IN THIS ISSUE

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2008 Programme		
20 October	WIP	WIP (Work in Progress)
15 December	Christmas Meeting	4 sheet display by members

Contents

Editorial   *Tony Lyon*

This issue comes with a certain sadness because of the passing of our President David Brindle. A fitting tribute to David appears in place of his usual President's page. All who knew David could attest to his willingness to share his treasures when called upon to do so. David shared an interest with me in Military Mail and often would email me to tell me of a lot he had seen that might be of interest to me. He will be missed. Condolences to his wife Carole and sons Scott and Corey.

The article from Tim Cowley on Quarantine labels brought responses from Brian Fuller and Colin Salt. We have published both here to enable others to share in the information.

John Young offers another article looking at the usages of the definitive issue from 1959-66. It always intrigues me how John comes up with all of these examples and the research he does to explain the usage. Thank you John for your continued efforts to make the journal of interest.

Michael Barden always has something interesting for us and his article and cover story illustrate this fittingly.

John Tracey has provided a cover story with a personal history angle to it, looking at one of the great Australian/New Zealand Pastoral concerns. It interested me due to, as a child, having a guardian who was a grain and seed merchant and consequently I knew about all the pastoral companies and what they represented. I used to attend the Industries Fair in Timaru, NZ which was held in the wool shed of one of these companies. In my early working life, I was the wool shipping clerk at OCAL/AJCL and had involvement in the wool shipments to UK, Europe and Japan. It was never dull.

Look forward to seeing what articles arrive for the next issue. Till then, ciao.

APS
Australian Philatelic Society

Vale—David Brindle

VALEDICTORY

David "Rusty" Brindle

19 March 1942 to 26 July 2008

Michael Barden, John Young and John Lancaster represented the Society at the Memorial Service held at the Tobin Brothers Funeral Parlour in Doncaster on Friday 1 August. It was an extremely sad occasion to farewell the Society's President. He was a genuine man of honour whom we shall have great difficulty in replacing.

David was born on the Feast of St Joseph in Caulfield, and grew up in Dandenong. He joined the Society in 2002 and very quickly endeared himself to fellow members with his affection and warmth for those around him. We found him to have a great sense, a strong handshake, but more importantly, willing to seek guidance and knowledge from those members who had experience with postal history. David's chosen field was that of military postal history of the Scandinavian countries. It encompassed the period from the late eighteenth through to the mid-twentieth centuries.

He entered all of the Christmas competitions from 2003 through 2007. His first display to the Society on 16 February 2004 was about the Jutland Peninsular entitled "Shifting Boundaries, Shifting Alliances". Upon the resignation of Mr Frank Pauer, David was elected President of the Society at the Annual General Meeting held on 18 July 2005 – a post that he held until his untimely passing. In August 2006 he displayed Danish military postal history, then the following August his presidential display was again military postal history but about Finland in the Second World War. Our last presentation from David was on 18 February this year, when he showed us covers from the Faroe Islands, which covered the Danish colony's mail activities during WW2. He competed nationally on several occasions, gaining a large vermeil for his Danish exhibit.

David was a water reticulation engineer having commenced his career with the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works. He met his future wife there in 1968, and when she told him that she was going to Hawaii on holiday, he asked that she obtain some stamps for him. He was an avid collector who matured from being just a stamp collector into that of dedicated philatelist. He was also very much involved with the Scouting Movement in the Eastern Metropolitan Region of Melbourne, and was Scoutmaster of the Doncaster Crackenback Rover Crew.

He is survived by wife Carole, his two sons Scott and Corey, and grandchildren Harrison and Wes. Messages of condolence and sympathy have been received from Judy Kennett and David Collyer from New South Wales, Chintan Desai, and Ruth and Tom O'Dea [of the website team] and Charles Leski.

Australian Fauna Stamps, 1959-66: What Were They Used For?

By John Young

During 1959-62, the Australian post-office issued six definitive stamps valued at 6 pence, 8 pence, 9 pence, 11 pence, 1 shilling and 1 shilling and 2 pence. All were engraved from designs by English-born Eileen Mayo (1906-94). She was a prolific illustrator, and wrote and illustrated several children's books, many based on nature and animals. She lived in Australia from 1953 to 1965, later moving to New Zealand.

Three denominations (6d, 9d and 1/-) replaced earlier fauna stamps dating from the 1930s, and they were printed in the same colours as before, brown, sepia and deep green respectively. The other three denominations were new.

Not since 1951 did the 6d stamp have a designated domestic use, instead paying for airmail postcards to a few places and serving as a make-up value. That continued with the new 6d anteater stamp, although a couple of specific, if uncommon, uses arose. From 14 July 1958 airmail postcards to south Asia and the south Pacific (excluding New Zealand) cost 6d. In addition, Australian military personnel serving overseas apparently could send airmail letters to Australian for 6d.

Fig. 1 Airmail postcard to Indonesia.
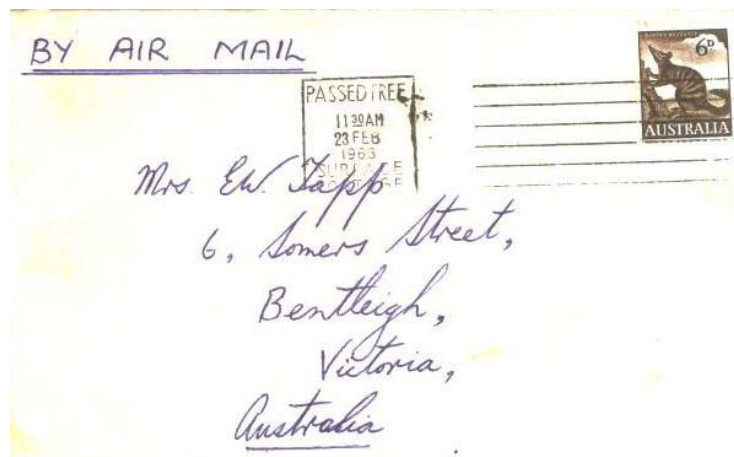
Fig. 2 Armed forces concession: letter from Cdr. E Tapp, HMAS Voyager, to his wife.

Fig. 3 Make-up use: certified mail at 11d rate.

The 8d tiger-cat stamp was new, paying for surface-mail letters and postcards to foreign countries (rate effective 1.10.59), airmail letters to New Zealand (rate effective 1.8.52) and double-weight domestic letters (rate effective 1.10.59 – 5d for first ounce and 3d for next ounce).
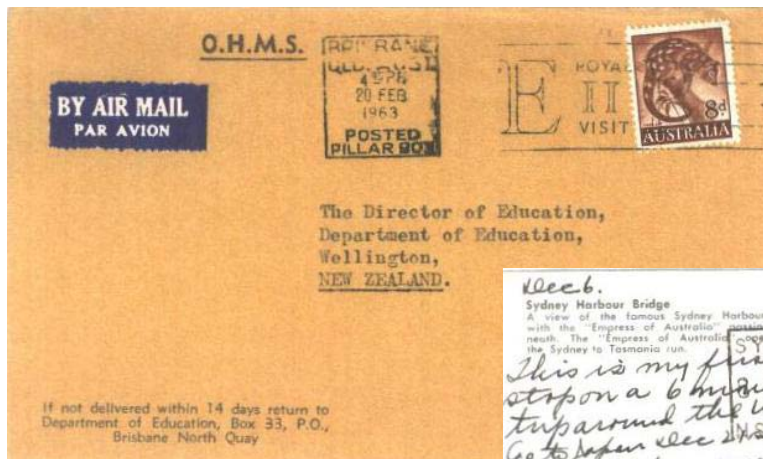
Fig. 4 Airmail Letter to New Zealand.

Fig. 5 Surface-mail postcard to USA.
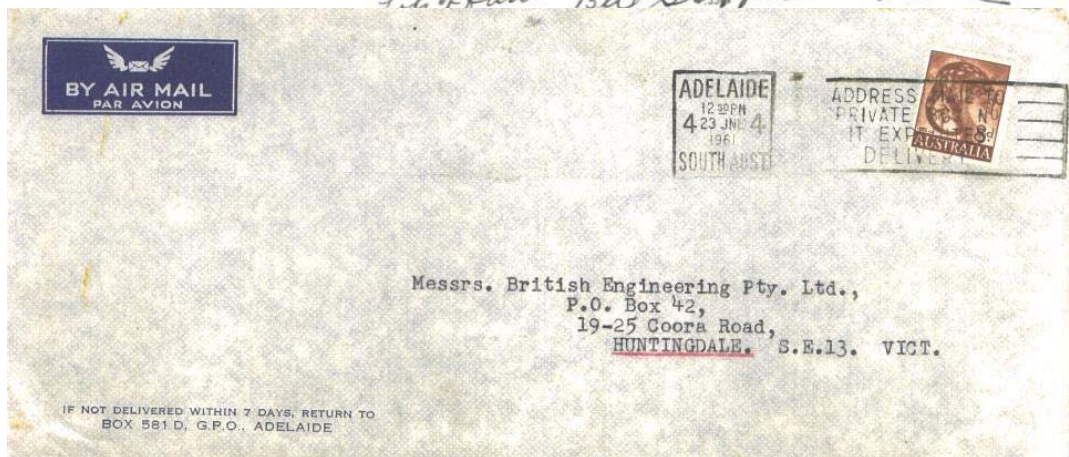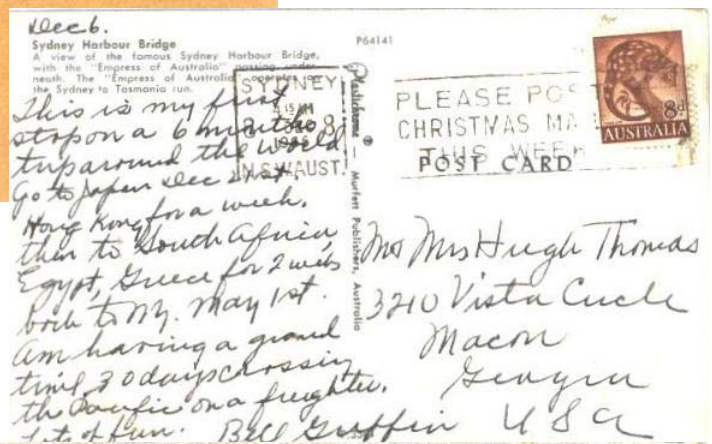
Fig 6   Double-weight letter within Australia

The 9d kangaroo stamp was almost exclusively a make-up value, although it did pay for airmail postcards to north Asia, Hawaii and the north Pacific (rate effective 14.7.58). It is not often found on commercial mail, and nearly always for make-up purposes.

Fig. 7 Make-up use for airmail postcard to UK at 1 shilling and 2 pence rate. Card addressed to Nina Christesen head of Russian Studies at Melb Univ, when she was at Oxford in 1961.

Fig. 8 Make-up use for certified mail, 1962.
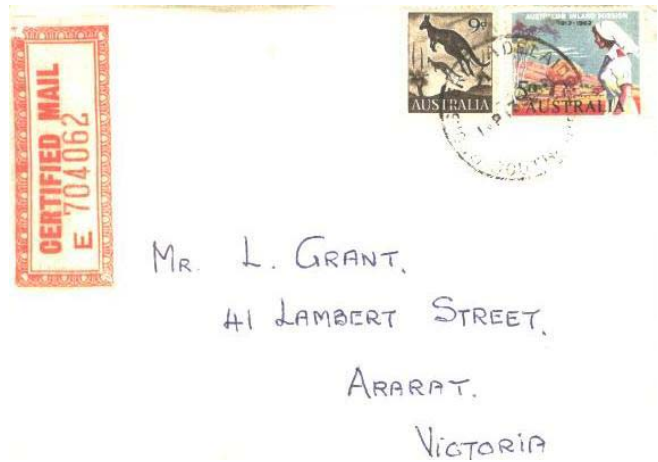
Eleven pence was an odd denomination (was UK the only other country with an 11d stamp?), but it paid for certified mail in Australia: certification was 6d, plus ordinary letter postage of 5d (effective 1.10.59). The 11d rabbit-bandicoot stamp was issued on 3.5.61, but its useful life ended the next year when certification was increased to 9d.
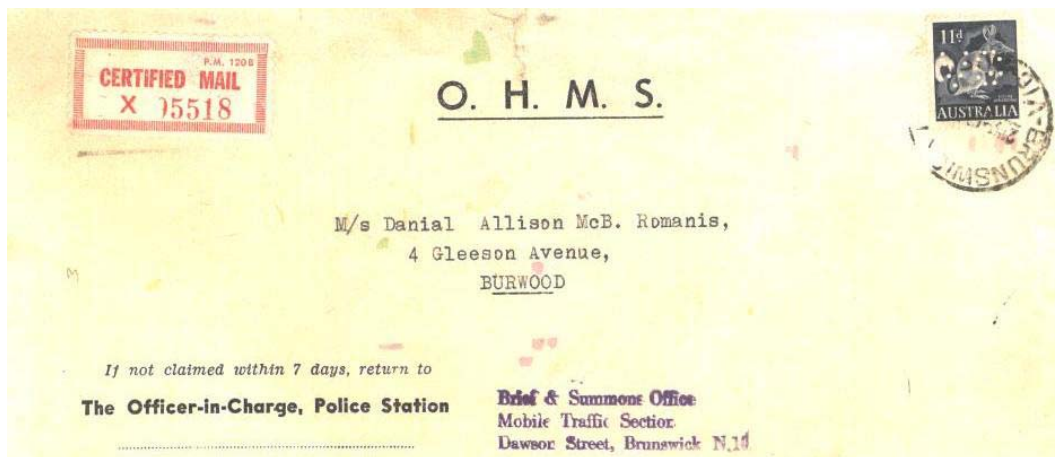
Certified mail from Dawson Street Police, Brunswick. Stamp punctured VG.

One shilling definitive stamps had been green and faunal since 1913 for Australia, and had nearly always paid for one or more parcel rates, the telegram rate and, since 1947, the airmail letter rate to south Asia. By 1959 only the airmail rate survived, although there were numerous instances where 1/- served for make-up uses. One shilling carried an airmail letter to the Malaya-Indonesia region or an airmail postcard to the Middle East, USA and Canada (rate effective 14.7.58). The 1/- Colombo Plan stamp (30.6.61) served the same uses.
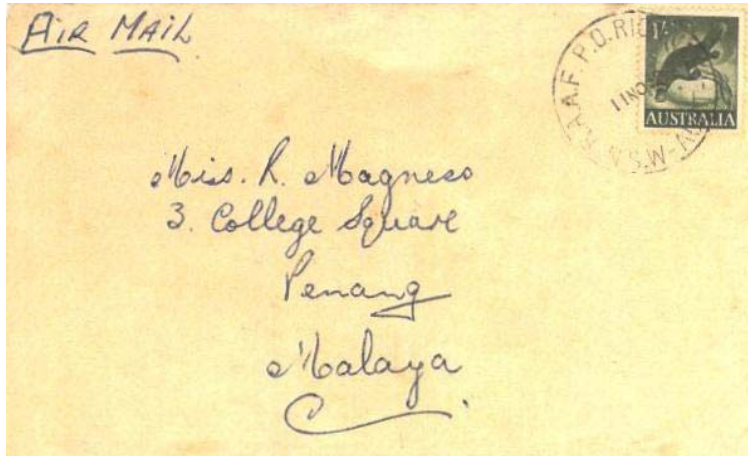
Fig. 10   Airmail letter to Malaya.
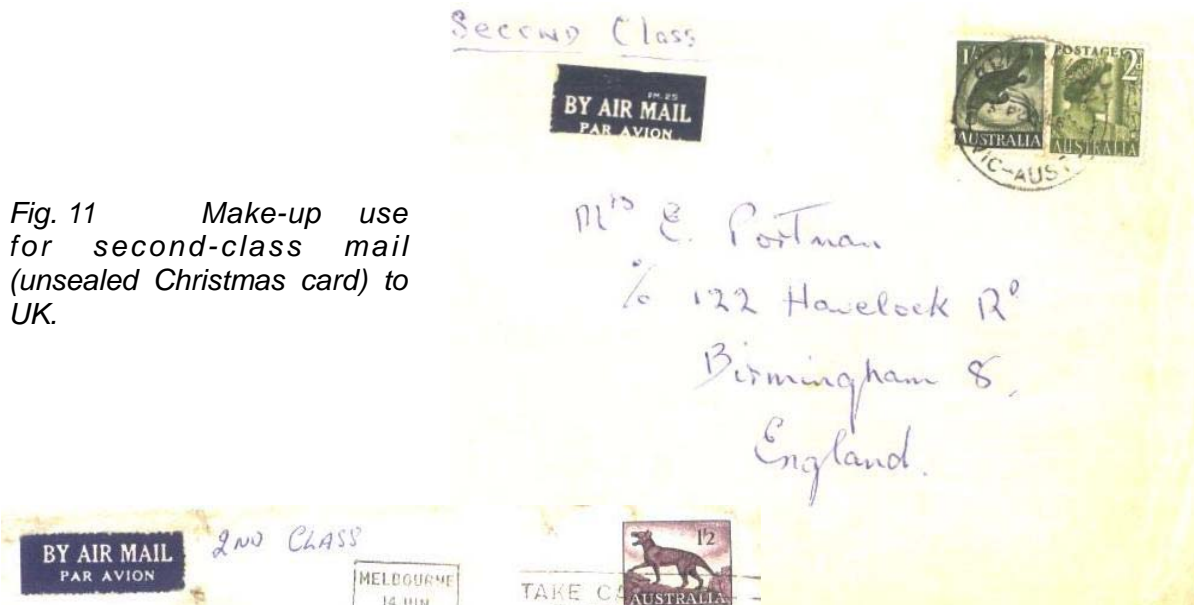
Fig. 11   Make-up use for second-class mail (unsealed Christmas card) to UK.

The last illustration (1/- platypus stamp + 2d stamp) brings the story up to the 1 shilling and 2 pence Tasmanian-tiger stamp issued on 21.3.62. It paid for airmail postcards to Europe and Africa, second-class airmail to those places (usually unsealed envelopes for greetings cards), and certified letters in Australia.

Fig 12 Second-class mail (unsealed card) to UK.

Fig. 13 Airmail Postcard to England.
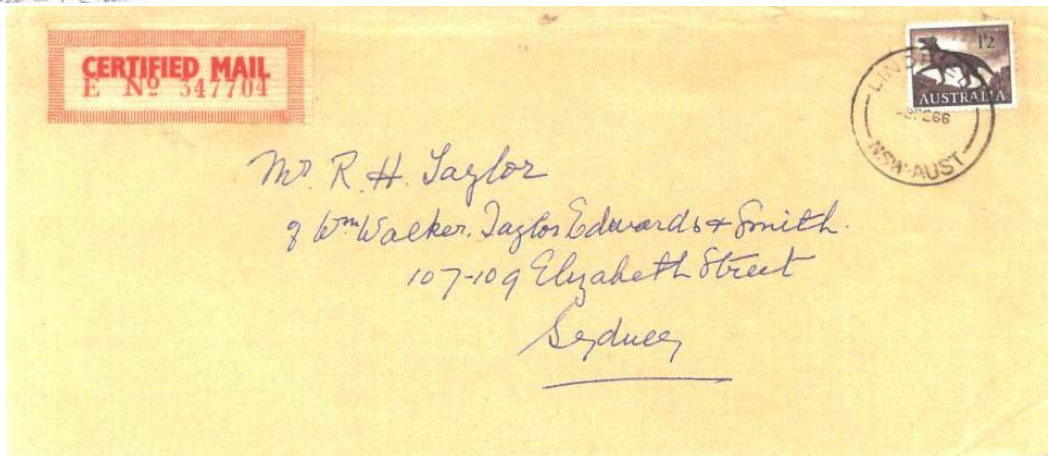
Fig. 14   Certified mail, 1966.

Some of the postcard uses are elusive, but can probably be found in collectors' hoards, and more likely overseas in dealers' boxes and in private hands. Perhaps a much later emission, postally used, might also turn up: in the 1990s Australia Post issued three <u>pre-paid</u> postcards showing the Tasmanian-tiger stamp –
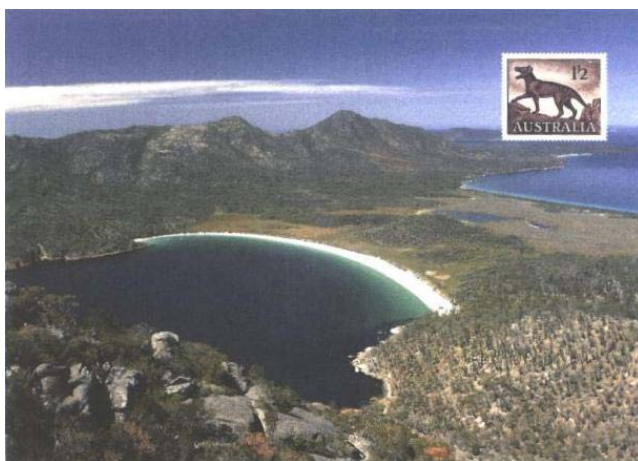
Figs. 15 & 16 Front and back of Australia Post worldwide airmail postcard.

The Evolution of the Penny Postage in New Zealand (Part 1)

Submitted by William Cochrane

"The Antiquarian"

This article is based on a paper by W. Joliffe, read before the Philatelic Society of New Zealand (October 5th, 1911) It includes extremely useful early postal rates for New Zealand:

The first official reference to postage stamps in New Zealand is contained in a proclamation by the Governor-in-Chief (Sir George Grey), dated the 31st December, 1850, in which it is proclaimed as follows: "All letters and papers having a postage stamp or stamps affixed thereto of such form as may be prescribed by the local Government, which shall not have been used before, and which shall be of the value or the amount of the postage, to which such letters or papers would be respectively liable, according to the scale therein before provided, shall pass by the post free of postage."

The scale of postage rates referred to in the Proclamation was 2d. for every ½ ounce; newspapers went post free, and price lists not exceeding 2 ounces, in weight were similarly privileged.

A form of stamp was not prescribed by the Local Government, as promised by the Proclamation, until the month of July, 1855, four and a half years after the Proclamation. In a notice published in the Gazette of the 18th of that month, it is stated that the stamps referred to in the Proclamation of the values of 1d., 2d., and 1s. had been received and were available for public use.

The 1d. stamp was at first available only for letters written by or to non-commissioned officers and soldiers and sailors in Her Majesty's Service, a concession, which was subject to the condition that the name of the writer and his rank should be written on the outside of the letter, and that it should be countersigned by the officer under whom the privileged person was serving. In the following year, however, its scope or usefulness was increased, as in that year a rate of 1d. was imposed on newspapers to Great Britain, or through Great Britain to any British possession, while on newspapers to the Mediterranean or India via Marseilles the rate was 3d.

The fact that the date of issue of these stamps (falling as it did between the two Maori Wars) there was no considerable numbers of soldiers in New Zealand, while a visit from man –o'-war was of rare occurrence, will probably account for the scarcity of the London print of the 1d. stamp. It is suggested, too, that the condition requiring the signature of the writer's superior officer further conduced to the scarcity of the stamp. Tommy Atkins and Jack would in many cases sooner pay the full rate than bother the captain for the sake of a penny.

The rate fixed at the commencement of the postage stamp system was found to be unremunerative, and in March, 1857, a notice appeared in the Gazette, stating that in conformity with arrangements made with the Imperial Government the rates were fixed as follows:

On letters for the United Kingdom via Southampton or by a long sea route:

Not exceeding ½ oz.,   6d.

Over ½ ounce and under 1 oz.,   1s.

Over 1 ounce, and under 2 oz.,   2s.

With 1s. additional for every oz. Or portion of an oz.

On letters for the United Kingdom via Marseilles an *additional* rate was charged of 3d. per quarter of an oz.

On letters for the Continent of Europe via Trieste, the rate was 1s. for every ½ oz.

Book packets were charged 8d. per lb. This alteration in the rates accounts for the appearance in 1858 of the 3d. stamp.

This addition to the general postage rates, a local delivery rate was authorised by the Local Posts Act, 1856, to be charged by and for the benefit of the provinces. Advantage of this Act was taken by the provinces of Auckland, Canterbury, Nelson and Otago, and a delivery rate of 2d. per letter was charged by the authorities in the Auckland, Nelson and Otago provinces, and of 1d. in Canterbury.

The Post Office Act, 1858, however, cancelled this arrangement, and on the 1st January, 1859, a new scale of rates was fixed, covering all charges. The rate on inland letters was 2d. for every ½ oz. The rate on Home letters remained at 6d. and 1s., as before; but for letters for foreign countries there was an additional rate from 5d. to 2s, 1d. for very ½ oz., varying with the country, to which it was addressed.

Here it may be mentioned that in the case of two countries, this additional rate include the fraction of 1d., that for Denmark being 10 ½ d., and for Poland 11 ½ d. per ½ oz; but there being no stamps available for such fractions were issued until 1873, and they were available only for newspapers addressed to places in New Zealand.

Some inconvenience was experienced owing to the via Marseilles rate (known as the French rate) being fixed at per ¼ oz., while the British rate was fixed at per ½ oz., and in July, 1863, an arrangement was made between Britain and France, whereby the French was fixed at 4d. per ½ oz. This was soon found to be insufficient to cover the cost of transport, and in September, 1865, the rate was increased from 4d. to 10d. per oz., bringing the combined rate up to is. Instead of 6d. The reasons for this change, as set out in the despatch from the Home Government to the Governor dated 7th July, 1865, are interesting.

It is stated as follows:

The Postmaster-General is of the opinion that the rate is quite insufficient for letters carried over large distances by sea, such, for instance, as letters between the Cape of Good Hope and India, China, or Australia, forwarded by Marseilles, or between India and Australia forwarded via Point de Galle. In both instances the letters are carried by more than one line of packets, and the low rate of 4d. is insufficient to cover the cost of their transport.

"Independently of the long distance over which these letters are carried, as above stated, there are two other circumstances which, in the opinion of the Postmaster-General, make it necessary to increase the sea postage. Firstly, this office has engaged to pay the Union Steam Ship Company, half the sea postage on letters carried by their packets from the Cape to Mauritius, and consequently if the rate be left at 3d., 2d. only will remain for the expense of varying a letter by packet from Mauritius to Aden, and thence to Sydney, a distance 10,000 miles, or to Hong Kong, a distance of more than 7,000 miles. Secondly, since the establishment of the Indo-China and Mauritius lines, occasions frequently happen in which a mail from one colony to another colony is carried by a British packet as far as Aden, Point de Galle, or Mauritius, the three points of junction, and arriving there immediately between the departure of to British packets, but just in time for a French packet, is sent on by a French packet.

In these cases payment for the sea conveyance at the rate of 1s. per oz. has to be made to France, absorbing, at he present rate of charge, the whole of the sea postage, although a portion, and often the larger portion, of the conveyance has been performed by British packet."

RESPONSE TO TIM COWLEY

Brian Fuller & Colin Salt

Great to see someone else has an interest in what occurs at our Gateway Facilities.

I had the opportunity to visit the Melbourne Gateway Facility recently and was highly impressed at the way I was received, what I was allowed to "collect", and the explanation as to its functions and checks. It took approximately one hour and I commend it to anyone who has the opportunity to do so. For its Official Opening AP issued to staff a specific Personalised Sheet showing the Facility. I understand Sydney had one but have not seen a copy.

Unfortunately my request to all the other "Gateway" facilities for tapes and markings etc was not so well received. Zero response from them all including Sydney Gateway Facility (SGF). Brisbane's is called "Brisbane Airport Logistic Centre (BALC). If anyone can obtain material from any of the Facilities in Brisbane, Perth, Darwin, Cairns, Adelaide or any other place where International flights touch down I would be most appreciative. When the flight lands I was told the mail must be quarantine/cleared at that airport. Therefore other tapes and markings must exist.

The main thrust of MGF whilst I was there was Customs checking the mail. Either by dog or scanner. I was advised not to approach either during their period of operation. The dog was brilliant. Promptly identified a specific letter from several hundred tipped on the table, isolated it with his paw, and proceeded on after being congratulated.

Several postcard of aspects of Customs are shown. The first is from the recent AP Working Dogs issue, the second is an Avant card showing a working dog to be, and the third is from a set of WILDLIFE issued by the Australian National parks and Wildlife Service highlighting the need for permits.

The stamp from Holland is a serious AQIS issue. I was advised at MGF the seeds enclosed under the plastic seal on the stamps have been gamma rayed and are sterile.

In regards AQIS hand stamps I have observed the following.

NSW	083	only on piece no dates etc			
VIC	Black ink	008	Thailand	mailed	OCT07
	Red	010	USA		SEP06
	Red	012	UK		DEC06
	Red	014	Hong Kong		OCT07
	Red	041	USA		AUG07
	Red	042	NZ		???05

I have more Customs tapes and markings than those in "The Official Postal Labels of Australia 2nd Ed by Frazer and Occleshaw.

Email bifuller@optusnet.com.au

QUARANTINE MARKINGS from Colin Salt.

Opened by Australia Post for inspection by Quarantine — MGF

Opened by Australia Post or inspection by Quarantine — MHU

PASSED QUARANTINE

QUARANTINE TASMAN MAY BE DELIVERE

Opened by Australia Post for inspection by Customs — MATC

More Tips — Boolean Logic

"The following article has been taken from the Journal of the American Philatelic Research Library: "Philatelic Literature Review" [1st quarter vol 57 #1 whole # 218] and is reprinted with their kind permission. It refers to searching at their website www.StampLibrary.org - "The APRL card catalogue is a computerized system and is now available online. In addition to the card catalogue, the APRL uses the Piper File, an index of a limited number of philatelic periodicals from the 1880s through the late 1960s."

by Gini Horn

One of the questions we have received is "What does that button to the left mean?"

The button has "And," but if you click on the button you will also get "Or" and also "Not." These are the Boolean operators, and you only need to worry about these if you are entering search information in more than one field. The button to the right does not convey any Boolean operators to the information within one search field.

In this column I would like to explain a bit about how Boolean logic works, particularly when you have more than one term in a single-search box.

OR

Boolean logic, while very familiar to anyone who has used a wide variety of databases, is in some ways contrary to normal logic. For example: Using the "Or" option (represented by /). If you went into your local ice cream shop and said you wanted "chocolate or vanilla," the clerk would ask, "Okay, which is it? Chocolate or vanilla?" You would get only one flavour. With Boolean logic, however, if you asked the computer for "chocolate or vanilla" it would look for records that had "chocolate" and records with "vanilla." As a result, you get both chocolate and vanilla — with this Boolean logic you get more results!

When do I use "Or"? Use "Or" primarily in fields that are not structured. (For example, subject headings are structured, most other fields are not.) It is also useful when searching for variations. If I was uncertain whether an item was listed as fieldpost, feldpost, or field post, by typing fieldpost / feldpost / field post I would get all the records that had any of these terms. This is particularly useful since we have a great deal of foreign language material and the titles are in the original language (although without diacritical marks); thus, a Colour chart from London would be entered as Colour, etc.

AND

Using the "And" option of Boolean logic (represented by &) also works differently than the general ways in which people are accustomed to think. In this example, if you went to the ice cream shop and asked for chocolate and vanilla, you would get two flavours of ice cream. If you entered "chocolate and vanilla" in the search criteria, you would only get records that had both chocolate and vanilla in the search terms. What you wouldn't get are the records that only had chocolate in the search field or the records that only had vanilla. So in this case, you are getting fewer results.

When do I use "And"? This can be a very helpful tool, because it lessens the amount of retrieval (just as using "Or" broadens it). For example, entering "United States & Postal History" is more focused than if you entered just "United States," so you would get fewer "hits." (Trust me, you don't want to get everything we have that has United States in the subject field — it would be thousands of items!)

Sir Edgar Bertram Mackennal, KCVO (1863 – 1931)
Australian Sculptor, Medal and Stamp Designer

Michael Barden

Earlier this year, quite by chance, my wife and I went to the Potter Centre, as it was a Tuesday and the main NGV was closed. Our aim had been to see **Modern Britain 1900-1960**. The Nolan exhibition was to open the following week, so 'little' was being exhibited.

Right opposite the site of the Nolan was a gallery full of statuary. Intrigued, we entered and had the pleasure of seeing what we both considered to be the best exhibition we had seen for some time. It was an Art Gallery of NSW travelling exhibition. Bertram Mackennal is not really a household name, despite both the quality of his statues and that he also designed King George V stamps and medals when working in London.

Bertram Mackennal as a young man by Abbey Alston (Art Gallery of NSW – internet photo)

Bertram Mackennal was the foremost Australian sculptor of the XIX and early XX centuries. He was born in Melbourne, both parents being of Scottish descent. His father was also a sculptor and provided his early training. Then he studied at the Melbourne National Gallery from 1878-1882. It was Marshall Wood in 1880, a visiting English sculptor, who strongly advised Mackennal to move abroad, which he did in 1882, going to London.

In 1884 he visited Paris to study further and there married a fellow student, Agnes Spooner.

In 1886 he won a competition for the sculptured reliefs on the front of Parliament House, Melbourne, and returned to Australia in 1887 to carry these out. While here, he obtained other commissions, notably the doorway of Mercantile Chambers in Collins Street.

While working in Melbourne, it was Sarah Bernhardt, on a professional tour, who advised him to return to Paris, which he did in 1891.

Circe in 1893 was Mackennal's first notable sculpture, here seen from the left and a detail below from the right. It is now part of the NGV collection. At the time, he obtained a 'mention' at the Salon.

Bertram Mackennal Photo by Ruth Hollick 1920s. National Library of Australia.

Wikimedia photo

Circe (detail from RHS) by Mackennal in the NGV collection.

Wikimedia image

Circe by Mackennal from the left side. NGV collection. Wikimedia image

Circe was later exhibited at the Royal Academy, where it aroused considerable interest, mainly due to the base having to be covered to meet the prudery of the hanging committee.   Two commissions brought Mackennal to Australia again in 1901, the WJ Clarke memorial in the Treasury Gardens and the sculptures for the Springthorpe Memorial in Kew Cemetery (see below).

After several other commissions and successes, Mackennal was elected an associate of the Royal Academy in 1909. In the following year he designed the Coronation Medal for King George V, and also that for Queen Mary in 1911 (see below). He also designed the obverse of the new coinage (king's head) for 1911 and the initials, B.M., can be seen on the truncation of the King's neck on the obverse of all British coins of George V.

Stamps for the new reign figured largely. They are shown and described later.

King George V Coronation Medal
bronze 55 mm dia. Art Gallery of NSW

Queen Mary 1911 Coronation medal
bronze 55 mm dia. Art Gallery of NSW

Unveiled in 1901, the sculpture centrepiece of the Springthorpe Memorial in the Boroondara General Cemetery at Kew is by Bertram Mackennal.   It is surrounded by marble columns and contains a roof. The architect was Harold Desbrowe-Annear

Wikimedia image

Salome c.1895
Gilt bronze
Art Gallery of WA
purchased 1976

Sir William John Clarke statue
Melbourne 1901

Wikimedia image

King Edward VII statue
Melbourne 1920

Wikimedia image

The Cenotaph (empty tomb), in Martin Place, Sydney, was the NSW memorial to World War 1 combatants.

It is built using 23 blocks of Moruya granite, the same material as used for the Harbour Bridge pilings. There is a bronze statue at each end of a soldier & sailor.

First mooted in 1924, it was commissioned in 1929.

Stamp designs. Mackennal designed initially the KGV Downey Head ½d green and 1d red stamps in 1911 in ¾ profile. These proved unpopular and were modified in 1912 as shown to the right of each value, but still without success. (photo taken by W & D Downey, frame design GW Eve.)

The next design, which was issued later in 1912, was a profile view of KGV. This series proved both popular and enduring. It included the 'Seahorses' high value stamps (2/6 to £1) issued in 1913. Stamps from this series were overprinted with the names of the Crown Colonies for issue as required by them, so their use was extensive.

Profile head designed by Bertram Mackennal in 1912

Designed by Bertram Mackennal in 1913

Photos of all stamps from www.imagesoftheworld.org/stamps

Mackennal was the first Australian artist to be knighted. Created a Knight Commander of the Victorian Order in 1921, he was elected R.A. in 1922. Sir Edgar died suddenly at his home near Torquay on 10 October 1931. .... And all this resulted from Pottering!

New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Co. Ltd

by John Tracey

John Tracey has been a stamp collector since the mid-1940's, when his old maiden aunts gave him stamps and books, and continued to supply stamps for many years. The following article details an interesting envelope that he came across and which still had the contents therein. The story also focuses upon age-old traditions and honesty.

I went to St. Gregory's Agricultural College, Campbelltown in 1947 and soon found myself in charge of stamps - as there were around 200 boarders there, stamps were very plentiful, but I had to soak them off paper to sell for the missions in the Solomon Islands. The six bed infirmary was my workplace. I took the horsehair mattresses (fairly hard pre-war issue) off the beds and spread the stamps on the close coils of the beds to dry - all went well until someone was sick, then a quick clean up was necessary.

As the years rolled by I became more interested in stamps on envelope or as they are commonly known now as 'on cover' - the actual history of the envelopes became far more interesting and most covers had a story to tell.

I had worked at Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Co. Ltd. in the wool broking, stock agent industry from early 1952, so anything related to the broking always came to my eye. Last week I noticed a cover with a ONE PENNY red Kangaroo stamp dated Sydney 1914 with a New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Co Ltd perforation amongst my stock. Upon closer inspection, opening the envelope, I discovered an enclosure dated 6 January 1914, which detailed what the NZL valuer's thought the 23 wool bales labelled "DINNER HILL" would realize at auction.

The family that owned the wool lived at Peelwood NSW, which is situated 15km from Abercrombie on the Crookwell/Bathurst. One may assume that this is fine wool country (as I have only driven through the area once - in the 1950's - the road was not sealed) but I have noted covers addressed to Peelwood on EBay of late.

After studying the wool report I rang Rick Profitt who used to be a wool valuer and is an old friend. He thought the actual verbiage used in the 1914 enclosure would be very similar to what he would write in 2008, including the term "get up".

Time flies, money flies and blow flies, NZL is no more, for it merged with Dalgety & Co around the early 1960's. After I married Pamela McCormack of Glenmorgan Queensland, in later years I was discussing mergers with Pam's father John McCormack. He recalled that the McCormack family dated back to "Merino Downs" at Surat, and had been NZL wool clients for over 90 years. The irony is that he visited their Brisbane office one day following the merger and no one knew him, so he gave his wool clip to another company. So much for longstanding traditions in business!

In later years when the Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Co re-located to 500 Collins Street, Melbourne, I remembered the remark and as long as I was there I was always in favour of the open door policy on the ground floor, as clients came in the door they could look in any door to find someone they knew. Following all the so-called mergers in the 1980's the merged identity actually sold 54% of the Australian wool clip, but within 4 years their share had fallen to about 34% - what a disaster! I recall one of my teachers saying "Trifles wake perfection, but perfection is no trifle!" Excuse the verbals, but I enjoyed typing this short story, so I trust that you enjoy it. E & O.E
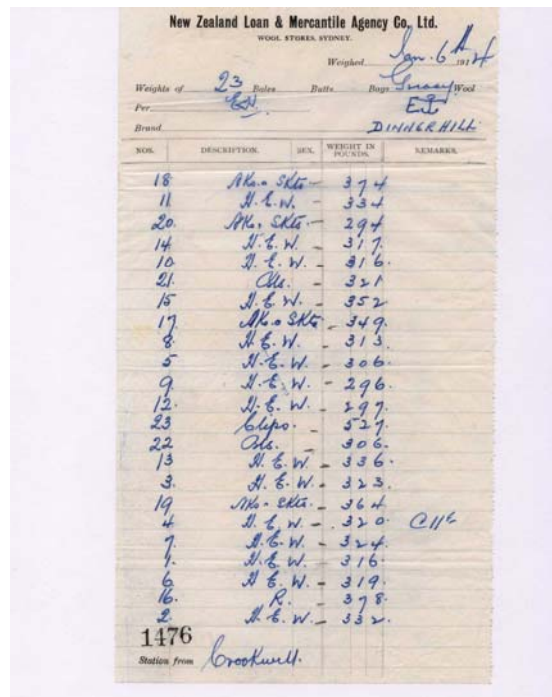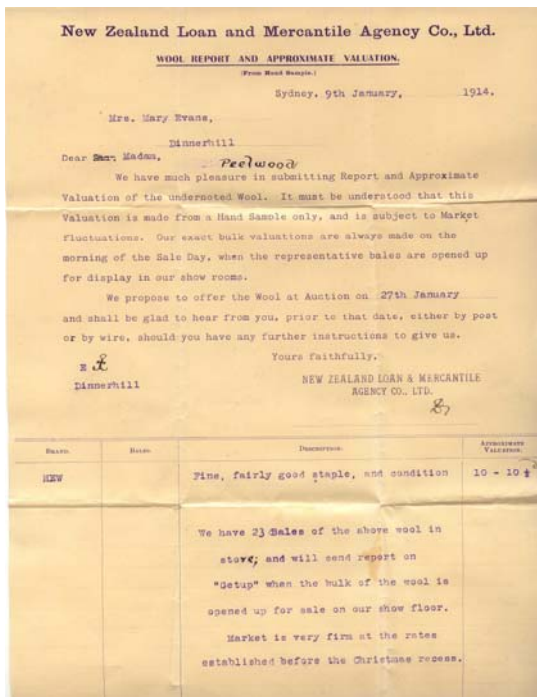
Additional notes

New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Ltd was incorporated in England in 1865 and again, after reconstruction, in May 1894. The main purpose of the company was to provide investment and loan of monies in New Zealand and elsewhere, to trade and undertake commercial activities. It originally planned to confine its operations to New Zealand but decided to extend business to Australia in 1874, and was established at 575 Collins Street

in Melbourne as a warehouse in 1883. Operations were soon extended to various states. The Australian operations were separated from those of New Zealand and operated under their own local board from 1889. NZL Properties (Australia) Pty Ltd was formed in 1952 to hold properties for use by the parent company and was later used as a holding company for subsidiaries. NZL&MA merged with Dalgety & Co Ltd in November 1961 to form   Dalgety & New Zealand Loan Ltd.

The Australian Mortgage Land & Finance Company was registered in England in 1863, the first Australian Office being opened in Brisbane (as Central Northern Queensland Land Company). The Queensland operations proving unsuccessful, the business was moved to Melbourne with the purchase of Ronald Gibbs & Co in 1865. The Brisbane branch was reopened in 1903, and a Townsville Branch in 1924. The Company's name was changed in 1910 to **Australian Mercantile Land & Finance Co** (AML&F). The Victorian, South Australian and Riverina interests of Dennys Lascelles - Strachan and AML were merged in the late 1970's to form Dennys Strachan Mercantile - DSM. In 1981 AML&F acquired the pastoral agency business of Australian Estates from CSR Ltd. In 1971 AML&F was acquired by Woodhall Trust plc (UK), which in turn was taken over by Elders IXL in 1982.

New Zealand Loan & Mercantile Agency Co Ltd, "New Warehouses" Collins St, Melbourne; picture 22 February 1882; print: wood engraving ex SLV

NOT

The final Boolean operator is "Not" (represented by !). Going back to the ice cream shop, you would generally find that you didn't need to say "not" to the clerk, since if you asked for vanilla you would only get vanilla. With the computer, if you absolutely only want vanilla, you can type "vanilla ! chocolate." This restricts your search.

When do I use "Not"? This can take some creative thinking. If, for example, you are looking for information on Wales in the United Kingdom, you could type "Wales ! New South." You want Wales in the British Isles, not New South Wales in Australia. In general, I normally discover I want to use "Not" when I have done a search, such as Wales, and see that I also have retrieved New South Wales. It gives me the opportunity to go back and refocus my search

Cover Story – A Forge Majeure!

Michael Barden

The spectacular cover, which forms this story, came into my possession as part of a -10% lot. Being registered and sent airmail, it even has nice transit and arrival cds (verso). The Brisbane recipient was no doubt delighted to be the proud owner of such an envelope bearing a gross 51 Fr worth of stamps (-10% = 45^{90} Fr). Alas, all the surcharges on the stamps are forgeries! The stamps are genuine enough, no problems there.
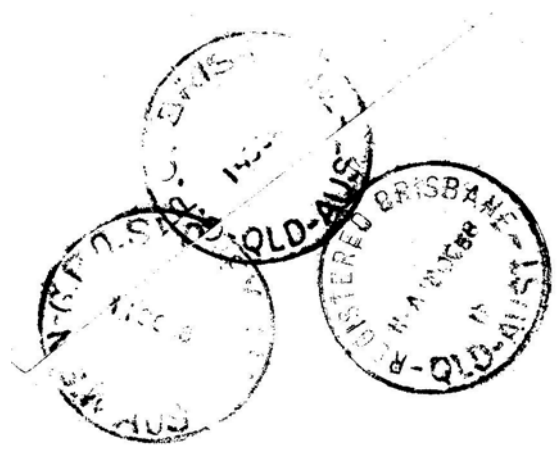
Verso

LHS GPO SYDNEY/NSW AUSTRALIA/11 Oct 68

TOP GPO BRISBANE/QLD-AUSTRALIA/14 Oct 68

RHS REGISTERED BRISBANE-QLD-AUST /11-A 15 OC68

The letter was posted from Brussels 10 (Rue Ducale) on 7 October 1968, arriving in Australia 4 days later, but not reaching Brisbane Registered office until the morning of 15 October. (The 14th was Monday).

Let us examine first why the surcharges appear genuine but are in fact forgeries. First, some history. The -10% issue of Belgium began when nearly all prices in Belgium were lowered by 10% with five days notice – even the King's stipend!. This was to combat the thriving black market and avert a strike by colliers. At war's end, Belgium had helped the war effort during 1944-1945 after their Liberation. Now they needed to get back on their feet without having to devalue the currency, at the same time improving the lot of the workers.

Normally, the government printers, in this case l'Atelier du Timbre at Malines, would have surcharged the existing stock of stamps until new values could be produced. Such was the haste, that the government, through the Postal Administration exhorted all local post offices to do their own surcharging, using whatever means were available from local industry to produce cachets. If none was available, surcharges could be applied manually in black ink. Thus the scene was set for nearly 500 different locally made surcharges. These continued until September, when the postal administration called in all provisional cancellers. For a while stamps, which had been surcharged at Malines, were available, but by then there were stamps with the new values were being printed.

When the provisional cancellers were called in by the postal administration, many found their way to unscrupulous dealers (especially where more than one cachet existed), and who then produced surcharged stamps themselves. Very often, the stamps used were obsolete at 20 May 1946 in most post offices, and thus could never be confused with those, which existed genuinely.

Let us examine the stamps affixed to our letter. (The 3 digits are -10% catalogue numbers)

1^{50} Fr Liberation Lion. Here surcharged with 293 or 294 Brussels 12 cachets, none of these stamps existed at Brussels 12 post office (Rue Lombard) on 20 May. This 1944 issue was only printed by Waterlow and Sons in London until Malines restarted.

2 Fr Poortman. While 35 of these did exist at 182 Brussels 1 (GPO) at 20 May, these examples from 1968 posting, would be forgeries from either Gisquière or Van Bierbeek, both well known Brussels dealers and forgers of this issue. No Poortman stamps were printed after 1943, so stocks were minimal. Most Poortman stamps are forgeries as a result.

5 Fr Liberation Lion. The upper block is surcharged using 216 Brussels 2 (Rue Thielemans). Only Leopold with V & crown existed there on 20 May. The lower block is surcharged 182 Brussels 1, and again, no 5 Fr stamps, other than the current Leopold with V & crown existed at 20 May.

Briefly, did our recipient get a philatelic letter or was the franking correct. The cover now weighs 5 gm, so would have weighed $\pm$ 10 gm with contents.

In 1968, postage was 6 Fr per 20 gm letter, airmail 7 Fr / 5 gms to Australia, and registration 10 Fr. For a letter of 5 gms, total cost = 23 Fr

10 gm	= 30 Fr
15 gm	= 37 Fr
20 gm	= 44 Fr

As the value of stamps affixed was 45^{90} Fr, our recipient's letter, to add insult to injury, was philatelic too! But the cover states, "For your stamps, ... Gisquière, est^d 1895".....yes!

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

There has always been a problem with datestamps starting with numbers in the inscription e.g., 640 Bourke Street, does it go in the collection in the front in numerical order or under "s" for six. And here is a more puzzling one, BAROOGA a town on the Murray river has for years been using the Cobram postcode (3644) but had NSW as part of the inscription as it is in New South Wales (reference 75/66), now the latest datestamp as illustrated in this edition has VIC in the inscription. Where should it now be listed?

This edition contains quite a few old datestamps from before 2000, some may have been seen but as I have no record of them, I have included them in this time.

Many thanks to Richard Peck, Tony Lyon, Ian Cutter and John Tracey for their contributions to this edition.

N.S.W.KOGARAH-inverted dateline, Earlier datestamp:-MOAMA (93/33)

N.S.W.(cont)   A.C.T.

AUST... POST LPO
17 NOV 2006
TATHRA NSW 2550

POST...
14 DEC 2006
TAREE WEST NSW 2430

WINDSOR NSW

POST OFFICE
-3 FEB 2006
WESTON CREEK ACT 2611

...STRALIA
27 OCT 2007
RETAIL POST SHOP WAGGA WAGGA 2650

AUSTRALIA POST
26 OCT 2006
...CENTRAL WAGGA 2650

* POST OFFICE *
15 OCT 1997
FYSHWICK ACT 2609

QLD.

AITKENVALE D.C.
26 JUL 1996
QLD. 4814

BEENLEIGH
19 JUL 1996
QLD. 4207

BOWEN
-2 AUG 2000
Q.D.C. 4805

BRENDALE M.D.C.
18 JUL 1996
QLD. 4500

CALOUNDRA RETAIL
26 OCT 2007
C
QLD - 4551

CHILDERS LPO
18 JUL 1996
4190
QLD. 4660

GUMDALE
25 SEP 2007
QLD 4154

IPSWICH 3
30 OCT 2007
QLD. 4305

KINGSTON
20 OCT 2006
QLD 4114

MONTVILLE
27 JUN 2005
QLD. 4560

MORNINGSIDE
23 FEB 2007
QLD 4170

SARINA
24 JUL 2000
QLD. 4737

TOWNSVILLE D.C.
10 SEP 1996
QLD. 4810

POST OFFICE
22 AUG 2001
TULLY QLD 4854

WILLOWS GEMFIELDS
23 OCT 2006
QLD. 4702

YAMANTO
23 OCT 2007
1
QLD 4301

25

TAS.

GEORGE TOWN -2 JUN 2006 3 TAS 7253

LAUNCESTON MAIL CENTRE -8 ... 6 PM

POST OFFICE 6 PM -5 AUG 1996 LINDISFARNE TAS. 7015

AUSTRALIA POST 2 16 APR 2007 MOWBRAY HEIGHTS 7248

NTH NORFOLK POST 30 OCT 2006 SHOP TAS 7140

PENGUIN -6 MAR TAS 7316

ROSNY PARK 5 PM -8 JUN 2007 TAS 7018

WELLINGTON 28 NOV 2006 LAUNCESTON TAS 7250

VIC.:-MOOROOPNA (2 SAME) FIRST DAY 17 APR 2008 ,Earlier datestamps;-
BAXTER(96/32),BOORT(100/60),COHUNA(92/34),DAYLESFORD(77/34),ECHUCA(3)
(75/69),ECHUCA(4)(94/31),KYABRAM(92/34),NEWGISBOURNE(84/37),OUYEN(79/36)
SHEPPARTON SOUTH (98/26),TRARALGON (90/36),VIOLET TOWN(97/29).

ANGLESEA 23 NOV 2006 VIC 3230

ARARAT 26 OCT 2006 1 VIC 3377

BALLARAT WEST 1 -8 JUN 2000 VIC 3...

BALLARAT WEST 3 11 MAY 2000 VIC 3350

BAXTER POSTAGE PAID 27 MAR 2008 VIC 3911

BLACKBURN STH LPO 30 OCT 2005 VIC - 3130

BORONIA 3 11 MAR 2008 VIC. AUST. 3155

MAIL REDISTRIBUTION CENTRE VICTORIA 5 06 NOV 2006 640 BOURKE ST MELBOURNE VIC 3000

BOORT -3 JUN 2008 ... 37

BANDITT LPO 14 ... 2008 VIC 3630

COBRAM POST SHOP 23 OCT 2006 3 VIC 3644

COBRAM PAID 20 OCT 2006 VIC 3644

COHUNA 24 OCT 2006 VIC 3568

AUSTRALIA POST POSTAGE 31 JUL 1997 PAID DALLAS VIC 3047

ECHUCA RETAIL 3 23 APR 2008 VIC 3564

ECHUCA RETAIL 4 -8 APR 2008 VIC 3564

DAYLESFORD PAID 24 OCT 2006 VIC 3460

Dandenong Letters Centre 8 27 OCT 2006 UNDERPAID VIC 3176

ERICA P.O. 23 OCT 2006 VIC 3825

KATAMATITE L 04 .III 2008 VIC 3649

AUSTRALIA POST 24 JAN 2003 KOOYONG 3144

KYABRAM -7 JUL 2008 VIC 3620

LANG LANG -1 FEB 20 VIC 3984

MARYBOROUGH MAILROOM 28 APR 2008 VIC 3465

G.P.O. MELBOURNE 11 OCT 2007 VIC 3000

MOE 6 JUN 2008 VIC 3825

BUSINESS CENTRE E 20 OCT 2006 MOORABBIN 3189

NEW GISBORNE 20 OCT 2006 VIC 3438

MOOROOPNA 30 JUL 2008 VIC 3629

MT ELIZA 18 OCT 2006 VIC 3930

AUSTRALIA POST 25 JUL 2008 NATHALIA LPO VIC 3638

NATHALIA 26 MAY 2008 VIC 3638

OUYEN 6 MAY 2008 VIC 3490

NEWPORT PAID 5P 4 JA '94 VIC. 3015

NORLANE WEST 15 APR 2008 VIC 3214

PATTERSON LAKES 25 OCT 2004 VIC 3197

Quambatook 24 OCT 2006 VIC 3540

PAID AT RICHMOND 29 SEP 1995 VIC - AUST

SHEPPARTON SOUTH 02 JUL 2008 VIC 38

STUDFIELD 24 OCT 2006 VIC 3152

27

VIC:- (cont)

TRARALGON POST SHOP 2 3 NOV 2006 VIC 3844

TYLDEN POST OFFICE 1 5 OCT 2007 VIC 3444

VIOLET TOWN 1 4 MAY 2008 VIC 3669

WARRNAMBOOL POST SHOP 2 5 SEP 2006 VIC 3280

WERRIBEE PLAZA (7) - 7 NOV 2007 VIC. 3030

LICENSED POST OFFICE 1 0 JAN 2007 WHITBURN VIC 3103

WHITE HILLS PAID 8 OCT 2007 VIC 3550

WILLAURA - 7 JAN 2008 VIC 3379

WILLIAMSTOWN 2 5 OCT 2006 VIC 3016

WODONGA 2 MAR 2007 VIC 3690

WODONGA PLAZA 1 1 APR 2008 VIC 3690

WONTHAGGI 1 2 4 NOV 2006 VIC 3993

YARRAM D.C. 3 0 JAN 2007 VIC 3971

POST OFFICE 1 2 MAY 2008 ★ YARRAWONGA VIC. 3730

YARRAVILLE WEST VIC 3013

YARRAWONGA - 3 JUN 2008 VIC 37

W.A.

ALEXANDER HEIGHTS 1 6 APR 2008 WA 6064 (LPO)

(LPO) COOROW - 8 MAR 2007 WA 6515

GLEN FORREST 1 9 JAN 2001 WA 6071

MUCHEA 1 8 JUL 1996 WA 6501

OSBORNE PARK 2 0 SEP 2001 WA 6017

(LPO) WATTLEUP 1 4 JAN 2001 WA 6166

WEMBLEY 2 3 JUL 2001 WA 6014

WOODVALE 2 0 SEP 2001 WA 6026

My dear collectors of Australiana and art aficionados' allow this flak to proffer some advice when you're considering the eventual marketing and resultant sale of your valuable and passionately developed collection. What follows is a story of some success yet overall failure.

The Augustus Harewood had the privilege of joining Dr John Chapman, Mr James Noble, Dr Michael Crayford together with other Museum luminaries at a luncheon on Tuesday 22 July hosted by Noble Numismatics, to saviour the opportunity to be presented later that afternoon of attending the auction of Chapman's remarkable collection of Australian historical commemorative awards and medals, coinage, trowels, snuff boxes and related ephemera. Regrettably the Lady Harewood was detained by some autistic bureaucrat at her new Education Department. However, Harewood was sufficiently prescient in having Chapman autograph his catalogue with an appropriate sinecure related to his extensive historiographical exhibition collection.

The 80-year-old retired dentist, Chapman had spent the last fifty years putting together a comprehensive accumulation of related historical material all encompassing Australian history. His book collection was disposed of several years ago through Peter Arnold and grossed some $3.3 million. Your intrepid correspondent was well satisfied with several exhibition catalogues that he was able to secure at that auction.

Auction room at Dallas Brooks Hall was completely full well before the commencement at 2.30pm with several television camera crews in attendance. Quite a number of people had standing room only; however those invited to the Noble luncheon had reserved seats, which pleased Harewood immensely.

Focussing after several shiraz's was just only a slight problem.

The feature of the auction was lot 704 the Charlotte silver medal of 74mm diameter and 38gms. It was believed to have been engraved on both sides by convict Thomas Barrett - an expert forger and the first man hanged in NSW several months after Phillip landed at Port Jackson - for Surgeon John White, while at anchor in Botany Bay in January 1788, and named after the sailing vessel. It depicts the ship obverse dated 20 January and verso a full description of voyage from London. As such it is conceivably the very first piece of Australian colonial art.

Charlotte medal   Courtesy Noble Numismatics

Estimated at $A750,000 it was secured at that price [plus 16.5% buyer's premium] by Dr Michael Crayford on behalf of the Australian Maritime Museum and Federal Government. Provenance was Marquess of Milford Haven and A H Baldwin. Chapman acquired it for $15,000 in 1981. The NMA was a significant buyer of other related explorer maritime pieces in the auction - Baudin and La Perouse etc.

Lot 697 was a silver NSW five shilling piece or "holey dollar" dated 1813. Those of you who know logo of Macquarie Bank will now recognise the symbolism of "The Dollar Factory"! This particular piece was struck on a Charles 1111 Potosti Mint eight reales of 1807. The removed centre became the "dump" or fifteen pence.

Holey dollar

Dump

Courtesy Noble Numismatics

Estimate for the dollar was $200,000 sold for $230,000 and the dump $50,000 sold for $56,000. Former was bought on behalf of a Brisbane client with agent flying next day to effect delivery – she on-sold and realised $50,000 margin!

Other significant items were the 1853 River Murray medal at $35,000, and one of two known 1862 NSW exhibitors 76mm prize medal in gold ['below] which was struck in virtually pure gold [23.5ct] weighing 365gms.

This was in respect of those New South Welshmen that exhibited products at the London exhibition. The piece was sold for $23,000. With 1416 lots the final session started half an hour late and did not finish until well after 7.30pm – too late for selected patrons to attend the dinner. According to Ingram of the FinReview [14 August] other key bidders were Museum Victoria, University of Sydney, and Australian Agricultural Society, with the gross for the three-day sale being some $5.8 million.

The FinReview ran a piece on 29 May focussing upon the Charlotte medal, and the HUN reported the sale on 23 July. That evening Channels 7 and 2 had reports in their evening news bulletins. But the Chapman sale was not a success, for it was badly marketed.

Whilst the Charlotte medal received significant press coverage, it failed to whet the market for the other significant pieces that were sold or passed in at estimated prices. Although items such as exhibition award medals failed to excite potential bidders, 81% of the collection was dispersed. The sale realised some $1.92 million to which must be added buyers commission. What destroyed the market impact of this remarkable collection was that it was immersed in a three day multi-vendor auction that was covered by three separate catalogues. Chapman should have demanded a stand-alone auction, well marketed beforehand and held at an auspicious venue – such as the Old Treasury or in the Queen's Room in State Parliament.

Now here's Harewood's advice for when you decide to realise upon that specialist collection that you have lovingly researched and created over many years. Select the right auctioneer, negotiate your / their commission, proof the catalogue but most of all manage the whole process – remember it's your passionate collection that's going under the hammer – for good. Alternatively, you may target it as a private treaty exercise. If you follow this course, you will still require critical advice. No point bemoaning this or that afterwards – so get it right from the outset.

I remain dear souls, your most obedient servant. Harewood is truly appreciative of gossip, innuendo and scuttlebutt yet he sincerely hopes that you will not unnecessarily annoy him at AustPhilSoc@gmail.com

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