

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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CONTENTS

SOME THOUGHTS ON YOUR JOURNAL	1
TWO <i>EMEU</i> COVERS OF APRIL 1860	2
THE TRAIL OF COMMONWEALTH	3
THE 10/- "ERROR OF COLOUR" OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA	3
THE OTHER SIDE OF THE PICTURE	5
QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER POSTAL MARKINGS	7
THE FIRST MAIL FROM HOBART	11
NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES	12
THE FRANK STAMPS OF VICTORIA 1864-1902	13
REVIEWS	19
REPORTS	21

INDEX TO VOLUME XXXIII (1981)

Philately from Australia

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MARCH 1982

SOME THOUGHTS ON YOUR JOURNAL

Your new editor completes one year in the chair with this issue. Now that he has had time to settle in, it may be timely to make a few remarks regarding *Philately from Australia*.

These thoughts are particularly fresh in my mind, since the Society's journal was the subject of a talk at the January meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, in which members were invited to participate.

A major criticism of content was a lack of articles on Australian Commonwealth stamps. Bill Eustace is always able to provide interesting news of the current issues in "The Trail of Commonwealth", but readily admits his inability to cover the "classic" period to 1937.

There is no lack of Commonwealth collectors within the Society. Perhaps the formation of an Australian Commonwealth Study Group, similar to the "Old Victoria" Group which flourished in the 1950's and 1960's, could provide some impetus. Its aims would not only be to conduct informal displays and discussion, but to undertake projects, large or small, with the specific purpose of publishing the results of their co-operative effort in *Philately from Australia*.

On similar lines, it was recently suggested to me that sufficient interest existed in the Society for the formation of a Postal History Study Group, dealing not only with pre-1901 matters, but also with the increasingly popular modern period.

Australian States remains, as it has always done, the cornerstone of *Philately from Australia's* content. The only journal to have joined it in the regular publication of such material is the *Australian States Study Group Newsletter*, under the auspices of the Royal Philatelic Society, London.

There are a large number of collectors in this Society with a major interest in one or more of the Australian States. This area is Geoff White's province, in "The Other Side of the Picture", and these collectors are urged to make their discoveries available to Mr. White, to enable his column to continue to be as varied as possible.

Victorian collectors should realise that the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria is now in possession of the Hill and Rundell extracts of P.O. records, and what may be termed the "Purves Papers". These comprise a seemingly inexhaustible (at least for a quarterly journal) source of previously unpublished information, which will be

worked through and published as the opportunity arises. Interested persons are invited to contact the editor to see what exists in their specialty — *Philately from Australia* to have first rights to any ensuing publication.

Finally, it may encourage intending authors to remind them of the advantages of publication in our journal. The purpose of publication, after all, is to place the results of research on permanent record, and *Philately from Australia* offers such permanence in a well-printed and illustrated publication seen by most Australasian specialists, and taken by all the world's major philatelic societies and libraries.

TWO EMEU COVERS OF APRIL 1860

By P. JAFFÉ, F.R.P.S.L.

There is a charm in finding two covers carried on a single voyage, even if a collector anxious to obtain an example of every voyage might suggest to keep both is bloating; but an examination of the differences between the covers may help research to be developed.

Mr. James W. B. Ruffle in *The London Philatelist*, October 1975, recorded that P. & O. purchased *Emeu*, of 1538 tons, for delivery in Sydney to carry the March 1859 mail home to Aden and Suez, and Mr. R. Kirk, in a letter postscript to his July 1975 article in *The London Philatelist* records her leaving Melbourne on March 17. She broke down after King George's Sound and arrived in Mauritius under sail. Later, she steamed from Bombay, via Aden, to Mauritius in July-August, and was in Sydney on October 14, sailing to Mauritius in early November en route for Aden and Suez.

The lengthy voyage of my interest began on January 9, 1860 in Bombay, under Captain Monro. *Emeu* sailed via Aden to Suez and back to Aden on February 3, reaching Mauritius (for her last visit) in mid-month in time to link with *Union*, which served Reunion. She reached Sydney on March 14 and sailed back to Suez on April 21. The *Salsette* had left Sydney on February 14, and the *Benares* arrived on April 16.

The first cover carries two perforated Diadems, 2d and 6d, and comes from Morpeth, 62 numeral, on April 12. It travelled 112 miles south to arrive in Sydney on (I think) April 16. The cover reached Saxmundham, Suffolk, no doubt by way of Alexandria, Malta, Southampton and London, on June 17. I have no knowledge of how it reached the tiny village of Snape, where Miss Margaret Rouse lived at the Crown Inn. The romantic may care to know that "he" wrote again on July 22, 1861 by P. & O. *Northam* from Sydney. The letter arrived in late September; a graphologist might opine that "he" had improved his self-esteem in the Colonies.

The second letter carries a pair of 6d Diadems in stone colour and is endorsed "in closed mail to France". The phrase "closed mail" is familiar on the North Atlantic, but less well-known on P. & O., and may be an attempt to avoid the risks of sorting at sea between Alexandria and Malta.

My analysis is that the letter reached Marseilles on June 10, where it received a red Suez route transit mark, and travelled by the Lyon T.P.O. to Paris, arriving the next day. On June 12 it was in Thurn & Taxis or Prussian hands, having been struck in France with exchange mark as "unpaid", receiving "F./39" in capsule form. (See Raymond Salles, *Encyclopédie de la Poste Maritime Française*, Vol. 8, fig. 3178, pp. 105 and 115, noted 1861-65, though others noted from 1858; it seems possible it was struck in error for ART 38, which is the "unrecorded" article for letters originating in a British possession). The Oldenburg post office backstamped in blue in rectangle and marked 1.7 groschen in blue handstruck. How it reached Nordenham, on the west of the Weser mouth, I do not know, but that is where the fraulein lived. Perhaps another romance?

The Trail



of Commonwealth

Conducted by BILL EUSTACE

Australia — 24 cent Thylacine

In the Jan./Feb. 1982 issue of *Australian Stamp Bulletin*, it was noted that supplies of this stamp were now completely printed by Leigh-Mardon, whereas the initial deliveries were part-printed by the Reserve Bank in photogravure and completed by Leigh-Mardon by the addition of the type portion of the design in photolithography.

In addition to considerable strengthening of the details of the pictorial portion of the design, the lettering of the reprint is also darker. At the same time there was a change of paper from KP6T to "Litho-chromo". Shades, especially in the brown of the animal, varied widely during the life of the stamp and are not of much help when trying to sort out originals from reprints. However, I have found the strong black line running from the stamp up toward the "hy" of "Thylacine" a handy guide for picking out the reprints, since it is so much fainter on the original printing.

Australia — 24 cent Australia Day 1982

This stamp was produced on the Heidelberg Speedmaster by Cambec Press, and the colour bars in the centre gutter are useful in establishing the different Post Office counter sheets as issued. Unfortunately, in the limited time available between the issue of the stamp and having to close off this article, I have only been able to secure two different combinations — one starting with yellow in the left selvedge, and the other with magenta — but it is probable that there is at least a third to be found.

THE 10/- "ERROR OF COLOUR" OF SOUTH AUSTRALIA — A FINAL WORD

As the title suggests, this is the *final* word — and the end of a good story. Both recent contributors on this subject are in agreement, and their comments are presented below.

From Mogens Juhl, F.R.P.S.L.:

Sorry, but I have sad news for readers. It is about the South Australia Thick Postage 10/- green believed also to have been printed in pale grey-olive.

We know the "error" mint and used, and it looks as close as can be expected to a 3d pale grey-olive. In addition, under the ultra-violet lamp it shows the same brownish colour as the 3d (the green 10/- remains green). With such pointers one cannot blame the original finder, my late friend Bill Purves, for including it in his writings.

Quite recently I got a slightly damaged 10/- green. To dispel any lingering doubt I decided to place it in the window of my study and let it enjoy the view of Sydney's magnificent skyline for a while.

Nothing would happen, I felt sure. But lo and behold six weeks later when I asked the culprit to face me my green friend had turned pale grey-olive. No trace of envy left.

The grapevine tells me that a Melbourne dealer recently put a price of \$100,000 (yes, six figures) on a mint copy. What a let down: from riches to rags — for him and for us.

From Dr. Donald Pearce:

In *P. from A.*, December 1980, p.89, and September 1981, p.54, Mogens Juhl and I wrote on this subject, as a follow-up to the mention of the 10/- "error" in the late Bill Purves' book on the Long Stamps under the heading "10/- Thick Postage. An error of colour?" on pp. 185-6.

I now feel it mandatory to write again on this topic, as it now transpires that *error* is the operative word, and I have in my enthusiasm, fallen into one of the many "traps for young players" inherent in philately — notably that of accepting colour changelings as separate shades.

The "error" stamp began to worry me after viewing Laurie Malin's collection of long stamps of South Australia as Laurie appeared to have TWO variations of the 10/- "error" shade — one considerably paler than the other. This paler stamp was explained away as a colour changeling; the other one remaining an acceptable "error" stamp. However, the final solution to the problem surfaced when Mogens Juhl, in Sydney, acquired a damaged 10/- Thick Postage (SG291) in the normal deep green shade, and exposed it to the antipodean sun in his upstairs stamp room window for a period of six weeks. The stamp, whilst enjoying a marvellous view of the elegant Sydney Harbour bridge, changed colour over that period of time, to a very good match for the two other 10/- "error" stamps already in his possession, and the claims for catalogue status and collectibility of the 10/- "error" (apart from as a curiosity) vanished along with the green colouration of the damaged 10/- stamp.

The beneficial effects of the sun are well known to all who reside in this sun-drenched land, but, as a medical man, I should have recognised its potential for causing changes in exposed surfaces, not always to the short term (or long term) benefit thereof!

The earlier high value Postage and Revenue stamps, which preceded the Long Stamps, were printed in doubly fugitive inks to prevent skulduggery such as the removal of fiscal markings, and these are, therefore, frequently found in shades other than those released for sale at the G.P.O.

The still earlier Perkins Bacon London print 6d Imperforate (SG3) is not infrequently seen in a shade of such deep blue as to be nearly black. This is not as it was printed, but the result of oxidation of the pigments in the stamp. The rouletted Perkins Bacon 2d stamp of August 1864 to 1868, printed in Adelaide from the second 2d plate in the bright vermilion shade (SG26) can be found partly or completely changed to dark brown by the same process even more frequently.

These latter 2d and 6d oxidised stamps can be changed back to their original shade quite readily, but the 10/- "error" shade is not apparently capable of such restoration.

It is therefore, with considerable feelings of regret (not to mention embarrassment) that I relegate the 10/- "error" permanently to the status of a philatelic ne'er-do-well. I should have been more wary of discovering new shades in old stamps, but I perhaps may take solace from the fact that I am not the first (nor probably will be the last) to make this particular faux pas.



The Other Side of the Picture



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

In this issue I have co-opted two friends to contribute to this column, and will welcome others who wish to contribute similar articles.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN T.P.O. DISCOVERIES

The only references to South Australian T.P.O.'s known to the writer are the articles by the late H.S. Porter in the *London Philatelist*, July 1953, p. 117, and by a group of writers in *P. from A.*, September 1955, p. 64; Billig's catalogue; and Donald G. Cox's handbook of the squared circle cancellations.

There are two items of interest in this area which have surfaced:

(a) The EXPRESS RAILWAYS/S.A. c.d.s. with "gang" 2 has been proved to have been used on the broad gauge section of the Adelaide-Broken Hill Express, i.e. between Adelaide and Terowie. No proving covers had been seen for "gang" 5 when the *P. from A.* article was written in 1955. The writer has a card (R. L. CP3) sent from Adelaide to Waterloo (which is about 15 km N.E. of Saddleworth — a station on the Adelaide-Terowie line), cancelled with the EXPRESS RAILWAY/S.A. c.d.s. showing 5 and dated AU 21 08. As a bonus, the card has a 1d stamp tied by the postmark indicating payment of a late fee.

Do any readers have another card or cover which would really prove that this postmarker was used *only* on the Broken Hill Express?

(b) K. A. RAILWAY/S.A. c.d.s. is not mentioned anywhere, and Donald G. Cox states he has not seen it before. The writer has two postcards showing the c.d.s., which has a diameter of 23 mm.

(i) card type R.L. CO1 postmarked with the squared circle KADINA/1/JY28/92 addressed to Adelaide, and backstamped with the c.d.s. K. A. RAILWAY/6/ but date indecipherable.

(ii) card type R.L. CPI postmarked with c.d.s. K.A. RAILWAY/3/FE 28/(8)5 (the 8 is missing) and sent from Kadina to Adelaide.

This card has a 2d. stamp added — Donald Cox thinks this was to pay the late fee, the sender not having any 1d stamps at the time. It may well have been that the train left early in the morning and the card was written the night before, and handed to the T.P.O. postal clerk.

Donald Cox suggests the K.A. means Kadina — Adelaide. The addresses and other abbreviations used at that time support that premise. However the line from Kadina was then (and remained so until 1927) narrow gauge, meeting the broad gauge line at Hamley Bridge. Did the T.P.O. in fact "jump" the gauge change at Hamley Bridge? After all it was simply a postal clerk with his postmarker etc. which, like the mail, would be easily portable.

So in summary we have a K.A. RAILWAYS/S.A. c.d.s. used by "gangs" 1 and 3 on mail from Kadina to Adelaide, during the period 28/2/85 and 28/7/92.

The railway line connection to Hamley Bridge from Kadina (and Moonta) was completed by 15/1/1880, so it is quite possible that a T.P.O. mail van was put on this line soon after that date. Incidentally, there is mention in a local paper at the time about mails being transferred from the Moonta-Kadina mail coach to the train at Kadina. This was two weeks after the line between Kadina and Port Wakefield was completed in Oct. 1878. It would be interesting to know where the mails went after reaching Port Wakefield during the next 15 months until 15/1/80, when the line was connected to the main line at Hamley Bridge.

"MUDLARK".

SOUTH AUSTRALIA: S.M. (STIPENDARY MAGISTRATES)

In his excellent book, *The Departmental Stamps of South Australia*, Mr. A. R. Butler lists towns for which it should be possible to find postmarks on S.M. stamps. He indicates 16 of these which he has seen. I can now add 4 other towns to these. Two of the stamps have circular date stamps, PORT MACDONNELL and STRATHALBYN and, two have numeral cancellations, RIVERTON (33) and WILLUNGA (69).

KEN SCUDDER.

VICTORIA: THE 1d "STAMP DUTY" OF 1886-89

This 1d green stamp, S.G. 285, would appear to have been issued some 4 months earlier than the 26 July 1886 shown in the S.G. catalogue. I have nine stamps, all with earlier dates. The earliest of these is 5/3/86. This could, of course, be 3rd May and not 5th March but, I also have a 19/3/86 supporting the March date.

The S.G. description of the shade is green. Although this is a rather general description it does describe the shade of stamps I have dated early August 1886. I have also seen this shade dated 28/7/86, two days after the S.G. date.

There would appear to be at least one and, possibly two, shades earlier than this. Eight of the nine stamps, dated between 5/3/86 and 23/7/86, are in a paler shade, a dull grey-green. The ninth, dated 5 July/86, is a blue-green shade, for which I also have an August and a September date.

Both the dull grey-green and the blue-green shades are quite distinctive.

All of these nine stamps have been fiscally used and bear pen cancelled dates.

Has anybody any postally used and dated copies to support this earlier issue.

The major shades for this stamp appear to be: Dull Grey-Green, March 1886; Green, July 1886; Blue Green, July ?/August 1886; Dull Green, March 1887; Bright Green, November 1887; Yellow Green, July 1888 to the end of 1890.

KEN SCUDDER

Further to Mr. Scudder's remarks, I perused my Melbourne postmarks and found nothing new until I got to canceller no. 17. Here I came across two dated copies, 15 MR 86 and 22 MY 86. While this is only coincidence, and as I only have a few dozen dated copies, one wonders if more copies will turn up postmarked with canceller no. 17.

QUEENSLAND CANCELLATIONS AND OTHER POSTAL MARKINGS: NEW REPORTS AND DISCOVERIES

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

(Continued from December 1981, p. 89)

Chapter V

- P. 50. Alter the entry after '29' to 'PORT DENISON (BOWEN)'.
P. 57. After '309', delete '?' and add 'EMERALD'.
P. 63. After '587', delete '?' and add 'INNOT HOT SPRINGS'.
P. 64. Alter the last line of the page to read '693-700 ?', and add below:
 '701 MT. LARCOM
 702-711 ?'
P. 65. After '724', delete '?' and add 'MUNGALLALA'.

Chapter VI

(A) Date-stamps

- P. 66. Mr. K. Moore has pointed out that there are more subdivisions of 'State' and 'Commonwealth' types of date-stamps than were indicated in the book. In the 'State' types, some of the later issues reverted to the year in full, just as the earliest had. Two variations of the 'Commonwealth' type showed (1) the month in three letters, and (2) the year in full.
PP. 67-8. To the list of post offices using both 'State' and 'Commonwealth' types, add or amend: CALLIOPE, KILKIVAN JUNCTION, MACKAY (2 C'wealth), Roma (2 C'wealth), TORRENS CREEK, TOWNSVILLE (2 C'wealth).
P. 69. To the list found in 'Commonwealth' types, add: HIGHTVILLE, KANNUNGUR, LOWER PALEN.

(B) Registration Markings

- P. 70. In 1911 Townsville was using a third 'REGISTERED' date-stamp, with date in one line, but 24 mm. in diameter.

(D) Unclaimed

- P. 77. HUGHENDEN may be added to the list of two-line markings ('UNCLAIMED' 43 x 5½ mm.). In December 1980 I mentioned a very late use of 'UNCLAIMED — WINDORAH'. Mr. Amiet has shown me another late use, in January 1949, for 'UNCLAIMED — ATHERTON' ('UNCLAIMED' 48½ x 5½ mm.). In the box of handstamps found by Mr. Meara was 'UNCLAIMED — MERINGANDAN' ('UNCLAIMED' 40 x 5 mm.), which has not yet been found on cover.

(E) Late Fee

- P. 79. The following additions may be made:
 "CUNNAMULLA: 39 x 7 (on two 1912 covers),
 T.P.O. No. 4, NORTH COAST RAILWAY: 43 x 9½ (on 1912 cover)."

(G) Parcel Post

- P. 79. (Sept. 1978 and March 1979). The earliest date for Type 1 is now September 1899, and for Type 2, February 1910.

Chapter VIII

PP. 88-9. The new information regarding the issue of the Railway obliterations is covered in the remarks at the beginning of this article.

P. 89. To the list of the rectangular obliterations found on postage stamps, add: '208 BOOLBURRA 199, later R.O.'

Chapter XI

Date-Stamps

(a) Southern and Western Railway

P. 99. *Type 1*, No. 2. (a) I now have an example of this as a backstamp showing '2 UP', and a late date, August 1884.

(b) I have an early date, December 1884, and also a December 1886 example with 'UP'. I have heard of another 'UP' in December 1898. I also have one of December 1886 with 'H' over 'DOWN'.

Mr. Adams has shown me a previously unknown type, which to put it in what appears to be its correct chronological order, I shall call *Type 1a*. It is used as a backstamp, and as it is struck across the flap, part of which is missing, I have to guess what was on part of the right side. Before *Type 2* at the foot of the page, add: "*Type 1a*. An unframed circle reading from left to right round the top '3 T.P.O. S & W (R 3)', and 'QUEENSLAND' round the foot; in the middle, centred towards the top, are in three lines the direction indication, month and day, and the year in two figures. In the one example seen each line is inverted, reading 'NWOO, 02 RM, 68' (i.e. 1889)." This type apparently replaced No. 3 in *Type 1* in 1889, and apparently had a short life, as No. 3 in *Type 3* is known from 1893.

P. 100. *Type 2*, No. 1. The letter 'B' has been found before the date.

Type 3, No. 2. The earliest date is now December 1893.

No. 6. An example with 'DOWN' and an early date, December 1902, has been seen.

P. 101. *Type 4*, No. 4(a) Latest date is now December 1913.

(b) Earliest date is now June 1915.

No. 5. Latest date is now October 1927.

Type 5, No. 5. Four examples now recorded with dates in March 1932.

Type 6, No. 1. 'DN' has now been seen, dated October 1930 and March 1932.

No. 4. Latest date is now March 1932.

No. 6. Several more examples have been seen, the latest dated August 1931.

No. 7(a). Another example has been found, but the date is also indecipherable.

(b) Central Railway

PP. 102-3. *Type 6*. This has now been seen in *blue*, with 'UP', dated May 1920.

(c) Great Northern Railway

P. 103. *Type 2*, No. 2. Earliest date is now September 1915, and the latest September 1931.

(d) North Coast Railway

P. 103. *Type 2*, No. 2. Dates now range from July 1914 to December 1930.

*Chapter XIV**(A) Name of Office with or without Date*

PP. 113-4. Add the following:

Barolin	Bundaberg	17/5/10
Gogango	Rockhampton	9/2/05
Kenmore	Brisbane	1/8/97
Kolan	South Bundaberg	19/3/01
and add earlier dates for:		
Maroon	22/2/02	
Rodd's Bay	August 1900	

(B) Stamps Cancelled with Crossed Diagonals and Name on Cover

P. 114. I have been shown two single stamps with a "grid" pattern in manuscript. There is no way of telling where this was used, in the present state of our knowledge.

(C) Initials and Date, Initials Only or Date Only

Two stamps have been seen with 'R.O.' and dates in February and March 1911 in manuscript. Here again there is no indication where these were used.

Chapter XVI

P. 120. Here we have a previously unrecorded date-stamp. Its usage comes between Types 1 and 2 in the book, so I call it Type 1-2, to save having to re-number all the subsequent types. Between Types 1 and 2 add: "*Type 1-2*. An unframed circle 28½ mm. in diameter, with two arcs round the top and 'BRISBANE' round the foot; in the centre is the year in two figures at the top, the month and day just below the middle, and a code letter at the foot. Several examples of these have turned up, one dated in 1864 and the rest all from the same correspondence in March 1867. In all cases the code letter is 'B'."

P. 123. (and March 1981). *Type 7*. Code figure '10' should now be added, and the latest date extended to JU 30 84.

P. 124. *Type 10*. Add 'D' to the code letters found.

PP. 125-6. *Type 14(b)*. Add 'V' and 'Y' to the code letters found.

Chapter XVIII

PP. 132-3. *Type 2*. An early date of December 1886 has been seen.

Chapter XIX

P. 138. Add at the end:

"*Type 4*. As *Type 3*, but instead of the circular date-stamp there is an unframed square date-stamp in four lines reading 'BRISBANE — PAID —^d — time — date (day — month — year in two figures)'. The amounts seen are ½d, 1d and 2d, and the earliest date February 1912."

*Chapter XX**(B) Dead Letter Office*

P. 140. *Type 3(b)*. Now seen in purple dated 11 JA 99.

(E) 'Paid' Markings

P. 142. For machine 'PAID' markings, see *Type 4* under *Chapter XIX*.

(F) Parcels Post

P. 143. *Type 3(a)*. Early date is now August 1898.

(G) Postage Due

P. 144 (and March 1981). Of the horizontal oval tax markings, 'T 1^D' and 'T 2^D' have now been seen, from T.P.O. No. 4, North Coast Railway and Eidsvold respectively.

Since writing about the three-line markings with '5' and '10' over 'CTMS' over 'T', I have been looking through the various photocopies of covers that have been sent to me; I discovered that Mr. Inslee Greene had sent me one of a cover from Marian to Rochester, New York, which shows one of these markings reading '30 — CTMS-T'. The date is in August 1912, and the dimensions are the same as the '10' known from 1920, so the latter too could date from the period covered by the book. I have just acquired a cover of 1875 from Pimpama to England, endorsed in ms. 'Via Brindisi', with a previously unrecorded marking. This is in two lines reading 'INSUFFICIENTLY PAID — VIA BRINDISI' in a rectangular frame 51 x 12 mm. In this case I believe the cover was sent by the long sea route (it took over two months), so no postage due was levied.

(H) Registered

P. 144. *Type 2(b)*. Now known with code letter 'A', dated My 5, 88.

P. 145. *Type 7*. Now known dated from September 1910 to July 1913.

(K) Unclaimed

P. 148 (and September 1979, p. 74). *Type A*. A further example has been found, dated DE 13, 1871.

As markings showing 'TOO LATE' are known for other Australian Colonies, it is surprising that no such marking has previously been reported for Queensland. I have now found one, on a cover from Toowoomba to Ireland dated MY 16, 1869. It evidently missed a steamer, as it took three months in transit. We therefore need a new section:

(L) Too Late

A single-line unframed marking 'TOO LATE.' (with stop), measuring 32½ x 4½ mm. In black, on a cover of May 1869.

This was evidently not always used, as a cover from the same correspondence posted in January arrived by the same ship as one posted in February, but bears no 'TOO LATE.' marking. This may explain its rarity."

For the above information I am indebted to Messrs. N. Hobbs (Victoria), B. P. Beston, K. J. Buchester, P. Meara, M. W. Stevens and J. Willingham (Queensland), J. L. Amiet and K. Moore (N.S.W.), J. Pender (W.A.), G. T. Adams (England), I. Greene, L. G. Shepard, E. G. Tinsley, E. A. Williams and F. H. Wynn (U.S.A.).

PHILATELY *from* AUSTRALIA

INDEX

Vol. 33, 1981

*A CHRONICLE OF AUSTRALASIAN STAMPS
AND THEIR COLLECTORS*



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Anglo-French Accountancy Markings (Dr K. J. McNaught)	10
Antonescu, General Ion, trapped by King Michael of Rumania in stamp room	6
Ash, John. Medal from 1934 Melbourne Centenary Exhibition now in Presidential Badge of the British Society of Australian Philately	58
Australasia	
Anglo-French Accountancy Markings after 1 April 1862 (Dr K. J. McNaught)	10
Australia	
Pre-Federation Proposals for Commonwealth Stamps (P. Collas)	91
9d "Commonwealth". Senator James Drake, the then P.M.G., reveals background	65
Trail of Commonwealth, The (Bill Eustace)	5, 25, 51, 78
22c Aircraft. Variety Dot on Port Wing	5
Yachting series. Note on Papers	78
	<i>Commemorative Issues</i>
22c Apex. Varieties	25, 51
Sheet Nos. not reliable guide to varieties	78
28c Christmas 1980. Deep shade	5
	<i>Coils</i>
2c Flower Coil. Four distinguishable coils, 51; Gum varieties, 51; Variety extra gum leaf above "R" of "AUSTRALIA"	52
	<i>Postal Stationery</i>
Pre-Stamped Postcards. Series III recalled	25
Re-release for packs identified	52
22c Pharmacy Pre-Stamped Envelope. Range of brown shades	25
	<i>Postmarks and Postal Markings</i>
The First Machine Cancellations of Australia (J. Turnbull)	83
	<i>Miscellaneous</i>
RAAF Registration Labels with A and B in place of R, and C for Courier (P. Collas)	33
Postal Department History	72
Australian Antarctic Territory	
1c Ship. New printing	25
Australian States	
Other Side of the Picture, The (G. T. White)	7, 26, 53, 79
Australian States Study Group, R.P.S.L.	72
British Society of Australian Philately. 1934 Melbourne Exhibition Medal now heart of Presidential Badge	58
British Solomon Islands. <i>London Philatelist</i> articles by Major F. B. Howard-White noted	41
Chisholm, H. L. Retires as Editor of <i>P. from A.</i> after 26 years, 24; Luncheon	23
Creed, E. G. Tendered luncheon at Headquarters	23
Exhibitions	
AUSIPEX 84 for Melbourne, 1; Details, 77; <i>Bulletin 1</i>	99
Forster, Dale E., (Oregon, U.S.A.) visited Sydplex 80	6
France	
Anglo-French Accountancy Markings on Australasian Mails after 1 April 1862 (Dr K. J. McNaught)	10
From Earnest to Jest — With Lamentations (Cartoon resembles prior happening)	41
Gartner, J., R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. The Hawthorn Press ceases to be a business. Philatelic publications listed (H. L. Chisholm)	35
Great Britain	
Anglo-French Accountancy Markings on Australasian Mails after 1 April 1862 (Dr K. J. McNaught)	10
Holbeach, W. M. Obituary	14
Kellow, Dr G. N. Editor, <i>P. from A.</i>	24
Lloyd-Smith, Dr C. W. Ph.D. (Adelaide)	32
Nauru	
First Issue. 5d. 15,000 ordered	77
New South Wales	
	<i>Postmarks and Postal Markings</i>
The Sydney Rhombus (Robson Lowe)	67
Numeral Cancellations. Corrections and Additions (H. M. Campbell)	70
Sydney-Melbourne letter by ship <i>Sarah Sands</i> , 1853	58
New Zealand	
Engraver of the ½d Newspaper Stamp still a mystery	2
Philately. Must Investment Destroy Philately	15

<i>Philately from Australia</i> . Third Ten-Year Index published, 4; Annual Index for 1980, 6;	24
H. L. Chisholm retires as Editor after 26 years, 23, 24; Dr. G. N. Kellow new Editor	
Purves, J. R. W. Bronze Memorial Plaque, 49; Library bequest to Royal Philatelic Society	
of Victoria	76
Queensland	
Is Dull Claret, watermark small truncated star, perf. 13. Does it exist?	32
<i>Postal Stationery</i>	
1d postcard "basically the type of 1888-91" but with impressed 1d stamp (S.G. Type 21)	
(P. Collas)	5
Government Pictorial Postcards (P. Collas)	59
<i>Postmarks and Postal Markings</i>	
Cancellations and Markings (H. M. Campbell)	43, 89
Late Fee Markings (L. G. Shepard)	52
Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, H. M. Campbell's lost medal recovered	8
Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. Meeting, 15, 22, 47, 73, 100; Formulation of Society	
Creed, 50; Reputation around world depends on being a publishing society, 74;	
Memorial Plaque to J. R. W. Purves, 49; 1945 Medal Competition entry by the late	
Miss Sheila Macfie shown as Christmas surprise, 1980, 22; Presidential Reception for	
1980-81, 42; Luncheon to H. L. Chisholm and E. G. Creed, 23; Mr Marcel Stanley	
(Wellington, N.Z.) displays New Zealand Essays, Proofs and Specimens, 73; J. R. W.	
Purves bequest to library, 76; Library acquisitions, 88; C. Jackson Selsor, of San Diego,	
presents study of forgeries of British North Borneo, 1888-92, to the Forgery Collection,	
98; Ray Chapman donates refrigerator, 74; Headquarters featured in Arno Roger-	
Genersh and Brian Carroll: <i>Toorak and South Yarra Sketchbook</i> , 6; Artist of the	
<i>Melbourne</i> (Lt-Commander D. G. M. Gardner) tells about his picture	18
Rumania	
King Michael traps Dictator Antonescu in stamp room	6
South Australia	
Small scratches on Perkins Bacon plates	8
10/- Thick Postage error in pale grey-olive (Dr. D. Pearce)	54
<i>Postmarks and Postal Markings</i>	
Adelaide's First Two Postmarkers (Dr D. Pearce)	12
The Hawthorn Press Ceases to be a Business. Philatelic publications listed (H. L.	
Chisholm)	35
Thefts. Miss Julie Resch and Miss Helen Serjeant White lose their collections	3
Travelling Post Offices	
Victoria: Up Train No. 17 Crown Seal	28
Victoria	
Notes on Victorian Rarities (Dr G. N. Kellow) 2 2d Stamp Duty, Lied Background, Wmk.	
V over Crown, Imperf.	19
3 9d on 10d Laureate, Double Surcharge	28
4 6d Laureate, Error of Watermark Single-Line 4	68
5 1d Emblems, Watermark Star, Perf. 12	81
1d Half-Length 2nd Printing on cover with interpanneau strip of three 3d 2nd Printing	7
3d Half-Length 2nd Printing interpanneau strip of three used on cover with 1d 2nd	
Printing	7
3d Half-Length Ham's 5th Printing. Positions of the retouches	79
1/- Octagonal Imperf. Mint block of 24 found	7, 9
2d Laureate. Imperf. sheet stolen by workmen or rats, could still exist	45
4d Laureate wmk. 8. Paper was supplied by De La Rue	53
2d William Bell design, 1873-80. Major retouches	53
<i>Postmarks and Postal Markings</i>	
Two provisional markings of Geelong, 1849 (three-line boxed datestamp; oval seal) (A. A.	
Levy and Dr G. N. Kellow)	55
Barred Oval No. 13. Tying cover	54
Code-letters used by Post Offices (G. T. White)	39
Letter carrier markings	26
T.P.O. Up Train No. 17 Crown Seal	28
<i>Postal History</i>	
Frank Stamps, 1864-1902 (Dr G. N. Kellow)	93
Western Australia	
Small scratches on Perkins, Bacon plates	8

	<i>Postmarks and Postal Markings</i>	
Duplex Postmarks with Initial of Post Office (M. Juhl)		29
Duplex Postmarks of Perth (M. Juhl)		32

REVIEWS

AUSIPEX: <i>AUSIPEX Bulletin 1</i>		99
British Philatelic Federation, The: <i>The 1981 Year Book and Philatelic Societies Year Book</i>		21
Capill, Patricia: <i>New Zealand Squared Circle Cancellations</i>		21
Chisholm, H. L.: <i>Philately from Australia. Cumulative Index to Vols. XXI-XXX (1969-1978)</i>		46
Davies, D. G. and Linfield, G. R.: <i>The Cancellations of Melbourne</i>		46
Hillson, J.: <i>The Small Queens of Canada</i>		72
Hornage, Bill: <i>Pitcairn Island Stamp Catalogue</i>		46
Ingles, O. G., Presgrave, A. D. and Craig, W. D.: <i>The Railway Stamps of Mainland Australia</i>		20
Juhl, M.: <i>Postage Stamps and Postal History of Western Australia. Vol. 1: The De La Rue Printings, 1862-1900</i>		99
Lowe, Robson: <i>Newspaper Postage Stamps. The De La Rue Dies, 1860-1870</i>		72
Parker, C.: <i>The Catalogue of Australian Pre-Stamped Envelopes</i>		46
Purves, J. R. W.: <i>Victoria: The 5/-, 1867-1901 and the 1/-, 5/-, £1, £2, 1901-12</i>		20
Robson Lowe Ltd.: <i>1979-80 Review</i>		46

THE FIRST MAIL FROM HOBART

By W. E. TINSLEY, F.R.P.S.L.

James Mitchell, Deputy Post Master at Hobart, wrote to Francis Freeling, Secretary of the Post Office in London "this is the first Mail or public conveyance from this island to England". The letter is headed "Hobart Town, Island of Van Diemen, South Pacific Ocean, Sept. 23d 1815" and has a London Unpaid Ship Letter handstamp, Robertson Type S.19, dated 6 May 1816. There are no other postal markings.

It appears that this letter was part of the first mail sent direct to England from Hobart, all prior mail going via Port Jackson.

Mr Mitchell's proposal of separate mails for Port Jackson and Hobart Town was adopted. The letter is endorsed "For Mr Newbury's consideration" and "A separate bag shall in future be made up for Hobart Town. J. Newbury."

This letter is reported in *A History of the Post Office in Tasmania* published by the Australian Post Office in 1975, but the text of the letter was not given at that time.

The entire letter is set out below.

Hobart Town, Island of Van Diemen
South Pacific Ocean, Sept. 23d 1815

Sir,

I take the liberty of informing you which I beg you to pardon, that being appointed Deputy Post Master of this Island under the sanction of His Excellency the Governor in Chief of these Territories, and the Ship Jefferson, South Sea Whaler, proceeding direct for England, I have considered it adviseable for the Dispatch of Publick business to make up a Mail, addressed to you, with a certificate inclosed of the number of Letters and Packets and the rates of Payment, delivering the same into the hands and charge of Mr Robert Barnes Master of the said Ship, who has become responsible for the delivery thereof, paying the rate as Per Act of Parliament.

Permit me first to represent that as this is the first Mail or Public conveyance from this Island to England to request that you will overlook any irregularities and if you will have the goodness to state the same to the Post Master General whose name I have not the honor of knowing you will much oblige me.

Considering Sir the various inconveniences attending Letters Packets etc being sent from hence to England "Via Port Jackson", the Losses and delays sustained thereby, as well as those coming for this Island by the Same Channel, which often remain at Port Jackson for Months to the great detriment of Trade, I humbly beg to lay before you for the approval of the Post Master General, if the Regular Appointment of Post Master at this Island independent of Port Jackson under the Post Master General of England, would not be more advantageous for the Publick, especially as this is the first Land made by Vessels bound to New South Wales. If so Sir as I am enabled to give any security required to take upon myself that office, and desirous of rendering every assistance in my power for the advancement of Publick benefit, you will much oblige me Sir, by your interest to have the Packets or Mails, separately made up for Port Jackson and this Island, the one for this Island not to be opened at Port Jackson, and that of Port Jackson not to be opened here, but transmitted with all dispatch, and if you will do me the honor to favor me with such regulations as you may wish adopted, they shall be punctually attended to.

I have taken the liberty of including Two New South Wales Almanacks for 1814 and 1815 to peruse the regulations.

I have the honor to subscribe myself with great respect,

Sir
Your Most Obedient
Humble Servant
James Mitchell

Francis Freeling Esquire
The Number of Letters in the Mail are
& Two Almanacks

NOTES ON VICTORIAN RARITIES

By G. N. KELLOW

6 — £2 KING EDWARD VII, WMK. V OVER CROWN, PERF. 11

The £1 and £2 Victorian stamps of the Commonwealth period have become popular and expensive stamps in recent years. The 2 wmk. V over Crown, perf. 11, is the scarcest of them all, and rivals in rarity some of the abnormal perforation varieties on the lower values.

Mr J. R. W. Purves deals with this stamp in *Victoria: The 5/- 1867-1901 and the 1/-, 5/-, £1, £2, 1901-12* on p.75. He attributes the whole of the second (and last) printing on V over Crown paper to these perf. 11's. I doubt if this can be correct, and it is more likely that the majority of the printing was perf. 12½, with a handful of sheets (probably not more than ten — 800 stamps) perf. 11. The stamp appeared at the end of 1905, and it is known that in 1905-6 7680 £2 stamps were used; the Crown over A wmk. appeared at the end of 1906. Thus the second V over Crown printing had a life of about one year, and must have amounted to at least 6000 stamps — far more than the rarity of perf. 11 indicates.

The stamp was chronicled in the *Australian Philatelist*, December 1905, p.51, and the earliest known date I can record is that mentioned by Purves, 10.11.1905. Sufficient mint copies have survived to suggest that some collectors or dealers obtained a supply — a small one because of the high face value. Used copies are slightly rarer than mint, and can be recorded from three P.O.'s — Foster, Jamieson, and Omeo. There are no cancelled-to-order copies, which suggests that none of the perf. 11 supply was on sale at the G.P.O.

A chronicle of all the copies of which I have a record would serve no useful purpose, but a summary of the information may interest some collectors.

I have photographs of 12 mint copies, all definitely different. No mint multiple appears to have survived.

Two used multiples can be recorded. A strip of 3 was offered for sale in the *Australian Philatelist*, February 1918, p.87, but has not been heard of since. A used horizontal pair was in the E. J. Lee collection (Plumridge's, March 6-14, 1930, Lot 909), but has since been divided, the left-hand stamp passing into the J. R. W. Purves collection.

In all, I have photographs of 9 used copies. The postmark on one is illegible, and those on the other copies are:

Foster NO ??, plus R in circle

Jamieson NO 10 05(2), DE 7 05, ? 25 05, MR 11 07, and one date illegible.

Omeo OC14?

This makes a grand total of 21 copies of the stamp; I doubt whether the world's supply exceeds 30.

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 December 1981, p. 93)

THE FRANK STAMPS

Handstamped and Printed Impressions

Up to 1888 all the frank stamps, with one exception mentioned later, were steel handstamps supplied to the respective departments.

In 1888 the Government Gazette contained a notice to the effect that government departments could requisition for envelopes with printed franks. Printing records must have been kept of these but there are no such records in Rundell's extracts. It seems likely that the departments requisitioned the Government Printing Office direct, and that the Post Office (the only records examined by Rundell) was not involved in the requisitioning of printed franks.

The handstamped franks were retained after 1888 and continued to be used on occasions up to the end of the frank period.

Fifteen departments or persons used only handstamped franks:

- Colonel Commandant of Volunteers
- Commandant Local Forces
- Commander of H.M. Land Forces
- Commander of H.M. Sea Forces
- Commissariat Staff
- Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey
- Governor of Victoria
- Governor-General
- Minister of Lands and Agriculture
- Officer Commanding Royal Artillery
- Commissioner of Public Works
- Commissioner of Railways
- Commissioner of Railways and Roads
- Royal Mint, Melbourne
- The Speaker

These are generally franks with inscriptions which had been superseded and withdrawn by 1888. The exceptions are Commissioner of Public Works, which was replaced one year later, and Governor, Governor-General, Royal Mint and the Speaker, all of which are quite scarce, and the volume of mail probably did not justify using electros.

All the other departments used both handstamped and printed franks. The President, Legislative Council, is listed in the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia as being printed only, but this is correctly listed in Higgins and Gage catalogue as occurring both handstamped and printed.

Exceptionally, the Postmaster-General had used printed franks some years earlier. The earliest date for the printed frank in the Purves collection is 24.7.1876, but the Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia says printed franks were in use by at least 1873.

Colours

The franks were originally impressed in blue, as per the P.O. suggestion in their letter of July 19th, 1864. Later, however, no uniformity seems to have been

attempted, and black, red, violet and purple inks were employed. Most departments employed more than one colour. The earliest dates known for each are:

black 1870 (Minister of Mines)
 red 11.1.1873 (Chief Secretary)
 violet 1879 (Commissioner of Public Works)

The Chief Secretary is also known in magenta (1880).

The printed franks also occur in all four colours, so it appears that the departments specified the colour of impressions when requisitioning new supplies.

Dies and Electros

For most of the departments a number of dies, and some sub-dies due to damage or wear, can be distinguished in the handstamps. Many of the larger departments required more than one frank stamp because of the large volume of mail, or for widely located and country offices, so the usage of the different dies usually overlaps.

The printed franks occur in only one die for each relevant department. It appears that once a department decided to use printed franks, a handstamp was sent to the Government Printing Office to be used to stamp moulds to produce the necessary electros. Thus, the same die is usually known both handstamped and printed. As far as the philatelic evidence indicates, if further electros were required moulds were stamped from a good electro, since it is unlikely a department would always supply the same handstamp to the Government Printing Office.

Types of Stationery

At first the frank stamps were used only on envelopes, but as the Post Office developed other types of stamped stationery, the government departments adapted these by having unstamped stationery printed at the Government Printing Office, and these received the departmental frank stamps (both handstamped and printed).

Thus, nineteen departments are recorded as using postcards, and at least two users (Commissioner of Crown Lands and Survey, and Minister of Public Instruction) introduced post cards before the Post Office issued their stamped counterparts in 1876.

Other types of stationery are less frequent, but at least five departments used wrappers, two are known on registration envelopes (Minister of Public Instruction, and Treasury), and one on lettercard (Minister of Railways).

In addition, the Higgins and Gage catalogue records Postmaster-General on a registered postal card, Treasury on an address label, and Minister of Mines on a parcel post tag.

The earliest known dates for each type of stationery are:

postcard 1873 (Minister of Public Instruction)
 wrapper 1889 (Treasury)
 registration envelope 1899 (Treasury)

The only example seen of a lettercard is mint.

ANNOTATED CATALOGUE OF FRANK STAMPS

Earlier Listings

There are only three earlier listings of frank stamps of any importance:

1. Stanley Gibbons Catalogue. Part IV. Envelopes, Post Cards and Wrappers. 1897 and 1900 Editions. Stanley Gibbons Ltd., London.

2. The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps. Part IV. The Empire in Australasia. Robson Lowe Ltd., London, 1962. This list was compiled by Rev. J. C. W. Brown.

3. Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World. Vatican City to Zululand. Section 19. (Ed., E. G. Fladung). Higgins & Gage Inc., Pasadena, Calif., 1974. This list was compiled by Mr. Carl Stieg.

Nos. 2 and 3 give lists of colours for each frank, and the types of stationery occurring, but neither gives any information on the different dies.

Scope

This catalogue is based largely on the notes of Mr. J. R. W. Purves detailing the different dies found for each frank in conjunction with the colours and types of stationery, together with their periods of use. The die differences are given very briefly but it is hoped that the descriptions are sufficient to enable distinctions to be made. Additional information from the earlier listings and other sources has been added. Mr. Purves' list was compiled in the early 1970's. It is considered that there are unlikely to be many additions to the types of dies, but the date ranges can in most cases be extended. No lists of electro flaws are provided, but estimates are given of the number of electros used by each department. As previously mentioned, no account is taken of the different inscriptions and sizes of official stationery used.

1. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The Department of Agriculture was originally the responsibility of the Minister of Public Instruction (it is listed under that ministry in the 1884 Sands and McDougall's Melbourne Directory). A separate ministry was later formed, and the earliest recorded date for the frank stamp is in 1889.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 13.5.1889 (ii) black ? date (iii) violet -.3.1897
	Printed	(i) black 22.4.1891-12.8.1901 Rare, number of electros used unknown

This frank is recorded on a postcard by both Mr. Purves, and Higgins and Gage, but details of the frank stamp are not recorded.

2. ATTORNEY-GENERAL

The Attorney-General was in the original 1864 allocation. The official date of issue of the frank stamp was 2.8.1864.

Die 1. "O" of "OF" under "Y" of "ATTORNEY"	Handstamped	(i) blue 10.10.1864-23.12.1884 (ii) black 29.9.1881- .10.1883
Die 2. "O" of "OF" under "EY" of "ATTORNEY"; letters of "ATTORNEY-GENERAL" narrow; "A" of "VICTORIA" without cross-bar	Handstamped	(i) blue 12.12.1882-2.2.1884 (ii) violet 11.10.1883-1886 (iii) red 20.6.1889-2.5.1893
	Printed	(i) black 31.1.1893-3.4.1900 (also on postcard, ? date) At least 20 different electros

3. CHIEF SECRETARY

The Chief Secretary was in the 1864 original allocation. The date of issue of the frank stamp was 2.8.1864. There are several additional entries concerning the Chief Secretary in the archives:

August 23rd, 1864. The Chief Commissioner of Police was informed that a frank stamp would be furnished him in a few days. No such frank is known, and the police were the responsibility of the Chief Secretary, and the frank stamp would be so worded. However, no corresponding frank appears to be listed below.

December 30th, 1865. Mr. G. T. Leverett was paid £3/10/- for a frank stamp for the Chief Secretary. This is probably the Die 2 frank stamp.

April 17th, 1873. The Under Secretary was supplied with two new frank stamps and the return of old ones asked for. One only was returned on April 24th, 1873, the other being serviceable. This entry indicates that at this time the Chief Secretary had only two frank stamps (viz., Dies 1 and 2) and that two replacements (Dies 3 and 4) were supplied. The returned frank stamp must have been Die 1.

Die 1. "FRANK STAMP" around base	Handstamped	(i) blue 3.11.1864-early 1872 (ii) black -.9.1872- .10.1872 (iii) red 11.1.1873
Die 2. Larger format. "FRANK" at top; "STAMP" at base over fleuron	Handstamped	(i) blue 15.5.1867-1877
Die 3. With rosettes and not stops; "F" of "FRANK" under left of "S" of "SECRETARY"; "ARY" more spaced; large "FRANK", slightly curved	Handstamped	(i) red (shades) 5.9.1873-17.2.1896
Die 4. With rosettes and not stops; "F" of "FRANK" under "F S" of "CHIEF SECRETARY"; large "FRANK", slightly curved. (Rosettes, as in Die 3, opposite middle of letters)	Handstamped	(i) red 5.9.1877-1883 (ii) black 1882-1883 (iii) violet 1881 on (iv) blue 17.11.1883 This die is known on postcard (? colour)
Die 5. With dashes and not stops; "FRANK" small; "F" of "FRANK" under middle of "S" of "SECRETARY"	Handstamped	(i) blue 9.8.1878-22.3.1890 (ii) violet 1880-1881 (iii) black 1901 (iv) red ? date (rare)
	Printed	(i) blue -.9.1888-17.1.1889 (also on wrapper) (ii) black -.6.1889-14.8.1902 (iii) violet -.4.1901-31.7.1901 (also on address label) (iv) red 1901 About 40 different electro varieties
Die 6. Larger letters, including "FRANK"; "ARY" closer; "F" of "FRANK" under "F S" of "CHIEF SECRETARY"; stops opposite base or top of letters	Handstamped	(i) blue 1881 on (ii) violet 1881 (iii) red 1885 on (iv) black ? date

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|--|-------------|--|
| Die 7. Letters higher than Die 6;
"FRANK" in smaller, spaced letters;
stops opposite base or top of letters | Handstamped | (i) blue 1884 on
(ii) violet 1883 on
(iii) red 1888-1889
(iv) magenta 26.3.1888 (on postcard,
see <i>Stanley Gibbons Monthly
Journal</i> , Nov. 1890, p. 99)
(v) black ? date |
| Die 8. With rosettes and not stops
(like Dies 3 and 4); squatter letters;
"F" of "FRANK" under left end of
"S" of "SECRETARY" | Handstamped | (i) red 8.2.1892 on |

4. COLONEL COMMANDANT OF VOLUNTEERS

The use of this frank has been discussed by Mr. P. Collas in *Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1980, pp. 94-95. This formed part of the original 1864 allocation, and the official date of issue was 2.8.1864. Mr. Collas is incorrect in saying it remained in use until 1881. A "Return of Frank Stamps Issued" dated February 14th, 1872 lists Commandant of Local Forces, with the footnote "exchanged for Col. Commandant returned."

- | | | |
|---|-------------|--------------------|
| One die only, with "VICTORIA"
at base. | Handstamped | (i) blue 25.6.1868 |
|---|-------------|--------------------|

5. COMMANDANT LOCAL FORCES

This frank stamp replaced that inscribed Colonel Commandant of Volunteers, and as stated under No. 4 that replacement had taken place by early 1872, but the exact date is unknown. According to Mr. P. Collas (*Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1980, p. 95) the frank stamp became obsolete in 1884 with the reorganisation of the defence forces and the introduction of the Minister of Defence frank stamp.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---|
| One die only | Handstamped | (i) blue 7.8.1872-15.2.1877
(ii) grey-blue 1.6.1883-6.11.1883
(worn impression, see <i>Philatelic
Record</i> , Sep. 1883, p. 145)
(iii) black 2.5.1883-30.10.1883 (see
<i>Philately from Australia</i> , Dec.
1980, p. 95) |
|--------------|-------------|---|

This frank is listed on a postcard by Higgins and Gage, details unknown.

6. COMMANDER OF H.M. LAND FORCES

This frank stamp was in the original 1864 allocation, and its official date of issue was 2.8.1864. Mr. P. Collas has discussed the usage of this frank stamp in *Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1980, pp. 92-93, and explained the reasons for its rarity. In fact, until 1976, no examples were known to modern collectors, but in that year two examples were discovered (*Philately from Australia*, Mar. 1976, p. 7; June 1976, p. 32). The correct wording on the frank stamp is given by Stanley Gibbons in 1897 and 1900, but later listings have omitted the word "LAND". The 1872 Return of Frank Stamps Issued lists this frank as having been returned to the Post Office.

- | | | |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|
| One die only | Handstamped | (i) blue ? dates |
|--------------|-------------|------------------|

7. COMMANDER OF H.M. SEA FORCES

This frank stamp was in the original 1864 allocation and its official date of issue was 2.8.1864. The use of this frank was discussed by Mr. P. Collas in *Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1980, pp. 93-94. It was superseded by the Minister of Defence frank in

1884. Mr. Collas could not cite any example of the frank, and there was no copy in the Purves collection. Copies apparently exist, however, and it appears in the earlier listings.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue ? date (Stanley Gibbons, 1897, 1900)
		(ii) red ? date (Robson Lowe, Higgins and Gage)

8. COMMISSARIAT STAFF

This frank stamp is not listed by Stanley Gibbons in 1897 and 1900, and no copy is known to modern collectors. It appears in the archives as part of the original 1864 allocation, and there is no reason to doubt it being issued. It is listed by Robson Lowe and Higgins and Gage on that basis. The 1872 Return of Frank Stamps Issued lists this frank as having been returned to the Post Office. The use of the frank is considered by Mr. P. Collas in *Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1980, pp. 92-93.

9. COMMISSIONER OF CROWN LANDS AND SURVEY

This frank stamp was in the original 1864 allocation, and the official date of issue was 2.8.1864. It was replaced by the Minister of Lands and Agriculture frank in 1876, when the title of the office was changed.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 1866-6.10.1876 (also on postcard, 1876, see <i>The Philatelist</i> , Aug. 1876, p. 108)
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Nearly all copies of this frank have most of the outer circle line (which, in any event, was cut too thinly) missing.

10. THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE

The Department of Defence was formed in 1881, but the frank stamp probably was not introduced until 1884 with the reorganisation of the defence. This is supported by the existence of examples of the Commandant Local Forces frank dated 1883. This frank has been discussed by Mr. P. Collas in *Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1980, pp. 95-96.

One die only	Handstamped	(i) blue 22.6.1888-22.5.1896 (also on postcard, 1895-1896, see <i>The Philatelist</i> , June 1962, p. 194)
		(ii) black 1897-12.12.1898
	Printed	(i) blue ? date (rare)
		(ii) black 28.6.1889 on (also on postcard, ? date)

There were at least 25 electros. The same electros were used for impressing both envelopes and post cards.

Higgins and Gage also record a wrapper, details unknown.

11. GOVERNOR OF VICTORIA

The early history of this frank stamp is confusing. It was not part of the original allocation, and in fact the 1864 Act specified that the Governor's signature was sufficient endorsement to allow the mail to be carried free. This was changed by Act No. 781, section 45 (coming into force on January 1st, 1884), which authorised the use of a frank stamp by the Governor. However, a frank stamp for the Governor had been prepared in 1865, as shown by the following entry in the P.O. Stores Ledger:

"19.9.65. Frank Stamp. Steel Ivory Handle for The Governor. Cutting £3. Handle 10/- G. T. Leverett."

Examples are known dated from 1874. Since the 1865 handstamp was provided by the Post Office, that marking was certainly a frank stamp and not merely an identity stamp for The Governor, which would not have involved the Post Office. The 1884 Amendment may have been enacted to correct an oversight when it was realised that The Governor's frank stamp, which had been in use for some years, was not provided for by the 1864 Act.

Die 1. "FRANK STAMP" at base	Handstamped	Only known in proof form
Die 2. Similar to Die 1 but with fleuron under coat-of-arms	Handstamped	(i) black 23.9.1874 (ii) red 1878 (iii) mauve 1884 or earlier (worn) (iv) blue ? date
Die 3. Larger size with fleuron, "OF" same sized letters as "GOVERNOR" and "VICTORIA"	Handstamped	(i) violet 24.3.1881-1887
Die 4. Smaller, thinner letters	Handstamped	(i) violet 1888 (only two copies seen)
Die 5. Smaller size, double-lined circle.	Handstamped	(i) violet 11.8.1887-1902
Die 6. Larger size, double-lined circle.	Handstamped	(i) violet 12.7.1890-5.9.1895 (ii) blue 25.1.1898-1902
Die 7. The characteristics of this die were not given by Mr. Purves.	Handstamped	(i) violet 21.3.1901 (only one copy seen)

12. GOVERNOR-GENERAL

This frank stamp is inscribed "AUSTRALIA" at base. It was, however, in the Victorian pattern and undoubtedly provided by the Victorian Post Office, and is included here. The handstamp was apparently ready for the Governor-General (Lord Hopetoun for the entire period of frank stamp usage) when he arrived in Sydney on December 15th, 1900, and at least one copy is known dated prior to the official date of Federation (1.1.1901). Another cover is known dated 2.1.1901 and is inscribed "1st letter from the Governor-General after Federation, dated 2.1.01." This frank stamp is not covered in Mr. Purves' notes, but some information is available in the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, May 1967, pp. 33, 35; and July 1967, p. 25. The frank stamp is unique insofar as, despite its Victorian origin, it was a Commonwealth marking for use on the Governor-General's official mail, and is therefore found used outside Victoria. The only postmarks recorded are Melbourne and Sydney.

One die only Handstamped (i) blue 27.12.1900-12.10.1901

(To be continued)

BOOK REVIEWS

The Paquebot Marks of Africa, the Mediterranean Countries and their Islands, by E. Dreschel. 72 pp. 24.5 x 17 cm. Published by the Pall Mall Stamp Co. Ltd. for Robson Lowe Ltd., 50 Pall Mall, London, SW1Y 5JZ. Recommended price, 7.50 plus postage.

This is Mr Dreschel's second publication on paquebots. The first covered Scandinavia. The present volume covers a seemingly unusual combination of countries, but a number of

shipping lines have routes traversing the Mediterranean and continuing down the African coast. The paquebot markings of Africa have a great deal in common with the European nations, most of the African countries being former colonies.

All the paquebot markings, from their origin in 1894 when U.P.U. regulations regarding ship mail were introduced, up to the present time are listed, country by country, in a tabular form. A

total of 624 markings are catalogued, and there are 514 illustrations. In fact, every type is illustrated, but in some instances the ports in some colonies used an omnibus type, the individual handstamps for which are indistinguishable. Each type is cross-referenced to Brigadier Studd's now-classic work.

Hardly a book to be read from cover to cover, but no matter what your collecting area, the need to identify the port of origin of a paquebot mark is likely to arise. Quite often the port applying the mark is not at all obvious from the mark itself, but if you are able to determine the route your cover took, then this book should enable you to determine the port.

Commonwealth of Australia. The George V Fivepence, by A.S. Davidson, V. W. Dix and A. W. Rowntree. 87 pp., 20 x 25.5 cm. Published by The British Society of Australian Philately. Price £9.

This is the first time that a book dealing with this stamp has been published since Mr. Gordon Ward's original one of many years ago.

The publication is a companion volume to previous works by two of the authors, Messrs Davidson and Dix, which covered the 3d and 4d values of the King George V issues of definitive stamps.

The same format has been adopted as for the previous publications, and provides a comprehensive check list with clear illustrations of the constant varieties occurring on the 5d value.

The subject is well introduced and the student is guided through the various plates, printers, watermarks and perforations of this stamp, by these three recognised experts in this field.

This work once again confirms the pre-eminence of the current English school on these "classics" of the Commonwealth. Original research on the King George V issues, apart from that on the 1½d value being undertaken in Sydney, appears to be next to dead in their country of origin.

T. CARTER.

The Oswald Schröder Forgeries, by Robson Lowe. 16 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, £1.50, plus postage.

Oswald Schröder was a stamp forger operating in Germany in the 1880's. He later fled to Switzerland, where he lived out the rest of his life, apparently retired from "business".

His activities were reported in the contemporary German philatelic press, but his forgeries are today quite scarce and not well-known to modern collectors.

This small work describes 34 of Schröder's forgeries. These were discovered by a collector in

the files of the Swiss police, who confiscated Schröder's stock after his death in about 1920.

The forgeries are generally excellent, and have undoubtedly fooled many collectors in the past, but with this publication should not do so in the future. The classic issues of a number of countries are involved, but none in the Australasian area. The only British Empire stamps included are the British Guiana "Cottonreels", the Cape of Good Hope "Woodblocks", and India's 1854 1 anna. The best production is the Saxony 1850 3 pf.

The Whole World Stamp Catalogue, compiled and written by R. West. 160 pp. 22 x 29 cm. Published by Pan Books, Cavaye Place, London, SW10 9PG. Obtainable from Ventura Publishing Ltd., 44 Uxbridge Street, London W8 7TG, England. Price, paperback £4.95, hardback £6, plus £1 postage.

This work is a full colour guide to the postal emissions of over 200 current postal administrations.

Each country is given a brief geographical and historical introduction, and a selection of the current definitives and recent commemorative issues are provided. The ancillary items — officials, postage dues, postal stationery, and even air mail etiquettes and registration labels — are also covered.

The addresses of the philatelic bureaux, or their equivalent, from which collectors may obtain new issues direct, are provided.

A short commentary on the frequency of new issues, together with the present currency exchange rate, provides collectors with a rough guide to the outlay which might be expected to keep any country up to date.

The Railway Stamps of Mainland Australia. Cumulative Supplement of November 1981, by O. G. Ingles, A. D. Presgrave and W. D. Craig. 12 pp. 21 x 15 cm. Published by Revenue and Railstamp Publications, G.P.O. Box 1248M, Hobart, Tasmania. Available free on request on receipt of a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

This supplement appears a little over a year after the publication of the handbook-catalogue.

The field of Australian railway and local carrying company stamps is one in which research has been sadly lacking, and this is born out by the appearance of this supplement. It records much new basic information on these issues, discovered by the authors, or communicated by other collectors. A number of new values in the various States Railway series are recorded, and a few new private companies are now known to have issued labels.

A useful feature is the recording of auction realizations for many stamps in a field where pricing remains a matter of informed guesswork.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Great Britain

The display for the November meeting was provided by the Vice-President, Mr. T. C. Lester.

The display consisted of a straight-forward collection of the stamps of Great Britain, from 1840 to about 1970. Mr. Lester was proud of the fact that the collection had been built up entirely from material offered in the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria's auctions. Mr Lester was the Auction Superintendent for over 20 years.

Excellent copies were shown of the 1840 1d black and 2d blue. In the later 1d plate number series the only one missing was Plate 225.

Many of the high-value surface-printed stamps were present, including a used copy of the 5.

The King Edward VII series included shades of all values to 1, and a selection of the various printings of the King George V Seahorses were shown. The later King George VI and Queen Elizabeth II series were practically complete.

The President's Night

As suggested in the Immediate Past-President's Annual Report, the December meeting has been made into the President's Night, replacing the Social Evening previously held in the first half of the following year.

The President, Mr. M. B. Watson, and his wife welcomed about 50 members, wives and guests. A pleasing feature of the attendance was the presence of a number of country members, some of whom are not normally able to attend the usual monthly meetings.

The evening is designed for members, their spouses and friends to meet and talk in an informal atmosphere.

The only organized activity was a philatelic display mounted in frames in the meeting room. The display, provided by Miss Mary Lambe, was a thematic one entitled "No Man is an Island", and proved of interest to both members and non-collectors alike. Miss Lambe has been developing the theme for only six months. It tells the story of man's international co-operation, describing the development of organizations such as Red Cross and the United Nations in stamps and covers.

The Library and P. from A.

For the January meeting Dr. G. N. Kellow presented a talk on the Society's library and on the Society's journal, *Philately from Australia*.

The library at present consists of 3200 books and monographs, 1500 bound volumes of journals and about 10,000 unbound journals. The collection of Australasia was practically complete, and the coverage of most other areas was very good. Dr. Kellow considered the major weakness in the Society's collection was in Europe, where so much of the important information is published in foreign languages, and it was hard to justify the purchase of such books.

Dr. Kellow stressed that the possession of such a magnificent library was one thing, but even more important was the ability to use it — to find the information you are after. Some time was spent explaining the use, and usefulness, of the bibliographic tools available.

The discussion on *Philately from Australia*, in which members were invited to participate, centred on the style of journal the Society wanted, and the question of contributions. These aspects are dealt with in the editorial in this issue.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

The first meeting for 1982 of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club was held on January 12th.

The Popular Choice Competition was postponed until February, which left more time to appreciate Mr D. Colville's display of "Falkland Islands and Associated Areas". This is a truly magnificent collection with many rare and interesting stamps and covers from the Falkland Islands and the islands nearby.

There was also a display of the latest issues by the Crown Agencies and appointment of new trustees for the club. Mr E. J. Garrard and Mr H. Nott were elected as Trustees.

Our apologies should be presented for a mistake in the article about the December meeting. It was Mr Jack Henry and not Mr Alan Jones who showed us the films.

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

Feb. 9th DISPLAY: "Stamps and Postal History of Sweden" by Prof R. A. M. Gregson.

March 9th DISPLAY: "Niger Coast" by Mr D. Benson.

Both meetings will be held at the normal venue, Philas House, at 8.00 p.m.

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★ **SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is posted free to all members.

★ **MEETINGS** held on the third and fifth Thursday of the month at 7.45 pm in its own premises, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, Melbourne 3141.

★ **EXCHANGE BOOKS** circulate regularly within Australia to interested members.

★ **THE SALES BRANCH** enables members to buy and sell stamps not considered suitable by the vendor for exchange sheets. Postal bids accepted from members for any item.

★ **COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY** is open to members on Meeting Nights and one other night monthly or by arrangement with the Librarian. Also 12.30 on first Wednesdays.

★ **CURRENT FILES** of the leading overseas philatelic journals printed in English are available on the tables at the Society's rooms.



★ **QUARTZ LAMP & MICROSCOPE** and a Reference Forgery Collection are available.

★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** It has always been Society policy to obtain the best available collections for display at Society monthly meetings. Lectures and discussions by leading philatelists enable members to improve their philatelic knowledge.

★ **PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE:** This Society includes experts on almost all branches of Philately, whose advice is always available.

★ **THE SOCIETY'S FEES** are: Entrance Fee: \$25.00; Annual Subscription: City and Metropolitan Members, \$25.00; Country, Interstate and Overseas, \$20.00.

★ **ALL COMMUNICATIONS** should be directed to Miss MYRA FARLEY (Secretary), Box 2071, GPO, Melbourne 3001.

THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

FOUNDED 1890

★ **OFFICIAL ORGAN:** *Philately from Australia* is available to members at special subscription rate.

★ **MEETING ROOM:** The Club meets at 8 pm on the 2nd Tuesday of each month First Floor Meeting Room, Philas House, 17 Brisbane Street, Sydney.

★ **EXCHANGE BRANCH:** Members are entitled to receive the Exchange Books which circulate regularly within Australia.

★ **LIBRARY:** A library, comprising 1000 volumes, is available for use of members by arrangement with the Librarian.

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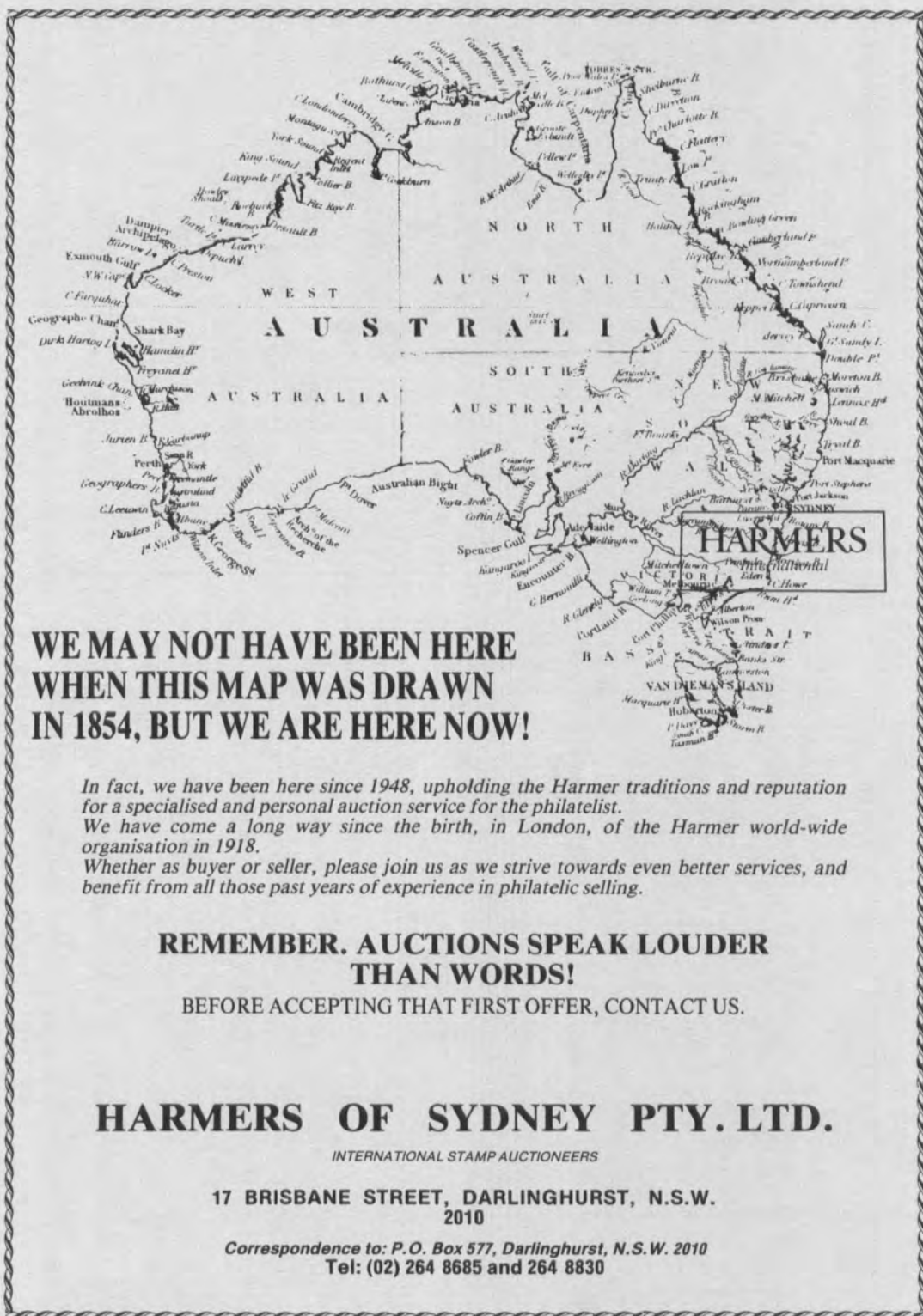


★ **MONTHLY DISPLAYS:** Displays of interesting collections and philatelic items are a feature of the monthly meetings of the Club. It is the policy of the Club to bring to the members the best available displays, while lectures and discussions help to further the philatelic knowledge of members. The advice of members, experts in most branches of philately, is always available when requested.

★ **THE CLUB'S FEES** are: City members, \$6.00; Country members, \$4.50.

★ **SUBSCRIPTIONS** are due 1 July yearly. There is no entrance fee payable.

Mrs Shirley Jones, Hon. Secretary — Box 1751 G.P.O. Sydney 2001



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