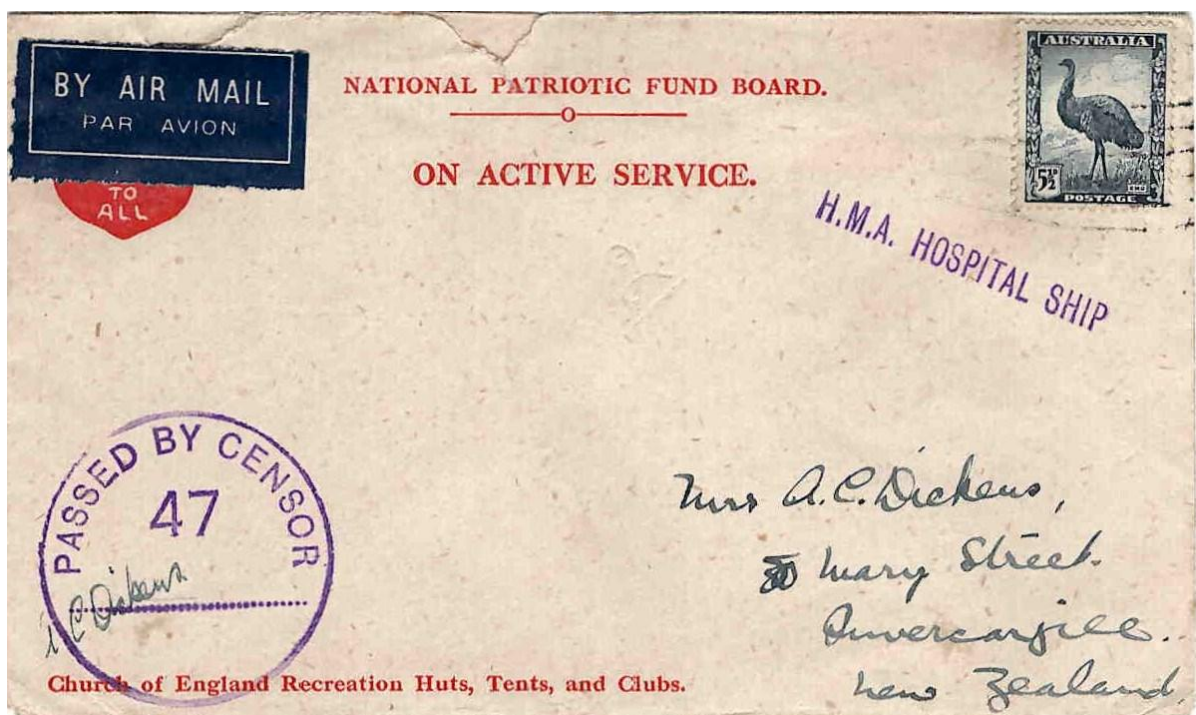


Australian Journal of Philately

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

No. 160 June 2022



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Japan's War on China, 1937-45

Australian Colonies Post Office Wrappers: Additional Supply and Overall Adjustments

Spencer Street—Station PO, GPO, and Spencer Street PO

Chinese Cultural Revolution Covers

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Date	2022 Programme	Display
20 June 2022	Brian Fuller, The Royal, Ashburton	Advertising Covers
15 August 2022	Ian Sadler on Zoom	Mountains of the World PPCs
17 October 2022	AGM	Members—Work in Progress

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Front Cover : Hospital Ship *Oranje*

Interesting multi-country censored cover posted enroute to the Middle East.

The censor was Captain (later Major) Alfred Clarence Dickens 74206 of the NZ Dental Corps who was dental officer on the Dutch vessel HS *Oranje*. Also designated No 1. Netherlands Hospital Ship.

The mail has been put ashore probably at Fremantle.

An Australian 5½d Emu stamp was applied.

It also received a single line H.M.A. Hospital Ship cachet.

Initially staffed by Dutch, Australian and New Zealand personnel by 1943 it was mainly New Zealanders and British.

The Censor 47 was used on the *Oranje*.



Editorial

Tony Lyon

Melbourne and for that matter the east coast of Australia has experienced early cold weather as autumn turned to winter. Certainly a good time to stay warm and start or complete some of those philatelic tasks you promised yourself you would get around to, when you had time.

Philately continues to be impacted after all of the lockdowns here in Melbourne. Attendances are down and some of the reason appears to be caution venturing out to meetings, which is a pity because gathering together and fellowship is good for ones wellbeing. Hopefully when the weather warms up in the spring people will be more willing to assume their attendance.

The Journal features three strong contributions this month. Ian Sadler's 'Japan's War on China 1937-45' is very colourful and well presented. Dr John Courtis continues to discover new material and present an excellent article featuring Post Office Wrappers.

Brian Fuller challenges his own research into the Spencer Street and puts it out there for comment, correction or affirmation.

All of these contributors are enhancing the knowledge in their fields of endeavour and setting out postal history information for future generations. One of the reasons I am attracted to Postal History, particularly New Zealand WWII military, is the fact that often there has been a neglect in understanding the importance of such history and the need to record it for the future, but also, the fact that it functioned in the manner intended. It provided a service.

Don't forget to check when the members are able to gather for some excellent displays coming up.

Until next time ciao.

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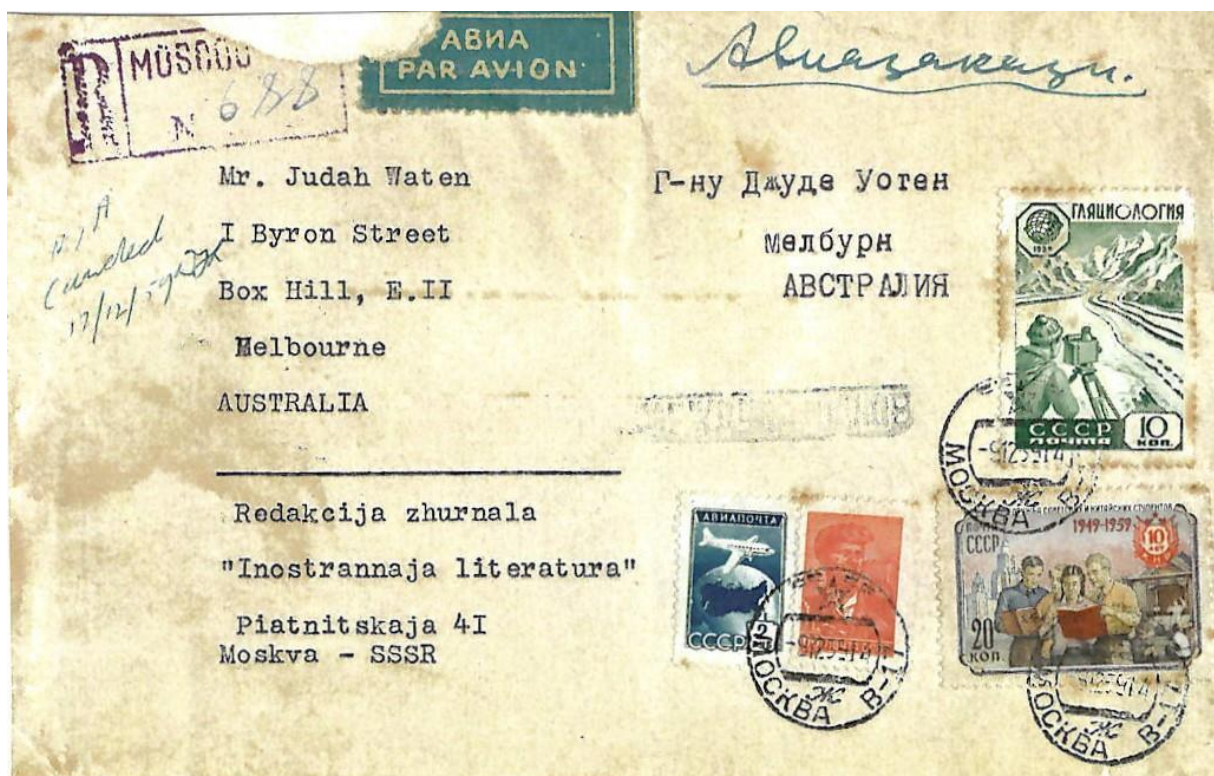
From the President

Without properly thinking through the implications, some years ago I thought it would be interesting to collect airmail stamps of eastern Europe commercially used on cover. I had not reckoned on the prodigious airmail issues of Hungary, Romania etc., nor the difficulty of finding commercial usages for countries such as the inter-war Baltic republics. Nevertheless, I have pressed on, sometimes finding covers in unlikely places such as weekend markets and Sunday stamp fairs. One such cover is the Russian one below, with the 2-rouble plane-over-globe airmail stamp [lower left]. The cover was addressed to Judah Waten at his home in Box Hill, Melbourne.

Waten was born in Odessa in 1911. and arrived in Australia in 1925. He joined the Australian Communist Party when 15 years old, and by 17 had served ten days for vagrancy. His party membership was suspended in 1930, and in 1935 he was expelled. Despite that rocky relationship, he joined the communist-run Melbourne Realist Writers' Group in 1945. Waten wrote six novels, numerous short stories and a memoir, among other literary works.

Despite coming from Ukraine which endured an horrendous Stalinist famine in the early 1930s, Waten hardly wavered in his loyalty to the Soviet Union. The events in Hungary and Czechoslovakia caused many of his colleagues to forsake Soviet communism. The cover to Waten appears to be from 'International Literature', Moscow, and is date stamped 1959. It may have contained payment for a translation of Waten's writing. In 1959 Waten was also fighting ex-communist editors and writers, trying to keep the Realist Writers magazine under Party control.

After he died in 1985 Waten was remembered by an annual Judah Waten short story competition.



Japan's War on China, 1937-45

Ian Sadler

This 2.1c exhibit tells the history of Japan's aggression in China and Indo-China from the Marco Polo Bridge incident in North China in July 1937, through its progressive occupation of much of China, until the surrender, in September, 1945. Through philately, it combines viewpoints of the attacker (Japanese in China and Japan), the defenders (Chinese Nationalist, Communist and Collaborationist regimes) and touches on the complementary situations in Manchukuo, Indo-China, Hong Kong and Burma, because Japan tried to prevent imports.

Objective

To tell the story of Japan's progressive conquest of China and Indo-China and the war's sociological effects through philatelic and some related material, from 1937 until Japan surrenders in 1945.

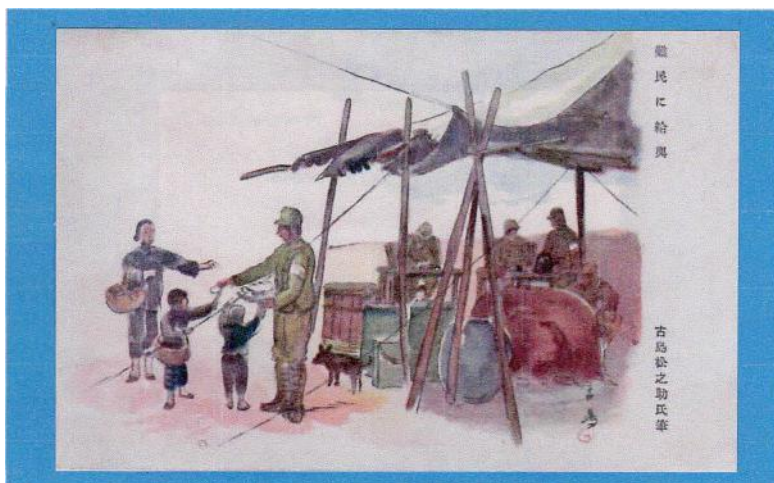
Treatment and Presentation

The story is addressed in date order of events and their philatelic response, switching between the several viewpoints. The extended war in China is explained by the covers used, Japanese Military postcards, picture postcards used by Japanese troops and the stamps issued. Historically important maps and photos are used to supplement the philatelic evidence for the progress of the War.

Red matting is used for scarce or rare items. Italics give philatelic details. Some items are imperfect due to war-time conditions. Chinese names are generally rendered in the pin-yin system. At the top of each page the Section Title is on the left and the Page Subject is on the right. Research has involved the translation of Japanese and Chinese language in addresses, postmarks, etc. 'E' and 'O' mean Expert report and Original provided, respectively. Specific references are cited on the relevant sheet.

Exhibit Plan by Section

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1.Setting the Scene | 8.Indo-China Occupied |
| 2.Start of War in North China | 9.The Effect on Correspondence |
| 3.Protagonists and Communists | 10.Capture of Hong Kong |
| 4.Further Conquest and Support | 11.National and Communists issues at Fullest Extent |
| 5.Battles for Wuhan and Canton | 12.Allies in Control. |
| 6. Revised Map and Period of Occupation | 13.End of the Sino-Japanese War |
| 7.Defensive Phase in the War | |



Japanese soldiers handing food to Chinese refugees.

Unused military postcard, reduced to fit. Dated after 1933. 0.

2. START OF WAR in NORTH CHINA Marco Polo Bridge Incident

Wanping is a village near Beijing with a remarkable ancient granite bridge decorated by 500 stone lions. It is known in the West as the Marco Polo Bridge whilst the Chinese call it 'Lugonquiao'. In the summer of 1937 the area around Lugonquiao was heavily populated by troops from the Chinese 29th Army and the Japanese North China Garrison Army.

On July 7th Japanese troops started firing around Wanping, their commander alleging that one of his men was missing, perhaps kidnapped, and demanding entry to Wanping via Lugonquiao. The Chinese troops refused and skirmishes broke out. Chiang Kai-shek decided on a strong response 'Only if we develop the psychology that fighting is inevitable, may we perhaps avoid fighting. (Mitter, 2013, p.'74). Chiang had recognised the Japanese occupation of Manchuria, but giving up Beijing was a different matter. He sent troops north. At the same time the Japanese Military prevailed upon the Prime Minister Prince Konoye to mobilise troops from Manchuria and Korea. And so the war began.

Chinese issue of July 1952 for 15th anniversary of start of war with Japan.

Lithographs by People's Printing Works, Beijing



Designs:-

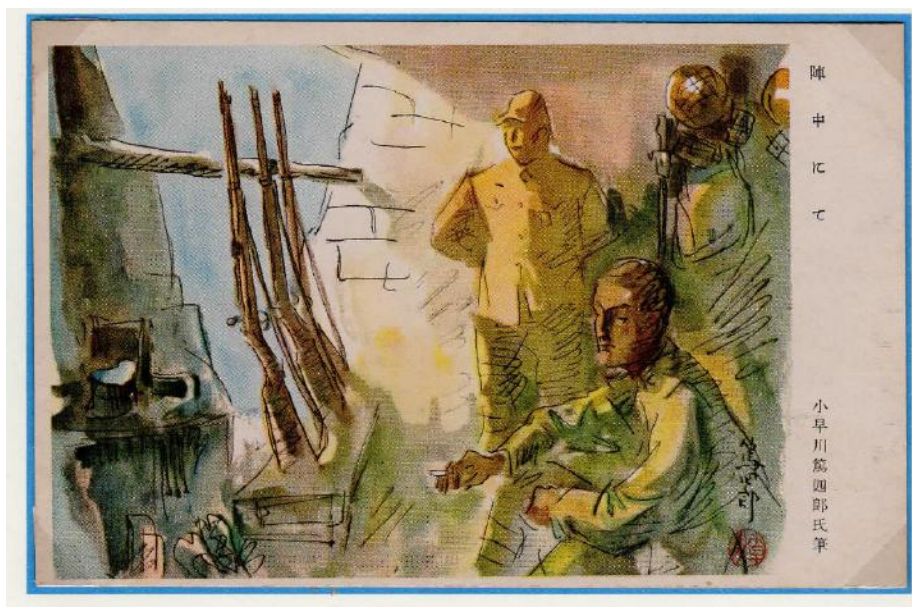
Blue: Marco Polo Bridge. Green: Chinese victory at Pingxingguan, September 1937



Designs:-

Plum: 4th Army leaves for Central China.

Red: Mao Tse-tung and Chu Teh



Unused Japanese postcard used by soldiers in China showing them relaxing surrounded by their kit and weapons. *This is a type 3 card issued after 1933.*

2. START OF WAR in NORTH CHINA Marco Polo Bridge Incident

Attacked by Japanese force on July 26th, on August 4th the local Chinese forces withdrew, and Beijing fell on August 8th. Japanese General Kawabe paraded into the city on August 18th. Japanese rule of Beijing was generally soft handed, since it fell without resistance, and its citizens accepted the occupation.

Key Stamp Issues of Beijing buildings

1909 September. Commemorating Emperor Hsuan Túng, later Emperor of Manchukuo, it shows the exquisite Ming Temple of Heaven, built in 1420. Designed by Hatch and Grant and printed by Waterlow. Perf 13 to 15.



1923-33 'The Junk Series' Second Peking printing.

Designed by Grant and printed by Chinese Bureau of Engraving and Printing, Peking. Design shows the Hall of Classics distinguished from the earlier issues by having a single line in the top panel. Perf 14. The \$20 value is scarce.



1956-57 Views of Peking. Recess printed by People's Printing Works, Peking. Perf 14.



Summer Palace



Gate of Heavenly Peace



Tai Ho Palace, Forbidden City



PPC showing Japanese soldiers checking munitions outside ancient fort. Address side has censor marks

3. PROTAGONISTS & COMMUNISTS The Protagonist Leaders

Chiang Kai-shek became the leader of Nationalist China in 1926 and continued as such during the Sino-Japanese war until he was expelled to Taiwan by the Communists in 1949.



Since Chiang did not appear on stamps during the Sino-Japanese war, this issue, printed by Dah Yeh in Shanghai in October 1946, is used. Three values are mint for visual appeal, three are postmarked in Canton in March, 1948.

Mao Tse-tung became Chairman of the communist Military Commission in 1936, continued as leader during the Sino-Japanese War and then became Chairman of the People's Republic of China until he died.

Mao on adhesive of NE China People's Post issued in November 1946. Designed by Hao Yimin and lithographed by Daxin Ptg Co. Scarce postmark shows plants and says (to be translated).



Mao on adhesive of Central and South China issued by Zhongzhou Postal Admin in December, 1948.

Lithographed by Xinyu Printing Co in Kaifeng. \$34 and \$42 mounted as they give off colours.

Admiral Togo was War Minister of the Japanese military who became Prime Minister of Japan in October, 1941. His portrait is used because the supreme leader, Emperor Hirohito, was not allowed to appear on stamps. Also the chief collaborator with the Japanese, Wang Jingwei, has no stamp portrait.

Japanese Definitive issued 1937



Overprinted for fall of Singapore in February, 1942



Overprinted for use in North Borneo, 1945



3. PROTAGONISTS & COMMUNISTS

What were Chinese Communists doing?

The Red Army, under Mao Tse-tung finished their Long March from Hunan to Yan'an in Shaanxi Province in October 1935 (see stamps below). The Communists during the late 1930s were consolidating in Yan'an where they were safe from Chiang's Army and too far inland for the Japanese to attack them.

The Communists first issued stamps in 1929 (See miniature sheet to right). In August 1935, the USSR declared itself against fascism and supported Chiang Kai-shek. This then reversed in 1950 when Stalin and Mao signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation.

This philatelic MS, Hunan 1983, replicates an early Communist stamp issue in 1932 in the Hunan-Jiangxi border region. *This rare issue was lithographed and imperforate without gum.*



1955 December. Commemorates 20th Anniversary of the Long March from October 1934 to October 1935. *Recess printed by People's Printing Works, Peking. Perf 14.*



Bold capture of Lu Ting Bridge by Red Army.



Crossing the Ta Hsueh Mountains.



December. PR of China issue to record the signing of a Sino-Soviet Treaty by Mao Tse-tung and Stalin. *Recess printed by People's Printing Works, Peking. Perf 14. Reprints are very similar to the original issue.*

4. FURTHER CONQUEST & SUPPORT Japanese Massacre at Nanjing

Chiang Kai-shek only defended Nanjing with his Director of Military Training, Tang Cheng-chih, and second-rate troops, plus American and British gunboats on the Yangtse River. After Chiang left, taking with him the Chinese Air Force, the city only lasted four days of Japanese air and land assault by Japanese Central China Area Army. It fell on December 12th, 1937. Japanese General Iwane (see photo) instructed his 66th Battalion:

All prisoners of war are to be executed ... divide the prisoners into groups of a dozen. Shoot to kill! Later the troops were allowed to rape, torture and murder over 300,000 civilians (Chang, 1997) .

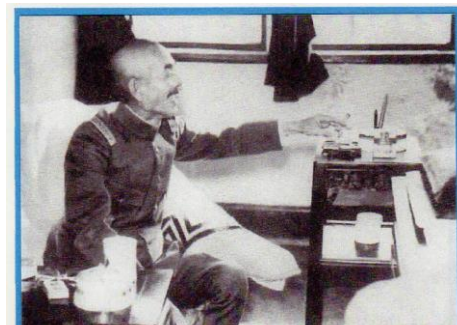
1941 December — 1942. Peking Print Air Mail issue surcharged in Japanese Currency. *Perf 14.* Most have no watermark *Surcharge not yet translated.*



Has w ' mark
Of characters

Sent From Hankow

General Iwane leader at Nanking. Photo Mitter p. 106.



Censored postcard of Suzhou River and old-style housing, near Nanking. *Watercolour by Kojo Kokan (?).* Reverse shows sent from Indochina. *Dated after 1933.*



4. FURTHER CONQUEST & SUPPORT

Sinkiang houses Nationalist Government

The Nationalist Government moved to Chungking in December 1937 to continue the rule of 'Free China' in Sinkiang. Chungking was never invaded, although it came under heavy aerial bombing in 1938-39.

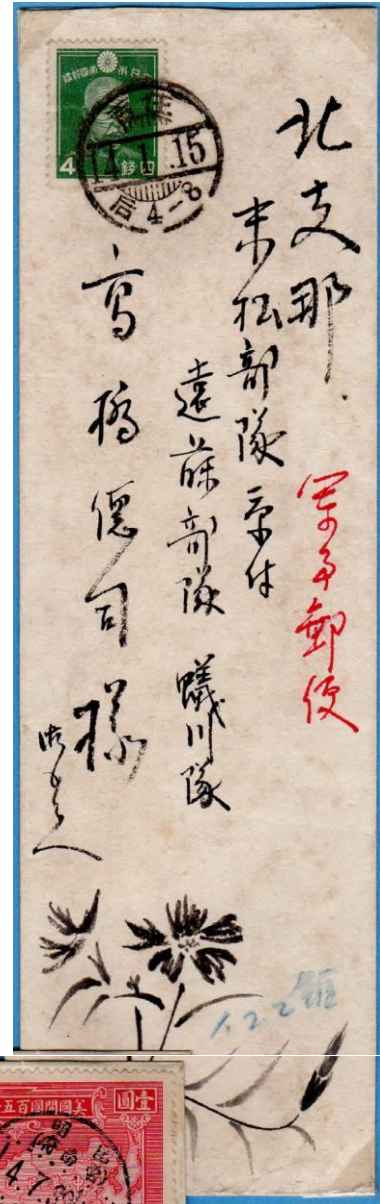
Pictorial cover and letter from Sumiyoshi, Osaka prefecture on January 14th, 1939, 15th year of Showa reign. Blue marks at foot show arrival date, February 1st at the Suematsu Army in Shanxi province. *It pays the standard rate and is not censored*



1932-38 Sun Yet-sen 1st issue overprinted 'Sinkiang'. Stamps show London overprint. 11.5mm long & Shanghai overprint, 12mm long. Perf 12.5-13.



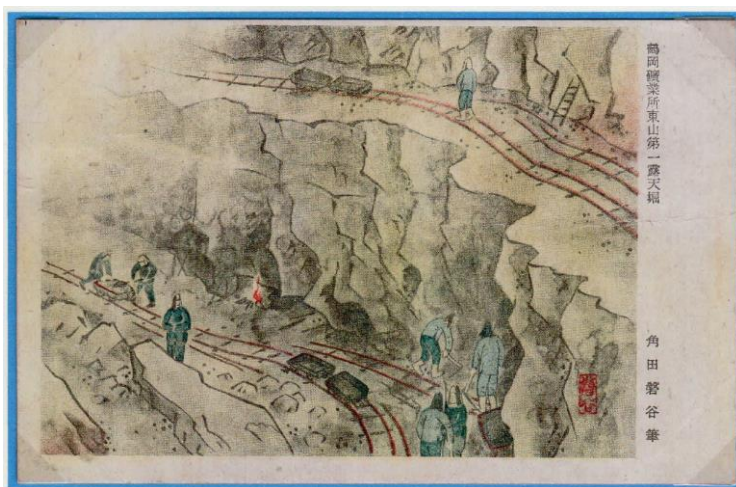
1939, June. Philatelic FDC for 150th Anniversary of US Constitution. *Cover flown from Kunming, Yunnan province to Chungking with black chop showing airmail. Reverse shows Express Delivery sticker, airmail sticker & Chungking CDS.*



4. FURTHER CONQUEST & SUPPORT Japanese Homeland Supports the War

Whilst all this fighting is going on in China, the Japanese mainland continues its ancient traditions, some peaceful, some militaristic. There is celebration of natural beauty in National Parks, mining of copper, local manufacture of aeroplanes for the war and warship of the people's ancestors.

1938 December. Nikko National Park. Photo Dai-Nippon Ptg, Tokyo, p 13x13.5



Unused PPC showing mining copper for electrical cables in Tsuruoka, Honshu Island.

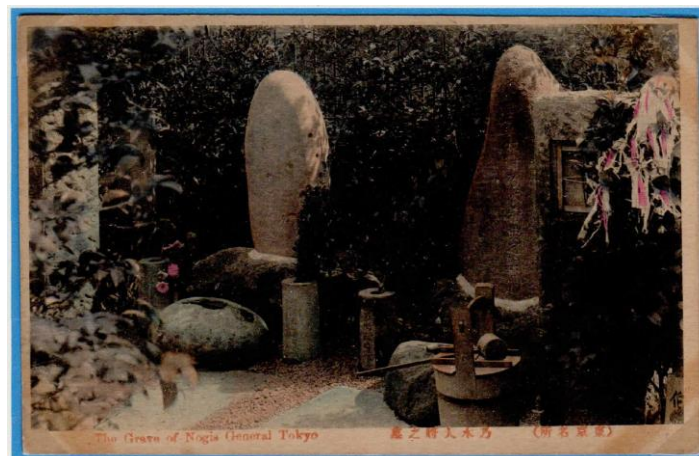
Dated after 1933.

December, 1939 Japanese definitive showing Mitsubishi Carrier Attack bomber, first flown 1937 Designed Watabe, recess prin



Unused PPC showing the Grave of Nogis General, Tokyo.

Dated before 1933.



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Australian Colonies Post Office Wrappers: Additional Supply and Overall Adjustments

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

This additional evidence of the supply of Australian Colonies Post Office postal stationery wrappers is likely to be my last update. Because of the death of Jan Kośniowski in July 2020, many hundreds of his accumulation of Victoria and Queensland wrappers may never be offered for sale on the auction platform eBay. Already there is a reduction in total listings due in the main to his absence. For a variety of reasons, a decision was reached to cease the daily hand-collection of new worldwide listings. This data collection commenced in September 2003 and continued daily until the end of January 2022, a period of 18 years and 5 months. During that time the database grew to 70,000 images of worldwide used wrappers and was the foundation for many of the articles published in the *Australian Journal of Philately* since 2004. During the period March 2019 to January 2022 there were 586 additional wrappers of the Australian colonies and this paper reviews what has appeared for each. The reader is referred to previous articles that have regularly updated new listings for more in-depth discussion of the eBay auction platform and its suitability for the listing and sale of postal wrappers (see Courtis 2019, 2015, 2012, 2007, 2004).

The addition of 586 wrappers represents a reduction in the monthly listing rate from 27 during the 2015-19 period to 22 for the most recent. Overall, the supply is still strong, but with a declining trend. Victoria wrappers clearly dominate with 41%. This can be attributed essentially to the corpus of Gordon & Gotch and London-based advertising agencies wrappers mailed from country towns with small populations that were established during the gold rush and/or pastoral activities. At the other end of the spectrum is Western Australia with a percentage much less than 1%. The mailing of newspapers was free until 1901 and this accounts for their almost non-existent supply. The figures in Table 1 show the incremental increases in supply for each Colony and the adjusted totals column the total amount in the database a at the end of January 2022.

Table 1: Per Colony/State Quantities Listed on eBay 2003-2022

Colony/State	2003 -04	2005 -06	2007 -08	2009 -11	2012 -15	2015 -19	2019- 2022	2003- 2019	Adjusted Totals*	%
	Previously reported studies							Total		
New South Wales	26	13	25	51	56	36	46	253	212	5
Queensland	52	60	48	120	193	363	123	959	908	23
South Australia	80	86	68	141	271	282	197	1125	1085	28
Tasmania	4	8	4	20	39	18	13	106	99	3
Victoria	85	83	96	267	307	673	205	1716	1591	41
Western Australia	1	1	0	2	3	3	2	12	12	-
Totals	248	251	241	601	869	1,375	586	4,171	3907	100

*The totals were overstated because of unidentified duplication between periods and these figures are adjusted in the table applying to each Colony.

New South Wales

The count of 46 additional wrappers of this Colony is distributed across ten issues and can be compared against the overall total of each issue that appears in the database. The count in Table 1 shows an overall total of 253, which is the aggregate across all periods since 2003. What happened was that some duplication arose from time-to-time when items did not sell and were then relisted in another period. Most sellers simply roll their unsold items into the new listing period, and in such cases, duplications can easily be spotted and removed. Other sellers withhold unsold items for several months (even years) and then relist and in such cases, duplication is less easily detected. The figures in Table 2 have no duplicates and are the more reliable count of the actual supply of different wrappers over the 18+ years of data-gathering. Similar adjustments will be made for the other colonies.

Table 2 – Higgins & Gage “E” types for NSW

H&G “E” type	1	2	3	4	5*	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	total
Most Recent period	0	3	1	5	0	4	14	3	2	9	1	4	46
Prior periods	2	1	1	9	0	31	47	18	17	28	5	7	166
Total	2	4	2	14	0	35	61	21	19	37	6	11	212

*No used copy of the Halfpenny overprint (E5) appears in the database. Its scarcity is not reflected in Kośniowski’s catalogue value.

One printed-to-private-order wrapper with private printing was added to the database per courtesy of a collector, namely, *Holdsworth, Macpherson & Co.*, Sydney and this is illustrated in Figure 1. This vertical, double indicia wrapper shows a Sydney postmark AP 4 01 and the destination was Apia, Samoa. This very desirable wrapper appears in the Kośniowski catalogue (#105, p. 149, 153).

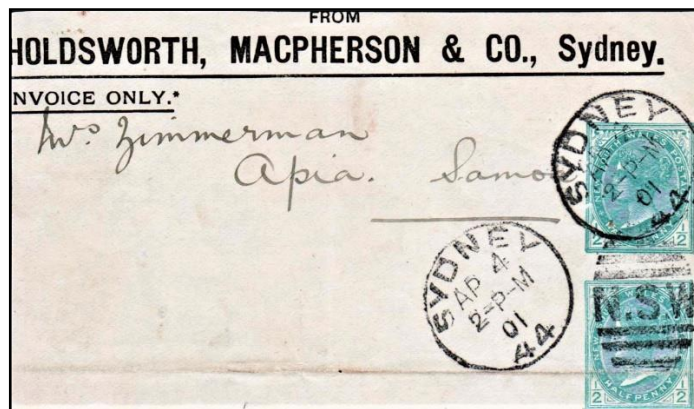


Figure 1 – Holdsworth, Macpherson & Co., Sydney, vertical double indicium

The remaining 45 wrappers are unremarkable with perhaps the exception of a few postmarks such as those shown as Figure 2.

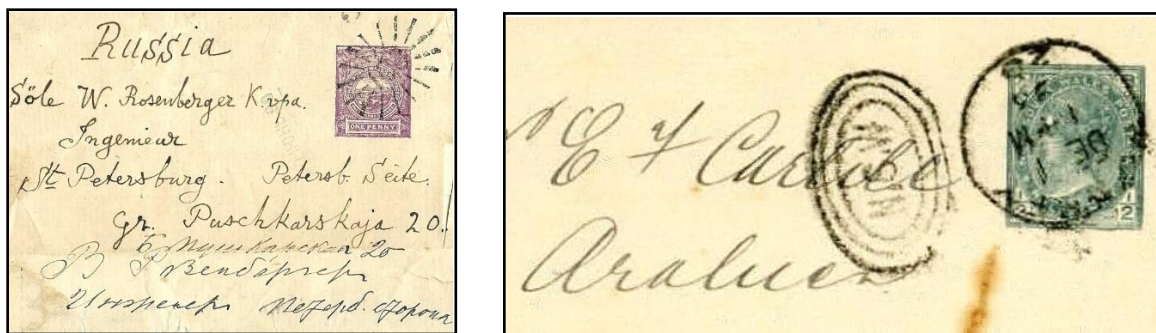


Figure 2 – Postmarks: numeral 106 within Star rays; NSW within three elliptical rings

Queensland

There were 123 additional wrappers of Queensland during this last period. When these are added to the totals of previous periods the overall sum is 959. However, a count of what is in the database is 908, so there was obviously incidences of dealers relisting unsold items in different period. Hence, a downward adjustment is required.

Table 3 – Higgins & Gage “E” types for Queensland

H&G “E” type	1	2	2a	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	total
Most Recent period	40	34	5	4	0	3	3	0	23	11	123
Prior periods	367	145	23	38	8	13	31	4	79	77	785
Total	407	179	28	42	8	16	34	4	102	88	908

The wrappers of Queensland were basically unremarkable, other than one showing an O.H.M.S. handstamp and a smattering of more readable postmarks.



Figure 3 – O.H.M.S and Packet Post handstamps (E8); open Cairns JU 16 Queensland postmark (E3)

South Australia

Another 197 wrappers of South Australia were listed for sale on eBay between march 2019 and January 2022. The overall total of all periods is 1,125, but the actual count in the database together with those of the last period is less at 1,085 so a downward adjustment is needed to remove the duplication arising from dealers relisting in different period.

Table 4 – Higgins & Gage “E” types for South Australia

H&G “E” type	1	2	3	3B	4	4a*	4B	5	5B	6	7	7B	8	9	10	Σ
Prior periods	6	7	572	133	47	2	2	50	4	11	21	5	11	13	4	888
Recent period	2	1	109	25	9	0	0	8	0	5	22	2	14	0	0	197
Total	8	8	681	158	56	2	2	58	4	16	43	7	25	13	4	1085

*Indicium located on the left hand-side

During the most recent period all wrappers were unremarkable except for one uprated example of E7 with square circle postmark MT BARKER JU 17 04 with a Transvaal destination. This is shown in Figure 4.



Figure 4 – Uprated copy of E7 with Transvaal, South Africa destination

Tasmania

Jan Kościński and I had a difference of opinion about whether Post Office issues for Tasmania were ever produced. He was of the opinion that all Tasmanian wrappers were stamped-to-order. The new book *Tasmanian Postal Stationery* by Groom and Shatten confirm the classification and coding in Higgins and Gage, namely, the 1906 ½d green (E12) and 1d rose (E13) King Edward VII are Post Office issues. All other wrapper types were stamped-to-order.

During the recent period there were 14 additional wrappers of Tasmania, of which there were one each of E12 and E13. Given there were only 100 wrappers of Tasmania listed in the 18+ years, the coding of H&G is followed in Table 5.

Table 5 – Higgins & Gage “E” types for Tasmania

	12	13	KE1	KE3	KE4	KE6	KE7	Other*	Total
Recent period	1	1	4	7	0	0	0	0	13
Prior periods	2	2	13	23	6	11	1	14 ^a +15 ^b	87
Total	3	3	17	30	6	11	1	29	100

*The 14^a details can be found in Table 6a; the 15^b details in Table 6b

Groom and Shatten (G&S) have published a first class reference on Tasmanian postal stationery and it is an opportunity to use their catalogue numbering system for the 14 + 15 items that appear under the column 'other'. Their classification scheme is more thorough than either H&G or Kościński and is likely to become the standard for collectors of Tasmanian postal stationery.

Table 6a – Stamped-to-order on Plain Wrappers (14 from Prior Periods)

G&S cat. number	Description (all issued from 1891)	Quantity
WS15.1	½d yellow-orange on grey stock plain wrapper	1
WS16.1	1d reddish orange on cream stock	4
WS16.2	1d red on cream stock	1
WS27.1	½d yellow orange on brown with double red border lines in narrow format	2
WS28.1	1d red on brown with double-red border lines in narrow format	3
WS29.1	2d green on brown with double-red border lines in narrow format	3

Table 6b – Stamped-to-order on Mercury and Tasmanian Mail (15 from Prior Periods)*

G&S cat. number	Description (all issued from 1891)	Quantity
WS1.4	1891-1913, ½d orange yellow (Mercury)	1
WS3.1	1891-1913, 1d red (Mercury sans serif)	2
WS3.3	1891-1913, 1d red (Mercury in gothic letters)	2
WS5.1	1891-1913, 2d green (Tasmanian Mail in small gothic letters)	2
WS5.2	1891-1913, 2d green (Tasmanian Mail in gothic letters, price 6d)	2
WS7.2	1912, 2d lilac (Tasmanian Mail in fancy lettering, long wrapper)	1
WS8.1	1891-1913, 1d red + ½d yellow (Tasmanian Mail in sans-serif)	1
WS8.2	1891-1913, 1d red + ½d yellow (Tasmanian Mail in sans-serif, long wrapper)	1
WS10.1	1902, 1d + ½d yellow + 1d red + 2d + 2d green (Agent for the Tasmanian Mail)	2
WS31.5	From 1891 ½d reddish orange on pink paper	1
		15

*Most of the wrappers listed in Table 6b were contributed to the author's database by a collector. Groom and Shatten should be consulted for a comprehensive listing.

The two Post Office issues are well-known but they are elusive. Only three used copies of each issue have been recorded in 18+ years. During the current period one copy of each CTO was listed and these are shown in Figure 5.



Figure 5 – 1906 Post Office issues, CTO, Hobart 20 JA 06 and 31 JA 06, ½d emerald (E12) and 1d rose madder (E13)

Victoria

An additional 205 wrappers of Victoria were recorded for the current period, taking the total to 1,591 after adjusting for duplicates that occurred from period to period, as explained earlier.

Most of the E types could be found in the database. The benefit of the detail in Table 7 will be that collectors will be able to identify the scarce and elusive types of wrappers of Victoria. Five of the 25 Post Office types listed in the Table showed only one copy each was recorded in the total collection period. E15 and E17 by contrast account for 838 (E15) and 461 (E17) of the total or 82%.

Table 7 – Higgins & Gage “E” types for Victoria

E #	database	This period	total	E #	database	This period	total
1	0	0	0	17	283	78	361
2	0	0	0	18	70	11	81
3	0	0	0	19	67	18	85
4	4	1	5	20	5	1	6
6	1	1	2	21	29	3	32
7	1	0	1	21b	11	0	11
8	1	0	1	23	5	2	7
9	1	0	1	23b	18	2	20
10	1	0	1	24	20	1	21
11	13	4	17	25	33	4	37
12	9	0	9	26	13	0	13
13	5	1	6	27	7	0	7
14	7	1	8	28	1	0	1
15	761	77	838	Σ	1386	205	1591
16	20	0	20				

There were six wrappers with private overprinting listed during the recent period: *The Austral Light* (E16), *Australian Stamp Collector* (E17), *Broadford Courier and Reedy Creek Times* (E15) – this user does not appear to have been listed before, *St Arnaud Mercury* (E17 and E18), and *The Spectator*.



Figure 6 – *The Austral Light* (E16) to Italy; “*Broadford Courier*” and *Reedy Creek Times* NO 17 93 (E15)

Western Australia

Post Office postal stationery wrappers of Western Australia continue to be elusive. This is understandable given that newspapers were carried free of postage until Federation. Only two additions were recorded in the current period to add to the ten existing copies. In total only three Post Office types have been recorded used: E1 (1 + 1), E2 (5) and E3 (4 + 1) = 12. The two newly recorded items are shown in Figure 7, differentiated by the vertical border lines.



Figure 7 – Western Australia E1 with double borders to Sydney; E3 with single thick border to Perth

Summary

This updating of the Post Office postal stationery wrappers of the Australian Colonies/States has added another 586 to make the 18+ year total 3,907. This paper provides an opportunity to correct the overall totals for each Colony. The figures in the database are accurate. They have been “cleaned” of any duplicates. As explained earlier, some sellers roll their unsold items to the next listing period, and in such cases identifying and removing duplicates is straightforward. Some sellers place their unsold items in their virtual store on eBay and the items may not reappear for sale for some years. When this happens it is much harder to identify and remove duplicates without examining all the images for that Post Office type. When listing prices vary markedly, the location of the item could appear on more than one page of the screen making detection of a duplicate more likely to be missed.

Victoria dominates the supply of wrappers with 1,591 or 41% of the total. This large corpus is largely attributable to the incidence of advertising in country newspapers where wrappers containing local newspapers were mailed to Gordon and Gotch, and the advertising agencies in London of Clarke, Son & Platt and Bates, Hendy & Co., and others (Courtis 2013). For postmark collectors there is a wide range of country town cancels on these wrappers. South Australia is the other Colony/State with a large extant quantity with 1,085 examples or 28%. These two Colonies account for two-thirds of the wrappers that have been listed over the overall collection period.

Collectors of these Australian colony wrappers can see from Table 1 which wrappers are uncommon, elusive or scarce.

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Acknowledgement

Allan Gory kindly read and commented on an earlier draft and I thank him for his time and suggestions.

SPENCER STREET - STATION PO, GPO, and SPENCER STREET PO

Brian Fuller

Phoenix Auction catalogue 2165 lots 2463 – 2490 have caused me to reconsider what I wrote in the Australian Philatelic Society journal "AUSTRALIAN JOURNAL OF PHILATELY" 2011 regarding the "AP Melbourne Timelines" article.

No-one challenged me when I stated quote: <1888 Spencer St PO (SSPO) opened with its counter entrance in Spencer St (?). Formed in pre-MME building circa 1888(?). I suspect it was subsumed with the opening of the GPO being transferred to Spencer St. Was the SSPO then at the Railway station? Unquote.

Current research indicates the statement now has many faults and raised many doubts as to its history.

In examining the functions of the GPO at Elizabeth St circa late 1800 and early 1900s it became obvious that the GPO was drowning under the increased volumes and functions to service Melbourne and the Victorian countryside. The Melbourne Mail Exchange (MME) was a necessary solution.

However, considering the number and extensiveness of those functions has caused me to rethink an appropriate limitation on the GPO whilst at Spencer St.

I am constraining myself to identifying which functions used the GPO in its title from 4JUN17 to 1JAN64 but including the Spencer St Railway Station PO (SSRS) that was operating before and the Spencer St PO (SSPO) that was created afterwards. The primary mechanism for this is the date stamps and cachets. I am including the philatelic aspects of the GPO such as stamp sales and the Philatelic Bureau (PB). I am also including counter functions such as Money Order Office (MOO) and Late Fee.

I am temporarily ignoring non-counter type functions such as BULK section (Parcels etc), Dead Letter Office (DLO), plus the huge range of R6 labels. Also the mass of Commonwealth date stamps that were removed from the GPO at Elizabeth St and used and multiplied whilst the GPO processed the mail. I have some one-off date stamps that collectors need to be alerted to and will include them. The GPO Postal Investigation Branch is an example. Was there a Postal Restante or only at Eliz St PO?

The GPO at the MME also had many sub-sections of great importance and each had their own date stamps and cachets reflecting that function. E.g. , Ship Mail Room, Airmail Room etc. I am not addressing them. WWW (Watson, Webster and WOOD) via DW and GW provide date stamp information on these areas.

My specific area of immediate interest is that part of the network - the counter function for customers. I have also included the Philatelic Bureau due to its neglected importance to collectors.

Research

SPENCER STREET Station opened in 1859, five years after the other major Melbourne rail terminus at Flinders St. The station was a dead-end terminus, running parallel to Spencer Street, composed of a single main platform with a Dock Platform at the north end. After 1874 an extra platform was provided.

The two major city stations were not linked until 1879, when a single-track ground-level line was opened. It operated only at night, and only for freight trains. In the 1880s, it was proposed that Spencer Street station be removed in order to facilitate the westward expansion of the city, but the plan was subsequently rejected.

The 1880s saw the first of several grand but unrealized plans for the station

From 1888 to 1894, the layout of the platforms was altered, with new country platforms being built on an angle to Spencer Street itself. A number of new platforms built for suburban services.

In 1888, work started on the double track Flinders St viaduct linking Spencer St to Flinders Street station.

The Telegraph Office (TO) commenced 1 OCT 1861 and continued until 3 AUG 1977 (DW). A post office (PO), probably housed within the TO, was built at the Station. No history of construction or location.

The earliest Duplex for SSRS PO I have is 24 AUG 1888.

MME building history.

I have been using the terminology for the Melbourne Mail Exchange (MME) building as Central Mail Exchange (CME). In part from official documentation and part because of staff terminology in use when I able to visit the establishment circa 1970s and become acquainted with their operations. In future I will amend the building reference to MME and not CME. On the southern façade of the building has metal lettering reading "MAIL EXCHANGE".

Until the MME was built and opened, the GPO remained at Elizabeth St.

The PMG bought the land on the corner of Bourke and Spencer Streets (Robert Hoddle's old home) and in early JAN 1913 commenced to build the MME.

The Mail Exchange (ME) (688 Bourke St) commenced operation on **4 JUN 1917** when the GPO was transferred from Elizabeth St to the MME. Elizabeth St became the Elizabeth St PO.

Whilst the MME was being built, Ken Sparks' 2021 book, "The Melbourne Mail Exchange 1917- 1988 A History of its Postal Mechanization" p7, advises that in lieu of extending the proposed building, a tunnel to the Railway station be included. Adopted and the extension was shelved.

Apparently there was also a pedestrian subway at Spencer St station and is long closed to the public and used as storage areas for the railways. Mr Google alludes to this.

Date stamp information re GPO Spencer St customer service functions.

Gary Watson (GW) has sent me his notes and with David Wood's (DW) input able me to provide eras and places of use.

Elizabeth St PO identified itself with specific date stamps/cachets etc and Krag machine continuous roller cancels. Die Series R15 (my 1921 book on, "Continuous Roller and Trip cancellations of Melbourne including Continuous Roller Cancellations of Victorian Offices") has the Krag die head showing ELIZABETH ST in the top section and MELBOURNE in the lower half.

Davies and Linfield (D&L), "The Cancellations of Melbourne 1861 – 1912" pp57 – 63 identifies Type 3 hand cancellers (Commonwealth period) as numbers 1 – 24 in use at Elizabeth St – the GPO. They only list the ED.

DW has continually been updating the ED and LD for those labelled Melbourne with a number and the highest number known to me is 100 with some numbers above 100 being "guesswork" and certainly not sequential. Some numbers below 100 do not appear to have been recorded.

His original article is in the journal of the Australian Philatelic Society (Nee Postal History Society) Supplement 1 (1980s?). He has exclusions but lists those used in the GPO. His Supplement also records many other related date stamps belong to sub-sections of the GPO.

I must remind that the MME is a building and in the early days <1964 contained the GPO functions. Once it lost the GPO function it housed the Spencer St PO (SSPO) and also became the Central Mail Exchange (CME). The CME reflected the change and date stamps labelled MEB (Mail Exchange Branch) occur.

I also presume the Melbourne numbered date stamps 1 - 24 in use at the GPO did not stay at Elizabeth St and travelled to the MME building when it became the GPO. Later versions were definitely MME located. Please check your dates for their use in the GPO SPENCER St (GPOSS) 4JUN17 – 21JAN20.

With D&L Commonwealth period designs and DW (as per Supplement) and my dates I have recorded the end dates of 1 - 24 as follows:

1 1DEC19	2 3MAR19	3 2OCT17	4 9AUG17	5 17NOV18	6 24JAN18	7 11SEP29	8 22MAR28
9 8JUN27	10 10JUN18	11 4OCT17	12 15NOV16	13 8MAY22	14 14OCT20	15 9JUL18	16 2DEC17
17 8DEC28	18 23OCT17	19 2AUG24	20 12OCT17	21 1JUL18	22 19JUN33	23 30AUG17	24 2JUN24

I cannot be assured they did or did not move. Logically some would, as the first day the GPOSS opened they may not have had date stamps. My ED for GPOSS labelled GPO is 21JAN20. Usage of the Commonwealth period date stamps at the customer counter seems highly probable.

The earliest SSRS PO duplex sample I have is 24AUG1888. The latest date I have is 4JAN1913 whilst DW via telephone has recorded the latest date as 8AUG13.

There are two recorded Late Fee date stamps SSRS PO according to GW. The initial one was without a Number. Then according to GW his ED 26OC08 was recut by 25OCT39 and last seen 12MAY69. The second with No 1 seen from 28JUL15 – 9DEC37 then appeared again recut in 11JUL44 – 29JAN70. These usages include the GPOSS and SSPO period. Presumably the date stamps were then used at the King St PO. Can anyone confirm please?

I assume the main postal duties of the SSRS PO closed 4JUN17 on being transferred to the MME building which also housed the counter function of GPOSS. The GPO had a public area counter located on the Spencer St side of the building.

The GPOSS period ranges from 4JUN17 – 1JAN64. SSPO commences 1JAN64 - 20NOV65 (DW) when King St PO assumed their postal duties.

There is an obvious postal history gap between 8AUG13 (Duplex ended) and 28JUL15 (Late Fee start).

Duplex LD and Late Fee ED dates become critical. Can anyone fill in the gap please?

Once the GPOSS opened, and as the MME was connected to Spencer St station via a tunnel, presumably any Late Fee would be applied at the counter function?

DW auction list indicates GPOSS had limited date stamps and cachets. In reappraising my date stamps I have found many I did not earlier recognise.

The earliest GPOSS with GPO in its title known to me is 21JAN20. I suspected the date stamps labelled C1 had a start date later than ED 4JUN17 (DW).

The Postal District Numbers (PDN) according to Ken Sparks writing in the Postal History Society Journal The Date Stamp (1981 era?) indicates with a map of the Melbourne Districts that the new system was introduced on 1JAN1928 but implemented on 1FEB1928.

Melbourne City was allocated C (Central) 1- 3. C1 Melbourne, C2 East Melbourne, C3 West Melbourne, whilst areas around Melbourne City became SC 1 – 8 eg SC4 - Sturt St, and SC5 - South Melbourne.

I assume the main postal duties of the SSRS PO closed 4JUN17 on being transferred to the MME building which housed the GPO. The GPO had a public area counter located on the Spencer St side of the building. The GPOSS ranges from 4JUN17 – 1JAN64 when the GPO was transferred back to Elizabeth St. Then it was renamed SSPO and its period ranges from 1JAN64 – 20NOV65 (DW) when King St PO assumed their postal duties.

AP Bulletin 64 of FEB64 is interesting as it affects our current understanding of when the GPOSS date stamps SSPO 1 - 6 were required i.e. >1JAN64. They also acquired the C1 annotation.

From these changes, two items of interest to Bulletin readers emerge. Postmarks have of necessity been changed so that cancellations "G.P.O. MELBOURNE" are now being used at the Elizabeth St. office, and new postmarks reading "SPENCER STREET MELBOURNE VIC AUST" are provided for that office. Clients should also note that letters for the Philatelic Bureau should now be addressed to the Spencer Street Post Office, instead of to the former G.P.O. address.

Accordingly, the earliest date stamp with C1 could be 1JAN28 but more likely 1FEB28. There are two series, one only without numbering and the others numbered 1 – 6. For SSPO the ED appears to be 1JAN64. As they were used SSPO I expect the LD of 20NOV65. GW records show that this appears part true. The earliest after 1JAN64 is 19MAR64. No 6 finishes in 1964 whilst 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 finished in 1965. No 2 and 4 finished on 20NOV25 (BF). Why did 6 finish in 1964? Does anyone have dates for the C1 date stamps, especially C1 - 6 ED excluding the known LD for No 2 and 4 please? See tabulation below for ED and LD for SSPO C1, No 1 – 6.

DW advises three relief CDS were then used after 1JAN64 and quotes a singular date of 16MAR64. However, GW in his list, preserved in WWW Book order, has Reliefs listed as being also used in the Private Box Room No 64 - 23JAN64, 76 - 5JAN64 and 71 – 24FEB64 to 16MAR64. No 64 and 71 are on tied covers. Their usage is concurrent to C1 – 6.

Were the Reliefs used in the PBR because it was also transferred to GPO Elizabeth St control? Unlikely - I suspect that their actual use was in GPO Eliz St until (or to supplement) their own GPO Elizabeth St arrived. ED dates for GPO Elizabeth St please to confirm my suspicions.

The GPOSS Postal Box Room used the GPO SPENCER ST P.B.R. date stamp from 7MAR46 – 10JUL63 (GW). Any other usage please?

I am presuming there was a Box Room at or near the MME and naturally one retained for Elizabeth St PO. Whether the MME Box room just closed or physically transferred I presume, considering the capital works cost, it was just closed. The Box Room function would be transferred to King St and Elizabeth St PO again. The GPO Elizabeth St Box Room was previously relocated to near the corner of Bourke and Elizabeth Streets? The Box Room then used date stamps SPENCER STREET BOX ROOM/VIC 3001 21AUG87 – 24DEC88 (BF). Please note the vast gap in the use of date stamps!

The Box Room had many owners primarily the Melbourne MC (MMC) before it was transferred back to the GPO City Delivery MC. My Timelines: "**1 May 73** Box Room functions back to GPO. Informally called GPO Box Room". Why did they use Spencer St in the date stamp? I presume because it was re-controlled by the Melbourne MC (MMC) based at Spencer St.

From my **Timelines** – three dates:

23 Jul 89 Melbourne MC (MMC) transferred to 313 Spencer St Melbourne.

<Aug 92 (actually prior to my 21AUG87) GPO Box Room transfers back to MMC hence the Melbourne City MC (MCMC).

< 18 Oct 99 MCMC Box Room renamed GPO Box Room (CDS) and transfers to GPO CDMC (City Delivery MC).

There is a plethora of date stamps with GPO in their design used at the GPOSS and I have tabulated those I am aware of below, their dates of use providing they comply with my previous restrictions.




Whilst date stamps from the GPOSS, SSPO and SSRS are also shown below. I have serious problems with some. I have removed GPO PARCELS date stamps (about 10 off) for further consideration.

GW has used his WWW numbering but as I have “new” examples I have refrained from guessing where they may fit so started GPOSS numbering to reduce confusion. The numbers are obviously temporary until your responses are received. Especially as MOO cancellations are debateable.

The MOO 11 - 15 may be disputed at being applied PO Eliz St – considering GPOSS16 is marked GPO. If so, what did GPOSS use earlier? Money Orders have been used pre 1914 (E Frazer). However, when did specific MOO cancellations begin?

However, PMG HQ apparently had a MOB (Money Order Branch - R6 labels) so they could have been used there. Possibly HQ resumed the function from GPOSS?

GPOSS1 27mm  Number at base?	GPOSS2 26mm  No1 not seen	GPOSS3 26mm  Envelope	GPOSS4 27mm  NB1 Same as 1?	GPOSS5 27mm  Same Diam as 1
21JAN20 (Only) GPOSS6 28mm 	4AUG25 only GPOSS7 29mm  Usually CTO? GW	15MAY21 only GPOSS8 29mm  Archival strike	3JUN32 only GPOSS9 23mm  Usually CTO? GW	18APR32-18SEP39 GPOSS10 30mm  NB 2 LDL
1APR30-25APR36 GPOSS11 26mm  Arcs longer than 1960s	14MAY24 only GPOSS12 30mm 	4OCT31 only GPOSS13 25mm  Postal	15DEC32-27NOV59 GPOSS14 26mm  3 chunk LHS	11MAR37-22DEC59 GPOSS15 26mm  4 chunk LHS Same as 14?
9MAR36 Only GPOSS16 30mm  MO GPOSS	5MAY47 - 1OCT6? GPOSS17 30mm  My first day cover but forget where from.	4SEP60 X 2 GPOSS18 30mm  LDL No 1 not seen	21OCT60 GPOSS19 30mm  SDL also used GPO Eliz: 13MAY76-3DEC87	19OCT60-7OCT60 GPOSS20 30mm  LDL
8SEP60 Only	25JUL62-28SEP63?	18APR40 - 12OCT49	8APR60 - 15MAR63	7MAY43-3DEC56

GPOSS21 30mm  SDL	GPOSS22  No Number (see GW)	GPOSS23  No Number recut see GW notes.	GPOSS24 28mm No 1 no image See GW notes	GPOSS25 28mm  No 1 recut 5MAY46 See GW notes
21APR61- 28JUN61	4NOV33	15MAR42 Only	28JUL15 – 9DEC37	11JUL44-29JAN70
GPOSS26 31mm  PBR LDL	Spencer St Box Room  Not used at Spencer St	GPOSS27 27mm  First 3NOV47 then	GPOSS28 30mm  LDL Broken I, notches. Two periods 5MAR42-17OCT47 &	GPOSS29 30mm  LDL Period marks either side of 1.
18DEC52 - 1963	23JAN61 – 7JAN63	15JUN67 – 24DEC88	16DEC58 – 8DEC60	11DEC53 Only
GPOSS30 30mm  SDL &Used Eliz 13FEB64-22JUN82	GPOSS31  32 x 28mm Box Room BF GW	GPOSS32  32 X 27 Undated CARDED. Box room	GPOSS33 29 mm  Only 9JUN67 GPO Eliz usage	GPO Eliz St 29mm 
2MAR62 Only	6JUN40 - 2JUL40	Undated & only	1JUL53- 17FEB59	1JAN64? -9JUN67
GPO Eliz St 29mm  C1 Removed NB 3 GPO Eliz St. usage	NB1 Are GPOSS1 and 4 the same? NB2 Would all date stamps be LDL and SDL if so when? Two cachets – the ONLY seen. NB3 GPOSS33 was used at both GPOSS and GPO Elizabeth St. When was C1 removed please? MOO GPO Spencer St - GPOSS34			
20DEC71-22DEC71				

The triple red oval cancel reads MONEY ORDER OFFICE/13OCT61/G.P.O. MELBOURNE.

Sizes: outer 50 & 31mm, middle 48 & 39mm, and inner 38 & 21mm. Two coloured scans are offered as they are difficult to discern.











SSRS Duplex 24AUG88 (BF) - 8AUG13(DW)



The following six date stamps are post the 1JUN64 era when the GPO was returned to GPO Elizabeth St. The ED by GW are genuine but only No 2 and 4 is certainly 20NOV65 as I have a copy. The 20NOV65 is when the SSPO closed subsumed by the King St PO.

Please read my summary of GWs collection.

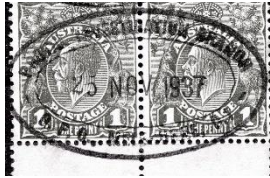
RELIEF Numbers used but clean images only shown. See DW/GW notes.

SSPPO1 31mm No image No 1 GW	SSPPO2 31mm  GW BF	SSPPO3 31mm  GW GW	SSPPO4 31mm  GW BF	SSPPO5 31mm  GW BF
11MAR65 Only	7MAY64- 20NOV65	19MAY65- 19MAY65	19MAY65- 20NOV65	24MAR64- 21SEP65
SSPPO6 31mm No image No 6 GW	SSPO7 31mm  No number	RELIEF 64 	RELIEF 76 	RELIEF 71  See GW
9JUN64-?	3JUN64 Only (BF)_	23JAN64 GW	5JAN64 GW	24FEB64 - 16MAR64

Other important date stamps that are quite rare used at the GPOSS

POSTAL INVESTIGATION BRANCH/DATE/G.P.O. MELBOURNE

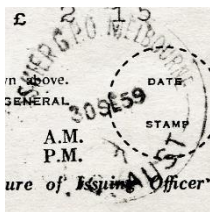
In 1970s when I visited it was located in the same building south end where the DLO was housed. It was a separate building beside, but east of the PB in Bourke St.



Outer 47 x 27mm Inner 37 x 17mm.

Period 25NOV37 only (BF)

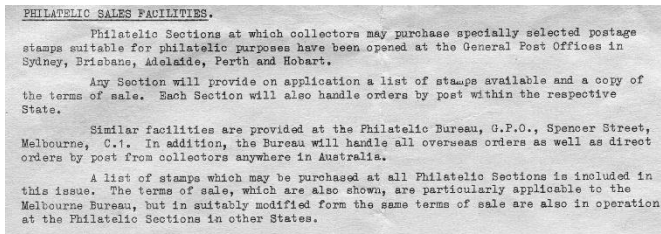
CASHIER G.P.O. MELBOURNE/NUMBER/DATE/VIC-AUST DIAM 31mm



CASHIER No 2. Period 31JAN59 – 31SEP59 (BF)

No 1 and possibly without number probably exist? Location - presumably the Finance Branch of the GPO.

Philatelic Bureau



Phil Bull 1 AUG53

The Philatelic Bureau was established in the GPOSS sometime before AUG 1953. (Phil Bulletin 1 AUG53). Located at 664 Bourke St beside the MME building (688 Bourke St) but separated by a laneway.

Quote Phil Bulletin No5 APR54, "A distinctive postmark in the form illustrated (23FEB55) (GPOSS35) 30mm in diameter is now in use at the Philatelic Bureau Melbourne". However, I measure the date stamp as 30.5mm (31mm).

What canceller was used circa <21APR53 and 23FEB55 as FDI from GPOSS please?

The following Wide World cover may answer several questions. R6 Reg Label, GPOSS PB CDS and GPOSS Registration cancels.



Frank Pauer (FP) has provided a copy of a PMG cover that appears to have been in use since 1929 (FP). Whilst not FDI many FDI covers may have this design. (Also see below).

The PB stamp cancel (and reverse) is 21MAY53 a FDC for the 31/2 red. The R6 label and Registration cancel from 21APR53 is from the Registration Section of GPOSS. The PB simply walked the cover into the MME building and was processed outwards from there. It arrived Camberwell 22APR53 on the way to Hawthorn.

I have a strong suspicion the dates stamps GPOSS 10, 18 and 20 were co-opted to cancel first day covers.





The PB finalised its operation after the GPO function on 1JAN64 was transferred back to Elizabeth St. However, the SSPO retained the Bureau but with NO counter sales.

GPOSS PB did NOT have a registration date stamp but had a R6 label. See below tables for PB labels.

<p>PB R6 label No 1</p>	<p>PB R6 label No 2</p>	<p>PB R6 label No 3</p>	
1DEC54	8APR59	28MAR66 Not Spencer St	
<p>PB R6 label No 4</p>	<p>PB R6 label No 5</p>	<p>PB R6 label No 6</p>	<p>PB R6 label No 7</p>

NB these are heading difference only. They come in sheet and coil and the heights of the N and serial number differ. These are also NOT tied so no dates of use. Some probably used in Royal Mail House!

The Philatelic Bureau was re-established in Royal Mail House (RMH) 253 – 267 Bourke St. The staff from SSPO Bureau were transferred on 6JAN64. RMH did not have counter sales to the public.

GPOSS 35 31mm  Expected 23FEB55 9MAR55-19JUL63	GPOSS 36  Red 28NOV59 Only	GPOSS37 30mm  - VIC AUST - 5NOV58-25OCT66	GPOSS38 31mm  - VIC - AUST - 9JUL61 - 19OCT66
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If GPOSS closed 1JAN64 and SSPO closed 20NOV65 which office(s) then continued to use the FDI cancels GPOSS37 and 38? RMH?

What was the practice before? It appears you made your own and cancelled wherever. The first FDI cover for PMG I am aware of is 10MAY37 but expected them to be available from 23FEB55 to match the issue of the postmark. Please advise.

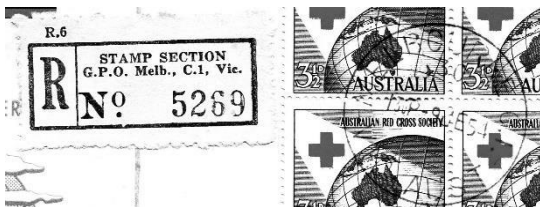


Date stamp 10MAY37

Quote the Guru (FP): "The 1937 Coronation issue was the first time the PMG had produced a First Day Cover. Between 1937 and 1954 before the Hermes Generic FDC was released at the Philatelic Bureau.

The practice was that you could send your covers to the Phil Bureau or the Philatelic Sales Centres to the Philatelic Bureau and get your stamps postmarked FDI".

STAMP SECTION (28FEB36 – 9JUN54) GPOSS apparently had a Section where philatelists could receive specialist attention. Possibly a part of the public counter. All have MELBOURNE date stamps. Private annotation of FDI was often applied to the cover.



CDS No 30 9DEC54. Despite the R6 there is no registration cancel. That (if applied) was applied in the GPOSS Registration Section. There are myriads of R6 types!

SSPO



On the reverse are two shocking date cancels. One is REGISTRATION/3 20NOV65 3/MELBOURNE and the other REGISTRATION/22NOV65/VIC-AUST. Both applied in the REGISTRATION Section of the Central Mail Exchange (CME). This cover also verifies the last day of use for C1 No 2.

On the 20NOV65 the SSPO was closed subsumed by King St PO. The MME housed only the now CME function from 20NOV65.

SUMMARY

Outstanding issues are PB/FDI postmarks, Postal Restante, Late Fee, MOO, Duplex and Reliefs. Also general information such as: when did MOO start and accompanying date stamps, LDL turned to SDL or C1 removed etc.

GPOSS public counter or PB does not appear to have had **Registration** date stamps? Sent them to the Registration Section for onwards processing?

I have a 1974 Statistical Book on the CME. From that I can glean the CME functions. Internally they head each page MME! Why was I confused? Anyone have GPOSS period information please?

I believe I have resolved locations and dates of use of the Spencer St RS PO. Plus a range of GPO Spencer St and subsequent Spencer St PO cancellations etc, to enable me to correct my earlier AP Timelines research.

The challenge is for you to run with the many open ended questions and advise please? I would appreciate your further enlightenment.

The GPO functioned at Spencer St for nearly 50 years. There is a lot to learn regarding GPO Spencer St!

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Hand-Held Date Stamps

Co-ordinated by George Vearing

At last, there is something to report. A new lot of postmarks at Shepparton and the Unera Post has closed on 19th April 2022. An article on Unera Post Office is included in this article. It is always sad to hear of these small post offices closing but this is the way technology and the lack of mail going through the postal system is going. As such most datestamps from now on will be now coming from actual visits to a post office

All the N.S.W. postmarks have come from the earlier travels of Simon Alsop

N.S.W.-



VIC:-

Shepparton Post Office has a number 3 but it is kept in reserve.



UNDERA POST OFFICE

The Post Office was opened at Undera on 24th August 1875 and was at David Bakers Junction Hotel which was 2 miles east of the present township. The hotel was on the government contracted mail route which was from Echuca to Shepparton by way of Wyuna later called St. Germain's, Undera and Mooroopna.



This mail route changed through various towns over the years till the rail reached Mooroopna in 1890 and the mail route was then from Mooroopna. In 1877 the head teacher of the Undera School became postmaster. In 1879 David Baker took over again till 1903 when storekeeper Mr Bilson took over as postmaster with the store at the site in Undera.

In 1913 Mr Tonkin bought the store and became postmaster. Upon selling to Mr. Freeman in 1956 who was not interested in the post office it was shifted to the premises next door which was the telephone exchange which had commenced there in 1908 run by Mr Bob Hurlston. In 1962 Millie and Bill Sleeth took over the telephone exchange and post office and on the same day a roadside mail delivery was commenced to 85 farms in the surrounded area and in June 1974 the telephone switchboard became automatic, and the post office continued on the same site until 1992 when Kaleen Nichols bought the store and shifted the Post Office to a section of the store and it became a LPO on 3/11/1993 and remained in the store until it closed on 20th April 2022.

Above is a photo at closing day and below are all the datestamps from the Post Office from my collection that I have. Also there is a rubber stamp of LOCAL RATE on part envelope which was applied to be able to send mail at a rate of 6 cents cheaper provided that was going to addresses in the same postcode namely 3629. So sad to see another small local country post office close but this is the way of progress.



Chinese Cultural Revolution Covers

John Young

In the early 1970s Australian group tours of China were mostly the province of the Australia-China Society. Australian tourists stayed in large Russian-built hotels where they could wait forever for hot water to come out of the bath taps: but there were some consolations. Large hotels had post offices, where there were stamp issues going back ten years on sale at face value. There was plenty of choice for stamping post cards and letters to back home.

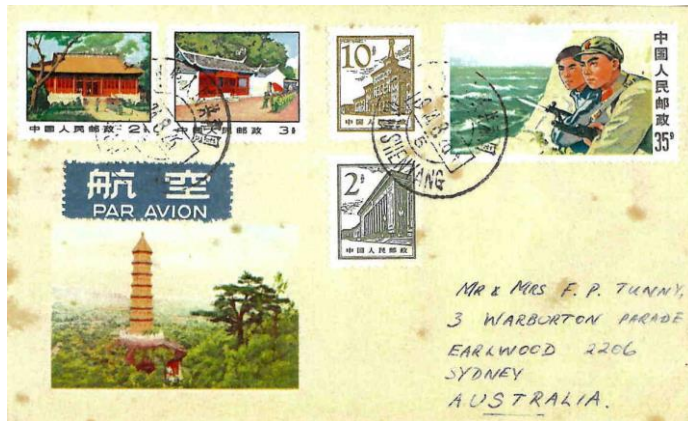


Fig. 1

These two examples include stamps from the W Series of the Chinese Cultural Revolution, together with stamps with Cultural Revolution themes. The cover to Sydney (Fig. 1) includes the 35-fen value from the W19 set issued in 1969, generally known as 'Army and People Unite to Defend our Frontier'. The two stamps at top left depict sites of the Chinese communist revolution.

The cover addressed to Carnegie, Victoria (Fig. 2) has the full set of six stamps for the 30th anniversary

of Talks at the Yanan Forum on Literature and Art. To western ears this may sound innocuous, but it became a celebrated event. The Talks took place in 1942 when the communist leader, Mao Tse Tung, laid down the doctrine that art and literature should be centred on the lives and tastes of peasants and working people, not bourgeois town dwellers. It became a fundamental tenet of Mao's cultural revolution in the late 1960s. The stamps are not part of the W series but certainly conform with the theme of the cultural revolution.

Each cover, date stamped 1974, is correctly franked 52 fen for an airmail letter to Australia.



Fig. 2