

Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 157 September 2021



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Date	2021 / 2022 Programme	Display
18 October 2021	Frank Pauer	Early Australian 1st Day Covers
14 or 21 Dec 21	Christmas Meeting	Members 4-10 page exhibit
	Subject to Government restrictions	

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Front Cover :

A Tichnor Bros, Inc, Boston Mass post-card (MH36). It was sent by a Pfc of 797 Technical Training Squadron at Seymour Johnson Field in North Carolina, USA.

A Seymour Johnson Field N.C. machine cancel with 7 wavy lines is dated June 19 1943 and is addressed to Jackson, Tennessee. Postage free.

The base is named for Navy Lieut. Seymour A. Johnson, a test pilot from Goldsboro who died in an airplane crash near Norbeck, Maryland, on March 5, 1941.

It is the only Air Force Base named in honour of a naval officer.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

It has not been a particularly good year for philatelic pursuits. Continual lockdowns have cancelled meetings and opportunities to view displays and just get together for fellowship.

It must be even more difficult for those who do not have access to the internet which at least enables the search for material or information available on the WWW.

Fortunately this has not stopped our contributors from sending articles to keep our journal alive, which with the above barriers to meeting, becomes even more important. It is thanks to you, the contributors, that the 157th issue is available for the member's enjoyment.

Please consider writing your own contribution to enhance the range of material this journal can present. This could help ease the boredom of being lockdown in major parts of the eastern seaboard, which at times makes one wonder if it will actually end.

Other areas affected by all of this Covid pandemic is the postponement of various exhibitions. Exhibits for Royalpex in New Zealand which was scheduled for September has been moved tentatively to November and Australian exhibits were changed from the actual sending of exhibit to scanning to a PDF and forwarding to the commissioner. I felt sorry for those to whom the idea of providing a PDF may have been a foreign step to far.

Congratulations are in order to Frank Pauer the incoming President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. I believe he has a couple of other hats as well so he is going to be busy.

Let us hope that we will soon be free to return to some sense of normality. Maybe we will be able to have a December meeting! Ciao.

Until next time ciao.

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From the President

When Rod Perry sold his collection of airborne commercial mail to Australia he offered only two examples of pre-war airmail covers from Spain. He stated that pre-war airmail from Spain to Australia was 'extremely rare'. Recently two more examples from Spain to Canterbury, Melbourne, were found at an open-air market in Camberwell, a suburb adjoining Canterbury. Rod's covers were dated 1937 and 1938; the covers recently found were date stamped 1935 and 1936. The latter one is shown here. Franked 3P25c [basic letter rate] it has back stamps for Barcelona 18 Jan 1936, Paris 20 Jan and Melbourne 9 Feb. (Fig 1).



Fig. 1:

Perhaps even more scarce is wartime airmail from Spain to Australia. A third cover, to the same address in Canterbury, was found at the same open-air market a month or so later. Franked 6P70c, it is date stamped 3 June 1941, the period of the airmail Horseshoe Route. It has British censorship. The Spanish airline had a regular service from Barcelona to Lisbon, and there was a connecting BOAC or KLM service to London. Transmission

was then by sea mail to Cape Town, airmailing to Cairo and onwards to Australia via the old Imperial air route.(Fig. 2).

The cover has no back stamp, so the period of transmission was not recorded. Often transmission took several weeks, but the cost was much less than the air route via the Atlantic, USA and the Pacific. [An example of that route from Spain to Australia in 1941was described in this journal in June 2020, page 10.]

The back of the cover has a boxed 'Censura Gubernativa Barcelona' inscription.

The franking appears to be for a basic first-weight step, as the single sheet letter has survived in the envelope.



Fig. 2:

Glimpses of New South Wales History through Private Postal Wrappers

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

This paper is the fifth in the “Glimpses” series of Australian colonies/States that examines private wrappers with overprinting. Previous papers have examined Tasmania (March 2020), South Australia (June 2020), Queensland (December 2020) and Victoria (March 2021). In some ways this is a paper that might not have been written because unlike the other colonies/states, there are virtually no non-post office wrappers bearing private overprinting that have been recorded in the database. What wrappers do exist, however, need to be explored for their back stories and contribution to the dissemination of knowledge and shaping of society. Collectors may be motivated to examine their own holdings of postal wrappers to see if any of this kind from New South Wales can be added to the overall profile for this state and Australia.

Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association

This 137x294mm white wrapper has private overprinting reading *A.O.P.A. Monthly Magazine* and Registered for posting as a periodical Category “B”, RETURN POSTAGE GUARANTEED. At lower left on the wrapper there is the wording “If unclaimed within 7 days, please return to AIRCRAFT OWNERS// AND PILOTS’ ASSOCIATION// Box 2912, G.P.O., Sydney, 2001. There are two airmail etiquettes (one not shown here), and \$2.10 postage is paid with a 1974 10c star sapphire (Sc562) and a 1974 \$2 Red Gums of the Far North by Hans Heysen (Sc574). This rate is based on 70c per 50gm for airmail of ‘other articles’ thereby taking the weight to 150gm or between 5-6oz. There is a 30mm date stamp G.P.O. SYDNEY 2.10.76 NSW – AUST. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. H. Kirchmaier, Two Madrona Avenue, Belvedere, California, 94920.



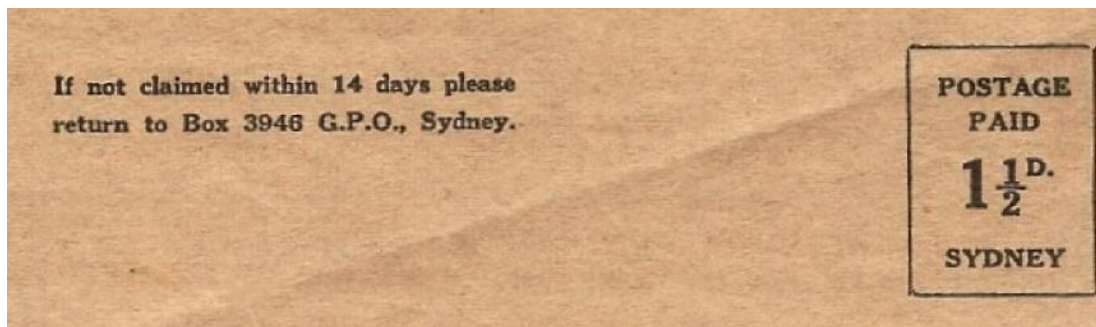
The Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia (AOPA Australia) was founded in 1949 to speak as the unified voice for general aviation in Australia. Their core principals are integrity, commitment, discovery, unity and leadership. Members fly for various reasons: some to further business goals and stimulate the economy, while others wish to experience the world from a different perspective. The Association seeks to educate the public about the enjoyment and the utility that aircraft can provide, to prepare resources and training materials, to enhance the skills of pilots everywhere, and to advocate aviation from within government agencies.



A.O.P.A. *Monthly* is the official journal of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association of Australia. It appears to have been first published circa 1949 and continued in print form until August 1976.

“Box 3946, G.P.O., Sydney”

There is no company name on this wrapper because it is simply the Box Number address for individuals applying for various employment positions by responding to advertisements in *The Sun* and in *The Daily Telegraph*. The advertisements appear after World War II circa 1946-48. The name of the employer was not usually revealed in the advertisements, providing only the address to which applications should be sent, namely, Secretary, Box 3946, GPO, Sydney. Some advertisements do mention the name of the firm seeking employees: William Cooper & Nephews (Australia) Pty. Ltd., the Lournay Beauty School, The Police Force of New South Wales, H. E. C. Robinson Pty Ltd., Tamworth Base Hospital, Richardson and Wrench; there is also a call for a tea lady and a stenographer. Collectively they suggest the box number is an employment agency that screens applicants on behalf of clients.

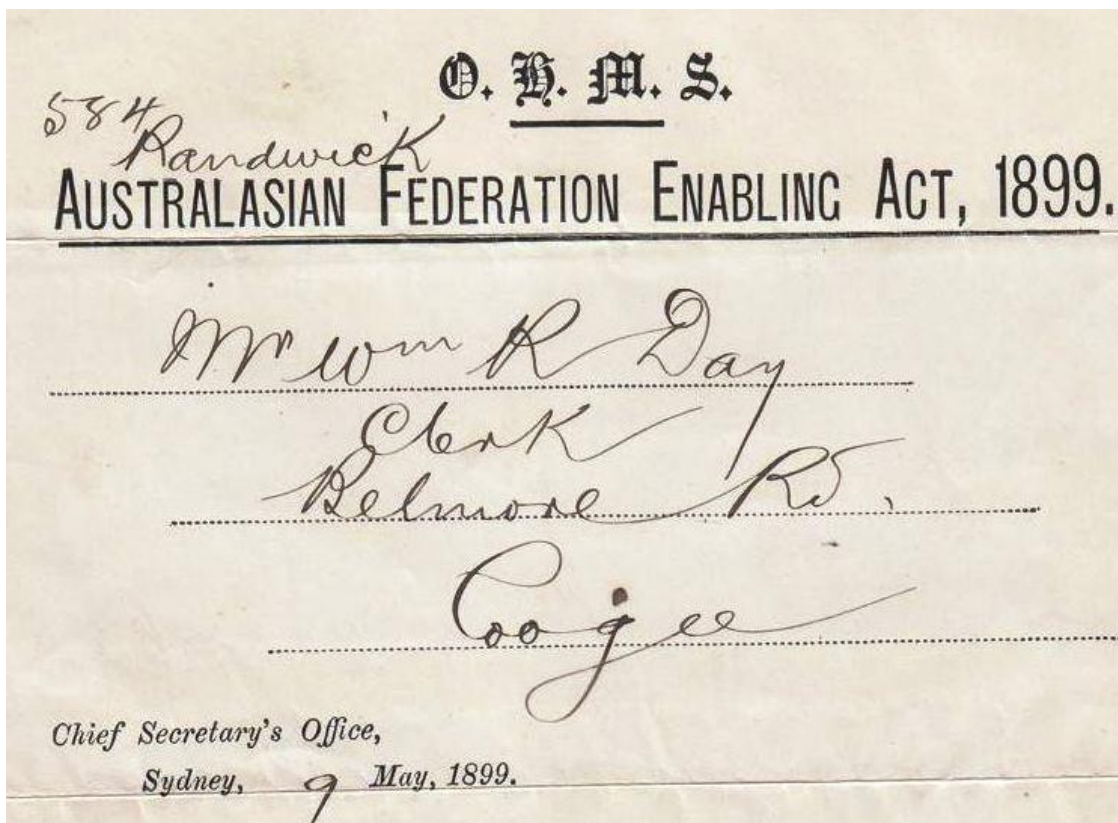


The postage of 1½d was paid at the Sydney G.P.O. and pre-printed evidence of this is shown in the rectangle: POSTAGE// PAID// 1½d.// SYDNEY. The commercial papers rate from 1 July 1949 for mailing to an address within Australia was 1½d per 2 oz.

Australasian Federation Enabling Act, 1899

There are four different O.H.M.S. wrappers that are considered in this paper because the role of government departments needs to be assessed as well as the private sector. This wrapper from the Chief Secretary’s Office, Sydney is dated 9 May, 1899 and likely contains a copy of the AUSTRALASIAN FEDERATION ENABLING ACT, 1899. The wrapper is addressed to Mr. Wm. R. Day, Clerk, Belmore Rd., Coogee. Because it is an official wrapper it does not incur postage. The manuscript ‘584 Randwick’ is written in the same hand as the address and refers to the sender’s address. The City of Randwick is a

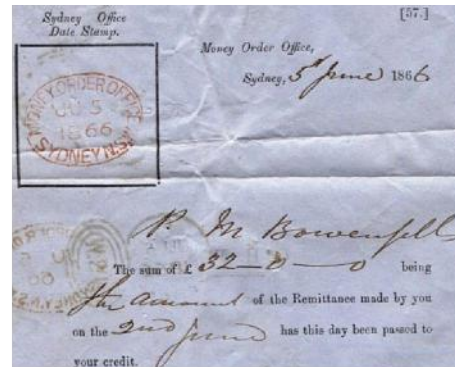
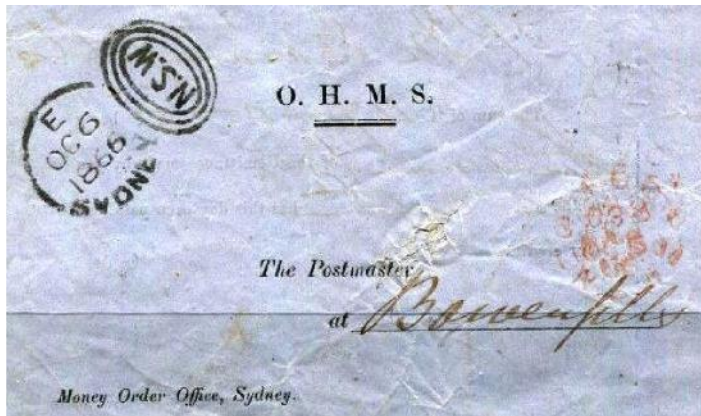
local government area in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Established in 1859, Randwick is the second-oldest local government area in New South Wales, after the City of Sydney.



This was an important Act for New South Wales in establishing the legislation enabling the acceptance and enactment of a Federal Constitution for Australia. It is detailed in a 33-page document referred to as the Second Referendum. It was not really certain that all six Australian colonies would join the Federation even when this Act passed both Houses of the British Parliament. As each was a 'sovereign' colony, with a Governor appointed by the Crown on the advice of the British Government, each colonial Parliament had to pass legislation agreeing to become part of the Commonwealth, and then hold referenda where all electors could have a direct vote on the issue. The second referenda were necessary for votes on the amendments to the Constitution made at the 'Secret Premiers meeting' from 31 January to 1 February 1899. A 'Yes' majority was achieved at each referendum, but in the first New South Wales referendum the size of the majority was not sufficient. It is worth noting that in the referendums on the Constitution, women were able to vote in only two of the colonies, South Australia and Western Australia, and few Indigenous people seem to have had the opportunity to be counted.

Money Order Office, Sydney

This is a very early O.H.M.S. item (sold on the Internet as a wrapper, but there are similar extant examples and it is more likely to be a lettersheet). It was sent from the Money Order Office, Sydney, and shows a clear duplex cancel E OC 6 1866 SYDNEY and N.S.W within three elliptical rings reading upward. The address is the Paymaster at Bowenfells. There is an open red arrival postmark which is difficult to read but is probably BOWENFELLS OC 7 1866 N.S.W. If it is a lettersheet, the likely printed correspondence is shown next to the item as an indicative example within the same year but four months earlier.

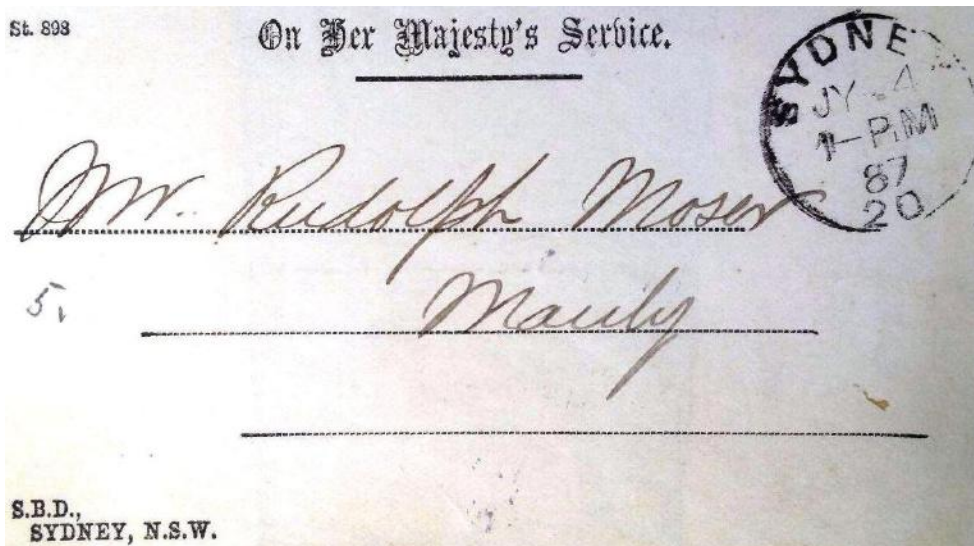


An earlier indicative example of the nature of the correspondence

A “money order” is a financial instrument enabling the safe transfer of small amounts of money from one party to another. Simplistically, it is a special worded piece of paper given by the post office to a customer upon their paying the amount of the money order in cash plus a fee. The customer sends the money order to the other party who in turn takes it to the post office and receives the amount stated in cash. It is safer than a cheque because it is not transferable and can only be cashed by the person or company named on the money order. A money order office is a separate and specialised department of the post office. In early colonial times there was a large demand for this service and a separate office relieved overcrowding at the General Post Office. It was often coupled with the government savings bank and/or Telegraph Office. The Money Order Department was established in Sydney in October 1862.

Savings Bank Department, Sydney

It is not 100% certain that S.B.D. refers to the Government Savings Bank Department. There may be other eligible possibilities for these initials. The system of Government Savings Banks under the control of the Postmaster-General was established on 1 September 1871; these banks were located at post offices. The Savings Bank Department received and invested deposits and paid interest on amounts not exceeding £500.



On Her Majesty's Service appears in Old English font type and there is a departmental requisition code St. 898 upper left. The postmark is SYDNEY JY 4 1-PM 87 and identifier 20. There are three dotted address lines and the addressee is Mr. Rudolph Moser, Manly. The 5 at left appears to be a dealer's pencil mark.

Government Printing Office, Sydney

This is another example of an O.H.M.S. wrapper, this from the *Government Printing Office, Sydney*. The wrapper is paid with a New South Wales 1906 1d rose Seal (Sc122) perfinned OS/NSW and cancelled with an open SYDNEY SHIP MAIL ROOM MY 21 1908 NSW. There is a receiving circular BRUXELLES JUIN 18-10 1908 DEPART. The wrapper is addressed to La Chambre Syndicate des Conseils en maitre de Propriete Industrielle, Brussels, Belgium.



The site on the corner of Bent and Phillip streets in Sydney's government quarter has been used by the Government Printing Office since at least 1840. The current building, the third on the site, is much larger in size to cope with growth in the technologies for printing and the increasing specialisation of the functions of the Office. By the 1890s the Office was producing *Hansard*, the *NSW Government Gazette*, railway tickets, postage stamps and postal stationery, currency notes, the subscription series *Historical Records of New South Wales*, a vast photograph collection, and various high-quality limited edition and commemorative publications.

Summary

There is a noticeable lack of New South Wales non-post office wrappers with private overprinting. The author's database contains only two examples with a commercial focus, and four examples of government involvement. The *Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association* has elements of both commercial involvement and hobbyist fun but it does remind us that air travel is an important means of travel and that without aircraft postal deliveries would be much slower. The 'no-name' wrapper reminds us that employees have to be found and screened to fit with employer's needs. An agency that deals with applications for various jobs saves employers' time, expense and frustration, the end result facilitating improved productivity.

The four O.H.M.S. examples are a sample of government departments that provide services to the community. Legislation empowering progress and the dissemination of this information is vital to the smooth functioning of government policy. The role of the post office in aiding the flow of money both in respect to money orders and in deposit and loan banking should be seen in the context of the time.

References

<https://www.foundingdocs.gov.au/item-sdid-82.html>

<https://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/heritage/research/heraldry/govprintoff1890.htm>

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/b063/d7377b1fafee764b42f7cc9500e82652942e.pdf>

Missent Mail

Tony Lyon

Missent to Phnom Penh

Below are two unusual covers about 6 weeks apart addressed to Melbourne but misspent to Phnom Penh, Cambodia. They eventually reached their destination but in both cases about a month had lapsed before being back-stamped at Phnom Penh and forwarded.

It seems strange that these covers from 2 different countries could end up in Cambodia?



Fig. 1: Pitney Bowes meter franked 53 cents, April 12 95, North Brunswick New Jersey and destined for Hoechst Australia Limited in Melbourne.

Boxed rectangular cachet with 2 line MISSENT TO PHNOM PHEN



Reverse

Receiving cancel Phnom Penh 19 05 95.
Also K56 in blue.

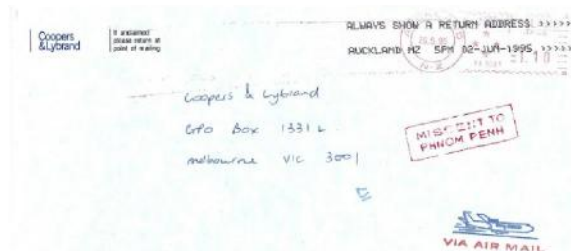


Fig. 2: Pitney Bowes meter franked \$1.10 dated 26.5.95, Auckland and destined for a GPO Box in Melbourne.

Boxed rectangular cachet with 2 line MISSENT TO PHNOM PHEN



Reverse

Receiving cancel Phnom Penh 28.06.95
Also KC in Blue & W2 in Black.



Cover franked by a 55 cent Gwoya Jungarai 'One Pound Jimmy'- 200 years Australia's Favourite Stamps Issued 26 June 2009 and is from the gutter strip, hence the 8½d below the stamp.

Missent to Japan

Back in June 2009 Ian Cutter sent me a missent item with the thought that it wasn't AJP material but might make an 'Item of Interest' at a members meeting. Well cometh the hour, cometh the man, or in this case, cometh the opportunity for Ian's cover to indeed grace the journal.

A 2 line unframed cachet reads 'RETURN TO SENDER – MISSENT TO JAPAN'.

Missent to New Zealand

Continuing the theme of misspent mail below are two items misspent to New Zealand. Interestingly, one cover was misspent after being posted in Germany and the second posted from the USA 6 days apart in May 1996

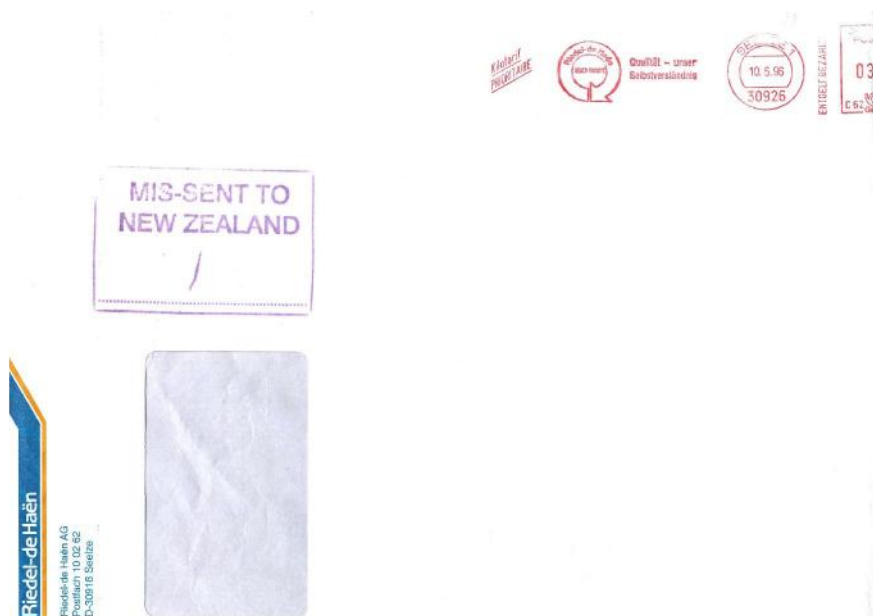


Fig. 1: 230 x 330 cover franked by a meter at 360 Pf, dated 10.5.96 and posted from Seelze to Melbourne, Australia.

It was misspent to New Zealand where it received a boxed MIS-SENT TO NEW ZEALAND CACHET in two lines.



Fig. 2: Pitney Bowes meter at \$2.10 rate and sent from Fallbrook, California dated May 16 96 addresses to Balwyn, Victoria but misspent to New Zealand. Cover 30.5 x 22.5.

It received a boxed MIS-SENT TO NEW ZEALAND CACHET in two lines.

The Spiro-made Facsimiles Never Existed The End of a myth (I)

Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Introduction

When I started some years ago my research on the Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres (1847-1918), I came from time to time across a document related to the Spiro brothers of Hamburg. Analysing later the *Spud Papers*, I came in touch with a lot of “Spiro-forgeries”. I had to learn, however, that 20-30% of the counterfeits presented in this work, supposedly dedicated to the Hamburg-facsimiles, were the work of “my forger”.¹ Looking for evidence about the generally admitted selling of some of those facsimiles by the Swiss forger François Fournier, active between 1905 and 1917, I had to learn a further lesson, that a lot of the supposed “Spiro”-sheets Fournier had sold, were by no means Spiro-products.²

Despite the resulting doubts and the questions those results had left unresolved, I could not imagine I’d someday assert and defend what the title of this article announces and what most of the readers of these lines will, at least at this moment, consider in benevolent terms a strange, weird or insane idea. This is the third article in the context of this new research. And although the point of departure in comparison with the two previous articles has changed and the basic premises for both articles turned out to be obsolete, strangely and fortunately, the results are not affected and the conclusions are still valid.

Previous approaches

I could not find in the philatelic literature consulted any systematic attempt to approach the history of the business of the Spiro brothers and their supposed philatelic products. In 2019 Mr. Wolfgang Maassen initiated a new project, aimed to discover more about the Spiro family and their activities in the field of philately. He generously invited me to join his efforts. So, when we first approached the Spiro-problem seriously together, we took the supposed “Spiro-sheets” as reference, as most others would have done as well: a great error, as we had to learn, because there’s no real evidence about their origins, all is supposition and telling. The *Spud-Papers*, written by three of the pioneers of the British philately, were another reference that could reveal some strange things. But it could not lead us to the sources, because their publishing started nearly ten years after the initial events.

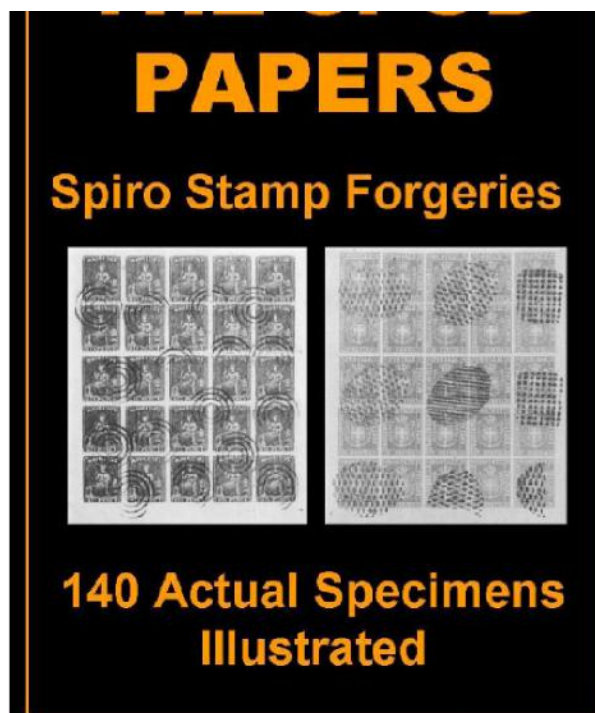


Fig. 1: Spud Papers cover re-edition 1950

¹ *Ni Spiro, ni Fournier: Plácido Ramón de Torres*, Costa Rica Filatélica, #143, junio 2020.

² *The purported “Spiro sheets” of Roumania. Who really made them?* London Philatelist, vol. 129, n. 1475, May 2020; *Die Buenos Aires Fälschungen. Spiro, Torres, Fournier...?* Deutsche Briefmarken Zeitung ...



Fig. 2: Front page SCM

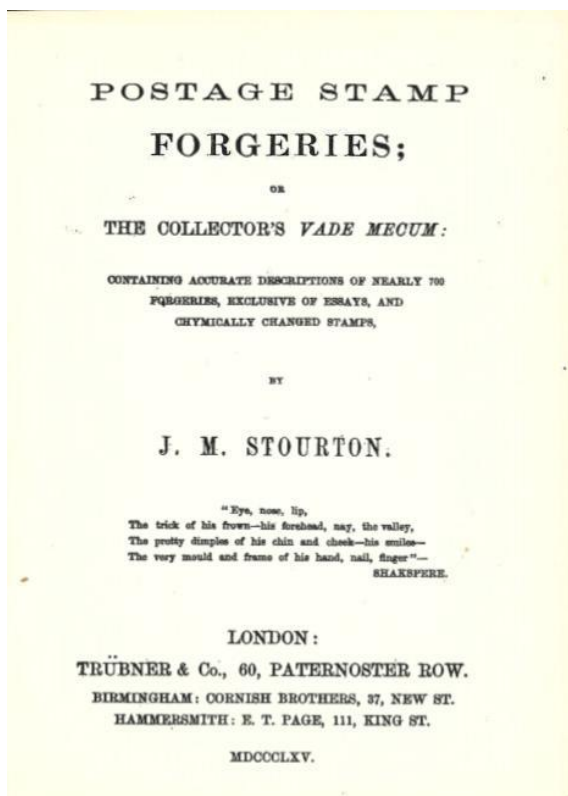


Fig. 4: Front page Stourton book

A source much closer to the philatelic beginnings of the Spiros and their activities is E. L. Pemberton's article on the facsimiles sold by the Hamburg brothers, published in 1864 in the *Stamp Collector's Magazine*.³ Despite their assertions, they had not been the makers, but only the resellers of those items, Pemberton only admitted, they did not really want to deceive collectors labelling their products expressly as facsimiles. The weightiness of his verdict and the meagre substance of his descriptions of some of those items made it quite difficult to hold a different opinion or to discover contradictions.

A New Approach

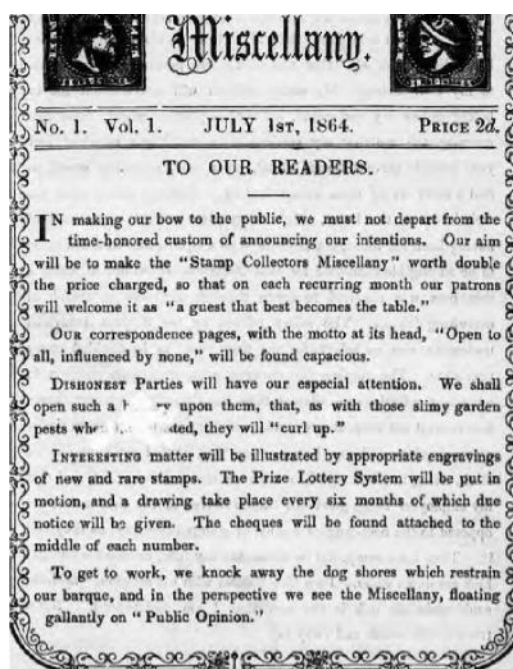


Fig. 3: Front page SCMis

The possibilities of modern communication via the internet, the during the time of our research downloadable documents of the *Crawford Library* or the documents available on the French web-site *Memoires de la philatélie* created a new platform for researchers that allowed a closer approach to nearly all still existing documents of those years when stamp collecting began to establish as a respected middle class hobby.⁴ The lucky collaboration and

³ E. L. Pemberton: *Current Stamp Forgeries*, Stamp Collector's Magazine [SCM], Oct. 1864, p. 154-157.

⁴ <http://memoires.timbrologie.online.fr/>

exchange of documents and information with Wolfgang Maassen led finally to surprising findings, earlier researches hardly could have made.

We analysed digitalized newspapers of the 1860's mainly from Germany and the UK, all available philatelic magazines and catalogues. The same we did with the works about forgeries, specially the very early ones.⁵ We contrasted, whenever possible, the information with other non-philatelic sources of the corresponding local archives.

What at the beginning seemed to be an audacious working hypothesis turned out to be reality in its central point. The Spiro brothers did not make nor ordered to make facsimiles of stamps, but they only resold those items. A considerable part of what we nowadays consider Spiro-made facsimiles is by no means the material they had sold and that could be acquired in the middle of the 1860's on the European philatelic market.

Proceeding

In order to prove those assertions, I'll first try to describe shortly the state of philately in the early 1860's. That includes a short look at the philatelic market and the stamp forgeries. This will give us an idea of the historical frame we are moving in. Then I'll present some of the forgeries of those years, identified through their repeated descriptions. Some of those safely identified mid 1860's forgeries will be exemplarily compared with supposed entire "Spiro-sheet" samples. The obtained results will serve as evidence for the initially made assertion about the Spiros.

The *timbromania*

When in 1840 in England and about 10 years later in most of the European countries adhesive stamps were introduced as a medium for prepaying mail, nobody could foretell, that collecting those items would be one of the new hobbies of the century. In the early 1860 the word "philately" was not yet invented or in use, most people spoke of "timbology".⁶ The first stamp dealers like Stanley Gibbons (1856) in England or Jean-Baptiste Moens (1858) on the continent started selling the stamps as an additional product of their array.

"The commencement of the Mania" (Perris) could be noticed through the increasing interest in stamp collecting, reflected in a quickly growing demand for stamps, not only in the UK, but also in Central Europe (Belgium, France, the Netherlands and Germany) at the same time. This demand for stamps from all over the world originated the need for basic information about them. And this fostered in turn the publication of philatelic magazines, catalogues stamp albums and books. Other magazines devoted to other fields of leisure as the Parisian *Magazin Pittoresque*, the German *Der Bazar* and the British *Every Boy's Magazine* began to include as well sections dedicated to the new hobby. The huge number of advertisements of dealers in the specialized magazines is a good indicator for the dynamics of this new promising market in the following years.

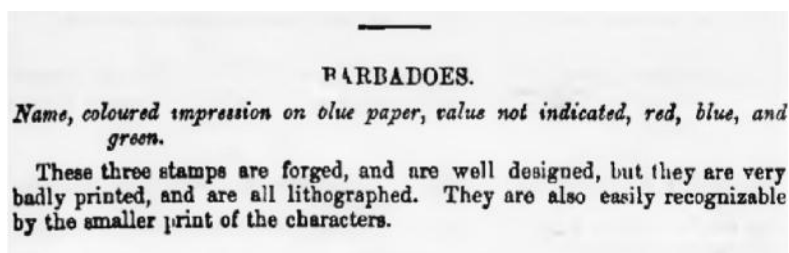
Forgeries

Forging has a long tradition. The forgery of money and documents is known from ancient cultures and did not cease in the European middle ages. In dossiers previous to the introduction of the first adhesive stamps for postal use in England, experts had warned, that there would appear counterfeits to defraud the postal administration. They, certainly, recommended the sovereign's effigy for the stamps, anticipating later scientific discoveries, that the human eye was able to discover even minute changes in facial expressions. They could not imagine that 20 years later philatelic forgers had outnumbered the deceivers of the postal system.

⁵ Daniel Dean wrote in *The Stamp Collector's Miscellany* [SCMis] between July 1864 (n. 1) and May 1865 (n. 11) a series of articles about forgeries. Jean-Baptiste Moens: *De la falsification des timbres-poste*, Bruxelles 1862. Thornton Lewes, Edward Pemberton: *Forged Stamps: How to Detect Them*, Edingurgh 1863. Thomas Dalston: *How to Detect Forged Stamps*, Gateshead 1865. J. M. Stourton: *Postage Stamp Forgeries*, London 1865.

⁶ In April 1865 Dean published a large panegyric poem entitled *Timbromania*. in his magazine SCMis, n.10, p. 147/48.

The first philatelic forgeries



Figs. 5-7: Two early forgeries and description

feed-back the coming into being of the first price-lists, catalogues and stamp magazines occurred all over Europe. Most magazines included sections where stamp dealers published their offers. It was not only a Europe-wide expansion, it even included North America. And now, under those new constellations, forgeries had a real chance to sell. The best proof for this assertion is, that among the very first books on philatelic subjects were various booklets just about forgeries.

The major part of the counterfeits listed by Jean-Baptiste Moens in his 1862 book on forgeries were essays, that were obviously taken by many dealers and collectors for genuine issued stamps. Nearly the whole rest refers to chemically manipulated authentic stamps that showed changed colours after their treatment.

But soon the emerging of hand-drawn, usually lithographic imitations started. Articles or books about forgeries published in the following years show an increasing number of lithographic imitations. Today we wonder how collectors could be deceived by the majority of those fakes we would describe from our modern point of view as naïve or very crude. But we have to take in account, that most collectors and even many dealers sold samples they had never seen before, without any possibility to verify whether they were really genuine or not.

This changed in the following years as far as the newly issued stamps were concerned with the publication of the first illustrated stamp magazines that dedicated a lot of space to the presentation of novelties. The real design of the earlier issues could only be verified with the help of the illustrations of the first catalogues, since 1863 when J.-B. Moens had edited 17 deliveries of lithographic sheets of about 630 stamps, in 1864 bound together with his first catalogue, shortly afterwards translated by Charles Viner and published with the title *Illustrated Postage Stamps* in England. Although covering with lithographs of a superb graphical quality about 20% of the existing stamps at that time, this work was out of bounds of most collectors. It, certainly, depicted the private collection of its editor and part of one of his friends and, as the British expert Pemberton could show few months after its publication, by no means all images represented genuine samples.⁷ Stafford Smith had started with 50 images in 1864. In his 1866 *Sixpenny Illustrated Catalogue of Postage Stamps* the number of images had

⁷ An own analysis focused on Spanish stamps could discover more copied fakes.

doubled. In view of this reduced number of available stamp-images forgers could deliver imitations that most collectors only might have been able to classify as forgeries by intuition.

The boom lasted until 1865. During the year 1866 the demand was coming down, the market was saturated and one year later, all dealers that had bet on the sales of those items had disappeared from the market. Even British sellers of those products, until then present with their monthly ads in the magazines, disappeared from the scene.

The mid-1860's forgeries

288 MAGAZIN FÜR BRIEFMARKEN-SAMMLER. [No. 36.]

Anzeigen.

H. LENNOX
18 Newhall Terrace in Glasgow

hält-grosses Lager von ungebrauchten und gebrauchten Colonialmarken und offerirt die folgenden das Stück zu 1 Penny (8 Pfg.): Barbados, Br. Guiana 1 c., Canada 1, 2, 5 und 10 cts., Ceylon, Hongkong, Neu-Braunschweig 1, 2 und 5 cts., Neu-Süd-Wales, Neu-Seeland, Neu-Schottland, Süd-Australien, Tasmanien und Victoria. Ferner das Stück zu 2 Penny (16 Pfg.): Antigua, Cap der guten Hoffnung, Jamaica, Nevis, Natal, St. Lucia etc. Alle Varietäten von alten Victoria, echten Marken mit Ansicht von Sidney 2 p. zu 2 sh. 6 d. (25 Ngr.) etc. etc. welche in der Preisliste zu ersehen sind.

Facsimiles. Alle das Stück 1 Penny (8 Pfg.) als: Argentinische Republik 5, 10 und 15 c., Brasilien 7 Stück 4 d. (32 Pfg.), Buenos-Ayres, Costa-Rica 1 p., 1/2, 2 und 4 r., Finland (alte) der Satz von 5 Stück 4 pence (32 Pfg.), Genf 5, 5 c., La Guaira 1/2, 1/2, 2 und 2 r., Liberia 6, 12 und 24 cts., Indien 1/2 d. alt, 1 und 2 annas, Mexico 12 Stück 6 pence (56 Pfg.), Neu-Granada 5, 10 und 20 cts., Nicaragua 2 und 5 c., Parma der Satz von 11 Stück 7 pence (56 Pfg.), Pacific 10 Stück 7 pence (56 Pfg.), Pony Express 1, 2, 3 und 4 dollars der Satz von 16 Stück für 10 pence (80 Pfg.), Sicilien (Kopf) 7 Stück, Türkei 7 Stück alte, Württemberg 18 kr., Retourmarke. Porto muss beigefügt sein. Alle Aufträge werden umgehend ausgeführt. Geldsendungen müssen in ungebrauchten Marken von kleinen Werthen, oder Preussischen Thaler-Noten gemacht werden. Seltsame Marken und gewöhnliche in Partien werden gegen Colonial-Marken ungetauscht.

H. LENNOX
18 Newhall Terrace Glasgow (Scotland).

Stück gut gemischte und reinliche Brief- und Couvert-Marken aller Länder (mit Ausnahme

Fig. 8: Lennox-ad

The rapidly increasing demand of stamps generated the phenomenon of the “Spiro”-facsimiles, stamps and series of about 40 countries or regions appeared on the philatelic market, offered and sold among others by the Hamburg brothers as imitations and at very competitive prices. Expressly announced as fac-similes, there were not thought to deceive the buyers. On the contrary, there were hyped as an alternative economical option, to fill the gaps expensive stamps had left in the collections. About half a dozen contemporaneous books or series of articles allow to identify part of those old forgeries out of the pool of known forged items.⁸

Identifying the stamps affected

ALL USED.

The following are all at.

1 d. pr. copie. 8 d. pr. dozen. 3 s. pr. hundred.		
1861 NEVIS pink 1 d. perforatd.	1860 GREECE brown 1 lept.	1860 SAXONY pink 3 Ph.
1861 SANDWICH red 13 cent.	“ “ “ 2 “	“ FINLAND 4 kop. blue.
“ “ black 1 cent.	“ “ green 5 “	“ “ 10 “ pink.
“ WEST AUSTRALIA 1 penny black.	“ WEST AUSTRALIA 6 d. violet.	MODENA Taoro gazette black.
“ “ 6 “ green.	N. CALEDONIE gray 10 cent.	1861 ARGENTINE 5 cent red.
1863 VENEZUELA yellow 1/2 real.	1863 VENEZUELA blue 1 real.	1863 VENEZUELA green 2 real.

2 d. pr. copie. 12 d. pr. dozen. 4 s. 6 d. pr. hundred.		
1860 GREECE yellow 10-lepta watermark.	1860 BR. GUYANA 1 d. black perforatd.	1862 WESTERN-AUSTRALIA pink 1 d. perf.
“ “ blue 20 “	“ “ 2 d. orange “	“ “ blue 2d. “
“ “ violet 40 “	“ “ 4 d. blue “	1860 LIBERIA blue 12 c. perforatd.
“ “ red 80 “	“ “ 8 d. pink “	“ “ green 24 c. “
1861 NICARAGUA black 1 cent. perforatd.	“ “ 12 d. lilac “	“ “ rose 6 c. “
“ “ blue 2 “	“ “ 28 d. green “	

2 d. pr. piece 1 s. 6 d. pr. dozen 6 s. pr. hundred.		
BRAZIL largechiffres 30 Reis.	SCHLESWIG-HOLSTEIN with thread pink 2 sh.	SICILY olive 1 grano.
“ “ 90 “	“ “ blue 1 Sh.	“ “ blue 2 “
“ “ 90 “	SICILY orange 1/2 grand.	“ “ 10 “
		“ “ carmine 5 “

1/2 d. pr. piece. 4 d. pr. dozen. 2 s. 6 d. pr. hundred.	
1850 SPAIN 6 quarto Isabella.	1859 TOSCANO pink 80 cent.
1851 “ 6 “ “	“ “ red 40 “
1854 TOSCANO blue 2 crazie.	“ “ blue 30 “
“ “ green 4 “	“ “ green 5 “
“ “ blue 6 “	“ “ brown 10 “
“ “ black 1 quat.	
“ “ pink 1 crazie.	

A Specimen sheet containing one of every description will be send for r .. 5s.

Fig. 9: Spiro-list

⁸ The best “pool” of images is, in my opinion, the Evert Klaseboer *CD-ROM Catalogue*. The used reference books have already been quoted.

Which are really the stamps the Spiro brothers sold? We've only two, but sure sources to determine those item. The first is the 1864 selling list of the Spiros, the second is a listing made by E. L. Pemberton in an article in the Stamp Collectors Magazine.⁹ In a letter to the editor the Hamburg firm ratified the listing, exceptuating expressly one only stamp.¹⁰

Except for one, the works we rely on in order to identify the facsimiles advertised by the Spiro brothers are the previously quoted books and articles about forgeries published between 1863 and August 1865.¹¹ Moens' contribution is, unfortunately, not specific enough in its descriptions of the fakes to be useful.

In their selling-list the Spiros offered 53 facsimiles of 18 different countries or regions.¹² Despite my attempts to identify those samples out of the pool of the described and documented forgeries, I was not able to find the meant samples of the two stamps of Spain (6 cts. of 1850 and 1851) and those of the British Guiana issue of 1860. Their descriptions are not specific enough. As far as Brazil is concerned, I could not find the described forgery of its first issue either. In three cases (Sicily, Tuscany and Nicaragua) the descriptions point to two possible candidates.

For 13 out of the 15 discovered and identified different facsimile-types sold by the Spiros exist supposed entire "Spiro-sheets", multiples or single values with "typical Spiro-cancels". For Brazil, with its not identified forgery, even exist two supposed sheets. For Greece only exist some suspicions and for the rest (New Caledonia and Argentina) no supposed "Spiro-sheet" or stamps have been documented or attributed. None of those 13 supposedly Spiro-made sheets or stamps coincides with any of those of the Hamburg brothers' list. I'll show that now by means of six examples.

The comparison

Brazil: 1843 issue : 30, 60, 90 reis

Following the publications of experts in Brazilian forgeries, of the first issue exist two types of "Spiro-sheets".¹³ In a recently published article one of them could, however, be identified because of its typical cancel as the work of Torres.¹⁴ To prevent possible objections I'll nevertheless take it in consideration here (fig. 13 and 15).

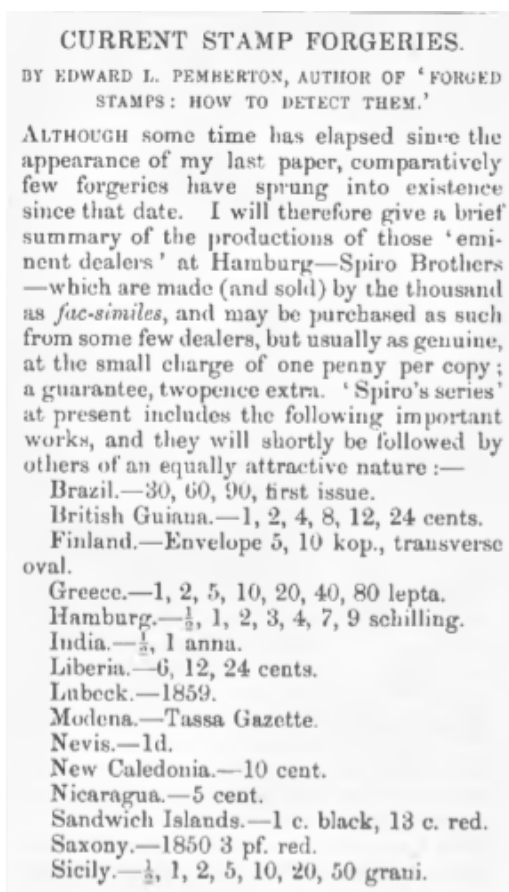


Fig. 10: Spiro-list (Pemberton/SCM)

⁹ SCM, see footnote #3.

¹⁰ SCM, Nov. 1864.

¹¹ Allgemeiner Briefmarken Anzeiger [ABA], n. 1-12 (1863/64).

¹² See the Lowell Ragatz edition of the *Spud Papers*, Lucerne 1951.

¹³ Marcelo G. C. Studart: *Falsificações e Fraudações na Filatelia Brasileira*, Brasília 1995, S. 18-60. Stephen Rose (following Studart): *Brazil – Early Forgeries, Facsimiles & Postal Counterfeits*, 2012, <https://classic.stamps.org> [foreign online exhibits].

¹⁴ GLV: *Plácido Ramón de Torres und seine Brasilien-Fälschungen*, Arbeitsgemeinschaft Brasilien, Forschungsbericht 87, Januar – Juni 2020, S.15 ff. (1st part), #88, Juli-Dezember, (2nd part).



Fig. 11: Brazil 1st issue, genuine



Fig. 12 : "Spiro-sheets" Brazil

Smudged dots instead of a clear engine turning pattern of the background distinguish this "badly imitated" early Brazil forgery from the original.¹⁵ The images taken from each of the two sheets qualified by Studart as Spiro-sheets, do not match with that description.

A final note furthermore points out that the "size of the forgeries is a trifle larger than the originals". Among the up to five forgeries presented in the third edition of the *Album Weeds* in 1905, there's any mention of such an eye-catching difference in size. Only Studart presents in 1995 among his 24 individually measured forgeries a sample that might be the meant, if we only look at its peculiarly larger size (31.5 x 36.5 mm). He describes, however, this not at all smudged sample as a proof that appeared about 1940 on the philatelic market (fig. 16). So we'll have to exclude it from the list of possible candidates and admit that the described 1860-forgery is one of the once exiting, lost and/or no more found samples.

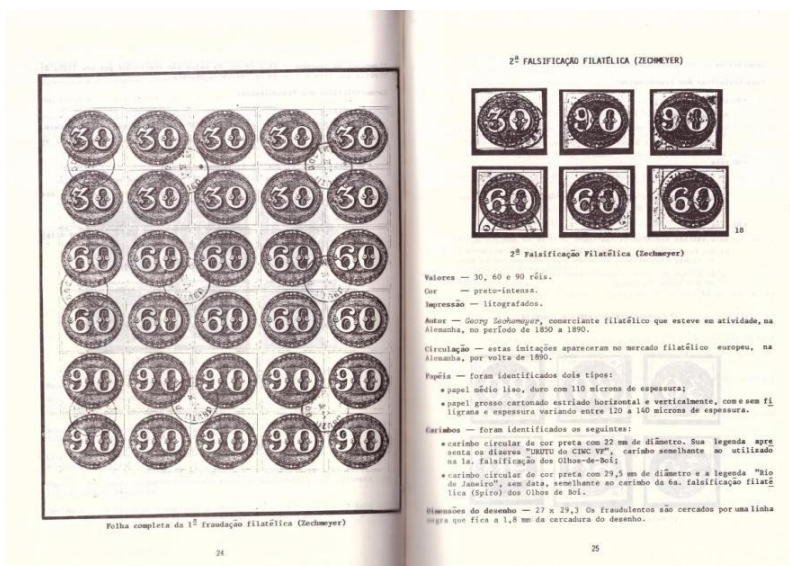


Fig. 13: Torres-sheet Brazil

¹⁵ SCMis, p. 9.



Fig. 14: supposed Spiro-facsimiles (1st issue)



Fig. 15: Torres counterfeits (1st issue)

19^a FALSIFICAÇÃO FILATÉLICA (PROVA)



19^a Falsificação filatêlica (prova)

Valor — 30 réis.

Cor — preto-intensa.

Impressão — pelo processo tipográfico.

Autor — desconhecido.

Circulação — esta falsificação surgiu, no mercado filatêlico, a partir de 1940.

Papel — foi usado um papel médio poroso, com 100 a 110 microns de espessura.

Carimbo — só identificamos exemplares novos.

Dimensões do desenho — 31,5 x 36,5 mm.

Fig. 16: Essay (?) Studart

Greece: 1862 issue, (7 values), 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 40, 80 lepta



Fig. 17-18: 1862 genuine Greek issue

Fig. 19: old forgeries



Fig. 20: old forgeries

Fig. 21-22: supposed Spiro-forgeries

Listed and/or described by all our referenced authors, the number of dots or pearls around the central medallion of this forgery is 75 and not 88 as in the original. This fact allows an undisputable identification. No other documented forgery presents this feature.

Of this issue there's no Spiro-sheet or sample documented. Klaseboer classifies in his catalogue another forgery as a possibly Spiro-made (figs. 21 and 22). The samples, however, do not show what we would consider a typical Spiro-cancel. The printing quality and the graphic achievement do not correspond with what we would expect from a "Spiro-facsimile".

Nevis: 1d lake



Fig. 23: Nevis genuine

Fig. 24: old forgery

Fig. 25a: supposed Spiro-forgeries



Fig. 25b: text: supposed Spiro-forgeries

The letters of the inscription of this fake are unreasonably large. The background is very indistinct, so that of the mineral spring in the background there are only a few red strokes being visible. That's the summary of the description of this Nevis-forgery. The images of the actual existing supposed "Spiro"-samples contrast clearly with those of figure 25 most people would accept as genuine Hamburg products. I think there's no need for further explanation, the images speak for themselves.

Saxony



Fig. 26: genuine Saxony-sample

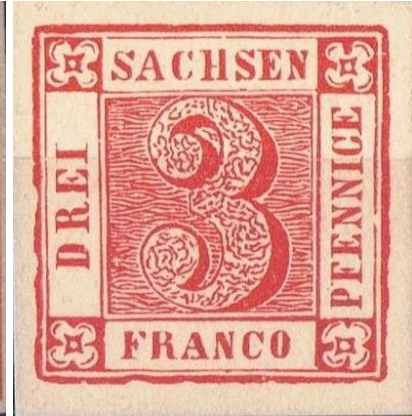


Fig. 27: old forgery

The descriptions of the Saxony-forgery on the philatelic market in those years, furnish easily comprehensible and unmistakable details for its detection. A white shading line or space all around the central figure already determines a unique sample. The inner ornaments of the figure, consisting of strangely vermiculated lines instead of a lot of small figures (three) in different positions and orientations, do not touch the figure's outline. There's no full stop after FRANCO. These are more than sufficient details to identify the forgery without the least doubt. No possibly corresponding "Spiro-sheet" or "typically" cancelled item is reported or documented.

Sicily:

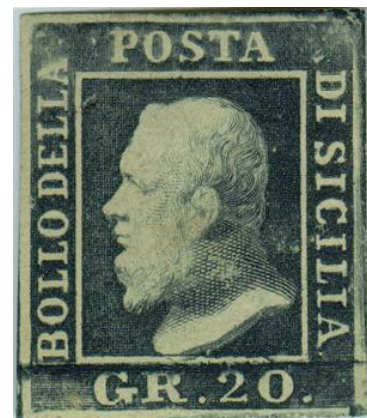
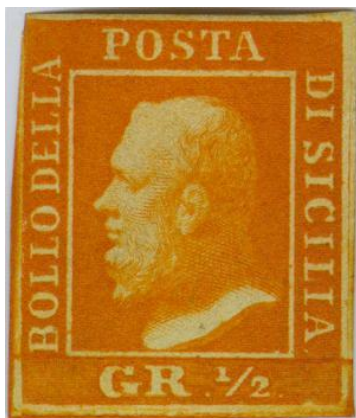


Fig. 28-30: 1858 issue, genuine samples



Fig. 31-33: samples of an old forged issue



Fig. 34-36: samples of another old forged issue



Fig.37: Supposed Spiro-forgery

Three different forgeries coincide with the descriptions of the early forgery experts. The “worst” could not be localised, but is impossible to fail, should it (re-)appear. Its left and right lateral labels’ inscriptions are transposed.

The two other copies show both a solid background, whereas we find fine crossed lines in the originals. In the first forgery the 1 gr and 50 gr show the red same colour. There’s no dot after SICILIA. For the value with the most eye-catching difference I could, unfortunately, not find any sample. The lowest value ($\frac{1}{2}$) shows a vertical stroke separating the numerals of the value.

Entire “Spiro-sheets” of this issue are not known, but some samples bear “typical” cancels we use to attribute to the Spiro brothers. The network of background-lines distinguishes them, however, from our old forgeries.

Western Australia:



Fig. 38-39: 1 and 2p genuine

Fig. 40-41:
two different old
forgeries (straggl
dots)



Fig. 42: "Spiro"-forgery Spud Papers
Right – Fig. 43: Spiro"-sheet

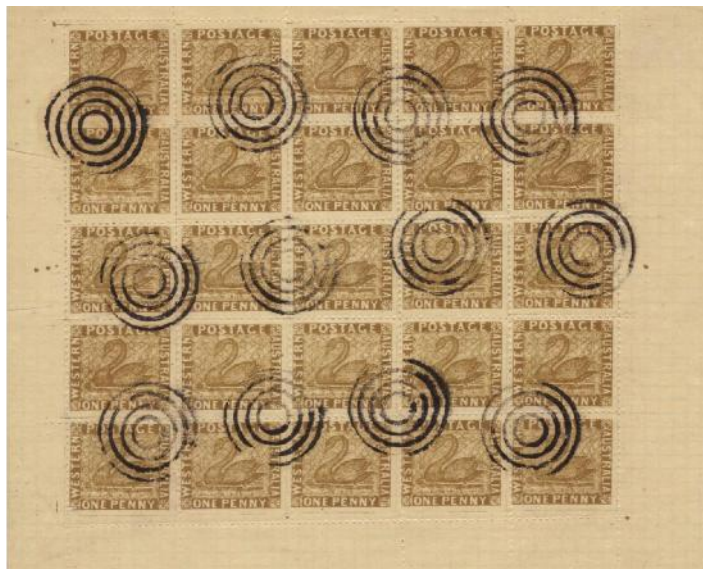
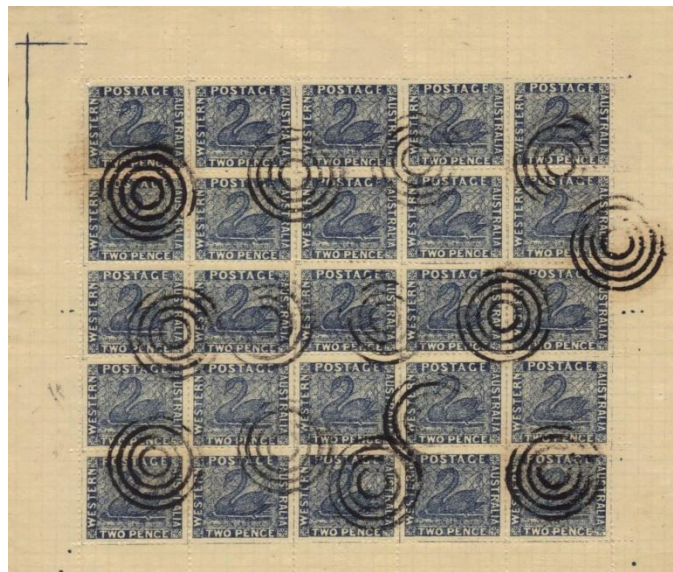


Fig. 44: Spiro"-sheet

All consulted forgery descriptions, except for Stourton, coincide in the most important, unique and unmistakable sign that distinguishes these two slightly different types of counterfeited 1864/5 stamps from the originals as well as from later forgeries. The background consists of straggl
dots. It is clear that they are as well different from those that are usually considered as (made and) sold by the Hamburg brothers we can find e.g. in the Dunne collection on the internet.¹⁶

Stourton who publishes his book in August 1865 includes in his descriptions some new Western Australian forgeries of the 1865/69 issue with different colours. These new forgeries could not yet have existed in October 1864, when the Spiro-list was published. So we need not take them into account.

¹⁶ <file:///C:/Spiro/The-Bryan-Dunne-Buenos-Aires-Brazil-Part-1.pdf> and following parts.



Fig. 45-46: Same background-pattern. Torres-joke ["TVO"] and inverted labels copied

Two Torres-forgeries can be found in the pool of not attributed old forgeries (fig. 45 and 46). The first is a joke ["V" instead of "W"], the second a copy taken from an actual existing sample with the inverted horizontal labels.

Short resume

The result of the above presented comparing analysis is, that there is no coincidence between the described mid-1860's forgeries, identified as real Spiro-products and the stamps or sheets generally thought to be sold by the Hamburg brothers. Nor coincide the applied cancels with those we had expected to find after having analysed nearly 250 documented, supposed entire "Spiro"-sheets, nor coincide the designs. The printing quality and the quality of the design of those old forgeries are mostly poorer than on the "Spiros".

168 MAGAZIN FÜR BRIEFMARKEN-SAMMLER. [No. 21.]

JOHN YOUNG JUN.,
222 Gallougate Glasgow,

hat zu verkaufen oder im Tausch alle gute gebrauchte und ungebrauchte Colonial- und ausländische Briefmarken. Ungebrauchte à Stück 1 Ngr.: Barbados grün, Malta $\frac{1}{2}$ p., Neu-Braunschweig 1 c., Neu-Schottland 1 c., British Guiana 1 c. etc. Ungebraucht à Stück 2 Ngr.: Antigua 1 p., Bahamas, Barbados blau, Granada 1 p., Neu-Schottland 2 cts., Prinz Edward's Insel 1 p., St. Helena 1 p., St. Lucia roth, St. Vincent 1 p., Ceylon $\frac{1}{2}$ p. bla etc. Ungebraucht à Stück 3 Ngr.: Jonische Inseln blau, St. Thomas 3 cts. und viele andere. Ceylon, Couvert ungebraucht 1 p. à 3 Ngr., pr. Dtzd. 25 Ngr.; 2 p. à 4 Ngr., pr. Dtzd. 35 Ngr.; 4 p. à $7\frac{1}{2}$ Ngr.; 5 p. à $12\frac{1}{2}$ Ngr. Jonische Inseln ungebraucht pr. Satz von 3 Stück $7\frac{1}{2}$ Ngr. oder 12 Sätze für 2 Thlr. 5 Ngr. Amerikanische und Canada'sche Privat-Marken in verschiedenen Varietäten 1 Ngr. das Stück oder $7\frac{1}{2}$ Ngr. pr. Dtzd. Alle diese Marken sind garantirt echt.

Facsimiles (gut ausgeführt) pr. Stück 1 Ngr.: Argentinische (Republik) 5 c., (Conföderirte) 5, 10, 15 c.; Brasilien I. Em. 30, 60, 90 r., II. Em. schräge Zahlen 10, 30, 60 und 90 r.; British Guiana der Satz von 6 Stück 4 Ngr.; Buenos Ayres 1 und 2 p.; Costa Rica $\frac{1}{2}$ und 2 p.; Finland 5, 10 und 20 kop.; Genf 5 c., 5 c., 5 c.; Griechenland pr. Satz 7 Stück 5 Ngr.; Liberia 6, 12 und 24 cts.; Indien (roth) $\frac{1}{2}$ und 1 anna; Mexico pr. Satz 12 Stück 8 Ngr.; Moldau 81, 108 paras; Neapel $\frac{1}{2}$ torn., $\frac{1}{2}$ und 50 grano; Nevis 1 p.; Neu-Caledonien 10 c.; Neu-Granada 5, 10 und 20 cts.; Nicaragua 2 und 5 centavos; Parma pr. Satz 12 Stück 5 Ngr.; Pony Express 1, 2, 3 und 4 dollars pr. Satz 16 Stück 11 Ngr.; Romagna pr. Satz 9 Stück 5 Ngr.; Sandwichs-Inseln 1, 2, 5 und 13 c.; Spanien pr. Satz 17 Stück 10 Ngr.; Toscana pr. Satz 10 Stück 7 Ngr.; Sicilien pr. Satz 5 Stück 4 Ngr.; Venezuela $\frac{1}{2}$, 1 und 2 r.; West-Australien pr. Satz 6 Stück 4 Ngr.; Württemberg 18 kr. (mit Zahl), Commission für Retourbriefe; Zürich 4 und 6 r. und viele Varietäten von Andern. Auch Tausende von gebrauchten und ungebrauchten echten Marken. Geldsendungen nebst Retour-Porto können in Preussischen Banknoten gemacht werden. Aufträge werden mit umgehender Post ausgeführt. Vollständige Preislisten von vielen Varietäten.

JOHN YOUNG JUN.,
222 Gallougate in Glasgow (Scotland).

Fig. 47: Young ad



Prospect.

Wenn wir den vielen bereits erscheinenden Marken-Zeitungen noch eine neue hinzufügen, so geschieht dies hauptsächlich, um für unsere Firma ein Organ zu finden, und hierdurch den Schwierigkeiten zu entgehen, die der Aufnahme von Artikeln in fremden Zeitungen entgegenstehen. Mag hierin zugleich die Gratisversendung dieses Blattes ihre Erklärung finden.

Aber weit entfernt davon, für uns allein ein Organ zu schaffen, bieten wir dasselbe vielmehr allen Marken-Händlern und Sammlern ohne Unterschied an, erbiten uns Notizen, Artikel aller Art zur Mittheilung und zweifeln demnach nicht, unser Blatt bald zur Lieblingslectüre aller Sammler zu machen.

Polemische Artikel werden wir ohne unsere Verantwortung und Vertretung in einer besonderen Rubrik „Briefkasten“ bringen. Eine zweite Rubrik wird sich zur Aufgabe machen, Anfragen der Leser zu beantworten. Ausserdem werden wir, so oft es nöthig erscheint, Abbildungen in feinsten Lithographie beilegen. — So empfehlen wir namentlich mit Rücksicht auf seine Billigkeit unser Blatt allen Sammlern und Händlern, hoffen wir doch damit eine Lücke auszufüllen im grossen Reiche des Briefmarkenverkehrs.

Hamburg, den 15. October 1864.

Die Herausgeber.

Fig. 48: front page Spiro gratis magazine

argue in the same way in his review *Le Facsimile*, obviously inspired in the Hamburg publication. No need to tell a different story.

And let me finish with a “philatelic” reason to resolve this question. In “parallel” offers the Glasgow-sited firms Young, later Weir and Lennox started their appearance on the philatelic market in 1865, advertising expressly facsimiles as the Spiros did as well.¹⁷ In his advertisements Young not only offered the same stamps as the Spiros, but issues of another 21 countries. A similarly augmented offer show the ads of Weir. This does by no means go with an alleged Spiro origin of those items.

Next challenges

We understand this article as a first step in our more ambitious project that pretends to identify, if possible, the makers of the analysed mid-1860’s forgeries. More intriguing than the just mentioned question is another one we try to resolve in a further step. Who has made those other erroneously named Spiros, those quite acceptable lithographic forgeries we find sometimes on entire 5x5 sheets and that bear those emblematic cancels we are used to identify up to now as German products?



Fig. 49-50: “Spiro”-cancels

¹⁷ Wolfgang Maassen: *Philip Spiro: Der 'falsche' Fälscher, ...*

¹⁸ See SCM, ABA and Magazin für Briefmarker Sammler 1864/65.



Fig. 51-52: "Torres/Usigli"-cancels

At this moment there are more speculations in the air than tangible evidence. Our theory and working hypothesis is the following. With the end of the first wave of "timbromania" and the saturation of the stamp market in 1866/67 the "pre-catalogue" era with its relatively poor and crude forgeries came as well to an end. In the early 1870's the *Florentine gang* started a new initiative invading the market with their forgeries produced by Torres and Usigli.¹⁹ The 20 first forgeries the Spud Papers describe and attribute to the Spiros, were in reality nearly all Italian-made and can be distinguished from their new "Spiro"-competitors by their different cancels. The success of this initiative animated others to do the same originating a new wave of forgeries.

What I just called new "Spiros" probably came from at least two sources that produced quite well designed and achieved forgeries. One was located in Hamburg, another one somewhere in England. We hope to be able to discover and present soon more detailed information about all those forgeries and their authors.

Acknowledgements: My thanks are for Wolfgang Maassen, who generously included me in his investigations about the Spiro-family. Evert Klaseboer, author of the *CD-ROM-Catalogue*, gave me permission to use his photos for publication.

¹⁹ Il conte Giulio Cesare Bonasi accusato di frode, *Qui Filatelia*, sept. 2016, p. 5-9. The Spanish forger Plácido Ramón de Torres: his Catania and Livorno fakes and his Italian States forgeries, *fil-ITALIA*, vol. XLIV, n° 3, (whole number 177), Summer 2018, p. 107-118. I falsi italiani di Usigli e Torres. Parma, *QuiFilatelia*, 96, p. 16-20. I falsi italiani di Usigli e Torres. Toscana, *QuiFilatelia*, 97, p. 14-16.

Australian Ration Cards

by Brian Fuller

I am now the proud possessor of a 1947 S ration card from WW2 as per the following photos — back and front.

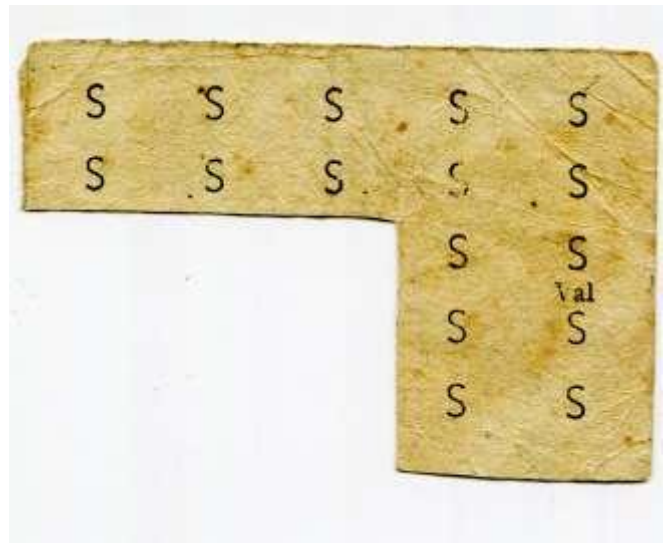
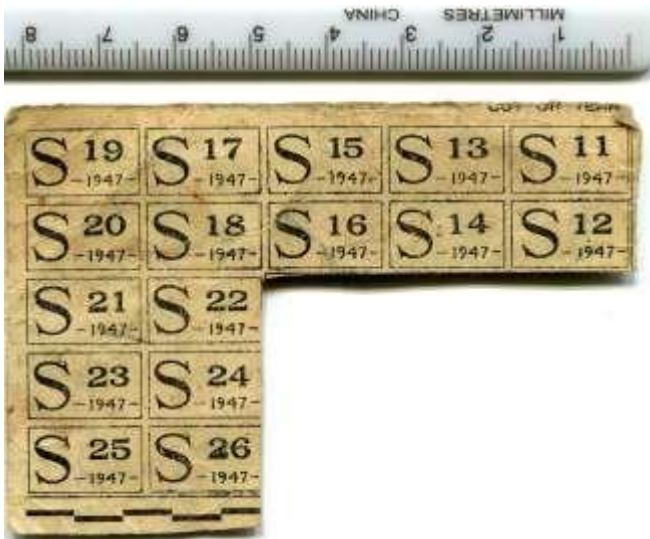
The tear out sections of the buff card appear to be in vertical pairs except for the 5th row which is horizontal pairs.

There is only one slight problem — I cannot identify its use or reason for issue. Special, Supplement, Secret, are all potential wild guesses. The solitary "Value" on the reverse is intriguing!

Allegedly it is Australian as the card apparently came with two other Australian ration cards Clothing and Meat. I did not win those. I researched US, NZ, Canada and UK Ration Card Commissions but no luck.

I have searched Mr Google, Trove, and the vendor for information but have drawn a blank. Can anyone rescue me please?

Is there a comprehensive book/text etc covering our ration cards? The range, criteria for their existence, and control from my limited research makes amazing reading. The behind scenes discussion to implement and control them would be a major challenge to any researcher to coherently relate.



Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

This edition will mostly feature postmarks from the last of the collection that Simon Alsop gave me.

In the Victorian section are 3 postmarks from the Port Melbourne Delivery Centre and all have dates that are earlier than those listed on David Wood's Victorian Postmark List.

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

N.S.W.



QLD.



S.A.



TAS.



TAS.



TAS.



VIC.



W.A.



Australian stamp & coin co

stamps - coins - banknotes

AUSTRALIAN STAMPS & COINS

Quality Decimal & Pre-Decimal
Full Range of Australia Post Products
Royal Australian & Perth Mint Products
Sovereigns & 1/2 Sovereigns

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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

1893 World's Columbian Exposition

In 1893 the World's Columbian Exposition was held in Chicago. An Australian visitor sent a postcard from the Exposition, correctly uprated with the 1 cent Exposition stamp, for carriage to Australia. The sender was A G Stephens [1865-1933], the famous literary editor of the Sydney Bulletin. The card has the World's Fair date stamp [1 June 1893], plus San Francisco, Brisbane [20 July] and Towong date stamps.

The picture side of the card portrays Mrs Bertha Potter Palmer, President of the Board of Lady Managers of the Women's Building. The building is shown to her right.



Tony Lyon

Chatham Islands, New Zealand

The Chatham Islands, part of New Zealand, form an archipelago in the Pacific Ocean about 800 kilometres east of the South Island. The archipelago consists of about ten islands within an approximate 60-kilometre radius, the largest of which are Chatham Island and Pitt Island. Population: 663 (2018 census); Largest city: Waitangi. I spent 2 months there in 1964.



Registered FDI 2 Dec 1970 with 1 & 2 cent coins.

The 15 cent paid the registration fee.



Reverse

The set of stamps show **1 cent**: *Myosotidium Hortensia* family *Boraginaceae*, also Chatham Island forget-me-not, Chatham Island lily, Antarctic forget-me-not. It is endemic to the Chatham Islands:¹

2 cent The Chatham albatross (*Thalassarche eremita*), also known as the Chatham mollymawk or Chatham Island mollymawk, is a medium-sized black-and-white albatross which breeds only on The Pyramid, a large rock stack in the Chatham Islands, New Zealand. It is sometimes treated as a subspecies of the shy albatross *Thalassarche cauta*. It is the smallest of the shy albatross group.²

¹ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Myosotidium> Internet: accessed 19/9/2021

² https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/New_Zealand Internet: accessed 19/9/2021.