

Australian Journal of Philately

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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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2 oz Commercial Letter with Heifetz type XV OAT Cachet	32
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Front cover:	
A Pacific Clipper cover sent from Jerusalem to New York. Route via BOAC to Singapore and PANAM to San Francisco (10 Jul 1940 / 8 Dec 1941). Rate was 125 Mills per 5 grams or less. 125 x 5 = 625.	
Cachet Executive Order 8389 was originally designed to protect American currency and property during a deep economic depression. Through successive amendments during the war, it gave censorship privileges to postal services to examine mail from enemy occupied countries and finally came to emphasise the right of the Secretary of the Treasury to require any person to furnish complete information about financial transactions in which a foreign enemy country had an interest. (Dickstein:W.C.C. Bull., V.xxi, No 3, Apr.-May, 81)	

Editorial

Tony Lyon

Last journal for 2014 and thanks to all the members who have contributed and enabled this to be delivered on time. I held over a few items for March but please do continue to send you contributions.

It is that time of the year again when hopefully we bring cheer to those around us. If you are of on holiday over the festive season do take care. Not every one drives as carefully as you do.

I look forward to what 2015 brings and hope you find that elusive item that is needed for your collection. However with out the elusiveness it probably wouldn't be worth pursuing this great hobby of ours.

It is what keeps us focussed. Like what is displayed on the front page cover. I was most envious when at one of our meetings the president showed a Palestine cover somewhat similar. Three high values are not easy to find on cover. Well lo and behold a couple of weeks later up pops this cover on Ebay. I ponced on it and fortunately my pounce was greater than the others who also wanted it. Well that's life as Kelly was supposed to have said.

And finally a little quote for you:

"Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you did not do than by the ones you did. So throw off the bow lines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails, explore, dream and discover." Samuel Langhorne Clemens

Who was Samuel Langhorne Clemens? Of course it was Mark Twain!

<http://discovertopicalstampcollecting.com/famous-quotes-from-mark-twain-aka-samuel-l-clemens-in-philately/>

Ciao for now.

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The Society will strive to ensure that the personal information of members is accurate, up to date and complete. Members can assist the Society in this task by providing correct information and advising when details have changed.



From the President

During 2013-14 the society held six members' meetings. Two of them involved numerous small displays by members: works in progress and the members' annual competition. This style of meeting continues to bring forward interesting and seldom seen postal history. The other meetings extended across Swedish neutrality mail, Australian civil censored mail, an outstanding collection of Australian King George V postal history, and World War I Australian postal history.

The quarterly journal maintained a diverse and interesting range of articles, and continued to be published at regular intervals.

For many years the society has kept a research library. Dispersal of the contents was considered but put in abeyance several years ago, giving time for usage to be measured. Usage has further fallen away. I therefore propose to offer material for sale to members in the first instance, and then disposal in the broader market.

The society's governing committee met regularly to organise meetings, the syllabus and publication of the journal. As on past occasions I record my appreciation of the work done by members of the committee. Their work is unpaid, but must not be left unacknowledged.

To all members of the Australian Philatelic Society I extend on behalf of the committee best wishes for Christmas and the New Year.

John Young

Who Invented the Aerogramme?

Michael Barden

As a result of Joan Orr's response in the September AJP, I went in search of the Guatemalan airletter to satisfy my curiosity. Below is what I was able to unearth from the internet.

Guatemala 1930 references



<http://guatemalastamps.clubexpress.com/docs.ashx?id=148884>

<http://www.paknetmag.com/A-15.asp>

<http://www.vanceauctions.com/photos/nZ1854.jpg>

Some Hungarian Express Covers 1934 - 1941

Judy Kennett

Introduction. There were many interesting examples of Express and Special Delivery mail illustrated in the article by John Young in AJP No 128 of June 2014. John noted that Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia and Hungary were heavy users of express mail. A survey of Express mail covers from Hungary confirmed this, but also provided an opportunity to examine how these covers were treated on arrival at their destinations.



Fig 1. 1934 London to Budapest by airmail

This cover from UK to Hungary is of interest because it was not sent by Express mail at the outset. It was decided to make it express mail inside Hungary when it was necessary to re-direct it.

Some notes, which came with the cover, said that the charge for airmail letters from UK to Hungary for the period 2 June 1930 – 8 August 1937 was 4d for 1 oz. The London date of posting is hidden by Hungarian stamps.

The letter was sent via Berlin - cancel Berlin Airmail 24 Aug 1934.

It arrived in Budapest on 25 Aug 1934, and probably arrived at Siofok on the following day (day unreadable). Addressee had left Siofok, so the letter was redirected to Hotel Gellert in Budapest (26 Aug backstamp).



The airmail fee paid was now exhausted, so the etiquette was crossed out, and it was decided to send the letter back to Budapest by Express. 2 x 40f adhesives were added, and cancelled SIOFOK FURDO 934 AUG 26 (inverted cds). The Express fee at the time was 60f, the additional 20f being for domestic postage. The letter arrived at the Royal Budapest Telegraph Office at 19 hours. It would then have been delivered to the Hotel Gellert.



Fig 2. 1937 Budapest to London airmail / express.

Letter posted at the airmail counter of Budapest PO 72 on 7 June 1937. Express fee 60f. Cancel for Budapest Airport (Matyasfold) 8 June 1937.

Letter arrived London later the same day.

Boxed single line 'Express Fee Paid' was applied.



Fig 3. 1938 Budapest to Faversham (UK) airmail / express

Letter posted at the airmail counter at Budapest PO 4 on 8 October 1938. Express fee 60f.

Cancel for Budapest 20 Airport (Repuloter) on 8 Oct 1938.

The letter was treated as Registered in the UK (vertical blue lines front and back)

Boxed straight line marking 'Express Fee Paid 6d' was applied. No receiving marks.



Fig 4. 1933 Budapest to Philadelphia USA express / surface mail

Letter posted at Budapest PO 4 on 1 May 1933. Express fee 60f.

In USA it was stamped 'Fee claimed by office of first address' and 'Special delivery' both in purple.

On the back is a machine cancel 'Received Philadelphia 12 May 1933, also a cds with the year misplaced.

There was a period pre-WW2 when the Hungarian PO was using labels with the French spelling, rather than the usual Hungarian, as in this case.



Fig 5. 1941 Mezokövesd to The Bronx, New York Registered / Express / surface mail

Letter posted Mezokövesd on 7 July 1941. Express fee 60f.

It was censored by the Hungarian authorities (tape and censor's number **208**) in blue-grey under right hand NY oval cancel).

From Budapest the letter went by train through Italy and Vichy France to Portugal, a neutral country.

From there it went by ship to New York.



It was stamped twice at New York Registry Division (two oval cancels) on 18 August 1941, and the number in red **29556** was probably applied there. This number originated in NY Registry Division where registered letters had received a number from a device for decades prior to 1941.

Marking NY / Sta[tion] R[oad] / Registered on 19 Aug 1941. Letter stamped with 'Fee claimed by office of first address' in purple.

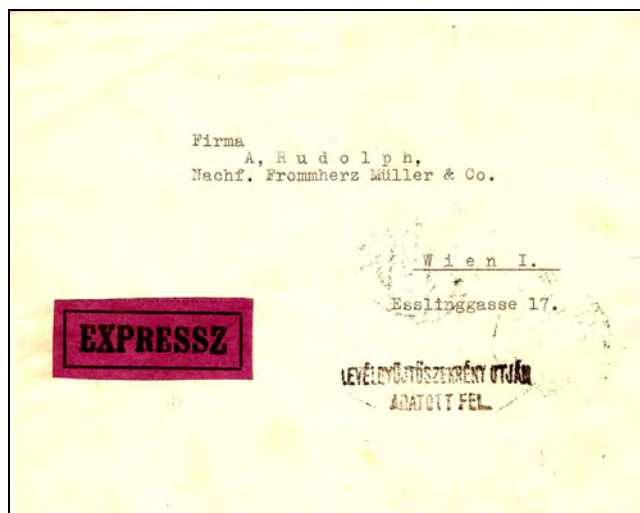


Fig 6. 1939 Budapest to Wien Austria, express

Austria was under rule from Germany at this time, following the Anschluss of 13 March 1938.

The letter was posted in a street box, indicated by the two-line cachet on the front. This marking was applied to cover any delays between the placing of letters in street boxes and the dates that they were cleared and the letters stamped at a post office. It has been suggested that this was done to rebuff criticism about delays in delivery.



Fig 6 (cont)

The box was cleared and the letter reached the post office at Budapest 62 on 16 Oct 1939 at 23 hours.

Express fee was 60f.

The next marking is Wien Telegraph Office at 13 hours on 16 Oct, before the letter was stamped at Budapest?

I suggest that the clerk in Wien had a bad morning, and had not changed the date on his stamp! Be that as it may, the letter was passed to the Post Office at Wien 1 on 17 Oct at 13 hours.



**Fig 7. 1940
Nagykanizsa to
Budapest Registered /
Express**

Following the fall of Poland to German forces in September 1939, many Polish military personnel and civilians fled across borders into both Hungary and Romania, where they were interned.



They were 'encouraged' to gradually make their way out of both countries, to take up the fight against the Nazis elsewhere.

This letter is from a Polish civilian internee in a camp 'tabor' at Nagykanizsa (camp cachet and date 1940 Nov 18 at lower left on envelope front).

Letter was posted at Nagykanizsa at 16 hours on 19 Nov 1940. Express fee 60f. It was received at the Hungarian Royal Telegraph Central Office in Budapest at 8 hours on 20 Nov 1940.

Judging by the form of address used on the letter, the recipient was a fellow Polish refugee.

(Informative part of verso shown on left)



Fig 8. 1937 Budapest to Sydney, Australia, Express

This is another letter that became an Express Mail item through forces of circumstances, not through the intention of the sender.

There are some elements in the journey of this cover that have required reconstruction. First, it must be realised that the envelope is hotel stationery on heavy lined paper. The letter that was enclosed was probably written on hotel notepaper, which was likely to be heavy also. Then we must add the weight of the stamps on the back. It's been suggested that they might have been supplied by hotel reception.

Also, the letter was dropped in a street letterbox (two line cachet discussed in Fig 6 description) to await clearance,



not taken to a post office where it would have been weighed and the correct postage applied. The letter was taken from the street box to the Post Office at Budapest 72 Airmail counter on 11 April 1937 where it was weighed and the weight 11½ [gr] written on the front. The stamps on the envelope were tallied, and it was found that postage was short by 1.40 Penger for carriage to Australia by Airmail (figure written above the German version of the hotel name). The cachet 'Affranchissement insuffisant' (Insufficient postage) would have been applied here.

A decision was made to send the letter to Australia by Expressz (there was more than enough franking to pay for this). The Airmail etiquette was partly torn away, and an Expressz label put over it. It's possible to check this, because the Expressz label is not completely stuck down. It has been suggested that the letter might have been flown to Australia, probably by Imperial Airways, but there is no receiving cancel that might confirm this.

It can only be concluded that the letter came by sea. The words 'See over' in blue on the right hand side of the envelope would have been applied in Sydney.

This is the only example I've seen of an Express letter sent to Australia from Hungary in the pre-war period. Examples shown in Figures 6 and 7 show that pre-World War 2 it was the practice in some European countries for letters sent by Express to be handled by the Telegraph system. How were they treated in Australia at that time?

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to my friend Csaba Kohalmi in USA for his advice about the journey of Figure 5 from Eastern Hungary to New York in the perilous days of July-August 1941, and for his reconstruction of the reasons for Figure 8 being handled as an Express letter.

Thanks also to my Australian mentor, Michael Barden, for his encouragement in this rather tricky project and for his skill in preparing the text and scans for publication in the journal.

I hope my readers have enjoyed this article of a variety of express covers and how they were handled at their destinations. The use of express at times seemed a payment for which there was no service.

Secours D'Hiver - Winterhulp

Michael Barden

I recently bought an absolutely pristine set of seventy three year old CTO postcards for this WW2 charity. The cards were cancelled on April Fool's Day 1941. Of course eight special sets of stamps were issued between December 1940 and March 1944 to raise money for Secours D'Hiver (Winter Aid in English). My seven postcards used Poortman stamps apart from the lowest value, which used a 2c petit sceau de l'Etat, again to raise money, as they ranged up to the 20 Fr. Whether Moulu (shown on one) took all pictures is unknown – he probably did. They are indeed graphic and highlight the problems of occupied populations during wartime.

Wikipedia in *Vie en Belgique durant la Seconde Guerre mondiale* stated that the Germans introduced rationing on 25 May 1940, some two weeks after the invasion. (In WW1 Belgium would have starved, had it not been for the American led *Ravitaillement alimentaire*, since Germany defied the Geneva Convention and did not feed the public). In 1940 the official ration provided 1300 calories per day, when 2000 was a basic requirement and most people had enjoyed 2700 pre-war. Thus began in the winter both the black market and ration swapping to get by. The Secours d'hiver was instigated on 29 October 1940. In fact food quantities were not too bad then, as sugar and fruits were abundant during the autumn. Remember sugar beet was grown for sugar.

The black market lasted until 1946, when Achille Van Acker, then Prime Minister, killed it off by lowering selling prices 10%, including new stamp sales and the King's stipend.



A ceux qui n'espèrent plus,
le SECOURS D'HIVER rendra espoir et courage... si vous l'aidez.

Let us have a look at my postcards, their pictures and different messages to prompt citizens to give money.

The photos were taken during the harsh 1940-1941 winter. Some of them show it snowing.

The old man, shown here wearing his clogs, squats at his front step with an air of resignation and despair. No gloves on but maybe they were in his pocket.

"For those, who may no longer hope, the **Secours D'Hiver** will give them hope and courage.....if you help them"



Palais de Beaux-Arts / Bruxelles cds
of 11 am 1 Apr 1941 on all cards.



Quand deux pauvres s'entraident, Dieu sourit.
Aidez le SECOURS D'HIVER dans son œuvre d'entraide.

"When two poor people help each other, God smiles. Assist the **Secours D'Hiver** with its work amongst us"

Two ladies carrying fuel back to their home in the depths of winter.



Pour lutter contre les misères de l'hiver une seule force : le SECOURS D'HIVER.
Vous devez soutenir ses efforts.

"To combat the miseries of winter, there is a single force: the **Secours D'Hiver**. You must help them in their efforts"

Deep snow on a balcony with the village beyond.

Note the photographer's name on the side of the card.



Par ces temps de détresse, aidez le SECOURS D'HIVER à répandre un peu de bien-être.

"In these distressing times, help the **Secours D'Hiver** to spread a little happiness"

A poor crestfallen woman in clogs trudging home with her meagre shopping



Pour apaiser tant de souffrances,
le SECOURS D'HIVER a besoin de vous; AIDEZ-LE !



Avant de donner des bonbons à vos enfants,
aidez le SECOURS D'HIVER à donner du pain
aux enfants des autres.



Pour secourir ce malheureux dans sa détresse collaborez à l'œuvre
du SECOURS D'HIVER.

Top left

"To appease so much suffering, the **Secours D'Hiver** needs you; help them!

Unemployed men standing around in the cold.

top right. "Before giving sweets to your children, help the **Secours D'Hiver** to give bread to the children of others." Despite rationing, I doubt very much if many sweets were available.

Bottom. "To alleviate unfortunate people in their distress, collaborate with the work of the **Secours D'Hiver**". In chalk on the shop front reads a notice 'received 200kg of potatoes'. It is sleeting or snowing and all one can see are a few green apples in the window.

Belgium was mostly liberated before winter 1944, after which times improved markedly.

A Walk Around Melbourne in the Late 1800s: PO Wrappers Identifying Locations

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

The idea for this paper is based on Gary Brown's exhibit entitled "A Day at Aden" published in *The Asia Pacific Exhibitor* (2013). Postcards illustrate the story of a passenger on a journey from London to India, stopping off at Aden for a day while the ship is re-coaling. The present article is the imaginary story of me and my friend who caught the train from Middle Brighton to Flinders Street Station. We then walked around the city visiting various business premises. The addresses are illustrated with post office postal stationery wrappers of Victoria and South Australia posted in the late 1880s.

In 1887, Melbourne City Council ordered the renumbering of properties across the city to make houses and businesses easier to find. Up until then, streets that ran east-west were divided at Elizabeth Street so that street numbers began at 1 on either side heading east to Spring Street and west to Spencer Street. Numbering of north-south streets began at Flinders Street and went north, as is still the case today.

Arrival





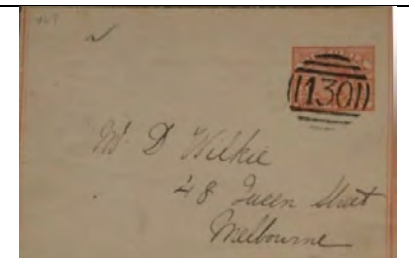

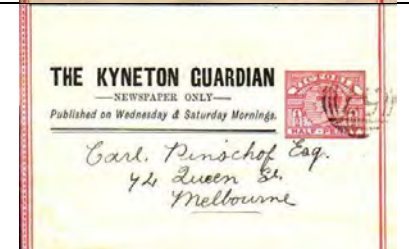
Upon arrival at Flinders Street Station, our busy day will take us up Queen Street and back on Elizabeth Street to Collins Street and then Flinders Lane and Flinders Street. We will need to move along smartly to visit all 23 premises on our itinerary around the city.





Under the clocks at the original Flinders Street Station

Queen Street

As we exit Flinders Street Station we turn left and walk down Lonsdale Street and cross the road to Queen Street. We will visit numbers 15 and 17, cross the road to visit 30, 48, 60-70, 74 and then cross back to 123 which is a very important stop being Gordon & Gotch.

Philatelic Details	Social Philately	Wrapper Image
Victoria E15: double oval POST AND TELEGRAPH OFFICE W? SE 27 1882	Messrs. Wm. Hamilton & Co., 15 Queen Street; Stock, Estate & General Commission Agents auctioning sheep, horses, pigs, and property.	
Victoria E15: Duplex MELBOURNE 11A OC 5 86 & VICTORIA with 3-bars above/below	Messrs. Cohen Nelson & Co., 17 Queen Street; wholesale agents (not specified)	
South Australia E3: Void cds ADELAIDE S.A.	W. Knox Esq., 39 Queen St.; registered office of general manager for orders of Forshaw's Waterview Rum. 	
Victoria E15: Numeral 130 within 3-bars above below & 2-side arcs, 130 is Cranbourne, type 1B	Mr. D. Wilkie, 48 Queen Street; solicitor.	
Victoria E15: numeral duplex DUNOLLY FE 16 92 VICTORIA & 239 within 3-bars above/below, second type duplex	General Press Agency, 60-70 Queen Street where we bought a souvenir copy of a John Wesley print for 5/6, ready for framing.	
Victoria E15, PTPO, THE KYNETON GUARDIAN, numeral 57 with 3-bars above/below & 3-bars at sides; 57 = Kyneton; type A1 in use until late 1880s	Carl Pinschof Esq., 74 Queen St.; of the sewing machine company Pfaff, Pinschof & Co.	

Victoria E15: numeral duplex LILLYDALE 31 11 84 VICTORIA & 314 between 3-bars above/below, no side bars; type second duplex, shorter base to 4, no ball to 3	Messrs. Gordon & Gotch, 123 Queen Street, Melbourne. This and the wrapper below are the only ones out of a sample of 275 G&G wrappers bearing the actual street number. This is number 123. Eight years later the premises crossed the road.	
Victoria E15: numeral duplex COLERAINE JA 30 93 & 32 within 3-bars above/below, type 2.	The street number on this wrapper is 124 & 126 the relocated address; advertising and newsagents for London papers & at the time <i>The Argus</i> and <i>The Age</i> .	


Elizabeth Street





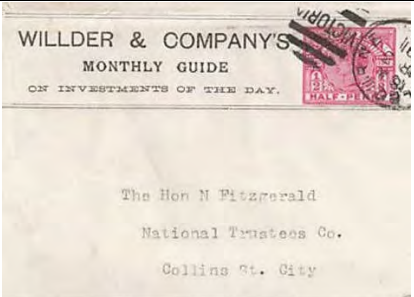



There are only a couple of stops in Elizabeth Street before we make our way back to Collins Street, Flinders Lane and Flinders Street, and that will be all we have time for today before we catch the train back home.

Victoria E17: numeral duplex framed LEONGATHA AU 19 94 & 1592 with 3-bars above/below	Mr. Kelburne Edge, 139 Elizabeth Street, Melbourne, mail room re-direction to A(dvertising) Dept.; sole Australasian agent for "Swift" cycles. 	
Victoria E25: numeral duplex SOUTH MELBOURNE VIC.? 19 03 (technically out of period for this walk) & numeral 148	Messrs. Fletcher Chester & Co., Elizabeth St.; Italian warehousemen, grocers, wine and spirit merchants. 	






Collins Street

These pesky street numbers, we are not too sure of how they run from west to east so some back-tracking might be necessary. However, we will start with the highest number and work down and hopefully that will take us to Flinders Lane and flinders Street and we can get back to the station from there.

<p>Victoria E15: duplex MELBOURNE 10A JA 26 93 & VICTORIA between 3-bars above/below.</p>	<p>Messrs. <i>Officer & Smith</i>, 454 Collins; Finance & Stock and Station Agents.</p>	
<p>Victoria E19: unframed numeral duplex CASTLEMAINE 7 DE 28 99 & 3 within 3-bars above/below; 5th duplex 7mm high figure in bars of equal thickness</p>	<p><i>Reuter's Telegram Co.</i>, 359 Collins Street; news services supplying the daily newspapers and especially private telegrams and cash remittances cabled at cheaper than bank rates.</p>	
<p>South Australia E3: void cds ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA</p>	<p><i>Adelaide Steamship Co.</i>, 130 Collins Street West, Melbourne. It was formed in September 1875 to control the transport of goods between Adelaide and Melbourne.</p>	
<p>South Australia E3: void cds ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA</p>	<p>Mr J. Donaldson, <i>Australian Widow's Fund</i> Buildings, (109) Collins Street; he was the Secretary of this Fund.</p> 	

<p>South Australia E3: void cds ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA, uprated ½d bantam</p>	<p>Clarke & Coy., Sharebrokers, Collins Street, Melbourne, Vic.</p>	
<p>South Australia E3: cds unreadable date ADELAIDE SOUTH AUSTRALIA</p>	<p>Mr. J. Gerwen, c/o Messrs. Gauz & Co., Collins Street West, Melbourne (no information from Google).</p>	
<p>Victoria E15: PTPO The <i>Spectator and Methodist Chronicle</i>; duplex MELBOURNE 8T AU 11 92 & VICTORIA between 3- bars above/below</p>	<p>Mr. E. Dillon, 82 Collins Street West; manager, <i>The Australian Freehold Banking Corporation Ltd.</i></p> 	
<p>Victoria E15: PTPO <i>Willder & Company's Monthly Guide on Investments of the Day</i>, duplex MELBOURNE MR 3 91 & VICTORIA between 3-bars above/below</p>	<p>The Hon. N. Fitzgerald, National Trustee Co., (333) Collins St.; Derbin Willder stock and share brokers, land, estate and financial agents.</p>	
<p>Victoria E16: Duplex MELBOURNE PA AP 28 91 & VICTORIA between 3- bars above/below</p>	<p>Robert C. Anderson Esq., <i>Indemnity Fire Insurance</i>, (50) Collins Street.</p>	
<p>Victoria E15: PTPO <i>The Austral Light</i> (Catholic magazine with high literary standard articles established in early 1890s); duplex MELBOURNE 10A JY 4 93 & VICTORIA within 3-bars above/below.</p>	<p>Stock Exchange, Collins St.</p> 	

Flinders Lane & Flinders Street

<p>Victoria E17: cds MELBOURNE 11A AU 18 98</p>	<p>Hon. Robert Reid, Flinders Lane; he was a minister in two Victorian Governments and merchant who later became a senator in Australia's national parliament.</p> 	
<p>Victoria: E4: numeral duplex RICHMOND X8 SE 27 94 & 71 within 3-bars above/below & 1-side bar; 4th duplex small thick figures, 7 has serif, issued about 1893.</p>	<p>Mr. W. Brettschneider, 312 crossed out, Flinders Street. He was a philatelist and stamp dealer and President of the Philatelic Society of Victoria in 1899-1900.</p> 	
<p>South Australia E3: numeral duplex SOUTH AUST JA? 1893 & SOUTH AUST between 3-bars above/below</p>	<p>Messrs. McMeekin Bros, 547 Flinders Street were produce and general commission merchants that arranged for supplies of butter and cheese, often overseas.</p>	

Homeward Bound

Tired and footsore it was time to have a quick beer at the iconic *Young & Jacksons* before catching the train back to Middle Brighton. The visits to other Melbourne businesses will have to wait until another day.



Young & Jacksons Hotel on the left corner looking down Swanston Street, circa 1900



The mainline passenger locomotives later classified as B class ran on the Victorian Railways between 1862 and 1917; this will take us to Middle Brighton

Discussion

Dr. Maurice Mishkel wrote 1,000 short papers about covers and stamps relating to the history of Australian personages and businesses and his efforts are safeguarded for posterity on the website auspostalhistory.com. Maurice first introduced me to the social aspects of philately in 2003 shortly after I first started hand-collecting daily images of post office postal stationery used wrappers from eBay. While it seems obvious to me now, Holloway was the subject of a search undertaken by Maurice and I to determine the real identity of "Professor" Holloway. It was a pseudonym for Holloway Pills and Ointments, the benefactor of who donated the building that is now Holloway University. The point of this digression is to argue that a social aspect can bring to life what might otherwise be an uninteresting presentation of wrappers.

A stronger point to make is that the use of illustrations discovered from searching the Internet can add greater interest and contextualize the wrappers and the addressee more meaningfully. Finding relevant images can require significant search aptitude. These images, however, copyright issues aside, are not owned by the collector and/or exhibitor, nor are they tangible. Essentially they are virtual reality and the question this raises is whether they have a rightful place in a collection but especially in an exhibit? This is not a trivial question. FIP rules state that auxiliary material can be used up to a certain percentage of the total exhibit if it is relevant. There is no explicit mention of images that comprise virtual reality. It is often more difficult to find relevant images than to find an illustrative collateral postcard. While postcards have been the most acceptable illustrative accompaniment it is ironic that there is no explicit insistence of postal use. Moreover, a postcard image downloaded from the Internet, printed onto card, and cut to the same size of the postcard is virtually indistinguishable from the real thing once mounted. FIP rules for auxiliary material were written without virtual reality images in mind. Is there a case to be made that Internet images can be used in an exhibit?

Reference and Acknowledgements

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Photos/images were copied with thanks from the State Library of Victoria's website: www.cv.vic.gov.au; nla.gov.au/nla.news-articles and www.auspostalhistory.com

Allan Gory read and commented on an earlier draft.

REGISTERED MAIL TO THE U.S. - A WARNING

By Robert Odenweller

In 2009, responding to pressure from the U.S. Congress to cut costs, the United States Postal Service changed the way it handled registered mail inbound from overseas. Without fanfare about the change, all registered mail arriving from foreign addresses was logged in at the exchange office, but then was put into the ordinary first-class mailstream without secure handling. On arrival at the office of destination, the postal clerk was supposed to create a registry receipt and to treat each registered item as if it had been secure all the way. The public saw this handling and remained unaware of the risk involved.

Not long after the change, an overseas expert committee contacted me, notifying me of the loss of almost a dozen registered letters that they had sent, and asked if I could find out anything about them. It didn't take long to find what had happened. I was able to make contact with a postal inspector who had been involved with the capture of a worker at the exchange office who had removed almost 100 registered letters daily, looking only for cash, and who destroyed all of the rest. Some unique philatelic items were apparent casualties.

One person said that the registry stickers were the equivalent of a neon sign saying "Steal Me!"

I published a warning in my editor's column of The Collectors Club Philatelist, with a number of foreign users taking note and responding with their own stories of losses. In following up on the problem, I contacted a collector who is probably the world's greatest specialist in the UPU, who has helped to explain why this action by the USPS violates the treaty. On one occasion I was able to speak with the U.S. Postmaster General and the Deputy PMG about it, and arranged to send information that they might use. Although that was sent, I received no response other than a positive acknowledgement of a "read request" of my email.

In January 2014, Canada Post suspended acceptance of registered mail to the United States. This is almost certainly in response to complaints about losses.

For the moment, the only secure way to send valuable items to U.S. addresses from overseas is courier service or express mail, which remains tracked within the U.S., as registered mail once was. Ongoing attempts are aimed at restoring registered mail service to its earlier state, but it is not an easy battle. Users in Canada do not have to worry; Canada Post will not accept registered mail, but the options remain much more expensive.

Ian Cutter's query, AJP 129 p 23.

The 1c stamp used on the postcard satisfied USA domestic postage from 1873 - 1917. Abroad was 2c, so that our card was 1c short. Shortage and an equivalent penalty were levied, so this became a 2c deficit to be collected from the recipient.

As the International postal headquarters, UPU, are in Bern, Switzerland, and their official language is French, all transactions are based on French centimes or Decimes (=10c). Thus each country has an exchange currency equivalent to a decime, so that the destination country may level postage due at the correct level.

T & 10 centimes was applied in New York and equated to US 2c. In the UK 10c = 1d, which was added probably at the port of disembarkation of the mail, maybe Liverpool here.

From this we may see that US 2c = GB 1d

<http://en.wikioedia.org/wiki/Universal Postal Union>



John Young

The Soviet occupation of Latvia began in June 1940, and Russian stamps replaced Latvian. An airmail letter from Latvia to USA in May 1941 was flown west, but transmission across North Africa or the Mediterranean encountered conflict zones. It was then taken east by BOAC to Singapore or KLM to Bangkok, and then by PAA across the Pacific to San Francisco. Transmission was slow: Latvia 19 May 1941, San Francisco backstamp 6 July 1941.

German occupation of Latvia was completed by early July.

To Be or Not To Be; a Cover Story with a Moral

Michael Barden

Jon Fladeby kindly sent me the Skanfil (Norway) website shortcut and their OAT listings recently. One postcard was of great interest as only four examples of the OAT type used had been recorded, and I did not possess one of them – yet. I do now !



The cover shown to the left merited checking out a bit further. It appeared to be a Heifetz type IV, which is common (over 200 examples known). However, it had 10c franking, which meant sea mail to UK. Then it had been upgraded to airmail to go from London to Sweden by virtue of the OAT cachet in red.

The date of the cds preceded the ERD for type IV by nearly a year, but was within the range for a type III. So establishing which Heifetz number was used was important.

The print of the scan was larger than true, so a phone call to Tim Morgan elicited the true width and height of the three stamps to give me a datum to establish the size of the OAT, hence its type.

Stamp sizes showed measurements needed to be factored by 0.8. Duly done, it confirmed my opinion that this was indeed a type IV not a type III OAT. Did I have an example here, which brought the ERD forward? Looking at the quality of the OAT cachet, it seemed to me to be a later rather than an earlier usage. It showed signs of solvent swell and degradation. Hardly a brand spanking new cachet! What about the date and where was Tupper Creek in BC? The date was clear enough to be unambiguous next to the 5c stamp. Notice the killer cancel on this stamp.

Tupper Creek is a hamlet in Glacier National Park, which is in the middle of nowhere west from Banff. It housed some German anti Nazi refugees during the war. My guess is that during WW2, Tupper Creek did not merit a new year slug for their cds, and so remained stuck on 1943 for 1944.

The letter seems to be genuine. Censored in Canada (DB = Canada) probably in Montreal, after which it was sealed. It then went by sea to UK, where it was sorted at London's Mount Pleasant Post Office and received the OAT cachet, being top or bottom of the bundle.

During the war Swedish flights went by night around the top of Norway and down to Stockholm over Sweden. De Havilland twin engined Mosquitos had largely wooden fuselages and hence were harder to spot on radar. There was a large ball bearing trade between Allied countries and neutral Sweden, thus the importance of these daily flights. Sweden made truly round balls, superior to any others.

Beware! My researches had shown up the date error not a new ERD. Skanfil still owns this cover. Hasten slowly and research thoroughly: then you will not have to repent at leisure.

Hand-Held Datestamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Information from Simon Alsop on the Delahey IGA post office came from a visit there in September and he noted that the datestamps had not changed from when it opened on 5th December 2011 and the Post Office reference now refers to it as Delahey which is a new suburb of Melbourne near Sydenham. The post Office was built over the ends of 3 checkout counters and as it has been deemed a success it will stay there and not be moved to another part of the shopping centre as it has now become a more substantial building. The original datestamp appears in edition 120.

As a matter of interest Australia Post lists 2 more IGA PO's IGA Horsley Park NSW near Eastern Creek and IGA Hervey Bay Airport in Queensland.

The datestamp from Archer Field Business Hub in Queensland has an unusual wording across the top namely AUSTRALIA POST REVENUE.

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

N.S.W.:- Earlier datestamps:- HAZELBROOK (94/29), HORNSBY WESTFIELD (99/25), KELSO (116/24), STANHOPE GARDENS (122/24).



N.S.W.:- (cont)-



QLD.:- Earlier datestamp—TULLY (111/82)



S.A.:- Earlier datestamp YANKALILLA (115/27)



S.A.:- (cont).



VIC.:- Earlier datestamps-ANAKIE (119/27), BALNARRING (103/31), BENALLA (rectangle) (107/27), BULLA (116/26)



VIC:- DANDENONG NORTH has VIC and code but too faint to copy. Earlier datestamps:-
COLBINABBIN (120/25)



VIC:- Earlier datestamps:-ECHUCA (2)(108/28), Gisborne (2)(118/28)



VIC.:- GPO private box Centre has no datestamp but has a canceller for registered mail . Earlier datestamps-JOHNSONVILLE (128/28), TRARALGON (125/28)



VIC:- (cont)-



W.A. -Have put in a couple of oldies from Perth



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- Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- Get involved in one of the Study Groups
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2 oz Commercial Letter with Heifetz type XV OAT cachet



Airmail from British Tangier to Long Island, NY

British Post Office / Tangier cds of 30 Jul 1946

Violet **North Atlantic Air Service** cachet type NAAS 5

Violet Heifetz type XV OAT cachet applied in Tangier (24 recorded so far)

Postage to USA	2/- ($1\frac{1}{2} > \text{wt} \leq 2 \text{ oz}$)
Airmail to USA	5/- ($1\frac{1}{2} > \text{wt} \leq 2 \text{ oz}$)
(Postage applied as combined postage/airmail rate of 1/9d per half oz)	

Probable route. OAT cachet applied in Tangier. Tangier to Gibraltar with TAE (Spanish). BOAC from Gibraltar to Lisbon. PanAm Clipper (FAM-18) to USA via Azores. Converted Liberator land planes were used from 1944.

Note. 1. The 2½d and 3d stamps were issued in GB on 11 Jun 1946 and would have appeared in Tangier soon thereafter.

2. OAT XV was in use between 16 July and 25 October 1946

3. A nice commercial cover of 4 x base rate is seldom seen.

4. Between 1937 and 1949 ordinary unsurcharged British stamps replaced surcharged ones to reduce cost.