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Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



The Philatelic Society of Canberra
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Editorial

As in all hobbies, to practise philately brings the end results of satisfaction, pleasure and relaxation, to which may be added, at the option of the individual, the mental stimulus provided by more advanced and detailed study of the subject, leading into areas of research, which, like all other research, adds to the overall store of knowledge of the particular subject. Whatever the reason for becoming a stamp-collector in the first place, the distance along the road which is travelled is measured by the extent to which the practitioner wishes to travel- a truism if ever there was one!

Most collectors are content to acquire stamps and other material within their sphere of interest, and to house or store their treasures in any way which pleases them. They derive satisfaction from looking at their stamps, and are happy to pick up bits and pieces here and there, and to add them to the collection. Such a collection may finish without a great deal of coherence, but the fact of owning it is the main thing. The material acquired can often seem to be without a great amount of overall pattern, but, if something turns up which appeals, then it is added to the accumulation, and so adds to the store of enjoyment and pride of possession.

Others do the same thing, but go about it more systematically, in that they turn their accumulation into a more logical form, so that what they have may be related to similar collections formed by others, based on common adherence to a list prepared by someone who has earned the authority to set out such a listing. Once this type of collecting is commenced, then the logical objective is to pursue the accumulating until it is complete

as far as the listing goes. Here is the beginning of the real philatelic collection. Such a type of collecting may exist side-by-side with the first kind mentioned above, and often the desire to extend the area of systematic collecting may be made easier by the availability of material already held in a more general way.

The listing in a catalogue will provide information on what needs to be obtained in order to form a credible collection in the favoured area, and soon there arises a need to find out even more on the subject. This can take the form of a study of the history and geography of the country, the history of its mail system and stamp issues, why the issues were made, how the stamps were printed, technical details of their production, the period of usage, leading to considerations of scarcity - the extent of enquiry into these facts may well be endless. A lot of this information is readily available through catalogues, philatelic bulletins and general literature, and the utilisation of these resources marks the first stage of the development of the true philatelic specialist.

The final stage (if there is such a thing) is where the student, not satisfied with the information gained by others, sets out towards the goal of trying to find out everything about the philatelic material in which his interests lie. This leads to intensive research, often with the need for scientific aids, into historical records, which may be difficult of access, and the student will need a powerful detective instinct. He is mainly concerned with facts. Like the true historian in any field, he has no time for theories as to what might have happened, although he may, if he seems to have arrived at a dead end, promulgate a hypothesis which appears to fit the known facts, with the object of stimulating others who may be in a position to add the missing link to the chain. It is here that the philatelic researcher may differ from his colleagues, but only on theory - once the facts are known, there can be development only by the discovery of further facts. Finally, the researcher publishes his findings, but, there again, he is very brave if he claims that his is the last word.

It would not be right to say that the final stage of detailed research should be the objective of every collector. The great majority do not want to engage in the hobby to so serious an extent. They are quite content to go on in the way which pleases them, and this is as it should be. Nevertheless, the availability of published information is there, to be used or not. There is room in the hobby for philatelists of every degree of erudition.

It is often said by individuals that they are content to go ahead by themselves, and the pleasure aspect of this is important. Then there are those who feel that they are competent enough to engage in research all alone, to the extent that they wish, and there can be no valid criticism of that attitude. Some of these may even claim that there is nothing to be gained from the experience of others, although this can lead to erroneous conclusions which may eventually be put to the test.

It is only by association with others that the real philatelist can develop, and this is where the philatelic society or

club provides its true function. It is not necessary for every member of a society to have arrived at the same stage of qualification, or even to be interested in the same things (although the existence of junior clubs and specialist societies provides an exception to such a generalisation). Still, membership of a society is essential for every serious collector who has progressed beyond the first stage. Here he can see how other collectors go about satisfying their interests, and, although he does not have to agree with everything they may say or do, he can get ideas which at least will set him thinking about his own mode of operating. But no-one is entitled to tell the collector how he must go about it. The rule about pleasing oneself is paramount.

A qualification to the last statement arises where the collector has reached a stage where - if he has the competitive spirit - he needs to test his collection against others. He will want to enter his efforts in exhibitions at various levels, with the hope of recognition in the form of an award. Here he will have to fit in with the rules laid down by the organisers, whether he likes them or not. It may be that he feels that the rules are unreasonable, and will keep him outside the competition arena, but this is just one of the facts of life. If he decides to stay outside the exhibition class, he can still derive all the pleasure he needs. But if he does go in for exhibiting his collection, he will soon know how his efforts measure up against those of others, after which it is to be hoped that he will have the incentive to go on to even better things.

It is not possible to cover the whole scope of philately in a short amount of space. Everything depends, as the famous Jeeves said, on the personality of the individual. The philatelic society, at its best, will provide the incentive to all members to develop their activities in the way which suits each one.

Several members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra were among the official guests at the opening of the new Canberra General Post Office on 12th April 1983. One of the main features of the building, apart from the provision of normal postal business, is a permanent display of philatelic material from departmental archives, where items of great historical interest will be on show. Provision is also made for a succession of invited displays from individual philatelists. At the time of opening, the display was provided by a Melbourne philatelist, Mr. A.W. Bunn, and the following display is by a member of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

* * * *

The Philatelic Society of Canberra has entered each year in the competition conducted by the magazine "Stamp News" to decide upon the most active philatelic society in Australia and New Zealand. The Society has had considerable success in the annual competition, and has taken the first prize on 2 occasions. It has just been announced that the Society was runner-up in the 1982 competition.

THE POSTAL HISTORY COLUMN

PRE-STAMP MARKINGS

E.C. Druce

The use of hand-stamped postal markings preceded the introduction of the first postage stamps by some 180 years and thus many of the postal practices which still exist today are to be found recorded on early letters. Long before stamps were invented it became customary to record the office of posting by handstamping the office name. Transit offices were sometimes similarly added, a practice that has all but disappeared except, in part, for registered and priority paid mail. Rates of postage were often handstruck, as were particular methods of carriage such as "ship letters".

Originally, officers of the postal services added the relevant information in manuscript, and many smaller offices continued this practice over the centuries. As early as 1661 the first hand-struck slogan markings were used on mail from London to Kent, and a year later on mail to Essex. The Kent marking was circular with horizontal lettering which read:

"The Post for all Kent goes every night from the Round House in Love Lane and comes every mor(ning)."

The Essex marking is similar and a copy was offered by Robson Lowe in 1981 with an estimate of 5000 pounds.

At the same time, date-stamps came into use at London, and their use spread to other cities such as Edinburgh and Dublin. They comprised a bisected circle with month (abbreviated) and date. These are known as "Bishop Marks" after their inventor, Henry Bishop, who was the Postmaster-General at the time of the Restoration in 1660. The introduction of the "Mark" was announced thus:

"A stamp is invented that is putt upon every letter shewing the day of the moneth that every letter comes to the office, so that no Letter Carryer may dare detayne a letter from post to post; which before was usual".

This statement contains some interesting philatelic words! Of course a "stamp" was not the stamp of today but a hand-stamp, the name for which became usurped by those funny little pieces of paper with glutinous wash which came into use nearly two centuries later. "Post" was not the postal service as such, but the relay points at which the messengers obtained fresh horses for their delivery rides. Bishop marks were used extensively, not only in the cities noted above, but also in Canada, what is now the United States of America, India and Jamaica.

Such "Bishop Marks" evolved to include the year, firstly the last two digits, then the last three, and finally the full year.

Thus was born the circular date-stamp which today incorporates the name of the sending office, or more accurately, the office of cancellation (often a mail centre).

The use of name-stamps evolved down a different path. By the final few years of the seventeenth century, provincial postmasters obviously became fed-up with marking the origin of the letters in manuscript, and town name-stamps were devised, still nearly a century and a half before the birth of the postage stamp. In the United Kingdom the first town-stamps came into use in 1697 - the unusual marks for Exeter and Bristol, based on a Bishop Mark, with the date within the letters E and B respectively. Town name-stamps comprising the name in a single line are known from 1698 and were Irish (Strabane, and in 1699 Waterford and Mullingar).

In the first decade of the eighteenth century, the use of town name-stamps spread rapidly; often they were abbreviated, for example, AB.N.DON for Abingdon. From a rather plain start, name-stamps took on many forms; in the mid-eighteenth century, two-line markings became more popular, even for towns with short names such as MOR/PETH and EXE/TER. Also issued were arcs, serpentine and horseshoe shapes and a variety of colours - black, blue, red, purple, yellow and brown - adding to the variety.

In the 1780s and from 1801, name-stamps with mileages were issued. The mileage recorded was the mileage from London, and was intended to help postmasters calculate the postage, which was based on distance from the posting office to the delivery office. London, being the political and commercial centre of the country, as well as the hub of the postal network, was the major destination of mail.

BRIDG NORTH BRIDGNORTH 142 BRIDGE NORTH

BRIDGNORTH BRIDGNORTH

148

148

BRIDGNORTH

138

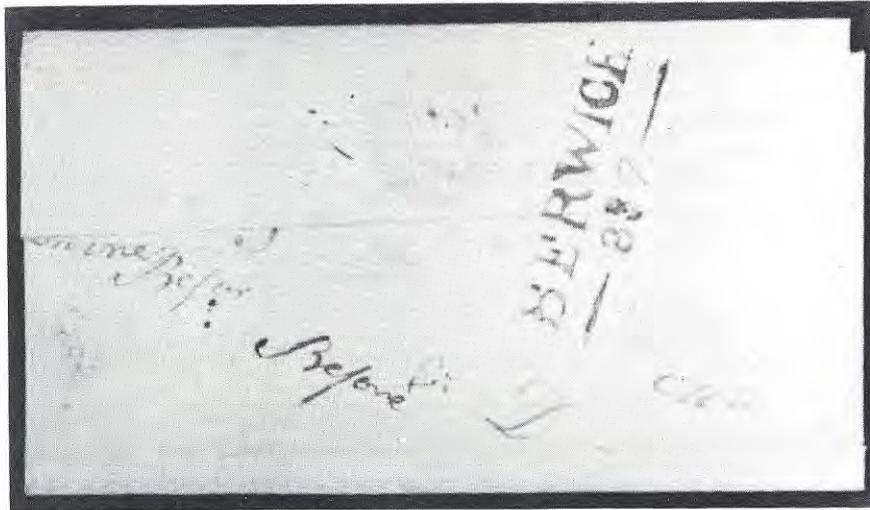
SHREWSBURY
NO 28
1827
153

SHREWSBURY
SHAP 22
1830

BRIDGENORTH
DE 1
1842

In the 1810s, the mileage name-stamp and the Bishop Mark finally came together to produce a circular date-stamp with mileage at the foot. However, it turned out that mileages recorded in the hand-stamps were highly inaccurate, either because of incorrect measurement or because routes changed. From 1829 orders were issued to postmasters to erase the mileage and thus, by mutilation, the circular date-stamp was born. It remains the most common hand-stamp over 150 years later.

The sequence of hand-stamps used in the United Kingdom (apart from Scotland) is shown above. I have used the small town of Bridgnorth in Shropshire as an example except for the mileage circular date-stamp which was not provided to Bridgnorth because it was too small an office.



The cover illustrated shows a first-type mileage mark which is much rarer than the second type. The normal first-type mileage is a two-line marking with the mileage first; for example 142 BRIDGE/NORTH. Berwick, however, along with a few other towns, had the mileage on the second line, as did all the second mileage types. The two types differ in that the second has either a box around the mileage or lines above and below the mileage. In the case of Berwick, the distance from London is recorded as 337 miles in the first type and 340 some fifteen years later when the second types made their appearance.

In a later column I will expand on pre-stamp markings with special attention to the Australian States.

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DE MORTUIS NIL NISI BONUM

A.D. Ross

Let us open with a distinction. The stamping confraternity is broadly divisible into two groups: philatelists and collectors. (In most regards, dealers, speculators and accumulators can be ignored for present purposes. Thematicists are beyond the scope of this note.)

Philatelists seek to study, in a regular, scholarly way, postal material, postal history or both, so as to extend both their own, and, more importantly, public, knowledge of the subject studied. By contrast, collectors simply collect, often no doubt in a regular way, but without need for study deeper than reference to a general catalogue or to new issue bulletins. The groups can perhaps most easily be distinguished by two criteria: their philatelic libraries (or their use of such libraries) and their holdings of postal material. Philatelists will have an extensive library (or make extensive use of others' reference material); collectors can operate by a single book. Conversely, collectors - by definition - will own postal material, often on a large scale; philatelists can undertake research on others' material, without having a single stamp or cover to their own name. Roughly, one operates intensively, the other extensively.

It is the ground of this note that both groups are under threat as a result of the new issue policies of most modern postal administrations; collectors are faced with the financial task of keeping up with a flood, while philatelists, if they cover new issues, have the same financial task, with comparatively little philatelically to show for their efforts.⁽¹⁾ The purpose of the note is to suggest strategies by which such threats can be averted.

That there has been a flood of new issues is only too plain. The pre- and post-1945 pages of, say, S.G. Part 1 are proof. The fact is that postal administrations the world over are over-liberal with new issues and the formats in which they are available (and, presumably, should be collected). Australia, for example, puts out pre-stamped envelopes at the drop of a hat; Canada appears to have a bottomless pit of se-tenant ships, aircraft, Indians and Esquimaux; Hong Kong recently issued its fourth Q.E.II definitive issue (up to \$HK50). Consider what Britain and Sweden do with booklets. Consider also Britain's record with "commemoratives". Mostly drab, dull or ugly in themselves, they are offered straight from the sheet, in cylinder blocks, port-hole blocks and gutter pairs⁽²⁾, in P.O. packs, reproduced on cards, and sometimes as miniature sheets. The implication is that one's modern G.B. pages are wanting if all these formats are not present. Other countries are even more lavish in their offerings.

There is no postal justification for all these issues. With definitives, neither the general public nor business is so sensitive to the appearance of what it licks, as to be threatened by boredom if the same design were kept on year after year. With "commemoratives", the events or persons commemorated are rarely so distinguished as to merit their philatelic record. (Often, one suspects that a "commemorative" simply results from collusion

between a postal administration and a pressure group.) As for stamps showing so-called national achievements or attractions, most are vapid or vulgar or both. British fabrics - or Australian metrication! Where stamps are simply vehicles for crude ideological propoganda, the case is even worse.

Divers reasons are given for the flood: heightening national pride or consciousness (in which case one thinks how fragile a plant it must be that needs such props); attracting the tourist (when one's normal reaction is to think of another place for holidays); and so on. Above all, however, it is claimed there is a demand for such stamps. If there is, it is a demand largely created by those who satisfy it, namely, postal administrations, and fostered by bodies within the stamping confraternity whose good intentions tend to overshoot their capacity for cool thought. Stamping is promoted as fun, educational, preferable to alcohol, and so on, with the theme running through all this (but, like the theme of Elgar's Variations, never explicitly stated) that stamping is profitable. So it is, for postal administrations and dealers, but for the collector, rarely so.

The result of all this can be a steady drain on the pocket, with little prospect of recoupment, even in the long run. But there are worse features. Because printing plates are rarely in use for lengthy periods, the more interesting types of variety and error rarely have time to emerge, develop, mature and come under correction, so depriving philatelists of grist for their mill. Worse still, (whether in despair, confusion or the belief that they must do something more than just put stamps on pages, I presume not

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to judge) collectors are seduced down such avenues as F.D.Cs, gutter pairs, fancy commemorative cancellations and like trivia.

If postal administrations will seek to "bull" the market, the confraternity should react by seeking to "bear" it, refraining from buying new issues and all the trivia associated with them. It was on this basis that, recently, I sadly, but firmly, wished Hong Kong good-bye, and why I look forward to a change in the G.B. definitive design. (Associations should be severed cleanly, and changes of definitive design, currency or political status offer convenient and logical break-off points.) This strategy is, of course, purely negative and in itself would bring one's stamping to something of a stop. It needs to be associated with positive strategies, which can have the added advantage of inducing collectors to become philatelists.

The first of these strategies, already operative in most cases, is to consolidate and up-grade what one already has. It is a good collection indeed that has no gaps or cannot be improved in quality. In extension of that, the next strategy involves intensifying what one already has (still filling the gaps and up-grading) by converting a collection into a philatelic assembly, on however modest a level, or by bringing in the postal history of the collected country.

More radical strategies take the form of altogether abandoning countries as such and, instead, concentrating on aspects or issues: the marginalia of printed sheets, for example; military, railway or ship cancels; postage due systems; meter and "free" mail; or a particular stamp or issue. Here, one normally has to go back into the past, either to develop volume or to have access to stamps in currency long enough to have generated features worth study. It need not be the remote past: the 1939-1948 G.B. high-value issue, a little over a generation away in time, has enough about it to fill several albums⁽³⁾. This was a recess-printed issue, which serves to point up another advantage of getting away from the modern era.

One largely avoids photogravure material (Bavaria and Egypt excepted) and enters the golden age of recess and typography, when currencies were more stable and postal rates changed infrequently, so that the same definitive could remain on issue for 10 or 15 years. The G.B. 1881 16-dot 1d lilac was current for 21 years.

Such issues can be a life-time study. Lee modestly says of a study that it "is the result of examination of over 3½ million copies" over a period of about eight years⁽⁴⁾. That is philately, and that is very different from dancing to the tune of modern postal administrations. Such studies are satisfying both philatelically and intellectually. Their results are rather more likely to take a judge's eye than any number of port-hole blocks and the like.

There are two problems with such strategies. First, the basic material is not easy to come by. (The fact that even specialised country hand-books rarely go beyond mention of major flaws is not a problem; it is the essence of the challenge.) Once, low denomination Q.V., K.E.VII and K.G.V British material (and its equivalent for other countries) could be got in bulk easily and cheaply. That, unfortunately, is no longer the case but, little by

little, one can get access to a reasonable corpus of material by buying miscellaneous auction lots and going through dealers' stocks and exchange books⁽⁵⁾. Acquiring material now takes rather longer than it used to. That is the only real difference.

The other problem (and it can be equally troublesome) is the feeling that one is doing less than one might, just because the chosen field is limited. One gives up new issues, yet the country of choice goes on issuing. Is one, therefore, missing something? Or, what about the stamps which preceded and followed, say, the 1881 1d lilac? The answer to that is that, if one wants to do more than queue up at the counter on new-issue days, one has to concentrate and specialise. There will be time, eventually, to move from the 1881 1d lilac to the 1902 1d red of K.E.VII.

For those of the view that it must be a whole country or nothing, there is an even more radical strategy. It is to summon up the dead, those countries or administrations which once issued stamps and now are no more. There are very many of them, from Australian States to Zanzibar.

Most of these deaths occurred years ago before the general decline in design standards set in, before photogravure became the dominant printing technique, before stamps were generally seen as a medium for messages⁽⁶⁾, and before postal administrations realised the profits to be made from producing stamps for collectors. Anyone who takes on a dead country, be he a simple collector or an advanced specialist, is totally liberated within his field - and it need not be a narrow one. No postal administration can oppress or exploit him, no local interests pester him with meretricious commemoratives or special cancellations, and if he likes F.D.Cs, for example, he will have to search them out. The stamps he is interested in were issued once and for all, and have no successors to fret over. The pages of his chosen country's postal history are shut.

The closest he need come to the present day is to buy facsimiles of the stamps on modern stamps, cancels or covers that concern him - and if he does so, he will generally notice two things. The facsimiles are not only vastly worse-printed than the originals, but they are incorporated in stamps quite lacking in the elegance and simplicity of the originals. To collect in that way is not easy. It takes effort, time and money but, then, constant streams of new issues do not come cheaply either.

So, let us see more States - German, Italian, Indian and Australian, more Canadian and South African Provinces, more Danzigs, Serbias, Hawaiis, Tibets, Sonoras, Adens and Indo-Chinas. Being dead, they are beyond reproach; but they are not beyond reach.

- (1) I do not wish to pursue here in detail questions relating to the aesthetic qualities of most new issues, though some general observations appear in the text. Nor do I wish to devote space to the question (which I have deliberately begged in the preceding sentence of the text paragraph) whether modern issues generally warrant serious philatelic study. Some comparatively recent issues have thrown up absorbing errors: the "Phantom E" of the G.B. 3d Queen Elizabeth Wilding issues, for example.

(Technical details of the preparation and printing of modern stamps are another matter.) Someone might care to take up both sets of questions in subsequent notes for *Capital Philately*.

- (2) Where one pays a premium for a piece of paper that is blank by intention.
- (3) A long run is not an absolute requisite. The New Zealand 1946 Peace issue (because it was produced under post-war conditions?) can prove a very happy hunting ground. Emergencies, or the introduction of new printing methods, can also be productive of material which, albeit short-lived, is worthy of study.
- (4) R.A.G. Lee, F.R.P.S.L. : Queen Victoria: A Specialised Study of the 1881 One Penny Lilac. Part 1 - Frame Damage. The Great Britain Philatelic Society. London, 1963.
- (5) My experience is that old bulk material from one's country of residence is the hardest to come by locally. Cf. the premiums paid nowadays for bulk lots of "unpicked" Australian 1d "roos" and 1d "reds".
- (6) It is interesting how often, in modern times at least, political changes have resulted in postal administrations going into over-drive with new issues.




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COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA - THE PRE-WAR COMMEMORATIVES- THEIR PHILATELIC ATTRACTIVENESS AND RARITY

R.P. Hyeronimus, F.R.P.S.L.

Australian stamps of common design were issued for 14 years prior to the appearance of the first special issue. In the next 14 years there were 14 such issues. The issuing policy from 1927 to 1940 was conservative but sensible. Any special issue was the subject of an announcement by the Postmaster-General himself, and the stamps were meaningful, both to the general public as users, and to collectors alike.

In Capital Philately (November 1982) A.G. Salisbury has given some interesting thoughts on the 5/- Harbour Bridge stamp. This is certainly one of Australia's best known and most sought after stamps. It is, however, only one of the pre-war commemoratives; a challenging and exciting group of twentieth-century stamps with remarkable collecting scope. These stamps provide us with classic re-entries and retouches, and include plate numbers, imprints, perforation varieties, a booklet and a miniature sheet. Three classic printing methods were used and there were three types of paper used over the period. Some issues were punctured or overprinted OS for official use. One was forged and another was incorrectly endorsed for provisional use. The collectable range of material is thus considerable.

There is no real difficulty in securing an example of any of these individual stamps. In selecting used copies some care is necessary. The issues from 1927 to 1932 were printed on a soft unwatermarked paper which did not stand up well to postal use or to soaking off from envelopes, and many became defective. The 6d Kingsford Smith of 1931 is often affected by fading from quite normal exposure to light, and it is necessary for the collector to ensure that his copy is bright and of true colour.

Despite the small number issued, the 5/- Harbour Bridge is not a difficult stamp to obtain. It turns up in almost every sale of Australian Commonwealth. However, very much more tenacity is needed to secure this stamp showing the plate dots. Not only does the 5/- Bridge offer this challenge, but so do most of the other special issues during this period. Let us look at some of them.

Twelve plates were made for the 1½d 1927 Opening of Parliament House, Canberra. Each of these plates was numbered in such a position that the numbers could be guillotined off prior to issue. Most were, but a few escaped. Rosenblum states that the approximate numbers known are -

No. 1 - 5	No. 5 - 7	No. 9 - 35
No. 2 - 10	No. 6 - 15	No.10 - 25
No. 3 - 9	No. 7 - 12	No.11 - 50
No. 4 - 5	No. 8 - 12	No.12 - 150

I have never known how Rosenblum arrived at these figures, but there is no doubt that most of the numbers are rare and full sets are missing from most collections. A total of 235 sheets was punctured OS. Did any of these sheets carry plate numbers, and, if so, did

any survive? I have never seen one. An OS plate number of this stamp might be the rarest Commonwealth item.

Twelve plates were also made for the 1½d 1929 Centenary of Settlement in Western Australia. Large plate numbers were printed on each sheet as issued, and they are not difficult to obtain. Here again, 300 sheets were punctured OS. It is not known how many sheets from each plate were punctured, nor on what basis, if any, the selection was made. In the unlikely event of the puncturing of equal numbers from each plate, there would be 25 of each. I personally can vouch for numbers 1, 3, 4, 6 and 10. Full sets are rare, and once again missing from most collections.

Eight plates were made for the 1½d 1930 Sturt Centenary and two for the 3d. Every sheet carried the large-size plate numbers. Of these, 250 sheets of the 1½d and 200 sheets of the 3d were punctured OS. The surviving OS plate numbers are very scarce items.

Eight plates were made for the 2d Kingsford Smith of 1931 and three for the 3d. Of this issue, 400 sheets of the 2d and 350 sheets of the 3d were overprinted OS. These overprinted stamps were always somewhat hard to obtain, even in the 1930's, and plate numbers are rare. There was a full set of the 3d in the Abramovich collection, but this series is also missing from most major collections.

Reference has been made to the plate dots on the 5/- Harbour Bridge. These dots were placed centrally on the plate of 80 so that when guillotined into Post Office sheets of 20, one of these dots could appear in either the upper left or right corners or in the lower left or right corners of the resultant sheets. Most were guillotined off and only a very small number survived. They are rare. There is a full set in the Chapman collection, and I do not know of any other.

Dots were also used to identify the four plates of the 2d engraved of the Sydney Harbour Bridge issue. Although not in the same category as the other items I have referred to, full sets are surprisingly scarce.

So far I have only referred to plate numbers. A rather similar position exists regarding imprints. A small study can actually be made of at least one of these. Further interest arises from the varied imperforate items found in each of the first four special issues and the plate flaws which abound in the Silver Jubilee issue.

All the items I have mentioned are referred to in the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue, and they all become available from time to time. The best way to collect them is individually, one at a time, thus very gradually building up a full collection. Of course this cannot be done in the span of a few months or even years. Be assured, however, that they will all be on the market more than once during the lifetime of the average collector. The search for them is quite absorbing. The reward is a collection of attractive and interesting stamps and some real achievement. This is adult stamp collecting.

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OVERSEAS NOTES

THE PENNY BLACK

P.A. Wood

The introduction of Uniform penny postage in Great Britain on 10th January 1840, one hundred and forty three years ago, is one of the great landmarks in the history of communications. It was largely the work of Rowland Hill, whose imaginative and practical reform resulted in all civilised countries throughout the world following suit during Hill's own lifetime.

Before discussing the processes leading to the introduction of the world's first adhesive stamp, I will briefly describe what postal facilities existed before 1840.

Nearly 350 years ago, Charles I established the first State postal service for the conveyance of private letters within England and Scotland. Previously there had only been a King's or Queen's post, principally for State correspondence.

Naturally during the two centuries which followed up to 1839, there were many changes in the postal system, culminating in the introduction of uniform penny postage.

In 1660, the General Post Office was established to succeed the Posts of Thomas Witherings, Philip Burlamachi, Edmond Prideaux and the Cromwell Protectorate, and to provide for the carriage of private letters between towns in England and Scotland and also overseas. About this time two names, well-known to British postal historians were active. These were Henry Bishop, the Postmaster-General, who introduced the first British hand-stamps on letters, and William Dockwra, a merchant who, with fellow merchants, started a private local penny post for London. This was so successful that it was taken over in 1682 as the London and District Post. Other postal services were started during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, and in 1801 the London Penny Post became a Two-penny post to finance the long war against Napoleon.

From 1830 onwards, the carriage of the mails was accelerated with the introduction of the new-fangled railways.

When Queen Victoria came to the throne in 1837, the principal function of the Post Office was to produce the greatest possible revenue for the Crown, but, due to increased charges which led to evasion, and the free postage allowed to members of Parliament, (many of whom misused their privilege), the total postal revenue was in decline and reform was seen to be necessary.

In 1837, a former schoolmaster named Rowland Hill produced a pamphlet entitled "Post Office Reform - Its Importance and Practicability". Hill was aged 41, and had already made a name as an educational reformer, an advocate of social committees, an inventor in the printing field and in screw propulsion for ships, road-making and, since 1835, as the Secretary to the South Australian Colonisation Commission.

Hill's proposal was that postage should be charged at a uniform rate, according to weight, and without regard for distance. He also proposed that it would be practicable to collect postage in advance, rather than on delivery, as had happened previously.

Finally, he suggested an alternative for prepayment by purchase of Government-stamped stationery, and by the official stamping of private letters. In giving evidence to the Commission of Post Office Enquiry, Hill, as an after-thought, suggested "This difficulty might be obviated by using a bit of paper just large enough to bear the 'stamp' and covered at the back with a glutinous wash which the bringer might, by applying a little moisture, attach to the letter."

Although there was strong opposition to Hill's proposals, they were accepted, and in August 1839 were embodied in a new Act of Parliament.

When it came to carrying out Hill's proposals, it was his assistant, Henry Cole, who was in charge of the day-to-day negotiations with artists and printers.

Rowland Hill's report had laid down all the necessary specifications - the "stamps" should be of small size, printed by recess (engraved) in sheets of 240, on watermarked paper, and incorporating in the design the head of the Queen and distinctive combinations of letters (as a deterrent to forgery). A further and important element of the design was proposed by J.B. Bacon, the senior partner of the firm of Perkins, Bacon and Petch. This firm had perfected the rose-lathe for producing intricate geometric patterns to form the background of bank notes. Bacon's proposal to use this type of engine-turning as background for the main part of the design was taken up, and incorporated in the agreed specifications.

Perkins, Bacon and Petch immediately commissioned a drawing of a profile portrait of the Queen, to be adapted from the William Wyon 1837 City medal. The artist was William Corbould. Although his portrait drawing does not appear to have survived, the design was adopted and survives in a number of forms.



The background for the stamp was engraved on the rose-lathe by a master engraver called George Russell.

The most important step in the production of an engraved or recess-printed stamp is the creation of the master steel die which is used to make the actual printing plates. The quality of all printed stamps as good as the master die.

In the case of the Penny Black, the most important part of the die was, of course, the portrait of the Queen. First, Cole and J.B. Bacon selected a suitable engine-turned background, and had this rolled under 20 tons pressure into a square of soft steel, a space of sufficient size being left blank for the engraving of the head. Engraving of the head was carried out by Charles Heath, probably assisted by his son Frederick.

By 15th January 1840 the Heaths had completed their work of engraving on the die the portrait of the Queen, using Corbould's drawing as their model. They had also engraved along the base "Postage of One Penny". This die proved unsatisfactory and it took a further month to produce the masterpiece which set the standard for subsequent postage stamps throughout the world. Rowland Hill had been busy working out the inscriptions and the corner letters, and finally the ornaments and frame lines. This work took two months until 5th March 1840 and involved Bacon, Cole, Edwin Hill (Rowland's brother) and of course Rowland himself.

The Queen had expressed her "high appreciation" of the engraving by the Heaths, and about 13th March the master die was complete.

On 20th March the printers, Perkins Bacon & Co., were authorised to start making a printing plate for the 1d stamp, and a die and printing plate for the 2d stamp. Using their special rolling process, a plate of 240 impressions was made. The proof sheet, which had been retained by Rowland Hill, was presented to the Post Office in 1905 by his son, Pearson Hill, and is the only known surviving complete sheet of 1d Blacks. It is now in the National Postal Museum.

The final stages of the plate involved the insertion of the check letters and the engraving of the marginal inscriptions. The check letters were punched in by hand with a special tool direct onto the metal plate. Because of this there are slight differences in the position of check letters in the various plates used. This enables philatelists to identify the plate from which a particular stamp was printed. This is time-consuming but relatively easy once the basic concept of measuring the position of check letters is mastered. Altogether eleven different plates were used for the 1d Black.

The first plate for the 1d Black was completed on 8th April and printing commenced on 11th April. The stamps were placed on sale on 1st May and became valid for postage on 6th May 1840.

Thus the Penny Black, the world's first adhesive stamp was born.

References:

Stanley Gibbons Great Britain Specialised Catalogue Volume 1;
The Postage Stamps of Great Britain, Part 1 by J.B. Seymour;
Guidelines to the Penny Black by P.C. Litchfield.

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1d. KING GEORGE V BISECTED

A.G. Salisbury

Shortages of stamps in certain denominations have, at various times, given rise to temporary expedients when it has not been possible to provide the exact stamps to make up a required postage rate. One such famous instance is the case of the "Day Dawn Provisional", where an alleged shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps at this small Western Australian town in 1915, gave an opportunity for some person unknown to make an unofficial surcharge on some copies of the then current 1d red King George V stamp, by the use of a rubber stamp bearing the fraction " $\frac{1}{2}$ ", thus purporting to convert the stamps to $\frac{1}{2}$ d value. This circumstance is still clouded in some mystery, and is recorded in "The Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia" (Sixth Edition) by A.A. Rosenblum, 1966, published by the Acacia Press, Melbourne, and in "The Cinderella Stamps of Australia" by W. Hornadge, 1974, published by Stamp Publications Pty. Ltd., Dubbo. A cover is illustrated by Hornadge, and some doubt arises as to the genuineness of the whole affair, since it bears two such surcharged stamps, making up a total of one penny postage, which could have been provided in any case by one normal stamp.

Similarly, a shortage of $\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps at Lord Howe Island in 1930 caused the local postmaster to surcharge some current $1\frac{1}{2}$ d definitive and commemorative stamps with the new value of 2d in manuscript. This occurrence is also dealt with by Rosenblum and Hornadge.

A more common expedient has been to cut an unused stamp of any denomination into parts corresponding with a relevant fraction of its face value, and to use the resultant parts to make up the appropriate postage rate required. Sometimes this has been done with official sanction, but more often the action has been taken for philatelic motives in order to produce a philatelic curiosity. Where this is done, and where a postal item bearing a surcharged or fraction stamp travels undetected and unchallenged through the post, a potentially valuable item exists, with some kind of status.

After the event, there may be uncertainty and controversy as to the precise legitimacy of the item. While there are many examples of officially-condoned or authorised bisects of stamps in other countries, the practice has always been frowned upon by the Australian postal authorities. The current "Postal Guide" issued by Australia Post expressly prohibits the use of "mutilated postage stamps" in payment of postage (Section 1.25). Nevertheless, many covers exist from past days, showing bisected Commonwealth stamps, mostly in combination with other values.

The following are extracts from earlier records of the use of bisected 1d King George V stamps, and are set out here as a matter of interest, particularly as the original references may be difficult of access, owing to the publications concerned being now defunct. They show, also, the extent of rivalry which then existed between different magazines, and the degree to which they were prepared to make their opinions known.

On 6th December 1918, "The Australian Philatelist" reported on page 56-

The 1½d stamp made its appearance at Melbourne on 9th November, but was not put on sale in Sydney until the 14th. It is exactly like the ½d, 1d, 4d and 5d of the King George issue, with the exception that the words "THREE HALFPENCE" are in two lines. The two value shields show the figures "1½". The colour is a deep chocolate, but already we have been shown a lighter shade. Paper and watermark are the same as used for the 1d, 4d and 5d.

About two or three weeks before the 1½d stamp appeared, the great demand for the ½d value (the extra tax imposed) must have greatly taxed the resources of the Federal Stamp Printing Offices, as the recent printings show. The normal shade of green was departed from, and a good deal of the printing of a blotchy character.

There were many complaints from business houses in Sydney over the fact that the stamp did not make its appearance until five days after Melbourne had it on sale. Why the latter capital should be favoured above the other capitals, and we in this strongly emphasise the issue in Melbourne only of the 1d on multiple watermark paper, we are at a loss to guess.

Large as was the stock of ½d stamps printed to provide for the extra postal tax, it seems that a few post offices ran out of them. One collector showed us an envelope on which there was a 1d, and half of that value split in two diagonally. It came from a receiving office out back. We also received a cover sent to us by Mr. Wm. Ackland, of Melbourne, on which the 1d stamp had been cut in halves vertically, and he informs us that he has received others. As the Post Office authorities allowed these bisected stamps to pass without comment, they must be accepted as an authorised variety.

It is interesting to see how the same inter-State rivalries are still in existence today. In its issue of 12th December 1918, "The Australian Stamp Journal", at page 36, pontificated -

During the past month or so, since the introduction of the three halfpence postage, we have been shown several envelopes bearing a 1d stamp as well as half a penny stamp, which have been sent through the post, the bisected stamp doing duty as a halfpenny. In several instances, these stamps have gone through, but in some cases the bisected stamp has not been recognised, and the letter has been docked "Penny to Pay". One reason why some of the letters have gone through is perhaps because the stamps are obliterated by a machine obliterator which runs across the envelope horizontally, and marks everything. In other words, the envelopes are put into the obliterator at great speed, and possibly in some instances the penny bisected stamp has not been detected, or it may have been that it was not considered worth while making any fuss about it. At any rate, some of our

Victorian friends seem to think that as these stamps have been allowed to pass through the post, they are entitled to be considered as provisionals and recognised accordingly. In our opinion, they can only be classed on the same footing as freaks, as the use of bisected stamps was never authorised. In order to get a ruling on the point, we addressed the secretary of the Postmaster-General on the subject, who has replied as follows:

Postmaster-General's Department,
Treasury Gardens, Melbourne.
4th December 1918.

Gentlemen,

With reference to your letter of the 27th ultimo, in which you asked whether it was permissible to prepay postage by means of halved penny stamps, I beg to inform you that it is provided in Post and Telegraph Regulation 107 that mutilated postage stamps are not available in the Commonwealth for prepayment of postage.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) Justinian Oxenham,
Secretary.

Regulation 107 reads as follows:

The stamps impressed on stamped envelopes, letter-cards, post-cards or newspaper wrappers shall not be used for prepayment of postage on other articles. Duty stamps, mutilated postage stamps, postage-due stamps and stamps impressed on telegraph forms, or the postage stamps of any other country are not available in the Commonwealth for prepayment of postage.

According to the Melbourne "Argus", it appears that anyone who sends a bisected stamp through the post is liable to a penalty of £50 for mutilating a stamp, but this is hardly correct, for the £50 penalty refers to Regulation 196, relating to interference with postage stamps, i.e., removal of postmarks. It is the duty of postal officials to ignore the bisected stamps and to tax the letter "one penny". Having examined the Postal Act, we confirm our opinion that bisected stamps can only be classed as freaks.

This opinion of the Postmaster-General's Department is interesting, incidentally, as showing that "cut-outs", as we now know them, were not legal at that time - a situation which must have changed at some later date. Anyway, the remarks of the "Australian Stamp Journal" did not deter "The Australian Philatelist", which, on 8th January 1919 had what, as far as I could ascertain, was the last word:

Collectors just now are exercised over the status of the 1d Australian stamp which has appeared in a bisected condition, cut in half, vertical or diagonal, alongside the complete 1d,

so as to meet the increased tax of $\frac{1}{2}$ d on postage. We mentioned in our December number that some bisected stamps had gone through the post, and as no fine was exacted from the receiver, it was taken for granted that the postal authorities had accepted the increased tax in that condition. Their attention was evidently drawn to the bisected stamps, for about the middle of December a paragraph appeared in the daily press - we believe in all the States - notifying that the mutilation of postage stamps was an offence and liable to a heavy fine. This notification, however, was made public more than one month after the $1\frac{1}{2}$ d stamps had appeared, and it can only be accepted as a confession from the authorities that they had not made sufficient provision to meet the increased tax, and an acknowledgement that they as well as the public had been in the wrong. In plain words, it meant "We were wrong: you were wrong: but don't do it again". We therefore contend that all bisected stamps used before the public were told that it was wrong to use them for postal purposes, must be accepted as a genuine postal issue.

This last interpretation by "The Australian Philatelist" seems at variance with the general rule that ignorance of the law is no excuse, but there the controversy rested, over 74 years ago, and perhaps the validity of those 1918 covers will never be resolved.

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READING ABOUT STAMPS

'Phil. Litt.'

Dear Reader,

What with one thing and another, things weren't going too well with me. I was trying to mix two activities, and neither was getting on. My left hand was trying to soak off some fine old United States stamps, while my right hand worked on the typewriter composing a profound in-depth study of something to thrill you, reader dear. But my left hand was being plagued with un-success, and my right hand by a very fluid person. Let me impart to you, my dear understanding reader, just how dreadful it all was.

First of all, those stamps just would not soak clear from the paper which for about ninety years had disfigured them. Just then Emil came along - you know Emil, one of those scientist chappies who had left Central Europe for some reason. No, I don't know what his science was - commercial chemistry I think. "Ha, Pill!" in my left ear, "for what, Pill, you are gettink red in ze neck, ha?"

"It's these wretched stamps, Emil," says I, "they just won't soak off this filthy old paper, and how am I going to check for paper and watermark? They've got some sort of rubbish over the top of them too." Old Emil took one, sniffed it, felt it, generally worked it over. "Ha, zese Americans, zey were ze cunning ones," says he. "Pill, are you knowink zat in America in ze 1890s, one-third off all zeir stamps were gettink soaked off, cleaned unt re-used? I gotta book home, Pill, zat would interestink to you be," he says. "Zey were suggestink zat people coat zeir letters wiz a preparation to stop zis practice. Unt, voila! Here is Pill havink ze troubles wiz soaking off stamps."

"It must haf, I mean it must have, been pretty effective, Emil," says I. "Can't you, as a scientist, work out a way of removing the gunk? What was it, anyway?"

"Ah yess, Pill, I haff been workink it on, and succeeded I haff in removing ze, what you call it, kunk. Iss a good word." Emil sighed, "Ze trouble, Pill, iz I also dissolve ze stamp. Maybe anodder scientist might do better, so here I giff you ze receipt, ze, what you call it, ze formula. You haff two preparations", he says crisply, and now I was listening to Emil the teacher lecturing his class, "unt you coat ze envelope wiz one, stick on ze stamp unt coat zat wiz ze secont mixture. Zeir first mix was like zis. I am sorry, Pill," Emil reverted to the apologetic tone of his usual friendly speech, "but I am only rememberink ze old-fashioned measures." Then reverting to didactic style, "take chromic acid, 2.5gr; caustic potash 15gr; sulphuric acid 0.5gr; sulphuric copper-oxide of ammonia, 30gr; fine paper, 4gr; unt water 15gr." I was scribbling furiously, dear reader. Wherever am I going to find sulphuric oxide of whatever? "Zat iss what you lay on ze envelope, Pill, unt so zat iss what you haff been tryink to dissolve off ze back. Secont mix - Sturgeon's bladder in water, 7gr; vinegar, 1gr. Zat you use on ze top of ze stamp - ze kunk, Pill."

"The kunk? Ah, the gunk." I'm quick, dear reader. One has to be when talking with Emil. "Thanks, Emil. Maybe I'll give up soaking for now. Do you mind if I pass on this old stuff to all my

readers?" I knew he wouldn't mind, but I asked just to see him swell with gratification, as Emil loves to share out his knowledge.

And if I may make the point clearer, reader dear, Emil's contribution just helps to strengthen what I have said before, that a really thorough stamp collector will pick up information from all sorts of books. Old books of formulae are interesting reading at any time. But the one Emil got his information from, and which he showed me later, was Leland's "A Manual of Mending and Repairing", London, 1896. In addition to the formulae Emil fed me - sorry, showed me (Emil's a good chap; I know some types who would like to feed it to me); in addition to those formulae, Emil's book had a lot of interesting comments on "reuniting torn edges so that the mending is almost imperceptible" (does that suggest anything, dear reader?), how to take out grease spots or rust spots, removing ink marks, and so on. Dear reader, you may frown all you like at the idea of actually mending an old stamp, but there are many stamps which you may never have except in a torn or dirty state, and it makes your collection so much better-looking if old, even low-value, stamps are clean and neat-looking. So let me recommend to you, reader dear, that you keep your eye out for old books of formulae - old herbals or pharmacopoeia or handbooks and the like.

So much for my left hand, dear reader! But what of my right hand? Ah, there your old mate Phil was really at work, churning out the sort of stuff that, even though it is I, Phil Litt, that says it, the sort of stuff that makes you grip the edge of your seat, breathe stertorously, and do whatever is your wont, dear reader, when you are knowingly perusing a masterpiece. The muse, ah, my dear reader, the muse had me in her grip. (No, that isn't what the stertorous breathing is about. The very idea! You have to understand classical allusions, reader, to follow what I mean.)

Well, there I was, musing away like anything, when my right ear was suddenly enveloped in a fine mist. "Hullo," says I, "An early winter" - but I was wrong. It was only Mosh getting excited over some bargain in his stamp magazine. You surely know Mosh. Everyone calls him Mosh. He has a way of leaning towards you when he speaks, but his upper teeth are widely spaced, so that when Mosh is enthused he positively gushes - a fluid person, as I said earlier, and the result can dampen your responses a bit. I sighed, and gave up my right hand activities for a bit. "What is it, Mosh?"

He hadn't really noticed me. "Ah yiss, free, jus' a stabbed addressed edvelope" he was muttering. "What's free, Mosh? I asked - and then wished I hadn't, as the mist surrounded me again. "Ah, Feel, I dot see you there." Dimly through the haze I saw Mosh had turned and was regarding me. "I wudder, Feel, how beddy people are aware what they cad get for duthig? Thigs to help their stab collecting I beed. Why pay good buddy for books and bagazides when dealers ad others offer to jus' give it to you? Is true yet, Feel." "Surely, Mosh," I says, "there isn't much around for nothing. Any literature on stamps usually costs a packet. I think you're having me on, Mosh," says I. But it's not like Mosh to kid anyone whenever money is the subject.

"Hah! Look dow, Feel, see all I have barked yet, this copy

of the A.S.Eb." Mosh's permanent cold-in-the-nose sometimes makes him a bit hard to follow. "Every Philatelic Bureau in the world is just dying to give away things, and feel, it's generally worth having. The stuff they give you is what postal history is made of. Look you at this, now, - Seychelles, Tuvalu, Gibraltar" - there was flashing before my eyes offer after offer of free information, attractive looking stuff too. "And bore that this, feel, say you're interested in eddy country, you write off to, say, the Philatelic Bureau, Paris, or Tokyo, or eddywhere, your mailbox will be so full you just wouldn't believe it."

"And don't forget our own Australia Post, feel," said Mosh mostly, "would of the best free handouts in the world, - and they post it to you bi-monthly, really full of the sort of info every collector needs to have about his stamps. I been getting them for years, and I get big boud. Wud day," Mosh dropped to a sibilant whisper which, if anything, was even moister than his normal enthusiasm, "wud day, feel, they'll be worth real buddy!"

"You get them and keep them in a file, feel, the Australia Post material, and the other places that interest you, and it do tibe flat you got something really useful."

"I tell you another thing I do, feel," Mosh went on. "Whenever I write to an overseas Bureau I ask them to tell me what philatelic literature they publish about their own stamps, and how much they cost. Then I ask them to send me wud as a sample. You wouldn't believe how many good things I've picked up that way."



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Ahh, Feel, you dod't like this, eh?" Mosh must have seen my look of disapproval. "Look you dow Feel, let theb decide. Nothig wrog with askig. The worst they cad do is refuse."

"Thed of course you bay eved decide to buy sobe of their stuff" - Mosh gave a slight shudder - "sobetimes I do. Ad it's usually odly a few cedts - b'cos its" a whisper again "subsidized, Feel, ad that's dearly like gettig it for dothig, as sobewud else is helpig to pay for it." Mosh sounded almost smug at this thought so I tried to prick his bubble. "But Mosh, you mean you actually pay for some things?" Mosh sniffed. It was nice to hear the fluid going the other way for a change. "Cedts, schbedts. Less thad a dollar is duthig, Feel, you look at the books Australia Post puts out. They odly cost fifty cedts each, ad I seed sobe of theb id overseas catalogues for four, five POUNDS, Feel. There's nine of theb, ad ady Australiad collector who doesdn't have theb is just wilfully keepig hibself ud-idforbed." Dear reader, I blushed, I collect Austalia and I didn't have one of them. But since talking to Mosh I have been along to the Philatelic section here and spent, actually spent, \$4 on a set of them, and I reckon I've done something sensible, at practically no cost. Mosh is right, I think - cents, schments. You'll pay 50 cents for some lolly nonsense on a stick that's gone in a moment. Let me recommend that you look those books up. I have listed them at the bottom of this article.

But Mosh wasn't finished yet. "Thed too there's catalogues, Feel, auctiod catalogues. Bost of theb you cad get for dothig. Ad sobe of theb as was dode years ago are ibportadt dow, especially if they were bajor collectioids sold up. Feel, I tell you dever pass up ad offer of a free catalogue. See here, ad here, ad here" - he was flashing his A.S.M. past my eyes so I could see all the times dealers suggested a free catalogue or a sample was available on request. I must admit, dear reader, that Mosh was talking to a convinced listener on the subject of catalogues, as I already have some very fine modern catalogues with coloured illustrations, in some of the areas that interest me. And not only do I find them helpful, but as they give coloured illustrations of the rare or unusual items, I therefore have in my possession fair photographic facsimiles of things I could never ever hope to have for myself. "But don't auction houses ask a subscription for their catalogues, Mosh?" He looked at me almost with scorn. "Subs, schmubs. You were bord baybe yesterday, Feel? Bost places, so log as you keep od puttig bids od thigs, they are happy to keep od seddig." Noticing my frown coming back, Mosh hastened to convince me. "Like I was beed sayig before, Feel, you let theb decide. If they thigk you are a buyer, gederally they wadt to sedt you a catalogue."

I put it to you, dear reader, that Mosh has a point. Certainly we should accept what dealers will offer, and if they choose to name a fee for a catalogue but go on sending for nothing, well, fair enough, they have to sell the goods and must decide how best to publicise them. And if it results in some collectors getting free items, well, maybe later they'll become paying customers. Dealers, schmealers, as Mosh would say.

Then I noticed the time. Heavens to Betsy. It was clear I

would not be completing any right hand activity today. "Well, thanks, Mosh" I says, wiping off some lingering traces of his enthusiasm, "maybe I'll pass some of these ideas of yours on to my dear readers. Certainly we should be aware of free literature, and your ideas will be interesting to the dear people who read my column. So I'll pass it on."

And here it is, dear readers. You may find that Mosh's adenoidal adversity makes hard reading, but let me suggest you try reading it out loud. It will fall into place!

Ever Your, Phil Litt

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At a garden party held one day in the eighth year (704 B.C.) of his reign, in the capital city of Ying Qiu, King Huan of the State of Chi was drunk and lost his hat. For three days he shut himself up for shame, without giving audience.

On the fourth day, while a new hat was still being made, the Chief Minister, Guan Zhung, managed to see him.

"Your Majesty, losing a hat is indeed a disgrace for a ruler. Why don't you make amends by some generous act?"

After a thoughtful moment, the King replied: "We thank you for your wise counsel".

Accordingly, the King ordered that grain from the Royal Granary be distributed to the poor free of charge for three days. The people praised the King for his generosity.

A few months later, a group of citizens arrived at the King's palace and innocently enquired of the guard: "Has the King lost his new hat yet?"

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