

# Crawford Sheets: Vickery Collection in Australia

Scott Treacey

THE ARTICLE BY KARL-ALBERT LOUIS in *LP* for January/February 2005 is both a very interesting read and a great piece of detective work. One of the things that struck me when reading the article was the rather conspicuous absence of a complete row from the attempted reconstruction of the twopence blue part sheet. I am happy to report I am able to fill that hole.

Amy Alfreda Vickery FRPSL (1867-1942) was the daughter of a prosperous pastoralist and parliamentarian. She is known to have corresponded with King George V on philatelic matters, and her collection was bequeathed to the Australian nation on her death. I recall going to see the collection several times with my father, when I was a boy, and when it was on permanent display at The Australian Museum here in Sydney. Nowadays it has been moved to The Powerhouse Museum elsewhere in the city and is not on permanent display, but access can still be had for research purposes. It was from these visits that I recalled seeing a complete unused strip of twelve of the GB 1840 2d blue. Surely it must be the missing strip from the Crawford part sheet.

I have now had opportunity to make the necessary appointment to view the collection again. The strip is without question the missing row from Karl's attempted reconstruction. Not only is the piece from the correct row - the J horizontal row - but irregularities of the scissor cut at its bottom match exactly those at the top of the other strip of twelve from the K row that was originally attached to it. This latter strip of 12 was illustrated in part in Karl's article, and is illustrated in full in the "Daisy" auction catalogue (Christie's Robson Lowe, 8 October 1996).

Members may be interested to know what other important classic Great Britain material of note is in the Vickery collection: a rejoined bottom right corner block of 12 of the 1840 1d black plate 1, including inscription and plate number; an unused block of 108 (nine complete rows lettered G to O) of the 1841 1d red from 'black' plate 10; and a complete sheet of twelve of the 1841 2d blue small trial sheet, with watermark inverted.

There is also a page of about 20 unused penny black singles and sitting innocently among them is one stamp that I am certain is an imprimatur, and another three that probably are as well. These are only what I have gleaned from the GB section, but the Australian colonies material is second to none and there are many rarities in the other British Empire sections - including two examples of the rare 12d black of Canada.

It's such a pity the collection is not still on permanent display!



## Name Badges at No. 41

Keith Fitton FRPSL, Honorary Secretary

Those members who were at the 2005 AGM will recall that there was unanimous support for the proposal that name badges be available for those attending the regular meetings. This does not make their use compulsory, though!

These have now been introduced and, as a first step, badges have been produced for all those who attended one or more of the following meetings: the first meeting of the 2004-2005 season, the pre-Christmas meeting of 2004 and the first meeting of the current season, these being the three meetings with the highest attendances over the past 12 months.

If there is no badge yet available for a member on his/her next visit, the "Meeter and Greeter" will make a note of the name and a badge will be available in time for the following meeting and thereafter. Please do remember to leave the badge in the box provided when signing out.