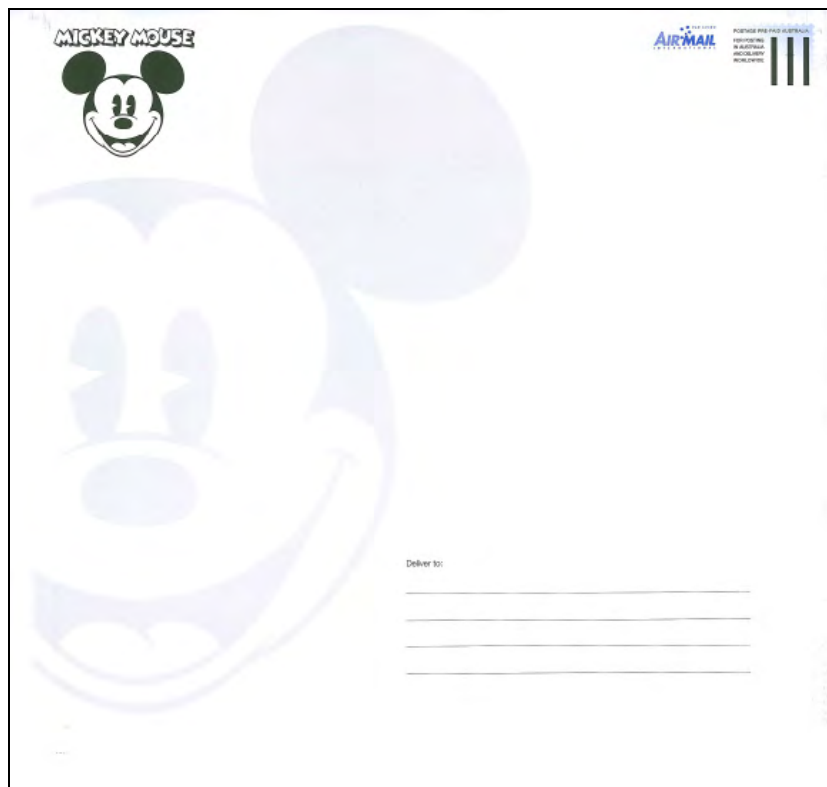


POSTAL STATIONERY

COLLECTOR

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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 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 2006 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

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FROM THE EDITOR

Tarapex 08

Tarapex 08 was a New Zealand National Exhibition held on 7-9 November 2008 in New Plymouth. The Exhibition included the Australasian Challenge. Postal Stationery results were:

Harold Waite	NZ Registered Stationery Envelopes 1884-1980	Vermeil [76]
Allan Berry	NZ Government Department Printed Franks	Gold [85]
Alistair Gow	GB Registered Postal Stationery 1878-1923	Vermeil [77]
Bernard Beston	Postal Stationery of British Guiana	Large Gold [90]
Michael Blinman	New South Wales - Lettersheets, Envelopes,	Large Gold [93] + Grand Award
Erica Genge	British Definitive Airletters	Vermeil [77]
Ian McMahon	New Zealand Postal Stationery	Large Vermeil [80]
Derek Pocock	Nicaragua - The Post Seabeck Era	Large Vermeil [80]
John Sinfield	Panama Republic Postal Stationery to 1940	Large Gold [92] +SP
Maguerite Andrew	Bavarian Empire Postal Stationery	Large Silver [74]
Glen Stafford	Nicaraguan Postal Stationery (The Seebeck Era)	Vermeil [77]

Jakarta 2008

Jakarta 2008 was a FIAP exhibition held 23rd - 28th October 2008. The Postal Stationery Class comprised eight exhibits. In addition there were three one-frame postal stationery exhibits:

Karnadi Koes	Netherlands Indies Postal Cards 1874-1932	Large Vermeil
Ali Abdulrahman	India: Asoka Stationery	Silver
John Courtis	Wrappers of Great Britain	Large Silver
Lin Chang-Liong	Postal cards Issued by the Republic of China	Gold + SP
Henry Ong	Federated Malay States (1887-1935)	Gold + SP
Glen Stafford	Singapore Postal Stationery 1948 to The Modern Era	Silver Bronze
Harold Waite	NZ Queen Victoria Postcards 1876-1901	Vermeil
Langshi Zhu	Chinese Postage Envelopes 1956-70	Large Vermeil
Ian Cowan	Counting the Cost – German Inflation	Vermeil
Paul Yap	Ceylon - Edwardian Postal Stationery	Bronze
Imtiaz Hussain	1st letter sheets of the world, Venesia	Certificate

The Indonesian Post Office at the exhibition did not have any postal stationery items for sale but were selling formular postcards such as the one illustrated.



February 2009

FEEDBACK

Austrian Postcard Rates

Some time ago I wrote a small article for Postal Stationery regarding an Austrian card used to North America franked with 8 kreuzer rather than the customary 5 kreuzer UPU rate. There was no resolution at the time as to why the extra 3 kreuzer had been applied.

I now have the answer!!

The card travelled more than 300 sea miles from Austria and as such attracted a surcharge of 3 kreuzer. The same rate of 8 kreuzer applied to Australia of course for a while.

Ray Todd

Cut-outs and National Philatelic Centre FDI Postmarkers



Following on from Ray Kelly's article in the November 2008 issue of *PSC*, I forward another unusual use of cut outs. This is on a piece measuring 93mm x 76mm.

Also, while trying to get a First day of issue cancel on the Christmas stationery issued today (31/10/2008), I discovered that the FDI date stamp used at the NPC has a defective "1", such that it does not ink. As a result, I had to settle for a different non FDI cancel. I was told that they were ordering another! At least they had the aerogramme and the PSE Christmas cards (Disney and Muppets) available for purchase, which is an improvement over past years.

Mark Diserio

**NEW SOUTH WALES RAILWAY POST CARDS
A TENTATIVE CLASSIFICATION**

John Bell

Introduction

The NSW 'Railway' Penny Post Cards are of the 'divided' type in which the face is divided by a vertical line into parts to be used for correspondence (on the left) and the address (on the right). Approval to Regulations permitting the use of 'divided' Post Cards was fore-shadowed in PMG's Dept. Circular Telegram No 317 dated 05.12.04. I assume the Regulations themselves were promulgated soon afterwards.

The earliest copies of the Railway Post Cards seen are cancelled with dates in November 1905. Thus the first of these Cards must have been introduced at some time between January and November 1905.

I have seen no references to the introduction of the Railway Post Cards in the Government Printer's papers in NSW State Records. It is clear, however, that they were the latest in a series of Post Cards of various types which were used by the Railways, among others, to communicate with their Customers.

The first series of messages occur on NSW Post Cards overprinted OS. These include Railway post cards with pro-forma messages from the Secretary's Office and the Traffic Manager's Office. Similar cards, without OS, occur in the late 1890s following the abolition of OS overprints at the end of 1894. Initially these are without overprint or perforation but later Post Cards perforated 'GR' (Government Railways) occur. These are followed by the Railway Post Cards discussed herein.

Some pro-formas continued to be printed for the Railway Department on the 'normal' current issue Post Cards. I have seen a copy of a pro-forma card for the 'Parcels Office, Sydney Station' printed on the Commonwealth 'divided' type of 1d Post Card (H&G 30), used 22.03.07, and another from the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office, used 10.10.12. The impressed stamp is perforated GR.

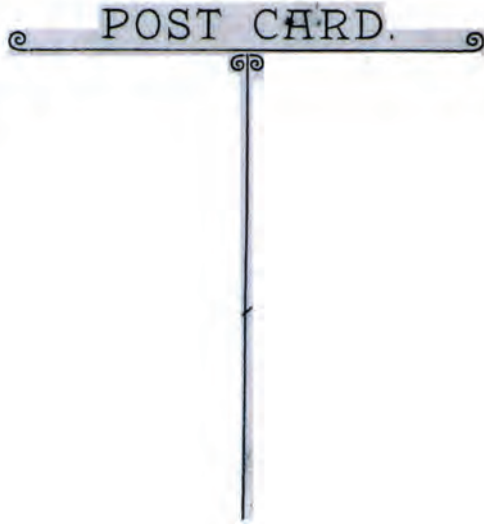
To my mind this whole group constitutes a series of Official Post Cards, although not all are designated 'Official' by overprint or perforation. The Railway Pictorial Post Cards themselves form only a small part of this group.

The Various Types of Railway Pictorial Post Cards

The address side of the cards occurs in four different types, which can be distinguished by differences in the vertical line which divides the face into two parts (See Figure 1).

- | | |
|--------|--|
| Type 1 | the dividing line is straight, with an ornamental scroll at the top |
| Type 2 | the dividing line consists of a series of ornate scrolls with the top one facing right |
| Type 3 | as Type 2 except that the top ornate scroll is inverted and the head faces left |
| Type 4 | the dividing line consists of a series of relatively simple scrolls |

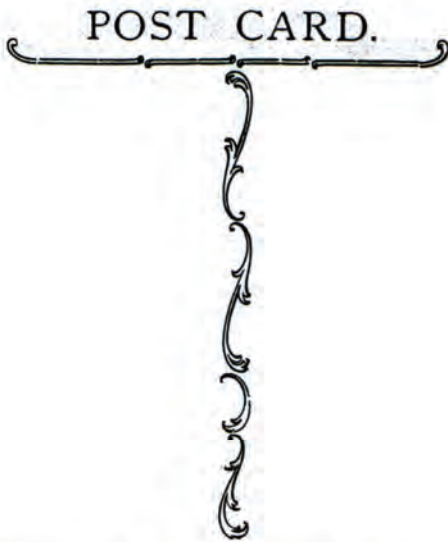
Figure 1 – Types of Central Dividing Line



Type 1 – Dividing Line Straight



**Type 2 – Dividing Line Ornate Scrolls
Top scroll; faces right**



**Type 3 – Dividing Line Ornate Scrolls
Top scroll faces left**

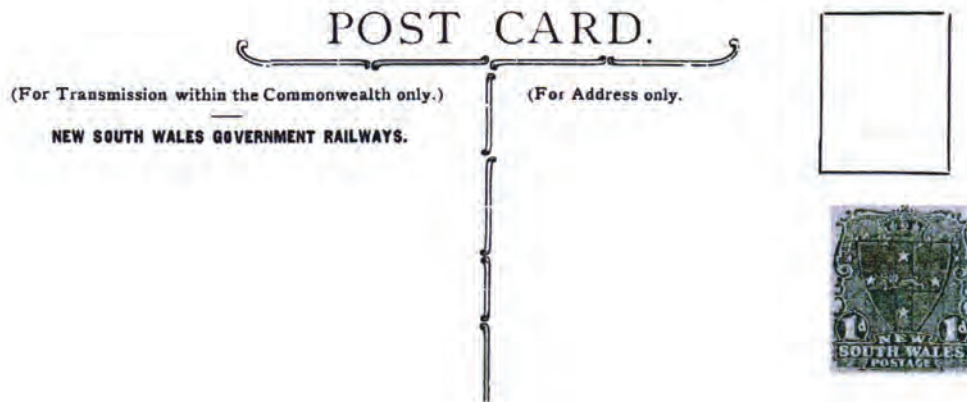


Type 4 – Dividing Line Simple Scrolls

Figure 2 – Positions of Impressed Stamp



Types 1, 2 & 3 - Impressed Stamp in Top Right Corner



**Type 4 – Box for Impressed Stamp in Top Right Corner
Actual Stamp impressed below box**

In Types 1 2 and 3 the impressed stamp occurs near the top right hand corner (see Figure 2).

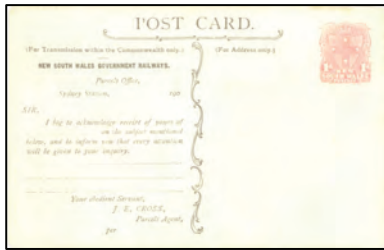


Type 1



Type 2

However, in type 4 there is a blank rectangular box in this position, with the impressed stamp below it.



Type 3



Type 4

The space for the message on the left of the card may be either blank, for a hand written message, or have a pro-forma to be filled in. Quite a number of different pro-formas, relating to different parts of the Railway organization, exist. Those seen to date are listed (in alphabetical order) below. Others probably exist.

- Chief Traffic Manager
- District Superintendent
- Goods Manager, Sydney
- Parcel's Agent, Sydney Station
- Secretary
- Station Master, Darling Harbour
- Station Master, Sydney
- Superintendent of Lines

The reverses of each card has a printed scene, located in New South Wales. Quite a number of different views exist. Those seen to date exist in two different types

- A Views in Sepia, with several lines of wording below, and
- B Views in black & white (or colour?) with a single line heading

The following views have been seen in Type A

1. General View at Audley, National Park
2. Meryla Falls, near Moss Vale
3. Hawkesbury River Bridge
4. The Weeping Rock at Wentworth Falls

Two of the above are similar to views on the 1d and 1½d Pictorial Post Cards, first issued in 1898.

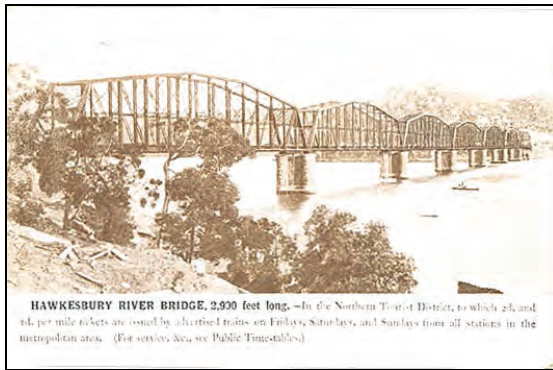
The following views have been seen in Type B

1. Arch Cave, Wentworth Falls
2. Bathing Pool, Mittagong
3. Botanical Gardens, Sydney
4. Bulli Pass
5. Cabbage Trees, Illawarra District
6. Coast Scene at Clifton
7. Empress Falls, Wentworth Falls
8. Lake Cootapatamba, Australian Alps
9. Katoomba Falls
10. Meryla (Twin) Falls, (Moss Vale)

Postal Stationery Collector

11. Mount Kosciusko, Snowy Mountains
12. Nepean River
13. Nepean River at Penrith
14. Snowy Mountain, Mount Kosciusko
15. Stanwell Park
16. The Hawkesbury River
17. The Hawkesbury River Bridge (aerial)
18. The Willows, Jenolan Caves
19. Woy Woy (Brisbane Water)

None of these views occur on the earlier pictorial post cards first issued in 1898. However, the view of Meryla Falls (# 10) is the same as that on Type A # 2, with a slightly different heading.





ARCH CAVE, Wentworth Falls (241 feet above Sea level). From Sydney, 43 miles.



MERYLA (TWIN) FALLS, Moss Vale (228 feet above Sea level). 32 miles from Sydney.



MERYLA FALLS, near MOSS VALE, 32 miles from Sydney. Elevation, 228 feet. In the Southern Table District, to which 2d. and 4d. postcards tickets are issued at all stations in the metropolitan area, and stations on the Southern Line as far south as Campbelltown by advertised trains leaving Sydney on Fridays and Saturdays. (For services, see Public Time-tables.)



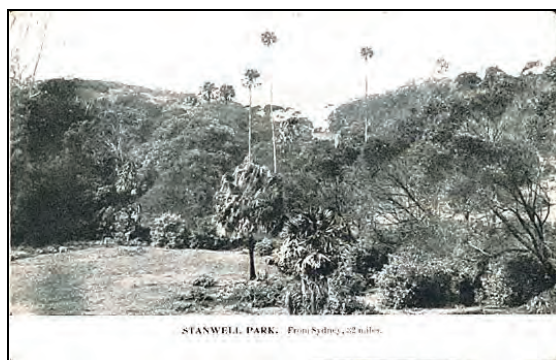
WILSON'S MOUNTAINS, Moss Vale, 32 miles.



BATHING POOL, MITTAGONG, Southern Line.



LAKELAND COAST, Murrumbidgee, Waggonville, 110 miles.



STANWELL PARK, From Sydney, 22 miles.

Earliest Dates Seen

The earliest copies of the Railway Post Cards seen are cancelled with dates in November 1905 and January 1906. All are Type 1 cards with the Type A views in sepia. Departments represented include 'Secretary', 'Parcels Agent, Sydney Station' and 'Station Master Darling Harbour'. I have only seen one copy of a Type 1 card with a Type B view — 'Superintendent of the Lines', with View 1, dated 09.01.08.

RELEVANCE OF CATALOGUE VALUES FOR USED NEWSPAPER WRAPPERS

Professor John K. Courtis, acapjajc@cityu.edu.hk

The use of philatelic catalogues to price postal stationery items does not seem to prevail. Indeed it would be a question as to what would be the most relevant catalogue. Except for a small number of country-specific postal stationery catalogues, the choice would essentially revolve around Dr Ascher's 1925 and 1928 two volumes *Grosser Ganzsachen-Katalog*, and Higgins & Gage (H&G) 1969 and 1974 *Priced Catalogue of World Postal Stationery* in 19 sections. The more widely available H&G supplements tend to be used as the international standard for identifying issued postal stationery items.

It has often been commented that catalogue values are nearly 40 years out-of-date and are of no significance in pricing postal stationery. The purpose of the paper is to examine the evidence and assess the relevance of the H&G values. Specifically, there are three research questions addressed: (a) what is the extent to which catalogue values and current realized prices correspond, (b) are catalogue values indicative of the relative availability of items and (c) do high/low catalogue values accurately predict high/low realized prices? In order to focus the study, used newspaper wrappers issued by the three Australian Colonies Queensland, South Australia and Victoria will be examined.

The first question seeks to identify the correspondence between catalogue values and actual transaction prices. In a world environment where annual general price changes have occurred since WWII, the expectation is that realized prices should be higher than catalogue prices. This imbalance would not make catalogue prices irrelevant if a constant multiple exists between catalogue and realized prices. The conversion from one to the other is a simple arithmetic function. (For example, my old grandfather clock strikes 20 past the hour and with an extra two chimes more than the hour. When I hear 12 chimes I know it is 20 past 10). The study will use the author's data base of realized transactions on eBay developed since September 2006. At the time of writing, the overall data base comprised 2500 transactions. Those referring to the Australian Colonies were extracted for this analysis.

The second question seeks to determine whether relative catalogue values can predict the relative scarcity of different items. To answer this question a data base of more than 10,000 scans of used wrappers is accessed (captured mostly from eBay since Feb. 2003). These scans are arranged in a computer library by postal entity and organized by H&G "E" wrapper numbers. The sub-library of scans of the Australian colonies enables calculation of the quantity of each type of wrapper that has been listed for sale on eBay over a five year period.

The third question seeks to determine the ability of the highest and lowest catalogue values to predict the highest and lowest realized prices. In other words, do the highest/lowest catalogue value wrappers sell at a price higher/lower than other wrapper types? There may be some predictive value from noting extreme catalogue values.

One limitation of this study is its use of the earlier editions of H&G. There is a more recent Australasia price supplement that was prepared for *Ausipex 84*. However, I did not use this special issue supplement because I have no idea as to the extent it has replaced the earlier H&G supplements as a reference source. I am more interested in developing a methodology for tackling the comparison issue. The approach adopted in this paper could also be followed for mint wrappers, but I have no data on non-used listings and sales. In any event, Gary Watson's recommendations that made up this more recent price supplement are still 25 years old compared with contemporary realized prices. The use of the Internet for buying and selling philatelic material was likely to be 0.1% of its present day activity, and the influence of the Internet on pricing versus traditional philatelic auction houses is a subject awaiting research.

A second limitation of the study is that it is comparing the costs of one period (1969 and 1974) with the costs of another period (2004 and 2005). One of my reviewers on an earlier draft recommended that a Consumer Price Index adjustment to these old catalogue prices would make a more realistic comparison. This raises an entire new line of enquiry as to what is the most appropriate adjustment, and there are several measurement models that could be considered. However, I did not want to get into any of this in a paper already technical enough. Moreover, I have never found any evidence that this is a reflection of collector behaviour, namely that they adjust old catalogue prices for changes in the cost of living. I am not seeking to compare the purchasing power equivalents of the dollars of the two time periods but the actual costs. There is an argument that some of the early and lower costs are not genuine catalogue values but are dealer service charges. I have no way of telling whether this is so or not. Nevertheless, the reader should keep these two limitations in mind in interpreting the findings and assessing the overall conclusion.

Queensland

There are nine basic types of wrappers listed in H&G for Queensland with catalogue values for used condition ranging between \$1.25 and 50 cents. These low prices may well reflect dealer service charges rather than any genuine valuation. As shown in Table 1, in no case is there accurate correspondence between catalogue and realized values. For the seven wrapper types with sales records, the multiple of realized value over catalogue value ranges from 3.03 to 32.67 times. While small sample sizes and extreme values affect the reliability of mean calculations, it is obvious that there is no constant multiple.

Table 1: Queensland catalogue and transaction details

	H&G catalogue value	Mean transaction value	Multiple	Number of sales	Transaction details in USD
E1	1.25	3.79	3.03	8	6.99, 2.00, 4.40, 2.50, 3.99, 3.50, 1.95, 2.99
E2	1.25	4.50	3.60	6	11.50, 3.00, 2.10, 2.00, 4.04, 4.40
E3	1.00	8.02	8.00	8	2.36, 18.09, 2.95, 3.00, 3.00, 4.98, 20.50, 9.27
E4	.75	24.50	32.67	1	24.50
E5	.75	6.15	8.2	2	8.00, 4.30
E6	.50	0	0	0	No sales recorded
E7	.75	0	0	0	No sales recorded
E8	.60	9.80	16.3	6	7.50, 23.95, 3.25, 18.5, 3.25, 2.35
E9	.50	3.93	7.86	2	5.85, 2.00

A fair question is to ask why there is such apparent variability in the realized prices. For example, E3 ranges from \$2.36 to \$20.50 with a mean of \$8.02. Several reasons account for price variability in general: the overall condition (many wrappers are torn or badly creased), the type and rarity of postmark, whether uprated or not, unusual destination, or additional marking such as postage due. Another reason is the concentration and enthusiasm of buyer demand at the time the item appears on the market, especially for the ever-so-elusive printed-to-private-order wrappers. Given available data, future research could examine the comparison of mint wrappers because mint would eliminate the influence on price of a cancellation, date or instructional marking.

The second research question asks whether relative catalogue values predict relative scarcity. The quantity of each Queensland wrapper type that has appeared for sale over five years is shown in Table 2. The ranking of catalogue values proceeds from highest to lowest. The ranking of relative scarcity commences with the lowest supply (none of E7) and moves to the highest (39 of E1). The two rankings are compared for concordance, or the extent to which they match. Perfect ranking concordance exists when the two independent ranks line up, e.g., 1-1, 2-2, 3-3 and so forth.

Table 2: Queensland catalogue & supply ranking comparison.

H&G catalogue number	H&G catalogue value	Quantity supplied to the market	Ranking of catalogue value	Ranking of relative scarcity	Ranking concordance +/- 2 ranks
E1	1.25	39	=1*	9	no
E2	1.25	33	=1	8	no
E3	1.00	14	3	=5	borderline
E4	.75	6	=4	4	yes
E5	.75	4	=4	3	yes
E6	.50	2	=8	2	no
E7	.75	0	=4	1	no
E8	.60	20	7	7	yes
E9	.50	14	=8	=5	borderline

*The = sign indicates tied rankings

Only three of the nine cases show any semblance of ranking concordance. This evidence indicates that the H&G catalogue values are not an accurate predictor of relative scarcity. For that to happen, we would expect the lowest supply to be E1 and E2 types as their relative scarcity should be reflected in the highest catalogue values. The evidence is to the contrary - the highest supply has appeared for these two types.

The third research question seeks to determine whether the extreme catalogue values predict the highest/lowest realization values. Allowing E1 to be the highest catalogue value and E9 as the lowest value, accurate prediction would require the highest/lowest prices realized to be for E1 and E9. The evidence does not support this prediction. Every type shows a higher mean than E1. However, the mean of E9 is almost the lowest, E1 being slightly but not statistically significantly lower. The highest catalogue value has no predictive ability; the lowest catalogue appears to have good predictive ability given the caveat of small sample sizes.

South Australia

The H&G catalogue listing is incomplete for South Australia so I have assigned H&G numbers to the three missing types. Of the 14 types, one did not appear on the market (E10), three appeared once only (E1, E6, E7B) and two appeared twice (E4a and E4B). The remaining eight appeared from 110 (E3) to three (E4 and E9). As an aside, of all Australian colonies' wrapper types, the SA E3 is the most "common".

Regarding the first research question about catalogue-realized values, only two types provide enough sales information for any sensible comparison, namely E3 and E4. The catalogue values are \$1.50 for each. The mean realized values are \$5.35 and \$8.41 respectively. The 13 sales recorded for E3 are: 0.99, 0.99, 1.04, 2.99, 3.00, 3.13, 3.58, 4.25, 5.00, 5.18, 8.00, 12.50 and 19.00. Only three of these transactions are close to these old (and perhaps irrelevant) catalogue values. The four sales records for E4 are 5.09, 7.52, 9.45 and 11.59, none of which bear any similarity to the catalogue value. The two multiples of

realized over catalogue are 3.56 and 5.60 and therefore are not constant and not predictive.

Table 3: South Australia Catalogue versus Realised Values & Supply

H&G catalogue number	H&G catalogue value	Quantity supplied to the market	Ranking of catalogue value	Ranking of relative scarcity	Ranking concordance +/- 2 ranks
E1	1.50	1	=4	=11	no
E2	1.50	7	=4	5	yes
E3	1.50	110	=4	1	borderline
E4	1.50	3	=4	=7	borderline
E4a	Not listed	2	=12	=9	borderline
E5	5.00	9	=1	3	yes
E6	2.00	1	3	=11	no
E7	1.50	8	=4	4	yes
E8	1.00	4	=9	6	borderline
E9	1.00	3	=9	=7	yes
E10	1.00	0	=9	14	no
E3B	Not listed	30	=12	2	no
E4B	Not listed	2	=12	=9	borderline
E7B	5.00	1	=1	=11	no

Regarding the second question, there is a slightly stronger semblance of concordance. However, the number of tied catalogue value ranks (equal catalogue prices) makes the catalogue ranking arbitrary. My interpretation of the ranking comparison is that little evidence exists of catalogue values reflecting the relative quantity of each type coming onto the market. The most common wrapper and the first type each have the same catalogue value but differ in quantity from 110 to one.

The third question cannot be answered completely. For example, the lowest catalogue values are E7, E8 and E9 each at \$1, but of these three types the only sale was E8 for \$23.00, or 23 times the catalogue value. At the top end, E7B has the highest catalogue value but no sales. The next highest E5 has one sale at \$8.50. From this limited data it cannot be established whether extreme catalogue values are an accurate predictor of extreme realized values.

Victoria

There were 197 Victorian wrappers listed on eBay during the collection period. This total is only marginally more than the 173 for South Australia, but they are spread across a wider number of types. Table 4 summarizes the H&G 27 types, their catalogue values, their frequency of appearance on eBay and their ranking concordance.

Table 4: Victoria Catalogue & Realised Values & Frequency of Appearance

H&G catalogue numbers	Catalogue Values	Ranking of catalogue values	Quantity supplied to the market	Ranking of relative scarcity	Ranking concordance +/- 2 ranks
1	75.00	4	0	=1	yes
2	25.00	=7	0	=1	yes
3	60.00	5	0	=1	yes
4	20.00	=9	2	=11	yes
5	20.00	=9	2	=11	yes
6	7.50	=11	1	=8	borderline
7	7.50	=11	1	=8	borderline
8	50.00	6	0	=1	yes
9	RR	=1	0	=1	Yes
10	RR	=1	0	=1	yes
11	7.50	=11	2	=11	yes
12	6.00	=15	2	=11	borderline
13	6.00	=15	3	=17	yes
14	4.00	=19	4	=19	yes
15	3.00	=23	58	27	yes
16	3.00	=23	5	21	yes
17	2.00	27	55	26	yes
18	3.00	=23	21	25	yes
19	3.00	=23	12	24	yes
20	4.00	=19	2	=11	no
21	25.00	=7	4	=19	no
23 (&b)	4.00	=19	7	22	yes
24	4.00	=19	2	=11	no
25	6.00	=15	10	23	no
26	6.00	=15	1	=8	no
27	7.50	=11	3	=17	no
28	R	3	0	=1	yes

Only 11 types were sold on eBay during the 17 month data collection period. Of these, three made a single appearance and six appeared only twice. Therefore only two types: E15 and E17 have enough transaction data for the calculation of any reliable descriptive statistics. Table 5 summarizes the H&G catalogue values, the actual transaction details, average realized prices and the multiple of actual over catalogue.

With regard to the first question, none of the 11 types show any genuine correspondence between realized and catalogue values. Four types have an average realized price less than catalogue (E14, E16, E23 and E25). Two types are reasonably close (E11 and E24) but small samples undermine any realistic interpretation. Five types sell for more than twice catalogue (E12, E15, E17, E18 and E19). Of the 14 observations for each of E15 and E17, none are equal to catalogue. The conclusion is that there is no systematic correspondence between catalogue and realized prices for Victorian wrappers.

With regard to the second question, the last column of Table 4 shows that there is a surprising amount of concordance with 18 types showing yes, six no and three borderline. At first sight this is encouraging in that it implies that the ranking of catalogue values are a reasonable indicator of the relative quantities of

each type that appear on the market. However, this claim needs to be tempered with considerable caution because 78% of both rankings are tied. Any concordance based on such a high proportion of tied rankings is more likely to be due to the statistical process rather than a reflection of phenomenon. Put more down-to-earth, I doubt catalogue values accurately predict relative scarcity.

Table 5: Victoria Catalogue and Actual Transaction Values

H&G numbers	H&G values	No. sold	Actual transactions	Average realized prices excluding STO outliers	Multiple realized over catalogue
11	7.50	2	7.95, 11.53	9.74	1.29
12	6.00	1	14.45	14.45	2.41
14	4.00	1	3.00	3.00	0.75
15	3.00	14	12.15, 1.25, 4.25, 14.99, 2.80, 11.15, 4.99, 12.50, 7.09, 5.13, 4.80, 3.34, 3.34, 7.50	6.80	2.27
16	3.00	2	2.42, 3.40	2.91	.97
17	2.00	14	4.37, 3.83, 7.00, 1.95, 3.25, 7.00, 2.80, 4.25, 4.99, 9.60, 2.50, 1.04; 66.00*, 41.00*	4.38	2.19
18	3.00	3	13.20, 6.50, 89.88*	9.85	2.19
19	3.00	2	10.49, 2.40	6.45	2.15
23	4.00	2	3.00, 0.99	1.99	0.49
24	4.00	1	4.90	4.90	1.23
25	6.00	2	1.25, 10.49	5.87	0.97

* Stamped-to-Order wrappers: E17: Mt Wycheproof Ensign; The Spectator; E18: The War Cry (see illustration at end)

The third research question examines whether the extreme high and low catalogue values can predict accurately the extreme realized high and low prices. For this predictive relationship to hold, E11 with the highest catalogue value would need to show the highest average actual realized price. In addition, E17 with the lowest catalogue value would need to show the lowest average actual realized price. The evidence shows that neither prediction holds. There are two realized values above that for E11, namely E18 and E12. Likewise, there are three realized values below E17, namely E14, E16 and E23. The conclusion is that high/low catalogue values have no predictive ability regarding high/low realizations for Victoria.

There are some surprises in the data shown in Table 5. First, of the 11 types, four (36%) sold at less than their 1974 catalogue values. Second, for the normal law of supply and demand to apply in determining realized prices, *ceteris paribus*, items with the lowest/highest frequency of appearance should sell for the highest/lowest prices. In other words, E12 and E14 had the lowest frequency (one item each) and E15 and E17 had the highest frequency (14 items each) and yet realized prices follow no systematic application of this law. For example, while E12 realized the highest price, E14 sold for 75% of its 40 year old catalogue value and is the third lowest realized value. For wrappers with the highest frequency of sale, the average realized price of E15 has seven wrapper types with lower average realized amounts and E17 has three wrapper types with lower average realized amounts. Third, the multiples for Victoria reveal a slightly tighter band: 0.75 to 2.41 (1.66 range) compared with 3.03 to 32.67 (29.65 range) for Queensland and 3.56 to 5.60 (2.04 range) for South Australia. I'm not sure about the implications of this finding. Further research could examine the relevance of Carl Steig's 2001 values in *Victoria Postal*

Stationery 1869-1917.

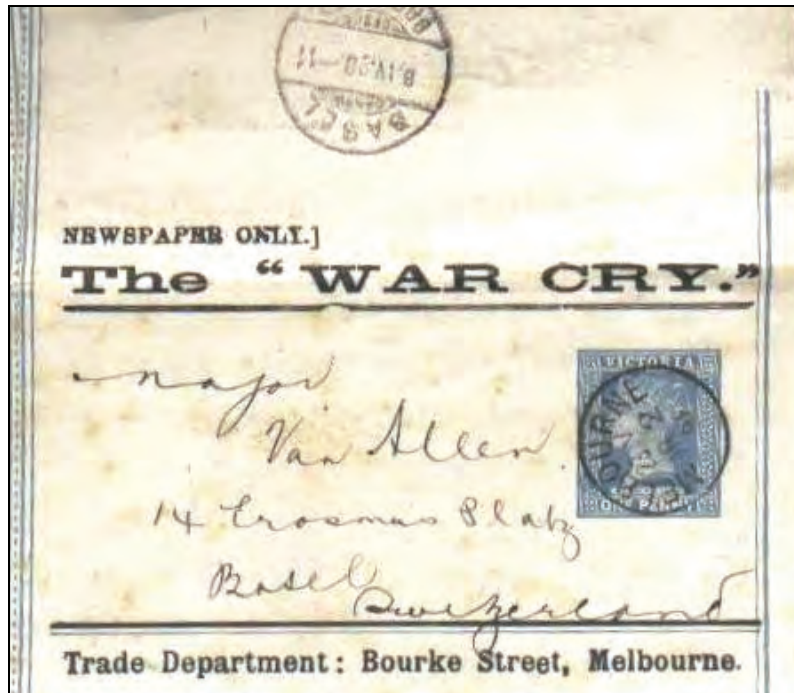


Figure 1 E18 PTPO: The War Cry

Conclusion

Reading a paper based on tables and statistics is not everyone's cup of tea and I appreciate the strain it places on the reader. Nevertheless, it is important that, from time-to-time, we subject anecdotal claims to an analysis based on real evidence. The author's two data bases of wrapper scans and realized prices are probably unique and thereby enable some real evidence to be presented. The fundamental question is whether the 1969 and 1974 H&G catalogue values serve any use for pricing. Specifically, do realized and catalogue values match up, do relative catalogue values imply relative scarcity, and do prices follow the basic law of supply and demand?

Sufficient observations are available for three states: Queensland, South Australia and Victoria to enable some preliminary investigation to be undertaken into these questions. The collective finding is that there is no systematic evidence that catalogue values have any correspondence with realized prices. Furthermore, catalogue values do not predict the relative scarcity of different items, and extreme catalogue values do not predict extreme realized prices. In short, the early H&G catalogue is suitable as a checklist of items that have been issued by the postal authorities, but the prices contained therein have no practical use. This conclusion, intuitively obvious, can now be stated based on fact rather than anecdote.

Acknowledgements: My sincere thanks to Allan Gory and Dr Maurice Mishkel for reading and commenting on an earlier draft. Their comments have been incorporated into the paper.

QUEENSLAND WRAPPER WITH INVERTED CLICHE

Mark Diserio

Following on from John Courtis' articles on Queensland ½d Queen Victoria Wrappers in previous issues of the *PSC*, I made John Courtis aware of the wrapper illustrated below and he suggested it warranted inclusion in *PSC*.

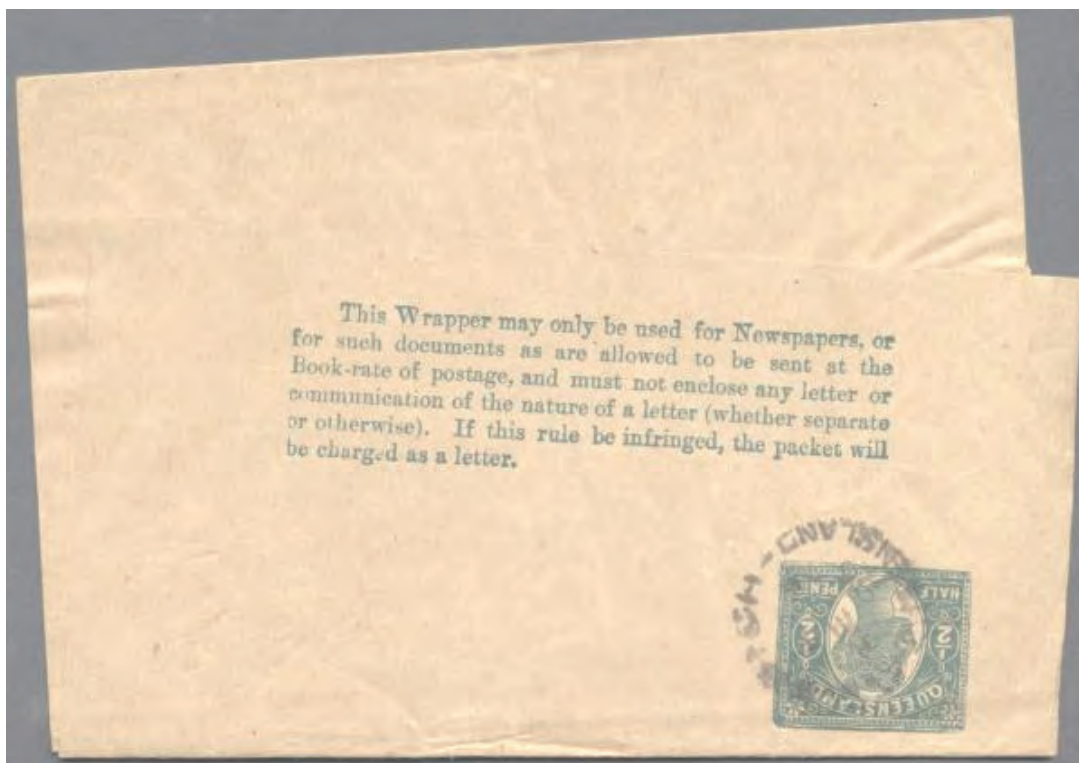
The ½d wrapper (with clear background) has the indicium inverted with respect to the text.

John commented "It is the first case of an invert I have ever heard about from anywhere in the world and is probably unique". It's certainly the first one I've ever seen although it has always been a possibility given the way I believe the wrappers were printed.

Assuming the wrapper is cut in the normal manner, I suggest it is the stamp cliché which has been inserted upside down.

This suggests that no "plate" existed, but that wrappers were printed on an "as needs basis" by (most likely) locking the text and the clichés into the chase on the bed of the printing press. The number of impressions may have correlated to the size of the paper available to the printer. This may also explain the textual varieties that John has been researching and writing about.

The fact that it was used to Gordon & Gotch in Melbourne probably explains its existence today.



February 2009

MORE ON THE VILLERS-BRETONNEUX CARDS

Judy Kennett

Introduction

In *Postal Stationery Collector* issue No 54 August 2008 (Ref.1) was an article about the French postal stationery cards issued for the official opening of the Australian War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux in the north of that country. Following the publication of the article, we received an email message from M. Jacques Hontebeyrie, who is an officer of L'Association des Collectionneurs d'Entiers Postaux (ACEP). The PSSA exchanges journals with this society.

M. Hontebeyrie sent scans of some items from this 1938 issue that were mentioned in the article, but not illustrated. He copied the whole of the booklet that was prepared for the issue of the stamp design (see PSC No 54 page 39), which was made up of the cover of the booklet (Figure 1), deluxe proofs on heavy cream paper of the postage stamp design 1.75 Fr blue, of the stamp designs used on the stationery cards 1 Fr carmine (Figure 2) and 55 centimes green (Figure 3), and black proofs of the five different card designs.

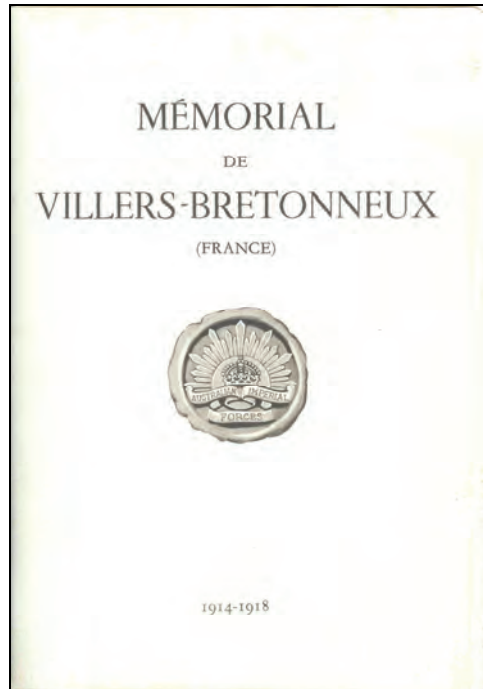


Figure 1 Cover of the Villers-Bretonneux booklet

Events since August 2008

In October 2008 the text for the *Postal Stationery Collector* article was sent to John Leah, the Editor of *Australian Stamps Professional* (ASP) to see if he was interested in using it in a future issue of the journal. During the year he has published a series of articles on the Australian role in the war on the Western Front during World War 1. This was a significant year in Australian military history, for 11 November 2008 was the 90th anniversary of the end of that war. Australia Post issued a special miniature sheet for the event, and commemorative services were held in France, Australia and the United Kingdom. The article, with some additions, and with PSSA permission, was published in *Australian Stamps Professional* Vol 2 Issue No 8 (Ref. 2). We are very grateful to ASP for the opportunity to increase awareness of the existence of these stationery cards, and of their place in Australian military history, also of the relationship between Australia and France.



Figure 2. Proof of 1 Franc carmine

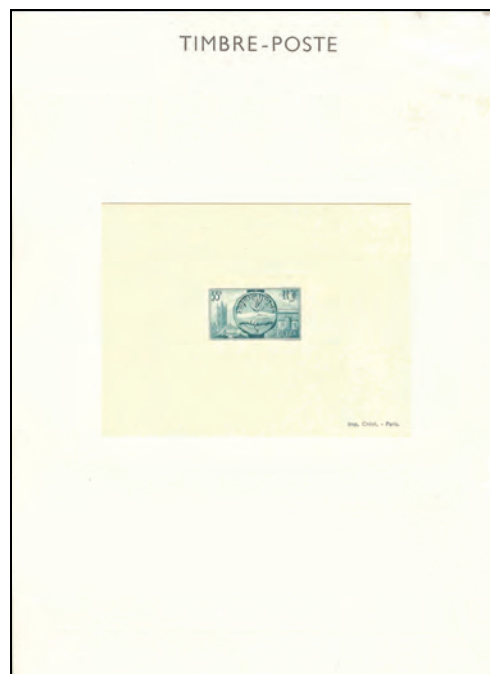


Figure 3. Proof of 55 centimes green

Some recent research

This was an excellent opportunity to examine two possible sources of information about the issuing of the stamp and the stationery cards in July 1938. The first was *The Australian Stamp Monthly* August 1938 under the heading 'Brief stamp notes':

'France. Due for release on the occasion of the visit of the King and Queen to France in July was a special stamp and also five commemorative postcards bearing impressed stamps and views of Villers-Bretonneux. A special postmark was also to be employed.'(Ref. 3)

Gibbons' Stamp Monthly September 1938 under 'Stamp news in brief':

'France. A special postmark was used at Versailles to commemorate the visit of Their Majesties. No specimens of this postmark are available for sale, but our Publishers can supply sets of the stamped postcards issued for the unveiling of the Australian Monument at Villers-Bretonneux.' (Ref 4)

Conclusion

We send our grateful thanks to M. Claude del Vitto, an Honorary President of ACEP, for arranging for the French document to be electronically copied and sent to us. Thank you to M. Hontebeyrie for sending the material.

Thank you to Derek Brennan for 'digging out' the 1938 copies of the Australian and British journals.

References:

1. Kennett, Judy 'An Australian War Memorial shown on French postal stationery in 1938', *Postal Stationery Collector* Issue No 54 August 2008, Postal Stationery Society of Australia, pages 36-40.
2. Kennett, Judy 'The poignancy of Armistice Day in Villers-Bretonneux', *Australian Stamps Professional* Vol 2 No 8 2008, pages 39-41.
3. *The Australian Stamp Monthly* Vol 9 No August 1938, page 357.
4. *Gibbons' Stamp Monthly* Vol XI No 12 September 1938, page 243.

PSSA FORUM

Christmas Aerogramme, Stamped Envelopes and Formula Postcards

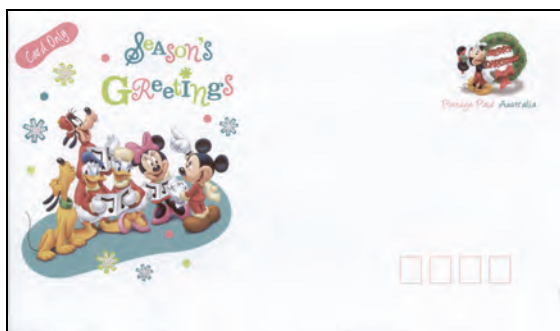
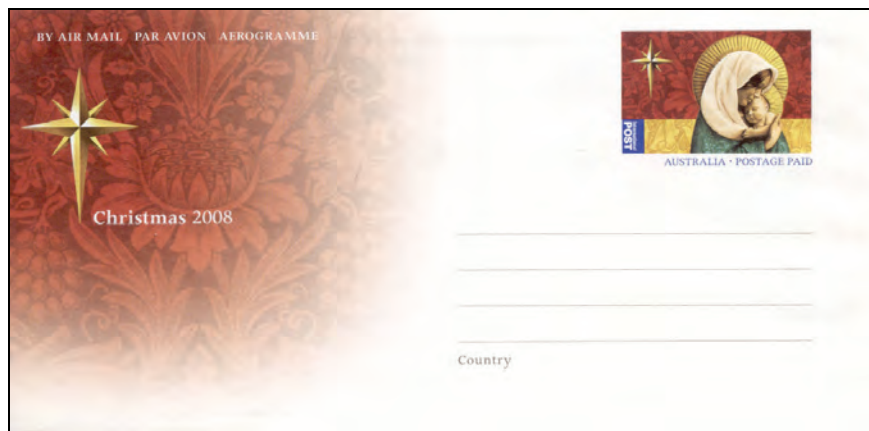
The annual Christmas aerogramme was issued on 31 October 2008. The aerogramme depicts the Madonna and child and the star of Bethlehem and was designed by Melinda Coombes.

Two stamped envelopes were issued in packs of 12 with 12 Christmas cards, one based on the Muppets and the other on Mickey Mouse. These envelopes pre-paid the Christmas card rate of 50c. The packs were sold at \$12.95 although they could be purchased at some post offices for a 50% discount at the after-Christmas sales.

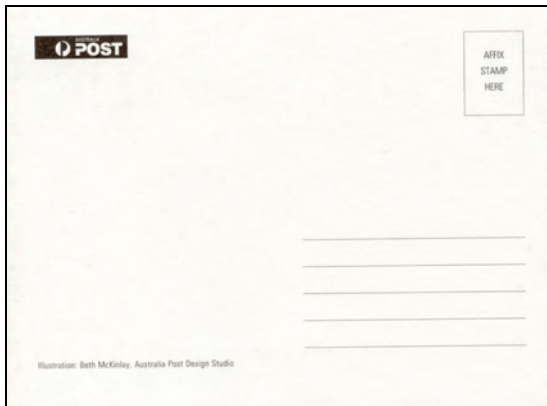
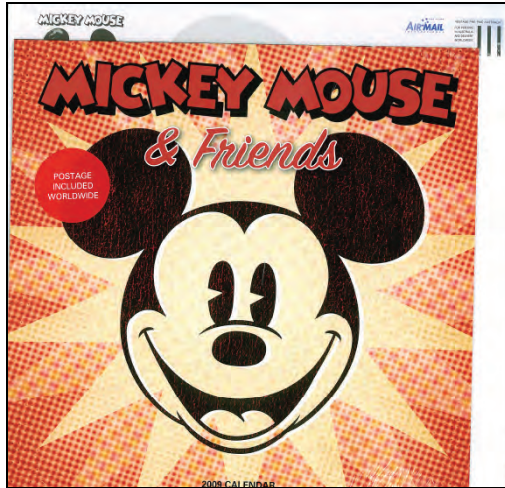
A range of other Christmas card packs were also issued by Australia Post. These contained unstamped envelopes with 10 adhesive stamps included for postage and were sold at \$9.99 (before Christmas). The themes of the packs included Baubles, Christmas Island Critters, Bush Nativity, Gifts and Wishes and Celebrate Christmas.

A large-sized stamped envelope was issued depicting Mickey Mouse. This envelope was sold with a Mickey Mouse and Friends calendar. It was sold for \$24.95 and pre-paid worldwide postage. As with the Christmas cards it was sold at 50% of that price in some Australia Post shops after Christmas.

Two 'postcard' calendars were issued, one depicting Australian scenes and the other star signs. These calendars have tear off formula postcards and were sold for \$9.99. For the record, Australia Post also issued a rather attractive calendar depicting historic post offices (this calendar had no relevance to postal stationery).



Postal Stationery Collector



Vision Pre-stamped Envelope

A stamped envelope commemorating 200 Years of Louis Braille was issued on 28 November 2008. The envelope sells for 65c.



Express Post and Parcel Post Satchels

Express Post and Parcel Post satchels have now appeared without the Olympics logo. The Express Post satchels are dated 10/08.



The 5kg Express Post satchels are now available for sale at some Post Shops. The advertising material for the satchels proclaims:

- Large satchel (435mm x 510mm) for your bulkier items.
- Nationwide flat-rates with no additional costs (eg fuel and security surcharges, account keeping fees or redirection costs).
- Guaranteed Next Business Day Delivery within the [Express Post network](#)*.
- Proof of Posting when lodged over the post office counter.
- Track events to confirm delivery (where available) for viewing online – go to www.ausposttracking.com.au.

Postal Stationery Collector

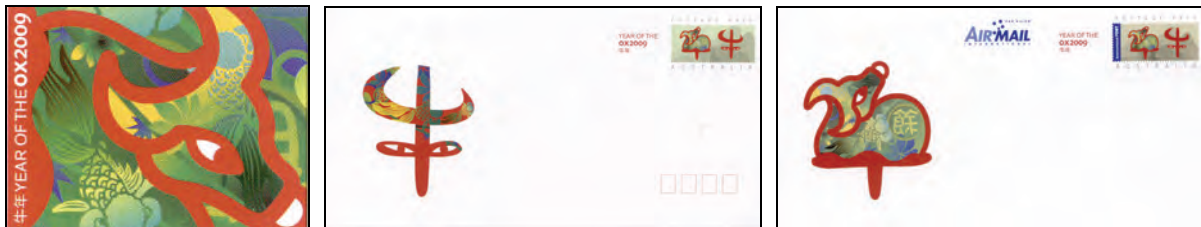
- PayPal Seller Protection protects eligible sellers against buyer claims, credit card and debit card chargebacks, and reversals due to unauthorised payments or buyers who claim they haven't received items they purchased.
- Do not post this satchel in either the Express Post Gold or the red street posting boxes – the 5kg satchel is too large to fit through the opening of street posting boxes.

5 kg satchels are sold for \$16.90 each or for \$158.65 per pack of 10 (dropping to \$150.30 per pack for purchases of 10 packs or more). The satchels differ from previous issues in not having the text 'Not for individual sale' on the reverse and in not having '5 kg' in large type in the lower left hand corner. While the satchels are on sale in Brisbane, at the time of writing they were not available at Canberra post offices. The barcode label does not have the usual two letter prefix.



2009 Year of the Ox

A stamped postcard and two stamped envelopes (55c domestic, \$1.65 international) were issued by Australia Post on 8 January 2009 for the Chinese New Year.



Formular Postcard

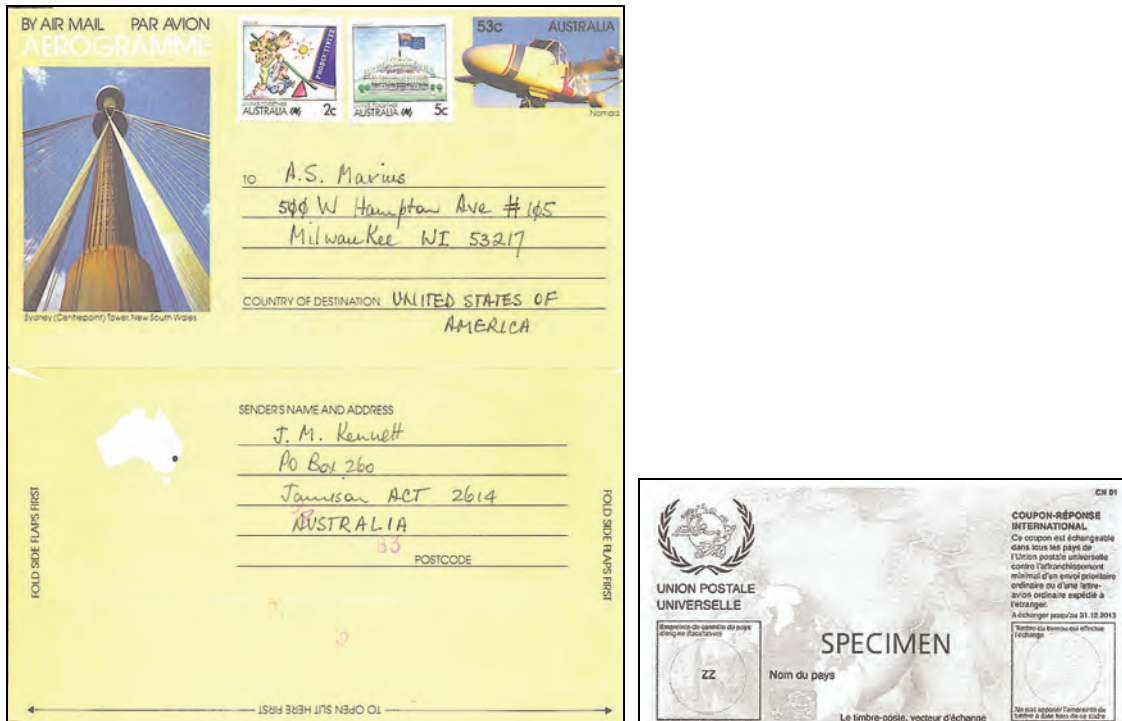
Two Australia Post 'Avant Cards' were provided by Richard Breckon.



Aerogramme from the Past

Judy Kennett has provided an aerogramme from her past:

This collector in the USA must have a wonderful memory. He must have seen my name on the PSSA web site, and made the connection. It's a small world, isn't it?



New International Reply Coupon

A new international reply coupon known as the Nairobi model designed by Rob Van Goor, will be issued on 1 July 2009.

LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN NON-DENOMINATED POSTAL STATIONERY

Ian McMahon

Postcards

1 October 2008 Megafauna

Maximum cards

- (-) Diprotodon
- (-) Genyornis
- (-) Thylacine
- (-) Thylacoleo
- (-) Procoptodon goliah
- (-) Megalania

(Set price: \$8.90)

31 October 2008 Christmas

Maximum cards

- (-) Bauble
- (-) Madonna and Child
- (-) Angel
- (-) Wise Man

(Set price: \$5.75)

3 November 2008 Famous Australian Films

Maximum cards

- (-) Priscilla Queen of the Desert
- (-) The Castle
- (-) Muriel's Wedding
- (-) Lantana
- (-) Gallipoli

(Set price: \$6.50)

8 January 2009 Year of the Ox

(\$1.50) Rotary

8 January 2009 South Magnetic Pole 1909-2009

Maximum cards

- (-) Nimrod
- (-) Depositing Provisions
- (-) Northern Party camp
- (-) Claiming the Pole

(Set price: \$6.30)

Aerogrammes

31 October 2008 Christmas

(\$1.15) Madonna and Child

Envelopes

31 October 2008 Christmas

(-) Muppets (©2008)

(-) Mickey Mouse

Note: Sold in packs of 12 with 12 Christmas cards for \$12.95.

31 October 2008 Mickey Mouse and Friends

(\$24.95) Mickey Mouse

Note: Large size envelope sold with a Mickey and Friends 2009 Calendar.

28 November 2008 200 Years of Braille

(0.65) Vision Australia

8 January 2009 Year of the Ox

(\$0.65) Domestic

(\$2.35) International

Parcel Satchels

December 2008 'New' 2008 Design Now Without Olympic Logo

(\$5.50) 500g Satchel

(\$9.60) 3 kg Satchel

Express Post Satchels

December 2008 As previous issue but now without Olympic Logo

(\$7.70) 500g Satchel

(\$10.90) 3 kg Satchel (white barcode label)

Note: Codes seen: SN, SQ, MQ dated 10/08

December 2008 5 kg satchel for retail sale

(\$16.90) 5 kg Satchel

Note: Codes seen: The barcode label does not have the usual two letter prefix. This satchel differ from previous issues in not having the text 'Not for individual sale' on the reverse and in not having '5 kg' in large type in the lower left hand corner.

February 2009

FROM THE SECRETARY

Membership matters

Instead of sending out subscription reminder forms with the final issue of *Postal Stationery Collector* for the year, in November 2008 we experimented with sending the form out by electronic mail. Allowing for communications glitches, and returned messages where we had not been notified of new email addresses, the process went smoothly, and it's likely that we will use this method of reminding members again next year. If your payment has been received by the Treasurer, a receipt will be inside this issue of the journal. Please note that if my original email has been deleted, the subscription reminder form is available in various formats on the Society web page <http://www.postalstationeryaustralia.com> , and will remain there until at least the end of January 2009.

The Society in 2009

Melbourne 09, a full National, will be held at the Melbourne Exhibition Centre from 23-26 July 2009. All classes will be at National level, and we expect that the PSSA Prize will be awarded. Entries have now closed, but look for further information on the Australian Philatelic Federation web page www.apf.org.au . We expect that the PSSA will be holding a meeting at the exhibition, and further information about this will appear in the next issue of the journal.

Society web page

Our web master Jeff Trinidad was busy in the last few weeks adding new material to the web page, and including a list of links to the overseas societies for postal stationery collectors with which we have journal exchanges. You'll find a link to Exponet, the Czech web site with links to postal stationery exhibits from all over the world (see www.japhila.cz/hof). There is also a link to the FIP Postal Stationery Commission web site www.postalstationery.org .

More material will be added as the year progresses, and items updated where necessary. If you can think of any electronic material that might be useful on the web site, please contact the Secretary on jkennett@tpg.com.au .

LITERATURE

Judy Kennett and Ian McMahon

From our contemporaries

The Postal Stationery Society Journal [UK] Vol 16 No 4 November 2008

- Minutes of the Society's AGM held on Saturday 25 October 2008
- The saga of the coat of arms (Israeli illustrated letter sheets)
- New design for International Reply Coupons
- GB postal stationery news
- Proposed listing of UPU specimen postal stationery (James Bendon seeks help from collectors; email james@jamesbendon.com)

L'Entier Postal No 80 Novembre 2008

- A card from the French Occupation Zone in Austria 1946
- PAP goes crazy (illustrated envelopes with mis-spellings, oddities in designs)
- 1891 card to Russia that apparently arrived before it left France (it's the Julian calendar date in France and the Gregorian calendar in use in Russia at that time)
- Customs envelopes since 1997
- A spectacular variety on a pneumatic envelope of Marseilles (1910)

L'Intero Postale No 104 Autunno 2008

- The 36th meeting at San Colombano al Lambro
- Hunting for forgotten cancels: nine 'new' squared circle cancels [used on the Torino Railway]
- The first day of use of the Italian postal lettercard
- New issues from the Italian area (includes the Vatican)

The Cover Collector: Journal of the Australian Cover Society No 18 December 2008

- First Day of Issue aerogramme cancelled at Largs North, SA on 12 October 1960

The Informer: Journal of the Society of Australasian Specialists /Oceania No 663 January 2009

- Tasmanian savings bank packets: special concessional rate 1882-1912 (includes examples of PTPO embossed stationery envelopes used by banks)

The London Philatelist Vol 117 No 1361 December 2008

- Italian postal stationery overprinted AMG/VG 1945-1947 [a previously unknown example]

La Philatélie Française November/December 2008

- 1941 postal cards of the French Oceanic Settlements

Sydney Views November 2008

- NSW Penny Halfpenny Post Cards and Penny Halfpenny Reply Post Cards

Philately from Australia December 2008

- Australian Commonwealth Post Office Newspaper Wrappers: A Census

Postal Stationery Notes October 2008

- Newspaper Wrapper Headings: A summary
- PCF Corner
- Mental Health Special Order Envelope
- Unusual and Exotic Postal Stationery Usages

Ganzsachensammler December 2008

- New PK 26-PrZD 5
- Private Envelope Elektra Untergau Genossenschaft
- Herbstanlass 2008
- Handbook of Swiss Postcards
- Postcard with printed address to J C Brandenburg

Die Ganzsache 2/ 2008

- Explanation of the usage of postcards of the Third Reich
- Designed in Berlin, printed in Frankfurt: 1867 envelopes.
- Use of North German envelope cut-outs
- New Literature and New Issues

Postal Stationery September-October 2008

- Shoebox & Stationery Forum (U.S. Card S8 Missing Leaf Variety, Swiss Folded Typewriter Card, U. S. Card UX154/S167 for Elvis Ballot, UX24/S33 Broken Line, Modern Postal Card Values, Domestic Postal Card Rates Note for S85, Auction Realizations, Chinese Post Card, U.S. Card S26a Cracked Plate, S. W. Africa Error)
- U.S.A. 19th Century Column
- U.S.A. 20th/21st Century Column
- U.S. Envelope AM-5 Watermark 30
- The 19697 Paisa Card of Pakistan,
- Br. Central Africa -Rhodesia Mix-up

- All the way for only 2c
- Demonetized Reply Cards
- Selected British Forces Aerograms from the Thomas A. Matthews Collection
- Historical Catalog of U.S. Postal Card Essays and Proofs
- Meet Clifford Washington Kissinger
- Literature Reviews (Folded Typewriter Postcards, MICHEL Ganzsachen- Katalog Deutschland 2007, Catalogue des Entiers Postaux Beiges avec annonces, Die Victoria National Invaliden-Stiftung)

Postal Stationery November-December 2008

- A New Canal Zone Postal Card Variety
- Gerald W. King and Pseudo Postal Stationery,
- Black Jack Forgeries: 4th Nesbitt 2c
- Indian POW Card
- The 1925 USA Surcharge on a Philippine Envelope,
- U.S.A. 19th Century Column
- U.S.A. 20th/21st Century Column
- Bechuanaland Post Card Essays
- SHOEBOX & STATIONERY FORUM (Mexican Card Printing Varieties, USA Rates for Card S85, UPU Specimen Stationery, USA UX41/S57k Information Sought, USA Envelopes, correction, USA Card S8 Missing Leaf Variety, Shoebox Communications, ,Indian Card with Reversed 4, Cochin Envelope Error, Surface Rate Card with Airmail Border)
- New Multiple Advertising Postal Card, Selected British Forces Aerograms from the Thomas A. Matthews Collection
- A Mexico -New S. Wales Connection

Gibbons Stamp Monthly December 2008

- Meghdoot Scheme
- Multicoloured old-time Canadian Cards
- Pseudo-perfin envelope
- UK Army and Navy Stores lettersheets

Gibbons Stamp Monthly January 2009

- The Story of Registration Envelopes in Great Britain

Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter January 2008

- The role of the Postal Stationery Commission Delegate
- Judging treatment in the Postal Stationery Class
- Guidelines for one-frame exhibits

Michel Ganzsachen-Katalog Europe bis 1960: 895 pages softbound, black and white illustrations, in German, priced in Euros.

This catalogue covers the postal stationery of Europe (excluding Germany) up until 1960. The catalogue is drawn from the East and West Europe postal stationery catalogues published by Michel and therefore follows the same format as those catalogues with the listings arranged firstly by stamp design and then by type of stationery. For those used to the more usual listings by type of stationery this takes a little while to get used to but the Catalogue does include an index of stamp designs by stationery types to assist. Generally the listings appear to be largely unchanged from the early catalogues but with updated prices.

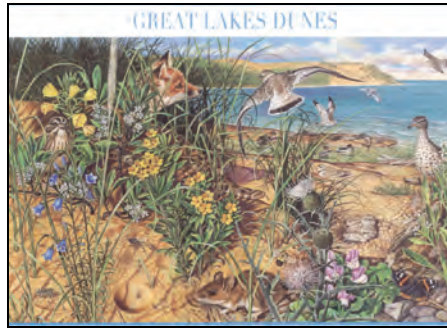
Katalog Prangko Indonesia 2009: Indonesian Postage Stamp Catalogue published by the Indonesian Stamp Dealers Association. 340 pages, softbound, in Indonesian with some English, priced in Indonesian Rupiah. This is one of those very useful one country catalogues which include a listing of postal stationery. The stationery listing covers 17 pages and covers the period 1945-2008 including the issues of

the revolutionary period. The Catalogue also includes a 10 page listing of the stationery of the Netherland Indies.

NEW ISSUES

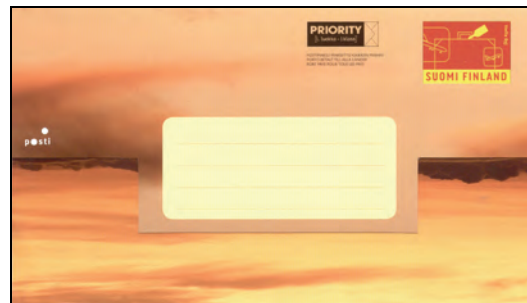
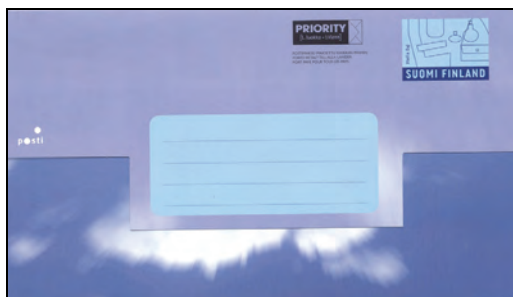
USA

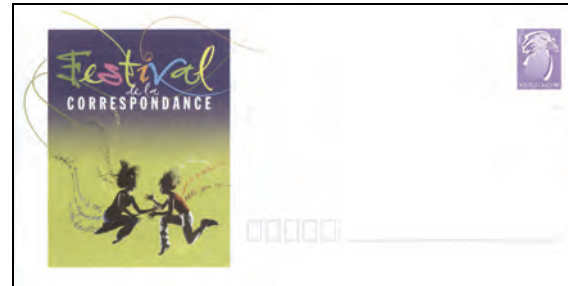
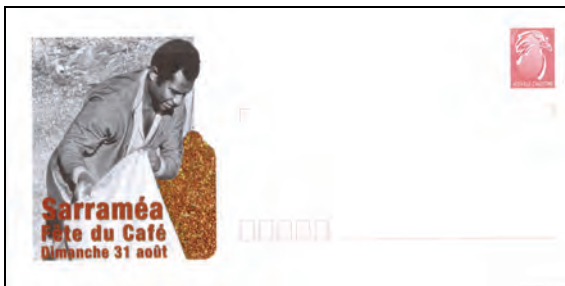
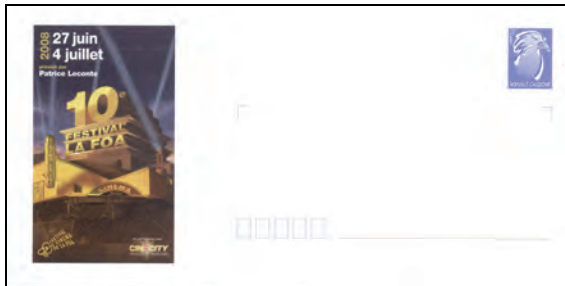
The US issued a set of 10 oversize postal cards as part of their Great Lakes Dune issue on 2 October 2008. The cards were sold as a set for \$8.95. The US also issued a postal card booklet for \$13.95 as part of their '50s Fins and Chrome' issue. The cards depict five cars from the 50s: 1957 Chrysler 300C, 1957 Lincoln Premiere, 1957 Pontiac Safari, 1975 Studebaker Golden Hawk and 1959 Cadillac Eldorado.



Finland, France, Hong Kong, Japan, New Caledonia, and China

Recent stationery from Finland, France, Japan, Hong Kong (postcards depicting jellyfish) and New Caledonia are illustrated below.



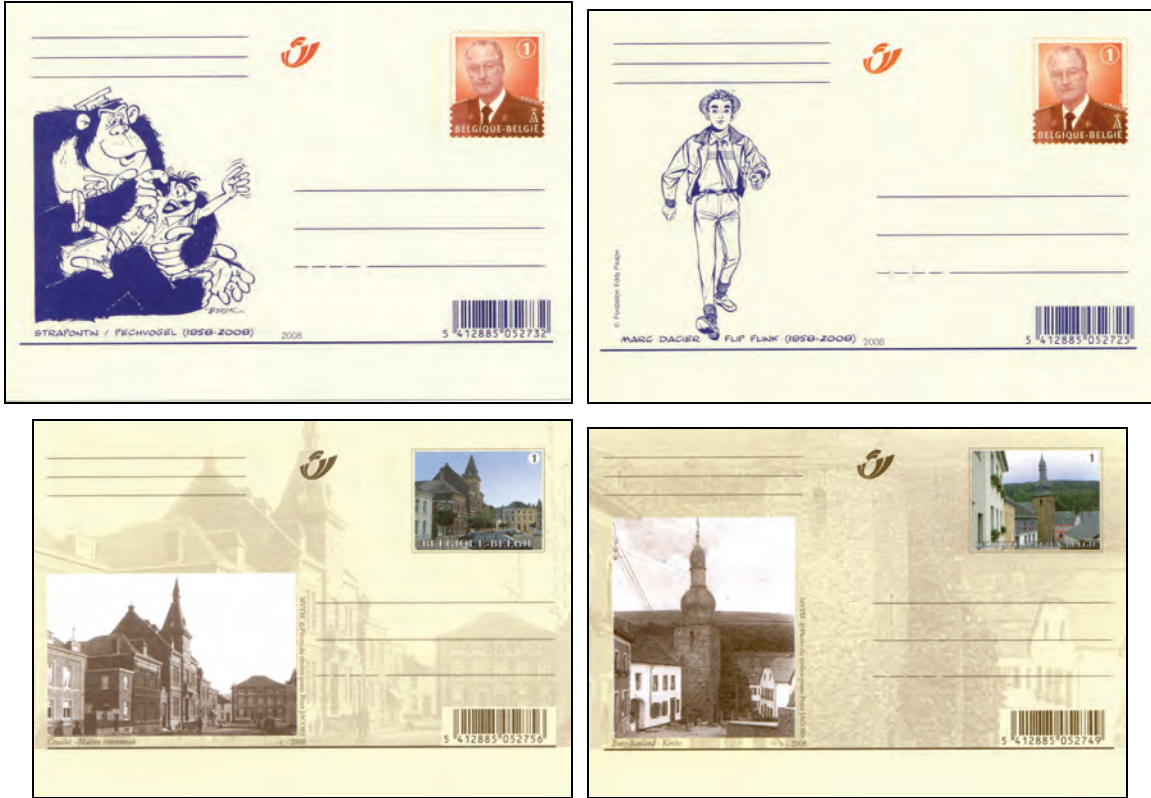


Canada

A Canadian postal card used by Canada Post as part of a promotion of World Stamp Expo 2000 is illustrated above.

Belgium

New Belgium post cards illustrating comic characters and the latest issue of 10 postcards showing towns past and present are illustrated below.



Israel.

Two envelopes for posting CDs are illustrated below.



