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Capital Philately

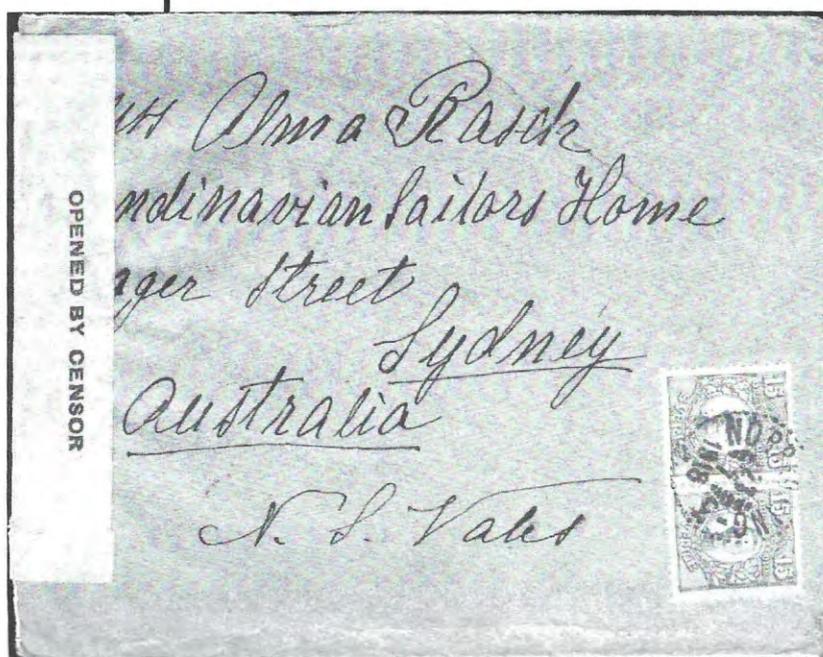
Incorporating **PASTCARDS** and Machinations
Published by the Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

THREE HALFPENCE

Inside this Issue:

Obituary—Alan Salisbury
5/- Harbour Bridge Stamp
Chess Patron on Stamps
Unusual Australian Military
Airmails
NZ Post Card Stamps &
Labels
Ebay Takes Action Against
Fraud
Windmills (Part 7—Final)
Commemorating the Dead
(Part 2)
Machins, Coils & Leaders

Sailors' Post, Ships and Consulates





The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

GPO BOX 1840

CANBERRA ACT 2601

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

August 2004 – VOL. 22, NO. 4.

Capital Philately

Editorial		1
Obituary - Alan Salisbury	Ian McMahon	3
Some Thoughts on the 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge Stamp	A.G. Salisbury	4
A Chess Patron On Stamps	K. Peter Breilkopf	6
Two Unusual Australian Military Airmails	Ronald M. Lee	7
Sailors' Post, Ships And Consulates	Robert A. M. Gregson	9
New Zealand Post Card Stamps And Labels	Ian McMahon	13
Ebay Takes Action Against Fraud	Sheryll Oswald	15

PASTCARDS

Editorial	Bruce Parker	21
A Thematic Exhibit of Postcards (Part 7)	Hans Karman	22
Commemorating the Dead and Famous (Part 2)	Peter Cheah	26

Machinations

Editorial	Peter Oldham	34
Looking At Postage Rates Or Why have there been so many Machins!	Tony Luckhurst	35
Counterfeit or Collectable?	Danny Howard	38
Coil Stamps and Leaders	Danny Howard	39
Specialist Feature – An Introduction to the 29p Yellow Brown, Purple And Light Grey & 30p Sage Green.	John Oliver	40
Album Pages – 29p Yellow Brown, Purple And Light Grey & 30p Sage Green.		42

EDITORIAL

In our last issue I commented on the actual usage of some labels and markings introduced recently by Australia Post, with examples from my own correspondence.

This time I actually illustrate an example, which arrived at my home on 28th June. It is a bit difficult to show all details, precisely because some of them do not print on black and white photocopying, so I have also marked the location of some features subsequently. The original dimensions of the booklet are 216 mm wide x 280 mm high, and the illustration is reduced to 85% linear size.

The booklet weighs 176 grams and was sent sealed with sticky tape but with no envelope.

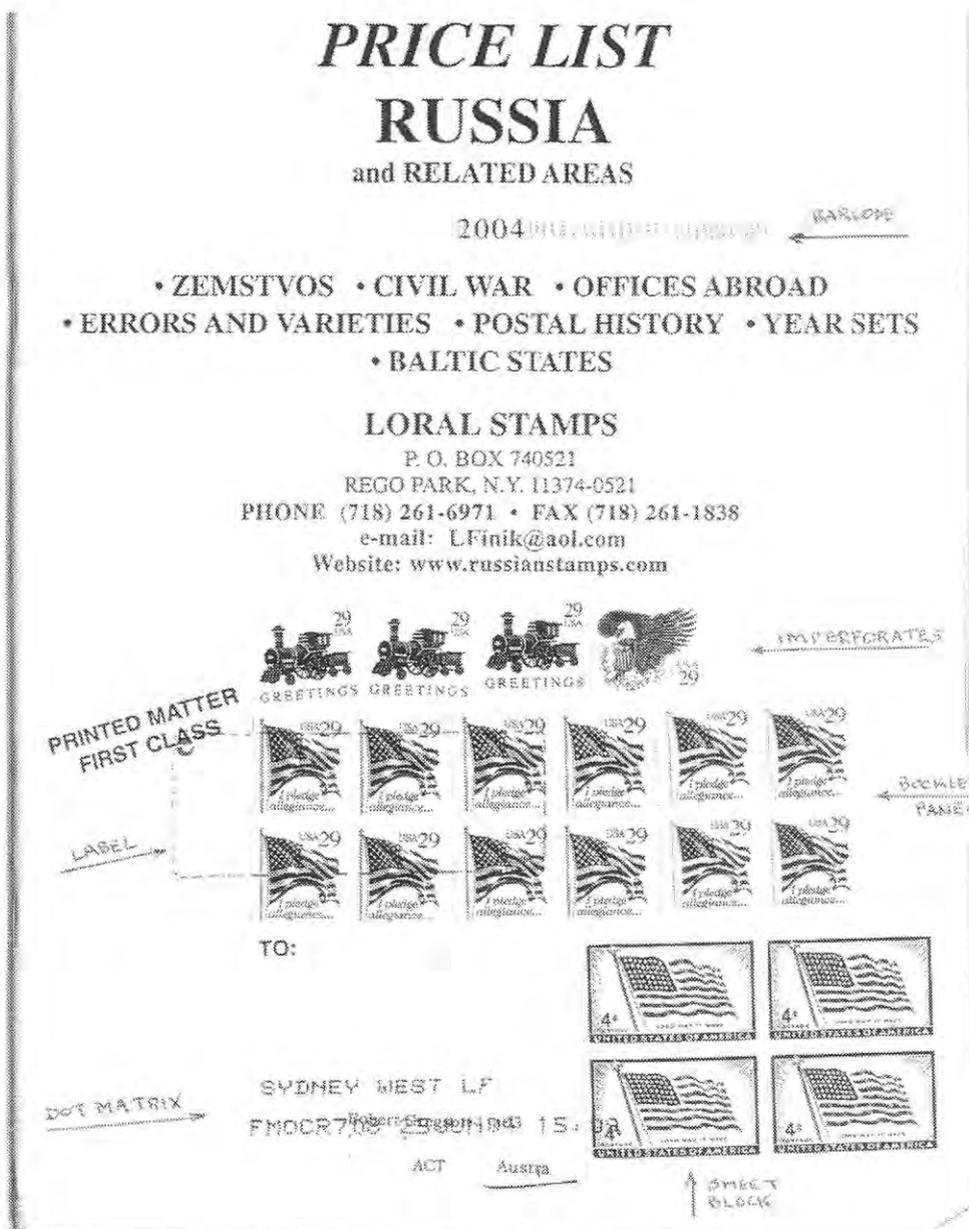
The USA postage was made up of imperforate self adhesive stamps, some booklet panes, and a block of ordinary older definitives. The USPO did not cancel it as first class printed matter airmail overseas, so we have no evidence of its flight duration, but about 10 days is typical for such objects. The total face value is US\$4.80, that is six times the current airmail letter rate to Australia.

Amusingly, the address label did not print the end of the word 'Australia', and someone has amended

it to read 'Austria', but it got here. Friends in the USA tell us that nowadays their local post office insists that letters are addressed 'Austria Europe' to avoid misdirection.

The booklet was handled at Sydney West, who put its dot matrix towards the bottom edge, partly over the address, and about parallel 4 cms higher up is the transparent label bearing the little Post Office logo, batch 0604, and the barcode in almost invisible marking. Note exactly the same barcode is repeated, printed directly on the booklet without any label to support it, up near the top, where its location is noted by my arrow. There are no markings on the back of the booklet.

About the same post we received an ordinary airmail letter, envelope 165 x 93 mm, USA postage 80 cents. The bar code in its orange ink was printed twice on the front, towards the lower long edge, and at least twice on the back, in two vertical sizes of characters. There is also a black bar code symbol string at the bottom of the front. I notice from mail from Europe that some other countries are now also putting bar code symbol strings on letters at the bottom of the front, on sorting at the receiving end, but not where the stamps are usually affixed. Australia Post is apparently still indulging itself sticking labels quite unnecessarily on top of stamps, when the bar codes they carry will print, and are printed, directly onto the surfaces of mail items, front and/or back.



ALAN SALISBURY 1917 – 2004

Alan Salisbury died in a Canberra nursing home on 28 June 2004 at the age of eighty-seven. He will be remembered as one of the founders of modern Australian philately. His services to the hobby in Canberra are without equal and his death represents the loss of an irreplaceable link to the early years of the Philatelic Society of Canberra and to the wider field of Australian philately. There can be few remaining collectors who can remember visiting the Australian Philatelic Exhibition in October 1928.



In accepting the inaugural Shakespeare Award presented to him by the ACT Philatelic Council in 1995 (photo), Alan wrote that:

My earliest recollection is that my father took me to the Australian Philatelic Exhibition in Melbourne in October 1928 where I have a vague impression of seeing the miniature sheets of the 3d blue Kookaburra stamp being printed. Things developed after that, and my collecting interests started to grow.

As for his involvement with the Philatelic Society of Canberra, again this is best described in his own words:

I am a great believer in joining societies, where one can get access to information about matters of interest, for pleasure, hobbies or for research, and philately can offer enormous scope for this. However, there is also opportunity for making some contribution in return to provide advantages for others as well.

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

I visited Bill at his home in Turner and was familiar with his large collection, in which he was especially strong on Great Britain. ...

I feel very glad to have been associated with the Society for all these years, and the benefit to me has been tremendous. I have had six terms as President, and have occupied every position except one. There is one other association which I hope you will not mind me mentioning. I have been a member for a long time, and in fact as at today this has lasted for fifty years and thirty days. [that was in 1995]

Alan, indeed, served the Society in many positions including President (1964-66, 1967-69, 1971-73) and Treasurer (1974-81) and was a life member of the Society.

In his response, Alan commented that *However, there is also opportunity for making some contribution in return to provide advantages for others as well.* In terms of Alan's contributions to the members of this Society and to collectors throughout Australia this is a clear understatement. Alan

was always happy to share his experience and knowledge of philately with all members and, through his years as a columnist with *Stamp News*, with all collectors. His column, Commonwealth Corner, ran for many years in *Stamp News* and fostered the collection of Australian specialised material.

Alan was also one of the 7 Members of the Australian Philatelic Order installed in 1995. He judged at numerous local and national shows as well as at Ausipex '84, the first FIP show held in Australia.

Alan exhibited widely and on numerous occasions at the Philatelic Society of Canberra, always with a different display and always accompanied with a consummate account of philatelic expertise. Displays ranged from the early postal history of the ACT to Tibet and modern China.

Alan was a contributor to a range of specialised journals and the founding Editor of *Capital Philately* and, as with all things, he maintained the highest literary and academic standards. [It is fitting that Alan's first article from *Capital Philately Vol 1 No. 1* has been reprinted below.]

Alan had a distinguished career in the Australian Public Service, moving to Canberra in the 1950s, and contributed his same enthusiasm and high standards to other hobbies that included the Railway Historical Society and to studies of local history. The latter interest was shared with Jean, his devoted wife for many years. Our sympathy goes to Jean and their family with gratitude for all that Alan contributed to our hobby to which he was a devoted pioneer.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE 5/- SYDNEY HARBOUR BRIDGE STAMP

(Reprinted from *Capital Philately* Volume 1, Number 1, November 1982.)

A.G. Salisbury

This stamp was printed in sheets of 80, comprising two upper and two lower panes each of 20 stamps, each pane consisting of four horizontal rows of five. After printing, the sheets were divided between the panes and issued as Post Office sheets of 20. Each such sheet had a "JOHN ASH" imprint in the centre of the bottom selvedge, below stamps 2, 3 and 4 of the bottom row.

The total printing, according to the Australia Post Handbook "Australian Commemorative and Air Mail Stamps 1927 to 1951", at page 14, was 72,800 stamps, or 3,640 issued sheets of 20. This means that the maximum number of imprints is 3,640. These are usually found in strips of three, but occasionally one sees a single stamp (R4/3) with the imprint attached, but in such cases the left and right ends of the imprint are missing, because the complete imprint, as already stated, extends below R4/2 and R4/4 as well.

In spite of the very small printing, there always seem to be some of these stamps being offered for sale or at auctions. However, even though this may possibly result from a rapid, or at least continuous, turnover of some copies because of the favourable prices obtainable, the frequency of sale can give an exaggerated impression of availability. Some unknown number of copies must have been used for normal postal purposes at the time of issue, and many of these probably would not have survived. There are copies in existence with heavy parcel cancellations, and if it were not for the generally unacceptable status of second-class copies, these might well command a premium on account of rarity, or at least on account of evidence of genuine use.

Then there were a few used on first-day covers, particularly with the postmarks of the various special post offices established to mark the celebrations accompanying the opening of the Bridge. Finally, a significant number of copies was used to provide cancelled-to-order stamps, mainly for incorporation in the collections of current postage stamps which were sold at that time by the Post Office as Specimen sets.

The December 1977 issue of the official Philatelic Bulletin gave some interesting information about these Specimen sets. It was recorded that the sets made up for sale between 1932 and 1943 included a C.T.O. copy of the 5/- Bridge stamp, and that this caused a "heavy demand" for the sets. In spite of this, the numbers of sets sold never reached high figures, and a publicity drive for two weeks in 1936 resulted in the sale of only 550 sets. The Bulletin continued that two years later the annual sales were well under 1,000 sets, and that later the figures were:-

1939 – 40	1,260
1940 – 41	560
1941 – 42	1,360
1942 – 43	6720

Later in 1943, orders were running at the rate of about 150 per week, and, as mentioned above, supplies of the Bridge stamp ran out in that year.

In passing, one wonders what effect on sales in 1942-43 resulted from the influx of servicemen from the United States of America into Australia. The catalogue values for the stamp as shown in the Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue are interesting:-

	<i>Mint</i>	<i>Used</i>
1941	\$2.00	\$1.50
1943	\$2.50	\$1.50
1945	\$6.00	\$4.00

By pulling a few figures out of the air, one would think that there could have been about 15,000 stamps issued as C.T.O. copies in the Specimen sets, which comes to about 20% of the total printing. By far the greater proportion of the "used" copies seen today as in this category, and the total number of used copies (comprising C.T.O. and genuinely used) which could possibly exist today might be as low as 25,000.

All this, of course, is only surmise, and the real figures, if they were only known, could be somewhat different. However, while no definitive conclusions can be drawn, and having regard to the non-survival of many genuinely used copies, it does appear that a used copy may well be scarcer than a mint one. Perhaps it may be that at some future time, the price for a used copy will approach more closely that price of a mint one than it does at the present.

There is no difficulty in acquiring this stamp, providing one has the money, and, even though current prices (which have levelled out somewhat in the last couple of years) seem enormous when compared with those prevailing even ten years ago, they are reasonable for a stamp that must always be in deficient supply. When it is considered that, of the millions of collectors in the world, the greater number can never hope to complete their Australian collections by having the 5/- Bridge stamp, it is only to be expected that the price will rise steadily. Popularity of an issue is one of the main determining factors in fixing price, and, even if high prices deter would-be buyers, and divert their attention towards other cheaper stamps, I feel that money spent on a copy of the 5/- Bridge deserves a high priority.

Value is only relative to demand, and there are many scarcer stamps which can be bought much more cheaply. High-value Kangaroo stamps overprinted for use in New Guinea are far cheaper than the unoverprinted normal Australian versions, yet they are far scarcer. Then, Rosenblum in his handbook on Papua points out that the 5/- Lakatoi was surcharged with the new value 1/3d. at about the same time as the 5/- Bridge was issued. Only 20,000 copies were surcharged, yet it is catalogued by Stanley Gibbons at only £3.50 for a mint copy, compared with £750 for the Bridge Stamp. A set of seven stamps was issued in Mongolia in 1977, and only 2,000 sets were printed, yet Gibbons catalogue value for the complete set is only £1.33!

The only conclusion to be drawn for this is that the 5/- Bridge stamp continues to be one of the most desirable issues for acquisition.

A CHESS PATRON ON STAMPS

K. Peter Breitkopf

Chess on thematic stamps is a welcome and recurrent theme, where its broad historical origins can be depicted.. One figure, who had an important influence on the game and its cultural diffusion across Europe, was Alfonso X, called “the Wise’ (El Sabio) who reigned as King of Castile from 1251 to 1284. Himself an excellent chess player, he was also an historian and the author of an influential treatise on chess.

In the preface to a book dealing with games he suggested a legendary origin to chess. He declared that there were once three wise men, each with a different view of life and entertainment. The first man declared that everything depended on Wisdom - he brought chess with him. The second said that Luck decided everything – he brought dice. The third claimed that both Wisdom and Luck were important and brought board games.

Under his orders in 1283 the monks of the Escorial (the royal palace) completed a work on chess and kindred games. This is generally known as the *Alfonso Manuscript*. This manuscript is the earliest complete European work on chess which has been preserved through to the modern era. Its importance lies in that it shows the game basically in its older form, with some variations. For example, the variation where promoted Queens can leap three squares, as well as the orthodox form of chess played in the 13th century, are both covered.

It consists of ninety eight leaves in a sheep skin binding, and is divided into seven parts that cover games on the backgammon board, and games of chance with dice. It has an enlarged part on games of chess, called Libro del Acedrex. This opens with a description of the rules of chess, and consists thereafter with a collection of one hundred and three problems (using an archaic form of positional notation) of which eighty nine are of older Muslim origin. Alfonso had invited Arab masters to his court.



Collectors can trace Alfonso on stamps of Spain; The issue of 26th February 1956, 70 c has a portrait of Alfonso (SG 1715), the issue of 20th June 1984, 16 Ptas shows an allegorical portrait of Alfonso (SG 2769). In 1967, Yemen in an issue depicting Moorish art, shows a picture that includes a chess board with a game in progress that is taken from the Alfonso Manuscript (SG R346). It is a middle game, white appears to be in a stronger position.

References;

Brace, E. R. (1979) An illustrated Dictionary of Chess.

Penguin Books (1977) The Penguin Encyclopaedia of Chess

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TWO UNUSUAL AUSTRALIAN MILITARY AIRMAILS

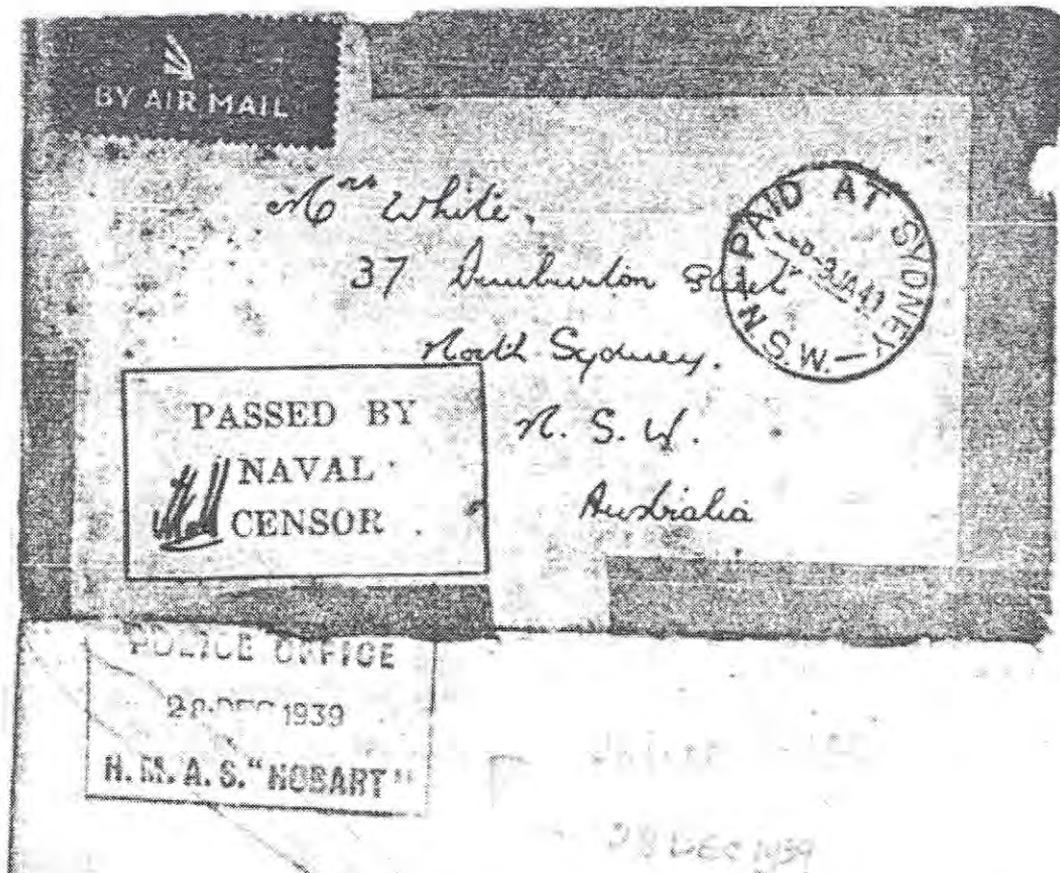
Ronald M. Lee

We are often interested in airmail covers because of the evidence they provide about routes and rates, and what the stamps on them were used to pay for. There are however some unusual examples where there is nothing on the covers that immediately tells us what happened, and a bit of investigative work is needed.

Some years ago I found a rather tatty cover with a PAID AT SYDNEY date stamp of 3 January 1940. It had on it a British type airmail etiquette indicating that the sender had intended it to travel by air. There was no indication of the rate of postage charged, but curiously on the back was a cancellation reading POLICE OFFICE H.M.A.S. HOBART 28 DEC 1939. Where was the navy ship Hobart on that date? What did the cover tell us about postal services then in use?

When the Second World War was declared H.M.A.S Hobart was on patrol duty in Bass Strait. On 13 October 1939 she sailed for Singapore and a month later on to Bombay. On 20 December 1939 she was refuelling in Colombo. From Colombo the ship then sailed to the Malacca Straits to rendezvous with the French cruiser Suffran, escorting a convoy of French troops. Christmas day was spent at sea followed by a return to Colombo on 28 December 1939.

As one would expect, there was mail to be posted on return to port, and this letter was posted on board ship on the day that the ship returned. How did the letter then reach mainland Australia?



There were regulations concerning the handling of censored mail from ships. The mail was to be put in a bag which was then tied with a label marked 'Navy'. The identity of the ship involved was only recorded within the bag. The bag was addressed to the Superintendent of Mails at the nearest convenient General Post Office in Australia. The bag was then delivered by hand to the postmaster at the port where the ship was berthed together with a letter reading:

“in pursuance of the arrangement agreed upon between the Navy and the Postal Departments of the Commonwealth of Australia, the bag of ship’s mail now presented should please be forwarded to its destination enclosed in a covering mail bag fastened and addressed in the same manner as an ordinary bag of Letter Mail”.

The dates of posting and handling in the Sydney G.P.O. indicate that the mail was sent by air, to Karachi by Tata Airlines where it joined the Empire flying boat route to Australia. Flight SE 205 arrived in Sydney on 2 January 1940. The letter was then delivered to North Sydney, NSW.

On arrival at the Sydney G.P.O. the postage cost of the item would have been recorded against the R.A.N. Account and the PAID AT SYDNEY cancellation applied. Incidentally the full cost of postage would have been charged as the Navy did not receive concessional postage rates

My second. example is dated a few months later. On 3 May 1940 there were Australian soldiers in Colombo. They were troops primarily from the 17th Brigade of the 6th Division Australian Imperial Force (2/5, 2/6, 2/7, /28 infantry battalions

From Victoria). They were travelling in convoy US2, which was the second convoy to take troops from Australia to the Middle East. The convoy included the troopships Strathaid, Neuralia, Nevasa, Dunera and Ettrick.



This cover was censored by the Australian Army, not the Navy. It is franked with a Ceylon 1 rupee stamp and cancelled COLOMBO FOREIGN 3 MAY 1940. The cover was both posted and censored on board, before being passed through the postal system in the same way that civilian mail was being handled. It too joined the Empire Route at Karachi, having traveled by Tata Airlines across India from Colombo. Its final destination was Caulfield in Victoria.

It is currently not fashionable in philatelic exhibitions to include mail from servicemen in displays of commercial airmail. I feel that this is a pity, as so many interesting and relevant examples are thus omitted.

References;

Rosenberg, P. H. (2003) *Across the Sea to War*

Lind and Payne (1971) *H.M.A.S. Hobart*. Naval Historical Society of Australia.

SAILORS' POST, SHIPS AND CONSULATES

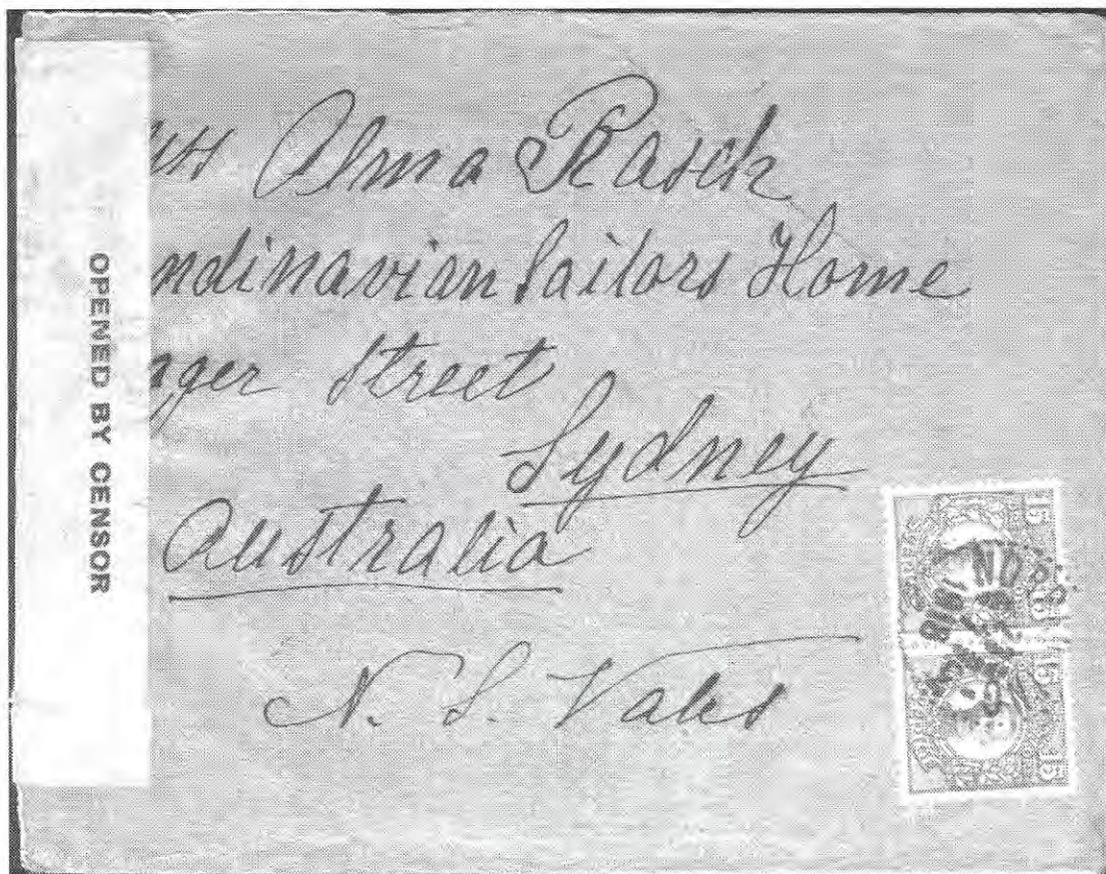
Robert A. M. Gregson

Poste restante is a term used to signify that a mailed object is to remain at the post office until it is collected by the addressee or an agent of the addressee.

It can be found written by the sender as part of the address, and is sometimes used by philatelists to ensure that their special postings don't get lost in the hands of postmen or in the mouths of dogs that attack postmen. In the 19th century some countries did not have local deliveries or postmen's rounds, and all letters had to be called for at the post office. For example, in Australia mail to the goldfields of Victoria and Western Australia was held at the post office for collection by miners, and a similar situation for different reasons prevailed in smaller towns in Norway.

But interestingly there were other places where mail might be held for collection, such as embassies or consulates, or private forwarding agents. When Scott and Shackleton went on their expeditions to Antarctica, the mail was handled by Kinseys as forwarding agents, in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In studying mail across the North Sea between England and Scandinavia, and almost separately between England and Australia (because the North Sea crossing could be a short part of the total route from Scandinavia to Australia), we find examples of letters to be collected by sailors when their ship docked. The letters hopefully got there before the merchant ship on which they were crew members. Some visiting foreign merchant sailors would stay at a hostel provided by church or social welfare groups; in Figure 1 (below) is an example from Norrköping posted on 22 7 1918, to a home in Sydney, and censored in transit by Australia, it is assumed we had some censors then who could read foreign languages other than German? The stamps are two 15 öre values of the 1911 Gustav V issue, (Facit 84d, the 1918 printing, SG 74) a postal rate roughly equivalent to 3d.



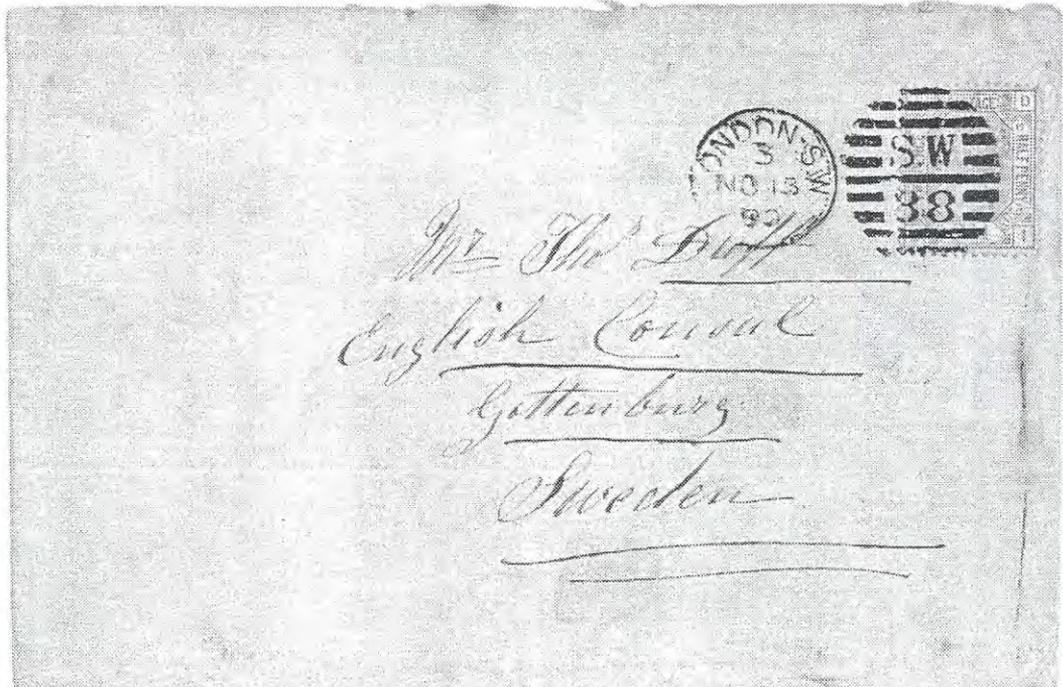


The cover in Figure 2 (left) is from Majorna (a suburb of Göteborg that only had its own postmark from 1865 to 1891, replaced by Göteborg 4), it was posted on 12 12 1883, with the 20 öre rate that was then appropriate for a basic weight letter to outside Sweden and within Europe. The stamp is the 1883 printing of the perf. 13 ringtype issue (Facit 33e, SG 22B unspecialised).

It sailed across the North Sea to Hull, received and sorted as a ship's letter at Hull A on De 9 1883 and then would have gone by rail, via York and Newcastle-on-Tyne, to Edinburgh where it

was backstamped 10 De 83. It was delivered to the Swedish and Norwegian consulate in Leith, which is the port of Edinburgh. The address tells us that it was intended for the First Mate A. O. Olsson, who served on the ship Gamen (in English, 'the Vulture') under the captaincy of A. F. Gellerstedt. The handwriting is fine, and the letter probably from his wife.

Mail to a consulate in the opposite direction, but not poste restante, is shown in Figure 3 (right) as a contrast about the same time, but we have no evidence that this one actually sailed from London, it could have gone to France, then by rail to Denmark and on to Sweden. This letter is addressed to Thomas Duff, the English consul, at Gottenburg (as usual the English can't spell Swedish place names), posted at London SW with date No 13 80.



The stamp is the blue surface printed twopence halfpenny plate 19 (SG 157). The letter is backstamped. Göteborg 17 11 1880. As it only took four days it reasonably certainly went via Ostende and the rail route on the continent.

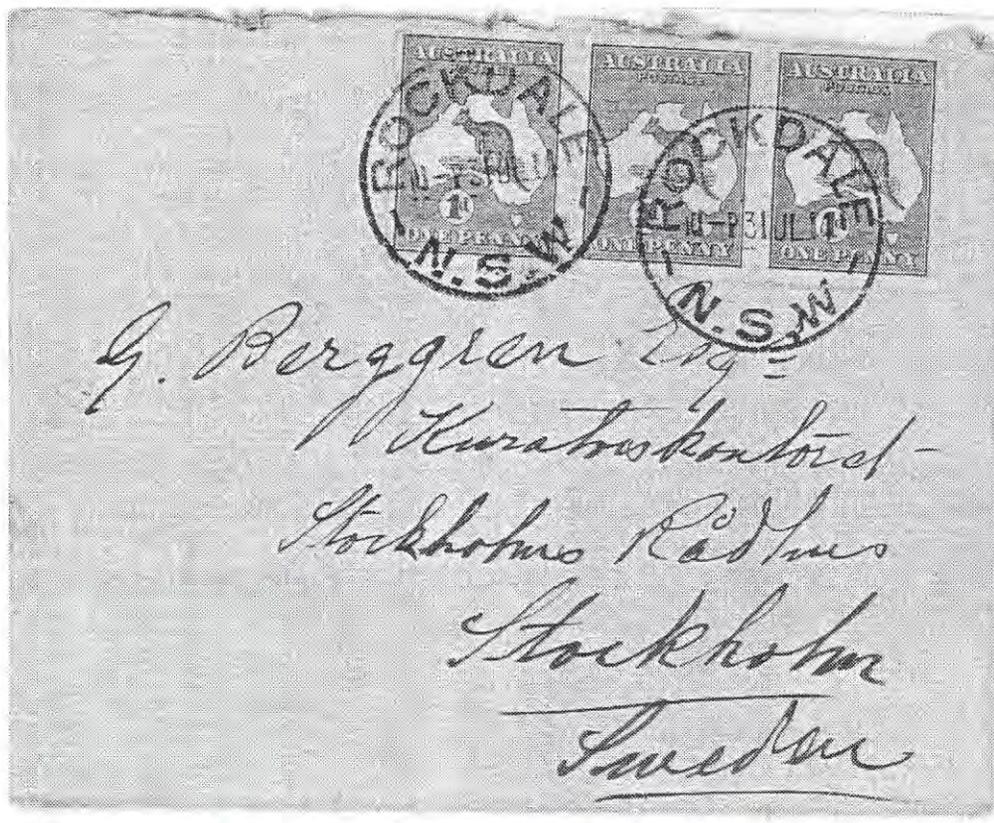


In Australia the consulate at Port Adelaide held letters for sailors. In 1913 the letter in Figure 4 (left) was posted at Göteborg 1 LBR on 23 6 13 and has as backstamp a roller cancel South Australia 27 Jul 13. The block of four 5 öre stamps are the 1911 Gustav V issue. The journey time of around a month is typical, and it would have

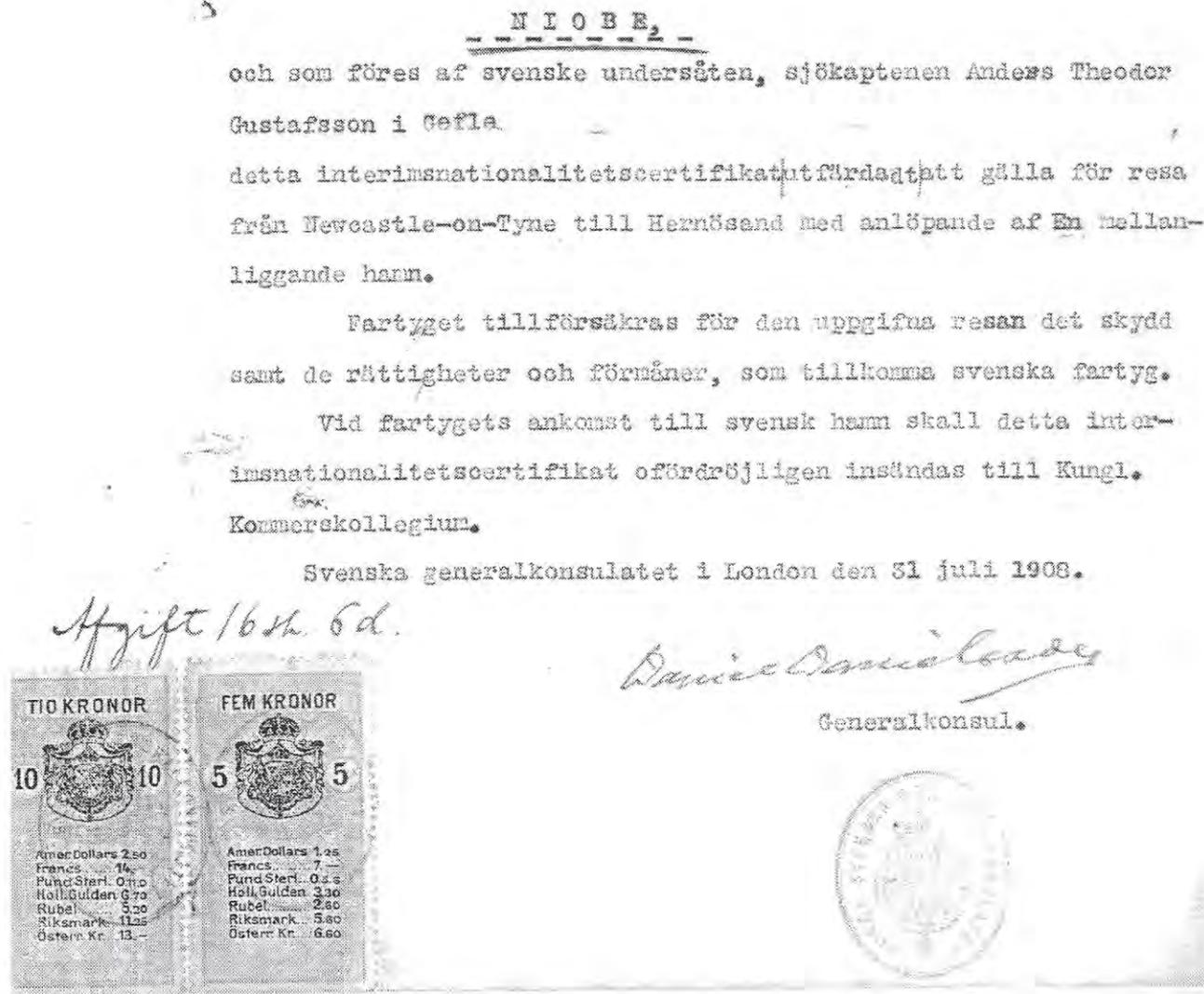
come via Suez. The addressee is an ordinary sailor Rolf Bothén, on the ship Whinbatter (the name suggests a British registration, it cannot be a Scandinavian word), under captain N. E. Jenson. After 1905 the Swedish and Norwegian governments had some separate consulates, so here we have a letter posted in Sweden addressed to a Norwegian consulate, though by a local arrangement that still might have also handled Swedish affairs there.

For comparison an ordinary letter from Australia to Sweden around the same time is shown in Figure 5, with an early use of Kangaroos.

Posted at Rockdale N.S.W. on 31 July 1911 to Stockholm, on arrival cancelled 2 Tur1 (that is, second postmans' round) on 16 9 11 this took about six weeks for a longer journey, that is longer at both ends of the trip, than did Figure 4. It is perhaps a bit overfranked by getting three 1d roos, as twopence halfpenny sufficed for other letters at that time. The addressee is in a department of the Town Hall (Rådhus), the dubious spelling suggests the equivalent of the mayor's office.



It was not simply as a post office that the consular offices functioned for ships. Figure 6 is a reduced picture of part of a document that was issued in London on 31 July 1908, and signed by the Swedish generalconsul. It is franked by two consular fee stamps of the second issue (the Barefoot catalogue of Scandinavian revenues gives a wrong date of issue as 1919), and notes that in fact 16 shillings and 6 pence was sufficient to pay to register a ship.



The document is a interim nationality certificate for a ship that was originally called the Kingscote, but was sold to a Swedish company while it was docked in Newcastle-on-Tyne, and renamed the Niobe. It was 619.91 registered tons, built of iron, and steam powered. By a statute of 1906 the consul was empowered to change the ship's registration from British to Swedish for the journey across the North Sea and on to Hernösand where it was to be delivered into the hands of its new owner, and had to be properly registered under the Swedish flag. It is interesting that the certificate says (I translate) "with the ship's arrival in a Swedish port this interim international certificate shall without any delay be delivered (that is, surrendered) to the Department of Trade". We do not know if she sailed with any cargo on that journey, very probably coal, or carried any letters, but we are told that Niobe was in the hands of "sjökaptén" (in English, master mariner) "Anders Theodor Gustafsson of Gefla". Both Gefla and Hernösand, some distance apart, are on the North coast of the Baltic, so the captain still had a long voyage ahead after he had crossed the North Sea and presumably surrendered his interim certificate at Göteborg.

Surprisingly, I recently learnt that master mariner Gustafsson apparently had relatives who settled in Adelaide, and there are descendents of the family now living in Sydney.

NEW ZEALAND POST CARD STAMPS AND LABELS

Ian McMahon

New Zealand Post, like Australia Post, is noted for its experimentation with new products. Three types of recent stamp issues by New Zealand Post highlight this ingenuity. In these cases, New Zealand Post has chosen to refer to the stamps as 'labels' and have used the red NZ Post logo rather than the silver fern logo used by the New Zealand Post Stamps Centre (New Zealand Post's identifiers as a postal operator in New Zealand's deregulated postal environment). This apparently indicates that the stamps were produced by business units within New Zealand Post other than the Stamps Centre and no official first day covers seem to have been issued. From a collector's point of view they do seem to meet the definition of stamps.

Postcard Stamp Packs

The first group are three postcard stamp packs, referred to by New Zealand Post as 'Postcard Label Packs'.



The New Zealand Wildfood Postcard Label Pack sells for \$9 and includes six self-adhesive labels and airmail stickers, plus a sheet of wildfood stickers and four recipes from the Hokitika Wildfoods Festival.



The Kiwi Characters Postcard Label Pack sells for \$9 and includes six self-adhesive \$1.50 labels and airmail stickers, plus a sheet of stickers of kiwi sayings.



The Draw-It-Yourself (DIY) Postcard Label Pack sells for \$19.95 and includes eight self-adhesive \$1.50 labels and airmail stickers, and four coloured pens, two sets of sparkly stickers, and ten stencils (which can be used as fridge magnets and a magnetic photo frame). In the words of New Zealand Post "*In the great tradition of kiwi ingenuity, 'jimmying-things-up-with-number-eight-wire' (or in other words, 'generally having a go'), New Zealand Post presents the all original D.I.Y. (Draw-It-Yourself) labels*".

The packs were designed by Saatchi and Saatchi, Wellington, New Zealand, printed by Wyatt & Wilson Print, New Zealand and are self-adhesive.

Customised Stamps

In line with the practice of other postal operators in New Zealand, New Zealand Post has commenced producing customised stamps. Under consideration for some time, the first New Zealand Post 'customised stamps' have now appeared. New Zealand Post's description of the 'customised stamps service' states that "New Zealand Post can create stamps with any design of your choosing for mailings within New Zealand. The design will need to sit within a New Zealand Post template and come in sheets of 50 stamps." Examples which have appeared include stamps for ANZ and for the 2004 New Zealand International Arts Festival.

5c emergency label

In conjunction with the increase in domestic postal rate in April 2004 from 40c to 45c, New Zealand Post issued an emergency 5c 'label'.

EBAY TAKES ACTION AGAINST FRAUD

Sheryll Oswald

The winds of change have blown through eBay since my last article was published here in November 2002. In April 2003, eBay Trust and Safety Vice President Rob Chesnut promised to investigate the complaints about the US stamps alteration group made by Stamp Collectors Against Dodgy Sellers (SCADS) member George Kopecky. This has led to more cooperation between eBay, the American Philatelic Society (APS) and the stamps community, and the removal from eBay of a number of sellers who regularly listed questionable material.

eBay/APS partnership

Since May 2003, eBay has been working in partnership with the American Philatelic Society (APS) to reduce the amount of fraudulent listings on its site. [1] Sellers listing in the Stamps category are made aware of a more stringent eBay selling policy which requires adherence to a new APS code of conduct. A Stamp Community Watch (SCW) group vets auctions reported to eBay as fraudulent, and refers those found as such to the APS for further vetting.

eBay stamps selling policy and APS code of conduct

A new policy page warns sellers not to sell stamps that are fraudulent or misdescribed, and to describe any known alterations to the item. [2] Sellers must also abide by a code of conduct developed by eBay and which is modelled on the rules that the APS applies to sellers in sales circuits and on its online Stampstore site. [3] Collectors who see listings inconsistent with the code are encouraged to report them to eBay. A notable inclusion in the code pertains to forgeries, fakes, facsimiles and reproductions. They can be sold only if described as such; they must be marked as such on the front or back, and an image of the marking must be shown.

Stamp Community Watch (SCW) group

The SCW was set up by eBay on a trial basis to utilise the eBay community to help to reduce fraudulent auctions and to target sellers who repeatedly offer fraudulent listings in the US stamps category. Its members include knowledgeable volunteers from the eBay community (buyers and sellers, including two members of SCADS), as well as representatives from the APS, Professional Stamp Experts (PSE) and American Stamp Dealers Association (ASDA).

At least two SCW members must agree that items are questionable before they are passed onto the APS, where two delegated staff members review them. If they conclude that there is a high probability that items are not what they are supposed to be, the APS advises the sellers to remove the items. The sellers are given 24 hours to remove lots, and if they do not appeal or the lots are not taken down in 24 hours, they are referred to eBay and eBay removes the lots itself. [4]

Effects of the eBay/APS partnership

eBay has stated that there were no plans to publish statistics on the number of items that have been removed as a result of the partnership. [5] However, the APS has published feedback on the program in both its journal and the minutes of Board of Directors meetings. Robert Lamb, Executive Director of the APS, stated that about 50 items per week are forwarded from the SCW to APS for vetting. [6] The APS asks sellers about approximately 60% of the material referred to it, and he believes 60%-70% of that is removed from sale voluntarily by the sellers. [7] eBay and APS, by working together, have managed to uncover and eliminate major sellers of fraudulent stamps. In the year since July 2003, the partnership has resulted in 18 suspensions from eBay. One SCADS member of the SCW stated, "The worst offenders in the US classics, early 20th century and 'back of the book' categories have now been expelled from eBay. Lots containing many of the most commonly misrepresented,

misidentified and/or fraudulent US classics issues have declined significantly since the birth of the SCW. Apparently sellers are learning someone is watching them.”

Education of sellers

Whilst the major objective of the vetting program continues to be the elimination of unethical sellers, most misdescribed lots have been found to be simply due to seller ignorance. In these cases, the APS has tried to improve sellers' education by directing them to websites which assist them to identify their material. Most sellers have shown themselves as wanting to do the right thing, and are appreciative of the effort expended in helping them.

During the listing process, eBay encourages sellers to more accurately describe items by providing warnings and reminders. Sellers are asked to include a clear scan of the item and information on any known or suspected alterations, and warned that listings inconsistent with the APS selling guidelines may be removed from eBay. There still is room for improvement in listing techniques. Sellers would increase their sales and credibility by describing all faults and providing better scans. Causes of inadequate scans include failure to crop, failure to adjust brightness levels, failure to correct for scanner colour bias, scanning at a low DPI, selecting an inappropriate background or using a digital camera instead of a scanner. Unfortunately, a few sellers continue to provide bad scans deliberately to “put one over” on an unsuspecting buyer.

Expansion of the vetting program

The SCW was initially focused on US material and only listings viewable on ebay.com were vetted. eBay stated that if the trial is successful, the expertise of the SCW would be expanded to vet listings of non-US items, and that other international eBay sites such as eBay.uk and eBay.de would evaluate launching similar programs. [5] Since May 2004, an increasing number of questionable non-US philatelic items have been referred to the SCW group, prompting both eBay and the APS to expand their respective review committees to address the number of non-US items reviewed.

Meanwhile, the idea of vetting auctions is spreading to other categories. In June, a new Coins Community Watch (CCW) program was formed, comprising experts from the eBay coin community and the American Numismatic Association (ANA). The CCW will specifically focus on uncovering repeated behaviours of misrepresentation of items for sale, and notify the ANA of problematic listings, and the Association will forward the report to eBay if the seller fails to respond to the allegation or remedy the listing.

The Saratoga Group - altered US stamps

In May 2003, as a result of eBay finally taking action to investigate the Saratoga Group's US stamp alteration activities [8], the selling ID “pcheltenham” was suspended. The group briefly moved to the Yahoo online auction site using the ID “goldmedalauctions”, a name very similar to that used by Gregory Stolow to run mail order sales in the 1990s, [9] then disappeared from SCADS radar. The selling ID “32gyt78” and buying ID “tremor111” were suspended later in the year. In October, “chickfrdstk” became active in buying low-end US material, and was suspended shortly afterwards. Nothing more was seen of the group until March 2004, when the last remaining buying ID “short369” (formerly “booksnbooks4u” and before that “stazy4”) began purchasing again on eBay. This ID was suspended in May, shortly after SCADS reported its activity to eBay. The remaining seller ID “wackeywood” (formerly “crustaceans” and before that “schuylerac”) was suspended shortly afterwards, and was removed from the eBay database. There are no guarantees that we have seen the last of this stamp alteration group though, so keep your eyes and ears open. It is disappointing that only continued vigilance and reporting by SCADS triggered the removal of all of these buyers and sellers from eBay, given eBay's investigation of the group in May 2003. However, it shows that perseverance by collectors can produce changes.

The Hialeah forger “atdinvest” – modern reproductions

My previous articles on the eBay seller “atdinvest” (Juan Canoura Sr.) from Hialeah, Florida, discussed his listings of fake overprints, including fake SPECIMEN overprints, and covers and pieces with fake cancels applied. [10, 11] In August 2001, this seller began listing fake imperforate sheets and blocks of stamps, and continued to offer a wide variety of these over the next few years.

In response to enquiries, the seller stated that they were from an old European collection of the Stalin era, printed by the “photorotogravure” method (a nonsensical term not found in any philatelic reference). However, the sheet characteristics were consistent with having been created by recent computer technology. Firstly, a scan of a single stamp was manipulated to create the “variety”. This was then duplicated to fill up the “sheet”, which was printed on a modern colour printer on A4 paper and then gummed. A detailed analysis of their characteristics has been published by collector Richard Warren, who has examined one of the sheets. [12]

In November 2002, collectors traced the sources of some of the images used to make up the sheets to listings of rare “inverted centre” items in Cherrystone and Shreves auctions, and notified the auction houses. When the seller listed Canadian forgeries in August and December 2002, collectors alerted the Royal Philatelic Society of Canada, who in turn informed Canada Post, who complained to eBay through its VERO program which protects against copyright violations. The lots were cancelled on each occasion, and the seller since refrained from listing Canadian forgeries. [13]

In June 2003, perforated stamps and corner blocks were added to the seller’s repertoire, in response to “requests from many customers”. (Figure 1) Later that year, when eBay implemented its policy requiring forgeries and reproductions to be marked as such on the back, collectors reported the seller’s auctions for non-compliance. He responded by stating in listings that items were marked “repro” on the reverse, but the accompanying scans showed that the markings were clearly created digitally, and the seller since admitted that no stamps were ever marked. [12]

“atdinvest” attempted to sell the forgery business on eBay and the sell.com, auction.com and auction-warehouse.com online auction venues in late 2003 and early 2004. Prices ranged from US\$34,000 to US\$69,000, and there were no takers. In late March, he then listed on eBay the equipment used to make the forgeries. Among the paraphernalia offered were thousands of sheets, blocks and single stamps (Figure 2), hundreds of hand-stamps (Figures 3 and 4), perforation equipment (Figure 5) and over 80 CDs containing “data of proofs and documents” (Figure 6). One lot of sheets and blocks sold for the asking price of US\$899. He relisted his business on eBay on 14th April, this time lowering the price to \$11,999.99. [14]

A new “Replicas/ Repros/ Forgeries” category was created in March 2004 on eBay.uk to separate items like these from the mainstream stamp categories. In April, this category was hotly discussed on an eBay.uk discussion board. The attention of eBay staff was drawn specifically to the operations of “atdinvest”, those who resold items purchased from him (the UK-based seller “mailbyrail”) and those who created their own forgeries for sale on eBay in addition to reselling Hialeah material (the UK-based seller “lotus194”). The exposure of the problem to eBay management, coupled with complaints made by collectors about the listing of the forgery equipment and the business itself, appears to have prompted eBay to make a decision to remove such sellers from its site. “atdinvest” was suspended from eBay on 21 April. “lotus194” was suspended a week later.

Resellers of Hialeah forgeries

The collecting community will find these modern computer-generated forgeries offered by resellers who have bought directly from “atdinvest”. The UK-based reseller “lotus194” used private auctions to list his own homemade overprint forgeries, as well as those of “atdinvest”. The UK seller “mailbyrail” routinely offered items bought from “atdinvest”, but in July passed this responsibility to new ID “spacelady00”. On 12 June 2004, following the apparent purchase of the forgery business from “atdinvest”, new eBay seller “princesstamps” (Eileen Stanley) listed imperforate blocks, but has

not relisted as of this writing. After initially being friendly and helpful when responding to enquiries, she became more reserved and put off answering further questions. Over the past few years, thousands of Hialeah forgeries have found their way into the collecting community. There is every chance that they will eventually be unknowingly resold as genuine stamps, freaks, proofs, or some other wrongly labelled item by collectors and dealers alike, or knowingly sold as genuine by dealers intent on making money out of them. And unfortunately for the stamp community, people will eventually be fooled by them.

Education of buyers

It is ultimately up to you not to get taken in by the tactics of unethical sellers, by being alert for telltale signs and by using your commonsense. Read the “*Guidelines for buying stamps on eBay*”, published on the SCADS website. [15] And remember, “Caveat emptor” or “buyer beware” is still the best advice when buying on eBay.

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[<http://www.scads.org/ebay/bidtips.htm>]



Figure 1

Sheets of British stamps show the same check letters throughout, confirming that a single copy of the stamp has been reproduced to make up the sheet.

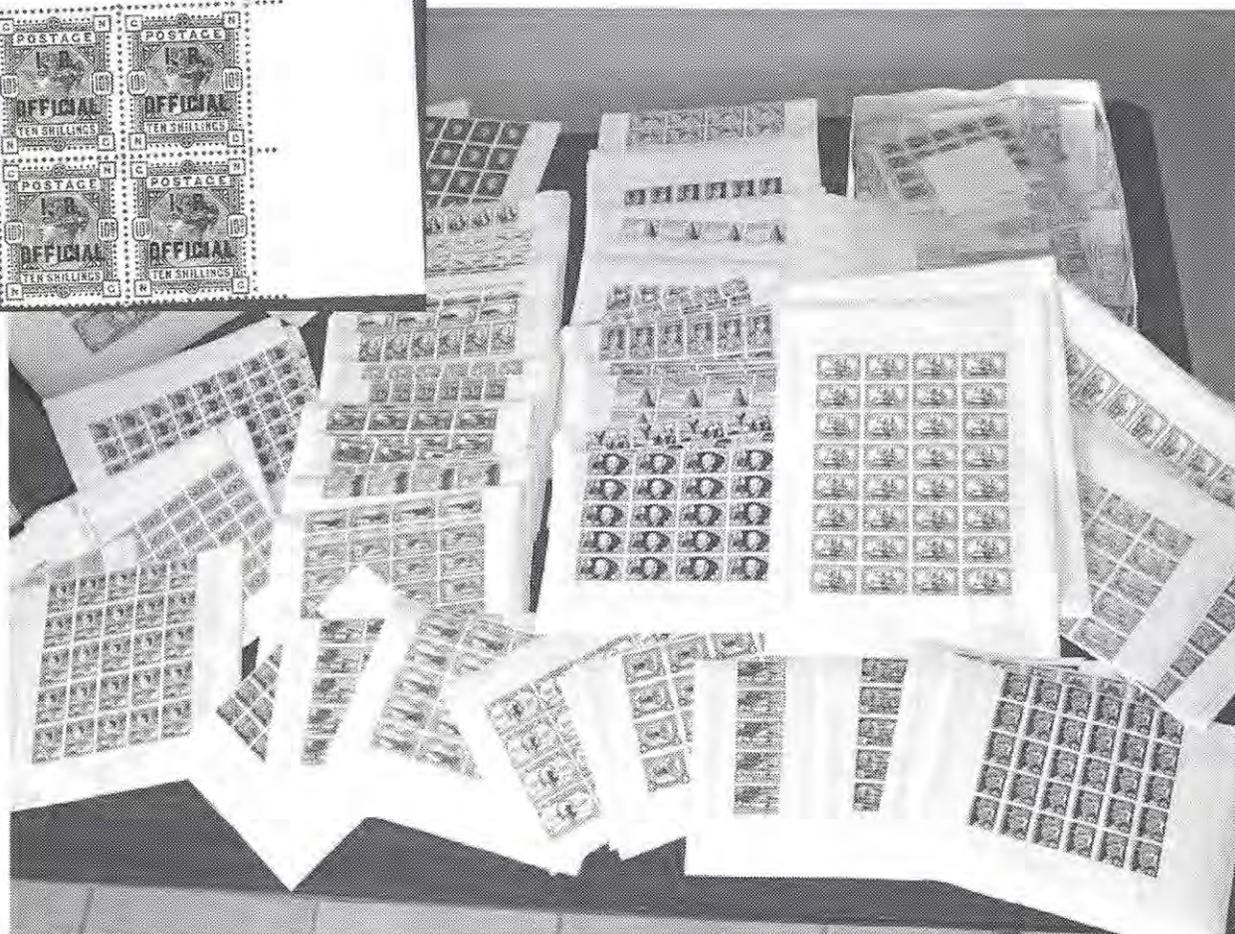


Figure 2 - Some of the blocks and sheets on offer as "dealer stock inventory", selling for US\$899.



Figure 3 and 4

Some of the hand-stamps used, which were cut out from vinyl sheets. Described as "Hundreds of cancellations worldwide since the early 1800s up to the WWII. Reproductions from the genuine cancellations."

PASTCARDS

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Queensland Railway Museum, Ipswich. Locomotive made by the Vulcan Foundry, Newton-le-Willows (Manchester), England and Walkers Limited, Maryborough, Queensland. 1951 – 58. Engine Number 1089 was the last Main Line Steam Locomotive built in Australia.

CONTENTS

Editorial	Bruce Parker	21
A Thematic Exhibit of Postcards (Part 7)	Hans Karman	22
Commemorating the Dead and Famous (Part 2)	Peter Cheah	26

EDITORIAL

It's full steam ahead with another issue of Pastcards! We witness the final stage of the journey with Windmills and witness the death and rebirth – a tremendous thanks to Hans for this sterling effort educating us all on thematic postcard exhibiting. Death seems to be a recurring theme this issue as we also see the second half of Peter's postcards of memorials to the dead and famous. – Enjoy!

A THEMATIC EXHIBIT OF POSTCARDS - WINDMILLS (PART 7)

Hans Karman

Death and Rebirth

The final Chapter in any exhibiting topic should show how the brilliant and original idea that gave birth to the Zeppelin, Passenger Liner, windmill, eventually died as they outlived their usefulness. And then were revived in a new guise when it was discovered that there was some merit left in the original idea, albeit in a new form. So the Zeppelin died with the wreck of the Hindenburg, but re-emerged to serve as a steady platform for advertising or for bird's-eye TV camera crews. The Passenger Liner died with the proliferation of the Jumbo Jet, but has now resurfaced as the Holiday Cruise Liner. The windmill died when cheap power sources (steam and electricity) took over, and has now re-appeared as an electricity generator, as well as a tourist drawcard.



In the case of Windmills the steam engine, the internal combustion engine and electrical power distribution spelled the end of thousands of windmills from the 1850s. In the Netherlands alone there were about 9000 windmills in 1850, in a country of some 3,000 km², or about 3 mills per km². Only about 1000 are left. From the city of Dordrecht 96 mills are known to have disappeared.

Figure 1 - One of the lost windmills of Dordrecht; hand-coloured Photo card by Jozef Weber, published by V.D.W. Dordt in 1916.

Many mills around the world were simply left to rot until they fell apart or were dismantled for the materials that could be retrieved from them.

Figure 2

Derelict mills on Pakri Island, Estonia; Photo card by J.Kalda, publisher Gruental Haapalu, Kalda, ~1906.





Figure 4

Real Photo by D.J.H.v.d.Ven {staff Photographer} of the fire that destroyed the windmill De Noord on 28 July 1954, published as a postcard by the Newspaper Rotterdamse Parool, sold at 25 cents to benefit the rebuilding fund.

The aftermath of a disaster is sometimes published. Postcards of ships wrecked on a beach, or train wrecks, of the burnt-out remains of famous buildings are known but not common. The mill at Broodseinde was set on fire by retreating Belgians in 1914 to prevent it falling into German hands.

Many mills became victims of their prominent and isolated position in wartime. They were good places from which to do some spotting, but they also made easy targets. Many mills in Flanders were destroyed, like this mill at Bailleul, hit by a shell.

Figure 3

Photo by Alary-Ruelle, published by the Chambre Syndicatelle Française de Cartes Postales Illustrées, 1915.

These types of cards are generally easy enough to find for many topics, since they represent a static state that would have been photographed by many at their leisure. Much more difficult are postcards that show an actual disaster in progress, i.e. a ship in distress, a train wreck that would have been cleared within days, a building or a windmill on fire. Few postcards exist in this category. They may be published by a newspaper, and sold to raise funds for victims, or to start a rebuilding program.



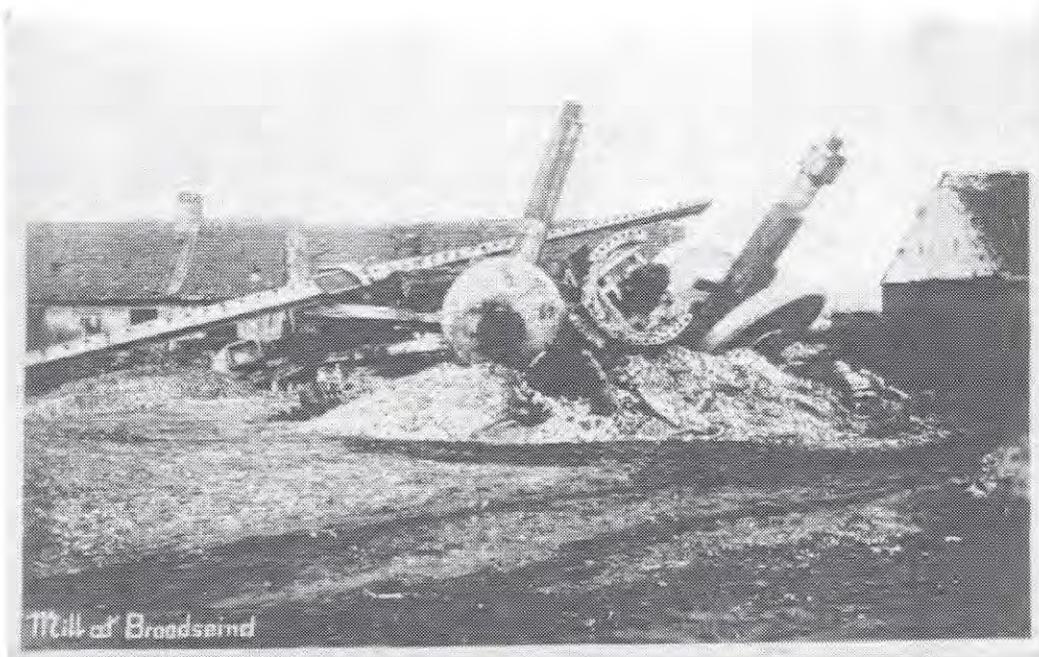


Figure 5 - Real photo, no details known, ~1914.

Windmills were subject to other dangers: Those built on the Dutch dikes to gain height and an uninterrupted wind from the sea were vulnerable to attack from storms at high tide.



Figure 6 - The only one remaining of the 23 Seadike Mills in Zeeland; real photo by Ch.L.Dert, Vlissingen, used 1938.

Some windmills were started in many places around the world, but never completed. A well-known local example is the Windmill in Nimmitabel, which was started by a local miller, but never completed when he ran out of money; it never operated as a windmill. Other windmills operated only for a short time before being converted to serve a different purpose, e.g. the so-called Observatory on Wickham Terrace in Brisbane. It was built in 1828 by convicts, and included a treadmill for use on

windless days. It was abandoned when the convicts left in 1840 and fell into disrepair, before it was converted to and observatory.



Figure 7

Real photo, no 264 of a series on Brisbane? No details known, ~1920.

The final word in any story like this is the rebirth of the idea. Windmills are now sought after heritage items, and are preserved at great cost. Decaying old

mills are being restored. When they are in the way of road building projects they get shifted, when dedicated millers get a chance they built new replicas, because an operating windmill is a tourist attraction and tourism is the new growth industry.



Figure 8 - Dutch settlers Hennie and Pleun Hitzert started this full-size replica of a Dutch windmill in 1992. It was completed in 1997 and now operates as a restaurant. It will eventually be made operational to grind flour. Photo and publication by Pleun Hitzert, Amelup, WA, 1997.

To depict any of these activities in postcards is not easy, the new tourist projects are probably the easiest. If all fails maybe a contemporary newspaper cutting will have to serve, or a photograph; after all 10% of material other than postcards may be included in your exhibit!

COMMEMORATING THE DEAD AND FAMOUS

Peter Cheah

Part 1 dealt with a selection of postcards showing examples of Australian memorials commemorating the dead and celebrating the famous. Part 2 shows examples of pre-historic tombs, overseas memorials to soldiers from various countries who fell in World War I and II, and how the death of selected individuals has been celebrated.

The postcards in Part 2 include:

- A megalithic tomb (near Sligo, Ireland);
- A passage tomb (Newgrange, Ireland);
- A memorial Garden (York, England);
- The Duke of Wellington's funeral carriage (England);
- Memorial gates (Rugby, England);
- The Welsh National War Memorial (Cardiff, Wales);
- Grave of the unknown soldier (Paris, France);
- Tomb of the unknown warrior (London, England);
- A soviet war memorial (Berlin, Germany);
- An ANZAC Cove memorial (Turkey);
- A now destroyed memorial (Suez, Egypt);
- A monument to an individual (England);
- Nelson's sarcophagus (London, England);
- THE GLORIOUS DEAD (on the Cenotaph, London, England).



Megalithic Tomb: The Carrowmore Megalithic Cemetery is located 9 kilometres from the town of Sligo. It is Ireland's largest megalithic cemetery, containing some 60 or so tombs. The oldest megalithic tomb is said to pre-date Newgrange (see next card) by some 700 years. The majority of tombs are a mixture of small passage-tombs and dolmens, usually surrounded by a stone curb and constructed with large round granite boulders found in the district.



Passage Tomb: Newgrange, at Brú na Bóinne, County Meath, Ireland, is inscribed on the World Heritage List. It is dated c. 3000 BC and is Ireland's largest passage tomb. Only at the mid-winter solstice does the rising sun shine all the way through the passage into the centre of the tomb. The grass-roofed tomb covers almost half a hectare. It is estimated that about 200,000 tonnes of stone and earth were used to create the tumulus, which is 13 metres high, and 85 metres in diameter.

Memorial Garden: In York, England, there is a Memorial Garden dedicated to those members of the Allied Air Forces who gave their lives during the 1939-1945 war. The memorial lists squadrons from Australia, Britain, Canada and New Zealand who served in the war. A bomber aircraft propeller mounted on a brick pedestal is the centrepiece of the memorial. At the base of the building behind the propeller monument lie many memorial wreaths.





Funeral Carriage: In 1852, an estimated 1.5 million people in London witnessed the public funeral of the First Duke of Wellington. His funeral carriage, a lavishly ornamented bronze structure weighing some 12 tons, was drawn by 12 horses. The funeral was accompanied by a vast procession including infantry and cavalry units, military bands, various deputations, politicians, churchmen and Prince Albert. The Iron Duke's coffin was interred alongside that of Britain's greatest naval hero, Nelson.

Unknown Soldier: France has very few memorials to the World War I dead. One of them is the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier which is situated beneath the Arc de Triomphe, itself a memorial to Napoleon's Grand Army. This unknown soldier's grave was established in 1920 and has an eternal flame of remembrance.





A Soviet War Memorial: The Soviet War Memorial in Treptower Park, Berlin commemorates 5000 Russian Soldiers who fought and died during the Battle of Berlin in 1945. The memorial opens out across a sunken plaza flanked by 16 sarcophagi representing the former 16 Soviet states, each inscribed with quotes from Stalin.

Memorial Gates: The War Memorial Gates and Garden of Remembrance, Rugby, England. Rugby's remembrance service for the war dead is held before these gates each year with a march past that comprises various groups and representatives from the district.





The Glorious Dead: Sir Edwin Lutyens designed The Cenotaph at Whitehall, London, and the first memorial service was held on Armistice Day 1919. It has a simple inscription "THE GLORIOUS DEAD", which was authored by Lloyd George. The cenotaph design was subsequently copied in some form for a number of Australian monuments.

Individual Monument: Grace Darling's Monument at Bamburg was a tribute to a young woman who, in 1838, undertook a daring rescue with her father (keeper of the Longstone Lighthouse on the Northumberland Coast). In a flat-bottomed boat and in mountainous seas, they managed to rescue the remaining 9 surviving crew members of the *Forfarshire* wrecked on Big Harcar Rock. Her heroism subsequently earned her wide media interest and publicity. In 1842, aged 26 and only 4 years after her daring rescue, she died of influenza. The public grief that followed her death resulted in donations for a memorial to be built over her grave; even Queen Victoria is said to have contributed £20.



Destroyed Memorial: The memorial to the ANZAC Mounted Division on the Suez Canal, Port Said, was designed by C. Web Gilbert and, after his death, completed by Sir Bertram Mackennal. The memorial was dedicated exclusively to the Australian and New Zealand war dead and was paid for by members of the division plus a standard government grant. The monument was unveiled by W.M. Hughes in 1932. It was subsequently destroyed by nationalistic Egyptians after the British and French invasion of Suez in 1956. However, not all has been lost. This monument was the prototype for 2 other ANZAC Mounted memorials, one in ANZAC Parade, Canberra, and the other in Albany, Western Australia.



W.M. Hughes. War Memorial to the Honour of the Australian and New Zealand Soldiers.

505



THE UNKNOWN WARRIOR'S GRAVE, WESTMINSTER ABBEY

Unknown Warrior: The United Kingdom's Unknown Warrior's Grave is at the western end of the Nave of Westminster Abbey. The remains of the unknown warrior were exhumed from one of the battle fields in France and then solemnly brought to London to be buried on Armistice Day 1920. The grave is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble. The inscription on the grave has the words: "A BRITISH WARRIOR WHO FELL IN THE GREAT WAR 1914-1918 FOR KING AND COUNTRY. GREATER LOVE HAS NO MAN THAN THIS." As all of the soldiers of the Commonwealth who fell in battle were buried overseas, the unknown warrior's remains were to represent those fallen Commonwealth soldiers back in England.

PASTCARDS

ANZAC Cove Memorial: In 1934, a memorial was erected by Atatürk to foreign and Turkish soldiers who lost their lives at Gallipoli. It has the following poignant inscription:

“THOSE HEROES THAT SHED THEIR BLOOD
AND LOST THEIR LIVES....
YOU ARE NOW LYING IN THE SOIL OF A FRIENDLY COUNTRY.
THEREFORE REST IN PEACE.
THERE IS NO DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE JONNIES
AND THE MEHMETS TO US WHERE THEY LIE SIDE BY SIDE
HERE IN THIS COUNTRY OF OURS...
YOU, THE MOTHERS,
WHO SENT THEIR SONS FROM FAR AWAY COUNTRIES
WIPE AWAY YOUR TEARS:
YOUR SONS ARE NOW LYING IN OUR BOSOM
AND ARE IN PEACE.
AFTER HAVING LOST THEIR LIVES ON THIS LAND THEY HAVE
BECOME OUR SONS AS WELL.”

ATATÜRK 1934





Welsh National War Memorial: The Welsh National War Memorial, Cathay's Park, Cardiff, in Wales is made up of an irregular ring of Corinthian columns with a bronze winged figure standing on a column in the middle. (Queensland's National ANZAC Memorial in Brisbane is not unlike the Cardiff memorial. Instead of Corinthian columns, Brisbane's memorial has a circular ring of Doric columns.)

Nelson's sarcophagus: Horatio Nelson's gold encrusted coffin was placed in an ornate sarcophagus in the crypt beneath the dome of St Paul's Cathedral, London. It is said that the sarcophagus was originally made for Cardinal Wolsey around 1530. When Wolsey fell out of favour with King Henry VIII, the king confiscated the sarcophagus. The Cathedral holds an annual 'Sea Service' on the Sunday closest to Trafalgar Day, when wreaths are laid at Nelson's Tomb.



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CONTENTS

Editorial	Peter Oldham	34
Looking At Postage Rates Or Why have there been so many Machins!	Tony Luckhurst	35
Counterfeit or Collectable?	Danny Howard	38
Coil Stamps and Leaders	Danny Howard	39
Specialist Feature – An Introduction to the 29p Yellow Brown, Purple And Light Grey & 30p Sage Green.	John Oliver	40
Album Pages – 29p Yellow Brown, Purple And Light Grey & 30p Sage Green.		42

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EDITORIAL

The recent new Machin definitives issued on 1 April 2004 (7p bright magenta, 35p dark brown, 39p grey, 40p dark turquoise and 43p emerald green), together with the re-introduced 20p light green (with 2 phosphor bands) provides a plethora of new material to study, particularly as the use of different papers and gums has been reported. John Deering in his monthly *Machin Watch* column of Gibbons Stamp Monthly states that two different papers have been used by De La Rue, one without OBA (non-fluorescent paper) with layflat PVA gum, and the other with medium OBA with the shiny non-layflat PVA gum. He speculates that this surprising situation may be due to De La Rue being given short notice of the tariff increase and, because of a projected move of their premises, had run down their stocks of paper, thus requiring more stocks to be brought in quickly. Having been involved in expansion of definitive printings as a consequence of the demise of others, perhaps stocks of papers used by these companies were already in the possession of De La Rue. Whatever, the various printings with different papers and gums are going to be well worth collecting.

Good hunting.

LOOKING AT POSTAGE RATES OR WHY HAVE THERE BEEN SO MANY MACHINS!

Tony Luckhurst

Since Decimal Currency there have been three main reasons for releasing new definitive values. Usually a change of postage rate brought a group of new denominations. During the 1970-80's inflation was running rampant in the world so postage rates were increasing at least once a year and sometime more often. The structure of the postage rates has not changed much over the years. The first and second class structure has remained in place, although the number of airmail zones has been reduced and the European airmail rate has been applied and increased. Other reasons for new Machins were due to changes in design and production techniques and this may be covered in later articles. Here I will examine the more than 20 "groups" of postage rates that have applied since 1971. All second class stamps have been issued with 1 centre phosphor band or 1 band to the right or left. All other stamps were issued on ordinary or fluorescent coated paper with PVA or Dextrin gum with 2 phosphor bands or on phosphorised paper (PPP, PCP1, PCP2, ACP). When a value was reissued the stamps were usually in a new colour! Some stamps were issued with imperforate sides and since 1993 all definitives were issued with elliptical perforations and recently values have been issued in self-adhesive format in both sheets and booklets. Then there is also lithography -v- photogravure and the range of different printers.... This is the good thing about collecting Machins. The sky is the limit. You decide how widely or narrowly you collect. Do we really want a new design?? I'll leave that up to the readers.

Group 1

15 February 1971

First 3p Second 2½p

New Values ½p, 1p, 1½p, 2p, 2½p,
3p, 4p, 5p, 7½p, 9p (low values)

Group 2

10 September 1973

First 3½p Second 3p

New Values (24 October 1973) 4½p,
5½p, 8p

Group 3

26 June 1974

First 4½p Second 3½p

New Value (4 September 1974) 6½p

Group 4

17 March 1975

First 7p Second 5½p

New Value (15 January 1975) 7p

Group 5

29 September 1975

First 8½p Second 6½p

New Value (24 September 1975) 8½p

Metrication meant the minimum inland weight step changed from 2oz to 60g

New Values (25 February 1976) 9p, 10p (monochrome), 9½p, 10½p, 11p, 20p (small)

Group 6

13 June 1977

First 9p Second 7p

Group 7

20 August 1979

First 10p Second 8p

New Values (15 August 1979)

11½p, 13p

Group 8

4 February 1980

First 12p Second 10p

New Values (30 January 1980) 4p, 12p,
13½p, 17p, 17½p, 75p

Group 9

26 January 1981

First 14p Second 11½p

New Values (14 January 1981) 2½p, 11½p,
14p, 15½p, 18p, 25p

Group 10

1 February 1982

First 15½p Second 12½p

New Values (27 January 1982) 5p, 12½p,
16½p, 19½p, 26p, 29p

Group 11

5 April 1983

First 16p Second 12½p

New values (30 March 1983) 3½p, 16p,
17p, 20½p, 23p, 28p, 31p

(3 August 1983) £1.30 (Parcel post 1kg rate)

Group 12

3 September 1984

First 17p Second 13p

New values (28 August 1984) 13p, 18p,
22p, 24p, 34p, £1.33

The ½p coin was demonetised and all values
including the ½p were withdrawn.

(17 September 1985) £1.41

Group 13

4 November 1985

First 17p Second 12p

New values (29 October 1985) 7p, 12p

(1 September 1986) £1.50

Group 14

20 October 1986

First 18p Second 13p

New value (15 September 1987) £1.60

Group 15

5 September 1988

First 19p Second 14p

New values (23 August 1988) 14p, 19p,
20p, 23p, 27p, 28p, 32p, 35p

Group 16

2 October 1989

First 20p Second 15p

New values (26 September 1989) 15p, 20p,
24p, 29p, 30p, 34p, 37p

Group 17

17 September 1990

First 22p Second 17p

New values (4 September 1990) 10p, 17p,
22p, 26p, 27p, 31p, 33p

Group 18

16 September 1991

First 24p Second 18p

New values (10 September 1991) 6p, 18p,
24p, 28p, 34p, 35p, 39p

*All values that were in circulation in 1993
were gradually released with elliptical
perforations.*

Group 19

1 November 1993

First 25p Second 19p

New values (26 October 1993) 19p, 25p,
29p, 36p, 38p, 41p

(9 August 1994) 60p (new value for 20g
airmail weight step)

(22 August 1995) £1.00 (small format)

Group 20

8 July 1996

First 26p Second 20p

New values (25 June 1996) 20p, 26p, 31p,
37p, 39p, 43p, 63p

(6 April 1998) 30p (European airmail rate)

(9 March 1999) £1.50, £2.00, £3.00, £5.00
high values in small format (intaglio)**Group 21**

26 April 1999

First 26p Second 19p

New values (20 April 1999) 7p, 38p, 44p,
64p**Group 22**

27 April 2000

First 27p Second 19p

European Rate 34p

New values 8p, 40p, 45p, 65p

(??) European Rate 36p

(2 Jul 2001) European Rate 37p

(4 July 2002) 37p, 42p, 47p, 68p

Group 23

8 May 2003

First 28p Second 20p

European Rate 38p

New value 34p

(July 2003) £1.50, £2.00, £3.00, £5.00 High
values released in gravure.**Group 24**

1 April 2004

First 28p Second 21p

European Rate 40p

New values 7p, 35p, 39p, 40p, 43p

Reference: The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook, Volume 1, 3rd Ed. 2003 ISBN 0952104701 7**Resources for Machin Collectors from B.Alan :**

➤ **Regular Price lists of Machin and related material – all offers numbered according to the Connoisseur Catalogue issued by the same company . A wealth of material for all levels of Machin collectors. The Specialised List for 1997/98 covers issues from the inception of elliptical perforations, and includes useful annotations describing features such as phosphors, coil leaders etc. Not just a price list – more like a mini-catalogue.**

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COUNTERFEIT OR COLLECTABLE?

Danny Howard

In Deegam Report No. 54 (December 2003) a contributor reported to Douglas Myall a stamp identical to the one shown at left. It is a ½p sheet stamp with a dot matrix 'specimen' overprint about 1.3mm in height and 11.6mm wide. Douglas identified his specimen as DG5.11.1b, a sheet stamp (clearly in this example with the selvedge at top). Apart from the type and style of the overprint, the fact it is a sheet stamp clearly indicates it is not from the £1.00 Wedgewood booklet, the source of known 'specimen' overprints on the ½p Machin.



This example was given to me by a fellow Machinite in Queensland who happened upon two copies from a dealer in those parts.

I have only scanned subsequent Deegam Reports, so I stand to be corrected, but no one seems to have come forward with an explanation for this particular overprint on this particular Machin.

If anyone out there can cast some light on this, perhaps we will then be in a position to decide whether this stamp is collectable, or counterfeit and therefore merely a curiosity. Any information can be emailed to me at

dhoward1@bigpond.com.

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COIL STAMPS AND LEADERS

Danny Howard

Coil stamps have been issued since before the Machin series first appeared in 1967. It will come as no surprise then that they continued to be issued since that time and through to the present. Collecting coil stamps and coil leaders provides an interesting area of specialisation for the Machin enthusiast, with over 100 basic variations to collect.

Coil leaders are easily identified consisting of a length of paper, usually with information about the make up of the particular coil printed on it, with a number of stamps attached also. Coil leaders are usually collected with five stamps attached. I am unsure of the reason for this, although I suspect it is due to make up of multi-value coils, which often required five stamps of different values to make up the face value of the strip of stamps dispensed. Similarly coil strips are usually collected in strips of four or five. In my view a strip of three is sufficient to provide an example of one stamp with full perforations between two others, in much the same way a corner block of four preserves one stamp completely intact between three stamps and the selvedge.



Figure 1

Figure 1 shows a coil leader from a G2 (the PO stock code) multi value coil. In addition to the stock code, the coil leader provides details on the contents of the roll and the characteristics of the stamps, the printer and the price of a complete roll.

The number '10' refers to the roll number corresponding to the location of the roll in the primary sheet. This numbering aided the printers in identifying flaws that might need to be repaired. Numbering of rolls was discontinued following the change over to EME printing which removed the need for manual retouching of cylinders, and those wishing to collect a full set of these newer leaders would need to use plating charts to assist with their identification.

Also showing in Figure 1 is a segment of the 'ribbon' used to keep the 'coil' from unwinding. The ribbon is being held in place by a piece of wax.

Coils can be found wound for either vertical or horizontal delivery, depending on the machinery to be used to dispense the stamps. Vertical delivery is usually required for Post Office vending machines, while horizontal delivery is the more common method of delivery in commercially used machines.

For those who may have had their appetite for this area of Machin collecting whetted by this overview, further more detailed information concerning coil leaders, including pricing, can be found in Appendix 1 of Volume 1 of The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook, 3rd edition.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 29P YELLOW BROWN, PURPLE AND LIGHT GREY.

John Oliver

The 29p yellow brown value was issued on 27 January 1982. It prepaid the basic letter rate to zone C for airmail letters from 1 February 1982 to 4 April 1983. This issue was withdrawn on 29 April 1983. The 29p in yellow brown was printed by Harrison in photogravure

a) on Phosphor Coated Paper (PCP) with Dextrin gum:

- i. in sheets from cylinder 1, which produced varieties in both PCP1 and PCP2. There is also a printing on thick paper that has a glossy appearance but which is not PCP2.

The 29p purple was issued on 26 September 1989. It prepaid the worldwide airmail rate for postcards from 2 October 1989 to 16 September 1990. This issue was withdrawn on 15 September 1990.

The 29p in purple was printed by:

2.1 Harrison in photogravure

a) on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) with Dextrin gum:

- i. in sheets from cylinder 4. This stamp is known with a screened value.

2.2 Walsall in lithography

a) on Fluorescent Coated Paper (FCP) with PVAI gum and two SA phosphor bands:

- i. in pane **DP134** comprising four stamps in two columns. The pane is imperf on three sides resulting in each stamp having one or more imperforate sides using the Deegam PIPI system as follows IPPP,IIPP, PPIP and PIIP.

b) on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) with PVAI gum:

- i. in pane **DP134A** comprising four stamps in two columns. The pane is imperf on three sides resulting in each stamp having one or more imperforate sides using the Deegam PIPI system as follows IPPP,IIPP, PPIP and PIIP.

The 29p light grey was issued on 26 October 1993. It prepaid the second weight step (60g to 100g) for second class inland letters from 1 November 1993 to 7 July 1996. This issue was withdrawn on 8 July 1996.

3. The 29p in light grey was printed by Enschede in gravure

a) on OBA-free Non-phosphorised Paper (OFNP) with PVAI gum and two AY phosphor bands:

- i. in sheets from cylinder 1 and cylinder 2. This stamp is also known with AY2 and AY3 fluor. This issue also saw the first use of elliptical perforations for this value.

b) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two A2B phosphor bands:

- i. in sheets from cylinder 2.

THE DG NUMBERING SYSTEM, PIPI AND S I N SYSTEMS FOR IDENTIFYING PERFORATION AND INSET AND NOTCHED BAND TYPES USED THROUGHOUT THIS JOURNAL ARE USED WITH THE KIND PERMISSION OF MR DGA MYALL, THE AUTHOR OF THOSE SYSTEMS. SIMILARLY THE DB AND DP NUMBERING SYSTEMS FOR BOOKLETS AND PANES ARE USED WITH KIND PERMISSION OF THE GREAT BRITAIN DECIMAL STAMP BOOK STUDY CIRCLE.

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE 30P SAGE GREEN.

The 30p sage green remained current over a ten year period from October 1989 to October 1999. It prepaid at various times:

- the second stage inland letter rate for first class letters;
- the reduced rate (20 to 60g) for printed papers sent overseas by surface mail;
- newspaper rate (10g to 20g) to airmail zone B and the full rate for printed papers (10g to 20g) by airmail to zone A;
- minimum rate for newspapers to airmail zone C;
- basic rate for letters and cards by the “all up” service to non-EEC countries in Europe and the basic rate for letters by surface mail to other countries; and
- basic rate for letters and cards to all countries in Europe by the “all up” service following the merging of the rates for EC and non-EC countries in 1998.

The stamp was finally withdrawn on 16 October 1999.

The 30p in sage green was printed by:

1.1 Harrison in photogravure

- a) on Advanced Coated Paper (ACP) with Dextrin gum:
 - i. in sheets from cylinder 2. This stamp is known is known imperforate and with a screened value.

1.2 Harrison in gravure

- a) on on OBA-free Non-phosphorised Paper (OFNP) with PVAI gum and two AB phosphor bands:
 - i. in sheets from cylinder 1.

1.3 Enschede in gravure

- a) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two AY phosphor bands:
 - i. in sheets from cylinder 1. This stamp is also known with AY2 and AY3 fluor. This issue also saw the first use of elliptical perforations for this value.
- b) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two A2B phosphor bands:
 - i. in sheets from cylinder 1. This stamp is known with blue or white gum.

1.4 Questa in lithography

- a) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two AY phosphor bands:
 - i. in pane **DP225** from the National Trust Prestige booklet comprising eight stamps and one label in three columns. The left hand column with 1 x 19p with left band, 1 x 25p and 1 x 30p both with two bands. The centre column with 1 x 10p with two bands, 1 x label and 1 x 35p with two bands. The right column with 1 x 19p with right band, 1 x 25p and 1 x 41p both with two bands.

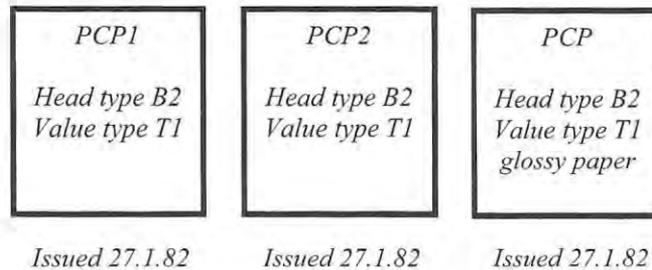
1.5 Walsall in gravure

- a) on OFNP with PVAI gum and two A2B phosphor bands
 - i. in pane **DP267** comprising four stamps in two columns.

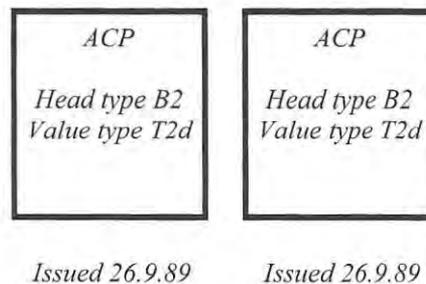
Face Value 29p

Printed by Harrison in Photogravure

Colour Yellow brown



Colour Purple



The yellow brown value was issued 1 February 1982 to prepay the basic rate for airmail letters to zone C, this rate was discontinued on 4 April 1983 and the value was withdrawn from sale on 29 April 1983.

When reissued it was in a different colour, purple, to prepay the world wide rate for airail postcards from 2 October 1989 until 16 September 1990. It was withdrawn from sale on 15 September 1990.

The third version of this stamp was printed in light grey and was used to prepay the second weight step for second class inland letters from 1 November 1993 to 7 July 1996. This stamp was withdrawn from sale on 8 July 1996.

Face Value 29p

Printed by Walsall in Lithography

Colour Purple

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
IPPP*

Issued 2.10.89

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
IIPP*

Issued 2.10.89

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
PPIP*

Issued 2.10.89

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
PIIP*

Issued 2.10.89

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

IPPP*

Issued 28.2.90

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

IIPP*

Issued 28.2.90

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

PPIP*

Issued 28.2.90

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

PIIP*

Issued 28.2.90

*Printed by Enschede in Gravure,
Colour Light grey*

*OFNP
2 bands
Head type A1
Value type T2d
AY phosphor*

Issued 26.10.93

*OFNP
2 bands
Head type A1
Value type T2d
A2B phosphor*

Issued 9.2.96

Face Value 29p

Printed by Walsall in Lithography

Colour Purple

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
IPPP*

Issued 2.10.89

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
IIPP*

Issued 2.10.89

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
PPIP*

Issued 2.10.89

*FCP
2 bands
Head type A2
Value type T2d
SA phosphor
PIIP*

Issued 2.10.89

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

IPPP*

Issued 28.2.90

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

IIPP*

Issued 28.2.90

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

PPIP*

Issued 28.2.90

*ACP

Head type A2
Value type T2d

PIIP*

Issued 28.2.90

*Printed by Enschede in Gravure,
Colour Light grey*

*OFNP
2 bands
Head type A1
Value type T2d
AY phosphor*

Issued 26.10.93

*OFNP
2 bands
Head type A1
Value type T2d
A2B phosphor*

Issued 9.2.96