

POSTAL STATIONERY

COLLECTOR

Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia

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THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia has been established to encourage the collecting of postal stationery in Australia and to provide a forum for postal stationery collectors to maintain contact with other stationery collectors and to learn more about their hobby.

The Society is not based in any particular city or state and plans to hold meetings at national and state level exhibitions. Subscription rate for 1998 has been set at \$20 (Australia) and \$40 (Overseas excluding New Zealand which is \$30). For further information please contact the Convenor, Secretary or your State Coordinator. Membership enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.

OFFICE BEARERS:

CONVENOR: Ian McMahon, PO Box 783, Civic Square ACT 2608
SECRETARY Judy Kennett, PO Box 40, Jamison ACT 2614
TREASURER John Crowsley, PO Box 2124, Ascot QLD 4007

STATE COORDINATORS

QLD Bernie Beston, PO Box 26, Redcliffe Qld 4020
SA Martin Walker, PO Box 247, Torrensville Plaza, SA 5031
WA Ray Todd, 19 High St, South Perth, WA 6151
NSW Bernie Doherty, PO Box 18, Waratah NSW
TAS Malcolm Groom, 225 Warwick Street, West Hobart Tas
VIC John Sinfield, PO Box 6246 St Kilda Rd Central Vic 3004
ACT Ian McMahon, PO Box 783, Civic Square ACT 2608
NZ (North) Barry Scott, 123 Konini Rd, Titirangi, New Zealand
NZ (South) Robert Samuel, PO Box 394, Christchurch, New Zealand

Web page: <http://www.canberra.starway.net.au/~philatelic/pss.html>

Postal Stationery Collector

Editor: Ian McMahon

Contributions to the Postal Stationery Collector should be sent to Ian McMahon, PO Box 783 Civic Square ACT 2608. Articles on any postal stationery topic are welcomed and, if possible should also be submitted on 3.5 inch MSDOS disks in any word processing format (Word for Windows preferred). Illustrations should be good quality photocopies. Book reviews, news items, information on new issues and members classifieds are also welcome. Letters to the Editor and comments on articles published are encouraged.

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CONTENTS

	Page
<i>From the Editor</i>	65
<i>Queensland Postal Notes</i> Craig Chappell	67
<i>New Zealand Stamped Envelopes</i> Bob Gibson	74
<i>Australian Rarities: "THREE HALFPENCE" On KGV 4d Blue Envelope</i> John Sinfield	77
<i>Express Post Envelopes</i> Ross Duberal	78
<i>From Our Contemporaries</i>	79
<i>Australia : State Scenic Postcards - Series II</i> John Sinfield	80
<i>Australia Post's Sponsored Athlete Post Cards</i> Martin Walker	82
<i>New Books</i>	89
<i>Teapot of Truth</i> Ian McMahan	90
<i>Adelaide Bridge Prepaid Envelope With Obliterated Address Corner</i> Ian McMahan	91
<i>Listing Of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery</i> Ian McMahan	92
<i>Letters to the Editor</i>	93
<i>New Issues</i>	94

FROM THE EDITOR

This issue highlights yet again the fun of the chase when collectors attempt to follow Australia Post issues which are released for commercial rather than philatelic purposes.

Martin Walker writes on the Olympic publicity cards, John Sinfield on the chase for new pictorial postcards, the Editor on the new Leunig postcards and an unusual stamped envelope, Ross Duberal on express post envelopes and Bob Gibson on new New Zealand stationery.

Postal Stationery Collector

Clearly as the focus of Australia Post and New Zealand Post becomes increasingly commercial, items will continue to be produced without advice to the philatelic world. While for some this may be a disincentive to collect, for others the thrill of new discoveries adds considerable to their enjoyment of their hobby.

While we have some keen collectors of postcards, the Editor would also appreciate hearing from envelope collectors on the many reprints of the definitive issues, with the aboriginal art definitive DL envelope, for example, already into its fourth reprint. Please write!

PSSA MEETING AT AUSTRALIA 99

There will be a meeting of PSSA at Australia 99.

The meeting will be held at 10 am on Sunday 21 March 1999 in Meeting Room 3 at the Exhibition. (The meeting rooms will be located on Level 2 at the Clarendon St end of the Melbourne Exhibition Centre).

Members and visitors are welcome to attend. The meeting will included a short business session as well as a display and a discussion of the Australian States Catalogue Project.

Please plan to attend.

***POSTAL STATIONERY AT TARAPEX 98, NEW ZEALAND NATIONAL EXHIBITION
NEW PLYMOUTH 7-9 AUGUST 1998***

The Postal Stationery class at Tarapex 98 included seven exhibits:

Margaret Horton	<i>Commonwealth of Australia Envelopes 1913-1937</i>	Large Vermeil + SP
Bernie Beston	<i>British Guiana</i>	Large Vermeil
R Darge	<i>NZ during the Reign of George V</i>	Vermeil
H Waite	<i>New Zealand Queen Victoria Postcards 1876-1901</i>	Large Silver
M Andrews	<i>From States to Empire Postal Stationery of 19th Century Germany</i>	Silver
Ian McMahan	<i>Canadian Envelopes and Postcards</i>	Large Vermeil + SP
Max Watson	<i>Franked Official Postal Stationery of Victoria</i>	Large Vermeil

QUEENSLAND POSTAL NOTES

Craig Chappell

POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S REPORT 1880

From the *POSTMASTER-GENERAL'S Report to Parliament* for the year ending 1880 (pp 12,13).

Postal Notes

During the last session of Parliament an Act was passed authorising the issue of Postal Notes and Post Cards.

The Postal note system is intended to facilitate the remittance of small sums of money and, although not superseding the Money order system, yet it will probably prevent the extension thereof to places where only a small amount of business would be transacted.

The absence of a copy of the Bill and Regulations introduced into the Imperial Parliament rendered it necessary to frame a Bill and Regulations without any precedent for a guide, but it is believed that, for the present at all events, the arrangements made will be ample for the requirements of the Colony.

This is I believe, the first place in the British Dominions where the system has been inaugurated.

Postal Notes consist of four classes:

- (1.) The shilling note, printed with green ink, and bearing a half-penny fee stamp. (This note backed by a Telegraph form which, when filled up with a message of ten words, will be received at any Telegraph Office, and transmitted to any station within the colony as a paid telegram.)
- (2.) The half-crown note, printed with red ink, and bearing a penny fee stamp.
- (3.) The five-shilling note, printed with blue ink, and bearing a two-penny fee stamp.
- (4.) The ten-shilling note, printed with lilac ink, and bearing a three-penny fee stamp.

How Numbered And Signed

Every Postal Note issued is numbered with a distinctive number, and signed by the issuing officer appointed by the Postmaster-General in that behalf.

Every Postal Note, except when crossed, is payable to the bearer on demand.

When additional security is desired for remittance purposes, the lawful owner of the Postal Note may write or stamp across its face, between two transverse lines, the name of any bank, firm, or person to whom he desires the payment to be made.

Postal Stationery Collector

A Postal Note so crossed to a bank or firm is not payable by the Postmaster-General (or transferable) until it has been endorsed or stamped by some person duly authorised by such bank or firm; or, when crossed to any person, until it has been endorsed by such person.

Every Postal Note will be payable to the bearer, or to its lawful endorser if crossed, on presentation, within the usual banking hours, at: -

The General Post Office, Brisbane.

The post office in each of the undermentioned towns namely, at

Ipswich, Toowoomba, Warwick, Dalby, Roma, Maryborough, Rockhampton, Blackall, Aramac, Clermont, Mackay, Bowen, Townsville, Charters Towers, Cooktown, Gympie, Stanthorpe;

and at other such post offices as may be hereafter appointed by the Postmaster-General for that purpose, from time to time.

Notes Examined Before Payment

When a Postal Note is presented for payment the postmaster must carefully examine the same and, if it be crossed, see that it is properly endorsed.

Payment Refused In Certain Cases

A postmaster may refuse payment of a Postal Note: -

If, having been crossed, it is not endorsed, and presented by any person not authorised to endorse the same, or not being the person in whose favour it was crossed.

If the paying officer has reason to believe the endorsement to be a forgery, or made by an unauthorised person.

If the note is so soiled or mutilated that any signature thereon has become undecipherable.

Provided that in every such case the postmaster shall immediately report to the Under-Secretary by telegraph that he has refused payment of such note.

Postal Notes are sold at the following offices, viz: -

Allora	Cooktown	Mackay	St. George
Aramac	Copperfield	Maryborough	St. Lawrence
Banana	Cunnamulla	Maryborough	Sandgate
Beenleigh	Dalby	Maytown	Southport
Blackwater	Drayton	Mitchell	Stanthorpe
Bowen	Emerald	Mount Esk	Surat
Brisbane (Head Office)	Fernvale	Muttaburra	Tambo
Bundaberg	Gayndah	Nanango	Taroom
Caboolture	Georgetown	Nerang Creek	Tewantin
Cairns	Gladstone	Normanton	Thornsborough
Cambooya	Goondiwindi	Oxley	Toowoomba

Cardwell	Gympie	Port Douglas	Toowong
Charleville	Inglewood	Ravenswood	Townsville
Charters Towers	Ipswich	Reidsville	Warwick
Clermont	Kingsborough	Rockhampton	Withersfield
Cleveland	Leyburn	Roma	Yengarie

Other selling offices may be appointed from time to time.

In November last a circular letter was addressed to the postal authorities of the other Australian Colonies and New Zealand, enclosing copies of "The Postal Note Act" and Regulations, with specimens of the Postal Notes, and intimating that under section 9 of the Act provision was made for the extension of the system to other places, and that the Postmaster General would be happy to enter into negotiations for reciprocal arrangements with all or any of the Australian Colonies under the section referred to. The only reply received was from Western Australia.

Postal Notes were sold at Brisbane from the 1st November, and at other offices from the 1st December last.

The sales to the 31 December, 1880, were as follows:-

	s.	d.	
Value	10	0	216
	5	0	171
	2	6	159
	1	0	478
			1024

Cash value, £194 10s.6d.; value of fee stamp, £5 15s.8d.

The notes paid were:-

	s.	d.	
Value	10	0	129
	5	0	76
	2	6	64
	1	0	154
			423

Cash value, £99 4s.

THE POSTAL NOTE ISSUES

Three design series of Postal Notes are known - "Small Chalons" (4 values). "Victoria Sideface" (7 known values) and "Edward VII" (1 known value). From the preceding Postmaster-General's report, the issued denominations and date of issue of the first issue are apparent. However, knowledge of latter issues remains thin.

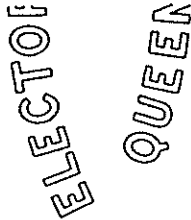
1880 "Small Chalon" Design

Issue Date: 01 November 1880.

Postal Stationery Collector

Paper: Thick paper of a very similar texture to the "Beer Duty" paper.

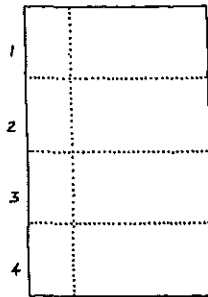
Watermark: The following illustration shows the half of the single vertical watermark discernible from the Postal Note examples seen. It is probably "ELECTORAL ... QUEENSLAND".



Partial Watermark

Printing: Lithography - by the Lithographic Office, Treasury, Brisbane.
The "FEE STAMP" would be a lithographic transfer from one of the "Perkins Bacon" plates (or a derivative). The Notes were printed in a vertical format of one column of four.

Perforation: 12.2 to 12.3 Line, "Hughes & Kimber" machine.



Printed Forma: Sheets of 4 (vertical)

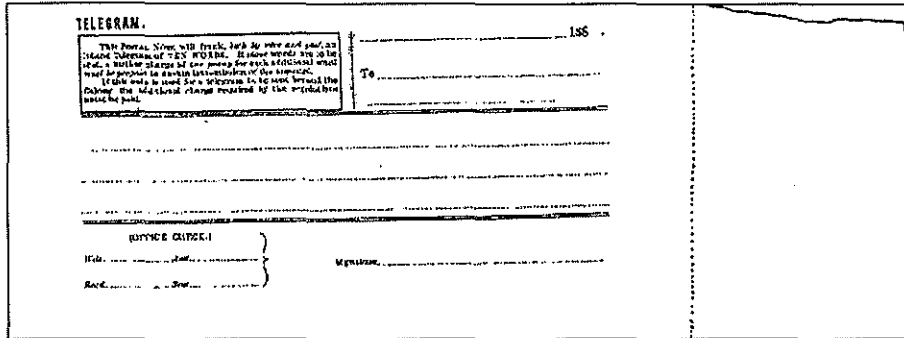
Specimen: All illustrated examples have been handstruck twice with two different types of "SPECIMEN". Type 1 (15mm x 2mm) is similar to that used on contemporary adhesive stamps. Type 2 is 75 mm x 16 mm.

SPECIMEN

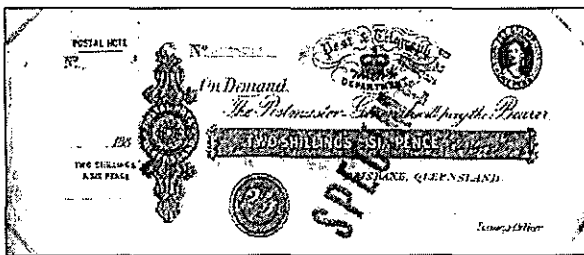
Type 1

SPECIMEN.

Type 2



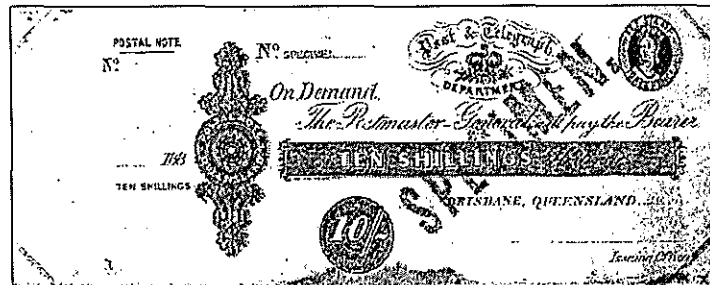
Front and reverse of 1880 One Shilling green.



2/6 Rose



5/- blue



10/- violet.

"Sideface" Design

Issue Date: Unkown

Paper: Thin

Watermark: Multiple "QUEENSLAND POSTAL NOTE"; horizontal at vertical intervals

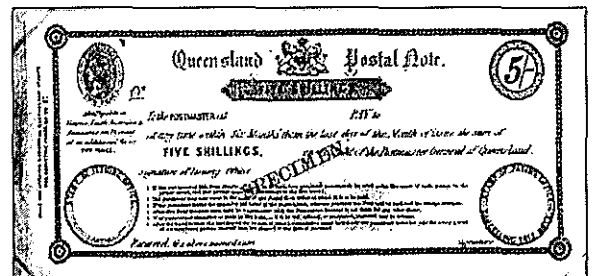
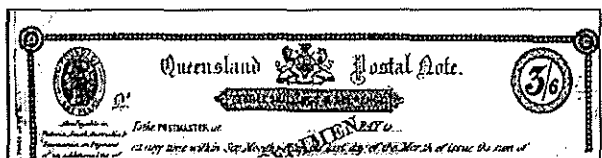
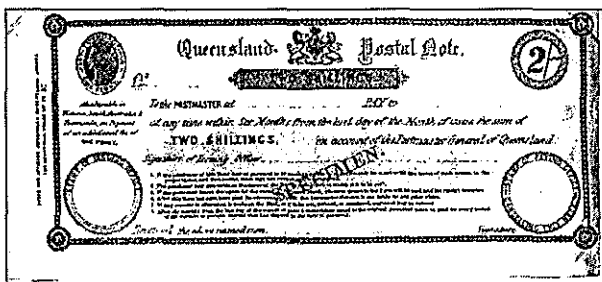
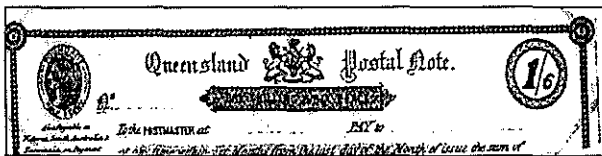
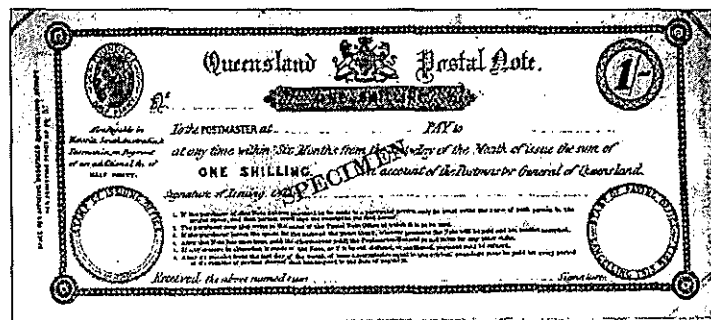
of 82mm.

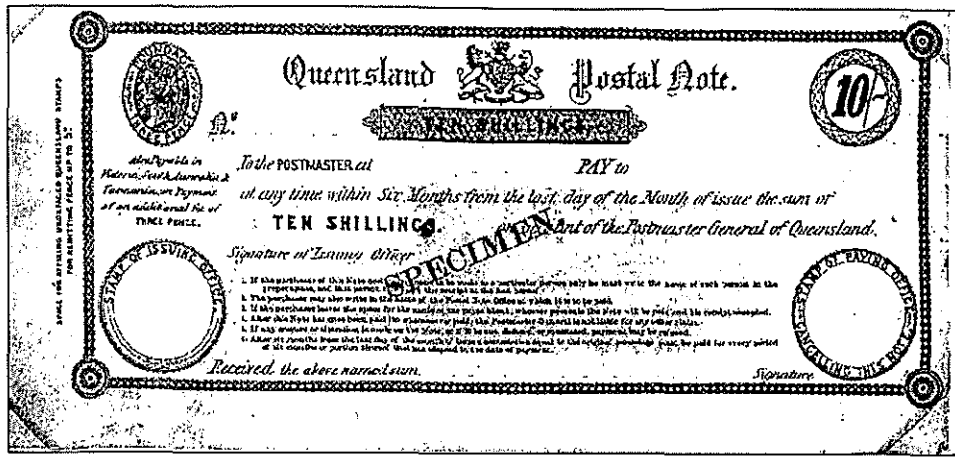
QUEENSLAND
POSTAL NOTE

Known Denominations: Seven different denominations are illustrated 1/-, 1/6, 2/-, 3/6, 4/-, 4/6, 5/- and 10/-- although from the nature of the progression of these denominations it would seem that at least 2/6 and 3/- would probably also exist.

Printing: Lithography by the Lithographic Office, Treasury, Brisbane. The "Poundage" stamp would be a lithographic transfer from one of the typographic moulds for sheet stamps. Printing format is unknown. All values are printed in Blue with a central Orange under-printed panel. All illustrated examples, except the used butt, are handstruck "SPECIMEN" in black.

SPECIMEN.

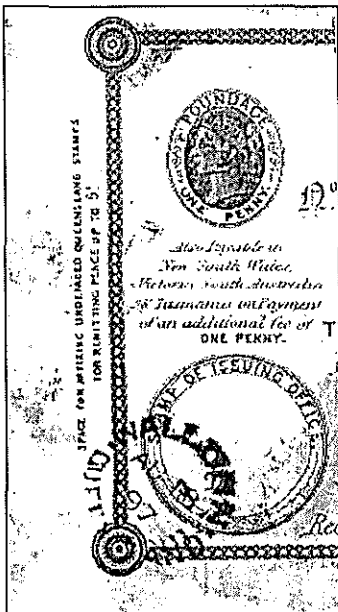




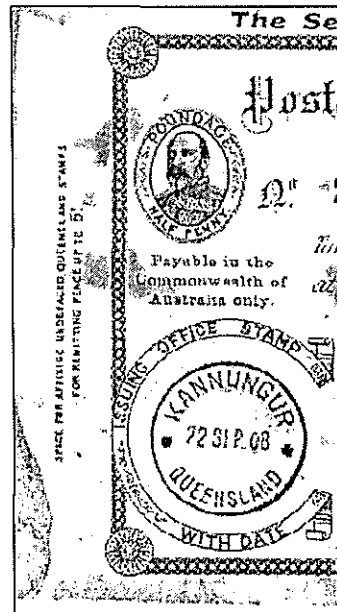
Sideface postal notes, denominations 1/- to 10/-

"Edward VII" Design

The illustrated Postal Note butt issued at Kannungur is the only known example of an Edward VII design. The Half Penny Poundage would probably indicate a denomination of One Shilling or One Shilling and Six Pence. The Poundage stamp's design is similar to the contemporary Stamp Duty design.



Used butt, 2/- or 2/6



Used butt 1/- or 1/6.

Acknowledgment: The illustrations of the used butts have been kindly provided by Dave Elsmore.

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NEW ZEALAND STAMPED ENVELOPES

Bob Gibson

By chance I visited an NZ Post outlet on Monday 6 July and discovered two new postal stationery items on sale. To the best of my knowledge this turned out to be the first day of issue. It was just over a month ago that I had become aware of a change to the Mt Cook Lily envelope. This involved the space for sender details being removed from the front of the cover to the reverse and the removal of bar codes. The new covers (Figure 1) were now to be sold only in packs of 10 with a small (\$0.05 rebate) being offered. The wrapper (Figure 2) incorporated the bar code and a small graphic design.

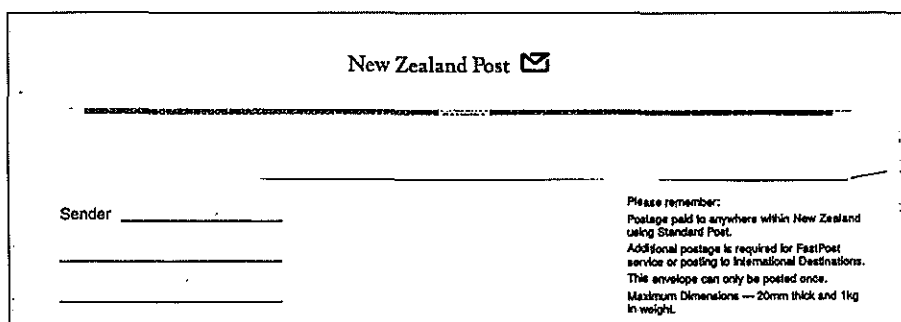


Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4

The two new designs (Figures 5-6) are appalling and, like the new Mt Cook covers, appear only to be available in packs of 10 with a wrapper (Figures 3-4) incorporating bar code and graphic design. Unfortunately, these items are not under the control of NZ Post's philatelic unit. The up side of this situation is that the items are produced because there is seen to be a justifiable postal reason for their creation. The downside is the poor design and the lack of any notification to philatelists of upcoming changes or new issues.

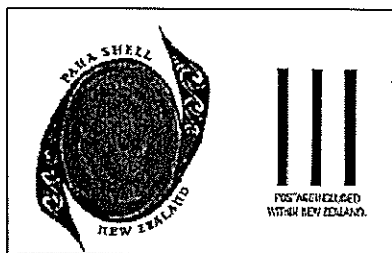


Figure 5

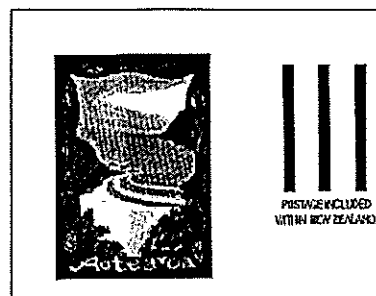


Figure 6

Also being sold at New Zealand Post Shops are a set of 'friendship' pre-paid postcards (Figure 7) with one of the messages *I love you, I miss you, I'll always care for you, Thanks for being my friend, Being with you is so much fun, I'm so glad we met, or I'm so glad I found you* on the front of the cards and an appropriate picture on the reverse.

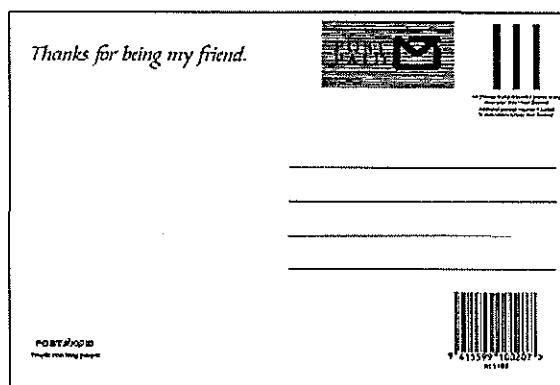


Figure 7

The February 1998 *PSC* reported on the range of BusinessPost prepaid envelopes sold by NZ Post Shops. These have now been supplemented by a range of FastPost envelopes (DLE, DLE window, C4) for postage in New Zealand. They are of a similar utilitarian design to the other BusinessPost envelopes but are in blue and have a printed fastpost 'label'. They are sold only in bulk packs of 100 to 500 envelopes. In addition there is an International air mail envelope covering the cost of postage anywhere in the world (DLE, \$73.95 for a pack of 50).

Like Australia Post, NZ Post will overprint its envelopes with Company logos. An example (Figure 8) with the New Zealand Trader's Association logo on a BusinessPost envelope is depicted below.

Figure 9 shows a change of address card. The reverse of the card depicts a range of 'whacky' letterboxes. The card comes in two formats: a long postcard on thick stock and a 'normal' sized postcard on thin stock.

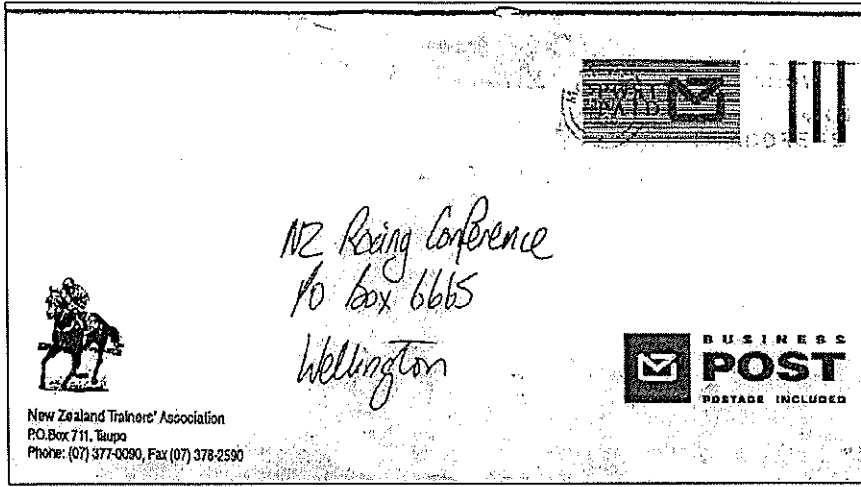
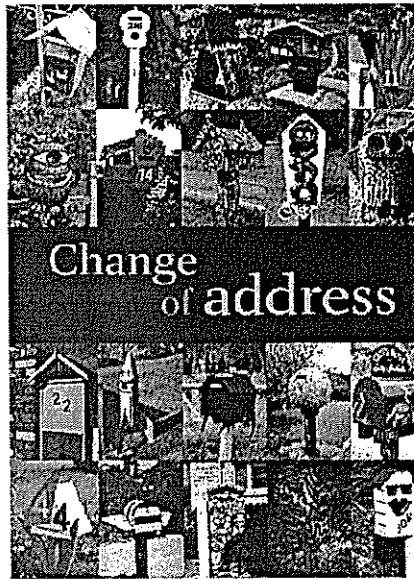


Figure 8




Name: _____
Just to let you know our/my new address is:

My subscription/customer reference number is:

Telephone/s: _____
Our/my old address was:

Customer Service Centre 0800 501 501
Remember: If you wish to include confidential information we suggest you enclose this card in an envelope.

New Zealand Post 
People reaching people



 
TO: _____

Figure 9

AUSTRALIAN RARITIES: "THREE HALFPENCE" ON KGV 4d BLUE ENVELOPE

John Sinfield

The April/May 1906 (Rome) and October/November 1920 (Madrid) UPU Congresses had a combined influence on creation of some of Australia's rarest stationery. In Rome, to align with their own domestic situation, the German delegation recommended that international weight steps be increased from 15g to 20g. Britain & USA resisted the motion since unmanageable ¾oz steps would be their nearest equivalent. Germany's suggestion was thus made optional, with imperial weight steps remaining at ½oz. At the 1920 Congress, 20g steps became compulsory with imperial equivalent being determined at 1oz. This Madrid Congress also established minimum and maximum postal rates for international mail.

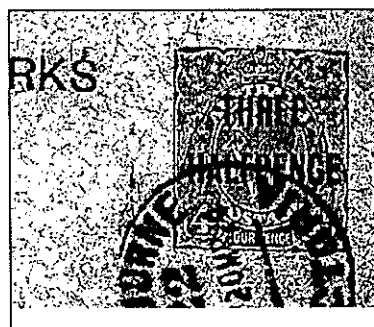
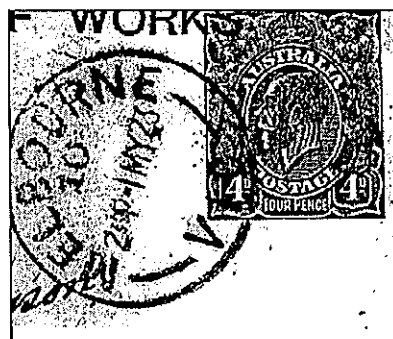
Madrid Congress decisions came into effect from 1 January 1922, at which date Australian international weight steps increased from ½ to 1oz. Australian rates operating from 1920 were very close to the UPU maximum with domestic letters being 2d per ½oz, so from 1 October 1923, Australia adjusted both domestic weight steps and postal rates. The base rate now underwent a double decrease - from 2d to 1½d, but now per 1oz.

In March 1922 the Melbourne & Metropolitan Board of Works (MMBW) requested a small supply (1 440) of 4d stamped envelopes for domestic mailing of sewerage plans weighing between ¾ to 1 oz. These bore a 4d ultramarine KGV sideface surface printed stamp impression. (Surviving copies are rare - about five recorded). By October 1923 about 50 4d envelopes remained unused.

The rate to mail MMBW plans now fell from 4d (for 1oz) to 1½ (per 1oz), and residual covers were submitted to the Stamp Printer to revalue and for refund of 2½d postage per envelope. The devaluation overprint "THREE HALFPENCE" was applied in black by letterpress. Just the illustrated single example appears to have survived, being used 20 March 1924 from Melbourne to suburban Footscray.

The existence of this cover is well documented. It was originally in the collection of Charles Fawcett, the local Footscray postman, and was exhibited at Anpex 1950. "Harold Charles" (nom de plume of Fawcett) wrote of its existence in ASM, and through him it was listed (although unpriced) in both the Ascher and Robson Lowe/Billig stationery catalogues. Following Fawcett's death the envelope went unaccounted for until it appeared in a

MacRay Watson auction in 1994. I now believe this had passed to Jim Tyler of Richmond, and was auctioned from his estate, but this has not been confirmed.



NOTES ON EXPRESS POST ENVELOPES

Ross Duberal

Having sifted through some 50 express post envelopes addressed to the WA Transport Centre, I have noted the following details of variations in the C5 (225 x 162 mm) \$3 envelopes. They come from all states including some from other states used in WA.

All are yellow and red with the barcode number comprising two letters and seven numbers. In the sample three basic types were found (Types A, B and C). The earliest date seen was 22 December 1997 but most envelopes have not been postmarked at all. While these three types have been reported in PSC (Type A B C), the many differences between the types have not been highlighted.

Australia Post Logos



Type A

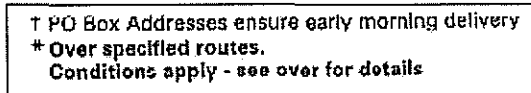


Type B

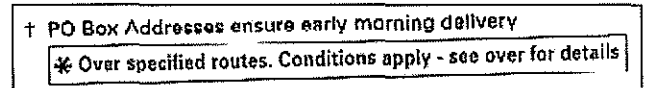


Type C

Note 'Over specified routes. Conditions apply - see ...'



Types A & B

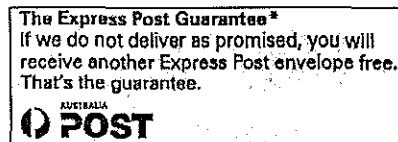


Type C

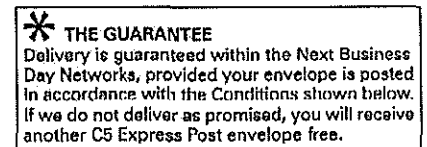
Guarantee Reverse top left



Type A

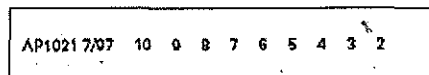


Type B



Type C

Printing Note (under back flap)



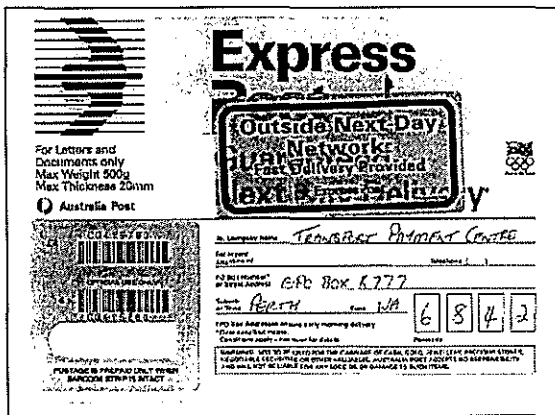
For Type A	AP737 6/96	10⇒1
For Type B	AP818 12/96	10⇒1
For type C	AP1021 7/97	10⇒1 10⇒2 10⇒3
	AP1248 12/97	10⇒1

The official record letters and purchasing barcode number (all commence 9312650): NSW CN 901813, Vic CV 901820, QLD CQ 901837, WA CW 901844, SA CS 901851. The posting network for each state is detailed on the reverse side.

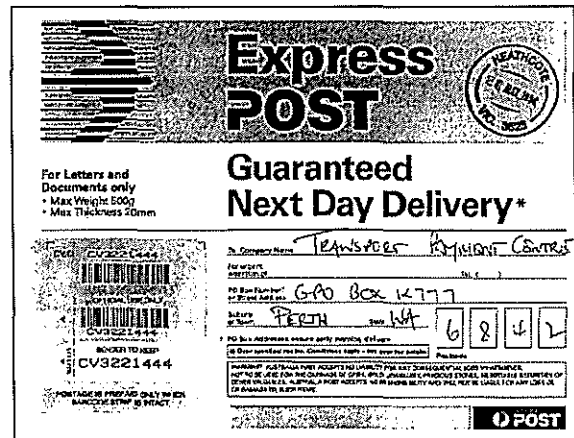
NEXT BUSINESS DAY EXPRESS POST NETWORKS AVAILABLE - NEW SOUTH WALES	
INTERSTATE NETWORK	To and from:
When posted on:	Permitted Range:
Monday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478
Tuesday	Canberra and Adelaide 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Wednesday	Canberra and Adelaide 2488-2499
Thursday	Canberra 2488-2499
Friday	Canberra 2488-2499
Saturday	Canberra 2488-2499
When posted on:	Permitted Range:
Monday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478
Tuesday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Wednesday	Canberra 2488-2499
Thursday	Canberra 2488-2499
Friday	Canberra 2488-2499
Saturday	Canberra 2488-2499
When posted on:	Permitted Range:
Monday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Tuesday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Wednesday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Thursday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Friday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Saturday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
When posted on:	Permitted Range:
Monday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Tuesday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Wednesday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Thursday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Friday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768
Saturday	Canberra 2488-2499; 2460-2478; 2749-2768

Two special stick on labels (red tape on yellow background) for indicating that posting is "Outside Next-Day Network" have been noted in this sample:

- PM 355(8/92) glossy finish, right angle corners for border
- PM 356(8/92) matte finish, rounded corners for border



Type A



Type C

FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES

The Informer (Journal of the Society of Australasian Specialists Oceania) in the Spring 1998 [= Autumn downunder] issue includes an article on *Selected Items from Carl Stieg's Victoria Newspaper Wrappers*. The April-June issue of *Postal Stationery*, Journal of the United Postal Stationery Society, includes articles on varieties on modern [US] cards, The First Issues [of the USA], Uncommon Aerogrammes, Weather Report Penalty Wrappers and Canadian Stationery. It also reports on the contents of issues of L'Intero Postale (from the Italian Stationery Society) and L'Entier Postal (from our conterpart in France). The emphasis in these Journals is, not surpringly, on articles from the country of origin in Italian or French respectively.

The June 1998 issue of *Postal Stationery Notes* (Journal of the Postal Stationery Study Group of the British North America Philatelic Society) includes articles on the new bird postcards, message portions of reply cards used as single cards, Quebec Government special order stationery, Christmas Seal cards and CPR privately rouletted cards.

AUSTRALIA : STATE SCENIC POSTCARDS - SERIES II

John Sinfield

This note merely follows up Craig Chappell's (Brisbane) and Ian McMahon's (Canberra) listing of new Australian postage prepaid NVI card issues in PSC No.14, and is simply to record just how difficult Australia Post sometimes makes things for the collector of modern stationery. For me the episode began over five months later than for Craig, when, on 3 June 1998, whilst at Melbourne airport I noticed that the Australia Post shop stocked a full set of the Victorian NVI scenic cards (\$1 selling price) which had first appeared 1995/96 (see PSC No.xx). The majority of these had been unprocurable for some while, so it was apparent that a third print had occurred.

However in addition to this reprint, and as listed by Craig and Ian, a further five new scenes had been added for Victoria. These are readily distinguishable from the original series in that they now all bear the distinctive "Post Stamps" logo. The set comprises:

<u>Code</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Stamp Insert</u>
12419	Melbourne Park (Tennis Centre)	1989 20¢ Tennis
12420	City Circle Tram	1989 41¢ Cable Tram
12421	Southbank (River Yarra)	1968 13¢ Pink Heath
12422	Puffing Billy (train)	1979 35¢ Puffing Billy
12423	Shrine of Remembrance (vertical)	1990 65¢ Anzac Tradition

Two further cards, also available in Victoria as well as Tasmania, feature Tasmanian aspects:

12429	Richmond Bridge	1976 5¢ Richmond Bridge
12430	Tasmanian Devil (vertical)	1959 1/2d Tasmanian Tiger

The cards seem to have restricted distribution among Melbourne Post Offices (I have not tried rural centres), and my own adventures to obtain full sets of seven (5 = Victoria & 2 = Tasmania) took me around most of Melbourne. Very few offices carried stock and at no single Post Office was I able to acquire all seven cards; I found two suburban offices (St Kilda South & Ringwood) with five different cards. Some carried only one, or two, including Melbourne GPO where surprisingly only the Tasmanian Richmond Bridge was available. The National Philatelic Centre (NPC) was able to supply only four scenes, but referred me to 45 Collins Street, which had stock of six different cards including the difficult "City Circle Tram" (popular card with tourists).

Apparently this new issue of State viewcards was prompted by the Postmaster at Parliament House, Canberra who had earlier submitted five new ACT scenes. The new issue seems to have appealed to Melbourne, which printed the ACT cards concurrent with a set of their own Victorian and Tasmania scenes. No formal announcement of issue was made, and the issue was decided at State level rather than nationally. According to AP computer records, the official card distribution date for all three States was 1 December 1997, although general availability (at least in Melbourne) seems to be considerably later.

Ian McMahon also advises of geographic difficulty in obtaining full sets of the five ACT cards, although he first noted them on 31 January 1998. During July I tried in several Sydney (city and suburban) Post Offices to buy the latest series ACT cards (and search for possible

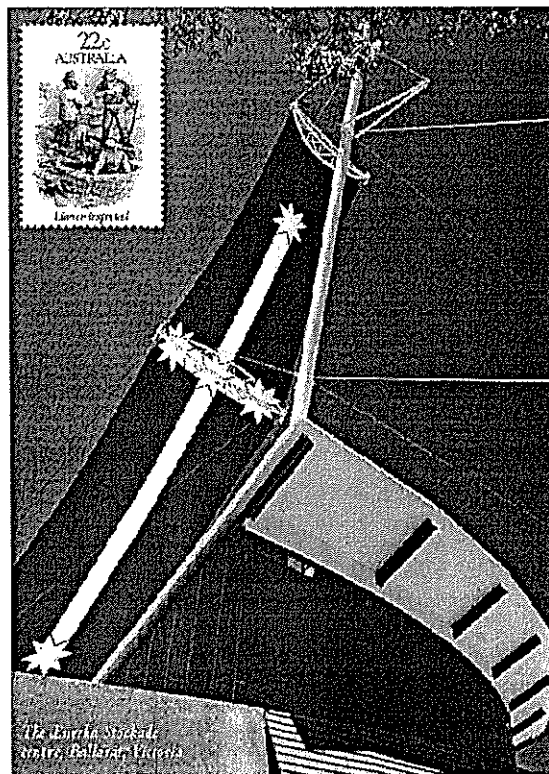
new NSW additions), but only reprints of the original set were obtainable (as they also are at Melbourne NPC - but only for NSW, ACT and Victorian scenes). Despite their card product numbers falling between the Victorian and Tasmanian sets, the five new ACT cards are nowhere listed in AP's Victorian computer system (and presumably vice versa). Second series ACT cards are:

12424	Floriade Festival	1968 30¢ Waratah
12425	Canberra by Day	1988 39¢ Living Together (Tourism)
12426	Capitol Hill	1977 18¢ (old) Parliament House
12427	Parliament House (vertical)	1988 37¢ Aboriginal Art
12428	Canberra by Night	1988 39¢ Living Together (Tourism)

This is not the end of the State views postcard saga. On 6 March 1988, a regional card was added to the Victorian series to mark the centenary of the Eureka Stockade rebellion at Ballarat:

12509	Eureka Stockade Centre (vertical)	1981 22¢ Gold Rush (Licence Inspected)
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Basically obtainable only by mail order or at local Ballarat Post Offices (and not stocked by Melbourne NPC), I was fortunate to have my local postmaster order in the card for me. It would seem that other States may also follow this regional precedent, and Martin Walker (Adelaide) advises that a South Australia Barossa Valley scene was issued on 7 September. These cards may well become the rarities of the future, and since Australia Post does not appear intent on announcing them, if such material is of interest to you, it would seem that the only way of keeping track is for national vigilance by our society members!



12509 Eureka Stockade Centre Ballarat

AUSTRALIA POST'S SPONSORED ATHLETE POST CARDS

Martin Walker

During May 1995, I had the pleasure of attending the meeting of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria where John Sinfield displayed a portion of his collection of post cards. For the duration of the display I had the pleasure of sitting next to David Maiden, head of Australia Post's Philatelic Group. The contents of the display directed the conversation towards postal stationery collecting in general and at one point the discussion turned to the post cards being released by Australia Post today.

After politely answering or avoiding my various questions on the post cards being issued today David Maiden asked me if I was aware of a post card depicting the champion sprinter, Cathy Freeman. Not only did I have to reply in the negative but I also had to get the full story. Unfortunately David couldn't help. His first encounter with the post card had only come a few days before when a collector stuck one under his nose and said "What do you know about this?" It then became clearly apparent that one section of Australia Post had created a product without the sanction, approval or even knowledge of the Philatelic Group.

Having had the rare opportunity to have a swag of my questions, ideas and concerns put to Australia Post's top man in philately I must confess that the story about the Cathy Freeman post card caused me to return home to Adelaide with a mixture of deflation and trepidation. "What is this card?", I wondered.

About three months later the topic of a post card depicting Cathy Freeman surfaced during a conversation with a fellow post card collector in Brisbane. He also had heard about the card and had searched through the various departments of Australia Post until he found the people who had issued the card. Not only did he know about the card but he had one. Then came the revelation that he also had a card depicting the champion swimmer Nicole Stevenson.

Armed with a contact name and the address of the Corporate Communications Group of Australia Post I wrote off requesting examples of each card and some details behind their issue. About a week later I received an example of each card enclosed in an official Australia Post envelope but absolutely no information, no note, no invoice, no with compliments slip, nothing! Shortly after the receipt of my cards I learned that other collectors' requests for cards were no longer being responded to.

Delighted by the receipt of the cards but still perturbed by the mystery I contacted the local Philatelic Officer and also spoke to a few Australia Post contacts and fellow collectors both here in Adelaide and in Melbourne. After showing the cards at one of the local philatelic society meetings a member of that society told me that he had seen the card depicting Nicole Stevenson before. It had been received by the swimming club where he was also a member. As he only saw the picture side he did not recognise it as being an issue by Australia Post. As the Stevenson card has a pre-printed message on the address side reading "Thank-you for your well wishes and support - Nicole" the nature of these cards was becoming clear. They had been produced by the section of Australia Post responsible for the employment of sports people under the Olympic Job Opportunities Program and were being used by Cathy Freeman and Nicole Stevenson to respond to fan mail.

About this time, editors of the specialist philatelic press were becoming aware of these cards and mention of them and their purpose was published for the first time. As some collectors are as avid as sports fans it was no surprise to me that some of my fellow collectors, who had missed out on cards by writing to the Corporate Communications Group, did manage to acquire them by writing fan letters to the athletes concerned.

The next chapter in the story came at the special meeting of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia held at the Sydney Philatelic Exhibition in October 1995. At this meeting, collectors from around Australia were able to compare notes on Australian postal stationery and several collectors showed their examples of the Freeman and Stevenson post cards. There were two different types of cards depicting Cathy Freeman! The card that most collectors had depicted Cathy at the 1994 Commonwealth Games stood victorious on the podium and with an inset shot of her carrying the Aboriginal flag. One Melbourne collector showed a card depicting Cathy running at the Stuttgart championships. This card was illustrated in an article by John Sinfield appearing in the May 1996 issue of *PSC*. That now meant that there was at least three different cards to be found.

My intrigue continued to be raised and eventually I decided to write to the athletes concerned. Not as a fake fan but as a collector asking questions of philatelic relevance. At the time (November 1995) Nicole Stevenson was a Community Liaison and Education Officer for Australia Post's National Office in Melbourne. Cathy Freeman held the same position in Australia Post's Victorian State Office.

To their credit I did receive quite speedy replies from both. Although Cathy's letter was only a promise to find out and let me know later, I was thrilled to receive it anyway.

Nicole Stevenson's reply was far more informative. The presumption that the cards were produced to reply to fan mail was confirmed by her letter. The difficulty in obtaining the cards was also explained by the sentence "They are not available through Retail Outlets, as they are kept by myself (Nicole Stevenson) & Cathy."

As Nicole is a champion swimmer and not a philatelist her answers to my questions were not as conclusive as I might have liked but they did solve some of the mysteries behind the cards. From her letter I was informed that issues were made in 1993 and 1994. Both the first and second card runs were 2,000.

In her letter Nicole claims that the cards were designed by her using photos supplied by "Sport The Library" of Melbourne. Later information supplied by Australia Post reveals that other people did in fact design the cards but it seems fair to state that the idea behind the issues came from Nicole.

Her letter did close with another revelation! Included with it was a copy of another post card. This featured a collage of shots of each of the athletes employed by Australia Post. According to Nicole this "Team Atlanta" card was produced for an Olympics promotion planned by Australia Post. The card was produced by Clemenger Melbourne from photographs by Brett Cocorhan.

By November 1995 the postal stationery collecting community was aware of four cards - one depicting Nicole Stevenson, two depicting Cathy Freeman and the Team Atlanta card (*PSC* November 1995).

In that same month I gave a talk to a meeting of the Junior Stamp Club in Adelaide. The talk turned to obtaining philatelic material for kids on small budgets and I mentioned the availability of these post cards. One the members of the Junior Stamp Club also competes with Little Athletics in South Australia. He was, and still is, a big fan of Cathy Freeman and had met her at the Stawell Gift. He had written letters of congratulation to her and had received post cards with messages of thanks from her (Figure 1). These are the only examples of the cards I have seen bearing messages from either of the sportswomen. Despite my envy and enthusiasm for postal stationery, even I couldn't part a youngster from his treasures. One day I may get to own examples of each of the cards actually bearing messages from the athletes concerned.

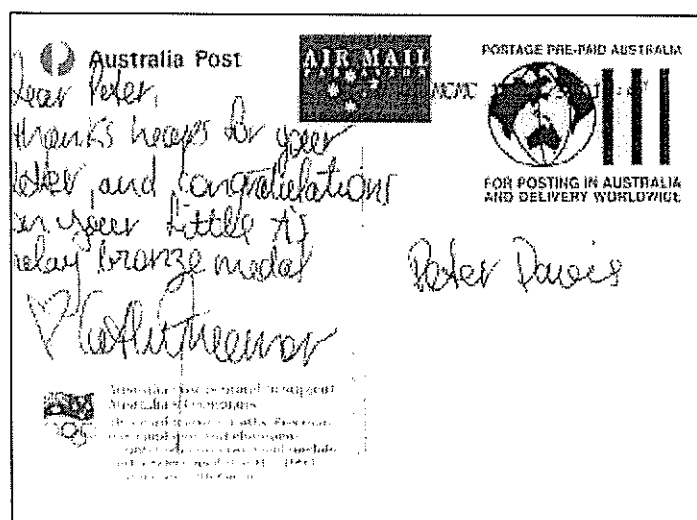


Figure 1 Freeman's response to a fan's letter (Addressee details erased at the owner's request).

Early in 1996, I received a letter from Perth collector, Derek Pocock, containing a card he had received from the Public Relations Officer of Australia Post at the Canberra G.P.O. It was another type of card featuring Nicole Stevenson! In an extraordinary stroke of good fortune Derek received the card as an unsolicited sweetener following his complaint to the Canberra G.P.O. that their Frama and Stamp Vending machines did not work during a holiday weekend when he happened to be in Canberra.

This card (*PSC* May 1996) was a natural partner to the earlier Cathy Freeman card and further research proved this to be the case.

The Atlanta Games came and went and even I must admit that I did follow the progress of the two sportswomen with more interest than I might have done in the past. Nicole's silver and bronze medals seemed to provide a nice swansong to a successful swimming career. Cathy Freeman's participation in the 400m track final was an Australia stopping event and her silver medal performance is hoped to be bettered at the Sydney 2000 games.

Australia Post provided members of the Australian Olympic Team with unstamped post cards. These were used, kept or swapped by the recipients and an example used from Atlanta, bearing a US stamp was illustrated by Marc Jennison in the February 1997 issue of *PSC*. This card had a prepared message on the address side and the picture side featured the Australian Olympic Mascot.

Whilst in Melbourne for the Melbourne 1996 Philatelic Exhibition I organised some time to inspect Australia Post's files on modern post cards. The Freedom of Information Request I submitted was all embracing and included a request for details on the cards used by Nicole Stevenson and Cathy Freeman. As the Philatelic Group of Australia Post did not have any involvement in the production of the cards the particular files were not available through this channel. In fact the staff of the Philatelic Group were very quick to disassociate themselves from these issues.

(For the record, I was denied access to contemporary files as they contained production tenders that were considered commercially sensitive. The files for the first three series of pictorial post cards issued since 1976 appear to have been destroyed. The only file relating to issued post cards that I was allowed a sight of related to the Series IV pictorial cards.)

After some polite, but persistent, requests, Jo Monie of the Philatelic Group acquiesced to find out more about these cards for me to share with the philatelic community. The fact that I am able to present the following information is very much due to her efforts. **IT SHOULD BE EMPHASISED THAT THERE IS NO MORE INFORMATION TO BE GOT AND THAT THE PHILATELIC GROUP DOES NOT HAVE ANY STOCKS OF THE CARDS AVAILABLE FOR COLLECTORS.**

To date nine post cards have been produced. All of the cards have been produced by Australia Post to assist the twelve athletes employed by them to respond to fan mail. Eleven of these athletes are featured on the "Team Atlanta" card. The details of each of the nine cards produced are as follows:

In June 1994 the first pair of cards were produced for Nicole Stevenson and Cathy Freeman. They were designed by Felicity Cowie and 2,000 of each were printed by Work & Turner Pty Ltd of Melbourne. (Figures 2 and 3).

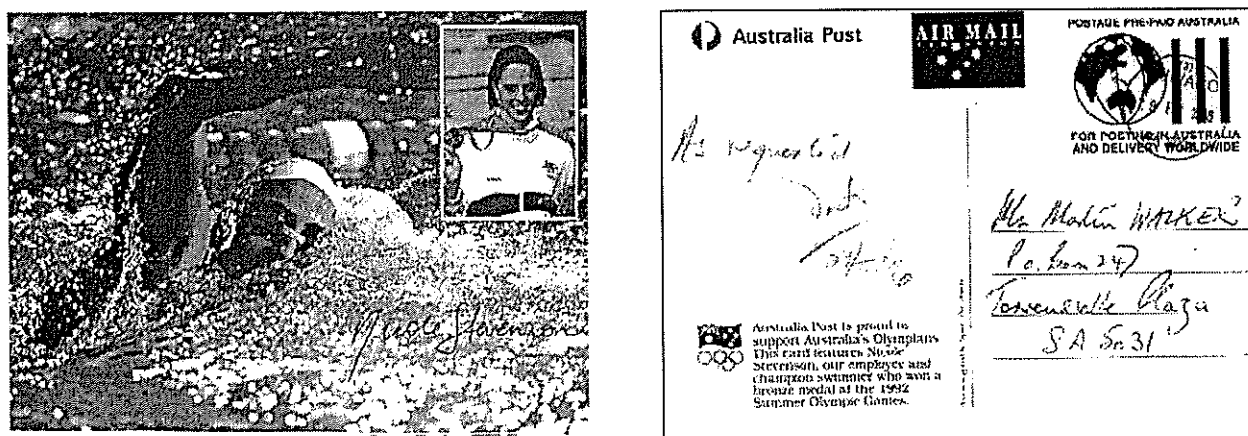


Figure 2

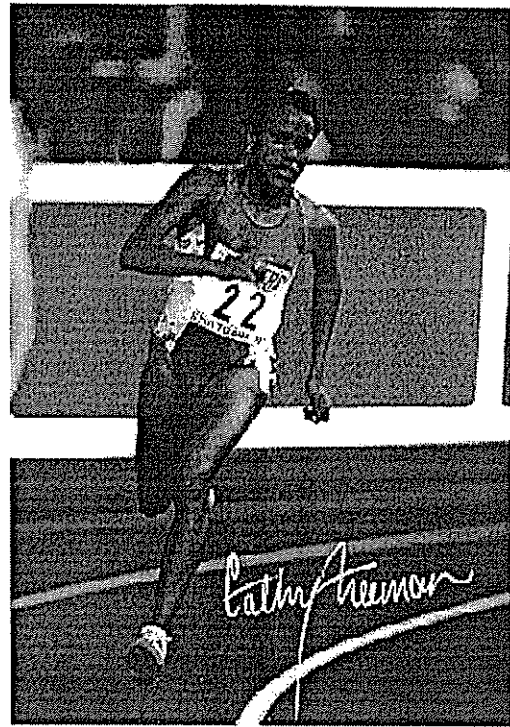
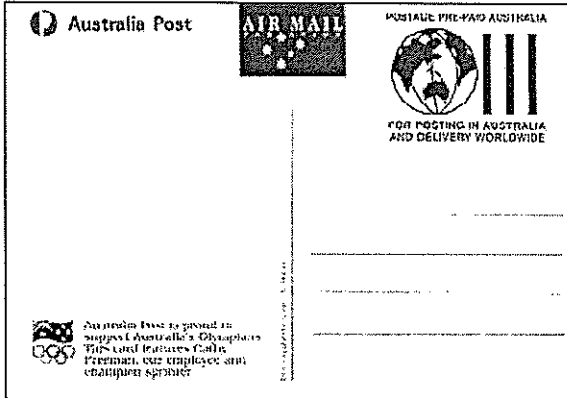


Figure 3

As Cathy Freeman receives so much fan mail two additional cards were produced for her in November 1994. These were designed by Mark Glassborow of Australia Post's Corporate Communications Group. Work & Turner Pty Ltd were again employed to print 10,000 of one (Figure 4) and 5,000 of the other design (Figure 5).

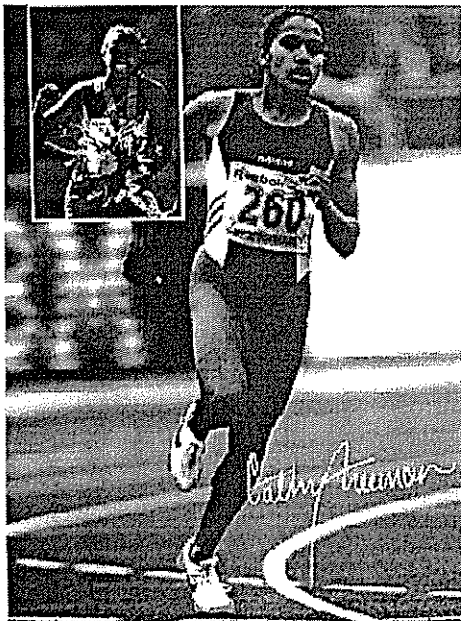


Figure 4

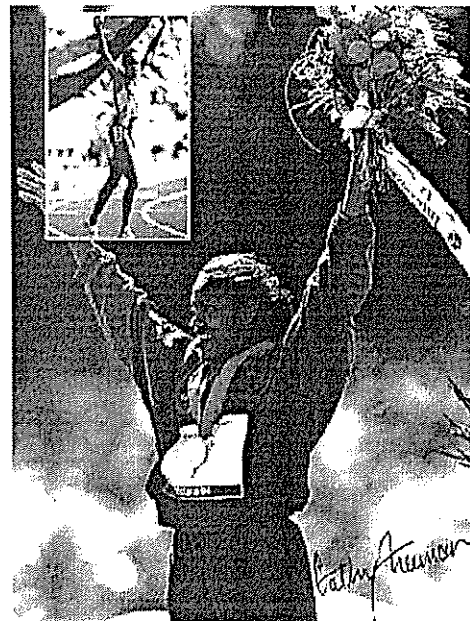


Figure 5

The card shown in Figure 4 features a picture of Cathy carrying the Aboriginal flag which caused quite a controversy at the time. These cards were mainly used to cope with the fan mail received after the 1994 Commonwealth Games.

A new card featuring Nicole Stevenson was produced in May 1995 (Figure 6). This was also designed by Mark Glassborow and 5,000 were printed by Work & Turner Pty. Ltd.



Figure 6

In anticipation of the 1996 Atlanta Olympics Australia Post produced three more cards. The first of these (Figure 7) featured “Willy”, the mascot of the Australian Team. This was an ‘unstamped’ card and it appears they were distributed to each member of the Australian Team and not just to the athletes employed by Australia Post. A card used from Atlanta bearing a U.S. postage stamp is known to the philatelic community (*PSC* February 1997) and I would suggest that many friends of Australian Olympic Team members would have received greetings from America on these cards. This card was also designed by Mark Glassborow and 30,000 were printed by S.R. Frankland Pty. Ltd. Although produced in May 1995, the cards were probably distributed just before the team left for Atlanta a year later.

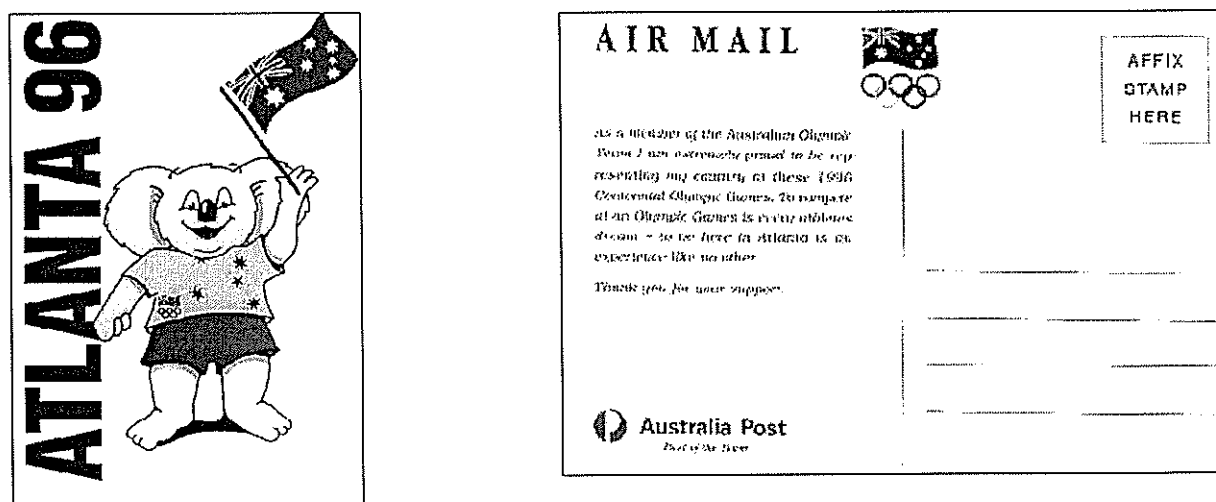


Figure 7

The next card was the “Atlanta Part of the Team” issue (Figure 8). 10,000 were printed by

Work & Turner Pty Ltd in September 1995. These were produced to complement Australia Post's sponsorship and promotion of the Atlanta team. They were generally used by the athletes during the period of the promotion, which was the first half of 1996. The card features the eleven athletes employed by Australia Post at the time and the address side, designed by Mark Glassborow, lists each of them and their appropriate sporting endeavour. The picture side was designed by Clemenger Melbourne.

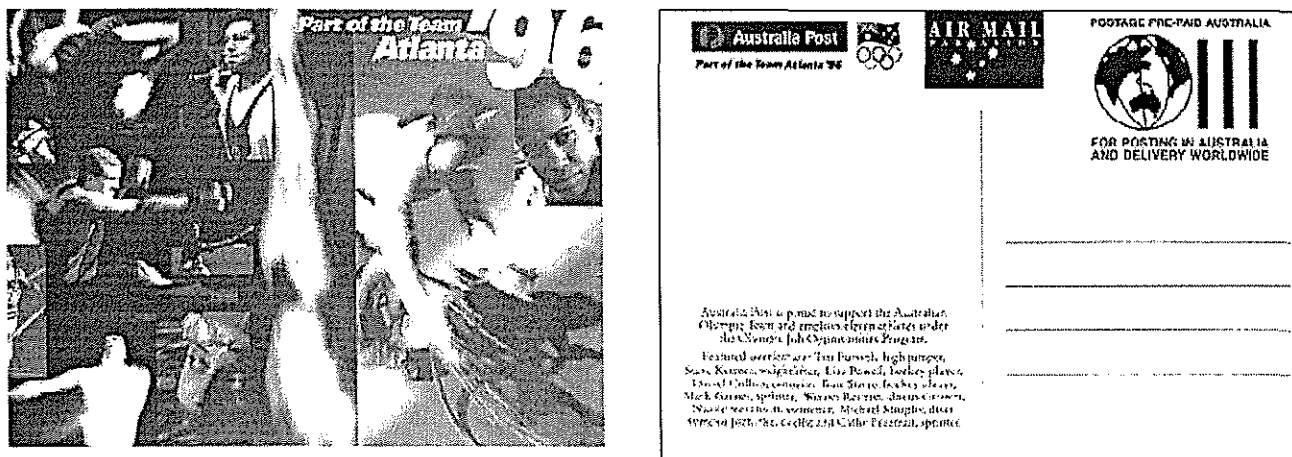


Figure 8

“Willy” the Australian Team mascot made another appearance on the next card issued. The picture side was the same as the earlier unstamped card but the address side showed some differences (Figure 9). The most significant difference was that the card was now pre-stamped for use in Australia. This card was also designed by Mark Glassborow and 5,000 were printed by S.R. Frankland Pty Ltd in October 1996.

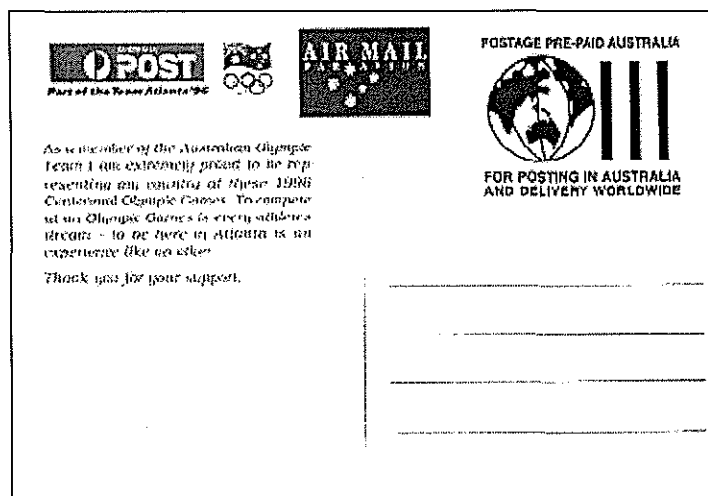


Figure 9

During the Olympics thousands of cards, letters and faxes of congratulation and support were sent to members of the Australian team. Apparently Cathy Freeman received as many messages as most of the other team members combined. To reply to most of these another

card (Figure 10) was produced in November 1996 (reported by Ian McMahon in *PSC* February 1997). This card was again designed by Mark Glassborow and 50,000 were printed by S.R. Frankland Pty Ltd.

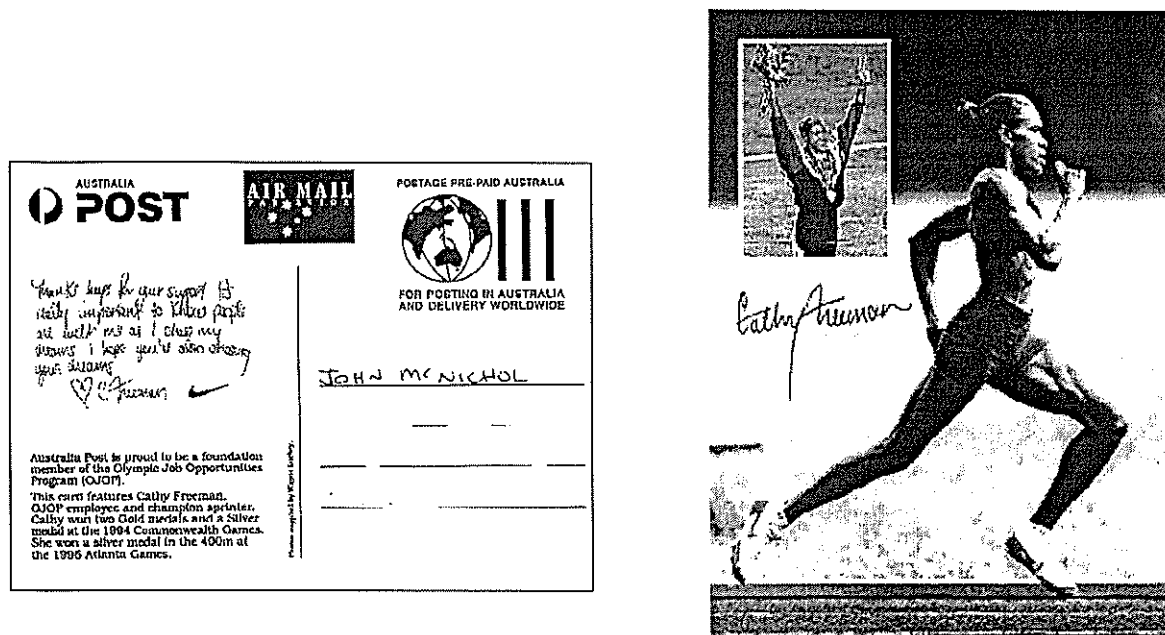


Figure 10

The use of the Postage Prepaid Indicum on all but one of these cards has given them quite a philatelic significance. The limited availability and print runs of the cards will definitely make these cards the key items of any collection of Australian Stationery. It will be interesting to see how collectors and catalogue editors of the future will approach these cards. Whilst this article may be the last word on the cards already issued, the fact that the Corporate Communications Branch of Australia Post has not ruled out the possibility of further issues means that collectors of postal stationery will need to keep a watchful eye out for new cards.

Note: This article has been jointly published with *Philately from Australia*, the Journal of the Royal Philatelic Society of Victoria and the Royal Sydney Philatelic Club.

NEW BOOKS

Special Katalog Der Tschechoslowakis Ganssachen Teil IV Slowakei 1939-1945, 1993; Teil V Bohmen und Mahren 1935-45. [Specialised Catalogue of Czechoslovakian Postal Stationery Volume IV Slovakia; Volume V Bohemia and Moravia]. Available from Vera Trinder (38 Bedford St, Strand, London WC2E 9EU UK) for £18 (Volume IV) and £22 (Volume V) plus postage.

British Indian Postal Stationery by D Lang. An illustrated history and listing of the postal stationery of India up to Independence in 1947. Available for £25 plus postage from Vera Trinder.

THE TEAPOT OF TRUTH

Ian McMahon

As foreshadowed in the May 1998 issue of PSC, Australia Post, on 13 August 1998, issued a stamp booklet, *The Teapot of Truth: Leunig Prestige Collection*, including stamp designs by Michael Leunig, an Australian cartoonist. This booklet included a postal card depicting one of his cartoons (Front cover and Figure 1). The issue was accompanied by eight additional postal cards, three with printed images of the 45c adhesive stamps issued at the same time (*Messenger*, *Heart* and *Teapot*) while the other five were issued as maximum cards. (Why no postal cards with printed stamp designs were issued for the two high values of the set is unknown). All of the postal cards have a redesigned 'stamp area' with a 'cartoon' globe.

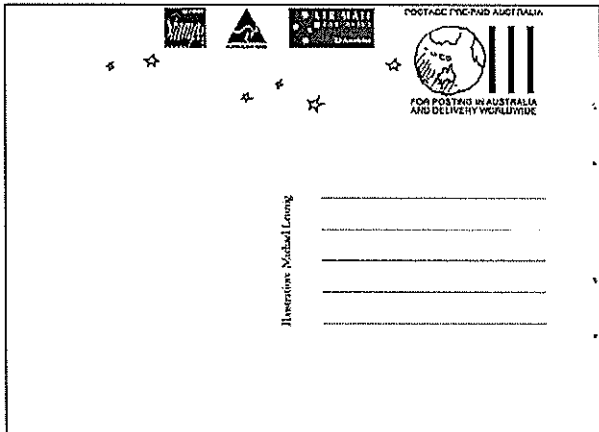


Figure 1. Front of the card from the prestige booklet.

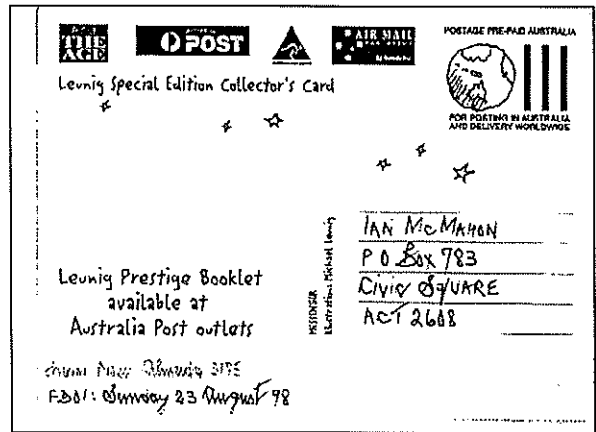


Figure 2 Leunig postcard distributed in the Sunday Age.

On Tuesday 25 August I received from Noel Almeida a copy of a postal card with The Age's logo on the front (Figure 2). As part of a promotion for the issue, a copy of this card ('The Messenger') had been distributed in every copy of the 23 August 1998 issue of *The Sunday Age*, a Melbourne newspaper. The card differs from that sold at Post Shops (Figure 3) by having The Age's logo printed on the front of the card as well as having no barcode and a different Australia Post logo. The card also had text indicating that it was a "Leunig Collector Card" and text advertising the availability of the prestige booklet. The stock of the card is much whiter than the other issues. The front of the card was illustrated on the front page of *The Sunday Age* (Figure 4) which also carried an advertisement for a 'Leunig Collection' which included the booklet, FDC and a set of 'six collector cards'.

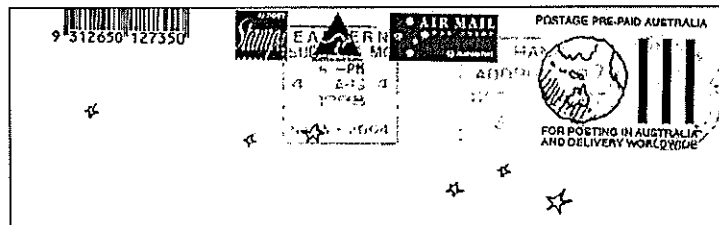


Figure 3 The front of one of the Leunig postcards sold over post office counters.

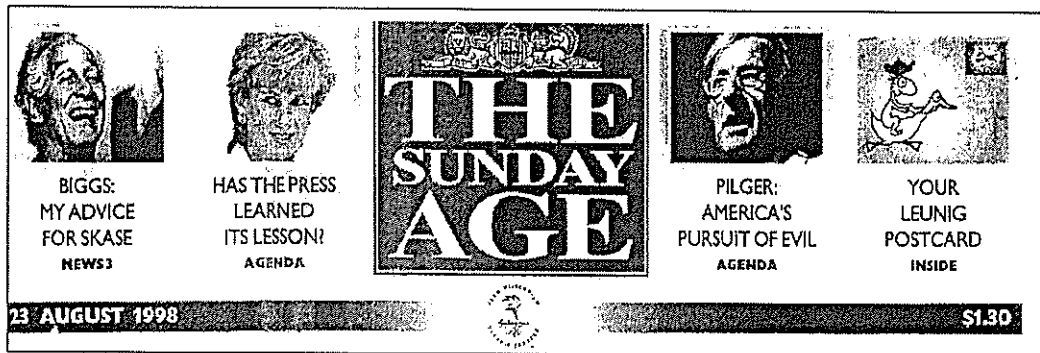


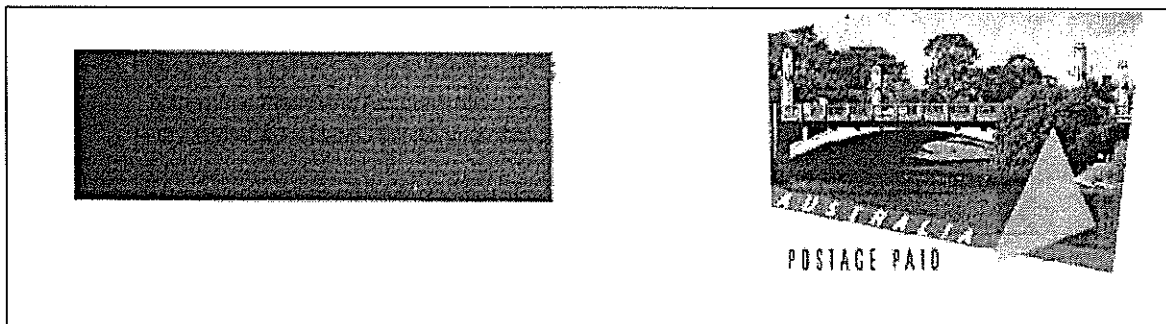
Figure 4 The Age's masthead for 23 August 1998

***ADELAIDE BRIDGE PREPAID ENVELOPE WITH OBLITERATED ADDRESS
CORNER SOLD OVER POST OFFICE COUNTER***

Ian McMahon

A recent visit to a Post Office in the Riverina district of New South Wales yielded something of a surprise. The Post Office had on sale single copies of the Adelaide Bridge C6 window prepaid envelopes.

Included in the stock were a number of envelopes with address corners printed on them for Elder & Stuckey & Partners, Certified Practising Accountants of PO Box 40 Tumut NSW 2720. The envelopes had this address corner overprinted with a black rectangle designed to obliterate the address.



The counter staff indicated that a box of these envelopes had been returned to the Post Office, received the overprint and been placed on sale. The bulk of the envelopes had been sold. The counter staff also said that some customers had preferred to buy unoverprinted envelopes in preference to those with the overprint.

The envelopes were all from the 8th printing of the envelope (code 8⇒10) and the gum had aged resulting in poor adhesion of the self-adhesive flaps.

**LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN NON-DENOMINATED POSTAL STATIONERY
(NEW ISSUES)**

Ian McMahon

Postcards			
November 1996	Add to Olympic Athletes cards	3 September 1998	Butterflies
(-)	'Willy' Olympic mascot	(\$1)	Common Red-eye
		(\$1)	Ulysses Butterfly
		(\$1)	Meadow Argus
		(\$1)	Dull Oakblue
		(\$1)	Red Lacewing
6 March 1998	Victorian Pictorial Postcards	Maximum cards	
(\$1)	Ballarat: Eureka Stockade	(-)	Common Red-eye
	Sovereign Hill	(-)	Ulysses Butterfly
		(-)	Meadow Argus
		(-)	Dull Oakblue
6 August 1998	1998 Orchids	(-)	Red Lacewing
(\$1)	Moth Orchid	(Set price: \$4.50)	
(\$1)	Bamboo Orchid		
(\$1)	Tiger Orchid	7 September 1998	SA Pictorial Postcards
(\$1)	Cooktown Orchid	(\$1)	Barossa Valley
Maximum cards			
(-)	Moth Orchid	10 September 1998	Bass and Flinders
(-)	Bamboo Orchid	Maximum cards	
(-)	Tiger Orchid	(-)	George Bass
(-)	Cooktown Orchid	(-)	Matthew Flinders
(Set price: \$5.50)		(Set price: \$2.00)	
13 August 1998	Teapot of Truth	Envelopes	
(\$1)	Messenger	1998 (?)	Definitive window envelope with address corner obliterated and sold as post office stock
(\$1)	Heart	(0.55)	Adelaide Bridge
(\$1)	Teapot		
(-)	Angel*		
(-)	Messenger**		
Maximum cards			
(\$1)	Messenger		
(\$1)	Heart		
(\$1)	Teapot		
(\$1)	Family		
(\$1)	Cat		
(Set price: \$6.00)			

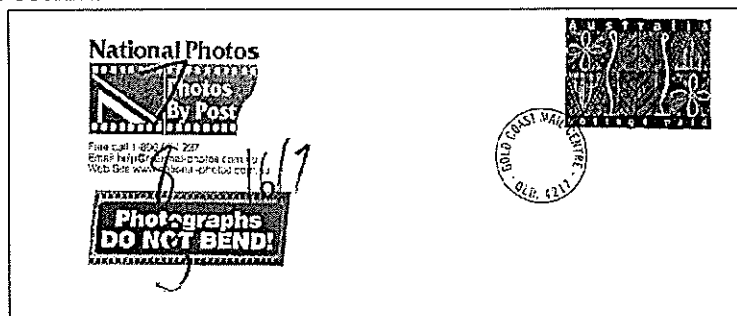
*Postcard from prestige booklet. Does not have a barcode nor an illustration of one of the issued stamps.

**Card with 'The Age' logo distributed with the Sunday Age of 23 August 1998 with advertising for the prestige stamp booklet.

Printed to Private Order Envelopes

May 1998 Aboriginal Art envelope: Printed to Private Order for National Photos, Southport Qld.

(-) C5 envelope
Window envelope, not numbered under flap. National Photos logo on front, address and advertising on reverse. Precancelled at the Gold Coast Mail Centre. Undated. No 'conditions' printed on reverse.



SOCIETY SALE BY TENDER

The Society is planning to hold a Sale by Tender in conjunction with the next issue of the *PSC*. If you have any material you wish to place in the sale could you please contact Darryl Fuller, 10 Arabana St, Aranda ACT 2614.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

George VI Doubleton

Thank you for publishing my letter in the May 1998 issue of *PSC*. I think I have answered my own question with the enclosed auction lot listings. I appreciate your willingness to help. My main interest is George V and I normally do not pay attention to George VI items but noticed the lot listed when looking for something else. The lot 1104 photo [of the George VI doubleton cutout] clearly shows the same three breaks that appear on the cutout that I have.

Thomas L. Herinckx

Australian States Catalogue Project

I studied Issue No 14 of *PSC* and Brian Pope's comments on Ed Druce's numbering system with great interest. Unfortunately, I am afraid that the entire project of the Australian States Postal Stationery Catalogue will die. My views were published in Issue No 4 of *PSC* and later supported by Robin Linke in Issue No 6.

Obviously our ideas, based on very many years of experience with world wide postal stationery catalogues, individual country catalogues and the (necessary) use of auction catalogues, has not influenced the work progressing in Australia.

I feel that some collectors aim for a 10 digit code or number reflecting all of the known variations of every postal stationery item. While this may be of academic interest, I believe that it would be useless for auction catalogues, dealer pricelists and, most importantly, for young collectors who must be supported by a simple and understandable list with a logical, easily understood numbering system (P13 is a postal card, A24 a certain lettercard, B1 the first envelope etc).

Peter Steinkamp

Contributions to the next issue of the Journal close with the editor on 15 December 1998.

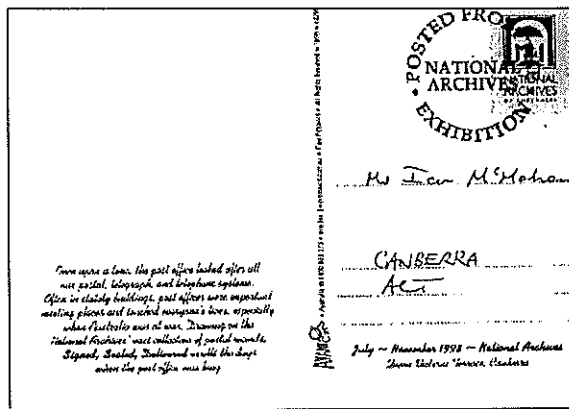
PLEASE CONTRIBUTE!

NEW ISSUES

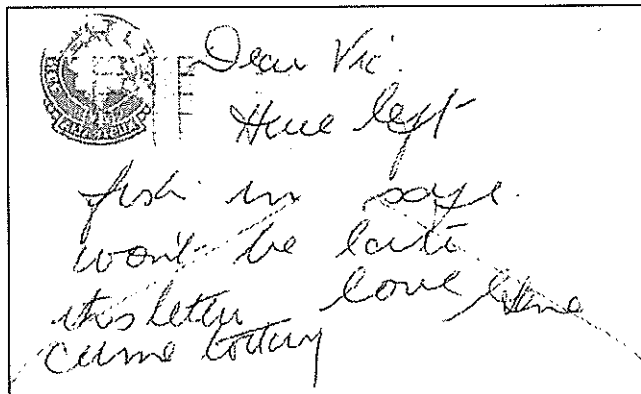
Australia

Reprints of the Aboriginal Art envelopes continue to appear with the DL envelopes now in their fourth printing and the C6 envelopes in their third printing. A second printing of the Ben Boyd National Park envelope has also appeared.

At their exhibition entitled *When the Post Office was King*, the Australian Archives encouraged visitors to post a 'free' postcard which is depicted below. While the posting of postcard was free to visitors presumably the Archives picked up the cost.

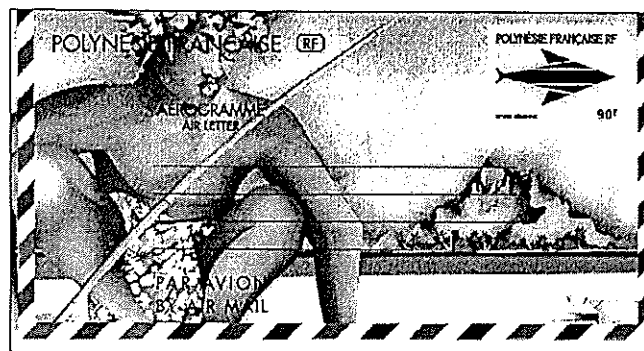


Depicted below is a nice offset of a 4d embossed stamp on the reverse of a PTPO envelope for David Jones.



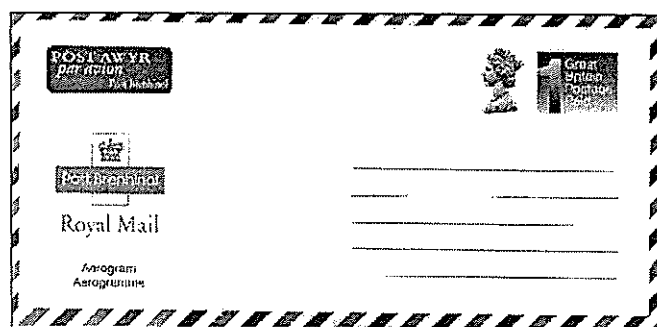
New Caledonia and French Polynesia

To commemorate the Soccer World Cup held in Paris, New Caledonia issued the postal card, the reverse of which shown below, and a stamped envelope. Early in 1998, French Polynesia released a new 90 fr aerogramme which is also depicted below.



Papua New Guinea

Not a new issue but an unusual creation of a maximum card using a cutout from a PNG PSE on the reverse side of a Vatican postal card to commemorate the visit of the Pope to Papua New Guinea.



United Kingdom

The UK has recently issued a bilingual definitive aerogramme with instructions in English and Welsh.

New Zealand

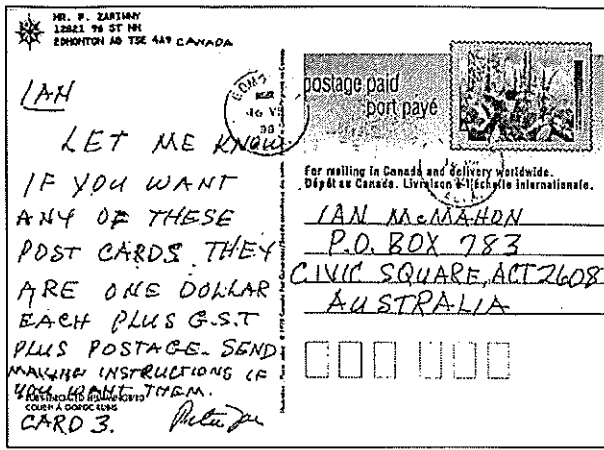
On 29 July 1998, New Zealand issued four prepaid postcards depicting scenes: Cambridge, Lake Wanaka, Kaikoura, Whakatane, Lindis Pass and Mount Maunganui. Sold at \$7.95 a set.

Canada

On 15 July 1998, Canada issued five pre-paid postcards depicting birds: Atlantic Puffin, Pileated Woodpecker, Great Crested Flycatcher, Eastern Screech Owl and Ruby Throated Honeyeater.

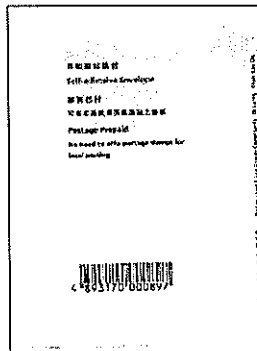
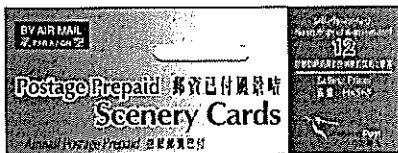
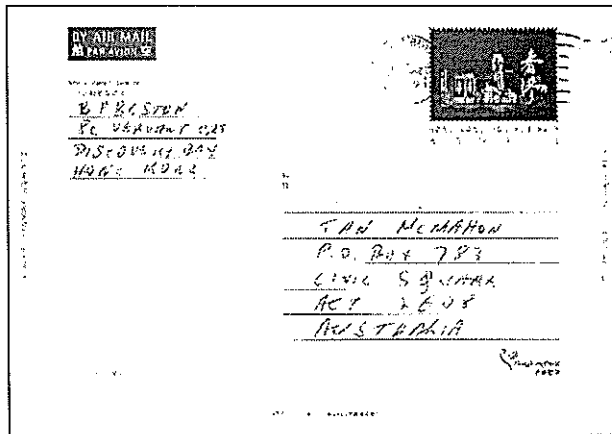
Manuscript revalued postcard

A postcard from the Budapest National Museum which has been revalued in manuscript from 200 F to 250 F. Sent by Canberra philatelist Hans Karman on 9 July 1997.



Hong Kong

Bernie Beston reports that Hong Kong recently issued sets of 12 scenic lettercards. One of the lettercards and the top of the pack which contained them are illustrated below.



USA

Sylvester and Tweety appear on a 20c postal card issued recently by the USA, both in the stamp area and on the reverse of the card.



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