

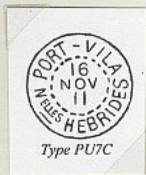
## Lucien P. Alavoine

### 1. The 16 NOV 11 forged cancels

In the New Hebrides philatelic world, it was written by Nathan Hals and Phil Collas in their 1967 handbook (*The New Hebrides: Postal Stamps and their History*, p150) that a Sydney jeweler named **Alavoine** "is credited with having made" forgeries of the PORT-VILA cancel and selling them through a stamp dealer over 40 years earlier.

The example they show on p158 has the date 16 NOV 11. The malformed P in PORT, the smaller N in NELLES and the short dash above the S of HEBRIDES identify a cancel as an Alavoine forgery. They note that this cancel has been seen on the stamps of the New Hebrides, the ANHCo locals, Fiji, NSW, Victoria and Queensland.

I won this NSW stamp on piece cancelled with the PORT-VILA postmarker from an Aussie auction house in March 2001. When I realized it was an Alavoine forgery and went to return it, they let me have it gratis for my reference collection.



## 2. More forgeries, dated 16 NOV 21

An eBay purchase in July 2000 of a 1921 stamps and three 1924 overprints revealed the same forged cancel. This time dated 16 NOV 21, undocumented in Hals and Collas. The year “21” is seen clearly on the 10c French 1924 (yes, 1924!!) overprint (top right).

1921 (and 1924) is actually in the ballpark of the “more than 40 years ago”, stated by Hals and Collas.



## 3. Research by colleagues

Colleagues have researched Alavoine, half wondering if he was a myth, as they could not find any trace of him in Sydney records.

One, Martin Treadwell, has published two articles about Alavoine in the Pacific Islands Study Circle (PISC) journal *Pacifica*. In the first (Oct 2007), he discusses fake 1910 French overprints that have the Alavoine cancel.

In the second (Oct 2008) he shows a cover with a set of Syndicat Francais des Nouvelles-Hébrides (SFNH) local stamps affixed and cancelled 16 NOV 11. This cover is illustrated with the name and address of the firm *Office Intermediaire* in Noumea, New Caledonia. The name ALA VOINE is printed at bottom right within the design.

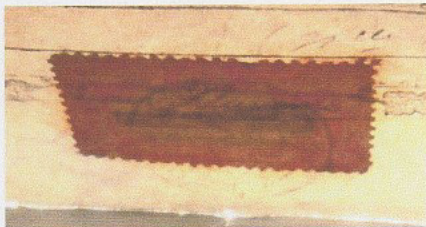
### 3. Research by colleagues (cont)

Martin used a digital camera to photograph the area under the bottom stamp and found a signature in elegant manuscript: Lucien Alavoine, Directeur.

This placed Alavoine at Noumea, and the photo on the cover is likely to be of him. Martin deduced that regardless of whether Alavoine later became a jeweler in Sydney, he did his forging whilst at Noumea, working as a printer and running the business *Office Intermediaire*.



*Lucien Alavoine  
Directeur*

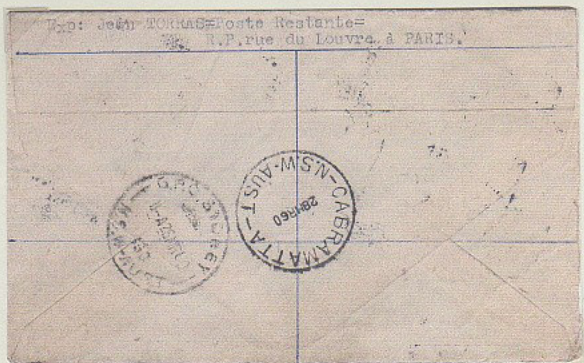


*The 16 NOV 11 cover made by Alavoine  
The mirror image of the words under the 25c stamp*

#### 4. A new discovery of mine

In June this year my husband showed me a cover he'd bought, and was wondering where Cabramatta was. Also I was to translate the notes in French at left. Whilst looking at the cover, I saw the name Alavoine. Monsieur L. Alavoine!

Now I had something to go on, I found more covers and other information confirming that a Lucien Alavoine did indeed exist in Sydney (well, Cabramatta became a Sydney suburb in the 60s), but there was no suggestion of his being a jeweler.



## 5. More Alavoine covers

The [auspostalhistory.com](http://www.auspostalhistory.com) website has an article on an 11 Apr 1939 cover from L. Alavoine of Longfield St, Cabramatta to Rabat, Morocco. It was returned to sender as the addressee had passed away. See <http://www.auspostalhistory.com/articles/337.php> Note the same elegant script as on Martin's SFNH cover.

I was glad to have found this cover early in my search as the street name showed up many times as the address of Lucien Alavoine and his family.



## 5. More Alavoine covers (cont)

Another cover from eBay proved interesting. It was postmarked at Cabramatta on 6 Sep 1955, sent to France. On the back was a rubber stamp showing the sender as "L. Alavoine, Philatelist."



## 6. Frederic's page

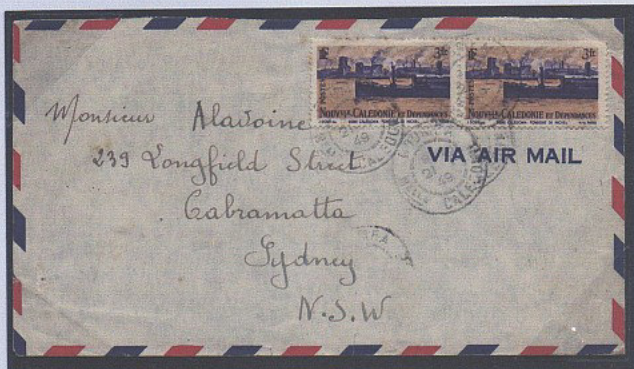
I found out lots more about Alavoine from the internet. At the end of August, when I was about to send it all to my colleagues, I found a page prepared by one of them (Frederic Petit) back in April, and which had much of my info plus more. So I just sent the cover scans to them.

## Curiosités

Lettre de Nouméa pour Sydney du 21 janvier 1949.

Affranchissement 2,80 fr (YT 152A & YT 157).

Elle est envoyée à monsieur Alavoine, faussaire connu pour des faux cachets d'affranchissement des Nouvelles-Hébrides.



A gauche le cachet type PM 2, à droite la contrefaçon Alavoine PU 7C reconnaissable au P de Port Vila.



En 1933, monsieur Alavoine propose des cours de Français en Australie (annonce parue dans *The Biz* de Fairfield, le 3 mars 1933).

Persons wishing to learn French are advised to write to L. Alavoine, Longfield-street, Cabramatta. (See Advt.)

En 1938, monsieur Lucien Alavoine est l'objet d'une condamnation pour vol de timbres en Australie où il réside. Extrait du *Sydney Morning Herald*, du 8 décembre 1938.

**THEFT OF STAMPS.**  
Lucien Alavoine, 83, clerk, pleaded guilty in having stolen stamps valued at £358 from Alfred Charles Camp, stamp dealer.  
Camp said he had known Alavoine for 20 years. He believed that Alavoine must have been influenced by a rival dealer. Some of the stamps had been returned, but about £236 worth had not been recovered. He would be prepared to compensate himself from Alavoine's collection.  
Alavoine was remanded for sentence until Friday.  
Mr. R. Sproole appeared for Alavoine.

Lucien Alavoine perd sa femme en 1948. Cette annonce parue dans *The Biz* le 24 juin 1948 précise que la famille s'était installée vers 1932 à Cabramatta.

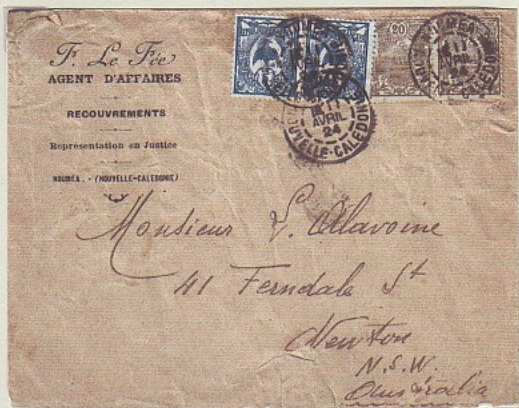
**MRS. MARIE ALA VOINE.**  
The death of Mrs. Marie Alavoine, aged 47 years, of 239 Longfield Street, Cabramatta, occurred on Saturday last, June 20. The late esteemed lady is survived by a husband, Lucien, and son Napoleon.  
The late Mrs. Alavoine came to Cabramatta with her husband and son about 16 years ago. She possessed a very amiable disposition, which made her welcome wherever she went.  
Her husband, who fell with the first contingent of Infantry with the A.I.F. in Midway Road and Orava, has not long returned from Japan, where he was with the R.C.C.F., and is one of the district's A grade footballers.  
The funeral took place in "Dunster" cemetery last for Liverpool Cemetery, Catholic portion.

Petite annonce parue le 4 septembre 1953 dans le *Sydney Morning Herald*. Monsieur Alavoine est toujours philatéliste.

**STAMPS.** British, Foreign, Mint, used sets, covers, Mon. Wednesdays, Sat. Sun. ALA VOINE, 239 Longfield St. West Cabramatta.

## 6.1. Jim's covers

My first response was from Jim, with two incoming covers from Noumea dated 1924. At that time, the Alavoines were living in Newtown, Sydney. The first cover gives me the impression that he was being chased for compensation by the courts. The other is addressed to his wife.





## 7. Summing up: personal details and timeline

### 7.1. Quick Timeline

From what I found on the internet, **Lucien Prosper Alavoine**:

was born around 1876,  
moved to Australia around 1915,  
visited France in 1917,  
moved to Cabramatta in 1932,  
was convicted of stealing stamps valued at £603 in 1938 (was a clerk then according to records),  
and paid compensation  
became an Australian citizen in 1943  
his wife Marie died in 1948 aged 54  
died in 1962 aged 86  
son Napoleon "Nap" died in 2013 aged 92

### 7.2 Extended Timeline

1876 born  
1915 moved to Australia  
21 jul 1917 on ship P & O ship Mooltan, with L Hagen  
1932 moved to Cabramatta  
10 Dec 1938  
Theft of stamps 603 pounds clerk 62  
1939 11 apr sends letter to Morocco, Rabat  
11 Mar 1943  
Nap comes home.

1943 27 Mar  
Lucien Prosper Alavoine applies for naturalization, 28 years in Aus at 239 Longfield St applies for naturalization

1948 20 Jun  
wife Marie dies aged 54 (born 1896-7), son Napoleon "Nap" (military, football)  
1954  
Antoine Francois Bonneton (born 1890, 6 years in Oz) at 239 Longfield St applies for naturalization (=6 years after wife dies)  
1955 6 Sep  
cover to Noel Cancogne France, with Alavoine's handwriting and backstamped Philatelist  
1960 28 mar received letter from Jean Torrars, France

1962 5 sep  
Lucien Prosper dies aged 86  
2012 2 Mar  
Camilla Grace dies aged 45 (born 1967)  
2013 6 Mar  
Napoleon dies aged 92 (born 1921)

## 8. Details and websites

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/20154569>

July 21 1917, Mons L Alavoine leaves Sydney for Marseilles on the Mooltan. (Brisbane Courier). L HAagen does too.

1 Aug 1917

I PASSENGERS AND CARGO. |

SYDNEY, July 21.

The passengers by the Mooltan booked for Marseilles and London were as follows : Mr. A. Jandr'on, Mr. F. Wernham, Mr. C. Foulot, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Long, Mons L. Alavoine, M. Vautrlm, P. Barbroncan, F. Plcot, A. Leen, M. Vidal, D. Sacau, M. Minel, H. Bastion, ' M. Schmidt, J. Barlfancon, E Salmon, O. Le Magner, G. Lethazer, L. Baronnot, H. Richard, Z. Lecole, L. Lecole, P. Oppen- heim, A. Venard, A. Bouteille, h. Pinçon, A. Hennequio, P. Barreateau, J. Vacher, E. Alunay, T. Da Planaue, E. Prudholmo, H. Audet, M. Murdin, J. Lecourleux, H. Gaysset, L. Hagen, R. Dmlta, L- SaUcaze, J. Crossley, A. Willett, E. Hornu, ,T. Champion, A. Mltide, E. Christy, G. Lachaussle, E. Age«, A. Carrere, R. Párasele, G. Reboul, A. PULmann, p. Coener, B. Pitard, M. Havot, J. Daly, M. Verges, and Pomy. To London : M. Znnetto and D. J. Williams.

There were also on board 800 army nurses, who were to have taken up duty at the four Imperial hospitals established at Salónica. They were all safely landed at Port Said.

The Mooltan's cargo consisted of the following : 7727 pieces of beef, 222 boxes of frozen sundries, 130 bags of frozen sundries, 15,708 ingot bars of copper, 3949 bars of lead, 75 casca of meat ex- tract, 13 cases of wool fat, 10 hales of wool samples, 358 boxes of wolfram, 126 boxes of molybdenite.

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/15752805>

1 Aug 1917 – safely at Egypt

10 Dec 1938

Theft of stamps 603 pounds clerk 62 (born about 1876)

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/article/17550342>

10 Dec 1938 THEFT OF STAMPS.

Lucien Alavoine, 62, clerk, who had pleaded guilty to stealing stamps valued at £603, was bound over to appear next Friday with a view to his making arrangements for compensation in the meantime.

### 24 Jun 1948 - MRS. MARIE ALAVOINE. - Trove

MRS. MARIE ALAVOINE.

! The death of Mrs. Marie Alavoine, ' a god 54 years, of 239 Longfield Street, Cabramatta, occurred oil Saturday last, June 20. The late esteemed lady is survived by a husband, Lucien, and son Napoleon.

The late Mrs. Alavoine came to Cabra matta with her husband and son about 16 years ago. She possessed a very amiable disposition, which made her welcome wherever she went.

Son "Nap," who left with the first contingent of Infantry with the A.I.P., for Middle East and Greece, has not long returned-from- Japan, wisre he waswith the B.C.O.F., and is one of the dis I trict's A grade footballers.

| The funeral took place on TuesdW | morning last for Liverpool Cemetyw, j Catholic portfon.

#### 11 Mar 1943

Nap comes home.

WELCOME TO CABRA. BOYS  
DIGGERS JACK JENKINS AND  
NAP ALA VOINE.

Mr. mid Mrs. Jenkins, of Longfeld St., Cabramatta, gave a welcome home to their son Jack and his best friend, Nap Alavoine. who has been with Jack in nearly all campaigns during 21 years. The party was held at the Lansdowne Hall, and there was a "full house." The music was rendered by an old family friend, Mr. Alox Westlake, of Merry- lands and many songs were rendered, Mr. Nicholson sang "Smiling Irish Eyes" Ilie' is Mi'. 'Jenkin's son-In-law. from O-unpsie). There were also friends and rela'ives from Campsc, Flemington. North Sydney. Sydney, Cabraniatta, and Merry lands. Another interesting feature was "Jim's" girl friend's, twenty-first birthday- "Jim" is a returned man, who lias been home about sewn months. The young lady is Miss Joyce Webster, of Crow's Nest.

Mr. and' Mi's. Jenkins have three sons in the A.I.P. - Bill is in Yarralla Hos pital, ' ?.

#### SMH 27 Mar 1943

I LUCIEN PROSPER ALA VOINE of French Nationality born at Paris France and resident 28 years 'n Australia now residing at 239 Longfield St Cabramatta Intend to apply for Naturalization under the Nationality Act 1920 30

[http://www.ebay.com/itm/koala-kangaroo-stamps-registered-cover-1955-Cabramatta-Australia-52024-/380906254334?pt=Stamps\\_World\\_Stamps&hash=item58afc82ffe&nma=true&si=zjZXGpobl mTpTvs%252FTsmiMth8jQ%253D&orig\\_cvip=true&rt=nc& trksid=p2047675.12557](http://www.ebay.com/itm/koala-kangaroo-stamps-registered-cover-1955-Cabramatta-Australia-52024-/380906254334?pt=Stamps_World_Stamps&hash=item58afc82ffe&nma=true&si=zjZXGpobl mTpTvs%252FTsmiMth8jQ%253D&orig_cvip=true&rt=nc& trksid=p2047675.12557)

1955 cover to France, with Alavoine's handwriting and backstamped Philatelist

<http://www.auspostalhistory.com/articles/337.php>

RABAT, FRENCH MOROCCO from CABRAMATTA, N.S.W. REGISTERED LETTER

Voir au dos = see on the back

<http://search.catholiccemeteries.org.au/default.aspx>

Alavoine	Lucien Prosper	86	05/09/1962	SEC*SELECT*K**80	Burial
Alavoine	Camille Grace	45	02/03/2012	SEC*SELECT*K**82	Crem: Rema Intern
Alavoine	Napoleon	92	06/03/2013	SEC*SELECT*K**82	Burial