On the pages that follow we are pleased to present a selection of articles on Australia and Australian States that have appeared in Mekeel's & STAMPS Magazine or StampNewsOnline.net

Yesterday in STAMPS:
Australian Stamps Tell its History, Part 1
(From STAMPS Magazine, December 1, 1951, with images added)

In this, Australia's Jubilee Year, it is interesting to review some of the nation's history as depicted on its postage stamps.

Commonwealth of Australia stamps have been issued since 1913. There are groups representing the Royal Family, figures in Australian history, and commemorating national events and special anniversaries. Others have related to Australia's war efforts, its place in the aviation, and to its aboriginal and wild life.

Three of Australia's six States have already celebrated with special stamps the 100 anniversary of their establishment. In September 1929 Western Australia, originally called "The Swan River Settlement," produced a 1-1/2d stamp for the occasion. The motif is a Black Swan, the emblem of Western Australia, and the designer was G. P. Morrison, Curator of the National Gallery, Perth. Swan River, on which Perth, the State capital, is situated, was discovered in 1697 by the Dutchman de Vlaming, who recorded for the first time the existence of black swans.

Australia Sc. 103

Western Australia has an area of 975,920 square miles, is the largest of the States, and was founded near Perth in June 1929 by Captain C. H. Fremantle.

In October 1934 three stamps (2d, 3d, and 1/-, Sc. 142-144) were distributed to commemorate the centenary of the settlement of Victoria, first known as the Port Phillip District. The stamps show a member of the now extinct Yarra Yarra tribe of aboriginals looking in wonder across the River Yarra at the distant skyline of Melbourne, Australia's largest city, and the State capital.

Australia Sc. 144

The first white settlers of Victoria were the Henty Brothers, who established a whaling station at Portland Bay in November 1834.

Melbourne, named after Viscount Melbourne, the then Prime Minister of England, was founded in 1835 by John Batman. Pictures of Adelaide, capital of South Australia, as a tent-town of 1836, and as a city a century later, figure on three additional Centenary stamps (2d, 3d and 1/-), Sc. 159-161. To commemorate the foundation of South Australia as "a Province of the Crown," by Captain John Hindmarsh, R.N., in December 1836 the stamps appeared in August 1936. The Proclamation ceremony was staged beneath an arched gum (eucalyptus) tree at Glenelg, a seaside resort six miles from Adelaide. This "Proclamation Tree" is the central design of the stamps. Also in the picture is the Adelaide

Australia Sc. 160

General Post Office and the Town Hall on North Terrace, and an overhead display of agricultural products indigenous to South Australia.

The 100th anniversary of the first successful voyage down great Murray River, to its mouth at Lake Alexandrina, South Australia, from Gundagai, New South Wales, was celebrated by 1-1/2d and 3d stamps, released in June 1930. The designs feature an oil painting by J. H. Crossland, then hanging in the Adelaide Art Gallery, of Captain (later Sir) Charles Sturt (1795-1869) who undertook the thirty-three-day voyage by whaleboat down the Murray, Australia's longest waterway (1,520 miles). Native spears, shields and a boomerang, weapons used by the River Murray aboriginals who befriended the exploration party on its journey to solve the riddle of the Western rivers, flank Sturt's likeness. Lyre bird tail feathers also appear.

Australia Sc. 105

Suggestion for the stamp issue was made by the Royal Australian Historical Society in Victoria.

The death in 1834 of the pioneer and accepted "father" of the Australian wool industry, now based on more than 120 million sheep, 80 per cent of which are merinos, was recalled by three stamps printed in November 1934. The pioneer was Captain John Macarthur (1767- 1834), who arrived in Australia in 1790 with the New South Wales Corps, and was one of the first military officers to take up farming. In 1797 he imported some Spanish merino sheep from the Cape of Good Hope and from the stock of King George III.

The first bale of wool exported overseas by Macarthur sold at 10/4 [10 shillings / 6 pence] a lb. in 1807. On these stamps (2d, 3d and 9d, Sc. 147-149) a champion merino ram, sold in 1934 for £6,000, takes pride of place. The animal is shown against the Blue Mountains at Camden on the Nepean River, New South Wales, the site of Macarthur's 5,000 acre estate. Macarthur was a notable figure in the politics of the then colony.

Australia Sc. 147

The exploration of Central Queensland by Lieut. Col. Sir Thomas Mitchell in 1846 was the occasion for commemoration in October 1946 by 2-1/2d, 3-1/2d and 1/- stamps, Sc. 203-205. Assistance in the preparation of the series was given by the Queensland Historical Society. The motif is a central portrait of

Australia Sc. 203

Sir Thomas Mitchell (1792-1855) against a map of Queensland, with some merino sheep at the left and cattle at the right.

Mitchell, explorer, Surveyor-General, soldier and writer, materially assisted by his 1846 journey in opening up Central Queensland.

In January 1850 the Colony of New South Wales and "Port Phillip District" introduced adhesive stamps, with the classic "Sydney View" and the celebrated "Half Length" renderings. These bear respectively a view of Sydney in 1788, with convicts being released at Sydney Cove by "Industry"; and a fine half-length study of Queen Victoria enthroned, and holding the sceptre and orb.

New South Wales Sc. 1

Victoria Sc. 1

The engraver of the Victorian issue was T. Ham of Melbourne. The "Sydney View" was by R. Clayton, of Sydney, who adapted it from the Great Seal of N.S.W., prepared by English potter, Josiah Wedgwood, and which arrived in Sydney in 1791.

In September 1950 the first of the Commonwealth's enjoined, or "se-tenant" stamps, both 2-1/2d in value (Sc. 228-229), appeared to mark the centenary of the two initial issues, and carry representations, slightly amended, of the N.S.W. and Victorian designs.

Australia Sc. 228-229

Recent centenary commemorative issues are the se-tenant 3d pair heralding the attainment of responsible government in Victoria, and the discovery of gold in payable quantities by Edward Hargraves, at Bathurst, N.S.W.

The stamps were made available in July 1951. The design of the former was from a bronze plaque executed in 1853 by Thomas Woolner, R.A., and depicted Charles Joseph Latrobe (1801-1875). He was in command of the "Port Phillip District," from 1839 until July 1851, when the District (till then governed from N.S.W.) gained its independence.

Australia Sc. 244-245

The title of " Victoria" was then assumed, and Latrobe became its first Lieutenant-Governor. Victoria has an area of 87,884 square miles. Latrobe established during his office the Melbourne Hospital, Public Library, University, and Benevolent Asylum.

The illustration of Edward Hargraves (1816-1891), was taken from a portrait included in his work "Australia and its Goldfields, 1855." A pick and shovel, and gold mining tools, flank the portrait. Hargraves, after a visit to America, noticed a similarity at Bathurst, where he had pastoral holdings, to the gold-bearing areas of the United States. His discovery of gold in payable quantities at Summer Hill Creek in February 1851 won him world distinction and a pension of £250 for life, from 1877. Nowadays Australia is still producing gold, and holds fifth place in production. The State of Western Australia has the highest Australian yield.

Yesterday in STAMPS:
Australian Stamps Tell its History, Part 2
(From STAMPS Magazine, December 15, 1951, with images added)

Sydney and Newcastle are represented in a Sesquicentenary series of Australia, circulated in October 1937 and September 1947. The former was in 2d, 3d and 9d, and the latter in 2-1/2d, 3-1/2d and 5-1/2d denominations.

Captain Arthur Phillip (1738-1814), of the Royal Navy, and N.S.W.'s first Governor from 1788 to 1792, appears on the original issue of January 23, 1788. He is shown tasting the waters of the Tank Stream, at Sydney Cove in company with his officers of the First Fleet (11 vessels), before deciding on the site of the future Colony for his 1,000 souls.

Australia 165

The design is from a painting executed in 1926 by the Australian artist John Alcott, well known for his water colors. Some of the First Fleet vessels appear in the background, and a number of gum trees at the right.

It was originally planned to establish the Colony at Botany Bay, as recommended by Captain Cook, but the site chosen by Phillip, at Sydney Cove, in Port Jackson, "the finest harbor in the world, in which a thousand sail in line might ride," was at length selected.

The discovery in September 1797 of Newcastle, the Commonwealth's chief center of heavy industry, was made by accident. Lieut. John Shortland (1769-1810), of the Royal Navy, entered the Hunter River in search of convicts who had escaped from Sydney.

Lieut. Shortland had been former midshipman in Phillip's "Siruis." He did not locate the escapees, but took back to Sydney samples of coal found in the locality, which was soon to be known as "Coal River."

Australia 207

Australia 208

The Newcastle issue features Lieut. Shortland, from an illustration in the Mitchell Library,

Australia 209

Sydney. One stamp bears an interior view of the pouring of molten iron into an open hearth steel furnace at the great Broken Hill Proprietary Steelworks, Newcastle. The B.H.P. works were established in 1913. The third value was of the loading of coal ships by several electric overhead cranes from rail trucks. In 1946 Newcastle shipped 3,685,000 tons of coal.

Other Anniversaries

Since it is associated with the Universal Postal Union, it was natural that in October 1949 Australia should issue a 3 1/2d stamp for the 75th anniversary of the foundation of the Union. Some overseas critics

called it the "Stamp of the Year." It carries a picture of a mounted postman in an outback area, watching a Convair airliner passing overhead. It demonstrates two mail-carrying methods in Australia, and is from a drawing provided by the Director of the National Gallery, Victoria, Daryl Lindsay.

Australia 223

Membership in the U.P.U., as most collectors know, gives member countries' mail the right of way, and provides that it will not be subjected to delay or interference.

Four designs in a series produced in May 1951 mark the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Australian Commonwealth. One of these (3d) shows a characteristic portrait of the bearded Sir Henry Parkes (1815-1896), five times Premier of N.S.W., the "Father of Federation." It was he who suggested the federation of the Australian colonies under the title "Commonwealth," as "the grandest and most stately name by which a great association of self-governing people can be characterized."

Australia 240-241

An Englishman, Henry Parkes (right) migrated to Australia in 1839, worked as laborer and ivory-turner, and was elected to the N.S.W. Legislative Council in 1854. In 18-50 he established a newspaper, "The Empire."

Sir Edmund Barton (left), Prime Minister of the new Commonwealth from 1901 until 1903, is featured on a second 3d denomination. With Henry Parkes, Barton (1849-1920) was one of the principal agitators for federation. Called to the Bar in 1871, Edmund Barton entered politics in 1879.

Both these stamps have miniature impressions of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms at the bottom of the layouts.

The 5-1/2d denomination carries the picture, identical with that made at the time by Tom Roberts, of the opening ceremony on May 9, 1901, by the Duke of York (later King George V) of the first Commonwealth Parliament, in the Exhibition Building, Melbourne.

Australia 242

A 1/6 value (for airmail usage) has a view of the Federal Parliament building, at the National Capital, Canberra. The House is situated on Capital Hill, in a 3-1/2 acre allotment, amid parkland and gardens.

Australia 243

100 Years Ago in Mekeel's:
Australian Annotations

by R. J. Hogg *(From Mekeel's Weekly, July 15, 1911, with images added)*

The Australian States will soon pass out of view, so far as philatelic interest in new issues is concerned and we will have the new country "Australia" to add to our collection of postage stamps. Although the postage dues have already represented the Commonwealth in the newer albums, they are not of the same universal interest as the postage issues, and the mode of their appearance has been more of a "shuffle in" than a well heralded new arrival.

First, we find that the New South Wales issue had the initials blocked out and the light green stamps thus changed did duty over the States, except in Victoria, in which the Commonwealth still used the old Victorian type.

Left, New South Wales J2, with "N.S.W." in tablet at bottom; right, Australia J1, with "N.S.W." removed

The second change was the addition of a scroll where the N.S.W. had originally been and this label, with nothing on it but a watermark to indicate to what country it belonged, was used in the same five States.

The third change was made to cover the whole six States and is really the first universally used Commonwealth postage due. The imaginative powers of the Federal Postal Department only got as far as to block out "Victoria" from that State's issue and substitute "Australia." Whether this design will be altered with the Commonwealth issue is not stated, and if the stamps used by the general public will be the same as officially used ones is also still a secret.

Australia J14, with a scroll where the "N.S.W." tablet had been

On May 1st the postage rates over the whole Commonwealth were made uniform, with 1d postage over the whole British Empire from Australia, and following on the universal use of State stamps within the Commonwealth. This was the second concession we have had since Federation, both granted by our present Labour government, who, if not such good talkers, are better doers than their predecessors in the Postal Department.

The report that "Australia" was to be surcharged over all the States stamps has been chiefly in the imagination of stamp journals and philately has been spared another abomination.

There is a general surprise at the many varieties of perforations, watermarks and designs in the Australian stamps but the causes would be more appropriate in a political than a philatelic journal, as for the last ten years they have all been merely provisionals.

The idea when Federation was completed was that these departments were to become completely Federal, but the clause which required three-fourths of the revenue to be returned to the States and the unequal postage and telegraph rates, made it necessary that each was kept separate during the life of ten years given by the Constitution to that clause, and changes which should have undoubtedly been made owing to the change of sovereigns were postponed by each party in power till the Federal unification. Although all the types were kept up, the stamps were gradually transferred to be printed in Melbourne and Sydney and this brought about many of the small differences noted by philatelists.

Take Tasmania, —she evidently had a large stock of 5d, 6d Pictorials and 5d, 2 1/2d, 10d and 2sh 6d of the Queen's Head issue printed by Messrs. De La Rue of London. The two former have recently run out and the old Queen's Head is now in use for the 5d, as well as the surcharged 1 1/2. Stamps for 1/2, 1, 2, 3, 4,

1899 Tasmania 6d, Sc. 93

9d, 1sh and 10sh now are printed in Melbourne.

Let us hope that the new Federal issue when it comes will be kept up to a high standard of uniformity and that various pa-

1911 redrawn 6d, Sc. 116, with more color in the river and waterfall and more white in the trees

pers, watermarks and perforations will pass away with the separate issues of the States, which have been the victims of Federal mismanagement, instead of the culprits, as is generally imagined.

Left, Victoria J7; right, Australia J42, with "Australia" replacing "Victoria"

The "new Federal issue" turned out to be the now-famous Kangaroos, this one being the 1913 first issue high value, Sc. 15

The View of Sydney

by B. W. H. Poole *(From Mekeel's Weekly, June 20, 1938, with photos added)*

The three first stamps for the Colony of New South Wales are very generally known to philatelists as "Sydney Views" owing to the fact that their central device shows a view of the little settlement of Sydney almost hidden by various fixtures in the foreground. Scott describes the design of these three stamps as "Seal of the Colony", which is only partly correct for, while one of the Colonial seals—probably that of King George IV—gave the idea for the drawing, the design is anything but a close copy of the obverse of the "Great Seal of the Colony".

According to Collins, one of the most capable historians of early life in this settlement, the design shows "a representation of convicts landing at Botany Bay received by Industry,

An enlargement of the "Sydney Views" design

who, surrounded by her attributes—a bale of merchandise, a beehive, a pickaxe, and a shovel—is releasing them from their fetters, and pointing to oxen ploughing, and a town rising on the summit of a hill with a fort for its protection. The masts of a ship are seen in the bay."

Underneath this device is the motto of the Colony—"Sic fortis Etruria crevit"—meaning, "Thus great Etruria grew" while on the circle surrounding the picture is "Sigillum Novoe Camb.

Aust."—an abbreviation for…the Latin rendering of "Seal of New South Wales, Australia". On some of the stamps the bale on which the allegorical figure is seated is plainly dated 1788, which is the date of the foundation of the colony.

Altogether it was a somewhat elaborate drawing for any of the rather inexperienced engravers available on the spot to tackle. It will also be noted that in their execution of the design the figures in the foreground are so prominent in contrast with the indistinct view forming the background that it is obvious the intent was to emphasize the value of industry to the new settlers rather than to show a view of the little settlement on the shores of Botany Bay. However, the name "Sydney Views" has become so firmly established by long usage that there is little likelihood of these stamps ever being known by any other name.

The earliest known use of a Sydney View, the 1p crimson lake (Sc. 1, two copies) tied by barred oval cancels on folded letter, with Sydney circular date stamp and "Parramatta JA 15" (1850) receiver on reverse.

An 1847 folded cover showing the 1838 1d Sydney Embossed Postage, with a computer enhanced detail, in the form of a Seal of the Colony. These were only valid for local carriage.

Considering that no really expert engravers were available, such as might be obtained in the busy centers of London, New York, or Paris, and that each stamp on the plate had to be engraved separately by hand, these stamps are quite pleasing in appearance.

Artistically they are certainly far in advance of some of the crude productions that served as first issues in other parts of

the British Empire—those of British Guiana, Fiji, and Natal for instance—and at least the equals of the locally produced stamps of Victoria, Mauritius or Tasmania.

Curiously enough, though it was decided to issue 1p, 2p and 3p stamps, the work of engraving the plates was farmed out to three different engravers. Robert Clayton, who engraved the plate of twenty-five stamps for the one penny denomination, had done much preliminary work without charge in the way of suggesting designs and providing what he considered suitable samples. The Postmaster-General definitely disapproved of his technique as a whole so that it is evident the contract for engraving this plate was awarded him as a sop for his unpaid and, probably, unasked early assistance! His charge for engraving the plate was ten pounds and as this works out at only $2 per stamp it can hardly be regarded as excessive.

The plate for the twopenny stamp was engraved by John Carmichael. This contained twenty-four stamps and he was paid twelve pounds, twelve shillings for the work or about $2.75 per engraving. The threepenny plate, engraved by H. C.

The rare Sydney View 2p blue, Sc. tete-beche pair on cover with interpanneau gutter in between. The stamps are tied by barred ovals. Addressed to the Superintendent in Melbourne, it originated (lower left notation) in the Col.(onial) Treasury, 30th July 1850.

Jervis, contained twenty-five stamps and for this the engraver received seven pounds or less than $1.50 per subject.

The plates were all engraved on copper and consequently soon showed signs of wear. The Jervis plate for the 3p was more deeply cut than the others and consequently lasted longer. In fact it was never in need of retouching whereas the one penny was entirely re-engraved by Jervis at one time while the 2p plate wore so rapidly that it had to be re-engraved on four different occasions. All this work was done by Jervis who, probably on account of the superior wear shown by his plate, had entrenched himself firmly with the powers that be. It is interesting to note that he received about six pounds each time he was engaged in "renewing and repairing" a plate or almost as much as he received for entirely making his original threepenny plate.

Fabulous Firsts:
New South Wales (January 1, 1850)

(This article is taken primarily from Mekeel's Weekly articles and auction lot descriptions including a 2009 Prestige Auction of New South Wales postal history. JFD.)

The Australian continent, which was Britain's most remote and least desirable colony, served as a prison for the undesirables of society. But as part of the Empire onto which "the sun never set" the use of stamps was an integral part of its history.

For the first decade or so of the adhesive stamp era the Colonies used British stamps. Eventually the six crown colonies united to form the Commonwealth of Australia.

The coast of Australia was spotted by Captain Cook on August 21, 1770, and claimed by him for England. He named the eastern coast New South Wales after that part of Great

1791 (Oct 22) entire to England headed "Rio de Janeiro" and endorsed "pr favour Capt Pease/of the Kent from/the South Seas", no postal markings so the letter signed "EManning", from the captain of the convict ship "Pitt", was apparently delivered privately in London. He writes of "…a few little troubles that we have now quite surmounted…We have never seen one single vessel since we left St Jago…" Four convicts had escaped from their temporary home on an island off Rio de Janeiro, and were presumed drowned. A fifth escaped at Cape Town, and sickness broke out on the last stage to Port Jackson which was reached on February 14, 1792.

Britain—Wales. Later the northern half of the coast was named Queensland.

New South Wales introduced a "stamped" envelope in November of 1838, and also can lay claim to the first stamp (on January 1, 1850) issued on the Australian continent. The 1 penny (1d), 2d and 3d "Sydney Views" values use a design by Robert Clayton printed on white to yellowish paper, the 1d in lake, pale red or carmine while on bluish paper in pale red and lake.

An 1847 folded cover showing the 1838 1d Sydney Embossed Postage, also in the form of a Seal of the Colony. These were only valid for local carriage.

The design contained several elements: a view of Sydney, a ship in the background, and Britannia (left) welcoming three new arrivals.

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almost hidden by various fixtures in the foreground. Scott describes the design of these three stamps as "Seal of the Colony", which is only partly correct for, while one of the Colonial seals—probably that of King George IV—gave the idea for the drawing, the design is anything but a close copy of the obverse of the "Great Seal of the Colony".

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Underneath this device is the motto of the Colony— "Sic fortis Etruria crevit"—meaning, "Thus great Etruria grew" while on the circle surrounding the picture is "Sigillum Novoe Camb. Aust."—an abbreviation for...the Latin rendering of "Seal of New South Wales, Australia". On some of the stamps the bale on which the allegorical figure is seated is plainly dated 1788, which is the date of the foundation of the colony.

From the British Library Collection: the unique original essays or artwork for the 1d and 3d stamps. The space between the essays was originally occupied by a 2d essay, which is now in The Royal Philatelic Collection.

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Fabulous Firsts:
Victoria (January 3, 1850)

Located in southeast Australia, Victoria today is Australia's smallest state, with its main population centers being Port Phillip and Melbourne.

In the late 18th century, while still only inhabited by Aboriginals, Victoria was visited by whalers and sealing parties. In 1788, Great Britain claimed the area and included Victoria in the colony of New South Wales.

Following explorations around the turn of the century, the first European settlement in the area was established in 1803, consisting primarily of convicts, officials and soldiers. Although many of the convicts escaped, and the remaining party was withdrawn to Van Diemens Land, the seed for future growth had been planted.

Another short-lived settlement of convicts was made in 1826, but in 1834 two parties arrived from Van Diemens Land and founded the first permanent settlement. In August 1835, Governor Darling declared that the Port Phillip settlement was part of the colony of New South Wales.

In 1851, with a population of 77,000, Victoria became independent from New South Wales, and with the discovery of gold, the population grew even more rapidly. Meanwhile the Australian Colonies Government Act was passed in August 1849 and the separation from distant government from Sydney in western Australia went into effect following the passage of the New South Wales Assembly on July 1, 1851.

Postal activities paralleled this political growth. While still part of New South Wales, the first post office was opened in the newly established Melbourne in 1837, and by 1850 45 post offices had been opened in Victoria.

The first postage stamps were issued on January 3, 1850, the "Half Lengths". Unlike the usual practice of having stamps of the colonies printed in England, Victoria opted to produce its first stamps locally—a practice that continued throughout its stamp issuing period.

In 1850 stamp production facilities in Victoria were very limited. This explains why the first stamps of Victoria are crude relative to the first issues from most of the British colonies. The production processes being primitive and the almost 30 printings of these stamps also accounts for the many varieties, some of them very rare, that are an important part of studying the first issue of Victoria.

The first printing, by Thomas Ham of Melbourne, was in a quantity of 9,600, issued in sheets of 30. While the intended issue color is described as orange vermillion, that shade is an extreme rarity. Gibbons thus gives this as its primary #1. Scott's policy is to assign the major number to the most widely produced variety, and thus lists dull red as its #1.

A great resource for a study of all of the stamps of Victoria is http://www.stampsofvictoria.com/. We refer you to that site for a detailed viewing of the many printings and shades, and reproduce here from that site only the orange vermillion (from the first printing) and dull red (from the third printing). I did not want to play with the colors, so the images are not the best for detail...but then, that is how the stamps actually look. So to the right, we show an example with more detail. Actually, this is the only known

Left, orange vermillion right, dull red

unused example of the orange vermillion, but the color is off from the actual color; however, it is a good presentation of the detail in the stamp.

(Note: while Scott lumps the results of all of the printings of the first 1p under #1, Gibbons separates states of the die, so the dull red is SG #8a.)

Scott does list another 1p as Scott 2, that listing being for later printings in distinctive shades, the major listing being rose.

There also are two Types, with all of Scott 2 being Type II and Scott 1 encompassing Type I as well as Type II stamps. The early and scarcer printings, such as orange vermillion are Type I.

The difference between the two Types is the line of color in the frame above "Victoria". Shown here, the line of color is thin on Type I and wider on Type II.
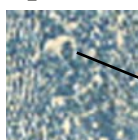

Type I   *Type II*

Continuing with the 1850 issue, Scott 3 is a 3p Type I, major color blue and Scott 4 is a 3p Type II, major color indigo. The Types are distinguished by the orb on the scepter held by Queen Victoria.

The 1850 3p light blue Type II (Sc. 3a; SG 7) tied by oval handstamps on a J. Valentine Ocean Penny Postage propaganda cover to London, England, with red "Ship Letter Melbourne OC 9 1852" and London back-

stamps, endorsed "By Ship Marco Polo" at center, also with a manuscript "8" due mark.

Also part of the first issue is a 2p—actually four listings, Scott 5 through 8.

In this denomination there are three Types. Left to right, Type I (Sc. 5) has two sets of nine wavy lines criss-crossing in the left and right borders and 22 groups of wavy lines

below "Victoria" (arrows). Type II (Sc. 6) also has two sets of nine wavy lines criss-crossing in the left and right borders but 15 groups of wavy lines below "Victoria". Type III has only five sets of wavy lines in the borders and 15 sets of wavy lines below "Victoria". Type III is found in shades of lilac (Sc. 7) and yellow brown (Sc. 8). [Reminder: for a closer look, use your pdf magnifier tool.]

To complete the Victoria First Issue listings, the 1p and 3p rouletted 7 are Sc. 9 and 10, respectively; and the 3p perf 12 is Sc. 12.

The "Half Lengths" were replaced by the full length "Queen-on-Throne" design, beginning in 1852 with the 2p reddish brown, Scott 14 (right), with additional shades in 1854.

A cover to Cork, Ireland with endorsement "per Oliver Lang" at bottom left, with a horizontal strip of four of the Victoria 1p Half Length and a single of the 1852 2p tied by "2V" in oval cancels, also with "Geelong Victoria AU 20, 1855", Melbourne and receiving backstamps.

While Victoria was part of New South Wales, the stamps of both colonies were valid throughout the area, and only two or three of the cancellations identified Victoria as the point of origin. The first distinct Victoria postmark was the "butterfly" type, used in 1850-1 by the first 45 Post Offices, shown at right on Scott 5.

Starting in July 1851 the second series, the "barred oval", was used and numbers are known up to 50. The cover on page 4 bears barred oval cancels with numeral 2 V (the V being for Victoria).

Victoria joined the UPU in 1891 at the same time as the other Australian colonies and, following Federation in 1901, continued to issue its own stamps until 1913.

Pre-stamp, an 1842 PAID SHIP LETTER SYDNEY cover to Glasgow. While not related to mail from Victoria, it does present an excellent example of the time taken to move the mail, with a May or March 1842 postmark on the front and an August 11, 1943 receiver on the back.
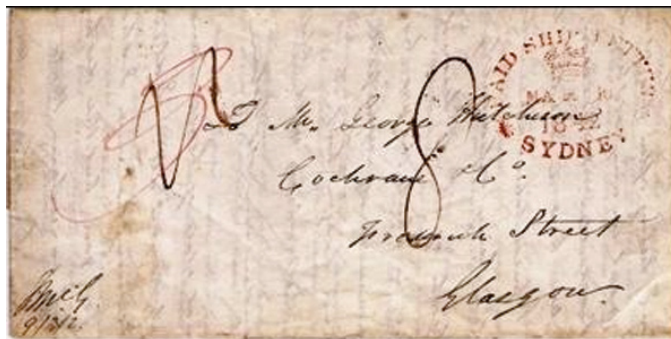
25 Years Ago in Stamps:
The Settling of Tasmania
by W. R. Hunter *(From Stamps Magazine, September 11, 1982 with some photos added)*

In November of 1642, Abel Janszoon Tasman, a Dutch explorer, sighted the land that he called, Van Dieman's Land, in honor of Anthony Van Dieman, governor-general of the Netherland East Indies, and landed at what is now Storm Bay, where he hoisted the Dutch flag.

At first he believed this land to be part of the Great South Land, which Australia was so often referred to by early explorers. Later, when he did further explorations in the area, he found the land to be an island separated from the mainland by a narrow strait containing several small islands which, also, were claimed by Dutch explorers.

The island of Tasmania is a little over 26,200 square miles in area, or, about the size of Ireland. It is located on the continental shelf of Australia and is separated from the mainland by Bass Strait, a 150-mile wide stretch of sea with a depth of 180 to 230 feet. The island is almost due south of the state of Victoria in Australia. Although not attached to the mainland, Tasmania is one of the states of the Commonwealth of Australia.

It appears the Dutch did not make any major settlements in Van Dieman's land. Most of the early settling of the island came later by French and British immigrants. The British made their first settlement at Hobart in 1803-4, and later another one at a place which was to become, Launceston. These first settlements were made up mostly of convicts. They were governed from New South Wales in Australia.

To entice free immigration to the island in hopes of increasing settlements, land grants were offered. Sheep, wheat growing, and whaling were soon to follow on the wake of this new immigration.

In 1825 Van Dieman's land was made a colony, its government was separate from that of New South Wales. During the interim from 1825 to around 1850, the so called "black war", brought near extinction of the aborigines, the original inhabitants of the islands.

By the middle of the eighteen hundreds the white population was approaching 20,000, but nearly half of this total consisted of convicts, the majority of whom were assigned as slaves to the free settlers.

Grain and wool were two of the main exports of Tasmania at that time, much of which went to New South Wales. For a time the whaling industry helped bolster the sagging economy,

Top to bottom, Tasmania Sc. 1; Australia 286, picturing Tasmania Sc. 2; Australia 263-4 picturing Collins and Paterson; Australia 265 picturing Sullivan Cover, Hobart in 1804.

along with British expenditures on the convict establishments throughout the island. In 1840, a probation system for the convicts was adopted which marked a change in British policy toward the penal system.

When gold was discovered in Victoria, in 1851, many of the former convicts left Tasmania, leaving an acute labor shortage which rocked the economy. The whaling and shipbuilding industries declined and later the wheat production did likewise since it could not compete against the flourishing Australian market.

A depression struck the economy around 1857 causing crippling deficits and opposition to all forms of taxation. It was nearly twenty-five years before the economy began to improve, and this was mainly from mining and fruitgrowing which began to flourish, forming a basis for a light economy. Much of the fruit was exported.

In the 1890s the majority of the inhabitants supported a movement which in 1901 led to the forming of the Australian federation, or commonwealth. At that time, Tasmania became a state of Australia.

In 1953 Australia issued a set of three stamps to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the settlement of Van Dieman's land. Two of the stamps, 3-1/2p each, red brown, portrayed separately the first two governors of the new settlement, Lt. Governor David Collins, and Lt. Governor William Paterson. The third stamp in the set, a 2sh green, shows Sullivan Cove at Hobart, capital of Tasmania. An inscription at the top of the stamp reads, "Tasmania Sesquicentenary-1953-54". Also in that same year a single 3p red stamp was issued to commemorate the centenary of Tasmania's first postage stamp. The vignette of the stamp is Tasmania's first postage stamp, a profile portrait of Queen Victoria of England, along with the inscription, in a half circle above the Queen, "Van Dieman's Land". At the extreme top of the stamp is inscribed "Australia." It was in 1853 when the name Tasmania was adopted in honor of its discoverer, Abel Tasman.

Apparently, the inscription on early stamps was not changed until a set of three was issued in 1858, dropping the name Van Dieman's land, and substituting Tasmania. The last issue of Tasmania appeared in 1912 with a surcharge of a former issue, a 2p violet. The surcharge was inscribed in red, "One Penny." The stamps of Australia are currently used in Tasmania.