



# Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



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**CAPITAL PHILATELY**

**MAY 1996 - VOL. 14, NO. 3**

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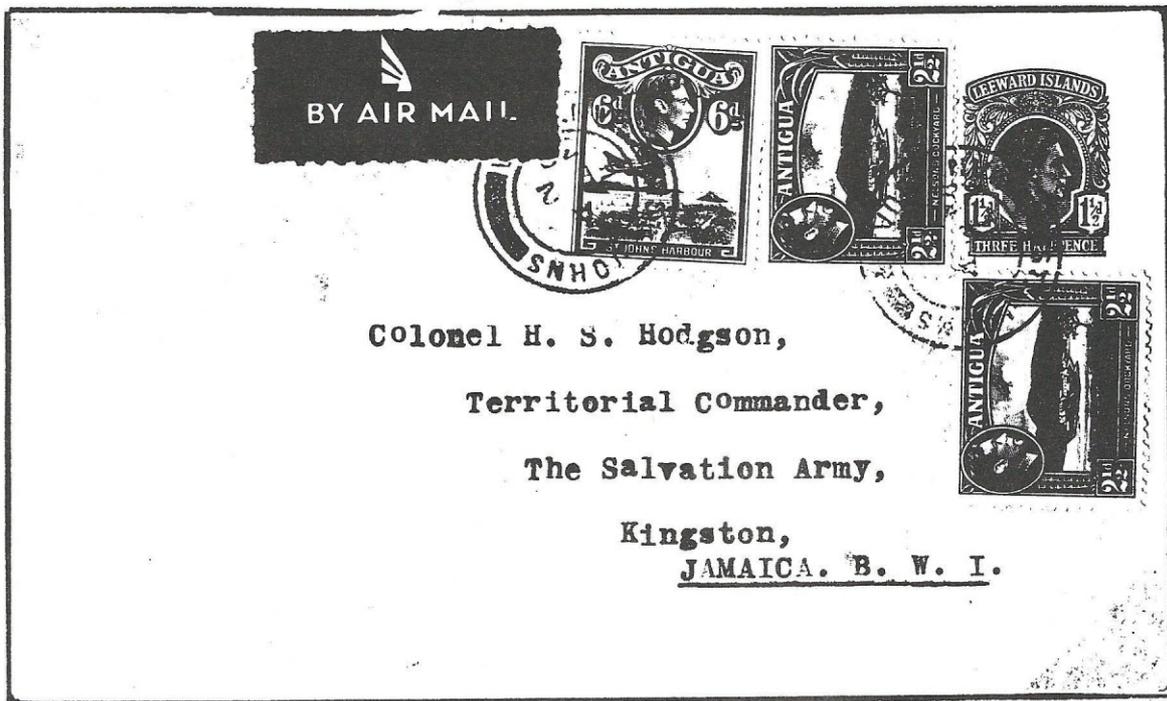
**EDITORIAL**

Canberra Stampshow 96 has come and gone, it was deemed a success! The ninth biennial show organised by the Society confirmed its place as a major event on the philatelic calendar. There were some thirty competitive State exhibits and twelve in the national classes. Fifteen local and inter-state dealers attended plus one from New Zealand. Nine specialist philatelic societies and groups took advantages of the opportunity offered by the show to hold meetings which enabled members from Canberra and elsewhere to get together. These included the Perfin Society of New Zealand and Australia and the recently formed Postal Stationery Society of Australia. Non-competitive displays and information stalls were provided by the new Canberra-based postcard group (Pastcards) and by the Society of Polar Philatelists, with membership strength in Newcastle and Sydney. A special corner and our old favourite the junior auction, for the under-12s, were provided for younger collectors. Their auction record of never having a lot turned in was maintained!

Matters of regret were the lack of even a single entry in the State youth class and the demise of the Saturday evening auction. These were, to some extent, matched by innovations. The major of these was the launch of a new experimental exhibition class, frugal philately. This is discussed elsewhere in this number of *Capital Philately*. Although not the first of its kind, the Champion of Champion class was new for Canberra and we especially thank the exhibitors for making their world class displays available for viewing to other philatelists. A particularly pleasing event was the installation of Alan Salisbury as a Member of the Philatelic Order of Australia. This honour was awarded to Alan by the Australian Philatelic Federation last year but he was unable, at that time, to receive the award in person. It was, of course, especially fitting that the award was presented in Canberra where many of Alan's friends could attend and offer their congratulations to the doyen of Canberra's philatelists.

A feature of the Canberra shows, and of others elsewhere in Australia, is the number of philatelists who are prepared to travel very long distances to attend. Some of the more distant visitors were there to attend the APF Council meeting, but there were other attendees from most States including Western Australia. They came to view the exhibits, to meet old friends and to attend the various group meetings. The task of mounting the exhibits requires both care and speed and this year, as is

Despite the high number printed, with the exception of the size K registered envelope which is unrecorded used, the humble ½d wrapper is the rarest item used. The postcards are also rare used, as are the two normal envelopes. The registered envelopes can be found used but are very scarce to rare, while the two airmail envelopes are only very scarce. The airmail envelopes are the most interesting of all of the Leeward Islands stationery because there are a number of different types. Despite their scarcity I have managed to undertake a small study of the different types and have assigned them to the different printings. I have demonstrated that the first printing of each value has a blue lined interior and that all subsequent printings were in black. The black pattern varies and I have found five different types of the 1½d which I have tentatively assigned to various printings. An example of the first printing of the 1½d is shown in Figure 12, but the lack of available used copies makes firm conclusions almost impossible.



**Figure 12** The first printing of the 1½d Airmail envelope sent to Jamaica in early in 1939.

There were no other issues of postal stationery for the Leeward Islands and although stamps were issued for Queen Elizabeth, there was insufficient time (and demand) for any postal stationery before the Leeward Islands separated and each nation issued its own stationery. This account of the Leeward Islands gives an idea of the types of stationery issued, and the scarcity, for a typical small British Colony where all the stationery was printed by De La Rue. It is important to note that where I state that an item is unrecorded, it is based on personal knowledge and not on a census of all the major collections.

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# Stamp News

AUSTRALASIA

Australasia's  
leading magazine

## THE BIRTH OF A NEW EXHIBITION CLASS - FRUGAL PHILATELY

Dingle Smith

To give order to a competitive stamp exhibition it is necessary to classify the exhibits. In the early days the emphasis was upon the display of stamps and classification was on a geographical basis, the stamps of the British Empire or of Europe (excluding Great Britain!) were examples. Slowly the number of classes increased as the international body (FIP) recognised postal history, postal stationery followed by aerophilately and, more recently still, thematic displays.

Australian philately however, has always taken a more flexible and venturesome approach than the FIP. From the early 1980s nearly all Australian exhibitions included a Cinderella class which incorporated fiscal displays. In the late 1980s Australia played a leading role in gaining international acceptance by the FIP to introduce, at India 89, an experimental class for fiscal, revenues and telegraph material. This has now been accepted as a full class at all exhibitions. The Seventh National Philatelic Convention in Canberra in 1992 witnessed another Australian innovation, namely social philately. This has blossomed in four years to become accepted within Australia as an established and popular class at both state and national level. Sydney 95 included the first display unsuited to exhibition in a standard frame, this was a collection of stamp boxes housed in their own cabinet (and provided by the exhibitor!). This latest addition, frugal philately, had its premier at Canberra Stampshow 96. This raises a number of questions.

- . What is frugal philately?
- . How is it judged?
- . What was exhibited?
- . Does it fill a philatelic niche?

### *What is frugal philately?*

The concept behind the new class is to demonstrate that collections and exhibitions of true philatelic merit can be assembled with little financial outlay. The text for the class is that 'rare does not have to mean expensive'. Frugal exhibits can be composed of material that, monetary value apart, could be entered in any exhibition class. The problem is how to define 'frugal'? After discussion, the value was set at \$150.00 per frame. Thus, the critical value for a 3-frame exhibit is \$450.00, \$750.00 for five frames etc. If this is exceeded penalty marks are deducted, on a pre-determined scale, from the philatelic points. The combined philatelic and frugal penalty points determine the final class of the award. Details of the penalties are too complex to list here, but they are available on request.

### *How is it judged?*

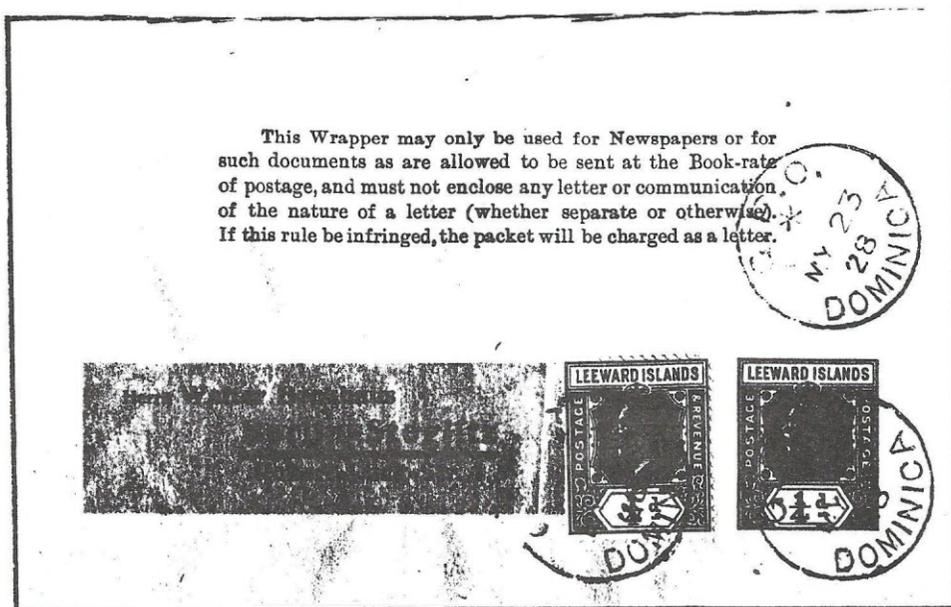
The restrictions on value require an additional step in the judging procedure. This involves the appointment of an additional panel of experienced 'value adjudicators', all of whom were professional philatelists acquainted with the retail sector of our hobby. They were asked to assess the wholesale value of each display and to pass their joint assessment to the chair of the jury. The adjudicators were not jury members and did not attend the jury meeting, the wholesale values were not divulged to the jury until the philatelic points has been agreed. The value adjudicators spent some time discussing how they should arrive at a wholesale value. They decided that the appropriate worth was what they would be prepared to pay for the material on display. A significant

Rate and colour changes meant that the envelopes had to be reissued in 1928 with a 1d red and a 1½d brown. There were in fact three envelopes printed, a 1d red and 1½d brown on cream paper and a 1d brick-red on white with violet-blue printed lining. There is some confusion over when the two 1d envelopes were issued but my research suggests that there was possibly a printing comprising the 1½d and both types of 1d in August 1928 (of which only the brick-red was overprinted specimen) and that there was another printing of the 1d red on cream in 1930 and that this is a different and identifiable shade. Of these three envelopes, the 1½d is easy to get mint or used, the 1d red on cream is rare mint but not difficult to find used, and the 1d brick-red is rare used and I have only seen one copy used commercially.

The final KGV envelopes issued were in 1934 and are in the form of "airmail" type envelopes printed on lightweight security lined pelure paper. They were a 1d red and 1½d brown and although there were over 5,300 of each printed they remained unrecorded in the literature for a long time. They are rare mint or used with few appearing to have survived. I have recorded one of each mint, a few of the 1½d used and the only record of the 1d used is a cut out that I have. Figure 9 shows one of the few known used examples of the 1½d.

### *Wrappers*

Only two KGV wrappers were issued, a ½d green in 1913 and a ¼d brown issued in 1927, both on yellowish paper. A 1d red wrapper is listed in all the literature and catalogues but does not exist. The ½d green had a long life and there were significant numbers of the ¼d issued (for local use only), yet despite this both are rare used. I have one of each and Figure 10 shows philatelic usage of the ¼d wrapper, a typical Beckhaus usage.



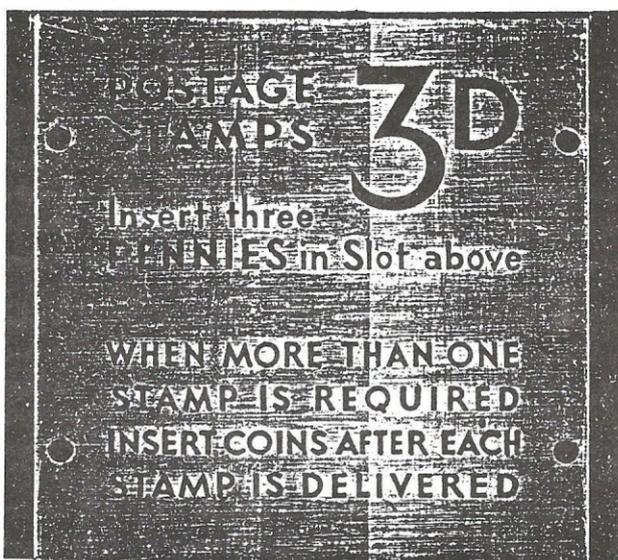
**Figure 10** A typical Beckhaus usage of postal stationery, in this case the difficult to find ¼d wrapper.

## PRE-DECIMAL COIL STAMPS OF AUSTRALIA

Nita Wilson

In 1960 I was fascinated by a display of coils at a Australian Commonwealth Collectors Club of New South Wales. The presenter commented that there was not much information published on the subject and material was not easy to find. This, I thought, would be a challenging field to collect. Many years ago when purchasing coil material from a prominent dealer I was told that it was a waste of time and money but, if you want this sort of stuff, which is only rubbish, I will sell it to you!

It is a limited field but one where some elusive items turn up in unexpected places. In an auction catalogue about three years ago, a used 2d red K. George die 2 1938 coil pair, with large and small hole perforations was estimated at \$375, expensive for rubbish! Before putting in a bid for this item I wondered if I had one in office mail collected by my late father and myself over many years and put aside for research at some vague time in the future. There were countless horizontal and vertical pairs, but only one had the prized small and large hole perforations. It is in my display after languishing in a box for so many years. The moral is that if you keep it for long enough you will find a use for it!



**Figure 1.** A metal plate from a coil vending machine

An item that I would particularly like to mention is a strip of 4 x 2d mauve K. George VI 1941 issue, the top pair has a normal watermark but the lower pair has the watermark inverted. H.M. McNess reported its existence in *The Australian Stamp Monthly* in January 1951 and it was not considered common then. An unusual item, illustrated in Figure 1, is a metal plate originally mounted on a 3d vending machine

### ***An outline of the history of stamp vending machines in Australia***

The first recorded stamp vending machine was patented in England by John Gamgee in 1870 but special stamps were not used. It was not until 1903 that the Australian Postmaster General's

## LEEWARD ISLANDS POSTAL STATIONERY — PART 3

Darryl Fuller

Part 3 concludes the account by Darryl Fuller of the postal stationery of the Leeward Islands. Part 1, (*Capital Philately*, vol. 13, no. 4, 55-59) described the Queen Victoria issues and Part 2 (*Capital Philately*, vol. 13, no. 3, 6-8) those for the reign of King Edward VII.

The death of King Edward VII, in some ways, marks a turning point for postal stationery. There were two significant and interconnected factors. Firstly, the growth in use of the picture postcard (and its collection) meant that there was a significant drop in the use of post office postcards. Secondly, the collecting of postal stationery in general began to wane, in part because it was no longer catalogued. This decline in collecting appears to have begun around the time of KEVII's death and accelerated rapidly through the reign of King George V, with an almost total lack of interest and use by the time of King George VI. The Leeward Islands are no exception to these general observations.

### King George V

A feature that contributed to the wider use of postal stationery during the reign of KGV was the growth in the use of mail order for people in small islands of which the Leeward Islands are typical. This helped change the pattern of use of postal stationery with a demand for some envelopes and registered envelopes and none for others.

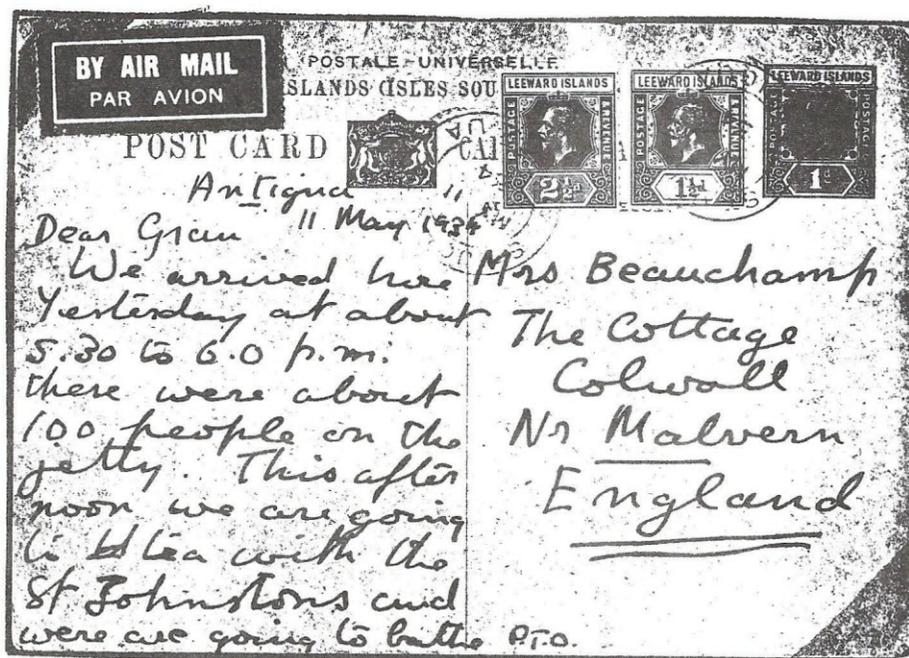


Figure 8 1931 1d red postcard uprated 4d to pay the airmail postage to England, 80% actual size.

### Postcards

Although their use had fallen significantly, eight different postcards were issued during the reign of KGV. It was however, not until 1915 that the first of these, a KGV 1d red postcard, appeared. The demand for this card cannot have been high because, although it can be found unused, I have yet to

Prior to 1913, State stamps in coils had been sold to the public for use in privately owned stamp affixing machines. With the introduction of uniform Commonwealth stamps the 1/2 and 1d kangaroo values were made up into coils of 960 ready for use on the release date of 1 July 1913, they were on sale to the public a few days later. The long awaited uniform series revived the Department's interest in stamp vending machines. In December 1913 a large machine manufactured by British Electric Machines Ltd. was installed in front of the Melbourne Town Hall to dispense 1d stamps. Two smaller counter machines were tested at the Stock Exchange P.O. and at the GPO; neither of these machines were entirely satisfactory and they were quickly withdrawn.

Figure 3 shows the use on cover of a coil join for 1d kangaroo stamps, punctured OS, and dated December 1918.

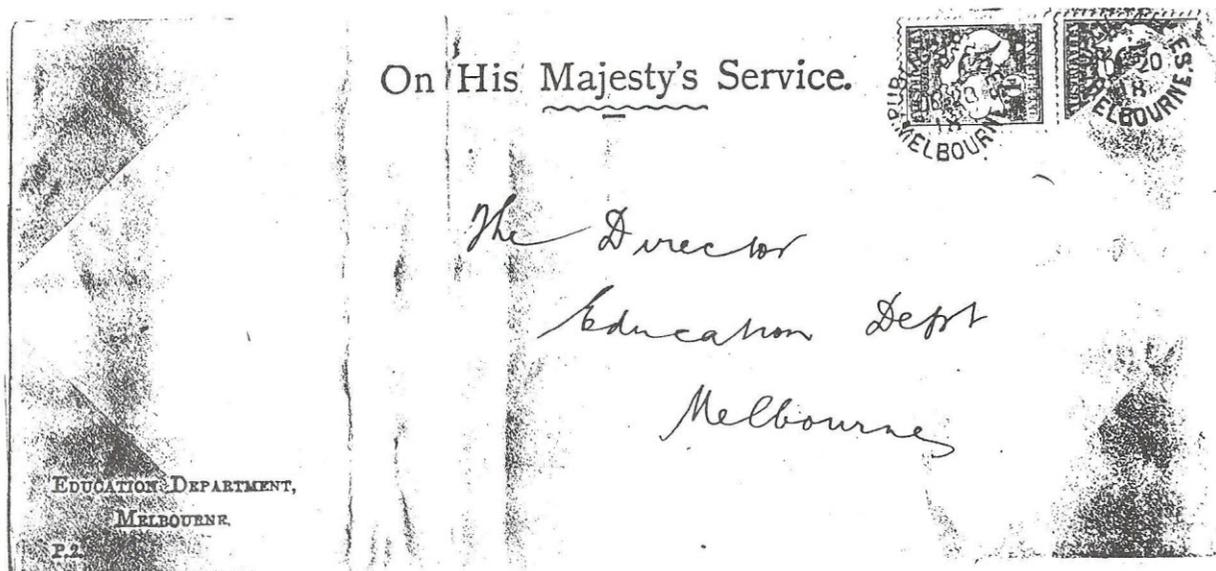


Figure 3 Coil join with OS punctured 1d Kangaroo stamps postmarked 20 December 1918, the bisect is to pay the 1/2 d war tax introduced 4 November 1918.

In 1914 two other vending machines were installed, one on the corner of Collins and Elizabeth Streets from February 1914 until July 1918, the other in Flinders St from September 1914 until October 1918. It is believed that only 1d stamps were dispensed from these machines. Another type of 1d vending machine, invented by R. Adamson of Stanmore in New South Wales, was fixed to a telegraph pole in Pitt St, Sydney from 6 October 1915 to 9 February 1916. Further testing was undertaken at the Sydney GPO from 24 July to 22 November 1918.

In 1928 the Department purchased ten Australian made machines from Brown Inventions Company. These were put into service at the Spencer St GPO and in nine Melbourne suburbs on 18 July and dispensed 1 1/2d denominations from coils of 960 stamps. They were converted to dispense 2d stamps from 4 August 1930. In spite of problems arising from poor coil joins, lack of uniformity in the size of stamps, bent coins etc, they remained the only vending machines in use. The possibility of printing unjoined rolls was explored in 1929 but the Government considered that the cost of L1,000 for a rotary press was not justified, a decision confirmed in 1932.

Matters of perforation have led to philatelic controversy. One of the major of these concerns the 1d green Queen die 2 and 2d red die 2 K. George VI 1938, each shows an Ash imprint coil perforated with uniformly large holes and these are listed in the Brusden-White Australian Commonwealth Specialist's Catalogue. Rosenblum in 1966 states that in each case '... sheets exist without imprints, and this was the residue from the special printing from a plate prepared for making coils and subsequently issued unbroken or undivided'. One philatelist is of the opinion that it cannot be proved that the catalogue items exist while another philatelist is of the opinion that it does exist but cannot prove it. It must be remembered that the sheets were perforated six or seven at a time, and the perforating pin was tapered to a blunt end to enable the pin to be easily withdrawn. This means that the holes in the top sheet were bigger than those at the bottom.

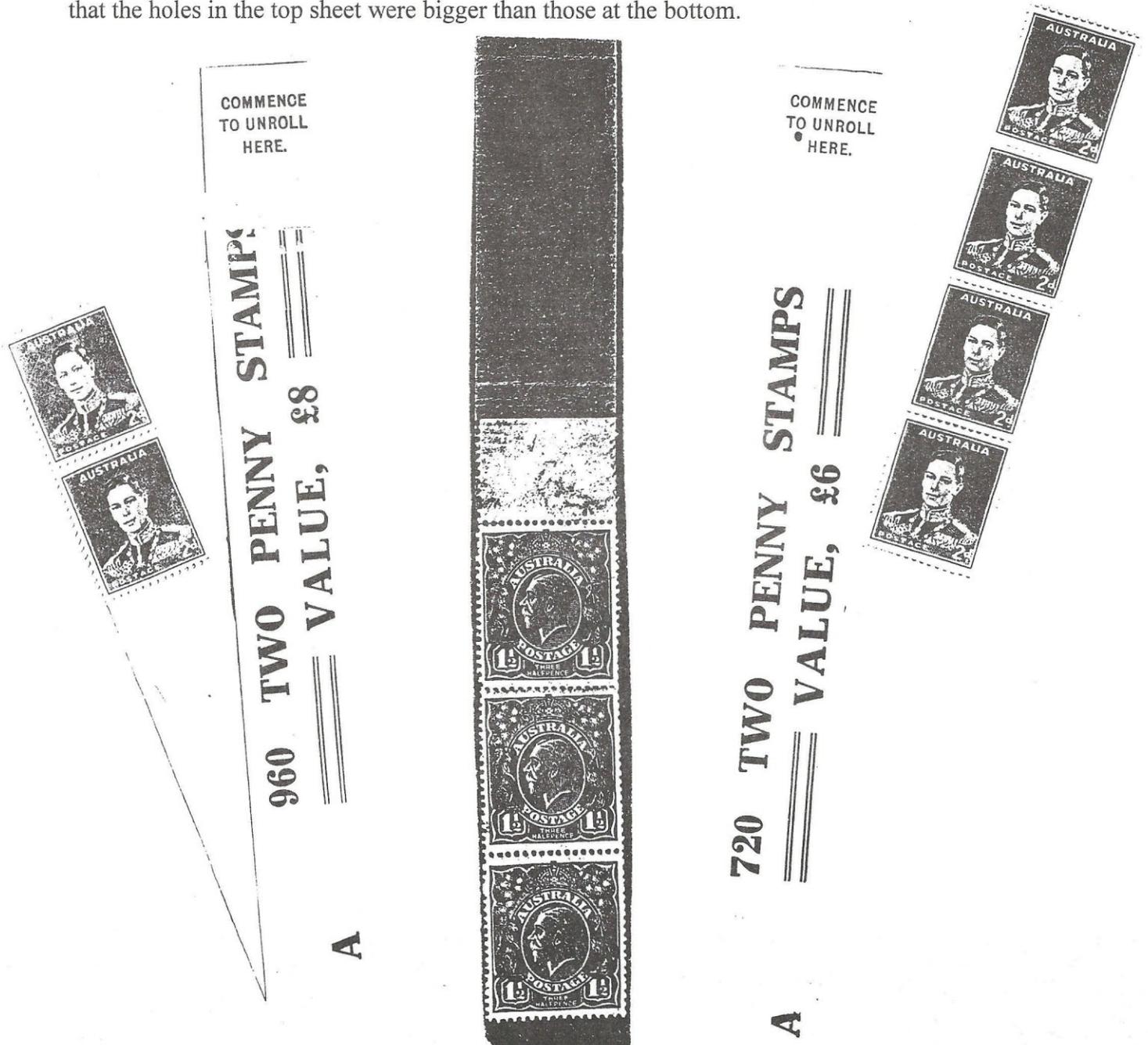


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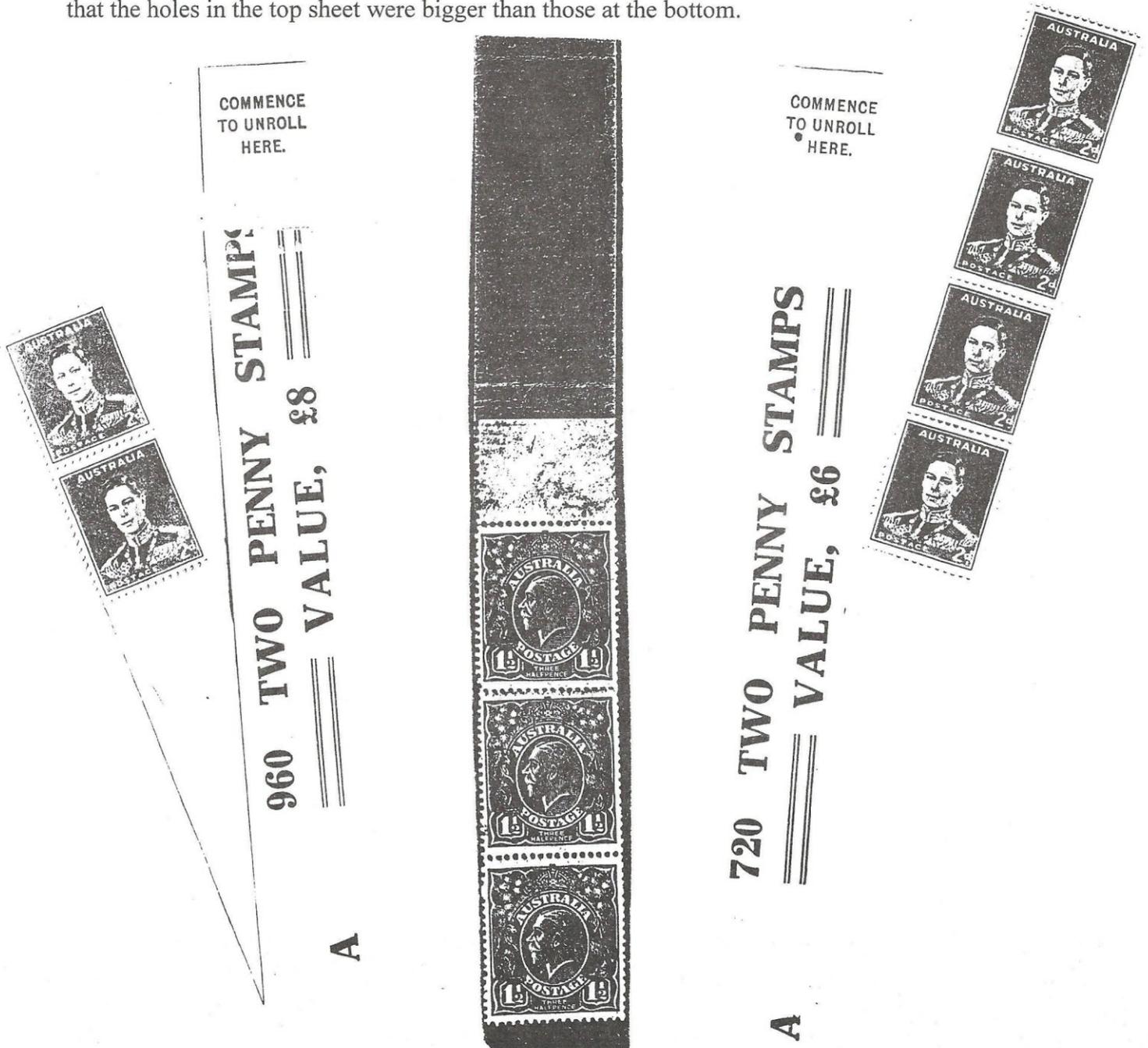


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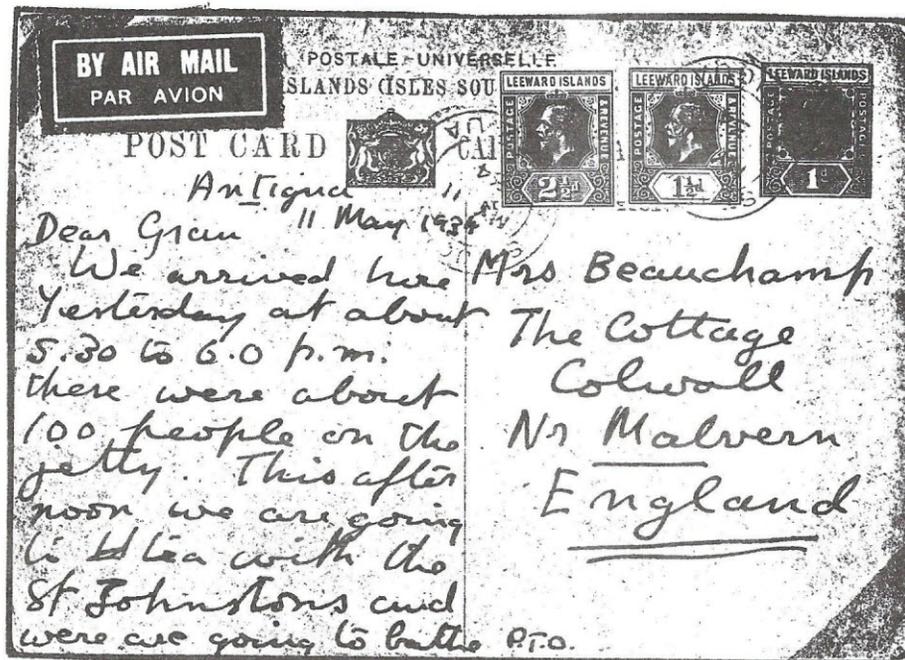


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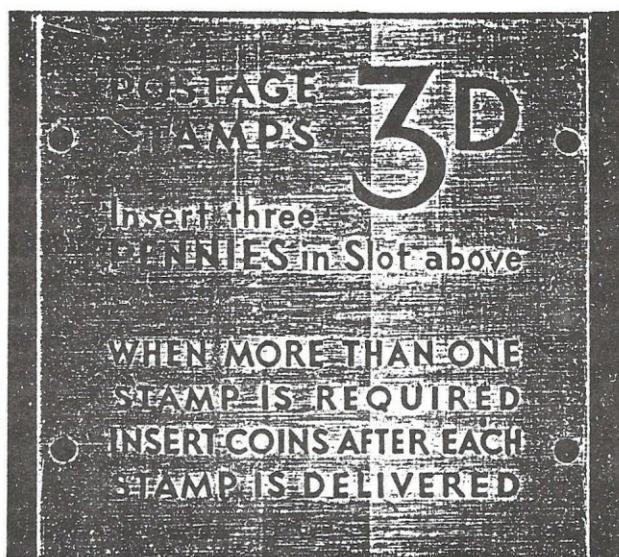
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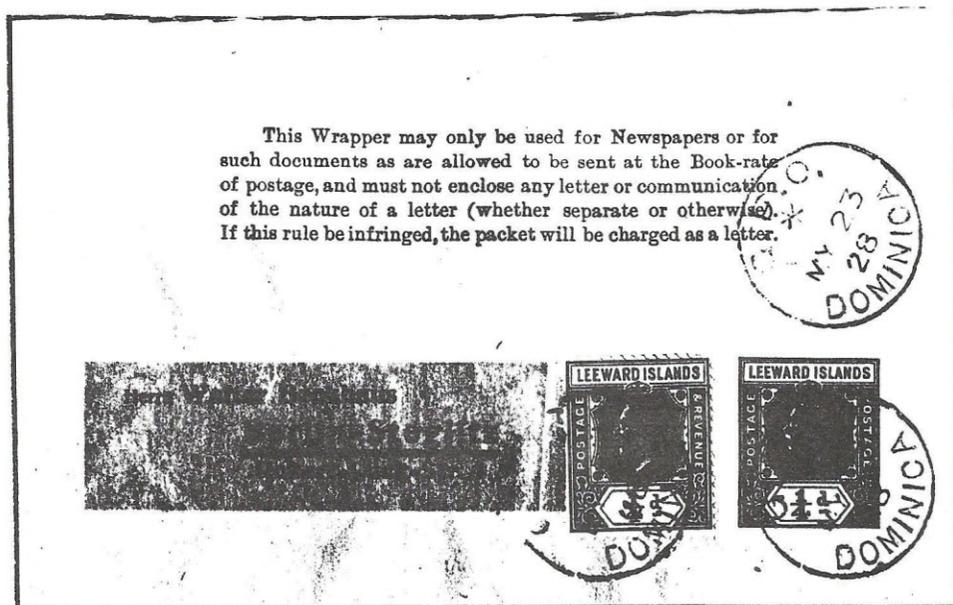
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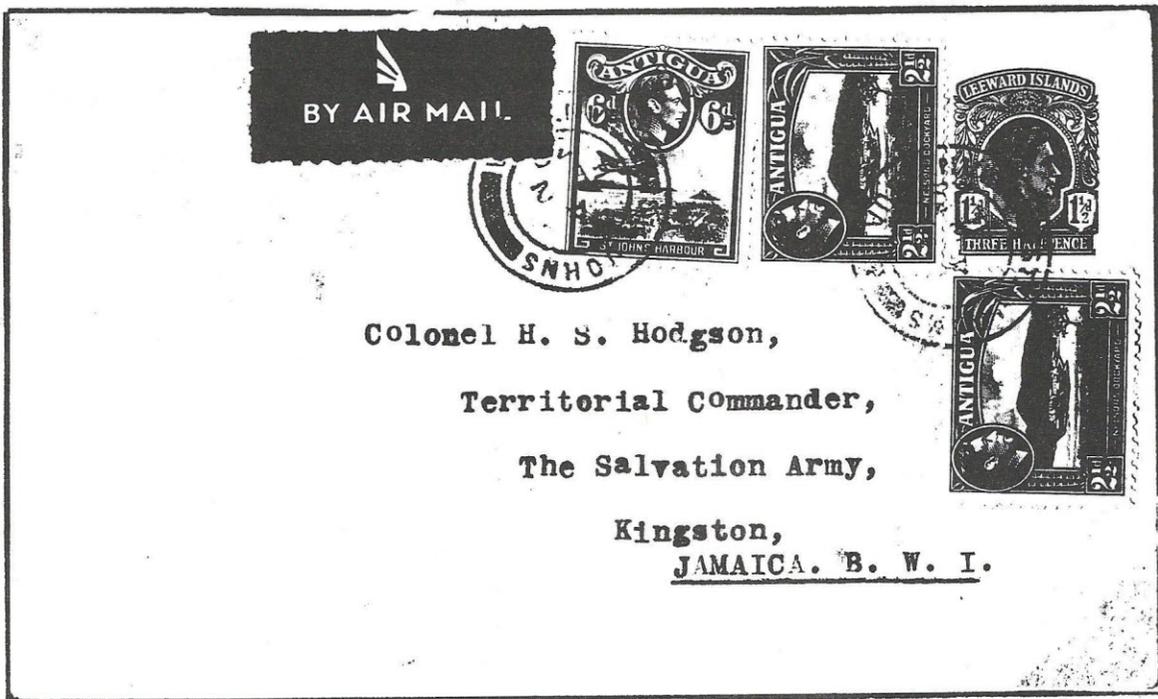


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**EDITORIAL**

Canberra Stampshow 96 has come and gone, it was deemed a success! The ninth biennial show organised by the Society confirmed its place as a major event on the philatelic calendar. There were some thirty competitive State exhibits and twelve in the national classes. Fifteen local and inter-state dealers attended plus one from New Zealand. Nine specialist philatelic societies and groups took advantages of the opportunity offered by the show to hold meetings which enabled members from Canberra and elsewhere to get together. These included the Perfin Society of New Zealand and Australia and the recently formed Postal Stationery Society of Australia. Non-competitive displays and information stalls were provided by the new Canberra-based postcard group (Pastcards) and by the Society of Polar Philatelists, with membership strength in Newcastle and Sydney. A special corner and our old favourite the junior auction, for the under-12s, were provided for younger collectors. Their auction record of never having a lot turned in was maintained!

Matters of regret were the lack of even a single entry in the State youth class and the demise of the Saturday evening auction. These were, to some extent, matched by innovations. The major of these was the launch of a new experimental exhibition class, frugal philately. This is discussed elsewhere in this number of *Capital Philately*. Although not the first of its kind, the Champion of Champion class was new for Canberra and we especially thank the exhibitors for making their world class displays available for viewing to other philatelists. A particularly pleasing event was the installation of Alan Salisbury as a Member of the Philatelic Order of Australia. This honour was awarded to Alan by the Australian Philatelic Federation last year but he was unable, at that time, to receive the award in person. It was, of course, especially fitting that the award was presented in Canberra where many of Alan's friends could attend and offer their congratulations to the doyen of Canberra's philatelists.

A feature of the Canberra shows, and of others elsewhere in Australia, is the number of philatelists who are prepared to travel very long distances to attend. Some of the more distant visitors were there to attend the APF Council meeting, but there were other attendees from most States including Western Australia. They came to view the exhibits, to meet old friends and to attend the various group meetings. The task of mounting the exhibits requires both care and speed and this year, as is



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