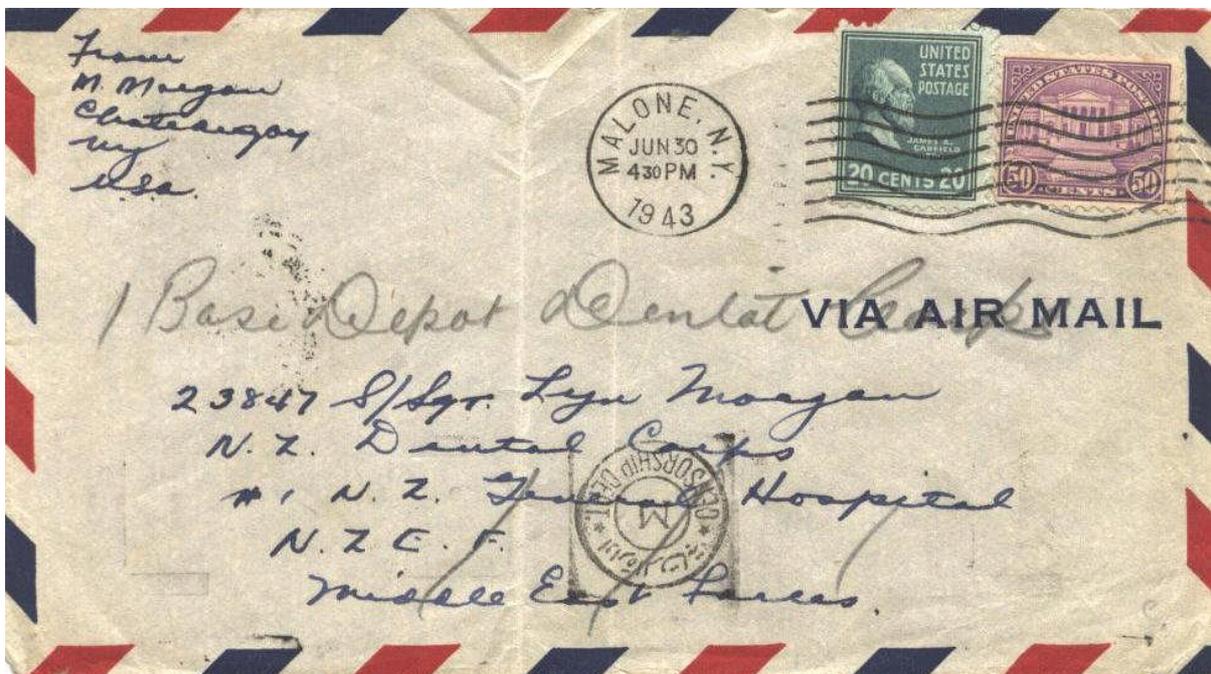


# Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 107 March 2009



## IN THIS ISSUE

Express Delivery

Cover Story—Two Letters with OAT cachets to Vichy  
France

Vale—Augustus Harewood

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.

Subscription. The annual subscription: In Australia: \$A25.00 (Australian Journal of Philately by surface); Asia/Pacific - including New Zealand: \$A30.00 (airmail\*); USA, Canada, Europe etc: \$A35.00 (airmail\*). Joining fee for new members \$A10. Society members receive four copies of The Australian Journal of Philately each year. (\* airmail is now the only AP option)

Webmaster: Website address: <http://www.aps.org.au>

Correspondence: All to the Secretary except as noted. Journal articles to be with the Editor by 15 February, May, August and November respectively.

<b><u>Secretary:</u></b>	<b><u>Australian Journal of Philately</u></b>	<b><u>HHDS Notes</u></b>
Irene Kerry	Tony Lyon	George Vearing
PO Box 7014	6 Allaware Ave	Box 426
Hawthorn	Croydon, Victoria 3136	Mooroopna, Victoria 3629
Vic 3122	Australia	Australia
Australia	Phone: 03 9779 9285	Ph: 03 5825 3194
	E-mail: <a href="mailto:lyonaj@optushome.com.au">lyonaj@optushome.com.au</a>	<a href="mailto:georgedwv@optusnet.com.au">georgedwv@optusnet.com.au</a>

### **OFFICE BEARERS 2008 - 2009**

<i>President</i>	:	<b>John Young</b>	
<i>Immediate Past president</i>	:	<b>David Brindle</b>	
<i>Vice President</i>	:	<b>Vacant</b>	
<i>Secretary</i>	:	<b>Irene Kerry</b>	
<i>Treasurer</i>	:	<b>John Steward</b>	
<i>Librarian</i>	:	<b>John Young</b>	
<i>Committee</i>	:	<b>Michael Barden</b>	<b>Tom O'Dea</b>
	:	<b>Ruth O'Dea</b>	:
	:	<b>Tony Lyon</b>	
<i>Editor, AJPH</i>	:	<b>Tony Lyon</b>	

#### **Advertising in the Journal:**

Half Page \$A30.00	Please send copy to the Editor
Full Page \$A50.00	

#### **Disclaimers:**

Articles in this issue of The Australian Journal of Philately do not necessarily reflect the opinion of The Australian Philatelic Society Inc. or of the Editorial Committee.

Copyright of each article in this issue of The Australian Journal of Philately is owned by the author, unless otherwise stated. Permission to reproduce articles must be obtained from the copyright owner, who normally should be contacted through this Society.

<b>2009 Programme</b>		
20 April 2009	Members	Work in progress. 8 sheets per member
15 June 2009	John Young	Australian overseas airmail covers, 1930-1950s
17 August 2009	Members entries	From Eastern Suburbs Competition

# Contents

<b>Editorial</b>	3
<b>From the President</b> <i>Tony Lyon</i>	4
<b>Cover Story—Two Letters with OAT cachets to Vichy France</b> <i>Michael Barden</i>	5
<b>Your (in)significant contribution to family heirlooms</b> <i>Brian Fuller</i>	9
<b>Express delivery—part 1</b> <i>Richard Peck</i>	10
<b>A cover from Egypt sent after the allied troops returned from Gallipoli</b> <i>John Higgs</i>	22
<b>Query</b>	23
<b>HHDS</b> <i>Compiled by George Vearing</i>	24
<b>Urban Myths</b> <i>Harewood</i>	30
<b>Cover</b> Inward cover from Malone, NY, USA to a member of the NZ Dental Corps. It has been redirected to 1 Base Depot Dental Corps. Egyptian censorship. On reverse is a Chief Post Office 2 NZEF dated 5 AU 43 (earlier than Proud / Startup) and an English double circle Base Army Post Office 4 dated 4 AU 43. From 18 Sept 1941-31 Oct 1946 the rate USA to Egypt was 70cents. By air via PANAM FAM-22, Miami to Leopoldville, by air Leopoldville to Caairo via BOAC, PANAM or SABENA.	

## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Well, a little slip of paper in the last issue requesting articles for this journal, evoked quite a response. I thank you all who took the time to respond. Keep the articles, cover stories, information, snippets coming.

Since our last issue, we here in Victoria have experienced the most horrendous fires, which claimed many lives. Many of us knew someone affected. If you suffered loss in the fires we offer our sincere sympathy.

In this issue we feature the first part of Richard Pecks *Express Delivery*. As many of you would know, Richard Peck has been a prolific publisher of handbooks, articles and the like on a variety of postal subjects.

I will continue my exhibit of NZ at War 1939-45, when there is space to do so. I have received some good feedback which is always welcome.

The website is receiving many hits and has resulted in some new members. We are grateful to Tom & Ruth O'Dea for all the work they have done on it. Do have a look and explore the site. I continue to put up some of the back issues as I get time.

We are sad to see the demise of the august Augustus Harewood. He was an icon of journalistic integrity; merciless to the pompous. He will be missed.

Hope you find something in this issue. Ciao

### Privacy Statement

The Society collects, uses, discloses and holds personal information of members in accordance with the Commonwealth Privacy Act 1988.

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

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

Members' personal information will be kept confidential and secure and will not be accessible for unauthorised use, amendment or disclosure. Members may seek access to and lodge any complaints about their personal information by contacting the Society's Privacy Office, John Young.

The Society will strive to ensure that the personal information of members is accurate, up to date and complete. Members can assist the Society in this task by providing correct information and advising when details have changed.



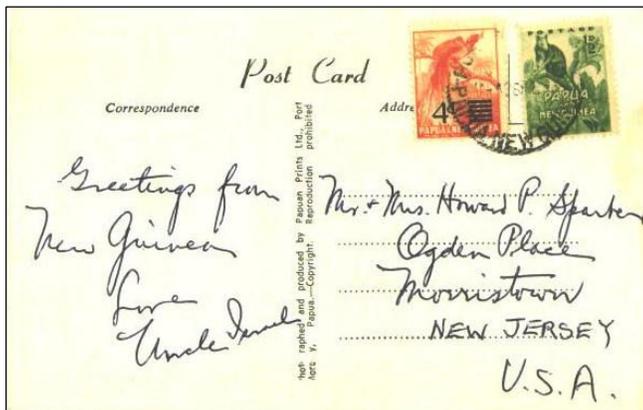
## From the President

Our next members' meeting on 20 April is for works in progress. It is for uncompleted, possibly ground-breaking, collecting fields; or perhaps for something old but elusive, taking years to accumulate before a dozen display sheets can be mustered. In any case, the April meeting is the occasion to bring something into the light and let others have a look. There can be benefits all round. Display can garner advice and tips, and members know to look out for items for the collector's field of interest. The syllabus says 8 sheets per member, but we won't quibble if a few more are shown.

The little slip in the December journal asking for articles for future issues has brought some welcome contributions. It occurs to me that some work in progress may be turning over new ground, or at least unfamiliar ground, and could be the basis of interesting articles. We need text and good colour copies of illustrations. Commercial A4 colour photocopies are usually under a dollar each, and usually four covers fit on a page, or more if reduced for copying.

As every news item needs a picture these days, I show below a postcard sent by surface mail to USA in 1958 at the 4 pence half penny rate from Papua New Guinea. Presumably the rate applied for the same period as in Australia, 1 October 1956 to 30 September 1959. Australian postcards with the 4½d rate are not easily found, and the PNG ones are no doubt seldom seen. The card's reverse also has an authentic picture. I won't venture a "No Woodchips" valuation for the card.

John Young



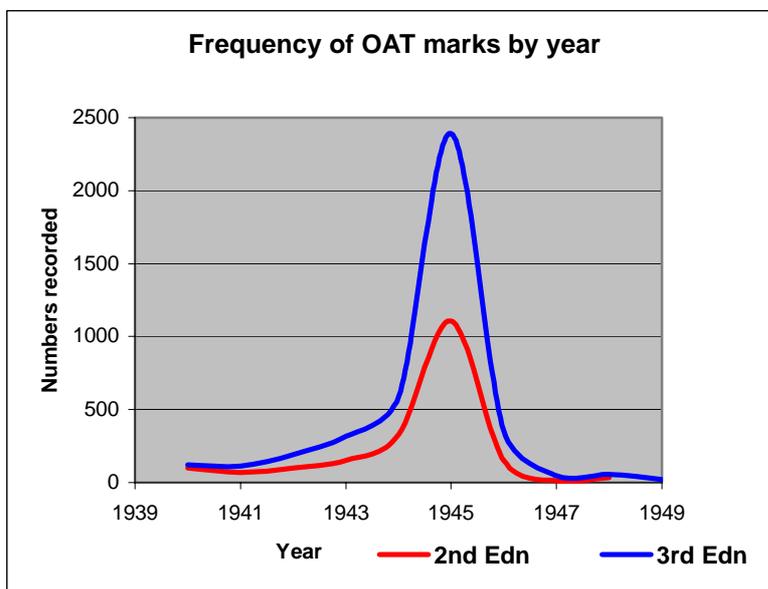
## Cover story – two letters with OAT cachets to Vichy France

**Michael Barden**

Some six months ago I bid about double the estimate for these covers, but to no avail. To make matters worse, the successful purchaser of the second letter described below, was unwilling to sell for a 200% profit. All I am able to do is work from scans, which Michael Pigin kindly sent me.

Two events make these covers of greater interest; the OAT cachet and the letters' destination.

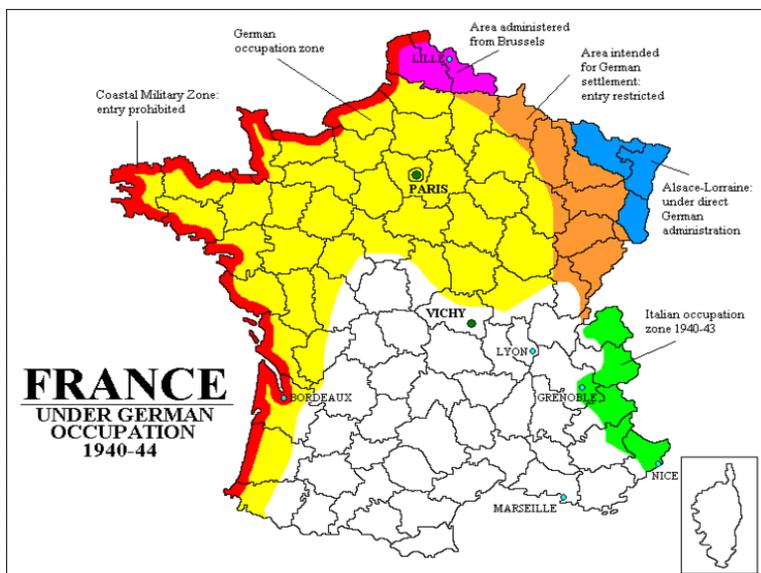
OAT cachets were applied to the top letter of a bundle of up to 60 letters to signify "Onward Air Transmission" (or Travel) beyond London whether paid for or not. This was to simplify mail handling during wartime. It means that OAT cachets are 'sleepers' and relatively rare, some 4000 only having been catalogued worldwide by 2006 for all the mail handled during this period.



OAT markings occurred from 1940 to 1973 with their greatest use being between 1943 and 1946. Mostly they were applied at London during the war and were oval framed. In 1945 the London cachets were smaller and rectangular. Both covers have an oval framed type 1 cachet (Heifetz numbering), which is the most common type.

Tied and marked bundles travelled in open bags. Had there been enough mail to warrant a closed bag from London to its destination,

markings would only occur on the bag's label, not on the letters themselves. Open bags were sorted at one or more intermediate destinations, but a bundle itself did not require resorting as all letters normally went to one country.



After the May 1940 invasion of Western Europe, northern France was occupied by the Germans, while southern France (except the entire coastline – see map) was controlled by the Vichy Quisling Government from Vichy.

This lasted until November 1942 when the French fleet was scuttled at Toulon and the Allies invaded Morocco and Algeria. The latter initially met some resistance, but a truce was soon instigated.

During the Vichy period, diplomatic relations and mail had

been maintained at the Germans' behest with the outside world. After November 1942, diplomatic relations were severed, and mail was banned as for the rest of occupied Europe. Thus letters to Vichy France only occurred for some 18 months.



The letter shown above went from Montreal to Panazol (Haute Vienne Department) in France. It was posted on 13 June 1941 and marked 'via **New York Atlantic Clipper**'. Censored in Canada with part of the reverse being shown to illustrate the closure, it went to New York and then on Pan-Am FAM 18 route via Bermuda and the Azores to Lisbon. Flying boats serviced these routes, so it landed in the sea at Bermuda and the Azores and the Tagus River for Lisbon.

As Portugal remained neutral throughout the war, both Allied and German mail was interchanged using special post box addresses. From Lisbon, BOAC flew the mail to Foynes in Eire on the Shannon River. This service operated from Lagos via Lisbon. Again Eire remained neutral throughout the war, so covertly handled mail for various protagonists. From Foynes the letter went to London by land based plane. Here it was sorted, bundled and, being the top of the bundle, received an OAT type 1 cachet red in red ink, the commonest colour.

From London it was flown back to Lisbon and would most likely have gone through Spain by rail into France, where it has a **Panazol/Haute Vienne** arrival cds dated 8 July 1941. German airline DLH also flew regularly from Lisbon via Madrid, Barcelona and Marseille on to Berlin, so it is possible it was carried by them into France. There are no other datestamps by which we may track its progress.

30c Canadian was the correct rate at this time for a letter up to ½ ounce weight going to Europe.

The 3½ weeks transit time was not unreasonable as letters would have had to wait for flights and The Foreign Office sorting in London would not have happened overnight.

The second letter not only originated from a rare source, French Equatorial Africa (FEA), but went in August 1942 to Vichy France. From Perpignon it was forwarded to Casteil.

The letter entered the postal system at Port Gentil on 5 August. The double circle cds read **Port Gentil/A.E.F/5 /Août/42**. The A.E.F standing for **Afrique Equatoriale Française**.

Before being censored, the letter received two violet (≈ 39 mm dia) **Contrôle ... Commission / Afrique Equatoriale Française** cachets (recto). Then it was censored for the first time, probably at

Port Gentil (rather than the capital Libreville, which is off its later route) by the authorities and the closures bear the words **Afrique Française Libre / Contrôle Postal** (Free French Administration, who controlled FEA, and who were opposed to the Vichy administration) on the right hand end. There are also five violet pointed oval cachets **Ouvert / par / l'Autorité Militaire** over the two closures. Two violet circular **A1** and **D1** cachets would have been the censors' ID.

From Port Gentil the letter went to Brazzaville (transit cds of **Brazzaville** dated **13 Aug 42** verso), thus it probably went by boat and up the Congo River, which is navigable to this point from the sea. I do not know of any airmail services between Gabon and the Congo to suggest it was flown, nor does the time prove it. Thence it crossed the river to Leopoldville, which is opposite on the left bank.

There was a regular weekly airmail service between Johannesburg and Lagos, alternatively flown by Sabena and SAA, which went through Leopoldville. This route also carried some mail to and from Australia (via Durban).

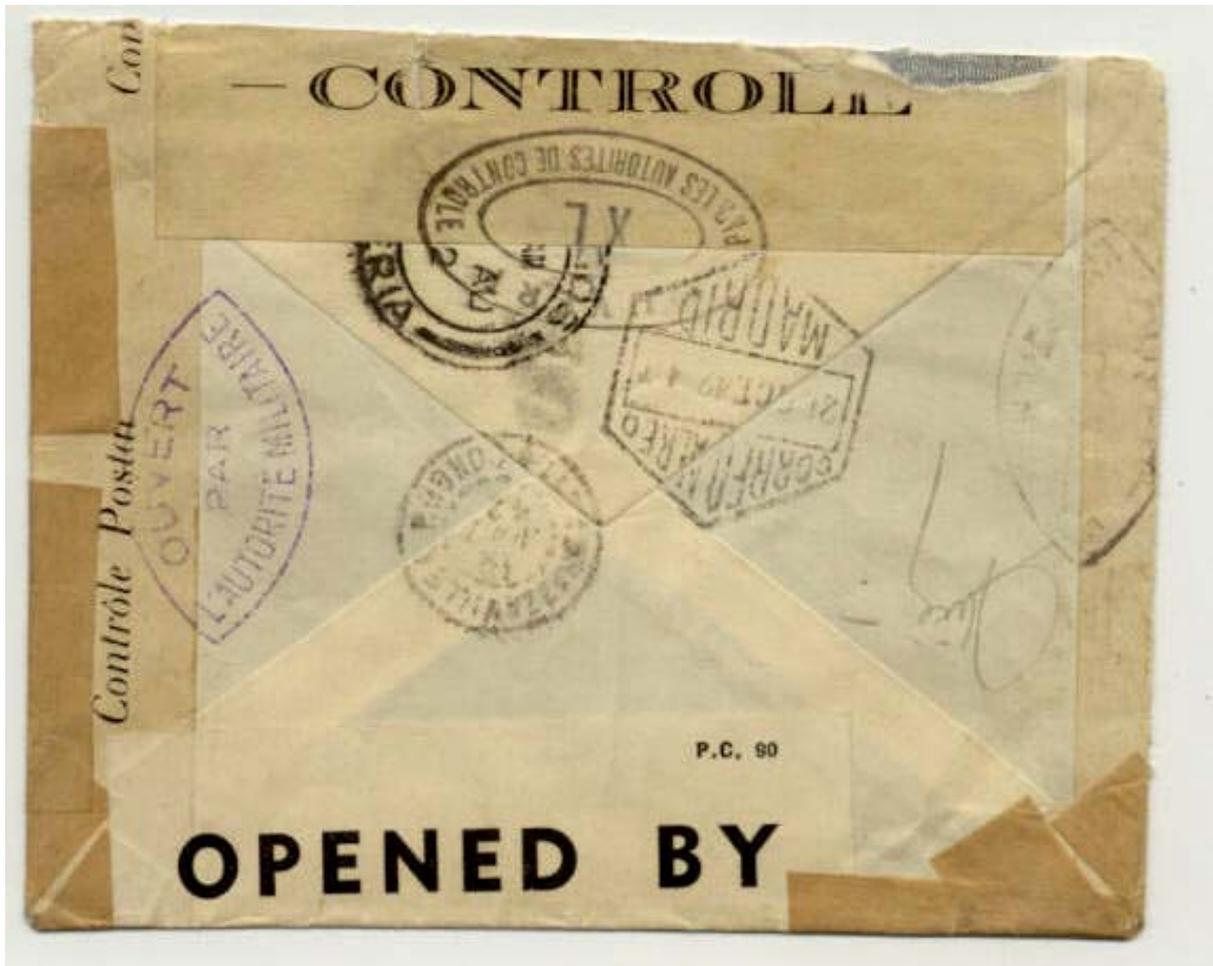
At Lagos, as the letter entered the British controlled area, it was censored for the second time (**Examiner 4910** on the recto and **P.C. 90 / Examined by** on the verso of the closure. Under the third and last closure (Vichy France at the top) is a partially visible transit cds **Lagos / Nigeria / AU / ..2** (verso).



Recto of letter from French Equatorial Africa to Vichy France

From Lagos BOAC flew to Lisbon with four intermediate stops around the African coast and then onto London via Foynes as before.

In London. again being the top of a bundle, it received a type 1 red OAT cachet (on and below the airmail notation). It retraced its steps back to Lisbon, where it was transferred to DHL, who flew it to Madrid. There are two hexagonal **Correo Aereo / Madrid / 21 Oct 42** cds transit marks. Also there appears over part of the OAT cachet an inverted red **Correo Aereo / Censor** cachet, no doubt applied here, but the letter was not opened. Somewhere between Lagos and Madrid had taken some two months, yet the letter had gone airmail. We can only speculate why it sat somewhere so long.



**Verso of letter from French Equatorial Africa to Vichy France**

From Madrid the letter may have flown to Barcelona and then by train to Perpignan, which is just over the border into France on the main rail line, or gone by train the whole way. As Perpignan is the first main town into France, it probably received its third censorship here, this time at the top of the letter. The closure remains on the verso, but appears to have been removed from the recto. Over the closure on both sides is an oval **Ouvert par les Autorités de Contrôle XL**. That on the recto is incomplete due to removal of the closure as noted above.

Finally the recipient must have been away for the address was altered to Casteil par Vernet-les-Bains.

I knew I should have upped the ante. Such interesting letters do not come along every day, the more so for me with an OAT cachet. I should have studied it better before the sale – hindsight always has its wisdom! Maybe some of our readers have letters bearing OAT cachets they may wish to offer me. No guarantees, but interesting ones are sure to generate interest.

## YOUR (IN)SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO FAMILY HEIRLOOMS

By Brian Fuller

"Why bother" entering the Eastern Suburbs Philatelic Competition (ESPC) to be held in conjunction with the Waverley PS fair on SAT 15 MAY 09? Or any other competition is a standard response for entries! Perhaps the article in THE AGE newspaper magazine GOOD WEEKEND of 1 NOV 08 may change your attitude.

Danny Katz their guru on ethics, etiquette, and dilemmas, cogently illustrates why YOU should bother. The question posed from a reader "Can I sell a labour of love? I need your stamp of approval". The writer continues – I have been considering selling my grandmother's stamps given to her by her seafaring father to pay off some debts – "help".

Part of Danny's response was the theme of imprimatur! Putting something of yourself into your collection. Part quote, ***"But even though my kids are philatelic philistines, I still hope they hang onto the albums because they're part of my history, as precious as any heirloom or family treasure – and maybe one day they will pass them onto their children, who will pass them onto THEIR children, who will browse through them and wonder where the hell "Helvetia" is, etc.*** Continues, .."your grandmother's stamps were given to her by her father as an act of love, and anything passed down as an act of love should be kept and cherished forever."

But would anyone bother keeping a shoebox of strange stuff, an album with no information, a few straggly pages, or a catalogue collection easily sold? NO - extremely unlikely! In short **VALUE ADD** to your collection with **YOUR** knowledge or style and they will want to keep it to remind them of **YOU!**

What to do? My plea to Clubs was prepare an entry for the ESPC. Be inspired – prepare several. Only 15 pages including an introductory page is required. Help and guidance was offered and most clubs have experience philatelists who are very willing to assist.

The basis for your competitive entry will discipline you into sorting out your collection and make it worthy of becoming an heirloom.

---

Whilst taking a short break up At Mansfield this month I came upon the Mansfield Historical Society. This is located near the Information centre and housed in what used to be the railway station.

After some discussion with the two lovely volunteers working there, a request was put to me, after I identified myself as a person interested in postal history, by Ann Ware the secretary.

'Can anyone please assist us in finding out when the Boorolite Post Office (near Mansfield Victoria) was opened, and who owned the building it operated from?'

I assured her that our members would know! Can we help? (Editor)

---

Colin Salt offered some answers to some of the questions from William Hempel in the Dec. 08 AJP 106, p12 as follows: - I do not know all the answers but can comment on some aspects of this item.

The mark over the 2d Emu is 182 as suggested and it was the barred numeral issued to Newtown. It is illustrated on page iv of *N.S.W. and A.C.T. Post, Receiving, Telegraph & Telephone Offices* by N.C. Hopson and R. Tobin, Volume 3 M - S.

The Sydney cds with concentric rings to the right is a duplex canceller, one of a series issued in Sydney over an extended period of years. I am not sure that there is any particular significance in the code number 32 other than to identify the clerk to whom it was issued on the day in question. The recorded dates of use of this handstamp are 4 June 1892 to 16 October 1895 so this is an early date. More information can be found in *The Postal History of Sydney, Volume 6. The Standard Circular Datestamps and Related Markings* by R. Tobin and A.E. Orchard.

The 2d Emu is inscribed "One Hundred Years" because it was part of a set issued to commemorate the Centenary of New South Wales.

## EXPRESS DELIVERY – Part 1

**Richard Peck**

### The colonial era

Express Delivery services, which involved the delivery of urgent letters on arrival at the delivery office by a telegraph messenger, operated in NSW, Victoria and Queensland prior to federation.<sup>1</sup> Their introduction was connected to the increase in private courier services such as Boyd's Express Messengers and the inclusion of the Australasian colonies in the Universal Postal Union<sup>2</sup>.

### New South Wales<sup>3</sup>

An article in *The Echo* of 12 March 1884 promoted the private "Advance Australia" letter costing 1/-. The then Superintendent of Telegraphs, Mr. Cracknell was against the idea, believing it should be part of the Postal Dept. On 27 August 1885 a Mr Wright complained that he was refused delivery at Leichhardt of a telegram addressed to Leichhardt and told to lodge it at Petersham!- the first of many such complaints. On 1 January 1886 Victoria introduced a 6d delivery by telegram messenger service. But in February 1892 telegrams transmitted "not over the wires" (ie, local) could be accepted for 6d per 10 words provided there were messenger boys to deliver them.

At this time companies in London such as "The Boy Messengers" and: District Messengers" sprang up and in 1893 a Sydney firm the Express Messenger Co was successfully prosecuted (and fined 10/-) for infringing the post office's letter monopoly.



*The "Advance Australia letter" printed in maroon.*

It was then suggested that their envelopes be pre-stamped with a 6d stamp<sup>4</sup> but in the end it was decided that the post office itself should offer such a service, to commence 1 September 1895.

<sup>1</sup> Richard Breckon, "The first Commonwealth Postal Regulations" in *Philately from Australia* June 2002, pp.41-43.

<sup>2</sup> There are numerous references on these files to extra countries adopting the service, the concern being incoming express mail.

<sup>3</sup> Based on National Archives Files 1952191-3 (originally Series No. 1298/1 Files N216/3/1 Parts 1-3) 1884-1931.

<sup>4</sup> It is curious that the 6d and 1/- stamped telegrams appeared at this time. See B Hancock *Australian telegram forms & envelopes* vol.1 p.47f. Special adhesive stamps, similar to those issued in the USA were rejected, see *American Philatelist* April, May & June 2005 for an overview of their services.

From NSW Postal Guide October 1895:

“Express Message” could be sent from Sydney GPO & suburbs at Telephone Office for 6d per ½oz in city plus 6d per mile extra beyond the city boundaries which were defined in 1900 to include the inner suburbs. In 1904 the service could also be used in Albury, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Goulburn, Newcastle, Orange, Tamworth and West Maitland.

In the 1897 Postal Guide there is mention of an express service where a letter marked “Express Delivery” could be handed to an officer on the Travelling Post Office with 4d late fee plus postage. It was to be date stamped by the TPO officer to indicate that no further postage or late fee was payable. The sender had to arrange for a special messenger to meet the train on arrival and apply to the TPO officer for the article. If this was not done, it was delivered by ordinary mail.<sup>5</sup> *The only evidence of this seen was a rather large block of 20/- Carrington with blue crayon lines through auctioned in the late 1980s.*

### **Victoria**

The Post Office Amendment Act of 1889 which applied from 1 January 1890 included an express service for which the fee was 6d in addition to postage and applied throughout the state. Letters were to be despatched “in the same manner as a telegram and delivered with the utmost despatch”. It is possible that mail marked “immediate” if at the correct rate may emanate from this service<sup>6</sup>. Frazer & Occleshaw<sup>7</sup> illustrate a black on grey label from the 1890s. Two copies are known, one unsold in a Melbourne auction estimated at \$2,000. A later version, black on green with schedule number “C.6416 as label “CO15” is dated 1938. The Victorian *Post Office Guide* for January 1895 implies that letters marked or stamped “urgent” would be treated this way, thus implying the use of an “urgent” postal marking.<sup>8</sup>



(George Gunderson collection)

<sup>5</sup> R Peck, *NSW Travelling Post Offices 1870-1983*, 1984. p.6.6.

<sup>6</sup> Richard Breckon, “The Postage Rates of Victoria, international & external, 1880-1901” in *P from A Dec.* 1998.

<sup>7</sup> *The Official Postal Labels of Australia*, 2<sup>nd</sup>. Ed p.215

<sup>8</sup> or this might mean the additional 6d stamp, the wording being “...where they are posted with the ‘urgent’ stamp”.

## Queensland

In Queensland the fee was 4d up to one mile plus 2d each additional half mile in addition to normal postage with a minimum total fee of 6d.<sup>9</sup> No examples are known.<sup>10</sup> The regulations are shown as Appendix 1.

### After federation

The 1902 Commonwealth regulations are reproduced as Appendix 2.

From the (NSW) Postal Guide February 1903<sup>11</sup>:

“Express Delivery” could be used for articles up to 8oz by the following services:

I- by messenger all the way from an express PO (GPO Sydney, Albury, Bathurst, Broken Hill, Goulburn, Nundle, Orange, Tamworth, West Maitland up to 6pm for up to 2 miles in the city plus 1 mile (later 1½ miles) in the suburbs, for 4d per mile plus 2d each ½ mile plus postage (minimum 5d)<sup>12</sup>

II- by post<sup>13</sup> and messenger, 3d<sup>14</sup> plus post if on the home run of a messenger

III- by messenger in advance of the postman, for a bundle up to 4lbs being 4d for 1 bundle plus ½d each extra bundle, at the request of the addressee<sup>15</sup>

IV- by Travelling Post Office<sup>16</sup>

Breckon states the national service was introduced in late 1902, with uniform fees of 4d for the first mile then 2d each additional half mile (minimum total 5d). Articles were limited to 8oz and a maximum delivery area of 2 miles in city and 1 (later 1½) in the country. If delivery took place on the messenger's home route the fee was 3d plus postage. If delivery was at the request of the addressee, the fee was 4d for 1 article and ½d each additional.<sup>17</sup>

---

<sup>9</sup> R Breckon, “Pre Decimal Postage Rates” in the 1992 edition of *The Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue*.

<sup>10</sup> Hugh Campbell in *Queensland Postal History and Queensland Postal Rates and Charges 1832-1913* does not mention the express service.

<sup>11</sup> This service applied Australia-wide.

<sup>12</sup> *SA Post & Telegraph Guide* 1906 notes “express messages may be delivered by foot messengers, by omnibus, or by bicycle, at the discretion of the department. If the sender desires a cab or other special conveyance to be used, the actual fare must be paid in addition to the express fee and postage”. A “Wait Reply” service was also nominated. All of these are repeated in the Commonwealth *Postal Guide* of 1912. Later there were refinements (eg *Statutory Rules, 1927* which limited express delivery to articles of the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> classes only).

<sup>13</sup> From *SA Monthly Circular to Postmasters* c1917

<sup>14</sup> *SA Postal Guide* 1906 says 4d.: express delivery letters for dispatch by mail must be placed together and tied on the outside of one of the bundle of letters, and the enclosure of such express delivery letters must be plainly endorsed on the mail advice”.

<sup>15</sup> *SA Postal Guide* 1906 “The express fee on at least one article must be prepaid by stamps affixed to the application {which should reach the office at least one hour before delivery by postmen commences}. All additional fees must be paid to the special messenger on delivery” with this payment presumably indicated by postage due stamps.

<sup>16</sup> *SA Postage Guide* 1906 noting a fee of 4d plus late fee plus postage, endorsed “Express Delivery” and “this endorsement must be covered by the datestamp of the TPO to indicate that no further or local express delivery service is required”.

<sup>17</sup> R Breckon in *The Australian Philatelist* Winter 1989.

The service was continually monitored. From 1902-1905 the following quantities were posted via the TPOs: Narrabri-Burren Jct (0), 2 West (1), 3 West (0), 2 West Dubbo (2), 2&3 South & South West (0), North West (0), North (2). In 1909 the service was extended to all offices where there were telegraph messengers<sup>18</sup>. In 1925 6,700 express delivery letters were received from interstate in NSW and 12,600 sent. As the number of incoming express letters from overseas grew, rubber stamps marked “express” were distributed to larger NSW offices in 1925.



*(Don Pearce collection)*

*The writer remembers seeing examples of early timeclock markings (full clockface type) used at the Melbourne GPO in the late 1920s which were auctioned by Rod Perry in 1984. Unfortunately he was the under bidder and has lost the notes he took at the time!*

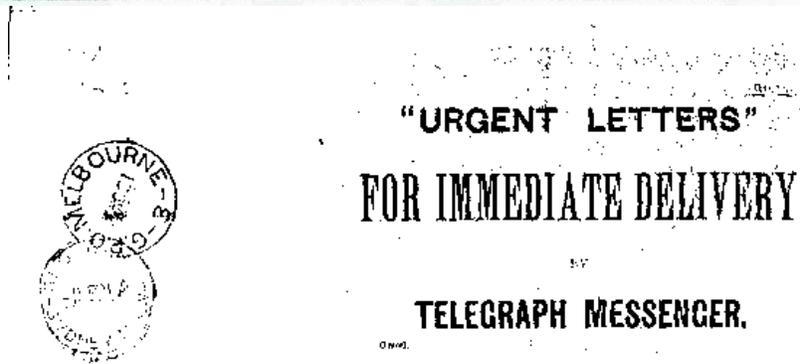
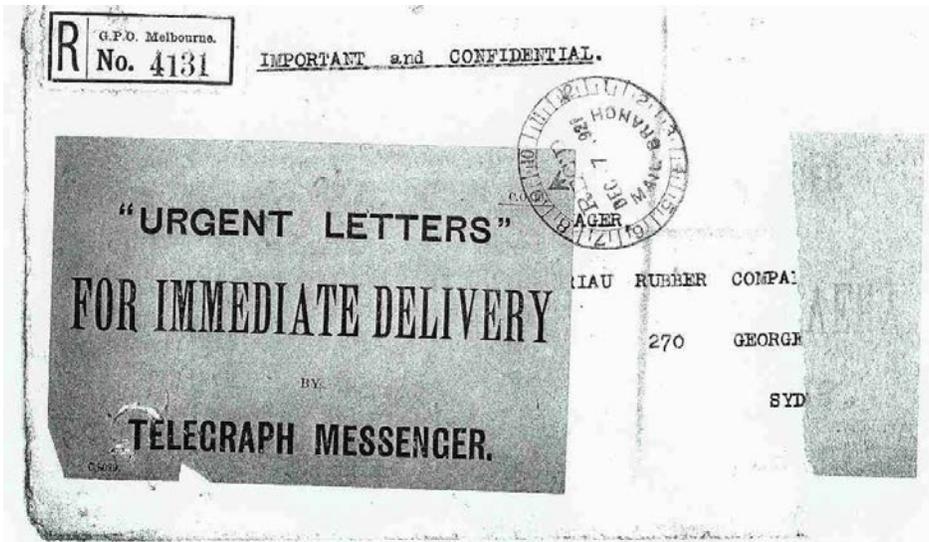
By 1931 fees were 4d per article plus postage for the first mile and 2d per article for each additional half mile.<sup>19</sup> Articles had to be endorsed “Express Delivery” in the bottom left corner and a broad perpendicular line (usually in blue crayon) was drawn in a central position on each side of the article. It could be endorsed with the words “await reply” in which case extra stamps would have been affixed for both postage & express fee. The messenger was allowed to wait up to 10 minutes for the reply.



*Later use of form C015 (after 1937).*

<sup>18</sup> In Vic & SA there were 149 in 1909.

<sup>19</sup> R Mackellar, “The Post Office Express Messenger Service: in *The Queensland Stamp Collector* July 1984 pp.22-25.



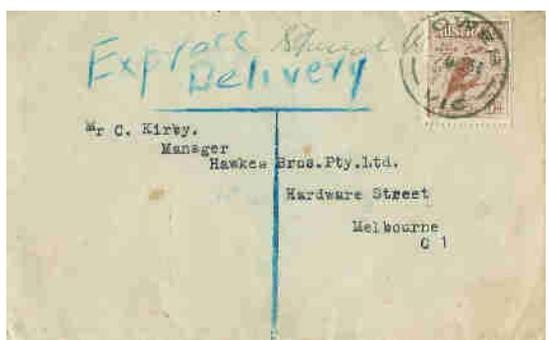
Front and back of a letter from the official file, attached because it was the subject of a complaint in 1921. Shows two examples of C015 black/green!



No lines on back. Fee 4d & 2d postage.



Back has same diagonal red & blue lines. 4d+2d postage.



Cowes 70C37 to Melbourne 2-P -70C37. Note manuscript "special".

The service was redesigned in 1933 and launched some two years later. A National Archives file from Adelaide<sup>20</sup> gives a valuable insight into the changes and monitoring which took place in that state to 1948. Firstly the forms were re-organised. ED1 was a duplicate order form for service I, ED2 was a transfer docket in duplicate for service III, ED3 was a transfer docket in duplicate for service V and ED4 a receipt book. From 1935 these became ED1 order form service I, ED 2 transfer docket service V, and ED3 receipt book.<sup>21</sup> For the launch a new postmarking slogan was instituted and 5,000 publicity booklets (with special envelopes printed) for free distribution, and posters for mail vans and counter printed.

From 1 October 1935<sup>22</sup>

The "Express Messenger Service" operated in a delivery radius of 3 miles from the GPO and could be combined with air, registration and late fee services. It allowed delivery of material from 8oz to 11 lb up to 9pm (including Sundays). There was also a local service where there was no despatch by normal mail. However it could not be used on the TPOs.

Marking of the articles was also changed. "Express" had to be in bold characters above the address and a thick perpendicular line drawn in a central position on both back and front.

The following services operated:

I- collect by sender within local telephone area then sent by mail, 4d up to 4lb & 1d per lb (irrespective of the number of articles)

<sup>20</sup> Series D959, Item IA1938/1230

<sup>21</sup> Form PP16 was to be used for parcels with "express" added in manuscript.

<sup>22</sup> See *Instructions for the Guidance of Postmasters...* June 1935 for a complete description of how the service worked. The *Post Office Guide* No.36, 1940 was the first to number these rules (and forms) "ED".

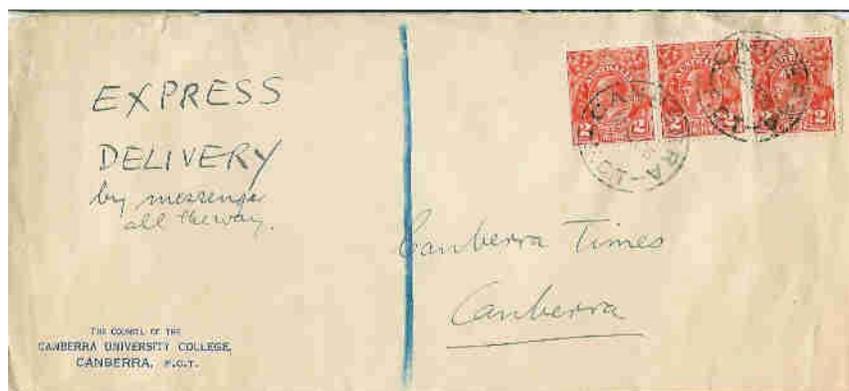
- II- the local service (not including railway), 1-3 items=4d, 4-6=3d, 7+=2d
- III- despatch to the PO from 9d>6/2d according to distance plus express delivery fee<sup>23</sup>
- IV- delivery after the post, at sender's request 4d to 4lb plus 1d each lb (for each article)
- V- as IV but at addressee's request, same charges except that rate 1d per 1b (irrespective of number of articles).

In 1941 it was noted that where prepayment of fees is insufficient for the service but is up to at least 50% of the express delivery fee, the article was to be surcharged at double deficiency payable on delivery.<sup>24</sup> In 1950 any postal article including a parcel (but excepting a COD parcel in the case of services I, II, IV and V) was eligible provided no package of newspapers or periodicals posted at the bulk rate may exceed 5lb.<sup>25</sup>

The service was constantly monitored, and inter alia it was noted in South Australia that the scope for using services I, I, I and V was very limited in the country though slight increases in service IV were noted. For example<sup>26</sup>

Service	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
I	26	979	1527	3749	6612
II	43	37	293	145	161
III	25	31	148	170	129
IV	12850	18902	20762	23388	23566
V	11356	21538	30806	36802	38893

There was a decrease after World War 2 of service V because during the war many local banks had had their staff depleted.



Note inclusion of "by messenger all the way". Postmarked 25SE35. Service II at 4d + 2d postage.

<sup>23</sup> Listed in detail in *Post Office Guide* 1940 (all states).

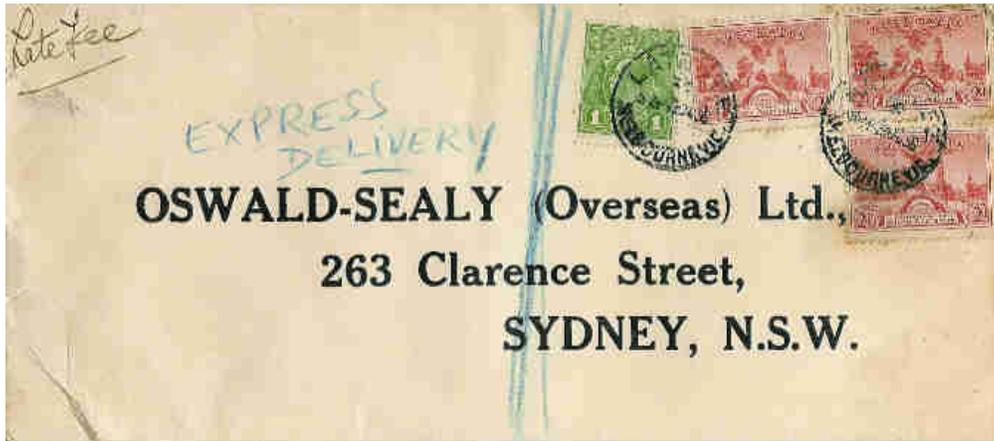
<sup>24</sup> *Postmaster's Instructions* No.272 24/6/41.

<sup>25</sup> *Postmaster's Instructions* No.976 26/5/50.

<sup>26</sup> National Archives Series D959 Item IA1938/1230. From this it should be easier to work out which are the rarer services, surviving examples of which should command a premium.



Sydney time clock Type 1. 4d+2d+1d late fee.



Sydney time clock Type 1 on reverse 10[am] 20OCT1936.



Correct rate (John Walker Collection)



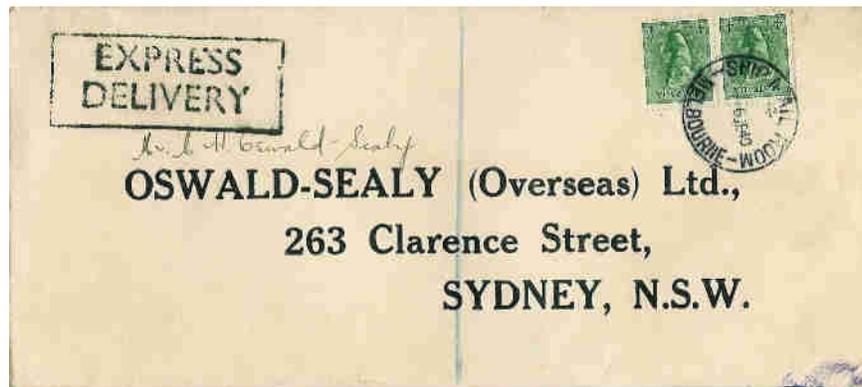
Private boxed marking? Sydney time clock Type 1 (known 1935- 1938 & 1942-1945 when only the date shows). Manuscript "Not registered" in pencil on front. 4d+2d post + 3d airmail.



(right) Manuscript "card left" in pen. Backstamped Melbourne 23? 2.30P 11MY35.



To a famous addressee. Backstamped GPO Elizabeth St PBR 12N 8MR39



Private boxed marking? Pencil "inter office communication" on back with Sydney time clock Type 2 (1940-1941). 4d+4d double weight.



Another private? Marking from 1938.



*Backstamped RAAF Laverton 15JY40, Registered 3 Melbourne 10.30P15JY40, Registered Adelaide ?, Walkerville 1P17JL40. Overpaid.*



*Sydney time clock Type 3 on reverse. Rubber stamped "Undeliverable by telegraphs/for reason shown/forward by post". Reason in pencil "delivered last night 7pm & again this morning". 4d express + 3d air + 1d post=8d*



*The only known example of a "service type" marking (known to 1946). Backstamped Sydney time clock Type 3 9.30 8AUG1941. 4d + 2d post*



Another marking known in 1938.



Showing increased postal rates after December 1941. Backstamped PO Elizabeth St PBR 2 2.30PM 3JA42. 4d + 2½d post.



Backstamped Sydney time clock Type 4. 4d + 3d air + 2½d post.



Backstamped Chatswood 6A 17AP48. 4d+ 7d post (double weight).

## A Cover From Egypt, Sent After the Allied Troops Returned from Gallipoli

John Higgs

The formal markings on this envelope are the postmark: 3rd Aust Inf Bde Field PO 14 Ja 16 and the square censor mark number 2213.

The envelope is from a letter sent home by Private Ernest Dawes, who enlisted on 24 August 1914, served on Gallipoli with the 10th Battalion and was killed in action on the Western Front on 13 August 1916.

The more notable feature of this cover is the pencil signature of the censor, Second Lieutenant Arthur S Blackburn. Arthur Seaforth Blackburn was a solicitor from Adelaide who enlisted as a Private in the 10th Battalion very shortly after war was declared. He landed on the Gallipoli Peninsula in the first wave of troops from the 3rd Brigade on 25 April 1915 and during that day was one of very few Australian or New Zealand troops to penetrate sufficiently inland to have a sight of the Sea of Marmara, the ultimate objective of the allies. Eventually Blackburn and his fellow scout Private Phil Robin were compelled to return to the main body of troops, still close to the landing beach and bring warning of Turkish reinforcements then moving toward the invaders. Robin was killed a few days later but Blackburn survived the Gallipoli campaign.

Later in the war, Blackburn was awarded the Victoria Cross for action at Pozieres on 23 July 1916. He was invalided home in 1917 with the rank of Captain. Subsequently he served in the South Australia parliament, commanded troops in World War II, endured imprisonment under the Japanese, was awarded CBE in 1946 and lived until 1960.

A somewhat battered cover with a fairly common cancellation is turned into something more significant following research of a legible name.

References: Carlyon, Les, *Gallipoli*, Sydney, Macmillan, 2001.

Carlyon, Les, *The Great War*, Sydney, Macmillan, 2006.

Australian War Memorial, *website*.



## Query

Dee Pullan

### First query - The Rio de Janeiro cover

Cancelled in Rio de Janeiro 10th December, 1942 to Roseville, NSW. At first it all looks fairly simple. It would have flown PanAm from Rio to Natal (Brazil), then FAM 22 to Leopoldville, via Bathurst and Lagos. It was off-loaded and censored in Lagos. From there it would have picked up a land plane service to Khartoum and from there it would have joined the remnants of the HSR, i.e., air to Calcutta, then by surface to Sydney.



BUT NO! Look again, beneath the Sydney censor label is a South African censor label which has been identified as being applied in Jo'burg. So from Khartoum, instead of going north to Cairo, it went south to Jo'burg.

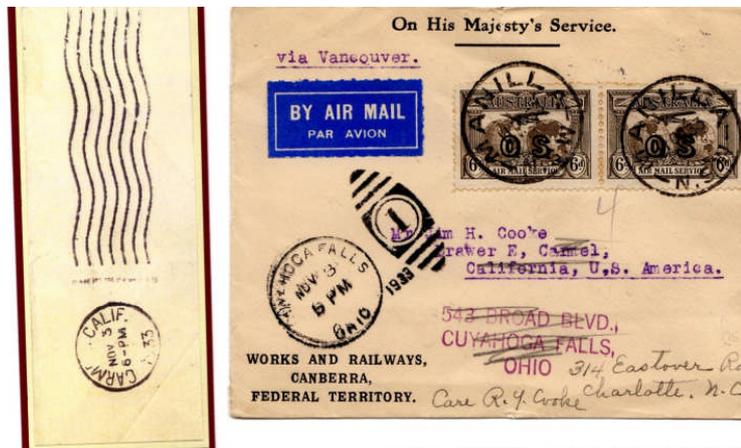


Can anyone confirm how it got from Jo'burg to the west coast of Australia? Because it apparently ended up in Jo'burg, is it safe to assume that it went by sea from Jo'burg to Australia. Can anyone explain the two 4 digit numbers on the reverse?

### Second query: the cover from Manilla, NSW to Carmel, California.

In 1933 there was no direct air mail service to the USA. This cover should have travelled by surface to San Francisco at 3d per oz. foreign letter surface rate, plus 4d internal USA air mail rate. However, the cover has typewritten instruction 'via Vancouver' and is franked 1/-.

I strongly suspect that this is a philatelic cover as it was posted in Manilla, some distance away from Canberra. Can anyone help with route and rating, please?



# Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Many things affect our postal history and one of the most devastating is fire. In the February bushfires in Victoria quite a few post offices and postal agencies were affected by the raging bushfires on Black Saturday with quite a few being totally destroyed. In some of these areas are small agencies that may not reopen but the larger ones will eventually reopen but most likely have new datestamps as the old ones most likely were destroyed.

In the interest of postal history, it would be most beneficial to record the re-openings of any of these destroyed post offices, so any information would be gratefully received.

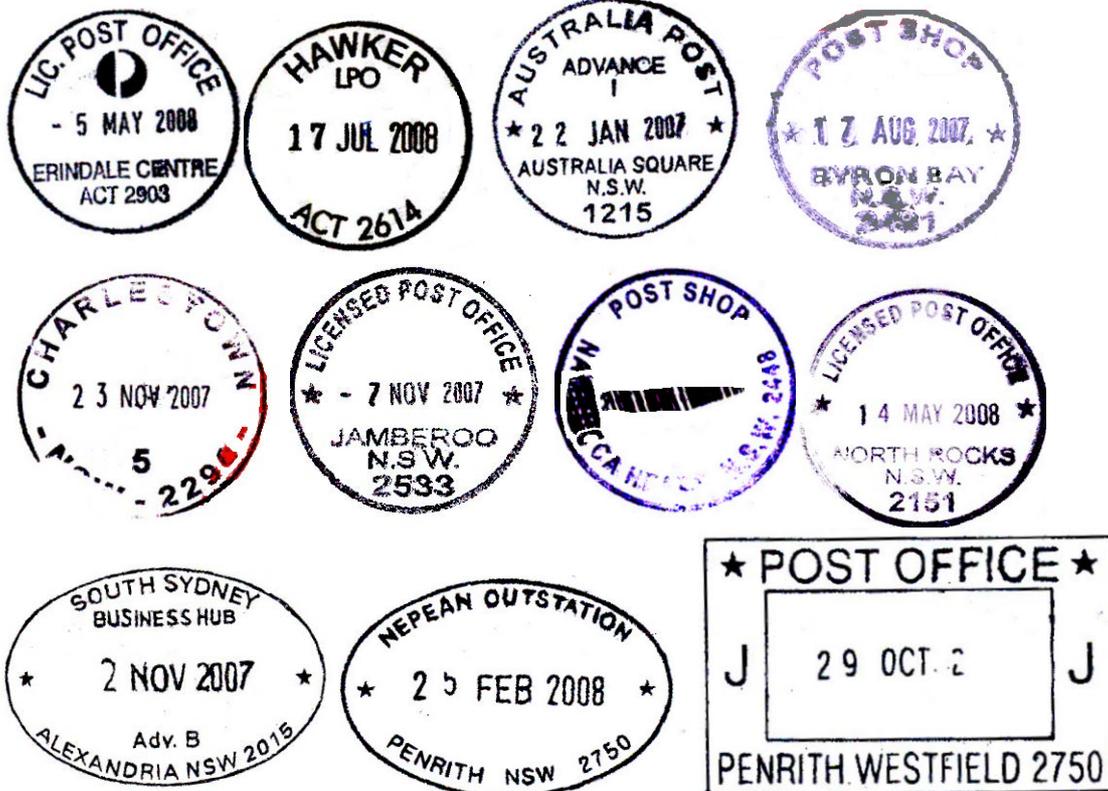
Contributors who made this column ongoing are Ian Cutter, Richard Peck, John Tracey, Ron and Sandra Lee and Frank Adamik.

**A.C.T.**-ERINDALE CENTRE-No 99 Page 24 the postcode was 2905, In this article the postcode is now 2903 .Anyone know of the date of the change?

**N.S.W.**:- PENRITH WESTFIELD Also F& M, Earlier datestamps:-TAREE (75/67) RESERBY NORTH (81/36), UNGARIE (95/29).

A.C.T.

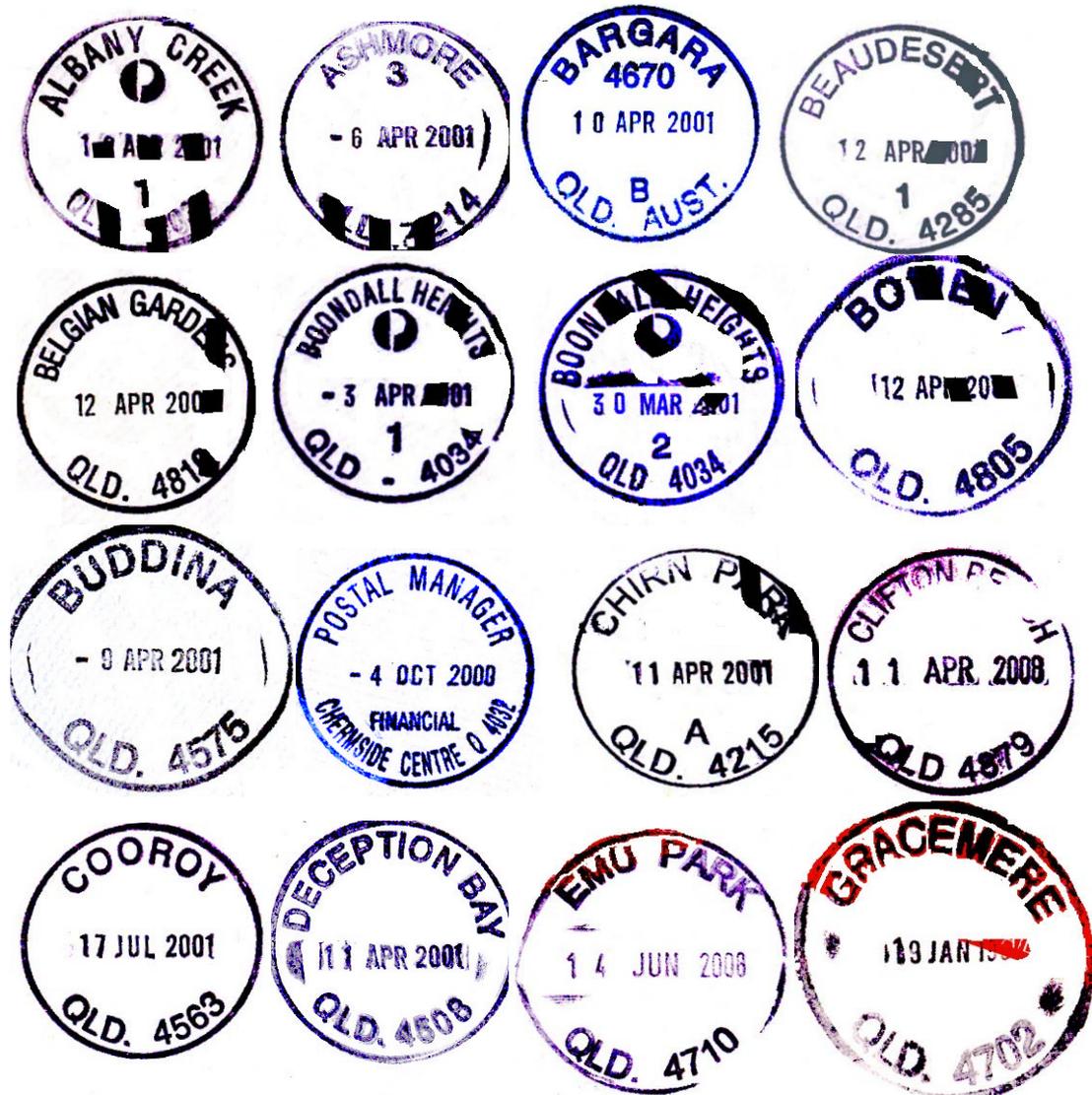
N.S.W.



N.S.W.(cont)



QLD:- Earlier datestamps:- EMU PARK(84/37), ILFRACOMBE(95/29).



QLD:Cont.



QLD:-Cont.



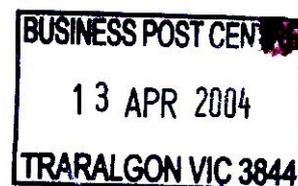
S.A.-



TAS:Earlier datestamp :-COLES BAY (89/32)



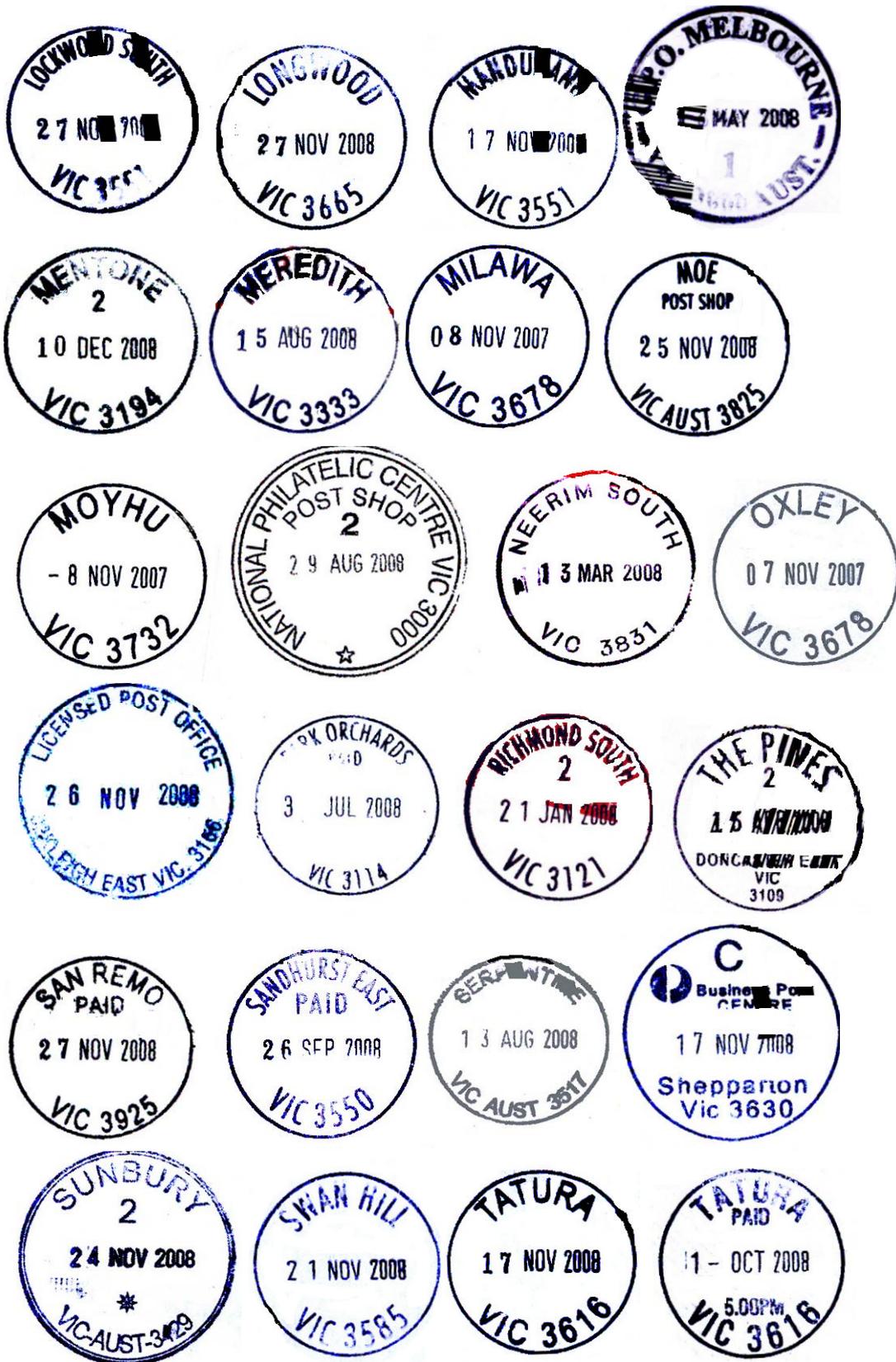
VIC:-G.P.O. MELBOURNE Also 6,NAT. PHILATELIC CENTRE Also 4;-Earlier datestamps:-BENDIGO MAIL CENTRE(100/60),BENDIGO SOUTH(101/29), DUNKELD(82/37),ECHUCA SOUTH(103/32),GOORNONG(94/31),LONGWOOD (74/62), LOCKWOOD SOUTH (96/34),MEREDITH(90/35), SWAN HILL(102/29), TATURA (PAID) (80/41).



VIC :- Cont.:-



VIC:- Cont:-



## Urban Myths

### Vale - Augustus Harewood

March  
2009



Dear comrades, friends and others,  
The river has slowed, the ink well is dry, the windmill is chocked, and little is left of the feathers that once adorned that beautiful quill of our inimitable flack Augustus Harewood – we knew him well. From June 1995 he had penned a quarterly column of acerbic wit, gossip and rampant innuendo without fear or failure. He curried none nor did he owe favours to anyone.

And so it's with considerable sadness that we mourn the passing of a truly great and indefatigable character of Australian philately. He passed us by quite suddenly and unexpectedly on Tuesday 11 November last year. His last contribution was in the December 2008 edition of this august journal.

He was to all somewhat of a scarlet pimpernel – reclusive and elusive to a degree, but when met was always affable with a superior intellect and good strategic brain, was always willing to share advice, experiences or wisdom, no matter what the occasion. He never suffered fools gladly. He had travelled extensively – some say he had been in all of the African, Asian and Middle Eastern countries during his long career in international marketing. As regular as clockwork his column would arrive from whence no one knew.

He was a prolific exhibitor having attended philatelic events in Auckland, Adelaide, Bangkok, Brisbane, Canberra, Christchurch, Hobart, Newcastle, Perth, Seoul, Sydney and Tokyo. His passions were traditional philately and the Orient, where he had lived for many years, and that

of Australian History. In that field he was always welcomed by galleries, libraries and museums alike, for he had unearthed Hoddle's survey notebook which detailed that man's journey from Sydney to Melbourne. His domestic and global connections were legendary.

Weep not dear friends, for he may be gone from here but like the pimpernel, there is no doubt that he will assuredly grace the portals of some other bulletin, journal or paper somewhere sometime.



---

Pat McNamara sent in a snippet from the Odd Spot in the Melbourne Age newspaper, page 1 dated Feb 18 (quote) Times are tough, but Britain's Royal Mail is reminding people that they can still only use stamps once. To ensure this occurs, it is issuing a fraud-proof stamp that will tear if any attempt is made to remove it from an envelope. Tamper-proof paper will be used to prevent forgeries (unquote).

The USPS is doing the same so how long before AP follows? All I can say as a postal historian it has come about 169 years too late! (Ed.)

Just a reminder that entries for MELBOURNE STAMPSHOW 09 close on the 31 March 2009.

**Australian Stamp and Coin  
Company**

*Collectable*

*Specialists*



Our Website

**www.australianstamp.com**

**STAMPS GALORE  
FROM ALL THE WORLD**

Currently on-line is the  
Australian Catalogue including

Specialist Australian Rarities  
Choose from mint and fine used

- Colonies - (States of Australia)
  - Kangaroos
- King George V - all values, varieties & shades
- Pre Decimal KGV, KGVII and QEII
  - Decimal - Queen Elizabeth II
    - Postal History
    - Postal Stationery
    - Thematics (Topical)
    - General World

**With Full Security Buying Available Online**



**COME AND VISIT OUR SHOP**  
Trading 7 Days a Week

WE OFFER • Keen Prices • Rarities to Current Issues

• Stamps • Coins • Banknotes • Accessories

BUYING and SELLING ALWAYS... Discretion Assured

**Australian Stamp and Coin Company**

Shop 133, Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre,  
270 Canterbury Road, Forest Hill, Vic 3131  
Phone: 03 9878 3411 Fax: 03 9878 3877  
Email: sales@australianstamp.com

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

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

# Argyll Etkin

## THE RARE AND UNUSUAL

turns an 'average' collection into a Medal Winning Collection!

We are stockists of the 'Rare and Unusual'.

Contact us now — Enquiries always invited for —

- ◆Postal History, Postal Stationery, Fine Stamps and related material.
- ◆Is your name on our Register of Specialists?

## Argyll Etkin Limited

Leading Buyers- Recognised Valuers

The Argyll Etkin Gallery

27 Regent Street, Piccadilly Circus

London SW1Y 4UA, England

Phone: (020) 7437 7800 Fax: (020) 7434 1060

E-mail [argyll.etkin@btconnect.com](mailto:argyll.etkin@btconnect.com)