

Cinderella Corner

Backstamps

I am most grateful to reader Dr. Roger Day for his feedback on some cinderella labels aligned with early Australian Philatelic dealers. Part of the July 2016 issue, which was devoted to these Trader items, illustrated a number of different stamps with printings on the reverse identifying details of Australian philatelic dealers. Of these items, which were labelled as *underprintings*, Roger offered the following:

The five examples illustrated in Figs. 5–9 (*SNA*, July 2016, pp54–55), are better described as *backstamps*, not underprintings. They are private advertising handstamps applied by stamp dealers to the backs of stamps. Expertising marks used by European experts are another type of backstamp: the tiny handstamp identifies the expert, and its position on the back of the stamp indicates the expert's assessment of the condition and genuineness of the stamp. Another kind of back marking, involving *printed* advertising, is the backprinting applied (before gumming) to New Zealand stamps in 1893 (see note before SG187 of New Zealand in Stanley Gibbons, *Commonwealth and British Empire Stamps 1840–1970*).

The term *underprinting* is often used for backprinting, but I suggest it is best reserved for printing on the *face* of a stamp, before the stamp design is applied, just as *overprinting* describes the reverse sequence. For example, some Australian railway parcel stamps (notably 1946 issues of Queensland) were printed



Image 1

on unwatermarked paper which first had a security underprint Q.G.R. (Queensland Government Railways) applied, before the stamp designs were added. In 1926 Queensland railway stamps appeared with the backprint QR lithographed on the back before gumming.

An extended thanks, once again, to Roger for his much appreciated input. The added information has helped to further cement the necessary differentiating features between some of the lesser identified Australian cinderellas.

Christmas Is Descending

The arrival of December and the closing of 2016 signifies that the festive season has well and truly descended upon us. It is an opportunity to embrace the warmer mornings and nestle amongst all things cinderellas. This final Cinderella Corner issue for 2016 helps to welcome the Christmas and holiday spirit by considering a few of the many issued Australian anti-tuberculosis (anti-TB) labels and seals. Those selected in this issue are drawn from a very narrow selection of seals issued in Australia over more than 80 years. In particular, I have illustrated a handful of labels from:

- i) The South Australian Tuberculosis Society (Adelaide). This ran from 1943 to 1949 inclusive
- ii) The Australian Tuberculosis Association (Adelaide). This ran for two years in 1950 and 1951 and was the continuation of the South Australian Tuberculosis Society (Adelaide).
- iii) The National Association for the Prevention



Image 2

Vito Milana



Image 3

of Tuberculosis in Australia (Adelaide). This ran from 1952 until 1967 and served as the continuation of the shortly named Australian Tuberculosis Association (Adelaide).

The few examples presented in this Cinderella Corner edition across these three South Australian organisations are exclusively rare varieties of the standard issues.

The images are referenced (in **bold**) using Greens Catalogue of TB Seals of the World (1983), which is the latest edition on offer (although colour supplements exist). It is the quintessential manual to helping sort out anti-TB seals which, when considering the 1,000s that exist, can be a rather murky territory to navigate.

Image 1 illustrates seal **4.p**, which is a variety of the standard label **4** (1947 kangaroo). It is identical to this seal except that "South Australia" is omitted. In the Greens catalogue from 1983, it is priced at 20USD. The original label **4** was issued in sheets of 60 (6 x 10) and is perforated 11 on all four sides. Label **4** is a favourite amongst anti-TB collectors as it features a central kangaroo and is also one of the earliest examples of an Australian anti-TB seal.

Image 2 illustrates a block of 4 of the aforementioned label **4**, with a rather prominent (and unlisted) colour shift evident in all of the labels. This is likely a by-product of the misperforations that are also evident. The only other error in this issue listed in Greens is 4.1 (Error, HPIB).

Image 3 illustrates an imperforate strip of 4 of label **6** (1949 Santa seated on kangaroo). The text at the base reads: *First proof - perforations*. While a

'Proof' variety is listed in Greens (**6.p**), this particular item is unlisted and was produced prior to the **6.p** labels, which are far more common. Label 6 was issued in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) and were available rouletted 7, perforated 11, and perforated 11 with roulette 7.

I purchased the item illustrated in Image 4 a few years ago. It is a hand coloured bromide of label 6. The note attached to the item was: Bromide sanctioned by Mr. W. C. Dridan (who, upon some research, was discovered to be the acting Executive Secretary for the Australian Tuberculosis Association) with intention for a national seal to cover all organisations. However, by 1949, W.A. and N.S.W. had already commenced production of their own seals. Greens catalogue also notes that the original design for label 6 had the text *South Australia* but this was then changed to *Australia*. This occurred when the Citizens' Tuberculosis League of N.S.W. had decided to use the 1949 label instead of designing one themselves. It is believed that a few



Image 4

Cinderella Corner

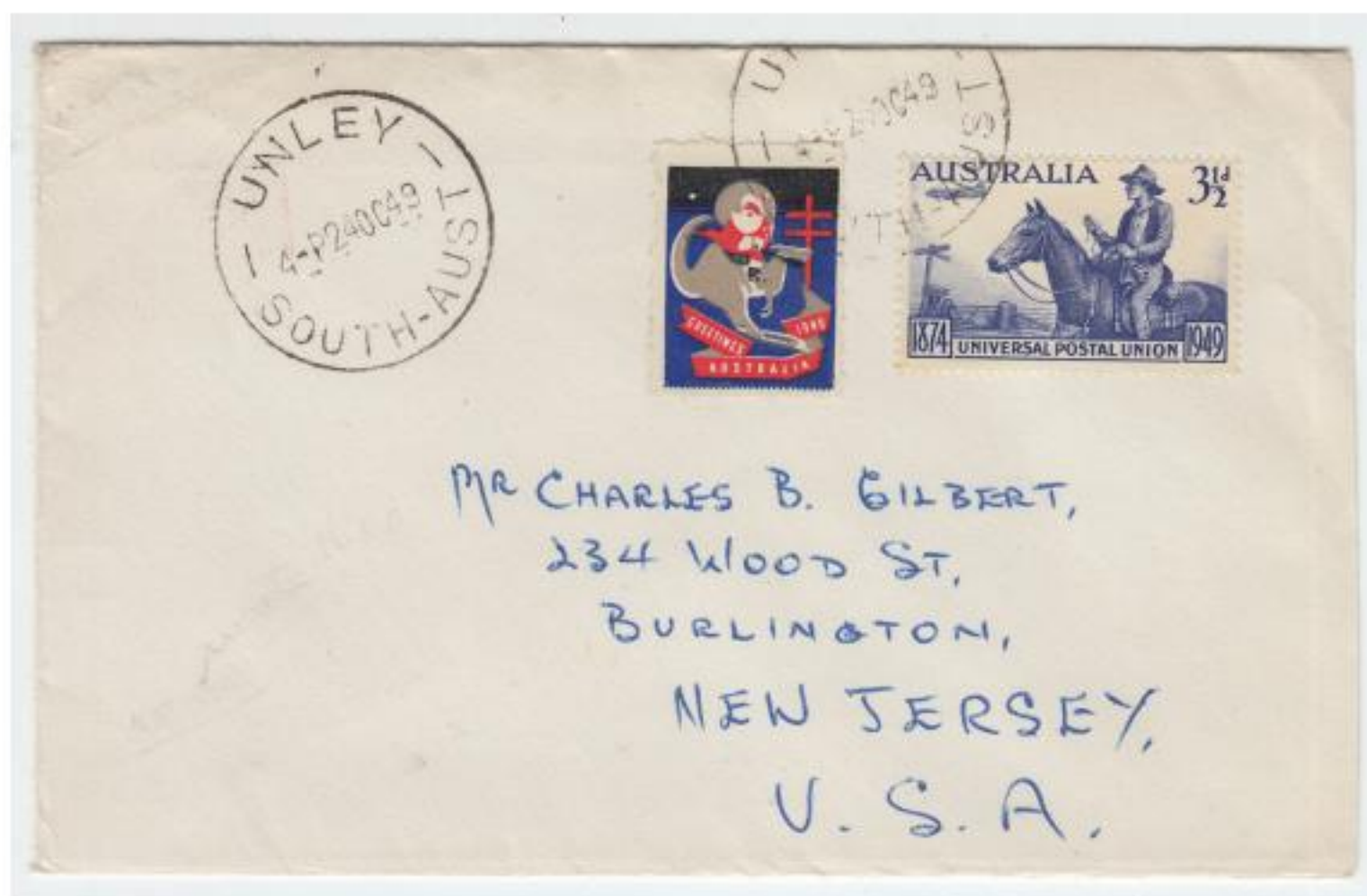


Image 5

hand-coloured examples of the original design are in existence.

The anti-TB labels were produced to raise awareness and were instructed to act as a seal on the reverse of envelopes. Image 5 illustrates that, occasionally, they were incorrectly applied to the front of some correspondences and even tied by a postmark (in this case, label 6 with the date October 24, 1949).

Image 6 illustrates another sort of 'error' in label 8 (1951 Map of Australia). The dramatic misperforation is unlisted but is not uncommon in the anti-TB labels of Australia. Label 8 was originally released in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) with perforation 12 ½ on all sides. There is, however, a HPIB Error listed in Greens catalogue for this label (as 8.1.a).



Image 6

Image 7 illustrates a variety of label 11 (11 pcp 2 - 1954 Sprig of yellow blossoms). This Die Proof is unlisted in Greens who only references another Die Proof example in his catalogue (label 9 – 1952 – Die Proof with very large margins on ungummed paper). It is reasonable to assume that this version of label 7 carries a similar scarcity to 11 pcp 2, which Green assigns a RR. It is interesting to note that for the Australian anti-TB labels, Green rarely does not list a price value for his discussed items. This can, therefore, comfortably carry a price of \$100. The Die Proof measures 133mm x 87mm and the three colours, red,

green and yellow, and more profoundly deep than those of the issued seals.

Label 11 was also originally issued in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) and is perforated 12 ½ on all four sides.

Image 8 illustrates a drastic colour effort of label 13 (1956 – Koala Bear dressed as Santa). It is unlisted in Greens catalogue. Label 13 was originally issued, like most of the earlier South Australian labels, in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) and is perforated 12 ½ on all sides.



Image 8

Vito Milana



Image 7

While colour errors have been identified in several different Australian anti-TB seals, this level of error is rather unique.

Image 9 illustrates a variety of the three issues in labels 17 - 1960 Three designs alternating in sheet, all red, blue and green:

17.1 – Santa & four children dancing

17.2 – “NAPTA” forming hull of ship

17.3 – Four children looking on the Christ child

These labels were originally offered in sheets of 60 (10 x 6) and perforated 12 ½ on all sides.

Image 9 is an example of listed item 17.4 – Error: Strip of 3 with green omitted. Green offers no price for this item and it is one of the rarest items in his Australian part of the catalogue.

Similar to the item in Image 9, Image 10 illustrates an example of 17.5 – Error: Strip of 3 with blue omitted. It too carries no value in Greens catalogue and, like 17.4, is

very scarce.

Concluding Remarks

It is no surprise that the anti-TB labels and seals of Australia are often overlooked by cinderella collectors; they are plentiful and available from a variety of sources. There is, however, a joyous challenge is searching for those that carry various errors and varieties, including a few listed in this issue of Cinderella Corner. They can supplement an anti-TB collection and offer further

insight to the processes involved in them over the course of several decades. If you would like more examples of such anti-TB seals, or further information about them, please let me know.



Image 9



Image 10