



Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

GPO BOX 1840

CANBERRA ACT 2601

President
Secretary

Darryl Fuller
Graeme Broxam

Capital Philately
Publication Committee
Darryl Fuller (Editor)
"Dingle" Smith (Business Manager)
Graeme Broxam
Ian McMahon

Further information on the Philatelic Society of Canberra may be found on:

<http://www.canberra.starway.net.au/~philatelic>

Capital Philately is published quarterly and supplied free to members of the Society, inquiries Regarding membership are welcome and should be addressed to Graeme Broxam, Telephone (02) 6282 4602 (home)

Inquiries regarding subscription rates for *Capital Philately*, advertising rates, the purchase of back issues etc. should be addressed to Dingle Smith. He can be contacted by telephone on (02) 6254 3294 (h) or by e-mail addressed to dingle@cres.anu.edu.au

Advertising rates are : full page \$40, half page \$25, quarter page \$15.
There is a 20% reduction on all rates for 4 consecutive issues.

Articles, letters and other contributions to *Capital Philately* should be sent to the Editor. Either By mail to the Society address, telephone (02) 6251 2180 (h) or e-mail addressed to darryl.fuller@dcita.gov.au

The Society gratefully acknowledges the 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. Material may only be reproduced with the written consent of the Editor.

Cover Design © Judith Parker

ISSN 0729-8765

CAPITAL PHILATELY

MAY 1999 – VOL. 17, NO. 3

Editorial	41
Members' Exhibition Results	42
Report on Australia 99 Darryl Fuller	43
Costa Rica Airmail: Stamps, Flights and Aviation Related Material 1921 to 1930 (Part 2) Richard Gurevitch	47
Malta's History Seen Through Its Stamps Albert Farrugia	53
Review: A Selection of the Engraved Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia Darryl Fuller	58
Book Review: Priced Catalogue of New South Wales Revenue and Railway Stamps Ian McMahon	60
New South Wales Stamp Duty Rates (1865-1885) Ian McMahon	61
Found in the Trash Darryl Fuller	64

EDITORIAL

Australia 99 is over and I must say that much fun was had by all those I saw and met at the exhibition. I have written a separate report on the exhibition but as both President and editor I must congratulate the members of the Society who exhibited. Once again the Society showed the strength of philately in the ACT. Further, all members of the Society need to be congratulated because the success of Natstamp 98 helped in a number of areas with assisting Australia 99. I would also point out that the members of the Society were the Chairman of the Organising Committee and Floor Manager.

The next challenge for the Society is our exhibition next year, which will be our eleventh National Philatelic Convention. It is also important to remember that this will be a standard State level show with the addition of four national level classes. We are privileged to be hosting the French Challenge for all those collectors in Australia and New Zealand who have been collecting a French Colony for the last few years. The other three classes are postal history, polar and first day covers. This will only be the second time that first day covers have been judged at national level. Further, there will also be the postcard class, which has been a regular and popular feature since 1990. I urge you all to support this exhibition because they have been an important source of funds over the years and we need to ensure that this is the case with this exhibition.

I have had some feedback on the size of the font preferred by members. This may seem like a trivial issue to some but as editor it is important to ensure that the majority of members are happy with the journal. I have decided to go with 11 point fonts because they balance readability with the requirement for more material that smaller fonts necessitate. Richard Gurevitch's article on Costa Rican airmails I have left at 10 point because I would have had to significantly alter the layout to get it into 11 point and I did not feel that the new layout would have worked. Another suggestion I have had is to change to a two column format. I have decided that this is a good idea and certainly many overseas journals have this format. I will experiment with this format but I have decided not to introduce it until volume 18. I would prefer not to introduce major changes part way through a volume. One final style point that I am thinking of changing is the cover. Assuming that the additional cost is small I would like to introduce a new style of cover with relevant pictorial content together with the index, and I would be pleased to receive comment on this. I had hoped to be able to state that this was the first issue of Capital Philately produced entirely on computer, including all figures, however, a last minute glitch meant that the figure on page 64 had to be a photocopy. With luck the next issue will be and I hope to be able to give the printer a disk to print from in the future.

Another issue I raised in my last editorial was the purchase of catalogues for the library. We have now purchased up to date Stanley Gibbons British Commonwealth catalogues and the simplified Stamps of the World. We will now develop a program to purchase catalogues over the next few years with a view to never having a catalogue more than three years old, unless a more up to date catalogue has not been produced. However, I would like some feedback from members on whether we should buy the Scott catalogues apart from the USA one. Some members have a preference for Michel because for some countries it lists many more issues. In the long run I would guess that we should use Gibbons as a base and buy other catalogues such as Scott and Michel if they are deemed more appropriate. I will leave this to the librarian to bring suggestions to the Committee for evaluation.

I have had an encouraging increase in articles but as always I still need material. I had hoped to have postcard and Machin pages in each issue but unfortunately both co-ordinators for these pages were absent as I produced this issue and I did not want to hold up production. This issue has the second part of Richard's article on airmails, the first part of Albert's fascinating talk on Malta that he gave to the Society earlier this year and an article by Ian McMahon on NSW's Duty Rates. I appreciate that this last article may be of limited interest to most members but *Capital Philately* has a proud record of publishing information on revenues. Further, Ian told me that this would most likely be the last by him on this area because the other Australian Colonies have only limited information available. In any case, please keep the articles coming in and I will do my best to produce an interesting and readable journal.

MEMBERS' EXHIBITION RESULTS

AUSTRALIA 99 MELBOURNE 19-24 MARCH 1999

Darryl Fuller	Leeward Island Postal Stationery	Gold (91) plus Special Prize
Tom Frommer	Australia's National Treasures	Large Vermeil (89) plus Special Prize
Richard Gurevitch	Hong Kong – Postal Issues of the Queen Victoria Period	Large Vermeil (88)
Hans Karman	Australian Electoral Business	Large Vermeil (88)
Paul Barsdall	Sarawak	Vermeil (81)
Dingle Smith	The Revenue Stamps of NSW	Large Silver (78)
Ian. McMahon	Postal Stationery of Canada	Large Silver (75)

18 – 20 March 2000

CANBERRA STAMPSHOW 2000

(11th National Philatelic Convention)

The BIG One in 2000

Featuring

The French Challenge

Postal History

Polar

First Day Covers

Plus all State Level Classes (except one frames)

Dickson College

NATSTAMP 98 SET THE STANDARD

REPORT ON AUSTRALIA 99

Darryl Fuller



Figure 1 The Polly Woodside Advertising Australia 99

Australia 99 has come and gone but it was a most professional and enjoyable show. Perhaps the best way to summarise the show is to reiterate some comments I received. I talked to a number of overseas dealers, all of which had been to many international shows, but all stated that this was the best organised show that they had attended. This is high praise

indeed when you consider that many overseas postal administrations throw vast sums of money at these exhibitions. The second comment was from a New Zealand visitor who said that the exhibition felt like a very large national show rather than an international. This was due to a lack of international visitors. I must agree with both comments. However, I would point out that this was a limited international show with only four classes; traditional, postal stationery, revenues and the experimental social philately, as well as youth. The absence of the very popular postal history and thematic classes would have an impact on any exhibition. I can only hope that whoever organises the next international in Australia is brave enough to make it a full international with all classes.

The exhibition itself was held in part of the vast Melbourne Exhibition Centre on the banks of the sunny Yarra river, and it was sunny! Part of the centre can be seen at the left of Figure 1 above, which shows the Polly Woodside, which played a central role in this maritime themed exhibition.



Figure 2 The Pirates Open the Show

The show was cleverly opened by a modified version of the *Pirates of Penzance* by Gilbert and Sullivan, with a philatelic theme of course. It was a most enjoyable opening as can be seen in at left in Figure 2. Some of you may know the pirate king, better known as Frankie J Holden.

As most of you will be aware, one of the Society's members, Ed Druce, was the chairman of the Organising Committee for Australia 99. The show was officially opened by the Governor General but Figure 3 at right shows Ed giving his speech at the opening ceremony.

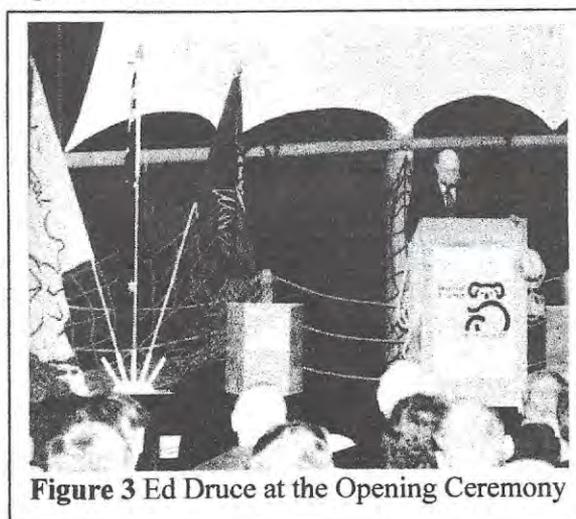


Figure 3 Ed Druce at the Opening Ceremony

As I stated above the entire show had a maritime theme and the interior of the exhibition was no exception. The dealer stands were grouped in sixes in the shape of a boat complete with sail. Added to this, the Australia Post stand completely dominated

the interior since it was the size and shape of an ocean liner. This is illustrated in Figure 4 which also

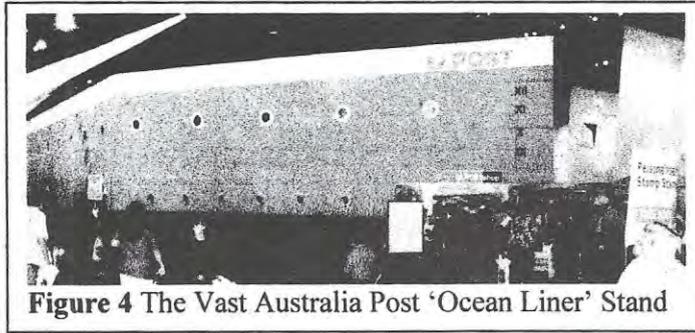


Figure 4 The Vast Australia Post 'Ocean Liner' Stand

gives you an idea of the crowds which were often present. The show was well attended and although I have no idea of the final numbers, estimates of 60-70,000 may not be far from wrong. Figure 5 shows a random crowd shot I took sometime on the first few days. Surprisingly the numbers did not overly drop off after the weekend. I also felt that the show had the right mix of people attending. There were many collectors, particularly over the weekend as well as many 'Mum and Dad' collectors and a surfeit of children. The absence of any speculative philatelic products (or the mindset that goes with such speculation) meant that the majority of those attending the show had an interest in philately. Although I must qualify this a bit because, as many of you may have already read, Australia Post has produced a world first, personalised stamps.



Figure 5 A Well Attended Exhibition

Just in case you have not seen an example, Figure 6 illustrates one of these personalised stamps used on cover. These stamps were produced in sheets of ten and sold for \$10 a sheet. The stamps, with a face value of 45c are valid for postage. You could purchase from one to five sheets at a time. These stamps were, to say the least, a sensation. The first sheets produced were of the Governor General, Premier Jeff Kennett and Prime Minister John Howard. They were also obviously well publicised because there was a queue to obtain these stamps that averaged 1½-2

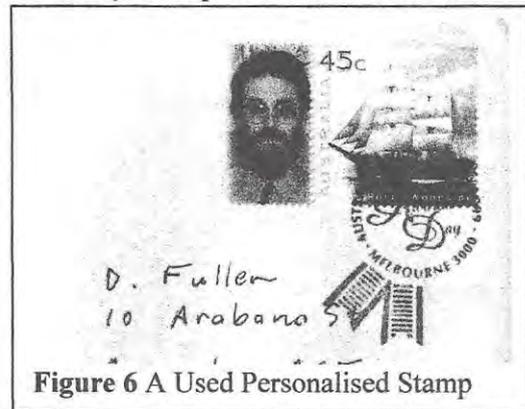


Figure 6 A Used Personalised Stamp

hours waiting every day for six days! I was lucky enough to be able to book a time to have mine produced. This was done for stall holders and others who could not spare the time away from other duties. I must admit that I have not seen anything like this since the bad old days of Sydplex 80. However, in this case it is not speculation that people have in mind, it is an interest in the product. Australia Post has a hit on its hands and I only hope that they take advantage of it. These stamps are also a different type and should be catalogued. It will be interesting to see how the catalogue editors handle these stamps.



Figure 7 A Pirate Post Box Entertaining the Children

Another strong feature of the exhibition was the number of children. On the weekend they were accompanied by their parents and were actively filling their stamp passports. Whatever you think about these passports they were certainly popular with both adults and children. On the weekdays the exhibition was filled with organised school groups and this was a most popular activity. The children were mainly primary school age that I saw and enjoyed the

invited exhibits in particular. That is the Titanic exhibition, both Queens and Freddy Mercury's

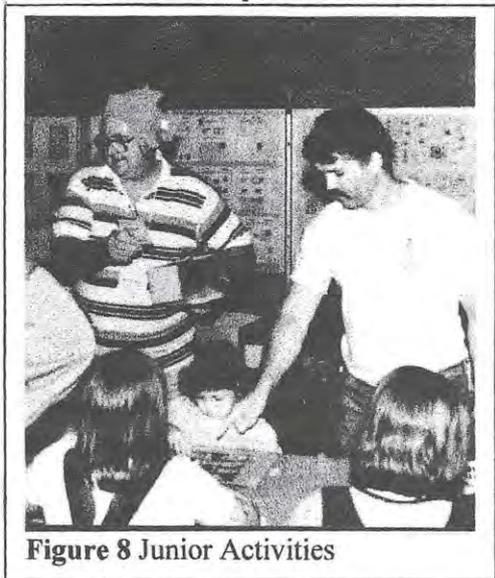


Figure 8 Junior Activities

childhood collection. Australia Post went to a lot of effort to interest the children with each child receiving a showbag that contained a stamp collecting kit. They gave away many thousands of these, which we can only hope will help create a few future collectors. In addition to the free showbags, Australia Post had a children's corner manned by volunteers. There were a number of activities that children could undertake in this area. Figure 7 shows the main area including someone dressed as a bright red postbox complete with pirate patch. These suits were very hot but Australia Post had some of their employees out in the streets dressed like this to attract visitors. Figure 8 has the well-known Mike Munzer helping some children with one of the many activities available. Mike along with all of the other volunteers, including members of our society, did an excellent job in entertaining the masses of children. Australia Post deserves a big pat on the back and I hope that they can

build on this obvious interest and attract a few of them to the hobby for the long haul.

All exhibitions have a number of social events and Australia 99 was no exception. There were a number of events for which exhibitor and volunteers were invited. This was a nice touch and I had a fun time catching up with many people that I hadn't seen for a while. I won't bore you with the details of these but one event that was noteworthy was the Chairman of the Organising Committee's "beer and skittles" on the Polly Woodside. This was a

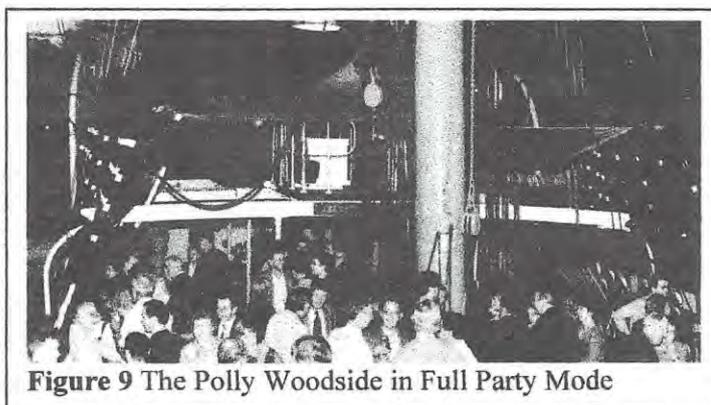


Figure 9 The Polly Woodside in Full Party Mode

popular event, as can be seen in Figure 9, with the unusual venue obviously being part of the attraction.. However, I'm not sure that I would have liked to sail on her.

Whilst on the subject of socialising I must say that the entire exhibition was a very friendly affair. Certainly all of the exhibitors I met were having a great time and most were collectors of relatively modest means like myself. There seems to be a perception that you need to be a millionaire to exhibit internationally. This just isn't true. What it takes is hard work and determination and I met many Australian and New Zealand collectors who put in the hard work and were duly rewarded. Many of these collectors were getting good medals and were not far off gold or had achieved it. Certainly my own ambition was to prove that you could achieve an international gold medal in my own field, Leeward Islands postal stationery. My aim is not to collect gold medals it is far too expensive. Yes there were a number of collections that were worth seven figure sums but so what. They are always nice to see but I still don't believe that money is everything, especially in philately. Certainly the International Prix went to a stunning collection of the first issue of Canada. Most of it the type of material that you only see in auction catalogues. It was a deserving winner that may have cost a fortune to put together but still took the owner much effort to do. As it turned out I ended up having a few drinks with him after the Awards Dinner, and not leaving till three in the morning but that is another story. He and his wife were charming and he was genuinely ecstatic to win. Overall the exhibits were of a very high quality and it was enjoyable to look at them. Where else but an international exhibition would you see five (!) Costa Rican exhibits. The other nominee for the grand award was a collection entitled "Fifty Years Revenue usage of the large Nyasaland Keyplate 1907-1957". It was a truly amazing exhibit and may be the first time that a Revenue collection has been a

nominee for the grand award. I would have been tempted as a judge to vote for it and it is the one exhibit that I would love to bring to Canberra for a Society display.

I am sure that you will read other commentaries on the exhibits and the results so I won't go in for any detail, except to congratulate all the Society members who exhibited and did so well. The Social Philately class was a popular class and there were many large vermeil and gold medals awarded. This idea of Ed Druce's has come of age and I believe will take off around the world. The exhibitors in this class were not all Australian or New Zealand and the overall winner in this class came from England. The 34 exhibitors have proven that this class takes as much "philatelic" effort as any other class but gives you the freedom to have some fun with your collection. As one, unnamed, exhibitor told me thematics had better watch out. This class has many of the fun elements of thematics without the very strict and sometimes over interpretive rules of that class. In some ways this is true but I believe that there will always be both classes. However, thematics may find that it loses some "market share", so to speak, to social philately. Only time will tell.



Figure 10 "Philately can be fun"

shown in Figure 11. This may have sounded simple but it also involved myself in Olymphilex jacket together with the Chairman of Olymphilex's wife similarly attired, escorting poor Ian through many hundreds of children to get him onto the stage. I must say that he handled it well and did manage to get his very large (costumed) feet onto the stage.

This was a most enjoyable sight that needed to be shared with all the members of the Society. It also rounded off a most enjoyable and well run show. I can't wait for the next one. (By the way the Victorian Premier saw the crowds and wanted one every year.)

As with all exhibitions they are always full of meetings, launches and other associated non-social gatherings and Australia 99 was no exception. I helped with two specialist society meetings and both were enjoyable, as well as attending a few others. I also managed to catch up with a collector from Switzerland who I had corresponded with for many years but never met. I am glad I managed to do this and I must say that the meeting of friends and correspondees is one of the big attractions of exhibitions of all levels. Especially since many specialist societies only meet rarely and it is often at international exhibitions.

Speaking of launches, the next international to be held in Australia will be Olymphilex and it is next year of course. This was launched at Australia 99 and of course something unusual was needed at the launch ceremony. Following on from Australia Post's launch of an Olympic stamp, together with associated Olympic athletes, the launch of Olymphilex took place.

As you can see from Figure 10 the launch involved the Society's former President, Ian McMahon, dressing up as a kangaroo to make a presentation as



Figure 11 The launch of Olymphilex

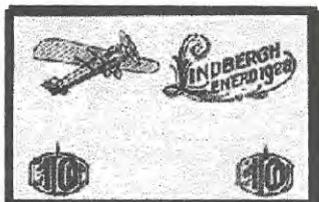
**COSTA RICA AIRMAIL:
STAMPS, FLIGHTS, AND AVIATION RELATED MAIL
1921 TO 1930 (Part 2 continued from Vol 17 No. 2)**

Air Commodore Richard Gurevitch, AO

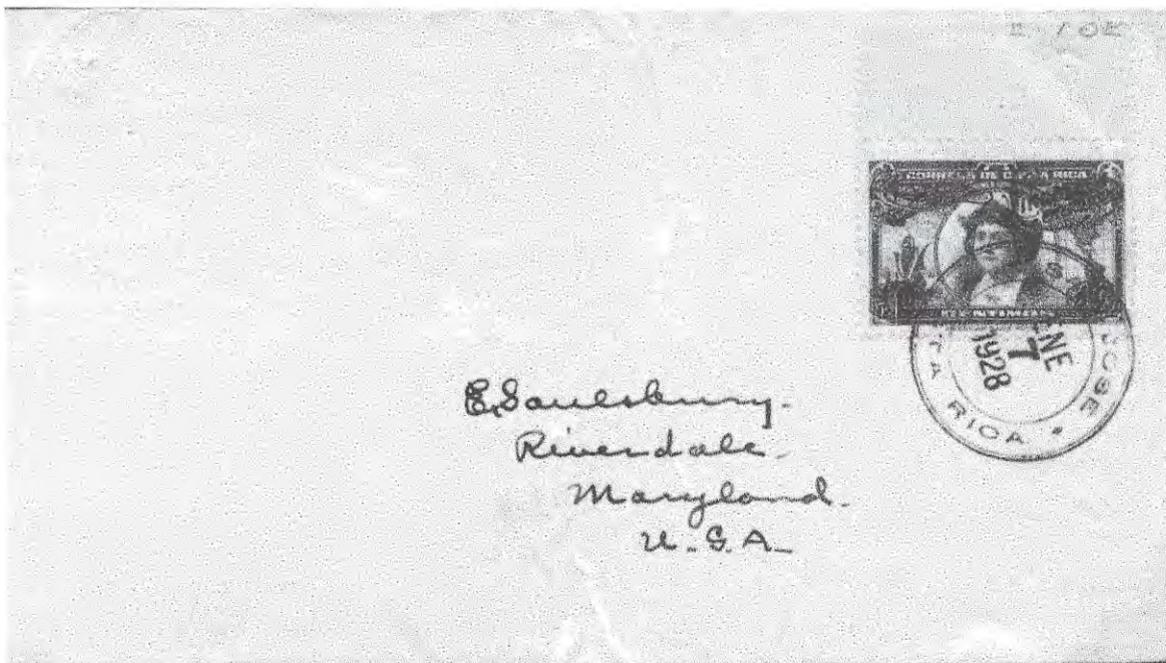
1928 Lindbergh Goodwill Tour of Central America

In January 1928, Colonel Charles Lindbergh called on San José on his goodwill tour of Central America. To commemorate the visit, the 12 Centimos 'Columbus' stamp was overprinted accordingly and its value altered. 20,000 stamps were so overprinted in a setting of 100 units and first issued on 7 January 1928 in keeping with Lindbergh's arrival in Costa Rica. This stamp was not annotated for airmail use, but it did commemorate an aviation event.

When Lindbergh departed San José he was handed three parcels of external mail by the PMG. The mail carried no special markings. Lindbergh was later reprimanded for transporting the mail, as it was illegal for him to do so.



Die Proof in Black on Cream Paper



Mail to an external destination that could have been carried by Lindbergh to the Canal Zone and placed in the US mailbag there.

Forgeries of the overprinted stamp exist. The original die was used to make up the forged overprint and the overprint was applied in a setting of 25 units on genuine stamps. The forged overprint has additional large single dots under each value tablet. (Enlargements are shown below).



Genuine Stamp



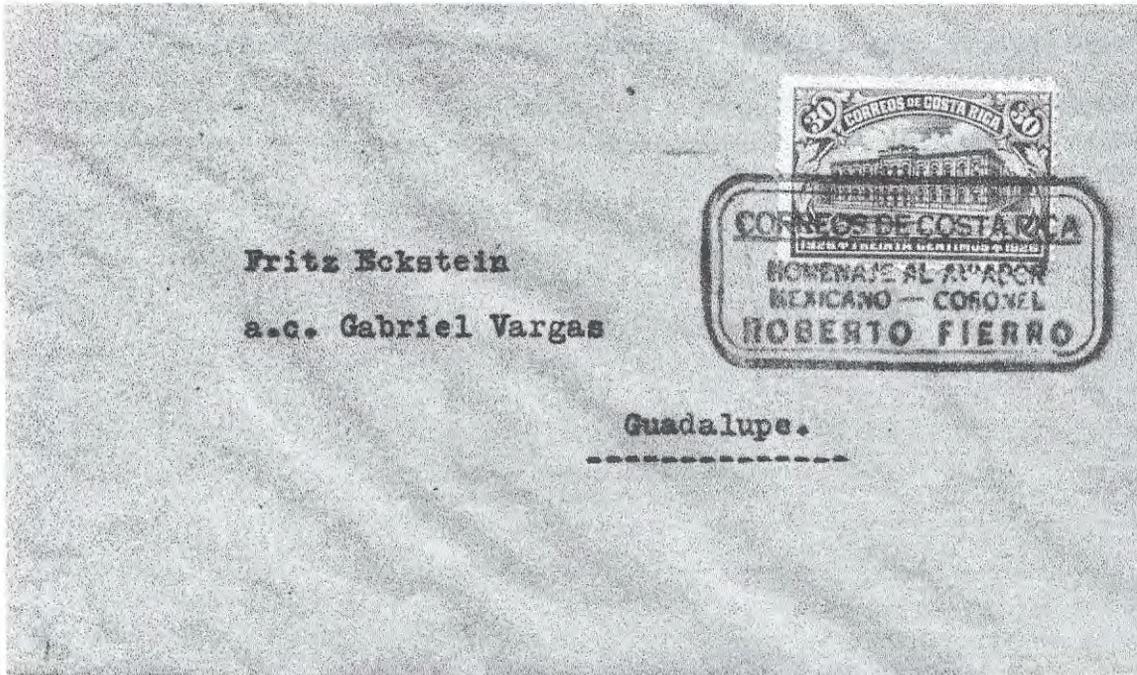
Forgery
Large dots under value tablets



Forgery – Inverted Overprint
Large dots under value tablets

1928 Visit of Colonel Roberto Fierro

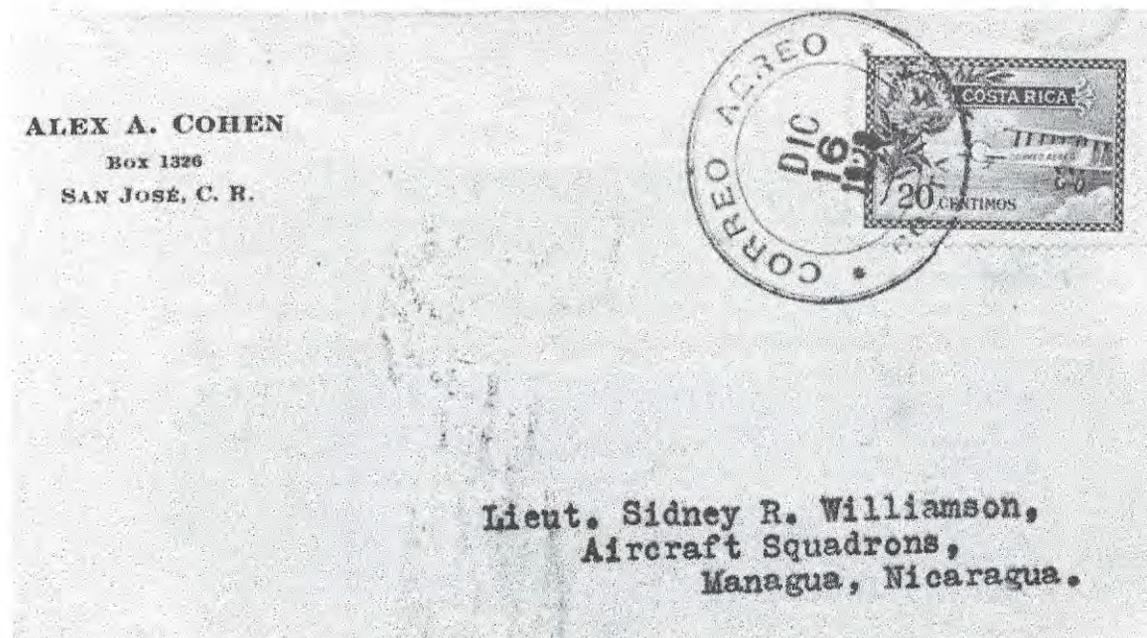
On 4 September 1928, the Mexican aviator Colonel Roberto Fierro arrived at San José. During his stay in Costa Rica all mail in San José was cancelled with a special cachet reading 'CORRES DE COSTA RICA HOMENAJE AL AVIADOR MEXICANO – COLONEL ROBERTO FIERRO'. He left for Panama on 8 September 1928 carrying 100 letters, but this mail did not have any additional airmail cancels.



Internal surface mail posted 6 September 1928 bearing special cancel for visit of Colonel Roberto Fierro.

1928 United States Marine Corps Airmail Delivery from San José to Managua

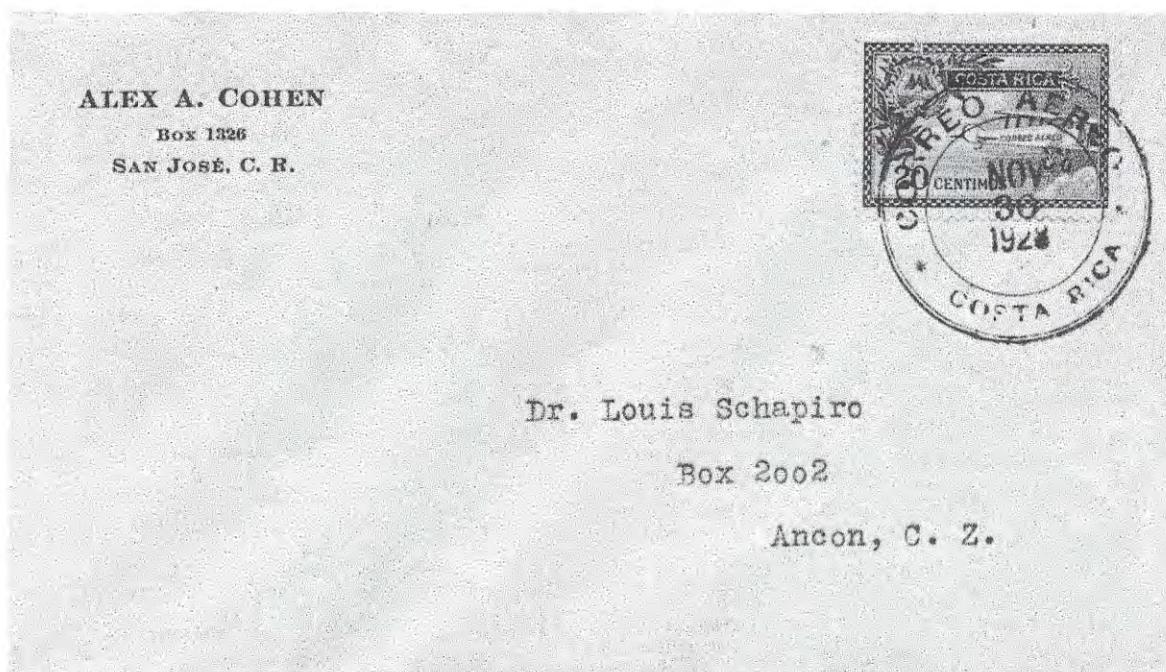
US Marine Corps pilots stationed in Nicaragua were permitted to fly their aircraft San José in order to have rest and recreational leave in San José where the climate was better. Local planters persuaded Lt. Britt to carry 40 letters on his return to Managua on 30 November 1928 to show the benefits of airmail, as opposed to the five days it took for the mail by surface transport. Lt. Sidney Williamson carried another 40 letters when he returned from leave on 16 December 1928. On both occasions, the mail was cancelled an airmail chop bearing the date of the flight.



San José Costa Rica to Managua Nicaragua: sent 16 December 1928 – 40 item carried.

1928 US Army Air Corps Emergency Airmail Flights

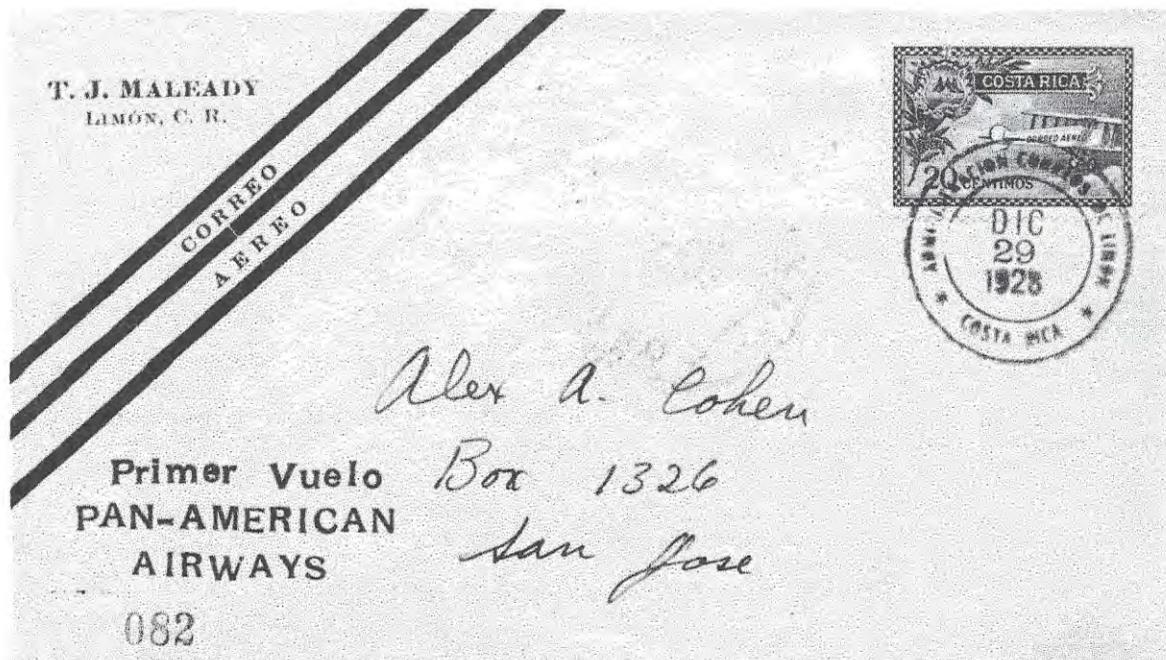
In November 1928 flood heavy rain once again cut the rail link between San José and Limón. USAAC aircraft from Frances Field in the Canal Zone flew 14 sorties with relief supplies and mail between San José and Limón from 30 November to 14 December 1928. Mail was cancelled with the Costa Rica airmail chop.



San José to Limón by airmail and on forwarded to Ancon Canal Zone by surface mail: sent 30 November 1928. About 250 letters were carried to Limón.

1928 Pan-American Airways (PAA) Experimental Airmail Service

Pan-American wanted to open up a mail route through Central America and to that end, Lt. Donald Duke was sworn in as an airmail pilot (ex-officio) of the US Postal Services. On 29 December 1928 he piloted a PAA Leoning amphibian aircraft from the Canal Zone to San José via Limón where additional mail was taken on board. The mail bore a cachet 'Primer Vuelo PAN-AMERICAN AIRWAYS'.



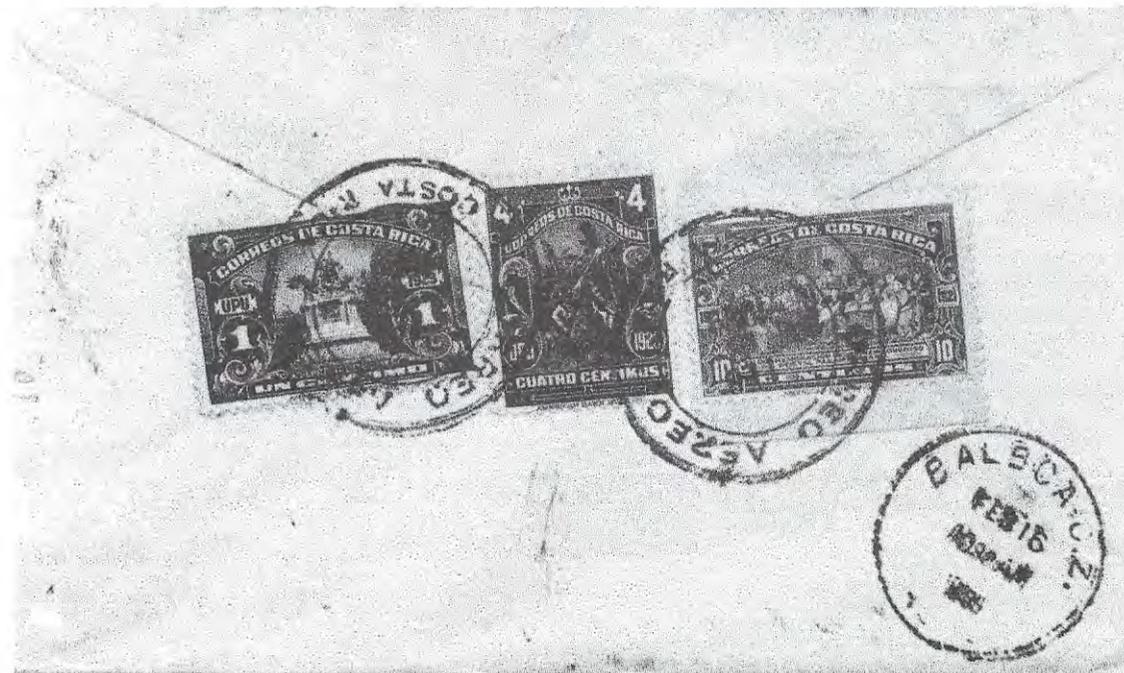
Limón to San José: sent 29 December and back-stamped with airmail cds 30 December 1928' - 750 items carried.

1929 Resumption of Pan-American Airways Flights

Lt. Duke crashed the PAA Leoning amphibian at San José on his scheduled return flight of 30 December 1928. This and a failure to finalize arrangements with Costa Rica resulted in a suspension of the PAA mail service. The experimental PAA service was to be resumed on 8 February 1929, but the actual flight from San José to the Canal Zone via Limón did not take place until 15 February 1929. The service was apparently operated on a weekly basis until 8 March 1929.

Mail on the flights attracted an airmail premium of 35 Centimos, and the mail was cancelled with the Costa Rica airmail cds.

Very few items were carried and there is some conjecture about the flights and the services ¹.



San José to Balboa CZ: Mail postmarked 8 February but flight delayed until 15 February 1929
Received Balboa 16 February. Very few items carried.

¹ Saundry, Richard, The 1928/29 Winter Flood Flight Covers of Costa Rica, Air Mail News, June and September 1993

Capital Philately

1930 Introduction of Regular Foreign Airmail Route 5 (FAM 5) Service to Costa Rica

Costa Rica signed up with PAA to be part of the FAM 5 regular airmail service from Miami to Colon, with San Jose on the route. Flights were scheduled for departure, both North and South, on 11 March 1930. Mail carried on the first flights were annotated with special destination cachets as well as having their stamps cancelled with an airmail cds. Cachets were produced for America del Sud (South America), Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Estados Unidos de A (United States), Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, and Extranjero (overseas) for all other places. Mail to Nicaragua carried no outward cachet but was stamped with a special receiving cachet.

In addition, four new airmail stamps were produced by overprinting the current 1 Colon Official stamp. These airmail stamps were used for prepayment of the airmail surcharge for postage, and regular postage stamps were used for the normal postal charge. The stamps were issued on 4 March 1930 in anticipation of the regular airmail service. Plate proofs of the four values exist printed on transparent paper and on 'Tobacco Tax Stamp' paper.



Plate Proofs of Overprint ion issued colour on 'Tobacco Tax Stamp' paper.



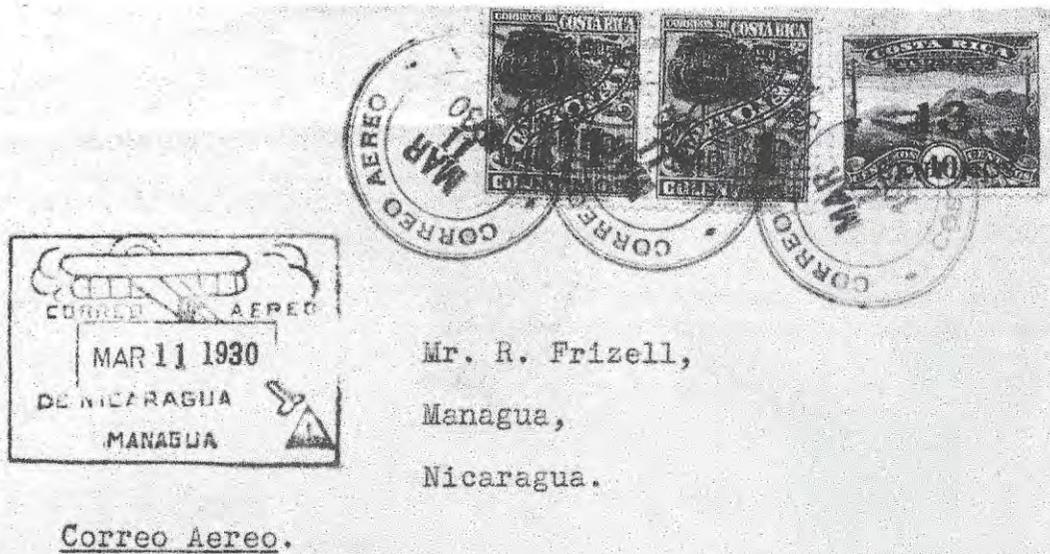
The four values of the 4 March 1930 airmail stamp.

The quantities produced of the four airmail stamps amounted to 20,000 of the 8 Centimos, 18,000 of the 20 Centimos, 16,000 of the 40 Centimos, and 12,000 of the 1 Colon values. It is reported that sales per customer were restricted, and towards the end of their sale, customers were limited to one set ².

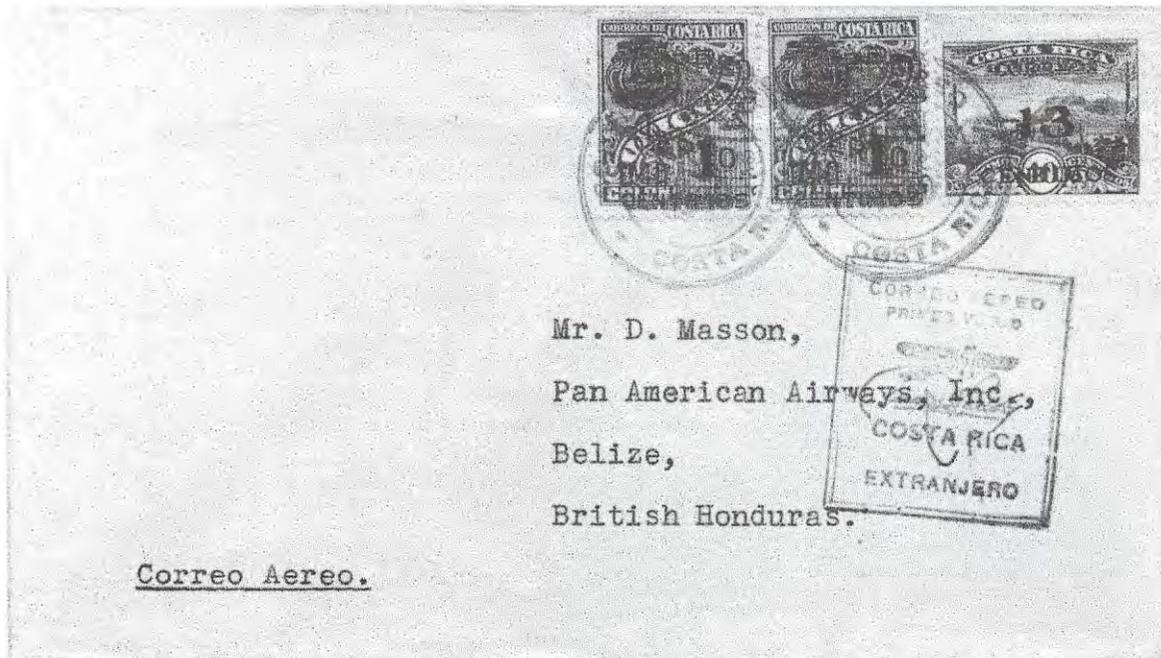


Costa Rica to Ecuador by PAA FAM5: 'AMERICA DEL SUD' cachet – 6 items carried to Ecuador

² Hartland-Swann, The Aero Field, March 1978



Costa Rica to Nicaragua: stamped with Managua receiving cachet but no special CR 'First Flight' cachet. (Ordinary postage with a 13 Centimos stamp and the airmail charge with two 40 Centimos airmail stamps). (172 items carried to Nicaragua).



Costa Rica to British Honduras: First Flight cover stamped with general 'EXTRANJERO' cachet. (22 items carried).

Various First Flight Cachets



El Salvador



Guatemala



Honduras

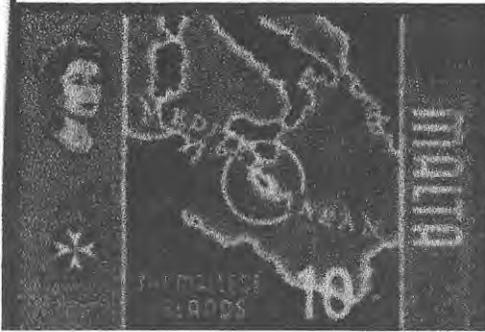


United States of America

MALTA'S HISTORY SEEN THROUGH ITS STAMPS

Albert Farrugia

Pre-history



About seven thousand years ago, men came to the Island of Malta, using rafts and bringing with them livestock, utensils and seed. They occupied the archipelago and developed a community which was well established during the Neolithic Age.

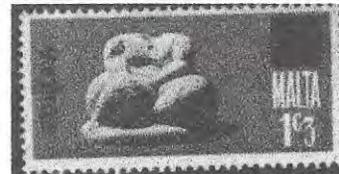
Different kinds of pottery, even from the earliest Ghar Dalam phase, indicate that there were farmers and stock raisers as well as fishermen among those people who must have been of Eastern Mediterranean origin though they came from Sicily. Their pottery work indicate that they soon started to develop their own identity. Though the earliest amongst them must have used caves for living and burial, village communities quickly appeared as can be seen especially from the remains of Sqolba and Borg in-Nadur.

The Maltese Neolithic communities developed their crafts and particularly their ability to produce and decorate pottery and to carve stone and build magnificent megalithic temples. They also dug burial grounds and at Hal Saflieni (Paula) an underground temple, known as the Hypogeum (right), implying a cult of the Dead.



The temples of Mgarr, Tarxien, Hagar Qim, Mnajdra and Ggantija (left) are megalithic remains which stand out as evidence of the fact that life centred round the religious cult of the Mother Goddess represented by massive statues commonly referred to as 'The Fat

Lady' (right). A priestly order dominated the people especially through its oracles.



The pre-historic settlers of Malta remained shrouded in mystery until some time in the Ninth century B.C. Phoenician seafarers came to the Island and colonised it.

Punic and Roman Times

The Phoenicians appreciated the strategic value of the Maltese Islands and started to make use of them. Presumably they founded the cities of Malta and Gaulos in the Centre of the islands while rock-cut tombs indicate their presence inland and the introduction of their religious cult related with Astarte as evidenced by the Tas-Silg Temple.

When the Phoenician homeland was overrun by the Assyrians and Babylonians, the Carthaginians took over the Island and started using them as a trading post. While a Maltese government system similar to that of the Carthaginians seems to have evolved, Maltese trade gained in reputation particularly in the production of textiles.

Various Punic artifacts give an indication of the life-style of the people at the time. Votive offerings including amulets, jewellery, inscribed papyri, bowls and urns have been found in various tombs. A terracotta sarcophagus, dating from about 500 B.C., and found at Ghar Barka, Rabat, represents the figure of a woman and is Egyptian style.

Greek culture may have also influenced the islands: a votive cippus dedicated to Melkart, Lord of Tyre, has Punic script accompanied by Greek, while early Roman coins bear Greek inscriptions. The cippus helped to have the Phoenician alphabet deciphered (right).



The Roman took Malta during the Second Punic War when Titus Sempronius Longus invaded it in 218 B.C. Under Roman rule, the Maltese were considered as confederates and allies. They had their own government, while during the troublesome period of the Republic in Rome, they were placed under a Propraetor in Sicily.



The inhabitants prospered and according to Diodorus Siculus they became wealthy and increased in reputation. They built country houses embellished with mosaic floors, thermae and marble statues, while the cities of Melita and Gaulos gained in importance. When the Praetor Verres pillaged the island, he was immediately accused by the Roman orator Cicero. The A.D. 60, St. Paul was shipwrecked in Malta (left). His companion St. Luke noted that the Maltese were 'barbarians' implying that they spoke neither Greek nor Latin.

Christianity started to spread. Christian communities started organising their own holy places and dug catacombs which are exceptionally well laid and excavated. The Maltese catacombs, notably those of St. Paul's and St. Agatha, are unique among those still existing – they have agape tables which served for libation rites.

There followed an obscure period during which the Islands were occupied by the Byzantines.

Mediaeval Malta

For more than two centuries, the Maltese Islands were under Arab rule (870-1090) (left). In 1090, Count Roger the Norman with a small force, landed in Malta. The Arabs did not offer any resistance



and after negotiations with Count Roger it was agreed that they were to continue to govern the islands, but they had to pay an annual tribute to Roger the Norman (right). The Maltese Islands were formally incorporated with the Sicilian Crown about the year 1123 when Sicily was governed by Roger II (1105-1154), the Son of Roger the Norman.



After the death of King William II of Sicily (1154-1164) his aunt Constance, who was married to the Emperor Henry VI of Germany, inherited the Sicilian Crown. Constance's title to the throne was contested by Tancred of Lecce who was elected King of Sicily by the Sicilian Parliament. Eventually, however, Sicily and Malta fell under the German rule. Henry's descendants ruled Malta and Sicily till 1266 when they were defeated by the French Prince, Charles of Anjou, at the Battle of Benevento (1266) and Tagliacozzo (1268).

Angevin rule did not last long. In March 1282 the Sicilians rose against the French and by September the French had left the Island - King Peter of Aragon now became King of Sicily, and by December 1282 the great majority of the Maltese had adhered to the new ruler of Sicily. In April 1283, at the request of the Maltese, the new sovereign of Sicily incorporated Malta with the Sicilian crown.

During the fourteenth century, the Maltese Islands were given to a series of Feudal lords, however the islands were again incorporated with the Sicilian Crown in 1350 and in 1397.



In January 1421, King Alfonso V pawned the Maltese Islands to Antonio Cardona for 30,000 gold florins. Cardona, in March 1421, transferred his rights over the Maltese Islands to Gonsalvo Monroy. The Maltese revolted against Monroy, and offered to pay him the sum of 30,000 gold florins he had paid to acquire the Maltese Islands (left). The request was accepted and by a Royal Charter dated 20th June 1482 King Alfonso V confirmed the right of the Maltese.

In the following century there were no feudal lords in the Maltese Islands and there was very little interference from Sicily. The Maltese Islands had a local government, the Università made up of the government officials who carried on the day to day administration, and the Consiglio Popolare, or local Council, which although it could deliberate local affairs had no legislative power.

First years of the Order of St John in Malta: 1530 - 1565

By a decree dated the 23rd March 1530 the Emperor Charles V ceded the Islands of Malta and Gozo, and the fortress of Tripoli in North Africa, to the Sovereign Military Order of St John which was in search of a new home after the loss of Rhodes in December 1522, following a six months long siege by the Turks.

Grand Master Phillippe Villiers de l'Isle Adam, and a great part of the Convent, arrived in Malta on the 26th October 1530 (left) and took up residence at Birgu, which now became the headquarters of a Sovereign Military Order.



After an incursion by Dragut in July 1551, the order took steps to straighten the island's defences, by erecting two forts, St Michael and St Elmo. During the magistracy of Fr. Claude de La Sengle (1553 - 1557) a part of the Isola peninsula was surrounded by bastions, and a new town called Senglea, after the Grand Master, was erected in the same place.

Grand Master Claude de La Sengle (1553 - 1557) was succeeded by the French knight Jean Parisot de La Valette (right). In May 1565 a Turkish armada appeared over the horizon, consisting of about 200 vessels with about 40,000 men on board. As the Grand Master had been forewarned about the Turkish plans, preparations had been made by the Order for impending siege. The knights and Maltese retreated within the fortification. The Turks laid siege to Fort St Elmo which fell into their hands on the 23rd June 1565.



Following the fall of Fort St Elmo, the Turks attacked Senglea and Vittoriosa several times but the two towns offered a valiant resistance to the attacks (left). On the 7th September 1565 the long expected relief force arrived from Sicily and the Turks immediately raised the siege and departed.



Malta under the Knights: 1566 - 1798



Following the raising of the Great Siege, Grand Master Jean La Valette decided to erect a new city on Mount Sceberras. The plans for the new city were drawn by the Italian architect Francesco Laparelli from Cortona, while funds for the erection of the new city were provided by Pope St Pius V, and the Kings of Spain, France and Portugal. The first stone of the new city which was named Valletta, in honour of the Grand Master, was laid on 28th March 1566 (left).

In the following two centuries, the new cities of Valletta was provided with the necessary amenities such as an adequate water supply, a hospital, law courts, theatre, biblioteca and a customs house.

In the century following the Great Siege (1565 - 1665) the Order continued to strengthen the island's defences. The Floriana lines outside Valletta were constructed on the designs of architect Pietro Floriani, while the Santa Margerita lines, which enclosed the town of Cospicua, on the southern side of Grand Harbour, were constructed on the designs of Firenzuola. In 1660 during the Magistracy of Grand Master Nicholas Cotoner (1663 - 1680) (right) work was taken in hand on the Cottonera lines, a grandiose project on the designs of engineer Valperga, which encircled the three towns on the southern side of the harbour. In the XVIII century Forts Manoel and Tigne were erected. The coastal fortifications were strengthened with the construction of a number of forts and towers including thirteen coastal towers which were erected by Grand Master de Redin (1657 - 1660). The fortifications of Gozo were also strengthened.



During the Order's rule, the population of the Maltese Islands increased considerably from approximately 25,000 in 1530 to 91,273. A large number of churches were erected in the towns and villages on the designs of Maltese architects such as Gerolamo Cassar and his son Vittorio, Tommaso Dingli and Lorenzo Gafa'. These churches were embellished with works of art, the product of foreign and Maltese artists, such as Caravaggio (right), Mattia Preti, Stefano and Alessio Erardi and Francesco Zahra. Pride of place belongs to the Cathedral of St. John in Valletta (left).



In 1592 the Jesuit opened a Collage in Valletta and in 1769 Grand Master Emmanuel Pinto established a University (left). A Diocesan Seminary was also established while several colleges were set up by various Religious Orders. Serious studies in the Maltese Language, hitherto a spoken language only, were undertaken by two scholars, the Gozitan Canon Agius Sultana (1712 - 1770) known as De Soldanins and Mikiel Anton Vassalli (1764 - 1829) (right).



Resentment and Changes: 1798 – 1815



In June 1798, a French armada under the command of General Bonaparte (left) appeared on the horizon. Following a feeble resistance, the Knights capitulated and the Maltese Islands fell under French rule.

The French carried out a number of reforms. However, a number of their measures caused resentment among the Maltese and on the 2nd September 1798 the Maltese rose against the French. Within the space of a few hours Mdina and the whole of the countryside fell into the hands of the Maltese. Valletta, Floriana and the Forts Manoel and Tinge' remained in the hands of the French, who were besieged by the Maltese. The French Blockade lasted two years.

The Maltese insurgents set up a Provisional Government and set up batteries at strategic points. Help was obtained from Naples and in 1799 following a request from the Maltese, the Maltese Islands were placed under the special protection of His Britannic Majesty (right).



The blockade ended in September 1800, and following the French capitulation, the Maltese Islands were administered by the British Government and Sir Alexander Ball was appointed by the first Civil Commissioner.

Hostilities between England and France came to an end in 1802, with the Treaty of Amiens. According to this Treaty, the British were to evacuate Malta which was to revert to the Order of St John. The majority of the Maltese objected to this decision. Difficulties ensued, the British did not evacuate Malta and in May 1803, war broke out again between Britain and France.

During the Napoleonic Wars, Malta experienced an economic boom due to the Continental System. The war between England and France came to an end in 1814 and according to the Treaty of Paris (1814) the Maltese Islands formally became part of the British Empire. The artificial prosperity created by the War began to abate with its end and further difficulties ensued in 1813 after an outbreak of plague which killed 4,000 people.

(To be continued)

REVIEW

A SELECTION OF THE ENGRAVED STAMPS OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA



A Selection of the Engraved Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia is a product of the Australia Post Philatelic Group that may or may not be a world first but is certainly a product with a very interesting future.



The best place to start is to describe this very attractive production. It is an A4 size book with gold embossing on a grey marbled cover with a black spine to give it a half-bound look. The corners of the covers have gold metal protectors and internally the pages are gold edged. It is housed in a similar grey marbled slip case. Inside there is a contents page followed by a two page introduction on Intaglio or recess printing as it is known. Then follows 28 examples of Australian recess printing starting with the 1913 engraved 1d King George the Fifth head all the way through the 1965 Anzac commemorative, two of which are illustrated above.

For each of the 28 examples, the left hand page describes the stamp issue and has an appropriate picture/s to go with the story. On the right hand page the stamp or stamp set is reproduced in colour along with reproductions of preliminary design/s. As a background to this a large part of the stamp design is reproduced in the centre of the page, considerably enlarged and usually in a colour close to the issued stamp. Overlaying this is a protective sheet of 'onion skin' paper with the rest of the stamp printed on it. Thus when you open at any page you see a considerably enlarged version of the stamp. Also mounted on the right hand page is a black protective mount with an imperforate die proof in black of the issued stamp or one of the set. These are very crisp and clear and have been produced from the original dies. Overall the effect is very attractive and this is a superbly produced product that illustrates many of the printer's arts.

The reason that I stated that this product, potentially has an interesting future, is that I believe the die proofs may be exhibitable, although others may disagree. I believe that these have more legitimacy in many ways than the replica cards and may be considered as posthumous die proofs. Other posthumous die proofs have ended up in exhibits, such as the Hapsburg Chalon reprints or Post Office Mauritius reprints. Similarly, these too may end up being exhibited.

Capital Philately

This very attractive product was produced by Australia Post and released in time for Australia 99. It had to be ordered in advance, by about the end of 1998, and by paying a \$25 deposit. The other \$100 was payable just prior to issue. A very few were available at the exhibition I believe but I don't think that they are still available. Given the high issue price I would guess that this book of proofs was not produced in high numbers and may turn out to be a scarce item in the future. Further, I think that it will be sought after by both bibliophiles and Australian collectors. However, at less than \$5 per proof this may turn out to be a bargain because if these proofs are exhibitable then demand may soar. I believe that the albums, like similar albums in the past, such as the Fournier forgery album, will be split up and sold as individual items if this occurs.

I am certainly glad I ordered a copy as it is one of the most attractive philatelic items I have seen.

Darryl Fuller

CANBERRA PICTURE POSTCARD COLLECTORS

Open to anyone in Canberra not just members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

Cost \$15 per annum
(Includes *Pastcards*, the quarterly journal, which illustrates cards exhibited at the monthly meetings.)
Postal Auctions

Meetings on the second Tuesday of each month from 7.45pm to 9.30pm plus

**Room 5
Griffin Centre
Bunda Street
Canberra City**

AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION

PRODUCT		(Weight)	PRICE	QTY	VALUE
BINDER AND SLIP CASE ONLY	Each	550gms	\$14.50		
EXTRA PAGES & PROTECTORS	Per 20	250gms	\$20.80		
STAMPSAFE BOX		260gms	\$9.90		
WHITE ARCHIVAL DISPLAY PAGES					
PAGES 283mm x 250mm, Punched	Per 50	650gms	\$37.00		
PAGES 283mm x 250mm, Unpunched	Per 50	650gms	\$37.00		
NEW DISPLAY PAGES					
Plain Pages, 283mm x 216mm	Per 50	500gms	\$10.00		
Pages with Grille, 283mm x 216mm	Per 50	500gms	\$15.00		
Plain Pages, 283mm x 230mm	Per 50	500gms	\$11.00		
SHEET PROTECTORS, POLYPROPYLENE					
Protectors 290mm x 252mm	Per 50	450gms	\$18.00		
Protectors 290mm x 218mm	Per 50	400gms	\$18.00		
SHEET PROTECTORS, MYLAR					
Side Opening 290mm x 260mm	Per 10	200gms	\$16.00		
Side Opening 290mm x 220mm	Per 10	190gms	\$16.00		
Top opening 290mm x 260mm	Per 10	200gms	\$16.00		
POSTAGE & PACKING*	First Kilo		\$8.00		
	Add'l Kilos		\$3.00		
TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED					\$

All orders to:
ARCHIVAL PRODUCTS
AUSTRALIAN PHILATELIC FEDERATION
PO BOX 208
TORRENS SA 5062

BOOK REVIEW

**PRICED CATALOGUE OF NEW SOUTH WALES
REVENUE AND RAILWAY STAMPS**

By Richard Peck and "Dingle" Smith.

The *Priced Catalogue Of New South Wales Revenue And Railway Stamps* builds on the ground breaking work of Bill Craig and Canberra collector Denis Osborn which was published in 1983 as *The Revenue Stamps of New South Wales*.

What is astonishing is the amount of additional information which has come to light since *The Revenue Stamps of New South Wales* was published in 1983. Clearly the earlier publication has had the effect of encouraging collectors to identify stamps not listed and as a result this new work has much expanded listings, especially of the impressed duty stamps. In addition much new information has come from an examination of records held by the New South Wales Archives.

The book includes chapters on adhesive stamp duty stamps, impressed duty stamps, duties and charges (including beer duty and electric telegraph), other taxes (including betting tax, cattle duty, swine duty, family endowment, relief tax and wages tax), railway stamps and semi-official issues (including wine and spirit stamps, custom clearance, Lord Howe departure tax, entertainment tax, the South Maitland and East Greta Railways, newspaper stamp duty, the Ambulance Contribution Scheme and the Hospital Contributions Fund). Specimen stamps are listed where they are known.

Each section has some notes on the legislative basis for the stamps being issued and includes a chronological listing of the known stamps. Duty stamps were first issued by New South Wales in 1865 with both adhesive and impressed duty stamps coming into use at that time. New South Wales is unusual in that stamp duty was not payable during the period 1875 to 1880. As is the case for other Australian States, New South Wales issued stamps for a range of other taxes such as cattle and swine duty imposed to create a fund for compensating farmers whose animals had to be destroyed because of disease. The last chapter includes an account of the wine and spirit stamps by Canberra collectors Alf Davis and Dingle Smith.

The listing of New South Wales railway stamps revises the listing given in the 1980 publication *The Railway and Other Parcel Stamps of Mainland Australia* by Ingles, Presgrave and Craig. Compared with the revenue stamp listing comparatively few new additions have been made. The last chapter in the book includes an article by Don Catterall on the South Maitland Railway Parcels Stamps.

This book is a valuable addition to the literature on Australia's revenue stamps and will, hopefully, encourage other collectors to take an interest in this field of philately. Interest in revenue stamps continues to grow with the field now a recognised FIP class and was well represented at Australia 99.

The Catalogue is, in general, priced although the rarer items are given a rarity rating and the common items (priced less than a dollar) are listed as 'C'.

The cover and selected pages of the book are in colour, being produced on a colour photocopier. The use of colour enhances the appeal of the book and, hopefully, as the cost of colour photocopying decreases we will begin to see it used more often in philatelic publications of this sort.

The *Priced Catalogue Of New South Wales Revenue And Railway Stamps* is published by the Cinderella Society of Australasia PO Box 889 Chatswood NSW 2057. The book is A4, spiral bound with a plastic cover, and has 142 pages including a table of contents and bibliography. It is available from the Society for \$35 (non-members) or \$30 (members).

Ian McMahon

NEW SOUTH WALES STAMP DUTY RATES (1865-1885)

Ian McMahon

This is the third article in a series looking at stamp duty rates in the Australian colonies. The earlier articles looked at Queensland (*Capital Philately* Volume 7 pg. 51) and Tasmanian stamp duty rates (*Capital Philately* Volume 16 pg. 55). In this article I summarise some of the stamp duty rates of New South Wales as given in the *Statistical Returns of the Colony of New South Wales 1865-85*.

Stamp Duty was introduced in New South Wales in 1865 following the passing of the Stamp Duties Act of 1865 which came into effect on 1 July 1865. The background to the Act and the duty stamps issued by New South Wales are described in the recently published *Priced Catalogue Of New South Wales Revenue And Railway Stamps* by Richard Peck and “Dingle” Smith (Ed. Refer book review). Table 1 is a simplified list of the rates applying during the period 1865-1874. The list is simplified in that often complex definitions, conditions and exemptions apply to the various categories and these are not detailed in the table below. In addition not all Government charges for which revenue stamps could be used are necessarily listed.

Table 1 New South Wales Stamp Duty Rates 1865 to 31 December 1874

SCHEDULE 1	
Agreements of £5 or more	1/-
Bills of exchange	
inland	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn singly or as a set of two (to 1871)	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn as a set of three or more, for each bill of the set (to 1871)	
• up to £50	4d
• up to £100	8d
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	4d
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside colony) – drawn singly (from 1871)	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn as a set of two for each bill of the set (from 1871)	
• up to £50	6d
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	6d
foreign (drawn in the Colony for payment outside the colony) – drawn as a set of three or more, for each bill of the set (from 1871)	
• up to £50	4d
• up to £100	8d
• for each additional £50 or part thereof	4d
Bill of exchange drawn outside of the Colony for payment on demand	
• up to £50	1/-
• up to £100	2/-

Capital Philately

• for each additional £50 or part thereof	1/-
Bill of Lading for goods to be exported	
• for every such bill	1/-
• for every such receipt or copy	6d
Composition annual to be paid by Banking Companies in lieu of duties on promissory notes issued by them. For every £100 or part thereof of the average annual value of notes in circulation (from 1871)	£2
Conveyance	
• up to £50	5/-
• up to £100	10/-
• for each additional £100 or part thereof	10/-
Deeds or instruments of any kind not otherwise charged (exclusions include apprenticeships, mortgages, custom bonds, liens on crops)	£1
Draft or order for the payment of any sum over 40/- (to 1871)	1d
Draft or order for the payment of any sum (from 1871)	1d
Lease of land or tenement	
• up to £50	2/6
• up to £100	5/-
• for each additional £100 or part thereof	5/-
Lease of land or tenement granted in consideration of a sum of money by way of premium and also of a yearly rent of £20 or more.	
• up to £50	7/6
• up to £100	15/-
• for each additional £100 or part thereof	15/-
Policy of Insurance against risk of loss or damage by fire (until 1871)	
• for every £100 issued for a period over 6 months	1/-
• for every £100 issued for a period under 6 months	6d
Policy of Insurance for a ships, or for goods or freight on board a ship for a period over 3 months (until 1871)	2/6
For all other policies – for every sum of £100 or part thereof (until 1871)	1/-
Policy of Insurance against risk of loss or damage by fire (from 1871)	
• for every £100 issued for a period over 6 months	6d
• for every £100 issued for a period under 6 months	3d
• for renewal of any policy for each £100	3d
Policy of Insurance for a ship, or for goods or freight on board a ship on a voyage for each £100 or part thereof, including renewals (from 1871)	3d
Policy of Insurance for a ship, or for goods or freight on board a ship for any period for each £100 or part thereof, including renewals (from 1871)	6d
For all other policies – for every sum of £100 or part thereof (from 1871)	1/-
Progressive Duty	5/-
Promissory Notes (see Bills of Exchange)	
Promissory Notes payable to the bearer on demand issued by any bank, for every £100 of the average annual circulation (until 1871)	£2
Receipt or discharge for a sum over 40/-	1d
Transfer of run or station (or interest therein) held under a lease from the crown, per £100 or part thereof of assessed value	10/-
Transfer of shares (until 1873)	
• purchase price less than £50	2/6
• purchase price £50 to less than £100	5/-
• each additional £50 or part thereof	2/6
Transfer of shares (from 1873)	
• purchase price less than £10	6d

Capital Philately

• purchase price £10 to less than £20	1/-
• each additional £10 or part thereof	6d
SCHEDULE II	
Probate of a will and letters of administration with a will attached	
• less than £100	£1
• £100-£200	£2
• £200-£300	£3
• £300-£400	£4
• £400-£500	£5
• Over £500	one per cent
Letters of administration without a will attached	
• less than £100	£1 10/-
• £100-£200	£3
• £200-£300	£4 10/-
• £300-£400	£6
• £400-£500	£7 10/-
• Over £500	1½ per cent
SCHEDULE III	
Legacies and successions to Personal Estate under any testamentary disposition or upon Intestacy (until 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£3 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£5 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£6 per £100
• to other people	£10 per £100
• husband or wife	exempt
• Charitable or religious body	exempt
Legacy and Residuary duties (from 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£2 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£3 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£5 per £100
• to other people	£6 per £100
• husband or wife	exempt
• Charitable or religious body	exempt
SCHEDULE IV	
Successions to Real and Personal Estate (until 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£3 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£5 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£6 per £100
• to other people	£10 per £100
• Charitable or religious body	exempt
Successions Duty (from 1871)	
• to a child, mother, father	£1 per £100
• to a brother or sister	£2 per £100
• to an uncle or aunt	£3 per £100
• To a great aunt or uncle	£5 per £100
• to other people	£6 per £100
• Charitable or religious body	exempt

Capital Philately

No stamp duty was payable in New South Wales from 1875 to 1880. The rates applying on the reintroduction of stamp duty in 1880 are given in Table 2.

Table 2 Rates from 1 July 1880 to 1885

SCHEDULE 1	
Agreement not under seal	1/-
Banknote, for every £100 of average annual circulation	£2
Bills of exchange	
• For every £50 or part thereof	6d
Bill of Lading or copy thereof	6d
Conveyance of property (other than shares)	
• up to £50	5/-
• up to £100	10/-
• for each additional £100	10/-
Conveyance of any other kind	£1
Draft payable on demand	1d
Deed (not otherwise charged)	£1
Lease of land or tenement for rent	
• up to £50	2/6
• for every additional £50 or part thereof	2/6
Lease of land or tenement granted in consideration of money stock or security	
• up to £50	5/-
• up to £100	10/-
• for each additional £100	10/-
Lease of any other kind	£1
Policy of Insurance against risk of loss or damage by fire	
• for every £100 issued for a period over 6 months	6d
• for every £100 issued for a period under 6 months	3d
• for every renewal per £100	3d
Policy of Insurance for any voyage	
• for every £100 or part thereof	3d
For all other policies – for every sum of £100 or part thereof	1/-
Receipt for every payment of £2 or more	2d
Transfer of run or station (or interest therein) held under a lease from the crown, per £100 of assessed value	10/-
Transfer of shares, for every £10 or part thereof	6d
SCHEDULE II	
Probate of a will, for every £100 or part thereof	One percent

Machin Interest Group

of the

Philatelic Society of Canberra

Collectors interested in the Machin series should join. The group's newsletter *Machinations* is issued bi-monthly and contains a wealth of useful information for the Machin collector.

For more information contact Albert Farrugia on 02 6295 7487
or look in the internet at <http://www.tip.net.au/~albfar/mig.htm>

FOUND IN THE TRASH

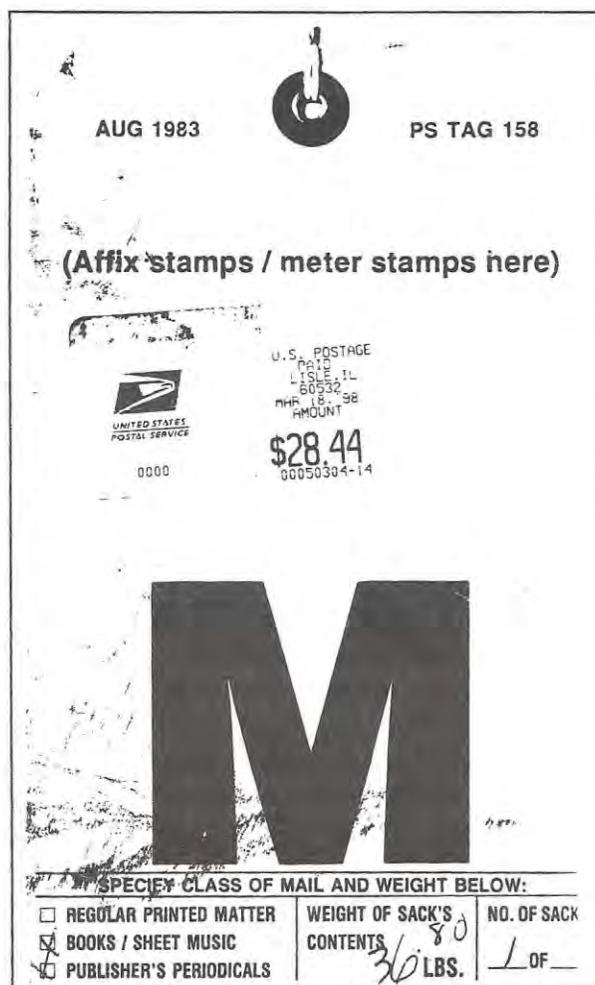
Darryl Fuller

At a recent Society auction I purchased a United States mail bag for a very low price. I only wanted the mail bag for my children since it was a large good quality canvas bag and I knew that they would find a use for it. However, attached to the bag, which had its original drawstring cord and metal clasp, were two mailing labels.

The first of these is illustrated at right but has been reduced in size as the original label is 17.7cm high and 10.8cm wide. It is printed all in blue and in this case has a meter label paying the \$28.44 postage. It is a pity that stamps were not used. On the reverse of the label is printed M BAG at the top, then FROM (de): and a few lines for an address followed by TO:/(pour) and space for a detailed address, and then M-BAG/DIRECT SACK TO ONE ADRESSEE. The other label is a blue United States Postal Service label with a destination sticker including barcode stuck on.

The illustrated label is obviously of interest as a postal history item and is the sort of item that rarely if ever survives. In the first place, to get one of these you must be a recipient of a direct mail bag and then of course the label must fall into the hands of a philatelist. Luckily this one has and will be preserved for posterity.

I hope to make a regular feature of items like this, which are invariably found in the trash and I would welcome all small articles on other trash and treasure.



M-Bag Direct Sack to One Addressee Label (71% actual size)

AEROGRAMME SOCIETY
The International Airletter & Aerogramme Collectors Society



Established 1996
Member of FISA

Membership entitles you to the quarterly journal *AerogrammeR*, regular mail sale auctions, use of the Society library, contact with a network of other collectors world-wide, .

Contact us today.
PO Box 215, Dickson, A.C.T., 2602 Australia
 Email: toma@dynamite.com.au
 Web site: <http://www.expage.com/page/aerogrammer>



Pittwater Philatelic Service

YOUR FAVOURITE DEALER

Write, phone or fax for your free copy of one of our competitive price lists:

1. Australia and Territories
2. Australian States
3. New Zealand
4. South Pacific Islands

We stock most brands of albums, catalogues and accessories. You can order them by providing us with two business days notice prior to one of the Canberra shows which we attend regularly.

**We regularly attend the Griffin Centre Sunday Shows
Hope to see you there on the Second Sunday in every month.**

We also service want lists and provide professional insurance valuations. We buy and sell quality stamps and collections, postcards, phonecards and cigarette cards. We accept Bankcard, Mastercard, Visa, American Express, cheques, money orders and (of course!) cash. Give us a try, you'll be pleasantly surprised by our competitive prices and service.

**PO Box 478 Avalon Beach, NSW 2107
Phone: (02) 9974 5707 Fax: (02) 9974 1177**

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

Stamp News

Australasia

Australasia's
leading magazine

The leader for news
The leader for comment
The leader for circulation
The greatest coverage of Australian
and pacific news of any Stamp Magazine
in the world

Sample copy, subscriptions and
advertising rates on request.

All major credit cards accepted.

**Stamp News Australasia
PO Box 1410
Dubbo, NSW. 2830 Australia**