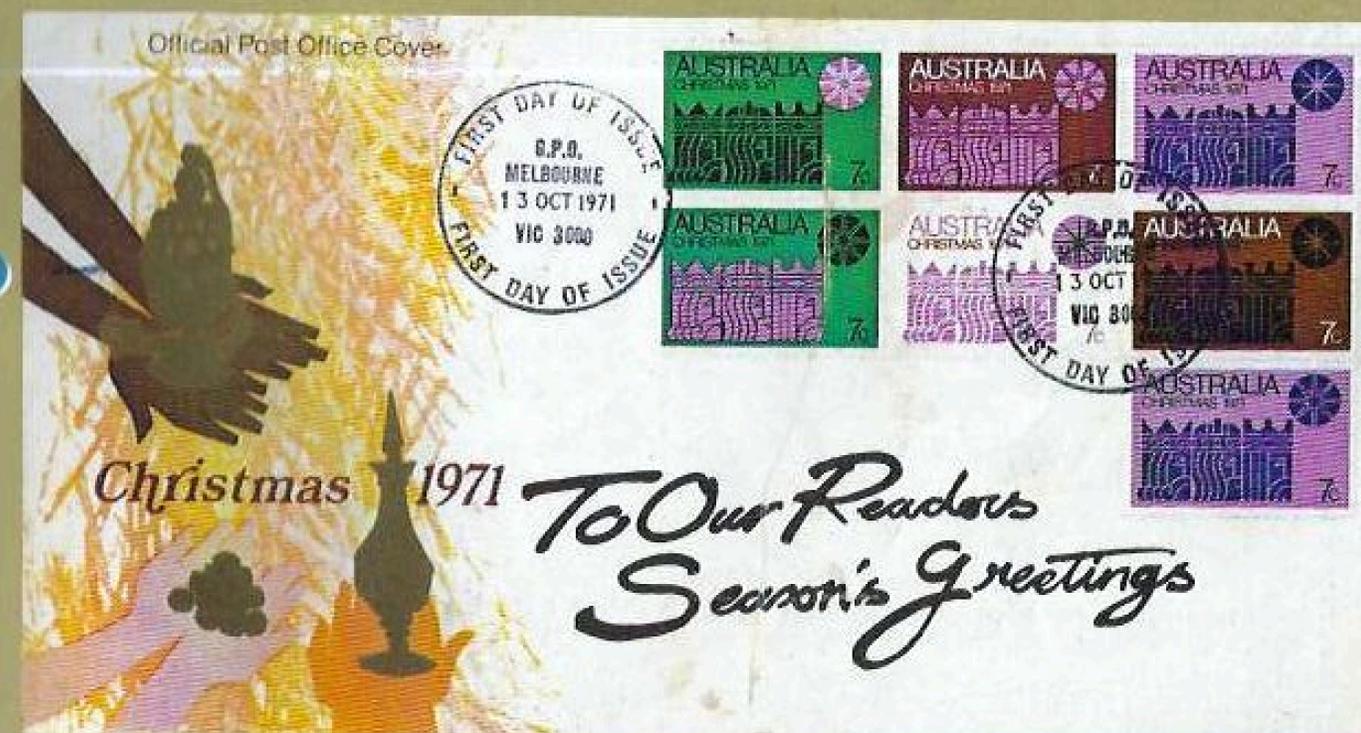


# PHILATELIC BULLETIN

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## CONTENTS

19	Postage Rates Changes
20	Photogravure and The Birds Series — Development of Australian Gravure
22	Christmas Island Ships Series
22	1971 Australian Christmas Stamps
23	Western Samoa Christmas Stamps
23	Special Mail for Airmail Anniversary
23	Postage Stamp to Commemorate 50th Anniversary of First Regular Radio Broadcast in Australia
23	Stamp to Commemorate Accountancy Congress
24	Aboriginal Art Series
26	Nauru Postmark Commemorates Local Delivery
26	Norfolk Island Christmas Stamp
27	Australian Post Office Appoints American Philatelic Agency
27	New Philatelic Handbooks
28	Papua New Guinea Issues
30	Short Notes



### POSTAGE RATES CHANGES

Increases in postage rates, effective from 1st October, 1971, have brought about the issue of three new stamps and re-introduction of a previous stamp. New postal stationery items are also being issued.

The new stamps are 7c Queen Elizabeth II, 7c Sturt's Desert Pea and 2c Sturt's Desert Rose; and the previous 5c Golden Wattle stamp has been re-introduced. All of the stamps and postal stationery items were produced by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne.

The 7c Queen Elizabeth II stamp is reddish-purple in colour, in the same size and design as the existing stamps of the Royal Portrait series. It is printed in sheets of 100, on unwatermarked paper incorporating heleon.

The other new stamps are in coil form. The 2c Desert Rose is similar to the previous 6c stamp with the same subject, but the word "AUSTRALIA", grey in the 6c stamp, is green in the 2c. Otherwise, the colours are the same as previously. The new 7c stamp is an adaptation of the 20c Desert Pea design in the Floral Emblems series. To bring the design into line with the other coil designs, which have no background colour, the Desert Pea in its coil form lacks the chartreuse background it had as a 20c stamp. Otherwise, the colours are similar to the earlier stamp.

Existing designs were modified, as the short time available for production did not permit development of new designs. For the same reason, initial stocks of both new coils were in rolls of 500 stamps, enabling stocks to be built up more quickly. Production has now moved to the normal 1,000-on coils.

The 7c coil stamp is available from a limited number of vending machines which can be operated by 5c and 2c coins. At most post offices, two vending machines are installed, one vending 5c stamps and the other 2c stamps. Thus, the previous 5c Golden Wattle coil has been re-introduced.

All of the coil stamps are photogravure-printed, on unwatermarked coated paper incorporating heleon.

The new stamps were placed on sale as from 1st October, when the increased postage rates became effective. As the enabling legislation was not passed until the afternoon of 30th September, advance publicity could not be given, and consequently mail orders for first day covers were accepted until 31st October.

New postal stationery items — 12c aerogrammes, and 7c stamped envelopes, lettercards and wrappers — have been printed and are being distributed. As usual with postal stationery, there is no uniform date of issue, and the new items are being placed on sale as stocks of existing items bearing old denominations are exhausted. The older items remain valid for postage with additional stamps added to bring face value up to the new rates.

The 12c aerogramme is of the same design as its 10c predecessor, but the lettering previously shown in blue is now green. The lettercard and wrapper bear a 7c Queen Elizabeth II stamp in reddish-purple. All three items are letterpress-printed.

The 7c National Development series stamp is being continued on sale to help meet the immediate need for 7c stamps and to avoid breaking the group of four stamps in this series. The Australia-Asia series, of 7c, 15c and 20c values, was withdrawn on 31st October, except for any small remainder stocks at post offices. The 6c Desert Rose coil stamp was withdrawn from vending machine sale on 30th September, and from philatelic sale on 31st October. The 30c Waratah stamp was withdrawn on 29th September, when it was replaced by a similar value in the Aboriginal Art series.

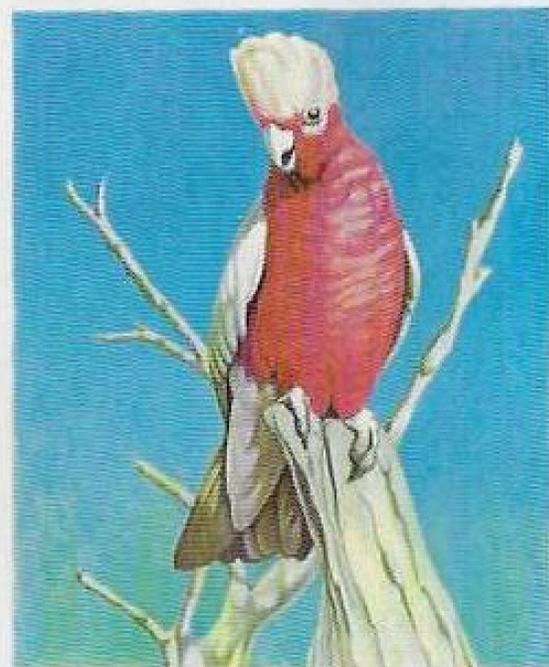
The following sets out the major changes affecting philatelic clients.

#### Letters and Postcards within Australia.

The former rate of 6c for the first ounce has been increased to 7c. Rates for additional weight steps remain unaltered, i.e.: over one ounce up to two ounces, 12c; to four ounces, 18c; to eight ounces, 24c; to 16 ounces, 30c. Parcel rates apply over one pound.



The preliminary Galah design (July, 1961).



The second version of the Galah (September, 1961). With some modifications, this version was adopted.

#### Overseas Letter Rate

The surface letter rate to certain countries in Asia and Oceania remains as before, i.e. 7c for the first ounce; 13c, 20c, 40c, 70c for the additional weight steps shown above. For all other countries (including British Commonwealth) the rates are 10c for one ounce, and 18c, 25c, 60c and \$1 for the subsequent weight steps.

#### Overseas Air Mail

Rates for all zones have been increased. Letter rates are now, per half ounce, as follows: Zone 1 (New Zealand) 12c; Zone 2 (Fiji, Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore) 20c; Zone 3 (Ceylon, China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand) 25c; Zone 4 (Middle East and North America) 30c; Zone 5 (Africa, Europe, South America) 35c.

#### Registered Post

Fee increased to 50c (in addition to normal postage).

#### First Day Covers

Special first day covers for specific stamp issues are now 9c each, or 7c each when purchased in lots of 1,000 or more. Old-type standard covers are 5c each.

#### Postal Stationery

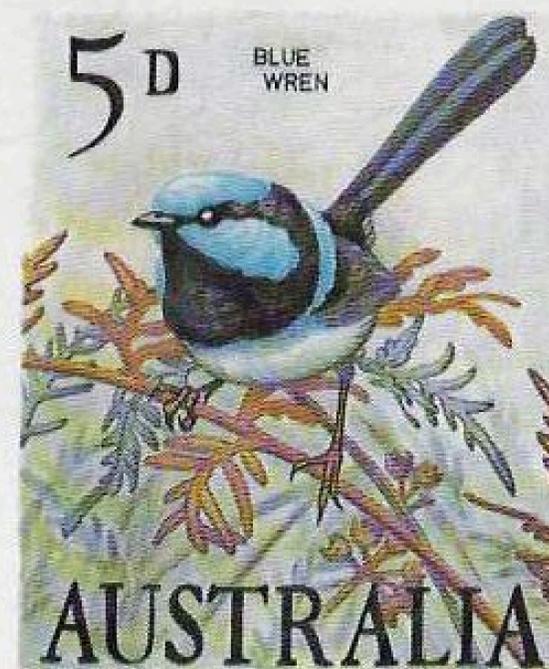
(Selling price shown in brackets): 7c lettercard (9c), 7c envelopes, large and small (9c), 7c wrappers (9c), 12c aerogrammes (12c).

#### PHOTOGRAVURE AND THE BIRDS SERIES – DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIAN GRAVURE (Concluded)

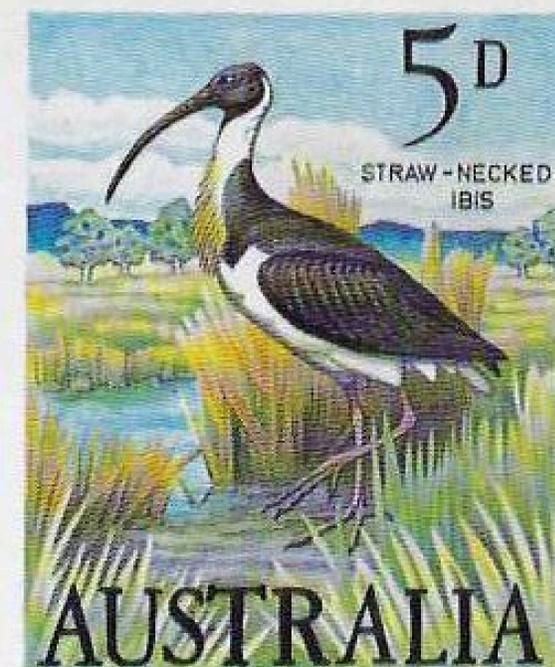
The first part of this article related how the Birds series of stamps was specifically developed for printing on the new-acquired photogravure machine. Early experimental printings indicated that artwork for the Birds series would need to be specially drawn for the process, and at the same time fulfil the need for ornithological accuracy.

Mrs. Temple Watts was then commissioned to prepare further designs within the revised requirements. After consultation between the Department, Mr. McEvey and Mrs. Temple Watts, the final list of subjects became scarlet robin, golden whistler, straw-necked ibis, magpie-lark, yellow-tailed thornbill, blue wren and rainbow lorikeet. The black-backed magpie design was also to be re-drawn. The subjects were chosen not only for their colouring and suitability for gravure printing, but because the birds were widely distributed in Australia and would be familiar to many people. Some indication of habitats should be shown, if possible.

Mrs. Temple Watts forwarded three designs in July 1961: the galah, with Blakeley's red gum shown; a magpie-lark with yellow box foliage; and the thornbill amongst Cootamundra wattle flowers. In the same month she forwarded the blue wren shown amongst bracken fern, and the first ibis



The first Blue Wren design (August, 1961).



Preliminary Ibis design (August, 1961). The landscape background was eventually deleted.



Mrs. Temple Watts' rough pencil sketches, from which the later designs were developed.

design, received late in August, showed a landscape background.

At the request of the Department, she re-worked some designs considerably. The final galah design showed the bird in a different pose, the landscape was deleted from the ibis design, and there were modifications to the magpie-lark and thornbill sketches.

The rainbow lorikeet and golden whistler designs she forwarded in December 1961. The golden whistler was shown in melaleuca foliage, which was afterwards deleted. The rainbow lorikeet design was not developed further.

Meanwhile, the gravure equipment was being set up at the Note Printing Branch, and various trial printings were made utilizing some of the Gould designs and other experimental artwork. Cylinders made in London were employed for some printings. Tests were completed by January 1962, and the Department then submitted to the Postmaster-General, Mr. Davidson, the completed magpie, galah and blue wren designs, for which the values 9d, 1/6d and 2/5d respectively were selected. Preliminary proofs of the 1/6d Galah stamp became available on 29th March, 1962, and further proofs were viewed on 19th April. Proofs of the 2/5d

Blue Wren were submitted to the Post Office on 28th May, 1962.

The final versions of the yellow-tailed thornbill, golden whistler and magpie-lark subjects, as recommended by the Stamp Advisory Committee, were approved by the Minister on 13th June, 1962. Denominations shown on the artwork were 6d, 8d and 11d respectively, but as events turned out, only the thornbill subject appeared as a stamp in the value then shown.

The preliminary scarlet robin design, of August 1962, showed the bird holding an insect in its beak. At stamp size, the insect was difficult to distinguish as such, and it was therefore deleted. The barbed-wire fence was also re-drawn, but otherwise the final version was much the same as the preliminary design.

Concurrently, events were in train which were to lead to the issue of the first Australian-printed photogravure stamp, the 5d Australian Inland Mission commemorative.

Representations made by the A.I.M. organisation led to the project being approved in principle by the Postmaster-General late in May, 1962. Because of the relatively short time remaining before the desired issue date, and because of other

(Continued page 26).



#### CHRISTMAS ISLAND — SHIPS SERIES

The Territory of Christmas Island has announced the issue of a new definitive series of stamps depicting ships which have figured in the history and development of the island. The series of 16 stamps will be issued as follows: 7th February, 1972 — 6c, 7c, 8c, 20c; 5th June, 1972 — 1c, 2c, 3c, \$1; 5th February, 1973 — 4c, 5c, 9c, 50c; 4th June, 1973 — 10c, 15c, 25c, 30c.

#### First Group — Subjects

6c H.M.S. "Flying Fish". This vessel, commanded by Captain J.P. Maclear, reached Christmas Island in January 1887. After sailing round the greater part of the island, an anchorage was found in a cove now named after the vessel. A landing party made some limited explorations, and collected fauna specimens.

7c "Asia". In 1805 Captain William Stone of the "Asia", a vessel belonging to the East India Company, made the most accurate reading of the island's position to that date.

8c T.S.S. "Islander". This ship was designed by Ritchie and Bisset of Singapore and built by the Grangemouth Dockyard Co., Ltd., Scotland, for the Christmas Island Phosphate Co. Ltd. Of 1,598 gross tons, the ship was launched in October 1927, and carried passengers, phosphate and general cargo between Christmas Island and Singapore from 1929 until her last voyage in March, 1960.

20c "Thomas". In 1615, Richard Rowe, master of the vessel "Thomas", made the first recorded sighting of Christmas Island.

The stamps were printed in multicolour photogravure in sheets of 50, by Harrison and Sons, Ltd., London.

A first-day cover service will be provided by the Christmas Island Post Office. All orders for covers must be directed there. Covers cost 8c each.

Australian clients may obtain mint stamps from the philatelic sales centres of the Australian Post Office, as from the date of issue. Postmarked stamps are expected to be available some weeks later.

Clients outside Australia should order stamps from the Philatelic Officer, Christmas Island, Indian Ocean.

#### 1971 AUSTRALIAN CHRISTMAS STAMPS

This year's Christmas stamps were issued on 13th October, 1971. As usual, sales were on a "demand" basis initially, to meet requirements for early postings of seasonal greetings. The stamps went on general sale as from 1st December, and will be withdrawn from post offices at the end of the month, although they will continue on sale at philatelic outlets for a further period.

The design is Mr. John Lee's prize-winning entry in the Post Office's design competition, reported in the September Bulletin. Only one value — 7c — was provided, but in different colour combinations within the same sheet. Various arrangements of the four basic colours, green, blue, pink and rust, result in seven different stamps within the sheet of 100. Stamps with green backgrounds form a cross which appears in every half pane (quarter sheet) of 25 stamps.

The unusual arrangement was devised to provide a variety of stamps for use on Christmas mail, and to symbolise the Christian significance of the traditional Testament story. Miss Erica McGilchrist, who had previously designed the 25c 1967 Christmas stamp, was the colour consultant for this year's project.

The stamps are in the usual commemorative size (37.5 mm x 25 mm including perforations) and were printed by photogravure on unwatermarked paper incorporating heleon at the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne.

The bulk of the printing is on Wiggins Teape paper, but approximately ten per cent is on a new paper designated KP5D. The addition of luminescent material to stamp paper has presented some problems as regards printing quality, and the new paper has been developed in an effort to overcome these. Its surface is whiter than other coated papers currently and recently used for photogravure printings. Stocks of stamps on both types of paper are maintained at philatelic sales centres.

The official first day cover was designed by Mr. Ray Honisett, and was printed in several colours. The gifts brought by the Wise Men — gold, frankincense and myrrh — were impressed in gold foil, the first time the process has been used on an official cover. A souvenir pack containing a block of seven different stamps was also placed on sale on the issue date.

Mr. Honisett also designed the 1971 Christmas 12c aerogramme which was issued on 1st December, 1971. It features the Lee stamp design, slightly enlarged as compared with the sheet stamps, and a decorative "star" motif on the left-hand side of the address face. The aerogramme was printed by letterpress, using dark blue (non-heleon) and orange (with heleon) on the normal light blue paper, at the Note Printing Branch.



#### WESTERN SAMOA CHRISTMAS STAMPS

Four Christmas stamps were released by Western Samoa on 4th October, 1971. The 2 sene and 3 sene stamps show a reproduction of "The Virgin and Child" by Giovanni Bellini, and Leonardo da Vinci's painting "The Virgin and Child with Saints Anne and John the Baptist" is featured on the 20 sene and 30 sene designs. Different coloured frames distinguish stamps with similar subjects but different denominations. The stamps are illustrated on the back cover.

The Australian prices for the stamps are 3c, 4c, 25c, and 38c.

John Waddington of Kirkstall, Ltd., England, printed the stamps by lithography in sheets of 25. Stamp sizes are 31 mm x 46 mm.

They are available to Australian collectors, mint or postmarked, from Post Office philatelic sales points. Overseas residents should forward orders to the Philatelic Bureau, Apia, Western Samoa.

On 17th January, 1972, Western Samoa will issue 1 sene, 8 sene, 10 sene and 22 sene stamps to mark the 10th anniversary of independence. In March, a set of four stamps is proposed to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the South Pacific Commission, and further commemorative stamps are planned for June 1972 for the 250th anniversary of the discovery of Samoa by Roggeveen.

The myths and legends stamps described in the previous Bulletin are illustrated in this issue.

#### SPECIAL MAIL FOR AIRMAIL ANNIVERSARY

A philatelic mail was flown from Geraldton to Derby in Western Australia on Sunday, 5th December, 1971. A pictorial postmarker was used on all items carried on the flight. The event marked the 50th anniversary of the first regular air mail service in Australia, begun by West Australian Airways.

Sir Norman Brearley, who founded the airline in 1921 after returning from active service in the Royal Flying Corps, participated in the re-enactment ceremonies.

Formation of the service in 1921 provided speedier communications for the people living in the remote north-west of Australia, who previously had to rely on a monthly steamer service. West Australian Airways' first fleet consisted of six Bristol Tourer aircraft, and Sir Charles Kingsford Smith was one of the original pilots before he won fame on his trans-oceanic flights.

West Australian Airways ceased operations in the 1930s and the route is now serviced by MacRobertson Miller Airline Services.

#### POSTAGE STAMP TO COMMEMORATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF FIRST REGULAR RADIO BROADCAST IN AUSTRALIA

The Australian Post Office will issue a special postage stamp in 1973 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first regular radio broadcast in Australia.

The Postmaster-General, Sir Alan Hulme, said recently that the Post Office was pleased to be associated with the issue of a postage stamp significant of radio broadcasting in Australia, as it had been closely connected with the development of radio broadcasting, especially during its introduction.

The Minister added that details of the denomination, design and date of issue of the stamp would be announced as soon as possible.

#### STAMP TO COMMEMORATE ACCOUNTANCY CONGRESS

The Australian Post Office will issue a special stamp in 1972 to commemorate the Tenth International Congress of Accountants.

The Postmaster-General, Sir Alan Hulme, said that the stamp would mark the growth of accountancy from simple calculation to its present-day complexity and its importance to the business and public sectors of the community. The issue was planned to coincide with the Congress, scheduled to be held in Sydney in October 1972.

The Minister said that details of the value, design and exact date of issue would be announced later.



### ABORIGINAL ART SERIES

The four Aboriginal Art series stamps issued on 29th September, 1971, were all printed on Wiggins Teape unwatermarked coated paper incorporating Derby luminescence. The normal number of cylinders, four, was used for each value. Colours, in order of printing, were: 20c – blue, orange, brown, sepia; 25c – blue-grey, indian red, sepia, black; 30c – blue, orange, green, indian red; 35c – yellow, blue, red, black.

When, how, and from whence the first humans came to Australia is still a scientific mystery. Archeological finds suggest that primitive man could have been here up to 125,000 years ago. More recently, there appear to be two different races, loosely termed "Mainlanders" and "Tasmanians". The latter, now extinct, were smallish people with woolly hair, called negritos, and it is assumed they were isolated when the Tasmanian island was formed by the subsidence of land under Bass Strait, thousands of years ago. The Mainlanders – with wavy, not woolly hair, and brown rather than black skin – may have migrated to Australia from the north; but geological evidence suggests that Australia became separated from Asia 125 million years ago, and modern Aboriginals did not build sea-going ships. Racial origins therefore remain mysterious.

Mainlanders are separated into two groups – Murrayians in the south and Carpentarians in the north. All were Stone Age people, with great skill in fashioning implements from stone, and highly intelligent as nomadic hunters and trackers. When Europeans arrived in Australia, there were perhaps about 300,000 Aboriginals in the continent, divided into some 300-600 tribal units or nations.

Their daily living habits, although conditioned by the lushness or aridity of the region which they inhabited, were generally similar; men searched for larger game animals – kangaroos, wallabies, dingoes, emus – and women dug in the ground for burrowing animals, such as lizards, honey-ants, grubs and larvae, and sought bulbs, corms and roots. Children learnt early to provide for themselves. This nomadic life followed the seasons, and provided leisure time only when (according to climatic and regional conditions) rainfall and surface water provided natural bounty. Aboriginals thus identified almost completely with their habitat, and their culture, rituals and art were highly involved with the world about them. Man, non-human species and natural phenomena were all regarded as belonging to a completely-integrated order, with a common origin in divine beings or tribal ancestors of the past.



Aboriginal social structure, culture, traditions and mythology are thus extremely complex and rich, and influence Aboriginal art to a great degree; an art, moreover, which has at least 12,000 years and more of development behind it. Although rigidly bound by traditional restrictions, both realism and abstraction are practised, and expressed in many media. Ancestral beings and mythological heroes modelled in earth or sand, engraved in rock or painted in caves; decorations expressing totemistic beliefs and painted on shields, paddles and food containers; symmetrical and geometrical designs on sacred stones and on the bodies of ceremonial dancers and actors; and the well-known Arnhem Land bark paintings are all diverse aspects of Aboriginal art, and have flourished at various periods.

Arnhem Land is particularly rich in native art, perhaps because its plentiful natural resources gave the inhabitants more leisure than was the case elsewhere. It is not known how long bark painting has flourished, as the medium is not durable, and decays rapidly in its sub-tropical home. The 20c stamp of the series shows a long-necked tortoise; the original painting is from Western Arnhem Land.

The "canvasses" for such paintings are usually stripped from stringy-bark eucalyptus trees. A straight, knot-free tree is selected, and a tomahawk cut is made around the trunk near the ground. A vertical incision, up to ten feet high, follows, and the artist then climbs the tree to make the second circumferential cut. The bark is then prised off with the tomahawk or a sharpened stick, heated over a fire to make it pliable, and flattened under rocks or logs.

The design may be painted directly onto the inner side of the bark, or a ground coat of red, yellow or black, "fixed" with orchid juice, may be applied first. Subjects may be reasonably realistic, like the tortoise (although this is of the common X-ray style in which internal organs are shown) or elaborated with decorative geometrical or cross-hatched patterns. Colours are derived from natural ochres, mixed formerly on rock or shell palettes and now often in discarded cans, and applied with brushes made from beaten or chewed twigs.

Cave paintings are known at many sites throughout the continent, and subjects range from human and animal figures to mythological beings. Stencils are common – hands or weapons such as boomerangs were held against the rock, and were outlined by pigment blown on from the mouth. Arnhem Land contains many cave paintings; strictly speaking, many are not in actual caves, but under rock ledges and on gorge walls – anywhere where large flat rock walls occur. The 30c stamp shows a Western Arnhem land cave drawing. In this area, the simple stencils gave way to a later style called Mimi figures – graceful, flowing outlines and silhouettes showing stick men and women hunting, fighting, dancing and performing ceremonies. The meaning of these scenes appears now to be lost to present-day inhabitants of the area, and later paintings in the same caves are more colourful, and of the X-ray style.

The grave posts on the 35c stamp are typical of those made at Bathurst and Melville Islands, about 60 miles north of Darwin. The posts are associated with the Tiwi tribe and the Pukamuni mourning ceremony, and are erected around graves.

The posts are usually made from "bloodwood" eucalyptus trees, felled, cut to length, stripped of bark, and carved – in the old days with stone axes, and now with modern steel axes. The post is then burnt over a fire until it is dark brown or black, a vegetable juice fixative is rubbed on, and the decorations are applied. The pigments and brushes are much the same as those used in preparing bark paintings.

Aboriginal life, even though nomadic, was not haphazard. Social organisation, hunting and fishing rights, territorial ownership and personal inter-relationships were all controlled by rigid individual and group disciplines, evolved over thousands of years to ensure survival in a harsh environment. Religion integrated the tribe with its territory, and in ceremonials and corroborees men re-enacted the lives and sought the goodwill of magical creator spirits. Body decorations thus had sacred significance, and were applied in many varied and traditional patterns for totemic and initiation ceremonies. The 25c stamp illustrates men of the Warramunga tribe, of the Tennant Creek area, taking part in a final mourning rite for a deceased tribesman. Ochres and other natural pigments were used in such decorations, and also downy feathers gummed to the skin with resin or dried blood.

(Continued from page 21).

#### PHOTOGRAVURE AND THE BIRDS SERIES— DEVELOPMENT OF AUSTRALIAN GRAVURE

commitments, it was decided to produce the stamp by photogravure instead of by engraving. A design was approved by the Minister on 18th June, 1962, and the Note Printing Branch was asked to give priority to this project. Proofs became available at the end of July.

The stamp was issued on 5th September, 1962, on a fairly hard-surfaced paper, the only stock then available. The various Melbourne-printed bird proofs referred to above were also on this paper, and it was apparent that its texture and colour did not permit the ultimate to be derived from designs and inks.

Two other multicolour photogravure stamps followed closely upon the A.I.M. stamp — the 5d and 2/3d Empire Games stamps of November 1962. However, these were printed by Harrisons in London, as the contract had been allocated when the photogravure capacity of the Note Printing Branch was still uncertain. During the negotiations, Harrisons supplied some samples of their paper, unprinted but cut to sheet size and perforated.

These sheets were used subsequently in an interesting experiment at the Note Printing Branch, to make comparisons between printings on the hard-surfaced paper and the Harrison coated paper. Being already cut and perforated, the Harrison paper could not be run through in the normal reel-fed method, and was therefore stuck to the surface of the hard-paper reel with adhesive tape, and passed through the press. Printings could not be registered to the perforations already existing (but the Chambon perforator was disconnected, to avoid a second set of holes) nor to the cut edges, but nevertheless the printings demonstrated that the Harrison white coated paper was much superior. The Post Office archival collection contains some examples of the Magpie stamp printed in this fashion, using various different background colours.

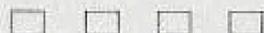
Further experimental printings of the bird stamps were made on Harrison paper in reel form, and it was decided that coated paper should be used for all photogravure printings as far as practicable.

The 9d Magpie stamp was proofed on the hard-surfaced paper in November 1962, after the completion of the A.I.M. job. However, in view of the better results obtained on the Harrison paper, the Note Printing Branch was asked to make further trials on the coated paper, with various colour backgrounds. After adequate stocks of coated paper became available, it was decided to issue the 9d Magpie, 1/6d Galah and 2/5d Blue Wren stamps on 11th March, 1964, on coated paper. Proofs of the 2/5d on coated paper became available on 13th December, 1963; of the 9d Magpie on 19th Decem-

ber, 1963; and of the 1/6d Galah on 16th January, 1964.

The scarlet robin design, with the value changed to 2/6d, was substituted for the magpie-lark, which — like the brolga — posed technical problems. The golden whistler design became a 2/- value, and the ibis was used for a 3/- stamp. This second group was issued on 21st April, 1965.

(Continued page 29)



#### NAURU POSTMARK COMMEMORATES LOCAL DELIVERY

On 1st October, 1971, local postal deliveries commenced in the Republic of Nauru. Previously, there was no local delivery service, and virtually all postal business was in the international mail. The most commonly sold postage stamps were not in the lower denominations, but were the 15c and 25c stamps for international airmail rates.

Post boxes have now been erected by the Government near each house, and daily deliveries are made by postmen mounted on motor cycles. The local letter rate is 7c; the definitive stamp in this value features the Black Lizard.

A pictorial postmarker was used on 1st October to mark the event.

Further to Bulletin references (December 1970 and February 1971) aerogrammes in the large Australian size have now been printed for the Republic of Nauru, and were placed on sale on the island on 23rd August, 1971. The design is similar to that of the previous smaller form.

#### NORFOLK ISLAND CHRISTMAS STAMP

The Territory of Norfolk Island issued a 6c Christmas stamp on 25th October, 1971. The design shows the Rose Window of St. Barnabas Chapel, Norfolk Island. An exterior view of the Chapel, in which the window is visible, appeared on the 25c Melanesian Mission centenary commemorative of 1966.

The Christmas stamp was printed in sheets of 50 by Heraclio Fournier, S.A., Vitoria, Spain. Stamp size is 29.5 mm x 38.5 mm.

The stamp is available to Australian clients, in mint and postmarked condition, from A.P.O. philatelic sales centres. Overseas clients should send orders to the Philatelic Officer, Norfolk Island, South Pacific.

The stamp is illustrated on the back cover.



Mr. Richard G. Ehrlich, of the Greg Manning Co., Inc. (left) and Sir John Knott, Director-General, Australian Post Office, at the conclusion of the agency negotiations.

#### AUSTRALIAN POST OFFICE APPOINTS AMERICAN PHILATELIC AGENCY

The Australian Post Office has established an Australian Stamp Bureau in the United States of America, to improve philatelic services to American and Canadian dealers and collectors.

The Post Office has appointed the Greg Manning Co. Inc., 34 Wychwood Road, Livingston, New Jersey 07039, as its official philatelic agent for the U.S.A. and Canada. The agency, operating as the Australian Stamp Bureau, deals direct with stamp dealers and other large purchasers of Australian stamps, who can thus obtain their supplies soon after the day of issue in Australia. In turn, collectors in North America can obtain their requirements from local dealers earlier and more easily. This saves postage and currency exchange problems and gives scope for more personalised dealer service.

The Australian Stamp Bureau carries a full range of current and recent Australian Commonwealth, Australian Antarctic Territory and Cocos (Keeling) Islands stamps, souvenir packs, official first day covers and Post Office philatelic monographs. All are sold at face value plus a small handling fee. The principals of the company are Mr. Greg Manning, President, and Mr. Richard Ehrlich, Secretary and Treasurer.

Mr. Manning has been in the stamp business for more than 12 years. His firm specializes in wholesale business, and he recently became a consulting editor for the well-known journal Linn's Stamp News.

Mr. Ehrlich is also very experienced in the stamp trade. While managing Stangib Ltd., the

American branch of Stanley Gibbons, London, he established and directed the British Post Office philatelic agency in the U.S.A.

Both are members of the American Stamp Dealers' Association, and of many philatelic societies.

The Australian Post Office will continue to mail its free publications, Stamp Preview and the Philatelic Bulletin, direct to U.S. and Canadian collectors and dealers, to keep them informed about Australian stamps.

#### NEW PHILATELIC HANDBOOKS

Postage due stamps, a method of bringing to account amounts due on insufficiently-prepaid postal articles, were first issued by the Colonies of Victoria and New South Wales in the 1890s, and were continued after Federation in all States. The series was discontinued in 1963.

"The Postage Due Stamps of Australia, 1890-1961", the fourth booklet in the Post Office series on the history of Australian postage stamps, deals with the development of postage due stamps, and lists all types over the period. It is available from all philatelic sales centres at 50c per copy.

A further booklet was expected to come from the printer in November. This is "Australian Commemorative and Air Mail Stamps 1927-1951". This covers special stamps of the period, and illustrations include some of various unadopted designs. Like other booklets of the series, this is also priced at 50c at philatelic sales centres.



### PAPUA NEW GUINEA ISSUES

Papua New Guinea issued a set of four stamps on 27th October, 1971, featuring dancers wearing their traditional masks, head-dresses and costumes.

The stamps, which were designed by Australian artist Miss Bette Hays, are in denominations of 7c, 9c, 20c and 28c. The 7c stamp shows a Sias dancer with a head-dress of cockatoo feathers. The 20c stamp features a Urasena dancer wearing a ceremonial mask. Two Siassi Tubuan (mask) dancers are portrayed on the 20c stamp, and three Sias dancers are shown on the 28c design.

The stamps were printed by Helio Courvoisier in sheets of 50. Stamp size is 26 mm x 36 mm, including perforations.

On 1st April, 1971, some postage rates were increased in Papua New Guinea. The main changes, in the first weight step, were: letters to Australia, increase from 5c to 7c; surface letters overseas, from 7c to 9c; registration, from 25c to 30c. There were some decreases in airmail rates to countries in the region, other overseas airmail rates remaining unchanged.

As a result of the changes, some new postage stamp items were introduced. A 2c coil stamp was issued for use in coin-operated vending machines. This stamp was previously illustrated in the Philatelic Bulletin. Because of uncertainty of supplies of suitable vending machines, publicity about the new coil stamp was not released in time to reach clients outside Papua New Guinea before the date of issue.

A new postage stamp booklet was also introduced on 1st April, 1971. It contains ten 7c Shell stamps, with advertising on the booklet cover and on the two inside pages. The selling price is 70c. The stamps in the booklet are reprints of the original 7c Shell stamp, identical except that the reprints have synthetic gum in lieu of the earlier yellow tropical gum. In sheet form, the 1c, 5c, 7c, 40c and 60c Shell values are also available with synthetic gum.

A 10c aerogramme, in larger format, was issued on 9th June, 1971.

Papua New Guinea stamps are available in mint or postmarked condition from Australian Post Office philatelic sales centres, to Australian residents. Overseas clients should send orders and remittances to the Philatelic Bureau, G.P.O., Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea.

### Stamp Issue Programme for 1971/72

The Ministerial Member for Posts and Telegraphs, Mr. Sinake Giregire, M.H.A., has announced details of Papua New Guinea's stamp issue programme for 1971/72.

Mr. Giregire drew attention to political changes which have taken place recently. As from 1st July, 1971, the country has acquired a flag, a coat of arms and a new name: Papua New Guinea.

The first postal item to bear the new name was issued on 27th October, 1971 - a 7c stamped envelope. Sold at 8c, the 9 inches x 4 inches envelope has an impressed 7c stamp depicting a palm tree with hills in the distance, printed in sepia by the Note Printing Branch, Reserve Bank of Australia, Melbourne. The artwork was by Mr. R.J. Bates.

The first stamps with the new name will appear early in 1972. Current definitives will be replaced gradually, commencing in March, 1973. Postage stamp booklets and aerogrammes will also be replaced as new printings of these items fall due. Postmark collectors will also notice changes as old postmarkers are gradually replaced by new types proclaiming the country's new name.

Mr. Giregire gave details of new issues.

The first 1972 issue will be released on 26th January, commemorating the constitutional development for the 1972 House of Assembly elections, and the 25th anniversary of the South Pacific Commission. Designs are by Mr. Richard Bates. Subjects and values are:

#### Constitutional Development, 1972 Elections

- 7c - Papua New Guinea Crest and Australian Coat of Arms
- 7c - Papua New Guinea Flag and Australian Flag.



A block of four stamps of the Papua and New Guinea experimental printing referred to in the September Bulletin.

25th Anniversary of South Pacific Commission  
15c - Map of Papua New Guinea with South Pacific Commission Flag.

15c - Southern Hemisphere with South Pacific Commission Emblem.

Stamps for these two subjects will be printed in sheets of fifty with the two stamps appearing on the same sheet in a se-tenant arrangement in alternate rows.

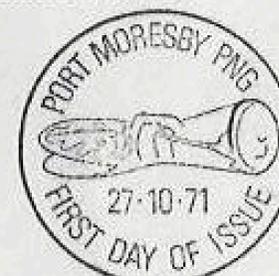
On 15th March, 1972, further annual Flora and Fauna Conservation stamps will be issued, portraying four reptiles of Papua New Guinea. These designs are also by Mr. Bates. Subjects and denominations are:

- 7c - Garettochelys insculpta (Fly River Turtle)
- 14c - Gonioccephalus godeffroyi (Lizard)
- 21c - Chondropython viridis (Green Python)
- 30c - Varanus salvadori (Monitor).

On 7th June, 1972, four stamps will commemorate the 50th anniversary of aviation in Papua New Guinea. They will depict machines in which early aviators helped to explore and develop the country. The designs were prepared by Major L.G. Halls, and the subjects and values are:

- 7c - Curtiss MF6 Seagull and sailing ship
- 14c - De Havilland 37 and line of carriers
- 20c - Junkers F13 and gold dredge
- 25c - Junkers G31 and mission church.

All five stamp issues described are multi-colour photogravure printings by Helio Courvoisier, Switzerland.



A pictorial first day of issue postmark is now used at the Philatelic Bureau, Port Moresby. It was first employed for the Native Dancers issue of 27th October, 1971. The postmark depicts a drum of traditional local design.

(Continued from page 26).



Magpie-Lark design (July, 1961). This was not adopted.

By that date, a substantial amount of gravure experience had been built up. Other multicolour stamps - the Australian and Papua and New Guinea Red Cross Centenary commemoratives, Nauru 5d Iyo, 8d Black Lizard and 3d Poison Nut, the Australian and New Zealand Compac issues - had been printed, and others were under way. Knowledge gained from each was used by the Post Office and its artists and by the Note Printing Branch technicians progressively in further projects.

As this article is concerned with the development of Australian gravure, rather than with the individual history of all the bird designs, the 1966 decimal currency series will not be described here. Mrs. Temple Watts was working on these in 1964.

In that year, also, Wiggins Teape coated papers with helecon content were being tested at the Note Printing Branch, leading to further specialised developments in Australian gravure which are outside the scope of this article.

The first bird stamps were colour separated by camera filtration from the original coloured artwork, but experience showed that hand-drawn black and white separation drawings were desirable, to allow for "float" in registration and for other technical requirements. The ibis and scarlet robin designs were amongst the first designs to be separated in this way.

Although the early printings of the 9d Magpie and 1/6d Galah stamps on hard-surfaced paper were not released, the comparable printing of the 2/5d Blue Wren was issued in 1965. At that time, the printing on Harrison coated paper was exhausted, and further runs could not be made because the Chambon press was fully occupied in printing decimal stamps. The 1962 printing, still held in stock, was then released. This paper has an off-white or cream appearance, as contrasted with the much whiter Harrison paper. □

SHORT NOTES

A special postmarker was used on 9th September 1971, to mark the 25th anniversary of Trans-Australia Airlines, whose first scheduled passenger flight was from Laverton, Vic., to Sydney on 9th September, 1946. A philatelic mail was carried by the airline on the 25th anniversary date.

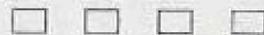
On 10th September, 1971, the Sydney City Council officially opened Martin Place between George and Pitt Streets for the exclusive use of pedestrians. The area, fronting the G.P.O., provides a plaza-type open space and will also be the focal point for ceremonies. A special postmarker was provided on the day of the opening, featuring the crest of the Sydney City Council.



Previously, it has been stipulated that philatelic mail orders of a total value of \$5 or more must be registered. In view of the increased registration fee, 50c, which became effective from 1st October, 1971, it has been decided to relax this condition, so that orders for \$10 or more must be registered. Below a total value of \$10, registration is optional.



The 6c 50th Anniversary of the RAAF stamp was printed on Wiggins Teape coated unwatermarked paper, incorporating heleon. Colours, in order of printing, were red, blue, gold and black. During the course of the printing, six cylinders were used; one each for red and gold, and two each for blue and black.



A total of 136,119 articles was postmarked at the Sydney Stock Exchange Centenary Commemoration Post Office during the period 5th to 11th May, 1971. The numbers of covers postmarked at the other stock exchange post offices on 5th May, 1971, the date of issue of the 6c Sydney Stock Exchange Centenary stamp, were: Melbourne 13,295; Adelaide 10,224; Brisbane 9,969 and Perth 6,882.



A special postmarker was used at the Toombul P.O., Qld., from 18th to 20th November, 1971, in connection with a three-day stamp display presented by the Combined Committee of the Brisbane Philatelic Societies at the Toombul Shoppingtown.

The first regular Qantas flight using a Boeing 747 jumbo jet took place on 17th September, 1971, from Sydney to Singapore. Philatelic mail carried on the flight was postmarked with a special cancellation. The mail comprised 2,446 ordinary articles, 13 aerogrammes and four registered articles as one-way items, and 1,117 ordinary, 26 aerogrammes and four registered as return items.



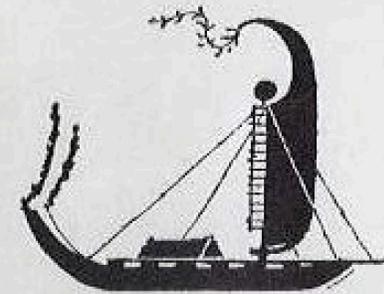
A special postmarker was provided for the Ninth General Assembly of the International Fellowship of Former Scouts and Guides, held in Melbourne from 1st to 4th October, 1971. A special posting box was located at the assembly venue in the Lower Melbourne Town Hall.

The First Asian and Oceanian Congress of Radiology, held at the Masonic Centre, Melbourne, 22nd to 26th November, 1971, was also provided with a special postmarker, used at the congress temporary post office at the Masonic Centre, Melbourne.



Because of the current necessity to produce 7c engraved stamps, issue of the proposed stamp booklet containing the second series of Prime Ministers stamps has been postponed, and it is expected that the booklet will be issued about February, 1972.

The number of articles postmarked with the special pictorial RAAF postmarkers on 9th June, 1971, were: Point Cook RAAF Vic., 11,181; Richmond RAAF N.S.W., 12,574; Edinburgh Airfield S.A., 10,582; Pearce RAAF W.A., 10,312 and Amberley Qld., 11,958. These postmarkers were used on the first day of issue of the 6c 50th Anniversary of RAAF stamp. Illustrations of the five postmarkers appeared in the September Bulletin.



Further to reference in the September Bulletin, a total of 3,713 articles, including 46 registered, were serviced with the special postmarker used at the Twelfth Pacific Science Congress, Canberra, from 18th to 27th August, 1971.

The Pacific Science Association's emblem, shown on the postmarker, is an ancient Tahitian twin-hulled voyaging canoe. A deck connects the two hulls, with a thatched house on it. Drawn by Bishop Museum artist-historian Joseph Feher, and based on sketches made by the artists who accompanied early European voyages of discovery, the design was adopted by the Pacific Science Council in 1966 during the Eleventh Congress.

These wooden canoes made with stone tools were the vessels in which the Polynesians explored and settled the Pacific islands. Voyagers carried fresh and dried foods, fowls, pigs and dogs, and supplemented food supplies by fishing. Food plants, slips of paper mulberry for bark cloth and slips of cordage plants were also carried to the new lands. Navigation was by the stars; and wave patterns, cloud formations and bird behaviour indicated the presence of land.

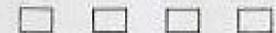
As some of the stamps contained in the Australian definitive series stamp pack have been withdrawn from sale, the pack itself was withdrawn on 30th October, 1971.



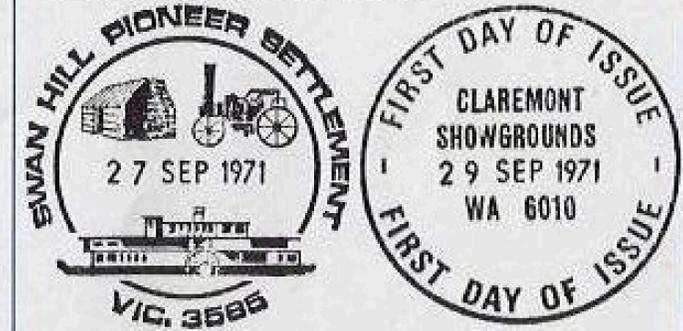
To commemorate the presentation of the Queen's Colour by His Excellency the Governor-General to the RAAF School of Technical Training, a special postmarker was used at the RAAF Base, Wagga Wagga, N.S.W., on 19th November, 1971.



The date of issue of the Aboriginal Art stamps - 29th September - was a public holiday in the Perth metropolitan area for the Perth Agricultural Show, but first day covers were available as usual from first day of issue postmarker offices. Additionally, a first day of issue postmarker was provided at the Claremont Showgrounds Post Office, which was open on that day. An impression is shown.



As from 27th September, 1971, the Swan Hill Folk Museum became known as the Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement. The old "Gem" postmarker was withdrawn from use after the change of title ceremony, and a new postmarker (illustrated) was introduced. Australian collectors may obtain impressions by forwarding fully stamped and addressed envelopes, under prepaid outer cover, to the Postmaster, Swan Hill Pioneer Settlement, Vic., 3585. Overseas clients should forward fully addressed but unstamped covers to the Philatelic Bureau, 374 Bourke Street, Melbourne, Vic., Australia 3000, with remittances to cover the Australian stamps to be affixed.



Further to reference in the September Bulletin, 3,744 articles, including 39 registered, were postmarked at the temporary post office at the University of Tasmania during the 12th International Conference on Cosmic Rays (16th to 25th August, 1971).