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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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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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The Society collects personal information about a member in order to:

1. maintain a current membership list;
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

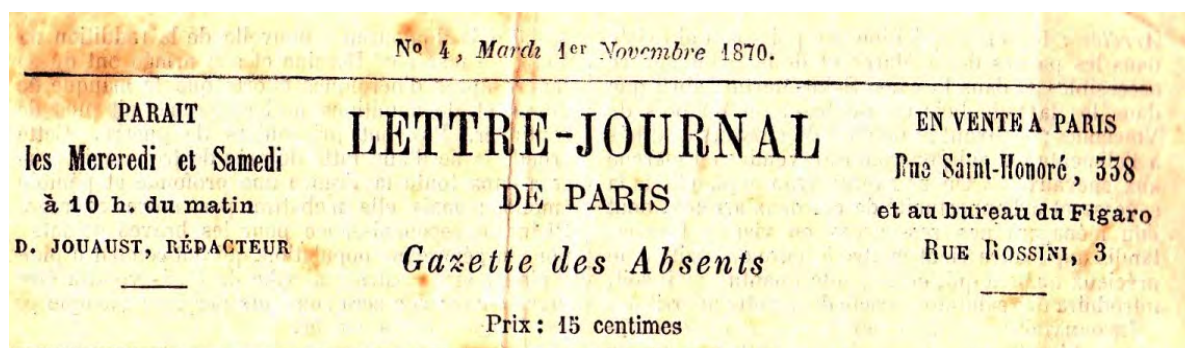
Four 1870 Ballon Monté Letters Surface

Michael Barden

Mary Legge wrote the following letter (in part) to the APS last September; "I have 3 letters dating from December 1870, which were sent by the first balloon flight in France to carry mail. They are on very flimsy paper and a bit battered. I found them in a box of 'stuff' belonging to my late Mother-in-law.

"Are they of any interest? Are they of any worth? It seems criminal to just throw them out."

I phoned Mary post haste to reassure her they were of interest and that I was eager to see them and maybe scan them for an article. We duly met, discovered they were four letters, three to one recipient, and I scanned them and also reassured her that they should definitely not be thrown out. More interesting was that two letters were written on newspaper sheets, themselves complete. I show the top of one below, part of the earliest letter:



First Metternich and then Bismarck were the driving forces to unite the northern German states into a federation (in 1871 it became Germany) with Prussia as the controller. See AJP 104 of June 2008 pp 4-12 for the history leading up to and story of this siege of Paris by the Prussians.

Three letters were addressed to Issoudun in Indre province, which is south of Paris in central France. They appear to be to be to the writer's children. They are trite in nature as nothing could be said, which might divulge conditions in or news from Paris. The fourth, written early December was sent to Dieppe, which is north of Paris on the Channel coast. Again it is written on the Lettre-Journal of 3 December, so bears the latest news. The letter is quite chirpy, but by 27 January, as Paris starved in the hard winter, an armistice was signed at Versailles, in which the French had to pay 5 billion gold francs in compensation to the besieging Prussians. Prussian troops entered Paris after the armistice, thus ending the six month siege.

A new treaty was signed in Frankfurt in May 1871, as a result of which, France ceded Alsace and Lorraine on the west bank of the Rhine to the new Federation of North German states, now Germany.

1870 Ballon Monté letters belonging to Mary Legge

date written	Paris cds	Paris date	Possible balloon	date flown	balloon destination	letter destination	receiving cds town	receiving cds date	Comments
4 Nov 1870	Paris / R. St Domque-St Gn 58	1600 4 Nov	La Ville de Chateaudun	6-Nov	Chartres	Issoudun, Indre	Issoudun / (35)	Nov	Journal 1 Nov
1 Dec 1870	Paris / Ministère de Finance	1700 1 Dec	Le Franklin	5-Dec	St-Aignan	Issoudun, Indre	Issoudun / (35)	8-Dec	
3 Dec 1870	Paris / R. St Domque-St Gn 58	0200 4 Dec	Le Franklin	5-Dec	St-Aignan	Dieppe, Seine-Inf			Journal 3 Dec
13 Dec 1870	PARIS / B. Taitegut	1300 19 Dec	<i>La Ville de Paris</i> La Parmentier	15-Dec 17-Dec	Wetzlar Gougoncourt	Issoudun, Indre Issoudun, Indre	Issoudun / (35)		All captured

La Ville de Paris (in italics) was not the balloon used obviously, but shown for information, as it was in the first balloon flown after 13 December. All the letters were correctly franked at 20c for delivery in France. I show the four address faces in chronological order below.



4 November letter to Issoudun



2 December letter to Dieppe



5 December letter to Issoudun



19 December letter to Issoudun

PARAIT
les Mercredi et Samedi
à 10 h. du matin.

LETTRE-JOURNAL DE PARIS

EN VENTE A PARIS
Rue Saint-Honoré, 538
et au bureau du Figaro
RUE ROSSINI, 3

D. JOUAUST, RÉDACTEUR.

Gazette des Absents

Prix : 15 centimes.

AVIS. En raison de l'importance des événements actuels, nous publierons le lundi et le mardi un supplément contenant les rapports militaires les plus récents, accompagnés, s'il y a lieu, de quelques nouvelles. Notre gazette se trouvera ainsi renouvelée deux fois de plus, et cette combinaison équivaldra à une périodicité de quatre numéros par semaine. — Le supplément sera mis en vente dans nos deux bureaux, à midi, au prix de 5 cent. Il pèsera au plus 1 gramme, et pourra être inséré dans la Lettre-Journal sans que le poids réglementaire soit dépassé. Il sera vendu même aux personnes qui n'achèteront pas notre lettre, et pourra ainsi être joint également aux nombreuses imitations, non autorisées, qu'en ont faites ceux qui ont cru pouvoir, en s'appropriant notre idée, tirer profit d'une invention qui ne leur appartenait pas.

MERCREDI, 30 novembre 1870. — RAPPORTS MILITAIRES : 29 novembre. Le Gouvernement de la défense nationale au peuple de Paris. Hier soir 28, les opérations projetées ont commencé dans la presqu'île de Gennevilliers. De nombreuses batteries de mortiers, de fusées et d'artillerie, établies à proximité des points d'Argenteuil et de Bezons, ont, par leur feu, ouvert à six heures du soir, jeté le trouble dans ces positions, que l'ennemi occupait fortement. L'incendie s'est développé sur plusieurs points. Le feu, commencé avec une grande intensité pendant une partie de la soirée, a repris à minuit. Nos troupes se sont logées dans l'île de Marante et au Pont-aux-Anglais, où elles ont établi des retranchements. Hier, au lever du jour, une forte reconnaissance a été faite sur les positions de Buzenval et sur les hauteurs de Boispréau. Du côté du sud, le général Vinoy, appuyé par une artillerie considérable, a fait un mouvement en avant contre l'Hay et la Gare-aux-Bœufs de Choisy-le-Roi. L'affaire a été vive. La garde nationale, la garde mobile et la troupe ont été engagées. Le but que se proposait le Gouverneur a été atteint. D'autre part, une dépêche du Gouverneur, reçue à l'instant (2 heures), fait connaître qu'il occupe solidement la position qu'il avait en vue, et que l'opération suit son cours. — 29 novembre, soir. Ce matin au point du jour, deux attaques ont été faites, sous les ordres du général Vinoy, sur la Gare-aux-Bœufs et sur l'Hay. La première, confiée au contre-amiral Pothuau, vigoureusement menée, a parfaitement réussi. La position a été enlevée, avant le jour, par des compagnies des 106^e et 116^e bataillons de la garde nationale et des fusiliers marins. L'ennemi surpris s'est retiré en désordre, laissant entre nos mains quelques prisonniers, dont un officier. Du côté de l'Hay, le colonel Valentin, commandant une brigade de la division de Maud'huy, a attaqué le village avec les 109^e et 110^e de ligne et les 2^e et 4^e bataillons de la garde nationale mobile du Finistère. La position a été abordée avec une grande résolution; nos troupes ont pénétré dans les premières lignes, qu'elles ont vaillamment conquises, et, d'après les instructions données au général Vinoy, en vue d'opérations ultérieures qui seront définies en leur temps, l'ordre a été donné de ne pas pousser l'attaque plus avant. C'est au moment où nos troupes se retiraient,

et où les réserves prussiennes arrivaient dans le village en quantité considérable, qu'un tir formidable d'artillerie, partant des Hautes-Bruyères et des batteries environnantes, a couvert et écrasé de feux l'Hay ainsi que les colonnes qui cherchaient à l'aborder. Au même moment les canonnières du capitaine de vaisseau Thomasset, en avant du Port-à-l'Anglais, des pièces de gros calibre montées sur wagons blindés, en station sur la voie du chemin de fer, les batteries environnant Vitry, celles du moulin Saquet, et enfin une partie de l'artillerie du fort de Charenton, dirigeaient leurs feux, avec la plus grande intensité, sur le terrain occupé par l'ennemi, et lui ont fait éprouver les plus grandes pertes. On n'a pas encore le chiffre exact de nos blessés : il doit s'élever à environ cinq cents hommes, parmi lesquels on signale le lieutenant-colonel Mimerel, du 110^e de ligne, atteint grièvement. Le chef de bataillon Cristiani de Ravaran, du 110^e, a été tué ; le chef de bataillon de Réals, commandant le 4^e bataillon du Finistère, blessé. Le général Vinoy insiste auprès du Gouverneur sur la bonne attitude de nos troupes dans cette affaire. Diverses opérations de guerre ont été conduites pendant la nuit dernière et la matinée d'aujourd'hui ; le Gouvernement en a donné une indication sommaire dans son Avis à la population ; il importe de ne pas en faire connaître le programme, car elles sont intimement liées à des mouvements qui sont en cours d'exécution. — 29 novembre, soir. Au nombre des bataillons de la garde nationale qui se sont distingués aujourd'hui, nous devons signaler les 106^e et 116^e, commandants Ibos et Langlois. Aidés de nos marins, ces deux bataillons ont pris possession de la Gare-aux-Bœufs de Choisy avec un entrain et une bravoure qui méritent les plus grands éloges.

ACTES OFFICIELS. — Décrets : interdisant aux journaux tout compte rendu d'opérations militaires et d'actes de guerre, sous peine de suspension ; — réquisitionnant les viandes de porc salé et denrées de charcuterie existant chez les charcutiers et marchands de comestibles.

Avis du Gouvernement. Le Gouvernement invite le public à se tenir en garde contre les bruits qui pourraient circuler. Les opérations militaires entreprises par le Gouverneur de Paris sont complexes ; elles comportent de feintes attaques et de feintes retraites. Il est donc impossible de rien préjuger en annonçant la prise ou l'évacuation de tel ou tel poste. Les indications de cette nature pourraient parvenir à l'ennemi et lui dévoiler nos desseins. Les mouvements préparatoires ont été accomplis par nos troupes avec un courage et un entrain qui remplissent leurs chefs d'espoir et de confiance.

Dépêche reçue de Tours, partie d'Orléans le 27, et annonçant que notre armée n'a encore été l'objet d'aucune attaque.

JEUDI, 1^{er} décembre. — RAPPORTS MILITAIRES : Mercredi, 30 novembre, 4 heures. Le Gouverneur de Paris est à la tête des troupes depuis avant-

hier. L'armée du général Ducrot passe la Marne depuis ce matin, sur des ponts de bateaux, dont l'établissement avait été retardé par une crue subite et imprévue de la rivière. L'action s'engage sur un vaste périmètre, soutenue par les forts et les batteries de position qui, depuis hier, écrasent l'ennemi de leur feu. Cette grande opération, engagée sur un immense développement, ne saurait sans danger être expliquée en ce moment avec plus de détails. — *Plateau entre Bry-sur-Marne et Champigny, 3 heures.* La droite a gardé les positions qu'elle avait brillamment conquises. La gauche, après avoir un peu fléchi, a tenu ferme, et l'ennemi, dont les pertes sont considérables, a été obligé de se replier en arrière des crêtes. La situation est bonne. L'artillerie, aux ordres du général Frébault, a magnifiquement combattu. Si l'on avait dit, il y a un mois, qu'une armée se formerait à Paris, capable de passer une rivière difficile en face de l'ennemi, de pousser devant elle l'armée prussienne retranchée sur des hauteurs, personne n'en aurait rien cru. Le général Ducrot a été admirable, et je ne puis trop l'honorer ici. La division Susbille, qui, en dehors et sur la droite de l'action générale, avait enlevé avec beaucoup d'entrain la position de Montmély, n'a pu y tenir devant des forces supérieures et s'est repliée sur Créteil; mais sa diversion a été fort utile. Je passe la nuit sur le lieu de l'action, qui continuera demain. — *Rosny, 7 h. 40 soir.* La fin de la journée a été bonne. Une division du général d'Exéa ayant passé la Marne, l'offensive a été reprise, et nous couchons sur les positions. L'ennemi nous a laissé deux canons, et a abandonné sur place ses blessés et ses morts. — *Saint-Denis, 8 h. 20 soir.* Le programme que vous m'avez tracé a été accompli en tous points. Ce matin, la brigade Lavoignet, à laquelle étaient adjoints les mobiles de l'Hérault et de Saône-et-Loire, soutenue par la division de cavalerie Bertin de Vaux, s'est avancée dans la plaine d'Aubervilliers, a occupé Drancy et a continué son opération jusqu'à Groslay. L'ennemi s'est concentré, avec une nombreuse artillerie, dans ses retranchements, en arrière de la Morée, et n'est pas sorti de ses positions. Dans l'après-midi, avec une vive canonnade des forts et de la batterie flottante n° 4, la brigade Henrion, sous un feu très-nourri d'artillerie, s'est emparée du village retranché d'Epinay. Le 135^e, deux compagnies de matelots fusiliers et les 1^{er}, 2^e et 10^e bataillons de mobiles de la Seine, ont enlevé le village avec un entrain remarquable. J'ignore encore le chiffre de nos pertes. Je le crois faible. Le commandant Saillard, du 1^{er} mobiles de la Seine, qui commandait une des colonnes d'attaque, a reçu trois blessures qui ne mettent pas sa vie en danger. Soixante-douze prisonniers, dont un aide-de-camp, des munitions et deux pièces nouveau modèle, sont restés entre nos mains. (*Rapport du vice-amiral commandant en chef à Saint-Denis au Gouverneur de Paris.*)

INFORMATIONS ET FAITS DIVERS. — *La Journée du 30 novembre.* Cette journée comptera dans notre histoire. Elle consacre, en relevant notre honneur militaire, le glorieux effort de la ville de Paris. Elle peut, si celle de demain lui ressemble, sauver Paris et la France. Notre jeune armée, formée en moins de deux mois, a montré ce que peuvent les soldats d'un pays libre. Cernée par un ennemi retranché derrière de formidables défenses, elle l'a abordé avec le sang-froid et l'intrépidité des plus vieilles troupes. Elle a combattu douze heures sous un feu meurtrier et conquis pied à pied les positions sur lesquelles elle

couché. Ses chefs ont été dignes de la commander et de la soutenir dans cette grande épreuve. — *Une Fausse Alerte.* Pendant la nuit les Prussiens ont passé en force le pont de Bezons, menaçant la plaine de Gennevilliers et Courbevoie; mais ils n'ont pas cru devoir continuer ce mouvement. On doit le regretter, car, s'ils avaient poursuivi leur tentative, ils auraient trouvé à qui parler. (Notes tirées de l'Offic.)

VENDREDI, 2 décembre. — RAPPORTS MILITAIRES :
1^{er} décembre. Nos troupes restent ce matin sur les positions qu'elles ont conquises hier et occupées cette nuit. Elles relèvent les blessés que l'ennemi a abandonnés sur le champ de bataille et ensevelissent ses morts. Le transport de nos blessés achève de s'effectuer dans le plus grand ordre. L'armée est pleine d'ardeur et de résolution. — **3 h. après-midi.** L'artillerie, placée sur le plateau d'Avron, ne cesse pas de couvrir l'ennemi de ses feux. Nos troupes, solidement établies dans leurs positions, n'ont pas été inquiétées. Elles sont prêtes à reprendre le combat au premier signal, et ne demandent qu'à marcher. L'enlèvement des blessés prussiens a pris une partie de la journée. D'un moment à l'autre la lutte peut recommencer. Les chefs de corps sont très-satisfaits de l'action d'hier et pleins de confiance. — Dix voitures, contenant 72 prisonniers faits hier à Epinay par la brigade Henrion, sont entrés ce soir à Paris à 6 heures 1/2. Un escadron de gendarmerie de la garnison de Saint-Denis accompagnait ces voitures. — *Rapport supplémentaire confirmant le précédent.* Un armistice de deux heures a eu lieu pour l'enlèvement des morts et des blessés. Le général Renault sera amputé de la jambe; on augure bien de l'opération.

Dépêche du 20 novembre, reçue d'Amiens, confirmant qu'Orléans n'a pas été attaqué par l'ennemi et annonçant un avantage de Menotti Garibaldi à Châtillon-sur-Seine. — Nouvelles de Tours, venues par le Mercure de Souabe, annonçant que le général de Werder ne continue pas sa marche sur Tours à cause de l'importance de l'armée de la Loire.

Appel du Gouvernement à la presse pour qu'elle se conforme scrupuleusement au nouveau décret, et ne publie, jusqu'à nouvel ordre, que des récits officiels.

Communication, par le Gouvernement, du Memorandum adressé par M. Thiers aux quatre grandes puissances. C'est une traduction de la version anglaise publiée par le Times. L'original, égaré ou saisi, n'est pas parvenu au Gouvernement. Ce document, où brillent une admirable franchise et le plus pur patriotisme, montre clairement à l'Europe sur qui doit retomber la responsabilité de la continuation de la guerre.

DÉPARTS DES BALLONS-POSTE : 30 novembre, 11 h. 1/2 du soir, le *Jules-Favre*, emportant des dépêches et des pigeons; 1^{er} décembre, 4 h. du matin, la *Bataille de Paris*, emportant les rapports détaillés des événements des 29 et 30 novembre.

BOURSE. Dernier cours. 29 novembre : 3 p. 100, 53.85; emprunt, 55. — 30 novembre : 3 p. 100, 53.65; emprunt, 54.80. — 1^{er} décembre : 3 p. 100, 53.70; emprunt, 54.90.

D. JOUAUST.

Imprimerie rue Saint-Honoré, 338.

The Prussians had modern breech loading guns, whereas the French still used the old muzzle loaders. This alone gave the Prussians much greater fire power and contributed to one disaster after another for the French.

From the newsletter above, considerable information arrived in Paris from outside. As pigeons were shipped out in the balloons, it would appear they brought in most of the news from outside Paris. It was certainly very difficult to get letters out of Paris. Sealed cylinders containing letters floating down the Seine were a dismal failure. They sank or were intercepted. Only the manned Montgolfier hot air balloons made the crossing of the enemy lines, and even a few of them were captured.

The balloon pilots were at the mercy of the elements for direction, wind velocity and its changeability. All they could do was stoke the fire until they judged they were well clear of the enemy occupied areas and then hope to land safely. High winds made for hazardous landings. As they flew out of Paris when dark (11.30 pm and 4 am in letter above, back page foot of col 2 arrowed), the initial night flights could take them anywhere before dawn and some ability to reckon where they were. Further the pilots only made one trip. There was no return for them. The authorities did not have met reports; they had to guess what was going to happen, more so in isolation. That so many balloons got through is a remarkable result of the pilots' skills. While Montgolfier balloons were fairly common in France at this time, it must be remembered that all balloons were made in Paris and pilots were Parisians. The city was isolated.

Thanks to Mary Legge for her initiative in contacting the APS and then coming to Kew to meet me. How many letters are written on the news sheets, I do not know. They do give an insight into the news from a besieged city, but they do not say a word about the suffering undergone by most citizens as winter progressed. Censorship!

Planning the Route

Ian Cutter

I was talking with fellow PHS member Simon Alsop about how he plans visits to Post Offices when he is collecting impressions of their datestamps.

He drew my attention to the Australia Post website "auspost.com.au", where clicking on the link "Locations & hours" gives access to a page where you can enter the name of a locality (or select from an alphabetical list for each State). You can then view a map showing the location of the Post Office. If there is no Post Office, you are given a list of the closest facilities and how far away they are. Even when there is a Post Office at the place in question, you are still shown details of the neighbouring offices and agencies.

The benefit when collecting datestamps in person is so obvious that it needs no explanation.

Also, it was interesting to see the large number of CPAs in remote areas, such as the islands in Torres Strait. That would seem to be an interesting field for research.

There are a couple of things to watch out for.

The distances to adjacent post-offices appear not to be by the connecting road network, but directly as the crow flies. This probably doesn't matter in the suburbs (unless you are on foot) but it might be important in rural areas.

In addition, there may be gaps in the information displayed. Urandangie, is not on the alphabetical listing, and typing in that name revealed that no information was available. However, entering Dajarra and shrinking the scale of the map to show a wide area around that place caused Urandangie CPA to appear. This suggests that you should not take the first response as necessarily the only one.

A Tale of Three Hungarian Covers 1941 – 1946

Judy Kennett

Introduction

The date of the first commercial airmail cover from Hungary to Australia isn't known, and the item may still be lurking in a collection somewhere, waiting to be brought to light. The earliest example that I have was posted at Budapest Airport on 17 August 1935 and reached Melbourne on 8 September 1935. It's a cover from the H B Smith archive (see article on this archive by Michael Barden in AJP No 125, September 2013).

Early airmail letters were chiefly sent by businesses (they could afford the comparatively high surcharges on airmail). The flow of private commercial airmail letters between Hungary and Australia increased through the late 1930s as more Hungarians migrated to Australia. Australia was far from home, but also far from the disturbing political events taking place in surrounding European countries.

Latest recorded example of airmail

There was a pause in airmail traffic to Australia from Hungary after 10 June 1940, when Italy entered the war, and air routes across the Mediterranean were cut. Replacement services for KLM (from Jeddah, Palestine) and BOAC (the Horseshoe Route) were organised, and letters from Hungary began to arrive again in October – November 1940.

However, the German invasion of the Balkans in April 1941 and the fall of Athens on 25 April 1941 signalled the end of regular airmail services between Hungary and Australia. The cover shown as Figure 1, posted in Budapest on 6 May 1941, is the latest I have recorded, for both air and surface mail.



Figure 1 Airmail letter to Sydney, posted at Budapest 62 on 6 May 1941, and franked 1P80 for an airmail letter weighing ≤ 5 gr.

No arrival date stamp. Endorsed (ms) Hungarian, it is part of a large family correspondence.

Censored in Sydney with tape tied by the censor's stamp.

Australia was not at war with Hungary at this stage, and on the surface, it would seem that there was no reason why the Hungarian Post Office would not accept mail for Australia. This situation ceased when Great Britain declared war on Hungary on 7 December 1941.

The latter part of the war

Hungary came under increasing Nazi pressure, which culminated in the German takeover on 19 March 1944. The Germans began to strip the country of useful assets, and to deport its Jewish population and other dissidents to death camps. The Red Army crossed the eastern border on 23 September 1944. Fighting raged across the country as the Germans were pushed west; Hungary was not fully liberated until 4 April 1945. Its gold reserves were taken to Austria by the retreating Germans, and the country and its infrastructure were left shattered by the conflict.

The aftermath

The Soviet occupation was severe; heavy reparations were demanded, there were shortages of food and materials, factories were looted, and the country was brought to an economic collapse by the spring of 1946. The Post Office service had to cope with rapid changes in postage rates. There was runaway inflation of the currency. Finally, in June 1946 the US authorities in Austria agreed to return the gold reserves, and a reduction in reparations was agreed with the occupying Soviet command. A new currency (FORINT/filler) was introduced on 1 August 1946, and new postage rates were promulgated.

Resumption of mail services to other countries

Surface mail began to move out of the country after liberation, for example, services to Austria started about 16 January 1946, and services to Switzerland on 1 May 1946. The resumption of air passenger and mail services was held up by the whim of the Soviet High Command in Budapest. In early 1946 both KLM (in February) and Pan Am (in June) sought approval to extend their European routes to Budapest; these requests were denied, so KLM terminated its service in Prague and Pan Am terminated its in Vienna. Beginning 15 May 1946 Hungarian airmail letters only could be sent by these routes. Mail was carried overland from Budapest to Prague, or to Vienna, and flown from there.

The Hyperinflation airmail system

This was a very strictly regulated and controlled system. A very good short description comes from Bob Morgan's book *The Hungarian Hyperinflation of 1945-1946*, 'in Hungary only one Post Office, Budapest No 72, was allowed to accept air mail for transmittal. The fee had to be paid in cash and always at the daily rate of the (Swiss) Gold Franc. The Gold Franc was to be converted to the Pengo currency at the official daily rate posted by the Hungarian National Bank' (Ref 1). Only letter mail was allowed. In addition, only a restricted number of letters was accepted each day. If that number was reached, the post office was required to stop accepting that day and resume accepting air mail the next day. Bob Morgan has estimated that under those conditions only between 10 and 30 letters would have been accepted each day.

To the end of 2014, only 67 hyperinflation covers from May 1946 have been recorded (some of these have been sighted on eBay) with five to Australia (including the example at Figure 2) and one to New Zealand. The envelope in Figure 2 is presently with Rex Dixon, a collector in UK. He very kindly sent me a scan and the necessary information to produce a write-up.

Hyperinflation airmail covers

Most hyperinflation covers, like the example at Figure 2, are unattractive objects. They are usually made of flimsy, dark coloured paper, often tattered because the paper was very light to save on postage charges. They are usually stampless; at present only one hyperinflation airmail cover with stamps has been recorded. They usually have certain features in common: the weight, expressed in grams, in manuscript, a black airmail postmark of Budapest 72, a red circular handstamp with date indicating that the postage has been paid in cash, a boxed 'Taxe percue' ('Postage paid' in French, the official language of the UPU), and the amount of postage to be paid, also in manuscript, often abbreviated (as here) and often almost unreadable.

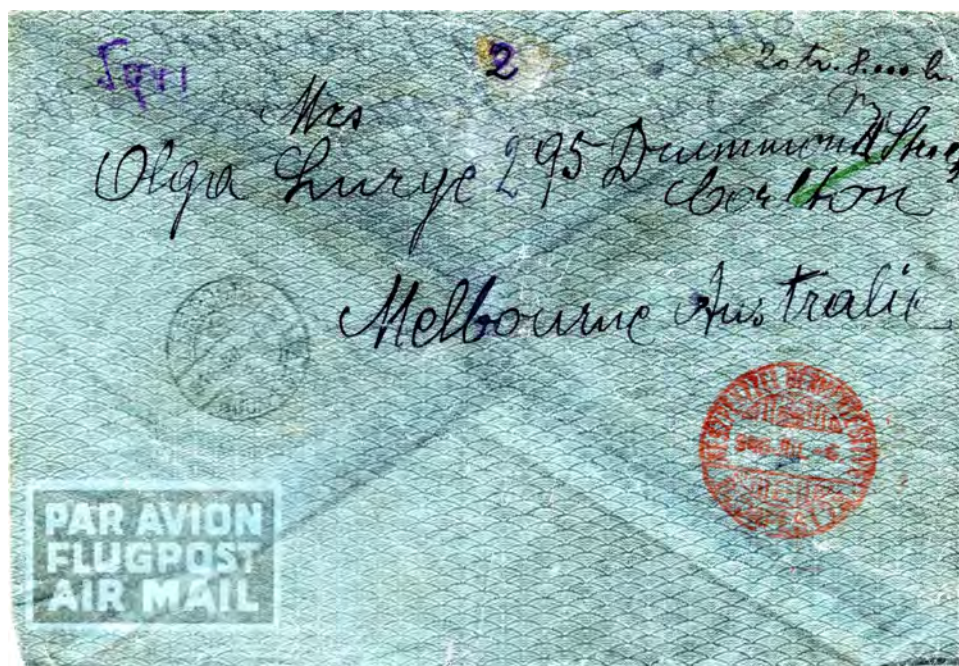


Figure 2

Airmail envelope to Melbourne posted at Budapest 72 on 6 July 1946. No arrival date.

Commercial airmail envelope with imprinted 'Par avion / Flugpost / Airmail'.

Bears manuscript '5 gr' (weight in grams), the air fee '2' in gold francs converted to pengo currency at the daily rate: 20 trillion.

In manuscript, total 20 trillion (air fee) plus 8000 billion per 20 grams (postage), making a total of 20 tr 8000 bi, with initials. Also bears: poor black impression of 'LEGI POSTA / BUDAPEST 72 / 946JUL 6' and red impression of cancel 'Paid in cash / Budapest 72 / 946 JUL -6'

Airmail covers after 1 August 1946

Victor Berez, in his book *The Pioneer Period in Hungarian Airmail*, states that 'the temporary international arrangements continued until the peace treaty, which wasn't finalized until February 1947. The Soviet Union was adamant that no air traffic could come to Hungary before [that]' (Ref 2). In August 1946, the still rare airmail looked very similar, but payment was in the new currency, the Forint. Beginning in September new stamps came into use.



Figure 3

Airmail envelope to Melbourne posted at Budapest 4 on 4 October 1946. No arrival date. Inflation period now over, but traces remain of earlier treatment of airmail letters. '6 gr' weight in grams in manuscript, '7.20' the amount of postage in manuscript [7 Forint 20], 'Taxe percue' (postage paid) in manuscript, and red impression of 'Paid in cash / Budapest 4 / 946 OKT -4'

Figure 3 above shows a cover posted on 4 October 1946, still in the early days of the new order. Bob Morgan observed 'I have noted that for a short time after July 31, 1946 the airmail pieces were handled almost the same way as during the hyperinflation.' (Ref 3) The notes in the write-up indicate

the features still appearing on envelopes being sent by airmail. The amount of postage is still indicated in manuscript, but here it's in the new currency.

This is the only example that I have for airmail from Hungary to Australia in the latter part of 1946; I did have a couple of airmail covers from 1947 using the new stamps, which I have sold. I have three surface hyperinflation mail covers to Australia (all sent to Sydney), and two of them are continuations of family correspondences. But that's where it all stops, because most of the post-war philately of Hungary does not hold any interest for me.

Acknowledgements

Without the two books cited in the references, it would not have been possible to put this article together. My thanks go to Bob Morgan and to Victor Berecz (both Hungarian born but resident for many years in USA) for publishing their books, and in the English language. Bob has been a source of advice and encouragement for many years in the hunt for information about Hungarian airmails to Australia. It was he who first encouraged me to concentrate on 'distance' airmails.

The search for a hyperinflation air mail cover addressed to Australia to use as an illustration directed me to Rex Dixon to whom I send sincere thanks. The cover in Figure 2 is currently in his collection. He very kindly sent me the information needed to produce the write-up and offered to 'look at' the result. Formerly it was in the collection of the late John Whiteside of the UK, who was an important collector of material relating to various European inflations. John sent the envelope in Figure 3 to me in 1990, because it did not fit into his Hyperinflation collection.

My thanks also to Michael Barden, who has once again taken my text and the illustrations, and made them into an article which I trust will give readers some idea of the fallout from World War 2 on Hungary, and explain a little about their 'great inflation'.

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1. Morgan, Robert B (Bob), *The Hungarian hyperinflation of 1945 – 1946: the postage rates and postal history of history's most impressive inflation*, Collectors Club of Chicago, 2003, page 99.
2. Berecz, Victor G Jr, *The pioneer period of Hungarian airmail*, The American Airmail Society, 1996, Section 6 pages 15 and 16.
3. Morgan, Bob, email communication dated 22 December 2014.

Cover sent from Tonga during 1943. The sender Bombardier William Archibald Batchelor was part of 16 Brigade Group which was formed to provide defence for Tonga after 34 Battalion left Tonga to return to New Caledonia. The replacement battalion was 6 Battalion Canterbury Regiment commanded by Lieut-Colonel F. M. Mitchell.

The artillery consisted of one heavy and one light anti-aircraft battery and two field batteries of 18 pounders. Along with this vast artillery contingent there were six 6 inch naval guns left by the Americans for coastal defence.



Batchelor was part of the gun crew with Heavy Anti-aircraft. This would suggest that covers of this source are quite rare.

The triangular censor cancel is number 103 and the censor was 2 Lieut Phillip Hamilton Jordan of Hvy A/A.

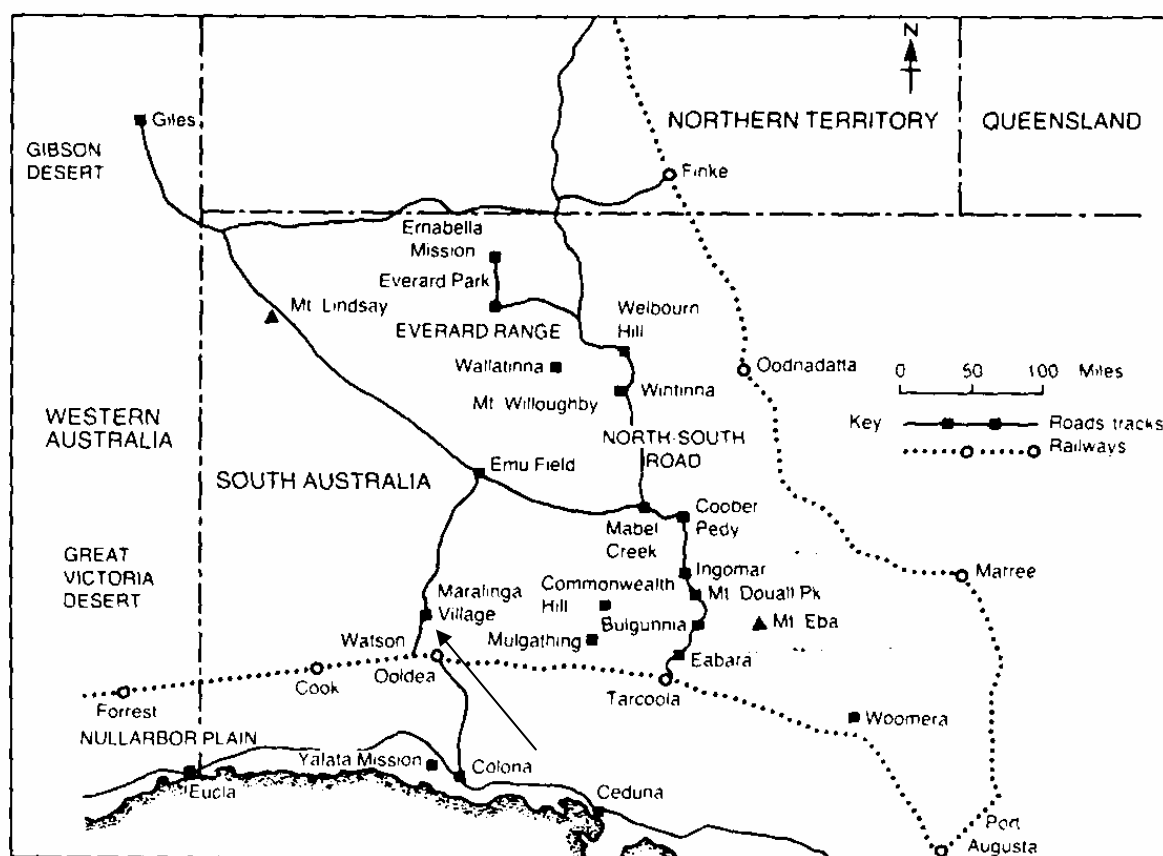
Living Under a Cloud

George Speirs

Considering the large number of military personnel involved in the atomic and weapons tests in Central Australia, very little mail is seen bearing a Maralinga postmark. Indeed, very little material is seen for the entire test period of 1956 – 1963.

Maralinga is an Aboriginal word meaning Field of Fire. The exiled traditional owners of the land are the Maralinga -Tjarutja people.

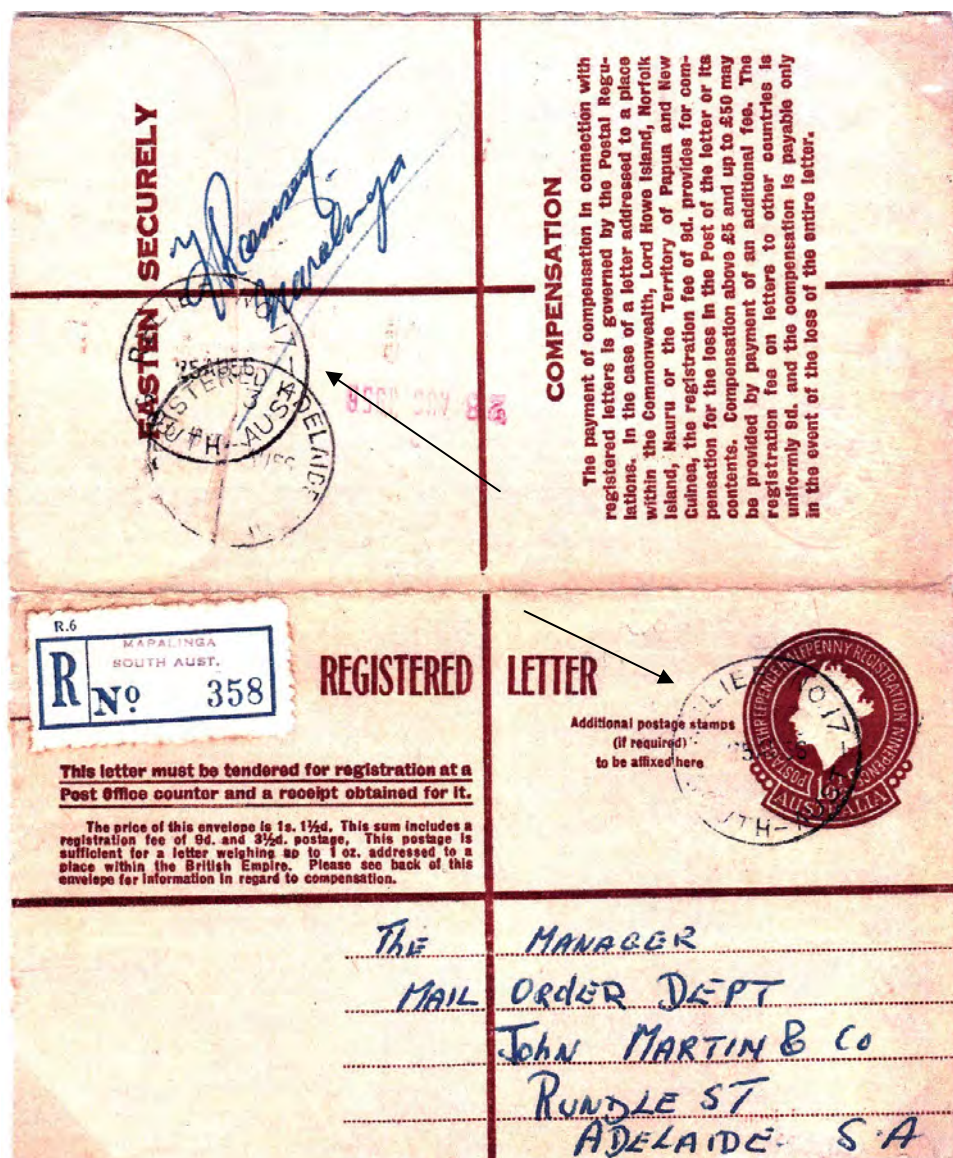
The post office opened for business on 23 July 1956, and closed permanently on 19 December 1967. The post office served personnel, who were in the area in connection with the tests. Mail was exchanged four times weekly with Adelaide and Port Augusta, and three times weekly with Perth. These arrangements were carried out by the Department of the Army. Mails were ferried to and from Watson siding (see map below). Beginning 17 September 1962 mail was carried thrice weekly by charter aircraft. At the time of closing, the postmaster was Mr. G.R. M^cAuliffe.



Emu – Maralinga area

All three services were involved one way or another in the programme.

Maralinga was established in 1955 – 1956 at a cost of £10,000,000. Following the Test Ban Treaty of 1963, Australia was asked to keep the range on a care and maintenance basis, but by 1965 the British government decided it no longer needed the facility, and termination agreements were signed on 23 September 1967.



Maralinga - Relief
N^o. 17, South
Australia 25 / Au /
56 cds (struck
twice, see arrows)
on a commercial
registered letter
(1/0 ½d) with
provisional label,
addressed to a
large Adelaide store.
Sender was T.
Ramsay

In the top left of
the envelope,
there appears to
be a John Martin
& Co violet
receiving date of
28 August
(upside down).

Postage 3½d and
registration 9d
shown on the
envelope.



Naval cover
postmarked Maralinga
/ South Australia on 21
NO 59 cds with Naval
Service cachet to
denote entitlement of
Australian Defence
Forces surface mail
concession rate of 1d.

No sender
identification, but
thought to be from a
member of the RAN by
the use of Australian
stamps

References

1. Australia – A nuclear weapons testing ground, Michael Dobbs, 1993
2. A very special relationship. HMSO book, Lorna Arnold, 1987
3. Thanks to Australia Post for opening and closing dates of Maralinga

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

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL john.courtis@bigpond.com

Some people ridicule a study of history as an irrelevant waste of time. However, it is through an awareness of what has happened in the past that we can better understand and explain the present and make more informed predictions. Current circumstances did not arise overnight, but evolved over time, shaped by individuals and events. With regard to early colonial history, a partial reconstruction of economic and social history can be accomplished through an extended analysis of philatelic covers. While the orientation of postal history is on the rates and routes of covers, the underlying stories behind the covers are developed by social or special studies philately. The purpose of this paper is to examine one type of cover, namely, some early examples of private or hand-made wrappers of Victoria. These early colonial wrappers often divulge their contents which in turn gives rise to their social context. Illustrations portray our past and identify aspects of early colonial institutions that helped evolve the thinking and development of contemporary life. These early non-post office wrappers are unique vis-à-vis envelopes used for a letter.

There is little published material about early private colonial wrappers. From the images of early colonial private wrappers listed for sale on eBay (and elsewhere) it is possible to undertake research and so glean insights about social, religious, economic, commercial and other aspects of Victoria's early development. These private wrappers give some inkling into the breadth of the different type of newspapers and other printed matter that contributed to the improvement of literacy and the spread of knowledge. They also illustrate aspects of history with imagery that brings the past to life. Some of these early colonial private wrappers identified in this research may be the only recorded extant copies.

The six examples of early non-post office wrappers of Victoria discussed below were taken from the author's database of images hand-collected daily from eBay since December 2009. Of the approximately 4,000 different worldwide images, 11 relate to Victoria of which five are varieties of O.H.M.S. wrappers. They are presented below in the chronological order of their mailing.

The Australian News

Newspapers in a new colony were a significant element in the emerging society and economy of the time. They carried important advertisements that enabled the immigrants to find lodgings and buy equipment, they printed information about the mails and they published news from home and abroad, provided opportunities for new firms to advertise and helped settlers to keep in touch with important events and current opinion overseas. Beyond the words, readers were attracted to illustrations which became an increasingly important feature (Stuart 2008).

It was against the ongoing strength of gold and the development of land selection in the early 1860s that all three of Melbourne's daily newspapers launched illustrated newspapers, two of them appearing in the 1861-2 period and the third a decade later.

The first was the *Australian News for Home Readers* (the title having changed in 1867 to *Illustrated Australian News for Home Readers*) launched with the financial backing of the *Age* in about March 1861 as a fortnightly paper, with every alternate issue being printed to co-ordinate with the departure of the Royal Mail steamer on the 25th of each month. It was priced at 6d and published by the Melbourne office of David Syme's *Age*. Under the illustrated masthead there is the printed wording "*Published Expressly for Transmission by R.M.S. Avoca*". In August 1863 the paper changed to a monthly issue and this continued until it closed in 1896. Presumably later issues may have referred to a different ship on the England run. Over its life it carried an average of ten images per issue. The title itself is an interesting pun, since 'Home Readers' can be interpreted as referring both to readers back 'Home' in England, and to readers residing at home in Victoria (Dowling 2011). The confidence of the Syme organization in creating a special publication with news of the colony gives us some indications of the prominence of post-gold rush Melbourne in international affairs at the time. Very rapid expansion in both public and private sectors, funded by a steady supply of gold, underpinned the emergence of "Marvellous Melbourne", acknowledged as one of the world's leading cities by the 1880s.

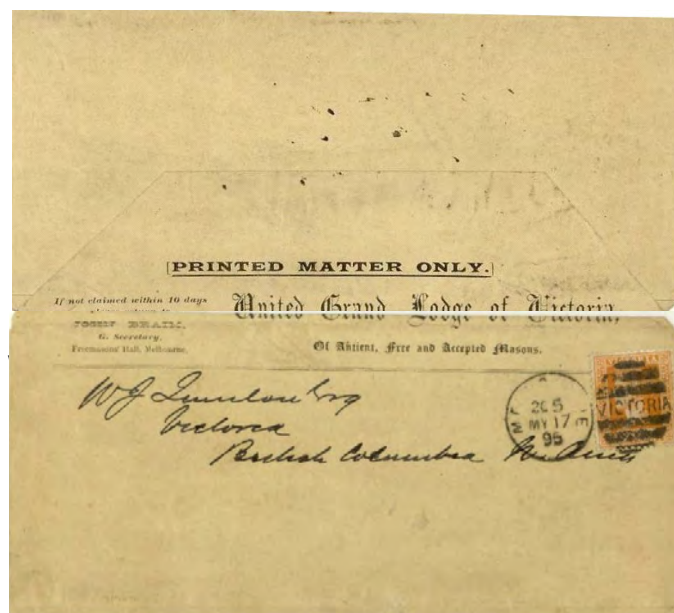
The newspaper was also its own wrapper, folded lengthways in four, with addressee details above the masthead and franking beneath. The manuscript inscription reads (*Newspaper only*) and the readable address is 'Near Warminster, Wiltshire, England'.



It is franked with an 1863 1d green Queen Victoria, which was the newspaper rate to the UK between September 1866 and January 1870. The rate was 1d for the long sea route via Southampton. This franked newspaper was typical of the posting of early newspapers. Although no open-ended wrapper was used the contents are self-evident. Victoria post office wrappers were not available until 1869.

United Grand Lodge of Victoria

The United Grand Lodge of Victoria of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons was a quarterly publication from The Lodge, Melbourne. Freemasons were amongst the first free settlers in Victoria. Freemasonry is a worldwide organisation that promotes to its members elements of ethics, morality, philosophy, personal development and community service. Its male-only membership extends across race, religion and nationality. Although it existed earlier, Freemasonry was formalised in London in 1717 under an international controlling body or Grand Lodge, and then spread throughout the world. The first lodge in Melbourne was formed in 1840. Initially Lodges worked under the separate constitutions of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland, but in 1889 the *United Grand Lodge of Victoria* brought the Lodges together and controlled 140 lodges and 6500 members. The United Grand Lodge of Victoria is the governing body of Freemasonry in this State. Its leader is the elected Grand Master, and its governing committee is the Board of General Purposes (www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs).



This wrapper conforms to U.P.U. regulations being open-ended for inspection of contents. The terse addressee details are testimony to the ability of postal clerks to identify the named individual and effect delivery: W. J. Innchlose Esq., Victoria, British Columbia, North America. Given the local focus of each Freemason's branch it is surprising to see a copy of the Melbourne lodge being sent from Victoria, Australia to Victoria, Canada. The duplex cancel MELBOURNE MY 17 95 and VICTORIA between 3-bars above/below is struck on an 1890 1d orange brown QV (Sc169).

Bible Echo

In 1884 the newly organised Seventh-day Adventist church in the USA decided to send a group of pioneer missionaries to Australia. The North Fitzroy Church, originally known as the Melbourne Church, was organised on 10th January 1886. It was the first Seventh-day Adventist church organised in Australia and the first in the Southern Hemisphere. The missionary group had brought a small printing machine with them to produce the necessary publications, tracts and papers for circulation. Publishing became their work and the basis of their growth. The printing of a regular paper, "*The Bible Echo and Signs of the Times*" commenced in January 1886 in rented premises at the corner of Rae and Scotchmere Streets North Fitzroy. A Wharfdale Cylinder Press was purchased and used by the *Bible Echo* Publishing Co. In 1889 the need for magazines and the monthly paper was so great that *The Bible Echo* was changed to a fortnightly paper and in 1894 it became a weekly production. In 1903 the name of the publication was changed from *Bible Echo and Signs of the Times* to "Australasian Signs of the Times" (northfitzroy-adventist-org-au.adventistconnect.org/history-of-the-north).

The Bible Echo was registered as a newspaper circa 1894, the address at the time being 14 & 16 Best Street, North Fitzroy. An 1886 ½d rose QV (Sc160) was cancelled with an unframed numeral duplex FITZROY NORTH AU 10 (year illegible) VIC and 828 between 3-bars above/below (Freeman & White 2001). The wrapper is addressed to Whitton, New South Wales. The date printed on the address label is blurred but appears to be May 24 98. The newspaper rate to other Australasian colonies was ½d per 10 ounces from 1 January 1898 for ordinary postings.



The Weekly Stock Report

The [Colac] *Weekly Stock Report* was a pastoral report, e.g., of wool prices. This information would be central to management decisions on major pastoral properties, one of the major export activities of its day.



Local papers would carry quotes from this source, as can be seen in the *Camperdown Chronicle* about sales of fat cattle, sheep, poultry and pigs. Additional information is available about the addressee. The Mount Hesse Estate in Victoria was established as a pastoral property in the late 1830s by John Highett and his cousin William Harding. Mr. J. C. Kinninmonth, D.S.O. was the well-known controller of the Mt. Hesse Estate. He established himself at Mt. Hesse in 1882 where he laid the foundations of the well-known Mt. Hesse fine Merino stud and flock which has been continued by his son to the present day.

The stamp is the 1886 ½d rose (Sc160). It is postmarked with numeral 31 within 3-bars above/below and 2-side arcs which is COLAC type A2 1883 (Freeman & White 2001).

Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited

A Half-Yearly Report from *The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited* was mailed to a shareholder at Butte, Montana, USA and readdressed in indelible pencil to Seattle, Washington. The 3d packet rate for commercial papers to the USA was paid with an 1890 1d orange brown QV (Sc169) plus an 1886 2d violet QV (Sc162). It is cancelled with a pair of MELBOURNE MY 26 98 circular postmarks.

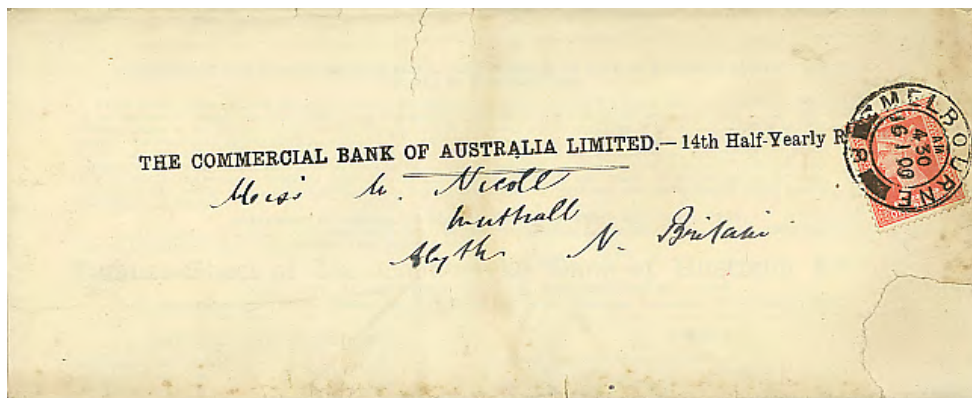
The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited was incorporated in Victoria in 1885. Charles Rasp, a boundary rider on the Mt Gipps sheep station, believed he had discovered black oxide of tin on the 'broken hill' in the Barrier Ranges in western New South Wales, Australia. Broken Hill Mining Company (private company) was established by a syndicate of seven from the Mt Gipps sheep station. The company was dissolved on incorporation of *The Broken Hill Proprietary Company Limited* ('BHP') in 1885. BHP then developed and mined silver, lead and zinc deposits at Broken Hill in New South Wales, Australia, drawing upon experience and technical advice from miners working the west of the US at the time.



The delivery of this report to the US suggests there was US investment in the then fledgling company. Smelting commenced at Port Pirie, South Australia. In 1891 the first export market transaction occurs, with lead sold to Fuzhou, China. In 1899 leases were obtained over Iron Knob and Iron Baron iron ore deposits in South Australia. Operations commenced at Iron Knob in 1900. It is here we leave the story to coincide with the 1898 date on the wrapper. Over a century later, in 2001, BHP reached an agreement with Billiton Plc to merge (*BHP Chronology*, www.bhpbilliton.com).

Commercial Bank of Australia

The Commercial Bank of Australia Limited issued its 14th half-Yearly Report 1899 and sent the report to Miss Nicole Muthall, Alyth, North Britain (Scotland), providing another insight on the scale of overseas investment in Australian business from the earliest times.



The wrapper is postmarked with a double circle MELBOURNE AM 4.30 16 1 00 over an 1899 1d bright rose QV (Sc181). The packet rate for commercial papers to the UK was 1d up to one ounce.

On 1 October 1866 the *Commercial Bank of Australia Limited* commenced business in the spacious building at No. 30 Collins Street. It was renumbered 337 in 1889, and this address remained the site of the Bank's principal office in the heart of Melbourne's financial district during its whole 116 year existence, except for the period of rebuilding during the 1890s. The construction of such a grand Banking Chamber represents the early success of the Commercial Bank of Australia due to the land boom. By 1888 the peak year of the growth of the metropolitan aspirations of the 'Marvellous Melbourne', the bank had become the largest in terms of deposits in the colony of Victoria. The Commercial Bank of Australia, for all its affluence during the Boom period, suffered tremendously in the disastrous crash of the 1890s.

Conclusion

Reconstituting colonial history bit-by-bit through an analysis of early non-post office wrappers is an intriguing exercise in sleuthing. Without recourse to the Internet and especially the power of a search engine such as Google, it would be extremely difficult to undertake some of the necessary research. As it is, some wrappers require a good deal of ingenuity and patience to investigate such as *The Weekly Stock Report*. Had it not been for the addressee and postmark details an examination of this wrapper would have revealed results close to zero.

The Internet was not used for research at a time when the original F.I.P. guidelines for exhibiting were formulated. Stating the point another way, if F.I.P. rules were being formulated today from scratch, would the rules be structured in the same way as they currently appear? Philatelists who are undaunted by the computer and the Internet can now access factoids about subjects that previously were either considered to be unsearchable or were so scattered as to be not cost effective regarding the investigative time required. Take, for example, a cover addressed to the manager of a mine in South West Africa before World War I. Write-up about the rate and route was more-or-less the basic focus. Now though, with a bit of sleuthing and by inserting different keywords into Google, items of information can be assembled about the history and exact location of the mine, the nature of what was mined, directors of the company, financial reports and dividends, key management personnel, difficulties in rail shipping, mine disasters, and so forth. In addition, photographs, maps, museum pieces, stock certificates, personnel and company logos are but some of the images that can be found. When packaged into a story the social component of covers can often add information not previously contextualized within philately. Are F.I.P. rules sympathetic to the inclusion of this non-owned non-philatelic Internet image material to be used in exhibiting? Not all information is shown on postcards.

What type of philatelists benefit from research of this nature? Postal historians and country collectors can examine early wrappers as examples of concessionary postal rate usage within and between colonies and for British Empire and foreign country destinations. Purist postal stationery collectors would be unlikely to consider early private wrappers as especially relevant unless they wished to compare a post office wrapper bearing private printing with its non-post office wrapper counterpart. Social or special studies philatelists, however, are most likely to favour early colonial private wrappers for their clues underlying the sender, addressee and destination. Thematic collectors might find a rich trove of wrappers in the development of a story. Non-post office wrappers with some religious or institutional connection, for example, could add an authentic anecdotal touch.

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Acknowledgements

I offer my sincere thanks to Professor Kevin O'Connor for his thoughts about early Colonial history and to Allan Gory for his editorial prowess regarding an earlier draft.

New Format for Our Website www.aps.org.au

Michael Barden

Our dedicated, hardworking webmaster, Tom O'Dea, has totally reworked our website to utilise better software, which is now available. The layout is totally different and much easier to navigate and it contains features not available previously. The clutter of the original website has been replaced by a much cleaner, modern looking appearance.

For those members, who wish to pay with any of PayPal, credit or debit card or a direct bank account debit, all methods may be easily done. Alternatively the accompanying membership sheet may be either filled out and printed off or printed off and filled manually and then can accompany a cheque or money order to our Hon Treasurer, John Steward for those who do not wish to pay over a secure computer link. Thus to pay subscriptions via the computer, it is not necessary to have a PayPal account. Bank transfers to the Society's account will not be available. Often, these have led to payments being made to incorrect accounts and trouble tracking a correction.

To access the website, members will use their email address or part thereof and have a new password, which is changeable.

To make this system work well and be under **your** control, we ask as many members as possible to supply their email addresses to Tom (webmaster@aps.org.au), so he can set up your identity and issue an initial password. We hope that as many July renewals as possible may be instigated by email and save the annual mail out of renewal notices for John.

Once logged in, full copy colours of the Australian Journal of Philately (AJP) are available as now, so members may access a colour copy for reference, downloading or printing off if required.

The new web site has been integrated with Facebook, Twitter and Google+ so that members can easily share items of interest with their friends. In addition, new articles posted to the web site will be automatically posted to the Society's Facebook page and Twitter feed.

Under **Membership**, the grey lines with an arrow at the LHS expand when you click on them and conversely contract when you click again.

The primary objectives with the new website are:

1. Make it easy for users to navigate the web site using **tablets and smartphones** as well as PCs, and Macs.
2. Leverage **social media** platforms to broaden our communications reach.
3. Improve **productivity and ease of use**.
4. Provide a **platform for the future** so that new web site functions can be added in response to new requirements.

My thanks to Tom for his input and modifications to this article

Two Puzzles from Geelong

Ian Cutter

This card is an attractive philatelic item; combining as it does a post office photo and a number of markings. There is also more to it than meets the eye.

At first sight the December and January dates seem reasonable, but a closer look shows the card to have left Geelong on 15 January 1904, and arrived in London on 17 December 1904. The underpayment could explain a delay in transit, but eleven months! Where was it all that time?

The card is addressed to

*Miss May Hopkins / c/o Mrs J. M. Bruce
/ Paterson Lang & Bruce / 7 & 8
Australian Avenue / London / England.*

The message reads as follows:

*Dear Aunt May, Received your loving
post card with the nice names for our
new Baby brother but before receiving
them he had to be registered and his
name given it is Gordon Ronald
Galbraith. Your L niece, L.B.G.*

Given that we know the name of the child, and the place and year of birth, there would seem to be a fair chance of finding more details from one of the online data bases.



The puzzle is that two of the “genealogical” sites offer the following:



Gordon Ronald Galbraith, born Geelong 1905, only child of Hopkins Frances Ada Galbraith.

The incorporation of “Hopkins” (which is the aunt’s surname) seems to indicate that we do have the right person. However the mother’s name has been misquoted through the inclusion of her maiden name, and evidence from the postcard shows that Gordon Ronald was not born in 1905 and neither was he an only child.

The lesson to be learned from this is that finding the same information in two different places does not necessarily prove to offer an independent verification.

And back to the first puzzle.....There is another record of a Gordon Ronald Galbraith. It has no information about his family, but it does have some credibility, in that it shows the image of an original form that has been filled out by hand. It gives details of his birth – on 25 August 1904 at Geelong. If this is the person referred to in the card, and if the date is right, then the date on the Geelong Duplex cannot be correct.

So it looks like it is wise not to take every datestamp at face value either. Somebody with knowledge of such things may be able to say whether a posting date of 15.11.04, perhaps, would have been consistent with an arrival in London on the morning of DE 17 04.

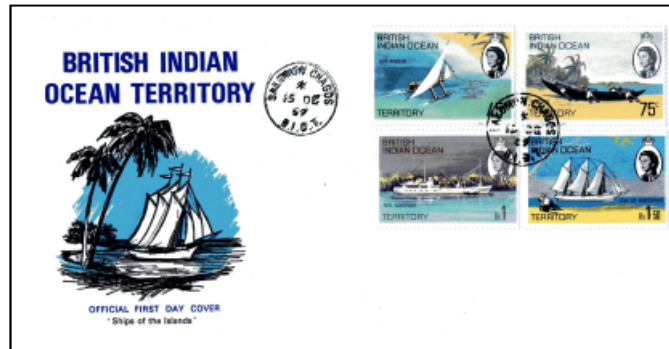
A T.P.O. in B.I.O.T.

Ian A Cutter

A travelling post office can lead to unexpected places, figuratively speaking.

When browsing through a selection of covers, I came across one from a Travelling Post Office. TPOs are always interesting, so I bought it. To put the cover in context I also took a couple of first day covers from the same locality, the British Indian Ocean Territories. These proved to be of interest in their own right, and are illustrated here.

The SALOMON CHAGOS cover, dated 15 DE 69 relates to - and I won't claim it necessarily "comes from" - a settlement on an atoll in the north-east of the Chagos Archipelago. At that time it would have had a population of around 400. These people were relocated by the British government over the period 1968 – 1973 in order that there should be an uninhabited island to be leased to the USA. The post office was open from 1968 to 1976.



ALDABRA ISLAND has never been permanently inhabited, apart from a small number of scientists carrying out research. They may have had a need for postal services, but much mail originating from the locality has come from tourists on cruise ships, and bears the ship's special cachet. However, the cover does seem to have some real connection to the island, in that apart from the datestamp of JY 10 69 there is a backstamp reading VICTORIA / B / OC 21 / 69 / SEYCHELLES. (Aldabra Island is close to the Seychelles, and later came under the control of that country.)



Of course these covers are far removed from genuine postal use. Not only do they exist in order to be collected, but being unaddressed means that they were incapable of being delivered by the postal system.

Genuine commercially used covers from B. I. O. T. are extremely rare for several reasons, including the small population, and the local residents not being letter-writers anyway. Moreover, the few thousand temporary USA and UK

service personnel stationed there from time to time had their own mail systems. Even commercial mail originating from the major settlement of Diego Garcia is not common.

But back to the Travelling Post Office...TPO NORDVAER is actually on the MV *Nordvaer*, a 1958-built cargo ship registered in Victoria, the capital of Seychelles. This vessel serviced these scattered islands from 14 July 1969, and there is an issue of postage stamps marking the fifth anniversary of this date.

The photograph of the *Nordvaer* at Diego Garcia is used with the permission of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the USA.



A summary of the postal history of the B. I. O. T. can be found in the Bulletin of the Indian Ocean Study Circle for March 2014. One way to access it is to google <steve pendleton biot>.

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC SOCIETY Inc.

ABN # 85 081 158 36

COUNCIL for the YEAR 2014 - 2015

President: John Young	Past President: vacant
Vice-President: vacant	Honorary Secretary: Vacant
Honorary Treasurer: John Steward	Honorary Librarian: John Young
"Australian Journal of Philately" Editor: Tony Lyon	

Committee: Michael Barden, Tony Lyon

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and REPORT and STATEMENT of
ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 June 2015**

NOTICE is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at the RSL Homes, 152 Canterbury Road, Canterbury on Monday 17 August 2015 at 8.00 pm, for the transaction of the following business:

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 18 August 2014
3. The President (or his nominee) will report on the year's work of the Society
4. The Honorary Librarian's Report and other reports will be presented
5. The report of the Honorary Treasurer on the Accounts will be read
6. To receive and adopt Accounts of the Society for year to 30 June 2016
7. Elections:
 - a) The following nominations for Officers of the Society have been received: **President:** John Young; **Vice-President** — no nomination; **Secretary** No Nomination:
There being no other nominations, the above-named will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected.
 - b) The under mentioned Officers being eligible have offered themselves for re-election and there being no further nominations, will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected:
Honorary Treasurer— John Steward **Honorary Librarian** — John Young
 - c) Following nominations for Members of Council have been received: **Michael Barden, Tony Lyon**, and since no other nominations were received, said will be deemed to be elected as Members of Council.
8. To appoint an Auditor in accordance with the Constitution.
9. Any other business that may arise.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Many strange occurrences happen when one goes on a post office crawl and I'm sure Simon Alsop will attest to that. The latest one that happened is illustrated in the Victorian section and involved a visit to the Newport West post office. Both postmarks illustrated were done at the same time on the same day, that was 16 January 2015 but the oval postmark (inscription in blue and date in red) was dated 11 NOV 2014 so either it was a fixed date or someone was too lazy to change it.

Many thanks to Simon Alsop , Richard Peck and John Tracy for their contributions to keep this column going.

N.S.W.:-Earlier datestamp- SANDY HOLLOW(102/25)



QLD.- Earlier datestamp:- NORTHGATE M.C. (125/25)



S.A. :-



VIC.- Earlier datestamp-HEATHCOTE (128/29)



VIC.:- Earlier datestamps-MONT ALBERT (121/28), MORNINGTON (3) (122/26), NEWLANDS ESTATE(117/28) ,NYAH WEST (126/28), OAKLEIGH SOUTH (125/28), POINT COOK (115/28), RANGEVIEW(120/28), ROBINSON (118/29)



VIC.- (CONT)



W.A.- Earlier datestamps- GOSNELLS (95/32) PERTH (5) (110/29)



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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 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
- Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

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USA to Australia

John Young

Our back page this issue is from John Young's extensive airmail collection. It is interesting how a cover that just has a lot of stamps on it with not a great deal of interest to a stamp collector; the stamps are common, but when treated in the context of postal history becomes an important piece.



1941: Flown by PAA from San Francisco to Auckland via Hawaii, Canton Island and Noumea, then TEAL to Sydney.

Correctly franked \$10.50 for 7½ ounce letter @ 70c per ½ ounce.

If you have an interesting cover that would look good on the back page please send a scan with explanation to the editor. We are always on the lookout for interesting items. My own collection only extends so far and anyway who wants endless New Zealand illustrations; apart from me of course.