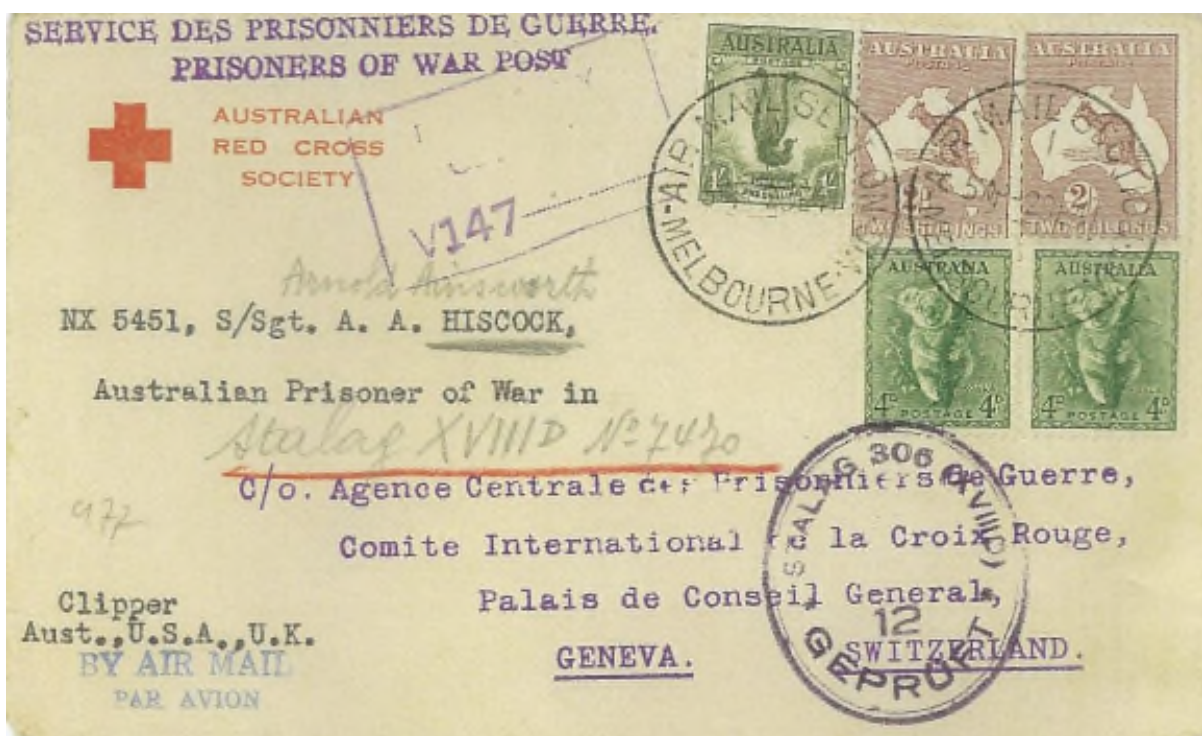


# Australian Journal of Philately

(Incorporating: The Date Stamp and Australian Journal of Postal History)

No. 132 June 2015



## IN THIS ISSUE

Four 1870 Ballon Monté Letters Surface

A Tale of Three Hungarian Covers 1941-1945

Living Under a Cloud

Early Non-Post Office Wrappers of Victoria: Colonial History  
Insights

Two Puzzles from Geelong

Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

Meetings: The Australian Philatelic Society meets bimonthly on the third Monday of (February, April, June, August, October, December), at 7.45 pm at the RSL Canterbury Memorial Homes, 152 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, Melway Ref: page 46 C 10/11. Visitors welcome.

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Half Page \$A30.00	Please send copy to the Editor
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Date	2015 Programme	Display
217 August 2015	AGM	Members—Works in Progress
19 October 2015	John Young	Trans-Pacific Airmails 1930's—1940's
14 December 2015	Christmas Meeting	Members Competition—up to 10 A4 size pages

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## Front cover:

*From John Young*

1941 flown all the way from Melbourne to Geneva, TEAL to Auckland, PAA to San Francisco, domestic airline to New York, PAA to Lisbon and Deutsch Lufthansa to Geneva.

Correctly franked 5 shillings and 8 pence, 2 pence less than the cost to London.



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Thank you to all the contributors again this month. Keep the articles coming.

One issue of concern is regarding our AGM coming up in August. As you will have noted we do not have a Vice-President and we need a secretary. The position is not onerous as the council only meets 5 times per year. If you have time to give to the society please talk with the President John Young and he will ensure that a nomination is provided.

Tom and Ruth O'Dea have upgraded our website to ensure that we remain relevant to the new technological means that users have when viewing it. Google, as is Google's want, have made some significant changes to how the internet is sourced. This means that if you cannot access it by tablets, mobile phones and other portable devices then your website is dropped in the order that the website shows up in a search. I know for some this is irrelevant gobbledygook; but if we are to attract the younger generation or the technically aware it is important. We thank Tom and Ruth for their help. Please read Michael Barden's explanation on page 22.

A quote to finish:

"The great collectors of stamps were all men of passion. If they did not have passion when they started collecting, they soon developed it, for there is no mistress so demanding as stamps. 'You just don't know what stamps can do to a man,' says one collector almost breathlessly. 'Stamps are an addiction for which there is no cure,' explains another. 'No real collector ever sells his stamps in his lifetime--unless it is to buy more stamps.'"

--*Life Magazine*, 3 May 1954, the "Rare Stamp" issue

Ciao for now.

## Privacy Statement

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2. inform members about the Society's activities;
3. publish details of members, with their consent, in the AJPH or other Society publications.

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## From the President - A Tale of Two Monkeys

On April 10 Phoenix Auctions offered two examples of the Chinese 'Year of the Monkey' stamp issued in 1980. One stamp was mint, lightly hinged, and estimated at \$1000. The auctioneer noted that a mint copy is catalogued at 1600 pounds, quite a lot actually for a paperweight monkey. The other example was a much rarer used copy on a commercial envelope, postmarked March 1980, to Radio Australia. A used stamp is catalogued at 750 pounds, and the envelope with blemishes was estimated at \$600.

A postal history collector would most likely calculate that the envelope was the better buy, both price-wise and by rarity. What happened on auction day?

The mint stamp was bid up to \$1700. The envelope did not get a nibble, and was passed in. Mint monkeys are obviously the go, but why is bidding so keen? It has been suggested that mint monkeys are exported home, and cashed-up entrepreneurs seek places to park their wealth. (The hinge mark, I'm told, can be rectified by re-gumming.) Presumably there's some profit margin after \$1700 plus the buyer's premium.

Nevertheless for sober postal historians the sales result may lead to bemusement and head-shaking. Thoughts arise about an overheated market, but it still seems buoyant. The vendor should be happy, though. The mint stamp cost a few dollars or less in the early 1980s, and the envelope cost 50 (possibly 20) cents. It came in a box nearly a metre deep of Radio Australia envelopes that were sold for charity in Lionel Evans' stamp shop. The box was not full of monkey envelopes – probably just the one – but the vendor's rummage all those years ago may sooner or later be rewarded.




128




ex 129

128	V	1940-41 Provincial Surcharges 5c green Die II marginal block of 4 with 3c Kansu unofficial inverted surcharge and cto cancel.	\$80
129	**	1971 50th Anniversary of Communist Party in China complete set all with marginal inscriptions, including se-tenant strip of 3 (Cat £650), SG #2446-54, Cat £775.	\$650



137



138

137		1980 8f Year of the Monkey SG #2968 with the usual minor offset on reverse, MLH, Cat £1,600. Always popular.	\$1,000
138	☞	1980 8f Year of the Monkey SG #2968 on 1980 (Mar) small cover to Radio Australia in Melbourne, minor blemishes. Rare commercial usage, Cat £750 as a used stamp.	\$600