

Capital Philately

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Stampshow 2006 Wrap-up.



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<http://www.canberrastamps.org>

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CAPITAL PHILATELY

Volume 24, Number 3.

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EDITORIAL

Well this issue sees an editors delight - we have more articles on hand than we really have space to put them! The final issue of this volume will contain some exciting things, but I shouldn't get ahead of myself...

After a successful Canberra Stampshow 2006, we have a couple of show related articles; and quite an interesting synopsis of the cinderellas issued to mark the past three exhibitons.

The second half of Robert's work on Parcel Cards is included in this issue, following on from the European Cards featured last time. There are some stunning examples of these quite rare items and well worth a closer look.

Our Pastcards contribution this time comes from avian enthusiast Ian McMahon, and takes a look at how Picture Postcards can be used as Maximum Cards as he gives an overview into Bird Families. It is a shame we are not yet up to the stage of producing *Capital Philately* in Full colour as these cards truly come to life when not reduced to monochrome.

Can you imagine what our postal system would be like if it was administered, not by Australia Post, but by two of our neighbouring countries? This is the situation for the small European country of Andorra. Only recently have their citizens been allocated postcodes to assist in directing mail, but in a curious twist, PO Box addresses have a different code to their adjoining street destinations.

I hope you enjoy the diversity in this issue and can promise more to follow next time for the conclusion of this Volume. I'd welcome any more submissions but on the whole you're a pretty quiet bunch - why not live a little and try writing an article (especially a short one as these help a great deal in preparing the layout).

Happy Collecting until next time... enjoy.

SOUVENIR ITEMS CANBERRA STAMPSHOWS 2002, 2004 & 2006.

Dingle Smith

A near-universal feature of Stampshows is the production of a variety of souvenir items. These fulfil a variety of aims and they are used to:

- advertise the shows;
- promote or commemorate special show events;
- raise funds.

Many of the items are best classified as 'cinderellas', defined as having no official status related to the carriage of mail. Others are items that have closer links to postal validity, these include overprinted miniature sheets, stamp booklets and postal stationery. It is important to note that the direct overprinting of postage stamps has always been contrary to postal regulations. The production of souvenir items is normally undertaken by the organisers of the stamp shows to which they are associated although on occasion postal authorities undertake the printing, ie. Australia Post or its forerunners.

The status of show souvenirs within philately is problematic but there is no doubt that they are collectible items albeit sought by a small but keen group of collectors. As with all collectibles the availability of listings or catalogues is an invaluable aid to collectors.

For Australia (and New Zealand) the publications of the late Robert Kennedy provide an invaluable guide to souvenir material produced by philatelic societies at Australian and New Zealand Exhibitions from Sydney 1905 to the New Plymouth Stamps and Coin Show of 1991.

Kennedy produced two such handbooks both of which were published by the Cinderella Stamp Club of Australia. These are:

Robert F. Kennedy. *Handbook of Australian & New Zealand Philatelic Exhibitions*; published as CSCA (Cinderella Stamp Club of Australia) Publication No. 3 in February 1988.

Robert F. Kennedy. *Handbook of Australian and New Zealand Philatelic Exhibitions No.2*; also published by CSCA in 1992.

The second of these publications updated the information provided in the first and also extended to the time range. For Society members it is of note that in the foreword to the his 1992 publication Kennedy commenced with the following observation:

'It seems that in 1992 Cinderellas have really come into their own, with the 7th National Philatelic Convention at Canberra on March 14/16 1992 giving greater emphasis on Cinderellas...'

Kennedy's listings are however limited to 'non-postal souvenir sheets, cards and publicity labels'. He was however, diligent in contacting the organisers of shows to confirm the details of the items included. In the case of our own Society details were provided for the 1st National Philatelic Conventions in 1980 to the Austamp 90, the 6th National Philatelic Convention.

Sadly no comprehensive published listings have been produced that update the work of Kennedy. This present account describes the souvenir material produced at the Canberra Stampshows for 2002, 2004 and 2006, these correspond to the 12th, 13th and 14th National Philatelic Conventions. There remains a need to provide similar information for the five biennial Canberra Shows between 1990 and 2000.

The souvenir material at stamp shows evolves with time. In our own case there has been a move to provide items that are more closely associated with material that has postal validity. In addition some of the souvenirs were available in strictly limited numbers and others only to subscribers to Supporter's Club at the Shows. Each of the shows in 2002, 2004 and 2004 incorporated a special auction held as part of the Awards Dinner. The majority of the items auctioned were related to the souvenir items at the show and on all three occasions these

included colour trials and related items. The details of the souvenir items and the items sold at the auction are given below.

Canberra Stampshow 2002

Two separate minisheets were overprinted as show souvenirs. The minisheets used were those issued on 3 May 2001 to commemorate the opening of the first Federal Parliament in Melbourne in May 1901, one featured a 45c stamp on silver sheet and the other a \$2.45 stamp on a gold background.

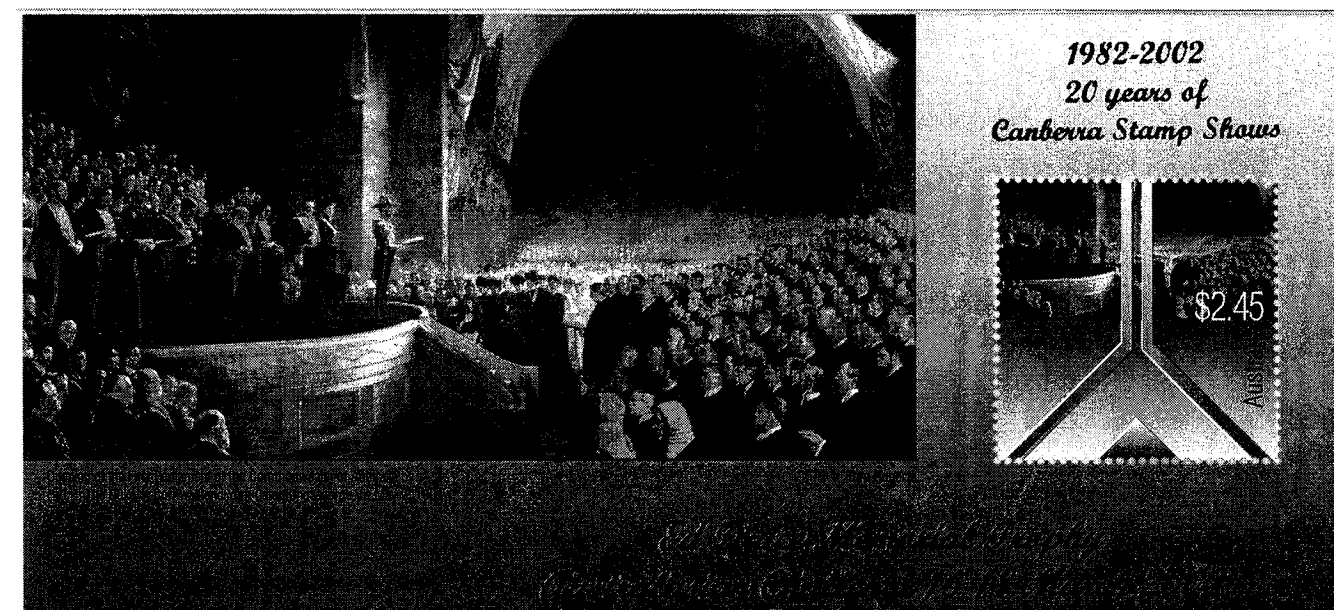


FIGURE 1 Stampshow 2002, Supporters Club \$2.45 minisheet, overprinted in red (no.2 on reverse)

The \$2.45c souvenir minisheet is shown in Figure 1. The wording commemorates 20 years of biennial Canberra Stampshows and the inaugural competition for the Australasian Challenge for which the winning team, Western Australia, received the Ed Druce Memorial Trophy. The silver sheet had the overprint in black and the \$2.45 sheet in red. One hundred copies of each sheet were produced and these were only available to those who had joined the Supporters Club for the Show. Each of the sheets was numbered 1-100 on the back of the sheet.

The colour trials that were used to decide on the appropriate colours for the two sheets were sold at the Awards Dinner auction, held on 16 March 2002. The items sold are listed below:

- 4 pairs red on silver and black on gold
- 2 pairs gold on silver and silver on gold
- 1 pair silver on silver and silver on gold
- 1 pair gold on silver and gold on gold
- 1 pair green on silver and green on gold
- 1 pair INVERTED overprint black on silver and red on gold
- 1 pair of the accepted colours but with 'Colour Trial' handstamp on reverse.

The die used for the overprint was defaced and was also included in the auction.

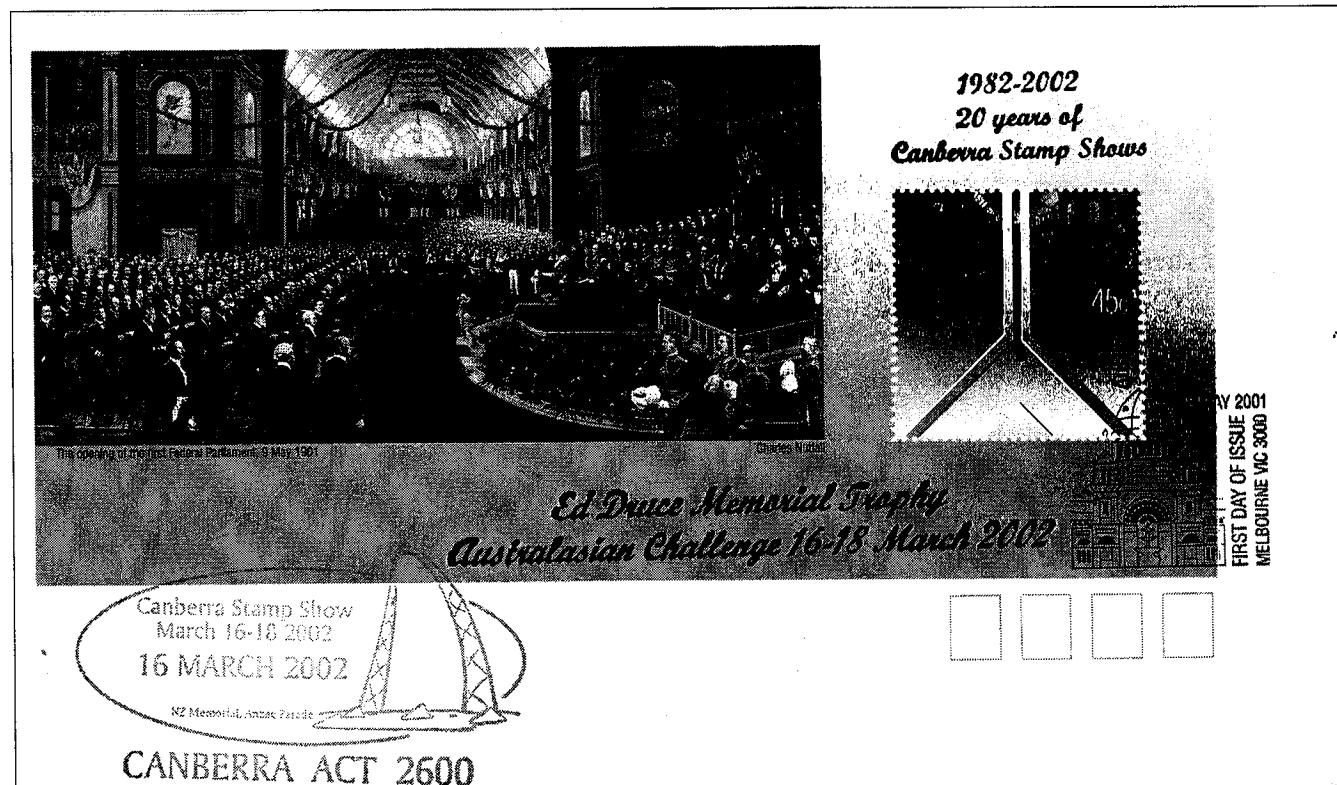


FIGURE 2 Stampshow 2002, Supporters Club 45c minisheet, overprinted in black postmarked as FDC and at Canberra Show.

In addition 11 pairs of First Day Covers of the minisheets were auctioned. These had the original First day Cancel from 3 May 2001 and also the Canberra Stampshow postmarker for 16 March 2002, the day of the auction. The 45c FDC cover with the two cancels is illustrated in Figure 2.

Canberra Stampshow 2004

The inaugural Australian Challenge in 2002 had proved to be a success and Australian Challenge 2 was staged as part of the 2004 Canberra Stampshow. Again a minisheet with an appropriate Canberra theme was selected and suitably overprinted. The sheet was the \$1.45 centenary of the establishment of the High Court of Australia. A total of 137 sets were overprinted and each numbered, these were only available to members of the Supporters Club plus one set to each of the dealers who attended the show.

The overprint is in black and the sheets numbered 1-137. In contrast to the numbering of the minisheets in 2002, those for 2004 were on the front of the sheet. These were distributed to members of the Supporters Club and plus a single sheet to each dealer who attended Canberra Stampshow 2004.

In addition to the \$1.45 overprinted minisheet, the same overprints were struck on 148 first day of issue covers of the High Court minisheet. The date of the original issue was 2 September 2003. These covers were also numbered. An example of the covers is shown in Figure 3. The winners of Australasian Challenge 2 were the team representing the ACT and this cover is signed by five of the six members of the winning team.

Again the colour trials used to select the most appropriate colours for the minisheets and for the first day covers were sold at the Awards Dinner auction held on 13 March 2004. On this occasion all of the colour trials were overprinted with the words 'Colour Trial' on the reverse.

1 minisheet in silver, 1 in gold and 1 in yellow

There were also colour trials of the overprint on the FDC.

1 in gold and 1 in green.

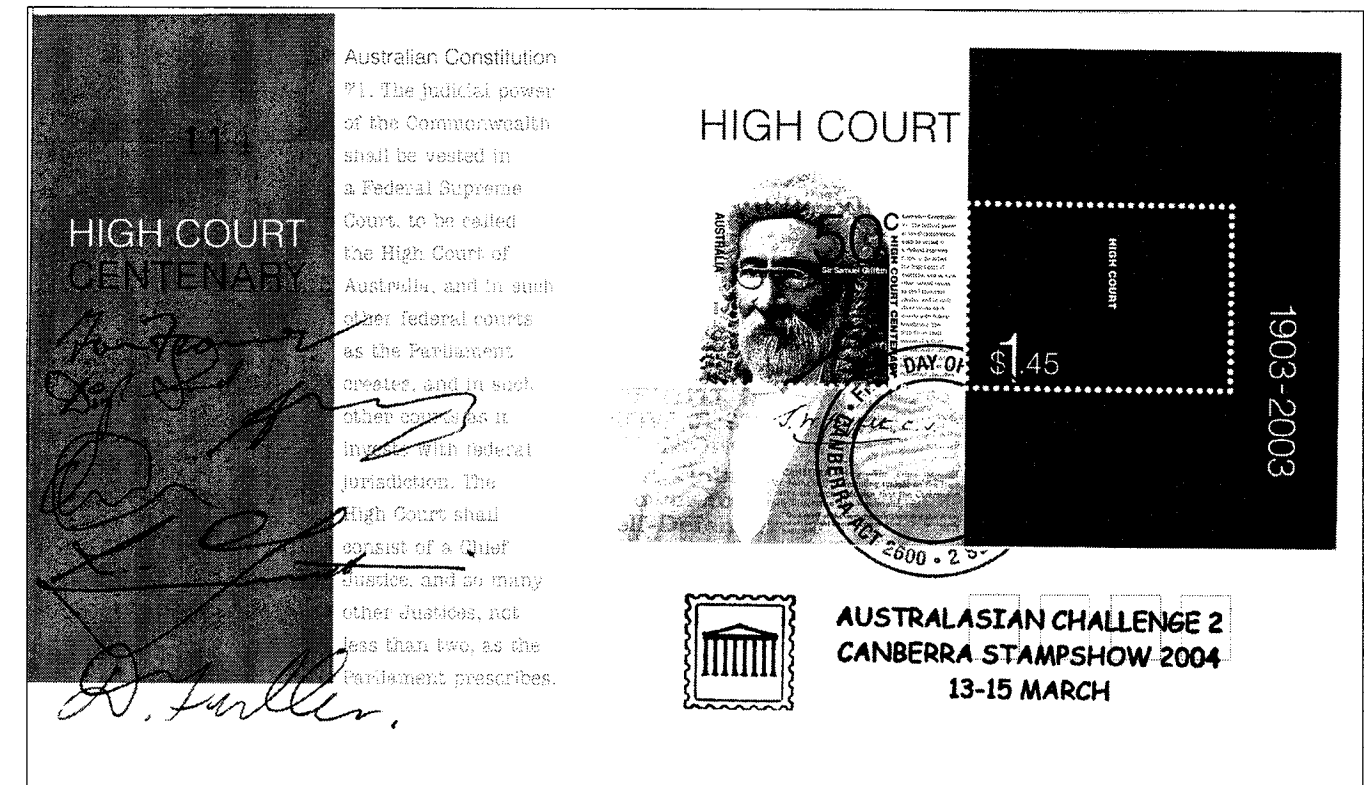
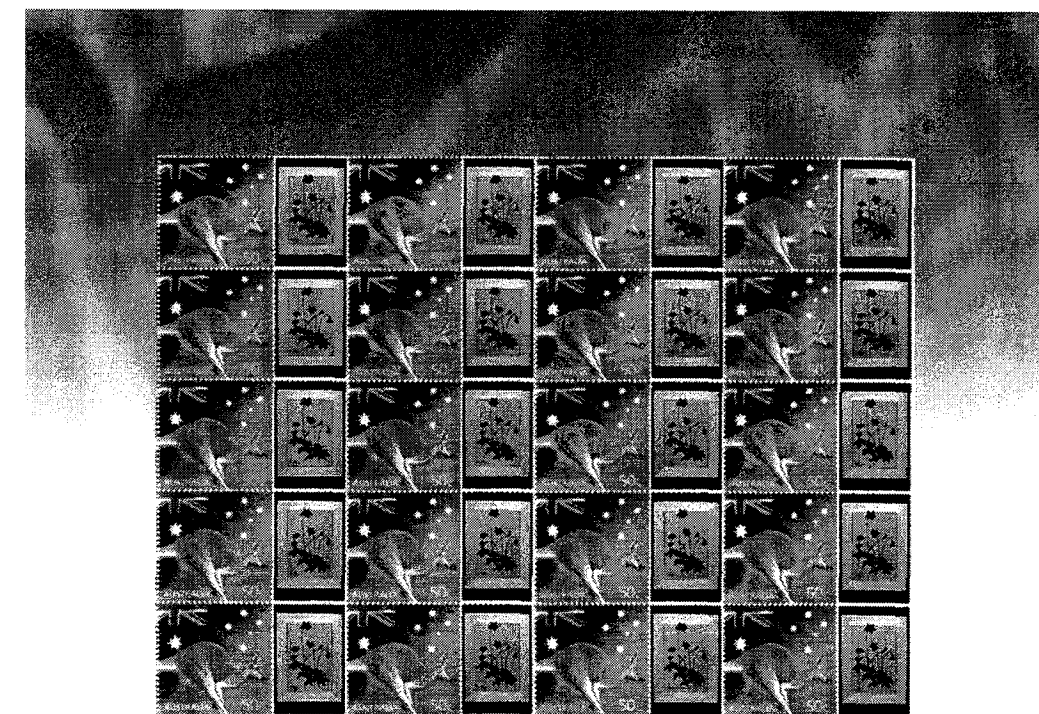


FIGURE 3 Stampshow 2004, Supporters Club \$1.45 minisheet, overprinted in black, postmarked as FDC, no. 114 on front and signed by five members of the winning Challenge 2 team.

Australia Post P-Sheets were also available at the show. There were two styles:

1. One featured a globe with Australia and the tab with the Show logo.
2. The other with the kangaroo and flag with the tab showing the Ed Druce Memorial Trophy.



A total of 68 of each of these P-Sheets overprinted in red were produced. These were numbered 1-68.

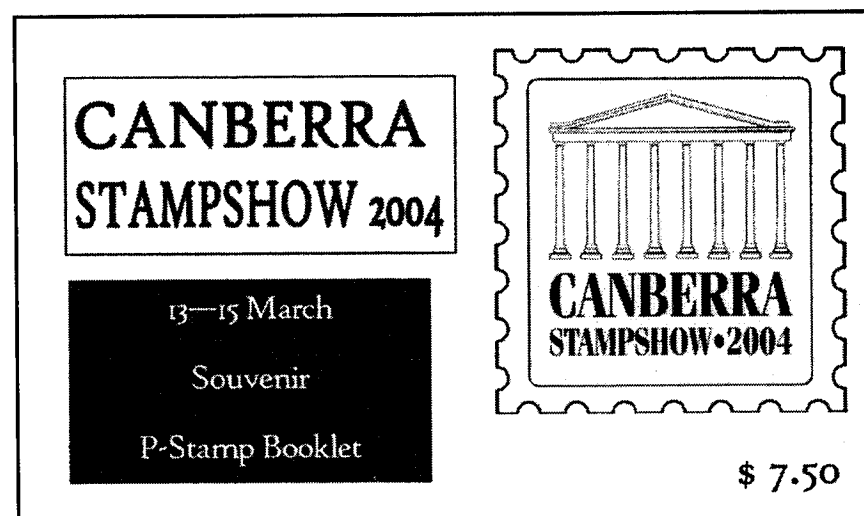
The colour trials for these sold at the auction were:

1 with the overprint in white on P-Sheet Style 1.

1 with the overprint in white on the P-Sheet Style 2.

1 with the overprint in gold on P-Sheet Style 1

1 with the overprint in red on Style 2.



Canberra Stampshow 2006

The major souvenir items were again based on overprinted minisheets, P-Sheets and stamp booklets. There were two different mini-sheets and these were only available to Supporters Club members plus one set to each dealer who attended the show. The minisheets were those issued for the Commonwealth Games held in Brisbane in 1982 and for Melbourne Commonwealth Games of 2006. Indeed, the Games were in progress during the three days of the Canberra Show. The inscription overprinted on the minisheets commemorates Australasian Challenge 3, this time won by the team representing North Island New Zealand. A total of 130 of each of the overprinted sheets was produced and these were numbered on the front. Examples of the sheets are shown in Figure 4.

The Melbourne 2006 Commonwealth Games P-Sheet was only available for purchase at the Games in Melbourne. However, Australia Post kindly allowed the Society to purchase 500 of these sheets on which they printed the Show logo on the tab of each of the nine stamps. Half of these, numbered 1-250, were left as complete



FIGURE 4 Stampshow 2006, Supporter's Club, miniature sheets for Commonwealth Games 1982 and Melbourne 2006 overprinted in black, matched pair no. 100.



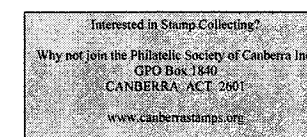
A third series of souvenir item were available, these consisted of stamp booklets of which there were two distinct types. One contained four stamps from the P-Sheet that featured the globe with the Show logo on the tab and the other stamps from the flag and kangaroo sheet with the tab illustrating the Ed Druce Memorial Trophy. About 150 of these were produced, they were not numbered.

sheets and were available for purchase at the Show or subsequently by mail. An example is shown in Figure 5.

The un-numbered P-Sheets were used to make up special Show booklets. Each booklet contains four 50c cent stamps together with the tabs featuring the Show logo. A total of 450 booklets were made up although these did not have numbers printed on them. When the booklets were originally planned it was on the assumption that each P-Sheet would contain 10 individual stamps and tabs. However, for the first time the format of the P-Sheets for the Commonwealth Games consisted of a 3 x 3 format. Thus there is considerable variety in the layout of the stamps and tabs in the



FIGURE 5 Stampshow 2006, Commonwealth Games P-Sheet with Canberra Stampshow tab, no. 29 of 150.



P-STAMP BOOKLET



\$7.50

FIGURE 6 Stampshow 2006, The P-Stamp booklet, containing 4 P-sheet stamps, this format is a block of four with right hand selvage. Closed booklet shown above.



booklets. Some have a margin to the left, others to the right and yet others are made up of two pairs with the margins to the top or bottom of the panes or to the left or right of the stamp margins. The example illustrated in Figure 6 has a block of four with the margin to the right. The sales of the booklets were without any reference to these differences so that for the future booklet specialists they offer an interesting collecting challenge!

There was a completely separate, and especially handsome, windowed booklet, that contains the miniature 'Treasures

of the Archive' sheet based on the 20/- 'Carrington' NSW stamp, originally produced as a part of the world's first commemorative stamp series in 1888. This is illustrated in **Figure 7**. The face value for this sheet, which is commercially valid, is \$5.00. A hundred of these booklets were produced and they were sold out by the time the Show opened!

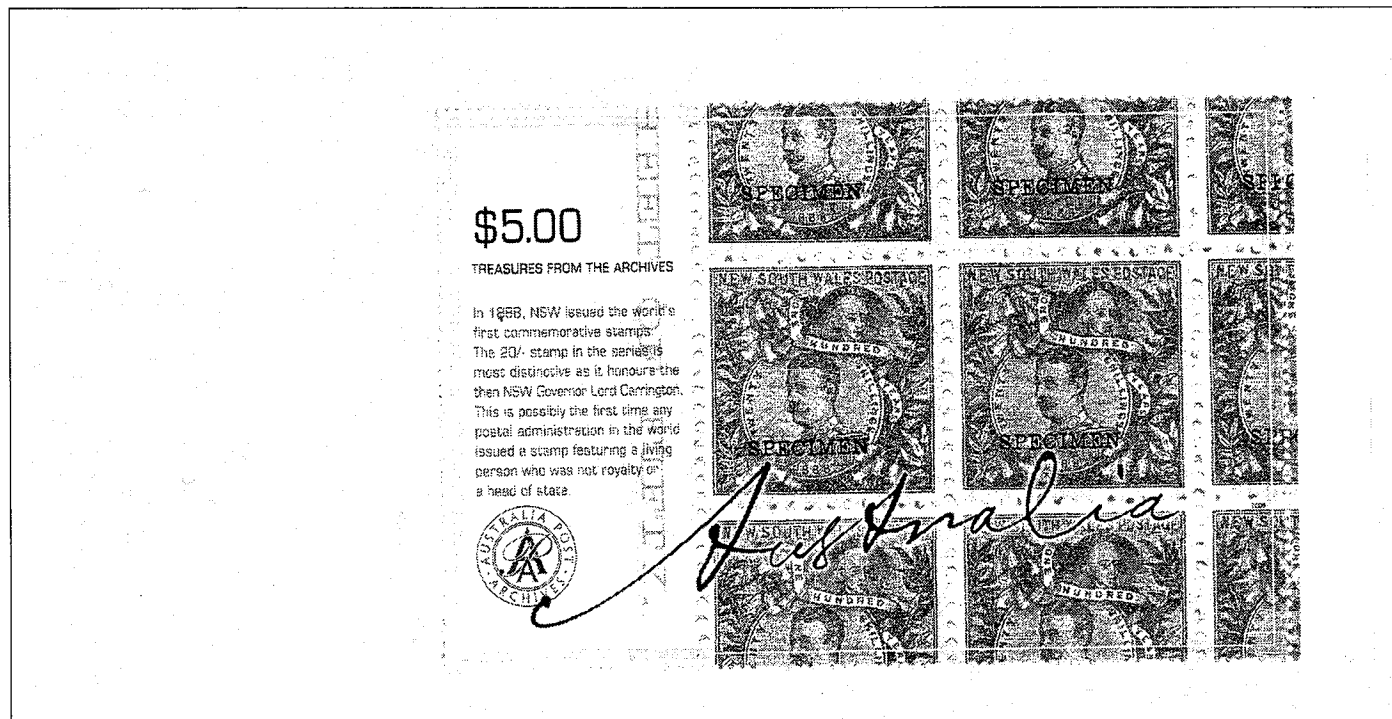


FIGURE 7 Stampshow 2006, *The Treasures of the Archive Booklet*, 95 of 100.

The auction, again held at the Awards Dinner, contained the now well-established range of colour trials plus a limited range of other items. One of these was a Commonwealth Games P-Sheet with the tab left completely blank. This was a genuine error on the part of Australia Post and the item was tucked away in our order of 500 hundred P-Sheets with all of the others having the show logo printed on the tab.

Other auction lots comprised one sheet each of the P-Sheets donated by Australia Post to each of the winning team members of Australasian Challenge 1 in 2002 and Challenge 2 in 2004. These P-Sheets had a tab showing members of the winning team (Western Australia in 2002 and the ACT in 2004) with the Ed Druce trophy. Each of these had a printing of only 8 of which 6 went to team members and the remaining two to the Philatelic Society of Canberra (the auction lots were from these archives).

The Commonwealth Games P-Sheet with the Canberra Stampshow logo on the tab and with the number 1 was also included in the auction.

As with the previous auctions a variety of colour trials of the special overprinted miniature sheets included in the Supporters packs were also auctioned. These were all numbered '0' and sold as matching pairs and included the following:

- 1 pair in gold
- 1 pair in green
- 1 pair in red
- 1 pair in silver.

In addition the no.1 of the two special overprinted miniature sheets and the no.1 of the P-sheet booklet were also auctioned.

The booklet section of the auction comprised no. 1 of the Treasures of the Archives show booklet and three separate trial booklet covers including those with a transparent cover and transparent window neither of which were adopted for the final version.

In addition to the auction a limited number of overprinted 1982 Commonwealth Games miniature sheets were available for sale. These included sheets numbered 133-138 which were surplus to the 102 numbered sheets distributed to members of the Supporter's Club and the 30 distributed to the dealers attending the Show.

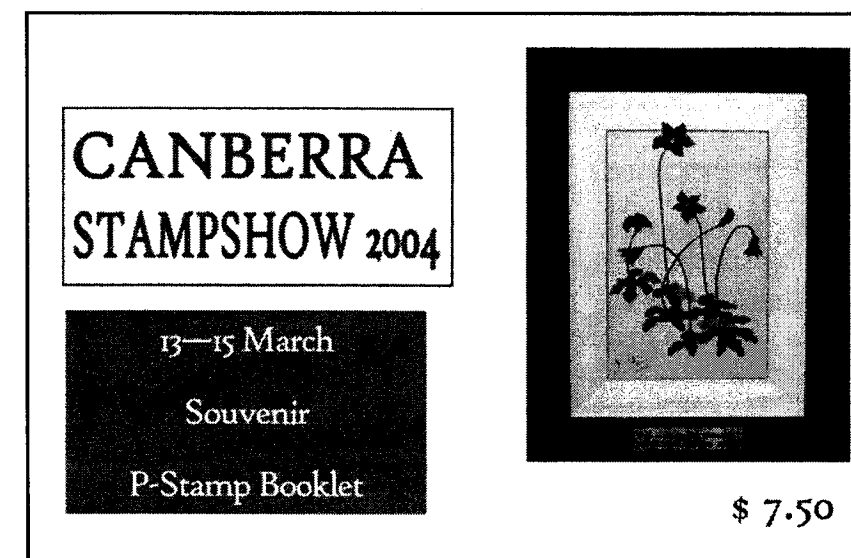
Conclusion

The souvenir items available at the Canberra Shows of 2002, 2004 and 2006 continued the high standard established by the Society at earlier events. In common with other Australian and New Zealand shows of recent years several of the items were only available to members of the Supporter's Club, and in 2004 and 2006, to dealers attending the event. Interest in such souvenir items is confirmed in that many of the items were traded at the events for prices that exceeded the cost of the subscription to become a Supporter!

The other feature of these shows has been the auction of 'trial' and other special souvenir items at the Awards Dinner. The winning bids for individual lots were frequently well in excess of \$100. The proceeds have been of major benefit to the Society in furthering its philatelic aims and in providing a major biennial event in the National Capital over many years. The support of trade members attending the Shows and in purchasing many of the auction lots is greatly appreciated. Special and continuing thanks are also due to Charles Leski who has acted as the Honorary Auctioneer at all three of the Awards Dinner auctions.

It is hoped that this account of the souvenir items at the 2002, 2004 and 2006 Canberra Stampshows will be of interest to collectors of Cinderella material. Such collectors may care to note that the first of the Robert Kennedy Handbooks (published in 1988) is still available for purchase from the Cinderella Society of Australasia. Perhaps a keen Australian Cinderella collector will come forward to update these earlier listings. If that is ever the case the content of this article may be of value!

So happy Cinderella collecting!



CANBERRA STAMPSHOW 2006

Paul Barsdell

Canberra Stampshow 2006 was the 14th biennial National Philatelic Convention run by the Philatelic Society of Canberra. It featured both the Australasian Challenge 3 and the MECCA Challenge (both at national level) and a range of State classes, a dealers' bourse, children's activities, various meetings and two dinners.

The ACT entered the Australasian Challenge 3 as the defending champion, after winning the Ed Druce Memorial Trophy in Australasian Challenge 2 in 2004. However, it was edged into third place by North Island New Zealand and NSW in a very close finish with only seven points separating the three top teams.

North Island New Zealand has, at last, won the Australasian Challenge, having been runner-up in the previous two Australasian Challenges in 2002 and 2004. North Island will take the Ed Druce Memorial Trophy across the Tasman and will defend its title at the Australasian Challenge 4 at Tarapex 2008 in New Plymouth, N.Z.

The Middle East Challenge came to a conclusion at Stampshow. It was won by Gary Watson with his *Attempting to create order from chaos: the aerogrammes of Eastern Arabia*. MECCA participants and other members of the philatelic fraternity celebrated the conclusion of the Challenge at the MECCA Dinner (sub-titled the Faux Palmares) on the Sunday night. Guests were treated to a beguiling demonstration of belly dancing and other entertainment organised by Bernie Beston, who also carried out the task of Master of Ceremonies in his inimitable style.

Gary Brown was awarded the best entry in the show with his *Aden Postal History to 1906* and Graham Englefield won the best entry in the state-level classes with *From SY 'Aurora' to RSV 'Aurora Australis'* (polar class).

A total of 344 frames of exhibits (more than 5,500 sheets) were on display at Stampshow. The exhibition included much fine material in both the national and state classes. It was gratifying to see many people among the frames looking at the exhibits.

Stampshow also hosted 30 local, national and overseas dealers who were buying and selling philatelic material. This number of dealers was able to provide a diversity of material to cater for the wide range of collecting interests among visitors to the exhibition.

Australia Post was present selling their philatelic material, including that relating to the Commonwealth Games. It also produced a special postmarker for each day of Stampshow. One postmarker depicted a camel to represent the Middle East Challenge; another the Canberra Bluebell to represent the Australasian Challenge, as the Canberra Bluebell is the image on the perpetual trophy as well as being the ACT's floral emblem; and the third with a racing bicycle to reflect the commencement of the Commonwealth Games.

A small room next to the main Olympus Room was set aside for a range of children's activities. As in previous stampshows, the highlight was a children's auction on the Monday where there was vigorous bidding for the donated lots, tempered only by upper limits to prevent bidding from getting out of hand. All children attending the show received a show bag.

Meetings of specialist groups, which were open to all interested collectors, were held on the Saturday and Sunday, including a Judges' Critique session and a NAPE meeting. The meetings gave collectors an opportunity to discuss mutual philatelic interests with other collectors from around Australia.

There was a good attendance on the Saturday but the number of visitors on the other two days was a little disappointing. The philatelic cause was probably not helped by superb weather which made the many outdoor activities of the Celebrate Canberra Festival attractive to residents. We still attracted many visitors from around Australia and some from overseas. Some of these have been coming regularly to the Canberra biennial exhibitions since they were started in 1980. The wife of an Adelaide collector won the main door prize of a used copy of the 5/- Sydney Harbour Bridge stamp, kindly donated by Richard Juzwin.

The Awards' Dinner on the Saturday evening was once again held at the Hellenic Club, at which all results were announced and medals and special prizes presented. Auctioneer Charles Leski auctioned a range of scarce and unique items relating to Stampshow souvenirs, for which there was spirited bidding.

A number of souvenirs was available at the show. The 100 Treasures of the Archive Booklets were very popular and sold out just after the show began. There are still Commonwealth Games Logo P-stamp booklets and sheets, as well as exhibition covers available. Details are on the APF website (www.apf.org.au). There are also a few Commonwealth Games miniature sheets comprising the 1982 and 2006 sheets numbered and overprinted, which were included in Supporters' Club packs.

The Hellenic Club of Canberra is an ideal venue for a philatelic exhibition of this size. It is a comfortable size with a pleasant environment, air-conditioned, carpeted throughout and has four eating/drinking areas. There is ample free car parking available next to the Club over the long weekend. It is also close to a bus interchange and a major shopping complex. It is rated as Canberra's premier club.

Planning is already underway for the next Stampshow 15-17 March 2008 at the same venue. It will feature a half national exhibition with the following classes: postal history, aerophilately, astrophilately, revenues, social, open, maximaphily, literature, polar and first day covers. The remaining national classes will be available in a half national exhibition in Brisbane in August 2008.

We look forward to meeting all our friends from interstate and overseas in two years time.

WHAT IS THE STAMP TRADER LIST?

Peter Kunz

Do you have an email address and are you interested in swapping stamps with people around the world? If so the Stamp Trader List site on the internet may be the place for you.

The list contains the names and email addresses of stamp collectors who wish to establish connections and trade stamps with other people. The stamp trader list is very extensive and the site organisers (based in Denmark) estimated that there were circa 2,700 listings from 98 countries in 2002. The list would have grown extensively since then. Of the listees in 2002 the top ten places of location of the listees was USA, Canada, Spain, Netherlands, Denmark, England, Australia, Italy, India and Belgium.

A typical entry from a member would be as follows:

Name: Smith, John

Email: (provided by listee)

Location: Canberra, Australia

Offer: Used Australia, New Zealand

Want: Used, Great Britain, Ukraine, Netherlands, Malaysia, Nepal, Ecuador. TOPICAL Dogs, Rabbits, Space.

Note: I prefer to trade 1:1 in packets of 50 or 100 stamps. I use the Stanley Gibbons and Michel catalogues.

Societies: Philatelic Society of Canberra.

The list seems to have a high number of worldwide collectors or those who collect many countries or themes. Stamp dealers are not accepted for listing and although it is possible to state that you would buy or trade material, the emphasis is definitely on trading. Listees vary from beginners to specialist, however most of the members could be called intermediate collectors, who collect and swap stamps for the fun of it.

Contacting a member is simple. It is just a matter of clicking on the name of the listee (names are in alphabetical order of the listees second name) and email contact is established. I haven't joined up with the list yet, however just browsing through the 30 files of names is fascinating and a tonic for those who think philately may be on the wane in the internet age. On the contrary, such a meeting place for collectors has only been possible through the invention of the internet and email.

The list can be accessed at www.stamptraderlist.dk/, or type in 'stamp trader list' on Google.

MORE ON PARCEL CARDS

Robert A. M. Gregson

As noted in my previous article in the last issue of Capital Philately, parcel cards can be complicated and very informative, but need some decipherment. These cards raised some interest and some questions at a Society meeting, so I will try to address points here, with further examples.

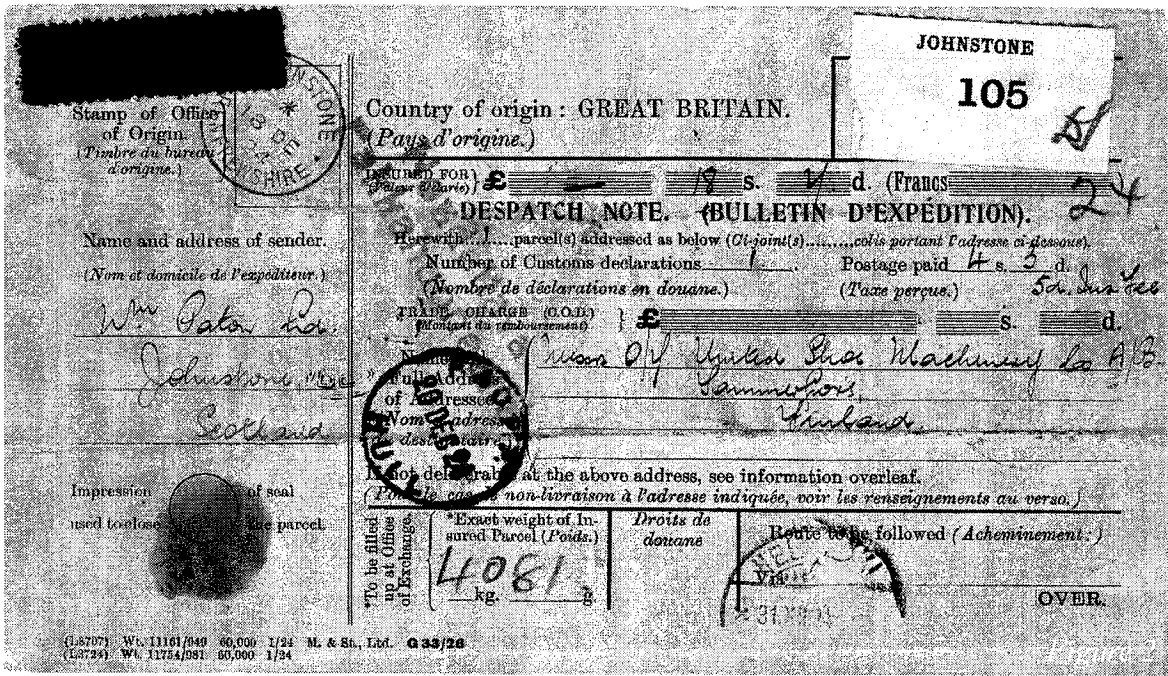
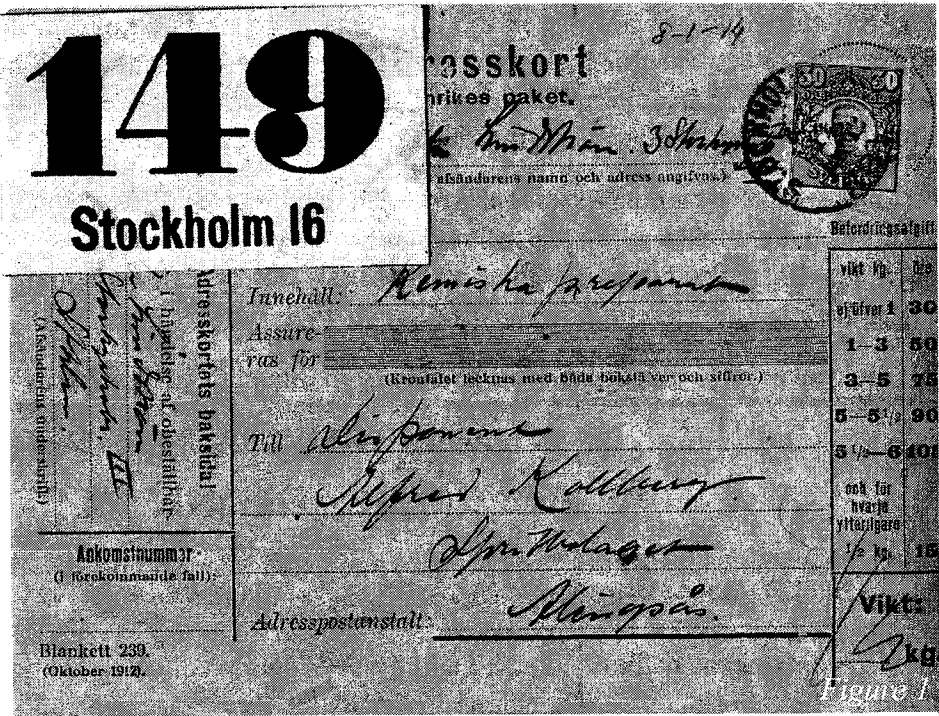
The layout of labels on a parcel card is significant. The label usually stuck at the top, that has a big number and a place name, is put on at the start of the parcel's journey. It shows where it started, and the number is duplicated on the parcel itself.

The corresponding label to be stuck on the actual parcel is supposed to be bigger than that stuck on the card. Sometimes they get mixed up. For example, here is an inland card, **Figure 1**, used at Stockholm 16 office (at Drottninggatan in the middle of the city) in 1914 to send a small pharmaceutical package. Probably the actual package was too small to support the big label?

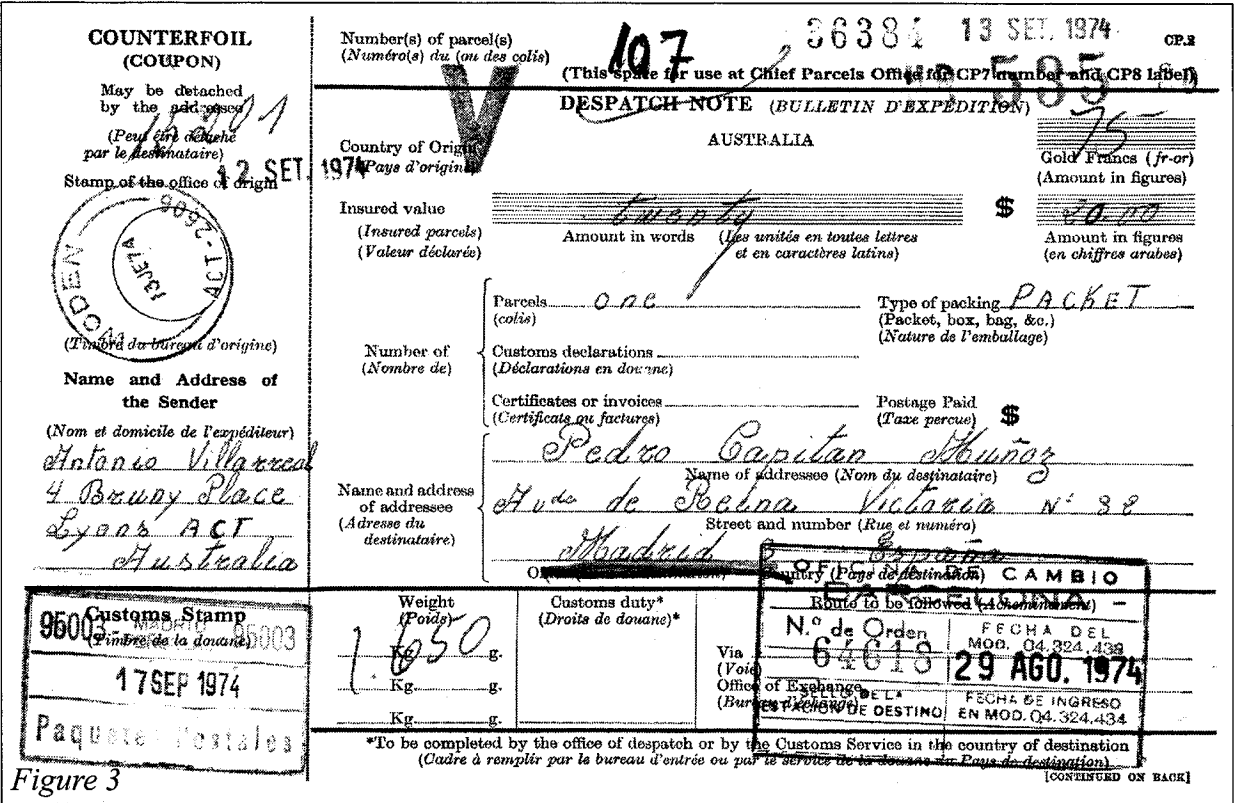
The story of what could be sent as a parcel, and how it was or is charged, is very complicated. Between 1886, when the first international agreements came partly into force, and 1921, when they had to be greatly revised, due to political and economic changes, there was a mixture of charges by weight, by distance, by bulk and by insured value, and by route.

Parcel cards did not come into existence out of the blue, and there were precursors for handling parcels, for example in Prussia in the 1860s a 'letter accompanying a parcel' (Paket Begleitbrief) was used and may in some cases have the label with the sending office and the packet number affixed to it. One has to read the handwritten inscription on the letter to see what it was doing, there are no special markings, and stamps were affixed to it. To those who cannot read it, it would look like an ordinary letter.

Parcel cards with printed text had actually come into use in some countries by around 1872, so the UPU regularised a practice that already existed. The substances that could or could not be sent included grape vine stock, bees, and guns of various sizes. For example, parcels from Scandinavia to England, which were limited in type by Britain until 1920, could go by various routes on land or sea, and were charged differently for different routes. Britain certainly did come to the party in the 1920s and did use what it called a dispatch note for insured parcels going overseas, the postage paid is recorded on such a note but apparently not paid in stamps. An example from Johnstone on 18 DE 24 in Renfrewshire, Scotland to Tampere in Finland in December 1924 weighing Kgs 4.081 is shown here as our first example, (**Figure 2**) postage of 4/3 and 5d insurance was paid, it is interesting that the British had to use metric weights back then, perhaps the post office clerks kept a set of conversion tables for the purpose, though the introduction of metrication dragged its feet for many years afterwards. As it was insured it received transit marks at Hull on 20 DEC 24 and at Helsinki on 31 XII 24, which is consistent with it going that part of the journey by ship, and it would have had a customs declaration accompanying it. The Paton company, the senders, had a mill making thread and shoelaces, and the parcel was consigned to a shoe machinery company in Tammerfors.



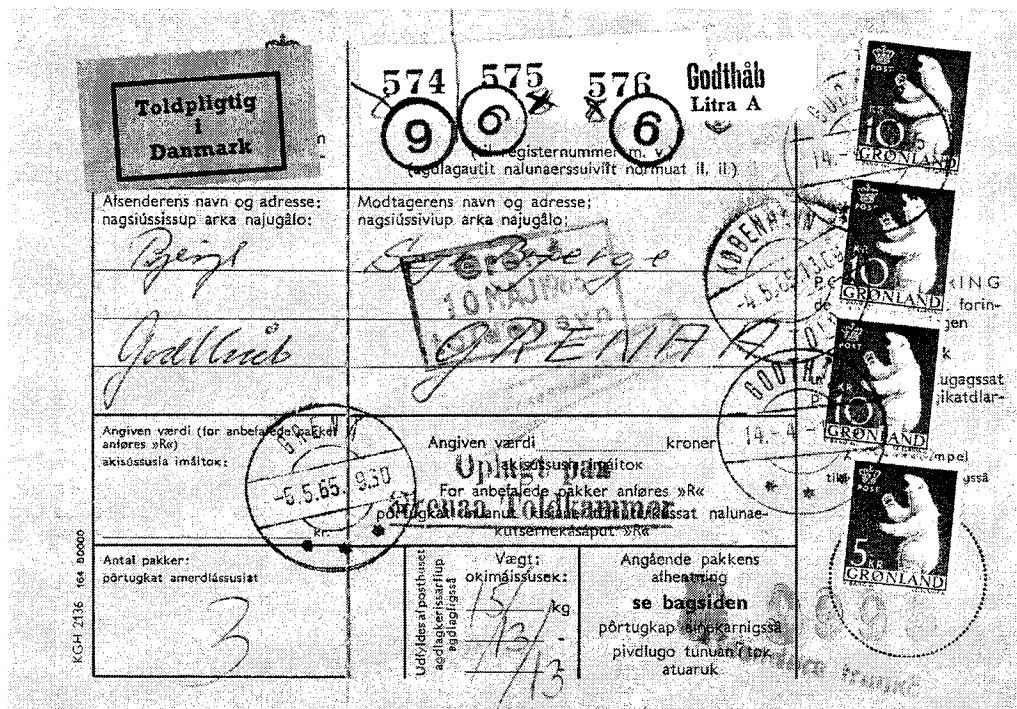
Awareness amongst philatelists that Australia is or has been part of the same system is sparse, so an example from here in the ACT to Spain, from 1974, as a reminder of the way our post office handled international insured parcels with Despatch Notes on the British model, created over half a century earlier, is timely. One parcel, weighing 1.650 Kgs, valued at \$20, was posted at Woden ACT on 13 June 1974, and entered Spain at Barcelona on 29 August 74, and arrived in Madrid on 12 Sept 74. It was cleared there by customs on 17 Sept 74. The large V was applied here in Woden and indicates insured, there is no information about the contents. **Figure 3**.



Countries that seem to have produced cards in sufficient surviving quantity to make collecting relatively practical, albeit with great patience and diligent search, include Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, Hungary, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, and Yugoslavia, and many examples to, but not from, Turkey. Countries that had had a political connection with the Austro-Hungarian Empire tended to follow Austrian postal practices. New countries, philatelically,

have introduced their own address cards, for example the Åland islands only began issuing their own stamps in 1984; and had cards in 1986.

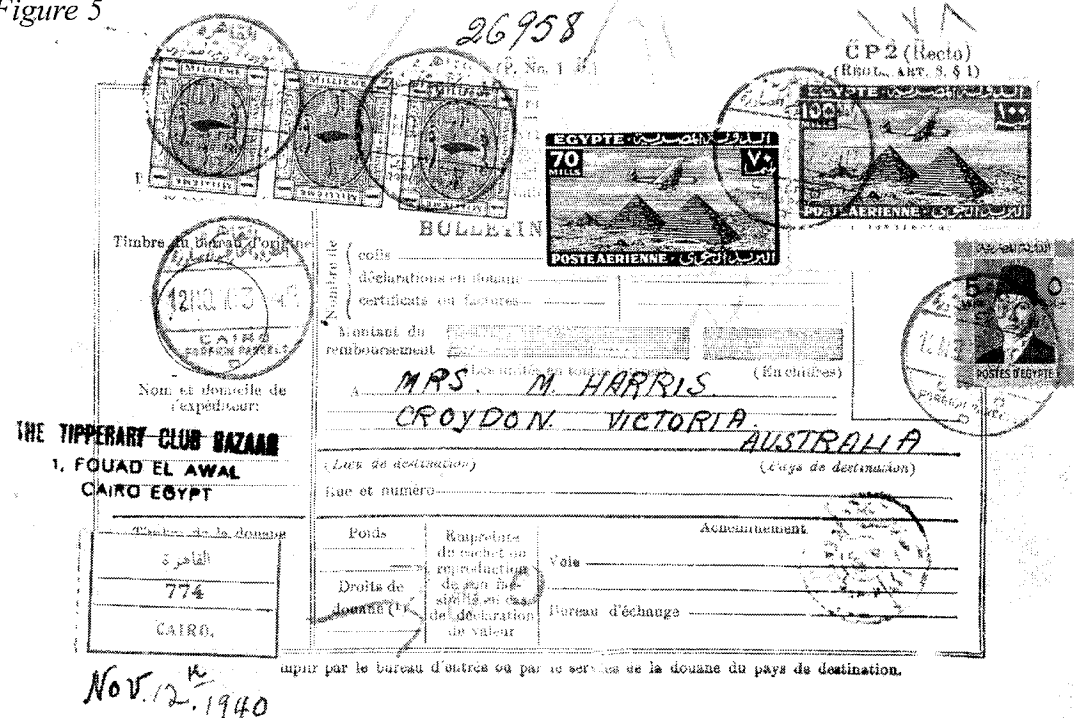
For many years, in fact from 1905 up to 1938, Greenland was only known to philatelists for its parcel post stamps used in traffic between Greenland and Denmark. These stamps are listed in detail in the Facit catalogue, postal history material from Greenland up to very recent times is scarce, but follows UPU usage now that postage stamps are used in a regular manner for letters and parcels to anywhere



Parcel card sent 4 May 1965 from GODTHÅB 14 4 65 via København 4 5 65 to Grenå, Denmark on 5 5 65. The card, **Figure 4**, was for THREE packages (574,575,576) weighing 15, 13, and 13 kilos. The card is the print edition "KGH 2136 164 50000". It is franked with the Polar Bear high denomination stamps; total face value Kr 35.

Customs ("told") markings are: Customs duty liable in Denmark (toldpligtig) blue label, Grenå customs inspection on 10 MAJ 65, and opened at Grenaa customs office (toldkammer). The card is inscribed in Danish and Inuit only. The spelling GRENAA is obsolescent.

Figure 5



Though Great Britain did not first agree to use parcel cards, at least two of its dominions later did, and Canada and South Africa used or still use cards with a similar format to the UPU precedent.

Cards to Australia obviously exist but are seldom seen. This rather amusing example from Egypt in 1940 looks as though a solder sent something home to mother.

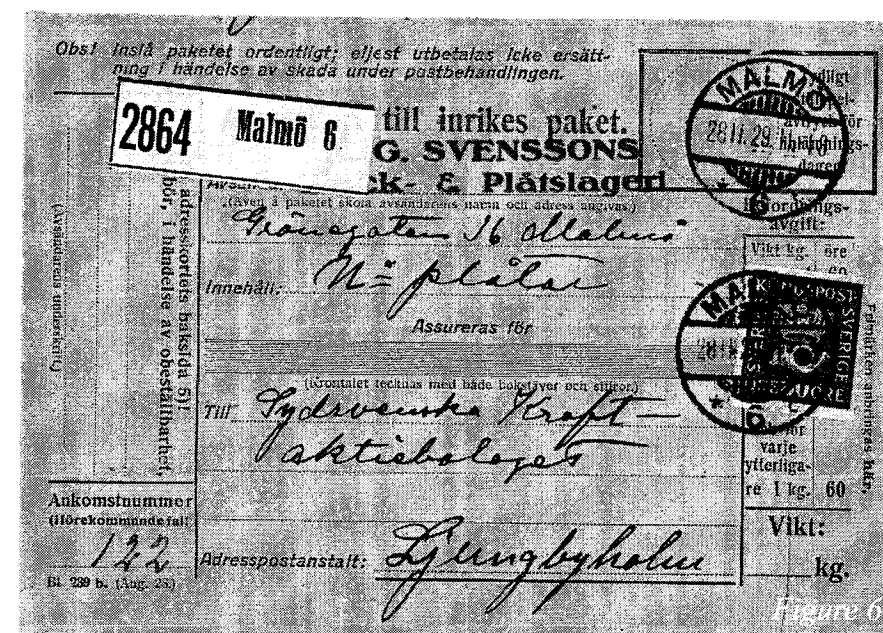
The Tipperary Club Bazaar in Cairo obviously did business

with English speaking Customers, and on 12 Nov 1940 sent a parcel weighing about 3 kilos to Mrs Harris in Croydon, Victoria, **Figure 5**. If Mrs Harris worked in the post office, or had already been told that a parcel was on the way, then presumably it found her or she found it at Croydon post office, though she did not sign for it. The stamps are a mix of 175 mills for postage and 3 mills for a revenue charge to the Ministry of Finances. There is another backstamp at Cairo parcels exchange on 14 Nov 40.

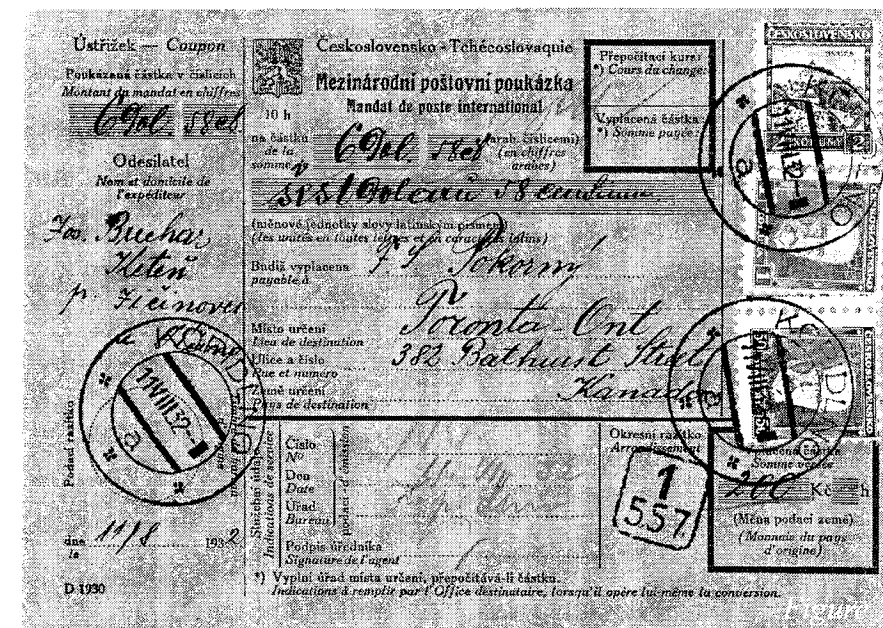
The actual parcel card used, reference CP2, was from an edition run off in 1932 with 275,000 copies. The coupon is integral with the design, with the corresponding area on the back left blank.

Not all cards that resemble a parcel card in major features, including the coupon or counterfoil on the left hand side, are actually for parcels. Some cards offered by dealers whose first language is English seem not to pick this point up. Cards that serve as International Money Orders, for making remittances from one country to another and converting currencies at the same time, look very like parcel cards, will usually bear some stamps, and the words 'Mandat' and 'montant' (in the French text, of course) should be in the inscriptions. These cards are often interesting to collect, but they do not do quite the same task. There will be two amounts of money specified, in the sender's and the recipient's currencies, which are equivalent at the prevailing rates of exchange. But there will be no mention of number of packets or weights. Let us take two cards and compare them to highlight what differences you need to look for. The two cards are the same size, 150 x 104 mm, sent about the same period and have text and backstamps on the reverse.

The first is an internal card from Sweden (**Figure 6**), so it is simpler than an international parcel card as it has no place for customs data, but amongst other details gives on the lower right side the current rate of parcel post, at 60 öre per kilogram.



It was posted at Malmö on 28 11 1929, and received at Ljungbyholm on 29 11 1929, where it was signed for. It was a consignment of tinplates, from a company that made such things, sent uninsured, so no value declared. It was given an arrival number, 122, at Ljungbyholm P.O. and appears to have been signed for on behalf of a company called SouthSweden Power and Co; it suggests that the plates were for a works canteen? The long and detailed instructions on the back are to the sender on how the card must be filled in, one must not send inflammable oils or spirituous drinks, and in particular on how to deal with undelivered parcels returned to the sender.



The other (**Figure 7**) is from Czechoslovakia to the USA, made up to send what was 200 crowns or US\$6.80; it is quite simply a credit transfer document. Sent from Kopidlno on 11 8

1932, a small place in Moravia to the North East of Prague, that has had a post office since 1840, it arrived in Prague on 13 8 1932 and was given an arrival number 350 there. Postage paid was Kr 3.50, to Toronto Canada, where it got no backstamps. It appears to be an order for a book, payable to a Mr Pokorný. The back is sparsely filled, simply requiring a signature by the recipient, and not signed. This suggests that the card itself never went to Canada, the money transfer could have been done telegraphically from Prague for which the card served as an authorisation.



Figure 8

Other scarce parcel cards that are difficult to identify are those from Tsarist Russia, they are only inscribed in Russian; I show an example (**Figure 8**) from Petrograd on 27 8 1916 (old calendar) to Tammerfors (now called Tampere, in Finland). Petrograd was, of course, the name for the Russian capital city, a name used intermediately between St Petersburg and Leningrad. The parcel was sent to a paper making company. It cost 25 kopecks to send about 2 kilos. Philatelists might like to have a translation of the main inscriptions; across the top we have 'coupon to cut off', (like the German 'abschnitt'), 'address accompanying the parcel, without charges' (that distinguishes it from a C.O.D. card), and lower down 'official records' and 'put stamps here'.

After the USSR came into existence the same UPU design of parcel cards was in use, and an example (**Figure 9**) from Leningrad to Germany indicates the routes that parcels had to take, ports of exit and ports of entry can be traced from the markings on the card. To get from Leningrad to Davos it had to transit Tallin in Estonia, Stettin (then in Pomerania, now in Poland) and Basel in Switzerland. The markings include a Leningrad 7 postmark of 24 6 25 on the stamps, and a backstamp of Stettin 1 on 7 7 25, but no postmarks for Tallinn or Basel.

The circular negative image cancel is inscribed in Russian 'for parcels', and the round cancel with 'blank' in the middle says that it is a form of the Leningrad postoffice. The total postage was 1 rouble 78 kopecks for a weight of Kgs 3.270

Germany unsurprisingly imposed its postal regulations on territories that it occupied during war time, and this example, from the Ukraine in 1944 (**Figure 10**), with the stamps of the General Government, is for C.O.D. and inscribed only in German and Polish. Lvov (in German, Lemberg, in Ukrainian Lviv) was already being threatened by the advance of the Red Army that had begun its campaign, with the massive Battle of the Kursk Salient in July 1943, to recapture Soviet land, and retake cities that stretched from Stalingrad eventually in



Figure 9

1945 to Berlin. The Red Army retook Lvov in July 1944 after a tank battle to the South of the city. A COD Parcel Card for the General Government area, inscribed only in German and Polish, in a double format, with instructions to the sender inside, and instructions for returning on the back. Used at Lemberg (Lvov) 17 3 44 to Perekinsko (Kalusz district), no arrival cancellation. This small place is about 200 kms to the South East of Lvov. It was for a consignment of medicine bottles. Postage Zl 1.50, weight 4 Kgs, declared value Zl 259.60

In today's Australia Post the simpler parcel card has been replaced by forms CP 74 issued in December 2004, for insured articles, and CP 72 issued in October 2005 for uninsured articles over 2 kg or value more than AUD 500. You can get these forms free from your local post office. These are almost booklets as they comprise a sender's copy, a despatch/customs copy, a post office copy, and a duplicate cover page. The information required is even more extensive, but there is no place for stamps to be stuck on though the postage due has to be indicated.

A little word of warning: used parcel cards are often but not always found with the coupon or counterfoil on the left cut off. The relative frequency of this occurring varies a lot between countries and periods, I don't know exactly why. Dealers offering parcel cards will sometimes helpfully illustrate them on their internet pages, so that you can see exactly what is involved. Others will distinguish, carefully, between cards and part-cards. The unhelpful are those who only when asked assert that cards normally come without the coupon and they may only specify if the coupon is attached, and provide no illustrations.

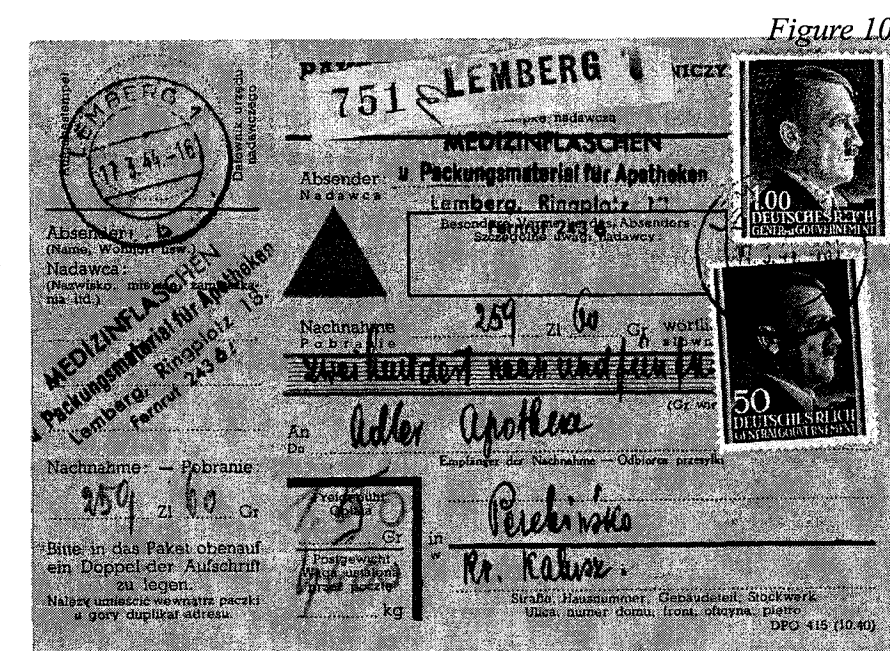


Figure 10

Spanish Police Make Arrests In Probe of Stamp Companies:
Shares of Escala Tumble in Early Trading

DOW JONES NEWSWIRES

May 9, 2006 10:10 a.m.

MADRID -- Spanish police have arrested at least eight people and raided the offices of two leading stamp collection companies as part of a probe into an alleged stamp investment fraud that could affect about 200,000 small investors, police and court officials said Tuesday.

National police officers were raiding offices of Forum Filatelico and the Madrid headquarters of Afinsa Bienes Tangibles, which is the world's No. 3 collectibles firm behind Sotheby's and Christie's and is also the majority owner of Nasdaq-traded Escala Group. Escala was previously known as Greg Manning Auctions, based in New Jersey.

Shares of Escala tumbled in pre-market trading on INET Tuesday, falling 45% to \$17.46.

The operation forms part of an investigation launched by the National Court, tax authorities and financial crime prosecutors over an alleged pyramid-type scheme based on overpriced stamps and other collectibles.

The arrests also come after Barron's magazine reported on practices at Afinsa, which operates a "no-lose" stamp-sales program for investors in Spain and Portugal. Many of the investors are retired individuals allocating an average of €150 to €300, according to court officials.

Afinsa guarantees a return of 6% to 10% over a fixed period, with a money-back guarantee when the contracts expire. According to Barron's, some stamp experts have expressed doubts about the value of stamps, which may be worth less than what Afinsa charges for them.

So-called pyramid or Ponzi schemes pay high returns to investors by using the money from newly arrived investors, rather than from revenue generated by any real business.

Court officials said that since Afinsa isn't classified as a financial institution, it had received poor governmental oversight. Afinsa and Forum Filatelico officials couldn't be reached for comment. Afinsa has previously defended the program and denied any wrongdoing.

An armed National Police officer was guarding the back entrance of Afinsa's lush headquarters in an upscale neighborhood in downtown Madrid, while a steady stream of employees were abandoning the building.

Several Forum Filatelico and Afinsa employees, who were outside their respective headquarters in Madrid while National Police officers were searching the premises, said they weren't aware of any improper activities within the company.

Postal services in Andorra

[From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia]

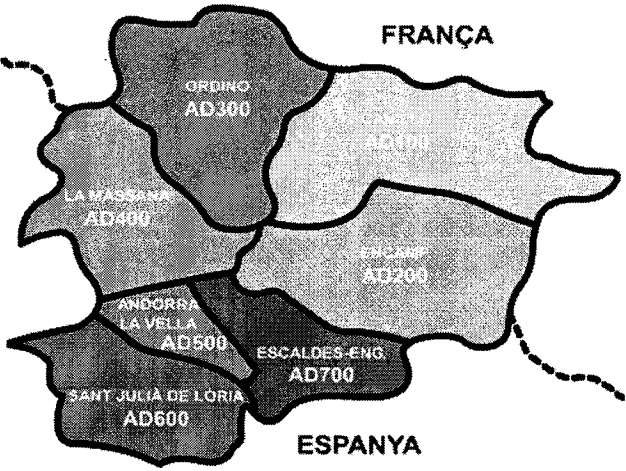
Postal services in Andorra are unique in that they are not operated by the Principality itself, but its two larger neighbouring countries, Spain and France. This is a legacy of the centuries of *de facto* control exercised by those two countries over Andorra. Today Correos y Telégrafos of Spain and *La Poste* of France operate side by side; Spanish post boxes being yellow and French ones being red.

Both postal administrations issue their own postage stamps for use in Andorra - those of Spain and France are not valid. Andorran stamps feature unique designs, often featuring the country's two *co-princes* or joint heads of state, the President of France and the Bishop of Urgell in Spain. Mail to addresses within the Principality is delivered free of charge.

Introduction of Post Codes

Until 2004, Andorra had no post codes, but in that year, in cooperation with both countries' postal administrations, these were finally introduced, with each of the seven parish in the principality having its own post code, (or *codi postal* in Catalan).

Parish	Post Code
Canillo	AD100
Encamp	AD200
Ordino	AD300
La Massana	AD400
Andorra la Vella	AD500
Sant Julià de Lòria	AD600
Escaldes-Engordany	AD700



© Andorramania.com



PO Box addresses require different post codes, ending in the digit '1', so, for example, a letter sent to a PO Box address in Andorra la Vella would require the post code AD501.

PASTCARDS
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100 years ago this guy was plagued by a question. “How do space and time work?” It invaded his waking hours. He had a hunch that the great minds may have been wrong. He realised that the speed of light never changes - if we measure it when we’re moving or when the source is moving - it’s always the same (299,792,458 m/s).

He showed that mass and energy are linked. Introduce the speed of light into the equation, mass and energy become interchangeable: $e = mc^2$.

Who would have thought a 26 year old mind could deduce the mysteries of the universe and shape society?
100 years on, how did you celebrate? 2005 was the Einstein International Year of Physics.
Image: Dr Ralph Sutherland, Research School of Astronomy & Astrophysics ANU. A snapshot of a shockwake moving at 15 times the speed of sound (speed of sound = 1,215 km/h).

Editorial	Jenni Creagh	20
Bird Families: Picture Postcards As Maximum Cards	Ian McMahon	21

EDITORIAL

Here I was searching around for inspiration, and looking for avian things (that weren’t dinosaurs), and I can across the above AVANT CARD. Now it really has very little to do with birds, but is more of a “light, the universe and everything” sort of deal - to misquote a well known SF epic. Really cool stuff and without it, birds couldn’t fly, deadlines couldn’t be achieved and we wouldn’t be able to see any of it anyway. So thank your lucky stars & have a gander at these birds.

BIRD FAMILIES: PICTURE POSTCARDS AS MAXIMUM CARDS

Ian McMahon

My display to the April meeting of the Postcard Group sought to illustrate the major groups of birds using maximum cards.

Maximum Cards

Maximum cards are an area of overlap between stamp collecting and picture postcard collecting. Maximum cards arose back in the golden age of picture postcards ie the first and second decades of the twentieth century when it became fashionable to affix the stamp on the picture side of a postcard. Collectors of maximum cards carried this one step further and attempted to match the picture, the stamp and the postmark. Thus a maximum card might be a postcard showing an Egyptian pyramid, with a stamp on the picture side of the postcard cancelled with a postmark from Cairo.

Maximum card collecting has proved reasonably popular in many European countries such as France, but has been less popular in countries like Australia, perhaps in part because for many years the Australian Post Office frowned on canceling stamps on the picture side of the card, insisting that they be placed on the address side. In recent years many post offices, including Australia Post, have issued their own ‘maximum cards’.

Bird Families

The systematic classification of animals is generally thought of having begun with the work of Carolus Linnaeus. Scientists classify animals according to their physical characteristics, and in more recent times by their evolutionary relationships and by studying their DNA. Birds are grouped into ‘orders’, many of which are readily recognisable by most people eg Penguins, parrots, pigeons, waterfowl and perching birds.

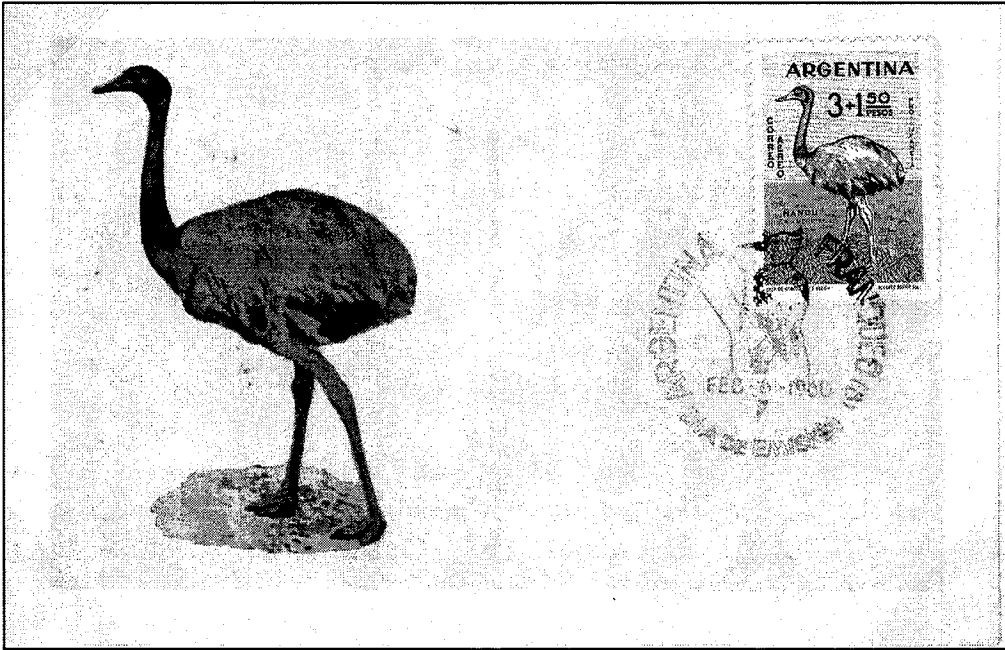


Figure 1

My display to the postcard group illustrated the major bird groups. For example Figure 1 illustrates the Rhea, a flightless bird from South America, a member of the Ratites as are our Emu and Cassowary, the Ostrich, Kiwis and Tinamous. The postcard was produced by Hipocampo, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

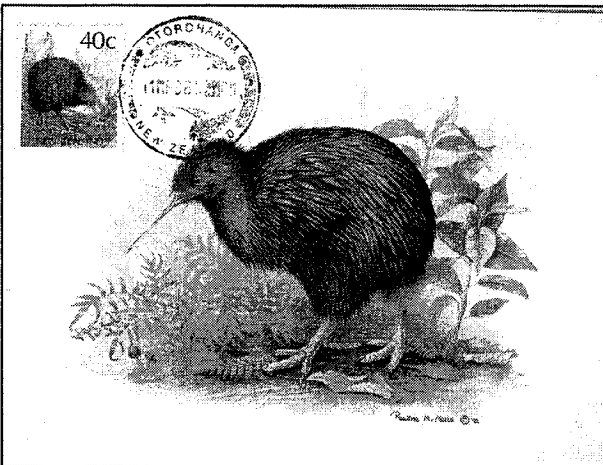


Figure 2 (Above)

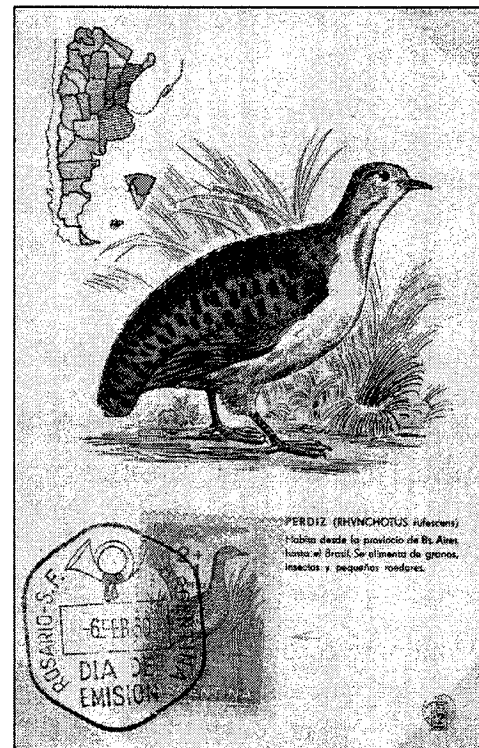


Figure 3 (Right).

Other flightless birds include the Kiwis with the Brown Kiwi shown in Figure 2 on a card cancelled at Otorohanga, home to the Otorohanga Kiwi house. Figure 3 shows a Red-winged Tinamou on a card from Argentina. Tinamous are small members of the Ratites with a superficial resemblance to gamebirds and found only in South America.

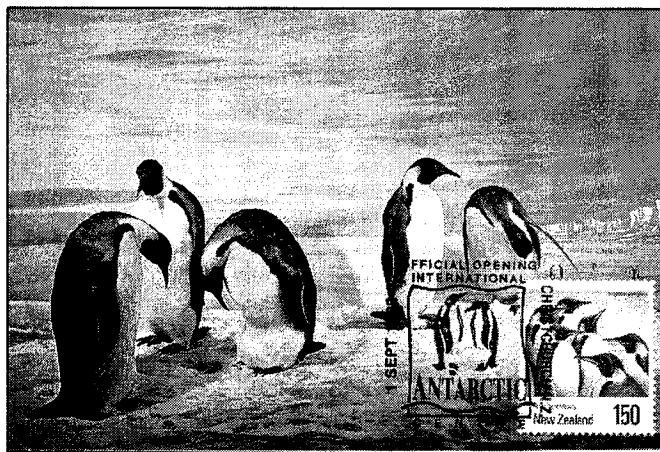


Figure 4

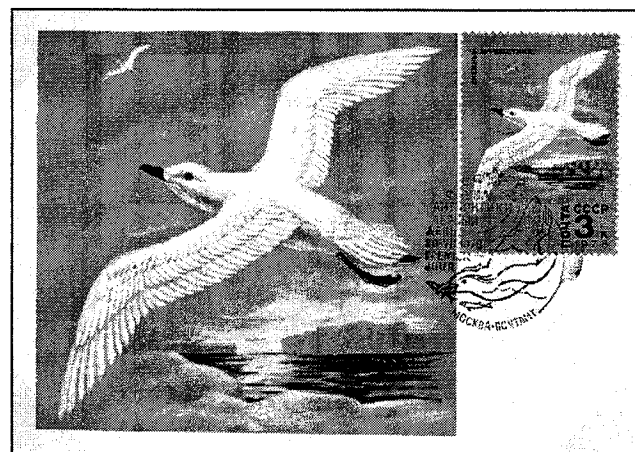


Figure 5

Figure 4 shows the Emperor Penguin display at the Canterbury Museum in Christchurch on a postcard produced by Colour View. A Ross Dependency Stamp featuring Emperor Penguins has been affixed and cancelled with a special postmark for the opening of the Antarctic Centre in Christchurch.

The pelagic seabirds, albatross, petrels and shearwaters, are represented by a Russian postcard of a Snow Petrel (Figure 5).

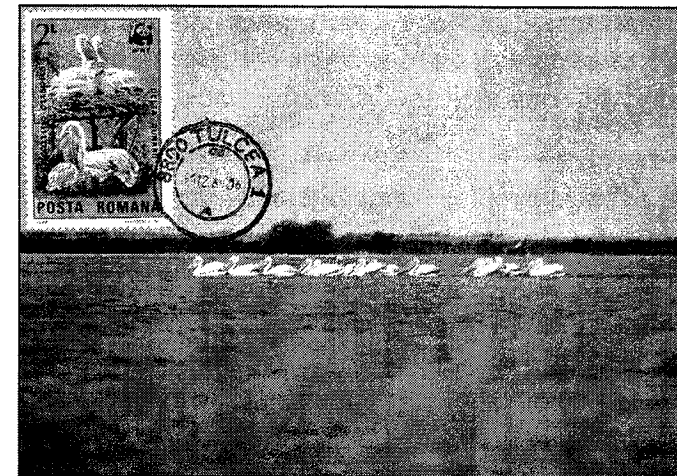


Figure 6



Figure 7

The families of waterbirds comprising Pelicans, gannets, tropicbirds, cormorants, frigatebirds and darters are closely related. Figure 6 shows the Dalmatian Pelican on a Romanian card with a stamp cancelled at Tulcea, not far from the marshes of the Danube Delta. Figure 7 shows a Great Cormorant on a card produced by the St Pierre and Miquelon Post Office and Figure 8 shows a Great Frigate Bird on a card from Nauru.

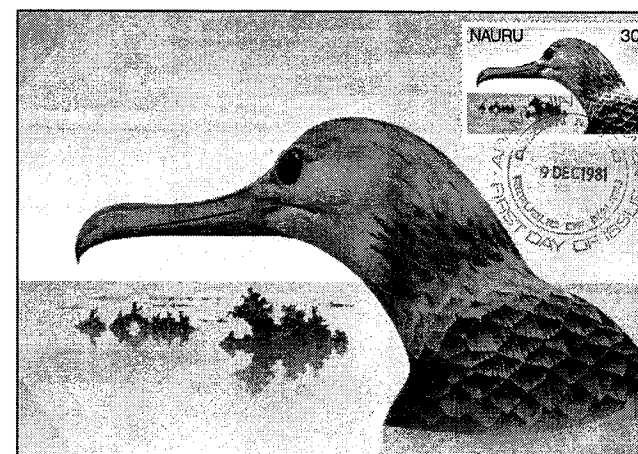


Figure 8 (Above)



Figure 9 (Right).

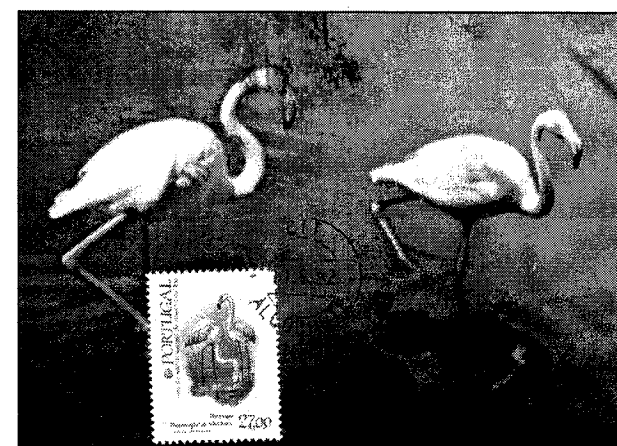


Figure 10 (Left)



Figure 11 (Right)

PASTCARDS

There are some six families of long-legged, long-billed waterbirds including herons, storks, ibis and flamingoes. Storks are known for their large nests built on Chimneys in European cities as shown on the French postcard (Figure 9) from Strasbourg. The flamingoes (Figure 10) feed by filtering their food from the water, shown here on a Portuguese card.

Waterfowl including swans, geese and duck are well-known to most people. The white-headed duck (Figure 11) is one of a group of 'stiff-tail' ducks represented in Australia by the blue-billed duck, shown here on a card from Romania.

Figure 12 shows a peregrine falcon on a card from St Pierre and Miquelon, representing the many species of hawks, vultures, falcons, and eagles.



Figure 12

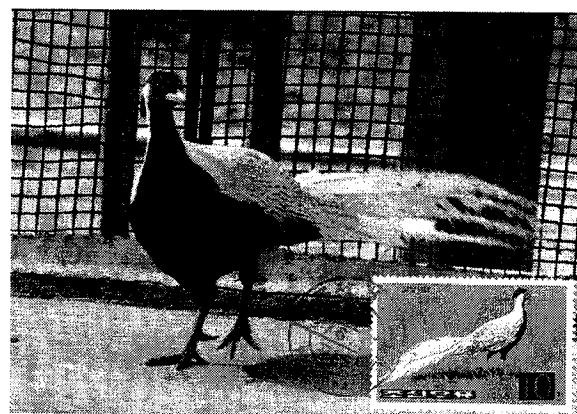


Figure 13

Another well-known group are the pheasants, quails and allies such as the Silver Pheasant shown on a card from North Korea in Figure 13. Another group of long-legged waterbirds includes the cranes and rails. Figure 14 shows the purple swamphen, cancelled at Apia, Western Samoa.



Figure 15 (Above)

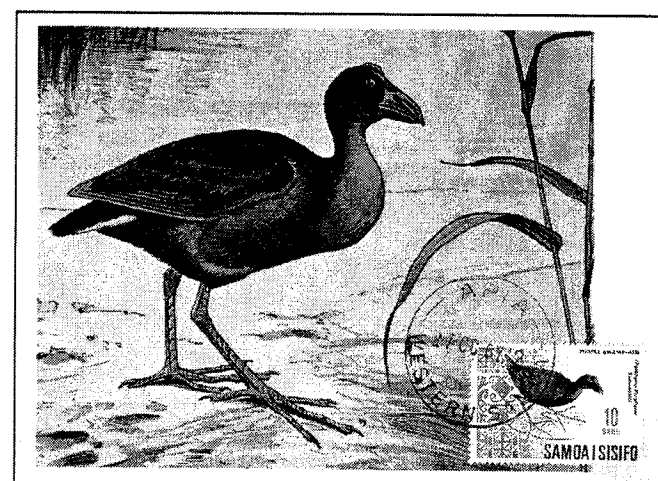


Figure 16 (Right)



PASTCARDS

The waders are a group of often long-billed birds which feed on the many animals found buried in mudflats. Figure 15 shows the Lapwing on a Romanian card.

Gulls, terns and skuas are well-known to most people. Represented here by the Artic Tern on a card from St Pierre and Miquelon (Figure 16). The puffin is one of a group of seabirds which include the auks and guillemots, shown on a French card (Figure 17).

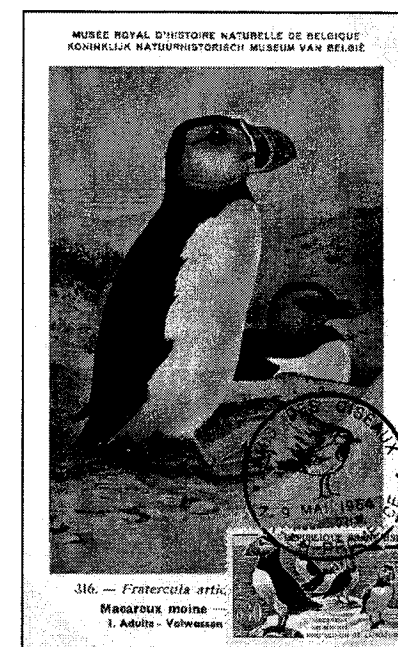


Figure 17



Figure 18

Pigeons and parrots are two of the best-known groups of birds. Figure 18 shows the Madagascar Blue Pigeon on a postcard by R Gerold, cancelled at Tananarive in the Malagasy Republic. Figure 19 shows a woman holding a dove, representing the dove of peace, on a postcard prepared by the Dijon Philatelic Society for the 1946 Conference of Paris with matching stamp and cancellation. Figure 20 shows the Pale-headed Rosella on an Australia Post card while Figure 21 shows a Yellow-faced Amazon from Brazil on a WWF postcard.



Figure 19



Figure 20



Figure 21 (Left)

Figures 22-24 show a group of diverse non-passerine birds:

- Figure 22 Madagascar Pygmy Kingfisher on a local postcard from Malagasy
- Figure 23 A stamp showing a Black-casqued Hornbill on a Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences postcard depicting a Northern Ground Hornbill cancelled at Leopoldville in the Congo.
- Figure 24 Magellanic Woodpecker on an Argentinean postcard

Figure 22 (Right)

Figure 20 (Below)

Figure 21 (Below Right)



Figure 25



Figure 27 (Above)



Figure 28 (Above)



Figure 26

The Passerines or perching birds are the largest group of birds and includes well-known species such as the house sparrow, robins, thrushes, swallows, finches etc. Figure 25 shows a South African postcard depicting a Malachite Sunbird with a stamp showing an Anjouan Sunbird cancelled at Moroni in the Comoros Islands. Figure 26 shows Barn Swallows on a postcard from Germany with a stamp showing Pacific Swallows from the Ryukyus Is. Figure 27 shows a fantail from New Zealand. Figure 28 shows the Northern Cardinal on a postcard from Hungary marking the birth centenary of the American naturalist, Audubon. Figure 29 shows the Variegated Wren on an Australia Post postcard while Figure 30 shows the Bullfinch on a German postcard cancelled in Czechoslovakia.



Figure 29



Figure 30



Okay - so I couldn't resist adding in an avian ancestor. Modern reconstructions of *Deinonychus* and *Caudipteryx* at the National Dinosaur Museum, Canberra. Above you can see the Hoatzin, a modern "pigeon" which has clawed arms (wings) during the infant stage to assist in climbing back up into safe trees out of pirhana-infested waters. Now that adds a bit of bite to the subject!



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