

# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for May 2019. This month's column looks at sale of an impressive collection of Australian lettercards and new postcards from Australia Post.

## Australian Lettercards with Scenic Views 1911-1925: Abacus Auction Sale 233, 3 March 2019

John Sinfield was one of Australia's best-known postal stationery collectors. Besides outstanding collections of Australian Commonwealth postcards and envelopes, he had surely the finest collection of Australian Commonwealth scenic Lettercards.

When lettercards were first issued by the Commonwealth of Australia in 1911, the Tasmanian practice of including scenic views on the reverse of the lettercards was adopted. Over the period 1911-1925, over 140 views were used from all states with many of the views being reproduced in different formats. In addition, a series of lettercards with military views were issued in 1915. Many of the views are popular with thematic collectors.

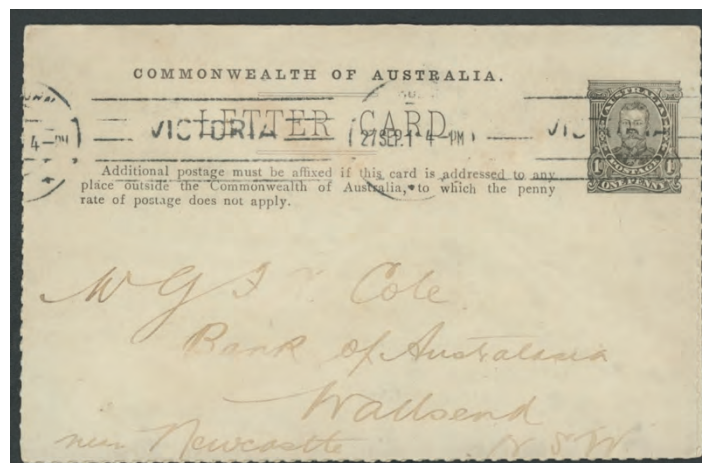
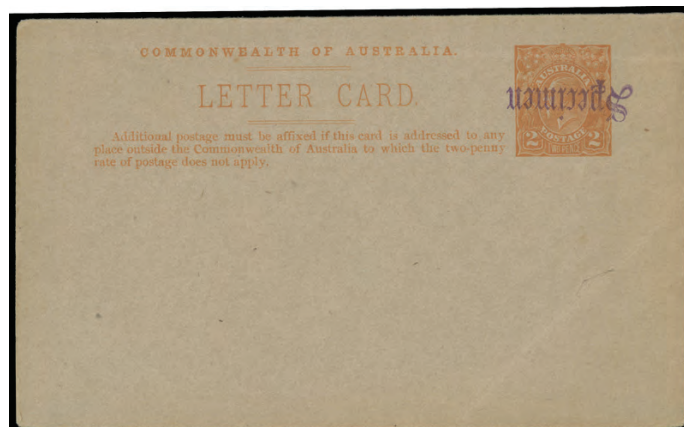
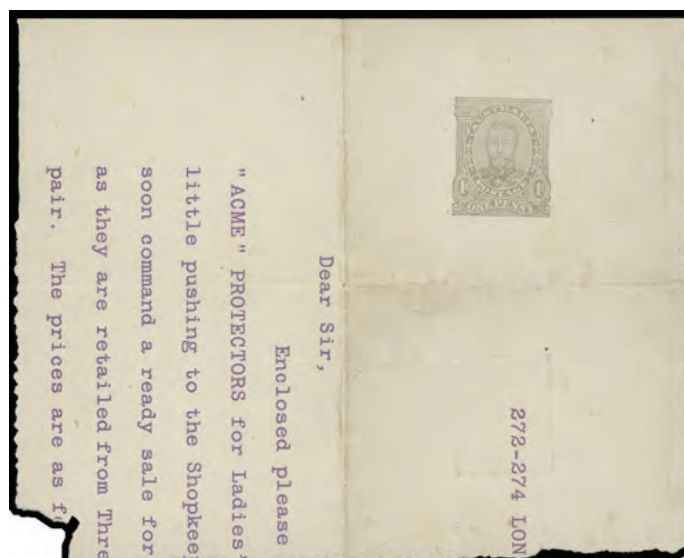
The lettercards were printed in a wide range of colours including red, orange, blue, purple, black,

*Top right: Figure 1 Samuel Reading's Fullface 1d design in brownish-grey literally on a scrap of paper*

*Middle right: Figure 2 1918 KGV Sideface 1½d Imperforate Proof*

*Bottom right: Figure 3 1920 KGV Sideface 2d Orange Imperforate Proof with Gothic 'Specimen' handstamp*

*Below: Figure 4 1d Grey-Black Fullface Lettercard Rouletted*



# Ian McMahon



*Top to bottom: Figure 5 1911 KGV Fullface 1d+1d Reply Letter Card*

*Figure 6 1d brown-Lake Fullface Separated Reply Portion with Double Overprint of Obliterating Bars*

*Figure 7 'OHMS Statistics' Overprint on 1d + 1d Blue Side-face Reply Lettercard*

brown and green, apparently randomly.

While the first lettercards were stamped with the 1911 King George V fullface stamp, later issues were stamped with the Kangaroo and Map stamp and the King George V sideface stamp. The 1d Kangaroo and Map stamps are found in three dies and the 1d King George V sideface stamps with dies 1 and 2. With the rate changes in the period there are twelve different issues of these lettercards: 1d fullface, 1d + 1d fullface reply lettercards, 1d fullface separated reply lettercards, 1d Kangaroo and Map, 1d sideface, 1½d/1d sideface revaluations, 1½d sideface, 2d orange sideface, 2d red sideface, 1½d/2d revaluations, 1½d green sideface and 1½d red sideface. Given the range of different views, stamps, card stock, perforation gauges, die types and colours, this is one of Australia's most complex postal stationery issues and provides many challenges for the specialist. The issue is, however, covered in detail in the Postal Stationery volume of The Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue (ACSC).

John Sinfield's collection was auctioned by Abacus Auctions at their sale on 3 March 2019. The collection included a wide range of views, proofs and some great rarities.

The auction included two proofs of the 1d King George V fullface design. One was a 1d brownish grey progressive proof (Figure 1) on a scrap of paper which sold for \$3,800. The other was a die proof of the 1d design in bright ultramarine which had an estimate of \$5,000. An imperforate proof (Figure 2) of the 1½d purple King George V sideface lettercard (ACSC LC41P(1)B) with a view of Clifton Gardens Sydney had an estimate of \$7,500 while an imperforate proof of the 2d orange King George V sideface lettercard overprinted 'Specimen' in gothic font (Figure 3) sold for \$3,800.

A 1d claret fullface lettercard used to Germany uprated with a ½d Western Australia stamp imperforate at base sold for \$5,000. While most cards are perforated, a small number are known rouletted with a 1d black fullface lettercard rouletted (Figure 4) sold



# Postal Stationery

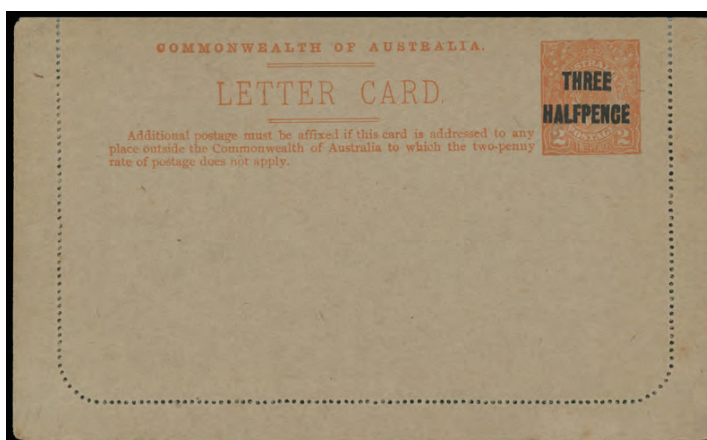
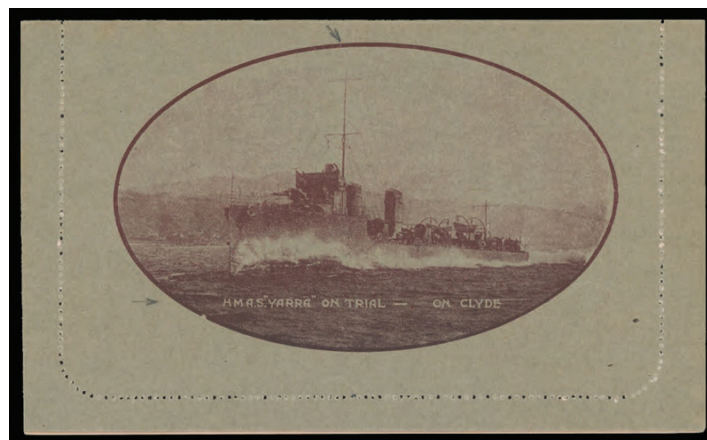
for \$1,350.

One unusual feature of these cards was the issue of 1d + 1d reply lettercards, a double lettercard with a smaller lettercard included inside the message lettercard intended for the reply. These were only issued by a few countries including Queensland and Newfoundland. Figure 5 shows a mint example of one of the reply lettercards, a selection of five of these cards sold for \$380.

In 1917, unused stocks of the reply lettercards were separated and used as single lettercards with the "REPLY" inscription obliterated with bars. A reply portion (Figure 6) in brown-lake with a double overprint of the obliterating bars sold for \$575.

The lettercards are known overprinted OHMS for official use and the sale included a number of these issues including the 1d blue fullface lettercard overprinted 'OHMS Statistics' which sold for \$600 (Figure 7).

Three of the lettercards with military views (Figure 8) issued in 1915 were found to have vessel identification numbers in contravention of the military regulations and as a result the lettercards with



*Right Top to bottom: Figure 8 1d Lettercard with Military View HMAS Yarra*

*Figure 9 1918 'THREE HALFPENCE' Surcharge on KGV 1½d Sideface Lettercard*

*Figure 10 1924 'THREE HALFPENCE' Surcharge on 2d orange on white stock*

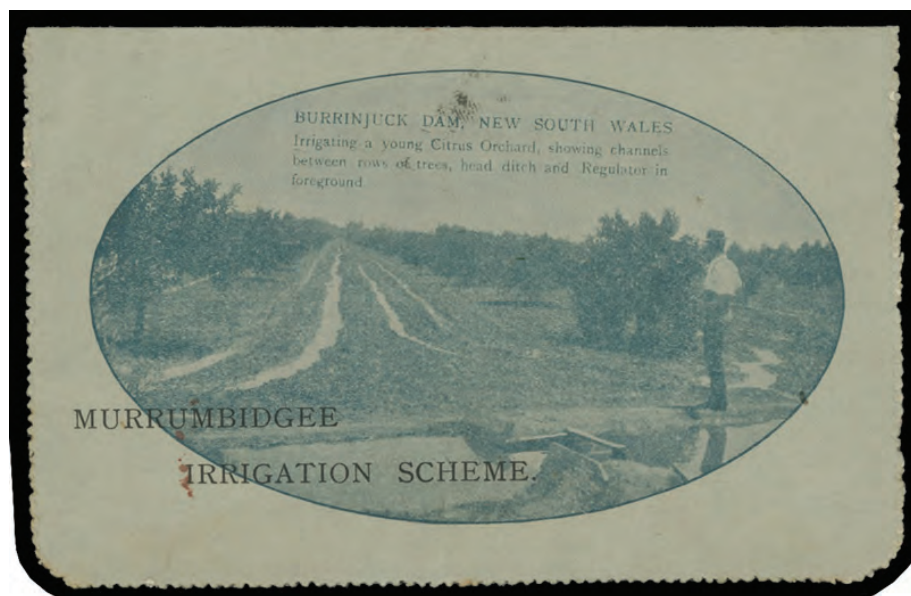
*Figure 11 1924 'THREE HALFPENCE' Surcharges on 2d Orange on Grey Stock*

*Below: Figure 12 The View 'The Spit Middle Harbour Sydney' on Reverse of 2d Red Sideface Lettercard*





# Ian McMahon

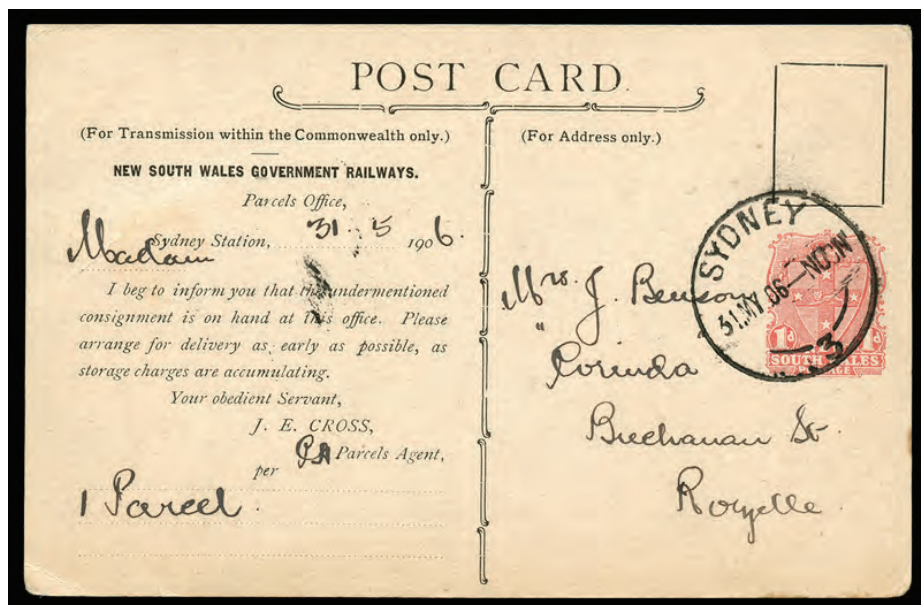


military views were withdrawn with some being reissued in 1918. All of the twelve views were represented in this Sale.

The postage rate was increased from 1d to 1½d in 1918 to include a war tax. 1d King George V lettercards were overprinted 'THREE HALFPENCE'. In error, one of the new 1½d lettercards (Figure 9), which were being printed at the same time as the overprinting of the 1d lettercards, was issued with this overprint. This 'THREE HALFPENCE' on 1½ d lettercard (LC36c) sold for \$3,800.

On 1 October 1923 the lettercard rate was reduced from 2d to 1½d and as a result many 2d King George V sideface lettercards were overprinted 'THREE HALFPENCE'. While most of the overprinted lettercards were 2d red lettercards, a small number of 2d orange lettercards were overprinted, giving rise to some of the great rarities of this issue. A mint example of a surcharged card 2d orange, white stock, Perf 10 (ACSC LC 52) thought to be the only mint copy sold for \$4,600 (Figure 10) while a mint copy of the 2d orange, grey stock, ACSC LC 53 sold for \$3,000 (Figure 11) and a used copy for \$6,250.

The sale had a great range of the different views found on these let-



*Top to bottom:*

*Figure 13 Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme Overprint on Burrinjuck Dam View*

*Figure 14 1d Stamped Postcard for the NSW Government Railways*

*Figure 15 The Weeping Rock at Wentworth Falls View on the Reverse of a 1d Stamped Postcard for the NSW Government Railways*



# Postal Stationery



*Figure 16 Australian Fauna Galah Pre-Paid Postcard*



*Figure 17 Australian Fauna Blue Tongue Lizard Pre-Paid Postcard*

tercards. A 2d red King George V sideface lettercard showing a view of the Spit Middle Harbour, Sydney (ACSC LC49), one of the rarest of all issued views (Figure 12) sold for \$3,400. Figure 13 shows the view Burrinjuck Dam with the overprint 'Murrumbidgee Irrigation Scheme'.

The lettercards in the sale were well researched and described and the catalogue will serve as an important reference to these issues. Collectors interested

in this area should ensure they obtain a copy.

The 2 March 2019 Abacus Auctions sale (No 232) also included some interesting postal stationery including about twenty New South Wales Government Railways postcards stamped with the 1d arms stamp (Figure 14) as well as some formular cards. These postcards have a view on the reverse (Figure 15) and an advice form on the front. These cards are scarce and sold for \$270-\$600 each. The sale also included an example of the Australian 2d King George VI + 1d green Queen Mother PTPO wrapper for Nicholas Aspro (ACSC WS21) estimated at \$1,000.

## **Australian Fauna Pre-Paid Postcards**

Four pre-paid postcards featuring Australian fauna were issued on 5 March 2019, selling for \$2.20 each. The four animals featured were the Galah (Figure 16), Tasmanian Devil, Blue-tongue Lizard (Figure 17) and Red Kangaroo. The picture sides were based on photographs by Eric Isselee/Shutterstock.com. Four prepaid postcards with the same views but in a smaller format were also issued and sold as 'maximum cards'.

## **Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Sydney Stamp Expo 2019**

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia will be holding a meeting at Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2019 (SSCE 2019) which will be held from 13th June to 16th June 2019 at the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre, Hurstville Sydney. The meeting will likely be at 12 noon on Sunday 16 June 2019 but check the SSCE program closer to the event. The display will be Postcards of the Commonwealth of Australia. Further information on SSCE 2019 can be found at <http://ssce.philas.org.au/>.

# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for June 2019. This month's column looks at a new handbook on New South Wales postal stationery and new ANZAC Biscuit Tin postcards from Australia Post.

## The Postal Stationery of New South Wales

Collectors interested in the postal stationery of the Australian States have been handicapped by the lack of published handbooks and priced catalogue listings. For most States the only readily available source is the Higgins and Gage World Postal Stationery Catalogue first published in 1971 and with an edition limited to Australasia published in 1984. For Victoria, *Victoria Postal Stationery, 1869-1917* by Carl Stieg published in 2001 provides a comprehensive listing but does not appear to have had widespread use, perhaps because of its complexity while for Western Australia, *The Postal Stationery of Western Australia*, edited by Brian Pope was published in 2002.

Dingle Smith, Peter Kowald and Michael Blinman have been working on a handbook, *The Postal Stationery of New South Wales*. The first two chapters, covering wrappers and registered



Figure 1 1d Queen Victoria 1864 Wrapper

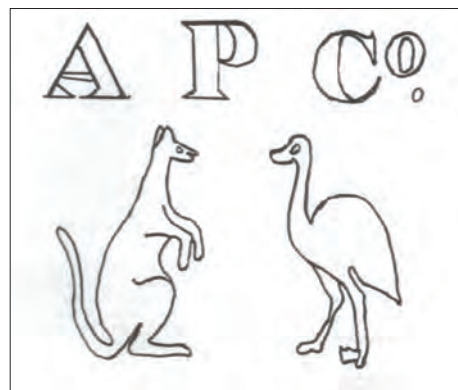


Figure 2 'A P Co' Watermark

envelopes, have now been completed and can be found on the Postal Stationery Society of Australia (PSSA) website <http://postalstationeryaustralia.com/postal-stationery-of-nsw/>. This

handbook has been the result of many months of work and incorporates research undertaken by the late John Bell, much of which was published in *Sydney Views* and is dedicated to John as a tribute to his research in this field. The authors are to be congratulated on the work done to date and we look forward to future chapters on the other types of New South Wales postal stationery.

The Handbook will provide a comprehensive account of NSW postal stationery. The catalogue listings are presented in chronological order with the catalogue numbers used to cross reference items

to the relevant sections of the Handbook. Earlier catalogues often recognise a range of shades but the approach taken is that many of the shades are thought to be due to ageing or minor variations during the printing process and thus not relevant to the catalogue listings.

A recurring issue, especially for envelopes, is to distinguish those issued by the post office from those printed to private order (PTPO). This distinction is not always clear in the printing records. All items that are clearly post office issues available to



Figure 3 1/2d Queen Victoria Wrapper Overprinted 'O S'



# Ian McMahon



*Figure 4 1d Centennial Wrapper Overprinted 'O S', Inverted*

the general public or marked for use by government departments are listed. Comment and guidance are given on PTPO items.

Prices are given for good clean copies preferably with used examples bearing a decipherable dated postmark. It is surprisingly difficult to find good used copies for issues prior to the mid-1870s. As general rule mint copies, often in good condition, of these earlier issues are much easier to acquire, likely a result of early collecting interest, in particular, the keen interest for mint postal stationery by German collectors.

Major differences in the dies of the impressed stamps are described and illustrated but minor variations in the stamps, the OS overprints and in the printed text are not. There is scope for further study of such varieties. Specimen overprints are listed. Proof material is not generally listed but where known are described in the Handbook.

The intention is to publish the Handbook on the PSSA's web site which permits the use of abundant colour illustrations and the opportunity to update future changes and additions to the material presented. Users of the handbook are encouraged to send in updates and modifications. It is intended that the remaining sections will be added to the web site in the next year or two. The Authors hope that the handbook and catalogue listing

will be a useful aid to collectors and help raise the interest in New South Wales postal stationery.

## **New South Wales Newspaper Wrappers - An Introduction**

Newspaper wrappers are one of the most neglected classes of postal stationery but those of New South Wales are of historic importance and the watermarks provide a fascinating field of study. The wrappers were first issued in 1864 (Figure 1) and New South Wales is thought to be only the second postal authority to issue wrappers with the USA the first. The 1d embossed stamps used on the wrappers were initially produced in 1855 for an unissued series of postal stationery envelopes.

The paper used was supplied by the London-based firm of De La Rue and early examples are known on both wove and laid paper in books of 500 sheets with each sheet designed to produce eight wrappers (4 x 2). The binding edge has a continuous scroll watermark so that top four wrappers are watermarked and the lower four unwatermarked. The stamp was initially positioned in the centre of the sheet because the original means of cancellation was planned to be by the sender writing across the stamp in order to save time for the Post Office staff. This never eventuated but the stamps remained in a central position until the early 1870s. Later the positioning showed greater variation before moving to the right and corner of the wrapper. Uncut sheets of the early wrappers are not uncommon and were



*Figure 5 1d Arms Wrapper Perforated 'G R'*

# Postal Stationery

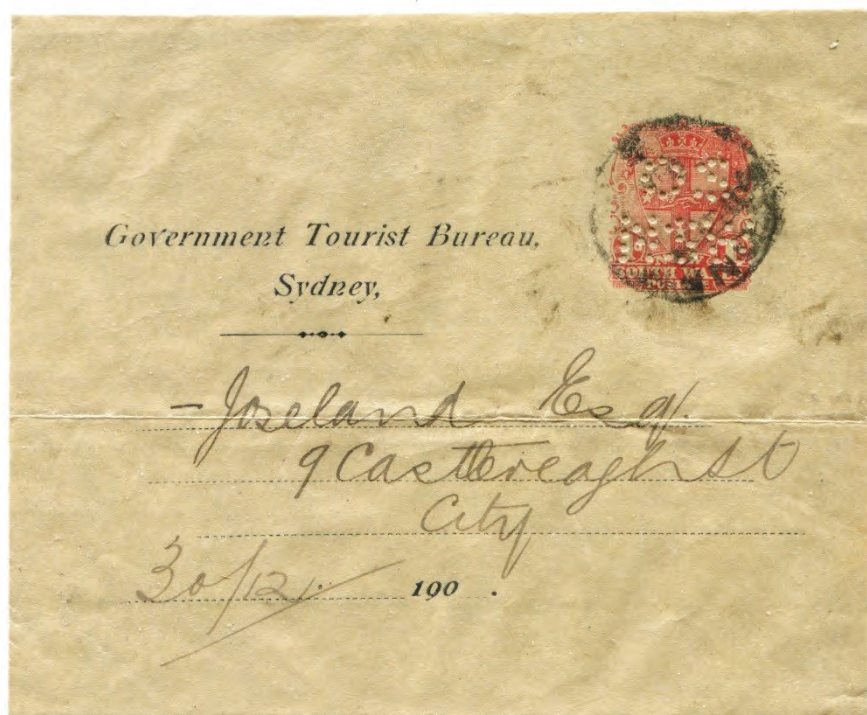
likely sold uncut.

De La Rue continued to supply the paper until 1903 and throughout that period the scroll watermark on the top binding edge remained in use. About 1869 a 'One Penny' watermark was added so that it appeared on each of the eight sheets. The same 1d watermark was also used for the ½d wrappers introduced in 1891. Little care was taken with how the sheets were fed into the printing press and many examples are known with the watermark reverse and/or inverted. In about 1870, there was a delay in the shipment of watermarked paper from De La Rue and locally produced paper was employed with a watermark showing a kangaroo and emu facing each other under the letters APCo, for the Australian Paper Company (Figure 2). None of these wrappers are known mint or used although 1504 were overprinted 'specimen'.

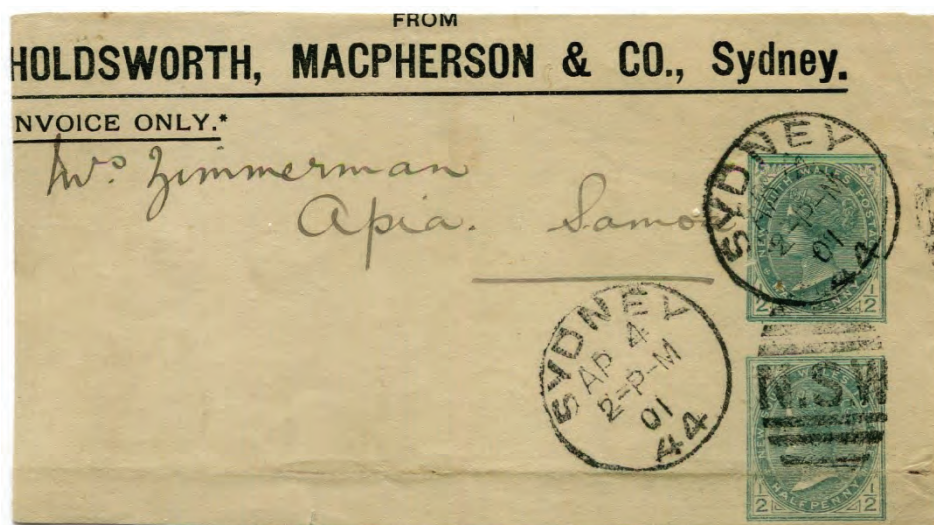
In the nineteenth century newspapers were the dominant form for distributing news and prior to the introduction of the 1d wrappers postage was free within the colony. In 1855 80% of the total weight of all postage comprised newspapers, many sent

from Sydney to subscribers throughout the colony, with the Post Office paying the freight. With the introduction of the wrappers, on average over a million wrappers were printed annually, newspapers could also be sent without the 1d wrappers but used with adhesive stamps but examples of these have not been seen. The costs of distributing newspapers

was a fierce political issue. The Newspaper Postage Abolition Act which came into force on 1 January 1873 withdrew all charges for newspapers posted within the Colony within seven days of publication. As a result, the printing of wrappers dropped dramatically with only 64,000 printed in the period 1874-1888. Slowly newspaper charges returned and with Federation standard rates were used throughout the Commonwealth. The ½d wrappers were not produced for use with newspapers but were applied to various of forms of commercial



*Figure 6 1d Arms wrapper perforated 'OS NSW' for the Government Tourist Bureau Sydney*



*Figure 7 ½d + ½d PTPO Wrapper for Holdsworth, MacPherson & Co Sydney*



# Ian McMahon



*Figure 8 Black Thornwaite Essays for New South Wales Registered Envelope*



*Figure 9 New South Wales Registered Envelope: The emergency Issue of 1907*



*Figure 10 New South Wales Registered Envelope: 1911 De La Rue Issue*

mail.

The postage rates are described in detail but analysing the rates on wrappers is a challenge as the datestamps are usually difficult to decipher and the survival rate is extremely small, indeed for the 1d embossed wrappers it is difficult to find a single used example with a decipherable date stamp.

Official wrappers overprinted 'O S' (Figures 3-4) or perforated 'GR' or 'OS NSW' (Figures 5-6) are extremely scarce either mint or used. Examples of PTPO wrappers are listed (Figure 7).

## New South Wales Registered Envelopes - An Introduction

In 1880 the NSW General Post Office decided to issue specially manufactured fabric or linen-lined envelopes for registered letters, with the fee impressed on the flap (Figures 8-10). Thereafter, thirty-four readily identifiable NSW registered envelopes were issued until the Commonwealth issues appeared on 17 February 1913.

The Handbook includes a detailed description of the registered envelopes which describes the registration fees, envelope shapes and sizes used, envelope seams, registration labels, printing numbers (Appendices B and C) and issue history including specimens. This information provides a basis for a listing of the 34 types with detailed information to enable identification. Information on Registered and Stamp Box sizes is added in Appendices A1 and A2 as a further aid to precise identification. Estimated values for each type are provided at Appendix D. The following themes emerge about NSW registered envelopes:

a. From 1880 until the last issue in 1911 the registration fee only changed once: from 4d to 3d as a result of UPU membership.



# Postal Stationery

- b. The official contractor for most NSW registered envelope stock supplies was McCorquodale except for the last issue of 1911 when the contract was won by De La Rue.
- c. Local emergency supplies from unknown sources were produced on three occasions as a result of the unavailability of official contractor supplies.
- d. All NSW official contractor supplies and two of the three local emergency supplies were of three of the eight standard registered envelope sizes relied upon by Britain and its colonies i.e. Size F, G or H2.
- e. Only one example of an official issue from the general series is known to date.

## Postal Stationery Society of Australia Meeting at Sydney Stamp Expo 2019 13-16 June 2019

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia will

be holding a meeting at Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2019 (SSCE 2019) 13-16 June 2019 at the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre, Hurstville Sydney. The PSSA meeting will be on Sunday 16 June from 12 noon to 12.45 pm. Michael Drury has agreed to display Australian Commonwealth and State official and forged official postcards from the King George V period. For further information about Sydney 2019, please visit the PHILAS website [www.philas.org.au](http://www.philas.org.au).

## Anzac Tin Biscuits 2019

Two 2019 ANZAC biscuit tin postcards were issued in late March/early April showing Anzac [sic] Day souvenir booklet 1919 (Figure 11) and Anzac [sic] Day souvenir booklet, Australian Base Depots, Rouelles, France 1919 (Figure 12). The postcards were sold for \$14.95 a set with a free biscuit tin and a packet of ANZAC biscuits.



Figure 11 Anzac Day Souvenir Booklet 1919



Figure 12 Anzac Day Souvenir Booklet, Australian Base Depots, Rouelles, France 1919



# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for July 2019. This month's column looks at a King George V 1d + ½d + ½d 'tripleton' Australian Commonwealth stamped-to-order envelope, a pre-stamped envelope issued by Australia Post in 1989 to mark self-government in the Australian Capital Territory and prepaid postcards used for a program to encourage missing people to write anonymously to their families.

## Australia BW ES38 ('The Tripleton')

The May 2019 issue of the *Postal Stationery Collector*, Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia, included a census of the Commonwealth of Australia 1d red King George V Star (without 'POSTAGE' in the design) + ½d green King George V star (without 'POSTAGE') + ½d green King George V sideface stamped to order (STO) envelope for Vacuum Oil Pty Ltd (Victoria), BW ES38 (Figure 1-2). (Catalogue numbers are from the Postal Stationery volume of the Brusden-White Australian Commonwealth Specialists' Catalogue.) This tripleton STO envelope is the



Figure 1 Vacuum Oil 1d + ½d + ½d King George V Tripleton STO Envelope



Figure 2 Vacuum Oil 1d + ½d + ½d King George V Tripleton Cut-out

only known tripleton issued by Australia, although up to six impressions are known on a Tasmanian wrapper.

The Census was undertaken by Mark Diserio and Tom Herinckx who write that the envelope "has always had a fascination for collectors, possibly because of the three stampings and the combination of embossed and letterpress methods used. It is collo-

# Ian McMahon



*Figure 3 Vacuum Oil 1d + 1/2d King George V Doubleton STO Envelope*

quially known to collectors as the 'tripleton'. The envelope was first mentioned by 'Harold Charles' (the *nom de plume* of Charles Fawcett) in his first article, 'Postal Stationery', for *The Australian Stamp Monthly* (March 1931, p 95). In the ASM of August 1949 (p 627) Harold Charles wrote:

*At the Adelaide Centenary Stamp Exhibition my old friend, Rev. Graebner, and myself almost plotted to do away with a collector who exhibited an envelope with three Australian postal stamp impressions printed on it. The exhibitor had very little else of worth, but would not sell it or exchange it for something better. [What could be better than the Tripleton!]*

Writing in 'A Jubilee Special: 'Postal Stationery' in the ASM of December 1954 (p 797), 'Harold Charles' again wrote about the tripleton:

*At the Adelaide exhibition in 1936 there was an envelope with no less than three impressions on it. It was the only one I had ever saw but although*

*the exhibitor had nothing else of note, I was not able to persuade him to part with the item.*

The Vacuum Oil Company Pty Ltd was a major user of stamped-to-order postal stationery. The tripleton was created by the need to revalue stocks of surplus envelopes held by the Company as a result of postage rate increases. The Company originally ordered envelopes to be stamped with a 1d King George V Star (without 'POSTAGE'), before

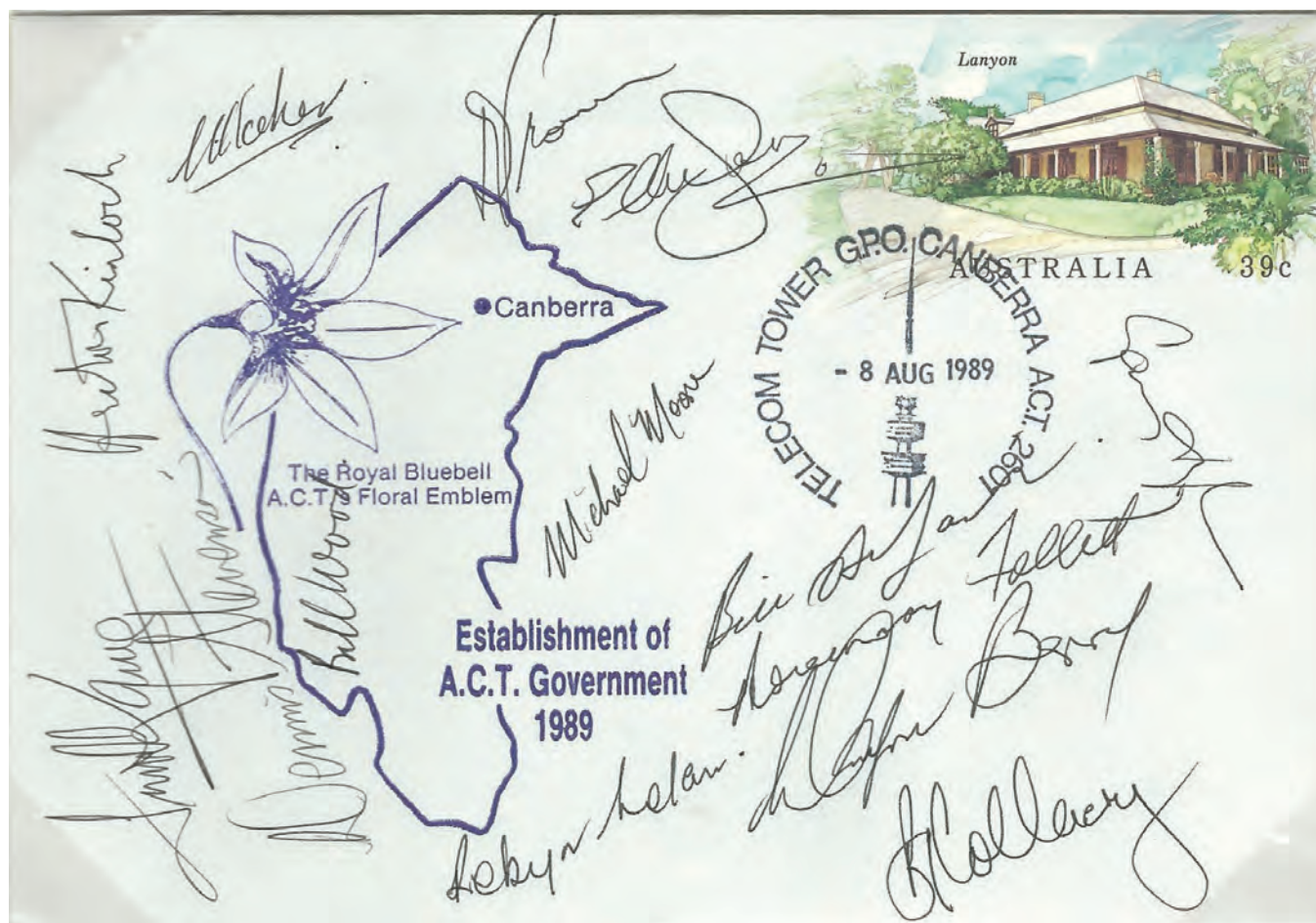
July 1918 to cover the 1d letter rate up to 1/2 an ounce (BW ES31). Unused stocks of these envelopes were then stamped with the 1/2d green King George V star without postage (Figure 3) following the introduction of the 1/2d war tax from 28 October 1918 to meet the new 1 1/2d rate for letters up to half an ounce. (BW ES34). The article speculates that Harrison used the letterpress method to add the 1/2d sideface stamp rather than using an embossed stamp as his



*Figure 4 Vacuum Oil Wellington Return Address on the Flap on the Reverse*



# Postal Stationery



*Figure 5 Stamped Envelope Issued by Australia Post to Mark ACT Self-Government*

embossing machines were fully utilised in producing other embossed envelopes, such as the new 2d post office embossed envelopes (BW EP21). Following the 1 October 1920 increase in postage rates to 2d, the remaining stocks of the 1d + ½d revalued envelopes were then further re-valued by the addition of the ½d King George V side-face stamp.

The Census recorded eleven BW ES38 entires, used from February to July 1921 and three cut-outs. Most of the envelopes have return addresses for the Vacuum Oil Company Freemantle and are posted to Western Australian address-



*Figure 7 Front of the Trackless Postcard*

# Ian McMahon



Figure 6 'Hope' Reverse of the Back of the Trackless Postcard



es. One envelope has a Queensland return address sent to a Queensland address and one a New Zealand return address and sent to New Zealand. All envelopes are posted from Melbourne. Each envelope has the return address in a 'Gargoyle' design flap seal (Figure 4).

Any reader with additional information on this envelope is encouraged to contact me [ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com) so I can pass the information on to the authors.

## Pre-Stamped Envelope for The Establishment of Self Government in the Australian Capital Territory

Self-Government was established in the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) thirty years ago in 1989 with the first meeting of the ACT Legislative Assembly being held on 11 May 1989. To mark the occasion Australian Post issued a pre-stamped envelope with a map of the ACT and the Royal Bluebell, the Territory flower of the ACT, and a stamp depicting Lanyon, an historic homestead located in the ACT. Australia Post held a launch of the envelope on 7 August 1989 at the foyer of the ACT Legislative Assembly. An example of the PSE

autographed by fourteen of the seventeen members of the inaugural legislative assembly including the first Chief Minister of the ACT, Rosemary Follett, is shown in Figure 5. One of the signatories was Hector Kinloch who as well as being a member of the first Legislative Assembly was also a member of the Philatelic Society of Canberra.

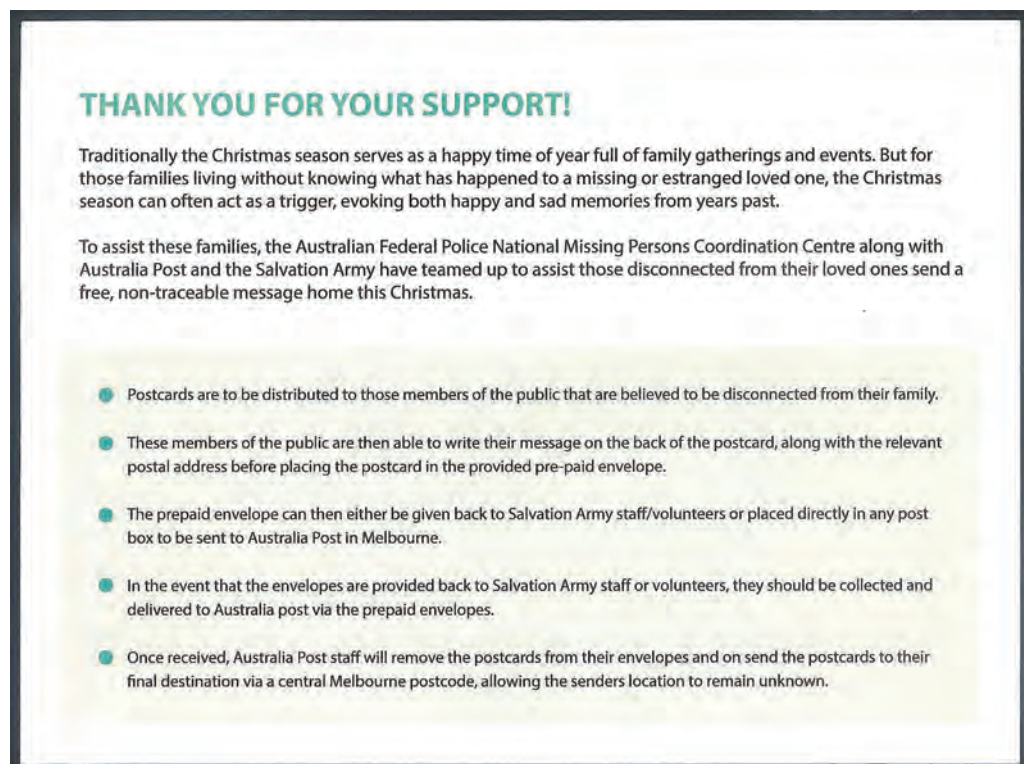
## Bunbury 2019

Bunbury 2019 is a National One-Frame exhibition (including postal stationery) which will be held in Bunbury on 20-21

Figure 8 Front of the Publicity Card for the Trackless Postcard



# Postal Stationery



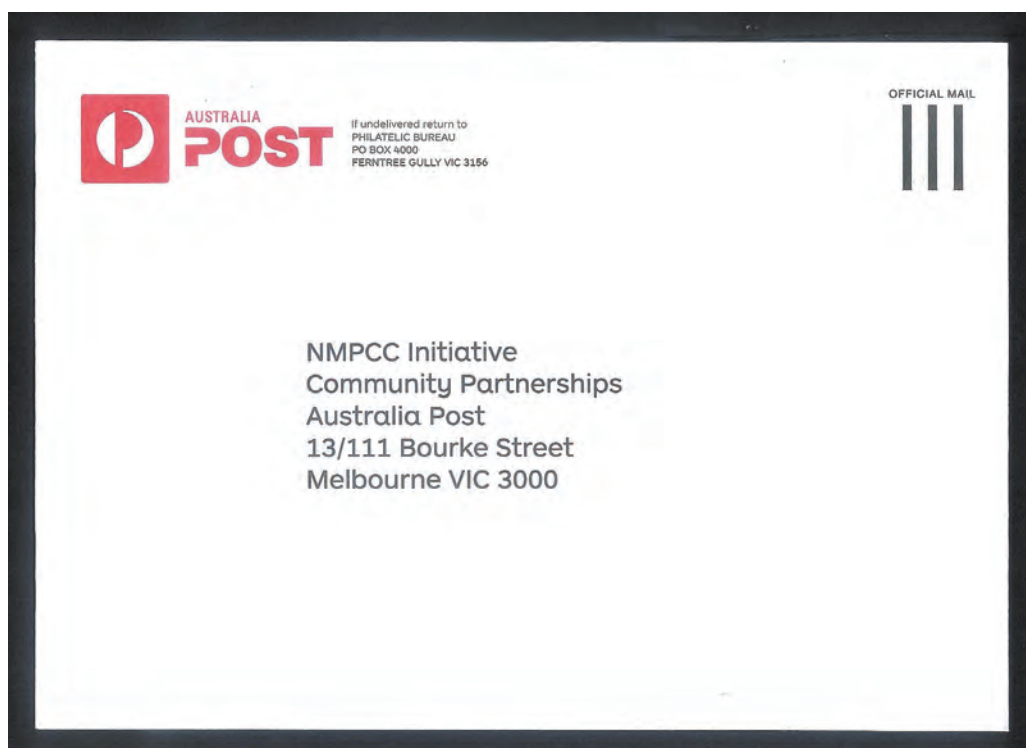
*Figure 9 Reverse of the Publicity Card for the Trackless Postcard*

July 2019 at the South West Italian Club, 20 White Street, East Bunbury, Western Australia. Further information at <http://www.wapc.org.au/bunbury-2019/>. If you live in the west, or are travelling there at the time of Exhibition, make a point of attending.

## Traceless Postcards

The May 2019 issue of the *Postal Stationery Collector* also reported on a pre-paid postcard known as a 'traceless postcard'. First released in December 2017 with 8,000 cards produced and apparently rereleased in December 2018. The Postcards were released

*Figure 10 Official Envelope Used to Send out Publicity Card for the Trackless Postcard*



before Christmas 2017 and 2018 in a bid to allow people who have gone missing on purpose to contact their families without providing a return address. The campaign was run by the Australian Federal Police's National Missing Persons Coordination Centre, with Australia Post and the Salvation Army. The postcards were prepaid. They were available at Salvation Army centres, and delivered through a central Australia Post facility with no indication of the location it has been sent from.

Figure 6 shows the reverse of the postcard, 'HOPE' with a Christmas theme. Figure 7 shows the front of the postcard while

Figures 8 and 9 show the front and back of a publicity card used for the service and Figure 10 an envelope used to send out the publicity card.

# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for August 2019. This month's column looks at Belgium postcards with private advertising known as Publibel Cards, the 'Flightless Birds' stamped postcards issued by Australia Post and an aerogramme which sold at auction for \$26,000 excluding the buyer's commission.

## Belgium Publibel Cards

One of the unusual features of Belgian stationery is the tremendous number of postal stationery postcards with private advertising issued by the Post Office. These cards are known as 'Publibel' cards.

They contain an advertisement in the lower left-hand corner of the postcard. The advertisements



Figure 1 50c Heraldic Lion Publibel Postcard with Advertisement for Oxade Orangeade

cover the full gambit of Belgian life, advertising a very wide range of everyday items including food, refrigerators and other household appliances, cosmetics, cars, fashion, tourist spots and stamp shows.

The advertising space was sold by the 1<sup>re</sup> Agence

Beige de Publicite Postale, Publibel, which had an exclusive concession to sell and print the advertisements on these postcards. The cards were sold through post offices in that part of the country in which the advertiser wishes to advertise or throughout the country. Initially advertising income was used to support unemployed workers and later on to the Social Service of the Belgian Postal Service for the

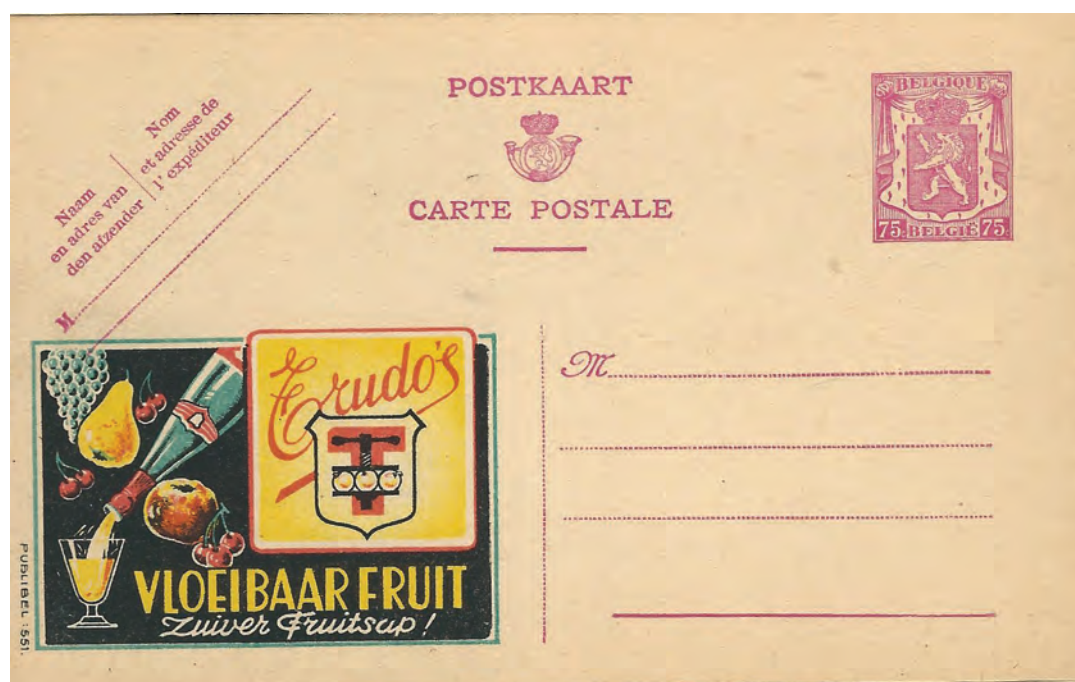


Figure 2 75c 'Lion in a Shield' Publibel Postcard with Advertisement For Trudo Fruit Juice



# Ian McMahon



Figure 3 showing a 1fr 50 + 50c Lion Publibel Postcard with Advertising for Mustard

benefit of retired post office employees.

Like other Belgian stationery the headings can be in French, Flemish, bilingual (with either French or Flemish first) or in German and French with the headings usually matching the language of the advertisement. The language of the advertisement matches the language of the area of the country in which the cards were to be sold, that is Flemish cards for sale in Flemish-speaking areas, French cards for French-speaking areas and bilingual cards sold throughout the country or in areas with a mixed popula-

tion. Very few postcards with German heading have been issued, presumably as the German speaking population is relatively small. The cards have been produced in numbers from 500 to about 2 million depending on the requirements of the advertisers.

Publibels were first issued in 1933. Figure 1 shows a 50c Heraldic Lion postcard with an unnumbered advertisement for Oxade orangeade. From about card number 209, each postcard has a serial number at the foot of

the card on the left side with numbers up to 2790. Figure 2 shows a 75c 'Lion in a Shield' postcard,



Figure 4 Shows A 65c Lion in a Shield Publibel Postcard Advertising for the Control of the Colorado Potato Beetle



# Postal Stationery

Publibel number 551, with an advertisement for Trudo Fruit Juice. By 1984 over 2,800 basic cards had been issued including cards at the internal and foreign rates. This number does not, however, include revalued cards with Figure 3 showing a 1fr 50 +50c Lion postcard, Publibel number 1616, with advertising for 'Mostaard' (Mustard). On each postage rate increase the Belgian Post Office revalued cards by adding a machine imprint at major post offices. Often the machines used by each post office are distinguish-



Figure 5 shows a 1fr 20 Lion Publibel Postcard for Fort coffee.

able with the imprint containing a number unique to a particular post office. In addition, a number of

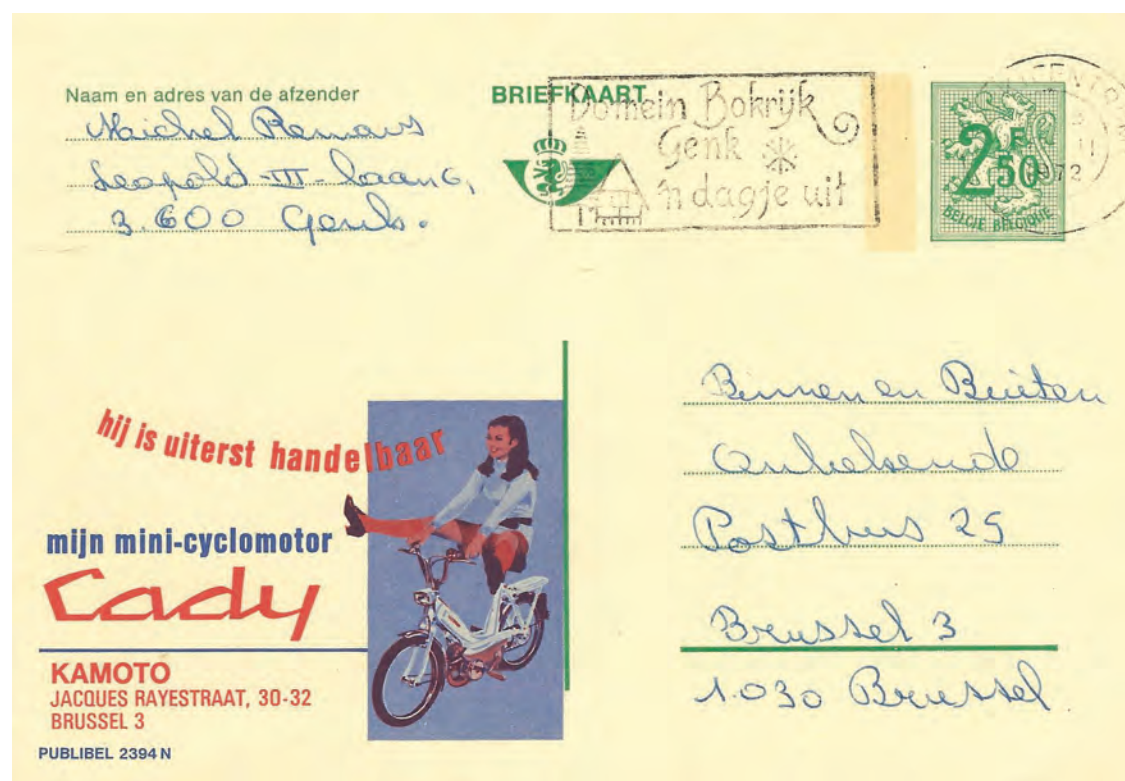


Figure 6 shows a 2fr 50 lion Publibel Postcard Advertising a Motorised Bicycle for Kamoto

Publibels postcards were revalued -10% when postage rates were reduced in 1946. The last Publibel Card was issued on January 16, 1985. A listing of the cards can be found in the catalogue, Les Entiers Postaux de Belgique [Postal Stationery of Belgium], published by the Societe Beige de L 'Entier Postal [Belgian Postal Stationery Society].

The cards are



# Ian McMahon



*Figure 7 6d United Kingdom Aerogramme Redirected to Island 'X' (Cocos (Keeling Islands) in 1944.*

further clarification West Island was sometimes referred to as 'Brown's West Island'. Following the Japanese bombardment in 1944, use of the word "Cocos" in communications was suppressed. Various coded military addresses were used including 'Operation Wilcox', 'Island X' and 'Fortress Brown'. Use of such addresses on mail is very rare & the only the examples we have seen are from Colin Riddell's collection.

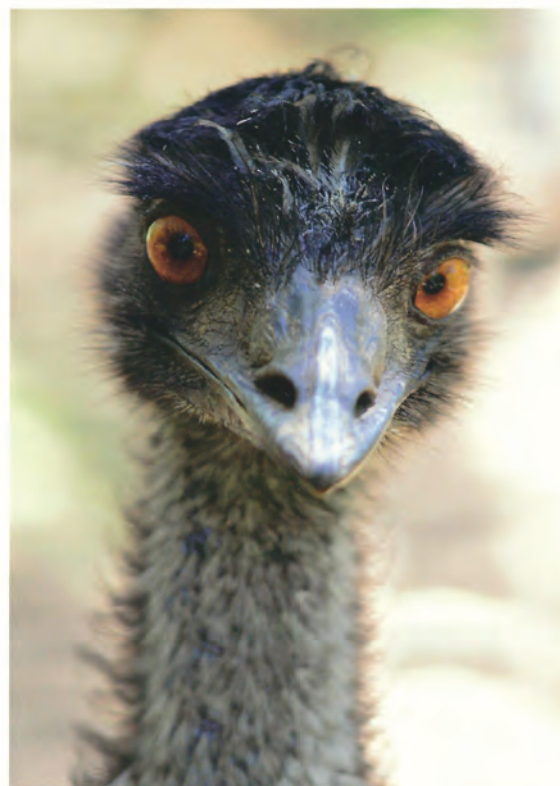
## **Flightless Birds Pre-Paid Postcards**

Three pre-paid postcards depicting three of Australia's flightless Birds were issued on 7 May 2019.

popular with thematic collectors as the advertisements cover a wide range of thematic topics. In many cases the advertisements depict commonplace items which are not otherwise commonly featured on adhesive stamps or postal stationery. Figure 4 shows a 65c Lion in a Shield postcard, Publibel number 813, with advertising for the control of De Coloradoever, the Colorado potato beetle. Figure 5 shows a 1fr20 Lion postcard, Publibel number 1197, for Fort coffee. Figure 6 shows a 2 fr 50 lion postcard, Publibel number 2394N ('N' for Flemish), advertising a motorised bicycle for Kamoto.

## **Aerogramme Sells for \$26,000!**

At the Abacus Auction No 233 held on 3 March 2019, a United Kingdom King George VI aerogramme (Figure 7) sold for \$26,000, excluding buyers commission. The aerogramme had been used from the United Kingdom to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands. The catalogue description read: 1944 (Nov 24) civilian 6d aerogramme from GB to "35th British Gen Hosp/RAMC/South East Asia Command", redirected to "Island X/oc tps/Brown" (= Occupying Troops) & flown to Cocos per Catalina flying boat. The Catalogue also provided



*Figure 8 Emu Pre-Paid Post card*

# Postal Stationery

The three birds shown were the Emu (Figure 8), Cassowary (Figure 9) and the Little Penguin (Figure 10) and the postcards were based on photographs from Bradda/Shutterstock.com, Tom Kolossa/Shutterstock.com and Arco/TUNS/Alamy Stock Photo respectively. The postcards sold for \$2.20 each, pre-paying postage anywhere in the world. Adhesive stamps with a similar design were issued on the same day.



*Figure 9 & 10 Cassowary and Little Penguin Pre-Paid Postcards*

## Officeworks™

### **Mailman™ Parcel**

#### **Delivery Satchels, Boxes and Mailing Tubes**

Private courier operators and parcel delivery companies also issue pre-paid stationery. One such

example is Officeworks™ which offers a parcel delivery service whereby parcels can be sent from Officeworks shops. A range of prepaid Mailman

parcel satchels, boxes and mailing tubes are sold for use with the service and prepay national flat rate delivery from any Officeworks store to destinations Australia wide. These include an A5 500g prepaid satchel for \$7.75 (Figure 11), 2kg, 3 kg and 5kg satchels for \$12.50, \$14 and \$17 respectively, 5kg and 10kg prepaid boxes for \$21.39 and \$29.69 respectively, 2kg box for bottles for \$15 and a 2kg mailing tube for \$17.99.



*Figure 11 Mailman T Pre-Paid Satchel*



# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for September 2019. This month's column looks at the aerogrammes issued by Honduras.

## Honduras Aerogrammes

Honduras issued its first aerogrammes in 1959 in a set of four; 10c Flag (Figure 1), 12c President Dr Ramon Villeda Morales (Figure 2), President of Honduras from 1957 to 1963, 15c Mayan Ruins (Figure 3) and 25c General Francisco Morazan (Figure 4) who was a President of the Central American Federation which existed from 1824 until 1838 and comprised Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and El Salvador and who before becoming president was the head of the state of Honduras. The different denominations represented the different aerogramme rates to various parts of the world, for example, 12c was the aerogramme rate to the USA. Honduran currency is the Lempira (L) which is divided into 100 centavos. The 15c aerogramme exists with a printed Christmas scene and Christmas greetings inside the form.

No further aerogrammes were issued until 1976 when the 10c flag aerogramme and the 12c Dr Morales aerogrammes were revalued to L 0.16, with an overprint of the new value and two lines cancelling the denomination expressed in words (Figures 5).

Commencing in 1993 Honduras issued a series of greeting aerogrammes. The first was an aero-

*Right top to bottom :*

*Figure 1 10c Flag Aerogramme*

*Figure 2 12c President Dr Ramon Morales Aerogramme*

*Figure 3 15c Mayan Ruins Aerogramme*

*Facing page Left column top to bottom :*

*Figure 4 25c General Francisco Morazan Aerogramme*

*Figure 5 L0.16 on 12c Aerogramme*

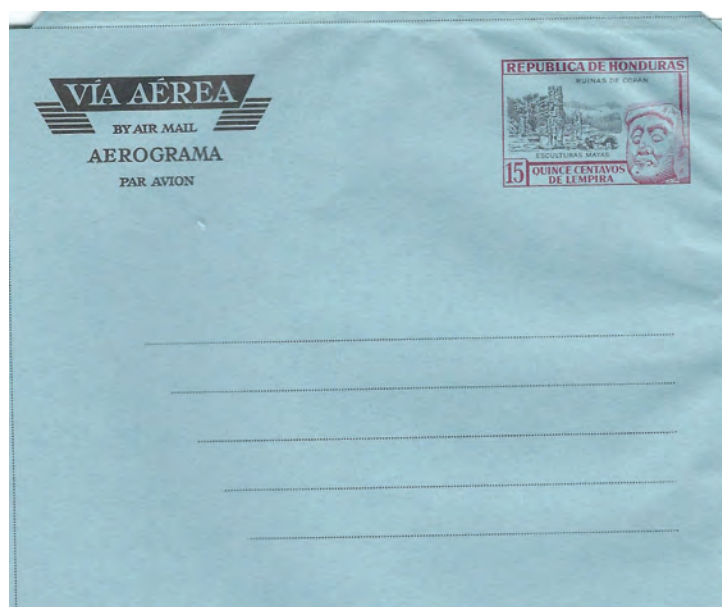
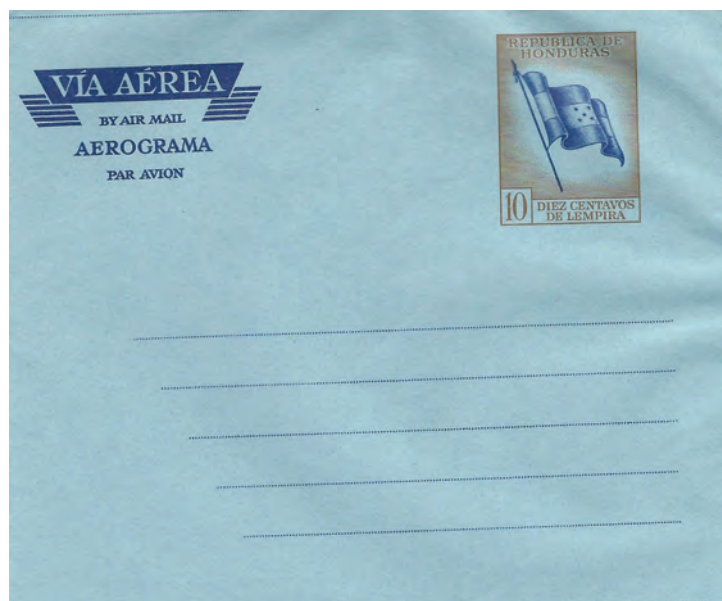
*Figure 6 Father's Day Greetings Aerogramme*

*Facing page Right column top to bottom :*

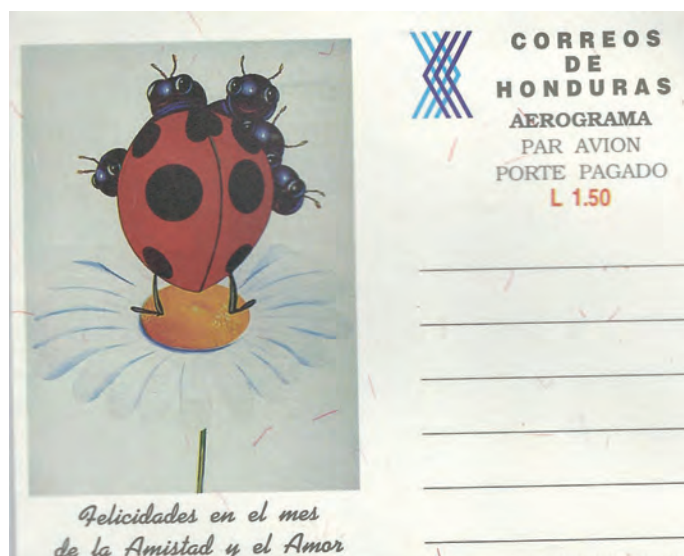
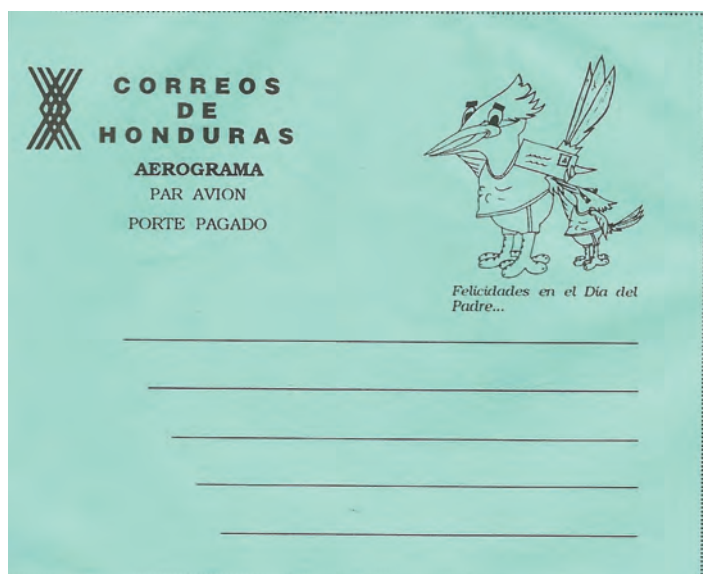
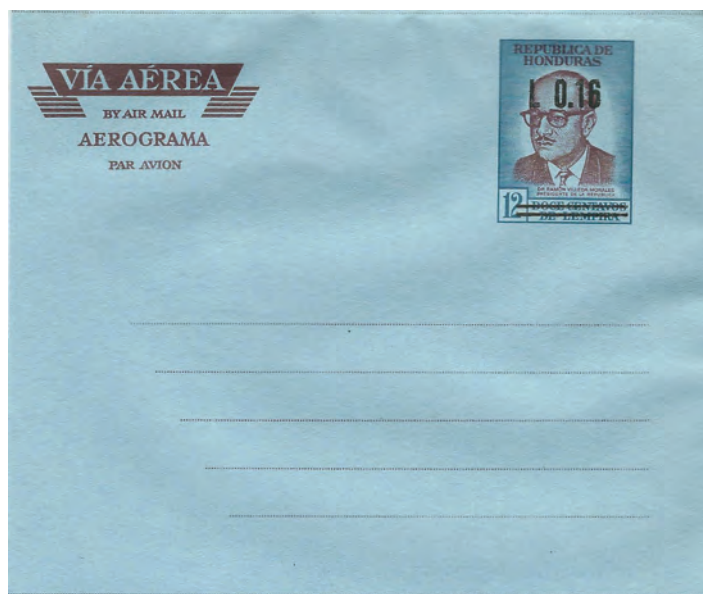
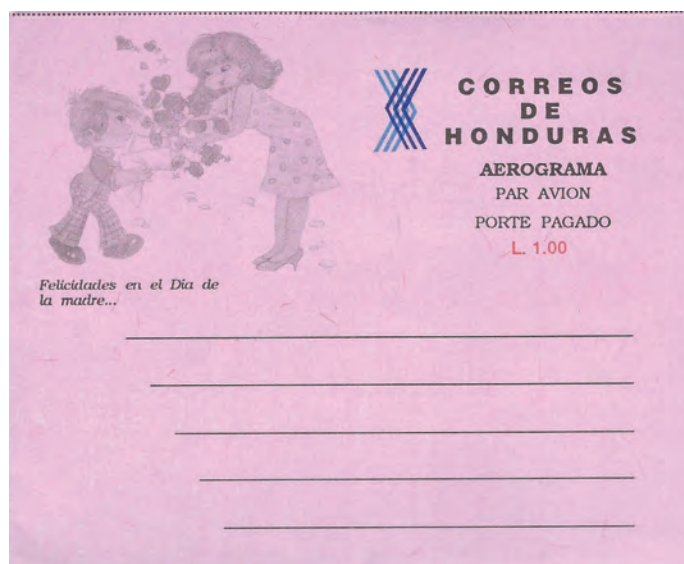
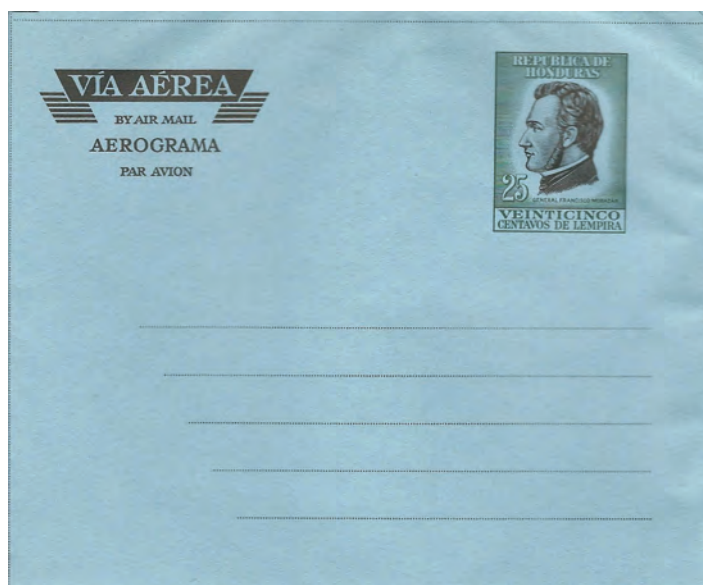
*Figure 7 1993 Mother's Day Greetings Aerogramme*

*Figure 8 1993 Christmas Aerogramme*

*Figure 9 1994 Love and Friendship Day Aerogramme*



# Ian McMahon





# Postal Stationery

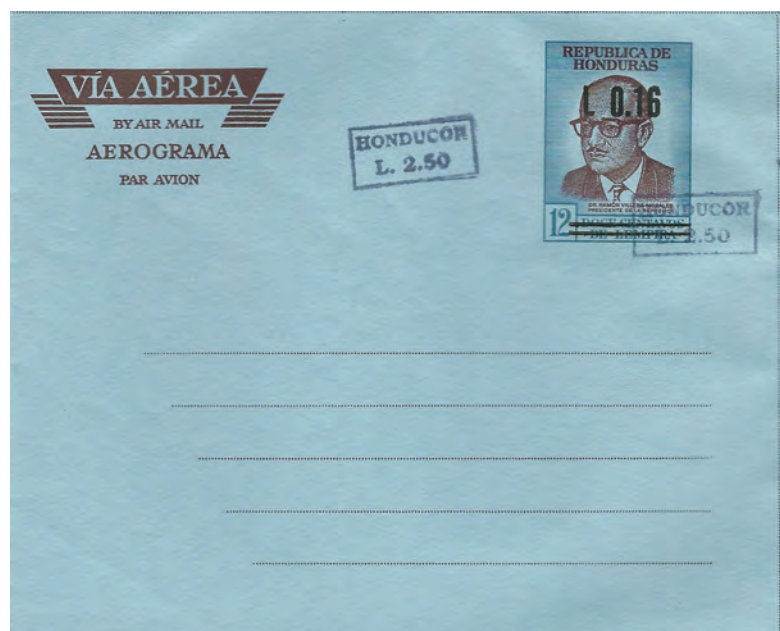
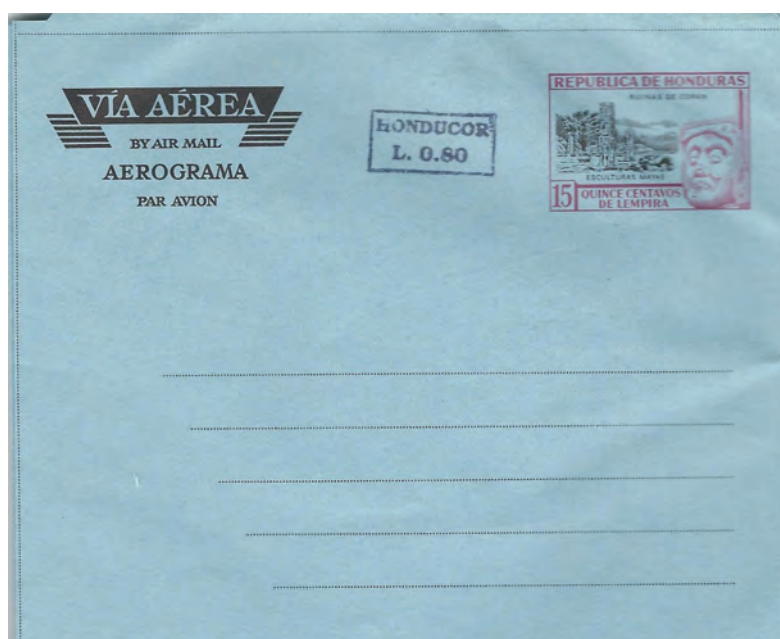
gramme for 'February Month of Love and Friendship' with a stamp design depicting a stylised hamster was issued in February 1993. The aerogramme was non-denominated being inscribed 'Porte Pagado' [Postage Paid]. In Honduras, the Day of Love and Friendship (also known as Saint Valentine's Day) is celebrated on 14 February. The advantage of the celebration of Saint Valentine's day in Honduras, is that by calling it 'Love and Friendship Day', people without a romantic partner do not feel so marginalized in the celebration, as may happen in other countries such as Australia.

In March 1993 an aerogramme for Father's Day greetings was issued (Figure 6). Also undenominated it featured two stylised birds, presumably father and Son and is inscribed 'Felicidades en el Dia del Padre' [Greetings on Father's Day]' and was on green paper. Father's Day in Honduras is on 19 March and not in September as it is in Australia.

In June 1993 an aerogramme was issued for Mother's Day greetings (Figure 7). The aerogramme was denominated L 1.00 and was on pink paper. It shows a boy presenting his mother with a present and is inscribed 'Felicidades en el Dia de la madre' [Greetings on Mother's Day]. Mother's Day falls on the second Sunday in May as it does in Australia.

A Christmas aerogramme was issued in November 1993 (Figure 8). It was denominated L 1.00 and shows a church and village scene. A Love and Friendship Day aerogramme was issued in February 1994 with a stylised ladybird design (Figure 9). It was denominated L 1.00 and was inscribed 'Felicidades en el mes de la Amistad y el Amor' [Congratulations in the month of Friendship and Love]

In May 1996 a final greetings aerogramme



*Right top to bottom :*

*Figure 10 1996 Orchid Greeting Aerogramme*

*Figure 11 L0.80 on 15c Revalued Aerogramme*

*Figure 12 L2.50 Double Overprint on L0.16/12c Aerogramme*

# Ian McMahon



was issued (Figure 10). Undenominated it depicted an Orchid and the greeting 'Felicidades en tu día' [Greetings on Your Day].

In 1995 due to changes in aerogramme rates, the four 1959 and the two 1976 revalued aerogrammes were all revalued by a handstamp comprising a boxed 'HONDURAS' and the new value to L 0.80 and to L 2.50 resulting in twelve varieties (Figure 11); L 0.80 on 10c Flag, L 2.50 on 10c Flag, L 0.80 on 12c Ramon Morales, L 2.50 on 12c Ramon Morales, L 0.80 on 15c Mayan Ruins, L 2.50 on 15c Mayan Ruins, L 0.80 on 25c General Francisco Morazan, L 2.50 on 25c General Francisco Morazan, L 0.80 on L 0.16 on 10c Flag, L 2.50 on L 0.16 on 10c Flag, L 0.80 on L 0.16 on 12c Ramon Morales, and L 2.50 on L 0.16 on 12c Ramon Morales.

A number of varieties of these aerogrammes exist including double overprints (Figure 12) and missing lines (Figure 13) which obliterate the old values on the L 0.80 on L 0.16 on 10c Flag and L 2.50 on L 0.16 on 10c Flag aerogrammes.

## Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog



## Aerogramme Amerika

(mit Karibischen Inseln u. Vereinten Nationen)

## 2014

Bearbeitet im Auftrag des  
Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins von 1901 e.V.  
und der  
Arbeitsgemeinschaft Aerogramme

## Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog Aerogramme Amerika [New Postal Stationery Catalogue – Aerogrammes of the Americas]

Information on the aerogrammes of Central and South American countries can be found in the 'Neuer Ganzsachen-Katalog Aerogramme Amerika' [New Postal Stationery Catalogue – Aerogrammes of the Americas] published in 2014 by the Berliner Ganzsachen-Sammler-Vereins

*Left above :*

*Figure 13 L2.50 Overprint on L0.16/10c Aerogramme With the Original Value in Words Not Obliterated*

*Left below :*

*Figure 14 Catalogue of the Aerogrammes of the Americas*



# Postal Stationery

[Berlin Postal Stationery Society] and the Arbeitsgemeinschaft Aerogramme [Aerogramme Society]. The Catalogue (Figure 14) is published in German.

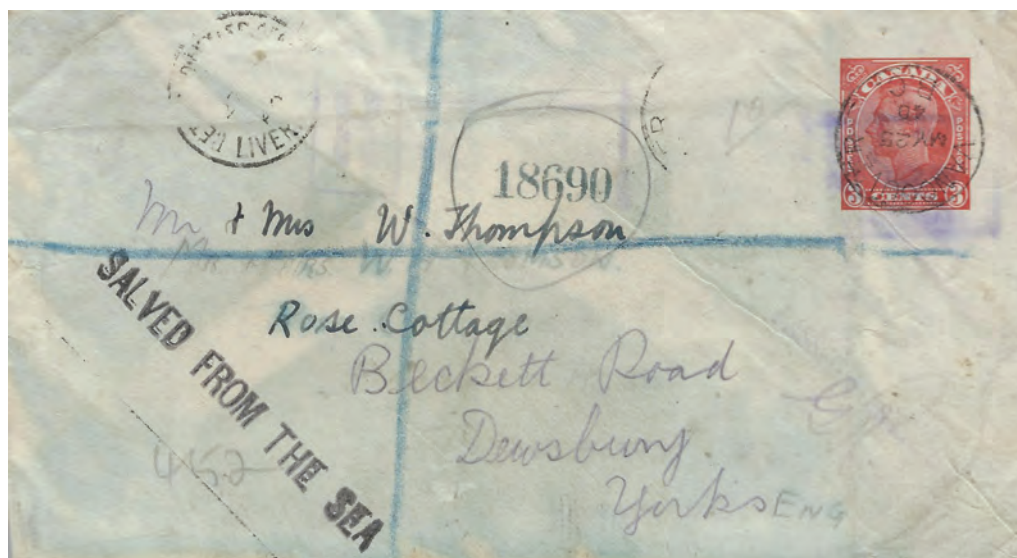
The Catalogue also includes the aerogrammes of Canada and the USA as well as those of the countries of the West Indies. While comprehensive catalogues exist in English for the aerogrammes of the USA and Canada, information on the issues of the countries of the West Indies and central and south America can be difficult to find.

## 3c George V Canada Stamped Envelope 'SALVED FROM THE SEA'

Collectors of postal stationery can add interest to their collection by including postal stationery which have been used to unusual destinations, used for additional services such as registration or air mail or which have interesting postal history markings.

An example of the latter is Canada 3c King George VI stamped envelope shown in Figure 15 which was sent registered mail from Vancouver to Dewsbury, England with the additional adhesive stamp washed off and the cachet 'SALVED FROM THE SEA' and a 'PASSED BY CENSOR' handstamp. In addition, it has resealing tape on the reverse, a Liverpool receiving postmark and the front and back of the cover have separated.

The letter had been carried on board *SS Eros*, a British steam merchant ship owned by Morant SS Co Ltd Belfast, which was torpedoed by the German



*Top: Figure 15 Canada 3c King George VI Envelope 'SALVED FROM THE SEA'*  
*Below : Figure 16 Reverse of Canada 3c King George VI Envelope*

submarine, U-48, on 7 June 1940 off the NW Coast of Ireland near Tory Island. The badly damaged *Eros* was taken in tow by HMS Berkeley and the survivors were picked up by HMS Paynter. The ship was beached on Tory Island and was later salvaged and repaired.

After the war the ship was registered in Canada for Eros Transport Co (Standard Fruit Co), Halifax and used for transporting bananas. However, in 1963 it was renamed the *Trangie* for Rigryth Ltd, Sydney and was engaged in a 'pioneering' (and controversial) live sheep trade across the Pacific to Mexico with many of the sheep dying enroute. It was broken up in March 1968 at Kaohsiung, Taiwan.

# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for October 2019. This month's column looks at the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first postal card issued by Austria in 1869, new issues from Australia Post and reports on postal stationery news from recent exhibitions.

## 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the First Postal Card

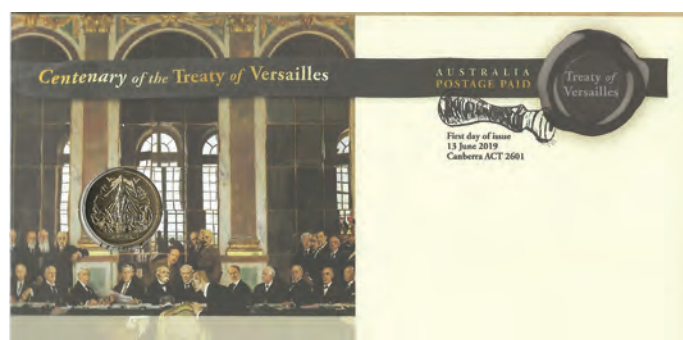
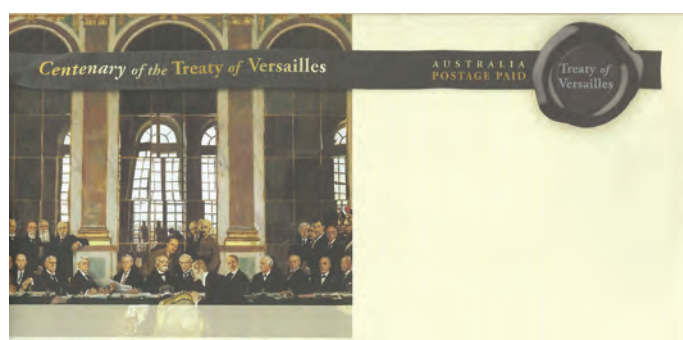


*Figure 1 Dr-Emanuel-Herrmann, Austrian Proponent of the Postal Card*

On 1 October 1869, Austria issued the world's first postal card. The postal card was issued following the publication on January 26, 1869 of an article, "About a novel means of postal correspondence", by Austrian Emanuel Herrmann (Figure 1) proposing that "envelope-size cards", ie postcards, be admitted as mail for a reduced postage rate of 2 Kreuzers rather than the 5 Kreuzers charged for letter mail.

The issued Austrian postal cards (Figure 2) were denominated 2 Kreuzers and had the heading, *Correspondenz – Karte*, "correspondence card", and the Austrian coat of arms (they were also issued in a Hungarian version as well as with headings in the other languages of the Austro-Hungarian Empire such as Slovenian). The front of the card showed space for the address with the reverse reserved for the message.

The idea of the postal card received considerable support with one British commentator writing that *The Austrian government has introduced a novelty in postage, which might be introduced with great benefit in all countries. The object is to enable persons to send off; with the least possible trouble, messages of small importance, without the trouble of obtaining paper, pens, and envelopes. Cards of a fixed size are sold at all the post-offices for two kreuzers, one side being for the address and the other for this note, which may be written either with ink or with any kind of pencil. It is thrown into the box, and delivered without envelopes. A halfpenny post of this kind would certainly be very convenient, especially in large towns, and a man of business carrying a few such cards in his pocket-book would find them very useful. There is an additional advantage attaching to the card, namely, that of having the address*



*Figure 2 Austria Correspondenz Karte*

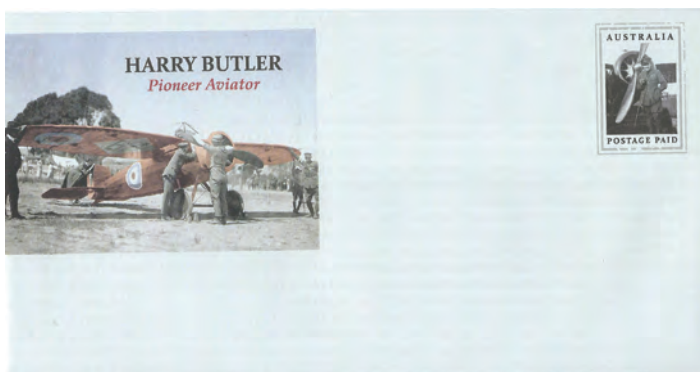
*Figure 3 Stamped Envelope for the Centenary of the Treaty of Versailles*

*Figure 4 Stamped Envelope Issued as a PNC for the Centenary of the Treaty of Versailles*

*Figure 5 Stamped Envelope for the 90th Anniversary of the Women's Pioneer Society*



# Ian McMahon



and postmark inseparably fixed to the note.

The United Kingdom issued postal cards in 1870 followed by the North German Federation, Württemberg and Baden and then in 1871 Switzerland, Luxemburg, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark and Canada followed. As postal cards usually passed through the mail at a reduced rate of postage they were enormously popular for many decades (despite some privacy concerns) and, in the earlier years when postal deliveries were more frequent, formed the function that an email might today, for example, to let your correspondent know you would be visiting later in the day, arriving on the 4 pm train or too sick to come to work.

Postal cards were issued by all the Australian states and New Zealand with the first being issued by New South Wales (1875), followed by Victoria and New Zealand (1876), South Australia (1877), Western Australia (1879), Queensland (1880) and Tasmania (1882).

They are still issued by Australia today although they



Left Top to bottom : Figure 6 Stamped Envelope Issued as a PNC for Queen Victoria's 200th Birth Anniversary  
Figure 7 Stamped Envelope for the Rum Rebellion issued as a PNC

Figure 8 Stamped Envelope for the Centenary of the First Adelaide to Minlaton Flight

Above : Figure 9 Mary Poppins Stamped Postcard

are much more colourful in design than earlier issues with many aimed at the tourist and popular market with colourful illustrations on the reverse.

## Centenary of the Treaty of Versailles Postage Paid Envelope

Australia Post issued a stamped envelope (Figure 3) to mark the Centenary of the Treaty of Versailles on 13 June 2019. The envelope features an image of the Signing of Peace in the Hall of Mirrors, Versailles, with an illustration of the Treaty of Versailles in the postage paid area. The Treaty of Versailles, one of five treaties formulated at the Paris Peace Conference of 1919, was signed on 28 June 1919 at the Palace of Versailles. It established the conditions of peace with Germany at the conclusion of World War I. The envelope was designed by Sonia Young, Australia Post Design Studio and sold

# Postal Stationery

for \$1.25.

A version of the envelope (Figure 4) was issued as a 'postal numismatic cover' with a coin from the Royal Australian Mint. This envelope differs in a number of respects including a printed price and a different barcode. It sold for \$17.95 but was not issued mint.

## 90th Anniversary of the Women's Pioneer Society Stamped Envelope

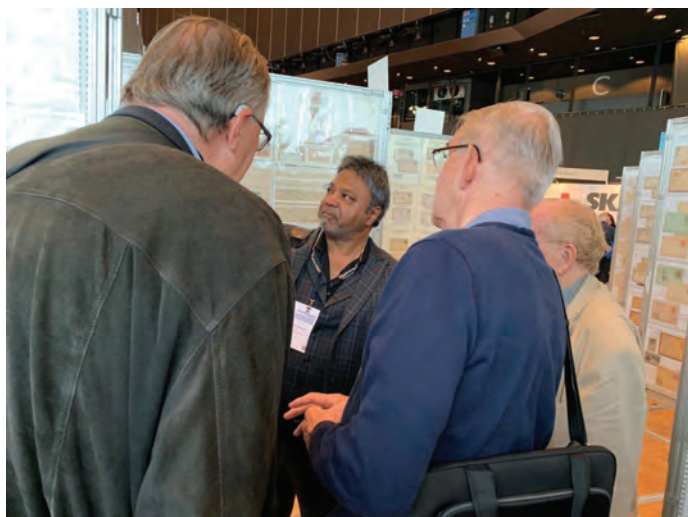
Australia Post issued a stamped envelope to mark the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Women's Pioneer Society. The envelope (Figure 5) features an image from the October 1934 meeting of the Women's Pioneer Society and the motto of the society in the postage paid area. The envelope was designed by Sharon Rodzieicz and sold for \$1.25.

## Queen Victoria 200th Birth Anniversary Envelope

An envelope (Figure 6) was issued by Australia Post for Queen Victoria's 200<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary as a 'postal numismatic cover'. The envelope was issued on 24 May 2019 but was not issued mint. It sold for \$19.95 with 5,000 issued. The 'stamp' area shows an embossed stamp in the style used for Queen Victoria embossed envelopes.

## Rum Rebellion Envelope

An envelope (Figure 7) was issued by Australia Post to mark the Rum Rebellion as a 'postal numismatic cover' when George Johnston deposed Governor Bligh in 1808. The envelope was issued on 13 June 2019 but was not issued mint. The 'stamp area' depicts William Bligh. It sold for \$17.95 with 6,500 issued.



*Figure 11 Sandeep Jaiswal at his Exhibit with Seminar Participants*



*Figure 10 Private Order Express Post Envelopes for Westpac*

## Stamped Envelope for the Centenary of the Adelaide to Minlaton Flight by Henry John (Harry) Butler

Australia Post issued a stamped envelope (Figure 8) on 6 August 2019 to mark the centenary of the historic flight from Adelaide to Minlaton by Henry John (Harry) Butler. Butler formed his own aviation company and on 6 August 1919 became the first aviator to fly across the Gulf St Vincent to Yorke Peninsula. His Bristol mono-plane, the "Red Devil", carried an 18-kilogram mailbag of postcards and letters for delivery in Minlaton. Four days later he returned to Adelaide with two bags of mail. These were the first airmail flights over water in the Southern Hemisphere. The envelope was designed by Jo Muré and sold for \$1.25.



*Figure 12 Mike Smith, Ian McMahon and Steve Schumann, panel members at the Current Trends in Postal Stationery seminar at Stockholmia 2019*



# Ian McMahon



Figure 13 Postcard issued by Croatia Post for the 150th anniversary of the RPSL

## Mary Poppins Stamped Postcard

Australia Post released a Mary Poppins Pre-paid Postcard (Figure 9) on 17 June 2019, which features a silhouette of Mary Poppins on the revers. Mary Poppins comes from a Disney movie and its recent sequel. The postcard sold for \$2.20.

## Private Order Express Post Envelopes for Westpac

Mark Diserio received this C5 private order express post envelope from Westpac (Figure 10) in May 2019.

## Postal Stationery at Stockholmia 2019

*Stockholmia 2019* was an exhibition held by the Royal Philatelic Society, London (RPSL) in Stockholm to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Society. The Postal Stationery Class was strong with three Large Gold and four Gold medals awarded. The Large Gold medals were awarded to Daun Lennart (*1872-1897 The First Period of Postal Stationery in Sweden*), JaiswalSandeep (*British India - Queen Victoria Postal Stationery*) and Nassre-Esfahani Behruz (*Persia, Qajar Postal Stationery 1876-1925*).

Stockholmia 2019 had an extensive program of seminars and society meetings (Figures 11-12) including a series of 'master classes' and seminars on Current Trends in each of the exhibiting classes. I attended an excellent postal stationery 'master class' presented by Sandeep Jaiswal who spoke on his approach to the development of his Large Gold exhibit, *British India - Queen Victoria Postal Stationery*, which was on display at the Exhibition. In addition, I was one of the speakers in the Current Trends in Postal Stationery seminar with fellow PSSA members Mike Smith and Steve Schumann. There were also seminars by Behruz Nass-

re-Esfahani, *Persia, Qajar Postal Stationery 1876-1925*, and Andrew Cheung, *Imperial Russian Postal Stationery Used in China*. Croatia issued a postcard for the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the RPSL which is illustrated at Figure 13.

## Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2019

Sydney Stamp & Coin Expo 2019 was held from 13th June to 16th June 2019 at the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre, Sydney. The postal stationery class included eight exhibits with an additional exhibit in the Youth Class. The Postal Stationery Society of Australia prize was won by Malcolm Groom for his exhibit *Tasmanian Embossed Stationery 1883-1912*. Other results were Gary Brown (*Postal Stationery of Natal*) Large Gold, Nancy Gray (*The King George V Envelopes of Australia*) Large Gold, Lionel Savins (*The Department of Education Postcards of New Zealand*) Large Vermeil, John Vassallo (*Malta Postal Stationery*) Large Vermeil, Bernard Beston (*A.W. Sandford & Co. Limited - Printed to Private Order Envelopes 1924-1957*), Large Silver, Malcolm Groom (*Tasmanian Embossed Stationery 1883-1912*) Large Gold, Ray Todd (*Bolivia - The Postal Stationery*) Gold, Clyde Ziegeler (*Bohemia and Moravia*) Large Silver, and Alexandra Parry (*Australian Animals First Issue Pre-stamped Envelopes*) Large Silver.

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia met at the Hurstville Aquatic Leisure Centre on Sunday 16 March. Dingle Smith spoke about the New South Wales postal stationery catalogue. Two sections, Wrappers and Registered Envelopes have been completed and will shortly be placed on the Society website. It is expected that the section on Lettercards will follow next. Michael Drury presented a display on the OS/NSW perfin forgeries on postal stationery cards. The cards are all from the period of King George V (1911-1937). They fall into two groups; in excess of 100 genuine cards from different State and Commonwealth Government departments, plus about 50 forged items. The forged material comes from the estate of a skilled forger, which Michael was able to purchase at auction in order to prevent it appearing on the market.

## Bunbury 2019

Bunbury 2019 was a National One-Frame competition held in Bunbury on 20-21 July 2019. Mark Diserio received a Gold medal for *Australia - QEII Pre-decimal Post Cards* while Alex Nuijten received a Large Vermeil medal for *Fur Collar Letter Cards of the Netherlands 1906-1918*.

# Postal Stationery



Figure 14 One of the many postal cards issued by China for China 2019

Figure 15 Reverse of a Postcard issued for China 2019

## China 2019

China 2019 was a world philatelic exhibition held in Wuhan, China from 16-20 June 2019. There were 30 postal stationery exhibits in the Postal Stationery Class plus five one-frame exhibits and three postal stationery exhibits in the Youth Class. Gold medals were awarded to Jian Zhang (*Postal Stationery of China in Early Cultural Revolution Period*), Chen Huei Huang (*Postal Stationery of German Post Office in China*), Sigtryggur Eythorsson (*Icelandic Postal Stationery 1879-1920*), Muhammed Arif Balgamwala (*Postal Stationery of British India Overprints Pakistan 1947-1949*), Ross Towle (*Chile Postal Stationery: Essays, Proofs, Specimens and Samples 1872-1924*) and Nancy Gray (*Australian Commonwealth Kangaroo Stationery*). Frank Pauer received a Vermeil medal for *Australian Airletters & Aerogrammes 1944-1968*.

Sixty-one people attended a Postal Stationery (FIP Qualifying Seminar) "Exhibiting and Judging Postal Stationery" at China 2019 which was held on 16 June 2019. The seminar covered: Planning to Exhibit, Postal Stationery Exhibits (The Exhibit Purpose and Scope, Description of Material), Judging Postal Stationery Exhibits (The Judging Criteria, Providing Feedback). Please email me ([ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com)) if you would like a copy of the presentation.

China issued a range of postcards for the exhibition. The front and reverse of one such card are shown in Figures 14 & 15.

## Singpex 2019

Singpex 2019 was an Asian International Exhibition held in Singapore from 31 July to 4 August 2019. The Postal Stationery Class comprised thirteen exhibits. In



addition, there was a one-frame exhibit and eight youth exhibits. Four Gold medals were awarded to Frank Li (*New Zealand Postal Stationery 1876-1936*), Michael Ho (*Honduras Postal Stationery*), Glen Stafford (*Nicaraguan Postal Stationery - the Seebeck Era*) and to Tono Putranto (*Netherlands Indies Postal Card 1874-1933 King Willem III and Numeral Series*). Results of exhibits from other Australian and New Zealand exhibitors were Linda Welden (*Australian Aerogrammes*) Large Silver and Lindsay Chitty (*NZ POW Aerogrammes and Postcards 1941-1945*) 86 points (One-Frame).

The *Postal Stationery Collector, Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia*, received a Vermeil medal in the Literature Class.

## The Postal Stationery of New South Wales

The sections on wrappers and registered envelopes of the Postal Stationery of New South Wales are available on the Postal Stationery Society of Australia website. A revised version of the Registered Envelope Section has been uploaded to the website. If you have already downloaded the registered envelopes section, please download the new version.



# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for November 2019. This month's column looks at *Aerogramme Mania* at Aeropex 2019, the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Australia's first aerogramme, a new Singapore aerogramme, the first worldwide catalogue devoted solely to wrappers and forthcoming exhibitions.

## ***Aerogramme Mania* at Aeropex 2019**

Aeropex is a specialised air mail national exhibition to be held in Adelaide at the Torrens Parade Ground Drill Hall on 6-8 December 2019. This date was chosen to commemorate the centenary of the first flight from England to Australia by Ross and Keith Smith which brought the first international air mail to Australia.

The Exhibition includes air mail postal stationery such as aerogrammes (Figures 1-3) with exhibits including aerogrammes from Australia, India, Canada, Sierra Leone, Belgium and Papua New Guinea.

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia will meet at Aeropex 2019 on the morning of Saturday 7 December 2019 with the meeting having the theme *Aerogramme Mania*. Come along to the meeting to hear exhibitors of aerogrammes speak about their collections, to see other aerogramme displays and then to view the aerogramme exhibits on display.

## **Singapore Aerogramme to Mark 100 Years of The First Airmail**

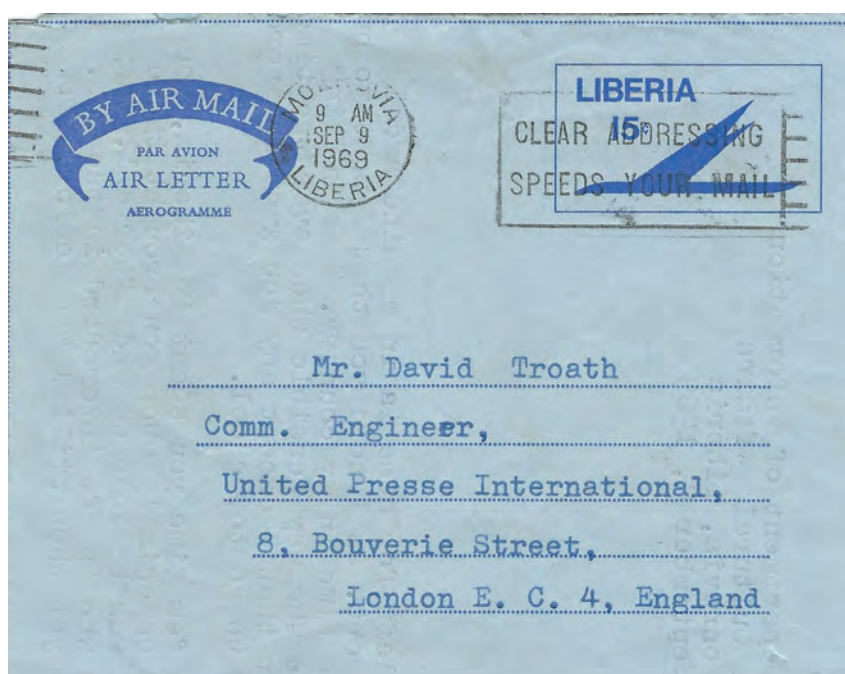
Singapore issued an aerogramme at Singapex 2019 to mark the 100th anniversary of the first air mail carried from Singapore. The first airmail flight



*Figure 1 Papua New Guinea 30t Aerogramme used to Czechoslovakia*



*Figure 2 Papua New Guinea 10d Aerogramme used to Canada*



*Figure 3 Liberia 15c Aerogramme*



# Ian McMahon



*Figure 4 Singapore Aerogramme for the 100th Anniversary of the First Singapore Air Mail*



*Figure 5 Aerogramme Designer Wong Wu Kong signing Covers at Singapore 2019*

along the route from the United Kingdom to Australia via Singapore carried 364 items of which eleven have been identified as originating from Singapore. Ross and Keith Smith, Sergeant Jim Bennett and Sergeant Wally Shiers, flew from England on 12 November 1919 in a Vickers Vimy (G-EAOU), via Singapore arriving in Darwin on 10 December. The four men shared the £10,000 prize money put forward by the Australian government for the first flight from the UK to Australia. The aerogramme features their Vickers Vimy, registration number G-EAOU, which is preserved in a museum in the grounds of Adelaide airport. Figure 4 shows the aerogramme cancelled at Singpex 2019 and autographed by Wong Wu Kong, the designer of the aerogramme while Figure 5 shows Wong Wu Kong signing covers for Bernie Beston at Singpex 2019.

## 75th Anniversary of the First Australian Aerogramme

This year marks the 75th anniversary of Australia's first postal stationery aerogramme (Figure 6) which was issued on 11 September 1944. The 7d King George aerogramme was intended for use to military personnel overseas and had the text *For letters to members of Forces Overseas* under the 'AIR LETTER' heading.

The aerogramme was, however, also used for correspondence with civilians usually with the legend crossed out. This aerogramme was replaced on 11 October 1944 by an aerogramme with the legend removed (Figure 7).

Aerogrammes were once an important method of communication. They were introduced



*Figure 6 Australia's First Aerogramme Issued in September 1944*



# Postal Stationery

during the second world war as a lightweight lettersheet to make the best use of the limited space for mail on wartime aircraft and to help maintain contact between armed force personal and their relatives back home. In latter years, the aerogramme was especially important as a quick and cheap means of communication between migrants to Australia and their relatives and friends overseas. The lightweight paper used in aerogrammes as well as the tightly controlled size and format and the restriction on including any contents enabled the post office to sell aerogrammes at a much lower price than that charged for an air mail letter. While early aerogrammes were often known as 'airletters', the UPU introduced the term 'aerogramme' at the UPU Congress in Brussels in 1952 as the standard term for air mail lettersheets which could pass at a reduced rate of postage throughout the world.

The heyday of the aerogramme has longed passed with their role being replaced by the telephone and, especially, by email. Although Australia Post stills sells aerogrammes (Figure 8) at a price cheaper than an air mail letter, many other countries no longer issue them and it remains to be seen if Australia will continue issuing aerogrammes.

## Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers Catalogue by Jan Kościński

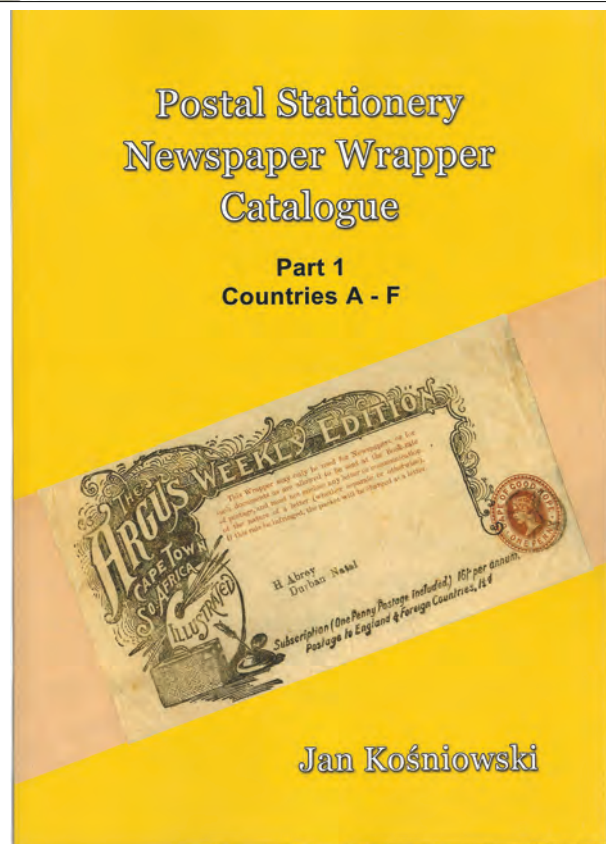
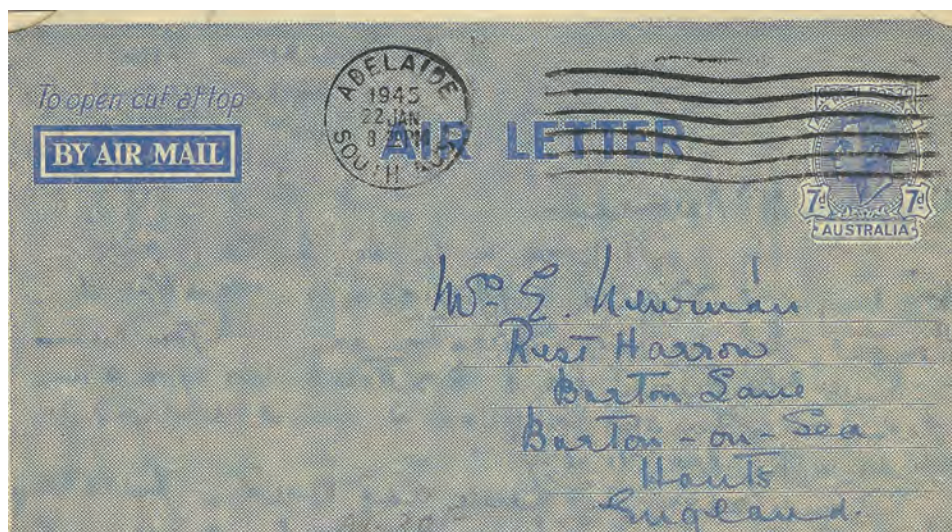
Often relegated to the last frame of a postal sta-

*Top to bottom :*

*Figure 7 Australia's Second Aerogramme Issued in October 1944*

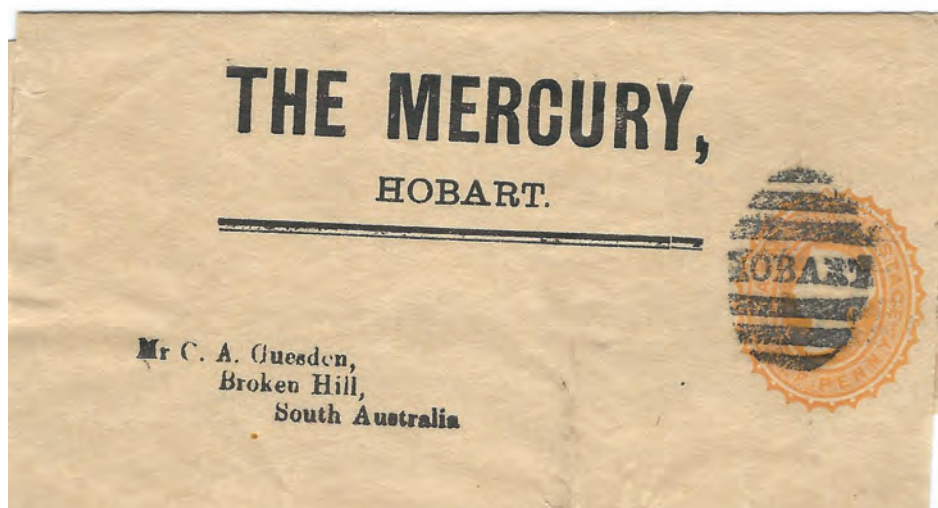
*Figure 8 Australia's Current Aerogramme with a Floral Design Showing the Purple Tussels*

*Figure 9 Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers Catalogue Part 1*



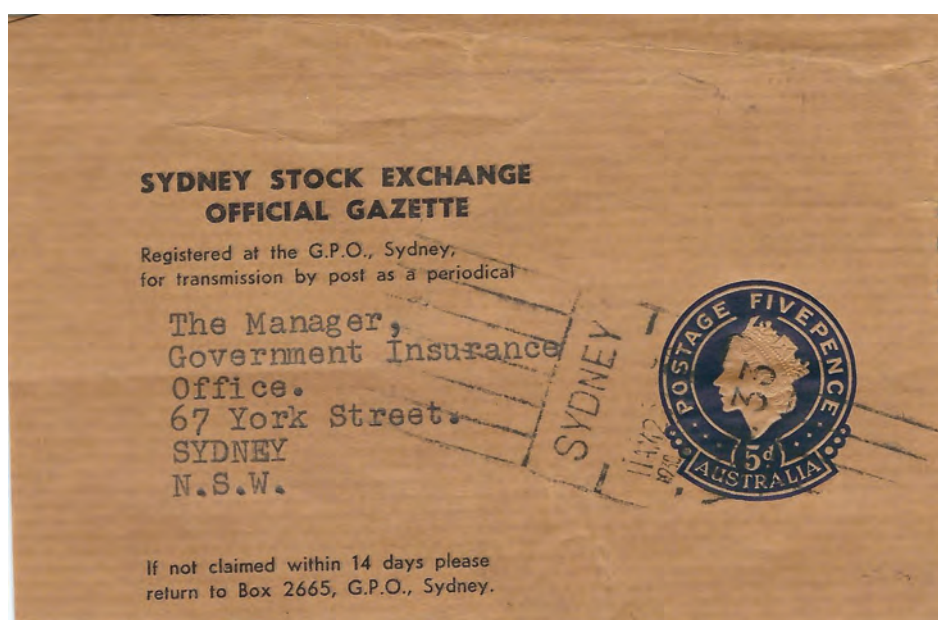


# Ian McMahon

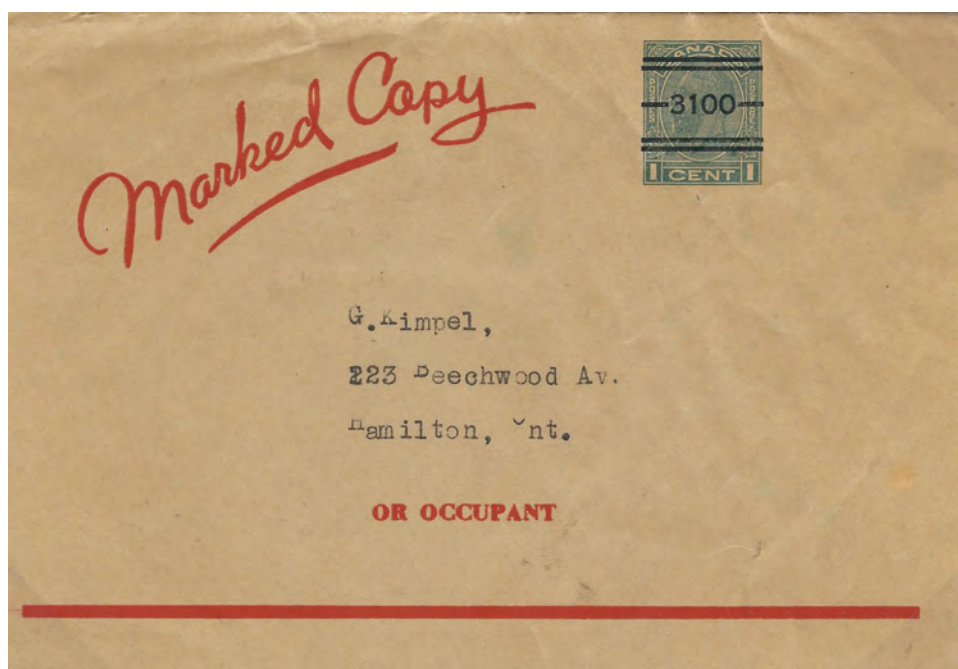


tionery exhibit or ignored altogether, wrappers are the most neglected of all the commonly issued types of postal stationery perhaps due to the often poor quality of their printing, the use of poor quality paper and their utilitarian design.

It is not surprising then that no one has previously published a world-wide catalogue devoted entirely to wrappers. This has now changed with the publication of *The Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrappers Catalogue* by Jan Kośniowski (Figure 9) which is the first catalogue to cover exclusively worldwide stamped wrappers (Figures 10-14). The catalogue covers 1,265 pages and is illustrated in colour on good quality paper. It is published in three volumes with the first volume covering countries A-F and the second volume countries G-Z while the third volume covers the wrappers of the United Kingdom. Each part is perfect binding with a bright yellow cover with an illustration



of a wrapper and its newspaper contents: Volume 1 (395 pages) shows an ornate Cape of Good Hope wrapper used by The Argus Weekly Edition, Volume 2 (454 pages) shows a wrapper used by The Tasmanian Mail and Volume 3 (416 pages) shows a Great Britain



*Top to bottom :*  
*Figure 10 Tasmanian Wrapper for The Mercury*  
*Figure 11 5d Queen Elizabeth II Wrapper for the Sydney Stock Exchange Official Gazette*  
*Figure 12 Canada Private Order Pre-Cancelled Wrapper*



# Postal Stationery

wrapper used by The Echo in 1870.

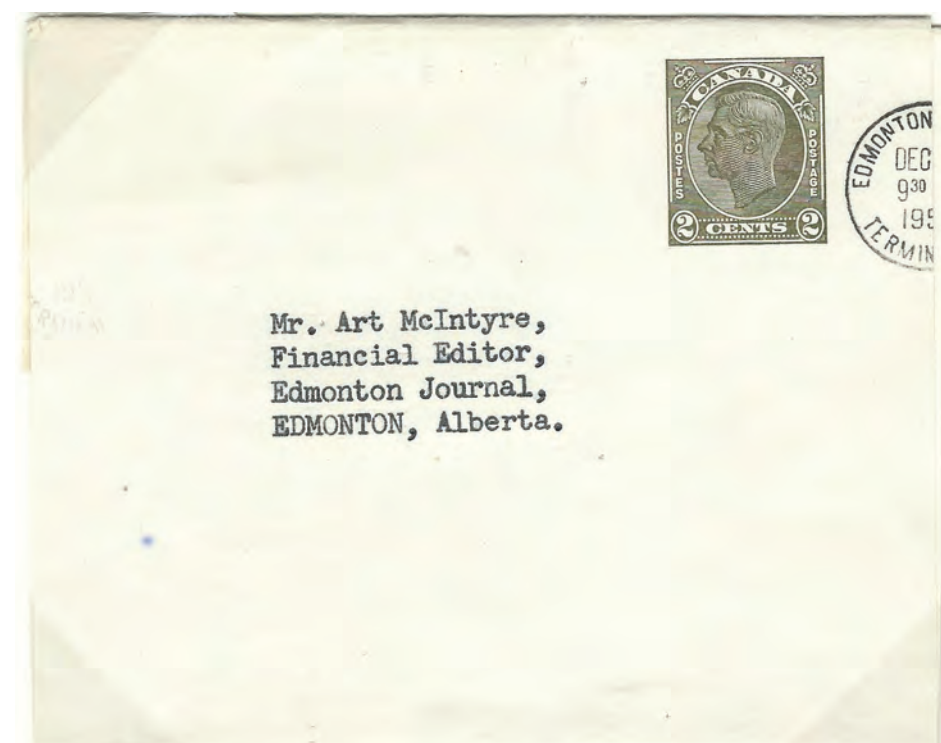
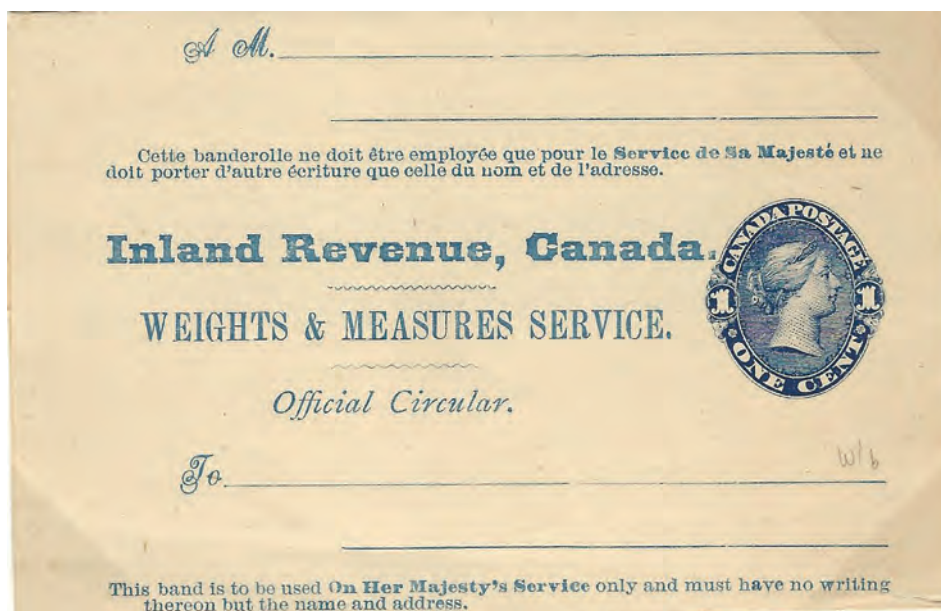
The Catalogue is comprehensive and well-researched with a chronological listing of the issues of each country, with values expressed in British pounds. It includes many items not previously recorded and their varieties. The detection of layout varieties where other printing appears on the wrapper in addition to the indicium is a strength of the work.

In addition to the listing of wrappers sold over post office counters the catalogue includes PTPO wrappers and Official wrappers. An unusual feature of the Catalogue is that, in addition, it lists examples of regular wrappers which have had private printing added.

The Catalogue is available from the author for GBP £110 plus delivery. For more information see <http://www.stampdomain.com/catalogue/>.

## Canberra 2020 Canberra Stampshow 2020

The national postal stationery competition for 2019 will take place at Canberra Stampshow 2020 which will be held at the Hellenic Club Woden, Canberra on 13-15 March 2020. The main theme of the exhibition will be a celebration of Pacific Exploration including the 250th anniversary of Captain James Cook voyage to the Pacific including his visit to New Zealand and the Eastern Coast of Australia. Entries close 29 November 2019 and entry forms are available at <http://canberrastamps.org/canberra-2020/>. The Postal Stationery Society of Australia will meet at Canberra Stampshow 2020. Plan now to attend!



Top : Figure 13 Canada Queen Victoria Official Wrapper for Weights and Measures, Inland Revenue

Bottom : Figure 14 Canada 2c King George VI Private Order Wrapper

## NZ2020 International Stamp Exhibition

NZ2020 Stamp Exhibition, an Asian international exhibition, will be held 19-22 March 2020 at the Ellerslie Event Centre, Auckland. The Exhibition will include a strong postal stationery class and a postal stationery seminar. More details will be available in early 2020.

# Postal Stationery

Welcome to the postal stationery column for December 2019. This month's column looks at the *Postal Stationery Collector's* Issue No 100 and new issues from Australia Post.

## Issue No 100 of the *Postal Stationery Collector*

*The Postal Stationery Collector*, the Journal of the Postal Stationery Society of Australia, has reached a major milestone with the publication of Issue No 100. The Journal was first published in May 1995 (Figure 1) and is published four times a year. It seeks to be a source of information of collectors of postal stationery as well as providing the means for members to share their own discoveries. It was awarded a Vermeil medal at the Asian Exhibition Singapex 2019 and a Large Vermeil at the New Zealand National Literature Exhibition in 2019.

Issue No 100 featured articles on Eugene Michel, Alexander Fergusson envelopes, the Rev Theodor Nickel (an Australian Stationery 'Character'), military postal stationery of Australia, and private overprinting on Australasian wrappers as well as shorter articles and columns.

Eugene Michel was a US Postal Stationery Collector who collected worldwide postal stationery into the 1920s and 1930s. He published a book called *Roving the Stamp World with Eugene Michel* (Figure 2). In his article in the *Postal Stationery Collector*, Darryl Fuller describes this book as a *fascinating book and one I have read more*

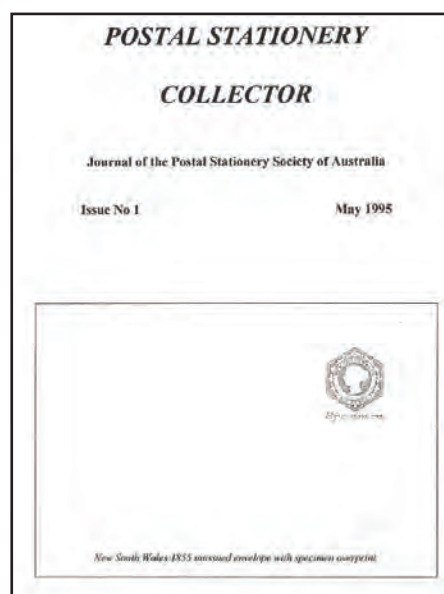


Figure 1 *Postal Stationery Collector*, Issue No 1

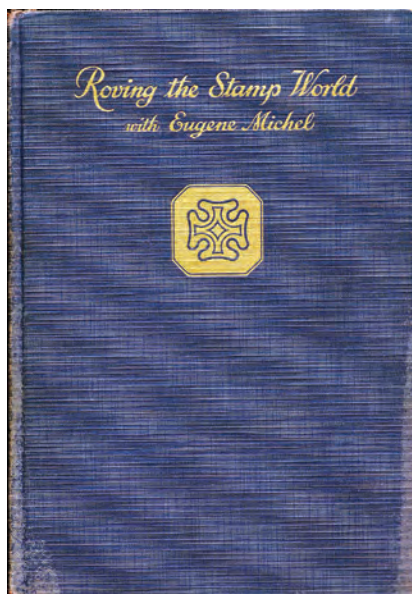


Figure 2 *Roving the Stamp World with Eugene Michel*



Figure 3 1d + 1/2d King George V 'Star' envelope (BW EP34) used to Germany at the 6d Registered Foreign Letter Rate



Figure 4 1d Brown King George VI Defence Canteens Envelope

than once. [Much] of the book is about postal stationery in its various forms, plus interesting facts about sizes, values etc. .... he lists the most expensive postal stationery known at the time. They make interesting reading and some of these items are very expensive, but I wonder whether they have kept their relative values? Other matters he discusses include the fact that some postal stationery is rather large.

In his article on Australian Stationery Characters, Mark Diserio discusses *The one person whose philatelic legacy continues to live on, be it in advanced collections, dealers' boxes, auctions or Ebay –the Rev Theodor Nickel*. Rev Nickel was not only responsible for regular and sustained usage of post-



# Ian McMahon

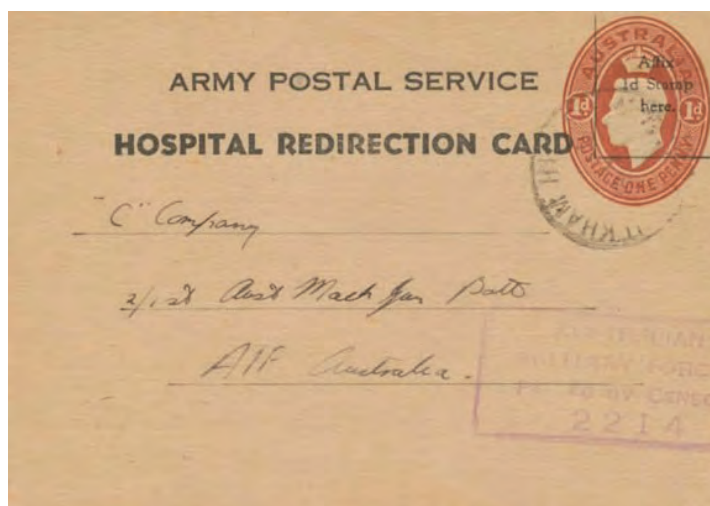


Figure 5 1d Brown King George VI Hospital Redirection Card

Figure 6 U19 meter, cancelled AIF FPO No 19, 6 SEP 41  
Figure 7 Postage Paid Malaya, used AIF FPO No. 20, 20 NO 41



Figure 8 Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1987 50c Pictorial Aerogrammes, AG 1 Aircraft Flying Into the Tropical Sun



al stationery, but for creating some of the rarest Australian stamped-to-order (STO) envelopes although it is unclear whether or not he was a postal stationery collector. He was a minister in the Lutheran Church and many of the envelopes were either addressed to him or other members of the Church. Figure 3 shows an example of 1d + ½ d King George V ‘Star’ enve-

lope (BW EP34) used to Germany at the 3d foreign letter rate plus the 3d registration fee.

In his article, *Military Postal Stationery of Australia*, Wayne Menuz states Australia did not issue any postal stationery (i.e., pre-franked) for military use in World War I of which I am aware, but did issue special letter cards and envelopes for civilian correspondence to military personnel. These are often catalogued as “military postal stationery”, such as treated in Higgins and Gage (H&G) and Brusden-White (BW). They are well covered in the latter work, and are excluded from this study, as they were sold to, and used by, civilians. Australia entered World War II on September 3, 1939 against Germany, and on December 8, 1941, against Japan, and did issue military postal stationery. The two books by the late Phil Collas dealing with the postal history of our subject are noted in the Bibliography. They include only limited references to the stationery as they primarily deal with the postal history aspects. This article is a first attempt to list in detail Australian military postal stationery.

Part 1 of the article includes a description of the Australian Defence Canteens PTPO envelopes (Figure 4) and the 1d Hospital Redirection Card (Figure 5) as well as airmail envelopes stamped with ‘Postage Paid’ indicia that were circulated by authorities to Australian forces in the Malayan peninsula in



# Postal Stationery

1941-1942. The first of these envelopes (Figure 6) used an imprint from modified meter machines while later envelopes were impressed with a handstamp (Figure 7). Part 2 of the article will be published in the February 2020 issue of the *Postal Stationery Collector* and will cover military postal stationery from later in World War II and from the Vietnam war.

In the article on *Cocos (Keeling) Islands 1987 Pictorial Aerogrammes*, Ian McMahon looks at the development and production of the three 50c pictorial aerogrammes issued on 29 July 1987 by Cocos (Keeling) Islands: AG 1 Aircraft flying into the tropical sun (Figure 8); AG 2 Malay dancer and AG 3 Captain William Keeling. The development of the aerogrammes began on 19 February 1986, when a new philatelic officer started in the position and developed a proposal for the issuing of aerogrammes: *I have been giving some consideration to introducing Aerogrammes into the Cocos (Keeling) Islands postal system. Subject to cost of production I should like four definitive Aerogrammes showing scenes and Malay culture. Production costs and lead time are currently being investigated.* He was later to write *I believe this to be justified in postal terms by the sale, through the Post Office, of up to one hundred blank aerograms per month to residents, and up to four hundred per month during yachting season.* (The Tradewinds season of June to October, is also the yachting season. During this time Direction Island (which is otherwise uninhabited) becomes a safe haven for international yacht travellers.)

In *Private Overprinting on Australasian Post Office Postal Stationery Wrappers*, John Courtis asks *Why do some users of post office postal stationery take the time and incur the expense of adding private overprinting to the wrappers [Figure 9] they intend to mail? It would be cheaper, faster and more flexible to use a handstamp with sender name and address details. Worldwide, about 1,500 different users have chosen to have overprinting added to their post office postal stationery wrappers. The basic reason is not so much that the enclosure is necessarily useful, but that the sender is creating an image of worth, status or importance by incurring the expense of private overprinting.*

The regular columns included in Issue No 100 were the *PSSA Forum* through which members communicate their recent findings of new issues,

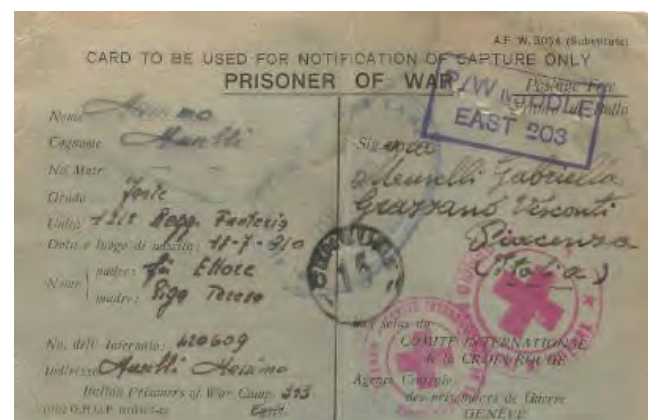
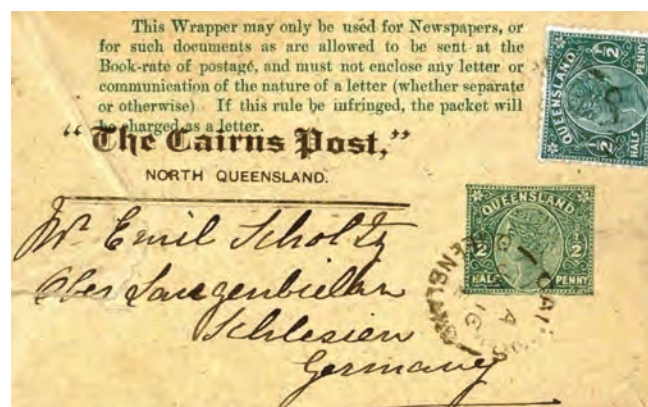


Figure 9 1/2d Queensland Wrapper with Added Printing for Cairns Post Used to Germany.

Figure 10 Postcard for use by POWs to Notify Their Next of Kin of Their Capture

Figure 11 Police Remembrance Day Pre-Stamped Envelope

Figure 12 Eureka Stockade Pre-Stamped Envelope



# Ian McMahon



*Listing of Australian Non-Denominated Postal Stationery and Literature* as well as Society news from the Editor and Secretary. For further information about the *Postal Stationery Collector* please contact me (Email [ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com](mailto:ian.mcmahon4@bigpond.com)).

***Military and Other Stationery Used by Italian POWs Held by The British In Libya 1942-1946***  
*Italian POW Mail in Libya 1942-1946* by Derek Brennan documents the military and other stationery used by Italian prisoners of war held by the British

Figure 13 Sunset over Sydney Prepaid Postcard

Figure 14 Formular Parcel Post Satchel From the 2019 Trial

Figure 15 Formular Express Post Satchel From the 2019 Trial

Figure 16 Formular Parcel Post Satchel Issued September 2019

Figure 17 Formular Express Post Satchel Issued September 2019

in Libya during the period 1942-1946 as well as the associated postal history and a brief summary of the military history of the period. Cards were provided for use by POWs to notify their next of kin of their capture (Figure 10) as well as for general use. The book also documents lettersheets used from the camps as well as Red Cross stationery used for notification of capture and other purposes. The publication can be found at: <https://postalstationeryaustralia.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Italian-POW-Stationery-Libya-F.pdf>.

**Police Remembrance Day and Eureka Stockade Pre-Stamped Envelopes and Beautiful Cities Postcards**  
Continuing the recent trend of issuing 'stamped envelopes' as 'postal numismatic covers' (PNCs) without issuing a corresponding regular stamped envelope, Australia Post released an envelope on 3 September 2019 to mark Police Remembrance Day

# Postal Stationery

as a PNC (Figure 11). The envelope was not issued mint, sold for \$19.95 with 7,000 envelopes being issued. An envelope was also issued for the Eureka Stockade (Figure 12) which occurred on 30 November 1854 as a PNC on 13 August 2019 and sold for \$17.95 with 6,500 envelopes released.

Three new pictorial postcards (Figure 13) were issued on 23 September 2019 featuring views of Sydney and Perth.

## **Trial of Formular Parcel Post and Express Post Satchels**

From July-September 2019, Australia Post trialled 'formular' parcel post (Figure 14) and express post satchels (Figure 15) including 500g, 1 kg, 3kg and 5kg express post satchels and 500g, 3 kg and 5 kg parcel satchels. As the satchels were not prepaid, they needed to have a counter label paying postage attached before they could be posted. The trial appears to have been related to the changes in parcel post and express post satchels that occurred in late September.

## **Price Increases and New Stationery**

The end of September 2019 brought a range of price increases to many postal stationery items as well as new arrangements for parcel post and express post satchels including changes to the parcel post and express post satchels and how they are priced with a full range of new 'formular' satchels (Figures 16-17) which are not prepaid and require a counter label paying postage to be added before the satchel can be posted.

## ***Türkiye'de Postanın Mikrotarihi, 1920-2015 / Microhistory of the Turkish Posts Volume 1 1920-1950 by Mehmet Akan and Timur Kuran***

A handbook of Turkish postal stationery from 1920-1950 (Figure 18) published in Turkish and English. In addition, it covers a range of unstamped stationery including formular postcards, airgraphs, domestic return receipts, external return receipts and PPT service envelopes as well as the postal stationery



*Figure 18 Microhistory of the Turkish Posts Volume 1 1920-1950*

of the state of Hatay. A wonderful book placing the stationery issues in an historical context. A sample of the book including details of the authors and the contents pages can be found at <https://sites.duke.edu/timurkuran/files/2019/09/FINAL-combined-compressed.pdf> in colour. The Turkish text is followed by the English text throughout the book.

## **VALE GARY BROWN**

Gary Brown, a long-time member of the PSSA, passed away on 14 September 2019. Gary's contribution to organised philately in Australia and Internationally has been extraordinary. He was a past president of the Royal Philatelic

Society of Victoria and served on the Australian Philatelic Federation for nearly 20 years including as President and International Officer. He was the driving force behind many exhibitions including the FIP Australia World Stamp Exhibition 2013, Melbourne FIAP International Stamp Exhibition 2017 and the planned Melbourne FIAP International Stamp Exhibition 2021. He was an Honorary Member of the Federation of Inter-Asian Philately (FIAP) Executive and a Chairman of the FIP philatelic literature commission. Before that he served on the Traditional philatelic commission as its secretary. Gary was a National, FIAP and FIP world accredited philatelic judge (Figure 19). Gary conducted judges' training courses both nationally and internationally. Gary Brown was a collector of Aden, Natal, South African revenues, and cricket stamps, plus many other subjects, winning international large gold medals plus a Grand Award at a FIAP show. Gary formed exhibits of Natal postal stationery, South African aerogrammes and the airgraph service, had written articles for the *Postal Stationery Collector* and was a national postal stationery judge. Gary is survived by his wife Robyn and his daughters Melanie and Leanne. His son Adrian and his family died in the Black Saturday bushfires in 2010. He will be very much missed by the Australian Philatelic Community.