

Australian Journal of Philately

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Letters using Skymaster Airmail Stamps of 1946—Part 2

William James Farrer and Australian Wheat

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Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

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| Date | 2017 /18 Programme | Display |
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| 16 October 2017 | Tony Lyon | WW2 Pacific Forces |
| 18 December 2017 | Members Exhibition | Up to 10 A4 size pages. Any topic. |
| 19 February 2018 | TBA | TBA |

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Unusual philatelic cover with Japanese overprint of Brunei set showing canoe on Brunei River and Water Village.

Cover posted Kuching, North Borneo in August 1945. Handstamp says ‘Imperial Japanese Government’.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

This year seems to have moved very quickly. Here we are with the third journal for 2017. Again it is thanks to those who have made contributions. I hope you enjoy reading and there is something that may add to your knowledge.

If you are able, why not endeavour to attend a society meeting. We have some excellent displays and supper afterwards is an opportunity to fellowship. We do not conduct any business, other than what is required and the rest of the time is given to the display. There is also a small sale by tender.

Keep the contributions coming. As you can see even a half page cover story is appreciated and at times some gems are unlocked. Ian Cutter is one contributor who has consistently found items of interest and as an editor these types of contributions are very helpful in ensuring the journal is packed with good reading.

Please also keep up the supply of postal markings for George Vearing, who notes that these are harder to come by and thus has had to shorten the number of pages of HHDS. Postal markings from any state are required.

See you at the next members meeting!

Ciao for now.

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1. maintain a current membership list;
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From the President

John Young

On 10th February 1958 the Australian Post Office issued two stamps to commemorate the Australian War Memorial in Canberra. The date of issue was a week before a gathering of returned British Commonwealth servicemen at the 14th conference of the British Empire Service League in Canberra.

The middle of the stamps depicted the memorial's courtyard. This panel was flanked by portrayals of a sailor and airman on one stamp, and on the other there portrayals of a soldier and a servicewoman. The stamps were produced se-tenant. These portrayals copied mosaics in the memorial, about double human size, designed by the Melbourne artist, Napier Waller [1893-1972], Over 6 million pieces of glass went into the mosaics.

Each stamp's denomination was 5 1/2 pence, a decidedly odd amount. It paid for printed matter, commercial papers and other second-class mail at the second weight step from 1 October 1956 to 30 September 1959. The rates were:

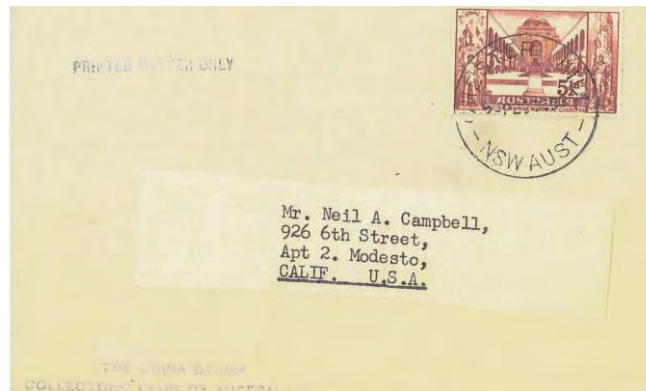
Australia and British Commonwealth,

3 ½ pence up to 4 oz; 2 pence each additional 4 oz.

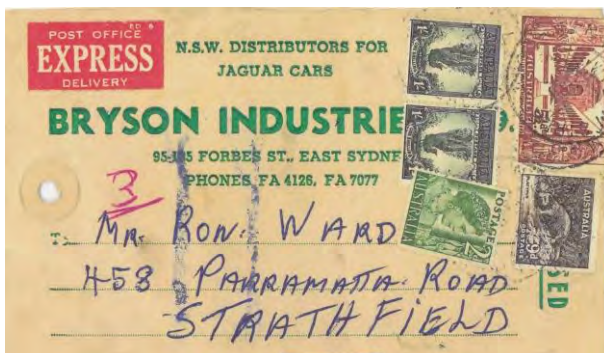
Foreign countries

3 ½ pence up to 2 oz; 2 pence each additional 2 oz. [Minimum charge 7 ½ pence for commercial papers]

Just under 6 million of the stamps were issued. At this distance in time it is hard to guess how many stamps were used as intended. If the number of surviving examples of postal history is any guide, there seem to be not many. Indeed, surviving commercial usages are mostly of a make-up kind, that is, with other values for airmail letters, etc. At last though, an apparent correctly solo franked item has turned up, mailed as printed matter by the China Stamp Collectors Club of Australia to U.S.A. in 1958.



1958 Correct franking for 2 to 4 ounce printed matter to USA



The stick-on address label was a contemporary method of circularising members, and the envelope is unsealed as befits second-class mail. The only niggling doubt is whether more than 2 oz. of printed matter was in the envelope. It is shown below, along with a number of examples of make-up usages. One of those usages, the express delivery item, was definitely not philatelically inspired. The sender first affixed the 5-½ pence stamp, then the 9 pence stamp for the express fee, and finally 2 shillings and 2 pence for the extra 52 ounces.