

# Capital Philately

GPO Box 1840  
Canberra 2601

Registered by AUSTRALIA POST  
Publication No. NBH 5925

Postage Paid  
CANBERRA A.C.T.  
AUSTRALIA

Vol. 11 No. 2 Feb. 1993

THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY



of  
CANBERRA



# Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.  
(founded 1932)

GPO Box 1840  
Canberra 2601

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*Capital Philately* is published quarterly and is supplied free to members of the Society. Other subscriptions are welcome - \$15 per year, post free within Australia. Back numbers are available at \$12 per volume (four issues): individual numbers at \$4 each, plus postage.

Articles, letters to the editor and other contributions should be sent to the editor. Subscriptions, the purchase of back numbers and enquiries regarding advertising space and costs should be addressed to the business manager.

*Capital Philately* gratefully acknowledges the financial support of the Australian Philatelic Federation and the ACT Philatelic Council.

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ISSN 0729-8765

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## EDITORIAL

The start of a new year provides the opportunity to review the immediate past and ponder on the future. For the Society, the most memorable event of the 1992 was the celebration of our sixtieth anniversary. Thursday night of November 5, with its emphasis upon memorabilia, was a great success. The occasion also presented the incentive for a double-size number of *Capital Philately* which allowed members to record, often for the first time, facets of our sixty years of philatelic endeavour. For many, the highlight was the informal meeting at the Canberra Hyatt where a large gathering of members and friends drank a toast to our past and future at the very place where the Society was founded exactly sixty years earlier.

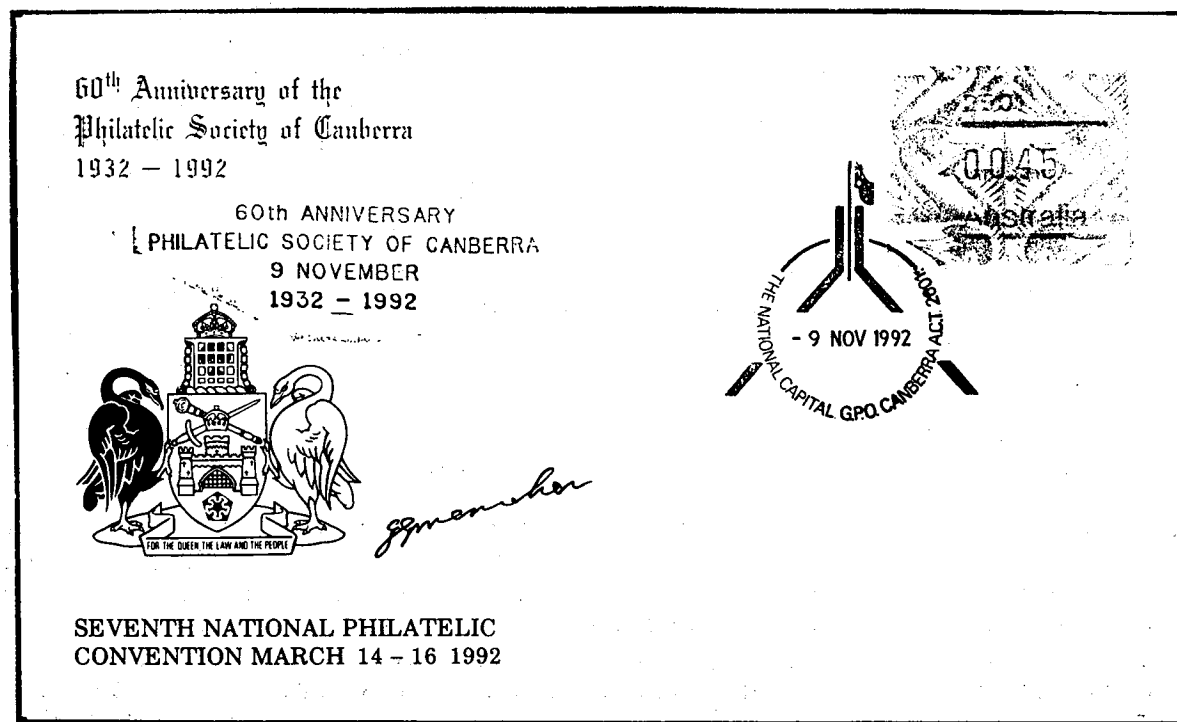
From March 14-16 the Society held the Seventh National Philatelic Convention at the Canberra GPO. This included the now traditional philatelic fun event (a hot air balloon mail drop), a successful dinner, dealers and auctions. The competitive state exhibits included a full range of classes, with literature included for the first time, and the 1992 national classes for cinderellas and social philately. It is a pleasure to report that the profit to the Society was close to \$4,000. Apart from assisting to defray our running expenses, we were able to purchase several major monographs for the library.

It is also a pleasure to record that members have continued our now established record in regional, state, national and international competitions. The list of those who were reluctantly persuaded to enter competitions at the Second and Third National Philatelic Conventions (in the early 1980s) and who now exhibit with success at international events continues to grow. The other, more recent, trend is the propensity of members to add to the fast growing body of Australian philatelic literature. This can be seen as a progression from displaying material to undertaking detailed research. Three examples illustrate this.

First is the publication, and acclaim, of *Commercial Perfins of Australia* by John Grant and John Mathews. The second is the Society's first monograph, *Commonwealth of Australia Printed to Private Order Postal Stationery* by Ian McMahon. Third, is a belated welcome to Tony Orchard whose move from Tasmania included in his baggage Magpie (Philatelic) Publications. His recently published accounts of the Tasmanian postal acts and regulations are reviewed elsewhere in this issue of *Capital Philately*.

The downside of the year was the increasingly poor attendance at the first Thursday of the month display nights. This reinforces a trend that has been apparent over the last two to three years. Some would add the difficulty of persuading members to assist with the many tasks involved in running the Society's program. However, it is a pleasure to note that two major Society initiatives are due to commence early in 1993. The first of these is the re-establishment of meetings for junior collectors, mainly the under-12s. The new school year will see a program of activities in the south of the city. The second innovation is the commencement, on February 8, of a 'Southern Meeting' to be held at the Tuggeranong Town Centre Library. These meetings are scheduled for the second Monday of every month throughout the year. It is not intended that the Tuggeranong meetings will duplicate the established program of the Society but will provide an opportunity for new collectors to exchange material and information and, hopefully, for some to become full members of the Society.

The proposed junior and Southern Meetings are to be welcomed. They provide a tangible example of the willingness of members to devote their time to promoting the hobby to young and old alike. These new additions to our program should occupy any excess energy that members have in a non-convention year! Meanwhile planning has already commenced for the Eighth National Convention in 1994. It has truly been a philatelically active anniversary year.



Overprinted cover presented to those who attended the anniversary at the Canberra Hyatt

## UNUSUAL FEATURES OF CANADIAN POSTAL STATIONERY

Ian McMahon

Like most countries, Canada has issued a wide selection of postal stationery including envelopes, which first appeared in 1860 with 5c and 10c issues of the Colony of Canada (now the provinces of Ontario and Quebec), postcards which were first issued in 1871, lettercards (issued between 1893 and 1899), wrappers which were first issued in 1875, lettersheets (trialled in 1973) and aerogrammes which were first introduced in 1947.

While most issues have followed the patterns established elsewhere, a number of features have distinguished Canadian stationery. These have centred around the Canadian Post Office's attempts to meet the needs of business and government users of stationery. These include:

- . the issuing of special postcards, usually without headings, to allow the printing of private advertising on the front of the postcard
- . the issuing of business reply cards
- . the mimeo postcards
- . the large variety of private order postcards
- . the production of stamped postcards and business forms designed to meet the particular requirements of large users especially the Canadian National Railways and Ontario Hydro; and
- . the election envelopes.

### Postcards used for advertising

Postcards used for normal sale to the public had the usual 'Postcard' heading either in English or in English and French (for use in Quebec). From the 1897 Queen Victoria leaf issue postcards were sold with no heading to enable companies to print their own advertising on the front of the postcard. Later issues had lines delineating the area that had to be reserved for the address.

Many firms took advantage of these cards, which were sold in sheets to enable ease of printing. Major users included the railway and steamship companies which printed attractive scenic views on the fronts of the cards, many of which advertised the railway companies' great hotels such as the Canadian Pacific's hotel at Banff in the Rocky Mountains. Other major users include the money order companies which printed facsimile money orders on the fronts of the cards.

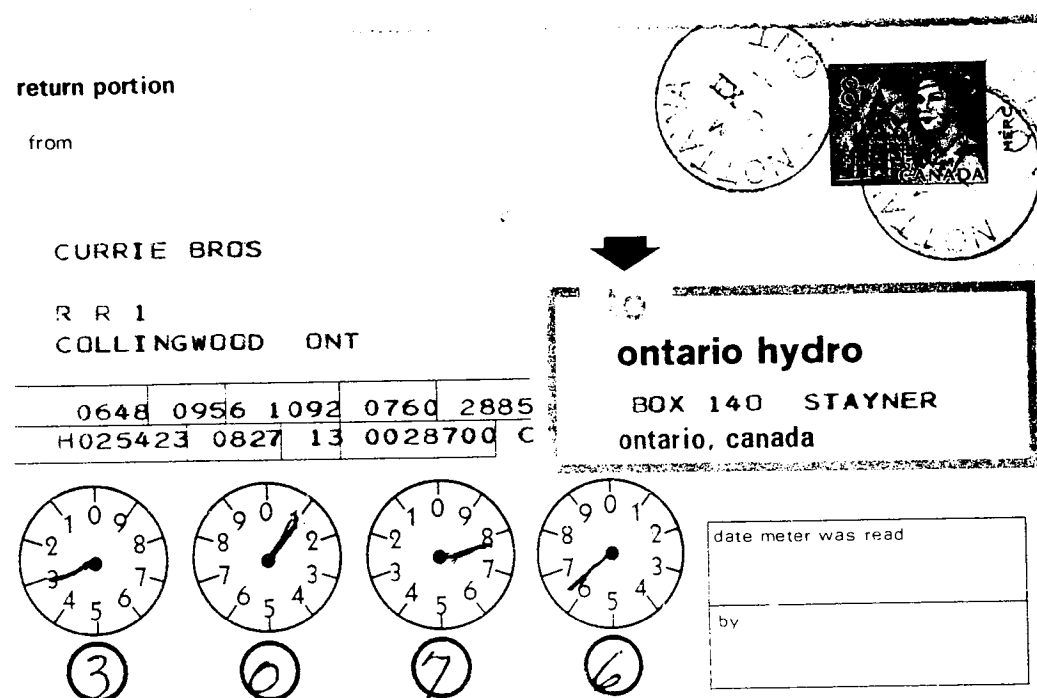
### Business Reply Cards

A special rate of half a cent was applied to business reply cards. These were cards used by business to solicit a response from a customer either by being part of a reply postcard or as a 'letterbox stuffer' delivered by the postman to all offices and homes in an area - the 1920s and 1930s version of junk mail. The cards prepaid the customers reply to the firm involved.

Most cards were not returned to the companies involved and as a consequence unused cards are fairly common. The cards usually had printed messages on the reverse with space for the name and address of the customer while the front of the cards usually had a preprinted address. To assist with printing, the cards were issued in sheets.

### Mimeo Postcards

Before the days of the computer and self-adhesive labels, many organizations used mimeography as an inexpensive method of printing. It was particularly popular for printing address lists. To assist such organizations, from 1930 Canada issued postcards on soft porous stock which was more suitable for this type of printing than the normal cards on smooth surfaced board. These cards were also issued in small sheets with rouletting between the cards.



Ontario Hydro electricity meter reading cards, 1972

### Ontario Hydro cards

Ontario Hydro is Ontario's electricity authority, not a water board as may be suggested by the name which is derived from the extensive use of hydroelectricity. Ontario Hydro was supplied with an extensive range of postcards which were used by the organization to obtain meter readings from customers, especially those in country areas not readily reached by the Hydro's meter readers. The cards were produced by Moore Business Forms and usually printed in two parts. One part prepaid postage to the customer. The second was provided for the customer to return after indicating the current meter reading by marking the position of the hands on the dials printed in the card. The cards had to be returned within seven days otherwise Ontario Hydro would make its own estimate of the electricity used. One exception from this was made for the many holiday houses, usually located beside one of Ontario's many lakes. These houses were usually used only in the summer and so the cards needed to be returned by the Labor Day weekend (in October).

### Railway Company Business Forms

The Post Office allowed the production of 'carbon' sets of business forms in which one of the forms was, when detached, a postcard on thin cardboard. These forms were mainly used by the railway companies to advise clients of the receipt or nondelivery of parcels.

One feature of these forms was that on two occasions the imprinted stamps were printed in the wrong colour. This occurred on the 1960 Queen Elizabeth II issue which was printed in red rather than purple and the 4c 1964 Queen Elizabeth II issue which was printed in purple rather than red.

### Private order envelopes

Besides providing for printing of stamps on company supplied envelopes, the Canadian Post Office and the envelope maker Dominion Envelopes Ltd supplied postal stationery to meet the needs of individual customers. These envelopes come in a great range of sizes and shapes. In some cases particular stamp dies were only used on private order stationery. Both the Dominion Envelope Company and the Department of Public Printing and Stationery (PPS) printed private order stationery and the products of the two can sometimes be identified by the style of the envelope, the stamp die used or by careful measurement of the stamp size to distinguish between the rotary press of Dominion Envelope Ltd from the flat press of the PPS.

### Election envelopes

The Post Office produced an extensive range of envelopes for use by the Electoral Office in Canadian Federal elections. These envelopes were used to notify candidates of the results of the poll at each polling station (Form 95) and to return the statement of the result of the poll at a polling booth to the returning officer (Form 154). While envelopes containing Form 95 were intended to be posted other forms were usually hand delivered, despite the imprinted stamp. After the 1974 election, envelopes were printed with a postage paid imprint rather than an imprinted stamp.

### Certified Mail Envelopes

In 1973 Canada introduced certified mail envelopes. These comprised an envelope in which the mail to be sent certified could be enclosed or, for large items, affixed to the outside. The envelope came with a multiple form, one part of which was a postcard to be used to notify the sender of the delivery of the item. The first issue of this 'envelope' had a 40c stamp imprinted on the top part of the multiple form. Later issues had no value indicated. Additional stamps needed to be affixed to cover the postage costs.

### Non-denominated Stationery

The recent world wide trend to non-denominated stationery also applies to Canada. Current non-denominated stationery issued in Canada includes prepaid priority post envelopes; the special occasion and special letter envelopes and prepaid private order stationery.

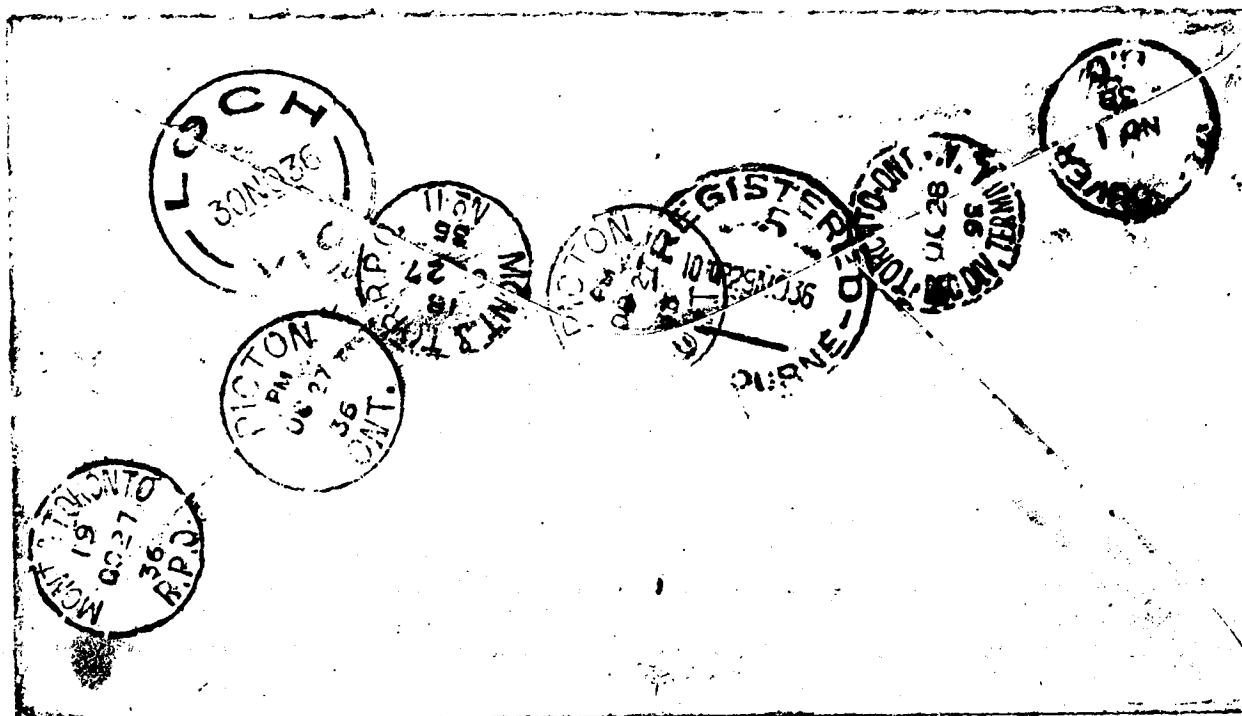
The priority post envelopes were first issued in 1987 for overnight courier delivery. Different envelopes were issued for delivery to Canadian, USA, European or other international destinations.

The special letter envelopes first appeared in 1989 and are similar in intent to our express post envelopes, offering overnight delivery to major urban centres and two-day delivery throughout Canada. Two envelopes are available, one in blue prepaying postage anywhere in Canada and the other in red prepaying delivery within the same province. Reprints of the original envelopes have appeared with a self-adhesive flap and with the 1992 Olympic

logo. The special occasion envelopes are intended to be used to send birthday, St Valentine's Day and other special greetings. A sheet of label is provided with the envelope so that the sender can indicate the nature of the greetings.

Prepaid stationery appeared in 1991 for COS Information Inc for an automotive industry opinion poll directed at car and truck owners. An envelope was issued for posting the questionnaire as well as two postcards, one asking people to take part in the survey and the other for reminding them to return their questionnaire. These envelopes and postcards featured a stamp similar to the self-adhesive stamps but were not inscribed with a value but inscribed postage paid.

Private order postcard, freight advice, Canadian National Express



## FAVOURITE COVERS - ACROSS CANADA BY TRAIN

Ian McMahon

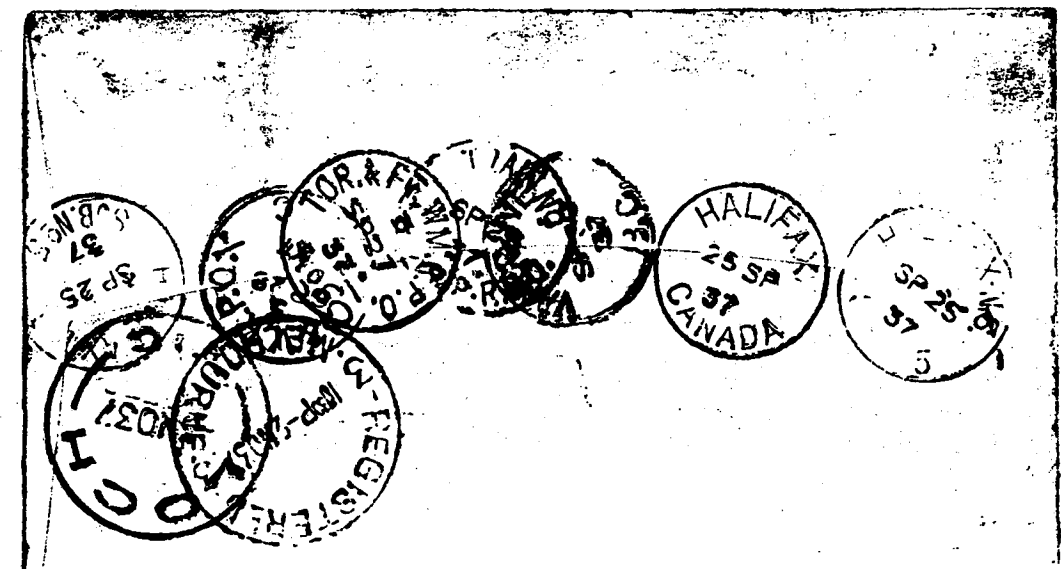
The railways in Australia were central to its early development and to assist in the carriage of mails many trains carried Travelling Post Offices. The same is true for Canada where the railways were responsible for opening up vast tracts of farming land and cementing the fledgling country together. The trains also carried mail sorting vans except that in Canada they were known as Railway Post Offices (RPO's).

The train trip from the Atlantic Provinces to Vancouver in the west was one of the world's great train journeys and RPO's traversed every segment of the route. In the days before universal air mail most letters were carried by train and, in the case of registered letters, were backstamped with the RPO's on which they were carried. In this article I look briefly at two registered covers which travelled across Canada from the eastern provinces by rail to Vancouver and then on to Australia.

The first is a registered cover sent from Halifax in Nova Scotia to Loch in Victoria. It was posted in Halifax on 25 September 1937 and then travelled on the Canadian National Railway to Montreal and Toronto, obtaining a backstamp from the Halifax to Campbelltown Railway Post Office (Train No/HX to Camp RPO) on the same day. From Toronto the cover travelled over the Canadian Pacific Railway tracks to Vancouver receiving backstamps from the Toronto to Fort William RPO (Tor & Ft Wm RPO) on 27 September and the Calgary to Vancouver RPO (C & V RPO) on 29 September. Both of these RPOs operated for around sixty years, from the turn of the century until their closure in the 1960s. The cover arrived in Vancouver on 30 September where it was shipped to Melbourne arriving on 2 November and at Loch on 3 September.

The illustration, on p.38, shows a second registered cover. This is from Picton, Ontario on 27 October 1936 and travelled on the Canadian National Railway line receiving a backstamp from the Montreal to Toronto RPO (Mon & Toronto) on the same day, arriving in Toronto on 28 October, Vancouver on 1 November, Melbourne on 29 November and Loch on 30 November.

The importance of the railways to Canada has resulted in a great variety of railway and RPO cancellations which are described in *A History of Canadian RPOs* by L.F.Gillam and *The Catalogue of Canadian Railway Cancellations* by L.M.Ludlow.





# AN EXTRACT FROM THE DYNAMIC ROOTS OF POSTAL HISTORY READING 91: THE NEVER-ENDING NEED FOR A SYSTEM OF RESEARCHING CROSS-POSTS

Alan Tippet

Alan Tippet was a much loved member of the Society until his death in September 1988. His philatelic knowledge was immense and he combined this with his talents as a scholar and writer to produce *The Dynamic Roots of Postal History* in 1987. The book was not commercially published but the author donated a copy to the Society's library. It was awarded a Vermeil in the literature section at Sydrex 88, only a few weeks before his death. The monograph, of 273 pages, comprises 106 'readings' divided into nine parts, each of which deals with an aspect of postal history set within a social science framework. Further selected extracts will be published in later issues of *Capital Philately*. These are a tribute to the author's contributions to the Society, of which he was a Life Member. The extracts are reproduced with the permission of Mrs Edna Tippet, herself a member of the Society.

There is a never-ending need for a system for researching cross-posts in almost every country. It was so in antiquity and it is so today. It is therefore essential for the postal historian to be aware of the importance of his own research need to uncover the dynamics of why cross-posts are always essential and how the task is achieved - officially, by 'Per Favour' or by commercial or ecclesiastical innovation.

In many parts of the world major mail routes have been linked by cross-posts, which have utilized native canoes or light watercraft (perhaps used still today with an outboard motor attached), propelled by a steering oar, or paddles, or by rowers or poled according to context.

In my own postal history collection of Fiji I have covers carried by such cross-posts. By these connections small islands and remote villages are kept in touch with the regular system or the major post towns. The Rewa waterway used a system of traders' launches, the mail postally marked with the trader's handstamp and, in Edwardian times, often accompanied by a single line town mark.

The use of a river system for the circulation of mails between a post town and the hinterland is nothing new. The system used by the Brodziak trading company in the Rewa River, and the runners following the river inland from Nausori over the Edwardian period was very similar to the system in ancient Egypt which worked the Nile River canal network and utilized a flotilla of narrow punts propelled by the feet, together with a team of runners (symmaci), who worked in relays. Apart from the mode of propulsion of the water craft, the only real difference being that the Fijian covers and letters can be found for one's collection, whereas the Egyptian material can only be found in archaeological and historical records.

I have a couple of pages of postal markings from Kinimakatka, a now obsolete country postal agency in the Wimmera District of Victoria. The name is Australian aboriginal for 'White Cockatoo Swamp'. The swamp is still there but the mails are serviced from Nhill, the nearest post town by means of a 'Private Mail-bag'. I keep the postal markings for purely sentimental reasons. I used to go there more than half a century ago courting a farm girl.

Twice a week a mail-man drove out in a spring cart or gig with a mail-bag from Nhill. He was more of a yokel than any of the farmers, and quite a character. There was, at the farm house, a small detached room described as a 'Post Office', where the farmer's wife received and despatched mails. The place was open for about an hour while the locals chatted with the mail-man and the mails were serviced.

These town/country mail links radiated out from post towns like the spokes of a wheel. They were a social institution in the story of the development of Australian mails. Nowadays they are discontinued, being serviced by T.P.Os or private mail-bags, but they certainly belong to history.

I make the point that this has always been so. Even in Roman times there were country roads off from the Roman roads where mail connections tied the rural districts and country post-towns in a set of close relationships.

An interesting corpus of letters from the 1st Century, over the very years covered by the lives of Christ and Paul, written on papyrus in popular Greek, and coming from the post-towns of Oxyrhynchus, were published in London in 1889/90 by the scholars, Grenfell and Hunt. I cite them at this very point.

I have worked through the form and contents of eight of these letters. In passing, they were not Christian letters, yet their character and structure are exactly the kind of letter the first Century Christians wrote. I have no trouble whatever of imagining Paul in correspondence with Aquila, his fellow tent-maker; or Lydia, the seller of textiles from Thyatira at Philippi; or Jason of Thessalonica. In literary form those letters reflect the letter-writing norm at the level of society touched by the Christian expansion into the Graeco-Roman world.

They are personal and family correspondence. They concern the usual problems of daily life, of money, of crops, of health, of lambing, of greetings to and from friends and relatives, and the relationships between town and country. They reflect continuing but limited travelling. Letters may be sent by friends making a journey or by the 'camel-man' with a regular run. Taurinus and Apollonios are camel-drivers who run regular routes between town and country along country roads. They indicate linkage between producers of farm products, craftsmen and bazaars - a town/country network utilized also as a mail service.

Letter-writers discuss woven textiles, colour of dyes, making tunics, small consignments of apples, delays of the smith making a key, a request from a craftsman to make a silver seal, and an appeal for some home-made cakes to be used as a present.

These are not epistles written for posterity, but genuine letters (after Deissmann's definition) created in the normal business of life by normal people. They demonstrate the existence of town/country communications and mail networks off the main Roman roads. In passing they reflect a people far more literate than we have been wont to imagine. Indirectly they show their New Testament counterparts to be just exactly what they ought to be, true to type in their time and place.

It is good to have this corpus of purely secular letters from a town/country complex, from the same time, social level and in the same popular Greek as used by the early Christians. There is a social wholeness there that demonstrates the universality of the human need for intercommunication, which cannot survive without a mail service of some kind.

Once a journal editor asked me to review a book about Iran. I know little about Iran. It was a book on geography and I am not a geographer. Somewhat mystified, I read the book and

was really fascinated. It was beautiful social anthropology and just my kind of material. It was study of an Iranian valley with all kinds of material culture innovations to deal with water supply for villages and gardens in a location where water was in short supply. Then it showed the communications and economic linkages between the village gardeners and the one considerable town in that valley. It was a symbiotic study of town and country. I gave that geographer a really good review.

Now, what does this say to the postal historian, apart from showing him that he has to dig in other disciplines than his own in his research?

How often, when rummaging around at a Stamp Fair, one comes across a dealer's box of old unclassified covers at a throw-out price - even at so-much a dozen! How often one finds in such a box, a number of related items, a corpus of material, probably thrown in because the dealer cannot sell them in any other way: poor items, but all of a kind! I always take a hard look at this kind of material, regardless of condition, because it usually has a story to tell.

Some day, when I have fewer irons in the fire than at present, I shall comb over such boxes with the idea of identifying letters, postal stationery, or anything that reflects the relationships between town and country - the farmer to his agent in the town, or to the banker, or the store-keeper, orders for farm goods, notes on the innovations coming on the market, requests for goods to be paid for after harvest, complaints about the quality of goods, or items in short supply, notes that the cream can has been sent by so-and-so, or that the oil drum has been left for filling at the station, offers for share farming a certain field, and so on ad infinitum - a two-way business of course.

If a scholar can write a fascinating book on town and country in Iran and call it geography; I am sure an equally fascinating one can be written on the postal history behind it, for almost any country of the colonial world of last century, or one could assemble a good display of genuine town/country covers. Where the condition is poor that might be part of the story. But, at a higher price, fine items may always be had. It could well be an exhibition theme for one who wants to deal with it at that level.

I have in my New Zealand Full Faces a cover sent inland through a certain gorge and endorsed 'Per Mr. Wayne's Dray'. One remembers that the economic stability of the country was built not merely on the exchange of produce and financing of farming but also on the provisions of communications to make all that possible and to keep the whole system working day by day. To date, our historians have hardly scratched the surface of this topic. I believe it may be for postal historians to draw their attention to the fact.

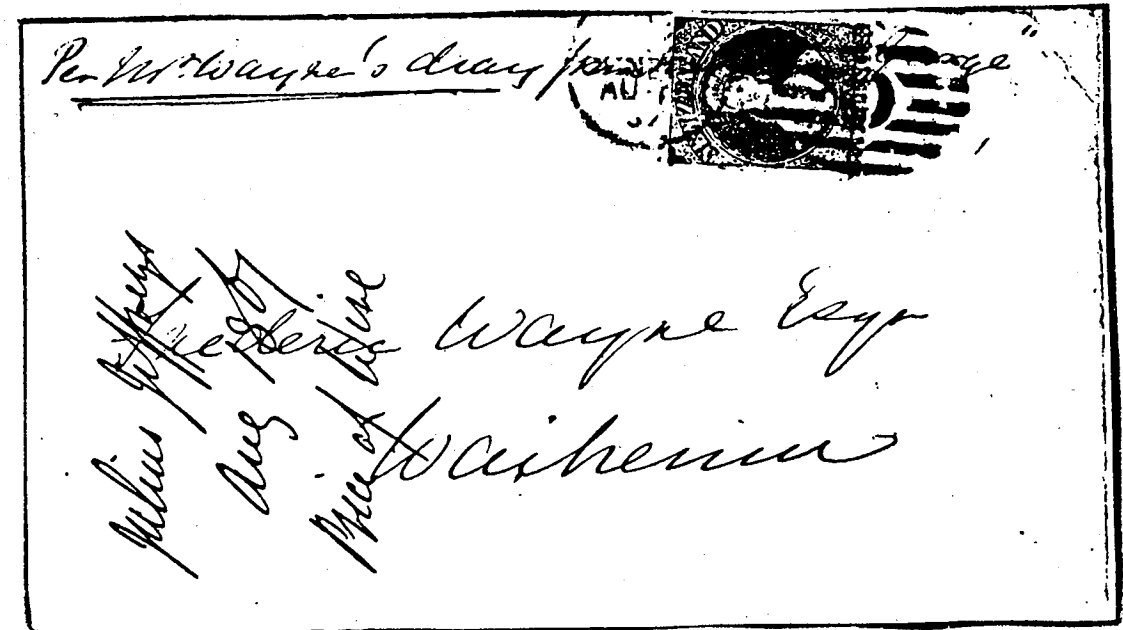
May I now go back in my 'Time Machine' and call to witness some items from ancient Egypt. The first letter that comes to mind was an ostrakon from Asclepiades, son of Charmagon, in the area of Thebes. He was a small land-owner, living in the town, with Portis, son of Permamis, as his tenant-farmer in the country.

The pottery sherd letter reads:

*'I have received from thee the fruit that falleth to me, and the increase of what I have let to thee for the year's sowing, and now lay nothing more to thy charge.'*

It is more than a receipt. It is a clearance for the year's share farming.

It had an interesting endorsement which read 'written by Enmelus, son of Herma, for him; he being slow of writing' - and the date. Perhaps the land-owner was a retired farmer and not skilled in writing, or perhaps he had retired physically incapacitated and was dependent on the share-farming for his livelihood. We do not know if Enmelus was a slave amanuensis or a paid scribe.



CROSS POST OUT OF OTAGO PER 'MR WAYNE'S DRAY'  
Taking Goods and Mail along the Waihemu Gorge  
Into the Farming Countryside in 1867.

Or, to take another case from the same region, also an ostrakon letter, this one from was in Deissmann's personal collection, and dated to the 2nd century.

This was a delivery order in the form of a latter from Harpocras, an Egyptian, to Phthomonthes and Plenis, 'husbandmen' of the lake area, for a small supply of wheat to make up a larger order and thereby complete a piece of outstanding business. He also requests that a small wheat order be supplied to his female slave who will take delivery of it.

Once again we see the social and economic life of the community based on the exchange of communications, both the art of writing and the system of using it for the conduct of business and for the supply and distribution of essential commodities. Postal history is indeed an ancient procedure and an essential fact of communal life.

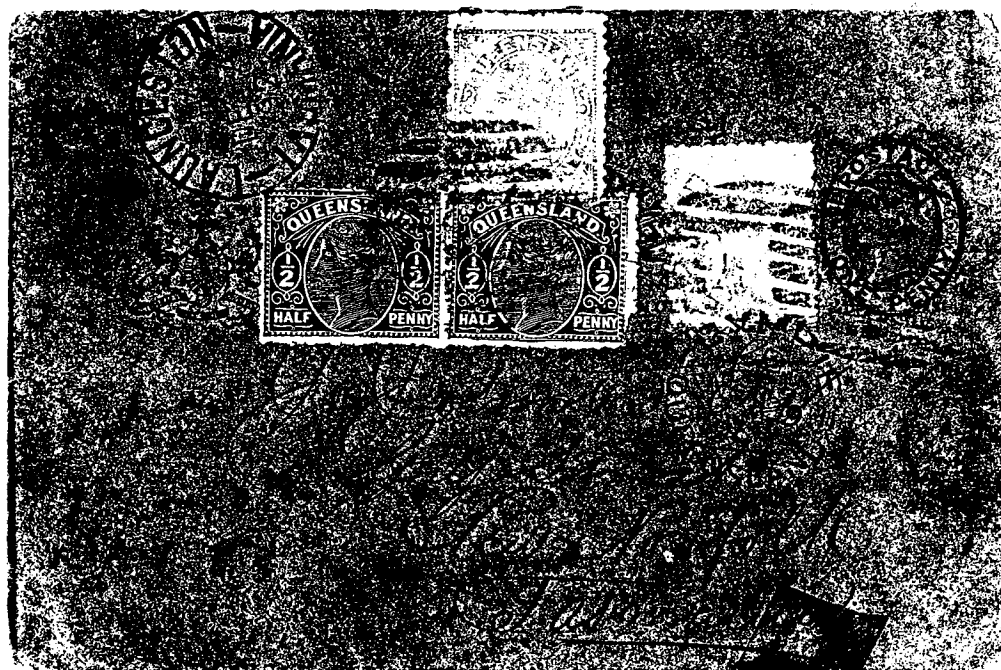
# A CASE OF CURIOSITY AND CONINCIDENCE

John Mathews

How many times, in the search for specific material for their collection, do collectors come across items quite unrelated to the subject of the search but which lead to interesting stories (or even a new collection)?

Such was the case with the discovery of the card shown below. When I saw it, I was immediately struck by the amount of postage paid and wondered what circumstance had required the writer to affix an additional 3d worth of stamps when the pre-printed 'Postage One Penny' plus an additional one penny would have carried the card to its destination (McMahon, 1989). Turning the card over, to see if the answer was provided in the writer's message, provided further surprises. First, the messages were written in shorthand, and there were two such messages in different hands. The second surprise concerned the number of circular datestamps on the reverse, illustrated on the next page.

Closer inspection of the card itself revealed that it was the 'forward' half of a Queensland Reply Card, the serrated nature of the top edge being quite apparent.



The first message was written in Gympie on November 28 1892, and the card set out from Gympie on the following day. Barred numeral 450 of Gympie cancels the pre-printed stamp and the adjacent one penny adhesive, which is also tied by the Gympie c.d.s. showing 'No 29/92'.

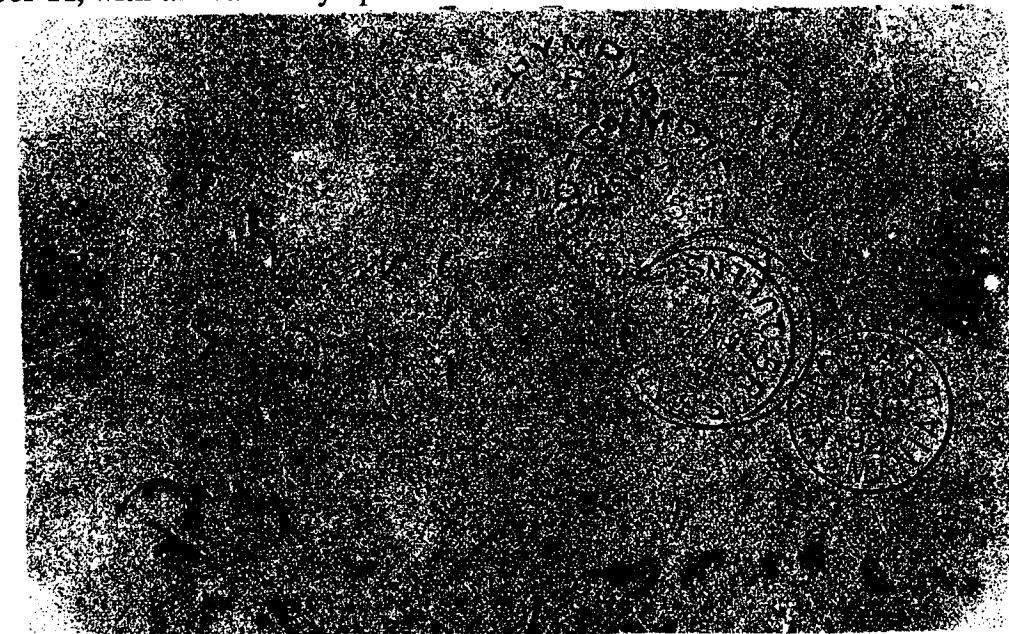
The first message reads:

Gympie 28/11/92  
Mr John Johnston,  
Dear Sir,  
Kindly return this card by affixing a Tasmanian stamp  
and oblige.  
Yours truly  
Helos Menadue

Underneath this is the reply:

Helos Menadue, esquire.  
Cards and letter with enclosure duly received with other stamp. Please return  
accompanying cards. Letter reach (?) tomorrow.  
John Johnston

When the card returned to Gympie, with the reply half folded over to provide the return address, these messages were now on the outside of the reverse of the combination, and the circular date stamps indicate transit through Hobart on December 6 and Brisbane on December 11, with arrival in Gympie on December 12.



But there are more c.d.s. marks on the back of the card. These are consistent with the addition of the further one penny adhesive and two half-penny adhesives affixed to the front of this part of the card - the card was folded back to its original arrangement for a second journey to Tasmania (reinforced by a hinge, the remainder of which is just visible at the top of the card under the one penny stamp)! The one penny stamp at the top of the card and the right-hand half-penny stamp are faintly tied by a Gympie c.d.s. of December 13 1892, and both half-penny stamps and the one penny stamp are tied by another '450' barred numeral cancellation.

The remaining date stamps on the reverse show a transit mark of January 5, 1893 through Brisbane on its second return to Gympie where it arrived the same day. The Launceston



c.d.s. of December 17, 1892 tying the left-hand half-penny stamp on the front of the card probably indicates the transit through Launceston as the point of entry to Tasmania on the card's second journey South.

The reply half of the card would show a similar range of curiosities - a Tasmanian stamp affixed to a Queensland Reply Card (and indeed probably more than one adhesive), a similar range of postmarks indicating arrival in and departure from New Norfolk plus transit marks from the two trips South, and no doubt further messages in shorthand from the second round trip!

Who were the two correspondents who seemed to have no other purpose than provide business for the Post Office?

The Queensland Post Office Directory for 1894/5 lists Helos Minadin (sic), Mary Street, Gympie. In 1896/7, the listing changes to Helos Minadue (sic), Fruiterer and Confectioner, Mary Street, Gympie, and from 1900 the entry reads 'Helos Menadue, Refreshment Rooms, Mary Street, Gympie.'

The Tasmanian Post Office Directory for 1899/1900 lists John Johnston, of New Norfolk, without address or occupation given. In the earliest electoral Tasmania electoral roll sighted, that of 1905, there are entries in the sub-division of New Norfolk for:

Johnston, John Thomas, Humphrey St., Asylum attendant and  
Johnstone, John Edwin, Burnett St., Asylum baker.

From 1912 onwards, John Thomas Johnston's occupation is given as Hospital Cook. In electoral rolls of other years, John Edwin's surname is also spelled 'Johnston'.

One can only guess how these two presumed philatelists from relatively small (in 1892) and widely separated towns knew each other.

So much for the curiosity, on to the coincidence. Less than two months after purchase of the above card, the author was perusing a Victorian dealer's shoebox of picture postcards and within it (less than 2cm apart) were two Queensland letter cards. One of these was sent in 1897 by Mr. Helos Menadue from Gympie to an address in Auckland, New Zealand - in long-hand, which explained how the Post Office Directory mis-spelled his name incorrectly twice before getting it correct! The other was sent in 1902 from Woombye, Queensland to Mr. H.Minadue (sic) regarding a consignment of bananas.

Reading McMahon (1989) I notice an article about the Queensland 1d Red Letter Card (Beston, 1988) and the example used as an illustration was addressed to 'Mr. H.Menadue, Fruiterer, Mary St., Gympie'! The card was sent almost exactly 19 years after the 'shorthand' card. Since then, I have seen four pictorial Queensland postcards sent in 1907/08 to Mr. H.Menadue, variously addressed to 'Fruiterer' or 'Confectioner', and all relating to consignments of goods on order to him.

Given all these coincidences, is it too much to hope that one day the reply half of the 'shorthand' card may turn up?

#### References

- McMahon, I., 1989. Queensland postage rates and regulations, 1860-1911 (part 3). *Capital Philately*, 7(2), p.29  
Beston, B.P., 1988. Queensland postal stationery. *Capital Philately*, 7(1), p.10.

### TASMANIAN POSTAL ACTS AND REGULATIONS, PART 1 1803-1846 PART 2 1847-1860 BY A.E.ORCHARD, MAGPIE PUBLICATIONS.

It is always a delight to welcome to the Society philatelists who have moved to the national capital. A new arrival in 1992 was Tony Orchard. This is a double joy as he brings with him Magpie Publications, which is devoted to the publication of philatelic monographs. The first of these, *Tasmanian Postal Acts and Regulations - Part 1 1803-46*, was launched on November 5th, the occasion when the Society celebrated its sixtieth birthday. *Part 2, 1847-1860*, was published in January 1993. Additional parts, to be published in the near future, will extend the time range to 1900.

The last few years have witnessed an increased frequency of texts devoted to the postal history of Australia. Progressively interest has turned to the evolution of the state postal services with the need to search out information from the colonial records. Dr Orchard's latest monographs represent the next stage in this process. That is the reproduction of the all the major acts, proclamations and regulations for a particular state. Thus *Tasmanian Postal Acts and Regulations* will form the basic reference for Australia's most southerly state.

The author is to be congratulated on the skill he has exhibited in putting together these extracts from the Tasmanian archives. The first Postal Act of 1828, the Proclamation of 1832 and the subsequent Acts are reproduced in facsimile form. The connecting text places these milestones of Tasmanian postal history in perspective. As the author states in his introduction '...there is commentary for those who do not wish to struggle through the, at times tortuous and quaint, English'.

Each of these major pieces of legislation reflects major trends in the development of Tasmanian postal history. That of 1825, occasioned by its separation from New South Wales in 1825, established the Government Post Office for the colony. The Act sets out the procedures by which an essentially private monopoly became a government agency. The 1832 Proclamation established the postage rates between Tasmanian Postal Stations. This is illustrated by a delightfully named 'Polymetrical Table' of distances and charges. The Act of 1841 built upon the postal reforms introduced by Rowland Hill in the United Kingdom, greatly simplifying and reducing the island's inland postal rates. The Act of 1853 coincided with the introduction of adhesive postage stamps.

One sidelight to catch the reviewer's eye were complaints by the Postmaster of Sorrell in 1841 that none of his postal messengers, all of whom were convicts, could read. Part 2 provides the background to the establishment of regular mail services between the United Kingdom and the Australian colonies.

The monographs are excellent examples of the merits of desk top publishing to produce attractive and reasonably priced texts. At prices of \$20.00 for Part 1 and \$22.00 for Part 2, these books should be on the shelves of all those interested in the postal history of the Australian States - even if their major interest is not Tasmania.

Copies were donated to the Society by the author and are available in the library. The monograph can be purchased from Magpie Publications, PO Box 3427, Weston Creek, ACT 2611. Postage and packing to Australian addresses is an additional \$2.00 for each part, surface mail to all overseas addresses requires an \$4.00 per volume.

**THE POSTAL HISTORY OF THE NORTHERN TERRITORY 1825-1988.**  
**A.E.WILLIAMS, PUBLISHED BY THE ROYAL PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF VICTORIA.**

This is the eleventh monograph in the J.R.W.Purves Memorial Series published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria. The author, Edward Williams, accords fulsome praise to the many collectors who contributed and especially to the late Phil Collas to whom the book is dedicated. It is a most welcome addition to the growing number of postal histories of the Australian states.

Part 1, of some hundred pages, is a most readable and thoroughly researched history of the Territory. The early short-term settlements at Port Dundas, 1824 and 1828-29, and Port Essington 1838-48 are described. Continuous white settlement commenced at Port Darwin (also known as Palmerston) in February 1867. Administration of the Territory formally passed to the South Australian government in 1862. It is important to note the extremely sparse and scattered population of the Territory. By 1881, well after the discovery of gold, the total white population was only 3,451 of whom only 104 were women. Alice Springs had a non-native population of only 40 when the railway arrived in 1929. Even now the population, including Aborigines, is less than half that of Canberra. Thus early postal items are truly rare.

Separate chapters are devoted to 'Gold by Mail', 'Mail Services and Cattle', the rail and steamer links and the special part played by the construction of the overland telegraph line in the early 1870s. Telegrams were delivered to cattle stations and, in the 1890s, a telegram to the Victoria River area by pack horse took three weeks of hard riding to cover the round trip of some 800km. Especially interesting are the arrangements for the carriage of gold by mail. Railways played a key role in the postal history with the NAR (North Australia Railway) opening from Darwin to Pine Creek in 1889, with later extensions to Birdum. Similarly the CAR (Central Australia Railway) which reached Alice Springs in 1927. On December 10 1919, Keith and Ross Smith completed their pioneering flight from London by landing at Darwin. They delivered the first overseas airmail to reach Australia. Cyclone Tracy, with its 'free mail' in 1974, is a further example of the special role the Territory has played in the nation's postal history.

Part 2 presents the story of the post offices and their markings. This is exhaustive with a classification of date stamps, an extensive account (based on Collas) of World War II military mail and concludes with accounts of paid handstamps and machine cancellations.

Part 3 covers related postal matters. These comprise the N.T. departmental overprints (first used in the Territory in the early 1870s), registration labels and frames.

An excellent account of a fascinating part of Australia's postal history - an example of how to write readable postal history. However, one must question the price of the monograph. A list price of \$120.00, even for such an excellently presented book, will undoubtedly lessen its availability. However, with a print run of only 300 copies, it will likely prove to be an excellent investment. It is sobering to note that *Commercial Perfins of Australia* privately printed by its authors and with a similar number of pages, sells at 75% less! The monograph can either be purchased directly from the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria or from philatelic literature retailers.

The book however, is available to members of the Society in our library and was purchased as a contribution to our Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

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