

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 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 456

456 C A- A1- **MACHINE BACKSTAMPS:** 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 RRRRRR: the earlier of only two recorded examples - six days apart - **making this another great rarity of mechanical postmarks of the world.**

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.