

# 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>
23 October 2023	AGM - Tony Lyon	NZ Military WWII RNZAF
20 November 2023	Brian Fuller	Antarctic Postal History
19 February 2024	Ian Sadler	Rajasthan Stamps and PH

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<b>Germany</b>	

1905, 10pf, surface mail. Date stamped Breslau, now Wroclaw, Poland. Addressed to Herman Graupner & Son meat preserver work, Moreland Street (between Bumbury and Wingfield Sts.), Footscray overlooking west side of the Maribyrnong River. Graupner also owned bone mills in Sims Street on the opposite side of the river.

See page 20 for reverse side of post card.



## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Thank you to those who submitted articles as it keeps the journal rolling on. Brian Fuller has been busy sorting through the material that we have seen him accumulating over many years. Sometimes one wondered if he would be able to make head or tail of it. But again, we see that he has presented his considerable research which will be appreciated in years to come.

I remembered that I started in 2016 a series looking at the Palestine Pictorial issues 1927-48 during the British Mandate period. Finally, I have presented part 3 which was not easy. It seems from my research that internal usage is a lot less common than I would have thought.

I will be giving a display of RNZAF WWII covers at the October meeting which has been rescheduled to October 23. You are very welcome to attend.

Thanks again to John Courtis and John Young for their contributions. They are much appreciated.

Until next time ciao.

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## From the President

### Gre Gre Village, Victoria

Who has heard of Gre Gre Village? It was shown on a mining districts map [1869] as an unnamed village reserve on the Avon River in Victoria's Wimmera region. The nearest town was St Arnaud, 18 km east-north-east, where gold was first found in 1854. The village reserve was little more than an idea.

By the 1860s ex-miners were on the hunt for farmland. The area around the village reserve was opened up for selection in 1866, but the land was more fit for grazing than cultivation. Only the cheapness of the farm rents within 10 miles of St Arnaud drew enough farmers to make Gre Gre a settled district.

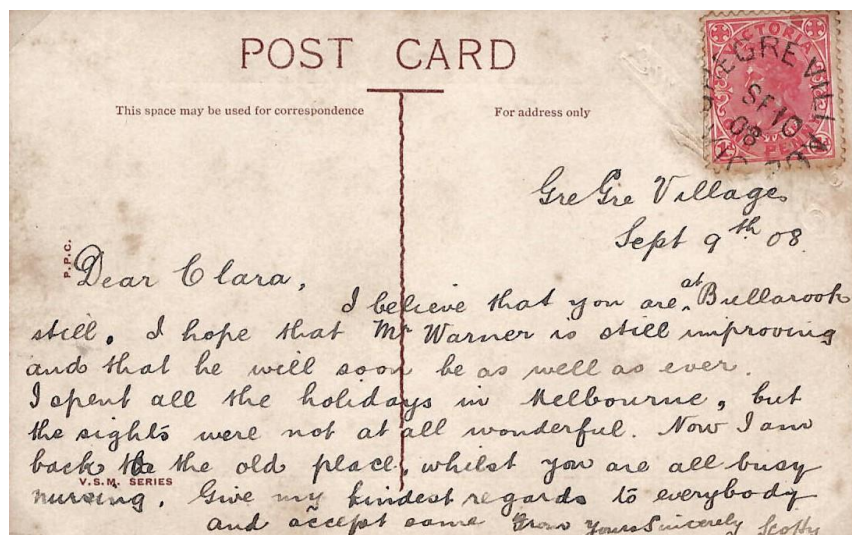
In 1875 families petitioned for opening of a government school. One was opened in 1881, close to the Avon River, two years before a post office opened.

Gre Gre Village never got beyond being a village. It had a blacksmith, a hall [1923], picnic race meetings and a ten-member football team which played nearby Traynor's Lagoon and Avon plains teams.

There are not a lot of Gre Gre Village date stamps to be found. The post card shown here is dated September 9, 1908, and contains a neatly written message from Gre Gre Village. It was unaddressed, and someone removed the stamp from the envelope and affixed it to the post card.

Fortunately, the stamp holds a nearly complete impression of the date stamp. Thanks are owed to a conscientious post office official and the recipient of the post card.

The school closed in 1936 and the post office closed in 1969. One day I hope to call by there and see what remains.



1908 Correspondence and date stamp, 10 Sept 1908. Stamp apparently removed from envelope and affixed to postcard which is dated 9 Sept 1908.



Picture of Yarra Bank Gardens, Melbourne



## Official Government Wrappers Franked with Stamps

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

Official wrappers were overprinted for government and municipal use and bear a simplistic O.H.M.S. or some variation. They can be found with Post Office indicium, with their own non-denominated indicium, with adhesives and with no evidence of postage. The major focus in this paper is Official wrappers franked with stamps. They are unambiguously postal history because they do not bear a prepaid Post Office indicium. The area of official wrappers (and lettersheets) is less developed in philately. It is difficult to find appropriate literature on the subject, outside of some excellent Great Britain-based publications, (for example, Wiseman 1990 and Brightmore 1982). These overprinted official wrappers can be studied for their postal history attributes, for the social philately backstories of government departments and publications, and a class of thematics in their own right.

Compared with other types of postal wrappers officials are uncommon. Out of a study of 10,350 private wrappers (i.e., non-Post Office types), 170 showed overprinting of an official title or the use of an official stamp. Of the 170, only 77 paid the postage using postage stamps, the others showing free franks of one kind or another or nothing at all. The percentage of official wrappers paid with postage stamps is .007 of 10,350, or approximately ¾%. Although the 77 examples cover 33 countries, as a sub-set of official wrappers they are elusive. Those that have appeared on the internet (mostly eBay) since 2006 are summarised in the following Table. A selection of 32 official wrappers appears in the following Figures.

**Countries with Official Private Wrappers Franked with Stamps**

Country	Number	Country	Number	Country	Number
Antigua	1	Honduras	2	Portugal	1
Argentina	5	India	14	Rhodesia	1
Australia	4	Indian States	1	Sierra Leone	1
Austria	1	Israel	2	South Africa	2
Belgium	3	Jamaica	2	South West Africa	1
Brazil	1	Mozambique	1	Spain	1
British Central Africa	1	New Zealand	7	Tonga	1
British New Guinea	1	Pakistan	1	Uganda	1
Canada	4	Papua New Guinea	5	Victoria	1
Ethiopia	1	Peru	1	Wurttemberg	1
Great Britain	6	Philippines	1	Yugoslavia	1

For purposes of exposition, and to keep pagination within reasonable limits, countries have been presented in pairs, even though they have no relationship to one another except alphabetically. The image of each official wrapper has been cropped to show only the basic and important details.

## Antigua & Argentina

The Antigua illustration in Figure 1 is the only example of this country in the database. Argentina has also *División de Immigration* and *Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores*.



Figure 1 – Antigua: On His Majesty's Service; Argentina: Secretaria del Ministerio de Guerra

## Australia & Austria

Australia has three additional official wrappers overprinted: *On Her Majesty's Service* for the *Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics*; the *Publication Branch, Department of Agriculture*, Melbourne; and the *Department of Public Lands, Brisbane*. Austria though has only this example.

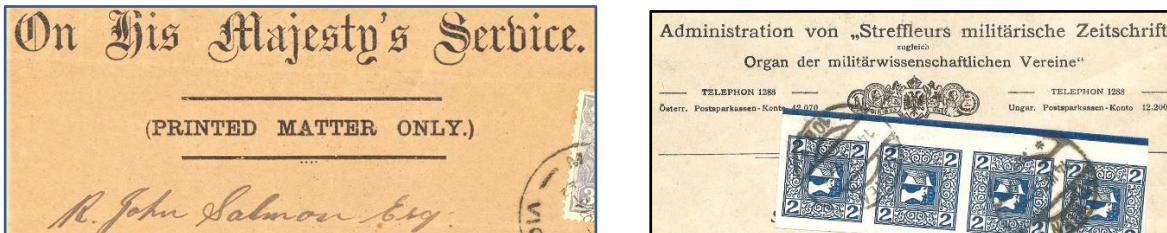


Figure 2 – Australia: On His Majesty's Service; Austria: Administration von Streffleurs militärische Zeitschrift

## Belgium & Brazil

There are two other users of official wrappers for Belgium: *Annuaire Administratif et Judiciaire de Belgique* and *Armée Belge S. M.* This is the only example for Brazil.



Figure 3 – Belgium: Ministere des Communications; Brazil: Conselho Federal de Comércio Exterior

## British Central Africa & British New Guinea

The illustrations in Figure 4 are the only ones appearing in the database for these countries.



Figure 4 – British Central Africa: On Her Majesty's Service; British New Guinea: O.H.M.S.

## Canada & Ethiopia

There are two additional examples for Canada: a basic O.H.M.S. without the user identified - a registration handstamp shows it was mailed from Toronto, Ontario; and *O.H.M.S. Militia Form C. 97*. This is the only user for Ethiopia in the database.



Figure 5 – Canada: O.H.M.S. // S. De S.M. [bilingual, mailed from Winnipeg, Manitoba]; Ethiopia: Imperial Ethiopian Government, Press & Information Department

## Great Britain & Honduras

For Great Britain, other examples can be found for: the *Returned Letter Office*. GPO, London; On Her Majesty's Service mailed from Forfar Scotland to the Sub-Distributor of Stamps Brechin; On Her *Britannic Majesty's Service* for *H. M. Stationery Office*, London [several]. A variation of the Hondurian *Ministerio de Relaciones* omits the illustrated *Seccion de Canjes*.



Figure 6 – GB: On His Majesty's Service; Honduras: Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores

## India & Israel

There are a number of different users of official wrappers for India: *On H. H. the Maharaja Holkar's Service Only*; *On H. M.'s Service for Indian Trade Journal*; *Bureau of Public Information*; *Registrar of Trade Marks* for the *Trade Marks Journal*; *Northern Bengal Mtd. Rifles*; O.H.M.S. for the *Govt. Staty. & Ptg. Deptt., N.W.P.P. Peshawar*; *India Army Order*, On H. M.'s Service; and *On India's Service* posted from Lahore. In addition, the Indian State of Travancore has an official wrapper for *H.E.H. the Nizam's Service*. The other example for Israel is for the *Ministry of Transport & Communications*, Department of Posts, Telegraphs & Telephone.



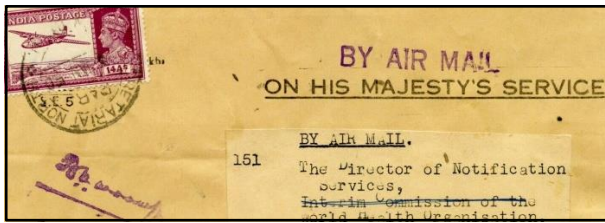


Figure 7 – India: On His Majesty's Service; Israel: Ministry of Posts

### Jamaica & New Zealand

A second unidentified department for Jamaica overprinted On His Majesty's Service was mailed from Kingston on 8 December 1930. New Zealand, however, has On Public Service Only for the *New Zealand Gazette*; O.H.M.S. mailed from Wellington; On His Majesty's Service for the *Department of Labour*, Wellington; *On Public Trust Office Business*, State Guarantee mailed from Wellington.

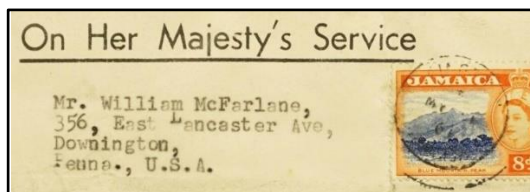


Figure 8 – Jamaica: On Her Majesty's Service; New Zealand: On His Majesty's Service

### Mozambique & Palestine

There are no other examples for these two countries. Palestine was prior to its existing status.

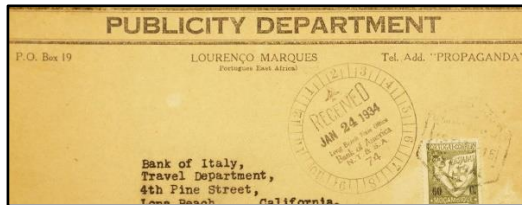


Figure 9 – Mozambique: Publicity Department; Palestine: On His Majesty's Service, Palestine Govt.

### Pakistan & Papua

This is the only example for Pakistan. Papua and New Guinea have several examples for the "Government Gazette" printed by the Government Printing Office in Port Moresby, Papua.

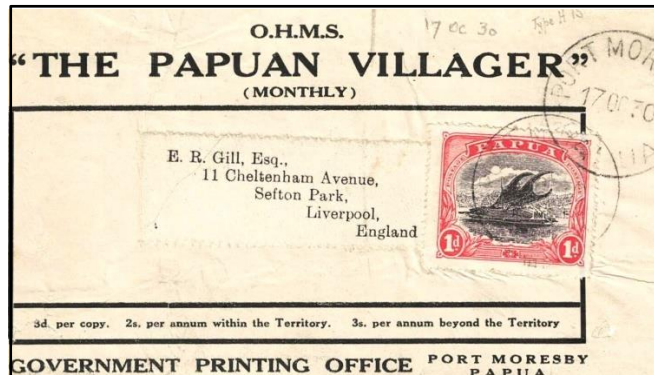
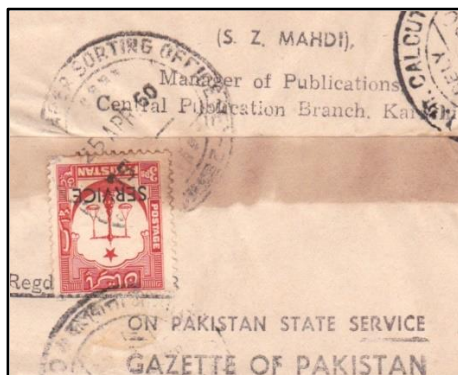


Figure 10 – Pakistan: On Pakistan State Service; Papua: O.H.M.S. "The Papuan Villager" (Monthly)



## Peru & Philippines

These are the only examples of official wrappers for these two countries.



Figure 11 – Peru: Ministerio de Fomento; Philippines: Official Mail

## Portugal & Rhodesia

These are the only examples of official wrappers for these two countries.

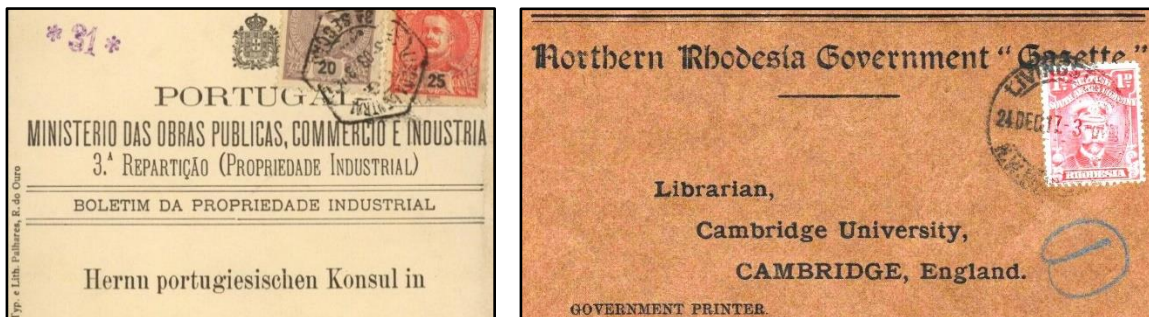


Figure 12 – Portugal: Ministerio das Obras Publicas, Comercio e Industria; Rhodesia: Northern Rhodesia Government "Gazette"

## Sierra Leone & South Africa

This is the only example for Sierra Leone. For South Africa, the overprint O.H.M.S. – I.D.H.M. in English and Afrikaans was for South African Information Section for their fortnightly digest of *South African Affairs*, another was overprinted D.V.H.M – O.H.M.S. for *G(?)ebruik Papier Spaarsaam*.



Figure 13 – Sierra Leone: O.H.M.S. [typed]; South Africa: On Her Majesty's Serice [also Afrikaans]

## South West Africa & Tonga

These are the only examples overprinted of official wrappers for these two countries.



Figure 14 – South West Africa: O.H.M.S. Official Gazette; Tonga: O.H.M.S

## Uganda & Victoria

These are the only examples of official wrappers for Uganda and Victoria. The official wrapper bearing stamps for Victoria is overprinted On His Majesty's Service for the *Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics*, "The Rialto", Melbourne and postmarked 5 May 1910. This wrapper is much earlier than the one mentioned previously under Australia for the same government department.



Figure 15 – Uganda: On Uganda Government Service; Victoria: On His Majesty's Service

## Württemberg & Yugoslavia

These are the only examples of official wrappers for these two postal entities.



Figure 16 – Württemberg: K. Centralstelle F. D. Landwirtschaft; Yugoslavia: Cours Officiels de la Bourse de Belgrade

## Summary

Of the 10,300 non-Post Office wrappers examined, 170 were overprinted with an official nomenclature, and 77 of these were paid by stamps affixed to the wrapper. Less than 1% of private wrappers fall into this subclass making them elusive, and in some cases, scarce. Indeed, 21 of 33, or almost two-thirds of countries have only one example of an overprinted official private wrapper. Given that the sample size was collected on a daily basis from the internet since 2006, the sample has to be viewed as a credible proxy of what has happened over that time frame. A collection of official wrappers would extend beyond those paid with postage stamps, and the overall total of 170 examples suggests that an interesting and diverse collection could be added to country collections.

There are some gems amongst these official wrappers, such as India's *On H. H. the Maharaja Holkar's Service Only* and the Indian State of Travancore's *H.E.H. the Nizam's Service*. The social philatelist has much to explore for backstories, especially the role of Holkar.



## References

Brightmore T. (1982), *Official Mail of Mainland Britain*, self-published, UK, pp. 130.

Courtis John K. (2009), *Official Government Wrappers of the Antipodes*, *Postal Stationery Collector*, Vol.

15 No. 57, May, pp. 4-10.

Wiseman W. A. (1990), *Great Britain: The De La Rue Years 1878-1910*, Stanley Gibbons Publications, London, Vol. 2 pp. 516.

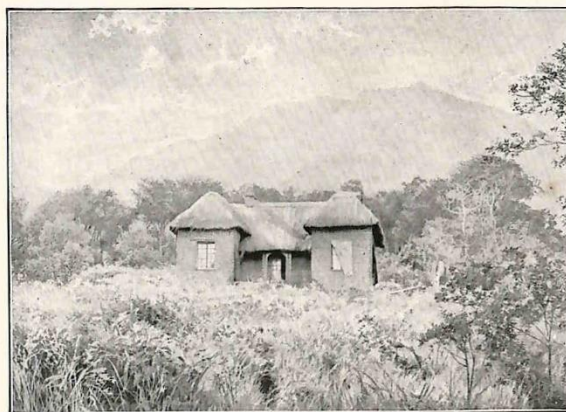
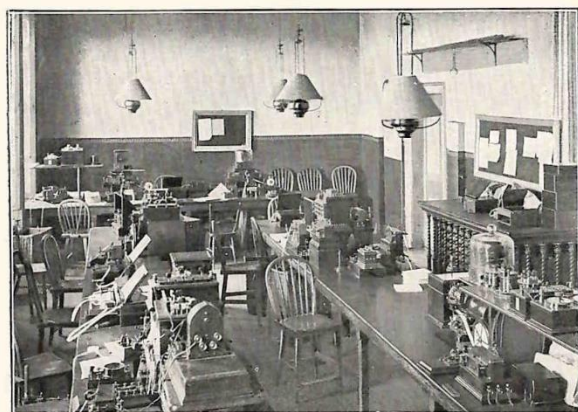
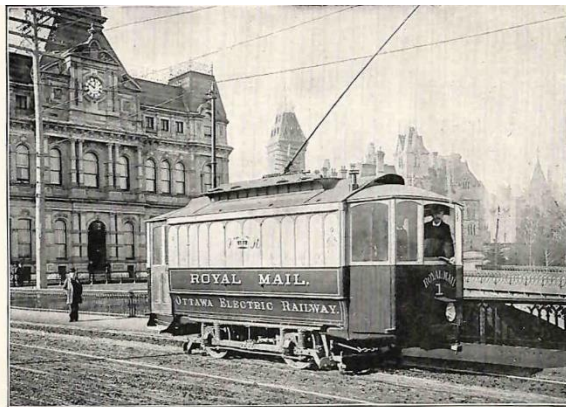
## Acknowledgements

My thanks to Allan Gory for reading and commenting on an earlier draft.

# Peeps at the Empire

## John Young

A book of nearly 150 beautiful and graphic pictures from photographs. Illustrating life and scenery in Great Britain and her Colonies. Published by E. W. Cole Book Arcade, Melbourne; 333, George Street, Sydney; Rundle Street, Adelaide. Photo found on page 24.



Photos : 1, Mr. W. G. W. Sandison, Shetland ; 2, By permission of the Ottawa Car Co. ; 3, Mr. James Grasses, Valentia ; 4, Sir H. H. Johnston, K.C.B.

A SHETLAND POST OFFICE.—AN OTTAWA ELECTRIC MAIL CAR.—THE INSTRUMENT ROOM, VALENTIA.—A CENTRAL AFRICAN POST OFFICE

1. The Post Office of Haroldswick, which is here represented, is the most northern in the British Islands. As may be imagined, the amount of business transacted there is exceedingly limited.
2. The handsome mail car here shown is electrically propelled on the over-head system largely in use on the American continent.
3. It is from Valentia, in the south-west corner of Ireland, that messages are despatched over the Atlantic Cables, and here the feeble currents passing under 4,000 miles of sea are taken in by the operators and transmitted to all parts of the Eastern world.
4. The little Post Office in British Central Africa is a type of the civilisation which the Company of which Sir Harry Johnston has been the leading spirit is introducing into the district of the great lakes. In the background are seen the Zomba mountains.



# Postcards to Dr Helen Sexton

**John Young**

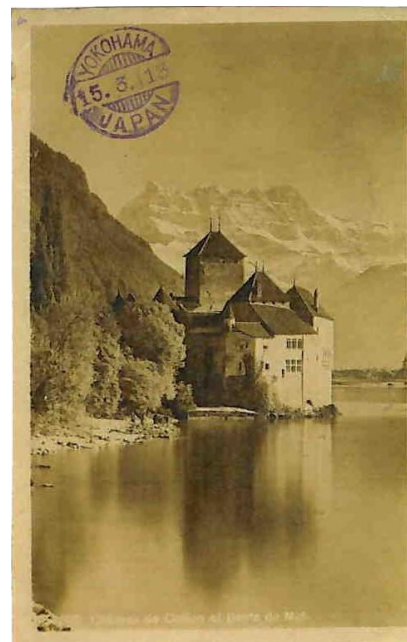
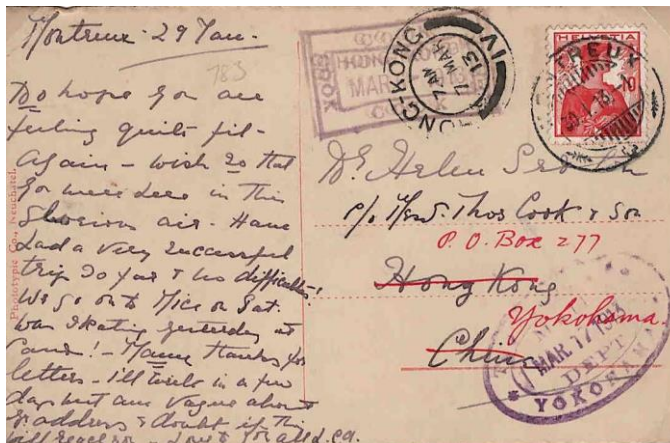
Hannah Mary Helen Sexton was born in Melbourne in 1862, the daughter of well-off parents. After matriculating she planned to study medicine, but the University of Melbourne would not admit female medical students. With the support of six other women, Helen got the University to change its policy. She was the third female medical graduate, in 1892.



Dr. Helen Sexton

Meeting opposition to her employment in hospitals in Melbourne, Helen and several other graduates founded the Queen Victoria Hospital for women and children in 1896. The hospital had temporary premises and ultimately settled at the corner of Lonsdale and Swanston Streets (where the author of this article was born 50 years after the foundation year).

Dr Sexton was an honorary surgeon (1899) and a consultant and gynaecologist at the hospital until 1908. Poor health caused her retirement in 1910, but she was fit enough to tour overseas in 1912-14. During her travels a friend sent a post card to her from Switzerland. It was addressed care of Thomas Cook in Hong Kong, and subsequently re-addressed to Thomas Cook's office in Yokohama. The post card (illus. 1 and 2) has date stamps for Montreux, Switzerland 30Jan 1913, Hong Kong 7 March and Yokohama 17 March.



Illus. 1 & 2: Postcard from Switzerland to Helen Sexton on her world travels (1912-14) and addressed to Hong Kong, re-addressed to Yokohama. Transmission: Montreux 30 Jan 1913, Hong Kong 7 Mar, Yokohama 15 Mar. Additionally stamped by Thos. Cook travel offices, Hong Kong, and Yokohama

The travel may have invigorated Dr Sexton, because in the company of others she started a World War 1 field hospital in France in 1914, rising to the rank of Major. She returned to Melbourne in 1917, whereupon she received a post card from Russia. The Russian post card is franked 8 kopeks, is dated 'October 7' and the sender's address is simply 'Caucasess'. The stamps are the imperforate Romanov arms issued in 1917, and the card has a faint censor stamp in purple. All this leads to the question, what was a correspondent of Dr Sexton's doing in Russia or the Caucasus in 1917 or 1918? Possibly a medical or other missionary person? The message on the card offers no hint, although it does say 'Very beautiful here.... quite Australian blue skies'. It was signed Ju.

The post card and its charming picture of a Russian farm woman is shown in illus. 3 and 4.

We get a hint of who Ju was from a third post card sent from Sweden, year not visible, addressed to Dr Sexton in the same handwriting and signed Judy. The picture this time was three Swedish farm girls (illus. 5 and 6). Unfortunately, the history trail ends here, as I have no mention of a Judy in the history of the Queen Victoria hospital.



Illus. 3 & 4: Postcard to Dr. Helen Sexton from Russia, apparently the Caucasus, probably 1917 or '18. Franked 8 kopek imperfs (issued 1917) with military censor marks.



Illus. 5 & 6: Postcard to Dr. Helen Sexton from Sweden in December, probably 1918. Franked 10 ore. Writer was 'Judy', who also sent the card from Russia.

After the war Helen Sexton resumed her travels and settled in Florence, working among the poor. She did not marry and died in London in 1950. The Australian Dictionary of Biography records that her contemporaries remembered her as serious about life, but with a love of fun, and noted for her great charm.

# HOME OF THE LETTER CARRIER

**Brian Fuller**

The additions modify the original doc published in the APS Journal. (The original doc was not published. I have used this updated version, 5Apr23 Ed.)

The first article I am aware of for the LETTER CARRIERS (LC) was in the ACCC of NSW Bulletin FEB69 Article 1054 by H.J King. Gary Watson seems next to have taken up the topic along with the LIST ROOM (LR) with several high quality and extensive articles in various literatures. The British Philatelic Society (BSAP) Editor also added to Gary's 1995 AUG1995 BSAP information in AUG1995.

I am not intending to transgress on that very early period of markings but into their "home". The Letter Carrier and List Room date stamps located in the Elizabeth St PO or even possible when the GPO transferred to GPO Spencer St (GPOSS) in 1917 the Melbourne letter street deliveries went with them. If anyone can provide definitive proof, I would appreciate it. I personally favour the LC and LR remaining at Elizabeth St and the GPOSS delivered the mail to them. They would have had the task of sorting and delivering. Any returns were handled in many ways as per the published articles and their markings.

I will make special mention of Gary's "CALLED LCR" date stamp of 8SEP49. Rare I suggest.

I certainly know the LC was still functioning from 1964 when the GPO was transferred back to Elizabeth St. Never thought to ask them for their heritage.

It was then managed under several organization names. The first I am aware of is the City Delivery Section and the last City Street Delivery Mail Centre (CSDMC). The GPO fire terminated that arrangement totally and The City Mail Delivery/Processing Centre (both CDMP & CMPC) in A' Beckett St handled both street delivery and GPO Boxes for a period of time. The next major change I am aware of was the Street deliveries were farmed out the four Business Centres that surrounded Melbourne - I believe it is now three. The GPO Boxes seemed to be privatized within the GPO. The CMPC A' Beckett St facility folded.

I am sure there must be detailed articles somewhere on the LETTER CARRIERS Room but am not aware of them. I know David Wood has records of date stamps in WWW (Watson, Webster and Wood) but on going through my samples I have found a few that seem very scarce. David, with his limited time, has responded positively to my quest and has refined my paper to quite some extent. Please note many of WWW have SDL with and without time. I primarily consider only the overall period of usage. I have a few where the Time is "most interesting"!

Thus, I will start off in what I believe to be chronologically issued order but am ready to have my records upgraded. Please critically examine the following.

I have already stated that the **LIST** and **LETTER CARRIERS ROOM** is believed to be **ONLY** stationed at Elizabeth St so a consolidated listing of date stamps and their types can be coherent and not spread between facilities. That makes usage record keeping easier.

The List Room function seems primarily to control the list of Melbourne residents and their correct addresses so the Carriers can function with minimum disruption. However, as articles indicate if their list is deficient, they often "Call" and ask if anyone has heard of the person's current location.

I believe the different types used at the **LIST ROOM** are as follows:

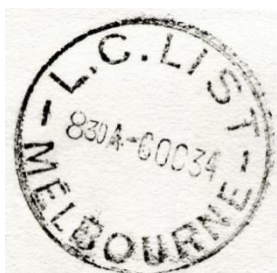
## **Type 1 - L.C. LIST/ SIDE ARCS /DATE/MELBOURNE**

<b>Type 1A</b>	LDL	Diam 28mm. 25JUL33 – 22DEC47 WWW
<b>Type 1A1</b>	SDL	Unknown to me. WWW



## Figure for Type 1

1A LDL



25JUL33–22DEC47

### Special Characteristics

All right-hand arcs are set high because of imbalanced MELBOURNE.

**Type 1A** has the E of M...E closer to the date line.

### Type 2 - L.C. LIST MELBOURNE/ DATE/ SIDE ARCS / MELBOURNE

**Type 2A** LDL Diam 30mm. 1MAY50 – 15JUL54  
WWW

**Type 2A1** SDL 5AUG63 – 18JUL69 & 16SEP80 (?)  
WWW

2A LDL



1MAY50 – 15JUL54

2A1 SDL



Also, 18SEP80

5AUG63 – 18JUL69

Interesting time on 2A1 – d?

### Type 3 - L.C. LIST MELBOURNE/ DATE/ SIDE ARCS / NUMBER/VIC - 3000

I strongly suspect the Letter Carriers Type 3 were randomly chosen numbers but ordered at the same time so consequential numbers were selected 51 – 53.

**Types 3A** SDL Diam 30mm No 53 12APR71 – 14OCT88  
WWW 30.5 107401 13AP70 – 12MY82 (violet 12MY82)

I also have a very weak violet/black ink 15MAY73 – 31AUG73 which I consider insignificant.

The TIME shown is often a number with no AM or PM

**Type 3B** archive strike. Only No 53 known. 21SEP92

The archive strike is also in black ink and not the usual purple.

**Figures for Type 3**

3A



12APR71 – 14OCT88

3B ARCHIVE



21SEP92

**Special Characteristics**

The No 53 is sequential to **Type 4** Letter Carriers.

**Type 4 – G.P.O. MELBOURNE/LIST/DATE/ SIDE ARCS /NUMBER/VIC- 3001**

I only have three samples, and each is of Number 3.

**Type 4A** SDL Diam 30mm No 3 11DEC72 – 1988 but >29OCT88 (stamp issue  
WWW

**Figure for Type 4**



**Special Characteristics**

I only have No 3 as does David.

**Type 5 - WWW 10750 LC LIST MELBOURNE/DATE/ARCS (8.5, 8.5)/VIC 3000**



I do not possess a copy. Is it an archive strike? SDL 2SEP85 BLUE ink

**LETTER CARRIERS ROOM**

This room is where the primary sorting for distribution is carried out.

**TYPE 1 - MELBOURNE/DATE/ SIDE ARCS /L.C. ROOM**

<b>Type 1A1</b>	20DEC12 - 22JAN14	Diam 28mm	
WWW			
<b>Type 1A2</b>	18FEB16 – 31DEC21	Diam 28mm	
WWW			
<b>Type 1A3</b>	7SEP21 – 21NOV21	Diam 28mm	Two Central bars
WWW			
<b>Type 1B</b>	?AUG27 – 24JAN47	Diam 29mm	Damaged M in ROOM
WWW			
<b>Type 1C</b>	22JAN45 - 12JUL48	Diam 27mm	VERY broad M in
MELBOURNE			
WWW 10970	18MAR35 – 16JUL42		

**Figures for Type 1**

1A1



20DEC12 – 22JAN14

1A2



18FEB16 – 31DEC21

1A2 Shows M - E



1A3



7SEP21 – 21NOV21

1A3 Shows M - E



1B



?AUG27 – 24JAN47

1C



22JAN45 - 12JUL48



**Special Characteristics** All are SDL.

**Type 1A1** Remarkably unworn for its use.

**Type 1A2** 1A2 is more worn and exceptionally long period of use. However, I would expect more than one date stamp to be in use. The date gap does confound. More samples will resolve. By 1926 a date stamp is exceedingly worn.

**Type 1A3** Similar to A, but with bars above and below the date. I suspect this was removed from use and the "other" used only leading to severe wear. David explained the possible construction on the face of his date stamp. They may have been standard with raised flats for inscriptions such as PAID but in this case not used and the excessive wear allowed them to sometimes be seen. They also could have been unused Commonwealth period date stamps modified as many had bars. Ditto for excessive wear.

**Type 1B** New date stamp and M to E spread to be in line with the date.

**Type 1C** Design appears to regress to 28mm and a very wide M beside the date and no arcs.

**Type 2 - L.C. ROOM/ SIDE ARCS /DATE/MELBOURNE**

**Type 2A** LDL Diam 30mm 29OCT48 – 3NOV55.

**Type 2A** WWW 10980A 15OCT48 – 4DEC59.

**Type 2A1** SDL Diam 30mm 28JAN60 – 25AUG69.

**Type 2A1** WWW 10980B 8JAN60 – 18AUG66.

**Type 2B** LDL Diam 30mm 19OCT50 – 17DEC51.

**Type 2B** WWW NIL

**Type 2B1** SDL Diam 30mm 5JUN76.

**Type 2B1** WWW 10980C 8NOV66 – 19JAN81 RECUT OF 2A.

**Figures for Type 2**

2A LDL



29OCT48 – 3NOV55

2A SDL



28JAN60 – 25AUG69

2B LDL



NB Broken base on L

19OCT50 – 15JUN76

2B SDL



L further damaged

5JUN76

**Special Characteristics**

Both 2A and B have the right-hand arcs higher but 2B has extra-long ones. 2B does not seem to be plentiful!

2B also has a broken base on the letter L for LIST.

### Type 3 - L.C. ROOM MELBOURNE/ SIDE ARCS /DATE/NUMBER/VIC – 3000

The numbers appear to be only 51 and 52. No 51 appears to be the scarcest. All have time.

**Type 3A** SDL Diam 30mm No 51 5SEP72 – 14SEP78 Black ink.

**Type 3A** SDL WWW 11000 No 51 28JUL72 – 3SEP84.

**Type 3A1** SDL Diam 30mm No 51 26MAR91 Purple ink.  
WWW 28JUL72.

**Type 3B** SDL Diam 30mm No 52 8JAN77 - 22DEC98.

**Type 3B** SDL WWW

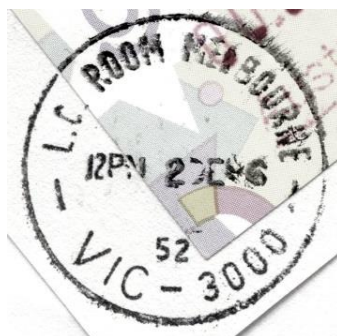
#### Figures for Type 3

3A1



5SEP72 – 14SEP78

3B



8JAN77 - 22DEC98

#### Special Characteristics

No 52 is the most plentiful due to its longevity and despite No 51 having been around 19 years is my least. An explanation could be on 1OCT83 the usage by the Posties for No 52 was in Taxing and No 51 was used in Registration.

I have no explanation for the very late strikes of 1991 for No 51 in purple ink.

The LC Room at this stage belonged to the CSDMC. Hence to prolific number of date stamp strikes available. It often has green colour cachets from the DLO which was also part of the CSDMC. The DLO was located in Bourke St just up from the Spencer St MC.

#### Type 4 – L.C. ROOM MELBOURNE/DATE/huge lower arc.

**Type 4A** SDL Diam 30mm 7NOV66 – 22DEC68.

**Type 4A** WWW 10990 11NOV66 – 27JAN70.

**Type 4B** Archive strike 27JAN70.

#### Special Characteristics

There are a substantial number of strikes available for the short usage period.

There are no constant differences discernible.

There is damage as per Fig 4A, recognizable on some strikes from 25FEB 67 starting from a small break above to the left of MELBOURNE. The two strikes show damage, but the Archive strike does not show it as significantly.

I have no explanation for the long arc comparing it to the other cancellers' annotations.

**Figures for Type 4**

4A SDL



7NOV66 - 22DEC68

4A Damage



22DEC68

4B Archive



27JAN70

**TYPE 5 CALLED/LONG ARCS/DATE/L.C.R.**

The following date stamp is a copy from Gary Watson's BSAP Bulletin AUG1995 Art 1863. I have copied it to attempt to complete the list of known date stamps from that area. I suspect it is quite rare.



7SEP49 – 30JUL58.

**Summary**

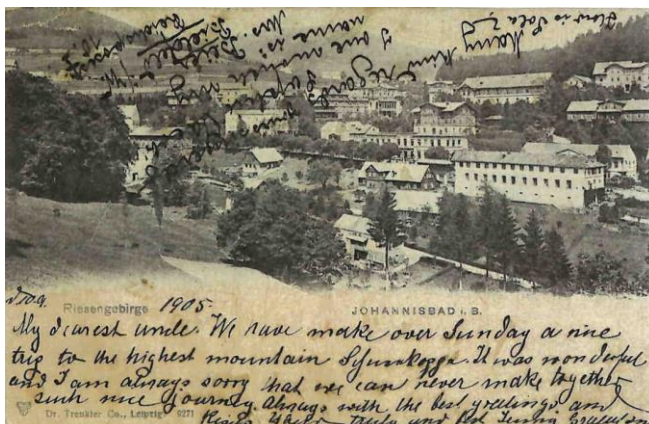
The use of small date lines makes it very difficult to discern dates positively.

There appears to be only the five different types of cancellers each for the LIST and Letter Carriers.

I do not have access to the WWW list but left appropriate space for your entry.

I sincerely thank David Wood, the keeper of WWW, for assistance in improving the presentation of the paper and WWW information.

Please advise if you have earlier or later dates to improve my knowledge of sequences and history of the LC function.



**Continued from front cover.**

Post card depicts Riesengebirge, on German/Bohemian border, 100 K. south west of Breslau. Card apparently sold with a pre-fixed Austrain 5 filler stamp.



## Palestine Pictorials – Part 3

### Tony Lyon

The Palestine pictorials was last published in AJP 138 December 2016. To reiterate, the first pictorial issues of Palestine were released between June 1, 1927, and August 14, 1927. Watermarked Multiple Crown & Script CA with perf 13.5 x 14.5. Values 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 13, and 20 mils. The higher values 50, 90, 100 and 200 mils were perf 14. The paper for the above issues was described as thin semi-transparent paper.

A second issue was released between 1928 and February 1939 in a vertically ribbed paper. An additional 200 mils in pale violet was added.

Between June 1, and November 1, 1932, colours were changed, and a new value was added. Values were 4, 7, 8, 13, and 15 mils.

July-August 1934 an issue on a thin semi-transparent vertically ribbed paper (0.06-0.07 mils) with the values 7 and 8 mils were added. These are scarce.

1937 saw the issue of 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10 and 15 mils on horizontally ribbed paper.

1937 and later further values 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8, 15 mils on vertically ribbed paper were issued.

In June 1940 a white wove paper with the values 2 – 8, 10, 13, 15, 20, 50, 100, 200 mils were issued.

January 15, 1942, high values 250, 500 and 1 piastre appeared.

Additional between 1928 – 1934 experimental coils with the values 2, 3, 5, and 15 mils.

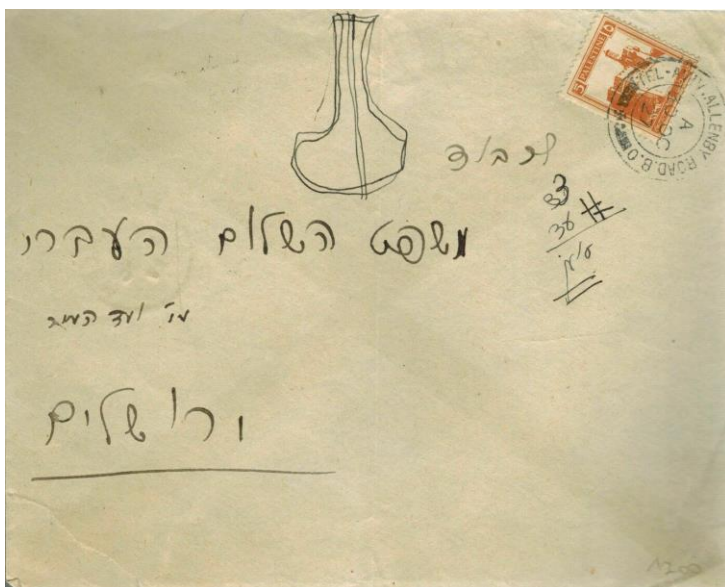
Regular coils between 1936 – 1938 with values 5 and 10 mils.

Altogether these pictorials make a very interesting area to collect, and one can delve as deeply as one desires with colour shades, inverted watermarks, plate varieties, missing perforations.

The purpose of this article and going forward will be to show usage of pictorials. The previous 2 articles looked at 'printed matter' and 'commercial papers'.

### Inland

The Inland rate that first pertains to the Pictorial issue was as follows:(18.2.18 – 30.4.40) 5mm per 20gms and 3mm per each additional 20 grams. Applicable from the first issue June 1, 1927, which composed the 3 and 13 mils. The balance of the set went on sale August 14, 1927



### 1927 Tel Aviv Allenby Road Palestine cover to Jerusalem written in Hebrew.

Cover franked with 5 mils orange on thin paper SG 93.

Cancelled with a double circle Tel Aviv – Allenby – Road – B – O dated 30 OC 27 (Proud type D2. (29.9.25) - (5.10.45). Situated at the corner of Allenby and Bialik Street 5.5.25 - 30.4.48? (Proud Pg 284)

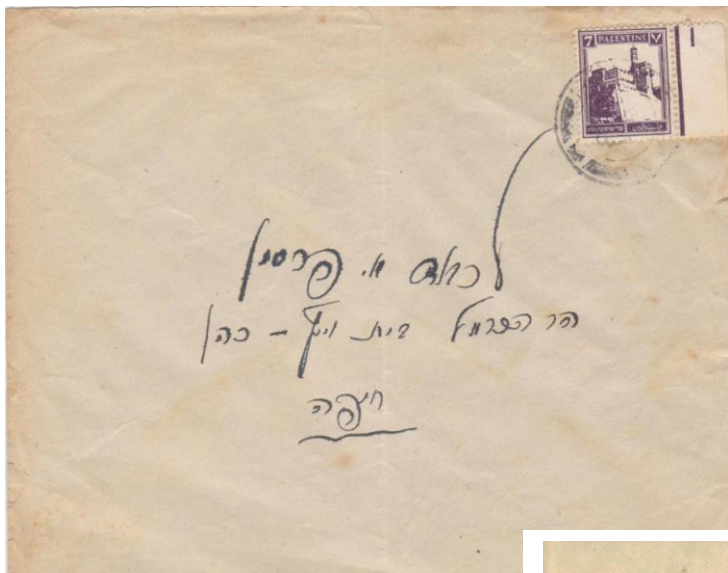
Jerusalem single circle datestamp dated 30 OC 27 (Proud type D41 (16.7.22) – (4.4.28) on reverse. (Proud Pg 105).

## Currency

Prior to British Mandate currency was 10 millimes = 1 pastre and abbreviated 'mm'. From the British Mandate new currency 1000 mils = 1 Palestine pound, 'mils'.

## New Inland Rate

The Inland rate was changed (1.5.40 – 31.3.41) 7 mm per 20 grams and 5 mils per each additional 20 grams.



### 1940 Ramat Gan to Haifa written in Hebrew.

Cover franked by 7 mils violet on wove paper SG 105.

Cancelled with a double circle Ramat Gan dated 18 DE 40 (Proud type D4. (31.3.37) – 30.4.48. Situated on the outskirts of Tel Aviv (Proud Pg 248).

Haifa single circle dated 18 DE 40 Proud type D35 (12.3.40) – (17.1.48) on reverse.

### 1940 Haifa to Jerusalem

Registered cover from Haifa addressed to Jerusalem franked by 1937 issue 7 mils Deep Violet vertical ribbed SG 105 paying local rate and 1937 issue 15 mils vertical ribbed SG 108 paying the Registration fee (1.7.40 – 14.5.48).

Haifa oval registration applied Proud R13 (25.1.39) – 1.6.42, dated 11 OC 40. (Proud Pg 174).



### 1941 Jerusalem to Haifa Express Post

Express cover from Jerusalem to Haifa franked by 4 x 7 mils Violet wove paper SG 105 and 4 mils wove paper purple SG 104 paying 25 mils Express and 7 mils local postage.

Cancelled by 4 Proud EX2 double circle Jerusalem Express (14.12.36) – (24.4.48) dated 13 JA 41 Proud Pg 119. A Single circle Haifa Proud Type D35 dated 14 JA 41 (Proud Pg 169).

Express post was only available in Jerusalem, Jaffa, Haifa, and Tel-Aviv from 01.01. 1937 until 4.4.1945.

On 5.4.1945 changed to 40 mils for distances up to 3km; 35 m per add. 1km

Post & Telegraph Express label P.T. 534





## New Inland Rate

The Inland rate was changed (1.4.41 – 14.5.48) 7 mm per 20 grams and 5 mils per each additional 20 grams.

## Registration

From 1.7.40 – 14.5.48 15 mils.



## 1941 Tel Aviv registered cover to Hertsliya

Tel Aviv to Hertsliya which is situated 9 miles (approx. 15 kilometres) north of Tel Aviv. Franked by a block of 4 mils purple wove paper SG 104, 6 mils green also wove paper SG 94 and 3 mils green on vertical ribbed paper SG 91 as indicated by the plate No. 2. The total of 25 mils is 10 mils local postage and 15 mils registration.

On the front 3 x Proud type R11 (4.1.40) – (20.5.47) Tel Aviv Oval registered date stamps 14 SP 41 and on the reverse 2 x Proud Type R11 registered oval Tel Aviv date stamps and a single circle receiving date stamp Hertsliya Proud type D8 (10.3.37) – (2.3.43).



## 1941 Tel Aviv registered cover to Rehovot

Tel Aviv to Rehovot situated near Nes Tsiyona founded 1890 by Polish Jews. Franked by a block of 4 mils wove paper SG 104 and 2 mils wove paper SG R11 90 indicated by plate number, and a 7 mils purple wove paper SG 105. On the front 5 x Proud Type R11 dated 25 SP 41 and on the reverse 2 x Proud R11 dated 25 SP 41 and a single circle Rehovot date stamp Proud D9 (3.12.360 – (28.4.47) dated 25 SP 41.

Rehovot (Spelling changed officially from Rehoboth to Rehovoth on 3.8.25 and from Rehovoth to Rehovot on 27.5.31)



## PMG/AP Melbourne Timelines

### **Brian Fuller**

The Post Office has been in Victoria since very early times of settlement. The very early period did not have official post offices, but these gradually developed as civilization exploded into Victoria.

As volumes increased, so did the number of offices and facilities and their roles. As efficiency and delivery of the service became more critical, many facilities were formed or amalgamated, and roles changed. The information regarding these formations and devolutions is rather disparate and I will try to amalgamate the plethora of information.

Many of the dates are conflicting as are their locations and roles. Dates conflict for many reasons, including operating date and official opening dates. Functions changed as the operational or control need arose. Titles changed for the same reason, even though the facility might continue to do what it has always done.

Many facilities have roles unknown to me. Readers might appreciate their roles and share them with us. I do not intend to detail the roles of the major facilities I am listing. I am also ignoring administrative and engineering facilities; likewise for other non-mail processing facilities, such as post offices within the Melbourne Central Business District (CBD). The GPO is included because of its fundamental importance.

This paper may assist those marcophilists who have CDS or cachets etc, on or off envelopes, to deduce at which facility the mark was actually made irrespective of the wording on the imprint. For example: in the 1970s the Melbourne MC loaned its CDS to the State MC until it acquired its own. See my paper **The State Mail Centre Melbourne, A Postmark Review** supplement in the Date Stamp #4, Aug 85. The Earliest (ERD) and Latest (LRD) dates for a facility can also be confidently established.

Another important paper is published in the Australian PS journal JUN22 regarding the markings of the GPO whilst it was at Spencer St and those of the Spencer St PO after the GPO departed for Elizabeth St again.

AP has been updating its records for its 200 years of existence and I have taken extracts from disparate documents produced over the years, hence minimal acknowledgement. Most of the other dates originate from my and a few from David Wood's scribings (DW). I also strongly recommend George Knight's 19pp research (GK) on **The Postal History of Melbourne 1835 – 1912** in the Date Stamp Journal Supplement, Nov 83. He also covers the history of the hand postal markers in use. Australia Post Public Relations Office also released a document "History of the GPO Melbourne". 125pp Book "History of Postal Services Victoria", 11 chapters.

A 1969 Thesis by Leonard Smyth, presumably for AP, also provides some facts and unfortunately does not use the accurate terminology to name some buildings, hence their functions. Ken Sparks (KS) in 2021 produced a book on the MME titled "The Melbourne Mail Exchange 1917 – 1988 A history of its postal mechanisation", and I have cross checked a lot of dates and they coincide.

The next narrative is taken from <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper/article/1758694> The Argus Melbourne Vic 1848 – 1957 Saturday 21MAY1921 page 6. This seems a much more coherent story than several other sources! I have inserted other references but (??) them.

### *Symbols used*

< = earlier than

> = later than

**First Mail 1835** receiving station was at John Batman's house at Batman's Hill (GK). First Batman then Batman's brother Henry looked after the mail until end of 1836. Batman and his family settled at what became known as Batman's Hill at the western end of Collins Street, building a house at the base in April 1836 on the Yarra bank, where he lived until his death (Wikipedia).

**4 Feb 1837** Captain Robert Webb acted as Postmaster (Customs Officer). (Not in Trove)??

**13 Apr 1837 (AP)** The duties were performed by Mr E J Foster (Officially the Postmaster). At that time the Post Office was a bark hut in Collins St.

**Oct 1837** Succeeded by Alfred Ayre. (AP) (No internet reference & not in Trove)??

**In Jan 1838 (AP)** Captain Benjamin Baxter took charge. He was officially both Postmaster and Clerk of Petty Sessions at Port Phillip. His residence was owned by J P Fawkner. His wife Martha Baxter looked after Melbourne's postal business, in the absence of her husband due to his other duties, dispatched the first home mail direct from Hobson's Bay to London without permission from NSW.

**Jan 1838** PO transferred to Flinders St around the corner from King St.

**Nov 1838** James Smith Postmaster resigned FEB39. (Nil on internet & not in Trove)??

**Mar 1839** Captain Baxter resigned, and Mr. Skene Craig was prevailed upon by the NSW Gov't to take charge till an official arrived from Sydney. The Post Office business was transferred to his store in Collins St West now occupied by the Rialto building. He did not hold the office for long.

**24 Aug 1839 (AP)** The first permanent postmaster appointed by the Gov't of NSW was Mr David Kelsh. The PO being westward of Temple Court in Chancery Lane on the opposite side.

**1840** The surveyor Robert Hoddle purchased 2 blocks of land in Bourke St at the corner of Spencer St for £900. His house was on the first and lived there until his death in 1881. A timber merchant named Hutchinson was on the corner block. From p17 of a lost reference source!

**1841** The site for the post office building at the corner and Bourke and Elizabeth St was fixed and on 12 Aug 41 the business was transferred to a brick structure thereon.

**11 Aug 1841** First official PO building opened on the 188 Elizabeth St/Bourke St GPO site. Was actually a portion of the site fronting onto Bourke St - the present GPO site (AP).

**12 Aug 1841 (AP)** David Kelsh transferred to the new PO.

**Aug 1842 (AP)** Henry Kelp replaced Kesh.

**1844 (AP)** due to Kemp's ill health Mr. Samuel Usher from Sydney relieved.

**16 Oct 1846** Kemp returned. He subsequently retired JAN51.

**1 Jan 1851 (AP)** Captain Alexander McRae Postmaster.

**Aug 1851 – 1857 (AP)** became Postmaster General of Victoria.

**1858 (AP)** The money order (MO) system was introduced.

**1859** Whole building sold and site cleared for a new building. A Section, facing Post Office Place, was left standing to enable business to be continued during building operations (AP).

**? Oct 1861** The Telegraph Office (TO) at Spencer St station commenced and continued until 3AUG1977 (DW). A post office (PO), probably housed within the TO, was built at the Station.

**1 Jul 1867** GPO - Crouch and Ramsay designed building corner Bourke & Elizabeth Streets opened.

**1867 – 1962 (AP)** The GPO Postal Hall did not have Postmaster. It was controlled by 5 different Branches of the Department.

**1883 (AP)** Postal Notes were introduced.

**4 Aug 1888** The earliest known Duplex for SPENCER STREET RS (BF).

**26 Aug 1908** ED LATE FEE SPENCER STREET RS LD 29JAN70 (GW).

**1911** Commonwealth Gov't bought Robert Hoddle's old home, the blocks at Bourke/Spencer St, and built the new Melbourne Mail Exchange (MME) a new home for the GPO.

**8 Aug 1913** Latest recorded Duplex (DW)

**1 Jun 1917** Title of GPO transferred from Elizabeth St PO to the Melbourne Mail Exchange at the corner of Bourke & Spencer Streets. PO renamed Elizabeth St PO. ELIZABETH ST Krag continuous roller currently has ERD 23JUN17 and LRD 2OCT18 (BF). Refer to my 2021 book, "CONTINUOUS ROLLER AND TRIP CANCELLATIONS OF MELBOURNE including CONTINUOUS ROLLER CANCELLATIONS OF VICTORIAN OFFICES". 188 Elizabeth St PO still received, cancelled, and **distributed mail** including letters, newspapers, and parcels.

**4 Jun 1917** MME opened for business. Formation of the complex at Bourke and Spencer Streets Melbourne was called "The Spencer Street building". The fascia on the south side indicated in big metal letters, it is the MAIL EXCHANGE building. It was only the GPO and ALL its functions were transferred there (AP) (SSGPO).

Presumably the Spencer Street RS PO aspect of the Teleg Office closed subsumed by the SSGPO.

**1922** The Chief Parcels Office (CPO) created at 300 King St Melbourne controlled by MME.

**1936** Mail Branch (MB) formed. Within GPO is unconfirmed.

**28 Feb 36 – 9 Jun 54** The Stamp Section existed at GPOSS.

**1940** City Parcels Delivery Centre. Leased premises at 400 Elizabeth St and later shifted to 154 Normanby Rd and still there in 1953.

**1950** Interstate and Overseas function transferred to the Ramsay Building in 666 Bourke St.

**1953** Mail Exchange Branch formed? I suspect the MEB was an HQ command function and postally was the GPOSS.

**21 Apr 53** The Philatelic Bureau was established in the GPOSS and located at 664 Bourke St beside the MME building (688 Bourke St).

**1954** MEB changed to Mail Exchange (ME). (Still a HQ function?). The term Central Mail Exchange (CME) is used for the MME.

**1962 (AP)** A Postmaster for the GPO was appointed – Mr. R Barnett then Mr. R H Perrett in 1963

**1961 – 63** ROYAL MAIL HOUSE 253 – 267 BOURKE ST MELBOURNE built.

**21 Oct 63** Philatelic Sales Centre (PSC) opens at Russell St.

It is the period post 1JUN64 that is of primary interest to me and the establishment of many major postal facilities. It is also the area most fraught with inaccuracies in regards structure and sequence.

Please provide corrections ASAP or else they might continue uncorrected. Many catalogues issued by auction houses have inaccurate or suspect dates and data when referring to a facility's location and opening or closing date.

**1 Jan 64** GPO title transferred back to Elizabeth St. Spencer St PO (SSPO) opened and retained the Philatelic Bureau but with NO counter sales.

**1 Jan 64** Central Mail Exchange (CME) created when GPO vacated Spencer St retaining all functions of the "departing GPO". From a FEB1965 pamphlet these included: INLAND & RECEIVING SECTION, INTERSTATE & OVERSEAS SECTION, CHIEF PARCELS OFFICE, REGISTRATION SECTION, CITY SECTION, plus Mail Officer Training School (Degraes St (?)), DLO (next door with



Investigation Branch), Waybills Office, Canvas Workshops, and Printing Office. 66 million articles processed 13-25DEC64.

**6 Jan 1964** PMG Dept occupied top floors of Royal Mail House and used as Philatelic Bureau. No counter sales. Staffed by people transferred from GPO Spencer St Philatelic Bureau.

**1964** Whole of Spencer St building devoted to Mail Handling Branch.

**20 Nov 65** King St PO replaced Spencer St PO (DW).

**28 Nov 67** Fire! 50% of Exchange facilities were burnt out. Covering letters used MEB cachet.

**1968 (AP)** Former Stores Building in 633 Lt Bourke St (Eliza Tinsley) occupied for ancillary services e.g., bag handling, training etc.

**1969 (AP)** Frank Curtain was GPO Postmaster.

**1969 (AP)** Printing Section was at 401 Lt Bourke St.

**1 Apr 69** Spencer Street MC (SSMC) opened. Servicing Melbourne's mail on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> floors of Bourke/Spencer Streets building.

State Residue MC (SRMC) formed from remnants of CME. Ground, 1<sup>st</sup>, and 2<sup>nd</sup> floors of Bourke/Spencer streets building. Interstate and overseas functions of mail processing.

**1970+** Sprintpak started servicing Australia Post. Eventually mail-order stamp sales and Philatelic Bureau.

**1 May 73** SSMC became Melbourne MC (MMC).

**1 May 73** Box Room functions back to GPO. Informally called GPO Box Room.

**1 Jul 75** Postmaster Generals Department split into Telecom and Australia Post. Decentralization of mail processing began.

**3 Aug 75** Blackburn MC opened (changed to Eastern MC 1 Oct 91 (DW)).

**26 Oct 75** Geelong MC opened.

**16 May 76** Ballarat MC opened.

**30 Oct 77** Morwell MC opened.

**13 Nov 77** Bendigo and Seymour MC opened.

**1978 (AP)** Ray Coleman became GPO Postmaster.

**7/8 Oct 78** Clayton South MC opened (changed to Southern MC 1 Oct 91 (DW)).

**26 Feb 79** City Delivery Centre (CDC) formed servicing Melbourne City mails.

<Apr 79 GPO Melbourne a PSC.

Ken Sparks "The Melbourne Mail Exchange 1917 – 1988 A history of its postal mechanization p12", I quote:

"The MME building for a short period housed the newly formed State MC and Melbourne MC. The suburban MC were set up at Footscray West, Preston, Blackburn and Clayton South. Interim suburban MC for Footscray and Preston were based in the MME building initially from FEB79 while the permanent centres were built. In this period the Interim Melbourne MC was often referred to as the Spencer St MC and the Exchange building was referred to as the Spencer St building" unquote.

**NOTE:** I suspect the following two *Italic* comments regarding the Footscray W and Preston MC are incorrect, but the timelines may be accurate. See Ken Sparks comment. I believe the EDI POST section

of the State MC went to Footscray West MC. EDI POST took the only SMC Pitney Bowes GG machine. No commercial use cancellations known. I have a hand impression of EDI post machine cancellation 26MAR96 just before it was transferred from SMC to Footscray.

**Note:** EDI Post is Electronic Data Interchange.

**APR 79** Footscray W MC opened in State MC (DW)

**26 May 79** City Delivery Centre (CDC) formed at GPO. Controlled many functions eg DLO etc.

**13 Oct 79** Footscray W MC closed in State MC and relocated. (DW).

**14 Oct/23 Nov 79** Footscray West MC opened (changed to Western MC 1OCT91 DW).

**19 Nov 79** Preston MC opened (changed to Northern MC 1OCT91 DW).

**1970/80s (?)** Asbestos found in the CME building. Relocation of responsibilities inevitable and floor changes of the resident MCs would have been precipitated.

**1980** Form PPC (8/80) - AP/Customs Assessment Notice indicates The Customs Section of Overseas Inwards Parcel Section was located at 172/184 Roden St, West Melbourne.

**1 Nov 81** International MC Maffra St opened. SRMC function SHIP MAIL ROOM closed.

**1 Nov 81** SRMC became State Bulk MC (SBMC). Only interstate mail processing and CPO.

**82/83?** CDC becomes City Delivery MC (CDMC) and City Street Delivery MC (CSDMC).

**1 May 83** Parcels for Melbourne city transferred from CPO to City Delivery Section/Centre (?). Roden Street (Opened/Closed?) was the delivery depot (City Parcels Delivery Centre (CPDC))?

**APR 85** The GPO Annex (GPO POST SHOP/PSC) formed? I have FDI 17JUN85 date stamp. AP state 1983 PSC next to GPO.

**1986** Government report. Construction starts State MC at Port Melbourne Bertie Street.

**86-88?** Interstate Surface Mail Transit Centre (ISMTC) formed from State MC and CPDC.

**8 Dec 87** Shooting of AP employees at Queen St. HQ of PB.

**1988+** AP considering selling GPO site including Annex.

**< Jun 89** PSC shifts from GPO Annex to PO A'Beckett St.

**24 Jun 89** CPO King St Closed.

**23 Jul 89** Melbourne MC (MMC) transferred to 313 Spencer St Melbourne on the corner of Latrobe and Spencer Streets.

**23 Jul 89** SBMC became State MC & operating and was officially opened 28AUG89.

**6 Aug 89** Eastern Suburbs Parcels Centre opens 18 Joseph St Blackburn.

**6 Aug 89** Western Suburbs Parcels Centre opens Minnie St Yarraville.

**6 Aug 89** Southern Suburbs Parcels Centre (SPC) opened in Fairbank Ave Clayton.

**22 Jul 90** Northern Suburbs Parcels Centre opens Newlands Rd Reservoir.

**28Aug89 (AP)** State MC handles Interstate and surface mails plus MMC which handles Melbourne CBD mail are officially opened.

**27 Nov 90** South Eastern MC opened Ferntree Gully Rd.

**1 Oct 91** Blackburn MC becomes Eastern MC still at Joseph St Blackburn.

**1 Oct 91** Preston MC becomes Northern MC.

- 1 Oct 91** Footscray West MC becomes Western MC.
- 17 Feb 92** National Philatelic Centre (NPC) opened. Originally intended 1988.
- 24 Apr 92** State Parcel Centre opened in Bertie St Port Melbourne from some ISMTC functions. DW implies 25 Jun 89? I think he is inaccurate due to title changes.
- <Aug 92** GPO Box Room transfers back to MMC.
- > 9 Sep 92** Northern Suburbs Parcels Centre closes (latest CDS).
- 7 Nov 92** Eastern MC changes location to Rooks Rd Nunawading.
- 22 Mar 93** Melbourne City Mail Centre (MCMC) formed by MMC, CDMC, GPO Box Room, and CSDMC amalgamating. GPO to process originating mail again.
- 16/17 Apr 93** GPO to stop processing inward mail - forwarded to MCMC. The last GPO machine cancels I have are both 16APR93 from an annotated "last day of use Melbourne City Delivery Centre" – their 1979 terminology.
- ? May 93** EXPOTRAC (?) installed at Box Room. I believe this was for the Postal Restante co-located there. To be installed Nationally. Sydney Postal Restante had in 1997 MAIL Tracker. Both unknown applications.
- > 18 May 93** Western Suburbs Parcels Centre closes (latest CDS).
- 11 Aug 94** Morwell MC renamed Gippsland MC (DW)
- 1996** Melbourne City MC Box Room officially renamed from informal GPO Box Room.
- > 1 Jan 96** Southern Suburbs Parcels Centre closes (latest date stamp).
- 18 May 96** Western MC integrates with MCMC. (Ken Sparks – Modern Philately May96)
- < 18 Apr 96** City Street Delivery Centre (CSDC) formed – 621 Lt Bourke St (includes DLO).
- < 18 Apr 96** City Delivery MC (CDMC) functioning. (I have date stamp).
- Early 97** IMC closes and functions integrated with MCMC and State MC.
- Mid 98** MCMC FSMs transferred to SMC.
- Jan 99** Delivery BU formed. Operates Box Room as independent entity.
- > 9 Apr 99** Eastern Suburbs Parcels Centre closes (latest date stamp).
- 16 May 99** Northern MC closes – integrated with MCMC.
- 1 Jul 99** South Eastern MC replaced by Scoresby Business Centre (DW).
- 26 Jul 99** Dandenong Letters Centre (DLC) opens.
- Aug 99** Melbourne Letters Centre (MLC) (a management cell) formed from functions of MCMC, State MC, and Melbourne Airmail Transit Centre (MATC) (formed ??) from ISMTC function at airport (?) and 2-8 Sperry Drive Tullamarine.
- < 18 Oct 99** MCMC Box Room renamed GPO Box Room (date stamp) and transfers to GPO CDMC.
- 31 Dec 99** Southern MC closes.  
Eastern MC closes and Eastern (?) BU forms on site?
- 10 Sep 01** **Fire in Elizabeth St GPO Postal Hall** destroys the GPO terminating operations there.
- ??** GPO functions transferred to a now defunct PO diagonally opposite in 374 Bourke St west of Elizabeth St and possibly to 410 Elizabeth St the A'Beckett St PO.



I am unsure if a GPO legally exists, but the title has been “adopted” by 250 Elizabeth St PO (< 7APR2006). The Box Room I think also went to two locations and is now located at 380 Bourke St.

**< 21 Nov 01** City Mail Delivery Centre (CMDC) formed at 127 A’Beckett St and subsumes City Street Delivery Centre (CSDC).

**< 25 Jan 02** CMDC became City Mail Processing Centre (CMPC) at 127 A’Beckett St.

Forms own Box Room 14000 before 3JAN03 and continues street delivery.

**6 Oct 02** MCMC Express Post transferred from MLC to SMC.

**22 Oct 02** GPO Box Room becomes GPO Private Box Centre (CDS) 380 Bourke St. Under control of Delivery Business Unit (?).

**25 Nov 02(?)** MATC changed to Melbourne Gateway Facility (MGF). Have MATC green tape dated 14FEB05. 26NOV97 expected as near IMC closure date!

**Nov 02** MLC Taxation staff transferred to DLC.

**10 Apr 03** MLC closes and Melbourne Business Unit operates.

**13 Apr 03** SMC closes but 12JUL03 is the latest SMC FSM date!

**< 7 Apr 06** GPO “legally” exists as the title has been “adopted” by 250 Elizabeth St PO (date stamp).

**Oct 06** MGF became fully operational.

**Unknown** Mail Recycling Centre (MRC) moves?? I have not charted the complete history of the DLO through its locations and name changes till present. Any present data welcome.

**< 9 Mar 08** City Mail Processing Centre (CMPC) moves to 313 Spencer St Docklands co-locating with Melbourne Business Unit (BU).

**> 1 Jun 11** The Melbourne BU and CMPC seem to have disbanded as no more date stamps seen after this date and street deliveries are made by the four suburban BUs – Abbotsford, South Melbourne, Port Melbourne and North Melbourne. Site sold to VIC Gov’t and VIC Police HQ built.

**Pre 2012** Australia Post Melbourne Parcel Facility (MPF) 133-169 Fairbairn Rd, SUNSHINE WEST, Victoria, Australia. 3020.

**Unknown** The Mail Redistribution Centre (MRC) nee DLO moved to 49 – 63 Laurens St North Melbourne 3051 from where?????. Their date stamp DEC17.

**Unknown** Mail Redirection Team GPO BOX 5091 Melbourne VIC 3001. If you apply for Redirection of Mail – this group manage.

**May 2016 – Jun 2017** The MGF green OPENED BY AP FOR tape changed from CUSTOMS to ABF (Australian Border Force).

**Approx 2017?** Philatelic Sales Centre (PSC) commences at the A’Beckett St PO.

**Early 2021** The A’Beckett PO closed.

**Summary** After 1 Jan 64 many major postal facilities were established. It is from this period marcophilists need to use the data to enable them to confidently arrange their collection indicating the markings origin and specific place of use for the time shown.

This is a particular challenging exercise to sequence facilities for Melbourne. Please provide corrections else they might continue uncorrected. If catalogues issued by auction houses have inaccurate or suspect dates and data when referring to a facility opening/closing please attempt to confirm their source of data and if different to mine please advise.

I have numerous question marks where I do not have, or confidence in, the data! Please assist.

In some cases, the proposed date and actual starting date may differ. Certainly, the Official Opening date will be later than their operating date.

If anyone has the "duty statements/brochures" for any of the Gateway Facilities or Parcel Centres (e.g. Sunshine) I would be interested to see what they are really doing and the relevant dates.

## CERTIFIED MAIL BY BRIAN FULLER

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT P.M.120  
**POSTING RECEIPT FOR CERTIFIED MAIL**

To be filled in by sender

Article sent to:—

Name

Address

POST OFFICE

DATE STAMP

If a Return Receipt is required (extra fee payable) place a cross in this square.

Sch. C7697-5/57 (See over for instructions re posting)

CERTIFIED MAIL E 704619

Australia Post Certified Mail Posting Receipt  
See over for conditions and method of posting.

To Be Completed By The Sender

Article sent to: (Name and Address)

Postcode

DATE STAMP

DO YOU REQUIRE A RETURN RECEIPT

Yes  No (Tick box applicable)

If "Yes", write the letters "AR" in the box on the gummed label. Obtain a Return Receipt Card from the Post Office, complete it and attach it to the back of the article. NOTE: An extra fee is charged for this service.

Keep this receipt and present it if you make an enquiry.

Certified Mail B 413992

P.M.120

Spiral bound, plastic covered, 120 A4 double sided, numbered page printed book of information on Certified mail.

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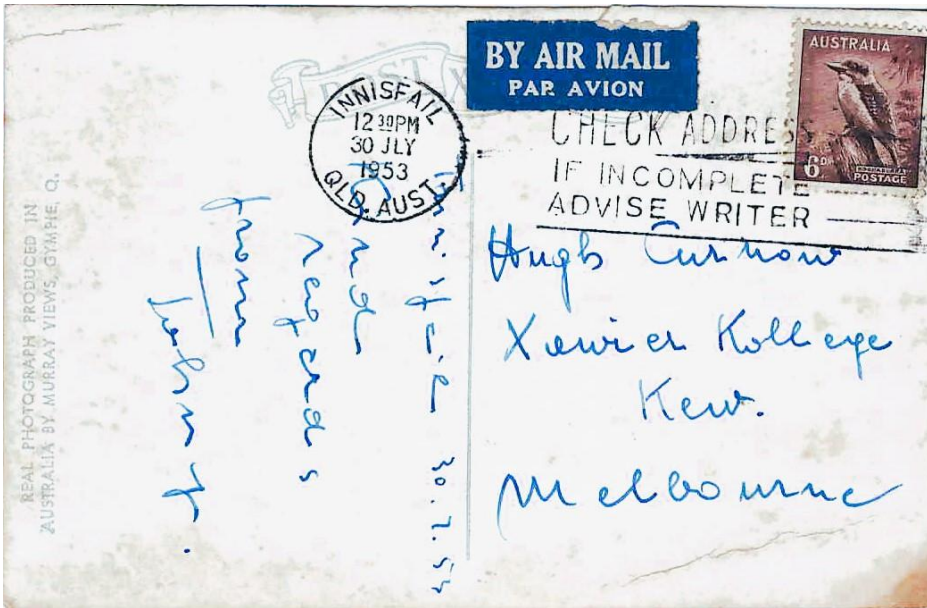
## Back Page

**John Young**

### Airmail Postcard in Australia, 1953

Stamped Australian postcards to domestic addresses in the early 1950s are not common. Airmail frankings are seen less often. Holiday makers often only went intra-state, and surface mail was sufficient for their postcards.

This postcard showing Etty Bay, Innisfail, went from Queensland to Melbourne. The North Coast train from Cairns to Brisbane took two or more days, and rail from Brisbane to Melbourne another two.



By comparison, transmission from Innisfail to Cairns [80 km] and airmail from Cairns to Melbourne were much quicker. The comparative costs were 3 pence for surface postcard postage, plus 3 pence airmail fee. The 6 pence air rate was effective from 9 July 1951 to 30 September 1956.

