatism."
4. "Burleigh Heads." In green. Address side printed in light red. Publicity: "The death rate per 1,000 in Brisbane is lower than in any other Australian capital."
4. "Burning off, Mt. Sylvia, Gatton, S. Queensland." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "For wealth of natural scenery, Queensland stands unequalled in the Commonwealth."

4. "Bush-house, Botanic Gardens, Rockhampton, Central Queensland." In black and white. Address side printed in light brown. Publicity: "Queensland harvested 1,163,569 tons of sugar cane in 1909." Used, Brisbane, 31.3.1911.
4. "Cattle at Burleigh Station, North Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The number of cattle in Queensland in 1913 was 5,322,033."
2. "Collins' Banana Grove, Near Brisbane, Queensland." In black and white. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland trade with the United Kingdom during 1906 was valued at 5,225,401."
2. "Concert Hall and Museum, Brisbane, Queensland" (in capital letters). In black and white. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "State Forests and Timber Reserves in Queensland have an area of 3,460,826 acres."
2. "Edward Street, Brisbane, Queensland." In black and white. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The total value of Queensland Imports in 1906 was 8,311,466." Used at Fympie, 16.9.1908. (In this instance "Government" is printed as "Gonment" in the imprint).
4. "Executive Buildings, Brisbane." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland's fruit crop in 1910 returned 363,018 from 15,153 acres."
4. "Fairy Bower, Rockhampton." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Condensed milk manufactured in Queensland in 1910 totalled 7,843,670 lbs. valued at 136,379."
4. "Hereford Cattle at Coochin Coochin Station." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: The number of cattle in Queensland in 1912 was 5,210,891."
4. "Hinchinbrook Passage." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The climate and scenery of Queensland attract thousands of tourists every year." Used Brisbane 1914.
4. "Horseshoe Bend, Gympie, North Coast Railway, South Queensland." In black and white. Address side printed in light brown. Publicity: "Queensland produced 14,494 tons of copper in 1909."
4. "Johnstone River." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland has a wealth of timbers of great commercial value."
4. "Johnstone River." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland produced 24,592,711 lbs. of butter in 1909."
2. "Kolan River, Bundaberg, Southern Queensland." In black and white. Address side printed in yellow/lemon. Publicity: "The average yield of maize (per acre) in Queensland during 1906 was 26½ bushels."
4. "Lake Eacham". In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Blessed with a regular rainfall and varied climates, Queensland can grow almost every type of product."
4. "Lake Eacham". In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The value of "Queensland's exports in 1908 was 14,194,977." (In capitals.)
1. "Loading Sugar-cane, Bundaberg District." In blue. Address side printed in olive. No publicity inscription.
- 1a. "Map of Brisbane and Suburbs." In black and pale blue. Address side printed in olive. Publicity: "The number of Passengers carried by Brisbane Tramways in 1906 was 24,251,329." Used Brisbane 15.8.1909.
4. "Mervyn Creek North Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "There are vast areas of agricultural and mineral country in Queensland awaiting development."
4. "Millstream Falls, Cairns, N.Q." In colour. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland has been aptly termed 'The Winter Paradise of Australia'."
4. "Maroochy River." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The maize crop in Queensland has averaged 22 bushels per acre for the last 20 years."
4. "North Ward, Townsville, North Queensland. In black and white. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The death rate per 1,000 in Queensland was the second lowest in Australia and lower than New Zealand in 1907." Used Kingaroy 23.6.1910.
4. "Orchard, Mapleton, Blackall Range, N.C.R." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Blessed with a regular rainfall and varied climates, Queensland can grow almost every class of product."
4. "Orchard, Mapleton, Blackall Range, N.C.R." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "In 1912, Queensland had 844,420 acres under cultivation, 668,483 acres under crops."
4. "Overlooking Woombye, North Coast Line, South Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Blessed with regular rainfall and varied climates, Queensland can grow almost every class of product."
4. "Parliament Houses, Brisbane." In black and white. Address side printed in light brown. Publicity: "The death rate per 1,000 in Brisbane is lower than in any other Australian capital."
4. "Paw-Paws, Marburg." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "In 1912, over 7,000 immigrants from Great Britain and Europe settled in Queensland."
4. "Paw-Paws, Marburg." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland has the longest railway system in Australia; lines open for traffic, 4,606 miles."
4. "Pineapple Farms, Redland Bay near Brisbane." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland's fruit crop in 1913 returned 400,131 from 18,335 acres."



4. "Preparing to muster cattle, Strathmore Station, Bowen District, North Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "There were 707,265 horses in Queensland in 1913."
2. "Scene on Dalrymple Creek, Darling Downs, Southern Queensland." In black and white. Address side printed in mauve. Publicity: "Pastoral Holdings in Queensland embrace an area of 182,384,401 acres."
4. "Sheep dipping, Jondaryan D. Downs, S. Q'land." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland produced 10,758,963 lbs. of bacon and ham in 1910, valued at 403,500."
4. "Sheep Station, Rodney Downs, Central Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The number of sheep in Queensland in 1912 was 20,310,036."
4. "Sheep yarded for shearing, Claverron Station, West Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The number of sheep in Queensland in 1913 was 21,786,600."
4. "Southport." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland has been aptly termed 'The Winter Paradise of Australia'."
4. "Stony Creek Falls, Cairns, N.Q." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland produced 861,202 fine ounces of silver in 1910, valued at 92,685."
4. "Surprise Creek, Cairns Railway." In black and white. Address side printed in light brown. Publicity: "The value of minerals produced in Queensland to the end of 1909 was 92,362,508."
4. "The Barron Gorge, Cairns Railway, North Queensland." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "For wealth of natural scenery, Queensland stands unequalled in the Commonwealth."
4. "The Treasury." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland; the land of boundless resources, bountiful harvests, rapid progress, general prosperity."
3. "Tweed Heads, Southern Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in mauve. Publicity: "The area of Queensland is 429,120,000 acres."
4. "Two Brothers, Stanthorpe." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Overseas trade in 1912; imports 7,456,917; exports 9,209,454; total 16,666,371."
4. "Two Brothers, Stanthorpe." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "The climate and scenery of Queensland attract thousands of tourists every year."
2. "Victoria Bridge connecting North Quay with South Brisbane, Queensland." In capitals. In black and white. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The average to Credit of each Depositor in Queensland Banks is higher than in any other State." (Rounded corners to card.)
4. "View from Tunnel, Cairns Railway." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "Queensland has large areas of fertile land open for selection on the most liberal terms."
4. "View from Tunnel, Cairns Railway." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The quantity of butter produced in Queensland during 1908 was 23,838,357 lbs." Used Brisbane 13.1.1911.
4. "Views of Maryborough." In black and white with various views sub-captioned Mary River, Maryborough; School of Arts; Botanic Gardens. This set of views and the form of presentation seems to be the same as those shown on a Post Office card of 1910. Address side printed in brown. Publicity: "The area of Queensland is 429,120,000 acres. Used 10.7.1912."
4. "Victoria Bridge, Brisbane." In black and white. Address side printed in grey. Publicity: "The maximum temperature in Brisbane during 1907 was 96° 2 degrees" (in sloping capitals). Used Toowoomba 29.12.1909.
4. "Whitsunday Passage." In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The quantity of cheese manufactured in Queensland in 1919 was 4,146,661 lbs., valued at 95,000." Used Ipswich 31.10.1912.
4. "Whitsunday Passage". In green. Address side printed in red. Publicity: "The sporting tourist can obtain plenty of fishing, shooting, hunting, etc. in all parts of Queensland."
4. "Whitsunday Passage." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "There is only one person to every 654 acres of Queensland, or less than one to the square mile."
4. "Wide Bay Creek, N.C. Railway." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland is the largest meat producer in the Commonwealth of Australia."
3. "Wide Bay Creek, North Coast Railway, Queensland." In colour. Address side printed in maroon. Publicity: "Pastoral Holdings in Queensland embrace an area of 182,384,401 acres." Used Ipswich 4.12.1908.
4. "Widgee Creek, North Coast Railway." In colour. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Estimated oversea and interstate trade in 1910: imports 11,428,001; exports 16,688,096; total 28,116,097." Unused but dated 10.2.1913.
4. "Widgee Creek, North Coast Railway." In colour. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland produced 35,199,387 lbs. of butter in 1913, valued at 1,759,969."\*
4. "Woombye." In green. Address side printed in blue. Publicity: "Queensland has large areas of fertile land open for selection on the most liberal terms".

Mr. A. R. Butler has also advised of a further card, with the caption "Typical Draught Horses, Central Queensland", in bluish-green. This was used in London with a G.B. ½d stamp on 1 October 1909.

## EARLY COMMONWEALTH P.M.G. TELLS OF FIRST STAMP

Background details about Australia's first stamp, the 9d "Commonwealth" are given by Australia's first "real" Postmaster-General (Senator James G. Drake) by him in an article in the Brisbane *Daily Mail* on 13 March 1927. This was found by Mr. P. Collas.

Australia's first Postmaster-General was Sir John Forrest (WA) who held office for 17 days (1-17 January 1901). The Commonwealth was without a PMG until 5 February, when Mr Drake was given the portfolio and after being elected to the Senate at the first Federal Election, held it until 7 August 1903, when he was moved to Defence.

The P.M.G. writes as follows:

Amidst the magnificences of Canberra a photograph of the little cottage in Spring Street, Melbourne, where the postal business of the Commonwealth was carried on at the beginning of the century would be a splendid memorial of the Spartan simplicity that distinguished the early days of the Federal Union.

Situated right under the shadow of the Victorian Parliament Houses, and within a mile of the extensive Victorian post office, its modest dimensions seemed to rebuke colonial extravagance and illustrate the aspiration toward better things under Federal administration.

... The world-famous firm, Cobb and Co., held a great number of the contracts, and had carried the mails, with commendable regularity, from the earliest days of Queensland as a separate colony, and I believe, long before.

They had undoubtedly been put to enormous extra expense for feed; they now asked for an increased subsidy. This was inadmissible; could not be entertained for a moment.

### *"Strike" Soon Settled*

There was no lack of influential backing to their request; and at length, after a good deal of correspondence, the firm gave notice to the department that they could not, or would not, continue some of the services after a certain date.

Two of their services were at once let over their head; and they hastened to ask that their letter giving notice of discontinuance might be withdrawn — which was at once allowed. So that "strike" was settled.

We made every concession that could reasonably be made — not involving an increase of the subsidy — to make the task of the firm easier; and they continued the remaining services as before till normal conditions were restored. It was at this time that the camels were first used to carry mails from South Australia to the way-back towns of Queensland.

### *The Interests of Philately*

Some time early in the days of Federation a deputation came to me from the Philatelic Society — charming people, gentlemen and ladies, it was about something that the P.M.G. had done or omitted to do. We got on very nicely until one of the speakers told me that what I had done or omitted to do, was not "in the true interests of philately." Whereupon I told them that the P.O. was run in the interests of the



people of Australia; and the interests of philately — like the flowers that bloom in the spring — had nothing to do with the case. Some of the members of the deputation saw that their spokesman had slipped badly, and they bowed themselves out with the stereotyped thanks for a courteous reception.

One day, word came to me that the supply of ninepenny stamps had run out in one of the States. The practice followed in some countries, and I think also in Australia, has been in such cases to use the stamps of some other denomination, making the change in black ink on the face of the stamp. This is technically known as "surcharging," and it has the effect of making another of the varieties so dear to the soul of the collector.

### *First Commonwealth Stamp*

Since the start of Federation, we had worked with the old stocks of postage stamps of the separate Colonies; this seemed a favourable opportunity to begin the issue of a "Commonwealth" stamp, which should be distinctly Federal.

I wanted to do it without fuss or bother. It was abhorrent to my ideas to have such a matter formally announced in the newspapers and then solemnly discussed by the public over weary months and perhaps finally hung up.

Having ascertained that the necessary skill and machinery for the production of a stamp existed in Victoria, I put myself into communication with the gentleman at the head of the printing department, and asked him to undertake the job, binding him — with imprecation — not to give any information to anyone until the work was done. He and his department proved loyal and true; my secret was well kept.

But there was no way of baffling the curiosity of the Melbourne press; they were suspicious that something was being done without their knowledge; what it was they could not find out; and the young men who collected news for them, afflicted with what Rudyard Kipling calls "insatiable curiosity," gave me no respite.

### *A Well-Kept Secret*

At last I told them, as a sort of compromise, that when I brought out any new stamp I would let them have a specimen the day before it was issued to the public. With this concession they had to be satisfied.

The instructions to the printer were very simple. On a half-sheet of note paper I made a rough copy of the design which had been used for the children's commemorative medal issued at the time of Federation, and added details of the two colours to be used, and so on. The stamp itself, as executed from these instructions, is well known.

In course of time — there was no delay — the proofs came in; and, when the colours were approved, I gave the order to go ahead and print.

Up to this point I had said nothing of my intentions to anyone outside my department — not even to my colleagues in the Government. But when the first sheet of the new stamp was delivered I put one of them into my pocket, and strolled over to the office of the Prime Minister (Sir Edmund Barton) and started a chat with him.

In the course of the conversation, I pulled out the specimen and handed it to the chief, remarking, casually, "A new stamp I'm bringing out!"

He glanced at it, and replied, "Yes, that's all right."

I said, probably rather despondently, "It may be all right, but they'll find flies on it."

He looked at it again, more carefully this time, smiled, and handed it back, with the encouraging assurance, "They won't find many flies on that."

*Likened to Luggage Label*

Strengthened and gratified by the favourable opinion of an acknowledged connoisseur in matters of taste, as Sir Edmund Barton undoubtedly was, I sent off the specimens to the press in fulfilment of my promise, and gave the order for the issue of the stamp the next morning.

And the next morning the newspapers came out with notices which, to put it mildly, were not complimentary to the new stamp, or to the department.

One of the papers published a rough engraving of the stamp, magnified very much larger than life, and of course, in black and white, and then proceeded to liken it to a luggage label; which, indeed, it (that is the thing in the newspaper) did somewhat resemble.

But the success of that sort of criticism was short-lived. Anticipating something of the kind, I had taken the precaution the night before to draft a short circular letter, and cause a copy to be sent to every member of both Houses of Parliament. It announced the issue of the new stamp, and two specimens were neatly gummed on the blank half-sheet.

*The P.M.G. Laughed Last*

The result was quite satisfactory — to me. In most cases the circular was delivered about the same time as the newspaper, the bane and the antidote arrived together — the caricature with the work of art, and the members of Parliament — of whom even the press were a little afraid — had an opportunity of making a comparison and forming their own judgment.

The laugh was now on my side. For a few days belated criticisms came in from the country, where the stamp had not penetrated; but they only served to rub in the joke.

The stamp was never withdrawn and I am inclined to think that the public appreciated my effort to supply a simple postal want from our own resources and without much expense.

That was the only stamp issued while I was P.M.G. Since my time there have been many issues — the kangaroo has hopped across the scene — and was there not a kookaburra? — and several others have followed at, in my opinion, too frequent intervals.

I have no doubt that each one has its merits, but the brown nine-penny issued about 1902, with all its faults, if it has any, can never be displaced from its proud position as the first Commonwealth stamp.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

*Sanatoria for Consumptive Women Cards*

The Rev. A. H. Voyce, of 17 Prospect Terrace, Milford, Auckland, 1309, New Zealand, is seeking information about the Sanatoria Home for Consumptive Women cards with reproductions of the stamps of the Australian States and New Zealand, of the early 1900s.

These are somewhat similar to those printed by Muir and Moody, of Dunedin, featuring New Zealand stamps of the period.

He would like to know the meaning of the letters between the arms of the cross, QVSA (presumably Queensland, Victoria, South Australia) and the S in the centre (presumably Sanatoria); and in what States the homes existed.

He thinks the cards may have been printed in Melbourne, and also wants to know whether the NZ ones were sold in New Zealand.

Any information will be received with gratitude.

# THE SYDNEY RHOMBUS

By ROBSON LOWE

The rhombus cancellation on the Sydney Views of New South Wales has given rise to speculation for many years, but the recent find of a proving letter has established that this cancellation was undoubtedly applied in the Sydney Ship Letter Office.

At SYDPEX, Robert Wiggins was told by a local collector that the rhombus was used in a building on a wharf and this may well have been the site of the Ship Letter Office.



*The proving cover of the Sydney Rhombus cancellation.*

The letter was written by Robert Taylor, from 557 George Street, Sydney to his mother, Mrs. P. Taylor at Anstruther Wester in Scotland. The letter is stamped with an attractive horizontal strip of three of the 2d Plate II, an early impression in grey-blue from positions 6-7-8 (no whip) which is unusually large, showing five of the six dividing lines.

While the letter is dated 5 June, and the enclosure (a power of attorney) the 31st May, the PAID SHIP LETTER OFFICE datestamp shows 19 June. One presumes that Taylor took the letter to the S.L.O. rather than the G.P.O. in the hopes of catching an earlier sailing.

Sixpence was a double ship letter rate (over ½ oz. and under 1 oz.) and ¼ was correctly charged on arrival. The letter passed through London on 4 November, Edinburgh and Anstruther on the 5th.

Robert Taylor was the clerk to the solicitors, Minithorpe, Gurner and Thompson. The notary countersigning the power of attorney was John Gurner.

Robert Taylor's sister Elizabeth was married to Thomas Hudson Davis of Balmain, now a suburb of Sydney. There were two other letters, one written from London on 16th October 1843 to Mrs. Taylor, care of her son Robert at Balmain, with the circular SHIP LETTER SYDNEY in black dated 25 February 1844. Apparently, Mrs. P. Taylor, with her elder daughter, had been on a visit to New South Wales and returned to England on the *Ganges* early in August 1844. The third letter gives this information in a letter carried on the *John Dalton* dated 17th August 1844 in reply to a letter from Anstruther which just missed Mrs. Taylor. The oval PAID SHIP LETTER SYDNEY is also dated 17th August and the letter passed through London on 9 January 1845, Edinburgh and Anstruther on 11th January. As a paid ship letter the writer paid 3d. and the recipient 8d. for the single letter.

## NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES

By G. N. KELLOW

### 4 — 6d LAUREATE, ERROR OF WATERMARK SINGLE-LINED 4

Mr. J. R. W. Purves knew of seven copies of this stamp. I am able to give partial descriptions of ten examples, and have seen or have photographs of nine of these.

I do not know when or by whom this error was discovered originally, and this contrasts sharply with all the other well-known (but very rare) errors of watermark, whose discoveries were widely and accurately reported in the literature. Early references to this stamp are few and far between. The first mention of it that I have been able to find is its listing in *Oceania* (Philatelic Society, London, 1887), pp. 124-125. It was catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at least by their 1895-6 edition, and it appears in a checklist of Victorian stamps in the *Australian Philatelist*, May 1898, p. 125. In an article on watermark varieties in the Laureated series in 1903, Mr. W. A. Hull mentions the apparent existence of the 6d wmk. single-line 4, but implies that no copy would seem to be known in Australia (*Australian Journal of Philately*, June 1903, pp. 127-129).

The earliest mention of an actual copy of the stamp would appear to be in the *London Philatelist*, March 1900, p. 91, when Mr. W. Scott displayed an example at a meeting of the Cardiff Philatelic Society. Two copies are on record as having been auctioned in 1905, realising £20 and £25 respectively (*London Philatelist*, February 1905, p. 60; November 1905, p. 287). Mr. M. P. Castle mentions having had two copies in his collection (*London Philatelist*, March 1914, p. 72), and there were copies in the Duveen (see *The Duveen Collection of Rare Old Postage Stamps*, C. J. Phillips, 1922) and Bernhard (*Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, November 1933, p. 219) collections.

The primary source of information on this stamp must be the notes by J. R. W. Purves in *Philately from Australia*, December 1968, pp. 85-86. There he states that he knew of seven copies, all but one having the watermark reversed, and gives full details of three of them. I have photographs of seven stamps, and taken together with Purves' descriptions, there are ten copies represented. These are as follows:

1 and 2. A used horizontal pair. This was in the Bayford collection auctioned by Plumridge's on December 9th-10th, 1920 and realised £105 (*London Philatelist*, January 1921, p. 26). It was acquired for the Royal collection (see *The Royal Philatelic Collection*, Sir John Wilson, 1952, p. B. Aus. 68 and Plate B. Aus. 8). The pair is cancelled with the Melbourne duplex, dated 1870. The day and month are not clear from the photograph, but may be MY 21. Some manuscript notes by Mr. Purves that I have indicate that this pair has the watermark reversed, and is from the base of the sheet.

3. A copy cancelled with the Melbourne duplex dated MY 21 70. This stamp was in the collection of John R. Boker, Jr. auctioned by Harmers of London on April 14th, 1981 (Lot 218). The watermark is reversed, but the stamp does not adjoin (at least as far as the cancellations show) the Royal pair.

4. A copy cancelled with the "VICTORIA" portion of the Melbourne duplex, date not showing. This stamp was once in the Forster collection. It appeared in Rodney A. Perry's Sale No. 57 (October 25th, 1978, Lot 560) and realised \$120. The watermark is reversed and the stamp has the perforations trimmed off at right.

5. Another copy with the "VICTORIA" portion of the Melbourne duplex, date not showing. This stamp was discovered quite recently in a mixed lot. The watermark is reversed.

6. A third copy showing the "VICTORIA" portion of the Melbourne duplex. This copy is in the J. R. W. Purves collection and has a 1938 R.P.S. Certificate (*Australian Stamp Monthly*, June 1946, p. 348). It is badly off-centre, to the right and low, and showing part of the stamp at left. The watermark is normal.

7. A copy cancelled with Barred Numeral 69 (Pahran). The watermark is reversed. This copy was once in the Purves collection.

8. A copy cancelled with a two-digit Barred Numeral, the second number being "0". From the photograph the number is most probably 10 (Warrnambool). This stamp was Lot 538 in H. R. Harmer's London sale of February 18th-19th, 1952. The watermark position was not stated. It is a "small" stamp, closely perforated on all four sides.

9. A copy cancelled with a Barred Numeral, number indecipherable. This is, I think, the copy described by Mr. Purves as being cancelled by a Type A2 killer, one of the numbers being a "2". From the photograph I feel the number could be 10 or 69. This stamp was originally in the M. H. Horsley collection, which was acquired intact by Alfred H. Caspary. At the Caspary sale (H. R. Harmer, Sale 15, October 6th-9th, 1958, Lot 822) it realised £46. The stamp has the perforations trimmed at the top, but the watermark position is not recorded.

10. A copy cancelled by Barred Numeral 587 (Cobden). This is listed on the authority of Mr. Purves (*P. from A.*, December 1968, p. 86). I have no record of such a stamp personally.

Since one stamp (No. 6) has the watermark in the normal position there must have been at least two sheets printed of this variety. From the evidence of the postmarks I would suggest that four sheets were printed. Two sheets, one with watermark normal, and one reversed, went to the G.P.O. Melbourne; one sheet, with reversed watermark, was sent to Pahran; and one sheet, also with reversed watermark, was sent to the Western District, where copies were postmarked at Warrnambool and Cobden.

Although regarded generally as an error, the sheets were printed during an emergency when 6d stamps were required and the normal V over Crown paper was exhausted. Recourse was had to several kinds of obsolete paper, which may have included the very few remaining sheets of paper watermarked single-line 4 — this stamp represents the last recorded usage of that paper.



# NEW SOUTH WALES NUMERAL CANCELLATIONS

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

The second edition of *New South Wales Numeral Cancellations*, by the late Alan Brown and the present author, came out under the date of June, 1977. There are always bound to be problems in bringing out a second edition of a work, particularly when the author and the printers are in different countries. Inter alia, Mr. John Forrest, who was doing the editing, had to do the make-up twice, as the first set of make-up pages was lost in the post. With these difficulties, it is not surprising that a few errors crept in; they are remarkably few. The main thing that is likely to confuse readers is that references are made in this edition to Mr. V. Frankenstein's work on the T.P.O.'s; the original proposal was that this should be incorporated in this edition, but in the end the publishers brought this out as a separate pamphlet. Unfortunately the references remained.

In this article, I take the opportunity to correct the errors, and also to add further information that has been reported since the book was published. For this I am indebted to Messrs. G. T. Adams (England), J. L. Amiet (N.S.W.), and E. A. Williams (U.S.A.). The following corrections and additions should be made in the places mentioned:

## *Contents*

P. iii. The page number for the last entry should read '74' (not '73').

## *Introduction to the Second Edition*

P. viii. In the third paragraph, seventh line, delete "a chapter by Mr. Frankenstein on the Travelling Post Offices."

## *Chapter I*

P. 3. In the final paragraph, delete "New chapters have been added, including one by Mr. Frankenstein updating Mr. Dovey's work on the T.P.O.'s" (3rd and 4th lines) and "and also listed those which have been found in the interim, and which therefore are rare" (9th and 10th lines).

## *Chapter III*

P. 9. In the list of numbers found in Type 5, nearly half-way down the page, add '63' between '62' and '73'.

## *List of Known Types*

- P. 10. In the second column, to the types found for No. 63, add '5'.  
P. 11. In the second column, after No. 282, delete the brackets round '2c'.  
P. 12. In the third column, after No. 495, delete the brackets round '3a'.  
P. 13. In the second column, after No. 607, delete the brackets round '3c'.  
P. 15. In the first column, to the types found for No. 917, add '4Da'.  
P. 16. In the first column, after No. 1120, delete the brackets round '4b'.  
P. 17. Numbers Not Yet Recorded:  
201-300: Delete '282'.  
401-500: Delete '452' and '495'.  
601-700: Delete '607'.  
1100-1200: For '1100' read '1101', and delete '1120'.



- 1401-1500: Delete '1406'.  
 1801-1900: Delete '1826'.  
 2001-2100: Delete '2035' and '2073'.

*Chapter IV*

- P. 20. In the list of 'RRRR', add '104'.

*Chapter V*

- P. 21. In the third paragraph, last line, for 'thirteen' read 'fourteen'.  
 P. 22. In list (1), after '865 Haymarket', alter the date to '?/5/80', and immediately beneath add: '917 KING STREET (18/12/82)'. In list (2), after '35 GOULBURN' alter the date to '20/9/86', and after '186 NORTH SYDNEY' alter the date to '11/4/95'.  
 P. 23. In list (3), between '62' and '73', add: '63 EAST MAITLAND (no date seen)', and after '699 OXFORD STREET' alter the date to '9/5/95'.

*Chapter VI*

- P. 31. Near the foot of the page, before 'DENISON TOWN' alter '(282)' to '(284)'. Before 'FORT BOURKE', delete '(284)' and add '282'.  
 P. 32. About half-way down the page, before 'DOUGLASS PARK' delete the brackets round '307' and as a third line, add: 'later DOUGLAS PARK'.  
 P. 35. About two-thirds of the way down the page, before 'HORNSBY', delete the brackets round '412'.  
 P. 36. About half-way down the page, before 'CLARENDON' delete the brackets round '449'.  
 P. 50. Before the fifth entry, 'BROOMAN', delete the brackets round '1064'.  
 P. 52. Before the second entry from the bottom, 'MOUNT CARMEL', delete '(1192)' and add '1196'.  
 P. 53. Before the second entry from the top, 'WAGONGA HEADS', substitute '(1192)' for '(1196)'.  
 P. 62. Before the last entry, 'MITCHELL'S FLAT', delete '(1698)'.  
 P. 63. Before the second entry from the top, 'AVOCA', add '1698'.  
 P. 68. About a third of the way down the page, before 'CAMPSIE', delete the brackets round '1983'.  
 P. 69. After the first entry, '2021 TIA 1/2/01', delete the note in the Remarks column.  
 About a third of the way down the page, before '2033 TOOTOOL', delete the '?' (now confirmed).  
 Before 'STEVE KING'S PLAINS', delete the brackets round '2035' and delete the final 'S' of 'PLAINS'.  
 P. 70. Before the fourth entry, 'MILLINGANDI', add '? 2073'.

*Receiving Houses*

- P. 71. In the note under the heading, alter 'pp. 73-84' to read 'pp. 74-85'.

*Alphabetical Index to Post Offices*

- PP. 74-85. About one-third of the entries are not on the page listed, but on the following one; e.g. 'ABATTOIRS' is on p. 51, not p. 50.

## BOOK REVIEWS

*The Small Queens of Canada*, by J. Hillson. 24 pp. 17 x 24 cm. Published by the Pall Mall Stamp Co. Ltd. for Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JZ. Recommended price, £3.50 plus postage.

This small monograph produces a small and interesting addition to the original work written by W. S. Boggs in 1945. The author deals with the subject by referring to his working collection, hoping to be accurate in matters of fact and to be logical in matters of opinion. The book commences with basic facts on the printers, design, and the contract, and then goes on to deal with what has become known over the years as the three basic printings from Ottawa and Montreal.

Each value is then dealt with in partial tabulated form on items like gum, plates, etc., and also deals with re-entries and usage, these last two helpful to any person studying this issue in extensive detail. The bisects (legitimate and otherwise) are explained, essays and proofs are mentioned, and the three additional values of 1893 are dealt with briefly.

There are three appendices — the 1867 contract, three plans showing the layout of the sheets and the positions of the imprints, and the quantities of stamps issued. The half-tone illustrations are reasonably clear.

The overall presentation of the book is good and worthy of a place in a collector's library.

T. MORGAN.

*Newspaper Postage Stamps. The De La Rue Dies 1860-1870*, by Robson Lowe. 10 pp. 17 x 24 cm. Published by The Pall Mall Stamp Co. Ltd for Robson Lowe Ltd, 50 Pall Mall, London SW1Y 5JZ, England. Price £1.25 plus postage.

The title of this new monograph may be surprising to some collectors, but the classification of the British newspaper duty stamps as postage stamps is accurate, at least from 1855. In that year duties were abolished, but publications stamped with the duties were allowed to pass through the post for fifteen days from the date of publication.

Based on a proof book from De La Rue's archives, Mr. Lowe provides a classification of the various dies and a list of the English, Scottish, Welsh and Irish newspapers and periodicals using them.

During the decade under review the engraver of all these dies was Warren De La Rue.

The special newspaper duty dies were discontinued in 1870 when they were superseded by the small ½d postage stamp issued specifically for newspaper postage.

Some additional data has been provided by Mr. John Chandler.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *Postal Department History*

The establishment of the Australian Postal Commission and the Australian Telecommunications Commission from 1 July 1975 gives the opportunity for recording the Australian Commonwealth's postal department history.

The portfolio of Postmaster-General, one of the original ministries of the Commonwealth, established on 1 January 1901, was abolished and from 1 July 1975 the Postmaster-General became Minister responsible for the Australian Postal Commission and the Australian Telecommunications Commission.

The first Postmaster-General was Sir John Forrest (Protectionist, Swan, W.A.), who held the post only 17 days, being moved to Minister of Defence on 17 January 1901. His successor, Mr. J. G. Drake (Protectionist, Q.), who became Senator Drake after the first Federal election on 29-30 March, was not appointed until 5 February.

### *Australian States Study Group, R.P.S.L.*

The current popularity of the Australian States can be gauged from a note in the *Australian States Study Group Newsletter* for April 1981. The Study Group, with membership restricted to members of the parent society, the Royal Philatelic Society, London, now counts 5% of the total membership (1506) of that society amongst its ranks.

With the same *Newsletter* is included an index to the first thirty-five issues, covering the first ten years of the Study Group's existence. A perusal of this index indicates the great variety, and importance, of the information published in this period.

Special attention has been devoted to the question of the postal rates of most of the States. Queensland, the stamps of which have been relatively neglected, especially those of the later period, has received extensive coverage, mostly due to the efforts of Geoffrey Adams.

A complete file of the journal is in the society's library.

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

## *New Zealand Chalon Heads*

Mr. Marcel Stanley, accompanied by his wife, crossed the Tasman to display his world-famous collection of the essays, proofs and specimens of New Zealand's Chalon Heads for the May meeting.

The first sheets demonstrated the derivation of the design from Alfred Chalon's portrait of Queen Victoria, and included a die proof of William Humphry's Chalon Head engraving, and proofs of the engine-turned background.

Die proofs of the finished design included an incomplete one of the 1d, and a complete set of finished die proofs (1d, 2d, 3d, 4d, 6d, 1/-). The posthumous reprinted die proofs in fancy colours were well represented.

There were large blocks of the original plate proofs in black of the 1d, 2d, 6d and 1/- values, and a pair of the 3d, the only copies known to Mr. Stanley. Plate proofs of the 4d have not been recorded.

The Specimen stamps began with the very rare 1d, 2d and 1/- London Prints with the CANCELLED obliteration, and there was a large selection of SPECIMEN overprints on the later perforated issues.

The final section of the display covered forgeries and reproductions of the Chalon Head design.

Mr. Stanley kindly presented the society's library with a photocopy record of his display.

## *Annual Competition*

Two medals were awarded in this year's annual competition, at the June meeting. Mr. Theo Lester won the competition, and was awarded the Society's Silver Medal. Mr. Ray Chapman was awarded the Bronze Medal.

The response to the competition this year was very good. There were six entries.

Mr. Lester's entry was the Chalon Heads of New Zealand, and covered the entire period 1855-1874.

The London Printing included a used copy of the 1d. The first local issue had the 1/- bisected on piece. Amongst the second local printings of 1858-9 was a good example of the 6d chestnut, and both shades of the 1/-.

An unusual item was a sheet with the 1d - 1/- overprinted SPECIMEN in an apparently unrecorded type.

Mr. Chapman showed Australia's Canberra commemorative of 1927.

He began with an unaccepted essay from the

design competition by R. A. Harrison, the successful designer. The derivation of the die was illustrated by a series of progressive die proofs, and the finished design by a presentation die proof.

The issued stamps included a set of the twelve plate numbers, and all the perforation varieties.

Mr. A. Molander entered the stamps and stationery of the Congo Free State, 1887-94.

Amongst the stamps was the 1886-7 3f 50 mint, and the 1887-94 3f 50 with inverted surcharge. The stationery included the 5c postcard printed on yellow card, instead of the usual grey.

Mr. M. Williamson's entry was Nauru.

Included were a number of early covers showing the use of Marshall Islands stamps during the German period, and later the use of GRI and NWPI overprints. Amongst the overprinted British stamps were the 9d and 2/6 with double overprint, one albino.

Mrs E. Van Tenac sent her Cherry Blossom issues of Japan over from Adelaide.

Her entry clearly demonstrated the different plates and printings of these complex stamps, and was supplemented by a number of interesting covers.

Mr H. von Strokirch entered Greenland.

This began with the scarce Parcel Post issues in all their various printings, and continued with the beauty of the later engraved issues. Also included were the local issues of 1935-6 for the Thule District.

## *Annual Meeting*

The 89th annual meeting was held on July 16th.

The President, Mr J. Gartner, said that the most important event of the year had been the formation of a committee to stage an international philatelic exhibition in Melbourne in 1984. The event, to be called AUSIPEX 84, will be held at the Royal Exhibition Buildings from September 21st-30th, 1984.

AUSIPEX 84 is being staged by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, the Victorian Philatelic Association and other philatelic societies, the Victorian Stamp Promotion Council, and the Australasian Stamp Dealers' Association, and with the co-operation of Australia Post. Mr Gartner had been elected President of the Exhibition, and the Executive Council includes a number of "Royal" members.

Mr Gartner reported that the membership now totalled 268. Four members died during the year — A. Munro, K. F. Burslem, E. Stanley and Mrs S. E. Barrile.

There had been several burglaries during the

year, and the Society extends its sympathies to those who have suffered.

"Our reputation around the world had been based on the fact that we are a Publishing Society". However, the President explained *Philately from Australia* had been heavily subsidised by the Hawthorn Press, and now that commercial printers were involved, and with continually rising costs, the cost of *P. from A.* for each member had nearly doubled to over \$18 a year. In consequence, Council have found it necessary to raise subscription rates for the first time since 1977.

Mr Gartner paid tribute to work performed by the Society's officers and committees, and paid special tribute to the contributions over many years of two valued members, Messrs H. L. Chisholm and E. G. Creed. A luncheon had been held on March 11th to honour these two members.

The Presidential Reception held on March 7th had been a happy occasion. Mr Gartner felt it could be improved even further by moving it to December.

#### Reports

The Treasurer, Mr L. Buchanan, advised that the Society had had a reasonable year financially, though not as good as last year.

Receipts were generally down on last year's figures. Subscriptions totalled \$3945 (\$4145 last year), plus \$227 for entrance fees (\$245). Rent from the property was \$3011 (\$3313), and the Sales Branch yielded \$2706 (\$3352). Two increased items were interest, \$2456 (\$1370) and the expertising fees, \$1859 (\$951). Sundry receipts, totalling \$2694, included \$1700 for a painting which could not be used by the Society.

Expenditure, predictably, had increased in most areas. The major expense had been *Philately from Australia*, which had needed to be subsidised to the extent of \$3541, for reasons explained in the Presidential Report. A donation of \$1000 had been made to AUSIPEX 84. Rates were \$1136 (\$985 last year), gas, electricity and cleaning \$768 (\$700), printing and stationery \$1175 (\$1072), and postage and petty cash was \$956 (\$923). Honoraria had increased from \$450 to \$1100, but Mr Buchanan considered that this amount only partly recompensed the work of the officers involved. Maintenance of 6 Avoca Street was down to \$750 (\$1009), but further work was necessary on the balconies.

Miss J. Buchanan, the Business Manager of *Philately from Australia*, paid tribute to Mr H. L. Chisholm, who retired for medical reasons during the year after 26 years as editor, and welcomed the new editor, Dr G. N. Kellow.

The rising costs of *P. from A.* were underlined by the need for \$3535 to be received from the Treasurer to cover the cost of printing. Receipts totalled \$2642, made up of subscriptions (\$731), sales of back numbers (\$620), sales of publications (\$281), and advertising (\$1010).

The Superintendent of the Sales Branch, Mr A. J. White, said the total realisations for the four sales held, including private treaty sales, was \$60,567. Total lots offered was 1534, of which 74% were sold. The average value of each lot was \$51. The surplus paid to the Society amounted to \$1675.

Mr White commented that there was a lack of good quality material during the year. He thanked Messrs T. Lester and E. G. Creed and Miss H. Serjeant White for their continued support.

The Chairman of the Deceased Estates Committee, Mr E. G. Creed, said that it had been given material for disposal from the Robertson, Frawley and Wellington estates. Only one valuation had been performed during the year, for which the Society received \$10.

The Chairman of the Expert Committee, Mr P. Jaffe, reported that 106 certificates were issued during the year for material, mainly Australian States, submitted by 20 persons. The expertising fees amounted to \$1859; expenses, mainly for photography, amounted to \$400.

The Exchange Superintendent, Mr T. Morgan, said that only three books had completed their circuit this year, compared to four last year. Some members had not received books due to their slow movement and lack of material.

Mr Morgan, Superintendent since 1972, announced that next year would be his last in that position, because of pressure of other business. He appealed to members to increase their support for the Exchange Branch.

The Chairman of the House Committee, Mr D. E. Napier, reported that repairs to the balcony were proceeding slowly, and further work was required.

A bronze plaque recording the life and achievements of Mr J. R. W. Purves had been mounted under his portrait in the library. A medal case belonging to Mr Purves had been placed in the library, displaying some of the medals won by the Society. Some medals were missing, and Mr Napier appealed to any members knowing their whereabouts to advise the House Committee.

In the kitchen, a refrigerator had been generously donated by Mr R. P. T. Chapman.

The Librarian, Dr G. N. Kellow, reported that a further 235 items, including another 64 from the Purves library, had been added during the year, bringing the total number of books, monographs and catalogues to 3204. The large increase in the library from the Purves bequest means that further shelving would be required within two years.

Surplus material had been sold to members, and the receipts (\$361) had been used to purchase new books.

#### Presidential Display

Mr John Gartner chose Hong Kong as the subject of his Presidential Display.

The no watermark issue of 1862 included an example of the top value, 96c, with the scarce "sunburst" cancellation.

The watermarked issue of 1863-74 followed, and amongst the many stamps and covers shown were a mint block of 17 of the 12c pale blue, and five copies of the scarce olive-bistre shade of the 96c. The De La Rue Queen Victoria design was also illustrated by a series of die proofs, and examples of the surcharged stamps prepared for use on postcards were also included.

A special study was made of the 1891 Jubilee overprint. The various settings were shown reconstructed, and there were mint and used copies of the double overprint.

The Edwardian and Georgian issues were shown overprinted or perforated SPECIMEN; an unusual item was a series of colour trials of the King Edward VII duty stamps.

The modern issues were not forgotten, and two rare errors shown were a block of four of the 1954-60 5c imperforate, and the 1961 \$1 University stamp with gold colour omitted used on first day cover.

*Australian Commonwealth Postal History*

Mr J. Turnbull presented a display of Australian Commonwealth Postal History, 1901-1913, for the second July meeting.

The display was in two parts. The first comprised a series of illustrated postcards, stamped and unstamped, demonstrating the social

and philatelic history of the first twelve years of the Commonwealth.

A series of postcards were shown commemorating the Federation ceremony in Centennial Park, Sydney, with the Duke of York in attendance. These were followed by a number of the Zieher postcards illustrating the stamps of each of the States in full colour.

Amongst the States postal stationery shown were the Victorian 1d American Fleet postcard, and a used Western Australian 3d registered envelope. This part of the display concluded with a number of illustrated Commonwealth postcards and lettercards showing the full-face portrait of King George V, introduced in 1911.

The second portion of the display was a comprehensive treatment of a neglected subject — the early machine cancellations of the Commonwealth.

The Australian States adopted the idea of machine cancellations from New Zealand. The earliest item shown was a Melbourne type without year date used as a backstamp in 1901 — apparently an experimental type and a recent discovery. This was a trip machine producing a single impression. Subsequent trip machines were introduced on a permanent basis, and various types were shown from Melbourne, Sydney, Brisbane and Perth.

In 1907 continuous impression machines were introduced, and examples were shown by Mr Turnbull used in the capital cities of each of the six States.

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