



# Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



**The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.**

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GPO Box 1840

Canberra 2601

President

Secretary

Darryl Fuller

Graeme Broxam

**Capital Philately**  
Publications Committee

Dingle Smith (Editor)

Ian Faber (Business Manager)

Graeme Broxam

Ian McMahon

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Inquiries regarding subscriptions rates for *Capital Philately*, advertising rates, the purchase of back copies etc. should be addressed to Ian Faber. He can be contacted by phone or fax on (06) 2915573 (24 hrs).

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### EDITORIAL

This editorial was drafted on my return flight from Melbourne 96, the national show for the current year. The organisation of the show was of the high standard that we have all come to expect from such events. All the necessary ingredients were there; the awards dinner was well attended, a wide range of meetings of specialist groups took the opportunity to get together, the dealer's appear to have had a successful time etc. However, the overwhelming impressions of Melbourne 96 were the number of truly outstanding exhibits and the overall high standard. The awards included four Large Gold and ten Gold medals. Ray Kelly, who was both President of the exhibition and chair person of the jury, remarked that the show had brought together the largest range of high quality material seen in Australia since Ausipex 84, to date the only international exhibition to be held in Australia.

The four Large Golds were *The Postal Stationery of South Australia* (Nelson Eustis FAPO), *The Emblems Issue of Victoria, 1857 - 1863* (Ken Barelli), *Hungary 1850 - 1871* (Edward Wittenberg) and *Western Australia 1854 - 1912* (I.H.Beattie, from the UK). The latter was adjudged to be the recipient of the Grand Award for the Exhibition and was of exceptional quality. It included a copy of the inverted swan, a half pane of the 1d black swan, together with magnificent proofs and artist's drawings. The latter included a drawing of a white swan, this was because the British artist was unaware of the preponderance of black swans in the antipodes! All who saw it would like to pass their thanks onto the owner for allowing the material to travel back to Australia.

There is no question that the excellent awards given to the top displays, and the overall high quality, reflect improvements in the standard of the exhibits and, most certainly, do not represent any decline in the standard of judging. It may be true that the numbers of stamp collectors in Australia is diminishing but the level and number of exhibitors is growing. There were 132 separate competitive displays plus another 20 in the literature class. This led to Melbourne 96 scoring low marks on my wife's test of stamp shows, as a non-collector the major criteria are the sit-down

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capacity and availability of refreshments. The former was limited and the latter did not figure at all! However, accommodating all of the entries in the space available was a tribute to the ability of the organising committee.

It was a national show that I would have regretted missing. Next year the major exhibiting classes at national level are split between the Newcastle Bicentennial Show 97 in early July and Stamp Show 97 Fremantle in late October. The second-ever Australian International, Australia 99, is in Melbourne in March 1999. Put those dates in your diary now and do not forget that March 1998 is the next full national and that it is in Canberra and our Society is organising it!

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### **INTERNATIONAL, NATIONAL & STATE AWARDS**

The last few weeks have been an exceptionally busy time for those who exhibit their material in competitive displays. During this period, Canberra-based members have exhibited in International (at Istanbul 96 and Taipei 96), National (Melbourne 96) and State (Launpex 96) exhibitions. Details of the results are given below and the overall level of achievement has been little short of remarkable. Without doubt, these collectively represent the most comprehensive and highest overall standard of awards the Society has ever recorded.

#### **Istanbul 96**

Tom Frommer: *Australia's contribution to the development of world air mails 1914-34*. Large Gold.

#### **Taipei 96**

Hans Karman: *Frank and free*. Gold and prize.

Dingle Smith: *Jamaican postal stationery 1877 - 1968*. Large Vermeil and prize.

Paul Barsdell: *Sarawak to 1923*. Vermeil

The awards obtained at Melbourne 96 and Launpex 96 are given on p. 8.

### **CAPITAL PHILATELY PRIZE FOR 1995 - 1996**

Earlier this year the Council of the Society announced that a annual prize would be awarded for the best article in each volume of *Capital Philately*, which comprises four individual numbers. The adjudication was undertaken by David Collyer who is one of the most experienced literature judges in Australia. The criteria follow, as far as possible, the APF marking scheme used for competitive literature entries but with special emphasis given to the research component. The winner for 1995/96 (Vol. 14 of *Capital Philately*) was:

#### **Wine and Spirit Labels of New South Wales** by Alf Davis and Dingle Smith

It is the Society's intention that plaques will be presented to the winners each year. The 1995/96 awards will take place at the display evening on December 5th. The award to Alf Davis represents a very special tribute and that we hope that June Davis will be able to be present to accept the award. David Collyer received Vol. 14 of *Capital Philately* in August and was unaware of Alf's death in September. The Society would especially like to thank David Collyer for undertaking the judging and extracts from his critique will appear in the next number of *Capital Philately*. Council hopes that the award will encourage members to submit research articles for future publication.

### ALF DAVIS - A TRIBUTE

Alf Davis died, after a short period in hospital, on Monday 16 September at the age of eighty-nine. The orations at his funeral service confirmed that his life had been one of unstinted service to the community and to his family. It was my privilege to informally interview Alf in order to prepare a member profile for *Capital Philately* (See vol. 13, n. 3, p.40). Much of his childhood spent in a pioneering settlement in the wheat belt of Western Australia where to fetch drinking water entailed round trip of over twenty miles by horse and cart. He was one of the first to volunteer for service in the Second World War and he was justifiably proud of his army number which was V916. Alf was with an artillery unit that fired the first Australian shells of the war - at the battle of Bardia. In 1945, he was an officer in the Royal Australian Air Force on an island air strip in the Pacific, so remote that they were unaware of the Japanese surrender until days after hostilities had ceased elsewhere.

Philatelists spend much time discussing how we can convince children to take up our hobby. Alf was an example of a late convert. He did not start collecting until he retired to Canberra over twenty years ago. He gained great personal satisfaction from his collecting interests. On Alf's desk at the time of his death was the draft of an article for *Capital Philately*. This was entitled *The Fascination of Philately*. The headings included how Alf's interest in collecting first started and this was followed by sections on paintings on stamps, Albania, 1971 British Strike mail, the wine and spirit stamps of New South Wales, British consular stamps and Australian private mails and railway stamps. We are only sorry that the article will remain unfinished.

Those headings illustrate Alf's desire for a challenge, this is demonstrated by his first serious collecting interest which was the stamps and postal history of Albania from 1912 to 1945. After eight years, during which time Alf entered his Albanian material in National and State exhibitions, he sold the material but had greatly enjoyed the thrill of the chase, obtaining items from other collectors and auction houses around the world. He maintained this challenge by limiting his Albanian material to revenues! Alf's tenacity is further demonstrated by his unflagging chase to discover more of the background to the wine and spirit labels used in New South Wales - the result of which were recently published in *Capital Philately* and reprinted in *Cinderellas Australia*. His thematic collection which commenced with paintings, expanded to cover visual art from prehistoric cave paintings to stained glass, pottery and textiles.

Alf was a philatelist who saw the hobby as fun and gained as much satisfaction from his first bronze medal award as others would from a gold. Always among the first to volunteer, Alf could be relied upon to bring along sheets for a displays by members and he enjoyed communicating the thrill of our hobby to other senior citizens. His family have asked me to thank the Society for the enjoyment he gained from his membership. I can say, with all sincerity and on behalf of all the members, that the we will be much the poorer for the loss of Alf whose presence and humour will be much missed. Alf had many other talents and the splendid gavel that has been used at Society Annual General Meetings for over a decade, was hand-crafted and presented by Alf.

Alf Davis has all the admirable qualities that one associated with a real Australian. We have lost a real 'mate' and we extend our condolences to June, his wife of fifty years, and to their children and grandchildren. We are poorer for this death but richer for his friendship and contributions to the Society over the last twenty years.

Dingle Smith

**PART 2: HONG KONG  
THE HIGH DENOMINATION STAMPS OF QUEEN VICTORIA AND FISCAL STAMPS  
USED FOR POSTAGE**

(Continued from *Capital Philately*, vol. 14, no. 4)

Richard Gurevitch

**UNAUTHORISED POSTAL USAGE OF FISCAL STAMPS**

Many of the fiscal stamps of the period are found postally used either in a genuine or connived manner. Often lower value fiscals were used to make up postage rates as no one cent postage stamp existed, for example, when the 'single' postage rate was changed from seven cents back to ten cents in the early 1890s, it was not possible to make up the values for the new rate using existing 7 Cents or 14 Cents stamps without a one cent or three cent stamp which only existed as fiscal labels. Others were used in error, or possibly because the letter writer did not have any stamps available. Most values are found with forged B62 or cds postmarks. I will not go into any detail other than to discuss those fiscal labels which have been accorded catalogue status, albeit as postal-fiscals. Although they have been given catalogue status as being postally used, some caution must be exercised in determining their relevance in a traditional collection of Hong Kong postage stamps. I will discuss this issue.

**12 Cents on Ten Dollars fiscal stamp.**



**12 Cents on Ten Dollars Carmine**

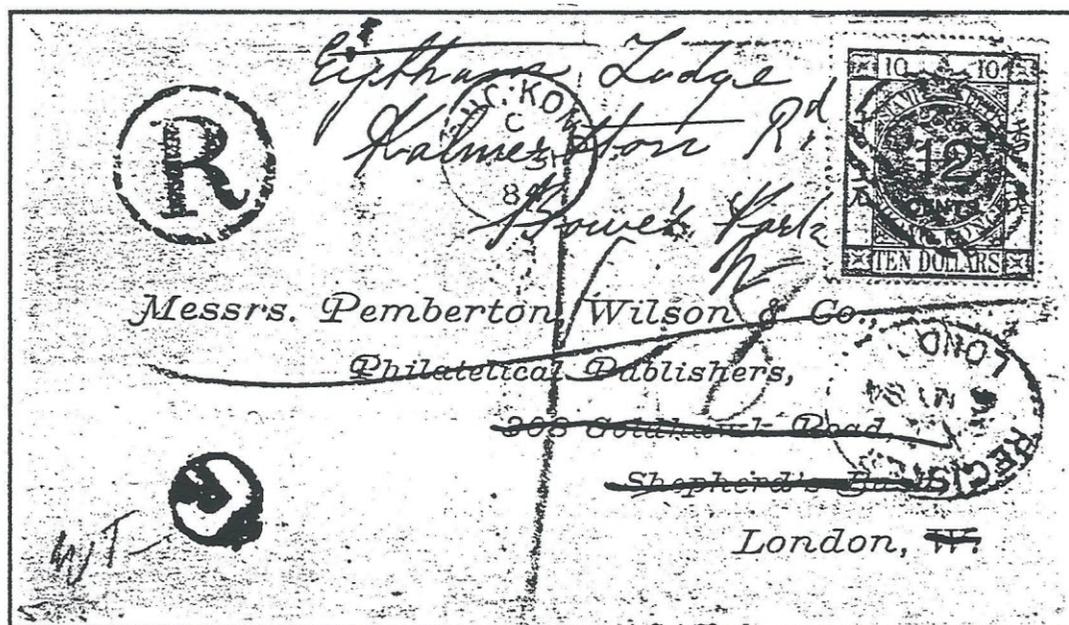
The 12 cents on \$10 is a strange stamp. Contrary to earlier beliefs, there is strong evidence to show it was overprinted by De la Rue and not by Noronha, the Government printer in Hong Kong<sup>1</sup>. The earliest recorded fiscal use of the stamp is January 1880. Some pertinent information of the label is given below.

- It is known with 62B (Hong Kong supplementary mail cancellation), one with an Amoy cds of 2 June 1882, and with S1 (Shanghai) postmarks, but there was no 12 cents rate except for Australia via Torres Straits (12 cents) and Australia via Galle (24c) after March 1880 when the Postmaster General 'decimalised' postal rates. The mentioned rates to Australia were discontinued on 15 July, 1881. It may have been used between about the start of 1880 and March for postal purposes but there is no record of its use

<sup>1</sup> Gurevitch, Air Cdre R.N., *Hong Kong Stamps of the Queen Victoria Period 'A Collector's Notebook'*, 1993.

being authorised. Any authorised use after that date would have been most unlikely as Hong Kong's Postmaster General was attempting to reduce the number of stamps on issue and to eliminate odd values which did not match a decimal progression. It might have been used to pay a 10 cents rate.

- A 12 cents fiscal stamp was required by the Land Office of the Supreme Court.
- One cover with the stamp is known - the famous or infamous Pemberton Wilson cover. The registered cover bears an untied 12 cents on \$10 stamp. The rate should have been 20 cents for the registered single rate to the UK. I suspect that it originally had a 30 cents stamp for the registered double rate and that stamp replaced. I say the double rate because the single rate would have had two 10 cents stamps at the least, and their removal would have been detectable. I also consider the cover showed a re-address in an attempt to tie the stamp to the cover.



The *unique* Pemberton Wilson cover.

- Bishop and Sayers<sup>2</sup> consider the stamp may have been used in an unauthorised manner, and the number of genuinely used stamps point to that occurring. However, the absence of genuine covers is puzzling.

I would be inclined to identify the label as being used postally in an unauthorised manner in view of the large numbers found genuinely postally used.

### Ten Dollars Green.

The weight of evidence is against the Ten Dollars Green fiscal label having been used in a genuine manner for postal purposes. Some of my findings are given below.

<sup>2</sup> Bishop, Capt G.T. and Sayers, Mr W.; 'Hong Kong. A Short Study of the Postal Fiscals.', The Stamp Lover December 1933.

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- The Hong Kong General Post Office pamphlet of 1 March, 1892 specifically states 'The 10 dollar stamp is now re-issued in green for Revenue purposes'. I would suggest that the note was included because of collectors' requests for the earlier Ten Dollars carmine stamp which was withdrawn in 1880 - what other reason would there have been to single the stamp out from all the other fiscals on issue at the time?
- In 1893 Gardner<sup>3</sup> writes that the Two Dollars and Tree Dollars were the only fiscals doing postal service, and that the Ten Dollars carmine stamp had been withdrawn at an earlier time (He noted that the 5 Dollars on Ten dollars stamp then on issue was a postage stamp). He made no mention of a new Ten Dollars value - (Cf. Gibbons 1884 date as a postage stamp!).
- The 1891 'Unified Series' did not include a \$10 stamp.
- When the design of the King Edward VII stamps were first ordered from De La Rue in 1901 a \$10 stamp was not included for the new series, it was only included later for the 1903 King Edward VII at the behest of the Crown Agents<sup>4</sup>. Most probably that omission stemmed because no need was seen for the stamp by the Hong Kong Post office as the value was not included in the Hong Kong stamps on issue in 1901.
- Bishop & Sayers cast uncertainty on the postal use of the label.
- I know of two copies of the Ten Dollars green with genuine 1902 postmarks. I would suggest that the were cancelled by favour. Similarly, I know of 'S.O.' and 'S.D.' fiscals with 1902 postmarks, well after the use of those fiscal stamps ceased. Any Ten Dollars green fiscal label with a B62 postmark is questionable as the postmark ceased to be used in 1892 and all evidence points against its possible postal use before that date.
- There is no writings known to me which indicates the stamp was brought into service. Indeed, Gibbons 1899 Stamp Catalogue makes no mention of it amongst the extensive list of fiscals stamps used for postal purposes.

### The 'S.O.' and 'S.D.' overprinted fiscal stamps



**Two Cents  
S.O.**



**Two Cents  
S.D.**



**Ten Cents  
S.O.**

<sup>3</sup> Gardner, Mr W., *Filatelie Facts and Fallacies*, Volume 1 No 12, W. Sellschopp & Co., San Francisco, September 1893.

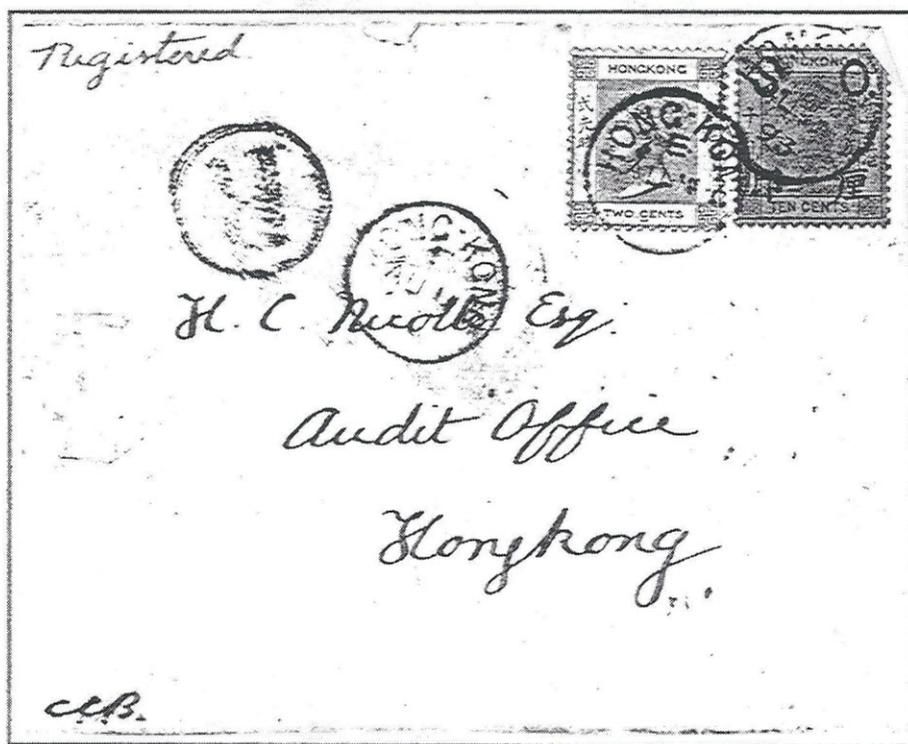
<sup>4</sup> Halewood, Mr N. & Antscerl, Mr. D., *A Study of Hong Kong Definitives: King Edward VII and King George V*, Hong Kong Study Circle, 1995.

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In early 1891 some 2 cents and 10 cents postage stamps were overprinted 'S.O.' (Stamp Office) and 'S.D.' (Stamp Duty) to convert them to fiscal labels. They are all found postally used and many covers exist, although a good proportion are covers sent by Ensign Eaton to himself on the USS Lancaster. They can all be found cancelled to order with a postal cds in a similar manner as the 1891 'Jubilee' overprinted stamps.

An interesting variety of the Two Cents label exists where the 'O' of 'S.O.' was hand amended to read 'S.D.'. This variety was reported as far back as 1893<sup>5</sup>.

There are some who believe that as the labels were originally postage stamps they retained their postal status even though they were overprinted for fiscal purposes. I cannot agree. I consider them to be fiscal stamps which were inadvertently, or advertently, used postally, and for which there was a philatelic demand.



Ten Cents purple on red overprinted S.O. fiscal label together with a Two Cents carmine used on 11 August 1893 registered cover in Hong Kong. The postage would have been made up by 2 cents single local rate and 10 cents registration fee. The item appears to be of commercial usage.

### CONCLUSION

From my analysis of the so called postal-fiscal stamps (not my term), I consider that many must be considered to be postage stamps, and they should be included in any traditional collection of Hong Kong stamps purporting to show all stamps issued by the Colony. I also consider that postage

<sup>5</sup> Gardner, Mr W., *Filatelic Facts and Fallacies*, Volume 1 No 12, W. Sellschopp & Co., San Francisco, September 1893.

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stamp catalogues should be amended to reflect the true status of those stamps, and that they not be relegated to the 'back of the book'.

The stamps which must be given postage stamp status are the 'High Denomination' issues of 1874, the high denominations of the 1891 'unified Series' issue, the two \$1 on \$2 provisionals of 1897, and the 2 cents small format 'Stamp Duty' label used in 1890.

The 1880 12 cents on Ten Dollars fiscal label was postally used, as were the S.O. and S.D. overprinted postage stamps, and very many postally used copies of those labels are in existence. Their inclusion in a separate category is warranted. Odd low value fiscal stamps, because of their sporadic nature of their usage, can be considered to be curiosities but worthy of inclusion in a traditional collection of postage stamps.

The Ten Dollar green fiscal label should be omitted from any catalogue listing of fiscal labels doing postal service. It must be considered to be entirely a fiscal label.

### AWARDS (Continued from p.2)

#### Melbourne 96

Richard Gurevitch: *Hong Kong - postal issues of the Queen Victoria period*. Gold, felicitations, and prize.

Ed Druce: *Monaro District*. Gold and prize.

Dingle Smith: *The revenue stamps of Queensland*. Vermeil.

Bruce Parker: *Indonesia - the social reasons for stamp issues*. Large Silver.

Ed Druce: *Basutoland (postal stationery)*. Large Silver.

Paul Barsdell: *Indo-China to 1931*. Silver.

The Philatelic Society of Canberra. *Capital Philately*. Silver.

#### Launpex 96

Ed Druce\*. *Lesotho 1973 - 1983*. Large Silver (Frugal Class).

Ed Druce\*. *Tasmanian beer duty stamps*. Emerald.

Dingle Smith\*. *Beer duty stamps of the Australian States & Commonwealth, 1889 - 1958*. Sapphire.

Dingle Smith. *The revenue stamps of Tasmania*. Large Vermeil and revenue prize.

Graeme Broxam. *De La Rue revenue stamps of Tasmania*. Vermeil.

\* Frugal and one-frame classes judged at National Level.

Congratulations to all the members, a noteworthy feature is that many of the exhibits were new. Indeed, the two Gold medal exhibits at Melbourne 96 were both on show for the first time. Tom Frommer's Large Gold is only the second time a Canberra member has achieved this peak award.

### THE PHILATELIC ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

Dingle Smith was installed, together with David Collyer and Nina Wilson of New South Wales, as a Member of the Philatelic Order of Australia at a Australian Philatelic Federation awards dinner held in Brisbane on 14 th September. The citation notes:

*The outstanding and continuous contributions to adult and youth philately in the ACT for more than 20 years, serving in various offices including President of the Philatelic Society of Canberra and ACT Philatelic Council, additionally providing significant expertise in management and training during all Philatelic Conventions since 1982. He has exhibited extensively, is a national judge, editor of the Capital Philately and author of numerous articles.*

## **PART 1: PHILATELY AND THE INTERNET**

Hans Karman

Computers are more and more becoming part of every day life. Most offices use them, many homes have them. Stamp collectors are increasingly making use of computers to help them manage their collections. Catalogues are starting to appear on computer cd-roms, inventory programs are improving at a furious rate and exhibitors are taking advantage of the benefits that can arise from the use of computer printers rather than typewriters.

One of the aspects of computer use for stamps collectors is now taking off: connect your computer to a telephone line via a modem and whole new world opens up. Once you place your computer 'on-line' you have almost instantaneous access to limitless information, unbounded swapping opportunities, access to auctions in out of the way places, assistance from other collectors world-wide at the press of a button.

Here I make a proviso. My experience with personal computers is almost entirely Windows-based and on IBM clone type computers. I will therefore, totally ignore anything based on DOS and similar character by character type operating systems. I will also ignore Apple type computers, not because I think they are irrelevant but because I do not know enough about them to discuss their uses.

### **What you need**

At first all this surfeit of information is bewildering and the cost is not insignificant. Let us assume you have a computer and a printer and that you have a phone nearby. What you will need depends on your computer, but:

- You will need a connection to your household phone line (via a double adaptor will do), as long as you remember that when your computer is talking to the world, your phone is busy and no one can ring in or out.
- You will also need a gadget that will translate the phone line signals into signals the computer can understand, this is called a modem.
- You will need programs on your computer that can manage and translate the signals so you can make sense of them.
- You will need an Access Provider, an organisation that gives you a (local) phone number to dial up a connection between your computer and the rest of the world.
- You will most likely need some help from someone who has done this sort of thing before to put it all together so that it works, so you can 'connect' easily and so you receive information and generate responses.

### **How to contact the World**

There are a number of ways in which can access 'the World'. 'The World' in this context is called 'the Internet': a collection of computers connected to the telephone systems of the world and thus accessible via the telephone system. The Internet is not anything in particular - no one owns the Internet, it is not managed by anyone in particular and you cannot talk to a single person or organisation with responsibility for the Internet.

Three major services of interest to a novice 'Web Surfer' are:

- News - a form of electronic notice board you can read and to which you can add your notices.
- E-Mail - Electronic mail, like a Post Office Mail via the telephone net.
- World Wide Web (WWW) - like thousands of electronic magazines, accessed through a Web Browser.

Your Access Provider has established a connection between their computer and the telephone system, so they act like a telephone exchange. Their unique 'address' (a sort of telephone number which looks like 1245.231.12.24) is known to similar exchanges. You have a more easily remembered encoded version of the 'address', which for my Access Provider looks like 'pcug.org.au'. Anyone can access any of the Access Providers. It is very much like the phone system: you do not need to know how it works but you can ring anyone in the world who has a phone by dialling their phone number.

This would be very insecure, like the phone system. You cannot stop people from ringing you, but you can have an unlisted number to reduce the chances of getting undesirable phone calls. You could ring ASIO, but their switchboard operator would intercept most undesirable calls. Your Access Provider has to make sure that they restrict access to certain people: they need to make arrangements on their computer: the Internet does not restrict access. This applies to access from the Internet to their computer as well as to the access provided to you via your phone line. When you ring their number via your computer and your modem, you generally have to tell your Access Provider who you are (called a *user name* or a similar term) and to prove that you who you say you are by giving a password which should be known only to you. More detailed and cumbersome security arrangements are possible when the need is there.

### **Using your packages**

How you use your E-Mail, News and your Browser very much depends on the programs you use and on your Access Provider. There is some common ground: all good E-Mail packages will allow you to maintain an Address book, will manage your in-tray and your out-tray for you, and will handle attachments to your messages which may have pictures embedded. Browsers must be capable of interpreting just about anything present on the WWW, so they are all basically compatible. All have different features that clamour for your custom, but Netscape claims to have 87% of the market and it seems to be the most capable of the browsers. By virtue of its market share it has obviously been sold as the best.

It is quite possible to use a single package (eg Netscape, the Microsoft Network MSN) to cope with all of your basic requirements.

For the rest of this article I will use Netscape as the example, since it is the package I use. Other browsers will be very similar in effect but their operation will differ in some of the detail.

### **Starting your trip around the World**

Like most things, using the Internet is very simple once you know what to do. So where does one start? There are some books available that will give various collections of out-of-date and severely limited lists of addresses of WWW sites available to you. I have not found any of much practical use: the information on the WWW changes by the minute and no printed book could possibly hope to keep up.

These days 'addresses' of interesting Web sites are published in many magazines, in the papers, on TV and on the radio. All you have to do is make a note of them (they tend to be rather long) and try them out. Remember that the address must be absolutely correct: one character, full stop or capital letter out of place and you are likely to get a message that there is no such address. Most addresses have lower case letters only, but the difference between upper and lower case is important - so you need to take particular care when jotting down a Web address and take careful note of any upper case letters. I will give you a few philatelic addresses to start with - these will lead you to practically every known stamp related web site around the world.

### **Electronic mail**

The simplest and most personal way of using the Internet is via Electronic Mail, or E-Mail for short. This is very much like writing letters and getting replies, except that it is much faster than the Post Office mail, which is therefore called 'snail mail' in the parlance of E-mail.

In the E-Mail world you can subscribe to LISTS. A LIST is basically a 'distribution list': any message to the LIST is sent to all people who subscribe to the LIST. If you subscribe to a list like the STAMPLIST you may get anything like 50 to 100 messages each day on topics related to stamps, from people all around the world with a preponderance of US collector. Much of it is 'junk mail', which will not be of interest to you, but there are gems, and you can make world-wide friends once you get to know some of the people on the LIST and their interests.

### **Starting with electronic mail**

Like ordinary mail, to start corresponding you must have an address. You can find a bunch of over 500 collectors and their interest on something called the STL, short for Stamp Traders List ('Trader' is an exchanger, not necessarily a dealer). it is available from a number of sites, including <http://www.pcug.org.au/~hkarman> (my own home page). look in the index for it and follow the links.

A second way is to subscribe to a LIST, some of which are of interest to stamp collectors.

- **Stamps:**  
Send an E-Mail message to [listserv@psuvm.psu.edu](mailto:listserv@psuvm.psu.edu) with no subject and ONLY the following message:  
sub stamps your name
- **Postmarks**  
Send an E-Mail message to [listserv@idbsu.idbsu.edu](mailto:listserv@idbsu.idbsu.edu) with no subject and ONLY the following message:  
sub postmark Your name:
- **Postcards**  
Send an E-Mail message to [listserv@idbsu.idbsu.edu](mailto:listserv@idbsu.idbsu.edu) with no subject and ONLY the following message  
sub postcard Your name

In all of the examples above, Your Name is your normal name eg. Hans Karman. The message will have your return E-Mail address attached automatically to your E-Mail program.

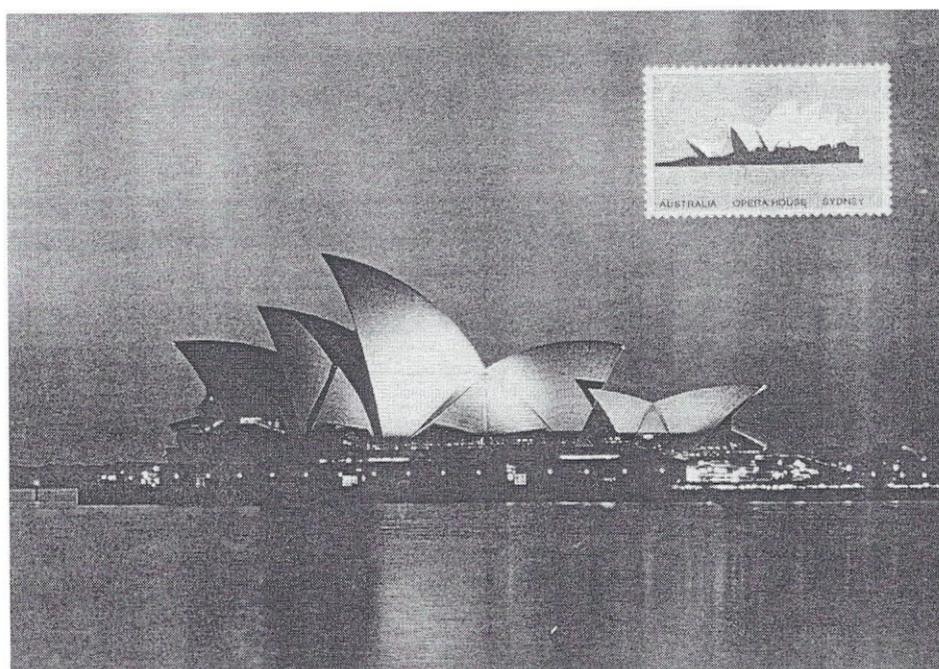
**To be continued**

## RECENT AUSTRALIAN POSTAL CARDS

Ian McMahon

Australia Post in recent years has been prolific in issuing postal cards (or pre-paid postcards). These cards are non-denominated but have a 'stamp area' which is inscribed 'Postage Pre-Paid Australia - For posting in Australia and Delivery Worldwide'. At the present time postal cards are issued in the form of maximum cards for each adhesive issue and, in addition, for some issues postal cards have an illustration of one of the adhesive stamps of the issue printed on the reverse of the postcard. The latter postal cards are sold for \$1 each and, except for some of the first issues, are not listed in *The Philatelic Bulletin*.

In addition to these, Australia Post has recently issued four groups of postal cards which have not been widely advertised in the philatelic literature. These are a set of pictorial post cards, a card for the Lunar New Year, a series of cards with overprints for Queensland towns and series depicting Australian Olympians.



**Figure 1** Pictorial pre-paid postcards - the Sydney Opera House (size reduced)

### *Pictorial Postcards*

Australia Post released a series of 35 state specific pictorial postal cards during December 1995 and January 1996. The cards have the usual postage paid imprint on the front and a full colour picture on the reverse illustrated with a stamp related to the picture, Figure 1. Six cards were issued for New South Wales, Victoria and Queensland, four for South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia, three for the ACT and two for the Northern Territory. Only cards with views from a given state were issued in that state, an exception was that ACT cards were also distributed in New South Wales.

*Lunar New Year*

On 9 January 1996, Australia Post issued a postal card for the Lunar New Year. The reverse of the card depicted a Chinese dragon. The card was issued in conjunction with the Christmas Island Lunar New Year stamps but is inscribed 'Postage Paid Australia' and makes no mention of Christmas Island.

*Queensland Tourist Overprints*

Sets of the five Underwater World pre-paid postcards and the 50c koala postcard were overprinted for sale in a number of Queensland locations, the overprint incorporates the name of the town or region. They were issued for the following city/tourist areas (no koala card was issued for the Great Barrier Reef):

- Brisbane
- Gold Coast
- Sunshine Coast
- Townsville
- Cairns
- Great Barrier Reef

In addition, cards from the Whales issue have been produced with a 'Greetings from Hervey Bay' overprint.

 Australia Post

Thank-you for  
your well wishes  
and support

- Nicole



Australia Post is proud to support Australia's Olympians.

This card features Nicole Stevenson, our employee and champion backstroke swimmer who is an Olympic Bronze medallist and winner of four Gold medals and a Silver medal at the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

Photos supplied by Sport The Library



**Figure 2** The Nicole Stevenson postcard, issued after the 1994 Commonwealth Games. Front and and portion of the back (at reduced size)

*Olympic Athletes Postcards*

Completely unannounced, Australia Post released a number of postal cards depicting Australian Olympic athletes, the cards were provided to the athletes concerned for use in responding to letters from fans. The front of the cards is inscribed 'Thank you for your well wishes and support', and

## Capital Philately

'Australia Post is proud to support Australia's Olympians'. The cards also have the standard Australian postage paid imprint. They were not sold through post offices, except for a small number that were reputedly sold at a special post office for the Stawell Gift in 1994, an athletic event held every Easter at Stawell in Victoria. To date, six cards are known. These comprise:

- Cards likely to have been issued before the 1994 Commonwealth Games, the text makes no mention of the 1994 Commonwealth Games:
  - - Cathy Freeman on the track at the World Athletics Championship, Stuttgart 1993
  - - Nicole Stevenson in the pool, at the 1992 Olympic Games.
- Cards issued after the Commonwealth Games; the text refers, for individual athletes, to the medals won at the 1994 Commonwealth Games:
  - - Cathy Freeman at the 1994 Commonwealth Games
  - - Nicole Stevenson at the 1994 Commonwealth Games, illustrated in Figure 2
  - - Cathy Freeman on the track
  - - collage of Olympic athletes employed by Australia Post.

It seems likely that the second group of cards will be used by Australia Post as part of an Olympic promotion in conjunction with Atlanta 96.

### *Official Postcards for Mail from Santa*

Also of note is that before Christmas Australia Post set up post boxes in many post offices for mail to Santa. Children writing to Santa were sent an official postcard in reply. Different cards seemed to have been used in each state.

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**BOOK REVIEWS**

***BRAIDWOOD & DISTRICT, POST OFFICES & PEOPLE. Chronicle of events of Royal Mail and tabloid of people who formed our mail services 1835 - 1900.***

**BY ROSLYN MADDRELL**

This book came to my notice at the National Library bookshop: after I had glanced through it I could hardly believe my eyes. Here was a book with plenty of postal history interest, at a price well below most books on the subject, and completely unannounced in the philatelic press! How did it come to be missed?

Roslyn Maddrell is a local amateur historian who has also published a book on the Braidwood Goldfield, long out of print. She has a keen interest in the history of Braidwood and is part of a family that has long been an active and important part of the local scene. I visited her at her farm in Braidwood: she is a sprightly lady of undefined age who has no interest whatsoever in stamps or anything philatelic. She became interested in the history of the local postal services when the Braidwood Post Office was privatised and it appeared likely that many of the old records would be lost. So she set about finding and recording everything she could lay her hands on that had anything to do with the local mails. She used the resources of the National Archives, the Mitchell Library, family papers, the National Library etc. A full list of her sources is included on page 2 of the book.

I would say that some 80% of the book consists of photocopies of documents relating to the postal history of the area. They have been well selected but you will need a good magnifier to read some of them.

The documents relate to 25+ post offices from Araluen to Warrumbucca, and include such little known places as Crown Flat, Togganoggera and Gundillion. As a former engineer in the Tallaganda Shire at Braidwood, the place names are familiar but most are now just names on maps. The stories of these post offices and receiving office are very similar. Low pay, struggling to keep their official status, changes to personnel etc., the documents seem to be rather repetitive but each tells a slightly different story. The names on the petitions show the families which pioneered the district, some of the whom are still there. Some of the stories have a photo of the post office in question, sometimes all that is left is a road sign with a name.

Many of the documents are quoted in the stories which accompany the document copies. Be careful here: the editor/printer did not always distinguish clearly between the author's contributions and the text of the original documents. Some of these stories are in the present tense (as per the original) and if you are not careful in reading the headings as well as the contents you might draw some incorrect conclusions.

Mrs Maddrell did not talk to, or consult, any philatelists and never even thought about the interest her book might create in our hobby. She is therefore a little careless with some of her descriptions, for instance when she talks about the obliterator of 1834 used to cancel stamps. The title does not give any indication that the period covered goes well beyond 1900, and includes the modern history of the Braidwood Post Office, as well as some dates for the demise of the smaller offices in the 1900s.

There are dozens of snippets of interest, passed on without comment. One of these is a letter which gives an interesting sidelight on Charles Kingsford-Smith's flight to New Zealand on 12 January 1933, inviting Mr Maddrell to take one of the two passenger seats available for the flight. There is no accompanying story, but Mrs Maddrell told me that Kingsford-Smith had been in Braidwood in October 1932, using the showground as a base for joy rides to raise money and during this time he enjoyed the hospitality of the Maddrells. Mr Maddrell did *not* take up the offer.

Overall this is a fascinating book on the local postal history of Braidwood and its wider surroundings, it reproduces many documents which would be difficult to access today, if they still exist. Not a bad read, a fascinating and very useful reference and all at an affordable price.

The book, A4 size and with 298 pages, is available from the National Library for \$29.95 or at \$25.00 (plus postage) from Roslyn Maddrell, 'Garlyn', Braidwood.

Hans Karman

***BRITISH COMMONWEALTH REVENUES* By J. BAREFOOT Ltd.**

The earlier editions by Barefoot and Hall gained from, and contributed to, the growth of interest in the field of revenue collecting. Devotees have been anxiously awaiting the latest (5th edition), authored and published by J. Barefoot Ltd. The new edition is expanded in size, from 136 to 220 pages, with improved binding and lay-out. The opportunity has been taken to include additional stamps and to revise the prices (usually minor but upwards) and to add issues that have appeared since the late 1980s.

The value of this catalogue to collectors is immeasurable, for many countries it represents the only modern listing and a ready source of reference for those for which specialised studies are available. For most Australian collectors interest centres on the revenue issues of the States. With one exception, there are specialised catalogues available for all States but the Barefoot catalogue again provides a useful condensed source of information. Victoria is the exception, and Barefoot provides the only consolidated listing. Despite additions, the listings for the States are still far from complete but the author invites information on missing items.

Barefoot lists prices 'intended to represent typical retail prices for good used copies', there are no values for mint stamps. For the Australian States some prices are, in my opinion, too low. These are those which I would hope a dealer sees, others are extremely high, which I hope they do not see! For example, the price of L25 for single values of the New South Wales Family Endowment overprints seems much too high, those for the Tasmanian beer duty stamps (when compared to recent auction prices) too low. The values for the early beer duties for Western Australia and South Australia are also underpriced, most revenue collectors have never seen an example let alone own one.

*British Commonwealth Revenues* is a must for all serious collectors, the list price is L20, excluding postage. Members may purchase copies through the Society at a discount price. To date, the Society library does not have a copy of the earlier editions but is to purchase a copy of the long awaited 1996 edition.

Dingle Smith



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