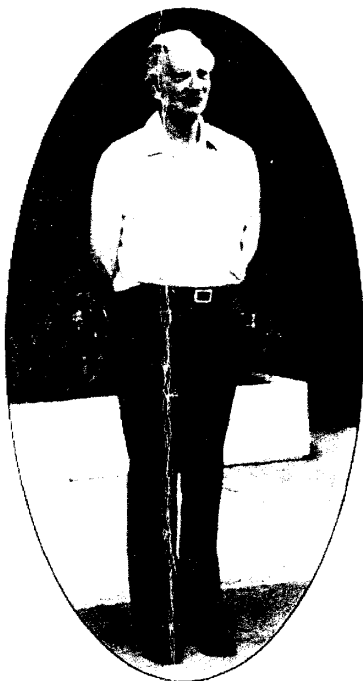


Peter John Jaffé

OAM, RDP

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Peter John Jaffé - Celebration of a Life

In a recent letter to a school friend with whom he had lost contact for many years, Peter summarized his professional achievements and personal life in Britain and later in Australia in the following extract:

I left Vickers da Costa, Stockbrokers in 1940 for the Ministry of Information and became attached to the S.O.E (Special Operations Europe) and to the Planning Committee of the Psychological Committee of S.H.A.E.F The Economist and a year, 1947-8, in the British Element, Control Commission, Germany; then at Overseas Listener Research at the BBC.

As a philatelist, I was invited to the Royal Philatelic Society, London while still at Rugby School. I became a member of the Society in 1956 and a Fellow in 1963. I was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists in 1992 at Newcastle. My traditional St Vincent collection reached the Honour class of competitive philately at Paris in 1989 and was short -listed in 1997 and 1998. St Vincent Postal History was awarded a Gold Medal in London 2000. I am a member of the British West Indies Study Circle.

In Australia I chaired for many years from 1979 the only philatelic expert committee and I have been twice President of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria.

I have published numerous philatelic articles, ran a school of philately and wrote "Cancelled by Perkins Bacon" on the Rowland Hill presentation stamps of 1861, of which my collection is second only to H. M. The Queen. May I remind you that the Lord Mayor London, Lowson, was a philatelist of distinction who included a stamp collection in the annual accounts of a SE listed company.

I married Patricia Willis Andrew on 31 May 1951 at St Paul's, Wimbledon Park. We have both been awarded the medal of the Order of Australia (OAM), she for Anglican Marriage Guidance and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme voluntary work of 29 and 26 years, I for services to philately. We have two sons and two daughters, all married, and nine grandchildren.

Peter Jaffé was elected a Member of The Stock Exchange of Melbourne in 1960 and joined the staff at Wm. Noall & Son in the mid 1960's where his immediate responsibility was to develop the firm's research publications. For someone who had only spent a short time in Australia he brought to this task an incredible knowledge of Australian companies acquired from reading the many volumes of the Stock Exchange Statistical Service during his time with the weekly Financial Review. He followed the precedent of the cowboy and indian films of the thirties where the good wore white hats and the bad black; dubious company directors were therefore black hatted gentlemen. He rarely got it wrong, producing high standard reports which always gave the reader some new insight but never gilded the lily as the "bright readable stuff" (Peter's own phrase) of others sometimes did. Peter had an established list of clients and proved to be a shrewd judge of the market, a careful and thoughtful investment adviser.

Peter's great contribution was to make us think about how we should operate and how we assessed investment opportunities. He convinced us to have regular partners' meetings and, as a result, the management of the firm became more defined. His views were challenging as he often saw things in a different light and while it was not always easy to follow his train of thought, we all got better at this over time. He wrote a daily A4 sheet - a report on the state of the economy, or a report on a company or investment - which was always read with interest. He encouraged us to read The Economist, the Financial Times, and the Investor's Chronicle - all London publications which he regarded highly. His filing system defeated everyone else in the office - today's papers sat on top of yesterday's with an uneaten lunch occasionally sandwiched in between. Yet he never failed to find the right paper amongst what was a mess to the rest of us! It was always hard to believe that this was the desk of a renowned philatelist. Peter spend many a lunchtime at the auction rooms looking for a good buy and often returned with an excellent bargain which was shown to those interested. Peter was a great asset to Wm Noalls. His endearing eccentricity and wonderful wit made him a special person.

Richard Noall, Wm. Noall & Son

Peter was senior to most of his partners who as juniors regarded him with respect, even with some awe. Widely experienced and well connected, his command of the language, diction and manner of expression never failed to impress, even if at times his assessments, Cassandra like, often found themselves above the immediate acceptance of the ordinary client. Like Alan Greenspan, when Peter found himself readily understood and followed, he wondered whether he had expressed himself too pointedly rather than abide by his high advisory standards of never imposing and always leaving the final decisions to the client. His professionalism never faltered. Occasionally it was tempered by the informality of his footwear when he brought to the City traces of the orchard where he loved to spend his life.

Herbert Baer, Wm. Noall & Son

Peter was always polite and courteous to everyone. The firm held a number of Partners v Staff cricket matches and included in one of these days was a 100 yard dash. Peter surprised everyone, winning by a considerable margin even though he was much older than the other runners who had fancied their chances.

Al Keam, Wm. Noall & Son

Peter Jaffé was a valued friend, colleague and client to our small advisory group within Bell Potter Securities Limited and to the firm at large.

Peter's weekly visits to the office, usually on a Thursday to coincide with his regular lunch at the Melbourne Club ... "What did you have for lunch today Mr Jaffé" Margo would ask when he returned "Tripe!" How was it? "Awful!" was the usual reply ... were always a pleasure and added an extra dimension to our usual working day. Peter's intelligence, discretion, unique wit and sense of humour entertained us and his experienced and often brilliant investment philosophy and decision making, coupled with his global thinking, educated us and on occasion mystified us. An added bonus was the fact that we all came to know Patricia Jaffé who was never far from his side.

Peter's long, rich and colourful life was evident when he reminisced about his days at Cambridge University ...Stuart once asked Peter what he did at Cambridge, he pondered for 30 seconds and said "I played chess & drank beer". His attendance at the first Nuremberg rally.... "Heavens Mr Jaffé how on earth did you end up there?" Margo wondered.

"I was on a motoring holiday through Germany with a pal and we took a wrong turn!"

His acquaintance with Anthony Blunt & Julian Bell at University - "They threw tomatoes at me & tried to run me down, in their car"

His membership of the Bowler Hat Club whose antics included riding in tandem up Regent Street. On occasion he continued to wear the club tie proudly into the office.

And his association and world wide standing in philately... "Why were you awarded an OAM Mr Jaffé ?? "For licking things!"

Peter was our friend and he will be very much missed, but our memory of him will be strong and cherished.

Stuart Anderson, Vern Hauser, Sam Williams, Margo Davis Woodie (deceased)

Bell Potter Securities Limited

A distinguished collector, it was in philately that Peter found most pleasure and success. Peter collected stamps from the age of seven and, almost seventy year later, saw the culmination of his achievements as a philatelist when he was invited to London to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists which, incidentally, was first established at about the same time as Peter's boyhood stamp collection. His knowledge of stamps was immeasurable and he had a visual memory to store it. From 1979 he chaired the only philatelic Expert Committee for many years. He has written many articles, published books and exhibited at national and international stamp shows with great success. His major collection was in the British West Indies and he has been described as the last of the great general collectors. He will be missed by his many collecting associates worldwide and his significant contributions as a philatelist will live on in the published records and in the memory of all those who knew him.

John Shawley, Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria

Father was a great provider to his family of opportunity in education, travel and the environment in which we grew up through the properties at Yea and Donvale, as well as the legacy of wealth he has left us. We will miss him.

A man of few words who preferred to listen and often spoke or wrote in shorthand, there was much that he never shared about his experiences. Though encouragement was not his way, the assessment of risk and the possible, even if remote, negative outcomes was his usual analytical approach to business opportunities. Although this could be frustrating it demonstrated a thought process that was thorough and unique.

His stamp collections are testimony to a mind and research ability that reached the top of the field on a world basis. The scope of his other collecting activities over a wide range of interests demonstrated the breadth in his appreciation and understanding.

The family heritage of diversity and achievement was continued by Peter and with Mother they have produced a further generation that has the opportunity to make the most of their lives and contribute to society.

John Jaffé

Peter always struck me as a man of great depth with a wealth of knowledge on many subjects. I feel proud of his achievements and proud to be his daughter-in law. He obviously cared for and thought a lot about his family and I appreciated his diplomatic approach whenever he expressed concerns. A quiet, gentle man, with a soft tender side.

Vivianne Jaffé

It was really great playing Grandpa in Chess. I had lots of fun looking at all of his stamps. I will remember him forever and ever.

Peter Jaffé

I liked how interesting Grandpa was and all his spy stuff. He liked to play chess and sit by the fire with Zulu at his feet.

Jane Jaffé

Grandpa walked with a stick and watched television sitting by the fire.

Patrick Jaffé

Peter **Jaffé** early life remains a mystery to me other than the occasional glimpse into his boyhood -- a brave scramble up a cliff in Jersey to rescue a much loved family dog (modestly ascribing his own part in the mission to a 'family member') -- and veiled references to special war connections.

My own childhood memories of family life with him are vivid. He had a general distain for all sporting achievement despite his great talent as a sprinter which John and I only realized when to our amazement and pride we watched him will the staff sprint at the Win. Noall annual cricket match; we learnt to respect his sprinting skills when we dashed to avoid a threatened beating. The flow of his verbal skills was unpredictable: sometimes bubbly, with wicked ditties and elliptical references, and at other times full of long and intriguing silences which sustained the stories recounted to favoured friends at meals. Silent communion is one of his legacies, and, for me, a part of him which lives on. Silences remind me of him: the intense silence when engaging him in chess, the silent concentration as he peered at his stamps, a piece of silver, a miniature, or the Stock Market screen. Perhaps his pleasure in silent pursuits explains why music was largely absent from his life, although he preferred not to acquire a record player believing that records would soon become obsolete. A dog quietly scratching, its brow knitted, affirmed my father's belief that it was deep in silent thought.

Living in comparative countryside at Donvale and later at Lilydale, he was not enthusiastic about farm work although I recall him dealing with a butting billy goat, and once a 5-year-old pressured him into catching a truculent Shetland pony. He did, however, like 'burning off' (especially gorse) and sometimes the stumps of pine trees would burn alarmingly for days on end. Never much interested in cars or machinery, I remember a folk song event he was persuaded to hold in the packing shed at Donvale when, in charge of the parking arrangements, he directed the cars to back into the dam. He preferred the company of animals to hunting them and his use of the rifle at home was occasional but sometimes dramatic - he once fired a

round of bullets in the direction of an unexplained bonfire at the bottom of the orchard when there was an escaped criminal alert. More often though his fireworks were verbal. When asked by an official from the Water and Rivers Commission why he wanted permission to put in a large dam at Yea, he said it was to breed fresh water mermaids even though it was the risk of bushfires and lack of water reserves that concerned him. Permission was not granted but five small darns were put in, and the dream of vineyards at Yea was postponed for many years. He deplored waste whether it was a light left on or a superfluous log on the tire. Likewise, he claimed that a good driver never needed to use his brakes even though this ran quite counter to his nervousness as a passenger.

My father was a natural conservative it amused him hugely to hear recounted the story of a captain of industry who, on reading his incisive analysis of the company's annual report, demanded to know "Who is this Peter Jaffé, a communist?". He valued and respected tradition, be it Royal, the Wind-in-the-Willows community of convivial male company at the Members' table or the stockbroker's office or his own family history. Aschrott family wine, bottles of which were invariably left half finished like an offering to ancestors, was a vital affirmation of his family's achievements in the 19th century and a reminder that this highly Anglicized family had German roots. His pleasure last Christmas as he watched the Indian trail of grandchildren pass his window on an expedition to build a tree but is a lasting memory and reminder of his great affection for family and his Jaffé lineage - as are the demonstrative hugs he always gave us on departures from Heatherlie, anxious events which always disturbed him and sometimes overshadowed the pleasures of our arrivals.

As a collector, he admired rare and beautiful objects but deplored extravagance and ostentation, once remarking that neither he nor his brother were "snappy dressers". He believed the contents of a house should always exceed by a multiple its value. He was prudent with acquisitions for his collections too, never quite buying the upside down Western Australian swan stamp which he always yearned for or the most famous pair of Smart miniatures which had also eluded his father's collection. He had an elephantine memory for an object's sale history (as he did for a company director's performance) and cheque book collecting was frowned upon in favour of clever discoveries. He was always happy to answer questions about his collecting and my sister Kate recalls with pride the fascinating talk on collecting that he gave to a group of her friends. He was most tender and generous with his grandchildren whether playing chess, introducing them to the joys and perils of the stock market or the mysteries of his stamp collections.

An Eeyore by nature, even he must have been surprised to outlive all his youngest siblings by a substantial margin, reaching his ninety second year thanks to the devotion and care of his adored wife, Patricia.

David Jaffé, Elizabeth Stephen, Nick Jaffé, Sam Jaffé