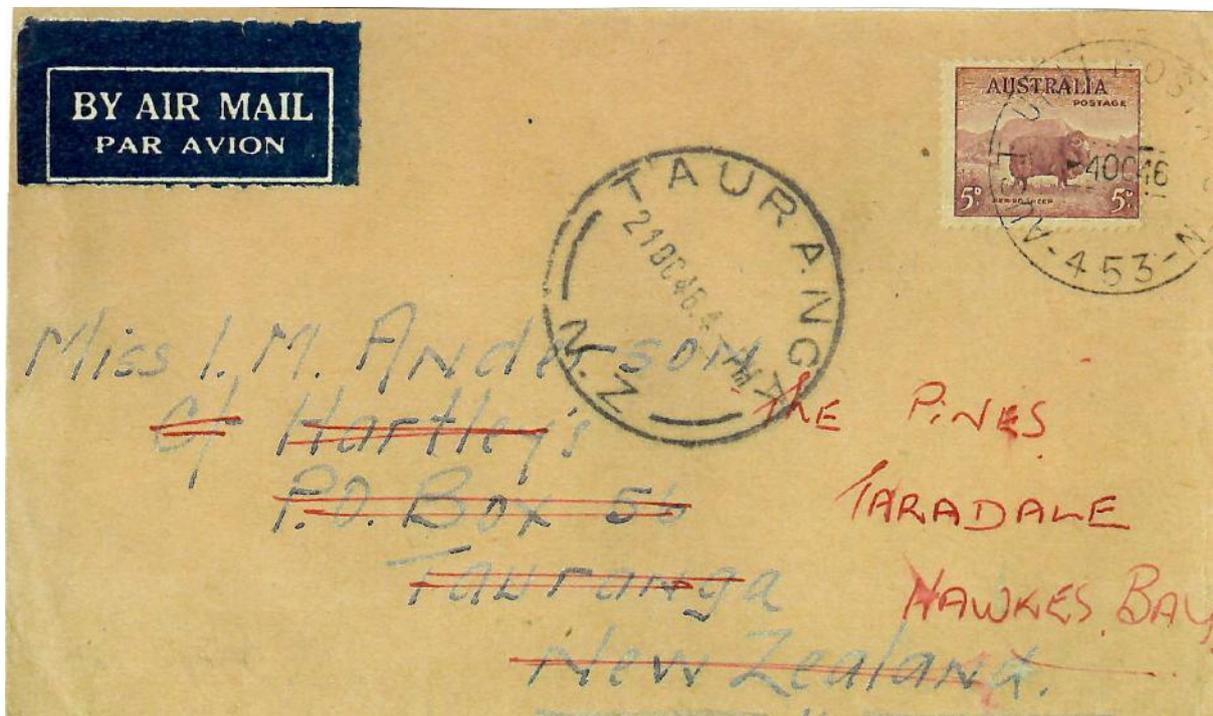


# Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 158 December 2021



## IN THIS ISSUE

**Glimpses of History of the Australian Commonwealth  
Era Through Private Postal Wrappers**

**The Very Short Silesian Postal History**

**The Mid-1860's Forgeries The End of a Myth (II)**

**Machine Double Circle Die Heads of Victoria**

**Melbourne City Mail Centre (MCMC) History**

**Empire Air Training Scheme - Canada**

**Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes**

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<b>Date</b>	<b>2021 / 2022 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
20 December 21	Christmas Meeting	Members 4-10 page exhibit
20 February 2022	TBC	TBA

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3
<b>From the President</b>	4
<b>Glimpses of History of the Australian Commonwealth Era Through Private Postal Wrappers</b>	5
<i>Dr John K. Courtis</i>	
<b>The Very Short Silesian Postal History</b>	13
<i>John Young</i>	
<b>Christmas Greetings</b>	14
<i>Tony Lyon</i>	
<b>The Mid-1860's Forgeries - The End of a Myth (II) - [Part 1]</b>	15
<i>Gerhard Lang-Valchs</i>	
<b>Empire Air Training Scheme - Canada</b>	25
<i>Tony Lyon</i>	
<b>Machine Double Circle Die Heads of Victoria</b>	26
<i>Brian Fuller</i>	
<b>Melbourne City Mail Centre (MCMC) History</b>	28
<i>Brian Fuller</i>	
<b>HHDS</b>	29
Compiled by <i>George Vearing</i>	
<b>Advertisement</b>	31
<b>Back Page</b>	32
Advertisement	
<b>Front Cover :</b>	

This airmail cover is from the Australian Unit Post Office 453 in Japan to an address in New Zealand. Its franking is 5 pence, not the then standard airmail letter rate between Australia and New Zealand which was 5 ½ pence.

The franking comprised the airmail fee of 3 pence, postage of 2 pence, but not the ½ penny war tax from which members of the armed services were exempt.

The cover was date stamped 4 Oct 1946 in Japan and 21 Oct in Tauranga, New Zealand where it was re-addressed.



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

The end of the year is with us once again and it is time to relax and reflect upon what has been achieved, or missed, and celebrate the lifting of restrictions which will enable the gathering with family and friends in whatever way you choose to.

It has been good to be able to meet once again in our various societies in fellowship and the pursuit of things philatelic. May this continue.

A former member of this society John Michael Lancaster passed away 8th November 2021. John was an interesting character with an interesting career behind him. He was an avid collector of Thailand before his former career in trade and his interest in philately brought together his exhibit 'Trade Exhibitions 1851—1988' which was subsequently published under the title 'Exhibit Yourself: Australia's Trade Built Upon Exhibitions.' Those who attended his funeral at St. John's Anglican Church, Toorak, received a copy.

Well it is time to sign off for another year. Thank you to all who contributed in the past year. Wishing you all the compliments of the season. Enjoy.

Until next time ciao.

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

1. maintain a current membership list;
2. inform members about the Society's activities;
3. publish details of members, with their consent, in the AJPH or other Society publications.

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## From the President

When was the last time you saw an under-franked postal article taxed, and the tax actually paid? It was almost certainly back in the days when letters were delivered daily, and on time.

Postage due stamps went out when Australia changed to decimal currency in 1966, and thereafter tax was paid with ordinary postage stamps. Cancellation was done by pen, or not at all, and the stamps haphazardly stuck on. The resulting covers were not pretty, verging on uncollectable. Postal historians may have put aside the occasional cover as an oddity, left to languish in a shoebox. I plead guilty to that habit, and my most recent example is shown below. Date stamped 1970, the envelope was marked 'business papers' and franked 8 cents, presumably 5 cents for the first weight step and 3 cents for the next. However, business needed to go in an unsealed envelope. The envelope was sealed and a postal official marked it accordingly. A second marking shows that the article exceeded 2 ounces and attracted a tax of 10 cents. The sealed letter rates in 1970 were –

One ounce	5 cents
1 to 2 oz	9 cents
2 to 3 oz	13 cents

The correct franking was thus 13 cents and the double deficiency tax was twice 5 cents. Two cancelled Expo stamps paid the tax.



A later tax collection scheme was an 'honesty box' arrangement whereby a card like the one shown below was left with the addressee. [Obviously this card was not paid out.] I know of nothing after this.

I end with some questions.

Does anyone have other examples of this kind of stuff?

Does anyone collect and write up this kind of unpretty postal history?

If anyone has such a collection could he or she write a nice article – even a short one – for our journal?

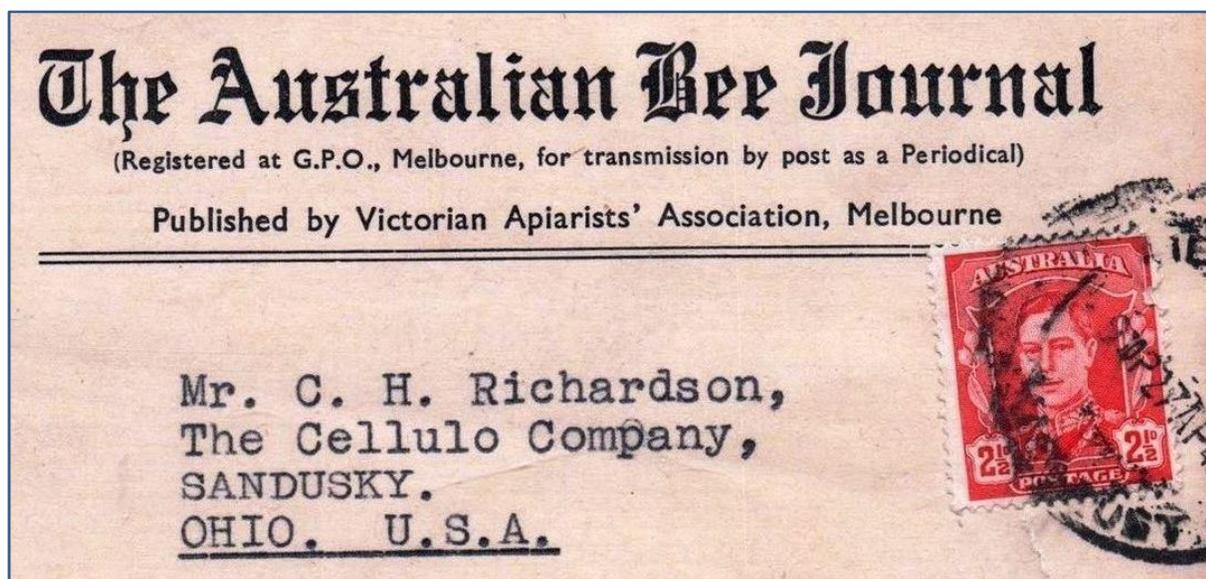
## Glimpses of History of the Australian Commonwealth Era Through Private Postal Wrappers

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL [acapjaic@friends.cityu.edu.hk](mailto:acapjaic@friends.cityu.edu.hk)

This is the sixth and final paper 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), Queensland (December 2020), Victoria (March 2021) and New South Wales (September 2021). More than 20 different Australian Commonwealth non-post office wrappers have appeared on the internet market over the past two years and ten of these have been selected for analysis. Some of these wrappers could rightly have been included in the Colonies/States Glimpses papers. They are included here because of their use of Australian stamps. Classification aside, the main thing is that they be identified and their role examined in the economic and social fabric of Australia. Collectively, their back stories reveal the richness of a sophisticated society and the contribution these wrappers make to the dissemination of news and information.

### Australian Bee Journal

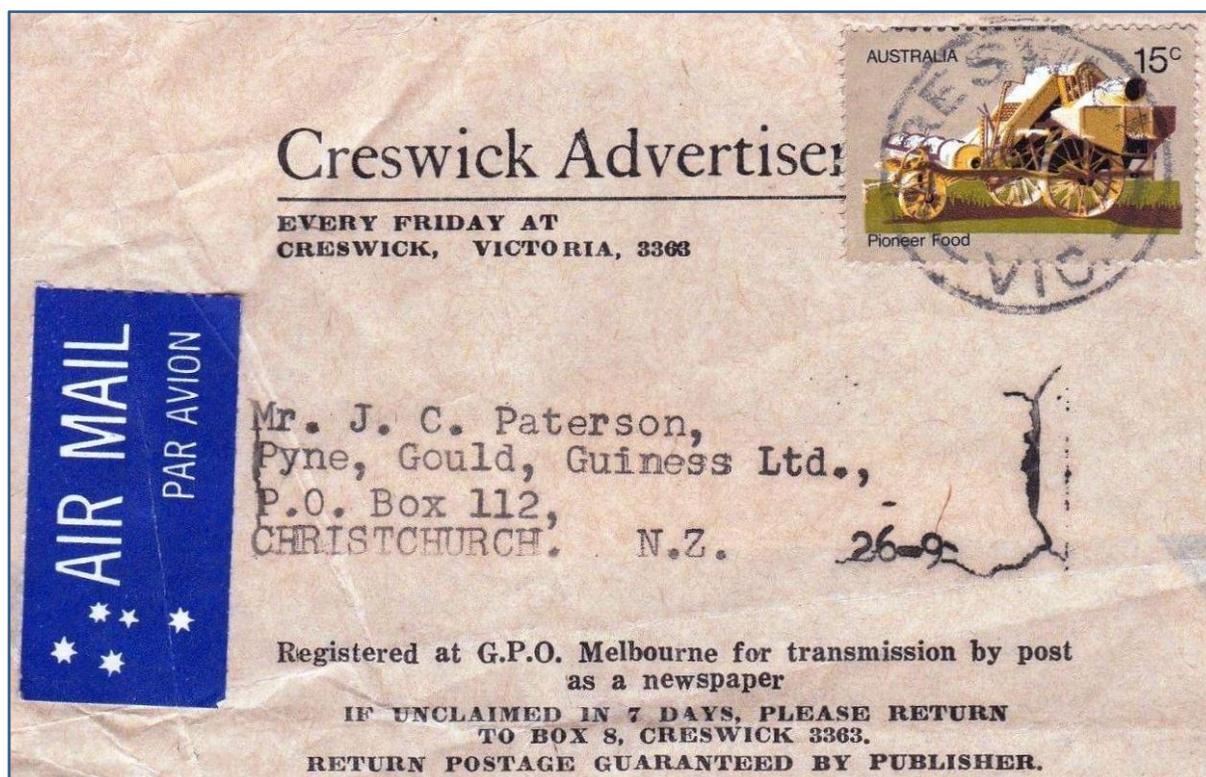
*The Australian Bee Journal* wrapper was published by the Victorian Apiarists' Association, Melbourne. The Australian Bee Journal was registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by post as a periodical. The wrapper is paid with a 1942 2½d red King George VI (Sc194) and is postmarked MELBOURNE 9.10P 27 AP 43. The rate for periodicals from 10 December 1941 to foreign countries was 1d per 2 oz. plus ½d war tax per item. The 2d therefore represented the second weight scale of 2-4 oz. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. C. H. Richardson, The Cellulo Company, Sandusky, Ohio, USA.



The Victorian Apiarists' Association was founded circa 1892. It is the main beekeeping organization for Victoria and negotiates with government bodies on issues such as honey production and food security at federal, state and local council levels. It introduced the Apiary Code of Practice to allow bees to be kept in urban areas. It operates beekeeping courses and holds an annual conference to keep up with beekeeping issues and scientific research. It has a current membership of about 5,500 registered beekeepers in Victoria and communicates to members via its monthly publication *The Australian Bee Journal*. This journal contains articles about beekeeping, details of related services and relevant publications.

### Creswick Advertiser

The Creswick Advertiser was registered at the GPO Melbourne for transmission as a newspaper and with additional wording 'If unclaimed in 7 days, please return to Box 8, Creswick 3363'. Return postage was guaranteed by the publisher. It was also stated that this newspaper was issued every Friday at Creswick, Victoria, 3363. The wrapper is paid with a 1972 15c early combine harvester (Sc534) placed over a rectangular 'affix stamp here' box. The circular cancellation is CRESWICK 2 OC 73 VIC. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. J. C. Paterson, Pyne, Gould, Guinness Ltd., PO Box 112, Christchurch, N.Z. There is an airmail etiquette at left.



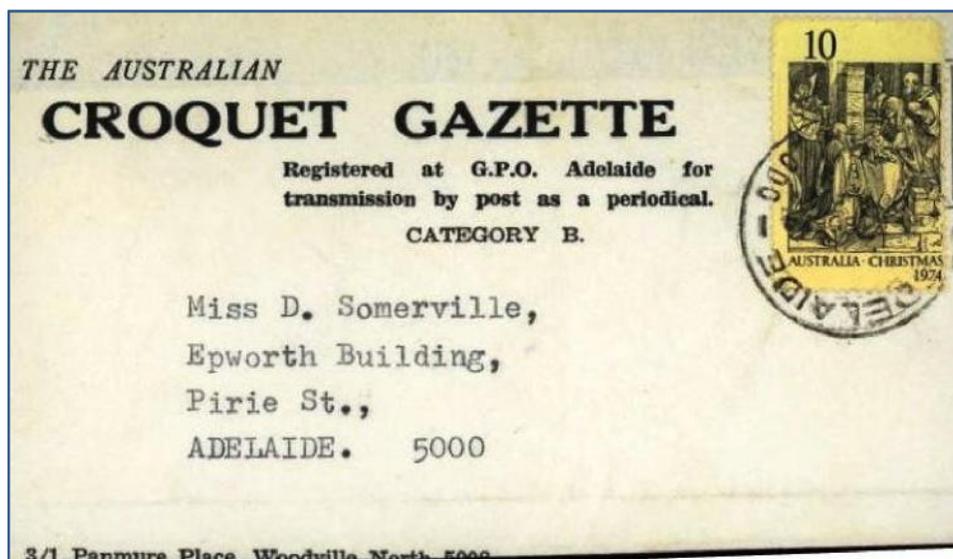
Originally called *The Creswick & County of Talbot Agricultural Journal* it became the *Creswick Advertiser* on 2 July 1858 and publication continued until 1994. The paper was located in Albert Street, Creswick and was the voice of the town. Creswick obtained its name from three brothers Henry, Charles and John Creswick who started a large sheep station in 1842. It was also a former gold mining town established during the Victorian gold rushes in the 1850s. The Post Office opened on 1 September 1854 but was named Creswick's Creek until around 1857. By 1854 there had been an influx of about 20,000 people with a decline a decade later and a revival in 1872 with the discovery of deeper gold deposits. By this time the once dense forest had been stripped bare.

Creswick was perhaps an unusual choice for Victoria's forestry school as there was no substantial forest industry in the region. However, thanks to the work of John La Gerche – Creswick's first crown bailiff and Victoria's first forester – by the early 1900s a plantation of more than 300 hectares had been developed alongside the State Nursery. Subsequently, in 1909, the Victorian Government purchased the Creswick District Hospital and surrounding buildings and grounds for the purpose of establishing the Victorian School of Forestry.

### Croquet Gazette

The Australian Croquet Gazette was registered at the GPO Adelaide for transmission by post as a periodical., classified as Category B. The address printed at the lower edge of the wrapper is 3/1 Panmure Place, Woodville North, 5000. The wrapper is paid with a 1974 10c buff and black painting by

Dürer of Adoration of the Kings (Sc600). The local rate within Australia was 10c for periodicals. The wrapper is addressed to Miss D. Somerville, Epworth Building, Pirie St., Adelaide, 5000.



*The Australian Croquet Gazette* is the official magazine of the Australian Croquet Council and published quarterly. It started in 1951 and contained a mix of tournament results, upcoming events, letters, debates on rules and customs, and articles on technique. The council was formed in 1949 when representatives of each state decided to form the Australian Croquet Council to conduct the Australian Croquet Championships and be the face of Australian Croquet in overseas tournaments. During 1987 the Council became the "Australian Croquet Association" and in 1992, began operating under the name of "Croquet Australia." There is reported to be over 7,000 people within Australia to have a Croquet membership.

### **Die Brücke**

The name of the German-Australian Weekly was *Die Brücke*. If not delivered, it was requested to be returned to German-Australian Publications, Ltd., 16 Bond Street, Sydney, NSW. Return postage was guaranteed. There are seven almost identical wrappers in the database all of them from this sender and showing a variety of incoming markings from TIN CAN MAIL Niuafou Island, Tonga. The wrapper was posted in Sydney using a 1937 2d red Gov. Arthur Philip at Sydney Cove (Sc163) and cancelled with a roller SYDNEY NSW No 11 7 OC 2 193[4?] MA 6PM. The rate to Tonga from 4 August 1930 was 1d per 2 oz. for newspapers. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. W. G. Quensell, Niuafou, Tonga.

Walter George Quensell was a German trader who arrived in Tonga in 1919 and was involved in the Tin Can Mail service. Occasionally a ship of the New Zealand Steamship Co. called at Niuafou but because of dangerous surf, natives would swim with sealed tin cans of mail to the vessel which would then carry it onward. The ship would also leave mail. Quensell applied his own cachet 'TIN CAN MAIL' and 'NIUAFOOU' on the inward mail he treated. He worked as the manager of the Niuafou branch of Burns Philp C. Ltd. On 21 October 1930 a total eclipse of the sun was observed by an Eclipse Expeditionary party made up from the US Navy and National Geographic Society, but included also Quensell. He took the opportunity to make new cachets to further promote Tin Can Mail. The cachet in the shape of a shield shown on the wrapper first appeared in 1934. The Tin Can Mail service continued until December 1946 when it was suspended due to the complete evacuation of the island to Nukualofa after a serious volcanic eruption. Quensell died at Nukualofa in 1956.



*Die Brücke*, meaning 'The Bridge' was Australia's only German language weekly. Published in Sydney between 1934 and 1939 it was the organ of the League of Germans in Australia and New Zealand and as a mouthpiece for Nazi propaganda. It was mainly a political newspaper and was obviously subsidized by the Nazi authorities because it was distributed free to a large circulation. It went out of existence in 1939 at the outset of World War II.

### **Institution of Radio Engineers**

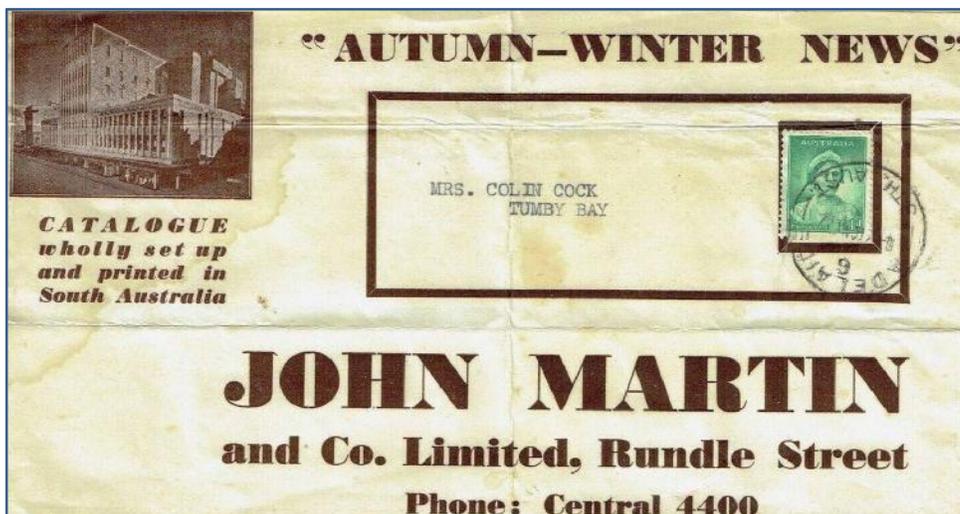
The sum of 6/6 was paid to airmail this registered wrapper and its enclosure to Sweden in 1950. A 1949 5/- dark red Arms of Australia (Sc218) and a 1/6 sepia Mercury and Globe (ScC6) paid the registration fee 6d and airmail rate from May 1947 of 1/6 per ½ oz. being the fourth weight scale of 2 oz. There are two circular cancels SYDNEY unreadable date except year 50 NSW AUST. There is an airmail and a registration etiquette. The number 10806 is the registration serial reference. The wrapper is addressed to Elvometer, Aspudden, Sweden. Printing at the top of the wrapper reads: The Institution of Radio Engineers, Australia and the address Science House, Essex and Gloucester Streets, Sydney. Printing at the lower edge is the routine 'If unclaimed within seven days, please return to Box 3120, GPO Sydney, NSW, Australia.

*The Institution of Radio Engineers, Australia* was a professional organization which represented radio engineers. It was formed in February 1932 by some members of the Wireless Institute of Australia (NSW) Division. The journal of the Institution of Radio Engineers (Australia) was called the *Radio Review of Australia*. It contained their annual proceedings as well as highly technical detail of commercial wireless equipment and installations. In October 1931 the name was changed to *Television and Radio Review* and the price was 9d for 34 pages, with 8 pages devoted to amateurs. This magazine was to become the official organ of the Wireless Institute throughout Australia, but for only two issues. In February 1932 *Radio Monthly* became the official organ but in January 1933 a new magazine was started with the same title as before, *The Radio Review of Australia*. It carried the sub-title "A monthly technical review incorporating the proceedings of the Institution of Radio Engineers, Australia." Between Jan. 1934 and Jan. 1937 it incorporated the proceedings but in Jan. 1937 it was incorporated in *Radio Retailer of Australia*, the editor believing that while publication of technical research was necessary, the most pressing need was for circuit information, etc. for the serviceman and technician.



**John Martin & Co. Ltd**

This illustrated wrapper contains a catalogue of Autumn-Winter News set up for the firm of John Martin & Co. Ltd., Rundle Street, Adelaide. The local postage was paid with a 1937 1d emerald Queen Elizabeth (Sc167) and the stamp is affixed within a black rectangular box. The circular date stamp is ADELAIDE 6 10-P 10 MY 37 STH AUST. The catalogue was most likely deemed as printed matter for the rate from 1 October 1923 was 1d per 4 oz. within Australia. The wrapper is addressed to Mrs. Colin Cock, Tumbly Bay, South Australia. Tumbly Bay is a coastal town situated on the Spencer Gulf on the eastern coast of Eyre Peninsula, an eight-hour car ferry distance.



*John Martin & Co. Ltd*, colloquially known as John Martin's, was an Adelaide-based company which ran a popular chain of department stores in South Australia. It operated for more than 130 years, from 1866 until its closure in 1998. It was owned by the Hayward family for the majority of its existence and became an Adelaide icon. The store had its origin in a single draper's shop founded on Rundle Street on 24 October 1866. By acquiring several more shops the store frontage increased to 120 ft. and there was a staff of 500. In 1902, a hotel was purchased increasing the frontage to 180 ft. In 1934, there was a rebuilding to seven storeys. John Martin's was a respected middle market retailer with a reputation for quality, range and value.

**Law Book Company of Australasia Ltd.**

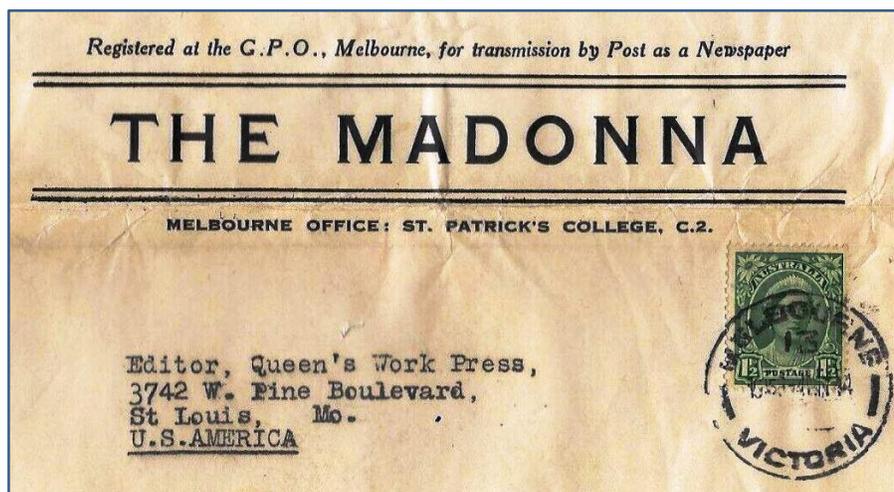
This wrapper to the USA shows a registration etiquette from GPO Melbourne, No. 5734 and there is a red crayon cross. The postage paid was a 1923 6d yellow brown kangaroo and map (Sc49). The circular postmark MELBOURNE 715P -4 FE 24. The registration fee was 3d from 1 March 1901 and the postal rate from 1 Oct. 1923 for printed matter to a foreign country was 1d per 2 oz. The payment of 3d indicates the third weight scale of between 4-6 oz. The wrapper was addressed to the Librarian, University of Wisconsin Law Library, c/o Mrs. S. M. Briggs, Madison, Wisconsin, U. S. America.



Charles F. Maxwell was a member of the Maxwell family of law publishers. In 1869 he travelled to Melbourne to distribute his brother's English publications and soon started publishing for the Australian market. He published the New South Wales Weekly Notes and the New South Wales Law Reports until the publishing business was sold to Arthur and Ernest Hayes in 1891 and became known as C. F. Maxwell (Hayes Brothers) Ltd. In 1901 they rebranded as the *Law Book Company of Australasia Ltd.*

### The Madonna

Registered at the G.P.O., Melbourne, for transmission by Post as a Newspaper, the masthead of this wrapper is *THE MADONNA*, with Melbourne Office at St. Patrick's College, C.2. Postage is paid with a 1942 1½d green Queen Elizabeth (Sc192). The newspaper rate as from 10 December 1941 was 1d per 2 oz. plus ½d war tax per item. The circular postmark is MELBOURNE 13 16.15P-4 MY-34 VICTORIA. The wrapper is addressed to the Editor, Queen's Work Press, 3742 W. Pine Boulevard, St. Louis, Mo., U.S. America.



*The Madonna* is a spiritual Catholic magazine edited at St. Patrick's College, Melbourne. It started in November 1897 as a quarterly magazine, then in 1920 it became a monthly and at present it is published quarterly with a circulation of 4,500 copies per issue and a readership of about 18,000. The first five editors of the magazine served a total of 79 years, with the first, Michael Watson SJ, taking the role for 43 years (1897-1930) and then Eustace Boylan SJ (1930-1948) and Desmond O'Connor SJ (1948-1950), John Doyle SJ (1950-1952) and H. G. Wilkins SJ (1952-1976). The magazine develops knowledge and appreciation of the Christian faith through informative articles on Christian beliefs, history, spirituality and practice.

## Progress

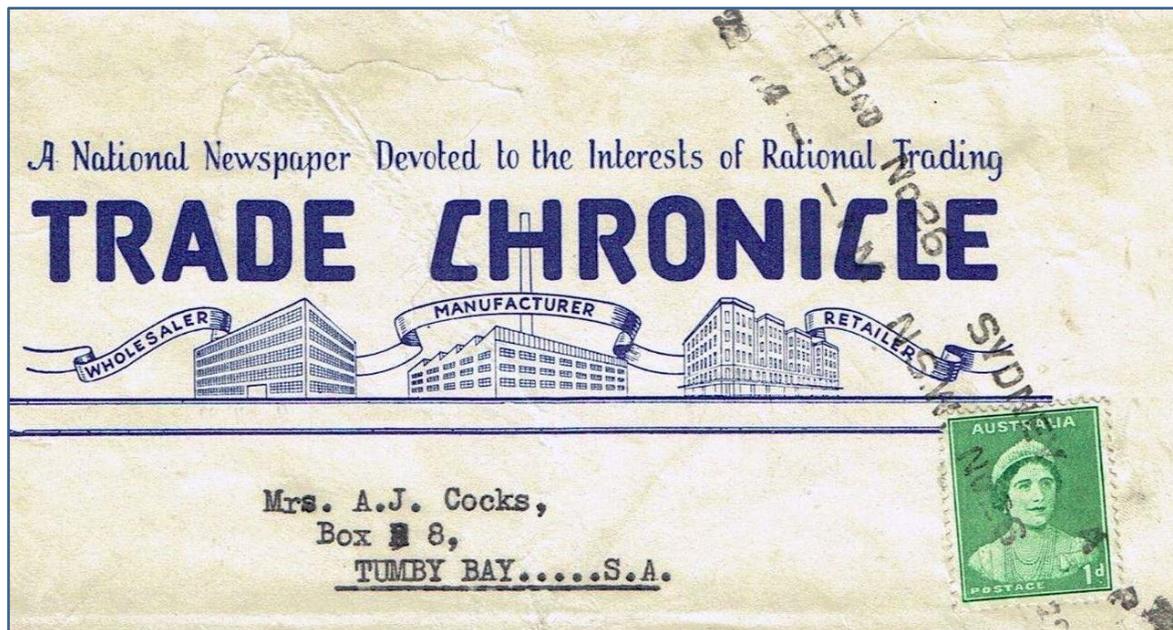
This wrapper bearing a copy of "Progress", the official journal of *Prosper Australia*, shows that Postage has been paid in Melbourne and that return postage is guaranteed to the Dead Letter Office in the event of non-delivery. The wrapper is paid with a 1942 1½d green Queen Elizabeth (Sc192) being 1d per 2 oz and the ½d war tax per item. The circular date stamp reads MELBOURNE 14 2 AR 46 VIC AUST. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. W. G. Stewart, 530 Washington St., Reading, Pa., U.S.A.



Founded in 1890 as the Single Tax League of Victoria, it was later known as the Henry George League of Victoria, then as Tax Reform Australia, before adopting its present name *Prosper Australia* in 2000. Its mission is to reduce taxes on work, on enterprise and consumption, suggesting that instead of taxes, government should be funded from the economic rents that fall to land and monopoly. The official journal of the League, *Progress*, has been published continuously, sometimes monthly, sometimes bimonthly and now quarterly, since 1904. The inaugural issue was four pages in length and during the first decade after inception, the number of pages grew to 16, including advertisements. The journal eventually reached a guaranteed circulation of 20,000.

## Trade Chronicle

The overprinting on this wrapper reads: A National Newspaper Devoted to the Interests of Rational Trading TRADE CHRONICLE, and on a linked ribbon WHOLESALER, MANUFACTURER and RETAILER with an illustrated symbolic building beneath each. Postage is paid with a 1937 1d green Queen Elizabeth (Sc167) paying the newspaper rate for 2 oz. It was not until December 1941 that the ½d War Tax was introduced. The roller cancel reads 1940 No 26 4 – PM SYDNEY N.S.W. The addressee is not the same as for the *John Martin* wrapper discussed earlier: Mrs. A. J. Cocks, Box 8, Tumbly Bay, S.A. By way of explanation there were two families in Tumbly Bay with similar surnames: Colin Cock whose wife's name was Blanche, and Margaret Jean Cocks.



This is a difficult wrapper to research for although the sender's name is straightforward, Google hits reference a monthly magazine of this name published in Pakistan. The sole mention of an Australian *Trade Chronicle* appears in the House of Representatives Debates on 25 October 1939 when the fisheries industry was quoted from this publication. It does not appear in the listings as a defunct Australian newspaper or magazine. Although it called itself a national newspaper to obtain the concessionary postal rate, it was likely more an economics or trade periodical. The illustrations of what purport to be a warehouse, factory and department store imply economic or business trade as opposed to rational stock market behaviour. The implied mission of such a publication is to provide economic-based background information to improve the likelihood of rational decision making leading to more rational resource allocation.

### Summary

This set of ten non-post office wrappers paid with Australian Commonwealth stamps represent a diverse mix of societal involvements. An economics or commercial focus is represented by some of these wrappers such as beekeeping and the important role of pollination, professional radio engineers, an Adelaide retail emporium, tax reform and industry-based information to facilitate efficient decision-making. Also represented are newspapers and their role in influence peddling both regionally, politically and spiritually, plus the role of publishing and distributing legal information through reports and books. Grass croquet revealed that even a gentle (?) sport such as this has its need for organization, rules and etiquette. Finally, delving into social history through these wrappers led to a diversion into Tongan Tin Can Mail and the philatelic enhancements through application of local cachets; and a diversion into the history underlying the establishment of a Victorian forestry school in Creswick, better known for its early gold mining.

### References

<https://www.vicbeekeepers.com.au>  
[https://www.csu.edu.au/\\_\\_data/assets/pdf\\_file/0004/704290/report198.pdf](https://www.csu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/704290/report198.pdf)  
[https://www.fippostalhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Tonga\\_Tin\\_Can\\_Mail-\\_exhibit](https://www.fippostalhistory.com/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/Tonga_Tin_Can_Mail-_exhibit)  
<https://www.qsl.net/vk2dym/radio/magazines.htm>  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosper\\_Australia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Prosper_Australia)

### Acknowledgements

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

# The Very Short Silesian Postal History

**John Young**

Silesia is a region now mostly in south Poland where it borders the north east of the Czech Republic, extending eastwards from about Breslau to Krakow.

In medieval times Silesia was a land where Czechs and Poles intermingled. By the 1500s western [lower] Silesia also had a considerable German population, and Lutheranism mingled with Catholicism. By the 1800s eastern [upper] Silesia was Germanised, and religious faiths were ethnically complicated. In upper Silesia's Duchy of Teschen Poles confessed Lutheranism to resist German Catholic authority, but not far away the Poles confessed Catholicism to differentiate themselves from the Germans.

Before World War 1 Silesia was divided between the German and Austro-Hungarian Empires. At the post war peace talks settling a Silesian border between Germany and the newly formed Czechoslovakia and Poland could not be agreed on. The matter was held over until post war plebiscites could be held. There were two unresolved parts of Silesia.

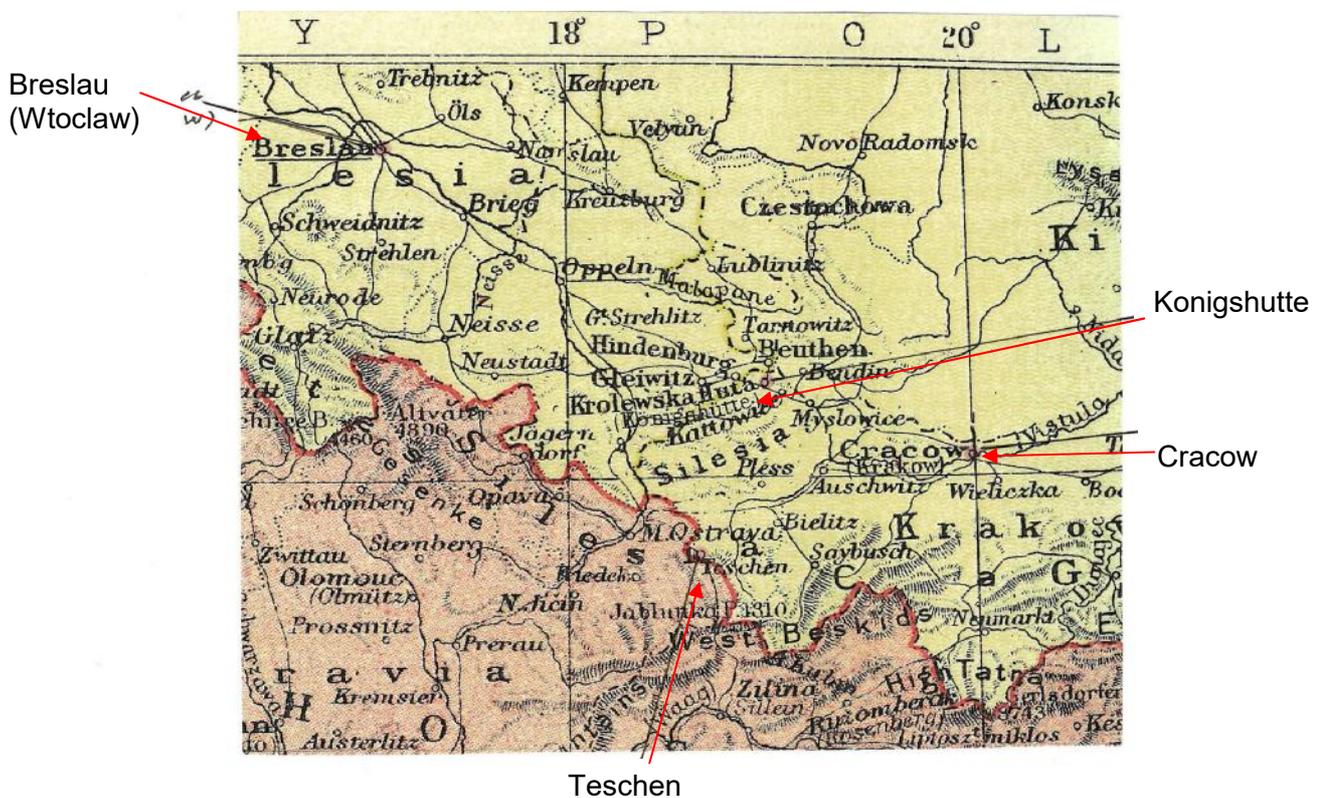


Fig. 1: Map copied from George Philip & Son atlas, c. 1935

The duchy of Teschen, centred on the town of that name, was an area of 5150 sq km that had existed since 1290. Its population of 426,000 was 27% Czech, 55% Polish and 18% German. For the purpose of the plebiscite the Duchy was named Silesie Orientale [Eastern Silesia]. A larger area bordering Eastern Silesia was also disputed, and for the purpose of the plebiscite was named Upper Silesia. It had been developed by the German Empire and, for example, included a blast furnace [1802] for iron and steel at Königshütte. Silesian industry, in the opinion of the Germans, was built by German capital and German brains; in the Poles' opinion, the industry was the product of Polish labour.

When the time approached for the plebiscites the unresolved Eastern and Upper Silesias became stamp-issuing entities. For Eastern Silesia, Czechoslovak stamps were overprinted S O 1920. They

comprised 38 definitives, two newspaper express stamps, five newspaper stamps and eleven postage dues. Ten Polish stamps were also overprinted. Upper Silesia had even more stamps, which ran to original designs [i.e. not overprinted]. Printed in France. The first was a simple numeral value in a border, and the second showed a dove hovering over a Silesian landscape. The first stamp issues' for both Silesias came out in mid February 1920.



Fig. 2: Upper Silesia, date stamped Konigshutte 27 May, 1920



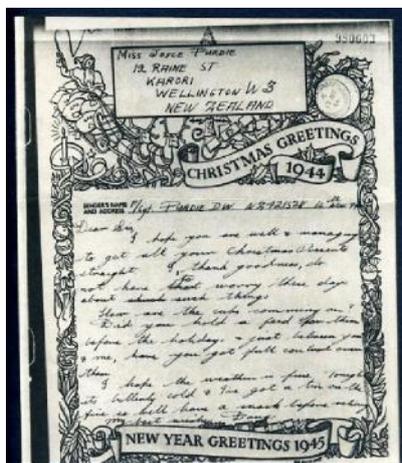
Fig. 3: Eastern Silesia overprints on Czechoslovak postage stamps, express printed-matter stamp and postage due.

In Eastern Silesia there were strikes and riots, and Czechoslovak and Polish representatives decided to put the matter to arbitration instead of having a plebiscite. The region was divided in two with the western part going to Czechoslovakia and the eastern part to Poland. The new border passed close to the town of Teschen as can be seen on the map.

The Upper Silesia plebiscite went ahead on 20 March 1921. About 60% of voters opted for going into Germany, and about 300,000 voters who spoke Polish opted for Germany. The result surprised and dismayed Polish interests. The matter went to the Council of the League of Nations with the result that about two-thirds of Upper Silesia went to Germany and one-third to Poland. There the matter rested as shown on the map, until Herr Hitler overturned things and put the whole lot in Germany. After World War 2 the whole of Upper Silesia was put in Poland, where it remains.

## Christmas Greetings

**Tony Lyon**



Here's wishing you all a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Keep free from Covid and enjoy being able to celebrate with family and friends.

An example of a Christmas and New Year greetings sent by Flight Sergeant Douglas Weston Purdie NZ421528 of the RNZAF using the Airgraph service.

Douglas was trained in Canada through the Empire Training Scheme, firstly at the RCAF 37 Flying Training School, Calgary, Alberta graduating 20<sup>th</sup> August 1943. He also trained at the RCAF, 1 Air Navigation School, Rivers, Manitoba.

He had embarked on the USS Monticello for Canada.

# The Mid-1860's Forgeries - The End of a Myth (II)

Gerhard Lang-Valchs

## Introduction:

The following lines contain the most important results of the recent research to the early stamp forgeries, completing those of a first article focused on some limited aspects of the same subject (released in English.<sup>1</sup>) Some of these results have already been published in other languages and other contexts.<sup>2</sup> The focus of the first approach was on the facsimiles offered by the Spiro brothers of Hamburg in their second 1864 selling list, partly described and analysed by E. L. Pemberton in the *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* [SCM].<sup>3</sup> The main result of this study was that the items offered in the referred list were not made by the Spiros, but only sold by them. More than 60% of those facsimiles had been identified. They do not correspond to what we would currently take for Spiro-facsimiles, neither by their design nor by their cancels. The question now is, 'what about those imitations and who had really made them?'

The procedure to follow may seem at first sight confusing, because different sources from different countries had to be analysed. Most of them are freely available on the internet and even downloadable at the Crawford Library homepage.<sup>4</sup> A complicated jigsaw has been put together to find out, which pieces will finally allow a global view of what occurred more than 150 years ago.

## The mid-1860's forgery market

Firstly I present a draft of the organisation chart of the main forging workshops and selling networks in Europe at the middle of the 1860's. It serves as a first orientation to avoid the risk of feeling lost in the huge amount of new information now available.

These forgeries were produced in five places: Italy (Florence), Germany (Hamburg), United Kingdom (Preston), Switzerland (Zürich) and the United States (Boston).

At the beginning of the *timbromania* and the development of forging activities, the different emerging "workshops" limited their efforts to what was close to them. The Italian source forged the issues of the old Italian states and those of Spain, its colonies and other Spanish speaking countries. The Hamburg



Fig. 1: Front page SCM

<sup>1</sup> *The Spiro-made Facsimiles Never Existed, The End of a Myth (I)*, <http://actualidadfilatelica.blogspot.com/2020/08/the-spiro-made-facsimiles-never-existed.html>.

<sup>2</sup> *What Cuban forgeries reveal about the "Spiros"*, Journal of Cuban Philately, vol. 11, n° 4, issue 42, Oct-Dec. 2020. *Revising the Philippine forgeries*, Philippine Philatelic Journal, First Quarter 2021, p. 5-13. *The Spud Papers' errors. The Confusion of the British Experts*, Stamp Lover, vol. 113, n° 2, April 2021, p. 44-46. [http://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/PhilaHistorica\\_2020\\_04.pdf](http://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/PhilaHistorica_2020_04.pdf), *Die Spud Papers*, p. 101-121; *Spiro ≠ Spiro*, p. 122-128.<sup>3</sup> *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* [SCM], Oct. 1864, p. 154-157.

<sup>3</sup> *Stamp Collectors' Magazine* [SCM], Oct. 1864, p. 154-157.

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Links/BL-Crawford-List>.

source forged mainly old German states; the UK-source produced British colonial issues and the US-source American Locals and Carriers. This initially separation of tasks soon led to diversification including interesting items from various other sources into the one offer.

This scheme represents a first approach, a hypothesis. The evidence that sustain the explanation needs a broader basis. The following paragraphs will analyse facts that show how part of the forgery workshops and networks were structured and which fakes they produced.

### The first forgeries

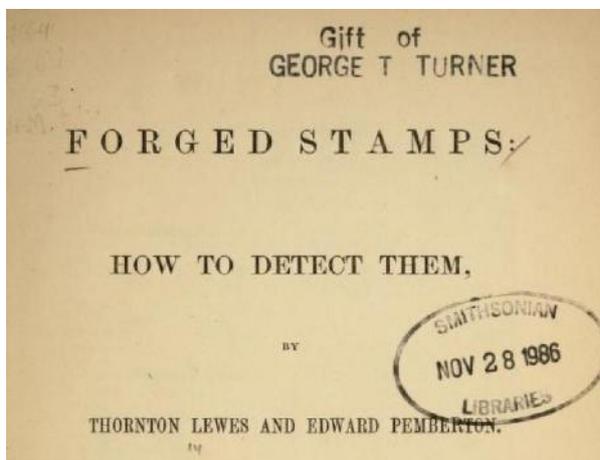


Fig. 2: Front page Pemberton's book

The start of philatelic forging of stamps to deceive collectors (and not the postal administration) is linked to the 'timbromania' of the early 1860's. A sudden interest in the new pastime of stamp collecting led to a Europe-wide quickly growing market for both correct and counterfeited stamps.

The most internationally known stamp expert who bought those items and wrote about them for collectors was E. L. Pemberton. In his book on stamp forgeries, autumn 1863, he described the beginnings of the 'stamp mania'. Then he describing, together with his co-author, the different forgeries produced, comparing them with the originals.<sup>5</sup> He also presented a first scheme of the current European forgery-market from the two main sites: Zürich, where all forgeries of the early Swiss issues were produced and Brussels, where chiefly old Italian states' forgeries and a Spanish fake came from. In three further sites, Brunswick, Copenhagen and Leipzig, a very limited number of fakes completed his list.

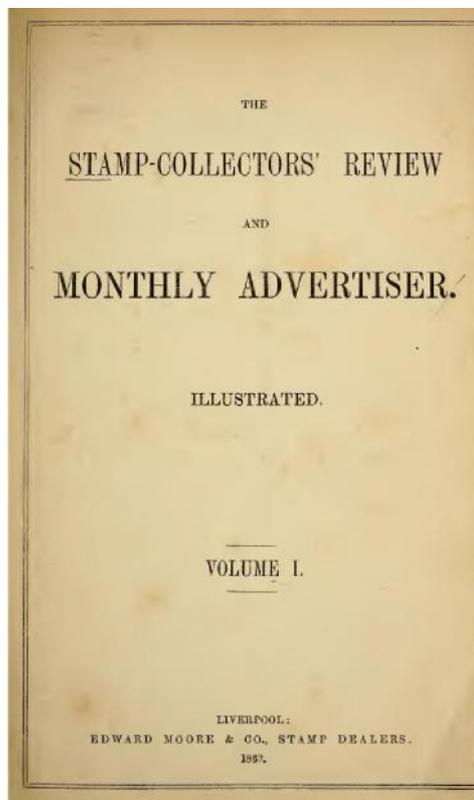


Fig. 3: Front page SCR

### The Zürich-forgeries

**Alfr. Bèbié in Zürich**  
empfeht den Herren Markenhändlern und Sammlern sein Lager von Schweizer- und ausländischen Marken aller Arten.  
Briefe franco!

**Briefmarken-Handlung**

von  
**W. Georg**

zu Basel in der Schweiz

empfeht ihr reichhaltiges Lager von Schweizermarken, sowie überhaupt Briefmarken aller Länder und Staaten. Einkauf-, Verkauf- und Tauschgeschäft. Vollständiger Catalog à 1 fr. wird auf Verlangen per Nachnahme versandt. Briefe u. Offerten franco. (26)

Fig. 4 & 5:

Ads from Swiss-merchants

Although known by Pemberton, the identity of the Zürich-forgery, who specialized in old Swiss stamps, is not revealed. It seems he knew as well the name

<sup>5</sup> Thornton Lewes, Edward Loines Pemberton: *Forged Stamps: How to Detect Them*, Edinburgh 1863.

of his local lithographer he had employed. The stamps they produced were distributed by an agent in Basle. The merchant Wilhelm Georg is named later in the SCM in a letter to the editor and a discussion of Swiss fakes.<sup>6</sup> The real promoter might have been a certain Bébié, the only known stamp dealer at that time in Zurich.

Nine indexed articles (I-IX), published by Pemberton's co-author Thornton Lewes between January and April 1863 in the *Stamp Collectors' Review* [SCR] were re-published in the book. They presented the range of the imitations made by the Zurich duo at that time. Their production seems to have been limited to the stamps of Switzerland. Some later added presentations of newly discovered Swiss forgeries, are supposed to come from the same source. However, three forgeries of Italian stamps, offered by the Zürich forger's agent at Basle, are in doubt and might well come from Brussels, as Pemberton himself comments.

### The Brussels trace

Pemberton refers to the second of those two principal forgers, as "a person in Brussels". It seems highly likely that it must have been the young Jean-Baptiste Moens, the only known stamp dealer in Brussels at that time.<sup>7</sup>

Moens had little experience in detecting forgeries this field.<sup>8</sup> I agree with Pemberton's opinion that Moens' book hardly serves to detect any forgery.

Moens' private stamp collection, placed at the disposal of two professional Belgian lithographers for drawing the stamp illustrations for his 1864 catalogue, contained many forgeries. Pemberton discovered seven of them in the deliveries of the draft sheets before they were bound into the catalogue.<sup>9</sup> And there are more when I compared the lithographs of Spain that the catalogue contains to the originals.<sup>10</sup> The result was devastating: 11 out of the 18 samples of Spanish stamps were clearly copied from forgeries, five were in doubt. A recent revision of all stamps of his catalogue, detected up to 20 further lithographs copied from counterfeited stamps of his collection.<sup>11</sup>

### The confusion of the early experts



Fig. 6: Front page Bauschke-catalogue

Pemberton was not the only expert fighting against the forgeries. J. M. Stourton and Thomas Dalston deliver good descriptions of the forgeries on the market, but they usually do not comment on the origins of the counterfeits.<sup>12</sup>

Two further works are crucial to find out which copies were forgeries and where they came from: the Bauschke catalogue and the articles by Daniel Dean in his *Stamp Collector's Miscellany* [SCMis].

The Bauschke catalogue (1863-67) identifies more than 50 counterfeit issues from countries world-wide and comments on their provenance. In his listing Hamburg, with 46 mentions was the worst. Nürnberg (16) and Zürich (5) follow. England is named four times and Liverpool five times. Further mentions were Italy (1), Albany (1), Breslau (2), Frankfurt (1), Leipzig (3, together with Nürnberg and/or Hamburg), as well as Brussels (1) and Paris (3), both with question marks.

<sup>6</sup> SCM, 1864, May 1st, p. 63.

<sup>7</sup> SCR, #7, June 1863, p. 70.

<sup>8</sup> Jean-Baptiste Moens: *De la falsification des timbres*, Bruxelles, 1862.

<sup>9</sup> *Moens' Illustrations*. Letter to the editor, SCM, May 1863, p. 63-64.

<sup>10</sup> *El padre de la filatelia y los falsos de España*, Eco Filatélico, marzo 2017, p. 27-3.

<sup>11</sup> [http://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/PhilaHistorica\\_2020\\_04.pdf](http://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/PhilaHistorica_2020_04.pdf). *Der Vater der Philatelie und die Falschen seiner Sammlung*, p. 90-100.

<sup>12</sup> J. M. Stourton: *Postage Stamp Forgeries*, London 1865; Thomas Dalston: *How to Detect Forged Stamps*, Gateshead 1865.

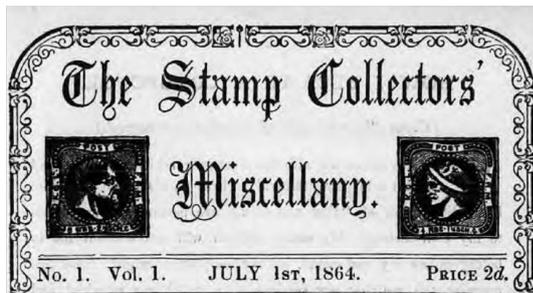


Fig. 7: Front page SCMis

Critically comparing the results demonstrates that the author did not denounce the origin of each counterfeit discovered. Instead he only named the sites, where they, were distributed or sold. In 20 of the 46 Hamburg-mentions that town is named as the only origin, whilst the rest originate in Nürnberg, Leipzig, Zürich, England or specifically Liverpool.

Daniel Dean is generally less explicit with the provenance of fakes. In 20 cases (out of 60 described) he ascribes the origins of the counterfeits to be Hamburg (10), Glasgow (7), Preston, Lancashire, UK (4) and Newcastle (1). He usually delivers very useful descriptions of the copies that allow nowadays occur in the pool of later documented forgeries.

### A closer look

Let's have now a closer look at the forgeries attributed by Pemberton and Dean to the different supposed production sites. We may disregard the Zurich workshop since there is currently no way to find out anything about it. The same applies to the American source where Samuel Allen Taylor is probably the main author.

### Pemberton's suspicions

Pemberton wrote 20 articles (X-XXIX) about the forgeries from April 1863 in the *Stamp Collectors' Record* [SCR] until the magazine closed down in June 1864. Also 20 short addenda on recently produced new forgeries, mostly Swiss issues. His book, published in autumn 1863, contains only part of the later presentations. Our analysis will include his articles published in the SCM until 1866.

In the cases of the counterfeited stamps of Moldavia and Buenos Aires (XII and XIV), Parma (XII), Modena, Naples (XIX) and Romagna (X) Pemberton expressly indicates their Belgian provenance.

From autumn 1863 until June 1864 he presents in his SCR-articles approximately the same number of new forgeries, as in his book. Fourteen further mentions refer to fakes of Spanish speaking countries. This points to a southern European sited source.

A strange coincident occurred in March 1864, when Pemberton states that more new fakes than ever before had recently flooded the market, coming from Hamburg, Basle and Brussels.<sup>13</sup> This is the first time he mentions Hamburg as a production site and it is the last time, he mentions Brussels in his articles. Certainly, none of the other authors quoted in this article, ever mentioned any source sited in the Belgian capital

Let's return to Pemberton's SCM-article in October 1864. After his supposed discovery of Hamburg as a new production site in March, his comments on the selling list with "the production of those "eminent" Spiro Brothers as facsimiles" is not a useful description of those items. A letter to the editor I had not seen before which nobody except for W. Maassen has taken into account.<sup>14</sup> In it, answering

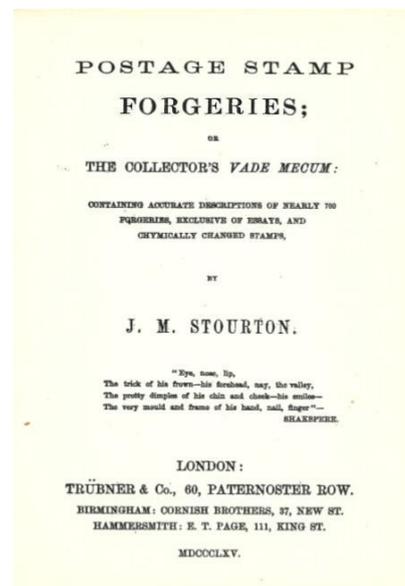


Fig. 8: Stourton's book on forgeries

<sup>13</sup> SCR, March 1864, p. 34.

<sup>14</sup> Wolfgang Maassen: *Fälscher und Fälschungen im 19. Jahrhundert. Die Spiros, eine Hamburger Familie.* PhilaCreativ-Verlag.

detractors, Pemberton writes: "I have never said that Spiros made the stamps themselves..."<sup>15</sup> This change of mind has never been assumed by the philatelic public.<sup>16</sup>

**G. Zechmeyer**  
in Nürnberg, S. 1308.

verkauft und tauscht Briefmarken aller Länder. Von seltenen europäischen und überseeischen Briefmarken, sowie von billigen Marken der englischen Colonieen halte ich stets grosses Lager und empfehle dasselbe auf das Beste. Bestellungen werden mit umgehender Post gegen Franco-Einsendung des Betrages oder Postvorschuss ausgeführt. (8)

Fig. 9: Zechmeyer-ad

168 MAGAZIN FÜR BRIEFMARKEN-SAMMLER [No. 21.]

**JOHN YOUNG JUN.,**  
222 Gallowgate Glasgow,

hat zu verkaufen oder im Tausch alle gute gebrauchte und ungebrauchte Colonial- und ausländische Briefmarken. Ungebrauchte à Stück 1 Ngr.; Barbados grün, Malta 1/2 p., Neu-Braunschweig 1 c., Neu-Schottland 1 c., British Guiana 1 c. etc. Ungebraucht à Stück 4 Ngr.: Antigua 1 p., Bahamas, Barbados blau, Granada 1 p., Neu-Schottland 2 cts., Prinz Edward's Insel 1 p., St. Helena 1 p., St. Lucia roth, St. Vincent 1 p., Ceylon 1/2 p. etc. Ungebraucht à Stück 3 Ngr.: Jonische Inseln blau, St. Thomas etc. und viele andere. Ceylon, Convent ungebraucht 1 p. à 3 Ngr., pr. Dtd. 25 Ngr.; 2 p. à 4 Ngr., pr. Dtd. 35 Ngr.; 4 p. à 7 1/2 Ngr.; 5 p. à 12 1/2 Ngr. Jonische Inseln ungebraucht pr. Satz von 3 Stück 7 1/2 Ngr. oder 12 Sätze für 2 Thlr. 3 Ngr. Amerikanische und Canada'sche Privat-Marken in verschiedenen Varietäten 1 Ngr. das Stück oder 7 1/2 Ngr. pr. Dtd. Alle diese Marken sind garantiert echt.

**Facsimiles** (gut ausgeführt) pr. Stück 1 Ngr.: Argentinische (Republik) 5 c., (Conföderierte) 5, 10, 15 c.; Brasilien I. Em. 30, 60, 90 r., II. Em. schräge Zahlen 10, 30, 60 und 90 r.; British Guiana der Satz von 6 Stück 4 Ngr.; Buenos Ayres 1 und 2 p.; Costa Rica 1/2 u. 2 p.; Finland 5, 10 und 20 kop.; Genf 5 c., 5 c.; Griechenland pr. Satz 7 Stück 5 Ngr.; Liberia 6, 12 und 24 cts.; Indien (roth) 1/2, und 1 anna; Mexico pr. Satz 12 Stück 8 Ngr.; Moldau 51, 108 paras; Neapel 1/2 torn., 1/4 und 50 grano; Nevis 1 p.; Neu-Caledonien 10 c.; Neu-Granada 5, 10 und 20 cts.; Nicaragua 2 und 5 centavos; Parma pr. Satz 12 Stück 5 Ngr.; Pony Express 1, 2, 3 und 4 dollars pr. Satz 16 Stück 11 Ngr.; Romagna pr. Satz 9 Stück 5 Ngr.; Sandwichs-Inseln 1, 2, 5 und 13 c.; Spanien pr. Satz 17 Stück 10 Ngr.; Toscana pr. Satz 10 Stück 7 Ngr.; Sicilien pr. Satz 5 Stück 4 Ngr.; Venezuela 1/2 u. 1 und 2 r.; West-Australien pr. Satz 6 Stück 4 Ngr.; Württemberg 15 kr. (mit Zahl), Commission für Retourbriefe: Zürich 4 und 6 r. und viele Varietäten von Andern. Auch Tausende von gebrauchten und ungebrauchten echten Marken. Geldsendungen nebst Retour-Porto können in Preussischen Banknoten gemacht werden. Aufträge werden mit umgehender Post ausgeführt. Vollständige Preislisten von vielen Varietäten.

**JOHN YOUNG JUN.,**  
222 Gallowgate in Glasgow (Scotland).

Fig. 10:

**JOHN WEIR & CO**  
14 East Nile Street Glasgow  
(vorher JOHN YOUNG jun.)

haben in vielen Varietäten zu verkaufen:

**Facsimiles** (gut ausgeführt) pr. Stück 1 Ngr.: Argentinische (Republik) 5 c., (Conföderierte) 5, 10, 15 c.; Brasilien I. Em. 30, 60, 90 r., II. Emision schräge Zahlen 10, 30, 60 und 90 r.; British Guiana der Satz von 6 Stück 4 Ngr.; Buenos Ayres 1 u. 2 p.; Costa Rica 1/2 u. 2 p.; Finland 5, 10 und 20 kop.; Genf 5 c., 5 c.; Griechenland pr. Satz 7 Stück 5 Ngr.; Liberia 6, 12 und 24 cts.; Indien (roth) 1/2, und 1 anna; Mexico pr. Satz 12 Stück 8 Ngr.; Moldau 51, 108 paras; Neapel 1/2 torn., 1/4 und 50 grano; Nevis 1 p.; Neu-Caledonien 10 c.; Neu-Granada 5, 10 und 20 cts.; Nicaragua 2 und 5 centavos; Parma pr. Satz 12 Stück 5 Ngr.; Pony Express 1, 2, 3 und 4 dollars pr. Satz 16 Stück 11 Ngr.; Romagna pr. Satz 9 Stück 5 Ngr.; Sandwichs-Inseln 1, 2, 5 und 13 c.; Spanien pr. Satz 17 Stück 10 Ngr.; Toscana pr. Satz 10 Stück 7 Ngr.; Sicilien pr. Satz 5 Stück 4 Ngr.; Venezuela 1/2 u. 1 u. 2 r.; West-Australien pr. Satz 6 Stück 4 Ngr.; Württemberg 15 kr. (mit Zahl), Commission für Retourbriefe: Zürich 4 und 6 r. und viele Varietäten von Andern. Oesterreich (Mercurkopf) blau, roth und gelb, Zeitungstempel 1, 1, 2, 2, 4 kr. der Satz von 9 Stück 7 Ngr.; Italien 3 lire; Modena Satz von 9 Stück 5 Ngr.; Montevideo 50, 100, 200 c.; Oldenburg Satz von 8 Stück 6 Ngr.; Rom 50 baj.; Schleswig 1 1/2 sch.; Sidney (mit Ansicht) 1 und 2 p.; Wenden 3 Varietäten etc. etc. Auch Tausende von gebrauchten und ungebrauchten echten Marken. Geldsendungen nebst Retour-Porto können in Preussischen Banknoten gemacht werden. Aufträge werden mit umgehender Post ausgeführt. Vollständige Preislisten von vielen Varietäten.

**John Weir & Co., 14 East Nile Street in Glasgow (Scotland).**

Fig. 11:

280 MAGAZIN FÜR BRIEFMARKEN-SAMMLER [No. 35.]

**H. LENNOX**  
18 Newhall Terrace in Glasgow

hält grosses Lager von ungebrauchten und gebrauchten Colonialmarken und offerirt die folgenden das Stück zu 1 Penny (8 Fig.): Barbados, Br. Guiana 1 c., Canada 1, 2, 5 und 10 cts., Ceylon, Hongkong, Neu-Braunschweig 1, 2 und 5 cts., Neu-Süd-Wales, Neu-Seeland, Neu-Schottland, Süd-Australien, Tasmanien und Victoria. Ferner das Stück zu 2 Penny (16 Fig.): Antigua, Cap der guten Hoffnung, Jamaica, Nevis, Natal, St. Lucia etc. Alle Varietäten von alten Victoria, echten Marken mit Ansicht von Sidney 2 p. zu 2 sh. 6 d. (25 Ngr.) etc. etc. welche in der Preisliste zu ersehen sind.

**Facsimiles.** Alle das Stück 1 Penny (8 Fig.) als: Argentinische Republik 5, 10 und 15 c., Brasilien 7 Stück 4 d. (32 Pfg.), Buenos-Ayres, Costa-Rica 1 p., 1/2, 2 und 4 r., Finland (alte) der Satz von 5 Stück 4 pence (32 Pfg.), Genf 5, 5 c., La Guaira 1/2, 2 und 2 r., Liberia 6, 12 und 24 cts., Indien 1/2 d. alt, 1 und 2 annas, Mexico 12 Stück 6 pence (56 Pfg.), Neu-Granada 5, 10 und 20 cts., Nicaragua 2 und 5 c., Parma der Satz von 11 Stück 7 pence (56 Pfg.), Pacific 10 Stück 7 pence (56 Pfg.), Pony Express 1, 2, 3 und 4 dollars der Satz von 16 Stück für 10 pence (50 Pfg.), Sicilien (Kopf) 7 Stück, Türkei 7 Stück alte, Württemberg 15 kr., Retourmarke. Porto muss beigefügt sein. Alle Aufträge werden umgehend ausgeführt. Geldsendungen müssen in ungebrauchten Marken von kleinen Werthen, oder Preussischen Thaler-Noten gemacht werden. Seltene Marken und gewöhnliche in Partien werden gegen Colonial-Marken umgetauscht.

**H. LENNOX**  
18 Newhall Terrace Glasgow (Scotland).

Fig. 12:

Figs. 10-12: British merchants offering facsimiles in Germany

## The facsimiles on the market

The Hamburg brothers were not the only ones offering cheap series of stamps for the common collectors as facsimiles, not just single and expensive values as gap-fillers as many people suppose. In 1863 John Young junior, son of the Glasgow stamp merchants Young & Stockall, established his own business, offering genuine stamps and facsimiles.<sup>17</sup> Soon John Weir took over the business. H. Lennox, another Glasgow merchant, offered at the same time as well facsimiles in German and British magazines.<sup>18</sup>

A comparison of their offered items by countries and issues shows, that both Glasgow dealers commercialised the same stuff.<sup>19</sup> Including the stamps of the 1864 Spiro-list in this comparison shows that all samples offered by the German brothers figure in Weir's list.

When the list of fakes sold by the Nurnberg stamp dealer Georg Zechmeyer is included as well in this synoptic comparison,<sup>20</sup> the first part of his list contains only old German states' issues, but the second part is exactly the same as the Weir-list. However, in this case we should take into account that Zechmeyer did not offer facsimiles, but "current" genuine stamps, without any What in theory could have been a coincidence – he might have been offering the same items as the facsimile-sellers, but genuine – is discovered and denounced as a forgery trade by German philatelists.<sup>21</sup>

<sup>15</sup> SCM, December 1864, p. 188.

<sup>16</sup> Years later Pemberton's publicly expressed confusion culminates in a new statement, contradicting himself once more, repeating his initial assertion. See SCM, vol. IX, #96, Jan. 1871, p. 30.

<sup>17</sup> Magazin für Briefmarkensammler [MfB], #21, p. 168.

<sup>18</sup> From March 1864 until June 1867 Lennox regularly inserted ads in the SCM. From January 1866 on he stops offering facsimiles.

<sup>19</sup> MfB, n° 36, p. 288 (Lennox-ad); MfB, n° 23, March 1865, 2nd appendix (Weir-ad).

<sup>20</sup> Allgemeine deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung [ABZ], appendix to #7.

<sup>21</sup> C. Wuttig: *Gegen den Handel mit gefälschten Marken*, ABZ, #8, p.72.

**J. MELDRUM**, 229, Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, has the following facsimiles for sale—Buenos Ayres, 8 kinds 2d., Bergedorf, 5 kinds 2d., Bremen, 6 kinds 3d., Costa Rica, 4 kinds 3d., Liberia, 3 kinds 3d., Lubeck, 5 kinds 2d., Luxembourg, 9 kinds 4d., Hamburg, 9 kinds 4d., Mexico, 12 kinds 5d., Modena, 5 kinds 4d., Pony Express, 16 kinds 5d., Turkey, 8 kinds 3d. Others for sale.

Fig. 13: British firm's ad

A complete list of all dealers that offered in those years occasional facsimiles, we find adverts of another five British dealers with a detailed offer, Meldrum, Steinau (only US Locals), Hill, Wroe and the Liverpool merchant Edward Moore, editor of the SCR where Dean used to publish his articles.<sup>22</sup> There are also further dealers with strange names of firms such as *Incognita*, *Alpha* and *Omega*. Their suspiciously cheap and identical offers,

probably the same imitations, did not mention the word facsimile. The latter dealer was discovered, named and publicly denounced for selling forgeries.<sup>23</sup>

### Dean:

We now return to the forgeries described by Dean, to find out more about their origins. I exclude Newcastle and a Baden Landpost forgery from this comparison, because, there are no interesting results.

As Hamburg-made forgeries, Dean lists stamps of Argentine (36), *Nicaragua* (38), Sicily (39), Tuscany (40), *Costa Rica* (72), *New South Wales* (166), *Spain* (167) and again *Sicily* (167). As Glasgow-made forgeries he lists: *Modena* (p. 22), *Argentine* (37), Romagna (38), Sicily (39), Parma (85) and again *Sicily* (167).

These listings are certainly a surprise. With one exception (New South Wales) all the countries affected are old Italian states and Spanish speaking countries! Also the forgeries of the underlined countries can identified and those in italics have already been attributed to Torres by their cancels or their extravagant design "errors".<sup>24</sup> The only issue that does not fit in this list is the Sydney-view-forgeries, but it presents as a Torres forgery as well.<sup>25</sup>



Fig. 14: Torres/Usigli forgery (VF-cancel)



Fig. 15: Torres phantasy/forgery: Sydney view in a medieval European town look

<sup>22</sup> SCM, December 1864 to October 1865 and SCR, p. 32, 48, 64 and 60.

<sup>23</sup> SCR, p. 43. Advertisement ScMis, Oct. 1864, p. 62.

<sup>24</sup> "I am inclined to think the maker must be the "man in the moon" or he would surely have made a better mistake", comments Dean in behalf of various errors (SCMis, May 1865, p. 167). *The Stamp Fun Factory – Poking Fun on Editors and Collectors*, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n° 6, Dec. 2017, p. 173-175. *Unsinn, Scherze, Phantasie. Von den Eigenheiten eines Illustrators und Fälschers*. Michel-Rundschau, 6/2019 S, S. 19-25, 71-74.

<sup>25</sup> *The Australian Footprints of a European Stamp Forger* (II), Australian Journal of Philately, #149, Sept. 2019, p. 5-13. (rep.) STAMP LOVER, vol. III, n° 5, Oct. 2019, p. 140-143.

This means that the two sites, Hamburg and Glasgow, were not independent sources. Both were selling forgeries produced by the same workshop: Torres/Usigli-forgeries. We will look at the (not yet analysed) Preston-trace to find the distributor.

(141) **Industria and Co.**, Oxford Street, Preston, England verkaufen 20,000 gemischte Colonialmarken zu 5 shill. per Packet, (zu 5 sh. 6 p. franco.) Alle ächt!

(130) **Industria and Co.** tauschen seltene Colonialmarken gegen alte seltene Marken. **Industria and Co.** Oxford Street, Preston; England.

Figs. 16 & 17: Industria-ads in German magazines

As Preston-made forgeries Dean lists: *Tuscany* (p. 52), *Liberia* (103), Buenos Aires (116) and *Mexico* (p. 117). Again, with one exception, the forgeries point to a Southern European origin. The fact that Dean even mentions the dealers address (Cannon Street, Preston, Lancashire,) where he had acquired those stamps, ensures that the indicated provenance is correct. Furthermore, a notice in his magazine reveals that, at number 34 Cannon Street you could get packets that “contain the rarest [stamps] such as Paraguay, Nicaragua, Liberia, Mexico, Argentine, 50 stamps one shilling ... [Genuine] Sets of Liberia alone are worth 4/6.”<sup>26</sup>



Fig. 18: Torres/Usigli-forgery (MEDICO/MEJICO) with further “error”-jokes [FEALES instead of REAL (singular)]



Fig. 19: Liberia-forgery Torres/Usigli

His description of the Mexico-sample is too unspecific for identification but Stourton and Dalston’s books present the only Mexican forgery documented in those years (fig. 17). The inscription error MEDICO instead of MEXICO and the plural value REALES instead of REAL had served already some time ago to establish the Torres-origin of those fakes.<sup>27</sup> The Buenos Aires-samples could not be found among the documented forgeries of this issue despite their good description.<sup>28</sup>

The described Tuscany-sample points again to the Spaniard.<sup>29</sup> In the mentioned imitation he has left out the left hand label inscription (FRANCOBOLLO).

Even the exception to the rule, Liberia, strongly points to Torres (fig. 18). The postmark shows what must be one of his typical “errors”, MONROWA instead of MONROVIA, this time in his fake-cancels.<sup>30</sup>

### The Italian forgery workshop

The Italian source of those forgeries is located at Florence, capital of the Tuscany-region. Elia Carlo Usigli (1812-1892), antiquarian, editor, bookseller, a jack of all trades, is one of the first Italian stamp dealers. He had the initial idea. As an editor, he had the experience and connections to printers,

<sup>26</sup> SCMis, Notice, p. 45, Sept 1<sup>st</sup>, 1864.

<sup>27</sup> *Los falsos mexicanos de Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Costa Rica Filatélica, #142, dic. 2019, p. 20-24.

<sup>28</sup> Andrés E. Gazzolo: *Barquitos of Buenos Aires. Forgeries and Reprints*, 1st (private) edition, Mansfield (USA) 2012.

<sup>29</sup> Similar eye-striking Torres-“errors” have been described for Luzon/Philippines, Geneva, Spain, Sicily, Tuscany and other early “error-samples”.

<sup>30</sup> *Un fallo lo tiene cualquiera. Siguiendo las huellas de un falsificador*, Chile Filatélico, n° 299, tomo XXIX, mayo-octubre 2019, p. 39-43.

antiquarians and dealers on the Italian and European market and the financial resources required. Finally, he found a passionate stamp collector with promising abilities as lithographer: the young Spaniard Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1918) who had grown up in Italy.<sup>31</sup> Usigli discovered his skills in lithography and used them and his passion for stamps to produce a great part of the forgeries that would appear on the emerging European stamp market of the early 1860's.<sup>32</sup>

A very particular extravagancy, that Torres used to apply in some of the forgeries, enables me to detect them out of the pool of documented fakes. He introduced deliberate "errors" in some of his fakesso that they sometimes seem to be hybrids between fakes and phantasy-stamps as in the case of the *Sydney-views*.<sup>33</sup> This unique behaviour in the world, that included phantasy- and fake-cancels, is described in his biography and in various articles.<sup>34</sup>

## The Preston trace

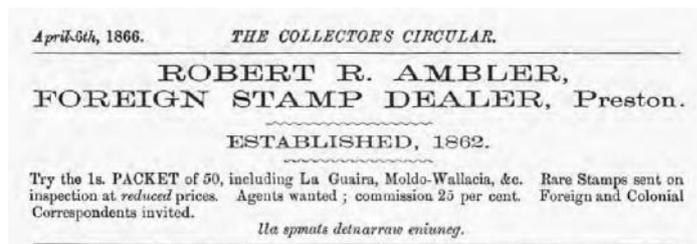


Fig. 20: Ambler-ad

Now we return to the information we extracted from the analysis of the Dean-articles and we found in the German stamp magazine about Preston. This town was named as one of the British sites, where facsimiles were produced or sold. The advertisements of some Preston stamp merchants lead to the *Industria and Co.*, a firm allegedly established in 1860, following their two very last ads in the SCM.<sup>35</sup> The firm advertised from 1864 on in the two German stamp magazines extant at that time and *The Stamp Collectors' Circular* [SCC], a magazine published between December 1865 and November 1866.

The name of this firm does not actually point to a philatelic emphasis. No name of the responsible editor is given in any of the 12 issues of the magazine, nor is the printer named. No name of the management of *Industria* appears nor is the location given. But it was obviously known to the town's postal office and the magazine had, allegedly, an official postal status: *registered for transmission abroad*.

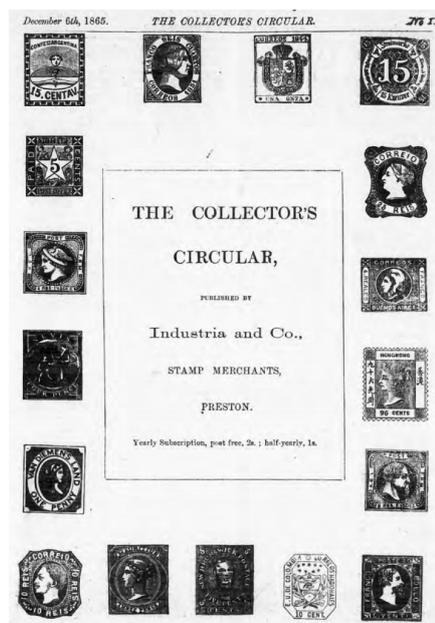


Fig. 21: Front page Stamp Collector's Circular [SCC]



Fig. 22: Ambler = Industria (?)

<sup>31</sup> Plácido Ramón de Torres. *From Foundling to Master Forger* [BioTorres], Cieza, Dec. 2020, p. 23-24. Downloadable at [http://Philahistorica.de/Dokumente/Libro\\_Sellos\\_Torres.pdf](http://Philahistorica.de/Dokumente/Libro_Sellos_Torres.pdf).

<sup>32</sup> *I falsi italiani di Usigli e Torres* [Falsi]. *Parma, QuiFilatelia* [QF], 96, p. 16-20. Falsi, QF, 97, p. 14-16. Falsi, *Romagna*, QF, 98, p. 14-16. Falsi, Lombardo-Veneto, Modena, Pontificio, Sardegna, Napoli, QF, 99, p. 14-16. BioTorres, p. 29-45.

<sup>33</sup> *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).

<sup>34</sup> BioTorres, p. 51-53, 59-71.

<sup>35</sup> SCM, advertisements February and April 1867.

January 6th, 1866. THE COLLECTOR'S CIRCULAR.

INDUSTRIA and Co.,  
**FOREIGN AND COLONIAL POSTAGE STAMP MERCHANTS,**  
**PRESTON.**

PROPRIETORS OF THE } ALL STAMPS WE SELL  
 CELEBRATED } ARE WARRANTED  
 MONTHLY PACKETS. } JANUARY ANNOUNCEMENTS. } GENUINE.

THE SIXPENNY PACKET contains 30 varieties, and includes Confederate States, rare Holstein, old Hanover Thalers, &c., &c., post free for 7 stamps.

THE UNIVERSAL SHILLING PACKET includes 30 varieties, including Confederate States, old New Brunswick, rare Holstein, rare old Oldenburg, New Local Stamp for Edinburgh, various Greece, rare Russian, and a variety of new issues, &c., &c., all warranted genuine, and post free in a COMPLETE UNUSED GERMAN ENVELOPE.

DEALERS' MONTHLY PACKET FOR DECEMBER, now ready containing 50 choice and rare stamps, including the rare 10c Dutch India stamp, rare Russian and Finland stamps and envelopes, rare red or blue Chili, Peru, Confederate States, Edinburgh Local Stamps, Ionian Islands, new issues of Turkey, Russia, Holstein, Schleswig, New Brunswick, a variety of Austrian envelopes, Oldenburg envelopes, Roman, 1st issue Swiss, &c., &c. Post free for 5s. 7d., in a COMPLETE UNUSED GERMAN ENVELOPE.

DEALERS AND COLLECTORS MONTHLY PACKET FOR DECEMBER, now ready, containing 30 really fine old and new stamps, including the rare 15c Black New Brunswick, Java 10c, British Colonial first issue Peru, Canada envelopes, rare old diamond New Brunswick, &c., &c. Post free, as usual, 5s. 7d., in a complete unused Lubock Envelope.

STAMPS EXCHANGED WITH DEALERS AND COLLECTORS.

WANTED TO PURCHASE, rare stamps especially Colonial.

ALL STAMPS WE SELL ARE WARRANTED GENUINE.

All the stamps in the above packets are warranted genuine, in good condition, and perfect, and collectors may depend upon their giving entire satisfaction.

All communications to contain stamp for reply. All orders forwarded per return of post, and letters answered.

Dealers and publishers are requested to send their price lists, magazines, &c., when they will receive the Collector's Circular.

TESTIMONIALS.

Liverpool,  
 November, 16th, 1865.

Gentlemen,  
 The packet you sent me on the 14th instant pleased me very much. You will oblige by forwarding two more per return.

Yours respectfully,  
 WM. HENRY RIGBY.  
 Blair Lodge, Falkirk.

Gentlemen,  
 The pupils of Blair Lodge Academy have much pleasure in stating that your packets have given them the greatest possible satisfaction. They consider them unequalled by any others, and, what is better, are free from forgeries.

We are, gentlemen,  
 Yours obliged,  
 T. JACKSON, E. RAMSAY, T. McFARLAN, C. H. WILKIE, and N. MAITLAND.

The Collector's Circular  
 Sent Post Free for three  
 months, 6d.; six months,  
 1s. Remittances in unused  
 stamps of low value.

INDUSTRIA AND CO., FOREIGN STAMP MERCHANTS, PRESTON.

Fig. 23: Offers and testimonials

The only name of a related person is a Robert R. Ambler whose name appears in adverts of equal format as the *Industria*-ads, but seems to refer to the chief manager of another firm. However, Ambler offers the only stamp package that perfectly matches the *Industria* product line, insisting, with a cryptographic motto [Ila psmats detnarraw eniuneg - All stamps warranted genuine], only decipherable by reading the inverted text word for word from behind, to attest to the genuineness of the stamps on sale (see figure 22).

The SCC was devoted to the presentation of newly issued stamps, and included adverts of the *Industria*-products as well as some adverts of other stamp dealers. The ads nearly exclusively advertise stamp packets. A conspicuously repeated insistence in the selling of "warranted genuine stamps" and the parallel publication of testimonies, supposedly extracts from letters of pleased clients, certainly not from philatelic experts, made rise to further doubts about this firm (see fig. 23).

Surprisingly enough, I also found adverts of six more Preston stamp merchants. Their very limited offer was quite unspecific and

always aligned with the products sold by *Industria*. No products of their own were announced nor were an address given.

### Bridlington Curiosities

PHILATELIC

THE BRITISH, CONTINENTAL, AND AMERICAN  
**STAMP, COIN, CREST, AUTOGRAPH,**  
 AND GENERAL  
**Curiosity Collector's Magazine,**  
 AND  
 Journal of the Bridlington Amateur Association.

Vol. I.—No. I.] OCTOBER, 1865. [Price 3d.  
 Post free 4d.

REGISTERED FOR TRANSMISSION AS A MAGAZINE.

THE  
**CURIOSITY**  
**COLLECTORS' MAGAZINE,**  
 AND  
 JOURNAL  
 OF THE  
**BRIDLINGTON**  
 Amateur Association.

Specially devoted to the interests of the Collector of Postage Stamps, Coins, Crests, Autographs, and other interesting Curiosities.

Vol. I., No. II.] NOVEMBER 1, 1865. [Price 3d.  
 Post free 4d.

Fig. 24 & 25: Front pages of the Bridlington-magazines

The early British philatelic literature hold these two further magazines, strangely related to Preston: *The British, Continental and American Stamp, Coin, Crest, Autograph and General Curiosity Collector's Magazine* and *Journal of the Bridlington Amateur Association*, published by the *Preston Curiosity Association* (printed in Preston) and *The Amateur*, published by the *Preston Curiosity Collecting Society*. Both did not continue beyond the first issue.

After ten pages of information, mostly about the recently issued stamps, the first presents four Preston-sited, allegedly different stamp merchants (Ambler, *Industria and Co.*, a *Foreign Stamp Depot* and a *Cheap Stamp supplying Company*), mostly without an address, advertising stamp packets and facsimiles. The latter were offered in exchange for stamps. Young readers were encouraged to participate in various prize competitions in different areas, stamp collecting, of course, included (fig. 26).

PRIZES! PRIZES! PRIZES!  
 EVERY YOUNG LADY AND GENTLEMAN SHOULD  
 SEND TWO STAMPS FOR THE PROSPECTUS OF  
**THE BRIDLINGTON AMATEUR  
 ASSOCIATION.**

Which offers Prizes  
 FOR THE BEST TALES.—FOR THE BEST ESSAYS.  
 FOR THE BEST POEMS.—FOR THE BEST PHOTO-  
 GRAPHS.  
 FOR THE BEST SPECIMENS OF HANDWRITING.  
 FOR THE BEST SPECIMENS OF ILLUMINATION,  
 PENMANSHIP, &c.  
 FOR THE BEST PENCIL DRAWINGS AND WATER-  
 COLOUR PAINTINGS.  
 FOR THE BEST CHARADES.—FOR THE BEST  
 MAPS.

ALSO THE SECRETARY'S PRIZES.

**A SILVER GOBLET**  
 FOR THE BEST COLLECTION OF POSTAGE  
 STAMPS,  
 AND A

**GOLD PENCIL CASE**  
 FOR THE BEST COLLECTION OF CRESTS.

(Open to Amateurs only.)

*"Your Association, I consider, is calculated  
 to be of great benefit to young people. It may  
 be the means of bringing out talent which,  
 otherwise, would never be developed, and con-  
 sequently of leading to results of the highest im-  
 portance.*

*"THOS. CAPE,  
 "Chief Lord of the Manor."*

*Bridlington.*

Complete prospectus to be had of  
 THOMAS W. JENNINGS, Hon. Sec.  
 8, High-street, Bridlington.

## LIST OF AGENTS.--Continued.

Manchester—Messrs. Simms and Co., 53, King Street.  
 Newcastle-on-Tyne—Mr. D. H. Wilson, Grig Street.  
 Norwich—Mr. D. K. Bramwell, 9, St. Giles.  
 Oxford—Mr. M. Bellamy, 43 and 44, High Street.  
 Ramsgate—Mr. S. Spain, High Street.  
 Reading—Mr. J. G. Wyly, Minster Street; Mr. F. Atwells, 16,  
 High Street.  
 Richmond—Mr. John Bell, Finkle Street.  
 Salisbury—Mr. Walter Clapperton, Bookseller.  
 Scarborough—Mr. Wrigley, 3, Newbro' Street.  
 Sidmouth—Mr. Lethaby, Market Place.  
 Southampton—Mr. T. B. Gutch, 154, High Street.  
 Stoke-upon-Trent—Mr. C. Head, Trentham Road.  
 Stroud—Mr. J. Clark, 14, King Street.  
 Sunderland—Mr. W. H. Hills, 188, High Street.  
 Swansea—Messrs. Pierce and Brown, 22, Wind Street.  
 Tavistock—Mr. W. Robjohns, Bookseller.  
 Teignmouth—Mr. J. Marles, Bookseller.  
 Torquay—Mr. E. Cockrem, 10, Strand.  
 Tunbridge Wells—Mr. H. Nye, Grosvner Road.  
 Uxbridge—Mr. Trenchard, High Street.  
 Warwick—Messrs. H. T. Cooke and Sons, Booksellers.  
 Weymouth—Mr. White, Bookseller, Esplanade.  
 Whitehaven—Messrs. Crossthwaite and Co., 1 and 2, Market Place.  
 Winchester—Mr. J. Pamplin, Jewry Street.  
 Windsor—Mr. A. Pierce, 102, Peascod Street.  
 Worcester—Messrs. Deighton and Sons, 53, High Street.  
 Yarmouth—Messrs. Blake Brothers, 12, Goal Street.  
 Yeovil—Mr. E. Whitby, Bookseller.  
 York—Mr. J. H. Carr, Stationer, 23, Colliergate.  
 Isle of Man—Mr. Mylred, Duke Street, Douglas.  
 Isle of Wight—Messrs. J. Hansford and Co., Ryde; Mr. F. J.  
 Etheridge, Bookseller, High Street, Newport.

## FOREIGN AND COLONIAL AGENTS.

*New Brunswick.*—St. John—Messrs. Craig and Melvin; G. Stewart,  
 Jun.—*Canada.*—Montreal—Messrs. R. McLachlan and Co.—  
*United States.*—Mr. S. A. Taylor, Albany, New York; Mr. P.  
 Vanderlip, Albany, New York; Mr. A. B. Mason, Box 2289,  
 Chicago, Illinois.—*New South Wales.*—Sydney—Messrs. Shereff  
 and Dawning, George Street.—*South Australia.*—Adelaide—Mr.  
 R. J. Longson, Jeffcot-street, North Adelaide.—*Tasmania.*—  
 Hobart Town—Messrs. J. Walsh and Sons, Wellington Bridge.  
 —*Victoria.*—Mr. S. Mullens, 55, Collins-street East.—*Germany.*  
 —Messrs. Zschiesche and Koder, Leipzig, Saxony.—*Lubeck.*  
 —Mr. J. Rehwoldt, Konnigstrasse No. 660.—*Holland.*—Mr. J.  
 P. Dressel, jun., Amsterdam.—*Greece.*—J. F. Reinning, Athens.

Fig. 26 & 27: prize drawing and list of supposed agents

*The Amateur* contains more than 20 pages of tales, a poem and a strange letter to the unnamed editor without any mention of its author. A list of about 60 booksellers all over England, except for Preston and Bridlington, but allegedly on the Isles of Man and Wight, comprised agents where the review could be bought, is complemented by a list of agents abroad, Continental, American and even four Australian stamp dealers. Only the supposed founder of this Bridlington association is named. The existence of the named associations cannot be confirmed by any document of the local, regional and National Archives. The Bridlington magazine was, certainly, printed by Grecall in Preston, a company located more than 100 kms away.

*To be continued*

# Empire Air Training Scheme - Canada

**Tony Lyon**

The British Commonwealth Air Training Plan (BCATP), or Empire Air Training Scheme (EATS) often referred to as simply "The Plan", was a massive, joint military aircrew training program created by the United Kingdom, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, during the Second World War. BCATP remains as one of the single largest aviation training programs in history and was responsible for training nearly half the pilots, navigators, bomb aimers, air gunners, wireless operators and flight engineers who served with the Royal Air Force (RAF), Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm (FAA), Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF), Royal Canadian Air Force (RCAF) and Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) during the war.

Under a parallel agreement, the Joint Air Training Scheme, South Africa trained 33,347 aircrew for the South African Air Force and other Allied air forces. This number was exceeded only by Canada, which trained 131,500 personnel.

Students from many other countries attended schools under these plans, including Argentina, Belgium, Ceylon, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Fiji, France, Greece, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland and the United States, where the similar Civilian Pilot Training Program was already underway by the end of 1938.<sup>1</sup>

## RCAF, 3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba



Fig. 1: Cover directed to Leading Aircraftman Lewis Stanley Crawford-Watson NZ 42734 C/- RCAF Headquarters, Jackson Buildings. Ottawa, Canada. Censor 95 at Auckland.

Lewis Stanley Crawford-Watson of Auckland sailed on the TS Orcades for Canada to participate in the EATS where he trained at the RCAF 3 Wireless School, Winnipeg, Manitoba, where he graduated 19<sup>th</sup> March 1943. He also attended RCAF, 3 Bombing and Gunnery School, MacDonald, Manitoba which was serviced by MPO 1004.

He obtained the rank of Flight Sergeant serving with RNZAF 75 (NZ) Squadron RAF as an Air Gunner. Stationed at Raf Mepal, Cambridgeshire, he was killed in action when as part of the crew of a Short Stirling 111 Bomber it crashed at Berstedgaard Denmark.

## RCAF, 3 Repair Depot, Patricia Bay, British Columbia



**Leading Aircraftman (LAC) Raymond Skene Jenkins NZ4312039 trained at the RCAF, 3 Repair Depot, Patricia Bay, British Columbia. It was served by MPO 1102. Censor 171 Dunedin.**

<sup>1</sup> British Commonwealth Air Training Plan: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British\\_Commonwealth\\_Air\\_Training\\_Plan](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/British_Commonwealth_Air_Training_Plan) Internet Accessed 16/12/2021.

## Machine Double Circle Die Heads of Victoria

**Brian Fuller**

Thanks to Covid I am in a pickle! With plenty of time to sort out the shoeboxes or update collections I did just that with my double circle machine cancellations of Victoria.

Naturally, if you retain the Earliest and Latest date you can have a surplus.

Of the spares I noticed they were different designs of the same style head. I wondered if they were a natural progression or damaged etc.

The late Jack Leek writing in the ACCC of NSW Bulletin **OCT66** Article 483 advised that the Post Office in DEC64 had purchased some Pitney Bowes Model K hand operated machines. The first of which was installed at Oakleigh Sth Victoria and presumably on or about 14DEC64 if the sample shown is his obtainable ED. He continues - More were purchased in JUN66 and were probably distributed along the eastern seaboard post offices. I presume they were Model K and not electrical operated DDs etc.

My first issue is the earliest date I have a St Kilda Road Central cancel of 30JUL64.

My second issue is I have Box Hill facing left then vertical. Why?

Thirdly, I have 18 of these machine cancels for Victoria and have no idea how many there are or when they were installed in their PO.

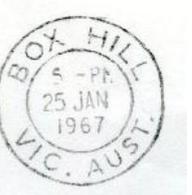
I also plead help if anyone has a clean copy of the Law Courts, or others I am missing, please.

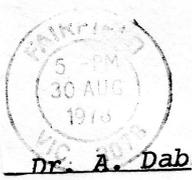
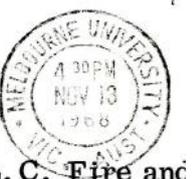
From my recently published book in JUN21: CONTINUOUS ROLLER AND TRIP CANCELLATIONS OF MELBOURNE Including CONTINUOUS ROLLER CANCELLATIONS OF VICTORIAN OFFICES,

**CT13** ED 25JUL57 LD 18DEC57 is similar in design but is not part of the series even though it is a double circle. They used Pitney Bowes DD/GG electrically operated machines.



The ED and LD for the Model K machines I have are in the following tabulation.

			
Blank sides 10AUG69 – 10SEP70	Circles. 6OCT64 - 9DEC65	Circles removed. 15DEC66 – 2NOV70	Period marks at sides 22APR67 – 5SEP68

Fairfield  <i>Dr. A. Dab</i>			
Blank sides	Blank sides	Periods on sides	Periods on sides
30AUG78 – 10OCT79	18AUG69 – 4NOV70	3OCT66 – 1NOV69	31MAY67 – 25OCT67
	Law Courts 		 L. C. Fire and
Periods on sides	Circles	Circles	Periods on sides
25JAN68 - ?	15FEB79 - ?	22APR65 – 18DEC70	22AUG67 – 13NOV68
			
Circles	Circles	Buzzed off ??	Periods
23DEC64 – 21DEC68	3JUN65 – 15OCT70	12NOV66 – 1NOV70	21JUL67 – 2NOV70
			
Blank sides	Periods	Blank sides	
30JUL64 – 11JUN69	5DEC67 – 14OCT69	27JUN69 – 2NOV70	Spare

## Observations

Post 1966 did not have circles. Some were blank sides and some with periods. Some had periods after VIC. AUST and some did not. A few had postcodes. Three had American date notation.

The second latest date was 18DEC70 and Fairfield was the latest at 10OCT79.

30JUL 64 was the earliest date and all (except Fairfield) were finito before 1971. Did they get electrically operated model D/DD/GG Pitney Bowes machines?

I was told that 13 model K machines were retained in Victoria prior to the 13FEB92 opening of the National Philatelic Centre (NPC). The NPC had two model Ks. I was lead to believe Fitzroy still had one at that time. I have no copies of Fitzroy. The information does not correlate.

If anyone can add to the history of the Model Ks I would be most appreciative. Earlier or later dates would be welcome. If you have unwanted copies etc please advise.

## Melbourne City Mail Centre (MCMC) History

**Brian Fuller**

**22MAR93 – mid AUG99**

When the GPO housed City Delivery MC (CDMC) was integrated with the Melbourne MC (MMC) on the 22MAR93 the Melbourne City Mail Centre (MCMC) was formed.

The MCMC remained until its amalgamation with the Melbourne Airport Transit Centre (MATC), and State MC residue. Hence in AUG99 the Melbourne Letters Centre (MLC) was formed.

In the MCMC and MLC several interesting date stamps and cachets were found.

On 16MAY97 the Northern MC closed and its functions integrated with the MCMC.

MAY96 the Western MC was subsumed by MCMC.

Early 97 the International MC closed and some functions went to MCMC.

Cachets etc from all these places were found on my visit of 30APR02.

The MCMC was still referred to as such until at least 7MAR03, so the use of MLC datestamps from mid 99 until closure on 10APR03 did not generally change staff terminology.

### **Any Impact?**

Collectors are very conscious of the importance of collecting the first and last day of offices or issues.

What about intermediate periods where offices change names or locations? Conscientious collectors certainly do keep track of these and take great pride and effort to do so.

What about machine cancellations, date stamps, cachets etc used in Mail or Letters Centres?

They are certainly a poor relation to many philatelic pursuits but extremely important in their own right. They are the drivers of technology in cancelling and processing mail.

The Central Mail Exchange (CME) had a long and distinguished career from its inception in 1916 to important offshoots such as the lineage of the Spencer Street MC, Melbourne MC, Melbourne City MC and finally the Melbourne Letters Centre. The Dandenong Letters Centre (DLC) conquered all!

The cancellations, cachets and slogans used, should be allocated to the specific user facility irrespective of the office that originated them! DLC did use MMC, Eastern MC die heads and slogans!

Incorrect information in writing up a collection disproportionately detracts from the total effort.

## Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This edition will feature postmarks from Victoria. As is the case of smaller towns becoming uneconomical in a lot of their services, the post offices have also been forced to close or find alternative ways to deliver the mail. One such town was Toolamba and a small feature article will be featured at the end of this article.

VIC.



VIC.



**TOOLAMBA POST OFFICE**

The first Toolamba post office opened on 1/1/1873 on the Murchison-Mooroopna road. Mail for Toolamba and Mooroopna was carried in loose bags on horseback 3 times a week and later daily by Cobb & Co from Seymour. The railway line from Mangalore to Shepparton was opened on 13 /1 1880 which was about 5 Kms from Murchison-Mooroopna road.

A post office was opened near the railway station on 1/7/1881 and was named Toolamba East. This was renamed Toolamba on 28/7/1895 and Toolamba East was closed. With the advent of rail the town prospered and by 1918 there was a State school, sawmill, 2 churches, sale yards,hotel ,store, post office, cheese factory and fruit canning company.

Over the last number of years many small communities have lost a lot of their services and Toolamba is no exception. Last year Toolamba post office and general store closed and all that is operating in Toolamba now is the School, Kindergarten and Hotel.

Original post office of 1873 (taken 1967) and P.O. store now closed.



Showing the postmarks of Toolamba .BN 793 2 later datestamps And date of the last one is 4 APR 2016

# Australian stamp & coin co

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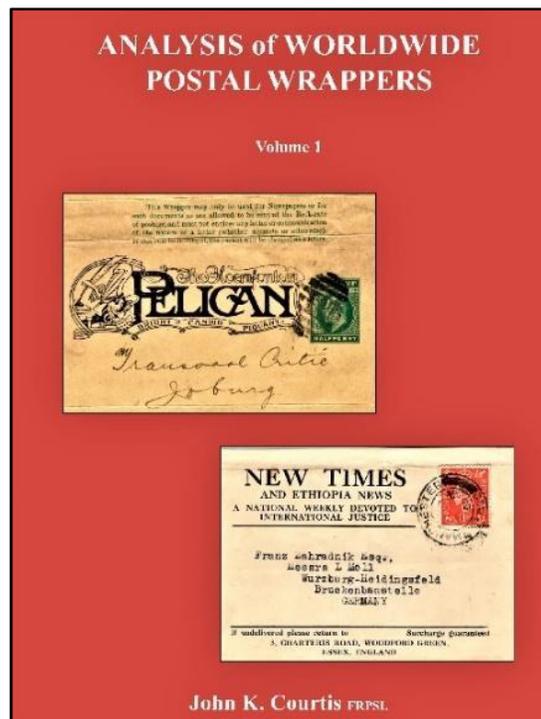


Shop 135, Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre, 270 Canterbury Road, Forest Hill, Vic 3131  
Phone: 03 9878 3411 Fax: 03 9878 3877 Email: [sales@australianstamp.com](mailto:sales@australianstamp.com)

## 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

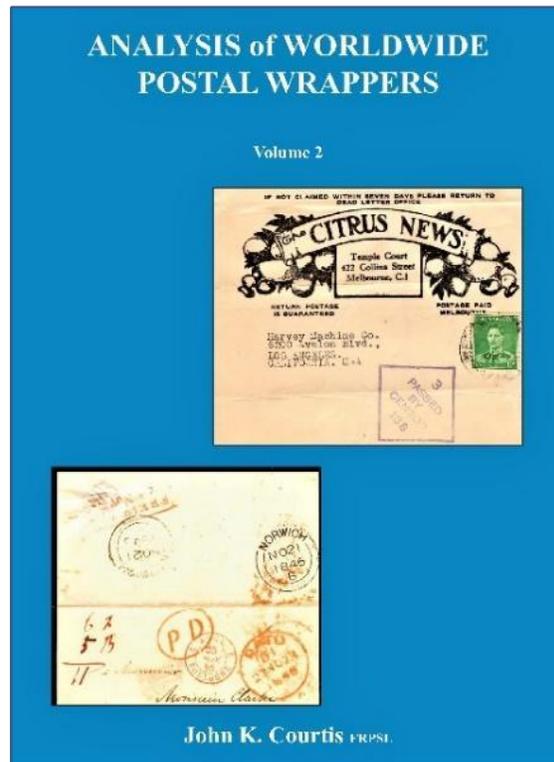
**Analysis of Worldwide Postal Wrappers: Attributes of Postal Stationery, Postal History and Social Philately**, Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2, 33 Chapters, pp. 930, £50 plus postage, for details contact Claire Scott at the Postal History Society: [claire@historystore.ltd.uk](mailto:claire@historystore.ltd.uk)



**Volume 1:**

- 1 Nature and Role of a Wrapper
- 2 Book & Newspaper Posts
- 3 Attributes of a Wrapper
- 4 Indicia
- 5 Perfined Wrappers
- 6 Overprinted Specimen Wrappers
- 7 Text Instructions
- 8 Watermarked Paper
- 9 Uncut Multiples
- 10 Registered Wrappers
- 11 Postage Due Wrappers
- 12 Wrappers by Air Mail
- 13 Postmarks on Wrappers

- 14 Uprated Wrappers
- 15 Destination Countries of Wrappers
- 16 Routes to Africa, Asia & Australasia
- 17 Routes to Europe, Americas & Caribbean



**Volume 2:**

- 18 Auxiliary Markings
- 19 Merchant Marks
- 20 Embossed-to-Order
- 21 Overprinting on GB Wrappers
- 22 Overprinted – Worldwide Survey
- 23 Labels, Cinderellas and Seals
- 24 Censor & Consular handstamps
- 25 Side Collections
- 26 Private Postal Wrappers
- 27 Country Census of Pr. Wrappers
- 28 Mourning Wrappers
- 29 Official Wrappers
- 30 Parcel Wrappers
- 31 Analytical Techniques
- 32 Clustering
- 33 Market Characteristics