

POSTAGE
PAID
AUSTRALIA

SURFACE
MAIL



Capital Philately

Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra

If undeliverable return to
The Philatelic Society of Canberra
GPO Box 1840
Canberra ACT 2601

Print Post Approved
PP 299436/00042



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.
(founded 1932)

GPO Box 1840
Canberra 2601

President
Hon Secretary

Ian McMahon
Judy Kennett

Capital Philately

Editorial Committee

Dingle Smith (Editor)
Ian McMahon
Ian Faber
Judy Kennett

Home phone numbers for the Editor and the Secretary of the Society are:

Dingle Smith 06 2543294: Judy Kennett 06 2516997

Capital Philately is published quarterly and is supplied free to members of the Society. Other subscriptions are welcome - \$19 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 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 Editor or the Secretary.

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

COPYRIGHT: The copyright of the contents of *Capital Philately* is held by the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc. Items may be reproduced only with the written consent of the editor.

Cover design (c) by Judith Parker.

ISSN 0729-8765

CAPITAL PHILATELY

AUGUST 1995 - VOL. 13, NO. 4

Editorial	49
Philatelic awards to Alan Salisbury	51
Express post parcels	54
Ian McMahon	
Leeward Islands postal stationery - Part 1	55
Darryl Fuller	
Member profile - Elspeth Bodley	60
Dingle Smith	
Reviews:	62
<i>The first postage stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia 1901-12</i> , M.Hooper	
<i>Queensland postal rates and charges, 1832-1913</i> , H.M.Campbell	
Ian McMahon	
The early covers of the Sudan - a correction.	64
John Gibson	

EDITORIAL

How do philatelists selected what they collect? This question has always intrigued me, questioning of fellow members always provides enthusiastic responses and fascinating insights. The replies vary from collections arising from misplaced auction bids, thematicists selecting topics that arise from their non-philatelic interests and, for many new Australians, an avenue to maintain an active interest in their original homeland. Having decided to become a more specialised collector a common path is for the growth of the collection to slow as the more accessible and less pricey items are acquired. At this stage the decision arises as to how to expand one's interest to a new field.

A good choice for the established collector is to select an entirely new field. The possibilities are many. Venturing into thematics, revenues, postmarks, postal stationery, etc, often represent new challenges where the initial costs to the pocket can be small with the potential to search for new material and undertake research. An example of formalising this approach is The Great Australian Stationery Challenge (GASC). This venture was designed and co-ordinated by Ed Druce and commenced in 1994. Over thirty Australian collectors, including members of our Society, joined the challenge and selected a country with the aim of assembling an exhibit of modern postal stationery items. The country was to be, for each of the challengers, a new collecting interest. The list has now closed and the participants are busily trying to assemble material for their new collecting interest. A commendable feature of GASC is the circulation of a newsletter, this lists the interest of the challengers and encourages them to send spare material to other participants. This adds a commendable social and co-

operative element to the scheme. The aim is for all to exhibit their collections at a single exhibition in 1997.

Five of the challengers are from our Society and the chosen countries are Pakistan, Indonesia, Belgium, Canada and the United States. I chose Canada and have immensely enjoyed participating in this new venture. In the last few months I was fortunate enough to visit western Canada and, in addition to obtaining material from Canadian collectors, to spend a happy hour with the postmistress of a small rural post office in southern Alberta. Somewhat bemused as to the interests of an Australian collector of Canadian postal stationery, she invited me into her office to seek out unusual items. I left clutching a Canadian Post COD envelope and an AR card. My foray into Canadian postal stationery has proved to be relatively inexpensive, introduced me to a completely new field of interest and has been great fun.

Fired by the success of GASC, a new challenge has emerged - a traditional collection of one of the many French colonies. This list of challengers has not yet closed and anyone interested should either contact the co-ordinate Michael Blake (in Adelaide) or ask Ed Druce for details. Do not delay - many of the colonies have already been selected. Projected display dates are not for three or four years.

Of the Society members, Alan Salisbury is undoubtedly a leader in both the range and depth of research of his many collections. It is delight to include in this number of *Capital Philately* details of the Shakespeare Award and the Membership of the Philatelic Order of Australia both of which have been awarded to Alan in the last few weeks.

FINLANDIA 95

FINLANDIA 95, an international FIP competitive exhibition, was held in Helsinki from 10-15 May 1995. Five Canberra-based members of the Society entered, the titles of their displays and awards are given below.

E.C.Druce: *The Postal Stationery of New South Wales*. Large Vermeil and Special Prize.

D.Fuller: *The Postal Stationery of the Leeward Islands*. Large Vermeil.

H.Karman: *Frank and Free*. Vermeil.

E.C.Druce: *The Postal Stationery of British Honduras*. Vermeil.

D.I.Smith: *The Postal Stationery of Jamaica*. Large Silver.

I. McMahon: *The Postal Stationery of Canada*. Silver-bronze.

Special congratulations to Darryl and Ian on adding to the list of Society members who have exhibited at international level. Darryl's award for a 'first timer' was outstanding. Dingle has now achieved Large Silver awards at international level in four classes. FINLANDIA especially encouraged entries of postal stationery and the numbers in this class were larger than at most international exhibitions.

ALAN SALISBURY - THE INAUGURAL SHAKESPEARE AWARD AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC ORDER

The ACT Philatelic Council Inc awarded the inaugural Shakespeare Award to Alan Salisbury at a lunch held in his honour in Canberra on 25 June 1995.

The Shakespeare Award is presented in recognition of services to organised philately, especially in the ACT, distinguished philatelic study and research, the promotion of philately and public dissemination of philatelic knowledge. It is named after J.W. (Bill) Shakespeare who was one of three brothers who were the sons of T. M. Shakespeare, the founder of the *Canberra Times*. He was a leading force in the founding of the Philatelic Society of Canberra in 1932 and the Society's first Secretary/Treasurer and later President.

Alan Salisbury has been a collector for close on 50 years and a philatelist for almost as long. He has been a member of the Society for 36 years, holding many positions on the executive of the Society including President and Treasurer. He has also served on the ACT Philatelic Council, formerly known as the ACT Stamp Promotion Council. Alan is a consummate philatelist, having formed important collections in the fields of traditional, postal history, postal stationery and cinderella philately.

He is probably best known throughout Australia for his monthly column 'Commonwealth Corner' which ran for 14 years in *Stamp News*. He was also the foundation editor of *Capital Philately*, and has written innumerable research articles for this and for a range of specialised journals. Alan judged at many State and National competitions over a period of many years and was an FIP world judge at AUSIPEX 84. He has always been prepared to share his philatelic knowledge both informally by assisting individual members of the Society and formally through courses such as the Society's School of Philately. Over many years he has willingly taken time to talk to schools and to a wide range of community groups. A feature of his writing and presentations has always been the painstaking care in the preparation of the material both written and philatelic.

In short, Alan has given the widest possible service to ACT and Australian philately with outstanding service to the Philatelic Society of Canberra, superior research and philatelic study and training and encouragement to stamp collectors of all ages. Alan is, without doubt, the most appropriate person to receive the inaugural Shakespeare Award.

THE RESPONSE BY ALAN SALIBURY AT THE PRESENTATION

On my desk at home is a notice I cut from a learned magazine many years ago which says 'the whole body of economic theory can be summed up in one line - there is no such thing in the world as a free lunch'. Sometimes I look at it and wonder what it means, how does it fit in with the real meaning of life, but soon it all seems too hard and I go off and do something else.

In my life there about half a dozen things I pursue with great enthusiasm, and philately is right up there near the top of the list. Yet I have no philatelic antecedents, All I have it my father's schoolboy album, in which he wrote his name in 1901, and my earliest recollection is that my father took me to the Australian Philatelic Exhibition in Melbourne in October 1928 where I have a vague impression of seeing the miniature sheets of the 3d blue Kookaburra stamp being printed. Things developed after that, and my collecting interests started to grow.

I am a great believer in joining societies, where one can get access to information about matters of interest, for pleasure, hobbies or for research, and philately can offer enormous scope for this. However, there is also opportunity for making some contribution in return to provide advantages for others as well. I am a member of about 18 societies, most of which are philatelic, and four of which have taken me on for life. I have belonged to two societies for over 50 years, and the benefits from all of these are tremendous.

What of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, with its horrible appendage of 'inc'? I have been a member of the Canberra Society for more than half of its existence, but I had connections with it for many years before that. In the 1940s, I made numerous visits to Canberra, and met several collectors including members of the Shakespeare family. *The Canberra Times* had been founded by Thomas Shakespeare in 1926 but I never knew him. He had three sons who owned and managed the Company after his death. Bill Shakespeare was the leading philatelist in Canberra at that time, and he convened the meeting of eleven collectors in the Hotel Canberra in November 1932, which decided to establish the Society.

In the last issue of *Capital Philately*, there was a note that Bill Shakespeare was the first President of the Society. This is not correct. He was elected Secretary/Treasurer and held that position for some years, followed by a period as Exchange Superintendent. He did not become President until the 1950s. I visited Bill at his home in Turner and was familiar with his large collection, in which he was especially strong on Great Britain. I knew his wife Hazel well, and after Bill died in 1959, she gave me the books from his library, which I still have and value greatly. Hazel continued to live in Turner until she died in 1989.

Bill's brother Arthur was the managing director of the Company, and a leading businessman in Canberra. he had an interest in philately, but used to say that he did not have enough time to go into it deeply. However, he was well-known in the old Canberra City post office in Northbourne Avenue, and was always there on the first day of a new issue. He lived in the outskirts of Canberra in a place known as Blandfordia, but latter moved to Campbell until his death. His wife Heather still resides in Canberra. The third son, Jack, was the advertising manager of the Company. He had no philatelic interests, but was a great supporter of the Society and one of my closest friends in Canberra. He lived in Braddon with his wife Tory, and they both died some 20 years ago.

The upshot of all this is that the Society received great support and publicity from *The Canberra Times* at a time when it was one of a number of cultural bodies in what was a small country town.

A short time ago, I wrote a detailed history of the early years of the Society, and when I was searching the early files of the newspapers, it was notable how many times the Society was mentioned in a paper which after all often comprised only four or six pages. Frequent articles on activities appeared, showing names of office-bearers and even reporting displays given at meetings.

The Society became more widely known in 1963 when it organised the first philatelic exhibition in Canberra as part of the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the naming of the city. Ron Hyeronimus was the President and I was the Secretary. The exhibition, on a non-competitive basis, was provided by invitation sent to many of the leading philatelists in Australia, as well as local members. The event was a great success due to local government and community support especially from the Department of the Interior, which gave free use of the Albert Hall for the period. This event brought the Society into prominence throughout Australia, and the Society followed it up by an active policy of inviting leading philatelists to come to Canberra to provide displays and demonstrations at meetings. The programmes for those years contained many well-known names. The Society grew in importance and its status increased even more following the introduction of the National Philatelic Conventions which have been held every second year since 1980.

I feel very glad to have been associated with the Society for all these years, and the benefit to me has been tremendous. I have had six terms as President, and have occupied every position except one. I can see that the person who sits in that seat at the moment is worried; let me say at once that I have no ambitions in that direction!

There is one other association which I hope you will not mind me mentioning. I have been a member for a long time, and in fact as at today this has lasted for fifty years and thirty days. There is only one other member who is a notable authority on the history of Canberra, and on the early inhabitants of the region since Governor Macquarie visited Lake Bathurst in 1820. This fits in well with my own interest in postal and post office history.

In the last twenty years, there have been three major events which have been represented as being related to things which I might have done, and I feel that this function today comes within the same category. I am extremely grateful and honoured that you have come here today and I thank you for the free lunch.

In June the Australian Philatelic Federation announced the first Australian philatelists to be elected as Members of the Australian Philatelic Order. The list of seven included the name of Alan Salisbury, the Society is delighted to offer Alan our most sincere congratulations on this achievement. The awards will be formally presented at a celebratory dinner to be held in Melbourne on September 23, 1995. The background to this new Australian recognition for services to philately is given in the Editorial in *Capital Philately* for May 1995.

EXPRESS POST PARCELS

Ian McMahon

In July 1995 Australia Post introduced a Express Post service which enables parcels to be delivered overnight to destinations on the Express Post network for an \$8.00 express post charge plus a charge based on the weight of the parcel.

Parcels are required to have an Express Post self adhesive label affixed. The label, shown below at a reduced size, is similar in design to the Express Post envelopes and satchels. The labels are not however, prepaid with the parcel having to be taken to a post office, weighed and adhesive stamps affixed before being posted.



For any Parcel
Maximum Weight 20kg

 Australia Post

SENDER
Company Name
Contact Name
Telephone ()
Address
Suburb or Town
State Postcode

Express Post Parcel

Guaranteed Next Day Delivery

Affix
Stamps
Here

To: Company Name
For urgent
Attention of Telephone ()
PO Box Number
or Street Address
Suburb
or Town
State

No Dangerous Goods Declaration
Sender's Signature
I hereby certify that this article does not contain any dangerous or prohibited goods,
eg. Explosives, Flammables, Corrosives, Aerosols, etc.
Parcels without this declaration completed will not be forwarded.
* If in doubt ask at any Post Office. * A false declaration is a criminal offence.

Postcode
* Over specified routes.
Conditions apply -
see tear off panel for details

CUSTOMER
RECEIPT  Australia Post

How To Post Express Post Parcels
There are no forms to fill out; simply address, attach label to parcel, pay postage and post - by close of business at most Post Offices in the places included in the Express Post networks.

Guaranteed Next Day Delivery
The Guarantee: Next business day delivery is guaranteed over the specified routes printed on the back of this label, if the parcel is posted correctly on any business day Monday to Friday (see Note). If we do not deliver as promised, your postage will be refunded.

Note:
The carriage of parcels is subject to the General Postal Services Terms and Conditions.
Dangerous goods prohibited from carriage by post must not be posted.
Express Post parcels posted without a signed No Dangerous Goods Declaration will not be forwarded. Parcels posted otherwise incorrectly will be carried without guarantee.

WARNING! Not to be used for the carriage of cash, gold, jewellery, precious stones, negotiable securities or other valuables. Australia Post accepts no responsibility and will not be liable for any loss of, or damage to such items.

To:

Ref No:

PN 047105

\$
AMOUNT OF POSTAGE

The labels have a receipt portion with space for a post office datestamp and an indication of the postage paid, while the label carries the usual warnings regarding sending dangerous or valuable items. All the Express Post envelopes and satchels have recently been reissued with the warning *'Not to be used for the carriage of cash, gold jewellery, precious stones or other valuables. Australia Post accepts no responsibility and will not be liable for any loss, or damage to such items'*.

Overnight delivery is guaranteed for any destination on the Express Post network, which from Canberra is any of the state capitals (for Perth this is only to the central business district).

LEEWARD ISLANDS POSTAL STATIONERY- PART 1

Darryl Fuller

The Leeward Islands are part of the British West Indies and comprised five presidencies Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica (until 31 December 1939), Montserrat, St Kitts (including St Christopher Nevis and Anguilla, and the British Virgin Islands. They are no longer a political entity although at least once in the last decade I have read a newspaper report about a re-formation.

The individual islands came under the Leeward Islands administration on 21 August 1871, as a Federal Colony, but it was not until the 1890s that Leeward Islands stamps and stationery were issued. The individual islands did not have a large usage of stamps and it was decided that a single issue of stamps and stationery for use in all the islands would be more economical than individual issues. This was not acted upon until 1890 when new stamps were issued using the key plate concept developed by De La Rue. All previous issues for the individual islands were invalidated and the remainders were sold off at face value or above by tender. The Leeward Islands are unique, as far as I know, in using the key plate concept for all reigns from Queen Victoria through to Queen Elizabeth. The use of the key plates and in particular the numerous errors occurring on the KGVI issues have led to a considerable interest in the stamps of the Leeward Islands over the years. The stamps cover the period from 1890 through to 1 July 1956 when the stamps of the Leeward Islands were invalidated and the Leeward Islands was dissolved as a political unit. The fact that Leeward Islands issues run from late QV through to early QEII has made the islands a popular area to collect because there are virtually no expensive and rare early QV issues and no later QEII mass produced 'jam labels' of which Antigua and Barbuda are so fond of producing. However, philatelic usage was common and commercial usage attracts a significant premium.

The stamps and stationery of 1890 replaced all the individual issues and the islands found, after a couple of years, that their once significant philatelic income had dropped dramatically. This caused some concern and it was decided that the individual islands could begin to issue their own stamps once more but the Leeward Islands Federal issues would continue to be issued concurrently. This caused some concern with philatelists but created great interest because combinations of the issues could be found used on cover. I am uncertain if the Leeward Islands are unique in having dual issues sold simultaneously (as opposed to dual language) but the period of use, from 1902 to 1956, probably does make them unique because it was not a transient concept. The aim was to raise philatelic income. The Council governing the Leeward Islands approved, in 1898, a special issue of Virgin Islands stamps which were issued in January 1899. The other islands followed suit in 1902 when King Edward VII came to the throne and there was a general issue of stamps and stationery for all of the islands.

This introduction is necessary in order to appreciate the factors involved in the issue of the stamps and stationery, particularly the political and philatelic motives. The account of the postal stationery is presented by reign rather than type. This is because much of the interest arises from changing patterns of use of the different types. The Leeward Islands are typical of many small British Empire colonies

and all the stationery was produced by De La Rue using their standard stock and imprinting on the postage indicium. Only four different types of stationery were issued by the Leeward Islands, postcards including reply paid cards, envelopes, registered envelopes and newspaper wrappers. There was no postal stationery issued for QEII. The stamps of the Leeward Islands have been extensively studied, the postal stationery (as for most countries) has only been researched or collected by a few enthusiasts like myself. Despite this, there is good demand for the stationery because collectors of the individual islands often include Leeward Islands material.

This account will provide a broad sweep across the all of the known Leeward Islands postal stationery and will concentrate on usage and the relative scarcity of the used material. I will not go into any detail for specimen overprints and will only mention the few scarce mint items where appropriate. Unused stationery in very fine condition is worth a premium, particularly for the earlier material because any stationery that has remained on the islands tends to suffer from rust due to the climatic conditions.

Usage

Between 1890 and 1902 only Leeward Islands postal stationery was used in the islands. In 1902-3 there was a general issue of postal stationery for both the individual islands and the Leeward Islands and these were used concurrently. The dual issue of stationery continued until about 1928 when individual issues for the islands ceased due to limited demand.

The component islands of the Leeward Islands had very different rates of usage of postal stationery. In terms of usage in the five presidencies, Antigua tends to be the most common, followed by St Kitts, then Dominica. These three islands had significantly greater use than Montserrat while usage in the Virgins Islands is rare. The exception to the Virgin Islands rarity is registered envelopes which are less difficult to find used in the Virgins Islands, mainly because they never issued any of their own. The Virgin Islanders are very parochial (consider the stamp issue of 1899) and would always use Virgin Islands stamps and stationery instead of the Federal Leeward Island issues. Hence, except during 1890-1898 when only Leeward Islands stamps were available, all additional postage on Leeward Islands postal stationery used in the Virgin Islands used Virgin Island stamps. Any Leeward Island stamps used tend to be philatelic.

Usage in some of the individual islands making up some of the presidencies is also scarce. Usage in Nevis is not common and for the small island of Barbuda is limited, mainly to the 1920s and usually on the envelopes. I do have examples of commercial mail from this island although most is to a well known philatelist. Usage in Anguilla appears to be very rare and I have only ever seen one item of used Leeward Islands postal stationery from this island. Other cancellations that can be found include paquebots, manuscript cancels and usage in islands other than the Leeward Islands. All these are from mail posted on board ships. Stationery with cancellations other than those of the GPOs on most islands are rare and highly sought after and it seems unlikely that most of the smaller agencies carried much in the way of stationery. Given the range of possible usage of Leeward Islands stationery it is easy to see why interest has grown in this area over the last decade..

Queen Victoria

Postcards

The first stamps were issued on 31 October 1890 but the issue date of the postal stationery is less clear. It is known that the different types were issued at different times, one assumes as they were printed. The first items to be issued were the postcards in December 1890, not 1891 as listed in most catalogues and Robson Lowe. One assumes that these were the first to be issued because the UPU required all signatory countries to have an international rate (in this case 1½d) postcard available. One wonders what was used between 31 October and December 1890 when the postcards were issued. Four postcards were issued, the 1d red and 1½d brown single cards plus 1d+1d red and 1½d+1½d brown reply paid cards. Figure 1 illustrates what is probably the earliest known used postcard. It was posted on December 16 1890 and clearly proves that the cards were issued before 1891.

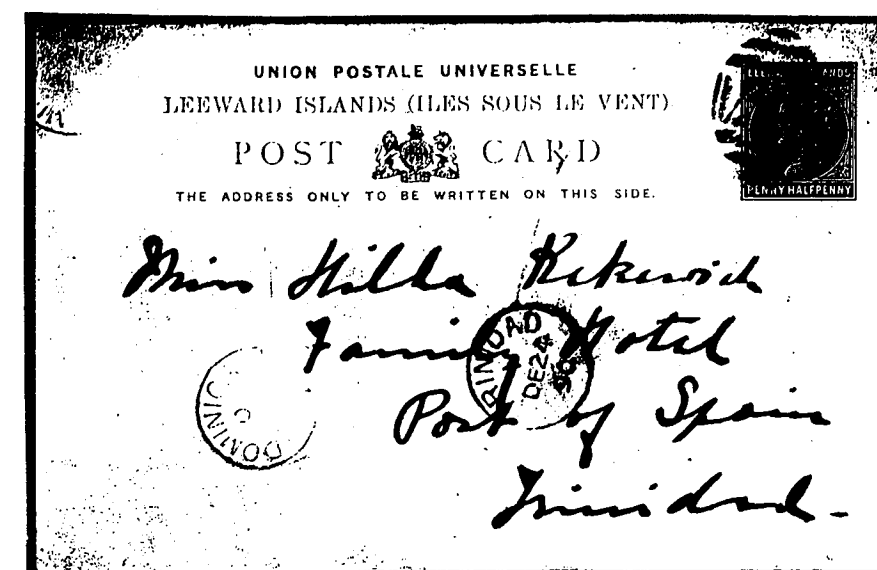


Figure 1. QV 1 1/2d postcard from Dominica to Trinidad posted on 16 December 1890, cancelled with the A07 barred oval. One of the earliest recorded used items of Leeward Islands postal stationery

The postcards were widely used and, with a few exceptions, are not hard to obtain. The 1d red postcard was for inter-island use until 1 January 1893 when it became the universal postcard rate. It is one of the most common used items of Leeward Islands postal stationery, although correctly used for inter-island mail prior to 1 January 1893 is quite scarce. Similarly the 1½d brown was only needed until 31 December 1892. However, it is often found used after this date, usually philatelically. The reply cards are less common and are usually found with either the front half or the whole card used. Used reply halves are very rare and I have only recorded one, returned from England. Most difficult of all is the Virgin Islands where non-philatelic usage was rare, virtually all philatelic usage was to Germany. The literacy rate for the Virgin Islands in the 19th century was low.

Newspaper Wrappers

The newspaper wrappers were also issued in December 1890 and comprised a ½d green and a 1d red wrapper. The ½d wrapper is the most common of all Leeward Islands stationery, over 250,000 were issued. Due to the large numbers and the fact that stationery was commonly collected in the 1890s, neither is hard to find although the 1d red is seen less often. In addition to the Virgin Islands, usage in Montserrat appears to be rare and as yet I have not seen examples. There may not have been a newspaper produced on Montserrat at that time, this might explain the low rate of use.

Envelopes

The first envelopes were issued in April 1891. These comprised a 1d pink and a 2½d blue with an embossed head. They were both issued in two sizes, 120x94mm and 140x78mm and are not hard to obtain although the 140x78mm size is slightly less common, particularly the 1d value. They are an attractive envelope and some very fine usages can be found. Figure 2 illustrates a fairly scarce usage, a copy of the 2½d envelope sent registered from the Virgin Islands to Canada with 2d in additional postage paying the registration fee.

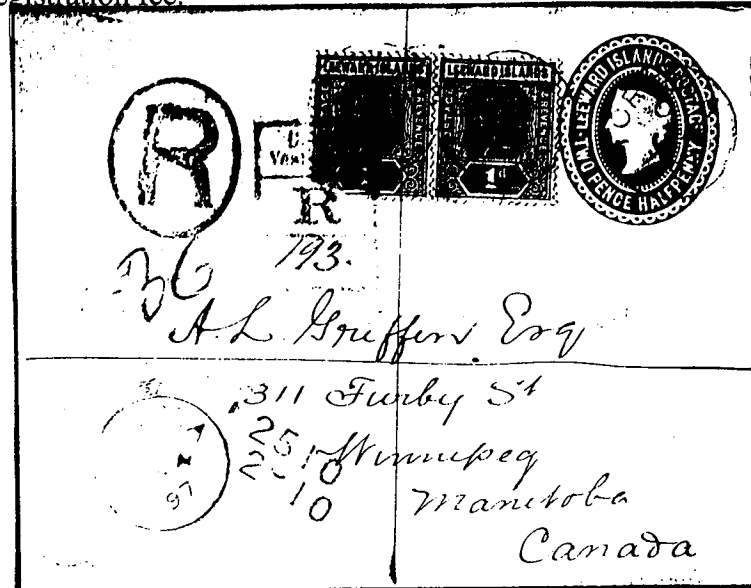


Figure 2. QV 2 1/2d envelope Tortola to Canada, 2d in postage for the registration fee. Danish West Indies registration handstamp in red, backstamped St Thomas, St Paul, New York & Winnipeg.

Registered Envelopes

The final QV stationery items to be issued were the registered envelopes in June 1891. They were issued in two sizes, G and H2, and had an embossed design for the 2d registration fee. Figure 3 illustrates one of the attractive De La Rue essays produced for the registration indicium. Used registered envelopes are a lot less common than the other QV stationery and most were used in Antigua. As would be expected, the H2 is less common than the size G. Figure 4 illustrates an attractive example of the size G used in Nevis with 1/0½ in additional postage, for a letter weighing between 2 and 2½ ounces. The QV 1/- stamp correctly used is particularly scarce, especially for Nevis.

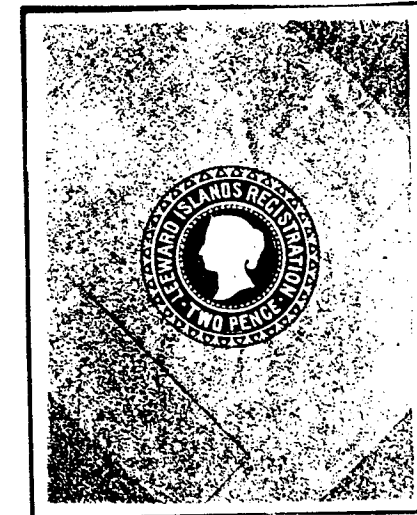


Figure 3. Artist's impression of 1891, in blue and China white on tracing paper, of the embossed head and value for the registration stamp. Dated 'FEB. 27. 91', about four months before issue.

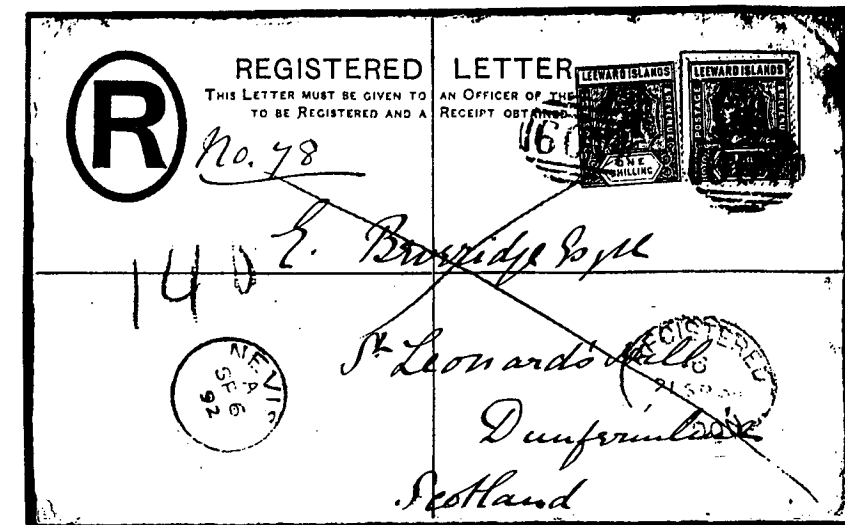


Figure 4. QV registered envelope from Nevis to Scotland SP 6 92, franked with 1/0 1/2d in additional postage paying the 2 1/2d rate for a letter weighing 2 to 2 1/2 oz.

This completes the listing of QV stationery. Relative to the later postal stationery (not relative to other countries), most issues are not difficult to obtain mint or used. One reason is that stationery was used extensively (and collected) in the period 1890 to 1902. The remaining stocks of QV stationery were not invalidated or sold off in 1902 but appear to have been kept at the GPO, at least in Antigua. It is possible to find the QV stamps and stationery used well outside the normal period of use. I have one example, a QV registered envelope sent by the postmaster in Antigua to the USA in 1921!

MEMBER PROFILE - ELSPETH BODLEY

Dingle Smith

It is difficult nowadays to open a newspaper or magazine that does not contain at least one article devoted to some aspect of gender balance. This is not true for the philatelic press although our hobby must rank as a male-dominated pastime. This can be illustrated from the history of our own Society, women members have always been in a minority. The account by Alan Salisbury of the first thirty years (see *Capital Philately*, 1992, v.11 n.1) lists two women among the eleven persons who attended the inaugural meeting in November 1932. Probably the first women to hold a Society office was Mrs Holliday, formerly a President of the now defunct philatelic society in Yass. Mrs Holliday was elected President in 1937 and again in 1941 and 1946. This was at a time when the future of the Society was in doubt, it can be inferred that Mrs Holliday played a key role in its rejuvenation. In the last thirty years of our history there have been two women Presidents. The first of these was Elspeth Bodley, who was President for years from 1981-1983. A period that included the Second National Philatelic Convention and the Society's first major competitive exhibition. In 1994 Elspeth was elected as a Life Member.

Elspeth's childhood was spent in Sydney and in a number of small towns in New South Wales. In common with many members of the Society she was presented with a stamp album at an early age but, in contrast to many members, this did not spark her latent philatelic talents. The perception of the day was very much that 'boys collect stamps'. Elspeth can however, precisely date when her stamp collecting interest was first aroused. This was in March 1968 when she was clearing up the papers of her recently deceased grandmother. Among the correspondence was a GB Silver Jubilee booklet, a few mint stamps and pieces torn from many generations of letters. What were these items worth? Malcolm, Elspeth's husband, was at that time involved with the production of children's live television programs with CTC7 and, perhaps surprisingly, these occasionally included segments devoted to stamp collecting. So there was relatively easy access to catalogues although these indicated that most of the items were worth only a few cents. The search for further information led Elspeth, in 1969, to attend a Society display night at the Griffin Centre. She was late and a glance through the window showed the meeting to be progress and all male! Her courage to open the door on such an august assembly failed and she returned home. Taking care to arrive before the meeting started, she attended again! Meetings at this time were, by contemporary standards, rather formal. Detailed minutes of earlier meetings and displays were read and Elspeth can only recollect two other women who attended on a regular basis. She also remembers a display by that doyen of Australian philately, Bill Purves. His exhibit of Victoria was so impressive that she still shies away from collecting Australian States. A key presentation however, was by Ed Druce on the postal history of Great Britain. The revelation that before the Penny Black there was a well-developed postal system opened up a new awareness of collecting and research. The use of entires carries the bonus of including the actual correspondence, a facet of Elspeth's collecting that continues to this day.

Attendance at SYDPEX 80 provided the opportunity for Elspeth to see, for the first time, how stamps were displayed. The Second National Philatelic Convention provided the stimulus for many members

of the Society to exhibit for the first time. Elspeth was one of them, with a display of the *Postal History of Great Britain* prior to the introduction of the adhesive postage stamps. This new found zeal continued with a Vermeil for the exhibit at ANPEX, held in Brisbane in October 1982. This qualified the display for entry at AUSIPEX 84 where she was awarded a Vermeil at international level. This is among Elspeth's proudest philatelic achievements.

Returning to the question of gender balance, ANPEX was probably the last National Exhibition which offered a special award for the *Best Exhibit by a Lady Competitor*. Elspeth must have been considered for this prize but expressed concern that there should be a perceived need for such award. One reason may have been that many women exhibitors had limited financial opportunity to acquire material. It is interesting that initially Elspeth allowed herself a dollar a week out of the housekeeping for her collection, a return to full-time employment permitted the opportunity to acquire more material.

Elspeth's collecting and exhibiting prowess should not obscure the invaluable assistance she has given to our hobby. She has been a member of the ACT Stamp Promotion Council (now the ACT Philatelic Council) continuously its initial meeting in the late 1970s and in that period has held almost every office including that of President. The formation of the Council co-incided with the formation, by Don Gray, of the Society's Junior Clubs and Elspeth has been involved with these for most of their existence; in part because of the paucity of other members who were prepared to find the time to do so. After a faltering introduction to the Society some twenty five years ago, Elspeth has progressed from a novice collector to become an outstanding exhibitor as well as qualifying as a National Philatelic Judge. Equally as important she has found the time to promote philately at both senior and juniors levels. She is still an active collector and has other collections that include New Zealand and the USA. A new interest is likely to extend to French Gabon, this is as a participant in the new 'collect a French Colony contest' which is outlined in the Editorial.

In describing the contribution of leading philatelists mention is often made to the supportive role of their spouses. In Elspeth's case it would be a major omission not to mention the contribution that Malcolm has made. While not a collector himself, Malcolm's photographic and public relation skills have been of real value to the Society over many years.

Philately still has a gender imbalance in the ratio of male to female collectors and exhibitors. However, the more obvious gender bias of our hobby has undoubtedly changed for the better since the late 1960s. One wonders how many female collectors have not had the courage to open the door to join meetings of male-dominated philatelic societies?

Only one stamp magazine provides
the complete coverage "down under"

Stamp News
AUSTRALASIA

Australasia's
leading magazine

BOOK REVIEWS

**THE FIRST POSTAGE STAMPS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA 1901-1912,
BY MAX HOOPER.**

Collectors of the stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia often begin their collections with the Kangaroo and Map series of 1913. Although these were the first uniform series of adhesive postage stamps valid for use throughout the Commonwealth, the Commonwealth of Australia first began issuing stamps in 1901, albeit with six different series of stamps, one for each state. It is these issues and the reasons why the Commonwealth Government persisted for so long with six separate series of stamps which form the basis of this book. The most often quoted reasons why separate issues were maintained for each state were the book-keeping clauses of the Constitution which required that income earned by the Commonwealth Government in a state be returned to that state. Hooper suggests that the instability of the Governments of the time which resulted in frequent changes of Postmaster General was also a major factor.

The book commences with some brief notes on Australian postal history, history of the early stamp issues and the history of Federation. A discussion of the book-keeping clauses of the Constitution follows including a discussion of the argument that the postal revenue of Tasmania would be seriously affected if a uniform series of postage stamps was introduced. This was because, supposedly, many of Tattersall's clients paid for the return postage with Tasmanian stamps. In addition the changes to the clauses which resulted in all issues becoming valid throughout Australia on 13 October 1910 are discussed. The difficulties of the Commonwealth in deciding where stamps should be printed, what the designs should be and inadequacy of the equipment available are also discussed. Brief accounts are also given for telegraph stamps, money orders, bulk postage, specimen, insurance, revenue stamps, fakes and forgeries, postage due, obsolete stamps, stationery and official stamps. The account also examines the information that is available about the number of stamps printed and sold as well as discussing the printers, printing methods, the perforations, watermarks and papers used in the production of the stamps of the period. There is a brief discussion of postal rates but postal history and postmarks are not covered.

The second part of the book discusses the printing arrangements for each of the state's issues, the printing of the postage due series in Sydney and Melbourne and the issuing of Australia's first postage stamps, inscribed Australia, and valid for use in all states. These feature the King George full face design on the 1911 postcards and lettercards. Finally, there is an epilogue describing the release of the Kangaroo and Map stamps.

The book is a useful reminder of just how interesting is this complex period in the history of Australia's postage stamps and just how much there is of interest to collectors. The book will have achieved its aims if it succeeds in encouraging collectors to pay more attention to this neglected period of Australian philately.

The monograph has 56 pages and a soft cover. There is a table of contents and a technical glossary but no index, a bibliography of further reading is given at the end of each section. The book is available from the publisher, The Australian States Study Circle of the Royal Philatelic Club of New South Wales, GPO Box 1751, Sydney NSW 2001 for \$24.00 including postage.

Ian McMahon

QUEENSLAND POSTAL RATES AND CHARGES, 1832-1913. BY HUGH M. CAMPBELL.

Hugh Campbell has been, for many years, the doyen of Queensland postal history and is accepted as an authority on the subject of Queensland postal rates and charges. This book expands and updates the discussion on rates and charges in his book *Queensland Postal History*.

The first chapter covers the rates during the period Queensland was the Moreton Bay District of New South Wales (1832-1859) and includes a discussion of internal rates, intercolonial rates, rates to the United Kingdom, other overseas countries, newspapers, packets, books and registration. The chapter is illustrated by seven covers bearing New South Wales stamps used in the Moreton Bay District including covers to the United Kingdom and registered cover.

The effect of the separation of the colony of Queensland from New South Wales on postage rates is the subject of the next three chapters which cover the rates from 1859 until Queensland joined the UPU in 1891. The first effect of the separation was that mail to New South Wales was now charged at the intercolonial rate of 6d per half ounce rather than intracolonial rate of 2d per half ounce. During this period Queensland was free to set its own rates, to make its own postal arrangements with other countries and its own arrangements for the carriage of mail (for example by establishing a mail service to the United Kingdom via Torres Strait). This was a period of quite complex rates which are well tabulated in the book. The tabulations cover rates within the Australasian colonies as well as to the United Kingdom and overseas countries and include rates for letters, postcards, newspapers, packets and parcels as well as fees for registration and late fee services.

Chapter 5 gives an account of the rates and fees that applied in Queensland from its joining the UPU until the colony joined the Commonwealth of Australia. Queensland joined the UPU on 1 October 1891 and at that time the letter rate to all members of the UPU became 2 1/2d per half ounce (this rate had applied to all mail to the United Kingdom from 1 January 1891). Illustrations include a cover posted to San Marino in 1893 paying 1/- for the double weight rate to a non-UPU member country in addition to the 3d registration fee.

Chapter 6 covers the applications of Australian Commonwealth postal rates in Queensland over the period 1901-1913 including the introduction, at long last, of imperial penny postage in 1911. The final chapter covers the regulations relating to deficient postage and illustrates some of the tax markings to be found on Queensland covers including the 'Insufficiently Paid via Brindisi'.

Overall the book is a very useful compilation of the known information about Queensland postage rates and is an essential reference for Queensland collectors. It is well illustrated, with a wide range of covers showing many of the rates described. There is a listing of illustrations at the front of the book which facilitates the location of covers illustrating particular rates. There is a short but comprehensive bibliography.

The book is soft-bound, 96 pages and indexed. It is published by the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and is available for \$30.00 from the National Stamp Gallery, 79 Bourke St, Melbourne Vic 3000.

Ian McMahon

THE EARLY COVERS OF THE SUDAN - A CORRECTION

John Gibson

Unfortunately I did not correct an error in the second paragraph of my notes on Sudanese philately (*Capital Philately*, v. 13, n.3, 35-39). The second sentence should read '*One of the earliest covers was written by Bishop Ignatz Knoblecher in Khartoum on 2nd April 1852*'. It may be of interest to add some further information on other early covers that illustrate the postal arrangements prior to the establishment of a formal postal system in the Sudan in 1867.

There are four covers known so far from Egyptian Sudan prior to the opening of post offices there. The earliest is a small stampless entire to Stuttgart endorsed 'Chardum 31/3/46' which is postmarked at the Austrian Post Office ALEXANDRIEN 12 MAI. The second earliest is the large entire from the Bishop containing a long letter to an Austrian countess. This appears to have been the first of these covers to be discovered, and was originally in Robson Lowe's collection. It is the subject of an article written by him in *The Philatelist*, February 1961 and reprinted in *Camel Post* in 1986.

Two further covers turned up about ten years ago in the Austrian Levant section of a Coronphila sale. They are both dated in 1963 and are endorsed by the sender 'Von Chartum' or 'Chartum Central Africa'. These also went through the Austrian Post Office at Alexandria. Amazingly all four covers ended up in the collection of Mr Giovanni Frechi of Milan, and all were included in the Harmer's sale of March 1993. A further cover from Suakin was reported by Professor P.A. Smith which also predates the Egyptian post office. It was sent from Suakin in 1864 when the area was still under Ottoman control, and travelled to Berlin via the Austrian Post Office in Alexandria. Suakin became Egyptian three years later, together with Massawa. At that stage it formed part of a vague Red Sea coastal territory, extending from Cape Gardafui and included the Somali ports of Zeila and Berbera.

Other covers may turn up as collectors check endorsements on items from Alexandria during this early period. Austrian Levant is a very popular collecting interest in Europe, and it would seem that until recently there has been no interest in the distant origin of covers which entered the post at Alexandria.

Books and Tapes for Sale

The following products are available to all stamp collectors and Clubs. The profits are used to subsidise Philatelic Journals and for other APF projects. By buying these products you are supporting our hobby.

BOOKS:

Guide to Exhibiting and Judging Traditional Philately and Postal History Exhibits. An FIP How to exhibit book. 2 vols in colour. A4 size soft cover. Price includes postage on this item. **\$25**

New South Wales Postal History to 1870. Dr E C Druce. A black and white photocopy of his international Large Gold Medal winning collection.

Tasmania from Settlement to U.P.U. Membership. Michael J Blake. A black and white photocopy of his International Gold Medal winning collection.

Either of the above two books. A4 size, cloth bound, hard cover **\$40**

Loose unbound copies of the above two collections are available at **\$25**

VIDEO TAPES (VHS)

The following video tapes are available from stock:

Ausipex '84 **\$20**

Jersey the Stamp of Success **\$10**

Thematics, Postal Markings, Postal Stationery, Types of Stamps **\$20**

BUY ALL THREE **\$40**

POSTAGE AND PACKING

The FIP exhibiting books are post free. Other books \$6 per package. Video tapes \$3 per package, regardless of quantity. This way clubs and groups can benefit.

Send your cheque to:

The Australian Philatelic Federation
PO Box 208, Torrens Park, SA 5062, Australia.