

# POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR

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## ***THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA***

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia has been established to encourage the collecting of postal stationery in Australia and New Zealand and to provide a forum for postal stationery collectors to maintain contact with other stationery collectors and to learn more about their hobby. The Society is not based in any particular city or state and plans to hold meetings at national and state level exhibitions. Subscription rate for 2017 has been set at \$50 (Australia) and \$70 (Overseas excluding New Zealand which is \$60). For further information please contact the Convenor, Secretary or your State Coordinator. Membership enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.

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**FROM THE EDITOR**

This issue of the Postal Stationery Collector highlights aerogrammes, light weight airmail lettersheets which were usually carried at a discount air mail rate.

The first aerogramme, known at the time as an ‘air mail lettercard’, was issued by Iraq in 1933 when Major Douglas Gumbley was Director of the Iraqi post office. The popularity of aerogrammes, known at the time as air letters, increased dramatically during World War II, when countries sought to find ways of improving letter communication between military forces overseas and the population back home at a time when sea mail was slow and dangerous and the space on aircraft was extremely limited.

Initially the carriage of aerogrammes at discount air mail rates was based on agreements between individual countries but the use of aerogrammes was formalised at the UPU Congress in Brussels in 1952 which made use of the name ‘aerogramme’ compulsory in the international mail.

Because the aerogramme, like the postcard, was intended as a discount mail service, the size, shape and the paper of aerogrammes was tightly controlled by UPU regulations and, as a result, those of its member countries. Thus, as demonstrated by Martin Walker’s article on the rules and regulations applying to Australian aerogrammes in this issue, knowledge of these regulations is important to understanding the development of aerogrammes and the various changes that have been made to the forms over the years and inclusion of such information in a postal stationery exhibit can add substantially to the story being told.

The UPU Letter Mail regulations allow that *every designated operator may admit priority items and airmail items consisting of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed on all sides. Such items shall be called “aerogrammes”. “Aerogrammes” shall be considered as being similar to airmail letters in the classification system based on contents.*

The regulations set the size of aerogrammes as between 110 x 220 and 90 x 140 mm with the length being at least  $\sqrt{2}$  times (about 1.4 times) the width and under the Regulations *aerogrammes must be rectangular and be so made that they do not hamper the handling of the mail. The front of the aerogramme shall be reserved for the address, the prepayment and service notes or labels. It shall bear the printed indication “Aerogramme” and may also bear an equivalent indication in the language of the country of origin. An aerogramme shall not contain any enclosure. It may be registered if the regulations of the country of origin so permit. Each member country or designated operator shall fix, within the limits defined [above], the conditions of issue, manufacture and sale of aerogrammes.* Interestingly, the regulations provide an exemption for aerogrammes from Afghanistan and Japan to allow pictures or slips of paper to be enclosed in or attached to aerogrammes.

The use of aerogrammes has greatly declined in recent years due to use of email and the decline in mail volumes. Many countries no longer issue them, although Australia still does. Canada issued its last aerogramme on 9 January 1996. In Canada, the air mail letter rate and the aerogramme rate had been the same since 1 July 1971 so that

aerogrammes did not represent a cheaper means of airmail to foreign destinations. Nevertheless, the utility of a lightweight lettersheet which made the most of limited space on aircraft and kept costs down was a lifeline to military personal abroad, to Australia's many migrants in communicating with their relative 'back home' and to businesses and the aerogrammes place in the history of human communication should not be forgotten,

### **Aerogramme Challenge and National Postal Stationery Class Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018**



The Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA) sponsored aerogramme challenge at the Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018 will include 11 entries of aerogrammes including six exhibits of Australian aerogrammes as well as exhibits of aerogrammes from Canada, Burma, Belgium, Fiji and Ethiopia (see list below).

The first aerogramme challenge was conceived by Martin Walker and Bernie Beston as a means of attracting more entrants to the one-frame South Australian Philatelic Council's annual Philatelic Congress Competition. Aerogrammes were chosen as they are, in the main, cheap material to collect and therefore exhibit. They had six takers in the first

challenge showing material as diverse as Belgium, Hong Kong and Hot-Air Balloons on aerogrammes. Four of the six will be entering Newcastle. The second aerogramme challenge was sponsored by the PSSA at Norpex 2015 National One-frame Exhibition Newcastle. There were 11 entries with Joan Orr winning the PSSA prize. Many of the same people who exhibited in 2015 have also entered the 2018 competition.

The Exhibition will be selling an 'Abandoned Stamp Card' which will be based on the stamp area of the 10d Stockman aerogramme essay prepared by Chambon Ltd to test the photogravure process in the late 1950s (ASSC A13E(1)).

### **Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Canberra Stampshow 2018**

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia meeting on 18 March 2018 at the Canberra Stampshow 2018 included displays by Gary Brown of South Africa WWII Jewish and Comforts airletters (see Gary's article in this issue), John Moore of South African pictorial postcards and Philip Levine of Cape of Good Hope postcards. The meeting was attended by fifteen members with nine apologies. There was a brief report on progress with the NSW postal stationery handbook and catalogue being undertaken by Dingle Smith and Peter Kowald with assistance from Michael Blinman.



*PSSA Meeting Canberra Stampshow 2018*

## **FROM THE SECRETARY**

### **Membership**

We welcome a new member Dr Roger Burgess (Qld). Roger has a large collection of worldwide postal stationery, gathered over 60 years. He hopes to sell it shortly. He was an early member of PSSA, from 1996-2004, so we are welcoming him back!

**News of members**

Mike Rhodes (WA) passed away in January 2018. He travelled widely in his work, and many will have met him and admired his enthusiasm for philately, and for life. His postal stationery interest was the issues of Mexico. We extend our sympathy to his wife and family. See a tribute to Mike by Glen Stafford in *APF News February 2018*.

Murray Collins (Qld) is unwell and has submitted his resignation from PSSA. Murray was a valued worker for philately in Queensland and was the current Secretary of the Queensland Philatelic Council. His collecting interest is in the postal history and postal stationery of the former British East Africa.

Owen White (Canada) a long-standing member, has been ill for three years, and has now gone into long term care in Toronto. Owen is an Australian, originally from Melbourne, who settled in Canada. He has long been an active collector and has been honoured by Canadian philatelic societies for his services to philately.

**Canberra Stampshow 2018 16-18 March 2018**

This exhibition was held in Woden, ACT. PSSA met at the exhibition on Sunday 18 March from 12 noon to 1.25pm. In keeping with the aerogramme theme, Gary Brown displayed his South Africa World War II Jewish and Comforts Fund airletters and explained their scarcity.

Apologies were received from the following members who were unable to attend the meeting – Gloria Bradley, Judy Kennett, David Figg, John Dibiase, and Norman Banfield.

**Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 25-27 May 2018**

This event will be held at the Newcastle Showgrounds Exhibition Centre and will include the Newcastle Philatelic Society Centenary Exhibition. It will be a half-National exhibition, and the National Postal Stationery class will be offered there. In addition, PSSA is sponsoring an Aerogramme Competition, and will provide a prize to the Newcastle Committee to be awarded to the best Aerogramme exhibit.

PSSA will be meeting at Newcastle on Sunday 27 May at 11am to 1pm. There will be meeting reminder emails sent at a later date. For further information, contact Secretary Greg Laidler at [glaidler@bigpond.com](mailto:glaidler@bigpond.com), or see the Newcastle Philatelic Society website at <http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org>

**Further contributions from Peter Fink (Switzerland)**

There have been two further items of Swiss postal stationery from Peter Fink. The adhesive used on each is a special issue for the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first Swiss stamps, the numeral issues. Also shown is an aerogramme for Roger Federer's Australian Open 2018 victory.



**PSSA AEROGramme COMPETITION 2018**

Judy Kennett

What do you call a group of enthusiastic collectors / exhibitors of aerogrammes? Are they addicts, or optimists, or futurists?

There will be an Aerogramme competition at Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo on 25-27 March 2018. Here is a current list of aerogramme entries:

- Linda Welden (SA) Australian aerogrammes 1944-1965 (5 frames)
- Bernard Beston (Qld) Ethiopia (4 frames)
- Martin Walker (SA) Australian Note Printing Branch to 1971 (5 frames)
- Frank Pauer (Vic) Australian aerogrammes to 1980 – the Note Printing era (8 frames)
- Martin Walker (SA) Airletters of Burma (3 frames)
- Ed Wolf (NSW) Pre-decimal Australian airletters and aerogrammes (6 frames)
- Joan Orr (Qld) Australia – Airletters and aerogrammes 1944-1968 (5 frames)
- Michel Roland (SA) Belgian aerogrammes: the complete story (6 frames)
- Ian McMahon (ACT) Airletters and aerogrammes of Canada (8 frames)
- Paul Xavier (Qld) Fiji – airmail lettercards and aerogrammes (1944 -1992) (2 frames)
- Anthony Scott (NSW) Airletters and aerogrammes 1944 – 1968 (5 frames)

If you're planning to go to the Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo, make sure that you take a look at the Aerogramme exhibits. There will be some material that's new and different in the frames, as well as some old friends!

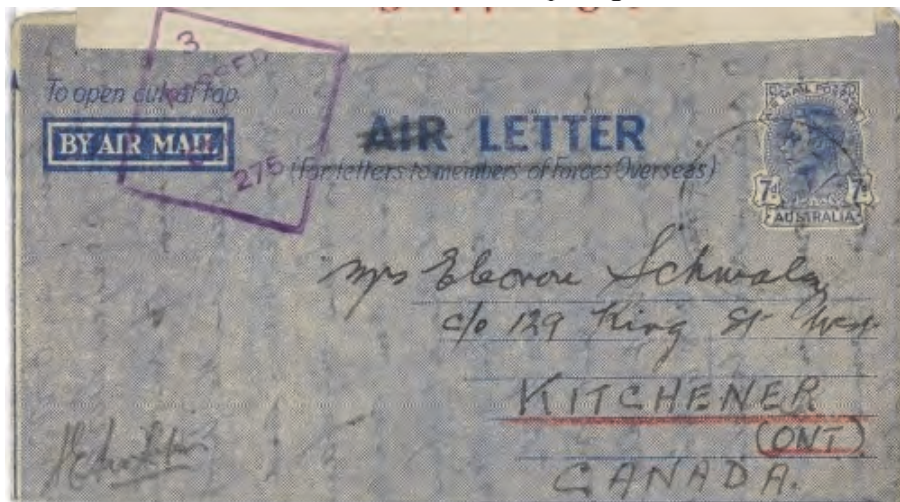
**RULES AND REGULATIONS PERTAINING TO AUSTRALIAN AIRLETTERS AND AEROGRAMMES.**

Martin Walker

Evolved from wartime conditions the Australian Airletter was designed to allow friends and relatives of servicemen abroad to write to them on an economically priced postal item that also conserved aircraft capacity. To enable the service to operate efficiently and economically the Australian Post Office, and later the Universal Postal Union, introduced regulations and conditions of use that were specific to the airletter. This article looks at the evolution of those regulations and their effects on the design of airletters and the subsequent treatment of those airletters through the mail. Airletters were re-named aerogrammes in 1953 and both terms are used interchangeably. The article is predominately confined to the pre-decimal period (1944-66) although reference is made to the changes in size in 1968 and 1971.

The first post office issue was produced for "letters to members of Forces overseas." Before it was issued, arrangements with British authorities allowed it to be also used for civilian correspondence to 32 countries connecting with the Australia – England air route that re-opened on 15 September 1944. The military versus public status of the first airletter is best explained in this contemporary circular found in the National Archives, *"The forms already printed were intended only for communications to members of the Forces. Owing, however, to the subsequent decision to extend the scope of the Air Letter service to letters to civilians and prisoners of war, it will be necessary to use these forms for all air letter communications and selling officers are required before sale to strike out the inscription "For letters to members of Forces Overseas" which appears on the forms. When further supplies of the forms are printed, the inscription will be omitted."*

In anticipation of the re-opening of the Australia – England air route the airletters were first issued on 11 September 1944. The fee for the use of the Air Letter Service was 7d. irrespective of whether the communication is addressed to a member of the Forces, a civilian, or a prisoner of war. The service was not intended for places such as New Guinea or New Zealand where air mail letters could be sent at a lower rate of postage.



*The initial intent of the airletter service was to communicate with members of the Empire Forces abroad. For a number of countries, this meant that airletters could be sent to members of the forces but not to civilians. One such example was Canada where delivery to servicemen was allowed from 11 September 1944 but delivery to civilians was not arranged until 10 January 1945. This example shows the obliteration of the word "AIR" as it was diverted to surface mail. (Collection of Gary Watson)*

As the hostilities abated in Europe and Asia the airletter service expanded to more and more countries. Costing less than half the air mail letter rate the airletter became very popular as an economical and speedy means of overseas communication, especially with post-war migrants. In the four years from the first issue in 1944 annual usage had trebled to nearly nine million airletters. This represented 45-50% of all overseas air mail articles and for the United Kingdom as much as 67%! Airletters had become a very important component of the international mail service. The Australia Post Office was very pro-active arranging agreements with foreign countries to accept airletters posted at the lower rate.

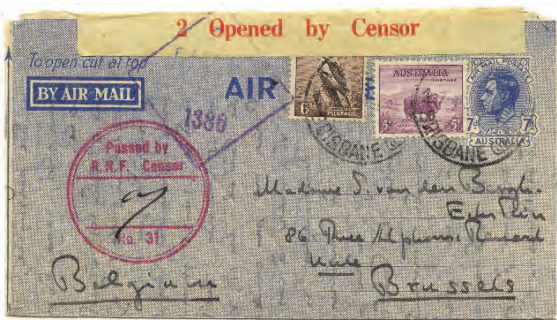
The following is extracted from my 1988 work *Airmail Postage Rates of Australia* as updated with information found since that date. Listed are the dates of commencement of acceptance of airletters to various countries around the globe. It is interesting to note that many of the bilateral agreements that enabled the acceptance of the airletters were made before the receiving countries produced their own issues. Airletters sent before these dates were not entitled to the lower rate of 7d and were either sent with extra stamps to make up the airmail letter rate of 1/6d or diverted to surface mail. Examples of both types of treatment are illustrated.

Aden 11/9/1944  
 Afghanistan, 28/9/1945  
 Albania, /1/1947  
 Andorra, /9/1949  
 Angola, 28/9/1945  
 Argentine Republic, 26/8/1947  
 Ascension, 11/9/1944  
 Austria, 3/9/1946  
 Azores, 9/8/1946

Bahamas, 9/9/1946  
 Bahrain, 11/9/1944  
 Balearic Islands, 9/8/1946  
 Barbados, 9/9/1946  
 Basutoland, 11/9/1944  
 Bechuanaland, 11/9/1944  
 Belgian Congo, 28/9/1945

Canton Island, 15/5/1947  
 Cape Verde Islands, 9/8/1946  
 Cayman Islands, /9/1949  
 Ceylon, 11/9/1944  
 Chile, 15/5/1947  
 China (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
 China, 28/9/1945  
 Colombia, 10/12/1947  
 Cook Islands, /8/1947  
 Corsica, /1/1947  
 Costa Rica, 10/12/1947  
 Crete, 9/8/1946  
 Cuba, 20/8/1947  
 Cyprus, 11/9/1944  
 Cyrenaica (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
 Cyrenaica (Civilian), /3/1945  
 Czechoslovakia, 9/8/1946

Dahomey, /9/1949  
 Denmark, 9/8/1946  
 Dominican Republic, 29/10/1948  
 Dutch East Indies, /1/1947  
 Dutch Guiana, 10/12/1947  
 Dutch West Indies, 15/5/1947



*c. August 1945 use of air letter to Belgium at 1/6d airmail letter rate. (Auction image supplied by Michael Kopp)*

Belgium, 9/8/1946  
 Bermuda, 9/9/1946  
 Bolivia, 29/10/1948  
 Brazil, 20/8/1947  
 British Cameroons, 11/9/1944  
 British Guiana, 9/9/1946  
 British Honduras, 9/9/1946  
 British Somaliland, 11/9/1944  
 British Virgin Islands, 9/9/1946  
 Bulgaria, 18/11/1948  
 Burma, /1/1946

Cameroun, /9/1949  
 Canada (Civilians), 10/1/1945  
 Canada (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
 Canary Islands, 9/8/1946



*2 July 1945 air letter to Denmark paid at letter rate. The "Air Letter Service Not Available" handstamp appears to be subsequently stamped with the "O.A.T." handstamp indicating "onward air transmission." (Collection of Gary Watson)*

Ecuador, 28/7/1948  
 Egypt, 11/9/1944  
 Ellice Islands, /9/1949  
 El Salvador, 28/7/1948  
 Dodecanese Islands, 9/8/1946  
 Eritrea (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
 Estonia, 18/11/1948

Ethiopia (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
Ethiopia (Civilian), /3/1945

Falkland Islands, 9/9/1946

Faroe Islands, /9/1949

Fiji, /1/1946

Finland, 9/8/1946

Formosa, /8/1947

France, 19/9/1946

French Equatorial Africa, 18/11/1948

French Guiana, 15/5/1947

French Guinea, /9/1949

French India, /3/1945

French Indo-China, 15/5/1947

French Oceania, /9/1949

French Somaliland, /9/1949

French Sudan, 18/11/1948

French Togo, 18/11/1948



21 April 1947 air letter to Germany marked “No Service” and stamped “TRANSMITTED BY ORDINARY MAIL”. (Collection of Wim Tukker)

Gambia, 11/9/1944

Germany (All zones), 26/8/1947

Gibraltar, 11/9/1944

Gold Coast, 11/9/1944

Greece, 9/8/1946

Greenland, /8/1947

Grenada, /8/1947

Guadeloupe, 15/5/1947

Guam, 10/2/1947

Guatemala, 15/5/1947

Hawaii, 10/2/1947

Hayti, 10/12/1947

Honduras Republic, 15/5/1947

Hong Kong, /1/1946

Hungary, 9/8/1946

Iceland, 9/8/1946

India, 11/9/1944

Iran, 11/9/1944

Iraq, 11/9/1944

New Caledonia, /1/1947

New Hebrides, /9/1949



17 July 1948 air letter to Japan paid at letter rate. Sent just days prior to the acceptance of air letters it is the only non-BCOF inwards item to Japan during the occupation period seen by the owner. (Collection of Gary Watson)

Ireland, 11/9/1944

Israel, /9/1949

Italy (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944

Italy (Civilian), 23/1/1946

Ivory Coast, /9/1949

Jamaica, 9/9/1946

Japan, 28/7/1948

Jordan, 11/9/1944

Kenya, 11/9/1944

Korea, /9/1949

Latvia, 18/11/1948

Lebanon, 28/9/1945

Leeward Islands, 9/9/1946

Liberia, 28/9/1945

Libya, /3/1945

Liechtenstein, /9/1949

Lithuania, 18/11/1948

Luxembourg, 9/8/1946

Macao, /1/1946

Madagascar (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944

Madagascar (Civilians) /9/1949

Madeira, 9/8/1946

Malaya, /1/1946

Malta, 11/9/1944

Manchuria, /1/1947

Mariana Islands, / /1947

Marshall Islands, / /1947

Martinique, 15/5/1947

Mauritania, 18/11/1948

Mauritius, 11/9/1944

Mexico, 15/5/1947

Midway Island, /9/1949

Monaco, /9/1949

Morocco, 9/8/1946

Mozambique, 28/9/1945

Netherlands, 9/8/1946

Somalia (Empire Forces), /3/1945

Somalia (Civilian), /3/1945



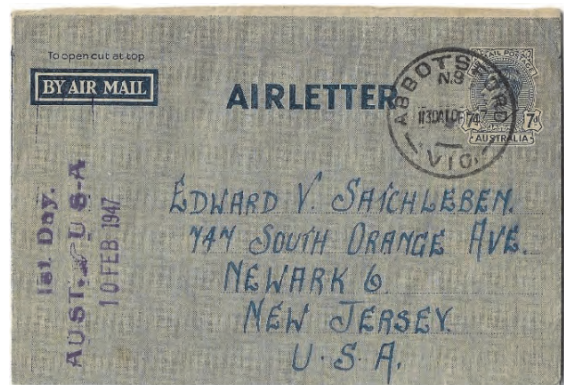
New Zealand, /9/1952  
Nicaragua, 15/5/1947  
Nigeria, 11/9/1944  
Niger Republic, /9/1949  
North Borneo, /1/1946  
Norway, 9/8/1946  
Nyasaland, 11/9/1944

Pakistan, /9/1949  
Palestine, 11/9/1944  
Panama Canal Zone, 10/2/1947  
Panama Republic, 10/12/1947  
Paraguay, 10/12/1947  
Persian Gulf Ports, 11/9/1944  
Peru, 28/7/1948  
Philippine Islands, 15/5/1947  
Phoenix Islands, /9/1949  
Poland, 9/9/1946  
Portugal, 9/8/1946  
Portuguese Guinea, 9/8/1946  
Portuguese India, 28/9/1945  
Puerto Rico, 10/2/1947  
Reunion, 20/8/1947  
Rhodesia, 11/9/1944  
Rio de Oro, /9/1949  
Romania, 9/9/1946

South Africa, 11/9/1944  
Spain, 9/8/1946  
Spanish Guinea, 10/12/1947  
Sudan, 11/9/1944  
Sweden, 9/8/1946  
Switzerland, 26/8/1946  
Syria (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
Syria (Civilians), 28/9/1945  
  
Tanganyika, 11/9/1944  
Thailand, /1/1946  
Tibet, 11/9/1944  
Togo, 11/9/1944  
Tonga, /1/1947  
Trieste, /9/1949  
Trinidad & Tobago, 9/9/1946  
Tripolitania (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
Tripolitania (Civilians), /3/1945  
Tunisia (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944  
Tunisia (Civilians), /9/1949  
Turkey, 28/9/1945  
Turks & Caicos Islands, /9/1949  
Uganda, 11/9/1944  
United Kingdom, 11/9/1944  
United States (Empire Forces), 11/9/1944



28 June 1945 air letter to Switzerland handstamped "NO SERVICE AVAILABLE" and sent by surface mail. (Collection of Wim Tukker)



10 February 1947 first day of acceptance of airletters to the United States, which did not issue their own airletters until 29 April 1947. (Author's Collection)

St. Helena, 11/9/1944  
St. Lucia, /8/1947  
St. Pierre & Miquelon, 29/10/1948  
St. Vincent, /8/1947  
Samoa, /10/1946  
San Marino, /1/1947  
Sarawak, /1/1946  
Saudi Arabia, 28/9/1945  
Senegal, /9/1949  
Seychelles, 11/9/1944  
Sierra Leone, 11/9/1944  
Singapore,  
Solomon Islands, /9/1949

United States (Civilian), 10/2/1947  
Uruguay, 10/12/1947  
U.S.S.R., 18/11/1948  
Vatican City State, 9/8/1946  
Venezuela, 10/12/1947  
Virgin Islands (U.S.), 10/2/1947  
Wake Island, /9/1949  
Windward Islands, 9/9/1946  
Yemen, /9/1946  
Yugoslavia, 16/9/1946  
Zanzibar, 11/9/1944

The acceptance of airletters between the countries of the world is often linked to their admission as a defined category of airmail by the Brussels Postal Congress in 1952. Through bilateral agreements, however, Australia achieved this result much earlier. On 29 November 1948, the Postmaster-General (Senator Cameron) announced that airletters could now be sent to all overseas countries to which airmail facilities are available.

Apart from the limited number of countries that airletters could be sent, the Postmaster-General's Department also set a range of conditions by which they could, or could not, be sent. When first issued on 11 September 1944 airletters could not be sent enclosed in an envelope; sent by registered post and enclosures were not permitted. All three of these conditions related to conserving space and weight. Even the application of a registration label was regarded as an impost to the weight limitations. As wartime conditions gave way to peace the space and capacity of aircraft allowed more and more airmail to be carried and some of the stringent conditions applied to airletters were relaxed.

In Australia airletters could be registered from 15 November 1945 when the fee was 3d. It rose to 6d on 1 July 1949; 9d on 9 July 1951; 1/3d from 1 October 1956 and 2/- from 1 October 1959.



Left: 1948 airletter with 3d registration. (Author's Collection) and right: 1950 airletter to Austria with registration fee of 6d and the higher late fee of 2d applicable only to registered mail and parcels. (Collection of Martin Frischauf)

Whilst the additional weight of extra stamps and registration labels were tolerated with the relaxation of this condition the extension of the facility to include the *avis de reception* service proved problematic. Avis de reception, commonly referred to as AR mail required the mail article to be accompanied with a form or card to be signed by the recipient of the article. The card was then returned to the sender.

For the AR service the Australian Post Office used a special card, similar in size to a postcard. The additional volume and weight of these cards was seen to be too much for a 7d airletter to bear. Consequently, the post office decided that airletters could be accepted for the *avis de reception* service provided the airletter and the AR Form were paid at normal airmail letter rates. This facility was introduced from 20 January 1948 and still exists at the time of writing. It must be very seldom used as I do not recall ever seeing an example. Nor do all the people I canvassed for illustrations for this article.

Also, from 15 November 1945 airletters could be sent express delivery to countries where the service was offered. In 1945 the fee for express delivery in an overseas country was 6d. It rose to 9d on 9 July 1951 and 1/3d from 1 April 1959, about the time the name was changed to Special Delivery.



Left: 1948 airletter to Yugoslavia with 6d express delivery fee (Collection of Wim Tukker) and right: 1963 aerogramme to Hawaii with 1/3d fee. The service was re-named “Special Delivery” in 1959. (Author’s Collection).

The third regulation affecting airletters in 1944 was that no enclosures were allowed. This has been the one constant with airletters and aerogrammes ever since and this condition has been reinforced with warnings printed on the back of all issues. The first issue has the inscription "If anything is enclosed, letter will be sent by ordinary mail." printed just below the sealing flap.

The regulation was expanded to prohibit attachments sometime in 1946 with the earliest announcement I have seen appearing in an amendment to the “Air Mail Schedule” published in September 1946. The definition of an attachment included adhesive tape but I have never seen an Australian issue diverted or surcharged for bearing tape. This may well be a reaction to the poor sealing capabilities of the single flap airletter and the constant complaints the PMG Department received on the subject. A 1957 circular to the Posts and Telegraphs Directors in each state confirms this – “According to information received in this office it may sometimes the practice to divert to surface mail any aerogramme which has been sealed with adhesive tape.” The circular continues “it is thought that because at times the gum on aerogrammes may not stick easily diversion to surface transport is somewhat arbitrary. I should be pleased therefore if you would arrange for aerogrammes bearing an adhesive tape seal to be given air transmission. A new type aerogramme with a second sealing flap is being designed and this should eliminate sealing difficulties.”

The new type of aerogramme appeared in 1959 and the inscription was expanded to “No tape or sticker may be attached. / If anything is enclosed aerogramme will be sent by ordinary mail.” This was quickly altered to “If anything is enclosed or any tape or sticker attached, this form must bear postage at the rate for air mail letters.” I have not seen any official reason for the change in wording but it presumably relates to the Universal Postal Union definition of an aerogramme which indicated that if it contained anything, it was no longer considered to be an aerogramme.



Two examples from South Australia hand-stamped “ENCLOSURE / TRANSMITTED BY ORDINARY MAIL.” Left: 1952 airletter to Italy from a brief period when the surface letter rate (7½d from 9 July 1951) exceeded the airletter rate (7d until 31 July 1952) so any airletter diverted to surface was underpaid by ½d. Applying the double deficiency rule this attracted 1d postage due (equivalent to 3 centimes) (Collection of Michael Kopp) and right: 1959 aerogramme to Germany showing the crossing out of the “Aerogramme” and air mail indicators as required by UPU regulations. (Collection of Allan Gory).

When airletters were detected with any enclosures they were immediately diverted to surface transport. The very first press release announcing the issue in 1944 stated, "If anything is enclosed, the communication will be sent on by ordinary mail." The tone of this warning has varied through the history of the airletter and has ranged from the absolute "will not be given air transmission" to allowing them to be treated as underpaid air mail letters. The precise date the latter form of treatment became effective has proved elusive. The 1960 Post Office Guide still indicated they would be sent by surface mail but the aerogramme with the amended wording was issued in July 1960.

My 1953 edition of the Instructions for the Guidance of Postmasters includes all amendments to 1966. The relevant instruction was: "2147. *Aerogrammes with Enclosures or Attachments.* - *Aerogrammes which contain enclosures or have attachments affixed thereto should be treated as insufficiently prepaid airmail letters in accordance with the provision of paragraph 2146.*" Paragraph 2146 dealt with the treatment of insufficiently prepaid articles addressed beyond the Commonwealth of Australia.

The post office issued airletters included postage of 7d, or 10d after late August 1952, and did not leave much opportunity to be posted underpaid. Whilst not particular to just airletters the treatment of underpaid air mail correspondence is worthy of mention. Private airletters, allowed to be produced in Australia from 1946, were unstamped and could therefore be posted unpaid or insufficiently prepaid. The rule in place when air letters were introduced in 1944 was:

*"Insufficiently Prepaid Articles*

*"472. The sender of an insufficiently prepaid air mail article addressed to a country other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph [ie Commonwealth of Australia, Papua or New Guinea] should (when the sender is known) also be asked to pay the deficiency before the despatch of the article. If the sender is unknown, or if he refuses to pay the additional amount, the postage stamps on the article must be cancelled with the office date-stamp. The article, unsurcharged, must then be enclosed in a departmental envelope (together with slip bearing a notation, "Sender unknown," or "Sender refuses to pay deficiency," as the case may be), and forwarded to the Superintendent of Mails (Air Mail Section), General Post Office."*

New instructions advised to postmasters on 14 November 1946 were:

*"472. The sender of an insufficiently prepaid air mail article addressed to a country other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph [ie Commonwealth of Australia or a place where the domestic air mail fee applies], the sender, if known, should be asked to pay the deficiency before the despatch of the article. If the sender is unknown, or if he refuses to pay the additional amount, the article should be dealt with as follows:-*

- (i) Where the amount prepaid represents at least 50 per cent. of the correct charge the article should be surcharged double the deficiency and included in the overseas air mail.*
- (ii) Where the amount prepaid is less than 50 per cent. of the correct charge the article should be sent on by surface transport provided of course that where the amount is prepaid is at least equal to the sum payable for domestic air mail transmission, the article should be accorded air mail conveyance to the appropriate despatching office.*

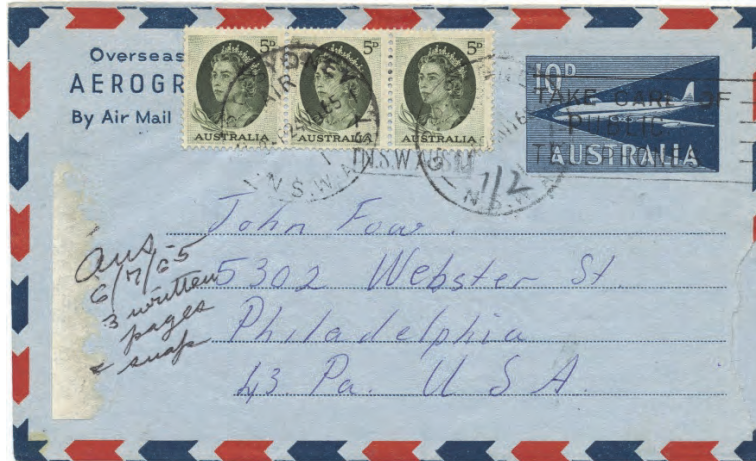
*The office from which the insufficiently prepaid article is actually despatched by overseas delivery ordinary mail should take care to ensure that all air mail markings are struck out and a brief indication given on the article of the reason for the transmission by ordinary mail; e.g., Insufficiently prepaid for air mail."*



*Use of the 7d airletter after the rate increased to 10d on 1 August 1952. As 7d exceeded 50% of the 10d postage, rule (i) above applied – the article was charged double deficiency of 3d = 6d which converted to 18 centimes. (Collection of Gary Watson)*

The 1953 edition of the Instructions for the Guidance of Postmasters (as amended to 1966) updated paragraph 472 and re-numbered it to 2146.

"2146. *Insufficiently Prepaid Articles (beyond the Commonwealth).*-In the case of an insufficiently prepaid air mail article (other than one sent by registered post) addressed to a country other than those mentioned in the preceding paragraph [ie Commonwealth of Australia or a place where the domestic air mail fee applies], the sender, if known, should be asked by telephone (if this is practicable and the sender is within the local call area) or by using Form PM28a [Overseas Air Mail Article – Sort Paid] to pay the deficiency before the despatch of the article."



Aerogramme to Hawaii underpaid 1/2d. In this example the sender must have been contacted and the deficient postage paid (with 1d overpayment). The article was then sent as an air mail letter. The remains of an attachment at lower left is believed to be from a Form 28A. (Image from [www.aerogramme-airletters.blogspot.com.au](http://www.aerogramme-airletters.blogspot.com.au) courtesy Peik Bremer.)

Paragraph 2146 continued, "If the sender is unknown, or if he refuses to pay the additional amount, the article should be dealt with as follows:-

- (i) Where the amount prepaid represents at least 50 per cent. of the total charge the article should be surcharged double the deficiency and included in the overseas air mail.
- (ii) Where the amount prepaid is less than 50 per cent. of the correct charge the article should be sent on by surface transport provided of course that where the amount is prepaid is at least equal to the sum payable for domestic air mail transmission (in addition to the correct overseas surface postage) the article should be accorded air mail conveyance to the appropriate despatching office. The office from which the insufficiently prepaid article is actually despatched overseas by ordinary mail should take care to ensure that all air mail markings are cancelled by means of two thick transverse strokes and a brief indication given on the article of the reason for the transmission, by ordinary mail, e.g., *Insufficiently prepaid for air mail.*"



1965 aerogramme treated according to rule (ii) above. As 10d was less than 50% of the 2/3d postage it was sent surface mail. The article also shows the cancellation of the air mail markings by two thick traverse strokes and the handstamp gives the indication of the reason the article has been transmitted by ordinary mail. (Collection of Martin Frischauf)

The Universal Postal Union also had regulations relating to underpaid air mail correspondence. Their rules were far more complex being based on the value of the airmail surcharge – i.e. the difference between the surface rate and the air mail rate. This becomes complicated where Australia is concerned as the surface postage rates to overseas countries differed according to whether the destination was a member of the British Commonwealth or not. As a minimum the UPU regulations looked for at least 75% of the air mail surcharge being prepaid before an article could be forwarded by air.

At a time when the aerogramme rate was 10d, the base rate for air mail letters ranged from 1/- to 2/6d, depending on destination. The most common destinations for aerogrammes were North America and Europe where the air mail letter rates were 2/- and 2/3d respectively. If the 2/- rate for air mail letters to Canada is taken as an example the calculation would be air mail postage (2/-) minus surface postage (5d) leaving an airmail surcharge of 1/7d. 10d as a percentage of 1/7d is 52% - well short of the required 75%. If the calculation was based on a non-Commonwealth country like the United States the calculation is 2/- minus 8d leaving 1/4d as the air mail surcharge. 10d as a percentage of 1/4d is 62½% and still short of the required 75%. The calculations will work for the lesser air mail letter rates of 1/- and 1/6d but mail to the destinations where these rates applied is much scarcer than mail to Europe and North America. I am yet to see an underpaid aerogramme from this period (1953-66) sent on by air.

It is well documented that the term “aerogramme” was introduced at the 1952 Universal Postal Union Congress. The Universal Postal Convention signed at Brussels on 11 July 1952 included an annexure of airmail provisions with an effective date of 1 July 1953.

These provisions introduced aerogrammes as a class of mail. Article 5 of the Airmail Provisions included the definition – “8. *The aérogramme consists of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed, the size of which, in that form, shall be that of a postcard. The front of the sheet when folded in this way is reserved for the address and must bear the printed indication “Aérogramme.” A similar indication in the language of the Country of origin is permitted. The sender may use for correspondence every part of the sheet other than that used for the address. The aérogramme shall not contain anything. The charge is at least equal to that applicable in the Country of origin to an uncharged letter of the first weight step. Each Administration fixes the conditions of issue, manufacture and sale of aérogrammes.*”

Article 5 further stated “9. *Any aérogramme not fulfilling the conditions laid down in part 8 loses its special character; it is treated, where necessary, in accordance with the provisions of Article 6.*” Article 6 dealt with unpaid or underpaid air-mail correspondence.

Apart from introducing a new name for the airletter, the Air Mail Provisions also defined the size for a folded aerogramme; prohibited correspondence on the address side; set a minimum postage rate equalling the surface letter rate; and reinforced the condition that prohibited any enclosures.

The size of the folded aerogramme was to be the same as a postcard. In Australia the postcard dimensions were defined as falling between 4 x 2¾ inches and 5½ x 3½ inches. The Australian dimensions were in fact smaller than the maximum set by the Universal Postal Union at the Stockholm Congress in 1924. These were 150 x 105 millimetres equating to 5⅞ x 4¼ inches.

Australia’s first “aerogramme” issue in July 1953 was 5<sup>3</sup>/<sub>16</sub> x 3½ inches when folded. The development of the ‘two-flap’ aerogramme took advantage of the extra length allowed by the UPU postcard dimensions and when issued in 1959, the size was 5⅞ x 3½ inches. The 1960 edition of the Post Office Guide reflected this with an increase in the maximum postcard dimensions to 5⅞ x 3⅝ inches. It was not until 1968, with the development of the three-flap aerogramme, that the maximum allowable size of 5⅞ x 4¼ inches appeared. This size was short-lived as consumer demand required a larger aerogramme to match the A4 paper size becoming popular for both domestic and commercial communications. Proposals to increase the aerogramme size to A4 were put to the 1969 Postal Congress in Tokyo by both Australia and the United Kingdom. The proposals were accepted and the maximum size of a folded aerogramme became 110 x 220mm. This was effective from 1 July 1971 although Australia issued an aerogramme in the larger size as early as January 1971.

Congresses were also held in Ottawa, in 1957, and Vienna, in 1964. The air mail provisions concerning aerogrammes passed at these congresses largely repeated those introduced at Brussels. The next congress was held at Tokyo in 1969 which featured the proposal to change the size of the aerogramme.

The relevant article passed at the Tokyo Congress read –

**“Article 55  
Aerogrammes**

1. *Each administration may admit aerogrammes, which are air-mail correspondence.*
2. *An aerogramme shall consist of a sheet of paper suitably folded and gummed preferably on all sides, the dimensions of which, in that form, shall be the following:  
(a) minimum dimensions: identical to those prescribed for letters: [i.e. 90 x 140mm]  
(b) maximum dimensions: 110 x 220 mm;  
And such that the length is equal to or greater than the width multiplied by  $\sqrt{2}$  (approximate value: 1.4). The front of the sheet when folded in this way shall be reserved for the address: it must bear the printed indication “Aerogramme” and may also bear an equivalent indication in the language of the country of origin. An aerogramme shall not contain any enclosure. It may be registered if the regulations of the country of origin so permit.*
3. *Each administration shall fix, within the limits defined in part 2, the conditions of issue, manufacture and sale of aerogrammes.*
4. *Items of air-mail correspondence posted as aerogrammes, but not fulfilling the conditions fixed above shall be treated in accordance with Article 59. Administrations may, however, forward them in all cases by surface.”*

Article 59 dealt with Unpaid or underpaid surcharged air-mail correspondence.

Apart from the post-war migrants, other big users of airletters were the banks. Airletters were often used to advise financial transactions like foreign currency transfers and drafts. These had to be both accurate and free from any erasures or corrections. One typing mistake and 7d. was wasted. This led to the formation of regulations to allow private unstamped airletters to be manufactured whilst still being eligible to the lower rate of air postage. These regulations were introduced as early as May 1946.

Parallel to the discussions on private airletters was another concerning the refund of the postage on spoiled airletters. This commenced almost immediately after their issue. The NAA file in Adelaide contains a circular on the subject from the Director-General of Posts & Telegraphs in Melbourne. Dated 5 November 1944 the instruction allows airletters spoiled by the purchaser, but not posted, to be re-purchased on the same conditions as stamps and other postal stationery could be re-purchased. i.e at face value less a discount based on the value of the stamps, etc being repurchased. For purchases up to £1 the discount was 10% with a minimum charge of 2d. For users wishing to replace a single airletter they would only get 5d of the 7d cost back.

At the time airletters were issued the “stamp” on a piece of postal stationery could not be cut out and affixed to another postal article to prepay the postage. This situation changed on 1 July 1949 when the regulation (no. 55) defining certain stamps to be not valid for postage was amended by omitting “Impressed stamps cut from stamped envelopes, letter cards, post cards or wrappers” from the list.

Whilst stamps cut from airletters were not specifically mentioned, the inference that they were valid for postage is confirmed in a letter from the Director-General, Post & Telegraphs dated 1 December 1949. It read, “As you are aware, Postal Rule 380 provides for the repurchase at the General Post Office of spoiled air letter forms, lettercards and postcards bearing undefaced stamps.

2. *Having regard to the fact that the minimum discount upon repurchase is 2d., and that the way is open for the person concerned to obtain full value for the undefaced impressed stamp by clipping it out and using it for ordinary postage purposes, it seems obvious that applications will not be made for the repurchase of single spoiled lettercards or postcards.*
3. *In the case of airletter forms, the position is somewhat different as the embossed stamp is valued at 7d. for which denomination many purchasers would have little or no use so far as ordinary postage is concerned.”*



*7d cut out used to prepay 7d of the 7½d postage on a surface rate letter to United States. (Author's Collection)*

The letter continued, "4. Consideration is being given, therefore to providing for Postmasters to either repurchase spoiled airletter forms on the spot, or to issue a new form in lieu of the spoilt one, and treat the latter as spoilt stock." Consideration of the matter was invited from postal inspectors across Australia and culminated in the decision to allow the exchange of spoiled airletters for good ones without any penalty. For much the same reasons the regulation was also extended to stamped registration envelopes. On 22 May 1950 the following was approved –

"SPOILED AIRLETTER FORMS AND REGISTRATION ENVELOPES – REPURCHASE OF :- If a purchaser has spoiled a departmentally embossed airletter form or registration envelope and seeks to exchange it for a fresh one, without further postage charge, viz., 7d. in the case of an airletter form and 8½d. in respect of a registration envelope, the Postmaster must comply with the request provided that the impressed postage stamp has not been defaced."

One aspect of aerogramme regulation seems to have been over-looked by the rule makers. That is the use of adhesive labels for the name and addresses of both senders and recipients. They must surely be a form of attachment. The "International Post (Including Electronic Mail) Post Guide Amendment No. 83" effective from 1 January 1994 is the earliest reference I have found concerning address labels. Rule 1.26.10 included the following "NOTE: Address labels affixed to the front of aerogrammes are permitted." The previous issue of this guide (effective 1 July 1993) made no mention of address labels.

This concludes my study of the rules and regulations affecting Australian airletters and aerogrammes. In my opinion the aerogramme provisions of the Tokyo Postal Union Congress represented the last significant step in the evolution of the aerogramme still in use today. The next step is likely to be its extinction at the hands of electronic communications like email.

Thanks are expressed to fellow collectors across Australia, Europe and North America who were canvassed for the illustrations and information that accompany this article. These include Gary Watson, Ian McMahon, Joan Orr, Bernie Beston, Wim Tukker, Martin Frischauf, Michael Kopp, Allan Gory, Stephen Schumann, Richard Peck, Richard Breckon and Mark Diserio. Peik Bremer also allowed the use of images from his informative website [www.aerogramme-airletters.blogspot.com.au](http://www.aerogramme-airletters.blogspot.com.au).

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**SEIYUN AIRLETTERS**

Gary Brown

While the Crown Colony of Aden had issued Air Letters commencing in 1949, the Kathari State of Seiyun did not until 1960 and then only issued the one design.

The initial proof is shown with only English” language and at some stage “Arabic “was added in a second process.



It was initially thought that the final printing of the blue writing of the air letters was in the one process, however from both mint and used copies it can be seen that the Arabic was a second run of printing, as seen from the two examples below. The Arabic has moved to the left.



**THE “SOUTH AFRICAN GIFTS AND COMFORTS” ISSUES**

Gary Brown

**Prelude: South African “Active Service Letter Cards”**

The lightweight “Air Mail Letter Cards” for air transportation of large quantities of mail so essential for the morale of the troops, as well as for their families and friends was a great success.

With the defeat of the Italians in East Africa and Abyssinia by June 1941 there was no longer a problem with air conveyance between South Africa and the Middle East as military aircraft were used to convey the mail.

On 21 July 1941 the South African Post Office decided that the “Active Service Letter Card” would be introduced for air mail communication between “public in the Union and members of the Forces serving in East Africa and Egypt. These “Active Service Letter Cards” would bear an impressed 3d stamp, and would be sold at Post Offices at a cost of 3s per dozen or at the face value of 3d. They would also be sold by the South African Army Post Offices to South African troops outside South Africa. The first “Active Service Letter Cards” were put on sale in South African Post Offices on 28 July 1941.



Figure 1 First Variety: On a used English version of Active Service Card, dated 22 February 1944, from Italy to Pretoria. [1 of 2 recorded to Miss Gill]



Figure 2 First Variety: A mint Afrikan version of Active Service Card. [As at March 2018, this is the only recorded mint Comfort Airletter recorded.]

**Actual Comfort overprints.**

There are only two instances of the overprinting of the front of the impressed “Active Service Letter Cards”.

The South African Gifts and Comforts Fund was a very active organisation on the home front during the war years. It was mainly concerned with the sending of parcels of necessities and luxuries, such as clothing, food and cigarettes to the troops on active service.

The cards are known with the printed inscription thereon *With Best Wishes from the SA Gifts and Comforts Fund*. It is not known whether this practice received either post office or military approval. Have no objections Though the Post Office would presumably have no grounds for objection, but the supply of the extra cards to the troops in the field might infringe on the official, although not strictly enforced, ration of one letter card per week.

There was a dearth of information regarding where the overprints effected and how many were distributed. One quote says *However there is a statement to the effect that after the fall of Tobruk [June 1942], 10,000 “special air mail letter cards” and distributed them to men to advise their relatives of their safety.*

It seems probable that this provided the opportunity for the overprinting of the letter cards. The overprinting could very likely have been effected by the Directorate of Printing and Stationery services, Middle East, which had overprinted bibles for the fund inscribed *With Best Wishes from the S A Gifts and Comforts Fund, Middle East 1943.*

The only other reference to letter cards is the final list of all articles distributed by the Fund up to 30 September 1945, it is stated that 60,028 *Air Mail Letter Cards* were issued.

These are the only cases of overprinting of the front any of the impressed issues of the *Active Service Letter Cards, Air Mail Letter Cards, or Air Letters*, other than overprinting of the stamps for use in SWA and the High Commission Territories.

**First Variety**

The words *With Best Wishes of the SA Gifts and Comforts Fund/Met Beste Wense van die SA Gerieween Geskenke Fonds* printed horizontally in red below the top printed section of the address panel.

**Second Variety**

The words *With Best Wishes of the SA Gifts and Comforts Fund* printed vertically in red on the righthand side panel.

According to Quik, *The Postal Stationery of South Africa*, these two overprints both occur on both English and Afrikaans versions.

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 The Postal Stationery of South Africa – Part 2 [1998] by W J Quik



Figure 3 Second Variety: On used Afrikaans version of Active Service Card, dated 27 1 1944 from Italy.



Figure 4 Second Variety: On used English version of Active Service Card, dated 5 3 1944 but from Egypt.

**EARLY POSTAL STATIONERY FEATURING BUTTERFLIES**

Vladimir Kachan, Belarus

Why collect butterfly and moth philatelic materials? Of all the insects, butterflies and moths are the most celebrated. Butterflies are probably the most popular, because they are active by day, and are renowned for their beautiful colours and graceful flight. Moths are often regarded as less engaging, but with their diversity of shapes, sizes, and colours, they are as fascinating as butterflies. Butterflies and moths are among the most familiar of nature's creatures. Our yards, gardens, and parks in both cities and rural areas are often graced with their gentle flight.

The Thurn and Taxis Post was a private company and the successor to the Imperial Reichspost of the Holy Roman Empire in western Europe. The Thurn and Taxis Post was operated by the Princely House of Thurn and Taxis between 1806 and 1867. The company was headquartered in Regensburg from its creation in 1806 until 1810 when it relocated to Frankfurt am Main where it remained until 1867. From 1852 to 1866 the company printed its own postage stamps and postal stationeries. The author has in his collection envelope with printed stamp of one silbergroschen value of Thurn and Taxis, which decorated with flowers and small flying butterfly used on April 23, 1863 (Figure 1). This is the first known postal stationery in the world with the image of a butterfly.



Figure 1



Figure 2



Figure 3



Figure 4



Figure 5

Butterflies are so beautiful that pictures of butterflies, real or artists impressions, are often used as a trademark in different forms. I have in my collection an early French publicity stationery card which was issued in 1880 (94th edition). This card had an insert stitched inside with more advertising and space for messages on both sides. One of the advertisements in orange-red colour had beautiful butterfly illustration and is for “*La Meilleure des Encres est celle du Papillon*”. Loosely translated this means “The Best Inks is the Butterfly brand” (Figure 2 letter-card of France 1880 with Butterfly trade mark and logo). A similar letter-card with a blue butterfly was printed in France in 1890 (Figure 3). A USA 1889 envelope with advertising showing a butterfly logo is known. Butterfly was a brand of flour sold by a company called Townshend in Stillwater, Washington County, Minnesota (Figure 4 shows the envelope

used in 1891). A butterfly used as a trade mark is also known on advertising stationery from Austria in 1904 (Figure 5).

One of the main reasons that the artists do a masterful job in re-creating of butterflies, as natural masterpieces in miniature form is that these insects have an inherent beauty that may be encountered any time during the summer that one is away from the urban scene which seems not to appeal to our favourite natural objects. On the stationery card of Germany 1887 the butterfly decorates the natural landscape of the castle Wartburg (Figure 6). Butterfly *Inachis io* decorates architectural ensembles of the Herrenkrug in Magdeburg on the postal stationery card of Germany 1897 (Figure 7). A flying butterfly decorates the "Talking garden" ensemble Irrhain on a greeting stationery card of Bavaria 1900 (Figure 8). Magnificent fluttering butterflies with flowers are depicted on a stationery card of China 1898 (Figure 9). Butterflies decorate the exhibition of roses in Frankfurt on Main on German stationery card with private order 1898 (Figure 10). A natural landscape with butterflies is depicted on a stationery card of Germany 1901 (Figure 11) dedicated to Society of Natural Sciences in Frankfurt on Main.



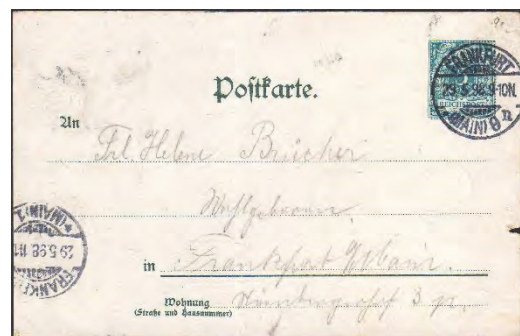
Figure 6 (left)  
Figure 7 (right)



Figure 8 (left)  
Figure 9 (right)



Figure 10





being found only in Hawaii. In 1882, the American Banknote Company of New York printed a postal stationery card for Hawaii which includes the butterfly hairpin worn by Queen Liliokualani (postal cards were order November 1, 1881, delivered February 20, 1882, and first issued in March 1882). The postcard is an orange colour and measures 140 x 81 mm (Figure 16). A similar postcard was issued in 1889 in an orange-red colour. Also in 1883 and 1889 double postcards (with reply paid cards) were issued in violet (Figure 17) and in grey-violet. In 1893, the stationery card was overprinted in a single line “Provisional Government” on the portrait of the Queen (Figure 18). It might be conjectured that the butterfly on the hairpin or brooch is *Vanessa tameamea*.

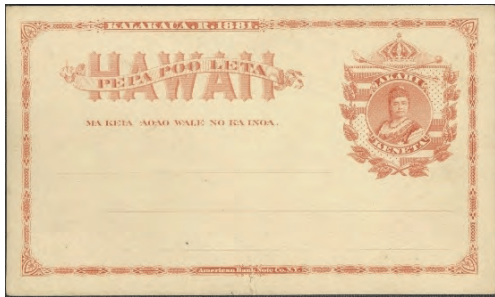


Figure 16

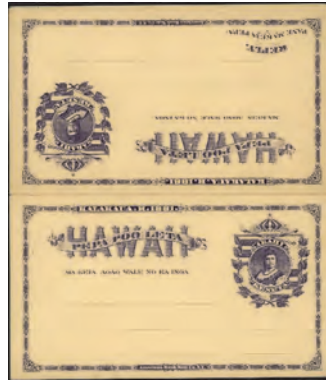


Figure 17



Figure 18

I wish that enthusiasts of butterfly thematic philately make new discoveries and obtain enjoyment from their collecting. The author is always glad to help philatelists in creating or improving their philatelic exhibit of butterflies. Please contact the author by e-mail: [vladimirkachan@mail.ru](mailto:vladimirkachan@mail.ru).

### PSSA FORUM



From the Cavendish Philatelic Auctions 21 February 2018 auction (left): 17 Apr. 1889 3d QV PC to Cardiff the very scarce pre-UPU special rate.



From Peter Simpfendorfer (right): These labels were sent to some MyPost account holders late November-early December 2017. [Ed. Does anyone have more information on their use?]

**HIGH-END POSTAL WRAPPER REALIZATIONS: ATTRIBUTES JUSTIFYING PREMIUMS**

Dr John K. Courtis FRPSL, [acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk](mailto:acapjajc@friends.cityu.edu.hk)

Why do some postal wrappers attract high premiums when sold? Scarcity, auxiliary markings, uncommon destinations, the addition of private printing and unusual postmarks attract collector interest and bids that result in high realizations. Since June 2014 there have been about 8,000 sales of used postal wrappers on the internet site eBay. Of these, 100 items have sold for sums in excess of USD100. The author has hand-collected daily wrapper sales transactions since March 2006. The image and transaction details of sales of post office postal stationery wrappers which realized more than USD100 were analysed. This paper illustrates many of these top 100 wrapper transactions and examines the likely attributes justifying these premiums. Previous studies have examined the top 200 wrapper sales between 2010 and 2014 (Courtis, 2015, 2012).

Although this emphasis is on used post office wrappers, there are examples of mint wrappers, specimen overprints and three cases of private wrappers, all of which exceeded the cut off threshold of \$100. Wrappers are illustrated from highest to lowest realizations with wrappers of the same Higgins and Gage “E” type or country grouped together to make the exposition more succinct and truncate the pagination. The Appendix lists these 100 sales alphabetized by country.

**Overall Statistics**

The first wrapper realization is almost double the next highest sales figure. When all 100 sales are averaged the overall sales figure is \$214.22. If the highest sale is excluded, the average reduces to \$198.58. On average, therefore, wrappers falling into this high-end category realize about \$200. Averages reveal only part of the story; collectors might find it more useful to examine the profile of realizations in the accompanying table. Approximately half of these high-end transactions sold for sums between \$100 and \$150, whereas only 5% sold for sums in excess of \$500.

**Frequency Distribution of Sales Realizations**

<b>Range of Realizations (USD)</b>	<b>Frequency &amp; %</b>
\$1000 and above	1
501-999	4
201-500	30
151-200	15
100-150	50
	<b>100</b>

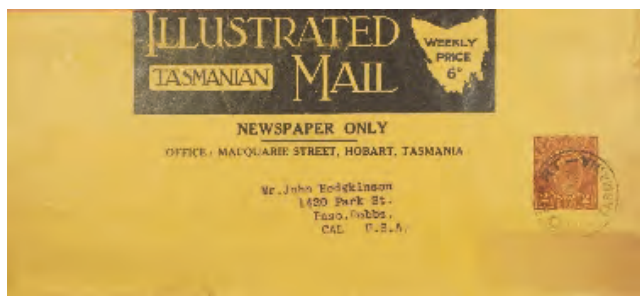
The overall average number of bidders for the 100 transactions is 5.1. As a class of wrappers this high-end group attracted a bidder score more than twice the overall bidder scores in a number of country-specific studies. Whereas the vast majority of bidder profiles show that sole bidder activity can be as high as 60%, for this group of high-end wrapper realizations only eight transactions had only a single bidder.

The profile of bidders shows a remarkable spread unlike any other bidder profile revealed in 91 country-specific studies (Courtis 2018). There were three transactions with 13 bidders, two transactions with 12 bidders, two with 11, four with ten, five with nine, four with eight, six with seven, nine with six, 17 with five, 13 with four, 11 with three, 16 transactions with two bidders and eight sole bidder transactions. The interpretation is that there is a pool of country collectors, postal stationery collectors and postmark collectors who are market watchers and active bidders on these gems when they appear on the philatelic market.

**Summary**

Since June 2014 there have been about 8,000 sales of wrappers on eBay, of which 100 have realized more than USD100. They cover wrappers from 37 countries and prices range from \$1,656 to \$100.90 with an average of \$214. The number of bidders range from 13 to a sole bidder with a mean bidder score of 5.1. More than half of these expensive wrappers have been illustrated. Wherever possible, explanations have been provided to possibly explain the high realizations. While high-end wrappers of this nature are not common they do dispel the perception that only low-cost items are sold on this internet site. Country collectors need to monitor wrapper listings as one-of-a-kind gems appear from time-to-time on eBay.





\$1,656 (7): Australia 111 (Kosniowski), PTPO *Illustrated Tasmanian Mail*, scarce, 8-07-17



\$610.00 (10): Japan-Foochow (China) combination private wrapper, unique postal history exhibit piece, addressed to U.S.A., not postal stationery but included for the record, 27-11-17.



\$876 (12): China Chefoo E1, clear postmark, South Korea destination, 15/02/2016. Most Chefoo wrappers are mint. Used wrappers with readable postmarks are scarce.

Other E1 sales:

- 176.20 (8) 7-12-14
- 123.83 (3) 22-4-17
- 107.50 (9) 22-4-17
- 102.50 (2) 6-3-15



\$563 (13): Trinidad E2, To Pay marking & tied Chinkingang postage due plus adhesive on reverse, 5-11-14.



The same wrapper was resold for \$510 (9) six months later on 22-04-15.



\$660 (2): Denmark E4, Cinderella Julien 1904 on reverse, 26-09-2014. Another E4 sale: 143.47 (5) 4-12-15, uprated with Port Elizabeth, Cape Colony as the uncommon destination



\$425 (1): Romania E5, registered uncut multiple of 4, Auckland, New Zealand destination, 29-11-2015.



\$384 (12): Great Britain E9, uprated, two auxiliary markings: bilingual MISSENT and boxed To Pay, destination Shanghai, China, 19-1-16.



\$375 (1): India Used in Zanzibar E1, uprated, two readable ZANZIBAR and 3 AU 95 within circular date stamps; London destination, 26-10-15.

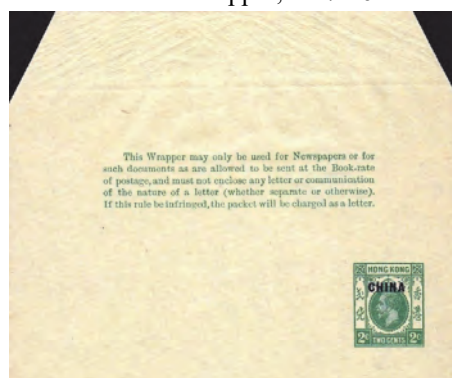
An E2 brown India Used in Zanzibar sold for \$107.50 (5), uprated with India stamp and indicium both overprinted Zanzibar, very unclear postmarks, local Dar es Salaam destination, 20-5-15..



\$352.77 (1): Great Britain E9, registered to uncommon destination Singapore, showing contents "Commercial Papers Registered", crossed blue crayon registration mark and fee, paid and tied with 3 strikes of oval REGISTERED THROUGHMORTON AVENUE 18 FE 98. Only known recorded registered GB wrapper to this destination



\$350.00 (1): Far Eastern Republic E4, registered to France with etiquette, 'Via America' directional mark. Only known recorded used E4 wrapper; 12-7-16



\$349.99 (1): British Post Office in China E1, mint copy (one-fold). Used copies not recorded, 28-11-15.



\$345.52 (5): Estonia E1. Only known as cutouts on piece, only known recorded example, clear double-ring postmark ties wrapper cutout to piece, 2-4-15.



\$337.00 (3): Australia 233 (Kosniowski). Only known recorded copy of mint 'On His Majesty's Service' addressed to Education Department, Melbourne, indicium shows O S in white, 27-11-16.

\$224.99 (1), Australia 222, KG 1d green, OS in white, Education Department, 27-11-16

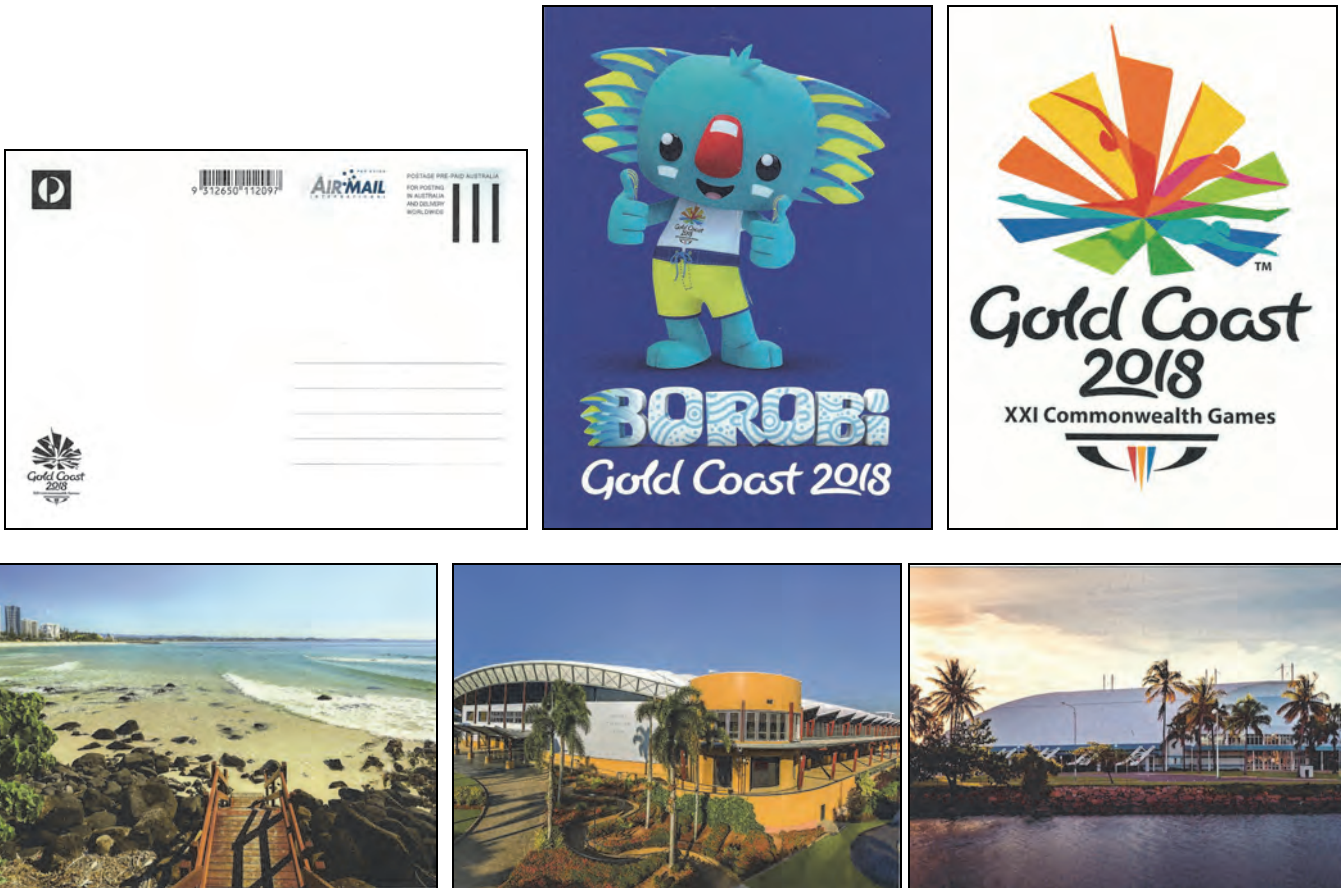
*To be continued*

**PSSA FORUM**

Ian McMahon (with assistance from other PSSA members)

**Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games Prepaid Postcards**

Australia Post issued two prepaid postcards for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games on 25 January 2018. The Games are being held from 4-15 April 2018 on the Gold Coast. The postcards feature an image of the Gold Coast 2018 mascot, Borobi, and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games logo. At the same time three other prepaid postcards were issued showing Queensland views: Townsville Entertainment Centre, Cairns Convention Centre and Coolangatta Beach.



**J is for Jabiru – A Design Error**

A design error occurs on the prepaid postcard issued by Australia Post as part of its *Fair Dinkum Aussie Alphabet* Part 3 stamp issue issued on 17 October 2017. The reverse of the postcards of the series feature Australian icons grouped by letters of the alphabet. The J postcard depicts a jumbuck, a jillaroo, jam and a Jabiru.

The bird known by Australians as the Jabiru is known by ornithologists as the Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) which is found in Australia and across the Indian Subcontinent and Southeast Asia.

The sub-species found in Australia and New Guinea is *Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus australis*, the Torresian Black-necked Stork. The bird has been depicted on Australian pre-paid postcards such as the 1991 postcard from the Waterbirds of Australia issue and the 1997 postcard from the Nature of Australia definitive series.



While the 'official' ornithological name is the Black-necked Stork, it was known until the 1970s as the Australian Jabiru (and even earlier as the New Holland Jabiru) until the Royal Australian Ornithological Union (RAOU) changed it to Black-necked stork (*Ephippiorhynchus asiaticus*) to be consistent with international usage. It is still commonly called "jabiru" in Australia today.



The jabiru depicted on the postcard though is not the Black-necked Stork (*Ephippiorhynchus*

*asiaticus*) but rather the Jabiru, *Jabiru mycteria*, a large stork found in the Americas from Mexico to Argentina which has been shown on many adhesive stamps from South American countries.

**2018 ANZAC Biscuit Tins Postcards**



Two stamped postcards were included in the 2018 ANZAC Biscuits Tins sold by Australia Post during March 2018. The design of the first postcard was similar to the biscuit tin commemorating 100 years of the last year of WWI while the second postcard shows the Historic Arch of Victoria Ballarat. The postcards were sold for \$14.95 (including the biscuits and tin).

**Fellowship of the First Fleeters stamped Envelope**

A stamped envelope (Figure 3) was issued on 8 March 2018 to mark the 50th anniversary of the Fellowship of First Fleeters which was formed in March 1968. The Fellowship includes descendants of those who arrived in New South Wales, in January 1788, on the eleven ships of the First Fleet. The envelope sold for \$1.25 and was designed by John White.



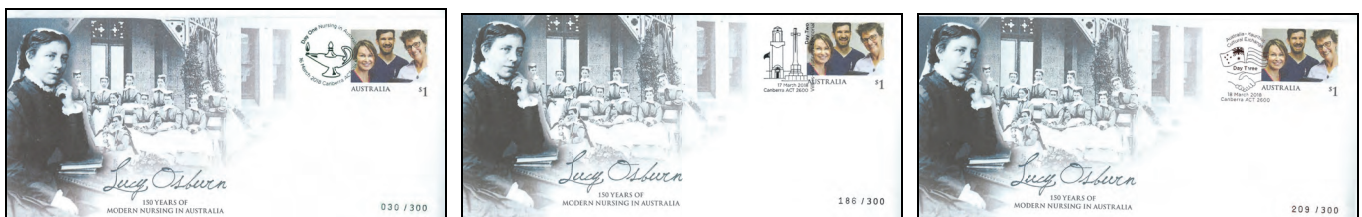
### Lucy Osburn stamped envelope

The 150th anniversary of the arrival of Lucy Osburn in Sydney on 5 March 1868 and her pivotal role in reforming local nursing was marked by a pre-stamped envelope (Figure 4) issued on 5 March 2018. Lucy Osburn headed a team of six nurses sent on the recommendation of Florence Nightingale, and at the request of Henry Parkes, Colonial Secretary of New South Wales. Lucy Osburn and her team were expected to reform nursing at the Sydney Infirmary and Dispensary (later called Sydney Hospital) and to found a nursing school there. The nurses they trained would spread the system of “Nightingale nursing” throughout hospitals in the colony. Lucy Osburn’s 16 years in Sydney were marked by controversy, but she eventually reformed nursing, making it a highly esteemed occupation for lay women. At the same time, her insistence on the Nightingale principle of patient-centred care profoundly and permanently improved medical outcomes. Lucy Osburn is accordingly honoured as the founder of modern nursing in Australia.

The envelope was designed by John White based on photographs supplied by the State Library of NSW and the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences. The stamp design was based on a photograph by Ian McMahon. It was printed by Lithography on 100 gsm Postspeed paper by printer EGO and sold for \$1.25. The mint envelope and the FDI envelope had different barcodes. The mint envelope had a barcode ending in ‘035’ while the FDI had a barcode ending in ‘042’.

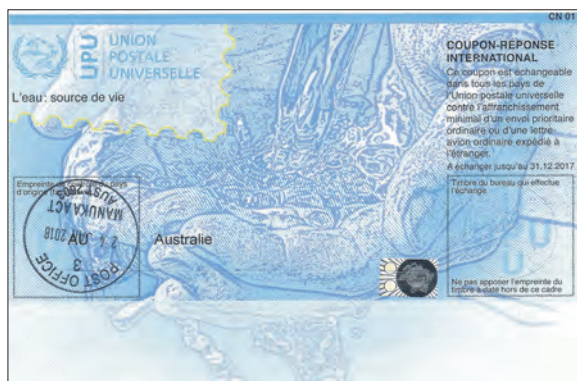


‘Limited edition’ numbered copies of the Lucy Osburn envelope were sold by Australia Post at Canberra Stampshow 2018. Sales were limited to 100 per day and foiled versions of the daily exhibition postmarks were used. In addition copies of the FDI envelope were (incorrectly) overprinted with the APF logo for sale by the Exhibition Committee. The Exhibition postmark from 16 March 2018 was struck in green and also commemorated Lucy Osburn depicting a nurse’s lantern which was also part of the Exhibition’s logo.





## New UPU International Reply Coupon



The Universal Postal Union (UPU) has released a new design for its International Reply Coupon (IRC). IRCs are exchangeable in every UPU member country for one or more adhesive postage stamps representing the minimum postage for an ordinary priority letter-post item or an ordinary airmail letter sent abroad for the reply. Some 2.2 million reply coupons are sold each year by 121 postal administrations. While not all countries sell IRCs, all of the UPU's 191-member countries, and their territories, are required to exchange them. Each IRC design is, by tradition, named after the city which hosted the UPU Congress at which the design is chosen.

The previous design of the IRC, known as the 'Doha' design after the UPU Congress at Doha in 2012 was designed by Michal Sindelar and reflected the theme 'Water for Life', chosen in line with the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation in 2013. IRCs of this design were first introduced by the UPU from 1 July 2013 and were intended for sale until 31 August 2017 and valid for exchange until 31 December 2017. Sales of this reply coupon in Australia were still happening as late as early February (example purchased on 21 January 2018 illustrated) even though they were no longer valid to be exchanged for adhesive stamps.

The new IRC, known as the 'Istanbul' IRC, was released by the UPU to allow sales by member countries from 1 July 2017 and will be valid until the end of 2021. The design by Nguyen Du, was selected as part of the UPU's IRC design competition held during the 26th Universal Postal Congress in Istanbul in 2016. It features a dove and welcoming hands against an Arctic backdrop, representing the sustainable development of the postal sector. The image of the vibrant yellow stamp against the blue background is meant to represent the postal sector's exciting prospects. Martin Walker reports that the new 'Istanbul' design IRC has been reported as available at some post offices in Melbourne and Adelaide from 19 January 2018. The cost of the IRCs in Australia is \$3.75. Martin reports that Australia has been supplied with a special commemorative IRC for the 110th anniversary of the first IRC. This is the 'Istanbul design' with a tiny illustration of the 1907 IRC, known as the 'Rome' design, on the front and some commemorative inscriptions. In some countries, the flag of the country of sale is printed on the IRC but this is not the case for IRCs sold in Australia. Also illustrated is a copy of the Reply Coupon sold without the date stamp of the office of sale.



**LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN NON-DENOMINATED POSTAL STATIONERY**

Ian McMahan

**Postcards**

16 January 2018 Convict Past

Maximum cards

- (-) NSW
- (-) Van Diemen's Land
- (-) Swan River

(Set price: \$7.25)

18 January 2018 TV Entertainers

Maximum cards

- (-) Daryl Somers
- (-) Bert Newton
- (-) Denise Drysdale
- (-) Ray Martin
- (-) Kerri-Anne Kennerley

(Set price: \$8.75)

25 January 2018 Gold Coast 2018

Commonwealth Games

- (\$2.20) Gold Coast 2018 Logo
- (\$2.20) Gold Coast 2018 Mascot, Borobi

25 January 2018 Queensland Pictorial Postcards

- (\$2.20) Townsville Entertainment Centre
- (\$2.20) Cairns Convention Centre,
- (\$2.20) Coolangatta Beach

6 February 2018 With Love

Maximum cards

- (-) Bird
- (-) Flower

(Set price: \$4.50)

20 February 2018 Banksias

Maximum cards

- (-) Speciosa
- (-) Grossa
- (-) Coccinea
- (-) Cuneata

(Set price: \$7.00)

March 2018 ANZAC Biscuit Tin Postcards

- (-) 100 years of the last year of WWI
- (-) Historic Arch of Victoria Ballarat

Sold for \$14.95 (including biscuits and tin)

6 March 2018 Vintage Jam Labels

Maximum cards

- (-) Kingurli
- (-) Peacock's
- (-) Melray
- (-) Alva

(Set price: \$7.00)

16 March 2018 Finches

Maximum cards

- (-) Blue-faced Parrot-Finch
- (-) Double-barred Finch
- (-) Star Finch
- (-) Zebra Finch

(Set price: \$7.00)

20 March 2018 Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games

Maximum card

- (\$2.20) Gold Coast 2018 Logo

27 March 2018 Crabeater Seal

Maximum cards

- (-) Mother and Pup
- (-) Individual Diving
- (-) Group of Crabeater Seals
- (-) Individual on Ice

(Set price: \$9.00)

**Envelopes**

8 March 2018 Fellowship of the First

Fleeters

- (\$1.25) Fellowship of the First Fleeters

**LITERATURE**

Judy Kennett and Ian McMahan

***The Postal Stationery Society Journal [UK] Vol 26 No 1 February 2018***

- German oversize 'Kinder' stationery cards
- The experimental GB certificates of posting 1877-1972
- GB postal stationery news
- Revisiting British India Victorian postcards [Queen Victoria]
- The embossed stamps of Great Britain 1841-1973: display by Dr Alan Huggins to RPSL on 23 November 2017
- Great Britain telegraph forms: some observations

***L'Entier Postal [France] No 105 Decembre 2017***

- Postal stationery of Russian Levant [1784-1912] (by our member Edy Pockele)
- My bargain of the month [some recent purchases] (by the Technical Editor)
- Austria 1918 – 1920: from Kingdom to Republic
- New ready-to-post issues, including Christmas
- Postresponse envelopes – ready-to-post

**Postal Stationery Commission Newsletter No 17 January 2018**

- Report on Postal Stationery Commission Exhibiting Seminar at Brasilia 2017
  - Focus areas for the FIP Postal Stationery Commission to 2020
  - A new discovery: a Danish postal card with glued-on imprint (by our member Lars Engelbrecht)
  - The card stock for Ecuador second issue 1884 postal cards (by our member Bernie Beston)
  - Report from Switzerland about the GABRA exhibition, organised by the Swiss Postal Stationery Society (SGSV) 29 September to 1 October 2017. As well as the exhibition, there were two seminars, and three new books were ‘launched’.
1. *Handbook of Swiss private postal stationery 1907-1930*, with an introduction in English, French and German.
  2. *From the formation to the end of the ‘Tublibriefe’*, edited by SGSV to celebrate the creation of the first Swiss postal stationery envelopes 150 years ago (see PSC Issue No 93 February 2018, page 4 and the illustration on the back cover).
  3. *Postal stationery of Mexico*, edited by Peter Bamert of SGSV with Wayne Menuz and William Walton, published by United Postal Stationery Society (USA). This is an update of a catalogue originally published in 1968.

All three books are listed on the SGSV website: <http://ganzsachen.ch>

**Australian Journal of Philately No 142 December 2017**

- Commemorative postmarks on Post Office postal stationery wrappers of Australia (by our member John Courtis)

**Gibbons Stamp Monthly March 2018**

- Postal Stationery Matters (USA Departmental envelopes, personalities on stationery, grand hotels, Maltex 17 postcard, NSW 1838 lettersheet, Queensland wrapper with advertising collar)

**Die Ganzsachensammler November 2017**

- Jams and Fruit: HERO Private Order Stationery
- Postcard 205 – 40/30 overprint
- Post Office receipts
- Frame design of Postcards 1928-29
- Fiscal stamps used on a postcard

**Postal Stationery Vol. 59 No. 1, Whole No. 418 January-February 2018**

- The Postal Stationery of Tuva
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Envelopes, the 1861 Letter Sheet
- Postal Cards, 2016 & 2017 issues; 2018 rates, S1/UX1 Violet Brown, Auction and Sales Results, Questionable Use of US1/3
- New 2018 Priority Mailer
- Envelope Catalogs Updates
- A Rare Used War Department Wrapper Rediscovery
- Stationery Envelopes with Windows
- New Zealand Stamped to Order Envelope
- Australian Cards Used as Stamps
- Postal Stationery Catalogs for Hungary
- Unlisted STO Reply Cards of Great Britain
- Postal Stationery Catalogs for German Local Posts
- Indian C.E.F. Card with Ideographs
- New Zealand Envelope & Great Britain Wrapper
- Salvador Stationery with Inverted Centers
- U395 Cut Square Inked on Both Sides
- US Postal Service Uses Correct Word “Indicia”
- When So Many Were So Confused for So Long
- Chicago Blue Cancels
- British East Africa Military and POW Aerograms
- 1876 Philadelphia Exposition Postal Card Souvenir
- 2017 USA Postal Card Issues
- Market Report & Counterfeit and Bogus Report
- Tasmania Multi-Ad Letter Sheet

**Postal Stationery Vol. 60 No. 2, Whole No. 419 March-April 2018**

- Postal Stationery of Trinidad & Tobago
- State of the ERP Database Address
- 19<sup>th</sup> Century Envelopes, Where have all the specimens gone?
- Postal Cards, MR5 & Inscription Damage
- The Watson Post Cards
- “Just How Many McKinley Cards Are There – Part 2 of 3” Revisited
- San Marino 1894 Issues
- Peru Post Card Types
- East Africa Forces and POW Aerograms Article, Errata and Additions
- The First Dutch Post Card
- Post Card Issue Dates
- Hyderabad Envelope Invert?,
- Happy Anniversary, 1968! A new Revalue EFO Discovered
- Jean-Jacques Tillard, SPM Letter Sheets
- Envelope Catalogs Updates
- Telegraph Stationery of Ecuador
- FIP Postal Stationery Commission.
- LITERATURE REVIEWS, The Australasian Stamp Catalogue ,Privatganzsachen Bundesrepublik Deutschland (BGSV), Filagrano Interi Postali 2018-2019, Newfoundland reply lettercard

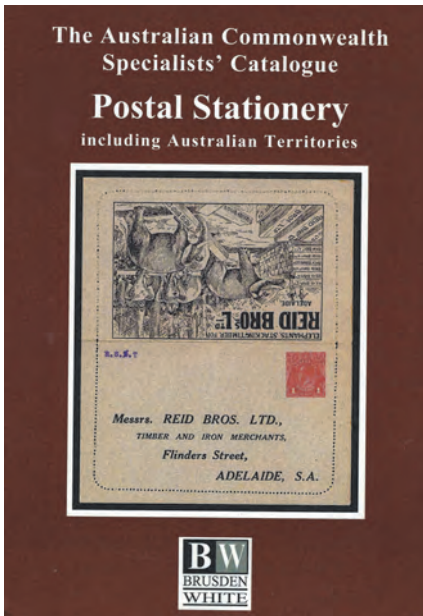


**Postal Order News January 2018**

- Papua postal note

**Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] February 2018**

- Postage Pre-Paid Boxes
- PCF Corner
- First Karsh Canadian National Express Cards
- Canada Post Christmas Card
- Dates on Envelopes
- Use of the 1c Leaf Post Card
- Canadian prepaid registered envelopes
- Postbands on White Paper – Official or private order



**Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue: Postal Stationery including Australian Territories Second Edition 2018**

This new edition updates the first edition (2013), incorporating a number of corrections and new discoveries. In particular, the Postal Cards up to 1936 have been extensively revised, and there are many additions to the listing of Lettercards. The decimal stationery produced by the [Australian] Note Printing Branch is included for the first time. All prices have been fully updated. In full colour, 484 A4 pages, perfect bound. Price AU \$230, plus postage. Email: [info@brusden-white.com.au](mailto:info@brusden-white.com.au) Internet: [www.brusden-white.com.au](http://www.brusden-white.com.au)

**NEW ISSUES**

**Canada**

Canada issued two postcards for the Lunar New Year of the Dog on 15 January 2018. These postcards sold for \$2.50 and prepaid postage around the world. A set of nine postcards was issued on 15 January 2018 depicting views 'from far and wide' around Canada including the Jelly Bean Houses of St John's Newfoundland and the Northern Lights at Artic Bay.





Also illustrated are English and French versions of a postcard used by Canada Post to write to children whose letters to Santa were not replied to before Christmas 2017.



### **ADVERTISING IN THE POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR**

Advertising in the PSC is welcome. Advertising rates are:

Full Page \$150 a page

Half Page \$80

Quarter page \$50

Please contact the Editor [ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com)

### **BACK ISSUES OF POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR ON-LINE**

Back issues of the PSC are now available to members from the PSSA's website <http://www.postalstationeryaustralia.com/>. All issues from No 42 (May 2005) are available on the site as pdf files in colour. In addition earlier issues are available but in most cases are in black and white. Ultimately the aim is to have all back issues available on-line. The back issues are accessed by clicking on the Members link on the PSSA home page. A logon and password is needed. If you are interested in accessing the back issues please contact the Editor on [ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com).

### **INDEX TO POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR**

The Index to Postal Stationery collector has been updated to the end of Volume 20, 2014 and is now almost ready for publication. It runs to about 120 A4 pages. It will be published in two formats:

1. Paper copies. These will not be bound, but will be issued as loose sheets in plastic wrapping. Members will then have to choose how to house their copy.
2. Electronic copies on CD.

It is expected that costs for the paper and CD versions will be:

1. Paper copies - \$20 each in Australia, which includes packing and postage (Overseas postage extra)
2. Electronic (CD) copies - \$8 each in Australia, which includes packing and postage (Overseas postage extra)

Ordering copies: Pre-publication orders are now being taken. Please contact the Secretary, Judy Kennett, stating clearly whether you want paper or electronic copy. Email: [jkennett@tpg.com.au](mailto:jkennett@tpg.com.au) Post: PO Box 16, Ulmarra NSW 2462 AUSTRALIA

### **PSSA WEB CONTENT MANAGER**

**The Society would benefit greatly from a web content manager. Potentially our website could be a great mechanism for promoting the Society and postal stationery collecting as well as a means for greater value to our members.**

**Please contact me if you are interested**

**Ian McMahon [ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com)**

### **POSTAL STATIONERY COLLECTOR: SALE OF BACK ISSUES**

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia has been publishing its journal *Postal Stationery Collector* since May 1995. It is published four times each year, in February, May, August and November. The Society maintains a stock of back issues, which are for sale.

**Description:** Issues 1- 9 were produced as photocopies in A4 format, with corner staples, and are available only in that form at \$4.00. Issues 10 onwards are available as original copies, in A4 format and saddle stapled, at \$5 each (10-45) or \$6 each (46 onwards). All prices include postage in Australia, but overseas airmail postage is extra. Reductions on orders of five (5) copies or more.

**Payment:** In Australia, payment can be made either by cheque (made payable to the Postal Stationery Society of Australia (written in full) or by credit card (Visa or Mastercard, include CSV details). For overseas buyers, payment is by credit card. Credit card payments will be processed by the Queensland Philatelic Council.

**Enquiries:** Enquiries to the Secretary at PO Box 16, Ulmarra NSW 2462 AUSTRALIA Email [jkennett5@tpg.com.au](mailto:jkennett5@tpg.com.au)

