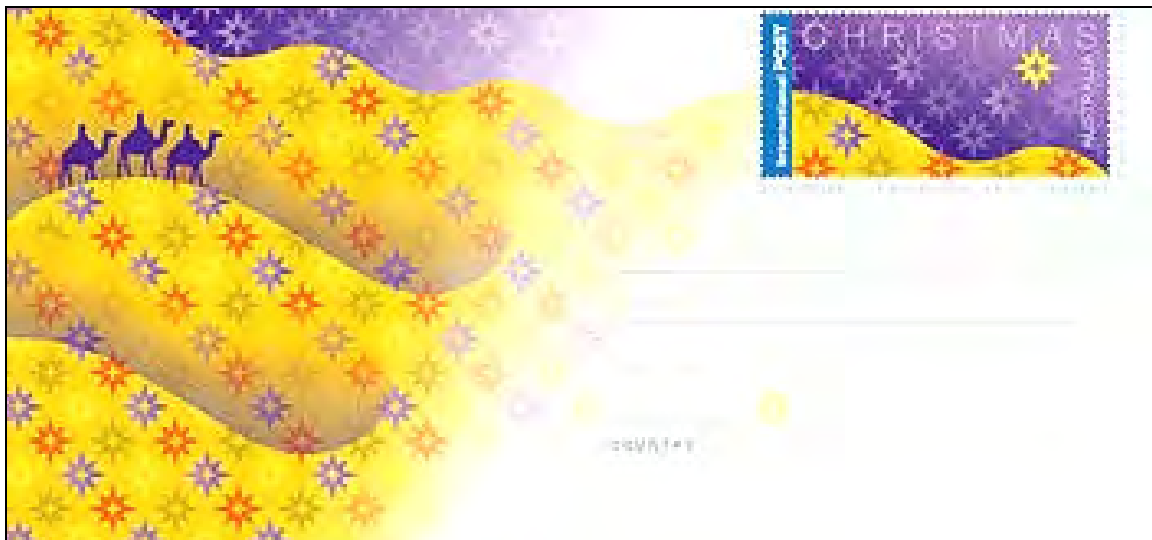


POSTAL STATIONERY

COLLECTOR

Volume 10 No 4: Issue No 40

February 2005



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 New Zealand 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 2003 has been set at \$35 (Australia) and \$50 (Overseas excluding New Zealand which is \$40). For further information please contact the Convenor, Secretary or your State Coordinator. Membership enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.

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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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FROM THE EDITOR

PSSA 10 YEARS OLD!

As described later in this issue, the Postal Stationery Society of Australia began in early 1995 and has now reached its 10th birthday. I believe that in those 10 years the Society has made considerable achievements.

To make the next ten years even better, the Society requires assistance from all our members, in writing articles, in helping with the website, and in recruiting new members.

We have an urgent need for a website of our own and a webmaster with the technical skills as well as with the ability to chase members for material. The website could become a major promotional tool as well as improving communications between ourselves and possibly an on-line postal stationery exchange. If you think you can help, please contact Judy or myself.

BALLARAT EUREKA 2004

Postal Stationery was well represented in the National one-frame competition at Ballarat Eureka 2004 held on the weekend of 9 & 10 October 2004. Indeed the award for the best exhibit went to PSSA member Jerry Kasper for his exhibit, New Zealand *Prisoner of War Aerogrammes*.

Postal Stationery Collector

David Elsmore (Qld)	Queensland Postal Notes 1880-1966	Ruby [79]
John Crowsley (Qld)	Norway - The Aerograms	Emerald [73]
Ian McMahon (ACT)	Lettercards of Canada	Emerald [69]
Anthony Lyon (Vic)	New Zealand Victorian Postal Cards With views	Emerald [73]
John Dibiase (WA)	British Imperial and Commonwealth Reply Coupons	Ruby [80]
John Dibiase (WA)	International Reply Coupons	Ruby [77]
Murray Collins (Qld)	Embossed Envelopes of East Africa / Kenya-Uganda	Ruby [78]
Jerome Kasper (USA)	New Zealand POW Aerogrammes	Diamond [89]
Jerome Kasper (USA)	Australia's Official Aerogrammes	Diamond [85]
Hugh Freeman (Vic)	PMG Stationery in Victoria	Ruby [77]
Erica Genge (Tas)	The "House of Parliament" Airletters	Ruby [78]

BAYPEX 2004 STAMP SHOW

Baypex 2004 was a New Zealand National exhibition held in Hawke's Bay New Zealand from 29-31 October 2004. Results include:

Bernard Beston	Australia – The Newspaper Wrappers	Vermeil [76]
Michel Roland	Postal Stationery Of Belgium 1871-1893	Vermeil [78]
Erica Genge	The Houses Of Parliament Airletters	Ruby

PACIFIC EXPLORER 2005

The most exciting philatelic event in Australia since Pacific Explorer 99, the international exhibition, Pacific Explorer 2005, will be held between Thursday 21 April and Sunday 24 April 2005 at the Sydney Convention and Exhibition Centre, Darling Harbour, Sydney.

The PSSA will be holding a meeting in Room 2 on Saturday 23 April 2005 Saturday from 1 pm to 2.30 pm. PSSA member, Steve Schumann, will give a display on *Interesting items of Australian Printed to Private Order postal stationery. Plan now to attend!*

VALE JOHN MACDONNELL

The Society records its deep regret at the passing of former PSSA member, John MacDonnell. John was a stalwart of Australian philately and a former president of the RPSV and the APF. A tribute to John can be found on the APF's website <http://www.apf.org.au>.

STATE LIBRARY OF VICTORIA POSTCARDS

A limited supply of these cards is available for members who may not have caught up with them. Members requiring a copy should send a SAE to the Editor (overseas members may send \$US2 in banknotes to cover postage).

RECENT COMMERCIALY USED POSTAL STATIONERY FROM AUSTRALIA TO UNUSUAL DESTINATIONS

Also available from the Pacific Islands and New Zealand.

Earlier material available as well.

Steven Zirinsky, PO Box 49, Ansonia Station, NY, NY 10023 USA. email: szirinsky@cs.com. fax 718 706 0619.

Payment can be made by cheque in any currency.

February 2005

**THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA
THE EARLY DAYS AND THE PRESENT**

Judy Kennett

There are few formal records of the beginnings of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA). A forerunner was a group of members of the Philatelic Society of Canberra, all with an interest in postal stationery, who used to meet every second month during 1993 and 1994. I found two of the single page 'newsletters' that Ian McMahon used to produce for the group. We had a program of topics for discussion, covering different types of stationery, and also had a session on literature about postal stationery, which included catalogues and specialized handbooks.

This regular group was made up of Derek Brennan, Darryl Fuller, Judy Kennett, Ian McMahon, and David (Dingle) Smith. The late Dr Ed Druce used to come along when he was 'in town'. All these people became Foundation members of the PSSA, and all, except Ed Druce, are still members today.

Towards the end of 1994 we were talking about starting up a group among other Australian postal stationery collectors. Ian did a mock-up of a journal, which we felt would be a necessary means of communication between members living in different cities. We also talked about a name for the group, and the Postal Stationery Society of Australia was settled as being an accurate indicator of the range of collecting interests of the membership we hoped to attract. It was made clear from the very beginning that all postal stationery collectors would be welcome, not only those who collected either Australian colonies or Australian Commonwealth stationery.

It was also decided that, although the Society would be launched in Canberra, it would not be based in any particular city. The interim officers were Ian McMahon, Coordinator and journal Editor, and Judy Kennett, Secretary / Treasurer. In early 1995 we started sending out invitations to join the Society to postal stationery collectors in other capital cities. Ian also sought a representative from each State who would help to bring our existence to the notice of interested collectors, beginners and advanced.

A decision had been made early in the life of the Society that we would take opportunities to meet at National level exhibitions in Australia, and possibly also on other occasions where philatelists gathered. Our first meeting was held at Sydney Centrepoint Exhibition in October 1995. Here Ian was confirmed as Coordinator / Editor, and Judy Kennett as Secretary, and John Crowsley was elected Treasurer.

So we set off into the big world, with warnings about the ephemeral nature of specialist collectors' groups ringing in our ears. It was not long before we welcomed Barry Scott as representative for the North Island of New Zealand. We started receiving enquiries about membership from overseas countries. I've always felt that many of these members came as a result of the efforts of Ed Druce, who traveled widely both for his work and as an Australian delegate to the FIP, and as an International judge.

Another instrument in spreading the word about the Society has been our journal *Postal Stationery Collector*. We were agreeably surprised when early volumes achieved silver level medals at International exhibitions. This publicity brought requests to initiate exchanges with other journals, particularly those published by other groups of postal stationery collectors.

We would like to have our own web page to attract enquiries and new members. That is

something we have not yet achieved, but in the meantime we have a link from the Philatelic Society of Canberra web page, <http://www.canberrastamps.org>. Many thanks to member, Hans Karman, who set this up for us. We see our own web page as a site for members to offer surplus material for sale to other members, and for a question and answer section. It would also offer links to postal stationery collectors' sites from other countries, such as those groups with which we have exchange arrangements.

The activities of the Society have always been constrained by the time available to both the officers and the members. We have not advanced past the first volume (Western Australia) of our projected catalogue of the postal stationery of the Australian colonies / states. At least three more volumes (Tasmania, Queensland and South Australia) are being prepared, time allowing, by members of the Society.

There has always been a strong interest in the PSSA in modern and contemporary Australian postal stationery. There have long been two problems associated with collecting this material. The first is the absence of a reasonable illustrated catalogue, and the second is the fact that Australia Post has not customarily announced many of these modern issues. Hence the interest taken in Ian's production of the *Listing of Australian non-denominated and flat rate postal stationery* in December 2002, with an update in December 2003. However, there are now signs that Australia Post will provide more information to us on new stationery issues.

The PSSA has had a joint role, with the Australian Philatelic Federation (APF), in the setting up of the Contemporary Postal Stationery Competition. This competition will be available at the Postal Stationery classes at Australian National Philatelic exhibitions from September 2004 until 2008. It has two aims: (1) to increase the interest of exhibitors in postal stationery of the Modern period, and (2) to generate 3-5 new entries of material from the contemporary period of postal stationery per exhibition, during this time. The exhibiting of No Value Indicated (NVI) material will be particularly encouraged as part of the competition.

At the end of our first ten years, we look back to see what the Society has been able to achieve, in spite of constraints. First, we have had a role in encouraging the collection and the exhibiting of postal stationery in Australia. This applies to the stationery of other countries as well as to Australian material. Second, we have given researchers a vehicle for publishing their work, not only on Australian issues, in *Postal Stationery Collector*. Third, we have provided collectors with a means of communication, in both our meetings and in the production of the journal. Now we will see what we can accomplish in the next ten years, if the life of the Society continues.

PSSA Foundation Members

Noel Almeida
Steve Bradford
Derek Brennan
Mark Diserio
Ed Druce
Ian Faber
Darryl Fuller
Margaret Hamilton
Ken Humphreys
Marc Jennison
Ray Kelly
Robin Linke
Michael Organ
Bruce Parker
John Sinfield

Bernie Beston
Denis Byrne
John Crowsley
Bernie Doherty
Ross Duberal
Martin Frischauf
Malcolm Groom
Imah Hert
Barry Jarrett
Mark Jurisich
Judy Kennett
Ian McMahon
Joan Orr
Derek Pocock
Dingle Smith

Peter Steinkamp
Ray Todd
Martin Walker
John Steward
Betty Van Tenac
Nita Wilson

CAPE OF GOOD HOPE STAMPED-TO-ORDER CAPE ARGUS NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

Professor John K. Curtis
acapjajc@cityu.edu.hk

Introduction

This paper seeks to identify varieties of Cape Argus newspaper wrappers issued between 1883 and circa 1900, and to identify the types of postal cancellers known as ‘Argus wheel cancels’ commonly found on the wrappers.

Argus Wheel Cancellers

A special set of hand-stamps was issued at the Cape Town Newspaper Branch about 1883 for use in precancelling wrappers used to transmit circulars and newspapers through the post. These cancellers are sometimes referred to as “Argus wheels” because of their wheel-like appearance and heavy usage with regard to the *Cape Argus* newspaper.

Three types of “wheels” are noted, the design containing an upper cased “A” within a 8.5mm or 5mm central circle, and with double-lined diagonal “spokes” linking to the outer circle of 22mm, 22.5mm and 23mm respectively (Goldblatt 1984). Pearson (1974) notes that in the Cape Colony the newspaper the *Argus* was issued with an individual obliterator, like its contemporary in Great Britain the *Stamford Mercury*. Hence the letter “A” is the abbreviation for Argus, and the tie to the *Cape Argus* newspaper is apparent from the figures that follow. The three types of obliterators are shown in Figure 1.

The letters in type 3 show the month and year in the side sections (eg. July 1899) but the letters T and AH have not been adequately explained other than that they supposedly represent control letters. Another example in the literature shows SE 92 (Sept 1892) in the date sections and control letters T over B (Coles 1960). Figure 3 shows 92 (month truncated) and the letters M over VT. More research is needed on these “control” numbers.

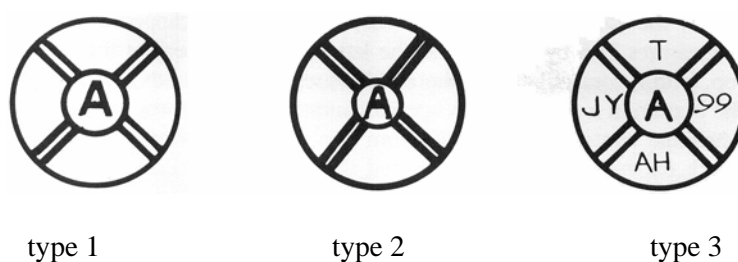


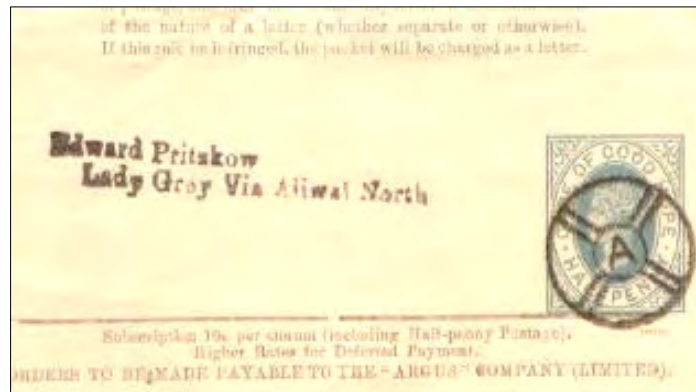
Figure 1 Three types of Cape Argus Wheel Cancellers

A study of 71 scans of Cape of Good Hope newspaper wrappers (acquired between Feb. 2003 and Dec. 2004) show ten Argus wheel cancels on Cape Argus newspaper wrappers. Scans have their limitations for analysis, but from an inspection of the cancels it appears as though there were five examples of type 1, two examples of type 2 and two examples of type 3. Without studying the actual wrappers themselves some uncertainty is inevitable, for scans are notoriously awkward in differentiating fine millimetre measurements, especially of the inner and outer circles.

Cape Argus Wrapper Types

Several different types of Cape Argus wrappers were issued during the 1883-1892 period. There are four basic types with major heading differences, plus wording and punctuation variations. The basic types were the *The "Argus Daily" Edition*, the *"Cape Argus" Home Edition*, the *"Argus" Mail Edition*, and the *"Argus" Weekly Edition – Illustrated*.

There may have been a precursor to these general types. The two scans, figures 2 and 3 of the first Cape of Good Hope wrapper type W1 with QV grey sideface do not reveal printed information above the text/indicium. The Subscription wording on these early types differs. The scans are reproduced here from their original scan size (with additional cropping as necessary). Some scans show deterioration in the clarity of the text because of ratio variations from normal in the scanning process. Figure 2 shows a type 1 Argus wheel with a clear "A" within the inner circle. Figure 3 shows a type 3 Argus wheel with the year 92 and the control letters M over VT. The date is helpful in establishing the year of usage of this wrapper.



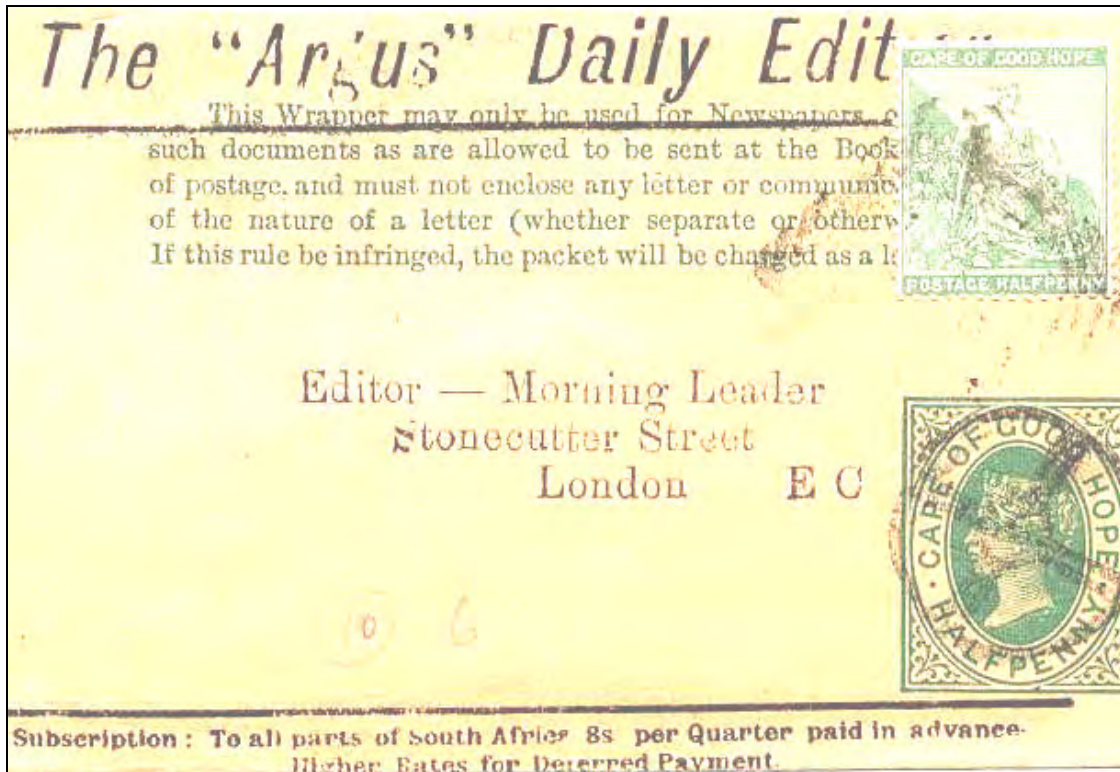


Figure 4 The "Argus" Daily Edition

Subscription: To all parts of South Africa 8s per Quarter paid in advance.
Higher Rates for Deferred Payment.

Figure 5 is a variety of the Argus Daily Edition with inverted commas around both words "Argus Daily". In Figure 4 the inverted commas appear around the single word "Argus". Moreover, the unbroken line at top is cut well into the text in Figure 4, while in Figure 5 it appears well above the text and is broken in two places. There is also a circular printing mark underneath the second inverted comma between y of Daily and E of Edition. The Argus wheel cancel on W1A in Figure 5 appears to be a type 1 with spoke lines less inked. Chronologically, the wrapper in Figure 5 may predate that in Figure 4, assuming the different Argus wheel cancels were not in use simultaneously. There is nothing in the literature to determine such usage, one way or the other.



Figure 5 Inverted commas around Argus Daily; CO. in Subscription Text
Subscription: To all parts of South Africa 8s per Quarter paid in advance
Higher Rates for Deferred Payment
ORDERS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE ARGUS CO. (LIMITED)

Figure 6 has been grouped here because the subscription text at the bottom of the wrapper is identical to that shown in figure 5, except that the abbreviation CO. in the last line has been replaced with COMPANY and “Argus” immediately before is shown in inverted commas. A careful examination of the scan also reveals the straight line above the text, which would be consistent with the composition of *The Argus Daily Edition*. The indicium is the 1892 issue of the 1d QV red brown oval, the 1d rate used for overseas addresses. Professor Holloway was not a person, but the manufacturer of Holloway’s pills and ointments. The Argus wheel is type 3 bearing the date July 1892 with the control letters T over AN.

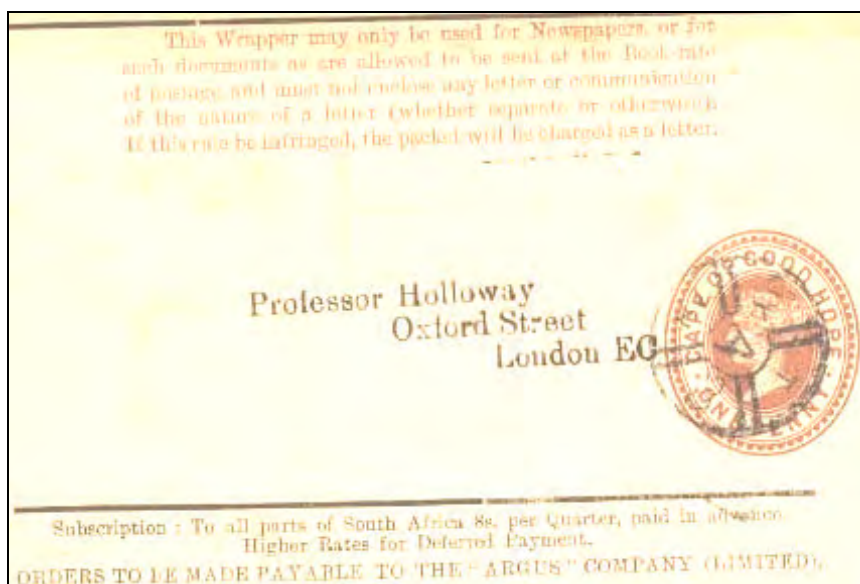


Figure 6 “ARGUS” in inverted commas

Subscription: To all parts of South Africa 8s per Quarter, paid in advance.
Higher Rates for Deferred Payment.

ORDERS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE “ARGUS” COMPANY (LIMITED)

The next stamped-to-order wrapper type is the *Cape Argus Home Edition*, and this is shown as figure 7. The indicium is W1A with QV in green and the Argus wheel cancel is type 1. The two line text shows that subscription for the home edition is 10/- per annum compared with the more expensive Daily Edition to all parts of South Africa at 8/- per quarter (or 32/- per annum).

A different subscription rate of 20/- per annum applied to the next type of wrapper, namely *The “Argus” Mail Edition*, which is shown as figure 8. The heading is underlined as in previous compositions, but the wording at the bottom has been changed to include the advice: Penny postage included and “Extra for Foreign Postage”. Plus a second line has been added in bold capitals “**STRICTLY PAYABLE IN ADVANCE**”. There is also a comma after Company in the last line. The indicium is W3 QV 1d red-brown oval issued in 1892, and the Argus wheel is possibly a type 2 because of the darker inking overall. The additional 1d rose adhesive shows a clear squared circle cancel CAPE TOWN NP3 NO 20 94, thereby tying the wheel to November 1894.



Figure 7 Cape Argus Home Edition
Subscription 10s. per annum (including Half-penny Postage).
ORDERS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE "ARGUS" COMPANY (LIMITED)

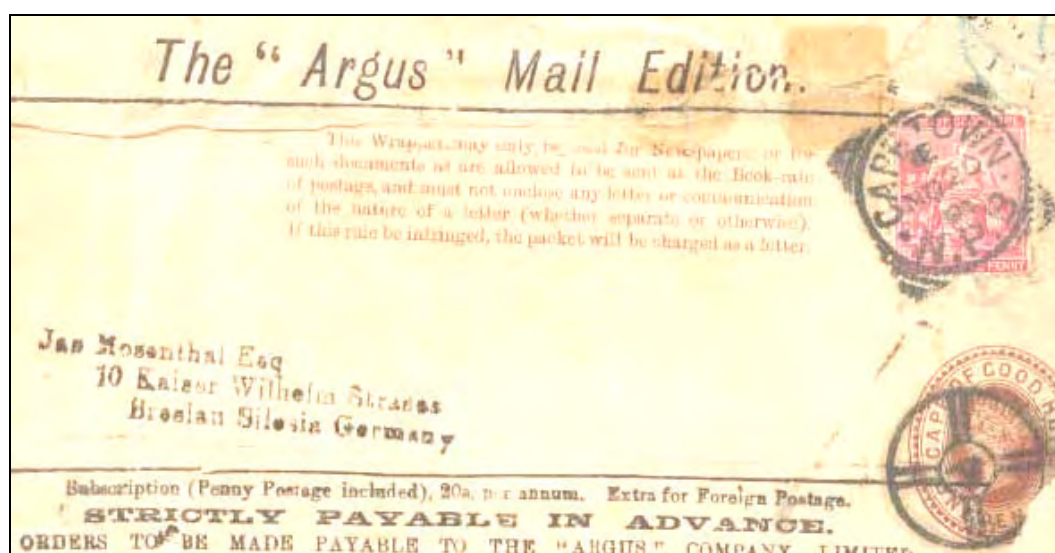


Figure 8 The "Argus" Mail Edition
Subscription (Penny Postage included), 20s per annum. Extra for Foreign Postage.
STRICTLY PAYABLE IN ADVANCE.
ORDERS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO THE "ARGUS" COMPANY, LIMITED

The final type of Cape Argus wrapper is that headed *The "Argus" Weekly Edition – Illustrated*. Note that in Figure 9 there is a single inverted comma around Argus which is to be compared with the double inverted commas around Argus in Figure 10. The indicium is W3, QV 1d red-brown oval issued in 1892, and the Argus wheel is type 3, a letter being just discernable in the bottom quadrant, but too faint to read. Fortunately, a vertical purple datestamp to the left of the address shows 14 March 1897, helping to date the wrapper's usage.



Figure 9 Single inverted comma around Argus in heading, W3 indicium
Subscription (Three-halfpenny Postage included), 20s per annum.

Figures 10 and 11 can be considered together. Both have the W4 QV 3½d grey oval indicium issued 1892. Both show the type 1 Argus wheel canceller. Figure 10, however, shows a printing error where the compositor missed the “i” in the word Edition in the heading. While the subscription advice in Figures 11 and 10 is identical, the advice in Figure 11 is different. The second line reads “Postage to England and Foreign Countries, 1½d”.

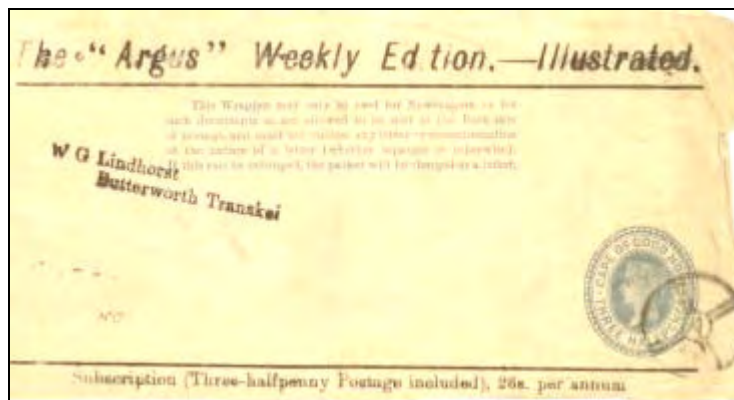


Figure 10 Double inverted commas around “Argus”, W4 indicium
Subscription (Three-halfpenny Postage included), 20s per annum

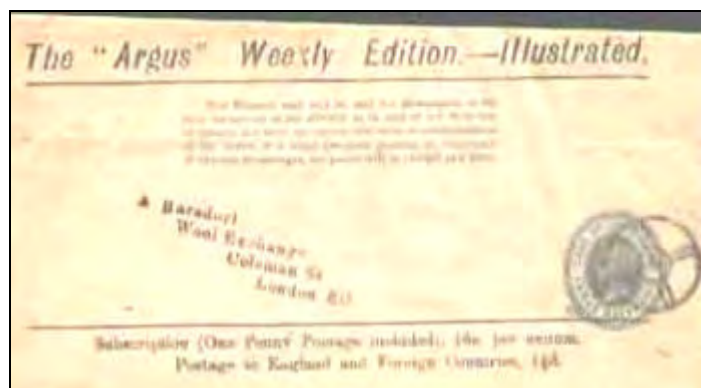


Figure 11 Subscription 16s per annum, W4 indicium
Subscription (One Penny postage included), 16s. per annum.
Postage to England and Foreign Countries, 1½d.

Conclusion

The purpose of the paper was twofold: to identify varieties of Cape Argus newspaper wrappers issued between 1883 and circa 1900, and to identify the types of Argus wheel cancels thereon. QV indicia were noted on four basic types of stamped-to-order Cape Argus wrappers. The three types of Argus wheel cancels are in evidence, and scattered over ten varieties of Cape Argus wrappers.

References

Coles C. W. E. (1960), South African Newspaper Cancellations, *Stamp Collecting*, March 18, p. 45.

Goldblatt, Robert (1984), *Postmarks of the Cape of Good Hope*, Reijger Publishers (Pty) Ltd., Cape Town, pp. 128-9.

Pearson P. C. (1974), Newspaper Wrappers and the Cape 'Argus', *Postal History*, The Bulletin of the Postal History Society, Jan.-Feb. No. 182, pp. 303, 312.

CURRENT NEW ZEALAND ISSUES

Gary Brown

During my visit to Baypex 2004, I found the following range of current stationery from New Zealand. Included are the domestic (45c), Australian and the Pacific (\$1.50) and worldwide (\$2) stamped envelopes and the large sized 90c envelope, all depicting New Zealand flowers. In addition two 'free' stationery items for electoral registration and to request to have your mail held are illustrated.



AUSTRALIA POST CHRISTMAS STATIONERY

Judy Kennett

The Australia Post Christmas issue for 2004 includes, as well as the usual stationery items, an aerogramme and a set of maximum cards, a set of 12 Christmas greeting cards with coordinating pre-paid envelopes. The design of the stationery items continues the theme of the 'joy of Christmas' which is featured on the three stamps, with denominations of 45c, 50c and \$1 international airmail card only concession rate. The Editor will illustrate the 2004 Christmas stationery elsewhere in this issue of PSC.

This is the first time that Australia Post has issued Christmas cards with matching pre-paid envelopes, but they had a forerunner in 1990 with plain envelopes. That year the theme of the Christmas issue was 'Bush nativity', and the products, of course, were the customary stamps, stamp pack, and a booklet of concession rate stamps for domestic postage of cards, an aerogramme and a set of maximum cards. But there were two extra items in 1990 which continued the theme, an illustrated children's picture book titled 'Bush nativity', and a set of five Christmas cards with illustrated envelopes. The whole issue was released on 31 October 2004, and is fully described in the Australian Stamp Bulletin (1)

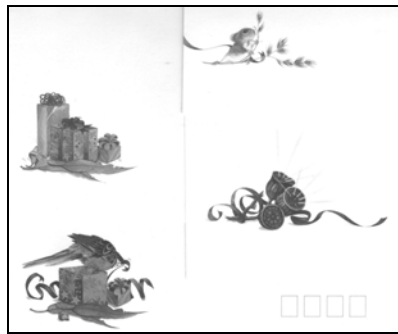


Figure 1 Designs from envelopes of 1990

The front of the envelopes bears the postcode boxes, while on the backs we have the Australia Post logo and imprint, an acknowledgement of the creator of the 'Bush nativity' theme, Marg Towt, and the Post Office preferred symbol. With the description of the cards was a note 'Stamps are **not** included in the Christmas Card package' (2)

In 1990 Australia Post sent out a Christmas catalogue, which offered a wide selection of Australia Post products suitable for gift giving, noting that 'Some of the items, for example, 'Bush Nativity' have been produced especially for the Festive Season'. (3) I believe that this catalogue 'Christmas gifts for all the family' was sent out to addressees on the Australian Stamp Bulletin mailing list, but am not sure whether it came with Bulletin No 207. The card designs were illustrated on the cover sheet of the catalogue (see Fig 2).

At Christmas time for a few years now Australia Post shops have stocked ranges of Christmas cards with plain envelopes, described as "Australia Post exclusive range". They have been printed by publishers such as House of Greetings and Steve Parish for Australia Post. It seems obvious that Australia Post should publish Christmas cards using its own designs on both the cards and the envelopes. Making the envelopes pre-paid links them to the stationery range. Whether they continue to do this probably depends on the sales generated by this year's product.



HOW TO ORDER
☎ **PHONE 008 033 533**
STD FREE from anywhere in Australia. Please have your catalogue and credit card ready.
Only credit card orders will be accepted by phone.

OFFICIAL MAIL

MAIL
No need for a stamp, simply address your envelope to: FREEPOST 9988
Philatelic Mail Order
GPO Box 9988
MELBOURNE VIC 3001

FAX (03) 669 7746

Only credit card order(s) can be accepted. Ring 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and send your completed order form to us.

DELIVERY
Please allow 28 days for your order to be delivered. Unless received after November 16 cannot be guaranteed delivery before Christmas. Orders over \$50 will be sent by insured mail.

GUARANTEE
You must be completely satisfied with everything you purchase from this catalogue. If you're not delighted, just return your purchase in its original packaging within 28 days for a full refund.

Landscape Calendar
From the great Cape York wilderness to the rugged beauty of Tasmania's southwest, this calendar is a concise tribute to threatened beauty. Thirteen vivid portraits by great Australian nature photographers trace wilderness campaigns across the continent. **\$12.95**
Mail order only.

Christmas Cards
A set of five beautiful cards and envelopes which complement this year's Christmas stamps. Available 31 October. **\$6.95**

If undeliverable return to: Australian Stamp Bulletin, Locked Bag 8, South Melbourne Vic 3205

Figure 2 Cover of 1990 Christmas catalogue



Christmas Cards
A set of five beautiful cards which complement this year's Christmas Stamps. Colourfully illustrated envelopes continue the festive bushland theme. Inside - Messages of "Merry Christmas" or "Seasons Greetings". Available 31 October. **\$6.95**

Figure 3 Enlarged view of the Christmas cards

It is to be hoped that the 2004 cards have been placed in all Post shops and agencies where stationery is sold. At Grafton Post Office the assistant brought my pack of cards out of a storeroom, and I haven't seen them on display on the racks on the shop floor. They have only a miniscule illustration on the back cover of the current Australia Post catalogue – not very enthusiastic advertising at all.

References

1. Australian Stamp Bulletin No 207 October – December 1990, pp 2-5.
2. Idem, p 5
3. Australia Post 'Christmas Gift Ideas for all the family', message from John R Power, Group Manager, Philatelic, 1990.

AUSTRALIA POST CHRISTMAS ISSUES 2004

Ian McMahon

As in recent years, Australia Post issued three prepaid postcards (sold as maximum cards) and an aerogramme for Christmas 2004. The three maximum cards were designed to accompany the adhesive stamp issues (Mary and the Baby Jesus, the Angel Appears to the Shepherds and Three Wise Men). The aerogramme's illustration area depicts the Three Wise Men on camels traversing sand dunes with the star of Bethlehem appearing in the stamp area.



Figure 1 Aerogramme

An innovation for 2004 was the issuing of a set of Christmas cards and pre-paid envelopes. Each box of 12 cards includes four cards of each of the three card designs, (one design based on each adhesive stamp), as well as 12 PPEs and sold for \$12.95. Individual PPEs can be purchased from the Philatelic Bureau. The envelopes depict the Three Wise Men crossing sand dunes with the Star of Bethlehem shown in the stamp area and was designed by Jeanette Fallon.

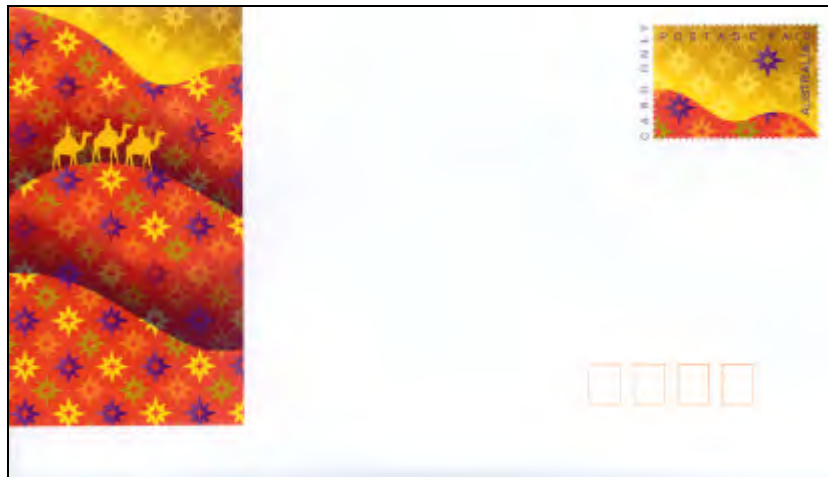


Figure 2 Prepaid Envelope

The issuing of sets of Christmas cards with pre-paid envelopes follows the example of a number of other countries eg Ireland and there adoption in Australia is reported to be the idea of Richard Breckon. The Christmas card packs were advertised in Australia Post's Christmas product catalogue but, in general, were hard to find in Australia Post shops and don't appear to have been marketed strongly – usually other Christmas cards were displayed more prominently than Australia Post's own product.

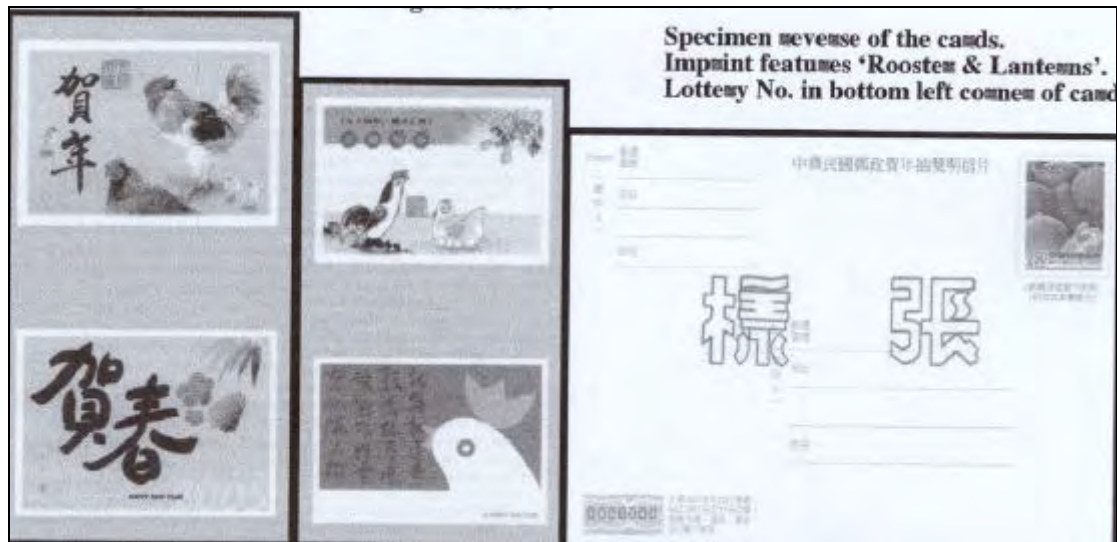
TAIWAN YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

Betty Van Tenac

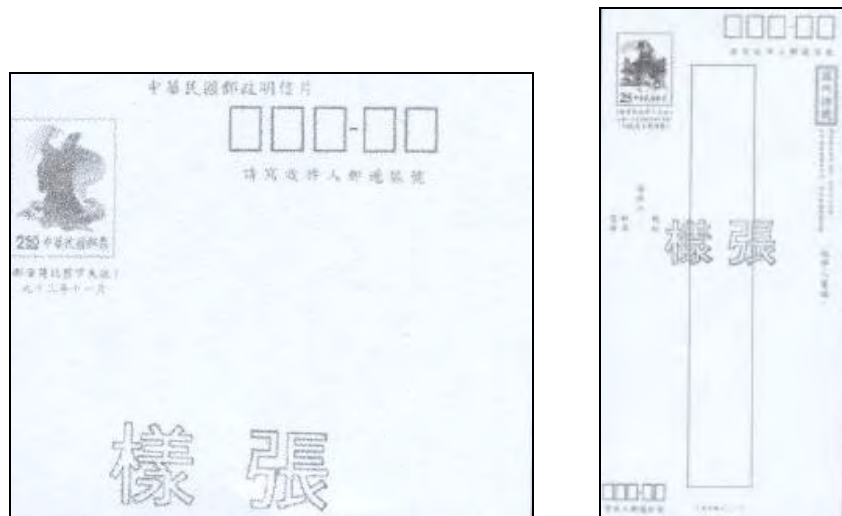
For the first time, Chungwa Post issued four New Year Lottery Cards for the Chinese Year of the Rooster that commenced 9 February 2005. The cards were issued on 10 November 2004. The four cards depict:

- a realistic rooster
- abstract design of a rooster and a hen
- a pine tree, bamboo and plum blossoms to signify deep sentiments between friends, and
- the raised head of a rooster to convey the opportunities coming with the New Year. The cock's comb of the rooster is shaped like a Chinese gold ingot.

The designs were by H. T .Graphics Design Co and the Tops Design Consultants. Printed by Deep Etch offset by China Engraving & Printing Works. Quantity issued: 1,000,000 (250,000 x 4) Price NT 3.50.



Taiwan also issued a stamped envelope and a domestic registered envelope on 1 November 2004. The stamp designs were taken from one of the Folklore series - "*The eight immortals cross the sea* " Price: NT 2.50 (envelope) \$26.00 (registered envelope). Process: Deep Etch Offset Quantity: 10,000,000 (registered envelope) 18,000,000 (envelope).



NEW ZEALAND PRIVATE POST STATIONERY

Gary Brown

While in New Zealand for Baypex 2004, David and I enquired about the local post's available stationery.

In and around the Napier area very little seemed to be available. Pete's Post had nothing at their outlets and Fastway Post, while having DL envelopes in various types, were selling the envelopes only in packs of 100+. Finally on our last day, and at approx 4.30pm we found an outlet that sold DL envelopes individually. Figure 1 show both sides.

We quickly mailed one to my home address and then realised that they were only available for internal use. Having mailed it without additional postage we thought that would be the last we would see of the envelope.

This was not to be the case. As Figure 2 shows, the envelope duly arrived with the addition of four Fastway stamps. On examination of the envelope you can see a postmark under the stamps over the envelope imprint. The stamps cover this and then have been postmarked by the Hawkes Bay Mail Centre. An interesting curiosity.

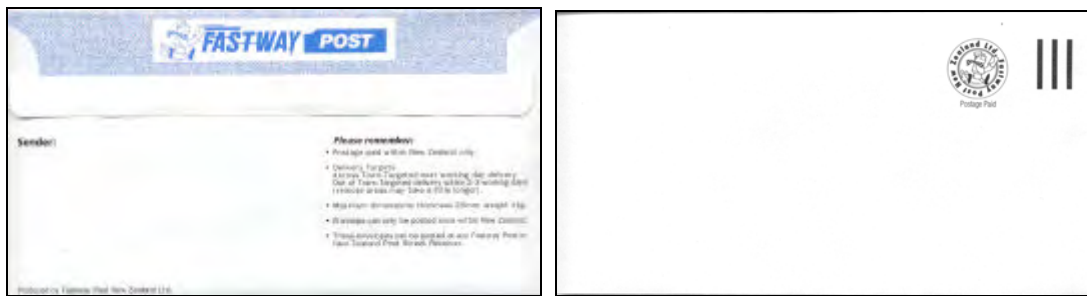


Figure 1



Figure 2

CHINA: YEAR OF THE ROOSTER

Gary Brown

On a recent work trip, I was able to obtain a range of postal stationery items all relating to the Year of the Rooster (2005):

- One item also has the Western words "Merry Xmas" added.
- The large envelope and card are sold together. There seem to be only four types of envelopes but more than four cards. Possibly there could be four in all Chinese and four in English - I was unable to find out.
- The letter cards have perforations down both sides and across the bottom. As all four have rooster designs on them, they naturally relate to the Chinese New Year. Inside there is double sided tape to seal the letter card. As well there is faint design of the rooster and wording Happy New Year as a background.







PSSA FORUM

Compiled from contributions by PSSA Members

Athens 2004

Both Noel Almeida and Martin Walker followed up the report in the last issue of *PSC* of a Greek private order postcard for Australia Post used by members of the Australian Olympic team to reply to their supporters, with reports of a card of similar design issued by Australia Post. Martin comments: Given David Maiden's involvement with Greek issues this year it would not surprise me if AP printed the Greek one as well, or the same artwork was used for both Greek and Australian issues.



LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN NON-DENOMINATED POSTAL STATIONERY

Ian McMahon

Postcards

Replace listing of Australian Animals in the November issue of the *PSC* with the following:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 17 August 2004 | Australian Animals |
| (-) | Echidna |
| (-) | Kangaroo (“Cooee ... Just calling in the others for dinner”) |
| (-) | Kangaroo and joey (“Hey Mum. Someone’s taking my photo.”) |
| (-) | Koalas (“I think I’ll just stay here with you”) |
| (-) | Wombat |
| (-) | Platypus |
| (-) | Kangaroo and joey (“Please can I go and play with the others now”) |
| (-) | Koalas (“Are you sure there’s room on this branch for the two of us”) |

Note: Sold as a pack of 8 different fauna cards plus a free pen for \$8.95. (code 17670).

3 August 2004 Athens 2004

Maximum cards

- | | |
|-----|-----------|
| (-) | Swimming |
| (-) | Athletics |
| (-) | Cycling |

(Set price: \$6.05)

September 2004 Athens 2004
(-) The Parthenon

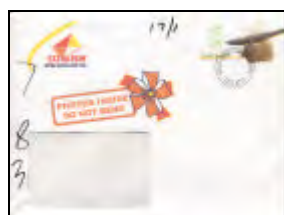
Note: Card provided to Australian athletes to enable them to reply to supporters.

12 October 2004 Grand Prix Racing

Maximum cards

- | | |
|-----|---------------|
| (-) | Mick Doohan |
| (-) | Wayne Gardner |
| (-) | Troy Bayliss |
| (-) | Daryl Beattie |
| (-) | Garry McCoy |

(Set price: \$6.25)



1 November 2004

Maximum cards

- | |
|-----|
| (-) |
| (-) |
| (-) |
- (Set price: \$4.20)

Christmas

- | |
|-------------------|
| Madonna and Child |
| Shepherds |
| Three Wise Men |

4 January 2005

(\$1.20)

Although nominally issued on 4 January, delays in supply appear to have resulted in this card not actually being issued until 7 January.

Year of the Rooster
Year of the Rooster

11 January 2005

Maximum cards

- | |
|-----|
| (-) |
| (-) |
- (Set price: \$3.80)

Australian Open

- | |
|--------------|
| Historic |
| Contemporary |

Aerogrammes

1 November 2004

(\$0.95)

Christmas
Star of Bethlehem

Envelopes

1 November 2004

(\$0.55)

Sold singly through the Philatelic Bureau and in packs of 12 with 12 Christmas cards for \$12.95.

Christmas
Star of Bethlehem

4 January 2005

(\$0.60)

(\$2.00)

Although nominally issued on 4 January, delays in supply appear to have resulted in these envelopes not being available until 7 January.

Year of the Rooster
Domestic
International

PTPO Envelopes

2004

(-)

Envelope for Extrafilm.

Torres Strait Island Art
C5 window

Parcel Boxes

December 2004

(-)

Note: Box is inscribed ‘Postage Paid’. Unclear if box is paid for at time of receipt or at time of lodgment at a post office.

Big Red Box
20kg Box

FROM THE SECRETARY

Meeting at Pacific Explorer 2005

Pacific Explorer 2005 World Stamp Expo is being held at Sydney's Convention and Exhibition Centre at Darling Harbour from 21-24 April 2005. The Postal Stationery Society of Australia will be meeting at the exhibition on Saturday 23 April 2005. Information about the location of the meeting and the time will be sent out by email closer to the event.

Steve Schumann (USA) who is the Chairman of the FIP's Postal Stationery Commission and one of our members will attend the meeting. He has agreed to present a display of Australian Printed- to-Private Order envelopes.

For further information about Pacific Explorer 2005, visit www.sydney2005.com.au.

Contemporary Postal Stationery Competition

Members are reminded that the Competition will be offered at all National exhibitions in Australia until 2008. Because of Pacific Explorer 2005, there will be no full National exhibition in Australia during 2005, and the Competition will be offered next at Stampex 2006 in Adelaide, probably in August 2006. For further information about this Competition please contact the Convenor, David Collyer, PO Box 201, Gladesville NSW 1675.

Exchange of Information about New Issues with UFI (Italy)

I have informed Vittorio Coscia from our exchange partner Unione Filatelisti Interofili (UFI) about new postal stationery issues announced for early 2005. Vittorio advises that the following new issues have been forecast for the Italian area in 2005:

Italy – Manifestazione Filatelica Nazionale [National Stamp Show], 1 card, face value 0.45 euro.

San Marino – I Castelli della Repubblica [Republic's castles] 6 cards, no information concerning value available.

Vatican

- 1) S. Nicola da Tolentino, aerogramme, no additional information available.
- 2) Exhibit 'The Pieta of Michelangelo as it has never been seen before' – a set of cards is foreseen, but no further information is available at this time.

Thoughts on our first ten years

These ten years have gone by in a flash for me, as Secretary of the PSSA. My main impression is the effect that computers and electronic communication have had on the life of the Society. The wheels would have moved very slowly indeed if all business and communications had been dependent on the postal system and the telephone. Email is a wonderful tool for 'keeping in touch' with our members overseas as well as in Australia.

LITERATURE

Judy Kennett and Ian McMahon

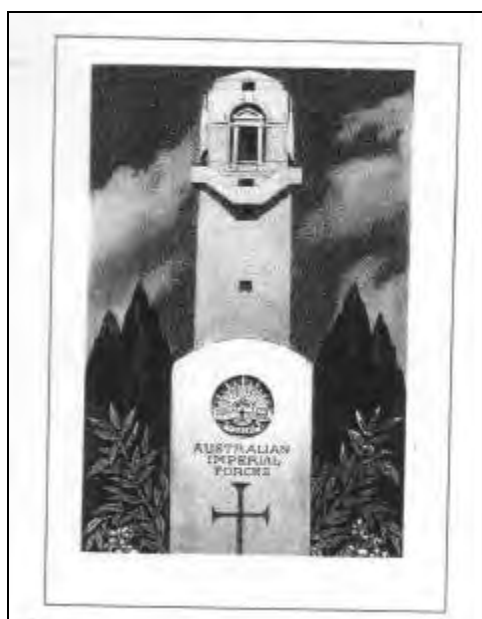
FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES

The Postal Stationery Society Journal Vol 12 No 4 November 2004

- AGM minutes and reports 20 October 2004
- The Royal Naval Exhibition postcard
- Classics at the Bath Postal Museum No 4: a first 'first day cover' [a Mulready envelope apparently posted on 6 May 1840]
- Great Britain stamped to order : the commercial use of the KGV fourpence embossed die in blue
- KGVI forces registration envelope – a new discovery
- British Levant KEVII postcard: the 'bogus' overprint of 1911?
- The changing face of postal stationery, by Alan Huggins

L'Entier Postal No 69 Decembre 2004

- A special document from Villiers-Bretonneux (see note below)
- Ready-to-post envelope from the Department of Aveyron: the three versions
- Ready-to-post PTPO envelopes of New Caledonia [issued since 2001]



This document is recorded in the 2005 catalogue of postal stationery of France and Monaco in the section for 'commemorative' postal stationery. It is, in effect, a 'model' for the series of five stationery items (postcards?) that were issued on 22 July 1938 on the occasion of the inauguration of the monument raised at Villiers-Bretonneux in memory of Australian soldiers killed in the First World War. The designs of the stamp areas are illustrated as de luxe proofs on thick, un gummed cream paper. An enlarged version of one of the adopted card designs is shown above.

La lettre de L'ACEP No 55 Septembre 2004

Contains a report of the monthly meeting of 18 September 2004, a list of new issues, and

notes about additions to the library.

La Lettre de L'ACEP No 56 Octobre 2004

Contains a report of the monthly meeting of 16 October, a list of new issues, and more about the library, also a notice about a rise in the subscription for the new issues service.

L'Intero Postale No 89 Autunno 2004

- Military postal cards exempt from postage – are they postal stationery?
- Vatican City – let's make a point about its first postal stationery
- When express mail arrived late
- Late usages in a time of emergency [1943]
- New issues from September 2004

Ganzsachensammler No 79 December 2004

- Corrections and Additions to the [Swiss] Postal Stationery Catalogue 2002
- New Catalogue Listings of [Swiss] Postcards

The London Philatelist Vol 113 No 1321 December 2004

- Methodologies for considering the relative rarity of postally used newspaper wrappers, John K Curtis (a member of the PSSA). 'The purpose of this paper is to outline the processes of analysis for determining relative rarity and not to argue conclusively about the relative rarity of the wrapper examined in the study' – quotation from the text.

Postal Stationery November-December 2004

- 2003 US Postal Card Issues
- Fake and Bogus Australian Perfin Stationery
- NSW Government Punctures on Australian Postal Cards - Buyer Alert
- A World War I 'Arsenal' Slogan Postal Marking
- Shoebox and Stationery Forum (US Envelope Earliest Dates; UX10 with Unknown Language; American Bank Note Company; Danish and French Web Sites)
- The Viewcards of Peru, Part 2: The 1900 Issues

Philately From Australia September 2004

- ... And the Penny Dropped: The Story of the introduction of the first Australian stamp impression – the so-called KGV 'Full Face' design [ie of the first Australian Commonwealth postcards].

New books

Catalogue des entiers postaux prives Neo-Caledoniens [Catalogue of private postal stationery of New Caledonia], published by Bulletin Le Cagou 2004.

Les entiers postaux de France et de Monaco by Storch, Francon and Sinais, 7th edition, 2004. This catalogue consists of 400 pages, with illustrations in colour, and with prices in Euros. Obtainable from Editions Bernard Sinais, 7 Rue de Chateaudun, 75009 Paris.

The Machine Date Cases of the Country and Suburban Offices

Not stationery, but some members will find this book by Colin Salt of interest. It can be

obtained from him at Teddy's Place, First Avenue, Frinton-on-Sea, Essex CO13 9HA, UK at a cost of \$31 (airmail), \$25 surface.

20th Century United States Envelope Catalog 2004

With more than 8500 different envelopes, wrappers and aerogrammes identified and priced, this 2004 release of the United Postal Stationery Society represents a major addition to references of United States postal stationery. *The Catalog of 20th Century Stamped Envelopes, Wrappers, Cut Squares and Full Corners of the 20th Century*, successor to the 1990 UPSS first edition, includes issues through 2003 and the 1945 revalued air mail issue, aerogrammes and Mercantile envelopes among its updated sections.

To maintain the edition at approximately 500 pages and accommodate 15 years of new issues, an 80-page portion of the first edition's appendix was not included. This typing study on "The Recut Dies of the Two Cents Carmine Die 110, of the Hartford Manufacturing Co. Issue," is unchanged from 1990. Should you not have the earlier edition, you may order these pages in loose leaf format from the UPSS Central Office for \$8.00 postpaid. Note that all the recut dies' pricing information will be included in the new catalogue.

Published in hardcover and loose leaf formats, the catalogue may be ordered from the UPSS's Central Office UPSS Central Office, P. O. Box 1792, Norfolk, VA 23501-1792 USA at the following prices: Hardcover \$US50.00 nonmember, \$US40.00 member; loose leaf \$US40.00 nonmember, \$US32.00 member. For orders to non-U.S. addresses, include \$US9.00 per book surface mail or \$US20.00 per book by air. A 1½" three ring binder is available for \$6.00 postpaid with any book order.

Early Canada Post Cards, 1871- 1911 by George, B. Arfken Published by the British North America Philatelic Society.

This handbook is a study of the development of Canada's post cards, starting in 1871 in the Small Queen era through to the Maple Leaf, Numeral and King Edward VII eras, ending in 1911. 8.5 x 11 Spiral Bound 134pp. \$84 (Canadian) from Ian Kimmerley Stamps (cf http://www.iankimmerly.com/boutique/bnaps_books.html).

It seeks to cover the extensive postal regulations that governed the early post card era. It is divided into 11 chapters, nine appendices, a bibliography, and a comprehensive, three-page index. It includes over 160 colour illustrations. The first seven chapters are devoted to domestic, Newfoundland, US, and overseas surface rates and uses. One of these chapters deals exclusively with UPU rates and regulations. Included in the illustrations are examples of prohibited destinations under these regulations. In effect, the use of these cards to the destinations they were intended for was illegal but were, nevertheless, accepted by the post office. The final chapter dealing with rates and uses, Chapter 7, illustrates a selection of cards to unusual destinations. This well researched work covers several important facets of the early part of the Golden Age of post cards. The book does not go into printing errors and flaws, the various papers used to print cards and similar topics. For postal historians whose interests extend to postcards, their uses and rates, this it is a book they will not want to be without.

Some recent reviews

Philatelic Literature Review Vol 53 No 3 2004

'A guide to modern Indian postal stationery 1947-2003, Part 1 for envelopes', by Prashant Pandya, published 2004 by the author, and available from him.

Exhibits on the Web

Placing exhibits on the web is becoming an increasingly popular idea. Another site doing this is <http://www.japhila.cz/hof/>. This site includes a 'permanent virtual philatelic exposition EXPONET. It is intended for public viewing of worthy philatelic exhibits in all areas and periods, and for exhibitors from all parts of the world. In the near future the exhibits will be classified in accordance with classes defined by FIP.' If you are interested in having your own exhibit shown on the site contact Milan Cernik, P.O. Box 243, CZ 16041 Praha 6 Czech Republic e-mail: cernik@volny.cz.

Book Review: Illustrated Postal Envelopes Part I 1953-1960 (144 pages, €30.00) and Part II 1960-1967 (241 pages, €40.00) A. A. Lapkin

Charles Bromser

In the past, there have been a number of catalogues on Soviet illustrated envelopes however most of these are in Russian and without illustrations. Lapkin's first of these was produced in 1989, Volume 1 (223 pages) of which covered the period 1953-1973 (it lists some 9,374 items) and Volume 2 (180 pages) issued 1990 (lists 7,865 items) deals with the period 1974-1984. Each listing has a catalogue number, date the envelope was approved (surprisingly the Post Office did not have a First Day of issue date for stationery), value of the indicium, description of the illustration and value. Lapkin produced a new price listing in 1995.

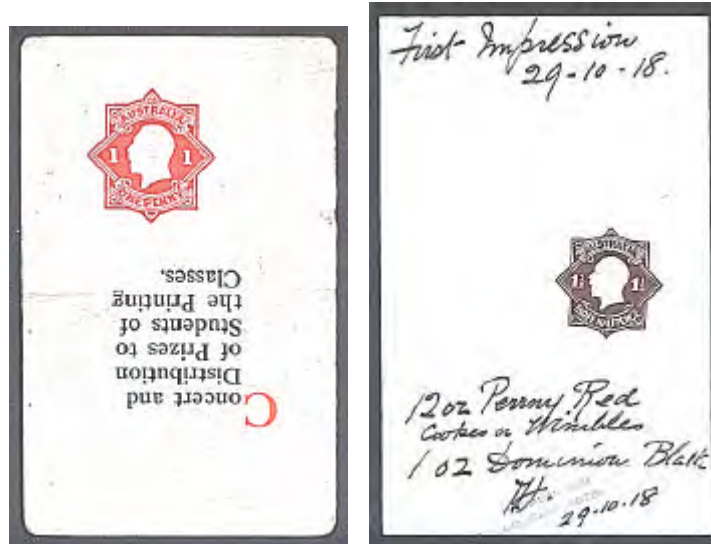
In 1997, an English version was produced in the Netherlands, *Soviet Postal Stationery 1953-1977 (Envelopes)*, by Coerts and Nizova, which used the Lapkin data except for its price listing.

The new Lapkin catalogues, in A5 format, were reprinted in 2003 and 2004 respectively in a print run of 500 each volume. The catalogues are much more user friendly, they now have (black & white) illustrations for most of the envelopes. Furthermore the catalogues include an English glossary of terms together with illustrations and notes (in Russian) regarding watermarks, overprint, gum, flap & paper varieties. The catalogue values also reflect current high prices charge by the trade in Russia. The catalogues conclude with conversion tables to enable readers to switch between the new catalogue numbers and the original 1989 numbers. The catalogues are important tools for any student of modern Russian stationery.

AUCTION NEWS

The auction highlight of the later part of 2004 was the Sale of John Sinfield's outstanding collection of Australia envelopes at the Prestige Philately Auction on 20 November 2004. A very few of the many highlights include:





- 1d red Kangaroo, five examples still within the original post office band. Realised \$525

- Original hand painted artwork for KGV octagonal ½d embossed stamp. Realised \$13 500
- 1d red KGV die proof impression in carmine from the Master Die, on a concert ticket (!), central fold well clear of the impression. *Ex Reading*. [The engraver was notoriously frugal and was disinclined to waste a good piece of paper when there was scrap available!] Realised \$3800
- 1½d black-brown Die I die-proof in close to the issued colour on surfaced wove stock (89x141mm), endorsed "First Impression/29-10-18" in hand of *Thomas Harrison* and initialed by him at the base over AUSTRALIAN NOTE/AND STAMP PRINTER h/s in violet. A magnificent proof. Realised \$8250
- 1d Kangaroo + ½d KGV sideface doubleton official envelope Realised \$10 150
- 1d red GV Octagonal + ½d KGV Octagonal + ½d KGV sideface tripleton Realised \$11 500

For further details see <http://www.prestigephilately.com.au>.

Continuing the feast for collectors of Australian envelopes, Barry Scott's collection of Australian envelopes was sold through Charles Leski's public auction of 6 December 2004. Highlights included:

- KGV 1d sideface red dotted OS + ½d green KGV solid OS envelope for Deputy Commissioner of Maternity Allowances. Realised \$1 150.
- 2d Kangaroo for Sargood Bros Realised \$460.

For further details see <http://www.leski.com.au/catalogues/a251/forthcomingframe.htm>



NEW ISSUES

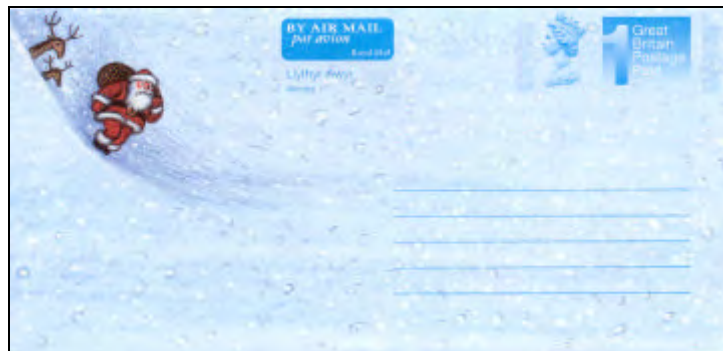
Year of the Rooster

As in recent years, Australia Post issued three stationery items, a prepaid postcard and domestic and international prepaid envelopes, on 4 January 2005 to mark the 2005 Lunar New Year, the Year of the Rooster. The designs feature a rooster, with the Chinese text for "Year of the Rooster" and draw from the story of an ancient creation goddess (Nu Kua) who created the rooster on the first day of the lunar year. The postcards and envelopes were designed by Luis Chiang of Melbourne. He has been commissioned by Australia Post to design a complete cycle of 12 issues in this series which started in 1996, the year of the Rat. Luis was born in Macau and studied art, design and Chinese painting at East Asia University before coming to Australia in 1985. He has an advertising agency and graphic design studio in Melbourne.



United Kingdom

The UK 2004 Scottish Christmas aerogramme is illustrated below.

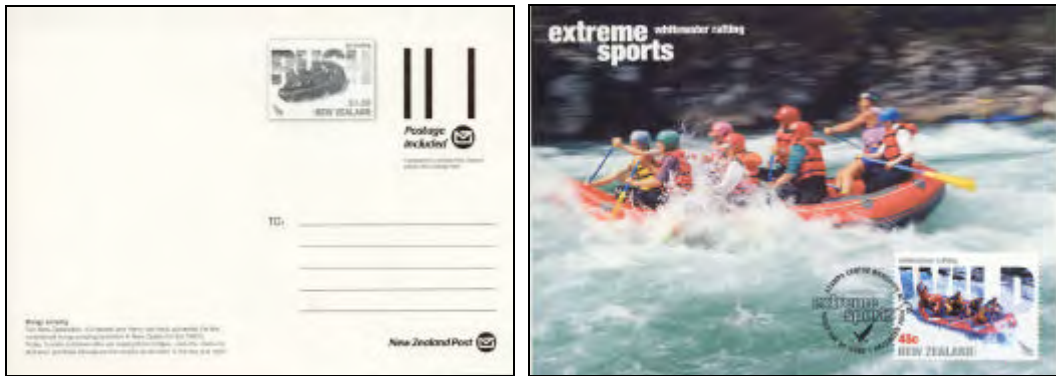


Tristan da Cunha

A recent aerogramme issue from Tristan da Cunha shows an attractive view of an albatross nesting colony.



New Zealand



On 1 December 2004, New Zealand issued a set of prepaid postcards depicting extreme sports: Whitewater rafting, Snowsports, Skydiving, Jet boating and Bungy jumping.

New Caledonia



Envelope issued for New Caledonia's 2004 Coffee festival.

South Africa



Illustrated above are examples of two new sets of postcards issued by South Africa.

The first depicts local flowers:

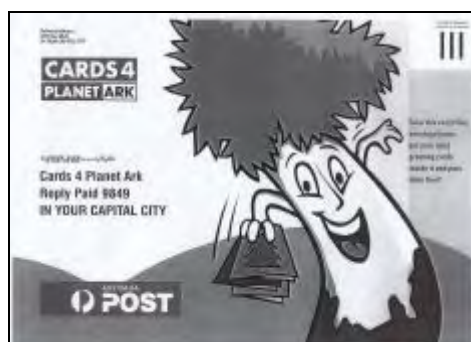
- Blue Marguerite
- Tree Pelargonium
- Bolterblom
- Karoo violet

- Blackeyed Suzy or Susan

The second set depicts examples from the natural history of Cape Mountain.

Australia: Planet Ark

This year's Australia Post sponsored Cards 4 Planet Ark envelope is illustrated below.



Australia: The Big Red Box

Wandering into the Brisbane GPO over Christmas I came across these flyers for Australia's latest EMS product 'THE BIG RED BOX'. The box is being promoted to international students and other visitors to assist them in sending their belongings home. The box is intended to be collected from a post office, taken home and packed and then returned to the post office (or for a fee collected at home).

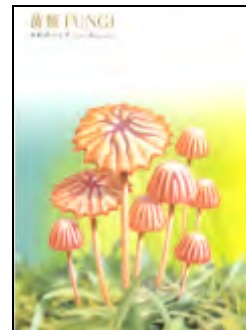
The box is red and imprinted with a 'postage prepaid' imprint similar in design to the EMS prepaid products previously described in the PSC. Although inscribed pre-paid, it appears as if payment occurs at time of lodgment at the Post Office as different rates apply for different countries. The boxes are large and designed to hold up to 20 kg.



China

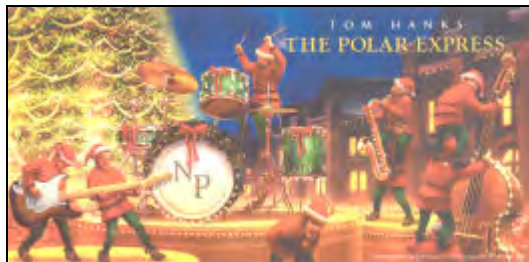
Illustrated is a large Chinese stamped envelope used as a registered letter to Australia. The envelope has two imprinted stamps (540 + 100).

Hong Kong has issued a set of four prepaid postcards depicting mushrooms.



Singapore

In late 2004, Singapore issued a set of The Polar Express Postage Paid Postcards. The cards could be used for Christmas greetings but also to enter a competition for tickets to the Polar Express Slumber Party.



North Korea

Illustrated below is an 'aerogramme' issued by North Korea for the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

