Capital Philately

Incorporating PASTCARDS and Machinations.
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On Tour Up On High
Postcards From On High

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

GPO BOX 1840

CANBERRA ACT 2601

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This issue brings us to the 24th volume of Capital Philately, and again we ran into the problem of material. I thank the authors for their contributions, but would welcome some new talent for future issues. I even resorted to the extreme method of kidnapping an item from one of the excellent monthly displays to create a story - see “Underwater Mail”, page 10. The beautiful material for the article on Swedish Christmas was also borrowed; sincere thanks to Robert Gregson for this and to Paul Storm for the Bahamas material.

As we are now entering the “silly season” (although for some of us we’re that way permanently), I wonder what philatelic goodies will arrive in our stockings... you already have a head-start with this magazine, but are there treasures you wish for? What would a letter to Santa from a truly keen philatelist look like?

I’m actually so taken by this idea that I’d like to propose a competition - I’ll even put up a prize (and then I’ll be able to tell if you’re reading this bit or not).

**Challenge:** Send “Santasaurus” a Christmas letter C/- The Philatelic Society, GPO Box 1840 Canberra 2601

**Rules:** Letter must contain philatelic wish list. Use of an alias is allowed, but makes prizes hard to deliver.

**Time:** Mail must be postmarked by 31 December 2005.

**Bonus:** Points will be given both on philatelic relevance and originality.

**Why:** A little fun, an informal interest survey, the chance to win a prize and some interesting future material for Capital Philately (letters reprinted with permission only).

Why not live a little and let your creativity flow - I’ll be asking the Kids in the Junior Club to help me pick the winners and they will probably learn a lot finding out what all the fuss is about.
EDITH CAVELL 1865-1915 - NURSE, HEROINE, MARTYR.

Marilyn Ann Gendek

While the ANZACs were struggling in Gallipoli ninety years ago, Edith Louise Cavell, a civilian English nurse, was assisting with the clandestine repatriation of stranded Allied soldiers from the theatre of war closer to her home in Belgium. For this, she was sentenced to death by the Germans and on 12 October 1915 was executed. The news was reported widely and there was much public outcry over her death. This is the event for which she became famous and revered.

_She was dearer than all the world to me,_
_Dearer still in my memory,_
_Why did they take her life away,_
_Our Empire’s sons will avenge the day._

From “Nurse Cavell: A Song of Remembrance”.¹

Edith Cavell’s death provided a perfect opportunity to appeal to the conscience of the citizens of the Empire and allied countries in garnering support for the war effort through increased recruitment of soldiers to raising funds, and many memorials were established. However, Edith Cavell was first a nurse.

Edith Cavell, the nurse

Edith Louise Cavell was born on 4 December 1865 in Swardeston, Norfolk, the daughter of the local clergyman. She was initially schooled at home, was artistic, and during her teens she attended a school in Peterborough where she studied French. Her proficiency in the language resulted in her being recommended as a governess to a family in Belgium where she worked for several years.

However, following her return to England to care for her father who had fallen ill, at the age of thirty she decided to pursue a career in nursing. After a short beginning at a fever hospital, she subsequently entered the London Hospital Nurses’ Training School as a probationer in September 1896. By this time the Nightingale model of nursing was well established amongst a number of hospitals and the matron of the London Hospital communicated regularly with Florence Nightingale. Following completion of her course in 1898, over the next ten years Edith was to build up an impressive repertoire of nursing experience, including a temporary position as a matron.

Never shown separately on a stamp, Edith Cavell is recognised on a special postmark from Peterborough with 20th century women of achievement, 1996.
As a probationer, Edith was sent to Maidstone in Kent to nurse during the 1897 typhoid epidemic for which she was awarded the Maidstone Medal, and, as an assistant matron at Shoreditch Infirmary in London she was attributed with pioneering follow up visits of patients after discharge from hospital. But it was to be Belgium where she was to make a more noticed mark on the development of the nursing profession.

Edith Cavell took charge of the pioneer training school for lay nurses at a private hospital on the outskirts of Brussels, the Medico Surgical Institute of Berkandael, and opened its first program in October 1907. Founded by a surgeon, Dr Antoine Depage in collaboration with some society women, the school was to be organised on the Nightingale model for the training of skilled nurses as well as opening up careers for “well-educated girls”.

According to Dr Depage, until this time “...nursing was practically non-existent in Belgium: the nuns were the only nurses, and although sincerely devoted to their patients they were governed by old ideas, and knew nothing of the process initiated by Miss Florence Nightingale. The Ecole Belge d’Infirmières Diplômées was therefore founded under an English matron, Miss Cavell, where the term of training is for three years.”

At the congress of the International Council of Nurses in 1909, while Belgium was not a member of the organisation, both Antoine Depage and Edith Cavell were given pride of place on the official platform at the opening. Edith reported at that meeting that nursing in Belgium was still behind other countries, but there was a desire to improve “ignorant and blundering” methods, and that the only school on Nightingale lines was that which she headed. A opportunity for progress
occurred when Queen Elisabeth broke her arm and was cared for by a nurse from the school thus promoting nursing as a suitable occupation for women, and increasing interest in the profession.

In 1910 Edith Cavell also took on the matron position of the new St Gilles Hospital which provided for the increasing population of Brussels as well as the clinical experiences for more nursing students. The much smaller Berkendael Institute now served as the preliminary training school and St Gilles provided the remainder of the education. By 1914, Belgium’s first non-denominational school for nurses had become a leader in the provision of professional nurses for Belgium’s hospitals.

Far from its native soil and air,
Transplanted to distant ground,
It quickly grew and flourished there,
And spread its roots around,
And brightened many a desolate place
With its healing influence and grace.

From “Edith Cavell: The Martyr of Brussels”

Edith Cavell, heroine and martyr.

Edith Cavell was forty-eight years old when WW1 commenced. At the beginning of August, Germany demanded free passage of its troops through Belgium to attack France but Belgium refused and warned that any invasion would be resisted. Two days later the invasion and occupation of Belgium began.

Edith Cavell was in England, but on hearing the news she returned to Brussels. Many nurses were returned to their respective countries. St Gilles became a Red Cross hospital. Dr Depage organised a surgical unit which he took to the front while his wife Marie was put in charge of the Red Cross hospital at the Palace. As Brussels fell to the enemy, Edith Cavell, along with some other English nurses, refused to leave despite an edict declaring the same.
Later in September, Edith was visited by a Belgian civilian who had with him two British soldiers in disguise. It transpired that following the battle fought at Mons a number of allied soldiers had been separated from their units. Those captured ran the risk of being shot, as were villagers and others who harboured soldiers. It was becoming more dangerous to hide soldiers in the countryside. Edith was presented with a letter of introduction from Madame Depage and she arranged for the two soldiers to be admitted to the near empty Berkendael Institute where they stayed for some weeks until it was necessary and possible for them to be escorted to the Dutch border. This was the beginning of Edith Cavell’s participation in assisting Allied soldiers and men of military age to escape from behind enemy lines, to either rejoin or enlist in the Allied fighting forces. Later she was to justify her part on the basis that they would have been shot if she had not helped.

In March 1915, the hospital of St Gilles was taken over by the Germans. Madame Depage escaped the same month to join her husband who had been appointed by Queen Elisabeth as surgeon-in-chief of the hospital in De Panne, free Belgium. Edith, on request, sent some nurses to De Panne, with the Belgian ones also having to be smuggled across the border. The route was becoming more difficult to use, and the clandestine activity more dangerous, but it has been estimated that Edith Cavell eventually assisted more than two hundred men by harbouring them, providing some money, and arranging guides for their run to the border.

The German secret police arrested Edith Cavell on 5 August 1915. Her activities had been watched for some time following exposure through the behaviour of soldiers, suspicious visitors, and finally the arrest of another key member of the escape organisation who was in possession of incriminating papers. She had been warned by the head of the escape organisation but considered that escape for her would be unthinkable and expected to be arrested. Edith confessed to her participation in assisting the escape of soldiers from German occupied Belgium. After being kept in solitary confinement for two months she was tried over two days by a German military court (along with 35 others) under what was considered unjust circumstances. She was found guilty of “...conducting soldiers to the enemy...” which incurred a death penalty. Despite pleas for a pardon from Britain through the American Legation in Brussels, pointing out that she “...bestowed her care as freely on the German soldiers as on others.”, Edith Cavell was executed by firing squad on the morning of 12 October 1915.

In Memoriam

Whether Edith Cavell was right or wrong, an analysis of the reaction to her execution has been discussed widely and is beyond the scope of this article. However, what occurred in response to this event stunned the Germans. Her death spawned a plethora of propaganda – the “perfect victim” – a woman, and a nurse who embodied purity and maternal devotion. The recruitment drive following her death resulted in significant numbers of men enlisting in the military. In Great Britain, for example, this doubled in the three months after her death compared to the three months before, and it helped pave the way for the move towards conscription.

Edith Cavell’s remains were exhumed in 1919 from the grave at the rifle range where she was executed. She was reburied at the Cathedral of Norwich in Norfolk after a memorial service in Westminster Abbey. A number of memorials sprang up and Australia’s memorials included inter alia rest homes and funds for nurses, a nurses’ memorial in Ararat, Victoria, and an Edith Cavell Memorial in Melbourne. A quick search on the internet also reveals that her name was also given to girls born in that period. However, ninety years on, while the flame of Gallipoli has regenerated, Edith Cavell the heroine and martyr has faded. A celebration of her commitment to humanity is carried out in a small arena mostly amongst nurses. Edith Louise Cavell was first a nurse, and before her execution it was suggested to her that she would be remembered as a heroine. Her reply, which was
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overshadowed by more patriotic quotes of her last statements presented to the public, was simply -

"Think of me only as a nurse who tried to do her duty."^6

Memorial at the L'Ecole d'Infirmières Edith Cavell et Marie Depage.

References

5. Correspondence with the United States Ambassador respecting the Execution of Miss Cavell at Brussels (1915) London: Darling & Son Ltd.

Bibliography


THE NORTHERN BEACHES TABLES
WHAT DO THE FUNNY NUMBERS MEAN?

Robert A. M. Gregson

When I am not a philatelist, and that is about 98% of my time, I have worked in an area of applied mathematics that looks at human behaviour. This is in a long tradition, going back over 150 years, and there are lots of methods and questions that can be used. A curious area of human endeavour is competitions, where things are entered and judged. It can be humorous, or bitter. The quarrels that emerge at flower shows over the best and biggest blooms, and who sabotaged the champion pumpkin, are a topic for comic fiction or even murder stories.

One topic that has interested researchers is the cat show phenomenon, where there are relatively few entrants, but so many categories in which a prize might be gained, that it is almost impossible for any one cat to fail to get any prize at all. Put in a cat, and it could be entered simultaneously as best Burmese, best short hair, best domestic, best neutered, and best house-trained. Even, perhaps, best loved by the children. I gather from my granddaughters that pony clubs give out ribbons by rules that I do not pretend or assume to understand.

Through the very valuable report on the recent Northern Beaches inter-club competition we have all the results, and how they were scored. There were 52 competitors, a group of judges, and eight categories on which a one-frame entry was rated. All these ratings were then added up to get a total score, and those totals used to create order in some sort of merit ranking and prizeworthiness.

One may think that adding up numbers is the fairest way to go, and it is certainly the simplest. It weights after a fashion the relative importance given to various qualities of the exhibits, and is a useful and fair feedback of information to people who want to compete again next year. It isn’t the only way to do things, and some theorists, including economists, make a case that various scores should not be added but multiplied; so unless you get one characteristic right, it gets zero and multiplies all the other scores by zero, and you are out. This is really an extreme form of weighting of subscales.

The systems used at Northern Beaches were two, one given (I) was stated to be the basis of judging, but in the tables of results another (II) was employed, so we will stick with II.

**Points and their maxima: I (given) II (as used)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>I</th>
<th>II</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phil know’d</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal res.</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>95</td>
<td>100 + Bonus points for youth</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

There is quite another way to decide what weightings are actually used by the judges, and that is to compute the correlation coefficients between the component scores and the total scores. This method is commonly used, but importantly we must note that it is by no means the only method used by statisticians. The coefficients calculated can run from -1 to +1, and here all the scales are positively correlated, so there are no strong internal conflicts between the meanings of the eight subscales.
Correlations of components with the total scores II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Correlation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>.689</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>.829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance</td>
<td>.452</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>.831</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>.722</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>.388</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>.596</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>.555</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These numbers tell us that Treatment and Knowledge do the most work in discriminating between the merits of competitors, and that Condition and Importance do the least, but all matter. This might surprise, but where nearly everyone gets Condition right, the relative importance of Condition in discriminating between competitors is fairly useless. Provided that the II scales allow some range, say 5 or 10 or 15 or whatever, and the ranges are used by the judges, the range maxima are not part of the correlation table.

The one scale that puzzles me is Interest. I would have thought to a collector, stamps, cards or covers are collected because he or she finds them interesting, whether or not anyone else is interested. How else do Turkish postage dues or German locals get a place on the philatelic scene, and fashions about what to collect change? The departmental overprints of South Australia seem to have had a fashion for a while. I recall talking to one London dealer who observed that when a superb collection of Cape of Good Hope triangulars came onto the market once in fifty years, there is a rush of interest. So I computed the relationship between Interest, Knowledge and Research. I would have thought that the more interest a collector has in something, the more knowledge would be acquired via research. Of course, if Interest means interesting to the judges, anything can happen. If the judges are trying to estimate how interesting a display might be to other collectors, or to the public (not the same thing) then they should do a survey. I have been to one exhibition where they did just that.

- Correlation between knowledge and interest .330
- Correlation between knowledge and research .636
- Correlation between interest and research .359
- Partial correlation, knowledge and interest, taking out the effect of research .1957

The one correlation that makes sense to me is the .636 value. The text the exhibitor writes on his or her pages does show knowledge, and suggests indirectly that some research has been done, particularly if it shows that the catalogue or reference book commonly used is wrong. This is also a satisfying experience, and might even confound the judges. But the other two correlations, .330 and .359, are no great shakes. If you want to see their relative importance in contributing to the interest overall, you square them and multiply by 100 to get percentages; that is 11% and 13%. If you ignore the effect of industrious research as shown to the judges by the exhibitor, the collector’s displayed knowledge contributes only 4% to the scored interest. If you want the judges to like your exhibit, collect something they might know about, or tell them triumphantly that you have contradicted the experts, with evidence.
### Variances of component scores II

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation</td>
<td>1.669</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment</td>
<td>1.938</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Importance</td>
<td>1.013</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knowledge</td>
<td>3.169</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research</td>
<td>1.093</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condition</td>
<td>1.539</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rarity</td>
<td>1.436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>1.385</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total score/8</strong></td>
<td><strong>0.742</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

These variances (measures of scatter) tell us how the various subscales are relatively powerful in discriminating between between entrants. Knowledge, Treatment and Presentation dominate, they tell us where the competitive element of the competition mostly lies, they depend of course on who else besides you is entering.

What do all these numbers mean? They are not quite descriptions of the competitors, they are indications of the interaction between judges and competitors, in short they tell us a lot about how the judges function, given a lot of competitors to judge and some rules they are trying to use.

You can look at the deductions from these numbers in two ways, at least.

You could use them as guessing strategies to decide how to emphasise some qualities of your display to win medals, if you treat the exercise as more than just good fun. Of course if everyone does that with equal efficiency you are back to square one.

The other way to look at the figures is to check if what the judges are doing makes any internally consistent sense? Do they need all these numbers to get their final rankings, do they used the various categories in a way that is reasonable, and not apparently a bit nonsensical? Have they got more categories or numbers than they need to be rational? Actually the total scores range from 61 to 86, and one could get about the same allocation of medals if the subscales were each only coded 0 or 1, and the totals coded 0 to 8. In a technical sense, there is far less information in the numbers than their numerical values suggest. It is still about the same amount of almost thankless work by judges however you score the exercise, and teachers and academics are constantly told by everyone else how to mark. I recall one candidate overseas who went into the exam room, put a loaded revolver on his desk, and announced that he intended to cheat. I don’t think that exhibiting military mail would have quite the same effect.

### Technical Appendix.

For those rare folk who have had to learn some statistics, and remember any, I persuaded my friend Prof Don Fitzgerald to run what is called a Principal Components Analysis with Varimax Rotation on the raw figures.

What he got was most interesting, as there are only three components of the judges’ behaviour, most importantly what I will call fundamental philately, showing up in Knowledge and Research, next a clean image, showing up in Condition and Treatment, and lastly worth - only a fifth of the first two - is Interest. You can drop Interest completely and its makes only a tiny difference to the relative club scores in the competition.
Underwater Mail.

Jenni Creagh

Readers may remember our story on the opening of the World’s First Underwater Post Office (PASTCARDS - Capital Philately Vol 21 No.4). Now while this may be the only current Post Office staffed underwater, it isn’t the first nor the only way aquanaughts can post a note to those above the watery realm.

The first undersea post was in August 1939, in the Bahamas. The cancellation “Sea Floor Bahamas” was applied to mail posted in the Williamson’s Photosphere.

Souvenir Covers were sold through Gimbell’s Department store, and the achievement was later commemorated on a Bahamas Postage Stamp.

Further information on John Ernest Williamson and his ground-breaking work with underwater photography (and opening a new door to philately) can be found at www.amnh.org/exhibitions/permanent/ocean/04_history/d_williamson.php

A reprint of the local news article can be seen on the following pages.

Now if tropical waters are not your cup of tea, further north you could visit the World’s Deepest Underwater Mailbox (if you’re game). Located at a depth of 10 metres, this unusual posting place lies in the Pacific Ocean off the coast off Susamicho, Wakayama Prefecture in the Japanese Archipelago. The mail is collected daily by the staff of the Susami Post Office. Information on this service is a little sketchy - although I will endeavour to track down a cover - this is listed in the 2002 Guiness Book of World Records.

Still not your thing? Well you’ll be amazed what pops up when doing an internet search for this stuff - give it a try...

Apparently Nikola Tesla (the Tesla Coil) devised plans for an underwater mailing tube to cross the Atlantic while he was still at school - needless to say it hasn’t been built.
POSTOFFICE ON BAHAMAS OCEAN FLOOR
NEW WORLD OF UNDERSEA REVEALED

WILLIAMSON SCIENTIFIC EXPEDITION MAKES HISTORY

(FROM THE MAINE DAILY TRIBUNE—August 9th.)

The announcement that the first successful photographs ever made under the sea—and the story of plans to make motion pictures in the clear waters of the Bahamas, created such a sensation that the story, with its illustrations, was reprinted in every civilized language.

Radio Pictures Printed at Sea

The first successful photographs ever made under the sea—and the story of plans to make motion pictures in the clear waters of the Bahamas, created such a sensation that the story, with its illustrations, was reprinted in every civilized language.

First Motion Pictures under the Sea

The Williamson Submarine Expedition to the Bahamas followed, and within a year Williamson motion pictures reached the screen, revealing the beauties of the unexplored sea quarter in a symphony journey through thirty leagues.

Deep sea Floor

Williamson's deep sea motion pictures reached the screen, revealing the beauties of the unexplored sea quarter in a symphony journey through thirty leagues.

A Submarine Fairyland

With the magic of color photography under the sea, Mr. Williamson has shown his pictures a group of moving scenes as beautiful as a visions fairyland.
CHRISTAMS CHEER.

Jenni Creagh

"‘Twas the night before Christmas and all through the house, not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse..."

This classic Christmas poem by Clement Clarke Moore doesn’t really ring true in this age of long days, high pressure work commitments and commercialisation.

Hark back to a better, gentler time when Christmas wishes might come true.

In Sweden the traditional Christmas celebrations last for almost a month, commencing on December 13th with St Lucia Day, and ending on Knut’s Day.

The celebrations include plenty of food and time together with friends and family (much like modern celebrations worldwide), but also include a blend of older traditions.

Jul Tomten is the Christmas elf who lives under the floorboards of the house or barn and looks after the family and livestock throughout the year. On Christmas Eve, Tomten often brings presents delivering them with the aid of the Julbock (Christmas goat - named after the Thor’s Goat). Each present is traditionally labelled with a poem to help (or hinder) the recipient in guessing what is contained inside the wrapping.

The house is decorated with flowers - the poinsettia has been very popular since its introduction from Mexico and the USA in the 1800’s, with bright red leafy bracts resembling flaming stars. The legend of the poinsettia from Mexico tells of a small boy who had nothing to offer the infant Christ but his prayers, these were answered by the appearance of the “flower of the holy night”.

Artist Jenny Nyström (1854-1946) was classically trained, but made her living doing popular illustrations. These colourful pictures soon appeared on cards, calendars, post cards, stamps and Christmas seals. Jenny’s pictures of Jultomten moved them out of the oral traditions of Swedish folklore into visual print media about the same time as the country was gaining a more urban focus - perhaps aiding in the retention of those rural traditions.

The Christmas seals featured in these illustrations are some of Jenny’s work, and similar designs are still seen on many cards today at Christmas time.

This Christmas the American Swedish Institute (Minneapolis) is showing an exhibition of her work on loan from the Kalmar County Museum in Sweden: Jenny Nyström: Mother of Swedish Christmas runs until January 15, 2006.

Sweden 1931 Christmas Seal - Poinsettia.

Sweden 1925 Christmas Seal - Julbock.
Swedish Christmas Seals designed by Jenny Nystrom.

The Christmas Elf - Jul Tomten.
Traditional Dishes From Sweden

“POTATIS KORV”
(Sweden Christmas Sausage)

2 lbs. lean pork, ground
2 lbs. lean beef, ground
6 med. potatoes, shredded (uncooked)
3 tsps. salt
2 tsps. ground allspice
1/2 tsp. pepper
1 med. onion, chopped

Mix all ingredients well together. Form into rolls about 4 inches long, 2 inches in diameter. Cut waxed paper or parchment paper into 6-inch lengths and warp sausage well, tying both ends tightly with string. Prick waxed paper with a fork (do not prick parchment) and place in kettle of simmering salted water. Cook slowly for about 45 minutes. This sausage is delicately flavored. Some people prefer slightly more seasoning.

“HAM A LA CAJSA WARG”
(Swedish Ham)

7 to 9 lb. ham, slightly salted
2 tsps. whole cloves
2 tsps. marjoram
2 tsps. allspice
2 tsps. rosemary
6 bay leaves

Ham which is to be roasted in an oven must not be too salty and should be placed in plenty of cold water for approximately 12 hours.

Remove the rind. Place the ham on a large piece of baking foil. Crush allspice, cloves, rosemary, marjoram and bay leaves in a mortar. Rub the spice mixture on all sides of the ham. Wrap the foil around the ham to make a tight package. Insert a meat thermometer through the foil so that the tip reaches the thickest and meatiest part of the ham. Place the ham in baking pan and bake it in the oven at 350F. The ham is ready when the thermometer shows 170F. “Ham a la Cajsa Warg” can be served hot or cold with boiled potatoes, mustard, red cabbage or other vegetables.

I know this is not exactly philatelic, but you need to build up your strength over the holidays; after all it is only a few months until Stampshow, and you’ve got plenty of work to do on your collections... Seasons Greetings & Happy New Year or should I say GOD JUL och GOTT NYTT ÅR!
The Swedish state post office has been cheated of millions of Kronor [in Australian currency, equivalent to about $750,000] by a combine that sells forged stamps.

Many hundreds of kiosks [little booths in European city streets that sell newspapers, magazines, tobacco, bus tickets and so on] have taken part in the trade. Today the accused leader of the combine has been charged by the police, who have also conducted raids across the country. The swindle was directed by the postbox service Brevia Mail AB, this was in partnership with the post office, in a privatization arrangement.

The post office has recently found signs that many well-made forged stamps had been put into circulation over the whole of the country. An internal investigation brought to light over 250 kiosks where the sales had taken place.

Where the forgeries were actually made is not yet known. The authorities have uncovered a stock of over 800,000 at one location near Stockholm, each stamp of the face value of Kr 5.50 [about 90 Australian cents].

It is alleged that the 32-year old organizer of the swindle placed an order involving also forged cheques with someone connected to Hells Angels.

The stamps involved are Facit #2425-2428 of 2004, oblong designs in booklets of 10, with multicoloured views of little ships and landscapes.

Apparently one can detect an error on one stamp design, out of four involved, the genuine stamp has “Nämdöfärdén”, the forgeries have “Nämdöfärdén”, in lettering below the design. It is Facit #2428 and depicts a yacht and a lighthouse. [The spelling error might suggest that the forgers were not in Sweden.]

[They are undenominated, inscribed BREV for the internal letter rate, so they would not often arrive on mail to Australia.]

The forgeries are so good that a UV lamp is needed to detect them. They were sold to the kiosks for Kr 1.0 each, and then sold to the public for Kr 2.75, [so everyone but the post office made a profit].

The criminals were going to publish a catalogue of their wares, but it never got printed. They had orders in hand for Kr 7,000,000.

Details are still emerging of the whole swindle and its operations, it seems to have been possible because of modern printing technology and administrative outsourcing or privatization.
Although sometimes the spirit is willing, the flesh is weak... my highest achievement this year is to have climbed to the top platform (30m above ground) on the Rainforest Tree-top Walk at O'Reillys in the Gold Coast Hinterland. Not for the faint-hearted, especially on a windy day - hence the beanies in Queensland, the view was definitely worth it, but there is never a post box when you need one but the photos above will have to suffice.

O'Reilly's Rainforest, June '05

“What a shame - the sign says we can’t all go to the top together...”

“I’m not sure about this...”

“A breath-taking view!”

Well now here’s a thing... an article about one of the things that sends a shiver up many people’s spines - heights! Now I could take the opportunity and tell a few tall stories, or make jokes about vertigo or acrophobia (which has nothing to do with spiders), or make really bad puns that would be the height of bad taste, but I won’t.

There really is much more to be inspired by when one looks through Paul’s exhibit. I think we are lucky to get the chance, as I borrowed it while conducting the heist of the pieces for the Underwater Mail story. There is a wide variety of experiences here that even the modern traveller may have a hard time trying to top: with volcanic railway journeys, momentous flights and the tops of the tallest towers. I have taken the liberty of adding a little additional information where appropriate as we haven’t the same space restraints here as there are in a mounted exhibit.

Anyway you’ve a long way to the top, but before you trek on, I have to say a huge thanks to Paul for allowing the use of his material, and the opportunity to learn more about the High Life.

Read on and enjoy! (Whew - a mammoth effort to say all that without resorting to a single play on words.)
ON TOUR UP ON HIGH

Paul Storm

It is part of the human condition that when travelling, the tourist/traveller has a need to achieve some form of extreme, however slight, and then to record that achievement by some means, however mundane. The perception is to have perhaps done something that few others might, and to have proof of the fact.

This display seeks to illustrate one such tourist syndrome: the desire to go up on high. Structures are to be mounted, mountains are to be scaled and the skies are to be flown (although in more recent times, flying is more a means to an end, than an end itself).

Travel providers, tourist site operators and post offices have been only too happy to encourage the tourist in his endeavours. Special transports, summit facilities, travel souvenirs, private cachets and official postal markings can all be combined to make a memorable excursion. For instance, Thomas Cook, the famous travel company, not only operated the funicular railway to the top of Mount Vesuvius, but also supplied appropriate souvenir post cards, and then applied dated cachets before the card was passed into the postal system.

The items in this display are grouped into three fields referred to above, that is:

"The Building Summit"      "The Mountain Top"      "In Flight"

Where possible the item shows evidence of post office treatment, but of necessity some items are no more than printed ephemera. The enabling characteristic of the item is that it should be pertinently used, and in that usage it will frequently show an often charming immediacy.

Note that usually both sides of an item combine to demonstrate the aim of the display: copies are included to show the obverse as required.
The Building Summit:

France, 1889

- Summit of the Eiffel Tower.

The Eiffel Tower was built as the main attraction for the Paris Universal Exhibition of 1889, and was opened in that year by the Prince of Wales. This early picture post card was produced by imprinting a current postal card with a view of the Tower. It was written and posted at the top of the tower, as indicated by the message and the purple dated cachet. The stamp bears the official post office cancel of the Exhibition, 29 October.

Italy, 1889

- Brunelleschi’s Dome, Florence Cathedral.

Dating from 1420-34, the Dome and Cupola of Florence Cathedral, designed by the noted architect Brunelleschi, are accessible to the public, and the writer notes climbing the many stairs to secure the special cachet. The card, addressed to Sydney, passed into the postal system at Florence Railway Station on 27 February 1968.
The Building Summit:

USA, 1942
- New York: Statue of Liberty & Empire State Building.

Max Linn, RAAF, writes to his wife in Adelaide during WWII from the Statue of Liberty. The post card bears both the appropriate image on the cachet in green as well as on the postage stamps.

Apparently the writer had just come from the other iconic building summit of New York, the Empire State Building, which is referred to in the text, and the post card of which he has brought to the Statue of Liberty.

Italy, 1914
- Venice: Saint Mark’s Campanile.

The visitor here writes of the remarkable view from the top of the tower, and the ‘keen cold wind’.

The card bears the Campanile cachet, and was forwarded to the Venice Railway Station, where it entered the postal system on 7th April for delivery to New Zealand.

The Campanile in 1914 had only been lately inaugurated after having totally collapsed and been rebuilt for reopening in 1912.
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In Flight:

Australia to Ceylon, 1944 - Secret Order of the Double Sunrise.

The Catalina lights from Perth to Ceylon over the period July 1943 to July 1945 varied from 28 to 31 hours in duration. Travellers, in this case Flight Steward Jack Martin, received the 'Double Sunrise' certificate, 24/5.6.44.
In Flight:

Australia, 1944 - In Flight Information Card; Famous Travellers.

Flight information cards were made out by the cabin crew at various stages in the flight to provide passengers with sundry statistics about the progress of the flight. Cabin Steward Jack Martin kept this card as a souvenir after securing autographs of his notable passengers, including: George Wallace, Jack Benny, Larry Adler and Carole Landis.

During the Second World War there were troop entertainments and here it appears a contingent of notable entertainers is over Lismore, NSW, on its way from Sydney to Brisbane.

The other side of the card has the Qantas emblem, and the rationale for circulating such cards and their information.

A little more research on this card reveals two additional signatures as June Bruner and Martha Tilton.

The US 93rd Naval Construction Battalion (93rd Seabees Battalion) was stationed on Green Island, in the Pacific. After various duties as part of the war effort the troops were treated to several visits as part of the USO Tours. On 1 August they were visited by Bob Hope, Frances Langford, Jerry Colonna, Patty Thomas, Tony Romano and Barney Dean. Fifteen days later Jack Benny, Carole Landis, Larry Adler, Martha Tilton and June Bruner put on a show: the flight information card above is part of this journey. The 93rd Seabees moved out to the Philippines by way of New Guinea shortly after these concerts.

Remarks:

Please Pass On.
Our position at a.m. was. 
Altitude feet above ground level. 
Altitude feet above sea level. 
Our ground speed is. miles per hour. 
Headwind Tailwind component is. miles per hour. 
We will arrive at at approximately a.m. p.m.

Remarks:

Commander.

Group photograph, L-R: Jack Benny, June Bruner (pianist), Carole Landis, Larry Adler and Martha Tilden.

-ED.

1. www.seabees93.net/1-PacificDutyHistory.htm
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In Flight:

Switzerland, 1913

- Passenger’s In-Flight Message.

In-flight message written by H. Flueckiger flying on the Biel Aviation Day on the first flight between Beil and Bern, Sunday 8 June. He writes, in part “We are just now 2000 metres above the ground.”

These cards were sold in aid of the National Fund, franked with the current 5 Rappen stamp, cancelled with a special flight-day cancel.

Note that the Biel cancel is underneath the postage stamp, indicating the stamp was added later, perhaps by Flueckiger, during the flight.

The picture side, sadly damaged, shows Oskar Bider, the Swiss flight pioneer with his Bleriot machine.

Above: Bleriot Airplane schematic.

Right: Aviator Oskar Bider, the first man to cross the Alps in a motorised airplane.
In Flight:
Australia, 1929

- Early Flight Souvenir: East-West Air, Perth to Adelaide.

Flight souvenir consisting of a miniature air-mail bag with attached address tag, and containing miniature photos of scenes on the flight path, and the flimsy information leaflet with many facts:

The Aircraft is a de Haviland 3 motor 'Hercules';
The Perth to Adelaide route is 1450 miles;
The flight takes 14 passengers on a 27 hour trip via Kalgoorlie, Forrest (overnight) and Ceduna;
14.5 hours actual flying time;
One flight per week;
Single fare of £18.

This example was posted at Forrest on 3rd July, 1929 to Port Augusta, SA, with 2d. postage and 3d. airmail-fee stamps affixed. Note that this was within a month of the airline’s inauguration.
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In Flight:

USA, 1938 - Traveller's In-Flight Mail.
TWA Company complimentary passengers' stationery letter envelope endorsed "written in Flight From Wichita en Route to Kansas City"; a distance of 180 miles, and franked with the appropriate air mail stamp for delivery in Sydney.

The item subsequently passed into the normal mail system on 26 May at the Wichita-Kansas terminal for postmarking with travelling post office marks, viz 'R.P.O.' and 'RMS' indicating connection between the airport and the railway.
The Mountain Top:

India, 1902 - Darjeeling: The “Roof of the World”

This early vignetted picture postcard with undivided back, has been posted from Darjeeling near the Sikkim-Nepal border. The writer uses the cliché term for the Himalayas, “Roof of the World”. One view is of Kinchinjunga Peak, at 28,146 feet, third highest mountain after Everest and K2.

The card is addressed to Hull in England and was posted at Darjeeling, 19 May.

The top left vignette shows a picture of the Gaiabari (Giaabaree) Reversing Station of the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway (DHR).

Overcoming engineering obstacles by the effort of hard work and ingenuity, the 2 foot gauge line rises 2112 m over a distance of 88 km. The design needed to avoid bridges and tunnels due to the force of monsoon weather in the mountains instead the engineers devised the ZigZag system with reversing stations (like the one we have in the Blue Mountains, NSW).

Darjeeling means abode of the thunderbolt, and according to local buddhist lore dragons are said to dwell under the mountains. The early steam engines (like the Garret - right) caused quite a stir with their huffing and puffing, and many locals were convinced the dragons had risen from slumber.

In 1999 the Darjeeling Himalayan Railway was declared a World Heritage Site by the International Council for Monuments and Sites of the UNESCO. The DHR is ‘an outstanding example of the influence of an innovative transportation system on the social, cultural and economic development of a multi-cultural region'. The decision to include the DHR was capped with a summing up of its significance in railway history: ‘The Darjeeling Himalayan Railway is the first and still the most outstanding example of a hill passenger railway'. 
The Mountain Top:

Germany, 1885 - Mountain Summit Mark: Early Picture Post-Card.

The Seven Peaks stand at the northern end of the Rhine Gorge, near Cologne; one of these is the Drachenfels, i.e. Dragon’s Rock, rising a thousand feet above the Rhine.

In the Nibelungen legends, Siegfried slew the dragon in a cave on the hill, and bathed in its protective blood.

The ruins of the Drachenburg tower are all that is left of the c.1150 castle. Long popular with tourists, facilities were introduced, including this restaurant and post office on the terrace. This very early picture post card was made privately by adding the picture to a standard 10Pfg. postal card. The card has been posted at the Drachenfels Post Office on 28 June 1885 and has an interesting message in English of the scene.

“We are 21 miles from Cologne down the Rhine. It does not seem to be Sunday - I write this quite close to the house shown above on a table outside - above 200 people sitting at tables around me having refreshments. The Rhine is away down in the valley - music near us and vineyards on the slope of the hill - you can have no conception of the view we get - Enjoying ourselves very much - as usual.”
The Mountain Top:

Italy, 1900

- Vesuvius Summit Cachet: Thomas Cook & Son promotional Post-Card.

The writer has secured the dated Vesuvius summit cachet on 4 March, and comments in his message on using the funicular railway, the cold and the snow. The card passed into the postal system at Naples (stamp removed) and arrived in Sydney on 12 April.

Cook’s catered for the tourist in all ways, they bought the funicular railway in 1887, it having been opened in 1880; they operated the Hermitage Hotel at the station; they ran the railway link to Naples; and they provided the post card. Initially they had much serious resistance from the locals but eventually ran a good profit ‘till they vacated in 1945, keeping the hotel until 1949.

NSW, 1910

- Mountain Resort P.O., Early Skiing Post-Card.

Message written by a parent from the Hotel Kosciusko, near Perisher Valley, and sent from Mount Kosciusko post office in the hotel on 18 August. The post office was opened 5 June 1909 at the same time as the hotel. Organised skiing began in 1897 in the Snowy Mountains, and from 1906 the NSW Tourist Bureau conducted tours; in
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1909 their hotel was opened by the Governor.

Note the condescending message from the parent to son with admonitions not to cause trouble at home, and the gratuitous “You would have a great time here but you would probably be lost in a snow drift”!

Note also the picture with its unusual snow activities taken by Charles Kerry, alpine tour leader and photographer.

Great Britain, 1965

- Wales: Snowdon Railway and Summit.

A tourist with Australian connections (note the form of address “Cooee!”) writes to Australia from the summit. The card, posted at the top, has the summit cachet in black, and has been forwarded to Llanberis, where it entered the postal system on 24 July.

Note that the writer is writing specially to his correspondent, who must have Welsh connections, as her house in Australia is named after Llanberis.

Snowdon (Welsh ‘Wyddfa’) at 3,561 feet is the highest peak in Wales, is easily climbed, has a rack and pinion railway opened in 1897, and has a hotel open in summer.

Even if you’re not an internet buff you simply must look at the website for the Snowdon Mountain Railway www.snowdonrailway.co.uk/index.html - I am sure being there is better, but this engaging site is full of further information and heaps of great pictures; now a visit is definitely on my “To Do List”! - ED.
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