

## WRAPPERS NEW SOUTH WALES (April 2019)

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The first newspaper wrappers for New South Wales were printed and issued in early 1864. They are significant as they represent the first issues of 'modern' stamped postal stationery produced in the Australian colonies. New South Wales was also the second postal authority in the world, the USA was the first, to issue such wrappers. It is important to remember that the Colony had produced arguably the world's first postal stationery, the Sydney local letter sheets in 1838, and had seriously contemplated introducing embossed stamped envelopes in 1855. Both of these earlier pioneering philatelic endeavours are described elsewhere in this publication but the introduction of newspaper wrappers was a major social innovation. At the time newspapers represented the prime source of public information and their widespread distribution by mail was a service to the whole community, especially those located far from the major population centres. A recent account, *Great Britain – Newspaper Tax Stamps* by Kingzett (2018) provides information much of which is pertinent to the introduction newspaper wrappers in New South Wales.

Newspaper wrappers are not among the most popular collecting areas of postal stationery but their widespread early use confirms their importance. Over a million were printed in the first year, five for every member of the Colony's population, and by the end of 1873 over 12 million had been issued. In contrast, the production of wrappers between 1874 and 1890 was extremely limited and after that date never reached close to the earlier annual totals. Newspaper wrappers represent a challenging topic for the collector, in part because of a very low survival rate of used copies.

### **The Introduction of Newspaper Wrappers**

In early 1864 archival correspondence between the Postmaster-General and the Colonial Treasurer discussed the introduction of the proposed Act to charge for the postage of newspapers within New South Wales. A detailed account of the options suggested is given in Bassett Hull (1911, p.362-3). In summary one approach was a variant based on the Newspaper Tax in the United Kingdom which included postage for selected newspapers and other publications. Another option was to use stamped wrappers, or perhaps 'newspaper envelopes', although it was noted that these '...would necessitate the defacement of the stamp which would be great labour to the Department'. The outcome is given in a letter from the Treasury dated 5 March 1864. This states:

'You will at once commence to print the penny postage stamps for newspapers. The stamp is to be printed, *not* at the *top*, but towards the middle of the wrapper, so as to admit to its being *written* or *printed* through by the address. If the paper for the wrappers were bound in books, with scroll and narrow butt to each leaf, the books could be passed through the Colonial Storekeeper's office and the numbers printed be checked by the Auditor-General'.

The placing of the stamp in the centre of the wrapper relates to an earlier suggestion that the address could be written over the stamped impression to avoid the extra work in hand stamping each item. In practice, when the newspaper wrappers were introduced the impressed stamps were cancelled by the use of dated handstamps in the same manner as other types of mail. Until the late 1880s all Type 1 wrappers had the stamp in a central position; the same central position was used for the first Victorian newspaper wrappers issued in 1869. The production of wrappers from paper supplied in

booklet form was adopted and after mid-1864 each booklet contained 500 sheets and each sheet provided eight individual wrappers, a style that remained in use until 1903. The pattern of the watermark, discussed in detail below, incorporated 'a scroll' on one edge. Printing of the wrappers commenced in March 1864 and the first supply of 75,000 was passed to the Post Office on 21 March. A Gazette notice dated 14 March 1864 announced:

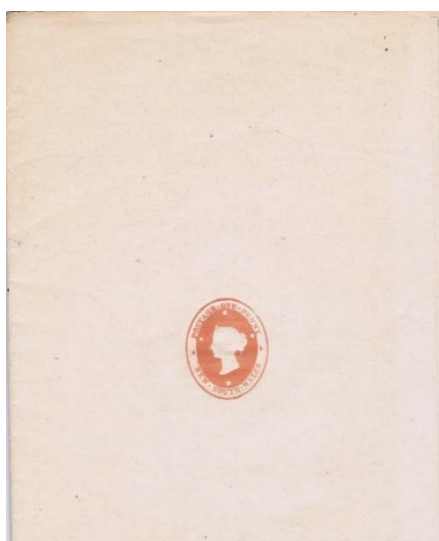
'On and after the 1<sup>st</sup> April next Newspapers posted within, or transmitted through the Post Office within the Colony, will not be forwarded unless Prepaid by 1d stamps. Wrappers bearing a Stamp of that value can be obtained at the General Post Office, and from Licensed Vendors.

Newspapers could be sent without the use of the 1d wrappers but no such early postmarked privately produced or homemade wrappers with a 1d postage stamp have been recorded.

Correspondence dated May 1864 to De La Rue in London mentions that 'an order was sent for a supply of electros set type high on single blocks to be used for printing newspaper wrappers'. This indicates an early intention to replace the 1d embossed stamp used for the first printings of the wrappers. On 2 November 1864 the Government Printer noted the arrival in Sydney of 'Sixteen Penny Postage Labels'. This comprised a proof sheet of sixteen Queen's Head 1d stamps printed in black on cream wove paper with a De La Rue circular handstamp reading 'Proof, Printing Department 7.7.64'. The sheet is illustrated on the front cover of *Sydney Views* for August 1990. Anon (1990, p.3). This comments '...the labels were apparently approved and the electros duly arrived in Sydney in February 1865'. Two blocks of this material are held by the Archives Office of New South Wales.

### The Classification

The classification into Types is presented in an accompanying document. The earliest form of wrapper, type W1, is illustrated in Figure 1. The classification is dominantly based on the publications of Bell (2008 a & b) in *Sydney Views* and from later information in Diserio and Blinman (2013). These differ in detail, including in some cases dates of issue, from the listings in the Ascher and Higgins and Gage catalogues. Other observations are given in Stieg (1972a & b, 1973) including a review of the Higgins and Gage listings. Kosniowski (2015) presents an updated listing which includes illustrations of a number of PTPO wrappers. Courtis (2014) reviewed eBay sales of New South Wales wrappers over a period of some ten years and provides a guide to the relative availability of the various issues. Bell's research was aided by his use of the archival listing of the date and numbers of all printings of the newspaper wrappers prior to early 1896. It should be noted however, that the printing records rarely distinguish between different papers, the impressed stamps or watermarks.



**Fig 1. The Embossed Queen's Head 1d Wrapper**

Some earlier accounts suggest that colour trials of the 2d embossed stamps were prepared for the wrappers. This is incorrect and the colour trials were produced for the registered items in 1880.

### 1d Embossed

The early printings of the wrappers were embossed and thought by Bassett Hull to be have been engraved by J.C. Thornthwaite. These were first used in 1855 for the essays of the unissued 1d local rate envelopes. Recent research by Barbara Hancock (2017) provides convincing evidence that the 1d embossed dies used for the early wrappers were engraved by William Wyon in the UK.

Bassett Hull (1911, p363-4) notes that there were four 1d dies `...each differing from each other to a slight degree'. Diserio and Blinman (2013, p.115-6) state that two dies were used to print the 1d embossed wrappers. In part this is because the wear on a single die after the printing of close to 2 million wrappers would have been excessive. They suggest:

...The 1d die used on the wove paper wrappers and laid paper envelopes is designated die 1. It is distinguishable from die 2 in two major respects. The first being the bottom star is directly above the "T" in "SOUTH". The second is that that the inside of the outer edge of the oval is not "roped" as for die 2'. Die 2 has a very perceptible "rope" design in the outer edge of the oval and the bottom star is between the "U" and "T" of "South".

Diserio and Blinman conclude that that die 1 was used for the envelope designs but they have only observed its use on wove paper wrappers and die 2 only on wrappers printed on laid paper, Dies 1 and 2 are illustrated in Figure 2. This is supported by additional wrappers although because the number of the used and dated wrappers of the first stamp design is extremely limited it is possible that the restriction of die 1 stamp impressions to wove paper may not be sustained.



**Fig. 2. Dies 1 & 2 the Embossed Queen's Head 1d Wrapper**

The watermarked paper was supplied in sheets sufficient in size to print eight wrappers. From the earliest printings in 1864 to 1903 the paper was purchased from De La Rue and Co in London. The only exception was the stop-gap printing on APCo paper in about 1870.

Bell (2008a) does not mention the use of two dies and he doubted that the Type 1 wrappers were ever produced on unwatermarked wove paper. In part this reflects the problem that the scroll watermark is limited to the top four wrappers on each sheet. The scroll watermark is described by Hull (1911, p. 364) as `...N.S.W. in large fancy capitals in the centre of a broad ornamental scroll with a narrow border formed of a small chain pattern between two straight lines below'. This is illustrated in Figure 3 although the top of the watermark is often trimmed. Because the uncut sheet comprised 8 wrappers, a 4 x 2 format, only the top row of 4 showed portions of the scroll, the lower four wrappers have no watermark. The sheet lay out for the embossed wrappers is illustrated in

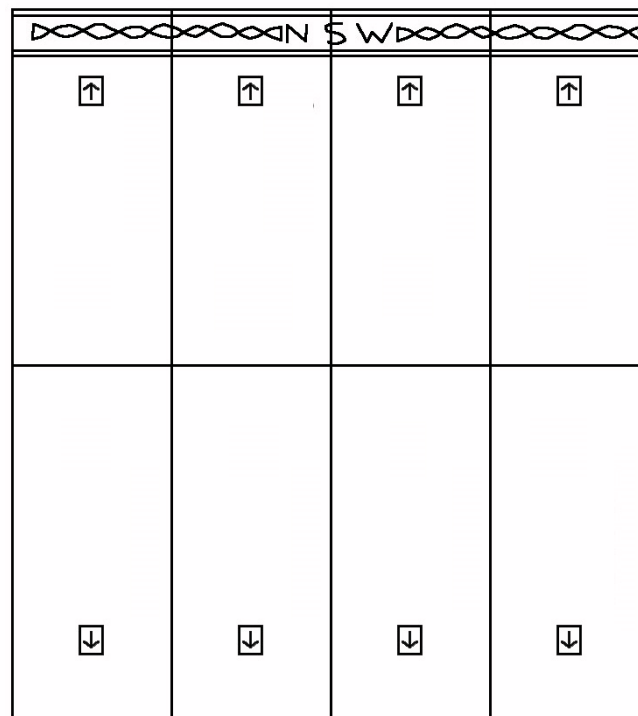
Figure 4 and it is possible from the positioning of the stamp to establish if individual wrappers were from the top or bottom of the full sheet.



**Fig. 3. The NSW Scroll Watermark, not to scale**

It is now established that that 1d Die 1 embossed wrappers were also printed on sheets of wove paper devoid of any form of watermark. A footnote in Hull (1911, p.364) describes a part sheet of eight (two wrappers cut from the lower row) that '... is without a watermark of any kind'. Specimen overprints are also known on unwatermarked wove paper, see section below.

Commencing with the printing of 1d wrappers on June 1864, laid paper was used and the stamp impression was of Die 2. Similar horizontally laid paper was used for all 1d and ½d wrappers issued until 1903. The only known exception is for unwatermarked 1d embossed wrappers on paper with vertically laid paper. The catalogue by Kosniowski (2015) is the only catalogue to list this style of wrapper.



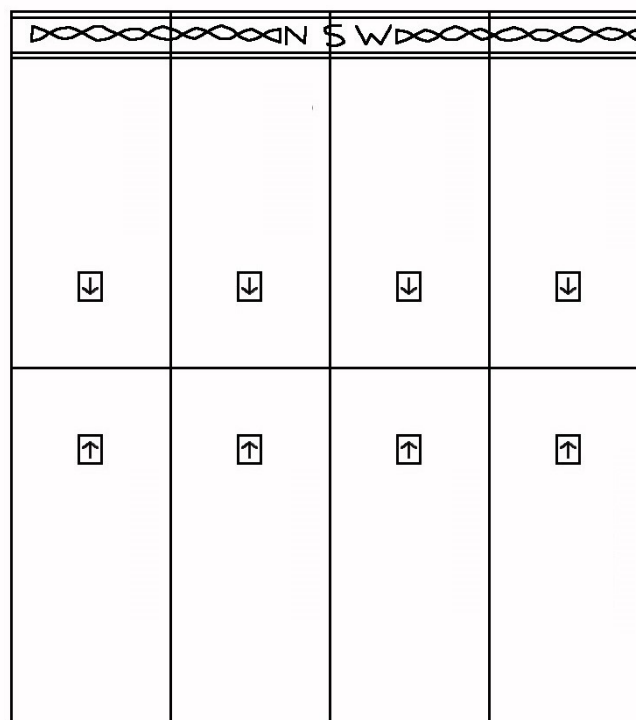
**Fig. 4. Diagrammatic Sheet Lay Out for the 1d Embossed Queen's Head Wrapper  
(arrows indicate the top of the Queen's Head)**

#### 1d Queen's Head.

A new stamp design with the 1d Queen's Head first used for adhesive postage stamps in 1864 was introduced in early March 1865, this is type W3 with the sheet lay out illustrated in Figure 5. Proofs of the 1d stamp in black, are known. The colour of the issued stamp is rose although throughout its period of use the shades of colour varied. The stamp was printed on laid paper supplied by De La Rue with the same watermark as the earlier issues. The sheet size remained unaltered, so again the wrappers are known with and without the scroll watermark. However, there was a change in the positioning of the stamp impressions on the sheet, see Figure 6.

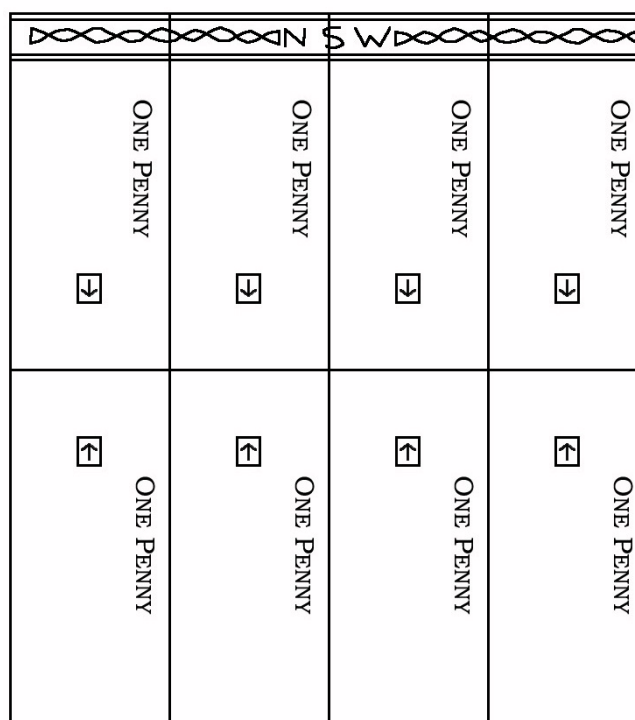


**Fig. 5 1d Queen's Head Wrapper**



**Fig.6. Diagrammatic Sheet Lay Out for the 1d Queen's Head Wrapper  
(Arrows indicate the top of the Queen's Head)**

The watermark was later changed to include 'One Penny' (in capitals) so positioned that it is present on all eight wrappers of the uncut sheet; the scroll remained as before on the top edge, see Figure 7. This style of 'One Penny' scroll watermark laid paper supplied by De La Rue remained in use, with one exception discussed below, for all wrappers until March 1903 including the ½d wrappers first issued in 1892. Some examples of the 1d red Queens Head have the stamp printed well to the right of centre, these are thought to be from later printings.



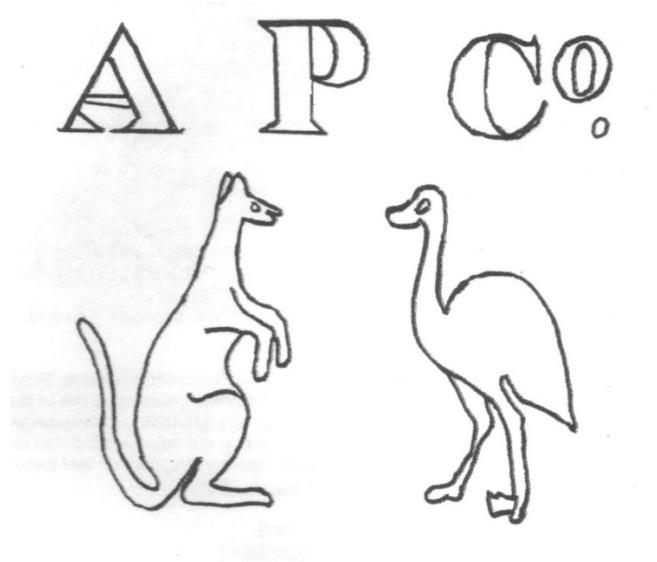
**Fig.7 'One Penny' Watermark, for all ½d & 1 Wrappers from 1870? To 1903.  
Arrows indicate the top of the Queen's Head)**

#### The APCo watermark

The exception was for a short period when stocks of the De La Rue paper were exhausted and it was necessary to use locally produced watermarked paper prior to the arrival of the next shipment of watermarked paper from De La Rue. The replacement paper has a delightful watermark design featuring a kangaroo and an emu above which are the letters 'A P Co', for the Australian Paper Company, illustrated in Figure 8. The watermark is printed sideways on the uncut sheet and has a maximum height of 93mm and a width of 105mm. On many wrappers only a small portion of the design can be seen and on some the watermark is totally lacking. Wrappers with this distinctive watermark have only been seen overprinted specimen although it is likely that several hundred thousand were printed. It is Bell's opinion that the paucity of used examples is due to the low survival rate of earlier wrappers. It is however, surprising that no mint copies have been seen especially considering the attractiveness of the watermark.

There is also a query concerning the date when the 'One Penny' watermark wrappers were first issued and the issue dates of the temporary wrappers with the kangaroos and emu watermark. There are two schools of thought. One is that the 1d stop-gap APCo paper was used before the arrival of the one penny and scroll watermarked paper from the UK and the other that it was after its arrival. Bell (2008a & b) provides a detailed account based in part on archival data regarding the dates of order and shipment of the paper from De La Rue in London and favours a date for the first use of the APCo paper as March 1870 and 'about mid-April 1870' for the replacement paper with the scroll and 'one penny' watermark. The discovery of dated copies from this period may well

slightly change these dates. Kosniowski (2015) favours 1869 for the 'One Penny' watermark and 1870 for the APCo wrappers. Hull (1911, p.365) considers that the 1d scroll, One Penny watermarked paper predated the use of the APCo paper and that the APCo were printed in March 1870. In the accompanying listing the APCo watermark is listed as W4 and the 'One Penny' watermark as W5 although as described above the actual sequence remains uncertain.



**Fig.8. APCo watermark, reduced size.**

On 1 January 1874 there were major changes to the postal rates for newspapers with most carried free of any charge; for details see the section below on Postage Rates. This resulted in a dramatic decrease in the number of wrappers printed and issued. Stocks of printed wrappers were such that there were no printings at all from June 1874 until June 1876 and in the ten years from June 1874 until June 1884 the new printings only totalled 28,000.

#### Caution with the Watermarks

Wrappers printed with the 'One Penny' watermark from its introduction in 1870 to its abandonment in 1903 are known with the water inverted, ie. the stamp was added to the sheet with the NSW scroll watermark at the bottom margin, and with the watermarked sheet reversed. It is clear that the printer was not concerned with the position of the watermark in relation to the impressed stamps. Studies of multiple wrappers indicate that those with inverted watermarks are nearly as frequent as those correct when viewed from the front. Reversed watermark wrappers are less common but far from rare.

#### 1d Centennial

The design of 1d Queen's Head scroll 'One Penny' watermark wrappers remained unchanged until a new design featuring the 1d Centennial stamp in violet was issued in December 1888, listed as W6 and illustrated as Figure 9. The positioning of the stamp impression for the W6 wrapper is in the top right hand corner although the exact position varied slightly from printing to printing. This style was maintained for all future issues of the 1d and ½d wrappers. The 1d Centennial wrappers continued to be issued until replaced by the 1d Shield stamps in 1897.





**Fig.9. 1d Centennial Wrapper.**

½d Queen's Head

Although 'the Colonies of Australasia' did not formally accept membership of the UPU (Universal Postal Union) until October 1891 earlier discussions with that body led to a review of postal rates and the necessity to produce a ½d postage stamp. The initial response was to overprint the existing 1d grey Queen's Head stamp 'Halfpenny' in black, see Figure 10 listed as W7. This overprinted stamp was first used to print ½d wrappers in January 1891. The sheet lay-out and watermark remained as for the earlier issues including the 'One Penny' watermark. A total of 9,000 ½d overprinted wrappers were printed.



**Fig. 10. 'Half Penny' overprint on 1d Grey Queen's Head.**

A new stamp design featuring the Queen's Head in grey with the value changed to 'Halfpenny', see Figure 11 listed as Type W7, was first printed in March 1892 using the same style paper watermarked 'One Penny'. The halfpenny grey wrappers are thought to have been first produced



ungummed but are also known gummed. Kosniowski (2015) also lists the gummed ½d grey wrapper on both laid and wove paper.



**Fig. 11. ½d Grey Queen's Head Wrapper.**

A further change occurred in January 1899 when the colour of the Queen's Head ½d stamp was changed to blue-green, see Figure 12 listed as Type 10. This was in response to a UPU request for member nations to issue their lowest denomination stamp in green.



**Fig. 12. ½d Green Queen's Head Wrapper.**

#### Gumming Introduced

At about this time gumming of the top edge of the wrappers was first introduced. The earliest dated gummed wrapper seen by Bell (2008b, p.16) was for a 1d Centennial wrapper dated 5 January 1893, listed as W8a. The majority of the 1d Centennial wrappers are not pre-gummed. All examples seen of the ½d overprinted wrappers issued in 1891 are ungummed and the same applies to the replacement ½d grey wrappers first issued in March 1892. However, the two separate

printings of specimen on the ½d grey wrappers printed in August and December 1892 are of interest in that the former is ungummed and the latter is gummed, see W8s.a and W8s.b. This accords with the date of 1892 given for the introduction of gumming by Kosniowski (2015).

### 1d Shield

The 1d Shield Die 1 wrappers, illustrated in Figure 13 and Type W9, were first printed in November 1897, a few months after the 1d Shield Post Cards. Perhaps surprisingly as this was some five years after the 1d Shield adhesive was introduced for other forms of postage. The paper, lay-out and watermark continued unchanged from the preceding issues. The distinguishing features of die 1 and die 2 of the 1d Shield stamps on the wrappers illustrated in Figure 14 were also used for other classes of postal stationery. The precise date of the first use of the 1d die 2 is not known, it is likely to be similar to that for the die 2 Post card, ie. September 1902. The 1d Shield stamp die 2 remained in use until the printing of New South Wales wrappers ceased in March 1913.



**Fig. 13. 1d Shield.**



**Fig. 14. 1d Shield Die 1 & Die 2 and ½d Green Queen's Head Die 1 and Die 2.**

### The 1903 Issues

Commencing with the printings of May 1903 there was a major change in the type of paper used. The paper supplied by De La Rue since 1864 was replaced for both the ½d and 1d wrappers by what was described as 'stout straw-coloured paper rough inside, smooth glazed outside'. This is rather a misleading term for paper that is essentially brown in colour with the inside having a rough finish and a smooth glazed surface on the address side; this paper has no form of watermark. The colour of the ½d stamp was a more distinct shade of green than that of the previous issue. The 1903 1d (Type W12) is shown in Figure 15 and the corresponding ½d (Type W13) in Figure 16. Most copies ½d wrapper are Die 1 but excessive wear required the introduction of Die 2. The two dies are illustrated in Figure 14 with the distinguishing features of the neck flaw indicated.

The post-May 1903 wrappers are similar in size to those produced earlier but as paper supplier is unknown it is not certain whether they were printed in sheets of eight and bound in booklet form. This style of ½d and 1d wrappers remained in use until March 1913 when they were replaced by Commonwealth issues.



**Fig. 15. 1d Shield buff paper, no watermark.**



**Fig. 16. ½d Queen's Head buff paper, no watermark.**

## **Numbers Printed**

### **1d Wrappers**

Bell (2006) reproduces in full the monthly printing numbers for 1d wrappers given in the archival Government Printing Office Registers for the period March 1864 to December 1896. Those interested in using these detailed records should note that Bell (2008, p. 17) lists corrections to some minor typographical errors in the earlier publication. Bell (2008 a & b) presents annual totals for the years 1897 to the last issue in March 1913. These are based upon the Annual Reports of the Postmaster General's Department and represent the number of 1d wrappers issued by the GPO. As these data are already

available in the published literature only a summary is given here as Table 1. This is also based on the work of Bell (2008b, p.20) and allocates the printed data to the type of wrapper. In detail some of the numbers rely on assumptions of the date of printing of the various types but they are unlikely to change the pattern in any significant way.

**Table 1. Estimates of the Numbers of 1d Wrappers Printed/Issued by Type.**

Type	
W1. Wove paper (March to June 1864), no wmk & with wmk.	303,352
W2. Laid paper (June 1864 to Feb. 1865)	841,600
W3. Laid paper, scroll only wmk. (March 1865 to July 1870	6,005,000
W4. Laid paper, APCo wmk. (1870/71)	845,000
W5. Laid paper, scroll/One Penny wmk. (to end 1873)	4,825,000
As above 1874 to 1888.	64,000
W6. Laid paper, scroll/One Penny wmk. (Dec. 1888 to 1897)	119,000
W9 & W11. Dies 1 & Die 2, paper/wmk. As above (Nov 1897 to May 1903)	188,000
W13. Die 2, wove buff paper (1903 to March 1913)	638,000

The numbers in Table 1 demonstrate the change in numbers of printed and issued wrappers before and after the change in postal regulations that came into force on 1 January 1874. In the years from 1865 to 1874 the annual printing numbers steadily increased from 1,000,944 to 1,672,000. After 1 January 1874 there were several years when no wrappers were printed as stock in hand exceeded the demand.

#### ½ d Wrappers

Bell (2008b, p.22) presents the annual totals for the ½d wrappers, first issued in January 1891, see Table 2. Those for 1891 to 1896 are from the Printing Office records and those from 1897 to March 1913 from the Postmaster General's Annual Reports.

**Table 2. Estimates of the Numbers of ½d Wrappers Printed/Issued by Type.**

Type	
W7. Laid paper, scroll/One Penny wmk. (Jan. 1891 to March 1892)	9,000
W8. Paper & wmk. as above (March 1892 to end 1898)	1,051,000
W10. Paper & wmk. as above (Jan. 1899 to May 1903)	1,240,000
W12. Wove, buff paper, no. wmk. (May 1903 to March 1913)	3,825,000

#### Use and Survival of Wrappers

A comparison of Tables 1 and 2 clearly shows that after 1891 the ½d wrappers were used in very much larger numbers than those at the 1d rate. This reflects the introduction of the ½d printed paper and bulk mail rates. The numbers issued give a guide to scarcity but more important is the low survival rate for pre-1874 wrappers. This especially applies to good used copies, particularly those with a decipherable postmark giving information on the date of use.

#### **Size of Wrappers**

From 1864 until 1903 the paper used for the wrappers was supplied by De La Rue in London. Their archival records show that it was supplied in booklets of 500 sheets with a size of 19 by 24 inches (approximately 482 x 610mm). As earlier described each sheet was printed to produce eight individual wrappers in a 4 x 2 format. This would indicate a size of each wrapper of about 120 x 300mm. However as outlined below the length of individual wrappers is always less than 150mm; this is thought to be due to the binding of the sheets into booklets with the bound butts being used for audit purposes. This is further confirmed as the binding edge had a scroll watermark and this is usually trimmed so

that not all of the design is present on the four individual wrappers that abut onto the binding. The only exception was the stop-gap use of locally sourced paper in about 1870 although the size of those wrappers generally conforms to those on paper obtained from De La Rue.

For the issues prior to 1d Centennial complete sheets of eight wrappers are known. It seems likely that during this period it was possible to purchase the wrappers in complete, uncut sheets. For the later issues only single copies are known and although cut from sheets of eight these show minor variations in size. Commencing in May 1903 the wrappers were printed on locally sourced, unwatermarked paper but it would seem that the size of the individual wrappers was similar to those on the De La Rue paper. Bell (2008b, p.17) comments that the size of these '...could well have been the same as the earlier paper; a fact suggested by the continued use of the same set of 8 1d electros from early 1902 to early 1909'.

From a study of mint copies, including those overprinted specimen, the size variation for the whole period of production is within the range of 113-123 to 278-296mm. For 26 mint copies of the 'Half Penny' overprint on 1d the range is 115-122 x 282-288mm. These small variations may reflect the use of hand guillotining of the sheets over the fifty years that the wrappers were produced. An understanding of the size however assists with the recognition of possible printed to private order wrappers which were not required to match the size of paper supplied by the Post Office.

### Specimens

'Specimen' overprints are noted in the Printing Office records from the first printing of the wrappers until January 1896. These give the date and number of specimens but there is no information as the type of specimen overprints used or the type of wrapper on which the specimen was printed. The data abstracted from these records are given in Table 3. No printings of specimens are listed during the period that the 1d embossed stamps were in use.

The question then arises as how to link the types of specimen overprints to specific types of wrapper. Bell (2008a) only discusses this for the first printing of the 1504 wrappers of 1 March 1871. He comments on p.20 that:

'The first issues of Postage Stamps overprinted 'Specimen', and the only issue overprinted in sans-serif capitals 19 x 2mm took place in December 1870 and March 1871. The records show that in addition to the postage stamps, the 'Specimen' issue of March 1871 included 1504 units (188 x 8) of the 1d wrappers, and 1500 1d envelopes. Both occur with the T7 Specimen overprint [using the later Butler classification this is specimen Type B2], so it is reasonable to assume .... that the wrappers overprinted Specimen (T7) were produced in March 1871'.

The wrappers with this Butler Type B2 specimen overprint, which is always inverted, occur on laid paper with some having part of the APCo kangaroo and emu watermark. Some have no watermark but this is consistent with the size of the watermark and the paper used. As discussed earlier in this section, no mint or used copies of this style of wrapper have been seen and it is only known with the specimen overprint. Why such a large number were overprinted is unknown. It is possible that additional items or archival records will lead to changes in the listings given above.

**Table 3. Date and Number of Specimen ½d and 1d Wrappers printed 1871 to 1896.**

	Nos. Printed
1d March 1871	1504
1d March 1882	100
1d November 1888	200
1d August 1889	345
1d September 1889	100
½d August 1892	800
½d December 1892	234



Wrappers overprinted specimen that have been seen for the period covered in Table 3 are:

W1s	1d Die 1 wove paper no wmk.	Specimen B5
W4s	1d APCo wmk.	Specimen B2
W.5s.a	1d Queen's Head with scroll/'One Penny' wmk.	Specimen B4
W5s.b	1d As above, no scroll but 'One Penny' wmk.,	Specimen B12
W6s.a	.1d Centennial, scroll/'One Penny' wmk.	Specimen B14
W6s.b	1d Centennial, scroll/'One Penny' wmk.	Specimen B19
W8s.a	½d Queen's Head grey with scroll/'One Penny' wmk.	Specimen B19
W8s.b	½d Queen's Head grey with scroll/'One Penny' wmk. Gummed	Specimen B19

Wrappers all ungummed except where indicated.

It is not possible to allocate these precisely to the dates of printing given in Table 3 although they are listed in what is thought to be the correct chronological order.

The early 1d Die 1 embossed specimen wrapper is not listed in the printing records and it appears to be scarcer than many of the later specimen wrappers. The printing registers produced after January 1896 are not available and the specimen wrappers after that date are given in Table 4.

**Table 4. Specimen Wrappers produced after 1887 to circa 1900.**

W11s	1d Shield, scroll/'One Penny' wmk. Gummed	Specimen B23
W10s	½d Queen's Head green, scroll/'One Penny' wmk. Gummed. Oval NSW obliterator.	

New South Wales and the other Australasian Colonies formally joined the UPU on 1 October 1891 and this involved sending copies of postal stationery currently in use to Berne for distribution to other UPU member nations. For most UPU members such sendings were marked 'specimen' although this was not a formal UPU requirement. Postal stationery sent from New South Wales is known overprinted specimen, without any markings whatsoever and in some instances handstamped with a three-ring oval obliterator surrounding the letters NSW. Each sending to the UPU was required to meet a minimum number of copies although the majority of printings in Table 4 are too few to meet this criterion. The British Library in London holds a set of material thought to represent the New South Wales postal stationery distributed from the UPU in Berne. The material may not be complete and the current holding of wrappers comprises:

- 1d Violet Centennial but with no markings of any kind
- ½d Grey with specimen overprint B19
- 1d Shield with specimen overprint B23
- ½d Green with NSW obliterator.

### **The Postage Rates**

The history of the transmission of newspapers in New South Wales is complex and a summary is given below in order to assist with a fuller understanding of the introduction of pre-paid newspaper wrappers in 1864 and subsequent changes in policy. The earlier rates are discussed in White (1988, p.369-372) and a detailed account for those after 1901 in Brecon (1989).

For much of the nineteenth century newspapers fulfilled a key role as the only medium to document all forms of news including advertisements giving an indication of available goods and their prices. Until 1838 the New South Wales *Government Gazette* was published as a supplement of the leading Sydney newspaper, the *Sydney Gazette*. The period from 1838 to the introduction of wrappers in 1864

was one of constant change and debate concerning the postal charges for newspapers. These varied from no postal charges whatsoever for newspapers to a variety of postal charges not only within the Colony but to other Australian colonies, to Great Britain and to foreign destinations. By 1855 the annual losses due to the Colony's postal newspaper services were becoming unsustainable even allowing for the fact that at the time the postal system was in part regarded as a government social provision. For example, in 1855 when no charges were made for newspapers 80% of the total weight of mail handled in the year comprised newspapers. Within Sydney this included free delivery to subscribers! Publishers at that time sent newspapers as bulk parcels free of charge to distant settlements by rail with the Post Office paying for the freight.

As a result, charges were introduced in November 1855 at a rate of 1d for newspapers from any part of New South Wales to Great Britain and 2d for postage to overseas British Colonies via the UK with additional charges for fast sea routes and to other foreign destinations. It was a requirement that such charges were paid using adhesive postage stamps. Postage within the Colony however, remained free of charge. A further enquiry in 1862 led to the Newspaper Postage Act of 1864 which authorised a postage rate of 1d for delivery within the Colony. Newspapers printed outside the Colony and transmitted to addresses in New South Wales were exempt from charges.

From 1 April 1864 the 1d rate was applied to all newspapers posted within the colony. Payment could be either by the use of 1d postage stamps or by 1d newspaper wrappers available from the post office or from licensed vendors. White (1988, p.371) gives the revised rates gazetted in October 1867 for intercolonial and overseas destinations as '... generally 1d, 2d, or 'Book Post' ... any newspaper that could be forwarded via Southampton could also be sent via Marseilles upon a payment of an extra 2d per newspaper'.

The Newspaper Postage Abolition Act of October 1873, effective 1 January 1874, withdrew all postal charges for newspaper posted within the Colony within seven days of their date of publication, after which they were charged at 1d each. Postage was charged to all other destinations but details of these rates have yet to be fully described in the literature. At various times the rates to other Australian Colonies and 'Territories' (such as New Zealand, Fiji and BNG) were modified. The rates to Great Britain and 'foreign countries' were further complicated depending on the route. The weight steps to the various destinations also varied although prior to the issue of ½d postage stamps and wrappers in 1891 the rates were always multiples of one penny. What is certain is that numbers of 1d wrappers printed and issued between 1874 and 1902 were very small, see Numbers Printed section above.

Frequent protestations by the Postmaster General to the costs of providing the postal newspaper service led to minor revisions. Most of these applied to newspapers sent to destination outside New South Wales. Below are examples mentioned in White (1988).

25 April 1889. Newspapers posted in the Colony remained free of charge except for those posted in Sydney for delivery within the bounds of the city which were charged at 1d for up to 10oz.

1 October 1891. Likely resulting from membership of the UPU, rate to overseas destinations 1d up to 4oz. and ½d for each additional 2oz. Exceptions were 1d regardless of weight for the United Kingdom and reduced rates for various Pacific Islands under British rule.

1 July 1893. Papers posted more than 7 days after publication within the Colony charged at ½d and 'free' mail within the Colony restricted to less than 10oz, ½d for each additional 10oz.

1 July 1894. Newspapers to Tasmania, Western Australia, New Zealand and Fiji no longer free of charge.



In March 1901, when the Commonwealth assumed responsibility for postal matters, the New South Wales rates were 1d for up to 10 oz. for newspapers posted in Sydney and to city addresses with 1d for each additional 10ozs provided posting was within a week of publication. For all other locations within the State newspapers posted within a week of publication were free of charge for weights of up to 10oz. with a 1d for each additional 10 oz. Postage for newspapers posted later than a week after publication in country areas were changed at ½d up to 10 oz. Newspapers published in other States but posted within New South Wales to New South Wales addresses attracted different rates with a smaller sum charged for those published in Victoria. Interstate postage of newspapers (including those to New Zealand and Fiji) were charged at ½d up to 10ozs. with variations in postage to locations within Queensland and British New Guinea. The British Empire and Foreign newspaper rates were 1d for up to 4oz with additional 4oz steps of 1½d. For additional detail see Brecon (1989).

The situation at the time of Federation was as equally complex for most of the other Colonies (now officially 'States') and the Postal Act of 1902 standardised the newspaper rates throughout the new Commonwealth of Australia and removed the free postage facilities that existed in New South Wales, Western Australia and Tasmania. As Brecon describes (1989, p. 45) this was an exception, for all other forms of mail the existing colonial rates continued to apply for close to a decade after Federation in order not to disrupt the postal revenue to the States.

As a result, from 1 November 1902 the rates throughout Australia for newspapers were set at a ½d per 10 oz. for all destinations within Australia, New Zealand, Fiji and associated Territories. The UK rate was set at 1d for the first 8ozs and for the remainder of the British Empire and Foreign destinations at 1d up to 4ozs. Additional rates steps are given in Brecon (1989). These rates remained in force until October 1918, ie. well after the issue of New South Wales newspaper wrappers had ceased.

The ½d wrappers first issued in 1891 and used in relatively large numbers, see Table 2, were not primarily used as newspaper wrappers but for use with other forms of Second Class Mail.

### Second Class Mail

Prior to early 1891 only 1d wrappers were available for the postage of newspapers. After that date there were changes to the postal rates and the introduction of ½d rate which also applied not only to newspapers but to a 'Second Class' mail service. The major classes of Second Class mail were for Printed Papers and for Commercial Papers. The former is self-explanatory and applied to such items as magazines and pamphlets which could be sent using 'newspaper' wrappers. 'Commercial Papers' were defined as '...paper and documents not wholly printed, which have the character of actual or personal correspondence'. 'Not wholly printed' included both written or typed messages such as invoices, receipts, cheques etc. It was not obligatory that such second class mail had to be endorsed 'commercial' or 'printed matter' although often these or similar words were added to the postal item by the sender. A common example, although not involving the use of wrappers, was that picture postcards sent without a written message were often marked 'printed matter' so that they could attract the reduced printed paper rate. Most second class mail items were posted in envelopes and it was requirement that they were left unsealed to permit postal inspection. However, the second class mail rates also applied to other items posted using wrappers rather than envelopes.

In 1901 the postal rates in New South Wales were ½d up to 2 oz. and 1d for 2-4oz. within the States and to New Zealand and Fiji, 1d up to 2oz. for the British Empire and 1d for 2oz to Foreign Countries. 'Commercial Papers' were 1d up to 2oz. for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji and 3d up to 2oz for all other destinations. Further details, especially regarding the rate steps, are given in Brecon (1988). In contrast to the newspaper rates these charges were not changed in 1902. Minor changes to the

Printed Paper rates were made in May 1911 but those for Commercial paper remained in force until 1918.

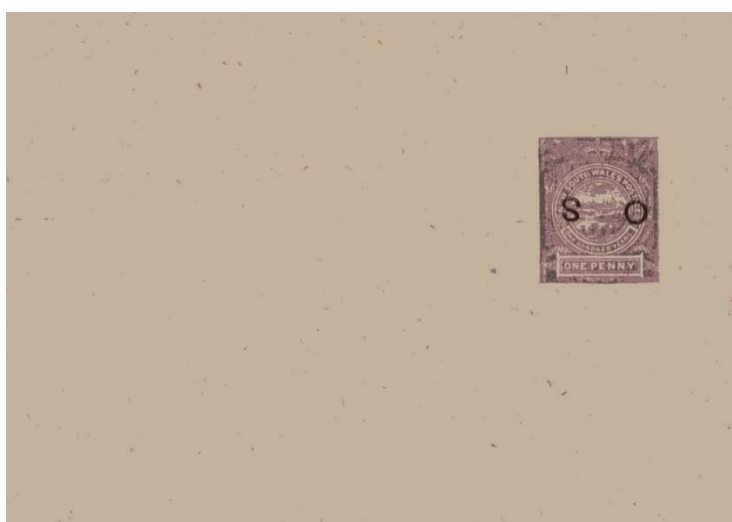
There was also an additional category for 'Magazines and Periodicals'. The pre-Federation rates were ½d up to 2oz, 2oz. to 8oz. 1d for delivery within New South, 1d up to 8oz. for Australia, New Zealand and Fiji, 1d per 2oz for British Empire and Foreign Countries. These rates remained in operation until May 1911, again additional details are given in Brecon.

### OS Overprints

Few wrappers overprinted OS, mint or used, have been reported and such items are missing from most catalogue listings. Bell (2000, p.20) quotes from Hull (1911, p.366) that there were five printings of the OS on the 1d Centennial wrappers between August 1891 and September 1894, see Figure 17 listed as WOS1. The total number printed is given as 8,360. While there is no reason to doubt these figures, Hull does not give a source for these data and the Government Printing Office records do not separately list OS overprints on wrappers. A single example of a 1d mint OS wrapper with the OS inverted is known. This was purchased in the UK in the late 1970s and was first described in Smith (1992), illustrated here as Figure 18 and listed as WOS1a. Including the inverted example, less than ten mint and used 1d Centennial OS wrappers have so far been recorded. No examples with any form of specimen markings are known on any of the OS wrappers.



**Fig. 17. OS overprint on Centennial 1d wrapper.**



**Fig. 18. OS overprint inverted on Centennial 1d wrapper**

The ½d grey wrapper (W8), see Figure 19, first printed in March 1892, also exists with an OS overprint listed here as WOS2, see Figure 19. The two known copies were both used in 1892.



**Fig.19 OS overprint on ½d Grey wrapper**

The use of OS overprints on stamps and postal stationery in New South Wales ceased on 1 January 1895. From 1895, stamps and stationery were issued with the perfin "GR" for use by Government Railways. 1d Red Shield wrappers (W09) are known with this perfin, both on plain wrappers, see Figure 20 and wrappers inscribed "Government Tourist Bureau".



**Fig. 20 1d Red Shield wrapper with GR perfin**

After 1902, stamps and stationery with the perfin OS/NSW were produced for use by state government departments. Both 1d Red Shield (W09) and ½ Green (W10) wrappers are known with this perfin, see Figures 21 and 22.





Fig. 21 ½d Green wrapper with OSNSW perfin.

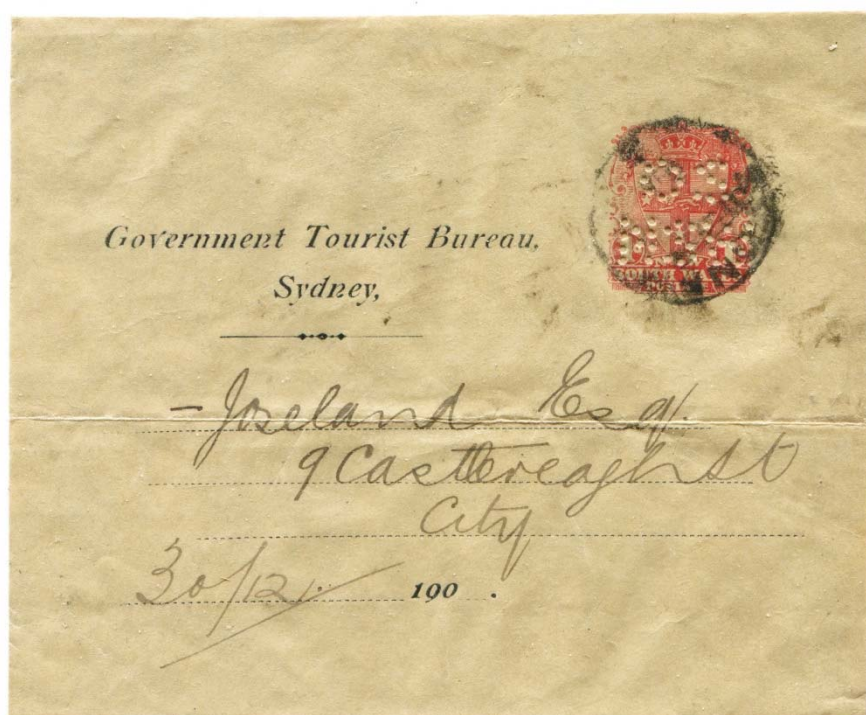


Fig. 22 1d Red Shield wrapper with OSNSW perfin

#### Printed to Private Order (PTPO)

The availability of printed to private order (ptpo) envelopes was announced in the Gazette of 2 September 1881. The earliest examples seen to date have the 1d Centennial stamp first available on wrappers in late 1888. Information in earlier listings is sparse. Higgins and Gage and Ascher list examples with the 1d Centennial and 1892 ½d Grey stamp impressions. Examples mint or used are uncommon especially when compared to those for ptpo envelopes. This reflects the limited use of this

service, the poor survival rate of used copies and for many years the lack of interest in newspaper wrappers

Commencing in January 1891 the Printing Office Records introduced a new heading that distinguished 'Private' (ptpo) wrappers from those issued by the Post Office. At the same time the price of Post Office wrappers was changed to 1/3d for a pack of 14 wrappers, ie. an extra charge of 1d over the face value. This did not apply to ptpo clients and Hull (1911, p. 366) comments that this stimulated '... a fairly large demand for private stamping to order'. For the year 1891 approximately 10,000 ptpo 1d wrappers were issued, approximately the same number as the Post Office issued wrappers. In February 1892 the Post Office issued wrappers were reduced to 1d, replacing the short-lived 1/3d for 14 price.

In January 1892 the first ½d overprinted wrappers were printed. These were a necessary response to the reduction in postal charges for various types of bulk mail, printed paper items such as invoices, price lists and the like. For the year 1892 a total of some 45,000 ptpo ½d wrappers were printed, slightly more than those issued by the Post Office. It should be noted that the numbers given in Tables 1 and 2, taken from Bell's analysis of the Printing Office records do not include the private ptpo wrappers. Data from the printing records are available until early 1896 and the production of the ½d ptpo wrappers is consistently very much larger than for the 1d ptpo wrappers by a ratio of about 6 to 1.

Reported examples of ptpo wrappers with printed information such as name, address etc. are relatively few. A series of particularly striking and undoubtedly philatelically inspired ptpo wrappers for the National Association of Sheepbreeders is noted by Hull (1911, 361). He refers to these as from '...an enthusiastic philatelist who had a quantity cut from papers representing half the colours of the rainbow'. A wide range of colours for these wrappers have been reported but used examples are rare. In July 1893, the regulations were amended to exclude coloured papers from ptpo requests. The Government Printer had for some years disapproved of the use of coloured paper for ptpo items and perhaps these clearly philatelic items were the last straw!

Others examples of ptpo wrappers on 1d Centennial, the 1892 ½d and a 1d Shield Die 2 mainly dated after 1900 on white paper are known. Examples from Molesworth, Macpherson & Co., Sydney and Mitchell & Co. Ltd. have been recorded. In addition to details of the sender these often have printed descriptions such as 'Invoice' or 'Monthly Price List' which attracted the reduced ½d postal printed matter rate. Other examples have been seen without any addition of printed details. These can often be distinguished from post office issues as they lack watermarks and often the size of the wrapper, especially the width, differs markedly from that of the official issues described above. The accompanying catalogue section illustrates some of the styles of ptpo wrappers.

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