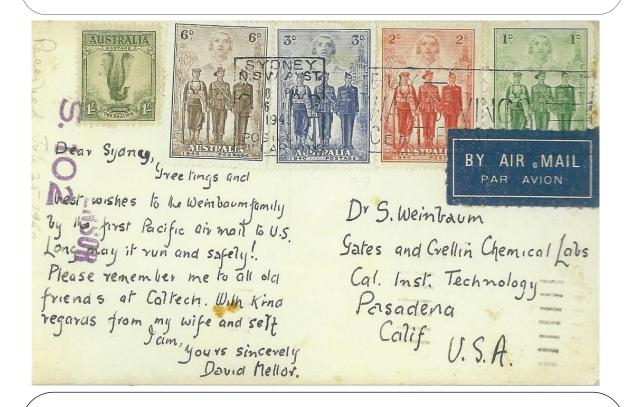
Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 133 September 2015



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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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Correspondence: All to the Secretary except as noted. Journal articles to be with the Editor by15 February, May, August and November respectively.

OFFICE BEARERS 2015 - 2016

Australian Journal of Philately HHDS Notes Secretary: Tony Lyon George Vearing Ian Sadler Box 426 2/2 Edith Avenue PO Box 156 Croydon, Victoria 3136 Mooroopna, Victoria 3629 Balwyn Australia Australia Vic 3103

Phone: 0412 997 675 or 8288 1933 Ph: 03 5825 3194

Australia E-mail: lyonaj@optushome.com.au g vearing@hotmail.com

> President : John Young

Immediate Past president

Vice President Vacant Secretary Ian Sadler Treasurer John Steward Librarian John Young Committee Michael Barden

Tony Lyon

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Date	2015 / 2016 Programme	Display	
19 October 2015	John Young	Trans-Pacific Airmails 1930's—1940's	
14 December 2015 Christmas Meeting Members Competition—up to 10 A4 size pa		Members Competition—up to 10 A4 size pages	
15 February 2016	Michael Barden	Belgium WW2 Charity Issues	

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1940 Australia to USA 32 **Postcard 2 Shilling Rate**

John Young

Front cover:

From John Young

1940 Commercial first-flight postcard flown from Sydney by TEAL to Auckland and then PAA to San Francisco.

Correctly franked 2 shillings



Editorial

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Tony Lyon

Spring is here although we here in Melbourne understand that the spring weather is a little unpredictable. But when you live in the most livable city in the world we can cope with a little unpredictability.

Once again we have a number of interesting articles and cover stories that I trust you find interesting. Thanks to all the contributors.

I have been working on a complete index of all journals to date thanks to Harold Sheath's help. He compiled the initial draft and I am now checking it over. Only 13 journals to complete the task. The thing that has emerged from this task is the great many contributors there have been over the years of its existence. Unfortunately many have now passed on to the loss of much knowledge. However they all left a legacy for future generations. The editor's and the compilers of Hand Held Date Stamp columns have all left their mark. It was interesting checking through and finding information that I found helpful. I hope when we publish it that it will be helpful to others.

At the AGM in August Ian Sadler was welcomed to the APS Council where he has taken on the role of Secretary. The council members thank him for his willingness to serve. In todays climate it is not easy to find people to take these roles.

I am not sure how societies can encourage younger people to become part of the collecting fraternity. It is noticeable that in the societies that I am a member of there are few younger collectors participating. One person at a society I attend remarked that when he joined a number of years ago he was the youngest member and he still is.

Ciao for now.

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- 2. inform members about the Society's activities;
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From the President

John Steward has been an office-bearer of the Australian Philatelic Society since 1981, and continuously as treasurer since 1983. He was re-elected to the position in August this year.

The John Webster medal can be given for distinguished administrative service to the society, and at the AGM John was the recipient of the award. He was congratulated on over thirty years of service and his thoroughly deserved well-earned recognition.

In the December 2014 issue of this journal I indicated that the society's library got little or no use and would be sold off in stages. The first offering is listed below. Members can bid by post or come to the room auction at our end-of-year meeting on 14 December. A successful postal bid will be at the next step above the second highest bid, and postage will be added to the bidder's invoice.

			Reserve
1	John White	The postal history of NSW 1788-1901 (1988)	\$10
2	William Newport	Stamps and postal history of the Channel Islands (1972)	\$6
3	A. H. Voyce	A place in the sun (Japan, WW2 in PNG)	\$5
4	David McCleary	Australian decimal varieties (c.1974)	\$3
5	Dennis Collings and Jack Gunn	Postal markings of the Mornington Peninsula (2004)	\$3
6	William Craig	The revenue stamps of C/W of Aust. And its territories, n.d.	\$6
7	Richard Peck	Catalogue of Aust. And PNG postage meters 1917-2002	\$3
8	James Bentley	PNG decimal stamps 1966-82	\$3-
9	Edward Proud	Postal history of British Palestine 1918-48 (1985)	\$8-
10	Gibbons	Great Britain specialised catalogue, vol. 2, King Ed. VII to King Geo. VI (1970)	\$4
11		Australian Philatelist Yearbook, 1991	\$3
12		English Posting boxes in pictures (facsimile)	\$2
13	Mark Jurisich	A polar postal history of Campbell Is., NZ 1952-95	\$5
14	и и	South Africa's Sub-Antarctic and Antarctic weather stations 1947-90	\$5
15	Richard Peck	Fast Post (1990)	\$4
16	" "	Alternative Mail (1990)	\$4
17	" "	Aust. Postage label and meter catalogue (1985)	\$4
18	" "	Priority Paid timeclocks 1984-93	\$5
19	" "	Update 1995	\$5
20	" " and D. Collyer	"T" for tax (1985)	\$4
21	K. W. Sparks	Bass Strait mails from federation to WW2 (1992) Frama Australia (1987)	\$4
	" "	, ,	\$4
22	Stanley Jersey	Postal history of US and Jap. Military forces in Gilbert & Els, WW2 (1978)	\$6
23	Wilfred Broderick and Dann Mayo	Civil censorship in USA during WW2 (1980)	\$6
24	David Collyer	Australian Comforts Funds and philately during WW2 (1982)	\$6
25	" "	Stationary from small comforts funds with the Aust. Military during WW2 (1983)	\$5
26	I. P. Smith	North West Pacific Islands (1984)	\$5
27	Harold King	Lord Howe Is. (1982)	\$4
28	R. Hosking	Paquebot cancellations of Aust. V. NZ (1975)	\$4
29	Gustav Lund	Aust. Paquebot marks, n. d.	\$4
30	R. Turley	Registration labels, states and commonwealth (1958)	\$5

31	R. Startup	Postal history of Mamawatu (NZ), n.d.	\$3
32	ee ee	Wellington and its postal history (1980)	\$4
33	R. Peck	History and the franking machine in Aust, 2 vols,	\$6
		(1975,77)	
		Unobliterated mail, n.d.	\$4
34	N.Hopson	NSW and ACT post offices (1984)	\$3

The Longest Name

Ian Cutter

While sorting through postcards at a local collectables fair, I came across a postmark that was incomplete, but looked identifiable. I asked the stall-holder for her opinion, which she gave, although understandably stumbling over the pronunciation.

Next to us at the time was a stranger who said words to the effect, "Yes, that's right, 'BOOMAHNOOMOONAH', I used to live there. "A later check of the Sands & McDougal directory for 1960 revealed the settlement to comprise fifteen families (all but one, farmers) and a school, so the

presence of such a person at that opportune moment does seem an extraordinary coincidence.

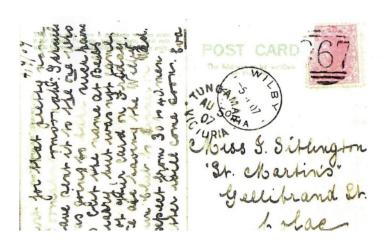
The striking feature of this place is of course the name itself, longer than that of any other single-word post office name in Victoria, or perhaps even in Australia.

Boomahnoomoonah, according to the first volume of WWW, had a post office which opened on 9th March 1881 and closed on 28th February 1939. The 24 mm unframed postmarks on the card is not illustrated here; it is similar in style to the one of Tungamah that is shown.

The Municipal Directory for 1906 offers the following:



BOONAHMOONOOMAH -- Rail to Tungamah, coach to Wilby, thence 6 miles. Agnes M. Gilmour, Postmistress.



This leads to the other postcard, here illustrated. It had been chosen because of its multiple postmarks, without close examination, and without expecting any connection to the previous card. The datestamps were then seen to be those of places mentioned above.

And then, when for the first time, the face of the card was examined, the connection was found to be even closer – see the illustration. A very nice set of coincidences!

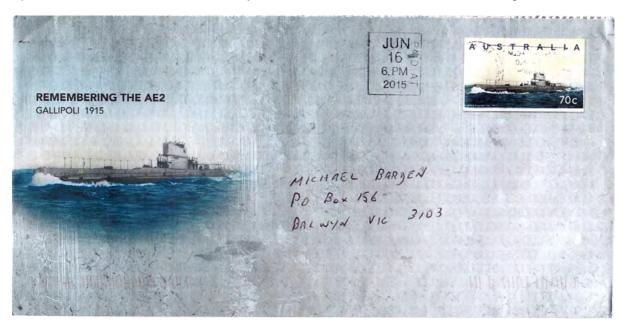
If you don't believe the claim of the longest name, and would offer

Naringalingalook [East] as an alternative, just carryout the experiment of typing out the two names, one above the other.

Remembering HMAS AE2 – A Cover Story

Michael Barden

Australia Post issued the envelope shown below in tribute to Australia's first submarines from WW1, the AE1 and AE2. The envelope was designed for internal postage to recall the Gallipoli campaign in April 1915. The submarines were built by Vickers Ltd at Barrow-in-Furness, UK during 1912-1913.



HMAS AE2 was one of two E-class submarines commissioned by the Royal Australian Navy in February 1914. After its involvement in capturing German New Guinea, AE2 was assigned to the Dardanelles campaign in March 1915. British and French warships failed to force the Dardanelles on 18 March, but, in coordination with the landing of ground forces on the Gallipoli peninsula, AE2 penetrated the heavily fortified strait and became the first submarine to enter the Sea of Marmara on 25 April. Lieutenant Commander Henry HGD Stoker carried out his orders to "run amok", disrupting Turkish re-supply by sea of its troops on Gallipoli. Stoker's achievement was proclaimed at the time as "the finest feat in submarine history". AE2 played a game of cat-and-mouse with the enemy for five days before buoyancy problems forced it to surface. With his vessel damaged by the torpedo boat Sultanhiser, Stoker ordered all hands on deck and scuttled AE2. None of the crew of 35 was lost with AE2, but four sailors died while held prisoner of war in Turkey.

Cover design: Australia Post Design Studio Cover image: Based on AE2 postcard, Gary Diffen Collection LHS. Portion of the back of the envelope showing the story.

Only HMAS AE2 was involved at Gallipoli. Both submarines had sailed out from UK. HMAS AE2 was launched in the yard of Vickers Ltd at Barrow-in-Furness, England on 18 June 1913 by Mr W.H. Wharton. She was later commissioned at Portsmouth on 28 February 1914 under the command of Lieutenant Commander Henry Hugh Gordon Dacre Stoker, RN. Her crew of 35 comprised officers and ratings from both the Royal Navy and Royal Australian Navy and she was the second of two E Class submarines built for the fledgling RAN.

Accompanied by her sister submarine *AE1*, (Lieutenant Commander Thomas Besant, RN), the two vessels sailed from England for Australia on 2 March 1914. The voyage was undertaken in three phases. The first phase took place under the escort of the Royal Navy cruiser HMS *Eclipse* which remained with the submarines until they reached Colombo.

En route, *Eclipse* alternately took the submarines in tow to reduce wear on their engines. In spite of this precaution, *AE2* suffered a serious defect while under her own power when she lost a propeller blade, necessitating repairs in Gibraltar between 6-9 March. With repairs complete, the small convoy continued its passage via Malta, and Port Said before *AE2* threw a second propeller blade 20 miles outside of Aden. On this occasion repairs were carried out at sea with the assistance of *Eclipse*. The

submarine was trimmed down by the bows and two anchors and cable from *Eclipse* were lowered over the front of *AE2* to bring the stern of the boat out of the water. With the assistance of divers a replacement propeller was then fitted, the entire evolution taking two days. The three vessels then continued on to Colombo where they arrived on 9 April 1914.

Five days were spent in Colombo allowing the crews of the submarines to get some respite from the cramped and hot conditions in their respective boats. The passage through the Red Sea had been particularly demanding due to intense heat. Often the temperature inside the boats rose above 100 degrees F and in an attempt to cool *AE2*, Stoker ordered her casing to be painted white in an attempt to reflect the intense sunlight.





From Colombo the second phase of the voyage began under the escort of HMS *Yarmouth* which shepherded *AE1* and *AE2* to Singapore where they arrived safely on 21 April 1914. In Singapore the submarines were met by the cruiser HMAS *Sydney* which assumed responsibility for them for the remainder of the voyage to Sydney where they arrived on 24 May, 83 days after leaving Portsmouth. A total of sixty days had been spent at sea and some 13,000 miles covered; a record for submarines at that time.



Lieutenant Commander Stoker.

AE2 had travelled with the second convoy of AIF from King George sound to Suez. In February 1915 AE2 joined a Royal Navy squadron based on the island of Tenedos in the Aegean Sea. From there she operated in support of the unfolding Dardanelles campaign as outlined above from the back of the envelope.



AE2's campaigns



Map showing AE2's passage into the Sea of Marmora.



Chief of Navy Vice Admiral Tim Barrett, AO, CSC, RAN, with the Turkish Fleet Commander Vice Admiral Veysel Kosele, and guests onboard HMAS Anzac, for a commemorative service to HMAS AE2, lost during World War One, in the Sea of Marmora. April 2015.

Reference www.navy.gov.au/hmas-AE2

Australian Colonies' Post Office Newspaper Wrappers: Additional Data about Availability 2012-2015

Dr. John K. Courtis FRPSL

It has been exactly 40 months since my last updating of Australian Colonies' Post Office newspaper wrappers that have been listed for sale on eBay. This paper adds evidence of another 860 wrappers that were hand-collected daily between January 2012 and April 2015. The database of used Post Office postal stationery worldwide used wrappers collected since September 2003 is 37,500. Images of the Australian Colonies' wrappers were housed in a dedicated folder and it is these that are the basis of the present study. This paper adds to the evidence published previously (Courtis, 2012).

The format of Table 1 is consistent with prior studies in providing an overview of quantities that have been listed on eBay and covers the most recent three years and four months. The total data collection period is now 140 months or 11½ years. Wrappers from Victoria and South Australia continue to dominate the overall supply with two-thirds from these two colonies. The supply of Queensland Post Office wrappers is about 20% of the total, while those from New South Wales is about 8%, Tasmania has jumped markedly recently while Western Australia continue to be elusive. On a colony-by-colony basis this average rate is variable: New South Wales about one per month, Queensland 3.4 per month, South Australia 4.6 per month, Victoria 6 per month, with Tasmania one about every two months, and Western Australia hardly ever.

The listing rate of Colonies' wrappers has been stable over the past few years at about 260 per year. There is no indication that the supply of used wrappers being listed for sale on eBay is waning. This shows that this Internet site is maintaining its popularity despite a rise in alternative sites. As an auction market it continues to be objective and transparent and to charge competitive listing fees. It is also an indication of a sustained interest in postal stationery. If collectors were not bidding and buying these items then sellers would not find it advantageous to increase their listings to such an extent. For many sellers the eBay market place is ideal in that it can reach buyers in all corners of the world in a cost-affordable manner. Listing fees are modest and considerably lower than sellers would face with alternative marketing costs. With a low collector base for wrappers vis-à-vis stamps, sellers can approach a wide international audience. Buyers can check what appears on their Want lists against daily listings. Bidding is open to those who are registered and is on-going during the listing period with transparent partial bidder identification. Armchair bidding is more affordable and less time-consuming than local and overseas travel and accommodation costs.

It should be remembered that the present study is eBay-based. It is acknowledged that Australian Colonies wrappers were sold on other markets and by dealers during this 11½ year period. However, eBay is a proxy of what is available on the international market and because of the large sample size (2,210 cases) and lengthy period of data-collection (140 months), the data can be accepted as credible and indicative of wrapper sales in general. It is some evidence of what has been available and, perhaps more importantly, what has not been available at all or in small quantities. "Better" wrappers may appear in Australian stamp auction houses rather than be offered on eBay.

At the macro level Victoria continues to dominate the quantity available for sale with 38% of the total. Almost ten percentage points lower is South Australia with 29%, followed by Queensland with 21.5%. The other three colonies make up only 11.5%, with Western Australia a long way behind the other colonies in the supply of used wrappers from this source. In 1901 the population of each colony was as follows: NSW 1,361,700 (37%); Queensland 502,300 (14%); South Australia 358,300 (9%); Tasmania 171,100 (5%); Victoria 1,201,100 (32%) and Western Australia 101,200 (3%). The total population based on these estimates is 3,695,600 – the proportion of each Colony is shown in brackets. There is some correlation in ranks between population size and quantity of extant wrappers, especially Queensland and Western Australia.

Table 1: Per Colony Quantities Listed on eBay

Colony	2003	2004	2005-	2007-	2009	Jan 2012-	2003-	%
_			06	08	-11	April 15	2011	
	Previously i		usly reported studies		Total			
New South Wales	14	12	13	25	51	56	171	7.8
Queensland	31	21	60	48	120	193	473	21.5
South Australia	44	36	86	68	141	271	646	28.9
Tasmania	4	0	8	4	20	39	75	3.4
Victoria	56	29	83	96	267	307	838	38.1
Western Australia	0	1	1	0	2	3	7	0.3
Totals	149	99	251	241	601	869	2210	100

New South Wales

An additional 56 New South Wales wrappers were listed for sale during this 40 month period taking the total to 171 for the 140 month collection period. For ease of continuity the Higgins & Gage "E" catalogue numbers have been used. The profile of the different issues is summarized in Table 2. Readers interested in the demographics of Colonial wrappers are referred to Courtis (2014a).

Given that the collection period of extant examples of used wrappers spans more than a decade some comments are in order about the frequency of listing these post office types. New South Wales should be placed in perspective regarding its importance as a colony. With the kind of educated government officials and free settlers that arrived in Sydney and who wished to send local news to family, friends and business associates in Britain and elsewhere it is not unreasonable to expect that the number of extant copies of newspaper wrappers being listed on the market would be more. One of the reasons why the wrappers of NSW are not common is because newspapers could be mailed postage free for much of this time. The Newspaper Postage Abolition Act of 1873 exempted newspapers from postage within the Colony, provided they were posted within seven days of printing. This arrangement continued until NSW joined the UPU in 1892 when revised rates of postage were to be charged on newspapers. By 1888 the number of newspapers posted in NSW was approximately 32 million and most of these were carried free of charge (White 1988, p.372).

When the quantity of particular issues is examined the first five post office types comprise only 11% of the total. Types E11 and E12, being the last two types issued in 1903 comprise only .05%. Expressed another way, 83% of extant copies of New South Wales are E6, E7, E8, E9 and E10 post office types. Other issues are elusive on eBay.

Table 2: New South Wales PO Types listed on eBay since Sept. 2003

H&G Catalogue numbers*	2003-11	2012-15	Total
E1 1864 QV oval 1d rose, in center**	2	0	2
E2 1865 QV 1d red, watermarked	0	1	1
E3 1869 QV 1d red, 2 watermarks	3	0	3
E4 1888 1d violet, 100 year centenary	7	4	11
E5 18911d slate o'printed Halfpenny	2	0	2
E6 1892 QV 1/2d grey, wmk ONE PNY	30	4	34
E7 1892 QV 1/2d grey, gummed edges	11	14	25
E8 1892 1d violet, 100 year, gummed	8	5	13
E9 1897 1d rose NSW shield, wmkd	21	14	35
E10 1899 QV 1/2d grey-green on buff	24	11	35
E10 as above with OS in black	1	0	1
E11 1903 QV 1/2d grey-green on straw	5	1	6
E12 1903 1d rose NSW shield, no wmk	1	2	3
Totals	115	56	171

^{*} Unless specifically mentioned by the seller it is almost impossible to detect the presence of watermarks from eBay images.

^{**} At the time of drafting this paper a (badly foxed) uncut sheet of eight unused wrappers was listed for sale on eBay for \$99.99 – it did not sell.

Three wrappers bearing private printing have made an appearance on eBay during the last 40 months. All three were overprinted *National Association of Sheepbreeders of Australasia*, an example of which was illustrated in Courtis (2011). Of interest though are perforated initials G R on the indicium of the May 1903 E12 wrapper (with stamp missing). G R are the initials for Government Railways (of NSW). This is a type II perfin used between 1902 and 1909 (Grant & Mathews 1992). This wrapper is shown as Illustration 1.

Offers Thomas Cook stons

10 16 P Weson Esq.!

Shelawal

Illustration 1: New South Wales Wrapper with Perfin Initials

Queensland

Ten types of Queensland wrappers have been listed during this latest period with a total of 193 wrappers. The distribution of these appears in Table 3. Quite a lot of research has been undertaken on text line lengths and text/indicium layout varieties (Kosniowski 2013). The record-keeping followed by the author followed the basic H&G "E" categorization. It may be that the varieties identified by Kosniowski have appeared in those listed on eBay. The supply of wrappers of Queensland is somewhat of a paradox. For the size of the Queensland population the number of extant wrappers is high, especially the first two Post Office issues which account for 58 of the total. (Recent correspondence with Jan Kosniowski revealed he had just acquired a hoard of more than 400 wrappers of each of E1 and E2 from a non-eBay source). All post office types were listed but E7 has appeared only four times in over 11 years and must be considered as the most elusive of these wrappers.

Table 3: Queensland PO Types listed on eBay since Sept. 2003

H&G catalogue numbers	2003-	2012-	Total
	11	15	
E1 1891 QV 1/2d green shaded background	70	76	146
E2 1895 QV 1/2d green, white background, "d" below "W"	73	42	115
E2a 1895 QV 1/2d green, white background, "d" left of "W"	11	4	15
E3 1897 QV 1d dull rose, 'packet will' penultimate line	22	7	29
E4 1897 QV ½d green, white background, 'statutory' penultimate line	11	4	15
E5 1897 QV ½d green, ½d in each corner, 'statutory' penultimate	5	5	10
line			
E6 1897 QV 1d bright vermilion, 'statutory' penultimate line	20	13	33
E7 1898 QV 1/2d green, 1/2d in each corner, 'rule be' penultimate line	2	2	4
E8 1898 QV 1d bright vermilion, 'rule be' penultimate line	35	17	52
E9 1899 QV ½d green vertical design	31	23	54
Totals	280	193	473

As in previous studies, there were no wrappers bearing private printing included in the database for this 40 month period, nor were there any recorded auxiliary postal markings. As in previous studies,

there were some attractive concentric railway station and open town postmarks that would likely appeal to the postal historian.

South Australia

The E3 issue of continues to dominate the listings with 397 copies or 61% of the total. This is clearly the most "common" of all wrapper types issued by all colonies. The profile of appearance of each type is summarized in Table 4. The 1882 E1 and E2 issues are still elusive in used condition with only ten copies in 140 months or one copy listed on average every 14 months. A surprisingly large quantity of OS overprinted wrappers has survived. The three 1910 types E8, E9 and E10 are elusive wrappers.

Table 4: South Australia PO Types listed on eBay since Sept. 2003

H&G catalogue numbers*	2003-11	2012-15	Total
E1 1882 QV ½d violet on white, oval shield	4	3	7
E2 1882 QV 1/2d violet on white, round shield	2	1	3
E3 1884 QV ½d violet, Arms, lion full face	233	164	397
E3B 1884 QV 1/2d violet, big Arms, OS o'print	57	42	99
E4 1889 QV 1d green	20	22	42
E4a 1889 QV 1d green indicium on left	2	0	2
E4B 1889 QV 1d green, OS overprint	4	0	4
E5 189? QV 1/2d violet, small Arms	15	15	30
E5B ½d violet, big Arms, lion facing right, Commonwealth	0	4	4
of Australia, O.S.			
E6 1908 QV 1/2d violet, SOUTH above & AUSTRALIA	6	4	10
below indicium (actually STO)			
E7 1906 QV ½d violet, big Arms, lion facing right	17	4	21
E7B QV ½d violet, big Arms, lion facing right, OS overprint	2	2	4
E8 1908 QV ½d violet, Commonwealth of Australia added	4	4	8
E9 1910 QV 1d green, Commonwealth of Australia added	7	4	11
E9 Official as above with OHMS added	1	0	1
E10 1910 1d deep orange, no text, indicium only	1	1	2
E10 1d deep orange with text (actually STO)	0	1	1
Totals	375	271	646

^{*}This is one postal entity of the H&G catalogue that is incomplete. A more comprehensive listing together with stamped-to-order wrappers can be found in Kosniowski (2015). In future updates of these South Australian wrappers the Kosniowski classification will be followed as far as possible given that images of wrappers on eBay usually do not allow for text line measurements and the detection of other subtle differences.

Six wrappers bearing private printing have appeared on eBay during this recent collection window. *PARCEL ONLY* from *J. MILLER ANDERSON & CO.* raises the question of the size and contents of a parcel that can be accommodated by a newspaper wrapper? Three different private overprinting appeared for *R. J. COOMBS & CO. LTD* and its expanded *LUXMOORE, R. J. COOMBS & CO. LTD – CALENDAR 1897, ALMANAC for 1889* and *CIRCULAR & CARTNOTE only.* The two overprints *FAULDINGS MEDICAL JOURNAL* and *The Chronicle THE PRODUCER'S WEEKLY* have appeared on the eBay market prior to the current collection window but are included in Illustration 2 for the record. The status of the post office issue E10a needs to be verified. The Kosniowski catalogue locates this wrapper more-or-less on its own beneath the OHMS overprints and before the private overprints.

Illustration 2: South Australia Wrappers with Private Printing



E4: Parcel Only - J. Miller Anderson & Co.



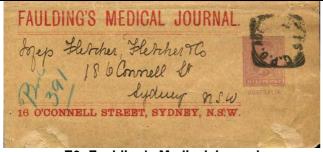
E4: R. J. Coombs & Co. Woolbrokers



E4: Luxmoore, R. J. Coombs & Co. Ltd.



E4: Circular & Cartnote Only



E6: Faulding's Medical Journal



SOUTH AUSTRALIA

NEWSPAPER ONLY

THE HEAD TEACHER,

Meningie SCHOOL,

E10a: the Stamped-to-Order or other status of this wrapper needs clarification

Victoria

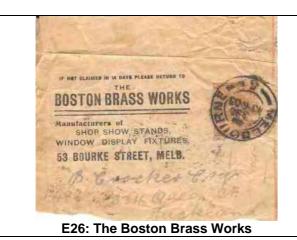
Another 301 used post office wrappers from Victoria are included in this additional analysis and these are summarized in Table 5. Two types, E15 and E17 account for 69% of all wrappers that have been listed. Victoria E15 is the most common extant used Colonial wrapper, second only to South Australia E3 in absolute terms: 397 and 312 respectively. When individual wrapper types are considered the frequencies of appearance are very low – 17 types have appeared less than ten times in 140 months. No copies have appeared for E1, E9 and E10. There are no copies of E22 but this wrapper may never have been issued. Only single copies have appeared for E2, E3 and E8. Moreover, early wrappers found used are usually Hill wrappers (Courtis 2014b).

Table 5: Victoria PO Types listed on eBay since Sept. 2003

H&G catalogue numbers	2003	2012	Total
(Kosniowski has more varieties listed)	-11	-15	
E1 1869 QV 1d green	0	0	0
E2 1871 QV 1d green with borders	1	0	1
E3 1873 QV 1d green with borders with red overprint	0	1	1
½ ½ HALF			
E4 1880 QV ½d carmine bantam,	6	4	10
E5 1880 QV 1d green,	4	0	4
E6 1885 QV 1/2d salmon	2	0	2
E7 1885 QV 1d green	4	0	4
E8 1885 QV 1/2d pink on pale blue	1	0	1
E9 1885 QV ½d rose bantam, vertical STAMP DUTY	0	0	0
E10 1885 QV 1d green, vertical STAMP DUTY	0	0	0
E11 1885 QV 1/2d pink	13	4	17
E12 1885 QV 1d green	4	1	5
E13 1886 QV ½d grey-lilac	4	4	8
E14 1886 QV 1d green	6	0	6
E15 1887 QV 1/2d carmine	187	125	312
E16 1890 QV 1d brown	14	6	20
E17 1894 QV 1/2d yellow	142	84	226
E18 1894 QV 1d blue	32	17	49
E19 1899 QV 1/2d emerald	28	19	47
E20 1899 QV 1d carmine	4	2	6
E21 1901 QV 1/2d green	15	11	26
E22 1901 QV 1d rose bantam (no evidence that this	0	0	0
exists)			
E23 1901 QV 1/2d green	19	1	20
E24 1901 QV 1d rose	12	7	19
E25 1903 QV 1/2d green	19	8	27
E26 1903 QV 1d vermilion single thick borders	7	3	10
E27 1909 QV 1/2d green	6	1	7
E28 1909 QV 1d vermilion, no borders	1	3	4
Totals	531	301	832

There was another interesting collection of ten wrappers bearing private printing that were listed during the 140 months, and these are shown in Illustration 3. These include *The Shearers' Record, The Wycheproof Ensign, The Austral Light, The Stawell News & Pleasant Creek Echo, Bendigo Evening Mail and Mining Gazette, The Australian Stamp Collector, Swallow & Ariell and The Boston Brass Works all of which were printed on post office stock. One other wrapper bearing private printing was made on the customers own paper: the <i>Norwich Union Fire Office*. This is not a post office type but is strictly a printed-to-private-order wrapper with the indicium bearing Queen Victoria within an oval. It was included for the record.







Tasmania

There was a 50% increase in the number and range of wrappers listed from Tasmania. Debate continues over whether there were any post office issues or whether all Tasmanian types are of the stamped-to-order genre. Kosniowski is of the belief that because there are no extant post office records all Tasmania wrappers are stamped-to-order. Other collectors need to come forward to corroborate this viewpoint. Inspection of the three copies of E2 and three copies of E3 in the database show they were all addressed to the same person in London, they are postmarked with the Hobart obliterator, they were printed on bordered paper, and there is no indication of any private printing having been added. In every way their appearance is consistent with a post office issue. A sample of four of these wrappers is shown as Illustration 4. Perhaps others can enter into this debate to resolve the status of these wrappers.

Illustration 4: Tasmania E2 & E3 Wrappers Mailed to London









Only 62 copies in 140 months have been listed. However, there does appear to have been a surge in listings with another 23 copies over this 40 month period. Only two types (KE1 and KE3) have appeared with any regularity. All other types have appeared in single digits or not at all. One has to conclude that all the wrappers of Tasmania are elusive. The 1892 platypus issues were not recorded in H&G and no copies have been listed on eBay.

Table 6: Tasmania PO Types listed on eBay since Sept. 2003

H&G catalogue numbers (note: Kosniowski believes all issues are KE#)	2003- 2011	2012- 1015	Total
E1 1897 QV ½d orange, red borders	1	0	1
E2 1897 QV 1d red, red borders	1	2	3
E3 1897 QV 2d light green, red borders	0	3	3
E4 1897 QV ½d orange, red borders (wider indicium)	0	0	0
E5 1902 QV ½d orange, no borders	4	1	5
E6 1902 QV 1d red, no borders	0	0	0
E7 1902 QV 2d light green, no borders	0	0	0
E12 1905 KEVII 1/2d bluish green	1	0	1
E13 1905 KEVII 1d rose	1	1	2
KE1 1891 QV 1/2d orange	8	2	10
KE2 1891 QV 1/2d red	2	0	2
KE3 1891 QV 1d red	14	8	22

KE4 1891 QV 2d light green	1	4	5
KE6 1892 QV 1/2d orange + 1d red	5	2	7
KE12 1892 QV 1/2d red on rose paper	1	0	1
{KE13} 1892 platypus 2d red*	0	0	0
{KE14} 1892 platypus 3d red*	0	0	0
{KE15} 1892 platypus 6d red*	0	0	0
Totals	39	23	62

^{*}These three {KE} numbers have been imputed for the record.

In recent years there appears to have been an increase in interest in the wrappers of Tasmania with the appearance of several bearing private printing. There are five varieties of *The Mercury* with different size and layout of heading, the reappearance of two copies of *The Federal Australian Philatelist*, and eight types of *The Tasmanian Mail*. Some examples of *The Mercury* and the *Tasmanian Mail* are shown in Illustration 5.



Western Australia

The whereabouts of used Western Australia post office wrappers continues to perplex. Three used copies have appeared during the 40 month collection period, all E2 copies. The total of extant used wrappers in an 11 year period on eBay is now seven and these are summarized in Table 7.

Table 7: Western Australia PO Types listed on eBay since Sept. 2003

H&G catalogue numbers* (Kosniowski classification followed)	2003 -2011	2012 -2015	Total
E1 1902 ½d green, double border lines	1	0	1
E2 1902 1d carmine, double border lines	2	3	5
E3 1903 ½d green, double borders, thick outer line	1	0	1
E4 1903 1d carmine, double borders, thick outer line	0	0	0
E5 1905 1/2d green, single border line	0	0	0
E6 1905 1d carmine, single border line	0	0	0
E7 1910 1/2d green, no border lines	0	0	0
E8 1910 1d vermilion, no border lines	0	0	0
Totals	4	3	7

*The H&G catalogue listing for Western Australia has been significantly improved in the Kosniowski catalogue with wrapper measurements, distance between borders and width of outer border. Images scanned to eBay usually do not enable differentiation of some of these issues.

Observations & Implications

- 1. Used copies of Australian Colonies' wrappers continue to be listed on the eBay market 869 additional Colonies' wrappers were listed in 40 months between 2012 and 2015. This quantity represents about 22 wrappers per month on average throughout the data-gathering window. Victoria and South Australia continue to account for two-thirds of this total.
- 2. The listing rate has continued to increase over previous periods indicating increased seller and buyer interest in this area of postal stationery.
- 3. There were 14 additional PTPO and other wrappers that made their first appearance on the eBay market (illustrated) thereby indicating that new discoveries can still be found.
- 4. While there is some increase in the supply of wrappers of Tasmania, wrappers from Western Australia continue to be elusive.
- 5. As an international auction market eBay continues to grow and list material of interest to collectors who can pursue their acquisition in a convenient and cost-effective manner.
- 6. A lengthy period of 140 months of hand collecting 2,210 examples is a credible and comprehensive database that provides a sound benchmark for tentative survival rate analysis per type.
- 7. Across all colonies, a straightforward count of post office types (including KE numbers) issued is 94. Of these, 62 types or 66% have been listed with frequencies of ten or less copies in 140 months. In other words, 65% of Australian colonies' post office wrappers are elusive on the eBay auction site: seven types from NSW, one from Queensland, 11 from South Australia, 18 from Victoria, 17 from Tasmania and eight from Western Australia. The collector of these Colonies continues to face challenges.

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Acknowledgement My sincere thanks are offered to Allan Gory for reading and suggesting some excellent additions to an earlier draft.

Are We Being Well Served or Just Paying for It?

Michael Barden

Over January to May this year, I received a host of letters from Europe, nearly all associated with Delcampe sellers. None was a small packet. Letters came from Belgium, Spain, Germany, USA, Switzerland and Luxembourg. The lion's share was from Belgium. Being well after the Christmas period, deliveries should be back to 'normal'. Results are shown in the spreadsheet below for those, whose datestamps could be identified:

Letters to Australia - Travel time, Jan to May 2015											
Country of origin	Date posted	Sydney SWLF	Date at Balwyn	Time (days) elapsed	prior label	Time (days) to Sydney	Reg				
Belgium	27-Jan-15		18-Feb-15	23	yes						
Belgium	31-Jan-15	17-Feb	27-Feb-15	28	yes	18					
Belgium	02-Feb-15	18-Feb	20-Feb-15	18	yes	16					
Belgium	02-Feb-15	19-Feb	23-Feb-15	21	yes	17					
Belgium	04-Feb-15		27-Feb-15	23	yes						
Belgium	05-Feb-15	15-Feb	19-Feb-15	14	yes	10					
Belgium	05-Feb-15	24-Feb	27-Feb-15	22	yes	19					
Belgium	05-Feb-15		27-Feb-15	22	yes						
Belgium	06-Feb-15		27-Feb-15	21	yes						
Belgium	06-Feb-15	15-Feb	18-Feb-15	12	yes	9					
Belgium	06-Feb-15	23-Feb	27-Feb-15	21	yes	17	yes				
Belgium	09-Feb-15	23-Feb	24-Feb-15	15	yes	14	,				
Belgium	09-Feb-15		27-Feb-15	18	yes	-	yes				
Belgium	10-Feb-15	17-Feb	18-Feb-15	8	yes	7	,				
Belgium	11-Feb-15		05-Mar-15	21	no	•					
Belgium	16-Feb-15	5-Mar	16-Mar-15	29	yes	17					
Belgium	17-Feb-15	o mai	03-Mar-15	15	yes	.,					
Belgium	19-Feb-15		05-Mar-15	14	yes						
Belgium	23-Feb-15	5-Mar	16-Mar-15	22	yes	10					
Belgium	25-Feb-15	16-Mar	18-Mar-15	22	-	19	VA				
Belgium	26-Feb-15	10-Iviai	12-Mar-15	14	yes yes	19	yes				
Belgium	28-Feb-15		16-Mar-15	17							
•	02-Mar-15		19-Mar-15	17	yes		V/00				
Belgium				19	yes		yes				
Belgium	05-Mar-15		24-Mar-15		yes						
Belgium	11-Mar-15	4 4	24-Mar-15	13	yes	0					
Belgium	23-Mar-15	1-Apr	07-Apr-15	15	yes	8					
Belgium	02-Apr-15		04-May-15	32	yes						
Belgium	15-Apr-15		04-May-15	19	yes	4-					
Belgium	17-Apr-15	4-May	07-May-15	20	yes	17					
Belgium	22-Apr-15		07-May-15	15	yes	6					
France	02-Feb-15	5-Feb	09-Feb-15	7	yes	3					
France	04-Feb-15	5-Mar	10-Mar-15	34	yes	29					
France	12-Mar-15		07-May-15	54	yes						
France	17-Mar-15		30-Mar-15	13	no						
France	13-Apr-15	20-Apr	22-Apr-15	9	no	7					
France	17-Apr-15		24-Apr-15	7	yes						
_uxembourg	02-Feb-15		27-Feb-15	25	yes						
∟uxembourg	10-Feb-15		27-Feb-15	17	no						
Spain	10-Mar-15		18-Mar-15	8	no						
Switzerland	12-Feb-15	23-Feb	25-Feb-15	13	yes	11					
USA	02-Jan-15		09-Jan-15	7	yes						
USA	27-Feb-15		18-Mar-15	20	yes						
USA	02-Mar-15	17-Mar	18-Mar-15	16	no	15					

Overall	qty	Best	worst	Average	to Sydney
Days from Belgium	30	8	32	19	14
Days from France	6	7	54	16*	13
Days from Luxembourg	2	17	25	21	
Days from USA	3	7	20	14	15
Days from Spain	1			8	
Days from Switzerland	1			13	11

Some points arising from the spreadsheet are:

- 1. Registered mail was almost the average for time
- 2. Delivery time from Sydney to Melbourne was mostly 2 to 3 days. Two examples took 10 days, one being over the Victorian Labour Day weekend. Possibly mis-sent elsewhere due to machine error.
- 3. Delivery times from Country to Sydney or in Sydney seem to take the main time.
- 4. Apart from showing airmail (redundant), prior gave no improvement in delivery times.
- 5. Luxembourg, Swiss and Spanish mail may come directly to Melbourne and pass London too, hence achieving shorter delivery times.
- 6. * 54 taken as 34 days for France delivery. An obvious aberration as the time is quite atypical.

Looking at the Belgian mail, the average delivery time for the 14 letters, which went through Sydney, is 19 days. Mail, which went directly to Melbourne, averaged 19 days for 15 items, i.e. no difference.

According to David Collyer, two main airline groups carry mail to Australia:

One World – includes Qantas and its partner, Emirates **Star Alliance** – includes Brussels Airlines (Lufthansa), Swissair and Singapore

From information on the internet concerning passenger flights as well as some guesswork on my part, may I suggest how the mail reaches Australia?

1. **One World**. Emirates from Brussels to Dubai daily. Resorted at Dubai for Qantas/Emirates flights to either Melbourne or Sydney. More flights possibly go to Sydney than Melbourne, so about half the mail goes through Sydney and is then trucked to Melbourne.

Possible that mail may go through London and onto Qantas from there. This must take extra time, but it is only a guess that this route is used from Belgium. Southern Europe would be backtracking this way, so it is probably not an option. London volumes may preclude this way

2. **Star Alliance**. Lufthansa from Brussels to Singapore. Resorted for Singapore Airlines flights to either Melbourne or Sydney. Again if too much mail is for Melbourne and Sydney flights have capacity, some goes through Sydney and on to Melbourne by road.

It is possible that Brussels airlines flies to Zurich and mail is transferred there to a Lufthansa flight and then on to Singapore as above.

In Australia, Melbourne, Sydney, (Perth & Brisbane) have ATCs (Airmail transit centres) at their airports, which is its first stop and from where outgoing mail is loaded onto planes. In Sydney, mail goes to the Sydney Gateway Facility (at Clyde near Parramatta) and then onto the SWLF (Sydney West Letter Facility) from where it is trucked to the Dandenong mail centre and ultimately delivered. If the mail comes straight to Melbourne, it goes through Tullamarine ATC and on to Dandenong MC.

On average 5 days passed between Sydney SWLF and delivery in Melbourne for Belgium mail. None was delivered on a Monday to me, but weekends could be involved, which may or may not make a difference for a Tuesday delivery. Best practice was two days between SWLF and delivery.

With the burgeoning parcel quantities being shipped, it is possible that letters are being squeezed for available space forming queuing. Further, parcels are more profitable so may get some priority, which they used not to have. That mail is taking longer on these routes to be delivered is apparent. The reasons do not really show up in this analysis. Maybe AP would enlighten us one day as a good PR exercise.

The other consideration is the relatively small quantity of Belgian mail for Australia. This may cause some waiting at resorting hubs to build up quantity for an open or closed bag to be economical.

Comparing the small quantities of mail I received from the other European destinations with that from Belgium, Spain and Switzerland showed a faster delivery, despite going through Sydney, than the average times for Belgium. This infers faster European transit times or maybe it was plain luck when planes flew. The sample size is too small to draw any conclusions.

Mail from USA comes the other way, across the Pacific. Interestingly, two of three letters went straight to Melbourne. There was a considerable difference in their times, with Sydney being in the middle.

A colleague of David Collyer, who lives in North Queensland, quoted the following delivery information for items from the following sources:

- 1. France. From a goodly sample size, priority airmail took 8 15 days with 8 days average. Registered mail was 1-2 days longer. His worst delivery was a couple of letters taking 20 and 24 days transit time.
- 2. UK Priority mail and registered approx 8 days delivery and books, magazines etc, varying from 8 to 15 days.
- 3. Italy, 4 registered letters averaged 15 days
- 4. Belgium (1) and Switzerland (2) letters took 10 days on average.

He thought mail went by air from either Sydney or Brisbane to Townsville and then truck but he was unsure. It certainly points to a faster service that down South. Maybe smaller quantities go more often, whereas in Melbourne and Sydney, there is only a once a day transfer interstate or for delivery locally the next day.

Australia Post maintains it is losing money on letters. I am highly doubtful, even with a price hike as mooted, the service will be any better. It seems obvious to me that static time in transit as opposed to moving or dynamic, is a major contributor to poorer delivery services. Today's planes fly further on each leg than before, yet delivery standards have fallen in terms of time taken. It wasn't so long ago that you could reliably expect letters to take 7-8 days from Belgium, and 5 days from UK. Those going westwards were faster due to our being 9-10 hours ahead of Europe.

I would not be in the least surprised if US paranoia has led to more searches, greater level of inspection and a general slowing of service. Airline security since 9/11 has grown out of all proportion and times in passenger terminals to complete formalities mushroomed. Why would you expect mails to get better treatment?



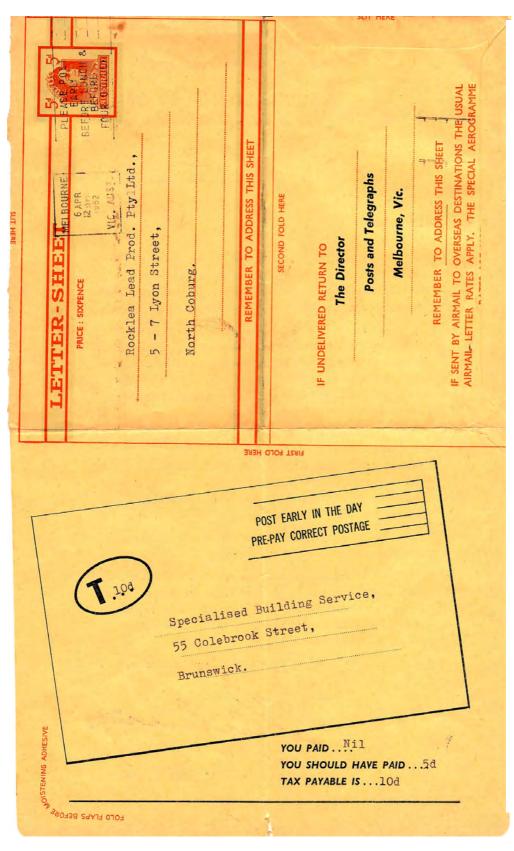
A registered letter, which went through Sydney.

My thanks to David Collyer and some of his colleagues for their help with this article.

I hope it generates some comments from other readers and maybe enlightenment from AP. Are we being well served?

Service With a Smile - 1962 Style

John Steward



The postage due explanatory letter sheet, which is shown on the left and on following page, is a quaint - to us today - way of how things were back in done 1962. Has anybody ever seen another example?

With today's mechanisation in letter sorting, it is rare to see a postage due mark, and then it needs to be great discrepancy warrant to chasing. Things were slightly different half a century ago.

The back cover of March 2015 AJP showed how Belgians rightly disregard the 10% additional cost for using value stamps rather than generic ones.



AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE

"Vast to serve the Nation, personal to serve you"

General Post Office, MELBOURNE, Vic.

-5 APR 1962

Dear Sender,

Among the letters found in the mail today with insufficient postage on them, was one you had posted. As your letter may be urgent, we have forwarded it to the addressee rather than delay it by returning it to you.

In this particular case, however, under Postal Laws the addressee will have to pay double the postage deficiency before the letter is delivered. For your information, the name and address shown on your letter, as well as the amount to be collected in this instance, are shown over the page.

You will agree that it would be easy for anyone receiving such mail to interpret it as a lack of care or courtesy on the part of the sender. As I know you do not want your mail to give this impression, may I suggest that your mailing procedure be checked to ensure that future underpayments do not occur.

To assist you, I have enclosed a postage rate card, and extra copies of these are available on request.

If you wish to make further inquiries concerning these cards or about rates of postage would you please get in touch with your local Postmaster. However, if this is not convenient, please ring 60 4708 (Melbourne) during business hours.

Yours faithfully,

G. N. SMITH,

Posts and Telegraphs.

Upper Class Mail

Ian Cutter

The postcard illustrated is not in very good condition, but its attraction lies in it having been sent to a Sir Joseph Carruthers, and addressed to his club in Sydney. There is also the "Hands Across the Sea" motif on the card: I have a vague idea that this might be of significance.

The card shows liner RMS Empress of Britain. This vessel of 14189 tonnes was launched on the



Clyde 11 November 1905, and sailed from Liverpool on her maiden voyage on 5 May 1906.

Unfortunately the stamp had been removed from the card, but the remnant of postmark, reading RIMCUS[], looked interesting, with hints of "Royal Mail" or "Customs". Actually the postmark is RIMOUSKI, a Canadian city located at the mouth of the Rimouski River. Founded by Sir René Lepage de Ste-Claire in 1696, it was the port for the Quebec – Liverpool service of Canadian Pacific Steamships.

The date visible on the postmark is SP2[] / 0[], but knowing that the first voyage of

the ship was in May 1906, this limits the year to either 1906, 1907, 1908 or 1909. [Actually we can do better than that – see later.]

The card was mailed to "Australian Club / Sydney". No street address is shown [it was at 165 Macquarie St on the corner of Bent St] but given that it was established in 1838 and was the oldest gentlemen's club in the Southern Hemisphere, it is reasonable to assume that anybody of consequence, including the postman, would know where it was.

The card is addressed c/o Sir Joseph Carruthers. He was Premier of NSW from 1904 to 1907 and Leader of Government in the Upper House from 1922 to 1925. He was born in 1856 at Kiama, the 6th son among nine children, and he himself had four sons and four daughters.

The recipient is Bobs Carruthers. "Bobs" could possibly be one of Sir Joseph's brothers or one of his sons. The name itself is unusual and could have arisen in imitation of Frederick Roberts, 1st Earl Roberts, (1832 – 1914) who was nicknamed "Bobs". Given that



nicknames are often acquired early in life, and the fact that Earl Roberts was particularly prominent in the second Boer War of 1899 – 1900, the probability is that the recipient was one of Sir Joseph's children.

The message on the card reads as follows

Gulf of St Lawrence, Empress of Britain, Sept 23

Dear Bobs, I am on my way home, one day & a half out from Canada. I will be very glad to see you all again & I hope you are all well. We have had a rough voyage, & I won't be sorry when it is over. Give my best regards to all at home. Percy S Hunter.

Percy S Hunter, a Victorian, joined the NSW Government in 1906 when Sir Joseph Carruthers was Premier, and helped to establish the Tourist Bureau. In 1908 Mr Hunter was in London in connection with immigration matters. [This gives the year for the datestamp].

We see that Mr Hunter did not enjoy the Atlantic crossing, but it could have been much worse.

On 26 April 1912 the ship on which he had travelled, the *Empress of Britain*, struck an iceberg, fortunately without loss of life: this was less than 2 weeks after the Titanic disaster. More seriously, on 29 May 1914 the sister ship to the *Empress of Britain*, the *Empress of Ireland*, sank in the St Lawrence Seaway after colliding with a collier, with the loss of 1012 lives.

Now, I have no special knowledge of any aspects of the card itself, its journey, its message or the people. Nevertheless, in less than an hour I was able to retrieve the above information from the web (although admittedly further time has been spent in producing a coherent story). This shows how much data is now at our fingertips, literally - we should make full use of it whenever possible.

And of course we do know about "Hands across the sea" -refer to:

"Cabinet magazine.org/issues/36/coxhead.php."

There does remain one question – what was the benefit of addressing the card "Via London"?

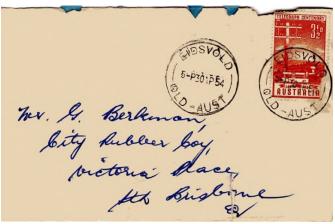
The Postmark Collectors' Friend?

Ian Cutter

These two covers were first noticed because they bracketed the change in the style of datestamp, which must have occurred sometime between 2MR53 and 30AP54.

Also of note is that each of them bears two date-stamps, one on the stamp itself and a complete one alongside it.





It seems as though a clear impression was thought to be important. However, the context – two examples addressed to the City Rubber Coy –suggests that this was unlikely to have been done for philatelic reasons.

A quick scan of some other covers did find similar examples from Nobby, Palmwoods and Pioneer.

Was this official Queensland practice, local Queensland pride, or just coincidence?

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Coordinated by George Vearing

This edition will contain mostly Victorian datestamps as material from other states is not forthcoming. There must be plenty of material in the other states and it would be appreciated it more material was available to record.

There is some earlier material shown here and it has all come from a large collection I bought last year and the next few editions will show some more of the unrecorded Victorian datestamps from 2000 onwards.

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



VIC.:- (CONT.)







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- 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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By train to Cologne where it was censored (c). Then train to Bourges via Paris and Orleans. (Bourges cds of 3 Apr 41). Bourges to Saint-Satur (by Loire river) by road (Saint-Satur arrival cds of 4 Apr 41)