

# Australian Journal of Philately

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

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<b>Date</b>	<b>2023 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
29 May 2023	John Young	Australian Commemoratives 1938-65 Post/Hist
21 August 2023	Tony Lyon & AGM	NZ Military WWII RNZAF
13 November 2023	TBA	TBA

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<b>Front Cover:</b>	

This airmail cover was sent from Nis in Serbia in mid-November 1955 to Mrs. Petkovic who lived in a railway cottage in Eudunda in South Australia.

It reminds us of the Southern Europeans who emigrated to Australia after the war, taking jobs in out of the way places with only basic living conditions.

The letter was registered, signifying a wide-spread distrust of sticky fingered postal officials, and cost 146 Yugoslav dinars to send. The back of the envelope is more ratty than the front, and the partial South Australian back stamp suggests an arrival date of 22 November.



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

It appears that Australia Post is taking a leaf out of the politicians textbook. I mean, tell the public how much is being lost and force the government to allow them to provide an even more abysmal service than currently.

Forget about the fact that for some, electronic communication is impossible, particularly the older person who never wanted to, or, the internet was just too complicated to them.

Once again the Australian Public is realising the stupidity of privatisation which to all intents and purposes was what happened to Australia Post.

This is going to have a greater impact than the government or Australia Post realises; not that they will care as long as their executives can continue to take home their bonuses.

It appears that they just want to be a parcels business. I wish them luck with that!

Another full journal again and although the members meeting is struggling to attract attendees, the journal continues to provide a quarterly output. If your interest is not being catered for please put pen to paper, or fingers to keyboard and send an article.

John Young's display in February was well worth seeing and what John displayed would be hard to duplicate.

The May member's meeting has been changed to 29th May and will feature a display by John Young, Australian Commemorative Postal History 1938-65

Until next time ciao.

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## From the President

### **John Young**

This post card is twice date-stamped Breslau, 13 Sept 1905. One date stamp is on the correct German franking, 10 Pfennig, and the other is on the Austrian 5 filler stamp. Why two postage stamps?

Breslau, now Wroclaw, Poland, was about 100 km from the border between Germany and Bohemia, then part of Austria. The view on the post card is of Riesengebirge, a border mountain resort. Apparently, this was sold with the Austrian stamp stuck on it and the sender carried it back to Breslau.

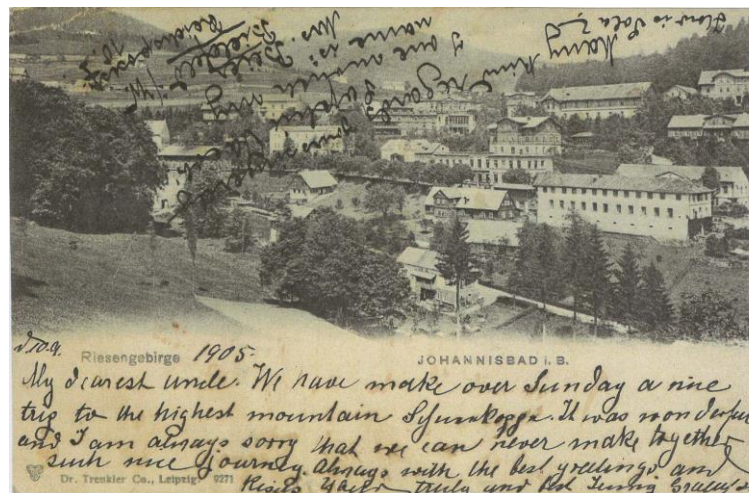
The addressee was Herman Graupner, the owner of one of several meat preserving works in the Melbourne suburb of Footscray, close to the Maribyrnong River. The river was a notorious sewer for effluent from noxious industries. Graupner also owned bone mills in Sims Street on the opposite (east) side of the Maribyrnong. The Sims Street land was later occupied by Billy Jackson's fellmongery and

wool scours, a slightly less noxious industry where this author's father and uncle found employment after the 1930s depression. The site is now used to store shipping containers. The meat preserving site now has a community arts centre and modern apartments with riverside views.



Addressed to Herman Graupner & Son's meat preserving work, Moreland Street (between Bunbury and Wingfield Str.) Footscray overlooking west side of the Maribyrnong River. Graupner also owned bone mills in Sims Street on the opposite side of the river.

Postcard depicts Riesengebirge, on German/Bohemian border, 100k. s/w of Breslau. Card apparently sold with a pre-affixed Austrian 5 filler stamp.



## Thematic Private Wrappers Depicting Organized Philately

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

Private wrappers are non-Post Office postal stationery wrappers. They do not show a prepaid indicium and accordingly fall within postal history. Some are collected for their postal history attributes and some are collected because of their scarcity and aesthetics. *The Journal of Australian Philately* (December 2022) discussed and illustrated how collections could be formed around private wrappers which have no overprinting. About 80% of private wrappers, however, do show private overprinting of seller details, and some wrappers include an illustration of the company logo or some other distinguishing characteristic. The nature of the illustrations lends themselves to social philately and thematic collecting. Two frequently recurring themes on private wrappers are religion and organized philately. The former includes wrappers of various missions in Africa and India as well as wrappers for official organs of many different religions. The latter group includes wrappers of various philatelic societies and other stamp organizations, exchange clubs and stamp publications. The purpose of this paper is to review and illustrate a selection of these non-Post Office wrappers with private overprinting to demonstrate the breadth and depth that is possible for developing a thematic collection.

A search of a little over 10,000 private wrappers revealed 428 wrappers or 4.3% showing overprinting about some aspect of philately covering 52 countries. The number of wrappers ascribed to each country (including user duplication) are shown in the following Table.

<b>Countries and Postal Entities with Overprinting about Philately on Private Wrappers</b>					
<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of Wrappers</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of Wrappers</b>	<b>Country</b>	<b>No. of Wrappers</b>
Argentina	6	France	65	Norway	2
Australia	7	Germany	13	Poland	2
Austria	3	Great Britain	94	Portugal	14
Azores	1	Greece	3	Russia	3
Belgium	12	Hungary	6	Ryukyus	2
Brazil	2	India	21	Solomon Is.	1
Canada	21	Ireland	12	South Africa	5
Chile	1	Italy	3	Spain	22
China	12	Japan	2	Sweden	1
Cuba	1	Latvia	17	Switzerland	9
Czechoslovakia	1	Malta	4	Taiwan	3
Denmark	1	Monaco	1	Thailand	1
Dominica	1	Morocco	2	USA	26
Egypt	4	Natal	1	Vatican	1
Estonia	4	Netherlands	1	Venezuela	1
Ethiopia	1	New South Wales	1	Yugoslavia	3
Fiji	4	New Zealand	9		
Finland	1	Newfoundland	4	<b>Total</b>	<b>428</b>

The exposition follows a traditional country approach. Wrappers with a philatelic organisation or publication are illustrated for a sample of 35 of the 52 countries.

### Argentina

According to the comprehensive website [www.geocities.ws/stamplink/i/xref/2soc-a.htm](http://www.geocities.ws/stamplink/i/xref/2soc-a.htm), there are 11 national philatelic organizations and another 92 local clubs listed in Argentina. How many used wrappers with their own private overprinting is not known but seeking an answer to this question could be a challenging research project for a thematic collector. This website should be examined for each country in the Table. For Argentina, the database has examples also of *Revista, órano del Club Agrupacion Filatelica* and *Envio de la La Filatelia Argentina*.



Figure 1 – Argentina: Jose Pardo y Aragues Filatelia Argentina; Revista, órgano del Club Union Filatelica Mundial

### Australia

Well over 100 societies, study circles and stamp clubs are listed on the geocities website for Australia and its States. The publications illustrated are the only ones recorded in the database.

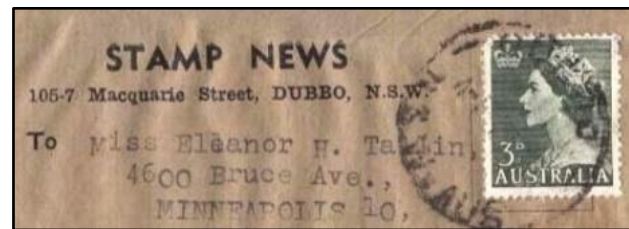
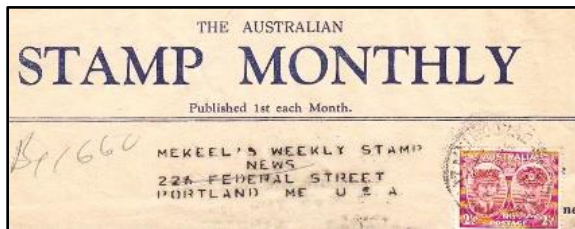


Figure 2 – The Australian Stamp Monthly; Stamp News

### Austria & Azores

Additional names in the database for Austria are *Adolf Kosel, Philatelist* and *The Stamp Dealers' Review* (trilingual in English, French and German).

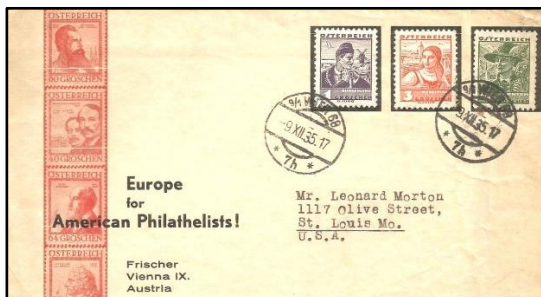


Figure 3 – Austria: Europe for American Philatelists!; Azores (Portugal): Açores Filatelico

### Belgium

There are 15 entries for Belgium on the geocities website. Other wrappers in the database are *Le Revue Postale, Organe de L'Union Philatelique de Bruxelles* and a copy of the London-based periodical *Stamp Collecting* but postmarked Antwerp 2 VII 1927 Anvers.

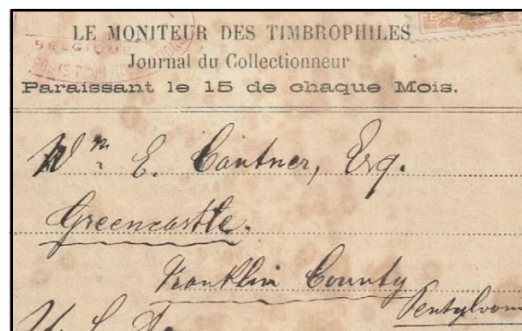
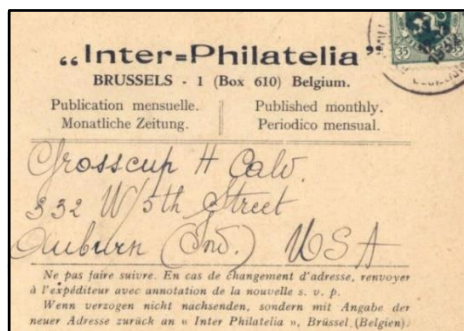


Figure 4 – Belgium: "Inter-Philatelia"; Le Moniteur des Timbrophiles

## Brazil

These two wrappers are the only ones recorded in the database for Brazil.



Figure 5 – Brazil: Centro Filatelico de Barreiros; Eco Philatelico da America do Sul

## Canada

There are a number of wrappers with philately as the overprinting theme on private wrappers of Canada. In addition to the two illustrated in Figure 6, one other user appears in the database: Wholesale Price Lists for *Marks Stamp Co.* Toronto.

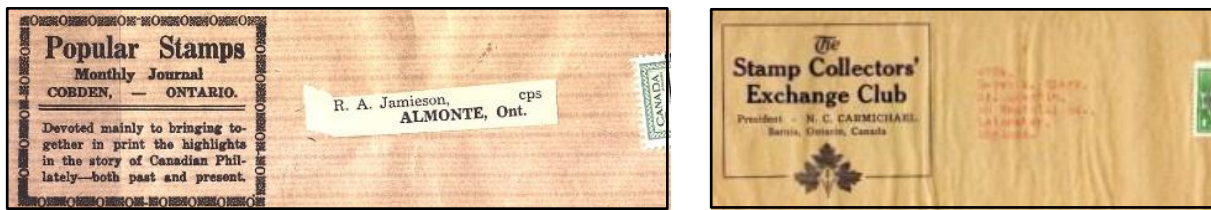


Figure 6 – Canada: Popular Stamps Monthly Journal; The Stamp Collectors' Exchange Club

## China & Cuba

There are two different illustrated versions of *The Asia Stamp Journal* for China. The illustrated wrapper of Cuba is the only example recorded.



Figure 7 – China: The Asia Stamp Journal; Cuba: Revista Filatélica de Cuba

## Denmark & Dominica

Those illustrated are the only examples for each of these two countries.

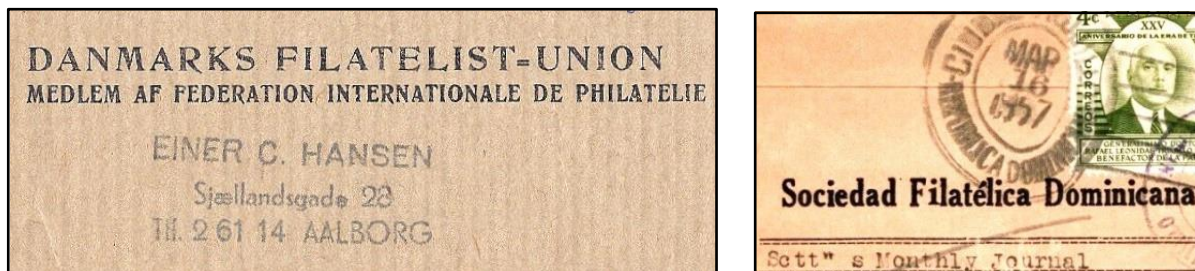


Figure 8 – Denmark: Danmarks Filatelist=Union; Dominica: Sociedad Filatélica Dominicana

## Egypt & Estonia

Those illustrated are the only examples for each of these two countries.



Figure 9 – Egypt: L'Orient Philatélique; Estonia: Philatelistline ajakiri

## France

There are a number of additional users of France with a philatelic connection: *Le Collectionneur de Timbres-Poste*, *“Havre Philatélique”*, *La Vie Philatélique*, *La Liaison Philatélique*, *La Philatélie Française*, *Le Questionneur Timbrophilique*, *Le Timbre-Poste*, *L'Écho Postal*, *Officiel de la Philatélie*, and *Philatélie Française*.



Figure 10 – France: La Philatélie Française; L'Écho de la Timbrologie

## Great Britain

The country with the largest number of wrappers with private overprinting with a philatelic theme is Great Britain. In addition to the two examples illustrated in Figure 11, the database shows another 18 users: *Avon Philatelic Company*, *Brighton Stamp Auctions*, *Philatelic Advertiser & Exchange*, *“The Philatelic Chronicle and Advertiser”*, *The Philatelic Circular*, *The Philatelic Exporter*, *The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain*, *The Philatelic Magazine*, *The Philatelic Trader*, *“The Philatelist”*, *The Stamp Advertiser*, *The Stamp and Postcard Advertiser*, *The Stamp Collector*, *The Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly*, *The Stamp Lover*, *The Stamp Trade*, *“Stamp Trade Advertiser”* and *Vindin's Stamp Trade Journal*.



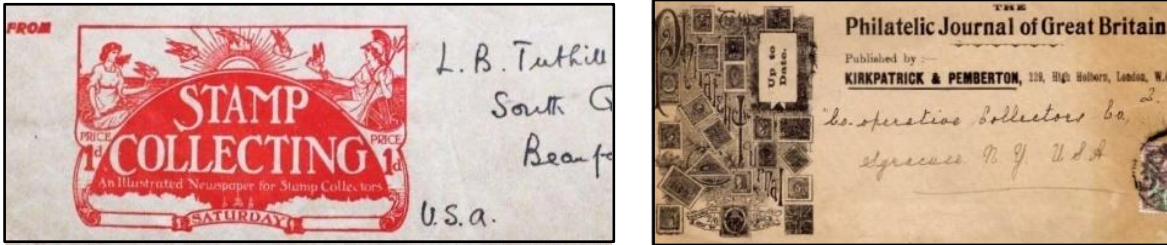


Figure 11 – Great Britain: Stamp Collecting; The Philatelic Journal of Great Britain

### Greece & Hungary

There are no other users for Greece and only one additional user for Hungary: *Lénárt Béla*, postage stamps exporter.



Figure 12 – Greece: Journal “Philotelia”; Hungary: Béla Szekula (Internationale Philatelisten)

### India

One additional user for India is *The Philatelic Publishing Co.*

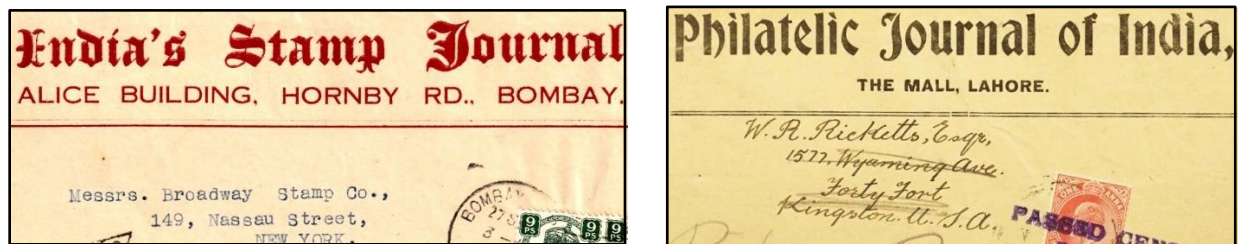


Figure 13 – India: India's Stamp Journal; Philatelic Journal of India

### Ireland & Italy

The firm of *Price & Co.*, were stamp dealers, located in Dublin, Ireland. They occasionally identified themselves on the wrapper with the message: Postmaster: Philatelic Mail, Please Cancel Lightly. The illustrated wrapper is the only recorded example in the database printed in the Irish language. There was one additional user for Italy: *Il Corriere Filatelico*.

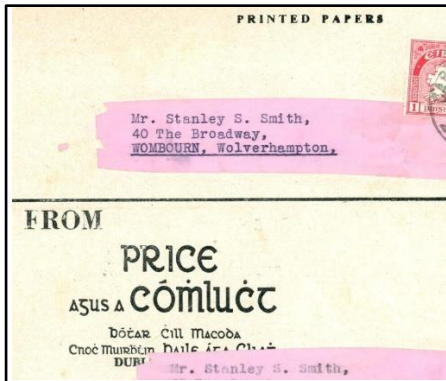


Figure 14 – Ireland: Price & Co.; Italy: Italia Filatelica

**Latvia & Malta**

For Latvia, the additional users were “*Der Baltische Philatelist*” and *The Latvian Exchange Club* (International Journal for Publicity, Philatelists and Collectors). For Malta, the other user was *The Malta Philatelic Society*.

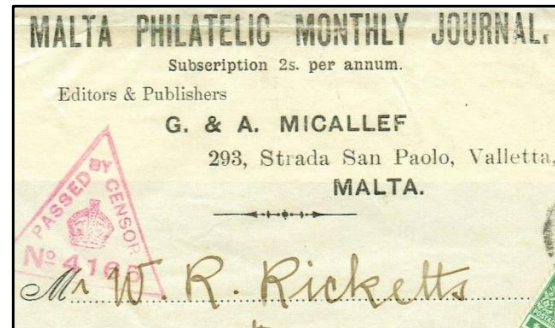


Figure 15 – Latvia: “Baltika”; Malta: Malta Philatelic Monthly Journal

**Monaco & Morocco**

The only user of Monaco in the database is the wrapper illustrated. For Morocco, an additional user is *Dispensé du Timbrage* (Import-Export International).



Figure 16 – Monaco: La Liaison Philatelique; Morocco: Bulletin de la Philatélie au Maroc

**New South Wales & New Zealand**

The only user of New South Wales in the database is illustrated. Other users for New Zealand are: *The N.Z. Collectors’ Exchange*, and *Pacific Stamp Review*.

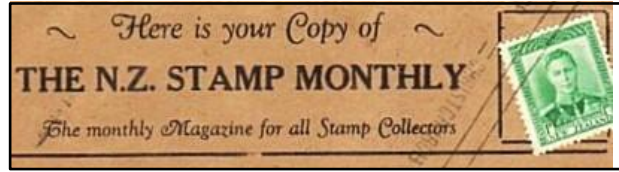


Figure 17 – New South Wales: The Australian Journal of Philately; New Zealand: The N.Z. Stamp Monthly

### Newfoundland & Norway

There are no users for these two countries recorded in the database other than those illustrated.

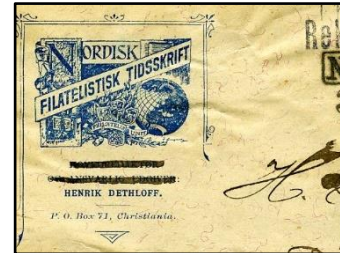
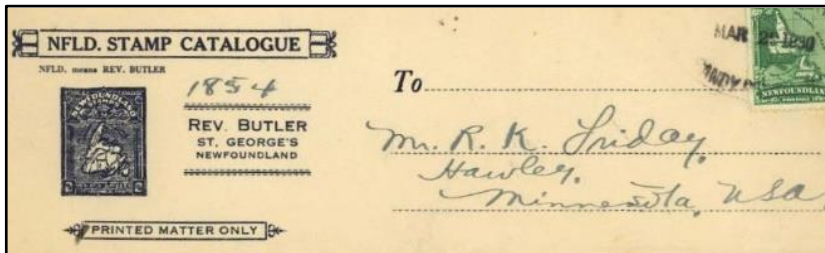


Figure 18 – Newfoundland: Rev. Butler's Newfoundland Stamp Catalogue; Norway: Nordisk Filatelistisk Tidsskrift

### Portugal & Russia

For Portugal the additional users are *O Filatelista*, "*Portugal Filatelico*" and *Revista Philatelica Portuguesa*. No additional users for Russia appear in the database.



Figure 19 – Portugal: "Mercado Filatélico"; Russia: "Der Sowiet Philatelist"

### South Africa & Spain

There was no other user for South Africa. For Spain though there were *Agencia Filatélica Hispanoamericana*, *Boletín Filatélico Español*, *Madrid Filatélico*, and *Publicidad Filatélica*.

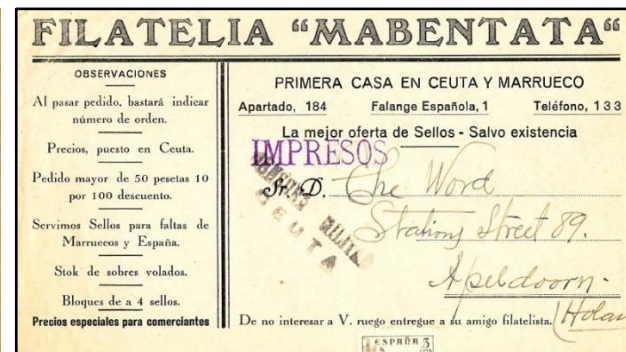
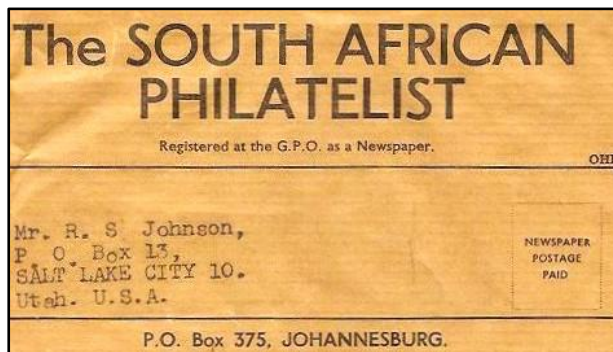


Figure 20 – South Africa: The South Africa Philatelist; Spain: Filatelia "Mabentata"

## USA

There are a number of users of USA wrappers in the database: *Mekeel's News and Trade Circular*, *The Philatelic Journal of America*, *The Philatelic Herald*, *Philatelic Library Association*, "Postal Stationery", *The Scott Stamp & Coin Co., Ltd.*, *The Stamp Wholesaler*, *Stamp World*, *Stamps*, and *The Postage Stamp*.

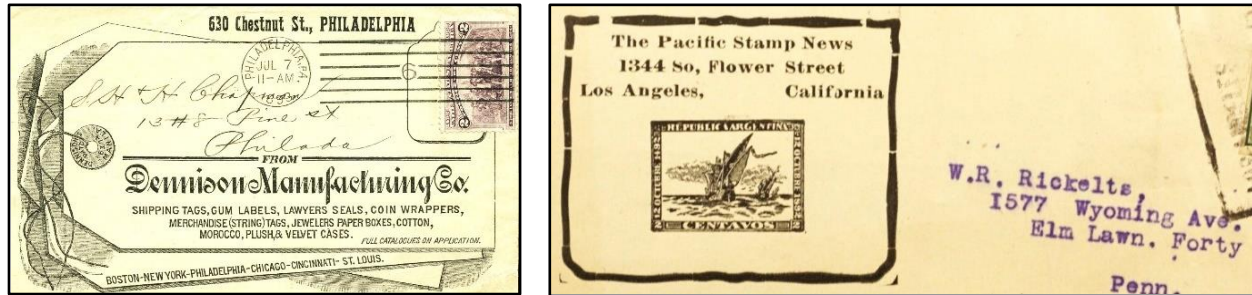


Figure 21 – Dennison Manufacturing Co. (stamp hinges); The Pacific Stamp News

## Venezuela & Yugoslavia

The wrappers illustrated in Figure 22 are the only examples for each of these two countries.

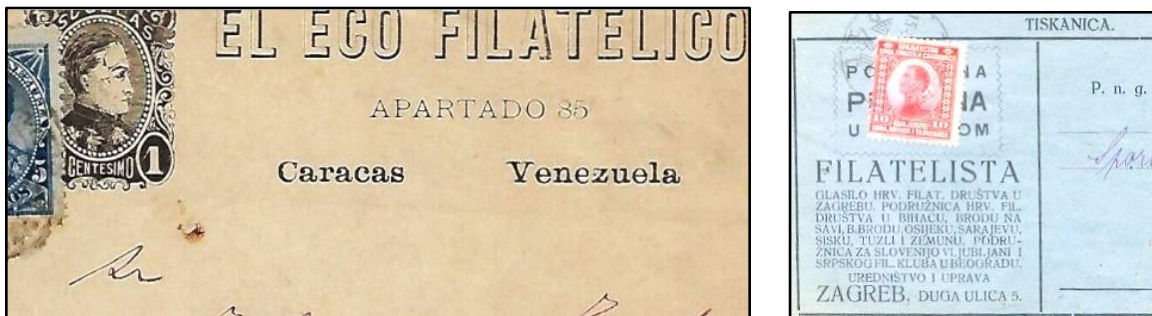


Figure 22 – Venezuela: El Eco Filatelico; Yugoslavia: Filatelista

This sample is evidence that a thematic collection can be developed from private overprinted wrappers.

## WARNING – TIME WHEEL ISSUES

**By Brian Fuller**

All Priority Paid Time wheels need standardized measurement system being aware some may have worn slightly oval. They also need supporting descriptions especially noting anomalies.

The M of Melbourne with its sometime sloping letters rather than upright is important as is the shape of the time pointer! Do not forget the period marks or their absence.

The time displayed on the wheel and its divisions also to be recorded.

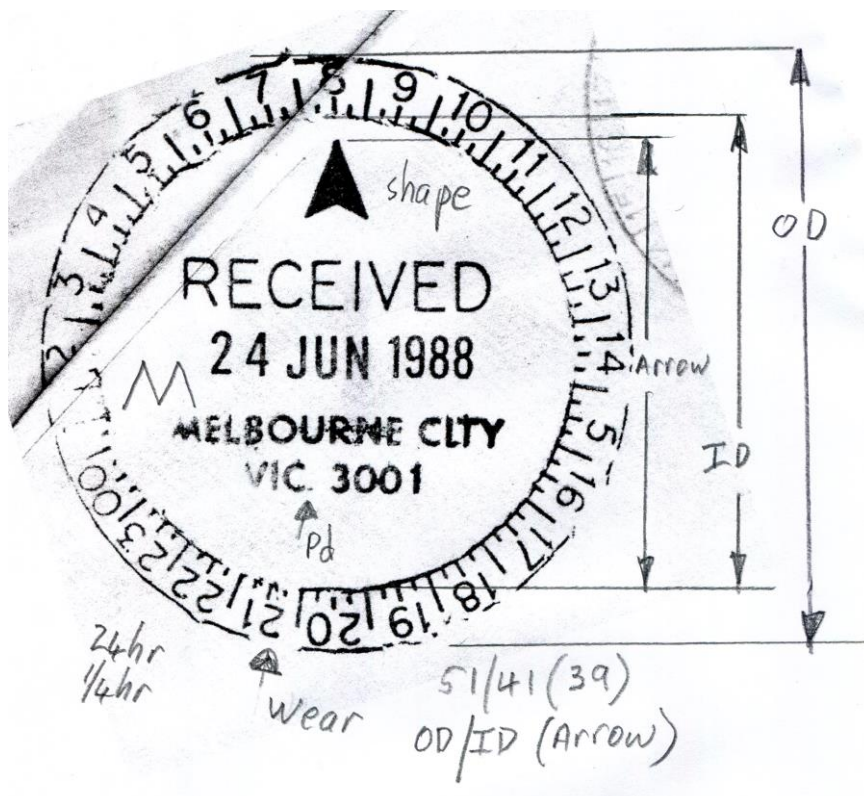
Some wheels are exceedingly worn, and their physical state recorded.

The function of the wheel: whether PRIORITY PAID, EXPRESS COURIER, RECEIVED, TIME ACTION AND BOX ROOM and should be kept as separate issues and preferably in a chronological time sequence. These functions may be written with curved or linear print.

The PLACE of use as written on the wheel is exceptionally important.

The colour of the wheel impression should be recorded - RED, BLACK, PURPLE, GREEN, BLUE, etc.

Outside Diameters (OD) are measured through the pointer to the opposite outer circumference. The Inner Diameter (ID) is also measured through the pointer to the opposite inner circumference. The arrow is measured from the inner circumference to the tip of the pointer. A is for Arrow. Very few wheels I have are distorted/oval. The description is OD/ID (A). A must always be smaller than ID. See drawing.



Note any anomalies e.g., the wheel above has the time 14, 5, then 16. Many wheels also have 5 for 15.

Richard Peck in 1984 produced a remarkable book on AUSTRALIAN POSTAL HISTORY – PRIORITY PAID MAIL. He covers virtually the whole of Australia's wheels with illustrations of many functions. He does not include measurements and he covers all States including Victoria generally obviously up to 1984. Richard covers a very wide range of Priority Paid mail, not just wheels, and is an informative read.

I specifically concentrate on MELBOURNE Mail Centres e.g., Spencer St MC, Melbourne MC, Melbourne City MC, MELBOURNE CITY and the GPO. I do not address the Victorian State MC as that is a separate task. There are only a few International MC (IMC) wheels and are at the end of the document.

I have collected many wheels and am surprised at the various sizes and colours. I obviously have sample issues, some with only one of each etc. However, thanks to COVID another shoebox has been sorted!

If you have different samples, please send me a clear copy with your wheel's dimensions. Obviously double checking when dimensions are similar. I am sure I do not have them all!

### LIST AND QUANTITY OF VARIOUS WHEEL DESIGNS I HAVE MELBOURNE Mail Centres, MELBOURNE CITY/GPO

(P) = all purple ink (R) = all Red ink Time shown on wheel - hours then division.

No	TYPES	DESCRIPTION	TIME
1	1 A	TIME/ACTION TAKEN/D/MAIL OPENING /SECTION/CITY 40/30 (29) 2JUL70 (P)	12 ¼
2	all similar? A B	Curved RECEIVED/D/Spencer St. Mail Centre/Melbourne Vic./3000 (Size of lettering may minutely differ!) 49/38 (33) 6AUG81(P) – 29APR82 49/38 (34) 1APR80 (P) – 27DEC82	24 ¼ 24 ¼
3	2 A B	PRIORITY/PAID 1111/D/Melbourne City /Mail Centre/Vic. 3000 50/41 (38) 14OCT94(P) 4 Bars 1111 51/41 (38) 30JUN94(P) 1 Bar - damaged/cutdown?	24 ¼ 24 ¼
4	1 A	TIME ACTION/D/MELB. CITY/VIC. 3001/BX 50/37 (34) 14SEP83(P)	24 ¼
5	1 A	RECEIVED/D/Private Box Room(?)/Melbourne(?)/Vic. 3000 49/38/ (36) 15DEC89(P)	12 ⅓
6	1 A	RECEIVED/D/Private Box Room/slope Melbourne/Mail Centre/Vic 3000 51/41 (38) 25FEB92(P)	24 ¼
7	9 A B C D E F G H	RECEIVED/D/MELBOURNE CITY/VIC. 3001 52/43 (39) 13MAR91Black 52/42 (39) 20JUN89(P) – 12FEB91 Blue 51/41 (38) 30JUN88(P) – 18OCT88 52/42 (38) 13OCT89(P) – 21JAN90 51/41 (37) 8MAY88(P) – 4JAN89 5 not 15 51/41 (39) 30MAR88(P) – 12OCT88 5 not 15 52/43 (38) 3MAY89(P) – 27JUN91 52/41 (38) 3OCT89(P) 5 not 15	24 ½ 24 ½ 24 ¼ 24 ½ 24 ¼ 24 ¼ 12 ¼ 24 ¼

	I	51/42 (38)	16MAY89 Green	12 ¼
<b>No</b>	<b>TYPES</b>	<b>DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>TIME</b>
8	4	TIME ACTION/D/MELB. CITY/VIC.3001		
	A	49/37 (31)	8MAR87 (P)– 12MAY87	24 ¼
	B	52/41 (35)	8FEB88(P) – 23MAR88	24 ¼
	C	52/43 (37)	23FEB89(P)	12 ½
	D	16NOV88(P)		24 ¼
	E	52/42 (38)	Cutdown 21MAR91 Black	24 ½
9	2	TIME/ACTION TAKEN/a.m./D/Melb. City/VIC. 3000		
	A	52/41 (39)	23DEC70(P) – 14FEB73	12 ¼
	B	52/40 (39)	23JAN76(P)	12 ¼
10	3	TIME ACTION/a.m./D/Melb City/Vic, 3000		
	A	45/35 (31)	22MAR74(P) – 28NOV75	12 ¼
	B	45/35 (33)	10NOV77(P)	12 ¼
	C	44/34 (31)	4NOV74(P) – 3JUN75	12 ¼
11	1	Inverted V/p.m./D/MELB.CITY/VIC. 3000		
	A	51/41 (39)	26OCT76(P)	12 ¼
12	5	TIME ACTION/D/MELB. CITY/VIC 3000		
	A	51/41 (36)	17JUL86(P)	12 ½
	B	51/41 (34)	20NOV86(P)	24 ¼
	C	50/38 (32)	12JAN87(P) – 4JAN88	24 ¼
	D	51/40 (33)	2DEC86(P)	24 ¼
	E	52/40 (34)	27OCT86(P) – 5NOV86	24 ¼
13	7	TIME ACTION/D/ MELB. CITY/VIC. 3000		
	A	51/40 (33)	2DEC85(P) – 31DEC85	24 ½
	B	51/41 (32)	11APR84(P) – 6OCT84 (Shaved top of T)	24 ½
	C	49/39 (34)	31MAR82(P)	24 ¼
	D	42/35 (30)	14DEC83(P) – 5MAR84	24 ½
	E	42/34 (29)	9DEC83 (P) – 3MAY84	24 ½
	F	49/38 (36)	30JUL84 (P) – 15NOV84	24 ¼
	G	53/41 (36)	31JUL85(P)	24 ¼
14	1	TIME ACTION/D/ MELB CITY/VIC. 3000		
	A	51/40 (35)	21AUG85(P)	24 ¼
15	2	TIME ACTION/D/ MELB CITY/VIC 3000		
	A	51/40 (34)	30JUL86(P)	24 ¼
	B	49/37 (32)	13FEB87(P)	24 ¼
16	1	curved RECEIVED/D/ MELBOURNE CITY/VIC. 3000		
	A	49/37 (34)	1DEC87(P)	24 ¼
17	2	curved RECEIVED/D/ MELBOURNE CITY/VIC, 3000		
	A	48/37 (33)	6APR89(P)	24 ¼
	B	48/38 (34)	21JAN89(P) - 22FEB89	24 ¼
18	3	PRIORITY/PAID 1111/D/G.P.O. Melbourne, /Vic. 3000		
	A	50/38 (36)	27SEP91(P)	24 ¼
	B	49/37 (36)	16OCT91(P)	24 ¼
	C	50/38 (37)	22OCT90(P)	24 ¼

No	TYPES	DESCRIPTION	TIME
19	1	PRIORITY/PAID 1111/D/G.P.O./Melbourne, /Vic. 3000	
	A	51/41 (38) 30NOV88(P) Weird – spaces	12 ½
20	1	PRIORITY/PAID 1111/D/G.P.O./Melbourne, /Vic. 3000	
	A	49/37 (26) 17FEB93 Black –15MAR93(located 21P)	24 ¼
21	16	PRIORITY/PAID 1111/D/slope Melbourne/ Mail Centre/Vic. 3000	
	A	51/42 (39) 7MAR85(R) – 9JUL85	24 ½
	B	50/39 (36) 30JAN86(R)	24 ¼
	C	49/38 (36) 29APR86(R) – 9APR91	24 ¼
	D	50/38 (37) 9JUL86(R)	24 ¼
	E	51/40 (38) 7JAN87(R)	24 ¼
	F	52/42 (40) 24JUN86 (P) - 22MAY87(R)	24 ½
	G	52/46 (37) 13FEB92(R)	12 ¼
	H	50/38 (36) 20MAR84(P) – 8MAR85	24 ¼
	I	49/38 (37) 10APR86(P)	24 ¼
	J	51/40 (39) 15DEC86(P)	24 ¼
	K	52/41 (37) 25JUL87(Blue) – 18JAN93(P)	24 ¼
	L	52/40 (38) 3MAR87(P)	24 ¼
	M	52/41 (39) 10NOV87(P)	24 ¼
	N	52/43 (40) 17DEC87(P) – 4MAY88	24 ½
	O	49/38 (36) 28SEP88(P) – 31OCT88 Different to 21C	24 ¼
	P	51/41 (38) 14JAN87(P) – 20JUL88 (R) – 15MAR93(P)	24 ¼
22	3	RECEIVED/D/slope Melbourne/Mail Centre/Vic. 3000	
	A	52/41 (39) 8AUG89(R) – 26AUG89 + 5JAN90(P)	24 ¼
	B	52/41 (38) 23SEP86(P) – 2SEP90	24 ¼
	C	52/43 (39) 5JAN89(P) – 25MAY89	24 ½
23	2	curved RECEIVED/D/Melbourne Mail Centre/Melbourne Vic/3000	
	A	49/37 (32) 19JUL83(R) – 3OCT83(P)	24 ¼
	B	49/38 (34) 27NOV84(P) – 1OCT85	24 ¼
24	1	RECEIVED/D/??/CUSTOMER SUPPORT/MELBOURNE CITY/003-000	
	A	52/41 (37?) 1DEC94(P)	12 ¼
25	3	EXPRESS COURIER/D/Melbourne/Mail Centre/VIC. 3000	
	A	52/41 (32) 17NOV88(P) – 26NOV88	Weird spaces but 12 ½
26	1	curved RECEIVED/D/MELBOURNE CITY/VIC. 3001	
	A	49/38 (35) 1NOV88(P) – 25NOV88	24 ¼
27	1	curved RECEIVED/D/MELBOURNE MAIL CENTRE/MELBOURNE VIC/3000	
	A	49/38 (33) 23JUN83(P) – 25MAY84	24 ¼
28	1	curved RECEIVED/D/slope Melbourne/Mail Centre/Vic.3000	
	A	49/38 (33) 5FEB86(P) – 16APR87	24 ¼

### International MC

During my 1982 visit to the International MC (IMC) in their Airmail Outmail Section one proof strike and 1987 IMC visit in the International Priority Paid Section two proof strikes of wheels were available. Otherwise, I have three others on commercial mail.



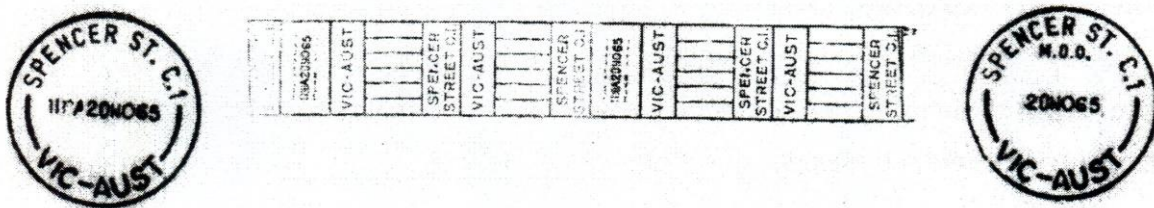
No	TYPES	DESCRIPTION	TIME
1	1 A	curved RECEIVED/D/INTERNATIONAL/MAIL CENTRE 50/38(34) 14APR82(R) Proof strike	24 ¼
2	1 A	curved RECEIVED/D/INTERNATIONAL/MC VIC. 54/42(35) 05JAN87 Blue Proof strike	24 ¼
3	1 A	curved RECEIVED/D/INTERNATIONAL/ MAIL CENTRE 49/38(34) -5JAN87(P) Proof strike	12 ¼
4	2 A B	RECEIVED/D/INTERNATIONAL/MAIL CENTRE 51/41(39) 20NOV89 Blue 51/41(38) 20JAN97 Blue	24 ¼
5	1 A	RECEIVED/D/INTERNATIONAL/MC/VIC. 51/41(38) 23APR87 Blue	24 ¼

**SPENCER STREET PO C1 Extra Cancels  
MOO and No Number plus hand roller**

**Brian Fuller**

My previous dissertation on the Spencer St facilities (Australian Journal of Philately No 160 JUN2022 pp19 – 29) has been found wanting due to my fault entirely. I do possess Ken Sparks' book, "The Melbourne Mail Exchange 1917 – 1988 A history of its postal mechanisation" but neglected to read it in its entirety being satisfied with the MME construction details.

Had I looked at the top of page 13 more closely there were some vital details on the Spencer St PO (SSPO). Ken shows copies of SSPO cancels I neglected to include thus:



These significantly add to my paper and SSPO history. Please incorporate them in your records.

# The 1870's forgeries: The End of a Myth (III): Part 11

## Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Part 1 was published in AJP 161 September 2022.

### Supposed Certainties



Fig. 32: Original forgery (Spud Papers)



Fig. 33: Album Weeds' illustration

With a *stamp collecting* boom in the early 1870's and a parallel increase of forgeries on the market, an infallible guide for detecting forgeries arose: the *Spud Papers*. This series of articles is important because of both the descriptions of the forgeries and for the samples of actual fakes fixed to the pages of the published reviews. In the later editions of *Album Weeds* that quality got lost, because the fakes were replaced by typographed stamp illustrations.

We must be very cautious because the descriptions were focused on the forgeries marketed at that time, supposed to be all Spiro-facsimiles. So, comparing descriptions of genuine and fakes in the articles are only partly applicable to other contemporaneous or later forgeries. Forged Lübeck-samples, e.g. (fig. 27/28), found in different examples in the same issue of *The Philatelist*, show two different types of forgeries. Only one of these corresponds to the given description. The Lübeck-forgeries represent only one of several cases, where supposed Spiro-forgeries were mixed up with fakes of different origin.



Figs. 34 & 35 Spud Papers: two different types of forgeries (different dotted background and upper and lower central ornaments)

We may consider these errors as a peccadillo, but there's another much more serious aspect. Although the illustrations included are an infallible base for a direct comparison, the descriptions are not because their ownership is erroneously attributed to the "Spiros" facsimiles. The *Spud Papers* have generally been considered a handbook for detecting Spiro-forgeries. Recent research casts some doubt on that claim.

Lowell Ragatz was the first to doubt the quality in his revision of the *Spud Papers* in the 1950's. He qualified the specimens described as "chiefly" made by the Hamburg Spiro brothers.<sup>1</sup> There was harsh criticism of my publication on a related aspect of our problem, which of the supposed Spiro-sheets were offered and sold by the Swiss forger François Fournier. This obliged me to complement my intuitive assertions of the authorship of the *Spud Papers*-samples by a rigorous comparison of the forged samples fixed to the pages of TPh.<sup>2</sup> A first partial study (*Spud Papers* I-XIX) gave an extrapolated result of about 20% of not "Spiro"-forgeries for the whole book.<sup>3</sup> A second study of all the items and articles (I-LXVII) showed that more than 30% of the affixed forgeries were not "Spiros". Rather they were Torres/Usigli-forgeries, identified by their different cancels.<sup>4</sup> More recently published results suggest that up to 40% of those forgeries were erroneously declared "Spiros".<sup>5</sup>

## Our Black List

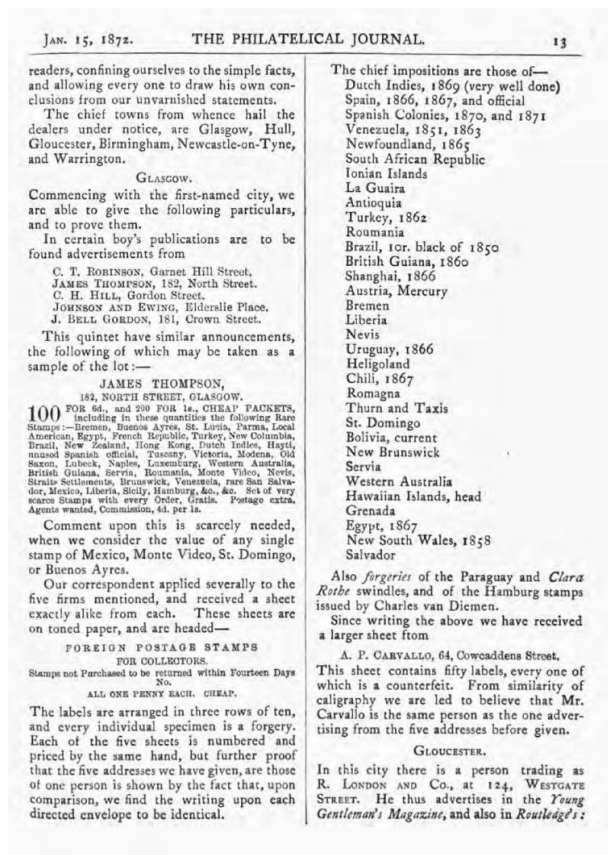


Fig. 36: "Thompson List" (Philatelic Journal)

In January 1872 *The Philatelic Journal* started a campaign against the forgeries that had started to massively invade the philatelic market two years before. The stamp expert W. Dudley Atlee published in this journal the *Bogus Novelties* and *Our Black List*, a series of articles additional to the *Spud Papers*. In opposition to the latter, the *Black List* aimed to denounce the merchants dealing in forgeries.

The first article presents a large list of forgeries the author had acquired at the Glasgow dealer, James Thompson.<sup>6</sup> The list names 39 forged issues of 33 countries. Countries with more than one forged issue include Spain and colonies (five) and Venezuela (two). In three cases (Thurn and Taxis, Hawaii and La Guaira) it is not clear which issue is meant.

Thompson's offer shows a 95% coincidence with the early forgeries produced until 1865. All further forgeries of later issued stamps from 1867 on, are known as Torres/Usigli forgeries. For nearly all those issues *Album Weeds* shows in 1882, ten years later, only one forgery for all those affected issues. Therefore, I conclude that they are the Italian-made imitations.

<sup>1</sup> Lowell Ragatz: *The Spud Papers*, Emile Bertrand, Lucerne 1951, *Introductory Essay*, p.8.

<sup>2</sup> GLV: *The purported "Spiro sheets" of Roumania. Who really made them?* [RoumS], London Philatelist, vol. 129, n° 1475, May 2020.

<sup>3</sup> GLV: *Die Spud Papers*, Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung [DBZ] 22, Okt. 2020, p. 14-26.

<sup>4</sup> GLV: *The Spud Papers 'errors. The Confusion of the British Experts* [Confusion], Stamp Lover, vol. 113, n° 2, April 20 21, p. 44-46.

<sup>5</sup> GLV: *What Cuban forgeries reveal about the "Spiros"*, [Cuba], Journal of Cuban Philately, vol. 11, n° 4, issue 42, Oct-Dec. 2020.

<sup>6</sup> PhJ, Jan. 1872, p. 13.

## The Hull Syndicate

Atlee lists the chief towns with delinquent dealers as Glasgow, Hull, Gloucester, Birmingham, Newcastle-on-Tyne and Warrington. Hull was the most active place, due to a business managed by C. H. Calvert. A partial list of 13 different forged issues has to be added to the various facsimiles mentioned in the *Spud Papers*. Since the article was published in January 1872, the facsimiles referenced are the forged stamps of the twenty issues presented in *The Philatelist* during 1871, fixed to the pages of the articles I-XI. 16 of those 20 are clearly identified as Torres/Usigli-products by their cancels.<sup>7</sup> In three cases (Turkey, Lübeck, South African Republic) the cancels applied are not conclusive. Only the sample of New South Wales was undoubtedly made by a different forger.

Mr. Calvert is not the only dealer in Hull. Atlee's comparison of selling lists and ordered samples shows, that although Calvert manages the trade under different names and addresses, "... the directions upon the covers received from the three firms are in the same handwriting". The article makes clear, that the stamps offered by Mr. Calvert and his associates are the same as those in Glasgow from Mr. Thompson's sales pitch, all being of Italian provenance. The analysis of later selling lists and samples of other Hull dealers confirms that named were selling the same facsimiles (fig. 36).<sup>8</sup> Calvert had built up a large distribution network. The other Hull merchants sold the same forged ware.

Complementing his selling efforts, Calvert launched four different magazines to promote his products, starting in 1870 by publishing *The Stamp Journal and Philatelic Guide*. In August 1871 the *Stamp Collectors' Herald and Monthly Exchange Advertiser* [SCH] followed (?) this first publication.

Calvert founded an illegal stamp and exchange agency called *The Yorkshire Stamp Union*. A prize draw with prizes worth £20 was organized in autumn 1871, and a Xmas draw with £70 in prizes. Winners were named To create confidence in potential clients. All the 100 winners received stamp packets, not cash. Each issue contained a prize puzzle to entice clients, but no stamp-advertisements from outside the network were admitted.

HULL.

Here we have a *tria juncta in uno*, trading as  
C. H. CALVERT & Co., 63, Derringham Street.  
CLAYBURN, DIXON & Co., 29, Trinity Street.  
SIDNEY SIMPSON & Co., George Yard.

Under the auspices of the first named, the *Stamp Collector's Herald* was, (and perhaps is,) published.

This sheet is the organ of a *soi disant* "Yorkshire Stamp Union," the result of whose operations cannot be said to have reflected credit on its promoters. In defiance of the act against lotteries, tickets are sold for chances in a "prize drawing." The list of prizes is a showy and alluring one, but the glory of being a winner, pales when it is found that the "rare stamps" are barefaced imposters.

There are now before us two sheets headed

FOREIGN POSTAL STAMPS FOR COLLECTORS,  
and containing forty-nine stamps in seven rows, with ruling in red between each copy. One sheet is from Sidney Simpson and Co., and the other from Clayburn, Dixon and Co., and every label, upon each of them, is a counterfeit. Calvert and Co. sell similar forgeries, and the directions upon the covers received from the three several firms are in the same hand.

This Hull association appears to deal chiefly in the various fac-similes mentioned in the *Spud Papers*, and also, among others, the following:—

Mexico—Hidalgo, eagle, Juarez.  
Spain—official, 1866, 1867.  
Cuba, 1870.  
St. Domingo.  
South Australia.  
New Zealand.  
Ceylon.  
Hong Kong.  
Sicily.  
Guatemala and Clara Rothe swindles.

Fig. 37: Calvert's general offer

<sup>7</sup> See 31/32.

<sup>8</sup> SCH, 1872, p. 46.

Launching a fourth magazine in 1873, *The Stamp Review and Quarterly Advertiser* [SRQ], Calvert made a new attempt to maintain his public trade. He now overtly offered his facsimiles as well as his pricelists for supposedly genuine stamps (fig. 38). believe, that the activities of the whole group came to an end with the second of the SRQ. All those dealers disappeared from the scene. This close-down of the whole system in 1873 is probably due to the constant efforts of Atlee denouncing them in his articles.

Those activities are reminiscent of the Preston syndicate in the mid 1860's<sup>9</sup> but direct contact with the Italian source has not yet been demonstrated. The first issue of SCH contained a supplement with 20 stamp illustrations, produced by Torres and distributed by his patron Usigli, the same ones we find in the leading British, French and in Moens' *Le Timbre Poste*.<sup>10</sup> Calvert used both illustrations of stamps issued in previous years, and he showed within two months the same illustrations of newly issued stamps, that the above-mentioned magazines had recently published numbers (see figure 39).

None of were named could be found in the street directories of Hull. From now on the marketing of those Italian products in England changed. Pemberton estimated before, that four-fifths of the forgery trade was based on direct selling. Now the remaining fifth also disappeared from the accessible advertisements of the stamp magazines. Hence there is no real chance to trace these further activities.

**THE STAMP REVIEW.**

*Published on the 26th of March, June, Sept. and Dec.*

Annual Subscribers only are supplied with an edition expressly printed on superior TONED PAPER.  
Annual Subscription 6d Post Free.

AGENTS WANTED TO SELL THE STAMP REVIEW.

N.B.—SIX Copies of the present number sent Post Free to any address for Two Stamps.

**Chas. H. Calvert & Co.,**  
Derringham Street, HULL.

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Foreign Stamps, both new and old, Are by Chas. H. Calvert sold.

**1000** GENUINE FOREIGN STAMPS for HALF-A-CROWN. 60 Stamps, 12 Crests, and two Post Cards, for 7d., post free; unused Post Cards 1d. and 1d. each. New French Republic, Servia, and Spanish Stamps at 1d. each, unused. Others in proportion. All warranted genuine. Stamps sent on approval, post free. Illustrated Almanac for 1873, 44 pages, gratis.

CHAS. H. CALVERT & Co.,  
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**F**AC SIMILES.

**F**AC SIMILES of rare Stamps.

**F**AC SIMILES of rare Stamps C. H. Calvert & Co., have for Sale 500 varieties of the above.

**F**AC SIMILES of rare Stamps, or of such as cannot easily be obtained. C. H. Calvert & Co., can supply 500 varieties of the above at 1s. 6d. per 100.

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**F**AC SIMILES of rare Stamps. Sample Packet containing 25 selected, post free, 6d.

C. H. CALVERT & Co.,  
Derringham Street, Hull.

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**100** FOREIGN STAMPS WARRANTED GENUINE, AND

**20** CRESTS & MONOGRAMS, and

**4** POST CARDS, including the celebrated German Field Post Card

**A**LL FOR ONE SHILLING, Post Free, from

**CHAS. H. CALVERT & CO.,**  
Derringham-street, Hull.

---

**A** RMS, CRESTS, AND MONOGRAMS.

**A** RMS, CRESTS & MONOGRAMS, No. 1 packet contains 30 selected, post free, 7d. C. H. Calvert & Co. Hull.

---

THE

**E**XCELSIOR CREST PACKETS, 6d to 10s 6d, post free.  
Calvert & Co., Derringham-st., Hull.

---

THE

**E**XCELSIOR CREST PACKETS, Prospectus post free.  
Calvert & Co., Crest Merchants, Hull.

---

**D**EALERS send One Stamp for New Wholesale List, for dealers only, ready 1st May.  
Calvert & Co., Derringham-st., Hull.

Fig. 38: Calvert's facsimile-offer

CHAS. H. CALVERT & CO., Derringham Street, HULL.

**ILLUSTRATED SUPPLEMENT, NO. 1.**

			
ANTIGUA.	BADEN.	BAHAMAS.	FIJI TIMES.
			
SANDWICH ISLES.	BARBADOS.	SANDWICH ISLES.	BERMUDA.
	Commission für Retourbriefe Augsburg.		
BRITISH COLUMBIA.	AUGSBERG.	BRITISH HONDURAS.	INDIA.
			
SANDWICH ISLES.	QUEENSLAND.	SANDWICH ISLES.	CANADA.
			
AUSTRIA.	BADEN.	AUSTRIA.	SANDWICH ISLES

Fig. 39: Calvert's stamp illustrations

<sup>9</sup> GLV, Myth (II)

<sup>10</sup> GLV: *Les graveurs de Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung, 4/2019, p. 126-131, 7-8/2019, p. 246-253.

## The inconsistencies with the Spiro problem



Fig. 40: Typical “Spiro”-cancel

Before we examine the Spiro-problem, let's recall some important basics. Recent studies have shown that the facsimiles sold by the Hamburg Spiro brothers were Italian-made and have nothing to do with the so-called “Spiros”.<sup>11</sup> Many of the so-called ‘Spiro’ 5x5-sheets, also believed to be later sold by Fournier and currently available on internet stamp auctions, are not made by Spiro.<sup>12</sup> One of the supposed Spiro-cancels (see fig. 41) turns out not to be a “Spiro”-product.<sup>13</sup> Also my work demonstrates that the *Spud Papers* cannot be trusted a handbook to detect “Spiro”-forgeries.<sup>14</sup>

People, including me, used to speak of the “Spiros” as forgeries, as if they knew them well. I have now learnt that it is not clear, when they appeared on the market nor what identifies those items, nor who really made them. Unlike the imitations made by Oneglia or Fournier, we do not have any document or sheet of stamps as proof, that it originates from “Spiro”.

### A new empirical approach

The foregoing obliges us to set a new basis to define what we really mean, when speaking of the “Spiros”. I refer to all those forgeries that bear the typical and “Spiro”-cancel (fig.40), which we find on forgeries of over seventy countries. I also refer their previously unknown maker, maintaining this term, although it is clear that the Hamburg Spiro brothers have nothing to do with them.



Fig. 41: : Supposed “Spiro”, in reality a Torres-cancel



Fig. 42: Spud Papers “Spiro”-cancel (2x5 central segments)

<sup>11</sup> GLV, MYTH (I).

<sup>12</sup> GLV, RoumS. *Los supuestos pliegos “Spiro” de Venezuela*, Timbre 41, set.-ene. 2020/21, p. 21-29.

<sup>13</sup> GLV, Cuba.

<sup>14</sup> Confusion.



Fig. 43: Spiro-alike Torres-cancel (2x6 central segments)



Fig. 44 Spiro-like octagonal cancel

Ironically, the only starting point to define a “Spiro”-forgery is the cancel applied to many of the supposed Torres/Usigli-forgeries in the pages of the *Spud Paper* articles.<sup>15</sup> The very first time such a cancellation is described is in October 1871 (fig. 42).<sup>16</sup> Hence multiples with one or other cancels beside the “emblematic Spiro” allow us to discover other “safe” cancels and to determinate the types of forgeries involved.

We have to be cautious because the problem resides also in the certainty of identification of those obliterations, that often appear in part on the stamps. Most people are not aware that there are many similar “emblematic Spiro” genuine postmarks as well as fake-cancels to confuse us (fig. 40-45). The number of the semi-circles between the upper and lower parallel horizontal lines varies from one to eight, whilst the number of horizontal bars varies from three to five. Its elliptical shape can easily be confused with a very similar octogon.

### Cancellations – a new basic reference

No previous systematic approach to these forgeries has been made through the postmarks they bear, The *Spud Papers* gave first hints examining the genuine postmarks rather than the counterfeited, and then using the fake-samples as an optical aid for their detection. The book *Album Weeds* also gives descriptions of the applied fake-cancels, including a classification scheme with hand-drawn illustrations. Despite this aid, the obliterations are often difficult to identify, because of the lack of a detailed description. The “Fournier-Album” depicts various hundreds of different cancels which the Swiss “art editor” applied to his products. Some of them, like the “oval grid” (fig. 45), an imitation of a common genuine Spanish postal cancel, were also copied by other forgers.



Fig. 45: Fournier (Spanish) grid-cancel

The handbook on forgeries of Stiedl and Billig does not draw on cancels, illustrated by photos of mostly uncanceled fakes. The only useful work is the *Klaseboer CD-ROM-catalogue* that makes a first attempt to classify forgeries through their cancels, but not daring to attribute their authorship to specific forgers. An unknown article in a Dutch magazine shows a complete list of the issues, where one of the most emblematic Torres/Usigli-cancels is applied, but attributes it to the “Spiros”.<sup>17</sup>

<sup>15</sup> See XXXIV, XXXVII, XXXVIII, XLIV, XLV, XLVII, XLVIII, XLIX, LVI, LX, LXII, LXVII.

<sup>16</sup> *Spud Papers* IX, New South Wales.

<sup>17</sup> Hans Vinkenborg: Een valse stempel, toegeschreven aan Spiro. <https://docplayer.nl/37171947-Een-valse-stempel-toegeschreven-aan-spiro-door-hans-j-a-vinkenborg.html>

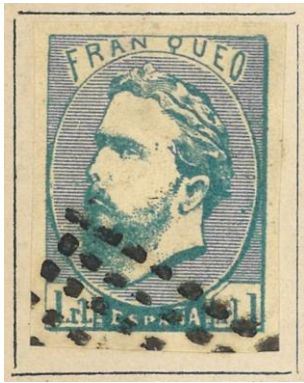


Fig. 46: Spud Papers Spain; "Spiro" or only "Spiro"-alike cancel?



Fig. 47: see caption for 48.



Fig. 48: mirrored Fournier printing plate and part of a sheet of the same type (until the date considered a "Spiro"-forgery)



Fig. 51:



Fig. 49:

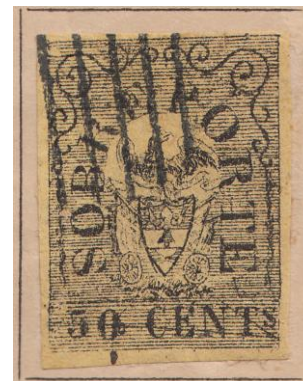


Fig. 50:

Figs. 49 – 51: : Unsafe Torres-cancels

Although there exists no general database, the postmark focused identification is used for the supposed "Spiro"- and for the Oneglia-forgeries by many collectors and dealers. The "Oneglia-biography" serves as reference for the Italian "artist".<sup>18</sup>

A further problem present are the cancels used by the Swiss Fournier. The tale that he had sold a lot of 'Spiro-made' facsimiles complicates the identification of his own, imitated postmarks (see fig. 46). This situation has never been thoroughly verified; to what extent is this reselling practise really true? Recent partial studies of the cancels on Fournier forgeries show that is impossible to distinguish the origins of different easy-to-imitate cancels, used by various forgers. This suggest that the story of Fournier's profusely selling of Spiro-facsimiles might be a fairy tale.<sup>19</sup> A recent study of early Brazilian forgeries demonstrates, through finding an original Fournier printing-plate (fig. 47), that an entire 5x5 sheet, previously described by experts as a "Spiro"-forgery (fig. 48) was misidentified.<sup>20</sup>

### The cancels of the *Spud Papers*

<sup>18</sup> Robson Lowe, Carl Walske: *The Oneglia-engraved forgeries*, commonly attributed to Angelo Panelli, Bendon, Cyprus 1996.

<sup>19</sup> See footnote 41.

<sup>20</sup> GLV: *Was uns die bunten Katzenaugen über Fournier erzählen. Ein kritischer Blick auf ihre Fälschungen*. Arbeitsgemeinschaft Brasilien, Forschungsbericht 90.





Fig. 52: Goldner or Torres-cancel?

As the studies described show, not all samples in pages of the *Spud Papers* were “Spiros”. That implication does not allow us to reverse the conclusion and suppose that all other forgeries and their postmarks are automatically Torres/Usigli-products. Beside the identified cancels of both forgers, there are others that cannot currently be attributed to either (fig. 49-51). In various further cases (Purporting to be from Peru, Lübeck, Dutch Indies, Japan and Guatemala) there exist very similar forgeries, in some cases with very similar cancellations. Neither of the two candidates can be conclusively identified or excluded as their author. In the case of some old German States’ forgeries (e.g., Saxony and Oldenburg) we must consider the possibility that we are dealing with a third forger because of the very different and specific cancels we find on some of those copies (fig. 52).

### The safe “Spiro”-cancels and “Spiro”-sheets



Fig. 53: The most typical “Spiro”-cancel

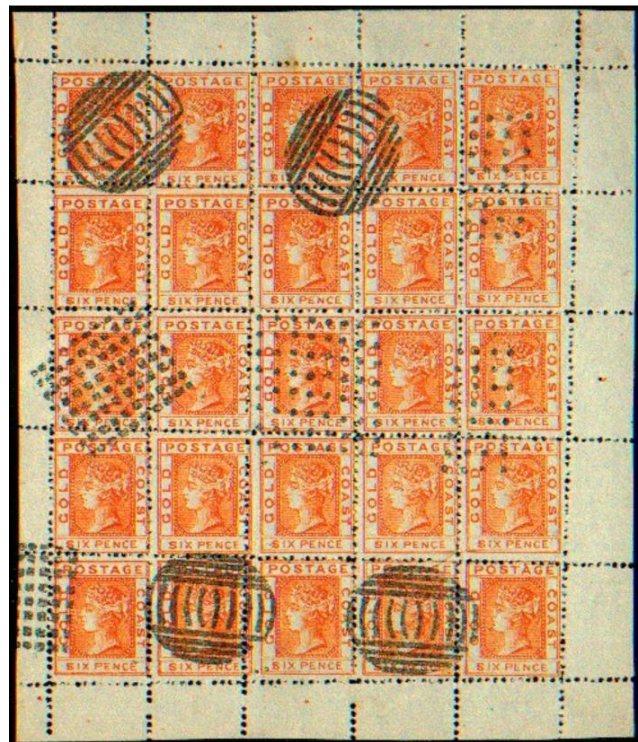


Fig. 54: Safe “Spiro”-cancels on whole Gold Coast sheet

The only definite “Spiro”-cancel, the most typical, surprisingly appears on a limited number of entire sheets. I found our emblematic cancel as the only one used on six issues out of 50 of 200 documented complete (5x5) panes. About a dozen further cancels, applied together with our “emblematic” one on other entire sheets or multiples of Egypt, Orange Free State, Gold Coast and Sierra Leone, allow to accept them as well as safe “Spiros”. “Spiro”-forgeries must be identified by this procedure to verify others and possible unused “Spiro”-samples,

enabling us to find out the details of their design that distinguishes them from the original and the other forgeries.

### **Spiro and Fournier**



Figs. 55 & 56: Torres (Spud Papers) and "Spiro"-cancel on PSNC-samples

Some supposed "Spiro"-sheets (Buenos Aires 1860; Romania, Venezuela and Brazil 1843) have already been analysed and compared with other forgeries by this procedure. The surprising results were published and the cited have to be excluded from the list of "Spiro"-sheets.<sup>21</sup> There are still a lot of suspicious candidates to be revised, e.g. The sheets of the Virgin Islands, later Brazil-issues and the PSNC- "Spiros". Until corresponding evidence is not found to be present, none of those 5x5- sheets can be considered a safely identified "Spiro"-product.

### **The Torres/Usigli-cancels**



Fig. 57 & 58: Typical "ARREGONDO"-fake-cancel on Argentina and Oldenburg stamp

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<sup>21</sup> See footnotes 30, 41 and 47.



Figs. 59 & 60: Typical "CORREOS"-fake-cancel on Jamaica and United States



Fig. 61: Various Torres-cancels on Uruguayan forgeries

We are lucky that some of Torres' typical forging extravagancies are also visible in the design and application of his most frequent cancels on his counterfeits.<sup>22</sup> Other forgers used cancels specifically for one country, often with corresponding town-names and made fake-cancels, that give us hints to their pretended provenance. However, Torres blithely applied his specific and unspecific fake-cancels worldwide. The ARREGONDO-cancels, errors from the genuine Uruguayan ARREDONDO-cancel, are applied to Mexican, Argentinian and Oldenburg stamps.<sup>23</sup> His more general CORREOS-cancel appears on both stamps of Spanish-speaking countries, and on forgeries of Baden, Jamaica, South Australia and USA.

### The difficulties to distinguish forgeries

During my research on the Torres-forgeries, I could not distinguish between some of his copies and the corresponding "Spiros" in several cases until the different cancels helped to detect minor differences. A lot of forgeries are affected (Bolivia, Chile, Jamaica, New Brunswick, Orange Free State, PSNC, Virgin Islands).

<sup>22</sup> GLV: *Un fallo lo tiene cualquiera. Siguiendo las huellas de un falsificador*, Chile Filatélico, n° 299, tomo XXIX, mayo-octubre 2019, p. 39-43.

<sup>23</sup> See GLV: TorresBio, 2<sup>nd</sup> part (Fake Gallery).



Fig. 62 & 63: Bolivia forgeries (“Spiro” left). Errors [QUINHENTOS] copied from Torres with an additional [ROLIVIA]-“error”

The Bolivian-forgeries of the 1869-issue were made by both forgers. Beside the cancels, the exaggerated inclination of the value ciphers in most of the Torres-fakes marks the difference. Strangely both versions show in two values the same inscription-errors: CINCOQENTA instead of CINCUUENTA and the Portuguese influenced form **QUINHENTOS** instead of **QUINIIENTOS**. In addition, our first sample shows another, very telling inscription “error”. The initial character of the country name is changed and reads now “**ROLIVIA**” (fig. 62). This fault is not repeated in (fig. 63).

I believe the only explanation for this strange finding is that one set of imitations was not copied from the genuine stamp, but from a forgery that already had those “errors”. This would be difficult to detect if one does not know Spanish and Portuguese. The author of the *Album Weeds* discovered the first error, but not the second.<sup>24</sup>

The question is: which was the model or who copied from whom? Torres’ mania to introduce inscription “errors” in his fakes is well known. These kinds of errors cannot be found in the “Spiros”, except for the forgeries of the Bolivian (cited above) and part of the British Guiana issue of 1860-64.



To the right - Figs. 64 & 65: Torres-“errors” [RETIMUSQUE] copied from Torres

Below – Figs. 66 – 68: Torres-“error” [VICISIM] not copied by “Spiro” (fig. 66)



<sup>24</sup> *Album Weeds*, 1<sup>st</sup> edition, p. 34-35.

In the British Guiana issues of 1856, the initial “P” of the motto [“PETIMUS”] is converted into an “R” [“RETIMUS”] in both forgeries. You require the use of a magnifying glass to reveal further differences. In the 6 and 24p values with the redrawn design of the 1863 and the later issues there is no documented “Spiro”-version that shows a similar particularity whereas the Torres forgeries do. Hence, the corresponding “Spiros” were clearly copied from a genuine sample. However, some of the Torres-fakes, show another error in which the second “S” of “VICISSIM” is converted into the Greek letter “ε” [VICISEIM] (fig. 66).

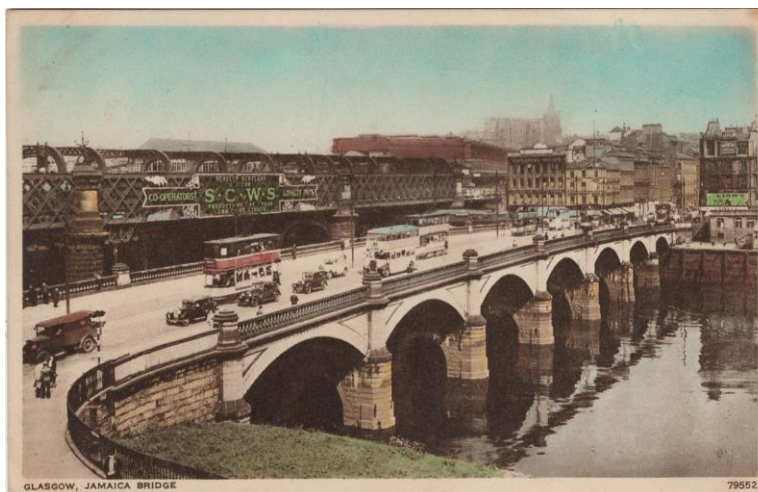
The fact that Torres/Usigli-forgeries had already been detected in the market some years before the first “Spiros” were documented, is considered to be conclusive, confirming that Spiro copied both issues from a Torres-forgery.

To be continued.

## A Gallimaufry of New Zealand WW2 Covers, Etc

**Tony Lyon**

I have collected over the years, various items which relate to my interest of New Zealand WW 11 involvement. I occasionally come across postcards that have ben sent by a person serving. They are not readily available but do add another dimension to a display.



An example of an OAS postcard which was posted by Private William Alfred Burgess, Army No. 6306 to his father New Plymouth, N.Z.

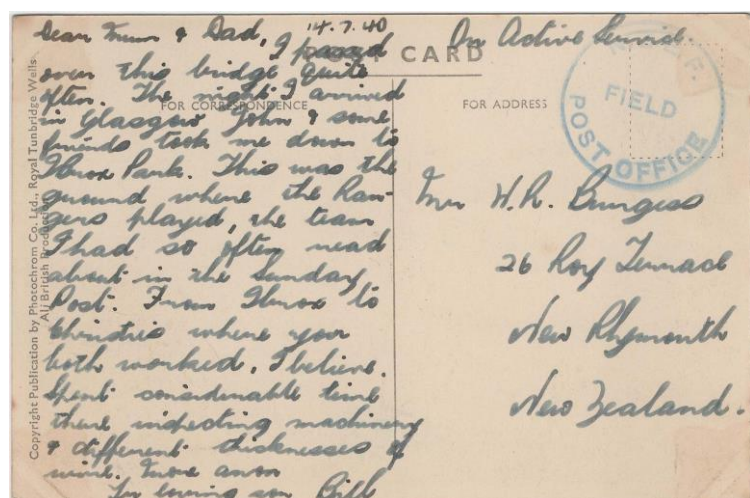
Burgess is shown has being part of the 1<sup>st</sup> echelon which doesn't make sense in regard to this postcard as the first echelon arrived in Egypt around the 12<sup>th</sup> of February, 1940.

Why doesn't it make sense! Because if he was with the first echelon he would have been in

Caption: Glasgow, Jamaica Bridge

Egypt. But the date of this postcard is 14 July 1940. And he talks about having passed over this bridge.

Checking further, the Auckland Museum online Cenotaph says he was with the 2<sup>nd</sup> echelon. This makes sense of the postcard as on the 10 June 1940, Italy entered the war and the 2<sup>nd</sup> echelon destined for Egypt was diverted to the UK. The convoy anchored in the Firth of Clyde off Greenock, and disembarkation began on the 17<sup>th</sup> June 1940.



Further proof that Burgess was with the 2<sup>nd</sup> echelon can be found in the Official History, "1 NZ General Hospital was operating in England" in July 1940. The "medical units of the Second Echelon in England arrived at Helwan on 17 September, 1940." <sup>1</sup>

### N.Z.E.F Middle East – Official War Photographs

Attached are two official photographs from the Middle East.



Fig. 1: Pursuit of the Axis Forces, Nov./Dec. 1942

5775

Fig. 1 & 2: Daba, an important supply centre and aerodrome for Axis forces, with its wrecked railway transport and abandoned equipment bears graphic testimony to the speed of the Allied advance and the thoroughness with which the RAF "did it over".

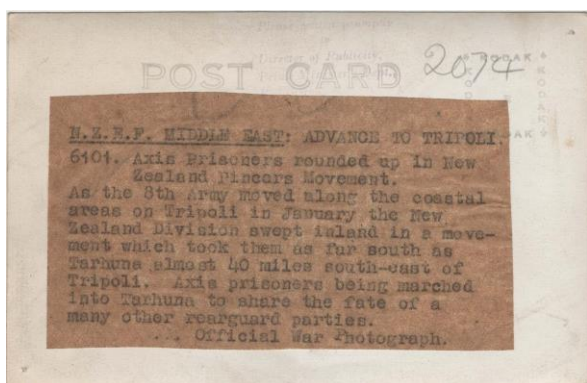


Fig.3: reverse of postcard.

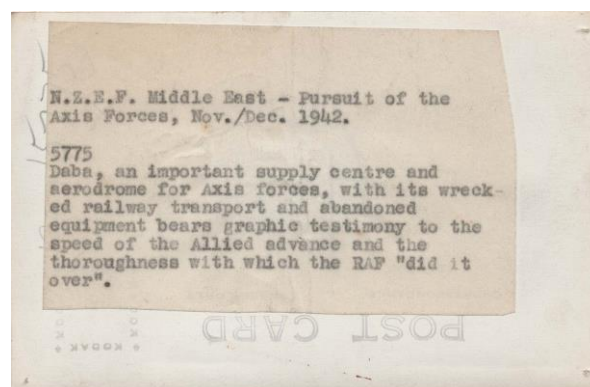


Fig. 2: reverse of postcard.



Fig. 4: Advance to Tripoli

61010

Figs. 2 & 3: Axis prisoners rounded up in New Zealand Pincer Movement. AS the 8<sup>th</sup> Army moved along the coastal areas on Tripoli in January the New Zealand Division wept inland in a movement which took them as far south as Toruna almost 40 miles south-east of Tripoli. Axis prisoners being marched into Toruna to share the fate of many rearguard parties.

<sup>1</sup> Stout T. & Duncan M. (1956). *New Zealand Medical Services in Middle East and Italy*. Part of: The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939–1945. Pg. 56-59. Wellington: Part of: The Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939–1945.

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## What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society?

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

## Back Cover Story: Harris Scarfe Limited

### John Young

The front cover illustration shows a printed-matter envelope from Harris Scarfe Ltd, Adelaide, date stamped 1931. The stamp is punctured HS, which so weakened the stamp that it tore in half.

Harris Scarfe began as an ironmongery wholesaler named Landon and Harris in Handley Street in 1850. It diversified into household, agricultural and industrial products by the 1870s, and had a good catalogue business. It also manufactured some products and put their name on others: the text on the envelope advertises the company's HSL car batteries.



The Harris Scarfe that we now know came about when the company was merged with Tasmania's Charles Davis department stores in 1976. Since then, Harris Scarfe has gone through numerous takeovers and near-death financial upsets. It survives as a chain of about fifty every-day department stores.

1931. Printed-matter envelope franked with one penny Geo V green stamp punctured H S.



The Rose Series P. 11139 post card showing Rundle Street, Looking East, Adelaide, S.A. Harris Scarfe Limited at top right corner of photo.