

Monographs

Of particular note is that the Library holds a copy of 'The Postage Stamps, Envelopes, Wrappers, Postcards and Telegraph Stamps of Queensland' (which despite the title does not discuss the postal stationery) by Bassett Hull. Also of interest is a copy of 'Cobb's Coach Guide' of about 1911. This lists Cobb's last coach routes in Australia, from Queensland towns such as Thargomindah, St George and Surat to the nearest railhead.

It is my hope that this short introduction will convince you that the National Library holds a wealth of material of interest to the philatelist. Although Queensland has been used as the example the Library has similar holdings of interest to collectors of the other Australian states, the Commonwealth, Fiji, New Zealand and a few gems from other countries.

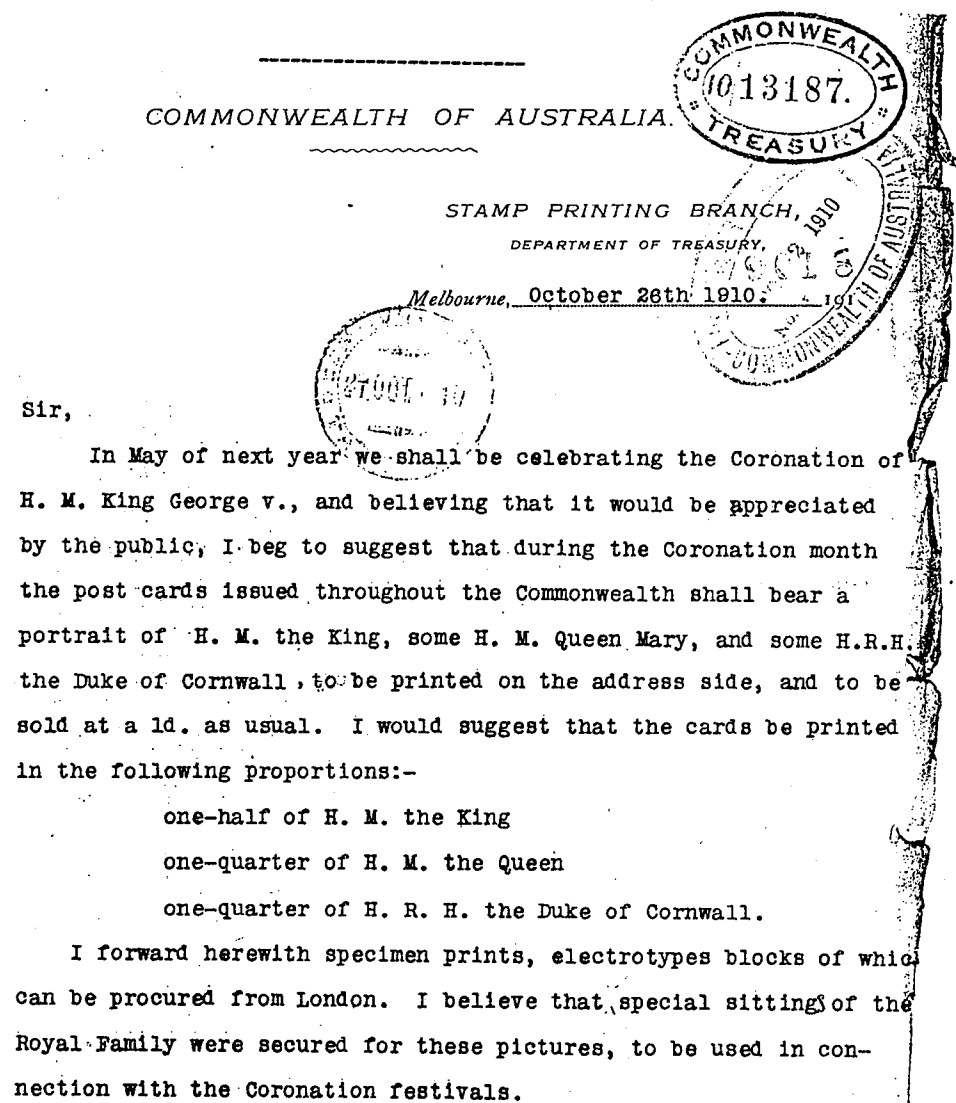


FIGURE 1 An extract from Cooke's letter of 26 Oct 1910

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH GEORGE V CORONATION POSTCARDS: PART 1

Ian McMahon

The first Commonwealth commemorative postcards were issued in 1911 to celebrate the coronation of King George V on 22 June of that year. As John Sinfield points out in his article of May 1984 in *Datestamp*, the cards were printed in a variety of colours and with many different portraits of King George, Queen Mary and the Prince of Wales (Prince Edward, later King Edward VIII). In all Sinfield describes 16 readily identifiable designs (6 of the King, 6 of the Queen and 4 of Prince Edward) using 8 different frame types. He concludes that the cards were printed from a plate of 32 impressions (16 of the King, 8 of the Queen and 8 of the Prince), each identifiable.

The following account is based on material from a Department of Treasury file in the Australian Archives in Canberra. Although not all the outstanding questions are answered, further information is provided on the genesis of the issue and the problems faced by the Commonwealth Stamp Printer, J.B. Cooke. The file contains correspondence between Cooke and his masters in the Treasury and between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Postmaster-General's Department. When Cooke needed to correspond with the Postmaster-General's Department he had first to write to the Treasury who then forwarded his requests to the Secretary of the Postmaster-General's Department (Justinian Oxenham).

Cooke proposed the issue of a series of postcards to commemorate the coronation of King George V in a minute to the Secretary of the Treasury dated 26 October 1910. He suggested that cards be issued throughout the Commonwealth bearing the portraits of King George, Queen Mary and Prince Edward. Half of the cards to show the King and a quarter each portraits of the Queen and Prince Edward. The colours of the cards were to be varied so that the '...public would not be continually having a card of the King or Queen printed in the same colour'. Cooke stated that he could print the cards at a cost of 4/8 per thousand. An extract from the original letter from the archives, dated 18 January 1911, is given in Figure 1.

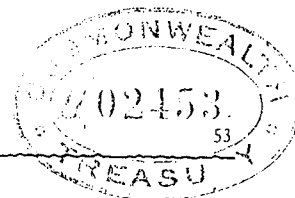
Cooke included samples of the illustrations to be used. These were provided by Garratt and Atkinson of Warwick Works, Ealing in England. Their advertisement in the magazine *British Printer* is illustrated in Figure 2. Their advertising material stated that the portraits could be:

'Prepared in a variety of dainty borders in several sizes in best lead moulded Electros which print as well as the original half-tones and almost as easily. All may be had in any screen, any size, with or without borders or will be fitted to customer's own designs'

Garrett and Atkinson offered to supply printing blocks of the designs:

'Please note that this sample sheet is printed from the best quality lead moulded electros as supplied. These lead moulded electros are the best to be had., the dots are moulded sharp and square instead of being rounded like stereo or ordinary wax electro so that they print almost as well as the original half-tone'

THE BRITISH PRINTER ADVERTISEMENTS.



No. 3836/4". Also in 5", 3½", 2½" and 1½".

THE QUALITY IS UNEQUALLED,
AND THE PRICES RIGHT AND IN-
CLUDE COPYRIGHT PERMISSION.

Sample Sheets sent Post Free on request.

FOR GOOD HALF-TONE AND LINE BLOCKS
AND CHARMING DESIGNS WE
:: CAN PLEASE YOU. ::

GARRATT & ATKINSON,
PHOTO-ENGRAVERS AND DESIGNERS,
WARWICK WORKS, EALING,
— LONDON, W. —

Telegrams: "Warwick Works, Ealing."

Telephone: 20 Ealing.

GARRATT & ATKINSON'S CORONATION ROYAL PORTRAITS

(H.M. King George V,
H.M. Queen Mary,
H.R.H. The Duke of Cornwall).

Prepared in a variety of dainty borders and
in several sizes in stock in best lead-moulded
Electros, which print as well as the original
half-tones and almost as easily. The impressions
here shown are from Electros as supplied.



No. 3835/4½". Also in 4½", 3½", 2½" and 1½".

Figure 2 Garratt & Atkinson's advert in the *British Printer*

On 1 December 1910, Cooke wrote to the Secretary of the Treasury requesting that the High Commissioner in London be asked to secure the blocks from Garratt and Atkinson and stated that he expected the cost to be less than £10. The specifications attached to the letter called for 34 blocks as advertised in the *British Printer*, 18 of the King (2 without border, the other 16 to be varied as much as possible), 8 of the Queen and 8 of Prince Edward. The size of the blocks was not to exceed 3.25 x 2.5 inches and the general style of the blocks was to be varied as much as possible with the screen in the background of some to be lighter than others. The blocks were to be securely packed and care taken to '...counteract the effect of salt air on the surface of the blocks'. A mock-up (see Figure 3) of the postcard was included using a South Australian postcard with the heading altered, and with an impression of the 1d red full-face stamps with an illustration from Garratt and Atkinson's samples pasted onto the card. The Secretary of the Treasury wrote to the High Commissioner in London, on 9 December 1910, asking him to secure a quote for the blocks from Garratt and Atkinson.

The quote, of 18 January 1911, from Garratt and Atkinson was for £11/9/9 for 34 electros as requested by Cooke (5 sorts with and without borders of the King, 4 sorts of the Queen and 2 of Prince Edward) or £23 for 34 original half-tone blocks (18 of the King in 7 different sorts, 8 of the Queen in 4 sorts and 8 of the Prince in 3 sorts). They also advised that the blocks for the design featuring both the King and Queen could not be supplied as the copyright was held by Messrs W and D Downey who were already under contract for the designs to be used as postcards. The blocks of the King and Prince Edward were taken from photographs, that for the Queen was from a drawing. The High Commissioner, in a letter 20 January 1911, advised of his decision to accept the latter option. The High Commissioner advised the Treasury in a letter of 17 February 1911 that the blocks had been delivered and had been shipped aboard the RMS Orvieto which had sailed for Australia on that day. A receipt for the blocks was enclosed with the letter as well as proofs of the portraits. These were not retained in the Treasury file and were presumably forwarded to Cooke.

As mentioned above, Sinfield (1984) identified 32 different cards. The source of this number is clear from Cooke's specifications for the printing of the cards and from the quote provided by Garratt and Atkinson. Nothing in the Treasury file however, sheds any light on whether or not a second plate was used by Cooke in the printing of the cards or indeed, whether or not Cooke made use of all the 34 blocks from England. Cooke had originally planned to print enough coronation cards to last the month of June based on the average consumption of the 1d postcards per month in each state. He therefore asked the Post Office to supply these details. Oxenham replied in a letter, dated 5 December 1910, that the average value of postcards used in a month was £841 in New South Wales, £314/2/0 in Victoria, £325 in Queensland, £861 in South Australia, £150 in Western Australia and £187/10/0 in Tasmania. Thus the Australia-wide average monthly consumption of postcards was £2681/12/0 worth or 643,584 cards.

In a minute of 20 December to the Secretary of the Treasury, Cooke advised that he would need to order 50 reams of postcard board. Five quotes had been received from R R Woolcott & Co, Middows Bros, Edward Dunlop & Co, Sands and McDougall and William Detmold Ltd. Of these Middows Bros quote of 37/3 per ream was the lowest and was accepted by the Treasury on 31 December 1910. A further order for 100 reams of postcard board was placed with Middows Bros on 22 March 1911.

In a minute of 6 March 1911 Cooke asked that the Deputy Postmasters-General indicate the number of cards they required. He also advised that the cost of the cards to the

Postmaster-Generals Department would now be 5/- per thousand due to the higher than expected cost of the blocks for the printing of the portraits.

To be continued.

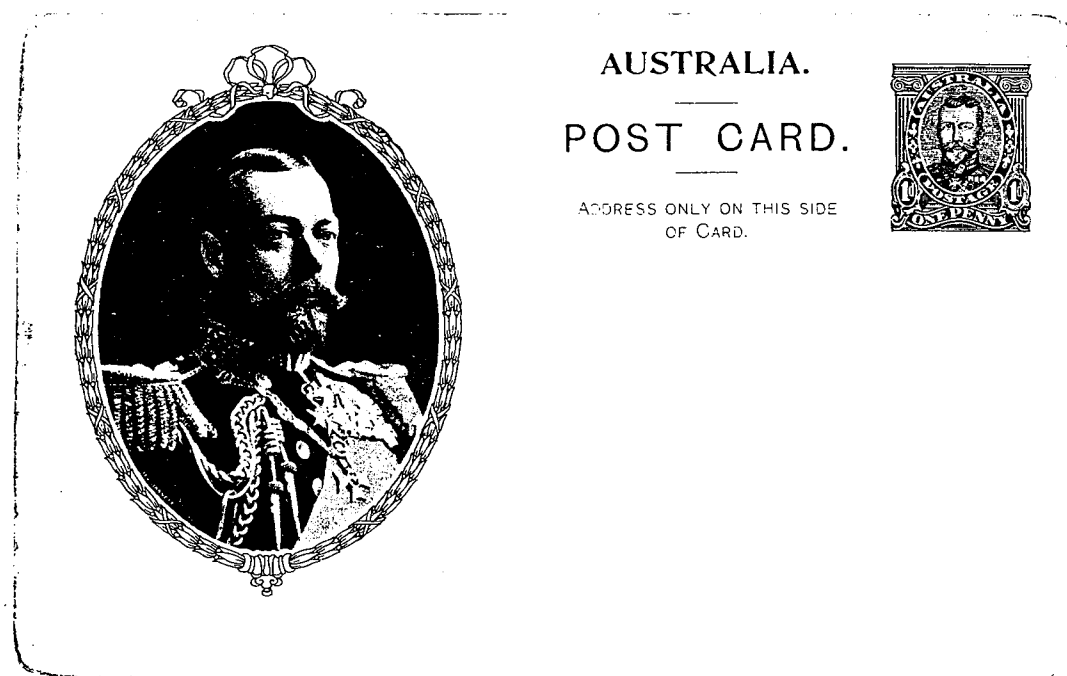
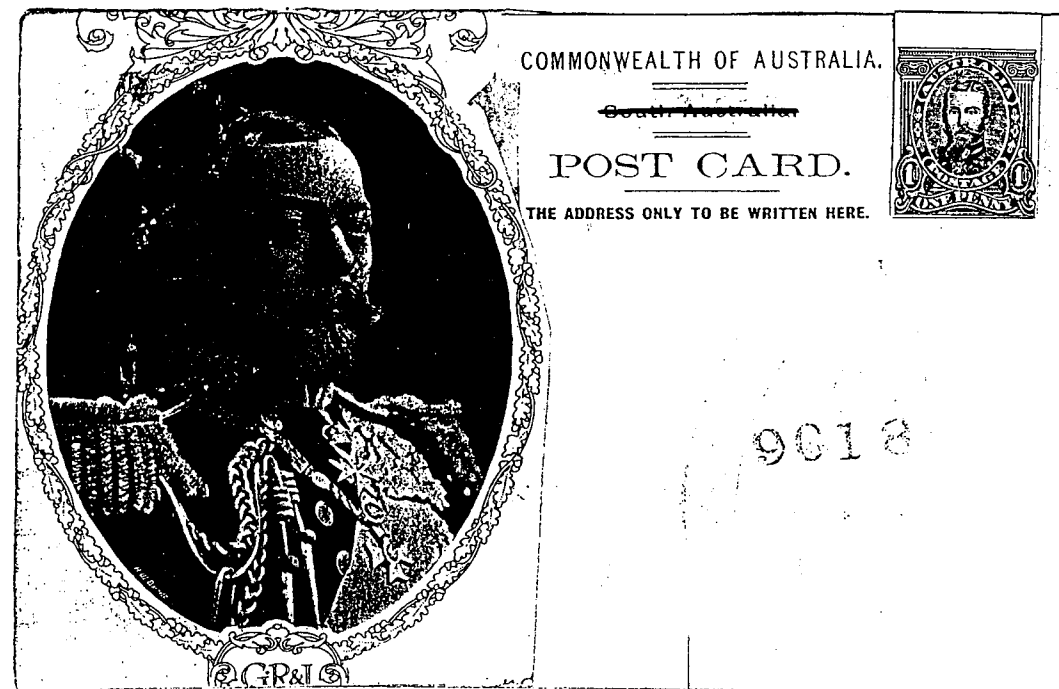


Figure 3 The proposed Coronation postcard and issued version.

USING THE AUSTRALIAN ARCHIVES AS A PHILATELIC RESOURCE TELEGRAPH PUNCTURES

J. Grant

The archives of the Commonwealth and state governments include much material of relevance to philately in the form of files, maps, plans and photographs. Some material is directly pertinent to particular Commonwealth or state issues. Other records provide important information on the workings of the Postmaster General's Departments of the Australian colonies and the Commonwealth and on the printing and production processes used for Australian stamps.

The purpose of this article is to encourage the use of the archives as a philatelic resource, particularly the (Commonwealth) Australian Archives. Each state also maintains archival holdings, although the procedures for their use are different to those described in this article

Most records in the Australian Archives relate to Commonwealth activities since 1901. However, there are significant holdings of nineteenth century material relevant to the functions transferred to the Commonwealth, including postal responsibilities, upon federation.

Australian Archives has offices in Canberra and in each state capital. At all of these locations, public access is available to records. Although appointments are not strictly necessary, it is useful to make prior arrangements to visit the archives to avoid busy periods and check that the staff, where necessary, will be available to provide assistance. Archival records available for public inspection are those which are at least thirty years old and which have been examined and cleared for public access.

Searching for particular records is facilitated by use of the Archive's computerised data base. The Australian National Guide to Archival Material (ANGAM) is a system which contains details of records held by the Australian Archives and by the Australian War Memorial and which have been examined for public access. For each record, ANGAM includes a title for the subject matter covered by the records, date range, access decision, location and accession number. A search of the data base can be made using one or more key words and a facility exists to narrow the area of a search, eliminating irrelevant material. The data base is straightforward to use and a new searcher can feel quite at home with the system within a few minutes.

Once the searcher has identified required items on the ANGAM system, he/she can request to inspect the appropriate files or records, providing they have been cleared for public access and that they are held locally. Once records are provided to the searcher for inspection, photocopies of papers can generally be made available for a small fee. Archival records cannot be transferred inter-state although arrangements can be made (for a fee) to engage a search agent at the other location or to have copies made of the relevant material.

Where ANGAM contains no information on a particular subject, it may be that the relevant records exist but have not been examined by the Archives staff. In such cases, the searcher can obtain advice from the Australian Archives staff on procedures for identifying and arranging clearance of the material - this may take up to ninety days. Where records have been closed to public inspection, on payment of a fee, a searcher can arrange for a review of that decision.

Capital Philately

AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH GEORGE V

CORONATION POSTCARDS: PART 2

Ian McMahon

Part 1 of this article was in *Capital Philately* Vol 9 no 2, p21-24.

The information, supplied by the Deputy Postmasters-General for the states, on the number of coronation postcards they required is given in the table below.

	No of cards	Value £
Sydney	24 000	100
Melbourne	216 000	900
Brisbane	160 000	667
Adelaide	1 200 000	5 000
Perth	72 000	300
Hobart	60 000	250

On 6 April 1911, treasury queried with the Postmaster-General's Department the larger than expected orders for coronation postcards from Queensland, Western Australia and especially from South Australia and asked the Postmaster-General's Department if it would agree to the issue of the larger number of cards. Oxenham replied on 10 April that the average sale of ordinary cards was no indication of the probable sale of coronation cards. He had no objection to Queensland and Western Australia being supplied with the cards they had requested. However he expressed some concern with the number requested by South Australia and sought an explanation from the Deputy Postmaster-General in Adelaide who replied that:

'The issue of postcards during March amounted to £947. In applying for £5000 of special coronation postcards I recognised that it would be necessary to send some to every Post Office in South Australia and I think it probable we shall have a ready sale for the whole of the amount named.'

As the requisition from the states was considerably more than Cooke had anticipated, he was forced to order additional supplies of paper. In a minute from Cooke to the Secretary of the Treasury dated 3 April 1911, he asked the Treasury to approve the purchase of an additional 500 reams of paper from Middow Bros at 37/3 per ream. The specifications for the postcard board were:

'500 reams each of 480 good clean boards weighing 120 lbs. Each board either 22 inches x 28 inches or 22.5 inches by 28.5 inches, coated on one side only and cut true and square on all four sides. Price to include delivery at the Commonwealth Stamp Printer's office and the date of delivery to be stated.'

Treasury queried the request and forced Cooke to obtain new quotes. The quote from Middows Bros at 37/3 per ream of postcard boards (22.5 x 28.5 inches in size, British made) was again the lowest. Given that Middows Bros would not be able to supply the card until August 1911, Treasury queried the need for the order of 500 reams. They estimated that 500 reams would last Cooke three years given that they expected a 50%

Capital Philately

decline in the use of postcards following the introduction of penny postage on 1 May 1911.

Cooke replied that he had drawn the attention of the Postmaster-General to the large requisition from the states but as they had not been altered he felt it was his duty to comply with the orders. He stated that the card would be used for ordinary postcards. He had in the past had difficulty in supplying orders for postcards from the post office due to difficulties in maintaining an adequate supply of postcard boards. He would use 112 reams for 1,732,000 coronation postcards in June and at this rate 400 reams would only last for a little over four months. He had 50 reams in stock, 100 to come from Middow Bros and had a contract for 25 reams every six months from Dunlop. The order was approved by Treasury on 2 May 1911 at a cost of £931/5/0.

A minute from Cooke to the Treasury dated 13 July 1911 revealed that Middow Bros had some difficulty in meeting the specifications for the postcard board. Cooke stated that the card received from Middows Bros as a result of his order of 22 March 1911 for 100 reams was not to specification, being coated on both sides and useless for the purpose required. He therefore suggested that the order be cancelled. His masters in the Treasury concurred.

Oxenham wrote to the Treasury on 4 October 1911 with details of the sale of coronation postcards in each state and declared that at the end of the month he proposed that the remaining stocks be destroyed. He reported that on July 1 1911 the Deputy Postmaster-General in Melbourne wrote asking whether the sale of cards should be discontinued and they should be destroyed as the demand for the cards had not met expectation in Victoria and he still had £504/11/9 worth in stock.

All other Deputy Postmaster-Generals had then been asked for a report on the sale of coronation postcards in their respective states, the current demand and the stocks remaining.

In New South Wales the total supply of £216 worth of cards had been distributed to postmasters. A survey of major post offices had shown that they had received £58/10/0 in coronation postcards but had £12/15/0 remaining. The cards had sold fairly well but demand had ceased at the end of June.

In Queensland the Deputy Postmaster-General reported that the '...cards cannot be said to have sold well' and that '...if the cards had not been distributed as ordinary cards there would have been a large stock remaining.' In all 81,000 cards were distributed to post offices in Queensland between 23 May and 27 July while a further 80,000 cards remained undistributed.

In Tasmania the cards did not sell well and there was now no demand so that postmasters were asking to exchange them for other cards. The stock in hand was worth £132.

Cooke replied on 16 October 1911. He reported that the requisitions for coronation postcards from the Deputy Postmasters-General had totalled 1,732,000 cards. Towards complying with these requisitions 1,059,840 cards were printed, 944,640 issued (leaving 115,200 with the Stamp Printer). He suggested that the cards be sold as ordinary cards rather than destroyed and pointed out that there was no difference in the writing area on the cards. He said that if the cards were destroyed then the South Australian office

Capital Philately

should be asked to pay for the remaining stocks as its very large requisition had not yet been met whereas in other states the requisitions had been met in full.

As it turned out the unsold cards were not destroyed until 1913. Oxenham advised in a letter of 30 June 1913 that he had requested the Deputy Postmasters-General to provide details of stocks of the coronation postcards on hand at 31 December 1912. Their reports indicated that there were £789/2/9 worth of the cards on hand; £12/15/1 in New South Wales, £203/7/0 in Victoria, £504/0/0 at the Government Printer, £56/0/8 in Queensland, none in South Australia, £1/0/0 in Western Australia and £12/0/0 in Tasmania. Oxenham requested that the cards be recalled by Cooke and destroyed. A minute to the Secretary of the Treasury of 8 October 1913 from Cooke indicated that an auditor had certified that '...coronation postcards to the number of 181,080 at a face value of £754/10/0 have been examined and were destroyed in our presence on the 3rd October 1913.'

Cooke was no doubt relieved that the saga of the coronation postcards had finally ended. The difficulties he faced were primarily due to the excessive number of cards ordered by the Deputy Postmaster-General in Adelaide who grossly over-estimated the number of cards he could sell during the coronation month and to a lesser extent due to the orders from Queensland and Western Australia. The next commemorative postcard issue by the Commonwealth was a long time coming with issues appearing for EXPO 88 and the Australian Bicentennial Exhibition during 1988. During 1990 however, postcards in the form of maximum cards have accompanied every commemorative stamps issued during the year.

References

Dept. of Treasury File (Australian Archives) A571 13/23231.

Sinfield, J. 1984 Australia: the coronation postcards illustrated. *Datestamp*, May, 3-14.

Watson, G. 1984 Selected stationery. *Stamp News*, May 1984.

