

New South Wales Letter Card

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The Intercolonial Postal Conference of March 1894 agreed to the use of letter cards between all the Australian Colonies. The initial printing of such cards for New South Wales was in June 1894, Bassett Hull (1911, p.378) gives the issue date as 2 July 1894. These were impressed with a 1½d stamp. Victoria however, had produced its first letter cards in January 1889, the first postal administration in the British Empire to do so. By October 1892 these were valid for transmission at the Victorian postal rate to addresses in New South Wales and to the other Australian colonies.

The letter cards are described in Bassett Hull (1911) although the last mention is for the issue of 1908 which is before the last printings of the cards in or about 1911. The descriptions given provide a guide to the changes in the instructions and to the perforations but give no indication of the numbers printed. The letter cards are listed in Ascher (1926) and this appears to be the basis for the later listings in Higgins and Gage. The account below draws heavily on the publications of Bell (2009 & 2011). Bell had available archival material that allowed detailed estimates to be made of the numbers printed for the various types of lettercard. Unfortunately, the publications by Bell ceased before he was able to finalise his study of the lettercards. Thus, there are no comments by him available on issues after 1897.

Classification

The characteristics of the lettercards include:

- size;
- the impressed stamps;
- Variations in the instructions;
- Perforations;
- Changes to the Coat of Arms;
- Colour of the cards, both exterior and interior
- Gum

Size

The size of the cards shows little variation and for most types is close to 150 x 91mm when folded. The only exception is that cards of Type LC1 are consistently slightly larger and are usually close to 152 x 91mm.

The Impressed Stamp



1½d Type III



1½d Type V



1d Shield

Figure 1. Stamp Types

The impressed stamp value for Types LC1-LC7 was 1½d and after 1908 (Types LC8 & LC9) it was reduced to 1d. Initially the stamp was as a modified version of the 1d Centennial issue which included '100 years' below the value. Commencing with Type LC5 in late 1896 the 1½d impression was modified, the '100 Years' replaced with a small wreath-like version of the waratah. The 1d stamp used for the last two Types was based on the 1d Shield adhesive postage stamp. The three styles of stamp are illustrated in Figure 1. In contrast to the early letter cards for Victoria the card was sold at the actual postage rate. In Victoria there was an extra charge for the card itself; initially the card had a face value of 1d but the charge for a single card was 1½d with various discounts for bulk purchases.

The colour of the Centennial stamps for the LC1-LC4 cards is described by Ascher as 'rot' (red) with LC6 as 'brick-red' 'ziegelrot' (brick-red) and LC7 as 'rotorange' (red-orange). Higgins and Gage listed the same colours. The use of stamp colour as a major factor in the classification is misleading, as it appears to be considerably affected by the colour of card used.

Variations in the Instructions

All of the various Types, except for the last (Type LC9), have instructions on the back of the folded card related to its postal validity. These come in three versions, namely 6-line, 4-line and 2-line. However for each of these there are significant variations. The major variations are also given in **Table 1** which lists the salient differences between the nine Types of card recognised by Bell.

The 6-line version confirms the validity to all the individual Australian colonies and to New Zealand but specifically excludes Fiji. For LC1 cards the top line of the instructions ends with the word 'and' but for Types LC2 and LC3 the top line ends with the word 'without'. However the wording of the instructions remains unchanged.

LC4 retains the same wording but the 6-line wording was modified by the overprinting in red to indicate that the postal validity has been extended to include Fiji. This required the addition of an additional line that reads 'and Fiji'. The spacing between 'and' and 'Fiji' is normally 5mm. but Bell (p. 24, 2011) notes one instance where the spacing is only 2½mm

The 4-line version used for Types LC5 and LC6 differs from the 6-line instructions not only in including the word 'Fiji' but by referring to the 'Australian Colonies' rather than listing all the individual Colonies. In this instance 'New Zealand' is regarded as an Australian Colony.

The 2-line instructions, Types LC7 and LC8, omit any reference to specific destinations after the acceptance of the lettercard rate by all UPU member nations. The first line of the LC7 instructions ends with the word 'insufficiently' and that for LC8 with the word 'an'. For Type LC9 no instructions of any kind are given on the reverse of the card.

For all types the front (address side) of the card has a single line of instructions. This reads, 'The address only is to be written on this side. [SPACE] To open this card tear off at the perforations'. Commencing with Type LC6 the space is reduced from 7mm. to 4½mm. Bell (2009) also illustrates other minor variations in the spacing and style of lettering that occurred at this time.

Perforations

Perforations for letter cards are measured in a similar way to those for postage stamps. For lettercards the perforation corresponds to the number of holes for each 20mm. For New South Wales across all types the measure is about 11. Stieg gives the perforations for most Victorian examples as 12.3. However, some of the Type LC2 cards for New South Wales have a closer set of holes approximating to perforation 12. The perforations were applied after the card had been folded, this was necessary to assist with opening the used card.

For Types LC1 and LC2 the line perforations were in horizontal and vertical rows which resulted in small 'square' corners when the card was opened. There was a problem in that the corners were liable to become detached from the remainder of the card. Confirmation of this is that even mint cards often exhibit broken corners. There were also complaints by users regarding the poor perforations. The problems were overcome by introducing a comb perforator with rounded 'corners', first used for the LC3 cards in February 1895. Stieg (2001) notes similar problems with the initial letter cards issued for Victoria. Victoria converted to round corners in September 1893. The square and rounded corner styles are illustrated in Figure 2.

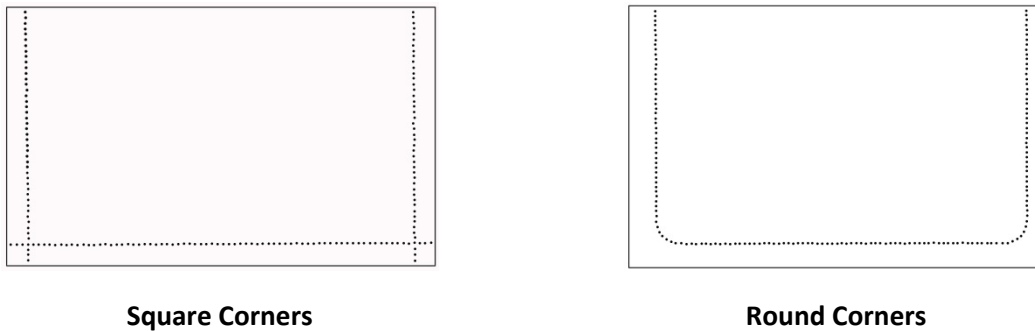


Figure 2. Perforation Types

Changes to the Coat of Arms

During the period of their issue three different Coats of Arms were used on the address side of the lettercards, see Figure 3. These were:

- LC1 - LC4 Royal Coat of Arms with Lion and Unicorn;
- LC5 - LC7 A larger style of the Royal Coat of Arms;
- LC8 - LC9 A new design comprising a Shield with a Kangaroo and Emu, above the words 'Advance Australia'.

The Royal Coat of Arms with Lion and Unicorn was used in varying sizes and designs for a range of New South Wales postal stationery items. The style with 'Advance Australia' was only used for the last two Types of lettercard.



Coat of Arms Type I

Coat of Arms Type II

Coat of Arms Type III

Fig 3 The Coat of Arms

Colour of the Lettercards

The letter cards required the supply of a special form of card to allow for the perforating process and with the inside suitable for a written message. These were described as various forms of 'veneered' paper. The colour of the card, both inside and out, played a major part in the earlier classification of these items. Bassett Hull (1911) recognised four distinct types of card with the outside described as 'drab' or in various shades of grey and the inside of the card, especially for the later printings, in

shades of pink. Bell (2009, 2011) provides details on the supply of card based on information from the correspondence held in the State archives that was not seen by Bassett Hull. This makes it clear that more than four style of card were used with some as emergency stop gaps due to delays in supply of the card from British suppliers. Thus some of the Types listed are printed on differing styles of card with a range of colours especially for the inside portion.

For Types LC5-LC7 many of the cards are printed with an inside colour that varies from 'blush pink' to 'deep pink'. The colour of the outside of the letter cards also varies but is always in shades of grey. In part this is due to differences in the original card from different manufacturers but it also due to discolouration over time and the degree of exposure to light. There are also variations in the colour of the printing both of the instructions and of the stamp impressions which were undertaken in a single printing operation. The most consistent of these is that Type LC6 cards frequently show a colour that is closer to orange than to shades of red. These letter cards again indicate the difficulty of basing a classification of postal stationery items on colour alone. This is discussed in more detail in the section below, entitled 'A guide to the paper used'.

Gum

Although not part of the actual printing process the gum around the margins of the cards also shows variations. For Type LC1 letter cards the gum on mint examples is dark brown and was applied in a somewhat haphazard manner, sometimes extending beyond the edges of the card and on occasion with traces on the outside. This improved with LC2 cards and for the later Types the gum is normally evenly applied and has a clear and almost translucent appearance.

Summary of the Classification

Table 1 provides a summary of the dates of issue and of the major features considered as significant in classifying individual letter cards. The availability of additional archival records not seen by earlier authors results in important changes from previous listings. Foremost among these is the move away from the over-dependence on colour as a key factor in the classification. Types LC1-LC5 were printed by lithography and are described in detail in Bell (2011). Sadly John died before he could publish a detailed account of Types LC6-LC9 produced from electroplates.

Numbers Printed

There are two sources of information relevant to the estimation of the numbers of lettercards that were issued. The first is from the Postmaster-General's Reports that provide annual figures for the years 1894 to 1900 of the number of cards issued by the Post Office together with the figures for the year 1906, see **Table 2**. These do not provide information on the Types of lettercards issued. The other source is from Bell (2009 & 2011), this combines for much of the period the archival monthly printing records from the Government Printer with previously unrecorded archival correspondence that describe the problems caused by the frequent changes of paper supply. This remains as an outstanding example of John Bell's philatelic research skills. Unfortunately they only cover the period from the first issue in 1894 until the printing of the Type LC6 cards in June 1897. It is clear that Bell intended to publish a further article to describe the later issues but his death in 2012 prevented this. However it is clear that because the archival printing records are lacking for this later period the detail would have been very much less than that for the earlier issues.

The Postmaster-General Records

The figures for the issued numbers of lettercards from the Annual Reports are given in **Table 2**. These cover the period 1894 to 1900 and the numbers for 1906. The lettercards were popular with the public and numbers progressively increase annually by some 10 per cent and the sales are only exceeded by those for 1d postal cards. It is likely that the annual increase in sales after 1906 would have continued the trend and with the reduction in the British Empire postal rate from 1½d to 1d in 1911 may well have increased still more.

The Detailed Printing Records

The data from the Printing Office records was the primary source used by Bell to establish the numbers printed for each of the earlier Types of lettercard. In addition the occasional notes appended to some of the requisition forms assist in distinguishing the differences in paper especially those related to colour. Earlier writers had used the variations in colour both of the outside address and inside message portions of the cards as a key factor in the classification of the lettercards. While minor queries remain the accounts by Bell (2009, 2011) are undoubtedly the most authoritative. The results of Bell's research, are summarised in **Table 3**.

Table 3 lists the numbers printed for lettercards LC1 to LC6, the totals are based on the printing records but on occasion modified to allow for paper, numbers of spoiled copies and the like. While some minor doubts remain there is an approximate match to the numbers issued by the Post Office as given in **Table 2**. The totals accredited to each Type of card are precise enough to provide information on the relative scarcity of Types LC1-LC6. Despite a lack of information on the numbers printed for Types LC7 to LC9 the annual production would probably have been similar to those the preceding years.

A Guide to the Paper Used

A further aim of Bell's detailed analysis was to provide a guide to the colour and style of paper used for the various Types. As we will see, some Types were printed on at least two styles of paper. Bell helpfully lists the four paper Types mentioned by Bassett Hull (1911) and in the occasional comments added by the Government Printer (GPr). These are:

1. Grey veneered Royal (GPr); thin drab card with inside greyish white (Bassett Hull).
2. Somewhat thicker and stronger paper, thick grey-surfaced card, inside greyish white.
3. Slate and blush pink duplex (GPr); thick grey-surfaced card, inside pink (Bassett Hull). This was supplied by Spicer and Sons.
4. Duplex tinted board (GPr). Not mentioned in Bassett Hull, but mentioned in *The Australian Philatelist* for 1897 as '... the letter card is now coloured a deep pink inside, a shade that differs entirely from the recent blush pink'. Produced by the Government Printer as a temporary measure.
5. This card which replaced style 4 above, may be a fifth style. Bell considers that it is uncertain whether it can be distinguished from style 3.

The occasional notes affixed to the requisitions from the Postmaster General to the Government Printer highlight the difficulties in obtaining suitable supplies of paper for the lettercards. Stieg (2001) makes similar comments for the Victorian lettercards although for that State there is a complete lack of any archival information regarding the names of the suppliers.

The initial card (style 1 above) was unsatisfactory as demonstrated in a complaint from Gordon & Gotch, a major user of cards and wrappers, describing the paper as '... on which it is almost impossible to write'. The records show that the card style 2 above, was used for the first printing of the Type 2 cards in September 1894.

In April 1895 negotiations began with the British paper-maker James Spicer & Sons to supply their 'Ideal quality paper'. However a shortage of paper (style 2) at that time caused the printer to return to the original style 1 stock. This was defended as improvements to the perforations by using rounded corners from a new comb machine had solved some of the earlier problems. This paper was described as 'grey veneered Royal'. The first consignment of the paper from Spicers was received in September 1895 and used to print the cards forwarded to the Post Office in late September. The Spicer product was described by the printer as 'slate and blush pink Duplex paper'. In a discussion of

Specimen 1½d lettercards (see below) both the Spicer paper (style 3) and the earlier style 2 papers were used.

In April 1897 another crisis arose due to the delay in obtaining further supplies of the Spicer paper or a suitable local alternative. The printer reports on 7 April 1897 to using 'Duplex tinted board made in this Department for printing the 1½d lettercards'. By May 1897 blush pink paper was back in use although Bell is unsure if this was same as the earlier supplies from Spicers. As with other items of New South Wales postal stationery the ageing of the cards and the effect on the colour presents problems for those interested in further investigating this aspect of collecting.

The effects of weathering, aging and variations in paper supplied make identification of specific papers a rather tenuous task. For the purposes of the catalogue listing, two broadly distinctive shades of grey have been used for exteriors, with a further four for interior colours, see **Figure 4**. The exterior shades may be darker or lighter, and while the pink shades are reasonably constant, the yellow varies from off white to the shade shown. Blush Pink is a very pale colour and may appear white unless compared side by side to white paper.

		
Exterior Blue-grey	Exterior Olive-grey	Interior Yellow
		
Interior Blush Pink	Interior Pale Pink	Interior Dark Pink
Figure 4. Exemplars of shades used in catalogue listing		

Postage Rates

Victoria was the first Australian colony to produce lettercards, issued on 1 June 1890. The impressed stamp was for 1d but the cost of purchasing single cards was 1½d. Initially the cards were only valid for transmission within Victoria. In October 1892 transmission at the 1d rate was extended to all the other Australian colonies although at that time Victoria was the only colony to issue such cards. The Victorian lettercards issued in November 1892 listed the other Australian colonies but specifically stated that '...a One Penny stamp must be affixed, if addressed to New Zealand or Fiji'.

In September 1893 an Intercolonial Post and Telegraph Conference was held in Brisbane. This included representatives from all the Australian colonies which until Australian Federation also included New Zealand. The meeting included discussions concerning the wider introduction of lettercards and a standard postal rate between the colonies for such items. The topic was again on the agenda at a similar conference held in New Zealand in early 1894. Agreement was reached that the standard rate for lettercards posted between the signatories would be 1½d and all the participating postal agencies would issue lettercards on 1 July 1894. Samuel (2006, p.95) comments '...this date was to come and go without any of the colonies issuing such a card'.

The comment by Samuel is a little unkind as New South Wales issued its first lettercard at a 1½d rate on 2 July 1894, 1 July was a Sunday! New Zealand followed with its own 1½d lettercard (illustrated with a multiple views on the reverse) on 1 January 1895. The other Australian colonies had difficulties with the proposed universal 1½d rate. Indeed, Victoria increased the rate for lettercards to 2d in April 1895 and the initial rate for the later lettercards issued in Queensland, Tasmania and Western Australia were also at the 2d rate plus a somewhat confused 1d local lettercard in Western Australia. South Australia never issued any form of lettercard.

The LC1 New South Wales lettercards were issued to meet the requirements of the Intercolonial Conferences outlined above. The instructions confirmed their validity for transmission at 1½d to all the Australian Colonies but specifically not to Fiji. In May 1896 an archival memo discussed the proposal to include Fiji and the Type LC4 cards were modified to achieve this. The overprinted cards were forwarded from the printer to the Post Office on 6 June 1896 and likely issued to the public very shortly after that date. The first printing of the Type LC4 cards with the instructions modified to include Fiji was delivered to the Post Office on the 22 October 1896.

The Type LC7 cards in were issued in 1908. After that date the instructions omitted any reference to the countries to which the card was valid. On 1 May 1911 the stamp impression was changed to 1d. This uniform 1d rate applied to standard rate letters and post cards for transmission to all Australian and British Empire destinations. Throughout the period that the lettercards were in use the rate to non-Commonwealth countries was 2½d.

It is pertinent to note that after Federation postal stationery items bearing the State names could only be purchased within that State although they could be used for postage to any address in the Commonwealth of Australia without any additional charge. This was despite the fact that the postage charges for lettercards were not uniform throughout the Commonwealth. Due to various Federal/State book-keeping arrangements postal stationery printed with the name of a State and with impressed State's stamps only become valid for posting in other States after 13 October 1910. Examples of New South Wales postal stationery items used in other States in the years shortly after this date are much prized.

In December 1907 there was a directive to the States to remove any instructional comments as to where postal stationery could or could not be sent without additional postage. The New South Wales lettercards remained on issue until about 1913 when they were replaced by Commonwealth view cards, see below.

The first full face George V 1d Commonwealth lettercards were issued in May 1911 although initially these were only issued to the postal authorities for Victoria, South Australia, Tasmania and Western Australia and in June 1912 to Queensland. Kellow records (2018, p. 72) that the 1d Commonwealth Full Face George V lettercards were never issued in New South Wales. The first Commonwealth lettercards cards sent to New South Wales were those that are illustrated with views on the reverse. The reasons for this are not known but it could be that New South Wales had existing stocks of its own lettercards and Commonwealth cards were not provided until these had been exhausted.

Specimens

Details of the overprinting of specimen are known for the earlier Types of lettercard but no additional specimen overprints are known after those for LC5 printed in late 1896. For Types LC1, LC3, LC4 and LC5 the numbers and dates of overprinting are given in the printing records. On occasion additional information was attached to the requisition forms from the Postmaster-General's Department to the Government Printer. For the period from May 1892 to November 1899 the numbers required for the UPU were 730 copies of each issue. **Table 4** lists, where known, the

dates of printing and number of specimens together with the type of overprint using the listing by Bell (2007).

The requests for the printing of specimen overprints for the LC3 lettercards provide some wider insights to the response to the UPU requirements. The initial request for 740 copies, at that time the UOIU required 730 copies, was made by S.H.Lambton, the Deputy Postmaster- General, on 19 September 1895 and the overprinted cards were received on the 14 October. However, the Deputy Postmaster-General again contacted the Government Printer on the 15 November with the request to provide additional cards. The letter in part reads:

‘...As the Convention [UPU] Regulations require specimens of every variety of stamp to be sent to the Berne Bureau, I have now the honour to request that you be good enough to furnish me with 160 additional specimen letter-cards on slate and white paper and 580 on slate and blush-pink paper, in order that the full complement of each kind may be furnished to the Berne Bureau’.

The ‘white’ and ‘blush-pink paper’ refer to the inside writing surfaces of the cards and reflect the problems in obtaining consistent supplies of the specialised ‘duplex’ paper required for the lettercards. It was fortunate that the printer still had available supplies of both types of card. The concern of the Deputy Postmaster-General over such minor differences is strange as no cards were produced for the LC2 lettercards which differ from LC1 in having differences in the printing lay-out of the instructions. The outcome is that specimen overprints on the LC3 cards are found on two styles of paper, near white and pale-blush-pink. The supply to the UPU of 730 copies left only 10 copies for archival or presentation purposes.

The LC4 and LC5 lettercards were also overprinted specimen; the former in August 1896 and the latter in December 1896. In both cases the number requested from the Printers was 800 cards which slightly increased the number retained by the Postmaster after sending the requisite 730 cards to the UPU.

For all the specimen lettercards listed in Table 4 the numbers printed were sufficient to meet the UPU requirement and to leave a small but variable number of cards for other purposes. Single examples of the LC1 and LC5 specimen lettercards are included in the British Library collection that is thought to represent the distribution of the cards sent to the British Post Office from the UPU.

There are no archival records or known specimen lettercards that do not fit this pattern and it is extremely unlikely that any letter cards of Types LC2, LC6 or LC8 were ever overprinted specimen.

LC7 is an exception and a single copy has relatively recently been recorded. No other information is known but the style of the card suggest a date of about 1907.

Essays and Proofs

Bell (2011, p.20), based on brief mentions in the archival records, notes that proofs for the proposed letter card ‘...in black, marine, algrenaz red and green’ were submitted to the Postmaster General on 21 June 1894. Further proofs are described for the obliteration and changes in the instructions in red approved on 20 May 1896 and proofs for a modified card (LC5) on 18 October 1896. This card is illustrated in **Figure 5** and is unfolded and without perforations.

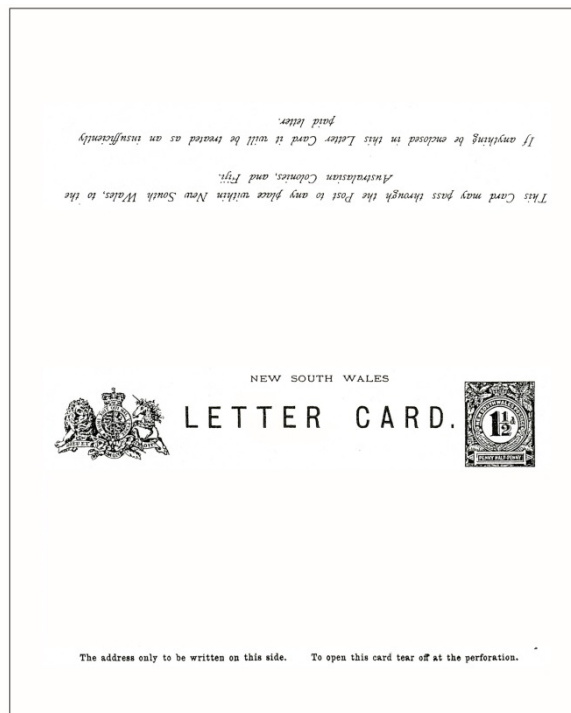
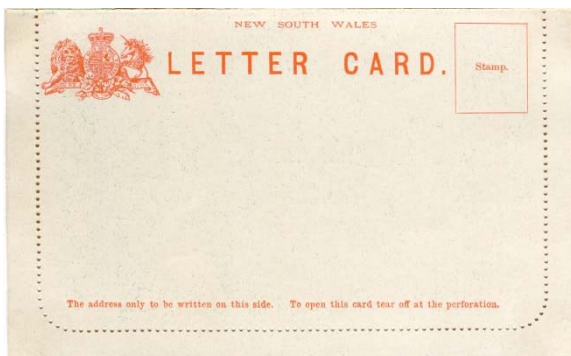
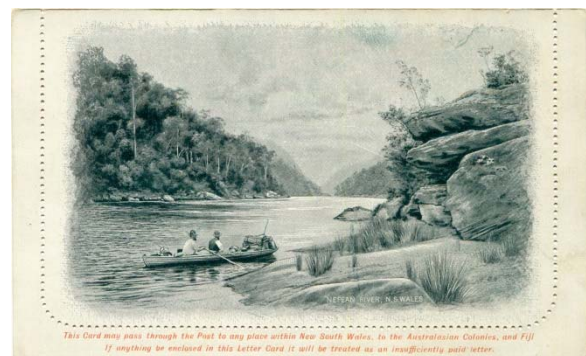


Figure 5 Proof of LC5 (black border added)

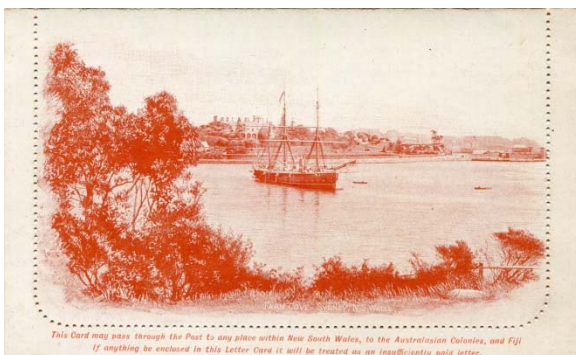
It is possible that proofs exist for the later Types of lettercard but they are not mentioned in the archival records and to the best of our knowledge have not described in the literature.



Essay front (common to all)



Nepean River, N.S.Wales



Farm Cove, Sydney, N.S.Wales

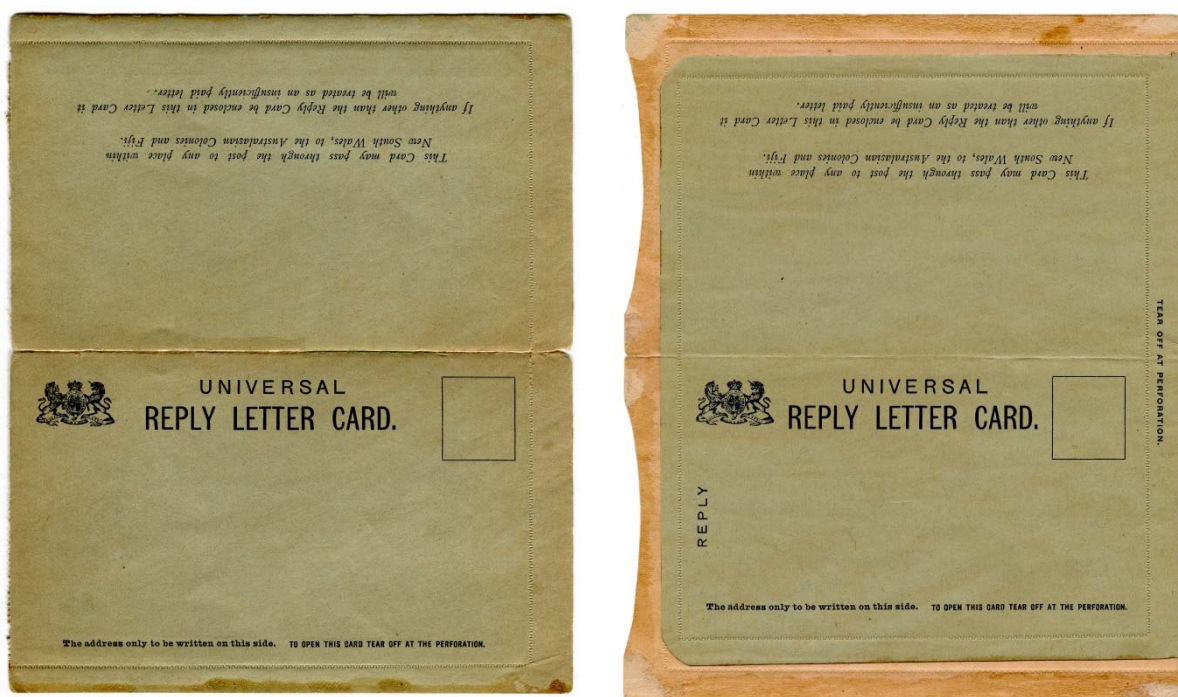


Circular Quay from Milson's Point, Sydney, NSW

Figure 6. Essays for scenic lettercards

Essays of four lettercards illustrated on the reverse by views similar in style to those used for the New South Wales View Cards were produced but never issued. All four cards have a 1d `stamp box' but no impressed stamp, with a text outlining conditions of use on the selvedge of the view side, all printed in orange. Two cards have a view of two men fishing from a rowing boat entitled `Nepean River N.S.Wales', the view in black, or in red-brown. One has an illustration on the reverse with the title `Farm Cove, Sydney, N.S. Wales' in red-brown. This view also appears on an unissued essay for a scenic postal card. The fourth has a view of `Circular Quay from Milson's Point Sydney NSW' in black. The date of production is unknown, but the text is the same as used for "four line" lettercards produced from 1896 to 1908 and was most probably around 1898 when the scenic postal cards were produced. These cards are illustrated in **Figure 6**.

In 1906, an essay for a lettercard with a reply lettercard contained within, was produced by the NSW Government Printer for the 1906 Postal Congress in Rome. The instructions for use are identical to those on the 1896 NSW lettercard issue. The proposal was rejected in favour of a British proposal for International Reply Coupons. The outer card is similar to the issued lettercards but is designed to enclose a smaller reply lettercard, and these cards are rouletted rather than perforated. The outward and reply halves are illustrated in **Figure 7**. Two variants are known, with straight and scalloped edges, but altogether less than 5 examples are known.



Exterior (Straight Edge)

Interior (Scalloped edge)

Figure 7. Essays for reply lettercards

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Table 1 Types of 1d and 1½d Lettercards & Catalogue Estimates

LC1	1894 2 July. 1½d Type III stamp, Coat of arms Type I, Square corners, 6 lines of text on reverse (first line ends with “and”)		
LC1	Blue-grey/Yellow	25	40
LC2	1894 September. 1½d Type III stamp, Coat of arms Type I, Square corners, 6 lines of text on reverse (first line ends with “without”)		
LC2a	Blue-grey/Yellow, Wide setting (Perfs 138mm apart)	25	40
LC2b	Blue-grey/Yellow, Narrow setting (Perfs 132mm apart)	25	40
LC3	1895 February. 1½d Type III stamp, Coat of arms Type I, Round corners, 6 lines of text on reverse (first line ends with “without”)		
LC2a	Blue-grey/Yellow	25	40
LC2b	Olive-grey/Yellow	25	40
LC4	1896 June. 1½d Type III stamp, Coat of arms Type I, Round corners, 6 lines of text on reverse, some obliterated in red, “and Fiji” added		
LC4	Blue-grey/Yellow	25	40
LC5	1896 October. Lithographed. 1½d Type V stamp, Coat of arms Type II, Round perforations. 4 lines of text on reverse. 7mm gap in bottom line on front.		
LC5a	Blue-grey/Dark Pink	10	20
LC5b	Blue-grey/Pale Pink	10	20
LC5c	Olive grey/Dark Pink	10	20
LC6	1897 June. Electrotyped. 1½d Type V stamp, Coat of arms Type II, Round perforations. 4 lines of text on reverse. 4½mm gap in bottom line on front.		
LC6a	Blue-grey/Dark Pink	10	20
LC6b	Blue-grey/Pale Pink	10	20
LC6c	Olive grey/Dark Pink	10	20
LC6d	Olive grey/Pale Pink	10	20
LC7	1908 (?). 1½d Type V stamp, Coat of arms Type II, Round perforations. 2 lines of text on reverse (first line ends with “insufficiently”)		
LC7	Olive Grey/Dark Pink	25	40
LC8	1911 (?). 1d Shield stamp, Coat of arms Type III, Round perforations. 2 lines of text on reverse (first line ends with “an”)		
LC8	Olive Grey/Dark Pink	25	40
LC9	1911 (?). 1d Shield stamp, Coat of arms Type III, Round perforations. No inscription on reverse.		
LC9	Olive grey/Dark Pink	25	40

Estimates of prices given in \$A.

LC1 – LC5 printed by Lithography, LC6 – LC9 Electrotyped.

Table 2 Postmaster-General Annual issued Figures for Lettercards

The cards were first released On 2 July 1894

Year	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	1899	1900	1906
No. Issued	91,280	321,200	388,240	429,440	511,280	616,160	746,760	1,345,200

Table 3 LC1 - LC6 Dates, Numbers Printed and Style of Paper.

Card	Date	Number Printed	Remarks
LC1	June,1894	18,000	
	Aug, 1894	12,000	
	Aug, 1894	850	Specimens
LC2	Sept, 1894	48,012	
		60,000	
LC3	Feb, 1895	60,000	
	May, 1895	117,000	
	Sept, 1895	192,000	
	Oct, 1895	740	Specimens
	Nov, 1895	740	Specimens
LC4	June, 1896	194,628	
LC5	June, 1896	114,000	
	June, 1896	800	Specimens
LC6	Oct, 1896	211,884	
	Jan, 1897	20,918	
	April, 1897	45-50,000	
	May, 1897	55-60,000	

Table 4 1d and 1½d Lettercards Specimen Overprints, Dates, Number and Type.

Card	Date	Number Printed	Type	
LC1	30 Aug 1894	850	B21a	Specimen.
LC2		None known		
LC3	14 Oct 1895	740	B21	Specimen
	22 Nov 1895	740	B21	Specimen
LC4	Aug 1896	800	B11	Specimen
LC5	Dec	800	B19	SPECIMEN
LC6		None known		
LC7	1907 ?	?	B25	SPECIMEN
LC8		None known		
LC9		None known		

Table 1. Types of 1d and 1½d Lettercards and catalogue estimates

Table 2. Postmaster- General Annual Issued Figures for Lettercards

Table 3. Lettercards LC1 – LC6, Dates, Numbers Printed and Styles of Paper, from the Govt Printer's Records.

Table 4. 1d and 1½d Lettercards Specimen Overprints – Dates, Numbers and Types.

Figure 1. The Stamps Types

Figure 3. Perforations Types

Figure 3. The Coats of Arms

Figure 4. Exemplars of shades used in the catalogue listing.

Figure 5. Proof of LC5 (black border added)

Figure 6. Essays for scenic lettercards

Figure 7. Essays for reply lettercards.

