

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 & Vaugh. However, as Colin Tabearnt 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 <i>Ben Palmer's Census</i> but several similar frankings are noted there as being rated 6d per ½oz via Brindisi x2 + 6d late fee]
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