

Australian Journal of Philately

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Date	2020 / 2021 Programme	Display
17 August 2020	AGM and Display	TBA
19 October 2020	TBA	TBA
21 December 2020	Christmas Meeting	Members 4-10 Pages Exhibits

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Front Cover *Tony Lyon*

OAS cover sent by LAC J H Tukotaki NZ429681 RNZAF, addressed to Miss Gloria Jean at Universal Studio, California, USA.

It was sent through the U.S. Army Postal Service Apr 24 1945. Senders address APO 198 which was located on Emirau Island, PNG March 44—30 Aug 45. RNZAF Censor cachet.

Gloria Jean, (born Gloria Jean Schoonover, April 14, 1926 – August 31, 2018) was a former child singing sensation remembered for her popular 1940s Universal Studios films and her leading part in W. C. Fields's antic comedy "Never Give a Sucker an Even Break," She starred or co-starred in 26 feature films from 1939 to 1959, and made numerous radio, television, stage, and nightclub appearances.

Editorial

Tony Lyon

Well here we are in June and still somewhat isolated not going out unless necessary. Did you get any of the projects that you were hoping to have time for done while under lockdown? It was a great opportunity to dust off the boxes of stuff that one have accumulated and do something positive with it.

Of course at the moment we are not sure when we will be able to have members meetings again as we have not been advised by the council. That means the AGM which is normally held in August will not be held then unless the council receives advice that we can meet again. It also means that a number of our displays are on hold and will need to be rescheduled.

The president will keep us informed by email of letter when we have clarity.

It was very gratifying to receive a Large Gold with special prize at the Canberra Stampshow 2020 for my New Zealand Forces to and from the Pacific 1940-45.

Until next time ciao.

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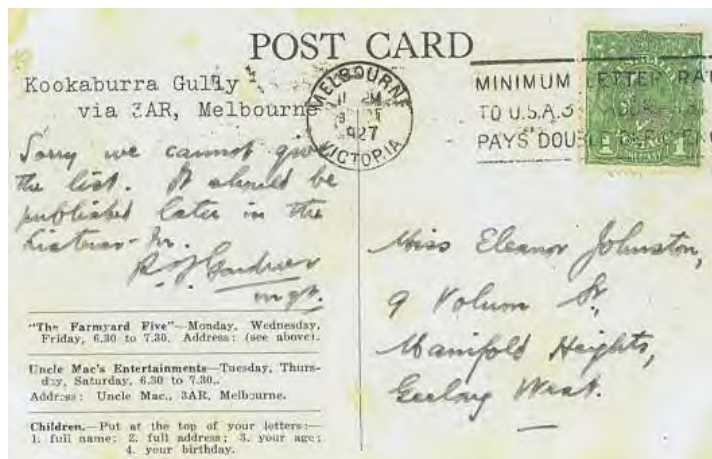


From the President

In this decade regular wireless broadcasting is approaching its centenary. Four stations began operation in November 1923: 2SB and 2FC [Sydney], 3AR Melbourne and 6WF Perth. All were run by private firms, and 3AR's owner was the Associated Radio Company.

The company had a postcard to answer listener's enquiries, and it is shown below. It has a message signed by the station manager, R Gardner. On its other side the card depicts characters from its Farmyard Five, an evening programme broadcast for an hour on three nights a week. The picture was drawn by Mary Gardner [wife, daughter, sister of the manager?].

Wireless was no doubt a welcome pleasure for people becalmed at home, just as we have been in the COVID19 era. Our members' meetings stand adjourned, and all we have for members is this journal. It is our intention to keep publishing as if nothing has changed [providing we can find a printer still open for hard-copy subscribers]. Of course, writing journal articles depends on finding fresh postal history items for write-ups, and the closure of stamp fairs and such like gives us much less to trawl through. We are thrown back on stuff lying in shoe boxes in back rooms at home. If you have a house-bound hoard to look through please break it open, and send us an article.



Speaking of articles one of our long standing members, Ron Lee, has nearly completed a seven-volume 'Airmail: the story of Australia's Overseas Airmail' [1870-1948]. Publication is scheduled for this year, and further details are on www.airmailthestory.com.au.

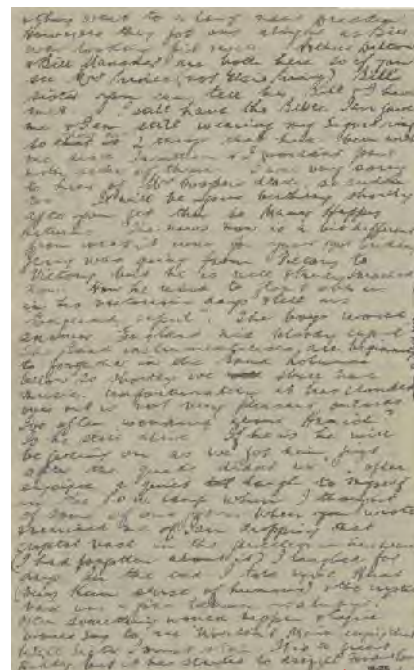
Members will know that subscriptions to the APS can be paid to our treasurer or through electronic transfer. The electronic method has been a bit of a nightmare: payers' names come in code, which involves time consuming decoding. Henceforth subscriptions can be made by direct bank payment to Commonwealth Bank 06 3134 0090 1086 or by cheque etc. to our Treasurer. Each payer's name must be given to the Bank, which will pass it on to us. The subscription details are on page 2 of the journal. You can pay now, or await an invoice with the September journal.

Stationery Necessitated by Wartime Conditions – Part 6

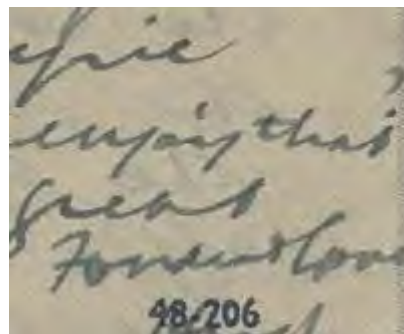
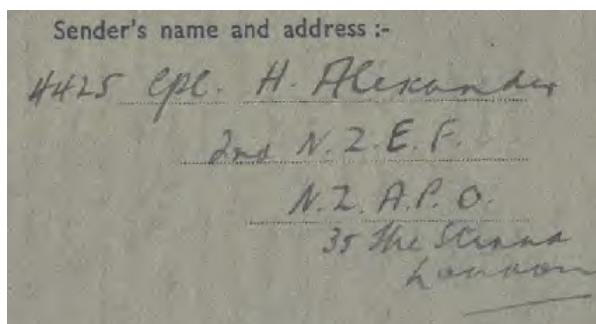
Tony Lyon

Continuing on from Part 5 in AJP 150 December 2019 with Air Mail Letter Cards (AMLC).

Air Letter – 48-206



Print code 48-206



An Air Letter printing No. 48-206 sent by Corporal Hubert Alexander 4425, 2nd Division Petrol Company. Alexander was a repatriated POW. The 3d Geo VI violet has been cancelled by the N.Z.F.P.O. (UK) 6 dated 21 MY 45. This Field Post Office was located at Broadstairs, Kent, UK from 21.4.45 – 31.8.45. It was named the Hargest Wing/Crump Wing, camp for southern infantry, and NZASC.

Brigadier James Hargest was commander 5th NZ Brigade January 1940 - November 1941; He was captured when 5th brigade headquarters was overrun in the area of Sidi Azeiz, Libya 27 November 1941; He escaped March 1943 from Campo PG 12 P 3200 in Italy and made it to Switzerland along with Brigadier R. Miles; Brigadier Reginald Miles HQ NZ Artillery was captured at Tobruk, Libya 1 December 1941 when his unit was overrun and he was wounded and taken prisoner. He died in Figueras, Spain, on 20 October 1943.

After the invasion of France on 6 June 1944, arrangements began to be made for the repatriation of prisoners of war. James Hargest was appointed to command the New Zealand Reception Group in England. He took part in the D Day landing in Normandy as New Zealand observer and was killed in action on his last day in the field before taking command of the Prisoner of War Reception Group in France, 12 August 1944. Brigadier Hargest came from Southland, NZ.

Brigadier Stanley Herbert Crump was commander NZASC 2nd NZ Division, 1940–45.

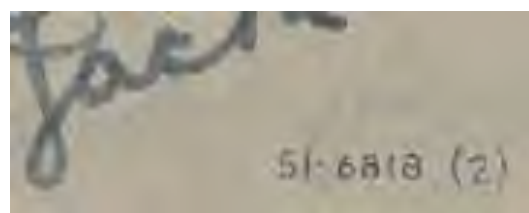
Air Letter - Army Form W.3077. Code 51 – 6818 (2)



(B)
We get all our washing and ironing done for us as in Egypt. The beds here are splendid, and everything is good about the place. We have a bed each, not a wooden stretcher as in Trentham, but there's only an earth floor in the tent of course, although we have a thick tarpaulin covering it. So I haven't any complaint. Drury Thorpe hasn't answered the letter I wrote him from Egypt. I wonder how Mrs Thorpe is. She was to have had an operation in April. When we get paid here, we feel like millionaires you know. There's four hundred Lira to the pound, and there's only paper money issued. Cigarettes are plentiful at our canteen, very cheap, 20 Lira a pack for nine pence. Tobacco is cheap also, but there's only thick paper. I have two packets of cigarettes left now, so I can see myself getting lazy and smoking tailor-made only, a bad habit to get into. Well, good people, that's all for now. Hoping this finds you all three in the best of health and spirits. Always yours, Leslie Price.

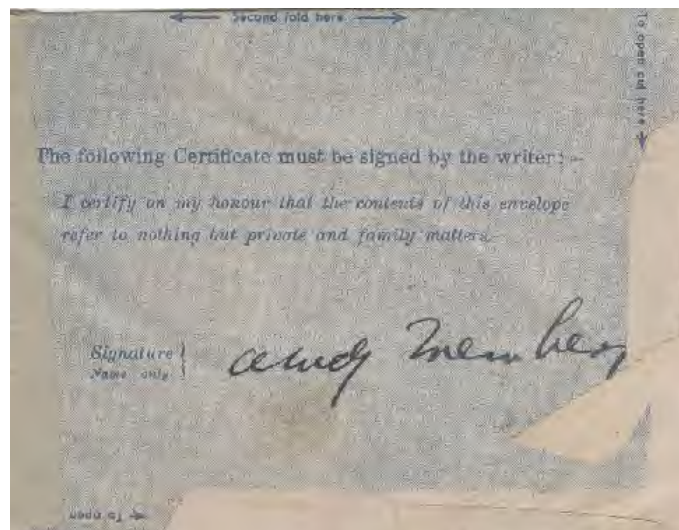
Print No. 51-6818 (2)

Air Letter inscribed Army Form W 3077 at front bottom right hand corner and code 51 – 6818 (2) in the bottom right hand corner of panel three; was sent from MPO KW 9 21 JUL 1944. This was the MPO for No 2 NZ General Hospital located at Caserta, Italy 8.2.44-24.6.45. The sender Leslie James Price (249566) was with New Zealand Medical Corp at 2nd N.Z.G.H.



Print No. 51-6818 (2)

Air Letter - Army Form W.3077.A – P.S.S./B/5000M/10-44



An example of Air Letter sent by Sergeant Archibald McGeachie Membery 22133 N.Z. Infantry Training Depot.

MPO KW 7 at was located at Maadi Camp from 23.9.43 – 14.3.46.

The Print Number is located on the rear panel on the left side.



Print No PS.S./B/D75/5000M/10.44 _

Armed Forces Air Letter

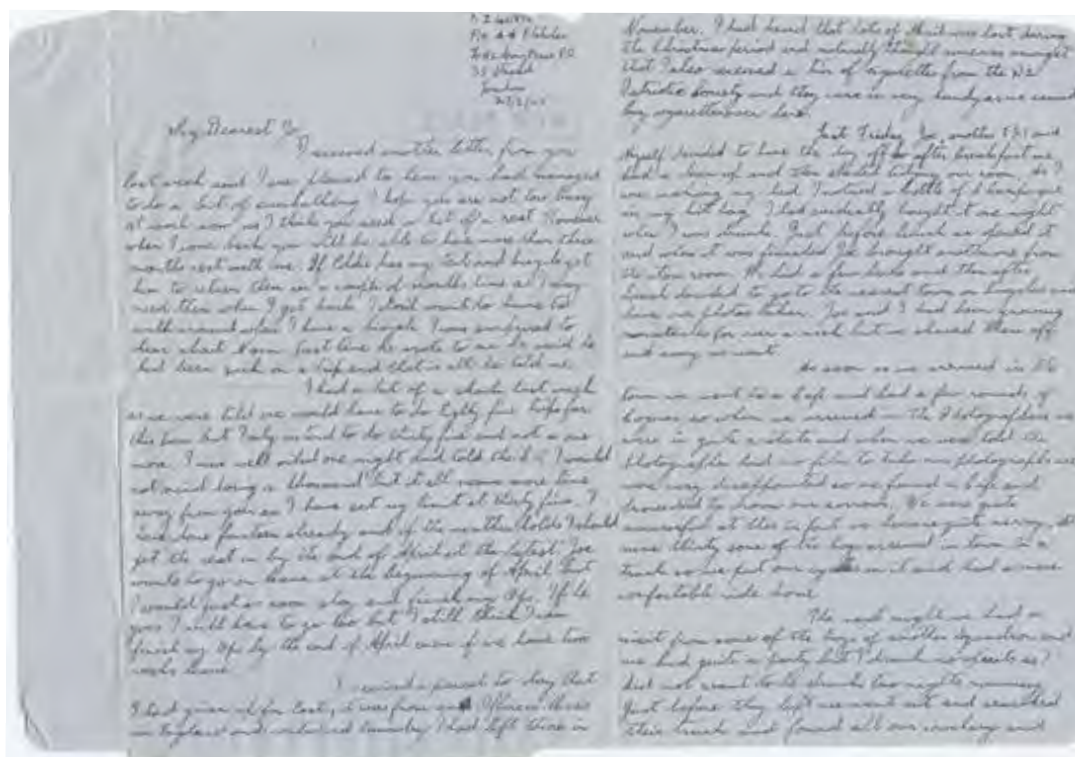
Another type of postal stationery was the Armed Forces Air Letter.



It was sent by Flying Officer Archibald Alexander Fletcher 411875. It has been posted through FPO 868.

I suggest that at this time Fletcher was stationed at St.Croix-sur-Mer, Banville, France, code name B3. According to Proud this FPO was located there from (28.8.44) or earlier and (5.11.44) or later. The writer talks about receiving a parcel from England with items he left behind.

It has been censored and a Colley & Garrard type R7 No 4 cachet applied and self-censored.



Journey to the End of the World – A Response

Joan Orr

I was interested to read Ian Cutter's short article on the above. I would like to add a little more to the story.

Worlds End Post Office opened on 1 November 1876 and closed on 31st May 1971. It was allocated a Postcode when these were introduced – 5381, which it held until its closure.

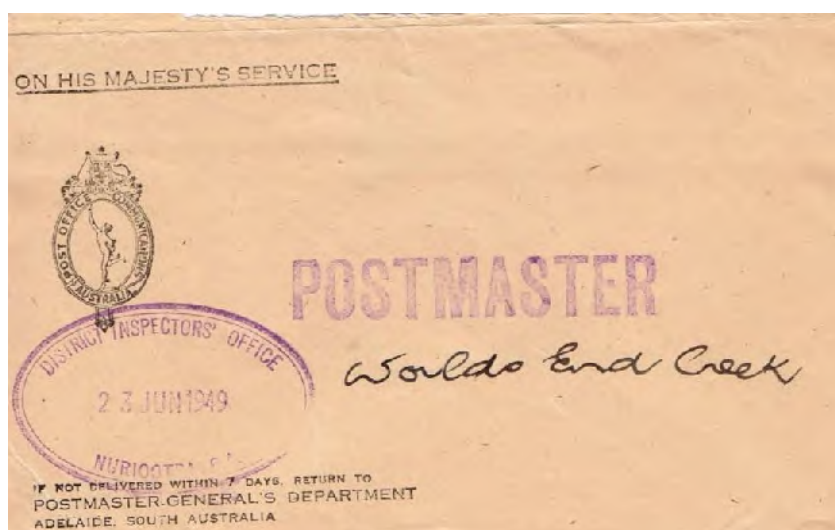
A school operated from 1888 until 2.9.1944 and the Wesleyan Methodist Church building, which was still standing when I last visited, opened in 1889 and closed in 1975. It was used as the school for part of this time.



Worlds End Creek once had its own Cricket and Tennis teams.

Now it is a stop off for the recreation reserve of Burra Lodge in Worlds End Reserve. It is noted for camping and hiking. However this Easter it will be deserted as most camping spots are closed due to COVID – 19.

Illus. 1: 4 OC1947 WORLDS END CREEK – IOWA UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Illus. 2: OHMS POSTMASTER GENERAL's DEPARTMENT to POSTMASTER Worlds End Creek from DISTRICT INSPECTORS' OFFICE / 23 JUN 1949 / NURIOOTPA SA.

Collector at Work – Skellefteå

Ian Cutter

Covers that have been generated for philatelic reasons can usually be interpreted to give some insight into the reason for their creation. This one is a puzzle.

It was in an accumulation from the estate of a local collector, a person with an extensive network of contacts, both Australian and international, and a particular interest in meters.

There were a number of similar covers to various addresses, although only one of them was to the collector himself. The formats were identical, a small cover with one stamp and two postmarks.

Also, in each case the content was similar – a piece of thin brown paper carrying a thumbnail newsprint portrait.

Are there any suggestions?



The datestamp has been applied at Skellefteå Airport.

Skellefteå is the southern entry into Swedish Lapland. Half the population inhabits the countryside – next door to wild salmon rivers, hundreds of lakes, dense forests and miles and miles of coastline.

The other half dwell in a modern city, a seamless transition from urban to rural defining the good life in the subarctic – stretching from fine dining to cooling winter swims.¹

Is it possible it is a flight cover? (Ed).

Here is another item from Ian Cutter demonstrating how far one can miss the mark.

Addressed to Mentone, Victoria, it ended up in Japan.

I wonder how much mail has been miss-sent during the last 3 months!

I know some mail is taking up to 2 weeks to move 2 or 3 suburbs!



¹ <https://www.swedishlapland.com/skelleftea/>

Trans Pacific Airmails, 1934-1941

John Young

Addendum

The article in the March journal left out some illustrations. On page 5 I mentioned covers flown from Portugal and Spain to Australia via the Atlantic, USA and the Pacific. On page 9 I mentioned a cover from Russian-occupied Latvia to USA. At the time of posting the cover could not be carried through the Mediterranean for the PAA service from Lisbon to New York. Instead, its probable route was transmission to Cairo, airmail by BOAC to Singapore and Hong Kong, and PAA to San Francisco. There is a San Francisco back stamp, on the pictorial back of the Latvian envelope which makes it unreproducible for the journal, but is clear enough under a magnifying glass.

All illustrations are shown here.



Illus. 1 1941. Flown trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific by PAA to Auckland, then TEAL to Sydney.

Franked 13 ESC 75, about 2½ times the trans-Atlantic airmail rate.



Illus. 2: 1941. Transmitted to Lisbon and flown trans-Atlantic and trans-Pacific by PAA to Auckland, then TEAL to Sydney.

Franked 13 Pta 15 (including stamps on back), triple the trans-Atlantic airmail rate.



Illus. 3: 1941, May. Transmission from Russian-occupied Latvia presumably to Cairo, then flown by BOAC to Singapore, PAA to San Francisco, U.S. service to Minnesota.

Transmission: Latvia 19 May, San Francisco 5 July (faint backstamp)

Philately of Rajasthan, India: 3. Kishangarh

Ian Sadler

Kishangarh is now a city in the Ajmer District of Rajasthan. The Princely State was founded by the Jodhpur prince Kishan Singh in 1609; 'Garh' means a fortress. In 1901 its area was 2210 km² and its population was 91,000. During the period of using stamps, Kishangarh was largely ruled by the 20th Maharaja, Madan Singh, who improved irrigation and started cotton ginning factories. It became part of the state of Rajasthan in April, 1949.

Maharaja Sardul Singh, ruled 1879-1900

1899 Medium wove paper.

SG 1, 1 anna indistinct



1899-1901. 3rd issue. Singly printed stamps on thin, white wove paper.

a) Imperforate



1/4 a. green



1/4 a. carmine



1/4 a. magenta, shades



1/2 a. red



1/2 a. slate-blue



1/2 a. turquoise-blue



1 a. brown-lilac



2a. Dull orange



4 a. chocolate



4 a. chestnut

N.B. In some issues bird faces right (e.g. 1/4 a.), in others it faces left (e.g. 1/2 a.).

1899-1901 3rd issue (contd.) b) Pin-perf 12.5 or 14

¼ anna



rose-pink

tete-beche pairs
from sheet centre



carmine



magenta



½ anna light blue



1 a. slate



1 a. lilac



1 a. brown-lilac



4a. chestnut



1 r. dull green



2 r. brown-red

tete-
beche



5r. mauve

1903 Litho. Imperf
Maharaja Sardul Singh



2 a. dull yellow

1904 Printed singly
Pin-perf



8 a. grey

Maharaja Madan Singh rules 1900-26

Kishangarh

1904 Definitives Printed Perkins, Bacon & Co. 1st issue

a) Colour trials, imperf

½ anna .



1 anna .



b) 1904 issue, perf 12.5



carmine



chestnut



blue



orange-yellow



brown



violet



green



olive-yellow



purple-brown

1913 New design for same Maharaja. Rouletted, thick paper

2anna purple.
No ornaments
at top.



¼ anna pale blue.
Larger design with
½ tone centre.
Cut out.



1913-16 Stamps printed further apart

¼ anna blue



½ anna green



corner of sheet

Kishangarh

Maharaja Yagyanara Singh 1926-39

1928-36 New Maharaja on thick, surfaced paper. Pin perf.



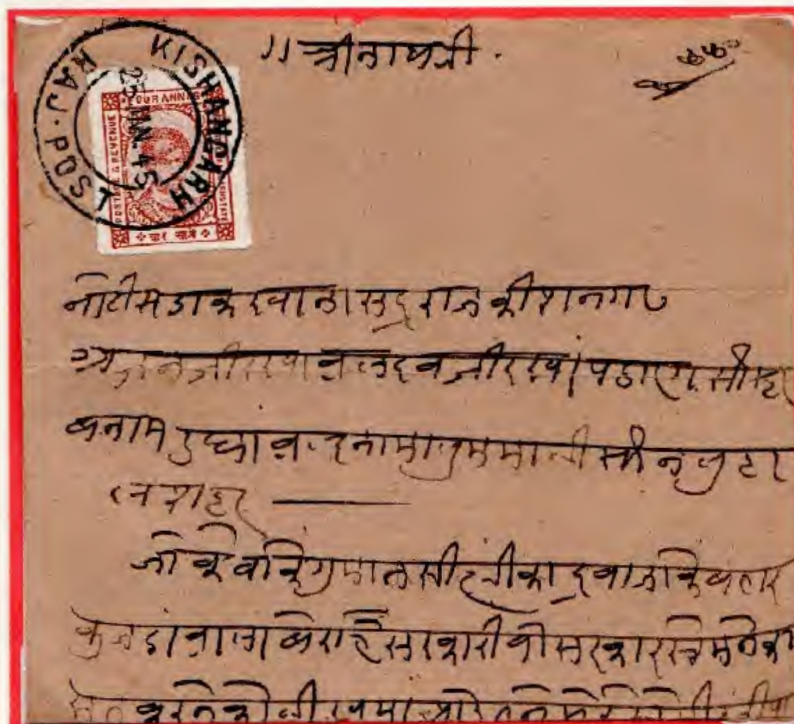
1939 November



King George V postcard from Kishangarh on November 15th with extra K.G. VI train stamp covering cost of registration. Travelled to Beawar on the 16th. Bears large circular seal stating 'District Sessions Court, Kishangarh State'. Message written in Hindi.

Maharaja Samar Singh ruled 1939-1971

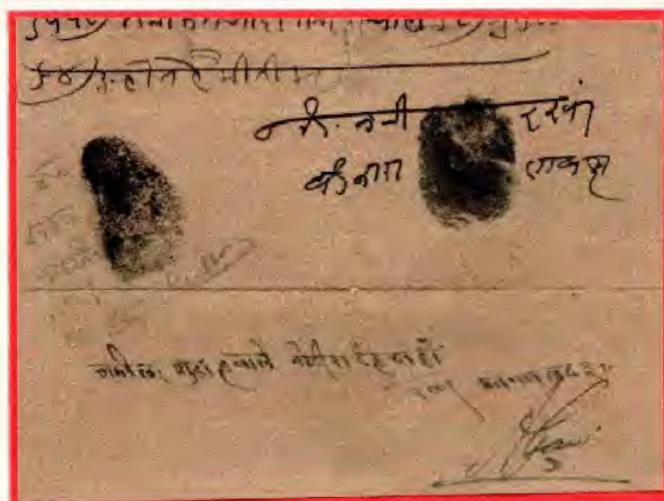
1943-47 Poor impression on thick, unsurfaced paper. Pin perf.
Stamps show previous Maharaja (Yagyanarayan).



Rare letter sheet bearing 4 annas brown, in set above, tied by 'Kishangarh Raj Post 24 Jan 1945'. Below, part reverse shows thumb print signature.



Above, folded entire posted in Kishangarh in 1945 bears two 1/2 anna green stamps. Written in Hindi.



Glimpses of South Australian History through Private Postal Wrappers

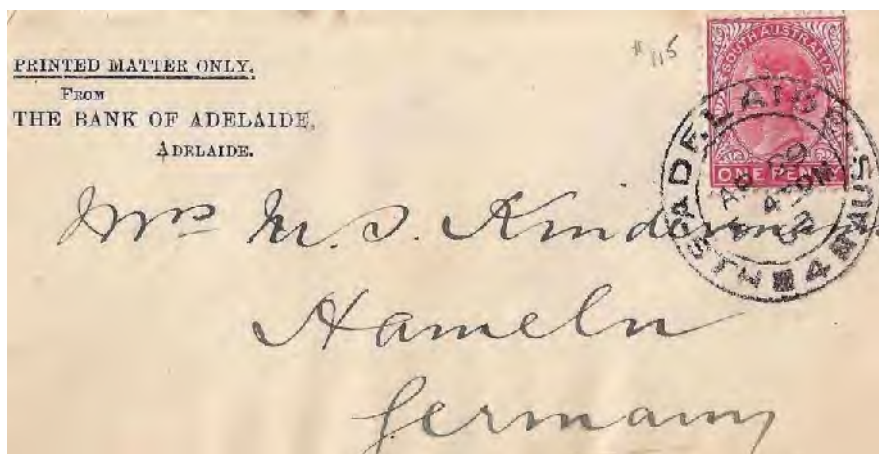
Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL acapiajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

In the previous issue of the Journal, an article examining “Glimpses of Tasmania” examined five non-post office wrappers, and a parcel label and a letter card bearing private overprinting. Non-post office wrappers normally receive little attention because it does not fit postal stationery and would be missed within postal history unless some unusual rate, destination or auxiliary marking was revealed. The backstory of each wrapper provided insights into the commercial and social history of the colony/state around the turn of the 19th century.

This issue of the Journal examines five non-post office wrappers that were used in South Australia. Images of these five wrappers were obtained during the author's daily hand-collecting of used postal wrappers listed on the internet site eBay over about 15 years. They are scarce because these five examples are part of a larger worldwide database of about 8,500 wrappers of this kind. Collectively they add to a knowledge of the organizations and behaviour of Adelaide society and demonstrate the role of wrappers in communication and the mail distribution system.

Bank of Adelaide

This wrapper from *The Bank of Adelaide, Adelaide* is paid with an 1899 1d carmine Queen Victoria (Sc115) and cancelled with a double-ring ADELAIDE AP 29 5 45PM 03 STH AUS and identifier 4 between. The wrapper states the contents as PRINTED MATTER ONLY. The rate to foreign countries for postal wrappers was 1d for 2 oz. It is addressed to Mrs. M. S. Kindermann, Hameln, Germany. Kindermann was a philatelist and cover provider. Hameln or Hamelin is a town in Lower Saxony, best known for the tale of the Pied Piper of Hamelin. In 1903 the population of Hamelin was about 20,000 and the town was divided into eleven subdivisions. It is testimony to the dedication of the postal service that imprecise addressee details could still result in accurate delivery to the named person.



The Bank of Adelaide was founded in 1865 in Adelaide as a result of a group of Adelaide leading citizens desiring a bank sympathetic to local needs. The bank commenced business in 1865 in Gresham Chambers, and it opened its first branch in 1866, followed by three others. To obtain permanent premises a corner block extending from King William Street to Currie Street was purchased for £9,500. Existing buildings were demolished and the design of the new premises was opened to public competition. The entrants were told that “the facades should be boldly treated and that there needed to be accommodation in the basement for two strong rooms for coin, books and securities, a voucher room, stationery room and a clerk's cloak room. On the ground floor a public office and clerk's room, a board room, a waiting room to accommodate also two or more clerks and a lift from the basement were

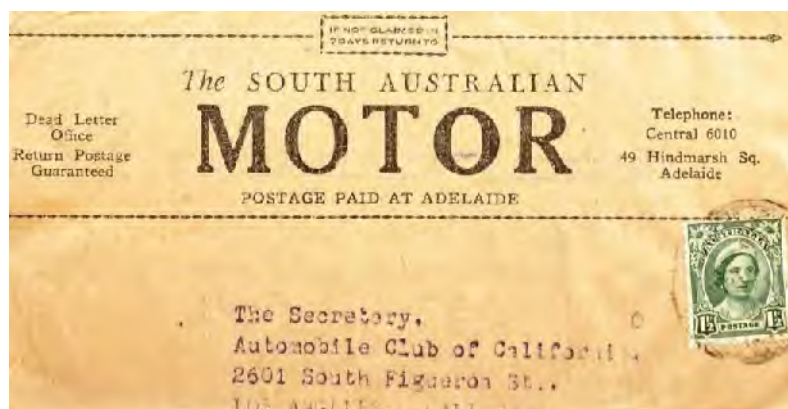
required. The first floor was to be the Manager's residence, and was to comprise a drawing room, dining room, morning room and library, together with three bedrooms, two servants' rooms, kitchen, scullery and larder. The successful design was to be awarded a premium of £150. Although 27 plans were submitted, the design of a former Mayor of Adelaide and architect of the Town Hall and the GPO, was chosen. The building was soon erected and by the beginning of October 1880 the bank was conducting business from the new building."

In 1886, a local institution, the Commercial Bank of South Australia, failed, and the Bank of Adelaide considerably strengthened its base by taking over many of its branches, premises and staff. In 1893 land speculation caused a crisis resulting in every local bank closing except the Bank of Adelaide which continued to conduct normal operations. As a result, the Bank was proclaimed by the Government under the Trustee Act 1893 as a Bank in which trustees could deposit funds without liability to themselves. For many years the Bank was the only bank in South Australia to enjoy that privilege.

It was only one of three companies in Australia with the distinction of paying a dividend since incorporation. In 1979 the Bank was purchased by the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group Limited.

South Australian Motor

This post Second World War wrapper shows the masthead *The South Australian Motor* with headquarters at 49 Hindmarsh Sq., Adelaide. The postage was paid at Adelaide with a 1942 1½d green Queen Elizabeth (Sc192) and cancelled with an unreadable circular date stamp. The rate for magazines and periodicals from 10 December 1941 was 1d per 2 oz plus a ½d war tax. Obviously, the proprietor of this magazine wanted to maintain a current mailing list for there are two messages: 1) a boxed "If not claimed in 7 days return to" and 2) a four line "Dead Letter// Office// Return Postage// Guaranteed." The wrapper is addressed to The Secretary, Automobile Club of California, 2601 South Figueroa St., Los Angeles, California, USA.



The South Australian Motor was the official journal of the Royal Automobile Association (RAA) of South Australia. On 30 September 1903 a small group of South Australian motoring enthusiasts established a social motoring club, calling itself the Automobile and Motor Cycling Club. The name was amended in 1904 by deleting the words 'Motor Cycling.' In 1911 the club was reconstituted as an association. Originally, the head office was located in Hindmarsh Square (as shown on the wrapper) in the Adelaide central business district. The RAA moved to these premises in 1928 and in the same year it was granted Royal patronage.

Following the outbreak of the Second World War, the RAA formed and operated the Civil Defence Transport Auxiliary, surveyed and mapped the state's roads for the military authorities, provided research into alternative fuels and supported the cause in other ways. The period of austerity and hard times were caused by increasingly tough petrol rationing and unprecedented inflation. By 1947 the motoring organisations knew that rationing was no longer necessary and campaigned to have it removed. Since the early 1920s, the RAA argued for a single Road Traffic Act to replace about a dozen different Acts and

hundreds of regulations. The RAA was a participant on the committee which put together the Act, which came into force in 1937.

Adelaide Mercantile Report

This wrapper is headed ADELAIDE MERCANTILE REPORT with PRICES CURRENT ONLY beneath. It has had a stamp removed which was originally placed to the left of the stamp shown (1876 1d green Queen Victoria) (Sc64)); close inspection can reveal the slightly faded patch of wrapper and printing. The wrapper was cancelled with a duplex obliterator; SHIP MAIL ROOM J JU ? 83 and S. AUSTRALIA within three bars above/below. The cancellation is repeated over the wording ELDER, SMITH, & Co. and also over the letters 'E MERCA'. The wrapper's address is pre-printed C. M. Norman, Esq., STOCKHOLM (Sweden). It has been forwarded from Adelaide by ELDER, SMITH, & Co.



Alexander Land Elder arrived in Port Adelaide in January 1839 to set up business and explore opportunities for his family's Scottish-based merchant and shipping business. His three brothers joined him but only one brother Thomas stayed in Australia, moved to Adelaide in 1854 and formed Elder, Smith & Co. with Barr Smith. In 1888 Elder, Smith and Co. was amalgamated with its subsidiary Elder's Wool & Produce Co. Ltd, and the new company was called Elder, Smith & Co. Ltd.

The Mercantile Report does not appear to have been a publication as such. 'Prices Current Only' would suggest it comprises one sheet, printed on both sides and folded to fit lengthways in the wrapper. The content of the Report contains current prices paid for commodities such as wheat and flour, oats, barley, sugar, wines and spirits, tobacco, woods, fencing wire, salted provisions, pork, beef, butter, dried fruits, salt, coal, and so forth. The rate for commercial papers was 1d per 2 oz but the missing stamp suggests it could have been for 2d, the 3d paying up to 2 oz. for places other than within Australia.

Chess Bulletin

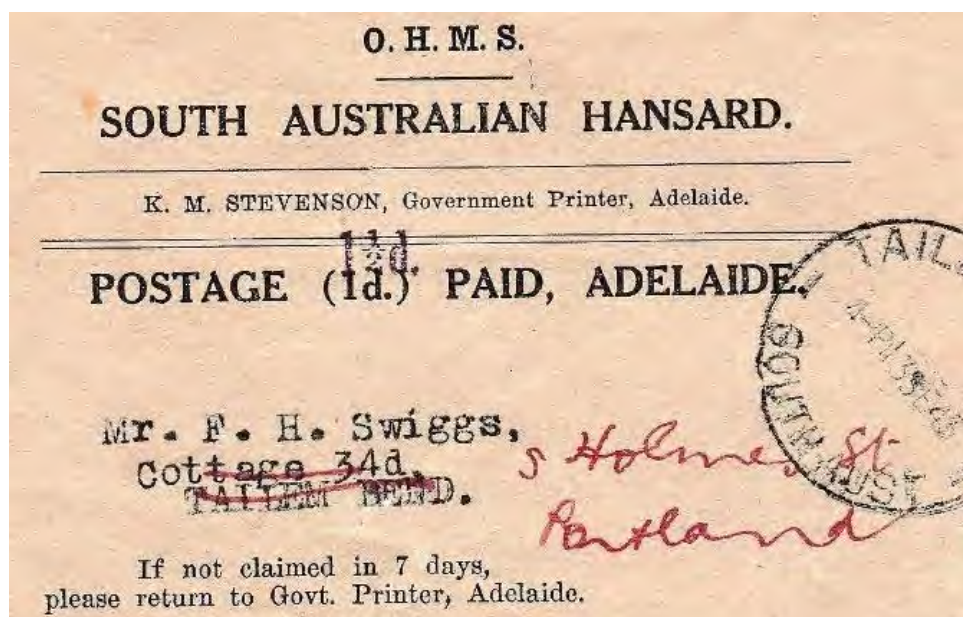
The date of this wrapper is between 1978 and 2000 because after that year the Bulletin was published in Sydney. The postage was prepaid at the foreign countries rate of 1d for a weight of up to 2 oz. which was likely sufficient for a copy of the Bulletin (newsletter) at that time. Prepayment is shown by a boxed printed Postage Paid// Adelaide// S. Aust.//5000. The wrapper is overprinted S.A. CHESS BULLETIN and Registered at the G.P.O., Adelaide, for// transmission by post as a periodical. Beneath the addressee details is the wording 'If undelivered return to:// The Editor, S.A. Chess Bulletin, 139 Fisher Street, Malvern, S.A. 5061. The wrapper is addressed to Mr Robert Wiget, Statistician F.I.D.E., Boul. Dr. Ernest, Feltgen 38, Luxembourg. FIDE in the address means Fédération Internationale des Échecs (i.e., International Chess Federation).



The full title of this Bulletin is the *Australian Women's Chess League Bulletin Quarterly*. The League was founded in 1976 specifically to promote women's and girls' chess. The Bulletin commenced in 1978 and was published three times a year from the address 139 Fisher Street, Malvern, S.A. 5061. In the year 2000 publication shifted to NSW. Evelyn Koshnitsky was president of the Australian Women's Chess League from 1978 and for ten years she was editor of the League's magazine.

South Australian Hansard

An official O.H.M.S. wrapper containing routine unbound supplements of the South Australian Parliamentary Hansard was mailed from Adelaide to Tailem Bend, where it was forwarded to the addressee in Portland, Victoria, some 275 miles east. There is a transit postmark TAILEM BEND 4-P 3 SE 43 SOUTH AUST. which helps to identify the mailing date of the wrapper. Postage of 1½d had been prepaid at Adelaide, the purple 1½d handstamp located above the printed (1d.). The rate from 10 December for periodicals was 1d per 6 oz. plus ½d war tax per item. "If not claimed in 7 days, please return to Govt. Printer, Adelaide" named as K. M. Stevenson printed beneath the named contents.



South Australian Hansard is the official record of parliamentary debates and speeches made in Parliament. Hansard is the name given to the edited transcripts of parliamentary debates and questions in the House of Assembly, the Legislative Council and parliamentary committees. It includes the transcript of the second reading speech for Bills where the Minister introducing the Bill to the house of Parliament explains its general principles and purpose. It is not a verbatim transcript of what occurs in the chambers but is a faithful record of debate. It is generally corrected for redundancies, errors of fact, some grammatical errors, false starts and slips of the tongue. It is published within two or three weeks after proceedings have ended and is invaluable for trying to understand the purpose of an Act or section of an Act (or why a Bill was not passed). There are indexes in the front of the bound volumes which are divided into Indexes to subjects and Indexes to questions and speeches. The unbound issues have an alphabetical list of contents at the end, and separately published indexes in the same format as the bound volumes.

Summary

Five postal wrappers bearing private and government overprinting pertaining to South Australia have been recorded over more than 15 years of daily hand-collected these images from the internet. Five wrappers out of a database of about 8,500 non-post office wrappers indicates their scarcity. Each wrapper has a story to tell, both philatelically and socially. The rate and route postal history information can be determined, but the social backstories normally require web sleuthing. The search process can be problematic in some cases, but the Google algorithms continue to impress in revealing facts and vignettes. These five wrappers provides insight into the early banking history of Adelaide, the role of the motor association as the importance of motor transport developed in society, the sensitivity of commodity prices to weather and demand, the role of Hansard in recording what is said in the South Australian parliament, and the role of women in the serious pastime of chess.

References

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Acknowledgements

My thanks to Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier version and to Sheila Mackenzie for editing the paper.

Some Unidentified or Misidentified Forgeries of the Classic Issues of Japan

by Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Introduction

Recent research on the little known and widely underestimated Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1918), partly published during the last four years in the British magazine *Stamp Lover* and this magazine, not only revealed his immense work as stamp-illustrator.¹ It also could demonstrate, that he had forged classic issues not only of Spain, its colonies and most South-American countries, but, most probably, of nearly all countries world-wide. Most of those results were or are being published in the corresponding countries.² Parallel research on the forgeries of the German Spiro brothers, the Swiss forger François Fournier and their possible relationship with Torres could show a strange collaboration between Torres and Fournier.³ Those facts oblige to revise our supposedly safe knowledge about the Spiros and Fournier and to include the Spaniard in some way.

The “minor forgeries”

In the early 1860's, the young Torres started his career in Italy, where he had grown up, making stamp illustrations for his patron, one of the first Italian stamp dealers, the editor and multi-talent Elia Carlo Usigli (1812-1894). Through his international connections Usigli sold those copies to the editors of the emerging stamp magazines and catalogues all over Europe. Once finished an illustration both made “private copies” in colour and put them into stamp packages, creating what I call the Torres/Usigli “minor forgeries”. So, nowadays, most 19th century European stamp catalogues (Moens, Stanley Gibbons, Maury, Roussin and a large etc.) as well as the little known catalogue Torres published in 1879 in Barcelona, can serve to detect those forgeries of mostly single and cheap values.⁴

The “major forgeries”

Further research discovered the way to detect among the mass of not yet identified forgeries world-wide, part of those Torres had produced, first monitored by his patron, later, when back in Spain, on his own. Those are not yet single values as the just mentioned “minor forgeries”, but whole series of some of the first classic issues of nearly all stamp issuing countries and



Fig. 1: Torres' album first page Japan

¹ *Die Lithographen des Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung [SBZ], 1-2, Januar/Februar 2020, 3/März 2020, (revised version of its precursors in Spanish and French: *Los grabadores de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Eco Filatélico, sept. 2017, p. 30-32 (1^a parte); oct. 2017, p. 25-27 (2^a parte) and *Les graveurs de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, SBZ, 4/2019, p. 126-131, 7-8/2019, p. 246-253.).

² It would go too far to list all those countries and articles. The author will readily provide this information, if required.

³ *Fehlerhafte Inschriften. Ein Künstler und ein Fälscher als Geschäftspartner. François Fournier und Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung, 7/2019, p. 22-24, 8/2019, 20-22.

⁴ How an Old Album Threw New Light on 19th century Forgeries, *Stamp Lover*, vol. 108, n. 6, Dec. 2016, p. 174-176. Nigel Gooding, GLV: *The first modern stamp album – a handbook for detecting fakes and forgeries. The case of the Philippine stamps*. Philippine Philatelic Journal, First Quarter 2019, p. 5-13 (1st part), Second Quarter 2019, p. 5-13 (2nd part). *The old Stanley-Gibbons Catalogues – Handbooks to Detect Forgeries?* Stamp Lover, vol. 112, n° 1, p. 12-15, Febr. 2020.

regions at that time. The main clues to detect those forgeries are the cancels he used to apply to his fakes, some of them with deliberately included “errors”.⁵

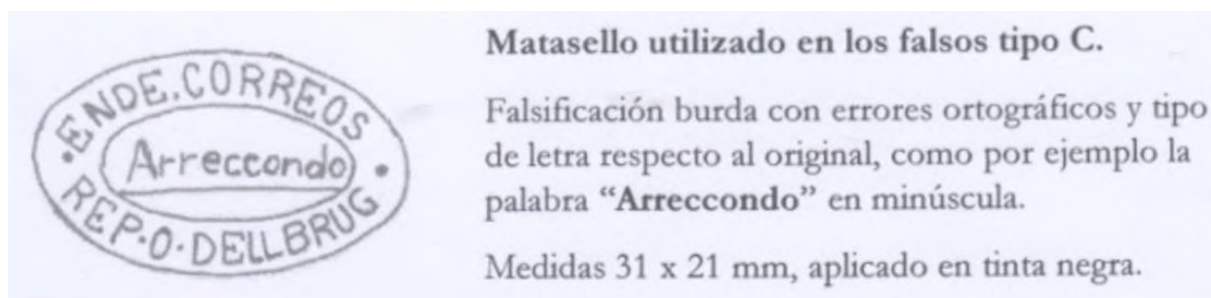


Fig. 2: fake cancel [ARREDONDO]



Fig. 3: genuine ARREDONDO-cancels

The discovery of obviously Torres-made forgeries in the so-called *Spud-Papers* led to refocusing and extending the research. With the lucky finding of the complete issues of “The Philatelist” with its original forgery-samples affixed to the pages of the articles, I disposed of a new data-base for comparing analysis that resulted in surprising conclusions.

The attempt to document the Torres-forgeries of different South American countries finally led to the discovery that, in many cases, they had been until now taken for Spiro-facsimiles. What had happened was, that Torres obviously had copied his imitations in some cases directly from the Spiro facsimiles and not from the originals, resulting in not few of them being very close copies, extremely difficult to distinguish from their models.

The not identified Japanese forgeries

One of the particularities of the first issues of Japan is that nearly all values show a different design. That's why Torres recreated in his album-catalogue 29 types of those stamps issued between 1871 and 1876. After having discovered about 300 actual existing “minor forgeries” out of the 1242 of his catalogue, it seems by no means unreasonable to extrapolate, that all of them had existed one time, although many of them



Fig. 4: Torres' album second page Japan

⁵ *Un fallo lo tiene cualquiera. Siguiendo las huellas de un falsificador*, Chile Filatélico, n° 299, tomo XXIX, mayo-octubre 2019, p. 39-43.

got lost, because they had not been considered worth being reported as copies of low and cheap values.

What refers to Japan, at least five of them have survived the collector's purge, are documented and can be localized on the internet. They can be found as well in the probably best handbook for detecting Japanese classic forgeries, the book or CD-ROM published by the International Society of Japanese Philately.⁶



Fig. 5: Torres-illustration



Fig. 6: Torres-forgery



Fig. 7: Torres-illustration



Fig. 8: Torres-forgery



Fig. 9:



Fig. 10: Torres-forgery



Fig. 11: Torres-illustration



Fig. 12: Torres-forgery



Fig. 13: Torres-illustration

⁶ Ron Casey, Thomas L. Zane, Lois M. Evans-de Violini: *Forgeries of the Dragon, Cherry Blossom and Koban Postage Stamps of Japan*.



Fig. 14: Torres-forgery

The Spiro brothers of Hamburg

In the world of philatelic forgery H. & Philipp Spiro is since more than 150 years a kind of trademark. Recent critical research, however, calls into question the active role of the Hamburg brothers in producing the facsimiles that are generally attributed to them. There's no definitive evidence that links them to the production of the about 500 different stamps not only the authors of the Spud Papers attributed to their firm. The first results of another parallel research is revealing, that at least a 20% of the forgeries the Spud Papers named and shamed as Spiro-forgeries were not their work, but the work of Torres. It revealed furthermore that there was collaboration between Torres and Fournier and that at least some of the supposed Spiro-facsimiles sold by the Swiss had been designed and possibly made in reality by the Spaniard.⁷ I'll not try to resolve here the question whether the Spiros were the makers or only resellers of the

facsimiles that bear their name, nor whether the Spiros or Torres were the makers of some of Fournier's selling's. It seems much more interesting to discover and detect which are in reality the so-called Spiro-forgeries and to be able to distinguish them from others.

Doubts about the Spiro attribution

As I could present samples of Torres' "minor forgeries" of all early Japanese issues until 1876, it is quite probable that there exist as well "major forgeries" of those issues. But I will limit the following considerations to the two cherry-blossom-issues, the first without, the second with syllabics.

When, in the context of the research for this article, I started again paging through the Spiro-forgery-samples of the ISJP-book, I did not remember well previous shallow lookups and expected to find a contrasting juxtaposition of the two types of each of the cherry blossom values. I had expected to find two identical (Spiro-) versions of each value, differentiated only by the inclusion of the syllabic and its "label". To my surprise, this was not the case.

Among the 21 samples the ISJP-book presents as Spiro-facsimiles, the 12-, 15- and 45-sen-value must be excluded from the following short analysis, because they do not exist in the originals without syllabics. So, nine "pairs" of the cherry blossom fakes could be expected. But only the 4-sen-values of the book really represent an "identical pair". Among the others we find two identical samples (6-sen), both with (the same) syllabic but in different colours. The vermillion 2-sen (without) and the yellow sample (with syllabic) are in doubt and could be different forgeries, one very close to the other.

The rest of the samples show differences. In the ½-sen-section we find two different types in two different colours, the two 1-sen-samples are different types with different syllabics, the 5-sen even appears in two "phantom"-versions. Only the 10-, 20- and 30-sen-samples show one stamp of each kind, but each of them with a different design.

It would lead too far enumerating each and every different element of the "pairs". So let's have a quick look at some of the Japanese *Kanji-signs* that we should suppose the same in every value. The samples of the book and other European-made fake-samples of my own collection as well as from other sources show, however, significantly different "*Kanji-signs-designs*" in all values. The figures 15 to 20 present those of the 1- sen, 10-sen and 20-sen values.

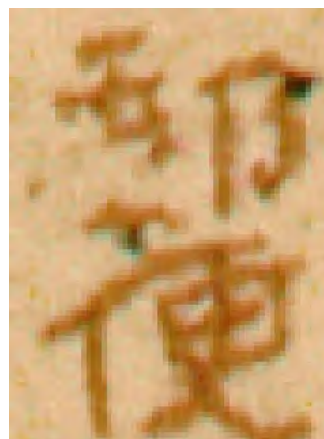


Fig. 15: upper Kanji-signs (1 sen)

⁷ *Ni Spiro, ni Fournier: Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Costa Rica Filatélica, #143, mayo 2020.



Fig. 16: : upper Kanji-signs (1 sen)

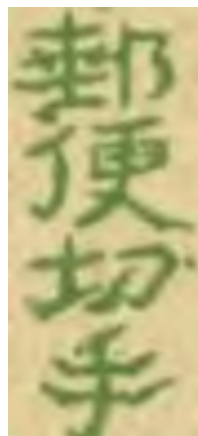


Fig. 17 & 18

entire central Kanji-signs (10 sen)



To the Right: Figs. 19 & 20
upper Kanji-signs (20 sen)

Independently from the “pairs” presented in the books, there exist, (except for the “early forgeries”) at least four different 4-Sen-values, two with different syllabics, three different 20-Sen-values and two different 30-Sen-samples with syllabics. The applied cancel does not allow the conclusion whether the syllabics are different or not. Anyway, it’s distressing.

All this does not really match with the supposed common origin of the forgeries from one only source (=Spiro) and seeds doubts about the validity of this classification.

Further doubts



Fig. 21: Spud-Papers-sample (Torres?)

Four stamps made by one or various unknown forgers figure among the “earliest known forgeries” documented in another section of the ISJP-book. The 2-sen-value is documented in two identical versions of different colour (yellow and red), both with the same syllabic. An identical original fake-sample of the yellow 2-sen-value can be found in the *Spud Papers* (LI, October 1875). The just mentioned existence of an identical forgery with syllabic in a bogus colour (red) is a further element that points to Torres as their maker. It’s a practise, characteristic of the Spaniard, to produce bogus versions, odd colours or phantasy stamps side by side with current stamps of the series.⁸ The reader may share or not the authors opinion about his authorship, but three different obviously “European”-made forgeries do not match with the alleged Spiro-origin of those stamps.

⁸ *The Moens-Torres Fantasy Stamps and Forgeries*, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n. 2, April 2017, p. 52-53 (part I); n. 3, June 2017, p. 77-79 (part II); n. 4, August, p. 109-111 (part III). *The Stamp Fun Factory – Poking Fun on Editors and Collectors*, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n° 6, Dec. 2017, p. 173-175.

One step further

Taking in account the previously presented finding of items, that undoubtedly are the work of Torres, and the already mentioned presence of more than a few of his forgeries among those presented in the Spud Papers, it can't really be a surprise, if we should find in the pool of fakes as well some of his "major forgeries" of Japan, misidentified as Spiro-facsimiles, because they probably had been copied directly from the forgeries instead of the originals, as other cases suggest.

Let's make one further step. Having most probably identified the 2-sen Spud-paper-sample as one of Torres' "major forgeries" of Japan, we may suppose, that this was not his only work in this area. But how to recognise possible candidates?

They will surely not bear any "mo zo", "san ko" or "mi hon"-indication as most classic Japan-made fake-products do. They will probably not bear a "Japanese" (fake) cancel either, but possibly a square dot-cancel as the 2-sen-sample and Torres-forgeries of other countries sometimes show. Furthermore, we should suppose, that the syllabic version of those stamps shows the same design as the sample without, of course except for the syllabic itself, its label and may be just surrounding area.

At least the square-dot and the double-ring-cancel, presented in the ISJP-book as Spiro-cancels, are consequently in doubt as well, because this type of cancel was used by Torres and by the Spiros. Others like the "NAGASAKI"-cancel can be found as well on samples sold by Fournier. The Swiss offered in his 1905 price list first quality facsimiles of all Japanese issues until 1875 and in his 1911 price list figured as well a second line of issues, in a second quality version, comprising all stamps from the beginning until 1879.



Fig. 22:

Sample with the typical Spiro-cancel

I think, we should ask the question the other way round: How can we clearly identify the Spiro-facsimiles? At this moment, we can only rely on the most typical of the Spiro-cancel with its five semi-circle-like segments [((((())))] enclosed by four parallel bars at each side forming an ellipse.

Final considerations

The intention of the present article was to present some Asian forgeries of our Spanish forger and to make clear, that he can't any longer be considered as a second or even third-range forger. He probably forged the classic issues of all countries all over the world. I wanted to alert Japanese collectors as well as Japanese experts, that the ISJP-book, beside its incontestable merits, needs a revision as far as the Spiro-forgeries are concerned including as well Plácido Ramón de Torres as one of the forgers.⁹ The purpose was not to present, analyse and document all (possible) Torres-forgeries. So I had only a quick look at the Cherry-blossom-issue. There's still a lot to do for the experts.

⁹ Unfortunately, most Japanese experts contacted and consulted during my research, including the authors of the quoted ISJP-book, did not show any real interest in what I was doing and did not express any intention to cooperate.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

After having a few months when I thought that this column would have to go into recess, a saviour in Joan Orr from Queensland has come to my rescue. A big thank you to Joan who has provided all the postmarks from Queensland where there are quite a few interesting postmarks, namely one with only the postcode of 4883 and the main post office is Atherton. Quite a few have been difficult to get good examples of and I have put in a few notations to help identify them and also what is part of the postmark.

Ellis Beach has Community Postal /Agent at top, Gympie has PO? at end of name and Miriam has Vale as part of the name.

Many thanks to Joan Orr, John Young, Tony Lyon and Frank Adamik, who help to keep this column going.

A.C.T..

N.T..

N.S.W.



QLD..



QLD.: - (cont)



QLD.:- (cont)



QLD:- (Cont)



VIC:-



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- Sign up a new member
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- Send the Editor any interesting philatelic news
- Come to the bi-monthly meeting if in Melbourne
- Help George Vearing with his Datestamp Notes
- Get involved in one of the Study Groups
- Enter the Society Competitions
- Volunteer to display your collection at the monthly meeting
- Ensure the Council receives your feedback and suggestions for the Society

Special Delivery

John Young

In the 1960s the express messenger service was renamed special delivery. The Australian stickers were used in Papua New Guinea, and in 1967 followed the Australian postal charges: Letter rate 5c and special delivery 12c.



By 1970 the special delivery fee was 20c, and this cover is correctly franked 5c, including letter rate.

