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Queensland – is the 6d Chalon “Line Flaw” that Elusive?

Carl Burnett

Every now and then, one runs across an item in an auction catalog that piques one’s interest. This happened to me when viewing Prestige Auction’s Sale 128 of 12 May 2007 which included a collection of Queensland Chalon Head issues.

The philatelic item in question, was listed as Lot No. 246 (Figure 1) Stanley Gibbons (SG) 27b, rough perf 13, yellow-green, with some thinning and a notation of the line flaw. The lot description went on to say... “This item is absent from every major Queensland collection except for Ginger” [referring to a prominent collector of Queensland stamps].

Having two such items in my own collection prompted the question: “just how scarce is this line flaw?” Upon inspection, I found my stamps to be a SG 26b, no watermark, rough perf 13, thick paper, and SG 47b, small star watermark, rough perf 13 (Figures 2 & 3). Needless to say I was happy with my habit of picking up such unusual items when they become available. Now I was itching to find out as much as possible about this flaw.

To start my search, my first stop was to consult the primary reference on early Queensland stamps, *The Postage Stamps ... of Queensland* by A.F. Basset Hull, in which I found a discussion of this line flaw variety (pp. 100-101). Figure 4 shows an illustration of a joined pair from Plate XVI in which the line flaw appears across both stamps. Basset Hull’s book, printed in 1930, also states that the only other known pair is in the Royal Collection. There is no mention of the owner of the illustrated pair in the book.

Basset Hull continues on with some statistical data of the flaw and a notation of the exist-



Fig. 1: Prestige Philately Lot No. 246

tence of a single stamp (left stamp of the pair) in the Captain C.W.G. Crawford collection, in which the line flaw stops short of the right margin.

This shortened line flaw reference is important as it implies that the flaw is not a fault in the plate, but more probably some type of debris on the plate. The Crawford stamp is noted as a bluish green, perf 12½ x 13.

A final recording of this flaw was noted as being in the collection of a Rev. James Mursell, who had a copy from the right stamp of the pair, described as a deep green, rough perf 13.

One can assume by the descriptions that the Crawford stamp is SG 35b, and that the Mursell item is likely SG 48a. Since the issue dates of the Crawford and Mursell stamps are



Figs. 2 & 3: Examples from the Burnett Collection

Continued Page 55

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

<i>Queensland Chalon 6d Line Flaw</i>	53, 55	<i>Modern Pacific Is. Postal History</i>	68-69
<i>2008 Convention Report</i>	56, 62-63	<i>Secretary’s Report</i>	74-75
<i>Queensland Loose Ship Letter</i>	60-61	<i>President’s Message</i>	76
<i>Tonga’s Wright Stuff</i>	64-65	<i>SAS/O Roster</i>	77
<i>Kakadu</i>	66-67	<i>Members’ Bulletin Board</i>	79



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both 1867, is it possible that the foreshortened line flaw printing of Crawford's took place after the later catalog numbers shown in other figures in this article?



Fig. 4: Joined used pair from the Basset Hull text Plate XVI image (b)

The next logical step would be to contact some Queensland collectors and inquire about the line flaw. A quick email to a couple philatelic friends “Down Under,” **Dave Elsmore** and Andrew Walker, brought responses from both that they, too, had examples in their collections. Elsmore sent a scan showing both the left and right line flaws (Figure 5), noting that they are SG 47a and SG 47b, deep green, rough perf 13. Walker sent a scan showing a close up of a right hand line flaw stamp (Figure 6) and noted it as SG 34a, yellow-green, perf 12½ x 13.



Fig. 5: Left and Right flaws from the Elsmore Collection

One final email was received back from SAS/O Vice-President **David Hopper** who informed me that he also had a left stamp line flaw on SG 26b, no watermark, rough perf 13, on thick paper, postmarked “QL”.

The Stanley Gibbons catalog notes that the line flaw occurred prior to the Brisbane printings and the plate position is not known. The catalog also shows illustrations of the right and left line flaw on 6d stamps, but the printing is not identified. This means we now have two more known items. The description goes on to say that the flaw was not corrected until around 1869, after plate cleaning, and only traces of the line flaw remained which is very hard to see.



Fig. 6: Close-up of the Walker example

Basset Hull states that 8,000 sheets were printed in 1863 and 1864 which covers the eight separate Stanley Gibbons catalog listings. This would mean a potential of 16,000 items could exist with a line flaw. It is hard to believe that these are scarce items with those numbers. But as shown in table below, the total number of items known to me at this time is a very small fraction of the total created.

In summary, it is not hard to see why Prestige Auctions noted that their Lot No. 246 was absent from nearly every major collection. We’ve looked at the numbers and they don’t add up – why would such a striking printing flaw, printed in relatively high numbers, be so elusive? Now it is your turn, the reader, to check your Queensland collection and stock to see if you, too, can be added to the list of owners. If so, please email me your information at Stampbiz@cfl.rr.com or drop me a letter at P.O. Box 1987, Melbourne, Florida, 32902-1987 to continue this search.

SG 26		27		28		33		34		35		47		48		Unknown		Owners
a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	a	b	
	2																	Hopper, Burnett
			1															Prestige Auction
					1													Crawford
									1									Walker
											1							Mursell
												1	2					Elsmore, Burnett
-	2	-	1	-	1	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	2	-				Total = 9
																		Unknown types
																1	1	Royal Collection
																1	1	Basset Hull
																1	1	Stanley Gibbons

SAS/O

AWARDS & HONORS

PACIFIC AREA PHILATELIC AWARDS

November 2007 Chicagopex (Chicago, USA)

Steve Zirinsky, *Tonga Provisional Issues*, [Lit] BRONZE

Feb/March 2008 St Louis Stamp Show (USA)

Paul Larsen, *Caroline Islands to 1914: Spanish and German Periods*, GOLD + Grand

March 2008 Collectors Club of New York (USA)

Robert Stein, *Nauru: The German Period*, Invited Presentation

April 2008 WESTPEX (San Francisco, USA)

John Cress, *Up and Over...Down Under*, GOLD + SP

Dale Forster, *Australia Illustrated*, VERMEIL

Richard Malmgren, *Hawaiian Postage Stamps*, GOLD + SP

Ron Rhodes, *South Australia*, GOLD

May 2008 FIP International (Tel Aviv, Israel)

Paul Fletcher, *Postage Dues of Australia*, LARGE GOLD

May 2008 Rocky Mountain Stamp Show (Denver, USA) [see also story pp. 62-63]

John Barwis, *The Half-Lengths of Victoria 1850-1859*, GOLD + Grand + SP

George Bowman, *Victoria: The English TPOs 1887-1917*, GOLD

George Branam, *Prisoners of War: The Experience of New Zealand in the European Theater in World War II*, GOLD + SP

John Cress, *The Development of Australian Airmail 1914-1934*, GOLD + SP

Paul Fletcher, *Niue*, GOLD + SP

Ron Hill, *Pictorial Lettercards and Envelopes of Tasmania*, SILVER

Peter Iber, *The Traveling Post Offices of Queensland and Victoria*, VERMEIL + SP

Jerome Kasper, *New Zealand POW Aerogrammes*, GOLD

Les Molnar, *The Two-Shilling Woodblocks of Victoria*, Invited

Robert Stein, *Nauru Freighter Issue 1924-1954*, GOLD

Robert Stein, *Sir Rowland Hill Centenary - Nauru 1979*, VERMEIL + SP

Paul Tyler, *The Penny Dominion of New Zealand*, GOLD + SP

Ed Williams, *The Polynesian Dependencies of New Zealand*, GOLD

May 2008 Royal Philatelic Society London (UK)

Robert Odenweller, *New Zealand*, Invited Presentation

SAS/O Auction Results

From April Issue of *The Informer* - to Benefit the Society
Lot 1: Unsold; Lot 2: \$50; Lot 3: \$35; Lot 4: \$45; Lot 5: \$45;
Lot 6: \$45; Lot 7: Unsold; Lot 8: \$25. Total = \$245.

Lots were donated by **Hugh Wynn**. Thanks Hugh! SAS/O

New Zealand Stamps: A New Web Site

A new web site has been established for the stamps of New Zealand through King George VI issues and airmail postal history through 1941. It is a wonderful site worth exploring. Some of the areas covered:

- Stamps with key information about numbers issued and paper used.
- Booklets.
- Exhibition labels.
- "Adverts on Back."
- 1867 Revenues.
- Airmail route development and rates.

Visit this very useful site: www.nzstamps.org.uk. It is suitable for the specialist as well as the beginning collector of New Zealand. SAS/O

Thank You, David Gillis!

Inspired by our article in *The Informer* April 2008 on Clyde Carriker's "Cruising the South Pacific" columns, SAS/O Member **David Gillis** donated a complete set of those columns from #1-end, plus a complete run of Ron Wickens' "Australian Newsletter." Both authors wrote for the (*Western*) *Stamp Collector* weekly newspaper. SAS/O

Four to Compete in the USA Champion of Champions

Four SAS/O Members' entries are among the more than 30 top USA exhibits competing for the APS National Champion of Champions to be held in mid-August at the APS Stampshow in Hartford, Connecticut (USA). The Grand Award winners at national shows in the USA compete each year to see which exhibit will be chosen as "Best of the Best." This year, four Pacific Area exhibits compete for the honor - more than ever before:

- **John Barwis**, *The Half-Lengths of Victoria 1850-1859* (Grand Award: Rocky Mountain Stamp Show, May 2008)
- **Paul Fletcher**, *The Postage Due Stamps of Australia* (Grand Award: INDYPEX, July 2007).
- **Paul Larsen**, *Caroline Islands to 1914: Spanish and German Periods* (Grand Award: St. Louis Stamp Show, March 2008)
- **Steve Schumann**, *New Zealand Postal Stationery* (Grand Award: APS Stampshow, August 2007)

Good Luck to All!

SAS/O

SAS/O AUCTION

Philatelic Literature Benefit for the SAS/O Library

The following lots were donated by **Hugh Wynn** and others to be sold for the benefit of our SAS/O Library. They are duplicates and not needed for our collection.

- 1- *Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue: King George V*, Rev. Ed. (2001), 373 pp., illus., card, perfect bound. Est \$15
- 2- Brown and Campbell, *New South Wales Numeral Cancellations*, Second Edition, 85 pp., hard cover. Est \$20
- 3- Campbell, H.M., *Australian Numeral Cancellations: A Compendium*, 189 pp., hard cover. Est \$25
- 4- Hooper, *The First Postage Stamps of the Commonwealth of Australia 1901-1912*, 56 pp., card cover, perfect bound. Est \$10
- 5- Hull, A.F. Basset, *Western Australia: The Perkins Bacon Printings 1854-1861 and the De La Rue Printings 1864-1902*, 28 pp., tables, card cover, saddle stapled. Est. \$10
- 6- Hutson, G.J., *The Stamps of New South Wales*, RPSL (1960), 125 pp. + plates, index, photocopy in 3-ring binder. Est \$10
- 7- Lowe, Robson, *The Encyclopedia of British Empire Postage Stamps: Volume IV, The Empire in Australasia*, 615 pp., appdx, index, illus, hard cover. Fair condition. Est \$50
- 8- Purves, J.R.W., *The 'Emblems' of Victoria 1857-63*, 105 pp., hard cover. Est. \$25
- 9- Purves, J.R.W., *The Postal History of the Port Phillip District 1835-1851*, 68 pp., dj, hard cover. Est. \$15
- 10- Purves, J.R.W., *Victoria: The 5/-, 1867-1901 and the 1/-, 5/-, £1, £2, 1901-1912*, 76 pp., card cover, perfect bound. Est. \$15
- 11- Purves, J.R.W., *Victoria: 1901-12 Issue 6d, 9d and 2/- Values*, 36 pp., card cover, saddle stapled. Est. \$10
- 12- Purves, J.R.W., *Victoria: The 'Barred Numeral' Cancellations 1856-1912*, 213 pp., templates in pocket, hard cover. Est. \$30
- 13- Purves, J.R.W., *Victoria: The 'Butterfly' and 'Barred Oval' Cancellations 1850-1855*, 37 pp., card cover, saddle stapled. Est. \$10
- 14- Purves, J.R.W., *Victoria: The 'Registered' and 'Too Late' Stamps 1854-1858*, 80 pp., templates in pocket, hard cover. Est \$15
- 15- Purves, J.R.W., *Victoria: The V Over Crown Watermarks: Types, Suppliers, Varieties 1867-1905, 1912*, 31 pp., card cover, saddle stapled. Est. \$10
- 16- Williams, E.A., *The 'Postage and Revenue' Long Stamps of South Australia*, 68 pp., illus., index, biblo, card, perfect bound. Est \$15
- 17- Williams, L.N., *Fundamentals of Philately*, Revised Edition (1990), 862 pp., illus., index, hard bound. Est \$20

Bid high to help fund our Library!

Bids close 1 SEP 2008. Please send your bids to David McNamee at dmcnamee@aol.com or 15 Woodland Drive, Alamo, CA 94507 USA. Postage will be added. SAS/O

IMPORTANT

PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGES

At the Denver Annual General Meeting 18 May 2008, the Board and Members present discussed a number of topics of interest to our members (see Pages 62-63). Enclosed with this copy of *The Informer* is a ballot asking for your opinion on certain changes to the By-Laws of SAS/O:

1. Should the words excluding Hawaii from our Purpose statement be removed; thus giving recognition to Hawaii as one of our areas of interest?
2. Should the Officers be expanded from 3 to 4 by adding the position "Past President" with no duties or powers specified, except that as an ex-officio Member of the Board?
3. Should the Board of Directors be expanded from 4 Directors to 6?

Enclosed with this issue is a ballot containing the full text of proposed deletions and additions to the SAS/OCEANIA Constitution and By-Laws.

The SAS/O Officers and Directors recommend a "yes" vote on these proposals. Send your votes to the SAS/O Secretary, PO BOX 24764, San Jose, CA 95154-4764 USA or by email to stulev@ix.netcom.com (include your membership number). Please vote! SAS/O

SAS/O Board Seeks Monographs Opportunities for Writers

At the Annual General Meeting in Denver, the SAS/O Board sought ideas for putting the Society's extra funds to work for the benefit of philately and our Members. After some deliberation (continued via email since then), the majority supported SAS/O re-entering the publishing field after an absence of about 30 years.

President **Bob Stein** has called for interested Members who want to join a working committee to contact him at: PO Box 219, Kenmore NY 14217 USA Tel 716 838 6265 eaoa@roadrunner.com. The Publications Committee will:

- Seek manuscripts for handbooks on Pacific philately.
- Work with authors to edit and review the manuscripts.
- Manage the production and marketing of the final product.
- Prospective committee members should have some relevant experience in writing, editing or publication.

This is a tremendous opportunity for SAS/O to promote Pacific philately and the benefits of being part of our Society. SAS/O

PHANTOM KIWI

If you know the Indonesian Sultanate of Occussi-Ambeno, the Antarctic Country of Kemp Land, or even the Republic of Tarajara, then you must have met Bruce Henderson of Lancaster Printing in Auckland, New Zealand. Bruce has a printing press, and he advertises that he can and will print anything you want on a perf 12 sheetlet of 6: 10 sheetlets for \$20. The "countries" mentioned above are his personal creations.

These are all called "phantoms," a class of Cinderella stamps, that Bill Hornadge wrote about in his Australasian *Stamp News* column "Cinderella Corner." Hornadge's column ran from March 1977 to December 2000. The column marches on after Bill's retirement; it is now written by Tony Presgrave.

Phantom stamps appeal to a certain group of philatelists, and others look upon them with considerable scorn. Harmless creations of fantasy, "art" stamps of high artistic creativity, or just so much rubbish. It is all a matter of taste.

A philatelic exhibition classification exists for Cinderella stamps in the USA under APS Guidelines. Cinderellas take in a wide range of non-postal adhesives, including trading stamps, propaganda labels, advertising labels, charity labels, parcel stamps, etiquettes, fakes, local stamps, and the above-mentioned phantoms or fantasy labels. At one time displays of revenue adhesives were judged in the Cinderella classification (!).

In Australasia, there is apparently a huge number of these stamps. These Cinderellas managed to fill a monthly magazine column for 23 years. Bill Hornadge developed a catalogue of them that is available from the SAS/O Library; however, it just scratches the surface.

It is all great fun, yes? Well, not always. Sometimes the perpetrator gets carried away and creates stamps that constitute a personal attack. In a recent mailing to a Member, a brochure was enclosed touting the issues of the Republic of Tarajara, a non-existent country. The four stamps are said to call attention to New Zealand atrocities [sic], and two of the stamps depict current Government leaders. The other two subjects have to do with so-called atrocities that were part of the New Zealand-Samoa relationship 80 and 90 years ago. They are all in poor taste, especially the personal attacks on living people; however, it does not pay to get into an argument with someone who owns a printing press.

Another warning: low value Samoa and Nauru postage stamps have been overprinted "KEMP LAND" by Bruce Henderson. These are fakes, of course.

Bruce Henderson of New Zealand has been at this for more than 30 years, so it is likely you will encounter his products at some point of your collecting. What you do at that point is entirely up to you. SAS/O

Tattersall's Tickets

Dave Elsmore's Web Site



£1 Tatts ticket on the 1950 Melbourne Cup. Tattersall's was important user of betting tax duty stamps.

Dave Elsmore has added new research to his web site at <http://users.bigpond.net.au/dave1/tatts/tasmania-tatts-tickets.html> featuring a study of Tattersall's tickets from the 1890s to the 1980s. He would appreciate seeing other examples. Contact him through his web site or by email at dave1@bigpond.net.au with scans of tickets you may have.

Elsmore's site has a number of important studies and exhibits of Australian Colonial revenues. SAS/O

The Revenue Society [UK] www.revenuesociety.org.uk

Yet another web site has made available digital displays useful for SAS/O Members. The Revenue Society has a rich web site with many resources. Among the various things available are "invited displays," which are scans of pages from award-winning revenue exhibits, many of which are Pacific Area (SAS/O Members in **bold**):

Dale Ansell, *New Zealand Beer Duty Revenues 1883* [SF]

Dave Elsmore, *Australian Perfin Display* [SF]

Dave Elsmore, *Queensland Smaller Taxes 1885-1965*

Dave Elsmore, *Victoria: The Provisional 1/6d Lithographed 1879-80* [SF]

Dave Elsmore, *Western Australia 1881-1965*

Francis Kiddle, *Tasmania Revenues 1827-1923*

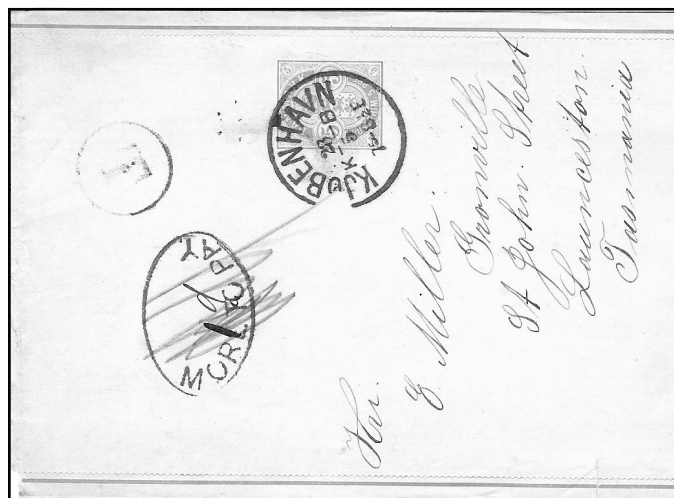
Dingle Smith, *Australian Taxation Revenues*

Our SAS/O Library actively seeks CDs/DVDs of your exhibits and PowerPoint presentations. Contact David McNamee dmcnamee@aol.com if you have a contribution to make. SAS/O

Special New Guinea Display at RPSL
1PM 25 September 2008

Danish Wrapper to Tasmania: Mystery Solved!

Malcolm Groom and Randall Askeland



28 May 1889 portion of Danish Wrapper to Tasmania

In *The Informer* April 2008 issue (Vol. 72 No. 2) p. 31, Patrick Reid raised a question why the **MORE TO PAY** oval marking on the 1889 Danish wrapper was scratched out and no evidence of postage due being collected.

I am assuming the tax marking **T** in circle is Danish as the vast majority of taxed mail was taxed at source. Strange that no amount was stated as the shortage on postage. I can make no comment on whether that was the Danish practice or not.

The **MORE TO PAY** marking is a conversion marking, converting what must have been a shortage of 5 gold centimes to one halfpenny, and doubling it to 1d as the full amount to be collected. **The marking was applied at Melbourne.**

Why Melbourne and not Tasmania? I assume, but am very confident, the amount of mail from Denmark at the time, to Tasmania, would have been very small, not justifying a separate mail bag. The item was placed in a ship mail bag to Melbourne. Were this not so, it would not have received the Melbourne backstamp on arrival there.

Tax markings were not deleted when the amount due was paid. There was no need – the item would be handed over after payment. Usually a stamp would be applied equal to the amount due, and cancelled – but not necessarily so where several items might be paid on just one item, or where the addressee had an account with the post office.

The **MORE TO PAY** handstamp was deleted because it was incorrectly applied. I have seen other examples where a tax marking has been deleted in manuscript squiggles for being applied incorrectly. It was deleted in either Melbourne or Launceston (the item did not go through Hobart).

Why was it deleted? Why was it incorrect? Neither Victoria nor Tasmania were members of the UPU at the time. Unless it can be shown there was some postal treaty or agreement between Denmark and Victoria and/or Tasmania (as for example there was between UK and Tasmania) for the mutual collection of postage due, the ship letter inwards free rule would apply, and no notice would be taken of the tax marking.

How did it come to be marked **MORE TO PAY**? All underpaid mail may have been in a separate packet within a ship mail bag/box, or when the mail was opened in Melbourne, all underpaid mail was sorted out separately for processing. The postal clerk, probably in haste, stamped the wrapper along with all of the underpaid mail with **MORE TO PAY** and wrote in the relevant amount(s) – then it was noticed at some point that the tax on this item had no relevance to Tasmania, and the marking was properly deleted.

While some of the above is theory, I have no doubt the **MORE TO PAY** handstamp was applied in Melbourne, and it was properly deleted for having been incorrectly applied. It seems to me, without having an agreement with Tasmania, Denmark should not have sent the underpaid item on, but should have held it for the correct (additional) postage to be applied by the sender. Examples are known from this era of Tasmanian mail which has been held or returned to sender for the correct postage. SAS/O

AAPE WEBSITE FEATURES OCEANIA EXHIBITS ONLINE

The American Association of Philatelic Exhibitors has made space available on their website for a display of online exhibits. Check it out: www.aape.org

Dr. Paul Tyler's Grand Award winning, *The Penny Dominion of New Zealand and its Usage*.

Jerome Kasper's *Australia's Official Aerogrammes* [SF] and *New Zealand POW Aerogrammes* [SF]

Alfred Roggenkämper, *Prisoner of War Aerogrammes of Australia* [SF]

Jerry Jensen, *The Bounty's Legacy – Pitcairn Island*

Philip Stager, *Coconuts* [Thematic]

Instructions are available on the website for uploading your exhibit. This is a important research resource and promotional tool for Pacific Area philately. Consider adding your exhibit to this site.

Also consider sending a CD of your exhibit(s) to our own SAS/O Library for research. SAS/O

Queensland's First Loose Ship Letter Handstamp

Dale Forster

LOOSE SHIP LETTER

Beginning in the late 1860s, some Australian Colony ports began using loose ship letter (LSL) markings on arriving letters mailed either onboard a ship or mailed at a dockside letter box. In either case, these letters arrived at an Australian port with no post office markings from the city of origin – which could be a port in the same Australian Colony, a port in a different Australian Colony or a foreign port.

Postal regulations allowed these letters to bear postage stamps from the country of origin, but sometimes required late fees to be paid by addressee if not prepaid by sender. In 1894, the U.P.U. began requiring paquebot handstamps on this mail. Australian colony ports often ignored this regulation and continued using their loose ship letter markings. Some ports even created new loose ship letter handstamps well after 1894 – the latest I have seen was used from Townsville, Queensland in 1943.



Fig. 2: 1873 LSL cover New South Wales to Maryborough

strikes of Brisbane's "Edinburgh star." Campbell's analysis of the postal rate is incorrect. From the beginning of 1868, mail to the United States transiting England could be paid to destination, and the transatlantic rate between England and the USA was reduced. The via Southampton rate from Australian colonies to the United States became 11 pence from January 1868. The red 2 cents marking is not an arrival charge but an accountancy marking crediting the United States for internal postage. A six pence late fee was prepaid in stamps – late fee markings were usually not applied if the late fee was properly prepaid. The cover is an eleven pence rate via Southampton plus a six pence late fee – so a penny overpaid.



Fig. 1: 1869 cover Queensland to New York, USA with first LSL marking

Queensland, with its long coastline accessible to Pacific Island steamship companies, had at least ten ports which used loose ship letter markings. Some of these are listed in Roger Hosking's *Paquebot Cancellations of the World* (third edition, 2000) and some are listed in Hugh Campbell's *Queensland Postal History* (1990).

Figure 1 shows an 1869 cover sent via England to the United States with the first Brisbane LSL marking. The Queensland port of origin of the ship bringing the cover to Brisbane is not determinable. Campbell illustrates this cover on page 124 as the only recorded example of this LSL handstamp on cover. As described by Campbell, the stamps are tied with three light



Fig. 3: 1871 cover with the second Brisbane LSL handstamp



Oval LSL handstamps compared

onboard at an unidentified Queensland port. The cover went into the mail at Maryborough where a 29 September 1894 datestamp was applied along with an oval LSL marking. A straight-line LATE FEE handstamp was also applied at Maryborough. When the cover reached Armidale, New South Wales, the addressee paid a 1d late fee – note the penny NSW postage due tied by blue crayon.

Fig. 4: 1869 LSL and Late Fee cover Queensland to NSW via Maryborough

there are no Brisbane cancels or datestamps on either the front or back of the cover. The cover is a 3d inter-colonial rate plus a 3d late fee. On the front of the cover is a Maryborough, Queensland arrival datestamp of 31 October 1873. It is very unusual for a loose ship letter cover not to have a datestamp or cancellation from the port of entry where the LSL cancel was applied. It is possible the LSL markings were applied at Brisbane in transit, but given the cover in Figure 3 (previous page), there is a more likely possibility.

Figure 3 shows an 1871 cover with an oval Brisbane loose ship letter handstamp. On the back-flap is a merchant imprint for a Maryborough firm, so we can surmise the envelope was mailed dockside or on a ship from Maryborough. There is a 6 October 1871 Brisbane arrival datestamp. Hosking lists this Brisbane LSL marking as type 1358, which he records used from 1894 to 1928. Wear to the device resulted in thicker letters and a thicker oval – my latest use is 1929. The fact that Brisbane was using a second LSL marking by 1871 suggests the possibility that the first device may have been transferred to Maryborough.

Correspondence with Bernie Beston in Queensland reveals that he has now seen a third cover with the first Queensland LSL marking. It will be interesting to note the date of the third cover, and whether that cover will shed light on whether or not the device was transferred.

The Campbell book mentions that Mr. Croaker had seen an oval Maryborough LSL marking used in 1874 which was very similar to Brisbane's first oval LSL marking. Neither Croaker or Campbell illustrate such a device, and I can provide no further information. Maryborough, however, did use an oval LSL device in the 1890s. A comparison of these oval handstamps is shown at the top of this page.

Figure 4 shows an envelope posted dockside or

The author would be pleased to correspond with collectors with further information or similar interests. Contact him via email at dale@oregonusa.net.

References:

Campbell, H., *Queensland Postal History*, Melbourne: RPSV, 1990.

Hosking, R., *Paquebot Cancellations of the World*, 3rd ed., Derby: Cavendish, 2000. sas/o

Tasmanian Stamp Auctions

(Member - Australasian Philatelic Traders' Association)

conduct regular postal auctions featuring quality stamps, covers, postmarks, postcards, ephemera, literature, collections and postal history from

AUSTRALIA & FORMER COLONIES NEW ZEALAND and OCEANIA

and most other parts of the globe.

All lots are carefully described with estimated values ranging from AU\$5 to \$1000+

Visit our website at www.tsauctions.com to obtain further information and to view Australian and worldwide postal history material available for direct sale

Contact Ross Ewington without delay to receive a free copy of the next auction catalog.

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ROCKY MOUNTAIN HIGH

2008 SAS/O Convention Report



Members gathered at Applebee's for an informal social dinner on Friday. John Wynns (back to camera) and Ed Williams (left) listening to President Bob Stein tell of his recent trip to Norway.

Dinners, exhibits, seminars, awards, and good philatelic fellowship were in abundance in Denver, Colorado (USA) at the annual convention and exhibition for SAS/O. This year we were guests of the Rocky Mountain Stamp Show over an extended weekend 16-18 May.

At the close of the first day, after exhibits had been thoroughly scrutinized, members joined in an informal dinner with the Military Postal History Society and the Civil Censorship Study Group (also meeting at the RMSS).

On Saturday, SAS/O Members **Ron Hill** and **George Branam** provided very informative talks to an audience of nearly 20 at our annual seminar. They spoke on French Colonies and New Zealand POW mail respectively.

There were several great moments at the Awards Banquet Saturday evening. Before the show awards started, SAS/O Member **Allan Berry, FRPSNZ** presented **George Branam** and **J. Edgar Williams** with their certificates as new Fellows of the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand – a great honor (photos at right).

Four of the six top exhibits that were nominated for the Grand and Reserve Grand Awards for the exhibition were SAS/O Members: **John Barwis** for *The Half-Lengths of Victoria 1850-1859*, **Paul Fletcher** for *Nine*, **Bob Stein** for *The Nauru Freighter Issue of 1924-1954* (first time ever shown), and **Paul Tyler** for *The Penny Dominion of New Zealand*. They are seen in the photograph at the top of the next page standing to receive the nomination honors.



Allan Berry, FRPSL, FRPNZ presents certificates of Fellowship in the Royal Philatelic Society of New Zealand to George Branam (above) and Ed Williams (below).



The RMSS exhibition Grand Award and the SAS/O Gold Medal went to **John Barwis** (at right with SAS/O Gold Medal). The Grand Award was a beautiful working HO-scale model of an early steam locomotive.

The other SAS/O medals were won by **Paul Tyler**, SAS/O Silver, and **Paul Fletcher**, SAS/O Bronze.





Standing to receive honors for nomination to the Grand/Reserve Grand Award (left to right) Bob Stein, Paul Tyler, John Barwis. Paul Fletcher was away in Israel notching another International Large Gold for his *Postage Dues of Australia*. Seated at left is Ed Williams, and at center (back to camera) is Allan Berry followed by Janet Klug and George Branam.

In addition to the competitive awards, **Les Molnar's** exhibit, *The Two-Shilling Woodblocks of Victoria* was invited to be in the Court of Honor. The full exhibition awards list can be found on Page 56.



A tradition at the RMSS is the "After Dinner" event where people are invited to meet the exhibitors at the frames to view and discuss their exhibits at the conclusion of the Awards Banquet. Above, John Barwis held audiences spell-bound until past midnight with his beautiful Half-Lengths.

Sunday morning the Board and General Membership met to discuss current status and plans for the future. Key items discussed included:

- **Melbourne 2009:** Our next Convention site. Info on participating in this show is on www.apf.org.au or contact David McNamee: dmcnamee@aol.com
- Expanding our Board to include Australian and UK representatives.
- Reports from the Secretary, and a discussion of membership retention/recapture.
- Moving to full color printing for *The Informer*.



(Left-to-right) John Wynns, Vern Rutherford, Ed Williams, Ron Hill, and Allan Berry at the AGM 18 May 2008.

At the AGM, Awards Chair **Paul Tyler** presented the Lessig Award for Contributions to Pacific Literature to **Allan Berry** of New Zealand (below). **Robert Odenweller** was given the 2008 Belknap Award for Excellence in Exhibiting Pacific material, and Past President **Peter Iber** was given the Kirchner Award for Service to SAS/O. Congratulations, all!

SAS/O



Tonga's Wright Stuff

Janet Klug

In the course of decades of happily collecting stamps from Tonga, I have come across several covers sent from Vava'u (one of Tonga's islands) in the early 1900s. The covers are addressed in the same hand and went to addresses in Great Britain and to various parties named Wright in Auckland, New Zealand.

The most interesting of these, at least to me, are covers bearing bisected stamps all of which were postmarked from Vava'u over the course of a few days in March 1900. That bisecting was done in March 1900 is a known fact. The reason WHY bisecting was done is variously stated as emanating from a "stamp shortage."

That seems a logical reason, but there must have been an underlying reason for the stamp shortage in Vava'u. And let's face it, there was not a great deal of mail coming out of Vava'u in the first place. The month of March is the height of cyclone season in Tonga. In March 1982 a cyclone ripped through the Tongan islands, destroying 90% of the homes on the main island of Tongatabu and the island of Ha'apai. Even the threat of a cyclone can interrupt shipping schedules and thus create a shortage of stamps and other supplies for remote Pacific islands. Earthquakes, tsunamis, fires and other natural events can also create shortages. A stamp shortage can also be caused because a postal clerk failed to order an adequate supply of stamps. Records of why the shortage happened in Vava'u in March 1900 do not exist, or if they do exist, have not yet been found.



Fig. 1: 16 March 1900 Vava'u to Birmingham, England

Nevertheless, there are these covers with half a stamp. The first I acquired is illustrated in Figure 1. The cut half of the bisected 3d stamp was not tied by the 16 March 1900 postmark, but it was expertized as a genuine bisect. That stamp with its bisected value of 1½d combined with the 1d stamp made up the correct 2½d rate. It is addressed to Frank Hawkins at the Argosy Works in Birmingham, England. Argosy Works on Spencer Street was most recently (in the 1970s) a manufacturer of silver tableware.

Twenty years after landing this cover I acquired a pair of 20 March 1900 covers with bisects from Vava'u. One was addressed to "Miss Wright" in Auckland (Figure 2) and another addressed to "Mrs. Arthur Wright" at the same Auckland address. (Figure 3, next page). All three of these covers are addressed in the same hand. I thought it was curious, and I wondered who the sender could be.

The cover to Miss Wright certainly has a philatelic look about it with its five bisected 1d stamps. Again, this totals the correct 2½d rate.

The cover to Mrs. Arthur Wright is in a different, thicker envelope. The bisected 3d stamp (now 1½d value) added together with three ½d stamps and one 2d stamp total 5d, or double letter rate. It is a weird combination, but the rate is right and would have easily been paid by two 2d stamps and one ½d stamp. It sort of makes you wonder about the stamp shortage.

I was recently having a clean-out and stumbled upon a book I don't remember acquiring. *Fate is my Journey* by Gwenda Lynn Marriott-Burton, published in 1995. This woman had an interesting life as a singer, freelance writer and journalist. She traveled all over the



Fig. 2: 20 March 1900 Vava'u to the Parnell District in Auckland, New Zealand

world and her account of the Japanese attack on Shanghai in 1937 was syndicated worldwide.

Chapter One of the book has the key to these covers. The chapter is titled "From Tonga and New Zealand to Australia." The first sentence in the book is: "As a young child, after moving with my family from a Polynesian life in Tonga to Auckland, New Zealand, I eagerly collected knick-knacks and cut-out pictures from magazines..."

The story continues, "My father, Arthur Harry Wright, who was mostly away from home traveling on business, had been born in New Zealand. His English father a brilliant chemist, married a German baroness and they migrated to New Zealand. By the time father was twenty he was a purser on a cargo-passenger ship, plying between New Zealand and the South Sea Islands.

"He had met and married my mother in Auckland when she was nineteen. For her it was a frightening experience to head off immediately with her husband to the unknown Tonga, in the South Seas, Friendly Island Group. I suppose this must have been about the latter part of the 1800s.

"Father soon owned a fine schooner and traded among the Islands. He was beloved by the natives for his fair dealings. Mother was established in a comfortable little house close to the palace of Nukualofa. The young Princess, who in 1918 became Queen Salote, instantly befriended mother and treated her as a sister.

"Because there was no doctor on the island, as each of us were conceived and mother was about six months pregnant, she was then rowed across the lagoon and pulled up the side of the trading steamer on its regular monthly visit. Two weeks later, after an uncomfortable journey, she arrived in Auckland and awaited the birth. Eventually, mother and her new six week-old baby repeated the journey back to Tonga. We three children were brought up happily with the royal children in the Palace."

So it is likely the sender of these three bisected covers was Arthur Harry Wright, trader and schooner owner in Tonga at the turn of the last century. His schooner collected and delivered goods throughout the Tongan islands and he had business dealings throughout the world, which accounts for some of his correspondence. The two letters to Auckland would have been to his wife, Ada Jane and quite possibly to his eldest daughter, Gertrude Wright, who may have accompanied her mother to await the birth of her younger brother Eric or even her baby sister Gwenda, who became a world traveler and documenter of history.

SAS/O



Fig. 3: 20 March 1900 Vava'u to the Parnell District in Auckland, New Zealand

New! Now Available: an On-Line Australian Revenue Catalogue

SAS/O Member **Dave Elsmore** has once again enhanced his top-rated revenues website with the addition of an on-line priced catalogue of Australian revenue issues. Currently the catalogue is populated with Queensland Revenues, Tasmania Revenues and Railways, New South Wales Railways, South Australia Revenues and Railways, Northern Territories Revenues, and Australian Commonwealth Revenues. Those areas not yet covered will be added as time and energy permits.

Look for the **NEW!** flag on Dave Elsmore's website at <http://users.bigpond.net.au/dave1/index/> to view the catalogue. He also asks that if SAS/O Members have any comments or improvements, please contact him by email at dave1@bigpond.net.au. An example of one entry is shown below:



South Australian Railways essay die proof
49mm x 63mm imperf Cat Value A\$1500

SAS/O

Kakadu National Park

Dale White

Kakadu

by Gillian Savage

*"I have been there in the wetlands where the water lilies grow,
In the dazing heat of midday when the sky is richest blue.
I have floated with the pelicans past the paperbarks aglow
With the golden-red reflection of the mellow afternoon.*

*I have drifted by the banks where the egrets sit in trees,
Where crocodiles lie immobile in the sun.
I have seen the pretty wallabies turn to look at me,
And felt the shades of people who used to call this home."*

Ms. Savage sums up the greatness of Kakadu National Park in two beautiful stanzas. Kakadu National Park is located at the Top End of Australia, 171 km east of Darwin. Kakadu comes from the mispronounced "Gagudju". This was the name of one of the Aboriginal languages spoken at the northern end of the park.

Kakadu National Park, an UNESCO World Heritage Site, covers 19,804 square km and is approximately 200 km in length from Van Diemen Gulf in the north to the southern park border and 100 km from east to west. Kakadu and Israel are about the same size and the park is approximately 1/3 the size of Tasmania. The park covers an ecologically diverse area and takes in portions of the East and West Alligator Rivers, the Wildman River and all of the South Alligator River. There are seven major regions of Kakadu National Park, 1) South Alligator River, 2) Jabiru, 3) East Alligator River, 4) Nourlangie, 5) Yellow Water, 6) Mary River, and 7) Jim Jim.

This past March our family took a trip to Kakadu. It was coming to the end of the 'wet', one of the two seasons in the park. Kakadu National Park is in the tropics, located between 12 and 14 degrees south of the equator. From April to September it is "the Dry" and there is very little rain and lower amounts of humidity. Daytime highs are around 32C. By November the humidity is rising to uncomfortable levels and "the Wet", between January and March, brings humidity and monsoon rains. During "the Wet" the average temperature rises to 37.5C. Annual rainfall in Jabiru is 1,565 mm (1.56 metres) while the Mary River receives 1,300 mm (1.33 metres). On one day of our holiday we received 100 mm (10 cm, or about 4 inches) of rain within a few hours, while a short distance away they received 150 mm (15 cm) of rain.

Exploring Australian Themes



"Nature of Australia" 1997 Kakadu wetlands \$10 mini-sheet

The concept of establishing a national park in the Alligator River region was first proposed in 1965. It took many years of negotiations with the six different Aboriginal groups of the Alligator River before the park was established in 1978. It was a three-stage process to settle the land claims and ensure that the Aborigines heritage was covered and protected. Part Two of the park was opened in February 1984 and the third stage was opened in 1996. The land is handled under the Land Rights Act and the Director of National Parks signed a lease to manage the National Park.

Kakadu's flora is very rich. The park hosts more than 1600 plant species. Each area of the park hosts plants that are unique to that area. For instance, the "stone country" hosts "resurrection grasses" that can handle the high heat followed by monsoon rains. Cutting across the stone country are deep gorges that are home to monsoon forests. The lowlands cover large areas of Kakadu and they are populated with eucalypt trees and a large range of grasses like spear grass, sedges and multitudes of wildflowers. The floodplains, under water for several months of the year have a multitude of plants such as sedges (spike rush) and freshwater mangroves (itchy tree), pandanus and paper bark trees (*Melaleuca*). The flooded areas come alive in April with 'carpets' of water lilies. Blue, yellow and white snowflake lilies are the common colours found. Along the tidal flats of Kakadu you can find 39 of the 47 species of mangroves that grow in the Northern Territory. Behind these mangroves you will find monsoon forests containing large trees such as the banyan fig and the kapok tree.

Due to the diversity of the environment in Kakadu there is an amazing number of different animals and mammals. The park is home to almost 60 types of mammals and 280 species of birds. This represents about 1/3 of all Australian bird species. There are 117 different types of reptiles in the park. Since they rely on heat for energy, it is not uncommon to see many of the reptiles out during the early morning or late afternoon. It is too hot during the middle of the day.

There are two types of crocodiles in Kakadu, Estuarine or saltwater (salties) crocodiles and freshwater (freshie).

Freshies have a narrow snout and four bony lumps behind their head. Salties are very aggressive and will attack while a freshie will avoid humans (generally). A “freshie” grows to approximately 3 metres, while a “saltie” can grow to 6 metres. A crocodile gets most of its energy from the sun so you will see them laying along the banks of rivers and billabongs soaking up the sun. They require only about ½ kg to 1 kg of fresh meat a day. If a crocodile kills a large animal, like a kangaroo or a person, they stash them under a log so as the flesh rots and other fish or animals come to feed the crocodile kills the visitors. Contrary to popular opinion crocodiles only like fresh meat.

There are over 10,000 kinds of insects in Kakadu, however biting insects seem to be very few. The termites are the most visible insects building mounds throughout the southern portion of the park.

Our trip this past March was during the latter part of the “wet” and many areas of the park were flooded and inaccessible. We drove into the park from Pine Creek, up the Kakadu Highway to Jaibiru. We rented a self-contained cabin and this was our base for the four days we were in the park. We did trips to Yellow Water and went on a great boat trip to the Yellow Water billabong, which is at the end of the Jim Jim Creek and the South Alligator River. We cruised through a paperbark forest and saw numerous types of birds including a jabiru, sea eagles, kites and magpie geese.

Another day we went to Nourlangie Rock and walked through areas where Aborigines have lived for 50,000 years. We saw many rock paintings and in some areas they were multiple levels of drawings, as over the years Aborigines would simply draw over the ones already there. There are many things to do in the park during both the wet and the dry and most tourists do come during the dry. We came to Kakadu National Park during “the wet” as it corresponded to our daughter’s school holidays, however we were not disappointed with our visit. Please check the following websites for more information about Kakadu National Park:

<http://www.environment.gov.au/parks/kakadu/> and <http://www.cultureandrecreation.gov.au/articles/kakadu/>

On 10 April 1997, Australia Post issued a four-stamp set as part of the “Nature of Australia” series. The four values were 20c, 25c, \$1 and \$10. The 20c stamp (Australian Stamp Catalogue 1606) features a saltwater crocodile (*Crocodylus Porosus*), with his mouth open (this is how they cool themselves). In the bottom right corner is a Kankong flower, which is a floating vine with two-tone colour flowers and arrow shape leaves. One of the best times to see the flowers in Kakadu is during the months of April and May.



1997 Kakadu 20c stamp
Saltwater crocodile

On the 25c stamp (ASC 1607), is a Northern Dwarf Tree-Frog (*Litoria Bicolour*). There are 25 species of frogs in the park and not all live in the swamps. A number of frogs live in the lowland forests, however the Northern Dwarf Tree-Frog lives along the edges of the swamps. This stamp has a red lily (*Nelumbo Nucifera*) in the bottom right corner.



Tree frog and Butterfly stamps of the 1997 Kakadu issues

A Big Greasy Butterfly (*Cressida cressida*) is on the \$1 stamp (ASC 1608). This stamp shows the male butterfly. The “Greasy” part of its name comes from the female, as the female’s wings are almost transparent. They are yellowish so it looks like she has been dipped in oil. The flower in the bottom right corner is a water lily (*Nymphaea violacea*).

The final stamp in this set is the very beautiful \$10 stamp (ASC 1609). It is large at 50 x 30 mm. It shows a cross section of the Kakadu wetlands during a thunder-shower on the left with paperbark trees (*Melaleuca sp.*), a red lily (*Nelumbo nucifera*) and a Great Egret to the right. The \$10 stamp was issued in a mini-sheet with the proceeds going to the Australia 99 Philatelic Exhibition.

Rankin Bevers Associates designed the stamp series and SNP Cambec printed the stamps using the offset litho printing process. The 20c, 25c and \$1 stamp are the same size; 30 x 25 mm, and all of the stamps are perforated 14.4 x 14.

There have been a number of reprints of these stamps. The 20c crocodile has been reprinted 7 times, the 25c Northern Dwarf Tree-Frog twice, the \$1 Big Greasy Butterfly four times and the \$10 Kakadu wetlands stamp once.

The \$10 mini-sheet was overprinted in gold foil for PhilaNippon in 2001, Italia 98 in Milan and Pacific 97 in San Francisco.

The four stamp set retails for \$19.80 in both MUH and used condition. Reprints for the 20c and 25c stamp retail for \$1.65 MUH and \$1.10 used. The Butterfly reprints range from \$2.20 to \$3.85 MUH and approximately \$1 less for used. The \$10 stamp retails for \$15.00 in both MUH and used condition. The mini-sheet retails for \$20.00 MUH.

It is certainly worth a visit to Kakadu National Park and whether you visit in “the Dry” or “the Wet” you will be amazed at the scenery, the flora and the fauna. sas/o

Modern Pacific Postal History

Steve Zirinsky

(Right & Below) New Frank Stamps for Suva and Nadi Magistrate Courts. Note the coat of arms has been excised from the Nadi Frank.

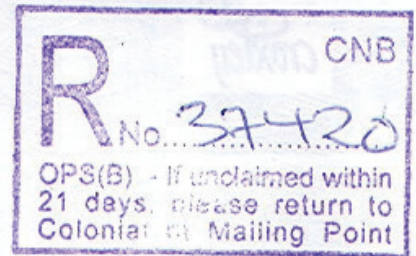
GOVERNMENT OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

Tropik Wood
Private Mail Bag
Suva.



GOVERNMENT OF THE FIJI ISLANDS

THE ACCOUNTANT,
FIJI PINE LTD,
P.O. BOX 521,
LAKUTOKA.



(Right) Colonial National Bank private handstamp for registered mail. A few examples now being seen.



fast POST
PAR AVION



New NADI AIRPORT POST OFFICE/
PRE-PAID undated circular handstamp



(Above) Strip of 3 of the 3c on 1c overprints with small "XX" on 2007 cover with registered SAVUSAVU POST OFFICE/COUNTER datestamp [see next page also]

More Modern Pacific Postal History



Current Tuvalu Circular Date Stamps

(Left) 36mm c.d.s. with FUNAFUTI/ TUVALU in arc [previously recorded]
 (Right) 28mm double-lined c.d.s. FUNAFUTI/ TUVALU [a new sighting]

Fiji 4c on 6c overprint with large "XX" is a new sighting for 2008

CHUUK ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
 CHUUK STATE GOVERNMENT
 WENO CHUUK STATE FSM 96942



SOPAC
 SOPAC SECRETARIAT
 PRIVATE MAIL BAG, GPO
 SUVA, FIJI ISLAND
 TEL: 679-3381377



Registered letter from Fed. States of Micronesia to Fiji

(Below) Backstamps on the cover above:

- Weno, Chuuk/ FSMPO dispatch office c.d.s.
- Nadi Airport (Fiji) Registry Office transit c.d.s.
- Registered/ Post Fiji Ltd, Suva receiving office c.d.s.



(Right) New 27.5mm c.d.s. from Tonga:
 Tonga Post Office/
 Nuku 'alofa



SAS/O

New Cook Island Airport Departure Stamps

Steve Zirinsky



New Airport Departure Tax Stamps have begun to appear in the Cook Islands since the first of the year. The tax went from NZ\$25 to NZ\$30 for an adult and from NZ\$10 to NZ\$15 for a child. The new stamp duty adhesives are shown above: Child (top) and Adult (bottom).

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(Advertisement)

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Registered Covers especially pre 1915, Meter mail and purely Postmark collections, New Zealand Postal History Collections, e.g., Sidefaces, 1898 Pictorials, Edward, George 5, George 6, Exhibitions, 1920 Victory, also specialized stamp collections of any of these or other subjects or Thematic topics.

Early Airmails, Postage Dues, Officials, Postal Fiscals, Revenues, Cinderellas (especially advertising labels on cover issued for exhibitions/special events – pre or during the event). This includes used covers with the name/logo of the organisers printed on the Covers. Advertising covers.

And yes, anything else not in this list including specialized stamp collections of anything New Zealand, Pacific Islands OR ANY OTHER COUNTRY. World Collections and Accumulations welcomed.

I travel anywhere in New Zealand and visit England and USA 3 times a year. I also visit other countries for exhibitions **AND TO BUY.**

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Illustration on Advertising cover

An Incredible Journey

Paul Zatulove

The German Seepost connected the far-flung German Pacific Island colonies with each other and with the Fatherland. Illustrated here is a forerunner cover posted from Stephansort, German New Guinea to Germany on 11 April 1891. There were about 90 Europeans living in the isolated German colony at the time. The letter is franked with a strip of four 10 pfennig German Empire stamps.

The letter was picked up by the steamer Otilie at Stephansort. Otilie ran into trouble and sank. The mail was recovered and transferred to the steamer Schwalbe, which proceeded to Singapore and thence to Europe.

The letter arrived in Dresden 30 June 1891 (backstamp). By that date, the Kaiser Yacht issue was the preferred legal postage, and the German Empire stamps were not recognized by the Post Office (blue crayon marking off the 10 pfennig stamps). The letter was marked in blue crayon "T 80" for postage due 40 pf + fine of 40 pf double deficiency because of the obsolete stamps.

The letter continued to Flinsberg, arriving 1 July 1891 for delivery and an end to its incredible journey. SAS/O

Zatulove's Exhibit "Journey of Ingenuity" Offered by Harmers

This October, Harmers will auction **Paul Zatulove's** incredible exhibit, *Journey of Ingenuity: 4000 Years of Mail Delivery*. The exhibit includes a number of items of interest to SAS/O members, including:

McCullough & Co. of Victoria parcels mail delivery stamps (6d orange illustrated below).

Coolgardie Bicycle Mail stamps and covers.

New Guinea forerunner cover (the story at left).

Marianas WWI Japanese Warship #6 mail.

Tin Can Mail.

A Shackleton Expedition letter and ice floe photos.

New Zealand Great Barrier Reef Pigeongrams.

Keep an eye out for the sale catalogue!

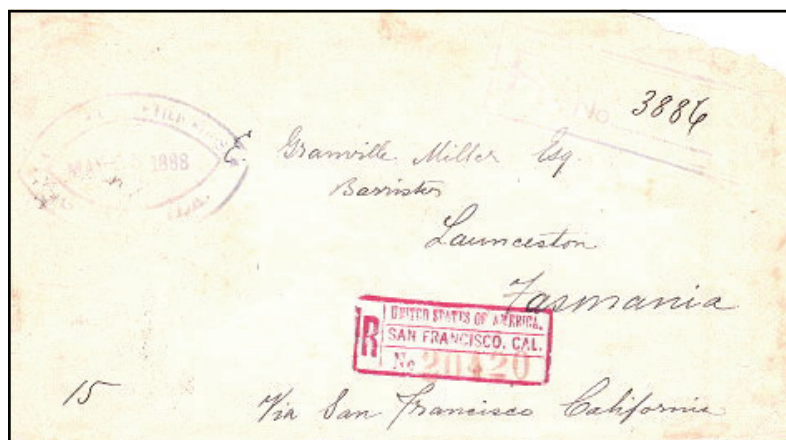
SAS/O



11 April 1891 Stephansort, Neuguinea to Dresden, Germany forwarded to Flinsberg arriving 1 July

1888 Registered Cover from Guatemala to Tasmania

John Shepherd



Front of the 1888 cover from Guatemala to Launceston, Tasmania



Reverse of the registered cover above documenting the rate and the route via San Francisco and with arrival date stamp in Launceston

Early mail before 1900 between the Americas and Tasmania is rare. Illustrated is an 1888 cover sent from Guatemala, Central America, to Tasmania. This is the earliest surviving cover recorded between the Central or South America and Tasmania.¹ An earlier registered letter of 3 November 1887 to the same addressee is known only by the surviving Advice of Receipt form returned to Guatemala from Launceston.²

The popularity of postcard collecting in the early years of the twentieth century saw an increase in correspondence as postcards avidly exchanged between Argentina, Brazil and the Canal Zone and postcard collectors of Tasmania as part of a worldwide interest.

The recipient of this cover was Granville Miller, a Launceston barrister. Miller was an advanced stamp collector and a contemporary of A.F. Bassett Hull. The registration of a cover to him may suggest that a valuable parcel of stamps was being sent. The cover is franked on the back with a single 25 centavos orange cancelled with a star postmark. The 25c rate equation is as follows: Registration 15

centavos + Surface mail 10 centavos. The star cancel was used exclusively at this time in the Registry Division in Guatemala City.

The cover took over two months to reach Tasmania. No direct mail service existed between Australia and Central America, and all mail was routed via the United States. The office of origin could be the provincial post office at Quezaltenango and thence to Guatemala City, if this cover was sent to Miller by the same person as the 1887 cover.

The cover was posted on 25 May 1888 and was endorsed *Via San Francisco California* to make the steamer connection. The cover likely traveled by steamer from Guatemala to Panama³ and then to San Francisco. The cover was then conveyed along with the Australian and New Zealand mails by the Union Steamship Co. steamer *Mariposa*, which departed San Francisco on 1 July 1888 at 4PM, via Auckland (21 July at 2PM) before arriving in Sydney on 27 July 1888.⁴ The markings are:

25 May 1888: ? Guatemala where registered (numerator 3886) and stamp applied to the reverse.

24 June 1888: San Francisco where registered with markings struck on the front and back.

31 July 1888: Launceston arrival c.d.s. No registration markings were applied to the cover on arrival in Launceston; and although the P.O. had a straight-line REGISTERED handstamp at this time, transit registration markings were not common before Tasmania joined the UPU in 1892.

NOTES:

¹ An 1897 2½d Keyplate on cover from Hobart to Mexico, unclaimed and returned to Tasmania is recorded: Millennium Philatelic Auctions #32 ex lot 120. Early inwards mail is represented by a 1902 registered cover from Chile to Forth, Tasmania, and another 1902 registered letter from Cuba, also to Forth..

² Gruson, Cécile, "Advice of Receipt Forms," *El Quetzal*, Vol. 40 No. 263, April 1990, pp. 30-32. Shows form but not the letter.

³ The *Central American Line* operated between Punta Arenas and Panama. An early table of sailings, from 1867, is reproduced in Wierenga, *United States Incoming Steamship Mail 1847-1875*. 2nd ed., p.88.

⁴ Tabart, Colin, "The San Francisco Route 1886-1900," *Sydney Views*. No. 95, May 2007, pp.14-15.

John Shepherd is the editor of *The Courier*, the research journal of the Tasmanian Philatelic Society. Contact him at: johnshepherdlawyer@hotmail.com, or P.O. Box 2104, Lower Sandy Bay, Tasmania 7005, Australia. SAS/O

SAS/O SECRETARY'S MID-YEAR REPORT JULY 2008

Send all address changes to:

Stuart Leven, P. O. BOX 24764, San Jose, CA 95154-4764

MEMBERSHIP from 1 JAN 2008.....	245
New Members.....	+ 12
Rejoined.....	+ 2
Resigned.....	- 6
Deceased.....	- 1
Drop Dues.....	- 10
MEMBERSHIP to 30 JUN 2008	242

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THE INFORMER **CLOSING DATES FOR ADVERTISING AND ARTICLES:**



DEC 1 for the JANUARY Issue

MAR 1 for the APRIL Issue

JUN 1 for the JULY Issue

SEP 1 for the OCTOBER Issue

Late items will be held for the next issue

IMPORTANT DATE CHANGE

SAS/O 2009 Convention

Melbourne, Australia

NEW DATE: 23-26 JULY 2009

Exhibits by SAS/O Members

Seminars by SAS/O Members

Opportunities for Fellowship

President's Message

Robert C. Stein

SAS/O is looking forward to changes in outlook. We have been an international organization based in the United States; however, many activities indicate changes of emphasis to truly international one. This was evident at our annual meeting in Denver. The membership present discussed adding more members as directors. **Alan Berry**, our Director from New Zealand, presented fellowship membership in the Royal of New Zealand awards to our members **George Branham** and **J. Edgar Williams** for their contributions in that area. Exchanges of library material between our library and that of NZ are underway. All these activities demonstrate the importance of the non-US members, and their need to be recognized for their contributions.

The Board is proposing changes in the by-laws to enlarge itself. The purpose is to have broader representation, especially for overseas members.

Our first overseas meeting will be held next year in Melbourne in July. For the American members, it means planning, scheduling and adventure. Instead of entertaining a few overseas visitors at our convention in the USA, our USA members take on the visitor's role there. We should show off our best exhibits, present the total scope of interest among our members, and show how much we need to integrate our members' needs. For those who have not yet been to Australia, it is a great opportunity to see some of our areas of interest. It can be a great opportunity to welcome an Australian member at the Board meeting.

At the General Meeting in Denver this year, a discussion centered on the improvement of services to members. Using surplus funds for adding color to *The Informer* was a primary consideration. It adds not only attractiveness, but allows for some articles in which the illustrations definitely require color. A second proposal was the possibility of publishing special studies or monographs. The latter requires material to be submitted by the members. If any member has material that could be considered, contact me at eaof@roadrunner.com, and I will submit it to the Editorial Board for consideration.

As a final request of the membership, I ask for volunteers to undertake some responsibility in the governance of the Society as an Officer or Director or committee person. If you have an interest in improving the SAS/O experience for members, please let me know.

The next year should be quite exciting as we reach out to provide more service to the members, and broaden the participation of members, both in the USA and overseas.

Bob

MEMBERS' WANT LISTS

A free service for Members. Contact the Editor at dmcnamee@aol.com to make your wants known.

BCOF Overprints

Wanted BCOF overprints on Australian stamps and covers, as well as anything associated with the occupation of Japan following WWII. Contact Janet Klug SAS/O #1804 at TongaJan@aol.com.

New Zealand

Wanted New Zealand KGV 1½d greys/blacks, all forms, including blocks, covers, etc. Contact Alastair Watson SAS/O #2635 at hare.copper@yahoo.com.

Tasmania Pictorials

Wanted Tasmanian lithographed Pictorials Scott Nos. 94, 95, 97, 104-107 in multiples (pairs, strips, blocks, sheets) for plating study. Contact Jerry Weirich SAS/O #1664 at jgpmj@aol.com.

Tasmania Perfins

Wanted Tasmanian perfins on postage stamps and covers, as well as perfins on Tasmanian revenues. Contact David McNamee SAS/O #L-1089 at dmcnamee@aol.com.

Modern Tonga

Wanted items and information regarding modern Tonga (1944 – 1980) complete sheets, varieties, bromides, proofs, artwork etc. Please contact Matthew Peters SAS/O #2547 at matthew@freesurf.ch.

SAS/O

Publications of Interest

Burt, Randall E., "Postal Money Orders in Hawaii 1883-1900," *Postal Order News*, No. 88 April 2008, pp. 10-18. A thorough treatment of a niche subject.

Elsmore, Dave, in his regular column "Revenue Review" in the April 2008 *Stamp News Australasia*, reports on discovering a blue error of colour in the Queensland 1962 series \$10 Swine Duty stamps, normally printed in violet.

Fletcher, Paul and **Geoff Kellow**, "Collecting Australian Postage Dues," *Gibbons Stamp Monthly*, April 2008, pp. 54--57. This is a very informative overview, succinct and well-illustrated.

Malcolm Groom points out that several SAS/O writers are publishing or re-publishing articles on a new on-line reference site www.philatelicedatabase.com. Check it out!

Tedesco, T.M., "Index of Literature ... that Describes Forgeries," in *Philatelic Literature Review*, Vol. 57, 1st Qtr, pp. 39-40 (Samoa), 46-47 (Solomons) and 48-50 (So. Australia).

SAS/O

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Library Address (for mailing donations):

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES and MEMBERSHIP: US\$17 (USA & Canada) US\$24 (Others) Contact the Secretary

2009 ANNUAL MEETING: Melbourne, Australia

2010 ANNUAL MEETING: NAPEX Falls Church, VA

2011 ANNUAL MEETING: Sandical San Diego, CA

2012 ANNUAL MEETING: TEXPEX, Dallas, TX

SOUTH PACIFIC PERFIN WEBSITE

SAS/O Member **Dave Elsmore** has established a home for the website of the Perfin Club of New Zealand and Australia at:

<http://users.bigpond.net.au/dave1/index/>

Look for the link to the Perfin Club in the header.

USA POSTAL RATES RISE AGAIN

Postage costs to send *The Informer* to you rose on 12 May:

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Robin Startup, RDP, FRPSL, FRPSNZ

SAS/O Member **Robin Startup**, FRPSL, FRPSNZ, has been asked to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists. Robin resides in New Zealand, and for many years has been the dean of New Zealand postal history. For 50 years or more, he has been a prolific researcher and writer of over 60 books on New Zealand philately: our library contains a work he published in 1959 about the American postal operations in New Zealand, as well as his latest collaboration in 2004 with David Beech and Alan Berry, compiling a comprehensive bibliography of NZ philately.

Robin has been very generous with his time and his knowledge to assist new writers with their research. He has also been a contributor to *The Informer*, keeping the Society informed about changes in postal operations, new issues and an occasional foray into articles on older postal history.

I am certain all SAS/O Members wish **Robin Startup, RDP, FRPSL, FRPSNZ**, "All the Best!" SAS/O

Tonga: Population Stats 2006

THE BULLETIN
BOARD IS OPEN TO
ANY SAS/O
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COMMENTS,
MEETING NOTICES
OR NEWS INTEREST

Unofficial, but interesting if you want an idea of commercial mail scarcity (submitted by **Steve Zirinsky**):

Tongatapu	71,260	
Vava'u	15,485	
Ha'apai	7,572	
'Eua	5,165	
Niutoputapu	1,002	
Niufo'ou	650	SAS/O

APS On-Line Pacific Book Sale

The American Philatelic Society bookstore on-line at www.stamps.org is offering a close-out sale on two Pacific Area books:

Murphy, *A Postal History/Cancellation Study of the U.S. Pacific Islands (including the Trust Territories)*, 359 pp., hardbound, close-out price US\$25.

Stein, *The Aerogrammes of Australia and its Dependencies*, 188 pp. hardbound, closeout price \$6.

Here is an opportunity to add to your library at low cost. See also the **SAS/O Library Book Sale** on Page 73 of this journal for more opportunities! SAS/O

Millennium to Offer Fabled Strip

Millennium Philatelic Auctions will offer the Stuart Leven Collection of New Guinea in October. One of the key items in the sale is the fabled "abc" strip of the **N.W.P.I. 2½d Second Wmk** (at right). Perhaps one of three in private hands, none have been on the market since 1977.

Other important postal history pieces from New Guinea – from the German Period starting in 1888 to Japanese Occupation in 1942 – are among the 1000 or so covers in the Stuart Leven Collection.

The rare **Friedrich-Wilhelmshafen G.R.I. handstamp** is represented by a 30pf on cover (below). Another spectacular item includes a 1915 cover with ½d, 2d, 3d, and 1/- Kangaroos perforated "OS" (bottom). These three items are but a small sample of what will be offered. A full colour catalogue available September.



Images and text furnished by Millennium Philatelic Auction Press Release dated 24 April 2008. SAS/O

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