

PHILATELY

from

AUSTRALIA



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BUILDING AN IDEAL COLLECTION

Since any collection should be a pleasure to its owner, the ideal collection should please others of discrimination. Those who look at the Hope diamond or the Jewel Room at the Tower of London as stores of wealth are not those who matter. Touching the surface of a Rembrandt (where such is allowed) has little to do with art appreciation and much to do with vulgarity. The ideal collection is for the connoisseur, and should be appreciated slowly and with some effort, for its joys are not for easy plucking.

Sadly, competitions and exhibitions depend on fallible and hurried judges, increasingly liable to flounder as excellence increases. The Renaissance man was probably the last man to know everything, and few philatelic judges have reached the knowledge of Sir Edward Bacon, Robert Yardley or Sir Jonh Wilson, or the collecting ability of Major Charlton Henry, R.F.A. Riesco, Col. J.R. Danson or T.W. Hall.

Methods of collection building range from the haphazard "I have bought every important piece I could at auction or elsewhere in the last 25 years" to the John Boker method of listing every key item and planning to capture as many as possible of these—and avoiding the temptation to accept the tempting, available and inferior—or worse still the doubtful. Perhaps the ideal, if speed is an attraction, is to buy the best available collection built over a period by a good collector and if it has any gaps (or areas of relative weakness) find other collections to fill the gaps. At least one good collector expressed the view that purchases of the remainder of gold medal collections had merit; surely a purchase of the entire collection would be even better. The collection that nobody can improve is likely to have few buyers at any time.

P. JAFFE.

COLLARD J. STOCK OF BRADBURY WILKINSON & CO.

By ROBSON LOWE

Collard Stock was a member of this famous firm of security printers who travelled the world seeking orders. He kept a copy of the letters written home and in the archives we found two volumes of his letters commencing in Adelaide on 4 December 1880 and terminating on 20 February 1885 at Rio de Janeiro.

There are nineteen letters written from the Australian Colonies between 4 December 1880 and 20 May 1881. Most of the business was of a non-postal character, involving orders for banknotes, cheques, and cancelling devices for same. We deal here only with that correspondence of philatelic interest.

Tasmanian Beer Duty Stamps

Following a trip to Hobart, Collard Stock wrote from Melbourne on 18 January 1881 enclosing an order for the third issue of Tasmanian Beer Duty stamps:

Government of Tasmania

I enclose a formal order for ne Beer Duty stamps, & for various seals with presses, etc. In order to avoid mistakes these orders are given to me to forward to you, & a duplicate copy is sent to the Crown Agents, informing them that the orders are given, & requesting them to simply count the stamps when executed & to forward them; also the seals, etc. you will pack them & deliver them to the Crown Agents. The invoice will be paid by them.

The Beer Duty stamps (or labels) are pasted on the bung of each cask when sent out of the breweries, & as you will see there are six values varying in amount with the size of the cask. I enclose specimens of the old stamps. The government wish something much better & by desire of the Colonial Treasurer I made the rough sketch enclosed, which was approved as a general idea.

The Treasurer wished you, if possible, to introduce the foliage of the hop plant in the arabesque ground-work, as associated with the brewing industry. Of course my outline is not to limit you at all in making the design. The engraved work can be extended to the outside pencil line thus making the label, with margin, rather larger. The original labels sent are only intended to show the amounts of each of the classes. The figures are of course to be bolder than the 4/6 in my sketch. Note also that the amount in words at the foot of the labels should have the word "shillings" introduced— not "four & sixpence", etc. as in the old labels.

It is not desirable to make this an expensive work, & I conclude the changes of value will be most easily made by surface or lithography— probably the latter—as sensitive colours are not necessary, & the queen's head will come out best possibly by litho. You can hardly arrange six steel plates for so small a matter. The quantities ordered are about a year's supply.

You will observe that the stamps are to be delivered 10 on a sheet, perforated & in packets of 250 sheets each. Of course you can print as many as you like on a sheet & cut them up into sheets of 10 each.

The paper is to be strong but soft, as the labels are pasted on the cask by the brewers. No gumming is therefore necessary.

Nothing is fixed as to price which is left to you. The plate or plates are of course to be charged for; this is expected. The unremunerative system of gratis plates is not to be entertained any more & I have therefore come to the understanding with the Treasury that a charge would be made.

"The design furnished to you by the collector of customs" means, of course, my sketch & the various values.

I should mention that each class is to be distinguished by a different colour & that taking the present colours as a guide you might choose shades of handsomer appearance—the 1/3 might be orange or chrome, the 4/6 a handsome red, the 6/9 of a better purple or violet, the 9/- an effective green, & the 13/6 a brown instead of black.

New South Wales Postage Stamp Plates

Writing from Sydney on 31 January 1881, Collard Stock suggested that the company submit tenders for surface-printing plates. These were, of course, unsuccessful.

Thomas Richards Esq. Government Printing Office Sydney.

. . . Also let him have estimate for surface plates for postage stamps, & for bonds similar to the Egyptian loan last issued—leaving out the text. They print all these things in the Government printing office but would have plates from you as readily as they now do from De la rue. I believe he charges about £40 for surface plates for P.O. stamps . . .

Queensland High Values

Collard Stock was in Brisbane in early March 1881, and on 28 March, writing from Sydney, despatched the order for Bradbury Wilkinson's best known Australian production, the Queensland engraved high values, which persisted through various printings until 1913.

. . . From the Government I enclose an order for five hardened steel plates for five values of stamps to be engraved by you. A small sample order of colour for surface printing is added, & a small order of 10 reams cheque paper for the Government drafts.

There are estimates wanted for paper for the lower values of stamps—which are printed from surface. You are already preparing a profile die for those values, the electrotype plates for which are to be made by the Government Engraver.

Also estimate for paper for Postal Notes & cards.

Estimates for Queensland Government

Please send to The Honble. The Treasurer an estimate for paper for printing stamps. I enclose a sheet of the paper at present used for the lower values—which are printed from surface. Probably 100,000 sheets might be ordered at one time. The sheets are delivered in books of 500 each, numbered twice, as in specimen. The dandy roller cost £65. The paper is charged at 33/6d per ream of 500. They have paid 30/6d per ream for paper with less size in it. They like a paper not highly sized & which may be damped.

I believe the paper is furnished through Cowan. Of course the Government would order the dandy roller to be delivered to you.

In Mr Knight's letter, in the last paragraph, he asks for specimens of stamp paper which means, of course, the above.

I conclude you will offer some advantage in price & quality as an inducement to give you an order.

Estimate for Queensland Government

Please send estimate to The Honble The Postmaster General, for paper for the postal notes. I enclose specimens of the notes, which are printed by lithography in the Government Office; also a specimen of the paper. It is delivered in a sheet of two pages; the specimen is half the sheet. There are eight notes on a sheet.

The dandy roller was paid for, & is the property of the Government. The paper is now delivered at the price of 33/-per ream of 500 sheets.

You might also send an estimate for card for the postcards. There are 20 on a sheet, royal size. Specimen enclosed.

Queensland Government

Enclosed is a letter from Mr Knight, the Government Engraver (initialled in the margin by Mr Cullen, the Under Treasurer) ordering five steel plates of 30 stamps each, to be of the same size, & arranged in the same position, as the sheet of green stamps enclosed—that is, six lines of five stamps each; as the old paper which they have in hand is of this size & is going to be used up for these higher values. The plates are for stamps of 2/-, 2/6, 5/-, 10/- & £1. Mr Knight's rough sketch is only meant as an indication of the general form. It will be better to have Queensland in a curve above & the value in a corresponding curve below, & the figures in the four corners, & he has therefore added "or all four corners", at my suggestion. You see he wishes Queensland in dark block letters on a light ground & the value in white letters on a dark ground. The border work & details of your Falkland Islands penny, & Transvaal Five pound & sixpenny stamps are liked, especially the beading around the two former.

The front face portrait of the Queen is desired, & you can adopt the head on the specimen sent, giving it such improvements as may be practicable. It is taken from a different portrait from the one you took for the Bank of Victoria note; probably you will recognise it. I have seen the original often in engraving sellers shops & private houses; it has a full length figure.

These higher values are not so much used, so the Govt. thought small plates would do & be cheaper; they intend to print the stamps direct from the steel plates. When first asked for an estimate it was for smaller stamps & for a series of six plates. I said I thought about 30 each plate, but asked for a little latitude in view of the uncertainty of the character of the work required. Finally the size of the stamps was increased to the dimensions now ordered, & the number of plates reduced to five. I therefore told the Under Treasurer & Mr Knight that possibly there would be an increase of price on that account. You

are therefore at liberty to charge whatever is a reasonable price for each of these hardened steel plates. I conclude you will roll them in from the die.

They had better be sent direct to Mr W. Knight, Government Engraver, Treasury, Brisbane.

Colors

I enclose 6 specimens of color for the lower values of the stamp issue—from 1d to 1/-. You are requested to send 2lb tins of each for surface printing. The colors of the 4d & 6d are not satisfactory & you are requested to "improve" on them. If they find your colors suit they will continue to order from you.

For the higher values, which you are about to engrave on steel plate, they have the necessary colors for that process.

Victorian Stamp Paper

Following a stay in Melbourne in early April 1881, Collard Stock wrote from Sydney on 22 April suggesting that the firm estimate for the Victorian postage stamp paper.

General Post Office, Victoria

As previously mentioned, I called on the Postmaster General & the Deputy, also on the Director of the Postage & Revenue stamp printing department, which is attached to the Post Office building. (It is quite distinct from the Government printing office (Mr Brain) to which you are to send particulars as to numbering machines, etc.)

From Mr Atkinson, the Director, I obtained the dimensions of the sheets of paper supplied to the Post Office by De La Rue for printing stamps. The enclosed sheet shews the size—& as the Deputy Postmaster could not be induced to let me have a specimen sheet of the real stamp paper I obtained strips of white, blue & pink paper as used. They use about 240,000 sheets a year, most of it white; there is only a small quantity of coloured paper used. The sheets are delivered in books of 1000 each numbered once on the top corner as indicated. There is a V over crown in the watermark (similar to the Queensland crown over Q) 240 times on the sheet. The dandy roller is paid for and is the property of the Government.

I thought that you might tender for supply of the paper on such favourable terms as to induce the Government (who go in for economy) to order from you. The dandy roller would be handed over to you. I wish I had any mention of the price per 1000 sheets to guide you, but no doubt you can beat De La Rue.

Address the Postmaster General, Melbourne, Victoria.

New South Wales Stamp Paper

Collard Stock's final letter from Australia was written from Sydney on 20 May 1881, and in it he suggests estimating for the New South Wales postage stamp paper:

Paper for printing Postage and Revenue stamps

Following the same course as in Melbourne I have obtained the dimensions of the sheets of paper supplied for printing postage & revenue stamps, & I enclose strips of each, as complete sheets were not to be had.

The paper for printing Postage Stamps is delivered in books of 250 sheets, each sheet measuring 22 inches by 14 inches. The sheets are numbered on the top right hand corner & also on the counterfoil which remains in the book. They pay 27/6d per book for these.

The paper for Revenue Stamps is delivered in reams of 500 sheets, not bound or numbered. The sheets measure 22 inches by 10 inches, & are supplied at 32/6d per ream of 500 sheets.

You can make a tender for these to The Honble The Colonial Treasurer, Sydney, at the same time sending specimens of paper. The dandy rollers have been paid for, are the property of the Government, & are of course in the hands of De La Rue, by whom the paper is now supplied. Of course, they could be ordered to be handed over to you. I conclude you will be able to tender at a more reasonable price, with quality as good or better.

THE 6D "ADAPTED" DESIGN OF VICTORIA, 1862-1866

A NEW SUBSTITUTION

By RUSSELL JONES

The late J.R.W. Purves published the detailed plating study of this stamp in the *London Philatelist* in 1933. In *Philately from Australia*, June 1964, he described three new subjects, but did not illustrate or definitely position them. It is therefore not possible to say whether the new electro here described is one of those referred to by Purves. Plate 1A in the *London Philatelist* article shows B6I.

The stamps illustrated here are watermarked single-lined 6. B12 shows sufficient of the lower frame of B6 above to identify it as B6I; note the flat frame at left. B6I can be readily recognised by the curly left foot of the "A" of "VICTORIA". I have two copies of B6II each with deep edging at top and right.



B6I



B6II



B12

CENTENARY HISTORY

Mr H.L. Chisholm is writing a Centenary History of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

He would appreciate a note of anything that might be useful.

Following the precedent of Mr A.J. Derrick, R.D.P., in *The Philatelic Society of Victoria* (1926), who listed all members of the Society at the time of publication, Mr Chisholm plans to include a record of all members at the Centenary date in 1992.

THE ONE PENNY HANDPAINTING POST CARD OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

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

The purpose of Brian Pope and Phil Thomas' new book (*The Production of One Penny Post Cards for Western Australia*) is made crystal clear on the very first page. It is all about which unbordered 1d post card was issued for handpainting and the confident authors finish me off in Section 13: The Debate, where they state that there is no basis for further discussion.

The raging battle aims at solving whether the cards for handpainting were printed on the normal (N) card remaining from the printing of PC15 and cut in the c.125 x 95mm format (the authors' claim) or whether they were surfaced (S) cards in the U.P.U. 140 x 90mm format (my claim).

They are certainly mistaken, but it may console them that I have been chasing the wrong surfaced card.

Following the decision to issue post cards suited for handpainting, i.e., white cards with a rough or matte surface, 5,100 cards were printed and recorded on 27 May 1909. They fit exactly with the fact—adeptly sidetracked by the authors—that three electros were taken from the strongroom on 2 May 1909. They were forwarded to Perth in June and cards of the exactly same quality were also forwarded to the other States. A year later, when little demand was reported, the Postmaster-General decided, and on 1 April 1911 notified, Deputy Postmaster-Generals that no further cards could be expected. On 20 November 1913 they were told to dispose of the cards. If these cards were not something very special and probably bundled in a special way, these steps would have been utterly superfluous.

Of the colourful American Fleet cards 9,249 had been sold less than a year before. Only limited numbers have survived and it may safely be presumed that cards for handpainting printed in half that number have a far lower survival rate.

When I wrote *Postal Stationery from Western Australia* in 1984 I was fully aware that N-cards were more often seen than S-cards. This and the fact that they were very special convinced me that S-cards were meant for handpainting.

However, after I had published my platings of N-cards and S-cards in *Philately from Australia*, March 1987, it occurred to me that both kinds had turned out to be much more common than the American Fleet card and also the Melbourne zinc card, and that they were not far from being as common as PC10 and PC15. With a printing of only 5,100 neither can be the card for handpainting. I was faced with having to find a third kind of card, which I call the H-card. But how to catch this rare bird?

In *Sydney Views*, No. 15 (1987), the authors showed an S-card with scratches on the Swan stating that it was proof that these cards were printed after N-cards. They also mentioned cards printed on thicker printing stock. I was not convinced, but suggested in the next number that they investigate whether that meant the existence of a third kind of card, the characteristics of which had yet to be established. I virtually let my secret bird out of the cage, but to their peril they ignored my suggestion and kept their blinkers firmly on.

Instead, and breaking away from his partner, Pope in *Sydney Views*, No. 17 (1987) defended his position by publishing certain 1909 documents proving conclusively that N-cards were printed before S-cards. However, that cannot turn the rather common

N-card into the rare H-card. The documents show, in my opinion, the considerably more important points, that white card means surfaced card and that stock rather similar to that used for S-cards was available for the May 1909 printing of cards for handpainting. Similar stock had been used for the American Fleet card and here it appeared that white stock should in future "in place of the 'buff' sealed pattern at present" be with "one side rough or 'matte'" in the size fitting 32 times on the sheets in U.P.U. format. 130 reams were ordered and delivered with 68 reams on 24 July and 62 on 23 December 1909. Obviously, these sheets were not available in May, but at that time white (surfaced) cards had been printed on sheets presumably obtained from a commercial source. This is the H-card for handpainting as issued to all Australian States in very small quantities (less than two reams was needed).

Investigating dates of use I found that 1909 dates were absent in my material, though dates at least from July/August were to be expected.

On 6 October 1909 Cooke mentioned printing 32-on and the R.B.A. archives on 20 November 1909 recorded 9,599 sheets = 307,184 cards printed. That fits both with the numbers in which N-cards have survived to this day and with the earliest date of use, 13 February 1910.

The small printing of 4,896 cards recorded on 30 July 1910 is an unsolved problem, but may be a trial for printing on new stock recorded on 5 August 1910 with 5,530 sheets = 176,960 cards. Here too, both the quantity and date of issue, shortly before 17 December 1910, fit S-cards.

The numbers printed of these two cards compares well with the frequency with which N-cards and S-cards are met.

However, amongst my photostat material and classified as an S-card is a card I read as having been mailed on 1 May 1910. Thanks to the owner, Bernard Caillard, I have inspected the original. It revealed postmarks reading Coolgardie 31 MY 10 and Kalgoorlie 1 JU 10, dates proving it cannot be an S-card from the 5 August 1910 entry in the archives.

This remarkable card is Unit S7 in my present plating showing the NY flaw in the text component. Additionally, the original revealed the flaw dot east of the crown's band in the Arms component, a flaw sometimes visible since PC10A (probably identical with Pope and Thomas' 18:12).

Caillard and I agree that this card shows a better quality surfaced front and a lighter greyish or matte white back than on the S-cards used from later in the year. The card is rather thick and stiff. Under the UV lamp the back is light buff. The blue of the stamp is also different, being a shade between the two known in S-cards and slightly blotted.

We believe that this is the H-card, tentatively pending a final judgement when further copies have been located and inspected. As three electros were taken from the strongroom, there is also a plating problem to solve. None from my plating fits, but Pope and Thomas, who claim to know additional units, even more than fit the plate for S-cards, may be able to identify the two missing units.

The authors state on page 7 that "Study of shades has not produced any meaningful conclusions". Such statements they certainly make at their peril. A certain colour sense is useful, but in the past they failed with regard to 1/2d post cards, 2d letter-cards and 2d envelopes.

N-cards are known in (a) pale blue and (b) ultramarine. The latter is rare, but does belong as it fits the plating.

With regard to S-cards, the authors correctly mention thicker cards, but they overlook that the thickness follows the two colour groups: (a) blue is on a thicker, rather

stiff card, while the quite different (b) deep blue cards are thinner and pliable. Also, the UV lamp shows considerable differences as the back of (a) is dark lilac-brown, while (b) remains buff. Two different kinds is not surprising as the sheets for S-cards came in two instalments.

In future, cataloguing will be:

PC17 = H-card

5,100 cards issued c. July 1909

blue on surfaced, rather thick, stiff card with light greyish back (tentative description)

PC18 = N-card

307,184 cards issued c. February 1910

a. pale blue

b. ultramarine

on unsurfaced card as PC15, c. 125 x 95mm

PC19 = S-card

176,960 cards issued c. November 1910

a. blue on surfaced, rather thick, stiff card with buff back

b. deep blue on surfaced, thin and pliable card with buff back

At present the UV lamp is the best lead to identification: PC17 light buff, and PC19a dark lilac-brown.

There is much to discuss with regard to the plating, both camps have doubtful points, but now these are merely academic, of interest only to those directly involved. I admire the wealth of illustrations in the book, but regret several important omissions and also the linguistic adroitness with which they circumvent the important question whether or not Cooke produced electros. Certainly, they are not able to present evidence in favour for inspection. Nor will they be able to do that with regard to the three cases they mention of repaired units.

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sydpex 88 Luncheon

The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria will be holding a luncheon during SYDPEX 88, on Tuesday, 2nd August for members and partners.

The venue is Walters Seafood Restaurant (licensed), Surrey Hills, which is quite close to the Showgrounds. Meals other than seafood will, of course be available. Cost will be \$40 per person.

For further information contact the Secretary, GPO Box 2071, Melbourne, Vic. 3001. Please attach cheque with your application. The room holds 32 persons, so a cut-off will be necessary if more apply.

Australian Commonwealth Study Group

It is with regret we announce The Australian Commonwealth Specialists Society has been disbanded.

Our society is pleased to advise its amalgamation with the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria as its Australian Commonwealth Specialists Study Group.

The Study Group will meet at the premises of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra on the third Tuesday of each month at 7.30 p.m.

Any enquiries should be addressed to Mr Tom Carter, telephone 850 4058 or care of Box 2071, GPO Melbourne, 3001.

LAUNCESTON POSTMARKS DURING THE PICTORIAL ERA

By JAMES E. ORR

(Continued from December 1987, p. 94)

Second Period

Chart 4 which shows type 8a plain time CDS as being the *only* type used indicates a strong management directive. Type 8a wore quickly indicating that even though many different times are found, my lot contains ten, probably only two CDS's were used as determined by rate of wear, and time was changed during the day. Evidence for time changed daily can be found at least in the period NO 2 1904 to JA 25 1905 as one of the CDS's has a distinct spot to the left of the base of "T" of "TASMANIA". A horizontal line at the base of the "T" also developed in late examples. Hints of this flaw occur as early as AU 1904. Of nine examples of the flaw, four different times were found: 7A, 2:30P, 7:45P, 8:00P.

CHART 4

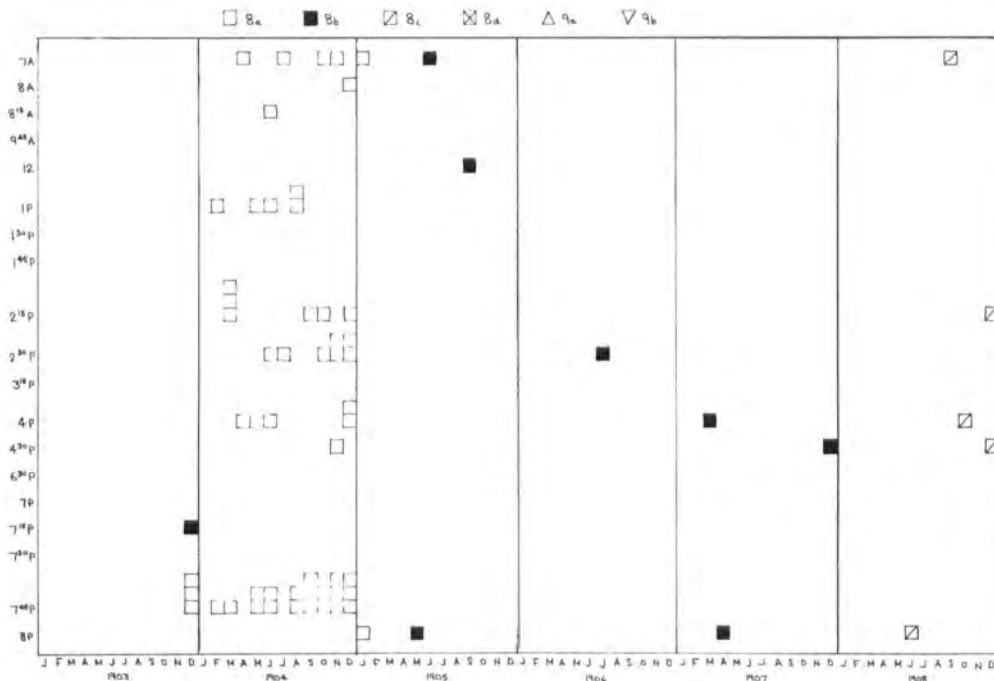
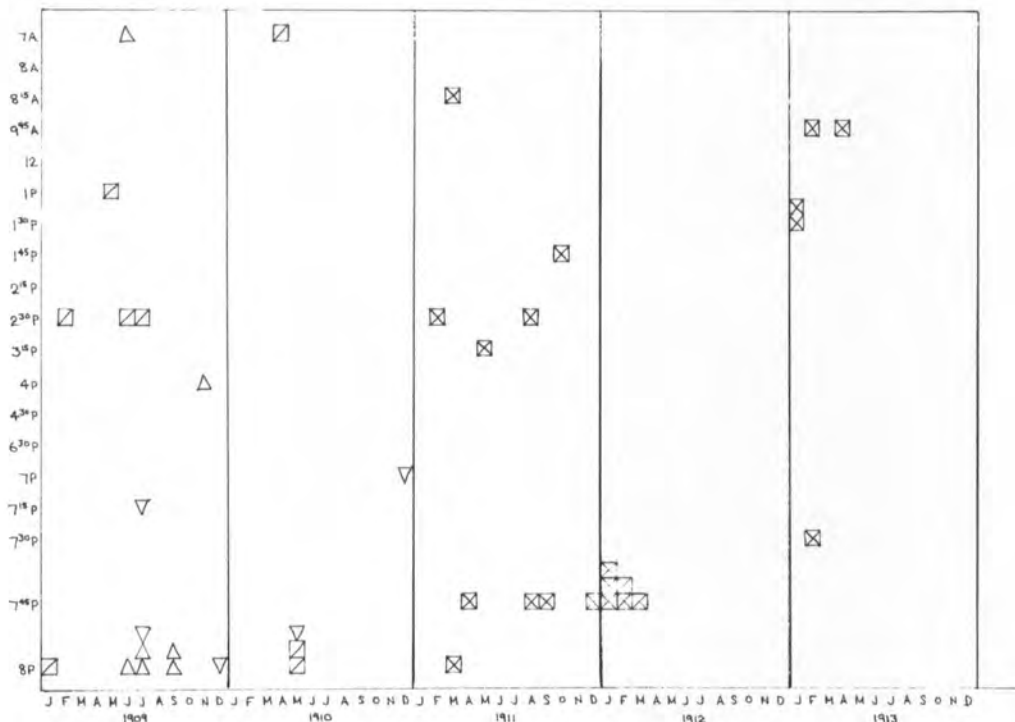


CHART 4 (contd.)



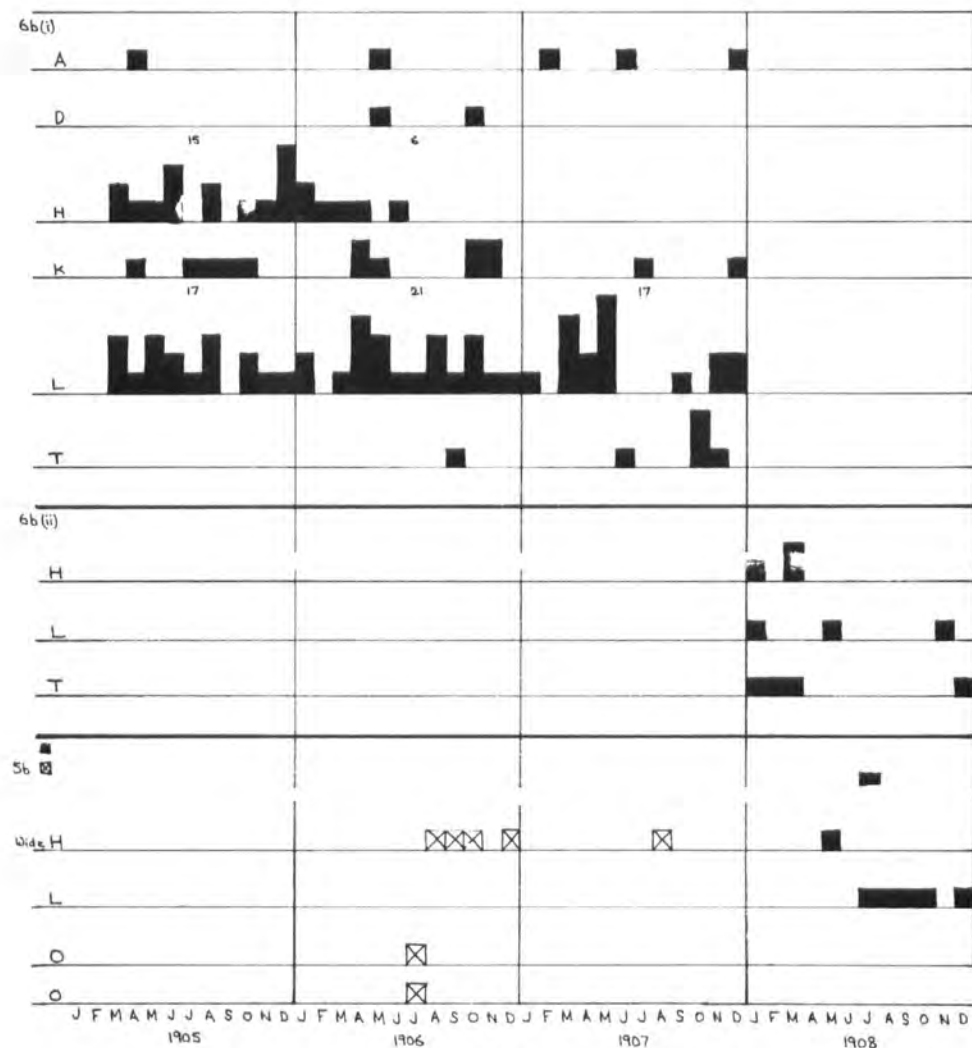
Third Period

Chart 3 shows the last major use of the letter codes starting in early 1905 with type 6bi. No small 6bi Code L were found, but there are numerous examples of strikes where the top of the L was faint or missing which gives the appearance of a small Code L. Similarly I have Code T's where the top is *very* weak leading one to think some Code I's seen may be Code T, Code D or Code K with parts missing. Likewise Code V's inverted A's with bar missing. In MY 1907 the Code L position with respect to "C" of "LAUNCESTON" changed slightly from left center to completely left of center. However, since the c.d.s. is worn it is probably just a reposition of the code plug. The last 6bi Code H is dated JE 1 1906 and the impression is still distinct indicating very little wear. Since after this date I find type 5b Code H I am led to the conclusion that an old 5b first used in 1888 was used as a replacement until type 6bii Code H was introduced in early 1908. Type 8b, plain time, used since 1903 was found through 1907 and wear was not very noticeable in 1907 which indicates its purpose was different than the workhorse type 8a.

Fourth Period

Type 6bii was introduced after wear occurred on the type 6bi's. Since in my collection impressions of 6bii's appear smeared or hastily stamped, I found besides the shape of "S" of "LAUNCESTON" that also the space measured at the bar of "A" between the "IA" of "TASMANIA" of 1 1/4 mm of 6bii versus 1mm of 6bi to be useful in difficult

CHART 3



cases. It appears that old type 7 codes A, H & L were used simultaneously with types 6bii after April, 1908. In addition, type 8c plain time was introduced in 1908 followed by 8d, 9a and 9b. What appears to have happened is that perhaps by mid-1908 knowing that machine cancellations were coming a temporary system was developed using mostly plain time c.d.s.'s until machines could handle the bulk of the duties.

Purpose of the Code Letters

The basic set of code letters—A,D,H,K,L,O,S,T—was originated with the c.d.s. set of 1875. These code letters with the exception of Code S were used until 1907 when plain time took over. In my specialized collection I have 6bi codes O and T not listed

by Edwards which extends his list. It appears the workhorse c.d.s.'s utilized the basic set whereas other c.d.s.'s utilized a short set up to H, K or L. The last Code, S, was the pillar receiver c.d.s. first used as a duplex in 1890 and the left half was in use from 1899 to 1913. Code S has not been found in new issue c.d.s.'s starting with 6ai in 1899. Thus, it is possible in its original purpose become obsolete and that habit maintained its use for the old pillar receiver CDS.

Logically if the code letters were designations of time periods at work stations, then the statistics of the transition from codes to plain time and back to codes 1903 to 1905 should reveal the match! It was with some excitement that I set down the data as shown in chart 6 without knowing the outcome. The simple result is that Code L was highest and Code H had the second highest usage before and after the plain time. Results for Codes A,D,K,O and T are inconclusive. Therefore, the best match is Code L to late time, 7P-8P and Code H corresponding to mid afternoon time, 2:15P to 2:30P. What follows now is speculation.

CHART 6. Transition from code to plain time and back to codes.

JAN. 1903 to DEC. 1903

Codes	6ai	6aii	Other*	Total	% Total
A	2	1	1	4	6.0
D	1			1	1.5
H	8	7	7	22	32.8
K		1		1	1.5
L	30	6	2	38	56.7
O		1		1	1.5
Total	41	16	10	67	100.0

DEC. 1903 to JAN. 1905

Time	8a	Other**	Total	% Total
7-18 ¹⁵ A	7	3	10	11.9
1-1 ³⁰ P	5	4	9	10.7
2 ¹⁵ -2 ³⁰ P	15	5	20	23.8
4-4 ³⁰ P	6	4	10	11.9
7-8P	23	12	35	41.7
Total	56	28	84	100.0

JAN. 1905-DEC. 1905

Code	6bi	Other ***	Total	% Total
A	1		1	2.5
D			0	0
H	15		15	38.5
K	5		5	12.5
L	17	1	18	46.2
O			0	0
Total	38		39	100.0

* could not distinguish whether 6ai or 6aii.

** year not clear. Times 7P and 1³⁰P not in data base.

*** month not clear.

I started with the premise that codes A,D,H,K,L are based on time and the others — O,S,T— are perhaps special stations or special times out of the mainstream of the postal organization—I do not possess enough covers to even speculate what stations. However, I have quite a quantity of registered covers, pieces, and stamps with associated registered marks all with type 7 Code A, H or no code in years 1901 to 1908. Knowing that the registered letter office window was open only during normal public hours, one could speculate that A,D,H and perhaps K were normal hours and that code letter L was later, perhaps even a second shift after 6P for example.

I have tried various fits of the alphabet sequence to a clock number sequence. The best fit is as follows:

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T
7A 8A 9A 10A 11A 12A 1P 2P 3P 4P 5P 6P

Could the adjacent K to L have designated the transition from day to night shift? Now, we know by official records¹ that letter carriers returning from pillar receivers on their third round would be back to the post office late, around 5P, probably too late for mail to be sorted by clerks working normal hours to be ready for the first morning round delivery. Thus, Code letter S on PR c.d.s. could have been out of sequence sort (special) either before or after normal hours.

Since approximately 25% of cancels found during early 1900's were PR's this would indicate 75% would have been brought to the post office deposit boxes by other than letter carriers. Much of this mail must have been bulk business type. Heavy wear found on certain relatively scarce letter codes like 6ai and 6aii D and K for example could be an indication they were used primarily as back stamps for mail from ships or coach mail from Hobart and other Tasmanian population centers. The question remains whether the back stamps station and the GPO deposit mail station were separate or combined.

Conclusion

What I have written is of course not a proof. Perhaps the true purpose of the Tasmania code letters will only be revealed if official records are ever found. We do know that in England during 1895 when code letters were introduced to designate time that the post office management kept the purpose of the codes secret from the public. This quirk of secretiveness could explain why surprisingly so little is really known in Tasmania. I do believe that post office management would be more interested in keeping track of time to expedite mail rather than which clerk stamped the letter. This is borne out by all the special cancellers denoting time, for example "too late", "Posted out of Course" and expediting schedules of coaches for mail to Hobart. This doesn't mean that a clerk's own working style perhaps for years at the same basic station wouldn't influence the appearance of the resulting station output. To make further progress in this field it would be interesting to make a similar study of the period just before the pictorials using the common side face issues if bulk materials are available.

References

- ¹ *Tasmania: The Postal History and Postal Markings*, by Purves *et al.* Hawthorn Press, Part I 1962, Part II, 1975.
- ² *Tasmania: The Cancellations of Launceston*, by P.B. Edwards. *Philately from Australia*, Dec. 1985, p. 91.
- ³ *Queensland Cancellation Codes*, by H.M. Campbell. *Philately from Australia*, Sept. 1985, p. 67.

THE ROBINSON "BEADED OVAL" AND "LAUREATED" ISSUES

1. THE 4D "LAUREATED"

By RUSSELL JONES

(Continued from March 1988, p. 19)

BLOCK "H"

- H1(i) Double strike causing doubling of line under "VI" and blurring of shading above head. Top frame absent except for 10 mm at right. Bottom frame is represented by two dots under S.W. corner square, and then fuses under "P".
- H1(ii) White flaw on lower right corner square. During third setting.
- H2 Bottom frame missing and line under value is thickened below "OU". Double strike causing blurring of second "E" of "PENCE" and thickening of right frame just above S.E. corner square.
- H3 Double strike of "RIA" of "VICTORIA" and of circle below.
- H4 Top frame missing with right frame free-standing at top and thick and tapers gradually to join a thin bottom frame.
- H5 Top frame missing but a double strike involving most of the top tablet causes irregular and variable thickening of the line over "VICTORIA". Irregularity of left frame just below N.W. corner square.
- H6(i) A bead of colour on the inside of the right frame bulges into the top of the S.E. corner square. Small white flaw in right frame 9.5 mm from top.
- H6(ii) 1 mm break in line over "IA" of "VICTORIA", the top frame being absent. The bead of colour now shows more as a thickening of the upper line of the square. Second and third settings.
- H7I Left frame fuses opposite circle. Thin right frame is fused at top and becomes free just below upper leaf ornament; it is absent opposite lower half of S.E. corner square. Bottom frame missing. Slight double strike of "IA" of "VICTORIA". Moved soon after June 1864 to become F3II and later 42 in second and third settings.
- H7II Difficult stamp. Very thin right frame. Thickening of "FO" of "FOUR" and of line below "O", probably a double strike. Left frame at top is thin and bends in.
- H8(i) Top frame missing and top line of tablet is thick and touches the tops of "CTOR" of "VICTORIA", these letters are thickened and irregular probably due to double striking. Bottom frame missing.
- H8(ii) Line under value is broken between "F" and "O". Third setting.
- H9(i) Very deformed "IA" of "VICTORIA", due to double striking. Bottom frame fuses from "PE" to S.E. corner.
- H9(ii) Progressive white flaw involving "PE" of "PENCE" and adjacent line. Appears late 1863, and caused substitution at end of first setting.
- H10 Difficult. Minor doubling of "TOR" of "VICTORIA" and very faintly involves circle at 1 o'clock. Minute nick in left frame 8 mm from top.
- H11(i) Left frame fused above a small white break 5.5 mm from top. Colour between right frame and stamp opposite upper leaf.
- H11(ii) Slight upward bend of bottom frame under "PEN" of "PENCE". Part of damage to H14(ii) below. Early 1865.

BLOCK "H"



H1



H2



H3



H4



H5



H6(i)



H6(ii)



H7I



H8(i)



H7(II)



H8(ii)



H10



H11



H12



H14I(ii)



H13



H14I(i)



H15



H14II(i)

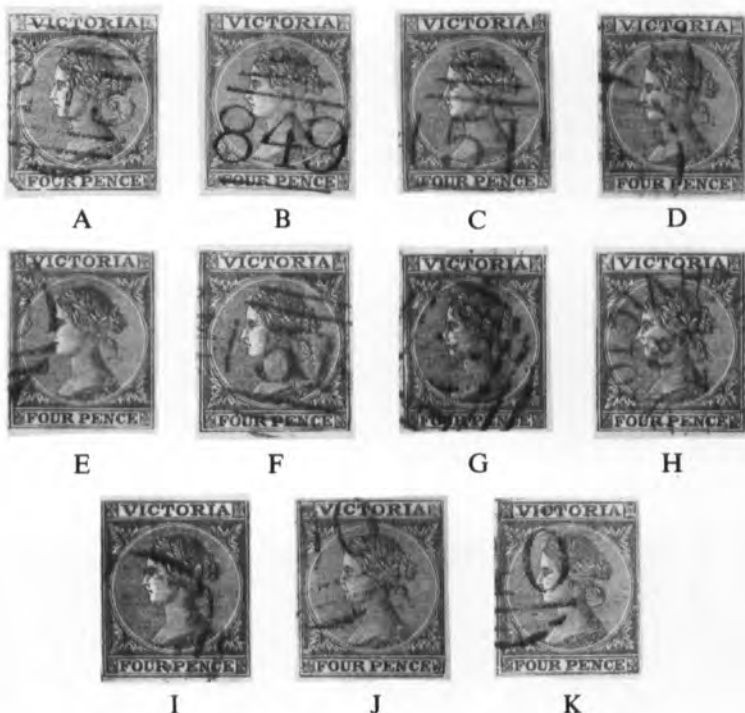


H14II(ii)

- H12 Bottom frame fuses under "P" of "PENCE". A double strike causes thickening of line over "R PEN" of "FOUR PENCE" and deformity or doubling of "R PENC". Appearance varies with printing and is particularly clear on surfaced paper prints.
- H13 Right frame thin and variably fused or missing. Left frame thickens 5 mm from top. Top frame missing and variation in thickness of line over "VICTORIA" is not often as obvious as in photograph.
- H14I(i) Right frame almost 1 mm thick with a white flaw just below the circle. White dot in shading touching curve of neck. A white flaw between right frame and lower leaf is present from beginning and becomes very large.
- H14I(ii) Extensive damage to top frame (see H11).
- H14II(i) Difficult. Missing top frame with thickening of top line of N.E. corner square.
- H14II(ii) Dent in left frame 3 mm from top. Third setting.
- H15 Flaw in left frame opposite upper leaf. Thickening of line under "VICTO". First setting copies show a "tail" at S.E. corner.

THE SECOND AND THIRD SETTING SUBSTITUTIONS

Mr Purves identified these substitutions by letters because they could not be associated with a particular subject of the first setting. Numbers in brackets represent positions in second and third settings.



- A(i)
(109) The S.W. corner is truncated.
- (ii) Two parallel scratches cutting the bottom frame under "O" of "FOUR", breaking "U" and continuing obliquely up to end at the back of the neck.
- B (45) Right edge shows three vertical white flaws; right frame is absent.

- C (14) 1 mm break in top frame to right of "A"; white dot above last "E" of "PENCE".
- D (33) Left and top frames fused. Right frame free-standing and thick at top and gradually tapers to normal thickness at bottom.
- E (107) Left and top frames fused, right is evenly thickened, thin wavy bottom frame.
- F (119) Top frame thin but free from an irregular upper tablet line. Double strike of lower line of top tablet from left to "O". Right frame is thin down to circle and then finely double for 4 mm.
- G (28) Left frame split opposite circle. Top frame missing. Bottom frame free for about 3 mm at left.
- H (118) Right frame thick but shows a sudden narrowing 13 mm from top; and is double for 0.5 mm at top.
- I (2) Right frame thicker at top, frame and adjacent stamp are blurred.
- J (117) "VIC" thick without top right serif to "I". Extra colour about "A". Thin right frame fuses about 7 mm from top. Top frame absent.
- K (115) Top frame very thin and present only from N.W. corner to "T" leaving a thick upper tablet line. Right frame fuses at bottom and has two short breaks above and below circle.

A NEW ITEM OF QUEENSLAND POSTAL STATIONERY

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

It was and still is to some extent, the usual custom for business firms when their representatives were about to call on clients to send advice informing them of the date when the call would be made. The most common form of advice was by means of a postcard.

An unusual item of "stamped to private order" Postal Stationery of Queensland came into the writer's possession some years ago. It bears an impressed one penny vermilion stamp of the 1896 design with the figure of value in the bottom corners (S.G. 229). For posting it folds into three sections—the middle section becoming the face of the postal article bearing the impressed postage stamp, the addressee, and also an imprint in the top left hand corner, *ADVICE CIRCULAR ONLY* in upper case lettering and is underlined. It then measures 120x75 mm.

Opened out it has the appearance of a wrapper with the top section as a flap similar to an envelope cut to a rounded point. The bottom section has a horizontal slit into which the pointed flap of the top portion is tucked to enclose the printed message on the inside. Before folding it measures 220x120 mm. The stock used for its manufacture is a thin light cream card.

The inside is printed with particulars of Robert Harper & Co., a firm of Importers and Blenders of Tea, Millers, Manufacturers and Packers of various commodities for the grocery trade. It also advises the date when their representative will call on the addressee. An imprint at the foot of the printed message reveals it was produced by Pole Outridge Litho.

This particular advice received a circular date stamp of Brisbane dated 27 Nov 97 and is addressed to Gympie where it received an arrival backstamp of the following day.

VICTORIA: THE TASMANIAN DOUBLE-LINED NUMERAL WATERMARKED PAPER, 1863-1868

By G.N. KELLOW

Previous articles in this series have dealt with the Saunders words of value watermarked paper (*Philately from Australia*, September and December 1983) and the De La Rue and Saunders single-lined numeral watermarked paper (*Philately from Australia*, September and December 1985, June, September and December 1986, March and June 1987). The story is continued here with the use of the borrowed Tasmanian paper with double-lined numeral watermarks "1" and "4". Articles by David Hill and W.R. Rundell on this subject have appeared in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* and the *Australian Stamp Journal* respectively, but the complete correspondence is presented here for the first time.

The correspondence relating to the borrowing of this Tasmanian paper by the Victorian P.O. begins with a memorandum from F.W. Robinson, the Stamp Printer, to William Turner, Secretary of the P.O., sent on 7 October 1863. This related to the rapidly depleting supplies of 1d and 4d paper (single-line numeral watermarks) due to the delay in sending an order for a fresh supply to London, as described in a previous article (*Philately from Australia*, December 1985):

The unaccountable delay in the arrival of the watermarked paper ordered from home will probably be the cause of some inconvenience. We have at the present time only about 1500 sheets of penny paper and 7000 sheets of four penny paper and the latter kind are at present in hand. The utmost that these two kinds will hold out will be three months. and yet it is twelve months since a supply of both kinds was ordered.

The order for the 8d, 1/- and 2/-paper was sent I believe in June 1862 and so far as I know nothing has yet been heard of it.

Mr Jackson. When was this paper ordered? If through the Treasurer make enquiries about it. WT 7/10/63

There is no communication to the Treasury on the subject of the order referred to. TWJ 9/10/63

Robinson wrote again on 9 October suggesting a solution to the shortage:

If by any chance we should be compelled to resort to the use of plain paper for printing stamps I would suggest the advisability of printing upon the reverse side of such paper some elaborate design, produced in the same way as the dies, which would I apprehend afford sufficient protection from imitation out of doors.

There would of course be some additional labor but the difference in the price of watermarked paper as compared with the local plain paper would pay all the expense named.

There are no comments attached to this proposal but clearly it was not seriously considered.

On 19 October Mr Weymouth, the P.O. Accountant, reported that the 4d and 6d paper ordered on 3 September 1862 through the Government Storekeeper had not been attended to, and on 24 October William Turner sent the following memorandum to Robinson:

Mr Robinson. For statement showing what quantity of postage stamp paper of different denominations will be required during the next 6 months in addition to that already in stock. Application will be made for a loan to neighbouring Colonies.

The Stamp Printer replied two days later:

I believe that it will be found that New South Wales is the only Australian Colony besides Victoria which manufactures its own stamps, and it is pretty certain that that other Colony has but one kind of watermarked paper for all kinds of stamps. If you could obtain 20,000 sheets for penny and 20,000 sheets for four penny I think we could hold out for six months.

This quantity will be large in the estimation of New South Wales as they do not use half the quantity we do.

Robinson's lack of knowledge of stamp production in the other Australian Colonies was profound! Turner appraised the Postmaster-General of the situation on 27 October, and the wheels were set in motion:

In consequence of the necessary supply of postage stamp paper not having been received from England it will shortly be necessary to print on plain paper unless some watermarked can be borrowed from the neighbouring Colonies.

I beg to suggest that the Hon. the Chief Secretary be requested to apply to the Govts of N.S.W. and Tasmania for the supply mentioned herein by Mr Robinson the Printer of Postage Stamps.

Forward to Chief Secretary. THF(ellows) 27/10/63

Letter to Chief Secretary. WT 27/10/63

Done. TWJ

On 13 November 1863 Robinson advised William Turner of the rapidly approaching crisis:

The last of the penny paper has been printed and the penny stamps on hand will not last longer than from two to three weeks. In order to be prepared for the printing of four penny stamps, which will be the next kind wanted, it will be necessary to print again about the middle of next week. I shall therefore be glad if I am instructed what is to be done in the emergency. We have still 4000 sheets of four penny paper, which with the stamps in stock will last probably two months and there remains also 8000 sheets of six penny paper from which latter one half could be taken for penny stamps, leaving a six month supply for six penny. Should this arrangement meet your approbation we could hold out a few weeks longer.

Mr Jackson. Telegraph to the neighbouring Colonies where watermarked paper is used and inquire whether there is any probability of our receiving a loan of penny paper or of any other kind. WT 13/11/63

Teld. to Sydney. TWJ

Sydney replied on 21 November:

There is no probability. The Inspector of Stamps here reports that he is also in want of watermarked paper. PMG

Things were getting more desperate, and on 23 November Turner's clerk suggested trying South Australia:

We have received no reply at all (to our letter) from Adelaide. May we not telegraph an enquiry there? TWJ 23/11/63

Yes.

26/11/63. Telegram from PMG Adelaide. Our paper in (sic) star marked with the word "Postage" round the border. In other respects similar to that used in England. We have a case of twenty reams which we can lend you until it can be replaced from home, say for twelve months.

Accept this with thanks. Telegraph and ask if they will ship it by first steamer. WT

Answered 26/11/63

There is no mention of the reply from Tasmania in the available archives, but they clearly also replied in the affirmative, as the reply to the following memorandum from Robinson of 17 November 1863 shows:

It is essential that we should again print penny stamps not later than Thursday next, otherwise there will be danger as to the four penny ones. Your decision as to the paper should be arrived at as soon as possible.

A supply of paper will be received on loan from South Australia and also from Tasmania, the latter may be expected by the next trip of the Tasmania steamer. WT 28/11/63

Noted. BW 1/12/63

The paper arrived from Hobart per the Tasmania on 1 December. The contents were given by B. Waymouth (Accountant) as:

4 Cases postage stamp paper ex "Tasmania" received 1st December 1863.
 2 Cases 48 Books each—96 Books of 250 leaves each 1d Watermarked.
 2 Cases 48 Books each—96 Books 250 leaves each 4d Watermark.
 Each leaf is equal to 2 sheets paper usually in use making a total equal to
 48,000@1d
 48,000@4d
 Storekeeper informed 8/12/63.

The South Australian paper arrived in Melbourne on the *Aldinga* on 9 December. It consisted of 20 reams of Star watermarked paper. On 19 January 1864 Robinson reported on this paper as follows:

The value of the paper recd. from Adelaide less charges etc. may be said to be £38 but as its size and inferior quality render it an undesirable article to bring into use, could not a return be made of the actual paper received? The large quantity received from Tasmania will place us beyond the reach of want for a long time to come.

Adelaide so advised. TWJ 28/4/64

The paper was returned to Adelaide on board the *Coorong* on 13 April 1864.

This finishes the archival correspondence relative to this episode. The Tasmanian double-lined 1 and 4 paper has always been referred to as the "borrowed" paper, and is so described in the correspondence, but there is no evidence that it was ever replaced by a similar quantity of Victorian paper. It was presumably paid for, but no trace can be found of the account.

This paper was supplied to Tasmania by Messrs Perkins, Bacon & Co. for use with their Chalon head intaglio plates. Paper watermarked "1", "2", "4", "6" and "12" was produced for 1d, 2d, 4d, 6d and 1/-denominations respectively. The plates being 240-on (20 rows of 12), the sheets of paper consisted of 240 evenly spaced double-lined numerals. The paper was supplied bound in books of 250 sheets each. On the binding margin of each sheet was printed a floral pattern in the colour of the stamp for which the paper was intended—1d carmine, 2d green, 4d blue, 6d purple, and 1/-vermilion.

One sheet of Tasmanian paper was thus the equivalent of two sheets of the usual Victorian paper. The Victorian stamps for which it was used were a different size to the Tasmanian Chalon heads, so the watermark is rarely centred, and occasionally no watermark varieties are found.

Paper Stores Ledgers

Previous articles in this series have reproduced the figures from the paper ledgers relative to the quantities taken into stock and issued for use to the Stamp Printer. However, there are no ledgers for the period January 1864 to December 1871, and in consequence there are practically no such figures for the Tasmanian paper.

The stock ledger records the receipt of 96 books each of 1d and 4d paper on 1 December 1863, with a note that 96 books was equivalent to 48,000 sheets of the usual (single-lined numeral) paper. On 1 December 1863 the balance on hand is given as 1d 89 books, and 4d 93 books. This first issue of paper is detailed in the ledger as follows:

	<i>1d books</i>	<i>4d books</i>
December 1	1	
1	3	
4	4	
11	3	
29		3

(Note: 1 book = 500 sheets single-line numeral equivalent).

Only three other figures are available, stock statements on the following dates:

9.9.1864	1d 77 books	4d 78 books
20.2.1865	77 books	78 books
15.3.1866	72 books	51½ books

These sparse figures do not seem very promising, but are nevertheless of great significance when we come to consider the usage of this paper.

Usage

The analysis of the usage of the Tasmanian double-lined numeral watermarked paper, without the assistance of the paper ledgers, is a complex and daunting task. As in the previous articles, a proper analysis will not be given here, but a summary, based largely on the late J.R.W. Purves' researches, should prove of interest to many readers. The figures given here can be considered to supersede those previously published by W.R. Rundell, J.R.W. Purves, and in the *Robson Lowe Encyclopaedia*, Volume IV.

WATERMARK DOUBLE-LINED 1

Total quantity received 96 books (= 48,000 sheets of 120 watermarks equivalent).
Sufficient to print 5,760,000 stamps.

This paper was used as follows:

1d Netted Corners (December 1863 – March 1864)	1,140,000
1d Laureate (September 1867 – September 1868)	3,563,880
3d Laureate (June 1868)	21,120
2d Laureate (June-August 1868)	430,000
6d Laureate (July-August 1868)	321,000
Destroyed as unsuitable	300,000
Total	5,760,000

Note that the total printing of the 1d Netted Corners used up 19 books, leaving 77 books in stock, the stock figure given for 9 September 1864 and 20 February 1865. By 15 March 1866, however, the stock had been reduced by a further five books (= 2,500 sheets). Since it is quite certain that no stamps were printed on this paper during this period (and indeed not until September 1867), it would appear that the stock was examined and five books deemed unsuitable for printing were removed and destroyed.

WATERMARK DOUBLE-LINED 4

Total quantity received 96 books (= 48,000 sheets of 120 watermarks equivalent).
Sufficient to print 5,760,000 stamps.

This paper was used as follows:

4d Laureate First Period (January-April 1864)	1,080,000
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4d Laureate Second Period (July-November 1864)	1,320,000
2d Laureate (February-July 1868)	2,370,000
1d Laureate (February 1868)	60,000
4d Laureate Third Period (April 1868)	138,000
6d Laureate (May-June 1868)	102,000
Destroyed as unsuitable	270,000
Total	5,760,000

Note that the total of the 4d Laureate printed between January and April 1864 used up 18 books, leaving 78 books in stock, the stock figure as given on 9 September 1864 and 20 February 1865. The second period of 4d Laureate printings used up a further 22 books, so the stock figure at the finish of those printings should have been 56 books. On 15 March 1866, however, there were only 51½ books in stock. So in this period it is assumed that 4½ books (= 2,250 sheets) were deemed unsuitable for printing and destroyed.

The inclusion of the printed design in the binding margin of the Tasmanian paper has been mentioned. This was designed to match the colour of the corresponding Tasmanian stamp, but the Victorian stamps printed on these papers more often than not were of a contrasting colour. This produced some attractive and spectacular combinations, but such marginal pieces are of extreme rarity. Readers will also be aware of the 6d Laureate watermarked double-lined 2—an extremely rare error of watermark. It is apparent from the correspondence that no “2” paper was ever sent to Victoria. The explanation must be that a sheet watermarked “2” was included by error during manufacture in one of the 1d or 4d books. The intriguing question is what was the colour of the printed margin on this sheet?

ST. VINCENT: THE LOCAL SURCHARGES OF 1890 AND 1892

In the article of this title in our last issue, the diagram of the setting of the 1892 “5 PENCE” on 4d provisional was inadvertently omitted. On page 14, following the second paragraph, the following diagram should have appeared:

M	M	M	M	M	C	C	C	C	U
M	M	M	M	M	C	C	C	C	U
C	C	C	C	U	U	U	U	U	L

EDITORIAL NOTES

Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart.

The Royal Philatelic Society, London, has a beautiful bust of Sir Daniel Cooper, Bart., G.C.M.G., its first President, and the January-February *London Philatelist* has a worthy biography of him by a later President, Mr A. Ronald Butler, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L.

His distinguished Australian years are recorded in some detail and it notes that in his pre-philatelic days, he was a member of the Select Committee which decided New South Wales should have stamps and that he was directly concerned with the introduction of the Sydney Views.

He began collecting stamps in 1862 and met other famous philatelists such as Dr Charles Viner and the future Judge Philbrick on Saturday afternoons at the home of the Rev. Francis John Stainforth, perpetual Curate of All Hollows, Staining, in Mark Lane, London.

All became foundation members of The London Philatelic Society in 1869, and Sir Daniel remained President until 1878. He gave the first paper delivered to the Society on 29 May 1869, "Earliest Sydney Stamps and Proofs of the Sydney Views."

The "Earliest Sydney Stamps" were the 1838 embossed letter sheets.

R.P.S.V. Publications Have Evoked Thoughts

Two items associated with books published by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria appear in the January-February issue of *The London Philatelist*.

Mr Don Davies, F.R.P.S.L., after examining Mr J.R.W. Purves' collection, announces his discovery of a second setting of the marginal inscription on the 1d "Emblems", an advance on Mr Purves' book, *The Emblems of Victoria, 1857-1863*.

The inscription is "One Hundred and Twenty Stamps in each sheet. Value Ten Shillings." and two second settings are disclosed by their position in relation to the stamps. Mr Davies shows this by diagrams and examples. He now wants to establish when the setting change took place.

The second item is a letter by Mr B. Pope, of Perth, replying to comment by Mr P.C. Pearson on the colour names he adopted in his book *Western Australia: The 4d Lithograph, 1854-1864*.

London-Windsor 1911 Air Mail Pilots

What experience did the pilots of the 1911 Coronation Airmail have? The question has never been raised in philatelic literature, and it is astonishing to delve into aviation literature and find that none of the four had qualified a year before and E.F. Driver, the South African, had his Royal Aero Club's Aviator's Certificate only six weeks.

The certificates of the time were not dated the day the tests were passed, but bore the date of the meeting at which they were granted, 7 to 14 days later, according to R. Dallas Brett, *The History of British Aviation, 1908-1914*.

Details are:

26 G.H. Grewell, 15 November 1910

57 C.L.A. Hubert, 14 February 1911

64 G.W. Hamel, 14 February 1911

110 E.F. Driver, 1 August 1911

The Graham White Aviation Co. had the responsibility of choosing the pilots and they selected staff members of its flying school and the Bleriot flying school. Grewell was chief instructor of the Graham White school and chief pilot of the airmail.

Hamel also had certificate 358 of L'Aero Club de France, dated 11 days earlier than his British certificate. He was to die flying over the English Channel, from France, on 23 May 1914.

Grewell, who was to have taken the first London-Windsor mail judged conditions too bad. The intrepid Hamel said he would go, and Grewell gave permission. He landed at Windsor 15 minutes later. Grewell took the first Windsor-London mail, his time being 20 minutes. Both used the same machine, a Bleriot No. 1.

Queen Mary's Gifts to King George V

The display from the Royal Collection which opens The Royal Philatelic Society, London's year in September was "Great Britain, 189 Treasury Essays, and 1840 Essays, Proofs and Issued Stamps." Mr J.B. Marriott, L.V.O., R.D.P., Curator of the Royal Collection, provided the commentary.

The display included two gifts by Queen Mary to King George V. Both were plate number blocks of the Penny Black. The first was a lower left block of six with plate number 2, and the other a top left block of four showing plate number 7.

Aeropex '88

The first national exhibition on a special theme held in this country under F.I.P. rules was Aeropex '88, in Adelaide from 8 to 10 April 1988. It was a great success, both from the point of view of competitive support and public interest.

The two major awards went to "Stamptom" for Australian Pioneer Airmails 1914-40, and R.K. Malott for Canadian Pioneer Airmails.

The results for members of this Society were:

Vermeil plus special prize—R. Todd.

Vermeil—H.L. Chisholm.

Large Silver plus special prize—R. Breckon, J.J.R. Lucaci, B.I. Van Tenac.

Large Silver—R. Todd.

Silver—P. Collas, B.J. Farmer, D. Pocock.

Silver-bronze—E.C. Druce, R. Duberal.

Western Samoa Frank

An Editorial Note in *P. from A.*, March 1985, p.3, dealt with Western Samoa franks. Another type may now be added. It is a single-lined circle 35mm in diameter, enclosing "OFFICIAL PAID" at the top, "CPO" in the centre, and "PHILATELIC BUREAU" at the bottom. It is struck in black.

Unrecorded Ocean Penny Postage Envelope

An unrecorded type of the Ocean Penny Postage envelope is pictured in the *Philatelist/P.J.G.B.* for March-April.

The two unique features are—there is no "The" on the upper sail of the ship, and the publisher's imprint "Pubd by Bradshaw and Blacklock—Manchester & London" is in a curved line below the sea.

The envelope, one of the larger size, pale blue on grey wove, was posted from London to Patricroft (Manchester) on 8 September 1850. This is an early date and Mr D.P. Turner suggests this is the original form of the envelope.

BOOK REVIEWS

Christie's-Robson Lowe Review, 1987. 24pp. 17 x 24.5cm. Published by Christie's-Robson Lowe, 47 Duke St., St. James's, London, SW1Y 6QX.

This year's *Review* says the year has been the firm's "most successful ever." Auction turnover was £11,208,095 and Private Treaty sales, £7,379,110, a total of £18,587,205.

The *Review* says classic stamps on cover lead the market.

The most outstanding property offered was the Isleham collection. Mr Isleham had tried to make a complete collection of all the stamps of the world issued between 1840 and 1900, and finished less than 50 stamps short of his magnificent goal. The British Empire sale held in New York, realised £1,600,312 (\$US2,439,138).

A G.B. 1d red plate 77 on piece brought v151,530 (\$82,500). So did an unused 1893 Niger Coast 20/- on 1/-. These prices exceeded a Western Australia 4d inverted frame (Williams, copy 10)

at £30,918 (\$49,500) and an India 4 annas inverted centre on piece (not listed by Williams) at £21,986 (\$35,200).

In other New York sales, a letter from England, carried on the Cunarder *Europa*, with a pair of U.S. 5c added and cancelled at St. Joseph, Mo., before it was borne by Pony Express to San Francisco, was bought at \$US165,000 (£102,680). It had a beautiful strike of the Central Overland California and Pikes Peak Express Company Pony Express cachet. ¾

Covers with some historical interest included a Newfoundland "Hawker" on cover addressed to his navigator, Capt. K. Mackenzie Grieve, which fetched £11,000, and a cover from Scott's winter quarters, 1904, addressed to Sir Joseph Ward, New Zealand Postmaster-General and later Prime minister, with the *Discovery* label, £2,640.

William Humphrys' original die of the Chalon portrait went up to £2,970.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA

Transatlantic Mails

The display at the meeting on 18 February 1988 was Transatlantic Mails by Mr John Trowbridge.

Amongst the earliest entires shown was one of 1766 from Charleston, South Carolina to Scotland, and another of the same year from Rhode Island to London. A 1767 entire travelling in the opposite direction, from London to Rhode Island, bore manuscript American rate markings.

An 1811 entire from New Jersey bore the "AMERICA/F" in green applied at Falmouth. Two 1815 entires showed the "POST PAID WITHDRAWN SHIP LETTER" markings for London and Liverpool respectively. An 1840 entire from New Orleans to London had the two-line "Crown/EXEMPT SHIP LRE".

Canadian mail included an 1814 entire from Montreal to London with the "Ship Lre/Crown/QUEBEC" double oval, and an 1847 entire with the Quebec Crowned Circle.

Other sections of the display dealt with forwarding agents markings, and postal rates, with emphasis on the high U.S. retaliatory rates.

An 1867 cover from Liverpool to Maine bore "HELD FOR/POSTAGE" in oval, and a 2c "Black Jack" was added.

Turks Islands and Virgin Islands

The display at the meeting of 16 March 1988 was provided by Mr Peter Jaffe, who showed Turks Islands and Virgin Islands.

The Turks Islands opened with an 1856 pre-stamp entire showing the Turks Is. double-arc c.d.s. The rare 1873-79 1/-lilac was shown mint and used.

The highlight from this country was the display of 1881 provisionals. The ½ on 1d setting 10 was in a mint sheet of 30. Of the 2½ on 6d, there was a mint copy of setting 1, and a mint strip of 5 and a pair imperforate between of setting 2. Examples of the 2½ on 1/-from settings 3, 5, 8 and 9 were shown, and there were two mint copies of the 4 on 1/- lilac.

The later issues included the 1893 5d bisected on piece, and the 1919 Turks & Caicos 2/-on greenish white in a mint block of 12.

The display of Virgin Islands opened with 1807 and 1825 entires with the straight-line "TORTOLA" marking.

From the first issue of 1866 was a 6d proof in rose from a rejected stone, and a 6d die proof in green.

The various printings of the 1/-were shown in detail, and there was a page of the 4d on 1/- surcharge which included used pairs. The 1867 4d

was present in a used block of 12.

Fiji

Mr Geoffrey Weekes displayed Fiji at the meeting of 31 March 1988.

The Fiji Times Express issue was represented by sheets of the first and second imitations.

The local "V.R." overprints of 1874-5 included used copies of the 2d in red on 6c on 3d with the inverted "A" and dropped "V" varieties. Amongst the 1877 "VR" lithographed overprints were examples of the 1d void corner variety on wove and laid papers. The various printings of the 1878-1900 surface-printed issues were shown in detail, and included proofs, and the 5/-used on an 1896 cover.

Twentieth century issues included the ½d and 1d War Tax with inverted overprints, and the "Ceylon blue" shade of the 1935 3d Silver Jubilee.

Other areas covered by the display were the frank stamps, fiscals, postage dues, and unusual items were proofs of 1930 meter stamps. The 6d Cake Fair "stamp" was shown in red on orange, and in blue impressed on an envelope.

Seychelles

The display of Seychelles at the meeting of 21 April 1988 was given by Mr Ron Winchester.

The display began with a comprehensive selection of Mauritius stamps used in Seychelles (cancelled B64 obliterator), which included many covers.

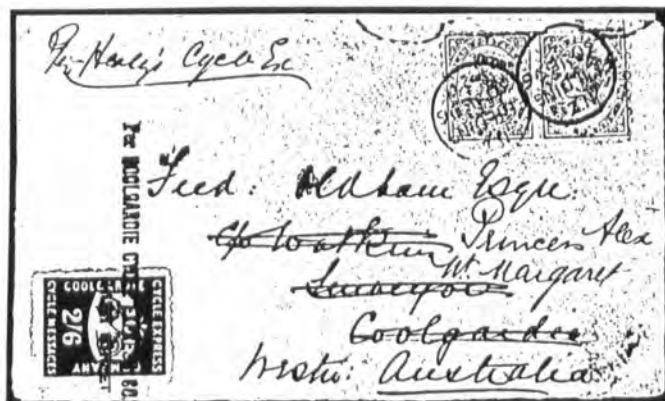
A stampless cover of 1869 from Mayotte to France sent via Seychelles bore the only recorded example of the "GB/40c" accountancy mark.

The Queen Victoria keyplate issues were represented by a number of proofs and colour trials. These included die proofs in mauve (2) and green of the Queen's head only, and an unusual 2c Imperium colour trial in green and red thought to date from 1901.

The showing of the various surcharges was exceptional, with practically all the errors represented. From the 1893 issue highlights included eleven copies of the 3c on 4c inverted surcharge used on a front, a mint interpane strip of 4 of the 3c on 4c, one with double surcharge, and a mint block of four of the 12c on 16c Die I with inverted surcharge.

The 1896 18c on 45c and 36c on 45c double surcharges were both present, and of the 1901 surcharges there were examples of the 3c on 16c and 3c on 36c showing surcharge partly omitted, and a reconstructed block of 9 of the 3c on 10c, five with surcharge double.

1896
COOLGARDIE CYCLE
EXPRESS COMPANY



30th June 1896 "Front"
from Fielding, New
Zealand, franked 2d and
addressed to Mr. Oldhams,
c/o Coolgardie, Western
Australia and readdressed
to Princess Alex (mine)
Mt. Margaret per Healy's
Cycle Express, with a 2/6
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- Errors/Major varieties
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- Postal History
- Samoa**
- Essays/Proofs
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