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2008 Programme

18 August 2008	John Young	Airmail Display
20 October	TBA	
15 December	Christmas Meeting	4 sheet display by members

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Cover

Russell Stern in an article published in The Journal of The Philatelic Society of NSW, Vol 30, 114, P3, May 2008, noted that Colonel Eugene Gorman head of the Australian Comforts Fund in the Middle East was responsible for the manufacture of a number of covers like this one. Here is another from New Zealand FPO 1, 12 AP 41.

Editorial *Tony Lyon*

It's amazing how time flies. Nearly half the year gone. Time to organise the tax. Also need to urgently complete those entries for exhibitions that will soon be upon us. For me it is Jakarta 2008.

A number of articles this issue with a couple from, I think, first time contributors. This all adds to the variety. John Young continues his very interesting series on airmail. Ron Lee's article is most interesting. Paul Sterling provided an article on The Balloon Post of Paris while Tim Cowley sent an interesting piece on NSW Quarantine Markings. It is great that we have these knowledgeable contributors who are always ready to publish their findings and many can assist with advice in their chosen fields. Thanks also to Ian Cutter who contributes quite regularly and often helps fill a gap. George Vearing who compiles the HHDS section deserves out thanks also.

For your information I received notice that there are new dates for Australian National Stamp Exhibition Melbourne Stampshow 2009. These are Thursday 23 July to Sunday 26 July 2009. The circumstances were beyond the control of the committee. This will be another great opportunity to exhibit and view some great exhibits.

In late breaking news the new Australian Philatelic Society website is now live. This has been a tremendous effort coordinated by Tom & Ruth O'Dea and the information that will be available in the future will make it a much visited site. Please have a look. There will be a more comprehensive review in the September Journal. So in the interim thanks Tom & Ruth and all your designers etc., from RMIT.

I hope you enjoy this issue and learned something from it.

Ciao till next time.

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The Ballon Monté Postal Service from Paris 1870 - 1871

by Paul Sterling

(The Harmer sale on 11 December 2007 of the award winning "Gaetano Vullo" collection of Balloon Post from Paris of 1870 -1871 prompted this postal history article. This remarkable collection clearly showed the resourcefulness of the French during the Paris siege. Harmer offered 145 lots with many rare and interesting destinations. Harewood sought the assistance of Paul Sterling, an Australian writer and essayist, whose work often is inspired by his close understanding of the French, their culture and language, to research and write this important event in French philately. During research, the author encountered the old philatelic bogey of forgery – apparently many forged covers exist)

The One Thousand Years War, On Christmas Day of the Year 800, Pope Leon III appointed Charlemagne Emperor of the then known Western World. Sadly, this surprising unity of the tribes and hordes of Western Europe lasted only fourteen years. After his death in 814, the treaty of Verdun broke up his empire between his squabbling sons and the West reverted to a patchwork of small feudal nations.

For more than one thousand years the French and their various tribal ancestors in Gaul have been glaring across the Rhine at their hated enemies, the Germans and their forefathers on the Eastern bank. And they did not only glare but exchanged insults, arrows, cannon balls, bullets and mustard gas.

After the Hundred Years War, the French became a nation, while the country we today call Germany was still made up of several smaller states such as Prussia, Saxe or Bavaria. Nevertheless there was little neighbourly friendship, and Napoleon's efforts to create a new Western European Empire by military force did little to improve relationships.

The French and the Germans were opposed in three more major wars; the Franco-Prussian of 1870, the shortest and the most humiliating for the French; the four years of abject misery and human sacrifice of World War 1, which ended in the defeat of the Germans, thanks to a strong alliance and despite incompetent generals; and that of the World War 2, which illustrated once again that a diplomat with a silver tongue is no match for an armoured division. The French, humiliated again by an unwanted armistice, took some belated pride in their resistance movement, while Germany suffered almost total destruction.

After the Second World War and the quasi-destruction of Germany, it was another Charles, not de Magne but de Gaulle, who understood that drastic action was needed to put an end to this permanent conflict which was weakening Europe. Despite the anger, the humiliation and the shock suffered by both nations, he told his fellow countrymen that a united, prosperous and peaceful Western Europe, independent of both the U.S.A. and the Soviet Union, could only be achieved if France and Germany were to forget the past.

He knew that the economic, social and political unity of Europe could only be built on a sold foundation: that of an enduring friendship between the French and German nations[1]. Let bygones be bygones – permanently! Luckily, Konrad Adenauer agreed with De Gaulle (MB).

[1] For the first forty, the pact only concerned Western Germany.

The Germans and the French in the Nineteenth Century. After the defeat of Napoleon, the allies met at Vienna to decide France's fate. The natural solution was to restore monarchy and France entered a period known as the Restoration. The Austrians were particularly eager to reap revenge for the execution of their princess, Marie-Antoinette. Within France itself, royalists under the banner of the White Terror, were also reaping revenge. Louis XVIII ignored the movement but the next king, Charles X, was its leader. His despotic rule led to a revolution in Paris and he was forced to flee into exile.

The third king, Louis Philippe, was called the citizen king. For many, his appointment was a means of introducing a more democratic monarchy without attracting the anger of the Prussians and the Austrians. Under his rule, France's manufacturing industry and railroad network grew, as did, more discreetly, a new hunger for republicanism. In 1848, the King attempted to ban a dinner to celebrate George Washington's birthday, and created another Parisian revolution. From the revolt and the defeat of his soldiers was born the Second Republic.

The Vienna Congress (1814-1815) also handed the Rhineland back to Prussia, and the region proved to be a rich resource of coal and iron to feed the Prussian industrial revolution. Steel allowed the creation of railroads serving the development of free trade between the Germanic nations. France's relative strength had been comforted until then by the failure of the various German states to unite. A peaceful but unsuccessful attempt to unite all the German nations, ironically the same year as the French Second Republic, failed.

France failed to improve or even maintain its military strength, but it saw no threat from the dislocated German-speaking kingdoms across the Rhine.

Nevertheless, The Germans were eager to test the water, and the nomination of a German prince to assume the Spanish throne, vacated since the 1868 Spanish revolution, gave France the opportunity to show its diplomatic strength. Although the young German Prince Philip withdrew his candidature almost immediately, the French government sent its ambassador to King William of Prussia insisting that he should confirm the withdrawal of all German claims to the Spanish throne. The Prussian King expressed diplomatically his annoyance in a telegram he drafted for the French authorities, but it fell into the hands of his Prime Minister, Bismarck. The statesman modified the text to deliberately pretend that the King of Prussia had treated the French ambassador with scorn, simply to provoke the anger of his neighbours.

Although he knew that the French were consciously aggravating relationships between the various German states to prevent unity, Bismarck was not deliberately seeking to provoke a war with France. Nevertheless he knew the French army to be poorly led, poorly equipped and demoralized by its failed intervention in Mexico, and that an angry reaction could encourage the French into taking an initiative they might later regret.

Franco-Prussian War – 1870-1871. France mobilized in secret, a special defence budget was voted and an 'Army of the Rhine' formed under the leadership of Marshal Bazaine. While defensive structures were erected around Paris, carried along by the enthusiasm of the students and the anger of the press, the Prime Minister declared war.

The French army had better rifles than the Germans but the Ministry of Defence had ordered its munitions from the Belgian manufacturer Herstal, of which the German Crown Prince was the largest shareholder. It was then not surprising that the supplier encountered difficulties in ensuring delivery, although the French administration had no problems in paying for supplies it did not receive.

German artillery was equipped with modern breech-loading guns, while the French still used the old muzzle-loading cannons from the Napoleonic wars. 265,000 French soldiers faced an 800,000 strong Prussian coalition army. The French soldiers showed immense courage in battle but the French generals lost them all. The Prussians lost more soldiers than the French in each encounter, but the French High Command was inept and incapable of ensuring victory.

The first humiliating defeat was at the battle of Sedan, where the Emperor Napoleon III surrendered along with 100,000 soldiers, 419 cannons and 6,000 horses[2]. Two months later, Marshal Bazaine surrendered with 180,000 men at Metz.

The Prussians besieged Paris during the terrible winter of 1870-1871, beating off attacks by French armies, which had been raised outside Paris. They used pigeons and balloons to try and get mail and people out as described below.

Starving and disease ridden, Paris signed an Armistice at Versailles on 27 January 1871. France had to pay five billion gold francs in compensation.

Gambetta, then at Tours, attacked the enemy at Orleans, where he was soundly beaten. Resistance collapsed when Gambetta surrendered 5 February.

Prussian troops entered Paris after the Armistice. A new treaty was signed in Frankfurt in May 1871, which obliged France to hand over the provinces of Alsace and Lorraine on the West bank of the Rhine.[3]

The Montgolfier Balloons. The hot air or light air balloons were the invention of two brothers, the sons of a wealthy stationery manufacturer who ran his business in a small town South of Lyon. The elder brother had the idea when he threw a sheet of paper on to a roaring fire and watched it float up the chimney. They carried out several small tests until in December of 1782 they succeed in lifting quite a large balloon to a height of 400 metres. Nine months later, they reach a height of 1,000 metres.

In 1783, they demonstrated a flight in front of Louis XVI and the court at Versailles and a sheep, a duck and a cockerel travelled a distance of three and a half kilometres[4].

Les 'Ballons Montés' or Piloted Balloons. By the end of the nineteenth century, hot air balloons were a fairly common sight in France and in 1870 the French artillery used to send up balloons with observers to direct fire. They were held in position by an anchor. In September, Gambetta ordered the production of three balloons within the capital under siege. Captive balloons were first used to observe enemy movements around the besieged capital, and then free-flying balloons were used to carry passengers and mail out of the capital. Attempts were made by the Germans to shoot them down but their rifles had a very poor range when fired vertically. The 'balloon-guns' developed by Krupp in Essen were also ineffective.

The first, *Neptune*, left Paris on the 23rd September with 125 kilos of official communications, newspapers and private mail.[5] It covered 104 kilometres in more than three hours. It was a

[2] Thirty-eight years later, the French insisted that Germany's defeat in the 1914 -18 war be acknowledged by the signing of an armistice in the same town.
[3] One of France's most popular military marches states "You will never lose Alsace and Lorraine, whatever happens they will always be French'.
[4] Probably the first air cargo flight realised by mankind.
[5] The first air mail service!

major challenge to control the direction and the length of each flight, and subsequent attempts saw the *Ville d'Orléans* go as far as Norway, the *Duquesne*, although fitted with propellers, land in the occupied zone of France, the *Ville de Paris* land in Germany and the *Jacquard* make a crash landing in the South of England.

On the 7 October 1870, Gambetta left Paris in a balloon in a vain attempt to regroup three armies and to continue the battle.

In all, some 67 balloons left Paris with mail, carrying somewhere between two and a half million and three million letters. Today's records concerning these postal balloons are surprisingly well documented. The value of a letter carried by lifted balloon varies, and is dependant on the name of the balloon which carried it, postal obliterations and stamps placed before departure and on arrival, and the destination reached.

There are three categories of letters: ordinary mail, registered mail carried by the aeronauts at the request of the postal authorities, and private mail accepted by an aeronaut on behalf of a private sender. Cancellations on departure denoted the geographic origin of the letter. These were either a star with a figure denoting a district of Paris, a lozenge indicating a suburb of Paris or a star with 'Paris 60" denoting the central post office. Registered letters bearing the postmark PARIS SC in red are the most common and those carried privately, on which the aeronaut has placed his personal stamp or seal, are the rarest.

To be a valid 'ballon monté' letter, it must have a dated cancel showing that it left Paris between the 23rd September 1870 and the 28th January 1871 inclusive. Collectors strive to identify the balloon that carried the letter they own, and this was never shown on the letter itself. The only way available is to determine the balloon used is by the date of departure and the date and place of arrival.

The stamps used were:-
10 centimes Empire Lauré
10 centimes yellow Siege of Paris – Ceres
20 centimes Napoleon III blue
20 centimes siege of Paris blue
30 centimes Napoleon III brown
40 centimes Napoleon III orange
80 centimes Napoleon III pink
10 centimes orange Siege of Paris – Ceres

Domestic mail (including Algeria) was 10 cents for a postcard and 20 cents for a letter, and overseas mail was 50 or 80 cents except for Luxembourg which enjoyed a preferential tariff of 25 cents.

Towards the end of the siege, Parisians were occasionally using other stamps as stocks ran out.

Record of the Balloon Flights. Even during the siege of Paris, the public service remained stalwart and kept a precise diary of the flights. Thanks to these records, it is generally quite simple to decide on which balloon each envelope travelled. The following is a schedule of the flights initiated from Paris.

Flight N°	Departure date	Balloon name	Aeronaut aboard	Landing place
1	21 Sept 1870	L'Union		Tore open on launch, did not take off
2	23	Le Neptune	Dufour	Evreux
3	25	La Citta di Firenze	Mangin	Vernouillet
4	29	Les Etats-Unis	Godard	Magnanville
5	30	Le Céleste	Tissandier	Dreux
6	30	No Name # 1		Fell in enemy lines
7	7 October	Armand Barbés	Trichet	Montdidier
8	7	George-Sand	Revilliod	Cremery
9	7	No Name # 2	Racine	Stains
10	12	The Washington	Bertaux	Cambrai
11	12	Louis-Blanc	Farcot	Béclers (Belgium)
12	14	Godefroy-Cavaignac	Godard	Bar-le-Duc
13	14	Le Christophe Colomb /Jean Bart 1/Guillaume	Tissandier	Nogent-sur-Sâone
14	16	Jules-Favre # 1	Godard	Foix-de-Chapelle (Belgium)
15	16	Jean-Bart # 2	Labadie	Dinant (Belgium)
16	17	La Liberté		Le Bourget
17	18	Victor-Hugo	Nadal	Vaubéron
18	19	La République Universelle /Le Lafayette	Jossec	Mézières
19	22	Garibaldi	Iglésia	Quincy-Ségy
20	25	Montgolfier	Séné	Captured by Prussians in Alsace
21	27	Vauban	Guiullaume	Commercy
22	27	Normandie/Bretagne	Cuzon	Captured near Verdun by Prussians
23	29	Colonel Charras	Gilles	Montigny-le-Roi
24	2 November	Fulton	Le Gioarnec	Cossé d'Anjou
25	4	Ferdinand Flocom	Vidal-Loisset	Chateaubriant
26	5	Le Galilee	Husson	Captured near Chartres by Prussians
27	6	City of Chateauun	Bosc	Réclainbville
28	7	No Name #3 or Piper 2	Piper	Brie-Comte-Robert
29	8	Gironde	Galley	Gaudeville
30	12	Daguerre	Jubert	Captured at Jossigny by Prussians
31	12	Niepce	Pagano	Coole
32	18	General Ulrick	Lemoine	Luzarche
33	21	Archimède	Buffet	Casteiré (Holland)
34	23	Egalité	Fonvielle	Louvain (Belgium)
35	28	La Ville d'Orleans	Rolier	Lifjeld (Norway)
36	28	Jacquard	Prince	Lost at sea near Plymouth (UK)

Flight N°	Departure date	Balloon name	Aeronaut aboard	Landing place
37	30	Jules Favre # 2	Martin	Belle-Isle-en-Mer
38	1 December	La Bataille de Paris	Poirrier	Grandchamps
39	2	Le Volta	Chapelain	Bourron
40	5	Franklin	Marcia	Saint-Aignan
41	7	Denis Papin	Daumalin	La-Ferté-Bernard
42	7	L'Armée de Bretagne	Surel de Montchamps	Bouillé-Loretz
43	11	General Renault	Joignerey	Baillotet
44	15	La Ville de Paris	Dhiot	Captured by Prussians at Wertzlur (Prussia)
45	17	Parmentier	Paul	Gourgancon
46	17	Gutenberg	Perruchon	Vitry-le-Francois
47	18	Le Davy	Chaumont	Nuits-St-Georges
48	20	General Chanzy	Verrecke	Captured by Prussians at Auspach (Baviera)
49	22	Lavoisier	Ledret	La Menitré
50	23	La Délivrance	Gauchet	La Roche-sur-Yon
51	24	Rouget de l'Isle	Yahn	La Ferté-Macé
52	27	Tourville	Moutet	Eymoutiers
53	29	Bayard	Réginence	St-Julien-des-Landes
54	31	L'Armée de la Loire	Lemoine	Montbizot
55	3 Jan 1871	Martin de Douai	Griseaux	Vierzon
56	4	Newton	Ours	Digny et Dreux
57	9	Duquesne	Richard	Berzieux
58	10	Gambetta	Duvivier	Ouanne
59	11	Le Kepier	Roux	Montigné le Brillant
60	13	Le Monge	Raoul	Chateauroux
61	13	General Faidherbe	Van Serymortier	Saint-Avit-de-Soulège
62	15	Le Vaucanson	Clariot	Erquinghem-Lys
63	16	Le Steenackers	Vibert	Hynd (Holland)
64	16	La Poste de Paris	Turbiaux	Venray (Holland)
65	20	General Bourbaki	Mangin	Reims
66	22	General Daumednil	Robin	Marchienne-au-Pont (Belgium)
67	24	Le Torricelli	Bély	Clermont
68	27	Richard Wallace	Lacaze	Lost at sea in the Archacon Bay
69	28	General Cambronne	Tristan	Souget-le-Gamelon

The illustrations below have been reproduced from Harmer's sale catalogue 4769 of 11 December 2007, from the Gaetano Vullo sale of 145 lots of ballon monté mail. (MB)

Balloon N° 3 Ville de Florence. Entire (not inscribed par ballon monté & stamp missing) **dated 24 Sep 1870 addressed to Louviers. Paris datestamp, boxed "PP", Tours transit & Le Mans arrival cds of 27 Sep**

Balloon N°3 Etats-Unis or N° 4 Celeste. (not inscribed par ballon monté) **Letter to St Petersburg with Empire Lauré 80c stamp.**

Lozenge cancel and cds of 26 Sep 1870 alongside. Red boxed "PD" and red manuscript mark (applied in Prussia),

Balloon N° 13 Jules Favre N° 1

Entire to Bayeux (Calvados) (not inscribed par ballon monté) **with Empire Lauré 20c stamp.**

Lozenge cancel & cds of 15 Oct 1870 . Bayeux reverse cds.

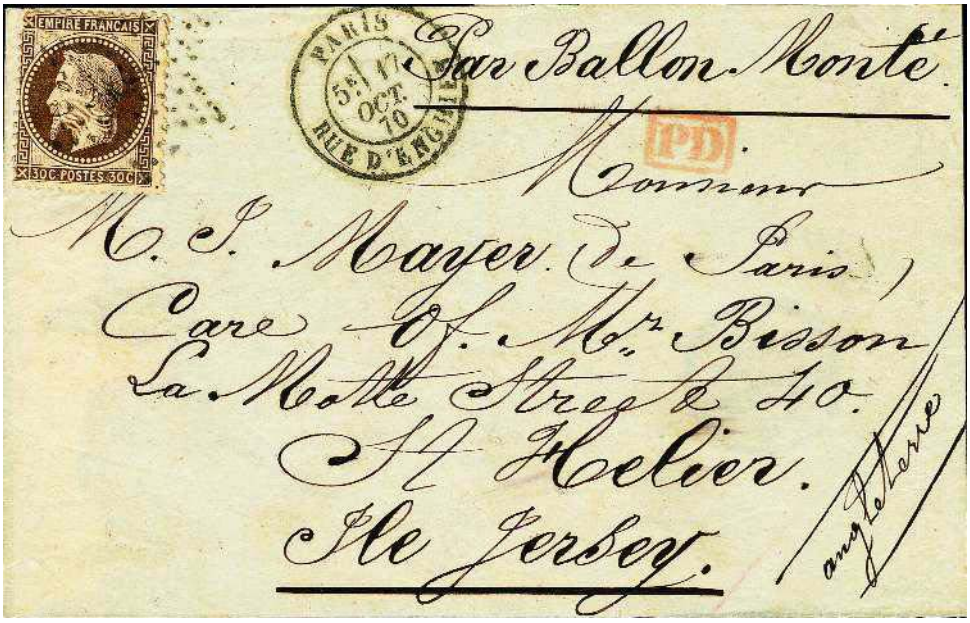
(possibly flown on Jean Bart 2, as hard to separate same day flights

Balloon N° 6 Armand Barbés

Entire (not inscribed par ballon monté) **to Naples with 20c Empire Lauré stamp.**

Lozenge cancel and Paris à Calais cds of 8 Oct 1870.

Reverse superb « République Française/1/Aérostiers/Nadar Dartois/Duruof » cachet. also transit and arrival cds.



Balloon N° 15 Victor Hugo
Wrapper to St Helier, Jersey, with 30c Empire Lauré stamp.
Lozenge cancel and Paris Rue D'Enghien cds of 17 Oct 1870.
Red boxed "PD" and arrival cds of 22 Oct (reverse)

Balloon N° 12 Jean Bart N°1

Entire to Périgueux with 20c Empire Lauré stamp.

Lozenge cancel with AR13C and "Armée du Rhin /Bal AL" cds of 11 Oct 1870

Arrival datestamps on reverse

M/S par ballon monté (top left)

Balloon N° 16 La Fayette

Entire to Bex, Switzerland with 30c Empire Lauré stamp.

Lozenge cancel 23 and Paris, Rue Aligre cds of 18 Oct 1870.

Red boxed PD cachet and arrival cds (reverse)

cachet used to add Par ballon monté

Balloon 29 Gironde

Entire to Belley with perforated 10c Siege tête-bêche pair overlapping edges
(one of only 3 tête-bêche pairs known used on ballon monté mail)

Paris, Rue Bonaprte cds of 6 Nov 1870 and arrival cds (reverse)

LOOKING BEYOND THE CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION - RARE AIRMAIL FROM COCOS TO AUSTRALIA 1945.

By Ronald. M. Lee.

An air mail item to Australia in 1945 originating from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands and carried by a little known RAF service to Ceylon and thence by air to Australia was recently auctioned in Melbourne. The catalogue description appeared to be comprehensive but made no mention of the covers airmail credentials. The description read:

> *"1945 cover to Sydney with Ceylon stamps tied by 'RAFPOST 301/30SEP45/+'cds endorsed on the flap "Flt PWBrowing/RAF" with the enclosed letter that states"… here on Cocos Island…We are trying to talk our way into a trip to Singapore… but I don't think we will be very successful…"The vendor states only 3 covers from RAF PO 301 with Ceylon stamps are recorded. [A number of Australian aircrew and former POW's were repatriated to Australia from South-East Asia via Cocos. Only RAF personal could send mail free of charge so postage was required."*

I was familiar with this cover having researched it some years ago with two others from the same correspondent.

Number 1	cancelled	July 1945
Number 2	cancelled	11 July 1945
Number 3	(this cover) cancelled 29 September 1945.	

All covers were franked with Ceylon stamps and cancelled RAF PO 301 used on Cocos from 3 April 1945 to 31 March 1946.

In preparation for British attacks on Japanese held territory in Burma and Malaya construction began on airstrips on Cocos in March 1945. The airstrips were operational from 26 April 1945. Most airforce personal stationed on Cocos were RAF but there were a few RAAF members serving there within the RAF squadrons. With letters being sent to Australia over a period from July 1945 to end September 1945 one would assume they were from one of the RAAF members stationed on the island.

The letter, however, were written by 423052 Flight Lieutenant Paul Browning of Number 23 RAAF squadron which was never stationed on the island. On 10 July1945 this Liberated bomber squadron moved from Darwin to Morotai to take part in the assault on Balikpapan which took place on 19 and 25 June 1945. As the Japanese were pushed back enemy targets became increasingly out of range.

Why was Browning on Cocos on at least three occasions between July 1945 and September 1945? My guess is that attacking distant Japanese targets could only be accomplished by flying on to Cocos for refuelling before returning to base. The squadron was a bomber squadron and at the time of the correspondence, still engaging the enemy. It seems therefore unlikely that it would have been used to transport POW from Singapore as suggested in the catalogue description. This is supported by the letter enclosed which mentions that they were *"trying to talk our way into a trip to Singapore*"

I think, too, that the catalogue description was wrong in claiming *'only 3 covers from RAF PO 301 with Ceylon stamps recorded'* As far as I know these covers are the only ones to Australia franked with Ceylon stamps. There were, however, considerable numbers of British personal stationed on the islands and it is reasonable to assume there is British mail franked with Ceylon stamps. Getting the mail to Britain was the priority, and as there was

no regular shipping service from Cocos, Number 205 RAF Squadron based in Ceylon operated, on a reasonably regular basis, a ferry service with Sunderland Flying Boats. There were too few Australians on the island for the provision of a special service to Australia. Thus any mail for Australia was first carried to Ceylon where airmail items were carried by air and any surface mail sent by sea.

The reference in the catalogue description that 'only RAF personal could send mail free of charge' is puzzling to say the least as both RAAF and RAF personal could send letters home by surface free of charge. If there were no shipping transport available surface mail could have been sent to Ceylon by air free of charge.

The important aspect of this cover to Australia, not mentioned in the catalogue description, is the unusual airmail route - Cocos to Ceylon to Australia.

Catalina and Liberator aircraft had been operating a civil service across the Indian Ocean. In July 1945 the slow Catalina aircraft were withdrawn from the service and. Lancastrian aircraft introduced which significantly increased the speed of airmail between Australia and England. BOAC flew from Hurn London (England) to Karachi. QANTAS flew Karachi/ Colombo/Learmonth (W.A) Gawler (SA) to Sydney. The first east bound service departed 31 May 45. the first westbound service began from Sydney on 2 June 1945. It would seem likely that this airmail cover would have been carried Cocos to Ceylon by RAF Sunderland and Colombo to Sydney by QEA Lancastrian service.

(QANTAS Lancaster called at Cocos only between January and March 1946).

This is a cover of considerable interest to Australian airmail collectors.

I wish to thank Dr. William Cochrane who assisted me in my research and Andrew Brockett of Sydney who drew my attention to the auctioning of the cover.

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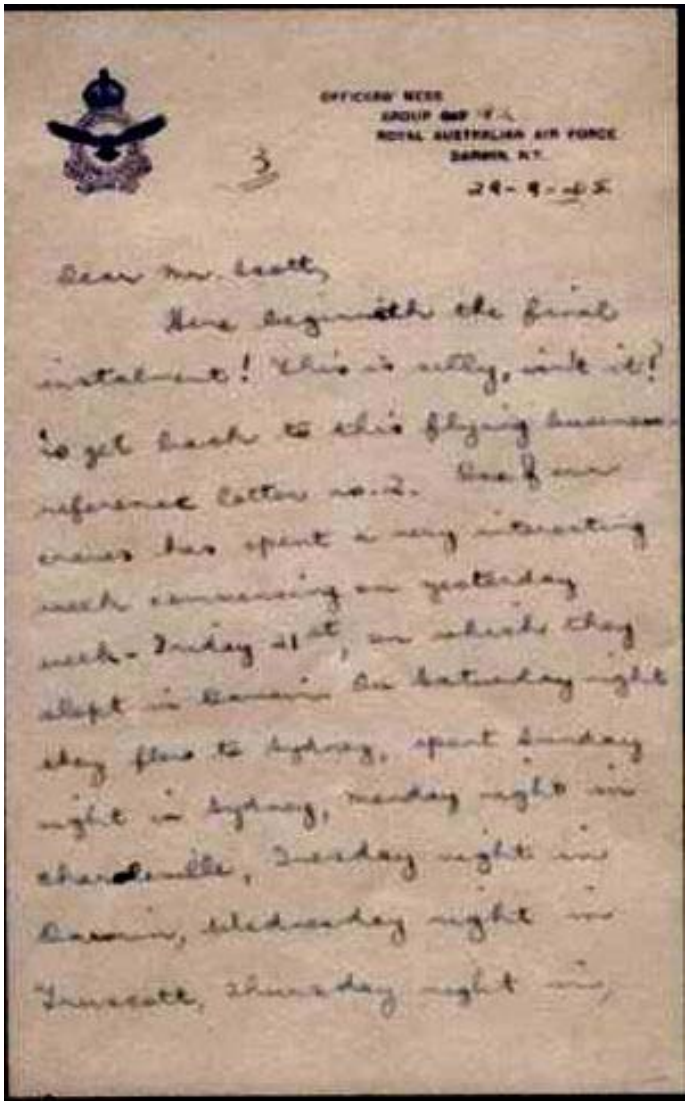
Hill	Bringing the Mails to Cocos (article)
RAAF Historical Section	Units of the Royal Australian Airforce Vol.3 Bomber Units



OFFICERS' MESS
GROUP CAP
ROYAL AUSTRALIAN AIR FORCE
DARWIN, N.T.

3

29-9-45

Dear Mr. Scott,

Here beginneth the final instalment! This is silly, isn't it? To get back to this flying business reference letter no. 2. One of our crews has spent a very interesting week commencing on yesterday week - Friday 21st, on which they slept in Darwin. On Saturday night they flew to Sydney, spent Sunday night in Sydney, Monday night in Charleville, Tuesday night in Darwin, Wednesday night in Truscott, Thursday night in,

War-time trans-Atlantic Airmails from Eastern Europe

By John Young

In the March APS Journal there was an article on trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific airmails flown from regions in the Middle East and India.

War-time airmail covers from these areas are elusive. Equally elusive are covers from eastern Europe, which were flown from September 1939 until the end of 1941 when USA, the main destination of mail from occupied Europe, was at war with the occupying power. Some examples of airmail covers from war-time eastern Europe are shown below. They, along with others from western Europe, the Americas, Africa and colonies, the Middle East and the Indian sub-continent, flown by PAA trans-Atlantic airmail during World War 2, will be displayed at the members' meeting on 18 August, 2008. There will be over 100 pages.

Fig. 1 Austria to USA, Aug 1940, censored by German authority.

Correctly franked 65 pf for 5 gm. letter

Reverse of Fig. 1

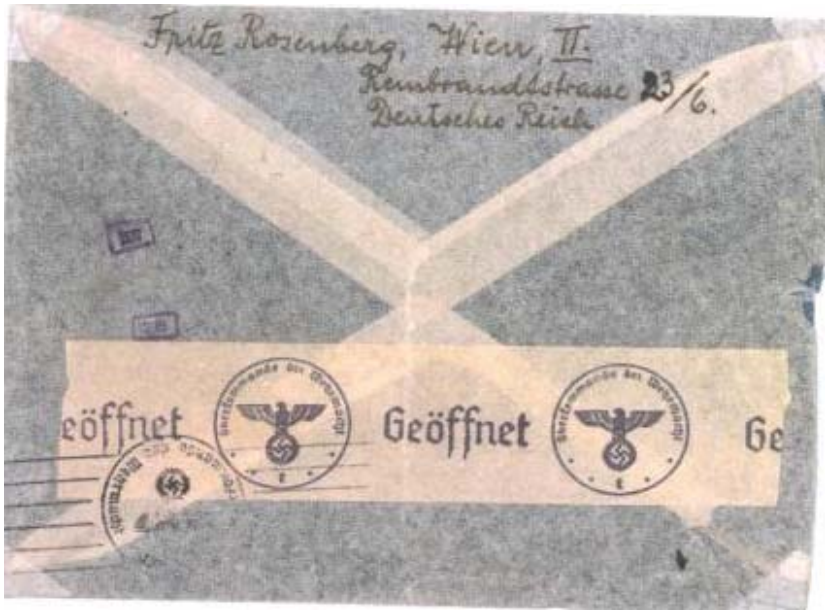


Fig. 2 Bohemia and Moravia to USA, Aug 1940, censored in Frankfurt. Transmission from Prague to New York, 16 days. Franked 16k, probably a double-weight letter. "Luftpost" cachet on envelope.

Reverse of Fig. 2

Fig. 3 Bulgaria to USA, Aug 1941, censored Vienna (Ag mark) and Bermuda.

Transmission from Sofia to New York, 20 days.

Franked 52L

Reverse of Fig. 3

Fig. 4 Hungary to USA, Oct 1940, censored Bermuda.

Franked 2P80, probably a double weight letter.

"transatlantic airmail" cachet on envelope.

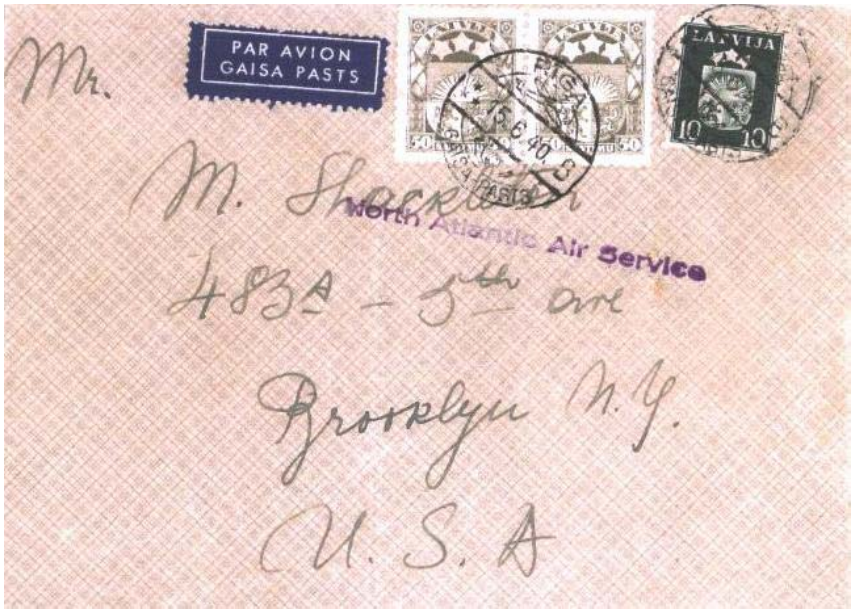


Fig. 5 Latvia to USA, June 1940, via Berlin (backstamp).

Correctly franked 110s.

"North Atlantic Air Service" cachet on envelope.

Fig. 6 Lithuania to Argentina, probably via Berlin, April 1941.

Franked 2l 25c

Reverse of Fig. 6

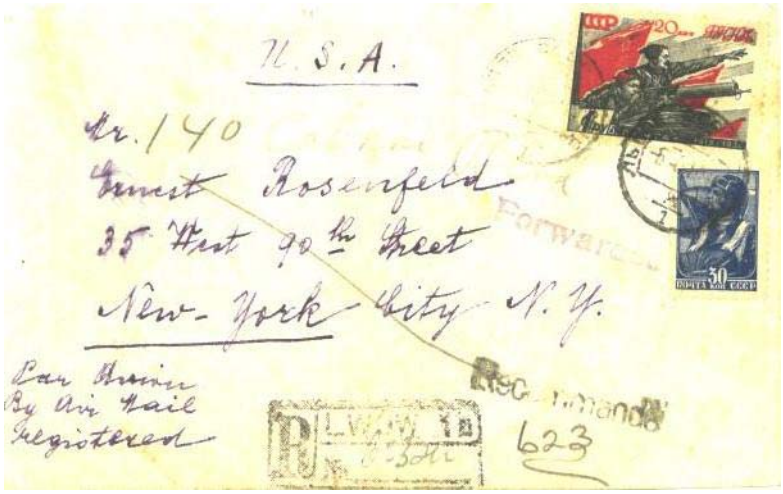


Fig. 7 Flown 1940 (date of cancel obscure) from Russian-occupied Poland. Franked 1R 30k. Received New York 18 Aug 1940 (backstamp).

A further note on war-time airmail from the East. Like India, China was cut off from trans-Pacific airmail to USA after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour in December, 1941. Airmail then had to be flown to Calcutta by CNAC and on to Lagos, Nigeria, by BOAC and finally by PAA across the Atlantic to Miami, USA. The cover shown below was for double-weight correspondence from the American Consul at Kunming in south-west China, near the border with Burma. It was franked $23.60 (including 40c in stamps on the back of the envelope) for airmail, registration and acknowledgement of delivery (signified by “AR” - the French acronym for Avis de Reception). Transmission time was three days from Kunmimg to Calcutta (16-19 March, 1942), when the cover was censored, and over eight weeks until delivery to Washington on 22 May (backstamp).

Cover Story

By Tony Lyon

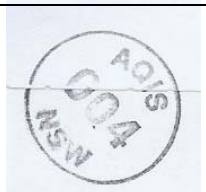
This airmail cover recently sold on Ebay. It is interesting because of the high postage 17/6d. It was posted at Wellington and is dated 5 AP 44. It is addressed to a London address. This may be a question for John Young as to what rate and route it followed. However my suggestion is that it is 5 x 3/6d rate which would mean that it went by sea to Panama, air to Miami, air to New York, and by air to London. I would have liked this cover but it got a little hot at US152.90 plus postage plus GST. It went to a new home in NZ where I am sure it will be well cared for. Anyone have other ideas?

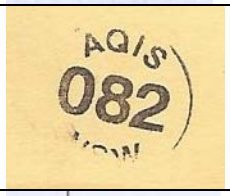
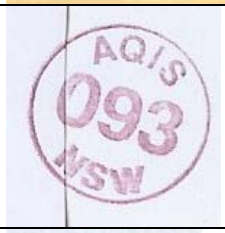
NSW Quarantine Markings

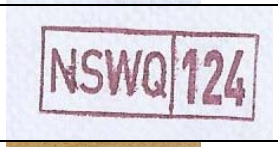
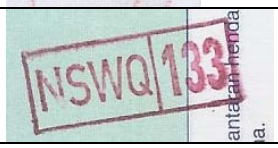
By Tim Cowley

Over the past two or so years NSW Quarantine markings have appeared on mail. These are not common and do not appear to be in regular use. There are at least two types.

The following is a census of the items I have seen

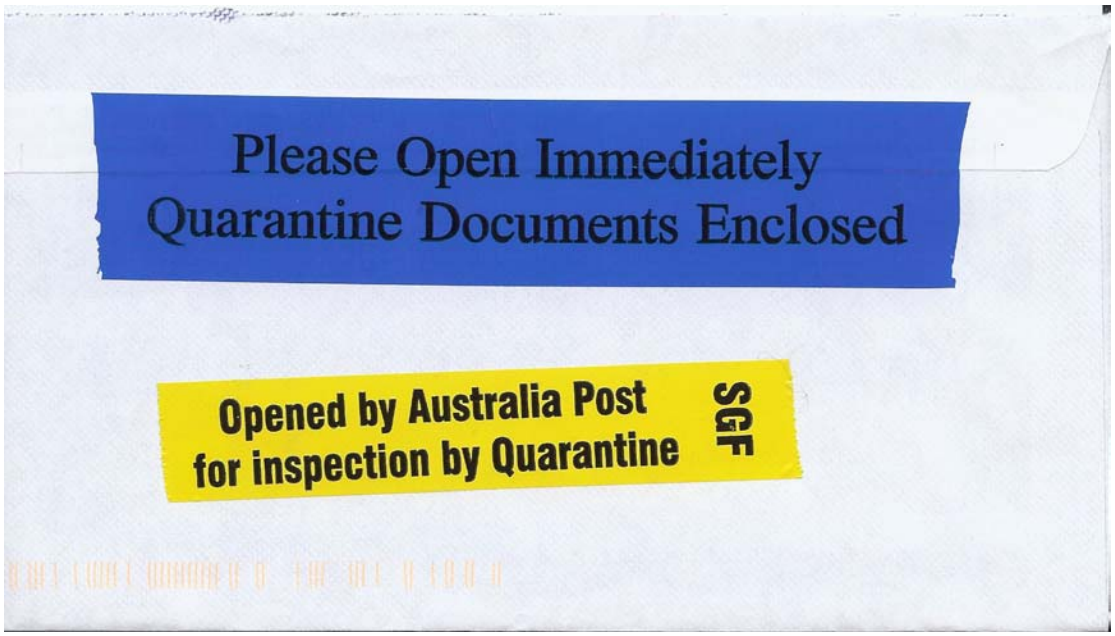
Number	Image	Description	Size (mm)	Date	Country of Origin	Note
003		AQIS / 003 / NSW	16	08/09/2006	Hong Kong	
				18/12/2006	India	
				22/12/2006	Malaysia	Flattened circle above 'QI'
004		AQIS / 004 / NSW	17 by 18	06/03/2007	Malaysia	
008		AQIS / 008 / NSW	18	22/03/2007	India	
012		AQIS / 012 / NSW	17	23/10/2006	Japan	
017		AQIS / 017 / NSW	16	18/08/2006	Thailand	
019		AQIS / 019 / NSW	16	22/10/2007	Vietnam	

Number	Image	Description	Size (mm)	Date	Country of Origin	Note
				31/10/2007	USA	
022		AQIS / 022 / NSW	16	??	Australia	
				04/11/2007	India	
025		AQIS / 025 / NSW	18	23/8/2006	Korea	
070		AQIS / 070 / NSW	16	18/12/2006	Australia	
082		AQIS / 082 / NSW	??	30/11/2007	Korea	
093		AQIS / 093 / NSW	16	19/11/2007	Malaysia	
105		AQIS / 105 / NSW	18	23/02/2007	Australia	

Number	Image	Description	Size (mm)	Date	Country of Origin	Note
113		AQIS / 113 / NSW	16	16/08/2007	Korea	
116		AQIS / 116 / NSW	16	06/11/2006	Australia	
124		NSWQ 124	9.5 by 23.5	04/12/2006	Australia	
125		AQIS / 125 / NSW	18	25/11/2007	India	
133		NSWQ 124	9.5 by 24	31/10/2007	Malaysia	

Do other states have similar markings?

Also, associated with the same organization there appears to be two tapes in use.



The first is relatively common:

while I have only seen one example of the second. Am I right in assuming that SGF is the Sydney Gateway Facility at the international airport?

Loch Post Office – a Postscript.

By Ian Cutter

A couple of years ago I wrote a brief article on the post office at Loch in Gippsland.

It noted the letters COA cast into the front of some of the private boxes, with the O forming the surround for the keyhole. However, some of the boxes showed the letters AOC, which for want of a better idea I attributed to a patternmaker's error.

Recently a person where I occasionally work noted my interest in postal matters and gave me some old stamp magazines.

Sitting in a coffee shop perusing the issue of Australasian Stamps for May 1998, I came across the article "Prelude to Federation" by Richard Breckon. One paragraph reads as follows;

> The third suggestion of the 1900 conference recommended "……(i) that pending the introduction of special postage stamps and postal rates upon the transfer of the post offices to the Federal Government, all postage stamps and postal notes of the Federating colonies be valid within any part of the Commonwealth, and (ii) that all such postage stamps and postal notes be overprinted with the letters 'AC' (Australian Commonwealth)."

Later on the article reports that

…collectors were opposed to the AC overprinting and the process did not go ahead.

So, perhaps the AC lettering did appear, but on mailboxes even if not on stamps. The O of the keyhole surround was just that, the surround for the keyhole.

You never do know where you will find another piece of the jigsaw puzzle.

Minutes of General Meeting held 21 April 2008

Secretary John Lancaster welcomed nine members to the bi-monthly meeting – there were five apologies. Being in the chair he outlined his topic for the evening which was “Colonial Customs 1817 to 1918”. The display is from an Australian perspective, especially the colonial customs and trade departments, the usage of Free Franks, the SA departmental “C” and the early federation Department of Customs.

Dues, duties, imposts, levies, tithes, tolls, tariffs, taxes and tributes have all been part of mankind’s history from the beginning of time, as rulers sought funds to advance their target specific causes. Excise perhaps predates that of customs levies, for it would appear that its derivation can be traced to the 16th century. Tariff originated from the ransoms demanded by the pirates of Tariffe. The colonies levied Customs duties on sea ports, as well as road and railway routes at border crossings. Additionally, duties were imposed on goods being shipped on rivers with Customs Houses established at river crossings on borders – Victoria/NSW, Victoria/SA etc.

The earliest control over alcohol was exercised through the Commissariat in Sydney. The commissariat is essentially that department responsible for providing food and supplies for the armed forces. In Sydney it was a branch of the Army Commissariat under the control of Treasury in London. Its activities in the fledgling colony were not unlike that of the RBA as well as being the first government bond store. Import merchants were required to impound their merchandise there until either the government purchased from the merchant’s stocks or until the merchant had arranged sales to outside parties. The function of the Commissariat was to supply and store foodstuffs and goods for the population and was for a time the only market available for the produce of the colony. The Commissary Stores Receipts and Bills of Exchange were used as currency in the Colony, until the introduction of enough circulating cash.

It was not until Governor Philip Gidley King came in 1800 that moves were made to finance government activities by taxing the social proclivities of the settlers by appointing William Balmain to the Naval Office. There were a further six appointees until then, in February 1814, Governor Macquarie appointed the occupant of the Naval Office at Sydney, the infamous Captain John Piper to be Naval Officer and Collector of Duties, with revenue going to the Orphan’s Fund. With the establishment of a Customs House in 1827 the first Customs Collector was John Campbell. Until 1814 however, all trade to and from New South Wales was with the permission of, and under license from, the East India Company. From 1826, when it first became involved in the creation of Customs Houses in the Australian colonies, the London Board of Customs had been careful to ensure that the emerging colonies would not differentiate against each other, or other British possessions, when setting their rates of duty.

Examples of customs related postal history from NSW, Tasmania, Victoria, South and Westralia were shown together with picture postcards of colonial customs houses around Australia.

The minutes of 18 February meeting were proposed by Mr Lancaster and seconded by Mr Hans Bachmayer as a true record of proceedings.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

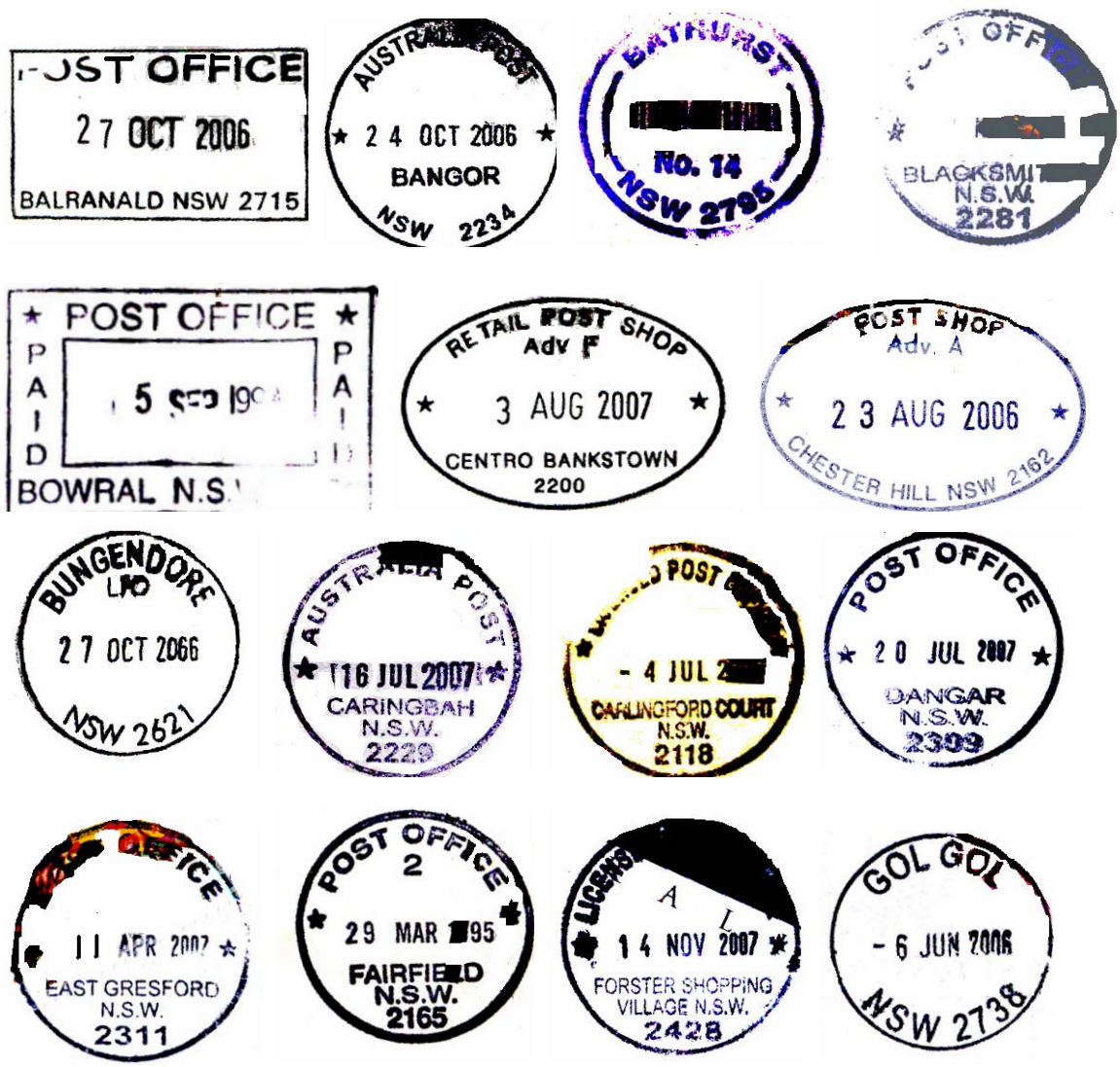
Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Another couple of unusual datelines have appeared , firstly BUNGENDORE with a dateline reading 27 OCT 2066 (this is not a typing error) and then TUNCURRY with a dash instead of a decade year number. It would be interesting to hear from anyone who has earlier datestamps from this post office to see if it started back in 2000 .

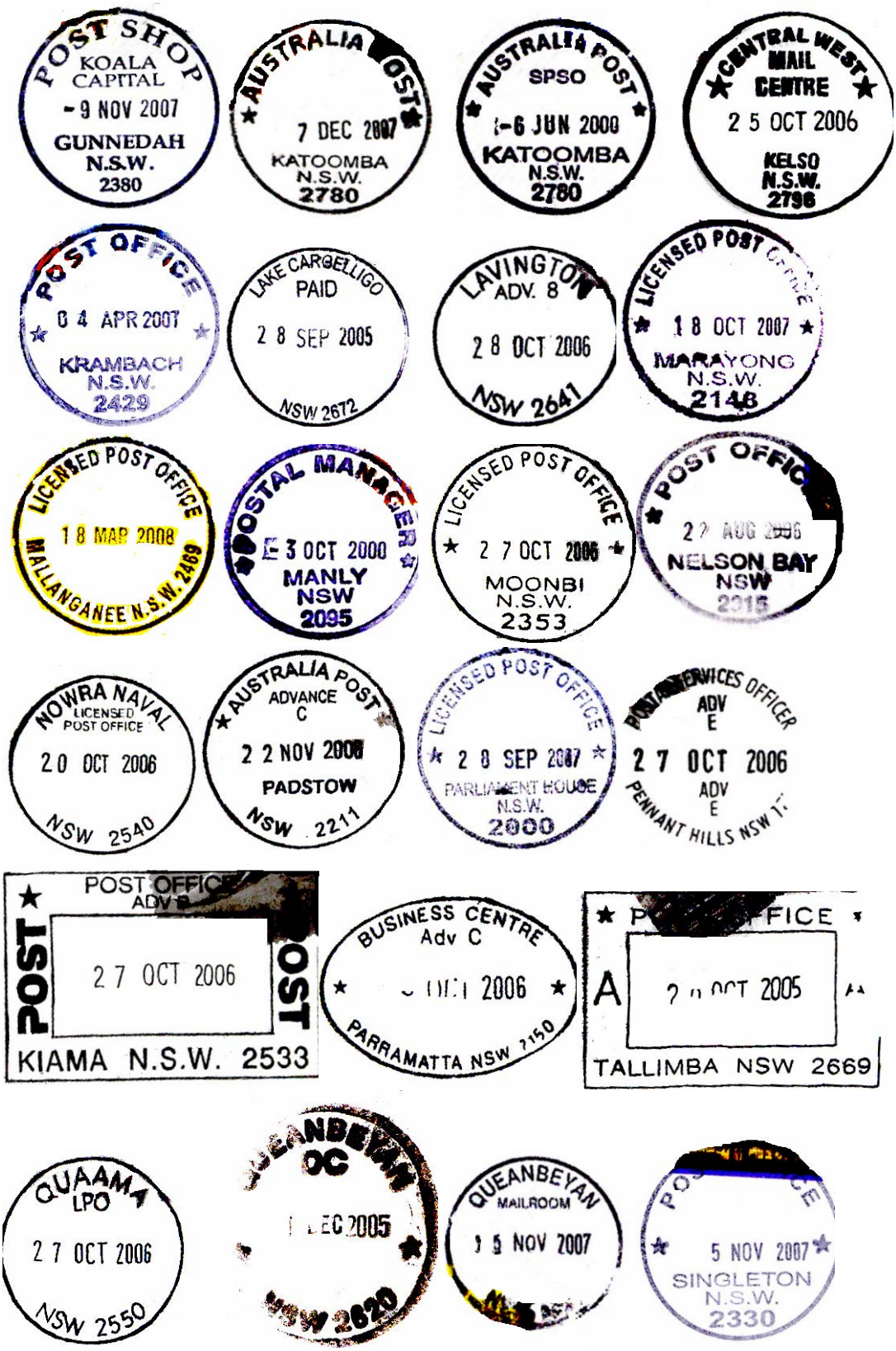
Also interesting is the different designs of datestamps and since the introduction of rubber almost anything goes, like West Chatswood with state and postcode on top.

Thank you once again to Ian Cutter, Richard Peck, Peter Dearie, Tim Cowley and John Tracey for their ongoing contributions to this column.

N.S.W.:-BATHURST also no.19. Earlier datestamps:-BLACKSMITHS (85/32), BUNGENDORE(79/32),CARINGBAH(100/59),GOL GOL (86/33),KATOOMBA(91/36), NELSON BAY (85/35), SINGLETON (99/26).

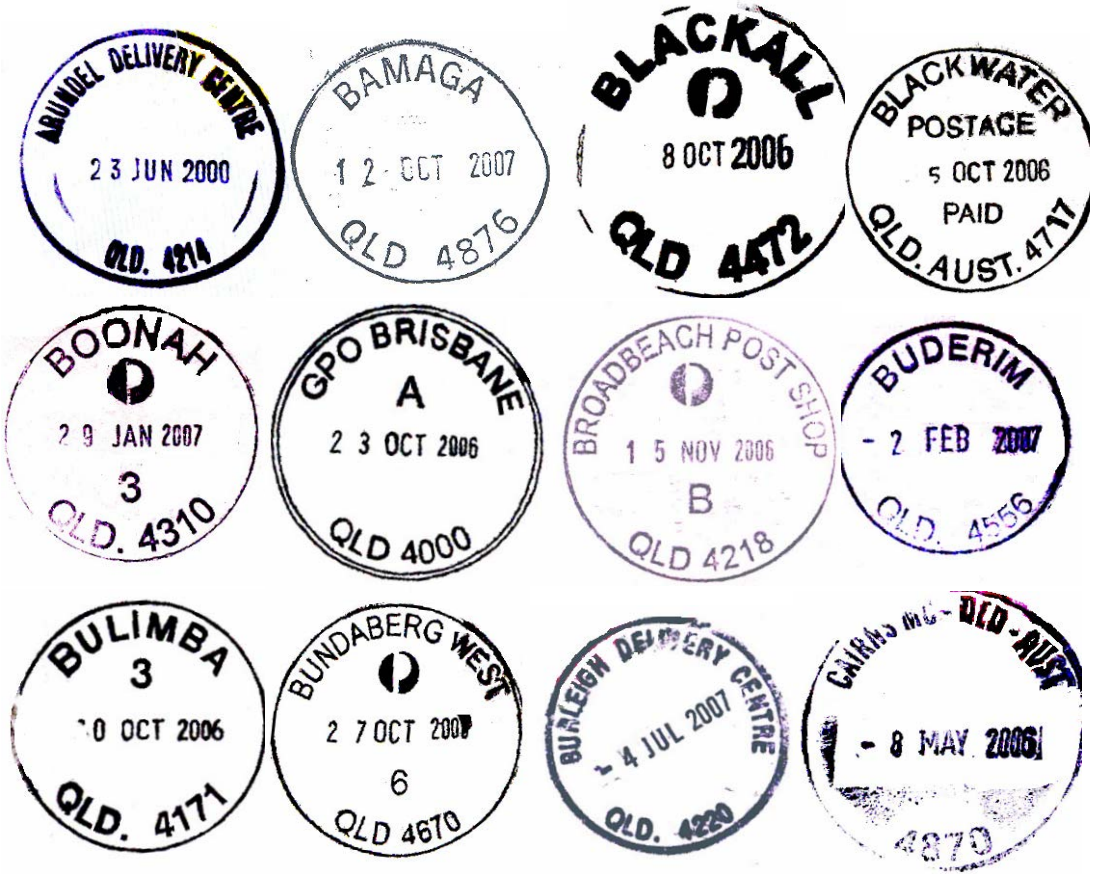


N.S.W.(cont)


POST SHOP
KOALA CAPITAL
- 9 NOV 2007
GUNNEDAH
N.S.W.
2380
AUSTRALIA POST
7 DEC 2007
KATOOMBA
N.S.W.
2780
AUSTRALIA POST
SPSO
-6 JUN 2008
KATOOMBA
N.S.W.
2780
CENTRAL WEST MAIL CENTRE
2 5 OCT 2006
KELSO
N.S.W.
2796
POST OFFICE
0 4 APR 2007
KRAMBACH
N.S.W.
2429
LAKE CARGELLIGO
PAID
2 8 SEP 2005
NSW 2672
LAVINGTON
ADV. 8
2 8 OCT 2006
NSW 2641
LICENSED POST OFFICE
1 8 OCT 2007
MARAYONG
N.S.W.
2148
LICENSED POST OFFICE
1 8 MAR 2008
MALLANGANEE N.S.W. 2469
POSTAL MANAGER
3 OCT 2000
MANLY
NSW
2095
LICENSED POST OFFICE
2 7 OCT 2006
MOONBI
N.S.W.
2353
POST OFFICE
NELSON BAY
NSW
2315
NOWRA NAVAL
LICENSED POST OFFICE
2 0 OCT 2006
NSW 2540
AUSTRALIA POST
ADVANCE
C
2 2 NOV 2006
PADSTOW
NSW 2211
LICENSED POST OFFICE
2 8 SEP 2007
PARLIAMENT HOUSE
N.S.W.
2000
ADV
E
2 7 OCT 2006
ADV
E
POST OFFICE
ADV
POST
2 7 OCT 2006
KIAMA N.S.W. 2533
BUSINESS CENTRE
Adv C
PARRAMATTA NSW 2150
2 7 OCT 2005
TALLIMBA NSW 2669
QUAAMA
LPO
2 7 OCT 2006
NSW 2550
QUEANBEYAN
MAILROOM
1 5 NOV 2007
5 NOV 2007
SINGLETON
N.S.W.
2330

N.S.W.(cont)

QLD:-Earlier datestamps:-ARUNDEL DELIVERY CENTRE(87/30), CAIRNS MAIL CENTRE (90/32), MITCHELL(78/44),SPRINGSURE(89/32),TOOWOOMBA MC(95/30).

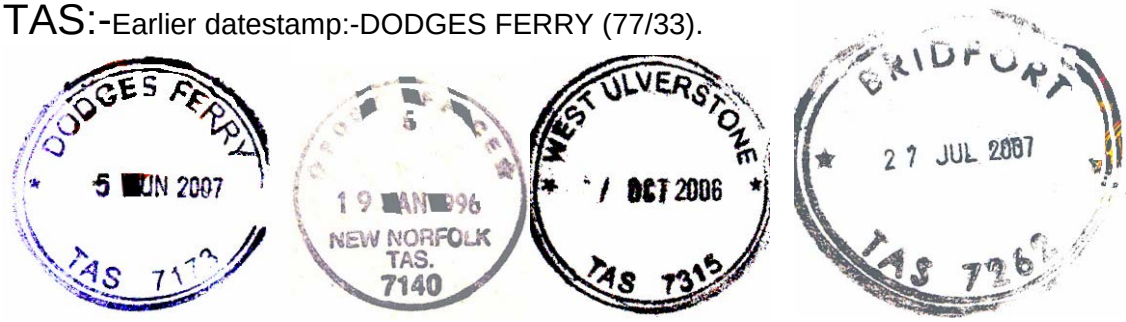


QLD:-(cont)

EUMUNDI
17 JUN 2006
QLD 4562
JANDOWAE
27 OCT 2006
QLD 4410
MALENY MAILROOM
17 FEB 2006
QLD. 4552
MERMAID BEACH
5 JUL 2006
C
QLD 4218
PARK RIDGE
12 NOV 2007
QLD 4125
MITCHELL
9 MAR 2004
TOOROOKA
4 AUG 2006
QLD - AUST - 4105
MAIL REDISTRIBUTION CENTRE
EXAMINER
3 NOV 2006
No.
NORTHGATE
GEORGE STREET
1
23 OCT 2006
QLD. 4003
STOCKS
13 JAN 19
ROCKHAMPTON, Q. 47
POSTAL MANAGER
20 OCT 2006
WOOLLOONGABBA. 4102
ROSEWOOD
16 JUN 2005
QLD. 4340
SALISBURY
4 JAN 2007
QLD 4107
SANCTUARY COVE
QLD
SOUTHTOWN
26 OCT 2006
QLD. 4350
SPRINGSURE
4722
26 NOV 2007
QLD. AUST
SUNSHINE COAST MC
POSTAGE
30 NOV 2005
PAID
QLD. 4560
TANNUM SANDS
30 NOV 2007
QLD 4680
TOOMBUL
30 OCT 2006
F
QLD - 4012
TOOWONG
21 NOV 2006
BUSINESS CENTRE 4066
TOOWOOMBA M.C.
25 NOV 2007
QLD 4352
TOWNSVILLE MAIL CENTRE
11 SEP 2006
QLD. 4810
WESTCOURT
2
8 MAR 2007
QLD 4870

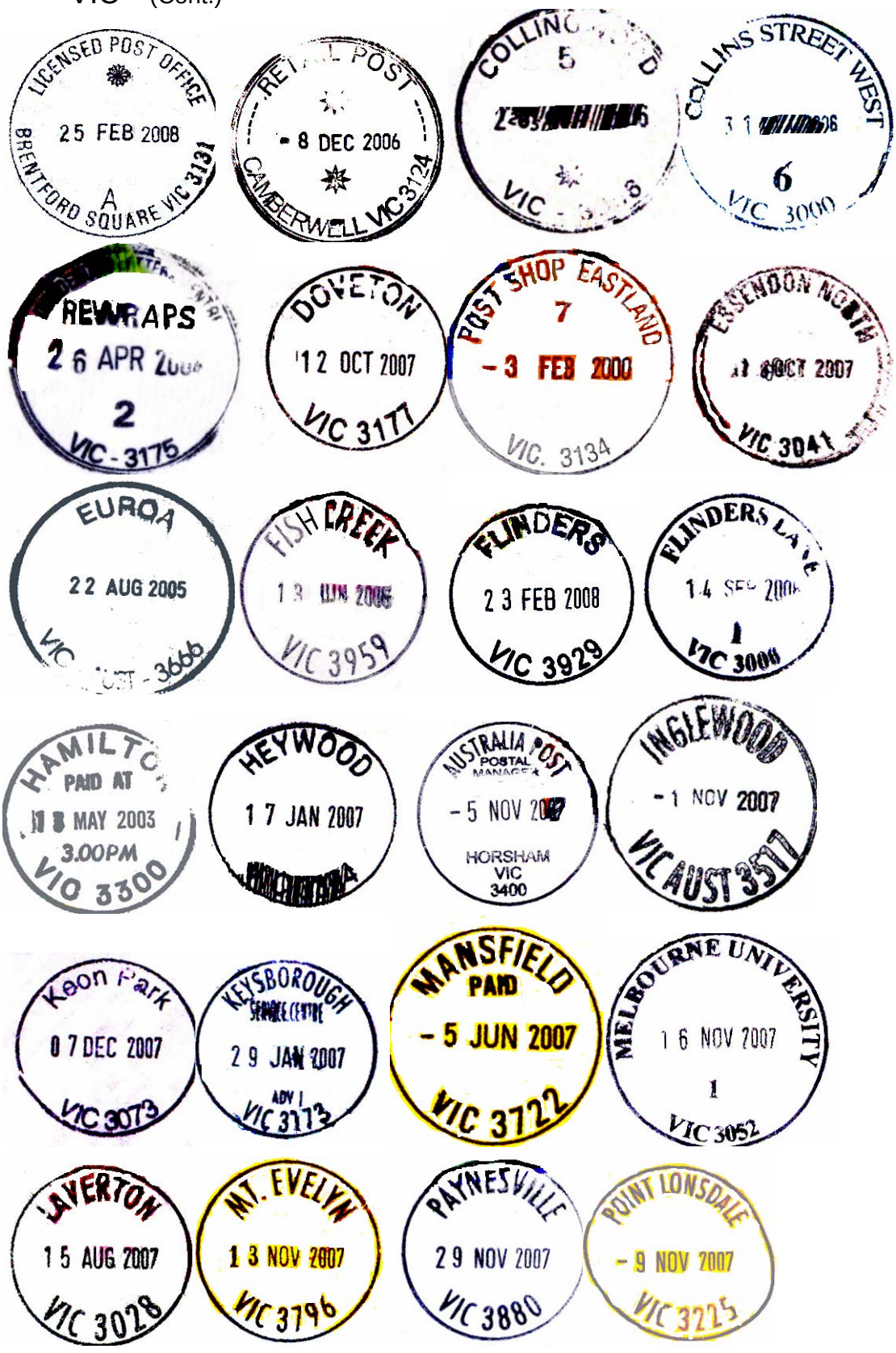
S.A.

TAS:-Earlier datestamp:-DODGES FERRY (77/33).



VIC:-Earlier datestamps:-BREAMLEA(76/34),CHEWTON(93/35),CHILTON(94/30), FLINDERS(82/37),HEYWOOD(99/27),LAVERTON(76/35),RED CLIFFS(2)(72/35), PAYNESVILLE(96/35), TEMPLESTOWE(96/35), TONGALA(71/35).

VIC—(Cont.)


LICENSED POST OFFICE
25 FEB 2008
A
BRENTFORD SQUARE VIC 3131
- 8 DEC 2006
CAMBERWELL VIC 3124
5
VIC
COLLINS STREET WEST
6
VIC 3000
REWRAPS
26 APR 2008
2
VIC - 3175
DOVETON
12 OCT 2007
VIC 3177
POST SHOP EASTLAND
7
- 3 FEB 2000
VIC. 3134
ESSENDON NORTH
VIC 3041
EUROA
22 AUG 2005
VIC 3666
FISH CREEK
VIC 3959
FLINDERS
23 FEB 2008
VIC 3929
FLINDERS LANE
1
VIC 3000
HAMILTON
PAID AT
MAY 2003
3.00PM
VIC 3300
HEYWOOD
17 JAN 2007
AUSTRALIA POST
POSTAL MANAGER
- 5 NOV 2007
HORSHAM
VIC
3400
INGLEWOOD
- 1 NOV 2007
VIC AUST 3517
Keon Park
07 DEC 2007
VIC 3073
KEYSBOROUGH
29 JAN 2007
VIC 3173
MANSFIELD
PAID
- 5 JUN 2007
VIC 3722
MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY
16 NOV 2007
1
VIC 3052
LAVERTON
15 AUG 2007
VIC 3028
MT. EVELYN
13 NOV 2007
VIC 3796
PAYNESVILLE
29 NOV 2007
VIC 3880
POINT LONSDALE
- 9 NOV 2007
VIC 3225

VIC:- (cont.)-

W.A.:-Earlier datestamps:-BASSENDEAN(86/37), HARVEY(97/29),MARGARET RIVER(79/37), PEMBERTON (80/41).

W.A.:-(cont).

(C)
KARRATHA
19 OCT 2006
WA 6714
KENDENUP
4 JAN 2007
WA 6323
KEYSBROOK
30 OCT 2006
WA 6126
PAID AT
25 OCT 2006
LAKE GRACE WA 6353
PAID AT
7 JAN 2008
MARGARET RIVER WA 6285
(2)
MARGARET RIVER
24 OCT 2006
WA 6285
MOORA
10 NOV 2006
WA 6510
(B)
MORLEY
JAN 2007
WA 6062
(D)
MT HAWTHORN
31 MAY 2007
WA 6016
MT BARKER
LPO
26 OCT 2006
WA 6324
NORTHAMPTON
6 DEC 2007
WA 6535
(3)
NORTH PERTH
27 OCT 2006
WA 6006
PEMBERTON
24 OCT 2006
WA 6260
PERTH
MAIL CENTRE
26 OCT 2006
WA 6105
(C)
PERTH
MAIL CENTRE
WA 6105
(G)
PERTH
MAIL CENTRE
25 OCT 2006
WA 6105
DATA
PERTH
MAIL CENTRE
18 OCT 2006
WA 6105
ROCKINGHAM
BEACH
27 OCT 2006
WA 6168
(LPO)
ROELANDS
30 OCT 2006
WA 6226
23 OCT 2006
ROTTNEST
WA 6161
SCARBOROUGH
06 NOV 2007
WA 6019
SUBIACO
NICHOLSON RD
23 OCT 2006
WA 6008
(LPO)
TOM PRICE
18 OCT 2006
WA 6751
WYNDHAM
10 JUL 2007
WA 6740

Urban Myths

By Harewood

June 2008

"To scavenge is the basic instinct of the collector" according to Sir Ernest Rutherford 1871~1937 [1908 Nobel Prize in chemistry] who contended that there were two forms of science: "Physics and stamp collecting." Your aging septuagenarian was recently reminded of this when reading *Age A2* of 25 April entitled *The Collect Calling* by Gabriella Coslovich in which she comments that "It's time to retire the art as superannuation approach and invest in art for art's sake – and that of your soul." The same maybe applied to philately.

She quotes the eminent art critic Robert Hughes: "Art [read philatelic] prices are determined by the meeting of real or induced scarcity with pure irrational desire and nothing is more manipulable than desire…a fair price is the highest one a collector can be induced to pay." Coslovich observes "One may well ask is desire ever rational – especially the desire that drives the collector?" This erudite article got Harewood postulating the abject characters often seen frequenting philatelic auctions. Over the past six months records have been established for rare picture postcards and Aerophilately.

Many years ago Harewood read a book by Susan Sontag called "The Volcano Lover". Free from psychojargon, passionate in approach, her picture of Sir William Hamilton, one of the most remarkable collectors of his age, rings true and says as much as we need to know. Her contention about him was that "Collections unite. Collections isolate. They unite those who love the same thing – but no one loves the same as I do; enough. They isolate from those who don't share the passion – alas, almost everyone."

As children we collected coloured pieces of paper, soaked them from the backing piece of an envelope, identified from whence they came and then affixed them into our albums. But we were never satisfied, for there were always too many spaces to fill and one seemed never able to find the remaining stamps to complete the set – invariably the high value ones! We grew up, married, developed children and became bored with idly sitting in front of a device that seemingly wasted time. In maturity we recalled the happy days of youthful collecting and now turned our attention to a calling of acquisition of rarity, research and writing. Thus we had entered the world of organised philately, but more importantly that of passionate acquirors.

Modern day philately can trace its origins back to the late 1770's and early 1800's when people started to collect fiscals and franks, or to put it another way stamped duty impressions on documents, and free franks that had to be autographed by prominent people, e.g. members of parliament etc. All philately is born from traditional philately. With the wide range of classes now available to any collector who wants to turn into an exhibitor the choice is enormous. It was not always thus. Indeed the growth of classes is a relatively recent occurrence.

Harewood is an inveterate watcher of the ABC~TV Channel 2 *"Collectors"* and was quite chuffed when one of his nefarious compatriots appeared on 18 April programme. This chap talked about Australian history from a social and philatelic aspect by the usage of original documents, postal history, ephemera etc to depict a visual story. One has to admire the passion of those people who allow themselves to be exhibited on national TV extolling virtues of buttons to blue ceramic pieces and all the genres between. Harewood found out that the TV crew of three had spent some nine hours filming the three minute segment. He can recall only one other occasion when philately was featured on this show and that was Malcolm Groom in probably 2005. So dear friends clamour at the ABC~TV gates and demand better and more recognition for our remarkable and rewarding pursuit which has by far the greatest global following of any other hobby. Forget furniture and pop-art give us Australian history stories with postal history.

Harewood is truly appreciative of gossip, innuendo and scuttlebutt yet he sincerely hopes that you will not unnecessarily annoy him at AustPhilSoc@gmail.com

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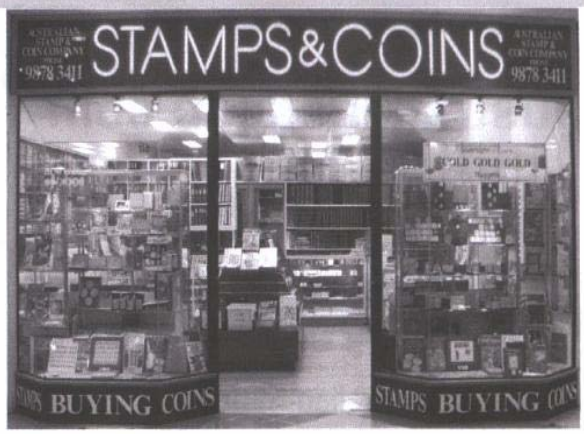

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What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society

- Sign up a new member
- Write an article for the Journal (Better still, write two!)
- Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- Come to the monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- Enter the Society Competitions
- Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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