

# Australian Postal History & Social Philately

**PANDORA**  
AUSTRALIA'S WEB ARCHIVE

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## MOURNING COVERS

### **BARONESS de KOENNERITZ of SAINT CLOUD**

A single newspaper wrapper is unlikely to excite me, but this one did because of the recipient's name and her address. There can't be too many foreign baroness in the eastern suburbs of Sydney, but Rose Bay would be a likely locale for finding one. The wrapper, without any identifier of the sender, is postmarked twice by BENDIGO/ 2/ 6-P/ 20 NO 19/ VIC on the 'No Inscription' type ½d green plus ½d green KGV head (with the 2 stamp images printed at different levels) wrapper issued in 1918. It is addressed to Baroness A.N. de Koenneritz, "Saint Cloud, Collins Avenue, Rose Bay, Sydney (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

### **BRAIDSWOOD N.S.W. to F. W. H. AARON, YOUBA & TOULUMNE COUNTIES, CALIFORNIA**

A series of 22 covers were sent to Francis William Howard Aaron at several addresses in California dated from 1852 to 1877, and the first I consider to be a local Californian cover. This opinion is at variance with that of the vendor who states that the first cover "almost certainly originated in New South Wales." Most of the other covers were posted by members of his Braidwood N.S.W. family, for the addressee documented on the covers that they came from his father and sisters. Unfortunately, none of the covers contained letters.

Francis (Frank)William Howard Aaron was born in Wales on June 5, 1829 and he died in Marysville California on April 27, 1897. He arrived in California on December 29 1849 and as attested to by the covers he received from Australia, he spent much of the 1850s on or around the California gold fields. He became a prominent businessman who founded and owned the Marysville Water Company. He was also the bookkeeper for the Marysville Gas and Electric and a trustee for the Marysville Library Association. He married Mary Musgrove Bobo (1850-1930s), the daughter of a Marysville physician, Charles Duncan Bobo on September 2, 1874 and they had one son, Charles Francis Aaron (December 1, 1875- September 6, 1953). A picture of Frank is seen in Figure 1.

[More Information ...](#)

### **CHARLES HENRY CHOMLEY, LAWYER, WRITER & NEWSPAPER EDITOR**

This fine mourning cover was addressed to C.H. Chomley Esq., Trinity College, Parkville, Melbourne, Victoria and it had a single blue 2d Emu stamp of New South Wales cancelled with rays '201' of Burwood, a Sydney suburb (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

### **EDWARD WILLIAM TERRICK HAMILTON, COLLAROY, MERRIMA**

This modest cover can introduce one into the fascinating world of hand-struck postmarks of early New South Wales. I was introduced to the exploration of this subject in my frequent visits to Sydney a decade ago when I became enamored of the subject and bought the four volumes of Hopson & Tobin's N.S.W. and A.C.T. POST, RECEIVING, TELEGRAPH & TELEPHONE OFFICES, which is the 'bible' (and cannot be matched by any other postmark books of colonial and post-Federation Australia.

[More Information ...](#)

### **FRANCIS HUMPHREY WILLIAM WOOLRYCH, ARTIST [USA]**

This mourning cover postmarked Croydon/ 14 AP 08 10 30 AM/ N.S.W. on the blue-green ½d (Scott #109) and the blue 2d (Scott #111) stamps and was addressed to F. Humphrey Woolrych Esqre/ Artist/ 3855 Hartford St./ St. Louis Mo/ U.S.A. (Figure 1)

[More Information ...](#)

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### **GEORGE ARTHUR CHARLES FANE De SALIS (1851 - 1931)**

Over the past five years I have seen at least 5 covers addressed to one of the De Salis family members, but I have not felt that I could do justice to the Australian family members until now. This was not because of insufficient information, of which there is an abundance, but because much of it is difficult to access by way of the internet. However with 2 covers addressed to George or his wife, I felt that I should make an attempt to chronicle some aspects of their lives.

[More Information ...](#)

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### **JAMES "PHILOSOPHER" SMITH (1827 - 1897) MOURNING COVER**

I was intrigued by a mourning cover addressed to the Hon. James Smith M.L.C., "Westwood", Hamilton-on-Forth which has a copy of the green 2d 'side-face' stamp, postmarked with a HOBART/ 3S/ FE 23/ 88 duplex. The Forth arrival back stamp was just barely legible (Figures 1 & 2).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **JOHN MEREDITH, 'CAMBRIA', SWANSEA, TASMANIA, POLITICIAN & FARMER**

This small (10 by 6.5 cms)\* mourning cover has an imperforate pale blue 4d QV stamp of Van Diemens Land issued in the mid-late 1850's, it has an indistinct barred numeral cancel, and is addressed to John Meredith, Cambria, Swansea, (Tasmania). It is the smallest Australian Colonies mourning cover that I have seen (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **KING EDWARD VII MOURNING COVER & A. R. FOWLER (1847-1911)**

This somewhat ordinary mourning cover reveals a story of considerable importance to the entire British Empire, particularly the State of Tasmania. The 1d Mount Wellington pictorial (with a 'T' perfin) is postmarked with a roller Hobart cancel dated 18.5.10 7-0 P/ Tasmania and it was addressed to A.R. Fowler Esq. 50 Charles Street Launceston. The vertical manuscript writing gives a clue as to its purpose: "Funeral Service Death of King Ed. VII May 20/10 (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **MOURNING COVER from SYDNEY N.S.W. to LUSHINGTON GARDENS, SYDAPETT, MADRAS**

This fine mourning cover has been made of very thin almost translucent paper, and it is addressed to J. Price Esq., Lushingtons ( sic) Gardens, Sydapett, Madras, India. It has a pair of the pale lilac 6d (perf 13) N.S.W. stamps, postmarked with 2 duplex B/ OC 5/ 78/ SYDNEY postmarks associated with the N.S.W vertically placed obliterator, within an oval of 4 rings (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **MOURNING COVER to ANGUS & ROBERTSON from N.S.W. GOVERNOR, 1899**

Well not quite, for there is some doubt about the Governor as well as the actual date, but there is no doubt about the important company of Sydney booksellers. The front of the stampless mourning cover is addressed to Angus & Robertson, 89 Castlereagh St, Sydney. There is a very fine blue GOVERNOR/ [CREST]/ FRANK STAMP/ NEW SOUTH WALES (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **MOURNING COVER to ARTHUR A. BARTLETT, PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND [CANADA]**

A mourning cover from Australia led to an exciting story of Nova Scotia stamps remainders. It was addressed to A.A. Bartlett Esq, "The Hill", Charlottetown, P.E. I. (Prince Edward Island), Canada and it had a manuscript Per SS "Moama" . The red 1d and green ½d Victorian stamps were postmarked MELBOURNE/ PM/ 2 30/ 13 3 00 (Figure 1).

### **MOURNING COVER to JAMES HARRISON, SQUATTERS EXCHANGE, SYDNEY**

This mourning cover was of a fairly common design for use in colonial Australia, being small in size (12 x 6.5 cms) and the design of the black border on the front and the black cross on the reverse. It was addressed to James Harrison Esq, Squatters Exchange, George Street, Sydney, and the red-brown 3d QV sideface stamp of Tasmania has been canceled by a HOBART TOWN/ 2 L/ FE 2/ 72 duplex TASMANIA postmark. There was a manuscript: pr. "City of Hobart" notation (Figure 1).

More Information ...

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### **MOURNING COVER to LORD TENNYSON [ENGLAND]**

If ever a cover speaks to you, then this one surely should. The highly experienced UK seller gave a simple description: Australia, 1913 Roo on Cover to UK. This turned out to be a considerable understatement. The mourning cover was addressed to Lord Tennyson, Farringford, Freshwater, Isle of Wight, England and the red 1d kangaroo on a map of Australia stamp was postmarked MT BARKER/ 4 30P 17 DE 13/STH AUSTRALIA. In script an underlined 'P & O mail' was added by the sender. There was no sender's name nor receiving postmark (Figure 1).

More Information ...

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### **P.R. HOLDSWORTH, BOAT HOUSE, WOOLLOOMOOLOO BAY, SYDNEY**

I have always had, even as a schoolboy, an interest in Woolloomooloo, particularly how the name and its spelling runs smoothly off the tongue. As the assistant medical superintendent at Sydney Hospital for two years, one of my duties twice a week was to do medical rounds, at midnight, at the Sydney Eye Hospital, in Woolloomooloo. I was surprised to find, as I prepared this paper, that the possible Aboriginal meaning for the Sydney suburb was much in doubt, and, not very poetic, but included the following: from *wullaoomullah*, a young kangaroo; whirling around; and, in connection with the latter meaning, an attempt by Aborigines to pronounce the word 'windmill' [A.W. Reed: *Aboriginal Place Names*, 1998].

This mourning cover has a salmon 1d QV stamp of New South Wales and the postmark was applied well to the left of the stamp as an unframed WINDSOR/ JU 20/ 1872/ N.S.W [Type 1A cancel which was in use 1857-76]. It was addressed to Mr. P.R. Holdsworth, Woolloomooloo (*sic*) Bay, Sydney (Figure 1).

More Information ...

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### **REVEREND GEORGE KING & BISHOP WILLIAM GRANT BROUGHTON**

The mourning cover (with no insert) has a manuscript 'On Service' and a rectangular boxed 'FREE' and is addressed to the Rev<sup>d</sup> Geo: King, Liverpool Street West, Sydney. The sender signed his name as 'W: G: Sydney'. There is no date (but the vendor listed the cover as circa 1840's) and there are no markings on the reverse (Figures 1 & 2).

More Information ...

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### **REVEREND GEORGE NAPOLEON WOODD, DENHAM COURT, N.S.W. 1867**

This mourning cover was sent from England to Mrs. Earl, Care of Revd G.N. Woodd, Denham Court, New South Wales with a 6d lilac Great Britain stamp (S.G. 97, Scott 45) cancelled with a duplex C/ PENRITH/ JU 18/ 67 with the numeral '606' (Figure 1).

More Information ...

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### **REVEREND THOMAS COOPER SEARLE (1820-1876) MOURNING COVER**

The small mourning cover that initiated this search to find out more about Cooper Searle was addressed to Mrs. Cooper Searle, and it has a copy of the 2d double lined outer oval dull violet-mauve perf. 13 (Bell design, Type II) Victorian stamp of 1878. The postmark is the barred numeral 21, Type A2 which shows that it originated from Broadmeadows, 20 km north of Melbourne's G.P.O. (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **WASHINGTON H. SOUL & CO. and ALFRED KING, PADDINGTON NSW, CHEMIST**

Several letters posted to Arthur King, Chemist have been used as an introduction to the important firm of Washington H. Soul and Company. The first was a mourning cover sent to Arthur King, Chemist, 2 Gurner St., Paddington, Sydney in October 1907 with a pair of 1d red N.S.W. 'Shield' stamps, postmarked with an Unanderra N.S.W. and the 'Rays 292' (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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### **WILLIAM HUMBLE WARD, 2ND EARL of DUDLEY & 4TH GOVERNOR GENERAL of AUSTRALIA**

This fairly unique mourning cover was sent by William Humble Ward, the 2nd Earl of Dudley when he was Australia's fourth Governor General from 1908-1911. It was postmarked with a duplex ENGLISH MAIL T.P.O./ JY 3/ 10/ +, with the double ring GOVERNOR GENERAL/ FRANK STAMP/ AUSTRALIA in blue, as well as the oval VICTORIA/ crown/ OFFICIAL PAID in black. It is addressed to a long-standing English Company, Messrs Coutts & Co, 59 Strand, London, W.C., England (Figure 1).

[More Information ...](#)

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