



Capital Philately



firm. In that case, it was noted that the critical reviewer paid little attention to the serious and literary content of the articles. In general, therefore, it may be claimed that we have been well received.

Some guide to the standard of this journal may be seen in the fact that "Capital Philately", in two entries into the competitive world philatelic exhibition field, has received two awards, and this pays a tribute to the authors of the wide-ranging area of articles published. Most of these have been produced by members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, but in recent issues, there have appeared feature articles by philatelists from other parts of Australia, and these provide a wider outlook than might be expected from one single Society, however erudite its membership. This infusion is to be welcomed, and the journal is grateful for the willingness of the authors to produce and set out their thoughts for others.

The journal relies heavily on its advertisers, who, in turn, are entitled to the support of the readers. It needs, also, the support of a wider range of readership than can be found within the ranks of the Society, and, while there has been some indication of interest from "outside" people, more of the same is to be welcomed. Finally, the Society is indeed appreciative of a grant from the Canberra Community Development Fund, and particularly for an unsolicited, unexpected and handsome donation from a philatelic group, which do much to lessen the gloom of the financial outlook.

On a different subject, one of the features of philately in this country has been the increase in the number of exhibitions, at various levels, throughout Australia. All of these events depend for their origin, execution and success on the voluntary efforts of those who are concerned to keep philately alive and well. There may be some reason for a fear that there are too many exhibitions, so that the comparatively small number of people who are actively involved will become tired of it all. It is a fact that the exhibitors include many who enter time after time, so that their displays become well-known and they accumulate a large number of awards, leading to a lessening of interest on the part of viewers, who have seen it all before, and who may be discouraged from entering what can seem to be a closed field. But one of the main aims of exhibitions is to encourage those who have never ventured to enter, to try their hands at it and emulate the efforts of those who provide the main running. It is only in this way that future exhibitions will attract the numbers of higher-class entries which they need.

There are two important events in the reasonably near future, remembering that the preparation of a large exhibition takes a considerable amount of preliminary time. In March 1986, the Philatelic Society of Canberra will hold the Fourth National Philatelic Convention, in the precincts of the Canberra General Post Office. The three previous events have each in turn achieved a great deal of interest and success, culminating in the 1984 Convention, which was given the status of a National Exhibition. There is no National event to be held in Canberra in 1986, but the Convention will be in the nature of a State Exhibition, and, as such, deserves the support of anyone who has the urge to enter. What better way can there be of making a philatelic debut? Such entries, followed by the critique of qualified judges, surely will give the entrants the experience which is essential as a preliminary to competitive entry at National and higher levels.

The 1986 Australian National Exhibition was scheduled to be held in Adelaide in August of that year. However, the status of the event has been raised to a higher level, when the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately granted it the status of a Regional International Exhibition - the seventh such event in this part of the world. The Federation will hold its annual Congress at the same time. This will be a major philatelic occurrence for Australia, and calls for the support, if not by way of entry, then at least by attendance, of all collectors. The preliminary expenses are enormous, and the organisers need all the assistance that is possible. They have provided an attractive range of publicity items, details of which are being well advertised.

It is the policy of "Capital Philately" to support and publicise all worthy philatelic enterprises. Exhibitions of any category give the opportunity for everyone to show their interest.



STAMPEX '86 INC.
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THE POSTAL HISTORY COLUMN - EARLY N.S.W. MARKINGS
E.C. Druce

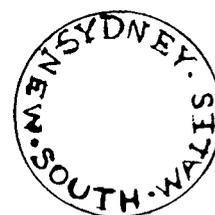
The regulation and organisation of postal matters in the colony of New South Wales evolved slowly after original settlement in 1788. This is unusual in that the Government ran everything and Governments generally seek to regulate as much as possible. The paradox is that because it was a Government-run colony, a postal service as such was not required. Those that could write and had a need to communicate were the officials. They had easy resource to the naval ships which alone carried the mail in the earlier days. On land the slow spread of settlement and officials from Sydney Cove meant that mail could be handled without the need for a post office or regulated mail system.

Eventually the need to provide some regulation arose and in 1809 Isaac Nichols was appointed to direct an office which was established where all parcels and letters addressed to the inhabitants of New South Wales had to be deposited prior to their distribution. The appointment of Nichols triggered the first handstamp, a simple circular mark with Sydney New South Wales around the perimeter. This is known to have been used from 1813 to 1819(1). The early 1820s were devoid of markings but a dated circular handstamp for Sydney came into use in 1828. It was in that year that country post offices began to be opened in the small towns along the roads radiating from Sydney.

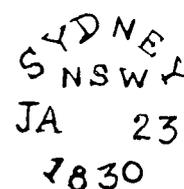
During the 1830s some forty one offices were issued with town handstamps. These are unusual in two aspects - firstly they were non-uniform and secondly they contained no reference to mileage from Sydney. I say unusual because it is clear that knowledge by the officials of postal systems and markings would be almost entirely confined to the British system. In "Capital Philately" volume 1 number 4 (August 1983) I outlined the evolution of town markings in Britain. They were characterised by two features in the early 1800s - a general standardisation of type and the incorporation of a figure denoting mileage from London. It is for these reasons that I find the first town markings of New South Wales unusual.

There maybe good reason for the non-incorporation of mileage from Sydney - firstly the Postal Act of 1825 did not base the inland rates on distance but merely on weight and secondly by the time the Acts of 1835-38 introduced rates based on distance and weight, the practice of incorporating mileage in handstamps had fallen out of favour in Britain. As for the non-uniform handstamps, I have no answer; perhaps it was the first demonstration of rugged Australian independence! However R. Tobin in "Postmarks of New South Wales - Part One - A History of Post Office Datestamps" notes that there is evidence that the handstamps were engraved by Samuel Claybon, particularly those issued in 1828.

While the handstamps were non-uniform they do fall into nine broad groups:



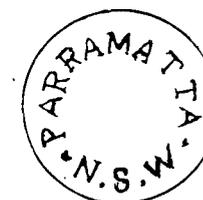
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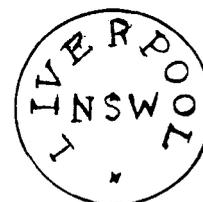
2



3



4a



4b



4c



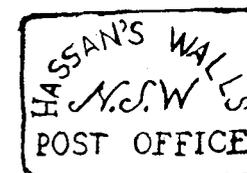
4d



5



6



7a



7b



8



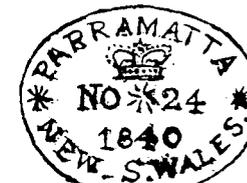
9



10



11



12

- circular with town name, dated(3)
- circular with town name, undated(4)
- double circular with town name between circles(5)
- two line markings with NSW in second line(6)
- horizontal lozenges(9)
- vertical lozenges(8)
- boxed rectangles(7)
- horizontal crowned ovals(10)
- horizontal dated ovals(11).

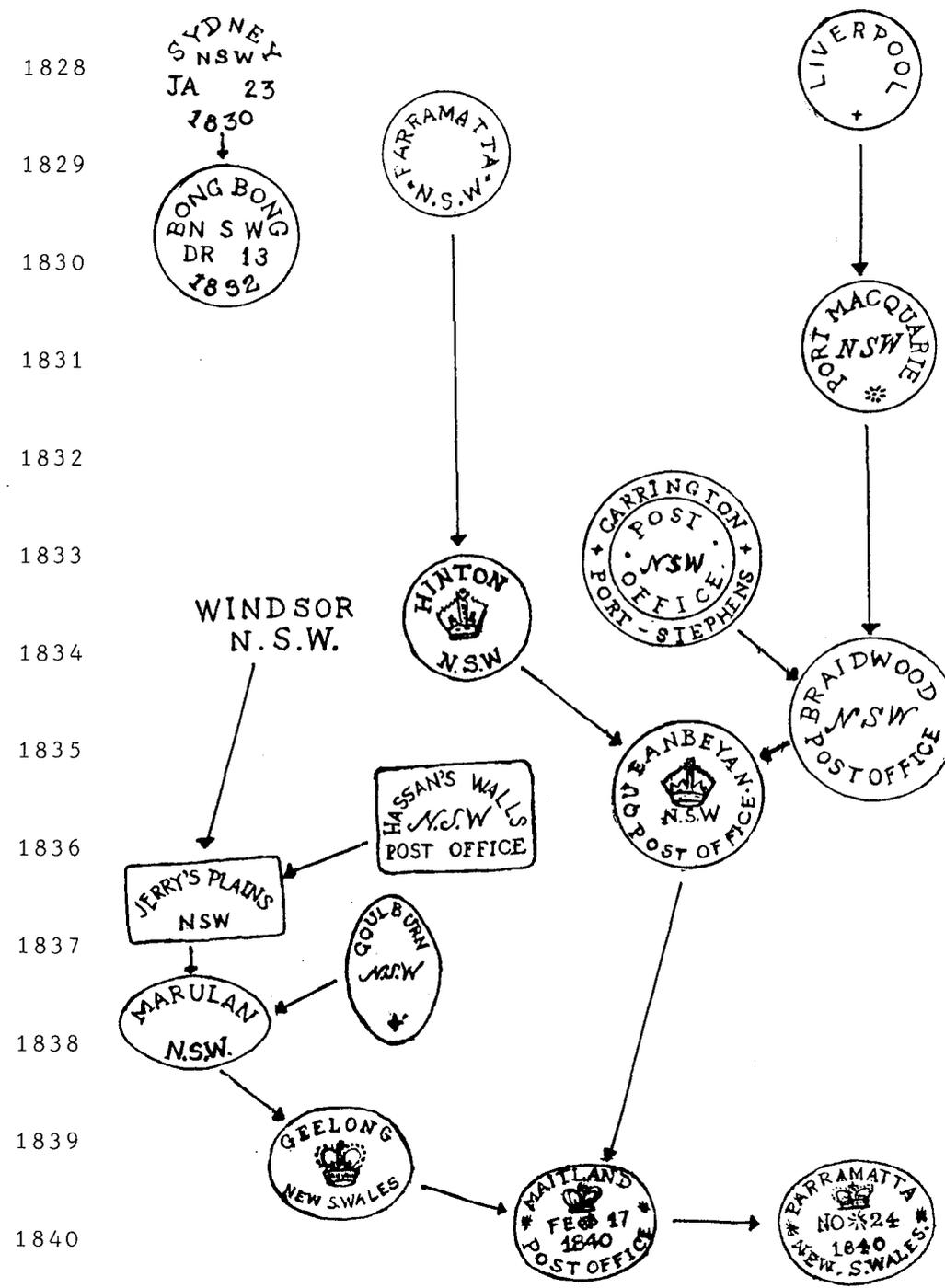
The nine types are illustrated above and demonstrate the diversity of the handstamps. The circular markings with town names are similar to the second Sydney handstamp(2) which incorporated a date. Country offices were generally issued with date-stamps until 1839. However both Bong Bong and Darlington(3) which were opened in September 1829 were issued with handstamps similar to that of Sydney. Bong Bong was later renamed Berrima and the name was changed in the handstamp. Tobin also suggests that Maitland should have been issued with a similar handstamp.

The most common handstamp issued in the early 1830's was the circular undated type. At least four sub-types exist and perhaps a fifth. This fifth type was illustrated by Burnett Bruce in "The NSW Philatelic Annual" and comprises solely the name, in this case Liverpool. Tobin does not recognize this type but does state that Liverpool and Newcastle were the only towns to secure handstamps in 1828. As Burnett Bruce records Liverpool having a second handstamp with NSW in the centre in 1839 (and perhaps earlier) it is tempting to conclude that the presumed fifth type of undated circular mark was the first issued in 1828. The next batch of handstamps issued appear to be the type with NSW across the centre known for Alcorns Inn, Campbelltown (Burnett Bruce), Goulburn, Liverpool(4b), Newcastle (Burnett Bruce), Port Macquarie and questionably Bungonia (Burnett Bruce). A second sub-type is similar but has the NSW at the bottom and is known for Parramatta(4a) and, later, Melbourne.

The next sub-type, with a crown in the centre was issued to post-offices opening in the mid 1830s such as Hinton (1835), Queanbeyan (1836)(4d) and Cawdor (1836, near Camden). The final sub-type is a further variant with the crown in the centre but the words post office at the foot. This is known for Braidwood(4c) and Yass (authorized 2.3.1835).

Three handstamps are totally different, being two-line markings with the town in the upper line and NSW in the lower. They are known for Windsor(6), Penrith and Bathurst which are on about the same line of road. Although their general usage is in 1836 and 1837 they were probably issued in 1834.

At about the same time some unusual double circular marks were issued for Carrington(5) which incorporated the words Post Office and Port Stephens, Wollongong (sic) with the words Post Office and a similar mark for Invermein (later Scone) which had a double outer frame (Burnett Bruce). The Carrington handstamp is reported as



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having No 14 in the centre; a copy was illustrated in a Robson Lowe sale on 7 May 1985 and although it is smudged and could be No 14 my belief is that it is NSW and I have shown it this way.

In the late 1830s there was some experimentation with oblongs and vertical and horizontal lozenges. Oblongs are known for Hassan's Walls(7a) and Jerry's Plains(7b), horizontal lozenges for Marulan(9) (authorised 21.3.1838) and vertical for Goulburn(8). In late 1839 or early 1840 another type was introduced - an oval with name at the top, crown in the centre, and post office at the foot. This is known for Campbelltown, Geelong(10), Kempsey and Tamworth.

Amongst all these unusual handstamps there is one more intriguing example and this is the Maitland handstamp(11). At first blush it appears to be an example of the second type of crown handstamp - the very much standard oval crowned datestamp. But that handstamp has "NEW. S. WALES" at foot whereas the Maitland marking has "POST OFFICE". Maitland post office was opened on 8th September 1829 and would have been expected to use perhaps a circular type of the first issue - however none is recorded. My earliest recorded Maitland town marking is the oval "post office" marking of 17th February 1840.

Thus two strong possibilities remain. The Maitland "post office" was either a mistake and it should have been a "New. S. Wales" handstamp or it forms an evolutionary trend from the crowned oval dated handstamp of Sydney which contained the words "General Post Office Sydney" to the standard second issue for country towns(12). Certainly by 30th August 1843 Maitland had been issued with a perfectly normal oval datestamp with "New. S. Wales" in the lower part. What we need are some examples of Maitland town handstamps before 1838; anyone volunteering?

I began this article by saying that the early New South Wales handstamps were non-uniform. While this is correct, it may well mask an evolutionary relationship between the handstamps. This is perhaps explained better diagrammatically, so here goes.

This schema is hypothetical and it ignores the fact that Robson Lowe says circular dated ovals for country towns were introduced in 1838, Rigo de Righi says 1839 and Tobin repeats that. I have found no evidence that the standard dated ovals were introduced pre-1840. Another way that these ideas could be shot down is by finding not yet recorded markings which do not fit the above schema. So keep your eyes skinned for Maitland, Collitts Inn, Stroud, Inverary, Paterson, O'Connell, Raymond Terrace, Dungog, Strathallon (later Gosford), Cassilis, Lake George (later Bungendore), Murrurundi, Muswellbrook and Wellington markings used pre-1840.

WHY I COLLECT - NORTH BORNEO**D.A. Pocock**

Editor's Note: Dr Pocock, who lives in Dalkeith, Western Australia, is a forensic pathologist. His philatelic interests range from specialist Western Australia to Nicaragua, and he is a past President of the W.A. Philatelic Association and a founder of the W.A. Study Group. He has judged at many National Exhibitions, is a qualified international judge and was one of seven Australian judges at AUSIPEX 84.

I inherited my father's stamp collection at the age of twelve. It was a single whole-world album, and I have memories of him working on it from time to time on the dining-room table. It was a small, very general, and cheap collection, of which now I can hardly remember anything. Except his North Borneo.

There were twelve stamps - a rhinoceros, an elephant, a dyak, a train, a funny-looking tree, an animal which I found was a tapir, a monkey and other pictorials. My simplified catalogue told me they were from a British colony (a protectorate, actually, but that I did not understand), and this country had three columns in the catalogue compared to every other place which had only two. For a British colony too, the stamps were different from the others: the designs were not standard, there was no Monarch's head on them - this was 1943 remember - and as an additional attraction they were cheap - especially in column three!

My fellow school-boys could only boast one or two stamps of North Borneo, and, although I realise now of course, that my father had just bought a three-penny packet, I was seen as a collector to admire. So in order to stay in front at least in this small area, I became a North Borneo specialist. Over the years I gradually acquired more and more, until upon leaving school I had about one hundred North Borneo stamps mounted on some twelve pages in a loose-leaf album and even containing a set or two. Of course, those were the days of dealers with shop-windows full of all sorts of stamps mounted on sheets and all individually priced - truly a gold-mine for the budding specialist looking for odd items.

After school the exigencies of earning a living, night school, the army and then medical school meant my collection languished unattended, although I did try and buy the new sets that North Borneo issued in the late 1940s and through the 1950s. It was in early 1960 that life as a hospital intern brought a well-needed chance to relax for an hour or two with something - so out came the stamps. More purchases were made from dealers' approval sheets and advertisements in magazines. Those too, were the days when the

philatelic press was not full of new issues, souvenir covers or unhinged mint: they actually advertised old material from stock.

Up to this point, I had made no effort to join a club. Time was short and place of residence changed frequently. However, it was surprising how many of my medical colleagues also collected - often admitting it apologetically, as if it were something they did but which might be disapproved of by their peers as a trivial pastime. One obviously keen colleague did say that a specialist should join a specialist society, and he found out for me that one actually catered for North Borneo collectors. Up to that time, I thought I was the only one who "specialised" in this country! So I applied for membership to the Sarawak Specialist Society which had recently extended its coverage to all the Borneo territories. Shortly thereafter and with some trepidation, I attended my first meeting, not knowing a soul.

After various misidentifications (doctors are not expected to be young men) I was introduced, and rapidly I realised that my specialising was not a collection to be flaunted in this company. Charming and friendly they were but I realised that this was the first division and I was in the C grade reserves. By judicious silence, I learned a lot and then bought one small collection of post-marks at the auction, a collection which was to stimulate my interest for over twenty years.

It was that Society, with its journal and its members, which really showed me what philately was all about. My meagre accumulation of c.t.o. (3rd Column) was definitely infra dig, but gradually over the intervening years my scope has broadened to postal history, postal stationery, postmarks, flaws, plating and even revenues. North Borneo is a small territory philatelically, difficult to complete and with a historical fascination that is hard to beat. The background reading that any specialist automatically acquires showed me a country run as a limited company with few white men and ever mindful of a profit. Sometimes that profit came from stamps and the story of that third column was almost a rehearsal for the current philatelic profiteering.

It is over forty years now since I first saw those few North Borneo stamps my father must have bought and the romance has never gone out of the enthusiasm they engendered. They have brought me international friendship, countless hours of relaxation and interest and a collection which, whilst it will never be complete, is so different that another fellow-philatelist can see something new in it and become as enthusiastic about it as the collection is for its proud owner.

THE FLESH ON THE SKELETON**(A Case Study in Reconstructing Postal History)****A.R. Tippet**

Like a Fijian trying to start up something for an evening indoors, I throw out a kind of challenge: "Let me riddle you a riddle!" Then I confront you with my cryptic image and ask, "How much flesh can you put on a skeleton?"

A group of us in the Club Room one lunch-hour was discussing the nature of History, more particularly Postal History. I'm not sure that what we call Postal History is really History at all. We speak of Political and Military History, and I myself am involved with Social History and Religious History - and of course there is a common element, and a common method of writing-up, which makes them all History. I read the writings of Alan W. Robertson, like his article "The Steamship, 'Great Western': a Mighty Mail Carrier", say, and Howard Robinson's "Carrying British Mails Overseas", and I know at once that both Robertson and Robinson are historians - and postal historians at that. But, on the other hand, I look at the top displays in Postal History at the exhibitions and I do not have the same feelings. As a philatelist and an historian I am really struggling with that gulf between the writing and the display.

Ausipex 84 gave me many hours of sheer ecstasy and a good many hours were spent in the Postal History Class, but here there was something really disturbing. Undoubtedly the two finest displays of this kind, one of Middle Ages material from Europe and the other from the American Wild West, though both rewarded, did not receive the recognition of which I thought them worthy. And by the way, this is not a criticism, but a question: a riddle if you like! Of a display in Postal History I expect something recognisably History. I expect an entry with a capacity to so interest a professional historian that he will consider philately as a valid data-base for his own craft, and maybe take up philately himself.

When one exhibits, and is limited, say, to three or four frames, how does he do History? Can he communicate something to the spectator? Or does he have to conform to a lifeless pattern set to score points in a rigid system? When I read a dull and formal history book I always ask "Why can't History be dynamic, as in real life?" Now, I grant that down underneath there has to be a formal body of facts, a time-line or some structure. I grant also that somebody has to work on rates, routes, catalogues, schedules, and so on, in the first place, and that this should be rewarded,

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especially when new ground is broken in such areas. Every presentation must surely have a skeleton. That must be researched and it must be correct. But a skeleton is still only a half truth. And no half truth is fully true.

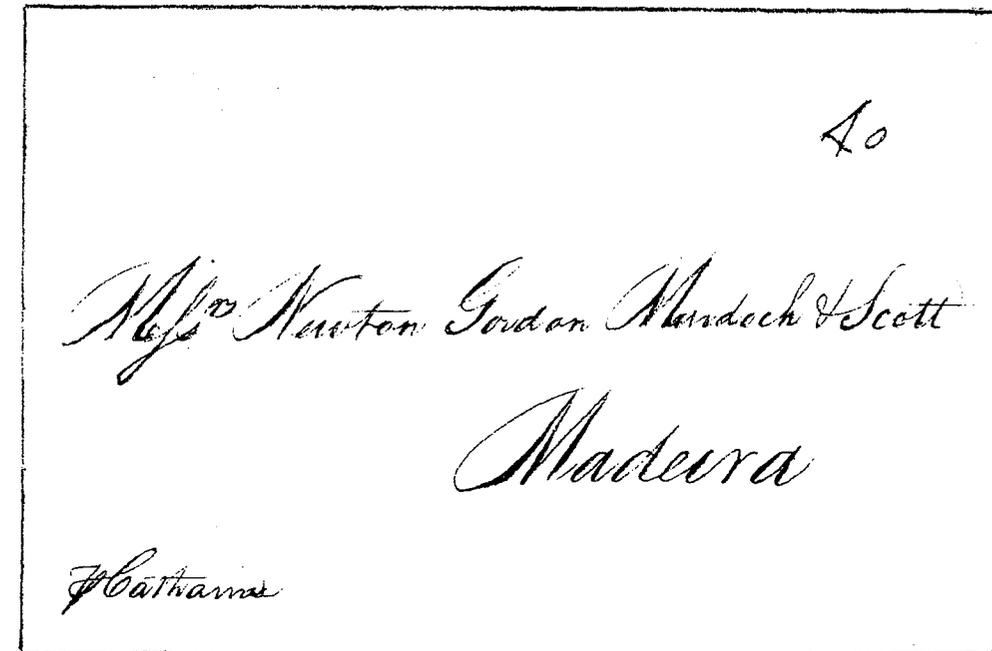
Therefore: How does one put flesh on the skeleton? How does he do so in a few exhibition pages? How does he communicate the dynamics of the Postal History context in a display write-up? How much flesh?

When the historical context of a corpus of philatelic material has a deeper time depth than the catalogue of adhesive stamps, and when we find ourselves in the world of courier mails and horse posts, and the postal innovations of Dockwra, Bishop, and others, of franked town and local posts, etc., we simply cannot depict just a "bag of bones". We have to put the flesh on it. Or a little bit later, say, with the entires of Scotland and Ireland in mid-century in the era of mail coaches; or in our own part of the world in the day of stamps, say, T.P.Os on the railways of the Australian States, on which structures the country itself developed, we cannot avoid some quite considerable annotation on how the system worked and the mail guards, as people, operated. These are human stories in a total activity complex which has to be reconstructed. This is the very "stuff of history". The problem, of course, is how much of the limited space can be given to annotation. How much flesh do you put on the skeleton?

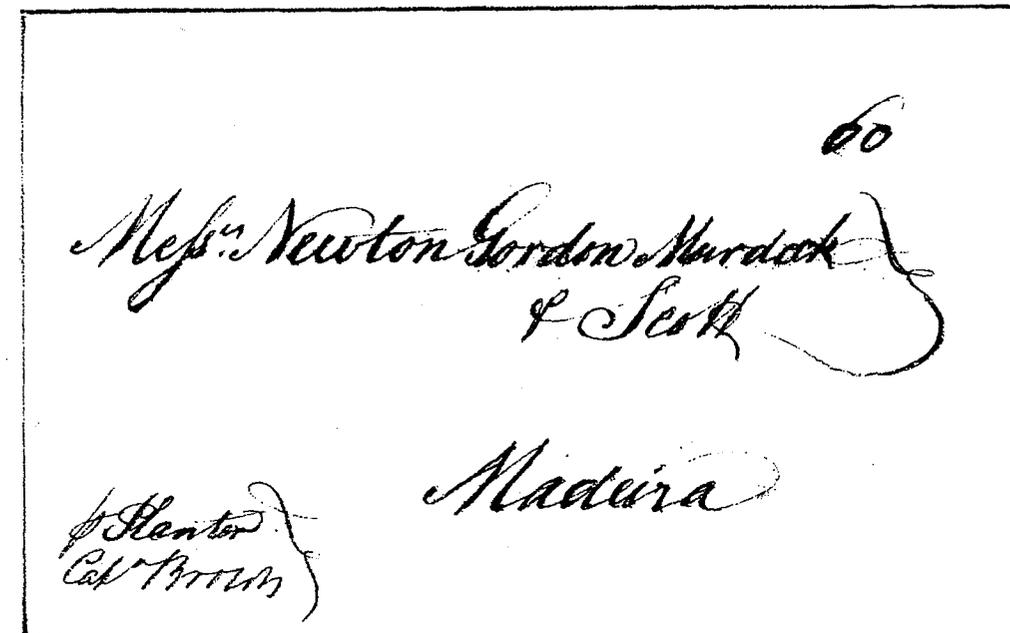
Skeleton & Flesh in a Specific Situation: U.S.A., 1815-21

I do not believe in hoarding in stockbooks and cupboards: what I have I must write up. Recently I have been writing up a corpus of material on American trade mail in the period following the war of 1812, an assortment of eighteen entires dated between 1815 and 1821. It has come indirectly from the archives of a firm of customs agents in Madeira, handling shipments of wine to America. The letters have enough similarity in form to be treated as a corpus of records. They make an ideal model for a discussion of skeleton and flesh.

The reader will remember, no doubt, that the War of 1812 was fought against Britain, and ended in 1815 with the Peace of Ghent. Britain had been involved with Napoleon during the same period, and had blockaded the American ports, but had lost a great deal of commercial shipping to American privateers. The Presidency passes from Madison to Monroe and we enter a period spoken of as the "era of good feelings". American life was excited and expectant, and this was reflected in the trade behind this body of letters. It was a two-way trade which depended on basic equilibrium.



1819 - per American Brig "Catharine". M/s charge 40 cents -
43 days



1819 - per English Brig "Planter" (Capt Brown). M/s charge 60 cents
- 42 days

The philatelic skeleton comprises five basic components:

1. The documents themselves are ENTIRES, which by the old-time definition (Int. Dict. of Stamps v2) are documents with a message on one side and address and maybe postal markings on the other. When folded as a letter we also have a face and back. Opened out they may be larger than an album page.
2. One side of the entire provides us with -
 - (a) address of the recipient (indicating destination)
 - (b) name of the carrier (the vessel) and sometimes the name of the Captain and type of vessel (ship, barque, brig, schooner, or whatever);
 - (c) a manuscript endorsement indicating the fee paid to the Captain of the carrier (postage);
3. On the other side we have the Message itself. This provides postal information -
 - (a) the identity of the sender;
 - (b) the port and date of departure;
 - (c) the subject matter of the letter (indicating the purpose of writing, business, shipments sent or received, sales, reasons for delayed payment, etc);
 - (d) sometimes confirmation of the carrier's identity or indication that the letter was intended for a different carrier, which may also have been corrected shipside on the face when paying charges;
 - (e) sometimes there were enclosures, Bills of Exchange, or copy of a letter sent by a previous vessel (the sending of a duplicate by next mail was standard procedure. In some places this could have meant a double charge, but not so here). This made the entire itself a wrapper;
4. On the back of the entire; i.e. on the same side when opened out, the basic shipping information was summarised by the filing clerk at the receiver's office. It may contain new information or, being in a different hand, may assist in decyphering;
5. There is then the message itself, the subject matter, the purpose of writing, maybe amplification of basic information, linkage with other correspondence. There is a way in which the items do hold together and interpret each other.

Now that is a formidable collection of information, and because we are dealing with two-sided documents and also with enclosures, and an opened document may be too large for an album page, the writing up of one entire may be an impossible task. This leaves us between the "devil and the deep". We can overlap items

and overcrowd. We can leave our entires folded and leave them to interpret themselves and fail to communicate. We may put one entire "face up" another "face down" and another "open", implying the corporateness of our presentation and a certain common character of the items. This may be more meaningful. It has to be meaningful to qualify as History.

But this, mind you, is still just the "skeleton". The entires tell us more than the purpose of the letter, they reveal the historical context, the changes in the life of America going on between 1815 and 1821. There is a general effect that comes from the very corporateness of the collection when it is all brought together. Some of this may be communicated by showing everything in chronological sequence. The letters reveal the atmosphere of excitement and adventure that followed the War of 1812, the "era of good feelings", and then the gradual disillusion of the five or six years under review in this material.

The mail itself tells us a great deal about the nature of that reciprocal trade - of fish, flour, Indian corn, timber for ship repairs and dunnage, and manufactured cotton goods which maintained the balance of trade with Madeira wines, a trade originally established by British merchants, on which young revolutionary America was trying to cash in. The correspondence gives us a reconstruction of the nature of that trade, showing how exporters and importers were operating through agents at each end, showing how payments were made by Bills on London, the nature of financial default from the American end, and evidence of how the agents really became go-betweens. We see how the depression developed; how British manufacturers dumped goods on the American market after the war; how the importation of too much wine led to a fall in auction prices with which the importers could not compete; and indeed how many consumers turned to cheaper wines. It is all a very human story. It is all in the document themselves. The customs agents and lawyers become very real people and even exchange personal experiences. It certainly provides flesh for the History - and postal flesh included. Some at least must come out in the annotation.

A little research on the carriers also brings to light the fact that only one of the eighteen items was carried on a full-rigged ship. Mostly they were brigs and schooners. We begin to piece together the situation involving a whole structure of small trading vessels, mostly with their home ports along the Atlantic seaboard. Most of the names may be traced with their tonnage and pedigrees, many actually British-built. Others are not in the records - undoubtedly re-named prizes from the privateering of the war. The voyages to Madeira, one calculates, occupied an average

of 43+ days and a second voyage by the brig, "Pomona" for example suggests the trade was satisfactory. The normal charge for a letter was 40 cents. Two Captains who collected more were British, and a couple of items with no charge marks at all were found to be mail carried from their home ports. Such information comes from the collective evidence, and from the mail itself, which surely makes it "postal" history. One solitary entire permits us a glance at things 25 years later. The trade survived the depression. The system of the carriage of mails which it represented was continuous, and not terminated by the issue of adhesive stamps and Government controls. The rate had gone up to 160 cents, and a handstamp had replaced the manuscript charge marks, but otherwise the system was the same.

Personally, I got a great deal of pleasure out of this reconstruction, and there is certainly flesh on the skeleton which gives it life and reality it never had before. I enjoy the hobby. I enjoy the research and the discovery which goes with it. I find Postal History exciting. But I do not regard a bag of bones as History. I grant that one must avoid too much flesh, but I regret the very wide gulf between writing about, and the display of, Postal History.

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ADHESIVE STAMP LABELS

A.G. Salisbury

On 22nd February 1984, a new era in Australian philately commenced, with the installation at the General Post Office in Canberra, and at the General Post Offices in the six State Capital cities, of machines designed to dispense printed postage stamp labels (Frama labels), which could be affixed by the purchaser to letters and other mail articles, to denote payment of postage, as an alternative to the use of normal postage stamps.

These Frama labels were available in denominations of any selected value from 1c to \$9.99, by insertion of the appropriate coins, followed by operation of the mechanism according to the displayed instructions.

The machines were fitted with pre-printed rolls of paper, showing a design of red and blue diagonal lines, as in Figure 1. After insertions of the coins, the purchaser could make the machine print the value required, together with the post-code of the location of the machine and the word "Australia", following which the label would be ejected. Each label was delivered individually, so that multiple strips were not possible to obtain.

The rolls were printed by Leigh Mardon Pty Limited, of Melbourne, in wide reels which were subsequently split into ten single rolls 40mm wide, in a manner similar to that employed to produce the coils of stamps formerly printed by the Note Printing Branch.

As indicated in Figure 1, each end of the rolls of paper had a design of the Australia Post logo, applied in black, with what appeared to be a rubber-stamp.

The announcement of their appearance aroused great interest on the part of philatelists, and for the first few hours of operation, large crowds of people surrounded each machine, in an endeavour to obtain their requirements. It appears that break-downs of the machines were frequent, but generally the operation was a success.

First-day postmarking facilities were available, and, as the machines were located away from the post office counters, it was necessary to hand over the labelled covers personally in order to get a clear date-stamp, and large numbers of covers were handled in this way. Of course, covers could also be lodged in letter receivers in the normal manner.

An example of a label on a cover postmarked in Adelaide is shown in Figure 2. Sets of Frama covers from each of the seven locations were advertised as being available from the Melbourne Philatelic Bureau.

When the machine destined for Canberra was being prepared for installation at the G.P.O. there, it was discovered that the wrong

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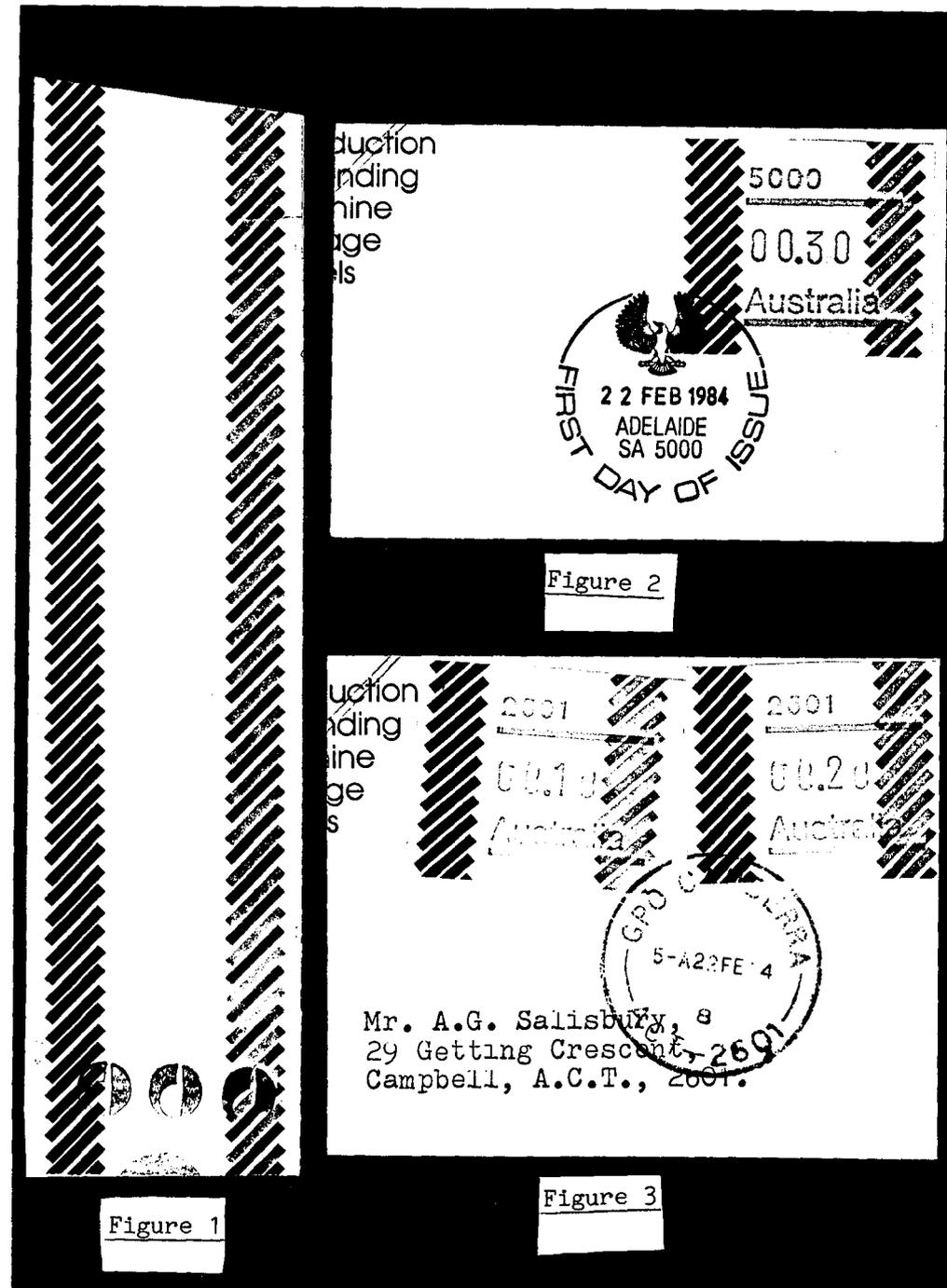


Figure 2

Figure 3

Figure 1

post-code was indicated on the printing die, i.e., it showed 2600 instead of 2601. Several impressions of labels showing 2600 were taken, but these were closely guarded, and none exists outside official post office records. It was necessary, therefore, to make an altered die-plate to show 2601, and this was installed before the fixed date of issue of 24th February. During the change-over of the die-plate, the "0" digits of the mechanism for printing the value were damaged accidentally in varying degrees, so that the labels printed showed a large and clear break at the top of these figures, as from the first usage of the Canberra machine. An example of labels with these breaks appears at Figure 3. It is to be noted, however, that in the sets of seven covers sold from the Philatelic Bureau in Melbourne, the Canberra label shows no sign of the breaks in the "0" figures. A cover with a Canberra label issued on the opening day, but without the breaks in the figures, appears at Figure 4. Covers similar to this were on sale later from the Canberra Philatelic Sales Section, but all labels taken from the machine at the Canberra G.P.O. showed the fault.

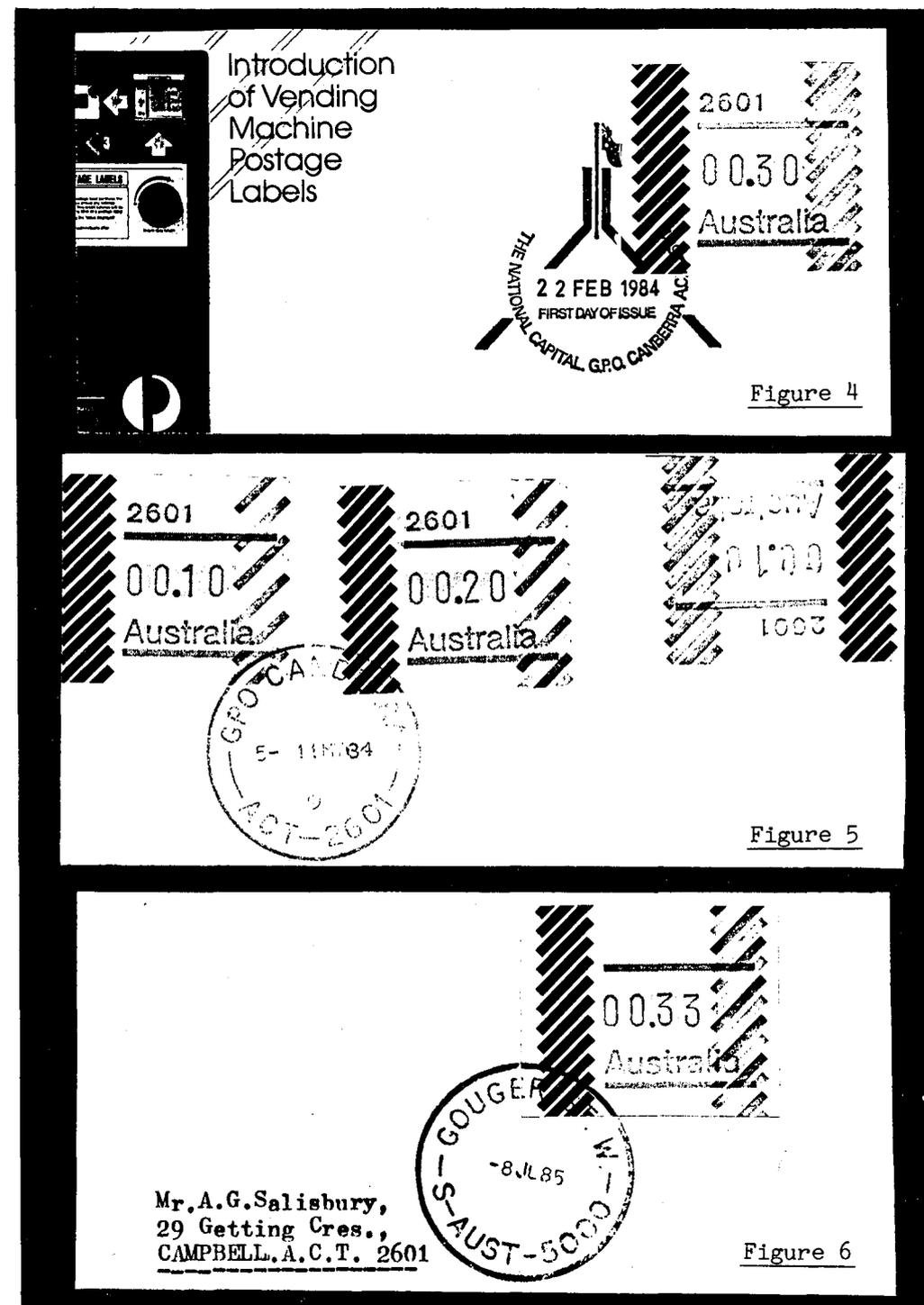
Action was taken to repair the damaged figures in the Canberra machine, and the "complete" figures made their first appearance on 11th May 1984, as shown in Figure 5.

During the period following the first issue, various flaws have come to light, and these may be divided into two classes, i.e., flaws on the blank printed rolls of paper, as received from Leigh Mardon Pty Limited, and flaws caused by the printing mechanism inside each machine. In regard to the former, the flaws can occur anywhere on the wide reel of paper before it is split into the ten individual rolls, and it is a matter of chance which roll is being used in any machine at any particular time. Some of these have been found to be repeated, and so may be regarded as constant, but at this stage it is hard to be precise as to their significance.

Flaws of the second class are also fortuitous, depending on the state of the mechanism which prints the value. This may be compared with the printing of a cash register label, as used at larger post offices to record postage paid in lieu of stamps. It is sufficient to say that the degree of inking shown in the printed value, and the degree of wear of the inking ribbon, can vary greatly.

Several references to each of these types of flaws have appeared in the philatelic press, but details are outside the scope of this article.

On 22nd June 1985, an official advertisement appeared in the Adelaide press, to say that as from Monday, 24th June a second Frama machine would come into use at the city post office at Gouger Street West, and this attracted a large number of people anxious to obtain labels on the day of issue. It was then found that the labels from this machine differed in two respects from those



obtainable from the already-existing machine at the G.P.O. Firstly, there was no indication of post-code on the Gouger Street labels - an example of this new type of impression is shown at Figure 6.

But the second difference was that, instead of using the familiar roll of paper with diagonal red and blue stripes, as in Figure 1, a new type of paper was in use, showing an overall design of jumping kangaroos, as shown in the enlarged diagram at Figure 7. The background colour was a pale greyish-green, leaving the kangaroo outlines uncoloured. Part of a card cancelled at Gouger Street West is at Figure 8, although, because of the pale colour of the background of the paper, it is not possible from the photograph, to discern the kangaroos in the design.

It is believed that this kangaroo roll was mistakenly installed, and that when the error was realised, it was removed from the machine later in the day, and a normal red and blue roll substituted. In the meantime, of course, large numbers of the kangaroo labels had been obtained, and the special large rubber circular date-stamp, shown in Figure 8, was used to cancel covers handed in for postmarking. Other covers were posted in the normal posting-boxes, and these received the machine cancellation as in Figure 9. It is understood that large mail orders for the Gouger Street labels were on hand (and, of course, those who ordered would not know beforehand that an entirely different type of paper would be used), and it is uncertain whether all or some of these orders were dealt with using the kangaroo type or the red and blue type, or a mixture of both.

At the time of writing this, there has been no announcement as to whether or when the kangaroo rolls will be on general issue, nor in what locations they will appear. An announcement has appeared, however, in the "Stamp Bulletin" to the effect that Frama machines will be installed in a number of new locations in Victoria. It is to be noted, also, that an announcement has appeared of the issue in September 1985 of a 33c stamp relating to "Australia Post Electronic Mail". The connection (if any) between this issue and the premature release of the kangaroo Frama labels remains to be seen.

Further developments have included the installation of a Frama machine at the Adelaide suburban post office at Glenelg on 10th July, and the installation of the first machine in the Northern Territory at the Darwin G.P.O. on 29th July. No preliminary notification was given in either case.

The Frama labels may justifiably be regarded as postage stamps, as distinct from meter or cash register impressions. Labels are purchased by the customer in a value which he or she selects, and they have to be attached to mail articles by the gum on the back, just as is an adhesive postage stamp. They need to be

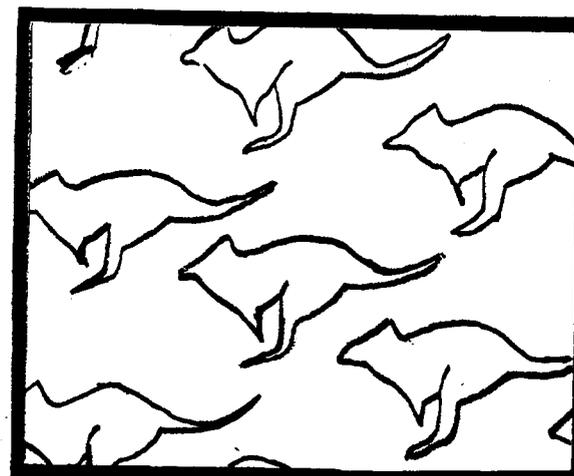


Figure 7

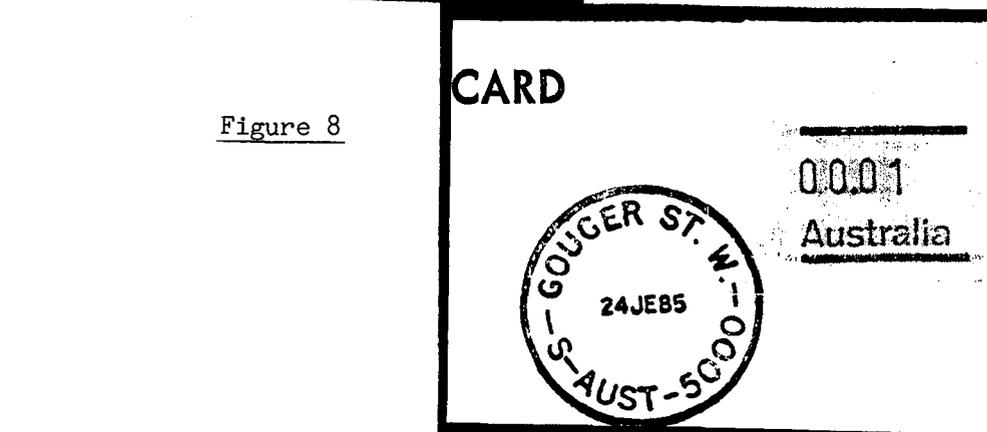


Figure 8

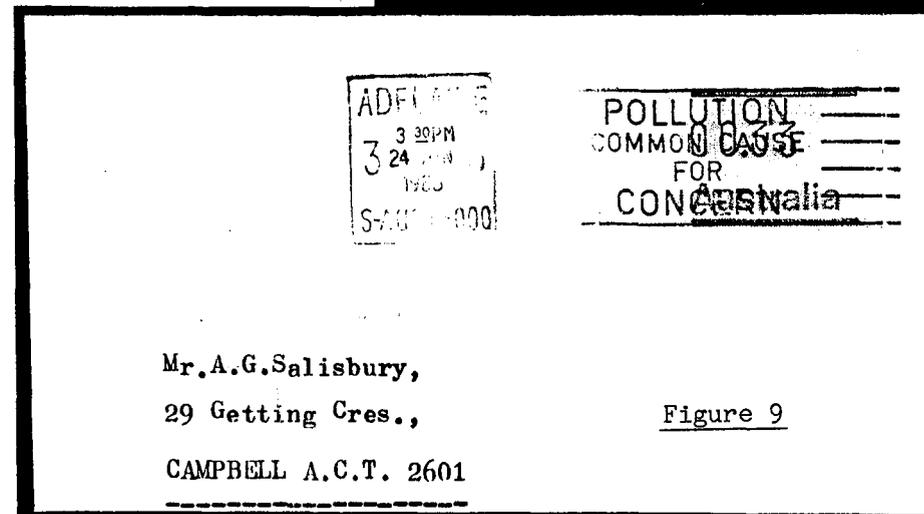


Figure 9

posted in the normal way, and are then postmarked on their way through the mails. Meter cancellations, on the other hand, although "produced" by the customer in a selected value, are not adhesive (although some may be printed on to gummed paper for attachment to the article). The metered mail articles have to be specially lodged at a post office, and do not have to be postmarked additionally. Their cost is paid for in advance, and not at the time of "manufacture", as in the case of Frama labels.

I feel, therefore, that there is a strong case for regarding labels as postage stamps, in a legitimate area of philately. If they become listed in standard catalogues, their popularity and standing will be assured.

I am grateful to Mr B. Sloman and Mr A. Bergen, of Adelaide, and to Mr K. Sparks, of Melbourne, for assistance in obtaining some of the items illustrated here.

A PHILATELIC HISTORY OF FRANCE

P. Saxby

As any English schoolboy can tell you the history of France can be summed up in half a dozen words - Crecy, Poitiers, Agincourt, Blenheim, Trafalgar and Waterloo. In each of these encounters the leopard savaged the lilies, St George was triumphant over St Denis, the thin red line withstood the frenzied assaults of overwhelming blue columns and one English frigate was a match for one, if not two, French three-deckers. Despite this view of history, the French postal authorities have produced a series of stamps covering the history of France from 50 B.C. to the early nineteenth century.

The series commences with Vercingetorix (SG 1727), a Gallic chieftain who led a revolt against Rome in 52 B.C. The rebellion was finally broken at the battle and siege of Alesia, where Julius Caesar, with 35,000 men besieged Vercingetorix with 90,000 men, and was in turn besieged by 240,000 men. Caesar had prepared himself with ample food and water and had constructed fortifications against his besiegers. Vercingetorix was starved into submission and, after being displayed in Rome in Caesar's triumph, was executed.

Clovis (SG 1728) (465-511 A.D.) was king of the Sabian Franks from 481. A gifted soldier, he followed the Roman example and instilled good order and discipline into his army. He defeated the Gallic Romans under Syragius at the battle of Soissons (or Nugent) in 486, and broke the power of the Alemanni at Tolbior, near Cologne in 496. About this time he became converted to Christianity and defended it against the Arian Visigoths whom he defeated at Vouille in 507, personally killing Alaric, the Visigoth leader. This

extended his rule to the Pyrenees. He was then elected king of the Ripuarian Franks which gave him personal dominion over Northern Gaul and most of Western Germany. His reign is generally accepted as the beginning of the French nation.

Charlemagne (SG 1729) (742-814) inherited the northern part of the Frankish kingdom in 768 and the kingdom was reunited on the death of his brother Carloman. From 772 to 799 he campaigned against the Saxons. In 773-774 he conquered the Lombards and in campaigns between 777 and 801 he conquered northern Spain. His first expedition in 777 ended in disaster when the Frankish rearguard under his nephew, Roland, was ambushed in the pass of Roncevalles. Between 787 and 796, Charlemagne reconquered Bavaria, occupied Istria and penetrated into the central Danube valley, as well as parts of Croatia and Slovenia. In 800 Charlemagne was crowned Holy Roman Emperor and in 810 he was recognised as Emperor of the West by the Byzantine emperor, Nicephorus I. After his death he became the subject of heroic legends and romances.

Hugh Capet (SG 1769) (938-996) claimed the throne of France on the death of Louis V, the last of the Carolingian kings. The dynasty that he founded ruled France for nearly nine hundred years.

Philippe Auguste (SG 1774) (1165-1223) became king in 1180 and, apart from an excursion to the Third Crusade, set out to destroy the Angevin empire of the English kings and largely succeeded in doing so. He defeated an English, German and Flemish army at Bouvings (1214), extended his dominion into Languedoc, and, by good administration, consolidated his dynasty's claim to the throne. St Louis IX (SG 1771) (1214-1270) led the Seventh Crusade to Egypt in 1248, was captured by the Saracens and was ransomed after four years in prison. He died at Tunis whilst pursuing the Eighth Crusade.

Bertrand du Guesclin (SG 1810) (1320-1380) was the outstanding French captain of the Hundred Years War. He became Constable of France in 1370. Recognising the superiority of English archery, he avoided attacks against the English in prepared positions and seized all possible opportunities to force the English to fight at a disadvantage. Despite English complaints that his behaviour was unknighly, he excelled in night attacks and reduced the English towns and castles in Poitou and Aquitaine one after another until the English possessions in France was reduced to small areas around Bayonne, Brest, Calais and Cherbourg. He also fought successfully against Charles II the Bold of Navarre, defeating him at Cocherel (1364) and helped Henry of Trastámara in his finally successful attempts to wrest the throne of Castile from Peter I, who was assisted by the Black Prince, not to mention Sir Nigel Loring. Bertrand du Guesclin appears as the masked knight in the tournament between the English and Gascons in "The White Company". Philip IV (SG 1809) (1269-1314) also known as the Fair, engaged in a feud with Pope Boniface VIII, whom he made a prisoner in 1303. Clement

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V, who was elected Pope through Philip's influence, transferred his residence to Avignon and helped to suppress the Knights Templar. Philip also allied with the Scots against England and attempted to conquer Flanders. Joan of Arc (SG 1811) (1412-1431) is a heroine of French history. In 1429 she persuaded Charles VII that she had a divine mission to raise the siege of Orleans. She was given command of an army, and, after raising the siege, defeated the English at Patay and drove them from the Loire Valley. She was captured by the Burgundians, sold to the English, tried by them and convicted as a witch and burnt in Rouen market place on 30th May 1431.

Louis XI (SG 1850) (1423-1483) succeeded to the throne in 1461. On becoming king he had to suppress the rebellions of his powerful vassals and was preoccupied with his struggle with Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy. By the treaty of Arras (1482) he obtained full sovereignty over the duchy of Burgundy. He then imposed his authority everywhere, laying the foundation for an absolute monarchy.

Pierre Terrail, Seigneur de Boyard (SG 1851) (1473-1524), known as "the knight without fear or reproach", served three French kings as a soldier. He is said to have defended a bridge over the Garigliano singlehanded against 200 Spanish soldiers. In 1508 and 1510 he distinguished himself at the sieges of Genoa and Padua. In 1512 he was present at the battle of Brescia, where the French, under the command of the Duke of Nemours, after driving a combined Papal-Spanish army from Bologna, defeated a Venetian army. When war broke out between Francis I and Charles V in 1515, Bayard with 1,000 men held Mezieres against an army of 35,000 men. He was killed whilst commanding the rearguard at the Sesia after a French defeat at the Battle of Robecco.

Henri IV (SG 1852) of Navarre (1533-1610) led the Huguenots in the War of Religion from 1576. He succeeded Henri III, was King of France in 1589 and settled the religious question by himself accepting Catholicism whilst granting religious toleration to the Huguenots by the Edict of Nantes (1598). He is famous, amongst other things, for the cynical statement "Paris is well worth a mass" and for the more generous "I want there to be no peasant so poor that he cannot have a chicken in his pot every Sunday".

(To be continued)