# PHILATELY from AUSTRALIA



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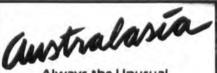
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## PHILATELY from AUSTRALIA

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Vol. XLVII, No. 1

**MARCH 1995** 

### THE AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC ORDER

The Australian Philatelic Federation has inaugurated an award to recognise distinguished service to Australian philately, to be known as the Australian Philatelic Order.

The first recipients have been nominated by the A.P.F. executive and will be presented with their awards at a formal dinner being held in Canberra on 17 March 1995.

There are to be two levels of award - an upper level titled Fellow of the order (FAP) and a lower level titled Member of the Order (MAP). The award will comprise a 51mm gold-finished medal with a design based on the Coat-of-Arms of King William IV as used on the New South Wales 1838 lettersheet. The medal will come with a ribbon - in red, blue and green (the colours of the New South Wales Sydney Views) for Fellows, and in orange, lilac and blue (the colours of the Victorian Half-Lengths) for Members.

The A.P.F. wishes to distance itself from the selection process, and all subsequent awards will be made by an independent Selection Committee, comprising:

- a distinguished Australian philatelist
- a distinguished former member of the A.P.F.
- the President of the A.P.F. (ex-officio)
- a non-voting Secretary, who will be appointed for three years.

Nominations will be called each year in January/February, to be forwarded through the State Philatelic Councils. These are to be in the form of submissions which address the candidate's eligibility under the various selection criteria. No serving member of the A.P.F. executive is eligible for the award, and there will be no posthumous awards.

The A.P.F. has formulated three categories of achievement under which nominees will be assessed. Perhaps unfortunately, it has been decided to award "points" in each of these

categories. Each of these categories carries a maximum of 30 points, and up to a further 10 points can be awarded for distinguished philatelic services not otherwise covered. A minimum of 50 points is required to become a Member, and 75 points for a Fellow. This would presumably lead to considerable arguments over points allocations similar to those that arise in exhibition judging, but presumably the scores will not be released for this reason.

The three criteria are:

- 1. Services to Organised Philately: This has been further divided into service at the following levels, each of which is worth a maximum of 7 points each:
  - clubs affiliated with the A.P.F.
  - State Councils of the A.P.F.
  - the A.P.F. Executive
  - State and National Philatelic Exhibitions
  - F.I.A.P. and F.I.P. bodies, including international exhibitions
  - overseas clubs affiliated with an F.I.P. or F.I.A.P. member where the service is connected with Australian philately.
- 2. Distinguished Philatelic Study and Research: This has been further divided into the following activities, each of which is worth a maximum of 8 points each:
  - the formation of a distinguished philatelic collection
  - the publication of philatelic works
  - the editorship of philatelic journals or specialist catalogues
  - the achievement of philatelic judging skills
  - the design or development of philatelic products
- 3. Promotion of Philately: This has been further divided into the following activities, each of which is worth a maximum of 8 points each:
  - teaching
  - running a junior stamp club
  - editing a popular journal
  - delivering adult appreciation courses
  - radio or newspaper articles

Explanatory notes issued with these criteria have placed considerable emphasis on F.I.P. and philatelic exhibitions generally. Under 1, for example, it is not clear why an Australian collector's involvement in an overseas club must be with one affiliated to the F.I.P. (although almost all presumably are). The criteria for points allocation for the formation of significant collections refers to medal levels gained. Does this mean that a collection never competitively exhibited does not qualify? A.P.F. "careerists" have a distinct advantage over those who choose to continue to work at club level, while achieving any sort of score under "Promotion of Philately" would seem to be difficult. In this regard it is noted that successful nominees are expected to gain points in all categories, and that reasonably high points in each category are mandatory for a Fellow.

The system seems complicated, and designed to exclude all but an upper echelon of the most gifted, industrious and diversified people. A collector who excels for a lifetime in one aspect of the hobby is disadvantaged. The Australian Philatelic Order has clearly been created as a prestigious award, but it must not be made unattainable. Hopefully in operation the awards will be flexible and will not exclude worthy recipients.

## AUSTRALIAN MASTER PLATE PRODUCTION FOR ROTARY RECESS PRINTING

By G.N. KELLOW

The first Australian rotary recess-printed Australian stamps were the three values of the 1934 Victorian Centenary commemorative issue. Alec A Rosenblum in the sixth edition of his Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia asserts that the plates of the Victorian Centenary issue, and those of the two following commemorative issues - the 2d Anzac and the three-value Macarthur set - were rotary plates made of steel. For the next issue, the Silver Jubilee of King George V in 1935, Rosenblum says "Owing to trouble that had been experienced with certain earlier issues printed on the rotary presses . . . it was decided to prepare, from the steel plates, copper electros which could be used as the actual printing media . . .". Although Rosenblum gives no details, a copper electrotype for printing could not be derived directly from a steel plate laid down from a transfer roller, and an intermediate (positive) plate, known as an alto plate, must be involved. All subsequent rotary recess-printed stamps are assumed to have been printed from copper electrotype plates.

As far as the writer is aware, no students have questioned Rosenblum's account of events. The publication by Richard Peck in January 1994 of Australian Stamp Archives Part 3, containing extracts from Note Printing Branch records held at the Reserve Bank of Australia in Sydney gave indications that all was not correct with Rosenblum's scheme, but no-one seems to have raised any questions in print. This writer spent a week in Sydney late in 1994 copying many of these records in connection with the preparation of the George VI section of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, and the opportuinty is now taken to present some of this new data.

Because the writer's interest at the time was in the period from 1937 onwards, full details were not taken of the earlier period, and a full account of the early development of rotary recess-printing must await another time. It is sufficient to state at present that:

- steel rotary plates were used for printing on only one occasion, for the 1936 2d and 3d South Australian Centenary.
- (ii) in general, printing was from copper plates, laid down via a transfer roller derived from the steel die - there was no electrodeposition involved.
- (iii) the first nickel electrotype plates manufactured were for the 2d George VI Die I, in December 1936. The next stamp using electros for printing was the 2d N.S.W. Sesquicentenary.

It is intended in this article to provide details of an interesting and hitherto unsuspected aspect of steel master plate production in the period 1945-1955. This was that for a number of stamps composite steel master plates were provided.

This information is derived from the following sources:

RBA File NP-IS-13. A register of dies and plates running from 1940 to 1961 listing date of reqisition, instrument number, and dates of completion and placing into stock. The instrument no. is the "official plate number" but bears no relationship to "plate numbers" so-called by philatelists. The official number corresponds to the number of the requisition form which had to be signed by the Governor of the Reserve Bank to enable any printing instrument to be

Alia Diata

Flanton

created.

RBA NP-IS-14. A register listing the movements of printing instruments into and out of the strongroom.

RBA File NP-IR series. These are the requisition books. Separate books were kept for dies and steel plates, alto plates, and electrotypes. Some books are missing.

#### COMPOSITE MASTER PLATES

Between 1945 and 1954 composite master plates were prepared for those values for which only limited quantities were required. This system was efficient both in terms of production time and economical use of materials. From the composite master plate a composite alto plate was derived, and in turn composite electrotype plates were manufactured. For printing, of course, the composite electros had to be cut in half. Based on perforating characteristics of the issued sheets, a suggested layout for each master plate is given, but must not be taken as certain, as it is not based on any official information. There is no information available as to which design is on which side (left or right, or upper or lower) of the master plate. It remains to be seen whether any evidence from the printed stamps can decide this; it seems possible, however, that in the act of separating the two halves of the electro and preparing these for printing many clues would be removed.

Cuspented I must

Official Number	Date into Stock	Size	Suggested Layout	Alto Plate Official Number	Electros Prepared
4732 Note: The	e original pla	320-on tes for the	each 160-on, Sheets A over B 5/-, 10/- and £1 Robes were 160-on copper plate ster was introduced in October 1946 to replace the		
£1 copper	plate contin	ued in use	until that stamp was replaced in 1949.		
1945 31/46 4530	12.1.1945	360-on	each 180-on, Sheets A over B over C	4531	five
1946 3½6 4637	l and 5½d Pe 17.1.1946	ace 360-on	each 180-on, Sheets A over B over C (3½d) or A (Left), B (Centre), C (Right) (5½d)	4638	three
1946 31/26 4721	and 1/- Mit 4.9.1946	chell 360-on	each 180-on, Sheets A over B over C	4722	two
1947 31/20 4792	3.7.1947	360-on	each 180-on, Sheets A over B over C (51/2d) or A (Left), B (Centre), C (Right) (31/2d)	4793	three
	1 Bull + 2/- A				
only two post offi	or three were ces ceased fi	was laid do used for th rom 31 Jul	each 240-on, Sheets A (Left), B (Right) own using a 2-on roller for each design. Although the 1/3d Bull. This stamp became obsolete after by 1953. The 2/- became an important air main make it clear, however, that in every case the f	December 1950 and stamp and remain	d distribution to led current until
1949 5/- : 4965	and 10/- Coa 3.2.1949	t-of-Arms 360-on	each 180-on, Sheets A over B over C	4966	two
4969	and £2 Coat- 11.4.1949 is master pla	360-on	each 180-on, Sheets A over B over C down using 2-on rollers for each design.	4970	two
1951 5%6 5219	and 1/6d Fo 27.2.1951	ederation 336-on	each 168-on, Sheets A over B	5220	three

Note: See above re separation of alto plate.

1952 1/01/	d King +	2/6d Aborig	ine		
5463	?	480-on	each 240-on, Sheets A (Left), B (Right)	5464	three
Note: Thre			d up to 1961, which is the limit of the available for the "emergency" printing of the 2/6d.	e records. It is certai	n that one further
1952 4%d	and 6%d	George VI			
5445	?	640-on	each 320-on, Sheets A over B	5446	six
1953 7½d	and 2/- C	oronation			
5875	?	320-on	each 160-on, Sheets A over B	5876	three
Note: Thi	s master p	late was laid	down using 2-on rollers for each design.		
1953 31/d	and 2/- T	asmanian Sc	squicentenary		
5947	?	480-on	31/2d 320-on, Sheets A over B	5948	four
			2/- 160-on, Sheets A over B		
1954.7%d	and 2/- R	oyal Visit			
6047	?	320-on	each 160-on, Sheets A over B	6048	three
1954 2/- 0	lympic P	ublicity and	1955 1/0%d Elizabeth II		
6266 (2/-)	?	400-on	1/01/2d 240-on, Sheets A (Left), B (Right)	6267 (2/-)	three (2/-)
6290 (1/0!				6291 (1/0½d)	four (1/01/2d)
composite each stamp	but the us suggests	e of separate that the com	to represent a change of procedure. The reco official numbers for the alto plates, and the diffe posite alto plate was separated prior to making ller. (Subsequently, a new 480-on master plate	erent number of elect gany electros. The 1	ctros produced for 1/01/2d (but not the
1955 2/- 0	Cobb & Co	o. and 1949	4d Kangaroo Coil		
6342 (2/-)	?	480-on	2/- 160-on, Sheets A over B	6344 (2/-)	two (2/-)
6353 (1/2d)	0		1/2d 320-on, single pane	6354 (½d)	four (½d)

For the electros, a single official number was used for each composite electro, the two halves following separation being identified as "A" and "B". This is not true of three later issues (1953 Coronation, 1953 Tasmanian Sesquicentenary, 1954 Royal Visit) in which the separate halves were given different numbers. For the last two plates, a new procedure was adopted, the two halves of the master plate being given separate numbers.

The question whether the composite nature of the master plates listed above is reflected in changes in master plate layout and markings remains to be studied. Most of the stamps involved have not been the subject of extensive published research. One exception is the 2/6d Aborigine, and one observation here may indicate some inconsistency in the layout of the plates. The perforation pips of the 2/6d Aborigine appear at the centre of the left and right selvedges of both Sheets A and B. When the original Type I pips were changed to Type IV the large central hole was drilled only on the left side of Sheet A, and the right side of Sheet B (*Philately from Australia*, June 1962, pages 34-35). However, the 2/- Aboriginal Art has perforation pips only on the left side of Sheet A and the right side of Sheet B.

No further composite master plates are listed up to 1961, when records currently available end. However, the records after 1952 in NP-IS-13 are not as thorough as the earlier listings. The pairing of the 1/0½d Elizabeth II and 2/- Olympic Publicity, and 2/- Cobb & Co. with the ½d Kangaroo coil suggest an economical use of master plate steel, perhaps during a shortage, rather than a logical pairing of stamps (short-term commemoratives with definitives). In the latter case, it meant the 2/- Cobb master plate was not destroyed until 23.8.1967, whereas normally a master plate was destroyed within two years of an issue being rendered obsolete. It seems likely that the less frequent occurrence of multi-value commemorative sets, and the increasing quantities required of all values made full-size, separate master plates for all denominations practical. Composite master plates were also used for Territories issues but have not been listed here.

## MAIL FROM AUSTRALIAN NAVAL SHIPS IN TOKYO BAY 1945-46

By NEIL M. RUSSELL, F.R.P.S.,L.

The publication by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria early in 1994 of *The Postal History of Australian Forces in Japan and Korea 1945-1957*, the last book from the pen of the late Phil Collas, has caused me to look again at my covers from naval ships present in Tokyo Bay at the time of the Japanese surrender on 2 September 1945 and into early 1946. Some further details and illustrations may be of interest to readers.

Captain H.J. Buchanan, RAN, of HMAS Napier, one of the first ships to arrive and anchor off Yokosuka, led the first British landing forces ashore and formally accepted the surrender of the naval base. The illustration at Fig. 1 is taken from a newspaper cutting.

The Commander-in-Chief of the American Third Fleet, Admiral Chester Nimitz, signalled all allied ships present that mail posted on surrender day could carry an appropriate surrender cachet. This signal received various interpretations with some recipients believing that this implied the use of a datestamp. The message from Commodore J. Collins, quoted by Collas on page 4, is typical of this assumption. Many of the U.S. ships present, including the flagship U.S.S. *Missouri* also produced their own individual datestamps.

The author kindly referred on page 6 to a cover of mine with an Australian stamp and a cachet of HMS *Newfoundland*. The cachet actually cancels the stamp and is illustrated at



Fig. 1. A compliment to Australia was the selection of Captain H.J. Buchanan of HMAS Napier to command the whole of the British landing forces to occupy Japan. He is seen here receiving the keys of Yokosuka Naval Base from a Japanese official as he stepped ashore.

Fig. 2. Reference is made also to similar covers, of which I have two. The first, from HMS *Duke of York*, has a cachet that ties a British 3d adhesive that is also cancelled with "British Fleet Mail 12", located in Sydney at that time. The cover is addressed to New Zealand and illustrated at Fig. 3. The second cover, from HMS *King George V*, is unfranked and addressed to Sydney. There is an undated "Passed Free" machine cancellation known to have been used at Sydney - see Fig. 4.

On pages 4 and 5 the author refers to an almost square mark found on the reverse of a very few covers from HMAS *Shropshire* which are usually not very clear. My own example is typical - see Fig. 5, and is struck in a fugitive ink which probably contributed to the poor impression.



Fig. 2. Tokyo Bay cover with Australian 3d stamp cancelled by the HMS Newfoundland cachet.



Fig. 3. Cover from HMS Duke of York addressed to New Zealand, and sent via Sydney.

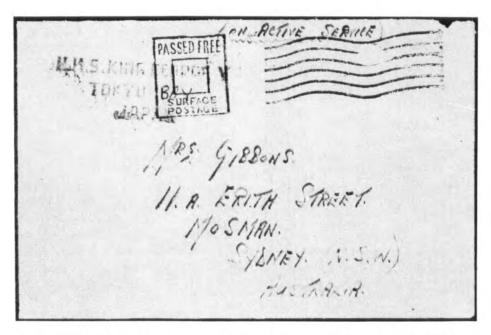


Fig. 4. HMS King George V cachet on cover addressed to Sydney and receiving the "PASSED FREE" machine cancellation on arrival.



Fig. 6. Unrecorded HMAS Hobart cachet on a January 1946 cover.

My final offering, acquired recentlym originated from HMAS *Hobart* which was back in Japanese waters in the early weeks of 1946, providing a small staff for Commodore Collins, the Senior Australian Representative who was based in the British Embassy in Tokyo. The cover, shown at Fig. 6, endorsed "Air Mail" is addressed to Bankstown, N.S.W. It would appear to have been put into the civil mail at Tokyo, probably by a crew member of Hobart, where the Japanese stamps were cancelled with a datestamp "21.1.17" (i.e. Showa era 17 January 1946). The 3d Australian stamp is cancelled No. 6 AUST BASE P.O. 14 F.. (February?) and was used as a transit datestamp en route to Australia. Six such datestamps are known - code A was employed at Balikpapan, Borneo; code B at Tarakan,



Fig. 5. HMAS Shropshire cachet.

Borneo; codes C and D at Labuan; and codes E and F at Morotai, N.E.1. The cachet used includes a Japanese character and is one I have not seen listed or illustrated before. After 49 years it is quite surprising to find something new and perhaps there are still more to be found!

#### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

#### A NEW COMMONWEALTH HANDBOOK

The article in the December 1994 issue expresses the hope that the "dream of a Commonwealth handbook can come to fruition", and as one who has shared the dream for many years I would like to comment.

It is suggested that (a minimum of) four volumes would be required for the pre-decimal issues, and I suggest the consideration of the project should only embrace pre-decimal material.

There are two major problems to be overcome so that the dream may become a reality.

 The huge amount of information available and necessary for the proposed volumes must be co-ordinated from diverse sources in Australia and overseas.

Practically, this would require an editor-in-chief co-ordinating the work of assigned editors or writers for each of the proposed volumes. The collector/s who have the knowledge, ability and time to prepare the Kangaroo volume, may not be able to contribute significantly to the other volumes, and vice versa.

To maintain consistency of layout, style, content and expression in all the volumes it is essential to have the overall control of the suggested editor-in-chief. Funding the project is the greatest problem.
 During the 10 years I owned Seven Seas Stamps I conducted two feasibility studies on the production of such a handbook as we are discussing, based in style on Robson Lowe's Encyclopaedia series.

The handbook could not be sold at its ptoduction cost, let alone at a profit on the cost, because the costs would be so high, and the print run so low (and this assumes the actual content of the handbook would be prepared at no cost by the contributors!)

The project must be heavily subsidised financially. By whom?

No one society such as the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria should be expected to carry all the financial burden. The financial subsidy can only come - in practical terms - by way of a grant, hopefully from Australia Post but more probably from the Australian Philatelic Federation.

This must be a priject of organised Australian philately, if it is to succeed, and the only body which speaks nationally for organised philately in Australia is the A.P.F.

And I believe there is no more worthwhile project to which the peak body of collectors in Australia could devote its resources.

Kevin Duffy Sydney.

## **AUSTRALIAN "OS" STATIONERY DIES**

By JOHN SINFIELD and MARK DISERIO

(continued from September 1994, page 74)

#### (d) 2d Value

The 2d orange "OS" die exists on envelopes printed between October 1920 and about August 1921. It is quite scarce, with Melbourne Treasury and Maternity Allowances Department being the only recorded users, although proof strikes are known on other envelope stocks. In the *Victorian Philatelic Record*, July 1921, an article by prominent Adelaide collector, N.R. James, appeared noting the wide range of orange shades appearing on 2d "OS" surface-printed envelopes. As a consequence, to avoid such shade variations, the postal authorities directed the Stamp Printer that where private order white envelope stock was used, in future private requests were all to be embossed. Harrison fully complied by creating the 2d "OS" embossing dies during September-October 1921.



2d orange George Vused by Deputy Commissioner of Maternity Allowances

#### KING GEORGE V EMBOSSED OCTAGONAL - WITHOUT "POSTAGE"

Catalogues list the existence of early embossed values (i.e. 1d red, 1½d brown and 2d orange). It was not until September 1921 that any attempt to insert "OS" into octagonal embossing dies occurred, when the numeral values either side of the King's bust were

substituted with the letters "O" and "S". Prior to this, any printing requiring an "OS" impression used a King George V surface-printed electro. Since the postal authorities now required "Postage" reference in all dies, octagonal 2d "OS" without "POSTAGE" was not approved, and was never embossed on privately submitted stationery forms.



2d orange Octagonal without "POSTAGE" - Specimen copy, no examples ever being issued for use.



1921 2d orange Octagonal with "POSTAGE".

#### KING GEORGE V EMBOSSED OCTAGONAL - WITH "POSTAGE"

Embossed "OS" dies with insertion of the word "POSTAGE" were approved from September-October 1921, but exist only on envelopes (for all types (a) to (f) below), and lettersheets (types (e) and (f) only for the Victorian Education Department). The types found are:

- (a) 1921 2d orange
- (b) 1922 2d red

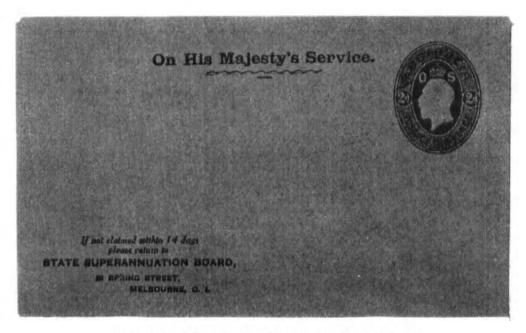
This Envelope can only be lawfully used by Government Official on public business. Any use by Official to private business, or by others under any circumstances, is punishable. On His Majesty's Service.



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, MELBOURNE

P.2.-8480

1930 11/2d red Octagonal surcharged "TWO PENCE" used by Education Department.



1930 2d red oval die used by State Superannuation Board, Melbourne.

- (c) 1923 2d red revalued "THREE HALFPENCE"
- (d) 1923 11/2d emerald
- (e) 1924 11/2d red
- (f) 1930 11/2d red surcharged "TWO PENCE"

#### KING GEORGE V OVAL EMBOSSING

These were introduced from January 1929 for base first unit domestic rate values only. Their existence is recorded only on envelopes. although postal cards could, but are unlikely to, exist.

- (a) 1929 11/2d red
- (b) 1930 11/2d red surcharged "TWO PENCE"
- (c) 1930 2d red

From April 1933 the use of "OS" dies ceased. No later values exist.

## QUEENSLAND: THE FIRST TYPE CROWN OVER Q PAPER

#### THE OFF-CUT THEORIES

#### By KEN SCUDDER

In 1876 it was decided to produce the postage stamps of Queensland by surface-printing from electrotype plates. It was, at the same time, decided to reduce the sheet size to 120. The then current stamps were the small-size Chalon Heads printed from the Perkins, Bacon recess plates of 240. The paper used for these stamps had a Crown over Q watermark (Type I).

For the surface-printed stamps, a ONE PENNY postage stamp die and a ONE PENNY duty stamp die were obtained from William Bell, of Sydney. From these dies William Knight, the Government Engraver, produced electrotype plates at the Lithographic Branch of the Treasury. The new smaller-size sheets of stamps paper, having a slightly different Crown over Q watermark (Type II) were not ordered from England until very late and, as a result, did not arrive until six months after the first printings of the new stamps. Consequently, the first printings of the 1879 issue were, of necessity, made on the old paper. The 2d was issued on 10 April, the 1d on 15 May and the 4d on 6 June 1879. The printings of the 1d duty stamp were also made on this first type paper from mid-1878.

Printings continued on this first type paper until late September 1879 when it was exhausted. Following this, small printings were made of the 1d and 2d values on plain paper with burelé bands on the back.

The new second type paper must have arrived in early October as both the 1d and 2d were first printed on it and issued on 21 October 1879, the same month as those on plain paper.

The new plates and the Type II Crown over Q paper had the 120 subjects arranged in 12 horizontal rows of 10 with the watermarks on the paper enclosed within a single-lined frame, 8.33 inches wide x 11.75 inches long, and with an upper margin of about 2.5 inches.

The Type I Crown over Q paper had the 240 watermarks in 20 horizontal rows of 12, also within a single-lined frame, but 9.73 inches wide x 19 inches long, and with an upper margin of about 2.25 inches.

When printing from the new plates on the old paper it was necessary to trim the sheets to suit the smaller plate size. This left an off-cut section of watermarked paper 9.73 inches wide x about 6.38 inches long, allowing for margins.

Two theories are now put forward associated with the trimming of these sheets of old paper.

The First Theory. The printings were made from the bottom portion larger sheets, and the sheet cut-offs were retained.

The facts which appear to support this theory are:

- 1. Although to date the numbers seen are limited, no top line marginal watermarks have been seen on the early 1879 Sideface issues printed on the Type I over Q paper, only some bottom line marginal watermarks.
- 2. It was normal practice to trim off most of the upper margin. Printing from the bottom of the sheets of Type I Crown over Q paper would also require only the one trimming operation. However if printing from the top, two trimming operations would have been required, the second to reduce the 2.25-inch margin from the top of the sheet. The first method would therefore save labour and is believed to be the one used.

The Second Theory. The sheet cut-offs were used in the printing of the 1882 Bradbury Wilkinson high values.

There would appear to be three observations supporting this theory:

- 1. No further supplies of the Type I Crown over Q paper are known to have been made after the commencement of supplies of the new Type II paper, and yet printings continued on the old paper until almost November 1886, when these high values were printed on the thick Beer Duty paper.
- 2. Bradbury Wilkinson's travelling representative, Collard J. Stock, in a letter to the Company, says: "Enclosed is a letter from Wm. Knight, the Government Engraver (initialled in the margin by Mr. Cullen, the Under Treasurer) ordering five steel plates of 30 stamps each, to be the same size, and arranged in the same position, as the sheet of green stamps enclosed (these were presumably 30 of the 1/- duty stamp, SG F18 KS) that is, six lines of five stamps each; as the old paper which they have is of this size and is going to be used up for these higher values . . . " (see *Philately from Australia*, June 1988).
- 3. Although to date the numbers seen are again limited, the watermark evidence does appear to indicate that the printings were made from only the top of the sheets of Type I paper. These high values have the watermark sideways so that the marginal line watermarks from the top (or bottom) of the sheet will occur on the sides of these stamps. To date, all such stamps seen have the marginal line above the crowns, none below, indicating that they are from the top of the sheet.

It is a fact that the sheet cut-offs would have been large enough to accommodate the relatively small Bradbury Wilkinson high value plates which average 4.63 inches wide x 7.38 inches high and with a sheet size of about 5.5 inches x 8 inches.

The Type II Crown over Q paper could have been used for these high values from the start but this does not appear to have occurred until late 1891 or even early in 1892.

The continued use of the Type I Crown over Q paper for printing these high values was

logical considering that this paper was originally intended for recess-printing. What is, perhaps, initially surprising is that the sheet cut-offs were kept and not destroyed. However, thrift would appear to have been the rule of the day.

Until 1892, these high value stamps were used largely for fiscal purposes and no printing or issue numbers appear to be available. However, the numbers printed of the 1d, 2d and 4d 1879 Sideface stamps on Type I Crown over Q paper, together with those of the 1878-79 1d violet duty stamp, could possibly provide sufficient off-cuts to sustain the printings of the Bradbury Wilkinson high values from April 1882 until around August or September 1886.

Yet another possible source of these off-cuts could be from the 4d lithographed Chalon Head stamps which from January 1875 were also issued in sheets of 120. Whether these off-cuts had been kept from that date is debatable bit it is certainly possible.

What is required to prove, or disprove, these theories is for more evidence of the marginal line watermarks on both the 1879 Sideface stamps and the Bradbury Wilkinson high values printed on Type I Crown over Q paper. Readers findings are invited.

More evidence is also required as to exactly when these high value stamps were issued on the Type II Crown over Q paper. The earliest date seen by the writer is on a 2/6d value, pen-cancelled 8.10.91.

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S OCTAGONAL SHIP LETTER HANDSTAMP

By CECIL WALKLEY and BRIAN POPE

Editor's Note: This article was originally submitted to Philately from Australia in February 1992, and was passed on to Mogens Juhl for his comments to be published at the same time as this article. Nothing more was heard, and Mogens died in April 1994.

Addendum 1995 by Walkley and Pope: Since Mogens' untimely death, we have considered the desirability of proceeding with publication of this article. Upon reflection, we have asked the editor to publish it in order to clarify the literature for future students. It is still our view that the evidence indicates an Octagonal Ship Letter handstamp at BUNBURY alone and that there was NOT a second, identical handstamp, at FREMANTLE. Sadly, our second and third questions can no longer be responded to, but someone may have a copy of the relevant Harmers Catalogue and be able to answer the first question.

Mogens Juhl recently published some welcome additions and corrections to his volume on Colonial postmarks (Juhl, 1991). Unfortunately, he did not take the opportunity to clarify the confusion surrounding the Octagonal Ship Letter (henceforth OSL for convenience) handstamp of Western Australia.

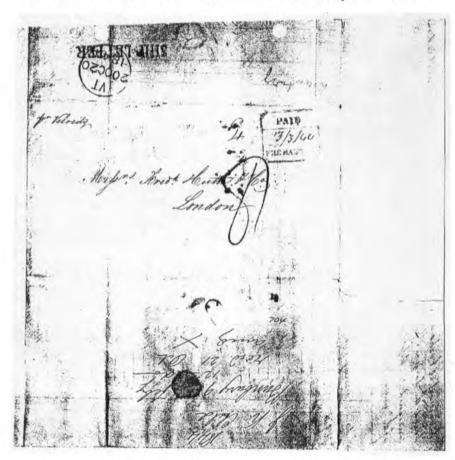
We believe this should be undertaken in the interests of present and future collectors of Western Australian postal history. The background is as follows.

By the early 1980's the W.A. Study Group had recorded two covers each bearing a strike of the OSL. Hamilton and Pope (1979) illustrated one dated 4 March 1848 at page 5 and the

other, dated 20 April 1843, was illustrated in *Black Swan* (September 1980, page 82) where it was reported as being in Harmers of Sydney sale on 27 June 1980. Subsequent research confirmed George Owen's opinion that the OSL was used at Bunbury and this was the position incorporated in the first instalment of *Postal Markings Illustrated* which appeared in 1984.

Meanwhile, Mogens had published a volume on Colonial postmarks in which he listed four letters which ". . . clearly show that the postmark was in use at Fremantle on 20 April 1843" (Juhl, 1983, page 26). The fact that these letters were written in one place and posted in another is not significant. Mogens described the four as:

- (i) Mailed from Bunbury 9 FE 44 without postmark via Fremantle, where PAID/FREMANTLE and SHIP LETTER were applied in red on 13 MR 44. It was in a Harmer's sale in Sydney, June 1980.
- (ii) Mailed from Bunbury 28 DE 44 without postmark via Fremantle where PAID/FREMANTLE only was applied on 9 JA 45. It was in the Chadwick sale.
- (iii) Mailed at Vasse without postmark via Fremantle where SHIP LETTER was applied on 20 AP 43. The letter is illustrated in *Black Swan* for September 1980.



9 February 1844 letter from Bunbury to London via Fremantle; the "SHIP LETTER" on reverse is of London origin.

(iv) Mailed from Vasse without postmark via Fremantle where SHIP LETTER was applied on 4 MR 48. The letter is shown on page 5 in the Perth book.

The first question is how many letters with an OSL were there in Harmer's June 1980 Sydney sale? *Black Swan* records only letter (iii) yet Mogens Says letter (i) was there, but makes no mention of letter (iii) being in the same sale.

When the first instalment of *Postal Markings Illustrated* appeared in 1984, Mogens reviewed it in this journal (Juhl, 1985a). He wrote that an explanation was "sorely needed" as to why the OSL allocation had been changed from Fremantle to Bunbury. The allocation by the W.A. Study Group had in fact not been changed and the explanation was, quite coincidentally, provided in the very same issue by Brian Pope who demonstrated that letter (iii) dated 20 April 1843 had gone from Bunbury, not Fremantle (Pope, 1985).

Mogens accepted this in *Philately from Australia* (September 1985) and that letter (iv) was probably likewise Bunbury. However, on the basis of letter (i) "... with both SHIP LETTER and PAID/FREMANTLE and several letters from the families in the Bunbury area showing the same postmark ..." he stated that Fremantle must have had a virtually identical OSL handstamp. If such was the case, we find it strange that only one example has turned up from such a relatively large post office. Furthermore, Mogens' letter (ii), demonstrably from the Bunbury area and showing PAID/FREMANTLE, poses a major problem. How can use of an OSL at Fremantle be confirmed by a letter without a strike?

The third question comes back to Mogens' letter (i) which may or may not have been in the Harmers sale. We illustrate herewith a letter which would have exactly the same "catalogue description", that is, dated Bunbury 9 February 1844 and struck with PAID/FREMANTLE, 13 March 1844 and SHIP LETTER.

Only when the back of this letter is seen does it become apparent that the SHIP LETTER handstamp is not from Western Australia. Are these letters one and the same item?

Apart from the suspiciously exact descriptive match there is the long time between writing in Bunbury and posting in Fremantle, almost five weeks. Getting from Bunbury to Fremantle was a matter of days not weeks. Why then did Mogens' letter (i) take so long and miss two appropriate sailings before Wednesday 13 March? The Shepherd sailed for London on 26 February and the Waterwitch for Mauritius on 28 February.

The letter we illustrate was not despatched by either the first or the second opportunity because it was common practice to post copies by different vessels to ensure that at least one got through. The original in this instance was superscribed per *Ganges*, the duplicate per *Shepherd* and the triplicate per *Velocity*. Letters in philatelic hands from this period are not common and it would be surprising to find two letters with identical dates to England from Bunbury, both posted at Fremantle, one of which missed two opportunities for despatch and received at strike of an octagonal Ship Letter handstamp.

Thus, in order to clear up the confusion, we ask Mogens to provide answers for three questions:

- 1. How many letters with an OSL were there in Harmers of Sydney of June 1980?
- 2. Why do letters with PAID/FREMANTLE but no OSL strike indicate an OSL in use at Fremantle?
- 3. Is his letter (i) the same as that of 13 March 1844 illustrated herewith?

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## QUEENSLAND: UNADOPTED ESSAY FOR THE 2½d OF 1890

#### By KEN SCUDDER

The new 2½d value of 1890, like most of the smaller postage stamps from 1882, was derived from the 2d die supplied by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. So too was this unadopted essay.

In the essay the "TWO PENCE" and side ornaments within the oval surrounding the Queen's head were removed. These were replaced by "2½" within a small shield and the words of value spaced each side within the oval. Also, a small cross was added each side to fill the space to the word "QUEENSLAND". Apart from completing the border line of dots below the shield, no other alterations appear to have been made.



This essay is of particular interest in that it is printed on a piece of watermarked paper which apparently comes from a sheet margin. The watermark, which is sideways, shows most of the letters "NSL" with only a small upper portion and the horizontal bar of the "L" not on the stamp.

The measurement of these three letters, from the left downstroke of the "N" to the downstroke of the "L" is 19.5mm. There is also a line 11mm below these letters. This line is vertical on the essay and is below the wider margin on the right. The letters would appear to be from the word "QUEENSLAND" but from which sheet of watermarked paper do these originate?

In 1890 all small postage stamps were being printed on the second type Crown over Q watermarked paper which contained 120 watermarks and was supplied by De La Rue, To date, all printed and unprinted sheets of this paper seen by the writer have contained no border inscriptions.

The sheets of the first type Crown over Q paper had "QUEENSLAND POSTAGE" in the watermark at top, bottom and along both sides, all outside the border line enclosing the 240 watermarks. However, it was doubtful if even cut-offs of this paper remained in 1890.

Measurement of the three letters in question showed the off-cut used was not from this first type paper, being 22mm at the top and the bottom, and 28mm on each side.

The answer, however, was found in A.F. Basset Hull's *Queensland*, published by The Royal Philatelic Society, London, in 1930. In the section dealing with the De La Rue second type Crown over Q paper, we find on page 16:

The dandy roll for this paper gave an additional watermark at the top of the sheet as follows:-

About 1¼ inches (actually ¼") above the upper outline of the frame there is a single line about 7 3/8 inches (actually 7½") long, ... (7/16") above the line are the words "QUEENSLAND STAMP DUTY" in double lined capitals 3/8 inch (actually 7½) high, the inscription being 7½ inches long, the same as the length of the line. There is no evidence of a paper with the inscription "QUEENSLAND POSTAGE" or anything similar (Illustration VIII).

It would appear that all the sheets were manufactured thus, and when utilised for postage stamps the top part was cut along this line.

Traces of this additional watermark have been seen on the De La Rue Crown Q (2nd Type) paper, and the complete watermark has been seen on a sheet of paper manufactured by Messrs. Alexander Cowan & Son, who received the dandy roll from Messrs. De La Rue & Co. on a change of contract about May, 1896.

Reference to Illustration VIII shows that the off-cut on which this 2½d essay was printed did indeed originate from the top of a sheet of the second type Crown over Q paper, and would have been approximately one inch wide.

This resolved one question but, as so often happens, raised another. Why should the sheets of paper required for printing postage stamps be headed "QUEENSLAND STAMP DUTY", particularly as no duty stamps were printed on this paper until about 1892?

Basset Hull again supplies the answer, this time in *Vindin's Philatelic Monthly* for 20 December 1893, in quoting a letter from the Lithographic Office, Treasury, dated August 9th, 1978, by William Knight, the Government Engraver, writing to the Colonial Treasurer. William Knight writes of "... a very superior paper just introduced by Messrs. De La Rue for electrotype printing ... would therefore recommend that the same kind be ordered immediately ... ". The result of this suggestion was the supply of the second type Crown over Q paper.

Further on in the letter he writes: "Duty Stamp Paper will also be required, and I would thoroughly recommend that the same kind of paper and watermark be used for both purposes

The result, driven no doubt by financial considerations, was that only the one type of watermarked paper was ordered and this was headed "QUEENSLAND STAMP DUTY".

It would appear that William Knight, recently having produced the plate for the 1d violet

duty stamp of 1878, had intended to produce further duty stamps to conform to this new, smaller sheet size. However, in the event, this did not occur until the printing of the 1892 duty stamp series or, possibly a few months earlier with the Bradbury Wilkinson high values on this paper. In both cases the sheets were printed sideways, resulting in the watermark heading being on the side of the printed sheet and this, no doubt, would have been removed before the printing operation. This being the case, it is not surprising that sheets, complete with the watermark heading, are so very rare.

## THE DE LA RUE CORRESPONDENCE BOOKS

#### II. VICTORIA

#### Compiled by GEOFF KELLOW

(continued from December 1994, page 113)

11.11.1889	From DLR - the buff postcard paper invoiced on 7 November was the last covered by the current three-year contract. Price given for further agreement.
20.11.1889	From AG - re 11.11.1889, a copy of letter has been sent to the Colony
27.1.1890	From AG - a letter received from Victoria states that the grey card supplied by you was found inferior to sample and that 111 reams will be returned at your expense and exchanged for a new supply.
29.1.1890	From DLR - re 27.1.1890, we believe the grey card supplied was up to quality. The sample supplied was so small it was difficult to determine the desired weight per ream. We tendered at 66lb/ream and this was carefully checked before despatch. The first (smaller size) supply was thicker (because it was also supplied at 66lb/ream), and perhaps comparison has been made between this and the second supply.
24.2.1890	From AG - the grey card has now been received from the Colony and in accordance with instructions should be exchanged for a supply up to quality.
25.2.1890	From DLR - re 24.2.1890, we believe the paper is as tendered for and you are bound to accept it. However, we will examine the paper now received.
7.3.1890	From DLR - re 25.2.1890, the grey card has been examined and is fully up to standard. We believe the perceived error is as mentioned in our letter of 29.1.1890. The Colony should send larger samples in future when ordering, and suggest they took an unusual course in returning the whole supply.
28.4.1890	From DLR to Mr Purcell (Somerset House) - there is in process a disagreement over a supply of grey card supplied to the Victorian Government. As the Agent-General has not reply to our letter of 7.3.1890 we are going to write suggesting arbitration, and name you as arbiter.
29.4.1890	From Mr Purcell to DLR - re 28.4.1890, I accept position as arbiter if it is agree to by the Agent-General.
13.5.1890	From AG - re grey card, a person from H.M. Stationery Office has been appointed to arbitrate. Please extract supplies for his examination.
14.5.1890	From DLR - re 13.5.1890, acknowledged. We will send half a ream, if you will give us the name of the gentleman.
14.5.1890	From AG - re 14.5.1890, the arbiter is Mr James A. Diggers, Examiner of Paper to H.M. Stationery Office.

#### PHILATELY FROM AUSTRALIA

16.5.1890 From DLR - a letter is enclosed for Mr Diggers which we would like handed to him with the paper. 16 5 1890 From DLR to Mr Diggers - explanation of matter of grey card (from De La Rue's point of view). 2.6.1890 From AG - enclosing letter from Mr Diggers. 31.5.1890 Mr Digger's Report - The grey card has been examined, and the sample and supply do not match: 1st - sample weights 83lb/ream, and supply is 66lb/ream 2nd - finish of supply not as high as sample 3rd - quality of supply is not equal to sample 4th - colour of supply is not equal to sample. 6.6.1890 From DLR - re 2.6.1890, thanking you for Mr Digger's report of 31.5.1890. We feel we are protected by our tender which specified 66lb/ream and which you accepted. Again we reiterate that the small sample sent was the problem. We suggest pasting onto the supply an extra sheet of white paper which will bring the weight up. With your consent, we will make a fresh sample of grey card, weight 83lb/ream, to be sent to the Colony for approval as to standard. 13 6 1890 From AG - re 6.6.1890, acknowledged. We approve 30 reams of the returned card having an extra sheet pasted on. Please advise when this will be ready. A letter will be sent to the Colony concerning this matter 16.6.1890 From DLR - re 13.6.1890, the 30 reams will be ready in three weeks. 17.6.1890 From DLR - enclosing credit note for £213/13/6 for returned card. Please send more of original sample so sample sheets can be prepared for despatch to Colony. 18.6.1890 From AG - re 17.6.1890, acknowledge of receipt of £213/13/6. 14.8.1890 From AG - re grey card, a telegram from the Colony states not to paste extra sheet on returned supply. Therefore, manufacture new supply to make up remaining quantity required according to sample. 9.9.1890 From DLR - re 14.8.1890, we will manufacture a small quantity of card for despatch to Colony for approval. Ask Colony to telegraph what quantity is required for this purpose. 12.9.1890 From AG - re 9.9.1890, a telegraph has been sent to Colony. 25.9.1890 From AG - re postage stamp paper contract, an extra 30,000 sheets of white paper should be added to the six-monthly supply (making it 180,000 sheets), to commence from next month's supply. 1.10.1890 From DLR - re 25.9.1890, acknowledged 10 10 1890 From DLR - re 9.9.1890, sample of grey card enclosed. 15 12 1890 From AG - re Mr Digger's honorarium, ten guineas has been considered suitable. Please remit half this amount 17.12.1890 From AG - re 15.12.1890, acknowledgment of receipt of five guineas. 19.12.1890 From DLR - re 15.12.1890 (missing), acknowledgment of order for 75 reams of grey card. 22.12.1890 From AG - request for tender for 200 reams of buff postcard paper, and 200 reams each of yellow and green postage stamp paper. 23.12.1890 From DLR - re 22.12.1890, tender enclosed. 3.2.1891 From AG - re 23.12.1890, tender accepted. Mr Diggers is to inspect the paper before despatch. 6.2.1891 From DLR - re 3.2.1891, acknowledged. 6.2.1891 From DLR - the returned grey card is useless to us, and we are prepared to paste an extra sheet on th make it up to weight and sell at a loss to dispose of it. 14.2.1891 From AG - re our conversation yesterday, the proposal of £350 in settling the claim on the postage stamp paper contract is accepted. 16.2.1891 From DLR - re 14.2.1891, £350 enclosed. 16.2.1891 From AG - re 16.2,1891, acknowledgment of receipt of £350. 25.2.1891 From AG - re 6.2.1891, a letter has been sent to the Colony regarding your proposal on the returned

grey card.

14.10.1892

16.11.1892

50 reams.

From DLR - re order of 22.12.1890, the buff postcard is ready for inspection by Mr Diggers. 3.4.1891 7.4.1891 From AG - re 3.4.1891, acknowledged. Mr Diggers will attend on Thursday morning. From AG - re 3.4.1891, Mr Diggers reports the buff postcard is satisfactory. Shipping instructions 13.4.1891 enclosed. From DLR - re order of 15.12.1890, the grey card (78 reams 13 quires) is ready for inspection by Mr 4.5.1891 Diggers. 5.5.1891 From AG - re 25.9.1890, enquiring which vessel carried last shipment of postage stamp paper, and when the next delivery is expected. 6.5.1891 From DLR - re 5.5.1891, the postage stamp paper will be ready for inspection at the same time as the grey card. 7.5.1891 From AG - re 6.5.1891, the postage stamp paper need not be inspected, and should be shipped next Thursday. From AG - enclosing an order for an additional 10,000 sheets of white postage stamp paper. Also, 15.5.1891 enquiring when green postage stamp paper will be ready. 16.5.1891 From DLR - re 15.5.1891, acknowledged. 50 reams of green postage stamp paper will be ready on 1 26.5.1891 From AG - re 16.5.1891, the green postage stamp paper is to be inspected by Mr Diggers next Saturday. 18.6.1891 From AG - there is inconvenience being caused by the non-delivery of the coloured postage stamp paper. Please expedite. From AG - enclosing a report from the Government Printer regarding the grey card (vide 6.2.1891). 10.8.1891 The grey card with extra sheet pasted on is too thick. It is considered if the sample sent was large enough for Mr Diggers to determine the weight, it should have been large enough for De La Rue, and that all the fault lies with them. 8.2.1892 From DLR - an inspection of the Victorian dandy roll indicates it is in need if repair. Costs involved detailed 9.2.1892 From AG - re 8.2.1892, repair of dandy roll approved. 11.5.1892 From AG - enquiring whether consignment of white postage stamp paper due at the end of April is ready. 12.5.1892 From DLR - re 11.5.1892, paper ready. 27.5.1892 From AG - the vessel carrying the postage stamp paper has struck a reef. Before deciding if another supply of paper is needed, please advise if any paper is in stock. ? date From AG - telegram advising to proceed with the manufacture of white postage stamp paper. 31.5.1892 From AG - the postage stamp paper per Port Douglas will not be recovered. Please proceed with the manufacture of a new supply. 2.6.1892 From DLR - re 11.8.1892, acknowledged. 11.8.1892 From AG - the half-yearly supply of white postage stamp paper is to be increased by 20,000 sheets to 200,000 sheets. In addition, an extra 100,000 sheets should be included in the October delivery. 12.8.1892 From DLR - re 11.8.1892, acknowledged. 17.8.1892 From AG - enclosing order for 50 reams brown and 200 reams green postage stamp paper. 18.8.1892 From DLR - re 17.8.1892, acknowledged. 11.10.1892 From Salvage Association to DLR - enclosing letter to permit inspection of salvaged paper ex Port Douglas. 13.10.1892 From AG - enclosing order for 50 reams of grey card.

From AG - asking for a portion of the grey card to be shipped in two weeks, and ordering an additional

From DLR - re 13.10.1892, acknowledged.

13.9.1894

24.7.1894

#### PHILATELY FROM ALISTRALIA

19 11 1892 From AG - re 16.11.1892, the grey card had best be inspected by Mr Diggers in both our interests. 28.11.1892 From DLR - re salvaged paper ex Port Douglas, 200 reams only is unfit for use. This has been replaced and we await your shipping instructions. From AG - enclosing order for 60 reams of grey card "one inch longer". 4 2 1893 8.2 1893 From DLR - re 4.2.1893, acknowledged. 10.2 1893 From AG - re order of 4.2.1893, please try to have portion ready for shipment by the date named. 15 2 1893 From AG - asking for quote for the production of postage stamps similar to those used in Great Britain. 17 2 1893 From DLR - re 15.2.1893, prices given. 6.3.1893 From AG - enclosing order for 100 reams of buff postcard paper. 8.3.1893 From AG - request for tender for 250 reams of lettercard paper. 9.3.1893 From AG - Mr Diggers reports the weight of the last batch of grey card was slightly deficient. It will be shipped subject to action in the Colony. 13.3.1893 From DLR - re 9.3.1893, acknowledged. 14.3.1893 From AG - telegram received from Colony states buff postcard is required urgently. 15.3.1893 From DLR - re 8.3.1893, tender enclosed. 16.3 1893 From DLR - re 14.3.1893, acknowledged. 22 3 1893 From AG - re 15.3.1893, tender not accepted. 30.3.1893 From AG - enclosing order for 50 reams each of pink, blue and red postage stamp paper. 4.4.1893 From DLR - re 16.3.1893, a portion of the buff postcard paper will be ready for inspection on Friday. 6.4.1893 From DLR - re 30.3.1893, acknowledged. 20.4.1893 From DLR - the remainder of three buff postcard paper is ready for inspection. 6.6.1893 From DLR - re order of 30.3.1893, the coloured postage stamp paper is ready for inspection. 18 8 1893 From AG - enclosing order for 20 reams of mauve postage stamp paper. 21 12 1893 From AG - enclosing order for 100 reams of buff postcard paper. 27.12.1893 From DLR - re 21.12.1893, acknowledged 29.12.1893 From AG - enclosing letter of 21.11.1893. 21.11.1893 From Treasury, Melbourne to AG - advising that the April 1894 consignment of white postage stamp paper is not required. 9.1.1894 From DLR - re 29.12.1893, the paper has already been made, and we ask that 800 reams be accepted at some stage before expiration of the contract. 12.1.1894 From AG - re 9.1.1894, we have written to the Colony regarding the matter. 20.4.1894 From AG - enclosing letter of 13.3.1894. From Treasury, Melbourne to AG - the two half-yearly shipments to complete the paper contract may 13.3.1894 be sent, and suggesting 30.6.1894 and 1.3.1895 as shipping dates. 23.4.1894 From DLR - re 20.4.1894, acknowledged. 1.6.1894 From DLR - advising that the postage stamp paper contract expires on 5 March next, and enclosing prices for renewal. 9.6.1894 From AG - re 1.6.1894, a letter has been sent to the Colony.

From Treasury, Melbourne to AG - further paper supplies are not required for some months,

From AG - re 1.6.1894, enclosing letter of 24.7.1894.

meanwhile the De La Rue offer is under consideration.

	18.9.1894		order for 30 reams 100 reams of buff		green, 30 reams blue and 30 reams pink postage stamp	
	21.9.1894	From DLR - re 18.9.1894, acknowledged.				
	19.10.1894	From DLR - the buff postcard paper is ready for inspection.				
	22.10.1894	From AG - the buff postcard paper is to be held back and shipped with the coloured postage st papers.				
	18.4.1895	From AG - enclosing requisition for tender for 150 reams of buff postcard paper.				
	19,4.1895	From DLR	- re 18.4.1895, te	nder enclosed.		
	1.5.1895	From AG - re 19.4.1895, tender not accepted.				
	13.12.1895	From DLR per convers		for three-year co	ntract for white and coloured postage stamp papers, as	
	17.12.1895	From AG - white green red pink	request for tender 200 reams 100 reams 20 reams 20 reams	r for white and co mauve blue lavender drab	oloured postage stamp paper: 20 reams 24 reams 10 reams 10 reams	
	23.12.1895	From DLR	- re 17.12.1895,	we will not tende	r.	
	21.2.1896	From DLR	- acknowledgmer	nt of receipt of da	andy roll.	
	19.2.1896	.1896 From DLR - the dandy roll will be delivered Friday next.				
14.11.1898 From DLR - enclosing tender for the supply of white and coloured postage stamp papers.				f white and coloured postage stamp papers.		
	17.11.1898					
	18.11.1898					
	19.11.1898	898 From AG - re 18.11.1898, acknowledged.				
	15.1.1901	From AG - enclosing letter of 7.11.1900.				
	7.11.1900	From Treasury, Melbourne to AG - enclosing requisition for obliterating ink.				
	19.1.1901	From DLR - re 15.1.1901, enclosing tender for supply of obliterating ink.				
	21.1.1901	From AG - re 19.1.1901, acknowledged. A letter will be sent to the Colony.				
	4.9.1916	From AG - enclosing requisition for tender for 200 reams of watermarked paper.				

## **QUEENSLAND: 1892 STAMP DUTY SERIES**

#### By KEN SCUDDER

Since writing this article (*Philately from Australia*, December 1993 and March 1994), I realise that my suggestion of the master die "probably being made of steel" is not correct, for two reasons. One, William Knight is not known to have engraved on steel. Two, in researching the derivation sequence of the various issues originating from the 1882 Bradbury Wilkinson 2d die I find this 1892 Duty Stamp to be derived from the 1887 issue. Only the head and it background shading were, of course, used. As all the designs fro the various issues, up to and including the 1897 series, were obtained through transferring and re-engraving, using lead moulds and copper electros, there is no reason to suppose this duty series to be any different in this respect. The master die was, therefore, a copper electro.

#### PRICE INCREASES FOR SOCIETY PIUBLICATIONS

Following a review of the stock position of the Society's publications, it has been decided to make significant increases to the selling prices of the older works. This will make the prices of these books a more accruate reflection of the modern cost of producing such quality works. The new prices will be found on the back cover of this issue. All publications are available from the Society's agent, The National Stamp Gallery, 79 Bourke Street, Melbourne.

Supplies of two of the older books - The Postal History of the Port Phillip District and Victoria: The Registered and Too Late Stamps - are in short supply. Also, only a very limited number of Part II of The Postal History and Postal Markings of Tasmania remain. As a consequence, it has been decided to sell this remaining quantity only as a set with the reprint of Part I. There is no intention to make any further reprint of these handbooks.

#### BOOK REVIEWS

The "Beaded Oval" and "Laureated" Issues of Victoriam 1860-1884. I. The 3d Beaded Oval. By Russell Jones, F.R.P.S.,L. and Geoffrey Kellow. Published by The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria Inc. 265 x 210mm, soft card cover, 64pp. Available from the National Stamp Gallery, 79 Bourke Street, Melbourne, 3000. Price, \$22.50.

This monograph is the first of a planned series on the Robinson surface-printed issues and is published in the J.R.W. Purves Memorial Series. Much of the research on these stamps was underataken by Mr Purves, although no plating details have previously been published.

It is intended that this series of monographs will deal with the stamps in chronological order. This first volume, on the 3d Beaded Oval, commences with a comprehensive account of Robinson's plate-making technique for surface-printing from electrotypes. It is followed by a detailed description of the types and causes of the many varieties to be found. This is perhaps the first time this information has been given in such a comprehensive yet self-contained manner. It will bestow knowledge on many and refresh that of the advanced reader.

All the various printings are covered with additional information from archival records.

The final chapter deals with the Plating Study. Each position is illustrated by a 150% enlargement and is accompanied by a detailed description. The plating

nomenclature follows that developed by Mr Purves. The pin-pointing of some of the flaws by clock positions may confuse and an explanation should perhaps have been given.

The Robinson period in Victorian philately has long been overdue for such a series and this first volume gives the series an excellent start. This is a volume well-produced, selling at a very reasonable price for such a study with a limited edition of 200.

KEN SCUDDER

Western Australia: A Guide to the Goldfields Locals. By Max Reynolds and Brian Pope. Published by the Western Australia Study Group. 295 x 210mm, spiral bound. 47pp. ISBN 0 9596476 8 6. Available from the WASG, P.O. Box 23, Claremont, Western Australia, 6010. Price, \$10 plus postage (\$2 within Australia, \$4 economy air overseas).

This is monograph No. 5 of the Western Australia Study Group and was published on the occasion of the Gold Centenary Stamp Show at Fremantle in September 1993.

This monograph gathers together all the available information on the three Goldfields local issues - the Coolgardie Cycle Express Co. 1/- and 2/6d Cycle stamps; 6d, 2/- and 5/- Camel stamps; and the Lake Lefroy 6d Cycle Mail stamp.

The history of the Cycle Express companies is related, together with the status of the postal services in the Eastern Goldfields which they supplemented. There is no question that the companies operated a legitimate and useful service, and it was only the expansion of the official services as the poulation on the goldfields grew that led to the demise of the private posts. The authors provide considerable detail on the expansion of the official services between 1894 and 1897.

Although the Lake Lefroy stamp, when it was brought to the notice of the Postmaster-General was suppressed, the private services themselves were not illegal, and only disappeared when they became uneconomic. The authors demonstrate this clearly by reference to the Post Office Act. They suggest that the Lake Lefroy stamp was banned because it included "POSTAGE" in the design. It is suggested that the Coolgardie Cycle Express stamps were ignored because they did not include the word or resemble in any way the official stamps.

Check lists provide details of all recorded covers. The authors list 7 covers bearing the 1/- Cycle stamp, and 11 with the 2/6d Cycle stamp. There are two with the 2/- Camel stamp, but none with the other two Camel values, and there is no Lake Lefroy cover (and the only significant piece is an example used with a W.A. 1d in the Royal Collection).

A register of the Lake Lefroy stamp gives a total of 62 stamps - 32 mint and 30 used (including the only multiple, the famous tête-bêche pair). At least eight are in permanent collections. One manuscript cancelled stamp is illustrated from a 1952 source, had by 1976 "improved" by a fake tie onto a piece.

A brief final chapter gives details of the various facsimiles which have been created.

This is a fascinating account of an intersting and unique chapter in Australian philately, offered at a very cheap price.

The History of the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club 1892-1992. By Gray Scrimgeour. Published by the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club. 212 x 272mm, soft-bound. 153pp. ISBN 0 921641 02 8. Available George S. Wegg Ltd., 53 Adelaide St. East, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5C 1K6. Price, \$25 (soft-bound) or \$44 (hard-bound) including surface postage.

The Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club, established the same year as The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria, has celebrated its centenary in similar manner with the publication of an impressive volume detailing its rich history.

It is reveraled that a short-lived stamp club existyed in toronto in 1876, and another philatelic society was established in the city in 1888.

The toronto Philatelic Club (renamed the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club in 1923) was formed following the distribution of a letter amongst the city's collectors. The first meeting was held on 12 October 1892, when nine collectors attended. An 1892-93 membership list gives 39 members and 11 junior members.

In its centenary year there were 55 members, and over the years most of the famous names of Canadian philately are to be found in the membership lists.

The President's Board includes the names of Fred Jarrett, Vincent G. Greene, J.N. Sissons, John H.M. Young and Dr Fred Stulberg.

For a society with such a relatively small membership, the Toronto Stamp Collectors' Club has a rich history and has been at the forefront of organised philately in Canada.

One Australian connection is apparent in the appendices. The Bayley Trphy, inaugurated in 1944 for the best "sideline" collection shown during the year, was awarded in 1989 to Dr Ed Druce for Australian States Postal Stationery.

# THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC.

Presidential Display

For his Presidential display following the Annual General Meeting on 21 July 1994, Mr Len Buchanan chose Australian Commonwealth and Papua.

Australian Commonwealth concentrated on the

King George V issues. The 1d steel plate varieties were shown in red, violet and green. A complete sheet of the 1d green Small Multiple watermark, perf. 13½ x 12½ included two vertical rows of Die II.

There was a cracked plate variety in a 11/2d green imprint block. A comprehensive showing of the 4d

value included plate varieties, the lemon-yellow shade in a mint block of four, and an orange stamp printed on the gummed side used at Sydney.

The 1932 2d George V postal forgery was present mint, used and in a rare mint block of four.

Later issues included a wide range of plate varieties, including the 2d mauve George VI medallion flaw with coil perforations, and retouches on the 8d Tiger Cat stamp of 1960.

The selection of Papua showed the great philatelic interest of the Lakatoi stamps, from the De La Rue British New Guinea issues of 1901 up to the typographed issues of 1916-1932.

Many of the issues were in complete sheets, including the "Papua" overprints, the "Small PAPUA" and "Large PAPUA" lithographs. Another stamp in complete sheet of 40 was the scarce Mullett printing of the 2d on 1½d surcharge of 1931.

#### Czechoslovakia

At the meeting on 15 September 1994, Mr john Tinney provided a comprehensive display of Czechoslovakia up to 1939.

The display opened with 1918 private overprints on Austria, "CSR" monogram overprints on Austrian cards, and the Czech Scout Post carrier stamps.

The first stamps, the famous Hradcany Castle issue of 1918 were shown in detail, with the five types demonstrated. The 3h. was shown in imperforate blocks and as printer's colour trials.

Then followed the first postage due issue ("T" overprint on the Hradcany Castles), and the "POSTA/CESKOSLOVENSKA/1919" overprints. Also present were the stamps for use by the Czech Army in Siberia in 1919-20.

The 1920-23 air mail overprints included imperforates, with the 28k on 1000h. additionally with overprint inverted.

The subsequent commemorative issues were all covered, including the miniature sheets.

The 1934 1k. and 2k. Music miniature sheets were shown mint, and also a cover bearing 2 x 1k. and 2k taken from the sheets.

The display was completed by a selection of covers with cachets used by the Czech Forces in the United Kingdom during World War II.

#### Iceland Postal Stationery Cards

At the second September meeting on 29 September, Mr Hans Von Strokirch presented his collection of Iceland Postal Stationery Cards.

The first card issued was the 5 aur of 1879. This was shown as proofs of both the inner and outer plates, and a vertical proof strip of three of the complete design. A number of used cards illustrated its usage.

The second issue, the 8 aur of 1880, included several fine usages, the best being a rare foreign usage to Holland in 1890, sent via Edinburgh where a "SHIP LETTER" handstamp was applied. The 1880 10 aur was present used to London with the "SHIP LETTER" handstamp of Leith.

The subsequent issues were all represented, with the 1883 5 aur and 8 aur, the 1889 5 aur, the 1892 8 aur single and reply cards, and a used example of the 1892 10 aur reply card.

The 1900 numeral type included a used card with boxed "SHIP LETTER/TROON". The 1900 scenic cards were complete.

A special feature was made of the fascinating "I GILDI" surcharges of 1902-03, with the differences between the various types illustrated.

There were two proof overprints on the 8 aur, one with overprint inverted. The 10 aur included a used card with overprint double, one inverted at lower left, and the same variety was also shown on the 1900 5 aur.

Rare usages included what are believed to be the only recorded postally used examples of the 8 aur + 8 aur reply card, and the Type III overprint on 8 aur.

A rare usage was the 10 aur + 10 aur reply card used at the registered rate.

Throughout the display, a feature was made of the use of the Posthorn datestamps on the cards.

#### Switzerland

At the meeting on 20 October 1994 Mr Henry Teltscher presented his collection of Switzerland.

The Cantonals were represented by the Geneva 1847 5c, the Vaud 5c, the Neuchatel 5c, and the Winterthur 5c mint. There was an official reprint of the "Basel Dove" together with Fournier forgeries of all the Cantonals.

Of the first general issue, there were examples of Rayons I, II and III.

The "Strubeli" included an 1862 cover to England with three 20 rappen.

The various printings of the "Sitting Helvetia" types were well-represented, including a fine 1862 cover with a mixed franking of the 20r. Strubeli and 10f Sitting Helvetia. There was a mint pair of the 1862 5f, one showing a double print, the second impression being inverted. An 1875 cover to Melbourne bore three 30c. stamps.

The 1882 If on granite paper was represented by a used example.

There were essays of the 1882 40c Standing Helvetia, and 25c Libertas essays.

The tête-bêche varieties of the 1908-17 issue were well-represented, and the unusual 1909 Kocher advertising stamps included two 5c used on a cover.

There was a selection of semi-official air mail labels of 1913. Early first flight cards included the Bern-Bergedorf and Lugano-Modrisio flights of 1913.

There was a 1913 cover with the 25c with background printed in light green instead of light blue. This error has only been discovered in relatively recent times.

A number of scarce types of the definitives of 1917-21 were represented, including a used example of the rare 7½c Type III., There was also a used example of the 1921 5c on 7½c Type III.

The 1930-34 values printed on grilled paper were present used.

The 1932 Disarmament Conference issue included a mint example of the 15c with green printing double. The 1936 Pro Patria sheet of four miniature sheets was shown, together with the NAB sheet.

There were essays for the overprint for the 1918 Official issue, of which only 100 sets were printed.

The set of League of Nations 15c, 20c, 25c and 40c on grilled paper was one of only 50 printed.

The display was completed by a selection of the Hotel stamps of 1873-1883.

#### Pre-Stamp Markings of New Zealand

To coincide with the Melbourne Stampshow '94 exhibition, a special meeting was held in the Society's rooms on 27 October 1994.

On this occasion Mr Barry Scott of New Zealand provided a display of early New Zealand postal history from the earliest letters up to 1855.

This began with the earliest recorded entire sent from New Zealand in private hands - an 1818 letter to London.

Another early letter was of 1837 to London, written by a whaler.

There were a number of entires from New Zealand's first post office at Kororarika in the Bay of Islands. The earliest of 1840 showed the crowned oval datestamp. Two further entires of the same year showed the boxed FREE/KORORARIKA/N/Z" in red and "MISSENT/TO/KORORARIKA/N/Z" in red respectively. Two entires of 1843 had the boxed "PAID AT/KORORARAIKA/N/Z."

There were strikes of "NEW-ZEALAND/SHIP LETTER" on entires of 1842 and 1843.

Manuscript markings included "PO Otago" on entires of 1850 (x3) and 1851, and "Manganui 22 Jun 53".

The straight-line "NELSON" was on an 1842 entire. The boxed "PAID" markings were well-represented with Auckland, Wellington, and the scarce Hokianga (1851).

There was also a wide selection of Crowned Circle handstamps. One of Auckland was on an 1852 entire to Germany. The scarcer New Plymouth and Nelson Crowned Circle handstamps were present on 1851 entires.

In addition were shown forwarding agents manuscript endorsements, and covers from the first Maori War.

A detailed study was made of the first packet service operated by the Toulmein Brothers.

#### New Guinea Postal History

At the meeting on 17 November 1994 Mr Max Bulley provided a selection from his comprehensive collection of New Guinea Postal History.

The period of German administration was wellrepresented, with a wide range of postmarks on the various stamp issues.

In addition, there were covers from Matupi (1898) and Stephansort (1898 and 1900), and registered covers from Herbertshohe (1908 and 1909), Manus (1912), Namatanai (1914) and Simpsonhafen (1909).

The period of Australian Military Occupation included some remarkable covers.

"RABAUL/Oct13 1914" was on two covers, one franked with G.R.I. surcharges, and the other endorsed "no stamps available". There was a straight-line "Rabaul" cancelling a 1d Kangaroo punctured OS on 1914 cover, and boxed "RABAUL" on a 1915 registered cover franked with 2½d NWPI and 3d Rabaul registration label.

The straight-line "Herbertshohe" was on ½d and 2d Kangaroos on a 1915 cover, and the "HerbertshOh" variant on a 2½d NWPI pair on 1915 cover.

"Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen/Neu-Guinea" was in purple on a 1914 cover to Sydney which had a 1d postage due added on arrival. The mail bag seal of the same town was shown on two Rev. Theile covers. A 19 15 cover had a 1d Kangaroo pair cancelled "Kaiserliche Bezirksgericht/Friedrich Wilhelmshafen".

A 1914 cover to Sydney with 1d Kangaroo punctured OS was cancelled "Simpsonhafen/Neu-Guinea".

"MOROBE" with date was on a 1915 stampless cover to Queensland. The boxed "Kaiserliche Station/Manus" cancelled a pair of 1d George V punctured OS on a 1915 cover to Sydney. The straight-line "Station Kieta" cancelled three 2½d NWPI on a 1915 cover to Sydney routed via Tulagi.

The post-war period included most of the rare datestamps, with Bita Paka and Mokareng on stamps, and Witu on a 1923 registered cover to South Africa.

A 1923 cover to Sydney had a 2d George V cancelled manuscript "Finschhafen 7/1/23" overstruck with the Madang c.d.s.

The display was concluded with World War II and the immediate post-war period. There was an Australian prisoner-of-war card from a soldier in Japanese hands in Rabaul. The Salamaua/PNG datestamp was shown on a 1946 cover on the day of opening, and there was a straight line "P.O. RABAUL" with date on a 1947 cover.

#### The Society Library

At the meeting on 18 January a talk on the Society's Library was presented by the Librarian, Dr Geoffrey Kellow.

A brief history of the Library was given. The idea of a library was introduced within twelve months of the

founding of the Society, so the Library is now also over 100 years old. Passed around was the only known copy of the first separately printed catalogue, dating from 1906, together with examples of the later published catalogues.

The growth of the Library was traced, the great impetus being the acquisition of the Society's building at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra in 1957. The role of the late Ron Lloyd-Smith was mentioned, Librarian for 22 years, who oversaw this expansion. In particular he devoted much energy to the assembling of a remarkable section of Australasian periodicals, including much rare ephemeral material.

The last fifteen years had seen several major bequests. The largest was the library of the late J.R.W. Purves, from which in excess of 500 new titles were added to the Library. There were also significant donations from the late Eric Creed, the late Helen Serjeant White and the late W.P. Heslop. In addition, most of the literature entries at AUSIPEX 84 were donated by the exhibition organisers to the Library.

While the Library's position as the largest society library in the Southern Hemisphere remains unchallenged, Dr Kellow provided some cautioning comments for the future.

The Library's budget has not kept pace with either the ever-increasing cost of new books, or the increased rate of publication which self-publishing facilities has made possible. The proportion of newly-published material acquired for the Library was decreasing annually, and if the Library is to remain a general one and not specialise, considerable increases in expenditure will be necessary. It was felt desirable that the society's collection of Australasian philatelic literature, which must be one of the finest extant, should be maintained in standard. An appeal was made to members to make donations of whatever material they could. In particular, obsolete stamp catalogues and auction catalogues were always welcome.

Dr Kellow also spoke on philatelic literature generally, and showed some rare and unusual items from the Society's collection. These ranged from the ephemeral to the opulent.

# THE ROYAL SYDNEY PHILATELIC CLUB

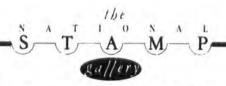
#### FOUNDED 1890



- ☆ MEETING ROOM: The club meets at 8 p.m. 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 by members by arrangement with the Librarian.
- A 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 AUSTRALIAN STATES STUDY CIRCLE publishes a quarterly journal Sydney Views. Enquiries to P.O. Box 1751, G. P.O. Sydney, 2001, Australia.
- ★ THE CLUB'S FEES are: City Members, \$11.00; Country Members, \$9.00.
- ☆ SUBSCRIPTIONS are due 1 July yearly. There is no entrance fee payable.

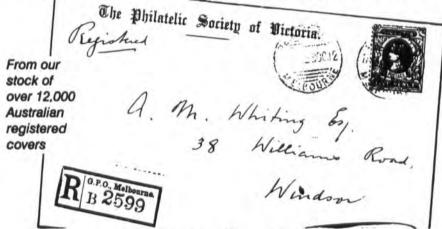
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Hon. Secretary - Box 1751, G.P.O. Sydney, 2001.



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## THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA INC. FOUNDED 1892



The Philatelic Society of Victoria, which was founded in 1892 and which in 1946 had the privilege conferred upon it of the use of the prefix "ROYAL", is a society to which you, as a collector, should belong. Among its many advantages are:

- THE SOCIETY'S OFFICIAL ORGAN: Philately from Australia, published quarterly, is posted free to all members.
- **MEETINGS** are held on the third and fifth Thursdays of the month at 8.00p.m. in its own premises, 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, Melbourne 3141.
- ➡ 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.
- **EXCHANGE BOOKS** circulate regularly within Australia to interested members. Enquiries should be addressed to the Exchange Superintendent.
- \*\* THE SALES BRANCH enables members to buy and sell stamps not considered suitable by the vendor for exchange sheets. Catalogues of sales are sent free to all members and are also widely circulated to non-members. All correspondence regarding the Sales Branch should be addressed to the Sales Branch Superintendent.
- **A COMPREHENSIVE LIBRARY**, considered to be the finest in the Southern Hemisphere, is open to members on Meeting Nights, and on the second Monday night of each month (from 6.30 to 9.30p.m.), or by arrangement with the Librarian. Most books may be borrowed by country or interstate members, postage to be paid both ways. Enquiries to the Librarian.
- **AN EXPERT COMMITTEE** provides opinions on most Australian items for both members and non-members. Members are entitled to one free certificate each year. Details of fees and all other correspondence should be directed to the Secretary of the Expert Committee.
- A QUARTZ LAMP, MICROSCOPE, and REFERENCE FORGERY COLLECTION are available for the use of members.
- \*\* THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH STUDY GROUP meets at the Society Rooms on the first Wednesday of each month at 8.00p.m.
- **THE AUSTRALIAN STATES STUDY GROUP** meets at the Society Rooms on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7.45p.m.
- \*\* PHILATELIC KNOWLEDGE. This Society includes experts on almost all branches of philately, whose advice is always available.
- **THE SOCIETY'S FEES** are: Entrance Fee, \$50.00. Annual Subscription: City and Suburban, \$45.00; Country, Interstate and Overseas, \$35.00.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to the appropriate officers or to:

JOHN MACDONNELL (Secretary), Box 2071, G.P.O. Melbourne, 3001.

## Philatelic Literature

## Published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH	
The Postal History of the Australian Army During World War II (P. Collas) The Postal History of Internees and Prisoners of War in Australia during World War II	\$60.00
(P. Collas)	\$30.00
The Postal History of Australian Forces in Japan and Korea, 1945-1957 (P. Collas)	\$37.50
Australian Numeral Cancellations: A Compendium (H.M. Campbell)	\$50.00
NORTHERN TERRITORY	
The Postal History of the Northern Territory, 1824-1988 (E.A. Williams)	\$120.00
QUEENSLAND	
Queensland Cancellations and Other Postal Markings (H.M. Campbell)	\$30.00
Queensland Postal History (H.M. Campell)	\$80.00
The Postal History of Thursday Island (J.W. Turnbull)	\$25.00
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