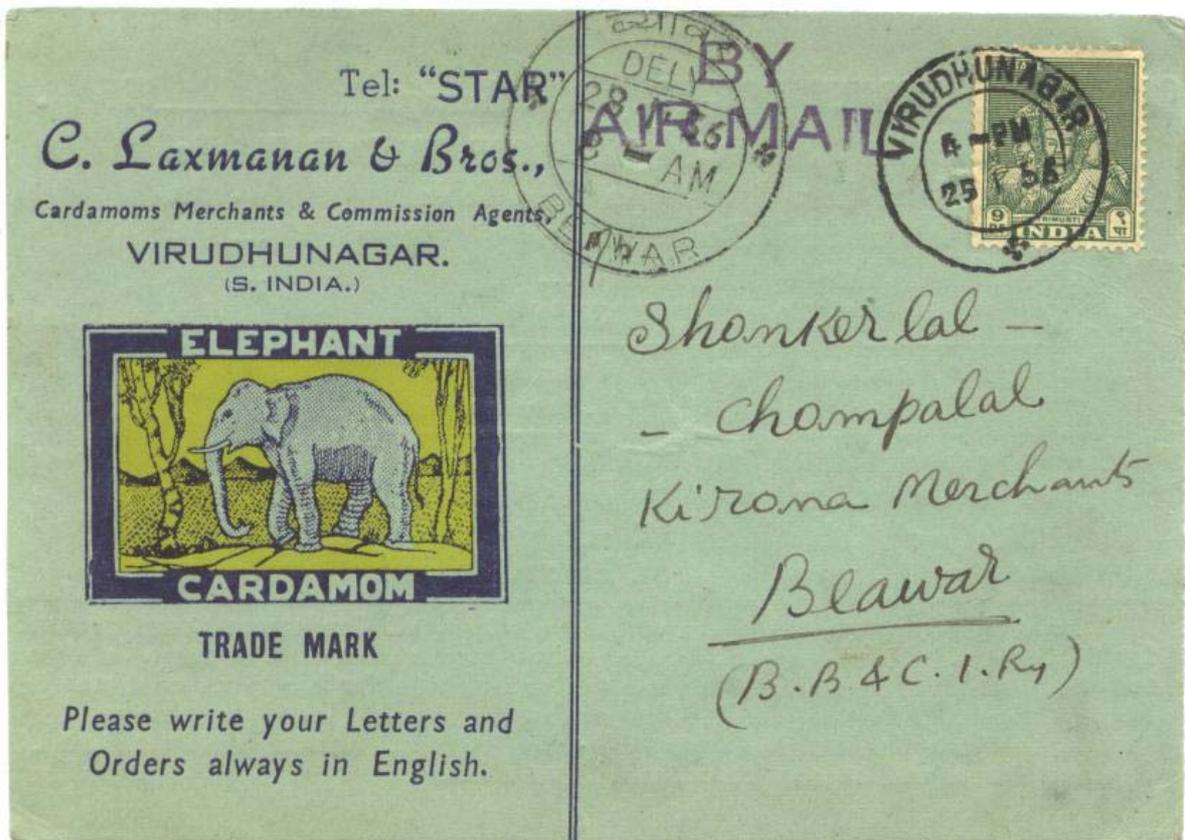


# Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 99 March 2007



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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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<b>2007 Programme</b>		
16 April 2007	Johannes Mussorgsky	Pictures of an Exhibition
18 June 2007	3 Members	ESPC Entries
20 August 2007	AGM	President's Display

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## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

I trust you enjoy this issue of the journal. Thank you once again to those faithful members, who continue to get it over the line, by providing articles and the like for your enjoyment and hopefully, education. If you see something that you can shed further light upon, please drop the editor a line. You may disagree with a conclusion. We will all learn and our accumulation of knowledge will be increased if we take the time to respond.

The society was saddened to learn of the passing of our member Ian Borrie. Ian contributed on many occasions to the journal and will be sadly missed. However, by contributing to the journal he left a legacy of his knowledge of issues philatelic for future generations of collectors. Our condolences goes to his family.

There are some interesting articles this month and John Young has commenced a serialised article concerning Australian Postal Rates 1937-53. John never ceases to surprise us with his eclectic collecting interests and knowledge of postal history. John obviously enjoys research and I understand that he has his favourite seat in the State Library. Keep up the good work John.

Start think about what you could write for the next issue. As you will see, I have filled in a space with a postcard from my collection. These type of contributions are invaluable as there are always spaces to fill. Why not give it a try!

Happy hunting and don't just hide those gems in shoe boxes or the like. Tell us about them. Ciao.

### Privacy Statement

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1. maintain a current membership list;
2. inform members about the Society's activities;
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## President's Note #5

Well we have well and truly started into 2007, but it is never too late to wish you all a Happy and Prosperous New Year. How is it been going? Have you kept any of those New Year Resolutions?

You may remember my note #4 where I grouched at attendances, feedback, bi-monthly displays and generally let off some steam. So far NO FEEDBACK. IS THERE ANYONE OUT THERE?

Tony tells me that he has to scratch to get this issue together and he is the man with very little time. Tony does a great job but he does need the support of ALL members. That gap for display in April of this year was still there until your Council met in February. Between the council we have got together something a little different. How about coming along to find out what it is.

I met George Vearing at the Malvern Town Hall in Feb and we had all better believe it when I say that he does one heck of a job in coordinating the effort of the faithful others, plus his own work, on Hand-Held Date Stamps. I do not think there is a parallel job elsewhere. Again I say well-done George and equally to your cohorts, many thanks from all at A. P. S.

A big issue that your Council continues to wrestle with is our web site. We have one but it is not working. Our web master went to China in late 2005 and left us in the lurch. Since then we have realised that it is a big job to get it back into shape but we are working on it. The job may take some time and with the help of two new members, Ruth and Tom O'Dea we hope to progress this issue quickly.

Well I am happily preparing a display for Sydney 2007 in June, how about you? It's a bit of hard yakka but it will be worth it in the end. The work does help in sorting out your accumulation; some may call it a collection. I heard a remark the other day made by somebody who viewed a huge accumulation neatly stacked in shoeboxes. The comment went along the lines of "Gee what a waste! He (the owner) would be the only one that knows what is in there but what about all that knowledge stored away that may never be seen for decades? Think of how he could help others! Think of all the knowledge that goes down the drain if he falls of the perch without telling us all beforehand!" It is true you know, we owe it to others to part with our knowledge and let others have the benefits we have gained.

Enough from me and cheers from him.

David

*Happy Hunting*

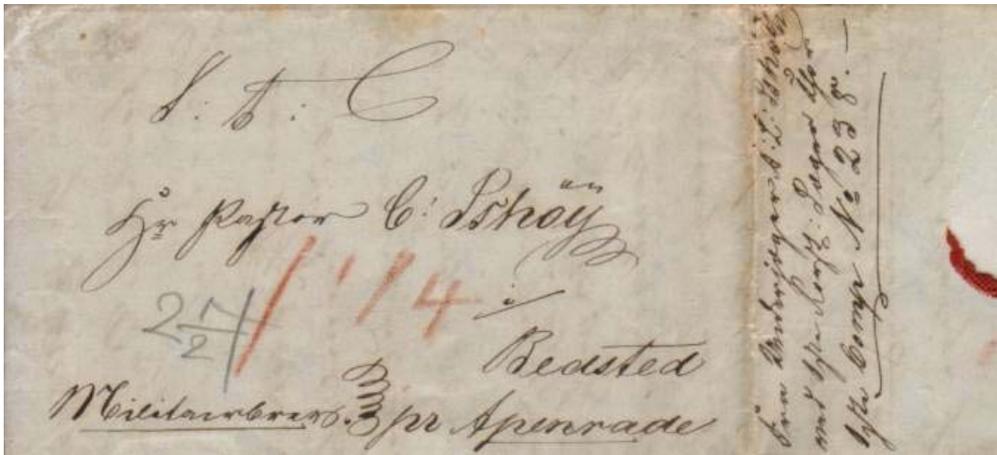


## A Danish Soldier's Letter from the First Danish War

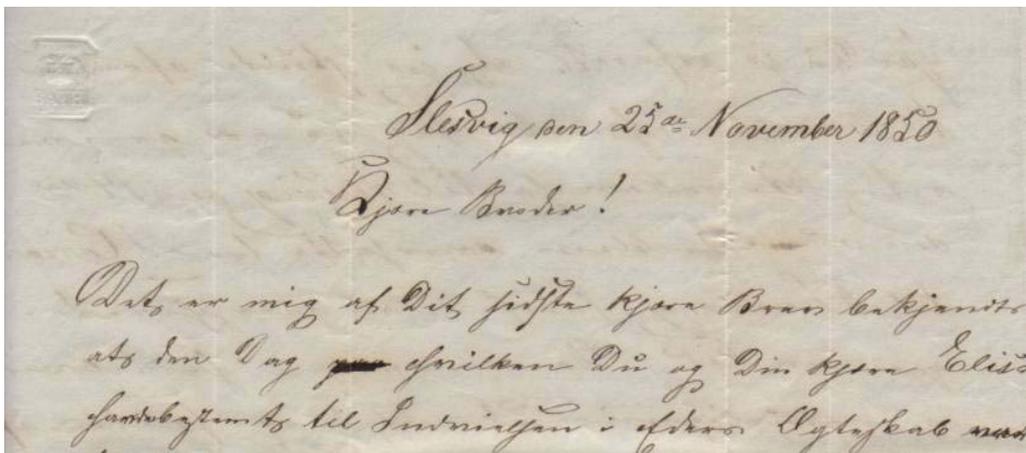
By David Brindle

Whilst going through my collection I came across this entire and found that it was a gem, well it's a gem to me. After puzzling for some time I quizzed members of the Danish Postal History Club through their web site forum and three members responded to fill in the missing detail and correct a wrong impression I had. I was about to take the rubber to the pencil 2 ½ + until I was told about a little known rural practice. The result is – "Entire from a Danish soldier stationed in Slesvig at the time of Danish imposed Martial Law in southern Slesvig.

Written by A. L. Schoy, Underjaeger, N<sup>o</sup> 238 of 1<sup>st</sup> Company marked "Militaria" and directed to Bedsted pr Apenrade (= outside Apenrade). Note the German spelling vs. the Danish spelling of Aabenraa. Entire is a 4 page letter written to his brother and dated 25 November 1850. The letter is addressed to S: T: C, Hr Pastor Schoy, (S: T: = Salvo Titulo in Latin meaning -includes all titles of the addressee). The letter congratulates his brother on his forthcoming marriage. Entire marked in red crayon 1 ¼ indicating the postage in Slesvig-Holstein Skilling Kurant, equal to 4 Danish Rigsbankskilling (Sk). This was the special rate of postage valid from 4 Nov 1848 for soldiers Danish Feltpost during the war\*\*. In addition as the post was delivered to Bedsted outside Aabenraa, it required a "rural postman" (often private contractors) who normally received 1 Sk for delivery but in this case the fee charged was 2 ½ Sk (marked in pencil), for the delivery outside the town boundary. In all, the receiver had to pay 6 ½ Sk. \*\* Danish Exhibition Cat., Haderslev 92, article by Toke Norby, certainly not common.



Part of first page of letter,



NOT  
BAD  
EH!!

## Australian Postal Rates 1937-53

*By John Young*

The period 1937-53 corresponds with the reign of King George VI. Unlike the stamps of the previous Georgian period, the KGVI issues are rather under-rated. Few have a “classic” reputation, and many are common.

By contrast, the postal history of the period is complex, and there are some rare and elusive postal-history items. There are several reasons for this, two stemming from the second world war: airmail rates escalated, meaning that some letters that had been carried for five pence in 1938 cost nearly six shillings in 1940; and military postal concessions bought about a complete new scale of postal charges. Another cause for the complexity was that the standard domestic letter rate went from two pence to two pence halfpenny in 1941, to three pence in 1950 and to three pence halfpenny in 1951. Overseas, postcard, commercial mail and other rates also moved more or less in tandem with these changes. Some rates had very short periods of use.

This article will describe the usages of each stamp denomination from half penny to two pounds. Because of its length the article will be serialized at the editor’s discretion. The last instalment will include an index.

As each stamp denomination and its intended usages are described it is accompanied by illustrations of relevant covers etc. From time to time there are also illustrations of unplanned usages, a further indication of the interest and complexity in what some might think is a dull collecting area.

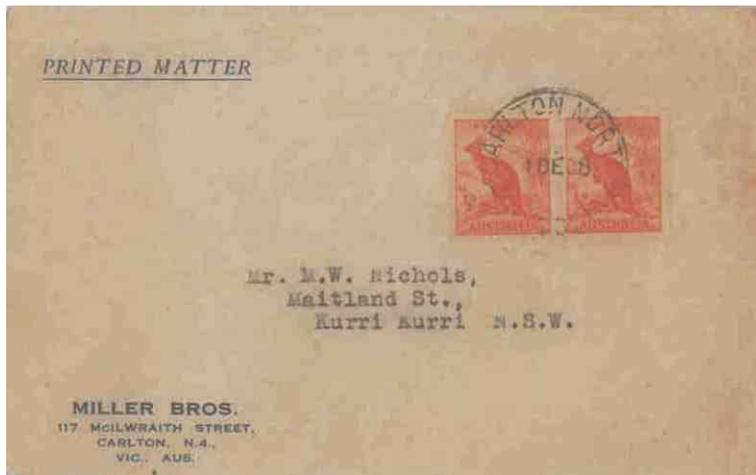
The author has relied on Richard Breckon’s work on Australian postal rates, the Brusden White Australian specialists catalogue and several dealers who have let some elusive items come my way. Where the word “Empire” is used it means the British Empire, fore-runner of the British Commonwealth.

### 1. Halfpenny ‘Roo

This stamp was issued solely for the make-up use. There were three issues: on watermarked paper, perf 13.5x14 (1938) and perf 14.75x14 (1942), and on unwatermarked paper (1949). The last two issues also came in coils, distinguished by smaller perforation holes so the stamp/s could easily be torn apart upon emerging from the coil machine. The war resulted in the stamps being used for one penny postage, the military concession rate for letters in Australia. Very rarely, a sender might use coil stamps, as shown in illus 1.3.

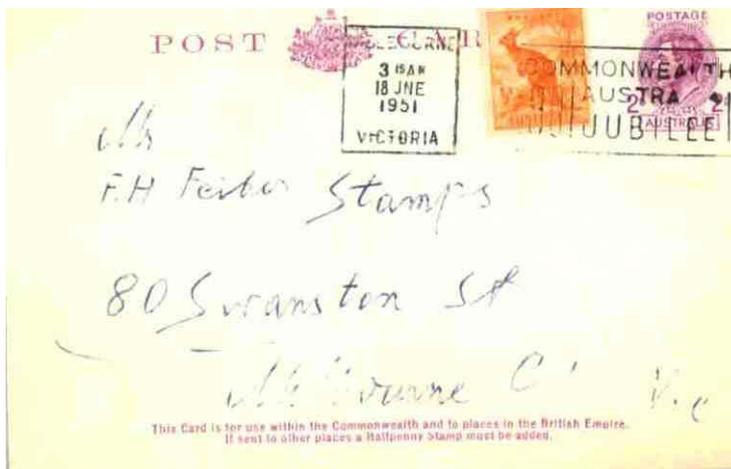


1.1 First issue, used for concessional postage in Australia



1.2 First issue. Printed Matter could be posted to anywhere in the world for one penny until December 1941.

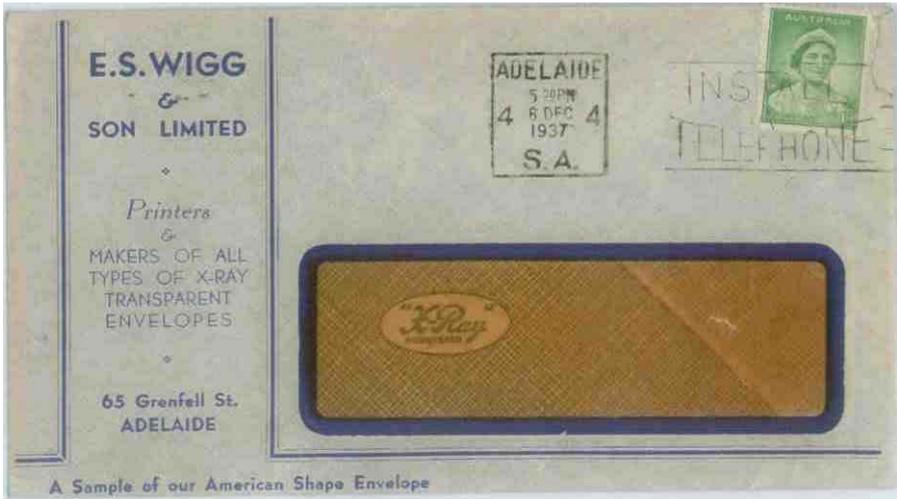
1.3 Second issue, coil stamps, for registered letter to Fiji. Postage 2.5 pence, registration 3 pence



1.4 Make-up use on a postcard sent to the Melbourne stamp dealer, F. H Feibes.

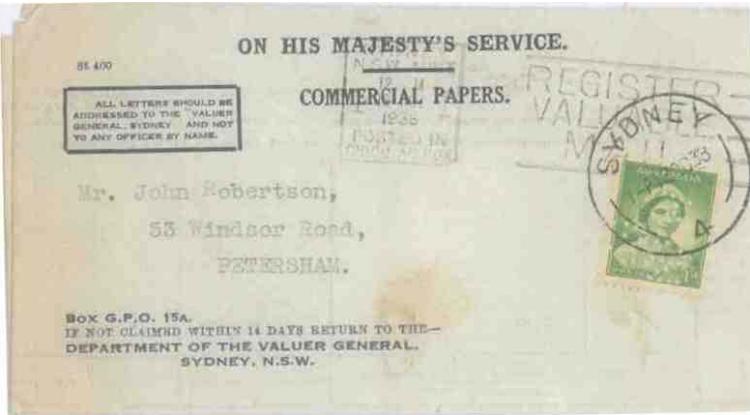
## 2. One Penny

There were six different one-penny stamp issues during 1937-48. Apart from make-up use, the stamp also paid for printed matter and commercial papers in Australia. Printed matter could also be sent overseas for one penny. The stamp also paid for military mail in Australia from 1939, and later airmail letter cards (aerogrammes) from military personnel in Australia and the Pacific could be sent to Australia for one penny. Make-up uses were many and varied, and examples are shown in illus 2.3, 2.4 and 2.6.



2.1 First issue, used for Printed Matter.

2.2 First issue, used for commercial papers, (Commercial papers were invoices, orders, postcards with a commercial communication, bank passbooks etc. Printed Matter was adverts, announcements, notices etc, with no added written matter personal to the recipient.



2.3 First issue, used to pay the late fee cost.

2.4 Second issue used to make up surface postage to Hong Kong. It was posted just before the Pacific war and was returned.





2.5 Third issue used for concessional postage in Australia.

2.6 Third issue used as a make-up value with a Papua stamp from the Gona-Sandadra areas 1942



2.7 Fourth issue. One penny paid for an aerogramme posted in the Pacific area, Lae-Madang area.

2.8 Sixth issue used for concessional postage from occupation forces in Japan



The one penny princess stamp came in two issues: on watermarked paper (1947) sometimes printed on tinted paper and on unwatermarked paper (1948). This last issue was also issued as a coil stamp, as were the second, third and fourth issues.

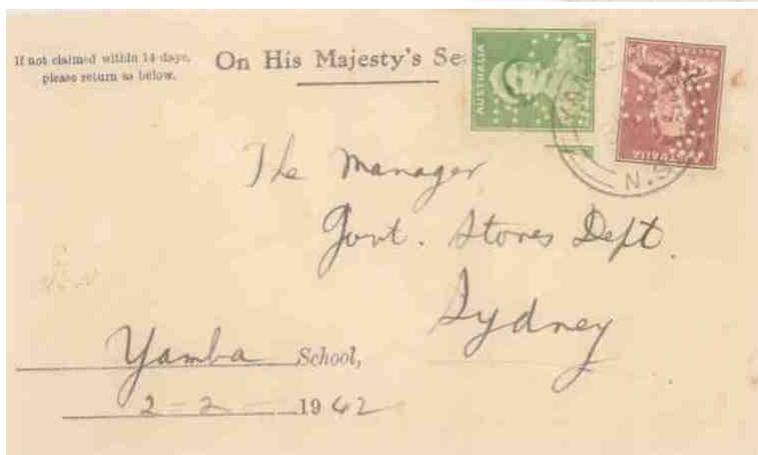
3. One penny half penny

This stamp came in six issues during 1938-50. The first two, a portrait of the king in brown, were on watermarked paper, perf 13.5x14 (1938) and perf 14.75x14 (1941). Both were for postcards sent in Australia until December 1941 when a war tax of a half penny was added to many postal rates. After then the 1½ pence stamp paid for printed matter sent to Australia or overseas, or commercial papers sent to Australia. The last four issues, all printed green, were for printed matter and commercial mail until 30 Nov 1950, except that the 1½ pence rate for overseas commercial papers ended on 30 June 1949.

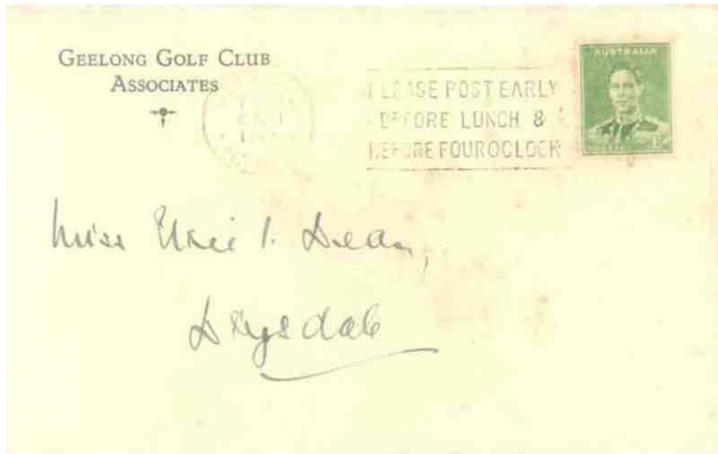


3.1 First issue used for postcard rate.

3.2 Second issue, first day of issue, used for printed matter.

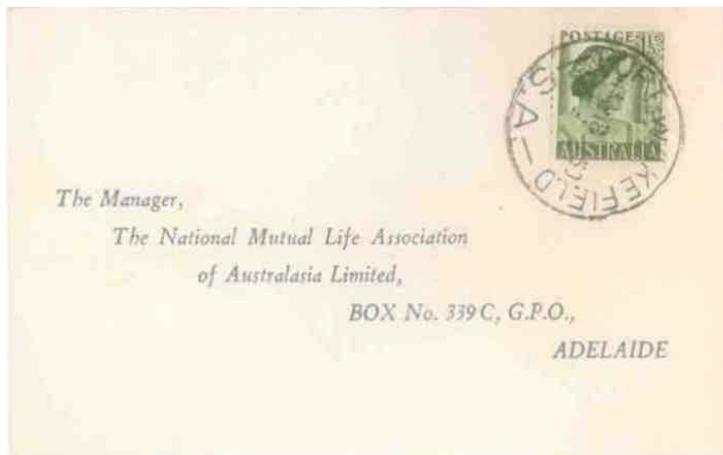
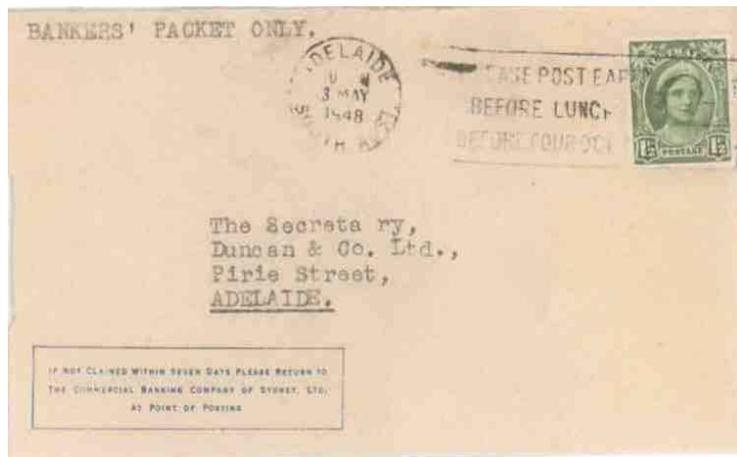


3.3 First issue used for make-up purposes. Both stamps punctured G on NSW



3.4 Third issue used to pay for printed matter.

3.5 Fourth issue used to pay for commercial papers. (The fifth issue was same design on unwatermarked paper.)



3.6 Sixth issue used for commercial papers in July 1950, two weeks after the rate went up to 2 pence, but the card looked like printed matter, which was still 1½ pence.

## Exhibition Timetable

**Sydney Stamp Expo 2007** will be held in the Shannon Room, Royal Randwick Racecourse, Alison Road, Randwick from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 June 2007. Entries Closed

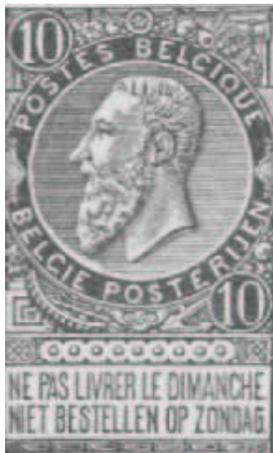
**Huttpex 2007 Stampshow** is a New Zealand limited class National Philatelic Exhibition to be held at the Town Hall Complex, Lower Hutt, New Zealand from 31 August to 2 September 2007.

The closing date for applications has been extended to 30 April 2007. The Australian Commissioner is Charles Bromser, P.O. Box 829, South Melbourne BC, 3205.

## Story of the Sunday Label – a Belgian Philatelic Fable

*Politics and Philately, sometimes, are good company.  
Some fifty years ago, a well intentioned statesman,  
Wishing to grant the Sunday holiday,  
On our continent as well as across the Channel,  
To the good postmen, who go, day in day out,  
Over hill and dale, from door to door, to deliver our mail.  
And justifiably – pure coincidence? –  
Just before enriching the country with ten new stamps,  
Dreamt up the idea of adding to every specimen of an issue bound to please, an invitation  
which every sender, without anyone touching anything, addressed to the postman,  
When on his Sunday round, not to deliver the item on this day,  
Which our Faith invites us to offer in worship to the Eternal Creator.  
One should add that Papist though he might be,  
The creative author of this message did not use Latin,  
The language of the church, in this instance,  
But Flemish or French on the attached labels.  
Twenty years later, we thought it a good idea to change the government,  
And the new government thinking, in so far as governments do think,  
That the label was offensive to Jews, Turks and Muslims from China and Hindustan,  
Ordered the issue of new stamps without the offending labels.  
They saw the light of day, without even provoking at home our students of theology  
Nor offending any devoted souls.  
But, since then, after a few turns of the earth, without waiting to be invited,  
Every Sunday, the Post has been avoiding delivering printed matter.  
They closed the counters on the least pretext on the dot of six.  
When a Minister in cultured tones bans any socialist strike,  
That merely serves to bring it on.  
At the Post, we are members of the Union. Beware!  
This very true story proves in a peremptory way  
That the good folk of the humbler classes  
Always learn by observing the disputes of their betters!*

March 1946 J. M. Jadot



Dominical or Sunday labels were in use from 1884 until 1914 (WW1). The label carried the “Do not deliver on Sunday” message in French (Ne pas livrer le Dimanche) and Flemish (Niet bestellen op Zondag). Tearing off the label from stamps or crossing it out on postal stationery meant deliver on Sunday. The label only applied to delivery within Belgium. Abroad, recipient countries delivered mail according to their own laws, not as dictated by somebody else’s labels.

My thanks go to Alan Shugg for much improving my translation of this somewhat tongue in cheek commentary. It appeared originally in Balasse Magazine #44, May 1946 – Michael Barden.

## My First Tin Can Mail Cover

by William Hempel



This cover from Tonga was the start of something very interesting; I began to collect stamps and covers. Capt. Eriksen was an uncle and I only met him a few times in my childhood, as he was only a few times in Denmark. I do not remember he then told me about this little island, he must have passed, sailing from USA to Australia and other places in the Pacific. The photo taken around 1993 shows such a ship off the island.

On the front is a message at the bottom: Tin Can Mail put overboard in open sea from the Oceanic liner Mariposa off Tin Can ( Niuafou ) Island of the Tongan Group, 15° 33' W. Long., while on regular run between California and Australia. Carried ashore by native swimmers it bears royal Tongan postage, and brings you a faint touch of the romance of these South Seas through which we are passing.

The cover has on the back a cachet U.S.NAVAL ECLIPSE EXPEDITION, Niuafou Tonga, 21 October 1930. It is also signed personally by trader W. 'Quensell, T C M Man.

In 1929 a volcanic eruption destroyed the only harbour on the island and therefore ships had to remain off the island, and I believe that was what S.S. Beulah did, when Uncle Svend Eriksen was there 25<sup>th</sup> July, 1935.



With the help of Brian Crook who for several years was a pilot for the royal Tongan Airlines I got many photos from Tonga as the one at left that shows a ship off the island. Also I got several hundred photos from the island and many people taken by then chief of police on Niuafou Simon Kata. I occasionally correspond with Simon Kata's daughter Fane Kata, who is a schoolteacher on the island.

Then I, for a short period, corresponded with artist and stamp designer George Bennett who then lived in Tonga, but now lives in Fiji where he also designs many stamps for Fiji.

## That Harbour Bridge

By Pat McNamara

Recently I had occasion to visit my daughter in Sydney for Christmas and by chance there was a large display of items to do with the harbour bridge; it being seventy five years since it opened.

Philatelically there were only two covers (in splendid condition) - one cover had the four values/stamps and the other with one stamp and a Pylon cancellation. But what caught my attention was a very large photograph (as distinct from a drawing etc ) of part of the harbour near present day Circular Quay. There was a ship with its stern pointing to Circular Quay and in view of recent correspondence in AJP (No. 94 and 95) I would like to make comment.

The ship in the photo does not seem to be a ferry. It had two funnels and seems to have two masts, one before and one after the funnels. There is a flag flying at the stern which appears to be blue with a smidge of white. There could be a crow's nest half way up the front mast.

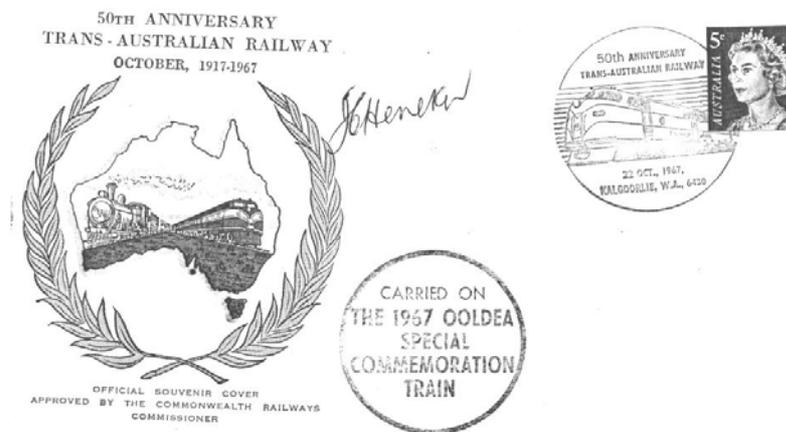
But more importantly the name of the ship is plainly visible on the ship's front side. It reads OSTERLEY.

Perhaps somebody with more knowledge than I have could follow up and see if this is or is not our "mysterious" ship.

Incidentally I was pressed for time on my visit but a helpful female attendant told me that the museum had a book in which people could put IN WRITING any queries for the staff to follow up.

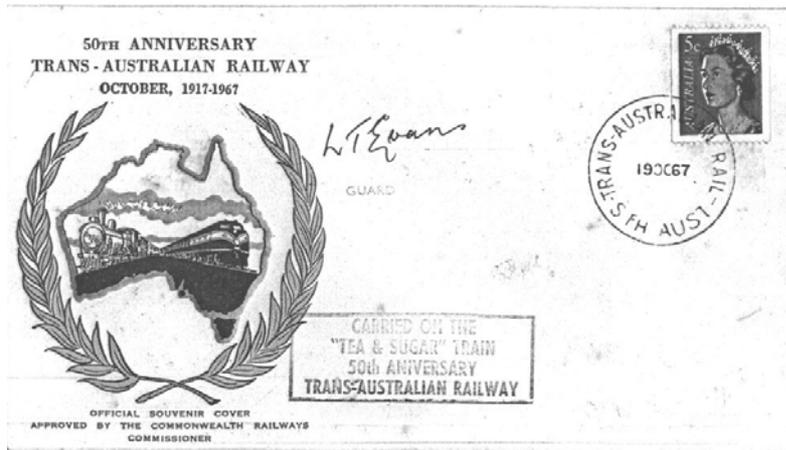
(I suggest a look at the following website may answer questions regarding the Osterley (ed.)<http://image.sl.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/ebindshow.pl?doc=best/b264;thumbs=1>. On this site there are a number of postcards of vessels named OSTERLEY that are associated with Australia. All of the pictures show a two funnel twin masted vessel one which is a transport from 1917 the H.M.A.T. OSTERLEY.)

## Can you help?



Pat McNamara writes asking questions regarding the following four covers. Each cover has to do with the Nullarbor Plain and he is looking for help with the background details.

1. The first cover carries the notation "carried on the 1967 Ooldea special commemoration train" Question: What was this special train?



2. The next cover carries the notation "carried on the Tea and Sugar train 50th anniversary". Just recently I saw an old documentary film on TV which depicted this train. All I remembered is that Santa was on board! Question: Does it still run?

3. This cover is a large envelope postmarked C.A.R. with a small numeral "2" above the postcode. I am told this is actually a T.P.O. that ran across the Nullarbor Plain and that there is another similar post mark with a numeral "1" replacing the "2". Question: Which number ran in which direction?



Mr. M.S. Martin,  
20 Mackay Street,  
PORT AUGUSTA.



4. The final cover is postmarked TRANS AUST RAILWAY—PAY TRAIN. Question: Was this a special train to pay the workers along the line? Or, was it part of a "normal" train and occupied a small part.

### Oh, write it down, it's a good one!

A woman went to the post office to get stamps for her Christmas cards.  
She says to the clerk, "May I have 50 Christmas stamps?"  
The clerk says, "What denomination?"  
The woman says, "God help us. Has it come to this?"  
Give me 6 Catholic, 12 Presbyterian, 10 Lutheran and 22 Baptists.

## Courage of a conscript

By George Speirs

### Living VC winner stars on Cambridge cover

One particular winner of the Victoria Cross is honoured on a cover from the Cambridge Stamp Centre.

Private Edward Kenna is the only living Australian holder of the decoration. He won his medal on Wirui Mission Hill in Wewak, Papua New Guinea, on May 15, 1945.

The war in Europe had ended but the Pacific campaign continued, and

Kenna single-handedly engaged and overcame two Japanese machine-gun posts that were impeding the advance of his company.

His lone action saved the lives of many of his comrades and helped to secure a vital hill.

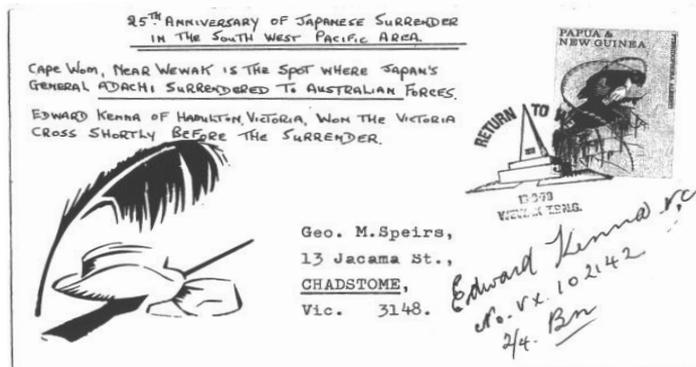
This cover is autographed by him, and can be obtained for £24.95, plus carriage.

26 STAMP MAGAZINE NOVEMBER 2006

www.stampmagazine.co.uk

My attention was drawn to an advert in the November 2006 Stamp Magazine in which there was an illustration of a cover with bold lettering, Private Edward Kenna V.C. This name struck a cord with me and sure enough I found the evidence that brought this name to my notice.

My search proved fruitful, having found the cover that I was sure I had somewhere. As one can see there is a commemorative postmark on a Papua New Guinea stamp of Wewak, dated 13/9/70, with Edward Kenna's signature, service number, and his unit.



The local population of Hamilton, Victoria were determined to have their hero remembered and the renowned artist Sir William Dargie was commissioned to paint his portrait. It now takes pride of place at the local RSL. On seeing the painting Ted was moved to say "I used to clean this place but never thought they'd ever hang me".

Edward Kenna is the only living Australian holder of the Victoria Cross, he will be 87 in July 2007. Ted Kenna, as he is effectively known, was awarded the V.C. for his action at the Wirui Mission near Wewak in New Guinea on 15<sup>th</sup> May 1945. His section of four were pinned down by murderous fire from a Japanese machine gun. He couldn't see the enemy so he stood up with his bren gun on his hip and blasted the gunner, enemy bullets passing between his arm and his torso, ripping his shirt. His lone action saved the lives of his mates and helped secure a vital hill.

A few weeks later Ted's luck ran out when in a similar operation he was hit in the mouth by an explosive bullet.

Incidentally, Ted was conscripted into the army, has always maintained that he never wanted to be a soldier.

## Does Anyone Know the Meaning of these Censor Marks??

By David Brindle

### The cover.

Express commercial cover from "MILANO, ITALY" mailed 7.4.43 to "HELSINKI, FINLAND". The cover passed through at least **FIVE** censors.

### The censors.

1. Italy where it was opened and passed,
2. Passed in Munich, circular A over d for Munich, which handled mail directed for Switzerland, Spain, Portugal and Italy,
3. Opened and passed in Berlin, Geoffnet sealing tape and red cachets with **b** for Berlin handling mail to Finland
4. Faint and incomplete Finnish censor 171 **TYPE 4** blue circular cachet, passed but not opened.

*One senses that this censor thought "There would be nothing left to censor"*

Cover arrived at Helsinki airport on 16.4.43; at least the last part of its travel was by airmail, a 10 day Express!

### The unknown.

1. There are six other censor markings, some of which may duplicate any of the above four, see the scans of the front and reverse and they are;
2. On the front,
  - 7mm square 14 in centre of cover,
  - 6mm high red 'B' under the bottom of the Finnish circular censor, LRHS,
  - Partial rectangular blue box with 2 in same area,
  - Partial 6mm blue circle with 5 slightly lower again,
- 3 On the reverse
  - 35mm OD double circle with blurred printing, LLHS, the top part read "POSTAESTRI\*??\*", and the bottom I cannot decipher,
  - 170/II inside 24mm circle, 1/3<sup>rd</sup> down on LHS.

I know that this stuff is European but are there any geniuses out there that can answer or can point me in the right direction?



Front showing various markings.



Reverse with transit and censor markings

## A Postcard, and Some Thoughts Arising Footnotes to AJP December 2006

By Ian Cutter

I find that the towns of Assinie and Axim, as they were in 1935, are mentioned in *Africa Dances* by Geoffrey Gorer. The following brief quotes may give the flavour.

“Axim is a small port, somewhat of a backwater. The tiny English concession consisted of four bungalows on a wooded hill a little way out of town.”

“The district of Axim was particularly difficult [for the commissioner] to deal with, for there were seven small kingdoms, each with its own chief, customs and language.”

“There was no road at all beyond Axim; the French frontier could be reached only by motoring along the beach at low tide, and from there it was necessary to put the car on a tug to get it from the lagoon to the mainland.” [From this description it seems most unlikely that the postcard would have gone overland.]

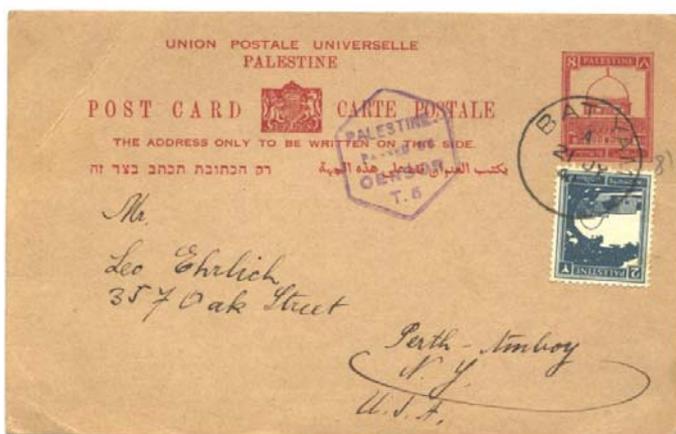
“Assinie is important as an outlet for the coffee and timber in the interior, but it is a minute strip of land, often washed over by the high seas, and there are very few buildings on it.”

**(Editor’s note.** Apologies to Ian for wrongly attributing his previous article on this subject to Brian Fuller in the index of AJP 98, December 2006. It is one of the hazards of cut and paste that occasionally you forget to rewrite the author; thus an error such as described occurs. Fortunately it is correctly acknowledged in the article itself).

### Hand-held date stamps

When collecting the WA datestamps illustrated by George Vearing, I asked at one post office if they had another datestamp. The response was “We used to have one. It was a picture of a [ ]. It caused too much trouble – people would write asking for a sample! – so we got rid of it.”

### Postcard from my collection



Dorfman PC9

Up-rated and censored postal stationery postcard from Bat Yam, Palestine to New York. Bat Yam was founded in 1926 and was located south of Jaffa as a garden suburb on the sea. Original name Beit Vegan (changed 5.1.38). The overseas postcard rate increased from 8mils to 10mils 1.7.40 and remained at this rate until an increase to 13mils came into force 1.7.43. The exception was UK & Ireland where the 8mils rate continued until 30.6.43 where it changed to 10mils.

## A Treat for a Maritime Stamp Collector this is!

By William Hempel

I have spent quite a lot of time visiting various libraries to find books of interest. At present I have begun to read the old volumes of Sea Breezes, the P.S.N.C Magazine and I find from June 1921 page 337 a photo that answers most of my question.

As you see it shows ' Shipping our supplementary Mails, by tender from the Liverpool Landing Stage.' I am able to count at least 28 mailbags and several more may be hidden in the pile. The mail bags all have various names of destination painted on them. So the mail was sorted before departure, ( but just to be nit-picking ! ) what happened to the empty mailbags on arrival, were they returned empty, or destroyed ? having the names on from far away destinations.



Shipping our supplementary Mails, by tender from the Liverpool Landing Stage.

Well, the photo shows a lot of mail, presumably mostly letters, ( many are marked parcel post ) were handled to destinations where the liner called, from Liverpool down the Atlantic, past Falkland Islands, and up the west coast of South America

Lately AJP has written about postcards from Australia mentioning the ships that took the mail, here we see it in transshipment.

It is nice to find such old photos telling about part of your stamp hobby, I think.

### From my collection



Wrapper which is franked with 1cent and 3cent precies and precancelled Los Angeles Calif.

Taxed 4cents by 2x2cent Postage dues.

I'm not sure how I came to accumulate precancels

## New Zealand Musings

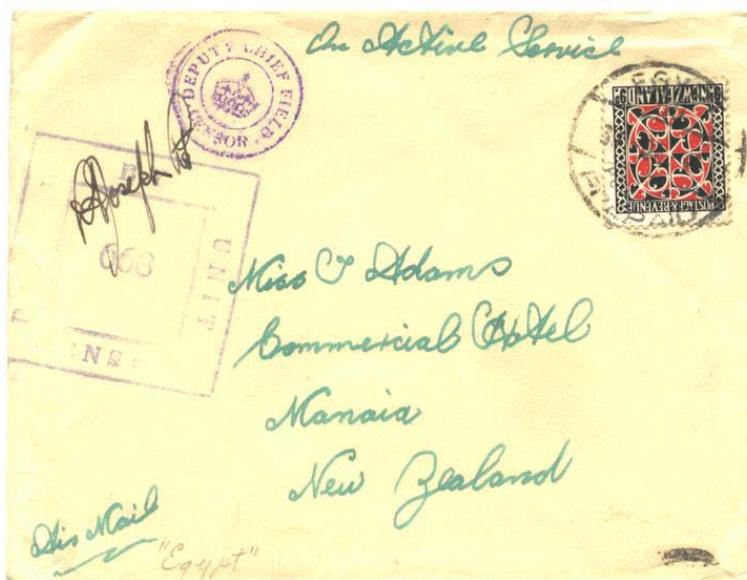
By Tony Lyon

It is always interesting when you purchase additions to your collection, to take them home and really discover what you have. In this instance it was three military covers I purchased from Torsten Weller's stall during the Melbourne Stamp, Coin and Collectibles Fair at Malvern Town Hall in February. Torsten often has interesting items to look at and some time even items that interest me.

At first glance cover No. 1, is a cover from a New Zealand soldier and sent from the Middle East. It is struck with an Egypt Postage Prepaid 50 which was issued to NZ FPO 3 and its period of use is recorded in Startup & Proud as (5.5.41)-(17.9.41) (281).<sup>1</sup> (Being bracketed indicates that the period of use could be extended). This cover is dated 31 DE 41 which places it outside of the known uses. Startup & Proud show a period of use at Baggush, Western Desert, (Advance base camp) between 6.12.41-20.12.41, but indicate that they had not, at the time of publication, seen an example.

According to the official history (Sinclair 1954: 232),<sup>2</sup> troops left Baggush on the 6 January 1942. This would suggest that FPO 3 was there at least until this date?

I will pass it by the NZ historians as to what they make of it and any ideas you may have would be appreciated. I think that the soldier was probably serving with an attachment from 4th NZ Infantry Brigade? The censor 668 is consistent with other censor markings that I have sighted all from Baggush around this period (663, 665—DIV HQ NZE, 667 5 NZ BDE)



*EPP 50 dated 31 DE 41 censor 668 and appears to be censored by Lieutenant Joseph.*

Cover No 2 was purchased to add strength to the rates aspect of my WW2 exhibit. This cover has been sent from New Plymouth at the 3/6d rate to a Flight Sergeant serving with the RAF. It has been received at the NZ Army Base PO-UK and received there 30 November 1943 and forwarded to RAF Downham Market, Norfolk. It was home to 218 and 623 Squadrons. 623 Squadron was disbanded in December 1943 while 218 moved out in March 1944. This RAF Bomber Command base opened in the summer of 1942 and closed in October 1946.<sup>3</sup>

The mail was addressed to 3/5 Agar Street, Strand London where it was redirected.



Postage 3/6d



Received 30 NO 43 at the NZ Army Base PO-UK—Civilian censorship Censor 20 at New Plymouth.



## Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Welcome to the first edition of this column in 2007.

In the Victorian section there is a postmark from French Island Post Office dated 2 OCT 2001 which I had not seen before and had no record of a post office by that name, nor is one listed in David Wood's list. After doing some research, I found that originally there were two post offices on French Island, Fairhaven which opened as a Receiving Office on 15/6/1911, raised to Post Office status on 1/7/1927 and closed on 30/3/1957 and Tankerton which opened on 3/9/1890 and closed on 28/7/1994.(Thanks to David Wood's website for that information).

Upon contacting the present postal manager, I was informed that the present French Island datestamp only went back to 1999 on the year wheel. That still leaves 5 years unaccounted for and for this reason it is imperative that we try to get information on post office openings, closures and name changes as quickly as possible. Any further information would be greatly appreciated.

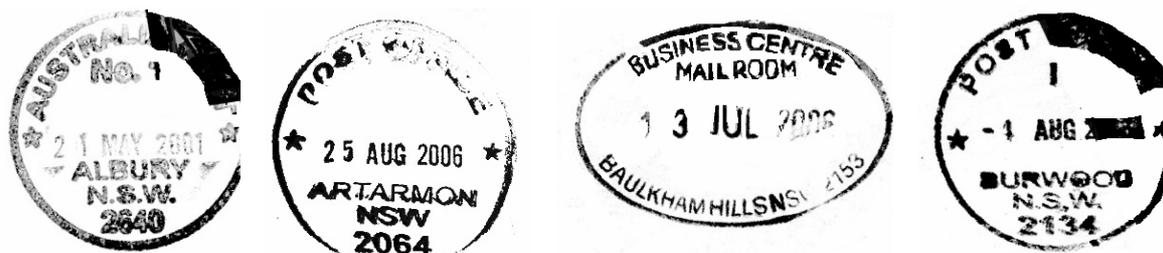
There has been problems with the size of some of the datestamps and fitting them on the page, so in future some large ones may be reduced but their dimensions will be noted.

Many thanks to Richard Peck, Ian Cutter, John Tracey and Peter Dearie for their continued support for this column.

A.C.T.-Earlier datestamp:-NARRABUNDAH(85/37) N.T.



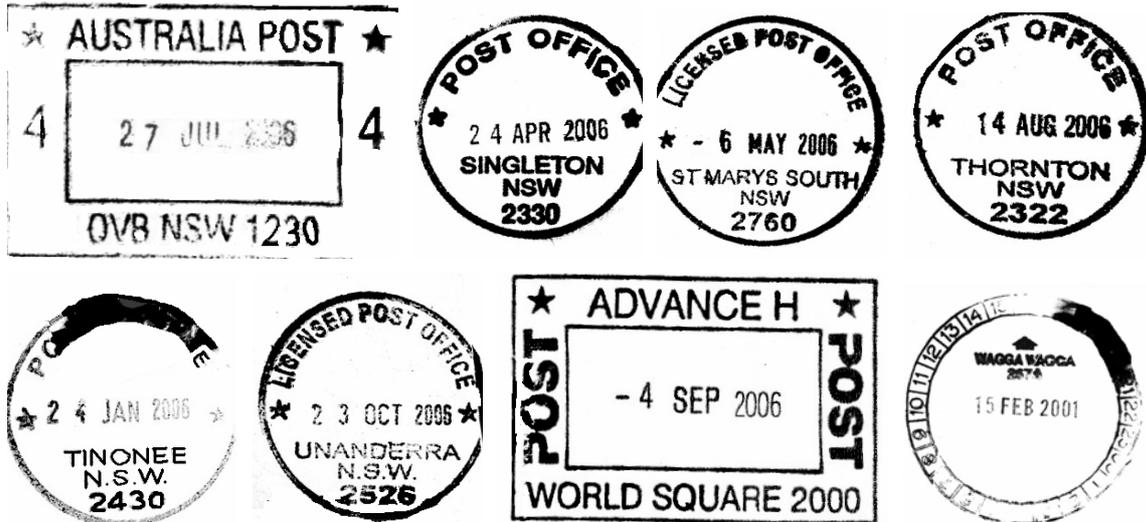
N.S.W.: -PENRITH WESTFIELD -Also E



N.S.W.—(Cont.)



N.S.W. —(Cont).



(Reduced) Wagga Wagga 52mm)

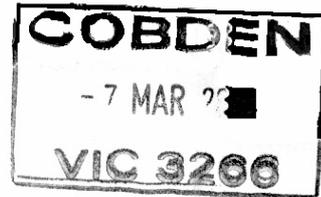
QLD.



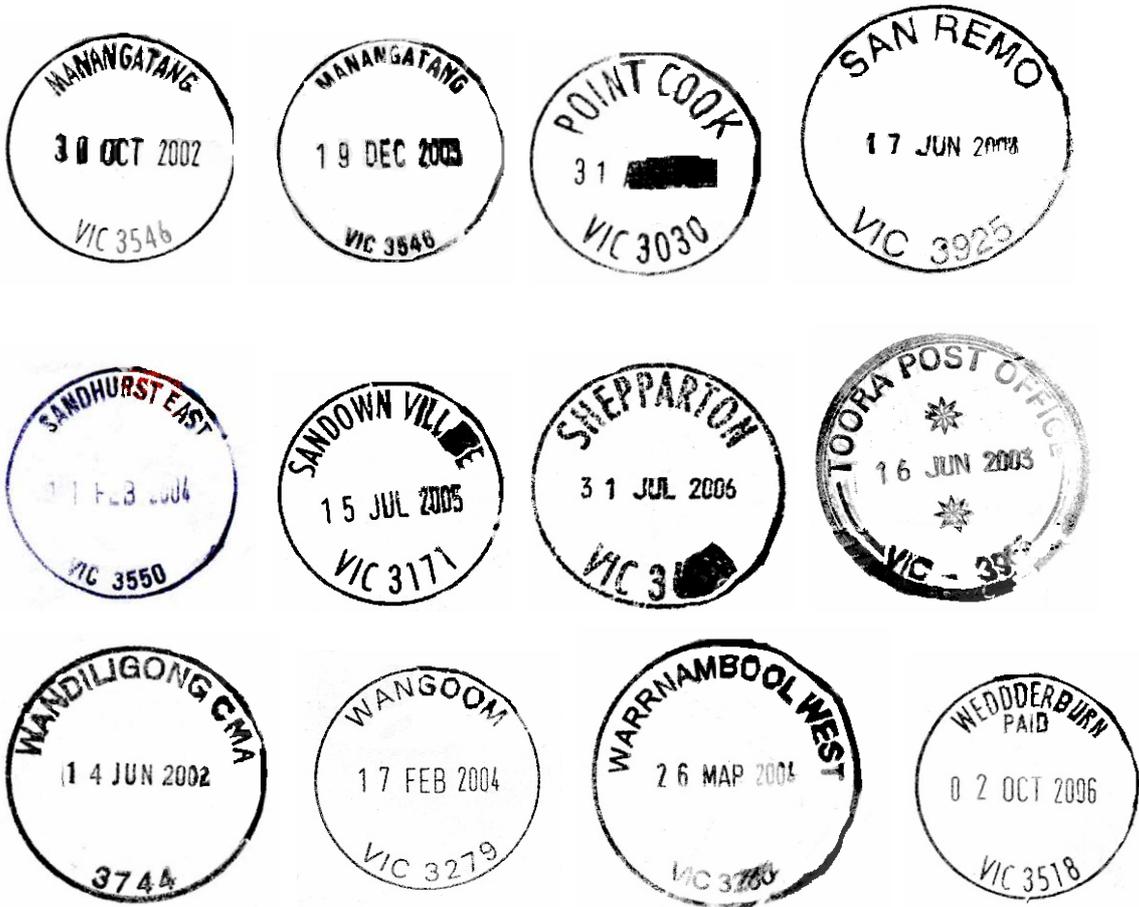
S.A.



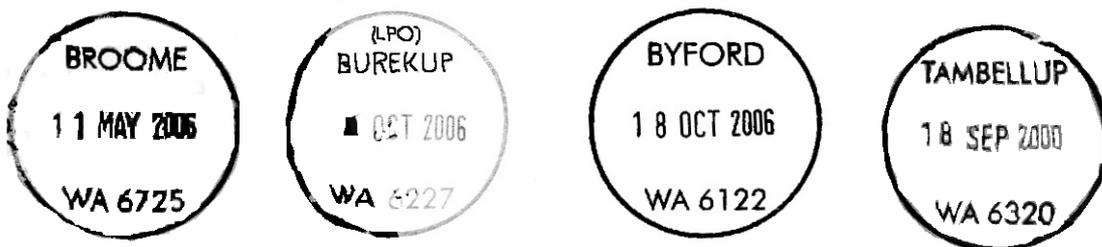
VIC.—Earlier datestamps:-BEECHWORTH(77/33),HUON(76/35),KATUNGA(78/45),  
 NYAH(74/63).



VIC—(Cont)

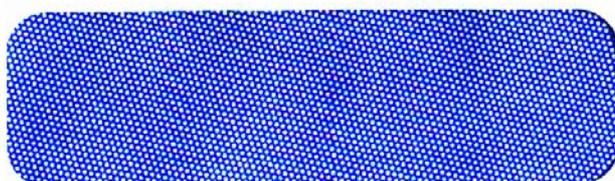


W.A.:--Earlier datestamp:-BROOME(72/36)



Amongst the envelopes sent to me by Richard Peck was the photocopy showing a RECEIVED cancel from CENTRAL MAIL ROOM – MELB. The cancel is in dark blue with the dateline in red. What we would like to know whether it is a private cancel or a post office one? Comments to be included in the next edition of the journal would be appreciated.

 **Tribal DDB**  
Sydney  
2x Mofflin Building  
2 Mountain Street, Ultimo NSW 2007 Australia



### Reverse of the Printed Matter card illustrated on this issues cover.

**Virudhunagar** is a small town located at a distance of 45 Km South-West of Madurai, Tamil Nadu state of India. Virudhunagar exports all kinds of Edible oil to Dubai, Srilanka and also exports Cotton, chili. Spices, cardamom to USA and Singapore. Virudhunagar is a famous business centre without markets. The people of Virudhunagar play an important role in price fixation of consumer products. Hence there is a popular saying, “Virudhunagar produces nothing but controls everything”.

**Bewar** (or Nayanagar) is a town in the Rajasthan state of India. It is an important centre of trade, especially in raw cotton, and had cotton presses and the Krishna cotton mills.

Printed Matter card sent by airmail from Virudhunagar 25 January 1956 addressed to Bewar where it was received 28 January 1956. The reverse of the card is a printed market report regarding Cardomom and other spices.

I liked it because of the elephant motif used as a trade mark for the product.

I could not discover whether the company still exists.

CARDAMOMS MARKET REPORT. Virudhunagar 25.1.1956.	
SPECIAL ELEPHANT EXTRA BOLD MYSORE GREEN RABIN	Rs. 183.
Elephant Brand Extra Bold Mysore Green Rabin	... Rs. 180.
Mysore Medium Size Green	... Rs. —
Mysore Small Size Full Green	... Rs. 177.
SPECIAL HAND PICKED MYSORE GREEN	... Rs. 196.
Black Pepper Rates quoted per Bengal maund F. O. R. Virudhunagar.	
Black Pepper (Kali Merch) Nadan Best Dried Heavy Weight Bold Garbled	... Rs. 106.
Black Pepper (Kali Merch) Karulanji Best Dried Heavy Weight Bold Garbled	... Rs. —
Booking for Passengers Train or V. P. Post Parcel. Cardamom Rates quoted for 20 Pounds. All Rates are Subject to market fluctuations. All Disputes Subject to Virudhunagar Jurisdiction. We are not responsible for any Loss or Damage during transit. Advance Rs 20/- is expected per 20 lbs. Cardamoms By Passenger Train booking and Rs. 10/- per 10 lbs. bundle by Post Parcel. R/R and Hundi will be sent through V. P. or Bank.	

# Urban Myths

By Harewood

March  
2007

It has been reported quite extensively here that the American customs authorities have their barrier staff now checking the baggage of inbound Australian visitors, in an endeavour to search for and destroy our venerable household product Vegemite. To Harewood this is an inexplicable act of what not to expect from an FTA!

He is becoming increasingly be-wildered by the apparent cavalier behaviour and altruistic attitude of morons whom one would expect in having the ability to hold this fine nation of ours in far greater stead than is now occurring. Are we not supposed to be their allies and friends? You would think that they have enough to contend with what with the North Koreans going nuclear, Iraq in civil war, Iran running wet T-shirt competitions and convoys of cocaine and free settlers rumbling across the Mexican border. But no, the Yanqui customs is cracking down on a concentrated yeast extract developed by a Dr Callister and marketed by a Mr Walker in 1923. As an aside Harwood grew up in Kooyong in another century, and it was in Warra Street that Callister's son lived and ran a chemist shop in the little shopping village near the Kooyong railway station.

Harewood ponders vacuously over a cohiba and shiraz about this state of affair. The absurdity is reminiscent of his old bete noir and one-time cause celebre Maj Ray Harpic cashiered from the West Highland PayCorp for having laundered the mess funds into copra futures after Burns Philp had vacated its operations. Has the supposed leader of the free world got his priorities in line with the planets? With the might of the US Government cracking down on a concentrated yeast product as a threat to their regime! One has to be struck by the intellectual breadth of this leader even when he gets monosyllabic words out of context. The threat appears to be even greater than their gun lobby or a Republican congress man dating a school boy – no! It's a simple and harmless product far better known to us as Mr Vegemite. Perhaps he thinks Osram Bed Linen has acquired the taste for vitamin B and folate which the Yanqui's are

prohibited from consuming. No folks, the guy's a mental midget with the IQ of a fencepost and a mind like wet tennis shoes - makes squishy noises when running.

Apparently the Homeland Security Bureau considers the smuggling of innocent foodstuffs as Vegemite into their country akin to a bird flu epidemic despite the fact that it's been carried into and consumed there for over sixty years! Even Lady Olivia Newton had a BlueGrass shop in San Francisco from whence she sold copious quantities over many years from the mid-1980's. Seems as though they've confused the nomenclature of the product with that of their less-than favourite South American left wing dictator in Venezuela by the name of Chavez. Now that's some guy. He's about as friendly as the Havana Chamber of Commerce.

As always at this time of the year Harewood reflects upon the past – the good, the bad and the really unuseful. Well we started our bi-monthly meetings last February which has lightened the syllabus load for The Barden allowing him more time for the Royal Geriatrics and their visionary totem pole. The Society's members were eminently successful in gaining high distinction for their respective fields of study last year in particular Michael Barden [Belgium] David Brindle [Scandinavian military] Frank Pauer [FDC's] Tony Lyon [NZ military postal history] Ian Borrie [thematic] Gary Watson [postal history] and Harewood's bete noir John Lancaster [Social]. To all we salute you and may this year bring success in Sydney, New Zealand or St Petersburg. The Society's Journal continues to thrive but assuredly needs more dedicated and capable contributors. Even a half page on an item of uniqueness is always pleasantly received by your editor. For if Harewood has been able to regularly quill this column each quarter for ten years surely some of our distant members might like to take up the pen.

As Harewood contemplates 2007 and muses upon further pleasant idleness and aberrant humour, he sincerely hopes for health, peace and prosperity for all this year.

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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

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