



# Capital Philately



Journal of the Philatelic Society of Canberra



**The Philatelic Society of Canberra Inc.**

**(founded 1932)**

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Canberra 2601

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## CAPITAL PHILATELY

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### EDITORIAL

Do you read APF news? It is produced quarterly by the Australian Philatelic Federation and is available free to any interested collector. It is an excellent source of information to current activities in Australian philately.

The current number contains a short article by Derek Pocock that outlines the results of a postal questionnaire distributed by the APF and completed by 69 philatelists. The sample was selected to target a random list of 100 'serious collectors'. The salient features to emerge from an analysis of the replies was that the sample started to collect as nine year olds. This was followed by a period of between 5 and 25 years when interest in stamp collecting waned, with a renewal of activity peaking in the age category of those in their late twenties. Over half of the sample belonged to between two and five clubs with a significant number maintaining a membership of more than ten.

The survey is of importance as it focussed attention upon serious collectors. The aim was to obtain information on the 'ideal' collector. This could then be used to target publicity to those who could be regarded as including philately as a key leisure activity.

The results match the perception of the membership of our own Society. Indeed, it would be rare to find active members who had not collected as youngsters. This year the Society has re-activated its earlier endeavours at providing facilities for the 8-12 year olds. Those associated with the junior club will confirm the almost unbounded enthusiasm of the junior members. The need is to encourage the return of those juniors to the hobby in later years. The problem is how to do this. There is little doubt that out in the larger Australian population that are many collectors who are not involved in any way with organised philately. These collectors are happy to buy material from Australia

Post and from stamp dealers but are not attracted to join with fellow enthusiasts to gain the fullest benefit and enjoyment from their hobby.

Over the years the Society has made many attempts to encourage these lone collectors to join the Society. Among the methods tried have been wide advertising at the biennial conventions, offers of free introductory membership, special afternoon meetings for those in the older age groups, workshops to demonstrate philatelic activities, auctions open to non-members and, more recently, the Tuggeranong Stamp Club. The latter meets monthly and is aimed at the adult collector but with an emphasis on obtaining and exchanging stamps in an informal atmosphere. This is purposefully aimed to provide an easy introduction to the more specialised aspects of the hobby. A meeting for collectors rather than for the more serious philatelist. All of these approaches have been successfully in attracting a trickle of new members but fall far short of providing a universal answer.

The article by Derek Pocock is commended in that it draws attention to the major need if Society memberships are to increase. October of this year will see the introduction, by Australia Post, of a month of activities focussed on the hobby. This initiative is to be applauded and represents a return to the publicity afforded by the National Stamp weeks that were a feature of the 1980s. Much of the activity will be aimed at the young collector, with the Stamp Gang well to the fore. It is equally important that attention is also given to lapsed junior collectors in order to encourage the return of adult collectors to the hobby. It is the Society's intention to participate in Stamp Month and attention will be given to the older collector. If you have any views on how we can best undertake this task the Council of the Society would be pleased to hear.

Whatever your view on this topic make sure you obtain a copy APF News. It is well produced, informative and free!

### **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR PHILATELIC EXHIBITORS**

The National Association for Philatelic Exhibitors (NAPE) is an unusual organisation in that it lacks many of the normal officers, for instance a President, that are traditional for the administration of a society. The key that unites the membership is its journal, *The Australian Exhibitor*, first published in January 1988. The early enthusiasm for NAPE has, over the last couple of years or so, declined. At the Brisbane Show last year the members who attended resolved to continue with the Association.

The editorship of the journal has now passed to Ed Druce. A new format has been adopted and the first number of *The Australian Exhibitor* under the new editor appeared in February. It is thoroughly recommended to those who exhibit or judge, or who are thinking of doing either.

The subscription for 1993 is \$20.00. Payments can be sent to The Secretary, NAPE, PO Box 437, Dubbo, NSW 2830. Members of the Society can obtain further details from either Ed Druce or Dingle Smith.



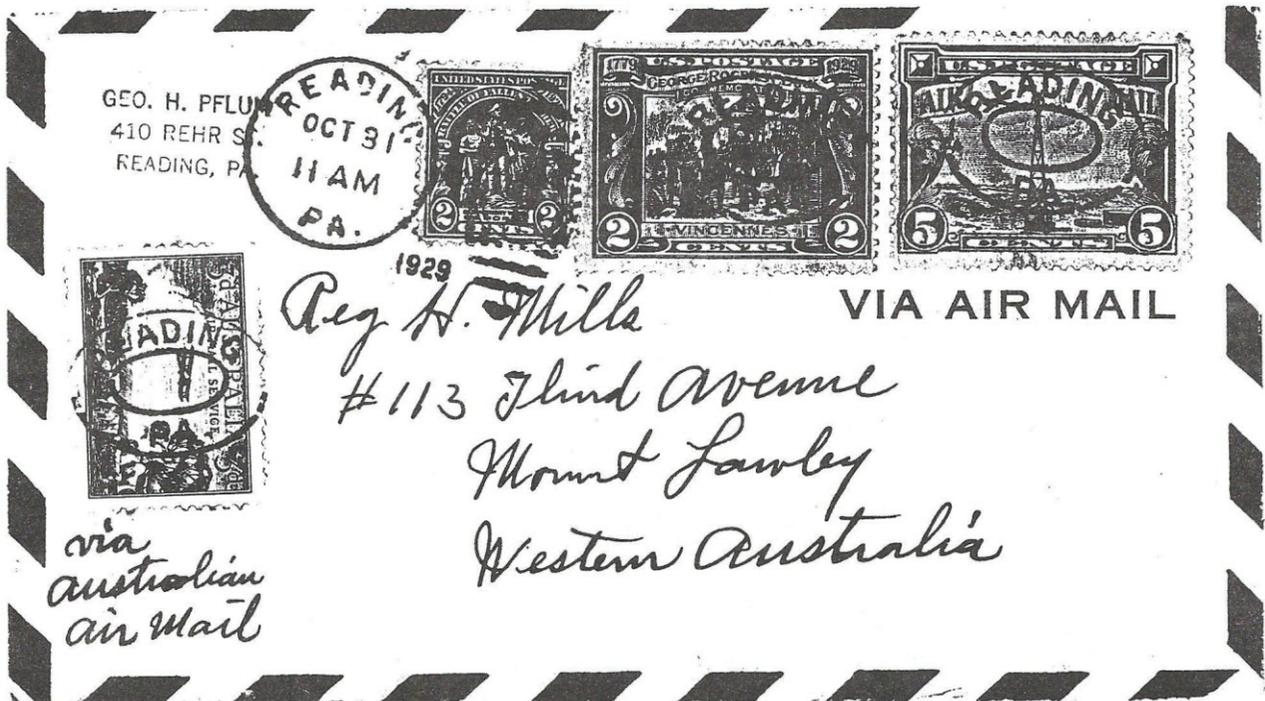
## **THE AUSTRALIAN EXHIBITOR**

**AMERICAN-AUSTRALIAN COMBINATION AIR MAIL COVERS**

Chris Dalton

Arrangements between the Australian and American postal authorities permitted a letter posted in one country to be carried by air in the second country and the air mail surcharge to be prepaid at the time of posting in the stamps of the second country. This arrangement subsisted between 1924 and 1931. Richard Breckon has written about covers sent from both Australia and Papua New Guinea to America, to be carried by air in America, with the air mail surcharge pre-paid in American stamps.

Illustrated below is a 1931 cover which has travelled in the opposite direction. It has a 1929 3d green Australian air mail stamp cancelled at its point of posting; Reading, Pennsylvania. It prepaid the Australian air mail surcharge for a half-ounce letter. Australian air mail required, until 1959, subject to a few limited exceptions, the payment of a surcharge, otherwise it would travel by surface mail.



Surface postage from America to Australia was 4c and the surcharge for carriage of the letter by air within America was 5c. As can be seen, these amounts were pre-paid in American stamps. The cover was posted at Reading and, most likely, travelled the short distance to Philadelphia where it joined one of America's major transcontinental air mail trunk routes: contract air mail route no.34 between New York and San Francisco. After being carried by ship to Sydney, it would have travelled by rail to Adelaide, (the Cootamundra - Adelaide air service had to ceased to operate in June 1930), and then by Adelaide Airways Ltd to its destination in Perth.

How did a 3d Australian air mail stamp come to be applied to a letter posted in America? Papers in the Australian Archives provide one possible answer. Both the High Commissioner's Office, London and the Official Secretary, New York were asked by cablegram, sent on 16 May 1929 by the Postmaster General's Department, to promote philatelic sales of the 3d green air mail stamp. The full text of the request reads:

*'Postmaster General has arranged for issue of Air Mail Service Stamp for air routes within Australia. Printing by steel engraved process unwatermarked paper colour mid-green, subject of design - pastoral scene, value threepence, will be on sale principal post offices Australia 20th May, 1929. Supplies available Postmaster-General's Department, Melbourne. Give publicity to stamp for philatelic reasons. Stamp cannot be used in prepayment of surcharge on correspondence from other countries, such prepayment must be made in the stamps of the country of origin.'*

You will note the statement of prohibition on the stamp being used for the pre-payment of the air mail surcharge on correspondence from other countries. This was, of course, inconsistent with the arrangements referred to in the opening paragraph above.

On 17 May 1929 the Official Secretary in the USA requested 1500 air mail stamps, with the Trade Commissioner requesting on 22 May 350 stamps. The Archives' file is silent as to the outcome of the first request but the second request was filled and the stamps despatched to the Trade Commissioner shortly after it was received. The file does not indicate whether further supplies of the stamp were forwarded to New York.

Reading is about 170km south west of New York. One may speculate that Mr Pflum, the sender of the cover, may have obtained the Australian air mail stamp from the Australian Consulate in New York. A more philatelic answer is that perhaps an Australian correspondent supplied the stamp.

Unfortunately, there is no absolute evidence that the cover was carried by air within Australia. It is not backstamped. The practice at the time was for air mail to be backstamped at the office of receipt. Notwithstanding this, the 'via Australian Air Mail' annotation has not been crossed out. If the cover was forwarded entirely by surface mail within Australia, one would expect the air mail annotation to have been crossed out in accordance with current practice by the mail sorter. Despite the uncertainty the cover is an illustration of a legitimate dual franking.

**References**

Breckon, R. 1987 Australian-American Combination Air Mail Covers, *The Australian Philatelist*, Sep/Oct, v.1, n.1, p.72.  
Item S314/3, Series A458, Australian Archives, Canberra.



**WAPEX 93**  
**GOLD CENTENARY STAMP SHOW**  
**FREMANTLE**



**22 - 26 September 1993**

**AN EXTRACT FROM THE DYNAMIC ROOTS OF POSTAL HISTORY: NO. 2  
REFERENCE AND IMPLICATION: EGYTIAN DAY-BOOK 2300 B.C.**

The late Alan Tippet

As one reads classical or biblical history he often comes across words and phrases which suddenly assume the excitement of a new discovery - and a philatelic discovery at that. The word or the idiom implies an institution or pattern of social organization from which it came, just as the word 'postman' to us implies a postal system which employed him. We take the system for granted, yet in reality it may be more complex than the postman. A visitor from outer space might ask, 'Postman; what's that?' or 'Who is he?'

The other day I came across a reference to an ancient Egyptian papyrus (identified by a British Museum number). It is said to date thirteen centuries B.C., which takes us back a long time before the days of either Greece or Rome as we know them in history. As an artifact it implies a number of cultural processes at work - the art of writing and reading, the existence of material on which to write and the instruments with which to write, and so on - all of them precursors of my philatelic hobby. But more than all this the papyrus turned out to be a kind of diary or 'day book' of an Egyptian official [implying an administrative system] keeping his eye on people going and coming between Egypt and what we now call Palestine. He was located on the frontier [implying political entities].

This official kept a daily record of persons crossing the border and why they did so. The surviving document covers the first month of summer for that particular year. Let me mention a few of the entries:

1. Baaliti, son of Zeper of Gaza, crossed the border with two letters, one for Khay, Commander of the Occupation Troops, and the other for Baalat-Reneg, Prince of Tyre [military and diplomatic mail].
2. The Commanders of the Unit of Bowmen, located at the well station in the desert highlands went by to inspect a fortress on the border and to make a report on it [military despatch].
3. A letter-carrier, Thudey, son of Thakaram of Gaza, Methedet, son of Shembaal and Suketshm, son of Sperdegel went by with a letter and some gifts for the Royal Residence from a Commander of the Occupation Troops [indicating a military administration].
4. Another letter-carrier, Nakhtamun, son of Thara of Merneptah-hotep-her-msat, the Fortress, had two letters for Palestine, one for Paaremhab, the Commander of Occupation troops and the other for Ramsese, the Town Steward. Pamerkheteni, son of Ani, of the same Fortress also went by. He was the Overseer of the Stables [indicating a horse transport system] and carried two letters one for the Commander of Troops and the other for his Deputy in the place where the King was.
5. There also went up to Palestine a Chariot Driver, Inwan, from the Great Stable of Biure-Merramum,

This description of persons, places, occupations, of going and coming, shows the existence of a highly developed system of communication across the border under a military occupation. Here we have a postal system at work as part of Pharaoh's palace

administration. It was for his own and the national use and for those in the system. There was a kind of 'Post Master General', known as the Overseer of the Letter-writing of the Great House, who was responsible for both the letter-writing and the system of couriers. Here was an efficient administration, not a message system of wild tribes. Letters were written in ink on papyrus and sealed with the Royal Cartouche (Cipher), which I illustrate: 'The Seal of Merneptah'. The fact that the texts of some of the official letters from about 2300 B.C. have survived indicates that there must have been some kind of filing system.

It is amazing how much one can learn about the system when he focuses on the key words - letter, letter-carrier, 'Overseer of Letter-writing' and so on. There must have been many other things - some kind of census, maps for going and coming and patterns for recording where people dwelt. When we think of the recent history of the Middle East and its relation to stamp collections of modern Palestine with its record of military occupations we see that truly 'there is nothing new under the sun' as an old writer in Palestine put it centuries ago. Only the papyrus and seal have been modified.

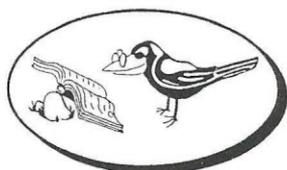
**AUSTRALIAN PICTORIAL POSTMARKS 1992**  
**A.E.ORCHARD, MAGPIE PUBLICATIONS**

This specialised catalogue of Australian pictorial and commemorative postmarks is the most recent in a series that began in 1987. Each of the 133 commemorative postmarks produced by Australia Post in 1992 are illustrated together with details of the date of issue, post office and topic. These are also illustrations and details of new 'permanent pictorial' postmarks as well as nine 'semi-official commemorative postmarks'. The latter were used at overseas stamp fairs and exhibitions. Finally, there is an update to additional postmarks and information from earlier years. There are also indexes to post offices of issue and to topic - the latter of special interest to thematic collectors. Details of the postmarks include descriptions of differing styles of lettering etc. It is becoming increasingly common for Australia Post to use a machine cancel for philatelic orders and a handstruck cancel for use at post office counters.

The 81-page publication follows the Magpie Publication tradition of a high standard of production combined with a relatively low price. The cost is \$15.00; postage is included in the price for delivery to Australian addresses, overseas purchasers should add \$2.00 for surface mail delivery.

This number of *Capital Philately* contains a flier listing the titles available from Magpie Publications. Members have the advantage of being able to order directly from Tony Orchard. He would also be pleased to hear of omissions or updates to this, and the earlier, catalogues of pictorial postmarks.

Dingle Smith



Australian

Pictorial

Postmarks

## PREPAID POSTPAK PADDED ENVELOPES

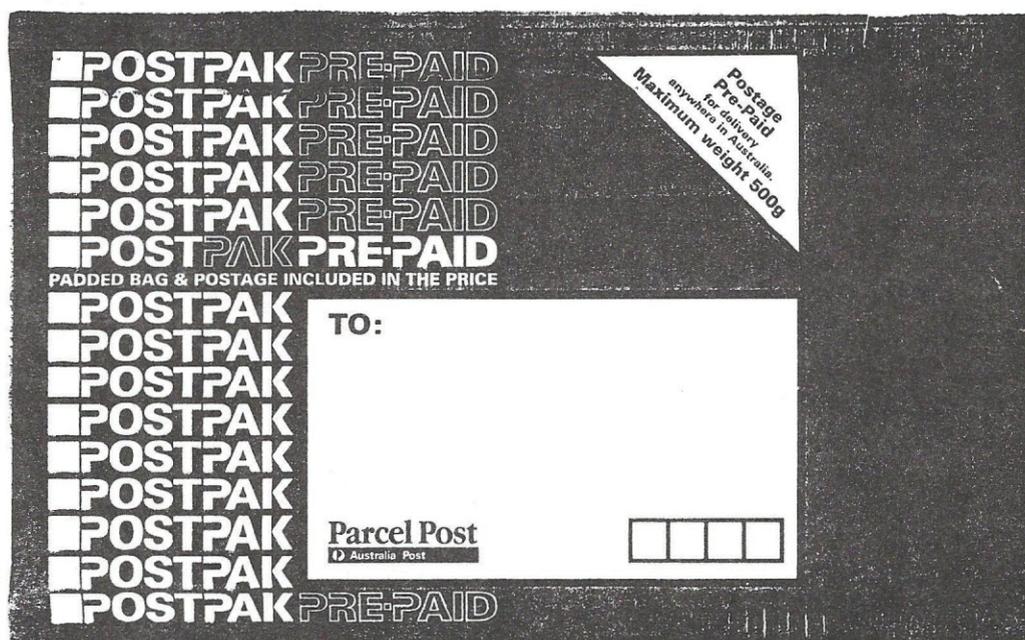
Ian McMahon

Just in time for Christmas 1992, Australia Post issued a range of prepaid 'POSTPAK' padded envelopes to add to its range of prepaid products which now includes envelopes, 'Postpak' boxes, express post envelopes and satchels, courier satchels and aerogrammes.

The padded envelopes, illustrated below, were issued in three sizes: 225 mm x 167 mm ('Size 1'), 275 mm x 230 mm ('Size 2') and 395 mm x 285 mm ('Size 5') and are sold for \$2.25, \$2.65 and \$3.35 respectively. The price covers the cost of the envelope itself as well as that of posting it to any destination in Australia by surface mail, provided that the envelope's weight does not exceed 500g.

The padded envelopes are printed in red and black. The 'stamp area' is inscribed 'Postage Pre-Paid for delivery anywhere in Australia. Maximum weight 500g'. The front of the box includes the text 'Postpak pre-paid', postcode squares and the parcel post logo. A barcode and the conditions of use of the envelopes are printed on the reverse.

Similar prepaid padded bags were issued by New Zealand in 1990. They are known as 'Handibags' and were issued in five sizes. The stamp area features a stylised map of New Zealand and is inscribed 'Post Paid'. The cost of the bags include the cost of postage to any New Zealand destination. A similar product, known as a 'Mail Pack', was issued by the United Kingdom on 27 October 1992. These bore the usual British non-denominational postal stationery stamps for either first or second class mail.



**NEW SOUTH WALES REVENUES: PART 3  
THE SECOND ISSUE OF DUTY STAMPS TO 1875**

Dingle Smith

Part 2, in vol.10, no.4 (p 57-62) described the high denominations of the first issue of July 1865. These were designed and printed in the colony but were always intended as a stop-gap until dies, plates and watermarked paper could be obtained from the United Kingdom. These were supplied by De La Rue & Co of London and became the second issue of duty stamps, the 'long' revenues which continued in use until about 1909. On September 25 1866 the Government Printer, Mr. Richards, informed the Treasury that the new plates and associated materials had arrived and, that once the colours for the various values had been agreed, the stamps could be printed for issue. On the November 7, Mr Richards wrote again to the Treasury and enclosed:

*'a specimen sheet of each of the new Duty Stamp plates recently arrived from England [followed by a list of the 18 denominations] ... As I shall be prepared by the 1st December next to supply stamps printed from the plates, I enclose a notice for publication in the Gazette and newspapers'*

A copy of the announcement dated the 8th November 1866 is given below.

The Treasury, New South Wales,  
8th November, 1866.

ADHESIVE DUTY STAMPS.

A NEW set of Plates, for Adhesive Duty Stamps of the undermentioned denominations, having been received from England, notice is hereby given, that Stamps printed therefrom will be issued on and after the 1st December next, viz. :—

	COLORS.
Four-pence .....	} Blue and purple.
Six-pence .....	
Eight-pence .....	
One shilling .....	} Dark brown and purple.
One shilling and six-pence ...	
Two shillings .....	} Ita. brown and purple.
Two shillings and six-pence ...	
Three shillings.....	
Four shillings .....	} Green and purple.
Five shillings .....	
Six shillings .....	
Seven shillings.....	
Eight shillings.....	} Carmine and purple.
Nine shillings .....	
Ten shillings .....	
Twelve shillings and six-pence	} Carmine and purple.
Fifteen shillings .....	
One pound .....	

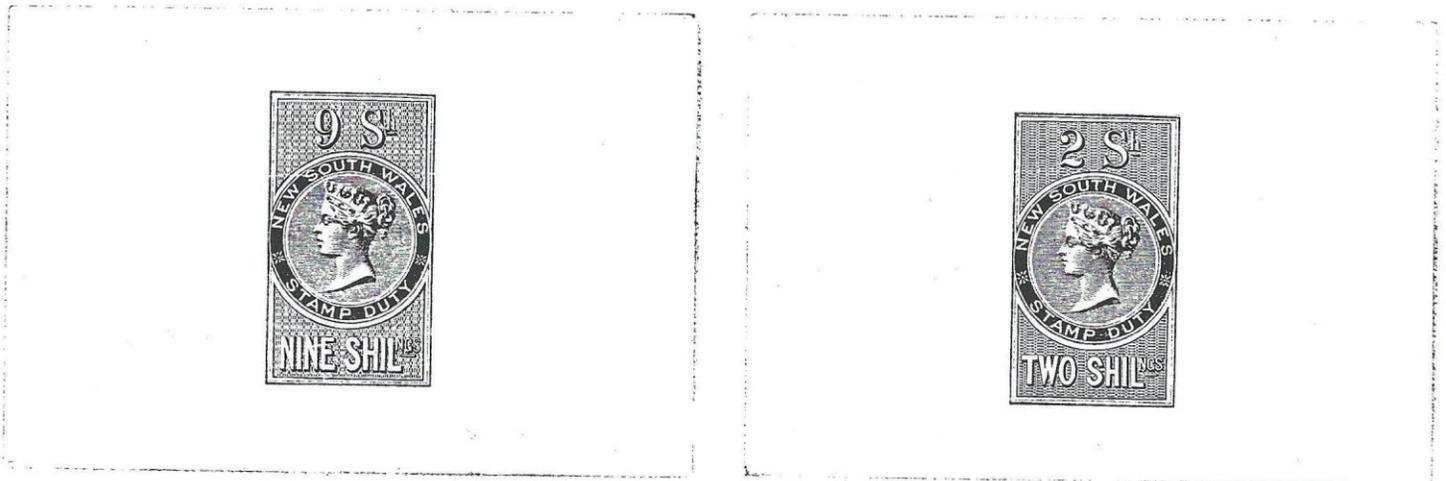
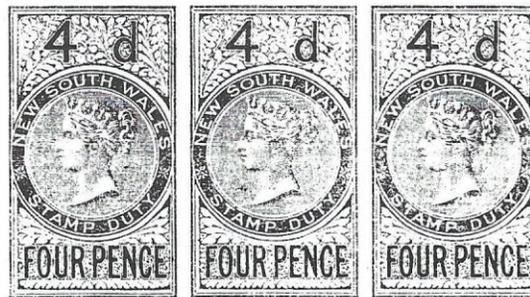
GEOFFREY EAGAR.

The stamps were printed on blued paper and watermarked 'NSW' (Type 1). This style of watermark continued until late 1874. In late 1872 the 'long' revenues (with the exception of the 12/6 and 15/- values) were produced on white paper. Throughout the period 1866 to 1875 the perforation remained unchanged at 12.5, 13. The Stamp Duty Act did not operate from January 1 1875 until June 30 1880 and therefore no stamp duty adhesives were produced.

**Proofs and Specimens**

The first issue of the 'long' revenues consisted of 18 values (see the list above), these ranged from 4d to £1. A page from the De La Rue records, dated March 1866, illustrated on the following page, shows an example of each of the denominations. For each, the Queen's head and the outer frame of each stamp, printed from the key plate, are in purple with differing colours for the remainder of the design. The background design is different for each of the denominations and was printed from the 'denomination' plate. The NSW government retained purple for the key plate but changed the colour for all values, except for the 4d, for the rest of the design.

Die proofs of individual values on glazed white card are known, as are multiple plate proofs on blue imperforate gummed paper, watermarked with 'NSW'(Type 1). Examples are illustrated below. All the examples that I have seen of both types of proof are in unissued colours. The source is unknown, they could have come from either the De La Rue or NSW Government sources, more likely from the former.



**Plate proofs on blue imperforate, gummed and watermarked paper. Die proofs on glazed white card in unissued colours (below)**

New South Wales

Mar. 1886. 4<sup>d</sup>  
 Plates supplied 6<sup>d</sup>  
 8<sup>d</sup>  
 1/16  
 2/16  
 3/16  
 4/16  
 5/16  
 6/16  
 7/16  
 8/16  
 9/16  
 10/16  
 12/16  
 15/16  
 £1.



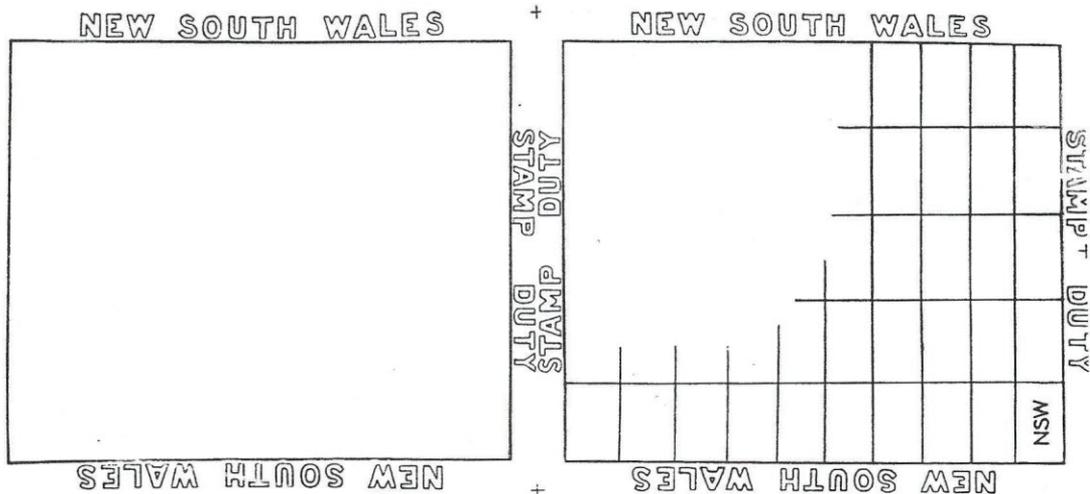
NSW in Great Britain  
 New South Wales on  
 charge.  
 $22\frac{1}{4} \times 10\frac{1}{4} = 9^A$   
 H. B. Thomas & Co.  
 Dandy

Robson Lowe (1962, p.50) lists a die proof of the outer frame and central medallion in black inscribed, 'Oct 23 1865 after hardening before striking'. From the date this is almost certainly from the De La Rue records.

It is rare to find NSW revenues, of any type, with 'specimen' overprints. Robson Lowe however, records imperforate 'long' revenues with sans serif 'specimen' overprints (13mm in length) and perforate examples with serifed capitals, again 13mm. Both styles of overprint are described as on stamps as issued, this it taken to mean in the issued colours. In addition, Robson Lowe records the 4d to 15/- denominations overprinted with blue Gothic lettering on presentation sheets with rectangular blue frame lines between the stamps. The length of this overprint is given as 25mm and overlaps the edges of individual stamps. In a later article similar presentation sheets with specimen overprints will be described for the impressed duty stamps. All of these specimens are rare, the use of issued colours confirms the origin as from NSW records.

**Format**

The long revenues were printed in sheets of 100, two panes each of 50 stamps. The format of the sheets and the watermarks, based on Bassett Hull et al (1911), are illustrated below. The key plate number, always 4, was printed in the upper left and bottom right margins of the sheet. The 'current number' is found in the lower left and upper right margins. These commenced with '1' for the 4d value and increased numerically to '18' for the £1. It is rare to find marginal copies of revenue stamps that show plate numbers or, indeed, any marginal sheet markings. This is also the case with the long revenues.



**Sheet and watermark format, after Bassett Hull et al (1911).**

The pre-1875 stamps were all perforated 12.5, 13 using single-line machines purchased in the early 1860s from the United Kingdom. The post-1880 issues are known with a very wide range of perforations, these will be outlined in a later article.

Variations and errors for the long stamps are limited. There are variations in the shades of the blue paper and in the colours for both the central medallion and the remainder of the design. On occasion, there is evidence of damage to the plates, especially in the loss of the 'points' of the background design close to the central Queen's head and of imperforate margins. The registration of the key and denomination plates is often poor

and shifts of up to 2mm are not uncommon. Similarly over-sized stamps and imperforate marginal stamps occur. Examples of these are shown on the following page.

Bassett Hull (1923) gives details of the number of printings and the total number of stamps produced for each of the denominations for the period until 1875. Small numbers of unsold stamps were destroyed after the cessation of the Stamp Duty Act. The 12/6 and 15/- values were only produced on blued paper and the 4d and 8d values on white paper were not printed after

the re-introduction of the Act in 1880. Thus any examples of the stamps on blue paper dated after January 1 1880 were purchased before 1875.



**Imperforate margins showing portion of plate number (left), centre pair also show imperforate margins, broken ornament (right).**

It is important to note that the cessation of stamp duty for the period January 1 1875 to July 1 1880 was due to the lack of an Act to extend the provision of the 'Stamp Duty Act of 1865'. Although the politicians of the day may have considered that duties had been removed for good this view was not shared by the Government Printer. In December 1877 he wrote to the Under-Secretary for Finance and Trade to suggest the safe keeping of the dies, plates and associated materials and the destruction of the stock of revenue stamps except for two sheets to be retained as samples. Bassett Hull (1923) quotes the Treasurer's minute on this letter:

*'The dies may be removed as requested to a safe secured by two separate keys, and that the stamps may be dealt with in the same way'.*

Until 1872, the 1d value continued to be printed with the original design of 1865. It was then replaced by a new design together with a range of overprinted values.

#### References

Bassett Hull, A.F. and others, 1911. *The postage stamps, envelopes, wrappers, post cards and telegraph stamps*. London: Stanley Gibbons Ltd.

Bassett Hull, A.F. 1923. Australian revenue stamps. *The Australian Philatelist*, March and June 1923.

Robson Lowe, 1962. *The encyclopaedia of British Empire postage stamps, vol. IV Australasia*. London: Robson Lowe Ltd.

To be continued.

## ADDRESS CORNERS ON POSTAGE PREPAID ENVELOPES

Ian McMahon

Although Australia ceased the practice of embossing private stationery in 1978, with the introduction of the National Parks postage prepaid envelopes in 1989 Australia Post introduced a service whereby purchasers of large quantities of envelopes could have their company name, address and logo printed in the upper right hand corner of the envelope.

A

A number of companies have taken advantage of this service which has continued into the present historic buildings pre-stamped envelopes. Unfortunately it is usually impossible to tell whether the company details on these envelopes have been printed by Australia Post or whether they have been added by the company after the purchase of regularly issued stationery.

The following list gives the names of some of the companies which appeared to have used this service. Most of the envelopes are of the DL size with a few C6 envelopes and a few of the larger sizes.

### KEY

#### National Park Envelopes

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| C1 Cradle Mt                          | C2 Cradle Mt (with postcode Boxes)         |
| C3 Cradle Mt (Recycled Paper)         |  |
| MF1 Millstream Falls                  | MF2 Millstream Falls (with postcode boxes) |
| MF3 Millstream Falls (Recycled Paper) |  |
| K1 Kosciusko NP                       | K2 Kosciusko NP (Recycled Paper)           |
| F Flinders Ranges (window envelope)   |  |
| W1 Wilson's Promontory                | W2 Wilson's Promontory (Recycled Paper)    |
| U Uluru NP                            | FR Fitzgerald River NP                     |

#### Historic Buildings Envelopes

- |                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| C Charlotte St Terrace | G Glass Terrace                    |
| R Rose Seidler         |                                    |
| H1 Home Hill           | H2 Home Hill (with postcode boxes) |
| M1 Miegunyah           |                                    |

# Konica

Incorporated in NSW

**COMPLETE BUSINESS MACHINES PTY LTD**

2 BISHOPGATE STREET, WICKHAM 2293

P.O. Box 766, Newcastle 2300

Telephone : (049) 62 3300

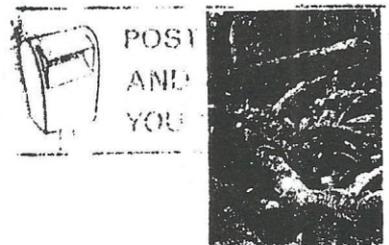


P.O. Box 54

Armidale NSW 2350



POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTRALIA



POSTAGE PAID  
AUSTRALIA

**LIST OF USERS**

AAMER Systems and Software, Fyshwick	C
Allcare Security, Adamstown	MF3
Argenton Engineering Supplies, Adamstown	K2, G
Armidale Golf Course	K2
Aspley Hotel, Walcha	C3
AT Flameproof Pty Ltd, Booleroo	C, C3, MF3
Atlas Chains, Wetherill Park	K2
Australian Racing Drivers Club	C3, MF3
Barry McKinnon and Co, Tamworth	K2
Bramco Lambton	MF3
Cessnock City Council1	K2, F
Clark and Severn Electronics, Hornsby	K2, F
Coninan Platers, Georgetown	K2
Dawson and Post Rural Merchandise	MF3
Dixontech Pty Ltd, Wickham	K2, G
Enzed Service Centre, Wickham	K2, G
GCG Turbochargers (Northern), Mayfield	K2
Haden's, Taree	R
HCB Marine, Carrington	K2, G
HCB Marine, Booleroo	K2
Hunter Screen Products, Warners Bay	G
ICI, Cardiff	K2
Investment Publications Information Services, Surry Hills	H2
Keep Sailboarding, Belmont	MF2
Konica, Wickham	K2, C3
Madison Motor Inn, Charlestown	K2, MF3
Mendes Partners, Solicitors	K1
Minproc, Nedlands	U, M1, C2, MF2
Newcastle Auto Electrics	F
Novocastrian Wholesale Liquor, Broadmeadows	K2, C, C3, MF3
Novamarine Instruments	MF3
PO Box 123 Muswellbrook	K2
Postal Manager, Armidale	K2
Saddington, Broadmeadow	K2
Sulphide Welfare Club Cooperative, Booleroo	C
Stegbar Building Products, Mt Gravatt	U
Stelform Engineering, Charlestown	K2
Roger McKinnon & Co, Tamworth	K2
TAFE Open College Network, Redfern	W2, MF3
Taroela Braford Stud, Taroom	C3
T&H Metal Products, Wickham	K2
Tim's Glass, Cardiff	K2
Tip Top, Gateshead	K2
Tudor Poker Machines	MF3
Tulk Coninan, Hexham	K2
Vales Point power Station, Mannering Park	K1
Warkworth Mining Ltd, Singleton	K2
Waterman's Paint Supplies	K2
Wickham Industries, Wickham	C3, MF3

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**POSTAL STATIONERY SNIPPETS FROM THE ARCHIVES  
PART 1: ENVELOPES AND POSTCARDS**

Ian McMahon

These snippets provide information from files in the Australian Archives in Canberra that relate to postal stationery, specifically from correspondence files from the Treasury. They contain correspondence between Treasury and the Commonwealth Stamp Printer (J.B.Cooke) and the Commonwealth Note and Stamp Printer (T.S.Harrison) and between Treasury and the Postmaster-General's Department of which Justinian Oxenham was the Secretary for most of the period covered. Part 1 relates to envelopes and postcards.

**ENVELOPES**

**Embossing machine at the Hobart GPO**

In 1913 the Postmaster-General's Department decided to dispose of the embossing machine and dies at the GPO Hobart used for embossing envelopes. On 3 November 1913 the Department wrote to the Treasury regarding their disposal. Cooke replied on 13 November 1913 suggesting that the dies be destroyed but that the embossing machine be examined to see if it could be of use to the Stamp Printing Branch. Oxenham replied on 29 April 1914 that the Government Printer in Tasmania had examined the machine and classed it as a fairly old type of cameo colour embossing machine with a value of ten pounds. The letter also enclosed the 1/2d, 1d and 2d envelope dies used in Hobart for destruction by the Stamp Printer. The machine was transferred to the Commonwealth Stamp Printer.

**Minimum order for printed to private order stationery**

In 1914 Cooke requested advice from the Postmaster-General's Department on whether the minimum number of private envelopes acceptable for impressing with stamps at the one time should be changed. The Department undertook a survey of the orders received in each state. Hobart reported that envelopes were embossed for a few firms only, Perth had in 12 years only received 5 or 6 applications for over 500 envelopes, Adelaide suggested that the minimum order be lowered from 500 to 100 and the charge set at 3d per 100 envelopes while Brisbane and Melbourne suggested that it be left at 500. Cooke recommended on 21 September 1914 that the minimum number of envelopes accepted for embossing be set at 500 at a charge of 1/-.

**Cost of embossed envelopes**

On 20 January 1922 J.Mason (Acting Secretary of the Postmaster-General's Department) queried the Stamp Printer about the high cost to the Department of stamped envelopes which were sold to the public at three for 6 1/2d. These envelopes cost the Department 12/6 per thousand. Harrison replied that the high cost of the envelopes was due to large stocks of expensive wartime paper and reduced the charge to the Postmaster-General's Department to 11/6 per thousand. Oxenham noted in his reply of 2 June 1922 that if the charge to the public for embossing was 2/3 per thousand envelopes then the cost of the envelopes was 9/3 per thousand. However he observed that similar envelopes could be purchased for 6/- per thousand.

**Cost of embossing stamps on registered envelopes for the States**

On 29 June 1910, Oxenham asked about the costs of stamping 4,250 registered envelopes similar to the sample provided which had been supplied by the Government Printer in Melbourne at £2/15/0. Cooke responded on 18 July 1910 that the cost of

embossing the envelopes was 30/-. He also quoted that in future the cost of registered envelopes would be 17/- per thousand for envelopes 4 inches by 2.5 inches, 20/- for 5 inches by 3 inches, 22/- for 5.75 inches by 3.5 inches, 32/- for 8.75 inches by 4 inches, and 33/- for 9 inches by 4 inches. These charges included the cost of the envelope, printing and the embossing of the stamp.

## POSTCARDS

### New design for postcards

On 20 July 1918 Harrison wrote, through the Secretary of the Treasury, to the Postmaster-General's Department regarding a new design for postcards. He stated that the present block was in a very worn state and that it was necessary to prepare new electros and plates. He proposed that a new design be adopted and enclosed a sample of the proposed design which he said was more effective and modern than the present design (presumably H&G 8) from blocks made in England. The sample was of the 1d George V sideface with a heading similar to South Australian postcards and with the heading 'An additional 1/2d stamp must be added if this card is addressed to any place outside Australia to which the rate for postcards is 1 1/2d'. He stated that the coat of arms on the sample would be replaced by the authorised coat of arms. He also commented on the difficulties he had in procuring postcard paper.

Oxenham replied on 24 July 1918 approving the postcard submitted provided that a vertical line was added on the address face to separate the address from the correspondence. He asked that Harrison forward the specimens of postcards in the new design (presumably H&G 9) on board manufactured by the Australian Paper Mills Co. He commented that the quality was not as good as desired but that the paper was good enough for the purpose and was of Australian manufacture.

### Postcard paper

On 24 January 1910 Cooke wrote to Treasury stating that he had 47 1/2 reams of unused Victoria postcard paper in stock, an extract from the letter is reproduced below. This paper was 30 years old but of excellent quality. It was a different shade to the existing paper but of superior quality and 'as philatelists do not collect postcards' he recommended that he be authorised to use the paper and forwarded samples together with those currently in use. Permission to use the paper was granted.

*The paper is of excellent quality, costing, I should say, quite 35/- per ream, but is not precisely the same shade of color as the cards in issue at the present time in any of the States, but seeing that the card is of superior quality to that in issue, and that the philatelists do not collect post cards, I recommend that I be authorised to use the cards when printing again*