

Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 125 September 2013



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From Overseas Wool, Skin or Tallow Buyers**

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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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Date	2013 Programme	Display
21 October 2013	John McKay	Swedish Neutrality Mail Part 2
9 December 2013	General Meeting	Members Competition up to 10 A4 sheets.
17 February 2014	TBA	TBA

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Front cover: Trans Pacific "Clipper" airmail, 1941, from Ecuador to Australia. Flown by PAA to Miami, domestic airline to San Francisco, PAA to Auckland, Teal to Sydney. Censored in Melbourne. Franked 9 sures 30 cents. Only known example, airmail all the way.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Firstly, I am surprised to be informed by the President in his column that I am in my twelfth year as editor. It does not seem that long and confirms the adage that time flies when you are having fun.

On a more sombre note, we were informed of the passing of one of our members and a contributor to our journal, from Great Britain. Colin Salt passed away after a short illness. I was in contact by email with Colin just before he became ill to apologise for wrongly attributing the back page, 'Return to Sender: No Delivery to Residential Address' in the last issue, to Ian Cutter. Ian had graciously emailed to commend the article and to inform me that it wasn't his article. Thank you Ian. In the next issue we will endeavour to have an obituary highlighting some of Colin's achievements as a philatelist. If someone who knew Colin well could provide that, it would be appreciated.

On the back page this issue is an advertisement for the Grand Prix exhibit of postcards formed by John Sinfield, and the large vermeil exhibit of Wrappers formed by Mark Diserio. These two exhibits will be auctioned in Melbourne on the 8th November, 2013 by Prestige Philately. One would expect some records to be exceeded by items in these significant exhibits.

I have also included an advertisement from the Heidelberg Historical Society who have created some commemorative covers to acknowledge the association of Walter Burnley Griffin with Canberra and Heidelberg.

Thank you once again to our contributors for this issue. Keep the articles, one page items, items of interest, cover stories, or any questions and additional information about an article coming.

Ciao for now.

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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 Word About Editors

It seemed about ten years since Tony Lyon took up editing our journal, and I thought it time to acknowledge his decade's contribution. In fact, time had overtaken me. Tony's first journal was issue 79 in March 2002, so he is now in his twelfth year.

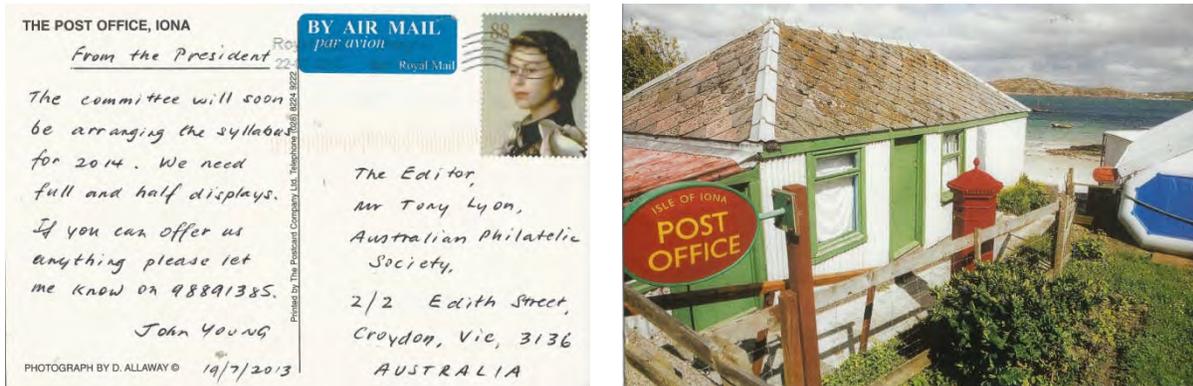
Not least among Tony's achievements has been cajoling articles from APS members and getting their contributions together in time for each issue, published on time.

Members may know that Tony's collecting interest is New Zealand military postal history. It's a little like social philately: often the most interesting aspects are the addressees or the senders, such as the Long Rang Desert Force in North Africa. The covers can look rather ordinary, franked with everyday definitives, but the names conjure up ripping yarns and derring-do. Tony entered a "ripping yarns" display at the Melbourne World Stamp Expo and was awarded large silver.

Michael Barden began as a joint editor in 1989 and became senior editor with issue 44 in October 1992. He continued until issue 64 in June 1998. John Tollan took over in 1998, but in all the years since then Michael has never ceased his involvement, writing articles, helping with production and distribution and occasionally stepping in as acting editor.

Michael is an aficionado of Belgium, both stamps and postal history. He has written and published a monograph on the unusual minus 10% overprint stamps and postal stationery of postwar Belgium. His book was awarded a vermeil at Melbourne World Stamp Expo. His display on the subject apparently flummoxed judges: Michael neglected to advise them to read the monograph written by the expert on the subject, and either through folly or incomprehension the judges did not see beyond a silver medal. Just the same, congratulations on tackling and succeeding in a challenging collecting area.

Another message from the president or is he just trying to tease us?



The message reads: 'The committee will soon be arranging the syllabus for 2014. We need full and half displays.

If you can offer us anything please let me know on 9889 1385.

John Young

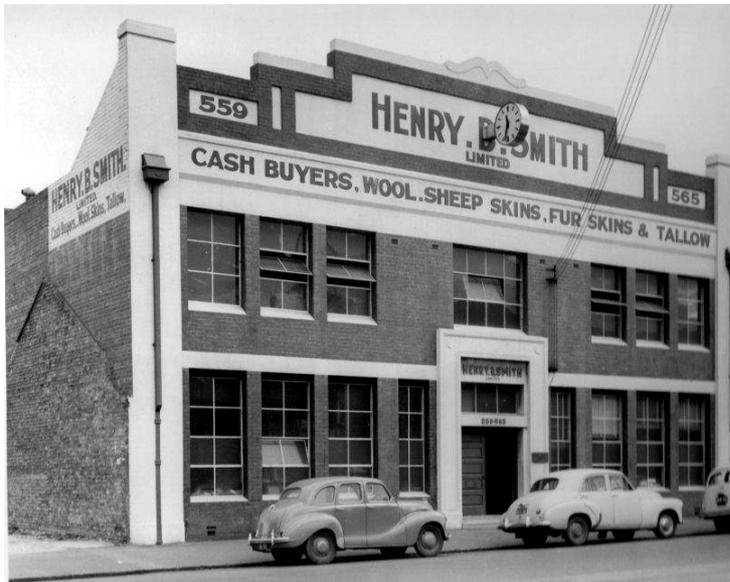
19/7/2013

From the HB Smith Archive – Early Airmail Letters to Australia from Overseas Wool, Skin or Tallow Buyers

Michael Barden

Some of the Henry B Smith (HBS) archive formed part of the Rod Perry Collection, for which Phoenix Auctions held a sale in Melbourne on 7 June. Letters to HBS were so noted in the catalogue, so I was able to select covers from some traders with the company. This archive was unearthed in 1996, when the company ceased trading after being sold to Omni Group Ltd. Company Secretary, Russell Payne, is believed responsible for ensuring this archive survived and was not shredded.

Airmail all the way to Australia began December 1934 with the first Imperial Airways / QEA joint operations. Previously, airmails had been part way, lastly to Singapore. With 10½ days advertised time between London and Brisbane, the mails arrived faster than ever before. While relatively expensive, the benefits were used in this instance by wool merchants, hide or tallow buyers.



Henry B Smith became Pty Ltd in 1945, and went public in 1948. This is probably a late 1950s or early 1960s photo of the Spencer Street head office, whence the archive emanated.

Henry Brough Smith started as a sole trader in 1912 and then in 1924 bought a wool scouring plant in Geelong. In 1932 Smith bought and moved the machinery to the existing Sargood Bros (built by Gaunt brothers) Williamstown factory. There it stayed until 1996, when the company was bought out, the machinery was sold and shipped overseas. All land was sold off, the factory being demolished and Spencer Street becoming Cinnabar Square apartments of 3 floors. HBS then ceased to exist.

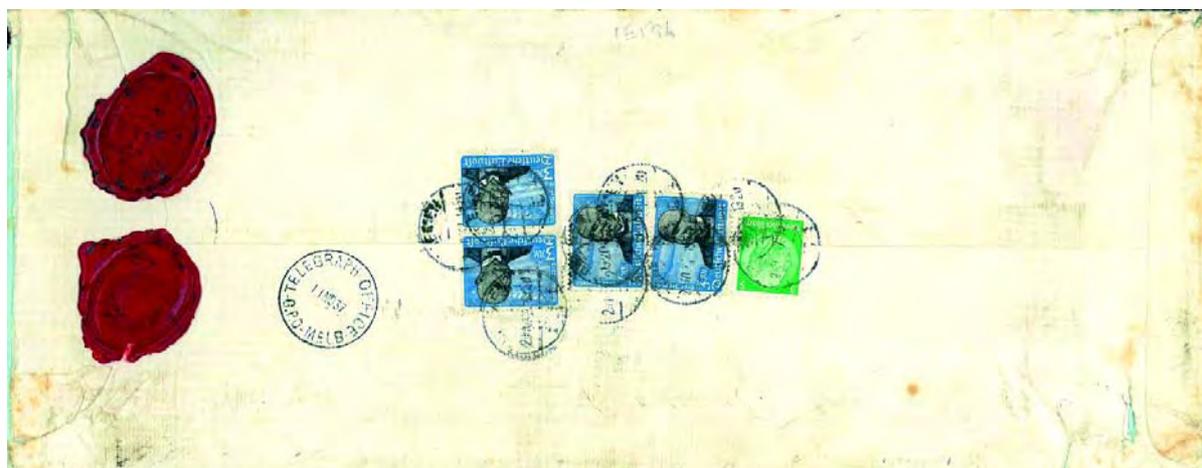
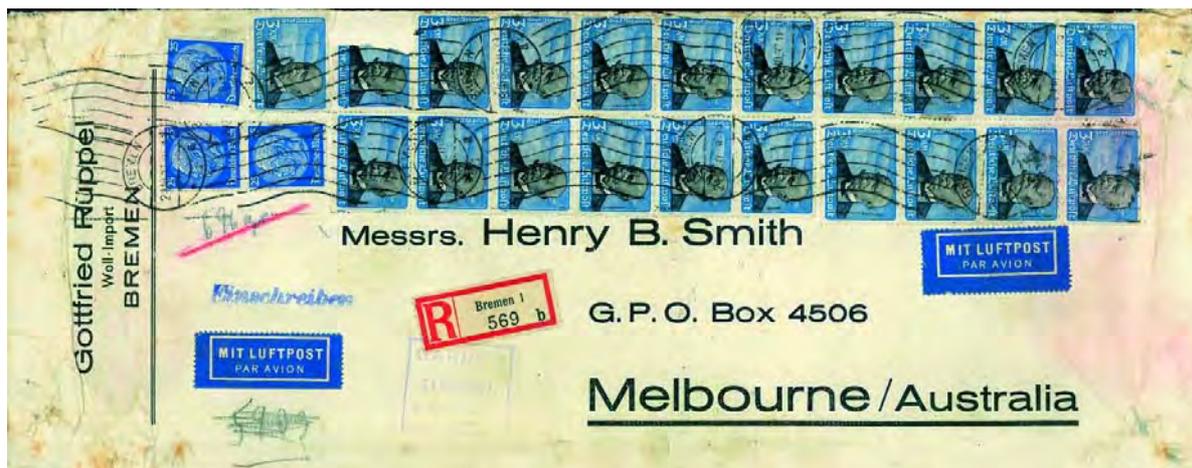


The Williamstown factory with the Botanic gardens just off to the left of the picture and the foreshore behind. In the front left corner is the Manager's house. The Empress pavilion half way down on the left remains there today.

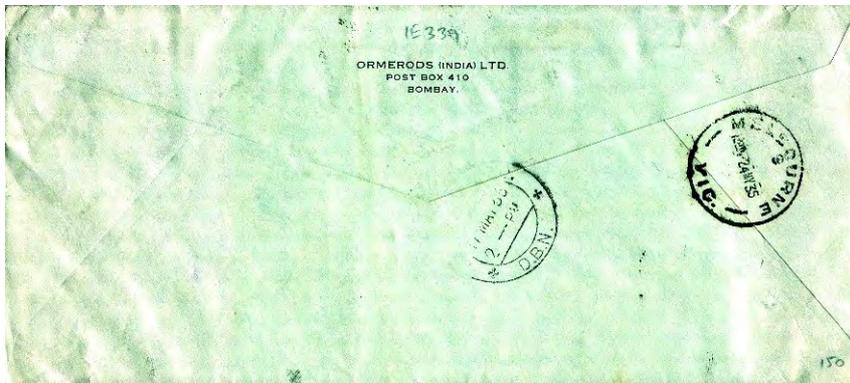
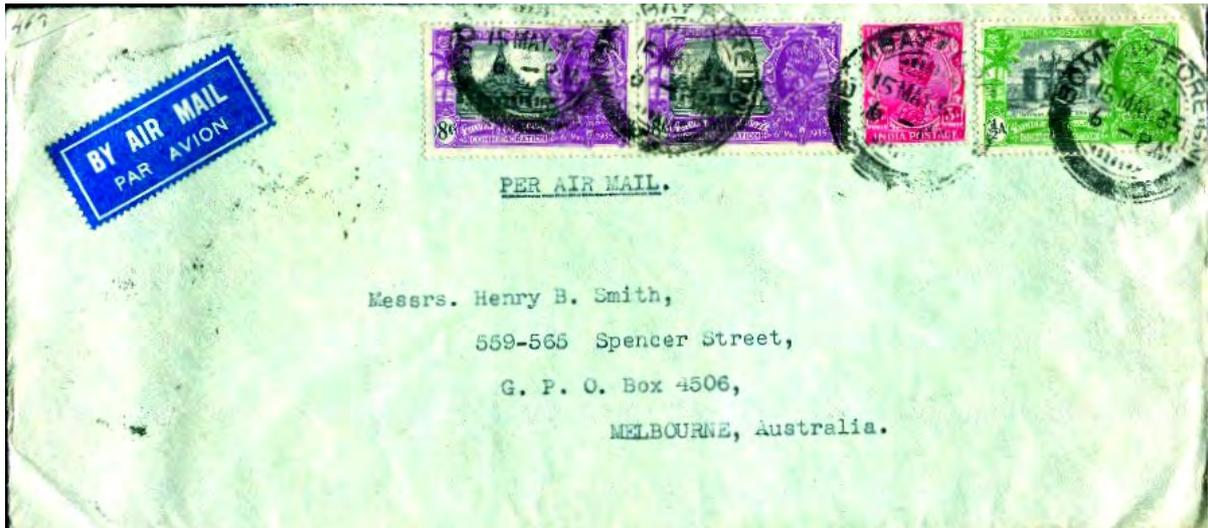
The volume of airmail letters to Australia increased dramatically from 1935 with the new service. Between 1935 & 1939, there remained from Fernand Lenain, Verviers, Belgium, a wool broker, 117 envelopes, 103 envelopes from Gottfried Ruppel, wool importers from Bremen, Germany. There are many others but not in the same volume.



Double weight airmail (5-10 gm) LHS and single weight (RHS) letters. Postage 1⁷⁵ Fr, airmail 6⁵⁰ Fr/5 gm
Before ~1936, the stamps were mainly still Albert 1 (he died Nov 1934) and after that Leopold 3.

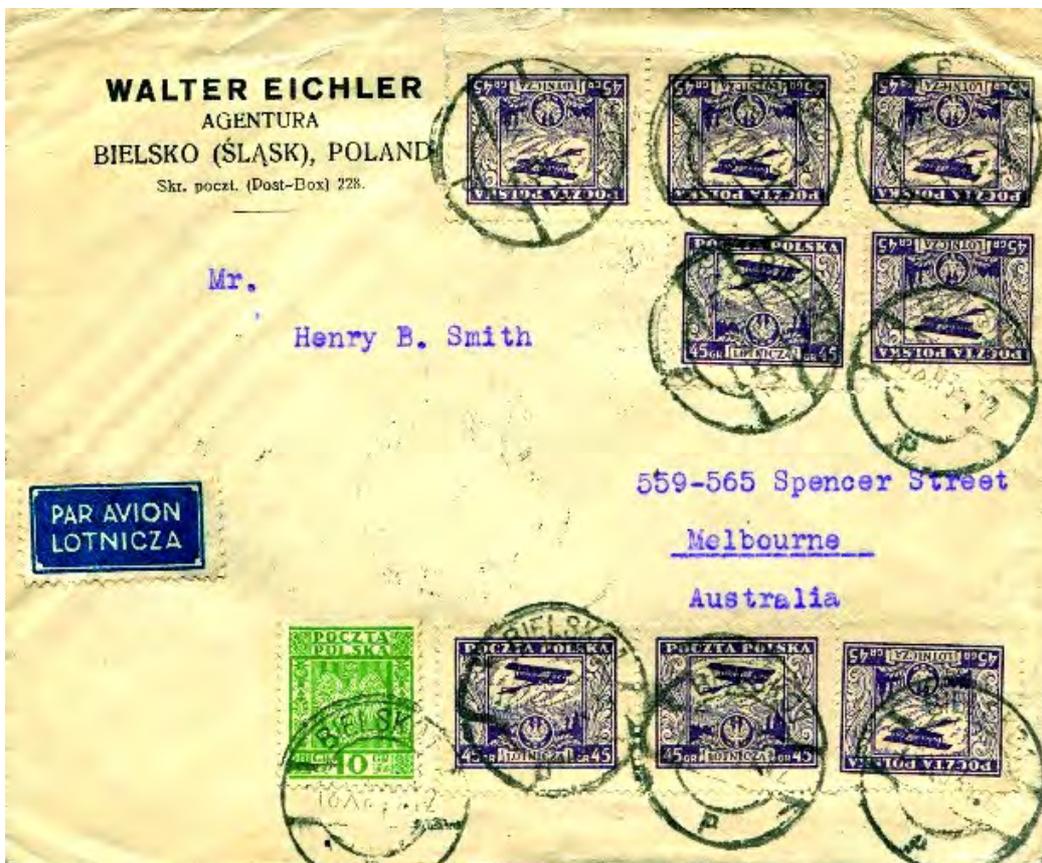


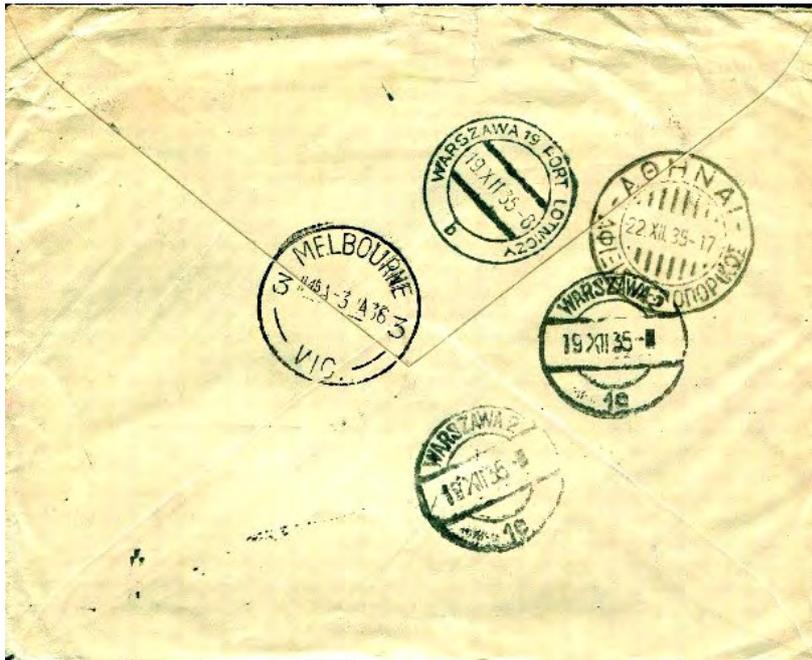
29 Oct 1937 registered airmail letter from Bremen of 696 gm and back stamped Melbourne 11 Nov 1937
Block of 18 x 3 Mk stamps with a total franking of 69.8 Marks
The linen backed envelope probably contained a wool sample and measured 370 x 145 mm (catalogue note)



1935 airmail letter (one of six) from Ormerods (India) Ltd of Bombay. Franking of 11½ annas.

Bombay (15 May 1935), Karachi (?) (17 May) and IE 339 flight number to Melbourne (24 May)





Airmail letter from Walter Eichler (Bielsko, Poland) (one of seven).

Bielsko bridge canceller of 18 Dec 1935, **Warsaw** and **Warsaw Airport** (19 Dec), **Athens** (22 Dec) and **Melbourne** (3 Jan 36)

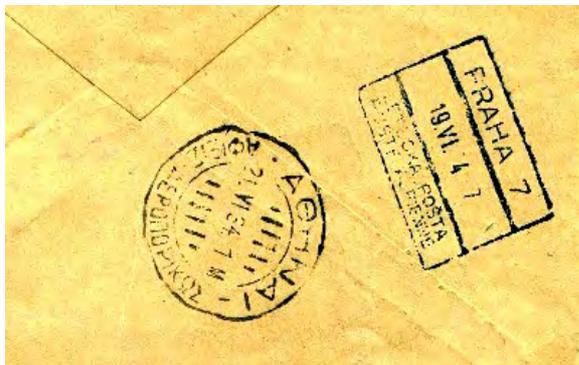
Franking is 45 groszy.

Some of the aircraft are flying upside down!

Eichler was an agent (type not specified)



Registered airmail letter from Pol-Wool also in Bielsko. 3⁹⁵ Zloty franking. **Bielsko** bridge canceller of 11 Apr 1939, **Warsaw airport** (12 Apr), **Athens** (14 Apr) also the Greek customs currency clearance cachet in black**, **Sydney 11** (23 Apr) and finally **Melbourne Registered** 24 Apr). All transit cds are back stamps and not shown. There were several letters from different companies in Bielsko, suggesting it was a wool centre in Poland then. ** Introduced in September 1936 by the Greek government, on the restoration of the Monarchy, presumably to show no currency was being sent by mail.



Airmail letter (Jun 34), airmail paid to Karachi (red **CANCELLED 24 Jun 34**)

Reichenberg 3 (18 Jun, **Praha 7** (19 Jun) then by train to **Athens** (21 Jun). No arrival date in Melbourne as it came by boat.

Catalogue note :- franked 12⁵⁰ Kr for air to Karachi, it was underpaid 1 Kr as airmail rate per 5 gm had increased from 5 to 5⁵⁰ Kr in Apr 1934. Postage was 2⁵⁰ Kr. No penalty for being underpaid.



(previous page) Registered letter from Victor Benmouvhar of Istanbul, which was to go by air from Athens to Darwin. It carries the 5 x 1 kurus obligatory tax stamps on the back cancelled with a red crayon. Postmarked **Istanbul 5** on 25 Oct 1938 and back stamped **Athinai Poste Aeriene 27 Oct** and lastly **Sydney Airmail section, GPO** on 4 Nov 1938. In fact it went by air to Sydney by the dates. From Athens it carries on the front a smudged currency control mark. Franking of 116²⁰ kurus.



Airmail letter from Athens to Melbourne from the Grecian Wool Selling Agency.

Athinai Post Aeriene cds of 6 Nov 1937 and also a Melbourne GPO back stamp (visible at bottom front), dated 17 Nov 1937).

There is also a Greek currency control mark by the address.

Franking of 84 drachma, probably for 10-15 gm weight



Airmail letter from Molinari in Athens during the Phoney War period

Athinai Poste Aeriene cds of 23 Oct 1939

Franking 37 Dr (≤ 5 gm ?)

Currency control mark and censored on arrival at Melbourne **V 39** and sealed with closure tape.

Censorship was instigated after war was declared (3 Sep 1939), but nothing happened in Western Europe until the 10 May 1940 blitzkrieg

The next letter, which I shall detail, came from Pavils Buchs in Riga (Latvia). Postmarked Riga Lidpasts 3 Aug 1937 (Tue), it was carried by Deutsche Luft Hansa (DLH) and next back stamped Berlin Flughafen (Tempelhof) the same say at 7 pm. Next morning it left Berlin for Athens with DLH via Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade where it arrived late on Wed 5 Aug. From Athens it joined Imperial Airways flight IE571, which departed early Thursday morning. Not having either an Athens back stamp or currency control mark only says this letter was mid bundle. Only the top and bottom letters were stamped. David Collyer, who helped me with this letter, pointed out that Victorian mail was offloaded from QEA at Cootamundra and flown to Melbourne by Butler Air Transport, where it was

stamped 13 Aug. David stated he had a letter from the same flight with this date. Handling between flights was quick. Postage was 35s(santimu) and airmail 90s for a letter of 5-10 gm (catalogue note)



Lastly, from hat maker Johann Biester & Son in Bielsko, this 24 Apr 1934 letter, which went airmail to Singapore, paying 50g postage and 2z 10g airmail for a letter of 5-10 gm. Back stamped Katowice the same day and Warsaw Airport the 27th, it was probably flown to Athens by Polish airline LOT, where it connected with Imperial flight IE266. When leaving Calcutta on 5 May, a compressed air bottle exploded, ripping out most of Aurora's underbelly. Astraea flew from Singapore and took over the mail load 2 days later. Mail went to Australia by boat from Singapore.

I could continue showing other examples of the wide correspondence, which HBS carried on in exporting Australian wool to so many European brokers or manufacturers, and which forms part of this archive. He had by far the largest wool related business in Australia then. He was innovative in selling graded wool, so customers both knew what they were buying and had a consistent product. Carbonising also cleaned up wool full of burrs and other rubbish.

My thanks to David Collyer, Philip (from Phoenix) and Ken Briscoe, who have all provided information and help to make this article possible. David also introduced me to "Airline timetable images" (www.timetableimages.com), through which I was able to work out 1930s airline schedules. I had never made its acquaintance before. I also saw letters from this archive for sale at Karamitsos (www.karamitsos.com). So what went on sale last month was not the whole archive. One must wonder at its original size. There is much in it to keep philatelists researching for quite some time.

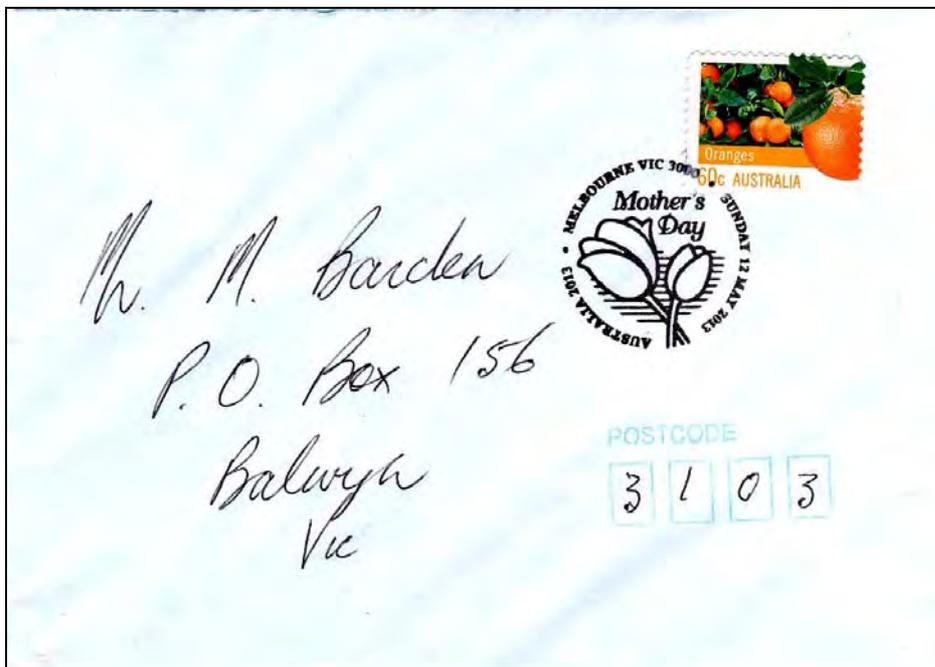
My earlier article **Airmail rates from Belgium 1934-1938** (AJP N^o119 p12) was based on this archive. All the time I learn more about Fernand Lenain's main customer, Iwan Simonis in Verviers (billiard cloth manufacturer) and recently received some pre WW2 photos from their Wool Museum.

Is Australia Post Able to Explain, Please?

Michael Barden

Irene Kerry, our esteemed Hon. Sec., went to Melbourne 2013 on Saturday 11 May. There, she posted the minutes for the 20 May Committee Meeting in AP's post box to receive the Mother's Day cancel with the thought that we would all have an interesting envelope with the minutes inside.

Come the meeting, none of us had received our minutes, except one member, who was handed his at Melbourne 2013. 4 June was the day when we all received our late minutes, three and a half weeks later. As you may see, apart from the Mother's Day CDS nicely positioned, there is not another mark on any of the envelopes; no OCR inkjet cancel nor any MLOCR yellow ink markings – no Dandenong MC sorting. Could AP enlighten us, please? How did the letters arrive without another cancellation mark, and why did it take 3½ weeks for a local delivery? Maybe the letters were only cancelled with the Mother's Day handstamp some weeks later, hand sorted and then put in the post? Did the handstamp not arrive in time? The letters were certainly addressed correctly! In UPU language "le service était affreux. Que s'est-il passé?"



Front and rear (reduced) of the envelope addressed to me showing no other mark than this year's Mother's Day CDS

Australian Foreign Postcard Surface Mail Rates, 1901-66

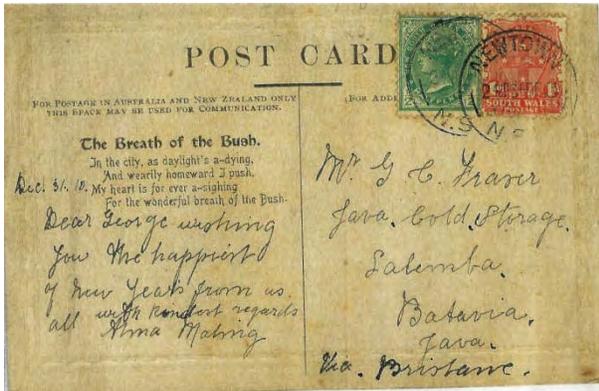
John Young

This article follows on from the one on foreign surface mail letter rates.

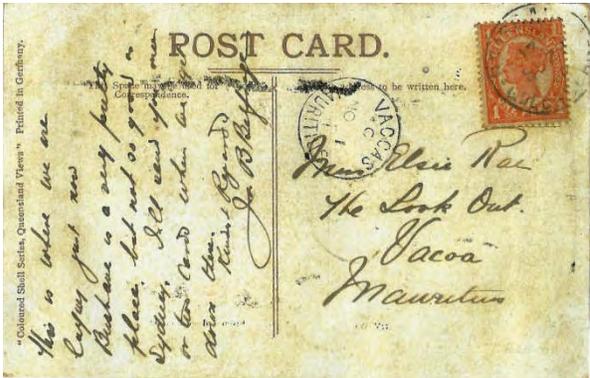
When federation came in 1901 postcards from Australia to overseas cost 1½ pence postage, except to New Zealand, Fiji and New Guinea. Thus it cost 1½ pence to send a postcard to England, India British Africa etc, as well as Europe, Asia and USA etc.

On 1 April 1905 the United Kingdom no longer came under the foreign rate and postcard postage came down to 1 penny. On 4 July 1905 Canada, British Asia, Malaya and parts of British Africa had postcard postage lowered to 1 penny, and in February 1907 more of the British Empire qualified for 1 penny postage. Finally, on 1 May 1911 all the British Empire qualified for 1 penny postcard postage, and next year USA also got the 1 penny rate. Postcards to other foreign destinations cost 1½ pence.

Illustrations 1 to 9



1. New South Wales to Java, 1910. Correctly franked 1½ pence.



2. Queensland to Mauritius, year unclear. Postage reduced from 1½ pence to 1 penny to Mauritius, Feb 1907. Transmission: 29 Sept to 1 Nov.



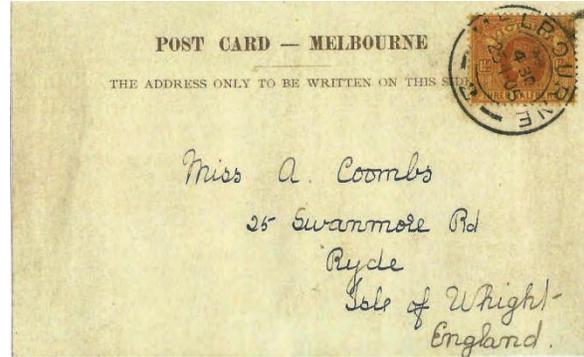
3. South Australia to Germany, 1911. Correctly franked 1½ pence.



4. Tasmania to USA, 1912. Correctly franked 1½ pence. Overprint first issued 1904.



5. Tasmania to Transvaal, 1905, seventeen months before postage reduced from 1½ pence to 1 penny.



6. Victoria to England, Jan 1905, four months before postage reduced from 1½ pence to 1 penny and England was still “foreign” for postal rate purposes. The 1½ pence stamp first issued 1901.



7. Victoria to France, 1907. Correctly franked 1½ pence.



8. Western Australia to Switzerland, 1912. Correctly franked 1½ pence.



9. Australia to Italy, 1913. Correctly franked 1½ pence. Transmission: 12 May to 15 June.

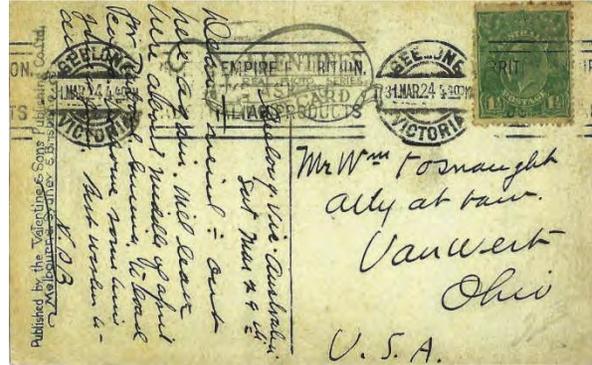
Postage increases

Unlike letters during world war one, postcards did not have the ½ penny war tax, but after the war, on 1 October 1920, postcard postage to foreign countries rose to 2 pence, staying at that amount to 28 February 1923. On 1 March 1923 postage fell to 1½ pence, and about seven years later it went back to 2 pence, on 4 August 1930.

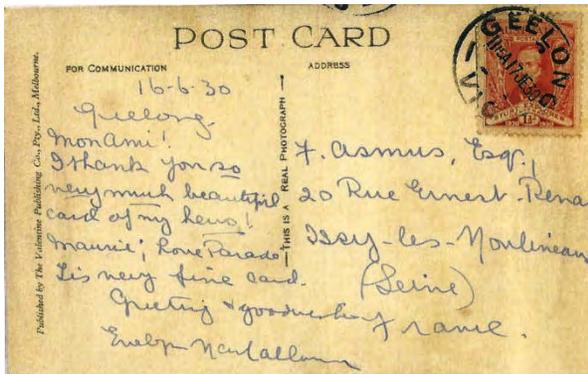
Illus 10 to 13



10. Australia to USA, 1921 in envelope inscribed "card only". Correctly franked with 2 pence orange stamp, which was also domestic letter rate.



11. Australia to USA at reduced 1½ pence rate 1924, which was also the domestic letter rate.



12. Australia to France, June 1930, two months before postage increased from 1½ pence to 2 pence.



13. Australia to USA, 1932. The 2 pence rate ran from 1930 to 1941, same as domestic letter rate.

World War 2

During world war two a ½ penny war tax was added on 10 December 1941, making postage for foreign postcards 2½ pence. The war tax continued until 30 June 1949, and on the next day the 2 pence rate resumed. Foreign postcard postage then entered a period when rates changed three times in two years

Date	Rate	Period
1 July 1949	2 pence	17 months
1 December 1950	3 pence	7 months 1 week
9 July 1951	4½ pence	Until 1959

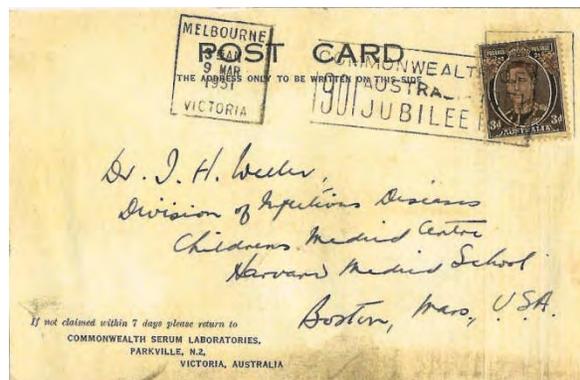
As postcard collectors know, the golden age of postcards ended by about 1920. Postcards from Australia to foreign addresses are fairly uncommon for any time, but after then they became scarcer.

Until May 1952 at no time was a stamp issued specifically for foreign surface mail postcards, and then came the 4½ pence King George 6 red definitive, Before then domestic letter rate stamps nearly always paid foreign postcard postage.

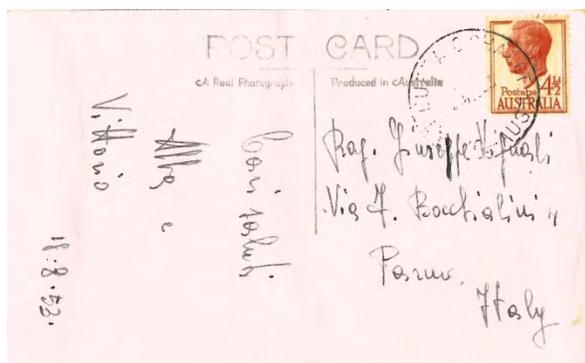
Illus 14 to 16



14. Australia to USA, 1942, 2 pence postage plus ½ penny war tax. Same as domestic letter rate. Business postcard from Royal A'sian College of Surgeons.



15. The scarce 3 pence postcard rate 1.12.50 to 8.7.51. Business postcard from Commonwealth Serum Laboratories.



16. "Trophy" item Australia to Italy, 1953, 4½ pence rate, but less scarce than the previous 3 pence rate. Posted from Mount Buffalo Chalet, Victoria.

Scarcity

The scarcity of later foreign postcards is evident from the ruling price of a 4½ pence item, around \$300. Consider, though, that the 4½ pence stamp stayed on sale until late 1953, a sales period of 17 months or so. That was about the same length of time as the 2 pence rate in 1949-50, and ten months longer than the 3 pence rate in 1950-51. What might an example of the 3 pence postcard rate be worth? The question is probably untested, but no doubt less than \$300. The reason probably lies in the eye of the beholder: the postcard would be plain, with only a common 3 pence brown or 3 pence red definitive on it (SG 187 and 235), or one of the four 3 pence commemoratives issued in the period (SG 241-2, 245-6).

Digression

In terms of scarcity, all the above examples rank with a domestic postcard rate of the same period.

The Australian and British Commonwealth surface mail postcard rate from 1 December 1950 to 8 July 1951 (7 months 1 week) was 2½ pence. On 23 May 1951 the Australian post office issued a 2½ pence brown King George 6 definitive (SG 237c). It had a postcard usage life of 1 month 2½ weeks before postage rose to 3 pence. Does a single postcard with that stamp on it survive? If so, what price would it bring?

Foreign rates, continued

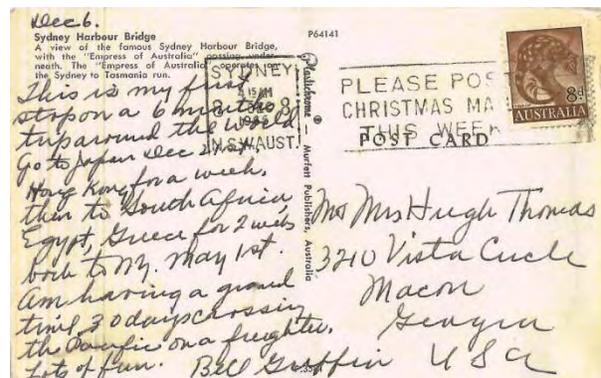
The 4½ pence rate continued until 30 September 1959. Most cards after 1954 with that rate carry make-up values, usually 4 pence plus ½ penny 'roo stamp.

On 1 October 1959 the foreign postcard surface mail rate rose to 8 pence, the same as the letter rate, and the 8 pence tiger cat definitive (SG 317) carried on until decimal currency. Cards from this period are less scarce than the early 1950s. Tourists came to Australia in bigger numbers, and some of them used surface mail instead of dearer airmail on postcards to their home countries.

Illus 17 to 18



17. Make-up 4½ pence postage, 1958.



18. Australia to USA, 1965. Correctly franked 8 pence.

Teijin 1

Ian Cutter



"A recent contribution to AJP posed the challenge of collecting postmarks from post offices that never existed.

An extension of this is flight covers from flights that never flew, as in the example illustrated.

At the time of its construction Teijin 1 was the world's largest hot-air balloon. It crashed at Canowindra on 11 June 1967, fortunately without casualties."

Commemorative Stamped Covers



Heidelberg Historical Society Inc. (No. A0042118P)

To celebrate the centenary of the establishment of Canberra, the Heidelberg Historical Society has issued commemorative stamped covers to acknowledge the association of Walter Burley Griffin with Canberra and the Heidelberg area.

The commemorative covers also compliment the Society's current exhibition: *Against the Forces: The Life and Work of Walter Burley Griffin & Marion Mahony Griffin*.

After a decade of planning and research by one of the Society's members, Rowan Harrison, the commemorative stamped cover project culminated on Tuesday 12 March 2013, Canberra's centenary date. These special covers have each been cancelled at three Post Offices; commencing at 7am at Eaglemont, followed by Heidelberg, then a dash to the airport arriving at GPO Canberra at 3pm. The last cover was cancelled at closing time, before returning home on the last flight to Melbourne on the same day.

Each envelope has a 1963 5d (50th anniversary stamp with Griffin's image) and the 60c 2013 Canberra Centenary stamp.

The envelopes are available for purchase through the Society, by contacting us by phone [03] 9455 2130 or by email - heidelberg.historical.society@gmail.com



Special Limited Edition of 500

Six mint stamps: 3 x 1963 and 3 x 2013 Canberra

Each cover cancelled at Eaglemont, Heidelberg and Canberra Post Offices on the same day.

Price: \$15 plus postage



Also available in very limited numbers

Cover with three mint stamps: 1927 Opening of Parliament House, 1963 Canberra 50th anniversary and 2013 Canberra Centenary.

50 only with Canberra postmark,
20 only Eaglemont postmark,
20 only Heidelberg postmark.

Price: \$20 each plus postage

BRIEFZENTRUM!

Ian Cutter

As I was sorting through an accumulation of German postmarks, I noticed that there were a surprisingly large number of the previously unknown (to me, anyway) city of Briefzentrum.

A search on the internet clarified the situation. "Briefzentrum" can be translated roughly as "Sorting Centre". These were introduced in the mid 1990s, when they displaced a similar but less extensive network of Briefregions,

There are about 85 Briefzentruns, each with its own number, so collecting those suits the numerically-minded person (such as those who like barred numerals, for example.).

The numbers range from 01 for Dresden to 99 for Erfurt.

The numbers are not listed here; it is not too hard to find them on the internet.

The standard form is a circle 28mm in diameter, with a concentric inner circle 19mm in diameter. The upper part of the space between the circles carries the curved legend BRIEFZENTRUM followed by the number.

The inner space is divided roughly into thirds by two horizontal lines. In between these lines is the date. The inner circle is actually incomplete, not extending below the lower of the horizontals.

This datestamp is applied in two ways. One is as part of a roller cancel of five wavy lines.

The other way is as the right-hand side of a machine cancel, the left side being a rectangular slogan which is not necessarily constant for any particular location. I can't see any difference between the datestamps themselves, whichever form the rest of the impression might take..

Now for the hard bit. The top part of the inner circle carries one or two letters, typically "ma" or "mb" or "mc", always in lower case. The three examples quoted are the most common, but I have also seen the following: am, an, b, bv, md, mf, mg, mn, o and a two-letter one starting with v.

Does anybody know what these stand for?

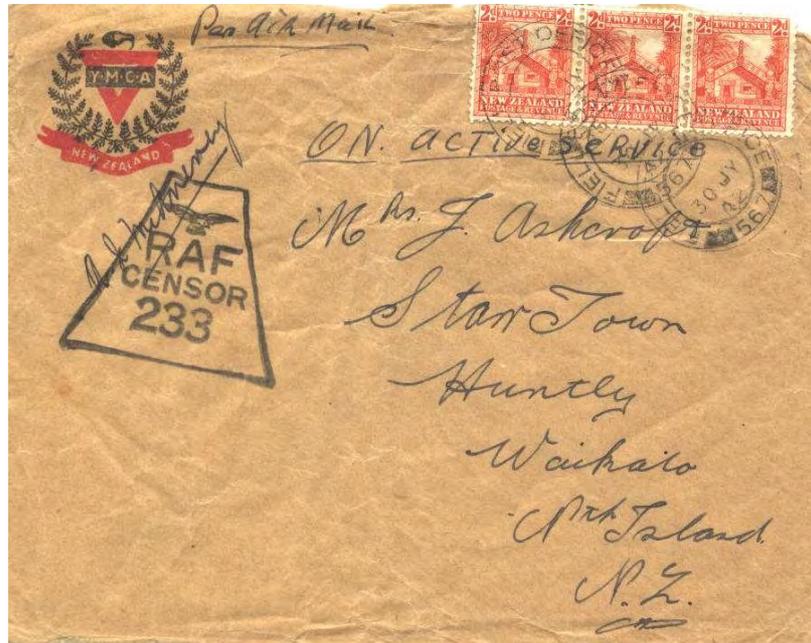


New Zealand Musings – New Zealand at War 1939-45

Tony Lyon

Continuing a look at covers from personnel with the RAF/RNZAF.

Rayak, Syria



Cover Posted through **FPO 567** which was located in Syria and censored by a type **R10 censor No 233 (Colley and Garrard)**. This censor was known used at **No 1 Emergency Mobile W/T Unit** during August 1942 at Rayak, Syria. **Note the 6d postage was for a double weight letter i.e., 3d / ½ ounce.**

Ein Shemer, Palestine



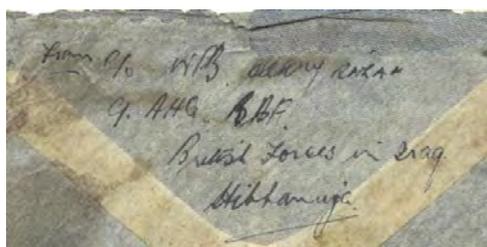
Cover from Pilot Officer RNZAF serving with the RAF and posted through **FPO 535** which was **APO S.285 in Palestine**. It has been censored by a type **R12 censor No 134 (Colley and Garrard)**. Censor No. 134 is known used from RAF **Ein Shemer, Palestine** in January 1944.

Iraq

New Zealand airmen were integrated into various squadrons of the RAF as well as there being particular RNZAF squadrons within the RAF.



Cover dated 16 April 40 from Iraq and **postmarked at Habbaniya**. Sent by a RNZAF Pilot Officer. It was sent from **A.H.G. British Forces in Iraq at Hibbaniya**. Habbaniya was located on the banks of the river Euphrates 60 miles from Baghdad. It was the location of No 4 Flying Training School and between February and August 1940, before it transferred to Salisbury, Southern Rhodesia. **Imperial Airlines route England to Australia had an important terminal at Lake Habbaniya, near Baghdad, with both sea and land facilities. Imperial Airways became BOAC in April 1940.** Of the R1 type censor numbers, between 45 and 58, ten are known used from Habbaniya between February and August 1940 (Colley and Garrard. (1993) *Censorship in the Royal Air force 1918-1956*. Perth, Scotland: Chavril Press). This cover is censored by **Censor No 50**. It has been flown by **Air to Karachi where the airmail has been cancelled. It continued by sea to New Zealand.** The route taken is shown in the diagram. **The all up rate was discontinued after Italy entered the war in June 1940.**



Senders address.



From September 1939 to May 1940, the mail from the troops in the Middle East was flown from Cairo to Australia via the Empire route. From June 1940 mail was flown on the BOAC's horseshoe route to Australia then on to New Zealand via the Tasman Empire Airlines (The inaugural TEAL service was by Aotearoa on the 30/4/1940 between Auckland and Sydney.) TEAL flew 3 flights per week Sydney—Auckland. After February 1942 NZ mail often left Australia by ship from Perth to Colombo then by Air to Cairo.

RAF Italy

The New Zealand 2nd Division NZEF was involved in the battle for Italy and a number of New Zealand pilots also served with the RAF in the region.



Cover from Flying Officer with RNZAF serving with **112 Squadron RAF Italy**. This squadron moved from Sicily to Italy supporting the allied armies in September 1944 when they changed to Mustangs. This example posted at **FPO 167** was located at **FPO Z 42 Termoli area – Airfield**. It has received **two censor markings** a type **R20 Base Censor (C & G) No 6** at Naples (resealed with tape) and a **type R15 (C & G) No 451**. This suggests 451 was held by 112 Squadron. Dated 6 SP 44, it was received 27 SP 44 at Wellington as evidenced by Machine cancel. **Postage at Letter Card rate 3d.**



Cover from RNZAF Pilot Officer serving with the RAF. **It was sent from FPO 520** dated 19 DE 44 which at this time was located at **Foggia, Italy**. **RAF Censor 211** is type **R15 (C & G)**. **Surface Rate free.**

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This edition is predominately from Victoria and it would be nice if I could have some more postmarks from the other states

There are some interesting details about the datestamps in this edition. Two postmarks are the square variety, one from Creswick with no outer frame and the other from Swan Hill with an outer frame

Many thanks to Richard Peck, Ian Cutter, Simon Alsop and John Young for their contributions to this column.

N.S.W. -- Earlier postmark—Forster (109/26)



TAS.

QLD.—Earlier Datestamp—NORTHGATE MAIL CENTRE (95/29)



S.A.—Earlier datestamps—MOUNT GAMBIER (115/27) WAIKERIE (102/27)



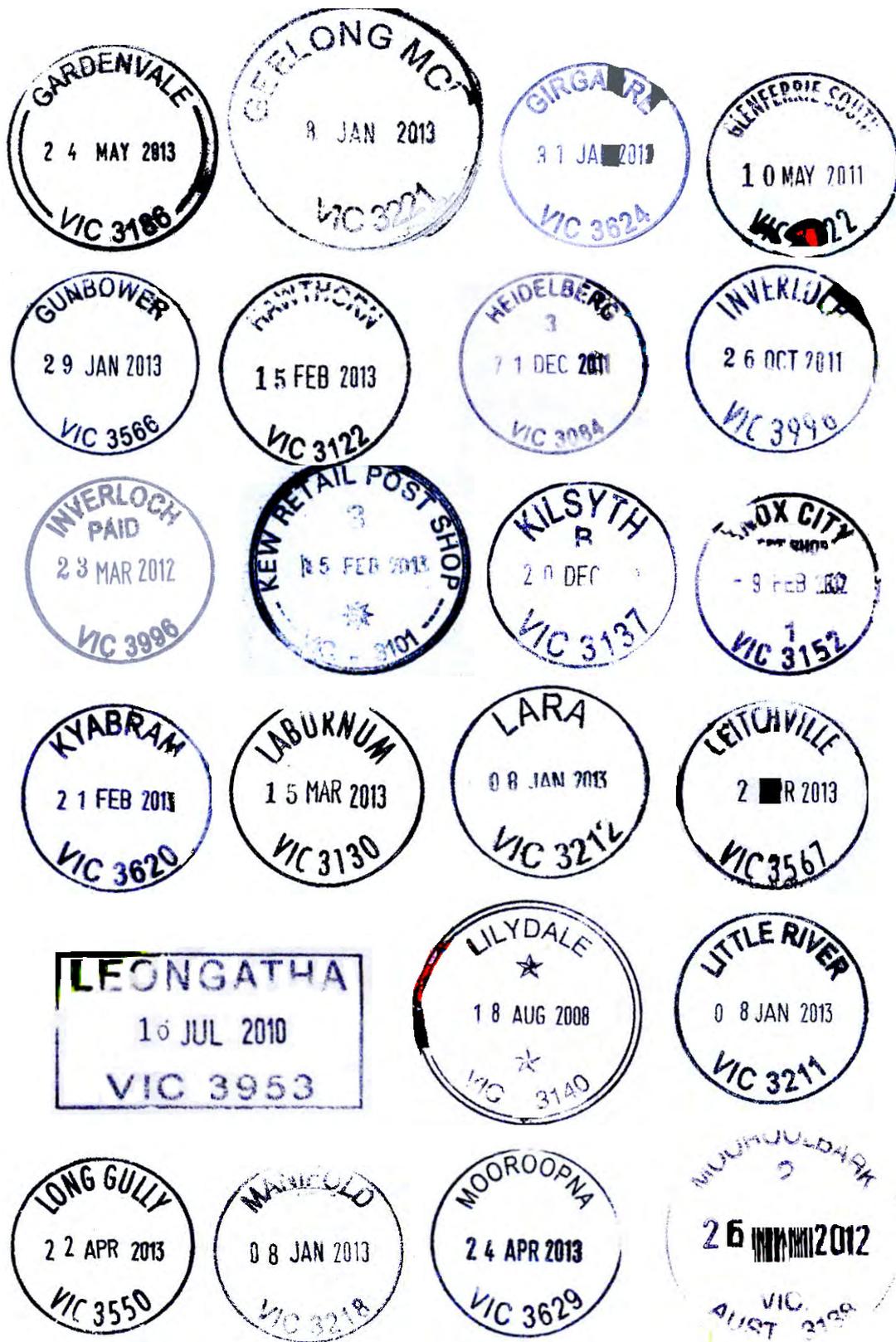
VIC.—Earlier datestamps :-AVOCA (93/34) ALEXANDRA (119/26)



VIC:-(cont) Earlier datestamps;-COHUNA (120/27), DENDY (117/28),and different datelines on DROUIN (117/28), ESSENDON NORTH(119/27) and FRANKSTON HEIGHTS (114/28)



VIC:-(cont) Earlier date stamps:--GEELONG MC (118/28) GIRGARRE (113/29) GUNBOWER (109/28) HEATHMONT (121/28) HEIDELBERG (1) (120/28) KYABRAM (123/29) LEITCHVILLE (92/35) MOOROOPNA (105/27)



VIC. :-(Cont) Earlier Datestamps—MORWELL EAST (96/35) NUMURKAH (116/28) RANGEVIEW (120/28)



VIC:- (cont)- Earlier datestamps-WEDDERBURN(120/29) YARRAVILLE(96/36) and different size lettering on the Yallourn North



Received this cover from John Young, nothing unusual but on closer inspection it has escaped all the markings that goes with mail going through Mail Exchanges i.e. dot matrix or the orange bar codes. It was posted in the box outside the A.P.O. sales stand and took 3 weeks to arrive at its destination; Brian Fuller who has made a close study of mail exchange markings appeared mystified at the lack of markings



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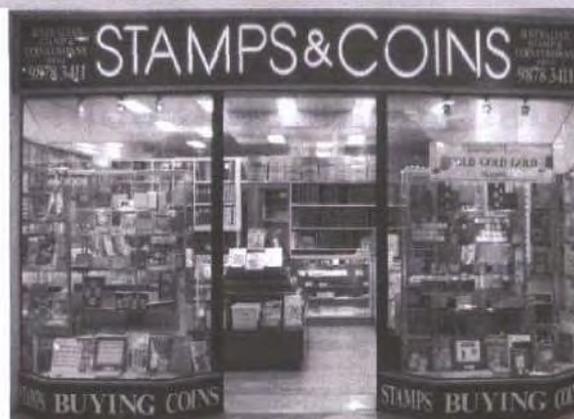
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- ◆ Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- ◆ Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- ◆ Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- ◆ Enter the Society Competitions
- ◆ Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
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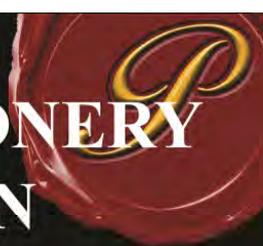
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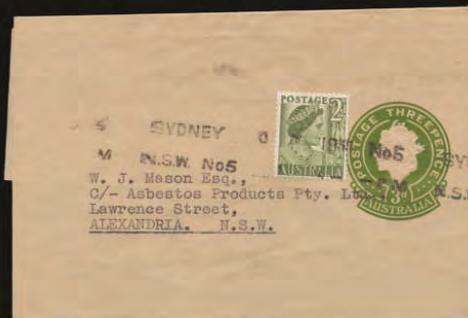
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