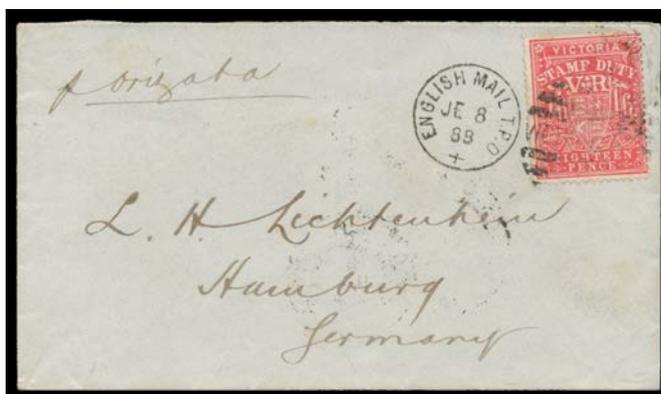| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |

## TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE

*This service, by rail Melbourne-Ballarat-Horsham-Serviceton then per South Australian Railways to Adelaide, commenced operations on 19.1.1887. Until the direct Melbourne-Ballarat Line was commissioned in 1890, the English Mail "express" trains still ran via Geelong. The long-held belief that the new service allowed late mails to "beat" the mail boat out of Melbourne to Adelaide is repeated by Molnar & Waugh. However, as Colin Tabeart demonstrates in "ANZUK Mails 1881-1900", it's only partly correct. The Orient Line continued to operate between London & Melbourne. However, for P&O, which carried the vast majority of the English mails, the through rail service resulted in Adelaide becoming the terminus for mails between Australia & England. Les Molnar also states that the English Mail TPO service was terminated in 1917 because of World War I, and that later mails went trans-Pacific via the United States & then trans-Atlantic. This is incorrect. The Trans-Australian Railway was opened in October 1917, resulting in Fremantle (WA) becoming the terminus of the Australia-England ocean mails, which remained the preferred route to Europe, England and even the Americas.*



**Lot 442**

| 442 | C | B B1 | **TYPE 1 (SINGLE-RING CDS):** Fine b/s of AP6/88 on cover to a telephone manufacturer in Germany "per Parramatta/via Brindisi" with very scarce franking of Large Stamp Duty 1/6d rosine tied by Melbourne duplex of the same date, German 'KB BAHNPOST/13/MAI/88' TPO transit & 'HANNOVER' arrival b/s, minor defects. Carried per "Parramatta" ex Adelaide 9.4.1888, arrived Brindisi 11.5.1888. [Absent from *Ben Palmer's Census* but several similar frankings are noted there as being rated 6d per ½oz via Brindisi x2 + 6d late fee] | 300^T |



**Lot 443**

| 443 | C | A+ A2 | **TYPE 2 (DUPLEX):** Largely very fine cancel of JE8/88 on Large Stamp Duty 1/6d rosine on cover to Germany "p Orizaba", German 'KB BAHNPOST/11/JUL/88' TPO transit & 'HAMBURG' arrival b/s. Superb! Carried per *Orient Line* "Parramatta" ex Melbourne 8.6.1888, arrived Naples 9.7.1888. Illustrated at page 51. [Absent from *Ben Palmer's Census*] | 400^T |
| 444 | C | C B2 | - Largely fine b/s of DE13/89 on *Pfaff Pinschof & Co* cover to Germany "Per SS Britannia/Via Brindisi" with rare franking of Large Stamp Duty 2/6d yellow-orange + *Naish* 3d x2, 'HANNOVER' arrival b/s of 19.1.1890, rather spotty but a rare postal fiscal franking. Carried per "Britannia" ex Adelaide 16.12.1889, arrived Brindisi 16.1.1890. [*Ben Palmer's Census* Germany #89] | 250^T |

## TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)

| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|-----|------|---------|-------------|--------|



**Lot 445**

| 445 | PS | B A2 | **-** Largely very fine b/s of MR10/96 on an Up Train usage of 1d Envelope uprated with *Astley* 1d & *Reading* 1d tied by Hamilton duplex of the same date, to Massachusetts with Melbourne transit b/s of MR11/96 & San Francisco b/s of APR9/1896 that prove carriage & processing on the east-bound service, minor soiling. This and the next lot are **rare non-English Mail usage**. *Ex George Bowman:* acquired directly from *Prestige* in 2007 for $500. | 400ᵀ |



**Lot 446**

| 446 | C | A B1- | **-** Largely fine cancel of MY9/98 tying *Naish* 4d to double-rate cover with *Bank of New Zealand (Melbourne)* imprint on the flap, to a bank at Esperance WA & endorsed "Per Direct Boat/Via Adelaide", very fine Adelaide transit b/s of MY20/96 & light 'ESPERANCE BAY/MY29/96/WA' arrival b/s. Another very unusual English Mail TPO usage that was sent only as far as Adelaide by the accelerated service, then placed on a coastal steamer that took up to 9 days to reach Esperance. [Esperance was a sleepy hamlet on the Great Australian Bight. However, it experienced a boom in the mid-1890s because it offered the shortest &, at the time, quickest access to the newly discovered goldfields at Coolgardie, Norseman & elsewhere, some 200km due north from the coast] | 250ᵀ |
| 447 | C | B A2 | **-** Largely very fine cancel of JA18/98 over 'MINISTER OF DEFENCE' Frank h/s in blue on plain envelope with elaborate 'VICTORIA/[Flags & Arms]' embossed in black on the flap (not recorded by *Carl Stieg & Max Watson*; unfortunately affected by opening tear), to London, repaired tear at upper-right. A most unusual TPO usage. | 200ᵀ |

## TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)

| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|-----|------|---------|-------------|--------|


**Lot 448**

**448**   PS   B B3-   - Part b/s of AU18/94 unusually on 3d Registration Envelope to a member of the *Bombay Philatelic Society*, uprated with 2½d red/yellow tied by 'R'-in-circle h/s apparently used aboard the TPO endorsed "Officially" above the printed 'REGISTERED' as it was seemingly placed aboard the train *en route* to Adelaide. Incorrectly struck with the 'T '-in-oval h/s for use on domestic mail; this has been crossed-out & 'T/25c'-in-octagon h/s applied, mounting stains at the corners. *Ex Trevor Davis* and *George Bowman* who acquired it at the *Prestige* auction of 12.5.2007 for $632.

It is generally accepted that Victorian TPOs were not equipped with instructional handstamps - but see Lot **281238** - & that they had no registration facilities. This cover provides strong evidence that at least the English Mail TPO had a complement of instructional handstamps, & the capacity to handle registered mail.    500^T


**Lot 449**

**449**   C   A+ A1   - Very fine cancel of AU27/02 across largely very fine 'GOVERNOR-GENERAL/[Arms]/FRANK STAMP/AUSTRALIA' h/s in blue on cover with 'GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF AUSTRALIA/[Arms]' embossed in blue on the flap, to England with superb 'VICTORIA/[Crown]/OFFICIAL PAID' h/s as required on franked mail going abroad. A terrific TPO usage. Unlisted in the *Stieg & Watson Census*, where only four other envelopes with the flap embossing - three of them mourning types - are recorded. The franking privilege was withdrawn 31.10.1902, making this a very late usage (and the second-latest *Governor-General* envelope recorded by *Stieg & Watson*).

It is almost certain that the duplex & Official Paid h/s were struck in the same ink, suggesting that the h/s was part of the TPO "furniture". However, there is no such marking on Lot **281230**, which raises the previously unexpected possibility that the Official Paid handstamp was allocated to the *Governor-General* for use on his mail to the Old Country!    750^T
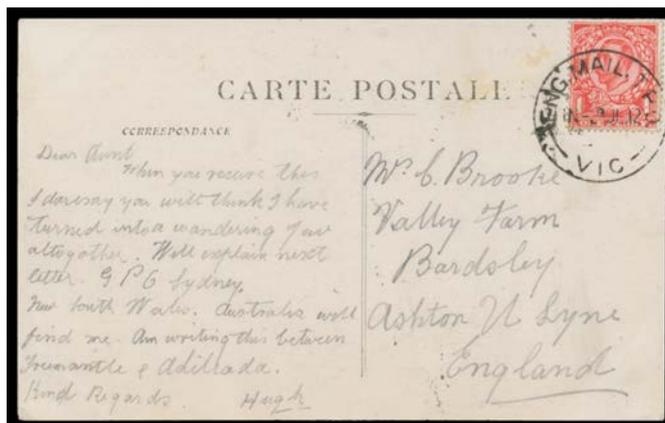
**450**   C   A/B A1   **TYPE 4 (DOUBLE-RING CDS BLANK AT BASE):** Generally very fine to superb cancels on 1909-11 covers **1)** to Ireland with very scarce franking of 1d pink block of 4 paying 2d Empire rate + 2d late fee; **2)** to Saxony with 5d paying 2½d foreign letter rate plus 2½d late fee; and **3)** to Bavaria with attractive four-colour franking paying 2½d x2 + 2½d late fee. The last is illustrated at page 53. [In this period, the late fee was equivalent to the base postage rate, 1d for Empire & 2½d foreign destinations] **(3)**    200^T

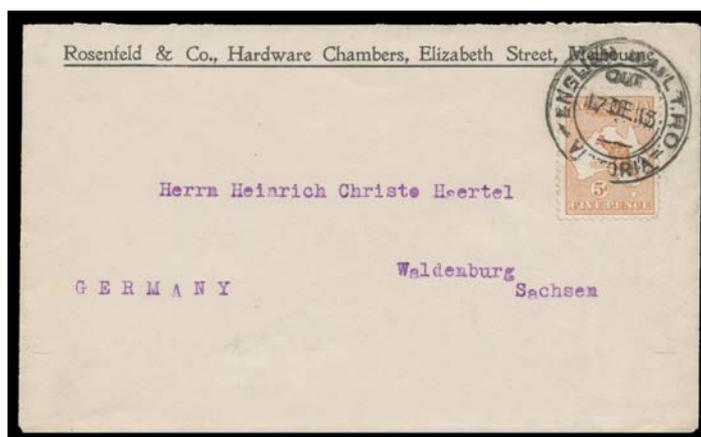## TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)

| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|-----|------|---------|-------------|--------|



**Lot 451**

**451** C A A1- **TYPE 5 (CDS WITH 'VIC' AT BASE):** Largely very fine cancel of 9JL12 tying GB *Downey Head* 1d red to PPC ("Keepsake of Voyage - RMS *Osterley*, Orient Line") to England posted aboard ship & placed into the mails on arrival at Melbourne for on-forwarding to England. An extraordinary "paquebot" usage. *Ex George Bowman:* direct sale from *Prestige* in 2007 for $1000. [The message "...GPO Sydney...will find me. Am writing this between Freemantle & Adiliada" *[sic]* proves east-bound voyage. The *Orient Line* did not call into Adelaide. After Albany (WA), Melbourne was the next port-of-call, from where the card was sent back to Adelaide on the EMTPO. Most examples of this CDS are transits only. Examples as cancels are very scarce: *David Wood's* very fine 1917 cancel on loose KGV 1d red sold for $305]     850ᵀ



**Lot 452**

**452** C A- A2 **TYPE 6 (DOUBLE-RING CDS WITH 'VICTORIA' AT BASE:** Largely very fine strike of 17DE13 tying Kangaroos 5d chestnut (Cat $1000 on cover) - paying 2½d foreign letter rate plus 2½d late fee - to merchant's cover to Saxony. Rated RRR, but RR by *Watson Webster & Wood*. A scarce franking & appealing TPO usage. Illustrated at page 53.     400ᵀ
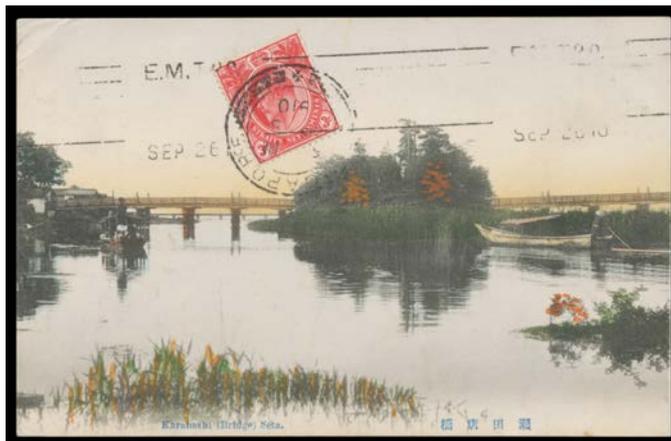


**Lot 453**

**453** C B A1 - Largely superb strike of 8AP15 tying Kangaroos 2d grey (probably Second Wmk) & First Wmk 3d olive (Cat $600 on cover) to cover to Buckinghamshire, flap removed. From 1911, the Empire rate was 1d per ½oz & the late fee was a flat 1d. This suggests that the item weighed between 1½oz & 2oz = 4d + 1d late fee. However, it's perhaps more likely that the rate paid was 1d x2 + 3d registration, but there may have been no registration facilities available on the TPO: but see Lot 448. [The Third Watermark 2d & 3d were both issued in late-1915]     400ᵀ
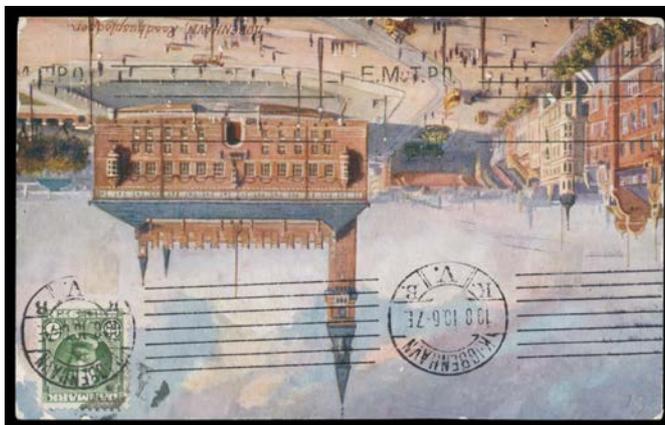
*TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)*

| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|-----|------|---------|-------------|--------|



**Lot 454**
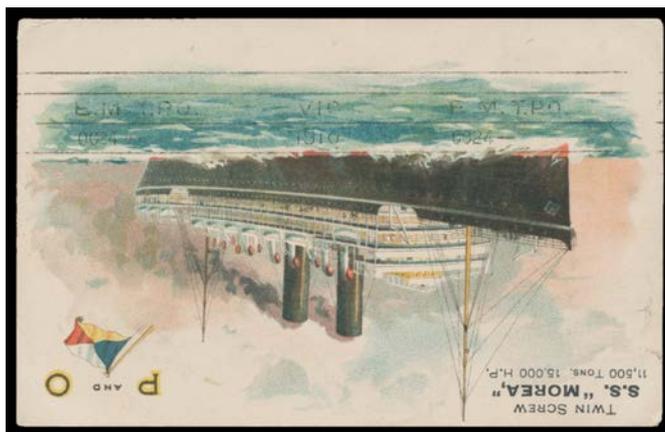
| 454 | C | A B1 | **MACHINE BACKSTAMPS:** Type 2 ('EM TPO' & six horizontal lines) fine/very fine strike of SEP2610 tying Straits Settlements 3c to reverse of Japanese PPC from Singapore to Melbourne. Rated RRRRR: only one other example - of the same date: see the next lot - recorded, making this **a great rarity of mechanical postmarks of the world**. | 400$^T$ |



**Lot 455**

| 455 | C | A- A1 | - Type 2 ('EM TPO' & six horizontal lines) very fine b/s of SEP2610 on *Tuck's* PPC ("Köbenhaven") with Danish 5ö tied to the viewside by Copenhagen machine cancel from Singapore to Melbourne. Rated RRRRR: only this & the previous lot have been recorded. | 400$^T$ |



**Lot 456**

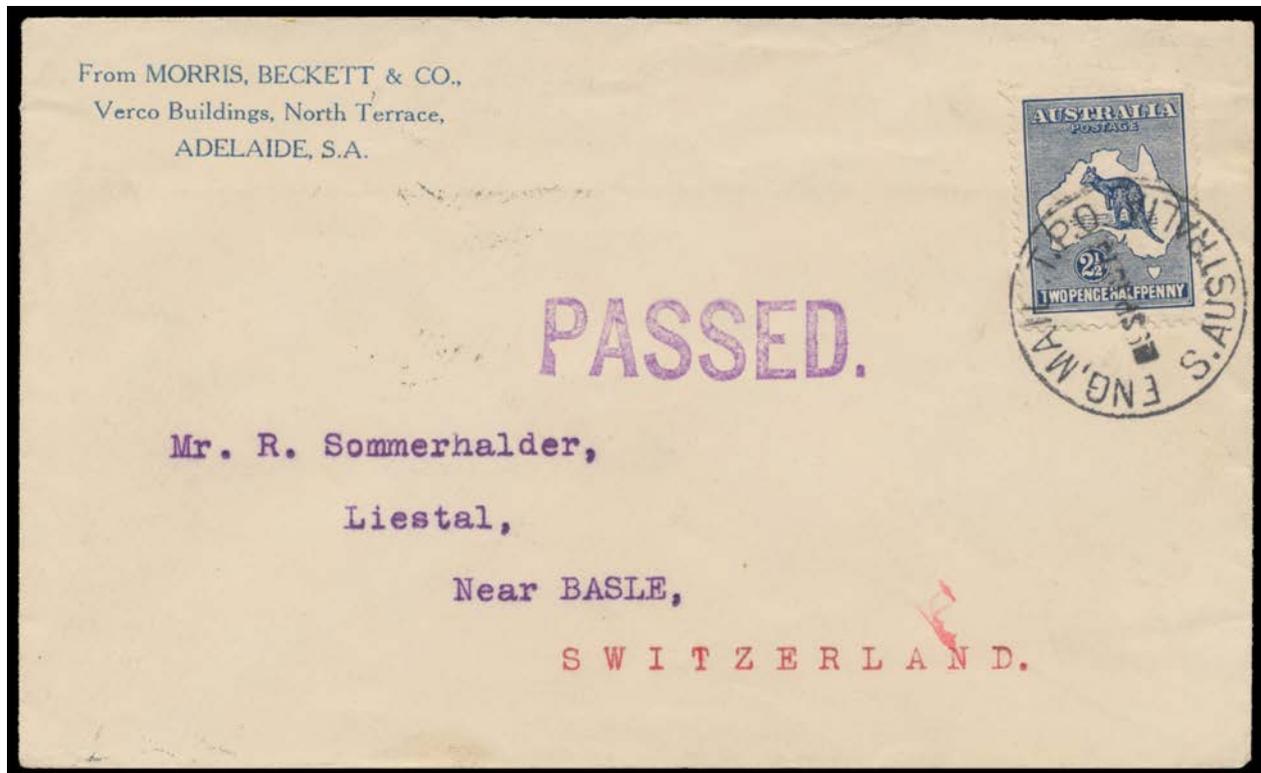| 456 | C | A- A1- | - Type 3 ('EM TPO - VIC' & four horizontal lines) light but very fine strike of OC24 - 1910 on reverse of beautiful *P&O* advertising PPC of SS "Morea", GB 1d tied by boxed 'PAQUEBOT' h/s with 'PORT-TAUFIQ' (Egypt) cds alongside, message headed "Nearing Suez" (so the ship was in the Suez Canal). Rated RRRRR: the earlier of only two recorded examples - six days apart - **making this another great rarity of mechanical postmarks of the world**.<br><br>*Bill Purves'* and *Molnar & Waugh's* illustrations of this postmark are wildly misleading. To create their caricatures, *Purves* used a typewriter!; *Molnar & Waugh* used a computer. Both attempts were abject failures. *Molnar & Waugh* state "It has two very close horizontal lines at top and at bottom and another...at the mid-point". We can only assume they described it from collective memory, and before Les actually acquired this card. In fact, there are four equi-distant horizontal lines, that we hope will be obvious from our illustration. | 500$^T$ |

## TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)

| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|-----|------|---------|-------------|--------|


**Ex Lot 457**

| 457 | S | A A/A+ | **ASSOCIATED INTERSTATE MARKINGS:** 'ENG MAIL TPO/S AUSTRALIA' cancels on Thick 'POSTAGE' 4d (superb strike) 6d & 9d (21FE1907, the ERD). [*Les Molnar* states in his exhibit that the NSW & South Australian types "were issued under the auspices of the Victorian Railways..." This is clearly wrong. Postal matters were the province of the *Postmaster-General's Department*, not the Railways, and each State was responsible for provision of postal markers for use within their relevant borders] **(3)** | 150ᵀ |


**Lot 458**

| 458 | C | A+ A1+ | - 'ENG MAIL TPO/19SE1915/S AUSTRALIA' (LRD) superb cancel on Kangaroo 2½d on *Morris Beckett & Co* cover to Switzerland with superb 'PASSED.' h/s of Adelaide in violet. Superb! Rated RRRRR, being the later of only two examples recorded on cover, & the only cover with a Commonwealth franking. Acquired at the *Prestige* auction of 7.12.2012 for $1322.<br><br>The English Mail was transferred at Serviceton (Vic) from the *Victorian Railways* to the *South Australian Railways*. As in Victoria, mail was collected within South Australia. However, with only two covers recorded - the other from 1906, which *Les Molnar* describes as being on "a ruinously damaged postcard"! - this must have been an infrequent occurrence. The Adelaide imprint on this cover suggests it was posted very close to the end of the line. | 1,500ᵀ |

*TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)*

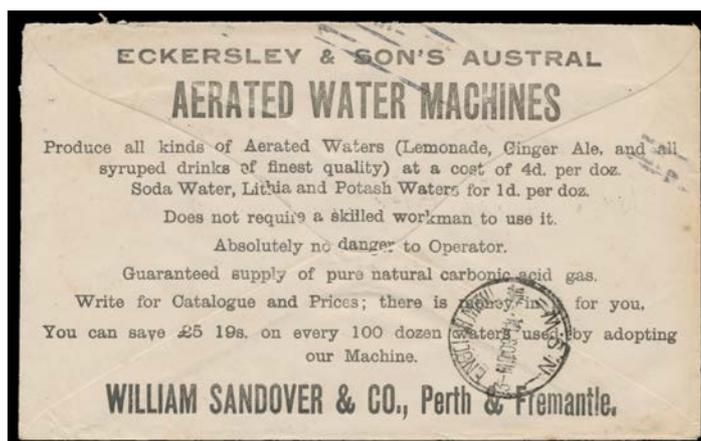| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|-----|------|---------|-------------|--------|



**Lot 459**

| 459 | C | B A1 | **- 'ENGLISH MAIL/7JY09/NSW'** largely very fine b/s on registered cover to Sydney from Western Australia with 'YALGOO' cancels & 'REGISTERED PERTH' b/s, by coastal steamer to Adelaide where handed to the English Mail TPO, minor blemishes. Acquired at the *Prestige* auction of 22.2.2013 for $299. | |

All examples we have seen of the NSW markings are on inwards covers from Western Australia or overseas. The implication might be that at least some - and certainly not all - of the mail transferred from Wodonga to the Albury terminus was sorted on the train between Albury & Sydney. However, we expect these non-conforming usages were probably from *Orient Line* ships that terminated at Melbourne, from where they were carried as "loose letters" (ie unsorted mail) for on-forwarding from Wodonga to NSW destinations.

500[T]



**Lot 460**

| 460 | C | A A1- | **- 'ENGLISH MAIL/3MR09/NSW'** largely very fine b/s on *William Sandover & Co* cover with all-over advertising on the reverse & WA 1d pair with 'WS/&Co' perfins (one unit torn before being affixed), Perth machine cancel applied at an angle so the stamps cancelled with 'SHIP ROOM/PERTH/WESTERN AUSTRALIA' cds. A terrific item for collectors of commercial perfins or advertising. Acquired at the *Prestige* auction of 7.12.2012 for $552. | 600[T] |
| 461 | C | A- A1- | **- 'ENGLISH MAIL NSW'** largely very fine machine b/s **1)** of SP2-1909 on cover with *Connor Doherty & Durack (Wyndham)* imprint on the flap, to Sydney sent uncancelled by ship & uncancelled at Perth; and **2)** of JE20-1910 on PPC ("Praha...") from Prague to NSW with 'BURRADOO' cds & redirected to "Balmain". An unusual pair of usages. **(2)** | 200[T] |

*TPOs: ENGLISH MAIL TRAVELLING POST OFFICE (continued)*

| Lot | Type | Grading | Description | Est $A |
|---|---|---|---|---|



**Lot 462**

| 462 | C | C A1 | **INSTRUCTIONAL HANDSTAMPS:** Very fine boxed 'RECEIVED TORN/EM TPO' handstamp on cover-front with *National Hotel (Cairo)* imprint at upper-left & **six-colour** franking tied by Australian Forces '2ND AUST INF BDE FIELD PO/24JA15' cds, central fault clear of the adhesives & handstamp which, of course, is the reason for the handstamp being applied. A highly significant item, being the only recorded example of any "named" instructional handstamp from any Victorian TPO. [Discovered in 2016, after the Handbook was published] | 150[T] |