

Postal Stationery

This month's column continues the review of Fijian postal stationery by looking at Fijian aerogrammes as well as having a brief look at Australian private unstamped aerogrammes. In addition I foreshadow the Postal Stationery Society of Australia Aerogramme Challenge to be held at 2018 Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo.

Collecting Fiji Postal Stationery: Aerogrammes

Last month I reviewed began a review of the postal stationery of Fiji including postcards, stamped envelopes and registered envelopes. Another area of Fiji postal stationery which is of particular interest to collectors are the aerogrammes. As with many



Figure 1 Fiji Air Mail Lettercard used to Canada in 1946

countries the first Fijian aerogrammes sold by the post office were unstamped. They were inscribed 'FIJI AIR MAIL LETTER CARD' and were first issued in 1944 in a number of discernible printings (Figure 1).

The first stamped aerogramme, inscribed 'AIR LETTER', was a 7d King George VI aerogramme (Figure 2) issued in 1947 using the standard British colonial key plate design inscribed 'Postage and Revenue' for the stamp. The unstamped aerogrammes continued in use as the postage rate for aerogrammes to New Zealand and other south Pacific islands was 3d at the time while the rate to Australia was reduced to 3d on 23 June 1947. A 3d aerogramme was issued in 1949. In 1951, the design of both values was modified so that there the inscription 'IF ANYTHING IS ENCLOSED THIS LETTER WILL BE SENT BY ORDINARY MAIL' was in four lines (Figure

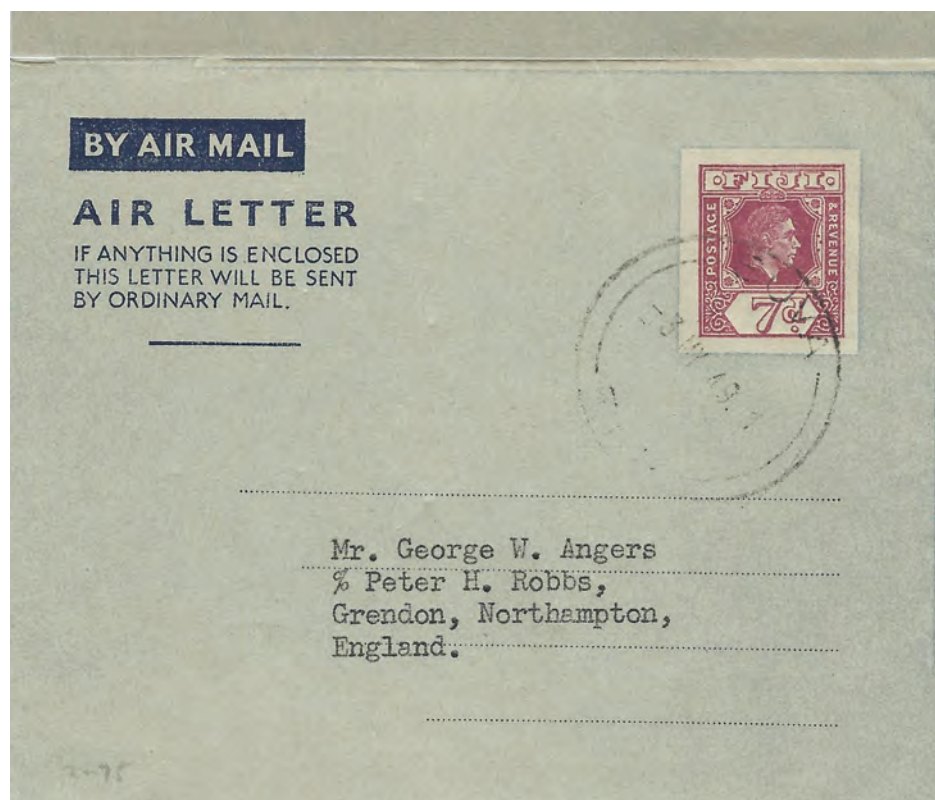


Figure 2 7d King George VI air letter with three lines of instruction

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Figure 3 3d King George VI air letter with four lines of instruction

a code letter, 'M' or 'L'. A palm tree design was added to the 6d aerogramme in 1962 (Figure 5) while a 10d aerogramme with canoe design was also issued following a further increase in the postage rate. These aerogrammes were also on watermarked paper with a letter code, 'P', 'T' or no code (6d), 'P', 'T', 'S', 'V', 'Z' or no code (10d). Forms without watermark have also been recorded. Following the introduction of decimal currency, 5c and 8c aerogrammes were issued.

3) rather than the three lines of the earlier issue.

A Queen Elizabeth II 3d aerogramme stamped with the standard British colonial key plate design was issued in 1955. As the UPU had formally introduced the designation of Aerogramme on 29 July 1953, the new forms were inscribed 'AEROGRAMME'. A modified design was issued in 1956 with the white border around the stamp removed (Figure 4).

Aerogrammes with the stamp design of the Annigoni portrait of Queen Elizabeth II were issued in 1957 (7d) and 1958 (3d). Following increases in aerogramme postage rates on 1 November 1958, 6d and 9d aerogrammes were issued in 1959. The new aerogrammes were on paper watermarked "IMPERIAL AIR MAIL" with

One of the scarcest Fijian aerogrammes is the 5c on 8c aerogramme

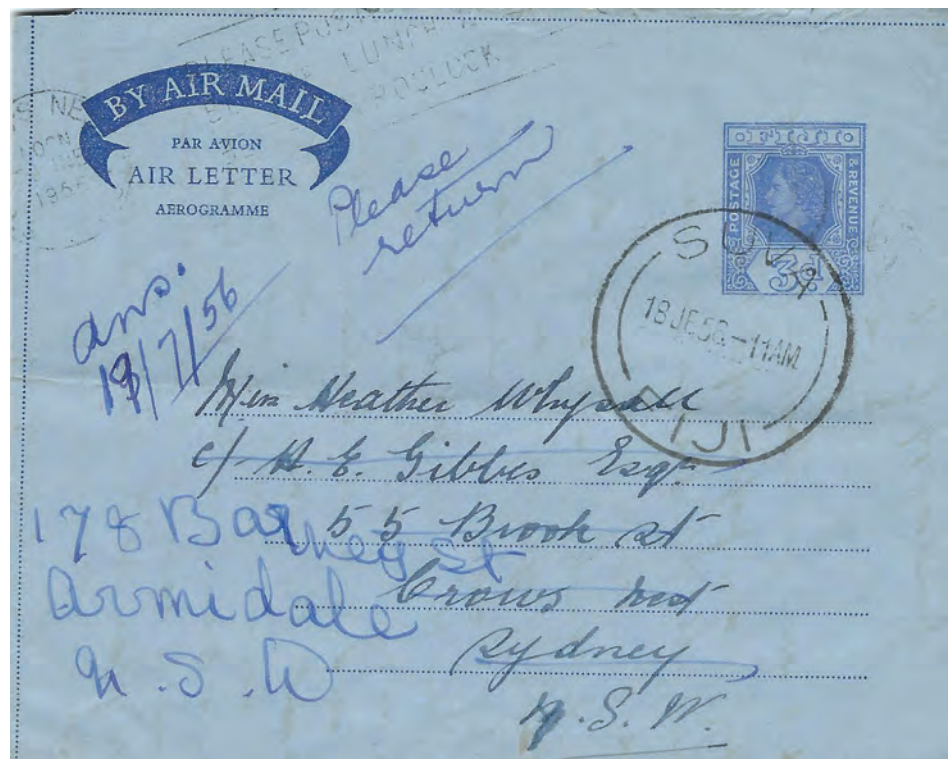


Figure 4 3d Queen Elizabeth II air letter

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(Figure 6) issued on 23 August 1971 presumably due to a shortage of 5c aerogrammes. Very few commercially used examples have been recorded.

New larger 5c and 8c aerogrammes were issued in 1972 with the imprinted stamp featuring a flying fish design (Figure 7). The aerogramme rate was increased to 10c for all countries on 1 January 1976 with a 10c aerogramme (Figure 8) in the same design issued in 1975. In

1981 the stamp design was modified to show two flying fish. As a result of postage rate increases 15c (1981), 18c (1983), 21c

(1988, Figure 9) and 25c (1992) aerogrammes were issued in the new design. The final aerogramme, inscribed 'POSTAGE PAID', in a larger format with

a beach scene on the right and a modified flying fish stamp design was issued in 1995.

Fiji also issued a number of unstamped official aerogrammes for use by Government departments. These were inscribed 'O.H.M.S' or 'ON HER MAJESTY'S SERVICE' (Figure 11). Privately produced unstamped aerogrammes including some



Figure 5 6d Queen Elizabeth II aerogramme with handstamp 'INSUFFICIENT POSTAGE FOR AIRMAIL'

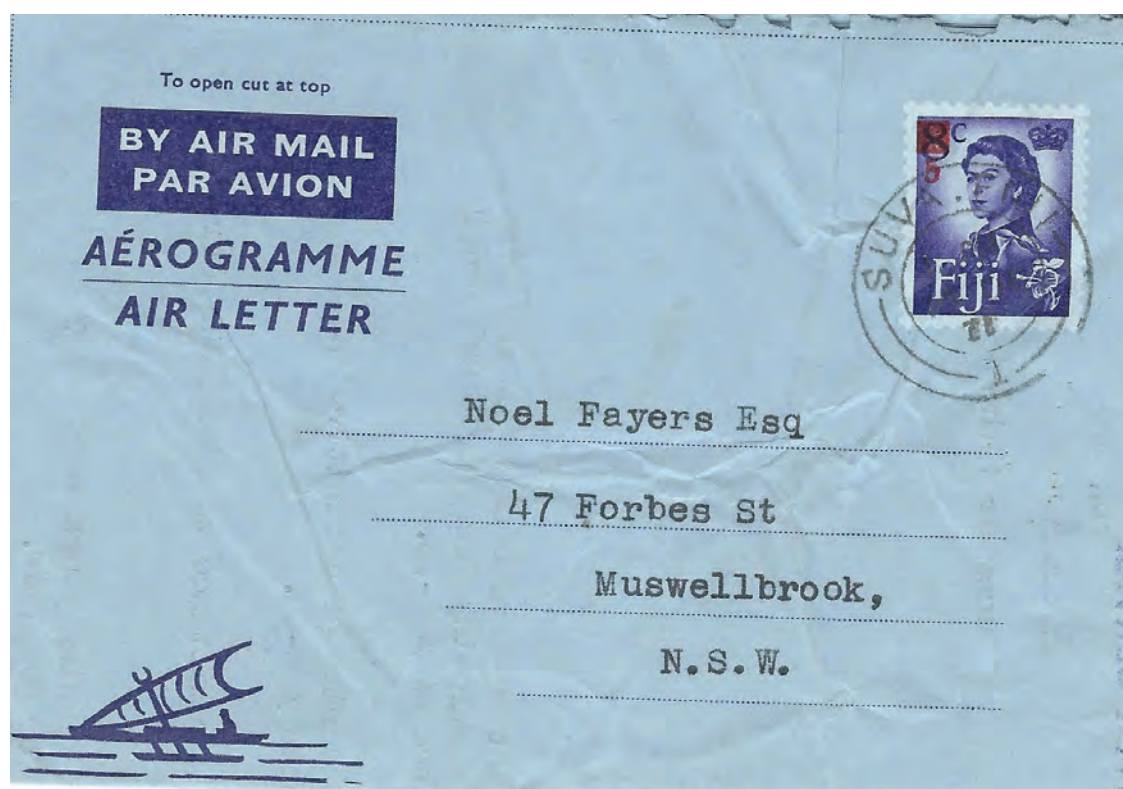


Figure 6 5c on 8c aerogramme used to Musswelbrook, NSW

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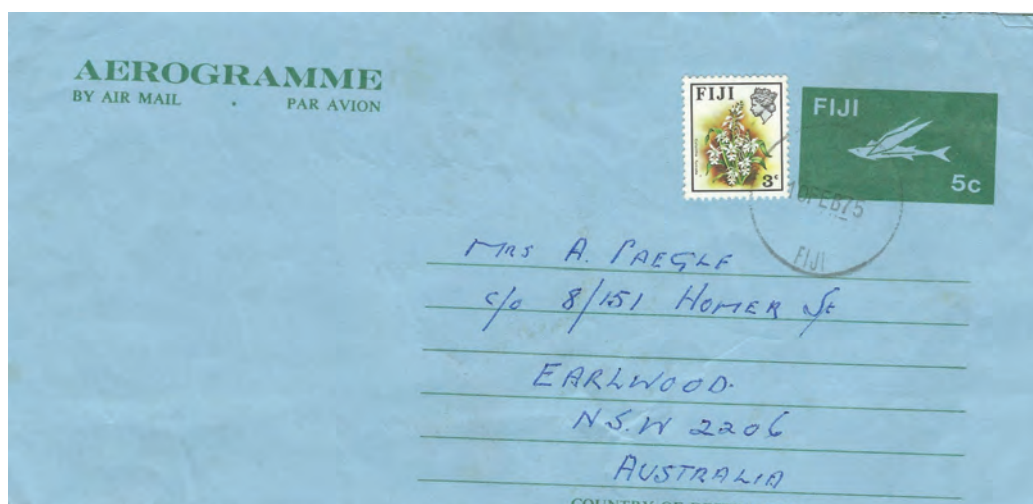


Figure 7 5c flying fish aerogramme

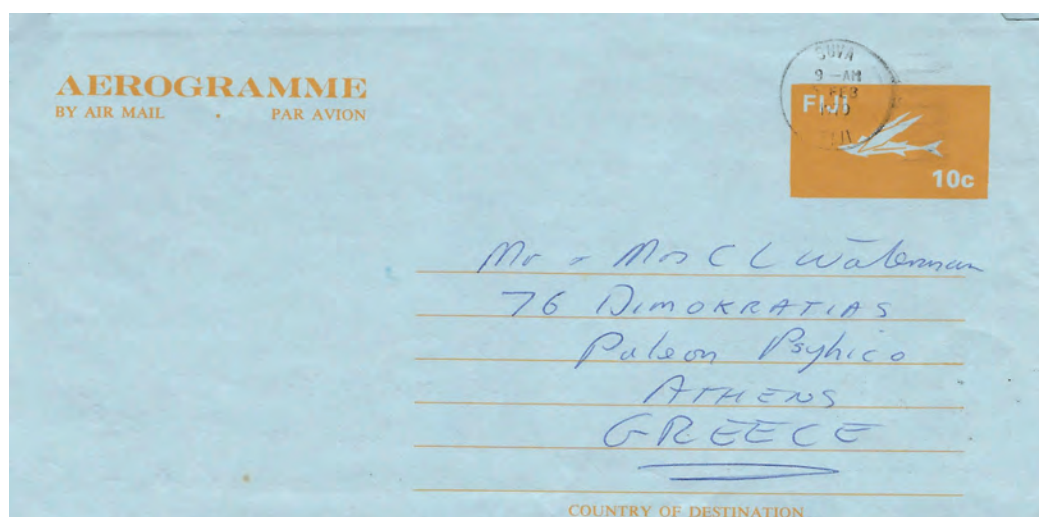


Figure 8 10c aerogramme used to Greece

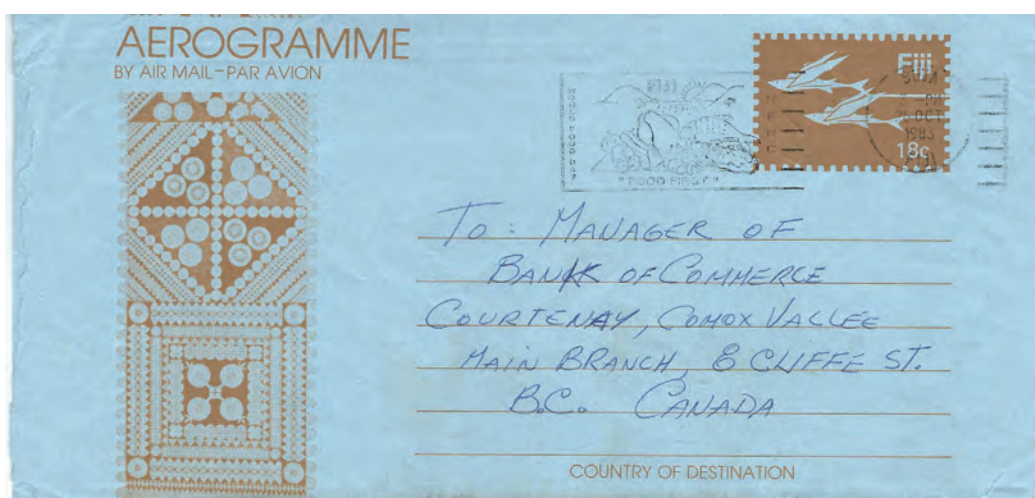


Figure 9 18c aerogramme used to Canada

produced in the UK, Australia and New Zealand were also extensively used (Figure 12).

Postal Stationery Society of Australia Aerogramme Challenge

The next National Postal Stationery competition will take place at 2018 Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo, a half-national exhibition to be held 25-27 May 2018. Further information on the Exhibition can be found at www.apf.org.au.

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia is sponsoring an Aerogramme Competition at the Exhibition. Aerogrammes (including airletters) were an important innovation in stationery that came to prominence during World War II as light weight stationery to be carried by air, especially important to help maintain contact between people serving in the military and their family and friends back home. Their popularity continued after the war as they were usually carried at a lower rate than the air mail letter rate.

Despite being an important and, at the time, an innovative form of postal

stationery, aerogrammes have been neglected by

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many stationery collectors. The Aerogramme Competition seeks to encourage collectors to exhibit aerogrammes and follows on from the successful one-frame aerogramme competition at Norpex 2015. The PSSA will provide a prize to the Newcastle Committee to be awarded to the best aerogramme exhibit at the Exhibition.

Privately Manufactured Airletters & Aerogrammes

From 1946 private companies could produce unstamped airmail letter sheets known initially as airletters and later as aerogrammes. In order to be used at the aerogramme postage rate, the design of privately produced aerogrammes need to be approved by the Post Office and had to conform generally with the dimensions and arrangements and light weight



Figure 11 Official use of a formular aerogramme

paper of aerogrammes sold at post offices in Australia, and have a notice to the effect that the form had been approved by the Postmaster-General for acceptance as an aerogramme [airletter] and the approval number printed on the lower left-hand corner of the address side. Figure 13 shows an airletter form produced by Shipping Newspapers

Ltd (approval no 9) while Figure 14 shows an aerogramme form produced by Black and Hargreaves Pty Ltd (approval no 2).

Companies which took advantage of the system included printing and stationery companies such as John S. Sands of Sydney, Specialty Press of Victoria and William Brooks of Brisbane as well as a range of private com-

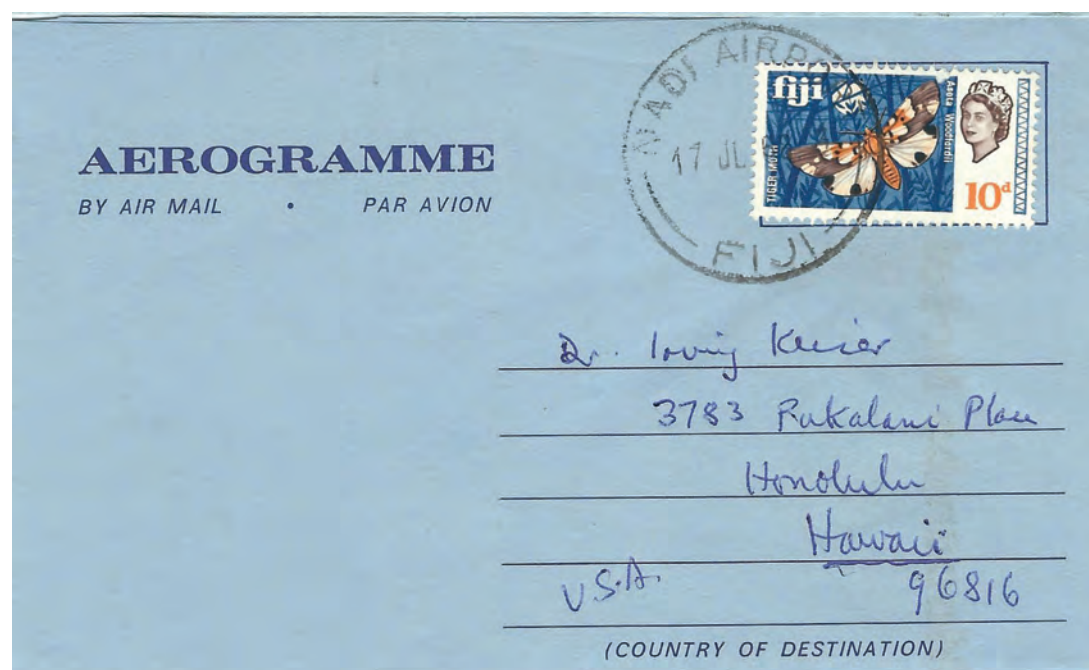


Figure 12 Formular aerogramme used to Hawaii

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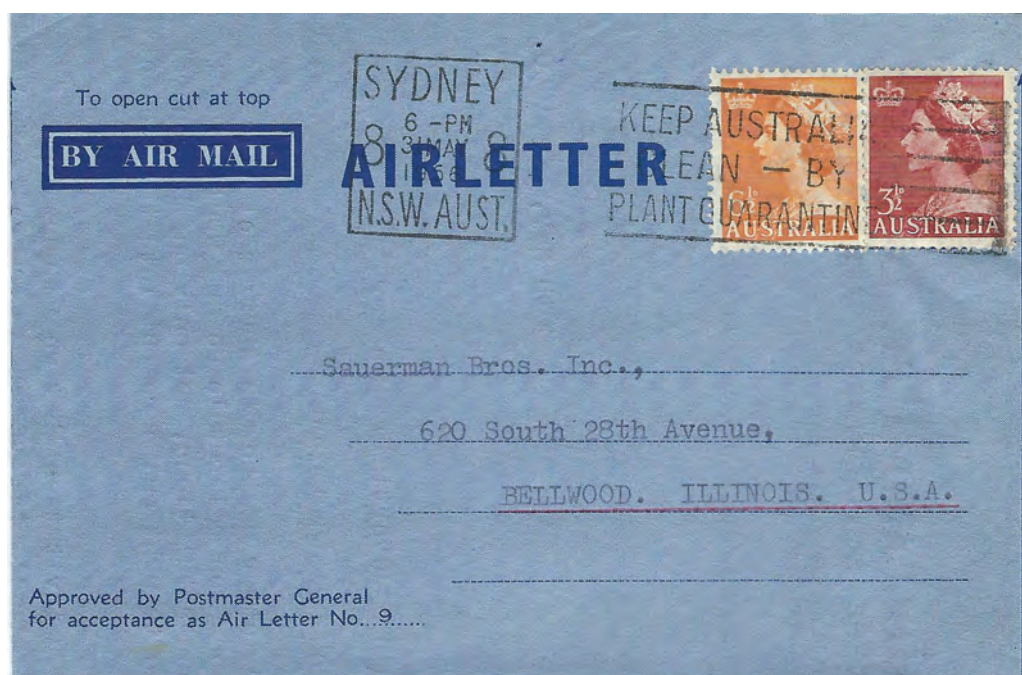


Figure 13 Airletter form, approval no 9

panies such as Ansett-ANA (Airlines), and the National Bank. Many organisations made use of the forms produced by the stationery companies including universities and banks as the aero-

gramme rate represented a very significant saving over the cost of an airmail letter.

Neil Cornish has produced a catalogue (Figure 15) of the pre-decimal privately manufactured airletters & aerogrammes of Australia which runs to over 100 pages, with an introduction/explanation to the topic, a detailed listing of the pre-decimal issued permit numbers including illustrations, and appendices and correspondence from the Postmaster-General's Department. If you

wish to have more information on the catalogue please contact me on ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com and I will pass on your request to Neil.

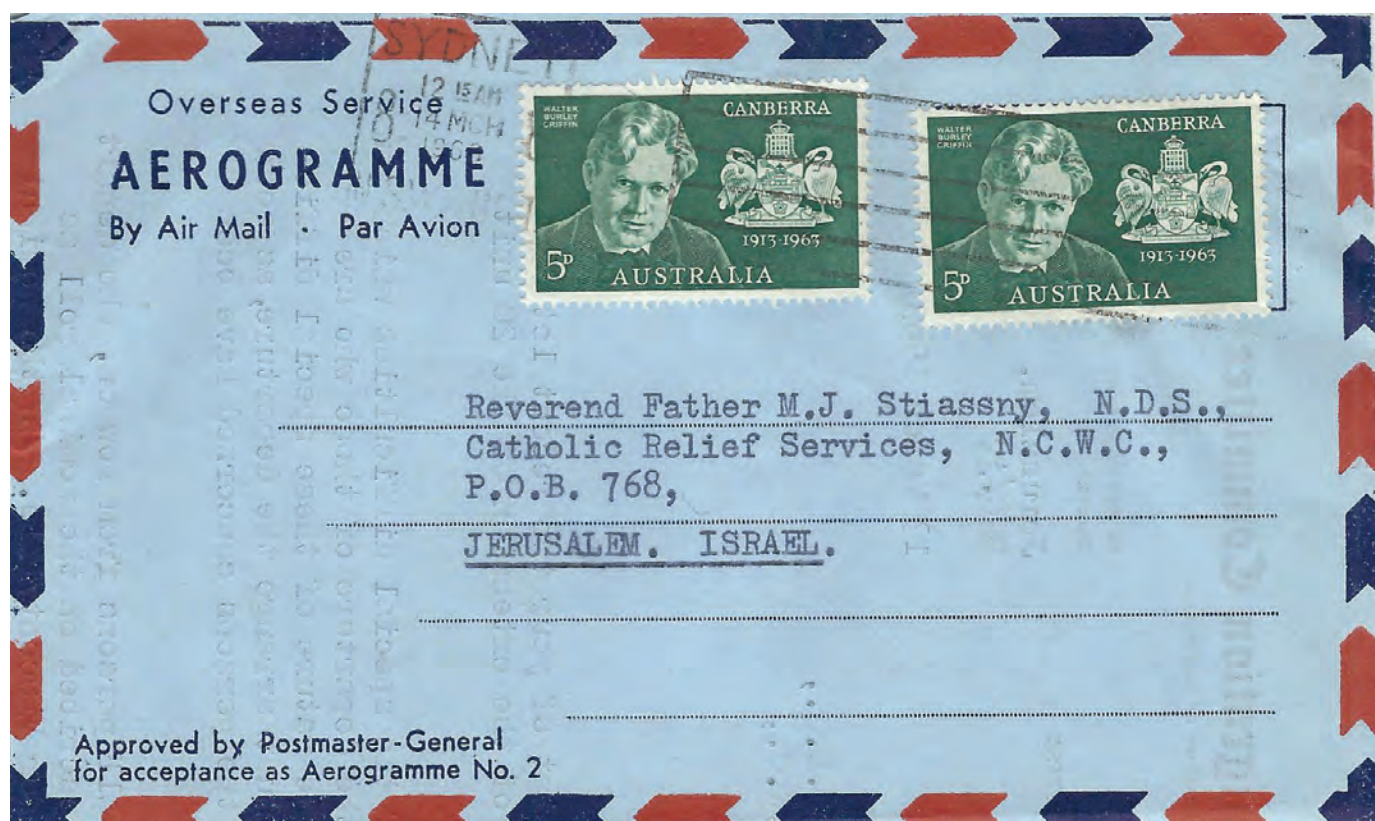


Figure 14 Aerogramme form, approval no 2

Postal Stationery

This month's column looks at the postal stationery listings for Commonwealth issues in the new edition of the *Australasian Stamp Catalogue* (ASC), results from Bandung 2017 and forthcoming exhibitions with postal stationery classes as well as Emoji postal stationery from Switzerland.

Postal Stationery Listings in the Australasian Stamp Catalogue (32nd Edition)

After many years, a new edition of the *Australasian Stamp Catalogue* has been published by Seven Seas Stamps. The *Australasian Stamp Catalogue* is important for collectors of Australian Commonwealth postal stationery as it includes a simplified priced listing of Australian postal stationery. While there is now a specialised catalogue for pre-decimal postal stationery as part of the *Australian Commonwealth Specialised Catalogue* (ACSC), the *Australasian stamp catalogue* provides a straightforward listing of the pre-decimal issues and the only priced catalogue of decimal issues.

The Catalogue covers postal stationery issued by the Commonwealth of Australia from the first issues of 1911 up to issues from 2016. The listings include postal stationery sold over post office counters ('regular' issues) but not printed to private order (PTPO) issues. Modern postal stationery such as express post envelopes, and prepaid parcel satchels are not covered.

Stamped envelopes (Figure 1) are listed from the 1d Kangaroo and Map issue of 1913 until the Cente-

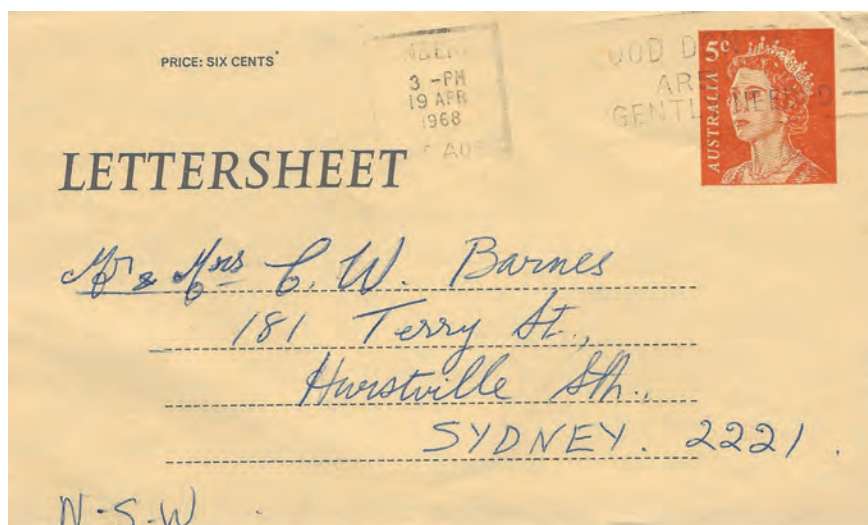


Figure 1 ASC E37 5d Queen Elizabeth II Envelope



Figure 2 ASC P4 King George V Coronation postcard

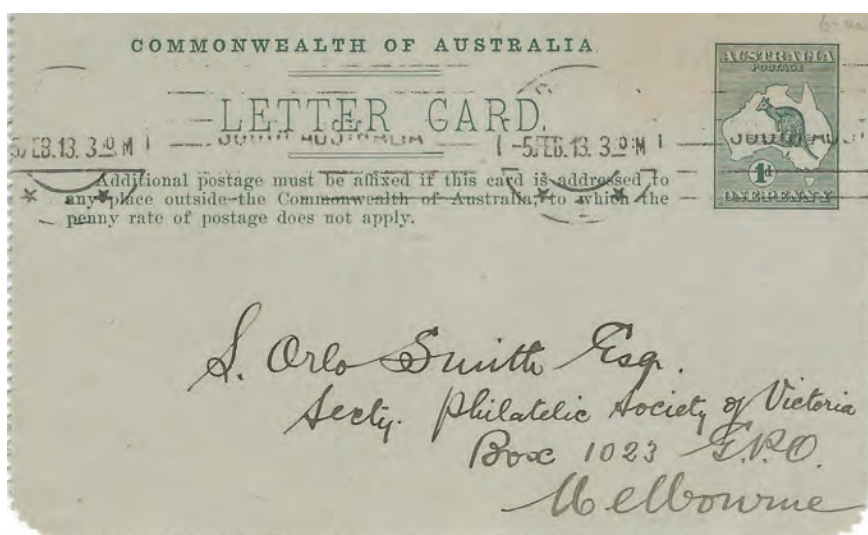


Figure 3 ASC L5 1d Kangaroo and Map Lettercard

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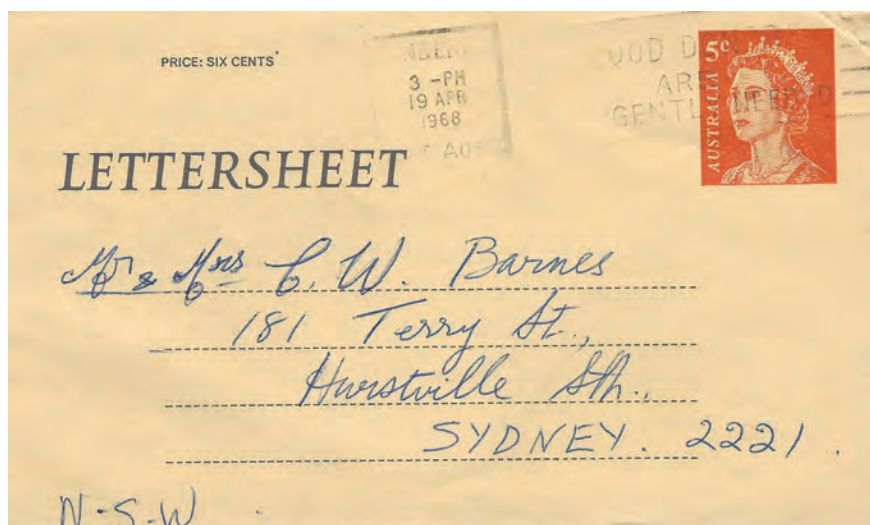


Figure 4 ASC LS3 5c Queen Elizabeth II Lettersheet



Figure 5 ASC W1 1/2d Kangaroo and Map Wrapper



Figure 6 ASC R18a FOUR-PENCE HALFPENCE on 5d King George V Registered Envelope

nary of the Justices of the Peace issue of November 2016. The listing, especially that of the modern pre-stamped envelopes, is very useful to collectors of Australian Commonwealth postal stationery as information on modern issues is not easily found elsewhere. The listing would be more useful if the envelopes were illustrated with only some of the stamp imprints of earlier envelopes illustrated. The envelopes are priced mint and used. Both modern definitive envelopes, called postage prepaid envelopes (PPEs) by Australia Post and commemorative envelopes, pre-stamped envelopes (PSEs), are included.

Postcards (Figure 2) are listed and priced mint and used from the King George V side face issue of 1911 until some of the issues of 2016. The listing from 1911 until 1988 provides a simplified listing of the regular issue postcards with many of the postcards issued up to 1957 illustrated. The listing from 1990 onwards is however, incomplete, in general listing only postcards which have been recorded in the *Australian Philatelic Bulletin*. This is not surprising as since 1990 Australia Post has issued many pre-

paid postcards which have not been officially announced or recorded in the *Bulletin*. The many pre-paid postcards issued in conjunction with adhesive stamp issues (sold by Australia Post as maximum cards) are comprehensively listed in the Catalogue under the maximum card listings. As

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stated in the Catalogue, from 1990, all of these postcards were pre-paid and could be used for postage. The listings could be made easier to use by the addition of illustrations, but I understand the space limitations in a modern catalogue.

The lettercards (Figure 3) are listed from the first issues in 1911 until the 1985 pictorial issue, with many of the lettercards illustrated. As expected in a simplified listing, the many illustrations on the reverse of the King George V and Kangaroo and Map lettercards are not listed. These can be found in the ACSC. The three values of Queen Elizabeth II lettersheets (Figure 4) are also listed.

Newspaper wrappers (Figure 5) sold over post office counters issued from 1913 to 1980 are listed in the Catalogue. PTPO wrappers are not included. The wrappers are not illustrated. In addition, the details in the listing are sometimes abbreviated making the listing a little difficult to follow if you are not familiar with these issues.

Registered envelopes (Figures 6 and 7) are listed from the 1913 Kangaroo and Map issues of 1913 to the 1967 24c Queen Elizabeth II registered envelopes. Many of the registered envelopes are illustrated assisting readers to follow the listing. Modern registered envelopes, issued since 1996, are not covered by the listing.

Aerogrammes (Figure 8) continue to be popular with collectors who will find the aerogramme listing of the catalogue very useful. Stamped



Figure 7 ASC R33 5 1/2d KGVI Registered Envelope used to USA



Figure 8 A33 10c aerogramme with oval 'O' in '10c'



Figure 9 2017 Wildflower Aerogramme

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Figure 10 Postal Stationery Class at Bandung 2017

aerogrammes issued from 1944 until 2016 are listed with most aerogrammes illustrated. The listing also includes airmail stamped envelopes ('international PPEs'). The aerogrammes are priced mint and cancelled first day of issue (FDI). Including pricing for used aerogrammes would improve the listing. Official aerogrammes used by the Postmaster-General's Department are also covered. Australia's first stamped aerogramme, the 7d airletter with the text 'For letters to members of Forces Overseas', is listed under a listing of wartime stationery as is the 5c Queen Elizabeth II aerogramme for use by Australian forces in Vietnam.

The separate listing of wartime stationery also includes a number of other postal stationery items such as the 5c Queen Elizabeth II envelope, the 1d King George V World War One envelopes and the prisoner of war aerogrammes and postcards including the 5d aerogramme intended for use by Japanese prisoner of war of which only two are known, one of which sold at a recent Moss Green auction for \$10,200 including buyers' premium.

Christmas Island aerogrammes, and registered envelopes are also listed in the Catalogue along with the lunar new year stamped postcards and

envelopes and Cocos (Keeling) Islands aerogrammes and stamped envelopes.

In summary, the listings of postal stationery in the *Australasian Stamp Catalogue* remain important to collectors of Commonwealth postal stationery and as, has been said previously, are reason



Figure 11 Judging the Postal Stationery Class at Bandung 2017

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enough for postal stationery collectors to purchase the Catalogue.

Figure 12 Postal Stationery Seminar at Bandung 2017

Purple Tassles Aerogramme

A new aerogramme was issued by Australia Post on 2 October 2017. The aerogramme (Figure 9) which sells for \$2.40 has a wildflower design featuring Purple Tassles, *Sowerbaea laxiflora*, a wildflower found in south-west Western Australia.

Postal Stationery Class at Bandung 2017 World Stamp Exhibition

Bandung 2017 was a world stamp exhibition held 3 – 7 August 2017 in Bandung, Indonesia.

The postal stationery class (Figures 10, 11 and 12) included twenty-four exhibits with a wide variety of topics including Netherland Indies and Indonesia, German Post Office in China, Korean postcards, Sweden and Bechuanaland. The top

ranked exhibit was *British India Queen Victoria Postal Stationery* which received a Large Gold and special prize. Special prizes were also awarded to Frank Li for his exhibit of Albania and to Ian Bridle for his exhibit of Republican Postal Stationery of Java.

There were four one-frame postal stationery exhibits including an exhibit of the *Black Jack Envelopes and Wrappers* [of the USA], the 2c black envelopes (Figure 13) of the USA which depicted Andrew Jackson, the seventh US president, issued 1863-64. This exhibit was a specialised study of these issues and received the best result of the postal stationery one-frame exhibits.

Australian results were a Large Vermeil to Nancy Grey for her exhibit of the *King George V Envelopes of Australia*, a Vermeil for Charles Bromser and his exhibit *USSR Postal Stationery of the 10th Standard Issue 1961 – 1967* and a

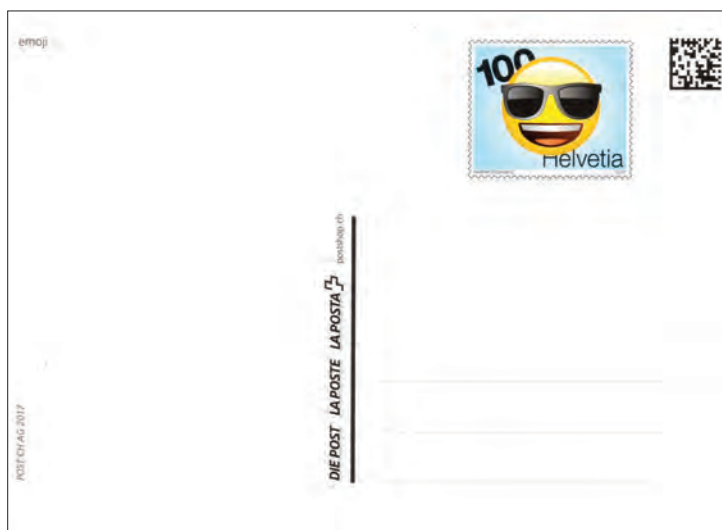
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Large Vermeil for Gary Brown and *the Postal Stationery of Natal*.

Postal Stationery Exhibits at Royalpex 2017

The 2017 national postal stationery competition for Australia and New Zealand will take place at Royalpex 2017, a New Zealand Specialised National Stamp Exhibition to be held from 24 – 26 November 2017 at the Distinction Hotel, Te Rapa, Hamilton. New Zealand, <http://www.nzpf.org.nz/exhibitions/royalpex-2017>. National exhibitions are a great opportunity to view postal stationery exhibits. If you are able to, please plan to attend.



2018 National Postal Stationery Competition at Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo, 25-27 May 2018

As mentioned in the October 2017 issue of *Australasian Stamp News*, the next national postal stationery competition including the Postal Stationery Society of Australia Aerogramme competition, will take place at 2018 Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo to be held in Newcastle on 25-27 May 2018. Entries for the Exhibition close on 28 February 2018 and entry forms can be found at <http://newcastlephilatelicociety.org.au/2018-newcastle-stamp-and-coin-expo/>. Please consider entering!



Emoji Postal Stationery

Gloria Bradley advises that Switzerland issued two postcards (Figures 14 and 15) and five stamped envelopes on 9 September 2017 to celebrate emojis. For those who have not followed electronic communications, emoji or smileys are graphic symbols used in electronic messages and web pages often to convey emotions. Originating on Japanese mobile phones in the late 1990s, emoji have become increasingly popular worldwide since their international inclusion in Apple's iPhone, which was followed by similar adoption by Android and other mobile operating systems.

Top: Figure 13 USA 2c Black Jack Envelope Stamp

Middle: Figure 14 Swiss Emoji Postcard

Bottom: Figure 15 Reverse of Swiss Emoji Postcard

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This month's column looks at recent postal stationery auction results, the Gilbert & Ellice Islands 3c 1973 Lettercard, a Canada postcard sent special delivery and new issues from Australia Post.

Australian Registration Envelopes: The Mark Diserio Gold Medal Exhibit

Mark Diserio's collection of Australian Registered Envelopes was sold by Moss-green Auctions in Melbourne on 3 October 2017 with many outstanding results. 80% of the lots were sold, for 175% of the total estimates. The auction-

eer, Gary Watson, commented that "This was an outstanding result, but postal stationery as a whole is under appreciated and represents tremendous value for money for those looking for a new interest". Complimen-

tary copies of the catalogue can be obtained by contacting Moss-green.

The offering started with the pre-Kangaroo issues of the various states. For the first time ever, mint, CTO and used (Figure 1) examples of the 1912 Queensland King Edward VII 3d Registered Envelope (with boxed 'REGISTERED')



Figure 1 One other used example of the Queensland 1912 King Edward VII 3d with Boxed 'REGISTERED' has been recorded. This very fine envelope sold for \$3,120.



Figure 2 Estimated at \$300, this irregularly posted and taxed item sold for \$1080.

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Figure 3 This rare surcharged envelope had the added attractions of usage from the Northern Territory and a superb AR (Advice of Receipt) handstamp. It sold for \$1,680.

were offered together, selling for \$1,020, \$960 and \$3,120 respectively (all prices include the 20% buyer's premium). Only two copies of the used envelope are known and four copies of the CTO envelope. The Tasmanian issues were absent from the Collection but a very rare unused example of the 1912 long envelope HG C6 sold elsewhere in the Auction for \$2,280.

The Kangaroo first issue with 'No Line across the Flap' ACSC RE1c sold for more than double estimate. Two used examples of the scarce long

\$1,020 \$1,800 and \$1,920 respectively. Mint and used examples of the 'FIVE/PENCE' on 4d Side-

envelope ACSC RE2 sold for \$840 (double-rate to Austria) and \$504 (internal usage).

In the KGV Sideface issues (Figures 2 and 3), two examples of the 1919 provisional issue with Admonition at the Base sold for \$576 (graded A-) and \$1,320 (graded A). The 'FOURPENCE/HALFPENNY' on 5d surcharges were popular:

used examples of ACSC #14A, 14B and 14C sold for



Figure 4 This apparently standard SPECIMEN issue was not sent for distribution to UPU members. Believed to be the only recorded example, it achieved the top price of \$3,600.

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face each sold for \$1,680.

There were some surprises among the later issues. A philatelic usage of the 1954 formular issue for use in the External Territories, estimated at \$150, reached \$720, the buyer later revealing that it was a first day cover for the QEII 1/0 ½d stamp! The unique 2/5d with Albino Stamp & 11 Obliterating Lines, catalogued at \$750, sold for four times that amount, at \$3,120. Superb unused and used examples of the 2/5d with "...compensation up to £50 (\$100) ..." in the admonition sold for \$960 and \$480 respectively.

The greatest surprises were the prices for 'SPECIMEN'. The unique KGV1 8½d and 1/0½d envelopes both with handstamped 'SPECIMEN'

went to \$3,360 and \$1,920, against estimates of \$500 and \$400. The same KGV1 1/0½d with printed 'SPECIMEN' in red, catalogued at \$300, went to

\$1,080. But the highest price was reserved for the QEII 2/5d ACSC RE42w, which was not distributed to the UPU. In fact, this may be the only recorded example, evidenced by the final price of \$3,600.

1899 New Zealand Pictorial ½d Social Envelope

In 1899 New Zealand produced stamped envelopes impressed with ½d, 1d and 2d pictorial stamps



Figure 5 1899 New Zealand Pictorial ½d Social Envelope



Figure 6 1969 Gilbert & Ellice Islands Christmas Formular Aerogramme

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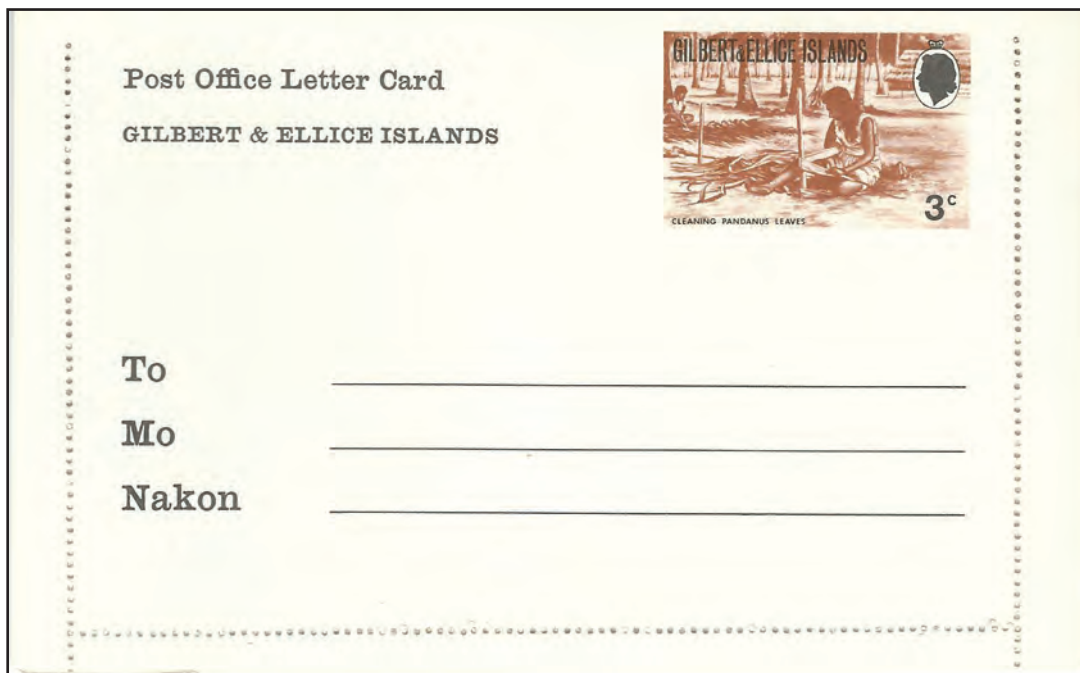


Figure 7 Gilbert & Ellice Islands 3c 1973 Lettercard

depicting Mt Cook, Terraces and Pembroke Peak respectively. The ½d envelope was produced in small and foolscap sizes, the 1d in a foolscap size and the 2d in a social size (a square envelope intended to be used for invitations).

A small number of ½d Mt Cook envelopes 'social' envelopes (Figure 5) were also produced, possibly in error for a 1d Terraces Social envelope. In all 12,492 were printed, however, it is presumed that almost all copies were destroyed and no 1d Terraces social envelopes were issued.

The *Postage Stamps of New Zealand* Volume IX, which includes a discussion of this envelope, states

that only one copy of the ½d social envelope was known. The Mowbray Collectables Auction of 14 October 2017 included a second copy of this envelope. Estimated at NZD\$2,000, the envelope sold



Figure 8 King George VI Canada Postcard Sent Special Delivery

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for \$8,000 (excluding the buyer's premium).

The Gilbert & Ellice Islands 3c 1973 Lettercard

The postal stationery of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands is not extensive: two aerogrammes, several formular aerogrammes (Figure 6) and a letter card (Figure 7). The aerogrammes are reasonably well known but the lettercard is more of an enigma. Ed Druce first came across a mint copy about five years ago in an Italian dealer's stock. He was able to confirm that it was an official issue from the minutes of a meeting of the Gilbert & Ellice Islands



Figure 9 Adelaide Stampex 2017 Postcard

Philatelic Advisory Committee of 5 January 1973 that stated *Look into the possibility of introducing an official letter card*

embossed with the current 3 cent stamp. The issue of the lettercard was not, however, mentioned in the Philatelic Bulletin at the time. The lettercard probably went on sale in early 1974 with a life of just under two years until the break-up of the Gilbert and Ellice Islands occurred on independence. As a result, few copies of the lettercard have been reported, less than 30 with 1 used and a number CTO. The used copy was cancelled at Maiana on 23 November 1975 while one of the CTO copies has a 2c Tuvalu adhesive stamp added and cancelled on 10 November

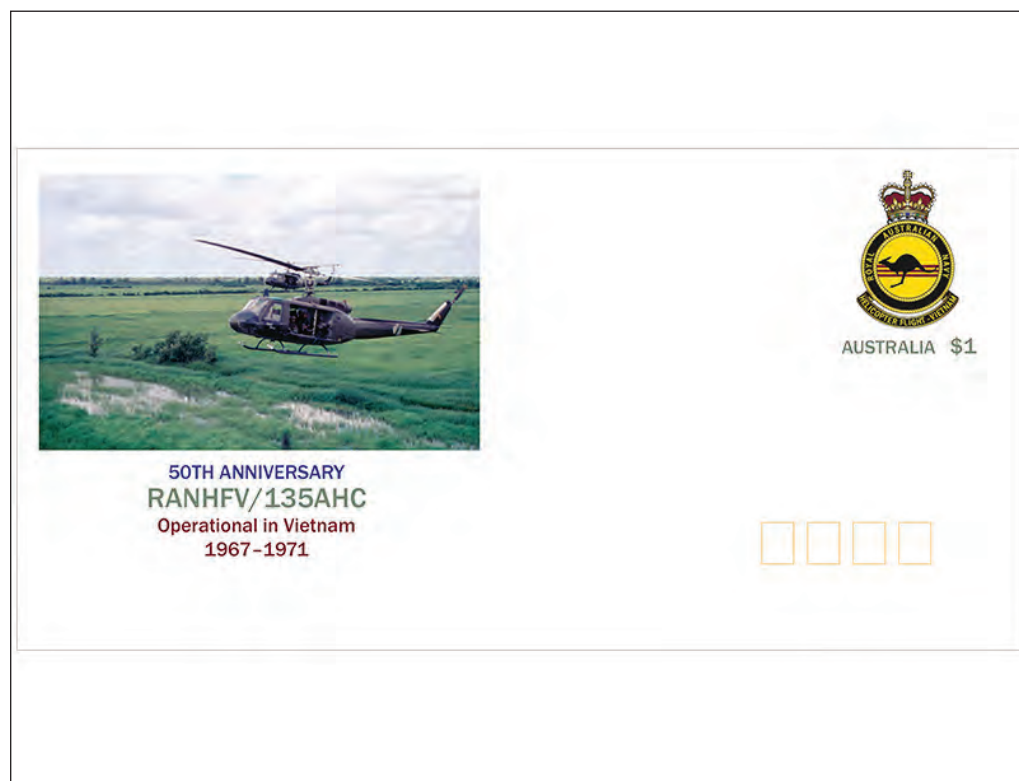


Figure 10 Royal Australian Navy's Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV) Stamped Envelope

Ian McMahon

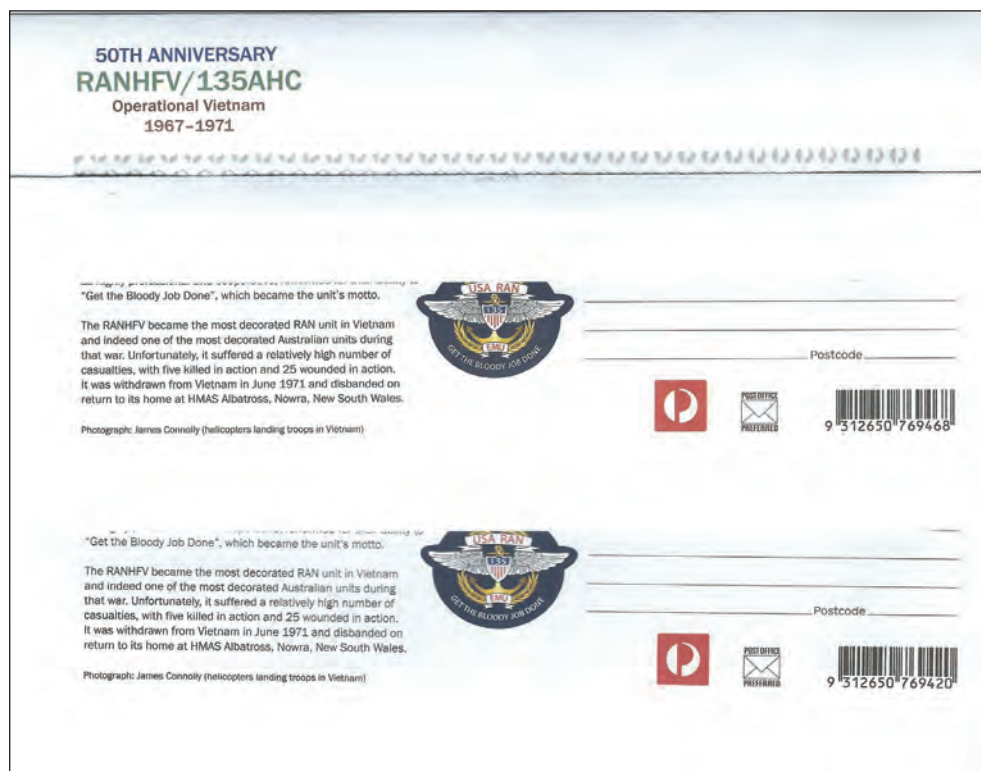


Figure 11 Reverse of Envelopes - Barcodes: Mint 312650 769468, FDI 312650 769420

1976. With the break-up into the Gilbert Islands (now Kiribati) and the Ellice Island (now Tuvalu), the Gilbert and Ellice Island adhesive stamps were withdrawn on 31 December 1975 and on 1 January 1976 were issued overprinted for Tuvalu and a day later issued overprinted Gilbert Island. No overprinted lettercards have been recorded.

Special Delivery Postcard

The postcard has served for many years for messages of greetings and other purposes similar to what we might use a phone call or email today. Occasionally you find postcards sent by additional services such as registered or express. One such postcard as the 1c King George VI Canada postcard illustrated in Figure 8 which was sent from Banff, Alberta by special delivery on 14 August 1952 to Upper Darby, Pennsylvania in the USA. So why did the sender choose to pay an additional 16c in postage for the special delivery rate for the postcard sent to Mr and Mrs Romer? The answer is provided on the back of the postcard. The sender writes *I will arrive 7.45 a. m August 18 at Grand Central Station*

NY [New York]. The writer explains that as he was going through New York on the way to Europe and returning via Montreal (to save \$100) and wanted to see Mr Romer to discuss some important family business.

Adelaide Stampex 2017 Postcards and Exhibits

Australia Post issued a stamped postcard for Adelaide Stampex 2017 (Figure 9). The Postcard shows the Adelaide Drill Hall which was the venue for the Exhibition. The photograph on the postcard was by Martin Walker.

Adelaide Stampex 2017 was a specialised National exhibition held 6-8 October

2017. While there was no postal stationery class there were three postal stationery exhibits in the one-frame competition with a Large Gold medal awarded to Lindsay Chitty for *New Zealand Prisoner of War Aerogrammes and Postcards 1941-1945* and Gold and Vermeil medals to Philip Levine for his exhibits *Gold Coast One Penny Postcard of 1892* and its *Usage and Cape of Good Hope Queen Victoria Prestamped Envelopes* respectively.

Royal Australian Navy's Helicopter Flight Vietnam (RANHFV) Stamped Envelope

An envelope (Figure 10) commemorating 50 years since the formation of the Royal Australian Navy's Helicopter Flight Vietnam was issued on 15 October 2017. The envelope was designed by Jo Mure (Australia Post) and printed by A&G Envelopes. It was sold for \$1.25. As has been the practice in recent years, the mint and FDI envelopes have different barcodes (Figure 11).

Postal Stationery

Welcome to the second postal stationery column for 2018. This month's column looks at Belgium 'Do Not Deliver on Sunday' postal stationery and the results of a recent auction of Danish West Indies and Icelandic postal stationery.

Belgium 'Don't Deliver on Sundays' Postal Stationery

Back in 1893, the postman delivered mail much more often than is currently the case. In Belgium that included delivering mail on Sundays. The delivery of mail on Sundays, however, was against the religious beliefs of some of the people of Belgium. To placate those concerns, the Belgian Post Office gave people a choice of whether their mail would be delivered on a Sunday or not.

In late 1893 postal stationery was issued with a



Figure 1 1893 10c Orange-Brown Lettercard with Do Not Deliver On Sunday 'Bandelette'

'bandelette' (or printed box) under the impressed stamp that read 'NE PAS LIVRER LE DIMANCHE / NET BESTELLEN OP ZONDAG', that is, *Do not deliver on Sunday* in French and Flemish. To the left of the 'bandelette' was an asterisk in brackets referring the sender to the instructions "Cette inscription peut être biffée. — Dat opschrift mag doorgehaald worden" or *This inscription can be crossed out* in French and Flemish.

People who did not want their mail delivered on a Sunday left the text untouched but if you did want



Figure 2 1898 10c Carmine Lettercard Perf 11 Light Grey Paper With 'Bandelette' Crossed Out Allowing Delivery on Sunday



Figure 3 1898 10c Carmine Lettercard Perf 12 Blue-Grey Paper with 'Bandelette' Crossed Out

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Figure 4 1894 25c Blue Foreign Postcard Used to Germany with 'Bandelette' Not Crossed Out



Figure 5 1905 10c Carmine King Leopold II Lettercard



Figure 7 10c Carmine King Albert I Postcard with 'Bandelette' Crossed Out



Figure 6 1904 5c Postcard with Address Lines for Sender's Address on Left of Postcard.

your mail delivered on a Sunday you crossed out the text in the 'bandelette'.

A 10c lettercard impressed with a stamp depicting King Leopold II in orange brown with a 'bandelette' was issued on 1 December 1893. Figure 1 shows a copy of this lettercard used from Ormeignies with the text not crossed out, indicating that the sender did not want the lettercard delivered on a Sunday. The colour of the stamp on the 10c lettercard was changed in 1898 to carmine. Figure 2 shows a copy of the 10c carmine lettercard posted from Liege with the text crossed out, indicating that the sender was happy for the lettercard to be delivered on a Sunday. The lettercard shown is Perf 11 and on light grey paper. The lettercard was also issued Perf 12 on blue-grey paper (Figure 3). A 25c blue lettercard (Figure 4) was also issued for use to foreign countries. The stamp on the foreign rate card also included the 'bandelette', even though it may not have been relevant in most other countries. In 1905, 10c and 25c lettercards were issued with a new portrait of King Leopold II (Figure 5) while in 1912 lettercards bearing a portrait of King Albert I were issued. The King Albert stamp was printed on lettercards in two sizes and the 'bandelette' was

delivered on a Sunday. The lettercard shown is Perf 11 and on light grey paper. The lettercard was also issued Perf 12 on blue-grey paper (Figure 3). A 25c blue lettercard (Figure 4) was also issued for use to foreign countries. The stamp on the foreign rate card also included the 'bandelette', even though it may not have been relevant in most other countries. In 1905, 10c and 25c lettercards were issued with a new portrait of King Leopold II (Figure 5) while in 1912 lettercards bearing a portrait of King Albert I were issued. The King Albert stamp was printed on lettercards in two sizes and the 'bandelette' was

Postal Stationery

separated from the stamp.

Postcards with 'bandelette' were issued in 1893-4 with a 5c grey-green domestic rate postcard with a coat-of-arms stamp being issued on 15 December 1893 and a 10c orange-brown foreign rate postcard being issued on 1 February 1894. Reply cards were also issued on the same dates. The stamp colours of these cards were changed in 1908 in line with UPU regulations to yellow-green (5c) and carmine (10c).

Address lines for the sender's name and address were added on the left of the cards in 1904 (Figure 6). Postcards with a new stamp design of King Leopold II (similar to that shown in Figure 5) were issued in 1905. Postcards with 5c heraldic lion stamps and 10c King Albert stamps (Figure 7) were issued in 1912-13.

The 75th anniversary of the independence of Belgium was commemorated by the issuing of 5c and 10c postcards with a commemorative image (Figure

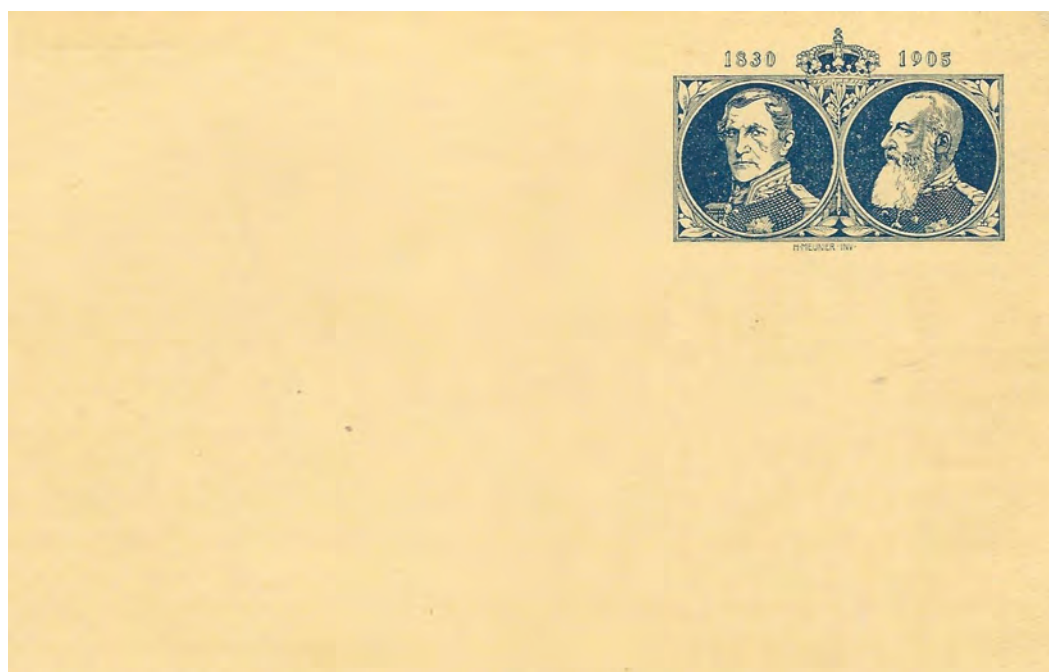


Figure 8 Reverse of Postcard Issued for the 75th Anniversary Of The Independence Of Belgium Showing King Leopold I And King Leopold II

8) on the reverse of the cards depicting King Leopold I and King Leopold II in brown, red-brown, olive, blue, green or red (5c) or in blue (10c) with the inscription 1830-1905.

Stamped envelopes were also issued with stamps with 'bandelettes'. The envelopes were stamped with 10c brown King Leopold II stamps (1 December 1893), 10c carmine King Leopold II (1901), the revised stamp design of King Leopold II (1905,

with address lines for the sender's name and address (1907) and with the 10c red stamp of King Albert I (1912).

An Acknowledgment of receipt postcard was issued in 1897 stamped with a 10c stamp of a design similar to Belgian railway parcel stamps of the period and inscribed 'CHEMINS DER FER'.



Figure 9 1877 6c Danish West Indies Postcard used from St Thomas to Denmark.

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Figure 10 Danish West Indies 2c Envelope Used to New Zealand in 1900.

The use of postal stationery with ‘bandelettes’ ceased on 15 October 1915.

Hans von Strokirch Collection of Danish West Indies and Iceland Postal Stationery

The Hans von Strokirch Collection of Danish West Indies and Iceland postal stationery were sold at the Mossgreen Auction on 21ST November 2017.

This is not the sort of subject one expects to find in an Australian sale. However, the sale was advertised internationally with lots being available for viewing at London’s *Stampex* in September and to *Nordia* in Denmark in October. The sale produced some exceptional results as Gary Watson reports below.

From the Danish West Indies, the highlight was an in-period use from St Thomas

to Denmark of the 1877 6c dull purple Postal Card (Figure 9) *Facit* #BK1, Cat SKr18,000 (= \$A2,500). Estimated at \$600, and despite exhibiting minor tone spots, this rare item sold for \$5,280 (all prices include the 20% buyer’s premium), more than double the current catalogue value.

St Jan is the smallest of the major islands; mail from there is elusive.

An 1892 usage of a Barbados 1d Postal Card forwarded from St Thomas with light ‘ST JAN’ arrival cancel sold for \$900. A 3c Envelope used from St Jan realised \$660.

Destination mail is an increasingly popular subject. A 2c Envelope (Figure 10) uprated in 1900 to New Zealand was estimated at \$400 but sold for \$900.



Figure 11 1889 5a postcard-size composite proof

Postal Stationery

The extensive Icelandic collection included a Postal Stationery section of 21 lots, all but two of which achieved at least estimate.

Proofs of the First Issue Postal Card exist in a wide array of colour combinations (Figure 11). Eleven different proof cards plus two strips of three, offered in four lots, were estimated at \$2,250 but were bid up to \$3,468.

No scenic Postal Cards were produced by the Icelandic Post Office. However, a Copenhagen businessman named Agnus Munck organised the private overprinting of six different black & white illustrations on the reverse of 5a and 8a Postal Cards (Figure 12). These are very scarce items that rarely



Figure 12 Privately Added View on the Reverse of Iceland Postcard

appear at auction. Hans von Strokirch had managed to assemble a complete used set which realised \$11,400.

The 1902-03 'I GILDI' Overprints are a popular subject. Commercially used Postal Cards are very elusive. A specialised group identifying the three different overprint settings and including several

obviously commercial usages plus two trial overprints and two with Double Overprints was estimated at \$1,750 but soared to \$8,400. By comparison, a mostly unused group of the 'I GILDI' Reply Cards sold for "only" 150% of estimate. Two philatelically used 'I GILDI' Reply Cards, noted as one of two and the only recorded examples, sold for \$780 and \$1320 respectively.

Printed matter rate postal cards were utilised in Iceland. A



Figure 13 4a Printed Matter Postcard with Ship Illustration on Right

Ian McMahon



Figure 14 10a Postcard with 'Skst' Manuscript Cancel of Skinastad

group of eight such cards, Cat SKr5,800 (\$A830), sold for \$1,020. The very attractive 4a (Figure 13) with blue ship illustration at left, used locally, sold for \$840.

In addition to the material under the Postal Stationery heading, many other Postal Cards were prominently featured in the Postal History and Postmarks sections. In fact, Hans von Strokirch used to interchange them between his award-winning Postmarks and Postal Stationery exhibits.

An 1893 commercial usage of a 10a Postal Card bore a "Skst" manuscript cancellation (Figure 14). Until the discovery of this item, it was believed that the originating post office was Skagastrond. However, the message here was headed "Skinastad", proving

usage at Skinnastadur. Estimated at \$600, it sold for \$2,880.

The undated "Crown & Posthorn" cancellations are the most popular Icelandic markings. Many of them are exceedingly rare on cover. Two Christian IX 5a postal cards (Figure 15) used at the tiny settlements of 'GRINDAVIK' and 'SAURBAER' were each estimated at \$1,000: they sold for \$10,200 and \$12,000 each. Not bad for cards that might have sold for less than \$20

each if they originated in Reykjavik.

It is always difficult to know if such items are being acquired by postal stationery collectors or, perhaps more likely, postal historians or collectors of postmarks. However, what is abundantly clear is that rare postal markings can send the value of humble stationery items into the stratosphere!



Figure 15 Christian IX 3a (+3a) Message Half

Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for March 2018. This month's column looks at the new international reply coupon (IRC), the 150th anniversary of the first Swiss stamped envelopes and variations in the current definitive prepaid envelopes.

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



Figure 2 'Istanbul' International ReplyCoupon issued 2017

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 (Figure 1), 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.

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 (Figure 2) by Nguyen Du, was selected

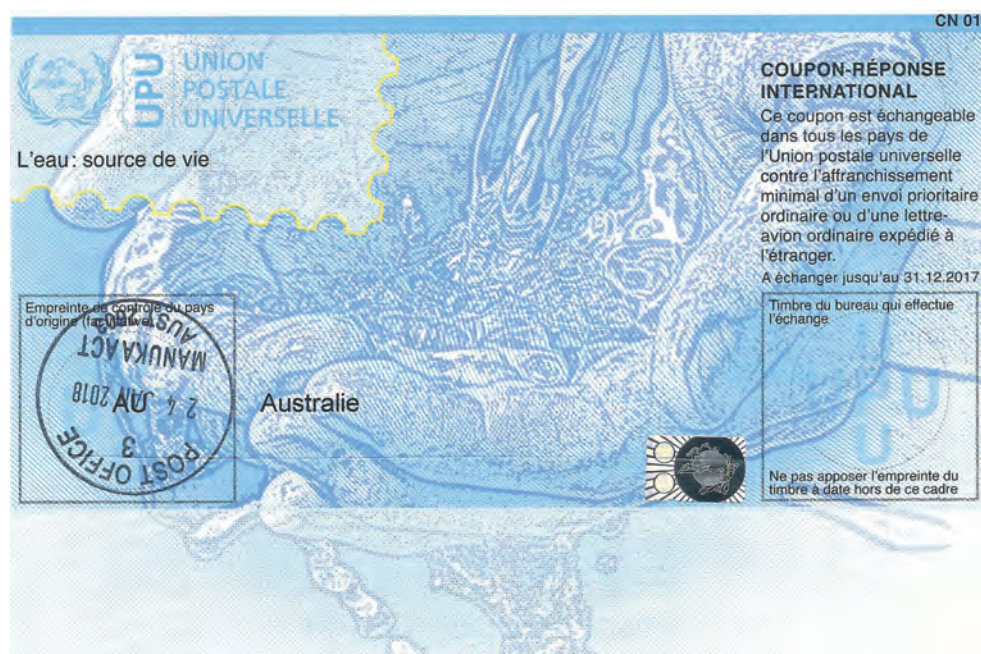


Figure 1 'Doha' International Reply Coupon issued 2013

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Figure 4 1907 'Rome' International Reply Coupon

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 has reported 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.

IRC's were first introduced by the UPU in 1907. Martin reports that Australia has been supplied with a special commemorative IRC for the 110th anniversary of the first IRC (Figure 3). This is the 'Istanbul design' with a tiny illustration of the 1907 IRC, known as the 'Rome' design (Figure 4), 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.

150th Anniversary of the First Swiss Postal Stationery

2017 was the 150th anniversary of the 'Tübli' stamped envelopes of Switzerland, Switzerland's first postal stationery. The stamped envelopes were first issued on 1 July 1867 and the 150th anniversary was commemorated by Switzerland by an adhesive stamp issue com-

prising a single stamp and miniature sheet (Figure 5). The miniature sheet shows one of the few known first day covers of the envelopes and depicts all four values of the first issue of the envelopes in a fan arrangement.



Figure 3 Commemorative International ReplyCoupon (IRC) for the 110th Anniversary of UPU IRCs

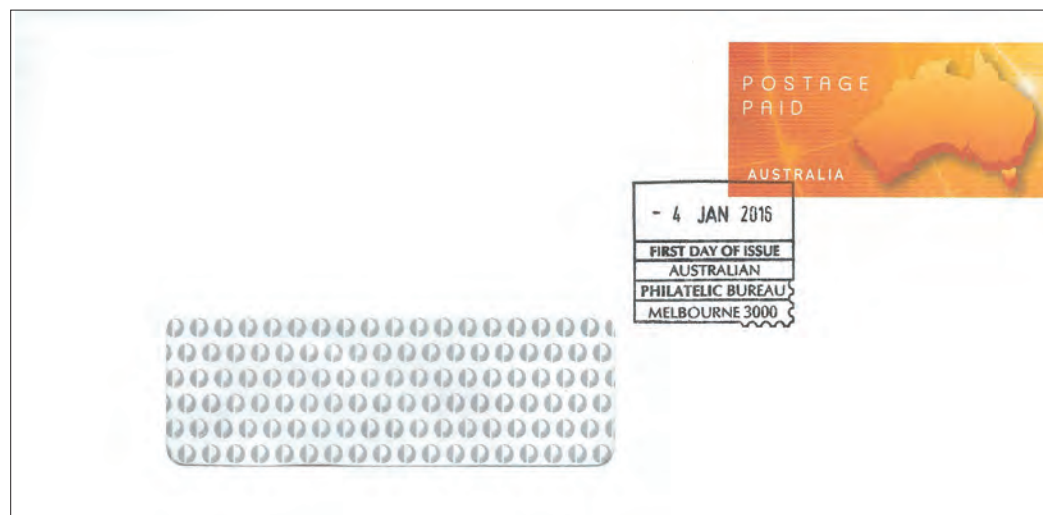
Postal Stationery

Variation in "Terra Australis" Postage Prepaid Envelopes

Mark Diserio reports in the February 2018 issue of the *Postal Stationery Collector* (Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia) on variation in the current definitive postage prepaid envelopes (PPEs), the 'Terra Australis' issue (Figure 6). The variations occur as many of the DL, DL (window) and C5 envelopes have a date, such as 'Nov 2015' printed in



Figure 5 Miniature Sheet Commemorating the 150th Anniversary of the First Swiss Postal Stationery



the middle of the lower sealing flap (Figure 7). Dates reported so far include Nov 1015, March 2016, Feb 2017 or no date (DL window), Nov 2015, Aug 2016, Oct 2016, Feb 2017, Nov 2017 or no date (DL), Oct 2015, Nov 2015, Jun 2016, Aug 2016, Nov

Figure 6 Terra Australis Postage Prepaid Envelope (PPE)



Figure 7 Terra Australis PPE With Date ('March 2016') On Lower Sealing Flap

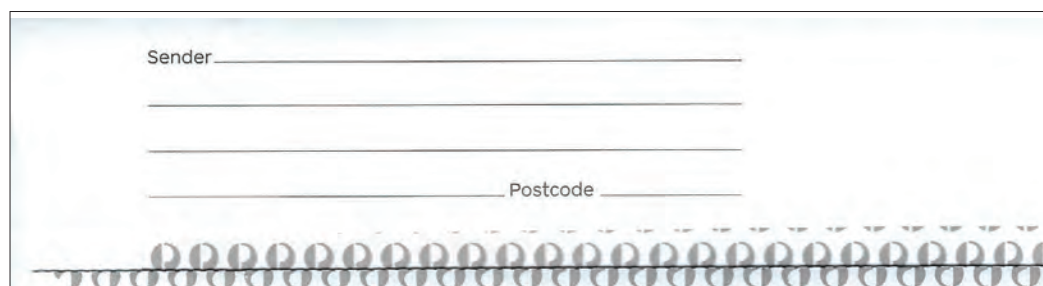


Figure 8 Terra Australis PPE showing numbers '1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10' on Lower Sealing Flap

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Figure 9 Registered Canada King Edward VIIIc Green Postcard

2017 or no date. In addition, many, but not all, of the envelopes have the numbers '1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10' printed on the reverse of the lower sealing flap (Figure 8).

Registered Canada 1c King Edward VII Postcard

The registration of postcards is relatively uncommon but does occur. The King Edward VII 1c green postcard (Figure 9) was sent registered from Regina, Saskatchewan Canada on Dec 5 1908 to Aberdeen Scotland. A 7c adhesive stamp was added. The postcard rate to UPU countries was 2c and the registration fee 5c so that the postcard appears to be 1c overpaid, presumably so that the sender could use the 7c Quebec Tercentenary adhesive stamp which he states 'are getting very scarce'. The personal message advises that the sender was asked 'to stay on at the Bank but refused to do so'. He goes on to say that he expects to 'get started in Govt offices about 16th'.

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

This new edition (Figure 10) updates the first edi-

tion (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 Let-tercards. The decimal stationery produced by the [Australian] Note Printing Branch is included for the first time. All prices have been All prices have been fully updated. In full colour, 484 A4

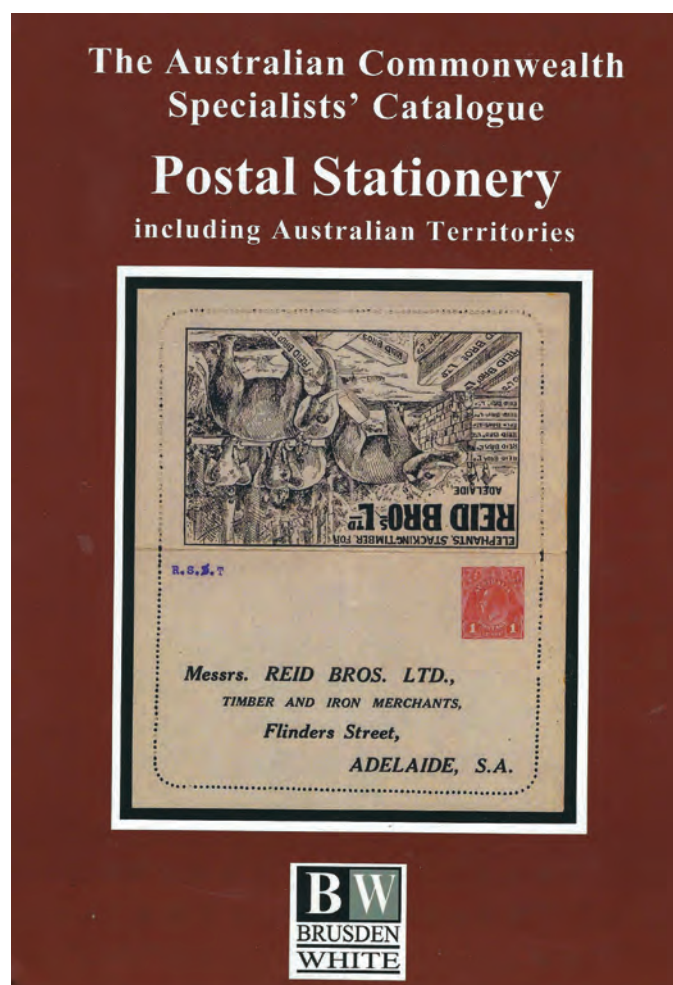


Figure 10 Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue: Postal Stationery (2nd Edition)

Postal Stationery

pages, perfect bound. Price AU \$230, plus postage.
Email: info@brusden-white.com.au Internet: www.brusden-white.com.au

Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meetings: Canberra Stampshow 2018 and Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA) will take place at 12 pm on Sunday 18 March 2018 at Canberra Stampshow 2018, a half-national exhibition which will be held at the Hellenic Club, Woden from 16-18 March 2018. Everyone interested in postal stationery is welcome to attend. More information on the exhibition can be found at www.canberrastamps.org.

The Society will also meet at the Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018, 25-27 May 2018. The meeting is planned for 11am on Sunday 27 May. For further information about Newcastle 2018 contact Secretary Greg Laidler at glaidler@bigpond.com, or look at the Newcastle Philatelic Society website <http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au>.

Postal Stationery Class at The Armistice Stamp Show 2018, Dunedin

The next postal stationery competition for Australian and New Zealand exhibitors will be at the Armistice Stamp Show 2018, a 'Full' National Exhibition to be held from 9-11 November 2018 in Dunedin. More information on the Exhibition can be found at <http://www.armisticesstampshow.com/the-show> or from the Australian Commissioner, Ian McMahon Email ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com.

Books on Mexico and Italian Postal Stationery

A new catalogue (Figure 11) on the Postal Stationery of Mexico was published in 2017. The book, *Postal Stationery of Mexico*, is edited by Peter Bamert, Wayne Menuz, & Bill Walton. The Catalogue, published by the United Postal Stationery Society [USA], provides comprehensive listings of the postal stationery of Mexico. Special listings include formular cards, essays, airmails, revolutionary overprints, PTPO stationery, imitation and other private cards, and the stationery of the express companies operating in Mexico

For collectors of Italian postal stationery, the Catalogue, *INTERITALIA, Manuale Catalogo Specializzato Degli Interi Postali dell'area Italiana* [Italian Postal Stationery Specialized Catalogue] by Franco Filanci, Carlo Sopracor devole, and Domenico Tagliente, is the standard reference work. The latest edition was published in 2016 by Laser Invest, Mantova, Italy. Listings in the 2016 edition included the Venetian AQs letter-sheets of the 1600s which remained in use for almost 200 years, between 1608 and the fall of the Venetian Republic in 1797 and the Cavallini of the Kingdom of Sardinia

and the stationery issued by Austria in the 1860s for its territories in the Venetian region as well as tables of Italian postal rates between 1874 and 2000. Besides Italy itself, the Italian States, Trento, Trieste, Dalmatia, the Aegean Islands, Venezia Giulia, Lubiana the Dalmatian provinces occupied in 1941, the Italian Post Offices Abroad (Albania, Epirus, Turkey, China, Egypt, Crete, Tripolitania, Tunisia), the Italian Colonies, Albania 1939-1943, Corfu 1943, Montenegro 1941-1943, San Marino, Vatican City, and the Sovereign Military Order of Malta are also covered.

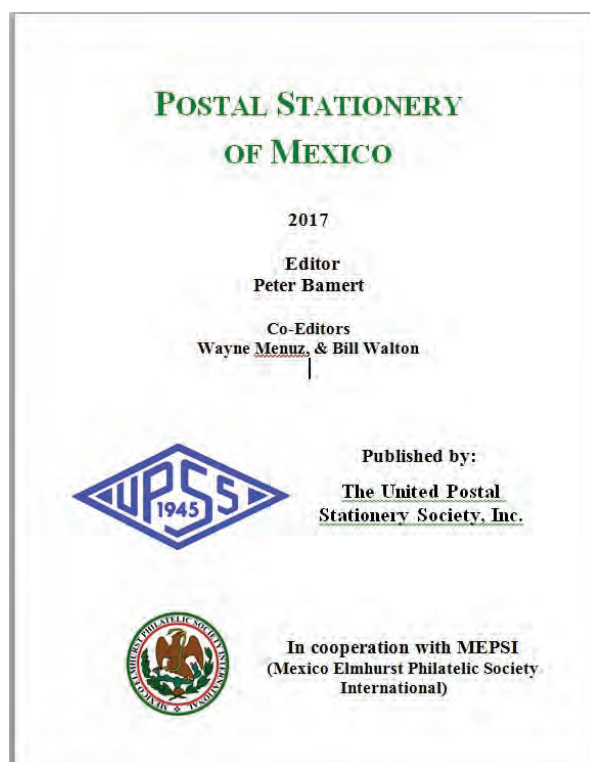
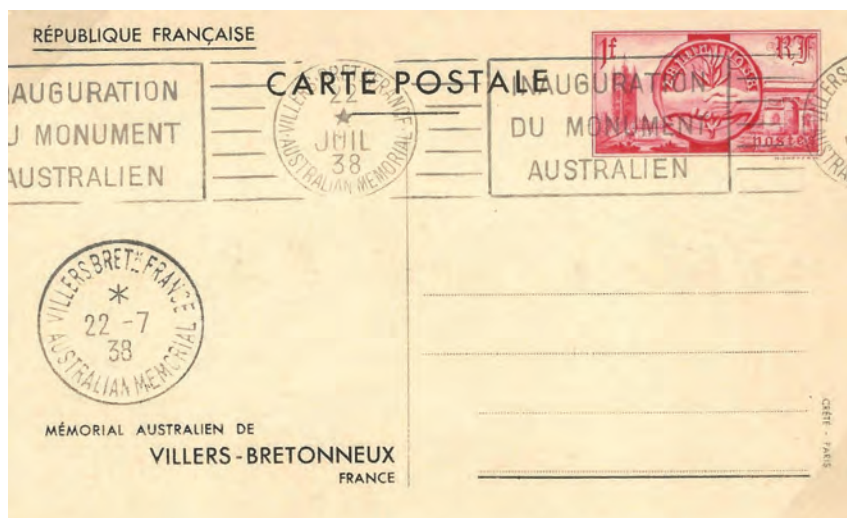


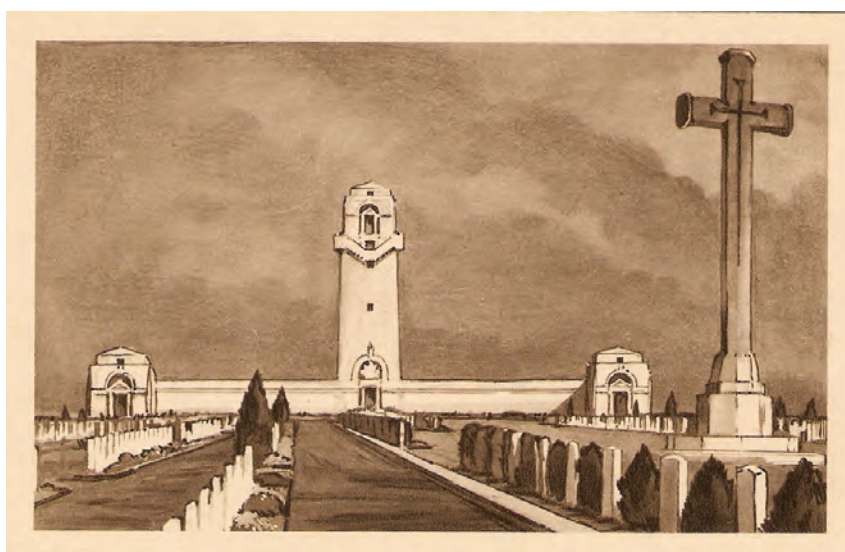
Figure 11 *Postal Stationery of Mexico*

Postal Stationery



Top left: Figure 1 1fr French Postcard Commemorating the Opening of the Australian Monument at Villers Bretonneux with Two Commemorative Postmarks

Above: Figure 2 Central Tower and AIF Monument, Australian Monument, Villers Bretonneux



Bottom left: Figure 3 Monument and Cemetery, Cross on Right, Australian Monument, Villers Bretonneux

Welcome to the postal stationery column for April 2018. This month's column looks at postcards issued by France to commemorate the opening of the Australian Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux, postal stationery issued by New Zealand private postal operators and postcards issued by Australia for the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games.

Postcards Issued by France for the Opening of The Australian Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux

On 22 July 1938 France issued a set of ten stamped pictorial postcards to mark the inauguration of the Australian Monument at Villers Bretonneux. The Memorial commemorates the role played by Australian soldiers in the Second Battle of Villers-Bretonneux and also serves as the Australian National

Memorial to all the Australians who died during the Western Front of World War I. The Memorial was unveiled on 22 July 1938 by King George VI.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Villers-Bretonneux, one of the last great battles of World War I. An Australian Division was sent on 24 April 1918 to clear German troops from the town of Villers-Bretonneux. They succeeded in earning the gratitude of France which built the Australian War Memorial at Villers-Bretonneux.

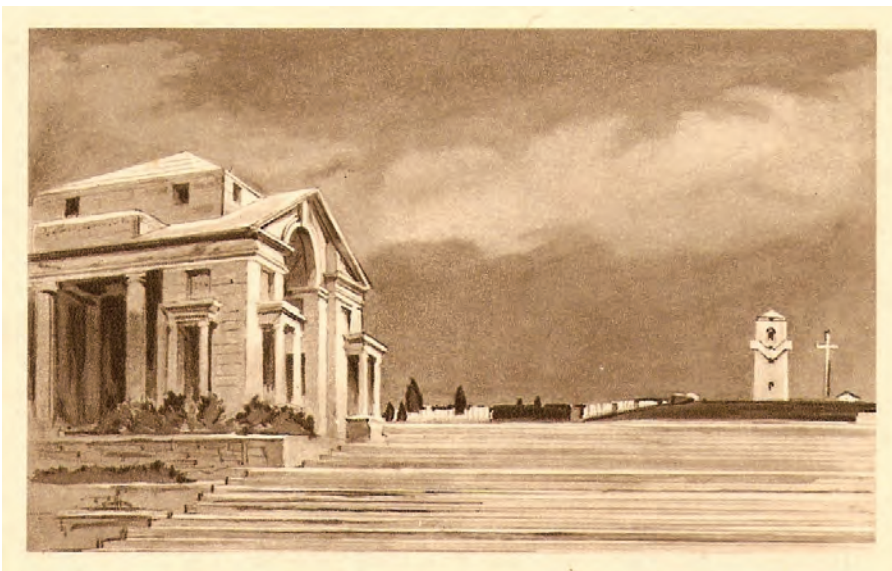
The postcards were issued in two denominations, 55 centimes for domestic use and 1 franc for international use, with the same stamp design used for

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Figure 4 General View of the Monument from the Left, Australian Monument, Villers Bretonneux
Figure 5 Pavilion at left and stairs, Australian Monument, Villers Bretonneux

Figure 6 General View of the Monument from the Entrance, Australian Monument, Villers Bretonneux



both. The cards were issued on 22 July 1938 and are often found with postmarks commemorating the inauguration of the monument as is the case with the postcard shown in Figure 1. The five designs on the reverse of the postcards (Figures 2-6) are: Monument and Cemetery (cross on right), General View of the Monument (from the left), Pavilion at left and stairs, Central tower and AIF monument, and General View of the Monument (from the entrance).

Postal Stationery Issued by New Zealand Private Postal Operators

The sale and deregulation of Government postal services has occurred in many countries with New Zealand being one of the countries at the forefront of postal deregulation. On 1 April 1998, the New Zealand Post's monopoly on the carriage of letters was removed with the introduction of the Postal Services Act 1998. This Act allowed any company or individual to carry letters for profit, so long as they were registered as a "postal operator" by Government. Postal operators must be registered and provide samples of a 'postal identifier', a name, logo, stamp, postmark or other label or mark which



Postal Stationery

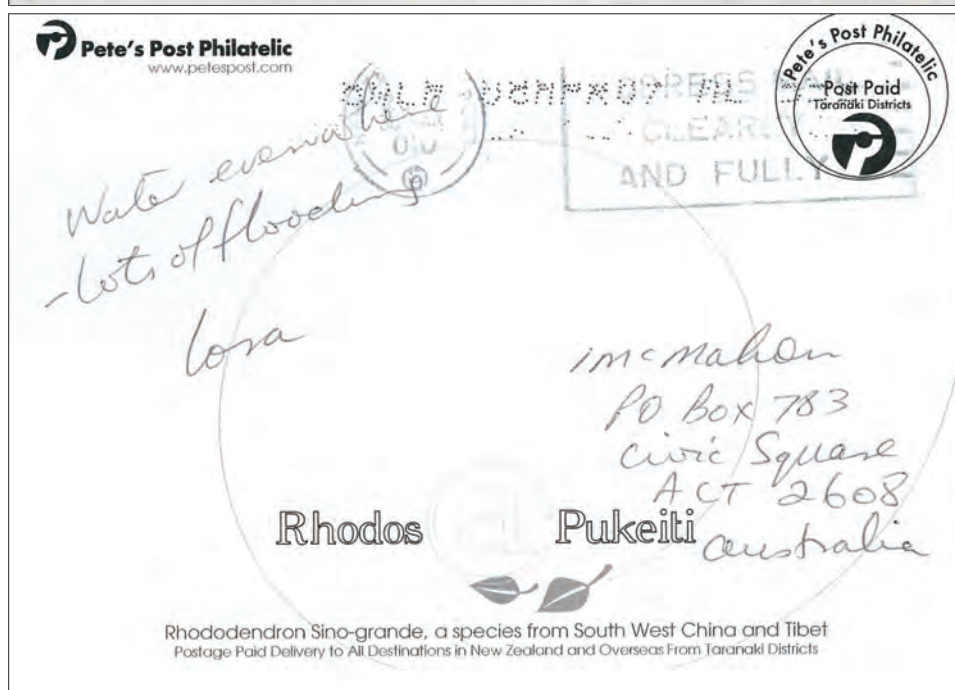


Figure 7 Pete's Post Pre-stamped Envelope from 2002

Figure 8 Pete's Post Prepaid Postcard

Figure 9 New Zealand Mail Pre-stamped Envelope Used 2006

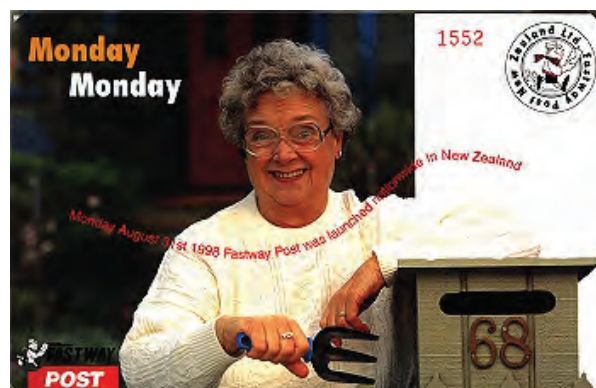
can be as simple as a rubber stamp bearing the name of the postal operator.

New Zealand Post retained the right to be New Zealand's designated UPU postal operator, including the right to issue stamps inscribed 'New Zealand' and to exchange international mail. Items other than letters were not regulated in this manner and some of the companies (such as DX Mail) which became postal operators were existing courier companies. A letter is currently defined in the Postal Services Act as "any form of written communication or document or article addressed to a specific person or address. It must not be conveyed by electronic means or by a courier service. This includes envelopes, packets, packages or wrappers for which a charge is made to carry it, take charge of it, or send it. Letters must not exceed 260 mm in height, 385 mm in length, 20 mm in thickness, or 1 kg in weight."

About 16 postal operators are currently registered although at times the number has been over 30. Of these a number are carry large quantities of commercial mail and have issued adhesive stamps and many have issued postal stationery.

Pete's Post was a postal operator from 2001 until 2012, when it was bought out by New Zealand Mail, and developed an extensive postal network. The Company issued a wide range of postal

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stationery including pre-stamped envelopes (DL, DL window and larger sizes) and a range of prepaid boxes, padded bags and mailing tubes. All of the postal stationery (Figure 7) had an indicium which included the Pete's Post 'postal identifier'. Pete's Post issued a range of pre-stamped envelopes in various sizes for international use and also allowed the 'personalisation' of its stamped envelopes. While it was operating, Pete's Post developed a philatelic website to sell its stamps and postal stationery to

other products through Office Product Depot stores throughout New Zealand. Figure 11 shows a postcard issued to commemorate the beginning of Fastway's postal service.

DX Mail bills itself as New Zealand's only alternative nationwide mail provider and handle over 50 million items of mail a year. Mail is collected from its conveniently located DX Mail boxes and exchanges or picked up by courier. It is then sorted at

Top left: Figure 10 Fastway Post Stamped Envelope Used in 2001

Top right: Figure 11 Fastway Post Postcard to Mark the Commencement of Its Services.

Left: Figure 12 DX Mail Envelope

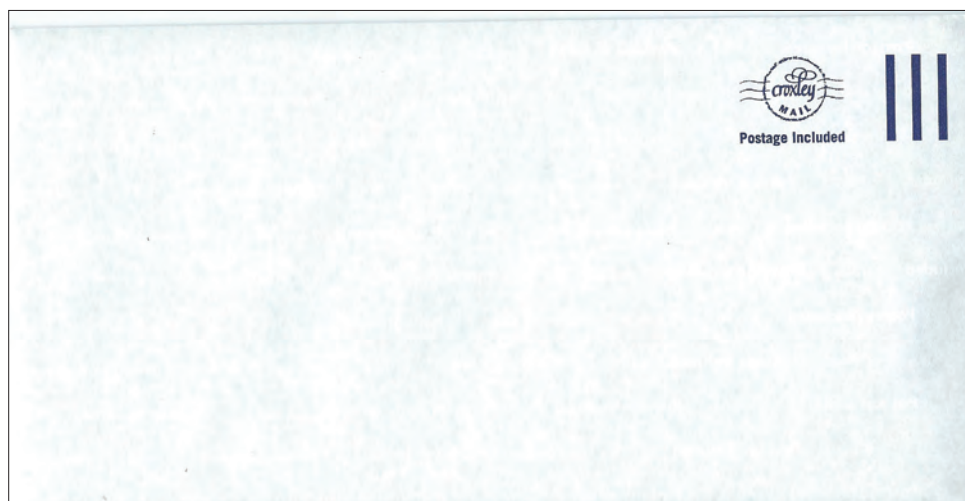
Bottom Left: Figure 13 DX Mail International Stamped Envelope Used to Australia

collectors. For the collector market it issued a range of pre-paid postcards (Figure 8).

New Zealand Mail issues pre-stamped envelopes (which they call Postage Included Envelopes) in a range of sizes (Figure 9) and will also customize envelopes with company logos and slogans, including in colour.

Fastway Post uses the delivery network of New Zealand Post and sells its pre-stamped envelopes (Figure 10) and

Postal Stationery



one of DX Mail's 14 nationwide mail centres. It issues prestamped envelopes (Figure 12) in a range of sizes. It also issues prestamped international envelopes (Figure 13) which are delivered to other countries by a courier company.

Figure 14 shows a prestamped envelope from Kiwi Mail, a wholly owned subsidiary of New Zealand Post, which operated as a private mail provider. Stationery companies including Croxley Stationery (Figure 15) and Candida Stationery are also registered postal operators and issue prestamped envelopes which are sold through stationery stores.

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, (Figure 16) and the Gold Coast 2018 Commonwealth Games logo (Figure 17). At the same time three prepaid postcards were issued showing Queensland views: Townsville Entertainment Centre, Cairns Convention Centre and Coolangatta Beach.

Top: Figure 14 Kiwi Mail Stamped Envelope Used in 2001

Middle: Figure 15 Croxley Mail Stamped Envelope

Above left: Figure 16 Gold Coast 2018 Borobi Prepaid Postcard

Above right: Figure 17 Gold Coast 2018 Logo Prepaid Postcard

Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for May 2018. This month's column looks at some recent new issues from Australia Post as well as a brief look at aerogrammes.

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 (Figure 1) while the second postcard shows the Historic Arch of Victoria Ballarat (Figure 2). 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, Colo-



Figure 1 Pre-paid Postcard Commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the Last Year of World War I



Figure 2 Historic Arch of Victoria Pre-Paid Postcard



Figure 3 50th Anniversary of the Fellowship of First Fleeters Pre-Stamped Envelope

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Figure 4 Lucy Osburn Pre-stamped Envelope



Figure 5 Reverse of Mint Lucy Osburn Pre-stamped Envelope with Barcode ending in '035'.

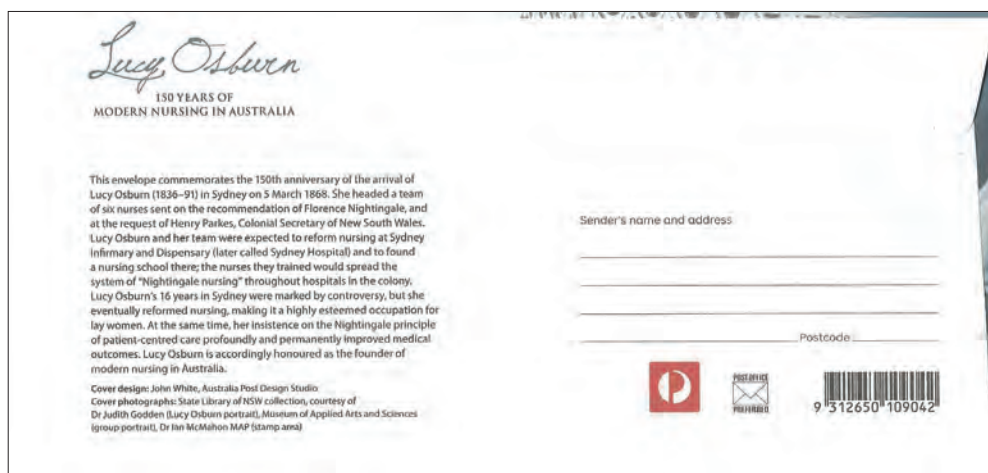


Figure 6 Reverse of Lucy Osburn Pre-stamped Envelope Cancelled FDI with Barcode ending in '042'.

nial 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 (Figure 5) and the FDI envelope (Figure 6) had different barcodes.

Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Canberra Stampshow 2018

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia meeting (Figures 7 and 8) on 18 March 2018

Postal Stationery

at the Canberra Stampshow 2018 included displays by Gary Brown of South Africa WWII Jewish and Comforts airletters, John Moore of South African pictorial postcards and Philip Levine of Cape of Good Hope postcards.

Aerogrammes

Aerogrammes are light weight air-mail lettersheets which have often been 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 (Figure 9). 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.

For example, Canada introduced an air letter service from Canada to members of the armed forces overseas on 15 June 1942 with a postage rate of 10c (Figure 10). These forms were produced by either Le Comptoir National, Montreal and were also provided to members of the armed forces overseas to write back to Canada in October 1942. In addition, forms (Figure 11) were printed by No 1 Printing and Stationery Detachment, Canadian Army based in the United Kingdom. They were made available for use from 1 October 1942 at a postage rate of 6d. For Christmas 1944 air letter forms with free postage were distributed to Canadian forces overseas (Figure 12). The first stamped Canadian aerogramme was issued on 29 August 1947 and were imprinted with a 10c King George VI stamp (Figure 13).



Figure 7 Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Canberra Stampshow 2018

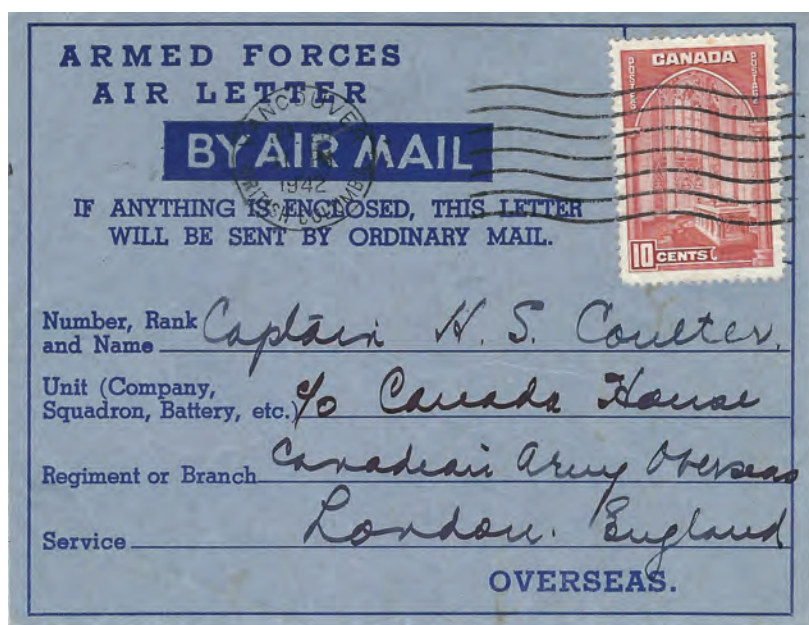


Figure 8 Members viewing the Display at the Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Canberra Stampshow 2018

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. Figure 14 shows the first Canadian aerogramme inscribed 'Aerogramme' which was issued on 11 August 1953 to conform with the new UPU regulations.

The UPU Letter Mail regulations allow *every designated operator may admit priority items and*

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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 the length being at least 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, al-

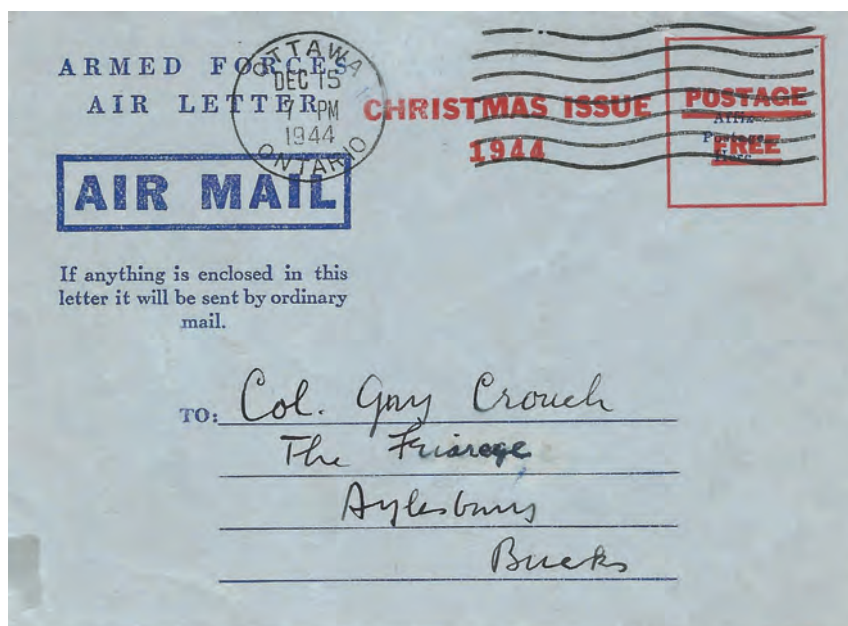
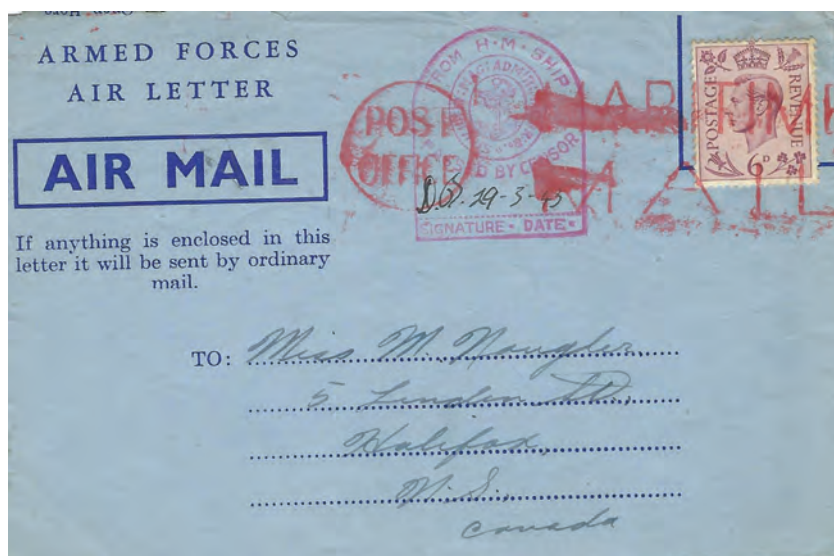


Figure 10 Canada Air Letter for Use to and From Canadian Forces Overseas

Figure 11 Canada Air Letter Produced by the Canadian Army for Use by Canadian Forces Overseas

Figure 12 Canada Air Letter with Free Postage for Distribution to Armed Forces for Christmas 1944.

Postal Stationery



Figure 13 Canadian King George VI aerogramme issued 1947.

though 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 sending email to foreign destinations.

11am on Sunday 27 May. For further information about Newcastle 2018 visit the Newcastle Philatelic Society website <http://www.newcastlephilatelicsociety.org.au>.

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 10 entries of aerogrammes including six exhibits of Australian aerogrammes as well as exhibits of aerogrammes from Canada, Burma, Belgium, Fiji and Ethiopia.

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia will hold a meeting at the Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018, 25-27 May 2018. The meeting is planned for



Figure 14 First Canadian Aerogramme inscribed 'Aerogramme' issued in 1953

Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for June 2018. This month's column looks at Papua New Guinea's pictorial pre-stamped envelopes and the 'J for Jabiru' stamped post-card issued in October 2017.

Papua New Guinea Pre-Stamped Envelopes

Following the lead of the Australian Post Office, Papua New Guinea began issuing colourful pictorial 'pre-stamped envelopes' or PSEs in 1984. Most of these PSEs are easily found mint or cancelled on the First Day of Issue but more difficult to find used. In this article many of the envelopes are illustrated used either locally or overseas.

The first PSE (Figure 1) was issued on 7 May 1984 to commemorate the visit of Pope John Paul to Papua New Guinea. The 10t envelope was designed by Richard Bates and printed by Cambec Press. This envelope was followed by a 10t envelope to mark the 10th Anniversary of the Papua New Guinea Rugby Football League. Figure 2 shows an example of this envelope used domestically from Goroka. The third envelope issued was a 20t envelope commemorating Ausipex 84 which was issued on 21 September 1984.

The July 1985 Papua New Guinea Philatelic News reported: *The first pre-stamped envelope in a 16-part series has just been released. The series will feature each of Papua New Guinea's provinces with illustrations of the province on the envelope and the badge of the province in the position of the stamp. Starting the series is the National Capital District - Port Moresby. The drawings show the busy port and high-rise buildings of Moresby in the background of a stilt village.*

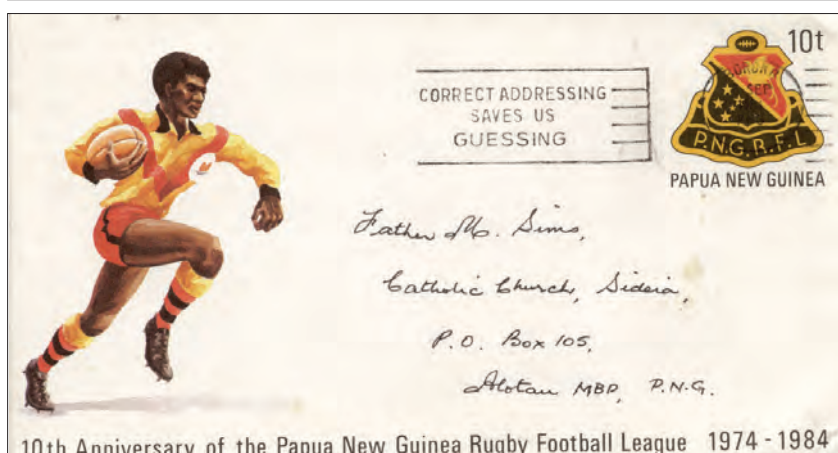
Top to bottom:

Figure 1 Papua New Guinea's first pictorial pre-stamped envelope, 1984 Papal visit.

Figure 2 10th Anniversary of the PNG Rugby Football League PSE

Figure 3 12t National Capital District PSE

Figure 4 Kokoda Mail Re-enactment PSE



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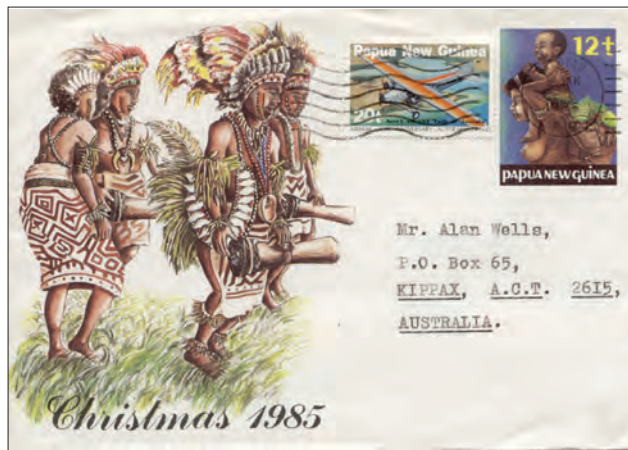


Figure 3 shows the 12t envelope for the National Capital District registered and used from Alexishafen to Germany in June 1986. While many of the Provinces have been represented on Papua New Guinea PSEs, the promise of a series of sixteen envelopes did not materialise. From this point on most (but not all) of the envelopes have been numbered on the reverse, with this envelope being numbered 'P.S.E No 4'.

A 12t envelope was issued on 26 August 1985 for the Kokoda Trail Mail Re-enactment (PSE 5). To mark the Postal Centenary Celebrations a party traced the path of the police runners who carried mail on the Kokoda Trail for almost 50 years. Figure 4 shows this envelope used from Kondiawa to the USA.

A 12t envelope (PSE 6) was issued on 13 November 1985 for Christmas 1985. Figure 5 shows an example of this envelope used to Australia.

The 1985 Christmas envelope was designed by John Baida (panel) and Bexy Moti (stamp), graphic design students from the PNG National Art School, and printed by Mercury Walch in Hobart.

Due to an increase in postal rates, the National Capital District envelope was reissued with a 15t denomination and in a slightly

Top to bottom left :

Figure 5 1985 Christmas PSE

Figure 6 15t National Capital District PSE

Figure 7 APEX PSE

Figure 8 The Order of St John PSE

Top right :

Figure 9 1988 Christmas PSE

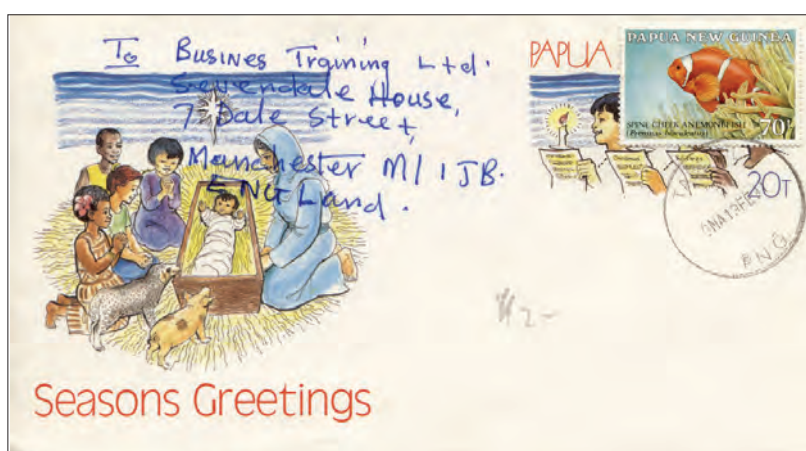
Postal Stationery

redesigned form (PSE 7) on 3 July 1986. Figure 6 shows this envelope used from Goroko to the USA.

Other 1986 envelopes included an envelope for Stampex 86 (issued 4 August 1986) and a Christmas envelope (issued 12 November). The Christmas envelope depicts the Legend of the Hibiscus: *A Brother and a sister lived on an island west of Kerema. They were the last of the Mei people. One day the brother decided to swim to the place where he saw smoke and imagined a beautiful girl lived. Some say he turned into a fish. Much time passed but he never found a girl. Eventually, he returned to die in grief on the beach. That night his sister found him and lay down and died beside him. From the spot sprung the beautiful Hibiscus tree. Even today boys and girls who seek a mate wear the Hibiscus flower as a charm.* Four 15t envelopes were issued in 1987; Apex (PSE 10, issued 19 August, Figure 7), Eastern Highlands Province (30 September), Order of St John (11 November, Figure 8 shows an example of the envelope used to the USA from Port Moresby) and Christmas (11 November).

1988 saw three 17t envelopes issued: 25th anniversary of the Papua New Guinea Electricity Commission issued 15 June 1988, 10th anniversary of the Papua New Guinea National Library issued 28 September and 17t Christmas issued 16 November (Figure 9 shows this envelope used to the UK). Two envelopes were issued in 1989: 20t East New Britain Province issued 12 July (Figure 10 shows this envelope used domestically) and 20t Christmas issued 8 November. Only one envelope was issued in 1990, the 20t Christmas envelope on 26 September (Figure 11).

Four envelopes were issued in 1991: 20t East Sepik (issued 8 February), 21t East Sepik (same design as the 20t, issued on 6 March due to an increase in the postage rate, Figure 12, used to the USA), 21 t 25th Anniversary of the Universi-



Top to bottom :

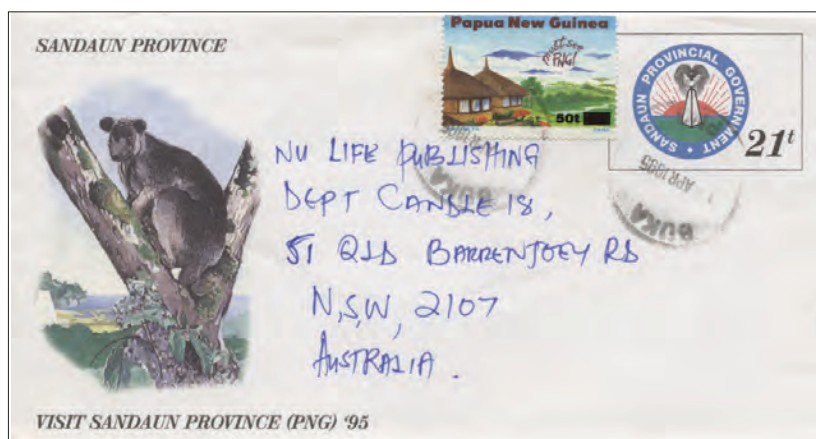
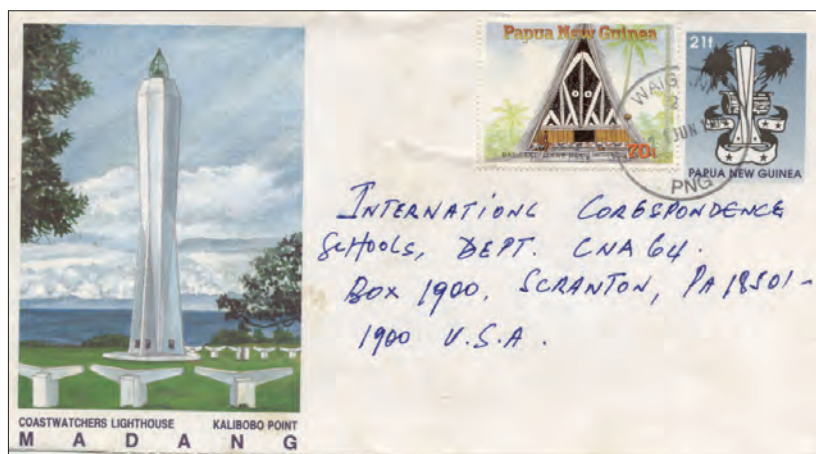
Figure 10 East New Britain PSE

Figure 11 1990 Christmas PSE

Figure 12 East Sepik Province PSE

Figure 13 1991 Christmas PSE

Ian McMahon



ty of PNG (issued 1 May) and 1991 Christmas (issued 16 October, Figure 13, used to the UK). The 1992 issues included envelopes for the 10th anniversary US Peace Corps in Papua New Guinea (issued 3 June, Figure 14, not numbered) and 1992 Christmas (issued 28 October).

A 21t envelope was issued on 20 January 1993 for Madang Province (Figure 15, PSE 25) with the annual Christmas envelope being issued on 27 October 1993. Milne Bay province was featured on an envelope issued on 19 January 1994 with the 1994 Christmas envelope being issued on 26 October. A 21t envelope was issued for Sandaun Province in May 1995 (Figure 16, PSE 28) with the 25t 1995 Christmas envelope being issued on 25 October (Figure 17 PSE 29). The 1996 Year of Children's Rights was commemorated in an envelope issued on 22 April 1996 (Figure 18 shows an example used domestically, PSE 30) while the 1996 Christmas issue appeared on 16 October.

In 1997 envelopes were issued for the South Pacific Games, Sandaun Province (25t) and 1997 Christmas, while in 1998 envelopes were issued for the South Pacific Commission, 1998 Christmas as well as an envelope depicting the tree kangaroo. In 1999 only one envelope was issued for the Milne Bay Province while in 2000 a single envelope was issued for the National Census (Figure 19). A number of other envelopes have been issued intermittently since including a K1.50 envelope depicting orchids (Figure 20) and a K2 envelope for the 30th anniversary of Independence (featuring the slogan 'PUT PNG FIRST'), Figure 21.

'J Is For Jabiru' Stamped Postcard

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

Top to bottom :

Figure 14 US Peace Corps PSE

Figure 15 Madang Province PSE

Figure 16 21t Sandaun Province PSE

Figure 17 1995 Christmas PSE

Postal Stationery



Above : Figure 21 30th Anniversary of Independence PSE

Top to bottom right : Figure 18 Year of Children's Rights PSE

Figure 19 National Census PSE

Figure 20 Orchids PSE

Figure 22 'J for Jabiru' stamped postcard

Figure 23 1997 Black-necked Stork stamped postcard



Jabiru (Figure 22).

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 (Figure 23) 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 'J' 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.



Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for July 2018. This month's column looks at the development of the design for the 1985 33c pre-stamped envelope for the 75th Anniversary of the Wireless Institute of Australia, new issues from Australia Post, the postal stationery competition at Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018 and remembers John Sinfield.

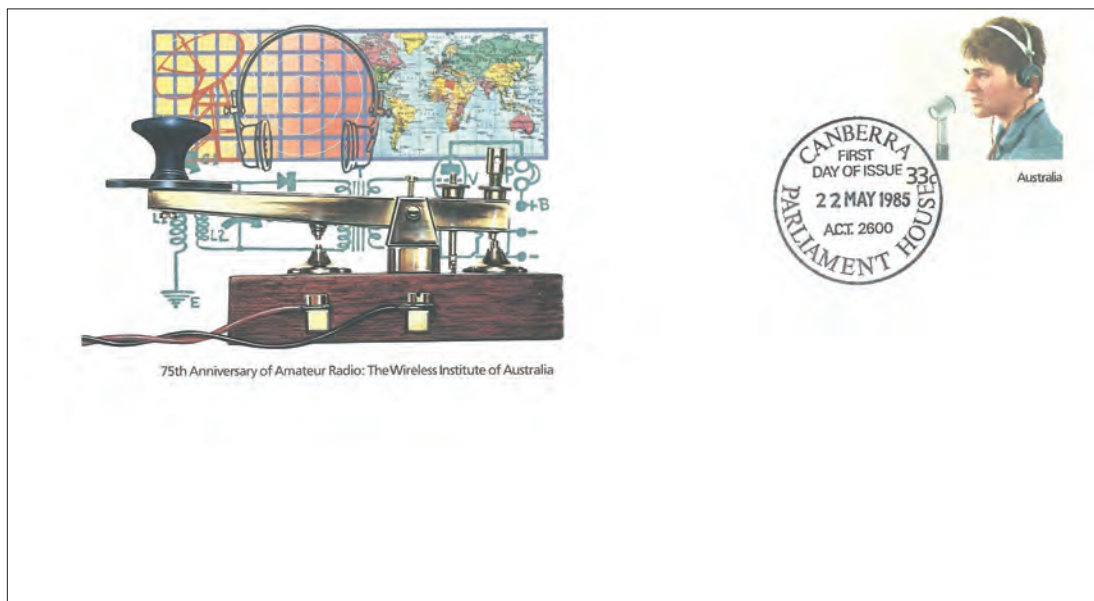


Figure 1 Pre-stamped Envelope for the 75th Anniversary of Amateur Radio: The Wireless Institute of Australia

Development of the Design of the 75th Anniversary of Amateur Radio Pre-Stamped Envelope

The 33c 75th Anniversary of Amateur Radio: The Wireless Institute of Australia Pre-Stamped Envelope was issued on 22 May 1985. Radio developed following Guglielmo Marconi's wireless signal across the English Channel in 1899 with amateur radio operators showing an immediate interest in

the new medium. In 1910 the Wireless Institute of Australia was formed to represent the amateur radio operators' clubs that had formed in Australia. The Institute is the oldest national radio organisation in the world.

The description of the envelope on the reverse of the PSE states that "The envelope theme emphasises the personal involvement and world-ranging scope of amateur radio. The operator, in the stamp area, is depicted against a pattern of amateur radio



Figure 2 Photographic essay showing a radio operator wearing headphones and an attached microphone

“call” [signs] - the “VK” prefix indicating that they are Australian.”

The Envelope (Figure 1) was designed by Rowan Smith of the Australia Post Graphic Design Studio with the stamp area illustration by Brian Clinton of Melbourne.

Ian McMahon

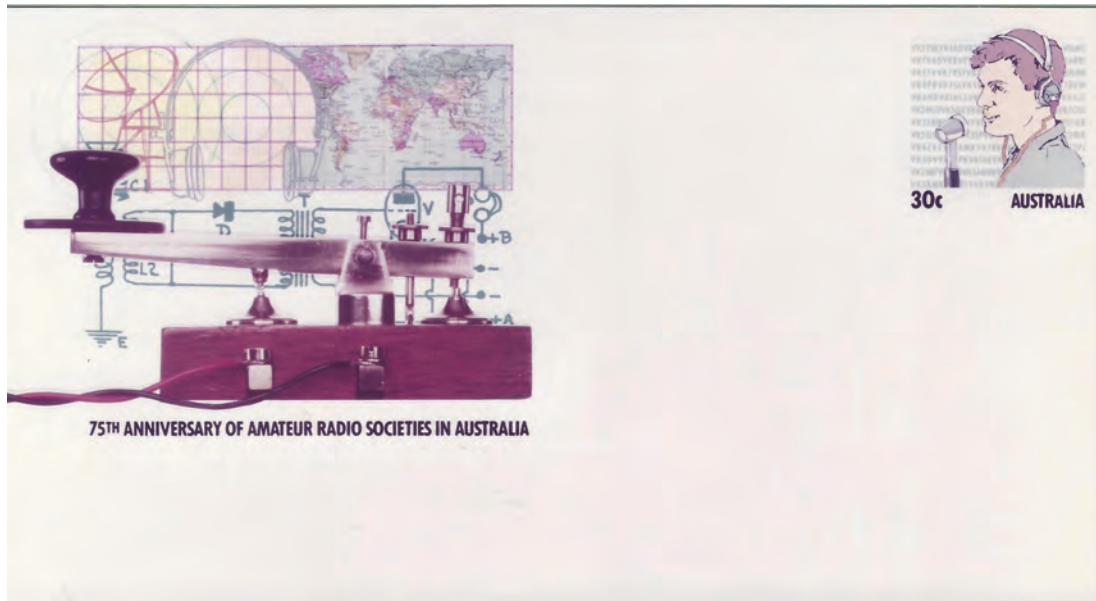


Figure 3 Photographic essay new outline head of operator with a stand-alone microphone

A photographic essay of the design for the envelope dated 16 October 1984 prepared for consideration by the Stamp Advisory Committee (SAC) showed a radio operator wearing headphones and an attached microphone (Figure 2).

There was apparently a suggestion that the design should be changed to a new outline head of operator with a stand-alone microphone and a photographic essay dated 13 November 1984 was prepared with this modification (Figure 3).

This design change of the radio operator was apparently met with agreement and a new photographic essay dated 11 December 1984 was prepared with a new head of an operator based on a photograph by Brian Clinton (Figure 4). In addition, the text 'Australia' and '75th Anniversary

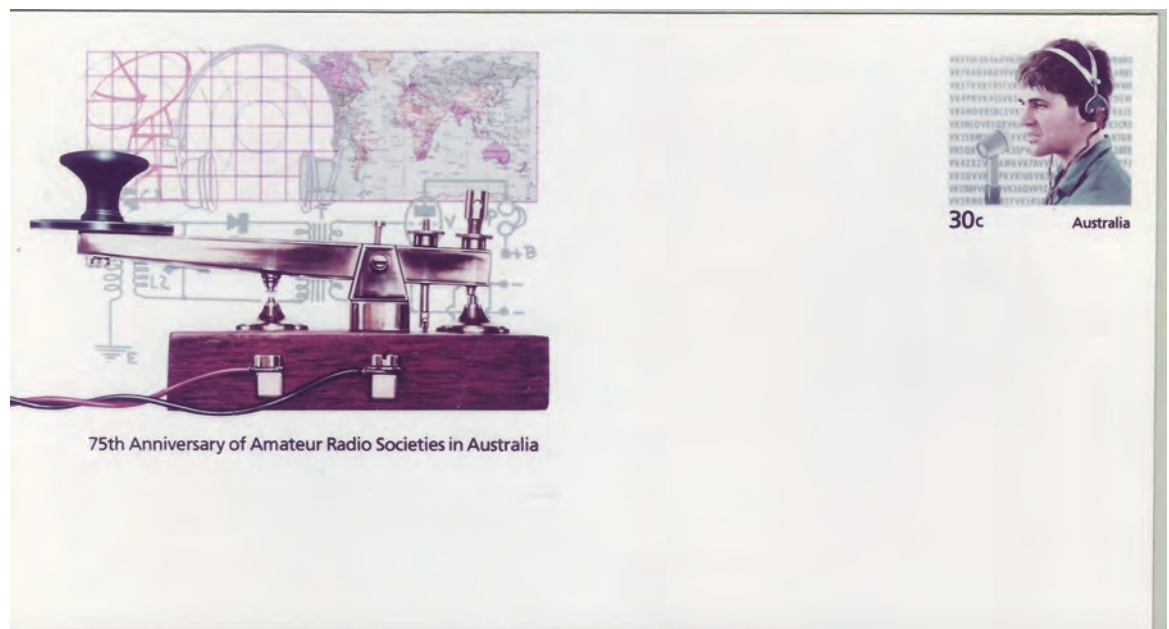


Figure 4 Photographic essay similar to the final design but inscribed '30c'.

of Amateur Radio: The Wireless Institute of Australia Pre-Stamped Envelope' was reduced in size and changed from all capitals to text in upper and lower case.

This design was largely adopted although the final design (Figure 1) had the denomination changed from 30c to 33c as the postage rate for domestic letters had increased to 33c on 13 March 1985.

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

The 2018 National Postal Stationery Competition took place at the Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018 which was held 25-27 May 2018 at Newcastle. There were fifteen exhibits of postal stationery including eleven exhibits of aerogrammes which were part of the aerogramme challenge sponsored by the Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA).

Postal Stationery

With the Aerogramme Challenge (Figures 5), the Newcastle Exhibition had the largest number of aerogramme exhibits that I can ever remember seeing in one place. In all there were eleven exhibits including six exhibits of Australian aerogrammes as well as exhibits of aerogrammes from Canada, Burma, Belgium, Fiji and Ethiopia. The presence of six exhibits of Australian aerogrammes (two of which, the exhibits by Martin Walker and Joan Orr, received Gold medals) provided an opportunity to view six different approaches to essentially the

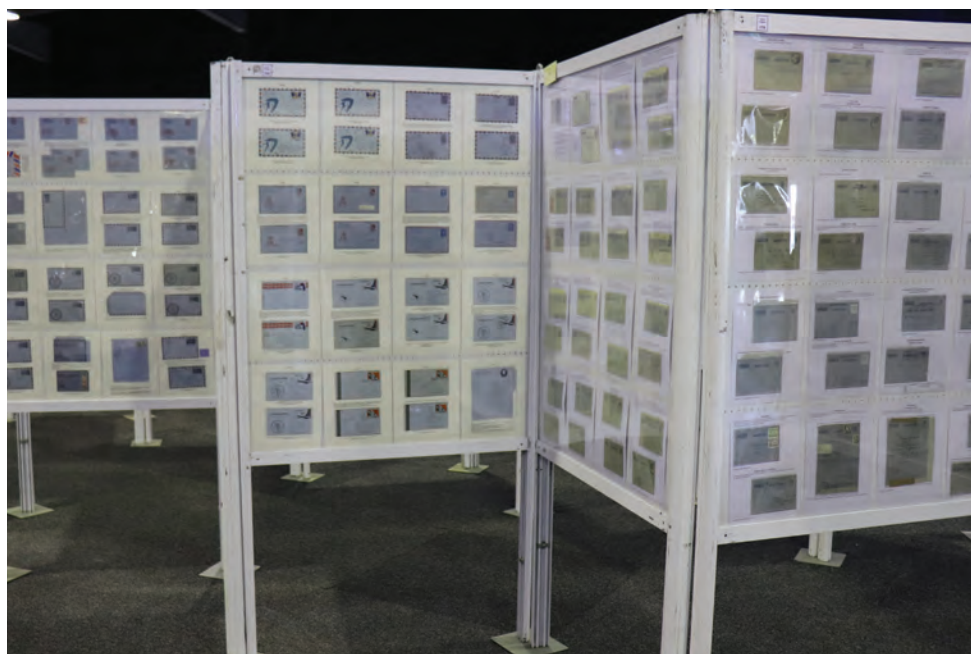


Figure 5 Aerogramme Exhibits at Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018



Figure 6 Ian McMahon (right) receiving the Best in Show Award from John Moore, President of the Australian Philatelic Federation at Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018

same subject. It was great to note that each of the exhibits had material not found in any of the other exhibits and taken together the exhibits contained most of the Australian aerogramme rarities. The Ethiopian and Burmese exhibits displayed seldom seen aerogrammes from countries which are less well known and which would have posed significant challenges for the exhibitors in finding material and information about the aerogrammes. The PSSA prize for the Aerogramme competition was won by Joan Orr for her exhibit *Australia – Airletters and Aerogrammes 1944-1968*, while the Australian Philatelic Federation Prize for the Best in Show (Figure 6) was won by Ian McMahon with his exhibit of the *Airletters and Aerogrammes of Canada*.

Besides the aerogramme exhibits there were exhibits of *Australian Commonwealth Kangaroo Stationery* by Nancy Gray (Large Gold); *The Department of Education Postcards of New Zealand* by Lionel Savins (Large Vermeil); *Tasmanian Embossed Stationery 1883-1912* by Malcolm Groom (Large Gold); and *India Asoka Stationery* by Ali Abdulrahman (Silver).

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia meeting (Figure 7) at the Newcastle Exhibition on 27 May 2018 included displays by Glen Stafford of Singapore aerogrammes and Thai postcards as well

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Figure 7 Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Newcastle Stamp & Coin Expo 2018

as a discussion on postal notes led by Ross Pratley.

Rockhampton Pre-Paid Postcards

Three prepaid postcards (Figure 8) with views from Rockhampton, Queensland on the reverse were issued on 1 April 2018 and sold for \$2.20 each. The postcards focused on Rockhampton's role as a major centre for the beef industry. The three views were Brahman Cross Angus Calf (photograph Michaelle Wignall /Shutterstock.com), Rockhampton

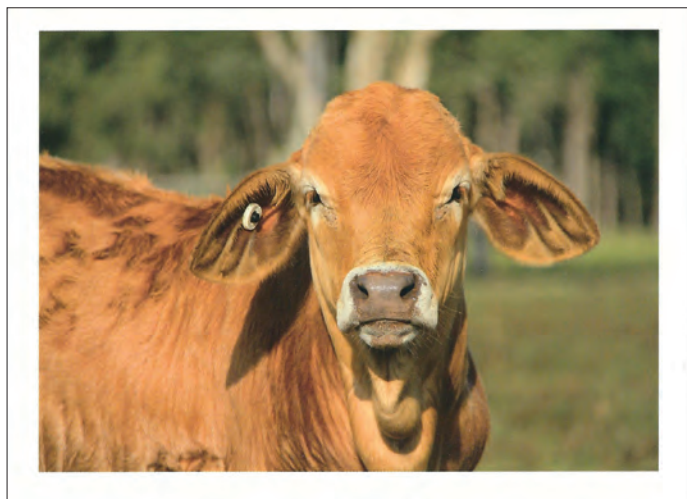


Figure 8 Brahman Cross Angus Calf Prepaid Postcard

Bull Statue postcard, (statue of Santa Gertrudis bull at Frank Forde Park in Allens-stown, Photo Alizada Studios / Shutterstock.com) and Beef City, Rockhampton (photograph: Tourism and Events Queensland).

Battles of Coral and Balmoral 50 years pre-paid envelope

Australia issued a stamped envelope (Figure 9) on 5 May 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral which were significant for Australia during the Vietnam War. The envelope was designed by Sharon Rodziewicz from the

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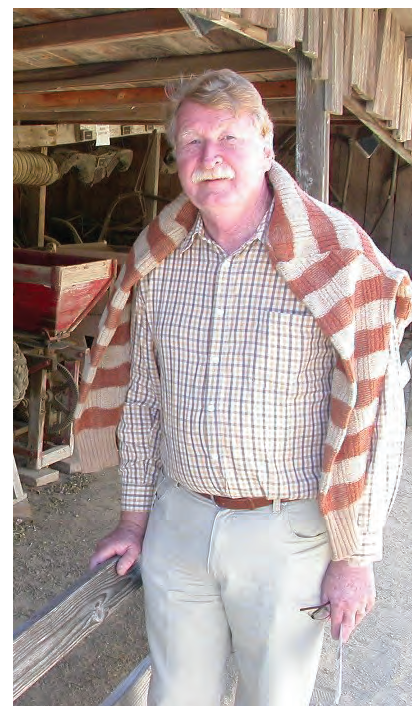


Figure 11 John Sinfield

John Sinfield

Australia has lost one of its best known and respected postal stationery collectors with the passing of John Sinfield (Figure 11) in April 2018. John formed outstanding collections of Australian Commonwealth postal stationery including envelopes, postcards and lettercards as well as collections of the postal stationery of Panama

and Victoria. His exhibits of Australian Commonwealth scenic lettercards and postcards and Panama postal stationery all received large gold medals at international exhibitions while his exhibit of Australian Commonwealth envelopes had received an international gold medal. As one of the most knowledgeable collectors and researchers of Australian Commonwealth postal stationery, he was a major contributor to the Postal Stationery volume of the Australian Commonwealth Specialists Catalogue. He was a national and international judge in postal stationery. He will be missed by the Australian, and the international, postal stationery collecting community.

Top: Figure 9 Stamped envelope on 5 May 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral

Figure 10 Stamped envelope on 5 May 2018 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Battles of Coral and Balmoral

Australia Post Design Studio with the cover photograph by Peter Geeland and sold for \$1.25.

A second version of the envelope (Figure 10) was issued as a 'postal numismatic cover' with a 50c coin commemorating the battles from the Royal Australian Mint. This envelope differs in a number of respects from the 'normal' stamped envelope being a 'lick and stick' envelope rather than having self-adhesive flaps as well as including the postal numismatic cover information and the price and barcode on the reverse and sold for \$17.95. It was only issued cancelled with a Canberra postmark dated 5 May 2018 and was not issued mint. The number produced was limited to 7,000.