

# Australian Journal of Philately

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

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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	2/2 Edith Avenue	Box 426
Hawthorn	Croydon, Victoria 3136	Mooroopna, Victoria 3629
Vic 3122	Australia	Australia
Australia	Phone: 0412 997 675	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>

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<b>Date</b>	<b>2013 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
18 February 2013	John McKay	Swedish Neutrality Mail
15 April 2013	John Young	WW2 Horseshoe Route Mail
	Tony Lyon	WW2 NZ POW Mail
17 June 2013	Michael Barden	1935-38 QANTA mail from Verviers to Oz & HB Smith

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## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

Collecting is such an interesting pastime. It has captivated the minds of millions of people. President Roosevelt was a well known collector and is quoted as suggesting that 'stamp collecting dispels boredom, enlarges our vision, broadens our knowledge, makes us better citizens and in innumerable ways, enriches our lives.'

The novelist Ayn Rand collected stamps as a child for a couple of years, but states that she had to give it up and had no thoughts of taking it up again. She resumed collecting 50 years later, and that by chance. Often asked why people like stamp collecting. Her response was:

The pleasure lies in a certain special way of using one's mind. Stamp collecting is a hobby for busy, purposeful, ambitious people – because, in patterns, it has the essential elements of a career, but transposed to a clearly delimited, intensely private world.... A career requires the ability to sustain a purpose over a long period of time, through many separate steps, choices, decisions, adding up to a steady progression to a goal.... Purposeful people cannot rest by doing nothing.... They seldom find pleasure in single occasions, such as a party or a show or even a vacation, a pleasure that ends right then and there, with no further consequences. (Why I Like Stamp Collecting. [www.bcphilatelic.org/images/ayn-rand-quote.pdf](http://www.bcphilatelic.org/images/ayn-rand-quote.pdf) Accessed 6 December 2012).

Clinton Fadiman says something similar:

The philatelist will tell you that stamps are educational, that they are valuable, that they are beautiful. This is only part of the truth. My notation is that the collection is a hedge, a comfort, a shelter into which the sorely beset mind can withdraw. It is orderly, it grows towards completion, it is something that can't be taken away from us. (Any Number Can Play <http://stampinformation.blogspot.com.au/2010/10/famous-quotes-on-stamps-and-stamp.html> Accessed 6 December 2012).

So there you are, we are in some very sane company.

Christmas and New Year Greetings.

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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.

## Australian Philatelic Society - Annual Report 2011-12

### **John Young**

Our society has two basic aims:

- to publish an interesting quarterly journal for our members; and
- to hold six meetings a year where members can see interesting displays that, hopefully, also show something new to them.

The journal ranges across various collecting interests, anchored by the Australian hand-held date stamps on its back pages. This goes back to the Society's inception and has been carried forward with enthusiasm and dedication. The date stamps' co-ordinator, George Vearing, completed ten years in the role and was awarded the John Webster medal in 2012.

Tony Lyon, the journal's editor, has been in the role for nine years. Not only does he get the pages filled, but he gets the journal published on time, despite having other demands on his time which can occasionally be quite hefty. Tony also writes encouraging editorials, entreating members to put pen to paper. Sometimes he succeeds in this, and we hope for greater success in time to come. Some of us are running out of things to write about.

Our bi-monthly meetings have continued to include the display formats first tried a few years ago: works in progress, and 'half displays' of about thirty pages. Both formats have encouraged collectors to gather together material that may never reach full display numbers, but which is interesting and shows something new.

The full displays at our meetings were of Belgian international fairs, 'weird philately' (or the unregarded sweepings of dealers' boxes – my definition) and Snowy Mountains postal history. All three displays included unique items.

In addition to our journal's editor, an earlier holder of that office, Michael Barden, has continued to help with production and distribution in an unelected capacity. Our treasurer, John Steward, and our secretary, Irene Kerry, have continued to keep our finances and books in good order. All of these members serve on the society's managing committee and generally keep the show on the road. Once more I record my appreciation of their support.

# Christkindl, the Christ Child

**Tony Lyon**

Our theme for this December issue is Christmas. Irene Kerry, our Hon Secretary supplied these items relating to the Austrian Christkindl markings. Thank you Irene.

In Austria, it is Christkindl, the Christ Child, who brings the presents on Christmas Eve. Christkindl is also the name of a small village located in Upper Austria, just west of Steyr. It is here where the most popular Christmas postmark originates.<sup>1</sup>

Religious reformer, Martin Luther, the father of the Protestant religion, is credited with starting the custom of giving gifts to children on Christmas Day. The gifts were supposed to be from the Christ Child, called Christkindl. Christkindl appeared much like an angel, wearing white robes and a golden crown. According to legend, Luther started the tradition of giving gifts on Christmas as a substitute for the Catholic saint day of December 6.

Through the years, the traditions seemed to have merged, with the Santa Claus, appearing much like St. Nicholas, the bearer of gifts on Christmas Day.<sup>2</sup>

The Austrian postal authorities commenced issuing a special Christmas mail in 1950 opening a seasonal post office, in the village of Christkindl, in a hostelry. A special hand cancel was applied.



1952 example of Christkindl postmark dated 30.12.52. Each postmark over the years shows various religious depictions.

21.12.1962 addressed to Beverley Hills, NSW.  
Postage 1 schilling 20 groshchen – surface mail



<sup>1</sup> Ward, Kathy. n.d. *Christkindls*. Christmas Philatelic Club's Home Page. <http://web.295.ca/cpc/chrisknd.html> Accessed: 4 December 2012.

<sup>2</sup> Nyholm, Christine, B. n.d. St. Nicholas, Santa Claus and German Christkindl. Yahoo! Voices. <http://voices.yahoo.com/st-nicholas-santa-claus-german-christkindl-2122224.html> Accessed: 4 December 2012



Postcard 17.12.1962 addressed to Burwood, Vic and sent via airmail – 5 Schilling 80 Groschen.



Christkindl bei Steyr.



24.12.1965 sent to Braunschweig, Lower Saxony, Germany. 2 Schilling surface mail.



28.12.1965 with Christkindl label cancelled 27.12.65 Braunau / Inn (Braunau on the Inn) north-western Austria. 2 Schilling surface mail to Luzern, Switzerland. 2 Schilling surface mail.

The Christkindl label directed the envelope to Christkindl for cancelling before forwarding to destination.



5.12.1965 special balloon post cover with Christkindl postmark. 1 Schilling 80 Groschen surface rate.



27.12.1966 cover 2 Schilling.



24.12.1970 addressed to Blacksmiths NSW. 3 Schilling 50 Groschen surface mail.



26.11.1976 unaddressed Christkindl cover cancelled on the first day of advent Friday 26 November 1976. Postage 3 Schilling.



25.11.1977 unaddressed Christkindl cover. Postage 3 Schilling. Postmarked first day of advent 25 November 1977.



30.11.1979 unaddressed Christkindl cover. Postmarked on first day of advent Friday 30 November 1979. Postage 4 Schilling.



15. 12.1979 addressed to Burwood, Vic. Christkindl label postmarked Wien, which one bought at the post office. Current cost € 0.55 - Airmail 4 Schilling 20 Groschen + additional 10 Groschen



15.12.81 addressed to Burwood, Vic. Christkindl label cancelled Wien (Vienna). 5 Schilling 50 Groschen airmail.



30.11.1984 4 Schilling 50 Groschen. Postmarked first day of advent Friday 30 November 1984.



24.12.1993 unaddressed Christkindl. Postage 5 Schilling 50 Groschen.



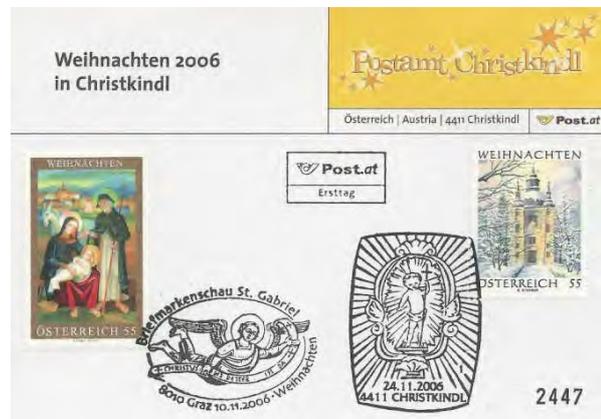
6.1.1995 addressed to Langenrohr a municipality in the district of Tulln Lower Austria. Christkindl label cancelled at Langenrohr. 6 Schilling local mail.



24.12.1996 unaddressed Christkindl cover. Postage 6 Schilling.



13.12.2005 addressed to Hawthorn, Vic. Christkindl gold seal and a mixture of Austrian and Euro dominated adhesives



10.11.2006 posted at Graz in the federal state of Styria in south-east of Austria. It is then postmarked 24.11.2006 at Christkindl. This cover was postmarked on the first day of advent which was the last Friday in November 2006.



Special delivery cover from Austria. This cover was delivered by a stagecoach from Garsten to Christkindl on November 29, 2008.<sup>3</sup>



27.11.2010 Christkindl. This cover was delivered by a stagecoach from Garsten to Christkindl on November 27, 2011.<sup>4</sup>

The Christkindl post office opens on the Friday of the first advent weekend in November and continues through to the 6 January. It opened on Friday 30 November this year, 2012.

<sup>3</sup> <http://worldwidecovers.wordpress.com/category/europe/austria/>

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

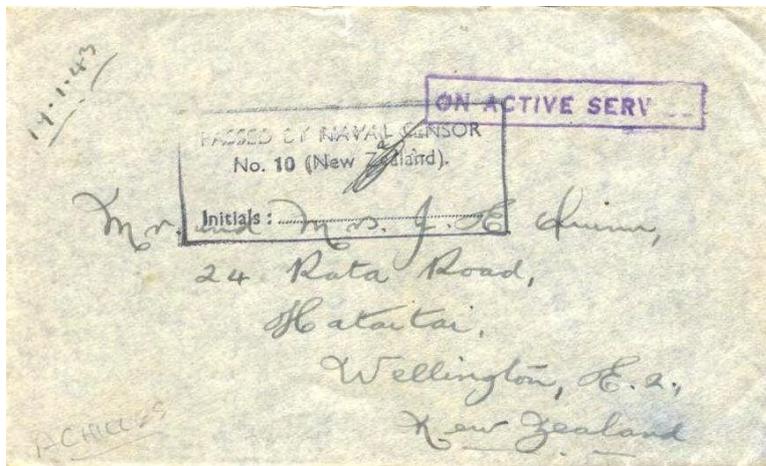
# New Zealand Musings

## The Royal New Zealand Navy at War 1939-45

### Tony Lyon

The navy in New Zealand was part of the Royal Navy until 1 October, 1941 at which point an order in council changed the designation of the New Zealand division of the Royal Navy to the Royal New Zealand Navy. The HMS Achilles was the first New Zealand unit to strike a blow against the enemy when on the 13 December, 1939 it opened fire on the 'pocket battleship' *Admiral Graf Spee* at what became known as the Battle of the River Plate. This section of our musings relates to covers to and from naval personnel serving both with the RNZN and the Royal Navy. There are also other types of vessels covers shown including Troopships, Hospital Ships and Shore Bases

### HMNZS Achilles



Cover sent from the **Achilles** showing the **Passed by Censor marking No 10** which was allocated to the Achilles. These numbers were removed on instructions issued 16 February 1943.

This cover is from the period when Achilles returned to Active Service in January 1943. (Date 19 January 1943) It was damaged by bombing off New Georgia on the 5 January 1943 whilst operating with US forces.

**On Active Service cachet 52 x 9mm. Postage free**

Cover sent from Achilles whilst it was part of the Eastern Fleet, after repairs that were performed at Portsmouth during April/May 1944.

This cover received a naval tombstone censor cachet. Censor marking dated 10 November (1944). Two Geo VI 3d stamps cancelled by machine cancel.

Not sure why 6d rate as the airletter rate was 3d.





After a refit that took 10 weeks, HMNZS Achilles sailed on the 26 April 1945 bound for Sydney.

This Air Letter has been written on the 29th April 1945 and censored by Naval Tombstone cachet. In Sydney it has been postmarked and forwarded by TEAL to New Zealand.

It must have only taken a few days as the letter was answered on V.E Day 9th May 1945 according to a notation of the back.

The TEAL service operated between Sydney and Auckland. Air Letter rate 3d.

Air Mail Letter Card, interestingly censored by naval tombstone cachet, 6 June 1945.

Achilles left Sydney on the 11th May 1945 to join the British Pacific Fleet (Task Force 57 which she joined on May 22 in the Fourth Cruiser Squadron).

Sent whilst the Achilles was at Manus Island for 12 days leaving there on the 12th June 1945 with Task Group 111.2 to carry out Operation INMATE.

(Waters S.D. 1956. *The Royal New Zealand Navy. Official History of New Zealand in the Second World War 1939-45.* Wellington: The War History Branch, Department of Internal Affairs.)



### HMNZS Gambia



The enclosure in this cover written by Tipping from HMNZS Gambia is dated 5 February 1943 but should read 1944.

This vessel was the HMS Gambia until lent to RNZN 22 Sept 1943. Therefore letter written 5 February 1944 whilst en-route from Gibraltar where she sailed on the 3 February 1944 to Alexandria where it stayed 3 days. After leaving Alexandria the vessel sailed through the Suez Canal on the 10 February on its way to Aden.

The 10d Geo VI paid the airmail rate from the Middle East (10d per 10 grammes).

Censored by Naval Tombstone cachet, Opened by censor and label applied along with Australian Passed by censor cachet No.1373 applied at Sydney. The dumb cancel is also Sydney.

The Air cachet was possibly applied at Alexandria.



In the letter Tipping tells his Aunt a little of what he had been up to. In the Official history of the RNZN the exact route and timing is described on page 356.

The Gambia joined the Fourth Cruiser Squadron, Eastern Fleet on the 19 February 1944 when it arrived at Trincomalee, Ceylon. The Gambia left Trincomalee on March 21st.

At the Wellington Fleet Mail Office, an Official Paid on Active Service circular rubber stamp has been applied. Proud & Startup state that this cachet is rare.

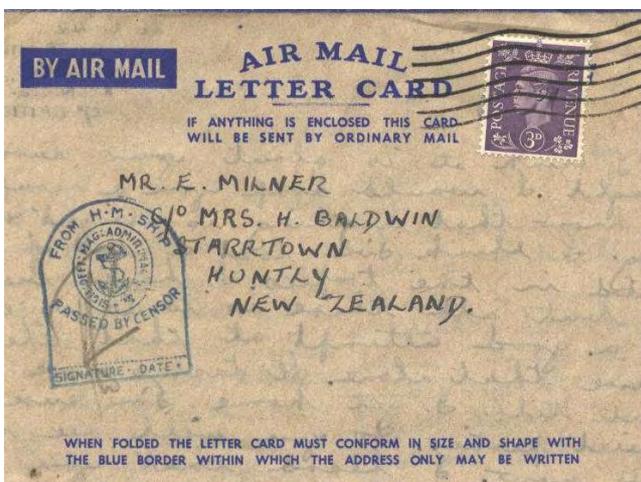
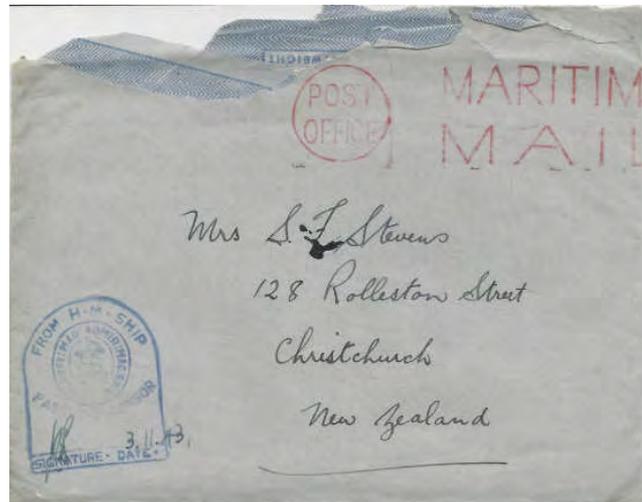
Cover sent by L/Tel Ewan Tipping Mess 31, HMNZS Gambia. Dated March 20 and censored with the normal tombstone cachet and signed by the censor 26 March. With reasonable accuracy it can be dated as 1944.

Cover sent by now I/Tel L. Ewan Tipping on board HMNZS Gambia, Mess 31.

The Gambia was floated out of dock after an extensive refit, on 10 October 1943. On the 20 October 1943, Gambia arrived at Scapa Flow and was attached to the First Cruiser Squadron, Home Fleet for exercises taking part in OPERATION STONEWALL.

She arrived back in Plymouth on the 5 December 1943. This cover has been written on board during this exercise. It received a Naval tombstone cachet (Daynes type N100) and signed by the censor 3 November 1943.

The red Post Office Maritime Mail machine cancel was applied in London. Postage free.



Air Mail Letter Card Acting Supply Petty Officer Trevor Milner Mess 16 HMNZS Gambia. Written on the 26 June 1944 whilst the Gambia was docked at Colombo, Ceylon unloading stores. The vessel arrived there on the 17th June and stayed 10 days.

Air letters could be sent at this time for **3d and has been paid by a Geo VI Pale Violet.**

The machine cancel appears to be part of a 'Received From H M Ships' Krag machine cancellation

**HMNZS Leander**



Ewan Tipping writes this while 'At Sea' 12th July 1941. He left New Zealand 7th April 1941 on the *Nieuw Amsterdam* and is transhipped onto the *Aquitania* in Singapore.

The *Aquitania* rejoined the *Mauritania* and *Ile de France* at Colombo. When the convoy sailed from Colombo it was joined by HMNZS *Leander* as escort. She left on the 6th May 1941 for Suez.

However, The *Leander* left the convoy when the *Canberra* took over. *Leander* headed westward looking for a German raider.

*Leander* was in Alexandria on the 27 June 41 and sailed from Haifa 19th July 1941. In view of the fact that Tipping states that this is the third vessel since he left New Zealand it is my contention that Tipping at this time was on the *Leander*.

*Paquetbot* marking applied at Alexandria.

Another *Leander* cover identified by the boxed rectangular On Active Service cachet measuring 72 x 11mm.



**Troopship- Rangatira**

Posted 'At Sea' 13th November 1940 and censored by Second Lieutenant W K L Dougall, A section, 8th Infantry Brigade Group.

The vessel was the *Rangatira* which arrived in Lautoka, Fiji on the 14th November 1940.

The NZEF FPO rubber cancel was used on troopships as was the small rectangular censored cachet. Postage free



### Troopship – Wm Rhys



An example of cover Posted on Board the Wm Rhys a troopship which transported the 11th reinforcements to the Middle East.

Trooper A F Miller, Armoured Unit, gives his address as NZAPO 800

### Troopship – Nieuw Amsterdam

Cover sent by Tel L. Ewan Tipping on board a troopship to the Middle East. There are two enclosures, one dated April 8th 'At Sea' and the second also 'At Sea' dated May 28th 1941.

Two vessels, the *Mauritania* and the *Nieuw Amsterdam* sailed on the 7th April 1941 for Sydney carrying the 5th Reinforcements, 2 NZEF as well as 57 naval ratings.

The convoy comprising the *Mauritania*, *Nieuw Amsterdam*, *Ile de France*, and escorted by the *HMAS Sydney* and *HMAS Australia*. These vessels were joined by the *Queen Mary* and *Queen Elizabeth*.

In a subsequent letter Tipping relates that he has been on three ships. This places him, for this cover, on the *Nieuw Amsterdam* which left the convoy in the vicinity of the Sunda Strait and sailed to Singapore.

Here the Australians were disembarked and the New Zealanders transshipped to the *Aquitania*.



An **Opened by Naval Censor (Daynes RNL 200)** has been applied and a **cancel stamp No. 0271 (Daynes N 422)**. This cachet is known on covers from **Egypt (Alexandria)**.

A single line **FREE OF POSTAGE** has also been applied. This cachet is not uncommon.

### Shore Base – HMS Assegai



Inwards cover to Colombo, Ceylon to HQ Tel G E Reardon at Royal Naval Base 2.

Sent from Wellington 27 Dec 1943. Redirected to HMS Assegai (a training establishment at Durban, South Africa. It was a naval station where radio and radar training was conducted.)

It is then redirected to Cape of Good Hope 5/3. Not sure what the manuscript NT 9/5 means except that it was common for mail going to the same location to be bundled and a notation on the top cover declaring how many are in the bundle. This was number 5 of 9 envelopes. Surface mail sent at Inland rate which was 2d.

**Shore Base – Naval Officer in Charge Fiji**

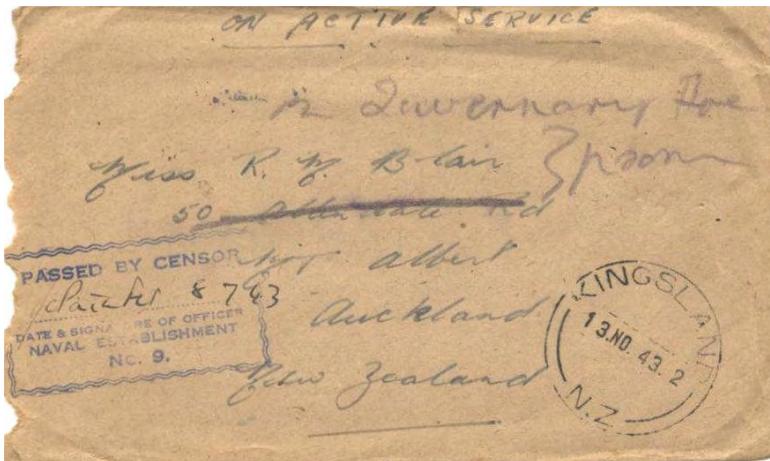
Cover sent by Sub Lieutenant Jas E Brundell receiving a NZEF FPO rubber cachet.

Airmail has been crossed out signifying surface mail which was free.

An unframed 'ON ACTIVE SERVICE' cachet has been applied. It has been censored at Fiji by the Naval Censor in Charge which is shown by the Censor marking NO. 12.



**Naval Establishment No 9 – Port Chalmers**



Example of the Passed by Censor Naval Establishment No 9 which was held by Naval Intelligence, Port Chalmers Naval Officer in Charge.

The envelope was censored 8 July 1943 but is not received at Kingsland until 13 November 1943 a period of 4 months. Postage free.

**HMS Isle of Thanet – Hospital Ship No 22**

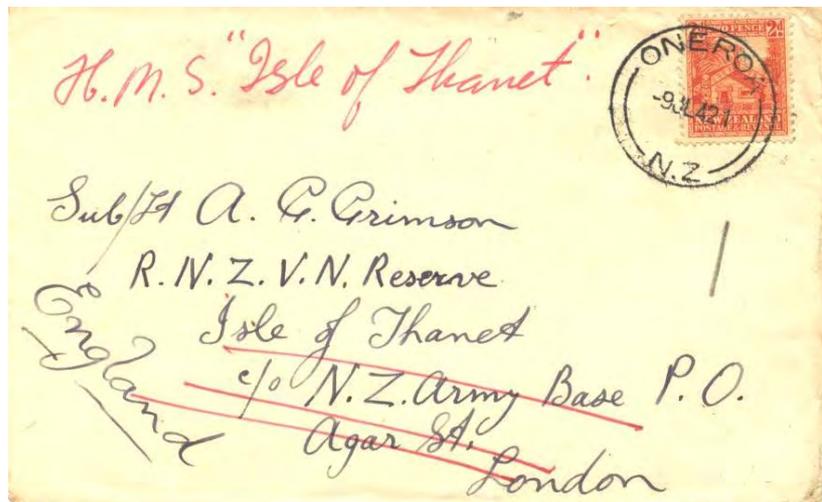
T.S.S. *Isle of Thanet* was commissioned as Hospital Carrier No 22 on 5 September 1939 based on Newhaven.

Refitted Preston as target ship for submarines based at Dundee.

Later became HQ ship for Force J in preparation for the invasion of Europe. In late summer 1944 reverted to a cross channel troopship.



Backstamp



Cover sent from Oneroa , Waiheke Island to a Sub Lieutenant Grimson. A NZ Army Base Post Office Agar Street London on the reverse.

The cover is dated 9 July 1942 has been on-forwarded to HMS Isle of Thanet. This was a Hospital ship. It received a New Zealand Army Base PO – UK cancel used at Agar Street.

To be continued

## Belgium: Not all Postcards Need to be Panoramic

Michael Barden

While the bulk of my postcards tend to show buildings or scenic shots of this varied country, a small quantity show Christmas, New Year, Easter or WW1 humour for example. May I share some of these with our readers for a change of pace? Well, Christmas is a'coming !



In Belgium, children receive their presents on St Nicolas, which is 6 December. Thus Christmas does not engender the mass of Christmas cards seen in English speaking countries (thanks to Queen Victoria's consort, Prince Albert).

The first card dates from December 1913 with **Joyeux Noël** above the mother's head. The tree, in a pot, complete with tinsel has been placed on a table. Note that the candles are real wax ones, which are alight; also the rapture on the daughter's face. No presents under the tree either!

The card was sent by an Englishman to his Grandmother in London from Ypres.



A 1933 New Year greeting card, which was sent locally in Brussels. It wished the recipient all the best for the New Year as well as thanking the family for their kindnesses during the preceding year.

The mark next to the girl's left cheek is from the postmark of the machine canceller.

Sometime through the winter, there would be snow, but not necessarily at Christmas – New Year.



Hubert Gillé was one of several brothers, who were all wounded Belgian soldiers.

They lived in UK during WW1, Hubert working at the Belgian run Elisabeth-Birtley (Durham) munitions factory, where shell cases were filled for the Western Front.

This is an English card without any details as to who made it.



This Christmas 1908 card was sent by a boy's father from Ypres. It says he has sent a model train set, where the engine raises steam using metho. All instructions are with the train. The train was complete with tracks.



A hand painted card by a Belgian soldier onto a blank faced French postcard during WW1.

The text reads "From far, from near, always I am with you". The colours are still vibrant for a hundred year old card.



1919 card from a Belgian wartime amour near Namur to an Australian Medical Officer, who had been repatriated back to Australia.

This was a printed not photographic card.



Belgian soldier interned at Zeist in Holland during WW1. After the fall of Antwerp, many soldiers marched to Holland, where they were internees not POWs. 1915 Christmas photo sent to UK.

Postage was free for internees to family. Such photos were popular and the soldiers proud.



English card for the Belgian market in 1919.

Again to the same Medical officer from the same writer, but as postage had decreased, it only cost 5c (15 Dec 1919 – 1 Mar 1921 cards abroad were the same franking as domestic).

Please excuse the orientation - MB



1904 Easter greetings card from Brussels to Aachen (Germany). Again a printed card, it is also embossed. It shows violets.



A touch of humour to end up. The Belgians have produced several sets of Manneken Pis cards for tourists' benefit. This one is unused.

Merry Christmas and with it I hope this gives you a few laughs, some insights as to how 1914 -18 war had its own humour and pathos. Sometimes philately can be too serious and we need to look at the lighter side of life. I hope you enjoy this little perambulation. May it inspire some others to emulate me. Best wishes for 2013.

## Mangapuaka – My Brief Period as the Expert!

### **Ian Cutter**

Whenever I put my collection of NZ postmarks in order, each post office goes on a separate page.

At the top of the page I type a couple of lines, about the locality and the post office itself. This information comes from my copy of *The Post Offices of New Zealand* by RM Startup, published by the Postal History Society of New Zealand Inc in 1977.

The particular postmark of interest in this case is on a postcard written by T Walsh, Engine driver, Ormondville, Hawkes Bay. The card, addressed to Sanderstone in Victoria, had been postmarked in Mangapuaka on 14 JA 02.

This date is earlier than the opening date given in my reference. I thought I had discovered something!

The card and an enhanced copy of the postmark are shown here.



Just an aside regarding this postmark. It is rated 10 according to Wooders and is considered very rare. Mangapuaka was only open from 1.10.1902 – 31.12.1908 after which it was succeeded by Te Uri. Ed.

The original postmark is rather faint, but there is no doubt that the year is 02. I duly wrote to the publishers, telling them of my discovery.

The response, as shown, was from the author himself. He offered overwhelming evidence that the date in the book should be considered the correct one.

It was a very helpful letter and I wrote thanking him for his reply.

But there is still one unanswered question. If the correct date is 24 January 1903 (or any year, for that matter), why was Mr Walsh asking that his old chums be wished a happy Xmas?

Editors' note: Robin M Startup, RDP, FRPSNZ, FRPSL passed away on 16 February 2012. He was one of the outstanding scholars of New Zealand philately and postal history. He was a very generous man who would answer questions asked of him. He was a great source of knowledge on NZ post offices, NZ military mail and many other avenues of New Zealand philately. He was a great loss to the philatelic world. He published many books, monographs and articles.

**Robin M Startup  
P O Box 275  
Masterton, New Zealand**

Research Officer, Postal History Society of New Zealand

17 May 2003

Dear Dr Cutter

Your inquiry to the Society has been forwarded on to me.

I was most interested to learn of your postcard with the MANGAPUAKA cancellation date of 14JA02 and have checked on my notes on the history of this post office.

The 1994 edition of *New Zealand Post Offices* confirms the opening date of Mangapuaka as 1 October 1902, as shown in the earlier edition, and this is re-confirmed from a check of the 1902 issues of the *P&T Official Circular* which gives this as the opening date, further confirmed by the appointment of Carl Frederick Frederickson as postmaster effective that date.

The expanded database notes on this office, as follows, also repeats the date of opening as October 1902 but also, significantly, includes the date the postal datestamp was proofed for issue. This means the datestamp could not have been in use in January 1902.

Mangapuaka PM Farming Mangahei & Mangapuaka Rds 11km south Ormondville. Named after the Mangapuaka stream flowing into the Manawatu, the name means "stream of the puaka, a tree (otherwise the Rimu, *Dacrydium cupressinum*). Original name Ngapaeruru Block No.2

14.8.1902	Application for a post office Ngapaeruru Block No.2
29.9.1902	Datestamp proofed
1.10.1902	Post office opened, Carl F Frederickson, mails x Ormondville twice weekly by horse by extension of Ormondville - Wheturau service
1.10.1908	Frederick W Muhleisen
31.12.1908	office closed, succeeded by Te Uri. where Muhleisen was appointed postmaster. Ormondville - Mangapuaka mail service abolished

*Postage cancellation*

Class	Proofed	Earliest	Latest	Remarks
H class (English)	27SP02			

History: *From the Bay to the Bush*, Marshall & Startup, 1984

Looking at all this and knowing the type of datestamp was used with loose slugs kept in place with a screw-on top, I think what has happened is this.

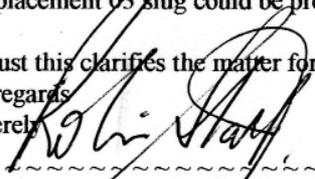
Chief Postmasters (Napier in this instance) were required to requisition for new year dies for datestamps at post offices in their district around July each year.

When the Mangapuaka post office opened the datestamp was supplied with a year slug 02, but not having been open in July had not been given an 03 slug as well.

When 1 January 03 came around the office not having an 03 slug continued to use the 02 one until the replacement 03 slug could be procured. Hence your interesting example.

Trust this clarifies the matter for you.

With kind regards  
Yours sincerely



*Postal history of one's country is fascinating! Exploring the highways and byways both of today and the past takes us to most interesting places. And it gives us a better understanding of how much we owe to the initiatives, and the hardships, of those who went before us.*

## “Horseshoe Route” Correction

### *John Young*

On the back page of the journal, June 2012, I wrongly described what I supposed was a Horseshoe Route airmail cover from USA to Australia. It all turned on a censor label.

An airmail expert, whom I shall not name, had said that the label was English. As I'm no expert on censor labels I was pleased that someone had done the research work for me, and I'm happy to defer to a knowledgeable researcher. I should have been more of a sceptic.

Dee Pullan has kindly revealed the error. The label is American, out of San Francisco in fact. The cover is a common old trans-Pacific thing that presumably lumbered across the ocean in 1941 (not 1942 as stated on the back page). The period for Horseshoe airmail was right, but not the censor label.

By way of compensating I show below a somewhat exotic cover from Netherlands Indies to England, an unusual destination as much Indies airmail went to the USA. The cover, postmarked 2 August 1940, is franked 1 Guilder 15 cents: surface mail 15c, airmail 80c for 10gm, registration 20c. Italy's declaration of war was seven weeks old and the Indies airmail went by Imperial/BOAC to Basra and down Africa to Durban for sea mail to the destination. It is backstamped Surrey, England, 5 September 1940, which was not bad compared with the times taken in 1941 when Allied planes and ships were in shorter supply.



## The Search for Grampound Road

### Ian Cutter

One of the pleasures of collecting postmarks is finding out exactly where they came from.

The example here (1) looked pretty straightforward – it was from the post office on Grampound Road in Cubert. My *Bartholemews Road Atlas of Britain* 1970-71 edition did not list Cubert in the index, but the message on the postcard showed it to be in Cornwall, and I found it about three miles south of the coastal town of Newquay.

Other maps revealed a village that seemed rather small to have two post offices, and there was no thoroughfare named Grampound Road. To see if there could have been a road leading to such a place, I searched and found the village of Grampound, about 13 miles away to the south-east. So, it could be a possible explanation, but not convincing.

Then another card turned up, from Truro, addressed to Newlyn East, which is about three miles east of Cubert. This carried the postmark of that place (2) - note that it gives the name as St Newlyn East, which was the version used by officialdom but not the locals. This postmark was there because the card had been re-addressed to Cubert. More importantly, the card carried the datestamp of Grampound Road (3), without any reference to Cubert.

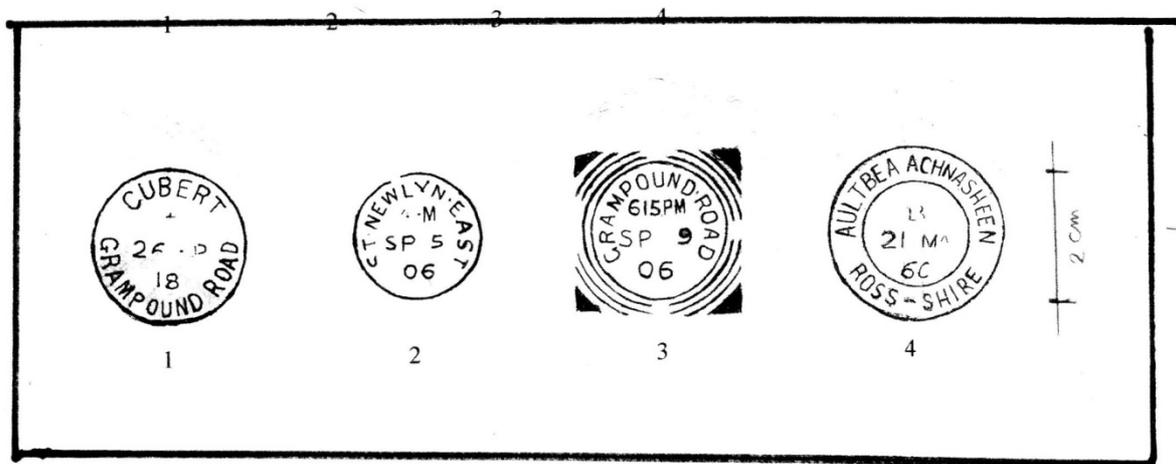
Further investigation showed that the village of Grampound was of some antiquity, but when the railway was built in the 1850's this passed by about a mile and a half to the north. A village grew up around the railway station on the road to Grampound, and acquired the name Grampound Road.

So, the Grampound Road post office was not in Cubert at all; in fact for postal purposes Cubert appears to have been subordinate to Grampound Road.

The relationship between the post offices mentioned above changed over the years. They are listed in *Nomenclature Internationale des Bureaux de Poste* Edition 1968 as "CUBERT, NEWQUAY", "GRAMPOUND ROAD, TRURO", and "S.NEWLYN EAST, NEWQUAY".

A puzzle similar to the one described above was posed by a 1966 postmark for AULTBEA-ACHNASHEEN in Ross-shire (4). Aultbea is on the coast about 30 miles NW of Achnasheen, with Kinlochewe in between. It is difficult to measure the relative sizes, but Aultbea currently claims two hotels, Kinlochewe one, and Achnasheen none. The latter is still considered the postal town because that is where the mail was off-loaded when it came by train. The *Nomenclature* gives

"AULTBEA, ACHNASHEEN" and "ACHNASHEEN".



## Digitized US Postal Bulletins

The U.S. Postal Bulletin Consortium is a small group of individuals and a number of philatelic societies that have banded together to support a fully searchable database of the U.S. Postal Bulletins that were produced from 1880 until the present day. The home page of the web site describes their content in some detail.

The major source of contributions to this endeavor was Tony Wawrukiewicz but there has been significant support from a number of societies, especially the United States Stamp Society but also the Universal Ship Cancellation Society, the Mobile Post Office Society, and the Postal History Society. A few individuals have also been generous supporters. All these sources of funding have been particularly generous because they have all agree that the final result should be universally accessible, and so it is.

Michael Eastick, an Australian stamp dealer and software developer for the philatelic industry, has developed the software necessary to make the numerous pages with their valuable information readily searchable. At this point, the PBC has only developed the search for bulletins up to and including 1971 because there are no copyright issues for these years. We eventually hope, with further funding and the necessary permission obtained from the U.S. Postal Service, to extend the project through the present day.

Funding efforts for this undertaking have not been completed because a number of aspects of the venture still require support. For instance, since the software developed for it is new and still in the early days of testing, there are bound to be issues that develop that will require ongoing efforts by Michael to repair and enhance it.

In addition, the underlying Postal Bulletins for the first 25 years were poorly printed and so the OCR data from them is somewhat imperfect and will be in need of some repair. Furthermore, the site on which the data and the search process are imbedded has to be paid for on an ongoing and reliable basis so that the site will remain available for the foreseeable future.

Therefore, even though free and universal access to this database is a promise to the philatelic community and to whomever else desires access, free-will donations will always be needed and appreciated.

They can be sent to:

Mr Tony Wawrukiewicz  
PO Box 19568 Portland  
OR 97280 USA

The link to the website *The Digitized US Postal Bulletins 1880 – 1971* is provided below:

[www.uspostalbulletins.com](http://www.uspostalbulletins.com)

Thank you Michael for this information (ed.).

## Hand Held Date Stamps

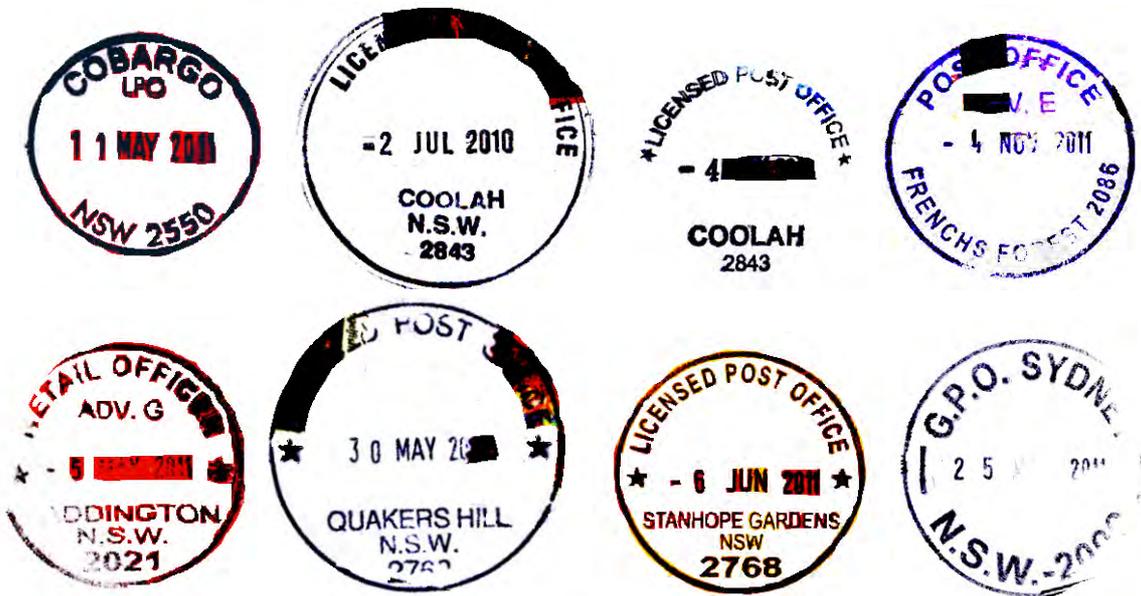
### *Co-ordinated by George Vearing*

It would appear that anything goes in what type, shape or lettering appears on datestamps these days. Not many years ago most types of datestamps were only found in certain states. Nowadays types that were only issued in certain states are now being used in other states. Examples of this are from COLLINS STREET EAST and HASTINGS using the NSW type; also Coolah in N.S.W. has a datestamp without an outer border and no NSW, most unusual.

At the end of the datestamp notes, there is an article from Richard Peck on Destroyed N.S.W. and A.C.T. cancellers.

Many thanks to Richard Peck, Ian Cutter, Frank Adamik, Simon Alsop and John Treacy for their contributions to this column.

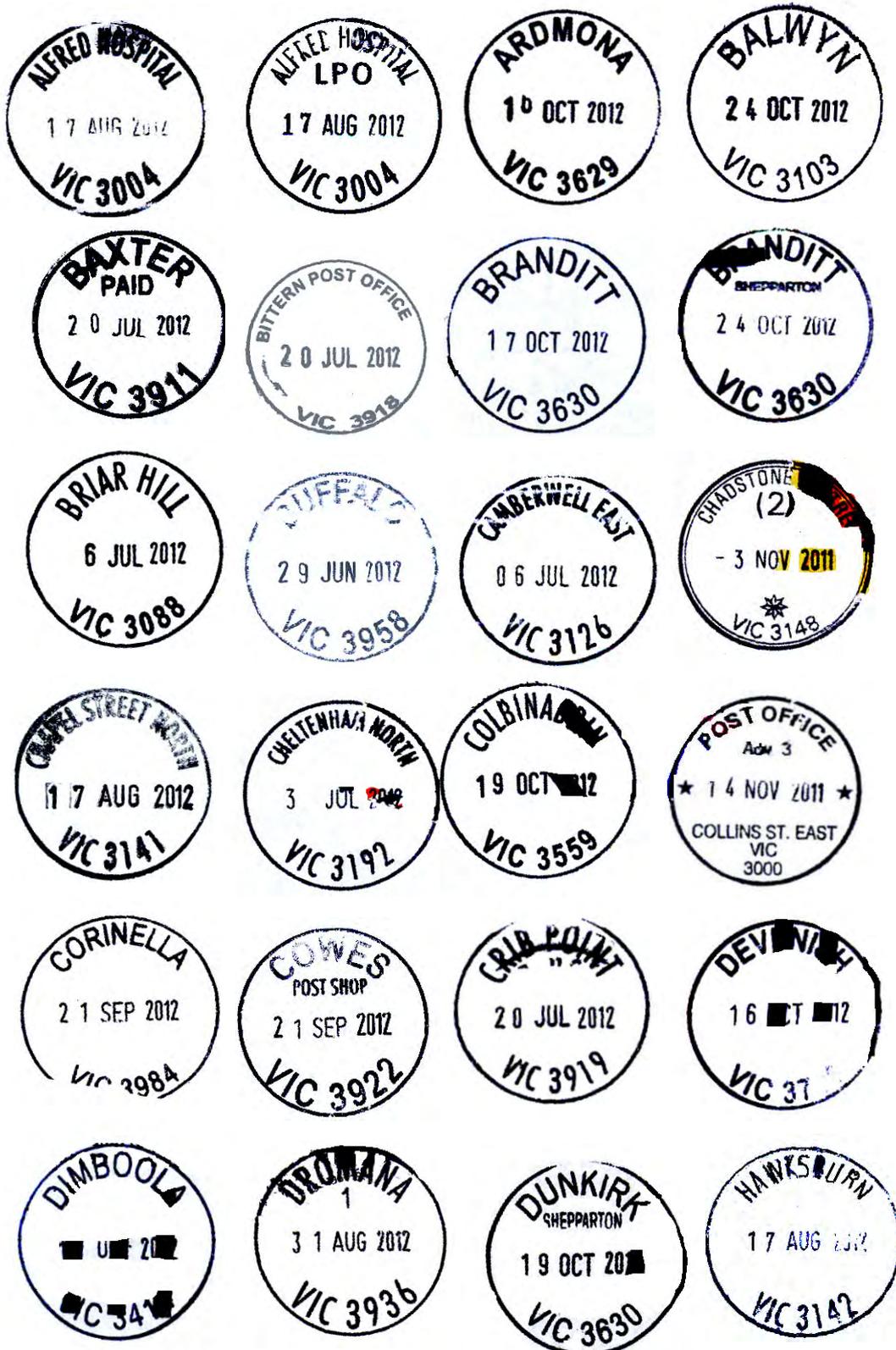
**N.S.W.:-** Earlier datestamps:-COOLAH (106/20), STANHOPE GARDENS (111/27)



**QLD.:-** Earlier datestamp-TRINITY BEACH (105/26)



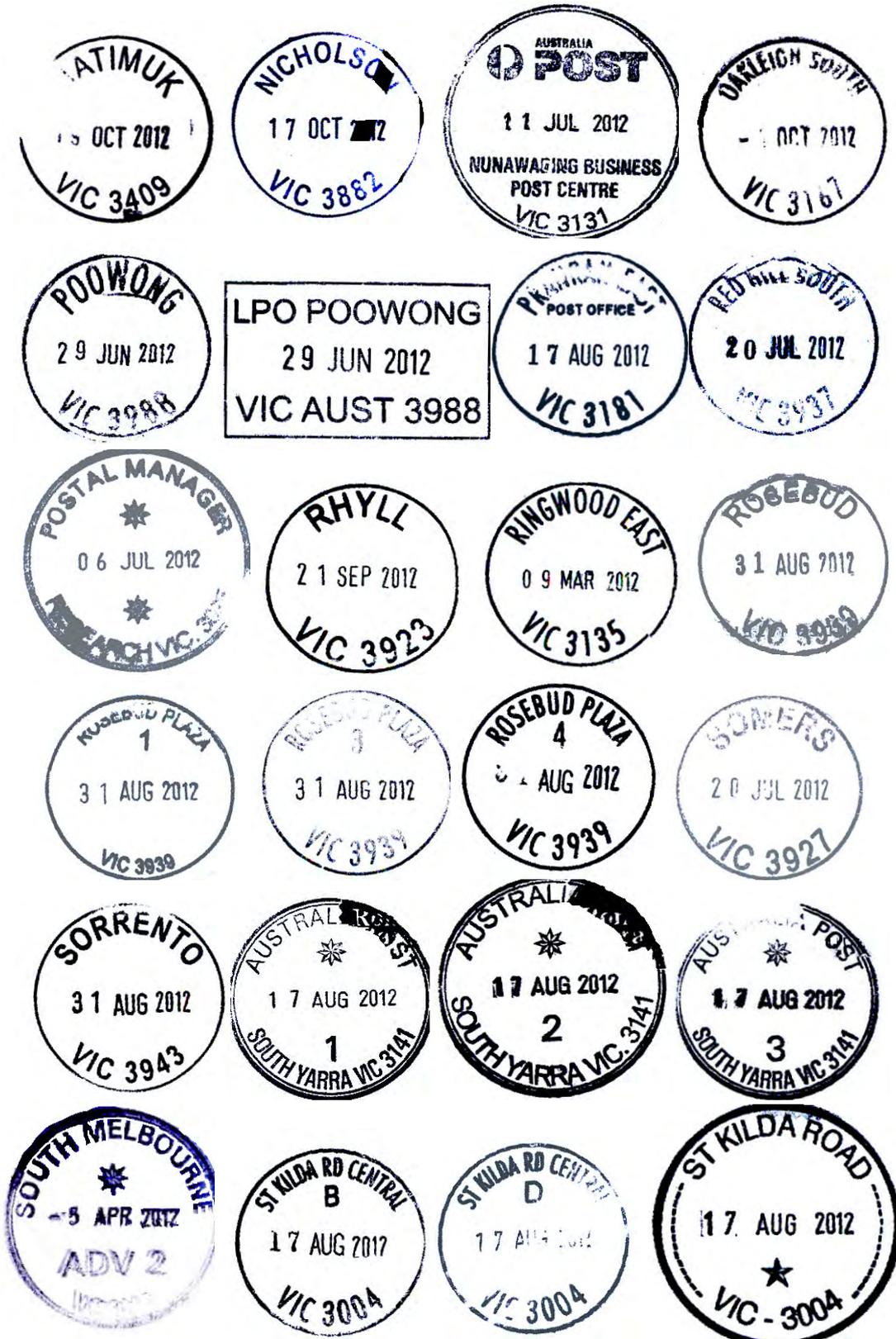
VIC.: - Earlier datestamps-BRANDITT (110/28), BRIAR HILL (120/26), COLBINABBIN (119/27), COWES (101/29) (different dateline)



VIC: - Earlier datestamps- HEATHCOTE (107/28), KYABRAM (119/28), LANG LANG (105/27), MEENIYAN (116/28)



VIC: - Earlier datestamps:-NATIMUK (111/30), VIOLET TOWN (105/28)



VIC. :-(Cont)



W.A.:- Earlier datestamp MUNDARING (110/29)



## DESTROYED N.S.W. AND A.C.T. POSTMARKERS

*By Richard Peck*

In the mid 1990s I was fortunate to be given access to a large number of NSW & ACT postmarks which had been recalled for destruction. Impressions were taken and the dates are probably the last dates of use. Some without date may never have been used. No duplicate impressions are included – thus there are some which are identical and which come from several instruments. They have now been lodged in the Philas Archives.

For references to postmark types, see R.Tobin Postmarks of NSW series (completed by me after his death).

The following sections are included:

- Normal postmarks (pages 1-37)
- Larger than normal types (pages 38-39)
- Postmarkers from other states (page 39)
- Priority Paid (pages 40-42)
- Relief (Pages 43-44)
- Roller (pages 44-45)
- GPO Sydney (page 45)
- Miscellaneous types (pages 46-48)

A limited number of photocopies are available at \$5 unbound

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TOUKLEY



TOUKLEY



TUENA



TUMBI TUMBI



TUMBI TUMBI



TURRAMURRA ??



TURRAMURRA EAST



TURRAMURRA SOUTH



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- ◆ 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

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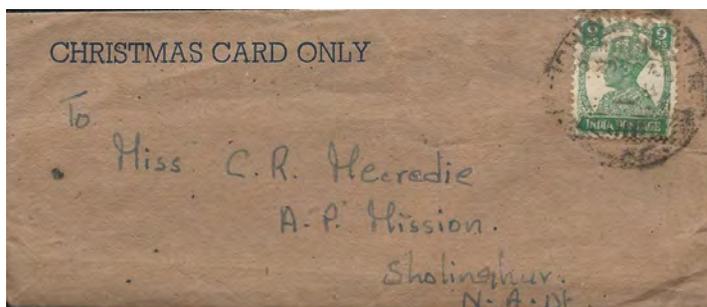
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## Back Page – It is Christmas

**John Young**



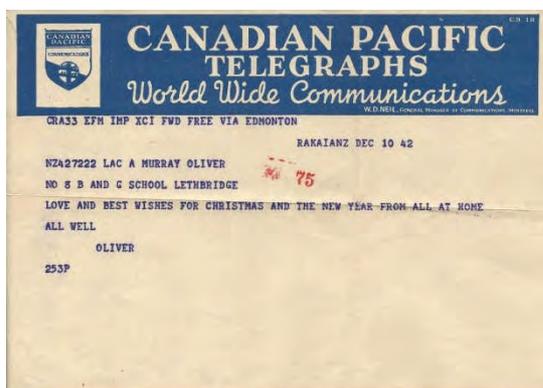
India, Christmas 1945. correctly franked 9 Pies for unsealed, second class, correspondence.



Backstamped Sholinghur 9.30am on Christmas Day



**Tony Lyon**



Telegram sent from Rakaia, New Zealand 10 DEC 1942 through Canadian Pacific Telegraphs Via Edmonton to LAC training at No 8 B and G School, Lethbridge MPO 1304.

1d and 2d Geo VI perfined adhesives cancelled by Lethbridge machine cancel Backstamp Lethbridge 24 DEC 1942

Contents – love and best wishes for Christmas and new Year from all at home. All well Oiver.