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Editorial Correspondence: Box 2071, G.P.O. Melbourne, Victoria, 3001

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SEPTEMBER 1995

TWO MEMBERS REACH MILESTONES

During 1995, two members of the Society reach milestones in their membership.

In May, Mr H.M. Campbell, R.D.P., F.R.P.S.L. celebrated 50 years of membership. Hugh Campbell's achievements are well-known. He became a signatory to the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1969, was elected an Honorary Life Member of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1988, and similarly became an Honorary Fellow of The Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1990. His philatelic researches over a long period have resulted in many publications, and his name is frequently seen as an author in this journal and elsewhere. As recently as last year the Society published his latest work, *Queensland Postal Rates and Charges, 1832-1913*.

In October, Mr J.A. Ganly will celebrate 60 years membership of the Society. Jack Ganly will become only the fifth member to achieve this milestone, following W. Orchard, A.G. Kelson, Dr W.P. Heslop and C.G.C. Hodgkinson. He was elected to the Society in October 1935. Despite living at Torquay, he is still occasionally seen at our monthly meetings, and last year his name appeared on the syllabus, when he provided a display of Danish Travelling Post Offices.

THE 2/- KANGAROO "REDRAWN DIE" OF 1945

By GEOFF KELLOW

This well-known stamp was issued in December 1945, to replace the two original plates of the 2/- Kangaroo which had been in use since 1913. This denomination had survived all the other Kangaroos only because a proposed 2/- stamp in the 1937-38 George VI series did not eventuate.

The accepted reason for the issue of a new version of the 2/- stamp is that the old plates were worn, and that the Note Printing Branch no longer had the necessary equipment and/or expertise to manufacture new plates using the original Kangaroo die. The method of production of the new plates was first presented by C.E. Norden and J.R.W. Purves in the *Australian Stamp Monthly*, February 1946, page 55, and this has been accepted without question by all later writers. The description given was quite logical and fitted all the observed facts, but new archival records now available show the method of production proposed to be erroneous in a number of details. Information now available from Note Printing Branch records held at the Reserve Bank of Australia in Sydney yields almost the complete production story of this stamp. The opportunity is taken, in presenting these details, to give some information on the types of official records now available for stamps of this period.

An examination of the redrawn 2/- stamp shows that the design is so similar to the 1913 original Kangaroo die that a common origin is certain. The Norden/Purves theory was as follows:

1. A photograph was taken of a 2/- proof pulled from the original die and transferred to sensitised zinc.
2. This zinc line block was etched, with additional handwork being performed which gives rise to the design differences which characterise the redrawn stamps. (These differences are numerous, but mostly small. The best known is the presence of only one horizontal shading line between the value circle and words of value, instead of two as on the original die; there are numerous small differences in the shape of the lettering).
3. The zinc line block then performed the function of a die, being used to stamp sixty lead (or wax) moulds.
4. These sixty moulds, grouped into the usual pane configuration of ten horizontal rows of six, were used to grow a copper electrolytic shell.
5. This shell, suitably backed, was used as a master electro from which four further 60-on moulds were struck. From these moulds, four copper electrotypes were grown, which were grouped as two pairs (each representing a plate of 120) for printing.

The use of a master group was proved by the occurrence of primary flaws which repeat in each pane on the printed sheets.

The new 2/- stamps were commonly referred to as the "Redrawn Die", but the new findings show that there was no new die at all. The method of production of the new stamps

was very similar to the 1953 "Produce Food" issue described by Bryan Young in a recent issue of *Philately from Australia* (see September 1994, page 59).

The production of the printing instruments for the new issue is covered in the NP-IR series of Requisition Books. Each time a new printing instrument was required, the General Manager of the Note Printing Branch (at the time of the stamp under discussion, W.C.G. McCracken) was required to apply to the Governor of the Commonwealth Bank (later the Reserve Bank). Following approval, the requisition form was filled out, showing the date of requisition, and signed by the General Manager. This form gave permission for the production of the specific instrument listed, including permission to take from the strongroom any other instrument required for its production. The time and date on which production commenced and terminated is noted, and signed by the Head of the Department responsible. The form also names the specific workman responsible for the manufacture of the printing instrument, and gives the date the instrument was first placed into stock (i.e., into the strongroom). The books of requisition forms were numbered in sequence, and the number of the form became the official instrument number for recording and auditing purposes. There were several series of Requisition Books, covering the manufacture of Dies, Electrotypes, and Transfer Cylinders.

The only entries for the 2/- Kangaroo are in Requisition Book NP-IR-46 (for Electrotypes), which may be summarised as follows:

<i>Date Ordered</i>	<i>Stamp</i>	<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Date to Stock</i>
5.11.1945	2/- Postage (Kangaroo)	1 x Copper Original 60-set	N2592	27.11.1945
13.11.1945	2/- Postage (Kangaroo)	5 x Electros 60-set	N2598-N2602	27.11.1945

These are the only entries relative to the 2/- Kangaroo for the relevant period in all the Requisition Books (which are complete). The accounting system makes it certain that no other instruments could have been created, and thus there was no single die of any description manufactured. On the basis of this, the sequence of production is presumed to be as follows:

1. An enlarged photograph of a 2/- die proof was prepared, then retouched by hand, creating the design differences seen in the redrawn stamps. The reason and/or necessity for this retouching is not apparent, although some retouching would be inevitable to strengthen certain lines. It is, however, worth noting that, assuming the proof was a new one pulled at the time, it may have represented the first use of the original Kangaroo die for over twenty years (the last Kangaroo plates, two 6d, were manufactured in 1925, though never used). There may have been some difficulty in achieving a perfect print. Even in the original plates, there was an obvious difficulty in adjusting the interchangeable value slugs, with the result that the shading lines over the words of value were often weak; this was a likely cause of the redrawing in this area for the new 2/- stamp.
2. The completed drawing was then re-photographed. At present, the next steps are unclear. There were two alternatives - (a) sixty stamp-size negatives were pasted together in the format of a pane of sixty, and the images transferred to a sensitised copper plate, which was subsequently etched (creating the "copper original" referred to in NP-IR-46, official number N2592); or (b) a single stamp-size negative was placed in a step-and-repeat machine which transferred the image sixty times to the

sensitive copper plate. It is not known whether the Note Printing Branch had the necessary equipment for method (b) at this time.

3. The etched copper original was used as a master to strike moulds, most probably in wax. Five such moulds were struck, from which were derived five 60-set copper electrotype plates (the five 60-set copper electros referred to above, official numbers N2598-N2602). Four of these blocks, suitably backed and clamped together (with the addition of marginal rule and imprints) formed the two (upper and lower) printing plates of 120. The fifth 60-set electrotype was a "spare" in case of damage.

Once manufactured, the use of the printing instruments is covered by Register NP-IS-14. This was an instrument register maintained by the Note Printing Branch to record movements of printing instruments into and out of the strongroom. The instruments are listed in the register by denomination. Parts of this register are missing, possibly because the relevant pages have yet to be transferred from the Note Printing Branch premises to the Sydney repository, but the records for all 2/- printing instruments are complete from 1935 to 1957, so cover the complete period of use of the redrawn 2/- Kangaroo. NP-IS-14 was a stock control record in which all printing instruments are listed, whether any use is ever made of the instrument following manufacture or not. It thus provides a check on the Requisition Book entries. For this 2/- stamp, the non-existence of a die is confirmed by its non-appearance in NP-IS-14. The movements of printing plates into and out of the strongroom defines the periods between which printings must have taken place. The Register also gives the dates of destruction of printing instruments. The entries relevant to the 2/- Redrawn Kangaroo (re-arranged somewhat for better presentation here) are:

<i>Instrument</i>	<i>Out of Strongroom</i>	<i>Official Number</i>	<i>Destination</i>	<i>Back to Strongroom</i>	<i>Date of Destruction</i>
Kangaroo Copper Original (60-on)		N2592			10.8.1951
Kangaroo Electros (x b5) (60-on)	27.11.1945	x 4 (N2598-N2601)	L	7.12.1945	
	29.1.1946	x 4 (N2598-N2601)	L	7.2.1946	
	17.7.1946	x 4 (N2598-N2601)	L	27.8.1946	
	3.10.1946	x 4 (N2598-N2601)	L	6.11.1946	
	7.11.1946	x 4 (N2598-N2601)	L	20.11.1946	
	27.1.1947	x 4 (N2598-N2601)	L	7.2.1947	
		x 5 (N2598-N2602)			13.5.1949

Notes:

1. The final printing from the original 2/- Kangaroo plates (officially numbered "1" and "2") was made in November 1945. Those two plates were destroyed on 15.3.1948.
2. The "Copper Original", having been used to manufacture the electrotypes, was not required again, and remained in the strongroom until it was decided that its continued retention was no longer necessary. It was destroyed on 10.8.1951 (the 2/- Aboriginal Art stamp had replaced the 2/- Kangaroo in February 1948).
3. The "L" under "Destination" refers to the Department to which the plates were sent, and signifies the Letterpress Printing room.
4. The entries indicate there were five printings made of this stamp. There are six entries, but the fourth and fifth clearly represent a single printing, since the plates are returned

to the strongroom on 6.11.1945, only to be taken back out the following day. In fact, this is probably merely a "book entry", and the plates probably remained on the press for the whole period from 3.10.1946 to 20.11.1946. The reason for this entry (which is a common occurrence in the register) is not clear. At present there is little understanding of the manner in which the Note Printing Branch authorised and controlled printing orders, and no records relevant to this subject are presently available. One suggestion is that the 6.11.1946 entry represents the completion of one printing order, and the entry for the following day represents the commencement of another.

5. All printings were made from the same four printing electros, numbered N2598-N2601. The fifth, spare electro (N2602) was never used. All five electros were destroyed on 13.5.1949, fifteen months after the replacement of the stamp.
6. It is doubtful whether the five printings of this stamp can be differentiated, but there is one interesting change which occurred during the printing of this stamp. It is found with two central gutter widths - narrow (14mm) and wide (25mm). The narrow gutter was the original setting, with the wider gutter first being noted by the *Australian Stamp Journal* in its May 1947 issue. Since it was standard practice for the Note Printing Branch to issue stock to the Post Office in the order of its manufacture, it seems probable that the wide gutter setting was limited to the final printing made in January 1947. This change was necessary to enable the sheets to fit a new comb perforating machine, which operated left to right across the sheet, instead of up and down the sheet, and so the central gutter had to be stamp-width. Previously, all Kangaroo stamps since 1913 had been perforated by vertical combs operating from top to bottom of sheets.

No further records concerning this stamp have been found in the Note Printing Branch archives. The key missing information (indeed, perhaps the only missing information) are the perforating and printed stock records giving the quantities printed. No quantities have ever been published for these stamps, but from another source it is now possible to give a partial answer to this question. The annual quantities of stamps distributed by the Note Printing Branch to the Post Office are available for each financial year from 1946 onwards, although those for the earlier period have never been published. With the advent of the *Philatelic Bulletin*, these figures (from 1952-53 onwards) were made available to collectors.

The figures for the 2/- stamp for the relevant years are:

1946-47	7,962,780
1947-48	2,791,440 (plus 3,222,000 "new", i.e. 2/- Aboriginal Art)

Thus the total quantity distributed of the 2/- Redrawn Kangaroo was 10,754,220 plus the quantity from 1945-46. Since the stamp was first issued late in December 1946, it is likely that the relevant figure is about 3,000,000, giving a total quantity for the stamp of between 13,500,000 and 14,000,000.

QUEENSLAND 1897-1907 1d PERFORATED 12 x 9½

AN ANALYSIS OF THE LITERATURE

By DAVID J. COLLYER

A.J. Griffiths, in the *Australian States Study Group Newsletter* of December 1994, pages 66-67, describes the 1897-1907 1d of Queensland perforated 12 x 9½ as "another Queensland mystery". A search of the available literature has brought up additional areas which develop a very complex story. Some of the queries raised include - what is the meaning of the note after Queensland SG 254?; do the "staple like" holes in the margin indicate a booklet origin or possibly some other source?; what was the involvement of the stamp trade? The latter period of Queensland still contains a number of mysteries but the results of this paper may assist in removing some of the mystery of this period and this item in particular.

THE FIRST OCCURRENCE

J.H. Smyth in the *Australian Journal of Philately*, September 1901, page 14 notes "we have just received on an envelope through the post a specimen of the current 1d (Queensland) perf. 12 x 9½". The current Queensland 1d in 1901 would have been the 1897 issue with figures in all four corners. This report is mentioned by J.H. Chapman's view of paper and perforation in Vol. 1 of Bassett Hull's work on Queensland, page 42: "... we find the D (perforator) machine giving a 9½ perforation in the "faked" variety, 1d 1897, perforated 12 x 9½, chronicled in the *Australian Journal of Philately*, Vol. II page 14, September 1901. . . .".

One of the earliest records of the item appears in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* of October 1901, page 64, which notes that "*Ewen's Weekly* reports that the current 1d (Queensland) stamp exists perf. 12 x 9½". As the Gibbons journal was published on the last day of the month so *Ewen's Weekly Stamp News*, published in England, would have received its information in September or early October 1901, but the data would have been available somewhat earlier in Australia, possibly July or August.

In their July 1902 issue, page 5, Gibbons notes that they have been informed by *Ewen's Weekly* that:

... the 9½ perforation is unofficial. The story goes that "the 9½ machine was sent to New Guinea for commercial purposes, and that someone who had access to it passed some of the 1d stamps of 1882, perf. 12 through this machine. It is said that the original perforation can be traced along the edges of the perf. 9½. But when did this happen?" Is there any confusion with the 1d (Queensland) of 1882 perf. 9 x 12, or is that the variety the ingenious faker was trying to make ?

The story was taken up by Frederick Hagen, *Australian Philatelist*, September 1902,

page 4, who wrote:

Last month when we questioned the genuineness of the 1d (Queensland) current 9 x 12, we were right, vide Mr. A.A. Greens' letter to a London contemporary - the current 1d Queensland, perf. 9½ x 12 recently notified in London papers was not an official issue. The 9½ machine was sent to New Guinea for commercial purposes. Some of the perf. 12 'spot' 1d of 1882 were passed through the machine unofficially ere (before ?) it left for New Guinea. Careful examination will show traces of the original perforation in the fakes.

A check of the August 1902 issue of the *Australian Philatelist* has not produced any reference to the item mentioned in the September issue.

More detail was disclosed in the December 1902 issue of the *Australian Philatelist*, page 43, under a warning about forged perforations of the stamps of Queensland, Victoria, Van Diemen's Land/Tasmania, New South Wales, South Australia and Fiji. Queensland perf 9½ x 12 1d, 2d, 1/-:

These stamps are very close imitations of the originals, being, of course, genuine specimens of the ordinary stamps, perf. 12, with the horizontal perforations removed, and a larger gauge substituted. The larger holes of the 9½ gauge are somewhat irregular in shape, there are also other variations from the genuine article.

In the *Australian Philatelist* of January 1903, pages 57- 61 Hagen gave a detailed report on the activities of F.W. Reid, a Sydney stamp dealer of Queen Victoria Markets. Reid had been in the stamp trade in Brisbane in 1898:

Mr Reid shortly afterwards came to Sydney, and in November '98 advertised a Queensland 1/- perf. 9 x 12, for sale, which, my informant states, was a fake, and which Mr Reid later on referred to as such. This report was reprinted in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* of February 1903 and also mentioned in Vol. 12 of the *London Philatelist*.

Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal of January 1903, page 133, quotes a Brisbane correspondent on the topic of the fraudulently perforated 9½ x 12 stamps :

The 9½ machine has been sent to New Guinea for commercial purposes, and a party who had access to it put through some of the current sheets, imperf., hence the 9½ part of it ; but I never saw a specimen, so do not know if they were perf. 12 or 13 on the sides. Anyway, they were never issued to the public, as the affair, to put it charitably, was an experiment of the above mentioned party. Perhaps he was too scared to try to sell any outside. In addition to the above there have been various experiments with old sheets of the stamps of 1882, perf. 12 and some fairly successful fakes got about. I have seen a specimen of the 1/- perf. 12, worked up with a fine chisel into a very passable imitation of a 9½ x 12, but this was quite an innocent affair compared with another that was engineered on a sewing machine. I wish I could have got hold of some to send to you, but the owners wanted big prices for them on account of their artistic merit.

In 1902-1903 the basis for stating that the 1d Queensland of 1897 - 1907 perforated 12 x 9½ was a fake was that the gauge 9½ perforator had been sent sometime earlier to New Guinea. Gibbons in July 1902 and again in January 1903 along with the *Australian Philatelist* of September 1902, make this point. It will later be shown that this perforator was still in Brisbane during the time in question and that the perforator which went to Port Moresby was actually the line 12½ (13) gauge machine of 1863.

This does not negate the point that Queensland stamps with faked perforations were offered in Sydney in the period from around late 1898 to late 1902. In this case the items were re-perforated and traces of the original perforation were identifiable.

As regards the Sydney forgeries there is confusion as regards the actual gauge. Smyth's report of September 1901, lists the item as 1897 1d perf. 12 x 9½ whereas Hagen, a year later, records it as 1897 1d perf. 9 x 12, which is subsequently recorded in the same note as

9½ x 12. Hagen's report on the activities of F.W. Reid mention a gauge 9 perforator, but it is unclear if the stamps he referred to are the issue of 1882-83 or a later issue. The Gibbons report of January 1903 mentions both the 1882 issue and current sheets, which implies the 1897-1907 issue. Both Australian and British writers of the time regarded these items as forged perforations.

A SECOND OCCURRENCE ?

This section deals with material first recorded in 1910 but for which the most detailed account stems from 1912. Postally used copies date from the period 1905 to 1906. This item was once catalogued by Stanley Gibbons (S.G.) and its subsequent removal from listing has caused a range of notes in the catalogue.

Which Stamp?

In the current edition of S.G. Part 1 under Queensland SG 254, the following note appears: "The 1d perf. 12 x 9½ was not an authorised issue". The note first appeared in this form in 1979 and it was an edited version of a note which had first appeared in the 28th edition of S.G. Part 1, 1919, which read: "The 1d formerly catalogued perf. 12 x 9½ is now omitted, as later information shows that it was printed outside the Government Printing Office, and was not an official issue". In the period 1974 to 1978 the note read: "the 1d (Queensland) perf. 12 x 9½ was privately printed".

The stamp was first catalogued by S.G. in the 24th edition of Part 1, 1913, on page 248 as Queensland S.G. 192a and remained so up until the 27th edition of 1917. The stamp listed, in fact, was the 1896 1d in lower corners, not the 1897-1907 1d in four corners.

The stamp in this perforation appears in the *London Philatelist* of November 1910 in a paper entitled "The Colonial perforations of Queensland" by L.L.R. Hausburg. On page 261 he notes "With figures in all corners, watermark Q & Crown, perf. 12 x 9½ 1d, vermilion". This is a clear description of the 1897-1907 issue rather than the 1896 issue with figures in lower corners only. Equally it is not the 1907 to 1911 issue which was watermarked Crown over A.

Stanley Gibbons listed the item in their *Monthly Journal* for May 1911, page 181:

Queensland - Our publishers have shown us the 1d of 1896 with a compound perforation which is quite new to them for this stamp. It is 12 x 9½, the same combination as occurred in the case of the 2d of 1887-1889.

Type 19. Wmk. Crown & Q, Type 6a. perf 12 x 9½. 192a / 1d Vermilion.

The Gibbons description is also carried in the June 1911 issue of the *London Philatelist*, page 167, even though they had a different description in their November 1910 issue. The last sentence in the description is not accurate, as the 1887-1889 2d still listed as S.G. 183, has a perforation given as 9½ x 12. One could also consider S.G. 176 -178 which also carries this combination of perforation.

A query on the description in *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* first appears in the *Australian Philatelist* of September 1911, page 5:

We notice that *Stanley Gibbons Monthly Journal* chronicles the 1896 1d (Queensland), with figures in lower corners only, as perf. 12 x 9½. We have seen copies of the 1d with four figures perforated in this manner. Mr Hausburg also mentions them in his article "On the perforations of Queensland". It is possible that our friends have, by an oversight, chronicled the wrong 1d.

The *Australian Stamp Journal* of February 1912, page 56, follows in a similar vein and asks the question "Have Messrs Gibbons chronicled the wrong stamp?"

To support the item listed in Stanley Gibbons Part 1 catalogue from 1913-1917, one needs to show the existence of the 1896 1d in lower corners perforated 12 x 9½ and so far, no such stamp has been sighted.

The stamp listed by Hausburg was the 1d in four corners of 1897-1907, confirmation of the existence of this item occurs in the *Australian Philatelist* of September 1911 and the *Australian Stamp Journal* of February 1912. Mr Griffiths has subsequently turned up this stamp in 1994.

It is most likely that the stamp referred to in the note under Queensland SG 254 in the 1994 SG Part 1, is the 1d in four corners of 1897 - 1907, not the 1d in lower corners of 1896.

The Catalogue Notes

The note as read in its original form states that the item previously listed has been withdrawn because of evidence that shows *that it was printed outside the Government Printing Office and was not an official issue*. Unfortunately there is little indication of where this printing may have been.

By using the term *printed outside* the original note implies that the plates were taken out of the Queensland Government Printing Office and stamps produced. This seems unlikely, and more likely could have been that unperforated sheets were perforated by commercial printers outside the Government Printing Office.

Robson Lowe in Vol. IV of *The Encyclopaedia of British Empire Postage Stamps 1788-1892*, page 118, may be closer to the answer in his note on the subject: "The 1d (SG 232/3) is known perf 9½ x 12. This was produced outside the Printing Office and was unofficial". This implies that the perforation was not done in the Government Printing Office. The note in the 1994 S.G. Part 1 follows this line by implying the perforation was *not an authorised issue*.

Besides being a stamp dealer, Frederick Hagen also published a philatelic journal from 1894 to 1923. In addition Hagen, from around 1902, published a catalogue of Australian stamps which concentrated on Colonial issues. The item in question is not listed in the 1912 catalogue, the last before the start of World War I, or in the 1919 edition, the first after the end of the War.

In each of the catalogue notes the term "official issue" is used, but what does this mean? Up to Federation the stamps of Queensland were produced, since 1867, by the Government Printer in Brisbane. From March 1901 until 1913 this situation continued even though the stamps were being produced for the Commonwealth Postmaster-General's Department. Studies of perforators available to the Queensland Government Printer at the time, show that a number of machines could be used at any one time. The printing staff, themselves, were not particular about which perforator was used. One could make the case that a perforator used within the premises of the Queensland Government Printer would be an authorised machine, that is one belonging to the Government. It would be difficult to ascertain if properly authorised use was made of the perforator which would make it an "official issue".

The original catalogue note in S.G. Part 1, is quite detailed and implies that the stamps were both printed and perforated outside the Queensland Government Printing Office. In the 76th edition of S.G. Part 1 (1974), the note was revised to read "the 1d perf. 12 x 9½ was privately printed". This was subsequently revised in the 87th edition of 1979 to its current form. The second revision of the Gibbons note and the note in the Robson Lowe

Encyclopaedia imply that the perforation was done outside the Queensland Government Printing Office and that it was not authorised by the correct authorities.

CENSUS

Material included in this census covers that noted after 1904 and is not related to the material of the 1901-1902 episode.

Griffiths, 1994, lists the following:

- a mint, left perforated marginal block of four, with a pair of "staple like" holes in the margin
- a used block of four postmarked at Kilkivan in 1905. The month on the illustration looks like "DE" (December).

The *Australian Stamp Journal*, edited by J.H. Smyth of Castlereagh Street, Sydney, lists the following in its February 1912 issue:

- a mint pair
- a used pair postmarked Kangaroo Point (a suburb of Brisbane)
- a used pair with imperforate margin, postmarked Aug 13 with year and town unreadable
- a used block of four postmarked Kilkivan DEC 19 06
- a block of 8, no indication whether mint or used

It should be noted that Smyth gives a date of 1906 for his Kilkivan block whereas Griffiths gives a date of 1905 for his. It may well be that one of the dates has been misread due to poor inking or over inking of the postmark.

Frederick Hagen in the *Australian Philatelist* of September 1911 notes that he has seen copies of the stamp, as does Hausburg in the *London Philatelist* of November 1910.

DISCUSSION

The Perforators

Students of the postage stamps of Queensland will be aware that line perforators gauging 12 and 9½ were used on the issues of 1882-83 and 1887-89. It needs to be shown that these perforators were available in the early Commonwealth period (1901-1913). There have been three major studies concerning the perforators of Queensland; Hausburg 1910, Dalby 1913, and J.H. Chapman, in Basset Hull, 1930.

Chapman gives the most detailed analysis of perforators used by the Queensland Government Printer for postage stamp production from 1862:

- A 1862 single line hand machine gauging 12¾ to 13¼ (1862 to 1866)
- B 1862 single line treadle gauging 12½ to 12¾ (1863 to 1878)
- B1 1890 vertical comb treadle gauging 12¾ x 12¾ (1890 to 1913)
- C 1874 single line treadle gauging 12 to 12¼ (1874 to 1906)
- D 1883 single line rotary gauging 9½ (1884 to 1887)
- E 1889 vertical comb treadle gauging 12¾ x 12¾ (not used, converted to E1)
- E1 1900 single line treadle gauging 12¾ irregular (1900 to 1913)

Other machines are listed, but they do not relate to the period under investigation.

The Queensland Government Printer commenced perforating stamps in Brisbane in 1862 using a single line, hand machine made by Messrs Partridge and Son of Birmingham (Machine A). A second machine, also a line perforator, was purchased later that year and

first used in 1863 (Machine B) and used on stamps until around 1878. The Kimber and Hughes machine gauge 12 (Machine C), was purchased in 1874 and continued in use to around 1906. In 1883 a gauge 9½ machine was purchased. Chapman notes that this was rarely used on postage stamps. In 1889 a comb perforator was purchased. (Machine E), but was found to be unsuitable for perforating Queensland postage stamps. In 1890 to overcome this difficulty, Machine B was converted by J. Buncl & Co of Melbourne, from a line perforator to a comb perforator (Machine B1) and remained in use on postage stamps until 1913. Machine E was converted to a line perforator (Machine E1) around 1900 and remained in use until 1913.

Dalby claims that the 9½ line perforator was sent from Brisbane to Port Moresby when the Papuan Government Printer was established. Hausburg and Chapman in Basset Hull contend this view, saying the 9½ line perforator was in Brisbane in 1901. It was the 1862 13 line perforator which was sent to Port Moresby in October 1901 where it was used to perforate items such as registration receipts.

Chapman notes that the line 9½ perforator was acquired in 1883 by the Government Printing Office as distinct from the Lithographic Office. In October 1901 it was transferred to the book binding department of the Queensland Government Printer. Hausburg in *Gibbons Stamp Weekly* of 18 November 1905, page 346, supports Chapman: "When in Brisbane early this year I went over the Government Stamp Printing Office, and there saw the 9½ machine (perforator), and obtained a pull from it". Hausburg does not differentiate between the Queensland Government Printer and the section that printed postage stamps. He also notes that he was able to obtain a pull, sometime later, from the machine that had been sent to Papua.

Both Smyth, 1912, and Griffiths, 1994, note that the stamps were perforated 12 horizontally and 9½ vertically. It can be seen that perforators of these gauges were most probably used by the Queensland Government Printer in the period 1900 to 1910.

Some thought should be given to the hypothetical situation of Government Printer checkers, or postal staff, finding imperforate sheets. Such items could have been destroyed or these could have been sent back for re-perforating. In such a scenario the existence of blocks of four would imply sheets with more than two vertical rows imperforate, which seems unlikely.

Postal Rates

Most postage stamps exist because they prepay a postage rate. In Queensland during the period 1901 to 1911, the 1d rate prepaid postcards, printed matter and commercial papers. The 1d value would have been in reasonable demand but not as high as the letter stamp of 2d.

Smyth, September 1901, notes that he received a copy of the Queensland 1d in four corners on cover. The cost of a letter from Queensland to Sydney in the period June to September 1901, should have been 2d. What other stamp(s) were on the envelope addressed to Mr Smyth or was it underpaid?

The Trade

Griffiths, 1994, page 67, notes that "I believe that a stamp dealer operated from Kilkivan in this period and I am earnestly searching for information on this man". Considering the geographic location of Kilkivan it seems unlikely that a stamp dealer would have operated

from the town. However, there is evidence to show otherwise.

Kilkivan is now a small town midway on the railway line between the main north coast line and Kingaroy. From the 1890's to the start of World War I it was a gold mining town which had a population well in excess of that of today.

The person Mr Griffiths may be looking for is J.E. Newell Bull who moved about the Gympie goldfields from the 1890's to around 1901. In August 1894 the minutes of the Sydney Philatelic Club show J.E. Newell Bull writing from Gunalda as editor of *Australian Stamp News*, offering the journal to the members at a halfpenny per copy per month. The offer was declined.

Smyth, writing in *Australian Journal of Philately* October 1904, page 3, showed that this journal first appeared in July 1893 and ran through to August 1894, with Gunalda as the address of the publication. This information was repeated by R. Lloyd-Smith in *Philately From Australia*, March 1968, page 61.

In 1895 and 1896 Bull was connected with the Gympie Stamp Club. There is no information currently known of his whereabouts for 1897. In April 1898, Bull recommenced the *Australian Stamp News* with the publication address at Kilkivan Junction. This second series ran through to December of 1898. In January 1899 the *Australian Philatelist*, page 61, notes that "the publishers have acquired the only other philatelic paper in the colonies the *Australian Stamp News*, conducted by Mr Newell Bull of Queensland". After the purchase of his journal Bull advertised in the *Australian Philatelist* of April 1899, giving a postal address of Mount Pleasant, Gympie. This is the last trace of this early Australian stamp dealer.

Queensland Post Offices 1842-1980, Receiving Offices 1869-1927 by Joan Frew is an excellent source on Post & Telegraph Offices in Queensland. Frew notes, page 317, that the first town to be called Kilkivan was on West Coast Creek, 2.5 miles south east of the present site. This office operated between 1868 and 1876. The present Kilkivan was opened as Neureum in 1876 and changed its name to Kilkivan in 1880. The railway came to the town in 1886 and from 1891 to 1907 the post office was conducted from the railway station.

The railway reached Kilkivan Junction in August 1881 and a post office opened at the railway station in October 1885, having previously been at Kanyan about one mile away. The office changed its name to Theebine in May 1910 and continued operations until June 1977.

Newell Bull was at Kilkivan Junction in 1898 but not at Kilkivan which is some distance away. Between 1884 and 1901 Bull, who traded in stamps and who was connected with organised philately in Gympie, moved about the goldfields. There currently is no evidence that he was active in 1905.

To get a better understanding of the relationship of the stamp trade and collectors at the end of the nineteenth century, one should also look at the major population centres. Brisbane is a more likely place for the involvement of the stamp trade. Unfortunately, very little about the stamp trade in Brisbane at the turn of the century was recorded. The best evidence is advertisements in the journals of the period. The difficulty is both the *Australian Philatelist*, the *Australian Journal of Philately* and the *Australian Stamp Journal* were connected to dealers. On some occasions advertising was accepted and at other times it was not. One also has to hope that those who bound the journals kept the covers which contained the advertising.

A correspondent in contemporary Australian philatelic journals was W.H. Robinson. Robinson, who in a 1914 hand-out, stated that he started in the stamp trade around 1902. In the *Australian Philatelist* for October 1898 there is an advertisement for W.H. Robinson with

the address given as "Swan Hill", Brisbane. At this point it is not sure if the address is the name of a house or the name of a suburb which was subsequently renamed. No suburb of that name currently exists in Brisbane. In September 1905, Robinson's address was given as 213 Queen Street, Brisbane, the street number varied from 211 to 213. In March 1914 he advertised the Queensland 6d in lower corners, only giving his business address as 282 Queen Street, Brisbane. W.E. Johnson, writing in the *Australian Philatelist* of August 1912, page 162, noted that W.H. Robinson was the only stamp dealer in Brisbane at that time. At this point in time there is no information on his private address which could tie him to the Kangaroo Point area or Kilkivan.

F.W. Reid came from Brisbane in late 1898. Hagen's article on Reid does not go into detail as to where he operated in Queensland, but he was in the stamp trade during the time in question, as well as trading in Sydney, and he had been connected to the episode of November 1902. Reid left Sydney quickly in November 1902 for America. Some time later he returned to Sydney and traded until May 1921.

Two Sydney dealers connected with the recording of both the 1902 episode and the second episode of 1910-1912, are Frederick Hagen and J.H. Smyth.

Frederick Hagen was born at Rushcutters Bay, Sydney in 1860. He apprenticed as a lithographic plate maker and printer with S.T. Leigh and Co., who printed the Samoa Express issue. Between 1881 and 1886 he was trading in New Caledonia with his brother. He bought out the stamp dealer Dawson Vindin in October 1893, and remained in business until 1921, although the company name was retained for longer. From 1900 to 1905 his business address was given as Elizabeth Street, Sydney. From 1905 to 1914 the company traded from 182 Pitt Street. Hagen was publisher of the *Australian Philatelist* from 1893 to 1921. During the period we are considering, the editor of the *Australian Philatelist* was E.D.E. Van Weenen, who had developed several major collections of Queensland.

James Hodgens Smyth was born in Belfast in 1856 and migrated to Australia in 1890. In 1893 he became a stamp dealer in partnership with T.H. Nicolle. This was dissolved in 1902. From 1900 to 1905 Smyth was the editor of the *Australian Journal of Philately*, in which publication the earliest record of the Queensland 1d of 1897-1907 perf. 12 x 9½ occurs. Smyth joined Fred Hagen's business in 1905 as company secretary, and was editor of the *Australian Philatelist* from 1905 to 1910. In late 1910 Smyth set up his own company dealing out of 50 Castlereagh Street. After Smyth died in 1923, his company name continued until the 1950's under Romney Gibbons.

In light of the 1901 occurrence being recorded, apparently soon after it happened, it is reasonable to ask why the 1905-6 occurrence was not mentioned until 1910, and not fully recorded until 1912. In the case of the Australian journals, the people in positions of editor were involved on both occasions. The first is quickly shown to be a fabrication whilst the second is regarded as possibly a production experiment. Most new issue items from Queensland and the other States in the period 1901 to 1913 were recorded very soon after happening. It is unusual for something not to be recorded for 4-5 years.

There is evidence of a stamp dealer in the Gympie area in the 1890's. However, the trail peters out in 1899 and there is thus no evidence to show a stamp dealer operating in the Kilkivan area in 1905. Is it a coincidence that both recorded blocks are postmarked at Kilkivan? There was only one stamp dealer recorded in Brisbane prior to World War I. Both Hagen & Smyth were instrumental in recording the major philatelic happenings in the early decades of this century.

The Collectors

Very little of the early philatelic history of Queensland seems to have survived. There are a few references to the Brisbane Philatelic Club, which seems to have been formed in May 1906, and lasted for a little over 12 months. Hagen attended a meeting of the club in June 1906 whilst on holidays in Brisbane, at which time he saw the collections of Dr Lucas and Mr Appleby.

The minutes of the Sydney Philatelic Club recorded that W. Russell Wilkins of Brisbane displayed a "magnificent collection of Queensland" in February 1905, which he had purchased from an artist. Wilkins sold this collection to L.L.R. Hausburg when he visited Australia in 1905.

W.E. Appleby is regularly quoted by J.H. Smyth in Hagen's *Australian Philatelist* from 1906 onwards. He was described as a "close student of all philatelic technicalities". Appleby became the second president of the Brisbane Philatelic Club in May 1907, although the club ceased soon afterwards.

W.E. Johnson, writing in the *Australian Philatelist* August 1912, page 162, concerning a business trip to Brisbane, noted that the Reverend James Mursell F.R.P.S., L., was a leading Brisbane philatelist. T.F. Illidge and J. Smith also had impressive collections of Queensland colonial issues. As regards organised philatelic clubs, Johnson noted: "Generally speaking, I found that Brisbane stamp-lovers suffered by the absence of a live healthy philatelic club, such as is possessed by the other three principal cities of the Commonwealth, most of the collectors being on intimate terms with only two or three others, and their opportunities for comparing notes and discussing matters of philatelic interest were therefore very limited".

The Queensland Philatelic Society was formed in June 1921 (see the *Australian Philatelist*, July 1921, page 161). A contemporary report in the *Victorian Philatelic Record*, published by the Philatelic Society of Victoria, mentions that the Queensland Philatelic Society was formed on the same night as the dissolution of the Australian and Foreign Stamp Club which had been formed in Brisbane in 1912. A check of the *Australian Philatelist* and the *Australian Philatelic Journal* for the period 1912 to 1921 brings to light no reference to this club. As Johnson makes no mention of it in his article in July 1912, it appears to have been formed after that date. The club is important as it shows that there was a stamp club in Brisbane around the time the second occurrence of the 1d 1897-1907, perf. 12 x 9½ was recorded.

Smyth, 1912, notes that the item was drawn to his attention by "one of our Brisbane friends who is now on a visit to this city". This person is also described as "He does not pretend to be an advanced philatelist". Such a description would not seem to fit W.H. Robinson who was involved in the stamp trade. In 1916 Smyth mentions W. Russell Wilkins as a correspondent, but at this point the firm identity of Smyth's correspondent is yet to be determined.

Although little has been recorded about the early philatelic history of Queensland there is evidence to show that the hobby had many adherents in south-eastern Queensland prior to World War I. As well there were collectors of Queensland at the time in other States as well as overseas.

Booklet Origin?

Griffiths, 1994, suggests that the staple like holes in his marginal block of four may indicate that these stamps came from a booklet. This would be the £1 booklets which were

on sale from 1904 to 1913. A check of Commonwealth booklet material prior to the George VI issues shows that the binding was always by staple.

J.H. Smyth in *Australian Journal of Philately*, March 1904, page 71, notes that on page 204 of *Commonwealth Postal Guide* of January 1904, there is an announcement stating: "Booklets of one penny or two penny postage stamps are sold at one pound each, the face value of the stamps contained therein". In the *Australian Journal of Philately*, April 1904 issue, page 82, Smyth noted "The Victoria postal authorities are selling halfpenny, one penny and two pence stamps in small books with a ruled off account form at the end".

Kellow's *Index of the Philatelic Literature of the Commonwealth* does not list anything on the Commonwealth £1 booklet until the March 1950 issue of *Philately from Australia*, pages 6-9, which merely acknowledges its existence in the content of other Commonwealth booklets. The March 1956 issue of *Philately from Australia*, page 3, gives more detail on the make up of these booklets, but records nothing as regards perforation and layout.

The first account based on archival sources of the early Commonwealth booklets was written by Phil Collas in the April 1954 issue of the *Philatelic Bulletin* who notes that because of poor sales some States removed the covers from their booklet stocks and sold the remainders as sheet stamps. This was the basis for the account which appeared in the Brusden-White column of *Stamp News* in April 1995, page 24.

The *Australian Commonwealth Specialist Catalogue*, Brusden-White, 1995 records the following in regards the 1904 £1 booklet:

Booklets of stamps were introduced as an experiment following the suggestion of Mr. Frank Nixon of Rockhampton, Queensland made in June 1903. The Commonwealth Stamp Printer, Mr J.B. Cooke agreed to the manufacture of the books for each of the six States, and each Deputy Postmaster-General was requested to despatch to Adelaide sufficient stamps to make up 200 books for the 1d and 2d stamps to be sold at £1. Production of the £1 booklets containing 240 1d stamps was continued up to the introduction of the Kangaroo stamps in 1913. From 1909 booklet production was located in Melbourne following J.B. Cooke's relocation to Melbourne to establish the Commonwealth Stamp Printing office . . . No attempt was made to match the contents of a booklet with the back cover illustration. Stamps for insertion in the booklets were taken from current stock and most, if not all, watermark and perforation combinations current between 1904 and 1912 are theoretically possible.

Make-up: Front cover in black on thin red surfaced-card, white inside, as illustrated.

Inside front and back covers are printed with a grid of rectangles for recording use of stamps

Back cover showing illustrations of State G.P.O.'s

Two sheets of 120 1d stamps were folded in quarters and affixed by two staples to covers; the folds were not severed. Tissue paper was inserted between the opposing gummed sides.

Griffiths, 1994, suggests that a coarser perforation would make it easier to separate into pairs, which could be used for the then current inland rate. It should be noted that the census records pairs and blocks of four, but no singles. To make up a booklet of value one pound, 240 1d stamps would be required. Considering the then current sheet make up of Queensland issues, each booklet would require four panes each consisting of ten stamps across and six stamps deep. The illustration of a 1904 booklet cover in Kellow's *Stamps of Victoria* shows two staples were required to bind the stamps between the covers. Staple holes are thus likely to occur in the left margin next to rows 2 and 5 on the top half, and next to rows 8 and 11 on the bottom half. It would be useful if either of these positions contained "plateable" flaws.

The case for the item coming from a booklet is based on the "staple like holes" and the coarse vertical perforations which could be used to separate the stamps into pairs. Such a case would gain support if plateable flaws could be located in the stamps next to the "staple like holes".

Sheet Stamp?

J.H. Smyth in 1912 suggests that the stamp may have come from sheets. Smyth notes that in 1905 the 12 x 13 comb perforator broke down and that a line perforator(s) was used in its place. Gibbons and Robson Lowe contend that the date is 1903, but all agree that the line perforator was used.

Most catalogues list the Queensland 1897-1907 issue as comb perforation 12½, 13. A line perforation 12 is listed, but there is some contention as to the date of issue and the catalogues give only a year of issue, not a month. Stanley Gibbons Part 1 and Robson Lowe *Encyclopaedia* Vol. 4 give 1903 as the date for the line perforation 12. The *Australian Philatelist*, July 1906, page 133, noted that "the 1d (Queensland) perf. 12 was issued some time previously". Hagen's 1919 edition, gives a date of 1905, which ties in with Smyth's comment of 1912 that the issue came out on the later date.

Chapman, in Basset Hull, goes some way to explaining this difficulty. On page 50 Chapman notes:

1903-1904. This use of E1 machine indicates that the B1 machine may have been under repair, and supports the statement, in the description of the B1 machine, that about 1904 it was fitted with smaller pins and a new bed plate.

Following on:

1905: At this date it is evident that there was a stress of work on the B1 comb machine, as we find the current ½d, 1d, and 2d perforated by the C machine, and no doubt some sheets of the former were passed through the E1 machine.

On page 47 he notes that the Hughes & Kimber perforator (Machine C) was used on "the current ½d, 1d & 2d issued in 1905".

It seems that line perforation occurred in both 1903 and 1905 of the three low values, and that as the catalogues have been unable to differentiate between the different perforation heads, the earliest date was used. It is interesting to note that both line perforators may have been used in 1905, which could be seen as support for Smyth's contention that the 1d perf. 12 x 9½ was an experiment from which trial sheets were inadvertently issued.

Line perforation is a tedious job. All the vertical designs of the Queensland 1897-1907 issue consisted of sheets of 120 (10 across x 12 down) which would have required 11 separate vertical strokes and 13 separate horizontal strokes of a line perforator, making a total of 24 operations to perforate a single sheet. A comb perforator would need either 11 or 13 operations depending on how the sheet was fed, cutting the production time in half. If the printer had to use a line perforator, then the ability to use two different perforation machines, even of different gauge, would have cut production time.

To be considered a sheet stamp, one needs to look at how the standard 1897-1907 Queensland stamps were perforated and what line perforators would have been available to the Queensland Government Printer in event of a mechanical failure.

If these stamps did come from an issued sheet, one needs to consider the "staple like holes". It would therefore be useful to record any marginal inclusions of the Queensland issues of 1897 to 1912. If the characteristics of the perforators "Machine C" and "Machine E1" were known, it may be possible to determine patterns of use in the period 1903 to 1906.

Coil Stamp?

If the issue was *authorised*, that is produced by the Queensland Government Printer,

it is most likely that it was a booklet, or an unaccepted trial perforation of sheet stamps. We should, however, consider any other possibilities.

When considering coil issues, stamp collectors normally envisage a vending machine. Collas when writing on the subject in the *Philatelic Bulletin*, follows this line, but also mentions that coils were prepared for stamp affixing devices. Little, if any, has been recorded about the use of coil fed stamp affixing machines in Australia. Most of the Commonwealth OS coil production was used in such machines, and it is likely that there were also machines with private companies. For such a system to work the Post Office would be required to supply made up coil rolls.

The use of large perforations to assist in separation of coils is documented with the George VI recess issues of 1937-38. Kellow's index lists 1908 as the earliest trial of postal vending machines in Australia for which stamps are known. The lack of a written record does not necessarily mean something did not exist; compare the £1 booklet issue of 1904 not being recorded in the literature until 1950.

As the perf. 9½ lines are vertical, if a coil is to be considered then it would have to be a horizontal strip to take advantage of the coarse perforation.

Security

One of the tenets of stamp printing is security. The workers are dealing with something akin to legal tender. A.R. Butler, in a paper on Queensland 6d in lower corners, *Australian States Study Group Newsletter*, April 1993, page 14, notes "Security in the (Queensland) Government Printing Office was lax and there can be no doubt that employees were well aware that collectors were always looking for varieties". In relation to the 6d in lower corners, Butler lists the proof material which has survived. Butler, page 10, notes "at this time there were those in the (Queensland) Government Printing Office, who officially or unofficially, had experience in the preparation of 'Funny' coloured composite proofs and several varieties of these are available to Queensland collectors".

Hooper, whilst researching in the Australian Archives, Melbourne (MP 341/1/ 06/5778) noted an Auditor-General's report dated November 1905, covering the period November 1904 to April 1905, relating to the removal of revenue stamps from the Queensland Government Printer. L.L.R Hausburg is mentioned, as well as K. Voller, who is listed as Officer in Charge of the branch. It may be coincidental that a new Queensland Government Printer was appointed in 1906.

Johnson, in the *Australian Stamp Journal*, August 1912, page 162, lists the following in the Queensland section of the collection of T.F. Illidge:

1882 2d imperforate pair, serrated stamps in the shape of a pair with plain serrate and perforations, but without the serrate down the middle of the pair, and a block perforated properly but serrated at side only.

Chapman, page 48, describes Illidge as "at one time custodian of Queensland plates and stamps". Samuel Dalby, in the *Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, March 1916 page 95, whilst discussing the Queensland 6d in lower corners, mentions "conversing last year with a veteran official, who twenty years back, handled most of the (Queensland) stamps for distribution". Such a description could fit Illidge.

There are sufficient accounts that some unusual things happened during the latter period of stamp production by the Queensland Government Printer.

CONCLUSION

A review of the literature shows that the Queensland 1d of 1897 to 1907 perforation 12 x 9½ weaves an intriguing story. The first recorded occurrence was 1901 and the stamp was subsequently dismissed as a forgery because the 9½ perforator had been sent to Papua. The literature, in fact, shows that another perforator went to Papua and that the 9½ perforator remained in Brisbane.

The stamp was recorded again from 1910-1912. Contemporary recorders imply this item was produced on the premises of the Queensland Government Printer. Stanley Gibbons listed it in their catalogue between 1912 and 1917 but they recorded the wrong design, the 1d in lower corners instead of the 1d in four corners. If anything can be said about this item it is that confusion occurred throughout its record.

The "staple like holes" may indicate a booklet origin, equally there are other possibilities as to what the item may have been, such as a sheet stamp, or a coil stamp for stamp affixing machines.

The evidence for involvement of the stamp trade seems to be indirect. The Gympie goldfields did have a stamp dealer in the 1890's and one of the addresses he used in 1898 was Kilkivan Junction. At present there is no evidence to show that there was a stamp dealer in the area in 1905. Brisbane prior to World War I had only one stamp dealer who was aware of what was coming on the market. There were plenty of collectors who were interested in collecting the stamps of their Colony/State.

A.J. Griffiths has raised an interesting item. A search of the literature shows a complex story for which parts of the mystery may have been solved. As with the conclusion of Mr Griffiths' article, one asks collectors with issues from the later period of Queensland to look at their holdings in the hope that some of the points raised may be dealt with and the period demystified.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

From the gathering of the data through the assembly to the apocalypse of punctuation, there was a small group who kept this project going. My thanks to Bill Wilson, Ben Palmer and John Crowsley for opening up a number of leads and providing access to the literature. Thanks also to those who read the various drafts and made comments, Richard Peck, Ken Sparks, Bernard Beston and Geoffrey Kellow. To Joan Orr and Marc Jennison who carried out the proof reading my sincere thanks in refining this project.

EDITORIAL NOTES

The Australian Order of Philately

At the June 1995 meeting of the Australian Philatelic Federation Executive, the 1995 recipients of the Australian Philatelic Order awards were announced.

The two new Fellows are both members of The Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. They are Ray

Chapman, A.M., M.B.E., R.D.P., F.R.P.S.,L. (Qld.), and Betty Van Tenac, F.R.P.S.,L. (S.A.).

Seven new Members have been elected, and of these four are members of the Society.

They are Ross Duberal (W.A.), Brian Farmer (S.A.), Richard Peck, F.R.P.S.,L. (N.S.W.), and Alan Salisbury (A.C.T.).

VICTORIA: THE 1/- OCTAGONAL DIE PROOF

By RUSSELL JONES

There are no contemporary die proofs of the 1854 1/- Octagonal lithograph of Victoria engraved by Campbell & Fergusson, and the only impressions recorded are the posthumous pulls taken in 1901 on the occasion of the visit of the Duke of York (later King George V). The background to these proofs was given in the June 1995 issue of *Philately from Australia* when discussing the Half-Length die proofs.

The die plate of the 1/- Octagonal die bore five engraved impressions, and two types of die proofs exist. The first is a strip of five impressions, only one of which is the design as issued, the other four designs being unadopted. The example of this proof in the Royal Collection is inscribed "*No. 3/Impression from the Steel Plate*". The second proof shows the issued design only, the unadopted types being masked and printed in albino. This proof is inscribed "*No. 4/Impression from the Steel Plate*". It has been said that there were six of each of these 1901 "Royal" proofs, but the 1/- Octagonal proofs are so rare that it is suggested that there were six of these in total, three each of the two types. Other than the pair in the Royal Collection, only one of each type can otherwise be recorded.

The original die plate of the 1/- Octagonal no longer exists, but it was available for inspection by David Hill, who described it as measuring 8 x 6 inches. However, the die sinkage as indicated by one of the surviving proofs measures 13.4 x 10.6cm.



The 1901 posthumous proof of the 1/- Octagonal die plate

The five-impression proof shows the dies were engraved in a horizontal row. The first three impressions on the plate (the last three on the printed proof) are master dies without inscription. The fourth impression is the adopted design with "VICTORIA/ONE SHILLING" inscription, and the fifth impression is an unadopted design showing the inscription "POSTAGE/ONE SHILLING" in thick lettering. It seems possible that the unadopted inscription was the first engraved, but was rejected by the Post Office since it lacked the

Colony's name. "VICTORIA/ONE SHILLING" had appeared on Campbell & Fergusson's handpainted essay.

A significant aspect of all five impressions is the similarity of the engravings in terms of the detail of the Queen's portrait and border shading. There was no access in Victoria, at that time, to equipment to enable the transfer of a master die by the Perkins, Bacon technique. It is apparent, therefore, that Campbell & Fergusson used a means whereby the design could be transferred in outline to the steel plate, and that etching played an important part in the engraving. Under a glass, differences in the engraved lines between each impression are apparent.



The adopted die of the 1/- Octagonal (330% actual size)

The adopted die shows a number of "die flaws" that are reproduced, to a greater or lesser extent, on all the printed stamps. these are:

1. A doubling of the outer circular frame below the "E" of "ONE" and "SHI" of "SHILLING".
2. Additional colour between the inner and outer circular frames below "NE" of "ONE". This colour is an extension of the cross-hatched shading of the octagonal border.
3. There is a graver slip in the lower portion of the oblique outer south-east frame, under "LL" of "SHILLING".
4. The lower octagonal frame is bent outwards at its right end, and is faintly doubled to the left of this fault.
5. A faint line (another graver slip?) joins the first "I" of "SHILLING" to the circle of solid shading above.

THE 1881 BEER DUTY STAMPS OF TASMANIA

NOTES BY THE LATE J.R.W. PURVES ON THE METHOD OF PRODUCTION

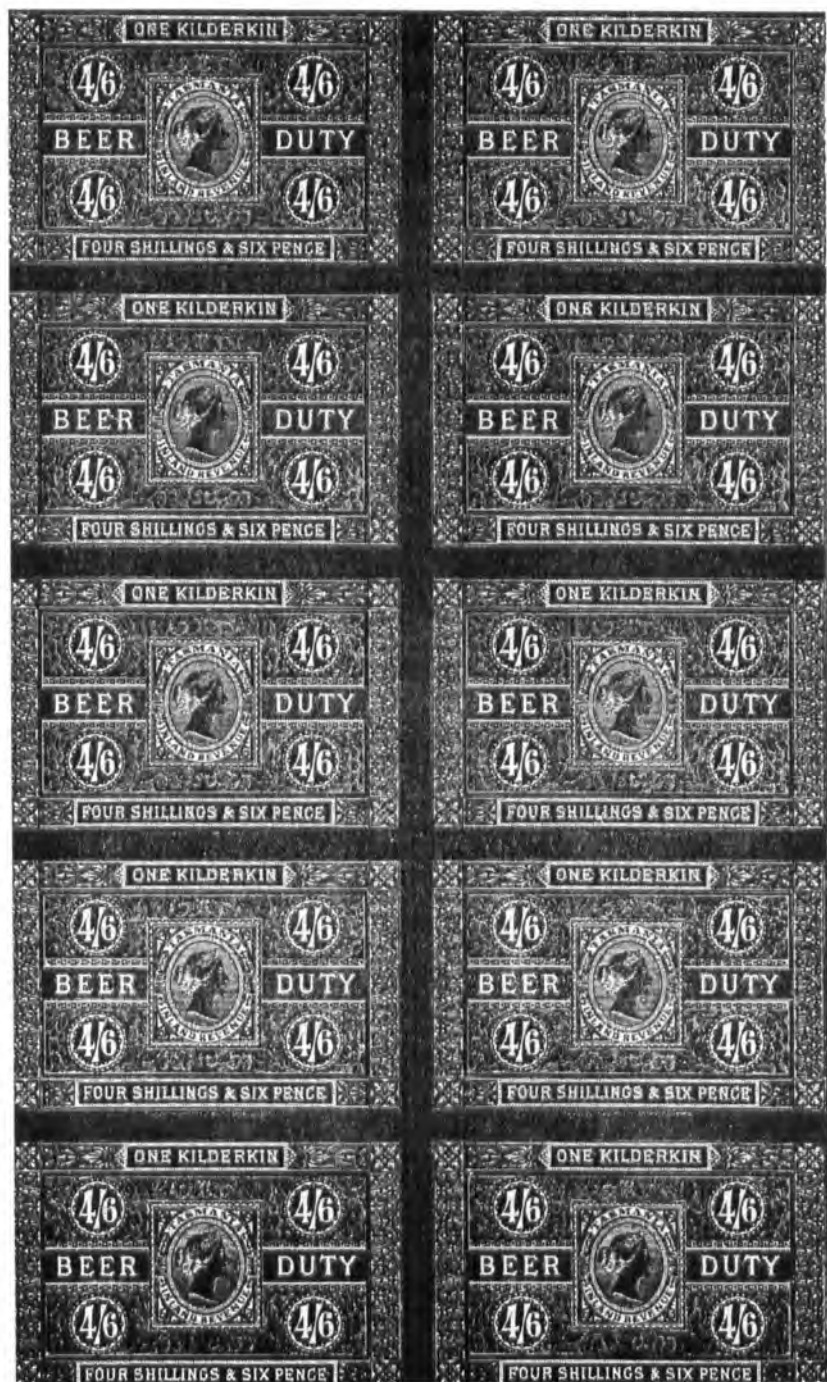
Through the courtesy of Rex & Fair (Philatelists) a set of proofs of the 1881 Beer Duty stamps of Tasmania, formerly in the Viney collection, has been seen. These are accompanied by notes written by the late J.R.W. Purves which outline the interesting method of production used for these stamps.

The 1881 issue comprised six values engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. in London, viz. 1/3d, 2/3d, 4/6d, 6/9d, 9/-, 13/6d. The proofs comprise blocks of 10 (5 rows of 2) of each value printed in red on thin, glazed white paper. These prints are in negative (i.e., the coloured areas of the printed stamps appear white in the proof sheets, and vice versa) and are apparently produced via some photographic process. The 4/6d sheet is illustrated here. Purves suggests that the proofs are not printed at all, but paper photographic negatives, made via a proof of the plate (probably in black) being flashed onto the negative, already coated with a special surfacing material. Purves hypothesises that the proofs may have been taken in the early years of this century, perhaps preparatory to a proposed King Edward VII series, but it is now thought that the proofs are a more recent posthumous production.

Both Basset Hull, in *The Stamps of Tasmania*, and Ingles and Craig, in *The Revenue and Railway Stamps of Tasmania*, state that this issue was printed in sheets of 10, which seems a logical conclusion on the basis of these proofs. However, Purves was able to show that this was not so, and that a very interesting technique was used to produce these stamps.

On the basis of a study of the stamps themselves (especially of the 4/6d value, of which he had some 100 examples) Purves proposed the following method of production:

1. The original die was engraved by Bradbury, Wilkinson & Co. in recess, and was in blank, i.e., no values, in either words or figures.
2. From the die a transfer roll (or a flat steel matrix in relief) was taken and rolled-in (or stamped) to create a vertical row of five impressions on soft steel or copper. This comprised the master plate. The five primary types of this plate can be identified by small flaws.
3. From this master, via stamped moulds probably of lead, six electrotypes in blank were duly produced. Each of these electrotypes was a replica of the original master of five vertical impressions.
4. For each of the six values, one of these 5-impression electrotypes was taken and the value (both words and figures) pantographed thereon. In each case, again via moulds of this pantographed electrotype, a further replica was produced and two of these, placed side by side and clamped together, produced a plate of 10 impressions (5 rows of 2) in recess for each value, of which the arrangement was:



Negative proof of the 1881 4/6d Beer Duty stamp of Tasmania. The block of 10 was a master plate from which lithographic transfers were taken for printing.

1	1
2	2
3	3
4	4
5	5

These could have been used as printing plates but were not.

5. The stamps were lithographed in sheets of 40, presumably (in view of the dimensions of the design), 4 x 10. In the 4/6d value Purves had identified 36 different lithographic items. The printing stone of 40 was laid down from four transfers of the plate of 10. Although the printing must have been from a lithographic stone of 40 impressions, the guillotine was subsequently used to produce sheets of 10 stamps only, which were subsequently perforated vertically through the middle and horizontally, but leaving the outer edges imperforate. This results in the following pattern:

1	2
3	4
5	6
7	8
9	10

No. 1 is always imperforate at top and left.

No. 2 is always imperforate at to right.

Nos. 3, 5 and 7 are always imperforate at left.

Nos. 4, 6 and 8 are always imperforate at right.

No. 9 is always imperforate at bottom and left.

No. 10 is always imperforate at bottom and right.

LIBRARY NOTES

The last Library Catalogue was produced in 1965, with a Supplement which brought it up to 1975. Work is now well-advanced on a new Library Catalogue, which has in the first place involved devising a computer data base for the purpose and then entering all the items held in the Library. The new catalogue will be ready this year, and it is intended that it be available in two versions - an abridged edition which, while listing the complete holdings, will do so in an abbreviated manner; and a much larger "complete" edition will be available giving full bibliographic details of the Library's holdings.

This work has involved as considerable re-organisation of the Library's holdings which has been made possible by additional space being allocated to the Library. One aspect that has received particular attention is auction catalogues, of which the Society's collection currently numbers in excess of 3,500. The policy is to retain all auction catalogues of any significance. One area of particular importance, naturally, is the catalogues published in this country. While the Society's holdings are considerable, these are by no means complete, and this applies not only to older catalogues, but even to more recent sales. One prominent example of an incomplete holding is the Society's own auction sales, of which copies have been retained for the library only in recent years. The opportunity is taken here to provide a list of those sales that the Library currently lacks in the hope that members may be able to fill some of the gaps. Any donations, however small, will be welcome, and will be acknowledged in future columns. Duplicate items are also welcome as these can be exchanged with other philatelic libraries and provide another means of enlarging our holdings. Arrangements can be made to pick up any large quantities.

Australian auction catalogues required by the Library:

Brighton Philatelic Society Auctions: Sales 1-28, 32, 35, 37-38, 41-43, , 45-54, 56, 71, 81-83, 87.

Charles Leski & Associates: Sales 1-25, 27-28, 30-31, 33-34, 39, 55, 8992, 102, 108, 111, 114.

Cinderella Stamp Auctions: Sales 1-10, 12, 14-15, 17-22.

Gary Watson: Sales 18-20, 45.

H.R. Harmer (Australia) [later Harmers of Sydney]: Sales 29-30, 40-59, 61-67, 69-92, 94-100, 103, 106, 108-119, 121-122, 125-127, 129-150, 152, 172, 177, 186, 201-202, 239-241, 246-247, 249, 251-252, 257, 259-260, 267, 269, 272, 275-276, 281.

P.J. Downie: 1-12, 14, 19-20, 24-53, 55-56, 58-79, 86-87, 92-95, 97-98, 109, 111-112, 114, 116-117, 153-154, 157-159, 173-176, 181-183, 186-188, 201, 274-275, 279-284, 286-289, 293.

PHILAS House Auctions: Sales 2-5, 8, 10-12, 14-15, 18, 20, 39-40, 47, 49, 56.

Philatelics (Australia): Sales 1-53, , 55-93, 95-104., 106-107.

Premier Postmark Auctions: Sales 7-10.

Rodney A. Perry: Sales 1-4, 36, 40, 43, 49-50, 55, 59-60, 64, 101-104, 106, 112-114.

Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria: Sales 1-14, 16-20, 22, 28-31, 33-34, 36-40, 42-51, 53-55, 57-86, 88-105, 107-109, 119-121, 125-135, 137-138, 153, 155.

Status Stamp Auctions: Sales 1-44, 49-52, 83, 87-88, 94, 127, 144, 147.

West Brisbane Stamp Sales: Sales 1-39, 49-52, 58-60, 64, 67, 72-75, 77-79, 82, 85-90.

GEOFF KELLOW and RUSSELL TURNER

BOOK REVIEWS

The First Postage Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia 1901-1912. By Max Hooper. Published by the Australian States Study Circle of the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club. 205 x 290mm, soft card cover. 56pp. ISBN 0 646 23622 9. Available from the Australian States Study Circle, G.P.O. Box 1751, Sydney, 2001. Price, \$24.00 including postage.

Max Hooper writes of the "... neglected period of Australian philately, the years from 1901 to 1912." Although commonly thought of as the continuation of pre-Federation stamps, post-1901 States' stamps were issued by a single postal authority. Also, there were sufficient changes to stamp printing arrangements to justify treating Federal-era States' stamps as different to Colonial era stamps. Considering the scrutiny which post-1913 Commonwealth stamps have received for three-quarters of a century, it is surprising that the 1901-1912 period has been so ignored.

This book is in two parts. The first part provides general, background information on the postal arrangements following Federation, categories of stamps issued and stamp production arrangements, with an emphasis on the types of watermarked paper and perforating equipment used.

The second part is a State-by-State coverage which provides more specific information on stamp production, followed by a description of each Federal era stamp, which naturally includes Colonial stamps which remained current after Federation.

The descriptions of individual stamps are useful, since it is not easily discerned from catalogue listings what constitutes Federal-era and Colonial-era States' stamps.

However, the descriptions of each stamp are too short to provide much meaningful information, particularly so in the case of base rate stamps. Elsewhere, the coverage of subjects is elementary and perhaps except for the discussion of paper and perforations, no aspect of 1901-12 philately is given detailed treatment. This could hardly be otherwise, as the book is only 56 pages long. It will require a work that is at least four or five times lengthier to ensure that this period of Australian philately is given the depth of coverage that it deserves.

R. BRECKON

Western Australia. The 2d Perkins Bacon Plate, 1860-1888. By Brian Pope and Max Reynolds. Published by the Western Australia Study Group. 215

x 300mm, soft card cover. 80pp. ISBN 0 9596476 9 4. Available from the Western Australian Study Group, P.O. Box 423, Claremont, W.A., 6010. Price, \$20 plus postage (\$2 within Australia).

The stimulus for this study was the acquisition by one of the author's of a large portion of the plating study of the Western Australia 2d Perkins Bacon stamp formed by the late Frank Chadwick.

The stamp is covered in all its aspects, but the introductory chapters on the archival records relating to the ordering of the plate, its manufacture, and the printings made, are secondary to a detailed examination of the plate itself, its mode of manufacture, and its plating.

The 2d die was, of course, derived from the original 1d die of 1854, but the authors provide a completely new theory as to the method by which Perkins Bacon created their steel dies. A convincing argument is presented that the original 1d die was not hand-engraved in its entirety, but that the lettering was added one letter at a time by means of punches, in a mechanical press. The creation of secondary dies, such as the 2d, was achieved by the usual process of taking a transfer roller from the primary (1d) die, clearing away the necessary areas, and substituting the new denomination on a new flat die. Again, the authors believe that for Western Australia the new lettering was applied by means of punches.

This account is recommended reading for anyone interested in Perkins Bacon stamps, and needs to be carefully studied to see if its application is more widespread.

Plate proofs play an important part in the story of the 2d plate and are described in some detail. The question of the identity of the plate which was repaired following the return of the Western Australia plates to London in 1860 has remained one of the outstanding problems in Western Australian philately. The authors now present a convincing argument it was the 2d plate, and that the major problem was the "scratch over swan's head" variety on stamp No. 9, the repair of which required the decarbonisation of the plate.

The last half of the monograph is devoted to the plating study. All 120 positions are well-described and clearly illustrated. The blue stamps are much easier to study than the orange and yellow issues.

This is a model study well worth a careful inspection by anyone interested in Australian Colonial philately.

THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA, INC.

Australian Commonwealth Postcards

The display at the meeting on 17 June was provided by John Sinfield, who showed his collection of the Stamped Postcards of the Commonwealth of Australia, up to 1928.

The earliest item was a 1903 essay with a 2d Vaughan essay in sepia pasted on.

The 1911 King George V Fullface types began with a die proof of the stamp impression in grey-brown, and a 1d postcard used on the first day of use, 7 April 1911. There was also an example of the 1d + 1d reply card.

The 1911 Coronation cards were specialised, with plating proving the use of two different plates. The earliest known date of use was shown (15 May 1911), together with an OHMS card and examples of U.P.U. Specimens with the Madagascar receiving handstamp.

The 1911 Victorian scenic cards included three examples of proofs on buff stock, and an example of the envelope in which the cards were sold.

The 1d Kangaroo included official cards in several versions - with OHMS overprint in the heading mint, with "OS" in colourless dots used, and with "OS/NSW" puncture used. There was also an example of the s.t.o. ½d + ½d printed matter reply card.

The King George V Sideface types began with three used examples of the ½d green s.t.o. printed matter card. The 1d red Die II showed the two different electros that were used. The use of the 1d Octagonal die on s.t.o. cards was shown mint and used.

The 1917 provisional uses of the Commonwealth and State reply cards were remarkable for their completeness. There was examples of the Commonwealth card, Victoria (mint of both halves), Western Australia mint, Tasmania (outward mint, and inward used), South Australia outward used, and Queensland outward mint. The 1918 1d card with new ornate heading, of which most of the stock was surcharged, was shown mint.

The 1½d cards of 1918-19 included a number of rare provisional types. The 1½d surcharge was shown on a 1d Kangaroo card, and on the 1d George V (first type) card. There was also a s.t.o. compound stamping of 1d George V with ½d Octagonal. The 1½d definitive cards included an "OS" card used by two different Departments, and s.t.o. examples of the use of the 1½d Octagonal die in brown both without and with "POSTAGE" in the design, plus a used example of the later 1½d Octagonal die in green.

Colour trials from the early 1920s were the 1½d in

green on buff card, and the 2d in scarlet.

The 1923 rate reduction generated another round of provisionals, which were well-represented. The 1d on 1½d brown comes both with and without footnote, and there was an example with surcharge double, one inverted at base, and other misplaced surcharges. There was a mint example of the 1d on 1½d Octagonal green s.t.o. card.

The 1923 1d violet cards included a used copy with "OS/NSW" perfin, and a used s.t.o. example using the Octagonal die. The 1d green cards included a range of s.t.o. example with printed advertisements, coloured stock, and rouletted examples printed in booklets. The Die III cards included an "OS/NSW" perfin. From 1925, there were two proofs in green showing unadopted styles of the footnote, and from the same period were several examples of s.t.o. cards showing scenic views of the reverse.

Annual Competition

The Annual Competition entries were shown at the meeting on 15 June.

A Silver Medal was awarded to Ken Scudder for "Derivatives of the Queensland 1882 Bradbury Wilkinson 2d Die". This began with a die proof of the 1882 2d, and traced the means by which all the other denominations and designs were ultimately derived from this original engraving, and the methods of production which were employed. The four primary types of each issue were shown. Highlights included a number of essays, with an unadopted 2½d of 1890 in green, the 1894 2d in a block of 4 in red with white background, an 1895 composite block of four comprising three 2½d and one 5d in grey-blue, and an example of the famous 6d with figures in lower corners only in orange-red.

A Bronze medal was awarded to John Sinfield for "World War I Military Lettercards". This entry showed the two types of each view that was used, the two perforations, and examples of the retouched views showing the ship numbers deleted for security reasons. There was a 1½d on 1d showing "Troops on Board Transport" with bicoloured printing.

Other entrants were Jim Shaw, who showed a study of the New Zealand 1977 Silver Jubilee Miniature Sheet. This showed a plating of the sheets, and printing errors including colour shifts, and examples with carmine omitted, and black partly omitted.

Jon Fladeby showed the Norway Posthorn issue of 1878-1885. This demonstrated the method of

production of the plates, with identification of primary types and flaws, and the distinction between the different settings of the three plates of the 10 ore.

Peter Jaffé showed the pre-stamp markings of Tobago. There was a 1797 soldier's letter, and 1804 and 1805 entires with the straight-line "TOBAGO/date" marking. An 1807 entire bore the double oval "Ship Letter/Crown/TOBAGO handstamp. The later dated markings were all shown, and two examples (of 1853 and 1860) of the Tobago Crowned Circle.

The "Woodblocks" of Victoria

At the meeting on 29 June Roland Geitenbeek displayed the "Woodblock" issues of Victoria printed by Samuel Calvert.

Beginning with the 6d, there was a lithographed essay sheet of 6 in green. Of the issued stamps there was a mint pair and used block of four. The covers included a strip of six used to London in 1856, and two copies on an 1857 cover from the wreck of the *Emeu*, and others were shown sent to Germany, Denmark, Philippines, India and Mauritius.

The experimental separations were well-represented, with mint copies of the roulette and serrated perf, and used pairs of all types. There were four covers bearing the rouletted stamp (including two pairs), an 1857 cover of the 6d serrated perf. to France, three covers bearing the serpentine roulette, and an 1857 cover to England bearing a pair of the serrated perf. x serpentine roulette.

The 1861 provisional printing of the 6d in black began with a mint block of four. There were reconstructions of the plate, and of the marginal imprint, and a used stamp with inverted watermark. Covers are rare, but there was one of 1861 to Sydney with a pair and single of the stamp.

The 2/- Woodblock began spectacularly with the original contract, and Calvert's unadopted printed essay. Of the imperforate there were four mint copies, and a used strip of six, the record multiple. Imperforate covers were highlighted by a strip of three used with a 1/- Octagonal to Hamburg, and there were other covers to New South Wales, the United Kingdom, Switzerland and U.S.A. There was also a wide range of covers bearing the perforated 2/- green.

The rouletted 2/- was represented by an 1854 cover to Aberdeen, which is also the earliest date of use recorded for any 2/- stamp.

The later 2/- blue on green printed by Robinson from a combined woodblock/electrotype plate was represented by a partial mint reconstruction, and a copy overprinted "SPECIMEN". There was a spectacular franking of five copies on a piece with the 6d Laureate, and covers included one of 1875 to France in combination with the 9d Bell design, and two copies used with the 1/- Laureate on an 1874 cover from Melbourne to Creswick.

There was a magnificent showing of the 6d Too Late and 1/- Registered stamps.

Of the Too Late stamp there was a mint pair, used horizontal and vertical pairs, and stamps cancelled abnormally with Barred Numerals 23 and 100. The reconstruction of the overprint plate of 50 lacked only two stamps. Three covers were shown. Two were in combination with the 6d Woodblock, to Sydney in 1855 and to London in 1856, and the other was sent from Geelong to Melbourne in 1856 with 1d and 3d Half-Lengths.

The Registered stamp began with a printed essay in rose and gold. There were three mint stamps, and three used pairs. The various printings were separated, and there was a complete reconstruction of 25 of Die I, and a partial reconstruction of Die II.

There was a remarkable array of Registered covers. An 1856 cover bore the 1/- Registered used with two 1d Half-Lengths and the 6d Woodblock cancelled by the manuscript "star" of Carisbrook, and an 1855 cover to England had postage paid in cash and bore the "PAID" marking of Maryborough. There were three Die II imperforate covers. Two 1858 covers from the same correspondence to Ireland and bearing Die I and II Registered stamps were the latest recorded dates of use.

The rouletted Registered stamp was represented by three 1857 covers to the United Kingdom - one being the rare Die II, and another being a remarkable combination of Die I used in combination with the 6d serpentine roulette.

Annual Meeting

The 103rd Annual Meeting of the Society was held at 6 Avoca Street, South Yarra, on 20 July 1995.

The President, Mr Walter Roemer, commented on a harmonious and relatively calm year. Members had figured prominently in the staging of a four-day exhibition, Stampshow Melbourne, in October 1994, and a special Society meeting held to coincide with the exhibition, at which Barry Scott of New Zealand showed "Colony New Zealand", attracted 74 people.

At the President's Social Evening in December, members were treated to a performance by artists from the Australian Opera. The President acknowledged the ladies' auxiliary for its support of this Christmas function.

Daytime meetings inaugurated as an experiment 12 months ago had proved successful and popular, and now enjoyed average attendances of 10-12 members.

The President reported on some of the notable achievements of members during the year. John Gartner, R.D.P., F.R.P.S., L., became an inaugural Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order. Ray Chapman, A.M., M.B.E., R.D.P., F.R.P.S., L. became a Member of the Order of Australia for his services to philately and the wider community, and this achievement was celebrated by a luncheon held in the Society's rooms in May.

Mr Roemer, in concluding his report, thanked the Council and Members, and in particular singled out Len Buchanan, retiring after 27 years service on

Council, which included three terms as President and nine years as Treasurer.

Treasurer

The Treasurer, Mr Max Watson, presented his report and the Balance Sheet was posted on the Notice Board. The Finance Committee has prepared a Budget for 1995-96 which allows for a continued level of activity similar to the previous year, with the provision of \$5,000 for new publications.

House Committee

The Superintendent of the House Committee, Mr Len Buchanan, reported that the major work done this year was the damp-proofing of the meeting room walls. In the coming year major project contemplated was the completion of the paving of the rear yard. The upstairs flat was due to be vacated shortly, and it was likely that some minor repair work would be necessary.

Expert Committee

Tom Carter read the Expert Committee report on behalf of the Chairman, Mr Peter Jaffé. The Committee met on three occasions during the year, and 44 submissions were processed and 39 certificates were issued. Ten free certificates were issued to members under the existing arrangement. Thanks were extended to the Committee members, and to Robin Redlich for photography.

Exchange Branch

Mr Henry Teltscher, Superintendent of the Exchange Branch, reported on a slight improvement over the previous year. Sales for the 10-month period reported were \$2,450, and currently there were 21 books in circulation. He again appealed to members to supply better-quality stamps to, and to patronise the Exchange Branch.

Deceased Estates Committee

The Chairman of the Deceased Estates Committee, Len Buchanan, reported no activity during the year.

Library

The Librarian, Dr Geoff Kellow, reported that 256 items had been borrowed during the year. At present there were 5,212 books and catalogues in the library. Sales of surplus library material through the Sales Branch had netted \$1,300 and provided a welcome addition to the library budget. Considerable progress had been made on placing the library's holding on computer, and a new library catalogue would be available to members in the coming year. Russell Turner was thanked for his work in the library during the year.

Sales Branch

The Superintendent of the Sales Branch, Tom Carter, advised that the two sales conducted during the year realised \$24,808. There had been an increase in both postal bidders and buyers. However, there were fewer vendors and material was still in short supply. Members of the Committee were thanked.

Philately from Australia

The Business Manager of *Philately from Australia*, Miss Joyce Buchanan, reported that there had been a change in the printer of the Society's journal, which will result in an approximate saving of \$3,000 per annum. The number of copies printed has been reduced to effect a further saving. This year's figures do not reflect this change since the first three issues were from the previous printer. Subscription rates to Australian subscribers have been increased, and the sales of back numbers and revenue from advertising was less than the previous year.

Publications Committee

The Chairman of the Publication Committee, Mr Russell Jones, advised that two books were published during the year - *The 3d Beaded Oval* by Russell Jones and Geoff Kellow, and *Queensland Postal Rates and Charges, 1832-1913* by Hugh Campbell. In preparation is *The Frank Stamps of Victoria* by Carl Stieg. The sales of publications are encouraging and a number of titles are in short supply.

Presidential Display

For his Presidential Display, Mr Walter Roemer showed "Mail Between the Austrian Empire and Australasia". In his introduction, Mr Roemer emphasised the rarity of early mail between the two regions in the early period.

The earliest item shown was a cover from Poland to Bundaberg, Queensland franked with two 15 kreuzer and 10 kreuzer. During the 1890's more material is available, especially in the form of postal stationery, and postcards, reply cards, wrappers and envelopes were shown to most of the Australian States. Two 1913 postcards from Czechoslovakia were written in esperanto. An unusual destination was a 1907 6 kreuzer postcard with additional franking of two 2 kreuzer used to Fiji.

Registered mail was seen addressed to South Australia and New South Wales, and there was a parcel front to Sydney sent in 1900 bearing six 25 kreuzer and a 50 kreuzer.

From the Austrian Post Office in Jerusalem there were 1898, 1904 and 1913 postcards to Australia.

Mail from Australia is very difficult, despite the fact that Baron Ferdinand von Mueller is recorded as being one of the most prolific letter writers of the 19th century! Postal stationery, mostly in the form of postcards, was seen from Victoria, New South Wales

and Queensland, mostly to Vienna. An 1890 registered cover from Queensland to Hungary was franked with a ½d pair, 1d and 3d pair.

Very unusual were three covers from Austrian sailors on board ships of the Imperial Austrian Navy at port in Australia. These were an 1891 Victorian 1d card with additional 1d and ½d stamps from SMS *Saida*, a 1900 Western Australian with additional 2d from SMS *Leopard*, and a 1905 New Zealand 1d card self-addressed in Wellington.

Rhodesia

The stamps of the British South Africa Company from 1892 to 1923 was the subject of the display at the meeting on 17 August, presented by Don Napier.

The first issue of 1892 was represented by imperforate plate proofs, and £1 (2), £2 and £10 printer's samples punctured "SPECIMEN".

A highlight of the 1892 Bulawayo provisionals was a mint strip of five of the 2d on 6d.

The 1896 Perkins, Bacon "Arms" issue began with three essays of the 8d denomination, in green and red, in brown and black, and in black. There were also four

die proofs of the same value from the rejected die, perforated colour trials, and a vertical pair of the 3/-, one imperforate. The trials for the duty plates printed on Sarawak issues were well-represented.

... The 1898 Waterlow issue had a 1d handpainted essay in the design used for the middle denominations. Die proofs shown were the 1d in deep green, the 2½d in blue, and the 2/- in deep blue. Imperforate errors on the ½d and 1d values were present, and there were mint example of the £5 and £10.

... The famous "Double Head" issue of 1910 was presented in some detail, with the wide range of shades well-represented. There was a mint example of the best-known colour of all, the £1 error of colour in scarlet and reddish-mauve. The perf. 15 stamps were well-represented, as were the "King's Curl" and "Gash in Ear" varieties. The major error, the imperforate ½d, was shown in a mint block of four.

... The "Admiral" issues opened with three beautiful die proofs - 3d ochre and black, 6d magenta and black, and 2/6d red and black. The various dies and shades were all shown, together with imperforate errors on the lower values. The 1917 ½d on 1d surcharge was shown mint and used.

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.

☆ **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.

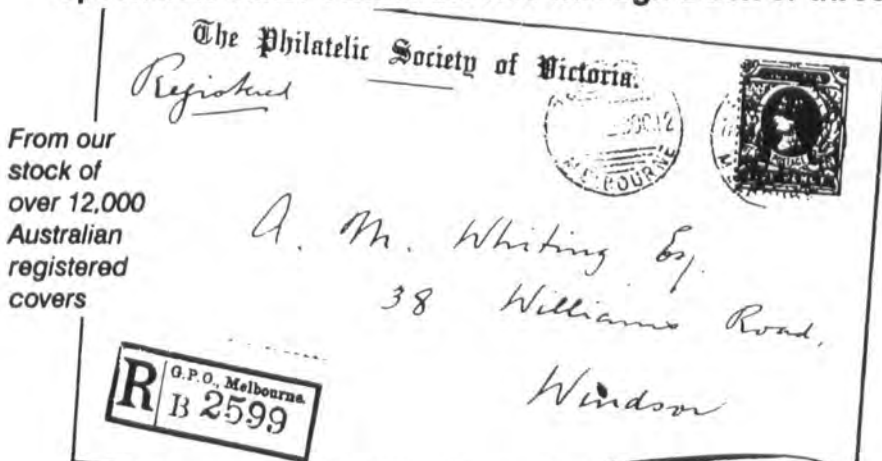
☆ **SUBSCRIPTIONS** are due 1 July yearly. There is no entrance fee payable.

ALL COMMUNICATIONS should be addressed to:-

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

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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 8.00 p.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.
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