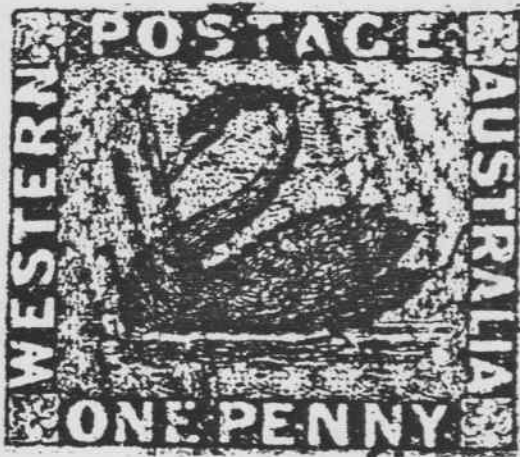




PHILATELIC WORKSHOP NO. 8

# WESTERN AUSTRALIA

## A Guide to its Philately



Presented by the  
Western Australia Study Group

FEBRUARY 1983

## POSTAL HISTORY IN BRIEF

Western Australia forms part of an island continent and this has had a decisive influence on its postal history. External communications were vital from the beginning and, as the settlement expanded inland and up and down the coast, internal communication came to be of equal importance.

We have no precise starting date for the postal history of Western Australia. Whalers are known to have visited the southern shoreline from an early period and some of these anchorages became exchange points for mail. Such letters are only identifiable by the text. They must be extremely rare and are best considered as a type of pre-postal history. I only mention this type of mail as some of you may come across it, I never have!

Mail despatched from King Georges Sound while it was administered by New South Wales between 1826 and 1831 falls into a similar category and is also extremely rare, I know only of official despatches to Sydney.

No one will dispute that a postal history of Western Australia exists from the arrival of the new settlers at Swan River in 1829. The first mail to be despatched from the new colony left on the 'St Leonard' on 22 September 1829. It went to Mauritius where it was transhipped to the 'Dryade' which arrived at Dover on 26 January 1830.

The establishment of Perth as the capital and the possible departure of other ships made it necessary for an official postal service to be introduced. On 4 December 1829, Captain Daniel Scott was appointed the first and only postmaster in the colony. The first Post Office arrived in Gage's Roads under full sail on 23 August 1829! It was the 'Marquis of Anglesea' outward bound from London. In September she was driven ashore just south of Arthur Head. The hulk was subsequently rented by the Government. Single and Double letters cost 2d. and 3d. respectively irrespective of destination!

Increasing business necessitated the appointment of postmasters at Perth and Fremantle and in May 1830 James Purkis and Lionel Samson got the jobs. By March 1833 Charles Macfaull was PM in Perth and John Bateman in Fremantle. The earliest postal marking for Western Australia dates from this period, namely 23 April 1833. Sarah Lyttleton was appointed postmistress in Albany in 1834 and in 1835 a special Act was passed which formalised the postal service. From that time on it was a matter of continual expansion albeit very slow at times.

Unfortunately most of us can only read of this early period, as material from it is excessively rare and expensive, nonetheless some knowledge will enable you to recognise any that does come your way.

Fortunately there are other ways of collecting W.A. postal history that are equally rewarding and much more feasible in terms of cost and availability. The principal one is probably postmarks which will be dealt with by my colleagues but do not neglect such avenues as photographs of post offices, newspaper clippings and the like, they can be equally good fun!

THE PRE-POSTAGE STAMP ERA 1827-1854

The first post office in Western Australia was established at Fremantle on 4 December 1829 with Captain Daniel Scott as Postmaster. By the time postage stamps were first issued in August 1854 there were offices at Perth, Fremantle, Australind, Bunbury, Guildford, Mandurah, Northam, Vasse, York, Albany, Canning, Champion Bay, Port Gregory, Swan and Toodyay; 15 in all.

Throughout this period, official mail was carried free and generally had to bear some indication and authorisation in manuscript. The word FREE may be found and sometimes an official's initials. A very nice practice operated which I am sorry to say has completely died out. If one was writing to the Government on official business then the letter was FREE!

There was two basic categories of letter, local and ship. A ship letter was simply one that came or went outside the Colony (i.e. invariably by ship). At various times it was allowable to send a letter UNPAID which meant that the postage was collected from the addressee who had the right of refusal. Between 1829 and 1835 prepayment was mandatory on all private letters, local or ship. Between 1835 and 1840 it was optional and between 1840 and 1854, local letters remained optional whilst ship letters were made mandatory. This accounts for the various PAID and UNPAID handstamps. The earliest of these were made by G. S. Watts in Perth in 1841. Another set probably also made by Watts was issued in 1843 to all the current offices.

Early in 1841 the first Postmaster General of the Colony was appointed. He was Captain Edward Picking formerly postmaster of Perth. Henry Camfield was appointed in July 1842 and resigned in 1847 to go to Albany as Resident Magistrate. Anton Helmich became PMG and remained in the position until 1887, a record 40 years. The General Post Office was in Perth on the site of Council House.

A feature of the postal service in this period was the part time nature of all the postmasters except Camfield and Helmich. In the smaller towns the job often became the duty of the policeman's wife, a storekeeper or local farmer. Some payment was made after 1835 but invariably little more than a token amount. Not one of the offices at this time enjoyed the privilege of a special building, all of them were carried on either in a room in Government buildings or in the local store or homestead.

We are fortunate in having a detailed picture of the postal service as it was reported on in 1847 by two Commissioners from London, Smith and James. This can be found in the W.A. Handbook as well as other details about this period.



THE POSTAGE STAMPS 1854-1861

1. Perkins Bacon were asked to quote for engraving

- 1d. Fitzgerald hoped to reduce the standard letter rate.
- 2d. The standard letter rate.
- 4d. The ship letter rate.

Plates - only the 1d. was made: one million 1d. blacks were printed and sent to the Colony with the printing plate and a press in 1854.

2. 4d. and 1s. (registered letter rate) values were printed in the Colony cheaply by Samson using lithography.
3. There were four printings of each of the 4d. and 1s.
  - 4d. 1 & 2 - deep dull blue, 3 - slate blue, 4 - blue
  - 1s. 1 - red brown, 2 - grey brown, 3 & 4 - pale brown.
4. In 1857 2d. and 6d. (new ship letter rate) values were printed by lithography. These were done by Hillman and lacked the flair of Samson's work.
5. There were three printings of the 2d. and two of the 6d.
  - 2d. 1 - greyish brown on deep red  
2 - grey on pale carmine  
3 - grey on pale carmine (printed on both sides)
  - 6d. 1 - black, 2 - grey
6. In 1860 steel plates were ordered from Perkins Bacon. Values 2d., 4d., 6d., 1s. These were made and sent to the Colony. One local printing was made:
  - 2d. - orange, 4d. - blue, 6d. - green.
7. The plates were then sent back to Perkins Bacon.
8. A printing was made in December 1860
  - 1d. - rose, 2d. - blue, 4d. - vermilion, 6d. - purple-brown, 1s. - yellow-green.

Perkins Bacon now had a perforating machine with varying gauge 14-16½ and teeth very susceptible to blunting. In view of Perkins Bacon not being adept in its use, the Department of Inland Revenue was asked to assist by using a machine with gauge 14.

The following were done -

- 1d. perf 14-16½ intermediate and perf 14
- 2d. perf 14-16½ intermediate and clean and perf 14
- 4d. perf 14-16½ intermediate and perf 14
- 6d. perf 14-16½ intermediate and clean
- 1s. perf 14-16½ intermediate and clean

9. In July 1861 a further printing was made

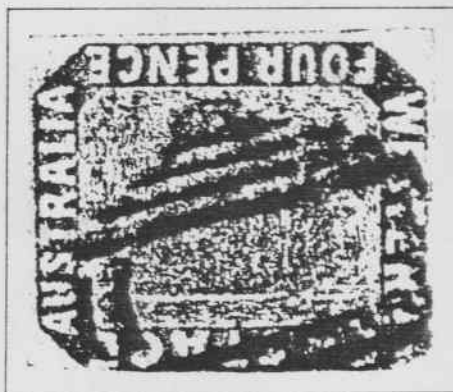
- 1d. - rose-carmine, 6d. - pale violet on blue,
- 1/- - deep green

All values were perforated by Perkins Bacon with their machine now in a very rough state.

10. This issue saw the end of the Perkins Bacon era. After this the plates were transferred to De La Rue.

Notes:

- 1. All values are on paper watermarked Swan.
- 2. Outline of the lithographic process for producing the 4d. and 1/- showing how the inverted frame and transfer varieties arise.
- 3. The plates were repaired after their return from the Colony and later issues can be plated.
- 4. The issues perforated by Perkins Bacon can be distinguished by colour (intermediate v. rough) but the clean cut and intermediate issues being from the same printing tend to merge into each other.



4d Inverted  
Frame

THE POSTAGE STAMPS 1863-1912

A Diary - representing important changes and mileposts

- 1862 The plates in London passed over to De La Rue
- 1864 No Wmk 1d. and 6d.
- 1865 CrCC 12½ 1d. 2d. 4d. 6d. 1/-
- 1871 The first surface printed stamp the CC 3d.
- 1872 The 2d. error of colour.
- 1874 Surcharge ONE PENNY on 2d.
- 1876 CC14 1d. 2d. 6d.
- 1882 CA 14 1d. 2d. 3d. 4d. 6d.
- 1883 Anchor Works fire in London. CA 12 x 14 1d.
- 1884 Surcharge ½ on 1d.
- 1885 The new ½d. green and the surcharge on 1d. on 3d.
- 1886 1d. Telegraph stamp authorised for postage.
- 1889 The last use of the Perkins Bacon plates. 1d. 2d. 4d. The first use of the new Key and Duty plates.
- 1893 Surcharge ONE PENNY on 3d.  
Postal usage of Revenue stamps authorised.
- 1895 Surcharge Half Penny on 3d.
- 1897 New paper watermarked W Cr A
- 1901 Department became a Federal responsibility
- 1902 The VCr values 1d. 2d. 4d. 8d. 9d. 10d. 2/- . 2/6d. 5/- 10/- £1.
- 1905 Change of watermark to CrA
- 1912 One Penny on 2d. surcharge. 6d. and 1/- on Cra paper.



The stamps of Western Australia in this period are a varied lot but some familiarity with perforations and watermarks will sort most of them. The surcharges were all undertaken either to cope with a shortage of a particular value or to utilise surplus stocks following a rate change. It is only in the case of the Half Penny on 3d. that there is evidence of some funny business. The error of colour comes in this period as does postal usage of telegraph and revenue stamps. In other words there is plenty to play around with and the period possesses a further advantage in allowing considerable specialisation as well.

## FORGERIES

Many faked examples are much rarer than genuine article. Much of the history of actual producers of forgeries has never been uncovered.

A true forgery is defined as "to defraud the Post Office". There are no cases of this in W.A. philately like the Sydney Harbour Bridge episode.

Fakes and facsimiles - made to defraud the collector either unwittingly in the former or willingly in the latter.

Commonest "forgery" of W.A. are crude lithos of the swans. Table attached gives points of difference but generally they are easily spotted. Produced in sheets of 25 by Mr. Fournier of Switzerland - full sheets can be seen in Bromfield collection at the W.A. Museum.

### Other "forgeries"

1. Panelli recess reproductions of 2d., 4d., and 6d. Perkins Bacon swans.
2. Various unidentified lithographs of swans.
3. Totally redrawn copies of 1857 2d., and 6d. lithos. "Forgeries" better than real ones.
4. Range of faked surcharges - mainly 1875 one penny on 2d.
5. Fraudulent attempts to reproduce rare perforations from common values. Applies to p.12 x 14 of 1883, p.11's of 1905 and compound perf. of 1912 surcharge.
6. The Sperati #1 - (cleaned low value and reprinted, therefore genuine paper).



The whole area of forgeries is covered in W.A.S.G.'s "The Guide to the Stamps and Postal History of Western Australia" Ch.22. Since publication in 1979 only the perf. forgeries have been a new discovery.

### Features of Common Fournier Forgery.

1. No watermark.
2. Parallel scratch down through left background.
3. Square U in Australia.
4. Large curved leg to R in Western.
5. Wide margins around stamps with frame lines.
6. Lithographed productions.
7. Colour shades are often incorrect.
8. Incorrect cancellations.



PERFINS - OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE

A. OFFICIALS

1. Punctured 1862 by Imperial Govt. Dept. eg. Convicts,  
Lunacy, Commissariat (the distributors) etc.

In operation until 1886.  
2 sizes: 3mm and 4mm.

2. Perforated

(a) "W.A." 1903-1905  
(needed from Melbourne 1903 perforated OS but they could not supply).

(b) "O.S." 1905-1914.

3. Semi Officials

- (a) P.W.D. May - ? Dec 1903 )  
)  
(b) Medical o/P ? 1902...1907 ) pp. 208-10 from guide.  
)  
(c) O.S. overprints )

B. PRIVATE PERFINS

Exist from late 1890's in W.A.  
Total of 15 types known on State stamps of W.A.  
Some common and some v.rare. One still unidentified.

General concept was to eliminate theft rather than a method of advertising. Nowadays less labour intensive methods used for big mailing firms. Remember postage stamps, if stolen and mint undamaged (i.e. not perfined) are interchangeable for money.

(see p.286-8 guide).



## SPECIMENS

Specimens are postage stamps that have been invalidated for postal purposes but need to be retained for a reference by a person or an authority.

### Reasons

1. U.P.U. - after 1879 - means of international authentication  
1879-82 - 80; 1882-86 - 100; 1886-1892 - 345 (triplicated);  
1892-1907 - 730 (quintuplicate) 1907-1948 -
  - (a) to 1928 triplicate
  - (b) 1928-48 perforated
  
2. Others
  - (a) Printers own collection
  - (b) Official collections - G.P.O.'s, Crown Agents, etc.
  - (c) Presentation to V.I.P.'s, visitors to printers
  - (d) Samples, e.g. for sales representatives
  - (e) Exhibitions, including press and display
  - (f) Philatelic

### Method

Overprint SPECIMEN - later perforated - various types.

### W.A.

Collection in U.P.U. archives including postal stationery -

- A. Unfranked
- B. SPECIMEN (by hand)
- C. Concentric circles cancellation
- D. "postmarked"

Further details can be found in "Specimen Stamps of the Crown Colonies" by M. Samuel (R.P.S. London, 1976).



## POSTAL STATIONERY

The postal stationery of W.A. comprises post cards, letter cards, reply post cards, impressed envelopes, registered envelopes, and newspaper wrappers that are issued or used by the Government Postal Dept. and other Government Departments.

Post cards first issued 1 May 1879 - 22 items. Reply post cards first known 3 August 1903 - 3 items. Letter cards first known 29 July 1902 - 6 items. Impressed envelopes first known 10 September 1902 - 4 items. Newspaper wrappers first known 13 November 1902 - 6 items.

The discussion will consider :

1. Introduction of post cards.
2. Usage and popularity of post cards.
3. Dies and printing plates sent to Melbourne from De La Rue for printing post cards.
4. The Melbourne-printed post cards and other postal stationery.
5. Why collect postal stationery?

The Pope & Thomas handbook recently published on this subject is an excellent reference for details.

PHIL THOMAS

## TRAVELLING POST OFFICES

These operated on the major railway routes in W.A. to overcome delays in mail sorting and delivery (Great Southern Railway and Eastern Goldfields Railway). Staff sorted mails in a special railway van during the journey.

Those known with identifying postmarks were:

- (1) Albany-Perth 1899-1900
- (2) Albany-Kalgoorlie 1898-1900
- (e) Perth-Kalgoorlie 1896-1918

There were 13 different circular date stamps used over this period of 29 years and are generally found as backstamps on covers of that period. These are not common and some types are very rare. Postage stamps with T.P.O. markings are not common and only one cover, so struck, has been seen. (see the W.A. Handbook, pages 233-4 for details).

Pre-Adhesive

Manuscript A range of markings and instructions is found on early correspondence. These often include office name and date (e.g. P.O. Guildford 12th April, 1841), a direction of route or ship to be used (e.g. via Marseilles), and an amount indicated (e.g. 2/2 - overseas steamer rate).

Handstamps The first known hand struck mark is an office stamp from the G.P.O., Perth and dated in 1833. Paid and Unpaid hand stamps were introduced in 1843 for use in 10 post offices.

Adhesive

The introduction of postage stamps in 1854 necessitated additional cancelling equipment being brought into use,

Obliterators Used to cancel stamps - numbered grid, void grid, barred numerals (3 series), barred letters, dumb. Phased out in the 1890's.

Circular Date Stamps Used in conjunction with obliterator but on the envelope rather than the stamp up to the 1890's. Then used to cancel stamps. Six types have been identified.

Duplexes A canceller with a dual role - the obliterator portion (G.P.O. letters, P.O. etc) defaces the stamp at the same time as the c.d.s. cancels the envelope.

Rubber Oval/Rectangular Office/Registered Date Stamps During the 1890's over ninety post offices were supplied with these types. Used occasionally to cancel mail.

Informative Markings Registered (with crown), R, Too Late, Unclaimed, Unknown by Letter Carrier, Posted in Late Fee Bag. Very occasionally seen on stamps.



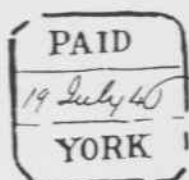
Proving Cover 15-10 Geejelup. Oct. 19 1865. Bunbury received mark.

# Postal Markings to 1901

Earliest known cancellation



1833



1840s



NUMBERED GRID  
Nos. 1 and 10-16  
First issued 1854



## BARRED NUMERALS

Fifteen bar series  
First issued 1859  
Numbers 1 to 24



Twelve bar series  
First issued 1864?  
Numbers 1 to 36



Nine bar series  
First issued 1870  
Numbers 1 to 12



VOID GRID



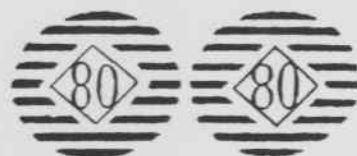
16 are known

BARRED LETTER

First issued 1886.  
12 are known.



Perth. Diamond 80.  
A unique instrument first used circa 1873.



1864 →



DUPLEXES

1883 →



1880s →



1890s →



The first duplex appeared late in 1864, used at the G.P.O. Perth.

## CIRCULAR DATE STAMPS



Type 1

Earliest usage is 15 July 1859



Type 2

First used circa 1882  
MISCELLANEOUS



Type 3

First known used in June 1883.



Type 4 1882 to 1884



Type III



Type IV



Type V

RUBBER OVAL OFFICE DATE STAMP



1890s

## COLLECTING THE COMMONWEALTH TYPE POSTMARKS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The explanation of the meaning of a few philatelic terms that are generally used when discussing postal markings may be appropriate:

What is a postmark? Most collectors consider it to be any marking applied to an article during its passage through the post and applied by postal authorities, it may be from a handstamp, a machine or by manuscript.

Cds An abbreviation used by philatelists meaning circular date stamp and used to denote a circular marking which includes a date.

Hand Postmarker or Datestamp Same as a cds, mainly used by post office staff.

Machine Cancellation Markings applied to letters by a postmarking machine, usually consisting of a die inscribed with the office name and a cancellation die which may consist of wavy lines or slogan. These must not be confused with the private red franking machine markings that are so often seen.

At Federation in 1901 the new Commonwealth Government officially assumed responsibility for the Post and Telegraph services throughout Australia. Even in those days Western Australia had a very low priority for supplies from Melbourne and for the first four years the Post Office continued to function much as it had under the Colonial Government.

It was not until about March 1904 that the first 'Commonwealth' type postmark was issued to Perth and a further year before other offices began receiving them.

The cds that are classified as 'Commonwealth' types are easily separated from the 'Colonial' types by examining the form of the date. In the Colonial types the date is usually in two or three lines, if there is only one line it only shows the day and month. The date is formed by removable 'slugs' of type. In the 'Commonwealth' types the date is always in a single line across the centre and is formed by engraved revolving wheels.

A standard of classification has been devised using the diameter of the outer ring in conjunction with the form of the bottom inscription. (see illustrations).

Impressions of types A to F are almost invariably made by a steel cds. Type G may be either steel or rubber, Type H is usually steel and reserved by 'Paid at' cds. Types J and K are usually made of rubber. (A variety of compounds have been used but for convenience they are all classed as rubber). To describe any particular postmark e.g. Type G31 describes a Cds. the bottom inscription is shown as W.A. (postcode), 31mm diameter. To this may be added a suffix R which indicates it is made of rubber or suffix T which shows it also incorporates the time in the date line. A prefix of DC or TC indicate it has either a double or triple outer circle, e.g. DC-G30R.

When first starting to collect postmarks, sort them out into a stockbook in alphabetical order, if you have several that appear the same, keep only one and file the rest away alphabetically in envelopes. Until progression to an advanced stage never throw anything away as there could be minor differences which indicate a different cds. There are places such as Bunbury, Geraldton and many others that have had 25 or more identifiably different handstamps.

Where to find information on postmarks There is no published listing that gives all the varieties that are known. The most useful available is the one published by John Dzelme in 1976 "Place and Date Stamps of Western Australia". This is a simplified listing only and does not follow the classification given above.

Besides this brief outline of circular date stamps, there are many other facets of postmark collecting such as machine and slogan cancellations, return to sender, unclaimed and dead letter markings, tax markings, first day of issue and commemorative postmarks all of which offer scope for an enormous amount of research or just a simplified collection.

It is always a controversial point whether postmarks should be collected on piece or complete cover, but it is a good principle to anything prior to 1940 - collect on cover if available; after 1940 - collect on piece unless there is a good reason for keeping a complete cover.

Commemorative and first day of issue, Military postmarks, Relief postmarks, directional and other marks should all be kept on cover. Machine cancellations when cut from cover should be trimmed into pieces approximately 100 x 30 mm.

Inverted dates and different forms of dating etc. in machine markings are of no importance whatsoever, neither are inverted dies or slogans, they merely reflect the carelessness of the person setting up the machine.

One final word about condition. The condition of the stamp is secondary to the importance of the postmark. Do not be afraid to collect part strikes of any marking until a better copy comes along, some of most prized items only have three or four letters to identify the office of use they being the only examples recorded of a particular postmark.



TYPE A. (A28)



TYPE B. (B30)



TYPE C. (C30)



TYPE D. (D27)



TYPE E. (E31)



TYPE F. (F31)



TYPE G. (G31)



TYPE H. (H31)



TYPE K. (rubber) (K34R)

Note. on rubber cds. date is given with year in full eg. 1983



TYPE H. with Time (H33T)(PAID)



TYPE G. with Time (G33T)



TYPE G. Rubber (G33R)

VARIANTS

DATE CASE



TYPICAL MACHINE MARKINGS

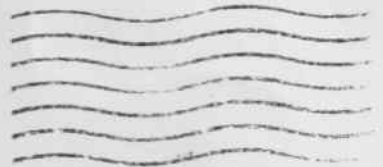
SLOGAN

Normal machine cancellation (wavy lines)



PROMINENT  
HOUSE NUMBERS  
HELP EVERYONE

Normal machine cancellation with Slogan



"PAID" machine cancellation usually in red

THE LOCAL POSTS OF THE EASTERN GOLDFIELDS 1894-1897

Major discoveries of gold in the Coolgardie district in 1892 followed by continual scattered finds within a radius of 250 kms placed a heavy demand on the Government for postal facilities to service the greatly increased population. It was in this atmosphere that private services by bicycle were organised to facilitate mail deliveries in May 1894.

(1) The Coolgardie Cycle Express (May 1895)

The Express serviced all parts of the Goldfields and to ensure prepayment and checking of payments stamps were introduced.

First issue                   ? July 1895

1s. and 2s.6d. blue

White wove unwatermarked paper, perf. 12, sheets 7 x 5.

Second issue

6d. green and brown (vignette), 2s. yellow and brown,  
5s. violet and brown

White wove paper, perf. 12, sheet layout unknown.

Cancellation

Rubber handstamp "Per COOLGARDIE CYCLE EXPRESS CO.,/HUNT STREET" (four variations known).



(2) The Lake Lefroy Cycle Mail (February 1897)

Messrs. Hillier and Maskell established a cycle service to Red Hill (now Kambalda) posting or collecting letters at the Coolgardie Poste Restante.

Issue           April 1897

6d. red

Green wove paper, perf. 12, sheets 2 x 2(in tete-beche format).

Cancellation - manuscript H & M.





## AIRMAILS OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA

The world's first airmail flight by heavier than air machine took place in India (Allahbad to Naini) on 18th February, 1911. Airmails developed slowly after this time until the 1920's when their usage increased due to the influence of the Great War on the production of more efficient machines. Incidentally the first flight in Western Australia took place on 3rd January, 1911 from the Belmont Racecourse by J. J. Hammond flying a Bristol Box Kite. Australia's first official airmail flight took place on 4th December, 1921 and is known as the Geraldton-Derby flight.

These notes are intended to briefly summarise the pioneer airmail flights of Western Australia and accordingly only cover the period from 1921-1939. Subsequent post-war flights do not come within the definition of pioneering although their history is quite interesting.

### Check List of Airmail Flights

1. 4/12/21 Geraldton-Derby service. Pioneered by Sir (then Major) Norman Brearley and service commenced at instigation and encouragement of the Federal Government. Unfortunately this first flight met with disaster as one of the three aircraft crashed killing the pilot and navigator. A Special Cachet was employed on this and other early flights to Derby by West Australia Airways Ltd.
2. 14/12/21 Geraldton-Derby flight resumed.
3. 22/2/22 A regular service was commenced.
4. 6/4/22 The Kimberleys were added to this service. During the period from 1926 to 1928 special cachets were introduced to indicate air mail carriage. A rectangular cachet was introduced throughout Australia in 1926 and survived until late 1928. Incidentally Rosenblum claims that the introduction of the 3d. Airmail stamp of 20/5/29 negated the need for further use of the cachets. Carnarvon had a straight line cachet "FORWARDED BY AIR MAIL" - first used in 1928.
5. 2/6/29 The East West Service was introduced. Covers to look for are those used at intermediates along the Western Australian section of the route. Perth-Adelaide and Adelaide-Perth covers are quite common.
6. 3/10/34 MacRobertson Miller Aviation Co. took over the North West and Kimberley Service and added Daly Waters (N.T.) to it.
7. 9/12/35 Airlines (W.A.) Limited commenced an unofficial airmail service in a triangular route Perth-Wiluna-Kalgoorlie with some intermediate stops.
8. 17/2/36 This company continued the service but now on an official basis with bi weekly flights in each direction Perth-Mount Magnet-Wiluna-Kalgoorlie-Perth. Covers on these flights to look for are those used at intermediates taking special care to ensure back stamps are evident.

Revenue and Duty stamps are terms given by philatelists to any stamp issued by or on behalf of a government or local Statutory body to denote payment of a fee or tax

In April 1881 an act was passed whereby "Stamp Duty" was to be payable on certain documentary transactions such as receipts, conveyances, bill of sale, cheques etc. This duty was collected by the purchase and affixing to the document of "Revenue Stamps" The duties were enforced from November 1st, 1881.

As there was insufficient time to print special stamps a provisional overprint was made on the current postage stamps in the form of a double or single line over the word "Postage" and the letters I.R. in green. (I.R. = Internal Revenue)

On October the 13th, 1881 De La Rue and Co. London despatched to the Colony fourteen denominations of revenue stamps with values from 1d. to £10. As there was insufficient time for De La Rue to prepare new plates they made a special printing of the current 3d. postage stamp in their famous "Doubly fugitive" ink in lilac. These were then overprinted with the letters I. R. and a new value. These revenue stamps were later authorised for use as ordinary postage stamps up to the 1/- value only.

In 1881 De La Rue were also contracted to print a definitive series of Internal revenue stamps, the first shipment was received in W.A. early in 1882.

The design shows the emblem of Western Australia, a black swan, in an ornamental frame, vertical in format for values 1d to 15/- and horizontal £1 to £100. These stamps remained in use for about 25 years and it is therefore hardly surprising that it can be found on three different watermarked papers. This issue was also valid for postal use from 1893 for "An amount not exceeding one shilling". however it is common to see higher values so used.

Prior to Federation Postage and Revenue stamps were available for use in both services however from 1901 the Postal and Internal Revenue services were Separated and the stamps were not interchangeable.

In 1904 a new shipment of stamps arrived in Western Australia, these were printed by Waterlow & Sons, London by the recess printing method, they were horizontal in format with a coloured frame and a central Black Swan. There were initially 16 values from 1d. to £100, The 2d. value was added at a later date, The printing plates were sent out to W.A. with a supply of paper and in 1906 the Government Lithographic department undertook all future printings of Revenue stamps.

No direct printing was done from the original plates but lithographic transfers were prepared from them and all local printings were by lithography.

The long swans were not superseded until 1940 and the higher values continued in use until decimalisation in 1966. The locally printed stamps can be separated into at least 11 sets by colour changes, paper and watermark varieties and perforation changes.

The above article covers only the first 60 years of Internal Revenue stamps, during this period there were many other duty stamps in use which will only briefly be mentioned.

Embossed duty stamps, impressed direct onto documents in red at the State Treasury 66 values 1d. to £5,000.

Telegraph stamps 1d (two perfs.) & 6d. Plus 1/- Telegraph form

~~Financial Emergency Tax 13 values known 1d to £5 the 1932~~

Financial Emergency Tax, forerunners to the Income Tax stamps  
13 values known 1d. to £5.

Supreme Court "Probate" and Supreme Court "Fees" stamps values  
1d. to £100.

Cheque stamp duty various types impressed direct onto cheques  
in colourless relief 1d. & 2d. values known.

Hospital Fund stamps various types and values, much research  
needed on these stamps.

Later issues that can be found from 1940 to date are;

Income Tax installment stamps values known 2d. to £2 higher  
values probably exist.

Beer Duty, little known about these issues.

Pig Duty a levy imposed to subsidise eradication of swine  
fever values 1d. to 10/- and overprints.

Egg Stabilisation Charge, little known about these.

Betting Tax, impressed direct onto betting tickets 2d. &  $\frac{1}{2}$ d. values.

Nowadays many people are turning to revenue stamps as an  
extension to their normal collections, however very few people  
are actively engaged in research. There are no comprehensive  
catalogues covering Western Australia.

The Ideal way of collecting revenues is on complete document,  
to show the rate of duty paid, this is impossible in the case  
of some documents such as the Supreme Court series. (The stamps  
are only known mint from remainder stocks.) Other documents  
comprise several pages or are of a very large size.  
The condition of revenue stamps is not as critical as for  
postage stamps, indeed hundreds of stamps are only known in  
second grade condition.

New collectors should be warned against the practice of some  
dealers and collectors offering revenue stamps at inflated  
prices because they dont know what they are. For the general  
series of revenue and duty stamps the following can be taken  
as a fair guide, although there are also many exceptions to  
the rule.

values 1d to 1/- are very common also the 2/6 value.

1/6 to £1 uncommon

30/- to £10 scarce higher values are rare, with the  
exception of the Supreme court series (dont forget that  
they were sold to collectors when they became obsolete  
at nominal prices and sheets are still in existance.)

If the above article unearths only one new revenue stamp it  
will have been worthwhile. Happy hunting.



1881 (Nov)



1881/2



1882



1882



1904



1940



Impressed stamp



BETTING TICKET



TELEGRAPH



PIG DUTY



EGG. STABILISATION



FINANCIAL EMERGENCY



INCOME TAX



H.B.F.



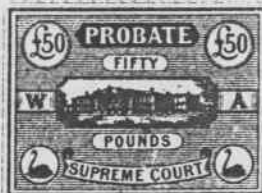
H.B.F.



H.B.F.



PROBATE



FEES.

The Pre-Postage Stamp Era 1827-1854.

The first post office in Western Australia was <sup>established</sup> at Fremantle on 4 December 1829 with Captain Daniel Scott as Postmaster. <sup>By the time</sup> adhesive postage stamps were first issued in August 1854 there were offices at Perth, Fremantle, Australind, Bunbury, Guildford, Mandurah, Northam, Vasse, York, Albany, Canning, Champion Bay, Port Gregory, Swan and Toodyay, 15 in all.

Throughout this period, official mail was carried free and generally had to bear some indication and <sup>authority</sup> in manuscript. The word FREE may be found ~~on covers from this time~~ and sometimes an official's initials. A very nice practice operated ~~at this time~~ which I am sorry to say has completely died out. If one was writing to the Government on official business then the letter was FREE!

There were two basic categories of letter, local and ship. A ship letter was simply one that came or went outside the Colony (i.e. invariably by ship). At various times it was allowable to end a letter UNPAID which meant that the postage was collected from the addressee who had the right of refusal. Between 1829 and 1835 prepayment was mandatory on all private letter, local or ship. Between 1835 and 1840 it was optional and between 1840 and 1854, local letters remained optional whilst ship letters were made mandatory. This accounts for the various PAID and UNPAID handstamps. The earliest of these were made by G.S. Watts in Perth in 1841. Another set probably <sup>also</sup> made by Watts ~~in 1843~~ was issued <sup>in 1843</sup> to all the current offices.

Early in 1841 the first Postmaster General of the Colony was appointed. He was Captain Edward Picking formerly postmaster of Perth. Henry Camfield was appointed in July 1842 and resigned in 1847 to go to Albany as Resident Magistrate. Anton Helmich became PMG and remained in the position until 1887, a record 45 years. The General Post Office was in Perth on the site of Council House.

A feature of the postal service in this period was the part time nature of all the postmasters except Camfield and Helmich. In the smaller towns the job often became the duty of the policeman's wife, a storekeeper or local farmer. Some payment was made after 1835 but invariably little more than a token amount. Not one of the offices at this time enjoyed the privilege of a special building, all of them were carried on either in a room in the Government buildings or in the local store or homestead.

We are fortunate in having a detailed picture of the postal service as it was reported on in 1847 by two Commissioners from London, Smith and James. I will conclude this section by reading extracts from this Report.

Age Stamps 1863-1912

ary

1862. The plates in London passed over to De La Rue
- 1864 No Wmk 1d and 6d
- 1865 CrCC 12½ 1d. 2d. 4d. 6d. 1/-
- 1871 The first surface printed stamp the CC 3d.
- 1872 The 2d. error of colour
- 1874 Surchage ONE PENNY on 2d.
- 1876 CC14 1d. 2d. 6d.
- 1882 CA 14 1d. 2d. 3d. 4d. 6d.
- 1883 Anchor Works fire in London. CA 12 x 14 1d.
- 1884 Surchage ½ on 1d.
- 1885 The new ½d green and the surcharge 1d on 3d.
- 1886 1d Telegraph stamp authorised for postage
- 1889 The last use of the Perkins Bacon plates. 1d. 2d. 4d.
- The first use of the new Key and Duty plates
- 1893 Surchage ONE PENNY on 3d.
- Postal usage of Revenue stamps authorised
- 1895 Surchage Half Panny on 3d.
- 1897 New paper watermarked W Cr A
- 1901 Department became a Federal responsibility
- 1902 The VCr values. 1d. 2d. 4d. 8d. 9d. 10d. 2/-, 2/6d. 5/-, 10/- £1.
- 1905 Change of watermark to CrA  
6d and
- 1912 One Penny on 2d surcharge. 1/- on CrA paper.

The above represents ~~the~~ important changes and mileposts along the road. Extensive use of slides will <sup>provide</sup> be a comparatively painless introduction to the seeming complexities ~~of this period.~~

The stamps of Western Australia in this period are a varied lot but some familiarity with perforations and watermarks will sort most of them. The surcharges were all undertaken either to ~~fill~~ cope with a shortage of a particular value or to utilise surplus stocks following a rate change. It is only in the case of the Halfpenny on 3d that there is evidence of some funny business. The error of colour comes in this period as does postal usage of telegraph and revenue stamps. In other words there is plenty to play around with and the period possesses a further advantage in allowing considerable specialisation as well.

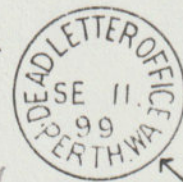
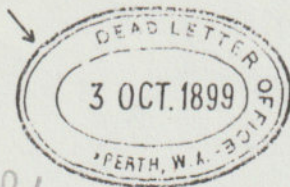
DEAD LETTER OFFICE PERTH

1981

This work sheet was drawn up and used by Arnold in his talk at the February meeting of the Study Group. We will be pleased to hear of any corrections, omissions, extensions of usage etc. If possible please include a photocopy of any new types.

as 'B.' with inscription  
"INSPECTOR"

A1



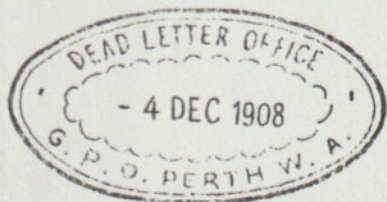
SEE ALSO 'N'

A. 16/11/1897 (only one strike)

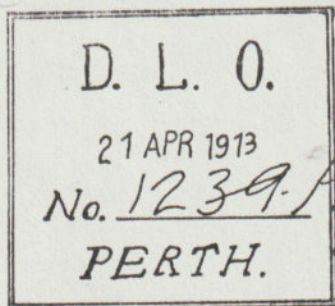
B1  
B. 3/10/99 - 9/5/05  
(Blue, green, purple)

C1  
"PERTH. W.A."  
C. 9/3/98 - 15/2/06  
(black)

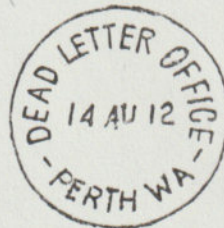
"PERTH" (22mm)  
D. 22/7/05 - 17/8/12  
(Violet, blk, Red)



E. 25/10/06 - 17/9/09  
(Purple)



F. 17/1/13 - 9/12/21  
(Purple)



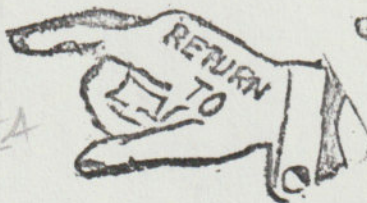
G. 9/9/12 - 8/12/27  
(RED, BLACK)



H. 30/5/41 - 15/4/42  
(Black)



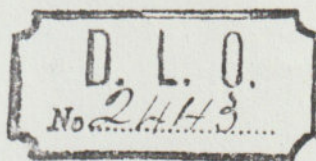
I. 9/9/12 - 5/6/14



J. 28/6/23



K. 13/5/20 - 26/8/20



L. 31/10/01 - JUL/22.  
22/10/01.

E3  
similar to 'K' but  
no "RETURN TO"

M. 10/21 - 6/6/22.

similar to 'D'  
but 23 mm

C2  
N. 29/6/03, 19/10/03  
(blue)

PERTH AIR  
24SE59  
WEST-AUST  
E31<sup>r</sup>

G.P.O. PERTH  
31DE69  
WEST-AUST  
E30<sup>r</sup>

G.P.O. PERTH  
22JA60  
WEST-AUST

MAIL EXCHANGE BRANCH  
CUSTOMER  
22 FEB 1973  
ADVISORY SECTION  
PERTH, W.A. 6000.

PERTH FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
-GJA71  
G.P.O. PERTH - WA-AUST

G.P.O. PERTH  
25JA70  
WEST-AUST

FIRST DAY OF ISSUE  
PERTH  
14 MAY 1975  
W.A. 6000  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

RETURNED FOR  
ADDITIONAL POSTAGE  
SHEET PAID... d.  
POSTAL DEPARTMENT  
COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

G.P.O. PERTH  
-5DE75  
WA-AUST

DEAD LETTER OFFICE  
5DE75  
PERTH W.A.

PERTH  
D.L.O.  
5DE75  
WA-AUST

ASST. SUPT. (AD & PL)  
MAIL EXCHANGE BRANCH.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE,  
PERTH, 6000.

DEAD LETTER OFFICE PERTH  
5DE75  
WA-6000  
G30<sup>r</sup>

MAIL EXCHANGE PERTH  
S & A  
5DE75  
WA-6000

Superintendent,  
Mail Exchange Branch  
Perth, W.A.

MAIL EXCHANGE PERTH  
15  
-5DE75  
WA-6000

PERTH  
PAID  
5DE75  
WA-AUST-6000

PERTH  
5 DEC  
W 1975  
A  
PAID  
AUST

POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERTH

PERTH  
WA 6000  
5 DEC  
1975  
POSTED  
IN PILLARS

PERTH  
WA 6000  
2 PM  
5 DEC  
1975  
POSTED  
IN PILLARS

PERTH  
W.A. 6000  
5 DEC  
1975  
POSTED  
IN PILLARS

MAIL EXCHANGE BRANCH  
-3 DEC 1975  
PERTH, W.A. 6000.

MAIL EXCHANGE PERTH  
R.S.  
5DE75  
WA-6000

MAIL EXCHANGE PERTH  
R.S.  
32A 5DE75  
WA-6000

MAIL EXCHANGE PERTH  
R.S.  
32A 5DE75  
WA-6000

MAIL EXCHANGE BRANCH  
Opp. Stirling St. & Newcastle St  
Perth, W.A. 6000