

Australian Journal of Philately

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| 18 April 2016 | Brian Fuller | 3 D Philately |
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Front cover:

From John Young

1941, Fiji to RAAF, Middle East.
Posted 18 Dec 1941, after PAA
service from Auckland to Fiji
ended.

Probably transmitted to Auckland,
flown TEAL to Sydney, Qantas to
Singapore, Cairo. Censored in Fiji.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

The APS President John Young expresses displeasure at the performance of Australia Post quoting from a stinging article in Stamp News, September 2105 Vol. 62 No. 11. There the author of Market Matters, Glen Stephens cites a number of instances where parcels have disappeared into a black hole and eventually turned up after apparently holidaying in another state. He states the Australia Post service as never been worse.

John provides his own example in his president's column. I recently strayed upon the Australia Post Facebook page and was fascinated by the tales of woe from customers asking what had happened to their parcel. They can see it in the tracking but it had not been received. So it appears that this is not one man's gripe but a fairly common occurrence.

Considering the millions being paid to the high flying executives at Australia Post one would expect a first class service especially when you consider the way they have increased parcel delivery prices and the soon to be 30% hike in ordinary mail.

I wonder how many Christmas presents are going to arrive sometime after Christmas to the disappointment of those who were anticipating gifts from gran & grandad, uncles and aunts?

Come on Australia Post, this is not some third world country, but your service seems like that!

I hope you all have a great Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Don't eat too much and try to think of others less fortunate.

Ciao for now.

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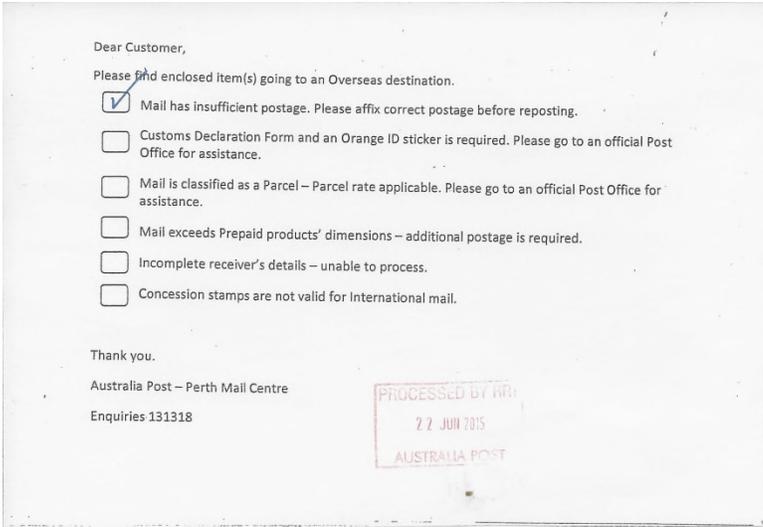
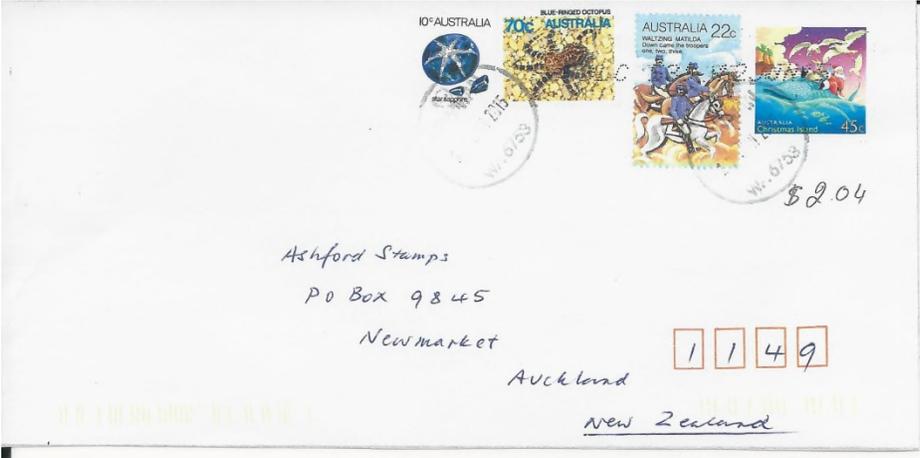
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From the President

In the November Australian Stamp Monthly a regular contributor, Glen Stephens, devoted several pages to describing a truly appalling Australia Post, covering ground from dysfunctional robotics to dismal executives. I shall add my five cents worth.

In early June I posted a letter to New Zealand, wrongly guessing the correct postage. Back it came in late June, with a note telling me to add the correct postage. Fair enough, but twenty or so days between posting and return seemed over-long. More annoying, however, was the fact that the return mail came from the Western Australian Revenue Recovery Office, Perth; and my wrongly franked envelope had been cancelled not in Perth but in Newman, on the western edge of the Sandy Desert. Melbourne to New Zealand via a W.A. desert region! Perhaps it was a mercy that the letter was not lost in the desert. The pictures below illustrate this story.



It is usual in my last message for the year to extend greetings to members for the coming season. I hesitate to entrust this to Australia Post, but I have every expectation that they will arrive in good time for Christmas 2016. Should my expectation be exceeded, I include a 2015 greeting. Best wishes, anyway.

Australia, Please Can You Help Me?

Michael Barden

Last year, Derek Brennan, who is APS member Judy Kennett's partner, lent me some postal cards from around Russia and a 1940 letter from Russian Poland. The postcards, which ranged from 1882 to 1946, were written in Russian, English, German and Yiddish. The message in 1946 was nearly always the same – seeking relatives. Other times it varied. We will look at some of the items, their destinations, postage rates (see the spreadsheet below) and messages.

To find postal tariffs was a Herculean task. The results I obtained are due to kind members Vasilis Opsimos (British Society of Russian Philately) and Greg Mirsky (The Rossica Society). The latter sent me pages from a Russian catalogue (in Russian), which, Alla, my Russian daughter-in-law kindly translated for me. I had no luck whatsoever trying to elicit replies from the Popov postal museum in St Petersburg, even when the email was in Russian. There is no evidence the emails bounced, just stolid silence. A Yiddish speaker in Melbourne kindly helped me with this card's message. Cards are shown three quarter size.

Below is a spreadsheet for the postal cards in order of ascending dates and letter.

| Postal Details of Derek's Russian postcards and a letter going to Australia | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------|------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Gregorian Date | Town From | Postage pd Kopeks | postal rate Kopeks | Registered | Country | addressee | Destination town in Australia |
| 5 Apr 1882 | St Petersburg | 3 | 3 | | Russia | Schomburgk | Adelaide 15 May 82 |
| 1 Jul 1896 | Yamburg, Arctic Urals | 4 (3+1?) | 4 | | Russia, zone 4 | M. Tannenberg | Fitzroy 5 Aug |
| 12 Dec 1897 | Moscow town 2 | 4 | 4 | | Russia | E Hackett | Adelaide 19 Jan 98 |
| 11-Nov-13 | Gorodishe Min 2 | 4 | 30 | | Ukraine, Kiev district | Gutil Manuszawitz | Melbourne |
| 3-Dec-17 | Karkoff, Ukraine | 8 | 8 | | Russia | H. Woodlands | Kapunda |
| 23-Mar-18 | Archangel | 9 | 12 | | Russia | H Woodlands | Kapunda |
| 10-Apr-40 | Berezna | 30 | 30 | | Belarus | Kuitpo Colony | Melbourne |
| 1-Jun-40 | Berezna | 30 | 30 | | Belarus | Kuitpo Colony | Melbourne |
| 5-Dec-41 | Prosmotrien | 20 | 30 | | Kazakhstan | AJW, Melb | Melbourne |
| 30-Dec-43 | Djamboul | 150 | 30+80 | yes | Kazakhstan | AJW, Melb | Melbourne |
| 23-Jan-44 | Djamboul | 220 | 210 | yes | Kazakhstan | AJW, Melb | Melbourne |
| 29-Mar-46 | Karasuk | 120 | 30+80 | yes | Kazakhstan | AJW, Melb | Melbourne 29 Jul 46 |
| 31-Mar-46 | Karasuk | 120 | 30+80 | yes | Kazakhstan | AJW, Melb | Melbourne 29 Jul 46 |
| 16-Sep-46 | Zhuravliyovka, Akmol Regn | 20 + 10? | 30 | | Kazakhstan N | AJW, Melb | Melbourne |
| 3-Mar-40 | Bialystok (letter) | 230 | 230 | yes | Russia, Poland | E. Bretszstein | Melbourne |

1. In the period May 1st, 1936 to June 10th, 1950, the international postcard rate from the Soviet Union was 30 kopecks.
 2. In the period September 1st, 1917 to March 10th, 1918, the international postcard rate was 8 kopecks. The registration charge was 80k (hence a registered card cost 1R 10k).
 3. The airmail surcharge was 1R – hence a registered airmail card cost 2R 10k.
 4. **Bold dates signify items written about below**

1. 1882 card from St Petersburg to Adelaide.

Dr. (Richard) Moritz Schomburgk was Director of the Adelaide Botanic Gardens from 1865 until his death in 1891. He emigrated from Saxony in 1848. He was survived by a son and four daughters, the son holding several important posts in the SA Public Service. He wrote a book on British Guiana's Flora & fauna.

Posted in St Petersburg 24 Mar 1882 (5 Apr Gregorian calendar), card has an Adelaide arrival cds of 15 May 1882. Botanical info exchange was in German. Wikipedia



2. 1897 card from Moscow to Adelaide

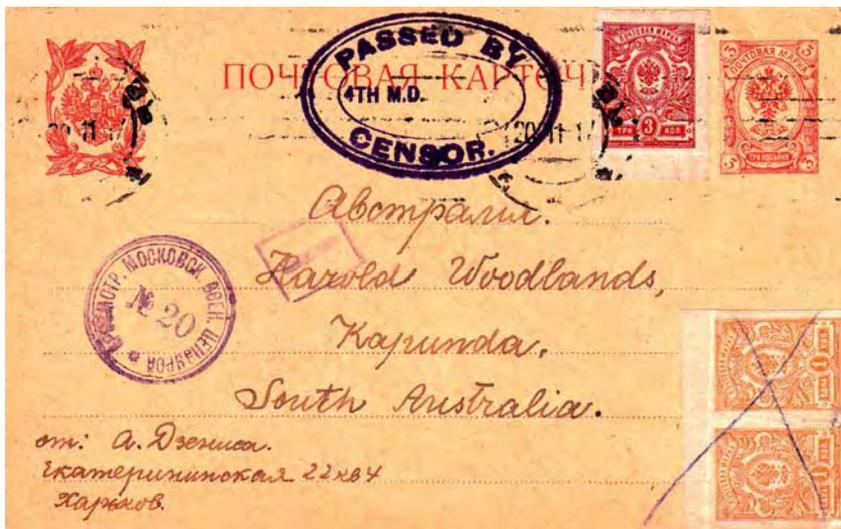


Hackett was a commercial gardener (Handelsgärtneri), as was the writer and he asked for a current price list. Czar in need of Australian native plants?

Posted in Moscow 2 on 1 Dec 1897 (Julian) it was received 19 Jan 1898 (Gregorian). It possibly went by rail to Brindisi and then steamer via the Suez Canal to Australia.

Cards in the Czarist era all had the imperial double headed eagle on the top LH corner. After the Revolution this was replaced by a hammer and sickle.

3. 1917 card from Karkov, Ukraine to (Kapunda), SA



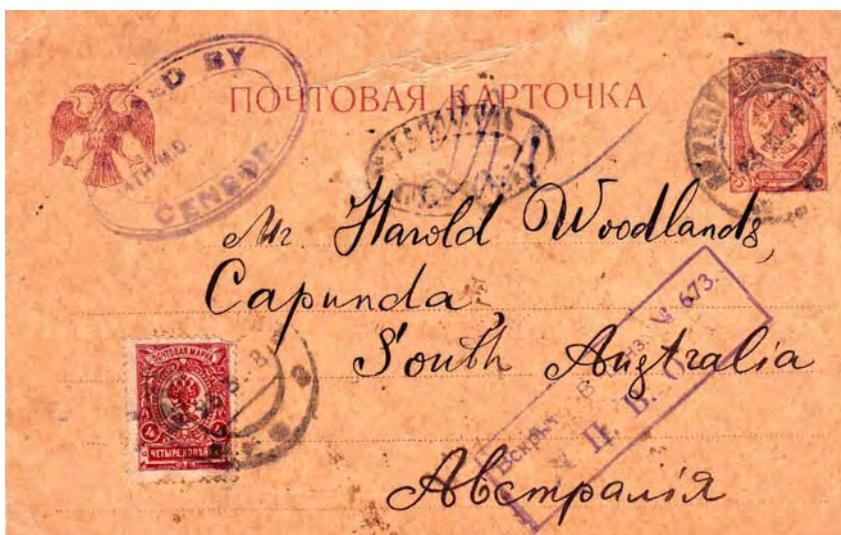
The writer has learned from a newspaper (card written in French) that Harold exchanges stamps. A. Dzonis has 7000 foreign stamps and 25,000 Russian. Exchange of stamps was acceptable.

Being wartime, the letter may have gone via London as it had to by-pass Germany or through Odessa.

Postage rose to 8k on 1 September 1917.

Censored in Moscow and Adelaide (4th MD)

4. 1918 Card from Archangel to Capunda (sic)



Posted on 23 March, the card was returned for correct postage abroad. This rose to 12 Kopek on 10 March, so 8 (9k used) was still accepted at Archangel and 25 Mar cds on extra stamp.

Gregorian calendar adopted 1 Feb 1918, and 12 days omitted

Writer (in English) wishing to exchange stamps, also requesting coloured postcards as an option.

Rectangular Russian military censor & SA Adelaide oval censor of 4th MD.

5. 1940 card from Berezna to Kuitpo Colony (SA) then forwarded to Adelaide and Melbourne



Posted 1 Jun 1940, a year before Germany invaded Russia, but after the invasion and division of Poland, the writer, J Swartz, was sending the second of 2 cards to this address (first 10 Apr 40).

Kuitpo Colony cds of 27 Aug, the cards were forwarded to the Adelaide Synagogue and then onto the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, Melbourne. Adelaide mech^{al} canceller of 28 August at top. Rectangular Melbourne censor

Postage rose to 30 kopeks on 1 May 1936 for cards abroad.

Samuel Forsyth (1881-1960), a Methodist minister, founded Kuitpo Colony. As a result of the Depression, Forsyth was soon haunted by the tramp of single unemployed men on the dole: he envisaged a scheme to start a farm-training settlement to help them gain jobs. He personally raised £5000 by public subscription and obtained land at a low rent from the government near Willunga. In June 1930 he opened Kuitpo Industrial Colony where men could work for their board and lodging, 'thereby retaining their self-respect, and a sane outlook on life, until they could find a job'. It was run on good-humoured, non-militaristic lines. His Church was dubious about it and never backed the non-denominational colony, but after financial struggles it flourished and over 7000 men were helped. An employment agency was set up in the city to help 'colonists' find work. Next year Forsyth formed the South Australian Council of Charitable Relief Organizations; he was its chairman. In 1937 he was awarded an O.B.E. and next year became president of the South Australian Methodist Conference. The Kuitpo Colony became a rehabilitation centre. (See Wikipedia for more info on Kuitpo Colony).

The two cards with the same message were written in Russian and asking why his son did not write. The family was all well.

6. 1943 registered card from Djamboul, Kazakhstan to Melbourne



Overpaid by 40 k, maybe to allow for forwarding or routing through Iraq ?, this letter went to the AJWS.

Despite Djamboul being a sizeable town, the card was pencil cancelled. It was censored in Russia and Melbourne.

Written in English, Meer Golanski seeks the address of relation Beer Goldfarb, who migrated to Australia from Poland in 1938-1939. Meer would appear to be one of Stalin's Poles resettled in Kazakhstan.

There is no indication if the search succeeded.

7. March 1944 registered, airmail card from Djamboul to Melbourne

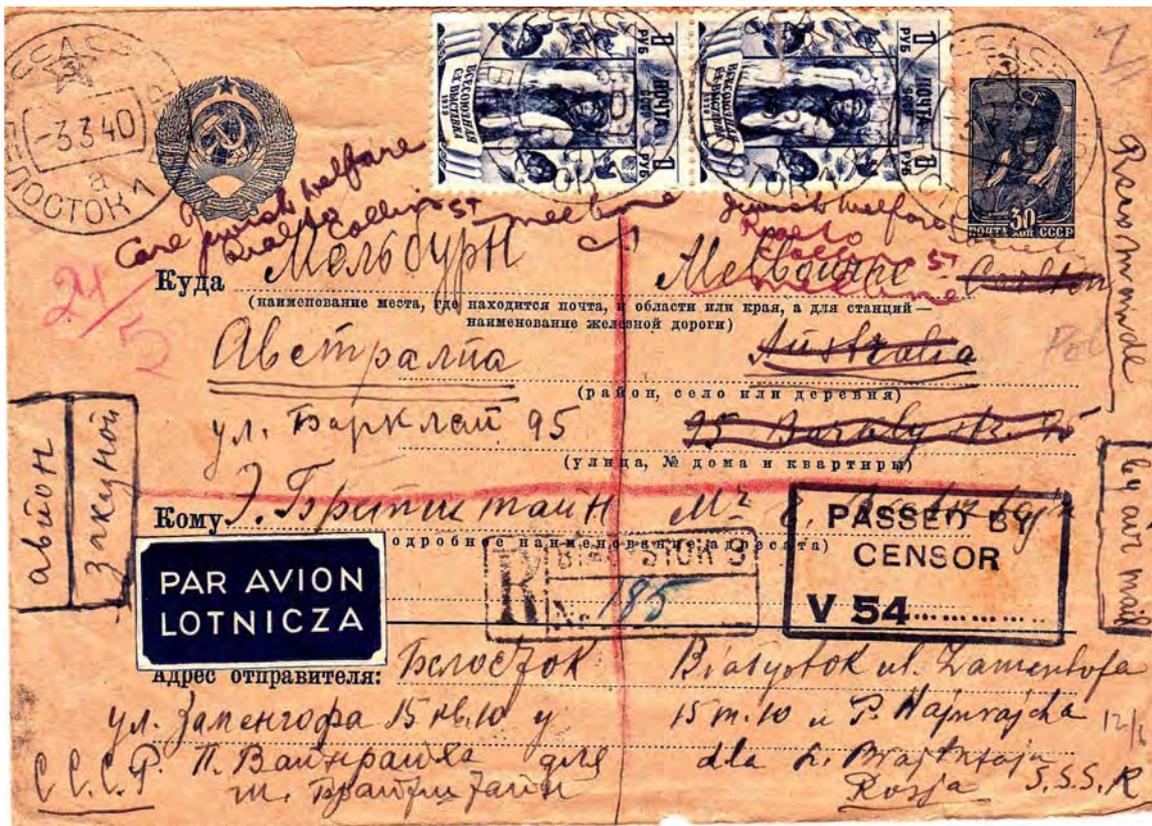


Again pencil cancelled, but stamped in Moscow on 16 March (written 23 January), this card again seeks the address of the writer's brother (1938 Polish émigré). Letter went to Moscow by rail and possibly flew to Durban via UK. More likely went by sea from Archangel to UK, and then by air to Durban. Then by sea to Australia, as the Horseshoe route then was reserved (Ceylon to Perth non stop) for priority mail.

Censored (military) in Russia 14 March, then Melbourne

No airmail etiquette, but rate fits. See spreadsheet

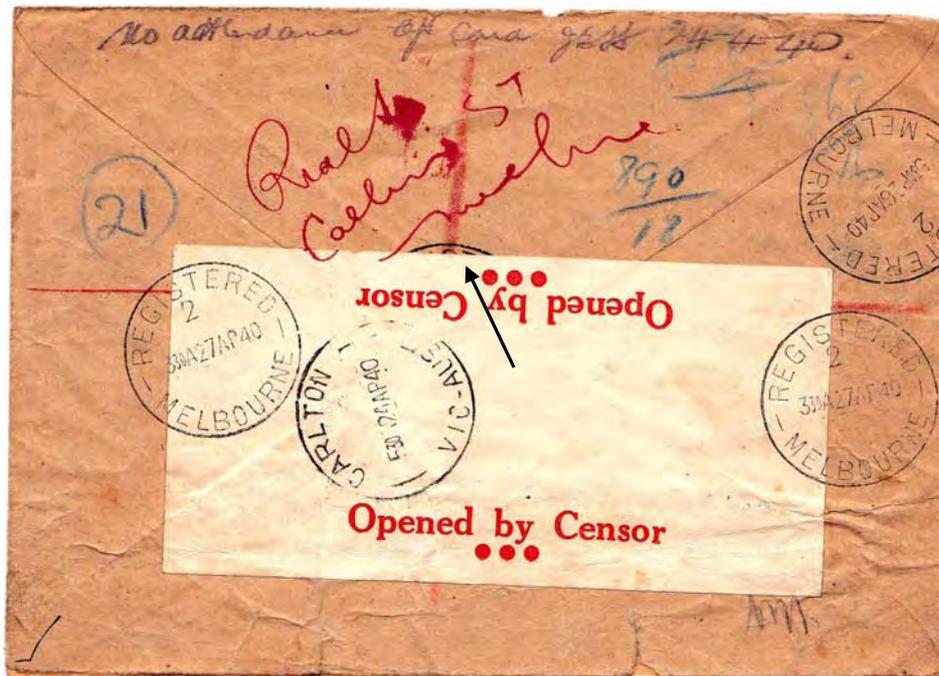
8. 1940 registered, airmail letter from Bialystok (Russian Poland) to Melbourne



Bialystok 1 cds of 3 Mar 1940 and with a Bialystok 3 hand stamped registration label. This letter flew with Polish airways (LOT) probably to Athens. Thence by an unknown route and partly or wholly by sea to Australia. Censored in Melbourne (V54), the addressee had moved from 95 Burnley Street, Carlton (note on back dated 24 Apr also cds of same date) and so the letter was redirected to the AJWS in Collins Street. Journey thus took about 52 days.

Postage 50 Kopeks, registration 80 kopeks and 1 rouble airmail, this letter was paid correctly. Verso is shown on the top of the next page. Letter shown full size.

9. Verso of fig 8 (80% full size)



After I had returned the cards and letter to Derek, he made an interesting discovery. Under the Victorian censor label (see arrow) is another cds. Derek soaked off the label and discovered **REGISTERED / ADELAIDE S.A./ 4.30P 18 AP 40**. As Derek commented, "How the cover got first to Adelaide we may never know. But it was the first indication of the arrival in Australia. Then 6 1/2 days later it was cancelled at CARLTON on 24 APRIL at 5.30A [on the Censor label]. After that it was received at MELBOURNE 5.30P 26 AP 40, and then tying the label were two MELBOURNE cds 3.30A 27 AP 40. A very convoluted way of handling a Registered item and Censorship!"

Why it should have gone to Adelaide first, when addressed to Melbourne remains a mystery. But why was the Adelaide mark in turn covered up? Was somebody covering tracks or was it just a quirk of fate? All this probably will remain unsolved, unless some bright sleuth can work out a good reason for the routing.

10. 1946 registered card from Karasuk, Kazakhstan to AJWS Melbourne.



Written 12 Mar 1946 in good English, this was the first of two identical cards posted in Karasuk two days apart.

The cards travelled to Moscow by train where this one received a Moscow overseas transit cds of 19 April.

Offloaded from the ship in Perth (**GPO Perth/WA 1** cds of 27 July and then a **Registered Melbourne 5** cds of 29 July).

Leiba Trivaks was asking the whereabouts of her brother, Gershen and his wife Jaiba

and their two sons, who had been living somewhere in Melbourne for 15 years. Also Gershen had a brother in Lithuania we are told.

11. 1941 underpaid card from Prosmotrien, Kazakhstan to Melbourne.



Written in good English on 4 December 1941 from Prosmotrien in Kazakhstan to the Jewish Board of Deputies in Melbourne, this card was postmarked 5 Dec. It has a Moscow military censor mark (purple 150 at top of card).

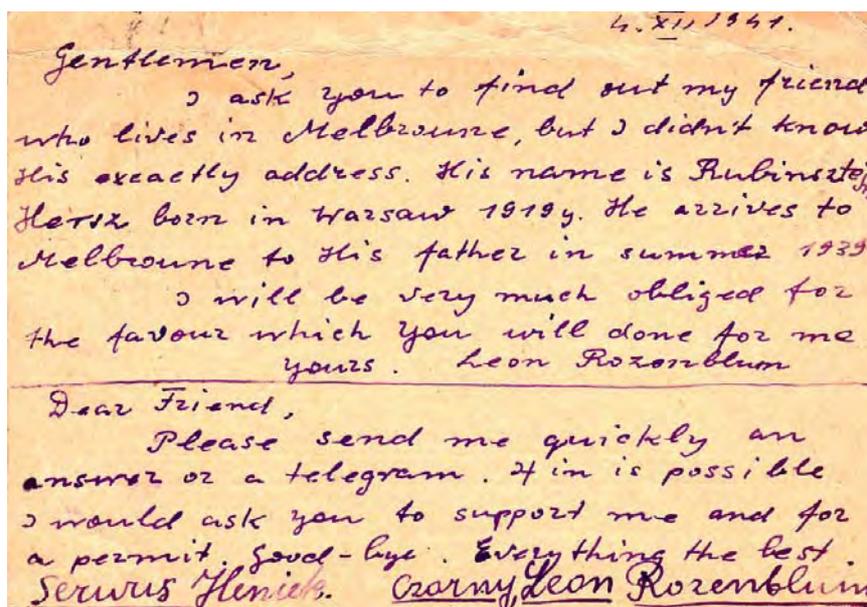
Possibly it was routed then from Moscow to Archangel or Murmansk by rail and then ship to UK and on to Australia.

As Germany had invaded Russia earlier in 1941, the Arctic convoys were already supplying arms and equipment to Russia.

Censored in Melbourne

Message is clear, but the writer seems to forget the problems of across the world wartime communications.

Franking should have been 30k, but no penalty was applied – sensibly.



World War 2 and the Holocaust caused havoc among families and so members in Europe were either seeking family or looking to migrate as far away from Europe as possible.

I hope this article proves as enjoyable to our readers as to the author. Not something I would wish to write everyday, but it stretched my ingenuity to get the information and preserve some byways of history between Russia and Australia. That alone made it all worthwhile

It never ceases to amaze me what stories exist in old correspondence, but that usually one can also find out their postal history and often the routes. The internet was also a great help. My thanks to Derek for lending me some of his collection to research and write this story. Without the help of the other three people already mentioned, I would not have been able to put a foot forward. I thank you all.

Additional Glimpses of Victoria's Social History through Wrappers

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL acapiajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk

In an earlier paper it was asserted that the use of stories and illustrations, discovered from searching the Internet, can add great interest and contextualize the wrappers and their part in postal history. Private business wrappers, though not included in postal stationery because they do not have a pre-printed denomination, can contribute historical insight in the same way. This selection of non-post office wrappers appears in the author's database collected from eBay images over the last few years and is a continuation of the theme of Victorian social history as seen through wrappers.

These non-post office wrappers provide examples of rate usages of different periods and mailings to various destinations. Another aspect of private wrappers is that their mastheads and other printed details often signal the kind of social, religious and economic facets about a country's past that are unlikely to catch the attention of mainstream philately journals and textbooks. As shown in Courtis (2015) these wrappers can add an informative social dimension to this area of research. The present paper examines additional non-post office wrappers of Victoria to show how social history can be assembled from researching the stories behind the names that are printed on early private wrappers. Victorian postal rates as they applied to this class of mail are considered also.

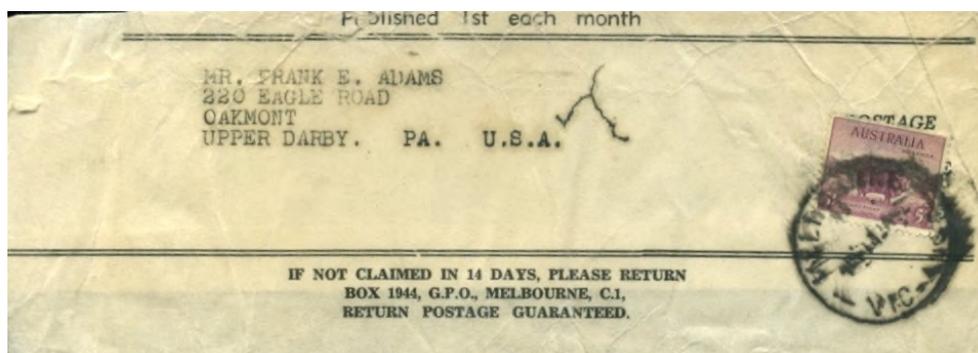
Australian Garden Lover

There is nothing like a challenge in philately. Illustration 1 shows the Internet image of a wrapper without any identifiable name. Google sleuthing of "Box 1944, G.P.O., Melbourne" together with knowledge of the 1937 issue date of the 5d pale rose violet merino sheep (Sc172) disclosed that the contents were highly likely to be *The Australian Garden Lover*. A direct Google "hit" revealed: "For those with problems in the garden, direct your questions to 'Your Questions Answered', C/o *The Australian Garden Lover*, Box 1944, G.P.O., Melbourne, 3001. This magazine was registered as a monthly newspaper devoted to Australian horticulture and was the official journal of the Royal Horticultural Society of Victoria. It had two earlier titles: *Garden and Home Maker* and *Garden Lover* and was published by the Horticultural Press in Melbourne between 1926 and 1980. A copy of the front cover of *The Australian Garden Lover* is shown as Illustration 1a.

An Advertisement in *The Argus* 25 March 1947 for the Autumn Garden Week at Wirths' Park reads: *This outstanding pre-war horticultural event is being presented again by the Nurserymen and Seedsmen's Association of Victoria. Dahlias, Gladioli, Carnations, Delphiniums, ornamental and Flowering Trees and Shrubs, Garden Settings and Layouts featuring latest introductions by Victorian Nurserymen will be on display. ALL ENQUIRIES SHOULD BE ADDRESSED TO: R. H. L. Sparks, Chairman, Garden Week Committee, Box 1944, G.P.O., Melbourne, Victoria* (emphasis added).

At the top of the magazine cover it is disclosed that this was registered at the General Post Office, Melbourne as a newspaper. Hence, it qualified at the lower concessionary rate of 1d per 2 oz., being the sea mail rate to foreign countries (i.e., USA) from 4 August 1930. On 10 December 1941 an additional ½d war tax was imposed per item. The 5d postage paid was for a weight of 10 oz.

Illustration 1: The Australian Garden Lover



Perhaps the most remarkable thing about this wrapper is that its addressee is located in the USA - Mr. Frank E. Adams, Oakmont, Upper Darby, Pennsylvania. That a Victorian-based society, in an activity as ubiquitous as gardening had a reach to a suburb of Philadelphia suggests Melbourne and its gardens had a global reputation, facilitated by the international postal service. Of course there may be a more prosaic explanation: Mr. Adams may have lived in Melbourne in the past.

Illustration 1a: Cover of The Australian Garden Lover (April 1933)



The Daily Telegraph (Melbourne)

Another newspaper with private printing on its wrapper is *The Daily Telegraph*. This was published in Melbourne from 1869 to 1892. Melbourne's Daily Telegraph 'owed its origin to the circumstance that a large number of compositors were thrown out of work by the transformation of the *Melbourne Morning Herald* into an evening paper'. Those who were discharged from the Herald formed themselves into a company under the management of Mr. C. F. Somerton, who had been in charge of the printing department of the Herald, and they established *The Daily Telegraph*.

The Internet image of this wrapper (shown as Illustration 2) is of exceptionally poor quality and reading the manuscript is difficult. The addressee is Mr. George D[ehil]. McCormick, Bournefield Park, Woodstock, Victoria, at the time a farming area just north of Melbourne. This was not delivered to the addressee and across the top of the wrapper the postman has written "Not known at the Woodstock Address". Mr. George McCormick was at one point an unsuccessful candidate for the Legislative Assembly for Parliament for the electoral district of East Bourke. He lodged a petition claiming that one of the successful candidates obtained votes by bribing voters with money and food. After a lengthy enquiry the petition was dismissed but he was refunded the £100 election fee.

Illustration 2: The Daily Telegraph



The stamp is the 1882 Victoria 1d green Queen Victoria (Sc63). Inspection of the actual wrapper is necessary to determine the mailing date. The duplex obliterator has three horizontal bars above/below VICTORIA. At the top left of the wrapper is an open WOODSTOCK AU 16 87 VICTORIA applied when the wrapper was returned to Melbourne. Presumably the newspaper was then returned undeliverable to *The Daily Telegraph*. The rate for newspapers mailed within Victoria from 1 January 1884 was ½d per newspaper. This implies two newspapers were sent.

The Far East

The private printing added to this wrapper is in red. NEWSPAPER ONLY appears at the top left hand side. The masthead follows and is double underlined, and beneath the lower address lines is inscribed: DEAD LETTER OFFICE – RETURN OF POSTAGE GUARANTEED. “THE FAR EAST” OFFICE ESSENDON, W.5. VICTORIA. The wording POSTAGE PAID MELBOURNE means that the total of the concessionary rate was paid for bulk mailing, being 1d for this category. However, the address is to the state of New York, USA and an additional 1937 2d scarlet King George VI (Sc169) is affixed. There is a single circle red cancel applied in Buffalo reading PASSED FREE OF DUTY X CUSTOM HOUSE BUFFALO N. Y. The wrapper is shown as Illustration 3.

If 1937 is used as an approximate guide to the postal date of this wrapper then the rate to USA was 1d per 2 oz. The affixed 2d postage stamp would indicate that the total postage was 3d and this would pay for a weight of 4-6 oz. Past copies of the magazine can be seen on-line and a weight of 4-6 oz. does not seem to be unreasonable.

The Far East is a Columban mission magazine devoted to furthering the missionary apostolate of the church and is published by St. Columban's Mission Society. The Society was founded in 1918 as a society of secular priests dedicated to the evangelisation of the Chinese and other overseas people. It is an exclusively missionary society. The magazine continues to this day and features articles and images from Columban missionaries, lay missionaries and Columban sisters from the countries where they work.

The Columbans are a missionary society of priests who work in 19 countries. St Columbans takes its name from St Columban, Ireland's sixth century missionary to Europe. The Columbans work in cooperation with lay people and Columban Sisters from a standpoint of solidarity with the poor and the integrity of creation. Solidarity with the poor means acknowledging the moral challenge of worldwide and local poverty. It means supporting the struggle of the poor for real participation and against injustice (St. Columbans web site).

This wrapper too provides a US link, but here the explanation is straight-forward. The addresses is a part of the Columban missions activities spread across the globe, and the mailing was a commitment by the Australian-based organisation (responsible for Asian countries) to keep its other members aware of its activity.

Illustration 3: Missionary Magazine “The Far East”



L. Gibon, News Agent

There is a pair of single circle MALVERN 30 9 03 1PM VICTORIA cancels on a 1901 2½d blue Southern Cross (Sc197) and 6d green Queen Victoria (Sc201). The wrapper is addressed to Mr. C. N. P. Phipps, Chalcot Westbury, Wilts, England. The total postage paid was 8½d and the date appears to be 1903. The rate from Victoria from 1 March 1901 was 1d for the first 4 oz. and ½d for each additional 2 oz. thereafter. The total of 8½d would indicate a weight of 34 oz. [1d = 4 oz. + 7½d = 15 x 2 oz. = 30 oz.]. The contents are likely to have been several publications to explain this weight.

The sender of the wrapper is clearly identifiable from the purple handstamp which reads” L. Gibon at top in the outer oval, News Agent// Bookseller & Stationer// Fancy Goods within the inner oval, and 139 Glenferrie Rd., Malvern within the lower of the outer oval. The application of a merchant handstamp is considerably cheaper and more flexible than paying for private printing to be added. The wrapper is shown as Illustration 4.

An advertisement in *The Argus* 24 May 1904 is a “SPECIAL NOTICE “THE ARGUS” and “THE AUSTRALASIAN” SPECIAL NEWS AGENCY 139 Glenferrie Road, Malvern. Mr. W. Lawrence begs to announce that he will RECEIVE ORDERS for the DELIVERY of The ARGUS and THE AUSTRALASIAN in Malvern. Advertisements received up to 7.30pm at office rates”. This shows that while the owner has changed from Gibson to Lawrence the location was of an established news agency. For the period in question news agencies relied heavily on regular customers to build up goodwill which could then be sold with the business.

The reason for a link between a suburban Melbourne Newsagent and an address in a small village in rural England seems obscure. However a C. P. Phipps of Chalcot (who died in 1880) was one of England’s important coffee traders. It is possible a descendant of his family had trading links with Australia, and may even have lived in the suburbs surrounding the Malvern Newsagent.



Illustration 4: L. Gibon, Newsagent and Stationers (Malvern)

On Her Majesty's Service

There are five different O.H.M.S. wrappers of Victoria in the database: Department of Mines, Department of Mines and Water Supply, Telephone Directory, Victoria Government Gazette and Parliamentary Papers. Four of these wrappers show frank stamps (Courtis 2009). Government departments did not enjoy free frank privileges and needed to pay the current postage rates. The frank stamp represented prepayment had been made.

i) Department of Mines

ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE is in seriffed upper-casing letters and partially underlined with a wiggly line repeated below (*Printed matter only.*) in italics. At lower left: From Department of Mines, MELBOURNE. This wrapper is addressed to "Anzeiger" (newspaper), Dresden, Germany and shows an 1884 3d bister Queen Victoria stamp (Sc149) cancelled with a single circle MELBOURNE 14Y FE 18 97. There is another strike over the circular MINISTER OF MINES VICTORIA frank stamp with coat of arms.

The 3d paid from Victoria to Germany in 1897 was 1d per 2 oz. thereby paying for a weight of 4-6 oz.

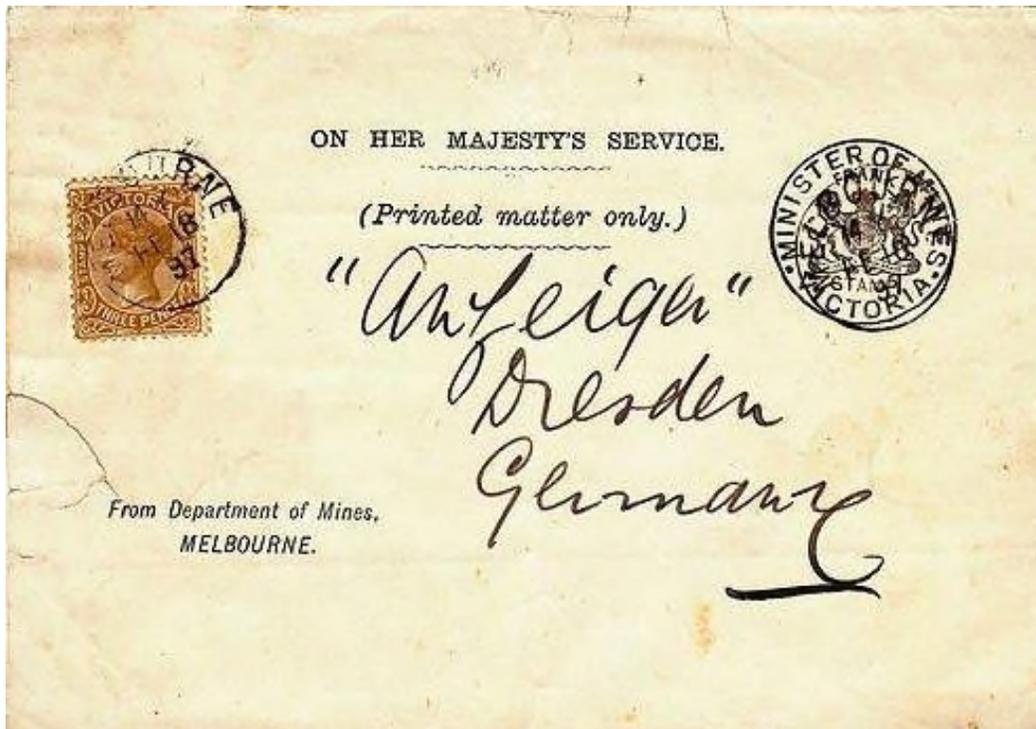
In 1852 the Colony of Victoria appointed its first Mineral Surveyor. In 1863 the Mines Department was formally constituted and the first geological map of Victoria was published. The Department was known as the Department of Mines and Water Supply 1895 - 1909, the *Department of Mines* 1909 - 1959 and the Mines Department 1959 - 1976. In more recent times 1977 - 1985 the Mines Department and Ministry of Fuel and Power merged to form the Department of Minerals and Energy.

The Chief Secretary was briefly responsible for goldfields administration and mining before 1860 when a Commissioner of Mines was first appointed and a Department of Mines was established. Administration of the goldfields was based on a series of Goldfields Acts dating from 1853 when an Act for the better management of the Goldfields was passed. This Act provided for a system of mining leases and licences to be administered by the Commissioners of Crown Lands, who were also known as Goldfields Commissioners. Earlier legislation had made provision for the Commissioners to regulate mining on "waste lands of the Crown". In 1855 the licensing system introduced in 1853 was replaced by a system of miners' rights administered by local courts which operated in designated districts, and had similar powers to a Court of Petty Sessions. Members of the courts were elected by holders of miners' rights in the district. These arrangements were further refined by the 1857 Act which set up a more complex administrative and judicial structure within specified Mining Districts comprising Mining Boards, Mining Wardens and Courts of Mines.

In short, the Department of Mines came into being in order to centralize the administration of the mines scattered throughout the State. Regional legislation in connection with mining matters was uncoordinated and inconsistent. In December 1860 Robert Brough Smyth became secretary for mines at a salary of £750. His influence over official mining policy was unrivalled for more than a decade and he helped to standardize leasing regulations. He favoured a more general geological and utilitarian survey of the colony. Some of his recommendations were adopted when the Mining Department was reorganized under a minister.

It is important to understand that at the time this wrapper was delivered mining was one of the major economic activities of Victoria, with very substantial volumes of gold in particular being produced. It is not surprising that the delivery was to an overseas address as the mining industry attracted substantial international migration and investment over a long period.

Illustration 5: OHMS – Department of Mines



ii) Department of Mines and Water Supply

This wrapper is differentiated from the one above in three respects: ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE is in larger font, the sender is The Department of Mines and Water Supply and Melbourne is printed in lower casing. As noted above, The Department was known as the Department of Mines and Water Supply 1895 – 1909.

The wrapper has a blue frank stamp MINES ? MINES VICTORIA (perhaps Mines and Water Supply was too much for the frank to accommodate) but is only partially legible due to the positioning of the duplex part of the Melbourne duplex which reads 1? A NO 30 81 (recourse to the actual wrapper is necessary in this case. The wrapper is addressed to The Editor of the Academy, 43 Wellington St., Strand, London, England (with W.C. added in manuscript to assist delivery – West Central). This wrapper is shown as Illustration 6. There is another curious marking – a handstamp showing R within a circle with a strange ink spot at the top of the circle. While it is tempting to speculate that this is a registration mark, it is unlikely to be so given the nature of the contents.

The postal rate from Victoria to England for printed matter was 1d per 2 oz. There is no evidence of any additional postage having been paid other than the frank stamp and so this wrapper's content weighed no more than 2 oz.

Illustration 6: Department of Mines and Water Supply



Here too we have international interest in Victorian Mining. It has not been possible to establish the role and function of 'The Academy'. Given the scale of Victorian mining, and its impact on development, it is likely that a London magazine may have been seeking background information for an article on this activity.

iii) Telephone Exchange

The wrapper shown in Illustration 7 shows ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE printed in upper casing with seriffed letters. There is a short fancy underlining beneath MAJESTY'S. TELEPHONE DIRECTORY in large bold sans-serif typeface is printed above the address. The printing at lower left has already been discussed. The wrapper is addressed to J. Kronheimer & Co., 348 Flinders lane, City. The wrapper bears no franking stamp but shows a Melbourne duplex canceller type 20 which is different to the four 20 types illustrated in Davies and Linfield. The "O" of MELBOURNE lies between the 2 and 0. The date part of the canceller reads MELBOURNE 20 OC 11 94 with VICTORIA between three horizontal bars above/below. The manuscript 170 is possibly the telephone number of this company. The Telephone directory would have been a matter of pages and not as it became with hundreds of thousands of subscribers and a thick book. The contents of the wrapper could have been these pages of the directory as it was at that time.

In July 1879, a Melbourne engineering firm, Robison Brothers, installed a telephone between their Flinders Street offices and foundry in South Melbourne. Telephone connections between Parliament House and the Melbourne's newspapers quickly followed, and other Melbourne companies followed suit and connected their offices and workshops throughout the city. Before September 1880, Robison's system was a point to point service.

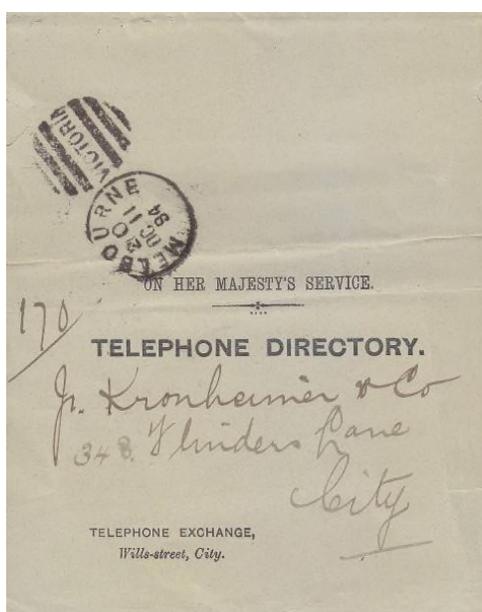
The first telephone exchange opened in Australia in August 1880 in Melbourne's Mercantile Building. It was operated by the Melbourne Telephone Exchange Company, a private company. "The Sketcher" referred to the Melbourne Telephone Exchange as "The Palace of Winged Words", and Melbourne Telephone Exchange Company: ...at present over 70 subscribers have sent in their names to the Melbourne Exchange list...each subscriber has in his office or house, fitted against the wag on the mantel

piece or in any convenient place, a small box containing the wire, attached to which are two wires ending severally in an ear and mouth piece, while on the board in the central office are a button or peg and a little brass plate like the outside of a Bramah lock, with his number attached. It is at this board, presided over at present by two young ladies, that the important operation of 'switching' or connecting the two persons desirous of talking, is conducted"

The exchange was located in the old Stock Exchange building at 367 Collins Street, a site now occupied by the Commonwealth Bank. In 1884, the operations of the Company, by then known as the Victorian Telephone Exchange Company, had grown considerably and were transferred to Wills Street, Melbourne. Private ownership of this company continued until 1887, when it was bought out by the Victorian Colonial Government. Other colonial governments followed this example. At the time of the Government take-over in September 1887, there were 887 subscribers and the Company had 21 employees. The following year the number of subscribers was 1,462 (History of Telephone Exchanges in Australia).

There is a second example in the database addressed to Australian Wool Pressing Co., No. 4 Railway Shed, Spencer Street. The single circle cancellation reads MELBOURNE 17 Y NO 12 95 [type 17 (1) (i)]. Although there is no evidence of a frank stamp or postage paid, the rate in 1894 was ½d per 2 oz.

Illustration 7: Telephone Exchange, Wills St., Melbourne



iv) Victoria Government Gazette

This wrapper shown in Illustration 8 has ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE printed in bold sans-serif letters in shallow arc above the coat of arms that appears as the masthead of the Gazette. VICTORIA GOVERNMENT GAZETTE appears within an unfurled ribbon. There is a frank stamp GOVERNMENT PRINTER JOHN FERRES which is stamped with a Melbourne duplex canceller 13 A JA 6 83 [Davies and Linfield, type 13(2)]. The wrapper is addressed to the Under Treasurer. The rate in 1883 for posting within Victoria was ½d for 2 oz.

The Port Phillip Government Notices commenced on 4 January 1843. It was printed at the "Times" Office by a Mr. Brown & Ryland John Howard, Government Printers and "Published by Authority". It had become the "Port Phillip Government Gazette" by January 1844 and was being printed at the "Port Phillip Herald" Office by William Clarke. In January 1845 it was being printed by Samuel Goode at the "Port Phillip Patriot" Office. William Clarke resumed as Government Printer in January 1846; Samuel Goode in January 1847 and 1848; Edward Wilson in January 1849; George Darley Boursiquot in January 1850 and Edward Wilson & James Stewart Johnston from 25 January 1850 to 30 June 1851.

It became the *Victoria Government Gazette* in 1851, when the Colony of Victoria was established. The gazettes are the government's method of notifying the general public of its decisions and activities. They contain information on everything from land transactions, bankruptcies, reward notices and new acts of parliament, to tenders, patent applications, unclaimed letters and monies, shipping and emigration

notices, and more. More formally: the Victoria Government Gazette provides official notification of decisions or actions taken by, or information from, the Governor of Victoria, Government Authorities, Government Departments, Local Councils, companies and individuals.

There are three other examples of this wrapper in the database all with Melbourne duplex cancellers: unreadable date addressed to the Secretary, Temperance Hall, Russell St., Melbourne; The Consul for Portugal, 40 Elizabeth Street, dated 18 A JE 19 98 [type 18(1)]; The Librarian to Parliament, Hobart, dated 5 A DE 15 83 [type 5(6)].

Illustration 8: Victoria Government Gazette



v) Parliamentary Papers

On Her Majesty's Service is printed at the top of the wrapper shown as Illustration 9 with wavy line beneath part of the header. PARLIAMENTARY PAPERS is printed in tall sans-serif letters. The wrapper bears a circular FRANK STAMP at the base with THE TREASURER around the top and OF VICTORIA bordering a coat of arms. The Frank is stamped with a duplex obliterator MELBOURNE 8A NO 16 92 [type 8(6)]. The wrapper is addressed to The Secretary, Free Library, Maryborough, (Victoria). The letters W.S below and between the two sections of the duplex cancel is not explained. It appears to have been pre-printed as it is beneath the duplex canceller.

Documents that are formally presented to Parliament are referred to as tabled documents. Tabled documents include: annual reports of public organisations, parliamentary committee reports, reports by independent officers of the parliament such as the Ombudsman, petitions, regulations and official notices. Documents are tabled every sitting day as part of formal business, at the start of the day's proceedings. Many of these tabled documents are then ordered to be printed in Parliamentary papers. These include also departmental annual reports, royal commission reports etc. When a report becomes a parliamentary paper it attracts absolute privilege. This means that no legal action can be taken in relation to the contents of the report. It does not mean that Parliament organised the physical printing or publishing of the report but that Parliament is the authority for its publication. Examples of Parliamentary Papers include reports of Parliamentary Committees, the Auditor-General, Ombudsman and Public Advocate. Parliamentary Papers are numbered successively for the duration of each Parliamentary Session. In accordance with the Standing Orders, the Council may order that any document presented and laid before it be printed as a Parliamentary Paper, although most reports tabled do not end up this way. The date tabled refers to tabling in the Legislative Assembly unless otherwise indicated. Parliamentary papers have been published since 1851.

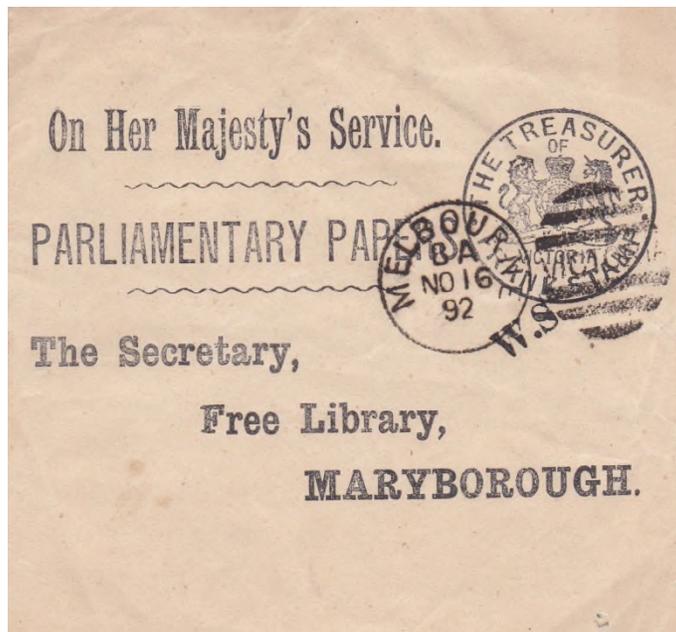
Documents are usually tabled within specified reporting periods, to provide information on matters such as: financial transactions; operations and activities; outcomes of investigations; amendments to planning schemes; and operative dates of Acts. The tabling of reports and documents is an essential component of Executive accountability (the Executive is comprised of the Victorian Government – the Premier and his/her Ministers – and its administrative arm, the Victorian Public Service). By providing an account of

government spending and other activities, the reports and other documents tabled in the Legislative Council contribute to ensuring the maintenance of responsible government.

A second example in the database is dated 21A JY 10 95 [type 21(1)(ii)] and is addressed to The Consul for the German Empire, 74 Queen Street, City.

The rate in 1892 was ½d per 2 oz.

Illustration 9: Parliamentary Papers



Conclusion

Glimpses of Victoriana seen through the eyes of non-post office wrappers is a mixture of economic activity, much of which has either disappeared or evolved into more sophisticated form. The themes researched from the wording that appears on these private, religious and government wrappers bring to life aspects about Victorian entrepreneurship as well as how society and government operate. The postal historian is able to reconcile the concessionary rate structures of different periods with the postage paid. The thematic collector can identify newspapers, magazines and topics, and collectors of official mail have examples of frank stamps from different government departments.

Once again, however, homage must be made to those responsible for developing the algorithms upon which the Google search engine is used to tease out snippets of information to help research of this kind.

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Victoria Government Gazette: <http://www.portphillippioneersgroup.org.au/pppg5ac.htm>

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Acknowledgement

Professor Kevin O'Connor read and added constructive insights to the first draft as did Allan Gory and I thank them both for their contributions.

Why Isn't the Stamp on Straight?

Ian Cutter

There has been some consideration in AJP about the position of stamps on old postcards.

Specifically, why were stamps stuck on the picture side? This seems to have been a not uncommon preference, and communications are found where the writer has specifically asked for postcard to be sent with the stamps on that side. So, it was done because the recipient preferred it.

This leads to a similar question. Why are there stamps on the correct side, but not aligned correctly parallel to the edges of the card? Not just a little bit askew, but out by at least 45 degrees.

This turns out to be not an accident; but in this case it is the sender, not the recipient, who is responsible.

I was recently given a copy of a page headed "The Language of Stamps", which describes stamps placed in various orientations and locations on a cover. The illustrations resemble a KEVII halfpenny stamp, which dates the original to the early 1900s.

Rather than take up space with the full-page illustration as in the original, the information is summarized below, for various locations and possible orientations of the stamp. This orientation is shown by an arrow, with the arrow-head pointing to the top of the stamp.

It would be interesting to know how such a practice arose, and who made the seemingly arbitrary connection between symbol and message. And what is the point of a code once the key has been published?

Anyway, for the person who seeks a new field of collecting – try to assemble a complete set of these!

And while you are about it you can puzzle over the occasional one where the message of the stamp is quite different from the tone of the written word, or where the sender is either using a private code, or just wasn't watching what they were doing. [See, for example, the cards posted at AVIEMORE or ORE, where the stamps are oriented ↙ and ↘, respectively.]

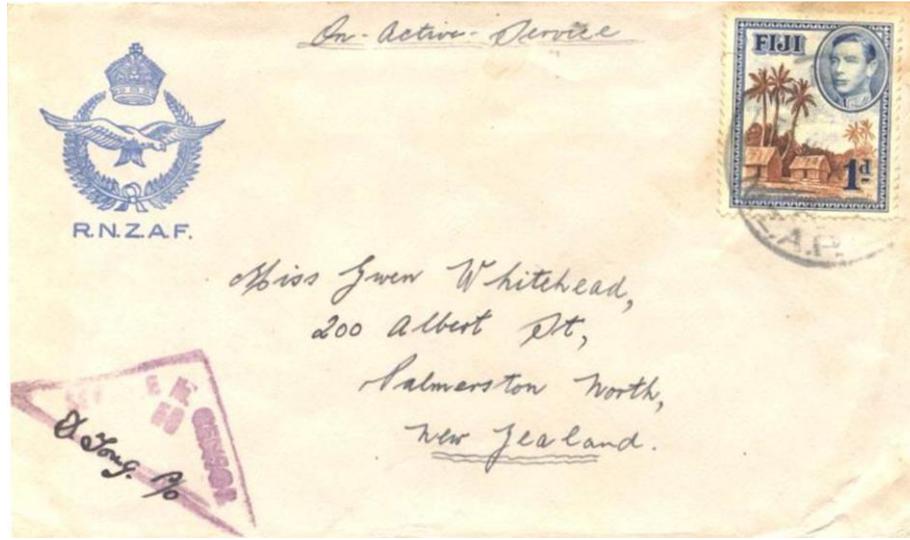
New Zealand Musings – New Zealand at War 1939-1945

Tony Lyon

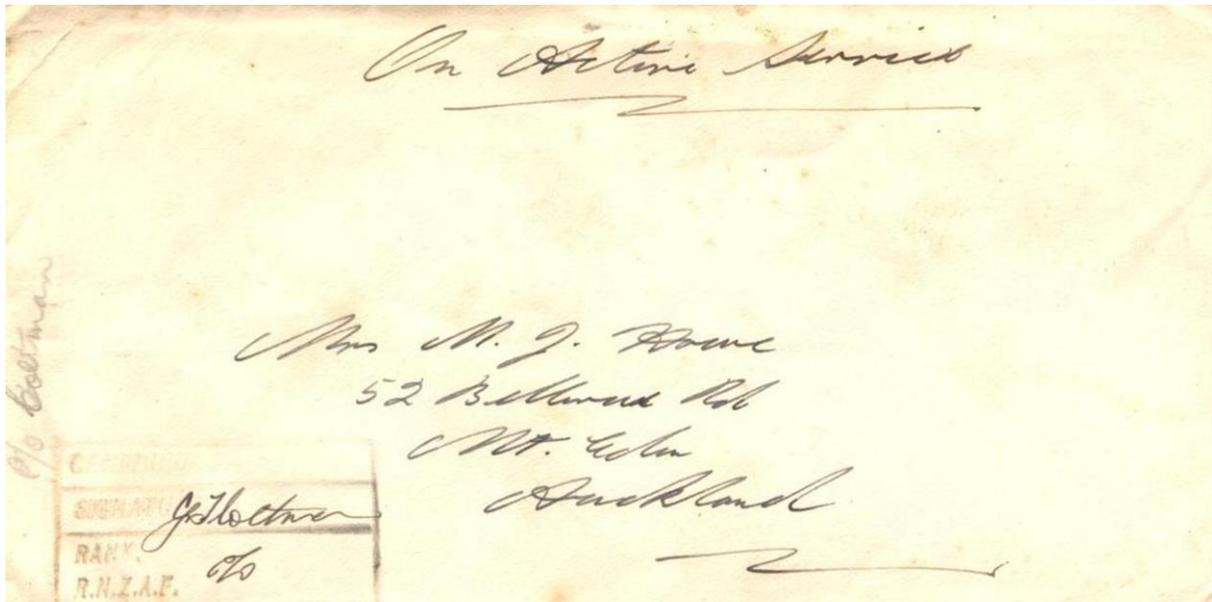
Continuing with covers from the Pacific, these covers are from RNZAF locations.

Lauthala Bay, Fiji

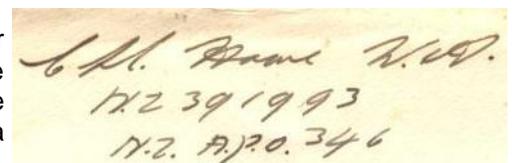
RNZAF NZAPO A (Army Post Office 381) was used at the RNZAF 6 Flying Boat Squadron located at Lauthala Bay, Fiji. Known used at this location from 7.10.43 — 29.9.48. Sent by AC 1, J Stacy APO 381. Censored by triangular censor 58 and signed by a Pilot Officer D Tong. The 1d Fiji stamp was unnecessary as a concession rate applied postage free.



Espiritu Santos — New Hebrides



RNZAF NZAPO (Army Post Office 346) Censored by RNZAF Censor signed by P/O Cotham. APO 346 was on Santo where as part of the base depot, 4 Repair Unit was located. This unit sailed for Santo on the 19 January 1943 arriving on the 25th. There does not appear to be a RNZAF datestamp for this unit and Proud/Startup state no covers seen. OAS surface mail free.



Espiritu Santos — New Hebrides

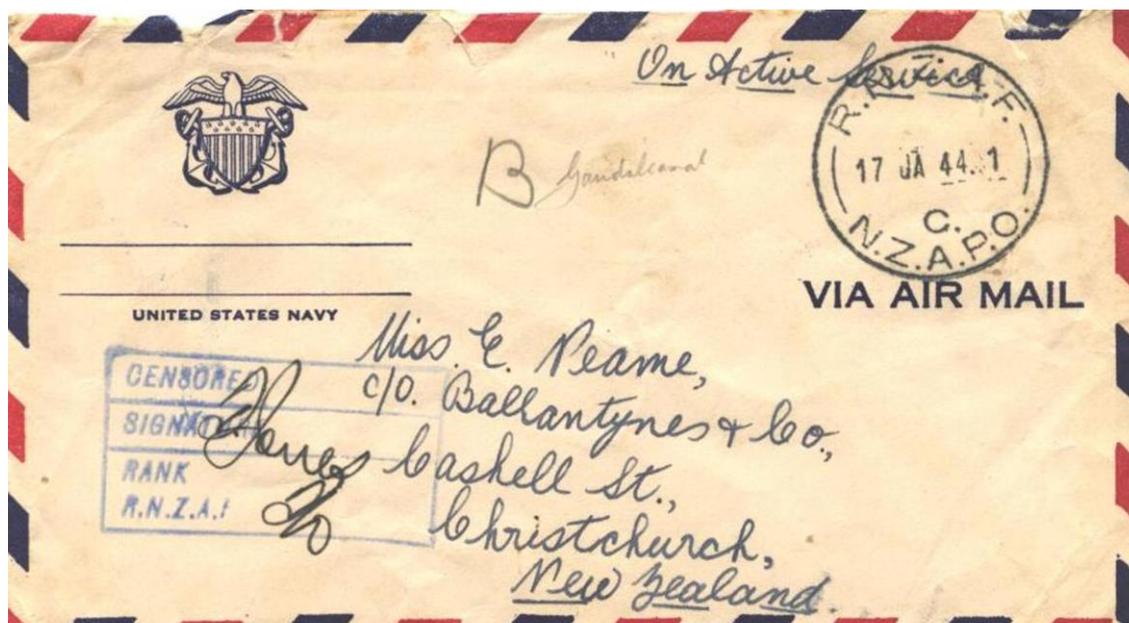
RNZAF NZAPO B (Army Post Office 361) was used at the RNZAF Base Depot located at Espiritu Santos. Known used at this location from 7.9.43—10.12.45. Sent by L F Taylor from APO 361 and censored by RNZAF type rectangular censor and signed by a Flying Officer.



After Pearl Harbor the islands took on importance because of importance of maintaining the sea lanes between Australia and the United States. The 3rd Construction Battalion (Seabee unit) was sent to Efate in the New Hebrides. The island of Espiritu Santo in the New Hebrides was the closest Allied-held island to Japanese held Guadalcanal. The Japanese were intent on severing the sea-lanes to Australia. After Midway, the Japanese major naval striking force was decimated. They set about building an air base on Guadalcanal to support operations to sever the sea-lanes. Thus Espiritu Santo became critical to the Allied defense of Australia. The Seabee 3rd Construction Battalion Detachment was moved from Efate to Espiritu Santo and assigned to rapidly prepare a bomber strip. The Seabees in only 20 days carved out a 6,000 foot airstrip from virgin jungle. This enabled the United States launch air attacks disrupting the construction of the Japanese air base. The First Marine Division launched the first Allied offensive of the War by invading nearby Guadalcanal (August 1942). The New Hebrides would be a major supply and staging area for the Marines on Guadalcanal. Espiritu Santo 550 miles to the south was the closest source of supplies. It also meant that fighters could be flown in from Espiritu Santo.

<http://histclo.com/essay/war/ww2/cou/island/pac/w2pi-nheb.html>

Guadalcanal — British Solomon Islands



RNZAF NZAPO C (Army Post Office 371) dated 17 JA 44. Sent by AC 2 D W Gray NZAPO 371 and censored by RNZAF rectangular censor marking signed by Flying Officer D Jones. This APO was located at Henderson Field, Guadalcanal and the unit was 55 Radar Unit and later HQ 1 Islands Group.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

Most of these postmarks in this edition come from Simon Alsop and John Fitzsimmons Post Office crawl throughout Queensland and Victoria.

There are two uncommon date stamps from New South Wales, both without outside circles.

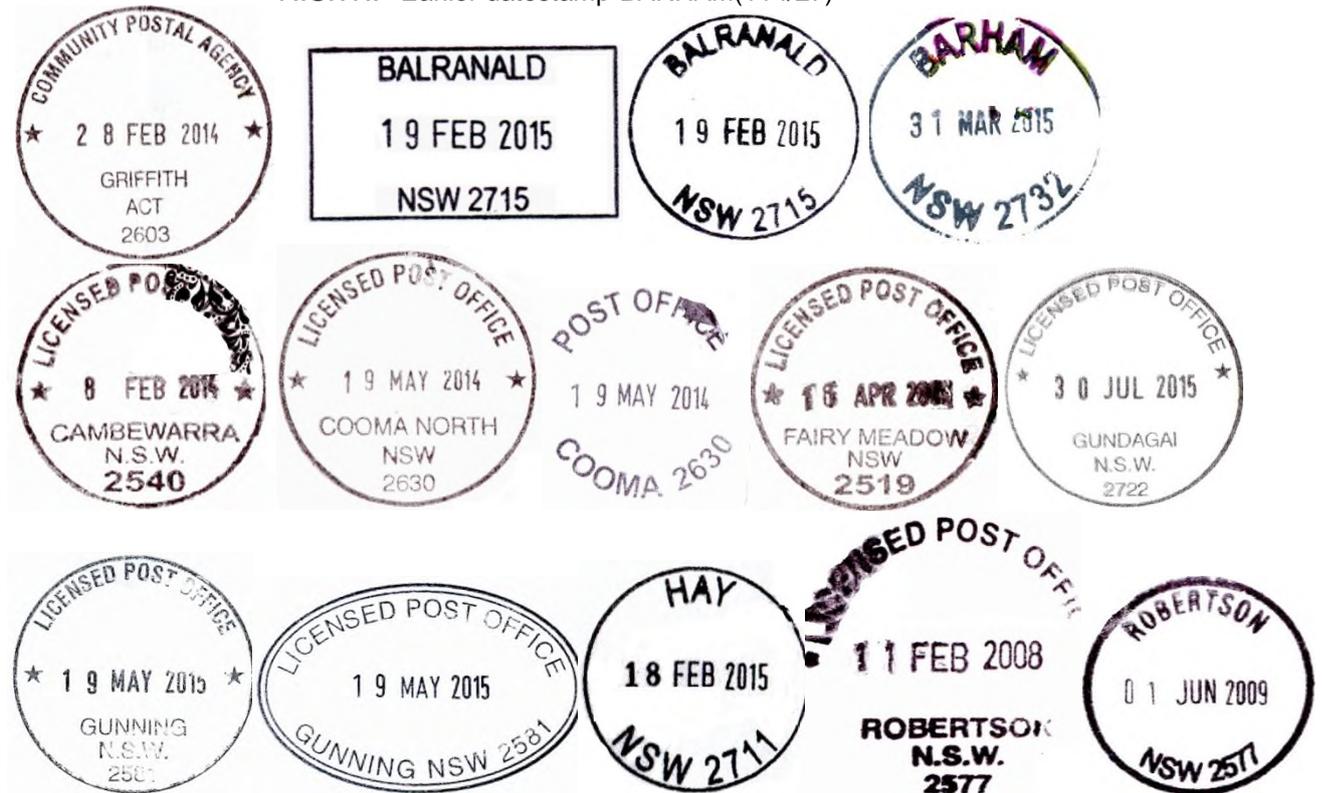
At the end of this article is some interesting postmarks from a visit to Townsville Military Post Office

Finally, many thanks to Simon Alsop, John Fitzsimmons, Frank Adamik and all those other contributors for their contributions throughout the past year to keep this column going.

A.C.T.:- Earlier datestamp-TUGGERANONG (114/26)



N.S.W.: Earlier datestamp-BARHAM(114/27)



QLD:- (cont.)



QLD.:- (cont.)



VIC.:-Earlier datestamp-BELVEDERE PARK(116/25)



VIC:- (cont)- Earlier datestamps-



POSTMARKS FROM TOWNSVILLE MILITARY POST OFFICE

This information came from Simon Alsop when he visited the TOWNSVILLE Mil. P.O. on 17th August 2015. Most of the markings from the MILPO covers are not datestamps, but exercise markings, or instructional markings and they are shown in this article in that context. The MILPO staff happily cancelled his covers without understanding what they were doing. I think that these datestamps should not have been used to cancel stamps. As some of the dates are current then these may have been used on mail but it is best to classify them all as instructional markings until proven otherwise.



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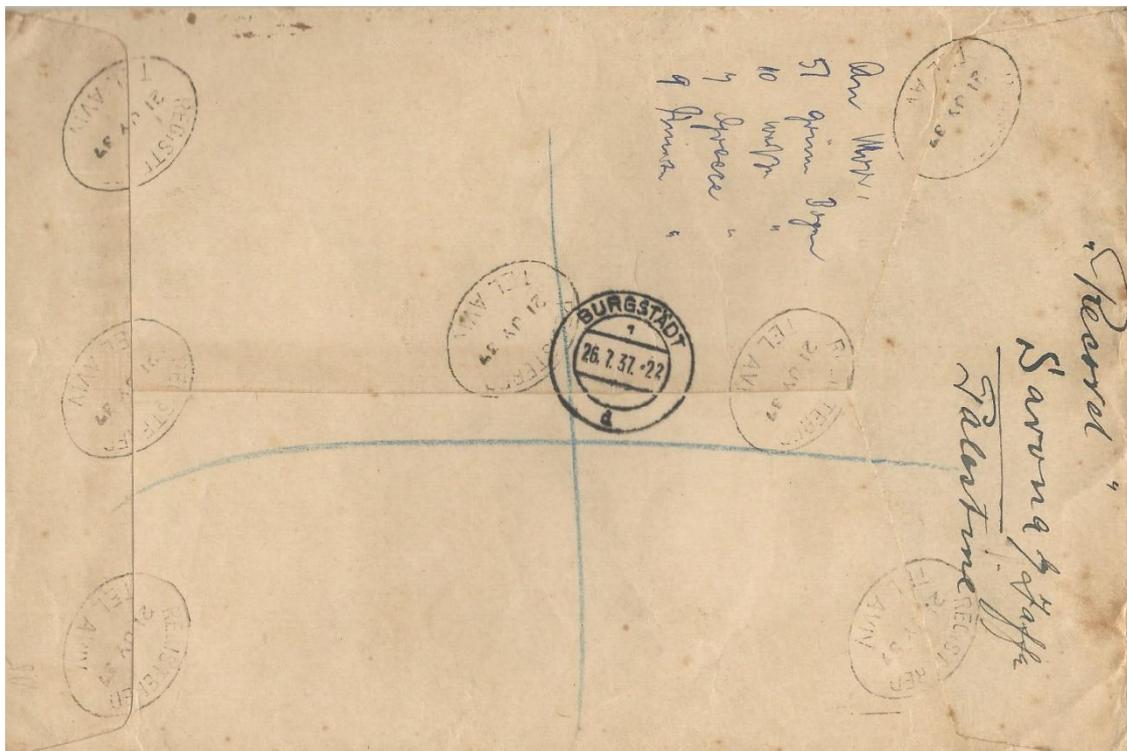
Shop 135, Forest Hill Chase Shopping Centre, 270 Canterbury Road, Forest Hill, Vic 3131
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What YOU can do to help the Australian Philatelic Society?

- 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 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

Registered Express Airmail Tel Aviv – Germany 1937

Tony Lyon



Registered express cover Tel Aviv, Palestine 21 JY 37 to Burgstädt, Germany 26 JY 37. K.L.M.'s service was from Batavia, Dutch East Indies (Jakarta, Indonesia) to Amsterdam. From 7 February 1937 Lydda replaced Gaza for the K.L.M. service for Palestine. Also in 1937 Tel Aviv became a new stop. From Amsterdam there was a connecting service to Berlin, Hamburg and Halle/Leipzig airports. The nearest airport to Burgstädt is Leipzig about 77km. Suggested route Tel Aviv – Amsterdam – Leipzig – then rail to Burgstädt. Rates: 13mil registration, 40 mil Express?, 90mil double weight.