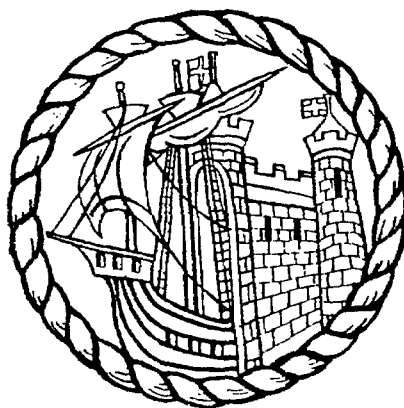


19/1996

Display by Members
of the
Bristol Philatelic Society
on the occasion of their
Centenary Year
to
The Royal Philatelic Society, London



Bristol Philatelic Society
Thursday 21 November 1996

THE DISPLAYS

Australia

Estonia

GB: Bristol Postal History

GB: George VI

GB: Penny Black

GB: Queen Victoria

Hong Kong

India

Jamaica

Russia

Samoa

Straits Settlements

BRISTOL PHILATELIC SOCIETY

An Historical Note

On 20th February 1897 there was a meeting in a private house in Bristol which resulted in the formation of the Bristol & Clifton Philatelic Society (the "B&CPS") whose first meeting was held on 13th March 1897 (the year in which Miss A.L. Fenton of Bristol, that pioneering philatelic writer, died). Meetings have since then been held in a variety of venues, some distinctly more comfortable than others!

During the Great War the affairs were handled by the neighbouring Bath PS, and in 1919 the B&CPS was reactivated, developing well during the interwar years - for example hosting, with Bath PS, the 1922 Congress, and having a pre-adhesive display in 1931: said to be the first such in the UK. In 1936 a second Society was created in Bristol, the Bristol North Philatelic Society (the "BNPS"), which aimed at a more relaxed style compared with the B&CPS formalities of traditional philately.

During the Second World War the B&CPS continued to meet although of course membership fell; only one meeting was actually abandoned (due to a nearby unexploded bomb), and BNPS also managed to survive as a house group.

Some famous past philatelists were members, notably Dr.J. Morton Evans RDP (plating of Nevis issues), G.H. Boucher (immaculate Sydney Views) and Rev.F.W. Iremonger (Pacific island covers) - all, like other distinguished members over the decades, also FRPS,L's.

The Golden Jubilee in 1947 coincided with the immediate post-war austerity so little was done to mark the event, but in 1957 the Diamond Jubilee was marked by a dinner and a series of particularly outstanding displays. B&CPS joined the Wiltshire Federation in 1967, whose annual conventions they have frequently organised and hosted on a rota basis. The Diamond Jubilee Congress meeting was held in Bristol in 1969, but organised by Congress not by a local society. Both B&CPS and BNPS joined the Bristol Federation when it was formed in 1973.

In the early 1970's amalgamation of the two societies was discussed but not pursued, and it was in 1977 that a successful merger came about, resulting in the disbandment of both societies in favour of a new Bristol Philatelic Society (the "BPS") where old mistrusts were soon obliterated in favour of a combination of the best of both traditions.

A large unexpected bequest to BNPS by a deceased member, A.C. 'Tex' Rickards, resulted in BPS achieving a level of financial stability unusual in provincial societies. The subsequent years have seen a long list of displays on all branches of the hobby by many major national philatelists, as well as more local collectors and our own members, in relatively congenial surroundings. Members of BPS also have the advantage of access to a large and well-used philatelic library.

This Season the Centenary of B&CPS is being marked not only by a dinner (100 years to the day!) and library displays but also by the publication in Spring 1997 of books on the history of the Societies and on Bristol postal markings; there will also be a "Bristol Stamp Day" on 31st June 1997 which is intended to bring our hobby to the attention of a wider public.

AUSTRALIAN REVENUES: SELECTED ASPECTS

by Dr. Ian Spencer

The aims of this display are to look at certain aspects of Australian revenues, covering both States and Commonwealth periods, taking examples from all six principal states.

Frames 1 & 2: Tasmania

The first Australian Revenue was the Tasmanian Newspaper Duty of 1827, introduced because the Colonial Times newspaper had managed to irritate Governor Arthur. These impressed duties lasted less than 3 years and it was not until the Stamp Duties Act of 1863 that the first adhesive duty stamps were issued: George & Dragon series with four values. Together with the platypus issues, they form the so-called postal-fiscals.

Both series had rather chequered careers, including some new denominations and being overprinted 'Revenue', as well as being officially reprinted.

Frame 3: New South Wales

This focuses in part on taxes on Wages & Salaries between the wars - family endowment, relief tax, unemployment relief tax, and wages tax (amalgamated to form income tax in 1941).

Other duties included those to help prevent the spread of diseases in cattle and sheep, and the early use of coloured impressions for impressed duty.

Frame 4: Queensland

In Queensland, impressed duty entailed the use of impressed cancels on special adhesive stamps, unlike the other states. These included long series of stamps with 60 or more per set, and with values up to and even above £1000!

Examples of earlier series exist mainly with colourless embossing (remainders), or as specimen and cancelled copies. Few copies of values above £5 appear to have been used for fiscal purposes.

Frame 5: A miscellany

Queensland	Agricultural and pastoral duties
South Australia	1902 Stamp Duty, Cattle and Swine Duties
Victoria	Relief Tax
Western Australia	1904 Long Swan Duty Stamps
	Security overprints and perfins.

These five frames cover a few areas in this huge topic - far more revenues have been produced than postal issues, and revenues are only one aspect of Cinderella Philately!

AN INTRODUCTION TO BRISTOL POSTAL HISTORY

by Brian Purcell

To celebrate its centenary in 1997 Bristol Philatelic Society has embarked on a project to publish a handbook on all aspects of Bristol postal history. After nearly two years of study and research this project is almost complete. This short display covers most of the chapters of the handbook, which will be published early in 1997.

Early mail was sent along one of the six post roads radiating from London. The delivery address was usually an inn from which the recipients had to collect their letters. At the Bristol end it was the Dolphin Inn. The first Bristol handstamp, introduced in 1697, was a capital B with the month included in the upper loop and the day in the lower loop.

In the 18th century the name of the town of origin was struck with a handstamp on the face of letters. A straight-line **BRISTOL** is the most common. Others include a large B with **RIS** and **TOL** in the loops, a two line **BRIS/TOLL**, and serpentine and horseshoe shaped **BRISTOL** handstamps.

A wide range of ship letter handstamps is found on mail through the Port of Bristol between 1765 and 1936, and make an interesting study.

From 1784 the mileage from London was added to some handstamps. The earliest type is a straight-line 122 **BRISTOL** mark. From 1805 the mileage was incorporated in circular datestamps.

The Penny Post system was introduced in Bristol in 1793. The early circular **PPP** and **PPU** marks are rare, but there is a nice range of **PENNY POST** and **PY POST** handstamps to collect which were used up to 1852.

Instructional marks were employed as early as 1806 for a wide range of reasons. Early marks include **MISSENT TO BRISTOL** and **TOO LATE** handstamps. Letters that had been pre-paid needed clearer identification than just manuscript inscriptions. Bristol used a distinctive circular hand stamp with the legend **PAID AT BRISTOL**.

From 1840 many of the receiving houses in the Bristol Penny Post area were issued with undated circular handstamps. These were abolished in 1860.

Numeral cancellations replaced the Maltese cross for obliterating adhesive stamps from 1844. Bristol was allocated the number 134. This was incorporated in spoon cancels in 1854, and from 1855 in the duplex cancels which continued in use until the reign of Edward VII. Clifton was issued with the number 959 but later used the Bristol number.

Letters can attract charge marks for a wide range of reasons, but mainly for being unpaid or underpaid. Many of the handstamps used incorporate the Bristol 134 number.

With the completion of the Great Western railway line from Bristol to London Brunel's station at Temple Meads was constructed. It had its own **BRISTOL STATION** c.d.s. for a short period from 1848 for six years. This is a rare mark. The handstamp **MISSENT-TO/BRISTOL** is almost as rare. With the extension of the railway network, travelling post offices were set up. One of the earliest associated with Bristol is the **B16** numeral of the Bristol to Plymouth service.

1880-81 saw the earliest Bristol squared circle datestamp. Many types are known. A sub-office example was provided for Clifton: it is not common, being seen used more often as a backstamp during the reign of Queen Victoria.

Bristol's first cancelling machine was introduced in December 1904. This is an extensive field for study, covering the various Columbia, Krag, Hey & Dolphin, Universal and Unified design machines.

Slogan cancellations were introduced in 1917-18 with three different types of **WAR BOND** design. Initially they were used for Government sponsored campaigns, later use was for national or international events. More recently they are used for local publicity.

The handbook **AN INTRODUCTION TO BRISTOL POSTAL HISTORY** is compiled by Ian Baillie, Brian Purcell and Mike Smith. For further information contact Brian Purcell at 1 Ashton Way, Bristol BS18 1JY (tel 0117-986 8889)

ESTONIA

by John Tovey

The German dominance of this small country started in 1227 and continued at local level until the agricultural reforms of 1919. The peasantry had a hard time throughout this era, but by about 1550 the dominant Livonian Order had collapsed, and the country was fought over for many years. Captured by Sweden in 1561, Estonia was a Swedish province until, in 1721, Russia, under Peter 1st, made Estonia (and Livonia) part of the Russian Empire.

Sweden had given the area a reasonable postal system, but this was not built upon by the Russians until around the middle of the 18th century, when the Post Station system was improved, and the mails (for the Government and the nobility) travelled safely and quickly around the province.

The railways came in 1870, which opened up the small country, and accelerated to some extent the material and social progress that had slowly been achieved by the "lower orders". Always of an independent nature, the Estonians took advantage of the 1917 Revolution to declare a Free Estonia, with assistance from neighbouring countries. England, Soviet Russia and the League of Nations recognised the new Country - the Republic of Estonia - Eesti Vabariik.

Freedom had not come easily: the German Army took over in 1918, and for two years the War of Independence had been fought, but in 1919 the country was free of foreign troops, and the first stamps were issued.

The inflation of the early twenties was not as severe in Estonia as in other countries; the stamp issuing policy was restrained. The London Philatelist carried excellent studies of the 'Smith and Weaver' and 'Viking Ship' issues in 1962/3 and 1975/6, both by Donald McDonald.

German rearmament led to tension with Soviet Russia, and Estonia was forced to agree to Soviet military bases on her territory. The Communist coup d'etat and incorporation into the USSR followed in 1940, and led to mass deportations in June 1941. In this year the Germans invaded and until 1944 Nazi domination led to terror and concentration camps. Russia came again in 1945, and ruled until freedom arrived in 1989.

The early material of Estonia, is, of course, Russian but it has an attraction of its own. The German invasion of 1918, the War of Independence followed by freedom in 1919 brought censorship, airmails, overprints and an interesting stamp-issuing policy all of which makes collecting Estonia a fascinating and rewarding pastime.

The stamp-issuing policy since independence has been a sensible one which has retained the interest of most collectors.

GREAT BRITAIN
by **John Forbes-Nixon, FRPS,L**

A display of Queen Victoria 19th century covers and entires.

The first frame indicates some of the vast array of routes and rates before reform rationalised the anomalies with the coming of the Uniform Postal Union on 1 July 1875.

The remaining three frames are a pot pourri of covers with an unusual interest or usage.

GEORGE VI HIGH VALUES: 2s, 5s and 10s, 1939 to 1951

by Robert Johnson, FRPS,L

The designer of the 2s6d and 5s type was Edmund Dulac. He also designed the 7d to 1s low values and the head on all the other low values. The designer of the 10s and £1 type was George Bellew.

The dates of issue were:

2s6d brown	4th September 1939
2s6d yellow-green	9th March 1942
5s red	21st August 1939
10s dark blue	30th October 1939
10s ultramarine	30th November 1942

The stamps were recess printed on paper watermarked KVIR and Crown. There were no plate numbers. The 2s6d and 5s values show several re-entries.

The colour of the low values ½d to 3d were changed in 1941 and 1942 to paler colours as part of the war effort to save raw materials. This affected the 2s6d and 10s values but for some reason not the 5s value.

The stamps to the 10s value were overprinted for the MEF service.

The series was superseded by the "Festival of Britain" issue of 3rd May 1951.

The purpose of this display is to show the uses to which these values were put (with the exception of telegraph forms).

Airmail usage predominates, and the period of use covers the Transpacific service to the Far East via San Francisco and its suspension. The main air rate to many countries in the period of issue was 1s3d for ½ ounce so higher rates show convenient multiples consistent with the values. One of the first main uses of the 5s value was to pay the 5s ½ ounce rate to South American countries via Air France. This service ended with the fall of France in June 1940.

The parcel service needed these stamps and one or two examples are shown.

There is one example of a registered sample service to Malaya using the 10s ultramarine.

The collection of Customs duties rarely appears but one is shown.

The £1 value is very rarely seen on cover other than first day covers. It was issued on the 1st October 1948 after the Silver Wedding £1 value had been used up.

Items worthy of note are:

1. The three certificates of posting each bearing the 2s6d value
2. The Forces registration cover with the cork FPO
3. The Transpacific service suspended memorandum
4. The cross-hatching cancellation on the cover addressed to The British Purchasing Commission
5. The strip of four 5s value on the cover to Brazil
6. The seven 5s values used on a cover to Argentina
7. The cover redirected from Hong Kong to China.

HONG KONG

by Bill Scawin

Following the so-called Opium War between China and Great Britain, Hong Kong was ceded to Britain under the terms of the treaty of Nanking. The flag was raised on 26th January 1841. A second Opium War broke out on 18th February 1841 which was concluded with a further treaty of Nanking. This gave the British the right to trade from the five ports on the Chinese mainland, namely Canton, Amoy, Foochowtoo, Shanghai and Ningpo. The later so-called Arrow War in 1856 resulted in further trading concessions, together with the ceding of part of the mainland opposite Hong Kong island, now known as Kowloon.

The display consists of examples of postal history of the Victorian era.

The first post office was opened in August 1841 and the first postal marking was an oval, struck in red, with the Royal Arms and 'Post Office/Hong Kong' round the margins. Large, medium and small crowned circles were all in use inscribed 'Paid at Hong Kong'. Various other pre-adhesive markings are also shown.

Adhesives were issued 2nd December 1862, but were not compulsory. Covers with pre-adhesive markings can be found well into 1864.

Covers with a variety of routes and rates are shown.

The display concludes with a display of combination covers showing the developing relationship between the Chinese Imperial Post and Hong Kong.

COLLECTING INDIA
ASPECTS OF INDIAN PHILATELY
by Derek Johnston

This display is intended to give the viewer a small insight into the many and varied aspects of Indian collecting.

Frame 1: 'Large Format-High Values'

The frame starts with the first issue in September 1895. Three values, bearing the head of Queen Victoria from a portrait by Angeli, were released. The issue was overprinted for use in some of the Indian Convention States and other territories. The issue was also overprinted 'Postal Service' and used for the collection of customs duty payable on foreign, inward coming parcels.

This is followed by the issue of Edward VII in 1902-11. Of the set of seventeen stamps, six were in large format.

In the George V issues of 1911-22 and 1926-33 and the George VI issue of 1937 the frame design was changed, the same new frame being used for all three issues. The new portrait of the King's head was used. All values were overprinted for various uses, including Official and in the territories.

Frame 2: Insured Mail

This frame shows the manner in which insured mail was dealt with and includes a parcel receipt form not previously recorded. The 'Value Payable' system (cash on delivery) is shown.

On the bottom row are combination covers illustrating the use of Native State stamps for use within the State and British India stamps for transmission outside the State.

Frame 3: Postage Dues

Various postage due material is shown, starting with 'Overland Postage Dues' - mail coming into India by sea and sorted in ship Sea Post Offices. And then 'Foreign Postage Dues' - mail coming into India other than through the Sea Post Offices and sorted in India. Finally early inland postage due marks including the very rare 'Crescent' shaped 1 anna.

Frame 4: George V Essays, and other items

The 1925 George V essays were printed in Delhi and are known as the 'Delhi Specimens'.

The Bahawalpur State issue of 1947 lasted for a period of 50 days.

Then the issues for Mosul used by Indian Expeditionary Force 'D' when occupying the city in 1919.

Finally Prisoner of War Camps 1914-18; Italian prisoner of war mail of 1942 and Active Service Mail 1942.

JAMAICA

by Michael Vokins

Jamaica was one of Britain's earliest and most prosperous colonies with the result that it had a well developed and active postal service from an early date. There were 53 post offices at the time of the introduction of the use of postage stamps in 1858, initially British stamps. At first only Kingston had an obliterator, A01, for cancelling stamps so the other post offices were instructed to datestamp the envelope but leave the cancelling of the stamp to the head office at Kingston. A cover from Savannah-la-Mar is shown from this brief interesting period. The postage rates in operation at this time are illustrated with some covers, one illustrated in the book by Tom Foster.

After a persuasive and sharp report by Anthony Trollope the Jamaican authorities reluctantly took over the running of the island's postal system and with the arrival of the colony's first stamps, with their unique Pineapple watermark, the Victorian period settled to a steady simplification and reduction of postage rates.

The main section of the display is devoted to showing a variety of adhesives of the Victorian period on cover, but with an emphasis on the use of the 1d stamps. Because of a failure to order ½d stamps for the newspaper rate the bisecting of the 1d stamp was authorised for a short period: an example is shown of a cover with two bisected stamps, resulting from a misunderstanding of the postage rates.

Other covers are shown to a variety of destinations: covers to France by different routes, to Sierra Leone franked with fiscal stamps, to a village near Bristol involving the payment of late fees.

The next section is a study of the 1½d stamp of 1919, the Peace Commemorative as it was originally called. The production of this stamp required 14 printing plates, and the use of paper of a non-standard size resulted in many different orientations of the watermarks. Gibbons list a re-entry and the display includes the block that persuaded them to give the variety catalogue status. There was also plate damage in the region of the value tablet, not recorded by Gibbons.

The last section of the display includes original documents and art work relating to a few Jamaican stamps, with an emphasis on the involvement of the Jamaica Philatelic Society. The petition that was influential in the issuing of the single Edward VII stamp after his death is well recorded. Less well known is the Society's intervention in the design of the Child Welfare issue of 1923 and the Waterlow pictorial issue of 1932. The most modern art work shown is the work of Vasarhelyi for the National Heroes issue of 1970.

ODESSA : THE RUSSIAN PORT ON THE BLACK SEA

by Ian Baillie

This display overviews the postal system in Odessa from the start until just after final incorporation of the Ukraine into Bolshevik Russia. It comprises four basic groups, the pages being taken directly from various "working" albums written up at various times in various styles, with apologies for the consequent lack of uniformity!

Group 1: The Main Post Office

The town of Odessa was founded in 1794; the earliest recorded items of Odessa mail are in 1804 and the display commences with a Forwarding Agent entire and a Post Office entire of that year (the latter predating the next recorded example by no less than 11 years).

Group 1 continues with a range of pre-adhesive Odessa entires to the West via Prussia or Austria; some are via Forwarding Agents and some are posted directly into the Imperial Post Office - the latter showing the development of the 'Odessa' marks. These show also a range of international marques d'entrees and other transit marks. The major problem in understanding lies with the rates - various analytical systems have been put forward by a range of students of this important and intriguing aspect, but none is entirely satisfactory and this is evidenced by the inadequate write-up on the rates involved! There are also an 1852 entire and two 1875 covers into Odessa, much more elusive in the West.

Ignoring the "standard" town marks once adhesives were issued in 1858, Group 1 now jumps to the introduction of the two codes in each of the two successive types of machine cancellations, and to the three Postage Due handstamps.

Group 2: The Frontier Office in Odessa Harbour

The increase in Black Sea shipping resulted in Odessa becoming a Frontier Exchange Office with Turkey: the relevant office was opened at Odessa Harbour in 1844, and Group 2 starts with an 1844 entire posted there.

Group 2 continues with a range of pre-adhesive entires to the West demonstrating the range of marks used - entirely different from those used concurrently in the main office covered by Group 1. An 1854 item via Vienna shows the effect of the Crimean War on correspondence between Russia and Turkey.

The introduction of standardised Russian obliterations in the 'dots' series (analogous to the GB 1844 series) led to '6' in an oval of dots being issued to the Odessa Frontier Office, and this is displayed on entire.

Some of the code numbers of the subsequent standard dated namestamps of Odessa were used in the Frontier Office - the foot inscription starting POGR., being an abbreviation for POGRANICHNAYA (viz 'across Frontier') - and examples are displayed on three postcards (one incoming and two despatch).

Group 3 : Other Odessa marks

This Group starts with examples of all five types of handstamps used for mail posted into travelling post offices on the ships running East from Odessa to Poti and then from 1878 on to Batum.

These are followed by some of the handstamps used in the Railway Post Department offices on the two railway stations in Odessa, and by one representative example of a railway travelling post office mark.

There is then a cover with the handstamp of the temporary post office at the annual Odessa Fair, followed by a used cover with free postage rights from the Odessa Red Cross Society.

This Group concludes with World War I censorship in Odessa. The first is abnormal in that it still has the staple used to reseal the envelope, and the second shows one of the later censorship marks including the initials O.V.O. denoting the change of "Military District" status.

Group 4 : Odessa whilst Ukraine is an independent State

The collapse of the Kerensky regime in the October Revolution which brought the Bolsheviks to power in Russia resulted in various fringe areas of the old Empire progressively breaking away - the Ukraine was one in November 1917, and as a signatory of the Treaty of Brest Litovsk in January 1918 came under German and Austrian occupation to prevent Bolshevik occupation.

The increasing shortage of metal due to the war led Odessa at some indeterminate date to issue 'Money Stamps': all three values are shown, including the large 50 kopek value (3 copies known to the displayer).

The Ukraine was swamped by the Bolsheviks with unused adhesives, causing the revenue of the Ukrainian post office to fall, so early Autumn 1918 saw the mandatory use of the adhesives which had been overprinted with the national symbol of the Ukraine, the Trident. Odessa was an overprinting centre, employing six basic types (1 - 3 for the small kopek values, 4 - 6 for the larger rouble values although also used for kopek values).

Due to subsequent forging of Tridents on a large scale, it is essential to be able to distinguish genuine from forged overprints; Odessa is well placed in this respect because of the activities of a dealer named Trachtenberg who arranged with his friend the French postmaster of Odessa for the cancellation of a number of highly philatelic covers which have the merit of bearing only genuine overprints; one is included to demonstrate the importance to Odessa philately of such covers, otherwise of highly dubious status!

The selected Trident' pages show each of the six types, primarily by subtypes, varieties and major plating marks, plus genuine usage either on cover or on Money Transfer Order Form.

THE PENNY BLACK AND ITS DESCENDANTS

by Pat Lyon

In a display of Great Britain the Penny Black has to take precedence. These pages are part of a collection made to include an example of each plate of the line engraved stamps until the introduction of stamps with letters in all four corners; over 280 plates were used. Many of these plates can be found in more than one state as various changes were made. The colour of the 1d stamp was changed because it was found that the red cancellation could be removed and a black cancellation proved a better safeguard. Four changes of alphabet, two watermarks and two perforations and many matched pairs can be made.

The first pages show the matching states of the 1d black to the 1d red and the change of the red cancellation to black. Inverted watermarks, re-entries, flaws, a numeral cancellation on a 1d black of Plate 3 and the 'O' flaws of the later plates add to the varieties that can be found. Two unusual covers follow, one with both a prepaid and with a postage stamp on a redirected cover to Glastonbury dated October 1842, and the other with a skeleton postmark of Temple Cloud cancelling the stamp, addressed to Wellington from Bristol on MR 4 1849.

Plates 12-45. the Maltese Cross plates show the gradual change to the 1844 numeral cancellations, some of the later plates being difficult to find with crosses. A possible roulette on Plate 25 and a cover from Plate 43 dated May 6 1844 cancelled with a cross after the last official date of 30th April 1844, and many frame breaks are amongst the stamps on display.

Plates 118-131 have been found on lavender tinted paper just before the alphabet change on Plate 132, and an imprimatur of Plate 175 was the last of the imperforate issue. The separation of sheets began with trials by Henry Archer which can be matched to the imperforate state. Plates 92-101 were used for this experiment and an example from Plate 101 is shown. The official perforation 16 from Plate 155 onwards can be matched to its imperforate partner. The sheets when handled tended to break up which necessitated a further change to perforation 14; these can be matched to the perforation 16. Plates 194-204 and reserve Plates R1-R6 were used.

During this period teething troubles with the perforations resulted in missing pins and the progressive damage to the combs make an interesting study. There are six known varieties in various states on the perforation 16 issue and some have appeared on the perforation 14.

As the original die showed signs of wear a new die was made and a new series of plate number began, still with Alphabet II letters. Plates 1-21 form an interesting group: they are found with both perforations 14 and 16 and both small and large Crown watermarks. All these plates are scarce on the Large Crown paper perforated 16. Plate 4 BD has a strong line through 'ONE PE', the only example known in this group. Plates 5 and 6 have a very small 'G'.

This collection has been formed over many years with the hope of getting a representative from each plate and its various states. It has given me a lot of enjoyment which I hope you have shared.

SAMOA : MISSIONARY LETTERS

by Brian Purcell

Prior to 1836 several missionary workers from the London Missionary Society and the Wesleyan Missionary Society had visited Samoa in the course of their travels in the Pacific.

In June 1836 the first permanent staff of the L.M.S. arrived in Samoa to take up their duties in the Islands. They were the Reverends Thomas Heath, Charles Hardie, A.W. Murray, William Mills, Alexander McDonald and George Barnden. Very little mail has survived from this period of just over 40 years. Only 90 letters have been recorded from private collections of which 22 are included in this display. A further 28 are recorded in Missionary Society archives. The earliest recorded example in private collections, dated 13th June 1836, is also included in this display.

As there was no postal system in Samoa at this time, missionary workers would have made private arrangements with Captains of visiting ships to hand their letters into the Sydney Post Office upon arrival. A prepaid charge of 3d was made to cover the cost of forwarding the letters to England and a variety of Sydney Ship Letter and Sydney datestamps can be found on these letters.

Prior to 1840 the charges applied in London for incoming Ship Letters was 8d for letters up to $\frac{1}{4}$ oz, plus a mileage charge from port of entry to the addressee. Letters via India during the same period were charged at 4d up to 3oz plus a mileage charge. A variety of Ship Letter or India Letter markings can be found on the majority of letters up to 1840, and occasionally after 1840.

After the introduction of the Uniform Penny Post in 1840, the standard charge for an incoming Ship Letter was 8d per $\frac{1}{2}$ oz. During 1846-49 a faster service called the "Sydney Packet" operated with a charge of 1/- being levied in London. This higher charge was not popular and the service was discontinued after only three years. Only five letters have been recorded with the "Sydney Packet" rate of 1/-, one of which is included in this display.

From the late 1854 to the issue of the first postage stamps of Samoa in 1877, no missionary letters were recorded until the Nisbet correspondence surfaced in late 1973 or early 1974. This find contained about 200 letters, but with only a small group relating to Samoa, from family, friends and fellow missionary workers. It included letters to and from Samoa, inter-island mail and mail around the Pacific. The most exceptional items in this find were eleven covers from Samoa franked with New South Wales adhesives. Four of these outstanding Missionary letters conclude this display.

**STRAITS SETTLEMENTS:
STAMPS & THEIR USE IN THE REIGN OF KING GEORGE V
by Malcolm Clark**

The Straits Settlements, established by the Honourable East India Company, became a Crown Colony in 1867. The postal service was well established by that date. When George V ascended the throne a wide range of services was available at Singapore, Penang and Malacca.

The stamps issued for use in the colony during the reign of George V display a range of features that are of philatelic interest to collectors of many other colonial territories supplied by the printers De La Rue. The 'universal key-type' was used for many values from a succession of plates, most of which are represented in the display.

Several low values in greater demand were printed from single plates in special designs introduced in the previous reign. Variations in papers and inks arising from supply problems during the first World War are best shown in mint marginal blocks and panes.

The same war led to inflationary pressure on postal and telegraph rates, reflected in new colours and values.

Near the end of the reign the Straits Settlements and Federated Malay States formed a Postal Union providing for mutual recognition of their stamps. This required a new issue with the word Malaya in the design. The display includes some of the many essays prepared by the Government Printing Office at Singapore.

The stamps are supplemented by cards and covers to illustrate domestic, Empire and foreign rates and their changes. Registration and A.R. fees are also represented. First World War covers censored in the Straits are uncommon and little research has been done, but a small selection is shown.

Airmail is an important feature of Malayan postal history in the inter-war period, with airmail acceleration from Marseilles to London in 1928 and rate competition between KLM and Imperial Airways in the 1930s.