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IN THIS ISSUE

Airmails from the Middle East & India Region, 1939- 46

The Madagascar UPU Specimens

The Faroya in WW2 Synopsis of Display

New Chum in Postmark Collecting

Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

Meetings: The Australian Philatelic Society meets bimonthly on the third Monday of (February, April, June, August, October, December), at 7.45 pm at the RSL Canterbury Memorial Homes, 152 Canterbury Rd, Canterbury, Melway Ref: page 46 C 10/11. Visitors welcome.

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2008 Programme

21 April 2008	John Lancaster	Customs & Excise
16 June 2008	3 members	Eastern Suburbs Comp Exhibits
18 August 2008	John Young	Airmail Display

Contents

Editorial	3
Presidents Note #9	4
Airmails from the Middle East and India Region, 1939-46 <i>John Young</i>	5
The Madagascar UPU Specimens <i>John Lancaster</i>	10
Australian Record for Picture Postcards <i>John Lancaster</i>	13
The Faroya in WW2 Synopsis of Display <i>David Brindle</i>	14
Gilbert & Ellice Islands: 10% for Postmaster <i>William Cochran</i>	24
Minutes of GM Feb 08	25
Awards	26
A New Chum in Postmark Collecting <i>Ronald M Lee</i>	27
HHDS <i>Compiled by George Vearing</i>	29
Urban Myths <i>Harewood</i>	33
Cover Proving cover (Philatelic) from Tonga Censored by Triangular censor 101..	



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Compiling this issue in the midst of a hectic March where from my point of view, everything is coming at once. We had a long weekend followed by the Warrandyte Festival which I had quite a deal of work to do. This week is Easter. As a pastor it is a very heavy time for us in our church.

Once again various members stepped up to the plate and provided an interesting array of article for your enjoyment. Thanks to each of these individuals, without whom, we would not have a journal. It amazes me the scope and the depth of knowledge that so many of our members possess and are willing to share with us. The research that they are willing to conduct in order to explain the rating or routing of a cover. This is what makes postal history so fascinating.

Please contact the editor is you are able to add to the knowledge displayed, or indeed, have a correction to information proffered. None of us is infallible and there are times when you must publish in order to test your hypothesis. Other times there is a small clue one misses and it is great to receive feedback adding, enhancing or correcting what has been written.

Maybe you have thought of a subject that needs to be addressed. Put pen to paper, fingers to keyboard, whatever; there are others more than willing to knock it into shape. That is your challenge.

David Brindle wrote up his display into an article and it is most informative. Most of the work, research etc., was already done. Thanks David.

Well I hope you are enjoying your hobby, and after all is said and done, it is a hobby; lets get the utmost enjoyment from it and laugh a little and not take ourselves too seriously. Till next issue, au revoir.

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Presidents Note #9

Into another year we go. Where does the time go? When are we going to get enough time to do our philately? Hope you all had a pleasant time over the Christmas / New Year break

I look forward to the coming year and I'm issuing a challenge to all members. I think I may be able to recruit another member. I don't know who as yet, but my friends had better watch out, they're in for a torrid time. If I have another think about it, maybe this is not good enough. I should go for two new members.

Now there's the challenge. If I can get two then it's up to all other members to try for at least one new recruit. **Are you up to it!** Our Society needs to grow.

This note is written after the February meet where I gave a little display on Faroe Islands – a one framer of how WW2 affected their mail, plus some other Scandinavian stuff that is a “work in progress”. John Young spoke to me after the close and as we were going home and in effect he issued me another challenge. Why don't you write up a story for our Journal about the Faroes? With a bit of toing and froing I went away to think about it. Who in the APS wants to know about this little episode is the question in my mind. Then again, why do we display if it is not to share our knowledge and be proud of what we have. If JY can do it so I can at least try.

Maybe an article will appear, all in good time.

That's it, I now have some philatelic work to do, some phone calls to make and a pencil to sharpen.

As the two Ronnie's used to say “Enough from me and cheers from him.”

David

Apology and Retraction

The article headed “*The Picture Postcards of the Franco-British Exhibition: 14 May – 31 October 1908*” was entirely a “Work-in Progress” exercise which was not intended for publication at that stage. Consequently, the author unreservedly apologises to our Westralian brethren for any omitted attribution or errors of fact and warrants that further research will be completed.

Airmails from Middle East and India Region, 1939- 46

By John Young

After the second world war broke out in Europe, airmails from Egypt, Palestine and the regions extending to India could be sent to USA either across the Atlantic or the Pacific Oceans. It all depended on war conditions in the Mediterranean and North Africa.

The PANAM trans-Atlantic airmail service began in May 1939, taking mail from Lisbon to New York. Egyptian airmail was flown by Air France to Lisbon and transferred to PANAM. Palestinian airmail was flown to Lisbon by BOAC, and Indian airmail was flown by BOAC or Imperial Airways to Athens, from where a European airline took it to Lisbon.

Because of the war, after the mid 1940s airmail had to be flown in the opposite direction to connect with PANAM's trans-Pacific service. Egyptian airmail was flown to Bangkok, and then either to Hong Kong or to Auckland via Sydney. Palestinian airmails shared the same arrangement, and Indian airmails got to Hong Kong via Rangoon by BOAC or CNAC; they were also taken via Auckland after mid 1941. The trans-Pacific service ended in December 1941 after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour.

By then, however, PANAM had opened a second trans-Atlantic route, from Brazil to West Africa, connecting with Leopoldville, Khartoum and Cairo. By about March 1942 airmails from Egypt, India etc. were sent in that direction, BOAC usually flying them to Lagos in West Africa. PANAM did the rest: Lagos – Brazil – Miami – New York.

The airmail service carried various frankings –

Airmail postage to USA, ordinary letter

<u>From</u>	<u>1939-40</u> <u>via Lisbon</u>	<u>1940-41</u> <u>via Pacific</u>	<u>1942 onwards</u> <u>via W. Africa</u>
Egypt	70 mills (5gm)	117-122 mills (Illustrations 1-3)	97 mills (Illustration 4)
Palestine	100-140 mills (10 gm)	125 mills (Illustration 5)	95-105 mills* (Illustrations 6-7)
India	IR5½ as (1/2oz)	2R11½ as 3R10½ as (Illustrations 8-9)	2R11½ as ** (Illustration 10)

*From Sept 1944 Palestinian airmail could also be sent via England and Lisbon on the north Atlantic route for 125-130 mills

**From late 1943 Indian airmail could be sent via Gibraltar to Lisbon for the north Atlantic route.

An additional cover from Burma to USA is shown in illustration 11. It belongs to the trans-Pacific period and is franked 3R 12as 3p, a fraction more than the airmail fee from India at that time.

Egypt



Fig 1 Flown November 1940 by BOAC or KLM to Bangkok, BOAC to Hong Kong, PANAM to USA probably after transmission to Auckland via Sydney. Correctly franked 122m

Fig 2 Quadruple rate of route described in illus 1. Postage consisted of 22m for 20gm surface mail plus 4 x 95m per 5gm airmail, total 402m

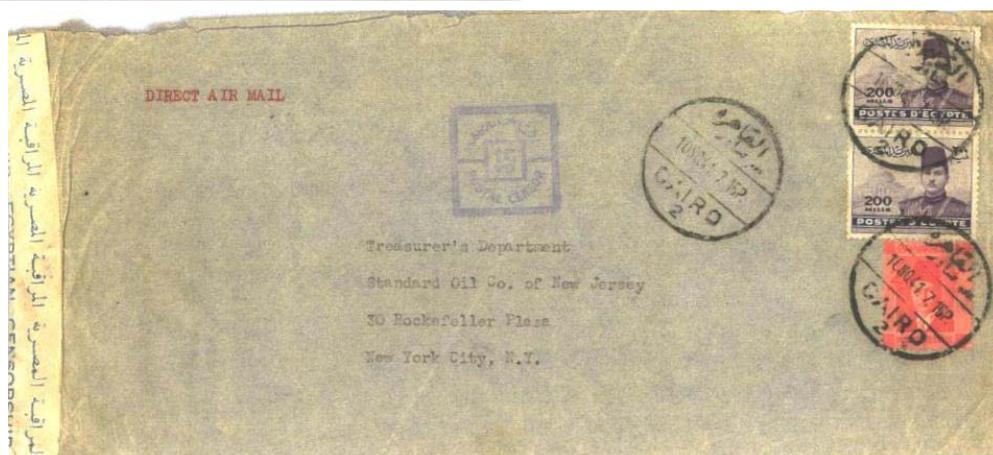


Fig 3 Flown May 1941, Cairo — Sydney — Auckland — PANAM — to USA. Correctly franked 117m.



Fig 4 Flown May 1943 by BOAC to Lagos, PANAM to Miami. Correctly franked 322m for quadruple rate letter.

Palestine

Fig 5 Flown Feb 1941 by BOAC to Singapore and by PANAM to San Francisco.

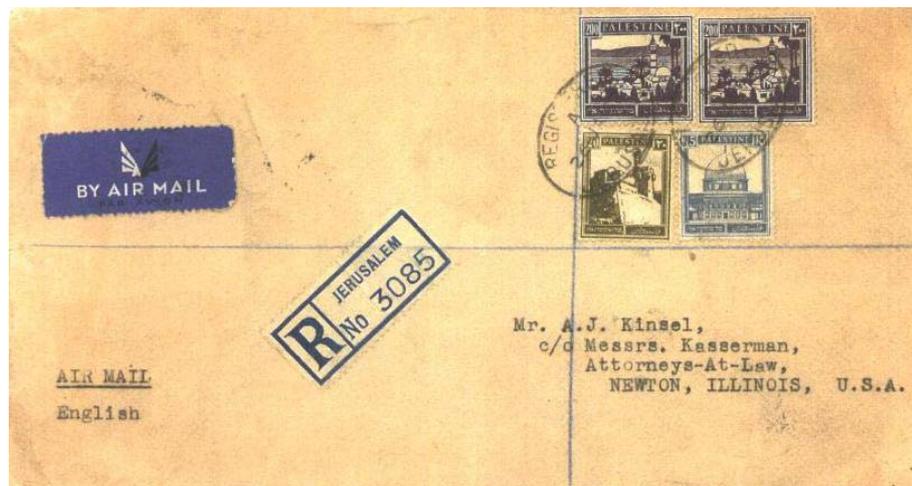


Fig 6. Flown Feb 1942 to West Africa and by PANAM to Brazil and Miami at rate of 105m/5gm. Registered and franked 425m. Transmission 25 days (backstamps).



Fig 7. Flown Sept 1943 on route described in illustration 6. Correctly franked 100m for 5gm letter.

India

Fig 8. Flown during July 1940—April 1941 by BOAC or CNAC to Hong Kong and by PANAM to USA. Correctly franked 2R 11½as for this period.



Fig 9. Flown May 1941 by route described in illustration 8. Postage 3R 10½as, but overpaid in this example.



Fig 10. Flown between March 1942 and end of war by BOAC to Cairo and Lagos, and by PANAM to Miami. Correctly franked 5R 3as 6p for double rate letter.

Burma



Fig 11. Flown October 1941, similar to cover in illustration 9.

The Madagascar UPU Specimens

By John Lancaster

A large portion of the Madagascar UPU specimens came onto the market in the late 1980's through an American auctioneer, George Alevizos. The writer was able to secure those of Siam, and subsequently a number of exhibition stamps in later years. Alevizos did not obtain some of the Western European countries, and it is believed that Argyll Etkin obtained the British Commonwealth material. Also, an unknown portion of the Madagascar specimen material was inadvertently destroyed by fire.

Thus the Alevizos material was a large portion of the UPU specimens received by the "*Directeur de Postes*" in Madagascar. In his catalogue he commented that "the *Directeur* devised [an] elaborate and visually striking method of keeping his specimens. He obtained a large quantity of 'ledger sheets' [275 x 360 mm] which had 49 rectangles [7 x 7] printed on them and punched with two holes at the left for the binder. At the top, the name of the country was handwritten in ink and a ledger page number stamped. At the bottom, the number of stamps on the page was written, a violet handstamp reading '*LE DIRECTEUR des Postes at Telegraphs*' applied, and then signed by the *Directeur*."

The countries that were represented in this veritable treasure trove of specimen stamps and postal stationery were Argentina, Austria, Belgium and Congo, Bolivia, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Chile, Colombia, Crete, Denmark, Dominica, Ecuador, Ethiopia, France and its colonies and offices in Africa – Anjouan, Dahomey, Congo, Egypt, Gabon, Guinea, Ivory Coast, Mauritania, Morocco, Reunion, Senegal, Senegambia & Niger, Somali Coast, Sudan, Tunisia, and Zanzibar; the Caribbean – Martinique, St Pierre et Miquelon; India, Indochina and Polynesia including New Caledonia and New Hebrides; Germany including Bavaria and Wurttemberg, and its offices and colonies in China, Morocco and East Africa; Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iran, Italy and its offices in Albania, Eritrea and Somalia; Japan, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mexico, Montenegro, Netherland and its colonies in Antilles, Indies and Surinam; Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Portugal and its colonies in Angola, Azores, Cape Verde, Congo, Guinea, India, Lourenco Marques, Macao, Mozambique, Nyassa, St Thomas & Prince Islands, Timor and Zambezi; Romania, Russia and its office in China; Salvador, Serbia, Spain and its colonies; Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Uruguay and the USA including Canal Zone, and Venezuela.

Prices for items ranged from the modest \$600 for French Sudan to \$40,000 for the French and Indochinese offices in China including Canton, Hoi Hao, Kwangchow, Mongtseu, Pakoi, Tchongking and Yunnan Fou.

All of the stamps and stationery – there were three of each in most cases - were affixed to album pages with the country name written in pen at the top. All examples were cancelled upon receipt in Madagascar with a double ring circular cachet in red reading "POSTES ET TELEGRAPHS / COLLECTION DE BERNE / MADAGASCAR". Alevizos continues "Stationery items were treated in a similar manner, with the hand-stamp covering one to four items, almost like a postmark. In his thorough manner the Director would invariably hand-stamp both halves of message reply cards. He was careful to ensure that all were stamped. The stationery range included postal cards and envelopes, pneumatic postcards, money order cards, special delivery letter cards, telephone forms, post office savings forms plus several others. Some of the sheets bear the date and package details when received.

What constitutes a Specimen?

Samuel¹ defines a specimen as a stamp which has been provided as a sample, for which no payment has been made to the revenue, and which has been defaced to prevent its usage. For the Crown Colonies, the usual defacement was the well known **SPECIMEN** overprint. These printed SPECIMEN overprints were usually applied by the printer, while hand-stamped overprints [usually on local printings and local surcharges] were put on by local authorities.

The most common usage of specimens was for distribution by the International Bureau of the Universal Postal Union in Berne to the member nations. From 1892 to September 1907, the UPU whenever possible distributed to member nations five copies of each stamp/stationery received. However, from 1907 to 1948 they distributed only three of each stamp/stationery received.

The Universal Postal Union and Specimen Stamps

Gary Weiss² observed that with the formation of the UPU, one of the regulations dated in 1878 requested that 80 copies [of specified documents including stamps and postal stationery] be submitted to the International Bureau in Switzerland for redistribution to member countries. Thus began a long tradition of sending stamps to the UPU for redistribution. Some countries sent stamps overprinted with the word "specimen" or its equivalent, while most countries simply sent unused stamps, being stamps indistinguishable from those currently in use.

In a series of articles published in Stamp Collecting³ Marcus Samuel presented original research on the distribution of these stamps based on careful review of documents as well as a review of the collection of specimen stamps maintained by the International Bureau.

The requirements for specimens slowly increased and reached 100 in June 1882. With requirements for multiple copies from many postal administrations, the number had increased to 345 by December 1885. Requirements continued to increase, and as noted by Samuel based on Circular No. 3999/212 of 8 October 1904, the number of stamps required increased to 726. With the addition of other countries, the number increased to a maximum of 756 with many countries receiving five sets of stamps. The number required was dropped on 28 September 1907 to 448 with members receiving stamps in triplicate after this time through until 1948.

Other examples of receiving authority markings applied by the recipient countries are known. These includes the **ULTRAMAR** handstamp applied in Lisbon [1895-1910], the circular cachet of Gabon [1906], the italic Specimen handstamp of Salisbury, Rhodesia [1903-1907], the violet SPECIMEN handstamp of the Natal Post Office [1885-1910], and the black SPECIMEN handstamp of the Bechuanaland Protectorate [1890-1937].

Alevizos also had recourse to publications by James Bendon: "UPU Specimen Stamps: The Distribution of Specimen Stamps by International Bureau of Universal Postal Union" Cyprus 1988, and George Codding: "The Universal Postal Union – Co-ordinator of International Mails" New York UP 1964.

1. M Samuel: "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies 1857-1948" London RPSL 1976
2. Canal Zone Philatelist vol 25 #1 1989
3. Beginning from 1964



Scan taken from the George Alevizos catalogue "The Madagascar UPU Specimens" inside back page.

Australian Record for Picture Postcards

Perhaps an Australian record was established for an unique series of 1905 football picture postcards, at the Charles Leski auction on Thursday night 13 December 2007. All were in fine condition and produced by Valentines, and were described as: "CARLTON: c1905 Valentines "League Series" postcard, very colourful and attractive G/VG". The series were all estimated at \$100 to \$120, with starting prices on the night ranging from \$240 to \$400. The exceptional cards were those of Essendon, Melbourne and South Melbourne. The set of eight in the series consists of:



Images courtesy Charles Leski website www.leski.com.au

The auction was extremely well attended with several bidders having to stand and five phones fully active. When it came to lots #883 to #890 bidding became quite animated with the first lot going for \$1000 plus 16.5 buyer's commission. Competition was fierce with perhaps three determined bidders seeking these unique postcards, with individual prices realising from \$1600 to \$1750 per card [all plus commission]. The complete set was eventually acquired by an internationally renowned postcard aficionado who paid the princely sum of \$12,500 for these eight picture postcards, which makes them now worth \$1563 each – and yes, he could have sold them all within fifteen minutes at a profit!

Until the above auction the most expensive picture postcards had been two produced by the Tasmanian Government for the 1908 Franco-British Exhibition which were auctioned by Ross Ewington of Hobart in 2005 for \$700 each.

THE FAROYA IN WW2 SYNOPSIS OF DISPLAY

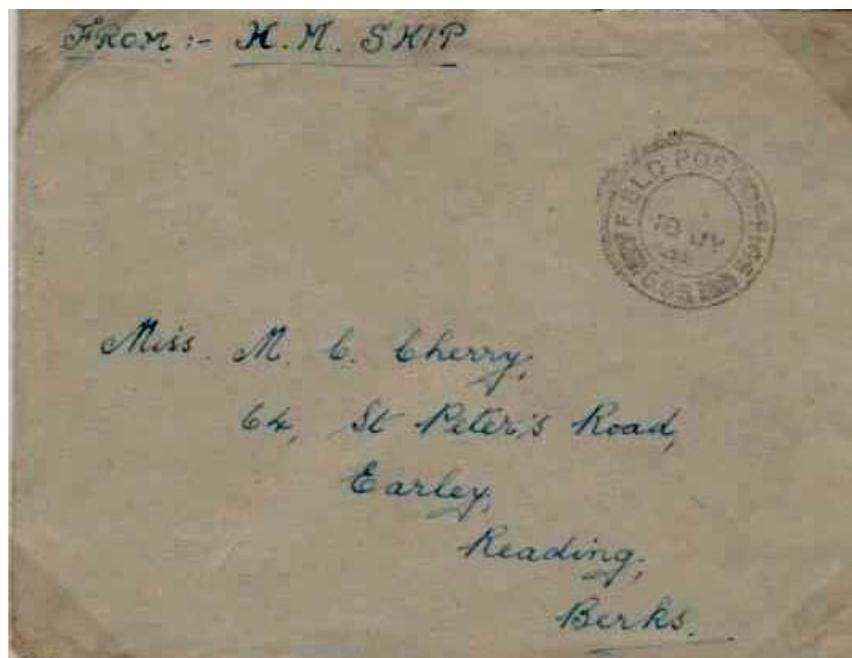
By David Brindle

A display at the February club meet attempted to show some of the difficulties experienced by the Faroese with their mail during World War 2, this article is that story and a selection of the covers shown at that display.

The Faroe Islands are a Danish Colony and situated in the North Sea mid way between Norway and Iceland and north of the English Shetland and Orkney Islands. They are a volcanic group of islands approximately 70km east to west and 110km north to south. In 1940 the Faroes had a population of about 45,000 people. The Faroe Islands were a strategically important area for either side because of their location in the North Sea and when Germany decided to invade Denmark and Norway in April '40 then the British had to move and occupy the colony.

British Occupation Force's mail, particularly the land forces, is reasonably well known although difficult to obtain because of the small quantities and a ready and enthusiastic market in the surrounding countries particularly Denmark and UK. Out of the forces mail the RAF and HM Ship mail was normally carried back to the UK by the ships or aircraft and is therefore difficult to identify but occasionally this mail was dropped at an island base. But Force's mail is only a small part of the story; hence there were only three pieces shown for reference, one of which is this H. M. Ship cover, (Fig 1)

Fig 1.



This cover has the **British APO 4** with FPO number **695 cds @ "Thorshavn"**, (known from 9.4.43 to 24.9.45). It is dated 18.Jy.45 in the last months of occupation after VE day. Cvr from H.M. Ship via the army FPO. The ship covers landed and mailed from the Faroe Islands were treated by the APO and **usually** had no other naval markings or identification.

Very few identifiable British Naval covers exist from the Faroe Islands.

As a consequence of this worldwide conflict Faroese mail was considerably disrupted. The islands were cut off from their mother country as well as their regular source of supplies. There were over 3500 Faroese, or over 8% of the total island population, stranded in Denmark. These people found difficulty in contact with home ¹, (and vice-versa). External mail, which normally went through Denmark, was now forced to go through the United Kingdom. Neither side allowed mail across "the divide" except under special circumstances and with strict censorship applied by each side, (Fig 2). In effect the islands had to rely on England rather than Denmark.

Fig 2.



A cover dated 11.3.40 that should have gone from Hou, Denmark to Klaksvig, Faroe Is. The last supply ship to leave Denmark arrived at Torshavn on 24.2.40. This mail was held until the next available ship but the German occupation of Denmark on 9.4.40 got there first. Danish Post cachet of "Post Exchange Adjustment / Return to Sender" applied and mail returned. Hand written receipt date on reverse 24.4.40.

Some early 1940's mail to Denmark from the islands was sent via the UK to Lisbon, Portugal, often via New York and the transatlantic clipper back to Europe, then via Germany to Denmark. And the reverse trip also applied. (Example see Fig 3).

Of the usual corresponding European countries that had contact with the Faroes, occasional mail from Iceland or Norway slipped through by fishing trawler however this is next to impossible to identify as postal markings were not applied. In general the German authorities kept a strict no correspondence regime. Very little other correspondence from the other European countries apart from Denmark and Sweden is known. Swedish mail was airlifted to UK and then by boat to the Faroes ² although there is one exception to this route and a cover, (and may be the only one), that demonstrates this exception was shown. This cover flew from Stockholm via Moscow, Teheran, Baghdad, Cairo, the short loop through North Africa to Portugal then UK ², (possibly via New York), and boat to Thorshavn. An email opinion from Richard Bodin, a senior Swedish philatelist, judge and philatelic writer ⁷, is attached for reference. Please note the airmail rates quoted for this exhibition

piece were applicable for THREE months only and this letter was posted from Sweden on the FIRST day of travel via this long route at the new rates. (See this cover's scan in Fig 4). A very rare cover.

Fig 3.

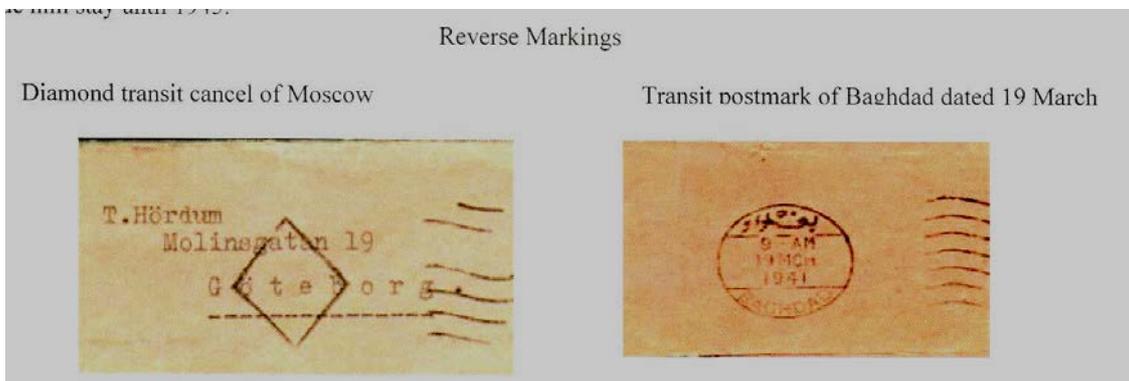
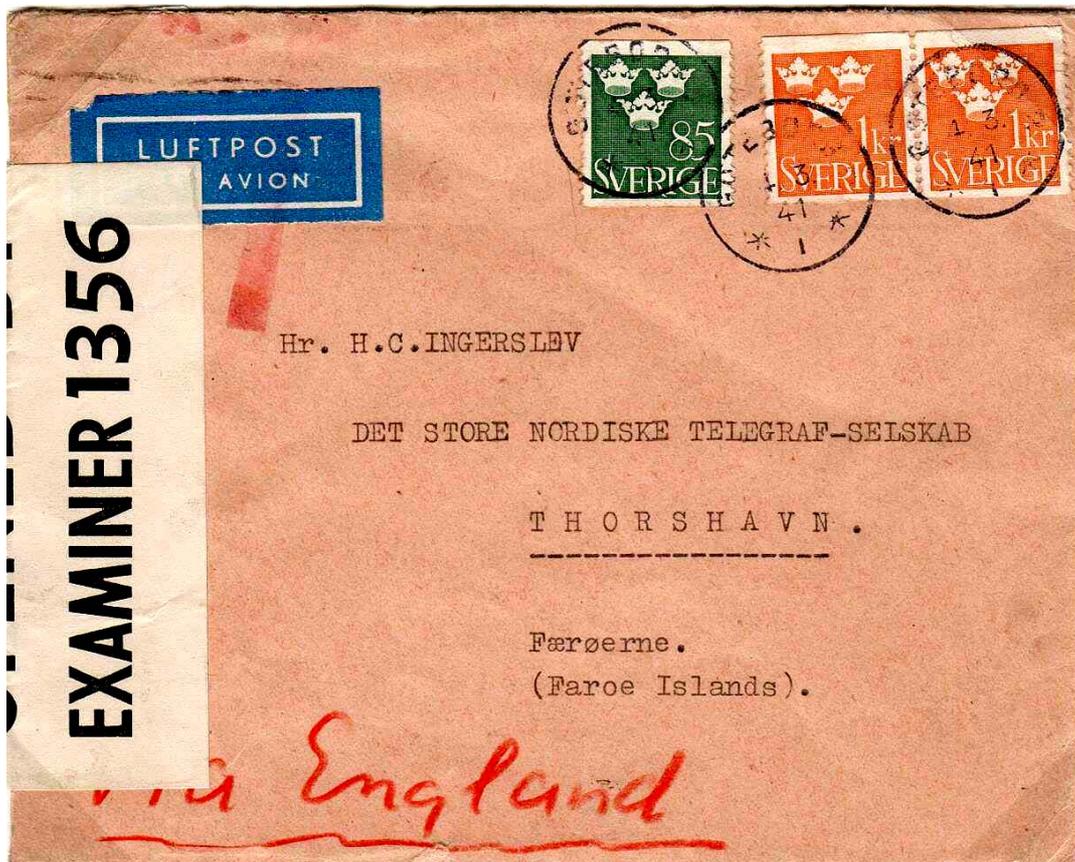


Cover from Klaksvik, Faroes, (faint KLIPFISK pmk), to Kobenhavn, Denmark, dated 1.4.41, using 4 N^o of the 1st printing of 50 on 5 ore, stamps that are rarely seen on external mail. For the short period from 13 Feb to 25 July, 1941 the UK allowed and Germany accepted mail from Faroe to Denmark contra to the blanket "no mail". As there was no direct connection this cover with the "via New York" shows the indirect route Faroe (via boat) - UK (northern route, probably with RAF plane ferrying pilots for return bombers) - New York (via PANAM Clipper, southern route via Azores) – Portugal (via German commercial airline DHL) – Germany - Denmark. On the way it was censored in the UK (PC 90 tape), and again in Munich (Geossnet tape with d under swastika on reverse). Total travel time 38 days. Franking of 2 Kr, accounted as, 20 ore letter rate, 105 ore for delivery via New York, 85 ore for airmail, making the letter underpaid by 10 ore.

One of only 17 covers to leave Faroes on 2 April (refer Hopballe). Unknown survival figures.

Other correspondence from countries around the West Atlantic was shown at the display, but not scanned for this article, to indicate some of the difficulties experienced even from there. A major issue of WW2 is the local mail. British occupation was a "friendly occupation" and by agreement the Danish postal rates and franking¹ were to be kept. Existing Danish money on the islands, i.e. the notes, were specifically overprinted or printed in London.

Fig 4.



Cover from Sweden to Thorshavn, postmarked 1.3.41. It appears that during 1940/41 only two items (per year?) went between Sweden and Faroes making this cover one of two (maximum) from 1941. Normal route Sweden to Faroes was air direct to Scotland then via boat to Faroes, however conditions were not always conducive due to military action or weather, so a second (laborious) route was planned. This entailed Swedish ABA airline to Moscow (sometimes via Finland), to Moscow; Russian Aeroflot to Teheran; then BOAC to Baghdad onto Cairo, Egypt, and further via the short African Loop to Niger and then Portugal. Depending upon conditions it may be direct to the UK or via PANAM Clipper southern route to Bermuda and New York and back to the UK via the northern route commercial BOAC or RAF ferried bombers). This route was used very rarely and only available from Apr '40 (German invasion of Denmark and Norway) till June '41 (German invasion of Russia). During late Feb and early March 1941 some Swedish mail was redirected via this long route. Franking of 2.85 Kr accounted as; letter 10 – 15 gms @ 30 ore; air surcharge of 3 x 85 ore (15 gm letter); total 2.85 Kr. Air rate changed to 85 ore per 5 gms on 1.3.41.

Hr. Ingerslev, a Dane about to leave when Germany invaded Denmark. **Note the RED BAR cancellation on the airmail etiquette may indicate either surface (train) Teheran to Baghdad, OR applied in UK for boat to Faroes. Debate continues on this red bar matter.**

In regards to postage, 1940 saw a shortage of Danish stamps requiring a 2nd 'set' (5), of Faroese stamps ^{5&6} to be issued. The Danish authorities gave official agreement. Like the 1st Faroese issue in 1919 this new set consisted of locally overprinted stocks of Danish stamps on hand. This covered the shortfall of certain values during 1940/1941. These overprints remained valid until Denmark Post regained control late in 1945. (Two covers with the first issue of 2.11.40. are shown in Figs 5 & 6).



Fig 5 Faint starless cancel.

Of Tofte (on island of Eysturoy),

Thorshavn received pmk

Shown at 88%

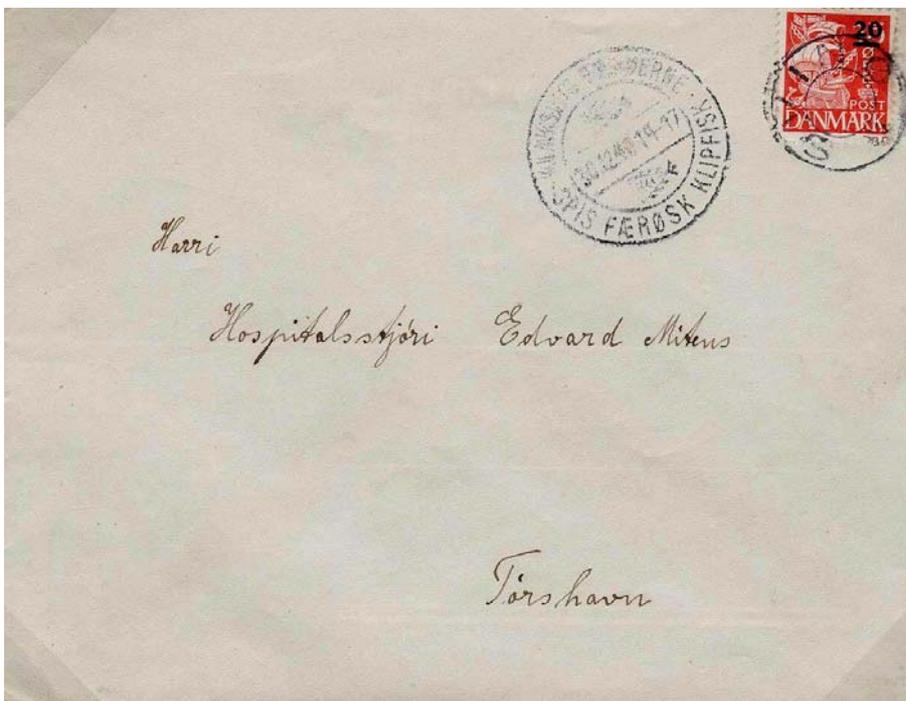


Fig 6 Cover from Svino the only village on the island of Svinoy way up in the NE of the island group. Total population of Svino at the time was about 65.

Cover has starless cancel of Svino, sent via Klaksvik, (Klipfisk cancel), on the island of Bordoy to Torshavn

Shown at 78%

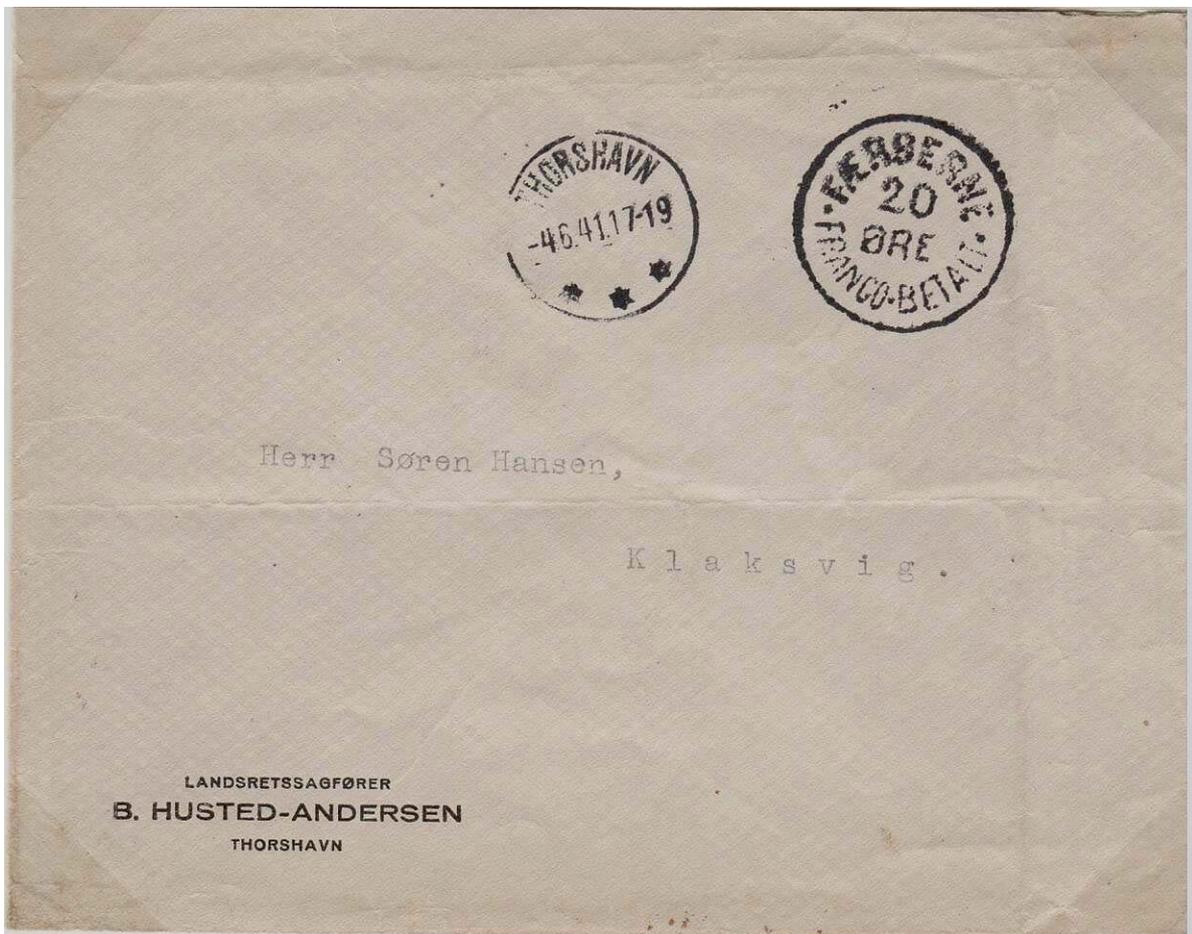
Note the difference between Thorshavn (Danish) and Torshavn (Faroese) in the addresses.

There are interesting nuances to the postage stamp shortages such as the “Franco Betalt” (postage paid) wooden hand cancellers used mainly on counterfoils of parcel cards, money orders, and the like. The whole aim was to preserve the normal postage stamp supply. Four sets of cancellers were issued, Thorshavn, the main user, Klaksvig (used for a postal amount of 61 Kr), Vaag (6.5 Kr), and Transgisvaag (not used) ⁵. These special cancels varied in dates of use but were basically between 10 May and 10 June 1941

Two sets comprising one each of 5 ore, 10, 20, and a ‘no value’ were issued to Thorshavn and Klaksvig. The other two sets were issued without the ‘no value’ canceller. The ‘no value’ canceller was for use where the franking value was outside the other three and the value was to be hand written by the postal clerks. Of course the hand written amounts vary considerably according to the size of the parcel or the money order etc, and were not written in all the time.

Denmark Post has established that approximately 550 counterfoil cuttings were preserved with complete covers considered extremely rare. A cover and cutting are exhibited to show this rare and unusual use, (Figs 7 & 8)

Fig 7.



A “very rare” (Danish Post Words) “FAEROERNE*FRANCO BETALT*20 ore” cover sent from Thorshavn to Klaksvig.

The cover has the special cancellation as post paid, and the normal Thorshavn cds for date posted

Of particular interest was the use of 6 ore as 5 ore value stamps^{5&6} for parcels and other counter requirements. The 6 for 5 ore use was authorised locally and not known to Danish authorities until after the war. Philatelists when sorting through kiloware from the Faroes discovered the nuance. Few cuttings survived the common practice of washing kiloware. Of course these cuttings are well sort after by philatelists; one of these cuttings was on exhibit, (Fig 9).

Fig 8.



Clipping of the 'no value' canceller used at Torshavn.

Note the actual value has NOT been written in as required.

Fig 9.



Parcel card clipping that has 3 x 60/6 (second print issued 26.5.41)

PLUS

3 x 6 ore used as 5 ore

Both clippings are scarce survivors

It should be noted that Danish stamps were smuggled out of Denmark mid to late '41 and subsequently used in the Faroes during the latter years of the war¹. An insured cover is shown with this mixed franking, (Fig 10).

Finally the Red Cross was quick to recognize the problem with correspondence between relatives across the lines. Both sides agreed on a specific message scheme of 25 words (later increased to 50), and the exchange was carried out in Switzerland. Of course the messages were censored using the normal censor cachets then bundled for transport. The receiving countries central PO then placed individual messages into envelopes, mostly window type, and the message was treated like normal internal postage from there. One

example of this system with its appropriate cover is shown as the final but very important part of the mail to and from the Faroes in WW2, (Fig 11).



Fig 10
 Combination Insured cover with 2 x '41 o/prints,
 20/1 issued 2.5.41,
 50/5 issued 6.12.41
 PLUS
 15/40 issued in Denmark on 12.12.40 or 7 months after German occupation.
 Scan @ 70%

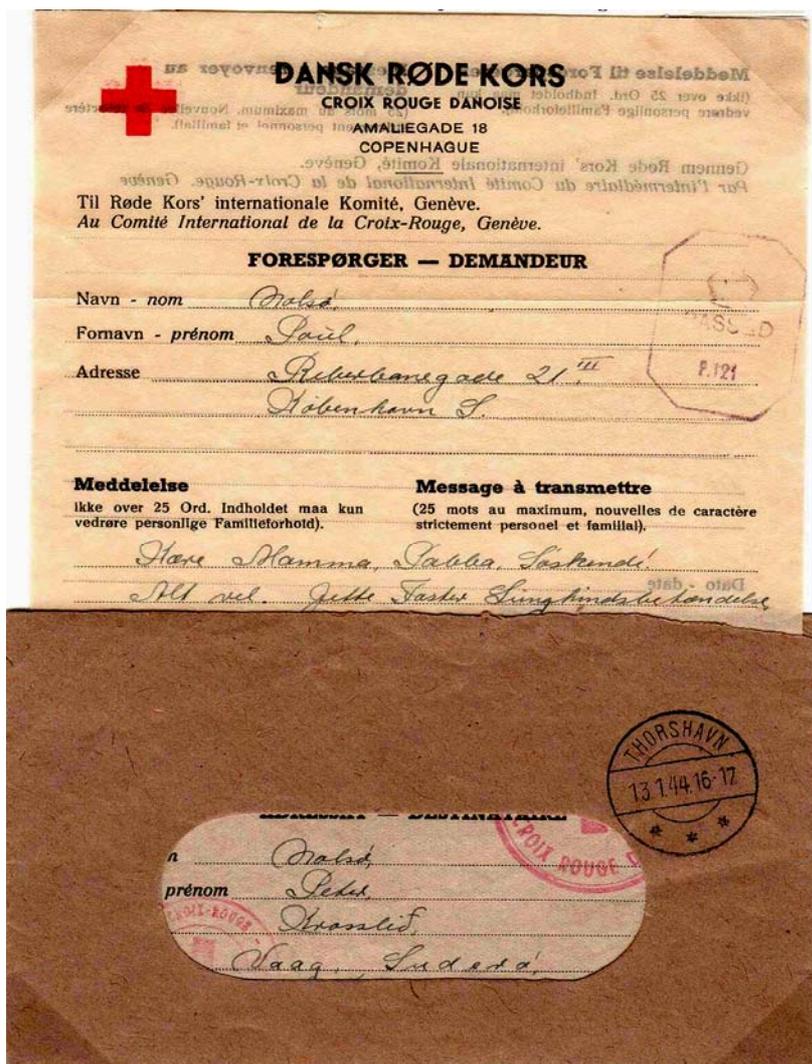


Fig 11 Message from Kobenhavn to Vaag, on the southern Suduroy Island.

Left Denmark 2.12.43 and arrived Torshavn 13.1.44 and re-posted to Vaag.

Reduced to 68%

REFERENCES and ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

1. Don Brandt, More Stamps and Story of the Faroe Islands, Postverk Faroya, 2006.
A well written and easily read book that covers almost all known aspects on Faroese philately and relates stamps and covers to the topography, tales, history and places of the Islands. Chapter 12 deals with WW2.
2. Thomas H Boyle Jr, Airmail Operations During World War 2, The American Airmail Society, 1998.
Chapter 12 is on Scandinavian mail, with p364 dealing with the Moscow route and the rates are spelt out in the tables.
3. Kristian Hopballe, Faeroernes postale forhold under anden verdenskrig, 5F Frimaerker, 1986. (In Danish).
Unable to read fully but it has an in depth study of the Faeroenes and you can pick out specific philatelic detail.
4. Orjan Luning, Luftpostens historia i Noerden (The History of Airmail in Scandinavia), Sveriges Filatelist-Forbund, 1978. (In Swedish).
A very difficult book if it wasn't for the English translations albeit in much shortened sections. Does not appear to have material for WW2, but is useful Airmail PH reference.
5. Facit 2007 Special,
6. AFA Specialkatalog, 1987 – 88

These two catalogues have the usual information on numbers issued etc, but are very useful with certain aspects of the Franco Betalt and 6 for 5 issues. Prices on cover are of course only indicative of difficulty in purchase. As usual some items come on the market so rarely that any price is a guess
7. Email from prominent Swedish philatelist, judge, philatelic writer, and exhibitor, Richard Bodin, Sept 07, (attached).
8. Peter Sondhelm, member of Scandinavia Philatelic Society (UK), a very keen and knowledgeable collector of Faroe Postal History, who unselfishly supplied in-depth information on WW2 material.

David Brindle, 2008

Emails between Richard Bodin, Sweden and David

Hello,

I could only say CONGRATULATIONS to a magnificent item, that really show how the Post Offices had found a way for a letter to reach the addressee. I will not argue against your write up, it seems to me that it is alright, except that you could also tell the rate period. Because the airmail fee was only for a short period. Maybe you have it at home, but here it is anyhow.

30 öre Foreign letter up to 20g. 1.7.1936-31.5.1952
85 öre airmail fee per 5g. 1.3.-6.7.1941

About the rarity statement 1 or 2 known, I don't know. I haven't seen anyone else than yours, so it could be true, but it could also be 1 or to more, so have the statement there until anyone says other things.

This comment you should got if you had displayed that item and page:
"Why haven't you done a small map, that also show the route? It is easier to understand the long distance the letter had travelled!"

Think about that for your other items as well! I try to do that at more pages now than before. I think it will help the understanding of the items a bit faster for the viewer, as well as the judges.

So David! once again, you got a really good item!

Best Regards,

Richard

> Från: "David Brindle" <perforations@optushome.com.au>
> Till: "Richard Bodin" <fnpost@spray.se>
> Rubrik: See attached
> Datum: Tue, 4 Sep 2007 16:19:55 +1000

Richard,

I have this Sweden to Faroe Islands cvr from March '41, see JPG attached. When I acquired this some time ago I was told that this is a scarce cover and the reason given "it was via Baghdad".

By the way the cover was cut for display before I got it. The "flap" can be folded back for proper display and scans can show the transit marks as per the word doc.

Now my understanding tends to confirm this and I have written it up as per the word doc. My references are thin and include

Airmail Operations during WW2, Thomas H. Boyle Jr., pages 369, 373/4,

Don Brandt mentions vague details in Stamps and Story of the Faroe Islands,

Information from the seller of some time ago.

Please is it possible for you to confirm any of the details I have written?

Best Regards

David Brindle

GILBERT AND ELLICE ISLANDS: 10% FOR POSTMASTERS

By William Cochrane

Here's an interesting note on the Gilbert and Ellice Islands I discovered in *Stamp Collectors' Fortnightly* (Oct 28 1911).

I have been privileged to peruse various interesting communications from Mr. J. Quayle Dickson, chief-postmaster of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

In a letter to Mr. Chris R. Robinson, dated August 4th, the postmaster states that "all stamps are sold out." A letter written a month later (September 11th) to Mr. Herbert W. Hawkins, reports, among other things the following:

The surcharged Fijian issue of stamps is now exhausted. The only stamps we have at present are the second (or Pandanus Palm) issue of the values ½ d., 1d., 2d., and 2 1/2d

But there is a further item of great interest in the letter to Mr. Hawkins. "For your further guidance, "writes the good postmaster, "I might mention that I retain, by sanction of His Excellency the High Commissioner for the Western Pacific, ten per cent. Of the amount of each remittance, as commission, on all orders for stamps which I fulfil. In proof whereof postmaster Dickson sends along a copy of his authorisation in the shape of an extract from the High Commissioner's despatch of December 7, 1010. Therein the postmaster is informed that "from all remittances that may reach you in future accompanied by requisitions for stamps from persons who are obviously dealers or collectors, a sum to cover expenses of issue, book-keeping, custody of cash, etc., amounting to ten per centum of the amount of each remittance".

So there! "custody of cash" is, I think, a beautiful thought on the part of His Excellency the High Commissioner. The authorisation concludes with the words: "These deductions will of course be credited as Miscellaneous Revenue."

I wonder how the "Miscellaneous Revenue" will bulk in the next annual accounts of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands.

It is an item that will have certain melancholy interest for "persons who are obviously dealers or collectors."

Cover Spot

Cover sent from Reykjavik, Iceland to New Zealand Address. Field Post Office 306 allotted to 49 Div P.U. 7.6.40. Known used 11.6.40—1.10.41. RAF Censor 638 found on covers from Island between June 1940—February 1942. Several NZ'ers flew with the first Sunderland Squadron and the detachment of Hudsons sent there from the UK. Coastal Command began to operate out of Iceland early in April 1941 (Thompson H.L. 1953. *New Zealanders with the Royal Air Force*. Vol 1. Wellington: War History Branch, Dept of Internal Affairs).



Minutes of General Meeting held 18 February 2008

President David Brindle welcomed ten members to the bi-monthly meeting. As he was in the chair he outlined his topic for the evening which was the "FOROYAR - FAROE Islands – The DANISH Colony's Mail during WW2. He explained that Germany occupied both Denmark and Norway on 9 April 1940. To prevent German advancement into North Sea and huge strategic problems for allies, Churchill announced peaceful occupation of Danish colony of Faroe Islands on 11 April 1940. The first British forces consisting of 2 destroyers and marines arrived two days later. British military mail maybe found from April 1940 through to the official end of occupation on 16 September '45 and shown are three examples.

The Faroe Islands civil mail to or from overseas destinations was considerably disrupted by conflict with either side blocking access. Instead of Faroe Islands external mail being directed via Denmark it was re-routed via England with all mail censored in UK. One outstanding piece of mail from Sweden to Faroe Is shows how there was considerable re-routing as a result this conflict. Local mail between Islanders continued as normal without apparent censorship. Shortage of Danish stamps early in British occupation required local overprints, to become 2nd issue of Faroese Stamps, (1st in 1919 and 3rd in 1975). All five values of this second issue are shown in correct local usage. Late '41 smuggled deliveries of Danish stamps re-established normal Danish franking. WW2 effectively cut off Faroe Islands from their Danish authorities. To complete picture Red Cross arranged correspondence between Faroese caught in Denmark and Faroe Islands during war—examples shown.

SAAR BATTALLION [1934 – 1935]

The Saar Battalion, (a team of 261 men), operated under two different postal directives. From 23 Dec 1934 to 7 Jan 1935 GPS circular 76/34, then from 8 Jan to 17 Feb 1935 the Battalion operated under GPS circular 2/35. Former was under a combined field and ordinary post control allowing "normal" postage only, whereas latter was intended for Fieldpost under Postmaster Sven Svenmarck. The Jan/Feb period allowed for military postal stationery (Militarbrief type M 2 and Militarbriefkort type MbK 4) and a special postmark to be used. Naturally there are mailed examples outside these parameters.

Mail from the Battalion was sent back to Sweden via Malmo for onward distribution (similar to Orlogspost).

ALAND

In the Crimean War, a British and French fleet blockaded Baltic Sea, bombarded several Finnish (Russian) towns and landed a force of some 7,000 troops onto Aland Islands destroying Bormarsund Fortress. It was probably actions of Baltic Blockade causing economic hardship and keeping crack Russian troops occupied, and not land actions on Crimean Peninsular that caused Russia to loose Crimean War. Paris Peace Treaty of 1856 ended Crimean War that included a clause that Aland Islands were to be military free. WW1 saw this clause ignored and Russia built some fortifications as defence against the German aspirations.

The 1917 Revolution caused Russia to sue for peace. Subsequently Finland gained independence and Aland Islands (as part of Finland) wished to revert to military free status therefore no longer needing fortifications. By Finnish/Swedish agreement, islands were to be "cleared" of Russians and fortifications were dismantled with Swedish help. A Swedish detachment of some 2,000 men was dispatched in Feb 1918 to protect Swedish-speaking people of islands against Red army forces, capturing some 1590 Russian prisoners and maintaining islands. After winter spell of 1918/19 a further detachment landed in April 1919 to start and complete work of demolition. A small German contingent of some 100 Jaeger troops was also on islands in 1918. (Continued p27)

The two Swedish detachments and their military mail also some early letters from the Russo/Swede War is included is the subject of this small collection.

An appreciation was given by Mr Young with the display being warmly enjoyed by those present. Mr Fuller outlined his visit to the Tullamarine Gateway facility. The minutes of 17 December meeting were proposed by Mr Brindle and seconded by Ms Irene Kerry as a true record of proceedings.

Australian Philatelic Society EXHIBITORS AND AWARDS AT WODONGA DEC 2007

APS members that exhibited with success at the recent NATIONAL ONE FRAME and STATE CLASS Fair in WODONGA, December 2007.

	TITLE OF EXHIBIT	Type	Award
One Frame Class			
Anthony Presgrave	The Surcharged Stamps of South Australia	Trad.	Ruby
Geoff Kellow	Sierra Leone: The Margai-Churchill Issue '65	Trad.	Emerald
John Dibiase	Lions of Persia, First Series 1868-1879	Trad.	Ruby
Richard Peck	The Forgotten Family	Trad.	Emerald
John Dibiase	The Savings bank postmarks of W. A.	P/History	Ruby
Harold Sheath	More to Pay	P/History	Sapphire
Rod Perry	Out with the Old In with the New	P/History	Emerald
Anthony Presgrave	Mail Routes on the River Murray	P/History	Emerald
David Brindle	The Faroes in WW2	P/History	Ruby
David Brindle	Intro to Swedish Warship and Naval Post	P/History	Emerald
Geoff Kellow	The Air Letters of Sierra Leone, 1950-1971	P/Stationary	Ruby
Ian McMahon	Lettercards of Canada	P/Stationary	Emerald
Rod Perry	Look, Up in the Sky	Aerophilately	Ruby
State Class			
John Dibiase	Postal Stationery of Afghanistan	P/Stationary	Vermeil

Apologies to any member not accounted for.

Please notify our Editor, Tony Lyon, or a Council Member of any future exhibition results.

A NEW CHUM IN POSTMARK COLLECTING.

Ronald. M. Lee.

Recently my wife and I travelled by car through NSW and Queensland for seven weeks. A friend, who collects postmarks, pointed out before we departed that this would be a great opportunity to obtain postmarks and photograph the post offices.

Before we had left Victoria, in a small town near Shepparton, I ventured into the first post office. Although my collector friend advised me that I did not need stamps on the envelope I decided that this was not reasonable. The P.O. was entitled to receive the small profit on the several 50 cent stamps I would need.

The young man behind the counter gladly sold me stamps, waited whilst I put them on envelopes and carefully cancelled them with the regular canceller. He then brought from under the counter a pictorial canceller which had not been used since the turn of the century because the date could not be moved beyond 1999. I bought more stamps and he happily cancelled my stamped envelopes even though the date was far from correct. I really enjoyed the friendly experience.

Later that day I was surprised when the lady postal officer in a large NSW town curtly refused my request as she had received instructions not to cancel any envelopes handed over the counter because people were selling postmarks and making money. Surely she had misunderstood the instruction because the P.O. everyday sells postage stamps to collectors and dealers who make money selling them. Today the P.O. produces many more stamps than are needed for postal purposes encouraging collectors to save them on the basis that they are a good investment.

Finally the lady relented and cancelled my two envelopes after selling me the stamps. As she cheerily said goodbye she added a word of warning that my activities were illegal.

I am not one to act illegally so what should I do? Deciding that there was something seriously wrong with her interpretation of the P.O instructions I decided to continue. Very soon I had visited 25 post offices and at each one the officer had gladly sold me stamps and cancelled my envelopes.

Then in a very small tourist town in central Queensland my request was again refused because it was illegal. Postal officials, I was told, are only permitted to cancel mail which is posted. When I explained that mail posted could obtain a second cancellation when it passed through the mail exchange which could deface the postmark I wanted for my collection she, too, relented. She was not very careful in cancelling the stamps and one strike was incomplete. She refused, however, my request for a second postmark on the envelope because that was outside the rules.

An hour or two later I visited the post office in another small tourist town just a few kilometres away and I received the same advice that it was illegal to cancel mail unless it was posted. This lady was very pleasant and pleased to chat. I asked her if I addressed the letters care of the post office could I then collect them? She laughed as she cancelled the envelopes for me "It is a matter of security you know. You could post this letter month later and I would be queried as to why the mail had taken so long"

As I had lunch that day I thought about her explanation. I can't post a letter with the stamp already cancelled. The stamp is cancelled to show it has completed its postal service. Ah, but things have changed. My local insurance agent sends her accounts out in first day covers with cancelled stamps, which she buys at a discount, so cancelled stamps are accepted. I know the world continually changes but I can't follow the logic of

this one.

Again I decided to continue to ask for samples of the postmark in the towns we visited. I was, however, a little concerned because the next town was a major regional centre and the P.O. there would surely know the rules. Here, again, I was pleasantly surprised. The young lady, one of several on duty at the very long counter, very pleasantly and efficiently sold me stamps and carefully cancelled the covers.

During our 9000K journey I collected postmarks from 120 post offices. Only on one other occasion did I have any difficulty. In an inner suburb of Brisbane the girl behind the counter I approached was learning the job and being coached by a supervisor standing behind. The supervisor immediately said the items could not be cancelled unless posted. When I pointed out that I had already collected postmarks from over 100 post offices and the reason why I did not want them to go through the post she said she would see what she could do. After disappearing into the backroom she produced two pre-stamped envelopes cancelled that day. The trainee was unaware that she had not followed the rules!

My experiences were generally most pleasant. One postmistress still had envelopes remaindered from an event that had taken place several years before. She found the special canceller, set the date back to the date of the event and gave them to me free of charge. On several occasions nervous clerks handed me the canceller so I could cancel the items myself. Another postal official, in a one man office, had just received advice that the P.O. would provide him with a pictorial canceller to promote his town if he would send in the details of his requirements. When he learnt that I had several pictorial postmarks with me he took photocopies. He had no idea what a pictorial canceller looked like. No doubt he was able to design something suitable.

On several occasions we were not aware we were in a P.O. until we saw the special counter. On a Saturday afternoon, in a tourist shop, we discovered the P.O. counter along side the sweets counter. I asked the girl if I left some stamped envelopes would she cancel them on Monday and send them to me. "I'll do it now" she said not at all concerned that it was after hours at the P.O.

After all this have I been acting illegally? I don't know but the reason cannot be that the P.O. wants to discourage postmark collecting because collectors make money from them, nor can it be that stamps must travel through the postal system to be cancelled. First day covers, are sold cancelled over the counter and do not travel via the postal service. I found it all very puzzling.



In this changing world finding the P.O. is not always easy. Photo of a P.O. in a northern NSW town. The only clue that it housed a post office was the post box.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

As I said in the last edition, many of the postmark collectors are always on the lookout for the unusual or misspelt parts of the inscription or faults in the dateline. Another has surfaced, when I was enhancing the CAULFIELD JUNCTION postmark I noticed that the L was missing (i.e. spelt CAULFIED).

Also unusual is the postmark from Hurstville as it has neither postcode or state identification on it . Just another problem with modern postmarks not having a set criteria or guidelines to keep them standard.

A refresher to the set of numbers after the datestamps, the first one is the edition number of the journal and the second one is the page number.

Many thanks to Ian Cutter, Michael Barden, Richard Peck, Neville Solly and Peter Dearie for their contributions to this column.

N.S.W.:- Earlier datestamps:-ARMIDALE WEST(79/31),CURL CURL NTH(70/31), DRUMMOYNE(99/25),TAREEWEST(85/36).



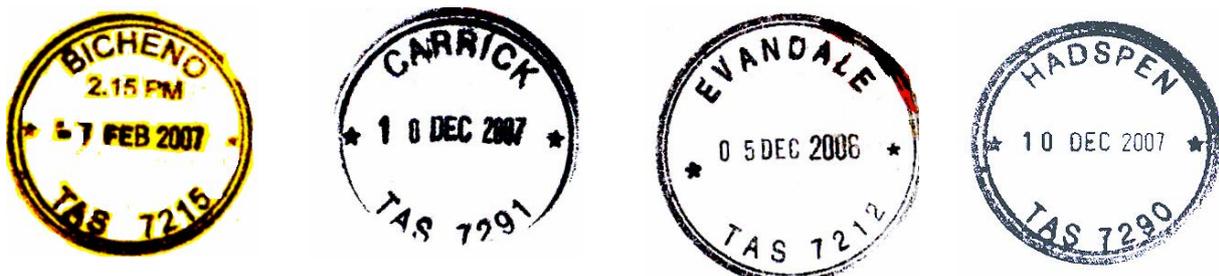
QLD.:-



S.A.



TAS:-HADSPEN in blue, Earlier datestamps:-EVANDALE(92/34),RAILTON(77/33)



TAS:- (cont.)



VIC:-THORNBURY NTH in blue, Earlier datestamps:-BALNARRING(83/37), CANTERBURY (95/31), COLLINGWOOD (4) (79/35), DANDENONG PLAZA(100/80), DROUIN(96/33), DUNKIRK (95/31), ECHUCA SOUTH(88/35), GOROKE(88/35) INGLEWOOD(89/35), LORNE(87/35), ROCHESTER (96/36).



VIC:-(cont)



Urban Myths

By Harewood

March
2008

Here we go again and all geared up for an exciting year ahead of the Society. Last year was very productive indeed with the AJP being quoted and sourced worldwide and the website finally getting a serious make over, which requires Harewood to sincerely thank Editor Tony Lyon for his excellent out-comes in sourcing an eclectic range of most interesting articles. Also to Webmaster Tom O'Dea who leads a remarkable group of computer people that have achieved quite a remarkable improvement to our internet capabilities. We are now effectively on line.

This quarter's column is coming to you from the "Can't Recall Institute" located somewhere in the legal system of the court processes of Australia. Never before has this writer heard or seen so many diverse people that seemingly are unable or unwilling to remember poignant facts about specific events in their not-so-distant past. Which leads Harewood to today's topic – that of apparent or senile memory loss. Some may be more familiar with "A Senior's Moment" from which we are all afflicted ever so often. Has this happened to you?

With the serious gentrification of our hobby, such an affliction will have serious consequences into the future with some 600,000 people forecast suffering by 2050.

In the CSIRO magazine distributed free with the FinReview every so often, the November 2006 edition had a very thought provoking article headed "Early warnings examined – A research 'cluster' for Alzheimer's disease will study 1000 Australians in a bid to identify the early warning signs a this disease." Researchers will monitor five groups from healthy people [Harewood] to those with the disease in an endeavour to seek early warning markers and requested interested people to contact and participate. Harewood contacted them that same month through the

Australian Imaging Bio-marker and Lifestyle [AIBL] study website volunteering to participate. This Alzheimer issue was then taken up by the FinReview in "Men's Health" on 31 May 2007 - whose editor is Jill Margo and which appears every Thursday. It also sought volunteers. Eventually Harewood was followed up in July, with an appointment made for testing at the Mental Health Research Institute in Parkville.

The outcome of this experience warranted a report to Harewood's many erstwhile friends:

Me dear Friends,

You have all known me for a long time and so I thought that it would be useful to advise you of the onset of above as early as possible, and whilst I was still able to do so. After two telephone interviews to determine if I was of sane and pure mind and was not afflicted with any symptoms of depression whatsoever, I was invited to attend MHRI Parkville yesterday morning from 0900hrs. The girlfriend very kindly offered to get me there on time, although I felt that she was determined that I attend! Upon entering I approached the attendant and enquired as to why I was there! He looked somewhat askance, but I very quickly put him at ease. The morning session was under the leadership of Dr Jane Khoo assisted by a psychologist Stephen O'Hallaron and a psychiatric nurse Casey Crawley. I had to fast from 2100hrs the night before and could only partake of water.

Steve invited me to tell him where I was, what day it was, the time of day, the year and in which town I was. He then checked the questionnaires that I had completed and then asked me to donate nine flasks of blood, which they would use in their further research. Then the vital statistics of height, weight and girth were assessed and on which I failed in two. Off for some light breakfast of muesli and mandarin segments washed down with a strong coffee.

Enter Steve stage left for the next 90 minutes of mental torture in drawing poly-hexagonal diagrams - not once but three more times interspersed with verbal, numeracy and memory tests - well how far can you get in subtracting 7 starting from 100 in 60 seconds?

We went through a story which he told me only once but I had to repeat it three more times over the interval! Then we had twenty items as cabbage, chair, boat, giraffe etc - not so difficult these since I just put them into four silos, and repeated them verbatim a little later in the process. Pronunciation of two columns of some fifty words - certainly no problems with that one.

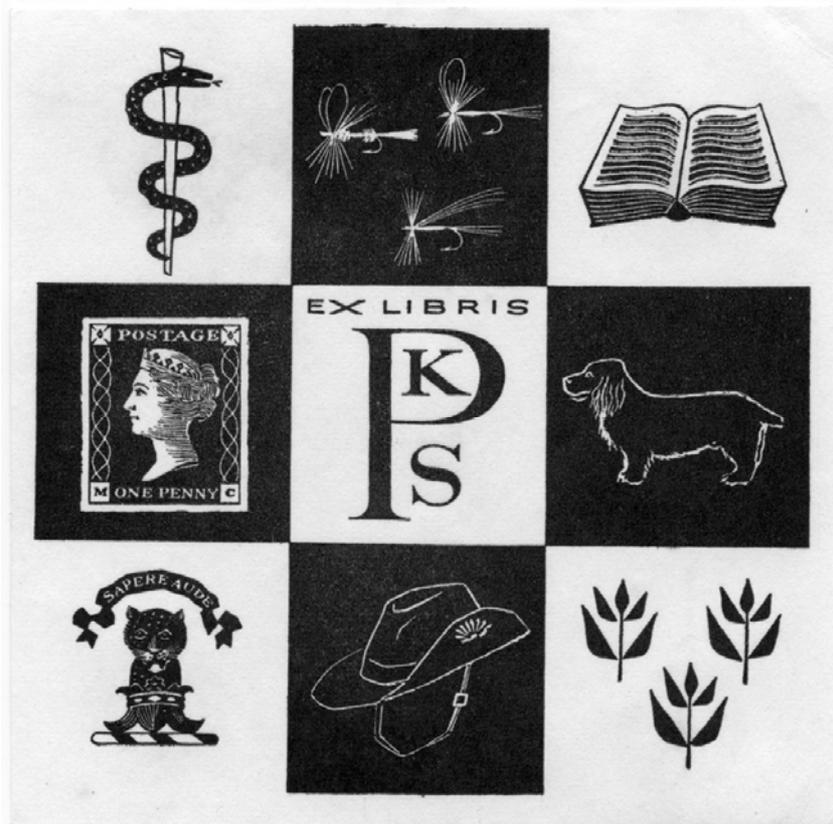
We are now at about 1115hrs and enter the blood nurse for some fun with her computer and cards and blue balls. There were nine balls on her screen Finished around midday with the girlfriend picking me up so I shouted her a long lunch at Di Palma's in Far Kew. There were two other guinea pigs - an old guy Reg who must have been well into his seventies, an ex-teacher now an academic researcher at Monash, and Helen - but did not get a chance to vet her! They expect to call me back in eighteen months and also undertake MRI and PET procedures.

That was last year, now for the second phase which is the PIB [Pittsburgh Institute] PET [positron emission tomography] brain scan in early March followed up by the MRI scan in May. The PIB uses tiny doses of radioactivity [radioisotope carbon-11] tagged compounds to give pictures of brain and body chemistry. This stuff binds to a toxic protein known as amyloid, which is thought to be a major cause of Alzheimer's disease symptoms. So dear friends you'll have to await Harewood's experiences in the June edition.

We do so sincerely hope that he will not be afflicted any more that he already is.

Harewood is contactable for comment, musings and aberrant humour at: AustPhilSoc@gmail.com

Information Wanted



Ray Price asks whether any member of the APS could identify the philatelist who had this bookplate made for him/her.

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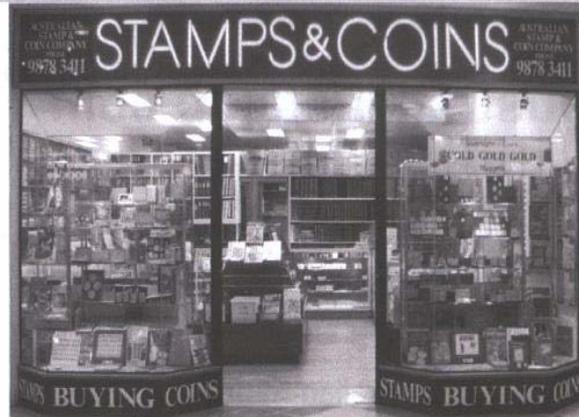
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What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society

- ◆ 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 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

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