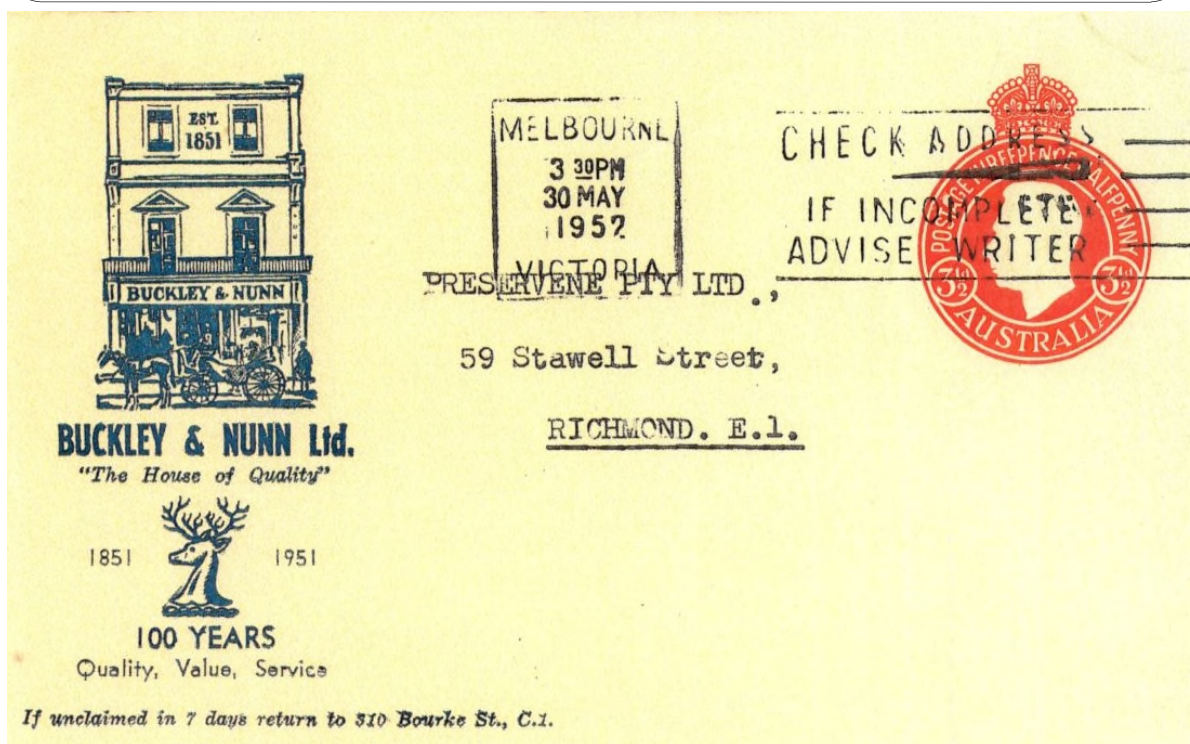


Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 156 June 2021



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Dandenong Letters Centre

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Date	2021 / 2022 Programme	Display
16 August 2021	AGM	Members Work-in-Progress
18 October 2021	Frank Pauer	Early Australian 1st Day Covers
14 or 21 Dec 21	Christmas Meeting	Members 4-10 page exhibit

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Front Cover : Buckley and Nunn

John Young

This envelope is a common postal stationery item, but additionally imprinted for the centenary of Buckley and Nunn's department store.

Mars Buckley [1825-1905] started trading in Ballarat in 1851. In 1853-54 he opened a drapery store in Bourke Street, Melbourne in partnership with C J Nunn.

Beginning with a 3 metres frontage, the business was enlarged in stages to become a leading department store. The company was taken over by David Jones in 1982.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

A lot to edit this month which has taken extra time as well as the President experiencing computer issues, or at least his good wife has, resulting in a 'Not from the President' this issue. Trust it can be rectified before September issue.

Covid continues to impact upon us here in Victoria meaning meetings are often subject to cancellation and many, even if a meeting is able to be held, not prepared to venture out. There have been excellent displays that were shown recently but we could have held the meeting in a telephone box; remember what they were!

Australia Post should get a mention here. What was once a service appears to have become a nuisance. We were told that because of Covid, service or lack thereof would decrease to every second day. But it seems that cunningly they space the delivery out with a day in between consequently you get Monday – Wednesday-Friday followed by Tuesday-Thursday. I have a cunning plan as Baldrick was wont to say. (<https://blackadderquotes.com/i-have-a-cunning-plan>).

We have had a number of excellent articles supplied from various sources and for that the editor is thankful. Keep up the good work and keep safe.

Until next time ciao.

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Notice of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and REPORT and STATEMENT of ACCOUNTS for year ending 30 June 2020 Meeting to be Held 19 August 2021, 8.00pm; Venue to be advised.

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Annual General Meeting held 20 August 2019 (Due to Covid lockdown)
3. The President (or his nominee) will report on the year's work of the Society
4. The Honorary Librarian's Report and other reports will be presented
5. The report of the Honorary Treasurer on the Accounts will be read
6. To receive and adopt Accounts of the Society for year to 30 June 2022
7. Elections:
 - a) The following nominations for Officers of the Society have been received:
President: John Young;

Vice-President — no nomination;

Secretary Ian Sadler

There being no other nominations, the above-named will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected.
 - b) The under mentioned Officers being eligible have offered themselves for re-election and there being no further nominations, will at the Annual General Meeting be deemed to be elected:

Honorary Treasurer - John Steward - Honorary Librarian — John Young
 - c) Following nominations for Members of Council have been received: Tony Lyon, and since no other nominations were received, said will be deemed to be elected as Members of Council.
8. To appoint an Auditor in accordance with the Constitution.
9. Any other business that may arise.

The Spud Papers' Errors - The confusion of the British Experts

By Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Introduction

When, about 30 years ago, I got for the first time consciously in touch with stamp forgeries, what I now call the "Spiro-myth" was already long time established. It was taken for common knowledge that the Spiro brothers of Hamburg were the most prolific stamp forgers of the 19th century, although it was sometimes admitted, that they never had hidden that their products were not warranted genuine stamps, but only facsimiles.



Fig. 1: Spud-Papers-front-page (reedition)

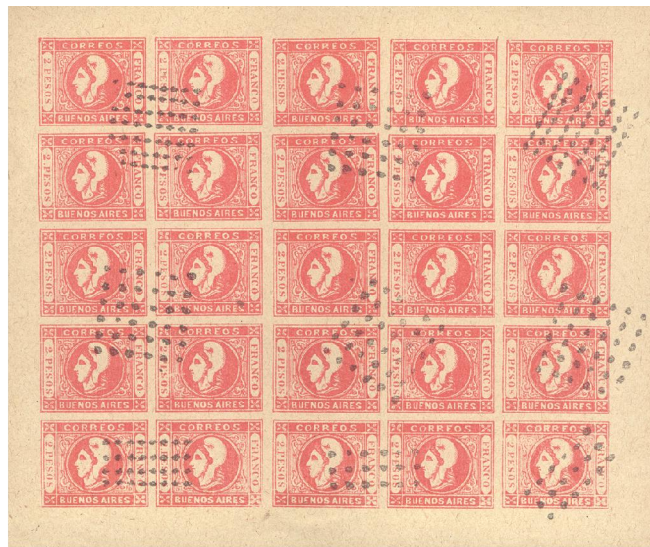


Fig. 2: supposed 5x5 "Spiro-sheet"

Those facsimiles were supposedly sold in 5x5 sheets and most of them would be identified by their typical cancels. The main source for these assertions all collectors of classic stamps had assumed as unquestionable truth, were the so-called *Spud Papers*, a series of 63 articles published by three British experts, W. Dudley Atlee, Edward L. Pemberton and Robert B. Earée, in a section of *The Philatelist* between 1870 and 1876, accompanied by original fake-samples affixed to its pages.¹

We all believed what our „Spud-Bible“ told us, although we had here and there some negligible doubts, me too. It was in the context of my research on the life and work of the little known Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1918), when I first realized that there were severe and reasonable doubts about not few aspects of our safely believed and beloved knowledge. But until I had finished the biography of the Spaniard, I had not time enough to dedicate to resolving those problems.² When I consciously read the original text of the *Spud Papers*, I found even more contradictions. Obviously our three evangelists made some mistakes.

¹ Some further deliveries (Nr. 64 – 67) were published in *The Philatelic Quarterly* and *The Stamp Collector's Annual*.

² Plácido Ramón de Torres. *From Foundling to Master Forger*, Cieza/Spain, Dec. 2020. Downloadable at www.Philacreativ.de

First Mistakes Discovered



Philippines

Egypt

Uruguay

Figs. 3 & 4: Spud Papers' samples with typical (VF-) Torres-cancel

Fig. 5: Torres' ARREGONDO-fake-cancel

Although the authors stated and insisted in the introduction to the very first delivery of the Spud Papers, they would exclusively dedicate their presentations to the products of the Hamburg firm, this self-limitation was not strictly followed. They included e.g. what in their opinion were some forgeries of the also German forger Engelhardt Fohl.³ So, the American expert and Spud Papers' compiler Lowell Ragatz qualified in the 1950's the presented selection as "chiefly" focused on the Spiros.⁴ In a first provisional and cursory approach I discovered that the first deliveries contained quite a few Torres/Usigli forgeries. Without having done a detailed analysis of the whole work, I talked about, thought and wrote in my articles long time of an estimated 20% extrapolated to all articles.

Harsh critics, surprising results

Harsh critics of my "Torres-Fiction" obliged me to make up leeway and deliver a detailed and compared study in order to demonstrate, that I was right.⁵ I choose the first 19 deliveries (I-IX) that provide, in my opinion, a representative database of 40 stamps and I compared their high resolution scans with scans and actual samples of their corresponding "Spiro"-forgeries, identified by their typical cancels.⁶ In most cases there was even no need for a detailed comparison, because the cancels applied at the Spud-samples delated a lot of them already at first sight as Italo-Spanish products. About a 60% of the stamps turned out not to be "Spiros", but forgeries made by Torres and Usigli.⁷ This totally unexpected and very surprising result, however, seemingly can't be extrapolated to the whole scope of the work.

Further doubts

A detailed, subsequently made study pretended to reveal how many "Spiros" were really offered and sold by the Swiss forger François Fournier. The Spud-Paper-items as well as all other available sure "Spiro"-facsimiles were included in the comparison of the forged originals with those of the so-called "Fournier-Album", composed by the Geneva Philatelic Union in 1929 with the rest of the stock of Charles Hirschburger, the successor of François Fournier. The result of the comparison was, again a surprise. Only five out of the about 70 known different single "Spiro"-stamps or issues have a really corresponding "partner" of the same issue and type in this album.

³ See # LIII.

⁴ Lowell Ragatz: Introductory Essay to *The Spud Papers*, Emile Bertrand, Lucerne, 1951, p. 8.

⁵ See Chris Harman: BWISC-bulletin #266 and my answer in a letter to the editor published in the December-issue (#270).

⁶ Die *Spud Papers*, Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung, #22, Oktober 2020, p. 14-26.

⁷ Six samples could not be identified by their photos or scans and could not be attributed to any forger. 24 out of the 34 remaining samples were Torres-fakes, 10 were "Spiros".

The comparison included as well the two 5x5 sheets depicted by Ragatz in his introduction or in later Spud Paper editions on the front-page of the book: one from Tuscany and one from Mauritius. The stamps of the first don't appear at all among the Spud Paper-samples. Those of the Mauritius-sheet do. But the samples on the inner pages as well as the samples of the Fournier Album show different types and different issues! Compare figure 6 and 7. At least a strange finding.

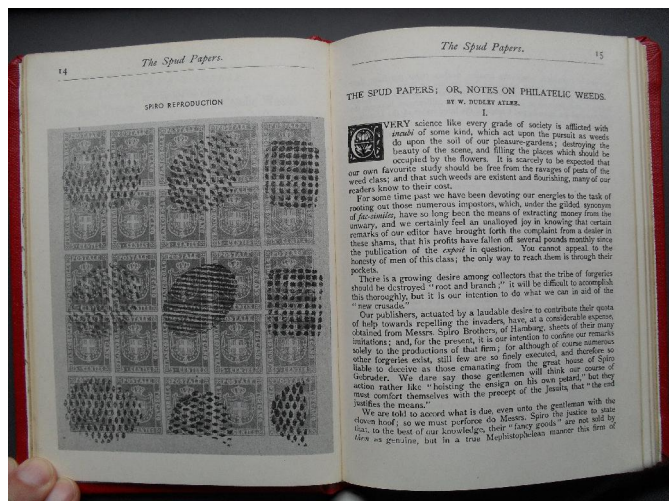


Fig. 6: Tuscany Spiro(?) -sheet



Fig. 7: enlarged clipping from the Mauritius-sheet

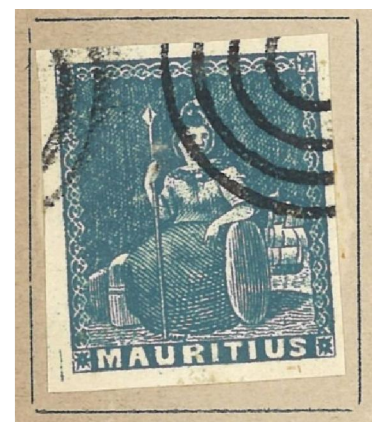


Fig. 8: original Spud Papers' fake



Fig. 9 & 10: Two different types. Compare the eagle's tail and the upper and lower adornments just above and below the eagle.

The distribution of the dots of the background of the coat of arms and the upper and lower central ornaments show the most eye-catching differences, impossible in the same type.

The author or whosoever affixed the original fakes at the pages with the articles, obviously placed in some cases imitations of the same issue made by different forgers, that they were not aware of, when describing the fakes and affixing them at the pages. In the case of the Lübeck-issue (# VI), I found in two different samples of the same number of *The Philatelist* (1871, p. 90) the two clearly different types of forgeries you can see in figure 8 and 9.



Fig. 11: Spud Papers' sample



Fig. 12: Spiro and Spud Papers' in opposition

The second confusion occurred with the 10 cents-value of the 1860 New Brunswick issue (# XIX). The book-sample does not show the typical "Spiro"-cancel but an ellipse of diamonds that might have been as well used on those fakes (fig. 10). But a comparing look at a sample with a sure "Spiro"-cancel on the same value, reveals that we look again at two different types (fig. 11). The left, descending stroke of the roman cipher "X" at the upper right side is totally vertical in the second sample, whereas we see a more or less naturally stroke on the "Spiros"; furthermore, the areas surrounding both upper value-labels show a different extension of differing background shading. The width between the vertical outer and inner frame-line (left more than right) is clearly different in both types.



Fig. 13: Forgery with a typical Torres-cancel

A similar thing occurs with the fakes of the second issue of Japan, the so-called cherry-blossoms of 1873/4.⁸ When I finished some time ago another study about some up to that date not identified Torres-forgeries of those stamps, I also had to state, that there exist on nearly all values various different Europe-made forgeries, characterized by different cancels, among them as well the "Spiros".⁹



Fig. 14 & 15: Spud Papers' sample (left), Spiro-sample (right)

Now that I dispose of "Spiro"-cancelled samples of all values, I can assure, that they coincide indeed with the Japanese-samples of the *Spud Papers*, except for the 12-sen value that shows a different cancel, generally supposed to be "Spiro"-made, but my undoubtedly Spiro-cancelled version differs

⁸ I treat the issue with and without syllabics as if it were one only.

⁹ The Japanese experts classify all those clearly different types of forgeries as Spiros. *Some Unidentified or Misidentified Forgeries of the Classic Issues of Japan*, AJPh 152, June 2020, p. 21-26.

from it.¹⁰ The easiest way to verify those differences is prolongating the vertical stroke of the letter “E” of the lower inscription in each sample. The lines will cross the opposite inscription label in different points, one touching the cipher “2”, the other not. Another way is to do the same with the lines of the four three-stroke-separations between the Latin and Japanese inscription, which are supposed to be in diagonal opposition. This is more or less the case with the lower left and upper right items in both types, whereas, when prolongating those lines of the lower (right) item of the set, their orientation is clearly different in both samples. Those differences can be observed comparing all “Nagasaki-cancelled” fakes with their corresponding “Spiro”-values.

I think that’s another evidence that the authors mixed up “Spiros” and other forgeries, that were at that same time on the philatelic market in England.



Fig. 16: typical Spiro cancel type I



Fig. 17: supposed Spiro cancel type II



Fig. 18: Bahamas forgeries (cancel type I)

The last, most recent discovery I’ll present now, is probably the most astounding. I myself had taken until recently the two above depicted cancels for undoubtedly “Spiro”-made products (fig. 16, 17). The second one, however, must be another forger’s work and trademark. We find both cancels on forgeries of the same issues of several countries, but those forgeries are in each case of a different type.¹¹

¹⁰ Certainly, as well all other Nagasaki-cancelled values of this issue differ in their design from the “Spiro”-cancelled items. That means, they are all different types of forgeries.

¹¹ As far as my collecting efforts have been successful, I could gather actual samples or scans with both cancels on different types from Bahamas 1861, Cuba 1866 and 1867, Cape of Good Hope 1853, La Guaira 1864, New South Wales 1851 1868, St. Vincent 1861, Shanghai QV, Sierra Leone 1872 and the Straits Settlements.

Two different approaches



Fig. 19: Bahamas forgeries (cancel type II)



Fig. 20: Spud Papers: grid-cancel



Fig. 21: Spud Papers: 4-ring-cancel

The just described discoveries necessitate a very cautious proceeding when analysing the remaining 105 samples of the *Spud Papers*, not considered in the first partial analysis. I'll present two analytic approaches. The first, let's call it "soft-mode-analysis", will not take into account any possibly doubtful cancel, the second will include all.



Fig. 22: Spud Papers: "Turkey"-cancel



Fig. 23: Spud Papers: line-cancel



Fig. 24: Spiro-sheet Sierra Leone



Fig. 25: Spiro sheet Egypt

As conclusive we can only consider the most emblematic of the above mentioned “Spiro”-cancels. Ten further ones, can be found applied together with it on some 5x5 so-called “Spiro”-sheets as Sierra Leone or Egypt) and must therefore be considered as well conclusive items, but, astonishingly, only one from Egypt appears on the *Spud Papers*-samples.

We’ll have to leave out the typical Spanish “parilla” (grid-cancel, fig. 20) used as well by Fournier, Torres and probably as well other Spanish forgers. The same occurs with different 4-ring-cancels like figure 21 shows or strange “Turkish-grid” (fig. 22).

First Approach:

For this first “soft-mode-approach” I had obviously to exclude 15 unused items affixed to the *Spud Papers* pages, as well as eight samples that show the above mentioned suspicious second “Spiro-cancel”. 22 samples could not be considered either, because of their rare not clearly identifiable cancels (e.g. Turkey, Cape of Good Hope, Victoria).

So, sixty samples finally entered in the comparison. Exactly a third part of them were doubt. I was unable to decide whether to classify them as “Spiro” or Torres/Usigli-forgeries. 25 samples were clearly “Spiros”, 15 products of Torres/Usigli.

Second Approach:

This second approach really serves to determine a hypothetical “worst case scenario” including the very huge number of previously excluded items as if they really were confirmed “Spiros”, even if they are doubtful. The number of non-“Spiros” stays the same: 15 out of now 105 analyzed items, nearly 15%.

Results:

For the second part of the *Spud Papers* (XX - LXVII) analysed in the present article, we’ve got an average of 37% in the first (“soft mode”) approach and a 15% for the “worst case”.

If we include now in this reckoning the results of the analysis of the first 19 deliveries [I – XIX: 24 Torres and 10 “Spiros” out of 40 samples, when 6 had to be excluded], we get the global result. Thirty-nine Torres/Usigli-forgeries and 55 “Spiros” in the “soft mode” or 39 and 106 out of the 145 samples in the “worst case scenario”. That is a 35% of the whole number. That means that the theoretical average for the whole book is approximately a 27%.

Resume:

The aim of the present article was to expound the confusion of the authors of the *Spud Papers* when classifying the forgeries. They obviously were not able to distinguish the Torres/Usigli from the so-called “Spiro”-forgeries and presented, as exemplarily demonstrated in the cases of Lübeck, New Brunswick and Japan both types of fakes as being the same. They did not realize that there is only one safe “Spiro”-cancel. So, we finally find a minimum of 27% non-“Spiro”-items affixed to the pages of their deliveries, slightly exceeding my initially estimated percentage for the whole work. Taking in account the huge number of excluded thus not identified items and applying the rules of probability, the real number of non-“Spiros” might be even higher.

Further considerations

The results of this analysis should make clear, that we all have been assuming a reality that is not such. The most important source that supposedly presented “chiefly Spiros” turned out to be not reliable with a minimum of 25% of errors as far as the attribution of the forgeries is concerned, a too huge percentage that does not allow to speak of safe identifications. We’ll probably have to bury some further well-trodden tales and beloved legends concerning the old forgeries and the Hamburg brothers.

AIRMAILS FROM HUNGARY TO AUSTRALIA 1938-39

Judith Kennett

A GROUP OF LETTERS TO THE AUSTRALIAN JEWISH WELFARE SOCIETY

Historical background in Hungary

These airmail covers, sent from Hungary to the Australian Jewish Welfare Society, Sydney in 1938-39 are part of a movement among the Jewish population to emigrate. In Hungary, anti-Jewish sentiment was a government sponsored trend; starting in the 1920s, the parliament had passed anti-Jewish laws, resulting in a constant flow of correspondence from those seeking to emigrate.

No doubt many sought to go to the United States of America, and many to Palestine or to Canada, but a proportion wanted to go to Australia. Some may have had family or friends here already, or business contacts and it was probably known that this was generally a tolerant society, where people of the Jewish faith were able to practise their religion freely and live their lives without the shadow and threat of organized, approved persecution. Also, it may have been an attractive destination, as Australia was at the time about as far from Europe as it was possible to travel.

Historical background in Europe at the time

The ambitions of Adolf Hitler for world domination were becoming more obvious but they were clearly manifested to the world by the Anschluss (Union) between Austria and Germany on 13 March 1938. Territorial demands were already being made on Czechoslovakia and Poland by the time of the Munich Pact of 29 September 1938 which was an attempt to appease Hitler by acceding to some of his demands. But this proved a vain hope: 15 March 1939 saw the forcible dismemberment of Czechoslovakia, and on 1 September 1939 Germany invaded Poland.

Immigration to Australia at the time

'It is alleged that by the Immigration Act of 1936, it was a requirement for the prospective comer to bring with him the sum of £200. It is likely that it would also have been helpful if the immigrant had a sponsor, a citizen resident in the country'.

The existence of the Australian Jewish Welfare Society (AJWS) was probably well known, and that would have been an obvious place to seek a sponsor. Some of the envelopes shown in this article most likely had held letters doing just that or following-up on earlier correspondence on the subject. This seems to apply to Figures 1 and 5, which came from the same sender in Budapest.

Some of the envelopes (Figure 6 particularly) indicate by the franking applied they had been heavy letters, so it can be assumed that they may have held 'supporting information', such as copies of birth certificates and educational or professional qualifications, letters of introduction, or references.

Explanation of postal rates in the figures

It is convenient here to set out the applicable rates for letters from Hungary to Australia at this time (1938-1939). These rates applied until mails between Hungary and Australia ceased in May 1941 (the latest example in my collection).

Basic letter rate in Hungary and worldwide at the time was 40 filler for a letter weighing 20 g or less. Each additional 20 g (weight step) or part thereof cost 20 filler.

Registration in Hungary and worldwide was 50 filler.

Airmail rate: This was a surcharge in addition to the basic letter rate. For Australia and New Zealand, the surcharge from 1936 to 1941 was 1Pengo 40 filler for each unit of 5 g or part thereof. (Note that 1 Pengo equalled 100 filler).

Description of Figures 1 – 6

It's probably most convenient to deal with the six figures in chronological order of posting.



Figure No 1 was posted at Budapest 62, the main city post office for foreign mail, on 12 December 1938. On 13 December it was received at the Post Office 20 at the Budapest airport (Repuloter). The franking indicates that the letter weighed about 10 gr. The sender's details are shown on the back flap, but there are no route or arrival markings.

Fig. 1:

Figure No 2 was posted at an Airmail counter (LEGIPOSTA) at Budapest 4 on 2 January 1939 and was sent registered. It was marked in pencil in the top left hand corner '20 g', probably by the postal clerk. It was received at the Airport on 3 January. The sender's details are shown on the back flap. The arrival cancel at Sydney GPO RS (Registered Service) is dated 15 January 1939, and on the same day it was received at the William Street Post Office, from whence it would have been delivered to the AJWS in Darlinghurst.



Fig. 2: Front



Fig. 2: Back



Fig. 3: Front

Figure No 3 was posted at Budapest 62 on 7 January, then at the end of the day was sent to the Airmail counter at Budapest [72]. The franking indicates that the letter weighed about 15 g. The sender's details are shown on the back flap, but there are no route or arrival markings.

Figure No 4 is interesting, because it was not posted in Budapest. It was posted in Pecs, a major city in Western Hungary, on 15 January 1939, and registered. It's also interesting that the postal clerk's calculations appear on the front of the envelope. The weight was 17 g. On 16 January the letter arrived at Budapest Airport (Repuloter). The sender's details on the back flap indicate that he lived in a 'suburb' of Pecs.



Fig. 4: Front

Markings on the back indicate that the letter arrived at Sydney GPO RS on 27 January 1939, and on 28 January it arrived at William Street Post Office, for delivery to AJWS.



Fig. 4: Back

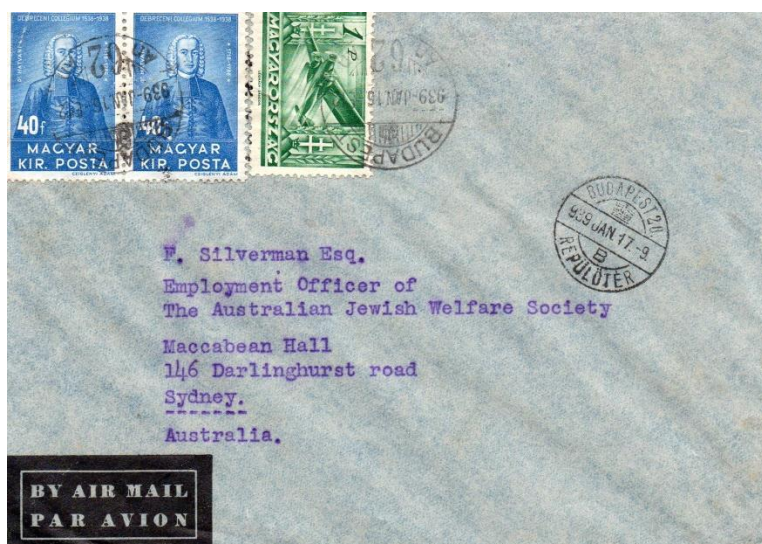


Fig. 5: Front

Figure No 5 was posted at Budapest 62 on 16 January 1939, and sent to Budapest Airport PO 20 on 17 January. The franking indicates a letter weighing about 5g. The sender's details on the back flap indicate that it was the same sender as Figure No 1. There are no route or arrival markings.

Figure No 6 is very frail, a survivor, which the author has had since 1999. It's been waiting for some fellow travellers. It was posted at Budapest 62 on 3 February 1939, and was franked with P10 40 filler, indicating a really heavy item. The weight would have been about 35 g, and the enclosed items eventually proved to be too much for the flimsy commercial envelope. It arrived at Budapest Airport on 4 February 1939.



Fig. 6: Front

The envelope was addressed to Canberra, and there is a Canberra machine cancel dated 14 February 1939. The envelope was endorsed in red ink 'Try Sydney'. On 15 February major repairs were undertaken with stamp selvedge at William Street Post Office, and the envelope was sealed with an official label which was signed by a postal officer. Unfortunately the repairs and the label have mostly covered the sender's name and address in Budapest.

Conclusion

Advice from a Hungarian-born collector, resident in the USA since 1956, indicates that these envelopes are but a small part of the story of Jewish emigration from Hungary prior to World War II. My grateful thanks go to contacts in the Hungarian collectors' societies in both the UK and USA for advice and for publishing Hungarian postal rates from pre-UPU to contemporary.



Fig. 6: Back

Albania: Philately from a Complicated Country: Part 2

John Young

Continued from March 2021 journal:

In the early 1920s Albania entered the era of air mail services. The limited road and rail services in Albania's mountainous terrain made the republic a candidate for aviation, and in 1922 the German Adria Aero Lloyd began an air passenger service. In 1925 a set of seven air mail stamps was issued, 5 qint to 3 francs. They, in turn were overprinted for the republic, the kingdom, and inauguration of an air route to Brindisi in Italy. Was there a whiff of philatelic swindle? Whatever, some of the overprints have escalated to eye-watering prices, and illustration 11 shows a selection.

As mentioned in part 1 of this article Ahmed Bey Zogu had elevated himself from president to king in September 1928. Sure enough stamp issues marked the occasion.

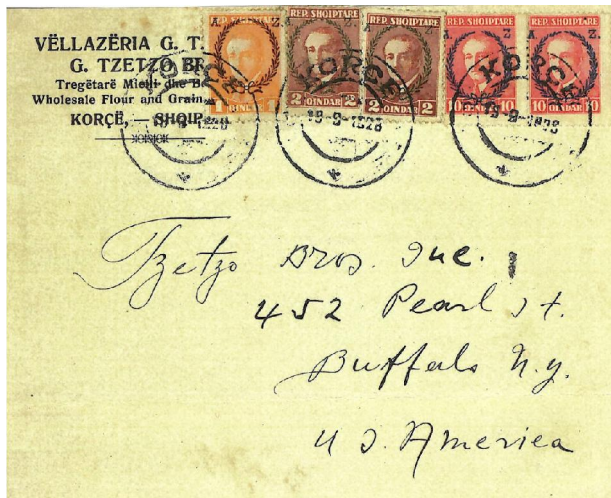


Fig. 12: The stamps depicting President Ahmet Zogu were overprinted for the second year of his presidency. The cover (1928) was sent by Tzetco Bros, Korçe, flour merchants, to their firm in New York.

[Illustration 12] is a cover with stamps portraying Zogu as president.

[Illustration 13] is a post card with two stamps portraying King Zog: the stamps were part of a set issued in 1930 for the second anniversary of Zog's accession to the kingship. The set, from 1q to 5 francs, became Albania's definitives.

Zog was unmarried. It is recorded that when in Budapest in 1938 he saw a beautiful young woman walking along a pavement. He was instantly smitten, he married the almost penniless Hungarian Countess Geraldine Apponyi. The marriage occasioned eight stamps and a miniature sheet for the royal wedding [illustration 14]. Their son was born in April 1939, three days before the family fled to Greece when the Italians invaded Albania. Mussolini had envied the eastern Adriatic for several years.

Zog's portrait stamps were overprinted for the Italian occupation, and the overprint included the



Fig. 11: Airmails: original issue (1925), republic (1927), Vlorë – Brindisi air service (1928), Kingdom (1929).



Fig. 13: Two x 5 qint definitives portraying King Zog on postcard from Tirane (1933) to Fiume.



Fig. 14: Royal Wedding, 1938.



Fig. 15: Airmail cover, July 1940, franked with Italian occupation stamps (35 qint) from Tirana to Milan.

The German occupation lasted from September 1943 until November 1944. Removal of the German forces was part of the general German retreat from the eastern front, but the retreat was stubborn and Albanian resistance forces endured a severe German offensive in May 1944. The situation was complicated by their being a communist resistance as well as an anti-communist nationalist resistance, and further complicated by the British taking a while to decide which lot to support. It was like the situation in Yugoslavia. The communist resistance was able to recruit on a massive scale however, and emerged as the stronger party in October 1944. The new government overprinted stamps left over from the Italian occupation, dating them 22. X. 1944, as shown in [illustration 17].

occupation date of 12 April 1939. Within a short time the Italian occupation government issued stamps with a portrait of Victor Emmanuel, and in 1940 issued air mail stamps. [Illustration 15] shows a cover franked with Victor Emmanuel and two of the air mail stamps for an air journey from Tirana to Milan. The occupation lasted until the Italian surrender to the Allies in 1943, and a German occupation followed immediately. The Italian occupation stamps were overprinted, and an example is shown in [illustration 16].



Fig. 16: German-occupation overprint on express stamp.



Fig. 17: Albanian overprint on Italian-occupation stamp.

The People's Republic of Albania came into being in 1946, and to mark the event Albania overprinted a set of stamps [for the second last time]; see [illustration 18].



Fig. 18: cover from Himare, south Albania, an area known in Greece as Epirus. Himare has a substantial Greek population, and nowadays is decorated in blue and white and has Greek-language schools, etc.

The cover is franked with stamps overprinted for proclamation of the Albanian People's Republic.

Total franking 11 franc 40 qint for registered airmail to USA, 1947.

In Albania's early postwar years the communist government concentrated on basic infrastructure. Railways were number one, and in 1947 a set of eight stamps was issued for the construction of a railway from Durres to Elbasan. It is barely 90 kilometres long, but much of the topography was challenging for pick and shovel work. [Illustration 19] is a postcard franked with two of the railway stamps.

Who was the person in charge of all this? The leader of the war-time partisans was Enver Hoxha [1908-85], who was of above average learning. He studied at a French Lycee in Korce [Albania] and the French university of Montpellier. His elevation to leadership came in 1943 when he was elected secretary-general of



Fig. 19: Postcard franked 17 qint, Tirana to Ljubljana, Slovenia. The stamps portray men and woman working on the Durres-Elbasan railway.



Fig. 20: The 5 lek definitive portraying General Enver Hoxha, issued 1949.

the Communist Party's political bureau. Within a year he was leader of the Party. Philatelically speaking, Hoxha came to light in 1949 when eight definitives were issued portraying him in an Army General's uniform [Illustration 20]. Hoxha was president until his death.

For several decades Albania's stamp issues celebrated anniversaries of war time events and liberation. Even a war time conference warranted commemorative stamps. In May 1944 the Albanian National Liberation Front had hastily convened a conference at the small town of Permet in southern Albania. Although knowing that the end of the war was near, the Front feared an Allied landing in Albania with a covert scheme of dismembering the country. A plan for resistance was needed, and the conference elected a committee to be the postwar provisional government executive. Known as the Permet Conference, the event's seventh anniversary was commemorated with four stamps [illustration21].The tenth anniversary was commemorated with six stamps in 1954 [illustration22].

Stutari. Bojana-Fluss mit Berg Tarabosch.

Me ushreqe
Vitet e ri 1955
Uroj qe ky vite t'jine
s'jete sukses dhe lumturi
ne te ardhmes t'ne
te jale.
D. Q. Tuzi

Georgji Gansov
Spitali civil. 9. XII
Tirane

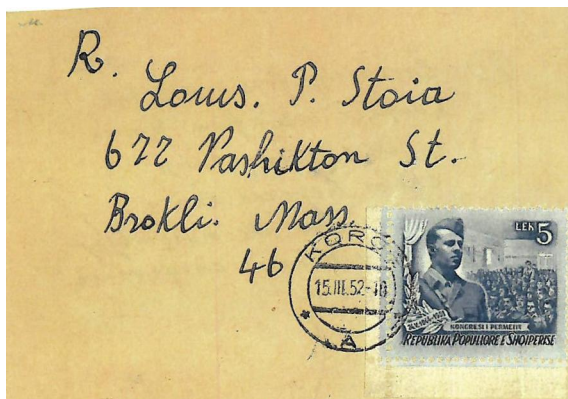


Fig. 21: Correctly franked 5 lek, surface mail from Korce to USA. The stamp shows General Enver Hoxha and the assembly at the Permet conference in 1944.

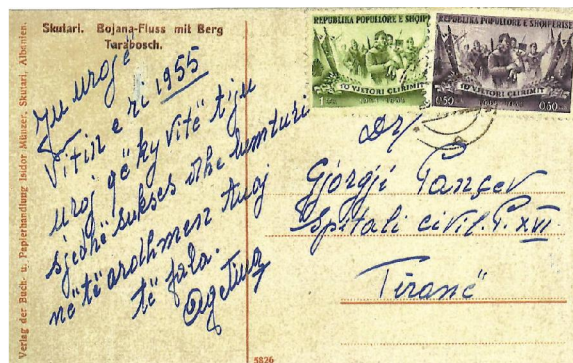


Fig. 22: Postcard franked with two of the stamps issued for the 10th anniversary of liberation. Franked 1.5 lek for delivery to Tirana.

Albania harboured suspicions of a Yugoslav takeover and hence attended to its alliance with USSR. Philatelic portraits of Lenin and Stalin cropped up regularly until Khrushchev gave every indication of deviating from strict communist orthodoxy, and furthermore told Albania that it should concentrate on producing raw materials for USSR instead of trying to industrialise. Relationships slowly froze and Albania intensified its long retreat into international isolation. Pro-Soviet Party officials were dismissed from office, and the 1960s also saw the Sino-Soviet rift deepen. Hoxha drew inspiration from the Chinese Cultural Revolution [c. 1965-70]. In 1968 Albania celebrated Mao Tse Tung's 75th birthday with two stamps. [Illustration 23] shows one of them, along with a contrasting 1958 cover franked with a stamp for the 40th anniversary of the Russian revolution.



Fig. 23a: Albania's romance with Communist China. One of two stamps issued in 1968.

During Hoxha's presidency Albania became officially an atheist country. Churches and mosques were taken down and only the most majestic religious buildings were kept for heritage reasons.

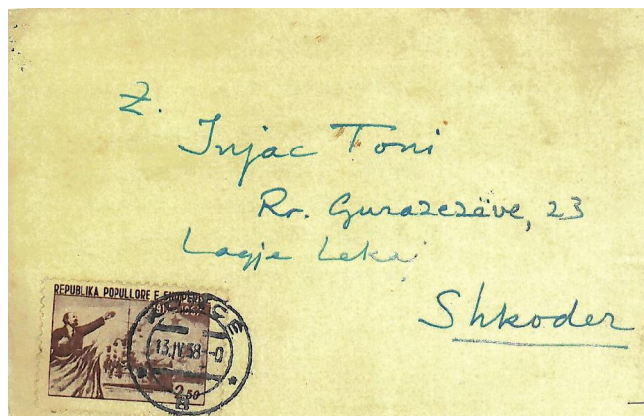


Fig. 23b: Domestic cover, Korce to Shkodra, franked with 2 lek 50 stamp depicting Lenin, issued in 1957 for 40th anniversary of Russian revolution.



Fig. 24: Albania's national heroine Mother Teresa, 1992.

Hoxha's presidency ended with his death in April 1985, seven years after he fallen out with the successors to Mao who had died in 1976. Hoxha's death was followed by the fall of European communism in the late 1980s. Long running unrest occurred throughout Albania in the early 1990s and the atheistic dogma fell into the discard. Agnes Bojaxhi, an Albanian who had lived in Yugoslav Macedonia, became a national pin-up. Better known as Mother Teresa, her portrait graced a long set of definitives in 1992 [illustration 24]. A Papal visit to Albania was celebrated with a single stamp in 1993.

Hoxha's life-long work crumbled away, although some of his works are remembered. He had liberated women from domestic servitude and, raised education from the barest elementary standard to tertiary levels. In Tirana a museum, much like a concrete pyramid, was built to celebrate Hoxha's life and work. The museum never came to pass, but it stands as a relic of Albania's communist heritage. It attracts graffiti, teenagers climb on it, and the very brave may try skate boarding on it.

Various Interesting Covers

Tony Lyon

Flying Officer James Robertson Grant Bathgate, DFC NZ403932 161 Squadron, RAF

He embarked, according to his record, for the UK by way of Canada. He was commissioned to the rank of Pilot Officer 1st December 1942, and Flying Officer 1st June 1943. He trained as a pilot on Wellington bomber aircraft and was posted to No 214 Squadron at Strandishall, Suffolk on the 29th September. He was next posted to 104 Squadron of the 9th October at Driffield, Yorkshire. The same month was sent overseas to Malta, by way of Gibraltar. On the 3rd of January 1942 the Squadron moved to Kabrit in Egypt

He returned to England after stints at Malta and Gibraltar for flying duties, as a pilot of Whitley, Wellington, and Halifax aircraft. In October 1942 he joined No 511 Squadron ferrying Liberator aircraft from Lyneham in Wiltshire to Cairo until posted in early August 1943 to the top secret No. 161 Squadron in Tempsford, Bedfordshire, flying Lysander aircraft.¹



Fig. 1: Postmarked Outram 19 OC 42.

Civil censor 195 at Dunedin.

A 2/6d Brown Arms adhesive paid the airmail rate to United Kingdom: Schedule 8 from 16 October 1942. Letter rate per ½ ounce.



Fig. 2: Received 8 JA 43 at NZ Army Base PO.

Startup type D3 cancel.

This squadron specialised in the delivery and retrieval of personnel and packages by night-time landings in occupied Europe. Moonlight was a prerequisite for navigation and landing in France.

James flew a total of eleven night-time operations, all single-handed, into occupied France, of which seven were successful. He delivered many parcels and he personally picked up 25 people from France and dropped in 14 secret agents.

On the night of 10/11th December 1943 he was the lone pilot of a Lysander IIIa (V9673 MA-J) flying under the cover of darkness (Operation Sten). James was carrying French secret agents Cladius Four and Emile Cossonneau (aka Moreau) and was supposed to land near Vervins, Aisne Department in occupied France. He was shot down by flak over Berry-en-Brac, crashed and was killed. On the 14th December 1943 he was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.²

The above cover was sent to Pilot Officer Bathgate whilst he was with 511 Squadron. The redirection is interesting; Tredegar Wales because he married Valentia Dorothy Valess on 31st October 1942, in the small village of Tredegar, Wales, 30 miles north of Cardiff.

¹ <https://bathgatefamily.com/parents-2/james> Internet Accessed 17/6/2021 Internet Accessed 17/6/2021

² <https://www.nzwargraves.org.nz/casualties/james-robertson-grant-bathgate> Internet Accessed 17/6/2021

Sub Lieutenant Joseph Ernest Armitage RNZNVR DSC

It is always nice to find a military cover from an interesting location. Below is such an item. The sender was Sub Lieutenant Joseph Ernest Armitage 2484. He served with the Fleet Air Arm (FAA) and was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross whilst serving on HMS Furious.³



Fig. 1: Posted through the Port of Spain PO 16 Sep 1942 addressed to New Zealand. Postage 5 cents franked with Trinidad & Tobago 2 cent (Imperial College of Tropical Agriculture) and 3 cent (Mt. Irvine Bay, Tobago) Geo VI adhesives.



Fig. 2: C/o RNAS was the acronym for Royal Naval Air Station and it was located at Piarco, Trinidad.

South African Censor civil label and censor stamp showing coat of Arms and a pair of Springbok with letter **A** Capetown. Have sighted other censored covers with indices **B**, Johannesburg, **C** Durban, **D** Windhoek, **E** Cape Town; also **F** Pretoria, **G** Bloemfontein, **J** Port Elizabeth, **K** East London, **L** Georges, **M** Capetown, **N** Pietermaritzburg, **O** Kimberley, **P** Capetown and **R** Capetown.

HMS Furious

HMS Furious underwent a refit in the USA between October 1941 and April 1942, subsequently operating in the Mediterranean between April 1942 and January 1943, which included ferrying spitfires to Malta between August and October 1942, and taking part in the North African landings in November 1942.

Furious returned to operate as part of the Home Fleet, taking part in operations against Norway between January and September 1944. Notable operations at this time included her participation on all air strikes against the German Battleship Tirpitz in Northern Norway between April-June 1944 (including Operations Tungsten, Mascot and Goodwood).⁴

Registered MPO KW 14

Registered covers are not readily available. Below is an example sent through MPO KW 14 located at the NZ Advance Base Camp, Bari, San Basilio, Italy 29 OC 1944 (Fig. 1).

The sender was Private Melville St Cyr Jordan 559745 serving with 23rd Battalion in Italy and it is addressed to his wife in Timaru, NZ.

It has censored by Captain D'Arcy Harper Moir 71896 serving NZ Medical Corps a Doctor from Timaru.



Fig. 1:

³ 3462 Supplement to the London Gazette, 25 July 1944. <https://www.thegazette.co.uk> > Internet accessed 19/6/2021

⁴ <https://uboat.net/allies/warships/ship/3253.html> Internet accessed 19/6/2021

HMS Achilles – South Atlantic

H.M.S. Achilles was at sea in the Pacific at the declaration of War in 1939 and for the next month 'showed the flag' at Ballao, Peru, Talara, Ecuador, and Valparaiso, Chile. On 20th October it arrived at Port Stanley, Falkland Islands joining the South Atlantic Fleet. It made various calls at Montevideo and Buenos Aires and on 29th January called at Montevideo to pick up mail.

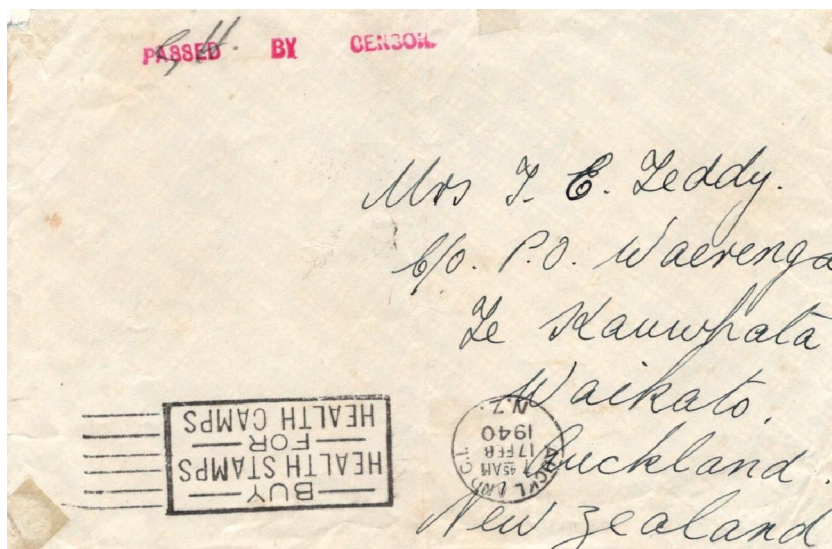


Fig. 1: The censor marking is the single lined "PASSED BY CENSOR". This marking was used up to February 1940 when it was superceded by the 'tombstone' type.

There were 2 ratings with the name Teddy as crew members serving on *Achilles*; A.B. Francis G. Teddy NZ1135 and Able Seaman Stephen B. Teddy NZ1319. The censor looks like G H which corresponds with Surgeon-Lieutenant Colin Graeme Hunter awarded a DSC as published in the *Supplement to the London Gazette*, 23 February, 1940 1059.

The citation read: who was very junior for the responsible duty of Principal Medical Officer. He is a New Zealander. He had gained the confidence of the ship's company and won their esteem and affection, and so contributed much to the contentment of the Lower Deck. During the action his First Aid organisation worked very well, and he showed good judgment in dealing with the seriously wounded.

This cover was no doubt put ashore at that time and reached New Zealand by sealed bag through Diplomatic channels. On being put into the civil mails it received the machine cancellation at Auckland of 17th February 1940.

Prior to the period that the mail was dropped at Montevideo and the cover made it to Auckland the *Achilles* had been involved in the Battle of the River Plate in action against the *Admiral Graf Spee* on the 13th December 1939 off the coast of Uruguay.

Pilot Officer Montague Bernard Angelo NZ414951 490 Squadron RNZAF



Cover sent from Wellington 18 MCH 1944 addressed to Pilot Officer Montague Bernard Angelo NZ414951 through NZ Base PO 415 The Strand, London and forwarded to RAF Alness, Scotland.

Royal Air Force Alness or more simply RAF Alness is a former Royal Air Force station located 1.1 miles southwest of Alness, Ross and Cromarty, Scotland and 14.1 miles north of Inverness, Inverness-shire.

Whilst on a delivery of a new aircraft to Squadron and posting as crew to squadron at Jui (near Freetown) Sierra Leone in August 1944, the crew of a Sutherland ML855 were forced to land on a calm sea off the West Africa Coast, due to engine failure, caused by a fire in the motor. The crew spent approximately 5 hours in the sea, they reached the shore and were then taken by a French Corvette which took them to Dakar.

CULLER FACER CANCELLER PREPARATION (CFCP) Dandenong Letters Centre

By Brian Fuller

There have been several articles written on the Australian CFCP. I produced one for the Australian Philatelic Society (APS) Journal, The Date Stamp and David Collyer has produced two for the ACCC of NSW The Bulletin. There may be others but I am unaware of them. If anyone can forward them to me I would be most appreciative.

I WAS ORIGINALLY INFORMED by DLC Staff the CFCP the P was PROCESSING. It now seems that the P is PREPARATION.

None of the preceding articles define the capability of the machine. When defined they still may mean very little as some samples will testify it is very clever! Poor handwriting, obscure addresses, and finding addresses on an envelope somewhere are part of its capability. The machine is also backed up by video coding for when we outsmart the machine or it fails to present the envelope in its viewing area for deciphering. This capability is a vast improvement on the Multi Line Optical Character Recognition (MLOCR) Toshiba installed previously. It can make mistakes but they are the extreme exception.

The prime crime of the machine is that depending on the design of the processing mark used (not cancellation) e.g., the Kelpie or Sydney also had a Labrador, it effectively ruins a stamp for collecting. Rarely does it miss a stamp if it is placed within its operating range so getting fine used copies is difficult. The ink is an ammonia based ink that will not wash off.

Technical capability Australian CFCP Toshiba TSC-1000 variant

Specification Table													
<p>Sortable Mail Size</p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Minimum</th> <th style="text-align: center; font-size: small;">Maximum</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Length (L)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">140 mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">250 mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Width (W)</td> <td style="text-align: center;">90 mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">176 mm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thickness</td> <td style="text-align: center;">0.2 mm</td> <td style="text-align: center;">6 mm</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: x-small;">(Unpressed condition)</p> <p>Throughput</p> <p>Culler Input 30,000 pcs/h Local Feeder Input 36,000 pcs/h</p> <p>Detection Capability :</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indicia Phosphorescent Bars Fluorescent Imprints FIM (Facing Identification Mark) Franking Impression / Metered Mail Collection Stamps (Image Recognition) Tracking Barcodes Contrast Bars Postal Stickers Postal Barcodes Cancelling Marks 		Minimum	Maximum	Length (L)	140 mm	250 mm	Width (W)	90 mm	176 mm	Thickness	0.2 mm	6 mm	<p>Number of Stackers :</p> <p>8 - 60 (additional in 4 stackers)</p> <p>Identification Rate of Stamps and Value Imprints</p> <p>99 % (normal stamps with Phosphorescent Bars registered in the recognition dictionary and affixed in a predefined zone)</p> <p>Noise level</p> <p>Less than 72 dBA</p> <p>Environmental condition</p> <p>Ambient Temperature 10 °C - 35 °C Relative Humidity Up to 80 % (non-condensing)</p> <p>Applied Standard</p> <p>SIS, CEN, EN, JIS or ISO standard</p> <p>Options</p> <p>Video Coding / 2nd (offline) OCR / Image Transferring</p>
	Minimum	Maximum											
Length (L)	140 mm	250 mm											
Width (W)	90 mm	176 mm											
Thickness	0.2 mm	6 mm											

My paper to the APS Journal spelled out in great detail the dates the CFCP 451 at Dandenong Letters Centre (DLC) operated and its markings. Consequently I am only specifying the known dates for the DLC machines and commercial dates of mail received. I decided to abandon CFCP for all other locations as specified by David Collyer as the volume of material became a heavy burden and was difficult to source.

DLC has four machines: 451, 452, 453 and 454. At times they each have different process marks and at times some machines seem to be “out of action” for inordinate times. Some machines have exhibited virtually unreadable marks and then a replacement printer reveals all. It does not help if the defective printer appears to produce strange markings.

In regards the process mark design I am unaware as to who designs them and controls their usage etc. Access to the mail centres now is virtually impossible and requests for data are never addressed. Any information gleaned is by samples and deduction, at times a recipe for misleading information.

For example: At times Sydney West Letter Facility (SWLF) process mark preceded DLC by a several day interval. With a recent DLC mark on the 26JAN21 it appeared only for one day on machine 454. Obviously several technicians or engineers have the capability to program the CFCP. HQ Engineering is based in Queensland rather than Melbourne so “friendship” liaison is not possible. If anyone has access please divulge!

Small Part of History of DLC Machines 451 etc.

The first two machines 451 and 452 were given extensive trials before being released to the operational staff. I was advised “CFCP 451 will be commissioned for operations on 3 OCT16”. 452 hand-over date was not defined but alluded to “also one month testing”.

I was also advised “In terms of operational availability in December both CFCP 451 and CFCP 452 operated throughout December with no major issues.

Each CFCP would have downtime when maintenance would have been carried out or ad hoc stops where technical issues would have been addressed.”

Some Bald Face Statements:

“The first CFCP 451 went into live mail production on 3OCT16 – anything prior to that was TEST MAIL”.

“I have the following 48 commercial examples from the 40,000 item of live mail used as TEST pieces. The first 20K were CFCP and MLOCR processed and the second 20K were CFCP & BCS (Bar Code Sorting)”.

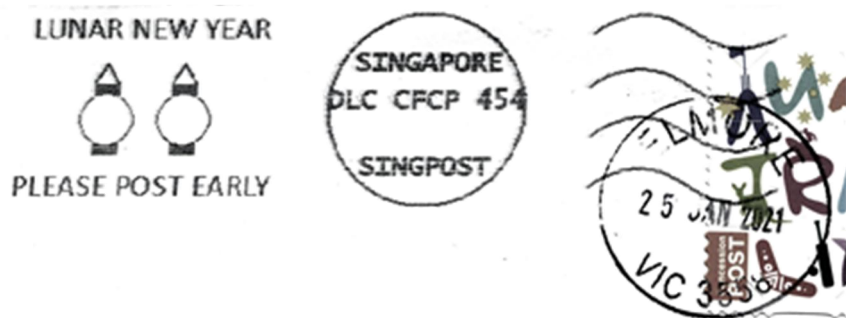
The first statement is self-explanatory as “normal” live mail usage was expected from 3OCT16.

I have been unable to confirm the nature of the actual test of the CFCP versus the Toshiba TSC17 RAP MLOCR. It could be a random half went to one and the remainder to the next machine and count the rejects. The second part where the CFCP processed, then was past to the Barcode Sorting Machine (BCS) for final sort to round and perhaps compare the reject rate for the CFCP mail. Assumptions – beware!

As a generality there are about many major changes in the process mark with some strange happenings occurring. The defective or misdated ink jet printers contribute toward the tally.

A tabulation follows and the description of the process mark will be well known by anyone collecting them. Eg., 4 line is: four wavy lines only, 6 line is: six wavy lines only, Motorbike is: Stay Alert!/There’s a life/riding on it. Dog is: Secure your dog/image/for safe delivery, DLC only had the Kelpie image. Stay safe is: STAY SAFE/& CONNECTED/Australia and may be close or farther away from the machine, identifier, Social is: “Social Distancing/SAVES LIVES, Let’s Melbourne is: LET’S/MELBOURNE/AGAIN, Spread is: Spread/the merry, Support is: Supporting/Australians, Secure your dogHound head is: Secure your dog/and protect/your postie, AP logo, and Hound head. Support Indigenous is: Supporting indigenous Communities with drawing and AP logo.

CFCP 454 is the special with LUNAR NEW YEAR etc., see following scan. 26JAN21 only.



Some of the process marks have text and 4 or 6 lines. They will be marked as such. eg 454 scan.

CFCP 451	CFCP 452	CFCP 453	CFCP 454
Trial period 12SEP16 – 19SEP16 6 lines	Trial? 31OCT16 - 21JUL17 4 lines defective printer	10MAY17 – 30JUL17 4 lines	29APR17 – 11JUL17 4 lines
Trial Period 20SEP16 – 29SEP16 4 lines	21SEP18 – 2NOV18 6 lines	31AUG18 – 2NOV18 6 lines	18OCT18 – 2NOV18 6 lines
Commissioned 3OCT16 – 22DEC17 4 lines	4NOV18 – 22MAR19 Motorbike	4NOV18 – 22MAR19 Motorbike	5NOV18 – 5NOV18 Motorbike AM & PM shifts
23DEC17 – 28AUG18 NO record?	22MAR19 – 25APR20 Dog	22MAR19 – 24APR20 Dog	23MAR19 – 26JAN20 Dog
29AUG18 – 2NOV18 6 lines	27APR20 – 4MAY20 Close, Stay, & 4 line	27APR20 – 5MAY20 Close, large print, Stay, & 4 lines	???? - ???? Top half of Dog Defective printer
5NOV18 – 21MAR19 Motorbike	8SEP20-17SEP20 Spread, Stay, small print	7MAY20 – 19OCT20 Apart, small print, Stay, & 4 lines,	17FEB20 – 20APR20 4 line
22MAR19 – 10FEB20 Dog	15OCT20 Close, Stay, & 4 line	26OCT20 – 20NOV20 Let's Melbourne	20APR20 – 24APR20 6 line
12/23.22 Dog Printer is defective	25.16.26 – 26.16.26 Let's Melbourne Strange dates	25NOV20 – 14DEC20 Spread	27APR20 – 5MAY20 Close, small print, Stay, 4 lines

CFCP 451	CFCP 452	CFCP 453	CFCP 454
2MAY20 - ? Close, Stay safe & 4 lines	27OCT20 – ? Let's Melbourne	26JAN21 – 5FEB21 Supporting	5MAY20 – 21OCT20 Spread, large print, Stay & 6 lines
5MAY20 -13OCT20 Apart, Stay safe & 6 lines	24NOV20 - 31DEC20 Spread	8FEB21 – 9MAR21 4 lines	25OCT20 – 26OCT20 Social & 4 lines
5MAR21 - ? 4 lines	3JAN21 – 5FEB21 Supporting	10MAR21-19MAY21 Secure your dog Hound head ongoing	26OCT20 – 17NOV20 Let's Melbourne
15MAR21-4MAY21 Secure your dog.... Hound head ongoing	9FEB21 – 15MAR21 4 lines	Live mail so ongoing	20NOV20 – 31DEC20 Spread
Live mail so ongoing	10MAR21-21APR21 Secure your dog Hound head		1JAN21 – 15JAN21 Support
	24MAY21- ?? Supporting Indigenous Ongoing		26JAN21 – 26JAN21 Lunar as per scan
	Live mail so ongoing		27JAN21 – 5FEB21 Support
			8FEB21 – 9MAR21 4 lines
			10MAR21-6APR21 Secure your dog Hound head ongoing
			Live mail so ongoing

Summary

The “slogan process marks” used are interesting reflecting current social trends. It seems strange that some have extreme short usage and one (Lunar) is probably unique.

All machines seem to have very marked periods where they are not used. Whether that is due to diminished volumes or machine maintenance needs is unknown. Poor ongoing sampling means some variations will be either missed or incorrectly dated.

Only 451 the first CFCP used had a distinct trial period. 452 was probably closely watched.

The comment: Dog is: Secure your dog/image/for safe delivery, DLC only had the “Kelpie” image. SWLF used two images and the other short lived dog image was a “Labrador”.

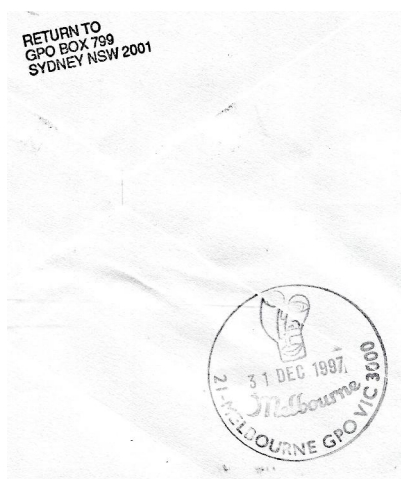
NB. On 4MAY21 the Perth MC started using an indigenous slogan. Northgate and SWLF have followed suit. Why DLC lagged is unknown. First seen DLC is 24MAY21.

As the machines will be in service for many more years, now is a good time to get your samples before they are all cut-up for packet makers.

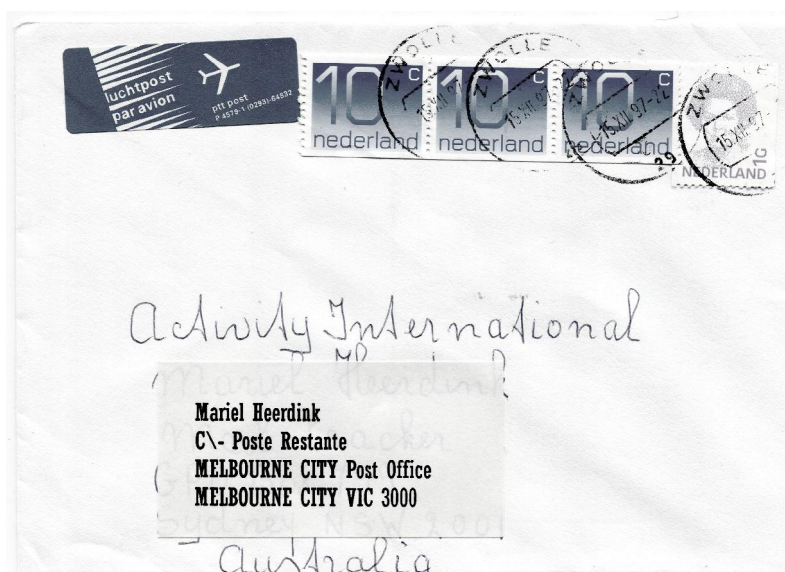
If anyone can fill in the date gaps etc., I would appreciate being advised.

Oh Dear I do not Know!

By Brian Fuller



Reverse



Front

All the information is there but I am none the wiser. Anyone care to provide the missing details please?

Underneath the label is the information:

Mariel Heerdink

Mail Tracker

GPO Box 799

Sydney NSW 2001

Mailed on 15DEC97 in Netherland and ultimately arrived in Melbourne 31DEC97.

Forwarded by Sydney Postal Restante as per reverse RETURN cachet with white address label affixed

It was known to the sender about MAIL TRACKER. Can anyone please enlighten me?

Melbourne in 1993, probably at Postal Restante in the GPO Box Room, had EXOTRAC. Possibly a similar arrangement!

Help please as I do not know about either system! Nor do Melbourne GPO Postal employees I asked.

Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This edition will mostly feature postmarks from Queensland, many thanks to Joan Orr for her contribution with a few interesting items. The difference in the 2 Clifford Gardens is the size of the lettering and the Gatton College Lawes post mark appears to be from a post office at the college.

The South Australia is mostly from the box that Simon Alsop gave me and it was good to catch up with him again and discuss postmarks.

Thanks to Joan and Simon and others who help to keep this article going

QLD.



QLD. (cont.)



S.A.



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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

Brisbane Expo 88

John Young

Postcards of the Brisbane expo are easy to find, but cards posted from Brisbane with a message from someone who attended the fair are scarce. This one was sent to New Zealand, and the Kiwi sender spent three 11-hour days at the expo, headed off to Dreamworld and got the flu for three days.

