ROVING THE STAMP WORLD

The top (Barbados) and the center (Turkey) registered letter envelopes are the largest popular sizes, and the bottom one (India) is the largest government-stamped envelope ever issued. Shown approximately one-seventh size

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THE POSTAL STATIONERY SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

The Postal Stationery Society of Australia has been established to encourage the collecting of postal stationery in Australia and New Zealand and to provide a forum for postal stationery collectors to maintain contact with other stationery collectors and to learn more about their hobby. The Society is not based in any particular city or state and plans to hold meetings at national and state level exhibitions. Subscription rate for 2019 has been set at $55 (Australia) and $75 (Overseas excluding New Zealand which is $65). For further information please contact the Convenor, Secretary or your State Coordinator. Membership enquiries should be addressed to the Secretary.

CONTENTS

FROM THE EDITOR

Issue No 100 of the *Postal Stationery Collector*

Welcome to Issue No 100 of the Postal Stationery Collector. In response to the request for articles to mark this occasion, this issue features articles on Eugene Michel, a US Postal Stationery Collector who collected worldwide postal stationery into the 1920s and 1930s, the Australian Stationery 'Character', Rev Theodor Nickel, the first part of Wayne Menuz's article on Military Postal Stationery of Australia, an article on the private overprinting on Australasian wrappers and shorter articles and the usual columns.

***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 with exhibits including aerorgammes 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.
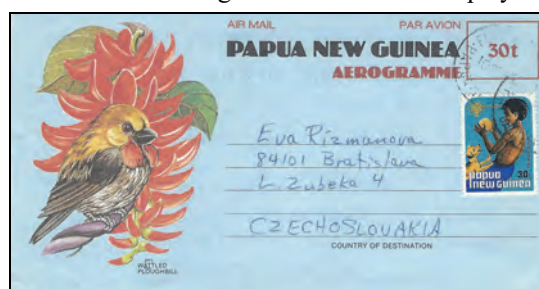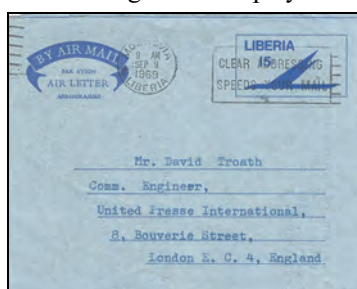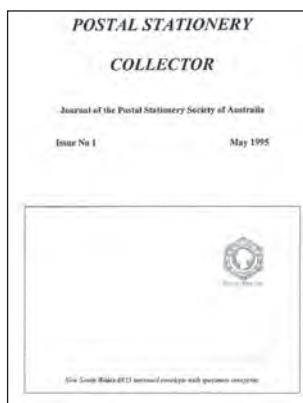
Canberra Canberra Stampshow 2020

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!

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.

Hobart Stamp Show National One-frame Exhibition

The 2020 one-frame competition will be held 13-15 November 2020 in Hobart. One-frame postal stationery exhibits are most welcome at the Exhibition. Further details are available from Peter Allan hesperus@netspace.net.au or from hobartstampshow2020.com.au

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. 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 *PSC* and was a national postal stationery judge (Gary providing feedback on aerogramme exhibits, Newcastle 2018, left).

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.

Errata

On page 68 in the August 2019 issue of *PSC* there are four photographs of exhibitors receiving their awards at Singpex 19. The caption of the third photograph should read *Glen Stafford (right) receiving his Gold medal from Chen Yu-An*.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Membership

We welcome as a new member Mark Taylor of Victoria. His interest is in all decimal Australian postal stationery from 1966 to 2013.

Death of Gary Brown

Gary Brown passed away suddenly on 14 September. He will be remembered for his work for philately in Australia, and for his postal stationery and postal history exhibits of Aden. At the time of his death, he was preparing an exhibit of British airgraphs for Aeropex 2020. These wartime communication sheets were another of his interests. Gary's funeral will be in Melbourne on 1 October 2019. A full obituary will appear in the journal at a later date.

Ashes of the late Owen White

Our member Owen White passed away last year in Toronto Canada. His ashes will be interred at Fawkner Cemetery in Melbourne on 11 November 2019 at 2pm. It was his wish that his ashes be returned to Australia.

Aeropex Adelaide 6-8 December 2019

This date has been chosen to commemorate the centenary of the first flight from England to Australia by Ross and Keith Smith, which brought the first international airmail to Australia. Entries to the air-related exhibition classes have now closed.

PSSA will be meeting at Aeropex at 12.30 to 1.30pm on Saturday 7 December. The meeting has been titled 'Aerogramme Mania' and will have contributions from members who are present, plus a visit to the frames where the postal stationery exhibits are mounted. Reminder emails will be sent out to Australian and New Zealand members closer to the event.

For information, please contact the Exhibition Secretary, Linda Welden, on lindaw@gmail.com. More information is available on the APF website http://www.apf.org.au/philatelic-exhibition-timetable

Canberra Stampshow 2020 13-15 March 2020

This will be a half National exhibition, with the second leg in Newcastle in October. The National Postal Stationery class will be offered, and the PSSA prize for the best Postal Stationery exhibit will be awarded. It will be at the usual venue, the Hellenic Club of Canberra, Matilda Street, Woden, ACT. The closing date for entries is 29 November 2019. The main contact point for information is the Philatelic Society of Canberra website http://www.canberrastamps.org . The Exhibition Secretary, Elspeth Bodley, can be contacted on elspeth@grapevine.net.au

Newcastle 2020

There won't be a Postal Stationery class at Newcastle, but we are thinking about a PSSA meeting, and have indicated our interest. It would be a useful opportunity for East Coast members to 'get together'.

Contact from PSSA website

This message is from a private collector from Sydney who is offering postal stationery from Australia, New Zealand and UK. He has many registered items. He would prefer to invite interested collectors to view in his home, but can send some scans (?) of examples. There are also first flight covers, many signed. Please contact the Secretary if you would like contact information for this collector.

Postal Stationery Collector No 100

When a small group of collectors in Canberra started a society for Australian postal stationery collectors in May 1995, it wouldn't have seemed a possibility that we would reach 100 issues of our journal. It has happened, thanks to the dedication of our Editor and his team of contributors.

Judy Kennett

WHO WAS A. EUGENE MICHEL?

Darryl Fuller

The Michel Postal Stationery of the World Collection

The following information is extracted from the Smithsonian records.

Collection, Scope and Content

The Michel Postal Stationery of the World Collection of 143 volumes and several boxes of mint and used Worldwide Postal Stationery, Postal Cards, Envelopes, Letter Sheets, Newspaper Wrappers from 1845 - 1940.

Provenance

The Michel Postal Stationery of the World Collection was bequeathed to the Smithsonian Institution by A. Eugene Michel and acquired in 1940 (Accession Number 152441).

Narrative Description

Worldwide Postal Stationery, Postal Cards, Envelopes, Letter Sheets, Newspaper Wrappers (both used and unused) are in this outstanding collection of government issued worldwide postal stationery compiled by A. Eugene Michel. It was a bequest to the Smithsonian Institution in 1940. It fills 143 volumes and several boxes which together total over forty thousand objects representing fifty years of intensive and cumulative effort. At the time of its donation, it was ninety-seven percent complete.

Prominent European philatelists had placed the Michel Collection among the world's best five of its kind. It offers exceptional opportunities for study of cancellations, postal routings, paper textures, watermarkings, sizes and trims, and handwriting during the past one hundred and fifty years. Some of its rarities were formerly in the collection of the late Count Ferrary.
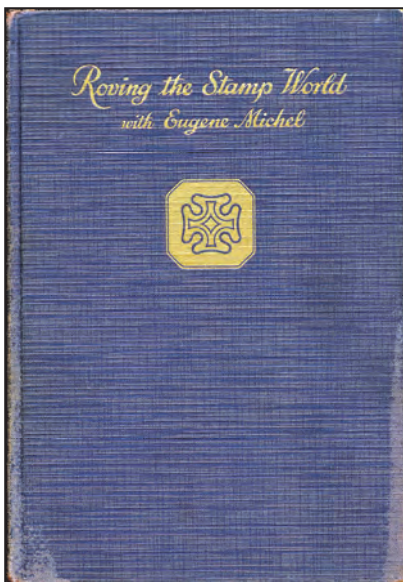
I only heard about Eugene Michel when I purchased a book titled "Roving the Stamp World with Eugene Michel" (Figure 1, left) from the famous Turner collection of philatelic literature many years ago. It was the only book I was successful in buying. The Turner collection included many rare items including a copy of Stanley Gibbons first pricelist. The manuscript for this book was prepared originally for feature and serial articles in the magazine *Stamps*. This limited edition of the series in book form was published in 1933 in deference to the wishes of those who desired a complete bound record.

This is a fascinating book and one I have read more than once. The author, shown in Figure 2 (right), had collected for 40 years to amass, at the time, a 134-volume collection of postal stationery. The first part of the book tells of his quest to get *"… one cover properly franked, addressed preferably to myself, postmarked, mailed on its own postage, and delivered from each existing postal administration, also how long it would take to make such a collection complete.'*. As this venture was started during WWI it was no easy task and the one-year timeframe he set himself, took four years.

The author and his 134-volume collection of foreign government-stamped postal stationery
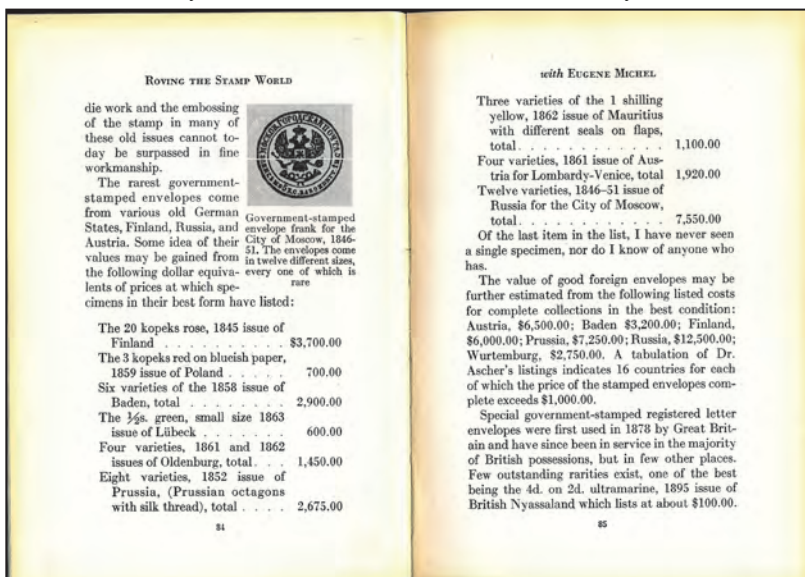
Most of the rest of the book is about postal stationery in its various forms, plus interesting facts about sizes, values etc. Figure 3 (left) is a scan of two pages from the book where he lists the most expensive postal stationery known at the time. They make interesting reading and some of these items are very expensive, but I wonder whether they have kept their relative values? Unlike Michel I have seen the varieties of postal stationery for the City of Moscow and judged an exhibit of it a few years ago. Another interesting pair of postal stationery envelopes are shown in Figure 4. They are Jamaican stationery envelopes with impressed revenue dies to indicate postage. The 1d envelope on the left, used at Moore Town is well known but of unknown status. The threepenny value on the right I have never seen an example, and given it is pasted onto the envelope (according to the description), may be an affectation. Other matters he discusses include the fact that some postal stationery is rather large (Figure 5) and illustrates it quite well by using a young girl to hold the examples [all would be dwarfed by the current Australian 5kg parcel and express post satchels. Ed].
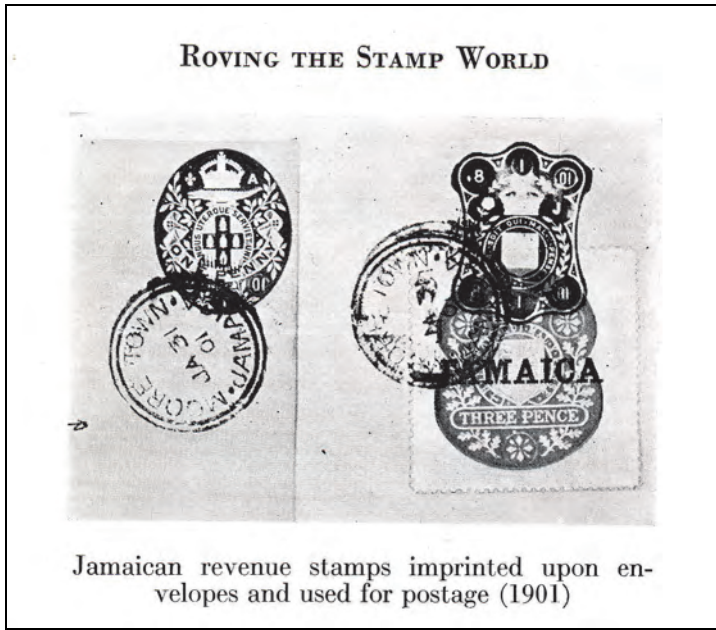
Figure 4

Figure 5

The one item of Australian interest in the book is the famous 'Beer and 'Baccy" card of Victoria (Figure 6, right). This book is a great read and I recommend it, if you can find a copy. While he was collecting postal stationery of the world through the heydays of 1890-1910, the fact that he carried on into the 1920s and 1930s makes it a most important collection, particularly if it is as complete as is stated above. If I ever get the opportunity, I would love to visit the Smithsonian and see what the collection contains in my area of interest.

The tobacco and beer card of Victoria, Australia
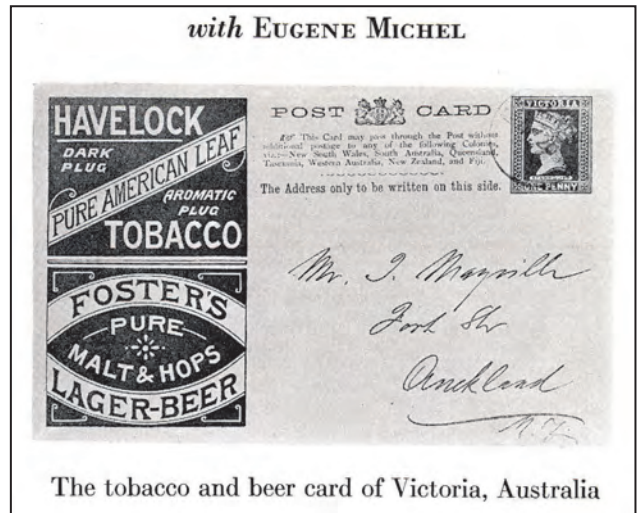
ALEXANDER, FERGUSSON PTY LTD PTPO ENVELOPES

Joan Orr

I found these in a Bargain Box. They had been used to store used stamps. Figure 1 was used in July 1950 and Figure 2 was used in August 1950. They are window faced for printed matter rate within Australia and the British Empire up to 30th November 1950.

They are both GVI 1½d green printed to private order for Alexander, Fergusson Pty Ltd 304 – 310 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne. C. 1. with advertising for *Ricksha* THE PAINT WITHOUT A DOUBT.

One has an oiled window and the paper was made by EYE GLASS (trade mark) and the other which is a manila paper has no indication of maker and is smaller.

Figure 1
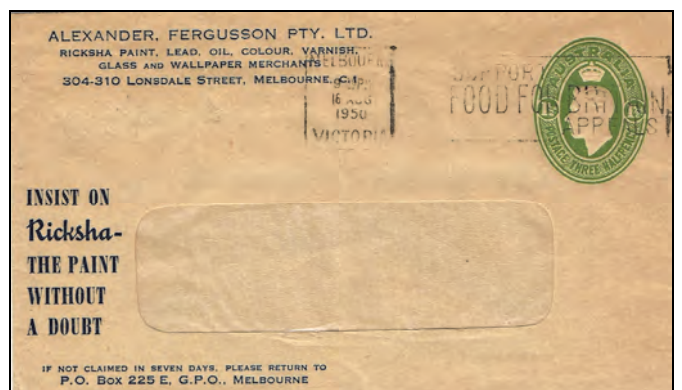
Figure 2

AUSTRALIAN STATIONERY CHARACTERS

Mark Diserio

Ian McMahon caught up with me earlier this year and told me that the November issue of the *Postal Stationery Collector* would be the 100th issue. Of course, this meant also that it would be the 100th edition under his excellent editorship!

Ian wanted to know if I was interested in writing an article about the early stationery collectors in Australia. I said it seemed a worthy subject but required further and earnest consideration. A little while later, I came to think about who should be included and who to exclude and why. Names, such as David H Hill, PT Berry, Alec Rosenblum, E Graebner,[1] and Charles Fawcett (*nom de plume* 'Harold Charles')[2], come to mind.

Then it came to me. The one person whose philatelic legacy continues to live on, be it in advanced collections, dealers' boxes, auctions or Ebay – is the **Rev Theodor Nickel**. This also caused me to change the title of the article to 'Australian Stationery Characters' - as it is not clear that Nickel was a collector.

As this article will disclose, Rev Th Nickel is not only responsible for regular and sustained usage of postal stationery, but for creating some of the rarest Australian stamped-to-order (**STO**) envelopes.

Much of Nickel's non-philatelic life is known, due to a comprehensive entry in the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*[3] to which I gratefully acknowledge and copy extensively, below. Hopefully, some of his lesser-known philatelic life (and those of his Lutheran 'network') will be revealed by this article.

Nickel and some of his family also feature in several archival files held by the National Archives of Australia (**NAA**).[4] The photograph below shows Nickel later in his life.

**NICKEL, Theodor August Friedrich Wilhelm** (1865-1953), Lutheran clergyman, was born on 21 July 1865 at Gustrow, Mecklenburg-Schwerin, posthumous second son and youngest child of Dr Theodor Nickel, pastor and teacher, and his wife Mathilde, née Holty. Educated at Gustrow, in 1884 he began training at Concordia Seminary, St Louis, Missouri, United States of America, an institution of the German Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Missouri, Ohio, and Other States. He graduated in 1888 and was ordained into the Lutheran ministry on 7 October, his first pastorate being Shawano, Wisconsin. He was the fifth-generation pastor in the Nickel family. On 19 October 1890, at Berlin, Wisconsin, Nickel married Lydia Maria Rosine Ebert; they had a son and two daughters and adopted three children. From 1892 he also ministered to the Stockbridge Mohican Indians at Red Springs. He became an American citizen.
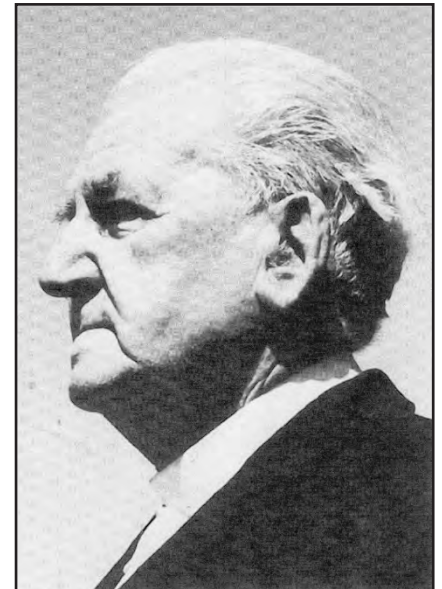
In 1901 he accepted a call to Eudunda, South Australia, a parish of the Evangelical Lutheran Synod of Australia (**ELSA**). He was president of South Australian synod in 1902-13 and of the Australia-wide synod in 1903-23. He became pastor of Tarrington (Hochkirch), Victoria, in 1917.

Nickel served the Lutheran Free Church in post-war Germany from 1923; he ministered at Wittingen and Hamburg and became president of the Lutheran Free Church of Saxony and Other States next year. He retired in 1930 and moved to Gustrow. Returning to Australia in 1935, he settled at Albury, New South Wales, to be near his family. He continued to preach throughout World War II.

The Lobethal synod of ELSA had conferred an honorary Doctorate of divinity on Nickel in 1923 through Concordia Seminary, Adelaide, and he was awarded the German Red Cross badge of honour in 1925. A wise, conscientious minister, he preached persuasively. He was significant in consolidating the synod's theological stance, reforming its constitution, fostering contact with American Lutherans, favouring indigenous seminary training, encouraging church schools and introducing a superannuation scheme for church servants. His rise to ELSA leadership was meteoric, aided by the esteem in which American-trained graduates were held and the shortage of strong local leadership.

He was controversial; some questioned his ways, especially at the Eudunda synod in 1902: as chairman he resolved an impasse over support of the Finke River (Hermannsburg) Mission, Central Australia, by disenfranchising those favouring continued help. Some saw his influence as overly 'Missourian' and inimical to settling domestic theological differences between the Lutheran synods. His commitment to swift action and what he considered true doctrine produced both admiration and antagonism. Tall and upright, of resounding voice, with an impressive head of hair, he was a dynamic, forceful man who maintained a conservative and confessional theological approach.

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[1] See 'A Plea For Postal Stationery. (Specially Written for the "A.S.M." by E Graebner.)' *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, 1 September 1930, p296.

[2] See 'Postal Stationery' by Harold Charles, *The Australian Stamp Monthly*, 1 March 1931, p95.

[3] Author: John B. Koch. Select Bibliography A. Brauer, *Under the Southern Cross* (Adel, 1956); J. B. Koch, *Relations Between the Lutheran Church, Missouri Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Australia 1846-1965* (Adel, 1972); *Australian Lutheran*, 42, 2 Dec 1953, p 375, 16 Dec 1953, p 390; private information.

[4] See for example, NAA: A456,W8/14 and A456 W13/10/1200.

Nickel died at Albury on 25 November 1953 and was buried at the Trinity Lutheran cemetery.[5] His publications ranged from occasional pamphlets and numerous synodical and pastoral conference essays to devotional and theological articles in church papers. He edited *Der Lutherische Kirchenbote* until 1917 (when it was closed by the government) and was sole editor of the *Australian Lutheran* in 1918-23.[6]

What is missing from the published biography is how Nickel's life (and that of his family) in South Australia was greatly impacted by the effect of the Great War. Nickel was then living in Eudunda and was president of the General Synod Eudunda as well as president of the ELSA. In 1915 Nickel was arrested on a trumped-up charge and was interned for one month and suffered considerable indignity. He was only released after the strenuous efforts of his local member of parliament, the Hon (Sir) Patrick MacMahon Glynn QC Kt. Nickel was one of the 'lucky' ones. Other 'Germans' were interned for lengthy periods in concentration camps such as Torrens Island, often reducing their families to a subsistence level existence. Many internees were not released until the end of the war.

The Anti German-Australian laws in South Australia closed down all the Lutheran primary schools. Rev William Janzow, Chairman of the Committee of Lutheran Presidents and C.F. Graebner, Chairman of the School Committee, presented the SA parliament with a document setting out fifteen very good reasons why the proposed laws shouldn't be passed. They also argued that it was a most undemocratic law and really religious persecution. When the forty-nine Lutheran schools were finally closed on 30 June 1917, only the Koonibba Mission School and the Immanuel and Concordia Colleges were allowed to remain open. The closure of the Lutheran schools brought about many hardships, affecting some 1600 students and resulted in unemployment for most of their Australian born and trained teachers.

As a result, Nickel was forced to relocate to Hochkirch in Victoria, which also due to anti-German sentiment, had its name changed to Tarrington.

Many of these names and places can be observed in the philatelic legacy that remains of Rev Nickel and his Lutheran network. In 1923, Nickel moved to Germany, most likely the result of calls for assistance from friends, relatives and colleagues there, for him to use his considerable talents to help Germany in the terrible aftermath of the Great War. This also explains why his philatelic stationery legacy in Australia abruptly ends at this time.

A number of venerable Lutheran personalities feature as addressees and also possibly, as senders but it was the norm at the time not to include the senders' details and most of the covers that survive do not have return addresses. Following, are some of the many names that were published in a report of various Lutheran proceedings in the *Adelaide Advertiser* in 1913 and for the most part constitute part of the Lutheran network.[7]

Rev E Krewaldt, Hochkirch, Vic - president of the Victorian district
Rev J Thiel, Morgan, Qld
Rev R Graebner, Geelong, Vic
Rev J Homann, Waterloo, SA
Rev HRC Hoff, Swan Reach, SA
Rev O Noske, Denial Bay, SA

Rev E Graebner, Sydney, NSW
Rev E Appelt, Murray Bridge, SA (on 7 May 1916 he accepted a call to join the Koonibba Mission Station)
Rev O Mueller, Hamilton, Vic
Prof G Koch, Concordia College, Malvern, SA
Mr FGE Appelt ([Pharmacist and] Choirmaster)

The illustrations that feature in this 'philatelic homage' to Nickel are not necessarily all to or from him (although several are). It is more of a tribute to his Lutheran network, which he led and facilitated by his constant communications as President of the ELSA and in other offices and roles which he fulfilled. It is perhaps because one or more of the Lutheran network were collectors that this interesting and philatelically important material survives. This is why I have chosen the Rev Th Nickel for this article.
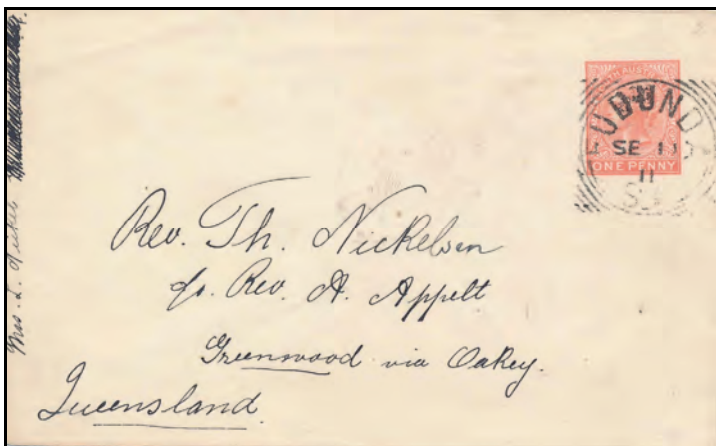
Illustration 1 - envelope HG B2; Robson Lowe EP2, from Mrs Nickel to her husband (addressed as Nickel senior) then visiting Queensland. The SA 1d envelope had been issued on 10 July 1911.
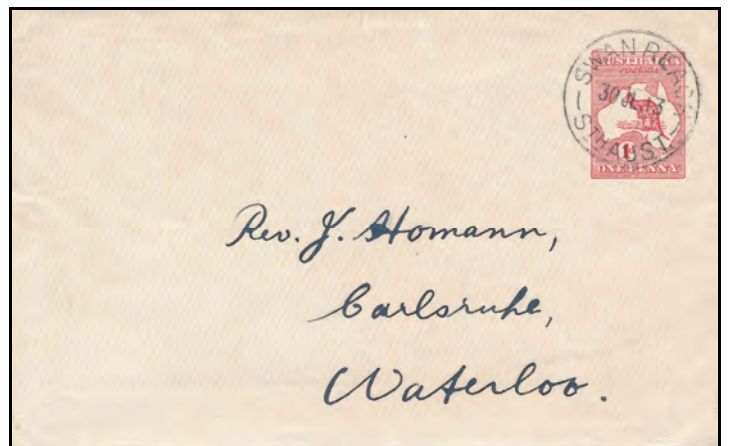
Illustration 2 - BW EP1 used from Swan Reach 30 July 1913 to Rev Homman at Waterloo, most likely from Rev HRC Hoff.

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[5] Now Albury Pioneer Cemetery, North Albury NSW, Plan 8, Section Trinity Lutheran, Row D, Lot 3.
[6] https://www.southaustralianhistory.com.au/lutheran.htm
[7] Saturday, 11 October 1913, at page 15.
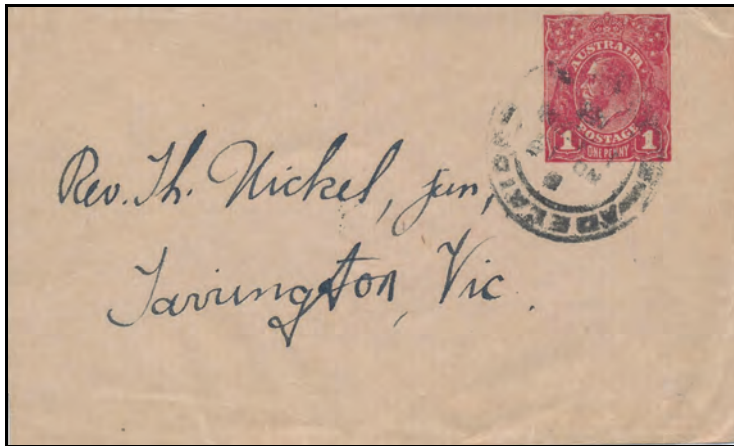
Illustration 3 – BW W4 with scarce 'AUSTRALPA' variety to Rev Nickel Jr at Tarrington. This variety appeared in 1919.

Illustration 4 – BW LC 8 or 10 addressed to Nickel c/o Noske Bros, Melbourne. Noske Bros (Flour Millers and Grain Merchants) were prolific users of Victorian and Australian STO facilities.[8] The Lutheran network extended beyond just Pastors. The Rev O Noske may have also been a relation of Mr. T.J. Noske, the founder of Noske Bros, although Noske was a common name. Graebner was another common name and the Rev E Graebner was not related to the Graebners of Concordia College.
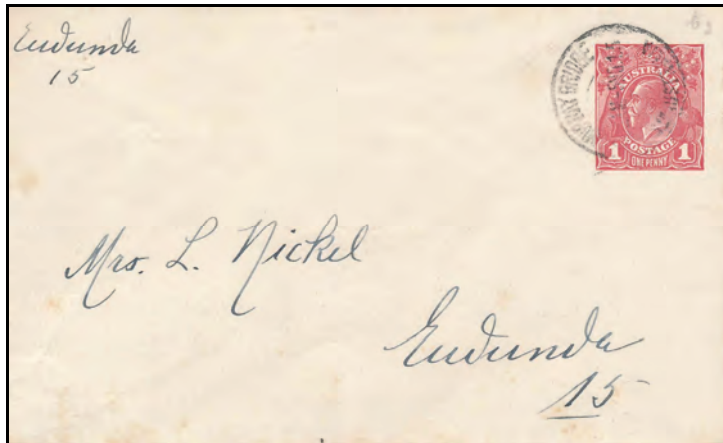
Illustration 5 - BW EP4 from Nickel to his wife from Murray Bridge on 5 November 1915. The Rev E Appelt was at Murray Bridge. Coincidentally, Noske Bros also operated a large flour mill at Murray Bridge.
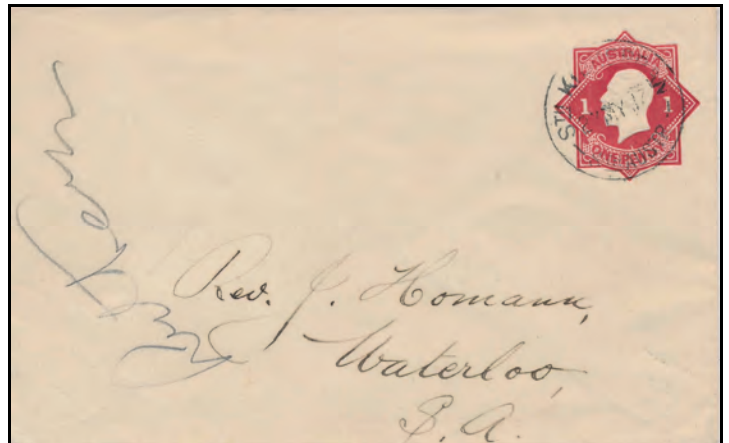
Illustration 6 - BW EP8a (die2 with die crack) used 27 May 1917 from South Kilkerran (?) SA to Rev Homann at Waterloo

Illustration 7 - BW EP13 used 9 May 1919 to Rev HW Carl Hoff at Swan Reach.

Illustration 8 - BW EP13 or 14 used 20 March 1920 from Denial Bay (west of Ceduna) where the Koonibba Mission School operated and possibly from Rev J Homann.

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[8] See: Australian Postal & Social Philately at http://www.auspostalhistory.com/articles/1885.shtml.
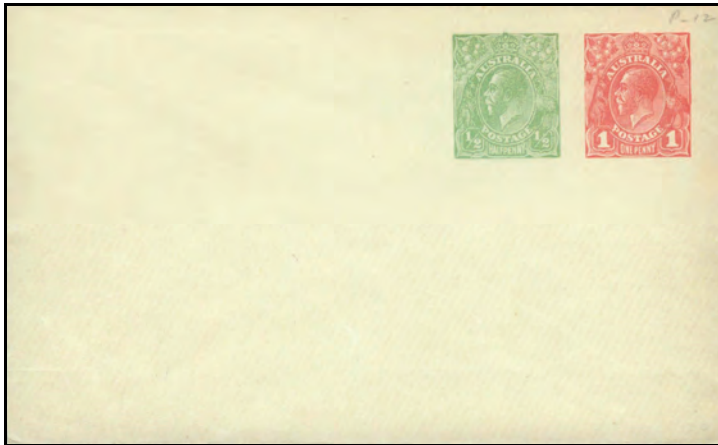
Illustration 9 – Post office envelope BW ES16 later uprated. Kellow postulates this was done on 15 or 16 March 1920. A used copy is known from Tarrington on 22 March 1920, to the Lutheran Publishing Company Adelaide and from Hamilton on 23 March 192? to Dr CF Graebner Director of the Concordia College (with a ½d adhesive added to make up the 2d letter rate - from 1 October 1920).

Illustration 10 – BW EP35. Nickel had relocated from Eudunda to Tarrington (previously known as Hochkirch), both events as a result of anti-German sentiment due to the War and despite Nickel having become naturalised as an Australian in 1903. Three pence was the foreign letter rate at the time.

Illustration 11 – BW EP34. Nickel was communicating with the church in Germany and in 1923 would take up the call to further assist with post war reconstruction and reconciliation by relocating to his birth town of Gustrow. Six pence is the 3d foreign letter rate plus the 3d registration fee.

Illustration 12 – back of Figure 9 with customs label. Germany greatly restricted foreign currency in the post-War period due to the large reparations and war debts it faced.
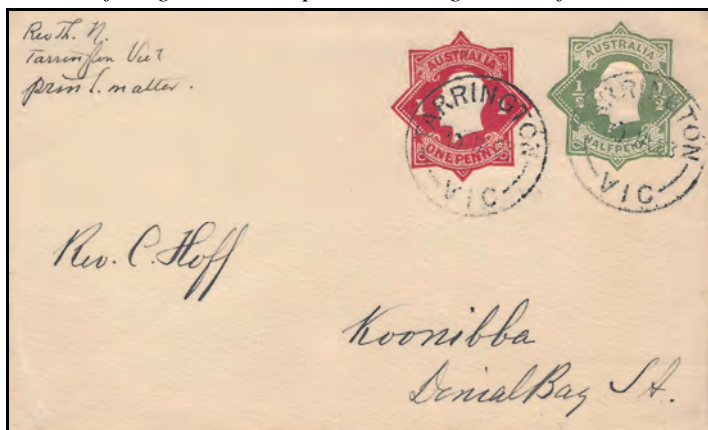
Illustration 13 – BW ES27. Revalued STO ½d envelope used on 30 January 1923 at the printed matter rate (unsealed and so inscribed) to Koonibba Mission School, only one of three Lutheran Schools allowed to operate in SA during the Great War. Threehalfpence was the printed matter rate after 1 October 1920 when the letter rate became 2d.

Illustration 14 – BW ES25. For the Lutheran Publishing Co Ltd and sent to Mr FGE Appelt at the '20 posted' rate. This rate allowed 20 identical printed items to be sent at the ½d rate if unsealed.

Other used examples of BW ES27 are known, including one used 14 May 1920 from Hamilton to Nickel at Trungley Hall NSW and redirected to Sydney; one from Hamilton used 16?July 1920 to Director Graebner at Concordia College; one from Tarrington on 4

November 1921 to Mr SC Rudolph at Concordia College (with a ½d KGV adhesive paying the 2d letter rate) and another one from Tarrington also used on 30 January 1923 to Ipswich Qld and also at the 1½d printed matter rate. An example registered from Tarrington to the Rev H H Elect at Milwaukee Wisconsin (date used not known and with five different KGV adhesives added) is also recorded as is an example from Adelaide to Germany in 1921 with three ½d KGV adhesives added for the 3d foreign letter rate.
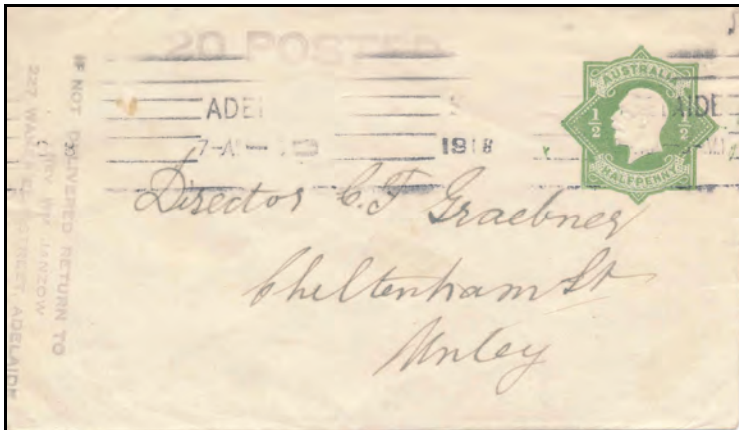
Illustration 15 - BW ES25 in the same size as the Lutheran Publishing envelope (above) and likely to be from the same order for stamped envelopes, from the Rev Wm Janzow also at the '20 posted' rate.

Illustration 16   A slightly larger size envelope than the two illustrated immediately above and addressed in the hand of Nickel to Rev E Graebner in Sydney and re-directed to Mossman. Rev E Graebner also spent time at Trungley Hall near Temora in NSW. At some time later, the Rev E Graebner moved to South Australia.

Illustration 17 – BW ES36. Post office envelope uprated to 1½d. Kellow suggests this was part of a number of mixed envelopes sent by Nickel for revaluing. There is no evidence to suggest they were overtly philatelic contrivances.

Illustration 18 - BW EP 20 used 28 April 1920 from Denial Bay to Mrs Nickel at Tarrington.

The opportunity to revalue stationery was the only legitimate way to impress an item with more than one value, as the postal authorities refused initial orders for more than one impression [9] Used copies of BW ES36 recorded include to Dr CF Graebner at Concordia College with an additional ½d KGV adhesive sent from Hamilton on 24 January 1922 and with an additional ½d and 2d KGV adhesives sent from Ararat in 1922; and from Hamilton on 20 December 1921 and from Tarrington on 30 December 1921 both to the Lutheran Publishing Co and both with an additional ½d KGV adhesive added for the 2d letter rate.

According to Geoff Kellow (unpublished notes), the uprating of 1d envelopes to 1½d envelopes would be signified in the Printer's Stock Book as ½d private order stampings. Up to October 1918, ½d orders were infrequent, and after that date should not exist - since there was no ½d envelope rate. All later ½d entries should therefore be upratings. Between 28 October 1918 and 28 February 1919, there were 29 separate orders for ½d (a total of 250,164 envelopes), and then in Sept-Oct 1919, March 1920 and May 1920 five more isolated instances (a total of 6,529 envelopes) then no more until the upratings as a result of the introduction 2d postage on 1 October 1920 (and the need to uprate 1½d envelopes).

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9 NAA: MP341/1, 1934/4638. In March 1907, Hugh Thompson & Son (t/a the Victoria Tannery), Glasshouse Rd Collingwood, sought to have 925 envelopes embossed: 850 with a 1d; 25 with 2d and ½d; 25 with 1d and ½d; and 25 with a ½d and ½d. The request was submitted to the PMG Department's head office as it was considered that the application was made for the purpose of procuring envelopes for philatelic purposes. Head office decided that the request would not be complied with and all States were advised by Circular Memorandum No 170, dated 21 March 1907 and requested to note the decision. The ban on impressing more than one impression appears to have been lifted by Circular 2 of 1924 [this circular has not yet been discovered]. However, the ban appears not to have applied to legitimate orders to uprate previously STO items, or to correct mistakes by the Printer.

Kellow postulates that there are several entries in the records which could be candidates for the Nickel envelopes, but one especially, is that of 15 or 16 March 1920 - when 150 envelopes were stamped with a ½d and 875 envelopes were stamped with a 1d. These two quantities exceeded the minimum 1,000 order. One known used 1d + ½d Sideface envelope (BW ES16) is dated 22 March 1920, which fits well with the printing records. So, it seems possible, that Nickel supplied 150 1d envelopes, a mixture of Sideface (BW EP4) and Wilby (BW EP9 or 10) post office types, for uprating to create a BW ES16 and an ES36. The 1d Wilby Design would be added to 875 ½d envelopes (BW ES25) previously STO to create a BW ES27. The used copies I have recorded of this envelope are all late usages after 2d postage, most with adhesives added.

The Stamp Printer would not care about the kind of envelopes supplied for uprating. We will never know if Nickel was aware that in supplying these envelopes for uprating, he would be creating some rare varieties. I suspect he was just being frugal and the fact that we have mint and used examples today is because the Lutheran network saved them.

Of course, the unusual feature of the two rare envelopes is the use of the ½d Sideface electro for uprating, rather than the ½d Wilby Design die, which would have been the standard practice at that time. Kellow is sure Nickel could not have stage-managed this, since if he had requested these he would surely have been refused.

The use of the Sideface electro is unlikely to have been because no ½d Wilby Design die was available. All the evidence from printing instrument records that Kellow has examined is that all ½d stampings were made from the **original steel die** at this time – there is no evidence that any electrotype working dies existed for the ½d Wilby value.[10] However, the use of the ½d embossing die was minimal, so its use for other jobs could not be a reason for resorting to a Sideface electro.

Set out below, is Kellow's analysis of the strongroom movements for <u>½d stationery instruments</u>, from the time of creation of the ½d Wilby Design die.

Date Issued from to Strongroom	Instrument	Date Returned t to Strongroom
6 May 1916	Steel embossed die	9 May 1916
22 June 1916	Steel embossed die	1 April 1917
6 July 1916	12 electros (wrapper)	26 July 1916
7 August 1916	1 electro	5 April 1917
26 September 1916	18 electros	8 November 1916
1 December 1916	14 electros	12 December 1916
20 December 1916	12 electros	19 February 1917
26 February 1917	8 electros (postcard)	9 March 1917
2 April 1917	3 electros	2 April 1917
12 April 1917	Steel embossing die	6 June 1917
17 April 1917	1 electro	6 June 1917
11 July 1917	1 electro	-
28 August 1917	1 electro	19 September 1917
13 September 1917	12 electros (wrapper)	17 September 1917
23 November 1917	2 electros	26 November 1917
2 January 1918	12 electros (wrapper)	30 January 1918
2 May 1918	1 electro	15 November 1918
2 May 1918	12 electros (wrapper)	23 July 1918
*3 October 1918	1 electro	30 December 1919
15 November 1918	2 electros	30 December 1919
†30 December 1919	1 electro	-
8 November 1920	1 electro	27 May 1921
24 November 1921	1 electro	28 November 1921

Kellow observes that the problem with these records is that insufficient care was taken with the entries. Taken literally, no ½d embossings could have been made after 6 June 1917, but Kellow is sure that one of the "1 electro" entries was actually a reference to the embossing die. From an accounting point of view, all was well, because the records were correct insofar as one instrument was issued from the strongroom, even if it was described incorrectly. That instrument marked '*' in the Table above, for instance, must be the ½d Wilby Design die to account for the 1d + ½d upratings, both for the post office and private order envelopes, following the imposition of war postage from 28 October 1918.

The 15 or 16 March 1920 printings would seem to have to been with the electro marked '†' (in the above table), which was apparently never returned to the strongroom (something that is either an omission, or otherwise difficult to understand).

Kellow is not sure how many embossing machines Harrison had at this time, but one would have been in more or less constant use stamping private order 1½d envelopes, for which there was a regular stream of large orders. In February-March 1920, post office 1½d envelopes were being embossed on an almost daily basis. The confluence of these two large jobs may have meant that there was no embossing press available for Nickel's one isolated order, and it was decided therefore to use a Sideface electro on a small letterpress press. However, this still does not explain how the 875 ½d envelopes were uprated with a 1d Wilby die the same day!

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10 By contrast, the Printer was using 1d Wilby Design electros for embossing envelopes, by the 3rd or 4th quarter of 1917 and possibly earlier.

Interestingly, on 5 October 1931, Mr [Rev] E Graebner of Birdwood SA, wrote a letter addressed to the "Manager of the Commonwealth Stamp Printing Office", stating: "*I should be obliged to you, if you would inform me whether at any time since the introduction of ld. postage in 1918, stamped envelopes of the Commonwealth were treated in the manner as illustrated by those enclosed, that is, whether envelopes with the Id. red stamp had the halfpenny stamp added, and envelopes with the ½d. stamp, the Id. stamp, and whether these envelopes were sold to the public through the Post Office. I am a collector of these items and am anxious to know whether such envelopes were departmental issues or not.*"

The Printer answered the query through the Department on 30 November 1931 and the Director-General responded stating "*referring to your letter to the Manager, Commonwealth regarding embossed envelopes, the official envelopes have not been treated in the manner indicated. The samples forwarded by you, being private stationery, were apparently submitted to the Department to have additional postage embossed thereon, on the occasion of the change in postal rates.*"[11]

So there you have why the Rev Th Nickel is the feature 'character' of this centenary edition of the *Postal Stationery Collector* – and he may not even had been one!

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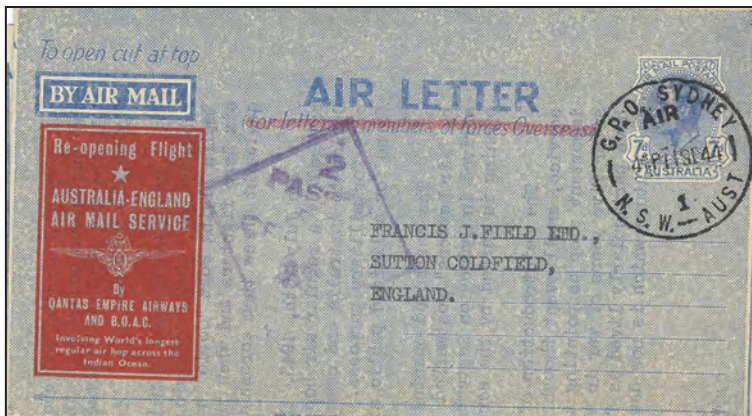
This year marks the 75th anniversary of Australia's first postal stationery aerogramme which was issued on 11 September 1944. The 7d King George aerogramme was intended for use to military personnel overseas and had the text *For letters to members of Forces Overseas* under the 'AIR LETTER' heading.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

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

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[11] NAA: MP341/1, 1934/4638.

MILITARY POSTAL STATIONERY OF AUSTRALIA
Wayne Menuz

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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 <u>to</u> military personnel. These are often catalogued as "military postal stationery", such as treated in Higgins and Gage (H&G), The Australian Stamp Catalogue (ASC), and Brusden-White (BW). They are well covered in the latter work (the first edition won the coveted UPSS Lewandowski award in 2014), 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 (much of it taken from Harry S. Porter's article in *The London Philatelist*), as they primarily deal with the postal history aspects. This article is a first attempt to list in detail Australian military postal stationery. Review of primary archival sources in Australia would have been desirable, but lacking that is not a critical deficiency here.

The treatment of WWII military stationery in the already referenced catalogues is superficial, and markedly different. ASC includes military free-frank stationery, but those are outside the definition of postal stationery, and are ignored here. H&G basically copied ASC. The BW catalogue states its scope is "all postal stationery issued under authority of the Commonwealth Postmaster-General's department", and provides a list of items it omits, including many issued under authority of the Australian military department. It also consigns postal stationery ordered by the military for specific sale to soldiers to the Stamped to Order category, claiming the defence department's orders were handled by the post office in the same manner as commercial STO orders. True enough, but this article makes the universally accepted differentiation between the two, especially because the military postal stationery items were intended for active service personnel at an exclusionary discount rate. Civilians could use such stationery, but more postage had to be added by means of stamps.

Military Mail: Australia
The civilian postage rate for envelopes was 2d per ounce, increased to 2½d effective December 10, 1941. This applied to military official mail as well. However, a concessional rate of 1d per ounce for surface letters applied to active duty service personnel. Usually, this was met by adhesive stamps. Because of the volume of mail, the "Australian Defence Canteens" (ADC) arranged to have its envelopes stamped with the current 1d King George VI embossed die, which had been in use for producing civilian 1d STO stationery for the printed matter rate. The ADC was a non-profit service organization selling personal articles and postage stamps, usually at military locations distant from commercial retailers. The ADCs were administered by, and either wholly or partially staffed by, active duty forces personnel.

The ADC provided the envelopes to the Note Printing Branch in Melbourne for stamping. A number of different types were produced over several years. It should be noted that the Australian Post Office postal stationery envelopes were stamped at the same location, using purchased commercial envelopes from private vendors for the purpose. In essence, the same process was followed, with the resulting product being sold at the ADCs rather than at post offices. BW assigns post office stationery a separate catalogue or suffix number to each size and variety (knife shape, paper, inner overlay printing, and preprinted return address information if present). This article will do the same, using a new numbering system, starting with ME = Military Envelope.

ME 1. 1d green, with ADC in one line and map of Australia with a single-line border, all in blue. This example, the earliest use seen, was mailed November 23, 1940 and marked "DEFENCE HALF RATE" when the civilian rate was still 2d per ounce. ME 1 was apparently ordered by, and sold in ADCs only in Western Australia.
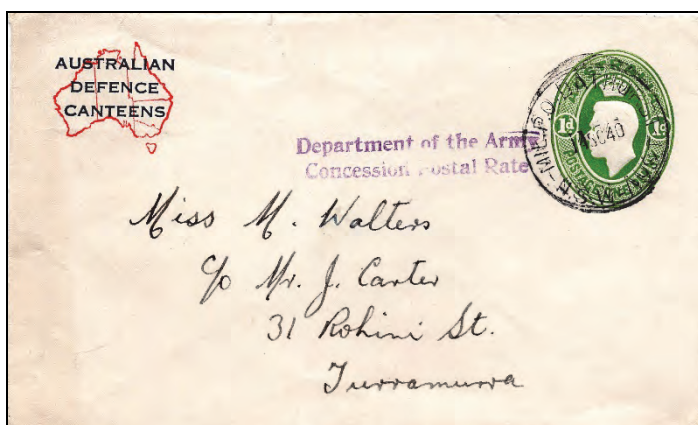
ME 2. 1d green, with ADC in three lines in blue, and a map of Australia in red. This two-colour logo was used in the other states of Australia, and the earliest date noted is October 14, 1940.

ME 3. 1d green, with ADC in three lines in blue.

ME 4. 1d brown, otherwise the same as ME 1.

The font and arrangement of the lettering of ME 3 is identical to that used for ME 2. While it could be a "red colour missing" error, a number of copies are known, and it likely was an expedient to save ink and/or printing press time required for the second colour. It is known used from September 24, 1940.

The colour of 1d adhesive stamps and 1d embossed indicia was changed to brown on December 10, 1941. Unlike the 1d green, which was also valid for a civilian rate, at the time the 1d brown was issued, there was no civilian 1d rate for any class of letter mail, and it could only be used by civilians with the addition of adhesives. The earliest known is August 8, 1942.

ME 5. 1d brown, otherwise the same as ME 2. Known used from July 1942.

ME 5. 1d brown, uprated with three 1d stamps for airmail. There was no soldier's concession for airmail, which was 3d per half ounce, plus normal postage. Thus, airmail use of the 1d envelopes necessitated the addition of adhesive stamps, such as the item shown in the preceding illustration.
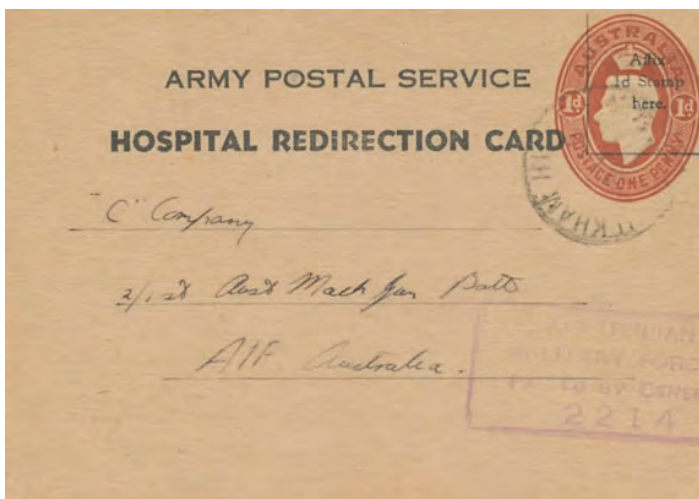
MP 1 (left) 1d brown, with two-line text in black.

The civilian postcard rate was 1½d, rising to 2d on December 10, 1940. For a short period, a special postcard (**MP1**) at a concessional 1d rate was used to provide advice of a soldier's change of address after leaving a hospital.

Australian Imperial Forces (AIF) Malaya

During the interval between the start of WW II in 1939 in Europe, and the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific in December 1941, Australian strategy, which mirrored that of Great Britain, was to block any potential Japanese aggression by "Fortress Singapore", at the foot of the Malay Peninsula. The Australian 8th Division (about 20,000 personnel) was a unit of the Australian Imperial Force (AIF), a volunteer command that could circumvent the Australian law not permitting conscripts to be sent overseas. It deployed one of its three

brigades to Malaya in February 1941, and another in August, to join the Indian III Corps and the British 53rd Infantry Brigade. They were augmented by various Australian Navy and (primarily) Air Force units (some of whom had been the first to be sent, in August 1940). In August 1941, defence of the Malay state of Johore was assigned to the Australians, and most of its combat troops were relocated there.

Timeline of Japanese conquest of Malaya (left)

The Japanese invaded Malaya in three landings, including two through neutral Thailand (with its reluctant concurrence) on December 8, 1941. Japan's 70,000 troops opposed the Allies' 140,000. They drove down the Malay Peninsula, inflicting defeats at every battle. On February 15, 1942, General Arthur Percival surrendered the 80,000 strong garrison of Singapore. During the campaign, the Japanese suffered 9,657 casualties; while Allied losses totalled 145,703, including 130,000 captured. Thailand was rewarded by being ceded the states of Perlis, Kedah, Kelantan and Trengganu, all of which had been pried from Thai control by Great Britain in 1909.

Upon commencement of the war in Europe in 1939, airmail in the Straits Settlements and the Malay States was set at 55 cents per ½ ounce. On January 13, 1941, it was reduced to 25c for active duty soldiers. Though they were permitted free franking of surface mail up to 4 ounces, a large percentage of Australian soldiers preferred airmail.

The adhesive stamps of any state were valid for use in any other in the Straits Settlements and Malaya. As the Japanese advanced down the peninsula, military post offices shifted locations, and took stocks of stamps and cancelling devices with them whenever possible, so military postmarks occur on the issues of the various states in apparent randomness.

Use of Perak 25c stamp. Cancelled AIF FIELD P. O. No 19, July 22, 1941.

Use of 25c Malaya stamp by a soldier for airmail rate. Cancelled AIF FIELD P.O. No 17, April 23, 1940.

Use of 25c Straits Settlements stamp. Cancelled AIF FIELD P.O. No 17, May 15, 1941.

The cancels used on mail from Australian soldiers in Malaya are shown in Table 1. Several other types exist, but not in connection with this story. The Australian Military postal service purchased stamps from the Malayan post offices (as did the British and Indian services).

Table 1.

	City	State	Used From
Field PO No 17	Port Dickson	Negri Sembilan	1941-02-20
	Seremban	Negri Sembilan	1941-02-27
	Segamat	Johor	1941-08
	Singapore		1942-01
Field PO No 18	Port Dickson	Negri Sembilan	1941-02-27
	Mersing	Johor	1941-08
Field PO No 19		Singapore	1941-08-01
Field PO No 20	Malacca	Malacca	1941-09-12
Base PO No 25,	Johore Bahru	Johor	1941-11
26 & 27		Singapore	1942-01
Base PO No 28		Johor	1941-11
		Singapore	1942-01
Field PO SP 501,502, 503,504,505, 506 *	RAAF and RAN	Various	1939-10

*RAAF = Royal Australian Air Force; RAN = Royal Australian Navy. These are British Military postmarks but were also used on Australian mail of small units attached to British bases, and for RAN ship mail.

By August 1941, supplies of 25c stamps, and lower denominations that could total 25c for airmail use, were running low. New supplies from England were unlikely because of strained shipping resources due to German submarines, and space given to cargos of higher priority. To overcome the dearth of stamps, the solution was to locally convert ordinary stationery into postal stationery, which, being pre-franked, needed no stamps in order to be mailed. The first necessity was a die to print indicia.

There was no time, nor proper equipment, to design a regular indicium, so the Imperial Forces post office in Malaya used two expedients. The first was to modify a standard postage meter by removing its date slug. The remaining slug was then used to impress airmail letter sheets, creating prepaid aerograms with an indicium resembling half a postage meter. The omission of the date slug meant they could be used at any appropriate post office at any future time, and unlike a postage meter, they were cancelled when used. Their second solution was to fabricate an indicium die resembling a datestamp, with the date replaced by the denomination

Typical postage meter *of the Straits Settlements. Some machines incorporated a third die slug, to print a slogan to the left of the date. Meters are dated, and must be posted within a short time of the date, similar to bulk mail, and need not be cancelled.*


U19 Indicium   **U52 Indicium**

The British military command's postal service in Malaya used both of them for airmail postage for Australian troops (primarily), as well as for Indian and perhaps other contingents. Initially, two Universal Company postage meters, numbered U19 and U52, were modified by removal of the date slugs. They were utilized to print indicia on envelopes. The U19 machine was from the *Tribune* newspaper of Singapore, where it produced airmail postal stationery envelopes that were then distributed to the scattered forces post offices, both Australian and Indian, for sale to the troops. The modified U52 meter machine was in Johore Bahru, Johore. Initially, the government supplied envelopes sourced from local vendors, but these soon became exhausted. Later, military units had to supply envelopes for stamping, in minimum batches of 100, usually obtained from their canteens. The known range of postmarks is as follows:

- U19 indicium: August 8, 1941 – November 4, 1941
- U52 indicium: June 22, 1941 – October 28, 1941
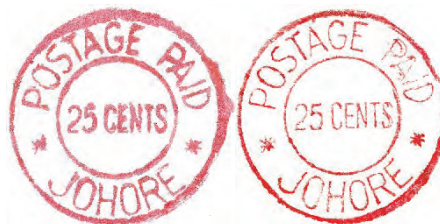
Malaya Indicium   **Johore Indicium** (two examples)

Sometime in early September, a decision was made to augment the meter dies, resulting in the second solution. Die slugs in a simple design of two concentric circles with appropriate wording were fabricated. While an adhesive stamp or a postal stationery indicium normally features a design (such as a bust of King George VI) that makes forgery more difficult, there was little danger of that considering the circumstances, so the simple design sufficed. Impressions of the Malay die are always well shaped and sharp, and it was likely made of metal. The Johore device was likely of rubber, as its impressions show great variability.

The known range of postmarks is as follows:
- Malaya indicium: September 17, 1941—February 9, 1942
- Johore indicium: September 23, 1941 – February 8, 1942

Postal stationery of all four designs were printed under security and put into military post office stores augmenting the adhesive stamps. There was a financial process whereby the armed services paid the post offices of the Malayan Federation and Johore State for the face value of their productions. They recouped the outlay by sale of the postal stationery to service personnel. It was a bit more complicated, as some of the same products were made for the Indian, and perhaps other forces in Malaya.

A listing of the resulting airmail envelopes has not, to my knowledge, previously been attempted, probably due to the paucity of material. What follows likely captures most of the items produced, but can make no claim to completeness.

Because of the complexity, the easiest method is to list the various elements of the envelopes, such the size and paper colour, as well as any printing on the envelopes prior to purchase by the military postal service, such as the airmail tablet, the original provider (e.g., YMCA), and the style of any interior printed overlay. The latter sometimes had unprinted portions that formed designs or words intended to be seen from outside.

T-1

T-2

T-3

T-4

T-5

T-6

T-7

T-8

The airmail tablets printed on the envelopes at upper left. Differentiated by the shapes of the simulated perforations, and the relative size and horizontal position of the lettering.

    PAR AVION: lettering with serifs in T-6

    PAR AVION: V raised and smaller in T-4.

Due to wear and distortion (from rubber plates?), the perforations are often smudged or distorted.

L-1 40 x 37 mm   **L2 25 x 22 mm**

L-3   **Logos**   **L-4**

Many envelopes sourced from canteens had been provided by charitable organizations, and contained their logos.

The envelopes specially intended for airmail were usually made of thin, lightweight paper. To provide privacy for the contents, they had a printed overlay in blue on the inside to provide greater opaqueness. The overlay causes the white paper to appear bluish from the outside. The following are not to scale in order to fit these pages.
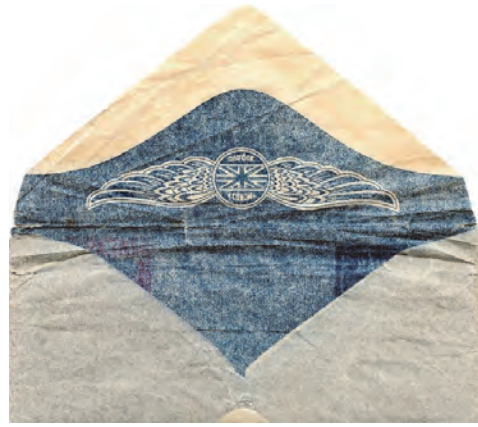
OL-1   OL-2

OL-3 *Only the outside of an envelope with this overlay was available for observation. At lower left front, it shows the wording VIA AEREA. This is the same wording shown at bottom left of the fronts of envelopes with OL-1 and OL-2.*

OL-4
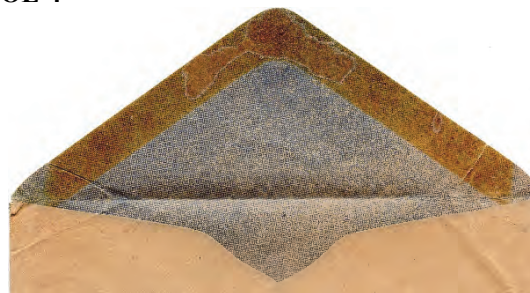
OL-5   OL-6

The compilation in Table 2 is intended to list the Military Airmail Envelopes (MAE) by indicium type, each in chronological order, based on used examples seen. Since there were delays in stock deliveries, as well as in the purchase and use of them, the listing order may only approximate the production order. Unverified items are in italics. Undoubtedly, other types of envelopes were utilized, so the following list is likely incomplete.

Table 2

	Indicium	size (mm)	Paper	Tablet	Overlay	Logo
MAE 1	25c red U19 meter	152 x 123	white	T-1	OL-1	x
MAE 2		*156 x 95*	white	*T-2*	*OL -?*	*x*
MAE 3	25c red U52 meter	145 x 122	white	T-2	OL-2	x
MAE 4		156 x 95	white	T-1	OL-3	x
MAE 5	25c red Malaya	160 x 89	white	T-3	OL-4	x
MAE 6		152 x 88	white	T-3	OL-4	x
MAE 7		166 x 94	buff	T-4	OL-5	x
MAE 8		166 x 94	buff	T-5	OL-6	L-1
MAE 9		166 x 94	buff	T-4	?	L-1
MAE 10		166 x 94	buff	T-4	OL-6	L-2
MAE 11		137 x 80	buff	T-8	x	L-3
MAE 12		145 x 90	cream	T-8	x	L-3
MAE 13	25c red Johore	152 x 89	white	T-6	OL-4	x
MAE 14		156 x 95	white	T-7	OL-4	x
MAE 15		142 x 85	cream	x	x	L3
MAE 16		137 x 80	cream	x	x	L4

***MAE 1**. U19 meter, cancelled AIF FPO No 19, 6 SEP 41.*

***MAE 2**. U19 meter, cancelled 2 SEP 41 by the Indian Field Post Office, and used by one of its servicemen (a lieutenant Colonel) in the 1st Indian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Regiment, to India. I presume this envelope was also provided to Australian forces, and thus should be included in the list, but a confirming example has not been noted.*

***MAE 3**. U152 meter, cancelled AIF FPO No 17, 5 SEP 41.*

***MAE 4**. U152 meter, cancelled AIF FPO No 17, 5 JY 41.*

MAE 5. Postage Paid Malaya, cancelled Field Post Office S.P.501, 1 NO 1941.

MAE 6. Postage Paid Malaya, cancelled 1 OC 1941. Used by a British Royal Air Force serviceman, unusually to New Zealand. This envelope may have also been available to Australians, but as this is the only example of MAE 6 found, maybe not.

Collis speculated that the meaning of "S.P." meant "Singapore", though that would be a most unusual abbreviation, especially with the period after "S". He also stated, "there are contentions that they signified 'Singapore Post', 'Special Post', or 'Service Post'." He noted the cancel was created in September 1939 (before the arrival of any AIF personnel), and from August 1940, was primarily used on mail from Royal Australian Air Force soldiers, and by Royal Australian Naval vessels when they were in Singapore, such as the above example.,
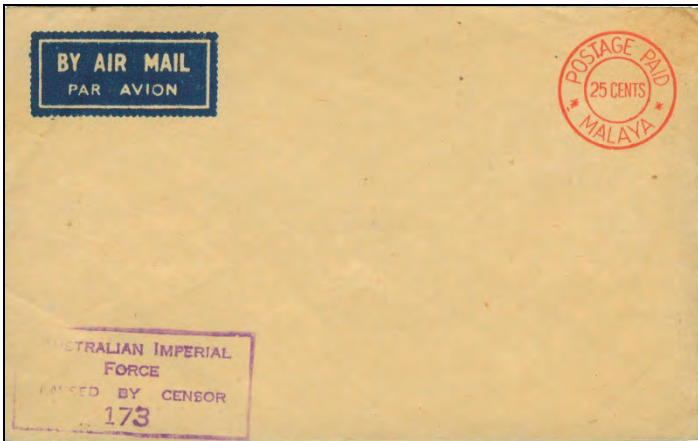
MAE 7. Postage Paid Malaya. Rare surviving mint example. The presence of the censor's handstamp implies it was sold anticipating no need for actual censoring.

MAE 8. Postage Paid Malaya, used AIF FPO No. 20, 20 NO 41.

With exhaustion of the supply of thin, ready-made airmail envelopes, ordinary ones were pressed into service. In Singapore, a solution to the lack of further supplies of envelopes with preprinted airmail tablets was devised. A new slug die was made for the postage meter machine, and inserted in the position normally occupied by the date slug. The design was Tablet T-8. Thus, it was printed at the same time as the indicium, certainly a time- and labour-saving solution.

MAE 9. Postage Paid Malaya, used AIF FPO No. 18., 1941.

*MAE 10. Postage Paid Malaya, used AIF FPO No. 18, 9 JA 42.*

MAE 11. Postage Paid Malaya, used AIF FPO No. 20, 29 OC 41. *MAE 12. Postage Paid Malaya, used FPO S.P.501, 12 NO 41.*

The width of envelope MAE-11 is 137 mm, whereas MAE-12 is 145 mm. The Tablet T-8 is always located 26 mm to the left of the indicium on the smaller envelope, and 39 mm on the larger. This means the slug's position in the meter was adjusted for each size, so as to print the tablet adjacent to the YMCA logo.
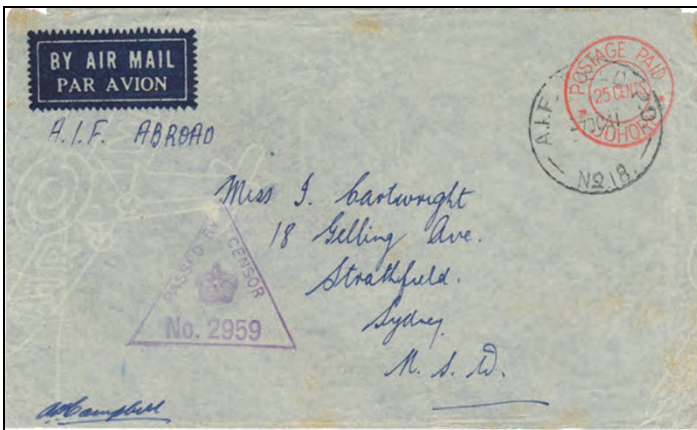
MAE 13. Postage Paid Johore, used AIF FPO No. 18, 7 OC 41. *MAE 14. Postage Paid Johore, used AIF FPO No. 18, 5 OC 41.*

MAE 15. Postage Paid Johore. A mint example demonstrating that the BY AIR MAIL handstamp was applied prior to placing the envelopes into the military post offices' stocks. *MAE 16. Postage Paid Johore, used AIF FPO No. 19, 20 OC 41.*

MAE-15 and MAE-16 were handstamped BY AIR MAIL in purple ink, at the same facility where the indicia were printed, evidenced by mint examples of postal stationery envelopes containing it. Also, the many used examples from different post offices with the identical handstamp prove that only one device at one location was used.

To be continued

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 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 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* .

Derek Brennan and His Italian Journey

Derek was born in Kingston London on 30 April 1930. After completing his National Service he joined the British Regular Army. His first overseas posting was to Tripoli Libya in January to May 1951, followed by a spell of some months in Egypt (the Canal Zone). In May 1956 he was in Tripoli again, during the Suez Crisis.

During Derek's career in the Army, he had postings to other African countries, and to Malaysia, but his later collecting interests showed that it was the lands on the shores of the Mediterranean that most attracted him. With his passions for Roman history and for archaeology, perhaps that's not surprising.

When his military career came to an end, he accepted a position with the Australian Department of Defence and came with his family to Canberra in January 1971. His overseas 'adventures' continued; from August 1986 to September 1988 he had a contract as a Philatelic Officer on Nauru, then from October 1988 to October 1990 he headed the Philatelic Bureau on Cocos (Keeling) Islands.

He retired from the Australian Public Service in about 1991, and for some years afterwards had a small philatelic literature and stamp business, running a series of postal auctions and having premises in a suburb of Canberra. With an eye on moving to a more congenial climate, he travelled in the north of New South Wales and finally purchased a small rural property. He moved north in the late 1990s, and settled in Ulmarra after his partner Judy bought a house there in about 2000.

It was in this part of his life that his interest in Libya (the Italian colonial period from 1911) developed. He started reading and researching and his collecting took a different direction. He became a member of the Italian and Colonies Study Circle (ICSC) in 2006. This broadened his horizons and increased the circle of overseas collectors with whom he could exchange information and share experiences. It also provided him with a specialized source of new material from the regular postal auctions that the ICSC hold. He'd be the first to acknowledge how much encouragement and support he's had from contacts in ICSC.

In Derek's new collecting and study direction, mention must be made of how much help he had from computers and access to email. When the majority of fellow collectors and the sellers of material that you want are overseas, electronic communication makes it all so much easier!

Derek discovered that the military history of the Italians in Libya was not well documented in English, and found that it would be necessary to become familiar with the Italian literature on the subject. This was helped when he and Judy attended classes in Italian language with a local adult education group.

He made useful contacts with two Italy-based commercial houses; Vaccari, auctions and dealers in philatelic and Italian military literature, and Filatelia Sammarinese (FilSam), an auction house in the Republic of San Marino.

He 'tried his hand' once at exhibiting his Italian Libya material, in a postal history class at Sydney Stamp Expo 2011(a National Exhibition) 31 March – 3 April 2011. The exhibit was titled 'Libya – Italian postal service 1877 – 1943 and Italian POWs 1943-1946'. It received 76 points and a Vermeil award. It was after this that the study of the stationery used by the Italian POWs absorbed his attention more. He wasn't able to find anything written about it, nor was there much about the setting up of the system for holding the POWs in Libya. With more POW material becoming available from his Italian sources, Vaccari, FilSam and LaserInvest, plus that from ICSC auctions, he was able to pinpoint differences in printings, lettering, wording and layouts that needed patience, keen observation and attention to detail, qualities that his years in the British Army had developed.

In 2017-2018 Derek made contact with, and joined Associazione Italiana Collezioniste Posta Militare (AICPM), which is a specialized group for collectors of Italian military mail of all periods. However, the progress of his final illness made it impossible for him to benefit from either the excellent journal or the bulging postal auction that was sent out with issue No 150 of the journal.

It's fitting to complete this sketch of Derek's Italian 'adventure' with sincere thanks to his Australian friends who helped with advice and encouragement for his Sydney exhibit, and for the study of Italian POW postal history and the stationery used in the British Army camps. He remarked that this study has occupied him for most of the past seven years. It demonstrated his qualities of passion for the subject, and persistence in following a line of research.

Judy Kennett
August-September 2019
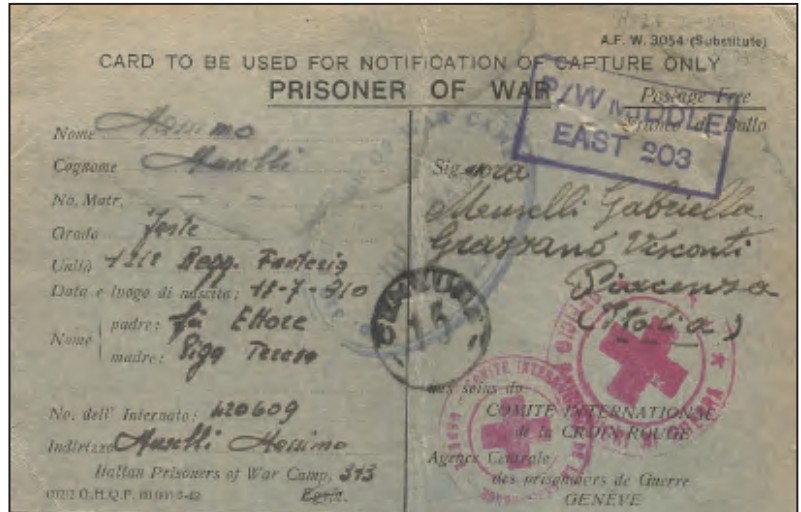
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS 1987 PICTORIAL AEROGRAMMES

Ian McMahon

Up until the late 1970s, Australian definitive postal stationery was utilitarian in design, with a stamp depicting the monarch and the necessary headings. Up until 1981, definitive aerogrammes issued by Australia were utilitarian in design, with a stamp depicting the monarch and the necessary headings, folding instructions and lines for addresses. Commencing in 1981, Australia began issuing 'pictorial' aerogammes with pictorial panels on the front of the aerogrammes. The first was issued on 21 January 1981 with the issue of a 33c aerogrammes with a view of a 'mob of sheep' on the front of the aerogramme.

Singapore aerogramme postmarked 'Cocos Island'	*Australian aerogramme cancelled 'Cocos Island'*	*Formular aerogramme used from Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 1972*

Although Cocos (Keeling) Islands at various times in its history used Singapore (1952-1955) and Australian stamped and formular aerogammes (from 23 November 1955), until 1987 the Islands had issued no stamped aerogrammes.

On 18 February 1986, a new philatelic officer, David Jackson, arrived on the Islands to take up the position from 19 February 1986. As a new philatelic officer, he had a number of ideas for changes to the function of the philatelic office and on the Islands' stamp issuing program writing on 14 April 1986 to the Islands' Administrator with proposals for some changes in the function of the Office and copy of a Five-Year Stamp Program. Included in these proposals was a proposal for the issuing of aerogammes: *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.*

His investigation of the production costs of the aerogammes had begun by writing to R Gamble of Philatelic Consulting Services Toorak on 8 April 1986: *I have been giving some consideration to introducing some form of postal stationary. At this time, I favour Aerograms and propose to introduce four, with scenes of Cocos. These would be definitive, to be replaced on a three-year basis by issuing four at one time we will be able to reduce set-up costs, and to a great extent cover the costs of fulfilling mail orders.*

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. Would you please find out some costing. I would initially look at 20,000 of each design. Aerograms would be required to be pre-folded. I would like your opinion of the time required to set production in motion.

I suggest we commission Mark Todd to do the artwork. I have used Mark for souvenir covers in Victoria and have a very high regard for his work. He knows Australia Post guidelines and I am sure the cost will be very reasonable. I have, of course, not made any overtures to him as you may have other thoughts. …..

It is worth noting that he justifies the issuing of stamped aerogammes by the comment that the Post Office sold up to one hundred formular *aerogammes per month to residents, and up to four hundred per month during yachting season.* (The Tradewinds season of June to October is the yachting season. During this time Direction Island, which is otherwise uninhabited, becomes a haven for international yacht travellers.) Which formular aerogramme was being sold by the Post Office is unknown. If you have a used example from this period please advise the author.

The first quote obtained for printing the aerogrammes came from Cambec Web and was dated 17 June 1986. The quote was for $3,035 for 10,000 aerogammes or 30.35 cents each, not including 'artwork, freight, postage, handing, consultancy fee' and was rejected as 'financially not viable'. The quote was on the basis of the following specifications:

- Description: AEROGRAMMES
- Quantity: 10,000
- Size: 322mm x 215mm, Folded to 100 mm x 205mm
- Colours: Printed 4 colours one side and gummed three flaps, die cut to shape, supplied folded with flaps folded in.
- Delivery: Banded in 50's in cartons of 200

Mercury Walsh sent a quote on 7 July 1986:

- For a single design
- Size: 205 x 327.5mm flat as A/Post
- Printed: litho offset four colour process. (Background colour from four process colours if required). Die cut to shape, gummed and folded on airletter machine. Band in SO's pack in cartons of 1000s and overpack in 2,000's.
- Paper: Aerogramme White 65gsm
- Origination: Client to supply line art and reflection art or transparency for pictorial area.
- Price 10,000 $101.85 per thousand
- Colour separations and prepwork $825.00 approx.
- Price is subject to the sighting of final artwork and original copy.

This quote was only for a single design whereas the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Post Office had decided to produce aerorgammes in three designs, so a revised quote for three different designs was provided by Mercury Walsh on 10 July 1986:

- Size: 205 x 327.5 mm flat- as Australia Post (3 designs)
- Description: Printed litho offset four colour process (background colour from four process colours if required). Die cut to shape, gummed and folded on airletter machine. Band in 50's, pack in cartons of l,000's and overpack in 2,000's.
- Material: Aerogramme White 65gsm
- Origination: Client to supply line art and reflection art or transparency for pictorial area
- Price 60,000 (20,000 x 3) $55.50 per thousand
- EX WORKS Colour separations & Prepwork $1,500.00 approx.
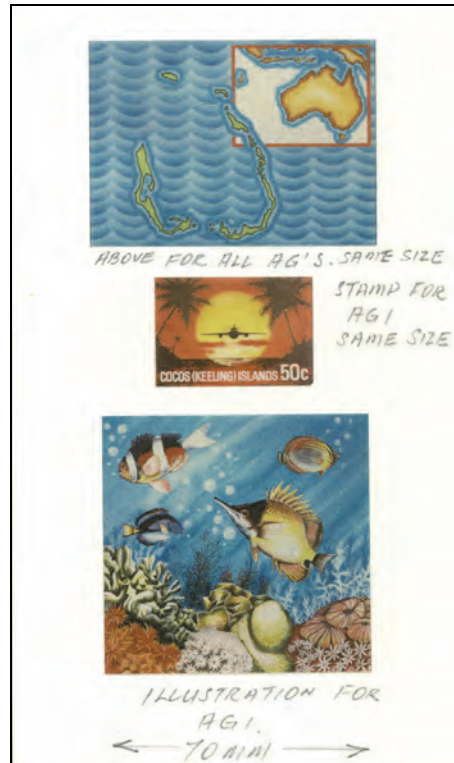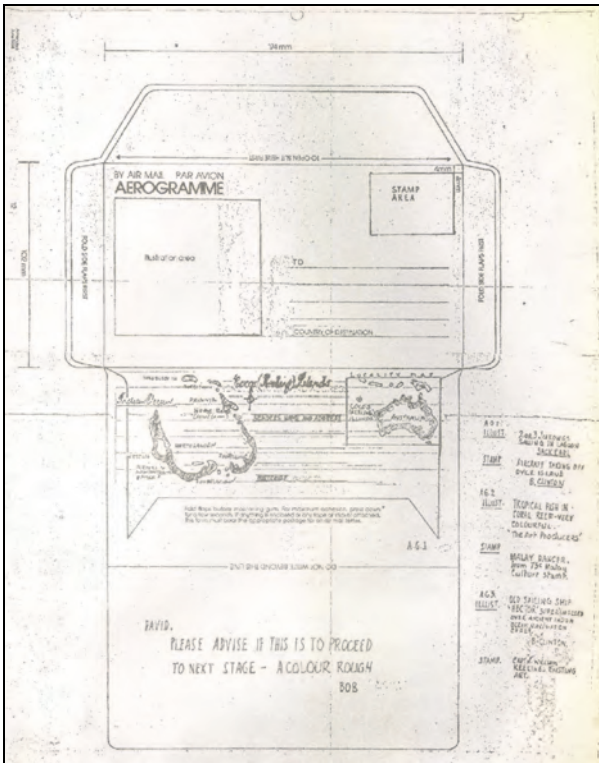
Mock-up of the layout of the aerogrammes sent to the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Philatelic Bureau on 9 September 1986 by Robert Gamble. Two earlier mock-ups are shown on the inside back cover.

Artwork for the reverse of all three aerogrammes and the stamp area and pictorial panel for AG 1
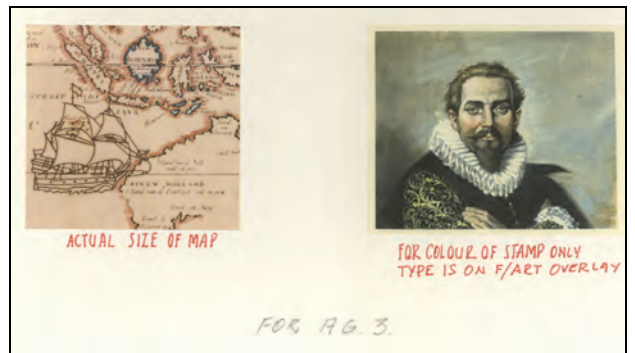
Artwork for pictorial panel for AG 2

Artwork for stamp for AG 2

Artwork for pictorial panel and stamp for AG 3

The designs for the proposed aerogrammes were AG 1 Aircraft flying into the tropical sun; AG 2 Malay dancer and AG 3 Captain William Keeling. The artists commissioned to prepare the designs were AG 1 Tom Bland, AG 2 Jack Earle and AG 3 Brian Clinton. Illustrated above is a mock-up of the layout of the aerogrammes (faxed to the Post Office by Bob Gamble on 9 Septembe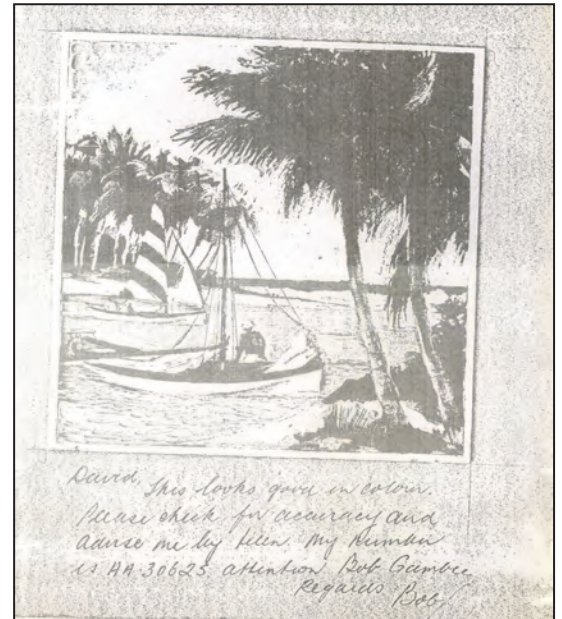r 1986) and artwork for the stamp areas, pictorial panels and for the reverse of the aerogrammes. Two further layout mock-ups and proofs of AG1, with and without the inscriptions are shown on the inside back cover.

On 30 September 1986 Jack Earl wrote to the Post Office acknowledging payment of $2,300 for artwork for the aerogramme (AG2) and commented that he *was glad you liked the roughs Gamble sending them up so I can work on finished artwork.* On 27 November Jack Earl received a further $500 for his artwork. On 2 December 1986, $800 for aerogramme artwork (AG 3) was paid to Brian Clinton.

On 17 Dec 1986, the Post Office telexed Bob Gamble saying that the artwork *had arrived please go ahead with production congratulations on a top job.* On 21st January 1987 Mercury Walsh wrote to David Jackson to say that they had safely received the artwork from Bob Gamble and were proceeding with the preparatory work. They noted that the artwork was far more complex than originally quoted: a*s they had based our quotation on 3 multicoloured pictorial areas and the stamps from line artwork. There are now a total of 8 colour separations for the 3 designs and the total prepwork estimate is now $2,200 not $1,500 as quoted.* They commented that the artwork is particularly attractive and should produce a superior set of aerogrammes. David Jackson replied on 3rd February 1987 that the revised prepwork estimate of $2,200 was fine and that "I am sure you are right we will end up with a very attractive set of aerogrammes". Bob Gamble annotated a proof of the artwork for the pictorial panel for AG 2 (right): *David This looks good in colour. Please check for accuracy and advise me by telex ….*

In this period pictorial aerogrammes where becoming popular and were the subject of a series of articles in the Australian Stamp Monthly in 1986 and 1987 and other Journals by Bill Maye who had some correspondence with the philatelic bureau on the aerogramme and the relevance of the designs to the Cocos Islands. David Jackson wrote on 27 January 1987 that he had read Bill Maye's article in the November 1986 issue of the Australian Stamp Monthly and that *The Philatelic Bureau has a firm policy that all issued material will have some association with Cocos (Keeling) Islands, and so these aerogrammes will show parts of Cocos and its history.*

On 16 March 1987 Mercury Walsh wrote to Mr Jackson to say that they had despatched by Australian Airlines Airfreight 20 cartons of aerogrammes to Cocos as follows:

- Design AG1 - 6 cartons each 2,000 - 12,000
- Design AG2 - 6 cartons each 2,000 - 12 000 /
- Design AG3 - 6. cartons each 2,000 - 12,000 /
- Design AG1/2 - 1 mixed carton of 1,000 each- 2,000
- Design AG2/3 - 1 mixed carton of 1,850 AG3 and·250 AG2- 2,100

- TOTAL 40,100
- To Australia Post, Melbourne 6,000 each design 18,000
- To CAPC, U.S. - 250 each design 750
- To Harry Allen, U.K. - 1,000 each design 3,000
- TOTAL ORDER 61,850

On 16th March, Mercury Walsh telexed Australia Post saying that they were *Sending To You Today Per Ansett Airfreight 9 Cartons Of Cocos Keeling Island Pictorial Aerogrammes. Packed As 3 Cartons of each design TOTAL 18,000 AEROGRAMMES.* They also wrote to Crown Agents Philatelic Corp USA saying that they had on that date sent 750 (250 each of 3 designs) Cocos (Keeling) Island Pictorial Aerogrammes per Air Parcel Post to the above address and to Mr H Allen, Cocos (Keeling) Islands Stamp Bureau, UK, saying that they would despatch per Ansett Airfreight 3,000 (1,000 each of 3 designs) Cocos (Keeling) Island Pictorial aerogrammes.

The Cocos (Keeling) Islands Philatelic Bureau placed advertisements in the Australian Stamp Monthly and Stamp News in July 1987. The text of the advertisement provides an excellent description of the aerogrammes:

Be in at the beginning
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS first ever AEROGRAMMES First day of issue 29 July 1987.
For the first time in its interesting history Cocos (Keeling) Islands will issue a set of three (3) pictorial aerogrammes. These superbly illustrated aerogrammes are printed in four colours and depict the history, marine life and the unique sailing craft of the Cocos Malay people. Great Philatelic interest is being generated by pictorial aerogrammes, so here is your opportunity to start a collection with the beautiful Cocos aerogrammes - the very first ever produced by this Indian Ocean tropical coral atoll.
AG1 features the marine life found in the tropical lagoon of Cocos (Keeling) Islands. Colorful and authentic they are shown with examples of coral found in the

area. The stamp depicts an aircraft flying into the tropical sun. The artist is Tom Bland of Melbourne.

AG2 depicts Cocos Malay sailing craft known as JUKONGS, peculiar to the Cocos Malay people. The artist is Jack Earl of Sydney, one of Australia's foremost marine artists. The stamp shows a Malay dancer in colourful traditional costume.

AG3 Reproduces an old map or chart circa 1666 showing the position of Cocos (Keeling) Islands in relation to New Holland (Australia). The stamp shows Captain William Keeling, who it is claimed, discovered the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 1609. [Captain William Keeling of the [British] East India Company is believed to have discovered the Cocos (Keeling) Islands in 1609 as he was returning home from Banda to England.] The artist is Brian Clinton, one of Melbourne's leading commercial artists.

The three aerogrammes were printed by Mercury Walch, Hobart, Tasmania by photolithography on aerogramme white 65 gsm paper for the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Postal Administration.

The cost of these very first Cocos (Keeling) Islands aerogrammes is just 50c each. Stocks are limited to a relatively small print run so buy yours from Australia Post or order from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Philatelic Bureau now! Do not miss these beautiful aerogrammes they will enhance your collection. First day of issue copies can only be ordered from the Cocos (Keeling) Islands Philatelic Bureau

On 29 July 1987, Cocos (Keeling) Islands issued the three 50c pictorial aerogrammes: AG 1 Aircraft flying into the tropical sun; AG 2 Malay dancer and AG 3 Captain William Keeling. The quantities produced were: AG1 20,250 AG2 20500 AG3 21,100.
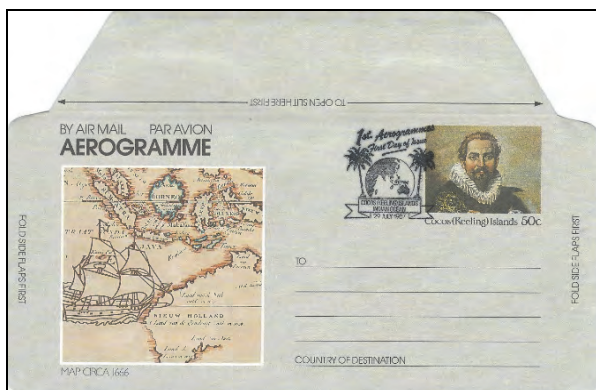
The second, and last, issue of Cocos (Keeling) Islands aerogrammes was issued on 26 February 1992. The set of three 70c pictorial aerogrammes were designed by Sandra Harman from photographs supplied by Cocos resident, Joanna Smith and were also printed by Mercury-Walsh Hobart: A4 Aerial View of Cocos Keeling Islands with signpost superimposed, pictorial panel coconut palm and beach; A5 Aerial View of Cocos Keeling Islands with signpost superimposed, pictorial panel aerial view of lagoon and A6 Aerial View of Cocos Keeling Islands with signpost superimposed, pictorial panel Coconut palms against sunset sky
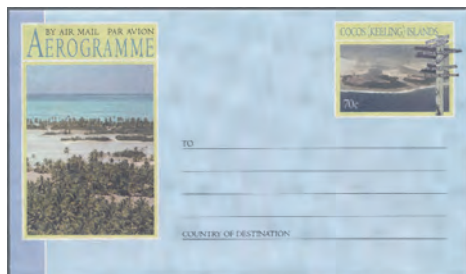
From 1 January 1994, Australia Post took over the running of the Cocos (Keeling) Island postal services. From that time Australian stamped aerogrammes would have been valid for use on Cocos (Keeling) Island.

References

NAA File: K812, 70/50

Bill Maye, articles and advertisements on pictorial aerogrammes in *The Australian Stamp Monthly,* July 1986, November 1986, June 1987 (including a report on the Cocos (Keeling) Island aerogrammes).

PRIVATE OVERPRINTING ON AUSTRALASIAN POST OFFICE POSTAL STATIONERY WRAPPERS

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Private Overprinting

Why do some users of post office postal stationery take the time and incur the expense of adding private overprinting to the wrappers 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. In the mind of the addressee, what is preferable: patronage to a company that can only afford a hand stamp, or to a company that is established enough to actually print their return address? In addition to creating an image, it is a relatively inexpensive form of advertising a sender's name (although too whom is the advertising directed is questionable). Pragmatically, it provides information about return address details in the event of non-delivery.

Private overprints are added by users *after* the wrapper has been purchased from the Post Office. As such they are not a postal stationery variety. If the Post Office had been responsible for the additional printing *before* it was received by the user, then it would be considered a postal stationery variety. The timing when the additional printing occurred is the crucial distinction. There are countries where a user's requirements for private printing was undertaken for the customer contemporaneously with the addition of the embossing or letter press indicium. In such cases they are usually referred to as printed-to-private-order (PTPO) or stamped-to-order (STO), but in most cases the private printing is added to either post office stock or customers' own paper at a later stage. While the regulations are clear as to what constitutes a postal stationery item (prepaid indicium being the critical element), collectors of postal stationery infer improperly that additional writing creates a variety, and sizable premiums are often paid to acquire these items. While they can be uncommon, even scarce, and aesthetically appealing, they are more of the nature of social philately than postal stationery.

There are 55 countries with wrappers bearing the addition of private printing. This total represents approximately 40% of the 131 countries and postal entities that issued post office postal stationery wrappers. Kosniowski's 2019 publication of a three-volume catalogue of worldwide wrappers lists 4,294 wrappers with private overprints. About four new wrappers are added on average per week. Some are duplicated users varying only by the nature of the indicium. *W. H. Smith*, for example, has 366 types. If different users only are considered there are 1,498 recorded worldwide. Country collectors would be interested in the total number of users recorded with private overprinting for their particular country and a summary of these is shown in the following table. Specific details of the user-indicium combinations can be found in the Kosniowski catalogues. The number of different users is listed (and comprehensively illustrated) in Kosniowski.

The table shows the countries/postal entities with private overprinting. The number of overprinted wrappers in column two represents the examples in the database as at the time of writing. The listing is fluid because new "finds" regularly come onto the philatelic market. The number of different users, as the name implies, is the number of different users' names printed on the wrappers (column three). There are 76 other countries/postal entities with as yet no recorded case of private overprinting and these can be identified by comparing the list of countries in the table below against those listed in Kosniowski.

55 Countries with Private Overprinted Wrappers and Database Quantities

Country	No. of Overprinted Wrappers	No. of Different Users	Country	Number of Overprinted Wrappers	No. of Different Users
Argentina	71	51	Jamaica	10	3
Australia	36	15	Leeward Islands	1	1
Austria	335	94	Mauritius	1	1
Barbados	2	1	Mexico	9	5
Bavaria	21	11	Natal	4	3
Brazil	34	18	New South Wales	15	6
British Bech'lnd	3	1	New Zealand	5	3
Canada	44	18	Orange River Colony	1	1
Cape Good Hope	84	10	Peru	2	1
Ceylon	60	9	Philippines	2	2
Chile	7	5	Queensland	8	5
Costa Rica	5	3	Romania	8	3
Cyprus	2	1	Russia	14	2
Denmark	11	5	St. Vincent	4	1
Ecuador	3	2	South Africa	1	1
Egypt	7	7	South Australia	19	11
France	42	21	Spain	6	5
Germany	140	91	Sudan	1	1
Germany N'th German Post	6	6	Switzerland	259	58
Germany – PO in Levant	1	1	Tasmania	55	6
Gibraltar	2	2	Transvaal	10	5
Great Britain	2,488	720	Trinidad	2	2
GB PO in Morocco	14	1	USA	312	228
Greece	2	1	Uruguay	4	2

| Guyana	4	2	Venezuela	1	1
Hungary	2	2	Victoria	60	31
India	12	8	Wurttemberg	41	7
Ireland	1	1	Total	**4,294**	**1,498**

Australia

Australia produced Post Office issues but also stamped-to-order (STO) issues. The stamping-to-order of wrappers continued throughout the Commonwealth period up to the introduction of decimal currency. From 1913, it was a requirement of this service that a minimum of 500 wrappers had to be ordered, the paper being supplied by the customer in uncut sheets and of sufficient thickness to bear the impression of the stamp. Coloured paper was acceptable. From 1 August 1933, paper submitted had to be of approved quality, colour, shape and size and of an adequate gauge to bear the impression of the embossing die.

Customers could take their paper to their local post office and request stamping. It is believed the post office would then send the paper to the relevant state distributor of stamps with a warrant. Wrappers for *The Tasmanian Mail* and the *Hobart Mercury* were printed by letterpress by J. B. Cooke, Commonwealth Stamp Printer, Melbourne. The major early user of STO wrappers was Davies Bros. Ltd. of Hobart, publishers of *The Tasmanian Mail* and *The Mercury*. The other most notable user was the *Sydney Stock Exchange*, which appears to be the only customer having private wrappers printed after 1960.

There were few users of private wrappers and some have not been identified because they contained no additional printing. Some of the other users that added overprinting were *Ajax Insurance, Pauline Reliable Paper Patterns, Sunday Times Newspaper* and *W. H. Higgins Pty. Ltd.* The survival rate of these wrappers is close to zero and illustrations are unavailable.

Details are shown in the table below together with quantities of each type of user that appear in the author's database of images hand-collected daily since September 2003. Catalogue numbers are mostly those of Kosniowski; there is no reliable correspondence in Higgins & Gage. Kosniowski illustrates all known recorded users; extant examples of private overprinting as recorded in the author's database are added as a crude measure of rarity.

User Name	Appearance	Freq	User Name	Appearance	Freq
Australian Catholic Truth	E1	1	On His Majesty's Service	140	3
Bagot, Shakes & Lewis Ltd.	E1	1	Ditto, Attendance Officer	140	1
Felton Grimwade, compound	131	2	O.H.M.S. Maternity Allow.	221	1
Illustrated Tasmanian Mail	119(4), 121(2)	6	O.H.M.S. Maternity Allow.	222	2
The Mercury (KGV 1d red)	111	2	O.H.M.S. Maternity Allow.	231	1
Tasmanian Mail (2d grey)	104	1	On His Majesty's Service O.S.	115a	1
Stock Exchange 2½d indigo	148	4	O.H.M.S. Education Dept.	231	9
Stock Exchange 5d light blue	152	11	O.H.M.S. Education Dept.	233	1
Stock Exchange 5c dark blue	153	1	O.H.M.S. Education Dept.	261	1
Stock Exchange 4c red	155	4	On His Majesty's Service 3d green, Education Dept.	266	2
Stock Exchange 5c orange	156	1			
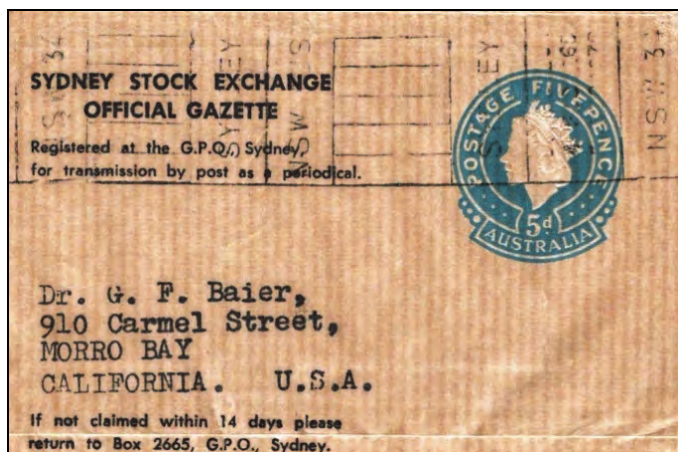
Sydney Stock Exchange Official Gazette
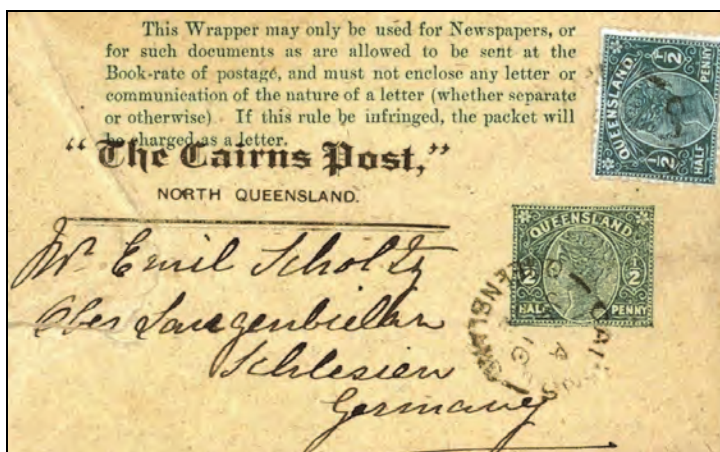
Queensland: The Cairns Post

Queensland

A previously unrecorded user with private overprinting on a copy of E1 appeared on the market in April 2018: *The Cairns Post*. The appearance of this sixth user emphasises the fluidity of knowledge about postal wrappers and that new "finds" await the diligent and patient philatelist.

There are six identified users with overprinting on the wrappers of Queensland. One is a rare copy of *Hall Coy.* which printed a rectangular "collar" in green and added a 2½d postage stamp in the space created, uprating the wrapper to a higher weight scale. Hall was a company that advertised itself as a Jeweller and Goldsmiths, Brisbane. Single examples each of three users appear in the database.

Queensland: Hall Coy. with collar

South Australia: The Advertiser, the Popular Daily

User Name	Appearance	Freq	User Name	Appearance	Freq
The Cairns Post	E1	1	Hall Coy.	E1	1
Flavelle Roberts & Sankey	E3 (Also known on E2)	1			

South Australia

There are nine users recorded with private overprinting and examples of eight are included in the database. The missing user is *The Express*. In addition, O.S. overprinted wrappers have pre-printed *The Head Teacher* or *The Postmaster* on some wrappers and these are included for the record.

User Name	Appearance	Freq	User Name	Appearance	Freq
The Advertiser	E6	3	J. Miller Anderson & Co.	E4	1
Bagot, Shakes & Lewis	E11	1	Luxmoore, R. J. Coombs & Co.	E4	2
The Burra Record	E3	1	R. J. Coombs	E4	3
The Chronicle	E6	1	The Head Teacher	E3B (5), E7B	6
Fauldings Medical J'l	E6	3	The Postmaster	E4B	1

Tasmania

Users with private overprinting on the wrappers of Tasmania are the two newspapers: *The Mercury* and *The Tasmanian Mail*. There are five other recorded users. All but two are included in the database; those not seen are *F. Milsom* and *The Tasmania Gold Mining Company*. Some of the wrappers with *Tasmanian Mail* private overprints are from an award-winning exhibit sent to the author in order that they might be included in the database. Some of these wrappers do not have H&G numbers and in such cases Kosniowski catalogue numbers have been used.

User Name	Appearance	Freq	User Name	Appearance	Freq
The Federal Australian Philatelist	KE3	5	The Tasmanian Mail	KE1, KE4 (4), KE6 (7), 103 (4), 104, 108	18
J Walsh & Sons	KE1	1	Newspaper Only (dark pink paper)	101	1
The Mercury	KE1 (12), KE3 (17)	29			

Victoria

Victoria issued Post Office wrappers contemporaneously with STO issues with private overprinting on both types including official On His Majesty's Service. There are 31 users recorded. Of the 31 users, 26 appear in the database and these are listed in the summary below.

Victoria: Goldsbrough, Mort & Co. Ltd

New Zealand: Dunedin Stock Exchange

User Name	Appearance	Freq	User Name	Appearance	Freq
The Alliance Record	E15	1	Mt Wycheproof Ensign	E15, E17 2ea	4
The Austral Light	E15, E17	2	Norwich Union Fire Office	1d green STO	1
The Australian Stamp Collector	E15, E17, E18 (4)	6	Pleasant Creek News and Stawell Chronicle	E15	4
Bendigo Advertiser	E17	1	Port Melbourne Standard	E24	1
The Bendigo Mail and Mining Gazette	E17	1	St. Arnaud Mercury	E15 (3), E17 (2)	5
Bendigo Evening Mail and Mining Gazette	E19	5	The Shearers' Record	E15	2
The Boston Brass Works	E26	1	The Spectator	E15 (1), E17 (2)	3
The Free Church Quarterly	E26	1	The Sporting News	E19	1
Goldsborough, Mort & Co. Ltd	E18	1	The Stawell News & Pleasant Creek Chronicle	E17	1
The Kyneton Guardian	E15	1	Swallow & Ariell	E20	1
Mentone and Moorabbin Chronicle	E15	1	Victoria Estate Company	E14	1
The Missionary	E17	2	The War Cry	E18	1
Mornington Standard	E15	2	Willder & Company	E15	3

New Zealand

Four users are recorded for New Zealand, of which the *Dunedin Stock Exchange* dominates albeit with only seven examples to date. How many of these wrappers would have been mailed? There were four typeset versions and these are shown in Kosniowski. All users are included in the database except *James Henderson*, stockbroker, Christchurch.

User Name	Appearance	Freq	User Name	Appearance	Freq
Dunedin Stock Exchange	E4	7	San Francisco	E4	1
R. & A. J. Park	E4	1			

Summary

A study of post office wrappers bearing private overprinting revealed 55 countries have at least one user with private overprinting. From the new Kosniowski three-volume catalogue of post office wrappers of the whole world, there are 4,294 private overprinting user-indicium combinations. Some users, such as the Great Britain *W. H. Smith* have multiple indium combinations and printing and layout differences. If users are counted once only then the number of users with private overprinting reduces to 1,498 wrappers worldwide.

Australia and Australian States/Colonies have 74 different users recorded to date: Australia (21), Queensland (6), South Australia (9), Tasmania (7), Victoria (31) and Western Australia (1). New Zealand has four. There are more wrappers if indicium-user combinations are taken into account. To obtain a copy of all of these would be a herculean task considering that 38 or 49% of user names have been recorded once only. Nevertheless, patience, diligence and searching should reveal more copies and probably some additional users. These lists represent what has been recorded to-date and are starting points for collectors in identifying what is extant and as a basis for comparing new finds.

References

Higgins and Gage (1964), *Priced Catalogue of Postal Stationery of the World*, California.
Kosniowski Jan (2019), *Newspaper Wrappers of the Whole World*, three volumes, June, pp.1300.

Acknowledgement

My thanks to Sheila Mackenzie for reading and editing an earlier version.

PSSA FORUM

Ian McMahon (with assistance from other PSSA members)

Police Remembrance Day and Eureka Stockade Pre-Stamped Envelopes

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 as a PNC. 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 which occurred on 30 November 1854 as a PNC on 13 August 2019 and sold for $17.95 with 6,500 envelopes released.
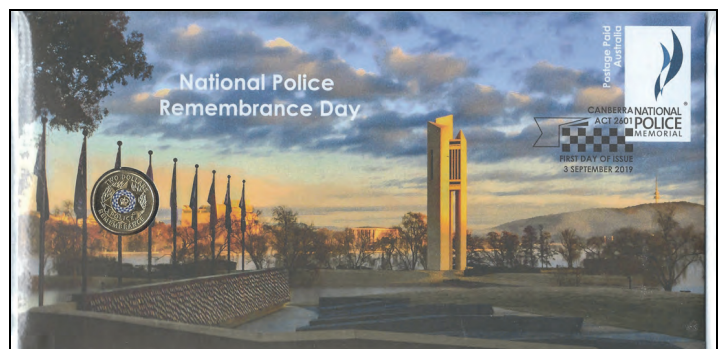
Beautiful Cities Postcards

Three new pictorial postcards were issued on 23 September 2019 featuring views of Sydney and Perth. Two other cards were issued as 'maximum cards' in the same designs as the left two pictorial cards illustrated below.

Domestic Letter with Tracking Stamped Envelopes

After a successful trial, the new domestic letter service, Domestic letter with tracking, was extended nationally to all Post Offices from Monday 30 September 2019. The prepaid envelopes are available online on the Australia Post eBay Store and Australia Post Online Shop. They will be sold for $2.95 (DL) and $5.95 (C4).

Trial of Formular Parcel Post and Express Post Satchels

From July-September 2019, Australia Post trialled 'formular' parcel post and express post satchels 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 in a similar manner to the current range of formular international airmail and express envelopes, satchels and boxes. The trial appears related to the forthcoming changes in parcel post and express post satchels.

Price Increases and New Stationery

The end of September 2019 will bring a range of price increases to many postal stationery items as well as new arrangements for parcel post and express post satchels. These will include increases in international mail charges and new international stamped envelopes ($3.70 (DL), $10 (C4). Express Post envelopes will now be sold for $7.15 (DL), $7.45 (C5) and $8.85 (B4). There are likely to be changes to the parcel post and express post satchels and how they are priced. Further details will be in the next issue of the *PSC*.

LISTING OF AUSTRALIAN NON-DENOMINATED POSTAL STATIONERY

Ian McMahon

Postcards

1 August 2019 In the Garden
Maximum cards

(-)	Rainwater Garden
(-)	Worm Farm
(-)	Nest Box
(-)	Pollinators
(-)	Veggie Garden

(Set price: $5.25)

13 August 2019 Bush Citrus

(-)	Desert Lime
(-)	Australian Finger Lime
(-)	Lemon Aspen

(Set price: $5.25)

20 August 2019 Mapping the AAT

(-)	Douglas Mawson 1911
(-)	Department of the Interior
(-)	Division of National Mapping
(-)	Australian Antarctic Division

(Set price: $9)

10 September 2019 Murchison Meteorite 1969-2019

($2.20)	Murchison Meteorite

23 September Beautiful Cities

($2.20)	Perth
($2.20)	Sunset Over Sydney
($2.20)	Sydney Harbour and Circular Quay

Maximum Cards

(-)	Perth
(-)	Sydney Harbour and Circular Quay

(Set price: $9.70)

Envelopes

Note: An envelope was issued on 13 August 2019 to mark the Eureka Stockade as a PNC. The envelope was not issued mint, sold for $17.95 with 7,000 envelopes being issued.

Note: An envelope was issued on 3 September 2019 to mark Police Remembrance Day as a PNC. The envelope was not issued mint, sold for $19.95 with 7,000 envelopes being issued.

LITERATURE
Judy Kennett and Ian McMahon

FROM OUR CONTEMPORARIES

Postal Stationery Society [UK] Vol 27 No 3 August 2019

- New Zealand – instruction boxes on newspaper wrappers
- Belarus provisional surcharges
- GB postal stationery news
- Modern Ugandan registered envelopes

- Book review – Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrapper Catalogue by Jan Kosniowski
- The shocking revelation of post office wrapper survival rates [by John Courtis]

L'Entier Postal [France] No 109 Juin 2019

- Correspondence from a French sailor stationed at Fort-de-France (Martinique, West Indies) from 1941to 1943 [correspondence with his mother in France, using current postal stationery cards – a fine piece of work]

Australian Journal of Philately No 149 September 2019

- Uprated wrappers of the Australian Colonies / States [Courtis strikes again!]

Posta Militare e Storia Postale [*Military post and postal history*] Journal of A.I.C.P.M [Italy] No 150 July 2019

- The military and civilian post in Western Greece during the Italian occupation October 1940 to August 1941: postal stationery [examples of overprinting on Greek postal stationery envelopes and cards for use by the Italian military administration – a fine piece of work]

Postal Stationery Notes [BNAPS] August 2019

- End of the CBNC Wilding postcard printings
- Rates affecting the use of prepaid postcards 1938-1964
- PCF Corner and More postage-prepaid cards

- Unusual and new Xpresspost mailers
- Centennial Issue Printings for Canadian National Express
- Interesting Use of an Election Envelope

Gibbons Stamp Monthly September 2019

- Postal Stationery Matters (Oddities by the 'Cut-Out Man', A menagerie recruit, A Whodunit, A parliamentary plum, Discovered after 86 years, Past personalities on stationery Katherine Stinson, More collecting themes)

Postal Stationery Vol. 61 No. 5, Whole No. 428 Sept-Oct 2019

- British East Africa POW Aerograms
- The Lipman Postal Cards of 1872 – Evidence Based Conclusions
- The Straits Settlements 1891 Post Card "2" Surcharges
- Envelopes, Wrappers, etc. Delisted 19th Century Item; Unofficial Surcharges used by Local Post Offices; Nesbitt Printed Advertisements on Postal Stationery
- Rare Russian Card Offered on eBay
- Australia, Newfoundland and E A F Stationery
- Printed-to-Private-Order, or Stamped-to-Order?
- Penalty Overprint on Envelope 2295-39 FDC
- Dubai Scouts Post Card
- Dubai Scouts Aerogram Commercially Used
- Victoria Registered Envelope with Overprint
- Salvador Wrapper with Double Indicia
- US Official Consular Envelopes
- Unlisted Salvador Envelope
- Barbados QEII $2 Registered Envelope Varieties
- Correction to Nicaragua Article
- Modern Bolivia Aerograms

- Hong Kong Dubious Surcharged Card
- Postal Savings Card Fake? Caveat Emptor
- Switzerland View Card of Lake Lucerne and the Missing "e"
- My Version of the Full-Face McKinley Recovery Story
- Why Were Full-Face McKinley Cards Printed from Electrotype Plates Instead of Hardened Steel Plates?
- Thomas De La Rue & Co.
- FIP Postal Stationery Commission
- USA Card used in China
- UPSS Auction 2019-A1 Results
- The Moorhouse Imitation Die Proofs
- Literature Reviews: Amtliche Ganzsachen mit privaten Zudrucken, Deutsches Reich 1919-
- 1932, 4 Auflage; Postal Stationery Newspaper Wrapper Catalogue, Romanian Postal Stationery, Specialized Catalog 1870-1927, 2nd ed , Romanian Postal Stationery, Specialized Catalog 1928-1956, 1st ed
- Rare Showcase, Hong Kong Registration Envelope Overprints

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 including IRCs. 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 of the state of Hatay. A wonderful book placing the stationery issues in an historical context which I hope to have a review of in the next issue of *PSC*. 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 . Turkish and English, hardbound, xxi+791 pp, illustrated in colour.

The Turkish text is followed by the English text throughout the book.
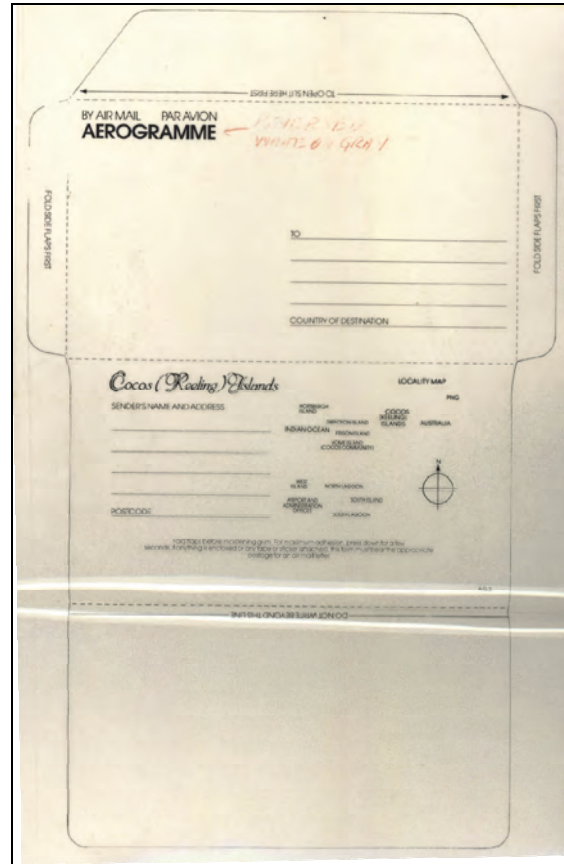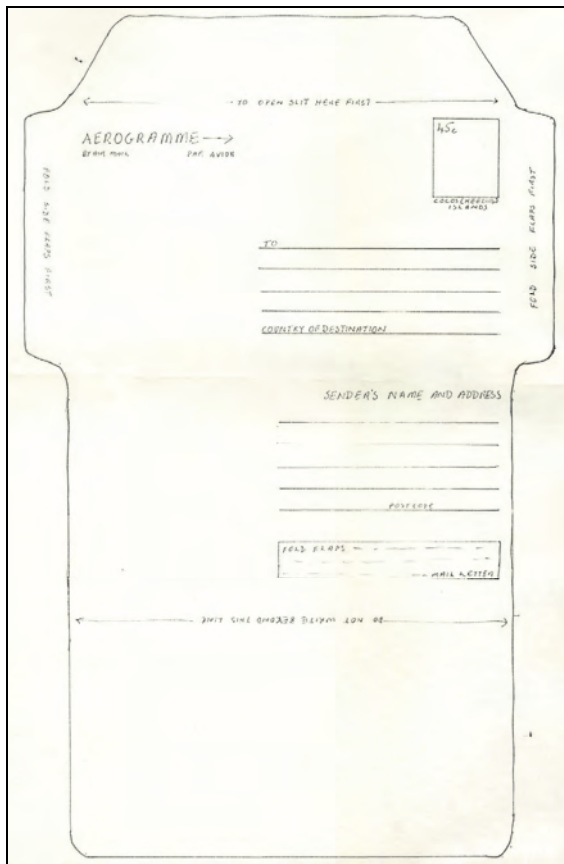
Illustrated above are two mock-ups of the layout of the Cocos (Keeling) Island 1987 aerorgammes based on the Australia 1985 45c aerogramme depicting an Emu and an Australian formular aerogramme (approval No. W37). Illustrated below are two proofs of AG1, with and without the inscriptions

ACTUAL SIZE OF MAP

FOR COLOUR OF STAMP ONLY
TYPE IS ON F/ART OVERLAY

FOR A.G. 3.

ABOVE FOR ALL AG'S. SAME SIZE

STAMP FOR
AG 1
SAME SIZE

COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS 50c

ILLUSTRATION FOR
AG 1.
← 70 MM →

ILLUSTRATION FOR AG 2

MEURINGDOK DANCE

50c
COCOS (KEELING) ISLANDS

REDUCED
TO 30 MM
DEEP

STAMP FOR AG 2