



Capital Philately

Incorporating PASTCARDS *and* Machinations.

Published by The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

Inside this Issue:

The Society's History
(part 2)

Finding Philatelic
Material

French Indo- China

Collecting Notes



**FIFTEENTH
NATIONAL
PHILATELIC
CONVENTION**



The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.

(Founded 1932)

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

<http://www.canberrastamps.org>

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

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Capital Philately

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EDITORIAL

Welcome to my second issue as editor and the hope that we have Capital Philately back on schedule for four issues a year - coming out in March, June, September and December. This is all thanks to a prompt response from authors and the help of Bruce Parker and family in pushing the publication through.

This issue is aimed at Canberra Stampshow 2008 our 15th biennial consecutive National Philatelic Convention. As chair of the organising committee this exhibition is taking up a lot of my time, as well as that of fellow committee members. The exhibition itself is shaping up as our most successful and is a half national exhibition (limited exhibition classes) with a scouting theme. As 2008 is the 100th anniversary of Scouting in Australia this seemed a natural theme for the exhibition. There is also a strong link between collecting and scouts and especially so for stamp collecting. The exhibition itself is oversubscribed for frames, dealer stands and sales of souvenirs have been the best ever with most sold out before the exhibition. The exhibition will be opened by Mr John Ravenhall, the Chief Commissioner of Scouts in Australia and we are making every effort to include as many scouts and cubs as possible. This is also our first exhibition not on the Canberra Day long weekend and we are hoping that it will attract even more local collectors. We will have a more detailed report about the exhibition in the next issue.

This issue of Capital Philately continues our tradition of mainly printing new articles. There is always something to read and I hope that this issue will be no exception. I asked authors to look at preparing articles relating to collecting as I would like to have some copies of this issue to hand out to potential new members at Canberra Stampshow 2008. In this issue you will find a continuation of Ian McMahon's excellent article on the history of the Philatelic Society of Canberra. Paul Barsdell takes a more serious look at a philatelic conundrum, the French Indo-China change of currency issues. On the collecting front I have rewritten and updated an article on obtaining material for your collection, while Elspeth Bodley and Tony Luckhurst have produced articles on collecting postcards and Machins, respectively. With Bruce Parker providing some collector tips for new and old.

I hope you enjoy reading this issue and remember we are always after articles whether big or small. As editor I am happy to help you prepare them. So start writing or find your favourite cover and let the other members of the Society enjoy what you enjoy . . . Darryl Fuller

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF CANBERRA, Part 2

Ian McMahon

While Presidents have come and gone, the other major office bearers have tended to serve for much longer periods. Ron Hyeronimus served as Secretary from 1967 until Ian Hay took over in 1977. When he left Canberra for Manila in 1978 Trish Hyland became Secretary. She was followed in 1981 by Bruce Parker who served for many years until replaced by Peter Oldham. Two long serving Treasurers were Paul Magi (1967 to 1974), and Alan Salisbury (1974 to 1981). Exchange Superintendents have been particularly long serving with Doug Ross holding the position from 1959 until 1972. Doug Ross will be remembered by many members. He was responsible for designing quizzes which challenged even the most knowledgeable of our members. When I joined the Society in 1978 Don Gray was exchange superintendent and I can remember receiving my first book from him. He was followed by Phil Saxby and in 1981 by Hans Karman, then by Karl Mueller and Meera Rajendran. Hans, Karl and Meera have been ably assisted by Bernard van der Meer. As the Society grew the number of office bearers increased to lighten the workload with positions of Assistant Secretary and Clubroom Manager being created. These positions have often served to introduce new members to Council.



The late 1970s and the early 1980s were exciting times for the Society and history will most likely record this period as the Society's heyday. During this time the Society's membership reached over 270, average attendance at meetings was 40-50, the Society won the 'Stamp News' most active society competition on no less than four occasions and was runner up on two others, the Society celebrated its 50th anniversary and commenced holding its national conventions and publishing Capital Philately. This was also the time when stamp collecting was booming with many investors entering the market who had not previously been involved in stamp collecting. I joined the Society in 1978 and can remember the vitality of the meetings, the competition for lots, especially Australian material, at the auction run by Ray Sullivan. One highlight for me early on in my membership was a visit to the Note Printing Branch of the Reserve Bank in their old premises in Melbourne in October 1979. Members of the Society were treated to a tour of the stamp printing facilities and to the sight of sheets of \$50 dollar notes. Notable visitors to the Society during this period were Colonel F Thompson and the Philatelic Society of New South Wales in 1977, P Collas in 1980 (POW mail from the second world war) and John White (Queensland).

Canberra Wins Society Competition

The "Stamp News" Grand Trophy for the Most Active Philatelic Society in Australia in 1977 has been awarded to the Canberra Philatelic Society (ACT) which narrowly defeated the Tamworth Philatelic Society (NSW), thus reversing the awards of last year when Tamworth won with Canberra being the runner-up.

The Society first won the 'Stamp News' Most Active Society Award in 1975 with the Oxley Club from Brisbane coming second. 'Stamp News' said that 'Canberra probably won the trophy for a slightly wider spread of activities and for the unusual school of philately.' The Society was also very active in promoting philately with Post Office and school displays. The School of Philately which the Society has organised on a number of occasions involved a series of lectures on topics such as mounting and displaying a collection, printing processes and the techniques of collecting. It won the award again in 1977, 1983 and 1984 and was runner-up in 1982 and 1985. The late 1970s and early 1980s also saw the staging of National Stamp Week usually in October of each year. The Society participated actively in these events holding public displays and on one occasion producing a souvenir sheet.

The Society held its first Convention in 1980 and has held them every two years since. Initially these were termed 'National Philatelic Conventions' but in recent years the advertised title has changed to Canberra Stampshow and, in small print, the National Philatelic Convention. Except for the First Convention, all later Shows have been held during Canberra Week and many have included Canberra Day, a public



holiday Monday confined to the ACT. On all occasions Australia Post has produced illustrated commemorative postmarkers.

The 50th anniversary of the Society was in 1982 and was celebrated with an anniversary dinner and by the Society presenting each of its members with a small stockbook engraved with the Canberra coat of arms and the name of the Society. The anniversary also saw the first issue of *Capital Philately* with Alan Salisbury as the founding editor. After Alan, the editorship passed to Ed Druce and then Dingle Smith. The first issue included articles by Alan Tippett ('Kadavu - Fijian Port of Entry'), Ed Druce ('Stamps of Ireland'), Alan Salisbury ('5/- Harbour Bridge') and the popular 'Phil Litt' ('Reading about Stamps'). While a copy of a Society newsletter exists from the very earliest days, the newsletter was revived in 1978 by Steve Wilson and Elspeth Bodley and has been produced ever since. In 1988 it was awarded first prize in the Newsletter class of the 'Stamp News' 1987-88 Journal competition.

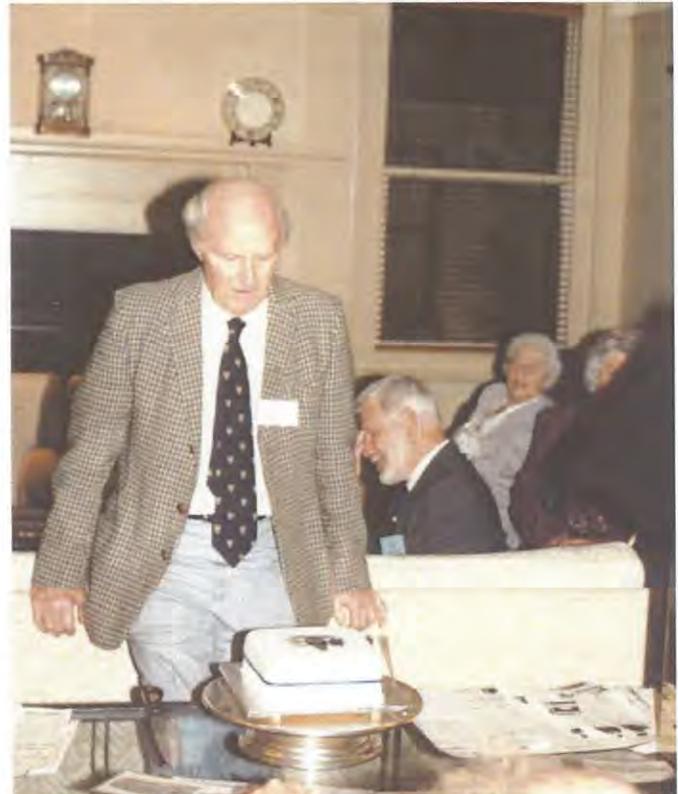
No mention of this period of the Society's history would be complete without a mention of Alan Tippett. Alan was a life member of the Society and a very knowledgeable philatelist whose main interests were Fiji and postal history. He had a very personal touch to his displays which added considerably to their interest. Before coming to Canberra he had been a Methodist missionary in Fiji and a professor of anthropology. At Sydplex 88 he won the Grand Prix International for his Fiji and a Vermeil for his book 'Dynamic Roots of Postal History'.

After the boom period of the early 1980s, the Society consolidated in the late 1980s. This was especially apparent to me as I moved away from Canberra for three years in 1981 and on my return found a much smaller Society, a new clubroom and auctions only at the third meeting of the month which have since been replaced by three or four auction nights during the year. Members were no longer as interested in decimal Australian stamps whose value had dropped rapidly after the investors left the market in the early 1980s. One major change in the late 1980s was the incorporation of the Society on 25 May 1988. The innovations of the 1970s and 1980s including the Journal, the newsletter, the library and the Conventions have continued as valuable services to our

members and philately in Canberra.

1990s

The 60th anniversary of the Society in 1992 was marked by a cocktail night at the Hyatt Canberra (the former Hotel Canberra where the first meeting of the Society had occurred) and by an evening of memorabilia.



Stamp group turns 60

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, which first met on the evening of November 9, 1932, at the Hotel Canberra, now the Hyatt Hotel.

Arrangements have been made to hold a special get-together of past and present members of the society at the Hyatt Hotel on Monday, November 9.

Subscriptions in 1932 were set at 5/- for ordinary members, 3/6 for associate members, and 1/- for junior members with a 2/6 application fee.

Meetings were held on a regular basis, and apart from a dormant period during

the latter part of the Second World War, the society has remained active.

The society's first 60 years has seen it grow from a small group of enthusiasts to one of the largest and strongest societies in Australia.

A number of events are planned to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the society including a special issue of its journal *Capital Philately* in November, and a historic display at a meeting late in 1992.

Those wishing to attend the function contact Judy Kennett on 251 6997 AH.

The 1990s saw the Society experiment with a branch in Tuggeranong, conduct junior meetings (in Tuggeranong run by Mathew Bass-Becking and at the Griffin Centre continuing the work of Allan Wells and Elspeth Bodley), commence a monthly stamp fair, establish a picture postcard branch (commenced by Chris Puttock and now ably chaired by Elspeth Bodley), commence focus group meetings and establish a Machin study group. The Postcard Branch and the Machin Study Group both commenced publishing newsletter, bringing many members from outside Canberra. These newsletters have now been incorporated into Capital Philately.

The 1990s also saw the introduction of the Australian Philatelic Order by the Australian Philatelic Federation. The first award dinner for the Order was held in Canberra at Parliament House in 1994. Many members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra attended. In 1995, Alan Salisbury became a member of the order. Ed Druce was made a Fellow in 1998 followed by Dingle Smith (Member, 1996) and Tom Frommer (Member, 2002).

Into the Twenty-First Century

The Twenty-First Century has seen the Society move onto the Web and its members increasingly using the web for contact with other philatelists, buying and selling and for information. The Society established its own website with Hans Karman as webmaster.

2001 saw the passing of Dr Ed Druce, a former president of the Society and one of Australia's best-known philatelists, well-known and respected by philatelists across the world. A member of the FIP Board and a former president of Australian Philatelic Federation, Ed had an extraordinarily wide range of collecting interests including postal stationery, postal history, social philately, aerophilately, frugal philately, thematics, one-frame, traditional and maximaphily. He also "invented" two new exhibiting classes - social philately and frugal. The former, first introduced at Austamp 90 in Canberra, became an experimental FIP class at Melbourne in 1999.

He judged on innumerable national and international exhibitions, often as Chair of the Jury. He had a passion to improve the standard of judging, leading and organising courses and seminars on many occasions. In 1998 he became a Fellow of the Australian Philatelic Order. In 1992, he became editor of the Exhibitor, the NAPE journal.

In September 2005, the Society moved into its new premises in the new Griffin Centre, across the road from the old Griffin Centre. The new Clubroom is located adjacent to the Society's meeting room and has allowed easier access to the Library.

The Society continues to strongly support Junior collectors, with a club run by Jenni Creagh at the National Dinosaur Museum, support provided to schools and Juniors' activities at Canberra Stampshow.

Although in the 21st century stamp collecting is not the mass hobby that it once was, the Society continues as a strong and vibrant club, continuing with its regular meetings, maintaining a strong library and publishing Capital Philately (including Postcards and Machines).

The Philatelic Society of Canberra has always 'pulled above its weight' in national philately. It continues to include members who are national and international exhibitors and judges (winning the Second Australasian Challenge), philatelic writers and has contributed two Presidents of the Australian Philatelic Federation and a member of the FIP board. One of the enduring traditions of the Society is that it caters for all stamp collectors and philatelists and its members are only too willing to provide assistance and advice to new collectors.

References

The First Year of the Society Ian McMahon Exhibition Catalogue National Philatelic Convention 1992

The Early Years of the Society Alan Salisbury Capital Philately Volume 11 November 1992 Pages 5-12

The Society: The Second Thirty Years Ian McMahon Capital Philately Volume 11 November 1992 Pages 13-17

70th Anniversary of the Philatelic Society of Canberra Ian McMahon Exhibition Catalogue Canberra Stampshow 2002

Footnote:

The Author is preparing the final part of the table of Office-bearers (from 1982 to the present) as well as a tabulation of those other members who, in recent years, have also held positions on the Society's Council. This final tabulation will be made available in a future issue of Capital Philately.

Table 2: Philatelic Society of Canberra Office-Bearers 1932-1981

Year	President	Vice-Presidents	Secretary	Treasurer	Exch Super	Librarian	Publicity Officer
1932 (9 Nov)	H Woodhouse	J Hayden C Finlay	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare		
1933 (8 Nov)	J Hayden	H W Woodhouse D Walker	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare	J W Shakespeare		
1934 (13 Nov)	H Deane	J Hayden H W Woodhouse	J W Shakespeare	E Harvie	J W Shakespeare		
1935 (9 Nov)	S Kingley	J Hayden H Deane	J W Shakespeare	N Edwards	J W Shakespeare		
1936 (10 Nov)	J Ewans	S Kingley L Barber	L Barber	S Kingley	J W Shakespeare		
1938 (8 Feb)	J Hayden	E Holliday E Harvie	L Barber	N Edwards	J Ewens		
1939 (13 Feb)	E Harvie	E Holliday S Dusting	L Barber	L Barber	J Ewens		
1941 (17 April)	E Holliday		J Dean	J Dean			
1946 (23 May)	E Holliday	E Harvie C Finlay	J Dean	J Dean			
1947 (6 Jan)	C Marriott	J W Shakespeare H Stephenson	J Dean	A Currie	J W Shakespeare		
1948 (8 Jan)	E Dockar	H Stephenson E Holliday	J Dean	C Marriott	C Marriott		
1949 (17 Jan)	E Dockar	H Stephenson J Dean	W Love	C Marriott	C Marriott		
1951 (10 Jan)	J Dean	J James	H W Love	H W Love	N Crawford		
1952 (9 Apr)	J Dean	J James J Douglas	H W Love	H W Love			
1956 (5 Oct)	J W Shakespeare	J Dean	W Parker	W Parker	F Rinaldi		

1957 (12 Sep)	J W Shakespeare	H Higginson R Hyeronimus	A D Haldane	C de Goede	F Rinaldi		W Menzies
1958 (11 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	A D Ross A D Haldane	H Higginson	C de Goede	C Murphy		
1959 (10 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury J Gregory	H Higginson	C de Goede	Doug Ross		
1960 (8 Sep)	H Higginson	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	W Gray	Doug Ross		
1961 (10 Sep)	H Higginson	B Kalivoan	A Salisbury	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	A D Haldane	
1962 (6 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	B Kalivoan	A Salisbury	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	F Martin	
1963 (5 Sep)	R Hyeronimus	C de Goode	A Salisbury	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	F Martin	
1964 (3 Sep)	A Salisbury	C de Goode	I Hay	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	W Reynolds	
1965 (2 Sep)	A Salisbury	F Adcock	I Hay	K Havawicke	Doug Ross	W Reynolds	
1966 (1 Sep)	C de Goode	A Salisbury	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	Doug Ross	W Reynolds	
1967 (5 Oct)	A Salisbury	J Duff	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	W Meyer	
1968 (6 Sep)	A Salisbury	J Duff	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	A Miller	
1969 (4 Sep)	R Simmons	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	A Miller	
1970 (3 Sep)	R Simmons	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	A Miller	A Salisbury
1971 (2 Sep)	A Salisbury	I Hay	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	Doug Ross	W Baskerville	A Salisbury
1972 (7 Sep)	A Salisbury	E Bodley	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	R Morgan	W Baskerville	W Wood
1973 (6 Sep)	D Brennan	E Bodley	R Hyeronimus	P Magi	R Morgan	W Baskerville	W Wood
1974 (5 Sep)	D Brennan	E Bodley	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	R Morgan	W Baskerville	W Wood
1975 (4 Sep)	S Wilson	B Darke	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	E Bodley
1976 (2 Sep)	S Wilson	B Darke	R Hyeronimus	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	E Bodley
1977 (1 Sep)	B Darke	E Druce	I Hay	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	D Smith
1978 (7 Sep)	B Darke	E Druce	T Hyland	A Salisbury	D Gray	W Baskerville	D Smith
1979 (5 Sep)	E Druce	E Bodley	T Hyland	A Salisbury	P Saxby	S Wilson	P Wood
1980 (4 Sep)	E Druce	E Bodley	T Hyland	A Salisbury	P Saxby	S Wilson	P Wood
1981 (3 Sep)	E Bodley	Dingle Smith	B Parker	P Wood	H Karman	R Lawton	P Breitkopf

Finding Material for Your Stamp Collection

Darryl Fuller

This article originally appeared in 1996 entitled “Can You Buy a Gold Medal?”¹ but I feel it is time to update it, since much has changed in the last 12 years - although much remains the same. New collectors and even experienced ones often ask – ‘where did you get that?’ – and I hope the following will be a guide to how you or any collector can go about putting together, if not a gold medal collection, then a satisfying one. There are three things you need to put together a satisfying collection – HARD WORK, DEDICATION and LUCK! But I must admit that the first two of these often lead to the last one.

It is hard work putting together a satisfying collection, be it a gold medal collection or simply something that you are proud to show others. However, the ideas contained in this article should assist you, as it is virtually impossible to put together a satisfying collection from one source.

Dedication is something most collectors have a lot of, with many being fanatics, much to the chagrin of their relatives. Most great collections are measured in decades not years. When I first penned this article I was in my late thirties, was in my second decade of collecting Leeward Islands postal stationery and still had a way to go I felt. I hadn’t achieved an exhibition standard I was happy with; I didn’t even have an example of all known Leeward Islands stationery. In the intervening decade or so I have achieved both a gold medal and I have an example of all known Leeward Islands stationery. Indeed I have achieved a collection that even I didn’t think possible.

This is where luck comes into collecting, but some of it is luck that you make yourself. In 1996 my collection had one obvious hole, that of King George VI postal stationery. I was missing some used material and had little proof material. This period is very challenging as all stationery collectors know. The material in question just didn’t turn up or does so slowly that it was unlikely that I could round out my collection. Little did I know that another collector of Leeward Islands stamps and stationery, whom I knew but didn’t correspond with, had decided to cut back his collection. To this end he decided to sell his KGVI postal stationery as one lot by assigning it to a well known English dealer to sell on consignment. As luck would have it two fellow collectors were talking to the dealer at an international exhibition and came across the lot. On their return to Australia they told me about it and I immediately asked the dealer for a photocopy. To cut a long story short, it filled every gap I had in KGVI, except one, and I agreed to buy it even though it was far more than I could afford. Moral – it pays to let others know what you collect.

The rest of this article will discuss the many ways to obtain material for your collection. When I first wrote this article the Internet was fairly new and not widely used for stamp collecting, although stamp collectors were early adopters. I don’t think I signed up to eBay until 1998. The Internet has changed many things but it is neither the be all and end all, nor should it be avoided in your quest. It is just one of many ways to get material.

Stamp Dealers – Much can be said of stamp dealers but the two most salient points are to cultivate your dealers and to remember that they are in business to make a profit. They have some distinct advantages over virtually all other ways of obtaining material. By forming a good trading relationship with a stamp dealer they will actively start to look for material to sell you. You must remember that dealers will look for new stock in other dealers’ stock, at auction and other collectors. Sometimes this will just be for stock and other times it will be for specific clients. However, you must remember that they may have more than one client for a stamp or cover. The trick is to become the first client they offer the item to. This is what I mean by cultivating your dealer. If you continually haggle about price, don’t respond to offers or simply don’t buy much, then chances are you will be well down the list when it comes to important material. In my earlier collecting days I was certainly top of at least one dealer’s list and because of this I virtually always had first pick of material for sale. If I really felt that something was priced too high I didn’t buy it, but it is also important to remember that dealers who specialise in one area usually know the value of an item and if the price is high it may be that the price they paid was high because

¹ “Can You Buy a Gold Medal Collection?” *Asia Pacific Exhibitor* Vol 9 No. 2 May 1996

they knew of its rarity.

Dealers have many advantages over auctions, for example, much better material (but not necessarily highly priced) never makes it to auction. It is more likely to be traded amongst dealers at exhibitions and shows. Some other advantages include - you can often return material more easily than auctions, you can view before you buy and many will let you pay off larger purchases over time. One final plus is that if they have sold you a significant percentage of your collection, they are likely to be serious buyers should you need or wish to sell your collection.

The Internet has changed the way many dealers operate and I must admit that I don't understand dealers who don't have at least an e-mail address. With computers, scanners, e-mail and instant payment methods it is possible to for a dealer to send off a scan and have a response and payment back from a collector within hours. This must surely improve cash flow. However, I would advise anyone that collects to only deal with dealers who are members of reputable dealer organisations. In Australia this is the Australian Philatelic Traders Association (APTA) which is at www.apta.com.au

Figure 1. Typical dealer price list for postal history

Dealer's Lists – Private treaty lists and direct sale lists are an obvious source of material and it can be important to get onto dealers' mailing lists. Sometimes dealers hold back better material for their occasional direct sales lists. Figure 1 illustrates a specialist postal history dealer's direct sale list. One of these items may be just the thing you are after and the one thing I have learnt is that it is important to respond quickly to these offers, as most items are one-offs.

Auctions – There is a huge range of auctions, both public and postal (I will discuss eBay separately).

They are many collectors' chief source of material. Auctions can range from small club auctions to specialist society auctions through small dealer auctions up to the large international auction houses. A lot could be written about auctions and auctioneers but the best advice I can give is to ask other collectors, or if it is a local public auction attend a few before considering bidding. It is a sad fact of life that not all auctioneers are trustworthy when it comes to buying or selling, while some set very high estimates and have over generous descriptions. I worked for a well-known stamp auctioneer for a while and I understand the high costs that arise in selling stamps, but I would warn you to check out the additional charges that some auction houses add onto costs these days. A couple of auction houses I deal with not only add on the 15% buyers commission, but a \$US charge per lot, postage and packing, and then add on an insurance charge which seems to always round it out to an even dollar amount. So for one \$100 bid it may end up costing me another \$25-30 on top! Yes auctions are an important source of material but sometimes a direct transaction with a stamp dealer looks more attractive.

Specialist Societies – A must for anyone with a special interest, you will usually find other collectors with a similar interest to you. They are not only a source of information, but also a place to make friendships usually around the world. Many can be a good source of material either through their auctions or circuits if they have

	CHATEAUGUARD Ovals DE 10 5 in red pencil on the front, with receiving c.d.s.	£350
	CAYMAN ISLANDS	
73	1920 1d stationery envelope to New York uprated single 1d and a 1/2d stationery cut out tied "GEORGETOWN" c.d.s. 'NO 9 1920'	£350
74	1910 1d stationery envelope to Kent cancelled "GEORGETOWN" c.d.s. 'SP 25 10' Receiving c.d.s. on the reverse.	£225
75	1927 1d stationery envelope uprated 1d & 11/2d adhesives paying registration fee addressed to Edinburgh tied "CAYMAN IS GEORGETOWN" c.d.s. 'DE 14 1927'	£275
	CEYLON	
76	1853 envelope to London 'Via Marseilles' rared '2/3' in manuscript. Unframed "NUWERE ELIYA" cachet on the back struck in black with manuscript date '3 MAY'	£125
77	1892 5c stationery envelope addressed to Essex uprated horizontal pairs 2c '3c' on 'FOUR CENTS' tied "COLOMBO A" in black oval straight line of bars duplex "DE 21 92"	£90
	COOK ISLANDS	
78	1896 1d stationery postcard addressed to Leicester uprated 11/2d tied "COOK ISLANDS/RAROTONGA" c.d.s. '25 JUL 96' "AUCKLAND" transit c.d.s. on the obverse.	£150
79	1938 envelope from London to Cook Islands on arrival "RAROTONGA" receiving c.d.s. '18 NO 38' on the front "RETURN TO SENDER" and "UNCLAIMED" both struck in green on the front.	£65
	CYPRUS	
80	1894 OHMS' stampless 'Avis de Reception' registered envelope to the USA cancelled "LIMASSOL OFFICIAL PAID" c.d.s. 'AU 7 94' "R" in oval and "REGISTERED CYPRUS" d/s all struck in red on the front. "LONDON" hooded transit d/s Scarce 'A.R.' envelope.	£950
81	1922 '2 PIATRES' on 'ONE PIASTRE' stationery postcard to Paris cancelled "LIMASSOL" squared circle d/s. Scarce commercial usage.	£175
82	1938 4pi KGV1 registered stationery envelope size H unused.	£45
	FALKLAND ISLANDS	
83	1889 Penny Halfpenny stationery postcard from Government House to Government House Gibraltar cancelled black cork "FALKLAND ISLANDS" c.d.s. on the obverse 'MR 25 1889' receiving c.d.s. on the front. A rare destination for Falklands mail.	£595
84	1920 Formula registered stationery envelope size F to Western Australia franked 1/- overprinted 'WAR TAX' tied "FALKLAND ISLANDS" c.d.s. '23 JU 20' "REGISTERED LONDON" transit d/s Receiving c.d.s. on the reverse. Scarce destination.	£550

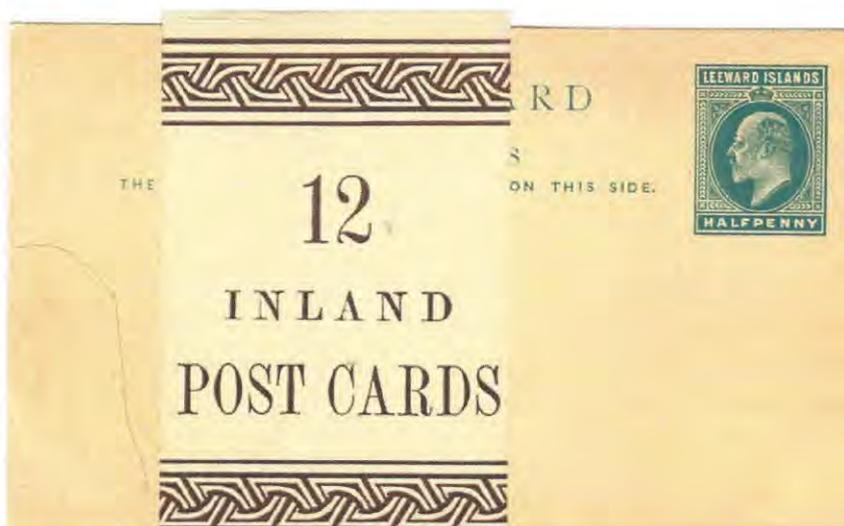
one, or by advertising in the journal. Again the Internet can be a good place to look for specialist societies or ask your fellow collectors.

Fellow Collectors – Don't be shy in letting your fellow collectors know of your interests, no matter how esoteric. You will just as likely run into a fellow specialist or they will know someone with a similar interest. This network of people starts to expand and soon you have a number of people looking for material for you. Some may even start buying material for you when they see it, especially if it is only a dollar or two. But in any case they will inform you of material they have seen or let a dealer know that you are interested in a particular area. As discussed earlier in this article, this is the reason that I managed to get some very important material for my own collection. You can't do it all on your own.

Mail Outs to Dealers – You can obtain a list of dealers either from a stamp magazine or dealer association. I have tried this and written to all the dealers I thought might have something of interest to me. However, experience has shown me that this may not always be fruitful. I once did this to all the US dealers who were members of the American Philatelic Society, including three who specialised in Leeward Islands and the net response was not a single reply. This may have been because I was so far down the specialisation track that they had nothing to show me, so I suggest you try this when starting a new specialisation. However, I also believe that e-mail, with its faster and easier response times, is likely to lead to more responses.

Philatelic Magazines – There are fewer stamp magazines than there once were but they can still be a useful resource. Check all the advertisements not just for items of interest but for dealers who may have something of interest. For example, many postal history dealers may also have postal stationery but not bother advertising it. Write and ask and you just never know. The hit rate for this method is not always high but with perseverance it can pay off. It also helps if you give the dealer as much information as you can. Don't simply write and say you collect Australia for example – how do they respond? Let them know you collect Australian KGVI errors and in particular need the following ... You are far more likely to get a response.

Figure 2. Leeward Island KEVII ½d Postcard complete with wrapper band



I have used stamp magazines to obtain dealers names to write out to and had some surprising success. Figure 2 is a good example of this. It is a postcard wrapper that was used to hold a dozen postal stationery cards for transit to a post office from the printer and for stock control. They are rarely seen and few have survived. I managed to obtain this by writing to an Italian dealer and asking for Leeward Islands postal stationery. It was forlorn hope I thought but it was only costing a postage stamp. To my surprise I received a reply with photocopies of a few mint stationery items, including this KEVII ½ d postcard with wrapper for £3. The wrapper was the first I had seen and was a good example of creating your own luck.

Advertise – If you can't find what you need advertise to swap or buy material. The response rate from a single advertisement in a magazine can be low to zero, so it pays to look for better methods such as magazines that take multiple insertions at relatively low cost, such as the American Philatelist (see www.aps.org). The Internet is also a great way to advertise whether it is a bulletin board, specialised site, eBay or even your own webpage. I haven't used them all but anything that increases your spread is likely to lead to some useful material.

Friends – Don't be afraid to let non-philatelic friends know of your interests. They may surprise you and come up with material from their home country or have a supply from work. Philately is not a disease, not everyone

will think of you as strange, even if you are! Remember, about 8% of Australians collect stamps and as many as one in four have at some time in their life. I regularly have people drop off stamps to me which comes up with some useful postmarks.

Stamp Shows – These are a great source of not just material but contacts as well. Any collector who doesn't attend stamp shows, especially the larger ones in their own area, is missing an opportunity that is hard to duplicate. Figure 3 is a picture I took at the international exhibition in Washington DC in 2006. It shows a small part of the exhibition which was the best I have attended. It offered everything from nearly 8,000 frames of displays, hundreds of dealers, dozens of society tables and a range of



Figure 3. Part of the Washington 2006 Exhibition hall

society meetings and other events that could have kept you busy all day every day. You could find information, find material for your collection and find contacts. It had everything and every collector should try to get to an international exhibition if they can. The next one in Australia is in 2013 in Melbourne and should not be missed.

It always pays to look through dealers' boxes even if you don't think there will be much of interest. It can be fun and if nothing else gives you an idea, over time, what is truly scarce or rare. Always ask a dealer if they have what you are interested in, even if you think they won't. Too many collectors won't tell a dealer what they collect and because of this miss out on important items. I remember thinking back at Australia 99 that a certain dealer wouldn't have anything for me but on the last day I asked him. Up pops about 6 items of Leeward Islands postal stationery including a postcard used from Montserrat to Russia (a rare destination) in 1901 and the only known commercially used copy of a ½d KGVI reply paid card. I would have missed both if I hadn't asked.

It also helps to prepare for exhibitions if you are attending. Dealers can't bring all their stock but if they know they have someone interested they will bring it, so try to find out which dealers are attending a show and write to them. This is much easier these days with the Internet and e-mail. If you can't attend an exhibition try to get the catalogue which will list dealers attending. If it is a specialised exhibition you may find a specialist dealer this way. One final thing, prepare a piece of paper with your contact details and interests and leave it with dealers at exhibitions – you never know what offers may wend their way to your door.

Circuit Books – A good source of material when you are starting collecting with many specialist societies also running specialist circuit books. These can be a great source of material and a way to generate a little extra cash by selling your own duplicates. But be aware that they can be a slow way to sell, especially if sent around the world.

Buy Bulk Material – If you are specialising in one stamp issue or postmarks then bulk material (or kiloware) can be a great source. However, it is important to ask other collectors about the source and quality of material, to ensure it is truly unsorted. Figure 4 illustrates some high quality recent kiloware. Having worked in the trade I know that unsorted



Figure 4. Better quality kiloware

bulk material that is 40-100 years old tends to sell for good prices, but may be exactly what you need. I once purchased a lot of bulk South Australian stamps that were all in pairs as torn off envelopes. It was from the 1890s to 1900s and cost me \$200 in 1984 for probably 2 kilograms. It contained a vast quantity of South Australian squared circle postmarks from which I put together a collection that included many scarce to rare postmarks, including four not previously recorded. I sold the collection for \$1,500 after putting in a lot of effort to sort the stamps. I also sold the spares for about what I paid for the original material.

Approvals – These are now less common than they once were, but some dealers still do this and if the dealer specialises in one particular area there are some advantages to approvals. It allows you to view material at home thus allowing you to compare material with what you have. You only buy the material you need and can fill gaps that can be hard to fill in other ways. You can also have the material sent when it suits you and at a level that you know you can afford. In the long run you may pick up bargains because of your knowledge and ability to compare, however, in general approvals are one of the more expensive ways of obtaining stamps but may suit you if you have no other way of getting to see specialist material. Many of us have also not purchased something at a dealer because we thought we had it, only to discover at home that we didn't! This is less likely with approvals.

Exchange Partners – Find an exchange partner in the country that you are interested in and swap material. This is a very useful way to get more modern material, particularly used stamps and stationery. However, care is needed and it is obvious that it takes time to develop good swap arrangements.

Postal Administrations – If your interest is modern material then this is an obvious source. However, some are not easy to deal with and sometimes you need to use a new issue dealer instead. Also, not everything is sold through philatelic bureaus – think of the Papua New Guinea emergency overprints. One final point – don't assume that you will be able to get it later from a local dealer as fewer and fewer dealers are keeping good stocks of modern material due to high overheads.

Large One Country Collections – this may be a collection from a dealer, auction or even a large packet from a dealer who sells packets. This is more a hint to new collectors than a specific way of getting new material. It is far better to save up your \$20 a week and spend a \$1000 on a good collection than buying items piecemeal. You not only save money but you often get specialised knowledge, especially if the collection is on the original pages. Dealers are often happy for a quick turnover, rather than having to split up a collection.

Correspond/Offer to Help – Correspond with your fellow collectors, especially in specialist societies. It is even easier with e-mail. Their swaps may be just what you need. Offer to help with projects or provide information, particularly on larger undertakings such as monographs. By helping to review a section of a monograph I ended up with a copy of a very scarce Leeward island stationery item. The editor of the monograph on Antigua had at one time also collected Leeward Islands' stationery, but had sold off all but one item. This was the example of record of an item I had never seen. He sold it to me for the price he had paid 15 years earlier. Was it luck? I don't think so; it was just part of what you need to do to put together a good collection.

Publish – It is not hard to start writing small snippets of information for publication. Editors are always desperate – I know! From here you can move to larger articles and even books, or publish on the web which is a cheap way to get out there. You will start to get known and more importantly other collectors (and even dealers) will start to seek you out. This is the way you start to get that hard to find material because it is important to remember that so much material is never traded any other way than between specialists.

Non-philatelic Sources – Secondhand dealers and bookshops often sell postcards and related ephemera. Check them out, you will be surprised what you will find sometimes that can add that extra oomph to a collection.

Create Your Own – If you can't find a used example create your own by sending it to yourself or a friend. Correct usage in period, albeit philatelic, is better than none at all. This is especially true of postal stationery which can be hard to get. A good example of this is the Australian international express envelopes which are valid for use in Norfolk Island, except they add Norfolk Island stamps to cover the postage. Try to get one used

in this manner – it would be a fluke, but if you know someone there and arrange a usage then you have created something that in 50 years will be considered rare even as a philatelic usage.

eBay – this is a topic that requires a whole article and I will produce one in a later issue but it is an important source of material. Stamp collectors have taken to eBay and I believe that stamps are the third most traded item. eBay is a good source of moderately priced material that in the past would have never made a lot in an auction. This has been good for buyers but in my opinion has pushed down the average value of stamps. The same cannot be said of covers, revenues and other specialist material. These often go for far higher prices than a seller may have expected but often the specialist is glad to get the item. That is not to say that there aren't bargains out there. I recently purchased the third known used copy of a Leeward Islands postal stationery wrapper on eBay which was in a mixed lot. It cost me less than 3% of the price I paid for the first copy I purchased.

However, there are crooks on eBay and if something appears too good to be true then it probably is. Take care on eBay and you will be rewarded but it pays to do your research and know your field before using eBay extensively. It can be rewarding and a great source of material that is virtually impossible to find elsewhere. The other thing about stamp collectors and eBay is that there are groups who actively chase down the crooks and try to get them removed. They have had some notable success at this.

I hope you will get some useful ideas from this overview of ways to get material, but having tried them all I know they work and I wouldn't be where I was today with some fine collections, without them.

French Indo-China Change of Currency: a Philatelic Conundrum

Paul Barsdell

A perusal of a catalogue of French Indo-China stamps will show that, in early 1919, a set of surcharged stamps was issued in a new currency. No longer were the stamps denominated in French centimes and francs but in the local currency of cents and piastres. Although French India changed its currency a few years later, other French colonies and territories continued to use centimes and francs.

Changing currency is by no means an uncommon phenomenon. Many stamp issuing entities have, over the years, changed the currency in which their stamps have been denominated. Australia did it in 1966. What happened, therefore, to make Indo-China different to most of these currency changes as they relate to stamps?

It is not the stamps but the postal history of Indo-China during the period 1919 to 1922 that is interesting. Without knowing what happened, it would be difficult, if not impossible, to understand the rates on contemporary correspondence.

Prior to 1919, Indo-China stamps were denominated in French centimes and francs but they were bought over the post office counter in the local currency of cents and piastres at a fixed rate of exchange between the two currencies. During the latter part of World War I, the piastre appreciated strongly against the franc, which with a fixed rate of exchange made the purchase of stamps increasingly expensive. It got to the point where some enterprising people sent unfranked letters to France as it was cheaper to pay the postage due in France than to pay for the stamps in Indo-China. It finally reached a point where government authorities had to act.

Before we proceed, some explanation about postal rates would help put things into context. There were military and civilian rates in Indo-China but, for our purposes, we need only to consider civilian rates. Since 1899, rates within the French community (within colonies: between colonies and France; and inter-colonial mail) were based on the internal rates applying in France. Mail sent outside of the French community was subject to the higher foreign or Universal Postal Union (UPU) rates. A similar two-tier system applied within the British Commonwealth although there were differences in the detail between the two systems.

On 1 January 1917, the French community base letter rate was increased from 10 to 15 centimes while the UPU base letter rate remained at 25 centimes. The French community postcard rate was also increased from 10 to

15 centimes but, remarkably, the UPU rate was maintained at 10 centimes. The registration fee for all mail continued to be 25 centimes. These, then, were the principal rates applying to civilian mail immediately before currency changes were introduced in Indo-China.

As each element of the postal changes is explained, it will be illustrated by a cover to avoid any misunderstanding.

In January 1919, the current 1907 definitive set was surcharged in cents and piastres. The new surcharged values reflected as closely as possible the exchange rate with France of two-and-a-half centimes to one cent. Therefore, the 15 centimes value for the French community base letter rate became 6 cents, the 25 centimes value for both the UPU base letter rate and the registration fee became 10 cents. In Figure 1, on the February 1920 cover, the surcharged values total 16 cents: 6 cents base letter rate to France and 10 cents registration fee.



Figure 1

After the introduction of the surcharged stamps, previously issued stamps and postal stationery were still valid for the rates for which they were issued. In Figure 2, the 15 centimes postal stationery envelope was used in July 1920 for the base letter rate to France (6 cents in the new currency) while the additional 10 cents on 25 centimes stamp paid the new 10 cents registration fee.

In about October 1920, the Colonial Government in Indo-China created a new currency which in effect doubled the value of the piastre. As part of this arrangement, the value



Figure 2

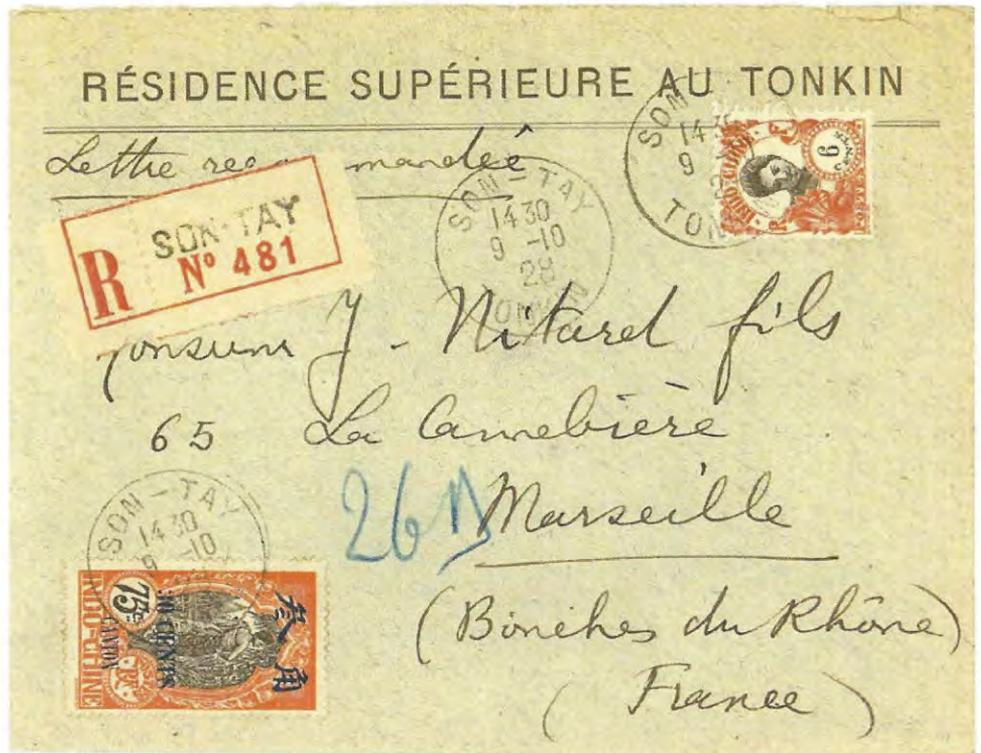
of wages and goods was halved. The surcharged postage stamps were now issued at half of their surcharged face values. So, a 2 cents on 5 centimes stamp was now valued at 1 cent and was sold at that price at post offices.

At about the same time, postage rates were revised. The French community base letter rate was reduced from 6 to 5 cents; the UPU base letter rate remained at 10 cents; and the registration fee was reduced from 10 to 7 cents. In addition, an Indo-China local base letter rate of 4 cents was introduced. These new

rates applied until 23 September 1925.

The surcharged stamps of 1919 continued to be treated as having half the surcharged value for as long as they were used. When the 1922 definitive set was issued in new currency, its stamps were treated at face value. So, in Figure 3, on a 1928 registered cover to France, the 30 cents on 75 centimes surcharged stamp has to be halved (15 cents), which pays the 15 cents registration fee (increased in 1925) while the 6 cents stamp of 1922 pays the 6 cents base letter rate to France (also increased from 5 cents in 1925).

Figure 3



Another interesting feature of the surcharged stamp on Figure 3 is that it was overprinted "Canton", one of the Indo-China post offices in China. All the Indo-China post offices in China issued surcharged stamps in 1919 in line with the stamps of Indo-China. These stamps were quite often used in Indo-China.

Figure 4 is a 1927 registered cover to India also using a combination of surcharged stamps with one denominated in the new currency. After halving the value of the surcharged stamps, the total franking is 31 cents. As mentioned above, the registration fee was 15 cents, the first weight level for the UPU letter rate was 10 cents and subsequent weight levels per 20 grams were 6 cents. This cover was therefore rated at the second weight level.

Figure 4



Figure 5 is an interesting postal stationery cover in many respects but I will confine my comments to one. It raises a problem – how were stamps and postal stationery in old currency treated after the issue in April 1922 of the definitive set in new currency. The uprated 15 centimes stationery cover used internally in July 1922 in Figure 5 has three additional surcharged stamps with surcharges totalling 2 cents (valued 1 cent after halving). In 1922, the base letter rate for a cover sent anywhere within Indo-China was 4 cents. After taking account of the three additional stamps on the cover, that means the 15 centimes imprinted stamp made up the remaining 3 cents needed for the internal base letter rate. Either the 15 centimes was converted to 6 cents and then halved or, as the exchange rate in 1922 was 5 centimes to 1 cent, the 15 centimes imprint was divided by 5 to arrive at 3 cents. Either way, it shows that this postal stationery cover franked in centimes was still accepted by postal authorities.

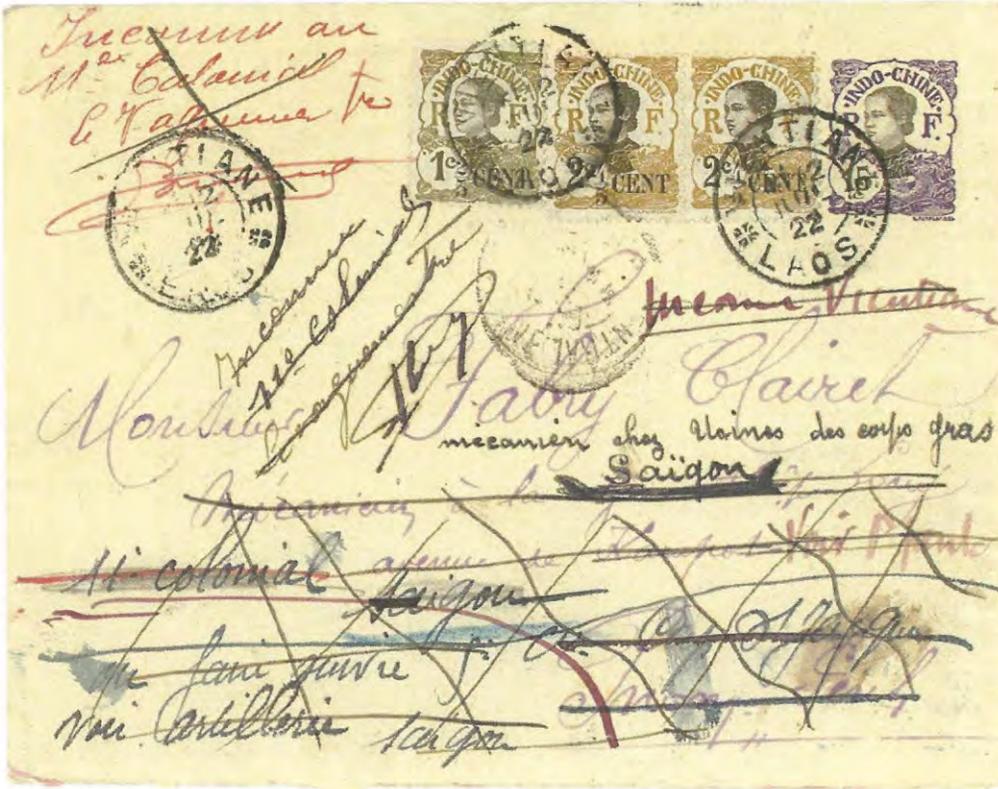


Figure 5

The same principles were applied to the surcharged 1919 postage due set. Before October 1920, the value of each stamp for postage purposes was taken at the face value of the surcharge but in October 1920, that value was halved. In Figure 6, the 1919 Straits Settlements cover franked 8 cents was underpaid 2 cents which, with penalty, required 4 cents postage due to be paid in Indo-China. As the Straits dollar and the Indo-China piastre were at par at this time, a 4 cents surcharged stamp was affixed to the cover.



Figure 6

The fun of collecting this period is to find the various combinations and permutations of surcharged and unsurcharged stamps as well as of different rates, including those for higher weight levels. Indo-China stamps overprinted and surcharged for use in China are not common and covers at rates above base letter rate are quite scarce. So, too, are surcharged postage due covers.

A Favourite Cover

Darryl Fuller

The cover illustrated is from my collection of worldwide Jusqu'a airmail covers. For those who don't know, jusqu'a is French for 'as far as' and was used on early airmail covers to indicate that the letter was to travel part way by air and then go into the regular mail system. There are a wide range of ways of indicating this from handwritten notations to explicit handstamps such as "Jusqu'a Londres". However, in addition to this the postal system also wanted to indicate that the airmail journey was finished. To do this they often cancelled the airmail label with lines, bars or crosses. The most commonly seen are the parallel red bars used in London. The cover below has a black cross applied to the airmail label that was applied in Budapest in the period 1936-1939,

mainly on mail from the Far East via KLM. In this case the letter travelled from Teheran to Bagdad, possibly by overland transport and was placed in the airmail system at Bagdad where it travelled to Budapest by air. The label was then cancelled and the letter put in the normal mail system for delivery to Prague.

What I particular like about this cover is its eye appeal which is great for a completely commercial cover. The Iranian stamps of the period are very colourful and look great on cover. It has appropriate backstamps for its journey, an interesting Arabic airmail label, the Jusqu'a cross and of course the important red handstamp "Air-mail VIA BAGDAD". It may not be the rarest or most important cover in my collection but it is a beautiful cover that shows you that relatively modern postal history can be attractive, and in this case not expensive.

Figure: 1939 Iranian Airmail Cover to Czechoslovakia.



Some Ideas for Assembling a Collection

Bruce Parker

This article is intended to give collectors (old and new) some ideas. What to do with accumulations your family calls “junk” (or worse), and how to start putting together a collection, whether for personal enjoyment or public exhibition (whether as a display to other collectors or competitively).

My only presumption is that you have one or more drawers or shoeboxes of philatelic material. If you are starting from scratch, then you may need to define your aims and obtain some material before you follow my suggested methods. You may also have a lot of related material particularly if you or your antecedents have been “bower birds”. If you only have stamps in stock books then some of what I have to say may be superfluous.

If you have, as I have had, drawers and boxes full of auction lots, new issues from dealers and assorted associated items, then you may first need to get a general overview of what you have. In my case, as well as the assorted philatelic material (it’s never “junk” in spite of what the family may say), I also have a lot of family archival material including early letters and documents. I would suggest that before you even start a preliminary run through your material (and I guess you have some idea of content in the back of your mind even if you got the material (never “junk”) eons ago, you make some brief notes of what you think you may have. Family archival material (and early postal history items) may need some conservational action – at least wrap them in archival tissue or place in Mylar envelopes

You will then need to start sorting your material – remember that old family archival material is precious to all your family and to future generations. Depending on the type(s) of material you have you may need to get some smallish storage containers to sort into. I have found that “The Reject Shop” has two and five litre shallow (nearly A4 size) plastic boxes which are ideal for small items, larger boxes of A4 size are also useful. Select some standard sizes of boxes so you can stack them. If you have a lot of recent to modern covers then get some boxes which will take them vertically and make dividers out of heavy card. While stock books are useful if you have a lot of duplicate material or a single run of issues from a single country, I find that stock sheets are much more useful – my preference is for the Lighthouse “Vario” sheet rather than the “Hagner” for two reasons – it is double sided, and the strips are fastened to the backing sheet at the ends, so single stamps don’t fall out! Several sizes are useful – the one and two strip sheets are ideal for covers, five sheet strips allow you to approximate a page layout while the six, seven and eight strip sheets are ideal for storing stamps. You will need ring binders for the stock sheets – I prefer 3 rings to 2 rings as the pages sit better. I don’t know whether they are still available, but I have some sorting trays – a plastic tray with 25 compartments, packed in a heavy cardboard box – very useful for dealing with bulk washed material.

Having got some storage/sorting items to hand, make a first pass through a box of your material to see what you have – and remember that every time you go through a box do some sorting and classifying as well as making some brief notes of the contents. If all your “Philatelic Material” is in stock books, then the sorting and classifying is somewhat easier – stock sheets will still be a help in bringing countries or themes/topics together. Keep doing this sorting, classifying and listing your material until you have a good idea of what is there, and, hopefully, have some idea of what to do with it. There is every likelihood that you will find some items which do not fit in with your (philatelic) thoughts for the future; unless you have had a large chequebook, this surplus material may not be particularly valuable, nevertheless, it may well be useful to another collector – The Society’s Auction Nights may be the place to dispose of them! Remember, however, that you should not dispose of any family archive related material – it may well be useful to a future family historian or genealogist – and, in this case, you are only the present custodian.

Now that you have some idea of what you have, you need to decide what to do with it! Can you classify some (or all) of your material in to one of the standard philatelic categories of Traditional (stamps as issued and used); Thematic/Topical (stamps covers etc with a theme or topic – birds, bridges, cities etc); Airmail; Postal Stationery (Officially issued envelopes, postal cards, aerogrammes etc); Postal History (rates, routes etc)? Do you have picture postcards? If you have a lot of non-stamp material as well as first day covers, used or unused picture postcards, newspaper (etc) cuttings, family documents you may be heading towards “Open” or “Social Philately”!

Now, I’m not an exponent or particularly knowledgeable on thematic collecting to exhibition rules, but before you can get to that stage, you need to start arranging your material to tell something of the story of the topic – this is where the stock sheets come in. You can arrange and re-arrange your material to your heart’s content without the need of a single stamp hinge! You can put little paper notes to indicate what you are lacking – thus getting to form a “Wants List”.

If you are starting a “traditional” collection, then there is no doubt that a (loose-leaf) printed set of pages is a good starting point. They will tell you what has been issued (at least in a face different layout), but will probably give you perforation and watermark varieties as well. There are a number of publishers who produce these pages (often in a hinge-less version as well as plain pages for hinging your stamps). There are also web-sites providing down-loadable pages for any country and period either free or for a small annual subscription. These publishers use a range of catalogues as their guidelines, so it is necessary for you to be familiar with the catalogues (I’ll say more on catalogues shortly, although some readers may remember a short piece I wrote for *Capital Philately* recently). Once you want to go past the initial “catalogue listing”, you will need to look for specialist literature including catalogues.

If your interests lie with Postal Stationery, then the remarks in the previous paragraph are fairly relevant, except that there are no (and I bet someone will prove me wrong) pre-printed albums; storage and display is less easy,

aerogrammes will need to be folded (carefully) – all-in-all this is a somewhat bulkier collecting area. One and 2-strip stock sheets are useful, as are small storage boxes.

Airmails and Postal History generally are collections of covers – the 2-strip stock sheet is a good starting point and you can move the pages around as you develop your story.

Social and Open as well as the Family Archives can include a wide range of philatelic and non-philatelic material (not “junk”). If you are moving towards these topics (although the Family Archive really defines itself) then you need to select your topic around your material, remembering that for a collection (as opposed to a competitive exhibit) there are no rules. You need to know your subject and it may be that you need to establish a small reference library - I had to do this when I started my postcard collection of Sydney and the Harbour – it was amazing the inconsistencies in dates between authors. As an example, pictures of Circular Quay with electric trams dated in the 1890s when the first test run of electric trams across The Quay was on 25 October 1899; the Pitt/Castlereagh Street line opened in December 1901.

Ancillary material such as posters, tickets, press clippings etc all help with the story and are often also appropriate in airmail collections. Also appropriate are covers (including First Day) with relevant cancellations. It should go without saying that relevant postal stationery and picture postcards can also take their place in these collections. Remember to look at the addressee and the message on postcards as well as the picture, the stamp(s) and cancellation(s).

In addition to non-philatelic reference books, it goes without saying that philatelic reference material is also a necessity. If you have printed album pages prepared using a catalogue you are not familiar with then you must have your own reference catalogue. For example, the “album pages” website uses Scott catalogue numbers which, from my experience with British West Indies, put issues in a different chronological sequence to Stanley Gibbons, and add or omit particular stamps. I make no pronouncement here on who is right!

Once you have sorted and identified your material you can start to put it in some semblance of order. If you are heading down the “Traditional” lines – stamps or stationery then chronological order is normal. The thematicists lay down a number of rules if you are to exhibit, but if your collection is for pleasure then make yourself some guidelines to follow. The same can be said of the Open and Social “persuasions”. But here you can follow your heart to a great extent even if you later wish to exhibit. Prepare yourself a plan or a flowchart and use your stock sheets to order your material and to show where you have gaps.

As an example, I have accumulated a lot of material relating to Sydney and its settlement and development. This could be presented in the following flow:

Define the geographic area to be covered;

Pre 1788 - there are postcards and prints – and originals too – of the original inhabitants at the time of white settlement. 1988 bicentenary material is also useful here, remember the earlier explorers;

Early settlement – again postcards of early paintings, pre-stamp letters, newspapers;

First stamps (need a good chequebook here!) later stamps for centenary in 1888, correspondence etc (the family archives start to kick-in here), early explorers, expansion of settlement;

Up to 1900 expansion of city, industrialisation, Navy and Army – now into the picture postcard era (much useful material), Sudan and Boer Wars;

The twentieth century – perhaps split it into 10 or 20 year segments for outline;

The present day - the problem here will be to decide what not to use!

I hope this stirs you to start on those boxes and the “bottom drawer” – I did a competitive one-framer with this title once and it was well received – what a way to display all those unrelated little bits. So, start sorting and listing (and bring some of your “Not wanted for my collection” material to our next Auction Night in May).

PASTCARDS

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COLLECTING PICTURE POSTCARDS

Elsbeth Bodley

Why collect postcards? Sometimes philatelists only look at the back of the card for postmarks, or postal history



Fig. 1. Top right: manuscript cancellation; centre: instructional marking; bottom left: a much travelled cover.

aspects of rates, routes and markings (Fig.1). Sometimes it is an interest in a particular place, maybe the country town one knew as a child (Fig. 2) or the cards provide illustrations for another interest such as shipping or trams, trains, and so on. And sometime it is for their beauty or appeal and for a glimpse into history (Fig. 3).

Fig. 2. Real photograph, Kendall Street, Cowra, NSW, with the Lachlan River in flood, unused so no date.





Fig. 3.
Edwardian "fantasy" card,
no publisher or date, message
written on back.

The forerunners of picture postcards were obviously the postal stationery cards issued by the postal administrations with a printed "stamp" and a blank side for the message. It is usually accepted that the first such postal card appeared in Austria in October 1869 but in 1861 a private firm in Philadelphia produced a similar card, with only a printed square where a postage stamp was to be affixed. The first official British postal card came out in October 1870 with great success and half a million cards passed through St Martin Le Grand's Post Office on the first day alone (Fig. 4). A new postage rate of a halfpenny was introduced at the same time, which would have assisted their popularity.



Fig. 4. Great Britain's first
post card, issued by the Post
Office in 1870. The back of
this one has been printed
with advertising, leaving a
small space in the centre for
the written message. The
Anglo-Colonial Letter Co.
Limited prepared these and
sold them @ 3 for one penny,
the advertising subsidising the
reduced cost.

<p>George Powell, STATIONER & PRINTER, 159 Aldersgate st., 4 Moorfields, 110 London Wall, LONDON, E.C.</p> <p>SAFETY HOUSEHOLD STEPS PATENT. Princess Christian writes: 'They are very useful and good.' When opened a hand- rail comes automatically into position on both sides. Light, Strong, Cheap. Box on Top for Tools. Price Lists from OSBORNE & CO., 65, St. Thomas Rd., Finsbury Park, London, N.</p>	<p>Freemason's Apron Boxes.</p> <p>H. BIGGS & CO., WHOLESALE CASH, DEEDS, DESPATCH,</p>	<p>UNIFORM, AND AIR-TIGHT BOX MANUFACTURERS. Price Lists on application. 32, Stamford St., London, S.E.</p>	<p>A BEAUTIFUL FIGURE. All Ladies of imperfect figure should send stamped address for full instructions (FREE). "How to produce that de- velopment of form and bust which is so essential to female beauty." C. RANDALL & CO., 164, Strand, LONDON, W.C.</p>
	<p>Issue No. 14. Rd. No. 114,417.] The Anglo-Colonial Letter Co., Limited, /3 for 1d. For 10,000.</p>		
<p>Offices—1, South John-st., Liverpool; 5, Agar-st., Strand, London, W.C.</p> <p>EDGAR & LUCAS, COAL AND COKE MERCHANTS, Chief Office—18, MILBANK ST., WESTMINSTER, S.W. And Coal Exchange, Lower Thames Street. Established 1763.</p>			

The first picture postcard is thought to be one produced in 1889 by a French newspaper at the time of the Paris Universal Exposition and had a small vignette of the then-new Eiffel Tower. The following year the British Post Office issued a

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special card with a picture of the Eddystone Lighthouse, which could be posted at the Royal Naval Exhibition. One of the earliest illustrated postcards published in Australia was an Official Souvenir of the 1894 Tasmanian International Exhibition (Fig. 5).

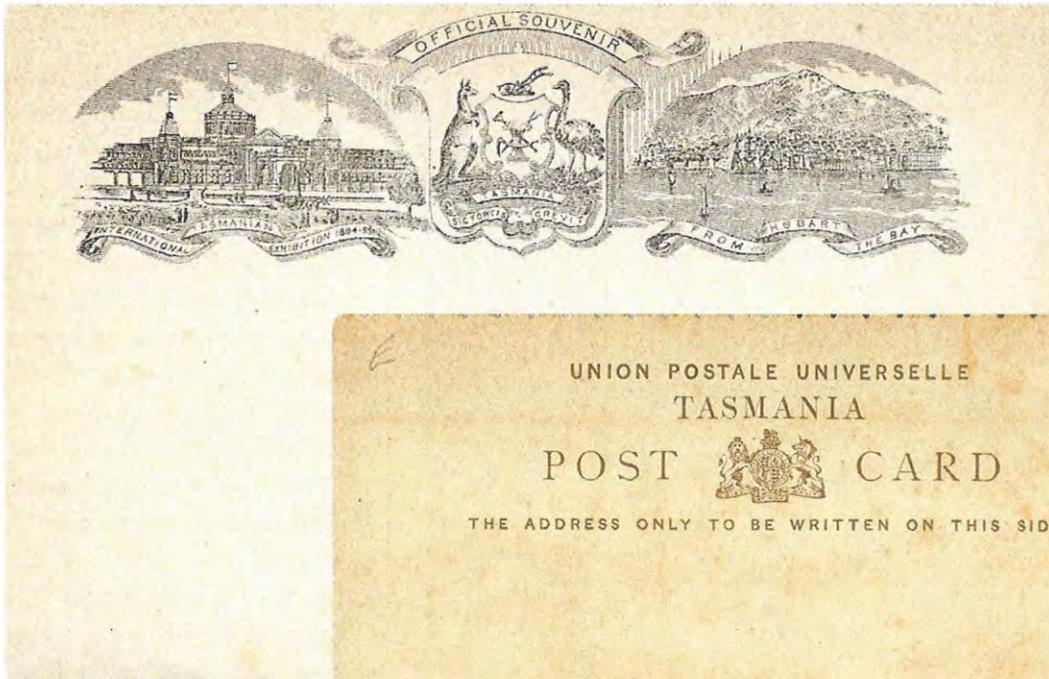


Fig. 5. Tasmanian International Exhibition 1894-95, one half of a reply card, but unused. (both sides)

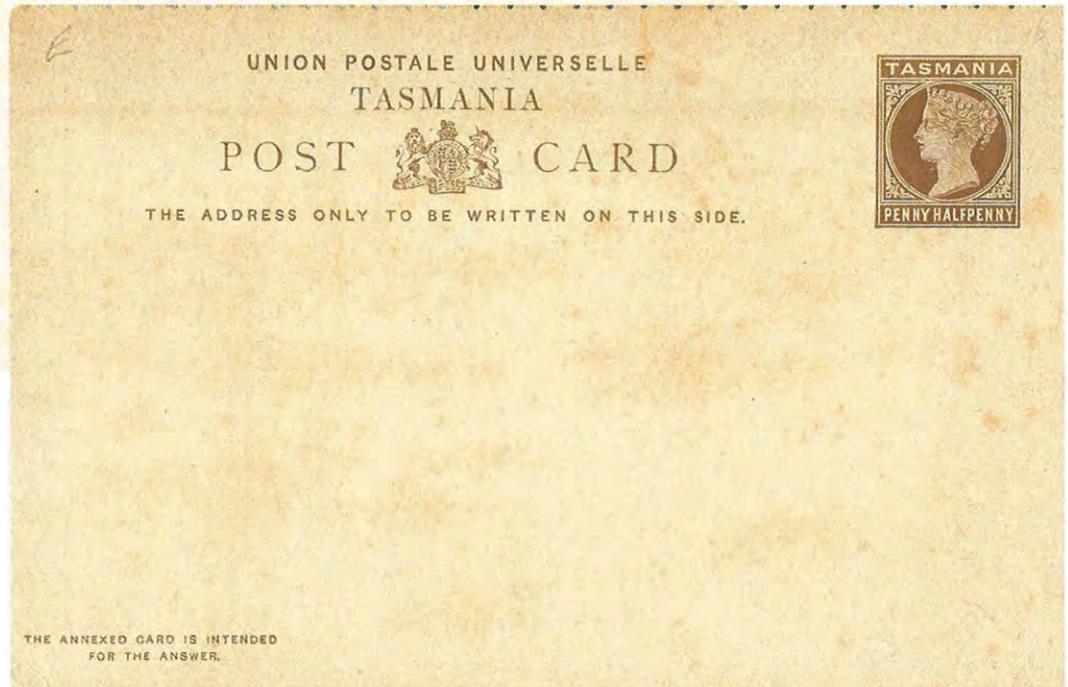


Fig. 6. "Gruss Aus" card from Kirchberg, Austria, used by a British Prisoner of War in 1915 to his sister in Suffolk, England.



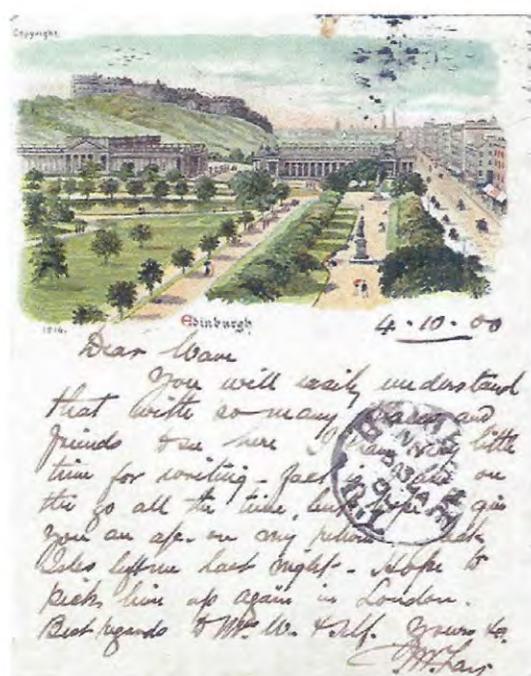
From then on picture postcards were issued for many exhibitions and the German photo-litho printing technique was ideal for producing attractive illustrated cards. Indeed, until World War I huge numbers of postcards were printed in Germany. "Gruss Aus" ("Greetings From" in German) cards, usually beautifully illustrated with several small vignettes grouped around the top left corner of the message side, were produced for many European towns and were

(and indeed still are) very popular and collectable (Fig. 6). At this time the postal regulations specified that

only the address and stamp appear on one side of the card, and these are now known as “undivided backs” or UDBs, a useful indication of the date of printing of the card (Fig. 7).



Fig. 7. Undivided back showing the address, stamp and postmarks occupying the whole of one side of the card.

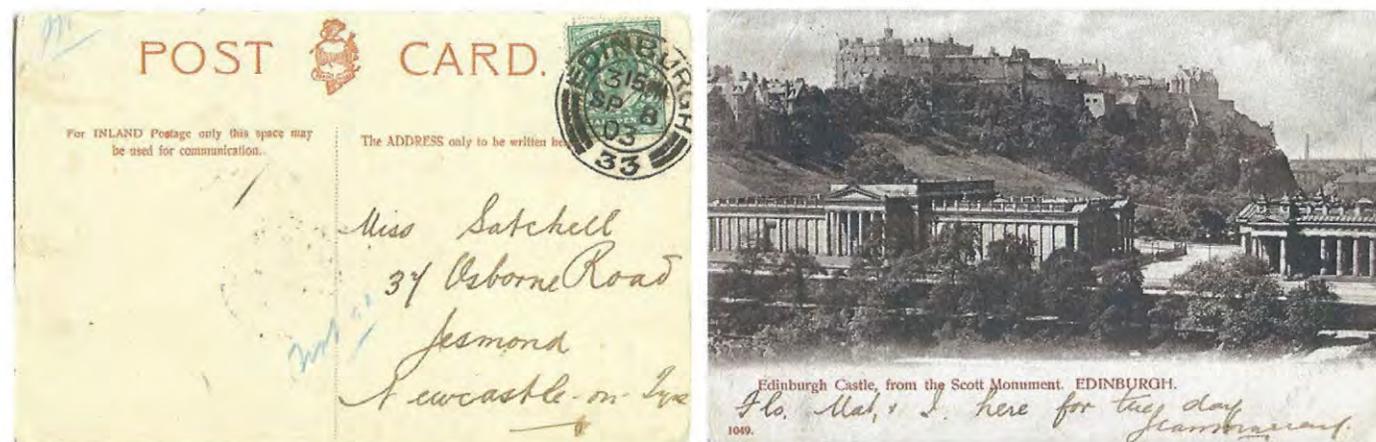


Meanwhile, Britain was lagging far behind. In September 1894 the Post Office had conceded that privately printed cards could be used with an adhesive halfpenny stamp attached, but the size must be the same as that of the postal stationery cards (115 x 89mm or 4½” x 3½”), known as court size (Fig. 8).

Fig. 8. Court size card, sent from Edinburgh, Scotland, to Brisbane in 1900. No publisher shown, though the picture is marked “copyright” and “1216” below the picture.

After much agitation by the private publishers of cards the Post Office relented and from 1 November 1899 standard size cards (140 x 89mm or 5½” x 3½”) could be used in the British postal system. From 1902 the address panel was reduced to half one side of the card with the message space alongside – the vertical dividing line gave them the name “divided backs”, a format still used today (Fig. 9).

Fig. 9. Divided back card used in 1903, note instructional manuscript “Not at”.



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From this outline of the history of the postcard, it is obvious that cards used before 1900, particularly court-size ones, are scarce. The undivided back cards continued in use for a couple of years and these are now sought after. However, all postcards can be collected and later cards and the modern glossy cards all have a place in collections.



As for what to collect, well that is up to each collector. Unlike stamp-collecting, “completion” is impossible – there are major publishers, but also locally produced cards. Records of the publishers and the numbers printed are often unknown. This adds to the thrill of the chase!

Real Photograph cards add another dimension – they can be one-off photographs, or produced in quite large quantities (Fig. 10).

Fig. 10. Real photograph of The Quarry when Burrinjuck Dam was under construction, 19 July 1911. Published by Howard & Shearsby, Yass, NSW, unused.



They often show local scenes of houses, towns or family members and can be a valuable historical record for family history or of scenes even disasters such as fires, floods, ship-wrecks and train-wrecks (Fig. 11).

Fig. 11. The French barque “Vincennes” stranded on Manly Beach, Sydney, published by H & B, Sydney, postally used 1 July 1906.

Postcard collecting was extremely popular during the Edwardian days – the cards were attractive, the range of subjects was very wide, and postcards were used where today we would use the telephone.

With the outbreak of World War I the frivolity of postcard collecting fell away, though the cards were just right for soldiers and sailors to send quick messages to families when too tired to write a letter or constrained by censorship. Many of the cards of this period were used for propaganda purposes, (Fig. 12) showing the damage done by enemy shells, or illustrating “our gallant boys at the front”. The very attractive machine-embroidered cards, known today as “silks”, also date from this period (Fig. 13).

Fig. 12. “The Call of the Flag”, published by Raphael Tuck & Sons, England, unused.

Having gathered some postcards, how do you store them? An Edwardian album is full of nostalgia, but is usually falling apart and also not of



Fig. 13. "Silk" card from World War I, machine embroidery, produced by Raphael Tuck & Sons as "Broderie d'Art" Series No. 415, produced in France. Message in shorthand on the back, no date.

conservation quality. It is possible to buy special postcard albums and the ones available through the Philatelic Society have loose-leaf plastic pages, each holding six cards. Photograph albums can also be used, but check that the paper and plastic used is of archive quality. Alternatively, cards can be slipped into special plastic sleeves to protect them and then stored in shoeboxes or similar containers. The metal drawers for holding 6"x 4" file cards are also very useful, though many modern cards have been "super-sized" and do not fit.

The Stamp Show has a competitive display for Picture Postcards and these entries will provide examples of ways to set out cards to best advantage. Cards can easily be mounted on pages using photo corners, but again, check that the paper and corners are acid-free to ensure your cards will survive for another hundred years or more.

The Philatelic Society of Canberra has a Postcard Branch which meets on the second Tuesday of each month in the Society's room in the Griffin Centre, Genge Street, Civic at 7.45 pm. New members will be warmly welcomed. Capital Philately carries a regular section on postcards and there are also several postal auctions each year of cards provided by members of the Branch.

Useful books:-

Picture Postcards in Australia 1898-1920 by David Cook (1985)

Collecting Postcards (1894-1914) by William Duval & Valerie Monahan (1978)

Collecting Postcards (1914-1930) by Valerie Monahan (1980)

Collecting Australian Postcards by Nick Vukovic (1983)

Collecting Australian Postcard Catalogue – 1984 by Paul Kornan

Collecting Australian Postcard Catalogue – 1987 by Paul Kornan.



MACHINATIONS

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Collecting Tips for Machin Stamps / Look at the Value

Tony Luckhurst

Why do people have so many of these stamps? They all look the same to me! The issue has now been with us for more than 40 years. Over this period there have been several changes in production methods and about 27 rate changes! There have been different printers used to produce these stamps-initially these created "different" stamps. With the new printing methods the printers differences are less distinct.

In the "The Complete Deegam Machin Handbook" Douglas Myall describes 17 attributes for Machin stamps. Not all of these need to present but it can be used to sort out stamps.

- Value (or other indicator like "1st , 2nd , E)
- Colour
- Size or shape
- Design (National, Regional, Anniversary, Millennium)
- Method of Printing or cylinder making
- Paper
- Printer
- Gum
- Perforations (gauge, rotary or comb, ellipses, straight edges, die-cut etc)
- Direction of printing
- Form of issue (sheet, coil or booklet?)
- Phosphor type (e.g. yellow, blue etc)
- Phosphor application (whether incorporated into the paper or overprinted, screen, number and width of bars, whether the bars are short, inset or notched etc)
- Fluorescent inks
- Head type (also size and setting)
- Value types
- Value setting

The Deegam catalogue also lists 3 levels of Machin collecting:

Level 1: Value, colour, shape, design

Level 2: paper, gum, phosphor types, printer and method of printing

Level 3: Perforation, source, head and value settings, phosphor differences, direction of printing

It would be impossible to compile a collection of all of the stamps in Level 3. As mentioned in an earlier article there are more than 400 stamps at Level 1 alone!

Many collectors (me included) opt to collect a combination of attributes from more than one level.

Let's look at one of the features that differentiate a collection of Machin-value types and settings.

When the decimal series began in 1967 all values for the small format Machins were single-digit between ½ p and 9p. After years of inflation and tariff changes more values were needed. These were bigger numbers which were difficult to fit into the space on the stamp. When the value reached 19 ½ p (issued in January 1982) it was decided to do something about the non-uniformity of the value inscriptions on Machin stamps. In 1982 Jeffery Matthews was approached by Royal Mail to redesign the complete value set. He designed the values ½ - 9 and all combinations to be used up to £1. These values were thinner than the earlier versions. The first value to use the redrawn numerals was the 20 ½ p of March 1983. By 1988 all existing values had been replaced by their redrawn counterparts. Other values appeared much later. A 40p was not issued until April 2000.

The method of printing also affected the appearance of the values. On some sheets "floating" values existed. When multiple values were printed se-tenant (in the series of folded booklets) se-tenant values were printed on the same plate so they could be aligned or not aligned. The printing method also created visible differences in the appearance of the values and there were also thick and thin values to consider.

Line 1: The "floating" 2p stamps. The stamps with attached labels were from the 50p folded booklets



Line 2: 4p showing old and modern value types; old 10p stamp, 10p from "Christian Heritage" booklet (1984), 10p in new colour and modern value type; 26p stamps with original and modern value types

Line 3: 75p showing the two value types; current 1st Class stamps showing thick and thin values (probably different printers)

The source of many value types was from booklets. Compare these two 50p booklets (with 51p worth of stamps!). The first was when 17p was the first class rate the second is when it was the second class rate.



Postage Rate Comparison 2008

Tony Luckhurst

As usual the UK postage rate rises on April 7. This will see a few new Machin values to collect. The first class standard letters rate rises from 34p to 36p while the second class rate rises from 24p to 27p. The large letter rate rises to 52p for first class and 42p for second class. The 10g airmail rate rises from 54p to 56p while the 20g rate rises from 78p to 81p. There will be new values 9p (this may be in the same colour it was in 2006), 15p (a makeup value for second class small to large letters), 56p and 81p new values for airmail. There will also be 50p and 81p vales in the pictorial regional issues for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Let's examine the cost of sending a letter in various European countries in 2008.

- Austria 55c (41p)
- Belgium 54c (40p)
- Cyprus 34c (25p)
- Czech Republic 10Kc (39c or 29p)
- Denmark Kr 5,50 (74c or 55p)
- Estonia Kr 4,40 (28c or 21p)
- Finland 70c (52p)
- France 54c (40p)
- Germany 55c (41p)
- Greece 52c(?) (39p)
- Iceland 60Kr (62c or 46p)
- Ireland 55c (41p)
- Italy 60c (45p)
- Latvia 31s (45c or 31p)
- Lithuania Lt 1,55 (45c or 33p)
- Malta 19c (14p)
- Netherlands 44c (33p)
- Norway Kr 7 (88c or 65p)
- Poland 2,10 Zt (59c or 44p)
- Portugul 30c (23p)
- Slovakia 16 Ks (48c or 36p)
- Spain 30c (23p)
- Sweden Kr 5,50 (59c or 44p)
- Switzerland Fr 1.00 (62c or 46p)

Compare this with Australia 50c (31 euro cents or 23p)!!



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