

# CAMPBELLTOWN PHILATELIC NEWS

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www.philas.org.au/campbelltown

Next meeting 9th July

NZ Alternative Post by Ed Burnard

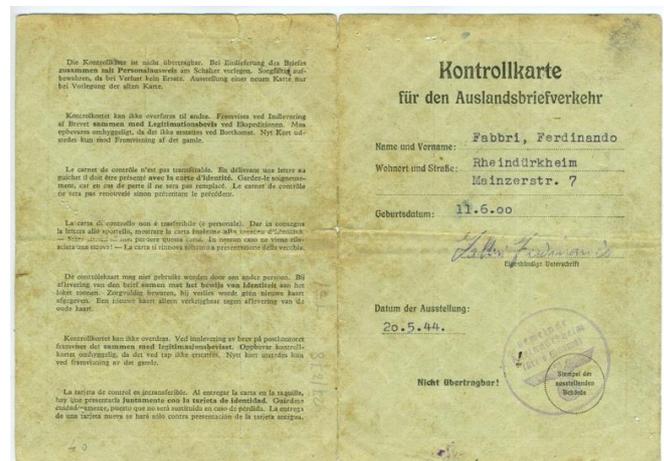
## Stamps Cancelled by Favour and to Order

These cancellations deserve to be explained. 'Cancelled by Favour' is an expression used for stamps cancelled in a special manner, generally at the request of a philatelist. Such items did not usually go through the post. There were times when a great number of philatelists were convinced that only cancelled stamps were worth collecting and were of value. So they affixed newly issued stamps to postcards or pieces of paper and had them cancelled at a post office. Sometimes all sorts of 'rarities' were produced in this way. Until 1914, for instance, foreign post offices operated in Turkey. In Istanbul there were, in addition to the Turkish post offices, also German, Austrian, British, French, Italian, Russian, Rumanian and Egyptian post offices. A visiting 'philatelist' would visit these post offices one after the other, buy a stamp, affix it to a postcard and have it cancelled. In the end, he would post this collection from one of the post offices. Such a combined franking was hardly any philatelic value, but nevertheless, after more than half a century, it is a document of historic interest and reflects the situation existing at that time. Some postal administrations (mostly of Eastern Europe) supply stamp wholesalers with large quantities of complete sheets of gummed stamps already cancelled. These stamps are cancelled to order and frequently sold at a fraction of their face value. The majority of stamps cancelled to order are used for stamp packets. It is obvious that the philatelic value of such stamps, which have never seen a letter or gone through the post, cannot be compared with the value of stamps normally used on mail. Stamp catalogues do not make any distinction between stamps, which have been genuinely used, and those that have been cancelled to order. Obviously though, the fact that some stamps have been put on the market in large quantities cancelled to order, results in a much lower catalogue price for used copies. Although cancelled to order stamps are a source of income,

this policy has created a great deal of mistrust of the issuing countries and many collectors have given up their collections of such States or do not include stamps cancelled to order in their collections.

In some countries, first day covers are sold to philatelists at the post office with stamps affixed and cancelled, and sometimes such covers are valid up to four weeks after the actual date of issue. Some postal administrations issue first day sheets specially printed for new issues, which are affixed to them and cancelled with first day cancellation. Both are issued for stamp collectors.

## German WWII censorship



The German Government was very unhappy about the lack of control of mail going out of the country. After several failed attempts to get a better oversight control in place, by early 1944 finally they did – in the form of special identity cards that had to be stamped each time a letter was given to a mail clerk for a letter leaving the country. The number could be completely controlled. These identity cards are part of the Nazi postal history.

Printed identically in 7 languages this is a very important identity card, and if lost will absolutely not be replaceable.

The languages on this German version are (from top) German, Danish, French, Italian, Dutch, Norwegian and Spanish - missing is Polish and Czech

This example of a special identity card (possibly for an Italian worker) was last used on 17th March 1945. That's just a few days before the U.S. Army crossed the Rheine and within a week of that date they had captured this area around Worms, which is outside of Frankfurt. Frankfurt was captured by March 29th.

*Thanks to the Scandinavian Philatelic Society for this article.*

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**Two more Stamp Shops Close.**

Tony Corbisero, owner of a Melbourne stamp shop has closed the doors for the last time. He sold philatelic & numismatic items and postcards. Another Melbourne dealer, Peter Strich, has discounted his stock prior to ceasing his Collins Street arcade business.

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**Violent airplane passenger taken down**

A DRUNKEN passenger who tried to storm the cockpit in a fit of airplane rage was taken down by a hockey team of 17 off-duty police officers who happened to be on the flight.

The 17 police officers were members of the Justice Hockey Canada team, who were returning from a police championship event in Europe. The passenger pounded on the door of the cockpit, then assaulted a female flight crew who tried to calm him. He then ran to the back of the plane and began choking another flight attendant with his belt. The terrified flight crew approached one of the members, goalie and detective constable Kyle Talsma for help because he was the most physically intimidating person on board. They had to pretty much maintain physical control of him for the last three-and-a-half hours. He was raging and screaming, threatening to hit guys, he was out of control.

**Letter that survived the 9/11 terrorist attacks**

ON SEPTEMBER 11, 2001 in downtown Manhattan, a torn red envelope covered in white ash lay on the street among debris.

It had travelled in the cargo hold of a plane bound for Los Angeles that was hijacked and flown into one of the Twin Towers. As the destruction ensued, it fell with thousands of other documents through a fireball and floated on the ash-polluted breeze to the street below.

A businessman, Raviv Shtaingos, was fleeing when he noticed the striking red letter on the street and picked it up.



The Meisters have since donated the red envelope and its contents to the 9/11 Memorial Museum in Manhattan, New York. It is a small story of hope, in a tragic day that history will never forget

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**Last post for Canada Post?**

*Extract from a Canadian newspaper.*

The great race between email and snail mail is over. And the snail got its tail kicked.

Given the choice between sending a written message halfway around the world in seconds electronically or waiting days, even weeks, for the same words in a stamped envelope to travel there by air, sea or land, more governments, businesses and ordinary people are turning their backs on the old and embracing the new. This means that Canada Post, as we know it, is doomed.

Declines in mail volume caused by new technologies will leave Canada Post bleeding \$1 billion a year in operating losses by 2020.

What's needed now is a national discussion of the issue and a comprehensive plan of action that can be implemented over a number of years. The welfare of a large workforce should be paramount. Phased-in change can greatly reduce the pain and uncertainty that will hit Canada Post staff. Nor should we ignore the needs of rural Canadians or those who have not embraced new technologies, and in this group are many elderly people. They will be best served if they

have time to adapt to the new, and hopefully improved, Canada Post.

One obvious solution would be to have alternate-day mail delivery. Considering how few vital communications move by mail today, would such a change truly inconvenience anyone? Eliminating delivery to the door for urban residential customers — who might wind up using group mailboxes — would promise the greatest savings: \$576 million a year. Replacing more corporate post offices with franchised outlets is another option. But that can be controversial.

Other countries have already made changes. Much of Europe has opened up the market to allow more competition with national postal services, or even privatized the work those services provide.

Netherlands saw productivity rise and labour costs fall when it privatized its postal system. One way or another, Canada will follow suit.

It's not time to play the last post for Canada Post. But it cannot continue as it is today. Put that in an email and send it.

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**Hong Kong colour coding stamps.**

New postage stamps are still confusing users. Introduced on 1st October, 2013, the "Heartwarming " stamps bear no denomination. Their usage is indicated simply by different coloured circles on their left hand corners.

Stamps for standard local mail have a Green circle, whilst the standard airmail, a blue one.

This is intended to simplify the mailing process.

Additionally, the stamps bear in small print the words "Local mail postage" or "Air mail postage".

Other countries such as Great Britain & United States and Singapore also had similar stamps without denominations.

In most cases the new system was fairly straightforward, however if letters were over the specified weight limits people would have to make up the cost difference by buying additional stamps with the appropriate values.

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**CORN FOR CAR FUEL.**

At the University of Michigan researchers are taking corn stalks and leaves then adding fungi and bacteria to create isobutanol. The isobutanol gives off 82% of the heat energy petrol provides when burned, compared to ethanol's 67%. It also doesn't mix easily with water. The researchers hope this biofuel could help replace petrol, especially as it uses waste plant materials rather than food crops. That's definitely better than using edible plants.

**Google Wants to kill your password**

As our lives increasingly move to the cloud, the need for stronger passwords is more important than ever. But aside from avoiding easy-to-guess birthday/pet name passwords, what else can be done?

Google is now investigating alternatives to the password - like a USB-based card from Yubico that would sign you into your Google account when inserted into a device.

A new paper suggests the option to use a cryptographic card from Yubico to log into Google services like Gmail, Drive, or Chrome. This would require Googlers to make some changes to Chrome in order to get the cards to authenticate, but once that was in place, it did not require any additional installation - registration can be completed in one click.

Those who work in industries that handle secure information - like banking - have long used authentication tokens to log into their work accounts. But consumer services like Google have stuck to the password approach for ease of use.

The paper also discussed options like a "smart ring" or a smartphone that could authorize a new PC with one tap. Ultimately, these devices could mean the end of passwords you'd have to remember.

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**The Country that shared a King**

When Iceland released its first stamp in 1873, its king was Christian 1X, of Denmark.

Iceland wasn't a republic until 1944, so when their first stamps appeared they were identical to those of Denmark as Iceland had been a Danish dependency since the end of the Napoleonic wars.

Two of Iceland's rarest stamps appeared in 1897 - surcharged stamps with a perforation variety. A 1902 official stamp with a letter left off an overprint is also a rarity.

King Christian 1X first appeared on one of Iceland's stamps in 1902 - four years before he died aged 88 at Copenhagen.

A few weeks after the allied invasion of Normandy Iceland became a republic & released a set of six stamps depicting Icelandic historian, Jon Sigurdsson. Today two thirds of the population live in Reykjavik.

As a young King Christian 1X had asked Britain's Queen Victoria to marry him, but she declined. His eventual wife was a German princess. His six children married into other royal houses, and today his descendants include Great Britain's Queen Elizabeth & Grand Duke Henri of Luxembourg.

*Thanks to Peter Pienaar for this article.*

**Fake Overprints**

Offered on eBay as genuine stamps, these five stamps were true produced stamps without the overprints. An enterprising seller has overprinted them and offered gullible collectors these as "exciting, rare". The price reflected how "rare" the stamps had become.

This is now a standard hazard for any overprinted stamp these days, with many resembling the genuine item. All expensive items are targets for scammers.



A certificate from a recognised authority is worth the financial outlay to provide provenance.

**Australia Post to deliver parcels on weekends**

10/5/2014

Australia Post's 700 corporate offices will open for Saturday trading from next Christmas, allowing customers to send and receive parcels on the weekends, Australia Post's managing director and CEO Ahmed Fahour said on Friday.

Announcing the move Friday, Mr Fahour warned Australia Post would lose as much as \$1 billion a year if it didn't implement reforms and changes. He said the traditional letters component of the business "was bleeding money as the community shifts away from letters and towards digital forms of communication."

"We lost \$218 million in providing the letters service last financial year," Mr Fahour said.

"This loss has been growing – every year – since our letter volumes started declining five years ago. In this current financial year we are now projecting a \$350 million loss in providing the regulated letters business.

"Our projections show that with mail volume declines now accelerating to between eight and 11 per cent per annum over the coming years, our letters business, under current momentum, will lose over \$1 billion annually in the coming years. We do not have the ability to absorb this."

However, six day trading and delivery will soon be available from all corporate offices, Mr Fahour said, while many of the 2,895 licensed post offices may choose to expand their weekend hours, too.

The Express Post and Express Letter guaranteed delivery service will also be available six days a week by adding a Saturday delivery option.

In a speech to the American Chamber of Commerce in Sydney, Mr Fahour said these new services reflected a shift away from declining letters services to a growing market for parcels, express and retail services.

He told the lunchtime crowd that profits on parcels and express business had grown 20 per cent each year since 2010.

**Official Stamps – A Brief Look**

The first country to issue official stamps for actual use was Spain, in July 1854. The stamps were printed in black on various coloured papers and bore the national coat of arms. No values as such were expressed, only weights (from half ounce to one pound) of correspondence permitted for each stamp. A second series, with an oval frame, was issued in January 1855. Both sets were frequently forged to deceive the authorities and examples have been found postally used. Other early users of official stamps were India (1866), South Australia (1868), the North German Confederation (1870), Denmark (1871), Iceland, Hyderabad and the USA (1873), and British Guiana, Italy and Luxembourg (1875).

Most official stamps bear such words as OFFICIAL OF SERVICE in their inscriptions, but among the less common forms found are: SARKARI (Indian states), DIENSTMARK (Germany), OFFENTLIG SAK (Norway), TJENESTE (Denmark), TJANSTE (Sweden). Stamps may also be found overprinted O.S (Australia), O.H.M.S. or G. (Canada), O.H.E.M.S. or O.H.H.S. (Egypt), the latter abbreviations signifying 'On His Exalted Majesty's Service' (1922) or 'On His Highness's Service' (1907 – 1922), prior to the Khedive assuming the title of King. The oddest inscription on official stamps is ARMENWET (Poor Law), found on Dutch stamps of 1921. They were intended for use on correspondence from local authorities administering the poor law.