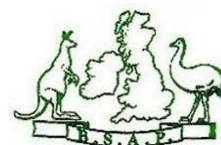


# The Bulletin



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**2404. JAPANESE TELEGRAPH CABLE HALTS CHICHESTER FLIGHT IN 1931**  
by Brian Peace FRPSL (395)



*Chichester with his DH60 Moth ZK-AKK Madame Elijah at Sydney in late June 1931*

**The Crash**

In 1936 Francis Chichester wrote in his autobiography *Ride on the Wind* about his seaplane flight, which ended dramatically in Japan on 15 August 1931, when he suffered the horrific crash which almost killed him.

The night before he had settled down to sleep under a mosquito net then saw a large spider, four inches across, which he shepherded out of the door. Following loud noises from a neighbour's water pump accompanied by shouting and splashing as the family took a communal bath, Chichester finally got to sleep after midnight waking early, eager to get on his way to Tokyo.

His thirteen cartridges were counted into his hand, his pistol and camera returned to him and Chichester completed the refuelling, engine inspection, checking of valve clearances and stowing of all his gear in the front cockpit. This included his rubber boat and the mail bag containing 1,017 letters.



Cover bearing second type of cachet cancelled Manila at 6.30pm on 22 July back-stamped in Japan as previous covers

The 1,017 philatelic covers were addresses to a variety of countries on his intended route including the Philippines, Japan, Alaska, Canada, Greenland, Iceland and Great Britain.

All these covers were later struck with one of three different cachets certifying that they were carried by Chichester and involved in the crash. Chichester signed most of these. Those bearing the third type of cachet bear Chichester's printed name but no signature. Each cover is numbered.



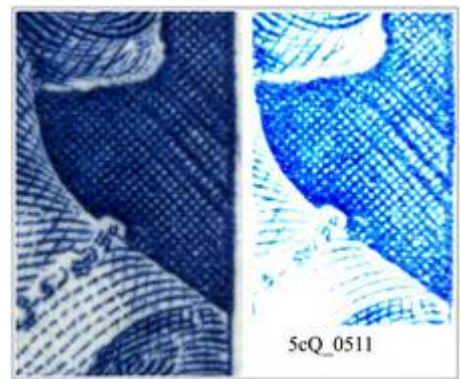
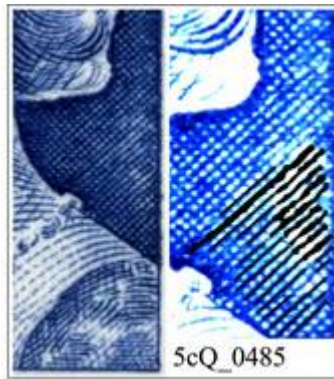
Third type of cachet on a Bruggmann cover. Not signed by Chichester.

**2305. CONTINUATION OF A STUDY OF THE 5C QUEEN (ACSC 445 BOOKLET)  
(TENTH PART). BY KELD JESS (943)**

**7. Right of Queen's neck continued**

**ACSC 445 e (weak entry), ea, eb ("states") and DMcC 72 (.. "stages").  
Unit 4 of the booklet pane "Use postal orders ...).**

According to ACSC there are two states with one where the retouched lines slant "/" and one slanting "\". DMcC does not mention anything about a weakness before retouch.



**5cQ\_0553 (S:2), U4**

I believe this one to be the weakness (445 e) before the 2 electro retouches (ea,eb). It is a unit 4 as it should be and the heavy part of the weakness is in the same area as 5cQ\_485 and 5cQ\_0511. Not having a full pane I cannot be definitively certain, but it does look like it.

**5cQ\_0485, (1 full pane) & (S:2), U4, Stage 1.**

This is one of those varieties which you will notice immediately. It is very strong and obvious and the retouched lines slant "/". Compared to the previous unit 6 retouches, the quantity found for unit 3 is far less, so this variety is probably much more scarce.

This one belongs to the same pane as the former shown 5cQ\_0482.

**5cQ\_0511, ACSC 445 eb, DMcC 72, (S:1)(X:1 ), Stage 2.**

Like stage ,1 this retouch is very strong, but the retouched lines now slant "\". Having bought this one and not finding myself, I presume it is very scarce.

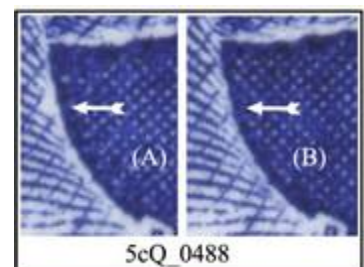
An interesting, scarce and desirable trio.

**1. Queen's shoulders & chest**

**5cQ\_0488, (S:28), U3.**

There is a weak area as shown by the arrow in "A", whereas "B" is a normal copy for comparison. Must be very common master plate flaw.

**Queen's left shoulder.** There are many weak bottom right hand frame lines and there will be the corresponding retouches. I have not shown any because they are much too variable to positively identify.



**2407 UCV H10 FOR 9d KANGAROO PLATED AS 4R30 By Richard Guy (1616).**

A 9d Kangaroo marginal block of four in the Third Watermark caught the eye of the author in the recent November 2010 Philas Auction in Sydney. The photo reproduction in the catalogue of this block was vague and unclear, but it did show three stamps in the block with the shading line over 'NCE' of 'PEN'CE' missing, one characteristic of the Die IIB plate. The fourth stamp did not. Could this be another substituted Die 11 cliché? None of the four stamps displayed a broken top frame over 'ST'. It was worth a closer look (Fig. 1).



*Fig. 1. The block in question plates as 4R29-30,35-36.*

Upon inspection, after purchase, the fourth stamp was like the others, a Die IIB.

The 'STAG' letters in the right selvedge plated this block as being from a lower printing position, namely Plate 4. The letters also plated the block as 4R29-30,35-36.

The 9d Kangaroo Stamp monograph by A.D. Banwell and R.F. Parsons indicates that clichés 4R29 and 4R30 (and others) had not been sighted by these researchers during their work, or since.

Examination for flaws on this block revealed UCV HIO at 4R30. This flaw shows a break in the shading lines at the north-west of Tasmania, and another break in the shading line over the last 'A' of 'AUSTRALIA'. See Fig. 2.



*Fig. 2.*

The researchers indicate in their book that they have seen examples of this flaw in Third Watermark and Small Multiple Watermark. The author has four copies in C of A Watermark, which can now be added to that list.

**Reference.** The 9d Kangaroo Stamp, by A.D. Banwell and R.F. Parsons, BSAP, 2004.

**APTA PUBLICATIONS AWARD -** It was quite a thrill when I opened my mail recently, to find that I had received the APTA Publications Award as Runner-up for the year 2010. I assume that this award is for my Stamp News Articles and for the Booklet Catalogue and for the Frama and CPS Catalogue published recently. Both catalogues are available for philatelists who wish to know more about their collection of these philatelic items.

**POSTMARKING**

I think most collectors find it ever harder to get nice postmarks through the mail. One encounters no postmark, Biro cancels and different types of machine cancels. However, for sheer grubbiness I must recommend the hand cancels of Dandenong, Victoria. I received about a dozen large envelopes over a period of 5 or 6 weeks and they were consistently badly postmarked. Perhaps our editor will decide not to spoil his magazine with my illustration!



**IPSWICH CITY** – Celebrates 150 years as a municipality. I illustrate the popular WWF Christmas Island Frigatebird minisheet. It is overprinted “Congratulations Ipswich Sesqui-centenary 1860 – 2010 – Queensland’s oldest municipality”. The Ipswich Stamp Club held a stamp show recently and according to their president, Dave Roberts, it was the biggest and best they have held for years.



**IPSWICH HISTORY** – It was originally thought that Ipswich would be the capital of Queensland. Famous explorers Allan Cunningham and John Oxley are credited with the discovery and naming of the Bremer River on which the city stands. Boats were the main transport between Brisbane and Ipswich in the early days of the settlement. Queensland separated from New South Wales in 1859 and a year later Ipswich, with a population of 3,000 was proclaimed a municipality. Today it has a population of over 150,000. German settlers took up much of the surrounding farmland while the English and Welsh were engaged in coalmining at and near the city.

**QUERY 727. BCM AIRFIELD. WHAT DOES THIS MEAN AND WHERE WAS IT APPLIED from G.M. Proctor (1236).**

Illustrated is a First Official Air Mail cover – Papua – Australia. On the back, at bottom right are the letters BCM/AIRFIELD or BCM/AIR FIELD. Can any member tell me what this stands for and where it was applied?

