

Handbook – Postcards 02 - The 1d Centennial Postal and Reply Cards (PC6,PC6a,PC9,PC12,PC17)

The 1d Centennial Postal Cards with Waratah Design (PC6, PC6a, PC9)

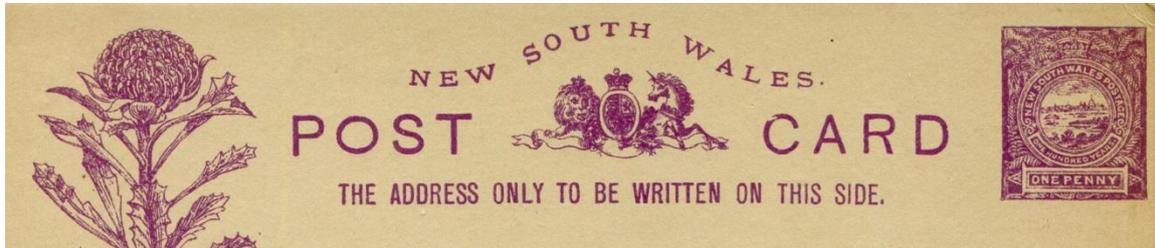


Figure 1. PC6

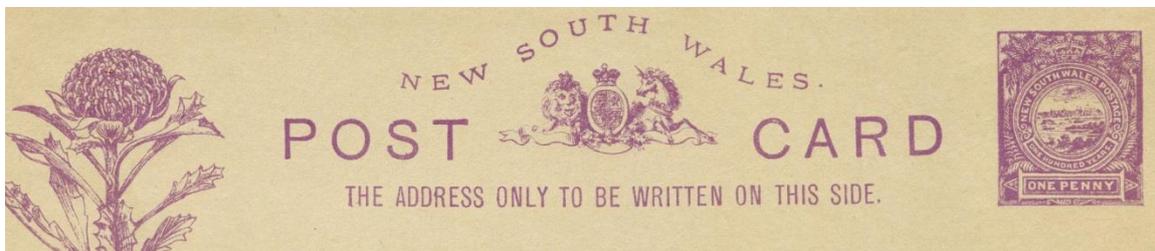


Figure 2 PC6a

Following the decision in mid-1888 to commemorate the Centennial of the creation of NSW a new design of the one penny Waratah card was adopted (PC6) with an imprint of the Centennial stamp design in the top right hand corner (see **Figure 1**). The new version of the Waratah stem showed a rounded rather than conical flower head and a leaf rather strangely placed vertically in front of the stem. The central arms design (25mm x 10mm) was very different from earlier and later versions with an enlarged lion and unicorn head with dramatically unique and curtailed bodies. The quality and detail of the shield adornments was much less than the earlier version shown on PC5. The arcuate form of the NSW heading in PC6 is unique. Also, the oval "O" in the word POST was conspicuously different from the same oval letter on PC5. Later in 1889 the letter "O" was changed to what is termed the round "O", hence PC6a (see **Figure 2**).

The NSW printing records indicate that PC6 and 6a were supplied to the Postmaster General between 16 August 1888 and 30 August 1890. There were only three supplies of Specimen cards during this period: 400 on 13 Nov 1888, 345 on 29 August 1889 and 200 on 3 September 1889. It is reasonable to conclude that the single Specimen printing in November 1888 was of PC6 and the two Specimen supplies in 1889 were of PC6a, although there is no printing ledger note to confirm this.

There is reasonable variation in the sizes of PC6 and PC6a but only enough to suggest that the differences arose from variance in the guillotining process rather than a decision for a different size. Of 13 examples of PC6 examined the length range was 150-156 mm and the

width 81- 89 mm. Of the 18 examples of PC6a examined the length range was 153-161 mm and the width 81-89 mm.

Noting that there is no identification in the NSW printing records of the first production date of PC6a, the total numbers for each card (PC6, PC6a) supplied to the GPO are estimated as follows:

PC6	555,000
PC6a	721,000

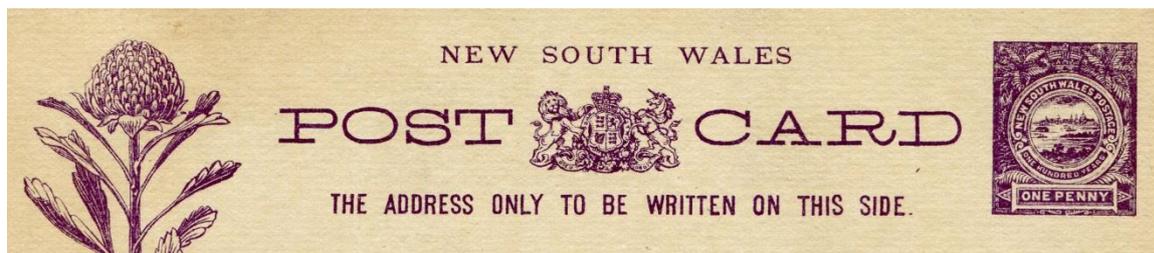


Figure 3. PC9



Figure 4. PC9 Black Proof Dated 22 November 1889

Basset Hull (1911) advises that in 1890 a new design of the one penny Waratah card was issued (this was PC9) (see **Figure 3**) in response to dissatisfaction with the quality of the stamp impressions on PC6 and 6a. This is clearly shown by the very light shading in many examples seen of the PC6 and 6a cards and as shown in **Figure 2**.

There appears to be no specific documentation of the reason for the creation of the original PC6 design nor the decision to dispense with them, except for the Centennial stamp impression, on the next Waratah card design (PC9). Thus, on PC9 the Waratah stem, the arms and the oval "O" in POST reverted to the design of PC5. These aspects of the PC5 design continued to be used for the future Waratah penny halfpenny cards (PC16). It remains unknown whether the arms design and waratah stem of PC6 and 6a were the subject of specific complaint.

A black proof (see **Figure 4 above**) appears to be the only surviving proof of the one penny Centennial series. Observations of the distance between the "D" of "CARD" and the nearest edge of the impressed stamp (4.5 mm) on the proof and measurement of issued cards indicated variations of 4.5mm to 7mm. The issued card variations provide a method of distinguishing between different printings. However, these variations have not been pursued further.

Most observed examples of PC 9 are 160mm x 88mm with a variance of 1-2mm. One example of a used PC9 card measuring 151mm x 86mm and postmarked 6 September 1895 has been observed that appears to have been specifically cut to size. The reason for this is unknown. The total estimated number of PC9 supplied to the GPO is 3,515,000.

The Centennial 1d + 1d Reply Card (PC12)



Figure 5. PC12

Printing records suggest that the Centennial stamped 1d + 1d reply card (PC12) was first printed in August 1890 with a total of 5184 cards. In October 1890 a total of 480 copies of PC 12 were supplied to the GPO. In 1891 there were four supplies to the GPO totalling 2,160 reply cards and this low level of demand for reply cards continued in later years. Except for the two printings of Specimen Overprinted reply cards, the NSW printing records confirm that these cards were printed in sheets of 12 hence the ledger printing and supply numbers to the GPO are divisible by 12.

In keeping with all the NSW reply cards, PC12 has no left hand side waratah ornament, presumably because the narrow width of the card prevented such an embellishment. The coat of arms on both address and reply halves was much smaller (13 x 7mm) than the postal card arms.

The printing and supply numbers for PC 12 from the first printing in August 1890 until the last printing record in December 1895 are given in the following Table:

Date	Printed	Issued	Balance	Date	Printed	Issued	Balance
Aug 1890	5184		5777	Jan 1893		360	1916
Oct 1890		480	5297	Mar 1893		720	1196
Mar 1891		600	4697	Apr 1893		360	836
Jul 1891		600	4097	Jul 1893		360	476
Oct 1891		600	3497	Sep 1893		360	116
Nov 1891		360	3137	Oct 1893	3456	360	3212
Jan 1892		600	2537	Jan 1894		600	2612
Feb 1892		360	2177	May 1894		360	2252
Mar 1892		360	1817	Jun 1894		720	1532
Mar 1892		500*	1317	Jul 1894		600	932
Jun 1892		360	957	Sep 1894		360	572
Aug 1892		480	477	Nov 1894	3456	960	3068
Oct 1892	3456	360	3573	Jan 1895		360	2708
Oct 1892		180*	3393	Apr 1895		360	2348
Nov 1892		600	2793	May 1895		360	1988
Dec 1892		240	2553	Jun 1895		600	1388
Dec 1892		277*	2276	Oct 1895		360	1028
				Dec 1895		360	668

Table 1. Centennial 1d + 1d Reply Card (PC12) Printing and Supply Numbers Aug 1890 to Dec 1895 (*denotes Specimens)

The 1d Centennial Postal Card of 1896 (PC17)

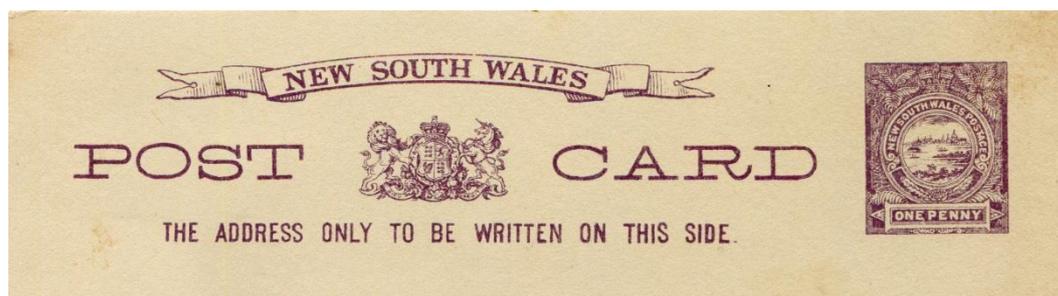


Figure 6. PC17

As NSW joined the UPU on 1 October 1891, the absence of a waratah stem from the Centennial postal card PC 17 issued in September 1896 has a particular explanation outlined by Bassett Hull (1911, p371):

“Some of the Inland One Penny post cards, addressed to England and stamped with an adhesive halfpenny stamp, were taxed on delivery as they were not in accordance with Postal Union regulations. In order to avoid any repetition of such taxation, it was decided to reduce the card to Postal Union dimensions (140 x 90mm), and to discard the waratah ornament.”

From the Centennial impressed stamp “it was decided to omit the words “ONE HUNDRED YEARS” ... and to substitute a conventional waratah.” This amendment to the Centennial stamp design continued for all subsequent NSW stationery uses of the blue Centennial penny halfpenny impressed stamp. These cards also had for the first time in the postal card series the heading NEW SOUTH WALES displayed within a ribbon.

Of a sample of 8 PC17 cards all were within 2mm of the UPU dimensions of 140 x 90mm.

There is no printing data for PC 17 as the NSW printing records ceased after January 1896. The penny Centennials were replaced by the Shield design in late 1897.

One Penny Centennial Specimen Postal Cards (PC6s, PC6as, PC9s, PC12s, PC17s)

The printing records show that the supply numbers of Specimen cards were often at variance with the documented supply number requested by the Universal Postal Union (UPU) for its records and distribution to other members. These UPU numbers were 345 up to mid-1892 and 730 from October 1892 - see Bendon (2015).

Date	Specimen Type	Post card	Reply Card	No. Requested
1888, 13 Nov	-	400 PC6s		345
1889, 29 Aug	None	345 PC6a	345 PC12	345
1889, 3 Sep	B14	200 PC6as	200 PC12s	345
1892, 22 Mar	B19, B14	500 PC9s	200 PC12s	345
1892, Oct	B19, B14	180 PC9s	180 PC12s	730
1892, Dec	B19	273 PC9s	277 PC12s	730
Table 2. Specimen numbers supplied to the GPO and the relevant UPU numbers				

The exact reasons for the variances in numbers and style of specimen overprint are unknown but one can reasonably speculate that copies above the UPU number, or far below it, are for presentation to officials, politicians or presentation/sale to collectors. The production of just 50 of the Specimen PC9 (O.S.) on 30 Aug 1894 is the most intriguing occurrence of the listing.

		
B14	B19	B23
PC6as, PC12s	PC9s, PC12s	PC17s
Fig 8 Specimen Types		

The observation that the number of specimen reply cards were not recorded in the NSW printing records in multiples of 12, except for October 1892, is intriguing. There is no indication in the printing records of discarded or destroyed copies that would have been expected at the time of their printing assuming that they were printed in sheets of 12. If surplus copies existed then it is entirely inconsistent with the usual meticulous approach to record keeping within the NSW Printing Office to not record them.

As the NSW printing records ceased being maintained after January 1896 there is no printing data for PC 17s. However, the UPU requirements number (730) applicable from the PC17 issue date of September 1896 until the issue of the first one penny Shield postal card PC19 in August 1897 is a reasonable guide.

Postal Use

The NSW Government Gazette of 15 July 1893 provides regulations that are presumed to have been applicable for most, if not all, of the one penny Centennial postal card period 1888 until 1897.

The regulations provide that:

- a. One penny impressed postal cards could be transmitted without extra charge within NSW, all other Australian colonies, Norfolk Island, Fiji and British New Guinea.
- b. Postal cards addressed to places other than Australasia, Norfolk Island or British New Guinea may have the sender's name and address on either the face or the back of the card. Cards to the foregoing named places could only have the sender's name and address on the back.
- c. No card other than those issued by the Government, or a private card impressed under the special authority of the Postmaster-General, or a card pre-paid as a letter could access the postal card rate of postage if it appeared to be a letter.
- d. The impressed stamp of a postal card could not be used as a postage stamp.

The Australian Colonies agreed that from 1 January 1887 1d postal and reply cards were acceptable for postage within and between the Colonies. This was extended to New Zealand on 1 November 1889 and then to Fiji and British New Guinea.

References

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2. Higgins & Gage, World Postal Stationery Catalog, Section 13 includes New South Wales, Classic Philatelics, Second Printing, 1979.
3. Houison, A., History of the Post Office, Sydney, 1890, View Productions Photocopied Reprint, 1983.
4. Bendon, J., UPU Specimen Stamps 1878-1961, Oxford Book Project, 2015.
5. Steig, C.L., "The Postal Stationery of New South Wales", Australian Chit Chat Vol 7 No 6, 15 Oct 1972 pp.39 -72.
6. NSW Government Gazette, Tuesday 18 July 1893, No.503.