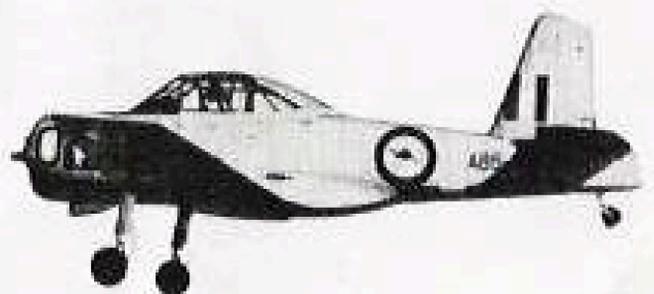
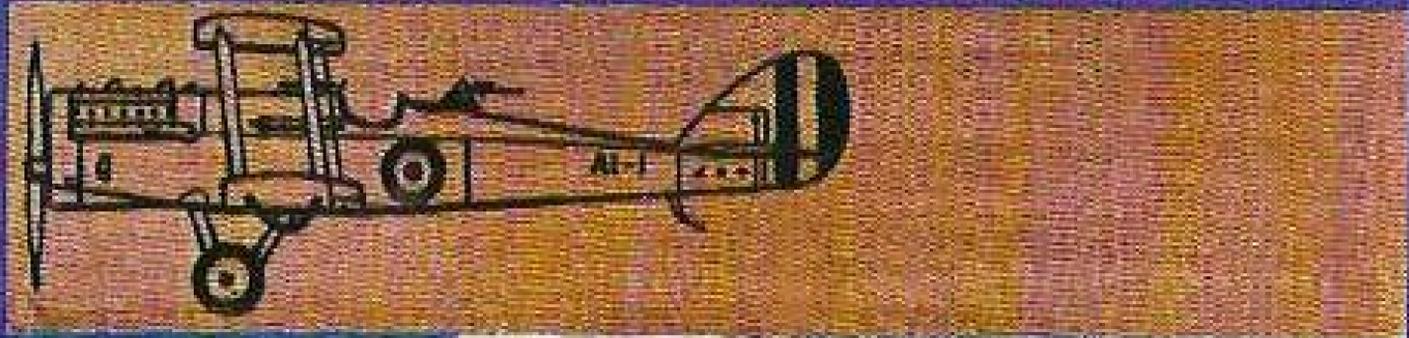


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The front cover shows the approved design for the
RAAF Jubilee stamp, and some of the aircraft used
by the RAAF since 1921. From top to bottom,
they are: SE5a, Hawker Demon, CAC Boomerang,
CAC Sabre, CAC Winjeel, GAF Mirage.

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RAAF JUBILEE STAMP

A 6c stamp commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Royal Australian Air Force was issued on 9th June, 1971. It was designed by Mr. Ray Honisett, of Melbourne, a well-known aircraft illustrator, whose work includes commissions for the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Mr. Honisett also designed the two first day covers issued by the Australian Post Office in conjunction with the RAAF stamp. Of the usual commemorative size of 25mm x 37.5mm, including perforations, the stamp was printed in sheets of 100 on coated paper incorporating heleon, on the Chambon photogravure press of the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne. The design shows a De Havilland DH.9a, one of the RAAF's 1921 machines, and a flight of Australian-built Mirage jet fighters of No. 76 Squadron.

Aviation, both civil and military, has played a very important part in the development of Australia, and this importance has been reflected in postage stamps, from the Kingsford Smith and air mail issues of the 1929-1930 period to the more recent Hargrave, Ross Smith, Duigan Brothers and Qantas stamps, and Bulletin articles have pointed out the developmental work of Hargrave, and the links between the Duigans, the Smiths and Hudson Fysh.

In 1911, the Australian Government bought 734 acres of land at Point Cook, near Melbourne, for a military aviation base, and in August 1914 the first organised military flying course began there, with a Bristol Boxkite, two BE2As and two Deperdussin monoplanes (one of which is still preserved in the RAAF Museum).

In February 1915, just after the outbreak of World War I, the Government of India requested Australia to provide airmen for service in Mesopotamia, and as a result pilots from the first Point Cook training course were selected and served with distinction in the Mesopotamian campaigns against the Turks.

Meanwhile, in response to a suggestion from the British Government, the first full Australian squadron was formed — No. 1 Squadron, Australian Flying Corps — and sailed for Egypt on 16th March, 1916, as the first complete squadron ever sent abroad by any Dominion country. It was followed by No. 3 Squadron in October, and by No. 4 in January, 1917. No. 2 Squadron was formed in Egypt from Australian Imperial Force personnel, and arrived in England in January, 1917. No. 1 Squadron remained in the Middle East throughout the war against Turkey; Australians of Nos. 2, 3 and 4 Squadrons did much flying on the Western Front, and took part in combats against the Germans, including the redoubtable Richthofen "flying circus". All four squadrons were disbanded at the end of the war, being replaced by the short-lived Australian Air Corps.

The Australian Air Force came into being officially on 31st March, 1921, with the prefix "Royal" being added later in the year. The initial strength of the new organisation was 21 officers, 130 airmen and about 170 aircraft, of which 128 had been donated by Britain. By the 1940s, at the height of World War II, the RAAF had expanded to a strength of 20,000 officers, 144,000 airmen and 18,000 airwomen. At that stage it had 3,037 operational aircraft and 2,808 trainers, many constructed in Australian factories.

Service aircraft have made a number of notable survey flights. The first of these, Captain H. N. Wrigley's Point Cook to Darwin flight (the first trans-Australia flight) to meet Ross Smith in December 1919, has already been mentioned in the Bulletin. In 1924, Wing Commander S. J. Goble and Flt. Lieut. I. E. McIntyre, using a Fairey III.D seaplane, carried out the first aerial circumnavigation of the Australian coastline, and in 1926 a De Havilland DH.50a flown by Group Captain R. Williams and Flt. Lieut. McIntyre made an aerial survey of Papua and New Guinea and the Solomon Islands. This was the first flight from Australia to an overseas destination.

In the same year, 1926, Sqdn. Ldr. Wrigley made the first long-distance night flight, from Richmond, N.S.W., to Violet Town, Vic.

Since 1929 the RAAF has provided aircraft in the Australian Antarctic Territory, on mapping and exploration missions. In 1936, the crew of a RAAF Westland Wapiti located the missing American explorer Lincoln Ellsworth.

When World War II broke out 450 ex-RAAF airmen were serving with the RAF on short-term commissions. In addition, the aircrew of No. 10 Squadron RAAF had arrived in England to take delivery of their Sunderland flyingboats. No. 10 Squadron remained in the United Kingdom for the duration of the war, and was eventually joined by 17 more RAAF squadrons. Australian airmen flew in every major operation mounted by the RAF in Europe and North Africa; more than half of the total of 10,000 RAAF war dead were killed in the European theatre of war.

As the war expanded into the Pacific, RAAF squadrons went into action in Malaya and the East Indies; they provided air cover for New Guinea and northern Australia; and — as the tide of war turned — moved into offensives in New Guinea, Borneo and the Philippines.

More recently, the RAAF has served in Korea and Vietnam.

On the first day of issue of the RAAF commemorative stamp, pictorial postmarkers were provided at five post offices situated on or adjacent to RAAF bases: at Point Cook, Vic., Richmond, N.S.W., Amberley, Qld., Pearce, W.A., and Edinburgh, S.A.

Point Cook, the birthplace of the RAAF, is now the site of the RAAF Academy. A De Havilland DH.9a is depicted on the Point Cook RAAF Post Office postmarker.

Richmond was the second base established. It now operates Lockheed Hercules heavy transport and De Havilland Caribou light transport aircraft, and the latter is pictured on the Richmond RAAF Post Office postmarker.

McDonnell Phantom F4E strike aircraft, leased from the United States, are based at Amberley, and one Phantom is shown on the Amberley postmarker.

At RAAF base Pearce pilots train on Macchi MB.326H jet trainers. The postmarker for Pearce RAAF Post Office shows one of these aircraft.

A Lockheed Orion is depicted on the postmarker used at Edinburgh Airfield Post Office. A squadron of Orions is based at Edinburgh, and flies regular patrols around the entire Australian coast.

ANTARCTIC TREATY COMMEMORATIVES

Further to reference in the February Bulletin, the Australian Antarctic Territory stamps significant of the Antarctic Treaty were placed on sale at Australian Post Office philatelic sales centres on 23rd June, 1971. Denominations are 6c and 30c. Both were designed by Mr. John Mason, of Melbourne, in the usual commemorative size of 37.5 mm x 25mm, and they were printed by photogravure at the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne, in sheets of 100 on coated paper incorporating helecron.

The 6c stamp depicts sastrugi, the name given to wave-like parallel ridges of snow, formed by wind action. The ridges have a long even slope to windward and usually end in a perpendicular wall of snow with an overhanging shelf.

The pancake ice floes shown on the 30c stamp are caused when pieces of sea ice break up and collide with other pieces in the swells of the polar seas; constant spinning and buffeting results in the circular form and raised rims.

The motif shown in the top left-hand corner of each stamp is the emblem of the Antarctic Treaty.

Antarctica, the windiest, driest and coldest of the continents, has an area of 5½ million square miles — almost twice the size of Australia. Approximately 98 per cent of the continent is covered by ice, which in places is 15,000 feet thick. There is evidence that forests once grew there, and it is conjectured that the continent was once joined to Australia, India, South America and Africa.

A number of countries have scientific interests in Antarctica. In 1959, Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Chile, France, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Republic of South Africa, the United Kingdom,



U.S.A. and U.S.S.R. signed a treaty to preserve the Antarctic for peaceful purposes so that the investigations and co-operation developed during the International Geophysical Year could continue.

All forms of military activity, nuclear explosions and the disposal of radio-active waste in Antarctica are expressly forbidden in the 14 articles of the treaty. An unrestricted system of inspection is provided for.

Observations and results of scientific programmes carried out may be exchanged between treaty nations, and all territorial claims have been waived during the currency of the treaty.

The Antarctic Treaty came into effect on 23rd June, 1961, and the new stamps were issued on the tenth anniversary*.

Perhaps the most immediate benefit of scientific activity in Antarctica is the daily plotting and forecasting of weather, which in southern Australia is greatly influenced by the cold masses of air which come from the polar regions. However, in 43 bases around the southernmost continent, scientists are studying many diverse problems, ranging from cosmic rays to what prevents polar fishes' blood from freezing. Some of these scientific activities are shown on the current series of Australian Antarctic Territory definitive stamps, which were also designed by Mr. Mason.

The new commemoratives will be taken to the Australian bases at Macquarie Island, Mawson, Davis and Casey in the annual relief ships which will leave Australia during the southern summer (December 1971 and January 1972) and the first days of issue will occur as each post office in the Territory receives its supplies of stamps. An official first day cover and pictorial first day postmarkers will be provided, and orders for covers will close about October, 1971. Full details will be published in Stamp Preview.

* *The February Bulletin indicated, erroneously, that the stamps would mark the tenth anniversary of the signing of the treaty. As noted above, it was actually signed in 1959.*



R.S.P.C.A./ANIMALS SERIES STAMPS

The four stamps of the R.S.P.C.A./Animals series will be issued on 5th July, 1971. They were designed by Mr. Robert Ingpen, of Melbourne, who completed the artwork in February just before leaving for Mexico, on a commission for the United Nations. The stamps are being printed in photogravure, in sheets of 100, by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne. Stamp size in each case is 25mm x 37.5mm.

There will be four values: 6c, 12c, 18c and 24c.

The 6c stamp features a horse, dog and cat, and marks the centenary of the Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. A commemorative, it will be sold at post offices for about two weeks, and at philatelic sales points for up to six months.

The remaining three stamps, the Animals series, are short term definitives and will remain on post office and philatelic sale for about six months. The 12c stamp features Animal Science and shows a scientist tending a lamb; the 18c stamp centres around Fauna Conservation with a Red kangaroo as its subject; and the 24c stamp highlights Animal Aid to man by depicting a guide dog leading a blind person.

Two official first day covers are being provided, both designed by Mr. John Mason. A souvenir pack will also be associated with the series.



POSTAGE STAMP FOR 50th ANNIVERSARY OF ROTARY IN AUSTRALIA

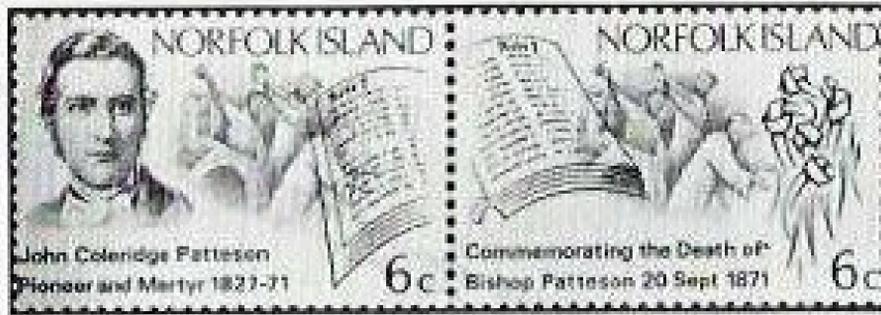
On 17th May, 1971, a 6c stamp was issued to mark the 50th Anniversary of Rotary in Australia. The first Australian Rotary club was formed in Melbourne in April 1921. The May issue date was arranged to coincide with the 62nd Rotary International Convention.

The stamp shows the Rotary emblem against a background of shades of green and yellow. It was designed by Mr. Harry Williamson, of Sydney, who also designed the two official first day covers associated with this issue. The stamp is in the usual commemorative size, 37.5mm x 25mm (including perfs.) and was printed in sheets of 100 on coated paper incorporating helecon by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne, by the photogravure process.

Two special postmarkers were associated with the Rotary stamp.

One was used from 15th to 20th May, 1971, at a temporary post office at the Sydney Showground for the 62nd Rotary International Convention. The other was used at Kilkenny North Post Office, S.A., during the Rotary Philatelic Exhibition, Arndale Shopping Centre, 17th to 23rd May, 1971.

As the date of issue of the Rotary stamp was a gazetted public holiday in South Australia, stamps were on sale and first day postmarking facilities were provided only at the following post offices: G.P.O. Adelaide, Clarence Gardens, Elizabeth, Glenelg, Greenacres, Hindmarsh, Kilkenny North, Millicent, Mount Gambier, Murray Bridge, Naracoorte, Norwood, Port Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Prospect, Renmark, Salisbury, Victor Harbour, Woomera, Whyalla. At the G.P.O. and Kilkenny North hours of business were 9 a.m. to 12 noon, and at the other offices 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.



NORFOLK ISLAND — STAMPS FOR CENTENARY OF DEATH OF BISHOP PATTESON

On 20th September, 1971, the Norfolk Island Administration will issue 6c and 10c stamps to mark the centenary of the death of John Coleridge Patteson, the first Bishop of Melanesia.

The stamps will be printed in multicolour photogravure by Harrison and Sons Ltd., London. The stamps will be in se-tenant pairs, in horizontal format and in sheets of 60 (30 pairs). The designs are by Mr. R. J. Bates, of Carlingford, N.S.W.

The stamps will be available to Australian residents from A.P.O. philatelic sales centres. Overseas residents may purchase them from the Chief Philatelic Officer, Norfolk Island, South Pacific, 2899. All first day cover orders, whether from Australia or overseas, must be forwarded to the same address. The costs of the cover service, in addition to the face value of the stamps, are: covers 3c each, affixing 3c per cover, addressing 3c per cover, plain outer cover (if required) 1c per cover. A charge of 3c is made for servicing each order than first day covers, and postage sufficient for despatch in the usual manner will be charged when mint stamps only are required.

NORFOLK ISLAND BIRDS SERIES

The accompanying illustrations show the 20c, 30c and \$1 Norfolk Island Birds series stamps, scheduled for issue on 16th June, 1971, as the last group in the Island's new definitive series.

Like the earlier Birds stamps, these are photogravure printed by Harrisons, in sheets of 50. Each stamp measures 38mm x 25mm.

Australian clients may obtain these and other Norfolk Island stamps from philatelic sales centres of the Australian Post Office. Clients resident outside Australia should forward orders direct to Norfolk Island.

BULLETIN TO BECOME QUARTERLY

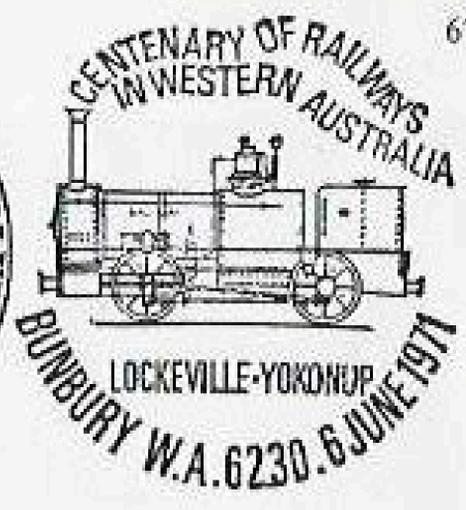
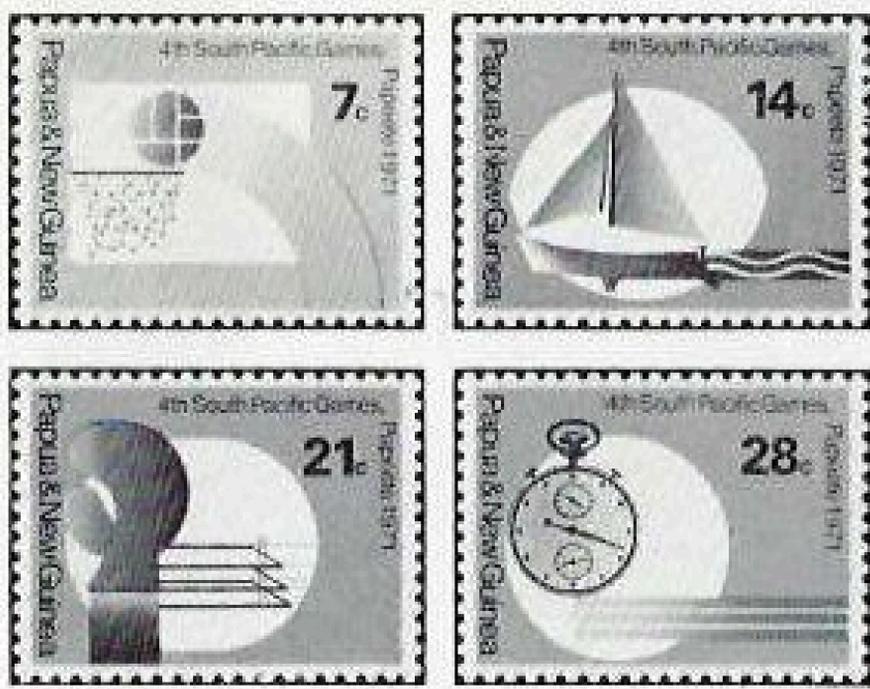
Until the beginning of publication of Stamp Preview, the Philatelic Bulletin was our only philatelic magazine. Besides notes on philatelic events of the immediate past and historical articles, its contents included reference to future events, where practicable. However, appearing at two-monthly intervals and being despatched by surface mail, it was not entirely satisfactory as a medium for advance publicity. Stamp Preview was therefore introduced, specifically to advise of forthcoming issues. Stamp Preview is produced as required, and is airmailed to overseas readers.

Since the introduction of Stamp Preview, the Bulletin has reverted to its major role as a journal of record, amplifying the necessarily brief details given in Stamp Preview, and covering other items such as the current article on engraving.

The circulation of each publication is now approaching 140,000. Preparing copy, printing, enveloping and mailing is a task of considerable magnitude, occupying at least two to three weeks per issue. Additionally, it sometimes happens that both magazines reach the mailing point simultaneously, when priority necessarily has to be given to Stamp Preview.

It has therefore been decided to make the Bulletin a quarterly publication. There will be no loss in content, as the number of pages will be increased to provide the same amount of text as previously. Notices of future issues, plus order forms, will continue to be disseminated via Stamp Preview.

The next issue of the Bulletin will appear in September 1971, and at three-monthly intervals thereafter.



PAPUA AND NEW GUINEA – FOURTH SOUTH PACIFIC GAMES COMMEMORATIVES

On 9th June, 1971, the Territory of Papua and New Guinea issued four postage stamps to mark the Fourth South Pacific Games, which will be held at Papeete, French Polynesia, over the period 8th-19th September, 1971.

The stamps, in values of 7c, 14c, 21c and 28c, depict basketball, yachting, boxing and track and field events. Designed by Mr. George Hamori, of Sydney, the stamps were printed in four-colour Delacryl by Thomas De La Rue and Co., Ltd., England. Stamp size is 34mm x 26mm, and sheet content is 50 in each case.

As usual, Australian residents may purchase the stamps from Australian Post Office philatelic sales centres. Overseas clients should forward orders and remittances direct to the Philatelic Bureau, Port Moresby, Territory of Papua and New Guinea.

HISTORY OF AUSTRALIAN POSTAGE STAMPS – THIRD BOOKLET AVAILABLE

“The Early Commonwealth Period, 1901 to 1912-13”, the third handbook in the official series describing the history of Australian postage stamps, was published in May, 1971.

It deals with the transitional period between Federation in 1901 and the issue of the first uniform series of Commonwealth stamps in 1913, and the various Colonial stamps which were continued in use as Commonwealth stamps at that time.

The two previous handbooks, “The Early Commonwealth Period and the Kangaroo and Map Series” and “The 1913-14 Recess-Printed Series and the King George V Sideface and Pictorial Definitive Stamps” are also available. All three handbooks are priced at 50c each, post free by surface mail, from all A.P.O. philatelic sales centres.

Further titles are in preparation, covering later definitive stamps, commemorative stamps, and special postmarks. Publication dates will be announced as the books become available.

SHORT NOTES

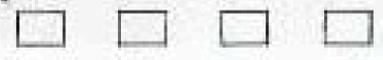
During the Captain Cook Bicentenary celebrations in 1970, special pictorial postmarkers were provided at 12 points along the eastern coast which had an association with Cook's voyage.

The number of articles postmarked with the special postmarkers at the various offices, and the periods of usage, were:

Point Hicks, Vic.	8,269	20th April, 1970
Kurnell, N.S.W.	21,009	27th April-2nd May
Bulli, N.S.W.	8,690	27th April-1st May
Botany, N.S.W.	8,448	27th April-2nd May
Laurieton, N.S.W.	7,915	27th April-2nd May
The Entrance, N.S.W.	6,674	4th May-16th May
Coolangatta, Qld.	6,870	13th May-19th May
Gladstone, Qld.	7,328	20th May-26th May
Rockhampton, Qld.	7,085	25th May-30th May
Mackay, Qld.	7,030	1st June-6th June
Cooktown, Qld.	6,927	15th June-20th June
Thursday Island, Qld.	6,468	17th August- 22nd August.



The letter receiver at the summit, Mount Kosciusko, was in use from 14th December, 1970, to 29th March, 1971. During the period, 9,313 articles were cancelled with the special pictorial postmarker.



A special postmarker was used at the Goondiwindi Post Office, Qld., on 30th April and 1st May, 1971, in association with the Goondiwindi Stamp and Coin Club Exhibition. An impression of the postmarker is illustrated.



The pictorial postmarker used at Bunbury, W.A., on 6th June, 1971, in connection with the philatelic mail marking the centenary of railways in Western Australia is also shown. Further details were given in the April Bulletin.



Further to reference in the October 1970 Bulletin, 56,515 articles, including 164 registered, were postmarked with the special postmarker used at the 9th Australian Scout Jamboree, Leppington, N.S.W., between 29th December, 1970, and 9th January, 1971. The postmarker was illustrated in the December 1970 Bulletin.





During the Alice Springs centenary celebrations which were held from 8th to 21st March, 1971, a total of 5,719 articles, including 24 registered, were postmarked with the special pictorial postmarker illustrated in the April Bulletin.



Further to reference in the April Bulletin, Lufthansa's inaugural flight from Sydney to Bombay carried 4,050 ordinary articles and 105 aerogrammes as one-way items, and 1,510 ordinary articles and 86 aerogrammes as return items. The postmarker is illustrated.



Special postmarkers were used at the Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Adelaide and Perth Stock Exchanges on 5th May, 1971, the day of issue of the 6c postage stamp marking the centenary of the Sydney Stock Exchange. At the Sydney Exchange, postal facilities and use of the postmarker continued until 11th May, in connection with the centenary celebrations; at the other exchanges, the postmarking facility was confined to the day of issue of the stamp.



Consequent upon the change in postage rates, the Norfolk Island Administration will issue a 6c coil stamp on 25th August, 1971. The design will be the same as the current 5c Queen Elizabeth II coil stamp with a change in colours.



The 6c Australian Natives' Association commemorative stamp was printed on Wiggins Teape coated unwatermarked paper incorporating Derby Luminescence. The colours, in order of printing, were orange, red, blue and black. The 6c Sydney Stock Exchange Centenary stamp was on Wiggins Teape coated unwatermarked paper incorporating heleon, and the colours, in order of printing, were

yellow, magenta, cyan and silver. For both stamps, the normal number of cylinders – four – were used.



Christmas Island has issued an aerogramme, the first for that administration. It is identical with the current Australian large form, except for the imprinted stamp, which shows CHRISTMAS ISLAND/10c/INDIAN OCEAN in three lines of blue printing on an orange-red background. The aerogramme is available, in mint form only, at 10c from Australian Post Office philatelic centres. It is not valid for posting in Australia.



Further to reference in the December Bulletin, 74,514 articles, including 92 registered, were postmarked at the temporary post office in the Queen Victoria Building, York Street, Sydney, with the special postmarker provided to mark the visit to Australia of His Holiness Pope Paul VI.



POSTAGE STAMPS FEATURING REHABILITATION

The Postmaster-General, Sir Alan Hulme, has announced that the Australian Post Office will issue special stamps in 1972 to recognise social work and established services in the general field of rehabilitation of the disabled.

Sir Alan said that the Post Office was pleased to be associated with the issue of postage stamps significant of this splendid community work undertaken by many private institutions and Government departments throughout Australia. The issue of the stamps was planned to coincide with a proposed Twelfth World Congress on Rehabilitation to be held in Sydney during August-September, 1972.

Details of denominations and designs and the exact date of issue will be announced later.

COOK PACK WINS NATIONAL AWARD

The souvenir pack containing the Cook Bicentenary stamps has been awarded a gold medal by the National Packaging Association.

The pack was issued in April, 1970, and contained the five 5c, one 30c and 55c miniature sheet Cook stamps. It was designed by Graphic Concept, a Sydney design group headed by Mr. Maurice Schlesinger, to Post Office specifications, and printed by Specialty Press, Melbourne.

The presentation of the gold medal and a certificate was made at the Hotel Australia, Adelaide, on 4th May, 1971, during the National Packaging Association's annual exhibition. Mr. J. O'Sullivan, Director of Posts and Telegraphs, South Australia, accepted the award on behalf of the Australian Post Office.

POSTAGE STAMP QUANTITIES

The following figures indicate the quantity of Australian Commonwealth definitive postage stamps and other material delivered by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, to the Postmaster-General's Department during the 1969/70 financial year.

Denomination	Subject	No. of Stamps
1c	Queen Elizabeth II	10,370,000
2c	Queen Elizabeth II	6,797,900
3c	Queen Elizabeth II	4,847,500
5c	Queen Elizabeth II	564,600,000
6c	Kangaroo Paw	3,500,000
7c	Humbug Fish	3,150,000
7c	Sugar	3,600,000
8c	Coral Fish	3,800,000
9c	Hermit Crab	15,480,000
10c	Anemone Fish	15,829,500
13c	Pink Heath	9,590,000
15c	Tasmanian Blue Gum	4,500,000
15c	Timber	5,009,000
20c	Desert Pea	3,750,000
20c	Wheat	8,344,000
24c	Kingfisher	61,400
25c	Cooktown Orchid	3,410,000
25c	Wool	6,209,000
30c	Waratah	22,089,000
40c	Tasman	6,255,000
50c	Dampier	7,055,000
75c	Cook	927,500
\$1	Flinders	2,522,500
\$2	Bass	1,092,500
\$4	King	420,100

Postal Stationery, Coils and Booklets

5c	Ordinary Envelopes 5¼" x 3½"	7,670,000
5c	Ordinary Envelopes 9" x 4"	1,542,000
5c	Wrappers	868,000
5c	Lettercards	1,461,000
10c	Aerogrammes	26,688,300
5c	Queen Elizabeth II Coils of 1000 stamps	18,944 (18,944,000 stamps)
5c	Golden Wattle Coils of 1000 stamps	3,950 (3,950,000 stamps)
4c	Desert Rose Coils of 1000 stamps	1,241 (1,241,000 stamps)
4c	Queen Elizabeth II Coils of 1000 stamps	100 (100,000 stamps)
5c	Golden Wattle Coils of 500 stamps	2,270 (1,135,000 stamps)
\$1	Booklets (Prime Ministers)	7,158,800
\$1	Booklets (Famous Australians)	1,815,000
50c	Booklets (Q.E.II)	30,000

PRODUCTION OF ENGRAVED STAMPS (concluded)

The previous part of this article described engraving of the die and its hardening, and the beginning of the transfer process, whereby the die is placed under a transfer roller and the design picked up on the latter.

After the roller has been passed over the die, the cuts in the latter have become ridges, standing up in relief, on the face of the roller. The roller is not noticeably distorted in the process, apart from an almost imperceptible flattening of its periphery.



The roller is then hardened by tempering, in the same manner as the die, and the way is then clear for preparation of the master plate.

The roller is now replaced in the transfer press, upon whose bed is a polished, softened steel plate, previously marked to show the positions of each required impression or "entry." The operator (termed a siderographist) then brings the roller and plate together under great pressure, "entering" the impression. Each entry is made by rocking the roller back and forth, until sufficient depth is obtained in the entry on the master plate. The operation of the transfer press is entirely manual, as it depends upon very delicate manipulation. The siderographist must have a fine sense of touch and judgment, to determine when an entry has reached the required depth.

To align the subjects exactly upon the plate, several methods have been used. Sometimes the plate surface is marked with small dots; sometimes very fine lines are ruled across. However the guides are indicated, they are usually either obliterated by the entries or otherwise expunged from the plate before printing.

Extreme care is necessary in rocking in the entries, as misplacement of one subject can ruin the complete plate. Depth is also critical. Each pass of the roller displaces only part of the metal, and it is therefore necessary to make a number of passes before each entry is complete. It is important to note also that no metal is actually removed during rocking in, as it was in cutting the die. However, burr metal is removed, and guidelines and other extraneous marks are burnished off before the plate is considered finished. After the required number of entries (usually more than the normal post office sheet size of 100, as plates are normally larger, with the printed sheets being cut down afterwards) cleaning and polishing, and engraving of any marginal markings such as plate numbers and perforation guides, the plate is ready for the next stage.

Although this first plate could be used for printing, it is actually retained as a master plate, from which any number of printing plates can be made. There are several reasons for this.

As each rotary press will accommodate two plates on its cylinder, at least two and sometimes four or more plates are required, depending upon the number of stamps to be produced, and the time available. Accidents, of course, may also occur — plates may become damaged or normal wear and tear over a long period may render them unusable. The master plate is therefore kept in its original state, so that replacement plates may be made.



This is done by an electrolytic process. The master plate is placed in a bath of electrolyte, through which a current is passed, and thus it is plated slowly first with nickel and then with copper. The entire process takes eight days. The plating is then carefully stripped from the master, and forms the alto plate, whose purpose is identical with that of the transfer roller. It holds the required number of subjects in relief, standing up on the face.

The alto in turn is placed in an electrolytic solution, and upon it is grown the actual printing plate, of copper faced with chromium for durability. Finally, the printing plate is curved slightly to fit the cylinder radius, and may then be locked in place upon the press for production of sheet stamps.

Over recent years, plastic has been used as a means of obtaining a reversal of an engraved die, as an alternative to the steel transfer cylinder method. The method has been used in the production of bank notes and stamps printed by the intaglio process, where individual single moulds are taken from the original die. These moulds are then placed in their required position in printing format and all joins are filled in with a suitable sealing compound. This filling is used to make the surface of the plastic moulds continuous before electro-deposition takes place to make a metal master plate.

Plastic has also been used to make the reverse impression (alto) from a complete master plate. Such plastic moulds can then be silvered and by electrodeposition printing plates can be made from the plastic mould, as described earlier.

The present techniques of plastic moulding used at the Note Printing Branch differ from the above in that an impressing machine is used. It was installed in June 1962 and was designed as a result of previous experiments with plastic moulding. The machine was first used in the production of printing plates for the 7/6d Captain Cook stamps, but experimentation with plastic moulding dates back some years previously, and Note Printing Branch records indicate that the Papua and New Guinea 2/5d stamp of 1960 was the first stamp issued using plastic moulds for plate making.

In the Note Printing Branch method, the actual impressions from the original die are made into a single sheet of plastic, and no joins or rebonding occur. It is incorrect to refer to the plastic mould as a plate; an original metal master plate still has to be made from the plastic mould, by deposition.

The machine is fitted with a moveable vacuum base which holds a complete sheet of plastic, and a moveable head which holds the moulding die. The head can be depressed under controlled pressure to force the moulding die into the plastic. With both lateral movements available, any format can be moulded to make up the number of impressions required.

The moulding die holder can be both heated and cooled during the operation of moulding. It is first brought up to the required temperature to assist the plastic to flow into the engraved lines in the die, when the moulding head is depressed into the sheet of plastic to a pre-determined depth below the surface of the sheet. When this depth is reached, the moulding head is held in position while the cooling action takes place.

When the required number of moulds have been formed, the gutters between the images are prepared by cutting away surplus plastic caused by the moulding, and brought to a level slightly below the impressed surface to allow for dressing-off the master plate.

On completion of the moulding process the plastic mould is then made receptive by a layer of silver which allows it to become a cathode in the electrodeposition process.

After a sufficient thickness of metal has been grown, as described earlier, the plastic mould is separated from the metal, which is now the master plate. Hand work is then undertaken, to bring the gutters level with the plate surface, and to remove any other imperfections.

From this master plate, a reverse metal plate (alto) is made, and from this the actual printing plates, in the same manner as indicated earlier. After the master plate has been made, the plastic mould is discarded and plays no further part — it has served its function, as an equivalent of the metal transfer roller.

The die used for moulding may be a single engraving, or a multiple block. In either case it is a reproduction of the original hand engraved die, made either by the transferring process or by plastic moulding and electrodeposition techniques as described in the plate-making procedures. The moulding die has to be machined to the correct moulding size and to allow fitting of the holding box.

Evidence of any re-cutting or repairs to printing plates, as determined by philatelic study of printed stamps, need not necessarily be associated with the use of plastic unless the original fault was due to some imperfections in the mould. Even in such case, the repair would be undertaken on the master plate deposited from the plastic mould, as the engraving on the master is below the surface and not raised as in the case of the plastic mould.

Line engraving is not the only form of recess printing; photogravure is also a printing from recessed instruments, in which the ink is carried below the printing surface. But line engraving by hand, carried out by artists, can result in pleasing prints from the aesthetic viewpoint, and is also a security against forgery, in that perfect duplication of a hand engraving is virtually impossible.

In recent years France and U.S.A. have developed engraving printing processes for multicolour printings, in which the inking rollers are cut away so that the different colours are deposited on the one plate, in the required areas.

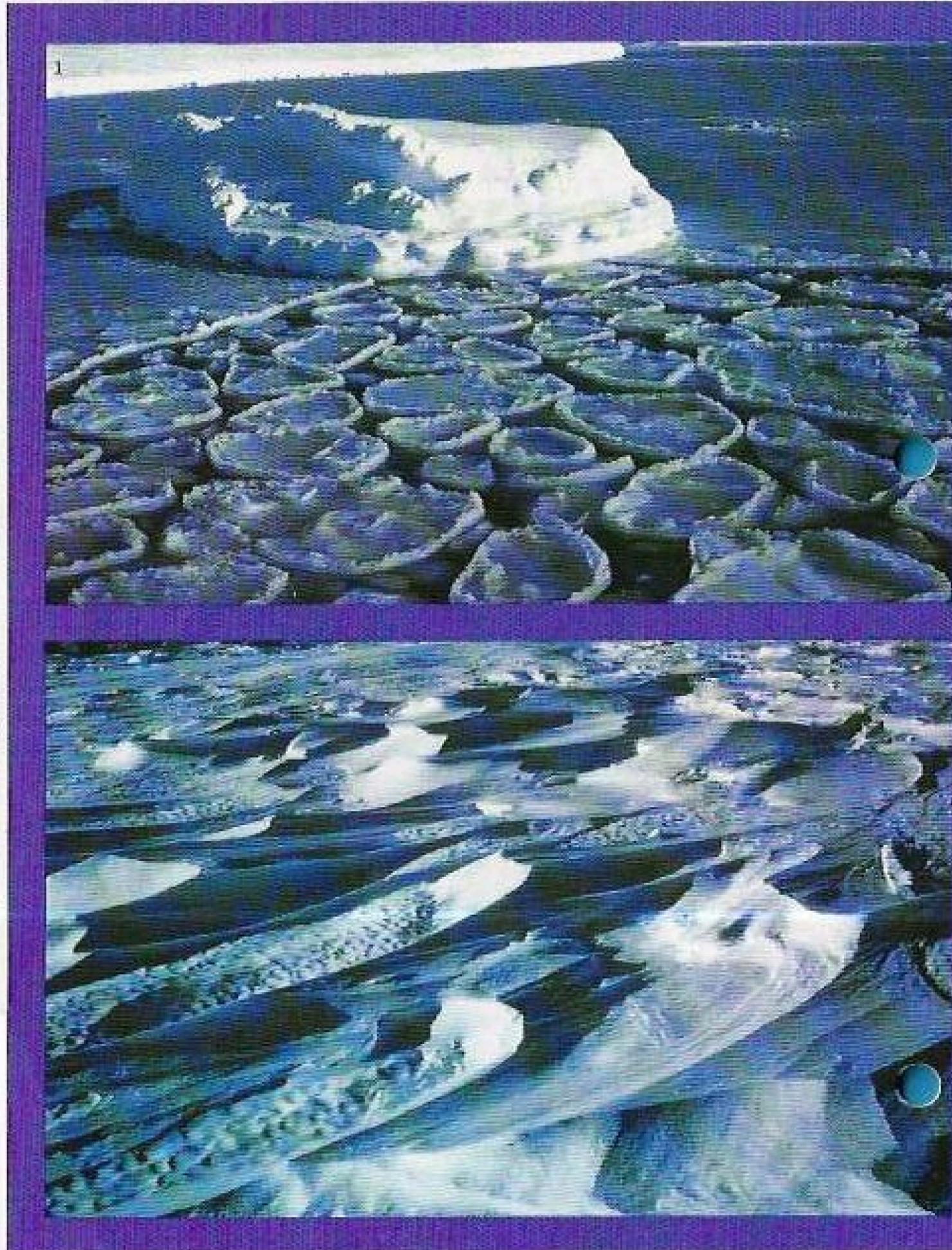
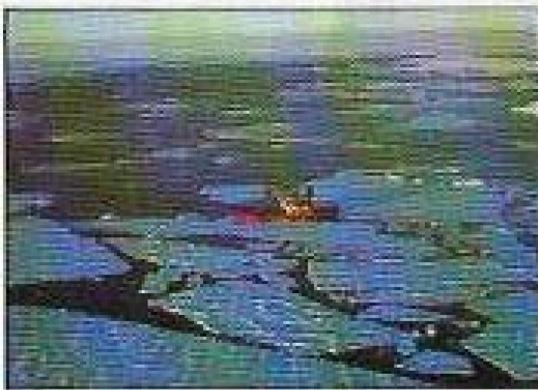
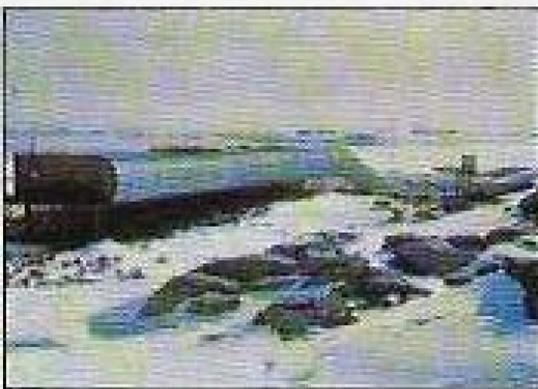
Photogravure ink is fluid, as the cylinders run in an ink bath, to which the excess is returned as the doctor blade removes it. For printing from engraved plates, ink of much thicker consistency is needed, because the design is recessed to a depth considerably greater than that of a gravure cylinder, and the pressure under which the paper is forced into the plate recesses is also greater. On the rotary engraved presses, the excess ink is removed by a wiping blanket, whose purpose is the same as that of the gravure doctor blade — to remove the excess ink and leave ink only in the printing areas below the plate surface.

The final process before engraved stamps are checked and counted is perforation, which is performed on a separate machine. The comb method consists of lines of pins, coinciding below with holes in a steel die plate. The pins perforate the top and both sides of a row of stamps; up to seven sheets at a time are passed through, row by row. Correct positioning is obtained by locating pins at each side.

Complete accuracy of perforation register is not always possible because of paper shrinkage or expansion after printing, and the gum adds to the tendency of sheets to curl. Confetti clogs pins and die holes, and both must be kept clean and sharp to ensure neatly-punched holes.

- 1) Pancake ice near Casey Base
- 2) A typical example of sastrugi
- 3) Casey A.N.A.R.E. station designed to prevent build-up of snowdrifts
- 4) Aurora Australis, above a radar dome at Mawson
- 5) The Antarctic ship "Nella Dan" in an ice field
- 6) Tractor train

All photographs courtesy of Antarctic Division, Department of Supply.



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