Lot	Type	Grading	Description		Est $A

TPOs: MELBOURNE-BALLARAT 1890-1917

At last, in 1890, the direct connection between Melbourne and Ballarat was commissioned. The Geelong-Ballarat Line remained in use but TPO services now went on the east/west route.

Lot 344

| 344 | C | B A2 | **UP TRAIN 11:** Type 2 ('TPO 11') largely very fine b/s of 30OC15 on Bank cover from Bendigo (cds of 30SE15) to New York with small 'Passed' censor h/s of Melbourne in violet, repaired opening tear on the reverse clear of the cds & minor blemishes. Rated RRR, the latest recorded usage on cover. [TPO 11 is not recorded used on the Bendigo Line & it is improbable that it was transferred there even for a very short period. *Les Molnar* obviously took the 30OC15 date to be an error. However, we suggest that the one month gap could be as a result of the cover being missent on the Ballarat Line, inadvertently held at Ballarat for a month, then returned to Melbourne to be sent to Wodonga & on to Sydney & America] | 200[T] |

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.
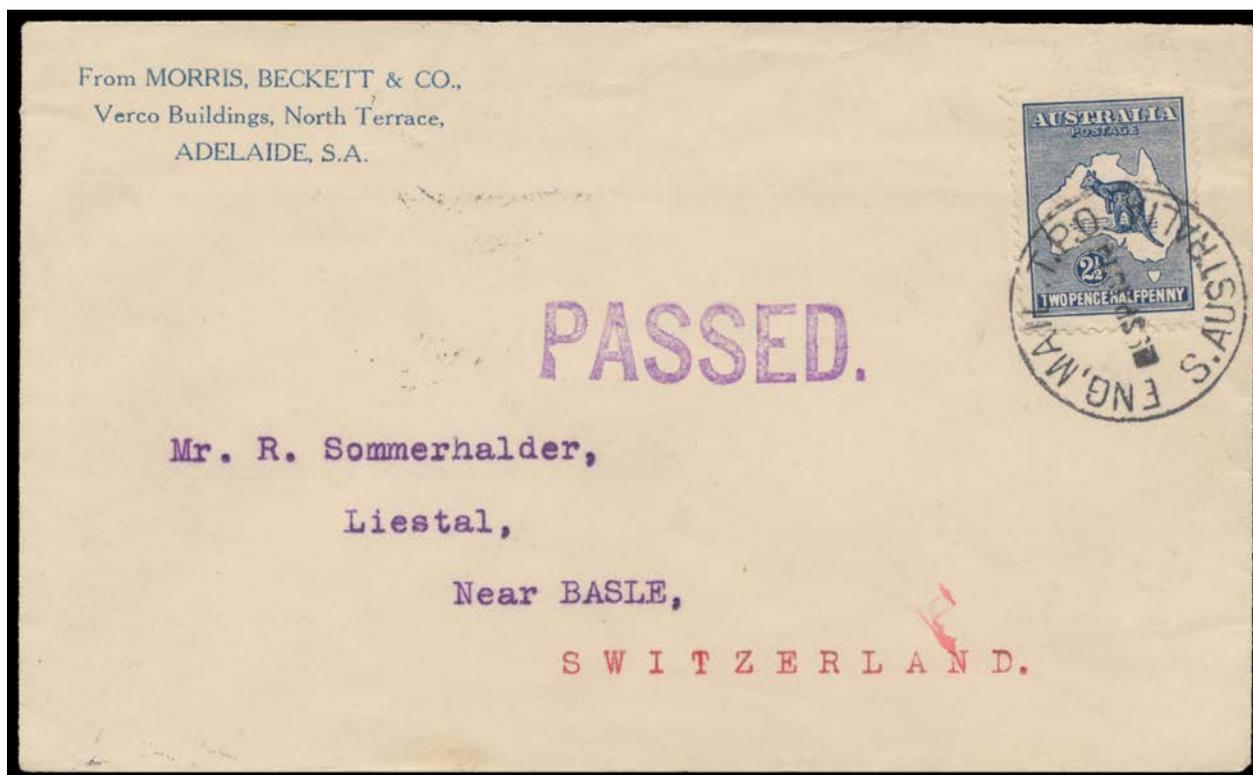
Lot 458

458   C   A+ A1+   **ASSOCIATED INTERSTATE MARKINGS:** '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.

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.

1,500[T]