

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 Tabcart 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 448

448 PS B B3- **TYPE 2 (DUPLEX):** 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.

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