

# PHILATELY

*from*

# AUSTRALIA



*Published Quarterly by*  
**THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA**

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and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club*

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## PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA BROADENS ITS SCOPE

At a recent meeting of the Publications Committee it was decided, and later ratified by the Council of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, that *Philately from Australia* be permitted to publish articles on the stamps and postal history of countries outside the Australasian region.

The reasoning has been twofold.

When *Philately from Australia* started in 1949 it was practically the only specialist journal covering this part of the world. Today there is a score of journals dealing with a larger or smaller portion of the region. In this country, for instance, there is the *Bulletin* of the Australian Commonwealth Collectors' Club of N.S.W. and *Stamp Talk* dealing with Australian Commonwealth, *The Australian Posthorn* and *The Datestamp* covering postal history, and *The Black Swan* limiting itself to Western Australia.

Thus, while in 1949 *Philately from Australia* fulfilled a unique role in providing a repository for research into this area, its monopoly has been somewhat lessened in the intervening years. It should be emphasized that the new policy has not been forced on *Philately from Australia* by the diversion of publishable material to these other journals; in fact the position with manuscripts is a very satisfactory one at the present time.

Secondly, the membership of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria has cosmopolitan philatelic interests — it has never been a specialist society — yet members with serious interests outside Australasia have been barred from publishing the results of their research in the Society's journal, and can further argue that if they do not collect Australasia at all, *Philately from Australia* provides little of interest for them.

These collectors now have their chance, but the success of the change and their renewed interest in *Philately from Australia* is very much up to what they provide for publication.

The change is not intended to mean that Australasian research will take a back seat in these pages — it is expected, and intended, that the content will still be very much in favour of that subject, and the regular features (The Trail of Commonwealth, The Other Side of the Picture) will be maintained.

The intention is to provide Australian collectors, members and non-members alike, with a suitable forum within their own country in which to publish the results of their philatelic research.

## EDITORIAL NOTES

### *90th Anniversary Dinner*

The first meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria was held on July 7th, 1892.

In celebration of our 90th anniversary a celebratory dinner has been arranged. This will take place on Saturday, July 3rd at Chaucer's, 190 Canterbury Road, Canterbury. Tickets are now available at the cost price of \$25 per head, or \$50 per double, all inclusive. All members and their friends are welcome.

Tickets can be obtained from the Secretary, P.O. Box 2071, Melbourne, 3001, or can be arranged by telephone: 51 8178 (or 354 1776 in the evenings).

### *N.Z. Prime Minister Was Philatelist*

Mr Robson Lowe mentions in a footnote in *The Henniker Heaton Essay* (P. from A. March 1978, p. 25) that Sir Joseph Ward had been a philatelist, and that he had sold the Ward Collection on the orders of Sir Joseph's son, about 1960.

Sir Joseph Ward was New Zealand's Prime Minister in 1906-10 and in a political comeback became Prime Minister again in 1928-30.

He also served a period as Postmaster-General, but was not so well known philatelically as another Postmaster-General, Sir Heaton Rhodes, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. (P. from A. September 1956, p. 70).

Thus New Zealand has had two Postmaster-General philatelists.

Australia has had one Postmaster-General known to have been a philatelist, Mr A. E. Green (1931-32) (P. from A. December 1974, p. 97).

Sir Joseph Ward began as a boy telegraph messenger at Invercargill, then the most southerly telegraph office in New Zealand.

Once, having given an important speech at a provincial town, he went to the post office and found there was not a telegraphist there capable of sending the speech to the remainder of New Zealand, so he sat down and sent it himself, finishing "This is the Postmaster-General, who once held a certificate for high-speed telegraphy."

### *R.P.S.V. Expert Committee*

The schedule of meetings for the Society's Expert Committee for 1982 and 1983, under the chairmanship of Mr P. Jaffe, is:

August 3rd, 1982

November 2nd, 1982

February 1st, 1983

May 3rd, 1983

August 2nd, 1983

November 1st, 1983

It is requested that material be in hand two weeks prior to the meeting.

Application forms are available from the Secretary of the Expert Committee, P.O. Box 2071, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001.

### *R.P.S.V. Library*

Recent accessions to the Society's library include:

*The Penny Post Centenary* by S. Graveson.

*Die Briefmarken der Deutschen Postantaltalen im Auslande und der Deutschen Schutzgebiete* by Dr. E. Ey.

*Handbuch der Bayerischen Poststempel* by K. Winkler.

*New Zealand Postal Stationery Catalogue, Parts 1-3* by R. D. Samuel.

*Philippines Postage Stamps Handbook, Section 1* by P. W. A. Harradine.

*Il Lloyd Austriaco e Gli Annuli Marittimi dell'Austria-Ungheria. Vol. 2* by U. de. Bianco.

*British Maritime Postal History. Vol. 1. The P&O Bombay & Australian Lines 1852-1914* by R. Kirk.

*The Maltese Cross Cancellations of the United Kingdom* by R. C. Alcock and F. C. Holland.

*The Welsh Post Towns Before 1840* by M. S. Archer.

*Postal Cancellations of London 1840-1890* by H. C. Westley.

### *New fellows of the R.P.S.L.*

Professor O. G. Ingles (Sydney, and formerly of Melbourne), and Mr L. R. Malin (Semaphore, South Australia) have been appointed Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.



# The Trail



# of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

Having fallen heavily from a step-ladder and broken my arm whilst trying to place a net over a tree to protect my persimmons from the ravages of a flock of hungry starlings, my philatelic activities have been, to say the least, somewhat curtailed, so that I have not had the opportunity to study the Queen's Birthday or new definitive stamps.

## *Australian Whales*

Once again we have a photolithographic issue printed by Cambec Press, and I was a little more fortunate with this set than with the Australia Day stamp in that I was able to locate the three Post Office sheets of 100 before changes in postal rates created a problem with the disposal of the unwanted stamps, after the completion of my survey.

In the case of the 24c stamp the sheets can be identified as follows:

- 1) Yellow bar at left, magenta at right
- 2) Cyan/magenta at both left and right
- 3) Magenta bar at left, cyan at right

Unfortunately I was unable to note any varieties which were sufficiently prominent to be potential candidates for catalogue status.

With the remaining three denominations in the set, after appropriate adjustment for the format of the design (horizontal or vertical), the colour bar layout seems to have been similar, although I was not able to track down all three sheets of every denomination to be completely certain.

I have been told that on the 55c there is a multipositive flaw on the first "5" of "55" on Row 5, Stamps 8, 9 and 10 of every pane; the best of them being on Row 5, Stamp 8 of the left pane of the sheet with cyan/magenta bars at top and bottom. This item has additionally a small red flaw to the right of the tail. In the course of my travels I was able to secure an example of this, but from past experience cannot see the variety attracting the attention of overseas catalogue editors.

With all the changes in printing and papermaking technology which have taken place in the last three or four years, I have found it increasingly difficult to run to earth significant new constant varieties or errors in paper manufacture and ultra-violet lamp reaction, which are not duplicated elsewhere by fellow researchers. Regretfully I feel that the time has come for a fresh mind with broader Commonwealth specialist interests to take over this column — perhaps in a different format — allowing me to devote more attention to some other areas of my collecting which have been sadly neglected during the 15 years or so in which I have been searching for Australian specialist material.

In closing this, my last, column I would like to thank my readers for their interest over the years and to wish the "Royal" long continued prosperity.



# The Other Side of the Picture



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

## NEW SOUTH WALES: 1907 STAMPS ON BORROWED PAPER

Mr. Hugh Wynn requests our help in his studies of these stamps. This especially refers to the no watermark variety.

Mr. Wynn writes as follows:

In mid 1907 New South Wales printed stamps on paper supplied by Victoria, this paper had a watermark "Commonwealth of Australia" repeated once in two lines across the top of the sheet before the start of the Crown on A watermarks (i.e. Stanley Gibbon's W. 11). As supplied this paper did not fit the N.S.W. presses and had to be trimmed before use. Now if the stamps were centred on these trimmed sheets it normally meant there were two stamps (a vertical pair) with no watermarks. At some stage instructions were given or the printer corrected the situation, that the paper be centred on the watermark, then all stamps showed part of a watermark.

I have some used 1d. Postage stamps which were printed with plate centred on the watermarks — as opposed to plate centred on paper. Although I have used and unused examples of most values, only a minority have watermarked *lettering* which permit me to determine the placement of the plate. I am of the opinion, at this time, that the first printings were centred on the paper, Fred Hagen's remarks on the first stamps to appear indicate that some stamps were without watermark, and these could only have come from the plate centred on the paper. I have examined a 2s.6d. (Smithsonian Institution) which was from a sheet with stamps centred on the paper; I also have two marginal copies of the 4d. Postage Due from that placement.

Things were falling neatly into place, when I found a 10d. Postage (mint) in a dealer's stock last week — with marginal lettering which shows the plate to have been centred over the interpane watermark!! The 10d. is one of those three stamps which were printed only in June (8d., 10d., 2s.6d.). It would have been possible to print any denomination two or more times during the month, I suppose, so we need more evidence before being able to assert that there was only one printing of each denomination in June. There is also the possibility that the 10d. was one of the last stamps printed in June, and that the printer had been instructed by then that he should centre his plate on the watermarks to avoid unwatermarked stamps. The 10d. is an anomaly in other ways — it was the last stamp to be issued, nearly 8 weeks after the first one appeared in the Sydney Post Office (the 2d., Friday, July 5; I have been unable to find an issue date for the 10d., although all the others were carefully noted, including the Dues). It is also the only stamp to be perforated 11 all around, except for a few sheets of the 1s.

I am especially desirous of information on the three stamps printed only in June, plus the two highest denomination Postage Dues. Stamps with selvedge at the side would be especially useful. Exactly 10% of the stamps were printed on the interpane space, and some of the denominations were printed in very small numbers, so finding

material may prove difficult. But stamp collectors were very active in 1907, and the interpane watermarks caught their fancy (see Fred Hagen's ads. for them on the inside front cover of the *Australian Philatelist*, November 12, 1910). Thus there should be a disproportionate number of these unusual stamps in collections. I would hope that anyone with examples would be willing to trace off the watermark placement on a xerox or photo of the stamp and send the information to this column so that I can assemble enough material to reach valid conclusions about the stamps.

#### VICTORIAN T.P.O.'s

Mr. L. J. Tyler reports two new discoveries in this field.

##### (i) T.P.O. 3

I have a cover with a postmark on the 1d red "Postage" which is surprising to say the least. It is the large size TPO over 3 in bars, which is not often found — I have only two copies on stamps in my collection. The cover has the stamp cancelled with the large circle type M.G. 3 handstamp, No. 7 in the handbook, dated 2.11.1905 and backstamped at Moonee Ponds on 3.11.1905. The large T.P.O. 3 is well tied to the cover and one wonders why a postmark first used in 1869, and it did not have much usage, came to be used such a long time after it had been withdrawn from use.

##### (ii) T.P.O. 14

I recently became the owner of a very interesting postal history item, as it had a backstamp of a hitherto unrecorded T.P.O. 14 in bars duplex postmark. In chapter 3 of his handbook, the late Bill Purves suggested that there should be an earlier date for T.P.O. 14 than the earliest date recorded so far, 2.3.1892, as the earliest date recorded for T.P.O. 15 was 11.6.1885.

This wrapper was sent from Melbourne to Inglewood, franked with a 1d Naish design, and was cancelled with a Melbourne duplex dated 6.12.1883. It is backstamped with the T.P.O. 14 in bars and the octagonal down train duplex dated 7.12.1883. It also has the Inglewood 293 duplex for 8.12.1883 and the Borung c.d.s. of the same date. The duplex T.P.O. postmark is the same size as the earlier numbered T.P.O.'s, Nos. 1, 2, 3, etc., the width of the octagon being  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch, against the one inch size of the later No. 14 cancellation. It seems amazing that nearly one hundred years should pass before the existence of this cancellation came to light.

#### VICTORIA: MULTIPLES OF THE "TOO LATE" STAMP

Two further pieces of information in relation to this subject have turned up since the publication of the original article in *P. from A.*, September 1980 (p. 67), both in relation to the Too Late stamp.

Most important is the appearance of unused pair No. 4. This pair, which was not mentioned by Mr Purves, was in the Ferrary collection, but subsequently disappeared from sight. It has now surfaced, in Mr John R. Boker's collection of Australian States. This pair was Lot 207 in Harmers of London's sale of that collection on April 14th, 1981.

It is a horizontal pair showing Types 23 and 6 in that order, and confirms Purves' plating, which was based on a single of Type 23 showing a small portion of Type 6 at the right. The "TOO LATE" overprints on this pair are A on Type 23 and B on Type 6 (see *Victoria: The "Registered" and "Too Late" Stamps* for details).

Secondly, I have found a record of what seems to be a further (the fifth) used pair. A "partly severed pair" (horizontal or vertical?) was offered in H. R. Harmer's London sale of July 4th-5th, 1938 (Lot 587), and re-offered in the sale of July 28th-31st, 1940 (Lot 818). The description (it was not illustrated) does not correspond to any of the four described pairs, all of which are in any case accounted for at this time. The pair may not, of course, have remained intact.

#### VICTORIA: A DILEMMA FOR POSTMASTERS IN 1853

While perusing some early Victorian postal regulations, Dr. Geoff Kellow came across a postal rate which must have caused postmasters quite a headache in 1853. The rates in force then were published in the *Government Gazette* for June 26th, 1853, but had been in the operation since the 1852 Post Office Act came into force on February 1st, 1852. The problem arises with the parcel rate, introduced by the Post Office for the first time:

Bankers' parcels, patterns, prices current, writs, or proceedings of Courts of Justice, Legislative papers, and periodical publications, provided the sender states on the outside what the contents are, as bankers' parcels, etc., signing his name thereto and giving his address, and there is no communication or intelligence contained within or upon such parcels —

Not exceeding 4 ounces	2 pence
And for every additional ounce or fraction of an ounce	1 halfpenny

This means, for instance, that a packet weighing between 4 and 5 ounces was charged 2½d, and similarly other higher weights also had fractional charges.

The question, and problem for postmasters, was how were such rates paid, with only 1d, 2d and 3d postage stamps available. Compulsory prepayment by stamps was not introduced until December 31st, 1854, so the charges could be prepaid by cash, and perhaps postmasters were instructed to do this. The sender was unlikely to agree to using a stamp, e.g., a 2d, and paying the ½d in cash, since the regulations specifically state that letters and parcels only partly prepaid by stamps were liable to a charge of a double rate.

The exciting prospect, of course, is that 1d and 3d Half-Lengths were bisected to meet the fractional charges. There is no official instruction on this subject, and it seems that if it did occur it was unofficial, although justifiable insofar as no stamps were available to prepay the proper rate. It is understandable that no outer wrapper from a parcel of this period has survived to illustrate the procedure employed.

This parcel rate was superseded by the 1854 Act, gazetted on June 27th, 1854, so it had a short life. The 1854 rates were 6d for up to 4 ounces, and 3d for every additional 2 ounces or part thereof, and so the fractional charges disappeared.

#### AN AUSTRALIAN STATES STUDY CIRCLE PROPOSED

The current high level of interest in Australian States philately has prompted me to try to inaugurate an Australian States Study Circle within the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

A meeting will be held at the Society's rooms on June 24th at 7.30 p.m., under the chairmanship of myself, to gauge interest and discuss the format which the Study Circle might take. All interested R.P.S.V. members are invited to attend.

# COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENT TALKS ABOUT STAMPS

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

(Continued from June 1980, p. 43)

If there was any foolishness in the House of Representatives on 1 April 1908, it was appropriately jovial foolishness.

During the Estimates debate, Mr. W. H. Wilks (Anti-Socialist, Dalley, N.S.W.), asked whether the Treasurer was still allowing postage stamps to be printed at Sydney printing office.

The Minister for Trade and Customs (Mr. Austin Chapman) nodded assent and Mr. Wilks continued "I am glad that he does because on the last occasion when we discussed the matter I think he was an advocate of the stamps being printed in Melbourne".

Mr. Austin Chapman: That is not so.

## *Way Up on the Snowy River*

Mr. Wilks: I must take the Honorable Minister's denial and I am glad that he now is as strong an advocate as I am of having them printed in Sydney.

Mr. Chapman: I want them all to be printed on the banks of the Snowy River.

Sir William Lyne: It was considered necessary to appoint a commission to inquire into the question of stamp printing and into the class of printing that was required. But it will take two years before the recommendations made can be brought to a head. I believe that it was stated in New South Wales that I said that the work of stamp printing was to be removed to Melbourne. I have not said anything of the kind.

"I feel, however, that Mr. Gullick, the New South Wales Government Printer, differs from other printers as to which is the better style of die to adopt. I have compared stamps printed from a steel die and those printed by the other process which is considered to be cheaper. I must say that the cheaper method is not to be compared with the other. But Mr. Gullick wants them printed in the old fashion. Personally, I should prefer the steel die method although it is more expensive."

Sir William Lyne said he was in favour of having the best class of stamp printing because it had to be remembered that stamps were saleable commodities. He believed Sir John Forrest's idea while he was Treasurer was that the stamps should be printed at the head office, wherever it was. But that all depended upon whether there is to be a Government Printing Office or whether the work is to be done at a State printing office. Sir John Forrest held the opinion that the stamps ought to be printed at one office under the control of the Treasurer. That was a very proper idea I think there was no question about that.

Mr. Page: Why not do it instead of talking about it?

Sir William Lyne: Because, for one thing, we shall not be ready to adopt a new method for at least two years.

## *Commonwealth Printing Office*

"The State Printing Office, Melbourne, does most of our work and it does it very well. There has been strong agitation for the establishment of a Commonwealth Printing Office. The only reason I have not moved in the matter is that we are not yet



established in our own capital. When we are, we shall have to have a printing office of our own.

*Officer from South Australia*

"I think that an officer from South Australia is coming to Victoria to undertake the printing not of the whole of the stamps but of some kinds. That does not apply to New South Wales."

Mr. Batchelor (Labor, Boothby, S.A.): The question of printing stamps seems to be a perennial source of trouble. It has been discussed for a good many years. I thought we had at last reached finality. But still it crops up again. The fault that I find with the Government is that we have not arrived at a decision on the question one way or the other.

Sir William Lyne: I believe that an officer who is about the best expert in Australia has been recently appointed.

Mr. Batchelor: I do not think that appointment has actually been made. Possibly the Minister is making a mistake. I know that the officer in question has been recommended for appointment to another position but was prevailed upon to relinquish it and to take the position of stamp comptroller for the Commonwealth.

Sir William Lyne: Sir John Forrest dealt with the matter to a certain point and I think I have the officer under my charge now.

Mr. Batchelor: I do not think that the Treasurer has actually taken over the officer. I believe that he is still officially stamp printer in Adelaide, though the work of printing stamps over there has been abandoned.

"I constantly protested against the parochial spirit shown in this matter. It seems to be an astonishingly small thing for the Premiers and politicians of New South Wales to be troubling about.

"If New South Wales could have carried out the work of stamp printing as cheaply as was being done in South Australia probably she would have had the work today. We hear a great deal about the unfederal spirit displayed by representatives of other States in relation to the question of a Capital Site. But where there is a case where it is manifestly cheaper for certain work to be done in the Commonwealth Printing Office and as soon as it is proposed to take that step, New South Wales, through its Premier, gets on its hind legs and howls till the air is blue."

Mr. Batchelor: Mr. Wade is Premier, not of Sydney, but of New South Wales and is the representative of the people of that State.

Personally, I think that the people do not care a snap of the fingers about the stamp printing. It is ridiculous to suppose that they do. But for political purposes, and to raise an outcry against the Federal authorities, politicians over there — particularly the head of the present government, and Mr. Carruthers, the leader of the former Government — have raised this question.

But they never had a leg to stand on.

Mr. Bowden: The Honourable Member said just now they had got upon their hind legs.

Mr. Batchelor: Under the circumstances I withdraw the legs.

"We have had from the Honourable Member from North Sydney quite a sermon in regard to the need for carefully criticising increases in expenditure, even where they may be necessary. But when an opportunity to save money occurred in connection with the printing of stamps, every New South Wales representative on the front Opposition bench complained about the proposed transference of work from the Sydney Printing Office and the Minister had to explain that, rather than that the susceptibilities of the 'Ma' State in this matter should be wounded it had been determined to allow the stamps required for New South Wales to be produced by the



inefficient and expensive method there in force. The antique method of New South Wales is to be continued and, I believe that Queensland is also to be allowed to carry on its clumsy and still more ancient mode of stamp printing. The printing of stamps required by the four other States, however, is to be done by the Commonwealth in Melbourne, and I hope that the Treasurer will soon complete all the necessary arrangements."

Sir William Lyne: That has been done.

Mr. Batchelor: Is the officer in Melbourne who has been appointed to control the printing?

Sir William Lyne: "No, but he is receiving instructions to come here as soon as he can.

#### *Cooke Sold His House*

Mr. Batchelor: "Some months ago, he sold his house under the impression that he was to come to Melbourne almost immediately but he has had to stay in Adelaide ever since. The inquiries which have taken place occasioned delay but need not have affected Mr. Cooke's engagement.

Mr. Bowden: The New South Wales stamps are the best in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Batchelor: That statement is unsupported by facts.

"In my opinion, there has been a miscalculation as to the extent to which purchasers in other parts of the world will buy our stamps, if they are printed on better paper. We should have in view not the demands of the Philatelic Society but the requirements of our own public and therefore need not give consideration to the possibility of adopting the more costly production."

Sir William Lyne: I am in favour of it.

#### *"Stamp Collecting Craze may Cease."*

Mr. Batchelor: The stamp collecting craze may cease in no time and indeed the postcard craze has taken its place. Therefore if we are going to go to expense for the sake of a fad we may not get the results which are expected.

Mr. Brown: I do not want our stamps to be the laughing stock of the world."

Mr. Batchelor: Has the Honourable Member compared Australian stamps with those of other countries.

Mr. Brown: I have compared South Australian with New South Wales stamps.

Mr. Batchelor: I could show the Honourable Member some very fine specimens of South Australian stamps. I doubt if anybody but an expert could detect any difference in the quality of printing although there is a difference in the quality of the paper and a vast difference in the cost of production.

The Honourable Member may like stamps printed on good paper but the ordinary commercial man does not put any additional value on such stamps. In my opinion, it will be a mistake to increase the cost of the Postal Department by printing our stamps on paper that is better than is requisite.

Mr. Dugald Thomson (Anti-Socialist, North Sydney, N.S.W.): We must do what we can to minimise the risk of forgery.

Sir William Lyne: That is the strongest point.

Mr. Batchelor: So far as forgery is concerned it is not more difficult with one paper than with another, everything turning upon the control. A strong reason for having all stamps done in Melbourne is that they can be kept under better control in one than in several places. I ask the Minister to bring about finality in this matter to which I have referred.

I understand Mr. Cooke is practically on his way here and I feel that, from my experience of him in South Australia, that his work will speedily commend itself to the government and will save the Commonwealth a great deal of money.

Our first duty as custodians of the public purse is to see that the administration is efficient and not unduly costly, and I hope that less parochial spirit will, in the future, be shown in this matter by representatives of the most important State in the Commonwealth.

*The "Ma" State and "Pa" Cooke*

Mr. Wilks: The honourable Member for Boothby complains at the display of parochial spirit by the representatives of what he called the "Ma" State: but even if we are fighting for the "Ma" State it may be said of him that all he is concerned about is "Pa" Cooke.

"So long as "Pa" Cooke gets his billet the Honourable Member will be satisfied."

He concluded his speech by saying that he hoped that "Pa" Cooke would at once be brought over from Adelaide and that the petty parochial spirit would not again be shown by representatives of the "Ma" State. He objected to the stamps being printed in New South Wales on the ground that they were antique; but among the "common or garden" variety of persons with whom I mix they apply the word "antique" to a work of art.

Mr. Batchelor: Would the Honourable Member call antique eggs artistic?"

Mr. Wilks: If the Honourable Member had the artistic temperament he would not ask the question.

When we have a Commonwealth Printing Office in the Commonwealth Seat of Government it will be parochial to ask that any printing which could be done there should be done in a State office. It was not the Premier of New South Wales but the earnest and ardent Laborite representing Blayney who brought this matter up in the State Parliament last night. He complained that artisans in the Sydney Government Printing Office were losing their employment and asked that they should not be suddenly deprived of the means of earning a livelihood, but the Honourable Member was going back upon his fellow Laborite. So far as I am aware, not one of these men who earn their livelihood in the Government Printing Office of New South Wales resides in my electorate. The Treasurer says it will take 12 months to put the new plant into position.

Sir William Lyne: More than that!

Mr. Wilks: I hope that when we go to the Federal Capital we shall take over not only "Pa" Cooke but other printers and that my friendly relations with the Honourable Member for Boothby will not be disturbed — by any difference of opinion as to the claims of "Pa" Cooke and the "Ma" State.

I am glad that the Treasurer intends to have something of the work done in New South Wales.

Mr. Dugald Thomson (Anti-Socialist, North Sydney): The Honourable Member for Boothby made some allusion to a sermon which I am alleged to have delivered and I think as a compliment to him I should make some reference to his prayer on behalf of certain individuals engaged in the printing of stamps. He asserted that Honourable Members on the front Opposition bench had raised objections in connection with the printing of stamps for the Commonwealth. I have never spoken on the subject.

Mr. Wilks: But the Honourable Member has thought a lot.

Mr. Thomson: I only thought that the Commonwealth should deal with the question without favouring any State. If the Government finds that the work which they desire can be done, or the material they desire, can be obtained more economically in one State than another they have a right to choose accordingly.

Mr. Batchelor: That is all I have asked for.

Mr. W. E. Johnson (Anti-Socialist, Lang, N.S.W.) also wanted to know whether

practical steps had been taken to arrange for the issue of a uniform Commonwealth postage stamp.

Mr. Mauger: Practical steps have been taken.

Mr. Johnson: I am glad to hear that. The time has arrived when we should have a Commonwealth stamp.

Mr. Mauger: I hope that designs will be ready for adoption as soon as it is possible to change the present system.

*(To be continued.)*

## TASMANIAN EXHIBITIONS

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

Additional information to that given in the Tasmanian Postal History handbooks has become available.

### *Tasmanian International Exhibition — Launceston 1891-92*

An examination of a site plan of this Exhibition held by the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery reveals that there was an area designated "Post Office".

No postal marking or cachet of the Exhibition has been recorded to the writer's knowledge. It is more than probable that some such marking will be discovered.

### *Tasmanian International Exhibition — Hobart 1894-95*

Colour trials of the motif on the Official Souvenir, issued by the Postal Administration for the Exhibition, printed on 1d Post Cards and the 1½d Post Card with Reply Card attached, exist in the following colours:

purple  
 rose-pink  
 orange-brown  
 black (on 1d Post Card only)

The 1d Post Cards used for the colour trials are London printing (Higgins and Gage No. 2), whereas the issued cards with the Official Souvenir printed in black are from the local printings. The colour trials are of extreme rarity, one set of examples only is known.

### *The North West Coast Exhibition 1896-97*

This Exhibition was held at Ulverstone from December 26th, 1896, and evidently closed some time in January 1897, but the actual date has not been determined. The Hobart *Mercury* of December 29th contains an account of the official opening, stated to have been received by Electric Telegraph, together with a description of the Exhibition. There is no mention of a Post Office.

Among a number of post cards obtained some time ago, one card has impressed on it a cachet for the Exhibition. The cachet is framed by a double-lined oval 38 × 25 mm, the frame lines being 2 mm apart. The inscription consists of NORTH WEST COAST at top and TASMANIA at the base, both conforming to the shape of the oval, with EXHIBITION 1896-97 in two horizontal lines in the centre, struck in violet ink.

The impressed postage stamp on the card is cancelled LAUNCESTON DE 24 96, but superimposed on the cachet is another cancel of LAUNCESTON DE 23 96, and is to an address in Launceston. Evidently one date is an error. The message is signed by H. Latham, who it is understood was secretary for the Exhibition.

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA: THE DUPLEX R PLACED

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

In my article in *P. from A.*, June 1981, page 31, I was unable to identify the Post Office using Duplex R. It now gives me great pleasure to fill this last gap and announce that it was used at Roebourne.

For many years I have been working on a list of duplexes showing the letters PO, but publication has been delayed because I still need to place some five of the different instruments, just about 60 in all.

Now the W.A. Study Group in Perth has published an illustrated account of the PO (and Void) duplexes in the Dec. 1981 issue of *The Black Swan*. This group project is well illustrated in the 75-80% cases where clear strikes were available to the members.

I have long ago established that Duplex PO instruments were first introduced around 1 July 1895 with use on 17 July at Coolgardie being my earliest date. The above group project confirms my finding, as it shows several uses during 1895 with their earliest, also at Coolgardie, on 30 August.

Going over their drawings I found they included a strike showing Roebourne and fragments of the left hand bars of the adjoining canceller-part. That could pass as a Duplex PO (or Void) were it not that the marker-part clearly show the date 21 June 1893.

The Study Group wrote as a note "PO or VOID?". If they had considered their dates both could have been eliminated, though Duplex Void is known from Southern Cross 1892-96 (and Boulder 1903-05).

The natural solution is that here was the marker-part of the missing Duplex R. Pronto, I made a tracing combining my R strike with the Roebourne illustration and I had the perfect fit.

## NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES

By G. N. KELLOW

### 8 — 1d "EMBLEMS", CALVERT PRINTING ON UNWATERMARKED WOVE PAPER, PERFORATED 12

This is another extremely rare perforation variety from the "Emblems" series. Since the whole printing was used up by the time the perf. 12 machine came into use in early 1859, its existence can only be explained (in the same way as the 1d wmk. Star perf. 12, already dealt with in *P. from A.*, December 1981, pp. 81-2) by the perforation of a few remainder sheets. The variety is all the more remarkable because among the few known copies an error, imperforate between, occurs.

The stamp has had a chequered career. It was listed in the earliest days of philately, by Mr. E. L. Pemberton in *Stamp Collector's Magazine*, November 1865, p. 166. Mr. R. B. Yardley confirmed the existence of perf. 12 stamps, including the imperf. between error, in the *London Philatelist*, December 1918, p. 304. The 1918 volume of the *L.P.* in the Society's library is Yardley's own, and in manuscript on the margin of

this page he has written "Horsley and myself have a pair obliterated with the Camperdown postmark." Yardley subsequently listed the perf. 12, including the horizontal pair imperf. between, in his *Reference List* (1921), p. 25, and in his rewriting of the Stanley Gibbons listing in the 1920's.

Mr. J. R. W. Purves, however, never saw a satisfactory copy of this stamp, and doubted its existence in *The "Emblems" of Victoria, 1857-63*, 1957, p. 25. It was removed from the catalogue. Sir John Wilson took issue on this, and in his review of *The "Emblems"* (*L.P.*, April 1958, p. 70) pointed out that the Royal collection contained an imperf. between pair cancelled at Camperdown, and that the opinions of Pemberton, Yardley, and Sir Edward Bacon (who had purchased the pair) were not to be taken lightly. Purves, in reply (*L.P.*, August-September 1958, p. 158) was still dubious, but an entirely different source almost immediately changed his mind. This was the appearance of the Alfred H. Caspary collection of Victoria on the market, which was sent by the auctioneers to Purves for classification prior to sale. In that collection was a strip of 3, one pair imperf. between, cancelled at Camperdown — it was the Horsley piece which Yardley had noted.

The existence of two imperf. between errors, used at the same town, dispelled any doubts as to their authenticity, and the catalogue listing was restored. A strong point in favour of the genuineness of the perf. 12 stamp, as Wilson pointed out, is that it is very unlikely that faked perforations would be made in 1865, when Pemberton listed it, since then the Calvert printing was not differentiated from the later Robinson perforated ones, and so a 1d perf. 12 "Emblems" was a common stamp.

Apart from the two imperf. between errors (comprising in all five stamps), I have photographs of two single copies, and references to other "possibles." I cannot vouch for the genuineness of all of these, since fakes are undoubtedly about. However, for the record, the known copies are as follows:

1, 2 and 3. A horizontal strip of 3, with straight edge at left, and imperf. between the second and third stamps. It is cancelled Barred Numeral 26 (Camperdown). This strip was in the M. H. Horsley collection, which was acquired intact by Mr. A. H. Caspary. In H. R. Harmer's London auction, October 6th-9th, 1958, the strip was Lot 782, and realized 21, being acquired by J. R. W. Purves. The strip was in Robson Lowe's fourth Purves sale, September 9th, 1981, Lot 198. It realized £1400, and is now in a Melbourne collection.

4 and 5. A horizontal pair imperf. between, cancelled Barred Numeral 26 (Camperdown). This pair is in the Royal collection (Wilson, 1953, *The Royal Philatelic Collection*, p. B.Aus. 66). Wilson has said (*L.P.*, April 1958, p. 70) that the pair was purchased by Bacon, which I interpret as meaning that it was not part of the L. L. R. Hausburg purchase (and there is no other evidence to suggest it was). I believe the pair is the one Yardley once owned.

6. A copy cancelled Barred Numeral in the 130's (the last figure is off the stamp). This was in the Purves collection, and was Lot 199 in the fourth sale, September 9th, 1981, realizing £52.

7. A copy cancelled by an indistinct Barred Numeral. This was in the T. W. Hall collection, and was Lot 467 in Robson Lowe's auction on April 27th-28th, 1939.

8. There was a second copy in the Hall collection (Lot 468). It was not illustrated, but was described as having "a missing corner perf. and minute tear."

9. There was a used copy in the J. Beresford collection sold by Robson Lowe on December 7th, 1955 (Lot 496). It was not illustrated, and is described as "centred rather to foot." It realized £9.

10. A mint copy. Incredible if true. Such a stamp was offered for sale by private treaty in a collection of Victoria in 1955 (*Philatelist*, November 1955, p. 50).



# IN PHOTOGRAVURE PRINTING "WHEN IS IT AN ACCEPTABLE VARIETY?"

By BARBARA J. NIELSEN

In the past, with engraved dies, either recess or typographed, it was usually deemed sufficient by the experts to say that one had found an acceptable variety if one could produce two copies of the same flaw. Modern "dot and dash" students presumably can apply the same rule of thumb criterion to the various specks, retouches, etc. on the various plates involved in multicolour photogravure printing used to produce our modern Australian stamps. But there is one kind of variety prevalent in multicolour photogravure stamp printing that, to my mind, presents a problem which I hope to elucidate below.

It is not uncommon for one of the different colours printed by the photogravure process to be misaligned — misplaced so that it is out of register with the remaining colours and so a variety of the stamp is produced. Now if this occurs on one sheet then all the stamps on that sheet will probably be examples of this particular variety of the stamp in question. If this occurs on one sheet only it can hardly warrant the same importance as the repeated variety on one particular cliché in a sheet of engraved stamps which appears on every stamp in that position until the cliché is removed or retouched, even though there may be one hundred examples of it.

However, it is possible, as I can show, to have such a colour misalignment perpetuated through several sheets and, in the case at point, not evident over the whole sheet. Such is what I deem to call my "double beak" variety of the 20c Eastern Yellow Robin definitive issued on the 17th September, 1979. On the 10th December, 1979, when purchasing fifty stamps of this issue, i.e. half a post office sheet, I noticed the colour shift in the azure tint and went back to look through the stock available. Consequently I found some 8 or 9 sheets showing the shift although its extent varied from sheet to sheet and some appeared not to show it. Those showing the flaw were interspersed through those not showing it.

One possible explanation may be that this is a common occurrence and that usually the printer's checking staff spot the defect and remove the relevant sheets before sending them to the post office. However this example seems to be more than a paper shift or a shift due to the carbon tissue being out of alignment when rolled onto the cylinder. At present I am unable to explain it in that it is not over the whole sheet nor did it occur in consecutive sheets in the post office issue. It occurs only in the lower part of the lower right sheet of the four sheets obtained from the 400-on Rembrandt press printing i.e. in McCleary's study sheet A lower (*Australian Decimal Varieties, Vol. 1, 1980*). The variety appears in the sixth vertical row of stamps becoming more and more obvious as one proceeds towards the right. It is not really evident in the first two, i.e. upper rows horizontally. Measurement shows that the azure tint, printed third of the four colours used in this stamp, has shifted in the area mentioned some 2 mm at its greatest extent and that this colour in stamps on the left side of the sheet is as in normal stamps from other sheets. As I have not seen the Rembrandt machine in action I am at a loss to explain this variety and as McCleary in his books only deals with cylinder flaws, which I think this is not, I am left asking the question "Have I an acceptable variety?" and the hope that someone will be able to explain same.



# SOUTH AUSTRALIA LONG STAMPS — THICK POSTAGE

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

My late friend Bill Purves did not like stamps punctured for official purposes and, in consequence, he omitted the SA and OS officials from his marvellous book *South Australia: the "Long" Stamps 1902-1912*. They interest me and I would like to see publication of a list showing their existence in the various printings.

Incidental with my work on such a supplement I have found the following additions to the book's chapters covering the Thick Postage values, which may be of interest to students. None are officials.

*Page 122: The Plate 2, No. 57 flaw.*

While I agree that this is an interesting flaw ending up as a "splendid example of a surface-printed retouch or repair" I am not too happy with the description.

Purves writes that the original flawless state is followed by a second — in my opinion hardly visible — state showing rounded bottom corners, which in turn is followed by the repair "letters RA are rather thicker than normal, likewise (and more prominently) the curved coloured line under the RA. Under the latter is another mass of colour which results in a denting of the top inner border of the value tablet".

My research shows that the second state is followed by a third showing an unrepaired state of the flaw: a very minor dent in the curved line under RA plus a major surface scraping of the bottom left vertex of the triangle plus a similar scraping of the top inner border line of the value tablet. My proof is a mint block of six of 4d, A-printing.

Then follows the repair, but I cannot agree that anything was done to the letters RA, on the other hand the repairs to the two lines and the vertex are prominent indeed.

The damage must have developed during the A-printing of the 4d as it appears that the work was temporarily discontinued while the plate was being repaired. The proof is that I also have the 4d, A-printing in the repaired state.

*Page 124: Introduction of Plate 3.*

I have found a slight improvement to 2.6.08 of the earliest known date Plate 3 was used. As previously it is on a 6d, D-printing and needs insertion also on page 155.

*Page 151: 4d, C-printing.*

14.10.09 is now the earliest known date of use.

*Page 154: 6d*

In a mixed lot was found a used copy of the A-printing with SA Official perforation showing double perforation going through the upper framing line of the value tablet.

From the B-printing I have seen a vertical mint pair with imperforate interpanneau gutter leaving the upper stamp without bottom perforation and the lower without top perforation.

*Page 161: 8d, C-printing.*

To this earliest Melbourne printing I can add double horizontal perforation, a mint pair from bottom margin.

*Page 169: 9d, L-printing.*

Here I can add double horizontal perforation in mint pair from top margin and with inverted watermark double vertical perforation in mint top right corner copy.

*Page 176: 1/-, A, B and D-printings.*

In the note it is suggested that the average number printed would be 240,000 stamps. In my experience the occurrence of A-printing is so overwhelming that it may cover half or perhaps even three-quarters of the 720,000 printed.

*Page 177: 1/-, F-printing.*

This stamp I have now also found mint with double vertical perforation.

*Page 177: 1/-, H-printing.*

Here I have seen a mint stamp with double bottom perforation.

*Page 182: 2/6d.*

Here I have found a used stamp from the A-printing with double vertical perforation.

The B-printing I have found dated 2.7.06.

I have now seen a mint corner copy with 2/6 001227 in the vermilion colour, see page 133. That places it as a C-printing about which Purves wrote "Copy seen dated 19.8.08 but was probably issued rather earlier". The item generously confirms his statement as it has 6-4-07 pencilled in the margin.

## QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT PICTORIAL POSTCARDS

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

Since the earlier article under the above heading was written in 1979, although not published until much later (*P. from A.*, Sept. 1981), a great deal of additional information has been secured. Mr B. Beston has made further extensive enquiries in Brisbane and elsewhere, including the Oxley Library, where a number of cards are held. Altogether, it has been possible to greatly extend the earlier listings. Some of the Franco-British Exhibition cards which I have obtained were postally used in Britain. While cards of this general type listed in the earlier article were uniformly without imprint, the further discoveries reveal a substantial number of other cards with imprint, thus creating another type.

In view of the expansion in knowledge of the Franco-British Exhibition group, it is now possible to distinguish the two types, and one sub-type, as follow:

Type F1; without imprint; without publicity matter.

Type F1a; without imprint; with publicity matter.

Type F2; with imprint (G. A. Vaughan); with publicity matter.

At the present time of writing, the number of Franco-British Exhibition cards contained in my master-list is just over 80 with other captions likely to emerge from further material and information promised.

### *Intelligence and Tourist Bureau Cards*

With regard to cards of this category, very substantial additions have been made to the list earlier published. I now have particulars of 225 cards of this group and here, again, further expansion is to be expected. To the present time, Mr Beston secured, from several sources, some 100 or more new titles and I also obtained many others. An interesting aspect is that I now have several cards which had postal usage in Britain, the dates suggesting that this class of card was also supplied to and distributed from the Queensland Court at the Franco-British Exhibition. No cards so far seen bear the Exhibition postmark.

A further aspect, not earlier noted, was that a few of the ordinary cards, available in Queensland, bore publicity matter expressed only in Esperanto. These seem to belong to the 1910-13 period when Esperanto was enjoying a popular vogue in Queensland. So far, I have recorded nine cards of this category.

Here also, within the I. and T. B. group, because of the great increase in the number of cards actually obtained, it has been possible to improve the classification of types and sub-types to read as follow:

Type 1; without imprint; without publicity matter.

Type 1a; without imprint; with publicity matter.

Type 2; with imprint (G. A. Vaughan); with publicity matter.

Type 2a; As type 2 but with 'Government' in imprint spelt 'Gonment'.

Type 3; As type 2 but with imprint changed to read 'A. J. Cumming, Acting Govt. Printer.'

Type 3a; As type 3 but with 'Acting' dropped from imprint.

Type 4; revised format of card with 'Brisbane' in second line from top of card on address side; with imprint; with publicity matter.

Type 4a; As type 4 but with publicity matter expressed in Esperanto only.

Type 5; revised form of card, with 'Brisbane' in much larger type and placed below the formal 'Post Card' heading; with imprint; with publicity matter.

#### *International Exposition, San Francisco, 1915*

Australia participated in the Panama-Pacific International Exposition held at San Francisco in 1915. The Queensland government, following the precedent set in 1908, provided distinctive postcards which followed the general presentation earlier adopted. As before, the same basic heading (as had been modified for the Franco-British Exhibition and the several series of the Intelligence and Tourist Bureau cards) was further amended.

The ornamental scrolls at top left and right, and the decorative line below, were eliminated. Above was printed, in two curved lines in capitals, 'Panama-Pacific International/Exposition San Francisco' and below was '1915', beneath this again appearing the word 'Queensland'. The most interesting change, however, was that within the heading the long-standing words 'Queensland' at the left and 'Australia' at the right, were replaced respectively by the words 'Australian' and 'Pavilion'.

As before, the State coat of arms appeared in the top left area of the card and an outline map of the State, with 'Stamp' above — the whole within a vertical rectangle — appeared in the top right corner. The balance of the address face followed the general presentation to be seen on the Intelligence and Tourist Bureau cards, with the 'A. J. Cumming Govt. Printer' imprint and publicity matter immediately below the 'Correspondence' heading.

So far, little is known of the extent and variety of the series. An unused example in my possession depicts, on the reverse side, 'H.M. Custom House, Brisbane S.Q.'. The printing of the scene was in green colour. It is possible that some of the cards were circulated and used in Australia, although no such examples have yet come to attention.

The cards were distributed, of course, at the exposition and probably quite a number were postally used in the United States. I am indebted to Mr. Carl Stieg for a note of the captions on three cards of this 1915 type in his possession and which conform to the general description already given: 'Arrowroot Growing at Coolabinia, Nanango District, S.Q.'; 'Crop of Table Grapes, Roma, Western Queensland' and 'Examining Tobacco Leaf, Inglewood, S.Q.'. Undoubtedly, there would have been other cards in the series.

# THE FRANK STAMPS OF VICTORIA 1864-1902

By G. N. KELLOW

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

(Continued from March 1982, p. 13)

## 13. MINISTER OF HEALTH

Public health was originally the responsibility of the Department of Public Instruction, but a separate ministry was formed in 1892 and provided with a frank stamp.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 31.3.1894 on
	Printed	(i) black 20.12.1892 on (also on postcard, 7.3.1896-28.7.1900) At least 8 different electros.

## 14. MINISTER OF JUSTICE

The Minister of Justice was in the original 1864 allocation. The official date of issue of the frank stamp was 2.8.1864.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 1865- -.10.1889 (ii) red 1883 (rare) (the use of red ink was noted, much earlier, in <i>The Philatelist</i> , Oct. 1869, p. 116, and <i>The Stamp Collector's Magazine</i> , Mar. 1870, p. 42)
	Printed	(i) black 1.12.1890-1893 At least 9 different electros.

## 15. MINISTER OF LANDS AND AGRICULTURE

This frank was a replacement for that inscribed "Commr. of Crown Lands & Survey" and was introduced in 1876. It was in turn superseded by the Minister of Lands and Survey frank stamp in 1882.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 6.12.1876-25.5.1881 (also on postcard, ? date)
		(ii) black 15.12.1879-1882 (also on postcard, ? date)

## 16. MINISTER OF LANDS AND SURVEY

Simultaneously with the change in the title of the Department, a frank inscribed "Minister of Lands and Survey" replaced that for the Minister of Lands and Agriculture.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) black 27.3.1882 on (ii) purple 1902 (rare)
	Printed	(i) blue 30.4.1889-2.10.1889 (ii) black 11.4.1890 on (also on postcard, ? date) At least 25 different electros.

At some stage the handstamp sustained damage to the frame under the "A" of "VICTORIA". All the printed franks show this characteristic.

## 17. MINISTER OF MINES

The Minister of Mines was in the original 1864 allocation. The date of issue of the frank stamp was 2.8.1864. Rundell's extracts record that on 6.12.1875 a new frank stamp was issued to the Mines Department. This was undoubtedly the Die 2 handstamp listed below.

Die 1. "FRANK STAMP" at base.	Handstamped	(i) blue 1868-22.9.1873 (ii) black 1870
Die 2. "VICTORIA" at base.	Handstamped	(i) blue 1881 (also on postcard, ? date) (ii) black ? date (scarce)
	Printed	(i) blue ? date (ii) black 28.5.1889 on (also on postcard, ? date) At least 17 different electros.

A postcard with printed black frank is known used after the discontinuation of the franking system, in 1904 (*The Australasian Informer*, May 1969, p. 74).

## 18. OFFICER COMMANDING ROYAL ARTILLERY

This frank stamp was in the original 1864 allocation, the date of issue being 2.8.1864. Mr. P. Collas has discussed the use of this frank in *Philately from Australia*, December 1980, p. 92, and has suggested it would have been obsolete by 1866. A "Return of Frank Stamps Issued" dated February 14th, 1872 lists this frank stamp as having been returned to the Post Office. This frank might be expected to be of some rarity, and in fact no copy is known to modern collectors. It was, however, listed by Stanley Gibbons in their catalogues of 1897 and 1900. In that listing "Officer" is omitted from the title, but is included in all references to this frank in Rundell's extracts, so presumably appeared on the handstamp.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue (Stanley Gibbons 1897, 1900)
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## 19. POSTMASTER-GENERAL

The Postmaster-General was in the original 1864 allocation, and the frank stamp came into use on 2.8.1864.

The Postmaster-General frank stamps are quite complex, because some of the dies occur in different states, and very large numbers of electros were used for the printed franks, which were brought into use in 1873, fifteen years before the facility was made available to the other Departments. The different states of the dies are not considered here.

Die 1. "FRANK STAMP" at base.	Handstamped	(i) blue 1864-31.12.1866
Die 2. Smaller letters, with fleurons at each side of "OF" and under "VICTORIA"	Handstamped	(i) blue 17.12.1867-13.1.1873
Die 3. Fleurons as Die 2 but larger, less-spaced letters	Handstamped	(i) blue 1.3.1873- .8.1885 (ii) violet 1898 (rare) (iii) red 18.10.1894
	Printed	(i) blue (shades) 24.7.1876-1894 (also on postcards, 9.2.1878-1894) (ii) black 17.4.1889 on (iii) red 16.7.1894 on Large numbers of electros.
Die 4. "VICTORIA" at base	Handstamped	(i) blue 23.2.1874

## 20. THE PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

The authorisation for The President of the Legislative Council (Act No. 1042, section 7) came into force on January 1st, 1890, and the frank stamp was presumably brought into use on that date. Special authorisation for the use of this frank was needed since The President was not a head of a department, and was not covered by the 1864 legislation.

One die only	Printed	(i) red 30.7.1895-1902 (ii) black 1898 Two electros identified in red, and two in black.
	Handstamped	(i) red 1896

## 21. MINISTER OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION

The Department of Public Instruction was formed in 1873. An unusual feature of the frank stamps of this Department is that the printed franks are from a distinctive die from which no handstamped examples are known.

Die 1. "R" of "VICTORIA" under and to left of "P" of "STAMP".	Handstamped	(i) blue 28.2.1873-1879 (also on postcard, 1873-1878)
Die 2. "R" of "VICTORIA" under "P" of "STAMP".	Handstamped	(i) blue 1880-1892 (also on postcard, ? date) (ii) red 1891-1892 (iii) black 1894-1895
Die 3. "R" of "VICTORIA" under "MP" of "STAMP". The crown is a different shape to Die 1.	Printed	(i) black 17.6.1889 on (also on postcard, ? date, on registered envelope, 1901, and on wrapper, ? date) About 20 electros identified.

## 22. COMMISSIONER OF PUBLIC WORKS

This frank was in the original 1864 allocation which came into use on 2.8.1864. The title was changed to the Department of Public Works in 1886, and the Commissioner frank stamps were discontinued, although there is some slight overlap.

Die 1. "OF" over coat-of-arms	Handstamped	(i) blue 1864-1868 (ii) violet 1895
Die 2. "FRANK" over coat-of-arms	Handstamped	(i) blue 1870 (?) (ii) violet 1879
Die 3. Narrower letters	Handstamped	(i) violet 1880 (ii) blue 1881
Die 4. "COMMISSIONER" in full. Double-lined circle	Handstamped	(i) blue 1889 (ii) red 1889

## 23. DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

This frank superseded that of the Commissioner of Public Works in 1886.

Die 1. "FRANK STAMP" at base.	Handstamped	(i) violet 1886 (and see <i>Philatelic Record</i> , March 1888, p. 38) (ii) red ? date (iii) blue ? date
Die 2. "VICTORIA" at base	Handstamped	(i) violet 1894 on
	Printed	(i) black 3.10.1889 on At least 12 different electros.



**24. COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS**

This frank replaced that for the Commissioner of Railways and Roads when the title of the Commissioner was changed in 1883.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) violet (rare) 23.2.1883 (ii) blue 17.3.1883-1891
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**25. MINISTER OF RAILWAYS**

The Railways came under control of a Ministry in 1889, and frank stamps thus inscribed replaced those for the Commissioner of Railways. These frank stamps are unusual in that of the three dies identified, one occurs handstamped only, and the other two printed only, with no handstamped examples being identified.

Die 1. "FRANK" and "STAMP" curved lines	Handstamped	(i) blue 9.4.1889-1896 (also on postcard, ? date)
Die 2. "FRANK" and "STAMP" in straight lines	Printed	(i) blue (very rare) 10.5.1889
Die 3. Very like Die 1 but "FRANK" and "STAMP" in larger and thicker letters.	Printed	(i) black 24.12.1892 on (also on lettercard, ? date, see <i>Australian Chit Chat</i> , July 1974, p. 49; and on postcard, 16.7.1896-22.5.1902)

Number of electros used for each die is unknown.

**26. COMMISSIONER OF RAILWAYS AND ROADS**

This frank stamp was one of the original 1864 allocation and came into use on 2.8.1864. The title of the office was changed to the Commissioner of Railways in 1883.

Die 1. "VICTORIA" in straight line over "FRANK STAMP"	Handstamped	(i) blue 1864-30.12.1870 (ii) red (rare) 12.12.1872
Die 2. "VICTORIA" in curved line over "FRANK STAMP"	Handstamp	(i) blue 13.6.1878-1880 (ii) violet (rare) 1881

**27. ROYAL MINT, MELBOURNE**

This is a rare frank stamp in use by at least 1898. The Royal Mint was not a separate department (it was controlled by the Treasury) and thus was not covered by the 1864 legislation, but no authorisation for its introduction has been found. It is the only sub-department to be issued with a frank stamp.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue (rare) 28.4.1899-22.1.1902 (ii) red ( <i>Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal</i> , March 1898, p. 172) (iii) violet ( <i>Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal</i> , March 1898, p. 172)
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**28. SOLICITOR-GENERAL**

The date of introduction of this frank stamp is uncertain. The earliest dated copy is in 1871.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 27.3.1871-1882 (ii) black (rare) 1897
	Printed	(i) black -.9.1894 on (also on postcard, ? date) At least 14 different electros.

## 29. THE SPEAKER

This frank was introduced together with that for The President, Legislative Council, as authorised by Act No. 1042, section 7, coming into force on January 1st, 1890. Its usage was limited and it is quite scarce, occurring only handstamped.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 4.12.1893-4.9.1902
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## 30. COMMISSIONER OF TRADE AND CUSTOMS

A frank stamp for this officer was introduced in 1870. They were replaced by those inscribed "Department of Trade and Customs" in 1894. The die used for the printed franks has not been seen handstamped.

Die 1. Larger letters. "N" of "FRANK" and "M" of "STAMP" wide.	Handstamped	(i) blue (rare) 13.8.1870 (ii) red (very rare) 1874 (iii) violet (very rare) 1883
Die 2. Smaller letters. "N" of "FRANK" and "M" of "STAMP" narrow	Handstamped	(i) blue (rare) 31.3.1880-28.4.1880 (ii) violet (rare) 2.11.1882-3.2.1886 (iii) red (very rare) 16.7.1889
Die 3. Larger size. "VICTORIA" and "FRANK STAMP" in seriffed capitals.	Printed	(i) black 31.2.1893-10.4.1895 (also on postcard, 1896, see <i>The Philatelist</i> , June 1962, p. 194) At least 7 different electros.

## 31. DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND CUSTOMS

A frank stamp inscribed "Department of Trade and Customs" superseded that for the Commissioner in 1894.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) red (very rare) 1894 (ii) violet (Robson Lowe, Higgins and Gage)
	Printed	(i) black 20.9.1894 on (also on postcard, 1898-20.8.1901) At least 15 different electros.

## 32. THE TREASURER

This frank stamp was in the original 1864 allocation and came into use on 2.8.1864.

Die 1. Wide letters	Handstamped	(i) blue (very rare) ? date
Die 2. Narrow letters	Handstamped	(i) blue 7.11.1873-1885 (ii) black (rare) 6.9.1883-1884
	Printed	(i) blue 7.3.1888-9.4.1896 (also on postcard ? date) (ii) black 8.3.1889 on (also on wrapper, 1889 on, and on registered envelope, 1899 on) Probably about 30 different electros.

## 33. MINISTER OF WATER SUPPLY

The earliest known date for a frank stamp of the Minister of Water Supply is in 1891.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) violet 1893 (ii) red -.6.1894- -.1.1896
	Printed	(i) blue (rare) ? date (ii) black 17.4.1891-28.5.1897 (also on postcard, 1891) At least 12 different electros.

## RARITY

The Purves collection of frank stamps includes the David Hill stock of cut-outs, totalling 2112 examples. Amongst Purves' notes is a list detailing this stock, which is presented here to provide some indication of the relative rarity of each department. This list does not take any account of mint and used, or of dies and colours, and its accuracy depends on it being a random sample. This may not be so, since, for example, the Postmaster-General appears to be under-represented, whereas the Treasury (where David Hill worked), while one of the commonest Franks, represents more than 25% of all the cut-outs in the stock. Nevertheless, it is believed the list provides a reasonably accurate indication of the commonness or otherwise of each department.

The David Hill stock comprises the following:

Department of Agriculture	4
Attorney-General	78
Chief Secretary	181
Commandant Local Forces	18
Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey	2
Minister of Defence	5
Governor of Victoria	25
Governor-General	1
Minister of Health	22
Minister of Justice	113
Minister of Lands and Agriculture	185
Minister of Lands and Survey	27
Minister of Mines	261
Postmaster-General	65
The President, Legislative Council	4
Minister of Public Instruction	69
Commissioner of Public Works	78
Department of Public Works	2
Commissioner of Railways	17
Minister of Railways	114
Commissioner of Railways and Roads	43
Royal Mint, Melbourne	2
Solicitor-General	118
The Speaker	15
Commissioner of Trade and Customs	27
Department of Trade and Customs	2
The Treasurer	700
Minister of Water Supply	1

This author believes that Minister of Defence, Postmaster-General, and Minister of Water Supply are under-represented in the above list.

It will be noted that five frank stamps are not represented at all in the above list. These are:

Colonel Commandant of Volunteers  
 Commander of H.M. Land Forces  
 Commander of H.M. Sea Forces

Commissariat Staff  
Officer Commanding Royal Artillery

Of these, Colonel Commandant of Volunteers, and Commander of H.M. Land Forces are very rare (see Catalogue), but no examples of the last three are known to present-day collectors.

## THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

### *France*

For the meeting on 18th February members were given a display of various aspects of French philately from the collection of the late Mr Peter Edmonds. The display was presented and introduced by Mr Alan White.

The major portion of the display of stamps was a study of the perforated Napoleon issue of the Second Republic, 1863-1870, concentrating on the different shades and printings.

The 19th century postal markings were illustrated by tracing the succession of marks used at two different towns. The large and small numeral types, the different styles of circular datestamps, and various railway (T.P.O.) postmarks were all shown.

Unusual methods of mail transport included several "Par Ballon Monte" covers from the Siege of Paris, 1870-1, and covers and cards, including the special postal stationery, from the Pneumatic Post of Paris.

### *Pigeon Posts*

The subject of the meeting on 18th March was Pigeon Posts of the World, presented by Mr Horace Chisholm.

The first time pigeons were used for carrying the mail was at the Siege of Paris in 1870-71. Mr Chisholm showed a photographically-reduced message sheet as carried by the pigeons.

The most famous pigeon posts were of course those operated at Great Barrier Island in New Zealand around the turn of the century. Mr Chisholm explained the rivalry between the two companies providing the service — The Original Great Barrier Pigeongram Service, and the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency.

Examples of all the various issues of stamps were shown, and the collection was notable for the number of flown flimsies which it included.

Reconstructed plates of the 6d and 1/- triangular issue of the Great Barrier Pigeongram Agency were included, and forgeries of the same issue. A rarity was the 1/- triangular cancelled by the boxed "GBA/NZ" marking — the only example known on the 1/-, and only two other copies (on the 6d) are recorded.

### *Islands Philately*

Mr Peter Jaffe's display on 15th April was "mainly islands", and covered a variety of British Colonial material from most continents.

Europe was represented by a 1d black used on a cover from Guernsey.

From Africa came a mini-display of Mauritius. This concentrated on De La Rue Pence covers, including a 1d soldier's letter of 1860, and on the series of numeral obliterations.

A very rare Asian item was the 12c Hong Kong cancelled by the 10 x 10 grille of dots used in Labuan.

The Australasian material included a study of the early British Solomon Islands cancellations, and two U.S.A.-Samoa combination covers.

Inevitably, with Mr Jaffe, we come to the British West Indies, and from this area came some exceptional rarities. From Antigua there was a G.B. 6d cancelled with the A18 obliterator in use at English Harbour. The Grenada 1881 ½d wmk, upright with variety P of POSTAGE omitted may be the only recorded copy. From St. Vincent there were 1864 and 1874 sailors' letters, an 1880 5/- die proof, and a page of the 1881 4d on 1/-, including an example of the close spacing.

### *Australian Commonwealth 1d King George V*

The subject of the meeting on 29th April was the Australian Commonwealth 1d King George V. The display was presented by Messrs C. G. Skewes, T. Carter, D. Terrington and J. Eagles.

Mr Skewes illustrated the layout of the plates, and showed a number of constant varieties in their various states from the initial one in red, through violet to green, in all watermarks and perforations. Included were examples of the rusted clichés and substituted clichés. Also shown was a mint block of 4 in the lilac-rose shade. This very rare shade used to be catalogued by the A.C.S.C. as G28½.

Mr Carter dealt with the Die 2 variety, explaining its origins and expounding the theory that the plates were rolled in vertical columns, from base to top of plate. This has been deduced

by careful measurement of the angle of the Die 2 flaw on each of the units on which it occurs, and was demonstrated on the displayed sheets. Also shown was a pane in green, in two halves, showing all the Die 2 units.

Mr Terrington displayed the range of shades found on the 1d red, and explained the use of the

U.V. lamp in conjunction with normal daylight examination. Amongst the copies shown were three used examples of the true salmon-cosin, one being variety dot before 1.

Mr Eagles also showed shades and demonstrated the compilation of a series of stamps of progressive shades into "colour wheels" using dated copies.

## THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

At the May 11th meeting of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club, there was a display of the J. Whitsed Dovey Collection — Philatelic Terms Illustrated, Volume 5 by the Curator. This is an extensive collection and the volume exhibited showed numerous varieties of watermarks and perforations as well as illustrating other terms.

The creation of a Norfolk Island Study Circle was decided upon and this will meet for the first time on Thursday, 22nd July, at Philas House at 7.30 p.m. If interested please contact the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club for further details. Enquiries are welcome.

The next meetings for the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club will be:

June 8th "Oddities and Rarities of the Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia",

July 13th Annual General Meeting. Display by the President.

It has been decided to hold the meetings as of the A.G.M. in July at the earlier hour of 7.30 p.m., instead of 8.00 p.m. Will members and visitors please note this if intending to attend the July or later meetings.

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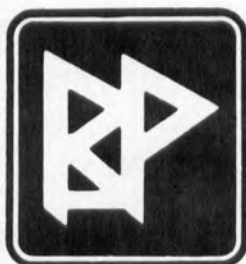
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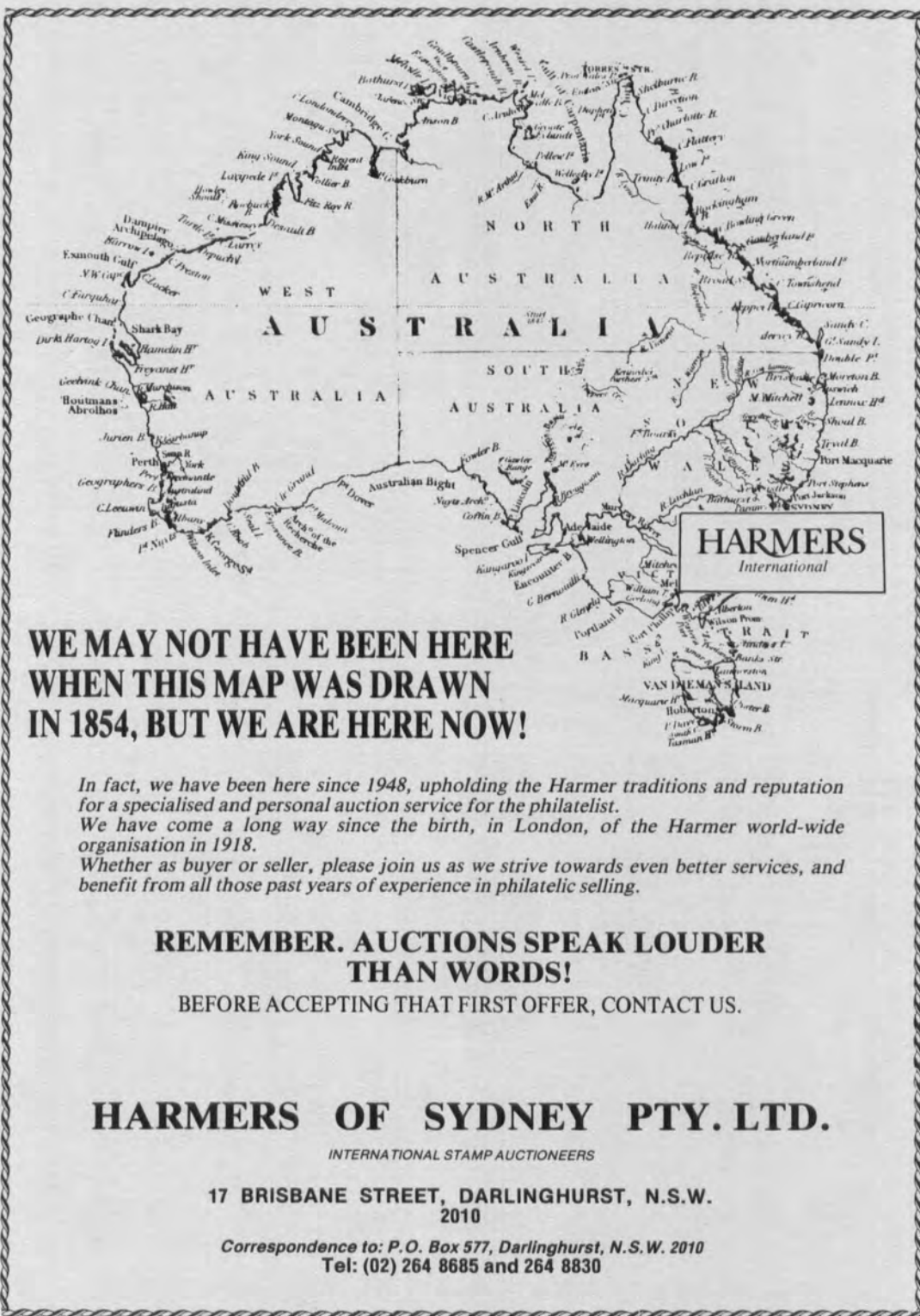
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