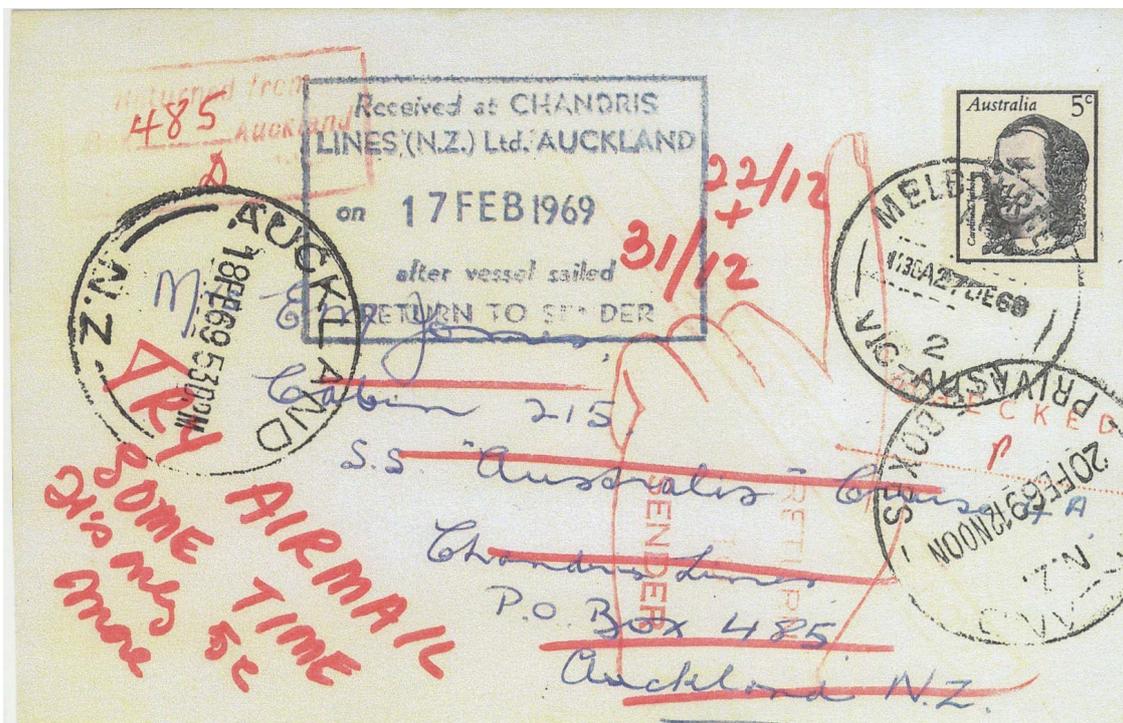


Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 155 March 2021



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National Cash Register Machine Labels (1959-1987)

**Glimpses of Victorian History through
Private Postal Wrappers**

Albania: Philately from a Complicated Country

**Parcels Stuff—300 King St Offloading to
172—184 Roden St**

Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

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| Date | 2021 / 2022 Programme | Display |
|----------------|------------------------------|--|
| 19 April 2021 | John Young | Australian Express Delivery Mail 1934-80s |
| 21 June 2021 | Tony Lyon | New Zealand Military Postals History 1940-45 |
| 16 August 2021 | AGM | Members Work-in-Progress |

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Front Cover

5 cent Caroline Chisholm Booklet Stamp

This cover, franked with a 5 cents Caroline Chisholm booklet stamp, was sent surface mail from Melbourne to New Zealand on 27 December 1968.

Addressed to Cabin 215, SS Australis Cruise 4A, it was received by Chandris Lines on 17 February 1969. 'after the vessel sailed'.

The cover was held in a post office box and then returned from Auckland on 20 February 1969.

There are a return to sender finger sign and a helpful message lower left: 'Try airmail some time. It's only 5 cents more'. In the same hand there are the notations 22/12 and 31/12, which seem to be dates but don't make sense unless the 12 was meant to be 2, for February.

Still and all, the 5 cents stamp garnered a lot of attention.

Editorial

Tony Lyon

It appears that we are slowly returning to the new normal here in Victoria. More easing happening and there has been some meetings of various philatelic societies although attendances have been down. It is understandable if a person is immune compromised that there would be reluctance to gather. But if you are able to there are a number of excellent display coming up.

The APS is meeting in April with a display by John Young 'Australian Express Delivery Mail 1934-80s' which will be well worth seeing. Where we will meet is still to be decided as we have been unable to access Canterbury RSL Memorial Homes. An email will be sent or a phone call will inform the meeting place.

I hope you find something to enjoy in this latest journal and thank you to all who have contributed.

Until next time ciao.

Privacy Statement

The Society collects, uses, discloses and holds personal information of members in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988.

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From the President

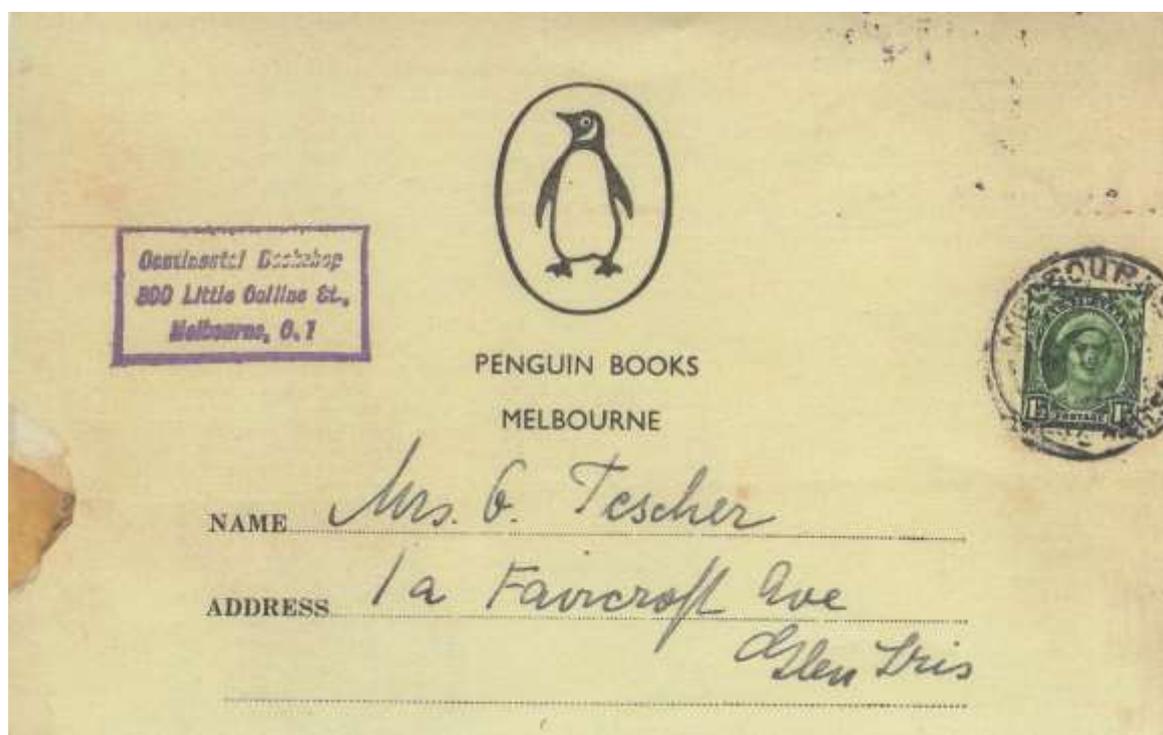
Readers of this journal will be familiar with the articles contributed by John Courtis on Australian newspaper wrappers. By my count he has published twenty-five articles since September 2004.

When the articles started some of us may have wondered where the topic would lead. It perhaps seemed narrow or esoteric. A few philatelists were a bit dismissive, although mostly they kept their views to themselves. After 25 articles it is hard to say that the subject is minor: it is probably high time to publish an index of contents, assuming John Courtis is approaching a concluding article.

As time has gone by he has accumulated images of rare and elusive items, in particular, printed-to-private-order wrappers. Their elusiveness is unsurprising: what could be more natural than dropping a torn outer wrapper into a rubbish bin? Only the very frugal bothered to keep such things for scribble or jottings, as opened out envelopes served better. Nevertheless, the surviving examples have led to historical insights about Queensland sugar producers, agriculture and the Methodist Church [see last issue]. These wrappers are a bit like advertising envelopes, which can bring surprising prices for attractive examples.

John Courtis' research method has been diligent searching of eBay postal history offerings over fifteen or more years. That is a vast improvement on scanning printed catalogues and maintaining a clippings scrapbook.

I conclude with a picture of a kind of wrapper that I don't think I've shown before. It's really page 4 of a fold out monthly catalogue, not a separate outer wrapper, and qualified as printed matter. But it looks like a wrapper, and could be a must-have for a thematic display on Antarctic birds. Mailed in early 1950, the franking of 1 ½ pence [after war tax was discontinued] was the rate from 1 July 1949 to 1 December 1950.



National Cash Register Machine Labels (1959 – 1987)

Ken Sparks

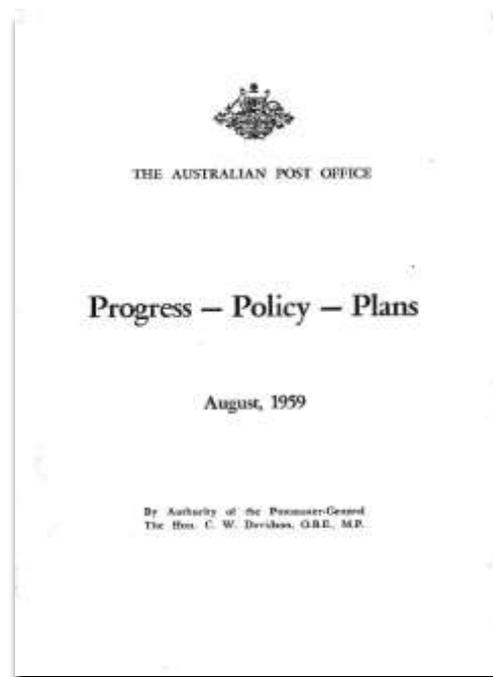
In August 1959, the Postmaster General released a Cabinet approved “Progress – Policy – Plans” document that outlined a wide-spread plan covering all aspects of the postal and telecommunications services for the coming decade. The policy placed emphasis on the greater use of technology.

On page 12 of the document, among plans for the greater use of accounting machines, was a proposal to try the issuing of “gummed slips which are attached to the articles in lieu of postage stamps”.

Economy through office machines. . .

The Post Office takes full advantage of the economies to be achieved by the proper use of modern office appliances. The following are important innovations—

- Ticket-issuing machines are to be placed on trial to facilitate acceptance of parcels and packets. These machines supply a gummed slip which is attached to the articles in lieu of postage stamps, and shows the name of the office, the postage paid and the date of issue. If successful, it may be possible to extend the use of the technique to telegrams, bulk postage articles and other items handled at post offices.



These “gummed slips” can be seen to be the next step after the experimental trial of the TIM (Ticket Issuing Machine) that commenced in 1952 at three locations in Sydney and Melbourne.

In August 1959, the first of the National Cash Register Machines were installed. Among the unknown number was Richmond, an inner suburb of Melbourne which has been used on several occasions as a test location for new equipment.

Though their use spanned almost four decades, the survival rate of the material in both quality and quantity has been poor. The labels were unattractive to collectors and were generally discarded. They were designed for use in commercial outlets where long life of the receipts was not required.



The Mildura label (above RHS) is early date known. This label and Bendigo Sep 18 59 (next page) are only examples sighted with a ½d wheel.

The Richmond label (LHS) has the date year wheel significantly displaced.

The Collingwood label (lower RHS) has the Postal District number shown – N5.



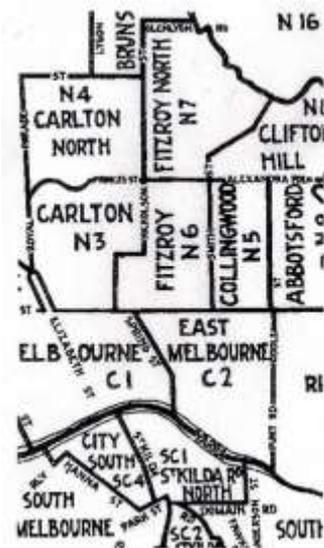
National Cash Register Machine Predecimal Model (1959 – 1966)

The 1959 Annual report for the Postmaster General's Department (pp35-36) reported:

"During the year, the Department purchased new type modern office machines some of which are being employed to improve and speed up process and procedures. They include the following:

- *Ticket issuing machines in use in New South Wales and Victoria, following successful working trials which facilitate the acceptance of parcels and packets. The new machines will be introduced in other States during 1959/60."*

Peck (Counter Stamp Machines) records only one label sighted before August 1958. This was for a label printed at Brookvale (NSW) on June 7, 1958, presumably the NSW trial machine. Victorian sightings in 1958 were Mildura (see preceding page), Richmond and North Melbourne (Aug 59) and Ballarat (Nov 59).



Similar Style – Cape Town Parcel Post Label 1943



Bendigo Sep 12 59 – early usage



Degrales St – POSTAGE PAID top line



Fitzroy – Postal District included



Multiple machines – machine identifier Ballarat (1)

National Cash Register Machine (1959 – 1966)

A Study of Predecimal Machine numbers at Ballarat (Vic)

Early date of machine label for Ballarat Post Office. No machine number.

Number of machines not known.



Late date for machine with no machine number.



Modification to machines carried out between October 1961 and July 1963

Four machines now known to be in use at Ballarat.

Early dates for machine number. Four machine numbers seen. (1) to (4)



Ink colours on both machines (1) and (2) blue.



Ink colours on both machines (1) and (2) red.

Thesis: Ribbons changed yearly, hence probable yearly maintenance check.



National Cash Register Machine

Decimal Conversion (1966)



Decimal conversion in Australia was set for February 14, 1966.

No Postcode

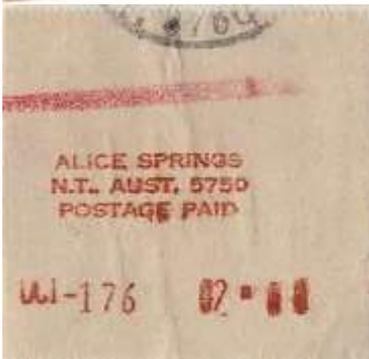
Postcode was normally, but not always, included.

(LHS - early date Echuca, Vic. Feb 26, 1966)
(RHS – Grenfell St, Adelaide. Oct 20, 1971)

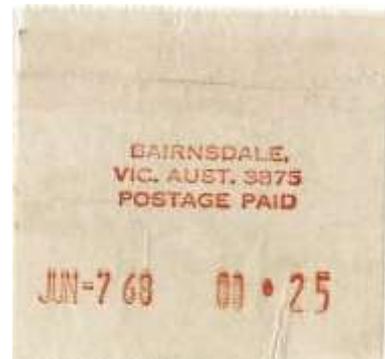


POSTAGE PAID

was normally on top line, but not always



(LHS – Alice Springs Oct 1, 1976)
(RHS – Bairnsdale Jul 7, 1968)



State AUST. Postcode

normally grouped in that order but variations seen.

(LHS Richmond South Aug 21, 1974)
(RHS Port Melbourne Aug 14, 1974)



Machine number

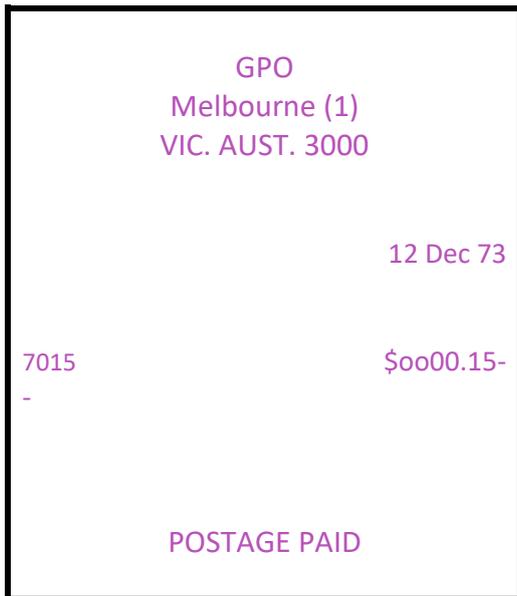
Can be seen in various positions
(Below LHS Albury No 1 – top line)
(Below Centre Ballarat – bottom line)



Varied font size to allow for long names
Below RHS – Heidelberg West



National Cash Register (NCR) Type - GPO Model



The format on the information included in the label is:

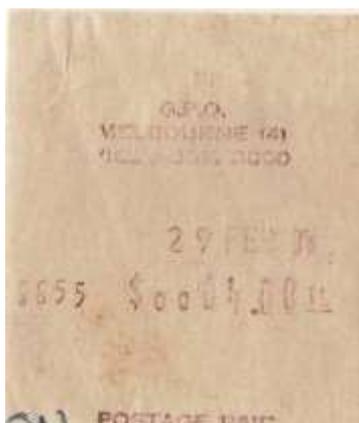
Place name including machine number.

Date

Sequence no.

Label value

(TL is included after Label Value if only one stamp)



The models produced for the GPOs had an eight digit value capacity and could have produced labels to \$9999.99 but were limited to \$99.99, the maximum capacity on the other models in general use. Unlike the other NCR models, the label included a transaction number. As all GPO models were manufactured post decimal, pre-decimal do not exist.

Australia Post HQ Prototypes



Until recently, it was generally held that a later model NCR type was introduced in the early 1980s. While generally similar to the original NCR, it used a wider paper and the date and value positions were reversed.

A reference in a technical history of postal mechanisation in Australia (Pickering, *Mechanisation in Australia Post*, 12-10) suggests that these were probably prototypes of a new Postal Charges Calculator produced and field tested by Australia Post Headquarters Engineering Branch.

Headquarters Engineering Branch who took over the development of the PCC found that other Headquarters departments namely, Operations, Marketing, Accounts, Personnel, and Industrial Relations, all sought an input. Little thought had been given by these departments as to the details of the functions required to be carried out by the PCC. Constant changes to these functions resulted in the development period being extended several times resulting in some unfair criticism of Engineering Branch staff. Several prototype models were manufactured in the Engineering Branch Laboratory and field tested on Post Office counters. It was recognised that the manufacture of a product such as this in the quantity required was beyond the resources of Australia Post engineering staff and tenders were called in 1984 and a contract let in February 1985 to Trittech Electronics for the manufacture of PCC's.

Australia Post HQ Model Prototype

(1977 – 1984)

Mount Waverley PO dated 30 Dec 77

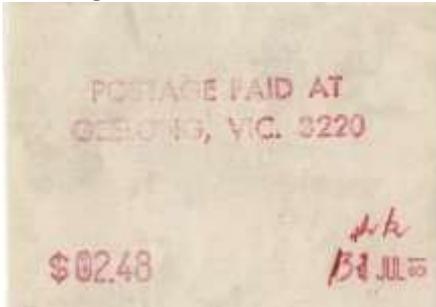


There are only a small number of labels available to draw conclusions from. All known available labels were dispensed by machines in metropolitan Melbourne or nearby Geelong. (One label was from Geelong, another from Geelong mail centre. Local technical staff were available at Geelong Mail Centre to respond if required.)

Glen Waverly dated 11 Apr 78



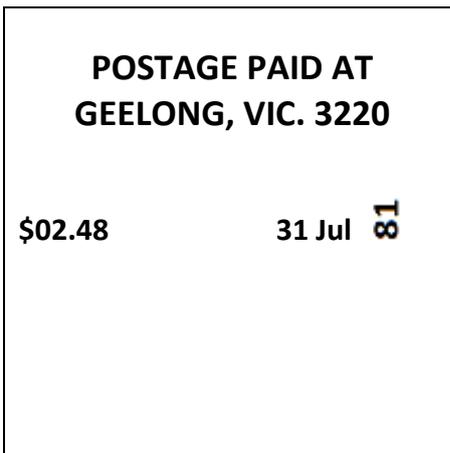
Geelong dated 31 Jul 81



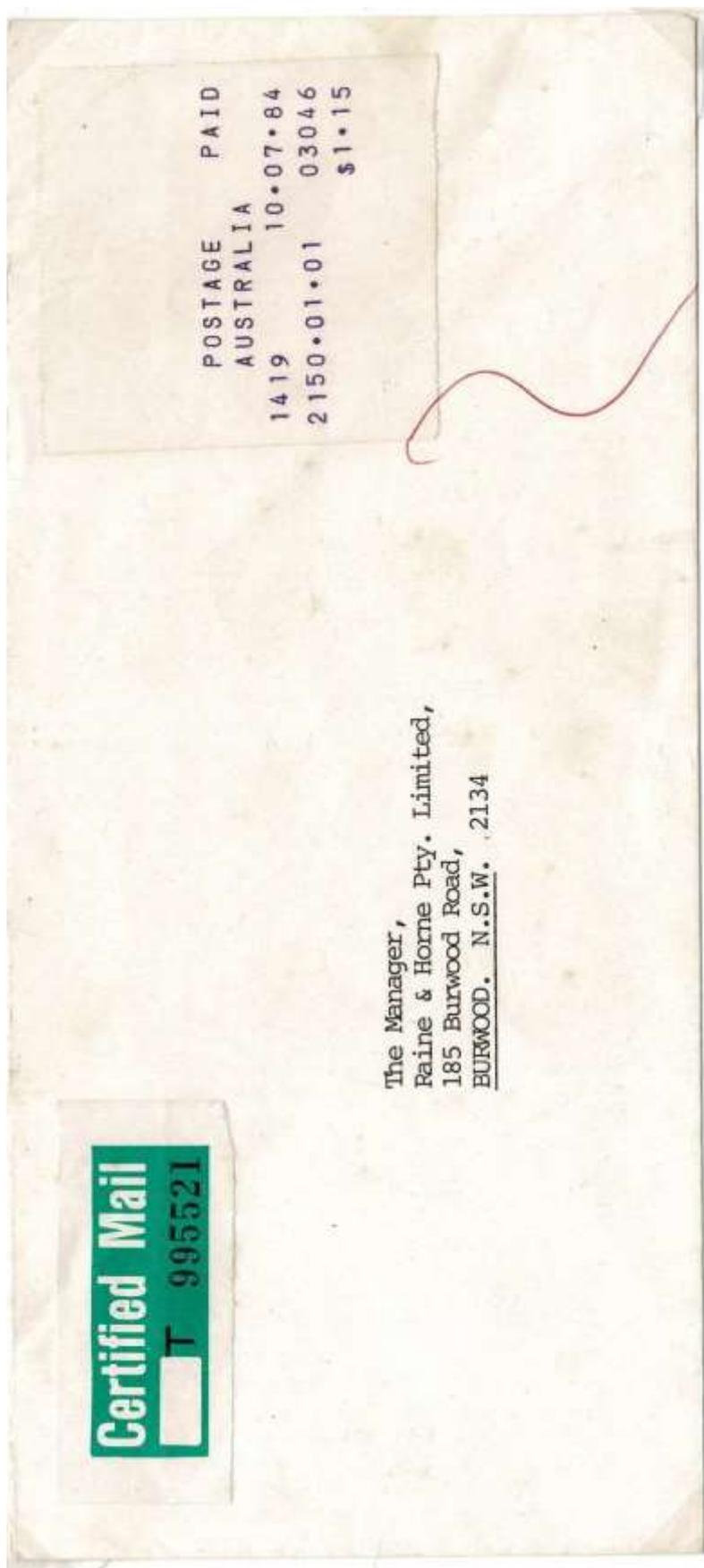
Two labels are dated 1977 or 1978, so the assumption can be made that the trials began on or about 1977 and changes were made to the text.

A significant difference between the NCR and the HQ prototypes is the latter's date wheel is at 90 degrees from the horizontal suggesting a different print mechanism.

South Melbourne dated 18 Mar 77



1984 Tritech Model Prototype



A further preproduction prototype was constructed by Australia Post HQ staff using a modified Tritech Calculator. It was field tested in early 1984.

It is very similar to the eight production prototypes released later in 1984 but omits the destination code and weight.

Plain paper was used.

| | | |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|-----------------|
| | POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA | |
| Time | 1419 | Date |
| Destination | 10.07.84 | Transaction no. |
| Code | 2150.01.01 | |
| | 03046 | Calculated Cost |
| | \$1.15 | |

The specification, released after the preproduction prototype, required it to:

- assist the counter officer in assessing postage;
- total the transactions for the customer;
- calculate the change due to the customer;
- print postage paid labels; and
- print a receipt for the customer.

It is preferred that the label be no greater than 60mm wide and 50mm long.

The information required on the label:

- The words POSTAGE PAID AUSTRALIA;
- Postcode of lodgement;
- Group number;
- Date and time of lodgement; and
- Postage fee.

Extract from AP Specification 161 "Postage Charges Calculator", Issue 1, August 1984, sec. 1.1, 4.1 – 2

With the recent memory of stamp collectors after FRAMA varieties, the new machines were required to be **NOT** capable of printing labels of zero value.

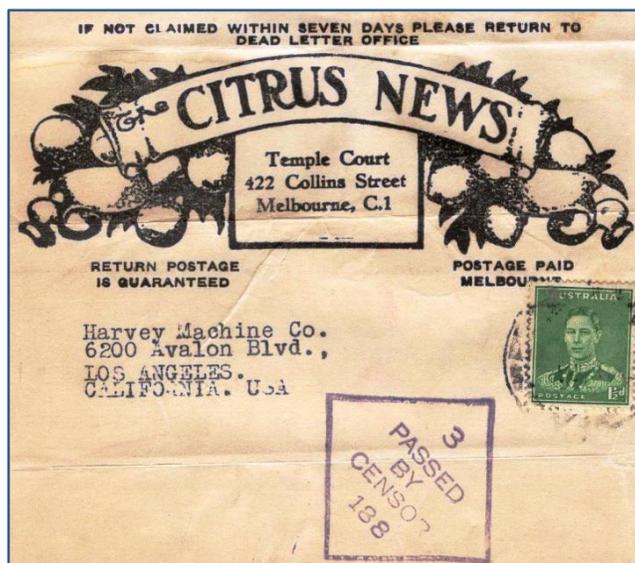
Glimpses of Victorian History through Private Postal Wrappers

Dr John K. Curtis FRPSL

This paper is the fourth in the “Glimpses” series of Australian colonies/States that examines private wrappers with overprinting. Previous papers have examined Tasmania (March 2020), South Australia (June 2020) and Queensland (December 2020). Post office wrappers are within the domain of postal stationery and their contribution to the dissemination of knowledge and news is already well accepted. Likewise, postal historians can use all manner of postal wrappers, post office and private, to illustrate and explain rates and their changes, postmarks, postage due and destinations. Non-post office wrappers with private overprinting is a class of mail that has been neglected partly because of its poor fit with postal stationery and postal history collections, partly because collectors are simply unaware of this sort of mail and partly because the social role of wrappers in the communication and mail delivery process has been relatively understudied. This paper adds to our insights of such mail by extending the analysis of private postal wrappers of Victoria. Earlier social philately expositions of these kinds of Victorian wrappers can be found in this Journal (2015a,b). The present paper examines private and government wrappers not previously considered.

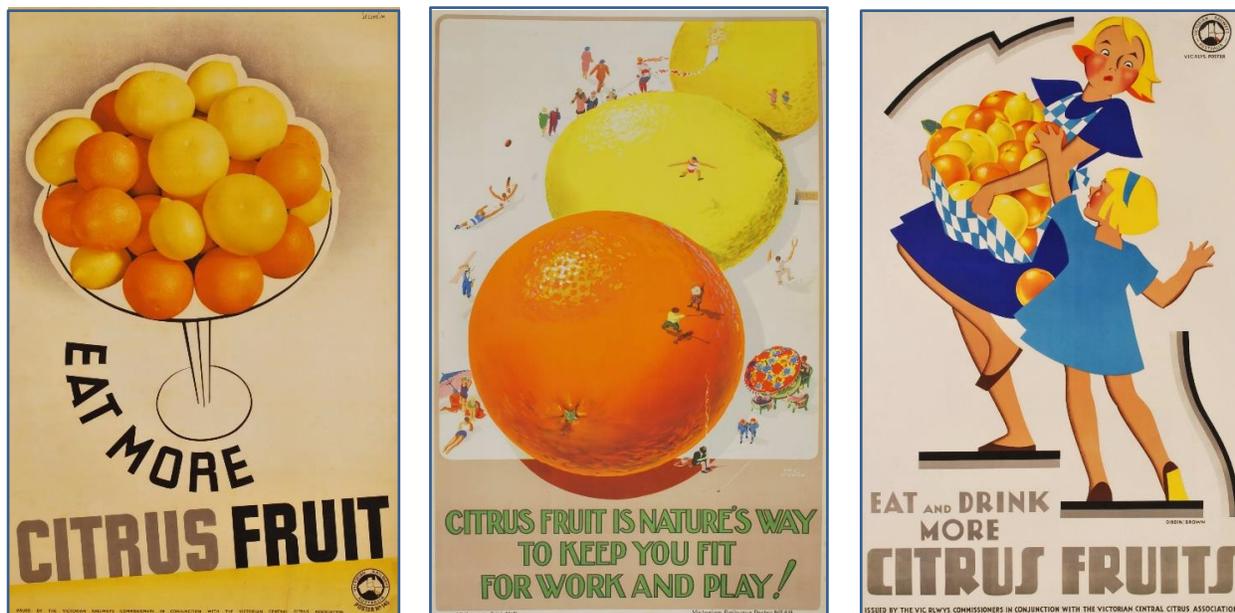
Citrus News

A ribbon banner with the wording The CITRUS NEWS links two clusters of oranges and lemons with the sender’s address boxed and centered beneath: Temple Court, 422 Collins Street, Melbourne, C.1. Return postage was guaranteed and postage was paid at Melbourne with a 1941 1½d blue green King George VI (Sc181B). The 29mm date stamp is difficult to read, but under magnification it appears to be MELBOURNE 1-4-41 VIC. The rate for magazines and periodicals to foreign countries from 10 December 1941 was 1d per 2 oz. plus ½d war tax. The addressee was Harvey Machine Co., 6200 Avalon Blvd., Los Angeles, California, USA. Outgoing and incoming mail during World War II was subject to inspection and a purple diamond handstamp reads 3 PASSED BY CENSOR 188. The 3 = censored in Melbourne. [Sydney = 2, Brisbane = 1 and 4, Darwin = 7].



The journal *The Citrus News* was the official organ of the Victorian Central Citrus Association, the Federal Council of Citrus Growers of Australia, Federal Citrus Council of Australia and the Australian Citrus Growers’ Federation. It was published in Melbourne by the Victorian Central Citrus Association between 1924 and 1964. It dealt with the Australian citrus fruit industry and trade.

Some early publicity campaign posters are shown issued by the Victorian Central Citrus Association in conjunction with the Victorian Railways Commissioners, presumably for advertising on railway station hoardings.



The three posters are (i) Gert Sellheim; (ii) J. E. Hackett and (iii) Dibdin Brown

Thos. Cook & Son – Wagon-Lits

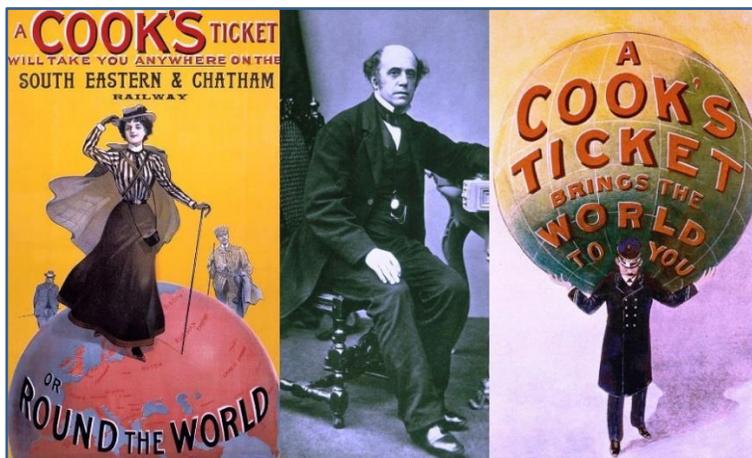
The Thomas Cook Travel company has recently been in the news, but unfortunately not in a good way for travellers needing return flights. This wrapper, with the unusual “Wagons-Lits” in the heading was mailed from Melbourne to Mr. Ricardo Piccio, Grand Hotel, Madrid, Spain. The wrapper is paid with a pair of 1930 1½d red brown King George V (Sc69) and cancelled with a pair of 31mm MELBOURNE 10 1-1 29JA35 VIC. The contents are likely to be commercial papers as the rate from 1 October 1923 was 1½d per 2 oz. for foreign countries. The second 1½d stamp implies the enclosure was between 2 oz and 4 oz.

The name Thomas Cook & Son is an iconic British global travel group. Thomas Cook was born 22 November 1808 in Melbourne, Derbyshire. At age 18 he became a Baptist missionary and toured Derbyshire as a village evangelist, distributing pamphlets and occasionally working as a cabinet maker to earn money. He took the temperance pledge on 1 January 1833 as part of the temperance movement. His idea of offering excursions came while walking to a meeting of the Temperance Society. The rest is history – his paid excursions grew in numbers and expanded geographically. In 1856 he acquired business premises on Fleet Street, London. The office also contained a shop which sold essential travel accessories, including guide books, luggage, telescopes and footwear.

In 1872, Thomas formed a partnership with his son, John Mason Andrew Cook, and named the travel agency as *Thomas Cook & Son*. The business was a pioneer in establishing tourism systems based on tickets, coupons and circular notes which could be changed at designated hotels, banks, and tickets agents for Italian lira at a predetermined exchange rate. John Cook was strongly prevailed upon to open an office in Melbourne, Victoria in conjunction with the Australian Exhibition. With support from the Colonial Railways Authority an agent was sent to Melbourne and an office was opened. He also set up a lucrative office in New Zealand in the 1880s. By 1888, the company had established offices around the world, including three in Australia and one in Auckland, New Zealand, and in 1890, the company sold over 3.25 million tickets. By 1935, the postmark date on the wrapper, there were offices noted on the wrapper located in Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney and for New Zealand: Auckland, Christchurch and Wellington.



The Thomas Cook & Son name continued to exist as a travel company, offering travel tours until 2019. The company traded for 178 years but in the 1920s Thomas Cook's grandsons, Frank and Ernest, sold the company to the *Belgian Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits et des Grands Express Européens*, operators of most of Europe's luxury sleeping cars, including the Orient Express.



Vintage advertising posters; Thomas Cook

I. H. Air Conditioning, Heating and Ventilation

While the vast majority of non-post office wrappers with private overprinting are pre-World War II, this is a more contemporary wrapper, albeit postmarked 1959. A small round edged double-triangle contained the letter I H above a red flame, and there is wording in the double-triangle AIR CONDITIONING • HEATING AND VENTILATION. The 133x252mm cream wrapper is paid with a 1956 2/- chocolate crocodile (Sc302)

and is postmarked with a 23mm BRUNSWICK 26 MAY 1 45PM 1959 VIC. AUST. and three-line slogan PLEASE POST EARLY// BEFORE LUNCH and// BEFORE FOUR O'CLOCK. The wrapper was sent at the overseas airmail rate being 2/- from 1 August 1952 for ½ oz. to Kresky Manufacturing Co., Inc., Second & H. Streets, Petaluma, California, U.S.A. There is both an airmail etiquette and typed instruction PER AIR MAIL in red and double underlined.

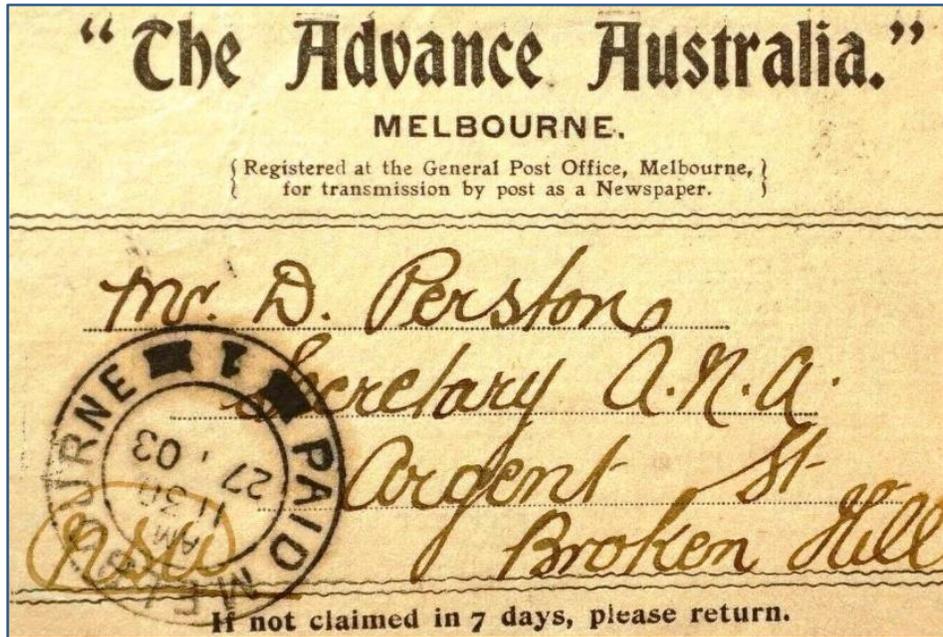


According to the Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Contractors Association – Australia, it was the early 1940s when Australia started to install air conditioning units into offices and department stores in any systematic way. However, individual companies come and go in the industry and there is no specific mention on the internet of a Brunswick-based air conditioning and heating company. On the other hand, the addressee Kresky is still in existence and there is a photo of the Kresky warehouse taken from the corner of the streets named in the address on the wrapper. They made parts for forced air furnaces, and oil burning heaters and furnaces, so the nature of their business is consistent with that of the Brunswick I. H. company, i.e., the contents of the wrapper might have been a locally printed price list.



The Advance Australia

This was a newspaper, first published in 1897, devoted to the interests of the A.N.A and A.W.A. It was published by Wilke, Mitchell & Co., 310 King Street, Melbourne. Its head office was 37 Queen Street, Melbourne. It was Registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne, for transmission by post as a Newspaper. There is also the printing 'If not claimed in 7 days, please return'. It is cancelled with a double ring PAID MELBOURNE AM 11.30 27 1 03. The newspaper rate within Australia from 1 November 1902 was ½d per 10 oz. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. D. Perston, Secretary A.N.A., Argent St., Broken Hill.



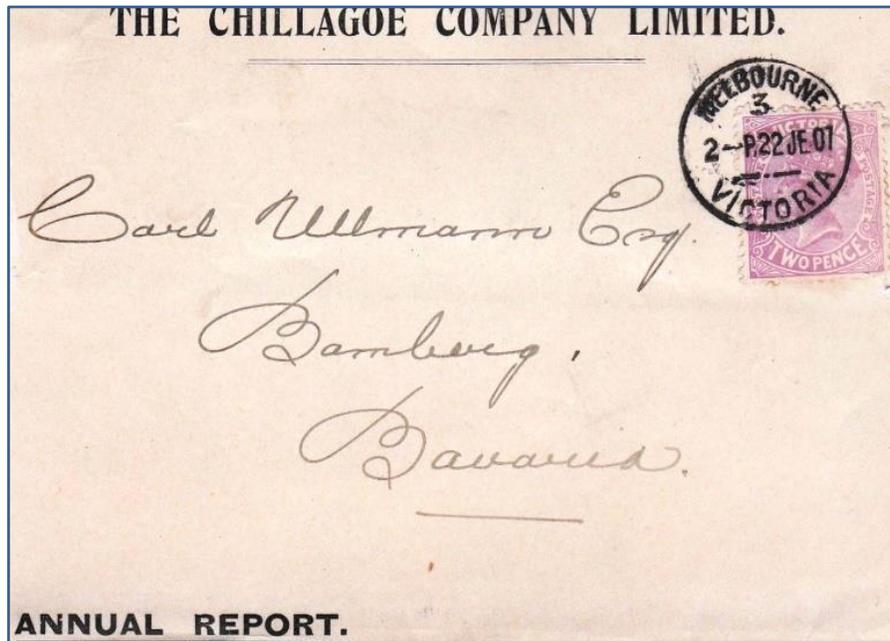
The A.N.A. or Australian Natives' Association was a mutual society founded in Melbourne, Australia in April 1871. It played a leading role in the movement for Australian federation in the last 20 years of the 19th century. Membership consisted mainly of middle-class men aged under 50.

The Bundaberg and District Workers' Union was formed in 1905. It became the A.W.A. or Australian Workers' Association, which merged with the larger national body, the Australian Workers' Union.

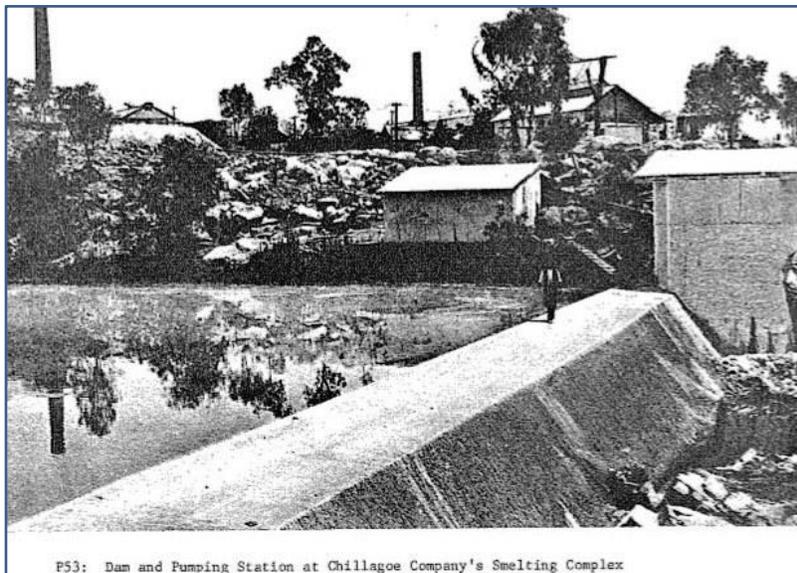


The Beacon

The Beacon advertised itself as a democratic monthly, published by the Beacon Newspaper Company, 325 Collins Street, Melbourne. The postage is an 1890 1d orange brown Queen Victoria (Sc169) and the postmark is MELBOURNE 5A JA 6 97. The magazine and periodical rate at the time was 1d up to 8 oz. for delivery from Victoria to New South Wales. The wrapper is addressed to Prof. Edwin R[obert] A[nderson] Seligman, Columbia College, New York. Professor Seligman, an economist who spent his academic career at Columbia University, was one of the editors of the *Political Science Quarterly*.



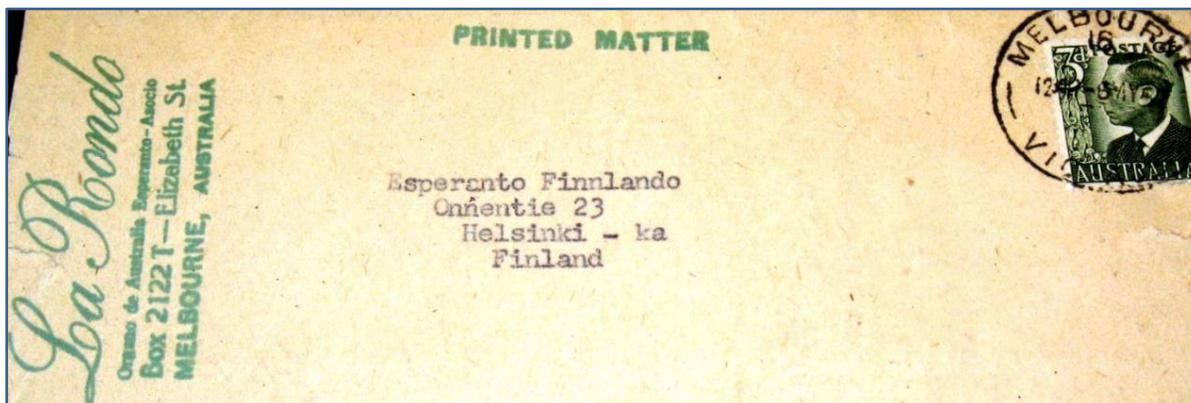
Prior to Mount Isa, the *Chillagoe Company*, founded in 1897, was the most ambitious mining project undertaken dominating base metal (copper) mining before World War I. When formed it was one of the largest companies in Australia in terms of authorised capital. It built nearly 300 miles of railway, a huge smelting complex and controlled mines over an area of 10,000 square miles. But despite four financial reconstructions in 16 years it accumulated losses of £5.8 million.



P53: Dam and Pumping Station at Chillagoe Company's Smelting Complex

La Rondo

A wrapper with private overprinting which is located vertically on the left-hand side reads: *La Rondo*, Organo de Australia Esperanto-Asocio, Box 2122T Elizabeth St., Melbourne, Australia. The wrapper also has PRINTED MATTER at the top; and it is addressed to Esperanto Finnlando, Onnentie 23, Helsinki – ka, Finland. It is paid with a 1951 3d dull green King George VI (Sc233) and is cancelled with a circular MELBOURNE 16 12.30P 5 MAY 52. The rate was 3d up to 2 oz. for foreign country destinations from 1 July 1951.



La Rondo was the name of the official Esperanto journal of the Australian Esperanto Association published in Melbourne between 1940 and December 1957; it was the predecessor to *The Australian Esperantist*.

La Rondo

The Australian Esperanto Monthly

Oficiala Organo de la Aŭstralia Esperanto Asocio.

Jarkotizo: 12½\$ (aŭ 20 respondukuponoj).

Anoncoj: Tri linioj: 4\$.

Redaktoro: F. R. BANHAM, 2 Banchory St., Essendon, W.5, Victoria.
 Adreso de A.E.A.—Box 2122T, P.O., Elizabeth Street, Melbourne.
 Kasisto: K. Linton, 11 Poplar Street, South Caulfield, S.E.8.

Vol. 12, N-ro 70. MELBURNO. Jan. - Marto, 1956.

LA DEKA TUTAUSTRALIA ESPERANTO-KONGRESO

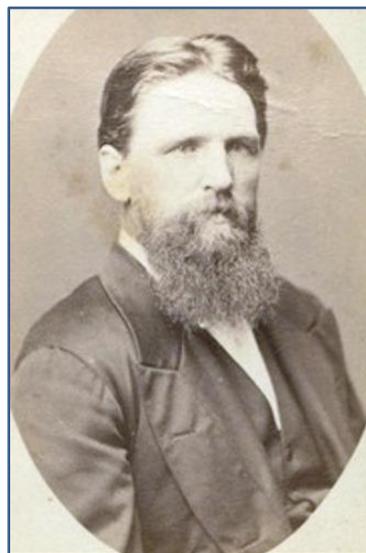
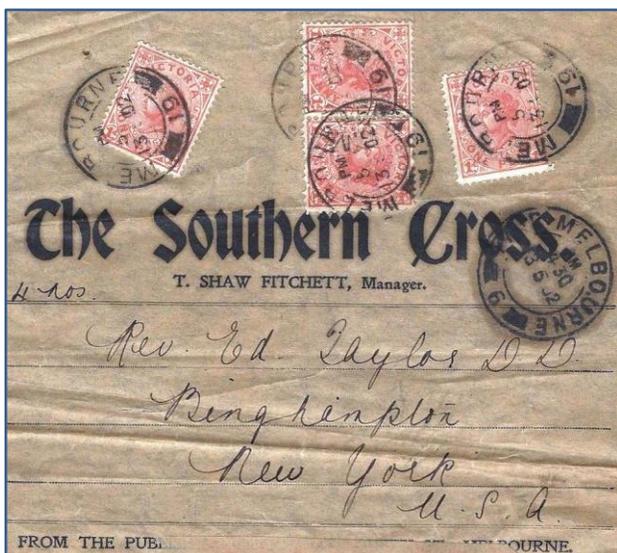
BRILA KONGRESO EN LA FEDERACIA ĈEFURBO.

| | |
|--|--|
| <p>Canberra, nia bela federacia ĉefurbo, estis la loko de nia jubilea 10-a Tutaustralia Esperanto-Kongreso, kiu okazis inter la 2-a kaj 7-a de Januaro 1956.</p> | <p>kutime rezervata nur por la deputitoj de la federacia parlamento, sed, dum la somera ferio de la parlamento, ĝi estas ankaŭ frekventata de la ĝenerala publiko.</p> |
|--|--|

The Australian Esperanto Association was formed in October 1911. Esperanto is a planned international language, designed to enable easy communication between people of different languages.

The Southern Cross

The postage on this wrapper with *The Southern Cross* masthead is four 1901 1d rose red Queen Victoria (Sc194). There is a manuscript '4 nos.' written under 'The' thereby suggesting the enclosure comprised four newspapers. The rate for newspapers to foreign countries from 1 March 1901 was 1d for the first 4 oz. and ½d for each additional 2 oz. The postage of 4d implies that the total weight was 14 oz. Four double circle postmarks cancelling the stamps are MELBOURNE PM 5 13 5 02 and identifier 19. There is also a postmark in the clear with a 4AM postmark, same date and identifier 6; this was obviously applied first with the stamps cancelled after sorting overseas mail. The wrapper is addressed to Rev. Ed. Taylor D.D., Binghampton, New York, U.S.A.



Editor of *The Southern Cross*, Rev. William Henry Fitchett 9 Aug. 1841- 25 May 1928

In 1882 William Henry Fitchett became editor of the *Southern Cross*, a weekly record of Catholic, Irish and general news. In April 1900 his son, *Thomas Shaw Fitchett* printer and publisher, became manager. (His name is printed under the masthead as manager). In 1883, when James Balfour bought the *Daily Telegraph* to establish a secular daily sympathetic to Christian interests, Fitchett became consulting editor until it was sold to the *Herald and Weekly Times Ltd* in 1892. In July that year the Australasian edition of W. T. Stead's *Review of Reviews* was launched under Fitchett's editorship; a 32-page supplement of local matter was added to the English edition. Fitchett was replaced in 1903.

Summary

These eight wrappers reflect the diversity of societal life from the late 1800s to after World War II. A number of newspapers devoted to the advancement of democracy and Federation, the labour union movement, and Christian religion emphasise the role of this medium in helping to shape the thinking and advancement of society. Commerce in the form of copper mining and fruit growing are revealed too as well as the day-to-day living aided by the installation of air conditioning in places of employment, travel within Australasia and overseas, and the early attempts to encourage an international language. The backstories of these wrappers need to be told to remind us of their role in disseminating knowledge that helped shape the country.

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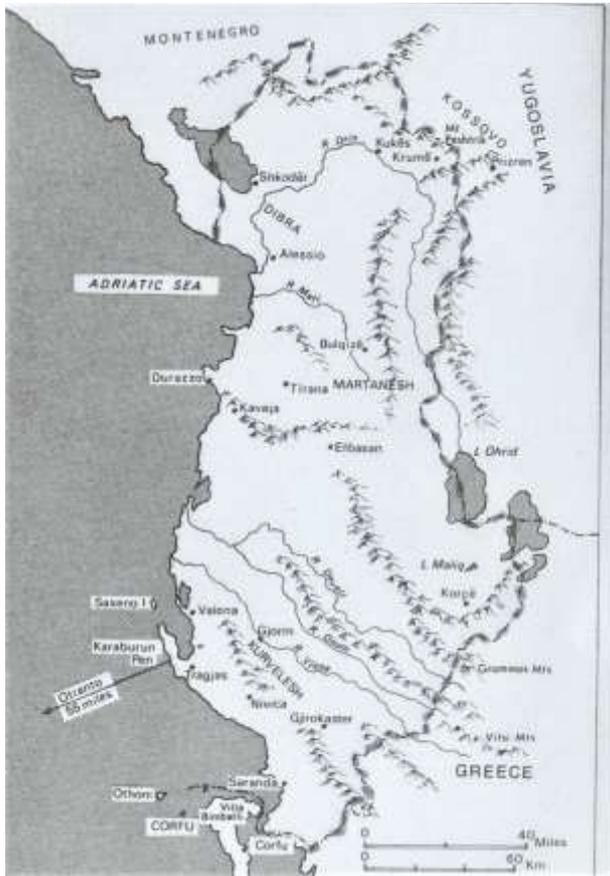
Acknowledgements

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

Albania: Philately from a Complicated Country

John Young

The Albanians are original inhabitants of the Balkans, predating Greek, Roman, Turkish and Serbian invasions. They were known as Illyrians. Paul the Apostle wrote that 'from Jerusalem, and round about into Illyrium I have fully preached the gospel'. That was in 59AD.



Albania: border defined by thick dotted line.

The map of Albania shows that it is on the eastern coast of the Adriatic Sea, not far from Italy. It has Montenegro to its north, Kosovo and Northern Macedonia to its east and Greece to its south. Most importantly, Albania lay on the main route between Rome and Constantinople, the capitals of the Roman Empire. The route met the Albanian coast at Durres [Durazzo on the map].

The Albanians were never fully conquered by the invaders, retreating to their mountainous hinterland where they resorted to raiding, strict codes of conduct and stubborn resistance. Their language is unrelated to adjacent peoples; the nearest related language is Basque. It comes as no surprise that 'Albania' is Shqiperia in Albanian.

Despite Ottoman misrule and oppression of the Albanian language, an Albanian independence movement came about in the 1880s. Almost as an afterthought of the settlement of the first Balkan war in 1912, Albanian independence was granted by international treaty, with definite national boundaries. Albanians in Kosovo and Macedonia were not included.

The first Balkan war came about from the Balkan League [Greece, Serbia, Montenegro and Bulgaria] expelling the Ottomans from Macedonia, but with the covert object of carving out from Albania extra territories for themselves. Within a year the liberators fell out among themselves on territorial questions, provoking a gruesome second Balkan war.

They took their ambitions too far. For example, Serbia wanted territory that would take it to an outlet on the Adriatic Sea. The participants in the treaty, Austria-Hungary, Russia etc, for the first Balkan war were alarmed at Serbian ambition, and blocked Serbian expansion to the Adriatic by making Albania an independent nation. They were aided in this by Britain which had a long association with Albanians, exemplified by Lord Byron and a dauntless English woman, Edith Durham [1863-1944]. Durham travelled and wrote extensively about Albania, and during World War 1 was the 'go-to' person on matters Albanian. The Albanians named her the queen of the mountain people.

Before moving on to Albania's stamps it should be noted that the frustrating of Serbia's expansion contributed to a third Balkan war, which transmogrified into the First World War. Albania's first stamps, in June 1913, were overprints on Turkish issues. Before then Turkish stamps applied in Ottoman-ruled Albania, as did the stamps of Austrian, Italian etc post offices in the Ottoman Empire. Illustration 1 shows an Austria in Albania usage.



Illus. 1: 1906 postcard correctly franked 20 para, from Valona to Corfu

paras to 10 grosh [40 paras=1 grosh]. Soon afterwards in November 1913 five stamps, 10 paras to 2 grosh were issued for the first anniversary of Albania's independence. Both these issues included an image of the doubled headed eagle, and are shown in illustration 2.

On 1 December 1913 Albania's first 'properly printed' stamps were issued. Produced in Turin, they portrayed the medieval Albanian hero, Kastrioti Skenderbeg. Six values were expressed in a new currency from 2 qint to 1 franc [100 q = 1 franc]. Illustration 3 shows the stamp, surcharged, on a postcard. Skenderbeg [c1405-68] served in the Ottoman forces until 1443 when he returned to his Christian faith and led Albanian resistance against the Ottomans. Reputedly he won all of his 26 battles against them, dying not from wounds but from malaria. His resistance was known throughout Europe and is considered to have been instrumental in saving western Europe from Islamic conquest. On 7 March 1914 a minor German notable, Prince William of Wied, was appointed as Albania's monarch. The reasons for this were mixed. European powers had appointed German princes to rule Greece, Bulgaria and Roumania, so it was the custom. Albanian leaders viewed the custom as acknowledgement of Albania's sovereignty, and an outside ruler was a counterweight to Albanian chieftains who could scheme to detach parts from the newly independent nation. Six Skenderbeg definitives were overprinted to commemorate Prince William's accession, which ended on 3 September 1914 [illustration 4].

The overprints on Turkish stamps were a crudely depicted double-headed eagle, a symbol that originated in the Byzantine Empire. The eagles' heads faced east and west, reputedly the directions of opportunity and danger. The symbol was adopted by the Habsburg, Russian and German empires. Those three disappeared in 1918 but Albania, along with Montenegro, have kept the symbol until today. This author has no example of the overprints, mainly because of the possibility of bogus or forged stamps. The second Albanian stamps were six labels with typewritten values from 10



Illus. 2: 1913 Hand-stamped 'label' and Independence stamp. Both date-stamped Vlone, shown as Volona on map.



Illus. 3:



Illus. 3g: 1914. Postcard franked 20 para, from Durrus, north Albania (Durazzo on map) to Bolzano, Italy.



Illus. 4: Skenderbeg stamp overprinted for arrival of Prince William, 7 March 1914.

The outbreak of World War 1 complicated things for Albania. Italian forces occupied southern Albania. Northern Albania was occupied by Serbia and Montenegro until the end of 1915, when they were replaced by Austria. Central Albania came under the influence of one of the designing chieftains, Essad Pasha. His regime issued four sets of overprinted stamps, two of them on fiscals [illustration 5]. Essad Pasha was replaced by Austria in February 1915.

In southern Albania's eastern province of Korçe French military forces created an autonomous province from December 1916 until April 1918. They issued double headed eagle stamps in two sets 1 cent to 1 franc: one set was inscribed 'Korçe Independent Republic' [in Albanian] and the other 'Korçe Albanian Republic'. There were also overprints for local-post use [illustration 6].



Illus. 5: An example from one of the sets issued for central Albania in early 1915.

Date-stamped Elbasan, at the time when Austria took control.



Illus. 6: Korçe stamps for – (a): Independent republic' (b): 'Albanian republic'.



Illus. 7: Overprinted Austrian fiscal stamps.

- (a) Additionally overprinted in red with Roman numerals for date of re-opening of Shkodres (Shkoder) post office on 15 Jan 1919.
- (b) With violet comet, date-stamped Scutari, alternative name for Shkoder;
- (c) Date-stamped Tirane (Tirana), Albania's future capital



Illus. 6: (c): Local post.

The end of the war did not see the resumption of normal conditions. From 1919 to 1923 there were eight sets of definitives, all of them overprints. In 1919

Austrian fiscals were overprinted with five different type faces. Two of them included comets in the overprints. Was this for security or philatelic sales? The overprinted fiscals were used in Shkoder,

north Albania, an area governed by an Inter Allied Commission from late 1918 to 11 March 1920 for protection against Serbia. Some of the stamps are shown in illustration 7.

In 1919 stamps produced in Vienna but not issued for Prince Wied in 1913 were released, but overprinted with the double-headed eagle. They are often seen not overprinted, but these are from looted stocks. The stamps ranged from 1q to 50 q [illustration 8].



Illus. 8: 1920: 'Prince William' stamps correctly overprinted and as originally printed.

In 1920 some French printed stamps portraying Skenderbeg [2 q t to franc] were issued, overprinted with a post horn to obliterate 'Shkoder', north Albania. In 1921 these stamps were also overprinted 'BESA', a word at the heart of the Albanian code of conduct. In essence Besa means honour or trust, in this case an undertaking to set aside vendetta obligations, an undertaking which must not be broken. [The concept of Besa also extends to giving sanctuary to strangers, a custom celebrated by Israel in honour of families who protected Jews in World War 2.] Illustration 9 shows two Besa overprints.



Illus. 9: 1921 and 1922: 'Skenderbeg' stamps overprinted Besa.

A fresh set of seven definitives was issued in 1923. They depicted views and buildings, with values from 2 qint to 2 franc. It might be thought that the new stamps signified the coming of political stability, but within two years they were overprinted for the opening of the Albanian national assembly, the return of the government to the capital, proclamation of a republic and the naming of the republic. The return of government was code for overthrow of the Albanian leader by a northern clan leader and Minister of the Interior, Ahmed Bey Zogu. Within six weeks

Zogu became president of a newly declared Albanian republic. Within a further four years he was the self-proclaimed King Zog. Illustration 10 shows several of the stamp issues from 1924 to proclamation of the kingdom in September 1928.



(a)

As issued 1923



(b)

Proclamation of Republic, April 1925



(c)

Installation of Republic, May 1925

Illus. 10: The 2 Qind definitive depicting Gjirokastra, South Albania

To be continued.

PARCELS STUFF - 300 King St Offloading to 172 – 184 Roden St

By Brian Fuller

Long ago in the realm of the PMG there lived two facilities. The Chief Parcels Office at 300 King Street Melbourne and the Overseas Inwards Parcel Section at 172 – 184 Roden Street West Melbourne.

Unfortunately for the tale I am missing a vast amount of information to complete the narrative. If anyone can assist, the world of PARCEL Postal History will be indebted.

My current belief is that King St - the Chief Parcels Office (CPO) commenced operation circa 1930 and ceased operation after the **23 Jul 89** when State Bulk MC (SBMC) became State MC (SMC was officially opened 28AUG89). (See my article on AP Timelines).

On the other hand I know very little about Dudley Street to supplement the information the following PPC8 forms provide. I have been unable to elicit Dudley Street operations and opening/closing dates etc. If anyone can assist please offer dates etc. David Wood has some details on Postmarks.

If one uses Google maps the facility was very large. Consequently I suspect it did more than overseas parcels.

The PP8s, see attached Figures 1 – 3, seem to indicate that Form P.P.C. 8 (3/71) in BLACK ink, CDS 7MAY73 was in use at the CPO. Fig 1A para 2 indicated its business hours were 8.45 till 4.15 with a 1hr lunch break.

Form P.P.C.8A (Nov. '73) in RED ink, Fig 2 CDS 18DEC73 was in use at Dudley St as per the address on the front. The opening times Fig 3A Para 2 have different operating times.

Form PPC 8A (Nov. '73) Fig 3 CDS 26JUN74 is the same as Fig 2 so confirms Dudley St was now operating.

The reverse of the PPC8s (Fig1A and 2A) indicate some of the functions of Dudley St.

I understand Dudley St seems to have processed all overseas parcels including their delivery to an address.

David confirmed recently that the following CDS was also used at Dudley St on 11NOV87.



Summary

I have a minimum operating dates for Dudley St of 18DEC73 – 11NOV87 and inwards overseas parcels processing and presumably delivery but to whom I have no idea. Who processed parcels in those days?

The fronts of the PPC8 indicates the details were mailed to you and you made your own arrangements to pick them up. Do overseas purchasers recall this? What did country folks have to do? Was that the function of the Express Service Centre?

The suburban MC were also functioning mid 70s so did Dudley St deliver to them? Did they collect any Customs Revenue?

Please do not let Parcel postal history glaze your eyes as it is our past and we should record it before it becomes even more guesswork.

Fig 1

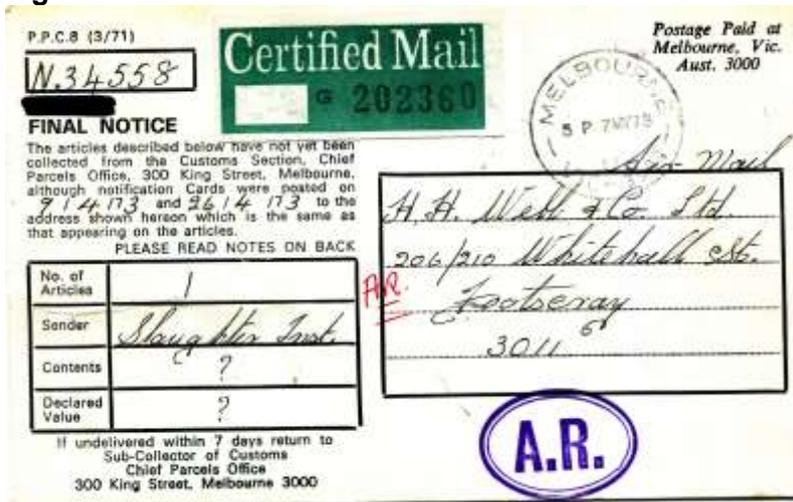


Fig. 1A

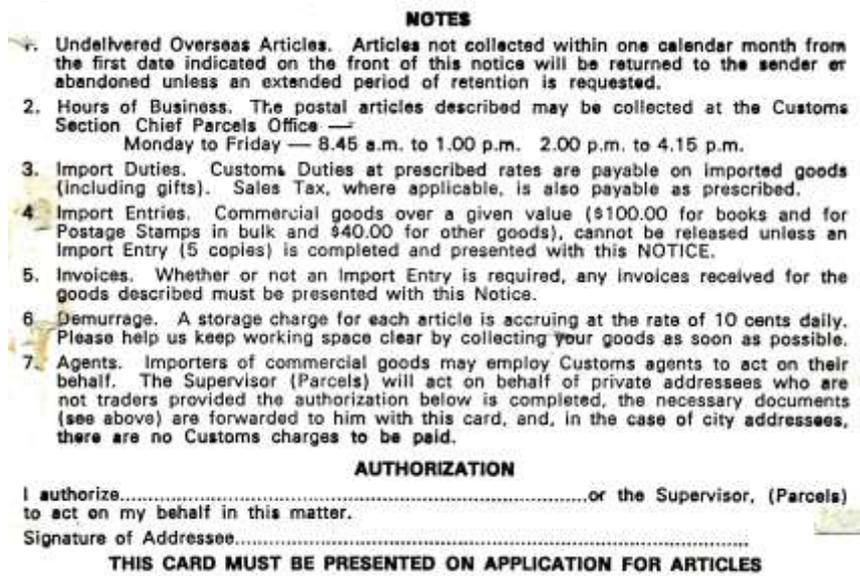


Fig. 2



Fig 2A

NOTES

1. Undelivered Overseas Articles. Articles not collected within one calendar month from the first date indicated on the front of this notice will be returned to the sender or abandoned unless an extended period of retention is requested.
2. Hours of Business. The postal articles described may be collected at the P.M.G./Customs Overseas Inward Parcels Section, Monday to Friday — 8.45 a.m. to 4.15 p.m. (Closed 12.30 p.m. to 1.30 p.m. except for some commercial transactions.)
3. Import Duties. Customs duties at prescribed rates are payable on imported goods. Sales Tax might be payable. Gifts are not exempt from duty, but a liberal view is taken in assessing any duty payable and the Department accepts as bona fide.
4. Import Entries. Commercial goods over \$100 in value cannot be released unless an Import Entry (Form 100) is completed and presented with this notice.
5. Invoices. Whether or not an Import Entry is required any invoices received for the goods described should be presented with this notice.
6. Demurrage. A storage charge for each article is accruing at the rate of 15c daily. Please help us keep your parcel clear by collecting your goods as soon as possible.
7. Customs Agents. Importers of commercial goods may employ Customs Agents to act on their behalf. The Agent will act on behalf of private addressees who are not traders provided the authorization below is completed and the necessary documents (see 3 and 4 above) are forwarded to him with this card.

AUTHORIZATION

I authorize _____ or the Supervisor (Name) to act on my behalf in this matter.

Signature of Addressee _____

THIS CARD MUST BE PRESENTED ON APPLICATION FOR ARTICLES

Fig 3

P.P.C. 8 A (Nov. '73)
 V 6883

Certified Mail
 H 337010

MELBOURNE
 Postage Paid
 Melbourne, Vic.
 Australia 3000
 VIC-65 3000

FINAL NOTICE

The articles described below have not yet been collected from the P.M.G./Customs Overseas Inward Parcels Section, 172-184 Roden Street, West Melb., although notification Cards were posted on 5/6/73 and 13/6/74 to the address shown hereon which is the same as that appearing on the articles.

PLEASE READ NOTES ON BACK

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| No. of Articles | 1 R 3220 USA |
| Sender | Frigid Fluid Co. |
| Contents | Shin Seal Valve |
| Declared Value | \$ 33.86 |

If undelivered within 7 days return to
 P.M.G./Customs Overseas Inward Parcels Section
 172-184 Roden Street, West Melbourne, 3003.

A.R.

V9925801
 H. H. Webb & Co. Ltd
 206-210 Whitehall St.
 Footscray Vic. 3011

Fig 3A

NOTES

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3. Import Duties. Customs duties at prescribed rates are payable on imported goods. Sales Tax might be payable. Gifts are not exempt from duty, but a liberal view is taken in assessing any duty payable and the Department accepts as bona fide.
4. Import Entries. Commercial goods over \$100 in value cannot be released unless an Import Entry (Form 100) is completed and presented with this notice.
5. Invoices. Whether or not an Import Entry is required any invoices received for the goods described should be presented with this notice.
6. Demurrage. A storage charge for each article is accruing at the rate of 15c daily. Please help us keep your parcel clear by collecting your goods as soon as possible.
7. Customs Agents. Importers of commercial goods may employ Customs Agents to act on their behalf. The Agent will act on behalf of private addressees who are not traders provided the authorization below is completed and the necessary documents (see 3 and 4 above) are forwarded to him with this card.

AUTHORIZATION

I authorize _____ or the Supervisor (Name) to act on my behalf in this matter.

Signature of Addressee _____

THIS CARD MUST BE PRESENTED ON APPLICATION FOR ARTICLES

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This edition will once again feature postmarks but who knows what the future brings. Had the privilege to see Simon Alsop again and had a nice talk with him about postmarks (of course).

Simon then generously gave me 2 boxes of covers and some postmarks on piece. Most of the material is from those 2 boxes. Many are from 2011 and a few earlier but according to my reference of earlier editions of the journal many have not been seen in this publication.

N.S.W. Earlier datestamps- GULGONG (102/25) GILGANDRA (113/28) MOLONG (106/21)



QLD. Eagleby and Samford both have inverted datelines and did they have inverted dates for all the time they were in use



QLD. (cont.)



TAS.- Earlier datestamps FRANKLIN(131/26) GROVE(131/26)



VIC.-



W. A. –



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What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society?

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

Back Page

John Young

Myer

This postcard was sent from Myer's department store, Melbourne to Mrs G V Lansell in Bendigo. Despite having a Myer store in Bendigo, Mrs Lansell had an account with the Melbourne store. The postcard announced Myer's Winter Sale for 1933, in the midst of their massive rebuilding in Bourke Street, during the height of the economic depression.



Mrs Lansell, nee Edith Frew, was a former skiing champion. Her husband, George Victor Lansell, was a Member of the Victorian Legislative Council. He was the son of the famous Bendigo mining entrepreneur, George Lansell, now best remembered for his Fortuna mansion. George Victor was also a director of several local companies and was active in promoting local industry and newspapers.

The Lansell family lived at the elevated end of View Street, Bendigo, known locally as View Hill.

The brothers Joseph and Albert Grace opened a drapery store in George Street, Sydney in 1885. Within two years they opened their Broadway store, located at Sydney's main public transport hub. In time it became known as the 'model store', with ten hectares of floor space and 160 departments.

Grace Bros

Grace Bros. had an extensive mail order business, involving postal communication with rural and interstate addresses. This cover was sent by airmail to Georgetown, South Australia. It turned out to be the wrong state. Transmission was Sydney 6 December 1939 and Adelaide 7 December [backstamp].

