

# VICTORIA: THE EMERGENCY CANCELLATIONS UPDATED

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Some 25 years ago the late J. R. W. Purves wrote two important articles in *Philately From Australia* (Dec. 1954 and Dec. 1958) which described and listed the two most extensively used types of "Emergency" Cancellations, i.e. cancellations used postally though not intended for that purpose.

In his first article Bill Purves gave a check list of the "Belt and Buckle" type cancellations issued to all "Post and Telegraph" offices in the late 1870's. These were intended for use as official cachets on telegrams and other documents of record kept within appropriate post offices. But they were used as obliterations in many post offices between 1880 and 1894.

The second article included a check list of the special "Money Order and Savings Bank" datestamps used in connection with this class of business. There were, in fact, seven different types of such datestamps and they were all occasionally used to cancel adhesives at a large number of offices, on a provisional basis.

After writing his 1954 and 1958 articles Bill Purves acquired a number of additional ties in both these classes of cancels, some of which have been reported in *Philately From Australia*. With the breaking up for sale of the Purves collection it was opportune to note any additions to his original listings. Combining these additions with those noted over the years by the pair of us, in particular a mass of new offices, types and dates found by Don Davies in a large unsorted, accumulation of postmarks (not Tattersalls), provided a much more extensive listing.

Since many offices had been noted as using both types of handstamps as cancellers, it proved useful to collate the two types into one listing. The resulting tabulation reveals a most interesting feature which we believe has not been appreciated before. This is that the "Belt and Buckle" and "M.O. and S.B." types were *never* employed concurrently; the one type having an exclusive period of use over the other, even to the extent of alternating periods of usage (witness Casterton, Dimboola, Horsham, Shepparton, South Yarra, Williamstown, Wodonga and Yarrawonga in the main tabulation).

When Bill Purves first produced his articles on these handstamps he reasoned that their use as a canceller resulted from the non-availability of the regular canceller through loss or wear (i.e., they were in the nature of provisional obliterations used as gap-fillers pending receipt of replacement cancellers). However with the more extensive usage now noted and the fact that these handstamps are more commonly found on registered mail, this reasoning no longer appears valid. We suggest that the primary purposes of these handstamps when used as obliterations would appear to have been to cancel stamps on *Registered* mail probably in lieu of a "Registered" datestamp (only issued in the "State" period to the principal Post Offices viz., Melbourne, Ballarat, Geelong and Bendigo). The practice of using "Belt and Buckles" or "M.O. and S.B.'s" on registered mail was so widespread that an instruction to this end may well have been issued. The use of these handstamps as cancellers could simply be due to the fact that the stamps on registered mail were cancelled immediately on the handing over of the missive to the counter clerk, who would have applied the office/counter date stamp (i.e. a "Belt and Buckle" or "M.O. and S.B." type); whereas ordinary mail would of course have been cancelled, on

sorting, by the recognised stamp obliterator — a barred-numeral or numeral duplex.

It will be seen from a perusal of the main tabulation that a number of gaps exist between the periods of usage of "Belt and Buckle" and/or "M.O. and S.B." types within the one office. Of course in many cases these gaps will gradually reduce as new material is examined. However, one further avenue of investigation remains to be explored in relation to cancellers used on registered mail (i.e. at Offices *not* issued with "Registered" datestamps); this is in regard to the use of Office circular date stamps which, in the normal course of events, would not be used as stamp obl iterators. Although, granted, the collecting of these types when used as cancellers does not have the attraction of "Belt and Buckles" or "M.O. and S.B.'s", they may well play a part in the present study.

POST OFFICE TELEGRAPH

No. Words *4*  
 Check *11*  
 By *11*

Time recd *5-6*

NO FEE TO BE PAID UNLESS STAMPS

AND TELLER  
 HAMILTON  
 25 25  
 25 25  
 25 25

*Cavendish*  
 Telegram for *W & W Thomson*

ALL COMPLAINTS TO BE ADDRESSED IN WRITING TO THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL

Please send parcel by  
 Coach tomorrow morning

*E. Crossley*  
*Kerilworth*  
*Cavendish*

Time lodged at *4.50*

Telegraphic

The normal usage of the "Belt and Buckle" cancellation.

## THE TYPES OF CANCELLERS

Both handstamps can be sub-divided into pattern types, viz.—

(1) "Belt and Buckles" — As reported by Dr. Russell Jones in *Philately From Australia* (Sept. 1975, p. 72), two types can be found:—

Type (A): has a single, solid, hole in the belt either side of the buckle in which the "pin" faces *left* from the central buckle hole. Lettering is large and extends well up to the buckle. Earliest date: 1880 (Wangaratta).

Type (B): has two circular (i.e. unfilled) holes to the left of buckle; in which the "pin" faces *right* from the central buckle hole. Lettering is smaller than Type (A) with wider space either side of buckle. Earliest date: Dec. 1889 (Maldon).

Note: Dr Jones's lettering nomenclature for the two types (A and B) have been retained, but *reversed*, since the new Type A (his B) was the first type to make an appearance.



A



B

(2) "Money Order and Savings Bank" — the Purves allocation to pattern type has been retained as follows:

(i) "State" types (date in two lines)

Type S1 — inscribed "M.O. and S.B.", unframed

Type S1A — inscribed "M.O. and S.B.", framed

Type S2 — inscribed "MONEY ORDER", unframed

Type S2A — inscribed "MONEY ORDER", framed

Type S3 — inscribed "M.O. OFFICE", framed



S1



S1A



S2



S2A



S3

- (ii) "Commonwealth" types (date in one line)  
 Type C1 — inscribed "MONEY ORDER", framed  
 Type C2 — inscribed "M.O.O.", framed



C1



C2

Before moving on to the Main Tabulation, this update on a most collectable field of Victorian cancellations would not be complete without a statistical summary.

1. *Progress in the No. of Offices found using B and B's/M.O. and S.B.'s as cancellers:*

	<i>Belt and Buckle M.O. and S.B.</i>	
(i) Original article in <i>P. from A.</i>	72 (Dec. 1954)	59 (Sept. 1958)
(ii) Revisions published in <i>P. from A.</i>	76 (March 1955)	59 (Mar. 1959-new dates)
Revisions published in <i>P. from A.</i>	78 (March 1958)	75 (June 1960)
(iii) Davies/Rigo de Righi update	94	92
— March 1982		

2. *Number of different Offices found within each pattern sub-division:*

- (a) "Belt and Buckle" — Type (A): 48 Offices  
 Type (B): 13 Offices; see note (i) below  
 Not known: 35 Offices; see note (ii) below

Total 96 (Echuca and Euroa found with both Types (A) and (B).)

Note (i) Although it will be noticed that North Melbourne is recorded in the tabulations as being Type (B) we have yet to see a copy dated prior to 1891. It is quite possible that, similar to Echuca and Euroa, North Melbourne was issued with *both* types — the 1887-89 period being Type (A) with 1890-92 as Type (B). (The other Offices noted with Type (B)'s have early dates of late 1889 to early 1890.)

Note (ii) Of the 93 Offices found using "Belt and Buckles", 38 have yet to be allocated to either of the two types. This is due to the fact that either we have been unable to personally see and allocate the strikes emanating from these Offices or those seen do not show the "buckle" portion.

(b) "Money Order and Savings Bank"

Type S1	: 71 Offices
Type S1A	: 5 Offices
Type S2	: 30 Offices
Type S2A	: 8 Offices
Type S3	: 3 Offices
Type C1	: 7 Offices
Type C2	: 2 Offices
Other Types	: 4 Offices (Ballarat, Melbourne and Prahran (2))
Not known	: 1 Offices (Smeaton)

Total 131

# THE MAIN TABULATION

Note: After this article was received in Australia, Mr. G. T. White has examined his own collection of these cancellations, and his additional data has been incorporated in the listing which follows. Apart from extensions of date ranges, Mr. White reported one new office for "Belt and Buckle", and four new offices using uncanceled "M.O. and S.B." types, and these have been added to the statistical summary presented above. — [Ed.]

Post Office	"Belt and Buckle"	"Money Order and Savings Bank" (cancellation types) —						
	Type Types (A) — (B)	SB	SBA	SB	SBA	SB	CB	CB
Adelaide	(B) 1890-94 (A) 1890-94 (in blue 1891, 1)	1891-99 1891-1908, 1909		1890, 94, 1891, 102 1901-02			1911	
Agart Fyde Barrisdale	(A) 1890-94 (in blue 1891, 2)	1890-1907 1898						
Ballarat	(A) 1891-95	[Informed small post "MONEY ORDER BRANCH/BALLARAT" 1890]						
Ballarat East		1890, 1898						
Beaumont	(A) 1891-94 (A) 1891-94 (in blue 1890, 1)	1897		1898-99		1898-11	1908-12, 1909	
Bendigo	(A) 1898-99 (B) 1890-94				1898-1912		1912	
Bonnie St. East	(A) 1899-01	1912						
Brighton		1897		1897-1905				
Brownsville	1891	1890-99		1898 (Aug. 3, 1901, 1908)	1898-11			
Bryden	1891	1900-12						
Burke	1891	1894-1911						
Camden		1894-1912						
Camperdown	(A) 1891	(in blue 1905, 11)						
Carlton	1891, 1891-94	1890, 1891, 1901						
Castlem	(B) 1890-98, 92-94 (in blue 1891, 2, 4)	(in blue 1891, 1)						



Post Office	"Red and Blue"	"Money Order and Savings Bank" cancellation types: —						
	Two types (A) — (B)	81	81A	82	82A	83	C1	C2
Hamilton		1896-97	1901			1908		
Hawthorn	1891-95	1896-97			1907		1908-12	
Hawthorne	1898 (blue)	1908-12						
Hordham	(A) 1891-95, 1899-99	1897		1901				
Hotham (North Melbourne)	1891, 1897							
Ingleswood		1912						
Kew	(A) 1891-93	1896-1908						
Kew		1898-1901		1901 (Nov.)				
Kilmore	(A) 1896	1891-1901						
Koonah	(A) 1891-94	1901-94		1908-99				
Kyneton	(A) 1894-98			1901-11				
Lane Cove	1891-92							
Lorne		1896						
Majura		1911-12						
Malden	(B) 1895-99	1897-1909						
Maldenbury	(B) 1898 (blue)	1897-1901						
Maldon		1897-1901						
Mansfield	1899	1894-1901	1906-12					
Marian Street	(A) 1890-91							
Maryborough	(A) 1890-94			1899				
Melbourne		Discontinued (22 x 17 mm) "Money Order Office, Melbourne" 1891						
Mildura		1898-1912						
Mitiamo		1898-1912						
Murrumbidgee	See on 2d 5c 1896.							
Nelson	(A) 1891-93							
Nelson	(A) 1891-91	1897-1901			1904-1911			
Newport	(A) 1891							
Nhill	(B) 1895-99	1891-1904						
Norcombe	1890	1891-1912						
		On blue 1891						
North Melbourne	(B) 1897-1892			1898-1901				

Post Office	"Belt and Buckle"	"Money Order and Savings Bank" cancellation types —						
	Type(s): (A) — (B)	S1	S1A	S2	S1A	S3	C1	C2
Memorials	1892-1894 (on blue 1892)	1891-1898						
Cheser	(A) 1890-1894 (on blue 1891)							
Fort Albert	1890-1897 (on blue 1892)							
Fort Fairy	(A) 1889							
Portland	1891-92			1900, 1911-12 1899	1914			
Port Melbourne	1889-92							
Praburn	(A) 1890-91	1890 "M.O. & S. Bank" 1894 "Savings Bank"		1899-1901				
Public Offices Queenscliff	1892 (A) 1888-94 (on blue 1891)	1891-1892						
Randy Creek	1890							
Richmond		1891-92		1896-1906				
Richmond North	(A) 1891-92	1896-99	1892	1898-1902				
Russherglen	(A) 1891-93		1897-1912					
St. Armand	1892	1896						
St. James		1890-91						
St. John	(A) 1894-94			1898	1900-12			
St. John								
Sty. Sta.		1892-1906						
Sale	1887	1896		1899-1901				
Sandhurst (Bondgate)	1888-93	1871						
Seawater	1898	1894-1900 (on blue 1900)						
Shepparton	(A) 1886, 1892-93	1888-90 (on blue 1901)		1898-1907 (on purple 1901)				1910-11



Post Office	"Bell and Bumble"	"Money Order and Savings Bank" cancellation types —						
	Two types (A) — (B)	B1	B1A	B2	B2A	B3	C1	C2
Smanton South	(Noted in Postage Party Sale catalogue Sept. '91 — Cancellation type/date not known)							
Waltham	(A) 1899-04							
South Yarra	(A) 1899	1899, 1899-1901						
Swanell		1899-05	1901-09					
Stock								
Exchange	1899, 1904							
Swan Hill	1899							
Talbot	(A) 1899	1908-1910						
Tarnagulla	(A) 1899-04							
	(in Mar 1899-02)							
Tenny		1899, 1908-09						
Trafalgar	(A) 1899-04	1899-1902						
	(in Mar 1899)							
Tongarewa	(B) 1899							
Wadsworth	1899	1899-1902						
Wendell		1899-1900						
Wanganella	(A) 1899-02	1899, 1900-11						
	(in Mar 1899-02)							
Warragul	(A) 1899-04	1899, 1909						
	(in Mar 1899)							
Warrackbeery		1899-1902	1899, 1901-06					
Warrambool	1899 (date)					1912-13		
Wodonga	1899	1899-04						
Wimmera	(A) 1899-04, 1899 and Dec.	1899, 1899-02						
	1899-1899	1899-1901 (year)				1899-1901, 1911		
Winton	1899-1899							
Wodonga	(A) 1899-01	1899, 1899-02						
	(in Mar 1899-01)	1899-1901 (year)						
Wyndham	1899-1899-04	1899, 1899-02			1900-01			
	(in Mar 1899)							
Yackandandah	1899-01							
Yarham								
Yarham	(B) 1899-02							
	(in Mar 1899-01)							
Yarramunga	(A) 1899-02	1899, 1899-1901						
	(in Mar 1899)	1899-1901						
Yea		1900-12						