

# Australian Journal of Philately

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<b>Date</b>	<b>2020 / 2021 Programme</b>	<b>Display</b>
21 December 2020	Christmas Meeting (Maybe)	Members 4-10 Pages Exhibits
15 February 2021	TBA	TBA
19 April 2021	TBA	TBA

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If flown from Australia to Aden in October 1944 [as postmarked], this cover would have travelled by air from Perth to Ceylon on a weekly service operated since August 1944.

The Qantas service connected with the reopened Imperial service from India via Cairo to London. The cover has an inverted partial Indian censor mark.

There was a twice-weekly service from Cairo to Aden.

The 4 pence franking is a puzzle.

The pre-war airmail postage to Arabia was 1 shilling and 9 pence.

Did the sender take advantage of an armed forces concession: one penny for a 1 ounce letter and 3 pence for air mail in Australia; was air all the way allowed but not taxed; was there some other concession; or simply inexplicable? Any ideas, please?

## Editorial

*Tony Lyon*

September and still isolated under Stage 4 Lock-Down and only supposed to be outside your home for exercise (1 hour not more than 5km from your home), grocery shopping (1 person from a household once per day) and only able to go to work if you can't work from home. Children are all home schooling. Many parents as they attempt to home school, are having a new appreciation for what teachers do. When you did your maths 60 odd years ago, it doesn't spring readily to mind the answers your child / grandchild is expecting you to help them with.

Australia Post has received a fair amount of publicity of late. None of it good. The service has gone from dismal to abysmal. Mail taking a week to travel from Ringwood to Croydon is a personal example.

The best effort was a person who was following the tracking advice from AP over many days and finally was advised that their parcel would arrive that morning.

No parcel arrived and when AP was contacted they claimed the person was not at home (they were) and they would need to pick it up from the post office. However the Post Office it was to be picked up from was over 600km away, Still the executives need to earn their bonuses some how!

Thank you for the contributions to this issue. With lock-down there should be plenty of time to pen a article—write up an interesting cover, or item of interest. Don't waste it.

Until next time ciao.

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## From The President

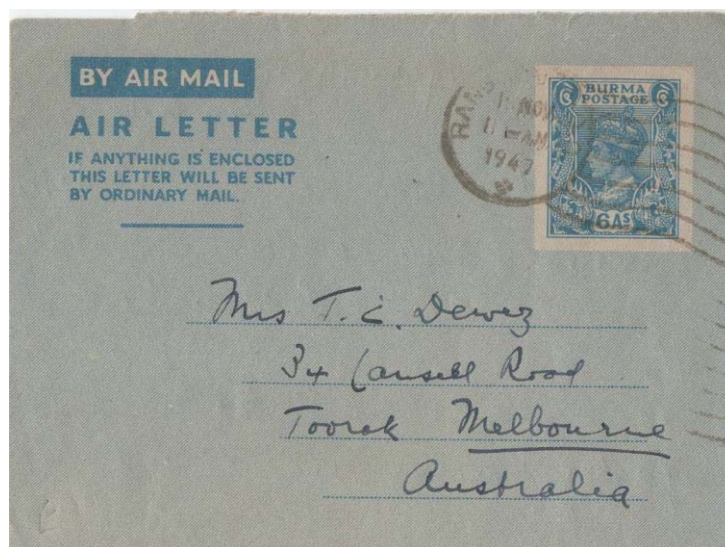
Some readers of this journal may remember from the previous millennium a monthly column in The Australian Stamp Monthly called Robin's Roundabout. Its author, Dudley Robin, was a member of this society. Dudley wrote about his goings-on and his excursions around philatelic gatherings, auctions and dealers, mainly confined to Melbourne and Victoria. He'd tell you about bargains or special philatelic items he'd picked up, sundry related activities and somehow spun it out to a couple of gossipy pages. Well, we sure won't see that again, especially with a Covid choke-hold on getting out and about.

If you want to go exploring, dig into your own envelopes and shoeboxes where unidentified or puzzling bits and pieces have been jammed. Shake them out and check for postmarks, etc; and look forward to quarterly journals which hopefully bring something fresh and novel.

Since 2007 I've had a Burmese aerogramme sent from Rangoon to Australia in 1947. It may have been only a single item in a dealer's box, but I seem to remember there was a bundle of them. The one I took had the minor attraction of being addressed to the posh suburb of Toorak, and the suburb's posh Lansell Road.

With a bit of time on my hands I looked closer at it. The handwritten message in the aerogramme, to the writer's wife Enid, told her that:

I am sending this [aerogramme] on as it should get to Melbourne by Lancastrian faster than in our lumbering but roomy and very comfortable flying boat.



Lancastrian aeroplanes were World War 2 Lancaster bombers converted to civil operation, with nine seats and lots of room for freight. Qantas had its first Lancastrian service from London to Sydney via Karachi, Ceylon and Learmonth on 31 May 1945. On its first return journey on 9 June it carried airmail which included a special cacheted Australian aerogramme. The flight took about five days. One source puts subsequent flying times at 63 to 67 hours. That was certainly quicker than the pre-war 14-day flight from London to Sydney, and much quicker than today's airmail transmission times

The writer, Toussaint Charles Dewez, was a Melbourne wool merchant, with his office at the King Street wool exchange. His wife was the daughter of a South Australian pastoralist. Most likely they did well out of the post war wool boom, but the family name has disappeared from recent telephone directories.

## Vale Marjorie Crawford

On Sunday, 9 August the well-known collector, Marjorie Crawford, died in Box Hill hospital. She had battled cancer for some time; on her good days she was often seen at stamp fairs and philatelic gatherings, always on the lookout for items for her varied collecting interests.

Marjorie assembled excellent collections, and in the postal history field one of her interests was British slogan postmarks. Provincial cities and towns had their own special slogan postmarks such as 'Holiday in Hastings. Popular with Visitors Since 1066'

An open hearted and generous lady, Marjorie's passing is sadly felt.

## Belgium's 2 February & 15 December 1948 Export Propaganda Stamps used the Same Designs with New Colours and Values.

**Michael Barden**

Only the three high values were engraved and recess printed on the Stickney press. The low values were printed by non government companies using photo processes. All were perforated 11.5.



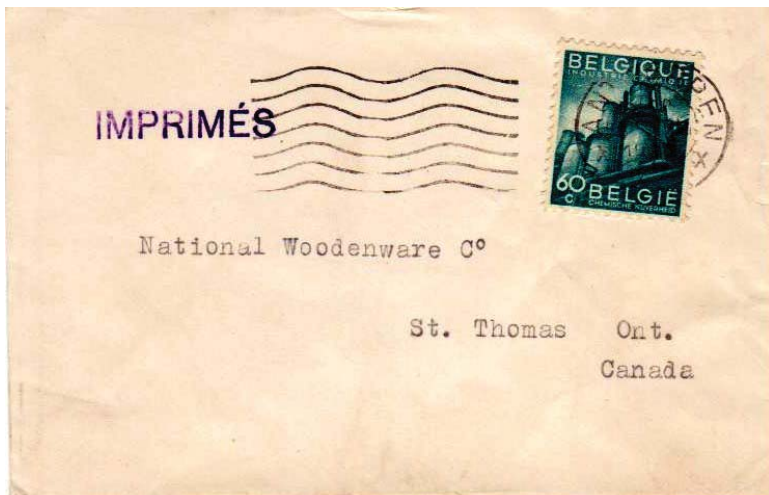
Postage costs had remained constant since 20 May 1946, when they were reduced by 10%. The next change occurred on 15 December 1948, when they increased. Mail using at least one of these stamps is illustrated. The 3.15 Fr stamp (COB 675) was the only stamp to require re-engraving or extra work.

### Export stamps and numbers

subjects	2 February				15 December			
	COB	value	colour	Catalogue Letter value €	COB	value	colour	Catalogue Letter value €
Chemical Industry	761	0.60	blue-grn	5	767	1.20	red	1
Lace making	762	1.35	red-bn	1	768	1.75	olive-green	2
agriculture	763	1.75	red	1	769	2.50	red lilac	10
communications	764	2.25	blue grey	80	770	3.00	lilac	7
textiles	765	3.15	blue	8	771	4.00	ultramarine	8
	765a	3.15	blue	5				
metallurgy	766	6.30	red lilac	80	772	6.00	green-blue	15

Examples of all the stamps on letters are shown on the following pages. Engraving changes of the COB 765a are shown after 765. Sizes are reduced, but aspect ratios kept.

- 1. Chemical Industry.** Main export manufacture centred round Solvay (sodium carbonate mfr). Headquartered in Brussels with main plants were in Flanders. Both export and import of chemicals.



**Imprimé letter (unsealed) from Antwerp to St Thomas, Canada**

**Antwerp X mechanical cancel of 5 Dec 48**

Postage 60c

Correct



**Hand written visiting card from Antwerp to Berchem (local)**

**Antwerpen X slogan cancel of 24 Oct 1949**

Postage 1.20 Fr (correct)

2. **Lace Industry.** Centred round Bruges. Hand tatting still occurred for high end items, but machine lace making was cheaper and much faster.



**Express letter from Brussels to Zurich**

**Brussels 5E cds of 2 Apr 1948**

Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr  
Express 6<sup>30</sup> Fr

(10c o/pd)



**Undeliverable letter from  
Eupen to Verviers**

**Eupen 1D** cds of 1 May 1948  
**Verviers 1** (cds verso) 11 May  
**Verviers 2** (recto) 8 Jun

Postage 1<sup>35</sup> Fr



**Airmail letter from Antwerp to  
Detroit**

**Antwerpen X** cds of  
25 Sep 1948

Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr  
 airmail 3<sup>50</sup> / 5 gm

ok



**Eupen local use**

**Eupen A1** cds of 25 Aug 1949

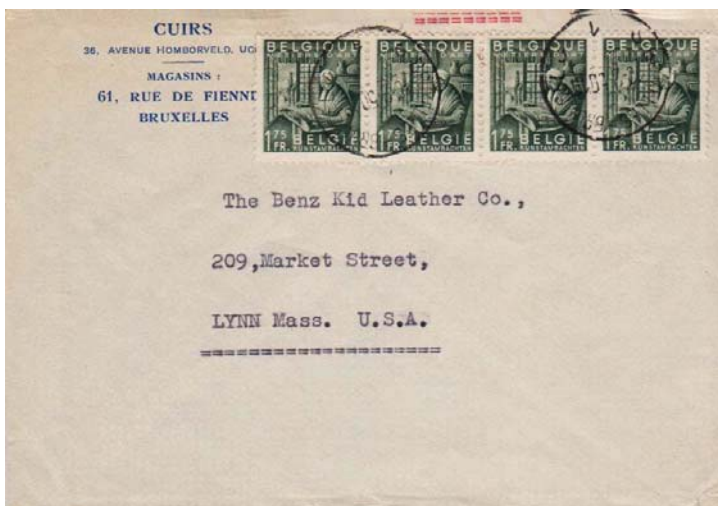
Postage 1<sup>75</sup> Fr



**Registered letter in Brussels area**

**Bruxelles-Brussel J9 cds of 8 Aug 1949**

Postage 1<sup>75</sup> Fr  
Registration 4 Fr



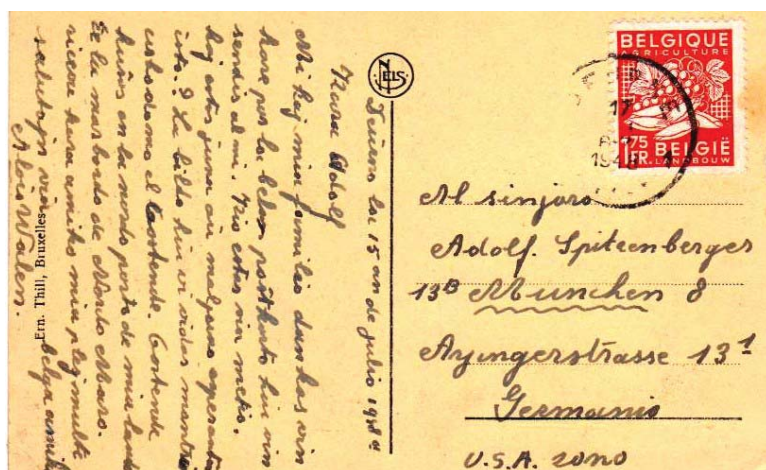
**Airmail Brussels to USA**

**Brussels1c cds of 10 Feb 1950**

Postage 4 Fr  
airmail 3 Fr (5gm)

ok

3. **Agriculture.** Before WW2 Belgium was not self sufficient and imported much food. In the hard winter of 1940, under German occupation, food shortages were serious, such that after, more food was grown locally. Since, with better methods, Belgium exports and imports agricultural products.



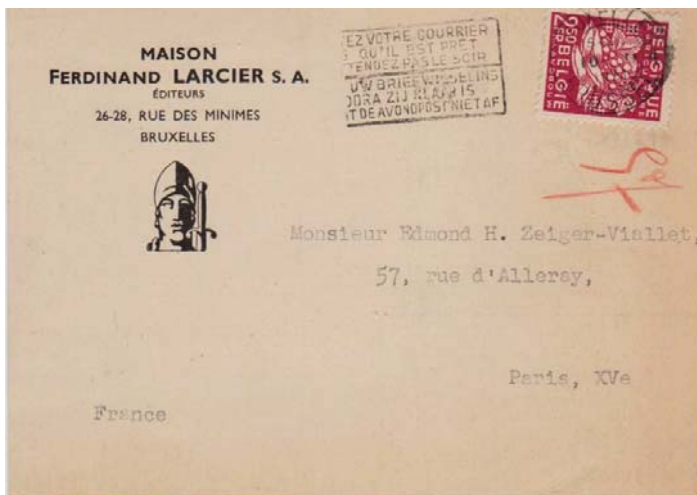
**PPC from Deurne to Munich**

**Deurne 1 cds of 17 Jul 1948**

Postage 1<sup>75</sup> Fr

Message written in Esperanto





**Custom Postal card from Brussels to Paris**

**Brussels 1 slogan cancel of 10 Feb 1951**

ok



**Airmail letter from Antwerp to Vienna**

**Antwerp XF cds of 16 May 1953**

Postage 4 Fr (≤ 20 gm)  
+ 2<sup>75</sup> Fr (21-40 gm)

Airmail free from 1953

Censored in Vienna as in Russian zone  
Letter from AOTA to Credit Bank

ok

**4. Communications.** After WW2, shipping and trains needed rebuilding and planes were modernised of before WW2, such that communications were now vastly changed. Antwerp port was rebuilt and expanded. Meuse and canal shipping was repaired and grew to handle the new traffic.

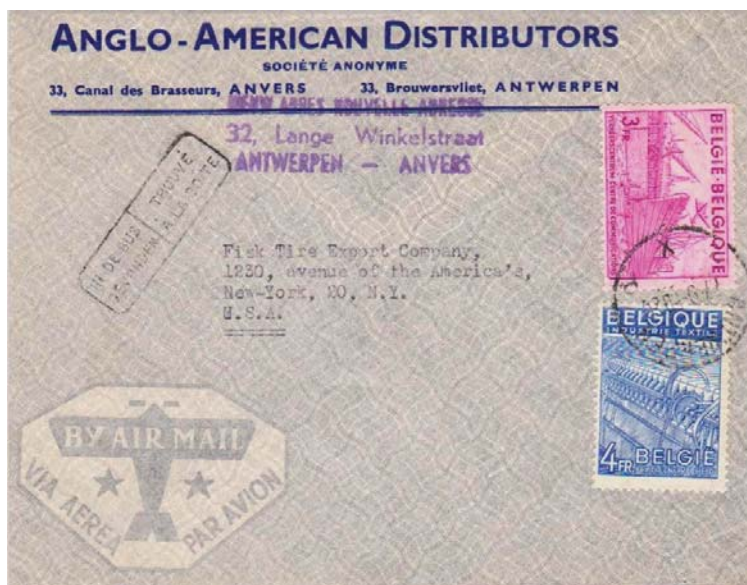


**Letter from Ninove to Basel**

**Ninove temporary canceller (▲) of 8 Dec 1948**

Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr

ok



**Airmail letter from Antwerp to New York**

**Antwerp X cds of 27 Sep 1950**

Postage 4 Fr  
airmail 3 Fr / 5 gm

(boxed slogan = stamped by sender, not PO)



**Registered airmail letter from Brussels 9 to New York**

**Brussels 9J cds of 2 Sep 1949**

Postage 4 Fr  
Reg'n 4 Fr  
Airmail 5 Fr

(2.50 Fr / 5gm)

ok

**5. Textile Industry.** Centred round Verviers, which is in Eupen Province. This was ceded in 1920 by Germany to Belgium as war reparations. Verviers has a plentiful supply of soft water, suitable for scouring. German is still an official language in Eupen. COB 765 was the only stamp, which needed rework and becomes 765A (loom threads).

See also on first page the 3<sup>15</sup>Fr of February and the 4 Fr of December for a comparison of the loom threads.



**COB 765 in then original state as the die wore**

**Express letter to Zurich**

**Brussels 10F cds of 7 Apr 1948**

Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr  
Express 6<sup>30</sup> Fr

Letter arrived 8 Apr  
Delivered 9 Apr

(backstamps)



**COB 765A showing rework**

**Airmail letter to Helsinki**

**Brussels 1F cds of 25 Sep 1948**

Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr  
Airmail 1 Fr

Both for ≤ 20 gm



**Registered letter from Brussels to Beograd (Belgrade), Yugoslavia**

**Brussels 21 cds of 11 Apr 1949**

Postage 4 Fr  
airmail 1 Fr  
Regn 4 Fr  
(o/pd 10c)

**6. Metallurgy Industry.** With Belgian coal (Charleroi, Mons, Namur, Liège) and Luxemburg iron ore (Esch-sur-Alzette area), blast furnaces in Luxemburg and Belgium, production was pure iron sinter for others to alloy for steels. Very important industry than, but waned due to high costs.



**Airmail letter from Koekelberg to Newark, USA**

**Koekelberg A1** cds of 2 Apr 1948

Postage 3<sup>15</sup> Fr  
airmail 5 Fr (10 gm)

ok



**Express letter from Arlon to Liège**

**Arlon 1H** cds of 11 Sep 1950

Postage 1<sup>75</sup> Fr  
Express 6 Fr

Ok



**Airmail letter from Brussels (Midi) to Buenos Aires**

**Brussels (Midi)** cds of 15 Mar 1949

Arrived via USA (backstamp)  
19 & 20 Mar

Postage 4 Fr  
Airmail 8 Fr / 5 gm

correct



**Registered airmail  
letter from Turnhout to  
Zurich**

**Turnhout F cds of Jun  
1951 (13 dots)**

Postage 4 Fr (≤ 20 gm)  
+ 12<sup>50</sup> (2<sup>50</sup> Fr per 20  
gm) (≤ 125 gm)

Registration 4 Fr  
airmail 2 Fr  
(1 Fr / 50 gm)



on letter rear

#### References.

1. Stamps sets on first page, [www.Delcampe.net](http://www.Delcampe.net) Catalogue courtesy of Philamondo
2. E & M Deneumostier, **Tarifs postaux internationaux 1892-1988 vol 3**
3. E & M Deneumostier, **Tarifs postaux, service interieur, 1849-1987**
4. Catalogue Officiel Belge (COB) 2011

# The Hawaiian Footprints of a European Stamp Forger

by Gerhard Lang-Valchs

## Introduction

Three years ago, when I started dealing for the first time with Hawaiian forgeries, I had discovered through years of research about the activities of the Spanish lithographer and forger Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1918) some dozens of his forgeries of stamps of different countries and I was convinced, that Hawaii could not be the exception to the rule. Trying to discover his Hawaiian implication, I found something different of what I had been looking for: the so-called Scott-strip described and analysed in the referred article.

But when I read that article again some weeks ago, I could not but shake my head in astonishment about the way I had tried to evidence Torres' implication in the production of those counterfeits. The reasoning was by no means convincing and even partly erroneous. I hope to be able to make it better this time.

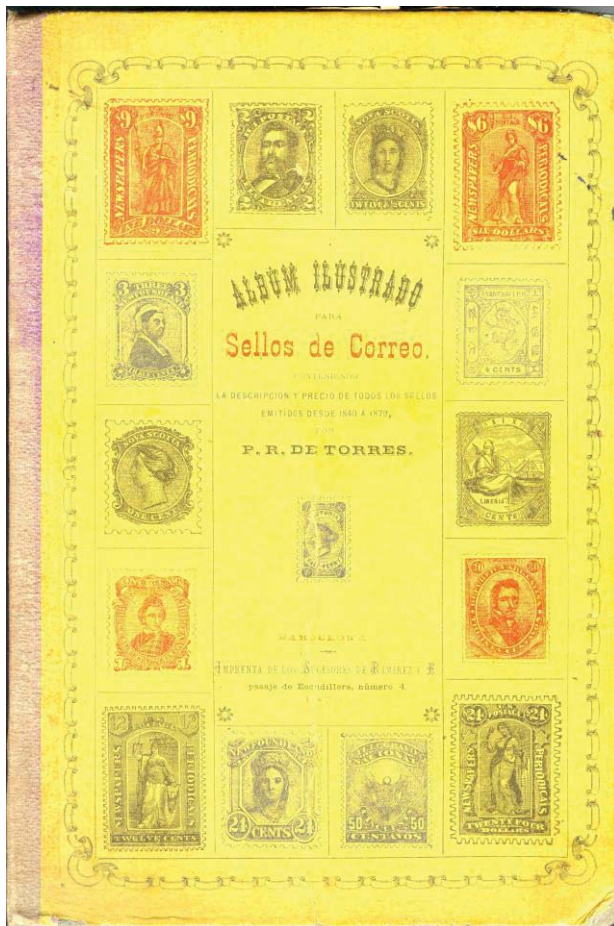


Fig. 1: Torres Album front page

## The “minor forgeries”

I discovered the first Torres-forgeries with the aid of his 1879 stamp-album and catalogue.<sup>1</sup> Most of them were copies of illustrations of low values he had furnished to his and his patron's clients, editors of the early European stamp magazines like *Le Timbre Poste* or *Stamp Collectors Magazine*, for their current publications on recently published issues.<sup>2</sup> Later they reappeared in their catalogues.



Fig. 2: genuine

<sup>1</sup> *How an Old Album Threw New Light on 19<sup>th</sup> century Forgeries*, Stamp Lover, vol. 108, n. 6, Dec. 2016, p. 174-176.

<sup>2</sup> *Die Lithographien des Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung [SBZ], 1-2, Januar/Februar 2020, 3/März 2020. (Revised version of the article with the same title published in Spanish and French [ECO FILATELICO, Sept. 2017; SBZ, 4, 7-8, 2019].



Fig. 3: illustration Torres' Album



Fig. 4: actual "minor forgery"

Once finished an illustration he made some black and white proofs and some "private copies" in colour. They were later put into stamp packets, an act that converted them into actual forgeries. They may be detected as well with the aid of the different editions of the Stanley Gibbons or the Moens catalogues that may serve as a kind of handbooks.<sup>3</sup> But, being low, single and cheap values, nobody cared about them, they were trashed and most of them got lost.

### The knowledge acquired

The research on traces Torres had left, led as well to the discovery of some strange, but finally revealing details of his very particular way of understanding his forging activities. When forgers normally used to copy the original it was to imitate it accurately, not so Torres, who included deliberately "errors" in some of his productions, not only in the illustrations, but as well in their copies converted into forgeries.

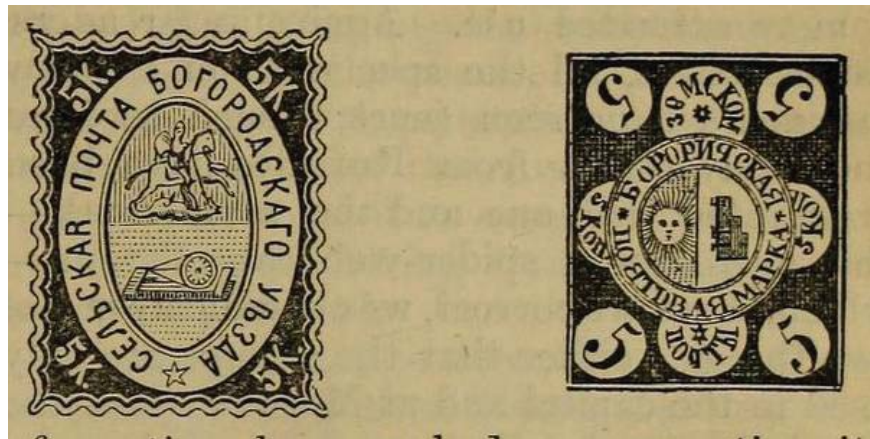


Fig. 5: (left): "R" instead of "Я"; (right): "P" instead of "ч" and "ПОВТДВАВ" instead of "ПОЧТОВАЯ"



Fig. 6: "V" instead of "Y"

<sup>3</sup> *The old Stanley-Gibbons Catalogues – Handbooks to Detect Forgeries?* Stamp Lover, vol. 112, n° 1, p. 12-15, Febr. 2020.



Fig. 7: Torres-forgery



Fig. 8: Torres bogus

The Spaniard created as well some pure fantasy stamps.<sup>4</sup> And he produced a lot of items, difficult to classify, “hybrids” between “error”- or “joke”-stamps, forgeries or bogus stamps.<sup>5</sup>

### His “major forgeries”

His production was, however, not limited to the above mentioned items. He also produced “major forgeries”, whole series and rare and expensive stamps. The few stamps of classic Spain, discovered by the German and US police on occasion of his arrests in 1886 and 1892, later described by the known American stamp collector K. K. Tiffany, were only the tip of the iceberg. But I was not able to discover any further trace of his activities until a lucky finding revealed, that he also produced fake cancels, partly collaborating with the Swiss forger François Fournier. Those cancels show as well the same extravagances and other similar practise as changing inscriptions, creating “jokes”, incomplete or “part-cancels”...<sup>6</sup>



Fig. 9: phantasy hand-stamp (middle) with “error” “SS”

Being this strange behaviour was unique in the world of forgeries, it was of decisive help to discover the “major forgeries” he had produced, imitations of high values or whole series of classic stamps of nearly all stamp issuing countries and territories world-wide.

The above mentioned knowledge, acquired during the research, opened the door to detect his forgeries, “error-jokes” and fantasies of the first Buenos Aires issue, the so-called “barquitos” (steamships). Through the cancels applied on those fakes, obviously as well his work, most of his Italian and South American forgeries could be detected. The results are being published little by little

<sup>4</sup> *The Moens-Torres Fantasy Stamps and Forgeries*, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n. 2, April 2017, p. 52-53 (part I); n. 3, June 2017, p. 77-79 (part II); n. 4, August, p. 109-111 (part III).

<sup>5</sup> GLV: *The Stamp Fun Factory – Poking Fun on Editors and Collectors*, Stamp Lover, vol. 109, n° 6, Dec. 2017, p. 173-175.

<sup>6</sup> *Las „bromas españolas“ de Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Eco Filatélico, febrero 2019, p. 28-30. *Fehlerhafte Inschriften. Ein Künstler und ein Fälscher als Geschäftspartner. François Fournier und Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung [DBZ], 7/2019, p. 22-24, 8/2019, 20-22. *Un fallo lo tiene cualquiera. Siguiendo las huellas de un falsificador*, Chile Filatélico, n° 299, tomo XXIX, mayo-octubre 2019, p. 39-43.



in the affected countries. Finally, further comparison of different cancels that appeared on his forgeries added some important cancels to that seemingly never ending list.



Fig. 10: PARAGUAY instead of URUGUAY



Fig. 11: Partial cancel: [C] ARACAS

ARACAS

### The Missionary-issues

Despite the initially mentioned errors concerning the analysis of the Missionary-issues I have to admit, I still keep maintaining that Torres and not Scott was the author of the so-called "Scott-strip". But this



Fig. 12: supposed Scott-made strip

opinion has to be evidenced now by different arguments.

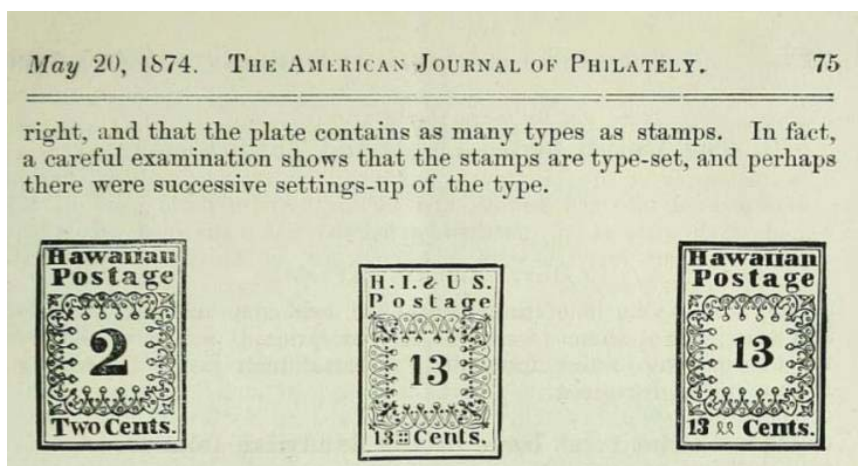


Fig. 13: : illustration AJPh

Illustrations of three of the stamps of the strip had been first presented in Moens' review *Le Timbre-Poste*. So, they were obviously Torres' products.<sup>7</sup> About a year later, Scott republished the article in his *American Journal of Philately* [AJPh], but he used different illustrations.<sup>8</sup> These show an identical design as those of the strip. The question is: Who really made the strip? What points to the Spaniard?

<sup>7</sup> *Die Lithographen des Jean-Baptiste Moens*, Schweizer Briefmarken Zeitung [SBZ], 1-2, Januar/Februar 2020, 3/März 2020. (Revised version of the article with the same title published in Spanish and French [ECO FILATELICO, Sept. 2017; SBZ, 4, 7-8, 2019].

<sup>8</sup> *American Journal of Philately*, vol. 8, May 20, 1874, p. 75.



Fig. 14: FOUR instead of CUAT(R)O

A look at the design of the 2cts and 5cts-value shows the lack of the dot above the first “l” of Hawaii. More telling than this omission is the changed inscription of the lower label. Instead of letters [FIVE] we see a numeral [5]. Both facts point to Torres and fit perfectly the meanwhile repeatedly demonstrated very particular “technique of forging” practised by him.

But there’s another, much stronger argument that contains in my opinion 100% evidence. Except for the illustrations of the American Locals & Carriers, all other illustrations Scott’s magazine used during the 10 years of publication are from Torres.<sup>9</sup> So are as well all his catalogue-illustrations up to the early 1880’s.



Fig. 15: joke: ciphers instead of characters

### Some Torres fake cancels



Fig. 16: Different Torres-cancels on the same forgery (courtesy Kenneth Pugh)



Fig. 17: Torres-phantasy: Undecipherable signs, meaningless word

The Spaniard was very creative “re-designing” or re-inventing some of his objects to copy. A similar creativity can be found in the production and application of his fake-cancels.

<sup>9</sup> *The Early Scott Catalogues and Their Illustrations. Discovering a Spanish Forger’s Footprints*, Collectors Club Philatelist, n° 96, Nov.-Dec. 2017, p. 205-210.

A comparing look at different cancels applied to the same types of forgeries of other countries shows, that we can identify several of those cancellations, some known from forged Hawaiian stamps as well. One is the circular “VF”-cancel. It consists of two “words” placed on the upper part of the circle. The first one shows various cryptic characters or signs, the second a meaningless “DOCIWL”. Between this inscription and a fat dot on the opposite side of the circle we see a centred “VF” [possibly “V(SIGLI) F(IRENZE)” as a kind of trademark of Torres’ patron].

The „K. K. ZEITUNGS – EXPEDITION“- cancel is another of the typical handstamps Plácido applied to stamps of whatsoever country, although its “correct” use would have been limited to German or Austrian newspaper-stamps. A lot of forgeries from Spain and the Philippines that bear this strange cancellation have been recently identified as Torres-products.<sup>10</sup> Those last two mentioned cancels can be found, as we will see later, on his Hawaiian “major forgeries” as well.



Fig. 18: Torres-fake-cancel: K. K. ZEITUNGS-EXPEDITION

### Torres and the Spiros

The so-called *Spud-Papers* are a series of articles about the stamp forgeries available on the European philatelic market during the 1870’s, published by British experts in the stamp magazine *The Philatelist*. Recompiled in the early 1880’s, their authors pretended to name and shame the forgeries or facsimiles, produced or simply sold by the Hamburg sited firm H. & P. Spiro brothers. The particularity of those magazine-articles and their first recompilation was, that they had originals of one or various of the presented fake-values affixed to their pages. A recent revision and critical comparison has shown, however, that at least up to 20% of those forgeries are not the work of the Spiros, but of Torres.

As the study has shown as well, not few of the Torres-forgeries seem to be directly copied from the Spiro-facsimiles. Of course, it could as well be the other way round. Anyway, as (very) close copies they are sometimes quite difficult to distinguish one from another. The cancellations are not ever helpful, because some of the mute cancels used by the Hamburg brothers had been obviously copied as well. As far as the Hawaiian forgeries are concerned, we can only rely in most of the cases on the most typical of the Spiro-cancels in order to describe the particularities in comparison with other imitations. So we will present, whenever available, the Spiro-facsimiles, identified by their most emblematic cancel, side by side with the Torres-fakes and the Spud-papers’-samples describing their differences, if existing. So, the comparison can be easily verified by the reader.

### The Boston engraved issue

#### The 5 cts-value



Fig. 19: genuine sample



Fig. 20: Spiro-facsimile



Fig. 21: Spud Papers sample



Fig. 22: Torres-forgery

<sup>10</sup> Plácido Ramón de Torres and His Cuban Forgeries. Plácido Ramón de Torres y sus falsos de Cuba. Journal of Cuban Philately. Revista de Filatelia Cubana. Vol. 10, no. 4, issue 38, October – December 2019, p. 3 -14.

The big, even on most used fakes, a clearly visible dot at the chin of King Kamehameha, is in my opinion the easiest way to identify the “Spiro-facsimiles” among the forgeries of this issue, if the “typical” Spiro-cancel does not relate it at first sight. The figure #22 shows a Torres-forgery that we can identify as well by its typical VF-cancel.

The *Spud-papers*-sample (fig. 21) bears a cancels that can't be identified, but it does not show the particular dot at the chin. It coincides with the Torres-sample in its defects as the right line of the inner frame that only reaches from above until the level of the lower right peak of the inscription-banderole. If continued, it would cut off a small part of the central background that has no clear limits in that area. At the left of the central image the vertical frame line continues all the image long being in its lower part twice as big. A lower frame line does not exist. We can see instead of it a wide white space that ends at the value label. Those coincidences make clear, that the *Spud-papers*-sample is by no means a Spiro-product, but a Torres-forgery showing both all those distinctive signs that distinguish them from the facsimile.

### The 13 cts-value



Fig. 23: Genuine sample



Fig. 24: Irregular “mini-tiling”



Fig. 25: background = diagonally crossed lines

The dot at the chin and the typical cancel are again evidence enough to identify the first sample (fig. 24) as a “Spiro-facsimile”.

The defects of the frame lines that had clearly identified the 5c-Torres and *Spud-Papers*-sample have disappeared in this value. Although it shows basically the same central part as before, it has been slightly retouched. However, the king's physiognomy shows a lot of discriminating features. The whole face and the nose are, mainly at their right side, smaller than at the Spiro. The eyes have a different form, the pupils as well. The lines marking the shoulders are twice as big.

Although the clearly detectable differences leave no space for doubts that figure #26 is not a Spiro-fake, they are by themselves not 100% conclusive what the attribution to Torres is concerned, because there was no Torres-cancel on any of the samples I could see. As 30-40 non-Spiro-items out of the 150 forgeries presented in the *Spud-Papers* could be clearly identified as Torres-products, the probability that I'm right is very high.

### The Torres forgeries of the Numeral-issue



Fig. 27: Torres' VF-cancel



Fig. 28: Torres' VF-cancel



Fig. 29: two values, same cancel: K. K. ZEITUNGSEXPEDITION:



Fig. 30: Two values, same cancel: K. K. ZEITUNGSEXPEDITION



Fig. 31: Another Torres-cancel



Fig. 32: Different Torres cancels on error/joke-stamps



Fig. 33 & 34: Different Torres cancels on error/joke-stamps



Fig. 35: Bogus, probably Torres-made

In the left lateral labels of the presented samples appears a changed inscription. What should spell “HAWAIIAN” reads and spells in reality “HAWAHAN”. The two letters were converted into one [“H”] joining them with a central horizontal stroke. And that gives us the hint. This “error” points to Torres, but it is by itself not yet conclusive. The two different typical Torres-cancels I can present on various forged items, however, eliminate all doubts.

One of the forged values of the numeral-issue, the 2c, reveals on two different levels the authorship of our forger. It is the “K. K. ZEITUNGSEXPEDITION”- one-ring-cancel that has been identified and recently documented on Torres-forgeries of Spain and Cuba.<sup>11</sup> The second sample I’ll present not only shows the same “printing error”, but as well 8-grid rhomboid cancel, never in use in Hawaii either.

The 5c-sample presented here shows the same “errors” and defects as the previously presented fellow samples, even in black and blue. With the rhomboid grid-cancel another of Torres’ phantasy-stamp samples appears again. The two first samples present as well a second “error-joke”, this time in the right lateral inscription, where the final “A” of “LETA” has disappeared. And the three samples could be qualified as well as bogus, because the 5c-sample was not issued for inter-land-mail, as Torres’ upper inscriptions reads, but for foreign mail.

Among the samples of the pool of existing forgeries of this issue remains a strange 13c bogus-value to attribute to a forger (fig. 35). Actual existing bogus values within a classic series of a forged issue usually point to our forger. The multitude of additional final dots, one after each part of the inscription, is a rare fact that seems to confirm again his authorship. That completes the presentation of the Torres’ numeral-issue-forgeries.

<sup>11</sup> Plácido Ramón de Torres and His Cuban Forgeries. Plácido Ramón de Torres y sus falsos de Cuba. Journal of Cuban Philately. Revista de Filatelia Cubana. Vol. 10, no. 4, issue 38, October – December 2019, p. 3 -14.

## Elua



Fig. 36: Genuine sample



Fig. 37: Spiro-facsimile



Fig. 38: Torres-forgery

The different forgeries of this issue are rather difficult to distinguish one from another. A great number of them bear moreover cancels that kill the design and the possibilities to detect really distinguishing signs. So, in most cases the only chance not to fail is a clearly identifiable Torres-cancel, very scarce on this stamp. The very small number of items I have seen was not enough to establish the minute existing differences.

### The Bank-note-issue



Fig. 39: Different forgeries (Post-office in Paradise)

The Hawaiian web-site “Post Office in Paradise” dedicates a lot of space to presentation of the early Hawaiian issues and their forgeries.<sup>12</sup> The paragraph *Frame lines on a Spiro forgery* lists all values of the Bank-note-issues putting them side by side with the genuine.<sup>13</sup> In two cases (5c and 6c) we find as well other forgeries that “may have emanated from someone other than Spiro”, as the text reads.

<sup>12</sup> <http://www.hawaiianstamps.com/bank.html> and <http://www.hawaiianstamps.com/bankfor.html> [04.07.2020; 8.40].

<sup>13</sup> I don't agree with the author what his Sc #33 and 34 (6c and 18c) concerns. In my opinion both samples he presents are made by Torres, as their cancellations reveal. I could not find, however, samples with one of the two typical Spiro-cancels applied on other samples presented here for the 6c.



Fig. 40: Genuine samples Bank-note-issue



Fig. 41: Spiro-facsimile



Fig. 42: Torres-forgery



Fig. 43: Spiro-facsimile



Fig. 44: Different Torres-cancels, same value



Fig. 45: Different Torres-cancels, same value



Fig. 46: Spiro-facsimile



Fig. 47: Different Torres-cancels on the same value



Fig. 48 & 49: Different Torres-cancels on the same value

Fig. 50: Torres-forgery



Fig. 51: Spiro-forgery



Fig. 52: Torres-forgery

Indeed, three of the four samples are Torres-forgeries we can identify because of their different and particular cancels. Like in the case of the previously presented stamp, I'll not analyse the minute differences in details between the Spiro- and the Torres-forgeries. The presentation of samples with the typical cancels that reveal their origins should be enough.

**A short side-glance at a kindred spirit**

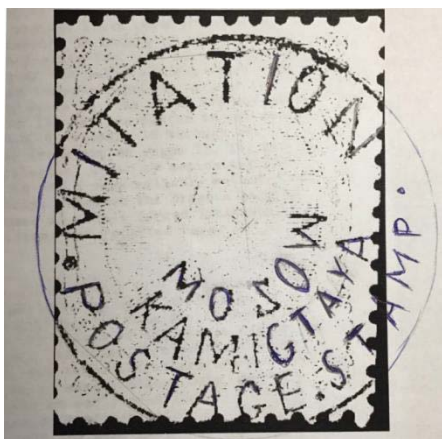


Fig. 53: Kamigata-cancel



Fig. 54: Maeda/Kamigata forgeries



Fig. 55: Maeda/Kamigata forgeries



To most collectors the names of the Japanese forger Kishei Maeda and the seller and distributor of his products, Kamigata, are not really familiar. The work of this Japanese duo shows some particularities very similar to those known from Torres. Both were up to a certain point using or applying the same strange forging practises.<sup>14</sup> Although a lot of their “error”-fakes are documented and described, nobody suspected up to now, that their errors were deliberately introduced as well. To avoid their misidentification with Torres, I’ll mention some of them I could detect.

However, there’s no evidence of the said practise, in the here presented samples, no errors are included. Taking in account the telling cancellation applied on our sample (fig. 45), there can’t be any doubt that the first fake was made in the Japanese workshop. The “self-confessing” fake-cancel, a way to avoid legal prosecution for forgery, was mostly applied on non-Asian-forgeries.<sup>15</sup> The second sample seems to show another of their forgeries of the same issue. I’ve to admit that there may remain some doubts because of the only partly visible cancel. Maybe some collectors dispose of samples with a neater cancel and possibly as well of samples of other values.

Acknowledgements: My thanks are to Evert Klaseboer, author of the *CD-ROM-Catalogue* and Nelson Laviotte who allowed me to complete the photos of my own, very reduced old Hawaii-collection with their images.

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<sup>14</sup> A recently published study demonstrated, that the produce of the Japanese forger(s) Kamigata/Maeda show sometimes a similar strange behaviour. He/They, certainly, forged some Hawaiian stamps as well. *Kishei Maeda, Plácido Ramón de Torres und ihre Eigenarten. Eingebaute Fehler. Die Einzigartigkeit zweier Fälscher*, Teil II, DBZ 2020, SE 7, S. 12-14; Teil II, SE 9, S. 28-30.

<sup>15</sup> Varro E. Tyler(+): *Japanese Forgeries of non-Japanese Stamps*, Fakes, Forgeries, Experts, #5, May 2005.

# POSTAGE PAID LABELS OF MELBOURNE GPO – 4AUG20

*By Brian Fuller*

Postage Paid labels have been around since the 1960s and are generally regarded as a blight on stamp collecting. However, their introduction for controlling Point-of-Sale transactions is of immense assistance to Australia Post with their financial management.

The following series indicates the series of Postage Paid labels I am aware of being used over the years. If anyone has earlier or later dates or samples I have missed I would be pleased to receive the data.

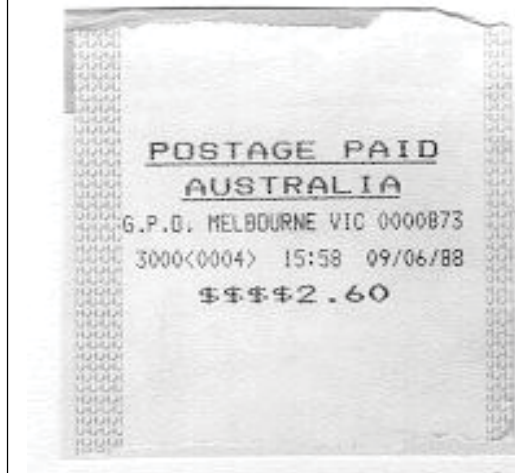
I have expanded the previous details of the labels to include the dates of the different coloured papers and the different coloured edge strips. Accordingly I have deleted GPOPP3 as it is the same print format as GPOPP2. The other catalogue numbers have decreased by one.

Only one print difference I have discovered and that is GPOPP4A. The period mark between MELB and VIC is absent. I have only one copy of that machine number. The label is a good print-out so it must have been omitted in programming.

**GPOPP1** 18NOV71 – 5MAR85  
Machines 1, 2, and 3.



**GPOPP2** 9JUN88 – 27SEP91



**GPOPP3** only copy 31OCT91



**GPOPP4** – 21JAN91 – 20JUL94



**GPOPP5** – 21MAY93 – 28MAY93



**GPOPP6** – 23FEB98 – 15APR98



**GPOPP7** – 12OCT01 – 16JAN06



**GPOPP8**



**GPOPP9**



**GPOPP10**



**GPOPP11**



**GPOPP12**



**GPOPP1** 18NOV71 – 5MAR85 Machines 1, 2, and 3.

All cream paper.

**GPOPP2** 9JUN88 – 24SEP93

Grey edge 1JUN88 – 3DEC90

Pink edge 27SEP91 – 24FEB93

Pink paper 8DEC88

**GPOPP3** 26MAR91 – 8OCT93

Grey edge 26MAR91 – 22APR91

Pink edge 31OCT91 – 3OCT93

**GPOPP4** 18FEB91 – 20JUL94

Grey edge 18FEB91 – 22APR91

Pink edge 11OCT91 – 20JUL94

**GPOPP4A** 10JUL91

Grey edge NIL

Pink edge 10JUL91

**GPOPP5** – 14OCT90 – 28MAY93

Grey edge 14OCT90

Pink edge 22JAN93 – 28MAY93

**GPOPP6**– 24SEP97 – 15APR98

Grey edge NIL

Pink edge 24SEP97 – 15APR98

No weight was displayed 24SEP97. Weight to a country of destination or postcode was from 23FEB98 – 15APR98.

**GPOPP7** – 12OCT01 – 7JUL08

Grey edge 12JUN02 – 7JUL08.

Pink edge 12OCT01 – 21JUN04.

This is the only machine series with paper type overlap. Presumably to use whatever was left over.

The samples **GPOPP8 – 12** on rectangular white glossy paper are produced by EPOS machines. I have so few samples that start and end dates are virtually meaningless and they may still be used at the GPO Shop but have no samples to verify. Physical access to Melbourne is absolutely restricted due to the Corona virus.

If anyone has different samples please advise. All contributions will be acknowledged.

## Hand-Held Date Stamps

**Co-ordinated by George Vearing**

Again I thought that this column was in trouble until a fellow member came to my rescue with a lot of mostly Victorian and some go back quite a few years.

Not much to report but the most notable is the off centre dateline of Yeppoon of Queensland of 2016

Many thanks to Joan Orr, John Young, Tony Lyon, Richard Peck and Frank Adamik who help to keep this column going.

A.C.T..



N.S.W.



S.A.

QLD



TAS.

VIC.



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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

## Back Page

**John Young**

### Tonga Postcard to Golden Square, Bendigo, Victoria 1911

This attractive postcard was sent from Tonga to Golden Square, Bendigo, Victoria in April 1911. It was addressed to Will Pethard [1893-1966], the second son of George Pethard who established the Taraxale soft drink factory in Numurkah, Victoria in 1898. He moved to Bendigo in 1909.

The Pethard family, members of the Golden Square Methodist [temperance] church, lived at Taraxville in Panton Street, Golden Square. Tarax soft drinks were well known in Victorian milk bars and cafes well into the 1960s.



The postcard is dated 4 April 1911 from Haapai, the name of the middle group of islands in the kingdom of Tonga. It is uprated to 1 ½ pence, probably correctly as postcards between Australia and remote places did not fall from that amount to 1 penny postage until May 1911.