

NSW REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

In 1880 it was decided to issue specially manufactured fabric or linen-lined envelopes, with the fee impressed on the flap, for registered letters. The following notice was published in the Gazette:

"General Post Office, Sydney,

"6th March 1880.

"His Excellency the Governor, with the advice of the Executive Council, having been pleased to approve of the introduction of Stamped Registered Letter Envelopes, it is hereby notified for general information that such envelopes can hereafter be purchased by the public at 4d. each. Postmasters and licensed stamp vendors will be supplied with the envelopes in packets of thirty at the usual discount.

"It should be borne in mind that the impressed stamp which the envelope bears represents the registration fee only (4d.) and the postage must be prepaid by affixing the necessary stamps.

"A letter enclosed in one of these envelopes must not be dropped into the letter-box, but must be given to an officer of the Post Office, to be registered, and a receipt obtained for it.

"SAUL SAMUEL"

It is further believed that the impetus behind the introduction of registration envelopes was the need for more robust envelopes to use in transporting valuables. McCorquodale provided samples of their wares, as shown in Figure 1. This was an unstamped Size F envelope with the handwritten inscription "New South Wales" under the flap (Ex Druce).



Figure 1: McCorquodale sample provided to NSW Postmaster General

Registration Fee and Postal Rates

On all the NSW issues the impressed stamp only paid for the registration. The initial registration fee was 4d and on 1 October 1891, upon joining the UPU, it changed to 3d. This remained the fee for all NSW registration envelopes until the Commonwealth changeover in 1913. The postage stamps on the registration envelopes represented the ordinary letter rate current at the time. Variances from the lowest letter rate are for higher weights given that the total postal charge increased per half ounce. Overpayments of the postage rate are sometimes observed.



KEY ENVELOPE FEATURES

Envelope Size

Great Britain and its colonies mostly relied on a standard range of 8 registration envelope sizes. NSW registration envelopes, except for the emergency issues of 1889, were issued in the following three standard sizes:

Size F	133 x 83 millimetres
Size G	152 x 96 millimetres
Size H2	225 x 100 millimetres

Examination of actual examples reveals minor variations in the standard sizes and, in this regard, Steig (2001 p.78) suggests that the envelope folding process may cause variations in envelope size of up to 1.5mm. Envelope issues of significant size deviation (ie. non-standard issues) are noted in the following listing.



Figure 2: Envelope Sizes F, G and H2 in Relative Proportions

Envelope Production

For all registration envelope stock supplies from the contractors (McCorquodale, De La Rue or the unknown local suppliers) it is assumed that the all envelope instructions and markings were printed by the contractor except for the registered stamp indicium which was printed onto the stock envelope flap by the NSW Government Printer.

Stamp Colour

Basset Hull described the stamp colour of all the issues he listed as Rose. Bell considered the prevalent colour as closer to the Carmine of the Stanley Gibbons Colour Key. The two last issues of 1900 and 1907 are recorded by H&G as including shades of Vermillion. Considering the effects of ageing, exposure to sunlight and variations in printing the writers consider that the stamp colour of these registration envelopes is not a reliable distinguishing characteristic and have not sought to refer to it in the following listing.

Envelope Shape

NSW registration envelopes have a flap at one end, termed 'bag-shaped' (see Figure 1 and 2 above), except for some of the issues of 1889 which were 'ordinary' shaped envelopes with the flap on the longer top side (see Figure 3 below). Therefore, reference is only made to the 'ordinary' shape of the 1889 envelopes in the following listing.

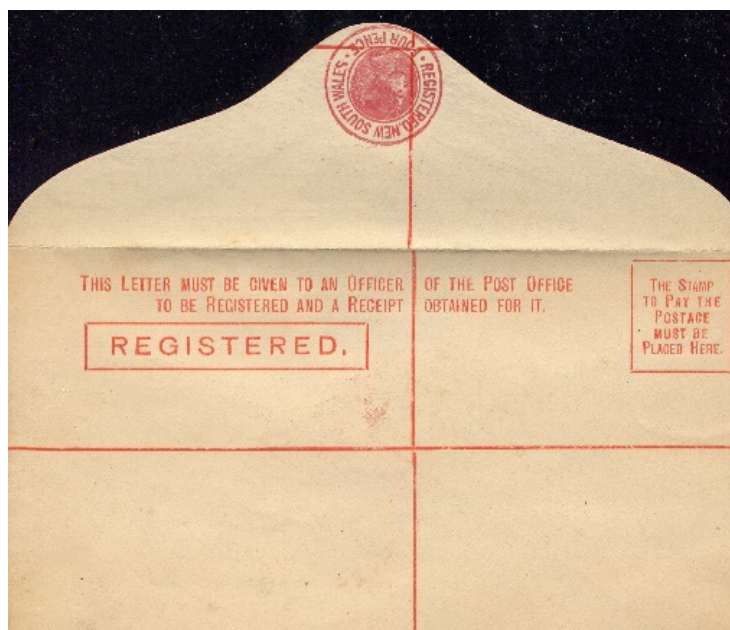


Figure 3: 'Ordinary' Shaped Envelope of 1889

Envelope Flap Shape

Four major flap shapes can be observed on these envelopes: curved, round, pointed and trimmed. The curved flap has two formats as illustrated in Figure 4. The round, pointed and trimmed are shown in Figures 5 to 7 respectively.

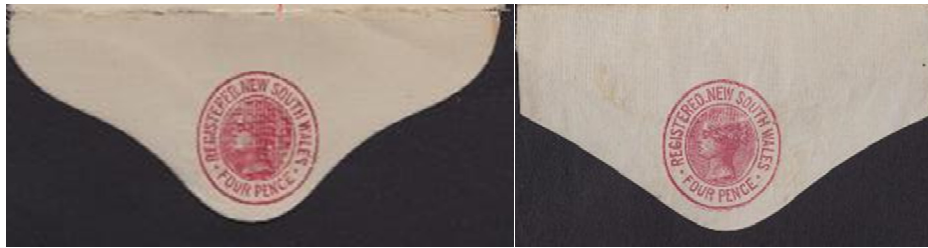


Figure 4: The two formats of the curved flap



Figure 5: The round (or half round) flap



Figure 6: The pointed flap

Only found on R9. (one of the long envelopes of 1889) and the R3 H2 envelope of 1880.



Figure 7: The trimmed flap

Only found on R33, the local emergency printing of 1907

Envelope Seams

Whether the envelope seams are straight or saw-toothed and their location are further distinguishing features. Comment has been included in the following listing where seams have been able to be personally observed or reliably recorded in the references.

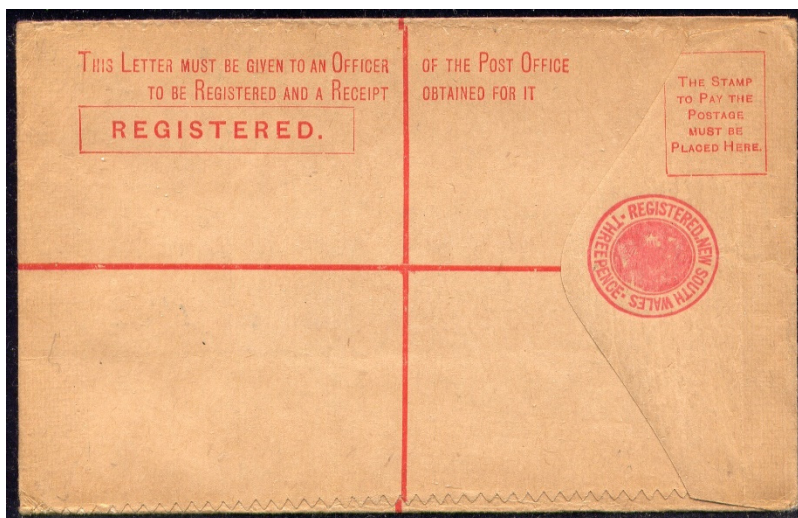


Figure 8: Two saw toothed seams on top and bottom edges of front

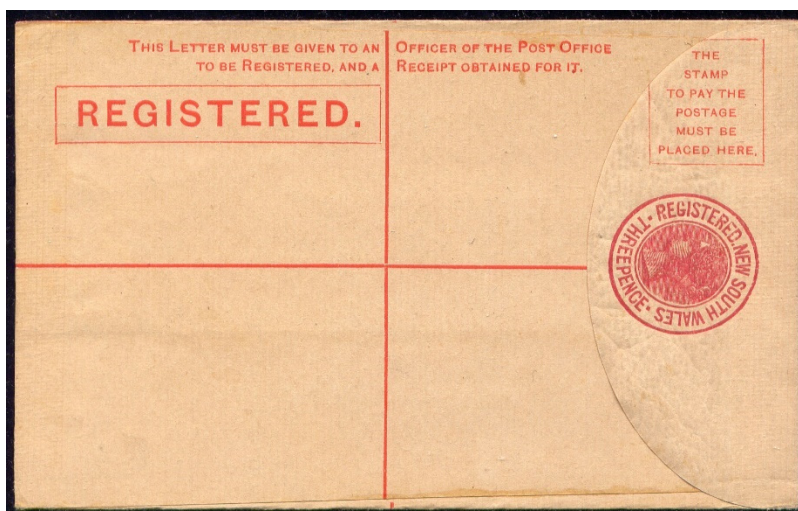


Figure 9: Two straight seams on top and bottom edges of front

Envelope Markings and Instructions including the Stamp and Registered Boxes

The earlier catalogue listings do not cover this topic. There are at least ten different sizes of both stamp and registered boxes and they form a valuable additional aid to assist identification of the various envelope types. Some of the various boxes are illustrated at Figure 10 following.

There are also differences between the types in the font, font size and capital letter size of the envelope instructions. However, reference is only made in the listing to the major varieties with differing features of the letter 'R'.

APPENDIX A1 is a tabulation of the dimensions of the Stamp and Registered Boxes in catalogue order.

APPENDIX A2 is a tabulation by envelope size grouped in the standard sizes of F, G and H2.

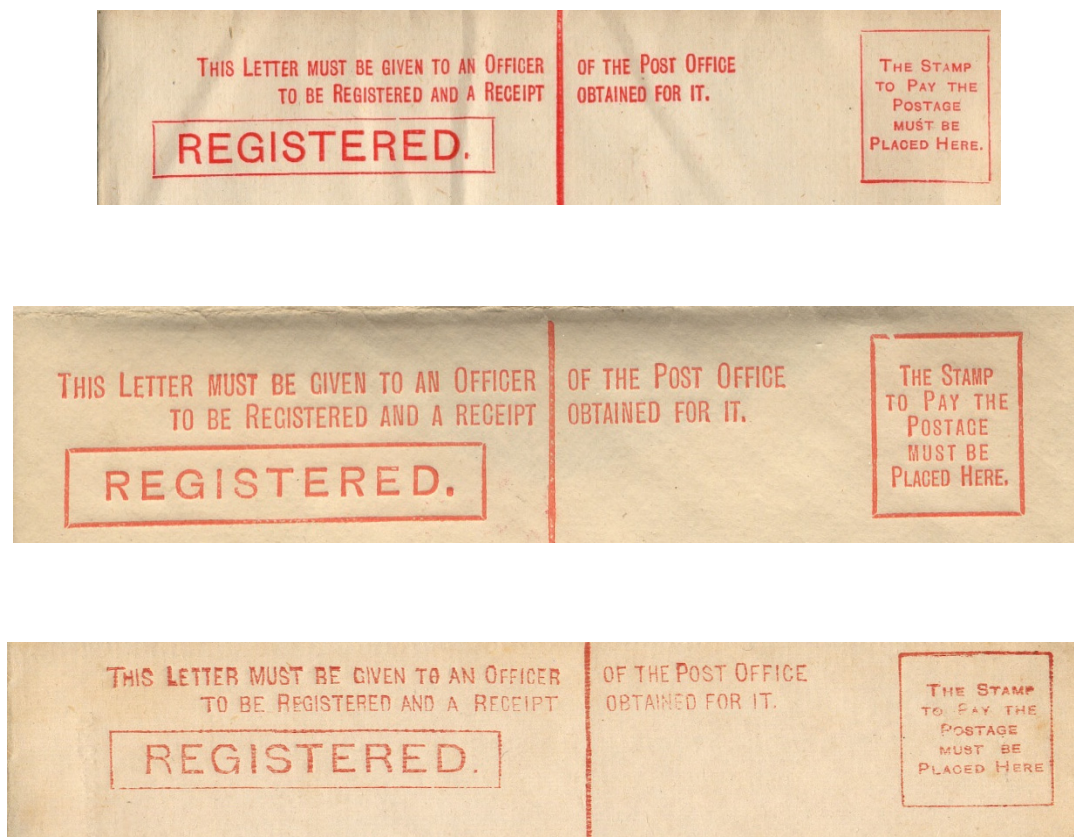


Figure 10: Examples of the variation in Stamp and Registered Boxes

Registration Labels

It was a requirement that all registered mail should be lodged at a post office. It was then given a registration number normally added in coloured crayon on the address side of the item. Progressively there was pressure from the UPU and some overseas postal administrations to use adhesive numbered registration labels. Suggestions from South Australia were adopted for the use throughout Australia for overseas registered mail for a six-month trial period from 1 October 1908. The trial was rated a success and in 1909 was extended to use for all domestic registered mail.

The background is described in Burt (2018), however it seems that New South Wales and Queensland may have used such registered labels in early 1908 before the national trial had commenced although such early dates are rare and some still require verification, see Bazelmans (1995). Progressively from 1909 registration labels were widely used throughout Australia although there were variations in type from State to State. In 1918 the code number R.6 in small print were added above the top-left frame and registration labels became constant across the Commonwealth.



Figure 11: Use of Registration Label upon Registration Envelope

Post Office Receipts for Registered Letters

A small hoard of nine official post office receipts for registered letters is described and illustrated in Anderson (2018). These are all cancelled with a circular date stamp for Windsor and dated from 31 January 1884 to June 1890. As with registered labels, described above, these form an interesting addition to the postal history of registered mail.

Registered Stamp Dies

Differences in the registered stamp dies have not been pursued as they appear to be minor.

ISSUE HISTORY

Essays

An essay was made by impressing linen-backed bag-shaped envelopes (ie. Envelopes with the flap at one end rather than the 'standard' envelope shape), similar to those subsequently adopted, with the Two Pence die engraved by Thornwaite for use with unissued envelopes in 1855 (see further information in the Envelopes chapter of this publication). The die was struck twice on the flap in blue and black (see Figure 12). Several copies of these essays exist and the Tapling Collection contains the following four:

2d + 2d	ultramarine	Size F	(133mm x 83mm)
2d + 2d	ultramarine	Size G	(152mm x 96mm)
2d + 2d	black	Size F	(133mm x 83mm)
2d + 2d	black	Size G	(152mm x 96mm)

Under the flaps of the envelopes is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Patentees."



Figure 12: Black and Ultramarine Thornwaite Essays

Proofs

Basset Hull (1911 p.356) refers to the existence of proofs of the stamp in pairs on white wove paper as follows:

2d + 2d black
 2d + 2d orange-red
 2d + 2d purple

and stamped singly on white laid paper 2d dull blue

These are similar to the 2d proof impressions (in brown, black and purple) described in Diserio and Blinman (2013) and Hancock (2017) produced for the unissued envelopes of 1855.

The Basset Hull Publication Committee (1911, p.356) also reports having seen proofs of the stamp as follows : in black on a piece of India paper; in rose on a piece of stout white laid paper; in lilac on the flap of a size F envelope similar to the issued variety.

It should also be noted that other strikes of the 2d stamp in a wide range of colours are known: Diserio (2013). All are invariably described as 'printer's waste' although they are likely trial strikes for the projected use of the 2d values (in pairs) on the flaps of the proposed first issue of NSW registration envelopes of 1880. Sheppard (1980) discusses and illustrates this material. A particularly striking example is a sheet with eleven copies of the 2d in orange and an additional two in a shade of lilac, as illustrated in Figure 13.



Figure 13 : Thirteen orange and lilac strikes of the proposed registered stamp

Druce (1995) also lists 5 proof strikes of the first issue 4d registered stamp in black produced by the Government Printer.



Figure 14: Proof strikes of the 4d in black

Proofs of the first issue 4d registered stamp in rose also exist.

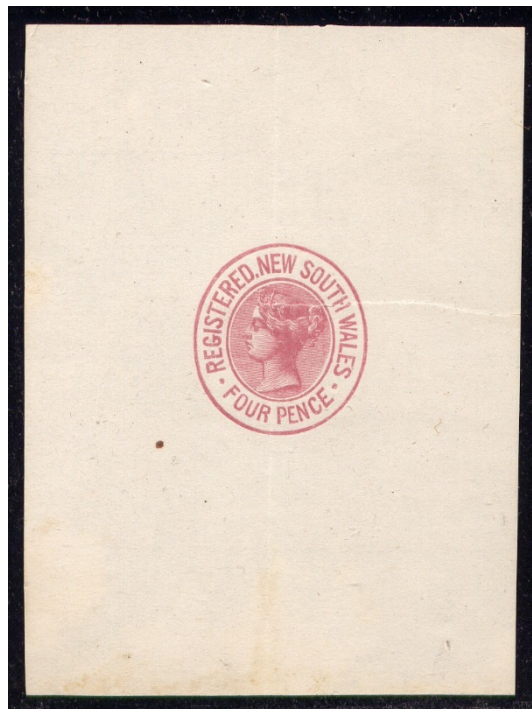


Figure 15 : Undated 4d registered proof in issued colour

Druce (1995) also listed proof strikes of the 3d in red on yellow paper produced by the Government Printer on 22 October 1891 (see Figure 16).



Figure 16: 1891 red proof of the 3d registered stamp – sheet reduced from actual size



Figure 17: Undated black proof of the 3d registered stamp – sheet reduced from actual size

The First Issues of 1880 (R1 – R3)

The electro for the stamp selected for the issued envelopes was prepared at the Government Printing Office. The design consists of the Queen's profile, taken from the Stamp Duty die, enclosed in a broad oval band, inscribed "REGISTERED. NEW SOUTH WALES. FOUR PENCE."

The issued envelopes bore the usual formula in vermilion and were bag-shaped, with flap to left. Sizes F, G, and H2 were the most frequently issued throughout the series. Indeed, all the envelopes were bag-shaped except for some of the issues of 1889 which Bell (Aug 2007) believed were a 'stop-gap' or 'emergency' measure. All envelopes, except for the 1889, 1892 and 1907 emergency issues, bore a printer's imprint under the flap. The printer, except for the last issue of 1911 (R34), was McCorquodale & Co. For the last issue the printer was Thomas De La Rue & Co. Figure 18 shows examples of the imprints.

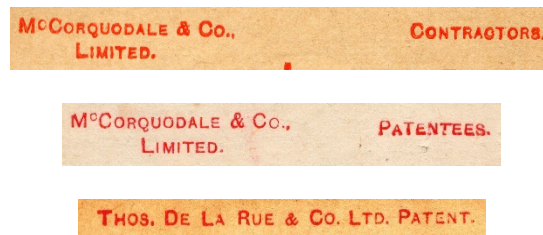


Figure 18: Printer's Imprints

The literature indicates confusion about the dimensions and presence or absence of a manufacturer's imprint on the H2 envelope of this first issue (R3). This has led to uncertainty about the envelope's existence although we list it here with noted caveats.

The Second Issue of 1885 (R4)

Only distinguished from the first issue by having a smaller stamp box of 20 x 21 mm rather than 21 x 23-25mm (see [APPENDIX A](#)). There is no notation on the NSW Government Printing Ledgers which might indicate how many of the 24,000 envelopes printed in 1885 were of this particular envelope or when the first printing took place. Also, given that the next designs were not until 1889 there is no indication of any specific printings of this envelope between 1886 to 1889. Druce listed a single copy in his compilation.



Figure 19: Comparison of R2 and R4 Stamp Boxes

The Emergency Issues of 1889 (R5 – R10)

The 'ordinary' shaped envelopes in this group (R5-R8), as illustrated in Figure 3, are devoid of a manufacturer's imprint. Bell considers (2007b, p.23) that they were created as an 'emergency' measure owing to a shortage of supply from McCorquodale and Co. Envelopes of three sizes between F and G were issued with size ranges of 140mm x 77mm, 148-150mm x 86-87mm and 144-145mm x 88-89 mm. This last envelope has two sub-types (R7-R8) according to the size of the letter 'R' in the word 'Receipt', as illustrated in Figure 20.

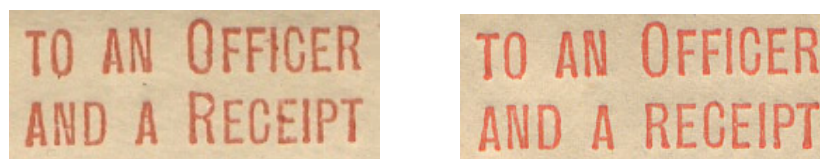


Figure 20: Tall 'R' and Normal 'R' sub-types

H&G, Steig and Bell suggest the 140 x 77mm is the scarcest of the 1889 issues. The NSW Government Printing Office ledger has the word 'SMALL' and the letter 'S' next to two issues totalling 2,400 in Jan 1889 and it is possible that these were the small 140 x 77mm envelope.

R9 and R 10, the two locally printed and bag shaped long envelopes of 1889 (229 x 101 mm and 221 x 94 mm) are also presumed to fit within the 'emergency' category: both had no manufacturer's imprint and were slightly different in size from the standard H2. However, there is uncertainty about whether they were produced because of a shortage of the first issue H2 envelope or because of demand for a larger envelope in the range.

The emergency envelopes were all printed on linen backed envelopes but it is unclear whether they were bought already printed by a local printing contractor or printed by the NSW Government Printer.

It is also interesting that the contractors for these emergency issues, and indeed all the later emergency issues, did not take the opportunity to inscribe their name under the various envelope flaps to advertise their printing efforts.

The McCorquodale Issues of 1889 (R11 – R13)

From later in 1889 (Bell, p.23 2007b) the series returned to bag-shaped envelopes supplied by McCorquodale & Co, with the instructions reset in smaller type and the envelopes with the flap to the right. The three sizes F, G and H2 were issued with the H2, (R13) distinguished by having straight seams rather than saw-toothed seams on the back. Bell (2006) reported Ascher's doubt on the existence of the H2 envelope although this seems unlikely given the recording of the distinguishing back seam feature. Undoubtedly this is the scarcest of the three 1889 McCorquodale registration envelopes.

The 3d on 4d Overprint Issues (R14 – 18)

From the 1st October 1891, the date upon which NSW formally became a member of the UPU, the registration fee was reduced from Four Pence to Three Pence as a consequence of that membership (NSW Government Gazette No 652 of Tuesday 13 October 1891).

Pending an alteration in the electro for the Three Pence value, the stamp on the existing Four Pence envelopes was surcharged "THREE PENCE" (NSW Government Gazette No 677 of Tuesday 27 October 1891). Bell (2009) records four types of THREE PENCE overprint which are listed and illustrated below:

Type 1. THREE PENCE in sans serif capitals in a curved line - placed over the FOUR PENCE value.



Type 2. THREE PENCE in **bold** sans serif capitals with a thin curved bar through the FOUR PENCE value.



Type 3. THREE PENCE in sans serif capitals, the same sized letters as Type 1 - but placed horizontally.



Type 4. THREE PENCE in serif capitals, letters about the same size as those of Type 1, with a thick curved bar through the FOUR PENCE value.



Types 1 and 2 are rare and have only been seen unused. It is most likely that these were un-issued essays with the Type 1 being the example referred to by a note of the Committee in Basset Hull (p.357, 1911). Five examples of the Type 1 envelope, illustrated in Figure 21, are known, with two in the collection of the Royal Philatelic Society of London. Type 2 is known from a single example, at one time in the Zimmer collection. Both of these Types are only known on size F envelopes. As these were unissued they are omitted from the listing in Table 1.

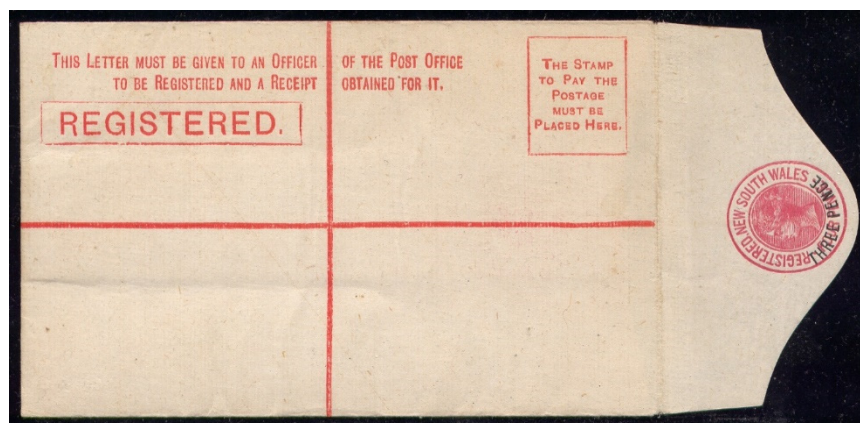


Figure 21: The very rare Type 1 unissued envelope

Bell (2009) noted that the records state that 11,677 4d envelopes, the total on hand at the end of September 1891, were 'overprinted and transferred to the value of 3d from that date'. The number of surcharged envelopes issued to the Post Office between 1 October and 10 November totalled 11,360

(1,600 with the Type 3 surcharge; 9,760 with Type 4). As there is no record of destruction the remaining 317 were presumably issued later, perhaps as part of the issue on 10 November 1891 which included the first envelopes with the printed 3d.

The only issue of the Type 3 envelopes took place on the 1st October, 1891. It totalled 1600, with the proportionate numbers of F (R14) and G (R15) envelopes unable to be discerned from the printing records.

The Type 4 issues were printed between 7 October 1891 and 10 November 1891, totalled 9760 and comprised the three sizes F (R16), G (R17) and H2 (R18). Again, the records do not indicate the numbers for each envelope size but Bell (2009) observed that the Type 4 H2 (R18) envelopes were relatively common. Late usage through to 1903 may suggest a relatively large proportion.

The First Un-Overprinted 3d Issues of 1891 (R19 – 21)

On the 22nd October, 1891, the Government Printer reported that as the electro had been altered to 3d it would be unnecessary to surcharge future printings, and submitted a proof for approval. The first issue with the new 3d value was made on the 10th November, 1891. The inscriptions remained as on the 1890 issue.

The Emergency Issue of 1892 (R22 – 23)

Only produced in sizes G and H2 without an imprint of the printer's name and presumed to have arisen from a shortage of the un-overprinted 3d issues of 1891. Government Printing Office records suggest a printing of 18,260 envelopes in March 1892 as the likely production event within those of that year (see printing tabulation at [APPENDIX B](#)).

The McCorquodale Issues of 1892 (R24 – 25)

Supplied by McCorquodale and similar to the sizes F and G of November 1891 except that the flap location reverted to the right side rather than the left.

The McCorquodale Issues of 1894 (R26 – 27)

A McCorquodale supplied size G similar to the 1892 issue with replacement of 'Patentees' with 'Contractors' in the inscription. There are two types distinguished by the significant differences in the size of the Registered Box.

The McCorquodale Issues of 1898 (R28 – R32)

Bell observed that the colours of the impressed postage stamp on the size G of this issue changed from 'wine red' or 'claret' to shades of 'orange pink' in mid-1906. Bell also noted that this envelope was again issued after the emergency issue of 1907 and continued in use until replaced by the De La Rue envelope in 1911.

The Official Envelope of 1909 (R30)

Illustrated below is the only copy (known to the authors) of an envelope from the 1898 issues that can be classified as an official issue. It is a size F distinguished by an 'OS NSW' perfin applied through the 3d registration stamp, further confirmed by use of an official perfinned postage stamp. Usage in September 1909 is consistent with the availability of the 1898 envelopes (see above para) and the fact that the first OS NSW perfins were produced in December 1902.

It seems improbable that other official registered envelopes were not issued particularly noting the likely demand for a H2 sized envelope to carry official foolscap sized documents. However, it is remarkable that no other survivors have been recorded to date.



Figure 22: The very rare official envelope of 1909



Figure 23: The OS NSW perfin from the 1909 official envelope

The Emergency Issue of 1907 (R33)

Bell (2010) observed that this envelope "is characterized by a style of printing which is completely different to any other NSW Registered envelope" (see Figure 24). Noting that Higgins & Gage gave an issue year of 1904, Bell observed that the production of this envelope could be sourced to a letter of 28 September 1907 in which the NSW Government Printer advised the Deputy Postmaster General that he had "purchased locally 5,000 Registration Envelopes". The Printer expected to issue these to the Post Office no later than 7 October 1907. It is presumed that this was an 'emergency issue' resulting from a lack of remaining Government Printing Office stock of the previous 1898 McCorquodale issue.



Figure 24: The emergency Issue of 1907

The De La Rue Issue of 1911 (R34)

For this last issue of NSW registration envelopes De La Rue won three tenders for the supply of 450,000 envelopes of which Bell estimated that 168,140 were used (see Figure 25), including a small number provided to Queensland for their use. The first issue of Commonwealth registered envelopes took place on 17 February 1913 and Bell estimated that the De La Rue envelopes remained on issue until the end of February 1913. Bell also reports that 290,000 De La Rue envelopes were transferred to the Commonwealth in 1916.

Noting that Higgins and Gage give an issue year of 1900, it is significant that Bell observed from the De La Rue Correspondence Books that their tender for NSW registration envelopes had not been awarded until 8 December 1910. This gave an estimated first issue period, allowing for a six week travel time from England, of early to mid-February 1911.



Figure 25: The De La Rue Issue with Printer's Imprint Above

THE LISTING OF TYPES

This account provides an expanded listing and is based on the published articles/monographs of Bassett-Hull, Ascher, Higgins & Gage (H&G), Druce, Bell and Steig. Bell's work was significant in revising the issue date information published prior to his research.

Bassett-Hull is a key historical monograph from 1911 for information about the origin and first issues of the NSW registration envelopes. Ascher is a comprehensive catalogue listing in German published in the 1920's. Higgins & Gage is the only catalogue listing in English and was most recently published in 1983. Druce gives a listing of 39 items, assumed to be mainly from his collection, and published in 1995 with the objective of stimulating efforts to produce a new comprehensive listing. Bell conducted detailed research published in a series of papers in Sydney Views between 2006 and 2010 which represent a major advance in the study of these envelopes. Bell's work re-assessed several previously reported issue dates and provided additional valuable historical, descriptive and printing information.

For cross referencing the H&G numbers are also provided in the following table. However, it is suggested that they be abandoned as they suffer from several errors in the chronology of issue.

TABLE 1 LISTING OF TYPES

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R1.	06/03/1880	4d	1.	F	Curved flap on left folding to the back. "McCorquodale & Co. Patentees" printed underneath the flap. Single central saw-toothed seam on back.
R1.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$100	SPECIMEN \$75
R2.	06/03/1880	4d	1a.	G	Curved flap on left folding to the back. "McCorquodale & Co. Patentees" printed underneath the flap. Single central saw-toothed seam on back.
R2.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$100	SPECIMEN \$75
R3.	06/03/1880	4d	1.	H2	Pointed flap on left folding to the back. No name printed underneath flap. (Bassett-Hull p.431) H & G report it as having "McCorquodale & Co. Patentees" printed under the flap. Some references doubt the existence of this envelope as "no one seems to have seen a copy". (Bell 2010)
R3.	MINT	\$****	USED	\$****	
R4.	1885?	4d	2.	G	Same as issue of 06/03/1980 including curved flap on left folding to the back except stamp box measures 20 x 21mm rather than 21 x 23-25 mm. Single central saw-toothed seam on back.
R4.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$150	SPECIMEN \$100

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R5.	01/89	4d	4.	140x77mm	Local emergency printing. Ordinary shaped envelope. Very smooth wove paper. Upper flap 46mm curved with rounded top. Lower flap 42mm with slightly rounded top. No name printed underneath flap.
R5.	MINT	\$120	USED	\$150	
R6.	02/1889	4d	4c.	149x86mm	Local emergency printing. Ordinary shaped envelope. Very smooth wove paper. Upper flap 45.5mm curved with rounded top. Lower flap 54mm and rounded. No name printed underneath. No name printed underneath flap. Tall R in the word Receipt.
R6.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$80	
R7.	07/1889	4d	4a.	145x89mm	Local emergency printing. Similar to 149 x 86 mm. Ordinary shaped envelope except for smooth laid paper and lower flap is pointed. Upper flap 51mm and lower flap 48mm. No name printed underneath flap. Tall R in the word Receipt.
R7.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100	
R8.	07/1889	4d	4b.	145x89mm	Local emergency printing. Similar to 149 x 86 mm ordinary shaped envelope except for smooth laid paper and lower flap is pointed. Upper flap 51mm and lower flap 48mm. No name printed underneath flap. Normal R in the word Receipt.
R8.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100	
R9.	09/1889	4d	3.	229x101mm	Long size close to H2 (225x100). Local emergency printing with no name under flap. Single central straight seam at back. Pointed stamp flap on the left.
R9.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100	

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R10.	09/1889	4d	3a.	221x94mm	Long size shorter than H2 (225x100). Local emergency printing with no name under flap and straight edge at envelope seam. Curved stamp flap on the left.
R10.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100	
R11.	07/1890	4d	5.	F	Similar to the envelopes of 1880, except that the flap is on the right side folding to the back. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R11.	MINT	\$40	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN \$80
R12.	07/1890	4d	5a.	G	Similar to the envelopes of 1880, except that the flap is on the right side folding to the back. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R12.	MINT	\$40	USED	\$60	
R13.	07/1890	4d	5b.	H2	Similar to the envelopes of 1880, except that the flap is on the right side folding to the back. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two straight seams on edges of back.
R13.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$100	
R14.	01/10/1891	3d on 4d	6c.	F	Type 3 Overprint. Envelopes of the 1890 issue with the stamp surcharged "THREE PENCE" in tall, thin, sans-serif capitals in a straight line. Flap is on the right side folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R14.	MINT	\$150	USED	\$200	

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R15.	01/10/1891	3d on 4d	6d.	G	Type 3 Overprint. Envelopes of the 1890 issue with the stamp surcharged "THREE PENCE" in tall, thin, sans-serif capitals in a straight line. Flap is on the right side folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R15.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$150	
R16.	07/10/1891	3d on 4d	6.	F	Type 4 Overprint. Envelopes of the 1890 issue with the stamp surcharged "THREE PENCE" in serif capitals in a straight line and with a thick curved bar over the original 4d value. Flap is on the right side folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R16.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$100	
R17.	07/10/1891	3d on 4d	6a.	G	Type 4 Overprint. Envelopes of the 1890 issue with the stamp surcharged "THREE PENCE" in serif capitals in a straight line and with a thick curved bar over the original 4d value. Flap is on the right side folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R17.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100	

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R18.	07/10/1891	3d on 4d	6b.	H2	Type 4 Overprint. Envelopes of the 1890 issue with the stamp surcharged "THREE PENCE" in serif capitals in a straight line and with a thick curved bar over the original 4d value. Flap is on the right side folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two straight seams on edges of back.
R18.	MINT	\$80	USED	\$80	
R19.	10/11/1891	3d	7.	F	Similar to the envelopes of 1890 but with stamp value altered to "THREE PENCE". Flap to left folding to back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R19.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN \$60
R20.	10/11/1891	3d	7a.	G	Similar to the envelopes of 1890 but with stamp value altered to "THREE PENCE". Flap to left folding to back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R20	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	
R21.	10/11/1891	3d	7b.	H2	Similar to the envelopes of 1890 but with stamp value altered to "THREE PENCE". Flap to left folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Contractors ". Two straight seams on edges of back.
R21.	MINT	\$200	USED	\$200	
R22.	20/03/1892	3d	10.	G	Local emergency printing. No imprint under flap. Flap at right end folding to the back. Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R22.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN \$60

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R23.	20/03/1892	3d	10a.	H2	Local emergency printing. No imprint under flap. Flap at right end folding to the back. Single straight seam in centre on back.
R23.	MINT	\$200	USED	\$200	
R24.	Aug 1892	3d	8.	F	Similar to previous F issue of 10/11/1891 but with flap now on right end of envelope folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees. Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R24.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN \$60
R25.	Aug 1892	3d	8a.	G	Similar to previous G issue of 10/11/1891 with flap now on right end of envelope folding to the back and under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Patentees. Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R25.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN \$60
R26.	1894	3d	9.	G	Similar to G issue of 10/11/1891 except the word ' Patentees ' replaced with 'Contractors' and size of Registration Box 54 x 9mm . Flap is on the right side folding to the back. Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R26.	MINT	\$75	USED	\$75	
R27.	1894	3d	9.	G	Similar to G issue of 10/11/1891 except the word ' Patentees ' replaced with 'Contractors' and size of Registration Box 61 x 9mm . Flap is on the right side folding to the back. Two saw-toothed seams on edges of back.
R27.	MINT	\$75	USED	\$75	
R28.	1898	3d	11.	F	Flap on right of envelope folding to the front. Round flap. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Contractors". Two straight seams on edges of front.
R28.	MINT	\$75	USED	\$50	

No.	Issue Date	Denom	H&G No.	Size	Other Features
R29.	1898	3d	11a.	G	Flap on right of envelope folding to the front. Round flap. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Contractors". Two straight seams on edges of front.
R29.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$50	
R30.	1898	3d	12.	F	Flap on right of envelope folding to the front. Curved flap. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Contractors". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of front.
R30.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$40	OFFICIAL WITH OSNSW PERFIN \$600*
R31.	1898	3d	12a.	G	Flap on right of envelope folding to the front. Curved flap. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Contractors". Two saw-toothed seams on edges of front.
R31.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$40	
R32.	1898	3d	12b.	H2	Flap on right of envelope folding to the front. Curved flap. Under the flap is printed "McCorquodale & Co. Limited Contractors". Straight seams on front.
R32.	MINT	\$80	USED	\$80	
R33.	07/10/1907	3d	14.	G	Local emergency printing. Trimmed flap with three straight edges on right of envelope folding to the front. No imprint under flap. Two slightly angled straight seams near side edges of back. Font style of instructional printing on front of envelope is unlike any other of the series.
R33.	MINT	\$++++	USED	\$650	
R34.	02/1911	3d	13.	G	De La Rue issue. Flap on right of envelope folding to the front. Curved flap with much broader curve than the McCorquodale envelope of 1898. Imprint under flap reads THOS.DE LA RUE & CO.LTD. PATENT. Two saw-toothed seams on edges of front.
R34.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$150	

* Estimated value of only known copy in poor condition. Very fine copy (if found) estimated at \$1,000 Mint or Used.

Numbers Printed

A summary of annual known printing numbers and numbers issued to the Post Office until 1896 is provided at **APPENDIX B**. This data is sourced from John Bell's monthly data listing from the NSW Government Printing Office ledgers published in Sydney Views (p. 28-30, No. 95).

At **APPENDIX C** is a listing of NSW registration envelope sales extracted by Bell from the NSW Postmaster General's Annual Reports between 1891 to 1900 (inclusive) and for the single years of 1906 and 1910. It is believed that the NSW Postmaster General did not produce Annual Reports for the missing years between 1900 and 1910.

Scarcity

With a small number of exceptions (emergency and De La Rue issues), the registration envelopes issued by NSW from 1880 until the Commonwealth issues in 1913 were produced from generic stock provided by the English firm of McCorquodale and Co. Ltd. It is thought likely (but by no means certain) that each batch contained envelopes which were consistent in stamp box size, registered box size and printing format for each of the three size groups. As each batch was supplied in relatively large numbers it seems unlikely that any of these should be particularly scarce.

The scarce and hard to find envelopes are among the locally printed 'emergency' issues of 1889, 1892 and 1907, the unissued 3d on 4d overprints and any official perfined issue. To this group must be added some of the size H2's which includes the apparent 'holy grail', the H2 issue of 1880.

APPENDIX D is an estimated value listing based on work done by Derek Brennan and the best estimates of the authors of this document. Further review will arise from future auction realisations. A further comprehensive catalogue will be separately produced and added to any website compilation of this material.

A Suggested Approach to Using this Document to Identify Registration Envelopes

Identification of the registration fee on the envelope (4d, 3d on 4d overprint or 3d) provides a first basis for suggesting where the envelope could fit within the Listing of Types tables as those three fee levels chronologically and strictly follow the same order as given in the brackets above. The Listing of Types tables provide further identifying characteristics for each envelope. Measurement of the Stamp Box and/or Registered Box size and comparison with the size data given in **APPENDIX A** should provide confirmation of your identification. For convenience the H& G numbers are also listed, although it is suggested that these should be abandoned as there are some major errors in the timing of issues.

THE SPECIMEN REGISTRATION ENVELOPES

Specimens – Production & Use

Monthly printing records for the registration envelopes from February 1880 to December 1896 are available. During this period specimen overprints are recorded as having been produced on seven occasions, the dates and numbers printed are given in **Table 2**. In addition, on one occasion in March 1892 registration envelopes were overprinted 'Reprint': this represents the only time that New South Wales postal stationery items were treated in this way. It is unlikely that any specimen registration envelopes were produced after January 1894.

The printing records however do not give information on the size and type of registration envelope involved or the type of specimen overprint employed. Only on rare occasions do the printing records provide any other information: an example is the additional of small 's' for printings in 1889 which are thought to indicate that the printing was on smaller sized envelopes.

Therefore, to link specific type of 'specimen' overprint to the data on numbers printed relies on additional information. Examples are the dates of issue and use of the many types of registration envelope and of the known dates for the use of the various types of specimen overprint. Such information has been used in Table 1 to suggest a chronology for the specimen overprints. There are additional complications and it is possible that the listed dates of overprinting the registration envelopes with specimen overprints included more than one type of envelope.

Production and Use of Specimen and Registration Envelopes

Compared with other classes of New South Wales postal stationery the production of specimen registration envelopes was relatively sparse especially given the variety of sizes and changes in the format of the printing. Only on two occasions, August 1889 and March 1892, were the numbers printed sufficient to meet UPU requirements for distribution to member nations; for the period February 1887 until 30 May 1892 the number required was 345. None of the larger ('foolscap' or variations of the H2 size) envelopes, the various styles of 3d overprint on 4d or the top opening envelopes of 1889 are known with a specimen overprint.

It should be noted that the Specimens listed in the Printing Office records for 29 August 1889 which include all the postage stamps and postal stationery items current on issue at that time are thought to lack any form of 'specimen overprint'. As the number printed of each of these items was 345 they were clearly intended for transmission to the UPU.

It is possible that some of the registration envelopes not overprinted specimen were sent to the UPU for distribution but the only known example held by the British Library collection is the 4d size G of July 1890, (R11 in our listing).

The information in Table 2 is likely to undergo minor revision especially with respect to individual printing of specimen overprints having been made on more than one size of envelope. The printing of December 1892 is an example of this as it is not clear which registered envelopes were marked specimen. Bell comments in his notes that the types of envelope could be '...more of the last [ie specimens of October 1892], a different envelope or separate issues of each size'. What is clear is that the use of the printing records by Bell represented a major advance on all earlier published accounts.

The reason for the issue of the 4d 'Reprint' overprint, **R11 in our list**, is not known, but it was printed on the same day as the 500 specimen 3d Size F envelopes , **R19 in our list**.

Table 2 Specimen Overprints on Registration Envelopes

Date of Printing	Number Printed	Specimen Type	H & G No.	Denomination + Size	Our No.
2 Mar 1882	100	B4	1, 1a	4d F & G	R1, R2
13 Nov 1888	200	B16	1, 2	4d F & G	R1, R4
29 Aug 1889	345	See Note 1. below	10	3d	R22
22 Mar 1892	150	Reprint BR1	5a	4d F	R11
22 Mar 1892	500	B16	7	3d F	R19
? Oct 1892	280	B19	8, 8a	3d F & G	R24, R25
29 Dec 1892	234	See Note 2. below			
18 Jan 1894	50	B4	10	3d G	R22

Note 1: Not overprinted in any way but sent to the UPU.

Note 2: 'More of last, a different envelope or separate issues of each': quote from Bell.



Figure 26: The Specimen Overprints

The specimen overprints were printed with the envelope flaps closed and it is not uncommon for an impression of both the stamp die and the specimen overprint to occur on the back of the envelope under the flap.

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Notes

1. Details of numbers printed and issued by the Government Printing Office (GPRO) were extracted from the Government Printer's Registers (now held by Archives NSW at Kingswood).
2. The sales numbers of the NSW Post Office came from the Annual Reports of the NSW Postmaster General.

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Table 1 Listing of Types

Table 2 Specimen Overprints on Registration Envelopes

STAMP AND REGISTERED BOX SIZE IN CATALOGUE ORDER**APPENDIX A1**

No.	H & G No.	Envelope Size	Stamp Box Size	Registered Box Size
R1	1	F	21 x 23 mm	9.5 x 56 mm
R2	1a.	G	21 x 25 mm	9.5 x 54 mm
R3	1b.	H2		
R4	2	G	20 x 21 mm	9.5 x 55 mm
R5	4	140 x 77 mm	20 x 23.5 mm	9.5 x 55.5 mm
R6	4c.	149 x 86 mm	20 x 23.5 mm	10 x 56 mm
R7	4a.	145 x 89 mm	20 x 24mm	10 x 55.5 mm
R8	4b.	145 x 89 mm	20 x 23.5 mm	10 x 55.5 mm
R9	3	229 x 101 mm	20 x 25 mm	10 x 64 mm
R10	3a.	221 x 94 mm	20 x 25 mm	10 x 64 mm
R11	5	F	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R12	5a.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 54.5 mm
R13	5b.	H2	22 x 25 mm	11 x 61 mm
R14	6c.	F	21 x 24.5 mm	9 x 54.5 mm
R15	6d.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R16	6	F	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R17	6a.	G	20.5 x 24.5mm	9 x 55 mm
R18	6b.	H2	21.5 x 24 mm	11 x 61 mm
R19	7	F	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 56 mm
R20	7a.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 54.5 mm
R21	7b.	H2	20 x 24 mm	11 x 67 mm
R22	10	G	20 x 24 mm	9 x 50.5 mm
R23	10a.	H2	20 x 25 mm	10 x 64 mm
R24	8	F	21 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 55 mm
R25	8a.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 54.5 mm
R26	9	G	20 x 24 mm	9 x 54 mm
R27	9	G	20 x 24 mm	9 x 61 mm
R28	11	F	19.5 x 21 mm	9 x 55 mm
R29	11a.	G	19.5 x 24 mm	9 x 54 mm
R30	12	F	19 x 21 mm	9.5 x 55 mm
R31	12a.	G	19 x 24 mm	9 x 54 mm
R32	12b.	H2	20.5 x 23.5 mm	11 x 67.5 mm
R33	14	G	18 x 22 mm	8 x 53 mm
R34	13	G	19 x 23.5 mm	8 x 53 mm

STAMP AND REGISTERED BOX SIZE BY ENVELOPE SIZE				<u>APPENDIX A2</u>
No.	H & G No.	Envelope Size	Stamp Box Size	Registered Box Size
R1	1	F	21 x 23 mm	9.5 x 56 mm
R11	5	F	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R14	6c.	F	21 x 24.5 mm	9 x 54.5 mm
R16	6	F	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R19	7	F	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R24	8	F	21 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 55 mm
R28	11	F	19.5 x 21 mm	9 x 55 mm
R30	12	F	19 x 21 mm	9.5 x 55 mm

No.	H & G No.	Envelope Size	Stamp Box Size	Registered Box Size
R2	1a.	G	21 x 25 mm	9.5 x 54 mm
R4	2	G	20 x 21 mm	9.5 x 55 mm
R12	5a.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 54.5 mm
R15	6d.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	9 x 55 mm
R17	6a.	G	20.5 x 24.5mm	9 x 55 mm
R20	7a.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 54.5 mm
R22	10	G	20 x 24 mm	9 x 50.5 mm
R25	8a.	G	20.5 x 24.5 mm	8.5 x 54.5 mm
R26	9	G	20 x 24 mm	9 x 54 mm
R27	9	G	20 x 24 mm	9 x 61 mm
R29	11a.	G	19.5 x 24 mm	9 x 54 mm
R31	12a.	G	19 x 24 mm	9 x 54 mm
R33	14	G	18 x 22 mm	8 x 53 mm
R34	13	G	19 x 23.5 mm	8 x 53 mm

No.	H & G No.	Envelope Size	Stamp Box Size	Registered Box Size
R3	1b.	H2		
R13	5b.	H2	22 x 25 mm	11 x 61 mm
R18	6b.	H2	21.5 x 24 mm	11 x 61 mm
R21	7b.	H2	20 x 24 mm	11 x 67 mm
R23	10a.	H2	20 x 25 mm	10 x 64 mm
R32	12b.	H2	20.5 x 23.5 mm	11 x 67.5 mm

APPENDIX B**Registration Envelopes Printed and Issued 1880 – 1896****from NSW Govt Printing Office Ledgers**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Printed</u>	<u>Issued</u>	<u>Specimens</u>	<u>Destroyed</u>	<u>Unissued Balance</u>
1880	14,000	12,000			2,000
1881	6,000	7,200			800
1882	11,000	7,800	100		3,900
1883	20,000	19,800			4,100
1884	17,000	19,200		150	1,750
1885	24,000	19,200			6,550
1886	18,000	18,000			6,550
1887	22,000	21,600			6,950
1888	22,700	27,600	200	30	1,820
1889	35,859	32,760	345		4,574
1890	36,049	39,300		115	1,207
1891	65,034	55,460		64	10,717
1892	63,260	66,080	1,014	30	6,853
1893	60,000	59,200		42	7,611
1894	56,200	62,920	50		5,411
1895	81,400	52,800			21,241
1896	N/A	61,280			N/A

N/A = Data not available

APPENDIX C

3d Registration Envelope Sales from the NSW Postmaster General's Annual Reports between 1891 to 1900 (inclusive) and for the single years of 1906 and 1910

<u>Year</u>	<u>Sales</u>	
1891	19,400	Part Year after change to 3d
1892	67,120	
1893	58,200	
1894	53,680	
1895	59,920	
1896	60,200	
1897	63,400	
1898	95,120	
1899	94,680	
1900	112,640	
1906	60,520	
1910	81,120	

APPENDIX D

ESTIMATED VALUE LISTING

THE 4d McCORQUODALE ISSUES OF 1880

R1.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$100	SPECIMEN	\$75
R2.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$100	SPECIMEN	\$75
R3.	MINT	\$****	USED	\$****	See note below.	
R4.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$150	SPECIMEN	\$100

THE 4D LOCAL EMERGENCY ISSUES of 1889

R5.	MINT	\$120	USED	\$150
R6.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$80
R7.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100
R8.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100
R9.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100
R10.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100

THE 4d McCORQUODALE ISSUES of 1890

R11.	MINT	\$40	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN	\$80
R12.	MINT	\$40	USED	\$60		
R13.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$100		

THE 3d on 4d McCORQUODALE OVERPRINTS OF 1891

R14.	MINT	\$150	USED	\$200
R15.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$150
R16.	MINT	\$ 60	USED	\$100
R17.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$100
R18.	MINT	\$80	USED	\$80

THE 3d McCORQUODALE ISSUES OF 1891

R19.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN	\$60
R20.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60		
R21.	MINT	\$200	USED	\$200		

Note: ****Existence doubtful but certainly high value if found, say \$1,500+.

APPENDIX D

THE 3D LOCAL EMERGENCY ISSUES OF 1892

R22.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN	\$60
R23.	MINT	\$200	USED	\$200		

THE 3D McCORQUODALE ISSUES OF 1892

R24.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN	\$60
R25.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$60	SPECIMEN	\$60

THE 3D McCORQUODALE ISSUES OF 1894

R26.	MINT	\$75	USED	\$75		
R27.	MINT	\$75	USED	\$75		

THE 3D McCORQUODALE ISSUES of 1898

R28.	MINT	\$75	USED	\$50		
R29.	MINT	\$60	USED	\$50		
R30.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$40	OFFICIAL	\$600*
R31.	MINT	\$50	USED	\$40		
R32.	MINT	\$80	USED	\$80		

THE 3D LOCAL EMERGENCY ISSUE OF 1907

R33.	MINT	\$++++	USED	\$650		
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THE 3D DE LA RUE ISSUE OF 1911

R34.	MINT	\$100	USED	\$150		
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Notes: +++++ No mint examples and only 5 used examples of this envelope have been recorded. (Source: Notes with lot 1455 of Prestige Philately's May 2013 auction of the John Bell collections.)

* Estimated value of the only known copy which is in a battered but presentable condition. A very fine mint or used example would be estimated at \$1,000.