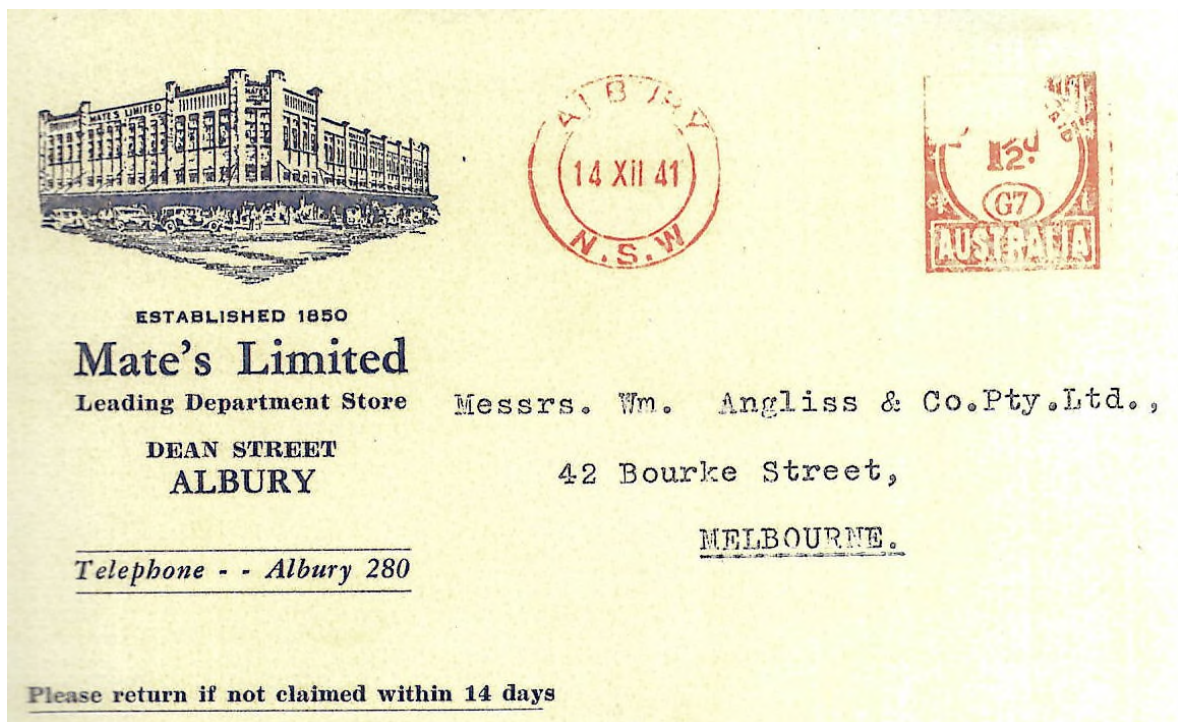


Australian Journal of Philately

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As it was, But Now!**

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April 1945 N.Z. Air Mail Letter Card

Hand-Held Date-Stamp Notes

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28 March 2022	John Young on ZOOM	France—Marianne Postal History 1944-51
11 April 2022	Tony Lyon Member's Meeting	New Zealand Postal History 1940's
20 June 2020	Brian Fuller Venue TBC	Advertising Covers

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Front Cover : Mates Limited

Mate's Limited department store was founded by Thomas Mate in Albury in 1850. Its early prosperity came from trade with nearby gold fields. Mate's Corner at Dean and Kiewa Streets became a landmark emporium. The size of the store can be seen on the cover's left hand side.

The cover was mailed in 1941, three years before the store hosted a political conference on one of its upper floors. That conference led to the formation of Robert Menzies' Liberal Party.

The cover is franked 1 ½ pence, the rate for commercial papers, 1 penny plus ½ penny war tax operative from 10 December 1941.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

The March Journal finally is finished. Through various missteps it was delayed. I needed to write seven pages to ensure we had a full journal. It always seems that when I am at my busiest with multiple deadlines I need to fill the gaps. If you find what is presented boring then I would gladly accept your contribution.

In fact, if future articles are not forthcoming then I am not sure of the viability of this journal. A number of our contributors have died and unfortunately others have not filled the void.

It was with regret that we learned of the passing of a former editor, and someone who served in many other roles. He was also a very faithful contributor over a very long period. Michael Barden was a gentleman who was always willing to give of himself. His collections and knowledge of Belgium brought many interesting articles and displays. Condolences are extended to his wife Maureen and family.

One of the reasons I enjoy postal history is because the items collected served the purpose for which they were created. Mail that is genuinely sent via post. My own particular area is military postal history but I have also collected postmarks and stamps.

Whatever your interest I hope that you also garner joy and that there will always be that elusive item out there somewhere waiting to be discovered.

Thank you to those who have contributed to this issue and a special thanks to Ian Sadler for his editing of Gerhard's article's.

Until next time ciao.

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From the President

Our long-standing treasurer, John Steward, died just before New Year's Day. He had experienced indifferent health in recent times, but loyally carried on as our treasurer, logging up over 35 years in the role.

John formed several unique collections, and had a good eye for the unusual and the coming thing in postal history. Several years ago a couple of printed-to-private-order postal stationery items caught his eye: they were obviously scarce, and cost him a few hundred dollars, but when he sold them some time later his outlay was returned tenfold.

John's wife, Joy, worked for Dimmey's Model Store in Swan Street, Richmond. She heard that Richmond town hall was throwing out old unfiled records, and asked John if he was interested in them. Too right, was his response, and he got old letterheads, loose envelopes and postal history, a chest full of ephemera. That probably led to John collecting municipal pre-paid envelopes, often inscribed with elaborate script and council crests. His classic piece was an early Shire of Castle Donnington [now Swan Hill, Victoria] envelope. He also acquired a good run of Victorian annual Municipal Directories, something like a collection of cricket Wisden's, but not as well known. John also put together a good collection of post cards of Richmond, followed by Caulfield [where he lived], and Phillip Island where he and Joy had a holiday house. He was never afraid to try out a new collecting field.

John Steward was a recipient of the Society's medal for service to philately and was a life member in recognition of his long service as treasurer.

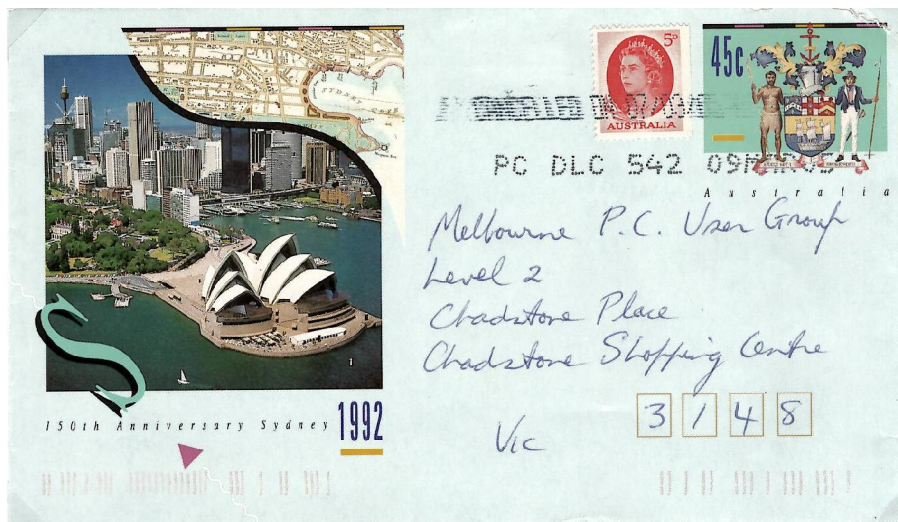
Vale John Steward.

*

*

*

In 1992 a pre-stamped envelope was issued for the 150th anniversary of the Sydney City Council. Postage was 45 cents. The letter rate went up to 50 cents eleven years later, and in 2005 the envelope shown below was up-rated with a five pence booklet stamp. That is a very late combined pre-decimal and decimal currencies cover, thirty-seven years after the pre-decimal stamp had been demonetized. Perhaps equally surprising is that someone had kept a booklet stamp for about forty years and thought to use it to up-rate the postage.



The Mid-1860's Forgeries - The End of a Myth (II)

Gerhard Lang-Valchs

Continued from AJP 158 December 2021, pages 15-24.

Preston, the Italian forgeries' distribution centre

The mid-1860's forgeries

Tausch. Pony Express, Buenos Ayres, Argentinische, Amerikanische, Privatpostmarken, Prinz-Edwards Inseln, Tasmania und andere Colonialmarken werden gegen ältere und jetzige Continentalmarken umgetauscht bei

GRUNWOOD & CO.

in Preston, (England.)

P. S. Alle Briefe müssen frankirt sein.

Henry Watson junr.

Glover Street, Preston, England, wünscht für einige achtungswerthe Handlungen Marken in Commission zu erhalten. Referenzen werden gegeben. Alle Marken müssen ächt und billig sein. Was nicht convenirt, wird umgehend retournirt.

(112)

Grand Stamp Lottery !!—300 Prizes
and 300 Shares. Shares 6d. each, to be drawn for 21st May, 1864, 1st prize a collection value £4 4s. Enclose postage stamps for number of shares and 2 stamped envelopes to G. Greenwood, 300, North-road, Preston, Lancashire.
N.B.—The last prize is worth the amount paid for the share.

AMBLER AND SYMS,
66, FRENCHWOOD STREET, PRESTON.
STAMPS sent on inspection. The New Belgium, Tuscany, Sold Baden, &c., are included in our 6d. packet of 30. Our Shilling Packet of 50 really good stamps including Finland, Russia, 20 or 30 Kopic, Modena, Mecklenburg, &c. 30 different Colonial for 1s., including many rare. Agents wanted, good commission. A trial solicited.

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MAGAZIN FÜR BRIEFMARKEN-SAMMLER.

[No. 19.]

Ehrlichkeit, Pünktlichkeit, Achtbarkeit.

Henry Watson jun., Glover Street Preston (England) ist beauftragt, für respectable Händler jede Quantität von gebrauchten, echten, wohlfeilen Marken zu verkaufen, hauptsächlich Couverts, da er in beständiger Verbindung mit den meisten englischen Händlern steht. Referenzen können von Händlern gegeben werden, welche mir Aufträge erteilt haben.

Figs.28-32: Different "Preston-ads" in British and German magazines.

Strange Preston-activities could be first detected in 1864, when a certain Greenwood of Preston announced in the SCR and in *Once a Month* [OM] one of the first stamp lotteries in the context of stamp selling world-wide.³⁶

The same person, claiming to exchange stamps, had advertised in the German MBS under the misspelled name of Grunwood. Other Preston dealers, known from the *Industria*-magazine also advertised, e.g. Mr. Robert Ambler as agent or manager of the *Foreign Stamp Depot*.³⁷ In addition, he was an agent for Ambler and Syms (fig. 31). Henry Watson (jun.) and Gibson & Co are further names of Lancastershire dealers. The latter even advertised an alleged "selling off" at 35% under cost while offering at the same time in a German review a different range of services: British colonial issues, evoking "mercantile virtues" like honesty, punctuality and respectability (fig. 32).³⁸

The complaint of a deceived buyer of Preston stamp packets published in the SCM provided the decisive information.³⁹ The forged samples had been sold by Gibson & Co.⁴⁰ All ads of Preston dealers announced the same dubious material.

On two occasions Robert R. Ambler was named as author and seller of fakes analysed by Daniel Dean in his review.⁴¹ Before this fatal analysis Dean had even published two ads from Ambler and

³⁶ SCR, April 15, 1864, p. 63 and OM, May 1864, p. 32.

³⁷ MBS, Appendix to no. 38, June 1866.

³⁸ MBS, n. 19, p. 152.

³⁹ SCM, 1.1.1865, p. 16.

⁴⁰ SCM, ads from 1.8. and 1.12. 1864.

⁴¹ SCMis, *Notice*, n. 3, p. 45.

Co., 34, Cannon Street, Preston in the first issues of his magazine.⁴² After discovering the forgeries, Dean immediately refused to publish Preston advertisements and further Lennox adverts were not admitted, although Lennox had clearly offered his products as facsimiles.⁴³

Dean's descriptions of various Preston-samples reveal that they were all of the same origin, and that they were Torres/Usigli-forgeries. Three different magazines were launched, complete with advertisements under different names and different addresses, prize competitions and lotteries. This was the marketing strategy to sell stamp forgeries. There's is no doubt in my mind that those letter box firms were part of a consortium or syndicate to promote their products.

It is more difficult to find evidence for a close cooperation that, in my opinion, existed between the Preston consortium and the Torres/Usigli forging workshop. Beyond the mentions in the philatelic literature, there is not a single archived document about the Preston people in any of the local or the National Archives. There is no direct evidence of letters between Preston and the forgers showing that those firms got their facsimiles directly from Italy. However, in my opinion, the stamp illustrations used for their magazine demonstrate a direct relationship.

The most important European stamp magazines, the British SCM, Mahé and Maury in Paris and the Belgian *Le Timbre Poste*, received their illustrations from Florence.⁴⁴ Note we are not now speaking of the Italian-made forgeries, but of stamp illustrations and transfer copies from which the electrotypes (clichés) for illustrating magazines and catalogues were made. *Industria & Co.*, received illustrations of recently issued stamps for their review as soon as the SCM, in the first two months of 1866. Comparison shows that they were exactly the same, only, possible if they had a common origin.

Given the whole of evidence of the selling infrastructure presented, it is clear, that *Industria & Co.* was the new European distribution centre for the Torres/Usigli forgeries that had concerned Moens in 1864. *Industria & Co.*'s attempt to increase the volume of sales by the publication of their magazine was in vain.⁴⁵ The *timbromania* (i.e. stamp craze) was generally coming down towards the middle of the 1860's. When their publication closed down in November 1866, the Preston distribution business stopped as well. The February advertisement of the renamed and now self-styled English *Stamp Mart*, allegedly established in 1860, seven years before, was the ultimate effort to maintain the business.⁴⁶ Not a single Preston dealer continued advertising. The previously presented resellers disappeared as well. No further facsimile was advertised either.

Zechmeyer and the Hamburg-source



Fig. 33: Industria-Zechmeyer collaboration?

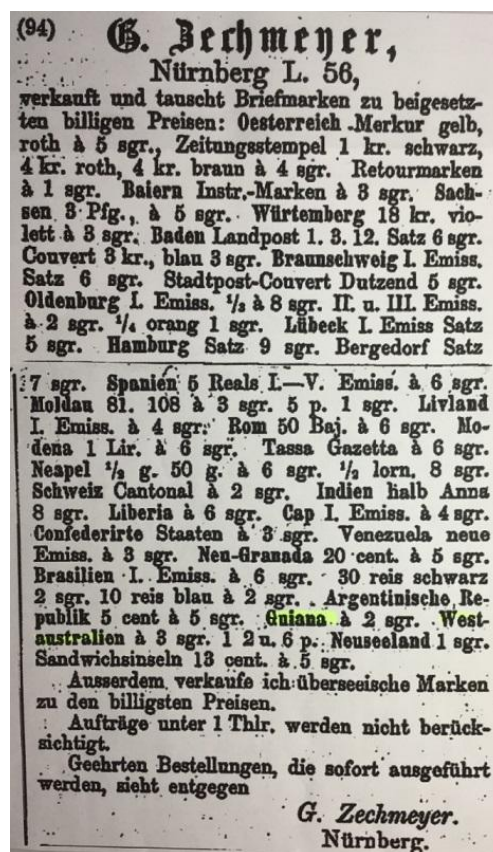


Fig. 34: Zechmeyer selling-list

⁴² SCMis, n. 2, p. 26, 27, 28, 32; n. 5, Nov 1864, p.70.

⁴³ SCMis, p. 60.

⁴⁴ *Newfoundland Discovery: 1866 Torres forgeries that correct those misidentified Moens fakes*, Newfoundland Standard Stamp Catalogue, 10th edition, 2016, p. 675-679.

⁴⁵ SCC, Dec 6th, 1865, preface; Jan 6th, Our Monthly Observations.

⁴⁶ SCM, advertisement February, 1st, 1867.

Since this study so far relied chiefly on British sources the reader might think that the battle against the early forgeries was mainly fought in the British Isles. Analysing both the adverts but and the published information of the two contemporaneous German stamp magazines, the *Magazin für Briefmarkensammler*, published from May 1863 to April 1867, and the *Allgemeiner deutscher Briefmarken-Anzeiger* (July to December 1864 with 12 issues), gives more information.

The selling lists of the main dealers involved in that selling business, show that they had begun to diversify their offers. That is, augmenting them with samples from other sources making their own offers appear more attractive. The Zechmeyer-list clearly separates his old German states'-samples from his Italian-made forgeries and he includes as well a small number of Swiss and US-made fakes (fig. 34).⁴⁷

Dean's descriptions are not really helpful to research the likely producers of the supposedly Hamburg-made forgeries; these descriptions chiefly refer to forgeries, sold by Hamburg and Nürnberg at a time that we have shown to be Torres/Usigli-forgeries. When we compared the samples of Zechmeyer's list with Weir's, Lennox' and the Spiro's offers, we did not take into account the old German states' samples; these are also identified as forgeries and not included in the other lists. Zechmeyer sold them, but did he really produce them?

The first thing to resolve is whether Georg Zechmeyer (1836-1899) was a forger or only a reseller like the Spiro brothers. This question has not yet been resolved definitively. A recent biographical study of the Nürnberg toy-seller does not discuss this point. the author avoids to classify him as a forger, but admits that his selling practise was ethically dubious.⁴⁸

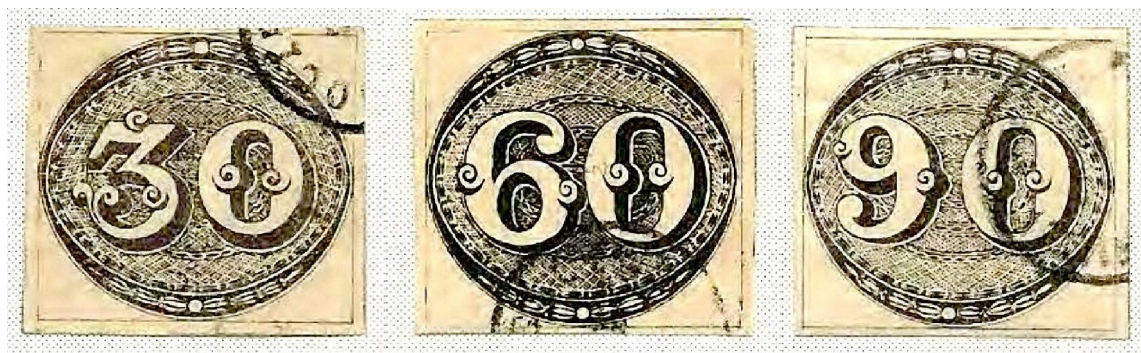


Fig. 35: Torres/Usigli-forgeries (VF-cancel) and below Fig. 36: supposed Zechmeyer-forgery



There's no generally accepted list of (supposed) Zechmeyer-forgeries. Varro E. Tyler, although referring to Zechmeyer's irregular selling practises, does not attribute any forgery to him and considers him "no doubt basically honest".⁴⁹

The attributions of forgeries to the German are all suspicions, based on the above referred selling-list. Some of them, as e.g. those of Brasil or the already mentioned of Liberia, have been identified as Torres/Usigli products.⁵⁰

⁴⁷ See footnotes 20 and 21. The list in figure 34 is fotocomposed, the original is distributed in two columns, the first part at the bottom of the first, the other at the top of the second column.

⁴⁸ Thomas Schiller: *Georg Zechmeyer sen. – Briefmarkenhandel im philatelistischen Wandel des 19. Jahrhunderts*, *Philahistorica* 4/2020, S. 17-49; downloadable at: https://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/PhilaHistorica_2020_04.pdf

⁴⁹ Varro E. Tyler: *Philatelic Forgers. Their Lives and Works*, London 1976, p. 56-57, p. 53 (see subtitles of the images).

⁵⁰ Plácido Ramón de Torres und seine Brasilien-Fälschungen, *Arbeitsgemeinschaft Brasilien*, *Forschungsbericht* 87, Januar – Juni 2020, S. 15-22 (part 1); Nr. 88, S. 16-23 (part 2). For the Philippines see footnote #2.

Despite refuting of the accusation of forgery, I am convinced Zechmeyer has made a limited number of counterfeits. However, this is not the place to discuss whether or not he forged the Baden-Landpost-issue because it does not contribute to verify the provenance of the mass of fakes of the old German states.

Briefmarken - Offerte
von
H. J. L. Behrmann in Hamburg,
St. Pauli, 19 Wilhelmstrasse.
Gelder und Briefe franco! Aechtheit garantiert!

Hamburger completter Satz, ungestempelt pr. Satz 24 Sgr. Hamburg 7 sch. lila à Stück 6 Sgr pr. Urvol. 2 Thlr. 7 1/2 Sgr. Baden 1 Kr. Landpost 1 Sgr. 3 kr. 1 1/2 Sgr. Bergedorf pr. Satz ungestempelt 9 Sgr. gestempelt 4 Sgr. Bremen 2, 3 u. 5 gr. à 1 Sgr. 7 u. 10 gr. 5 Sgr. billiget. Dänemark 2 rthk. 6 Sgr. Fire rthk. 1/2 Sgr. Danauferstenthuener 1. Em. pr. Satz 2 Thlr. Frankreich Rej 40 c. 1 1/2 Sgr. 1 fr. 2 1/2 Sgr. Griechenland 1, 2, 5 u. 10 l. à 1/2 Sgr. 20, 40 u. 80 l. à 1 Sgr. Grosbritannien 6 p. achteckig 1 1/2 Sgr. Hannover 12 verschiedene 5 Sgr. Italien 1863 5 — 60 et. 1/2 Sgr. 2 lro 2 Sgr. Lombardei 15 u. 30 et. à 1 1/2 Sgr., 15 et. 1 Sgr., 1858 u. 61 5 soldi à 1 1/2 Sgr. Lübeck 1. Em. pr. Satz 5 Sgr. Mecklenburg-Strelitz 1/2 u. 1/4 gr. u. 1 sch. à 1 Sgr., completter Satz 9 Stück 17 Sgr. Modena gemischt à 2 Sgr. Norwegen 1855 4 sk. 3/4 Sgr., 1856 4 sk. à 1/2 Sgr., 1864 1/2 sk. 1 Sgr. Oldenburg 1852 1. Em. 1/4 gr. grün 5 Sgr., 1/10 Thlr. 1/4 Sgr. 1/10 u. 1/10 Thlr. à 1 Sgr. 2. Em. 1/4 gr. 5 Sgr., 1 gr. 1/2 Sgr., 2 u. 3 gr. à 1 1/2 Sgr., 3. Em. 1/2 u. 1/4 Sgr., 1/4 u. 1/2 gr. à 3 Sgr., 1 gr. 1/2 Sgr., 2 u. 3 gr. à 1 1/2 Sgr., 4. Em. 1/4 u. 1/4 gr. à 1/2 Sgr., 1 g. 1/2 Sgr., 2 gr. 1/2 Sgr., 3 gr. 3/4 Sgr. Parma à 2 — 5 Sgr. Polen 10 kop. 1 Sgr. Portugal Dom Maria II. 5 reis 8 Sgr., 25 r. 2 1/2 Sgr., Pedro V. 30 u. 100 r. à 2 1/2 Sgr., Luis I. 50 u. 100 r. à 2 1/2 Sgr., 5 u. 25 r. à 1 Sgr. Schweden 3, 4, 6, 8, 24 u. 1 sk. ben. zusammen 12 Sgr., 1858 diverse 1/2 Sgr. Schweiz 1862 60 et. 1 Sgr., 1 fr. 1 1/4 Sgr. Sicilien 1 — 20 gr. à 3 Sgr. Spanien 4 euros tos 55 u. 56 c. 50 u. 51 à 1 1/2 Sgr., pr. Dez. 15 Sgr., 4 u. 6 c. 22, 55, 84 à 1 1/4 Sgr. Türk 1862 pr. Satz 22 1/2 Sgr. Ostindien 1 anna roth 1 1/2 Sgr., 4 a. roth 2 Sgr. Hongkong 2 u. 4 à 2 Sgr., 6, 8, 12 u. 24 et. à 2 1/2 Sgr., 36, 48 u. 96 et. à 3 Sgr. Capstadt 1 p. 3/4 Sgr., 4 p. 1 Sgr. 6 p. 1 1/4 Sgr., 1 sch. 1 1/2 Sgr. St. Helena 1 p. 2 1/2 Sgr. Liberia 24 c. 5 Sgr. Natal 1 p. u. Krona 10 Sgr. Natal 1 p. 1 Sgr., 3 p. 2 Sgr., 6 p. 1 1/4 Sgr. Britisch Guinea 1/4 — 2 Sgr. Caneas 1 u. 5 c. à 1/2 Sgr., 10 u. 12 1/2 c. à 1 Sgr., 17 c. 1 1/4 Sgr. Costa Rica 2 real. 5 Sgr. Mexico 181 2 1/4 Sgr., Neu Schottland 10 u. 12 1/2 c. à 2 1/4 Sgr. Nicaragua 6 Sgr., St. Thomas 3 Sgr., 1 Guinea 1/2 r. roth 4 Sgr., 2 r. grün 2 Sgr. Trinidad 1 sh. 2 Sgr. Venezuela 64 2 Sgr. Vereinigte Staaten 90 c. 3 Sgr. Conföderirte Staaten 5 c. blau 3 Sgr., 10 c. 4 Sgr. Amerika Privatmarken 1 — 3 Sgr. Süd Australien 2 u. 6 p. à 3/4 Sgr. West Australien 2 — 1 Sgr. New Süd Wales 6 violett u. 1 sh. rosa 1 1/4 Sgr., 2 p. hellblau 3/4 Sgr. Queensland 1, 2, 3 u. 6 p. à 2 Sgr., 1 sh. 3 Sgr. Registered à 8 Sgr. Fandmanstand 1, 2 u. 4 p. à 2 Sgr. Victoria pr. Dutzend 8 Sgr.

Hamburger Botenmarken sehr billig.

Fig. 37: Behrmann's selling-list

In his book about the history of philately, a prominent Austro-Hungarian philatelic author, Victor Suppantchitsch, names Behrmann's products as being from a notorious Hamburg merchant. He refers to Bergmann as the "infamous dealer", who "dumped on a massive scale imitation of even the cheapest values on the market".⁵²

The colonial stamp source

Besides the Swiss source and the American source with its American Locals and Carriers' forgeries, there is still the supposedly existing (possibly British?) source, with its colonial stamp forgeries, that has yet to be identified. There are many adverts in different British magazines, possibly related to the selling of those items, but without sufficient information to draw valid conclusions.

The German magazines provide some further hints. In them, the stamp merchants, Gibson & Co., advertised colonial stamps of 39 countries. Two facts engage the attention of the critical observer. This stamp firm is also located in Preston and six of his allegedly colonial issues are not from British, but ex-Spanish colonies [Argentine, Buenos Aires, Mexico, Colombia (Granada Confederation) and Venezuela]. These issues have been identified, as shown above, as forged Italian-made

Excluding Zechmeyer from our list of suspects all evidence points to a Hamburg dealer. Analysing the selling-list and advertisements of the contemporaneous Hamburg stamp dealers, we find many possible candidates with suspicious advertisements of cheap stamps. The most suspicious of those firms is J. H. R. Behrmann. Established in 1863, this firm had typographic and lithographic facilities and the ability to copy and print.

J. H. R. Behrmann's price-list (fig. 37) is more than another example for the, already mentioned, diversification of the offer of stamps. Much more important are his suspiciously low prices, clearly set below the market price, itself an indicator of their counterfeited origin.⁵¹

J. H. Behrmann & Sohn
Gr. Bleichen 79. P. 36
Sammel-Nr. C 4 Dammtor 3725
Kontorbedarf
Vervielfältigungs-Apparate
Buchbinder-
Buch- und Steindruckarbeiten

Fig. 38: Behrmann's general advertisement

(62)
PREISLISTE
von
COLONIALMARKEN,
welche die
Herren Gibson & Co.
Temperance Hall, Preston, Lancashire,
stets auf Lager haben.

Gemischt pr. Dutz.	Thlr. sgr.	Gemischt pr. Dutz.	Thlr. sgr.
Argentinische Confederation	1 5	Natal	25
Antigua	17 1/2	Nevis	25
Bahamas	1 —	Neu-Fundland	17
Barbados	17 1/2	Neu-Seeland	17 1/2
Buenos Ayres	1 10	Nova Scotia	10
Canada	8 1/2	Prince Edw. Inseln	30
Cap der guten Hoffnung	20	Queensland	25
Ceylon	20	St. Helena	1 25
Colombia, Britisch	2 15	Sandwiche-Inseln	1 20
Conföderirte Staaten von Nordamerika 1 25		St. Lucia	1 —
Finland	1 5	St. Vincent	1 5
Granada, Confederation	1 15	Sierra Leone	1 25
Hongkong	25	Süd-Australien	1 5
Indien	10	Trinidad	1 10
Jonische Inseln	20	Tasmania	1 —
Jamaica	25	Vereinigte Staaten von Nord-Amerika — 15	
Liberia	1 20	Venezuela	1 —
Malta	10	Victoria	20
Mauritius	1 5	West-Australien	1 5
Mexico	1 10		

Already-Converts 1 d. à 20 sgr., 2 d. à 25 sgr. Amerikanisches Papiergeld: 1 Dollar 3 Sorten, 4 Dollars degl., 5 cents degl., 10 cents degl., 15 cents degl. und viele andere sehr billig. Conföderirte Staaten Banknoten sehr billig. Alle Marken sind garantirt echt.

Fig. 39: Gibson & Co., ad

⁵¹ ABZ, #4, p. 38; #5, p. 47.

⁵² Victor Suppantchitsch: *Bibliographie und zugleich Nachschlagebuch der gesammten deutschen philatelistischen Literatur...*, München 1892, p. 21.

products by the experts at that time.⁵³ Thus, this “colonial stamp depot” seems to be the illusive main branch of Industria & Co. for marketing both their colonial stamps and their stamp packets.⁵⁴

But is it also the real source of these forgeries? Dean does not describe any British nor UK-made colonial forgery. They had, however, existed. Forgeries of, for example, Nevis, Barbados and Mauritius were denounced in 1863 by the Spiro brothers before they started selling facsimiles.⁵⁵ Hence they were on both the German the British markets. Those forgeries were never again documented, neither the *Spud Papers*, nor in the *Album Weeds*.

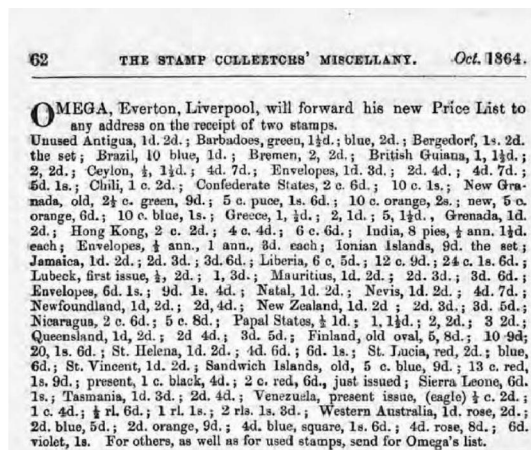


Fig. 40: Omega-ad (Everton, Liverpool)

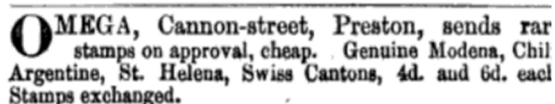


Fig. 41: Omega-ad (Preston!?)

Are there other candidates for the forging and distribution of colonial stamps? As far as I can see, the only possible site in the UK is *Omega* at Everton. These Liverpool stamp merchants present a large list of unused colonial stamps and a special one for used samples.⁵⁶ The conspicuous name of this firm, as well as those of *Incognita* and *Alpha* (mentioned above), both also from Liverpool, with a very similar offer, may induce one to think that they are part of the same consortium. *Industria & Co.* appears to be another suspicious name, possibly affiliated with *Omega*?

The *Omega* advert (fig. 40) offers a great number of unused stamps and comprises both colonial issues and used samples of nearly all stamp

issuing countries. We do not know how many of those stamps were genuine, but there were forgeries among the stamps sold by this firm, including American locals.⁵⁷ Bauschke mentions in his catalogue various forgeries of American Locals and Carriers sold in Liverpool. Is this only a coincidence?

The prices of many of those stamps do not correspond with their rarity or with the market prices. This is an indicator of counterfeited samples. Gibson & Co. with its address at Temperance Hall, the Preston tea-total centre, offers the lowest prices. This suggests that the other dealers were the resellers and Gibson was part of the Preston syndicate.

Figure 43 seems to show the *Omega*–merchants as having very similar offer to a Preston-sited firm!⁵⁸ Is it a circumstantial or fortuitous coincidence? I argue that the Preston “colonial branch” only served to camouflage the Italian forgeries’ trade. Were those forgeries made by *Omega* or yet another undiscovered workshop? Or were *Incognita*, *Alpha* and *Omega* part of the same consortium, together with the other Preston-firms?

The other possibility is that the source was situated on the continent. When looking at the Behrmann list, I did not mention that there appears be 12 colonial issues as well, covering the same countries *Omega* and Gibson & Co had been offering. Further coincidences? Were Behrmann, *Omega* and the Gibson’s affiliated with each other, plus Hamburg and Preston interconnected? Ten years later a Hamburg-London connection exists.

There remain many questions to be definitely resolved; a lot of details to be verified and provisional answers to be backed by facts.

⁵³ See SCR, p. 23.

⁵⁴ ABZ, #5, p. 48.

⁵⁵ SCMis, July 1864, p. 8-9 referring to a letter from the Spiro brothers from Oct. 1863.

⁵⁶ SCMis, July 1864, Oct. 1864, p. 62.

⁵⁷ SCR, p. 43.

⁵⁸ OM, October 1st, p. 111.

Final results: Composing the jigsaw

We have now looked at our progress on the questions we aimed to resolve. After analysing a lot of diverging and disconnected evidence about the early forgeries, this allows us to compose the main parts of our jigsaw. We can now answer the initial question, who produced the facsimiles the German Spiro Brothers offered in their 1864 price lists and we can understand part of the forgery-production and trade at that time.

The supposedly Spiro-made facsimiles were the same as other merchants like Weir or Lennox offered and also sold as imitations. Those were the same items that the Preston-people and Zechmeyer offered as genuine. A lot of those forgeries are identified by the descriptions of British experts. We can exclude the existence at that time on the European market other forgeries of the same issues, except for a few cases.



Fig. 42:



Figs. 42-44: Different offers of facsimiles (imitations) in German magazines

Given the described network and the evidence we conclude, that the Preston-sited *Industria and Co.* distributed the so-called Spiro-facsimiles on the British and Continental markets, both wholesale and in their stamp packages. Using changing addresses and various names the Preston dealers used their identity to avoid their clients focussing on only one address and name.

Merchants such as the Hamburg Spiro brothers, the Glasgow dealers, Lennox and Weir, and some Nurnberg dealers sold those items as facsimiles. Many others simply sold them and Georg Zechmeyer, mentioned above, built up a Germany-wide network of resellers.⁵⁹

Some of those forgeries were produced by Torres and marketed by Usigli. Moens was the first distributor in Central Europe, I believe at that time still an innocent dupe. He stopped selling those items after Pemberton discovered the Swiss forgeries in his collection. He was soon replaced by the Preston people. They built up a great warehouse that remained active until the end of the first *Timbromania* boom in 1866/67.

Because of these results, the initially presented organisation scheme of the forgery trade has to be slightly modified. The main suppliers of the forgeries were Torres/Usigli, which were at that time chiefly Italian, Spanish and South American issues. The Swiss source remained selling “home-made” imitations that other sellers later included in their offers. The US-source, at that time with still limited sales on the European market, has not been traced, but it went on growing. What initially seemed to be, following Bauschke and Dean, the Hamburg source, turned out to be a reseller of the Italian fakes.

The first part of Zechmeyer’s list, and the Behrmann adverts confirm that other different old German States’ forgeries, made in Hamburg, began to appear on the German market and were about to slowly invade the rest of Europe. This fact was confirmed by Victor Supprantschitsch. The name of their maker was perfectly known to the insiders.

The later adverts of the Preston merchants suggest that they had begun to include some works from these new sources in their offers. In my opinion, they sold a mix of easily available genuine stamps

⁵⁹ Schiller, http://philahistorica.de/Dokumente/PhilaHistorica_2020_04.pdf

and forgeries of rare colonial stamps. The question of the nature and provenance remains unsolved. Maybe amongst the documents and old price-list conserved at the *Royal Philatelic Society of London* a definitive answer to that problem can be found, when the archives will be again freely accessible at the end of the Covid pandemic.

The “Spiro”-question remains unsolved



Fig. 45: Bahamas Spiro-sheet (with Spiro cancel)

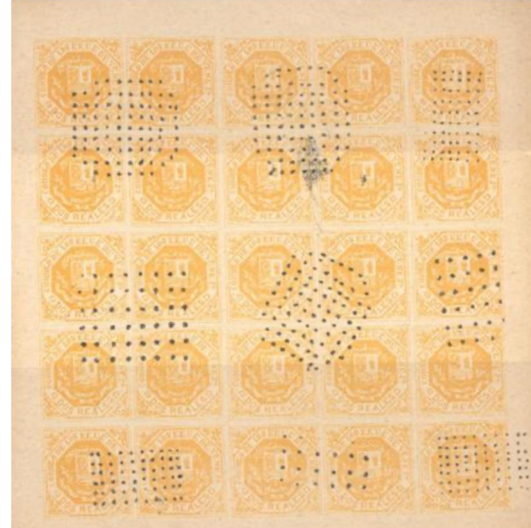


Fig. 46: Non-Spiro Venezuela-sheet

One of the most intricate problems about the early stamp forgeries has still not been resolved or even expressly mentioned. What about those existing acceptable lithographic imitations found sometimes in entire sheets, bearing the same emblematic cancels we have used to identify as Hamburg products? (Refer Figures 45 and 46 above). The answer to that question is part of another mixture of problems, the forgeries of the second *Timbromania* in the decade of the 1870's.

Articles related to certain aspects of this period have been published.⁶⁰ A global focus and an answer are still pending. I am working on this area next.

Acknowledgements:

Smithsonian, Royal/Crawford, Mémoires

⁶⁰ *The purported “Spiro sheets” of Roumania. Who really made them?* London Philatelist, vol. 129, No 1475, May 2020; *Los supuestos pliegos “Spiro” de Venezuela*, Timbre 41, set.-ene. 2020/21, p. 21-29. *The Spud Papers' errors. The Confusion of the British Experts*, AJPh/Stamp Lover April 2021

Destinations of Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers of Oceanic Countries

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Why is a study of destinations useful? A short answer is that such a study identifies destinations that are scarce because of infrequency of delivery. In Colonial times there was a romance for the unknown countries and their people, fauna and flora, Zanzibar and Zululand being classic examples. The notion that scarce or rare destinations are worth more than common destinations are not so much because they are perceived to be more valuable, but rather because they reflect an understanding of mail systems that effect delivery in the face of difficulty. This difficulty may manifest itself in absolute distance where an item of mail has to traverse much of the earth between sender and recipient. Another aspect of this is the complexity of the logistics and time involved where steamer, rail, road oxcart, canoe, native runners and other transport medium might be involved in the delivery process. Further, while communication between the big cities of the world were always commonplace using steamer and railroad, some mail found its way to places without established social and commercial connections such as new settlements, some of which eventually evolved into ports.

The bandied expressions “scarce destination” and “rare destination” are usually an expression of perception rather than rigorous evidence. Perceptions are based on opinion, belief and the experience of a seller or exhibitor in handling only a few items of mail to certain destinations. The purpose of this paper is to provide historical evidence rigorously collected and analysed of countries and postal entities within the Oceania region that mailed post office postal stationery wrappers to other country destinations – a two-way analysis identifying the country destinations and the number of wrappers sent to each destination during a period of 17 years. This evidence can then be used as the basis for ranking destinations as rare, elusive and uncommon. If a destination country has received only a single wrapper from Oceanic sources during the period of study, there is a *prima facie* case that that destination qualifies as a scarce destination. The destination country is no longer seen as scarce because of perceptions *per se*, but because the evidence points to that conclusion.

Overview

As has been explained in other articles in this journal, the author maintains a large database of images of used worldwide wrappers. This database comprises wrappers from all eras, from 1870 to 1958 or thereabouts. Chronological distinction is based on Higgins & Gage “E” catalogue numbers which were assigned to wrappers according to their date of issue. When destinations were analysed there was no attempt to partition destinations from 1870 to circa 1958. Moreover, there is no intuitive reason why addresses on wrappers are necessarily any different to destination addresses on ordinary mail. While this study has focused on destination on post office wrappers, it would be a useful extension of the research if a destination study could be undertaken on ordinary mail from Oceanic places – if the data is available. There is no intuitive reason why destinations should differ between these classes of mail.

Wrappers pertaining to Oceanic countries and postal entities addressed to other countries was 1,162, which were sent to 58 destination countries. The bulk, 863 or almost three-quarters, were mailed to only three countries: Great Britain (416), USA (246) and Germany (201). One would expect a reasonable traffic in commerce and friendships between Australia and New Zealand because of their pre-Federation union for postal matters and this is mirrored in another 77 wrappers. Of the remaining countries there are 32 with only one or two examples included in the database from 17 years of daily data hand-collecting, so on normal rarity scales, examples to these 32 country destinations are evidence of elusive, scarce and uncommon destinations. The argument could probably be extended to another 12 countries with between three and six examples, translating to an appearance of no more than one example every three years on average.

The list is *indicative* of the history of wrappers from Oceania to other countries and provides some objective evidence about uncommon destination that are sometimes claimed by sellers to justify an

accompanying premium. For example, a wrapper addressed to Macau has only one example. From what country was this wrapper sent? The micro analysis of each country/postal entity shows that it was a New Zealand wrapper. By examining each country listed in the table of destination countries, the quantity of wrappers sent is revealed. It must be remembered that this is a work-in-progress because of the fluid nature of wrappers being listed for sale on the internet. A new hoard placed on the market could quickly cause the quantities attributed to one or more countries to change.

The content of these wrappers could shed light on why certain destinations were more common than others. Pre 1900, for example, expatriates were the recipients of newspapers and other printed matters to Colonial outposts either commercial or missionary. Post WWI other factors include news via radio and the rise of the USA together with the industrial revolution. One might propose that communications might include the exchange of price lists and commercial newsletters between the USA and more progressive European countries including the UK. However, rarely do wrappers convey information about their contents.

Destination Countries Ranked by Number of Wrappers Received from Countries Within Oceania

Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq	Country	Frq
Barbados	1	Norway	1	Ireland	2	Argentina	9
Bermuda	1	Palestine	1	Str. Settlements	2	Singapore	10
Brazil	1	Panama	1	Hong Kong	3	Austria	11
Cameroun	1	Peru	1	Mozambique	3	Holland	15
Ceylon	1	Russia	1	Philippines	3	France	15
China	1	S. West Africa	1	Samoa	3	India	15
Ger. New Guinea	1	South Rhodesia	1	Sweden	3	Switzerland	15
Hawaiian Islands	1	Spain	1	Cape Good Hope	4	Canada	31
Japan	1	Surinam	1	Fiji	4	New Zealand	37
Latvia	1	Transvaal	1	Italy	4	Australia	40
Macau	1	Yugoslavia	1	Belgium	6	Germany	201
Malaya	1	Br North Borneo	2	Pap. New Guinea	6	USA	246
Mauritius	1	Chile	2	Egypt	8	Great Britain	416
Montenegro	1	Denmark	2	Finland	8		
Natal	1	Indonesia	2	Ger. East Afr.	8		1162

Micro Analysis

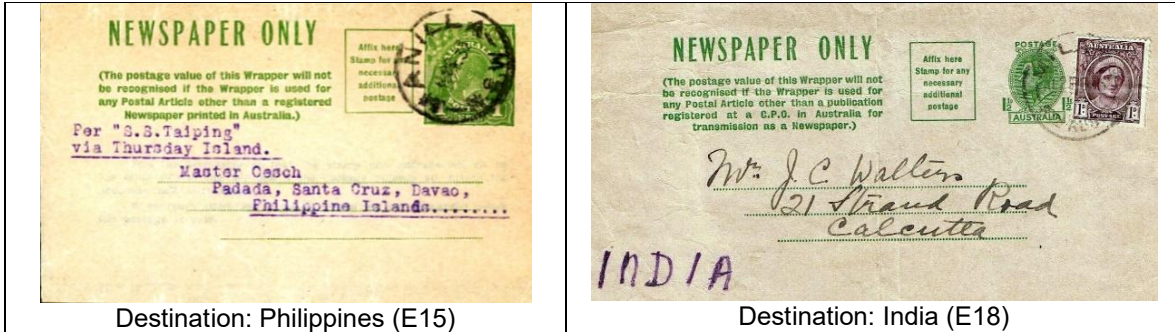
The region of Oceania, for the purpose of wrapper analysis, is made up of ten postal entities including Australia and its colonies/states, plus Fiji, Norfolk Island and New Zealand.

Australia

After 1901, of the 1,162 wrappers of Oceania, 292 show that Australia sent wrappers to 23 destination countries. Of these, the USA, Great Britain and Germany dominate with 211 or 72% of the total, a theme repeated for many other postal entities in the region. Other Commonwealth associations can be seen with Canada (17) and New Zealand (18). By contrast, eight destination countries received one only wrapper during this period of data collection implying they qualify for the 'scarce destination' moniker. Three other countries received only two each, so they too deserve consideration as scarce destinations. The list is a useful reference point for assessing the relative elusiveness of destination countries; obviously a country not included on the list is a candidate for scarcity. There are almost certainly other countries not included here because this is principally a list based on internet marketing of wrappers which does not possess a monopoly of sales outlets.

Argentina	4	France	4	New Zealand	18	South West Africa	1
Austria	1	Great Britain	56	Panama	1	Southern Rhodesia	1
Belgium	1	Germany	26	Philippines	1	Sweden	2
Canada	17	Holland	7	Papua New G	5	Switzerland	4

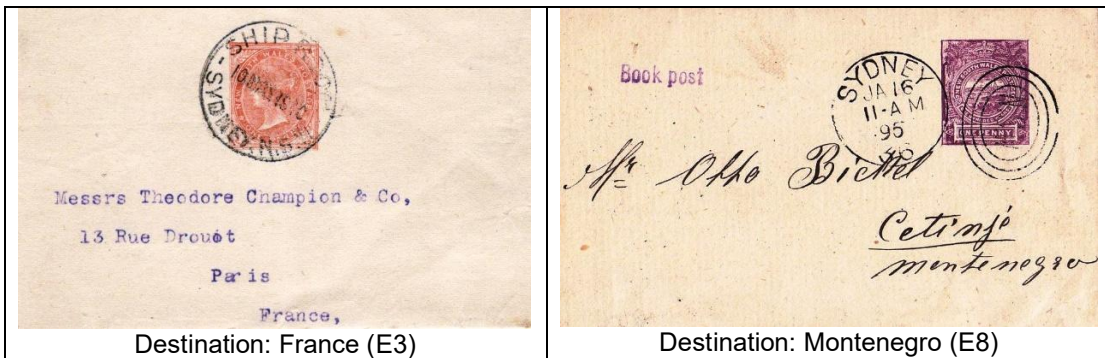
China	1	India	2	Samoa	2	USA	129
Finland	5	Malaya	1	Singapore	3		292



New South Wales

Before 1901 there were 64 wrappers sent from New South Wales to 17 destination countries. Of these, 13 country destinations received only one or two wrappers from New South Wales. The sole example to Montenegro was to a well-known cover provider and is likely philatelically inspired.

Austria	1	France	1	India	1	Switzerland	1
Belgium	1	Great Britain	9	Italy	1	USA	13
Canada	1	Germany	23	Montenegro	1		
Fiji	2	Ger. New Guinea	1	New Zealand	4		
Finland	1	Holland	1	Singapore	2		64



Queensland

There were 131 wrappers of Queensland addressed to 17 country destinations. Most of the locally addressed Queensland wrappers were sent to the newspaper and magazine distributor Gordon and Gotch, Melbourne. Nevertheless, nine destination countries received only one or two wrappers from Queensland. The author's experience suggests a wrapper to British North Borneo is especially desirable for its scarcity and this sole example is illustrated from an internet scan.

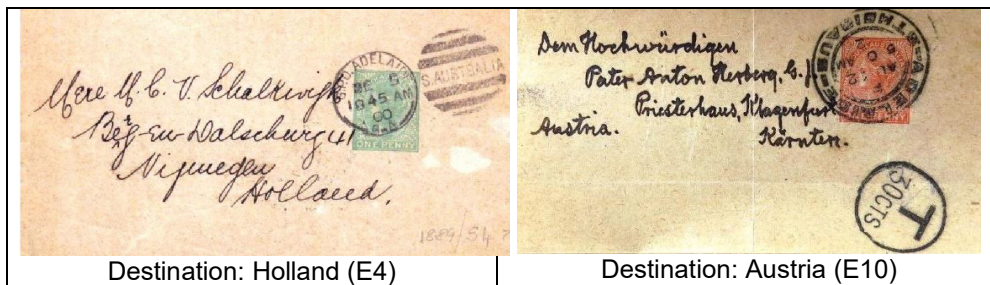
Argentina	1	France	3	India	1	Switzerland	3
Belgium	1	Great Britain	48	Ireland	2	USA	5
Br. North Borneo	1	Germany	49	Indonesia	2		
Egypt	2	German East Africa	5	New Zealand	3		
Finland	1	Holland	3	Papua N G.	1		131



South Australia

There were 199 wrappers from South Australia addressed to 19 country destinations. Of these, nine received only one or two wrappers. The wrapper addressed to Cameroun would be especially desirable.

Argentina	1	Egypt	5	Hong Kong	3	Singapore	4
Austria	6	France	3	India	3	Sweden	1
Brazil	1	Great Britain	90	Italy	1	Switzerland	2
Cameroun	1	Germany	57	Mauritius	1	USA	8
Canada	2	Holland	1	New Zealand	9		199



Tasmania

There were only 20 copies of wrappers of Tasmania sent to five destination countries. There is another example of a wrapper to British North Borneo and the internet image is illustrated.

Br. North Borneo	1	Germany	1	Switzerland	1
Great Britain (& Scotland)	16	New Zealand	1		20



Victoria

Victoria accounts for 242 or 21% of wrappers sent from the Oceania region and these were addressed to 20 destination countries. Two-thirds of the 164 wrappers mailed to Great Britain were addressed to advertising agencies such as Clarke, Son and Platt. Of the 20 destination countries, 14 received only one or two wrappers from Victoria. Palestine is an uncommon destination as is Straits Settlements, the Singapore designation not occurring until 1943.

Argentina	2	Ceylon	1	Germany	36	Norway	1
Austria	3	Egypt	1	Holland	1	Palestine	1
Belgium	1	Fiji	2	India	6	St. Settlements	2
Canada	1	France	1	Italy	1	Switzerland	3
Cape Good Hope	2	Great Britain	164	New Zealand	2	USA	11

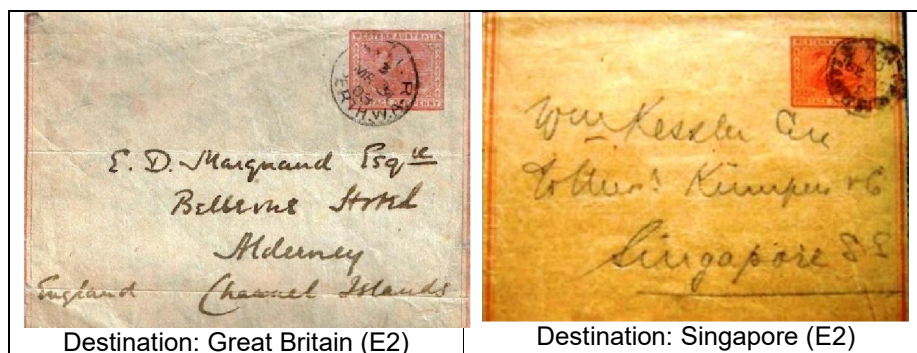


Destination: Canada (E18)

Destination: Great Britain (E17)

Western Australia

The two copies sent from Western Australia to country destinations were addressed to Great Britain and Singapore. There are very few extant wrappers from Western Australia and used copies are locally addressed except for the two illustrated.



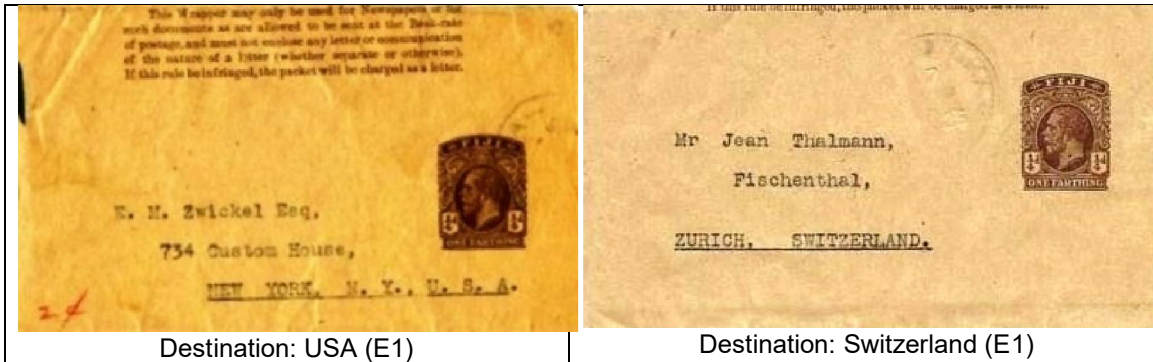
Destination: Great Britain (E2)

Destination: Singapore (E2)

Fiji

There was only one post office issue of Fiji. There are more extant O.H.M.S. copies than post office copies. There were five wrappers addressed to four destination countries; only Switzerland is a standout amongst these four. However, the overseas postage rate was more than one farthing and yet none were uprated. This suggests these wrappers could have been philatelically inspired. Mr. E. M. Zwickel was recorded in the American Airmail Society Journal indicating his relationship to organized philately. Mr. Jean Thalmann, the addressee on the second wrapper illustrated was a postal stationery collector and philatelist.

Australia	2	Great Britain	1	Switzerland	1	USA	1
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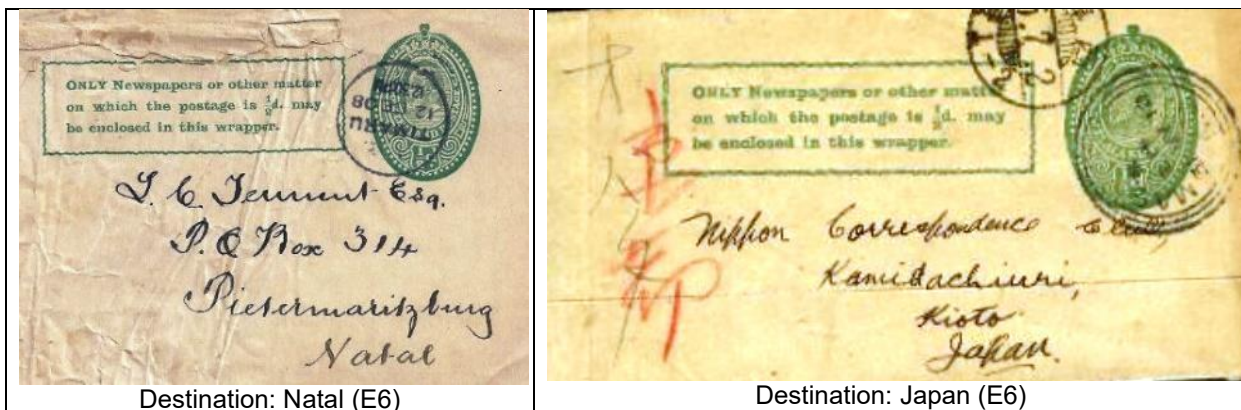
Destination: USA (E1)

Destination: Switzerland (E1)

New Zealand

Apart from those addressed locally, exactly 200 examples exist in the database of New Zealand wrappers and these were addressed to 32 country destinations. Country destinations receiving only one or two wrappers account for 24 or 75% of the 32 countries. Of these, there are some exotic destinations insofar as little mail traffic exists between New Zealand these destinations.

Argentina	1	Denmark	2	India	2	Philippines	2
Australia	33	Finland	1	Italy	1	Russia	1
Barbados	1	France	3	Japan	1	Samoa	1
Belgium	2	Great Britain	29	Latvia	1	Spain	1
Bermuda	1	Germany	9	Macau	1	Surinam	1
Canada	10	German East Africa	3	Mozambique	3	Transvaal	1
Cape Good Hope	2	Hawaiian Islands	1	Natal	1	USA	79
Chile	2	Holland	2	Peru	1	Yugoslavia	1



Destination: Natal (E6)

Destination: Japan (E6)

Norfolk Island

I was told by a former editor of a journal that the issue of a post office wrapper for Norfolk Island was unnecessary because there was no local demand and that they were produced for the tourist trade. Whatever may be the underlying rationale for their existence, they do exist as part of the Oceania region and are included here for the record. Seven copies have been included in the database, addressed to Australia (5) and Great Britain (2). Research undertaken into the Australian addresses concluded that all but one of the five were likely "fronts" for a collector. This entity is included here only for the record.



Summary

The destination of post office wrappers is an aspect of postal history because it encompasses rates and routes. Within destinations there are those which reflect the bulk of mail within countries and between large and well-known cities. Philatelists seeking to demonstrate an appreciation of mail systems to out-of-the-ordinary places, and to those that are far afield and with complex logistics, need to understand and defend what are legitimate and unambiguously acceptable scarce destinations. Perceptions about what is a scarce destination are arguable because they are subjectively determined. This paper has attempted to bring a rigorous and credible objectively determined basis for assessing scarce, elusive and uncommon country destinations. By examining the history of country destinations for the past 17 years, decisions about what constitutes a scarce destination can be evidence-based. Extensions of the study could examine destinations before and after certain dates, such as Federation or WWI, and compare destinations of newspaper wrappers with ordinary mail.

From the author's database of post office wrappers, ten countries and postal entities were examined for the region of Oceania. There were 1,162 wrappers attributed to this region bearing addresses to other country destinations. It was found that 58 countries were recipients of these wrappers during the period of study and that there were 32 country destinations with only one or two incoming wrappers. The macro table at the outset can be used as a benchmark for assessing scarcity of country destinations. Any country destination not on the list is *prima facie* scarce and may be a desirable acquisition. The micro tables, one per postal entity, provide more refined information as to what specific country destinations can be attributable to particular entities within the region.

Acknowledgments

Allan Gory read and commented on an earlier draft and Sheila Mackenzie added some comments and edited the paper.

Yugoslav Postal History and the Battle of Kosovo

John Young

Twenty or so years ago Kosovo was in the spotlight in the international news, as Serbia and NATO forces fought each other over the future of the place. The cause of the conflict can be traced back to 1389, the year of the battle of Kosovo. The battle occupies a key place in Serb memory and mythology, and has been commemorated in four Yugoslav stamp issues.

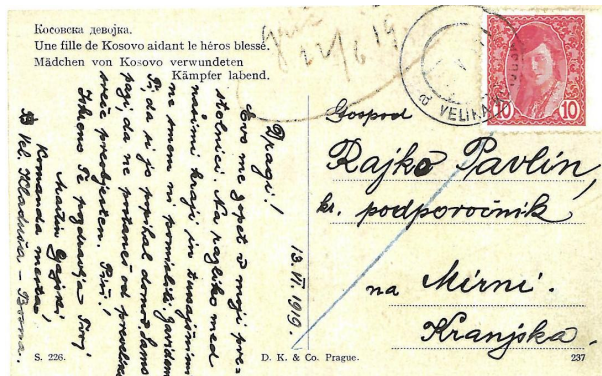
In 1389 a Serbian-led Christian army fought Ottoman invaders on the plain of Kosovo, a place north-west of Pristina, the capital of today's independent Kosovo. The leaders of both armies were killed, and opinion is divided on whether the contest was a loss or a draw. Serb opinion was that it was a majestic defeat, and it has been commemorated down the ages in poetry and song. Kosovo is immediately south of Serbia, and Serbia has claimed it as 'Old Serbia' heartland.

Western travelers and historians have bought into that version; and Serbia's privations during World War 1 strengthened that belief. For all these reasons the battle of Kosovo attained a religious and cult-like devotion in Serbia.

An early postal commemoration of the battle can be seen on the post card shown in illustrations 1a and 1b, depicting a 'Kosovo maiden' tending a Christian warrior on the plain of Kosovo. His hand rests on the arm of a slain Turk. The post card is date stamped 1919 and is franked with a Bosnian 10 heller stamp.



Illus. 1a



Illus. 1b



Illus. 2

The Bosnian stamp was issued by the time Bosnia was part of the Kingdom of the Serbs, Croats and Slovenes. The Kingdom had thousands of disabled soldiers from World War 1, and in 1921 it issued a set of three stamps sold at double face value to raise funds for the soldiers. The 10 paras stamp [illustration 2] has a picture similar to that on the post card.

In 1938 Yugoslavia issued a Red Cross stamp repeating the Kosovo maiden picture and the next year [550th anniversary of the battle] two commemoratives were issued. One portrays Milosh Obilich, kitted out in a warrior's armour. He was attributed with having killed the leader of the Ottoman forces. The other stamp portrays Prince Lazar, the slain leader of the Serb forces. Lazar had founded a monastery at Ravanica south east of Belgrade. His pious works and martyrdom resulted in the Serbian church elevating him to sainthood, as portrayed on the stamp [illustrations 3 and 4].



Illus. 4

Illus. 3

Although Kosovo adjoins Serbia, it also adjoins Albania on its south west border. As previously mentioned it was called 'Old Serbia', but in the twentieth century a more accurate name could have been new Albania. In the 1920s Kosovo's population was 28% Serb and 68% Albanian; by 1991 the proportions were 11% and 82%.



Illus. 5

In 1987 a Serb political apparatchik named Milosevic was deputized to attend a Serb protest near the battle of Kosovo site. Fighting broke out, Serb activists were beaten with Police batons, and Milosevic took their side uttering on camera 'No one should dare to beat you'. His defence of the sacred rights of Serbs ensured his political ascendancy, leading on to the Serb oppression of Kosovo.

The 28th of June 1989 was the 600th anniversary of the battle [illustration 5]. Milosevic received mass adulation at the Serb celebration of the anniversary, and Yugoslavia slid into break up. It remains to be seen whether anyone issues a stamp for the 600th anniversary.

As it Was, But Now!

Tony Lyon

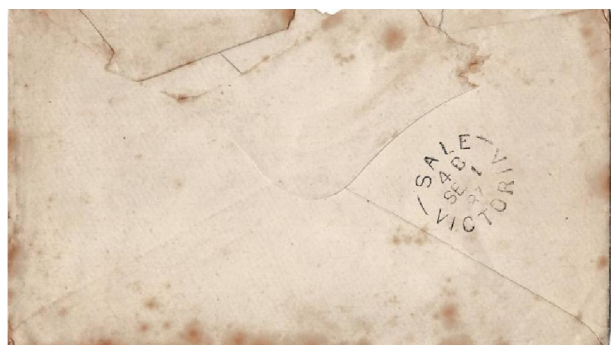
The genesis for this article was a lot I purchased in a New Zealand Postal Auction. I was advised 8 February 2022 that my bid was successful. 10 March 2022 I emailed auction house to enquire as to where my lot was as it had not turned up and I was curious as to what I had actually purchased and hoping it had not been lost, stolen or any other tragedy that can befall something sent by post. I received a reply the same day stating below that:

Mail deliveries in Australia still seem to be subject to serious delays. We know that at times mail leaving NZ is slow, but also bear in mind that with the omicron outbreak in (NZ) and Australia, and the recent flooding in NSW, there will still be delays and we think there is a back log. The lot was posted on 11th February in a standard small envelope.

I am happy to say that the mail was delivered 15 March 2022 and the lot which was for 10 covers was most pleasing.

But are these the best efforts of the New Zealand and Australian post! To the cover files to look at postal delivery from New Zealand and Australia at the turn of the century; the 20th century, I am talking about. Has our advancing technology with computers and airplanes and all the other whizzbang machines we hear that are being utilised by our respective postal authorities advanced us very far. I mean should we be waiting for an airmail delivery time of more than 1 month from New Zealand. I think not! I seem to remember the Australia Post slogan 'we deliver', maybe they should add 'very slowly'.

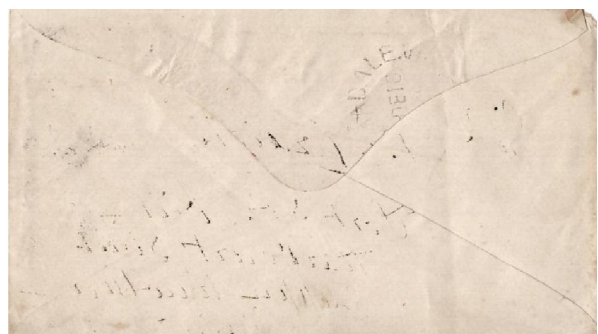
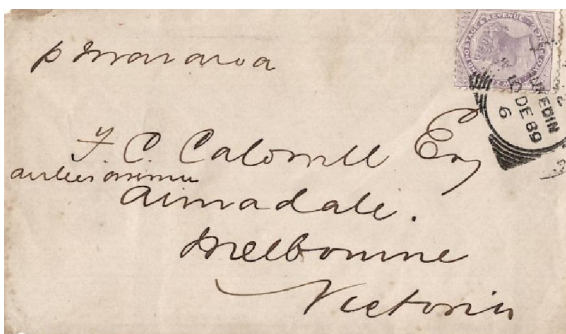
Be that as it may following are examples of when post did work in spite of the difficulties.



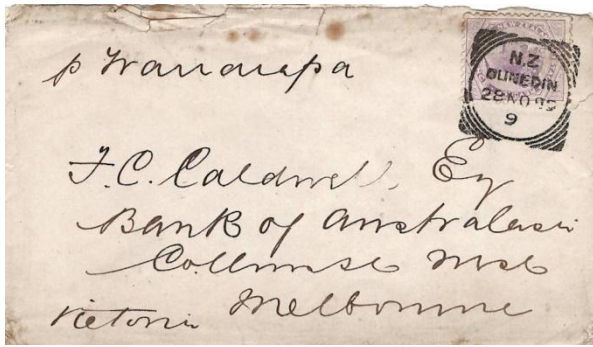
1887 Figs. 1 & 2: Letter sent from Dunedin 25 AU 87 addressed to Bank of A/Asia, Sale.

It is back-stamped Sale SE 1 87.

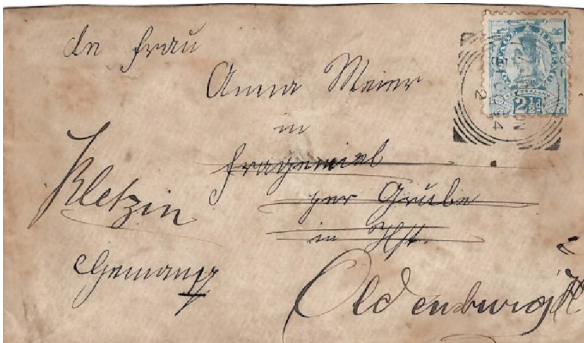
Transit of 8 days.



1889 Figs. 3 & 4: Letter from Dunedin 10 DE 89 addressed to Armadale, Melbourne. It is back-stamped Armadale Dec 16. Transit 7 days.

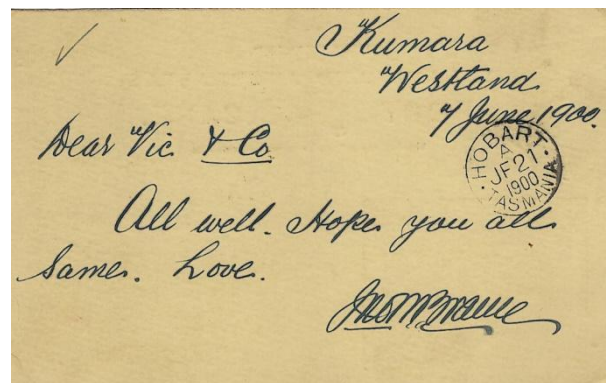


1899 Figs. 5 & 6: Letter from Dunedin dated 28 NO 99 to Bank of Australasia, Melbourne. It is back-stamped Melbourne 5 DE 99. Transit 8days



1894 Figs. 7 & 8: Letter Dunedin dated 31 OC 94 addressed to Oldenburg, Germany. Transit markings on the reverse are Christchurch B class 31 OC 94, Grube (Holstein) 8. 12. 94 and Oldenburg (Holstein) 9. 12. 94. Transit 40 days.

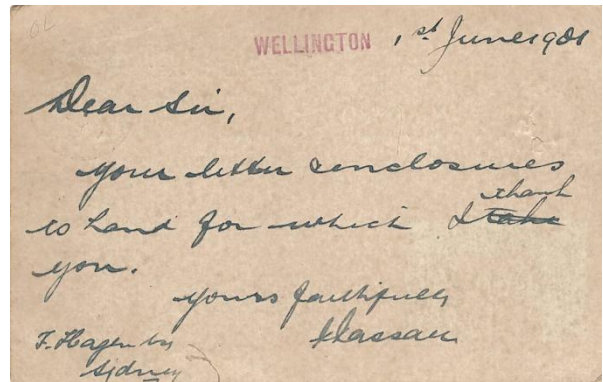
Oldenburg was in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg. It joined the German Empire in 1871 and in 1918 became a free state within the Weimar Republic. In 1946, after World War II, Oldenburg merged into the newly founded state of Lower Saxony. In 1949 it became part of West Germany.



1900 Figs. 9 & 10: Boer War postcard from Kumara dated 7 JE 00 addressed to Mercury in Hobart. Transit cancel Greymouth 7 JE 00, Christchurch 9 JE 00. It is back-stamped Hobart JE 21 1900. Transit 14 Days.



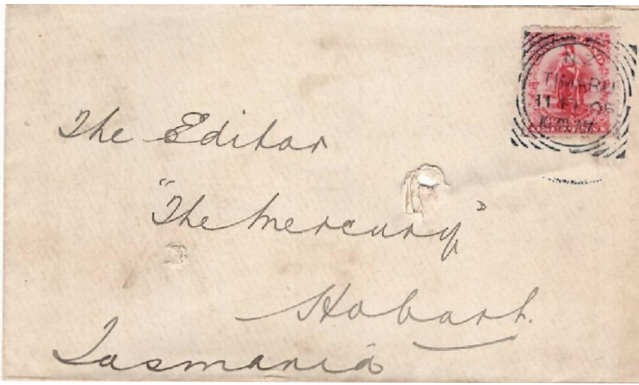
1901 Figs 11 & 12: Boer War Postcard from Dunedin dated 16 JA 01 addressed to Allantown, PA, United States N. America. It is back-stamped San Francisco 10 FE 01 & Allentown 15 FE 1901. Transit 29 Days.



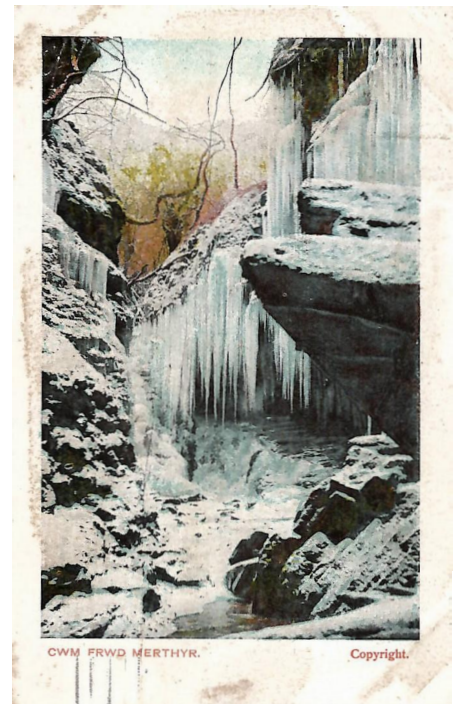
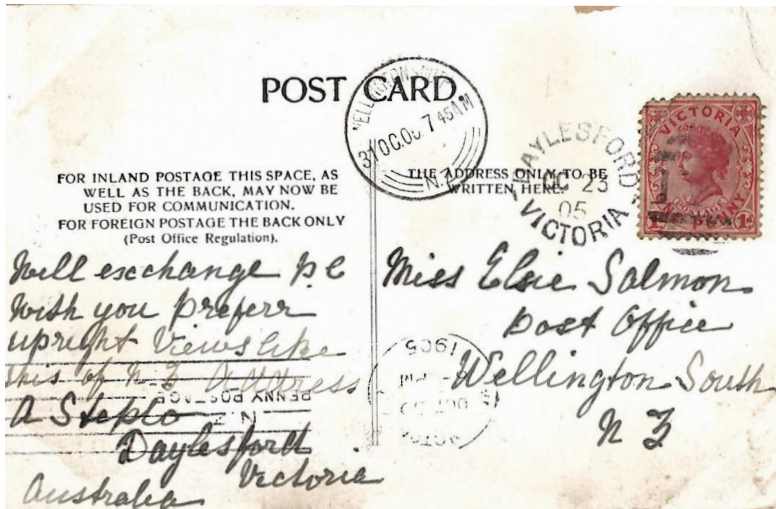
1901 Fig. 13 & 14: Postcard from the 1899 series from Wellington dated 1 JE 01 addressed to the well-known Sydney stamp dealer Fred Hagen. It was received at Sydney JU 6 01 a transit of 6 days.



1904 Figs. 15 & 16: Postcard without stamp and taxed 2d Melbourne cancel 14.12.04. Addressed to Timaru but redirected to Akaroa received 31 DE 04 so despite its travails it still had a transit of 18 days.



1905 Figs. 17 & 18: Letter Timaru dated 11 FE 05 to Hobart. It is back-stamped Hobart FE 16 1905.
Transit of 6 days



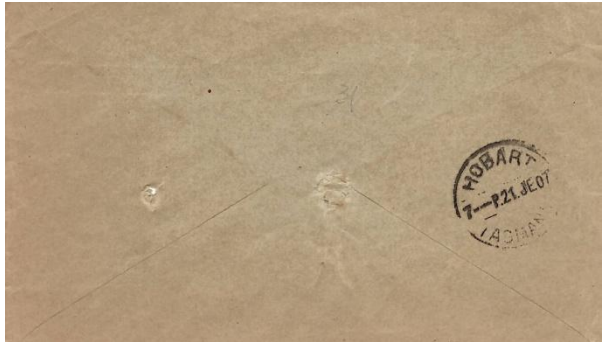
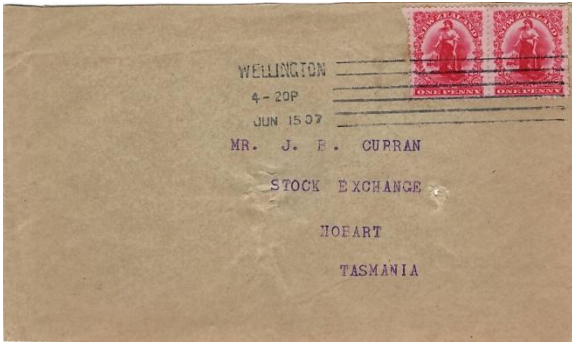
1905 Figs. 19 & 20: Picture Postcard from Daylesford, Victoria dated OC 23 05 addressed to Wellington South.

On arrival received a Wellington machine cancel 'N.Z. Penny Post' cancel 30 Oct 1905 and a Wellington South G class 31 OC 05.

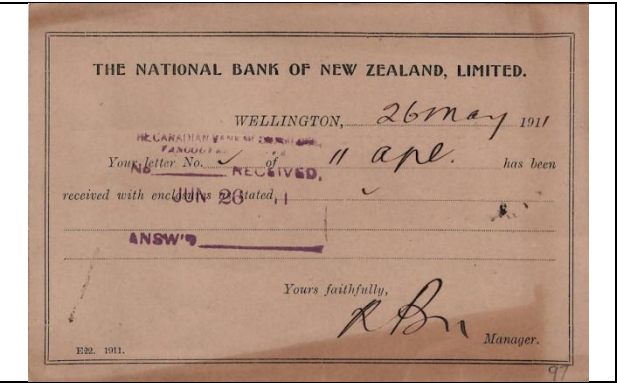
Transit 9 days.



1906 Fig. 21 & 22: Letter Wellington dated JAN 13 1906 to Hobart. It is back-stamped Hobart 20 JA 06.
Transit 8 days.



1907 Fig. 23 & 24: Letter from Wellington JUN 15 07 and back-stamped at Hobart 21 JE 07.
Transit 7 Days



1911 Figs. 25 & 26: Edward VII uprated postcard Wellington May 26 1911 addressed to The Canadian Bank of Commerce, Vancouver, BC and received by the bank JUN 26 1911.

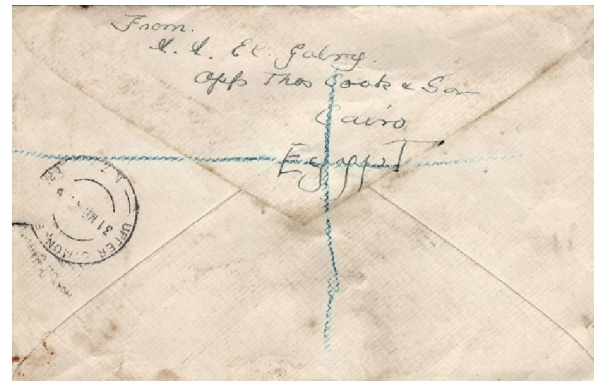
Transit 32 Days.



1912 Figs. 27 & 28: Postcard Vancouver, BC dated OCT 30 1912. Received a scarce Waitoa F class (Squared Circle) dated 29 NO 12. One stamp removed.

Transit 31 days.

The examples that have been shown demonstrate the deterioration of the postal service in recent years. It is because of Covid will be the response and partly that is legitimate but we have been relatively free of lockdowns in recent weeks but the service remains poor. My last examples are from a period when the world was under stress as was the postal service.



1941 World War 11 Figs. 29 & 30: Registered article sent from Cairo, Egypt dated 1 MR 41 addressed to Auckland. It has been censored in Egypt and then subjected to a custom's check in Auckland after being received at Upper Symonds Street 31 MR 1941.

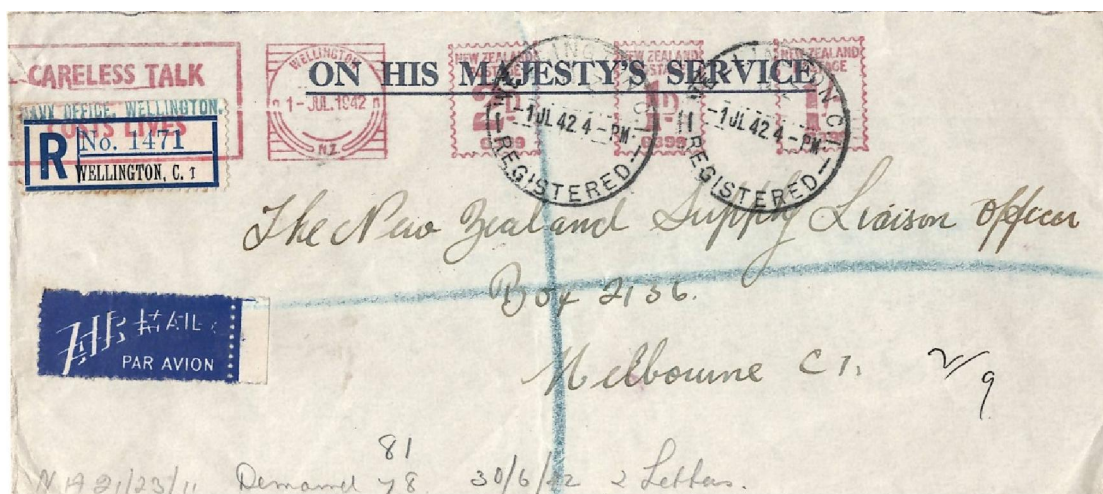
Transit 31 days.



1949 Austria under Allied occupation Fig. 31 & 32: The Allied occupation of Austria started on 27 April 1945 as a result of the Vienna Offensive and ended with the Austrian State Treaty on 27 July 1955.

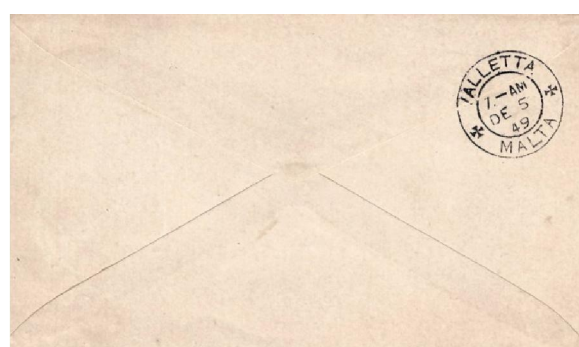
A censored letter from Vienna (Wein) dated 28 IX 49 (September) and addressed to a post office box Wellington. It was received at Wellington 11 OC 49 8-AM and was cancelled with a Wellington C.1 J class Blackball type (BBJ).

- Other cancels:
- Wellington Delivery C.1 C class 11 OC 49 3-PM
 - Rectangular 'Not Known at Delivery Counter' 12 OC 49
 - Wellington Delivery C.1 C class 12 OC 49 ?-AM
 - Wellington C.1 C class 12 OC 49 8-AM
 - Manuscript 'Try Box 853'
 - 2 x 'Not for Box _____'
 - 'Directory Searched'
 - Rectangular 'Not Known to Postman Wellington'
 - Hexagonal 'Wellington Unclaimed' 16 OCT 49



1942 Figs. 33 & 34: Registered letter from the Navy Office, Wellington dated 1 Jul 1942 addressed to Melbourne. It received a Melbourne Registered cancel 10 JY 42.

Transit 10 days



1949 Figs. 35 & 36: 1949 Health First Day cover dated 30 OC 49 addressed to Cospicua, Malta. It was received at Valletta Dec 5 49.

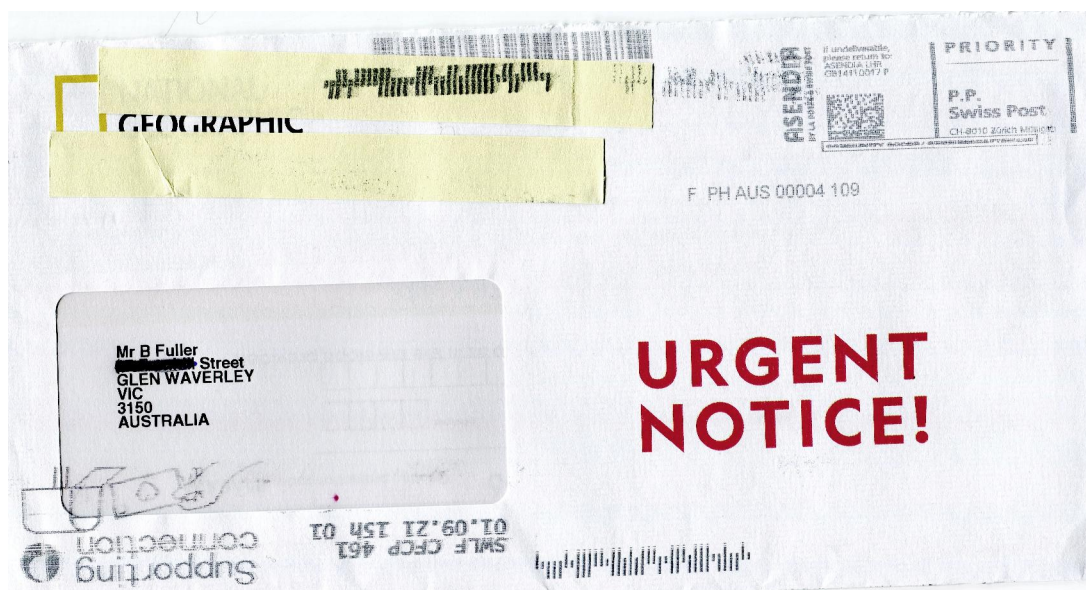
Transit 6 days.

We Are Defunct?

Brian Fuller

In response to an ongoing conversation in the Non sequitur comic strip in The Age newspaper: Alexa replied, "The digital revolution is coming". Inferring the machines will rule us!

Please examine the following cover. A "please pay request" from National Geographic (NG) for a subscription renewal. The marking F PH AUS 00004 109 – anyone know please?



On the reverse are three orange DPID inkjet type markings. Two are at the bottom of the cover of which one is about a centimetre higher than the other. The third was at the top. The cover was initially processed inverted so the markings are naturally 180 degrees out of the expected position.

The letter was automatically generated, folded and sealed in an envelope. NGs computer automatically bundled it appropriately and applied a Swiss meter marking. At the very top of the envelope in a mass of black vertical lines which is probably the Swiss machine coding whilst on-forwarding it to the UK.

The Swiss may have also applied the top of the two DPID inkjet codes on the reverse of the cover.

At the UK their coding machine may have applied the remaining one of the two close-by DPID markings. I receive no Swiss or UK mail so their current machine markings are a mystery.

The letter arrived in Sydney Australia (SWLF). Their CFCP machine (461) inverted the envelope so necessitating the Video Coding process. A human is involved at this juncture! Once resolved then the "SUPPORTING..." slogan was applied by their CFCP. It also applied the sole orange inkjet marking to the inverted cover. The two thin width yellow tapes were also applied by SWLF CFCP (the second one accidentally) as it is a window faced envelope.

However, there is a possibility, as there is also a black faint DPID marking on the front of the cover near the top right hand side, to have failed to be processed properly first pass; hence the reason for the first of the yellow tapes and the bottom orange DPID marking. The envelope can only be held up at

video coding for about 30 seconds and was required to go through a second time, also inverted, to receive the markings and the second yellow tape with the black DPID marking.

SWLF then used their Barcode Sorting (BCS) machine to process the cover for onforwarding to Melbourne. As the envelope had been prepared for delivery by the SWLF CFCP it only required DLC to use their BCS machine to finalise the cover.

The barcode sorter leaves no markings but is capable of sorting the mail to a posties round in delivery order. It then redirects the mail to the Mt Waverley Business Centre where the Postie adds "odd" mail to the pre-sorted bundle from DLC and delivers to my address.

The delivery has been getting interesting! Originally on an ordinary bicycle, motor cycle, electric bicycle, and now an electric cart. Where is my drone delivery? Coming?

If I respond to NG I wonder if a HUMAN will open the envelope and initiate payment receipt and continue my membership.

Was Alexa more than slightly prophetic? Siri thinks we are alarmist! I think the envelope processing shows we ARE now nearly defunct! Who do you think is correct?

April 1945 N.Z. Air Mail Letter Card - Error

Tony Lyon

In June 1944, an airmail letter-card was introduced for communication with members of the New Zealand Armed Forces serving overseas. The postage was fixed at 6d and next-of-kin were asked to restrict their use of these cards to one per week to each addressee and to continue to use the Airgraph service for extra communication.¹ These were printed in blue.

In April 1945 a new printing was issued but with an inscription error. As the previous issue had been printed in blue it was overlooked when printing in black a need to change the inscription at the bottom of the face which had read; 'When folded the letter card must conform in size and shape with the blue border within which the address only may be written.' Consequently this issue though in black stated 'the blue border.' It was quickly withdrawn and are very rare.

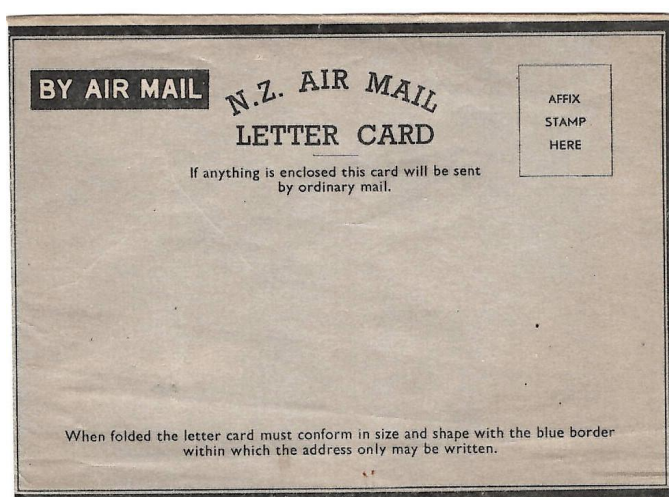


Fig. 1: Unused example of letter card error

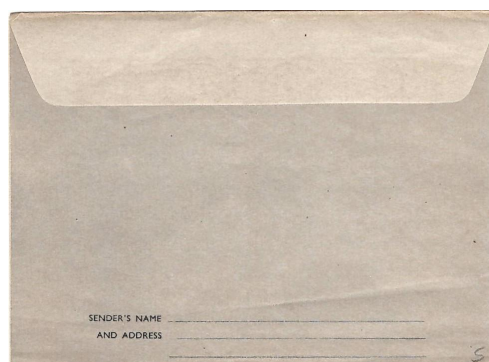


Fig. 2: Reverse
Reduced

¹ Samuel R. (2006). *The Postage Stamps of New Zealand*. Vol IX, Pg. 336-337. Wellington: Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand Incorporated.

MISCELLANEOUS (Australia Post Regulations)

Thanks to Brian Fuller for sending this space filler which was much needed as I compiled and wrote to fill up the space. Now you know why sometimes your mail comes un-franked; refer 31.1!

31 Applying postmarks

31.1 Australia Post may apply postmarks to postal articles in the course of the post, as it determines.

31.2 Australia Post may apply a postmark which comprises or includes:

31.2.1 information of general or local interest; and or

31.2.2 advertising material on its own behalf or on behalf of another, as it determines.

31.3 An official mail postmark:

31.3.1 is a mark, label or design authorised by Australia Post for the purpose of paying postage;

31.3.2 may only be used by Australia Post, or with Australia Post's express written authority;

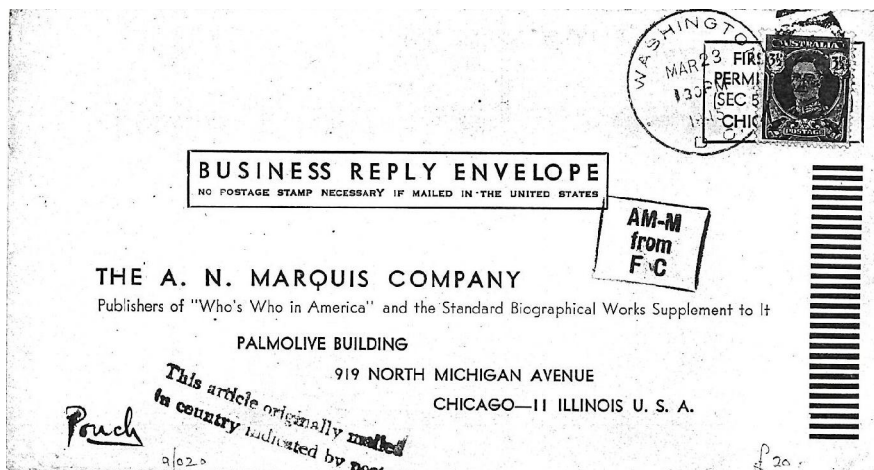
31.3.3 may be applied and used at the discretion of Australia Post for the purposes of carriage of postal articles.

31.4 An envelope, other outer wrapping of any postal article, or address label, endorsed with an official mail postmark must not be used, or re-used, by any person without the express authority of Australia Post. 31.5 Any attempt to use, apply, forge or copy any official mail postmark, and/or any envelope, other outer wrapping of any postal article, or address label, endorsed with an official mail postmark, without the express authority of Australia Post, for the purpose of securing, or attempting to secure, the provision of a postal service without the due payment of postage, may be deemed to constitute a contravention of Commonwealth criminal law, and may result in a prosecution for an offence.

31.6 The provisions of the Australia Post Terms and Conditions do not apply to official mail postmark, or to any envelope, or other outer wrapping of any postal article, endorsed with an official mail postmark, except to the extent determined by Australia Post from time to time.

Mail by Diplomatic Bag

It is always good to have a supply of material that is interesting and at the same time fills a void. This was part of a number of items that were sent by Nina Dowden many moons ago and over time I have found an opportunity to use them.



Business Reply Envelope
franked 3½d Geo VI.

Cachet states it was originally
mailed in country indicated by
Post but was placed in the
diplomatic pouch and cancelled
on arrival in Washington, USA.

Australian stamp & coin co

stamps - coins - banknotes

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WORLD

Gold & Silver Coins, Stamps & Banknotes

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AUSTRALIAN BANKNOTES

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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

Airmail cover from Gander, Newfoundland

John Young

The postcard shown here was sent airmail from Gander, Newfoundland to Australia in 1951. The card has a nice Gander strike on the lower left corner. The writer was flying from North America to Ireland, and touched down in Gander for over twelve hours. He wrote that he wished they would call the plane as he was ready for the next meal.

Aviation in 1951 was before the jet age, and Gander was an essential stopover in the propeller-driven age for trans-Atlantic flights. Gander was on a direct flight route between USA and northern Europe, and was the nearest landing point for west-bound flights.



Gander was chosen in 1935 for an airport. Although I have found no mention of Lake Gander [the picture on the post card] as a landing place for amphibious aircraft, it would possibly been an important consideration. A land airport was built and was first used in 1939. In the years after World War 2, Gander had one of the busiest trans-Atlantic airports. It is now described as small, but with a big runway, enough for a Concorde.

The airport assumed unexpected importance on 11th September 2001 when the attacks on the World Trade Centre necessitated the landing of all westward trans-Atlantic flights that had passed a midway mark to be emergency landed at Gander. The town had to host and feed 6700 crew and passengers for several days. It was a massive mission for a small town, producing home made meals and enlisting support through churches and service organizations,

It was a heart-warming story, so good that feature films and a musical 'Come from Away' were produced. The musical was Gander's second big event on the world stage, this time literally.

