



Capital Philately

Incorporating PASTCARDS *and* Machinations.
Published by The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

Inside this Issue:

Burrinjuck Dam
Postcards

Book Review: The
One-Cent Magenta

Mourning Stamps

Postmarked History

Canberra Covered

and more.





The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

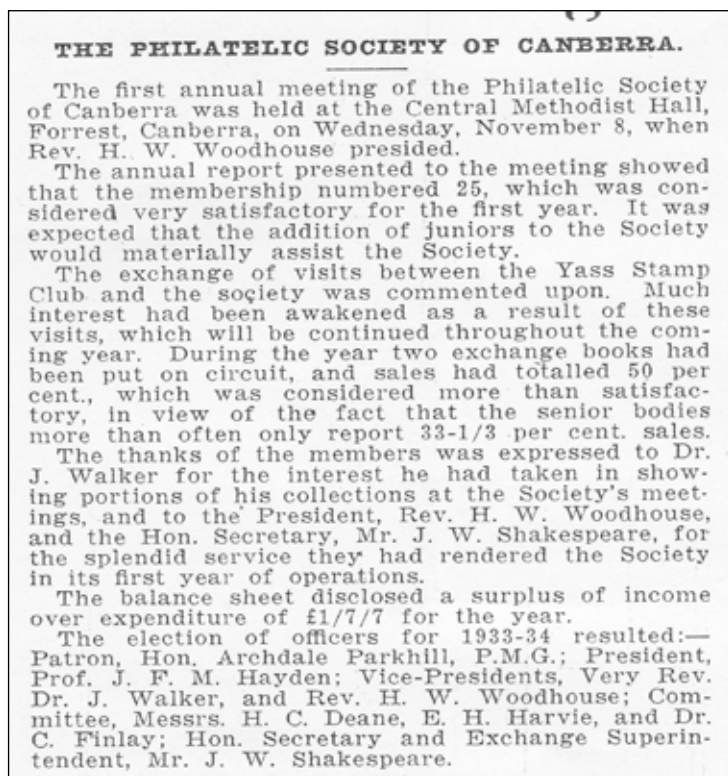
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July 2017 – Editorial

Welcome to another full, but delayed issue of *Capital Philately*.



Australian Stamp Monthly - 1934 AGM of The Philatelic Society of Canberra.

This clipping was forwarded to me by email (thanks to David M. and John V.) and I thought it a fitting contribution to illustrate just how far we have come as a society from our beginnings with only 25 members.

Now, although we are currently in a lull as far as junior membership is concerned, we have flourished in all the areas originally set as Society activities - Meetings, Exchange Books and Displays of collections.

Here we are in the 35th volume of our Journal *Capital Philately* and preparing to host **Canberra Stampshow 2018** with the following classes: National: Traditional, Modern, Thematics, Youth, Open, Maximaphily, Frugal Philately, First Day Covers, Cinderellas, and the new Topical Class plus the Gold Challenge. State: All classes including a postcard 'new exhibit' competition.

<http://canberrastamps.org/canberra-2018/>

I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish as a society in the next eighty years.

Mourning Stamps – Belgium and Germany

Michael Moore

Almost all stamp collectors will know of ‘mourning covers’ or envelopes with black borders used for correspondence about deaths. Fewer know of black bordered ‘mourning stamps’. In Belgium and Germany, in 1934 and 1936, three of these very unusual stamps (or sets) were issued. The Belgian issues were particularly sad, while the German set is historically interesting. (The scant historical details given here explain only the issue of the relevant stamps.)

Albert I King of the Belgians

King Leopold II died in 1909 without a surviving male heir. The son of his brother, Philippe Count of Flanders, became Albert I King of the Belgians. (The title indicated that he ruled for the people, not for a state.) Albert I was a most respected king especially as he had personally led the Belgian government and army, from their safe haven in France, during World War I. In February 1934, Albert was climbing alone in the mountains near the French border (having left his guide) when he fell and was killed.



Figure 1.

A set of stamps showing a photograph of Albert I in military uniform had been issued in 1931, with the 75 centimes stamp in brown (Figure 1). The first stamp for the reign of his son, Leopold III, issued in March 1934, was a reprinting of this stamp, in black and with black margins. (Figure 2: mint and used – the latter showing the date 1934.) This was the first mourning stamp issued for a sovereign.



Figure 2.

Hindenburg



Figure 3.

In March 1933 the National Socialist German Workers Party (NSDAP or Nazis) with right wing allies, passed the ‘Enabling Act’, transferring the legislative powers of the Reichstag to the Cabinet, led by Hitler as Chancellor. This was endorsed by 84% of German voters and Hitler had achieved effective control of Germany.

Paul von Hindenburg, commander of German forces for much of World War I, had been elected President of the Republic in 1925. He symbolised traditional German values and had particular prestige with the regular army, a still powerful organisation of whose allegiance Hitler was uncertain.

The Hindenburg ‘medallion’ stamps, issued for his 85th birthday in 1932, were continued as a new issue of sixteen in 1933 (Figure 4) when Goebbels, as Minister of Public Enlightenment and Propaganda, would have had overall control of stamp issuing policy.



Figure 4.

Hindenberg died in August 1934 and in September, six of the 1932 /33 stamps were re-issued with black borders. The 5 and 12 pfennige, mourning stamps, both cancelled 1934, are shown as Figure 4. It is interesting that a perforation covering Hindenburg's head (5 pf) seems to have been allowed on what should have been a solemn item. Hindenberg stamps, with white borders, continued in wide use for several more years to associate the new 'Third Reich' with its past (Figure 5, both used 1937).



Figure 5.

'Astrid of Sweden'

The eldest son of Albert I King of the Belgians was Prince Leopold, born in 1901. In 1926 he married Astrid, born 1905, the youngest daughter of the brother of King Gustav V of Sweden. This was widely publicised as a 'love match', not a marriage of dynastic convenience. The young and beautiful Astrid became a great favourite of the Belgian people. On the death of Albert I (above) they became King Leopold III and his Queen Consort (still commonly known as 'Astrid of Sweden'). The couple already had a daughter and a son and, after the coronation, another son. The two sons would eventually become King Baudouin I (1951 – 1993) and King Albert II (1993 – 2013).

In August 1935 Leopold and Astrid were motoring, on holiday, in the Swiss mountains. Leopold was driving, his chauffeur in the back seat. The car slid down a steep slope and hit a tree; Leopold and Astrid were thrown out and she was killed.

In October a black and black bordered, 70 plus 5 centimes, stamp was issued (Figure 6, mint and used). This was followed in December 1935 by a further seven mourning stamps all showing the same striking portrait of Queen Astrid. These were in beautiful, though muted, colours. Four of the set, all showing the Anti-tuberculosis Fund charity surcharge, are shown as Figure 7.



Figure 6.



Figure 7.

BOOK REVIEW: THE *ONE-CENT MAGENTA*

Ian McMahon

BOOK REVIEW: THE *ONE-CENT MAGENTA: INSIDE THE QUEST TO OWN THE WORLD'S MOST VALUABLE STAMP*, BY JAMES BARRON.

Published by Affirm Press 28 Thistlethwaite St South Melbourne Vic 3205. Softbound 276 pages, 177 x 127 mm, 2017, ISBN 9781925584059, \$24.99. Also available as an e-book ISBN 9781925584073, \$ 9.99.

www.affirmpress.com.au.

On 17 June 2014, the only known copy of the British Guiana '1c Magenta' (printed in black on magenta, SG23) issued in 1856 was sold at Sotheby's in New York for USD \$9,480,000, including the buyer's premium, regaining the title of the world's most valuable individual stamp and extending the mystique that has accompanied this stamp since it was first discovered.

The 1c magenta owes its existence to the non-arrival of a shipment of stamps to the distant colony of British Guiana with the local postmaster, E Dalton, authorizing printers Joseph Baum and William Dallas, publishers of the *Official Gazette*, to print an emergency issue of 1c and 4c stamps. The stamp was prepared from type and included an image of a ship similar to that often used by newspaper printers in shipping columns. As a safeguard against forgery the stamp was initialed E.D.W. by the postal clerk E.D. Wight.

The 1c Magenta is one of a small number of stamps whose history has fascinated stamp collectors and the general public for generations. The history extends from its discovery by a schoolboy, Louis Vernon Vaughan, in British Guiana who found the stamp on his Uncle's mail, ownership by the legendary collector Philipp von Ferrary (who assembled at the time probably the most complete worldwide collection that ever existed and which was confiscated by the French government as a war reparation), by Arthur Hind (an outstanding US collector said to have outbid King George V), by Fred Small, an Australian-born engineer from Florida, by a syndicate of Pennsylvanian investors, by John Du Pont (an heir to the Du Pont chemical company's fortunes who died in prison after being convicted of murder), and the current owner, shoe designer and businessman Stuart Weitzman.

Adding to the mystique has been the claim (discredited by expert committees) that the 1c Magenta is actually a doctored 4c stamp, the rumour that Hind bought not only one of the stamps, but a second stamp and then destroyed one so that he would own the only one in the world and the discovery of a second copy which was deemed (by expert committees) to be a fake.

At each stage, the purchase price for the stamp has increased from 6/- (the original price paid to the British Guiana schoolboy by a local collector, N.R. McKinnon), to £120 by Thomas Ridpath, a Liverpool stamp dealer, £150 by Ferrary, \$32,500 by Hind, \$40,000 by Small, \$286,000 by a syndicate led by Irwin Weinberg, \$935,000 by Du Pont and \$9.5 million by Weitzman. In all the stamp has had only had 8 owners (although one was a syndicate).

The recent movie, *Foxcatcher*, about John Du Pont and his arrest on murder charges did not mention his ownership of the 1c Magenta but did at one point highlight his interest in philately, through confusion over the pronunciation of 'philatelist', both in the inability of a wrestler given the job of speaking about Du Pont to say the word (as is often the case with people who are not stamp collectors) and in the unusual (wrong?) pronunciation of the word used by the actor playing Du Pont.

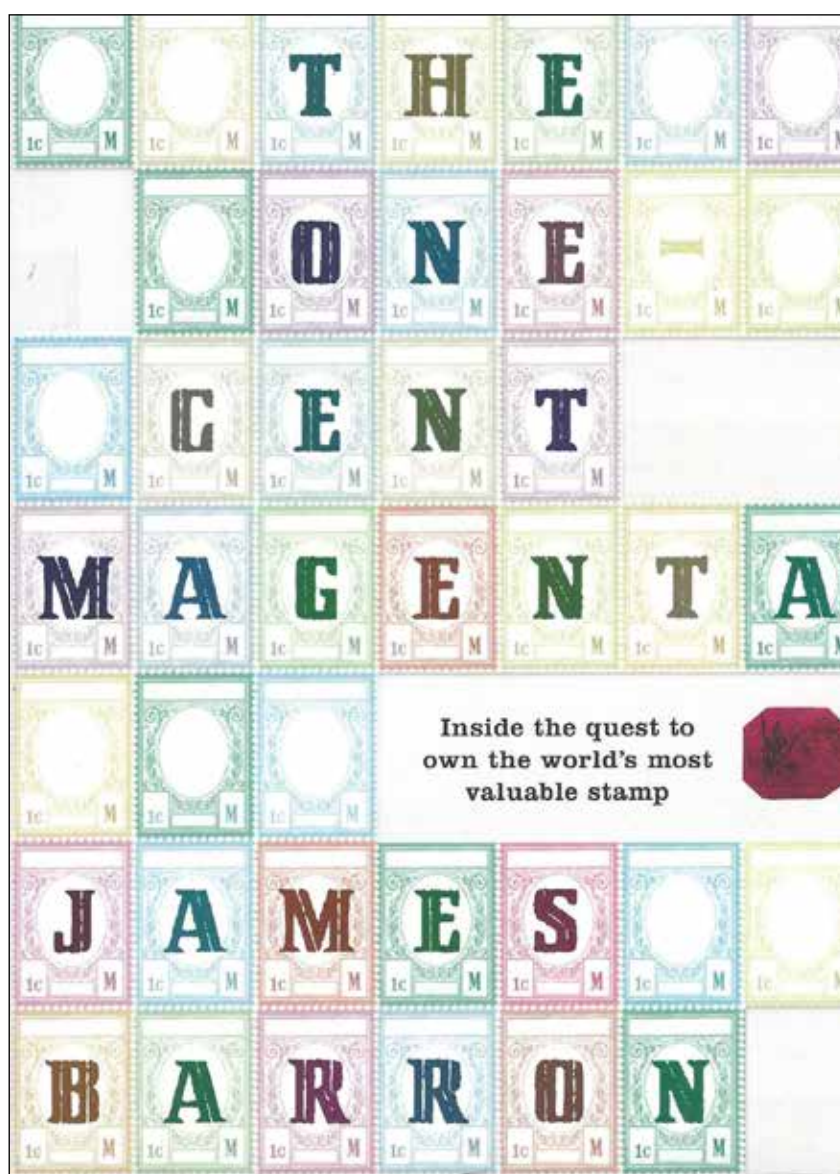
All this and more are covered in James Barron's book, *The One Cent Magenta*. Given the mystique about the stamp there has been much written about it over the years. Nevertheless, Barron brings a refreshing narrative to the story, both by updating the story of the stamp and through his own story-telling.

Barron writes of his own experiences in meeting with David Redden from Sotheby's before the auction and with Michael Sefi the keeper of the Royal Philatelic Collection of Queen Elizabeth II. The book has chapters

covering each of the eight buyers to which he adds historic background and anecdotes, much about many of the hobby's great names and their personalities and in doing so brings to life an otherwise well-trod storyline. The result is a book that will be of interest to all stamp collectors interested in the 1c Magenta, our passion for stamp collecting and the history of our hobby.

With its owner, John Du Pont, in prison the stamp was believed to have been locked in a bank vault out of public view. The current owner, Stuart Weitzman, has, however, made it available for public viewing at the National Postal Museum in Washington DC in the USA and at the world stamp exhibition in New York in 2016. It was here that I finally caught up with the 1c Magenta, after a lifetime of being fascinated by its history. As all viewers of the stamp will agree, it is not the most attractive of stamps, being faded and with imperfections, but its mystique remains.

James Barron is a reporter for the *New York Times*, where his writing has appeared in virtually every section of the paper. He is the author of *Piano: The Making of a Steinway Concert Grand*, and *The One-Cent Magenta*. He has also edited *The New York Times Book of New York*. He lives in New York City.



The publishers, Affirm Press, have made available a copy of the book for me to give away to a reader of this review. If you are interested in entering the draw please email me on ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com by 31 January 2018.

POSTMARKED HISTORY - My Approach to Collecting Covers

Frank Adamik

MELBOURNE 2017 INTERNATIONAL STAMP EXHIBITION (Part 1)

In this article I will write about covers associated with MELBOURNE 2017, my own covers (and other covers that were available to collectors that attended the exhibition). I will also touch on some non-cover souvenirs, so as to give as full an account of the range of souvenir items available as I possibly can (a big picture approach).

MELBOURNE 2017 was held at the Caulfield Racecourse in Melbourne over four days from 30 March to 2 April, 2017 (Fig 1), and I attended the exhibition on all four days.



Figure 1.

I travelled down to Melbourne by road with my wife, Lyn, and we left Canberra on Tuesday 28 March. As is my practice these days I prepared one of my “trip covers”, which is what I do to have a philatelic souvenir of any journey that I undertake. I have been creating these “trip covers” for some years now, and will continue to do so, as I very much like the finished product, see Fig 2. I will write more about these in future articles.



Figure 2.

Before we left Canberra we stopped off at Kippax post office to have the first stamp on the cover cancelled to signify the commencement of the journey. We overnights in Benalla, Victoria, staying at a motel just up the road from the Benalla West post office, where I had my cover postmarked on the morning of the 29th of March. On the way to Melbourne we detoured into Violet Town where a further postmark was added to the cover.

The cover was with me on all four days of the exhibition and was appropriately cancelled with the four exhibition postmarks. The final postmark was applied at Brunswick on the way out of Melbourne on Monday 3 April, a



stop made so that my wife could pick up some fabric from several fabric shops that were located just down the road from the post office.

My interest in obtaining postmarks from the post offices I visit comes with a need to also get a photograph of the post office to go with the postmark. Post offices are like people, they come in all variety of shapes and sizes. This can be seen in the photographs of three of the post offices represented on my cover - Benalla West (Fig 3), Violet Town (Fig 4) and Brunswick (Fig 5).

Now for the exhibition itself - Australia Post had a range of limited issue souvenirs that were available from the exhibition post office, and you had to be early to get a good place and wait

Figure 3 (Above) Benalla West.

Figure 4 (Right) Violet Town.

Figure 5 (Below) Brunswick.



in line until the exhibition opened at 9am, so that you would be able to get to the post office before the limited issue items sold out. I have mobility problems, so my wife, Lyn, came with me to the exhibition on three of the days, and with her help on those days, and good fortune on the other day (getting there early enough), I managed to obtain all the souvenir items I had my eye on. The crowds waiting for the exhibition

door to open were substantial, especially on the weekend. Figure 6 shows the waiting line close to the exhibition entrance, and Figure 7 shows the line reaching all the way back to the entrance of the racecourse, some ten minutes before the exhibition opened, on Sunday 2 April (the last day of the exhibition).



Figure 6 (Above Left) and Figure 7 (Above Right).

In addition to my “trip cover” I also did an “exhibition cover” (front & back Figs 8 & 9) which has all four exhibition postmarks. It also has stamps and cancels from several of the overseas postal administrations that had a stand at the exhibition (the United Nations stamp is not cancelled as they forgot to bring their canceller).

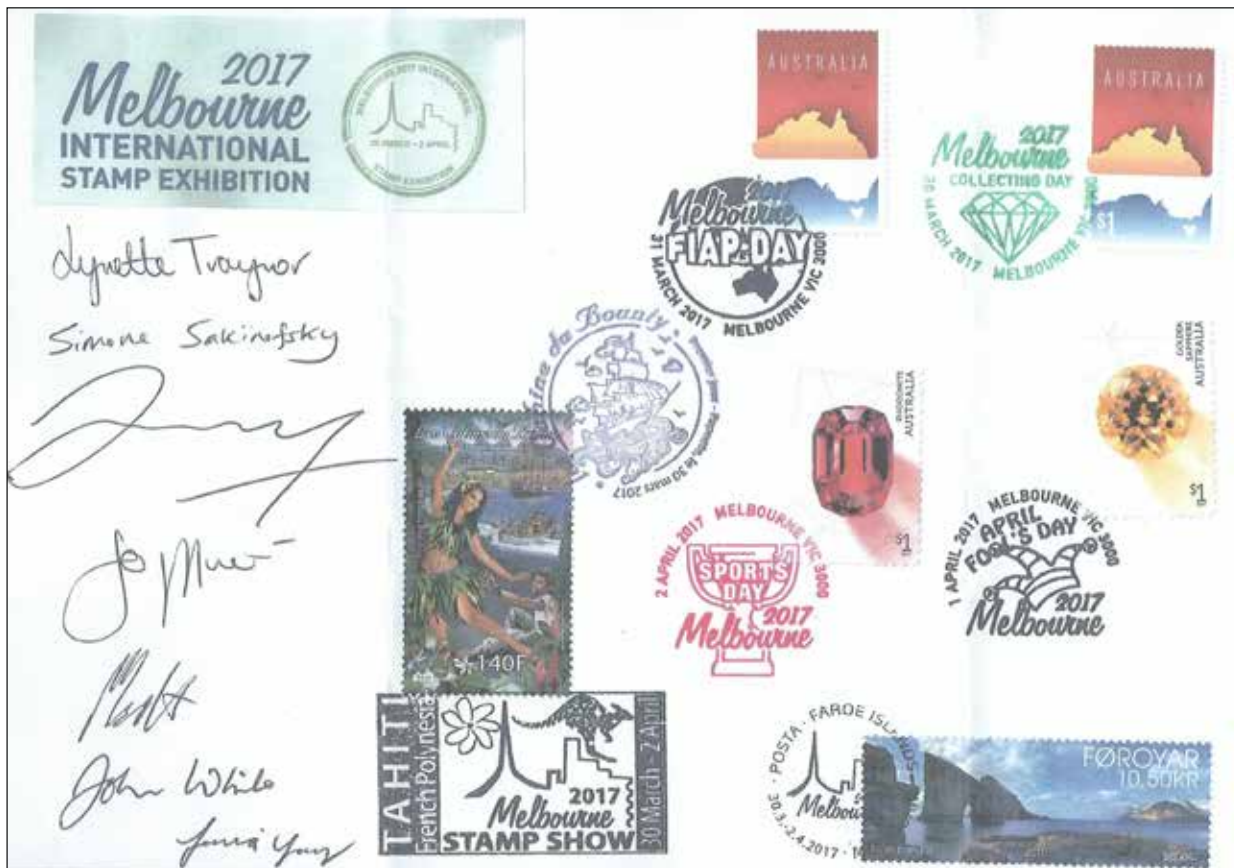


Figure 8 (Top) and Figure 9 (Above).

The cover has also been signed by five Australia Post stamp designers, Gary Domoney, designer of the Rare Beauties stamps (two of which are on the cover) and Michael Zsolt (Manager, Philatelic, Australia Post), with full signature details on the back. Figure 10 shows myself (seated) with (from left to right) Australia Post stamp designers, Sonia Young, John White, Jo Mure and Simone Sakinofsky. Figure 11 shows Jo Mure and Simone Sakinofsky busy signing covers.



Figure 10.



Figure 11.

I first met the stamp designers at AUSTRALIA 2013 at the Exhibition Building in Melbourne, and have had some contact with them in the years in between. A nicer, friendlier group of people you would be hard pressed to meet.

The only covers that I have illustrated in this article have been my own. I think that they are great and I have had a lot of fun doing them. You do not know what the finished product will look like until the cover is completed, and I am very happy with these.

With the help of my wife my mobility problems were overcome and I got my items postmarked and signed and did not miss out on the Australia Post souvenirs I wished to add to my collection. I will illustrate some of these together with other MELBOURNE 2017 covers in my next article.

Canberra Covered Number 3: A Ramble Around the (mostly inner) Suburbs

Michael Moore

Introduction

This is the third in my projected series of articles on Canberra and its region, all suggested by philatelic materials. We have roamed to Queanbeyan and Cooma, then to the oceans. Now we come to the ‘heart of the matter’, Canberra suburbs named for ‘federationists’ including early Prime Ministers.

Depending on ones definition, Canberra now has about 125 suburbs. The definitional problems arise with some very small suburbs with no permanent residents (Russell, etc.), locations considered separate towns or villages (Hall, Tharwa etc.), some military establishments (Harman) and, especially, ‘suburbs’ gazetted (or ‘announced’) but with settlement scarcely begun (Strathnairn, Macnamara – even these examples may be passé when this article is published).

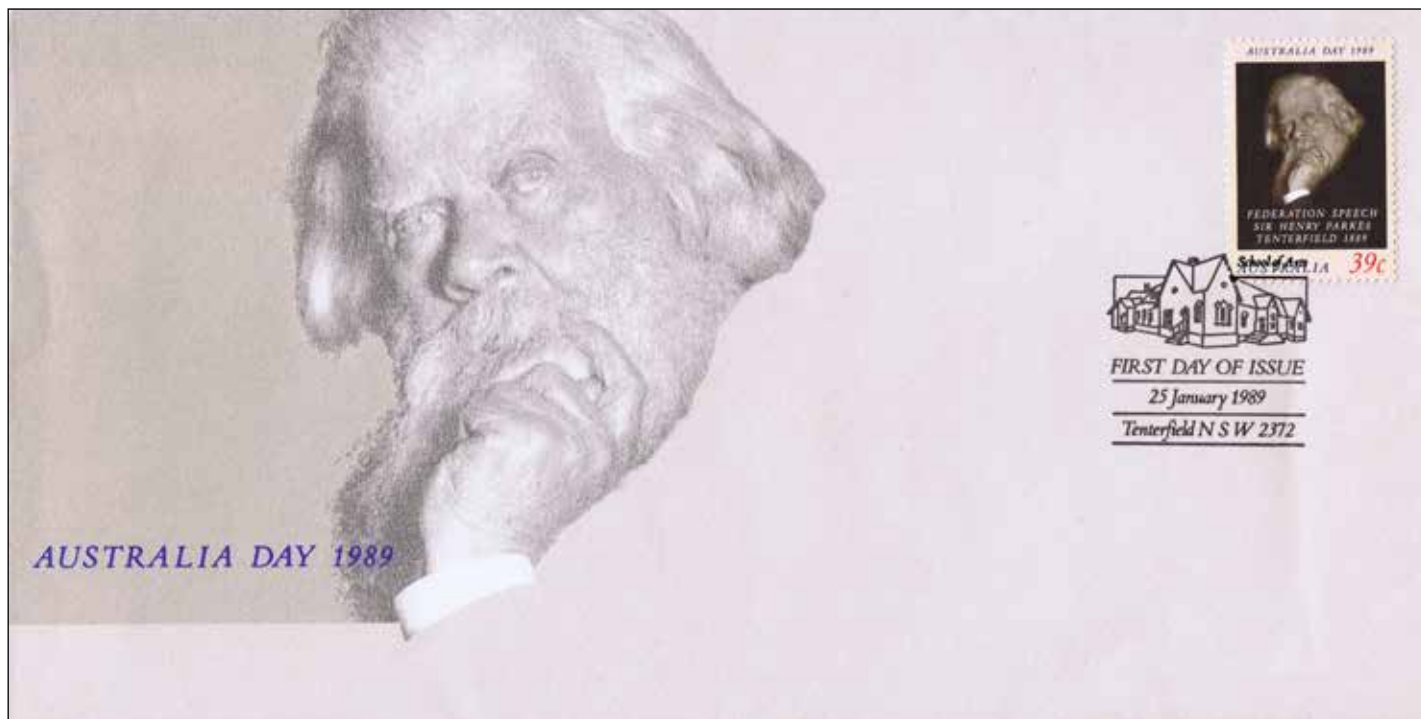


Figure 1.

Suburbs and Prime Ministers

There is a widespread belief that ‘many’ Canberra suburbs are named for former Prime Ministers. This view is commonly held by visitors to Canberra since most of the attractions they visit are in the inner suburbs named for early PMs. In fact, only 17 suburbs are named for PMs.

This article is prompted by philatelic covers and stamps commemorating the first four of these PMs, plus Parkes, Forrest and Braddon, all honoured in the name of a suburb. In each case there is some detail on the suburb itself, then an historical comment, perhaps something little known, on each of their namesakes.

Naming Inner Suburbs – Parkes and Barton

Figure 1 shows a (very large, and reduced for display here) Australia Post First Day Cover commemorating the centenary of Parkes’ ‘Federation Oration’. Figure 2 is an FDC for a stamp of Edmund Barton, issued in 1969, the first of several series commemorating Prime Ministers.

The Foundation Stone was laid, and the city of Canberra named, in 1913. At that time very few areas were named. These included ‘Capital Hill’ or ‘Capitol’ which in Griffin’s plans had been a place for popular gatherings, not for a parliament. Capital Hill remains a ‘suburb’ though with no permanent residents.

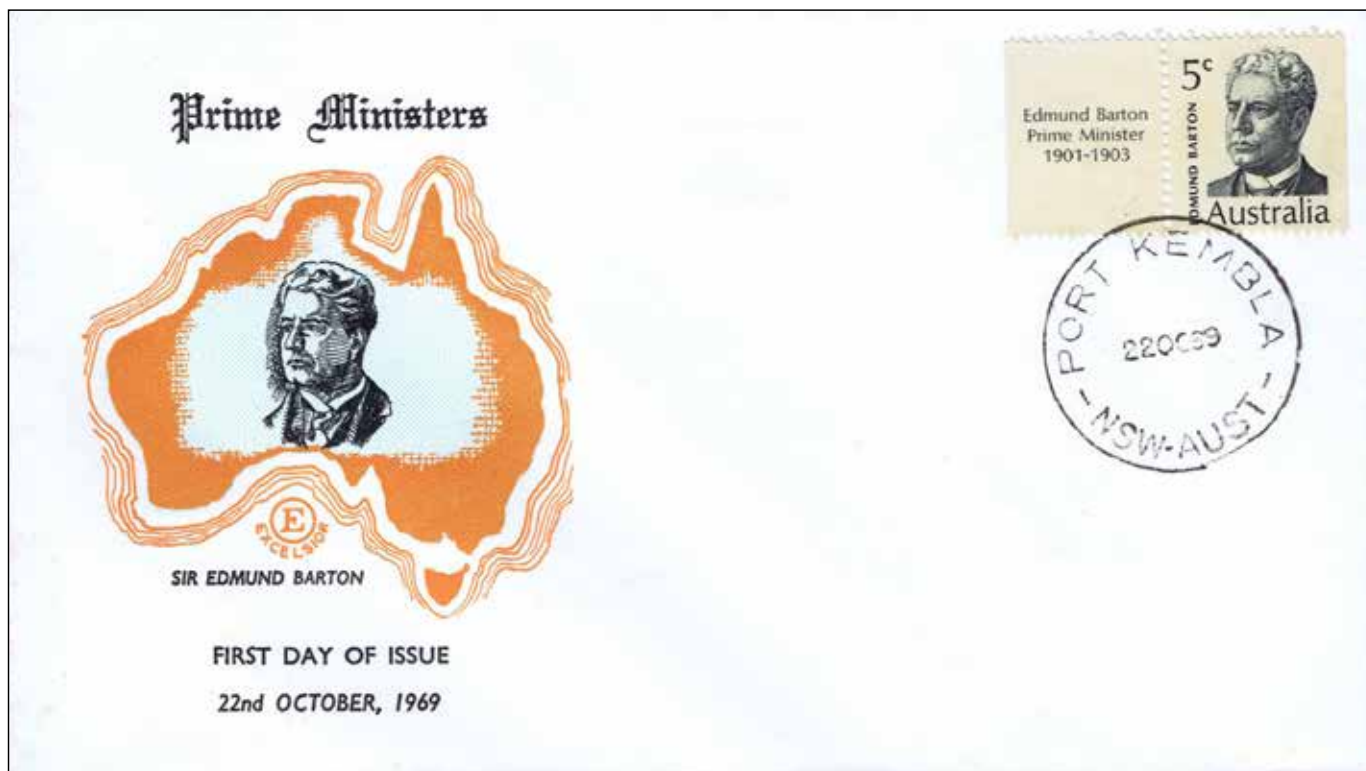


Figure 2.

Below Capital Hill, to the North-East was 'Parkes', named, also in 1913, for Sir Henry Parkes. It stretched across the proposed lake to sections of the (now) Parkes Way and Constitution Avenue (re-named from Griffin's 'Capital Terrace'). It still, rather oddly, sits on both sides of the Lake. However, this fracture goes largely unnoticed as the large suburb of Parkes also has no permanent residents. As houses began to be built adjacent to (South-East) of Parkes, the area was named 'Barton' in 1922, to commemorate Sir Edmund who had died in 1920.

Parkes and Barton

Almost all our readers, perhaps even many Australians, will know something of Henry Parkes. But very few know any details of the Tenterfield Oration. Why Tenterfield? Why 1889? And why was it important?

In NSW colonial politics regional electorates sometimes chose to be represented by a prominent, Sydney-based politician. Parkes had been, briefly, the Member for Tenterfield in 1882. Queensland had extended its 'narrow gauge' railway from Stanthorpe to the border at Wallangarra in 1887. NSW had extended its 'standard gauge' railway from Tenterfield the few miles to Wallangarra in 1888. This historic joining by rail of the two colonies (though with changes of trains and gauges) was a perfect time and place to speak of joining up different colonies.

Sir Henry Parkes (knighted 1877) was the 'Australian' colonies' pre-eminent parliamentarian. He had just begun his fifth (non-consecutive) term as Premier of the 'Premier State'. Federation was until then just a vague idea, a suitable debating topic, a possible event 'one day' but complicated by colonial differences and sheer distance. Parkes made it a live political issue and sparked a rapid series of meetings and conventions which led, only twelve years later, to the birth of a new nation state.

Edmund Barton was, of course, our first Prime Minister, but he almost missed out on being so. The British Parliament passed the 'Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act 1900' and appointed the first Governor-General, Lord Hopetoun, in July 1900. Hopetoun had been Governor of Victoria in 1889 (age 29!) until 1895, when he returned to UK. He arrived in Sydney on 15 December 1900. The date for the swearing in of the first Executive Council and the inauguration of the Commonwealth had been set for 1 January 1901. Time was very short for his most important first duty – to commission a Prime Minister.

There was not yet a Parliament; the first federal elections were to be held in March 1901. However, many prominent colonial parliamentarians, several serving or previous Premiers and/or leaders of the Federation movement were 'available' including many gathered in Sydney for the inauguration. Hopetoun chose the serving Premier of the senior colony, NSW, Sir William Lyne, and commissioned him to form the first Ministry. The move upset and astonished those who had worked so hard for a decade, during most of which time Lyne had opposed Federation. He was unable to find politicians willing to join his Ministry, so had to return his commission.

Hopetoun then commissioned the acknowledged leader of the Federation movement in NSW, Edmund Barton, who was sworn in as Prime Minister at the inauguration of 1 January 1901.

Inner Suburbs – Forrest and Deakin

Figures 3 and 4 show First Day Covers for stamps commemorating Forrest and Deakin.

The Commonwealth Parliament moved to Canberra in 1927, and in that year established the Canberra National Memorials Committee. Its Report, approved in December, set several new suburban and major street names (the latter mostly changed from Griffin's major street names).

Much of the land to the south of the proposed lake had been known as 'Blandfordia'. In 1928 Manuka and South Blandfordia became Griffith. Blandfordia, South of Capital Hill, became Forrest. The largely unoccupied area to the South-West of Capital Hill, and adjacent to Forrest, was named Deakin.

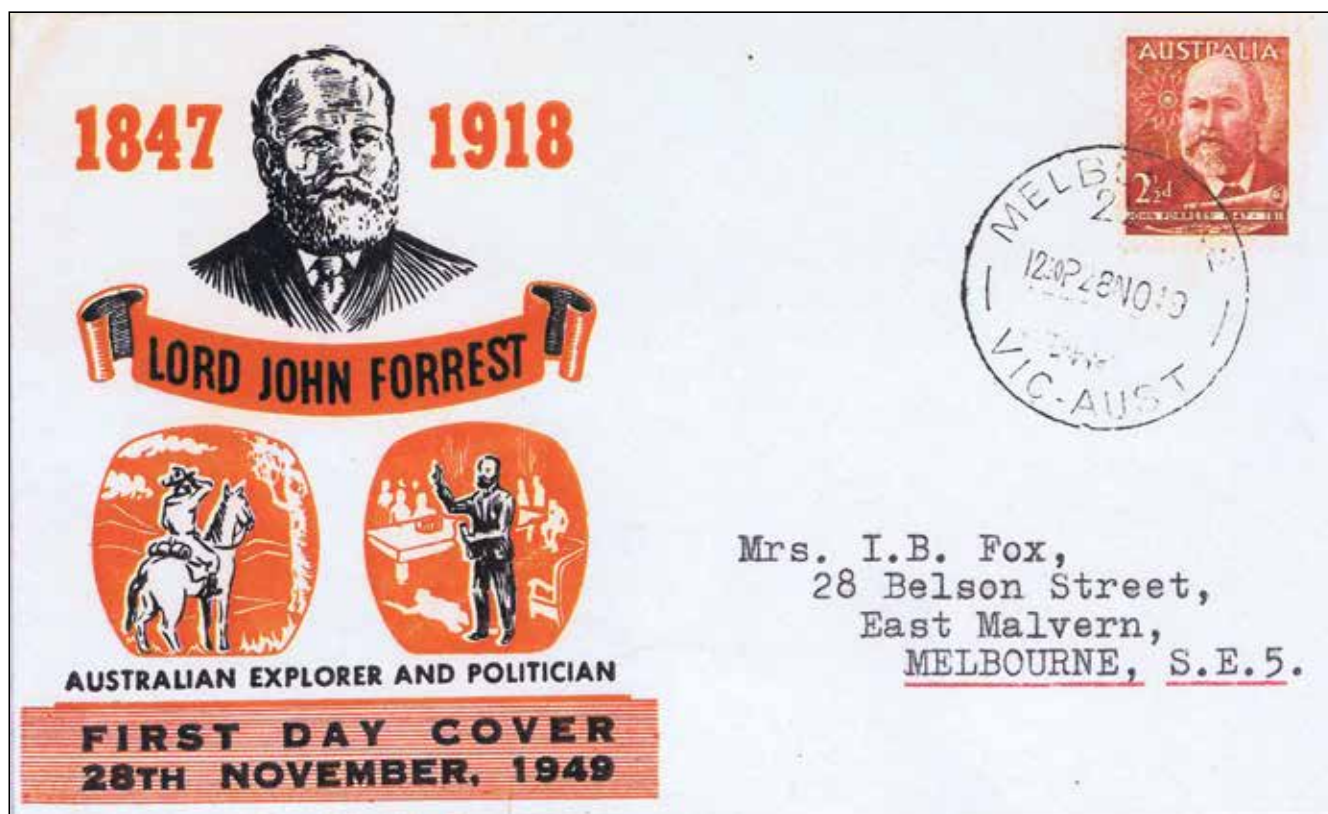


Figure 3.

In 1928 was also introduced the idea of naming the streets in a suburb for a particular single theme (often not related to the suburb name itself). This applied in these early suburbs only to 'new', streets. Forrest and Deakin already had the great Circuits concentric with Capital Hill – National, Dominion and Empire – and the radial Avenues – Sydney, Canberra, Hobart, Melbourne and Adelaide. The new streets of Deakin were named for Australian Governors, Governors-General or diplomats. New Forrest streets were named for Governors or explorers.

(In mid-1928 the total population of Canberra was 7,700, of whom about 3,000 were workers living in temporary camps. Many areas continued to be called by the names of these workers' camps.)

Deakin and Forrest

Barton resigned in September 1903, to be eligible for appointment to the High Court. Alfred Deakin became Leader of the Protectionist Party and Prime Minister, a position he subsequently held for three non-consecutive terms. In the first decade of the Commonwealth, three parties, initially Protectionists, Free Traders and Labour, struggled to form governments. In these first ten years, the Government changed eight times, only three of these as a direct result of elections.

(The Australian Labor Party changed the spelling of its name in 1912.)

Deakin is regarded, by many Australian historians, as our greatest 'statesman'. He was a deeply spiritual man with a sense of destiny for Australia and himself. His achievements were so many that I will simply quote the Australian Dictionary of Biography's list of his Occupations: 'autobiographer, barrister, contemporary affairs commentator, federationist, irrigationist, journalist, liberal/conservative politician, MLA, newspaper editor, Opposition Leader, Prime Minister, Protectionist, spiritualist'.

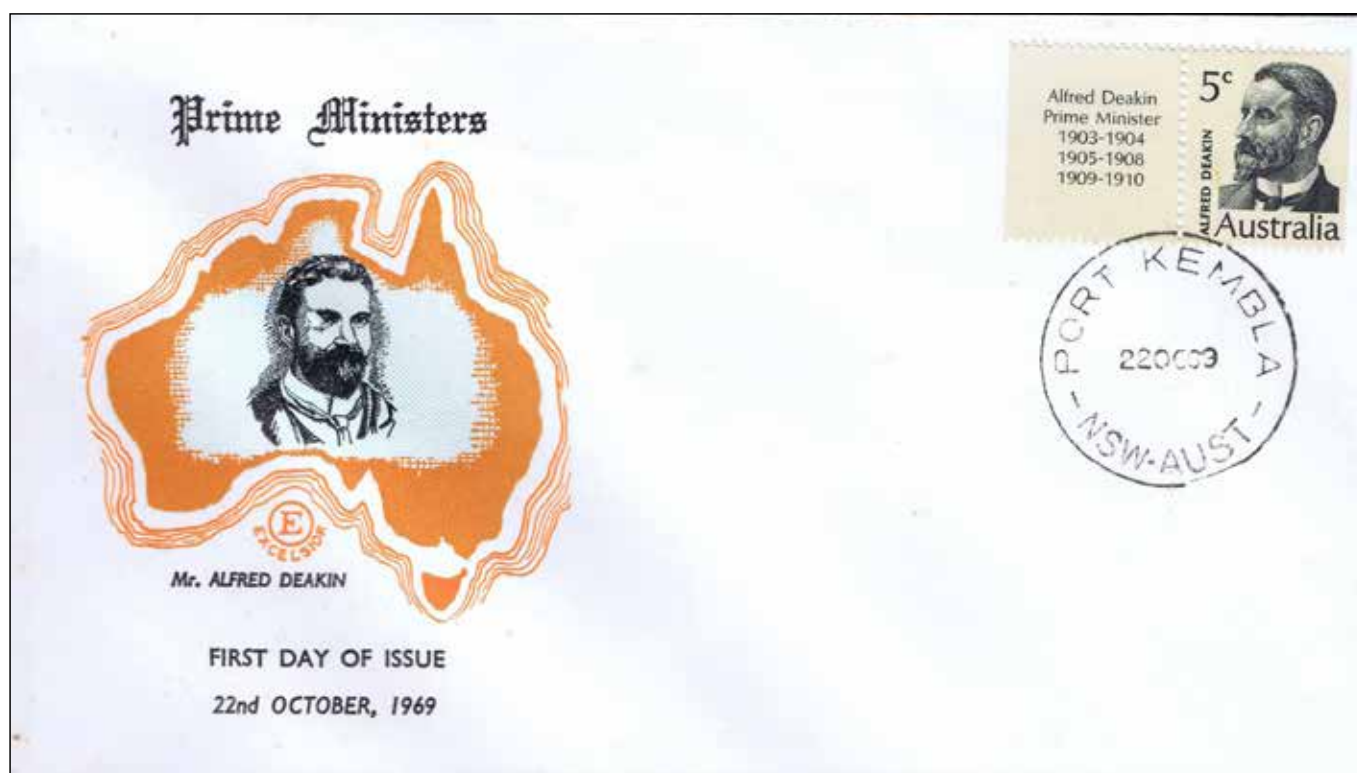


Figure 4.

Sir John Forrest, later (though technically posthumously) Baron Forrest of Bunbury, was a giant among the many giants of late colonial and early federal parliaments. Holding successive WA Public Service appointments, eventually Surveyor General and Commissioner for Crown Lands, he led expeditions from Perth to Adelaide, by both 'coastal' and 'central' routes, and to the Kimberleys. He was WA's first Premier, although this premier office was officially known as Treasurer under WA's first 'democratic' (or 'Responsible') Constitution of 1890.

Federally, he was almost Prime Minister several times including when he lost to Joseph Cook by one vote. Perhaps his most notable contribution was to be Treasurer five times in five different administrations.

In April 1904, after only seven months in his first term as PM, Deakin lost in the House a crucial, 'confidence' motion on the scope of the Commonwealth's arbitration powers. He resigned and advised the Governor-General to commission the Labour leader, Watson, to form a Government.

Watson

We depart, though temporarily, the ‘inner suburbs’, as Watson lived until 1941 and the suburb of Watson was not named until 1960. Its streets are named for judges and other legal professionals.

John Christian Watson (always known as ‘Chris’) was Prime Minister for less than four months, 27 April 1904 to 18 August 1904. If this seems a short period, consider others for whom suburbs are named: Fadden, 40 days; Page, 19 days (both at Figure 5, on piece); and Francis Michael Forde, 6 July to 13 July 1945, 8 days.



Figure 5.

Watson, too, was defeated on the scope of an arbitration bill, then denied a double dissolution by the Governor-General. Understandably, he achieved very little in office, but his historical significance was much greater. He led the world’s first national ‘Labour’ (or ‘democratic/socialist’) government. He is shown on the stamp and FDC at Figure 6.

One of the most interesting aspects of Watson’s life was little known during it (though nowadays it sometimes appears in ‘trivia’ competitions). His father was possibly German, possibly Chilean, Johan Christian Tanck, a merchant seaman. Watson’s mother, Martha, a New Zealander, married Tanck in NZ in 1866 and sailed with him via Guam to Chile where John Christian was born in 1867. Martha and Johan separated and she married George Watson in NZ in 1869. John became part of that family as ‘Chris Watson’.

Watson became a compositor/typesetter and unionist in NZ then in Sydney. After his political career he was a founder and chairman, until his death, of the NRMA, and the chairman of Ampol (Australian Motorists Petrol Company Ltd) both being, initially, mutual societies.

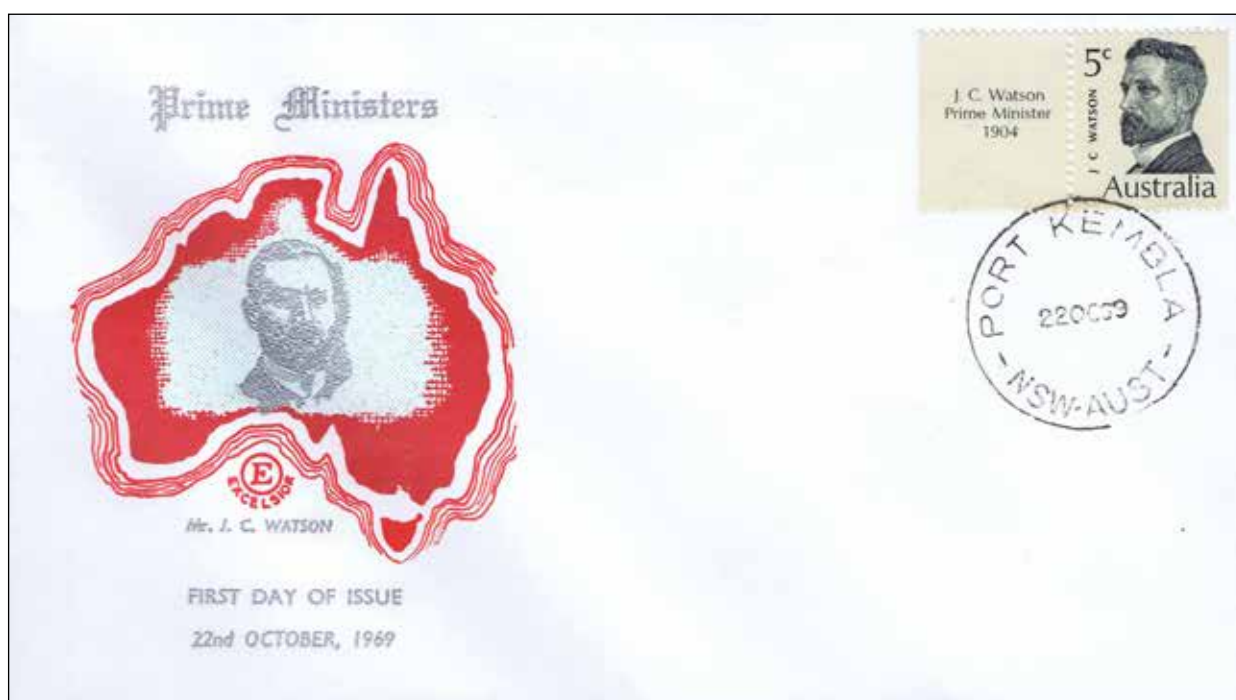


Figure 6.

Inner Suburbs – Reid and Braddon

Much of Canberra on the slopes of Mount Ainslie had been known as North or South Ainslie or just ‘Ainslie’. In 1928 South Ainslie became Reid, Ainslie became Braddon and North Ainslie became Ainslie.

Reid already had the streets near, and crossing, Ainslie Avenue. New streets in Reid were aboriginal words.

The street names in Braddon, however, were named on a new, experimental system. The area was drawn by Griffin as an almost triangular wedge, bordered by Ainslie, Limestone and Northbourne Avenues. Perhaps taking the cue from Ainslie Avenue, the easterly/westerly streets were then, alphabetically: Batman, Chapman, Donaldson, Elder, Farrer, Girrahween, Henty and Ipima. I cannot explain ‘Ijong’, but the ‘j’ is intriguing.

Reid and Braddon

Figure 7 shows a First day cover for a stamp commemorating Sir George Reid.

Sir George Houston Reid (knighted 1911) was a barrister by profession. In the NSW parliament he was Premier from 1894 to 1899, a land and education reformer among other causes. By 1901 he had become very stout and sported a walrus moustache and a monocle. This made him a particular favourite of satirical cartoons in the popular press. He was nonetheless a shrewd and effective politician.

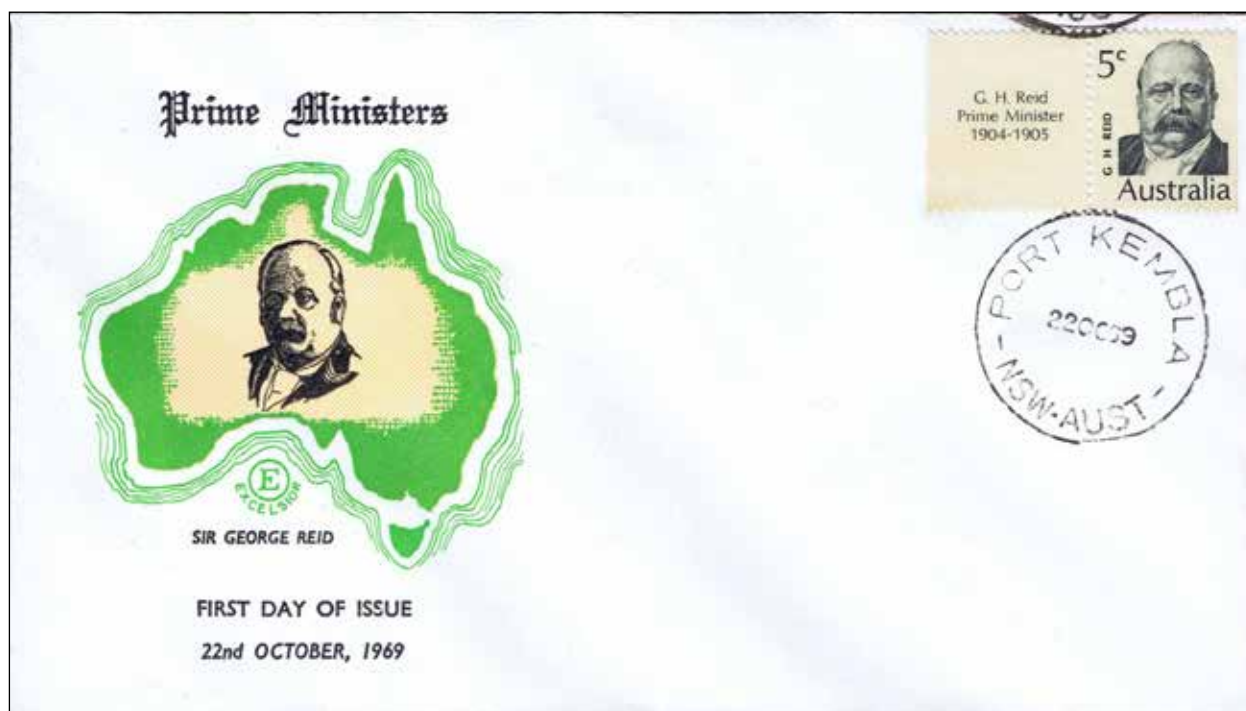


Figure 7.

Federally he was Prime Minister from August 1904 to July 1905, having formed an alliance with many ‘Deakinites’, though not with Deakin himself. With this alliance he managed at last to carry the Commonwealth Conciliation and Arbitration Act 1904. Reid was Leader of the Opposition (initially Free traders) from 1901 to 1904 and 1905 to 1908.

In 1905, Reid renamed his party the Anti-Socialist Party. In 1908 Deakin negotiated a ‘Fusion’ of the Protectionists with the Anti-Socialists to form the Commonwealth Liberal Party, a sometimes uneasy blend of ‘liberals’ and ‘conservatives’ united by opposition to Labor. The party went through many later name changes but the Fusion established the essential nature of future Australian party politics.

Edward Braddon was unlikely to have been honoured by a stamp. He was never a Minister and died in February 1904. Hence I cannot show a stamp or FDC for him. Instead, at Figure 8 is a cover to remind us of him, not by its theme but by its suburb address, Braddon.

Gowrie Hostel was named for the Earl of Gowrie, Governor-General from 1936 to 1945. Today it is Fenner Hall, an ANU student residence.

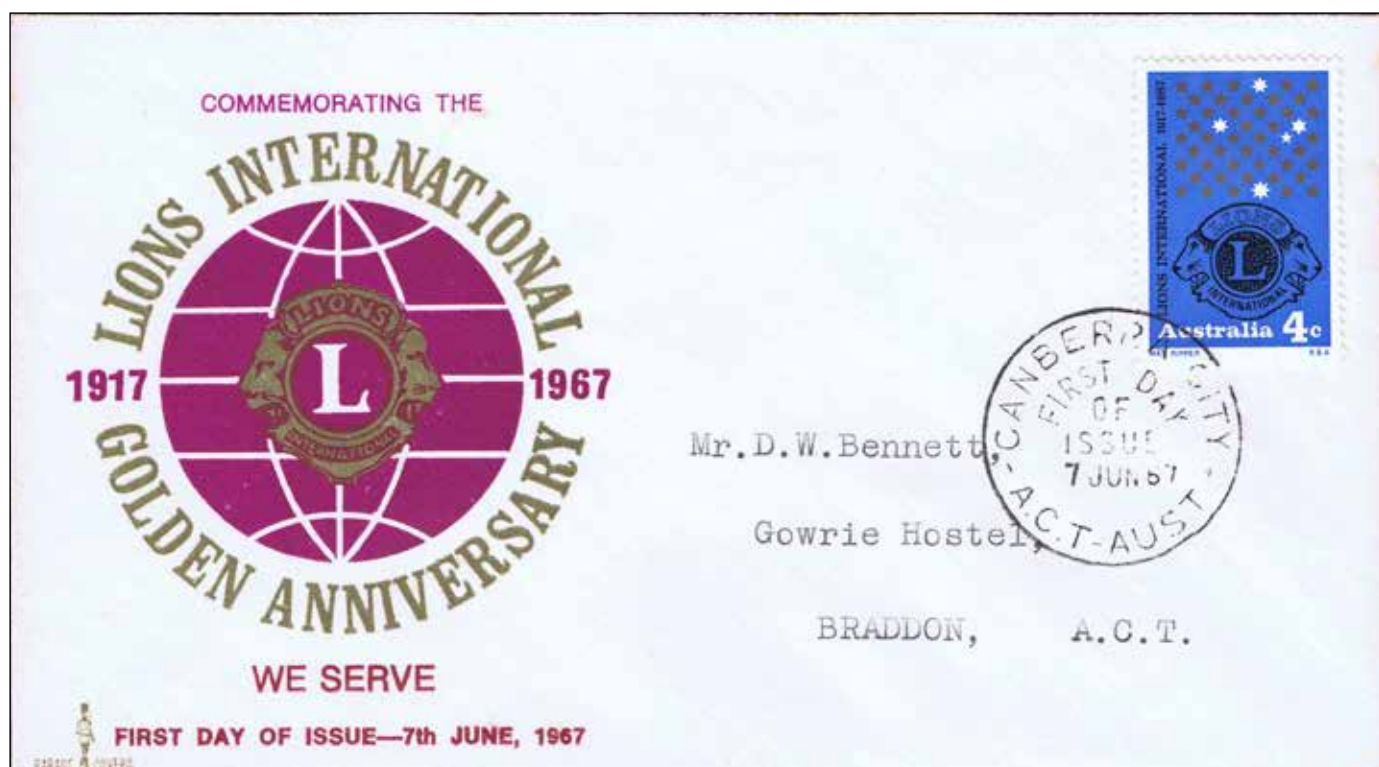


Figure 8.

Braddon and the ‘Blot’

Sir Edward Coventry Braddon (knighted 1891) was born in Cornwall, UK, in 1829. He had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service (1857 – 1878) then came to Tasmania. He was Premier from 1894 to 1899 and a leading Tasmanian federationist. He insisted, at the various Conventions, on the preservation of state financial rights. Hence he became best known for the ‘Braddon Blot’ (or Braddon’s ‘Blot’), Section 87 of the Constitution.

Section 87 decreed that the Commonwealth, the collector of all customs and excise duties after 1901, should expend one quarter for its own purposes and return any surplus to the states. As it happened, Deakin and his then Treasurer, Lyne, passed the Surplus Revenue Act in 1908, under which all surpluses could be paid into Trust Funds for future Commonwealth use.

From 1901 to 1903 Braddon was deputy (an unofficial position) to Reid, the Opposition Leader. He was re-elected to the second Parliament but died before it sat. Nonetheless, he was esteemed by many colleagues especially for his imperial service in India, so was honoured in the naming of this central suburb.

Notes

The details of early federal politicians are public knowledge. Even so, I have consulted the relevant volumes of the Australian Dictionary of Biography (MUP, various years) to check details.

Figures 2, 4, 6 and 7 are Excelsior FDCs published by Ian Baglin of Melbourne. Figure 3 is thought to be a Southern Cross Printers FDC whose publisher is unidentified. Figure 8 is a Parade FDC published by Perce McCallum of Adelaide.

The Royal Philatelic Society London (RPSL) will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2019. For this occasion an international exhibition will be held in Stockholm. H.M. King Carl XVI Gustaf of Sweden has graciously agreed to be the Patron.



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The exhibition will comprise philatelic dealers and auction houses from all over the world. The exhibition will have an extensive philatelic and social program. Only Fellows and Members of the RPSL will be allowed to exhibit. The competitive classes will be judged by an international jury appointed by the Council of The RPSL.



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For more information: visit the website stockholmia2019.se or contact Jonas Hällström: jonas@stockholmia2019.se

The Microcut Issue

Jenni Creagh

One of our members has pointed out a reference from the Australian Stamp Bulletin #347 (page 9) discussing the introduction of Microcuts. This issue may be of interest to members and especially any that have dealings with young collectors hoping to start a collection by soaking stamps from modern (current) mail.

Here is the announcement, the letter of concern raised by and the response from Australia Post. I'd be interested in your thoughts and also if you were aware of this announcement (how effective was it?).



"Hello Australia Post

My latest Stamp Bulletin says Australia Post is introducing microcuts in stamps. The aim is to stop people soaking off and re-using stamps that haven't been postmarked. Microcut stamps presumably will disintegrate when being soaked off the envelope.

If the microcuts work as intended, there's a downside, apparently overlooked or ignored by Australia Post.

Collectors of used stamps will not be able to obtain a postmarked, used copy of a microcut stamp by soaking it off an envelope in the manner collectors have used since adhesive postage stamps were first issued in 1840.

Who wants a disintegrated stamp in their collection?

A cancelled-to-order stamp bought from Australia Post for face value is not an adequate substitute for a genuine, postally-used stamp.

I fear for the future of stamp-collecting as a hobby if microcuts become the norm on Australian stamps.

I'd appreciate a considered response please." - Concerned Collector

"I am writing in response to your recent enquiry about the introduction of micro-cuts to stamps.

The introduction of micro-cuts has been adopted to reduce the ability of stamps to be re-used. To further clarify, as the postal administration for Australia, Australia Post has a responsibility and a commitment to support philately nationally and internationally for all collectors and enthusiasts, as well as the general mail user.

Although the introduction of micro-cuts may appear contrary to that statement, the decision taken by the Corporation to introduce micro-cuts to our self-adhesive stamps was necessary to improve adhesion and to reduce the practice whereby some people dishonestly reuse stamps in order to avoid paying postage.

As a fully self-funded business, Australia Post receives no taxpayer funding. The profits earned are returned as dividends to the Commonwealth Government or reinvested into the business to improve service standards and reduce costs. Our viability is a key element in underpinning our extensive retail network, including post offices that are located in rural and remote Australia.

While Australia Post recognises that you may remain dissatisfied with the introduction, please understand that Australia Post must concentrate its energies on its primary and fundamental task to deliver letters as efficiently and economically as possible. Australia Post appreciates your interest in this matter and I trust the above information is of assistance." - Australia Post

PASTCARDS

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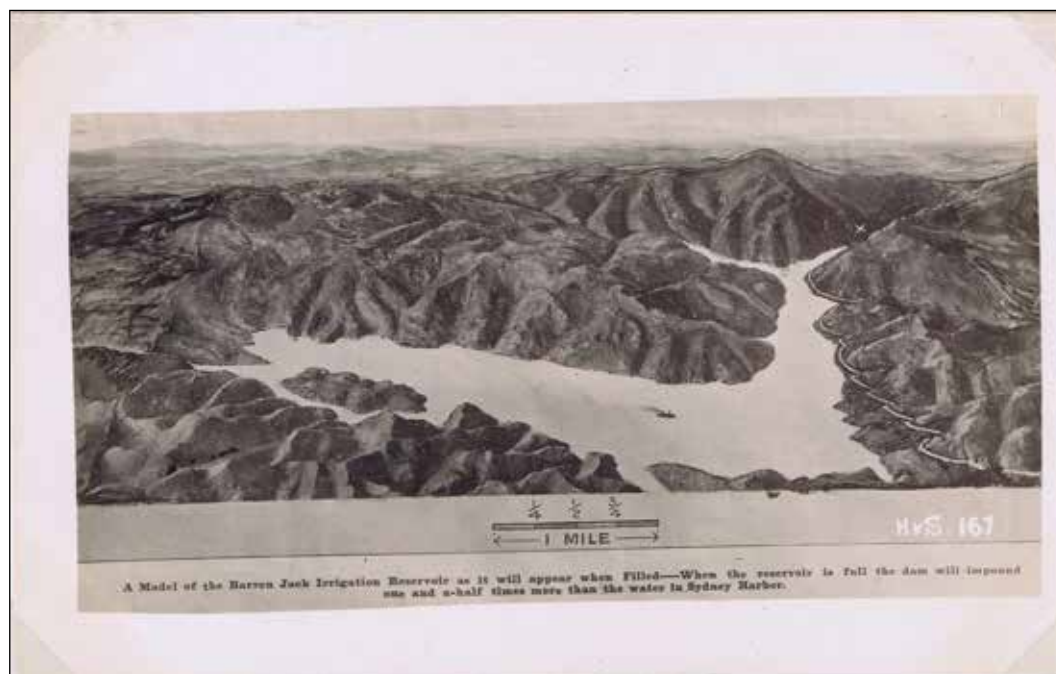
Burrinjuck Dam N.S.W. - 1907 to 1956 (Part 1)

Elsbeth Bodley

The Federation Drought of 1901-02, showed the need for more water storage and more agricultural land. The NSW Government established the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area and built a dam on the Murrumbidgee River 416 km (260 miles) upstream from the Irrigation Area to provide the water.

When the Dam was planned it was the fourth largest dam in the world. Construction began in 1907 but was interrupted by floods, war, and engineering problems. Much of the early work was done by men and horses but the later remedial work (completed in 1956) was done by machinery.

This is the story of how and where the dam was built together with an insight into the workers and their lives.



“A model of the Barren Jack Irrigation Reservoir as it will appear when filled - When the reservoir is full the dam will impound one and a halftimes more than the water in Sydney Harbour.”

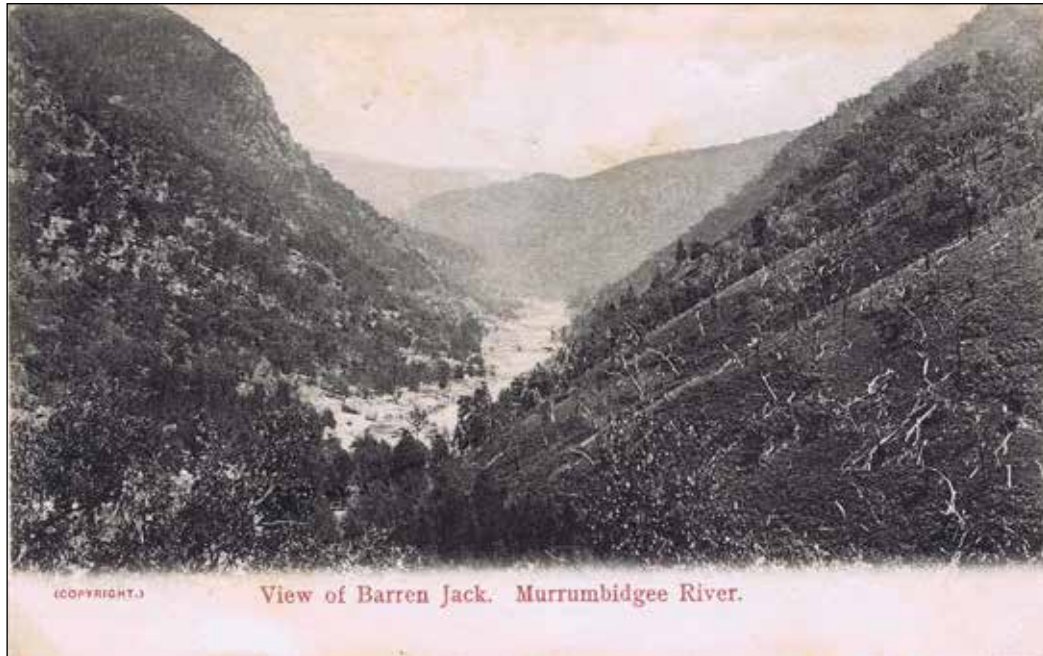
Real photograph by C N Howard and Alfred Shearsby of Yass (H&S No. 167).

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From “Barren Jack” to “Burrinjuck”

The hills on either side of the Murrumbidgee gorge were known as Barren Jack and Black Andrew. Presumably, “Barren” was not an appropriate name for a dam supplying water to a new irrigation area and by 1911 the project became known as ‘Burrin Juck’ and then ‘Burrinjuck Dam’.

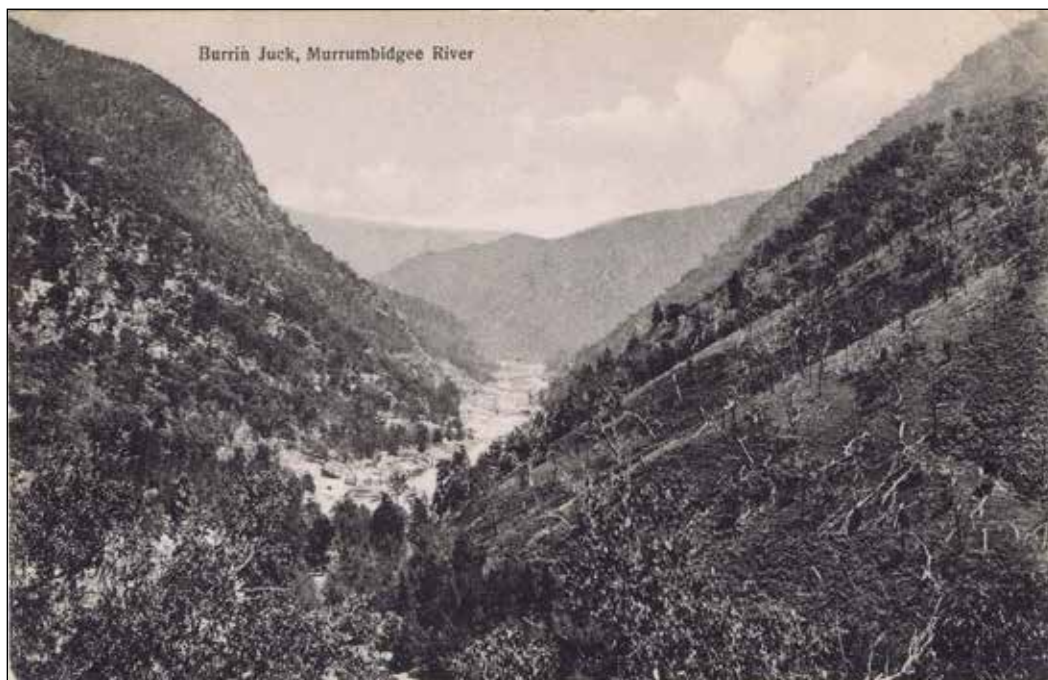
Another theory is that it comes from the Aboriginal words “Booren Yiack” meaning precipitous mountain.



Publisher: Howard & Taylor.

Collotype printing. Postally used 22 Dec 1906.

These pictures are the same (apart from the clouds), only the name has changed.



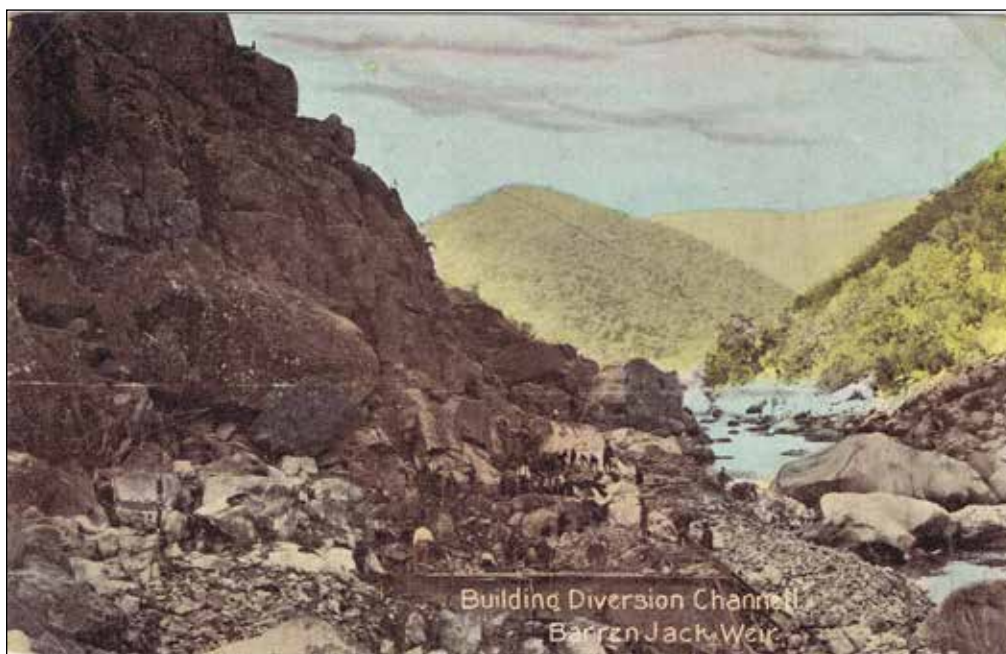
Publisher: Will Thomson. Howard & Shearsby photographers, #1.

Collotype printing but “Made in Germany” has been crossed out so presumably pre-War stock sold during World War I. Unused.

The Diversion Channel

The Murrumbidgee River had to be kept flowing while work on the dam wall went on. The *Singleton Argus* (NSW) reported in its Saturday edition of 15 August 1908:

“The diversion channel, which carries about 90 per cent of the waters of the Murrumbidgee, is about 500ft long, and 300ft wide, and 15ft deep, and is cut out of the solid granite rock at the foot of Barren Jack mountain. It is estimated that when full it will carry 8000 cubic feet of water per second.”



Publisher: Harding & Billings for W Taylor, Tobacconist, Yass.

Printing: Three colour letterpress. Unused.



Publisher: Howard & Shearsby, Yass.

Real photograph. Unused.

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The diversion channel was finished by the winter of 1908 when the first of many floods arrived. Two major floods, in July 1922 and in May 1925 caused delays but surprisingly little damage. However, each of these floods showed the spillway capacities needed to be increased.



Publisher: Howard & Shearsby, Yass.

Real photograph. Postally used June 1909, postmarked Barren Jack, to Dalton, NSW.

Work On The Site Progresses

By 1911 the hillside on the right has been cleared and a road made. A low-level crossing of the Murrumbidgee can be seen, and the dam wall is making a lot of dust and smoke in the distance.



Publisher: Howard & Shearsby, Yass, no. 207.

Real photograph. Unused.

Light Railway To The Dam Site

The *Clarence & Richmond Examiner* of Grafton, NSW, reported on Saturday 6 April 1907:

“A good start has been made with the preliminary work in connection with the erection of the great dam on the Murrumbidgee at Barren Jack. The key of the situation is the establishment of communication with the main southern railway, distant about 30 miles from the site of the work. ... surveyors have almost completed the survey and location of the 2ft gauge railway which will be constructed from the site of the dam to the main southern railway at Goondah.”

Two engines were used on this line, named “Robin” and “Archie”. The line had a grade of 1 in 30 and some 90ft radius curves and took about 2 hours and 20 minutes to traverse.



Publisher not named. Real photograph. Unused.



Publisher not named. Real photograph. Unused.

PASTCARDS

More Infrastructure

The dam wall was constructed from concrete, made on-site, and the quarry provided material for this work.



Publishers Howard & Shearsby, Yass #234.

Real photograph. Unused.

Large work and storage sheds were required. Note the large delivery of fire-wood needed to power the steam engines.



No publisher named.

Real photograph. Unused.

The Dam Wall

By 12 February 1908 early work has begun on the dam wall.

Publishers Howard & Shearsby, Yass.

Real photograph. Unused.



By 7 April 1910 the work was well under way.



Publishers Howard & Shearsby, Yass.

Real photograph. Postally used 10 April 1910, Yass to Sydney.

PASTCARDS

Huge concrete blocks weighing 9 tons were made on the site and then sent by the Lidgewood aerial cableway to their positions on the wall.

This is how the wall appeared on 15 March 1911.



Publisher Howard & Shearsby, Yass, no. 194.

Real photograph. Unused.



Publisher Howard & Shearsby, Yass, no. 195.

Real photograph. Unused.

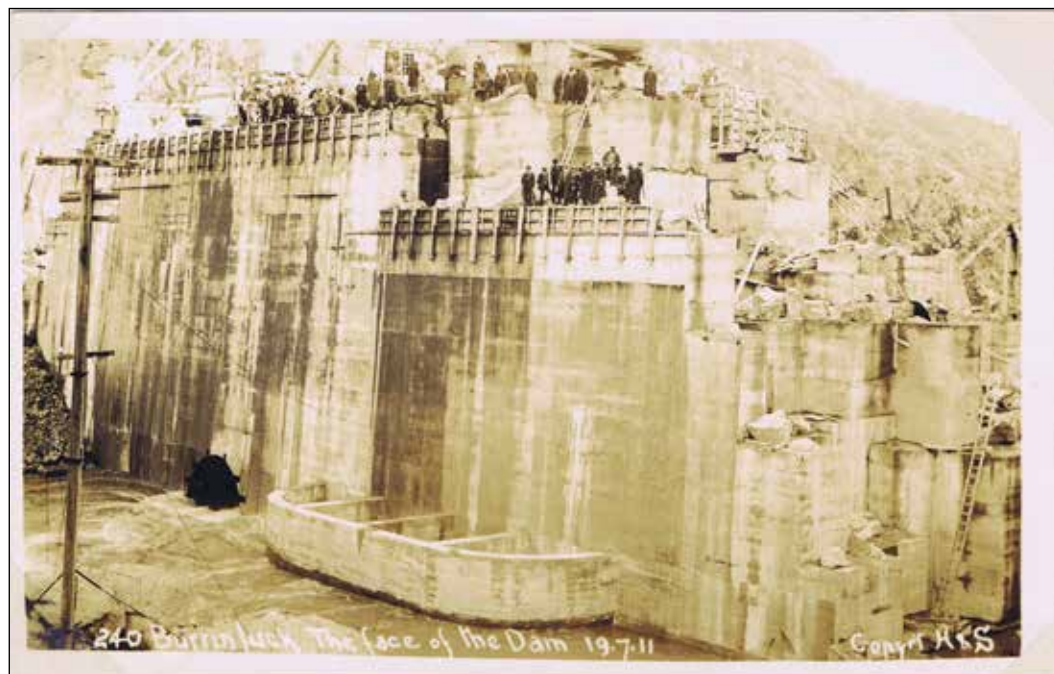
Work On The Wall Is Delayed

Sydney Morning Herald, Monday, 23 October 1911:

“ ... the preparation of the foundations for the wall on the northern side of the gorge above the river level has developed unexpected difficulties owing to the nature of the country. Hence another four months must elapse before the storage of water will be commenced.”

19 July 1911

*Publishers Howard & Shearsby, Yass, No. 240.
Real photograph. Unused.*



Over a year later and progress has obviously slowed.



22 August 1912

*Publishers Howard & Shearsby, Yass, No. 271.
Real photograph. Used
Aug 1913.*

To be concluded in Part 2.

References: ‘Burrinjuck Dam - a National Work’, publisher Water Conservation & Irrigation Commission of NSW, 1949;

Guide-book to the Excursion to Yass-Canberra and the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area, Pan-Pacific Science Congress, Sydney, 1923;

Websites: *Wikipedia, National Library of Australia Trove newspapers.*
Volume 35, No.2.

MACHINATIONS

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An obscure Post & Go Machin

Daniel Tangri

Ever since ‘open value’ Machin labels began to be available from NCR machines at post offices, collectors have spent much time and effort in trying to work out exactly which values are available. Early on, for example, it became clear that some of the values available through the Horizon system were not available – hence no ‘SU’ for international surface mail. The various Parcelforce values have been the most difficult to pin down. After some time it became clear that some values such as ‘GX’ for Global Express were available, albeit at some cost as these are probably the single most expensive of the Parcelforce values.

Now a new Parcelforce value has emerged, and one that took quite some organising to obtain. Parcelforce has a specific service, ‘Ireland Express’, that is only available for items sent from specific post offices in Northern Ireland to Eire. This service is available on Monday to Friday and involves guaranteed overnight delivery and tracking. The service is available for packets and parcels weighing between 500g and 30kg. Parcels can be picked up from your home or dropped off at a depot. The minimum price is £16.49 for a 500g packet. Parcelforce guarantees that if the parcel doesn’t arrive on time it will refund the full cost of postage!

Late last year it was discovered that a specific open value label could be printed for this service, with the acronym ‘IE’. Recently, one of my contacts in England made a trip to Northern Ireland and was able to obtain a few. The labels were not available mint, and had to be applied directly to packets and posted at the office. After some phone calls, my contact managed to find the details of a ‘friend of a friend’ in Eire and obtain a promise from her to return some covers. One of these is now in my possession, and is illustrated at Figure 1.

This is one Machin that took quite some effort to obtain and, given its limited availability, is likely to remain obscure. I wonder if any mint copies will ever be available!



Figure 1



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CAPITAL PHILATELY

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Articles, letters and other contributions to *Capital Philately* should be sent to the Editor; either by mail to the Society address, or C/- The Editor's email.

The publishing shedule for *Capital Philately* (including **PASTCARDS** and Machinations) will be March, July and December. Please contact us if you have any items for inclusion, at least one issue prior for timed items.