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Front Cover : Airmail to Transjordan

This airmail cover is Late-Fee cancelled at Melbourne on 16 February 1934 and franked 6 pence. The most likely transmission was 3 pence airmail in Australia, 2 pence surface mail and 1 penny late fee.

For 7 pence the sender could have got sea mail to India, airmail from India to Palestine (4 pence) and late fee.

Perhaps, in haste, that possibility was overlooked. The cover is back stamped Amman, 12 March 1934.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Thank you to those who have contributed to this issue of the journal and welcome to Tony Curtis who has submitted his first article. I already have another article from Tony for the next journal and I believe you would agree that his contribution is interesting.

Why not have a go at writing an article. I will accept hand written contributions if computers are not your thing.

I returned last night from a month in Africa; two weeks in Rwanda and two weeks in South Africa. No, I was not there to see the Gorillas. My purpose was to help my colleague and friend who has two small NGO's reconnect with the people involved in the various projects both involving churches and social programs.

Whilst in Kigali I had the misfortune of being run over by a Motorcycle Taxi. The driver was inebriated and I was laid out requiring ambulance ride to the King Faisal Hospital for X-ray, CT Scan and ultrasound tests. All was well fortunately but I was sore for while.

I must say the treatment was efficient although slow, mainly the administration part.

With the passing of our long serving treasurer John Steward the council is looking for a replacement. It would also help to refresh our society if there were some members who would join the council to help lead the society into the future. Please give this your consideration as the AGM is approaching, to be held 17th October 2022. The requirements are not onerous. Contact the President John Young for information.

Until next time ciao.

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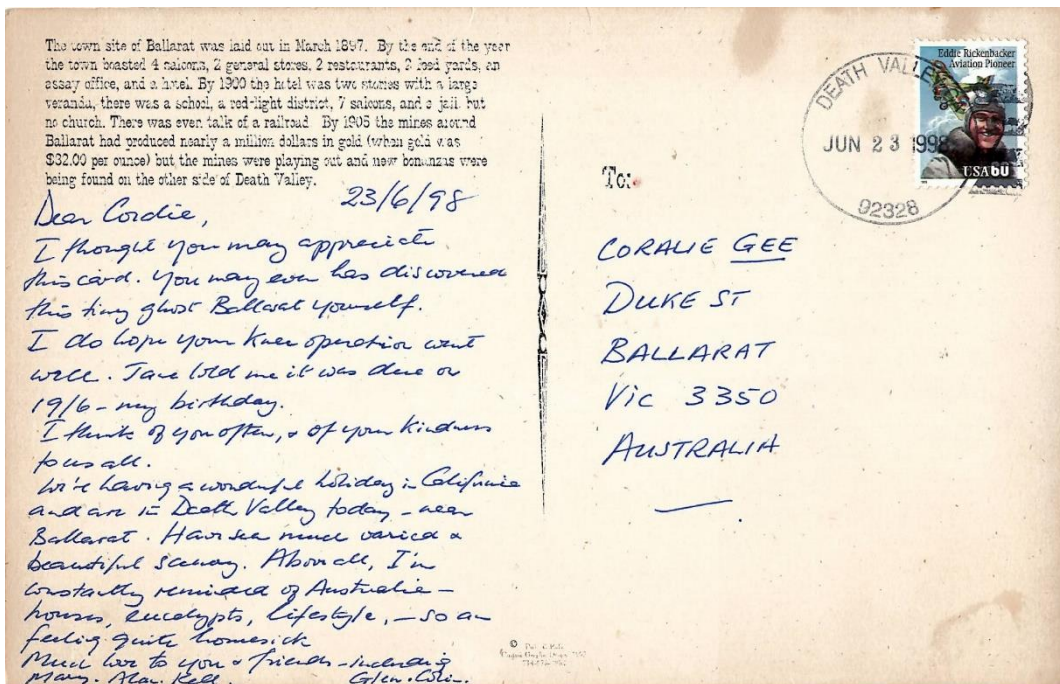
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From the President

We know from our history that the California forty-niners were among our first miners on the New South Wales gold fields. Less well known is that the fame of our Ballarat gold field travelled in the opposite direction, to the gold field of Ballarat, near Death Valley, California, in 1897.

According to the blurb on this postcard depicting Ballarat Ghost Town, Peppermint Valley, California, the town had four saloons, two stores, feed yards, an assay office and a hotel by 1898. Later there were a school, a jail, a red-light district, but no church. By 1910, however, the Ballarat mines were nearly played out and the miners went to the other side of Death Valley.

In 1998 an Australian visitor to USA sent the Ballarat ghost town postcard to a friend in Ballarat, Australia, with a fine date stamp of Death Valley.



O.B.X. Creek Post Office, N.S.W. - The Mulligan Family

Tony Curtis PSM



Figure 1

Tying 2 x 1d red George V, Single Watermark, stamps to a small piece, the partial Type 2B 'O.B.X. CREEK' N.S.W postmark depicted (Fig.1), was contained in a large New South Wales date-stamp collection sold at auction by *Christoph Gartner*, Germany in late 2021, believed to have been part of the deceased estate of Austrian philatelist, Martin Frischauf and the large Italian haul acquired by him in 1998. Sadly, Martin or 'Koala', as he was fondly known amongst Australian philatelists, passed away in September 2020.

Perhaps one of the more unusually named New South Wales post offices and certainly a scarce postmark missing from many N.S.W. postmark collections, 'O.B.X. CREEK', was located approximately 32 kms southwest of *Grafton* in the Parish of Ermington, County Fitzroy (Fig.2) (1).

Whilst the exact date on this piece is unclear, the year appears to be 1918, applied during the period that O.B.X. CREEK operated as a Receiving Office. Hopson & Tobin (2), record the Type 2B date-stamp as being seen in 1930 only and no other postal markings are recorded from the Office. This was the first example seen by me where the place name was complete.

The relative scarcity of this postmark might appropriately be measured by the fact that two prominent Australian postmark dealers and auctioneers, Gary Watson, and David Wood, have only ever handled a single copy between them, that being a part strike on 1d green KGV without a date, sold by David Wood in 1991. The few copies seen by me have all been part strikes.

As curious as the name of this Office might be, there is another intriguing aspect relating to the O.B.X. CREEK date-stamp that came to light during my research for this article, that necessitates a rethink in relation to previously published information identifying the date-stamp as the source of the N.S.W. single letter, cut-down relief date-stamp, 'X' N.S.W, the earliest recorded date for which is 7 March 1933.



Figure 2

Origins of the O.B.X. name

The locality derived its name from the 'O.B.X.' stock brand of influential Sydney based, New England grazier, Oswald Bloxsome. Bloxsome's land holdings across the district extended to several hundred thousand acres.

Following an incident where one of Bloxsome's drays reportedly broke down at a creek crossing, then known as Bloxsom(e)'s Creek, on the Grafton to Glen Innes Road, whilst transporting wool bales, some of the bales were despatched into the water where they remained for a period, not able to be readily recovered. Only the Bloxsome brand name was visible in the water and over time the Creek and locality became known as *O.B.X. Creek*, and Bloxsome himself was referred to as 'Old O.B.X. (3)(4)(5).

The Geographical Names Register of N.S.W. lists *OBX Creek* (minus full stops between letters) as both a Creek and a Rural Place in the *Clarence Valley* (5).

The Mulligan family & commencement of telephone & postal services at O.B.X. Creek

Telephone and postal services at *O.B.X. CREEK* were established and operated by members of the Mulligan family (6)(7)(8).

In 1872, Irish immigrants, John and Esther Mulligan (nee McIlveen) built their family home 'Estrela' (Fig 3.) (7) on the *Old Glen Innes Road*, from where they operated a coaching station/staging post for coaches travelling between *Grafton* and the *New England* area.

'Estrela' later became a boarding establishment, especially for the local schoolteachers, operated by Esther and her seven children, following the death of husband John in 1874, as the result of a riding accident (7)



Figure 3

On 2 March 1916, a Telephone Office was established at the Mulligan homestead, *O.B.X. CREEK*, and subsequently upgraded to a Receiving Office on 1 April 1916. Miss Margaret (Maggie) Mulligan, 3rd daughter of John & Esther (Fig 4)(7), was appointed Receiving Office Keeper.

As a result of a 1927, decision to abolish the designations of 'Receiving Office' and 'Receiving Office Keeper', *O.B.X. CREEK* was upgraded to a Post Office and Margaret Mulligan was appointed Postmistress.

On 15 August 1930, a Manual Telephone Exchange was established at the Office, having the minimum required, one subscriber (6)(8).

Application of austerity measures following the 1929 depression, saw the closure of many smaller and underutilised post offices, and on 1 July 1931, postal services were removed from *O.B.X. CREEK* and the Office reduced to a Telephone Office, operated by Margaret Mulligan.

Margaret Mulligan passed away on 30 August 1937, and on 1 October 1937, her younger sister Elizabeth Agnes Mulligan, known as Agnes (Fig 5)(7), was appointed to replace her. On 25 May 1939, control of the Office passed to Agnes' older brother Robert (Bob) Mulligan (Fig 6)(7). The Telephone Office was relocated to Robert's property which was known as '*The Pines*'.



Figure 4



Figure 5



Figure 6

Robert Mulligan had married Janet Cameron Prain in 1906 and built a new home approximately 2 kms east of 'Estrela' on the western bank of O.B.X. Creek. The family lived there until 1936, when they moved to a new home constructed by Robert and his sons on the eastern side of O.B.X. Creek. This property was also known as 'The Pines' and was the new location of the O.B.X. CREEK Telephone Office (Fig 7)(7).



Figure 7

On 1 April 1945, Esther Jean Mulligan, Robert's youngest daughter (Fig 8)(7), was appointed to replace him.

Prior to Esther's marriage in January 1947, the Office was transferred to her younger brother Athol's wife, Alice Laura Mulligan (Fig 9)(7). Alice's appointment took effect on 1 January 1947.



Figure 8

Members of the Mulligan family recall the switchboard at 'The Pines', located in a small room at the end of the veranda. They also recall Alice Mulligan, who operated the Office from 1947 to 1974, cancelling mail in the 1960/70's with a date-stamp and placing it into a blue canvas mailbag, which was sealed with wax and a post office stamp (seal). The family believe the mail was that of the two Mulligan families, as well as the Austen and Rhodes families, telephone subscribers connected to O.B.X. The bag was picked up and delivered to the Office by Johnny Keener, who also delivered bread.

Mail cancelled by Alice Mulligan was likely official mail including telegram receipts and status reports. Private mail placed in the bag would have been cancelled at *South Grafton*. A Private Mailbag arrangement with O.B.X. CREEK Telephone Office was not out of the ordinary for offices of this nature and the function of distributing mail, often undertaken by those managing small telephone offices reduced in status from post offices. Nearby CHAMBIGNE Telephone Office was serviced under a similar arrangement.

Alice maintained the Telephone Office until 1977, when she and her husband sold the property. The Telephone Office temporarily closed between December 1964 and January 1965, before permanently closing on 3 May 1984, with the then three subscribers connected to the *Nymboida* Small Country Automatic Exchange (SCAX) (8).

Following Agnes' death in 1941, 'Estrela' was inherited by a nephew and the original home demolished. The property was subsequently acquired by Robert Stanley (Stan) Mulligan who built a new home near to the site of the old home in 1949. It too was named 'Estrela'. Neither postal, nor telephone services operated from the new property.



Figure 9



Figure 10

Part of the Telephone Office infrastructure at old 'Estrela' can be seen in the Circa 1935, photograph of Agnes Mulligan at left (Fig 10)(7).

Interviewed for an article in the *Daily Examiner* in 1980, Athol Mulligan, Alice's husband, who also served for a period on the local Council, expressed his disbelief that *O.B.X. CREEK* remained one of the few areas in the Shire that was still not serviced by electricity, the homes being so far apart. He reminisced that the Mulligans were one of the first to have electricity, installing their own 32 Volt system, which was later upgraded to 240 volts providing all necessary amenities and the capacity to pump water to the homestead (9).

The Mulligan family, seen in the 1925 Christmas photograph at right (Fig 11)(7), provided an important conduit to the outside world for the small community at *O.B.X. CREEK*, for over 70 years



Figure 11

O.B.X. date-stamp & the N.S.W. single letter cut-down relief 'X'

Writing in the Australian Commonwealth Collector's Club Bulletin of June 2001 (9), the late Bob Tobin illustrated a New South Wales single letter cut-down relief date-stamp 'X', the source of which, he contended, was the N.S.W. O.B.X. CREEK date-stamp. An example of the N.S.W. cut-down 'X' impression alongside that of two incomplete examples of the N.S.W. O.B.X. CREEK date-stamp is depicted below (Fig 12).



Figure 12

The diameter of the O.B.X. CREEK date-stamp measures 28 mm and the N.S.W. cut-down relief 'X', 26 mm. Additionally the letters 'X' and 'N.S.W' at the base of the cut-down are distinctively larger and of a different shape to those of the original date-stamp. Clearly the relief date-stamp was not derived from the O.B.X. CREEK date-stamp, or at least this one. Possibly Tobin had relied on information provided to him by another party and he had not physically compared the two, or a second and smaller O.B.X date-stamp existed. Again, this seems unlikely given that there would have been no need to replicate the Type 2B date-stamp, as it was seen used as late as 1930, a year before the post office closed.

More likely than not the O.B.X. date-stamp was retained by the Telephone Office for use on telegrams and cancelling stamps used for the purpose of pre-paying telegrams, as evidenced by the recollections of family members. In my view, the date-stamp of another office was the source of the relief date-stamp and given that the Type 2B was manufactured during the period 1914 – 1916, the list of prospective candidates would be very small indeed.

Whilst I have no evidence to support my theory, an office such as RIX'S CREEK might be a strong contender, being reduced from a post office to a receiving office on 1 October 1915, upgraded to a post office again in 1927, before closing on 31 July 1930. H&T reported the use of a Type 1D(i) date-stamp between 1906 and 1914, with no other types reported. Had a Type 2B date-stamp been manufactured, then it may not have been issued due to the reduction in status of the Office or alternatively, if issued, it has not yet been seen and recorded.

Another possible alternative is the cutdown of a date-stamp for another office in which a mistake had been made during the engraving process.

As those that collect the cut-down reliefs have quickly learnt, the task of identifying source date-stamps is a complex one with positive identifications few and far between.

Acknowledgements

I wish to acknowledge and express my gratitude to Cheryl Macfarlane, Maleny Queensland, daughter of the late George Parry and the late Esther Jean Mulligan, for her generous assistance and support in providing access to the Mulligan Family archive, in the preparation of

this article, particularly the photographs and just as importantly, family members' recollections of *O.B.X. CREEK* Post Office and the people who ran it. It is important that their service and contribution to the small community of *O.B.X. CREEK* is documented and remembered.

I also wish to thank Barbara Hancock and the Philatelic Association of New South Inc. for facilitating access to the handwritten notes of the late Norman Hopson, prepared at the time of his examining the *O.B.X. Creek* Post Office file during research for his four-volume monograph.

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6. National Archives of Australia: SP32/1 O.B.X. CREEK
7. Mulligan family archive – Cheryl Macfarlane, Maleny, Queensland.
8. Norman Hopson's handwritten notes, N.S.W Post, Receiving, Telegraph & Telephone Offices - PHILAS
9. R. Tobin, *ACCC Bulletin*, June 2001, p.103-119
10. "COUNTRY HOSPITALITY IS MADE AT HOME IN TOWN" *Daily Examiner (Grafton, N.S.W. 1915-1954)* 6 Sept. 1980

Scarce Post Office Wrappers of Cyprus

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There was a time when the author planned early retirement in Cyprus, but it wasn't to be and another decade of working was to pass. It is with fond memories of my holiday in Cyprus that this analysis of their Post Office postal stationery wrappers has been undertaken. The figures used in this paper can be compared with an earlier study that examined wrapper demographic and realizations (Courtis 2009). Now that the author has developed a more extensive database, a question of interest to postal stationery and country collectors is whether it is possible to be a completist in acquiring used copies of all the Post Office postal stationery wrappers of Cyprus.

Macro Analysis

In September 2003, the author started daily hand-collecting worldwide internet images of used Post Office postal stationery wrappers from listings on eBay. This auction platform is a transparent and comprehensive market for sellers to reach the internet-connected world in a cost-effective manner. Over the past 18+ years the database has increased to approximately 70,000 images of which there are 725 used copies of wrappers of Cyprus. These represent approximately 1% of the overall total.

Since the latter part of 2010, consequent upon the author's actual retirement (to Australia) the back-up file of images collected had been saved in two-monthly tranches. This was fortuitous in enabling the partitioning of the annual supply of wrappers for Cyprus (and other countries) and the results of these annual quantities is summarised in Table 1. Overall, there were 645 different wrappers listed during this 11-year period, averaging at 58 items per year. The annual figures and the downward sloping trend line are shown in Chart 1. This is the same information as in Table 1 but presented in visual format to better portray the annual variability.

2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	Total
45	95	73	83	54	56	44	36	53	37	69	645

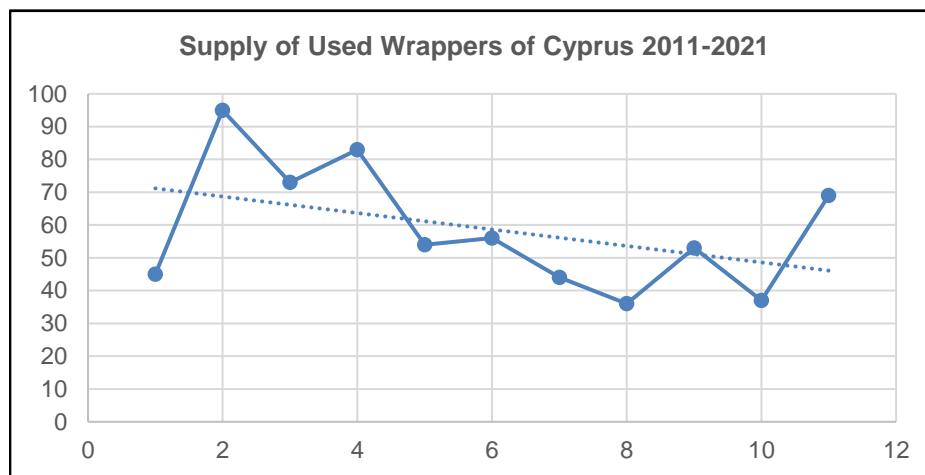


Chart 1 – Supply of Used Post Office Wrappers of Cyprus 2011-2021

Micro Analysis

While it is of some comfort for collectors to know that the annual supply seemingly meets demand and that a constant supply continues, it is of even more interest to know the composition of this supply. Table 2 shows the amount of each Post Office issue that appears in the database. Concordance between the Higgins & Gage (H&G) "E" catalogue numbers and the Kośniowski catalogue numbers reveals only a few differences. E2 was issued a year later than indicated in H&G, and Kośniowski includes the emergency

issues of 1882 and 1892. A study of Kośniowski shows at least another 14 items that would need to be included by completist collectors, mostly being Specimen overprints.

The question posed at the outset was whether it was possible to obtain a used copy of each Post Office issue from the internet auction platform eBay. A study of the extant quantities in Table 2 shows that 17 of the 26 items listed, or 65% of issues have scores of four to zero. In other words, the recording of four copies is equal to an overall average listing rate of one copy per 54 months or 4½ years. The rate is worse for those items with three, two or one copy. There were five items that have never appeared. While the two emergency issues might be seen by some collectors as not official Post Office issues, that still leaves three types that have never appeared used: 1920 E12 KGV 10pa orange, 1962 3M brown wreath and coat of arms and the final issue, the 1976 handstamped 25M on 10M. Mint copies of these last two are relatively plentiful but the completist would need to look beyond eBay if a used copy is desired.

Table 2 – Post Office Issue Types and Quantities in Database

H&G	Koś.	Details	Quantity
1	001	1880 QV 1d brown GB E6 CYPRUS added to the forme, [not an overprint]	2
3	002	1881 June, QV 1pi brown	20
	003	1882 Feb., QV emergency issue SG11 or SG25 stuck on plain white paper	0
2	004	1882 June, QV ½pi green on buff/cream	274
	005	1892/93, emergency issues, ½pi green SG31 stuck on white wrapper	0
4	006	1894 April, QV 10pa carmine	205
5	008	1902 Dec., KEVII 10pa carmine	51
6	009	1902 Dec., KEVII ½pi green	70
7	010	1910 July, 5pa olive yellow	20
8	011	1912 May, KGV 5pa olive yellow	30
9	012	1912 May, KGV ½pi green	12
10	013	1920 July, overprint 10pa on 5pa olive yellow	4
12	014	1920 Oct., KGV 10pa orange	0
11	015	1922 Sept., overprint 30pa on ½pi green	1
13	016	1924 KGV ¼pi orange	13
14	017	1938 Jan., KGVI ¼pi brown	2
15	018	1938 Jan., KGVI ½pi green	3
16	019	1953 July, QEII 1½pi green	1
17	020	1955 Aug., QEII 2mil brown	4
18	021	1955 Aug., QEII 10mil green	3
19	022	1960 Aug., QEII 2mil brown overprinted Republic of Cyprus in Greek & Turkish	3
20	023	1960 Aug., QEII 10mil green, overprinted as above	1
21	024	1962 Aug., Wreath & Coat of Arms, 3M brown	0
22	025	1962 Aug., Wreath & Coat of Arms, 10M green	3
23	026	1976 handstamp in black/blue/red on 1962 issue, 10M on 3M [long & short box]	3
24	027	1976 handstamp in black/blue/red on 1962 issue, 25M on 10M green	0
		total	725

One way of improving an understanding of the overall supply of used wrappers is to compare the number of extant copies for each Post Office issue. Chart 2 shows quantities in the database for each issue; this time series approach enables a comparison to be made of extant quantities of early and later issues. It is obvious from the chart that after 1894, there was a steady decline in extant issue quantities and that from 1920, the supply is negligible.

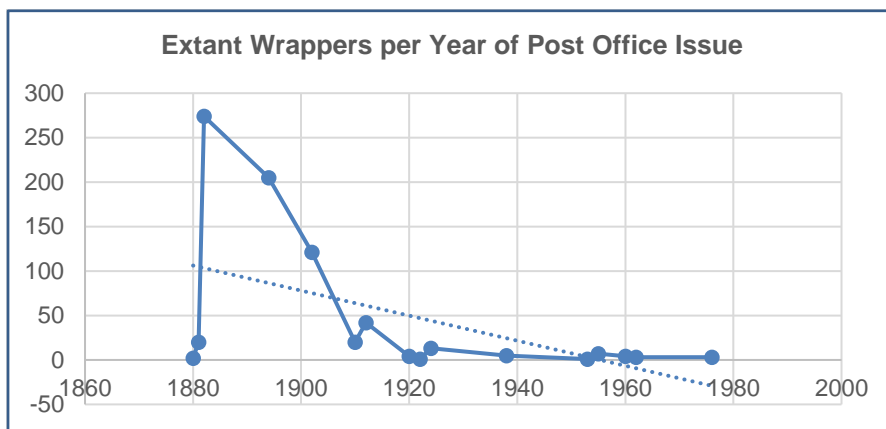
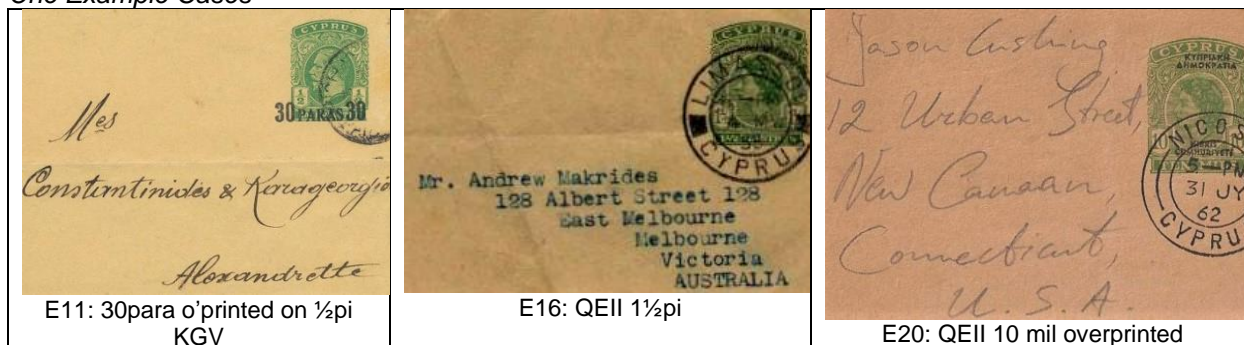


Chart 2 – Number of Extant Post Office Wrappers per Year of Issue (Early versus Late issues)

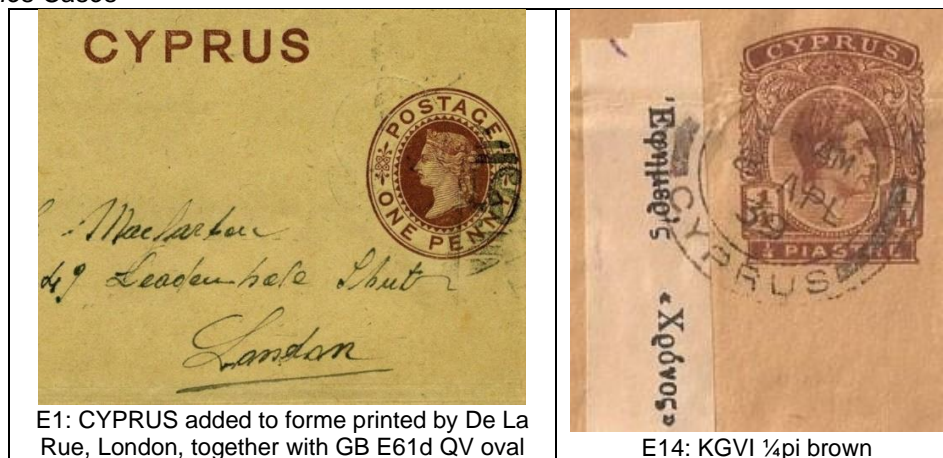
Elusive Wrappers

Obviously, wrappers with zero quantities cannot be illustrated, so what are shown here are wrappers with one, two, three or four examples only. While the indicia can be viewed in the two catalogues (and elsewhere) it may be useful for postal stationery and country collectors to identify these wrappers in the present context. Because these are all internet images, they have been reduced in size to improve their fidelity. A “warts and all” approach to illustrations reflects the actual usage, and can reveal desirable attributes such as addressee destinations and postmarks.

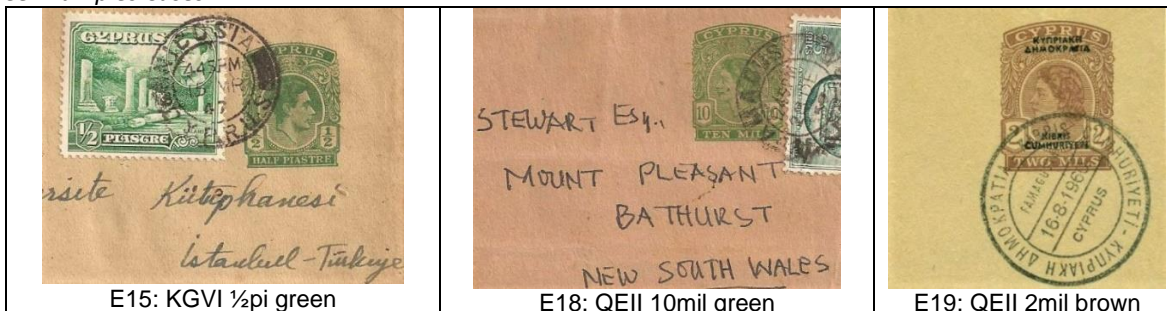
One Example Cases



Two Examples Cases



Three Examples Cases



E15: KGVI ½pi green

E18: QEII 10mil green

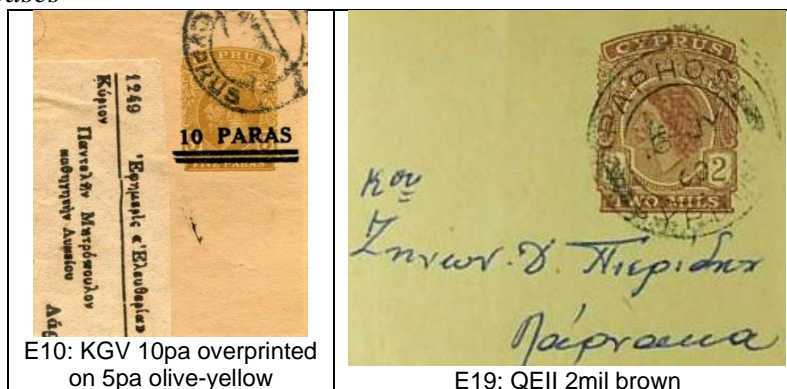
E19: QEII 2mil brown



E22: 10M green wreath & Coat of Arms

E23: handstamp 10M on 3M long box

Four Examples Cases



E10: KGV 10pa overprinted on 5pa olive-yellow

E19: QEII 2mil brown

Summary

Country and postal stationery completist collectors have several challenges ahead of them if they wish to obtain a used example of each Post Office issue. Of the 26 basic items, almost two-thirds have been listed for sale at a rate of less than five over an 18+ year period of daily hand-collecting. Of course, eBay is not the only source of postal stationery wrappers, but it is a transparent, objective, comprehensive, growing, cost-effective auction platform that can be accessed by a worldwide internet-connected market place. Completist collectors will need to either supplement their holdings with some unused copies or investigate other sources such as dealers selling directly, bourses, and traditional philatelic auction houses. The summary in Table 2 reveals the spread of 725 used examples across the Post Office issues. Those with one, two, three and four examples each have been illustrated for the convenience of those seeking awareness of the scarcer issues. The five cases where no examples exist in the database might qualify as very rare on a rarity/scarcity table. They will be a source of frustration to completists who would not necessarily expect to find that this area of postal stationery presents so many acquisition challenges.

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The 1870's forgeries: The End of a Myth (III): Part 1

Gerhard Lang-Valchs

The following article constitutes a third part of a study of early stamp forgeries, subtitled *The End of a Myth*.¹ This subtitle refers to the first surprising study's evidence from the life and work of the Hamburg Spiro Brothers that the facsimiles they offered in 1864 were not produced by them, as generally believed, but only resold.

My second efforts to elucidate the origin of the "Spiros", with their typical obliterations, analysed all the mid-1860's forgeries.² This approach did not answer the initial question, because no evidence was then found to confirm the existence of "Spiro"-cancelled-forgeries. The current study, tries to answer this problem by focussing on the following decade,

First, I need to summarise the general history of the forging activities in those years so that the readers will understand the complicated branches of the 1870's European forgery-trade networks (as far as I can to trace them). I start by recapping the initial roots and the distribution networks of this business during the 1860's.

The Written Basis

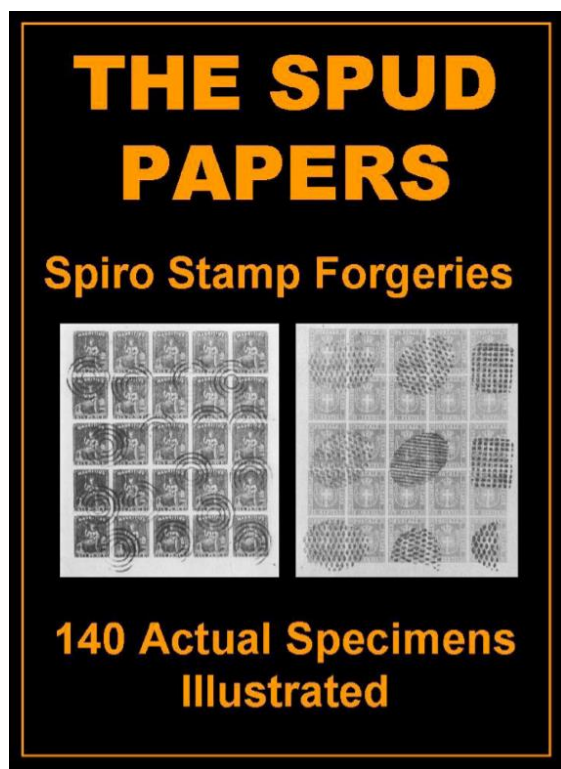


Fig. 1: Fig. 1: front-page re-edition *Spud Papers*

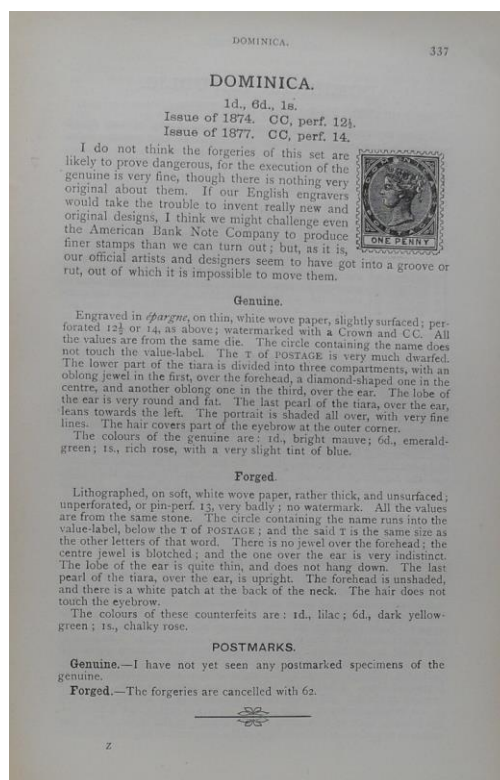


Fig. 2: Album Weeds' article Dominica

Six books on forgeries, published between 1863 and 1865, serve to identify a lot of counterfeits in these studies. The next useful work was published in 1881: the '*Spud Papers*', were composed by British experts (Atlee, Pemberton and Earée) from a series of forgery articles published in *The Philatelist* in 1871 to 1875. In 1876 Earée released the first volume of *Album Weeds*, which contained a revised version of the *Spud Papers*.

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

² GLV: *The mid-1860's forgeries. The End of a Myth (II)*, PhilaHistorica

I also looked at several Continental magazines such as the *Illustrirtes Briefmarken Journal* [IBJ]. These publications are accessible on the two quoted websites.³ Two Parisian magazines of Pierre Mahé and Arthur Maury were consulted, too.

A Short Flash-Back ...

In the early 1860's, stamp collecting was almost unknown, both in Europe and elsewhere. It was a new middle-class pastime. The first, *Timbromania*, created a booming interest in stamp collecting, popularising the new hobby building on the existing interest of the urban middle-class youngsters in collecting crests. These collectors demanded both world-wide stamps and information about those stamps. Stamp magazines and albums appeared on the market; the price lists changed into illustrated catalogues.

This new market also attracted stamp forgers. Many booksellers, stationers, cigar and tobacco-shop owners diversified into these new products, without knowing what they were really selling. Some of those dealers can be identified by adverts in stamp magazines, offering the rarest stamps at the cheapest prices. Only few of them admitted that these counterfeited stamps were facsimiles. A comparison of the prices shows a large percentage of suspicious.

Most collectors of those items had very limited ability to identify a forgery, because the vendors did not provide genuine samples or catalogue illustrations for comparison.

... With Some New Ingredients

96

ONCE A MONTH;

SEPTEMBER 1, 1864.

S. ALLAN TAYLOR, (publisher of the *Canada Stamp Collectors' Record*), Box 934, Montreal, Canada, offers for sale Winslow's, Arthur's, Broadway P.O., 3rd Avenue P.O., Ker's, Hunt's, Bentley's, Warwick's, Moody's, &c., at 1d. each, in quantities of a dozen or more.—Foreign used or unused Stamps exchanged at current market value.

UNITED STATES ENVELOPES!—An unused complete set of these stamps (29 in number) for sale. Price, £1. 10s. JAMES WARDLEY, care of Mr. WILD, 151, Oxford Road, Manchester.

ALL UNUSED.—British Guiana, 1c. black, 2d. each, 1s. 3d. per dozen; 2c. orange, 3d. each, 2s. per dozen. France, 1 centime green, 2d.; 2c. brown, 3d.; 4c. puce, 6d. per dozen. Hanover, 3pf. green, 1d. each, 6d. per dozen; 3pf. red, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen. Italy, 1c. 3d. per dozen. Saxony, 3pf. green, 6d.; $\frac{1}{2}$ n. gr. orange, 9d. per dozen, or 1d. each. Sweden, 3 öre brown, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen. Moldo-Wallachia, 3 paras, yellow, and United States adhesive and envelope 2c., all 1d. each!—Applications for the above must be made before the 6th instant, as the stamps will not be kept in stock after that date. Orders over 2s., post free.—C. & H. GLOYN, Acomb House, Manchester.

A USTRIAN ITALY (arms), 5 centes orange, 10 centes black, 6d. each, 5s. per dozen; 15c. red, 30c. brown, 45c. blue, 2d. each, 9d. per dozen, or 1s. 3d. per set of 5. (Head) 2 soldi yellow, 3 sol. green, 2d. each, 1s. 3d. per dozen; 3 sol. black, 4d. each, 3s. per dozen; 5 sol. red, 2d. each, 1s. 6d. per dozen; 10 sol. brown, 15 sol. blue, 2d. each, 9d. per dozen, or 1s. 1d. per set of 6. (Oval) 5 soldi red, 10 sol. brown, 2d. each, 1s. 3d. per dozen, or 3d. the pair. The set of 13 stamps mentioned above, for 2s. 6d., post free. Also the following for sale:—*Used*—Austria (head of Mercury) blue, 4d. each, 3s. per dozen; (head to left) blue, 3d. each, 2s. 9d. per dozen. Belgium (old issue) 10c. 20c., 5d. the pair. Cape, 1d., 4d., 6d., and 1s.; *mixed*, 1s. 6d. per dozen. French Empire, 25c. blue, 1d. each, 8d. per dozen. Costa Rica, 2 reales red, 9d. each. *Unused*:—Italy, Segna Tassa, 10c. yellow, 3d. each, 2s. 3d. per dozen. Austria (Mercury) blue, 6d. each, 5s. per dozen.—Orders for the above must be sent before the 6th instant. Orders over 2s., post free.—C. & H. GLOYN, Acomb House, Manchester.

NEW RUSSIAN STAMPS, Unused, 1 kop. 2d. each, 1s. 6d. per doz.; 3 kop. 4d. each, 3s. 6d. per doz.; 5 kop. 6d. each, 5s. per doz. Enclose stamped envelope to GEORGE J. RAWLL, 139, Leadenhall-street, London, E.C.

I NDIAN ENVELOPE STAMPS, $\frac{1}{2}$ anna blue, *unused*, 3d. each; post free four stamps.—C. & H. GLOYN, Acomb House, Manchester.

S TAMPS sent on inspection by H. W., Glover-street, Preston.

M ONTE VIDEO, new issue, 6c. rose, 8c. green, 10c. yellow, *unused*, at 2s. per set of three.—C. & H. GLOYN, Acomb House, Manchester.

Fig. 3: Gloyn ads in their own magazine (*Once a month*)

³ <https://www.rpsl.org.uk/Links/BL-Crawford-List>; <http://memoires.timbrologie.online.fr/>



Fig. 4: Text: letter from C. H. Gloyn Acomb House

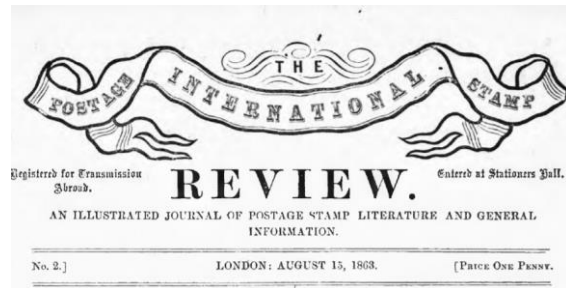


Fig. 5: International Postage Stamp Review

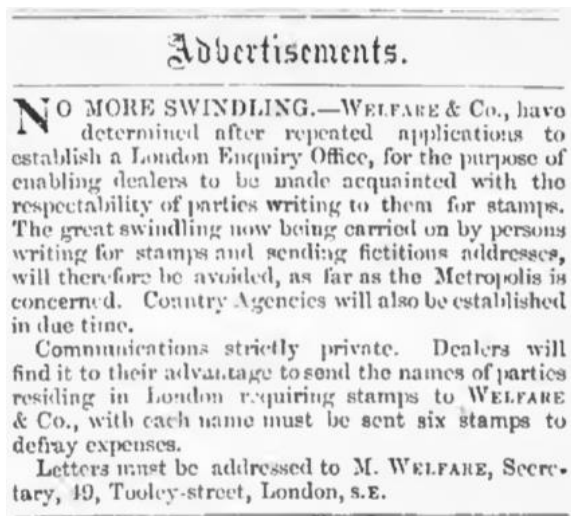


Fig. 6: Strange ad preventing (further) critics

M. WELFARE, Importer of Foreign and Colonial stamps, 49, Tooley-street, London, s.e., begs to thank his patrons for past favors, and to inform them that he has received a large supply of the new 4 centimes France. M. W., will be most happy to send stamps for inspection on receipt of stamped envelope. Price list forwarded on receipt of two stamps. M. WELFARE corresponds in French and German.

MAURICE WELFARE, 49, Tooley-street, London, a l'honneur d'informer le public qu'il a toujours des grandes quantités de timbres postes de tous les pays, neufs et effacés, à des prix les plus modérés. Tous les ordres seront exécutés le plus promptement; il est prêt à envoyer ses listes dans toutes les parties du globe, contre remise du port en timbres postes neufs. Il correspond en Français, Allemand, et Anglais.

BRIEFMARKEN—**MAURICE WELFARE**, 49, Tooley street, London, hat ein grosses Lager von Briefmarken aller Länder zu sehr billigen Preisen. Aufträge werden prompt ausgeführt. M. W., correspondirt in Deutscher, Französischer, und Englischer Sprache. Preis-Verzeichnisse werden nach allen Welttheilen verschickt gegen Einsendung des Porto Betrags.

Fig. 7: Printer and stamp seller, a suspicious business

Before the Preston stamp dealers syndicate, took over the main part of the distribution of the Italian-made forgeries on the British Isles in 1865, an organisation located in Manchester and Liverpool managed most of their business from Acomb House, located in an outer suburb of Manchester.

In the International Postage Stamp Review, “firms” with strange names like ALPHA, OMEGA, and INCOGNITA offered Italian-made stamp forgeries (See part II of this article). Men taking the names Gloyn, and Jones can be now identified as managers of this trade. Maurice Welfare seems to have been part of this network. This man may have been a printer and lithographer, established at Southwark, where OMEGA was initially sited (see fig. 7). Although not featuring in the local records, he organized stamp raffles, published articles in the magazine and advertised in the mentioned paper. He might be the source of early British colonial forgeries.

None of these shopkeepers, stationers, booksellers, antiquarians, or auctioneers was registered in the directories of the corresponding places, nor under any reported firm names. All the shop owners or dealers advertised were phantom companies since they did not appear in the street directories.⁴ All were. The 1865 Manchester directory lists two different Gloyns and his partner, Jones does not appear. The activities of all those firms ceased with the rise of the Preston-syndicate, except for Gloyn and Jones. They published their last pricelists in 1870.

⁴ The exception may be Gloyn at Acomb House. The 1865 Manchester directory lists two Gloyns with different initials: a teacher and an insurance bureau. Gloyn’s partner, C.K. Jones, could not be located in any directory.

The Gap ... Until the 1870s

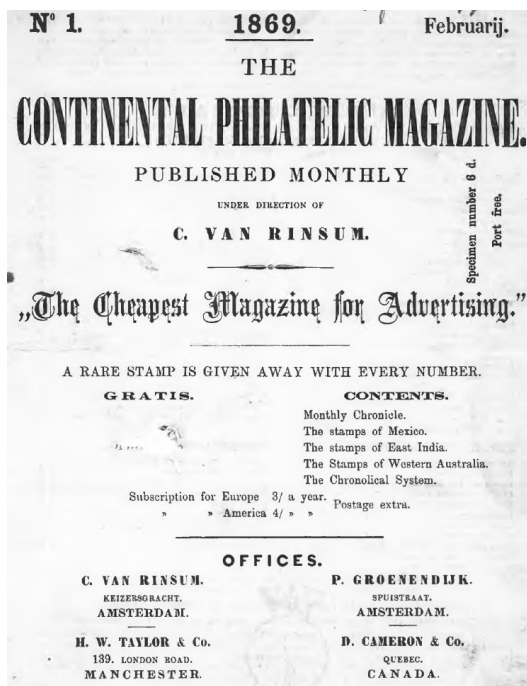


Fig. 8:



Fig. 9: Torres-forgery (HAWAHAN instead of HAWAIIAN) with his typical cancel



Fig. 10: Genuine stamp

When, in 1866, the Timbromania and the Preston syndicate activities ended, sales decreased significantly. Most stamp dealers and magazines disappeared from the scene and the boom of forgery-selling also stopped. The counterfeiters continued their work during the following years, but at a considerably reduced level. The discussion and presentation of forgeries diminished. Slowly but surely American-made forgeries entered the European market. South American, Australian, and Asian forgers were not yet active in the international stamp market.

In February 1869, Cornelis van Rinsum, an Amsterdam stamp merchant, started to publish the first Dutch stamp review, *The Continental Philatelic Magazine* [CPM] with the aid of Messrs Pemberton and Atlee. The first numbers of CPM listed all existing stamps world-wide mentioning and stating which issues had been forged. The limited descriptions prevent clear identification of those fakes, but they show that the forging activities had not stopped completely.

Nuremberg, Basle, and Paris are named by the Dutch dealer and a German magazine⁵ as selling places or production centres. However, one of the Paris-made forgeries can be detected by its description, because it shows a very particular inscription "error". The applied cancel (see fig. 9) identifies it as an Italian product and hence Paris was only one of the continental distribution sites.⁶ In those years there is no reference to identified British maker or seller of counterfeits.

⁵ Bazar für Briefmarkensammler, #1, p.4-5.

⁶ GLV: *The Hawaiian footprints of a European Stamp Forger*, Australian Journal of Philately, # 153, Sept. 2020, p. 12-25.

Initial Hypothesis About the 1870s

As I did before, I give a provisional model of the European forgery-market, as a hypothesis to orientate the readers. I take the mid 1860's as our starting point for a model which will be finally corrected.

Forgers on the scene in the 1870s

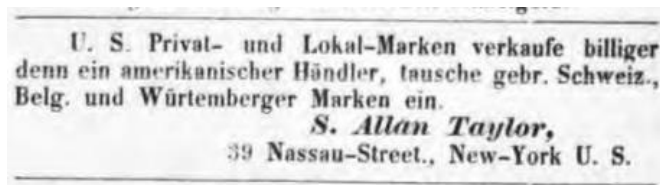


Fig. 11 & 12: The American forger S. A. Taylor announcing in Germany and England

Five sources dominated the renewed structure of the resurging market. They produced 80-90% of all fakes, the rest were made by a few local forgers with fewer products and a limited distribution.

Italian-made forgeries continued with a new marketing strategy and new dealers. The Swiss located forgers continued to broaden their offer to recent issues. The US-forgeries appeared now more often in the market, but in Europe Isles there was little interest in those overseas' issues. They are excluded from the following analysis. The Hamburg and the (supposedly) existing British colonial-source continued to produce and sell, partly with new protagonists.

higher standards, because of the use of more stamp illustrations in the magazines.

There was also a dozen of minor forgers in Germany or Austria, with a limited range and unable to build up a wider distribution network. The work of these forgers is examined using Varro Tyler's listing.⁷



Figs. 13 & 14 Supposed Patroni bogus-stamps

The one geographical exception was the Italian Giovanni Patroni, active in the United States, where he was judged in 1875 for producing and selling stamp forgeries.⁸ Tyler lists 15 countries affected by his forgeries but speaks of many wider copies. I believe there was only one attempt to attribute the forgery of specific issues to him.⁹ In some cases (Nicaragua, PSNC, Iceland, Angola and St. Thomé and Prince) he only imitated one issue: this could have been single values or the whole set.¹⁰ Although Patroni's products may have entered the European market, it is not possible to determine which forgeries he made.

Adolph Otto, a Güstrow located stamp dealer, was commissioned to print the official 1869-1874 Transvaal issues. He then used his original stones to make private reprints and retouched them to produce illegal fakes. He is not known to have forge any further stamps

⁷ Varro E. Tyler [Tyler], *Philatelic Forgers. Their Lives and Works* [Forgers], London 1976

⁸ *The American Journal of Philately*, #9 (1875), p. 181-182.

⁹ M. Danielski: *Eight Forgeries of Pacific Steam Navigation Company of 1857...*, *The Philatelist* vol. 39, 7/1973, p.199-202.

¹⁰ *Le Timbre Poste* [TP], # 189, p. 67; # 190, 76.

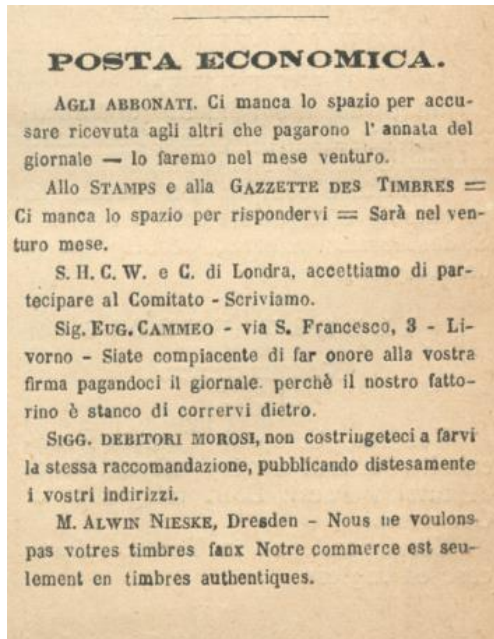


Fig. 15: Torres' answer to Nieske (La Posta Mondiale)

Amerika, Journalmarken, 5, 10, 25 cts. 1 Satz	ℳ 2.50
" " " " 5 cts. blau, 1 Dtzd.	" 5.—
" " 1847, 5 cents braun	à " .40
" " 1848, 10 cents schwarz (X)	" " .65
" " 1869, 1—90 cts. ungebr., 1 Satz	" 10.—
" " Centennial-Couverts, 3 cts. grün	" " .30
Hamburg, gem., 3 Sorten pr. 100	" " .60
Württemberg, alte Correspondenzkarten:	
ganzu. ungebr. { 1 xr. grün	pr. Dtz. ℳ — .60
{ 2 " gelb	" " 1.20
{ 2 " lila	" " 1.20
{ 2 × 2 xr. gelb	" " 2.—
{ 2 × 2 " lila	" " 2.—
100 Postanweisungen (Dienstsache)	" " 1.50
Nur gut erhaltene und echte Exemplare.	
ALWIN NIESKE, DRESDEN.	

Fig. 16: Nieske-ad

Alwin Nieske (1853-1914) was an inventor, chemist, but without underpinning studies, who became the owner of a chemical plant. He was an active promoter of stamp collecting in Dresden, co-founding a local stamp club.

Nieske sold forged stamps to German and foreign dealers in the early 1870's, most probably made in Italy.¹¹ In 1874 I think he offered some counterfeited stamps to de Torres, who had just established in Livorno, Spain., De Torres recognized immediately, because they were his own forgeries. The dealer Nieske had acquired the copies from a German reseller, not knowing, where they had been made. In his stamp magazine *La Posta Mondiale*, Torres refused emphatically to accept the offer (see fig. 13).¹² If those items had been Nieske's own forgeries, de Torres would surely have reacted differently?



Fig. 17:



Fig. 18:

In the late 1870's Nieske was in direct contact with Usigli and other suspicious dealers in Paris during the foundation of the 'European Stamp Union', a Europe-wide organization to promote stamp collecting, that soon sank into obscurity.¹³ From 1878-81 Nieske published a stamp magazine in which he announced a few forgeries he had made or ordered (fig. 14). When these forgeries were discovered, his philatelic career and the magazine came to an end.

The Austrian Sigmund Friedl (1851-1914) published the ugliest catalogue illustrations ever, because of a limited budget.¹⁴ Torres exaggerated both the ugliness of the design in many the illustrations he supplied and the number of

¹¹ *Vertrauliche Mitteilungen*, [VM], #4, S. 54.

¹² *La Posta Mondiale*, n° 3, ott. 1873, p. 23, col. 2.

¹³ TP, *Un faussaire démasqué*, # 210, 54.

¹⁴ GLV: *Sigmund Friedl und sein Katalog. Orthographische Fehler. Blick in ein Schiessbudenfiguren-Kabinett*, Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung [DBZ], Nr. 8, März 2018, S. 18-22.

orthographic “errors” in the inscriptions, resulting sometimes in a senseless sequence of characters. The Columbian Cubierta-stamps-forgery Friedl was offering in 1875 was most likely Italian-made, as well as the New Granada imitations sold by Engelhard Fohl.¹⁵

E. W. C. Bredemeyer, a Hamburg dealer, is known for his Bremen-reprints, made by the original printer’s firm, but now using new printing stones. Those 1878 reprints are the only forgeries made by him during those years.



Fig. 19: Torres-forgeries mis-identified as Zechmeyer-made



Fig. 20: Zechmeyer transfers



Fig. 21: Strange “mirrored” items with a bizarre cancel



Fig. 22: Torres-forgeries Costa Rica

The best known of the German dealers was the Nuremberg toy-maker Georg Zechmeyer. He offered stamp imitations made by others and built up a network of hundreds of booksellers, stationers, and cigar-shopkeepers, that resold those counterfeits.¹⁶ He never used words like “warranted genuine” in his advertisements. Stamp experts are unsure whether he also sold some home-made forgeries. The most mentioned of his imitations are the forgeries of the 1843 Brazil issue which have turned out to be Torres/Usigli-forgeries.¹⁷

Following Tyler, Zechmeyer had even had a branch in Paris. Because his practise of selling stamps had been repeatedly denounced, in the 1870’s he started indicating that his material was facsimile. He continued selling stamp packets, where mostly genuine stamps were mixed up with fakes.¹⁸

It is clear that Zechmeyer had not renewed his range of goods since the 1860’s and he did not dispose of counterfeits. Hence his only attempt to sell forgeries to professional stamp merchants in England in

¹⁵ SCM, vol. XII, 1874, p. 86; PhJ, Dec. 1872, p. 218; Jan. 1875, p.11.

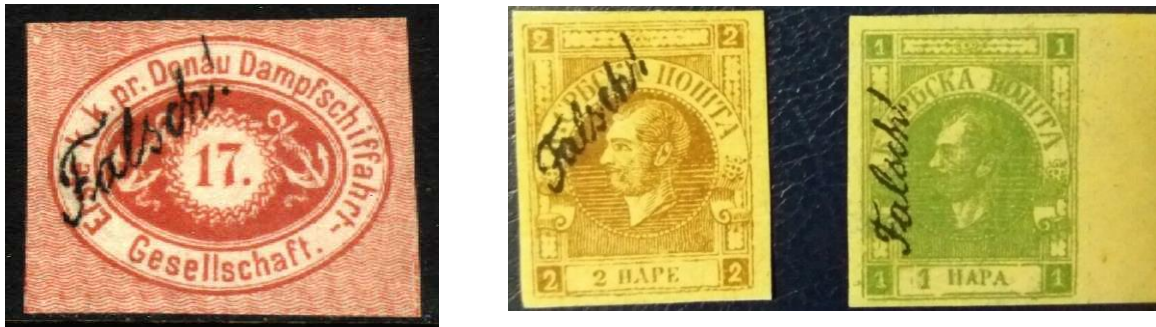
¹⁶ Thomas Schiller: *Georg Zechmeyer sen. – Briefmarkenhandel im philatelistischen Wandel des 19. Jahrhunderts*, *Philahistorica* 4/2020, S. 17-49.

¹⁷ GLV: *Plácido Ramón de Torres und seine Brasilien-Fälschungen*, *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Brasilien*, *Forschungsbericht* 87, Januar – Juni 2020, S. 15-22 (Teil 1); Nr. 88, S. 16-23 (Teil 2).

¹⁸ Tyler, *Forgers*, p. 56-57.

the 1870's failed. Atlee comments in his black list: "Herr Zechmeyer's precious assortment does not contain ... a single label likely to deceive ... the veriest tyro"¹⁹

A curious, not previously investigated field are Zechmeyer's stamp transfers, effectively like toys for children. Recently I discovered a number of coarse stamp imitations of Costa Rica that exist in a normal and in a mirrored version which might be the work of our toy-seller. Their strange cancels remind me of the bizarre obliterations applied by Torres to the first Costa Rica and some Italian States' issues.



Figs. 23 & 24: Fohl-forgeries

In terms of the number of alleged forgeries are concerned Engelhard Fohl (1845-1910) is the most important on the list. A recent study of his life and work discovered that most of the information published about him was quite wrong.²⁰ His name frequently appears related to clearly identified forgeries. Analysis has shown that his supposed 1870's forgeries were, in fact, resold imitations made in Italy.²¹



Fig. 25:




Fig. 26: frontpage Elb-Catalogue

¹⁹ PhJ, March 1872, p. 47.


²⁰ Tyler, Forgers, p. 13.

²¹ GLV: Engelhard Fohl: *Das „neue Leben“ eines Fälschers*, PhilaHistorica,


OFFICE PARTICULIER
 COMPAGNIE DE LEITMERITZ.
 1867. Noir sur couleur. Onze couleurs de chaque valeur (abus évident).



94.	5	kreuzer.....	»	35	»	»
95.	10	»	»	50	»	»



96.	15	»	»	50	»	»
97.	25	»	»	75	»	»



98.	50	»	1	25	»	»
		La collection de 5 valeurs.....	3	»	»	»
		La collection de 55 timbres.....	20	»	»	»

Fig. 27: Elb-fantasies



Fig. 28 Elb-phantasies



Fig. 29:

Starting the 1880's, he ordered a firm in Gera to design and print for him different imitations, including many covers. Thus, he was the 'intellectual father', seller and distributor, but not the maker.

The most successful of this list is Ferdinand Elb. During the early 1860's this Dresden dealer was still tutored by his mother. His best forgeries are the 3 pfg., red 1850 stamp of Saxony and imitations of the 1845 Finland envelope stamps.

This young man was the only forger who found a niche of his own among the great forging workshops. He dedicated a lot of his efforts to design and sell phantasy-stamps of local mail conveying entities, mainly of towns sited on the Elbe River (fig. 22/23). The only attributed exception is the Schweinfurt-fantasy stamp. He admitted in 1869/70 the production and distribution of those items.²²

Julius Goldner appeared on the Hamburg stamp dealer's scene in 1868. He is repeatedly named as an importer and seller of Italian-made forgeries.²³ His selling of huge quantities of old German states' reprints is well-known and he also sold Otto's Transvaal and Rivandeneira's Ecuador-reprints in

²² GLV: *The Moens-Torres Fantasy Stamps and Forgeries*, part III, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n. 4, p. 109-111.

²³ *Vertrauliche Mitteilungen* [VM], n°. 1, p. 6, 7; Nr. 2, p. 21. Bazar für Briefmarkensammler, Nr. 7, p.49; p. 57.

Europe.²⁴ The famous German philatelist, Arthur Glasewald, employed by Goldner in 1883, resigned because of the large number of reprints sold by his patron, but he does not allude, in his memoirs to forging activities in this establishment.

Ernest Löwenthal, a Hamburg merchant, was known in the late 1870's as a dealer in forgeries in the whole German speaking area. The Swiss SIBZ named him repeatedly as wholesale distributor of forged stamps.²⁵ The magazine also explained his method of marketing, quoting the amount sold by each reseller and describing his stamp sheets.

Löwenthal is as an example of the diversification of the offer of the wholesale sellers towards the end of the 1870's. Some details from the articles mentioned, allow me to determine which counterfeits he dealt with.

Many of his sheets of forged stamps bore an impression in their lower margins, indicating that the stamps were not genuine. The only source selling this type of "marked" sheets was Georg Zechmeyer due to the public naming and shaming of his dubious practise.

Löwenthal also distributed stamps from another source. The same article describes, as a new offer, a Venezuelan forgery, namely the fourth issue of this country. The Italian origin of these imitations is proved by a study currently available at the Venezuelan stamp association 'ASOFILCA' website.²⁶ The Torres/Usigli-forgeries were also distributed by Löwenthal. He did not forge; he only resold what others had made.



Fig. 30: Behrmann-ad

All the above dealers depended on their own limited production or on the facsimiles furnished by the Italian source. Also, for the German territories, they obtained forgeries from Behrmann, the father of the Hamburg forgeries. This a family business in which it is impossible to distinguish between the activities of father, son, and other members of the enterprise.

Behrmann is denounced as early as 1864 by Moens in his stamp magazine. The Hamburg- and Bergedorf-forgeries as well as most of the old German States issues were counterfeited and distributed by him. His imitation of the Sicily-issue is analysed in the Belgian review.²⁷

In my opinion, the most important of all forgers of the decade of the 1870's is Hans Heinrich Prah (1840-1916). He is totally unknown to the philatelic public and neither Tyler nor the Tedesco-Index mention him. There is very few information available about him and his activities in the 1870s.

End of Part 1



Fig. 31: Behrmann stamp offer

²⁴ Tyler, Forgers, p. 17-18.

²⁵ SIBZ, 2.Jg., 1880, p. 6-7; 10; 15-16.

²⁶ GLV: *Los falsos de Torres/Usigli de Venezuela*, Chile Filatélico n° 300, nov 2019-abril 2020, p. 45-51.

<https://www.asofilca.com/cat/falsos/>

²⁷ TP, # 14, p. 13; #15, p.21.

Returning Business Mail

Brian Fuller

On some business mail the sender invited people via the **Permit Paid** or **Reply Paid** services to return their correspondence. BUSINESS REPLY POST Permit Mail (PMG) no longer exists seemingly being superseded by Reply Paid mail (AP)

There are essential differences and returning mailers often did not appreciate them.

Then there is the penalty fee for oversize and overweight. These days businesses often allow you to return mail by Reply Paid and if you are too enthusiastic the weight and size charges may apply for which you are liable. Using special AP services such as Priority Paid, Parcel post, or Express post etc., also require you to pay the relevant fee.

In BUSINESS REPLY POST Permit Paid their return envelope is already addressed and advised you that the POSTAGE and FEE is paid by them – NOT you.

If envelopes are outside the following dimensions AP advises extra charges apply.

Minimum size 90 x 145mm (small)
(large)

Maximum size 130 x 240mm (small) 260 x 360mm

Maximum thickness 5mm (small)

20mm (large)

I cannot find reference to Permit Mail in the AP Regulations but REPLY PAID is.

Permit Mail (Postmaster General PMG)

There appears to be at least two types of Permit Mail. The first allows a business to mail out under certain conditions and the second is to allow customers to reply to the business using the business envelopes.

Figure 1 is the first type and Eric Frazer is liaison with Richard Breckon advise:

“The “Permit No” refers to Permit Mail for printed matter & commercial papers. These permits were renewed annually.

The “P.M. 243” stands for “Permit Melbourne”. Likewise, “P.S.” stands for “Permit Sydney” & similarly “P.B.” stands for “Permit Brisbane”.

The 2d is probably composed of 1½d permit mail rate plus the ½d War Tax (introduced late 1941).

Has anyone a copy of PS, PA, PB, etc please? I have never seen one.



Figure 1

The second type I am aware of is business mail which usually has a rectangular box with words such as:

BUSINESS REPLY POST

PERMIT NUMBER XXXXX – CITY

Postage and FEE will be paid on delivery to a specified address.

The customer could use any postage service to return the mail and the business would pay the postage and FEE. **Figures 2 and 3** refer.

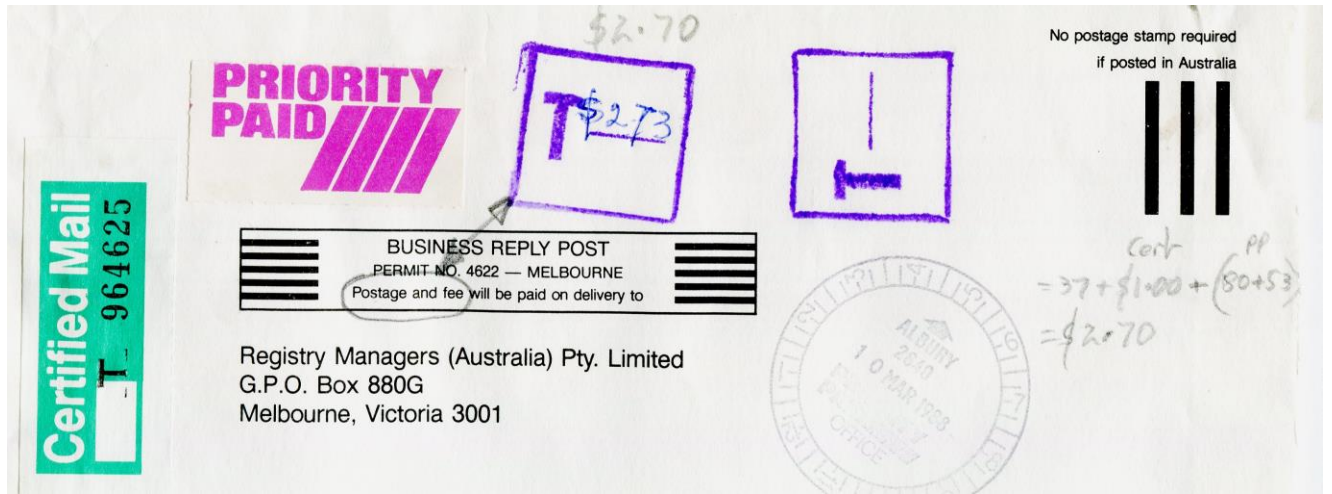


Figure 2



Figure 3

On both envelopes I have calculated the postage and fee due to the business and as both envelopes are DL if they are not overweight then my sums are amiss. Can anyone assist please?

Figure 2 charge is the postage and fee being \$2.70. The PO calculated at 3c higher.

Figure 3 the charge for postage and Certified fee (paid by sender) is only 37c for postage. The PO calculated it as 58c? The sender did NOT have to pay the Certified FEE as a condition of the Permit.

I can only assume it was overweight. Does anyone have the charges scales for overweight please?

Reply Paid mail (Australia Post AP)

REPLY PAID details can be found at:

https://auspost.com.au/content/dam/auspost_corp/media/documents/ap-terms-and-conditions.pdf.

Reply Paid makes it easy - and free - for your customers to reply to your communications.

As well as the Priority delivery, Reply Paid offers the option of a Regular delivery service.

- Increase responses to your communications - when you enclose a Reply Paid envelope, your customers **can respond quickly, easily and for free**
- Pay only for the articles that you receive.

You can use our Reply Paid service **Reply Paid Letters (Domestic)** - enclose a Reply Paid envelope, postcard, coupon, or self-mailer in 'Large' or 'Small' items sent within Australia.

9.1 A person lodging an article for carriage by post shall not use a postage paid imprint unless the imprint complies with the terms and conditions of the Australia Post Postage Paid Imprint Service.

14.2 The postage payable on an article carried by post under **the reply paid**, or key return services **shall be paid by the addressee!**

Basically – any prepaid envelope does not require a stamp (postage) by the returning person!

However, if you use an AP service e.g., Priority Paid, Parcel post, Express post **the sender MUST** pay the fee.

German MV *Iceberg* Maiden Voyage

Tony Lyon



Cover commemorating the maiden voyage of the German MV *Iceberg* to Antarctica 1984/1985. Postmarked Davis, AAT 1 Feb 1985.

Iconic Animals

Tony Lyon

First a bit of nonsense. I remember hearing this verse when I was young.

'The Elephant is a wonderful bird, that flits from bow to bow. Making its nest in rhubarb trees, And whistles like a cow.' (Author unknown. There are many versions and verses).

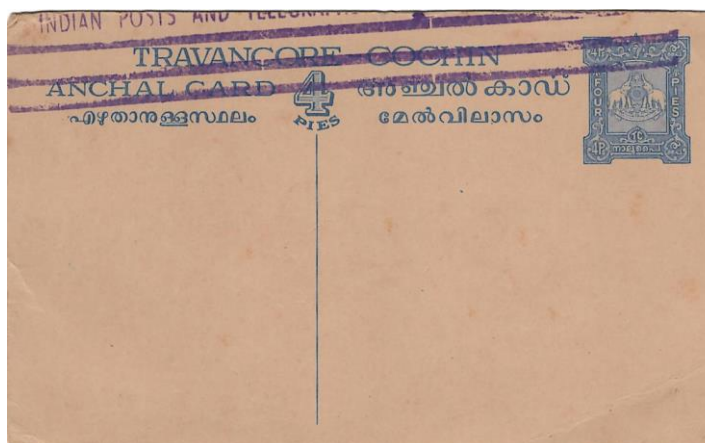


Fig. 1: 4 pies postal stationery card issued c 1949 overprinted 'Indian Posts and Telegraph'.

One of the sideline collections I have gathered over the years involves elephants. It is amazing how many issues have featured elephants. In the examples shown here on these postal stationery items, the elephant is part of the imprinted stamp or indicium.

Elephants are revered as a symbol of **good luck, prosperity, destroyer of evil, remover of obstacles, as well as strength, power, wisdom, memory, and vitality.** In India, there are millions of temples dedicated to the Elephant God, who has the head of an elephant and the body of a young boy.

After the amalgamation of the United States of Tiruvitamkur-Kochchi on April 1, 1951, huge unused stocks of Tiruvitamkur-Kochchi postal cards and envelopes remaining at different treasuries of Kerala state, were overprinted as late as in 1968 for exclusive use by the Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department for intra-departmental communication, though some examples are recorded sent to general public. Fig. 1:¹



Fig. 3 25 Reis Coat of Arms

The Indicum on the letter card represents the coat of arms of Mozambique Company.

The stamps in this extensive issue have been subject to many forgeries by L. Brückheimer, Seligmann, and Cross.²



Fig. 4 reverse photo Beira -Club do Sport.

Beira is located on the Mozambique Channel, an arm of the Indian Ocean located between Madagascar and Mozambique. A coastal city, it holds the regionally significant Port of Beira, which acts as a gateway for both the central interior portion of the country as well as the land-locked nations of Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi.

¹ <https://www.stampboards.com/viewtopic.php?t=60266> Internet accessed 9/8/2022.

² <http://stampforgeries.com/forged-stamps-of-mocambique-company/>

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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

Post card from Afghanistan

John Young

Tony and Maureen Wheeler, original publishers of Lonely Planet travel guides, started their business with a self-published 'Across Asia on the Cheap' in 1973. Starting from England they travelled overland through Asia, ending up in Australia. Part of the journey involved crossing Afghanistan, before the Russian invasion in 1979, the Taliban invasion, the US invasion, and the recent return of the Taliban. Tourists readily enough passed through Afghanistan, and in 1976 a German traveller sent a post card from Kabul to Mr. Hock of Clayton, Victoria.

The picture on the card shows an arch erected in 1928 by an Afghan ruler, part of a tourist attraction.

